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THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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VILLE





RECORD

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

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



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

Parents, students, teacher talk about return to school



Lyon Twp. woman sets up lawn sign business

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

Like everyone else. Lisa Porter has been bored while stuck at home during the coronavirus pandemic.

So the Lyon Township resident devised a sign rental business for anyone celebrating birthdays, graduations or other big events at home.

"It just kept popping up in my news feed from friends that are in the South. It's real popular in the South," Porter said. "I just thought it looked really cool and then I looked into what kind of investment it was, and it wasn't crazy."

Thus, Yard Card Ninjas was born.

The name is taken from her children's love of athletics that earned them a spot several years back on "American Ninja Warrior Junior." Porter began placing signs up at homes and business in late May, usually in the early morning hours, then coming back the next day to take them down.

"I do this between 5 a.m. and 9 a.m., I don't do it at night. I like to do it in the light," she said.

The family began acquiring signs, obtaining enough letters, numbers and images for placement onto metal sign posts that go in a renter's front lawn. They've done birthdays for children and adults, several graduation parties and even put in some retirement celebration signs for customers.

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

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

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

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

Hometown Life asked some beachgoers at Kensington Metropark what

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

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

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

only education are simple: "I want to go back to school."

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

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

See SCHOOL, Page 8A

Election results online

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

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

App connects people, helps neighbors in gig economy

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A 47.4

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

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

launched I Need a Hand, a free, noncommissioned app that connects people who need help with tasks such as odd jobs and ride-sharing.

"I couldn't find anything online that could help me," VanMiddlesworth said. "And (Escamilla) is like, 'We can make an app. We can make an app just like

Uber to come and ... help you get the mattress out of the basement."

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

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

The app also gives users the ability to "pin" their location to somewhere other

See APP, Page 4A

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See LAWN SIGNS, Page 6A

2A | THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020 | O & E MEDIA (NR)

South Lyon schools cancel all activities

Students, staff member test positive for COVID-19

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A South Lyon student-athlete has tested positive for the coronavirus, according to an email sent July 31 to South Lyon Community Schools families and staff by Superintendent Steve Archibald.

All South Lyon High School activities are canceled until further notice, until further guidance has been given from the Oakland County Health Department.

The athlete last participated in South Lyon athletic activities the morning of July 29 in an outdoor conditioning session on the track.

Friday, The South Lyon football team canceled its practice, according to head coach Jeff Henson, out of precaution.

There has been an increase of COVID in our community," Henson said.

Archibald's letter to parents states the school is in the process of contacting the families of those who may have been exposed.

"All student-athletes take a daily screener prior to participating in any school activity," he said. "We have



South Lyon High School canceled all of its activities until further notice after a student-athlete tested positive for the coronavirus. On Monday, South Lyon East High School followed suit after a student and a staff member both tested positive for the virus. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

an established protocol that is being followed when an individual fails the screener. In addition, we have a protocol for when it has been reported that a studentathlete has been exposed to an individual with a confirmed case of COVID-19 or has tested positive. This protocol includes notifying the local health depart-

ment and following their guidance.

"We will cancel activities as is warranted based on the individual circumstances. We also notify the families of the team involved so they can take any additional precautions they deem necessary."

Monday afternoon, the district sent another letter, informing families a South Lyon East staff member and a student both tested positive for COVID-19.

The staff member who tested positive was last at the athletic field on July 29, and had limited contact with students. The student who tested positive last practiced at South Lyon East's football field July 23.

East high school activities which may have been impacted were canceled until further notice.

Earlier this month, a South Lyon East student athlete tested positive for the coronavirus. That student attended a morning conditioning practice at the South Lyon East football field June 29 and an evening conditioning practice at Pearson Elementary School on June 30.

The district followed up July 12 to families and staff indicating the Oakland County Health Department confirmed there was no exposure at a South Lyon Community Schools site on either June 29 or June 30 with respect to this case.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Help St. Jude's, even without outing

For the last 14 years, we have sponsored a golf outing for some very sick children at St. Jude Children's Hospital.

I am very sad to say this year's golf outing is canceled because of the

COVID-19 cases spiking. I still want to help Amos Muzyad Yaqoob Kairouz; you might know him as Danny Thomas. In 1955, Danny had a dream to start a hospital in honor

of St. Jude. The hospital opened in

1962 and you know the rest; 57 years later, Danny's dream is still alive. All proceeds go to St. Jude Children's Hospital,

where no child is ever denied treatment because of family inability to pay. We are requesting donations to help some very sick children. If you would like to do-

nate, please make your check payable to Knights of Columbus #7444. Earmark them St. Jude. Checks can be mailed to John Rogers, 3101 Sands

248-714-5353.

P.S. Next time you see a commercial about the children at St. Jude Children's Hospital battling some kind of cancer, please look at their faces, especially the fear in their eyes. The second thing is the parents: the fear in their eyes as they watch and pray for their child who is very sick and has cancer. Remember, no child should die in the dawn of life.

John Rogers Milford

MDOT reveals plans for US-23 Flex Route extension

related improvements,

including new round-

US-23 Flex Route on

nearly nine miles of the

highway between M-14

near Ann Arbor north to

M-36. It features over-

head signs which alert

motorists to when the

third flex lane is open and

traffic conditions ahead

such as crashes and sug-

flex route was part of a

\$92 million revamp of

US-23 between M-14 and

Construction of the

gested speeds.

