

Farmington schools hope for athletics with virtual classes

SPORTS, 1B

CANTON

OBSERVER

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2020 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Livonia schools consider remote start

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia may be part of the growing number of school districts looking to start the school year remotely.

Citing worry for the health of students and staff, the district's school board directed Superintendent Andrea

Oquist to change the administration's back-to-school plan to include a remote start.

On July 27, Oquist pitched a slow roll into school called Safe Start September, which would include half days in-person and half days online for the first three weeks of school.

At its Monday meeting, the school

board suggested a start that would allow for a period of remote learning. Oquist said a virtual start would likely include a mix of live teaching, independent work and group work for students.

As part of this plan, families would still be able to choose between in-person learning or the wholly online Virtual Livonia program for the year.

"I really have been thinking about the Safe Start September and I'm actually thinking about a potential tweak," Trustee Dan Centers said. "(I propose) taking a few weeks ... to do a digital start and replacing the start we currently have with a physical roll in."

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 4A



A jogger uses the I-275 trail just east of Haggerty and south of Nine Mile on July 30. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Trailhead coming to I-275 bike trail in Farmington Hills

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Michigan is chock full of bike trails, and the Interstate 275 Metro Trail connects many of them.

Locally, it connects to trails that lead to Novi, Commerce, Flatrock, West Bloomfield and some metro parks. The I-275 trail also connects to a lake-to-lake path stretching from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan.

Now, Farmington Hills is putting in a trailhead, named the Hills 275 Trailhead, along the path in agreement with the Michigan Department of Transpor-

tation to accommodate cyclists and make the trail more accessible. The trailhead will go behind the WoodSpring Suites Hotel at 22000 Haggerty Road, which is currently being built, and should be usable starting in October.

"It really creates a cool opportunity for people to hop on a trail and keep going for a long way," said Bryan Farmer, the deputy director of special services for the city. "I think, for Farmington Hills to be part of that, now you can actually throw your bike in the car, park at the trailhead and hop on as long as you want to ride."

Farmer, City Planner Mark Stec and

officials with the city's public service, central service and planning departments have been working to get the trailhead installed for four years.

"That trail is a prime connection, so we're glad to have a trailhead on it," said Julie Edwards, MDOT's transportation planner for the metro region.

Right now, the trail is most used by those who live or work near it. Farmer and Edwards said they hope a trailhead makes one of the country's few trails along an interstate right-of-way more accessible.

See **TRAILHEAD**, Page 4A

Dangerous intersection in Plymouth Twp. gets traffic light

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's almost fitting that a funeral home and a church sit kitty-corner from one another near the intersection of Plymouth Township's McClumpha and Ann Arbor roads.

Until recently, drivers would have been advised to say a quick prayer for their lives before attempting a left-hand turn from McClumpha onto Ann Arbor Road, especially during peak traffic periods.

"Drivers were literally putting their lives in their hands," said Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt Heise, who lives near the intersection. "It was a very, very dangerous intersection. I would tell my children, especially when they were first starting to drive, to avoid that intersection at all costs."

The danger level has declined dramatically since July 24, when the installation of a \$250,000 traffic light system was completed.

Unlike the vast majority of the township's roads that are the responsibility of Wayne County, Ann Arbor Road is maintained by the Michigan Department of Transportation, which oversaw and funded the project.

Before funding was approved, a thorough traffic study was completed in 2018. A surveying project followed in 2019 and the system was finished last month.

Heise said the intersection was a prime candidate for a light primarily because it is located less than a quarter-mile from the Plymouth Educational Park campus.

"A lot of the students from the three high schools at the park would use McClumpha on their way home," he said. "Turning left was a nightmare."

"In 2019, when road construction was being done on Beck Road (which runs parallel to McClumpha approximately one-half mile to the west), the traffic was bumper-to-bumper on McClumpha after school and during rush hour. The intersection was in desperate need of a light."

Heise said the intersection will also have a feature that will allow pedestrians to push a button that will trigger the system to allow them to cross.

"That's important because there is a lot of foot traffic in that area," he said. "... for the funeral home, people sometimes park across the street. The same goes for the church on the northeast corner of the intersection."



PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS

Oakland, Wayne counties set stage for November

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

People across Oakland and Wayne counties voted in primary elections Tuesday, narrowing down the field to one Republican candidate and one Democratic candidate per race who will try to win voters' favor in November.

Below are the results of who won each state race across the Hometown Life area. Winners' names will appear in bold.

All results are unofficial until certified by the county board of canvassers. Results for the 20th and 21st state House races were not available by press time.

Michigan Legislature: District 16

Two Republicans ran with the hopes of facing incumbent Democrat Kevin Coleman in November.

Emily Bauman finished in the lead with 3,512 votes against Josephine Brown's 1,156 votes.

Bauman and Coleman will compete in November to represent the district, which includes Westland and Wayne.

Coleman, who ran unopposed, received 12,455 votes.

Michigan Legislature: District 19

Livonia's legislative district was competitive in 2018 and will likely be so again in November.

Of the three Republicans who hoped to flip the seat, Martha Ptashnik won with 5,870 votes.

Her challengers, Penny Crider and Regina Gargus, received 4,856 votes and 651 votes, respectively.

Ptashnik will face incumbent Democrat Laurie Pohutsky in November. Pohutsky ran unopposed and received 14,654 votes.



Marian High School Precinct 18 poll worker Cookie Corej, left, signs in voters Lindsey and Thomas Zager on Aug. 4.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Michigan Legislature: District 37

As Christine Greig, a Democrat, termed out, four hopefuls have their eyes on the 37th district seat, which represents Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Republican Mitch Swoboda ran unopposed. He received 6,664 votes.

Of the three Democrats, Samantha Steckloff won the race with 8,991 votes. Her challengers, Michael Bridges and Randy Bruce, finished with 5,634 votes and 3,814 votes respectively.

All three candidates had previously served together on Farmington Hills City Council.

Michigan Legislature: District 38

Several newcomers hoped to fill the seat left open by Kathy Crawford, a Re-

publican, who termed out of the role. The district includes Novi, Novi Township, Lyon Township, South Lyon, Walled Lake and part of Northville.

Of the two Democratic hopefuls, Kelly Breen appears to have narrowly won with 7,051 votes. Her challenger, Megan McAllister, garnered 6,907 votes.

Chase Turner emerged as the winner among three Republican candidates with 7,300 votes. His opponents, Sreenivas Cherukuri and Krista Spencer, received 2,730 votes and 1,771 votes, respectively.

Michigan Legislature: District 40

Democrat Mari Manoogian and Republican Kendra Cleary both ran unopposed and will face each other in November to represent the 40th district.

Manoogian, the incumbent, finished

with 18,817 votes, and Cleary finished with 10,653 votes.

The 40th district includes Birmingham, Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills and part of West Bloomfield Township.

Michigan Legislature: District 44

Republican Matt Maddock and Democrat Denise Forrest both ran unopposed in their paths to the November election. Maddock, the incumbent, received 14,530 votes and Forrest received 9,207 votes.

The 44th district includes Milford, Springfield, Highland, White Lake and part of Waterford.

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

hometownlife.com

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Newsroom Contacts:

Phil Allmen, Content Strategist

Mobile: 248-396-3870

Email: pallmen@hometownlife.com

Follow us on Facebook: @OEHometown

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Fire destroys Livonia Grill restaurant

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Flames may have totally destroyed the Livonia Grill family restaurant, according to Livonia fire officials.

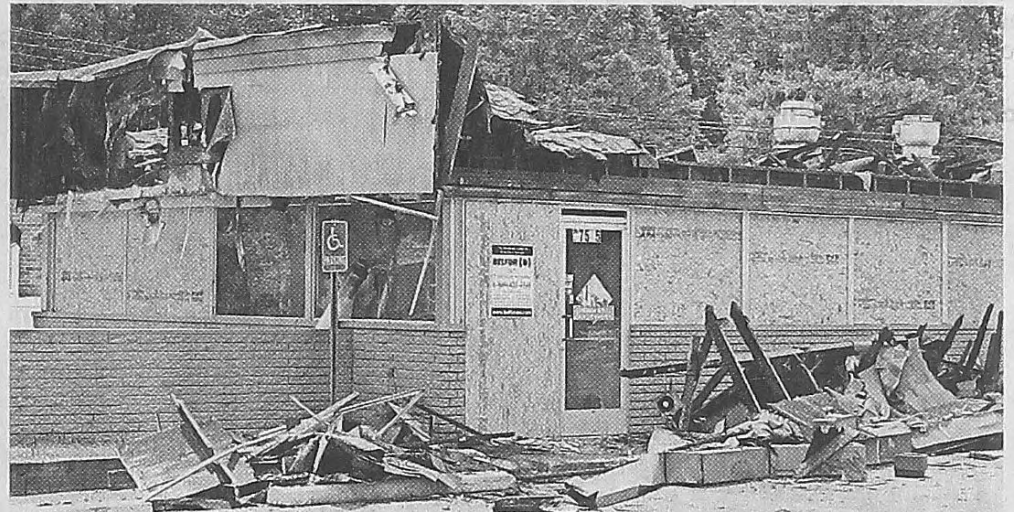
On Aug. 3, fire investigators visited the 27545 Plymouth Road ruins to collect evidence regarding the cause. They said the fire began in the ceiling and extended through the roof.

