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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



## Pandemic may squash Sakura Novi project

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

A once promising Asian-themed development is teetering on the edge of a pandemic cliff.

Scott Aikens, developer of the Sakura Novi project, painted a picture of doom and gloom for restaurants and retail as he requested a six-month extension on

a purchase agreement for the Grand our hands, but we haven't made pro-River property.

The council expressed its frustration with changes to the development, years in the making, as its focus on restaurants and retail has evolved into a focus on ever-increasing high-density housing. The development plans still call for

One World Market as its anchor store. "I understand we have a pandemic on

gress and there is an evolution of plans that is not loyal to the original vision," Councilman Justin Fischer said. "I am inclined to let the agreement lapse."

"We are in a black swan pandemic and the restaurant industry is doomed," Aikens said, projecting that 80% of independent restaurants and 20% of chain restaurants could go under.

He continued the dire forecast, saying the Village of Rochester Hills was down millions of dollars, and that restaurants including Claddagh's Irish Pub and Bravo's on Haggerty in Livonia were "going dark." He also wondered how many stores were going bankrupt in Twelve Oaks Mall.

See PROJECT, Page 4A



Muir Middle School students and staff practice social distancing on the soccer field on the first day of school Aug. 31. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# First day of school brings excitement, nervousness

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

First-day-of-school jitters were in full effect Aug. 31 at Muir Middle School in the Huron Valley Schools District.

Students, parents and staff members were nervous, but also excited.

Maddalyn Presnell, a sixth grader, stayed closed to mom Lauri Kennedy. When asked how she felt about the first day, Presnell shook her head.

"Nervous," she said, her voice muffled by the mask she wore, her eyes darting up to her mother.

Kennedy agreed.

"I'm a little nervous, too," she said. "But things have to get back to normal at some point. I don't know what's worse: virtual or sending them."

Her other daughter, Rylie Presnell, a third grader, was supposed to have her first day of school in-person at Spring

Atticus Ray gets his temperature checked before entering Muir Middle School. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Lape assault sentencing Susan Vela Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN** 

woman

ether

Almost everyone involved was on

Zoom on Sept. 2 except for Jessica Kropiewnicki, a Lyon Township woman who was supposed to be sentenced on an assault charge.

On the eve of her big day in a virtual Oakland County circuit

courtroom, Kropiewnicki apparently cut her tether and ran away

ney Kelly Collins said Kropiewnicki over Zoom that Kropiewnicki seems to have escaped at about 6:15 p.m. Law enforcement offi-

able to find her. "She knew of today's date and her obligation to be here." Collins told

cers and their K-9 teams have not been

Judge James Alexander.

The judge granted Collins' wish for a bench warrant for bond and tether violations and no bond if Kropiewnicki is captured.

"If she is picked up, the examining magistrate is to set no bond given the fact that she has absconded and cut off her tether," Alexander said.

In May 2019, Oakland County deputies arrested Kropiewnicki, 24, and Christopher Simons, 28, of Fowlerville, on charges of assault with intent to murder.

Kropiewnicki allegedly persuaded a Northville man with romantic interests to take a walk with her. She led him to a remote wooded area in Lyon Township, saying it was a place her dog Turbo enjoyed.

Simons apparently was waiting with a bat and severely beat the Northville man, then 30. The victim's cell phone was taken but he managed to break into a nearby home.

The owner returned home and found blood throughout the home's interior. Deputies were called.

The Northville man testified against Kropiewnicki and Simons during a July 2019 preliminary examination.

Kropiewnicki pleaded no contest in Eebruary to assault with intent to

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### **FBI** arrests man suspected of robbing Rottermond's

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

A man suspected of a number of metro Detroit robberies was taken into custody after he apparently attempted a heist at Rottermond's jewelry store in downtown Milford.

The FBI is involved because of the totality of his suspected crimes. FBI spokesperson Mara Schneider said both federal and county prosecutors are now considering potential charges.

According to Schneider, an armed man walked into Rottermond's Main Street store around noon Sept. 1, demanded a clerk hand over a piece of jewelry and walked away with it.

