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THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Farmington recommends remote start to school

Shelby Tankersley HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Farmington schools might be starting the school year online.

District administration announced Friday it would recommend to its board of education that the district begin fall classes with a "Learning at a Distance" model. The announcement came about

a week after the district said it was considering a hybrid start, which would have included staggered in-person attendance for students.

"We do not feel that at this time that the science and data support a safe return of all our students and staff for in-person instruction," Superintendent Bob Herrera said in a release. "We also took into account all of the feedback

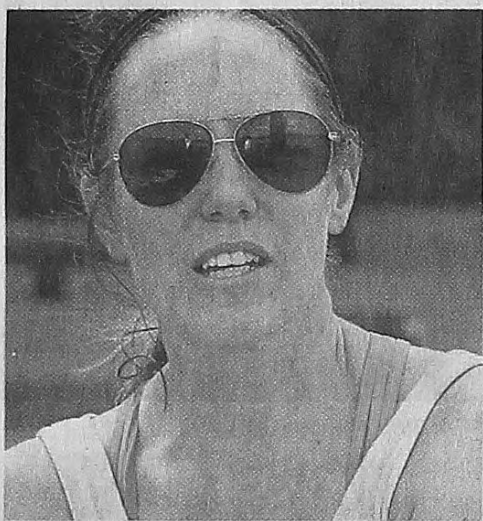
that we have been receiving from our families and staff in making our decision."

According to district administration, a key rationale for the decision is Michigan's position in phase four of Governor Gretchen Whitmer's reopening plan. If the state were to regress to phase three, schools statewide would need to move classes online. As the number of coro-

navirus cases grows, school officials feel it's safest to for students to learn online.

"The return to in-person learning will be dependent on when data supports a safe return to in-person instruction and when we have clear and consistent guidelines from our local health department," Herrera said. "We know that we

See **START**, Page 7A



Marisa Twiner talks about her children returning to school as the family visits Kensington Metropark on July 29.



Marshall Thorn, who will be a sophomore at Plymouth High, says he likes virtual learning.



Devannie Haviland, a Dearborn School District teacher whose three kids attend Livonia schools, talks about the family's return to school.

Canton Twp. deputy directors promoted

Susan Vela HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Canton Township residents can safely call Chad Baugh and Christopher Stoecklein director, chief or Top Gun of their respective police and fire departments.

The board of trustees agreed to change their titles from "deputy director" to "director" rather than replace former Public Safety Director Joshua Meier, who retired amid controversy earlier this year.

The conclusion drawn by the township's leadership team, merit commission and board was that their community will be better served by the reclassification of two top-tier positions.

"They've always worked very well together," Supervisor Pat Williams said. "There's no change in how we do business."

The township also is expected to save money by not filling the public safety director position that was created in 1987 to oversee both police officers and firefighters.

Meier retired under a shadow of controversy. He sued Williams, Human Resources Manager Kerreen Conley, the board of trustees and the merit commission by claiming the township erred when it reduced his pension from a 2.8 multiplier to a 2.5 multiplier.

Officials had budgeted Meier's 2020 salary and fringe benefits to total about \$200,000.

Salaries for Baugh and Stoecklein will bump up to \$127,419 from \$126,230. With fringe benefits, which typically amount to about 40 percent

See **PROMOTED**, Page 7A



Some Martindale Beach-goers enjoy the Kensington Metropark location July 29. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Parents, students, teacher talk about return to school

Options – and opinions – change with each family's needs

Susan Bromley HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

With about a month until back-to-school time, districts are rolling out plans while kids, parents and teachers are rolling out their opinions and reservations.

Hometown Life asked some beachgoers at Kensington Metropark what

their plans are for this fall. The kids (mostly) miss school; their parents are hoping to send them back, but wonder how they might juggle work and home life.

Marisa and Mike Twiner have two children, Carson, 11, and Rowan, 9, both enrolled in Grosse Ile Schools.

Sixth-grader Carson's thoughts on school after a long spring with virtual-

only education are simple:

"I want to go back to school."

His parents laugh. Those are words they never thought he'd say, but Carson misses his friends.

His sister, although she doesn't want to wear a mask, will put one on if it means she can go back to school.

See **SCHOOL**, Page 8A

Election results online

Voters across Michigan made their political voices heard Tuesday during the primary election.

From local township races and tax requests to positions at the county, state and federal levels, there were plenty of decisions for voters to make. Election results were unavailable when this edition was sent to the printer. Find the latest election results online at HometownLife.com. Results will be published in a future print edition.



Racism declared public health crisis in Westland

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Prompted by urging from residents as well as national and local demonstrations condemning systemic prejudice, racism will officially be seen as a health crisis in Westland.

"In Westland, we have seen that George Floyd was the straw that broke the camel's back," said Edward Pruett, a local activist. "We have seen five days of protests outside of the police station where protesters of all races ... come together and say, even in Westland, we can't breathe."

In a resolution unanimously approved by city council Monday, racism is defined in part as a public health crisis affecting society as a whole. The vote also prompts council and city administration to pursue policies that improve health for communities of color and build relationships with diversity-focused groups.

In the next 90 days, the resolution directs Mayor Bill Wild to create a commission that will "conduct an assessment of internal policy and procedures to ensure racial equity is a core element" of the city.

The unnamed commission will also work with city administrators to promote and educate regarding equity, justice, diversity and anti-racism throughout city leadership.

"This is just the beginning and we have a lot of work to do," said Gina Wilson Steward, president of the Western Wayne County NAACP. "I'm sure the people from the community actually want to buy in to make sure that everyone is treated equally and some level of fairness is in the city."

Council's Monday vote comes after a mostly symbolic version of the resolution was presented two weeks prior. After residents expressed frustration, officials decided to revisit the vote after getting more community input.

"This is just the beginning and we have a lot of work to do."

Gina Wilson Steward
President, Western Wayne County NAACP

"It was gutted and weakened," Pruett said. "It began what we call an outcry from the citizens. Westland's demographics and racial components is about 30 percent minority. When we compare that to the government, we find that the government in the mayor's office, the police station and the fire department, they are nowhere near that."

Council faced some disagreement over how the resolution was attributed on the night's agenda. Councilwoman Tasha Green, who proposed the resolution, wanted to be "given credit" on the agenda, which attributed the item to

Council President James Hart.

Hart cited the city's code of ordinances regarding "best practices," saying he is listed only to indicate an item was coming from council. The March 16 agenda attributed an item to a council member other than Hart; otherwise council actions on the 2020 agendas attribute Hart as the source.

At the meeting's end, several residents said they felt Hart's explanation was vague and they would have liked to see Green given credit. Later in the meeting, Hart said he was just trying to follow policy.

"I have been fighting for equality, not only racial equality but gender equality, since I was elected three years ago," Green said. "As you can see based on some of the things that happened tonight, we have not quite arrived yet."

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

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Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Published Sunday and Thursday by
Observer & Eccentric Media

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Follow us on Facebook: @OEHometown

Subscription Rates:

Newsstand price: \$1.50

\$104 per 12 months home delivery

Home Delivery:

Customer Service: 866-887-2737

Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday 7:30 a.m. to noon

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Officials attend Westland's virtual city council meeting Monday via Zoom. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

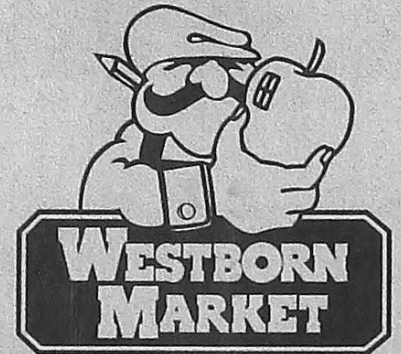
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Michigan opioid overdoses spike during pandemic

Georga Kovanis Detroit Free Press | USA TODAY NETWORK

The number of opioid overdoses during the COVID-19 pandemic has increased dramatically across the state, according to new data from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Emergency medical services responses for opioid overdoses from April through June were up 26% over the same period in 2019.

Between April and May of this year, as the coronavirus decimated Michigan and the nation, EMS responses for opioid overdoses rose 33%.

The increase in overdoses were consistent throughout the state and in most demographic groups, except for those ages 65 and older, the MDHHS said.

For months, experts have predicted that overdoses would increase during the pandemic due to isolation, boredom, job loss and other financial crisis. Those fac-

tors are compounded by fewer spots being available in rehab facilities because social distancing reduces the number of patients that can be admitted and there has been reduced access to in-person support groups because of restrictions on large gatherings.

The new numbers reveal that opioid overdose patients were more likely to refuse EMS transport to a hospital. Between April and June 2019, 7.7% of overdose patients declined transport to an emergency room, compared with 14.3% between April and June of this year.

"Opioid overdoses kill far too many Michiganders, and it's a double tragedy that the pandemic has exacerbated this crisis," Dr. Joneigh S. Khaldun, chief deputy director for health and chief medical executive for the state health department, said.

She urged people with opioid use issues to seek treatment. If they are not ready to seek treatment, she

urged them to work on ways to reduce the likelihood of dying of an overdose by practicing harm reduction.

"If you or someone you love has an opioid use disorder, please take steps to prevent overdose deaths — like carrying naloxone and never using alone," she said. (Naloxone, known by the brand name, Narcan, reverses opioid overdoses.)

People who use opioids alone are more likely to die because there is no one around to call for help or revive them in case of an overdose. The state provided information on neverusealone.com, a national helpline with workers who will stay on the phone with someone who is getting high. More info: 800-484-3731. If no answer: 931-304-9452.

In 2018, the most recent year for which numbers are available, 2,036 people — or five a day — died of opioid overdoses in Michigan.

For info: <https://www.michigan.gov/opioids>.



Michigan State Police troopers found approximately \$12,000 in cash and credit cards when they stopped a driver for speeding on Interstate 696 in Farmington Hills on July 30. COURTESY OF MICHIGAN STATE POLICE

Troopers find weapon, fraud items during stop

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

State troopers apparently found a .40-caliber pistol, 30-round magazine, and approximately \$12,000 in cash when they stopped a speeding driver July 30 on Interstate 696.

They said on Twitter the Flint driver, 31, told them

immediately that he had a pistol in his vehicle, but he did not have a proper concealed pistol license.

Troopers also found multiple financial transaction devices, such as credit cards and gift cards, in the vehicle.

They placed the driver in Oakland County Jail on pending weapons, driver's license and probation violation charges.

Parents charged with child abuse after shooting

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

A 5-year-old girl may physically recover from a gunshot wound, but now her Redford Township parents are facing charges in court.

They were arraigned Monday in the township's 17th District Court on two felony counts each of second-degree child abuse because prosecutors said a gun was "unsecured" in their

household.

Police were dispatched to their home in the 26500 block of Plymouth Road at 1:39 a.m. July 6 because of a report that a child had been shot in the head.

Their daughter was transported to a local hospital because of her injuries. A brother, 4, apparently had found a handgun belonging to their parents' relative and shot her.

Township Police Capt. Al DiPrima has said the

bullet grazed the girl's head and she should be OK.

"All of these cases are tragic," Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said in a statement. "Young, precious lives are being forever altered and even lost, and we can absolutely prevent this."

"If you choose to have guns in your homes, please make sure that children and teens do not have easy access. It is that simple."

Police rescue, then arrest, man stopped in burning car

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

A Livonia driver may face charges related to his driving after Westland police say they rescued him from the steering wheel of a burning vehicle.

Police said they were called to the intersection of Ford and Venoy roads at 12:45 a.m. June 21 because a vehicle was doing doughnuts.

Upon arrival, they saw a Chevrolet Traverse circling in reverse in the middle of the roadway.

The driver was awake, holding the steering wheel and smiling at po-

lice officers as he continued to circle, a report stated.

The vehicle then stopped, and officers saw smoke coming from under the hood. The smoke became flames, but the driver would not exit the vehicle and did not seem to be in a clear mental state.