"There was complete collapse of the roof into the restaurant," Fire Marshal Greg Thomas said. "There was a heavy amount of destruction."

Thomas said it could take several months to determine the fire's cause.

"It's pretty close to a total loss," Deputy Chief John Unsworth said. "It probably is."

Firefighters from the city's five stations rushed to the scene in response to a call at 11:20 p.m. Sunday about a restaurant on fire. Flames were shooting from the roof when they arrived.



The Livonia Grill on Plymouth Road sustained major damage the night of Aug. 2. No one was injured. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

The restaurant was locked up and closed for the night. Firefighters were not aware of anyone inside.

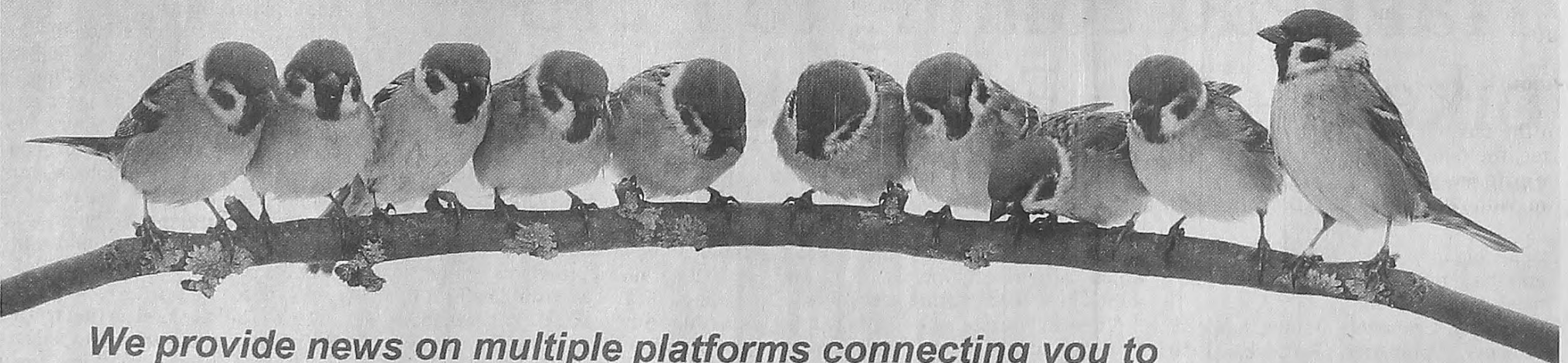
About 20 firefighters put out the

flames. It took about an hour to get the flames under control.

No one was hurt.

svela@hometownlife.com

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PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS



Northville Township Trustee candidate Mindy Herrman, right, hands out some campaign literature by using a three-foot tool as she greets voters Aug. 4 at Northville High School. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Northville, Bloomfield voters oust supervisors

Susan Bromley and Ed Wright

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Primary election voters on Tuesday effectively decided many local township board races and, in others, narrowed the choices on the November ballot.

All vote totals are unofficial until certified by the county Board of Canvassers. Results for the Canton Township and Redford Township board of trustees races were not available.

Northville Township

Mark Abbo narrowly unseated Northville Township Supervisor Robert Nix, 2,447-2,408, on Tuesday. Both candidates are Republicans. There is no Democratic candidate on November's general election ballot.

Abbo garnered 875 votes and 1,572 absentee votes.

The 73-year-old Nix had been supervisor since 2012.

Challenger Roger Lundberg knocked off incumbent clerk Marjorie Banner, 2,326-2,292, in another down-to-the-wire Republican race. Lundberg, a 71-year-old automobile industry professional with 35 years of experience in director-level positions, will run unopposed in November.

In the township treasurer race featuring two Republicans, challenger Jason Rhines defeated incumbent Fred Shadko, 2,377-2,093. Rhines, who earned 53.1% of the votes, will run unopposed in November.

Northville trustee candidates Mindy Herrman (3,123), Chris Roosen (2,863), Cynthia Jankowski (2,719) and Scott Frush (2,689) advanced to the general election. The lone Democrat joining the quartet is M. Aslam.

The top four vote-getters for trustee in November will earn a spot on the board of trustees.

Plymouth Township

In the race for Plymouth Township trustee, the following Republicans will move on to the general election: Charles Curmi, with 2,844 votes; Bob Doroshe-



Voters make their selections in the primary election at Northville High School.

witz, with 2,910; Audrey Monaghan, with 2,655; and John Stewart, with 2,443. The four will likely fill the four available seats on the board, with no Democratic challengers. Daniel Callahan, with 1,926 votes, and Don Schnetler, with 1,509, missed the cut.

In the race for Plymouth Township clerk, Republican Jerry Vorva received 3,250 votes, defeating Sandra Groth, who received 1,131 votes. Vorva will face off against Nancy Conzelman, the sole Democrat seeking the seat, who had 3,642 votes.

Republican Kurt Heise, the only candidate for supervisor, received 3,881 votes. Republican Mark Clinton, the sole candidate for treasurer, received 3,641 votes.

Bloomfield Township

In the race for Bloomfield Township supervisor, Republican challenger Dan Devine received 4,895 votes, defeating incumbent Leo Savoie, who received 3,033 votes.

In November, Devine will face off against Dani Walsh, who received 5,692

votes, winning the Democratic nomination over Scott Nadeau, with 1,161 votes. Nadeau announced prior to the primary that he was no longer seeking the supervisor position, but did not drop out in time to be taken off the ballot.

In the Bloomfield Township treasurer race, incumbent Brian Kepes received 3,915 votes, overcoming Republican challenger Mark Antakli, who received 3,765 votes. Kepes has no Democratic challenger on the November ballot.

Winning the Republican nomination for Bloomfield Township clerk was Tom Smyly, with 2,884 votes. He defeated David Thomas, with 2,567 votes, and Malissa Bossardet, with 1,970.

Smyly will face off in November against Democratic challenger Martin Brook, who was uncontested in the primary and received 6,579 votes.

The primary slightly narrowed down the candidates vying for four Bloomfield Township trustee spots in November. The top four Democrats were Stephanie Fakh, with 5,407 votes; Mitsuaki Murashige, with 4,848 votes; Valerie Sayles Murray, with 5,373 votes; and Linda P. Ulrey with 5,102 votes. Scott D. Nadeau,

who ran as a write-in candidate, finished fifth and out of the running. The total number of unassigned write-in votes was 82.

The top four Republican finishers were Neal Barnett, with 4,209 votes; Timothy Robert Meyer, with 3,598; Michael Schostak, with 4,533; and Don Valente, with 4,472. Eric L. Pernie, with 3,525 votes, finished fifth and didn't make the cut.

Milford Township

With no Democrats seeking a seat on the Milford Township Board, Republicans won the day Tuesday.

In the supervisor race, with 1,707 votes, incumbent Don Green defeated challenger Brien Worrell, who received 1,293 votes.

In the quest for clerk, Incumbent Holly Brandt won with 2,400 votes over challenger Jennifer Frankford, with 536.

Treasurer Cynthia Dagenhardt, unchallenged, received 2,589 votes.

The top four vote-getters for the trustee spots on the board were Randal Busick, with 1,656 votes; William Mazza, with 1,601; Dale Wiltse, with 1,809; and Toni Vulaj, with 1,519.

Richard George missed the cut with 1,495 votes.

Lyon Township

In Lyon Township, four trustee seats were the only positions contested, all with Republican candidates.

Incumbents Lise Blades, with 1,835 votes; Kristofer Enlow, with 1,592; and Sean O'Neil, with 2,122; will be joined on the November ballot by newcomer Robert Swain, who had 1,373 votes.

Missing the cut were Mark Venus, with 1,080 votes; and Andy Fletcher, with 1,200.