Police arrested the man soon after.

# Northville Twp. pedestrian dies in hit-and-run collision

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

A young Northville Township man, 20, died Thursday after a sedan apparently struck him while he was walking along Sheldon Road, between Six Mile Road and Tournament Drive.

Township police said they received a 911 call reporting the pedestrian-involved collision at 11:38 p.m.

Upon arrival, police and firefighters provided advanced life support care. The pedestrian died at the scene.

Witnesses said a white or silver sedan was southbound on Sheldon Road when it struck the man.

Evidence collected indicates the vehicle was damaged in the collision.

An investigation continues. Anyone with information is asked to call the police departments' detective

bureau, 248-349-9400. svela@hometownlife.com

### Man dies after tree falls on vehicle in White Lake

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Clarkston man, 41, died Aug. 31 when a tree fell onto his vehicle as he was southbound on Williams Lake Road in White Lake Township. •

Township police said the driver was with his stepdaughter, 18, when the tree on the west side of the road fell on his 2005 Chrysler Town & Country just after 6 p.m., causing severe damage.

The man and his stepdaughter were trapped inside the vehicle. He died at the scene. His stepdaughter was extricated and transported to McLaren Oakland Hospital in Pontiac with non-lifethreatening injuries.

### hometownlife.com

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### South Lyon firefighters rescue injured goose

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

The goose was one of potentially thousands that will honk and fly their way into South Lyon by year's end, but firefighters couldn't turn away.

They rescued a goose struck by a vehicle Sept. 2 while crossing Lafayette Street near the pond fronting Waters Edge Apartments. The big birds are known for routine street crossings there.

Chief Robert Vogel said police asked for assistance at about 7:30 a.m., and firefighters actually found two geese that had been struck by vehicles when they arrived.

Firefighters buried the dead one found in the road. The injured one swam out of reach toward the middle of the pond.

Vogel said a boat couldn't be found quickly, so he decided to let the injured waterfowl relax. Firefighters returned at around 12:30 p.m. and found the injured goose back on the shore.

With some help from the Waters



Firefighters rescued the goose and took it to the Howell Nature Center for **Care.** COURTESY OF HOWELL NATURE CENTER

Edge community, they used a net and a blanket to transfer and keep the goose safe inside a dog cage so they could take it to the Howell Nature Center.

"I could tell that it was very tired," Vogel said. "We have hope that they can do some magic.

"We don't know why they cross that road every day. It's just the goofiest thing (since) they could fly."

Laura Butler, Howell Nature Center's wildlife and education director, said the goose arrived in the early afternoon looking weak, lethargic and generally

The bird had a fractured bone in its leg and body wounds that seemed like "road rash," a term also used by bikers to describe external injuries from contact with the road.

"We'll provide all the medication and care we can, but time will tell how it will heal," Butler said. "We always are hopeful. We always do everything that we

On Thursday, Butler said, "The goose made it through the night but remains

Waters Edge manager Amberly Knott said the geese have been a pond presence as long as she's been there - about 10 years.

She's learned to take precautions.

"They like to cross the road over and over and over again all day long ... especially when they're young (and) they have all their babies," Knott said.

#### 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, September 16, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. on the Zoom Video Conference electronic meeting platform to consider 25556 DANYAS WAY, PBR20-0326 FOR A WOODLAND PERMIT APPROVAL. The subject property totals approximately 2.88 acres and is located at 25556 Danyas Way, south of Eleven Mile Road, east of Taft Road (Section 22). The subject property is zoned R-4 (Single-Family Residential). The applicant is requesting to remove 19 regulated woodland trees in order to construct a single-family residential structure on the lot.

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



Subject Parcel ID: 50-22-22-100-031

### 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 September 16, 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

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: www.

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 September 10, 2020

### Extinct elk is Cranbrook's rarest find

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

Cranbrook Institute of Science is

open again with a shocking discovery. The museum in Bloomfield Hills will greet visitors with the rarest paleontology find it has ever hosted: the massive skull of an extinct elk that roamed southeast Michigan roughly 220 years ago, which was discovered in a lake last month.

