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THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020 # HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



South Lyon to pick superintendent finalists

Philip Allmen Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN**

South Lyon Community Schools is moving forward with its superintendent

The board of trustees selected six candidates to interview virtually. Inter-

views were scheduled to take place ear- cations for the job. lier this week.

The school board held an online meeting April 23, according to a press release, to select the candidates to interview. South Lyon, working with the Michigan Leadership Institute to find a new superintendent, received 20 appliThe candidates:

■ Benjamin Kirby, assistant superintendent for administrative services for

South Lyon Community Schools ■ Benjamin Williams, superinten-

dent of Taylor School District Steven Archibald, assistant super-

intendent of HR & district services for Livonia Public Schools

■ Dina Rocheleau, assistant superintendent for curriculum & instruction with Ferndale Public Schools

Adam Hartley, superintendent of

See FINALISTS, Page 3A



Veterans' groups always play a big role in the Milford Memorial Day Parade, but this year all village-sponsored events through July 4, including the parades, have been canceled. Milford Village Council made the unanimous decision April 20.

Milford cancels events in summer due to coronavirus

David Veselenak Hometownlife com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN**

Those hoping for a parade this summer in Milford will have to find another way to mark their patriotism.

The Milford Village Council voted unanimously during its meeting held virtually April 20 to cancel villagesponsored events through July 4.

The cancellations, made in response to the coronavirus pandemic, mean the Memorial Day parade, Independence Day parade and the first few summer concerts will not take place.

"We don't want a resurgence of this,"

Councilwoman Jennifer Frankford said. "I don't feel comfortable putting our village residents at risk.'

What have not yet been decided are the fates of some of the larger events in the latter half of the summer, namely

See EVENTS, Page 4A

SUICIDE AWARENESS

North Farmington teens discuss mental health

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN**

ages 10 to 24 in 2017.

The stats must be scary for metro De-

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported suicide as the sec-

ond-leading cause of death for people

The National Alliance on Mental Illness says one in five youths and young adults live with a mental health condi-

Drugs, alcohol, the coronavirus pandemic - the list of risks for today's teens

See TEENS, Page 6A

About this series

Suicide has long been a subject most people avoid talking about publicly, yet suicides in metro Detroit counties have increased in recent years.

This is the fifth in a series of stories examining the topic.

Northville man barely eludes death in battle with **COVID-19**

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A few years removed from playing a Satan-like character in the WGN series "Salem," Northville actor Michael Robert Brandon is enduring a living hell while battling COVID-19.

Plagued by the telltale symptoms of coronavirus - a relentless dry cough, nausea and energy-sapping fatigue, to name three - Brandon's infection reached its apex March 29 when his condition necessitated a call to 911.

"I was in such bad shape, when I walked into the bathroom it felt like I was walking on the ceiling," he said. "I thought to myself, 'Is this what death feels like?' My sister was going to drive me to the hospital, but I needed help fast, so I was transported by an ambulance.

Brandon's labored breathing rapidly became worse during the ride to Ascension Providence Novi Hospital. At one point, he noticed one of the emergency medical technicians start to reach for an apparatus that he swears was a ventilator.

"Just as they were getting ready to intubate me, by the grace of God I threw up, which actually improved my breathing," Brandon recounted. "Once I was at the hospital, I heard that 70% of the people who are intubated ultimately die."

During his nine-day hospitalization, Brandon was isolated in a room on the third floor.

"It was kind of surreal because all of the medical personnel were wearing hazmat-like suits," he said. "You couldn't see their faces. One night, I heard a man coughing so bad that they moved him up to the intensive care unit.

"It was a horrific scene."

Brandon said the initial COVID-19 symptoms emerged in early March. Visits to his doctor resulted in prescriptions and instructions to stay at home and rest.

Brandon will never know when he initially was infected, but he's guessing it invaded his body at a local wedding reception.

'There was a wedding reception in early March when I was waiting on the head table where the bride and groom

See COVID-19, Page 4A

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Novi student pens ode to healthcare workers

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN**

In February, Lisa Erickson was teaching poetry to her sixth grade students at Novi Meadows.

Little did she know that a month later, she and her students would be separated for the rest of the school year. But the poetry lesson in English language arts was not forgotten.

Erickson was delighted last week when one of her students, Henry Yim, used a classroom app to post a poem he had worked on for the past month, "Ode to the Healthcare Workers in the World."

The poem begins:

Our healthcare workers nurture the seeds of life

Now, more than ever, they feel like they have been stabbed by a knife

They water, they prune, they help us

hometownlife.com

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Newsroom Contacts:

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

Email: pallmen@hometownlife.com Follow us on Faceboook: @OEHometown

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to germinate

We absorb sunlight, and we grow, but we still show hate

Erickson was moved by the poem, which she hopes healthcare workers will see and be equally touched by knowing an 11-year-old, and indeed, so many of all ages, are cheering them on.

"Henry is smart and that's great, but it's not what is most special about him," Erickson said. "He wants to do well and do things for others, he goes above and beyond all the time. ... I've never had a student take something from the classroom and done something as noble as

Henry said he wanted to help healthcare workers, particularly after seeing news of the tough conditions in emergency rooms all over the world.

"I felt so bad for first responders, grocery workers, healthcare workers, firefighters and police officers," he said. "News reporters said some people were giving up and I had to write this poem so they wouldn't have to give up."

The emergency rooms are filled with helpless patients struggling for one final

And all the patients see are makeshift coffins of death

From overflowing patients to a lack

From ventilator shortages to a ram-

He stayed up late many nights writing, with some help from his 7-year-old sister Alexandra, and even kept going after breaking his arm in a bicycle accident. He hopes it gives encouragement to those who need it.

Henry asked his teacher to help him with revisions and Erickson was pleased to offer some guidance, but said only some minor changes were made, with two of Henry's many strengths confidence and vocabulary - shining through in the poem, as well as an abundance of empathy.

We, the people, must bear an inevita-

What will it take to collectively evidence the proof?

Medical workers don't have supplies and don't have masks

So how will they complete such treacherous tasks?

Novi Meadows sixth-grader Henry Yim stands with his poem, "Ode to the Healthcare Workers in the World." **COURTESY OF THE YIM FAMILY**

They telecommunicate withering pa-

tients to lamenting families We must realize the plight of our

healthcare workers is not a fantasy They are combating a mounting fire But when will we realize this situa-

tion is dire? Erickson misses her kids as she adjusts to the remote teaching, noting it's so different now than when she had 28 students in front of her, and was able to recognize from their expressions when they were "getting" and "not getting" the lessons she taught.

She empathizes with parents who are as bewildered as she is with the new re-

"It's tricky, parents are struggling and learning at home, too," said Erickson, who advises making sure kids have a quiet space to learn at home, while monitoring what they are doing online. "It's a new way of life for the next eight

Henry misses language arts class and Erickson, who he calls "a really good teacher," and looks forward to the day when he can return to school, but for now, hopes his poem helps heal a wounded community.

We hear their moans and their sober

Now, alas, my friends, we must uni-

So stop hoarding supplies into shop-

We must give the front line workers generosity from the bottom of our hearts.

"I just really want to give back during these tough times," he said. "I am hoping the healthcare workers will read the poem and know they are supported and feel determination and hope and know we'll get through this.

"This is for you."