Lyon Township Supervisor John Dolan, with 2,729 votes; Clerk Michele Cash, with 2,760; and Treasurer Patricia Carcone, with 2,730, all ran unchallenged in the primary.

No Democratic candidates appeared on the ballot, so it appears all the primary election winners will be unchallenged in November.

Strange lights over Canton explained

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In a scene straight out of "War of the Worlds," the sky over south Canton erupted in orange and blue bursts early Tuesday.

The mysterious light show was caused by a downed power line near the intersection of Lilley and Palmer roads. No injuries were reported.

Nearby residents reported sporadic power outages at regular intervals beginning around midnight.

"When the power first went out, it seemed like a normal power outage," said Nikole McBryde, who lives near the site of the fallen line. "Then everything began to flash on and off. ...

"When we looked up there was a huge cloud and flashing lights. ... We could hear a buzzing and sort of zapping noise which made us think something electrical was happening."

McBryde said the power went off and on until around 6:30 a.m.

DTE had restored power to the area by 11 a.m. Tuesday.

PUBLIC NOTICE PLYMOUTH DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 15, 2020
10 A.M.

TO BE HELD ELECTRONICALLY PURSUANT TO EO 2020-154

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold a special budget work study meeting on August 15, 2020. The 2020 budget will be a subject of that meeting. As permitted by Executive Order 2020-154, the meeting will be offered electronically. Interested persons may access the Zoom and Conference call as follows: +1 312 626 6799, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89691489453> Meeting ID: 896 9148 9453, Passcode: 357457. Please see agenda on website www.plymouthlibrary.org. The agenda will be posted by August 11, 2020.

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

So Delish becomes Livonia's newest bakery

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Billy Earles believes the third time's the charm when it comes to opening a bakery.

The Westland resident recently opened his own bakery filled with cookies, cakes and coffee in a space formerly occupied by two separate bakeries the last five years. He said he believes he has the ideas and skills to make it successful.

"In my opinion, when I want something, I have to make it work. I'm that type of person," he said. "If I set out to do something, I'm going to do it."

With that determination and some of his own special recipes, Earles opened So Delish bakery at 33825 Five Mile in the Civic Center Plaza, just west of Farmington Road, on July 20. Treats for sale include apple fritters, cookies, cinnamon rolls and more.

Earles, a Franklin High School alumnus, said he's enjoyed baking for the last 15 years. He took some classes at the high school. He later worked at French's Flowers and Gifts when the owner of the former bakery in the space on Five Mile, Butter Bear Shop, stopped in and saw he made chocolate-covered Oreos.

The two began talking and Earles bought the space earlier this year. He also bought much of the equipment. He renovated the lobby and added a wall separating the front of the shop from the back, allowing him and head baker Mikael Cushman to create in a secluded space.

"I'm more of a Wizard of Oz type: 'pay no attention to the man behind the curtain,'" he said. "I didn't want people thinking it's the same thing. This is something new, this is something different, this is something exciting."

He originally planned to open as quickly as he could, though the coronavirus pandemic slowed down business. Earles took the opportunity to renovate the space more than he had planned.

Butter Bear Shop opened in 2018 and



Billy Earles opened So Delish bakery at 33825 Five Mile in the Civic Center Plaza, just west of Farmington Road, on July 20.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

closed earlier this year. Before that, was Alkevicius Breads, occupied the space, having opened in 2016.

The name "So Delish" comes from a young member of Earles' family.

"My oldest son, whenever I would make something at home, he would say, 'Oh Daddy, this is so delish.' And I thought, 'Oh, I like that,'" Earles said. "My oldest son came up with the name."

In addition to the breads, cookies and chocolate-covered Oreos, So Delish sells savory items such as quiche.

Earles also does cakes, including wedding cakes. Call the shop to inquire on special orders.

Based on walk-in traffic, he said there have been a few items that stand out as new favorites among customers.

"So far, the cinnamon rolls have been a big seller, and the sticky buns have been big sellers," he said.

Earles said plenty of customers have stopped into the store to see what he's serving that day.

"I didn't know what to expect," he

said. "I have been doing cakes and stuff at home, and so I've built up the name a little bit. If you bake it, they will come."

The shop is open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. More information can be found on the bakery's Facebook page, facebook.com/SoDelishBakery-andCakeShop.

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

Plymouth-Canton teachers want remote start for school

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plymouth-Canton Education Association members' video message to the district's decision-makers expressed a common theme: Teachers want to return to their jobs for in-person learning, but not until it is safe.

And now, they concurred, is not the time.

Almost 50 of the union's more than 1,000 members contributed brief video clips of themselves reading the union's letter to district leaders.

The 6-minute, 29-second video was published July 31, three days after a Plymouth-Canton Community Schools task force recommended that the district's families be given a choice of in-person or virtual learning.

Among the more powerful moments

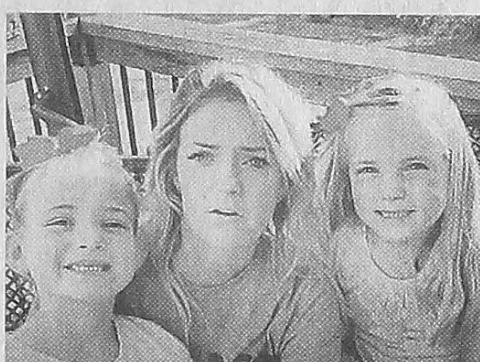
of the video was a member stating: "Even one student death, one teacher death or one staff member death is one too many."

One educator, flanked by her two daughters, emphasized that teachers should not be put in a position where they are forced to choose between their jobs and keeping their family members safe.

As of Tuesday, the video posted to YouTube had been viewed more than 19,000 times.

The chief concerns conveyed by the union members include:

- the shortage of personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies available to teachers, who, according to the video, are forced to purchase supplies for their classrooms;
- the limited amount of time high school teachers will have to thoroughly



A Plymouth-Canton Education Association member speaks while flanked by her two daughters.

ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

clean their rooms between class transitioning periods; and

- the challenge of social distancing in classrooms that, in some cases, will

hold as many as 36 students at one time.

The video message tells parents that virtual learning has become much more "robust" since the emergency level of online instruction was instituted after schools were shut down March 13.

The necessity of another transitioning period was addressed - with the confusion that would ensue for students - if an in-school coronavirus outbreak developed.

Plymouth-Canton is expected to announce its final decision on its return-to-school policy Aug. 11. The deadline to deliver its plan to the Regional Educational Services Agencies is Aug. 15. District officials did not respond immediately to requests for comment on the teachers' letter.

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

Trailhead

Continued from Page 1A

"A lot of people in those industry offices along there, especially during the weekdays, you'll see a lot of those people that work there go out on the trail and walk," Edwards said. "It's not a lot of recreational kind of stuff yet. I think (a trailhead) will encourage more use."

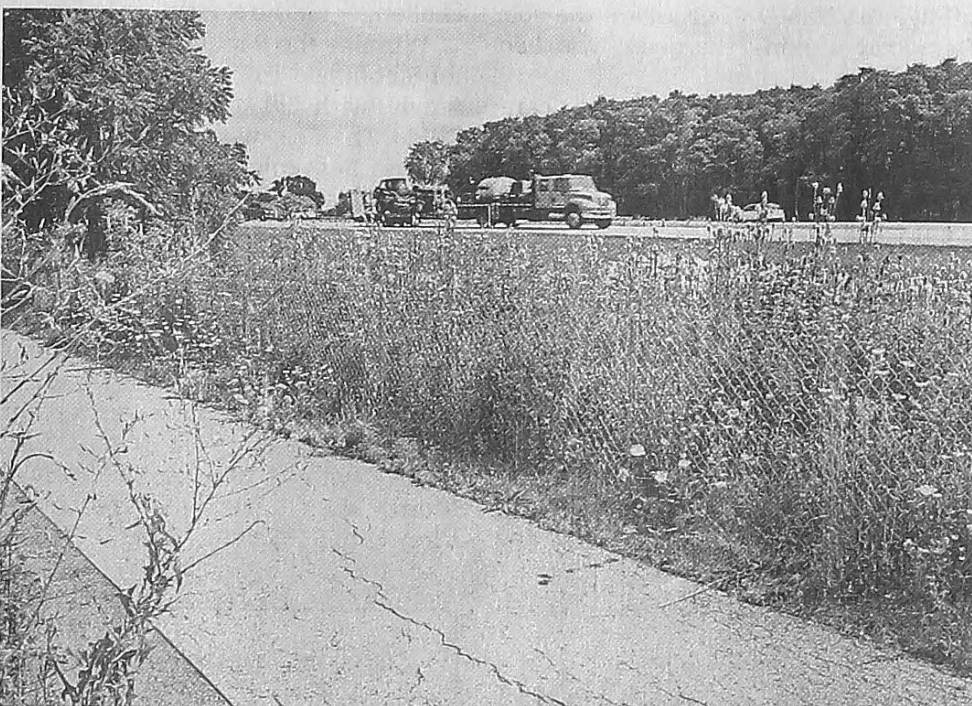
WoodSpring will provide overflow parking as needed, but the Hills 275 Trailhead will have four dedicated parking spaces along with amenities for cyclists, runners and walkers. The city is also working with local artists Molly McNeese and Kelly O'Neill to develop artwork and signage to make the space representative of the city.