"It's magnificent," museum Director Mike Stafford said. "We have spent about three weeks preserving it after it's been on the bottom of a lake for a couple hundred years."

The Eastern elk was discovered in Sullivan Lake near Fenton after it became hooked on the anchor of a swim platform being moved by Michael Bleau and his family.

They brought up the 43-inch wide, 50-inch tall and 24-inch deep skull almost perfectly intact. The antlers have six points on each side.

Cranbrook is happy to provide identification and the age of specimens found by the public, most commonly bones of American mastodons.

The Eastern elk was seen throughout eastern North America prior to being hunted to extinction. The last disappeared from Michigan in 1875 and was declared extinct five years later by the

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The recently discovered elk dates to about 1800, give or take 30 years. Its age was determined by radiocarbon dating.

The Eastern elk is a close cousin of the Rocky Mountain elk, which was not present in Michigan at the same time. The Eastern elk was a slightly larger ani-

Stafford speculates that the Eastern elk now at Cranbrook may have met its demise by getting stuck in the muck while drinking from the lake. The adult bull, which would have weighed up 1,000 pounds and stood up to 5 feet tall at the shoulders, could have also broken through the ice while crossing the lake and drowned. There is no damage on the skull that would suggest the elk met its end at the hands of a human.

Stafford is sure more of the elk's skeleton is in the lake. A lifelong diver, he



Max Hella, an exhibit technician for Cranbrook Institute of Science, poses with the skull of an extinct Eastern elk. COURTESY OF CRANBROOK INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

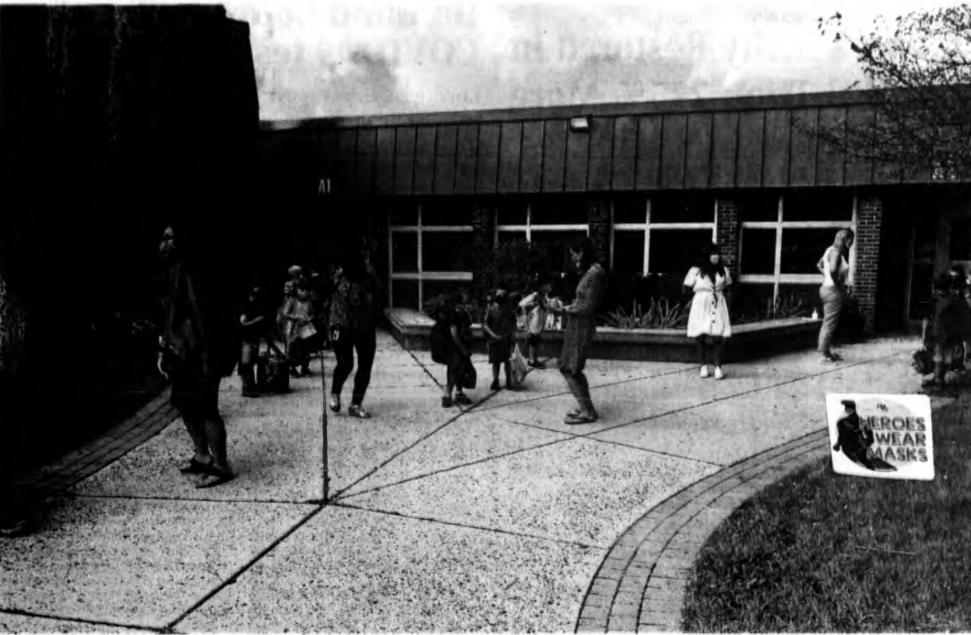
has considered a possible search to see if he can find more bones sticking up from the sediment.

Conservationists at the museum soaked the skull in Acrisol, a chemical which will harden the bones as they dry. The specimen, which the Bleaus have not yet named but have loaned to the museum until at least Jan. 1, will be ready for viewing when the museum reopens to visitors after a lengthy shutdown due to the corgnavirus pandemic.

"The elk has phenomenal curb appeal," Stafford said. "It's a snapshot in time, to help people understand that Michigan and the whole Great Lakes are constantly changing, there's an enormous amount of diversity in living creatures here now and in the past. I hope it triggers them to think of their role in protecting what the natural history of Michigan is and could be, and become more attached to the place they are from."