When officers attempted to physically remove the driver, he produced a razor blade knife and held it toward the officers who was trying to help him.

The driver eventually complied with "numerous verbal commands" to drop the razor blade knife. Officers eventually

were able to remove the driver, 43, from the vehicle, even though, at one point, he locked his arms around the steering wheel.

Police handcuffed the driver and determined there was enough evidence to arrest him on a charge of operating a vehicle while under the influence of a controlled substance and for driving with a suspended license.

The driver has not been officially charged. Results from blood tests are pending.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.

Plymouth woman faces election forgery charge

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Plymouth Township woman is facing a felony charge after officials alleged she forged her daughter's signature on an absentee voter application.

The township clerk apparently noticed a discrepancy and did not send an absentee ballot to the woman, 57. Instead, the clerk contacted state officials.

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel alleges the woman had forged the signature of a daughter living out of state, and the younger woman was unaware that an application had been filed in her name.

Nessel plans to charge the accused woman with one count of knowingly making, filing or publishing a false signature on an absentee voter application.

If convicted, she could spend up to five years in prison and face a fine.

"Serious criminal consequences exist for those who attempt to tamper with our election process," Nessel said. "Michiganders should know that absentee ballot applications, which is the subject of this fraud investigation, are not just rubber-stamped and processed robotically."

"Clerks and other election officials conduct careful examinations of these applications to ensure they are authentic, complete and comport with the law."

The woman was expected to be arraigned early this week.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF WAYNE

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING
FILE NO. 20-104974-NC

In the matter of the name change of Anne Elizabeth Kline.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: Whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interested in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on AUGUST 21st, 2020 at 10:00am at 2 WOODWARD, DETROIT, MI, before Judge CHARLES S. HEGARTY (P49000) for the following purpose: The name change of Anne Elizabeth Kline to Anne Elizabeth Volpe
Dated: 07/09/2020
Petitioner: Anne Elizabeth Kline 43915 S. UMBERLAND CIR Canton, MI, 48187 (313) 570-0009

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2B3KA43R48H256982	2008 Dodge Charger

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By-Law Nos. 0164.1: Regular Meetings Time, Place, and Notification

Regular meetings of the Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, shall be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month except there will be only one meeting in July (July 28, 2020) and one meeting in December (December 8, 2020) beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the following location (except as agreed herein) unless otherwise directed by a majority vote of the members:

E. J. McClendon Educational Center
454 South Harvey Street
Plymouth, Michigan 48170

By-Law No. 0164.2 Special Meetings - Time, Place, and Notification

Special meetings of the Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan, may be called by the President of the Board, or any two members thereof, by serving on the other members a written notice of the day, time, and place of such special meetings, or by a majority vote of the Board.

PUBLIC NOTICE of each meeting of the Board of Education shall be given by posting a copy of the NOTICE on the message board by the front entrance to the E. J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 South Harvey, Plymouth, Michigan, at least eighteen (18) hours prior to the time of the meeting. The Executive Secretary to the Board of Education or other Central Office staff in her absence shall be appointed the designee for posting notice of meetings.

Publish: August 6, 2020

LO-0000356947 3x5.5

App connects people, helps neighbors in gig economy

David Veselenak HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

What started as Michael VanMiddlesworth's quest to find some help moving a mattress out of his basement has turned into the desire to help others.

VanMiddlesworth, of Plymouth Township, later spoke to his friend, Javier Escamilla, about creating an app that would help him do just that.

Three years later, the two have launched I Need a Hand, a free, non-commissioned app that connects people who need help with tasks such as odd jobs and ride-sharing.

"I couldn't find anything online that could help me," VanMiddlesworth said. "And (Escamilla) is like, 'We can make an app. We can make an app just like Uber to come and ... help you get the mattress out of the basement.'"

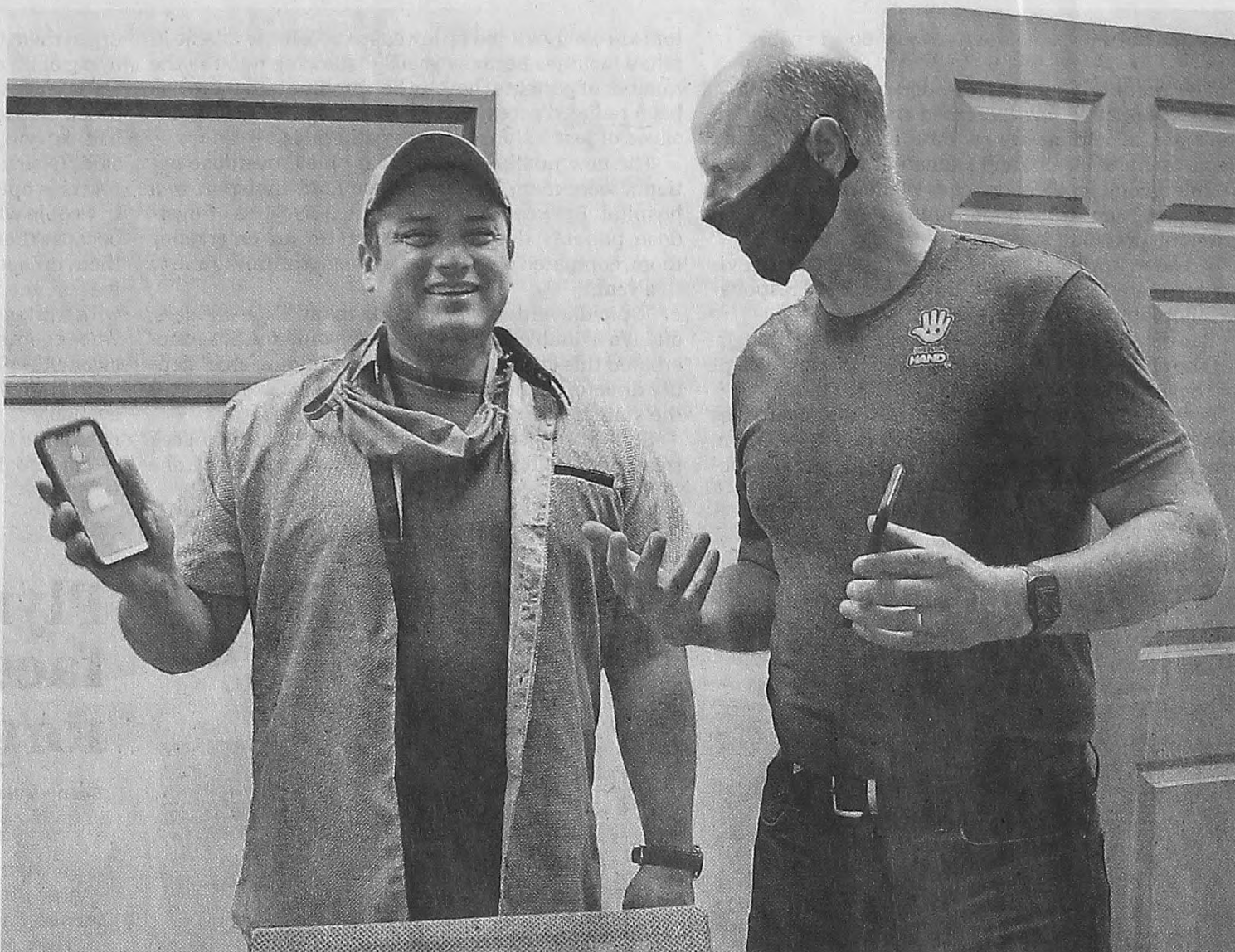
Today, the app aims to connect people in Detroit's western suburbs, currently targeting Plymouth, Northville and Canton.

Opening the app shows a map with icons indicating people who are available and the types of jobs with which they are willing to assist others. Those range from pool cleaning to babysitting and more. Tapping on an icon sends the user to a profile of the available helper, where users can send a message or put in a request. If accepted, the two can arrange an agreement from there.

The app also gives users the ability to "pin" their location to somewhere other than their home, such as a public library or police station, which allows for greater privacy for users. The system allows messages between users so long as both agree to a task, and employs a five-star rating system updated through user experiences.

While the concept has been in the works for years, it accelerated in the past few months: VanMiddlesworth was laid off from his job in the automotive industry earlier this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. With extra time on his hands, he dove into the app's creation and eventual launch.

That extra time has also allowed VanMiddlesworth to fine-tune the app and test it in real time. In addition to offering ride-sharing himself on the app, he said he has used it to connect with other people offering services.



Javier Escamilla, left, and Michael VanMiddlesworth talk about their handyman help smartphone app, called I Need a Hand.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

VanMiddlesworth and Escamilla held a ribbon-cutting event for the app July 24 in downtown Plymouth. I Need a Hand has since seen plenty of downloads. VanMiddlesworth said he arranged to arrive at that event in Kellogg Park through the app with someone who signed up early to offer ride-sharing services.

"It's the first official ride-share that I've seen on the app," he said. "I just looked them up on the app and I did not know him."

While the app is designed for business transactions, VanMiddlesworth said he expects some users may use it to give back. He said he hopes to see peo-

ple adjust their settings to include essentially just their neighborhood and set their rate at free.

"What is the idea? That they'll be able to help their neighbors," VanMiddlesworth said. "That's my dream. The idea of zero (dollars per hour) is real."

The difference between I Need a Hand and other similar apps, VanMiddlesworth and Escamilla said, is that all money exchanged stays between the involved parties. There's no commission fee from the app and the developers do not make any money per listing, unlike some other apps. To help offset costs, the app uses advertising.

The idea, Escamilla said, was to make

that a sticking point to attract people.

"We decided to go free because I think the idea is to get rid of the big corporations that charge a lot of money for hiring somebody," said Escamilla, a Canton resident and software engineer. "Let's say you go with Uber. Uber is going to charge you 30% for just doing the drive and the (driver) will just get 70%."

"They can offer the service at any cost ... and we can cut out the middle man."

The app is available on both iOS and Android.

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

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Thursday, August 6, 2020

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The community offers resort-style amenities, including a clubhouse with fitness center, outdoor swimming pool, covered patio, and outdoor fireplace. The community is also just steps away from the West Bloomfield Trail and the beauty of the West Bloomfield Nature Preserve. Residents will enjoy easy, low-maintenance living with landscape service and snow removal.

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allows homeowners to spend more time enjoying the activities that fit their lifestyle – whether it is swimming at the clubhouse or taking a peaceful stroll on the nature trail, or just simply enjoying their beautiful home with family and friends." Homebuyers are encouraged to be among the first to tour the brand-new ranch model home, the Berks Craftsman. On par with the latest designer trends, the Berks offers an exciting glimpse into the hundreds of options offered for personalization including a gourmet kitchen open to the great room with stone fireplace, private study, luxurious primary bedroom suite, and must-see finished basement.

The Waltham, the second professionally decorated model home at Reserve at West Bloomfield, is opening soon. The new model boasts an expansive design with a two-story family room, spacious first-floor primary bedroom suite, plus private secondary bedrooms and loft space on the second floor. Toll Brothers offers a variety of pre-priced structural options for



Reserve at West Bloomfield offers modern, craftsman exterior styles

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To learn more about Reserve at West Bloomfield, call 248-654-8555, email WestBloomfield@TollBrothers.com or visit ReserveatWestBloomfield.com. The model homes and sale center are located at 7893 Arimore Drive, West Bloomfield Township, MI 48322 and is open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Homes are exceptionally priced from the mid-\$400,000s.

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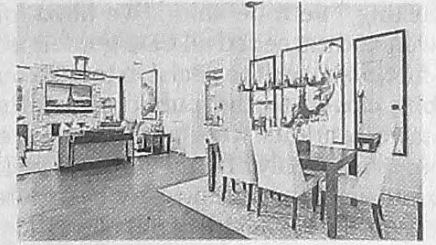
For six years in a row, Toll Brothers has been ranked the #1 Home Builder Worldwide on the FORTUNE Magazine "World's Most Admired Companies" list.* Toll Brothers also has been honored as national Builder of the Year by Builder magazine, and was twice named national Builder of the Year by Professional Builder magazine.