The city will spend under \$20,000 on the space from a sustainability grant.

"Really, we only need to buy a few amenities," said Farmer, who grew up using the trail. "We plan to add in a bench, a bike repair station, a water bottle filler station, some bike racks, a main entrance sign and like a kiosk where people can get more information."

"So there's only a handful of items that we're actually needing to pay for."

While the trailhead and parking will be available in October when WoodSpring opens, Farmer said some of the amenities won't be available until the spring of 2021 when the trailhead gets a grand opening. In celebration, Farmington Brewing Company is creating a beer



The I-275 pedestrian and biking trail sits 75 feet from the highway just south of Nine Mile Road. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

named after the path.

"It'll be pretty exciting to kick off a new season with this trailhead," Farmer said.

Farmer said he hopes to see more trailheads created to help make biking and walking paths more like destinations across the state. He said several local businesses backing up to trails have already asked how they can create one, and he expects to help other cities get their own started.

"If we didn't get all of that support from all of those different people, this opportunity for people to access a trail along a federal highway wouldn't exist," he said. "I think the most exciting part is it's opened the door up for a lot of other trailheads to be developed. This is the first of, hopefully, many."

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

Schools

Continued from Page 1A

Centers said a remote start would allow the district to see what happens within districts that have chosen to start with an in-person element. He said it could help determine what works and what does not.

If the district starts online, it will follow similar decisions made by the nearby districts of Farmington and Clarenceville.

Oquist will give a plan for consideration to the board of education at its next meeting, scheduled for Monday. The district must submit its plan to the county by Aug. 15.

"I did hear from a number of people that are concerned with health and safety and that is to be one of the number one things that we want to get right," Trustee Karen Bradford said. "We want to send our kids back and have it be a safe environment for them."

During this remote start, teachers may go back to buildings and stream classes online from their classrooms. The board also asked Oquist to make sure the district can meet the social and emotional needs of students in an online environment.

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

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.

June M. Taggart

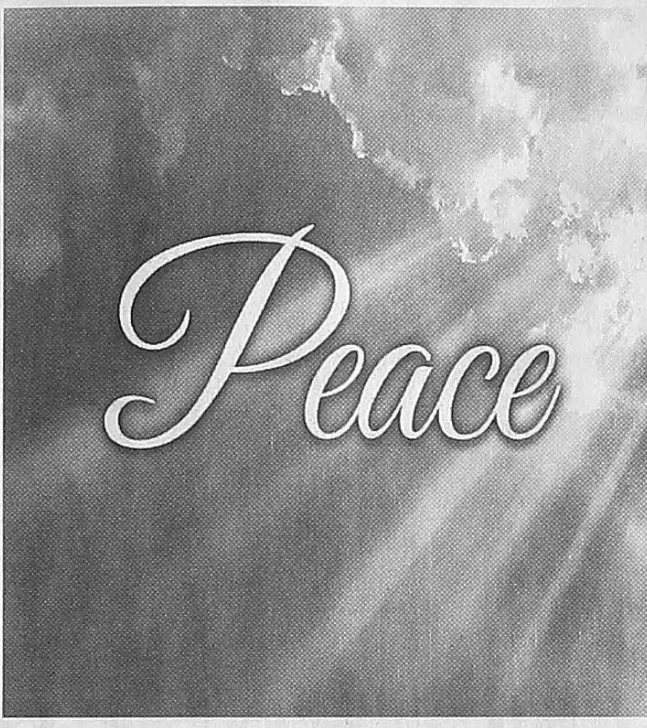
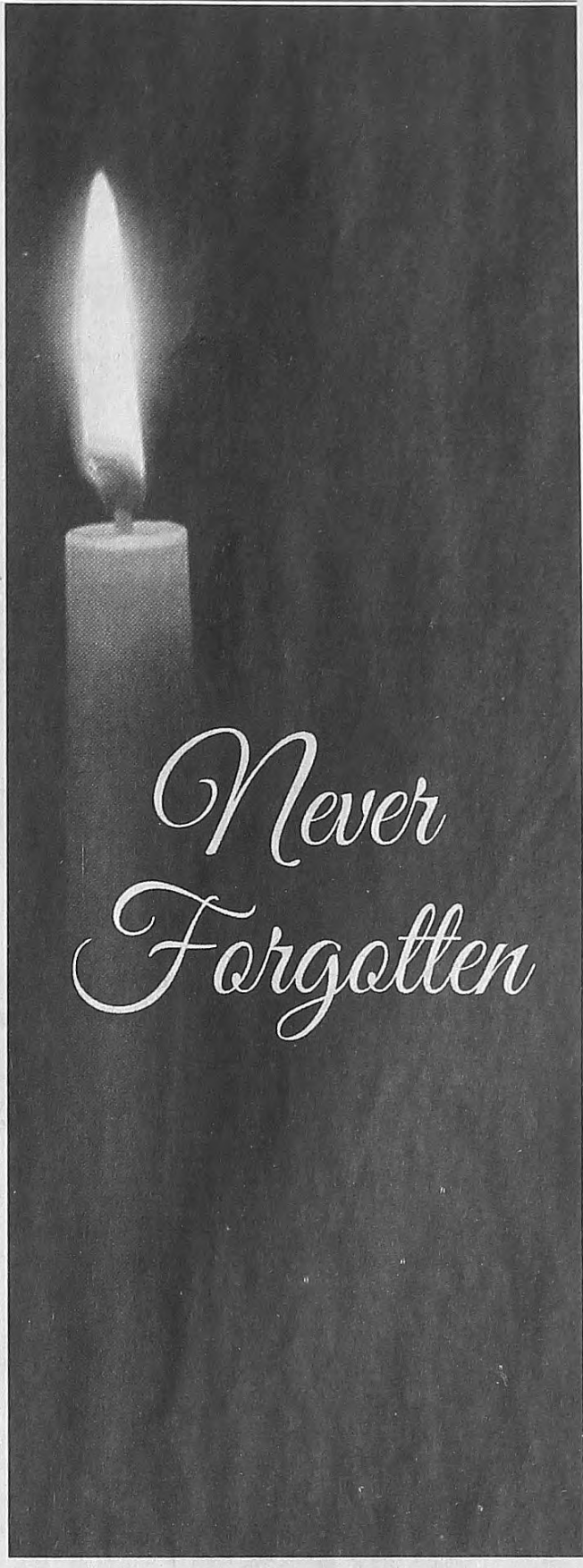
June M. Taggart, age 95, passed away July 29, 2020.

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



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SPORTS

Madonna University postpones fall sports

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Madonna University recently announced all fall sports will be moved to the spring semester, with teams still permitted to train and practice throughout the fall semester.

The football season, the first in the school's history, will be pushed back to spring 2021, per a decision made by the Mid-States Football Association.

Also, the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference voted to move its championships in women's volleyball, men's and women's soccer, and men's and

women's cross country to the spring.

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics decided earlier its national championships in men's and women's soccer, women's volleyball and cross country would be moved to the spring, along with football.

"Over the upcoming weeks, we will

be working closely with the NAIA, WHAC and the MSFA to determine when the regular season may occur in the spring," Madonna athletic director Scott Kennell said in a statement. "We are committed, within the guidelines of

See POSTPONED, Page 2B

Farmington schools hope for athletics with virtual classes

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

While metro Detroit area school districts continue to discuss what the 2020-21 school year will look like in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, football teams continue summer conditioning programs, preparing for a season that remains in limbo.

Several local school districts like Farmington Public Schools, Livonia Public Schools and the Clarenceville School District have proposed to start their school years online, though final decisions have yet to be made. Those are expected next week.

In the meantime, football programs in Farmington Public Schools are still working for the planned season opener.