In November 2017,

launched the

abouts.

MDOT

Jennifer Timer

Livingston Daily USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

State road officials say the US-23 Flex **Route in Livingston and** Washtenaw counties has eased congestion, but also created some problems, including an uptick in crashes on the northbound side and issues where the route ends near M-36 in Green Oak Township.

Nonetheless, the Michigan Department of Transportation will extend the flex route to Interstate 96 near Brighton.

More than \$150 million in construction will Silver Lake Road south of extend the flex route, an Brighton, which also inexperiment in traffic cluded replacing over-

The project will also route. involve revamping interchanges, along with other

MDOT officials said a major issue is that crashes are up in the northbound lanes in the afternoon. There has been a concentration of crashes at M-36 when the flex route ends and the highway goes back down to two lanes.

"Because of the endpoint at M-36, the biggest benefit of the extension will be the northbound direction in the afternoon," MDOT regional planner Kari Martin said.

Referencing crash data from 2015-2019, Martin said the northbound side saw 228 crashes on average a year, while the southbound side saw 99 crashes.

"Not surprisingly, we

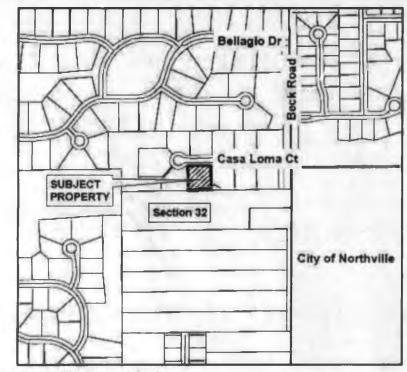
Court, Milford, MI 48380. Any questions, call

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, August 12, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. on the Zoom Video Conference electronic meeting platform to consider CASA LOMA UNIT 4. PSP20-0052 FOR A WOODLAND PERMIT APPROVAL. The subject property totals approximately 0.80 acres and is located at 47685 Casa Loma Court, north of Eight Mile Road, west of Beck Road (Section

32). The applicant is requesting to remove twenty six regulated woodland trees in order to construct a single-family residential structure on their lot.

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



Subject Parcel ID's: 50-22-32-201-004

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 August 12, 2020 Planning Commission meeting.

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
- Click the link provided to join the meeting

Members of the public participatifig 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.cityofnovi.org. Comments shall be done prior to 7 p.m. on the day of the meeting. The electronic form can be found at: <u>www.cityofnovi.org/</u> pccomment

In compliance with Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-154, 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 August 6, 2020

management that allows motorists to drive on the left-hand shoulders on the southbound side during morning rush hour and the northbound side during evening rush hour and other times when congestion is high.

passes, building new roundabouts, upgrading ramps and fixing pavement.

Officials told participants of a virtual public meeting the extension is expected to help reduce crashes and improve congestion along the whole

also found that a high percentage of these crashes were rear-end crashes, which are typically tied to various forms of congestion," she said.

MDOT officials are considering installing three new roundabouts at M-36, one at Whitmore Lake Road and two at the north- and southbound ramps, according to preliminary design illustrations.

Two new options for the Silver Lake Road interchange are under consideration, one being two roundabouts at Whitmore Lake Road and **Fieldcrest Drive. Officials** are also looking into the viability of installing a traffic light over the highway.

By 2045, US-23 in Livingston County is predicted to see an increase in traffic.

In November, before COVID-19 shutdowns reduced travel, MDOT planners took traffic counts and reviewed data predicting regional traffic forecasting by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

They calculated a 0.5% increase in traffic, especially at interchanges, in 25 years.

'This is higher than the rest of the region, which is one of the reasons MDOT is looking at this corridor..." MDOT consultant Sarah Binkowski, with HNBT, said. "While we are seeing some congestion right now in 2020, we expect there to be even more congestion in 2045, especially at the interchanges where we'll see some of the traffic backing up, specifically at the Silver Lake Road interchange."

hometownlife.com **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers** PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Northville Record (USPS# 396880) is published weekly (Thursday) by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 160 W Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48226. Perior/icals postage is paid at Detroit, MI and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Northville Record, 160 W Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48226.

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Mobile: 248-396-3870 Email: pallmen@hometownlife.com Follow us on Faceboook: @OEHometown

Subscription Rates: Newsstand price: \$1.50 \$65 per 12 months home delivery

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(NR) HOMETOWNLIFE.COM | THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020 | 3A

Canton man's comet photo caps frenetic journey

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

With his adrenaline surging into overdrive, a Canton man staged a whirlwind 24-hour journey across Michigan to capture a breathtaking photograph of a celestial body that won't be visible in these parts for another 68,000 years, give or take a few years.

Awadhut Munj, a Ford Motor Company engineer whose hobbies include astronomy and photography, ultimately

snapped a stunning shot of the comet NEOWISE, the brightest such object to pass earth in the past 23 years.

Munj's eye-pleasing image, taken following an adventurous statewide Munj chase, resembles a Pure

Michigan advertisement, enhanced with Ludington's Little Sable Point Lighthouse in the foreground and framed at the bottom by Lake Michigan and a golden-hued horizon.