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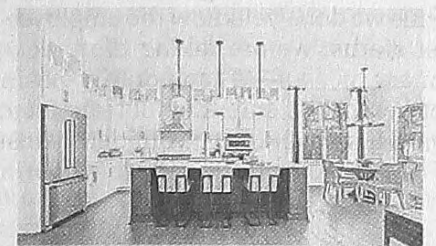
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LO-0000356972

Possible COVID-19 case temporarily closes Slows To Go truck in Canton

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Following a robust debut weekend in Canton, the Slows To Go food truck's four-weekend run was delayed in Cherry Hill Village for at least one weekend due to a possible COVID-19 infection of a Slows Bar BQ employee.

Slows Managing Director Terry Perrone said on a social media post that a Slows employee who works in the eatery's downtown Detroit location reportedly experience COVID-19-like symptoms earlier this week but had not yet been tested.

"Since we reopened in May, we've worked with a very small team, limiting the number of people in our building, maintaining social distancing and masking," Perrone said. "We have followed and exceeded all CDC guidelines. In fact, we made the decision to keep our lobby closed to the public even after area restaurants were permitted to reopen. We've only offered curbside pickup and walk-up window service to date.

"We take the health of our co-workers and our community very seriously. While we don't yet know the employee's test status, we are taking the precautionary measure of temporarily closing until we can ensure that all team members are safe and have confidently tested negative. While closed we will bring



The Slows To Go food truck's debut at Canton's Cherry Hill Village was a hit. SUBMITTED

in professional cleaners to sanitize our entire building."

Perrone added that while the food truck was absent from Cherry Hill Village this past weekend, it will return as soon as possible.

Slows To Go's first weekend in Canton was ultra-successful, with customers waiting up to 90 minutes for food.

"Our primary concern right now is for our employees," Perrone said. "Please know that we will continue to err on the side of caution in every decision we make. Be safe Detroit. We hope to see you very soon when we reopen Slows To Go."

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

Sixty-six local restaurants cited with serious violations during June inspections

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Inspectors from Oakland and Wayne counties visited many restaurants to make sure food safety protocols are being followed as facilities started to reopen dining rooms to make sure food safety protocols are being followed.

Health inspections take place year-

round at restaurants and other places with commercial kitchens, although they have slowed down in recent months as dining rooms were ordered closed by the state to help stop the spread of the coronavirus, which has infected tens of thousands statewide since first being found in Michigan in March. Dining rooms were allowed to reopen in early June.

For June, 38 restaurants locally in Oakland County had the most serious violations; 28 local restaurants in Wayne County had them.

Find the list of those local restaurants and their priority violations online at HometownLife.com.

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

Splash pad closes after employee tests positive for COVID-19

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Kensington's splash pad closed July 28 for the day after an employee tested positive for COVID-19.

The seasonal employee's test result was received the day prior, and the Oakland County Health Division was notified that morning. The worker had last worked July 23 and was not symptomatic at that time, complying with the metroparks' health screenings. The employee wore a face mask for the entire shift, as required.

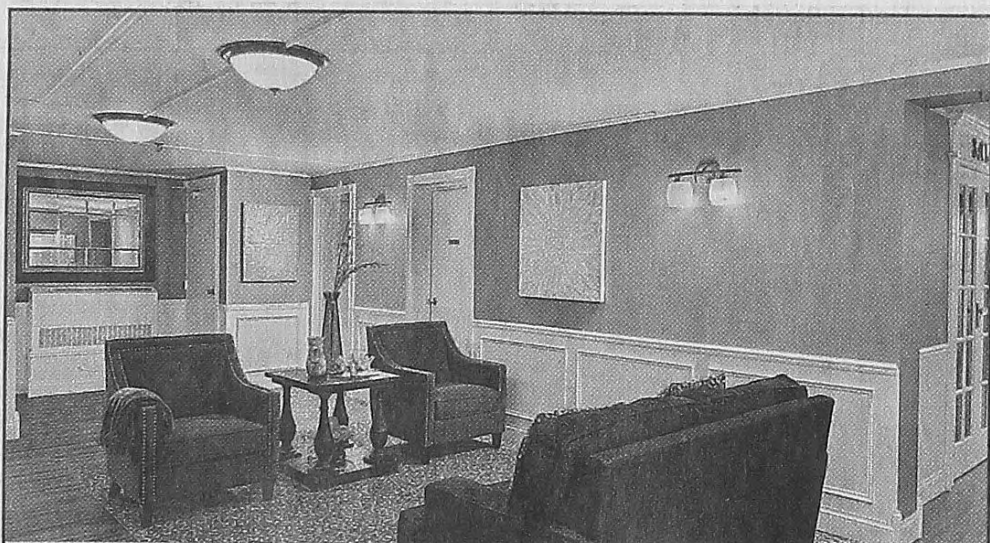
"Ensuring the health and safety of park visitors and employees is always our top priority," Huron-Clinton Metroparks Director Amy McMillan said. "That's why we temporarily closed the Kensington splash pad to do a further deep cleaning and make this public notification as an added precaution on top of local, state and federal guidance."

Six Metroparks employees who were in close contact with the infected worker were notified and have been instructed to self-quarantine for 14 days.

The employee was tested July 25, after a friend outside work tested positive.

Deep cleaning for COVID-19 involves disinfecting all touch surfaces, cleaning all surfaces of the restroom, all surfaces of the employee booth area (where wristbands are purchased) and power-washing the splash pad area. The area uses chlorinated water for another level of disinfecting, said Danielle Mauter, chief of marketing and communications for Huron-Clinton Metroparks.

The Splash 'N' Blast opened in late June with three sessions capped at 50% capacity available each day, modified layouts in standing and seating areas, social distancing requirements, and enhanced sanitation.



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How to maximize your investment



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

Dear Rick:

A few years ago, the company I worked for was bought out and I was let go. At that time, I talked to you about whether I should take a lump sum or the traditional pension. You recommended the pension because you said at the time it would cover my living expenses and give me flexibility with Social Security and my IRA.

I followed your advice and it was great. My pension more than covers all my living expenses and, in fact, I am accumulating money. However, I need to make a plan regarding Social Security now that I am eligible.

I'm curious if I should delay it until age 70. I don't need the money and it would just end up in my savings account. Since I've retired, I have been accumulating cash and I now have over \$100,000. I'm looking for suggestions of what I can do with the money. I am debt free and I have a diversified portfolio within my IRA.

My feeling is that I should buy some CDs with the money, but I'm not sure what. What do you think?

Thank you, Keith

Dear Keith:

You are in excellent financial health, and you're in a situation where you almost can't make a bad decision. That being said, my feeling is that it does pay to delay your Social Security. When you compare the rate of return you are receiving by delaying Social Security versus the rate of return that you'll get by leaving the money in the bank, the return by delaying is much greater. By delaying Social Security, you are in effect getting an 8 percent return per year. Unfortunately, if that money was in the bank, you'd probably earn a 1 percent return. From a pure financial standpoint, if you can delay Social Security, why not?

The one caveat is your life expectancy. If because of family history or your health situation, your life expectancy is below average, then it may make sense to begin collecting your Social Security

benefits early. If health is not an issue, my recommendation is to wait until you are 70 to collect.

One last note, although it doesn't apply in this situation: one other factor to take into consideration is for married couples. Delaying Social Security can have a positive impact on spousal benefits.

With regard to the cash you are accumulating, I would not recommend a five-year CD at this point in time. Interest rates are currently very low, and it doesn't seem to make economic sense to lock money up for five years. Currently, a five-year CD is only paying a little over 1 percent. Therefore, if I was going to go the CD route, I would only go into one-year CDs.

As opposed to buying a CD, you may want to consider an effort, on a year-by-year basis, of converting a portion of your IRAs into Roth IRAs. The advantage to you is that Roth IRAs are not subject to required minimum distributions. This means that when you turn 72, you would not have to begin withdrawing money from your IRA. The money can stay in your Roth IRA and grow tax free for as long as you choose. I believe, from a pure economic standpoint, using your excess cash to do a Roth conversion every year would be a much better use of the money than a CD.

Because the money that you convert from a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA is taxable, I think you should only convert enough every year to keep you in the same tax bracket. This may mean that it will take a few years to convert your entire traditional IRA into a Roth IRA; however, you'll pay less in overall taxes, and as far as I'm concerned, the money you save looks better in your pocket than it does anywhere else!

For those of you sitting on extra cash, consider doing a Roth conversion. Having money in a Roth IRA gives you greater flexibility than a traditional IRA, in the fact that you do not have to take required minimum distributions. You can leave money in a Roth IRA for as long as you choose. In addition, the money is growing tax free.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. Email Rick at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

Thank farmers during National Farmers Market Week



Walt Gajewski
Guest columnist

This is National Farmers Market week, and it seems fitting that we just passed the halfway point of what will certainly go down as the most memorable market season ever. I feel like it's a market atop a mountain with an uphill climb every Saturday. But, oh, the view we have as the abundance of Michigan farms is trucked into town in the early hours of dawn.

Walking the market as the sun is coming up is pure heaven. You can see every color of the spectrum in the freshly-picked produce heaped atop sawhorse tables that groan from the weight of seedless melons, piles of sweetcorn, peppers, tomatoes, garlic, onions, cucumbers, green beans and more. Then there are the juicy peaches, bursting-with-flavor blueberries and, now just in, my favorite – blackberries!

As much as we would like to celebrate National Farmers Market Week this Saturday, let's instead during this season of COVID-19 nod thoughtfully with a sense of gratitude for the 15 or so farmers, growers, producers and foragers who set up their farm tables every week in downtown Farmington. In honor of the abundance that comes full of flavor and bursting with nutrients, we will be posting a little note of thanks this Saturday at each farmer's stand.

Give a look – it will help you get to know them all a little better.

On the road again

What better way to appreciate National Farmers Market Week than taking a walk with a founding farmer of the Farmington Farmers Market. Bill Gass and his wife, Ellen, own and operate the Gass Centennial Farm off Romeo Plank Road a few miles east of Romeo. Their land, which today is 135 acres, has been in the Gass family since President Andrew Jackson signed a land grant back in 1853.

What I noted about the Gass farm is its immediate calming effect. Things looked in good harmony – the home, the outbuildings, the farm. There's a chemistry there, a unity wrapped inside an envelope of natural stone-on-stone rock walls that meander through the property. It's a life's work still in the making.



Farmington Farmers Market volunteers hold up four fingers to celebrate the fourth consecutive year that the market has been voted Best in Metro Detroit in WDIV's Vote 4 the Best contest. COURTESY OF JOHN CASTINE

We toured the farm on golf carts using as our guide his grower's list of what he brings to market, from tomatoes to peppers, to bean fields and row upon row of lettuce behind fences to protect it from the deer who roam in from the surrounding forested land.

"See that big white oak up ahead?" he said as we braked to a stop. "It's got to be near to 300 years old. I sometimes bring a chair out to sit when I'm frustrated with things. Right now I'm not happy with my bean production." He pointed at rows of fat green tomatoes. "Look at the field tomatoes falling over from so much weight. We're at the end of July here, and they are still green! Beans – don't even talk to me about. Never in my 45 years have they given me this much trouble. I'm trying for another late season run here," he said.

As we finished our tour with an inspection of a low-roofed, red-stained outbuilding – the wash area with large walk-in coolers – Bill pointed to a sign over a freshly whitewashed work table that proclaimed the Gass Farm as environmentally verified by the Michigan Agriculture Assurance Program, which recognizes farmers who reduce erosion and runoff from private lands into public waters.

We exchanged farewells and then eased down the drive, allowing us a last glimpse of the neat and tidy homestead. It struck me that, with all the bounty Bill trucks to market, he makes it look easy. Which tells you how little I know about farming.