The Cranbrook Institute of Science reopened to members Aug. 19 and opened to the general public Aug. 26. For more information, visit science. cranbrook.edu.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @Susan-Bromley10.



Kindergarten students and Kurtz Elementary staff greet each other outside the building on the first day of school Aug. 31. PHOTOS BY SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

### **School**

Continued from Page 1A

Mills Elementary, but that was delayed a week while the school started fully virtual.

Kim Root, communications director for Huron Valley, said a staff member's spouse tested positive for COVID-19, so school officials waited for in-person learning at Spring Mills until it was confirmed the staff member did not have COVID-19.

At Muir, there was also plenty of excitement.

Seventh-grade English teacher Carrie Bradley noted it has been five-and-a-half months since staff and students had been in the buildings.

"It's different, but the kids need it and I need it," she said. "It will be a very unique, but awesome year, one we will not forget for sure."

Bradley and other staff stood outside greeting students with claps and cheers, joined by students in the Where Everyone Belongs (WEB) group, which welcomed incoming sixth graders in particular.

Marlo Cesarov, a seventh grader and WEB member, said the next day would be her first day of in-person school, and she was excited to be back.

"I'm glad to see all my friends again," she said. "I'm glad I don't have to learn in front of a screen and can see all my teachers."

She said it "felt kind of weird" being at home, but as she elbow bumped a classmate, it became evident that things are going to be a little weird at school, too.

Principal Dan Hurst agreed, noting it was "a lot to get the plan off the ground" for learning in the time of COVID-19, but "it's all worth it."

"There is nothing like the first day of school," he said. "It feels good to be here. I don't expect to do much different, just make sure the kids feel safe and accepted and have a good experience on the first day. We changed our systems dramatically."

Those changes include having only 200 students in the building on the first day as opposed to the full 750-student body Muir would normally host. The school's hybrid plan calls for two separate groups of students to attend in-person classes two days per week, cutting the number of students in the building in half to allow for social distancing. A fully virtual academy was another option for families.

All eighth- through 12th-grade students in the district are fully remote for the first two weeks of school before transitioning to the hybrid plan for non-virtual academy attendees.

Hurst expects a smoother transition when all students are back in the building and said he doesn't expect to be surprised by anything anymore, especially after schools closed their doors in mid-March.

Misty Zamora was at the school dropping off her daughter Laylah, a sixth grader, and like others, said she was nervous and excited. She was also worried about her daughter, who is in special education classes at the school, keeping her mask on.

"I'm excited because she's been in the house for six months," said Zamora, who also has a son who will be a junior at Lakeland High School. "It's important to get that structure. It's a new chapter. ... I hope they make it through the year without getting shut down.

"I hope everyone finds a new normal and has a wonderful year."

Moments later, students and staff who had just entered the building began to exit again, with a small group gathering under sunny skies to do a scavenger hunt, while other students gathered on the athletic field.

A staff member welcomed them. The class of 2027 cheered and applauded as she told them that their graduation day would be here before they knew it, and they would recall this day, when they wore masks to school, practiced social distancing and had class outside, but were so excited to see their friends.

Just a few miles away at Kurtz Elementary, a similar scene played out with the youngest students in the district.



Kurtz Elementary Principal Steve Chisik is ready for the first day of school after a nearly six-month absence of students from the building because of the coronavirus pandemic.



Muir Middle School parent Misty Zamora talks about the pandemic's effects. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Students at Kurtz Elementary are ready for their first day of school Aug. 31, wearing protective face masks.

Parents lined up in cars to drop off their children. A message on the school's sign read "Welcome back Kurtz masked heroes."

Staff carried the superhero message, as well, with Kim Papciak, a media technician, wearing a red cape, and Kurtz Elementary Principal Steve Chisik wearing a Superman neck tie. Both wore face coverings as well, with Chisik's grin obvious behind clear plastic.