Ode to the Healthcare Workers In the World

By Henry M. Yim

Our healthcare workers nurture the

Now, more than ever, they feel like they have been stabbed by a knife

They water, they prune, they help us to germinate

We absorb sunlight, and we grow, but we still show hate

The emergency rooms are filled with helpless patients struggling for one final

breath, And all the patients see are makeshift coffins of death

From overflowing patients to a lack

From ventilator shortages to a ram-

pant disease We, the people, must bear an inevita-

ble truth

What will it take to collectively evidence the proof? Medical workers don't have supplies

and don't have masks So how will they complete such

treacherous tasks? They telecommunicate withering pa-

tients to lamenting families We must realize the plight of our

healthcare workers is not a fantasy They are combating a mounting fire But when will we realize this situa-

tion is dire? We hear their moans and their sober

Now, alas, my friends, we must uni-

So stop hoarding supplies into shopping carts,

We must give the front line workers generosity from the bottom of our hearts.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT - NOVI HIGH SCHOOL **DIVING BOARD REPLACEMENTS** Project The Novi Community School District's Board of Education is accepting

Description:

bids to provide construction related work at Novi High School (24062 Taft Rd., Novi MI 48375). Proposed work includes replacement of two (2) existing diving boards and stanchions at the high school natatorium

Project Contact:

Ahmed Beasley

Plante Moran Cresa

28700 Northwestern Highway, Southfield, MI 48043 Telephone: (248) 603-5315 Email: ahmed.beasley@plantemoran.com Questions addressed ONLY to Plante Moran Cresa during Bidding Period. Failure to follow instruction may lead to

RFP Documents:

RFP Documents including Bid Forms may be obtained directly from Plante Moran Cresa. Please email Ahmed Beasley at ahmed.beasley@ plantemoran.com for access. Bid Documents may also be obtained through the following E-Builder link: https://app.e-builder.net/public/ publicLanding.aspx?QS=3b255fbc66e6494cb4345b8ade9b0d0c

Due to the current COVID-19 Executive Orders, there will not be a

Non-Mandatory Prebid Walk-

prebid walk-through. If bidders require a site visit, they shall contact Ahmed Beasley at (248) 603-5315 to make arrangements.

Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 2:00 pm (EST) Bid Due Date: Under the current COVID Executive Orders, NCSD is under "minimum basic operations: due to the COVID -19 crisis. Therefore, all bidders are to submit bids electronically via email to e-Builder at the email address noted below. If any bidder is unable to submit bids electronically, they shall contact Ahmed Beasley at 248-603-5315 for alternative

arrangements. Email Submission Address: NoviHSDivingBoardBid@docs.e-builder.net

Public Bid

Bids are due electronically and will be timestamped at the required date/time to the attention of Jill Minnick - Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations. At the time the bid packages are due, all bids will be opened and read aloud remotely via Zoom on Wednesday. May 13, 2020 at 2:00 pm (EST). Meeting URL: https://plantemoran.zoom. us/j/92511949800 or by call-in US: 1-312-626-6799

The Board of Education will not open, consider, nor accept a bid received after the date and time specified. All late bid proposals will be returned to the bidder unopened.

A Bid Bond executed by a Treasury listed surety company acceptable to the Novi Community School District or a cashier's check in the amount of at least 5% of the sum of the proposal shall be submitted with Bid. Bid bonds shall be submitted electronically with the bid submission, if a cashier's check is provided submit a photocopy with bid submission followed by hard copy if requested. All proposals shall be firm for a period of staty (60) days.

Labor and Material & Performance Bond

Successful bidders whose proposals are \$50,000 or more will be required to furnish satisfactory Performance and Payments Bonds by a Treasury listed surety in the amount of 100% of their bid. The cost of Bond(s) shall be included in each proposal.

Nonexempt: This project is a non-prevailing wage project and is not tax exempt for State sales tax and/or use tax. All materials and supplies incorporated and used in construction of the work and becoming a permanent part of this project will not be exempt from State Sales Tax and/or Use Tax. All required Sales Tax/Use Tax shall be included in the bid price.

Bids shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the Owner and any employee of bidder and any member of the Board of Education or the superintendent. Additionally, bids shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement for the Iran Economic Sanctions Act Affidavit of Compliance Bids not accompanied with these sworn and notarized statements will not be accepted by the Board.

Publish April 30, 2020

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids in whole or in part and waive any informality or irregularity therein, or to award the Contract to other than the low bidder, in its sole discretion. The Novi Community School District reserves the right to accept the bid which in its opinion, is in the best interest of the Owner.

Tax request coming to Northville Twp. residents

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN**

On Aug. 4, Northville Township residents will be asked to approve a new millage to fund a continuation of current services, the township revealed in a statement.

The current operating millage, which funds police, EMS, fire, parks, recreation, senior and youth services and salaries of administrators, expires Dec. 31.

"After several months of analysis, the township board of trustees determined that the existing level of services could be maintained by renewing the existing millage with a slight increase of .5 mill, of which approximately 90% is needed

to fund public safety," Township Supervisor Robert Nix said.

At the April 16 board meeting, trustees recommended a proposal for a millage renewal with an additional .5 mill for a period of six years (2021-2026).

A house with a market value of \$400,000 will see an increase of approximately \$100 per year. However, officials say the increase would be offset by a decrease of approximately .5 mills in a separate millage for the 2009 Seven Mile Road property purchase.

Further information will be made available for residents so they can decide how to vote in August.

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



Oakland, Wayne candidates prepare for primary

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN**

The coronavirus pandemic kept candidates from campaigning outdoors but plenty of Oakland and Wayne county candidates met their April 21 filing deadline.

They are preparing for the Aug. 4 primary while some other candidates try to meet a new May 8 deadline for half of the required signatures.

The primary election will give voters the chance to narrow the choice of candidates to advance to the November presidential election.

One candidate from each political party can appear on the November ballot for any available political seat or races listed.

Candidates had until 4 p.m. Friday to withdraw their name from the ballot.

Unofficial candidate list for races most affecting the Hometown Life area:

Oakland County Michigan House District 38

Kelly Breen, Novi (D) Megan McAllister, North-

ville (D)

Sreenivas Cherukuri, Novi

Krista Spencer, Novi (R) Chase Turner, Northville

Michigan House

Denise Forrest, Milford

Matt Maddock, Milford

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP Supervisor

Scott Nadeau (D)

Dani Walsh (D)

Dan Devine (R)

Leo Savoie (R)

Martin Brook (D) Malissa Bossardet (R)

Tom Smyly (R)

David Thomas (R) Treasurer

Mark Antakli (R) Brian Kepes (R)

Trustee

Stephanie Fakih (D) Mitsuaki Murashige (D)

Valerie Sayles Murray (D) Linda Ulrey (D) Neal Barnett (R)

Timothy Robert Meyer (R)

Eric Pernie (R)

Michael Schostak (R)

Don Valente (R)

HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP Supervisor

Kevin Curtis (R)

Rick Hamill (R)

Clerk Tami Flowers (R)

Treasurer

Rose D'Ambrosi (R) Jennifer Frederick (R)

Trustee

Judy Cooper (R)

Beth Grate (R) Scott Green (R)

Brian Howe (R) Beth Lewis (R)

Joseph Salvia (R)

LYON TOWNSHIP

Supervisor

John Dolan (R) Clerk

Michele Cash (R)

Treasurer Patricia Carcone (R)

Trustee

Lise Blades (R) Kristofer Enlow (R)

Andy Fletcher (R) Sean O'Neil (R)

Robert Swain (R)

Mark Venus (R)

MILFORD TOWNSHIP Supervisor

Don Green (R)

Brien Worrell (R)

Clerk Holly Brandt (R)

Jennifer Frankford (R)

Treasurer

Cynthia Dagenhardt (R) Trustee

Randal Busick (R)

Richard George (R)

William Mazzara (R)

Toni Vulaj (R)

Dale Wiltse (R) **NOVI TOWNSHIP**

Supervisor

John Juntunen (R)

Trustee

Tony Galdikas (D) Raymond Schovers (R) **Wayne County**

Michigan House District 20

Matt Koleszar, Plymouth

John Lacny, Plymouth (R) Laura Roush, Northville

NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP

Supervisor

Mark Abbo (R) Robert Nix (R)

Clerk

Marjorie Banner (R)

Roger Lundberg (R)

Treasurer Jason Rhines (R)

Fred Shadko (R)

Trustee M. Aslam (D)

Scott Frush (R)

Mindy Hermann (R) Cynthia Jankowski (R)

Kevin Johnston (R)

Steve McGuirk (R)

Chris Roosen (R)

Patient count low at 2 field hospitals

Kathleen Gray **Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK**

Both local field hospitals for coronavirus patients — at TCF Center in Detroit and Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi — are open and treating patients, but the pace of admissions has

been slow. At TCF Center, a nearly 1,000-bed field hospital in the former Cobo Convention Center, 14 patients were being treated Saturday and a total of 34 patients have received treatment at some point in the last two weeks. At Suburban, which opened for patients Friday, two patients were being treated at the 250-bed field

hospital. The two facilities were built by construction crews, skilled trades workers and the U.S. **Army Corps of Engineers** to help ease a surge of coronavirus patients at southeast Michigan hos-

While many of those regular hospitals have been running at or near capacity during the coronavirus crisis, some of the health care facilities seeing declining

numbers. Detroit Medical Center, Hurley Medical Center in Flint and Trinity Health in Livonia were at

81% capacity or higher. Suburban had been planned as a 1,100-bed field hospital, but the state scaled back after hospital admissions started declining. Another planned field hospital at an indoor track at the University of Michigan was put on hold for the

same reason. TCF is staffed with military medical personnel and health care professionals from some of the hospitals in southeast Ascension Michigan. Michigan and St. Joseph Mercy Health System are providing the medical care at the Suburban field hospital.