"Once I saw a preview of the image on my camera, I was just amazed ... so happy," said Munj, whose quest to capture the comet commenced days before he finally secured the elusive image.

Once posted on a Canton Township community Facebook page, the image generated hundreds of reactions and dozens of comments in less than 48 hours. One admirer posted: "Awesome. Looks like a painting."

Creating the masterpiece was anything but easy for Munj, who initiated his photography adventure by setting his alarm clock for 4 a.m. one mid-July morning and walking outside his Canton apartment near Palmer and Morton Taylor roads.

"I knew which direction to look, but the comet was visible near the horizon and there were too many trees blocking my vision," he said.

After an unsuccessful early-morning attempt less than a mile away from his residence the following night, Munj and his wife drove to Canton's Independence Park, which is located in a more ru-



Canton resident Awadhut Munj captured this photograph of the comet NEOWISE on July 19. COURTESY OF AWADHUT MUNJ

ral setting, away from bright lights.

"The only problem with that," Munj shared, is that the park closes at 10 p.m. and the comet isn't visible until around 4:30 a.m. So that location didn't work."

With the assistance of bloggers who shared Munj's passion for photographing the comet, he and a friend packed a few essentials on the morning of July 18 and made the nearly three-hour trek to Port Austin, a city in Michigan's thumb that sits near Lake Huron.

"All of the information we had collected said that Port Austin would be an optimal location to photograph the comet," Munj said. "However, it turned out to be a disappointment with a lessthan-desirable view of the comet."

Munj returned to Canton that night before turning to Plan B, which required another three-hour drive the nex morning, this time to Michigan's west coast.

"I was determined to get a decent photo of the comet, and another threehour drive wasn't about to stop me," he said.

On July 19, not long after sunset, Munj and approximately 15 other comet chasers discovered they had hit the mother lode of NEOWISE photography locations.

"Believe it or not, seeing the comet with the naked eye was more beautiful than the photo," he revealed. "It was funny because, although the comet is actually traveling very fast, it appeared to be motionless in the sky. This gave me time to try different camera settings."

With his image secured on a memory card, Munj drove back to Canton that night and was in his Ford Motor Company office the next morning.

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

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, August 12, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. on the Zoom Video Conference electronic meeting platform to consider BECK NORTH UNITS 4 & 52, JSP 20-12 FOR PLANNING COMMISSION'S CONSIDERATION OF PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN. WOODLAND PERMIT AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN. The subject Hudson Drive s approxima 3.49 acres and is local and south of Cartier Drive. The applicant is proposing 31,617 square feet for office/warehouse use in the I-1 Light Industrial District.

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

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

Health inspections take place yearround at restaurants and other places with commercial kitchens, although they have slowed down in recent months as dining rooms were ordered closed by the state to help stop the spread of the coronavirus, which has in-

fected tens of thousands statewide since first being found in Michigan in March.

Dining rooms were allowed to reopen in early June.

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

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

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

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



Subject Parcel ID's: 50-22-04-376-011 & 50-22-04-376-017

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Novi Planning Commission Michael Lynch, Secretary

Publish August 6, 2020





4A I THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020 I O& EMEDIA (NNNR)

Mortgage rates at historic lows; is it time to refinance?



Aoney Matters Rick Bloom Guest columnist

I used to think that in my 35-plus years in the financial industry, I had seen it all. Then came the coronavirus. We have entered a new world and things will be different moving forward.

That being said, something just happened that I never thought would happen: for the first time in history, a 30year fixed rate mortgage was below 3 percent.

When I started my career, a 30-year fixed rate mortgage averaged between 14 percent and 15 percent. When I got my very first mortgage in the early '80s, I went with a 12% percent adjustable rate mortgage.

Low mortgage rates can create opportunities. However, with opportunities also come mine fields that are important to understand.

When you hear mortgage companies advertise rates at below 3 percent, that doesn't necessarily mean you are going to qualify for that rate. One key factor is your credit score. The higher your credit score, the lower the interest rate.

It is not unusual for credit reports to have errors, and those can result in you paying a higher rate of interest. If you are thinking of refinancing or buying a new home, review your credit report as soon as possible and begin the process of disputing any errors. Typically, under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the credit bureau has 30 days to investigate your claim. To get a free copy of your credit report, check out annualcreditreport. com. Usually you can only get a free credit report once a year; however, due to the pandemic, you can now get your credit report weekly for free.

When it comes to refinancing your mortgage, the costs that you pay to refinance are important in determining whether it makes sense to refinance.

Your goal of refinancing is to improve your financial position; it is not to make money for the mortgage company. Some mortgage companies have gotten very creative as to their fees. That is why when you receive a bid from a mortgage company, you need to find out the total out-the-door cost of the mortgage.

My general rule is that by having lower mortgage payments, if you can recoup the cost of the refinance within a two- to three-year period, and you plan to be in the home at least five years, then it pays to refinance.

To me, a good mortgage company not only explains all the options available to you, but is also transparent with their fees. Therefore, do your homework when it comes to rates and costs, and make sure you're dealing with a quality company.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor.

App

Continued from Page 1A

than their home, such as a public library or police station, which allows for greater privacy for users. The system allows messages between users so long as both agree to a task, and employs a five-star rating system updated through user experiences.

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

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

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

"It's the first official ride-share that



I Need a Hand was launched July 24.



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

looked them up on the app and I did not know him."