I do know this: We hoisted our fourth banner in the Sundquist Pavilion at the corner of Grand River and Grove Street, proclaiming the Farmington Farmers Market as metro Detroit's best in WDIV's annual Vote 4 the Best competition. You don't get lucky for four straight years. At some point you must have a recipe for success. Ours includes one dozen sponsors, three dozen volunteers, supportive city leaders, and a partnership with the Downtown Development Authority, Public Safety Office, Public Works department and City Treasurer's Office.

Many hands made light work? No. Many hands were hard at work. And what a difference it makes. We won because we are one.

Until next time, then, here's wishing everyone a happy National Farmers Market Week!

Walt Gajewski is the Farmington Farmers Market manager.

Promoted

Continued from Page 1A

of their salaries, they will earn about \$178,000.

"The former organizational structure has served the community well, but these past few months have provided insight and opportunity to take the department in a new, fiscally-responsible direction, with zero impact on the exceptional police and fire services the community is accustomed to receiving," Williams said

in a statement.

Baugh manages about 100 police officers, including detectives, sergeants, lieutenants and dispatchers and will oversee all police operations in his new role. He has served the township for nearly 25 years and has been in a leadership role for the past 12 years.

Baugh graduated from Eastern Michigan University's School of Police Staff and Command. He has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Madonna University and a master's degree in technology



Baugh



Stoecklein

from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti.

Like Baugh, Stoecklein joined the township's employment in 1996. He has held a leadership role with the department for the past seven years and now manages about 77 firefighters.

He graduated from EMU's School of Fire Staff and Command. He earned a college degree in public services administration.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Twitter: @susanvela.

Start

Continued from Page 1A

will ... continue to work on a phased-in approach in anticipation of returning to in-person learning."

Though students won't be in classrooms, teachers will practice stricter grading, do more live teaching and administer tests. Herrera said classes will not look like they did in the spring.

Though it may start online, the district will make efforts to get adequate staffing in the event of a need for quarantining and will make plans for students and teachers to participate "in a highly structured in-person setting of social distancing and wearing facial coverings."

Farmington Public Schools is also looking for county guidance on the screening and quarantining practices it should put in place when people return to buildings.

School administration will recommend the move to online classes to the board of education at its Aug. 11 meeting.

"As we open our "virtual" doors to our schools on Monday, Aug. 31, I know that we will be prepared to provide our students not only with a quality education where we can continue to build positive and supportive relationships with our students and our families," Herrera said.

Obituaries

Alice (Stauffer) Claire

Alice (Stauffer) Claire, 92, passed away peacefully on July 25, 2020 in Moodus, CT. Born in Cleveland Ohio on June 18, 1928, she was a long-time resident of Birmingham Michigan, attending Ohio Wesleyan University and graduating from the University of Michigan. She was the beloved wife of the late Henry "Hank" Claire for 54 years.

She worked at McManus, John and Adams in Bloomfield Hills, MI until her retirement and subsequent move with Hank to Peachtree City, Georgia in 1983 where they had many happy years in their residential community, and as members of Flat Creek Country Club. Alice was active in golf and tennis, and enjoyed a lifelong interest in sports. She was a devoted fan of the Detroit Tigers and the Atlanta Braves.

Throughout her life, Alice loved seeing and keeping in touch with her circle of friends and family. She was a great cook, enjoyed music, gardening, making crafts, and she also loved to travel. She welcomed any opportunity to combine visits with friends or family, travel, and golf, or skiing in earlier years.

Alice was predeceased by her siblings Harriett Fox and Robert Stauffer. She is survived by her son Stephen Kitts and his wife Susan Kautz of Haddam, CT; her step-daughter Kathryn Claire of Old Saybrook, CT; her nieces Mary Sommer, Jane Fox, Christy Sturgeon, Wendy Threatt; her nephews Robert Fox, MD, Rick Stauffer; and former step-grandsons Rivers and Leaves Cuomo.

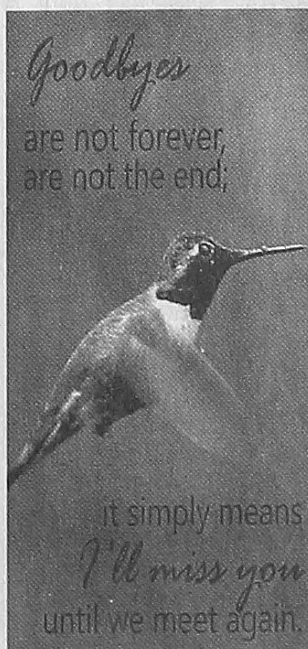
No memorial service is planned. Any memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association of CT, 200 Executive Blvd., Suite 4B, Southington, CT 06489.



Judith Ann Stewart

LIVONIA - Judith Ann Stewart, 81, of Livonia, July 28, 2020. Loving wife of William. Dear mother of Ann Stewart-Akers and Kate Stewart. Precious grandmother of Kyle Akers. Also survived by her sister, Margaret (Charles) Skalos. The visitation and funeral were held Friday, July 31, 2020. Please share a memory of Judith or condolences with her family at www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com.

Harry J Will Funeral Homes



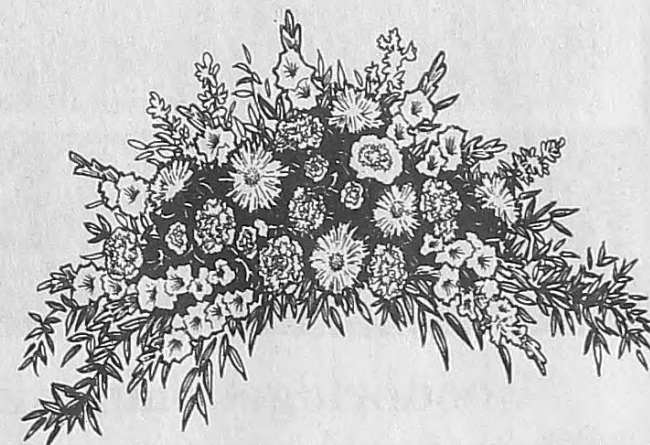
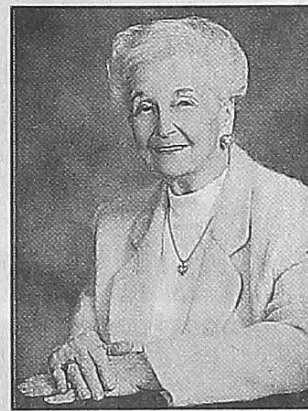
June M. Taggart

June M. Taggart, age 95, passed away July 29, 2020.

Beloved wife of the late Frederick. Loving mother of Gary (Ann), Denise Fryer, Cynthia (Mark) Finley and F. Scott (Carol). Dear grandmother of Wendy (Jim) Meissner, Michael (Jennifer), Shannon (Tait) Drury, Shelly (Henry) Lang, Shawn Maxwell, Andy (Aimee) Finley, Lyndsay (Michael) LaFleur and Benjamin. Also survived by 18 great-grandchildren.

June was a most loving wife, mother and friend and enjoyed giving of herself to numerous charitable organizations. She also had a special fondness for God's creatures. June had many years of success as a bursar for Highland Park Community College and was a longtime member of 1st Presbyterian Church of Farmington.

Private family services will be held. Memorial donations appreciated to Michigan Humane and The National WWII Museum. Arrangements entrusted to McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills. www.mccabefuneralhome.com



School

Continued from Page 1A

The Twiners, who both work outside the home, want their kids in classrooms and are waiting for Grosse Ile's final plans which, like most districts, include various options for virtual learning, full in-person schooling and a hybrid of the two.

"It's important for the well-being of kids to be back in school and not be sitting at home," Marisa said.

Mike adds that it is a risk-benefit equation.

Currently, he thinks the benefits of school with the proper precautions outweigh the risks, but "we really won't know until after."

'A testing ground'

Devannie Haviland, a mom and a teacher, enjoyed her day at the beach.

"The past year was rough. I didn't love virtual teaching, but I like having a job," she said.

Haviland teaches life skills at Bryant Middle School in Dearborn. When schools closed their buildings in March, she had to teach online while also watching her own children, who will be in 10th, seventh and first grades this fall in Livonia Public Schools, learning virtually.

Dearborn and Livonia will offer virtual options and are finalizing plans for a more traditional option. She wants her kids to be in face-to-face school.

"They need the social-emotional aspect of school, that is what helps them survive in life," Haviland said, though she acknowledged that schools opening this fall will be "a testing ground."

She also considers possible negative social-emotional aspects from a return to school.

"I don't want a child shamed if they accidentally hug a friend or cough in a line with a mask on or off," Haviland said. "So many deep psychological issues could result. I love connections and it's difficult to make that via the internet."

Missing links

Ava Lowe, who will be a seventh grader and hopes to attend Emerson Middle School in Livonia, described



Visitors enjoy a beautiful day at Martindale Beach in Kensington Metropark on July 29. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

school this past spring as difficult, surprising and long.

"I didn't do well with online school. It was hard to communicate with teachers," she said. "I am hoping we go back to school whether we have to wear masks or not. I'll do my best if we're online, but I hope we can go back."

Isabella Lowe, an incoming junior at Livonia's Franklin High School, said she felt like she was talking to a computer when learning online. She wants to return and she wants it to be safe, and she thinks it will be "safe enough," with spacing between students in classrooms, and "especially with wearing masks."

"I can't say hugs and high fives won't happen," she said, "but that's on them. I'll wear my mask and not get close."

Kamryn Mayse will also be a junior at Franklin and said virtual learning was "no good." One of her biggest struggles was chemistry without hands-on learning in a lab.

While wearing a mask can get hot, she would rather wear it and be around her friends than stuck at home.

Normal not an option

Kelli Thorn is a Canton mother of three children. Sons Charles and Marshall are due to enter 11th and 10th grades, respectively, at Plymouth High

School. Saniah will be an eighth grader, due to return to Pioneer Middle School.

Thorn doesn't like any of the choices the district is offering, though the school board has yet to make a final decision.

"I like them being in school and things being normal, but that is not an option," she said, adding that she and her husband are leaning toward all-virtual learning for their children.

The status of the coronavirus pandemic will be the deciding factor for the family as the first day of school approaches.

Thorn is "not afraid" of what's to come, but said there are "6,000 kids in Plymouth-Canton and that's difficult to maintain or control."

Charles would be more cautious, especially since Plymouth-Canton "has three schools combined and there are a lot of students at passing time."

He said online learning has its advantages, including not having to wait to do classwork, and more time in which to do it. Marshall liked a three-hour day in the online setting instead of the seven-hour day in school.

But both said they miss football, and not being in school in person makes it difficult when they have difficulty understanding a concept.

Saniah turns to her brothers for help if she needs it, but she misses her friends.

'We're not going to live in fear'

Jeremy and Carmen Kinney are the Pinckney parents of two daughters, Christiana, 11, and Kayla, 5.

Their parents want them in school. Carmen said this is the last year of elementary school for Christiana, and the start of elementary school for Kayla.

Carmen said she is a surgical technologist at St. Joe's Hospital in Ann Arbor and knows well the dangers of the pandemic. Many of the COVID-19 patients she saw in the spring were immunocompromised.

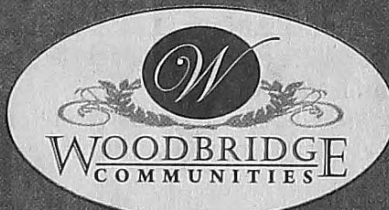
"I saw the impact on the elderly and certain demographics," she said. "Safety is paramount for kids. Stay six feet apart, wear masks and be mindful."

She and her husband were fortunate to be able to juggle schedules. Jeremy worked from home as a manager in the spring, and she worked second shift at the hospital.

Jeremy said he believes it will be safe at school with masks and social distancing.