The facilities are designed for patients who have had symptoms of coronavirus for at least 10 days and have been hospitalized for at least 48 hours, which is enough time to determine whether they'll need more intensive care and a ventilator. Those more seriously ill patients will stay in the hospital, while those transferred to TCF and Suburban still need care, but don't need a

ventilator. As a result of the criteria for patients at the field hospitals, many of the patients who have been admitted are elderly and residents of nursing homes or other types of assisted living facilities that require a negative COVID-19 test before they

members.

can be accepted back at their home residences. Some of the patients also are staying in the field hospital, rather than go home and potentially infect family

The facility will initially receive patients from Ascension Michigan and St. Joe's hospitals, but may accept patients from any health care facility. The field hospital won't accept any walk-in patients.

Finalists

Continued from Page 1A

Area Public Fenton Schools

■ Matthew Outlaw, superintendent

Brandon School District Interviews were to be conducted via Google Meet and open to the

public. The Board of Education expects to select finalists for the position during a meeting at 6 p.m. today which will be held via Google Meet.

Details on joining the meeting can be found on the school district website at www.slcs.us.

Plans call for second interviews May 5 with a final decision coming May 18. The next superintendent is expected to

start work by July 1. Former Superintendent Melissa Baker resigned at the beginning of the year. The school board hired George Heitsch, former Farmington Public Schools superintendent, to fill the role until a permanent replacement is

found.

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE ELECTRONIC MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, **May 6, 2020** at 7:00 P.M. on the Zoom Video Conference platform to consider ASBURY PARK LOT 31, PWD19-0023 FOR A WOODLAND PERMIT APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS ZONED R-1. The subject property is approximately 0.45 acre and is located at 26181 Mandalay Circle, north of Eleven Mile Road, east of Beck Road (Section 16). The applicant is proposing to remove seven regulated woodland trees in order to construct an additional garage structure on their lot.



Plans are available for review by contacting the Community Development Department at the following email address: bmcbeth@cityofnovi.org.

Subject Parcel IDs: 22-16-300-086. **Special Instructions for Remote Meeting Procedure:**

In light of the COVID-19 outbreak the City will be utilizing the video/audio conferencing platform ZOOM to conduct the May 6, 2020 Planning Commission meeting.

In order to connect to the meeting through ZOOM a member of the public needs to do the

- Install Zoom App on mobile device or phone. A link to download the Zoom App may
- be found online at Cityofnovi.org Click the link provided to join the meeting

Members of the public participating in the public comment via ZOOM will wait in a virtual queue until called during the public comment period.

When public comment is permitted, members of the public will be called one at a time, as would happen during an in-person meeting. A meeting coordinator will determine the order of public speakers. If you want to speak, you must use the "Raise Hand" feature in order for our moderator to know they need to be unmuted. When you are un-muted you will have three (3) minutes to share your comments to the public body. At the conclusion of your comments or your three (3) minutes, you will be re-muted and then removed from the queue.

Comments can be submitted via an electronic form on www.cityofnovi.org. Comments shall be done prior to 7 p.m. on the day of the meeting. The electronic form can be found at: www.cityofnovi.org/pccomment

Participants may also choose to submit comments that can be read into the record.

In compliance with Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-48, as of the date of this notice, Planning Commission members are expected to log in to Zoom. There may also be some City personnel at City Hall overseeing this meeting.

Novi Planning Commission Michael Lynch, Secretary

Publish April 30, 2020

following:

THE OUTPOURING OF

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2020-2021 BUDGET ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE ELECTRONIC/REMOTE MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Novi City Council will hold a PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED CITY 2020-2021 BUDGET at the Regular Meeting of Council to be held on MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020. Said hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter, at the Novi Civic Center Council Chamber, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan.

Interested citizens may appear and present written and/or verbal comments on the proposed The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

A copy of the proposed 2020-21 budget is currently available on the City's website.

Special Instructions for Remote Meeting Procedure: In light of the COVID-19 outbreak the City will be utilizing the video/audio conferencing

In order to connect to the meeting through ZOOM a member of the public needs to do the following: Install Zoom App on mobile device or phone. A link to download the Zoom App may be

found online at Cityofnovi.org

platform ZOOM to conduct the May 4, 2020 City Council meeting.

 Click the link provided to join the meeting Members of the public participating in the public comment via ZOOM will wait in a virtual

queue until called during the public comment period When public comment is permitted, members of the public will be called one at a time, as would happen during an in-person meeting. A meeting coordinator will determine the order of public speakers. If you want to speak, you must use the "Raise Hand" feature in order for our moderator to know they need to be unmuted. When you are un-muted you will have three (3) minutes to share your comments to the public body. At the conclusion of your comments or your three (3) minutes, you will be re-muted and then removed from the queue.

Participants may also choose to submit comments that can be read into the record. Comments can be submitted via an electronic form on www.citvofnovi.org Comments shall be done prior to 7 p.m. on the day of the meeting. The electronic form can be found at:

the meeting. There may also be some City personnel at City Hall for this meeting.

In compliance with Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-48, as of the date of this notice, City Council members are expected to log in Zoom. However, depending upon whether new or revised Executive Order(s) are issued, there may be members present at City Hall for

City Clerk

Publish: April 30, 2020

Michigan now requires face coverings in public

Miriam Marini Detroit Free Press

Under Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's newest executive order, face coverings are now required in all public enclosed spaces.

The state's definition of a face covering includes bandannas, handkerchiefs or scarves, according to the executive order. As long as the mask covers your nose and mouth, you're in the clear.

Michiganders are required to wear masks in public spaces when in close quarters with others; however, fines will not be issued to those not wearing masks. Businesses can refuse service to people not adhering to the restriction.

Before you rush to snag an N95 mask online or from a friend of a friend, state officials advise that all medical-grade face coverings be reserved for health care professionals contributing to the effort against coronavirus.

employees work on the premises are required to supply appropriate personal protective equipment, according to the

Face coverings should not be worn by children under age 2, state officials warn. Anyone who has trouble breathing, is incapacitated or is unable to remove the mask without help should not wear a face mask.

The state health department advises

Businesses that are permitted to have people - even those who are not sick to wear face masks whenever they leave the home and may come within six feet of others such as while grocery shopping, walking on a busy street or going to the pharmacy.

> Those who are sick are advised to stay home and only leave for essential medical care. Delivery, either through a service or by family members, should be arranged for essential items like medicine and groceries.

COVID-19

Continued from Page 1A

were sitting," he said. "I then filled in for one of the bartenders, who was taking a break. A man walked up to me and said, 'Take good care of my family sitting over at that table. They're in from Italy for the

"I talked to another woman who was in town from Spokane, Washington, one of the virus' first hot spots.

"I'm not saying that's the night I was infected, but it could have happened then."

Brandon didn't test positive for CO-VID-19 until he was hospitalized, but the paralyzing symptoms started at least two weeks before.

As of April 24, he was still plagued by intense fatigue and a hacking, dry

"The other night, I was washing two plates and I became so exhausted I had to rest," he said. "The doctor had warned me that this was one of the most common symptoms."

More than a month after his diagnosis, Brandon continues to test positive for the virus.

"I also haven't developed any antibodies yet, which is concerning," he added. "What worries me is the second wave of the virus that doctors are saying will hit in the winter.