While the app is designed for business transactions, VanMiddlesworth said he expects some users may use it to give back. He said he hopes to see people adjust their settings to include essentially just their neighborhood and set their rate at free.

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

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

The idea, Escamilla said, was to make that a sticking point to attract people.

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

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

The app is available on both iOS and Android.

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

I've seen on the app," he said. "I just

Comprehensive **Stroke Center in Novi**

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Ascension Providence Hospital in Novi is certified as a Comprehensive Stroke Center, which means we provide the highest level of care for stroke. Should you or your loved one need it, you'll have access to advanced training, technology and capabilities, all in one location. Our stroke specialists work quickly to understand your situation and deliver the care you need, including follow-up care, when you need it.



To talk to a doctor about your risk for stroke, call 844-960-1435

If you are experiencing a life-threatening emergency, go directly to the ER or dial 911



Ascension Providence (NNNR) HOMETOWNLIFE.COM | THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020 | 5A

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

Reserve at West Bloomfield is Now Open

Enjoy luxury living at its finest at Toll Brothers' newest community in Michigan

Homebuyers looking for ranch-style homes are invited to visit Reserve at West Bloomfield, the newest Metro-Detroit community from Toll Brothers, America's Luxury Home Builder^a. Located in the heart of West Bloomfield just north of Maple Road on the east side of Haggerty Road, Reserve at West Bloomfield is minutes away from upscale shopping, fine dining, entertainment, and everyday conveniences. The community features three ranch-style home designs with spacious floor plans and well-appointed finishes. Two-story home designs are also available with first-floor primary bedroom suites and second-floor loft areas with additional bedrooms.

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

"Reserve at West Bloomfield offers an outstanding lifestyle for those who are seeking luxury homes with single-level living," said Alex Martin, Toll Brothers Midwest Division President. "The low-maintenance aspect allows homeowners to spend more time enjoying the activities that fit their lifestyle - whether it is swimming at the clubhouse or taking a peaceful stroll on the nature trail, or just simply enjoying their beautiful home with family and friends."

Homebuyers are encouraged to be among the first to tour the brand-new ranch model home, the Berks Craftsman. On par with the latest designer trends, the Berks offers an exciting glimpse into the hundreds of options offered for personalization including a gourmet kitchen open to the great room



Reserve at West Bloomfield offers modern, craftsman exterior styles

with stone fireplace, private study, luxurious primary bedroom suite, and must-see finished basement.

The Waltham, the second professionally decorated model home at Reserve at West Bloomfield, is opening soon. The new model boasts an expansive design with a two-story family room, spacious first-floor primary bedroom suite, plus private secondary bedrooms and loft space on the second floor. Toll Brothers offers a variety of pre-priced structural options for every floor plan and an endless selection of interior finishes to choose from at the Toll Brothers Design Studio in Plymouth. Experienced Design Consultants provide expertise to guide each homebuyer through the process of creating their dream home.

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

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Lisa Porter, right, talks about her family business, Yard Card Ninjas, as her husband, Steve, left, and children Riley and Nick set up a "happy birthday" greeting on a neighbor's lawn in South Lyon. Rental for this particular decoration costs \$99 for one day and includes setup and removal. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Lawn signs

Continued from Page 1A

The company has taken off, Porter said, with as many as six signs going up a day at homes and businesses, all of which are looking for some cheer.

The Porters are focusing their time on the communities that surround them, gearing the business toward South Lyon, Milford, Brighton, Howell and Whitmore Lake. However, they are willing to travel farther if they get a special request – they have gone as far as Canton and Beverly Hills – though the sign rental costs a bit more to cover the additional mileage.

Yard Card Ninjas sets up signs for graduations and birthdays for one day; birth announcement signs stay up for three days. Porter works with her family to set up and remove the signs. She said she has probably acquired several hundred lawn signs, including some that follow themes, from sports to "Harry Potter."

Her company, along with several others, has seen an increase in interest the last few months as people stayed home amid the pandemic. While people weren't spending the money on big graduation or birthday parties for their children, having a sign on their front lawn became a special way to celebrate in a coronavirus pandemic world.

"It's fun. It's a splurge for people to do," Porter said. "It's not something they have to have. If they do it, it's because they're excited to celebrate something."

For more information about Yard Card Ninjas, visit the company online at yardcardninjas.net.

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



Steve and Riley set up some lawn-sign letters for a Yard Card Ninjas customer.





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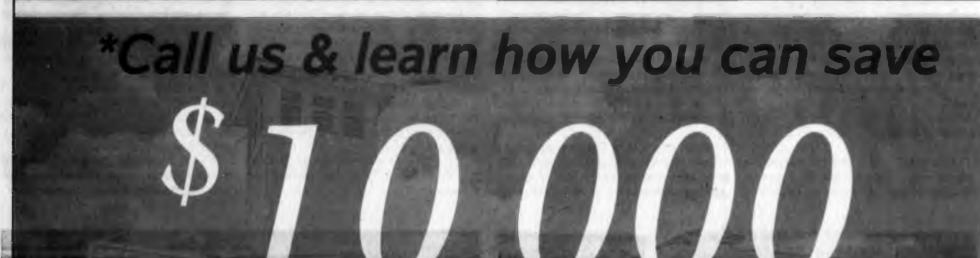
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School

Continued from Page 1A

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

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

Mike adds that it is a risk-benefit equation.