"I want to see consistency," he said. "I want them to interact with other children. Parents are not teachers, unless they have gone to school for that. ... We're not going to live in fear."


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



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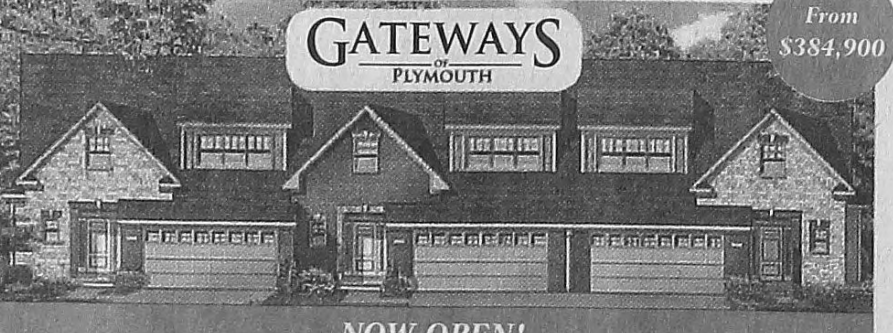
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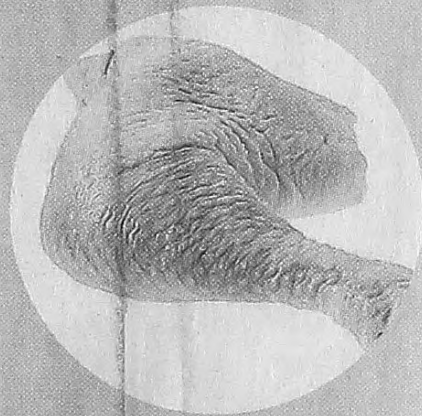
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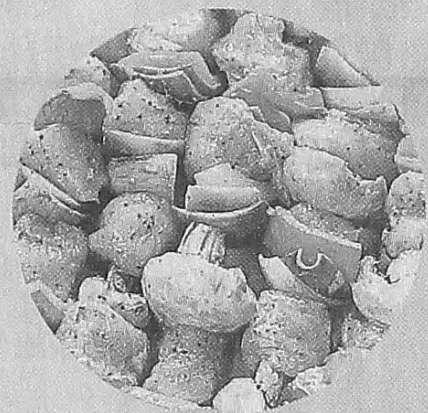
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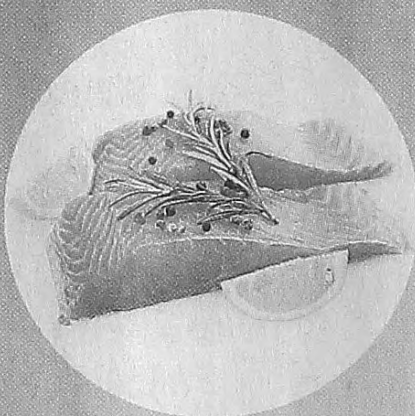


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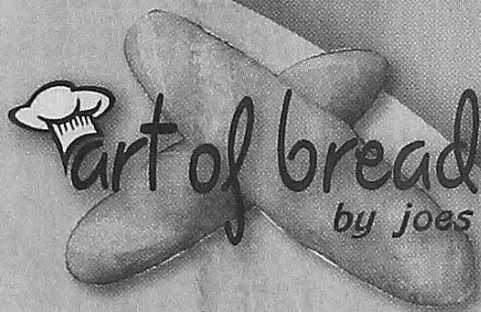


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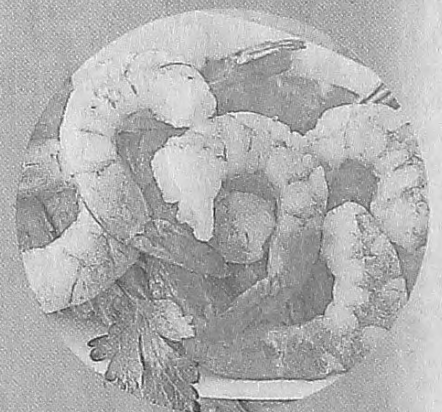
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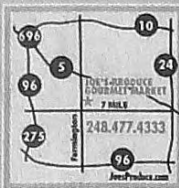
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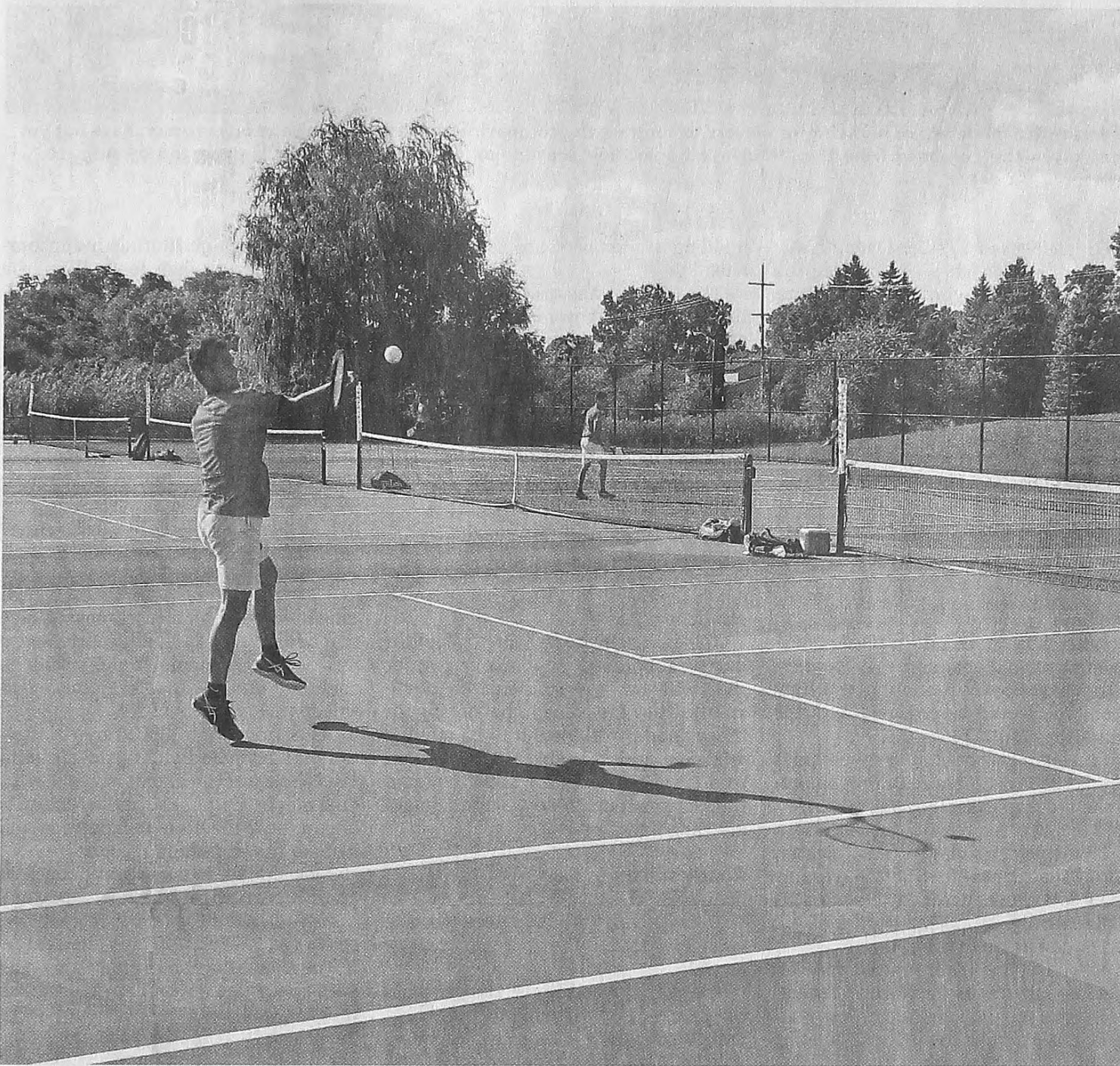
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SPORTS



Tennis is considered one of the safer sports for high school athletics. Teams are allowed to start practicing Aug. 10.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Tennis, cross country first test for high school sports

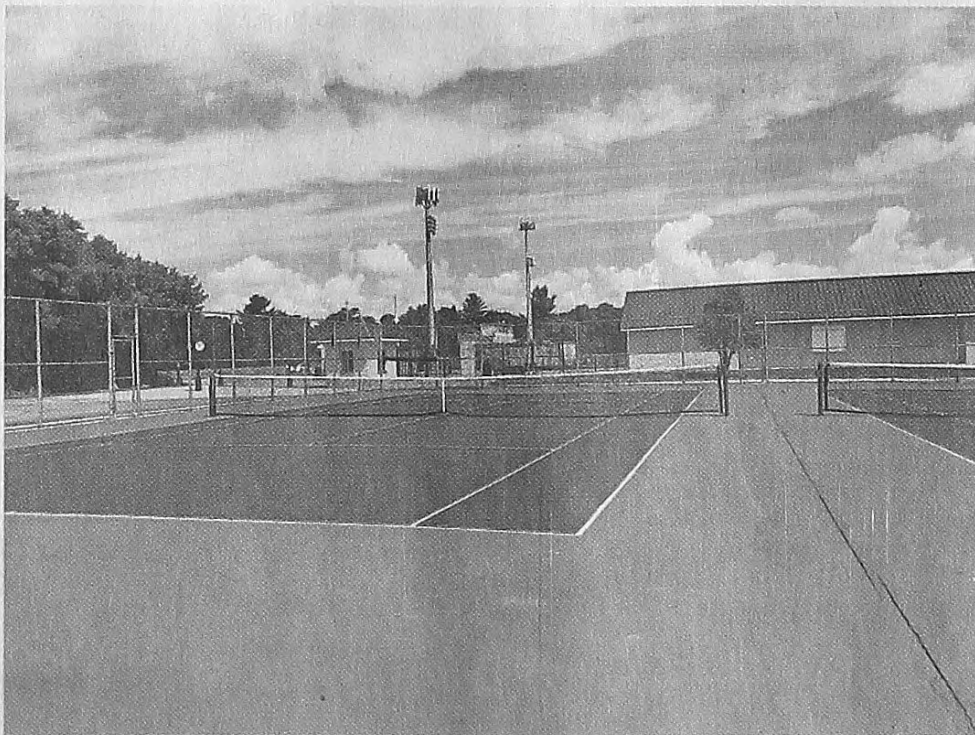
Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Boys tennis, girls golf, cross country, and girls swim and dive — barring the opening of indoor facilities such as pools — received the green light by the Michigan High School Athletic Association to begin practices Aug. 12 and to start their seasons on time this fall during the coronavirus pandemic.

Each sport will look different in some way, shape or form. There are still questions to be answered for each, especially as the season nears its end.

But right now, these sports are test subjects.

With the MHSAA self-imposing a deadline of Aug. 20 to decide on the schedule for boys soccer, football and volleyball, these low-risk sports will help the association see if a full return-to-play is feasible.



The North Farmington tennis team will return to its practice courts Aug. 12.

See TEST, Page 2B



Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

Starting a new adventure

I never thought I'd be writing one of these columns — certainly not this soon anyway.

Here I am, however, saying farewell to my journalism career at age 25.

My last day at Hometown Life is Friday, July 31, 2020. After an incredible year and a half with the newspaper, I have decided to start law school this fall at Wayne State University in Detroit.

I grew up obsessed with sports. I knew every player on every team, memorized more stats than I knew what to do with and always wanted to have a career that put me in a position to stay close to the sports world. A knack for asking questions and a passion for writing made journalism an obvious choice.

I was fortunate enough to attend Indiana University, where I began writing for the student newspaper, the Indiana Daily Student, before I even started classes in the fall of 2013. Covering volleyball led to covering baseball, men's soccer, football and of course, IU men's basketball, which I was able to do for a professional outlet.