North Farmington head football coach Jon Herstein said a move to online-only learning seems probable. However, as of now, he believes athletics will be able to be played.

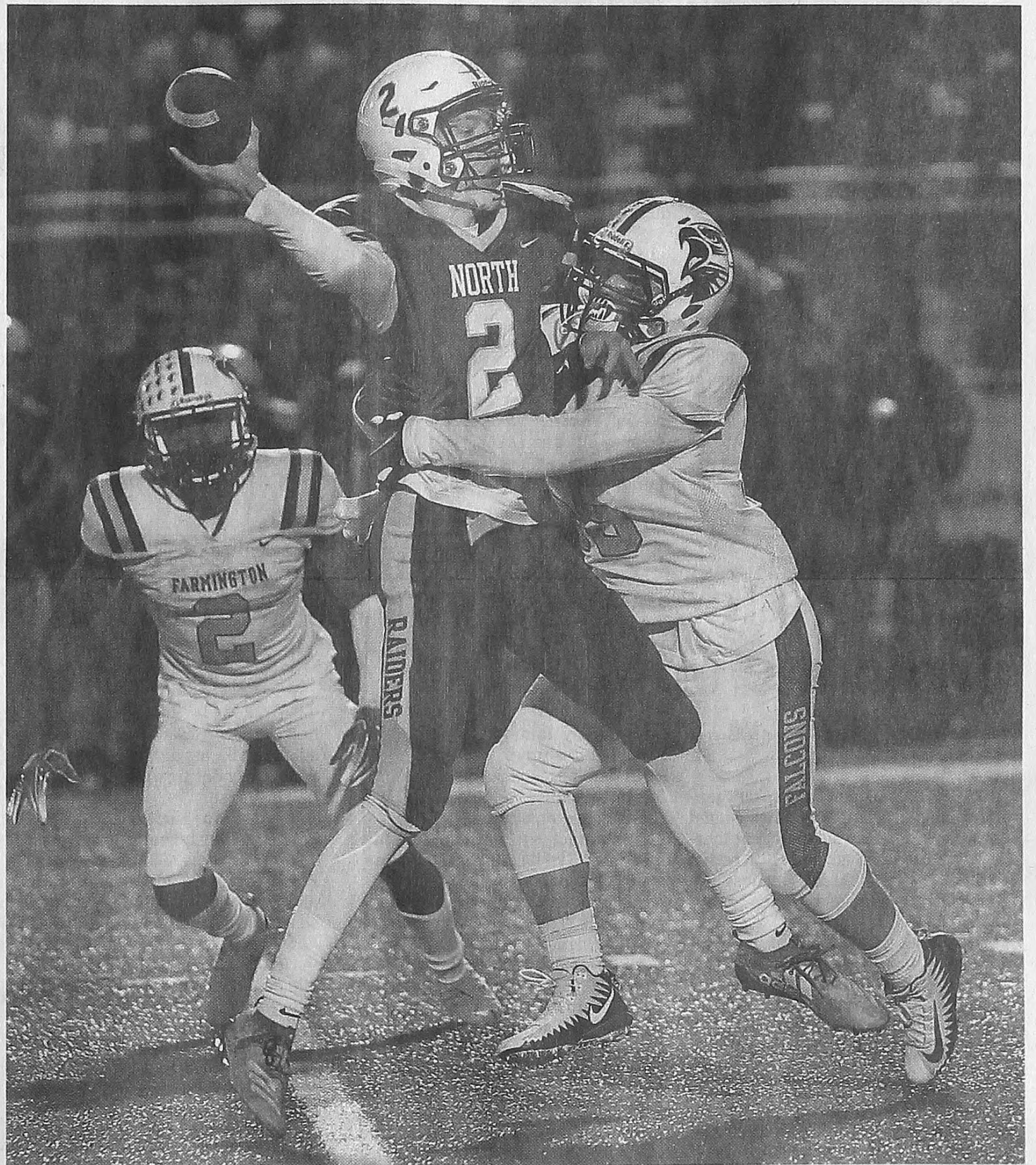
"The school board can make any changes or recommendations and those type of things to when we start or how we start, but, as of now, all signs are that we are going to continue to follow (Michigan High School Athletic Association) guidelines and move forward based upon those guidelines," Herstein said. "Even though we may be online, athletics would still be able to operate, still be able to function."

Herstein said students would be outside in smaller groups, with the ability to spread and space out, instead of being confined in a school building each day, mitigating the risk of the virus by continuing practices the North Farmington coaching staff has encouraged all summer: social distancing, wearing a mask and enforcing no close contact for more than 15 minutes at a time.

Farmington head football coach Kory Cioroch believes that every school in the state is facing the same situation.

"We are sort of in limbo right now and it's day-by-day and week-by-week," Cioroch said. "Just trying to make sure we are doing the right things and keeping kids safe, although it's going to look different, giving them some semblance of a season in any way that we can."

See FARMINGTON, Page 2B



Farmington Public Schools, Livonia Public Schools and the Clarenceville School District have proposed to start their school years online, though final decisions have yet to be made. Those are expected next week. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

Xenith Prep Kickoff Classic at Wayne State canceled

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Detroit Sports Commission announced the Xenith Prep Kickoff Classic has been canceled.

Detroit Catholic Central, Birmingham Groves and Canton were originally scheduled to open their seasons at the

event Aug. 27-29 at Wayne State.

"The Detroit Sports Commission and Xenith are committed to the health and safety of those involved with all of the events we host and/or support," Dave Beachnau, Detroit Sports Commission senior vice president, said in a statement. "Since 2005, the Xenith Prep Kickoff Classic has provided more than

80 schools in Michigan and neighboring states the opportunity to open their season in a bowl game-like setting on a college campus and we look forward to continuing the tradition at the 2021 Xenith Prep Kickoff Classic."

Canton was scheduled to open the Classic against Dearborn Fordson on Aug. 27, while Catholic Central was to

take on Chippewa Valley in the night-cap.

Catholic Central athletic director Aaron Babicz said the Shamrocks are currently working with the Big Reds to open the season elsewhere.

Groves was scheduled to open its season Aug. 28 against Southfield A&T at the Classic.

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'Pattern of delay' envisioned for prep football

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The head of the leadership body for state high school associations said last week it is likely that football won't start on time this fall in most of the country.

Every state is making its own decisions regarding the status of football, with six states already moving the sport to the spring. The Michigan High School Athletic Association recently stated its intention to start all fall sports on time, but is expected to issue an update this week.

The MHSAA is one of 27 state associations that plans to have a fall season as scheduled. The other 24 associations (including Washington, D.C.) will have a modified calendar.

In Michigan, the first day varsity football games can be played is Aug. 27. Practices are scheduled to begin Aug. 10.

"I think we will see a delay," Karissa Niehoff, the executive director of the National Federation of State High School Associations, said in a video call with national media.

"Is it likely that we will be playing football as we previously scheduled it to be without testing, without mitigation? I don't know. Each individual state will be making those decisions. I think, quite frankly, we're in a pattern of delay for higher risk like football, whereas other sports will engage in more traditional competition earlier."

Niehoff said it is the position of the NFHS to get students back to extracurricular activities as soon as it is safe to do so, citing a recent study on the mental wellness of student-athletes as a driving force behind much of its guidance to state associations.

In the study by the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine, 68% of the state's student-athletes reported symptoms of depression by May.

"We want to make sure that in our education-based environment, we're paying attention not just to COVID, but also to the emotional mental wellness of our students, looking at why our students need to re-engage in those activities," Niehoff said. "We are most concerned that kids in that study self-reported an increase in anxiety, an in-



Varsity high school football teams can begin play as early as Aug. 27, but there could be delays because of COVID-19.

LIVINGSTON DAILY FILE

crease in depression, an increase in thoughts of suicide, in feelings of apathy, of disconnect and definitely wanting to get back to connecting with one another.

"The co-curricular environment is absolutely the environment that allows them to develop their skills and talents, to socialize, to engage with a team, to engage with an activity."

Professional sports have returned to action without the presence of fans, and there is speculation that high school sports may be played at empty venues. Niehoff said her preference is that fans be allowed at games.

"We support an effort that if you're bringing kids back to competition to

find a way to allow fans to come back if you have staffing and the strategies in place to bring folks back into the arenas and venues so they can enjoy the events as well," she said.

Niehoff was asked if she believes it would be feasible to still play school sports if schools are not open for in-person learning. Some school districts in Michigan plan to return to full in-person teaching in the fall, some will start out by teaching only online and some have a hybrid approach.