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

'A testing ground'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Missing links

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



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

school this past spring as difficult, surprising and long.

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

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

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

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

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

Normal not an option

Kelli Thorn is a Canton mother of three children. Sons Charles and Marshall are due to enter 11th and 10th grades, respectively, at Plymouth High School. Saniah will be an eighth grader, due to return to Pioneer Middle School.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Saniah turns to her brothers for help if she needs it, but she misses her friends. 'We're not going to live in fear'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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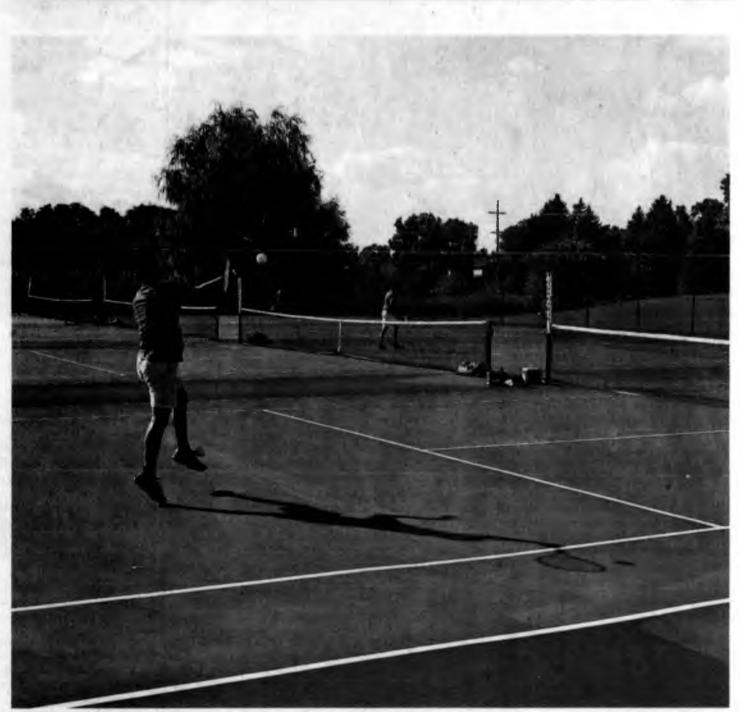


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SPORTS



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

Tennis, cross country first test for high school sports





Starting a new adventure

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

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

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

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

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

My time at IU helped me secure internships all across the country from small newspapers like the Pharos Tribune (Logansport, Ind.) and Evansville Courier & Press (Evansville, Ind.) to larger media outlets like the Arizona Republic (Phoenix) and Sports Illustrated (New York City). After my postgrad fellowship at the Republic concluded, I came back to Michigan where

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

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

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

But right now, these sports are test subjects.

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

See TEST, Page 2B



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

I've been able to cover Michigan athletics for The Wolverine, local news for WHMI radio and finally high school sports here at Hometown Life.

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

See ADVENTURE, Page 28

Michigan Hawks promote girls youth soccer in major way

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Michele Krzisnik grew up playing for a lot of female coaches.

Along with her time with the Michigan Hawks girls recreation league in the fall, she played for Mary-Kay Hussey at Livonia Stevenson, winning a state title with the Spartans in 1990. To Krzisnik, these coaches helped her find ways of holding herself to the highest standards. She held herself accountable because she had

others holding her ac- Krzisnik . countable. She was shaped by women soccer coaches, molding her into an eventual two-time team captain at Michigan.

But for Krzisnik, Hussey was also the first one, during a freshman year practice, to develop an inkling of interest into what she would dedicate the rest of her life to.

"I remember one day when she was talking, I was thinking to myself, 'You know what, I could see myself doing this someday,' " Krzisnik said. Now, Krzisnik's life's work to to develop that into the players she coaches, working as the director of coaching for the Michigan Hawks, a girls recreational soccer league that has been a staple in Livonia since 1974 with the goal of developing not only good athletes, but good people through the sport of soccer.

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MHSAA releases plan for phased-in fall season

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

not be as focused on safety. Our athletic building a safe postseason for our athdirectors and coaches can provide the letes."

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

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

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

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

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

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

Test

Continued from Page 1B

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

Tennis takes the lead

Rob McLaren was not surprised by the MHSAA announcement. While some of the specifics may have one time.

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

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

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

can do it right."

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

Ready to run

Cross country will be forced to make changes ahead of the upcoming season as well. tang Invite, an annual early season race that has brought as many as 20 teams in the past to compete. Dalton said he could not find a way to keep this event safe for everyone involved.

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

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

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

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

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

However, it will look a bit different.

The MHSAA announced that no preseason scrimmages will be held in the fall to limit exposure between separate programs. Also, in tennis schools will be limited to hosting only four teams at Since the pandemic started and Dupret has taken over the North Farmington tennis program, he said he has added 60 more players to the team, creating a junior varsity program they did not have in the past.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Northville officially canceled its Mus-

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

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

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

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

Adventure

Continued from Page 1B

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

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

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

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



Sports reporter Andrew Vailliencourt covers a softball game in 2019. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

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

will miss being around players and teams up close and I will miss the thrill of the sports landscape from a media perspective, but it's time for a change. The journalism industry has continued to change dramatically, looking vastly different now compared to just a few years ago, let alone when I first started undergrad. Being able to sustain a 30-40 year career in this field just doesn't seem that plausible anymore, especially for anyone that wants to start a family. As any journalist will tell you we certainly don't do this job for the money.