While recovering at his home in Northville, Brandon said he is far from his old self, but he feels significantly better than he did in March.

"Before all this happened, I was in



Actor Michael Robert Brandon spent nine days in a hospital after having contracted COVID-19.

very good health for a 60-year-old man," he said. "I weighed about 178 pounds and I had no underlying health issues.

"However, when I returned home and weighed myself for the first time, I couldn't believe how much weight I had lost. Of the nine days in the hospital, I was only able to keep food down the last three days."

Brandon said he had recently secured a prime role in a Hollywood movie before the pandemic struck.

"Hollywood is totally shut down now, so that is a bummer," he said. "But I'm fortunate to still be alive. I'm not complaining."

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



Brandon, left, attends the Royal Oak premiere of the movie "Elder Island." PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICHAEL ROBERT BRANDON

GIFT CARD

Support your local businesses.

Purchasing a gift card will provide your favorite businesses with much needed resources to manage through this challenging time.

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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

support local.

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Events

Continued from Page 1A

Milford Memories in August. The council punted on making a decision on the fate of the festival and several others later this year until June 15, when more information and guidelines are released for dealing with the coronavirus.

sion on several events until later this year, several council members made clear it's a very likely possibility Milford Memories and other events will be can-

But even with pushing out the deci-

"I don't think we're going to have any of these events this year," said Council President Pro-Tem James Kovach. "We need a vaccine and that's not going to happen before September."

Some discussion was held around having something small for Memorial Day, if not a parade, but village council members opted against it.

Parade chairman Joe Salvia proposed some small events, including just an honor guard marching to Central Park for a small ceremony, but those were declined by the village council for fear of not being able to keep people far enough apart to follow social distancing guidelines.

Salvia said it's still possible a small event could happen, including a ceremony at the cemetery that would simply be honor guard members and not advertised as a public event.

"That would require zero advertising. We still honor the war dead in a small ceremony, unannounced, very quiet," he said. "We typically fire the rifles, have a 15-minute ceremony, and it would be

The cancellations come as several other communities wrestle with halting annual celebrations as the summer months approach. Large events such as Art on the Grand in Farmington, the Livonia Spree and the Redford Summer Festival, have already been canceled.

One event still scheduled to occur is the Milford Farmers' Market, though some modifications are expected for this year. The market, which takes place from 3-8 p.m. Thursdays off Liberty Street downtown, has postponed its launch date to June 4.

Linda Lowe with the farmers' market said other changes would take place, including limiting the types of vendors



The Jon Fett Quartet was scheduled to kick off the Milford concerts in the park series this year, as it did in 2019, but Milford Village Council voted to cancel all events through July 4 because of the coronavirus pandemic. No decisions have yet been made on activities in Milford after that date. COURTESY OF CURTIS DROGMILLER

"I don't think we're going to have any of these events this year. We need a vaccine and that's not'going to happen before September."

James Kovach President pro-tem, Milford

that sell their goods to just essentials and keeping distance between vendors'

Taking such precautions, she said, would be crucial to the success and safety of everyone attending the market

this summer. "I don't want to see anybody get sick because of us having the market," Lowe said. "We do it for the community. Is it worth it to jeopardize the community? If we're going to do it, we want to make sure we do it right."

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

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VislaTech

Teens

Continued from Page 1A

Taking inspiration from each other and students who died by suicide, some North Farmington High School students are taking responsibility for their own mental health and helping others with their particular challenges.

They don't want to die by suicide. They don't want their friends to die by suicide. Despite some historic stigmas, they're more comfortable talking about mental health and suicide prevention more than their parents and grandparents ever were.

"We have definitely made an improvement," said Sonia Desai, a junior.

She helped plan for a new mental health series of discussions and presentations that debuted at her high school this year. The goal was to focus on mental health issues like grief, bullying, depression, anxiety and suicide.

The coronavirus pandemic interrupted the series, but Desai hopes to see it continue once students can return to school

She began promoting mental health awareness after she experienced anxiety and panic attacks because of her class load.

Bound to get better

Emily Treger and her classmates cried when they learned their school would close because of the pandemic.

They know how to stay connected through social media but they knew it wouldn't be the same as learning, laughing and socializing under the same roof, at their home away from home.

The school's shuttering canceled what would have been one last production for the senior class, "The Drowsy Chaperone," with a cast dinner and production party.

"It's the little things that everyone is really bummed about," she said. "Being secluded and not having any social interaction can really heighten any depression or anxiety I might have."

She's heard from others and said parents, as usual, can be a bit of a coronavirus conundrum since they're also confused by all the orders and advice.

So she tunes into herself and her surroundings and posts Snapchat videos about what's going on in her world. "Today has been a rough day," she said in a recent video. "It's been a rough day for quite a couple of people, including myself. We're going to make today a better day than it was. If you can't make today better, then look forward to tomorrow. Because it will get better.

"Stay safe out there. Wash your hands."

She likes that her generation seems to be more outspoken about mental health awareness than others.

"There's a feeling of being alone that is a huge contributor to depression and suicidal thoughts," Treger said.

She advises teens to find inspiration from people who have wrestled with similar issues, survived and evolved into happier people.

Being mindful

A few years ago, Jessica Goldberg founded Sib4Sib for 6- to 18-year-olds in need of a safe place to discuss challenges that come with siblings struggling with mental health issues.

"We're not being mindful in general," she said. "A great tool to limit our anxiety is mindfulness."

Goldberg explained that social distancing guidelines have forced people to be mindful of their actions.

"I can't just aimlessly walk anymore," she said. "I have to stay that six feet away from my neighbors. That is just a good example of how we're being mindful."

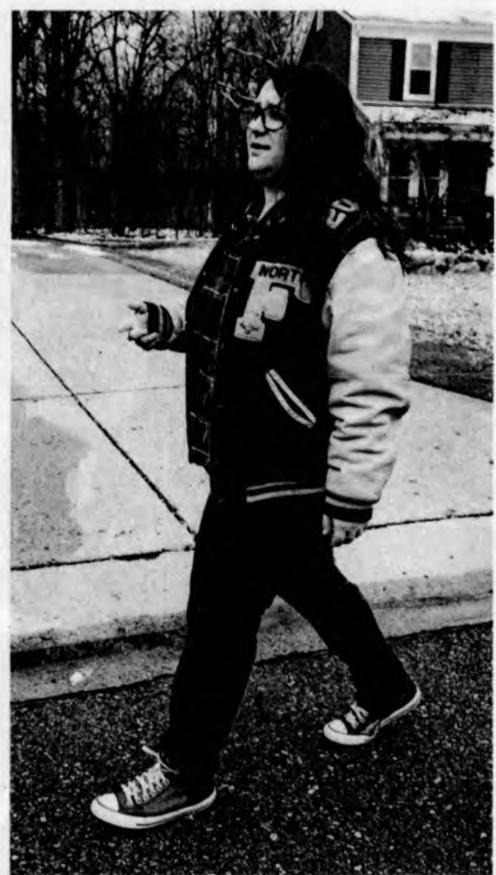
Starting high school was tough for Goldberg. She was a perfectionist putting a lot of pressure on herself. These days, she tries to do her best instead of being the best.

She does her best to act with purpose – not like an unthinking robot. Social media, therapy, role model parents and meditation are helping her along in her journey.

Hometown Life contacted local police agencies earlier this year for information on deaths found to be by suicide. Some provided details about juvenile suicides.

Farmington Hills police reported four juvenile suicides for the last five years of 2015 through 2019. There were 17 juvenile attempted suicides for the same years.