My time at IU helped me secure internships all across the country from small newspapers like the Pharos Tribune (Logansport, Ind.) and Evansville Courier & Press (Evansville, Ind.) to larger media outlets like the Arizona Republic (Phoenix) and Sports Illustrated (New York City). After my post-grad fellowship at the Republic concluded, I came back to Michigan where I've been able to cover Michigan athletics for The Wolverine, local news for WHMI radio and finally high school sports here at Hometown Life.

Being in journalism has allowed me to explore new places, meet countless amazing people and witness some incredible sports moments. I've written stories I will forever be proud of, documented key moments in sports across all levels and told the stories of numerous people who otherwise wouldn't have a voice. Some of my favorite journalism memories include: the 2016 NCAA Tournament where I sat court-side as Indiana beat Kentucky; doing play-by-play on the radio for football games at both the Big House and Spartan Stadium; covering Didier Drogba's debut with the Phoenix Rising soccer team; watching the Knicks at Madison Square Garden and interviewing Carmelo Anthony; covering NFL training camp in Arizona and countless Arizona Diamondbacks games; making my

See ADVENTURE, Page 2B

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MHSAA releases plan for phased-in fall season

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Michigan High School Athletic Association announced July 29 it would phase in the start of the high school athletic season for the 2020-21 school year.

Moderate- and high-risk sports, such as football and boys soccer, have not been given the go-ahead to begin their seasons on time. A decision on the competition timelines for each sport will be made by Aug. 20.

Boys soccer and volleyball may begin practicing Aug. 12, along with girls golf, boys tennis, cross country, and girls swim and dive. Football is permitted to practice the week of Aug. 10, but is limited to conditioning, physical training and skill work with helmets and no other player equipment.

Football practice with full pads and player equipment has been delayed until Aug. 17.

Competitions for girls golf, boys tennis, cross country, and swim and dive are permitted to begin on either Aug. 19 or 21.

The start of volleyball and swim and dive practices are contingent on the opening of indoor facilities. If not allowed indoors by Aug. 12, teams may practice outdoors.

The MHSAA also announced it would cancel scrimmages ahead of the 2020-21 competitive schedule.

"The Council, reflecting on the positive impact on their athletes this summer from taking part in offseason training, feels it's of utmost importance to continue athletic activity moving forward," MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said. "If we take a month off, our students will find opportunities to compete through non-school entities that may



Sports with a moderate or high risk for players to contract the coronavirus, such as football and boys soccer, have not yet been given the go-ahead from the MHSAA to begin their seasons on time, but a decision is expected by Aug. 20.

HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

not be as focused on safety. Our athletic directors and coaches can provide the safest-possible environment to return to sports, and this phased-in approach to competition will help schools continue building on progress already made.

"The council chose to make these adjustments to help ensure our athletes have a safe regular season this fall. As we continue to solidify the regular season, we can then turn our attention to

building a safe postseason for our athletes."

The MHSAA has also placed limitations in terms of how many participants or teams may compete in a regular-season tournament or competition.

In cross country, a maximum of 70 runners are allowed in a single race. In golf, there will be a maximum of 72 competitors at an 18-hole event.

Soccer, swim and dive, tennis and volleyball are each limited to having four

teams at a single site during this upcoming fall season, while football will be limited to two.

The MHSAA previously announced all sports in the 2020-21 school year will begin as scheduled in the fall as originally scheduled.

If necessary, the association would delay practices and games for some certain fall sports. If all are suspended, they will be rescheduled to be completed as late as July 2021.

Test

Continued from Page 1B

Here's a look at how area teams are responding to the guidance released last week.

Tennis takes the lead

Rob McLaren was not surprised by the MHSAA announcement.

While some of the specifics may have been unexpected, the Salem boys tennis coach repeated to his team throughout the summer months that he felt tennis was in good shape to return in the fall.

But when the announcement came from the association, McLaren said a weight seemed to be taken off his players' shoulders.

"I saw a tremendous, almost relief in my players that they could do something normal," McLaren said. "In-school had stopped on March 13 in our district, and for months they have been quarantined, not being able to see their school friends, their teammates. They looked incredibly relieved to be able to do something."

However, it will look a bit different.

The MHSAA announced that no pre-season scrimmages will be held in the fall to limit exposure between separate programs. Also, in tennis schools will be limited to hosting only four teams at

one time.

With those rules put in place, questions about regional and state tournaments have come up, about how a state champion would be crowned with the limitations put in place.

for North Farmington first-year boys tennis head coach Andre Dupret, his approach to the season has shifted.

"I feel like this season, the top priority is keeping my players safe," Dupret said. "That comes first before winning and improving. It definitely changes the goals. Obviously, we plan to do well, but safety comes before anything."

Since the pandemic started and Dupret has taken over the North Farmington tennis program, he said he has added 60 more players to the team, creating a junior varsity program they did not have in the past.

With a sport viewed as one of the safer options in the pandemic, Dupret said there is something to prove when the tennis season starts.

"Football is looked upon as if we can't even do it in tennis, what hope is there in the other sports?" Dupret explained. "If we can just kind of take the lead and show that at least in tennis or cross country, that is goes well, I think it can build at least some level of confidence for those other sports."

This was McLaren's message to his players as soon as they officially found out a season was going to happen:

"If tennis can't do it right, no team

can do it right."

"There's going to be a lot of people in our neighborhood and in our district that will say we shouldn't be doing sports. They are going to be looking for those sports working out to be making mistakes and screwing up," McLaren said. "We are not going to be the team that screws it up. We're going to do everything right."

Ready to run

Cross country will be forced to make changes ahead of the upcoming season as well.

The MHSAA announced races would be limited to 70 participants in the fall, and is considering staggered or interval starts to avoid congestion.

But Tim Dalton, cross country coach at Northville, said no matter how the races would be run, his focus is on the fact there is a season to be played.

"The ultimate goal through all of this is to give the kids an opportunity to compete in some shape or form this fall," Dalton said. "Brief discussions have been had already of what that would look like: If it's multiple races over two or three days, just splitting your team up to meet that 70-person threshold, and how do we do that?"

Dalton said, even before the announcement, he was forced to change the upcoming schedule.

Northville officially canceled its Mus-

tang Invite, an annual early season race that has brought as many as 20 teams in the past to compete. Dalton said he could not find a way to keep this event safe for everyone involved.

As a program of 50-60 runners, Dalton said the majority of the meets, with the 70-person threshold, is likely to be dual meets. With those limits, Dalton is unsure how the state competition will work at the end of the season.

Rick Brauer, cross country coach at Livonia Stevenson, echoed Dalton's thoughts, admitting that meets and the season as a whole will look different.

"But it's still about competing and doing your best," Brauer said. "I know they, as well as I, are just happy to be back together training and supporting one another."

Dalton knows cross country will be watched closely as one of only a few sports with the go-ahead for a normal season. For him, especially after the spring track season, he is just thankful for a sense of normalcy.

"Coaching track and field in the spring and watching those kids lose a season, it's devastating," Dalton said. "Just keeping our kids in mind, but also understanding and balancing it with working through this pandemic and doing it the safest way possible."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Send game results and stats to LivSports@hometownlife.com.

Adventure

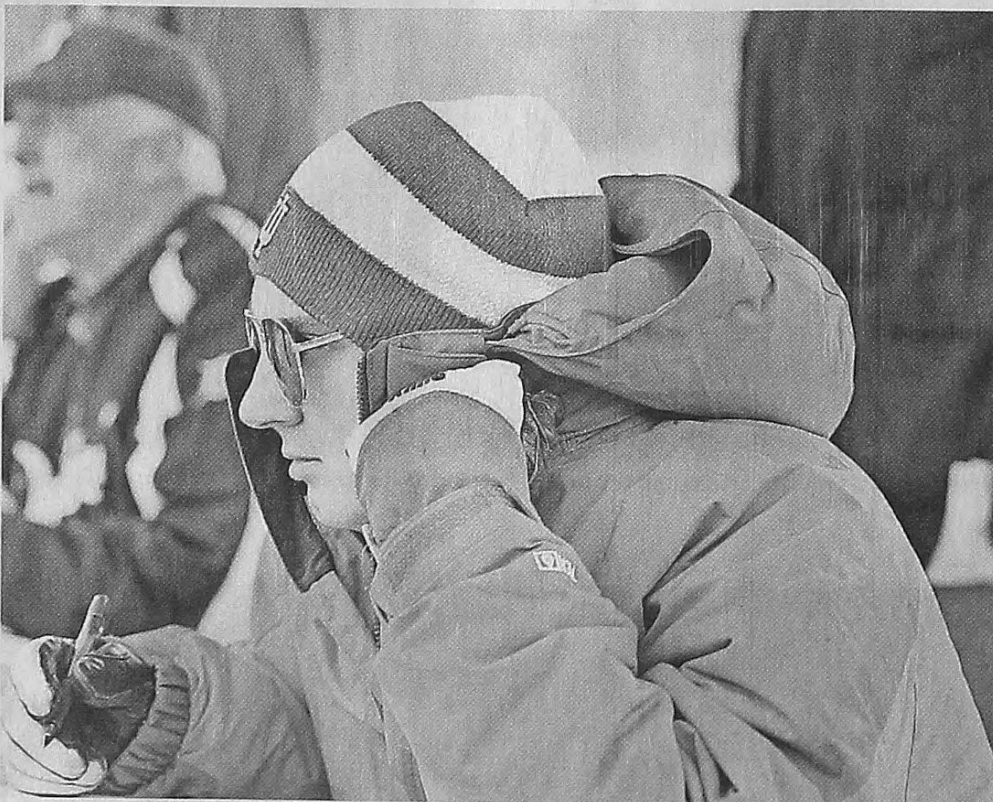
Continued from Page 1B

first trip to Las Vegas to cover the NBA Summer League; experiencing the Michigan-Ohio State rivalry; witnessing an Emoni Bates game-winning shot — and so much more.

A personal highlight of mine was being the College Football Playoff Writer for Sports Illustrated during the 2016 season. I got to write about a subject that I'm extremely passionate about for one of the most well-known organizations in the world.

I'll never forget getting to experience what it's like being in a professional clubhouse or locker room, or being able to talk to stars that you watch on TV. Something just as special, though, was being able to write stories on local high school athletes as they experienced the highs and lows of their careers. From Novi soccer to Canton basketball to Franklin football and many more, there have been some great moments and stories to share.

We have a strong local sports community full of talent across all sports and I'm happy that my friend and colleague, Colin Gay, will still be here to tell those stories.



Sports reporter Andrew Vaillencourt covers a softball game in 2019.

HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

As for me, my love for sports and sports journalism has not faded. If anything, I feel by taking a step back I'll be able to enjoy sports more than ever. I

will miss being around players and teams up close and I will miss the thrill of the sports landscape from a media perspective, but it's time for a change.

The journalism industry has continued to change dramatically, looking vastly different now compared to just a few years ago, let alone when I first started undergrad. Being able to sustain a 30-40 year career in this field just doesn't seem that plausible anymore, especially for anyone that wants to start a family. As any journalist will tell you — we certainly don't do this job for the money.

I'm not sure whether my future career will still involve sports. There are several areas of the law that I'm interested in pursuing, including sports and entertainment law and corporate/business law. Maybe I'll even follow in my father's footsteps and become a prosecutor. One thing I do know is that law school will be hard work, but I'm ready for it.

So to you, reading this, thank you. Thank you for reading my stories over the years and for supporting local journalism. I'm grateful for being able to work with a fantastic group of colleagues and know they will continue to cover our communities well. I am lucky to be walking away from the industry when and how I want to, which is a luxury most don't have.

I may not be in the press box anymore, but I will always be a fan in the stands.

What we know so far about HS fall sports

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

With the 2020-21 school year just around the corner, the Michigan High School Athletic Association met Wednesday to discuss plans for the upcoming fall sports season during the coronavirus pandemic.