"I can certainly appreciate that if there's a concern about an optic that one might be more important than another or there's a concern that might be a local concern, absolutely I respect that

and can appreciate that," she said. "I was a high school principal; I get it. But I also think that in places where they can responsibly provide resources to get kids engaged in something that has to do with the life of the school, the life of the team, the life of the activity and the mentorship of the coach, all of the things those experiences do, it's absolutely feasible to implement those kinds of programs without in-person learning.

"It's likely there's online learning that's going on, so they are engaged in something that's academic. Facilities would just need to be safe and the approach to being present would have to be appropriate."

Packers lose receiver as Harrison graduate opts out of 2020 season

Tom Silverstein Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK

GREEN BAY - Green Bay Packers general manager Brian Gutekunst waited until the wide receiver free-agent market was picked through quite a bit before settling on veteran Devin Funchess as a supplement to his mostly young receiving corps.

Funchess may have had an immediate impact this year given his production with Carolina from 2015-18, but the Packers will never know because Funchess has chosen to take the COVID-19 opt-out option available to every NFL player under the collective bargaining agreement.

Players had until at least Aug. 4 to declare that they won't play in 2020 and Funchess became the first Packers player to do so.

On his Instagram account, Funchess wrote in capital letters, "Family is first." "Always has been," he continued. "Always will be. In such unpredictable time. It's been one of the constants on my mind as I've worked through one of the toughest decisions of my life.

"My closest family members have experienced the life-threatening impact of COVID-19 first hand and for their and my own safety, I've decided to opt out of the upcoming NFL season. This was not a decision I took lightly but it's what is

best for my family and myself at this time."

Under terms of the opt-out clause, Funchess' one-year, \$2.5 million contract is tolled, meaning he will be under contract under the same terms in 2021. However, he will be able to keep his \$1 million signing bonus paid when he signed with the team April 2.

NFL players considered high risk can receive a \$350,000 stipend that doesn't count against future earnings, and an accrued NFL season if they choose to opt out. Players deemed low risk can still receive up to \$150,000 if they choose to opt out, but their money is an advance on their 2021 salary.

The Packers will be able to wipe a portion of Funchess' \$2.265 million salary off their 2020 salary cap.

Close to 25 players league-wide have opted out of the season and more are expected to come in the next five days.

Without Funchess, the Packers are thin in experience at wide receiver.

His loss spotlights Gutekunst's decision not to address the receiver position in the draft. The Packers general manager had a prime opportunity to draft a first-round receiving talent, but he chose to move up and select Utah State quarterback Jordan Love.

Despite being considered one of the



Funchess

deepest receiver drafts in several decades, Gutekunst did not select a single wideout, choosing to roll with what he had in-house.

Beyond No. 1 option Davante Adams, the most senior receivers are Jake Kumerow, Equanimeous St. Brown and Marquez Valdes-Scantling, all of whom are entering their third season officially. Valdes-Scantling now ranks No. 2 among the receivers in NFL catches with 64.

The 6-4, 225-pound Funchess was entering his sixth season and had caught 164 passes for 2,265 yards and 21 touchdowns in 62 regular-season games. However, he missed all but one game last year with a shoulder injury and has missed 39 of 80 games during his five seasons, so he was no sure thing.

The Packers have high hopes for former CFL veteran Reggie Begelton, who caught 101 passes last season for Calgary. He still has an opportunity to make a trade or pick up a veteran once cuts are made.

The Packers put outside linebacker Greg Roberts on the reserve/COVID-19 list. It means Roberts either tested positive for the virus or was in contact with someone who had it.

He will be eligible to return once he has passed the league's health safety protocol.

Wanted: Freelance sports reporters

As the high school fall sports season (maybe) gets underway, the Hometown Life sports team is looking to build up its cache of freelance sports writers. If you're interested in metro Detroit's high school sports scene, this is a chance to get even more involved.

No prior newspaper experience is necessary, but applicants must have strong writing skills, general knowledge of sports and be able to cover football games (usually) Friday nights.

For more information, reach out to sports reporter Colin Gay at @Colin-Gay17 on Twitter or at 248-330-6710. Send writing samples to Editor Phil Allmen and Gay at pallmen@hometownlife.com and cgay@hometownlife.com.

Postponed

Continued from Page 1B

the NAIA, CDC, state and local government, to protect and maintain the safety of our student-athletes, coaches, and staff while creating ways to workout on campus this fall through these difficult times. All scholarships will be honored.

"When something bad happens, you have three choices: you can let it destroy you, let it define you, or let it strengthen you. We will get through these difficult times together and emerge even stronger."

Dates for a return to play have not been determined.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Farmington

Continued from Page 1B

Cioroch said Farmington players have done everything asked of them — sanitizing equipment, wearing a mask and keeping distant from teammates, adhering to temperature checks — and are making the most out of the situation they are in.

"Obviously, this is just really a hard situation for everybody," Cioroch said. "I don't think anybody is an expert on this thing, especially not high school coaches. We are just spending our time as a

staff, as a program, trying to make sure that we are prepared as we can be."

Since starting summer conditioning practices, Herstein admits it has created apprehension in some parents and that some players have been pulled out of team practices for now.

However, Herstein is all-around encouraged by what he has seen, saying that North Farmington has not recorded a positive test since the Raiders have started their summer conditioning.

"We haven't seen anything within our group, within our team where we have had a positive case that has spread and we have had to shut down practices," Herstein said. "That has not been the

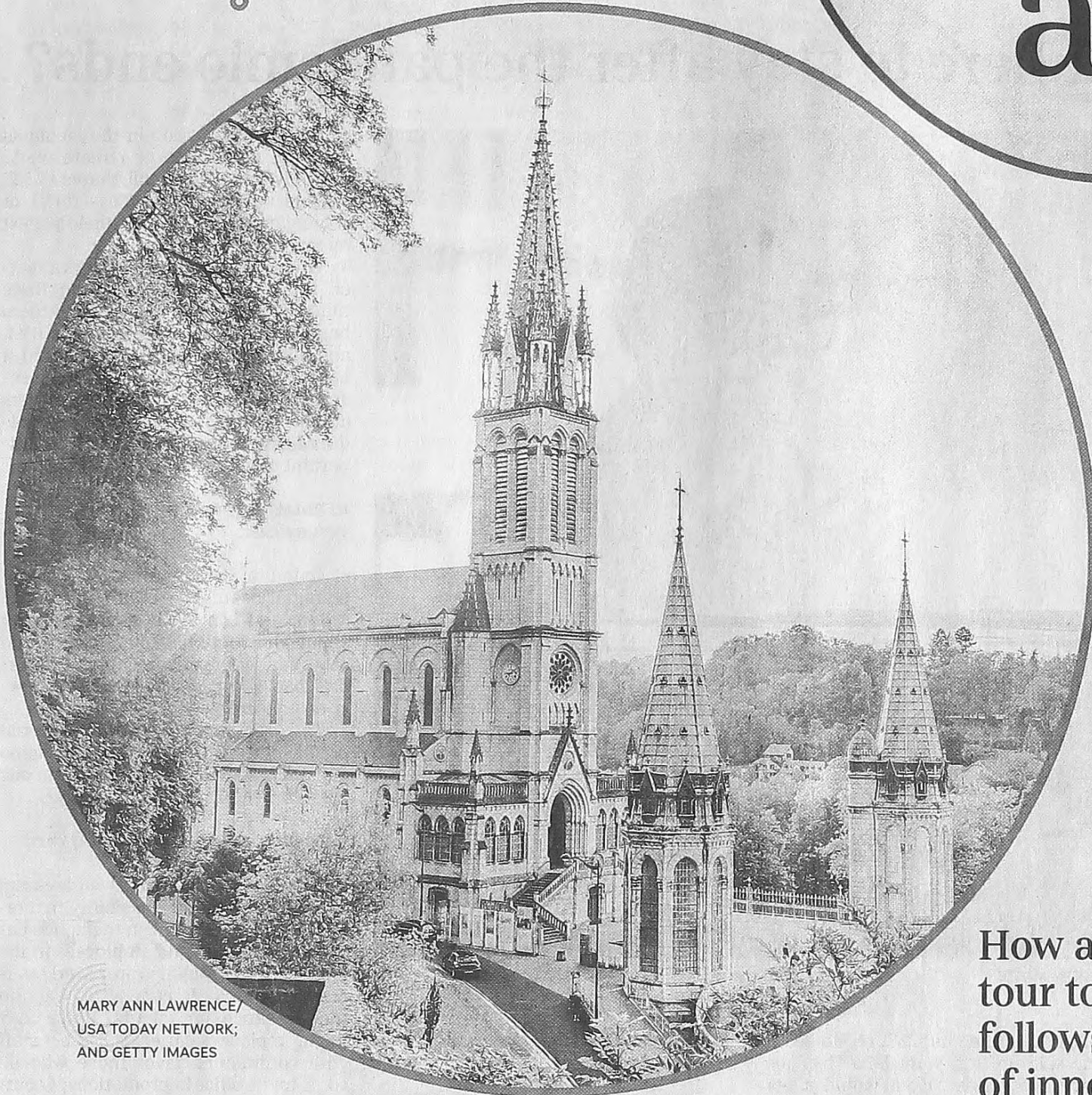
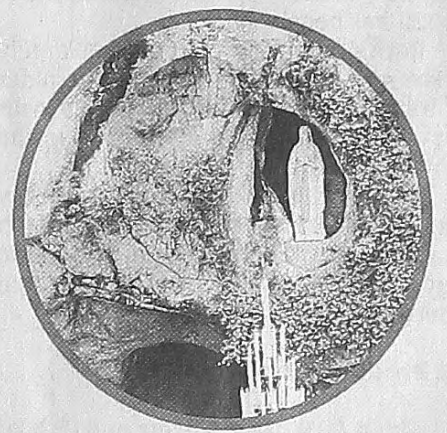
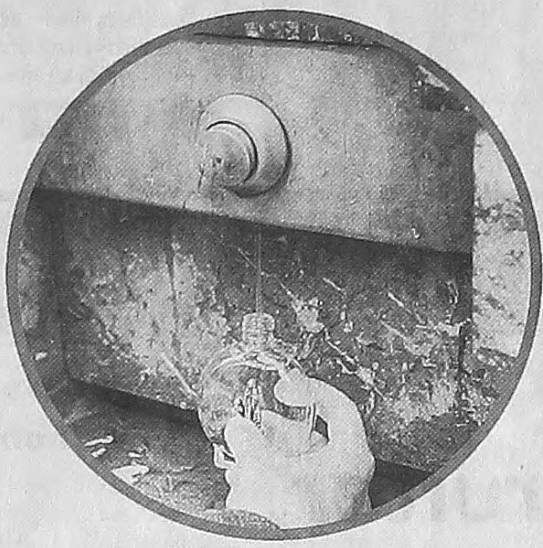
case with us, which is very positive and gives a lot of encouragement for the procedures that the MHSAA has laid out."