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



North Farmington High senior Emily Treger walks around her neighborhood March 23. Treger often gets together with friends to go outside and safely break the isolation caused by the coronavirus pandemic. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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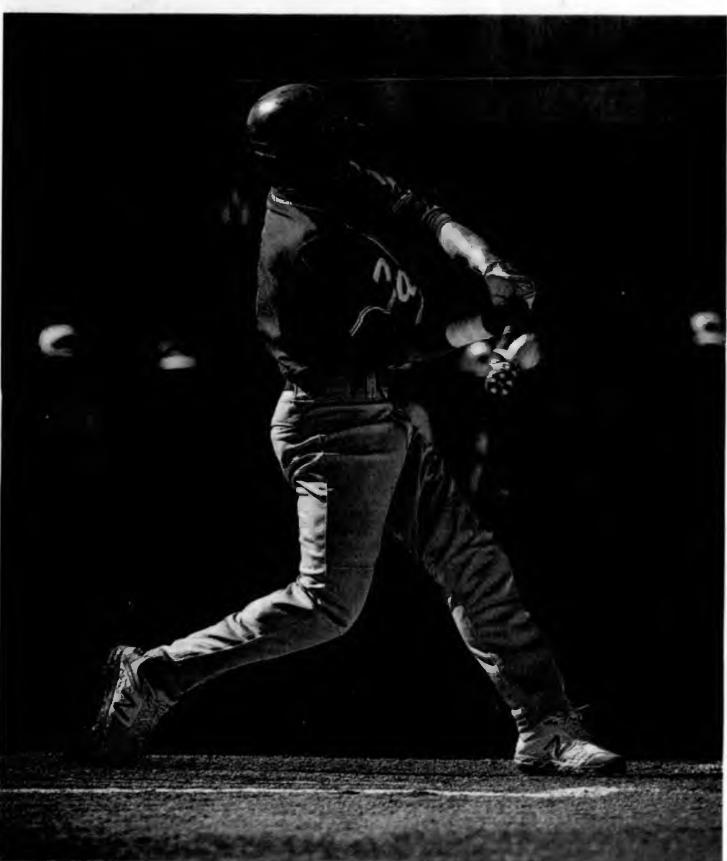
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Sports



Canton's multi-sport wonder



Canton High School senior Ben Stesiak has committed to play baseball and basketball at Madonna University next year. COURTESY OF BEN STESIAK

Stesiak commits to Madonna for baseball, basketball

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

This spring was supposed to be the culmination of Ben Stesiak's athletic career at Canton High School.

The senior had led the school's basketball team to the district finals and was primed to power the baseball squad on another postseason run when high school sports were suddenly shut down due to the coronavirus outbreak.

That left Stesiak, who was still weighing his college options, with a difficult situation.

He had opportunities to play college football, basketball and baseball at different schools, but with his senior baseball season canceled, he would not have the chance to showcase his skills one fi-

Luckily for him, one school was already standing apart from the pack among his options: Madonna University in Livonia.

He committed to play baseball there in March and called the school's basketball coach April 23 to commit to also play basketball.

"My lifelong buddy Zach Beadle goes there and I grew up playing sports with him around the neighborhood," Stesiak said. "He also plays baseball there, so I thought that'd be a cool thing to do and link back up with him. When I visited the campus, it was nice,

See WONDER, Page 2B

Hometown Life holds **fantasy** draft for **HS logos**

Andrew Vallliencourt HometownIIfe.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

With the sports world at a crawl, the NFL Draft is one of the few live events to capture the attention of sports fan across the country this month.

As the Detroit Lions and other NFL teams celebrate their most recent additions, Hometown Life sports reporters Andrew Vailliencourt and Colin Gay held a draft of their own to select the area's best high school logos. Just like the NFL Draft, seven rounds were held with each reporter picking seven local high schools based on what each felt important to making a good overall logo, which includes the team nickname and color scheme.

The draft pool consisted of 30 area high schools in our coverage region

Without further ado, here is how the Hometown Life high school logo fantasy draft played out:

The selections

L Andrew: Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks

Reasoning: There is only one truly elite logo in the Hometown Life area and it belongs to CC. For starters, the Shamrocks is an incredibly unique nickname. The blue and white color scheme is crisp and clean and the CC Shamrock logo is easily recognizable, something that can't be said for many high schools.

2. Colin: Livonia Stevenson Spartans

Reasoning: Much like the logo above, the crisp blue and white color scheme mixed with the traditional, yet beloved Spartan logo gives Stevenson a leg up on logos from many other high schools in the area.

3. Andrew: Livonia Churchill Chargers

Reasoning: The charging horse with the Churchill seal on its shield is great. It's powerful and features a color combo that is always solid with the red, black and white. The "C" logo itself is fantastic as well. Chargers is an allaround awesome nickname.

4. Colin: Bloomfield Hills Black

Reasoning: There's a lot going right for Bloomfield Hills here. The mix of purple, black and silver is not a normal high school color scheme, but it makes the logo look more modern and new than others. These colors surround the

See DRAFT, Page 2B

MHSAA releases school classifications for 2020-21

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Classifications for Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) elections and postseason tournaments for the 2020-21 school year have been

announced - including football divisions determined preseason for the first time since 1998.

According to a press release, classifications for the upcoming school year are based on a second semester count date, which for MHSAA purposes was Feb. 12. The enrollment figure submitted for

athletic classification purposes may be different from the count submitted for school aid purposes.

All sports tournaments are conducted with schools assigned to equal or nearly equal divisions, with lines dependent on how many schools participate in those respective sports.

For 2020-21, there are 752 tournament-qualified member schools. MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said schools may not subsequently lower their enrollment figure. However, if revised enrollment figures are higher

See MHSAA, Page 4B



Local cross country teams plan virtual 5K for charity

Andrew Vailiencourt Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The cross country teams from both Detroit Catholic Central and St. Catherine of Sienna Academy have teamed up to raise money for a local charity through a virtual 5K run.

The two programs will be donating money to Hospitality House Food Pantry, a local charity in the Wixom/Walled Lake area.

On May 3 the two teams encourage you to run, walk or skip a distance of 5K using the Strava running app on your phone or watch.

You'll need to create a profile on the Strava app or website and join the club "Shamrock Shuffle 5K" to participate. Some important instructions:

You may run at any time on Sunday, and any convenient location, as long as you're following safe social distancing practices.

Remember to start the app on your watch when you begin your run-walk-

At the conclusion of your run-walkskip remember to stop, finish and save your hard work.

This is a critical component to having your 5K posted to the Shamrock Shuffle 5K club.

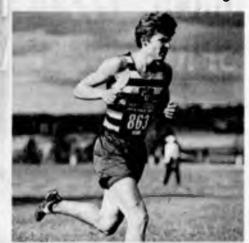
At the conclusion of the Shamrock Shuffle Virtual 5K, the cross country teams will announce the winners on the Detroit Catholic Central website..

The event partner, Hospitality House Food Pantry, www.hhfp.org, provides food services for the following communities: Walled Lake, Wixom, Novi, Commerce Township, Milford, White Lake, Wolverine Lake, Waterford, West Bloomfield, Orchard Lake and Farmington Hills

It has been in existence for 18 years and will be grateful for any support received.

You can register at www.eventbrite.com/e/shamrock-shuffle-virtual-5k-tickets-103162696402

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



Detroit Catholic Central's Luke Perelli competes in the cross country finals in 2018. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

Wonder

Continued from Page 1B

I liked everything about the atmosphere and thought that it was a good fit for

Stesiak, a center fielder, has always viewed baseball as his top sport despite his skill as the quarterback and point guard on the school's football and basketball teams.

"I've been playing baseball ever since I learned how to walk," Stesiak said. "I always had a baseball or baseball bat in my hand. I fell in love with the game at a very young age and I stuck with it. I enjoy that game the most out of the three."

Stesiak plans to become a physician's assistant, which involves a heavy workload. That was his top concern when deciding whether or not to play multiple sports in college. Ultimately, he felt he could be disciplined enough to focus on school and still succeed as an athlete.

"I think Ben will have nothing but success at the collegiate level," Canton basketball coach Jimmy Reddy said. "I would like to note how difficult it would be to play two collegiate sports, but Ben is the type of student athlete that can pull that off with success."

Reddy added that he felt Madonna was a great fit for Stesiak, who averaged 14.5 points, 4.6 rebounds, 4.0 assists and two steals per game this past season for the Chiefs.

Stesiak said having the rest of his senior year canceled was really difficult and that it weighed on him for a few

"It was super tough," Stesiak said. "When we heard that everything was done, it was heartbreaking. I had a couple days where I was just sad about it and in the dumps. Obviously we had a chance to win a district final in basketball and that was something that I really wanted to do.