While there are still many questions to be answered in the coming weeks, here is what we know now ahead of the fall season:

Will sports be played in the fall?

The MHSAA hopes that all regularly scheduled fall sports will be played in the fall. However, only a few have gotten a green light for the upcoming season.

According to Wednesday's announcement, girls golf, boys tennis and cross country are a full go, with golf and tennis starting on Aug. 19, and cross country starting on Aug. 21.

Girls swim and dive has also been permitted to start on time, and is scheduled to begin Aug. 21, but a ruling on opening indoor facilities would have to be made prior to the start of competition.

Practice for each of these sports is scheduled to start Aug. 12.

What about football, volleyball and boys soccer?

Viewed by the MHSAA as moderate-to-high-risk sports, schedules for each of these three sports remain in limbo.

The association said teams in volleyball and boys soccer may start practicing Aug. 12 and have pushed back the start of full-pad football practices to Aug. 17 — football teams are allowed to practice with helmets only starting the week of Aug. 10. However, timelines of when games for each of these sports would be allowed will be decided before Aug. 20.

In his interview with the Huge Show, a sports radio show based in Grand Rapids, MHSAA executive director Mark Uyl said it's a "wait-and-see approach" with these three higher risk sports, watching the coronavirus numbers and how they are affected by the start of low-risk high school sports.



Canton fans celebrate during a game before the coronavirus pandemic began.
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

Uyl said the outcome of the association's decision by Aug. 20 could be anywhere from a normal schedule for each sport to postponing the start to later in the fall to a possible delay to the spring.

According to the football return to play guidelines, if the football season is delayed, the season would begin with a team's next contracted game. So if the season were to start in Week 2, Week 1 games would be skipped and considered a no play.

Like girls swim and dive, volleyball's start will also come down to whether or not indoor facilities are open, even if

teams are allowed to practice outdoors.

Prior to games being played, the MHSAA said that no scrimmages will be held between two separate schools.

Will there be sports if there is no in-person learning?

Uyl said on the Huge Show it will come down to decisions made by individual school districts.

He said all online coursework will be counted toward athletic eligibility, which has been the case in many districts across the state already.

With the state in Phase 4, metro Detroit area school districts are considering different teaching models ranging from fully virtual to all day, every day, and several hybrid learning models that mix in-person and online classwork. Daily in-person learning restrictions lessen if the state shift to the will resume in Phase 5 and Phase 6.

However, Uyl said that if a region of the state moves back to Phase 3, high school athletics will be halted in that specific region, with the possibility of competition continuing elsewhere.

Will there be fans in the stands?

All we know now is that spectators will be limited.

The MHSAA says the number of spectators allowed for indoor and outdoor events will have to be based on guidance from Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's office, and will be released prior to the first sporting event.

What now?

For football, volleyball and boys soccer, it's simple: wait and watch.

With practices starting the week of Aug. 10, Michigan will watch neighboring states, like Ohio, which starts high school practices a week earlier, to see if more cases emerge or how the coronavirus numbers compare.

Also, the MHSAA will be able to see what coronavirus case totals look like after the start of the low-risk sports like golf and tennis.

The association has put specific plans in place for each of the low-risk sports that will begin as scheduled, such as limiting the amount of runners in a cross country meet to a maximum of 70, or not having more than four teams at one site for volleyball and swim and dive events.

But for the team sports, the higher risk sports, the next date on their calendar is Aug. 20: the date by which the MHSAA will decide whether football, boys soccer and volleyball games will be held as originally scheduled.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Send game results and stats to LivSports@hometownlife.com.

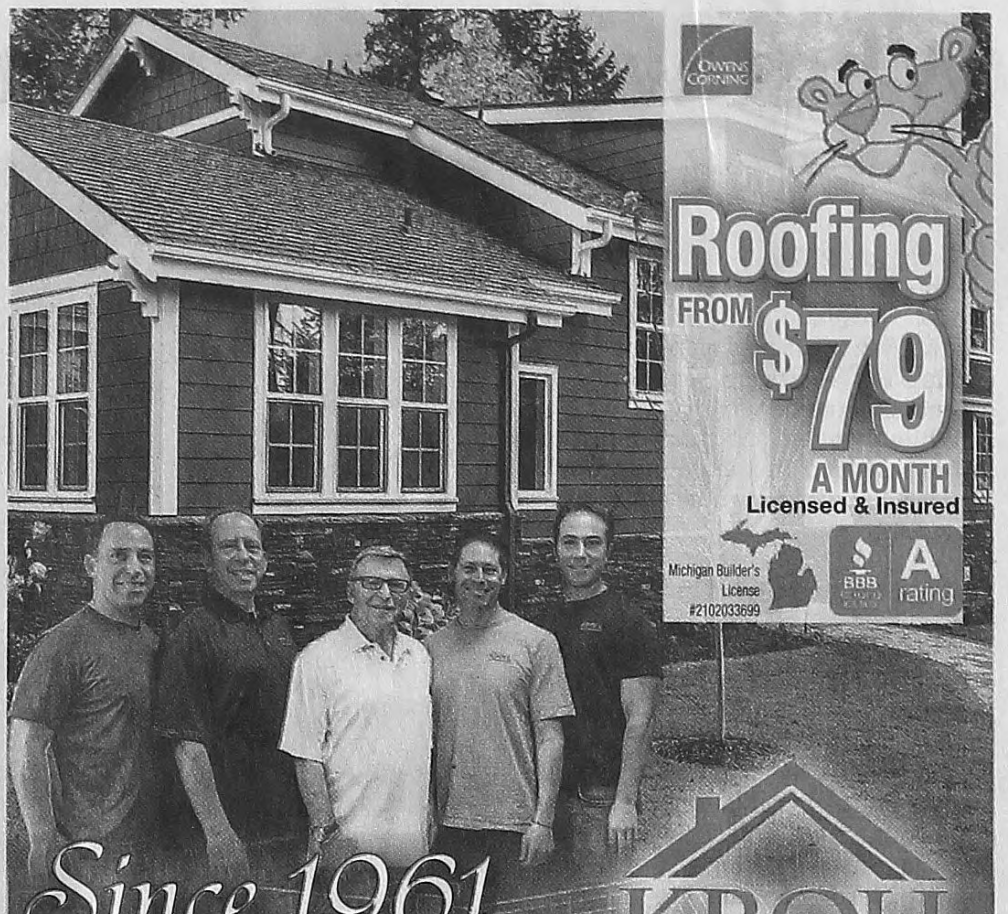
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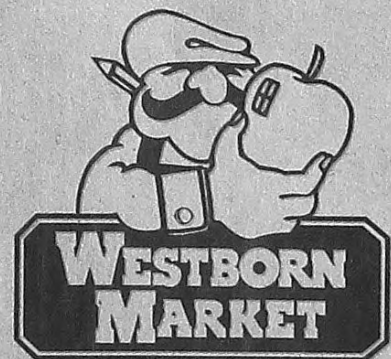
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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Capital of Kenya
- 8 Cleared up some space
- 16 Link up
- 20 Brought into harmony
- 21 Sign of a warm welcome
- 22 Meara of comedy
- 23 Start of a riddle
- 26 Cock-a-doodle- —
- 27 Safecracker, informally
- 28 Vinyl albums, for short
- 29 Chose, as on a survey
- 30 Batman player West
- 33 Peter of "Casablanca"
- 35 Stare in disbelief
- 38 Baby's cry
- 40 Riddle, part 2
- 44 Film, in France
- 47 Stephen of "Utopia"
- 48 Old Russ. state
- 49 Spring flower
- 50 Downhiller's gear holder

- 52 Humane U.S. org.
- 54 Riddle, part 3
- 59 Routine-bound
- 61 Tic-tac-toe winning row
- 62 Waikiki souvenir
- 63 Rejoinder to "Not so!"
- 64 Capital of Qatar
- 65 In Minnesota or Montana
- 69 Extra NHL periods
- 71 Riddle, part 4
- 78 Supersecret govt. group
- 79 Tetley tidbit
- 80 Quite a long time
- 82 Fine violin, informally
- 86 Stage design
- 89 New Year in Hanoi
- 90 Election turndown
- 92 Riddle, part 5
- 97 Allow entry
- 98 "Ha! I was right!"
- 99 Thailand, formerly
- 100 Pal, in Caen
- 102 — Magnon
- 103 French WWII battle city

- 104 End of the riddle
- 110 "Wolf" cable channel
- 112 Followers: Suffix
- 113 "You beat me"
- 114 Gum globs
- 115 Facility with hot tubs
- 117 Gamble
- 119 Subpoena, e.g.
- 120 Go fast, quaintly
- 122 Riddle's answer
- 131 Atoll unit
- 132 Trip in a "stretch" car
- 133 Stacked messily
- 134 It may grow on a rock
- 135 Reduces to a fine mist
- 136 Capable of being stretched out

DOWN

- 1 Rural refusal
- 2 Sports-related: Abbr.
- 3 Suffix with Seattle
- 4 "Walk This Way" rap trio
- 5 Aware of

- 6 Looks upon
- 7 Suffix with cyan-
- 8 Lawn-Boy products
- 9 Orbital point farthest from Earth
- 10 C-H linkup
- 11 Suffix with butyl
- 12 Jogged
- 13 Hobbit's foe
- 14 Brunch staple
- 15 Abbr. on a new car's sticker
- 16 Face part
- 17 Being displayed
- 18 Pertaining to
- 19 Require
- 24 Novice
- 25 Chicago-to-Memphis dir.
- 30 Frightened
- 31 Fails to
- 32 Plains tribe
- 34 — vez (again, in Spain)
- 35 Teri of "Tootsie"
- 36 Disney mermaid name
- 37 Old hat
- 39 Etchers' liquids
- 41 Jacob's twin

- 42 Bake-off entry
- 43 That, in Oviedo
- 45 Small iPod
- 46 Big name in waffles
- 51 Jewish deli treat
- 53 Rugged cliff
- 55 Zero
- 56 Way in or out
- 57 Most awful
- 58 New York county whose seat is Owego
- 60 Syllables of rebuke
- 66 Lunar stage
- 67 — kwon do
- 68 Hilton rival
- 70 Texter's "Catch ya later"
- 72 Not finish later than
- 73 "— Three Lives"
- 74 — pot (sinus clearer)
- 75 Roof feature
- 76 "Yeah, understood"
- 77 Turned in
- 81 Spanish men
- 82 Some NCOs
- 83 Hit the horn

- 84 Routines to determine who's present
- 85 Append
- 87 Snaky letters
- 88 Be snaky
- 91 Mishmash
- 93 7'6" cager Ming
- 94 "Witness" actor Lukas
- 95 Novelist Tan
- 96 Dits' partners, in Morse code
- 101 Biofuel option
- 105 Birdbrain
- 106 Fiery lecture
- 107 Antipasto morsels
- 108 Carry
- 109 Annoying sorts
- 111 Pistons' org.
- 115 Be fishy?
- 116 Coin of Cali
- 118 Fitzgerald of song
- 119 Phenom
- 121 Tehran's land
- 123 French article
- 124 Spanish for "I love"
- 125 — Kippur
- 126 — Lanka
- 127 Plum center
- 128 Half of VI
- 129 Pipe fitting
- 130 Visualize

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
20							21									22				
23							24								25					
			26				27						28				29			
30	31	32			33	34				35	36	37			38	39				
40				41						42			43		44		45	46		
47				48						49				50	51					
52			53			54	55	56	57					58						
59					60		61						62				63			
64					65	66				67	68			69	70					
	71				72						73	74			75	76	77			
					78					79						80		81		
82	83	84	85			86	87	88			89				90	91				
92					93					94	95				96		97			
98							99								100	101		102		
103						104	105				106	107	108					109		
		110			111		112					113					114			
115	116				117	118						119			120	121				
122			123							124	125	126				127		128	129	130
131							132								133					
134																136				