Cioroch said there are still things that need to be ironed out and that summer conditioning has been different than normal.

"I'm of the belief that we're just going to continue to do what is right, and if that is play sports, we are going to play sports safely," Cioroch said. "If it's not play sports, it is what it is."

The MHSAA is scheduled to make a decision regarding football, volleyball and boys soccer schedules Aug. 20. cgay@hometownlife.com

A pilgrimage for the tech age

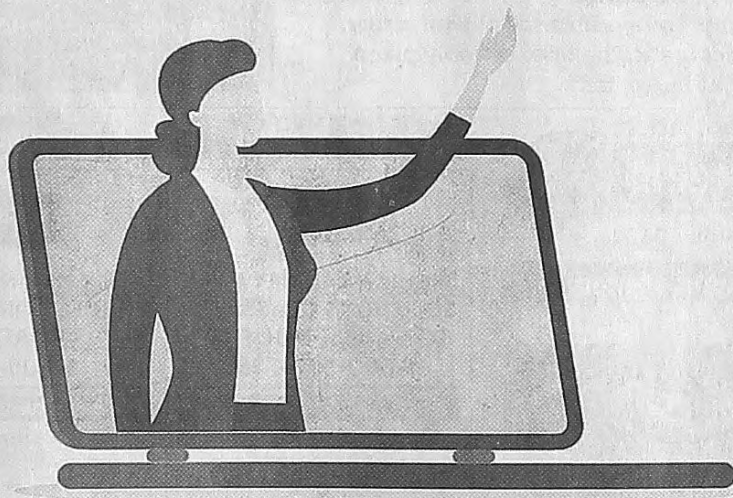


MARY ANN LAWRENCE/
USA TODAY NETWORK,
AND GETTY IMAGES

How a virtual tour to Lourdes follows a tradition of innovation

Samuel L. Boyd UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

The Catholic Church held what is being termed as the first online pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes in France. Earlier this spring, for the first time in its 162-year existence the shrine was closed as part of measures to stem the spread of the coronavirus. • This online pilgrimage included many elements of the actual journey such as traditional prayers and communion, but recreated for a virtual experience. Prayers and services were offered in both English and Spanish. Participants were shown scenes of the healing waters, taken on a virtual tour of the cave and heard music that is part of the normal, in-person experience.



As a scholar of the Bible, Judaism and Christianity, I know the importance of pilgrimages. But rituals have often been adapted in the face of difficult circumstances.

The pilgrimage of Lourdes

In 1858, 14-year old Bernadette Soubirous, the oldest of nine children born to a local miller and laundrywoman in southwestern France, claimed to have had a series of visitations of an apparition of a woman in a cave in Lourdes.

Four years later, in 1862, local Catholic authorities confirmed that the visions were of the Virgin Mary. The confirmation process was based on both interviews with Soubirous as well as through the investigation of events at the grotto that were deemed miraculous.

Ever since, the site has been a pivotal place for pilgrimage rites, particularly on July 16, commemorating the last visitation of Mary to Soubirous.

Some of these rites involve immersion in, or drinking from, waters in Lourdes, which are believed to hold healing powers. In 1879, a woman from the United States named Mary Hayes, who suffered from severe headaches, wrote a letter to Father Alexis Granger about the healing powers of the water.

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Granger was originally from France but at that time was the pastor of the Church of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame. He had given Hayes some of the water from Lourdes to help with her ailments. Hayes reported that the healing waters of Lourdes had a restorative effect, stating that "I have more faith in" the waters "than in all the doctors of the world."

As rumors of healing miracles at the pools of the grotto in Lourdes became more numerous in the 19th century, the pilgrimages every July to commemorate the appearance of Mary to Soubirous became much more important in Catholic religious practice.

Quarantine and disruptions

While pilgrimage has a long history, such practice can adapt to changing circumstances.

The Bible, in the Old Testament book of Leviticus chapters 13 and 14, requires that individuals showing evidence of exposure to a highly infectious skin disease be separated from the larger community.

This passage provides the platform for the belief that quarantine is necessary during the outbreak of an infectious disease. As such, for many priests and pastors these chapters allow a biblical warrant for innovation.

Indeed, for many years, the healing waters of Lourdes have been packaged and distributed worldwide for those who can't go on the pilgrimage.

The pilgrimage undoubtedly remains an important journey for many Christians, even when taken online.

It attests to transformations of the ritual in the face of difficult circumstances.

The coronavirus pandemic has caused unprecedented disruptions to many religious activities.

But the adaptations to the pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2020 show that adaptation and innovation can play a key role in observing rituals.

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Is remote work here to stay after the pandemic ends?

Julia Pollak
 ZipRecruiter.com

Employers and job seekers broadly agree: The remote work experiment of 2020 has been a success.

Both sides of the labor market largely view remote work positively, with older job seekers and women most likely to favor working from home now and in the future.

The findings come from a survey June 23 and 29 of more than 4,000 job seekers and 150 employers by online employment marketplace ZipRecruiter. Here are some highlights:

1. Productivity benefits

About 80% of employers and 85% of job seekers described remote work as either enhancing or having no impact on their productivity.