'The last team to ever do that was my brother's team actually. I think we could've done that as well and made a name for ourselves at Canton High School for basketball, as well as baseball because I think we had a really good opportunity to win another district there to go back-to-back."

He enjoyed plenty of success in all



Canton's Ben Stesiak said having the rest of his senior season canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic was difficult. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

three sports at Canton, winning a district title last season in baseball while enjoying a 55-11 career record in hoops, which includes two division titles and a conference championship. His most lasting impact on Canton, however, may still be to come. He's been a role model and mentor for younger players across all three sports.

When asked about his legacy, Stesiak said he felt that was up to the coaches to

"Ben's impact the last three years for our program was tremendous," Reddy said. "He had different roles he had to fill each year too and he excelled at them.

This year when we needed him to be our leader he was as good as we have ever had here in my 11 years. It will be tough to replace his toughness, competitive spirit and leadership, not to mention his ability at both ends of the floor. Ben was an outstanding ambassador for our program and school."

Draft

Continued from Page 1B

basketball gym, including purple bleachers. The logo itself is pretty straight forward, but the color pops out more than a high school logo usually does

5. Andrew: Lakeland Eagles

Reasoning: Another great color scheme of blue and white, Lakeland took the Philadelphia Eagles logo and took it up a notch. The bright blue makes for top-level jerseys, especially when paired with the blue and silver winged football helmets.

6. Colin: Farmington Hills Mercy **Marlins**

Reasoning: The definition of a Marlin sets Mercy apart. A marlin is a fish with an elongated body and a spear-like bill. That, along with the combo of a unique maroon and gold color scheme, makes this one of the more memorable logos in the area.

7. Andrew: South Lyon Lions

Reasoning: You can never go wrong with a solid blue and yellow color combination, especially when you match it with the fierce Lion logo South Lyon has. It's not the same shade of blue or yellow that the University of Michigan uses either, giving South Lyon its own unique look

8. Colin: North Farmington Raiders Reasoning: For much of the North Farmington football coaching staff, they



The 14 school logos that were selected in our draft. COLLAGE BY ANDREW VAILLIENCOURT

had to trade the green and yellow from Harrison to the brown and gold of the Raiders, a significant difference. You either love or hate the colors and the logo combination, but it all just seems to

work for North Farmington. 9. Andrew: Livonia Franklin Patri-

Reasoning: Many like to hate the Patriots of the NFL, but one cannot deny how good of a team nickname Patriots

is. The red and blue color scheme is bold and the Franklin "F" is crisp. There's not a more American themed high school than the Benjamin Franklin Patriots.

10. Colin: Brother Rice Warriors

Reasoning: Like many of my other picks, the color combination is what sets Brother Rice apart. Along with the classic Warriors logo, the orange and white color scheme is slick, especially on the football jerseys.

11. Andrew: Garden City Cougars

Reasoning: Garden City doesn't always get the attention it deserves, but it gets some recognition here. The Cougars use a paw print logo similar to Clemson University, and matches it with a nice bright blue.

12. Colin: Birmingham Groves Fal-

Reasoning: Groves basically used the Atlanta Falcons logo and switched it to the green and white base colors of the schools. Especially with the lighter green tinge, it works for the different jerseys and logos that Groves uses.

13. Andrew: Birmingham Seaholm Maples

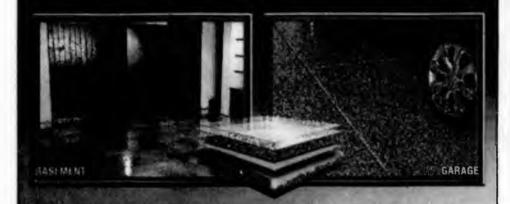
Reasoning: This was a very difficult choice between the Maples and the Country Day Yellowjackets, but ultimately I went with Seaholm. You can't get much more unique than a nickname like the Maples, who also use a maroon and white color scheme that can't be pulled off by many. Having a maple leaf blend sitting in a block "S" is a nice look as well.

14. Colin: Salem Rocks

Reasoning: While you can't go wrong with the royal blue and white colors, the Rocks is not a mascot you see very often, something that threw me off when I first started covering Salem boys soccer,

but I learned to embrace. Contact reporter Andrew Vailliencourt at availlienc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt. Send story ideas to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.





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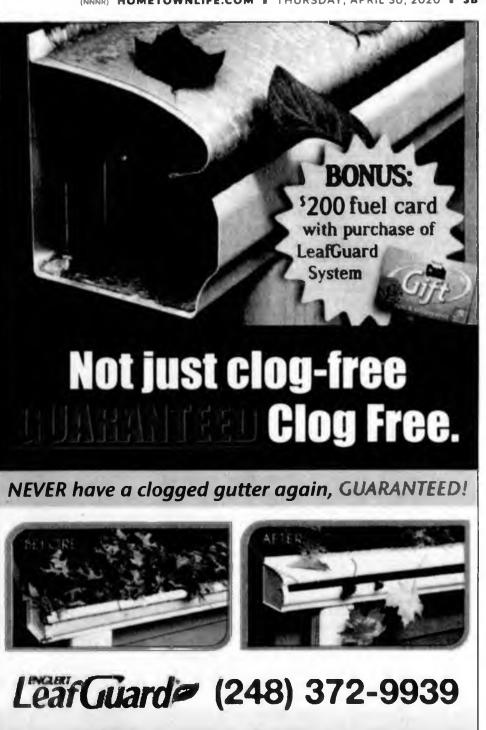






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CC grad earns sponsorship from boating company

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Detroit Catholic Central graduate Nick Parros has made waves as a professional wakesurfer and now has a new sponsor backing his career.

The Centurion Boats pro wakesurf team announced the addition of Nick Parros this spring. The Michigan native has been involved in watersports for most of his life and over the past several years Parros has become a rising star in the pro wakesurf scene. His family got their first wake boat when he was 10 and he was instantly hooked on wakeboarding. After a few years he began to see people wakesurfing and it didn't take long before he fell in love with the sport.

In 2017, Parros had an unprecedented undefeated season in the Amateur Men's Skim division capping it off with a first-place finish at Worlds. In 2018, he made the move from Amateur to Outlaw as he started competing against semi-pros. After a successful 2018 season competing in Outlaw Men's Skim he took home third at Worlds.

Last season, he made another competitive jump and started riding pro, ultimately finishing the season with a second place finish at worlds.

"His meteoric rise in the competitive wakesurf scene and his exceptional character displayed along the way have forged him into a perfect new addition to the Centurion team," a Centurion spokesperson said. Parros says loves both the sport and the communi-

"My favorite trick changes almost weekly," Parros said. "I love the feeling of landing new tricks. Through wakesurfing I have met many people and families that

have become my best friends. 'We couldn't be more excited to add Nick to our pro tean." Amy Mauzy, vice president of marketing at Centurion Boats said. "Obviously he's an incredible talent, but more than that he's an incredible person. Nick's strong character and values make him a perfect addition to the Centurion Boats family, we know that this new partnership will help continue to build on



Detroit Catholic Central graduate Nick Parros shows off his wakesurfing skills. COURTESY OF NICK PARROS

Centurion's reputation throughout the following season and into the future."

Contact reporter Andrew Vailliencourt at avail-

lienc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt. Send story ideas to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

MHSAA

Continued from Page 1B

and indicate that a school should be playing in a higher division, that school would be moved up.

Football will undergo a significant classification change for the 2020 season, with teams in both 11 and 8-player assigned their divisions before the season for the first time since 1998; from 1999-2019, divisions for the 256-team 11-player field (and later the 8-player tournament) were determined after the regular season. A hard enrollment limit also will take effect this fall for teams to be eligible for the 8-player tournament — all schools with 215 or fewer students are eligible for the 8-player playoffs if they play that format during the

Two 11-player football champions will play in different divisions in 2020 than those they won a year ago.

Grand Rapids Catholic Central will move to Division 5 after winning the Division 4 championship last season, while reigning Division 6 champion Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central will play in Division 7 this upcoming season. Also, 2019 Division 2 runner-up Detroit Martin Luther King will play in Division 3 this fall. In 8-player football, the reigning champions will trade divisions — 2019 Division 1 winner Colon moving into Division 2, and Division 2 champ Pickford moving into Division 1 for this fall.