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

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

I may not be in the press box any more, but I will always be a fan in the stands. (NNNR) HOMETOWNLIFE.COM | THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020 | 38

What we know so far about HS fall sports

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

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

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

Will sports be played in the fall?

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

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

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

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

What about football, volleyball and boys soccer?

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Will there be fans in the stands?

All we know now is that spectators will be limited.

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

What now?

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Hawks

Continued from Page 1B

It's a work that Catholic Central head soccer coach Gene Pulice has seen from afar, something that mesmerized him each season he coached with Krzisnik the only female director of coaching in the state - and the Michigan Hawks.

"We produce these kids, we develop these kids through seeing qualities that other people don't see," Pulice said. "There may be someone who is viewed as an underdog or whatever, but we see qualities in them, they nurture them and help them develop into really quality athletes and really quality people, secured, empowered young women."

Setting the tone

After a college experience of studying engineering, Krzisnik, much to her mother's chagrin, found her way back to the youth fields.

"My mom thought it was crazy," Krzisnik said. "I went to Michigan and she was like, 'Why are you coaching soccer?' "

Taking a job as an assistant coach at Oakland, the Michigan graduate found she had a knack for coaching youth soccer, taking her first head coaching job for a team of 8 year old girls in the "Little Hawks" program, returning to the league where she got her start.

From that point forward, Krzisnik has helped the Hawks become a hotbed for girls soccer talent across the country. The Hawks are in the Top 20 of girls soccer clubs around the country - finishing as high as third in 2017 - and is currently No. 12.

Krzisnik has been a major part of this development, earning the National Coach of the Year from both the United Soccer Coaches organization and Michigan State Youth Soccer Association in 2014, and having coached three Gatorade Players of the Year and two Miss Soccer Players of the Year.

Pulice said the prestige of the Hawks makes college coaches notice, creating opportunities for youth players from Livonia and the metro Detroit area to continue their soccer career at the next level, providing the next step for many female athletes.

With the emergence of Title IX in 1972, along with the increase in popular-



Michele Krzisnik played with the Michigan Hawks youth club when she was a kid. COURTESY OF MAC MIDGLEY

ity of girls soccer over the past 20 years, Krzisnik said that opportunities and scholarships are there for the taking for many youth and high school players.

"Once you have the talent and are able to play at a certain level, there is a certain thought that like, 'Hey, I can do this at the next level, and I might even be

able to get some of my education paid for," Krzisnik said.

Now, Krzisnik said it is her job to create an environment that is promoting what the club has always promoted.

"I think it's an environment that's supportive," Krzisnik said. "I think it's an environment that promotes strength of character, strength of will, just getting out there making sure that you are feeling confident about what you are doing, which helps you in all areas of your life.

"For me, being part of a team and being in that environment, I think, just helps you become a stronger person."

Devotion to the girls game

Adil Salmoni plays a major role in keeping that environment alive.

Serving as the Hawks technical director and a coach, Salmoni preaches to the players on his team the core values that should guide their behavior and action.

On the field, he tells them to be aware, conclusive and efficient. Off the field, he says it's about attitude, competitiveness and effort: each simply remembered as ACE.

Salmoni's journey to coaching was much like Krzisnik's: playing soccer from an early age, helping out in a coaching role as a graduate engineering student at Michigan.

However, he was drawn to the girls game by a high school athletic director in Ann Arbor, simply asking him, 'Do you want to coach the girls?'

"The reason why they asked me, and I didn't realize it, but there is not a lot of people who wanted to coach girls in high school, coach girls in general," Salmoni said." A lot of the coaches were not really interested in doing that."

But when he came to the Hawks, joining Krzisnik and Doug Landefeld, he saw a club that was entirely devoted to the girls game, people devoted to making the experience of the players better.

He saw devotion to a game that he had never seen devotion toward before.

And this remains Krzisnik's continued goal: to help female athletes find their voice, to gain confidence within sports.

"It's really about the full scope of trying to create an environment to push them to be good people, to give back to everyone in society and to be accepting of people, yet find a way to find themselves and be who they are in a safe environment and not be afraid to speak their mind," Krzisnik said.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@ hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter at @ColinGayI7. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.



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U-M vs. OSU could be played in September

Joey Kaufman The Columbus Dispatch USA TODAY NETWORK

Jack Park has documented decades of Ohio State football history. But he could witness something new this fall.

The Big Ten's decision to play only conference games during the 2020 season could bring dramatic changes to the Buckeyes' slate, including their biggest rivalry game.

Athletic director Gene Smith said earlier this month that a consideration for administrators is frontloading schedules with divisional matchups, prioritizing the most important games.

Such a scheduling model could turn the Ohio State-Michigan game into an early-season affair, a break from longstanding tradition.

Almost exclusively since 1935, the Buckeyes and Wolverines have played on the final weekend of the regular season in an often-climactic matchup between the powerhouse programs.

While a meeting in September or October would be nontraditional, Park, a longtime historian of the Buckeyes' program, thought the idea makes sense for a season played during a coronavirus pandemic.