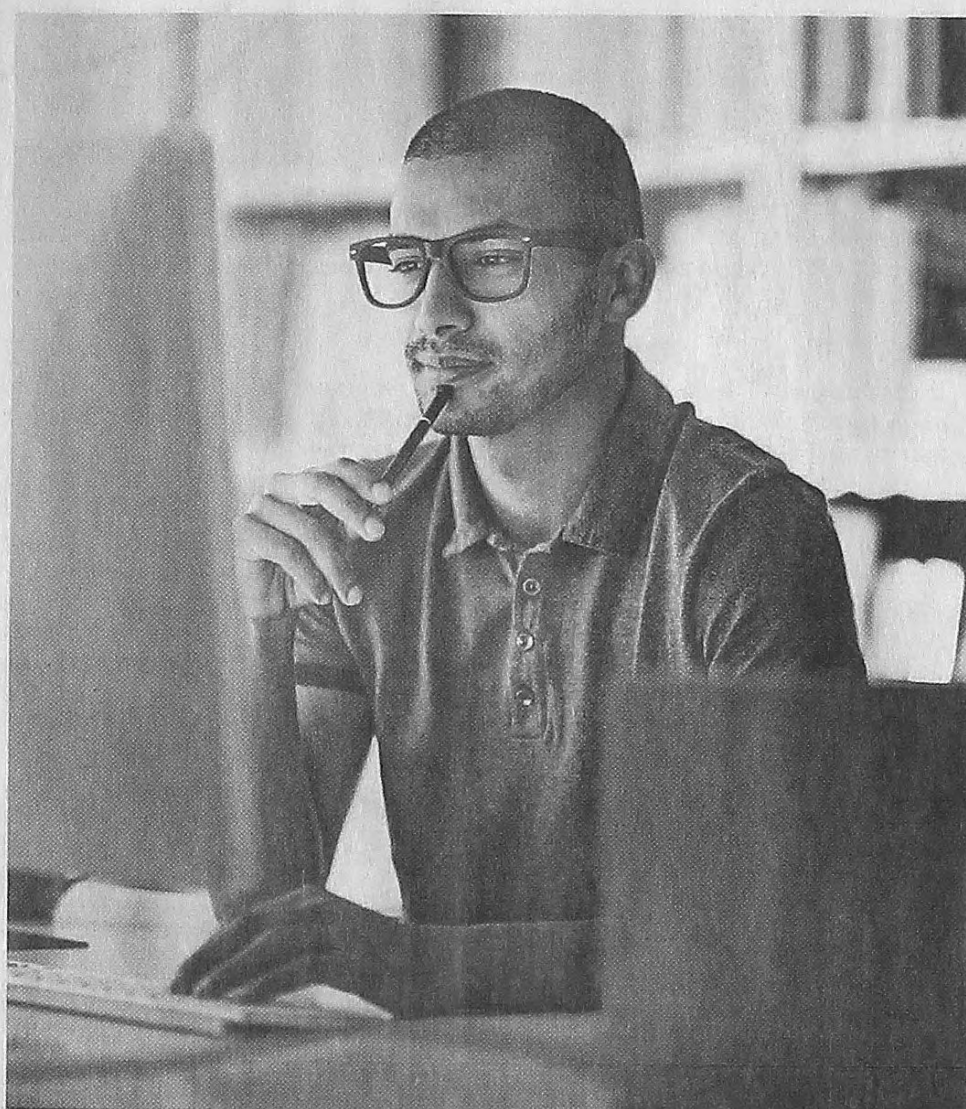
Employers were slightly more likely to say they saw productivity gains than losses, whereas job seekers were more than twice as likely to say they experienced gains.

2. Money savings

Around the world, executives are exploring remote work as a way to cut business costs: 30% of employers surveyed by ZipRecruiter identified reduced real estate and overhead costs as important benefits to their organizations.

But the results of the survey suggest that the cost savings associated with remote work may be even more important to workers.

Large shares of job seekers identified saving money (71%) and time (64%) that would be spent commuting or saving money on work clothing (39%) as



GETTY IMAGES

important benefits. 23% of job seekers said an important benefit of remote work was that it would allow them to live in areas with lower housing costs

3. Boost to morale, mental health, retention

Social isolation, loneliness and difficulty staying motivated have received

considerable attention in the media as potential downsides of remote work. But only relatively small shares of job seekers identified loneliness (10%) or staying motivated (8%) as their biggest remote-work challenges.

When asked how remote work affected their happiness, more than three times as many said it had made them happier (38%) rather than sadder (11%), and almost four times as many said it had made them less stressed (41%) rather than more stressed (11%). Employers also saw better retention (32%) and reduced employee absences (40%) as important benefits of remote work.

4. Relatively few perceived downsides

Only 1 in 3 employers worries about potential loss of innovation and collaboration, and 1 in 3 job seekers worries about interruptions from children and other family members. Other potential drawbacks were of concern to even fewer respondents.

That said, half of respondents would prefer splitting the week between home and office over working full-time in one or the other, if they had the choice.

5. Larger changes over long term

However, about half of workers are concerned about the possibility that remote work could weaken the bonds between employers and employees in the long run. And roughly 1 in 2 workers is concerned that if companies expand their reliance on remote work, they might replace salaried full-time staff with contractors, favor those who do come to the office in promotions, or outsource work to places with cheaper housing costs and lower wages.

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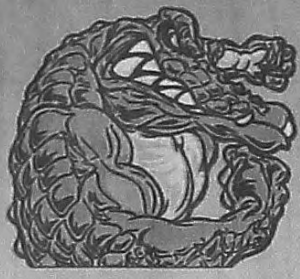
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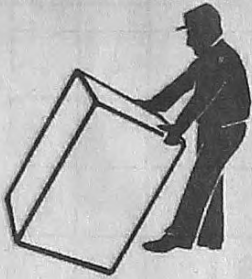
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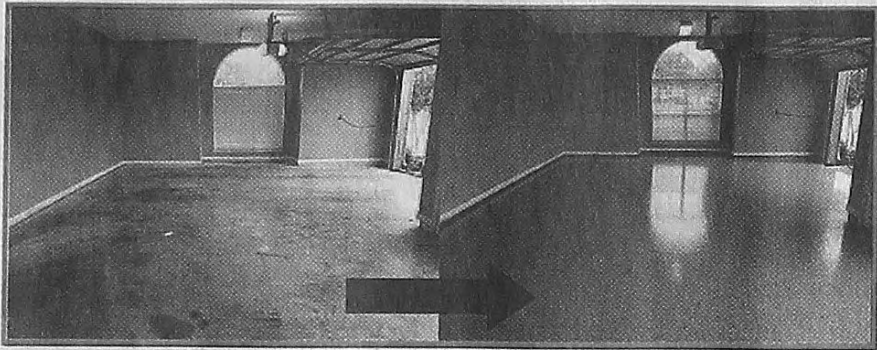
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Roofing

FROM **\$79**

A MONTH
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Since 1961

RELATIONSHIPS BUILT ON TRUST

ROOFING | WINDOWS | SIDING
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| Roofing | Windows | Siding | Gutters |
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| | | | |
| up to \$1000 OFF Roofing <small>Previous orders excluded. Exp. 8/31/2020. FreePNews.</small> | \$1000 OFF Any Set of 5 Windows or More <small>Previous orders excluded. Exp. 8/31/2020. FreePNews.</small> | up to \$1000 OFF Siding <small>Previous orders excluded. Exp. 8/31/2020. FreePNews.</small> | \$300 OFF Gutterglove <small>The End of Cleaning Gutters Previous orders excluded. Exp. 8/31/2020. FreePNews.</small> |

SAFETY IS OUR TOP PRIORITY

Kitchen & Bath Remodeling

Qualified Remodeler **Top 500 Remodelers** **NKBA** NATIONAL KITCHEN & BATH ASSOCIATION

zero Sale!

**0 DOWN
0 PAYMENTS
0 INTEREST
FOR 12 MONTHS**

Our Goal is safety! Proper Precautions are being taken to keep you and our employees safe from COVID-19. Call for details!

31-DAY SALE

windows & doors

This isn't one of those 'limited time' offers that's **not really** limited. We're only offering this window discount, this patio and entry door discount and this special financing for 31 days!¹ And know that we've adjusted our operations to serve you in the **safest** way possible and make your home more secure.

There are limited appointments available, and you must book yours before **August 31st**...



Less than a month left!

...which means you have **LESS THAN** a month left!

BUY ONE WINDOW OR DOOR,
GET ONE WINDOW OR DOOR
40% OFF¹

Minimum purchase of four.

PLUS
\$100 OFF
EVERY WINDOW AND DOOR¹

No minimum purchase required.

PLUS **\$0** Down **0** Monthly Payments **0%** Interest for **1 year**¹

Minimum purchase of four. Interest accrues from the purchase date but is waived if paid in full within 12 months.

LESS THAN a month left to book your **Virtual or In-Home Appointment**

734-335-8036 Renewal by Andersen **CERTIFIED MASTER INSTALLER** **MILITARY DISCOUNT**

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.

More ways to reach us.

We now have multiple channels that you can use to update your account information, report delivery issues, temporarily stop your paper, activate your digital account or address any questions and concerns you may have.

WE OFFER:

- Virtual Hold**
Leave your information and a description of the issue and the next available representative will call you back rather than waiting on hold.
- Live Chat**
Converse directly online with a representative.
- Email**
This option gives you the opportunity to leave more details and have a record of the correspondence.

Visit our online help portal to access FAQs, subscription services, member benefits and more.
help.hometownlife.com