A number of 2019-20 champions will be playing in different divisions in 2020-21. Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern's boys soccer team will move into Division 1 after winning the Division 2 title in 2019. The East Grand Rapids girls swimming & diving team will move back into Lower Peninsula Division 2 - which it won in 2017 - after earning the last two championships in Division 3. Bridgman's girls cross country team will move into Lower Peninsula Division 3 after winning Division 4 last fall, and Grass Lake's boys bowling team will move into Division 3 after winning the Division 4 title this winter. The Allegan boys tennis team will move into Lower Peninsula Division 3 after sharing the Division 4 title in the fall, while the Ishpeming Westwood girls tennis team will move into Upper Peninsula Division 1 after winning the Division 2 title the last four seasons.

The only two schools in the Hometown Life region that are changing classes are Canton Prep and Birmingham Roeper. All other schools will be in the same class as the 2019-20 school year.

Visit the respective sport pages on the MHSAA Website at https://www.mhsaa.com/sports to review the divisional alignments for all MHSAA-sponsored tournament sports.

Traditional classes (A, B, C, D) — formerly used to establish tournament classifications — are used only for MHSAA elections. To determine traditional classifications, after all counts are submitted, tournamentqualified member schools are ranked according to enrollment and then split as closely into quarters as possible. For 2020-21, there are 188 member schools in

Effective with the 2020-21 school year, schools with 831 or more students are in Class A. The enrollment limits for Class B are 392-830, Class C is 182-391, and schools with enrollments of 181 and fewer are Class D. The break between Classes A and B decreased 32 students from 2019-20, the break between Classes B and C decreased three students, and the break between Classes C and D is seven students fewer than the 2019-

The new classification breaks will see 18 schools move up in Class for 2020-21 while 15 schools will move

Moving Up from Class B to Class A

- Fowlerville
- Harper Woods
- Ionia
- **Moving Down from Class A to Class B** ■ Battle Creek Harper Creek
- **Moving Up from Class C to Class B** Blissfield
- Canton Prep Dearborn Riverside Academy West
- Detroit Pershing Detroit Edison
- Ecorse

Moving Down from Class B to Class C

- Adrian Madison
- Detroit Jalen Rose Leadership Academy ■ Grand Rapids Wellspring Prep
- Menominee ■ Otisville-LakeVille Memorial
- Perry Pinconning

Hometown Life area teams by class

Division 2

(1,266)

(1,416)

(1,376)

Division 2

(1,210)

Division 3

Division 1

Division 3

Rice (1,062)

Division 4

(654)

Independent

(1,950)

Catholic League

LVC

■ Birmingham Groves

■ Birmingham Seaholm

■ North Farmington

■ Lakeland (1,649)

■ Milford (1,442)

■ South Lyon (1,282)

■ Walled Lake Western

■ South Lyon East (1,109)

Detroit Catholic Central

■ Birmingham Brother

■ Detroit Country Day

KLAA (football)

Division 1 (school population in parentheses)

- Belleville (1,703)
- Brighton (2,117)
- Plymouth (2,232)
- Salem (2,269)
- Canton (2,189) **■** Dearborn Fordson
- (2,782)
- Hartland (1,991)
- Howell (2,288) Livonia Stevenson
- Northville (2,543)
- Novi (2,026)
- Wayne Memorial (1,631)
- Westland John Glenn (1,608)

Division 2

- Livonia Churchill (1,342)
- Livonia Franklin (1,406)

Division 1

- Bloomfield Hills (1,822)
- Farmington (1,586)

- Moving Up from Class D to Class C ■ Birmingham Roeper
- Detroit Academy of the Americas Detroit Southeastern
- Detroit The School at Marygrove
- Eau Claire
- Genesee ■ New Buffalo
- Painesdale Jeffers

Moving up from Class D to Class B ■ Detroit Cornerstone Lincoln King Academy

- Moving Down from Class C to Class D
- Benton Harbor Countryside Academy
- Deckerville Detroit Douglass
- Detroit Public Safety Academy
- Indian River Inland Lakes
- Mayville

New Postseason Eligible Tournament Schools in 2020-21

- Bay City Academy
- Boyne City Concord Academy
- Detroit Cornerstone Lincoln King Academy Lansing Martin Luther
- **■** Detroit Collegiate
- Redford Westfield Prep

Enrollment Breaks by Classes - 2020-21

(Number of schools in parentheses)

Class A: 831 and above (188 schools)

Class B: 392 - 830 (188) Class C: 182 - 391 (188)

Class D: 181 and below (188)

Contact reporter Andrew Vailliencourt at availlienc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659.

Obituaries



Robert Martin

Dr. Robert Martin passed away on April 13,2020, at the age of 67.He loved his family, and is now with his son Hart. He was a diver at the University of Michigan, and attended medical school at Michigan State University. For the next 37 years he practiced family medicine in Milford , Michigan. He cared for his patients dearly.

He is survived by his children Chloe Martin and Dr. Alex Martin (Kelly), grandchildren Annabel and Hart, ex wife Alexis Yovan, father Robert Martin, and brothers John and

Jim Martin. He spent a summer as a fire diver. He was almost eaten by sharks. He was a risk taker.

Florence A. Pilarz

NORTHVILLE

April 19, 2020-Age 92. Beloved wife of the late Edward W. Dear mother of Barbara A. (Nicholas) Link, Carol A. Wikaryasz, David W. (Bonita), Anthony E., Mary A. (Ty) Bahr, Edward J. (Deborah), Matthew M. (Patricia Marquez, M.D.) and Joseph D. (Teresa). Also survived by many loving grandchildren, great-grandchildren, godchildren, nieces and nephews. Private family services were held 04/24/2020 due to COVID-19, at L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, Northrop-Sassaman Chapel-(248) 348-1233. A memorial Mass, celebrating Florence's life and family will be held at a later date. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family and see "In Lieu of Flowers" at griffinfuneralhome.com.

Wait time grows for spots in drug rehabilitation programs

Georgea Kovanis Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

It used to take Lisa Cottaneo-Boska less than 24 hours to get the drug addicts she helps into a residential rehab

But now, with the coronavirus pandemic raging and the environment ripe for relapse, wait times for inpatient rehab spots have grown to days and, in some cases, weeks — delays that can be deadly for addicts, especially those who use heroin. "If we can't get them in on the same day, we already know they're going to go out and use again," Cottaneo-Boska said.

And with so much heroin laced with ultra powerful fentanyl — users often don't know what they're buying — the odds of overdosing are high. "It's just like going out there and playing Russian roulette," Cottaneo-Boska said.

As a result, experts predict an increase in the state's already grim number of opioid overdose deaths. In 2018, five people a day died from opioid overdoses

So why the wait for treatment?
The coronavirus.

It's created a shortage of available beds in residential treatment centers.

Patients in rehab often live in close quarters, usually two or three to a room. To reduce the chances of infection and to adhere to social distancing rules, facilities have had to switch around accommodations, spacing out clients in communal sleeping dormitories and reducing the number of roommates assigned to a single room.

Oakdale Recovery Center in Canton used to be able to accommodate a total of 45 patients. It now limits its patient population to 32, said Carol Zuniga, the center's executive director.

Ascension Eastwood Recovery Center in Southfield, a drug and alcohol detox and rehab facility for men, usually has space for 40 inpatients, according to Gwendolyn Bammel, clinical supervisor. Making its rooms single occupancy means it now has space for only 18 patients.

Fewer rooms mean longer wait times for treatment.

And that's a problem because "there's a very small window in which people both recognize (their substance use) is a problem and are willing to do something about it," said Bammel. "We are going to miss that window for a lot of people."

People will return to their addiction.



Ascension Eastwood Recovery Center usually has space for 40 inpatients, but now only can take 18. GOOGLE MAPS

"We have a lot of people who have been clean and are relapsing and just trying to get away from how scary it is to deal with all of this."

Gwendolyn Bammel, clinical supervisor

In the case of opioid addiction, people will keep using for two reasons: to keep their high going and also to stave off withdrawal symptoms.