"I don't think it'd bother the rivalry very much," Park said, "because I think everybody would look at it as a temporary thing and it's being done for the right reasons: to have a much better chance of playing the game rather than waiting until the last weekend of November when there's maybe a greater chance we wouldn't be playing football.

"In my opinion, I'd rather see it played in September if there's a greater chance of it being played."

It is not unprecedented for "The Game" to be held before November; it just hasn't happened since 1933, when the United States was in the throe. of the Great Depression and the University of Chicago still sponsored a Big Ten football team.

Twenty-one of the first 30 meetings between the Buckeyes and Wolverines were held in October. No game, though, was played earlier than Oct. 15.

As the series grew more competitive - Michigan went 13-0-2 against OSU before the Buckeyes' first wir, in 1919 the game turned into a fixture on the No-



Big Ten football fans will only see conference games this season like Ohio State-Michigan. JOE MAIORANA/USA TODAY SPORTS

vember calendar.

"It was becoming a really big game, everybody was looking forward to it every year, and both schools thought, 'Why don't we make this the last game of the season for the both of us?" Park said. "I don't know which school initiated it, but both schools were always really glad that they did that."

An early-season meeting might better ensure "The Game" continues for a 103rd consecutive season, especially if potential outbreaks of COVID-19 prevent the season from reaching its finish line. But it would also likely change the tenor of the rivalry this fall.

In most seasons, the game looms large in the background, a final hurdle for the teams to clear in their pursuit of a Big Ten championship.

Most recent meetings have served as

de facto Big Ten East title games for Ohio State, with an appearance in the conference championship game in Indianapolis on the line.

The Buckeyes are 8-0 in the rivalry since 2011 and have won 17 of 19 matchups since 2000.

The season-long buildup is immense enough that the Buckeyes go through "Team Up North" drills throughout the year in preparation for facing their archrival, a routine continued last fall under first-year coach Ryan Day.

A meeting with Michigan is never far from players' minds.

"There's such a focus on it because it leads to the climax of your season," said James Laurinaitis, a former Butkus Award-winning linebacker for Ohio State who now co-hosts a radio show on WBNS-FM.

"It's a natural progression. We can't get to Indy and enjoy what we want until we beat Michigan. And we can't achieve a national championship until we win the Big Ten and beat Michigan. That's kind of the way you're trained to view the rivalry and view the game and everything that goes with it."

If they meet earlier this season, the Buckeyes might hold an advantage.

They're widely considered among the preseason favorites to win a national championship and feature a host of prominent returning starters, notably quarterback Justin Fields.

Meanwhile, the Wolverines will break in a new starter under center following the departure of Shea Patterson.

"They won't have time to kind of build up to what they are and build ે chemistry," Laurinaitis said.

CLOG-FREE GUTTERS



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11 plants children will love to grow in a home garden

Mary Hance Nashville Tennessean | USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

Gardening can be a fun, inexpensive and tasty educational project for children, especially if you set the stage for success. Tyree Jordan, a science teacher at Tennessee's Episcopal School of Nashville, is helping plant that seed. • Jordan has turned the school garden into a handson year-round science laboratory for his students, who range from pre-kindergarten to sixth grade. • "There is so much that children can learn from gardening," he said, explaining that his school's gardening classes are designed to not only provide science lessons on life cycles and how things grow, but also to teach sustainability by composting and capturing the rain off the school roof to water the garden. See GARDEN, Page 7B

Spanking on the decline in American homes

Serena Gordon HealthDay

American kids have something to celebrate: Spanking has hit a new low.

About one in three parents said they spanked their kids in 2017 compared to 50% in 1993, new research shows.

"Fewer parents are spanking, and I think it's helpful for people to know that and that there are tools that are more effective than spanking," said Christopher Mehus, lead author of a new study. He's a researcher with the Institute for Translational Research in Children's Mental Health in Minneapolis.

But Mehus isn't looking to shame parents who still rely on corporal punishment.

"Parenting is one of the hardest jobs

training for parents," he said. "We really need to do a better job at supporting parents and setting them up for success with alternative parenting strategies."

The American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP) policy on discipline says spanking isn't an effective way to discipline a child. It may even backfire by teaching a child to be more aggressive.

The AAP advises parents to avoid it. It suggests that they instead set rules and expectations and reward good behavior.

To gauge what effect - if any - experts' advice to avoid spanking had on its use. Mehus and his colleague, Megan Patrick, looked at annual rates of spanking over 25 years.

The study included more than 16,000 parents at age 35. All were living with a

there is, and there's no education and 2- to 12-year-old child and 86% were married. About 42% had a college degree. Slightly more than half were women, and more than three-quarters were white people.

> The parents were asked how often they spanked their kids.

> Spanking declined by 15 percentage points over the 25-year period. The decline was similar for women and men, though slightly higher for men, the researchers said.

> Parents of 2- to 4-year-olds saw an even bigger shift - their use of corporal punishment dropped from 60% to 39%, according to the report published online as a letter in the July 27 JAMA Pediatrics.

> Dr. Michael Grosso, chief medical officer and acting chair of pediatrics at Huntington Hospital in Huntington, N.Y., re

viewed the results.

Spanking can teach a young child that physical violence against another person is acceptable, Grosso said.

This is true whether spanking is carried out dispassionately as a planned intervention or as an expression of anger, he added.