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

SUDOKU

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

8/06

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

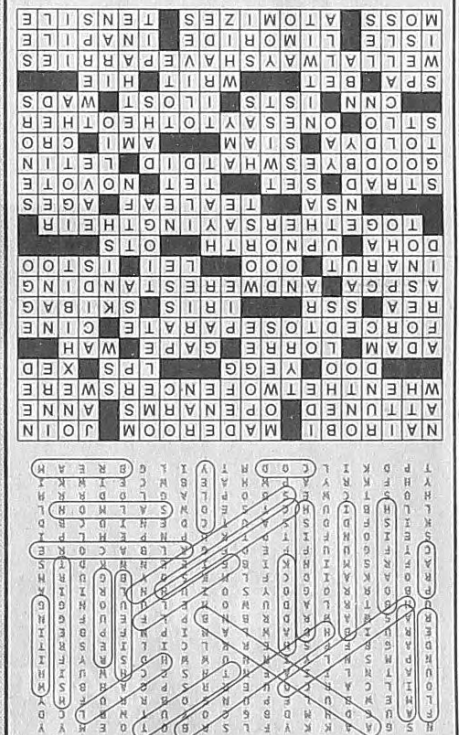
FISH NAMES WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ALBACORE
- ARAPAIMA
- BARRACUDA
- BARRAMUNDI
- BLUEFISH
- BOARFISH
- BONEFISH
- BREAM
- CARP
- CATFISH
- COD
- COLEY
- DRAGONFISH
- FLOUNDER
- FLUKE
- GROUPE
- HADDOCK
- LOACH
- OILFISH
- SALMON
- STURGEON
- TRIGGERFISH
- TROUT
- WHITING



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



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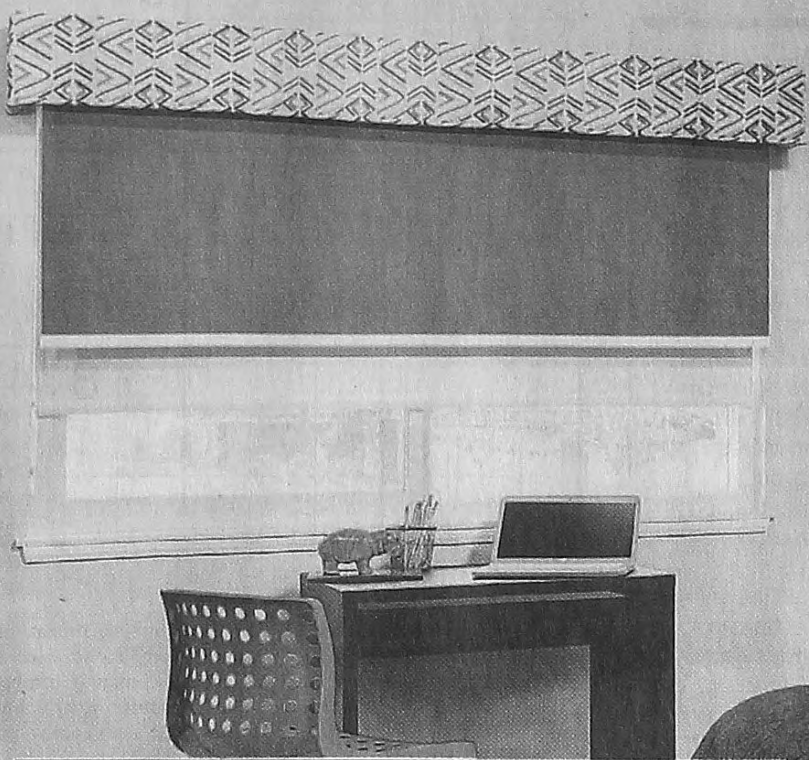
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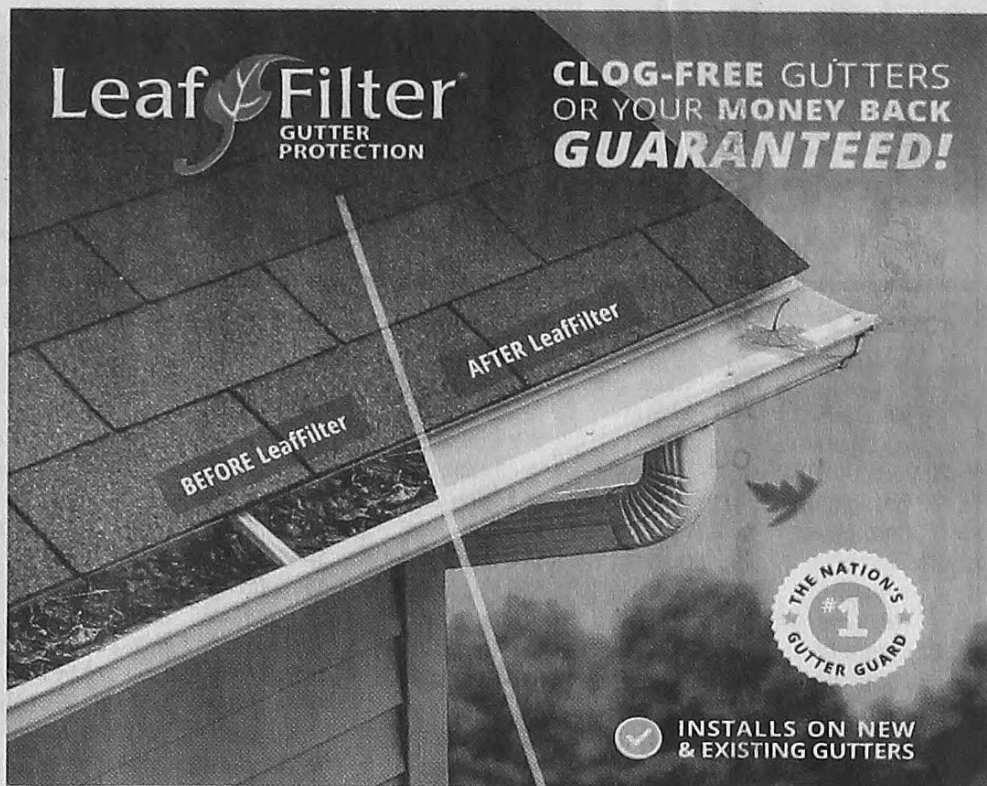
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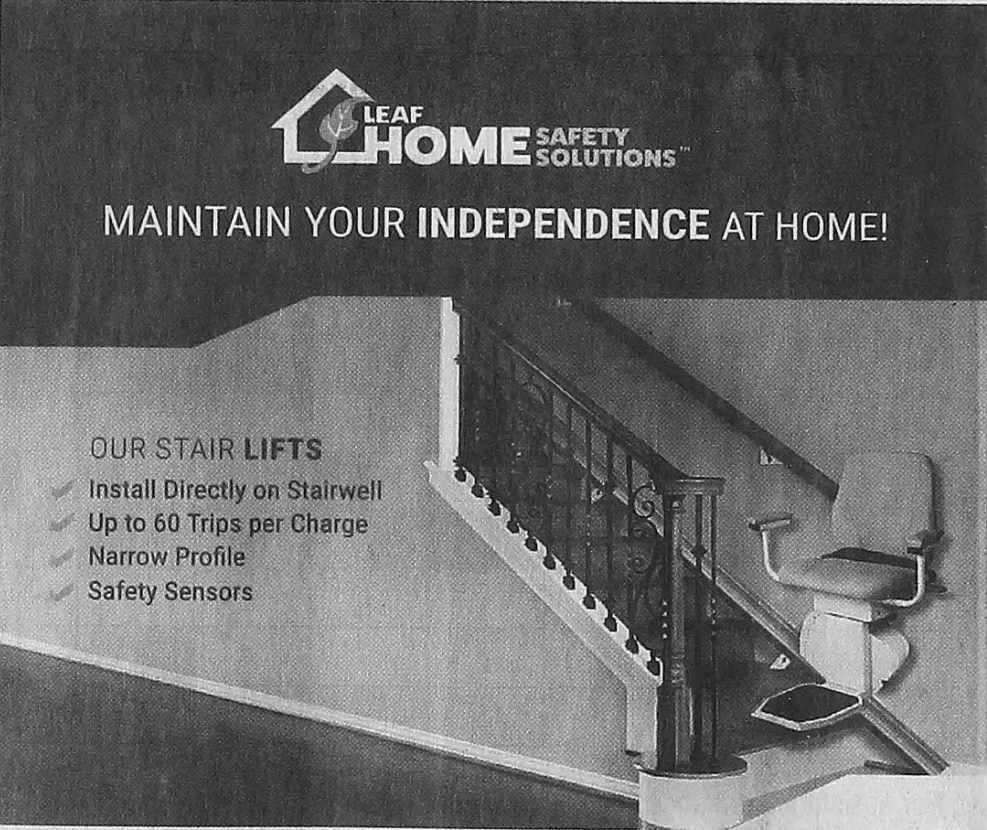
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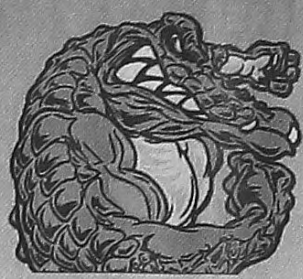
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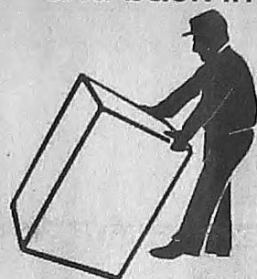
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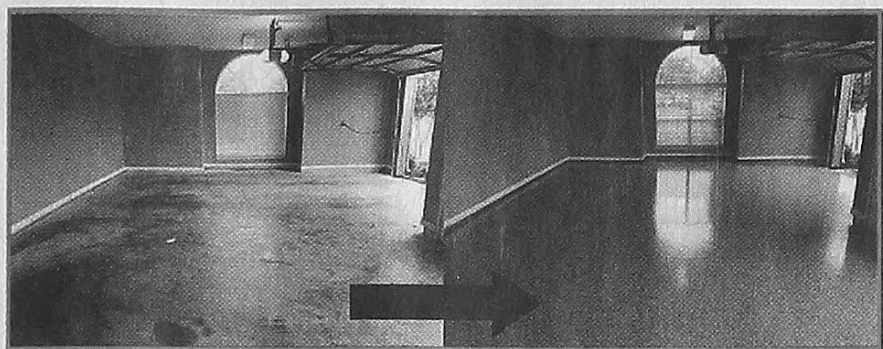
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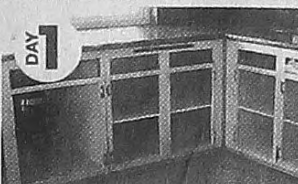
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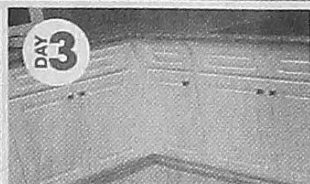
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40% OFF¹
Minimum purchase of four.

PLUS \$100 OFF
EVERY WINDOW AND DOOR¹
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Minimum purchase of four. Interest accrues from the purchase date but is waived if paid in full within 12 months.

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734-335-8036

Renewal by Andersen



¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 9/19/2020. You must set your appointment by 8/31/2020 and purchase by 9/19/2020. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or patio/entry door, get one (1) window or patio/entry door 40% off, and 12 months \$0 down, 0 monthly payments, 0% interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or patio/entry doors between 8/1/2020 and 9/19/2020. 40% off windows and patio/entry doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or patio/entry door in the order. Additional \$100 off each window or patio/entry door, no minimum purchase required, taken after initial discount(s), when you set your appointment by 8/31/2020 and purchase by 9/19/2020. Military discount applies to all active duty, veterans and retired military personnel. Military discount equals \$300 off your entire purchase and applies after all other discounts, no minimum purchase required. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2020 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2020 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

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