"It's just been very challenging to try to keep them coming back to us and asking for help when we're having a hard time finding places to put them," said Cottaneo-Boska, who works for Hope not Handcuffs in Macomb County, a program that tries to keep addicts out of jail by providing treatment. "We're trying to give them hope, but by the same token, our world is shutting down."

While it's true telehealth may be an option for some people in need of substance abuse treatment it has its drawbacks.

Many of the patients Dr. Sheba Sethi — an addiction medicine doctor at Packard Health in Ann Arbor — works with don't have their own phones. "I did a call ... with a patient earlier this week and he didn't have a phone. He was borrowing someone else's phone. He missed my call three or four times," she said. "I had another patient earlier this week who had a minute phone. She kept saying, 'Dr. Sethi, are we done? Dr. Sethi, are we

done?'"

Other, usually older, patients aren't comfortable with virtual appointments.

Technology aside, outpatient treatment simply doesn't work for some people who need a more structured environment for recovery. "For your long term alcoholic who typically has to drink in the morning to stop the shakes, they will not be successful in (outpatient)," said Bammel. "They need a residential level of care." The same, she said, is true for opioid addicts.

All this is happening at a time when the danger of relapse is heightened.

Everyone is scared by this unprecedented pandemic, terrified about losing friends and family members and stressed by the economic downturn and loss of jobs. But for people who are recovering from substance abuse issues, the environment creates a perfect storm for relapse.

"For people in recovery, it's the fear and anxiety and stress that most people are feeling right now, coupled with that risk for relapse," said Monique Stanton, president and chief executive officer of CARE of Southeastern Michigan, which provides outpatient substance abuse treatment. "People who are typically in recovery have been impacted by some sort or trauma (which) magnifies, I think, the stress that everybody is already feeling."

The end result, said Bammel, is this: "We have a lot of people who have been clean and are relapsing and just trying to get away from how scary it is to deal with all of this."

People who have been clean for some time and return to drugs are more likely to overdose; their bodies are no longer accustomed to the drugs. They have lost their tolerance.

Not long ago, Sethi had a patient who died that way. "I think we're going to hear more stories like that that are just devastating," she said.

As a result, Bammel said, "I think we will see more overdose deaths."



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the job network

How to make an impression during a group interview

Eric Titner

If you've been in the work world for a while or are searching for your first big break, you're undoubtedly aware that there are few things as stressful as being on the hunt for a new job. On top of the fact that it's a high-stakes, winner-take-all experience and the competition to-day is fiercer than ever before, you typically have to go through the entire process many times before finding success—and every step of the way can be an anxiety-filled event.

Perhaps no step during the job search process fills candidates with more dread and worry than the interview, and for good reason – it's the moment that allows no do-overs or second chances, where the impression you make and your ability to thrive under pressure and sell yourself is fully put to the test. It's the time when top-tier candidates rise above the competition and move into the realm of serious consideration, while everyone else is left behind. Who wouldn't feel the pressure when an interview is on the horizon?

And on top of all that, some employers decide to turn up the heat on candidates even more and subject them to the often-dreaded group interview. Although this type of interview can take on many forms, the gist is simple: candidates are placed in a group discussion with other candidates and are left to either distinguish themselves and make a positive impression or get left behind. Thriving in an interview environment amidst a group of similarly eager applicants can be tricky for even the savviest and most skilled interviewee.

Luckily, you're not alone here - a little advanced prep can make a world of difference. The following tips can help you



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

make the most of your next group inter-

Arrive early

We're not saying show up hours early here but arriving about 15 minutes before your scheduled interview can make a big difference. Not only will it demonstrate that you're a punctual individual who's taking the interview seriously, but it may also give you a chance to get some valuable face time and make a good first impression with interviewers before the other candidates arrive.

Volunteer to go first

It's been said that fortune favors the

bold, and this holds true on group interviews. If an opportunity arises to respond first to a question, then seize it it will give you the chance to showcase your confidence and will also help you avoid having your answer seem boring or repetitive if it's similar to someone else's who speaks before you.

Don't hide

Part of what's being assessed in a group interview is your ability to stand out from others and make your voice heard. So, don't take a "hide in the back of the room and only speak when spoken to" approach here – it will only make you a forgettable face in the crowd. Taking every opportunity to speak and have

your thoughts heard during a group interview is the best way to make sure hiring personnel remember you when the interview is over.

Compliment your competition

This often-overlooked strategy is a great way to appear gracious, well-mannered, and poised during a group interview. Sure, everyone in the room knows it's a competition, but throwing eye daggers or verbal barbs won't help you make a positive impression. Instead, compliment a particularly on-point comment made by another candidate – it can really give off the impression that you're a thoughtful person and someone enjoyable to have as a colleague. (But please don't overdo it – everyone can tell when someone is being super-fake.)

Leave a lasting impression

When the interview is over, don't just quietly slither out of the room. Instead, take the opportunity to personally thank your interviewer(s) and consider making one last comment or compliment to help you leave a lasting impression. Again, it's all about standing out, and those who chose to do so before leaving are going to help make the case that they're a candidate worth serious consideration.

If you have a group interview coming up, or just want to be prepared for one in case it ever does come up along the job hunt trail, then consider using the strategies presented here to help you stand out from the crowd. Good luck!

Eric Titner has been an editor and content creator for more than a decade. His primary professional focus has been on education-and career-related topics. He currently lives in New York City.

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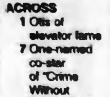
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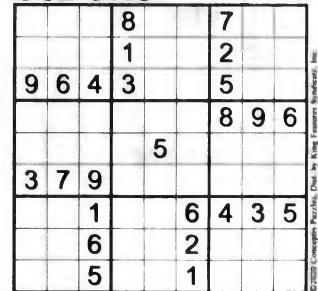
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For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or

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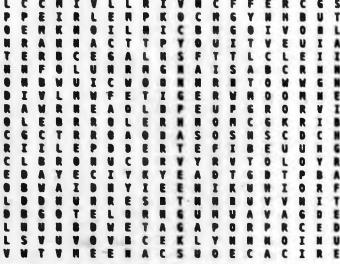
SUDOKU



Difficulty Level ###

Suddles puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoks, 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!

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Find the words hidden vertically northernally, dispensitly, and backwards.

WORDS

ANNUAL BARE ROOT BIENNIAL MID

BULB CME CLOCHE COMPOST CORDON CORM CROWN

CULTIVAR DEADHEAD DECIDUOUS ERICACEOUS **EVERBEARING** FERTILE FRANE GERMINATION GRAFTED

HARDY

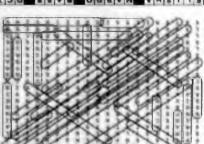
HERBACEOUS HYBRID MULCH ORGANIC PERENNIAL **POLLINATION** PROPAGATE REPRODUCING ROOTSTOCK

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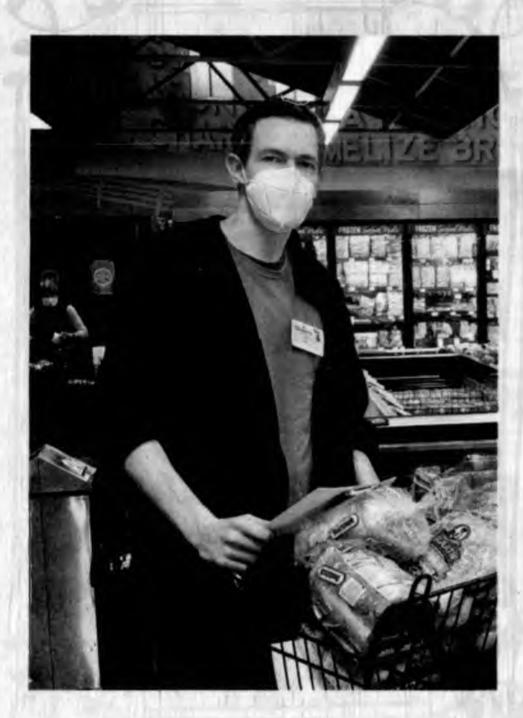
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