"It is very good news that the incidence of this behavior - either because of our advice or for other societal reasons - is clearly in the decline," Grosso said.

So what's a better approach?

Mehus, father of a 4-year-old, said timeouts can be helpful when used in a particular way.

"Timeout should be a short, five-minute break in a safe place, near a parent. A timeout gives everyone involved a chance to take a breath," he said.

Garden

Continued from Page 6B

His curriculum also highlights healthful eating choices ("We eat what we grow," he says.) and cultivating caretaking and teamwork in daily life.

"The garden is a laboratory. We talk about matter and how it flows through the ecosystem. We talk about composting and watch it break down," Jordan said. "It's very hands on as we do it and watch it, instead of just seeing videos or reading about it."

Jordan's students enjoy growing herbs and greens, flowers and assorted root vegetables, which are always full of surprises.

"All of the kids really enjoy it because there is something for everyone," he said.

The children engage in different ways: Some love the hands-on work with earthworms; some thrive on the math aspect of calculating how much compost it takes for a six- foot- long raised bed: some like pruning the plants (they likened it to trimming hair in a beauty parlor); and some love the business aspect of taking their harvest to the East Nashville Farmers Market to give away.

Pam Swoner, director of the Davidson **County Extension Master Gardener** Youth programming, has run a gardening day camp for children in past summers and agrees that children can "learn a lot in that little square or a container."

"My grandson is 5, and we started a raised bed a few weeks ago," she said. "We talk about measuring, math, spacing, what he likes to eat, nutrition, why we need to water; and now he is picking beans."

11 proven winners to plant with kids

We asked Jordan, Swoner and UT Extension Agent David Cook to suggest good plants to grow with children. Here are their picks:

Carrots: Jordan said, "Carrots are the most fun. A lot of the kids don't know that a carrot has a leaf on it. And the seeds are so tiny. They can't believe that that little tiny seed is now a great big carrot."

Sunflowers: "They are fascinated with them," Jordan said. "Sunflowers are so hardy and they grow so big. They are fun to watch since you can see them turn toward the sun. Even when they die, you can use the stem as a trellis to tie up other plants. And you can keep the seeds to plant next year, or roast them to eat."

Zinnias: Cook said zinnia flowers are

Kids work in a garden at the Episcopal School of Nashville in Tennessee. HANDOUT Patio Tomatoes: Cook said, "Patio tomatoes are determinate plants that grow to a certain height and then stop growing taller, which makes them an ideal plant for containers." They are very productive for their size, producing as many as 50 fruits per plant over an 8week harvest.

Stevia: "Stevia can be described as a somewhat plain-looking plant, but once you have placed one small leaf in your mouth, you will never want to use sugar again," Cook said. "Stevia is native to Paraguay and Brazil, where it has been used as a natural sweetener for centuries. Stevia is much sweeter than sugar, but it has no calories, which is why it has become extremely popular as a sweetener. Stevia is grown as an annual."

Potatoes: "Nothing says 'surprise' better than potatoes," she said. "They can easily be grown on a patio in a container or grow bag. Just make sure you purchase seed potatoes. The ones you purchase in the grocery have been treated, so they will not grow in your garden." Pumpkins: "If you have room, chil-

dren love pumpkins. They grow slowly, so patience is a must for pumpkins."

Okra: "Okra loves our hot, humid weather and requires little care. The blooms are beautiful, produce is prolific; ι Teach the children to pull weeds as they and the kids can pick and eat raw. A good choice is Candle Fire okra."

Cucumbers: "Bush Pickle is great for containers. It takes up much less space than other cucumbers and does not require a trellis. If you want to grow a cucumber that climbs, try the General Lee.

General advice for gardening with kids

Start small and include plants with a short growing season.

Commit to 15-20 minutes a week, and choose plants that are easy to grow.

Read seed packet labels, and plant and tend to accordingly.

Everything should be safe to eat.

ao

Cook said that if you are growing in containers or small raised beds, look for vegetable seed packets labeled as "space saver," "bush type" or 'compact.



fun because they come in a variety of colors, including pink, red, purple, orange, yellow, lavender, white and green. "Zinnias attract hummingbirds, butterflies and beneficial insects." He said it is best to grow zinnias from seed in the garden bed, rather than transplant them.

Swoner's suggestions include: Beans: "Try several different types of

bush beans. They mature quickly, come in different colors, and you can compare their taste. Choose a purple bush bean and watch it turn a bright green color when cooked."

Herbs, like basil and mint: "Adding herbs to your containers is the perfect way to add sensory interest for your children to explore. You can choose a few fun recipes and complement them with herbs from your garden."



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Is remote work here to stay after the pandemic ends?

Julia Poliak 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.



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.

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



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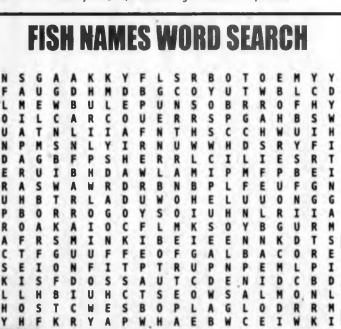
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Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzlesareformatted as a 9x9 grid, broken intonine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number canappearonlyonceineachrow, columnandbox. 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!



Find the words higden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards

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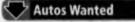
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For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles"

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