"It's all about masks and frequent breaks," Chisik said after greeting a boy named Zach and telling him how happy he was to see him. "And making sure they feel safe and not scared, explaining the reasons this is why we do what we do."

The day would not be without some issues, but Chisik was prepared.

A staff member approached with a little girl in new brown suede boots with a pink backpack and a mask. The child was supposed to be at school on Tuesdays and Fridays, but came on Monday by mistake. Chisik explained to the staff member that the student's mother would need to be called and told that the girl's first in-person day was Tuesday and she would have to be picked up.

"I expect the unexpected," Chisik said. "We have half of the kids. It's not perilous and scary. It's good for the kids to experience school, especially the little ones."

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



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performance. double-blind, placebo-controlled study "gold-standard" of research) involved a group of 70-year-old-

men.

They didn't exercise. They didn't eat healthy. And researchers reported "nitric oxide availability was almost totally compromised," resulting in blood flow less than HALF of a man

in peak sexual health. But only five minutes after the first dose their blood flow increased 275%, back to levels of a perfectly healthy 31-year-old man! "It's amazing," remarks nitric oxide expert Dr. Al Sears. "That's like giving 70-year-old men the sexual power of 30-yearolds."

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Despite the billions men spend annually on older nitric oxide therapies. there's one well-known problem with them.

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He's combined those nutrients with proven nitric oxide boosters in a new formula called Primal Max Red. In is required for satisfying impressive results.



200,000 studies confirm A new discovery that increases nitric oxide availability was

performance. even quicker, stronger serving dose. It's become trouble keeping it in lasted up to 12 hours.

> of more than 500 scientific papers. Thousands of people listened to him speak at the recent Palm Beach Health & Wellness Festival featuring Dr. Oz. NFL Hall of Fame quarterback Joe Namath recently visited his clinic, the Sears Institute for

Anti-Aging Medicine.

Primal Max Red has only been available for a few months - but everyone who takes it reports a big difference. "I have the energy to have sex three times in one day, WOW! That has not happened in years. Oh, by the way I am 62," says Jonathan K. from Birmingham, AL.

### **HOW IT WORKS**

Loss of erection power starts with your blood vessels. Specifically, the inside layer called the endothelium where nitric oxide is made.

The problem is various factors THICKEN your blood vessels as you age. This blocks availability causing the nitric oxide "glitch." The result is difficulty in getting and sustaining a healthy erection.

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Researcher shows the typical 40-year-old man absorbs 50% less nitric oxide. At 50, that drops to 25%. And once you pass 60 just a measly 15% gets through.

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In a Journal of Applied increases nitric oxide Primal Max Red contains Physiology study, one availability resulting in a bigger, 9,000 mg per resulted in a 30 times MORE nitric oxide. And longer-lasting so popular, he's having these increased levels

> "I measured my nitric Dr. Sears is the author oxide levels, you can buy a test kit from Amazon," reports 48-year-old Jeff O. "Monday night I showed

> > depleted.

he Then ingredients in Primal Max Red and, "The results were off the charts. I first woke around 3 a.m. on Tuesday very excited. My nitric oxide levels measured at the top end of the range."

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To secure free bottles of Primal Max Black and get the hot, new Primal Max Red formula, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at 1-800-759-7193 within the next 48 hours. "It's not available in drug stores yet," says Dr. Sears. "The Hotline allows us to ship directly to the customer."

Dr. Sears feels so strongly about Primal Max, all orders are backed by a 100% money-back guarantee. "Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days from purchase date, and I'll send you all your money back," he says.

The Hotline will be open for the next 48 hours. After that, the phone number will be shut down to allow them to restock. Call 1-800-759-7193 to secure your limited supply of Primal Max Red and free bottles of Primal Max Black. You don't need a prescription, and those who call in the first 24 hours qualify for a significant discount. Promo Code Use NP0820PMAX721 when you call in. Lines are frequently busy, but all calls will be answered.

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### Oakland County offers free **COVID-19 testing for kids**

Children ages 4-17 must have symptoms to qualify

Kristen Jordan Shamus Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

As children prepare to go back to classrooms amid the coronavirus pandemic, one metro Detroit county is offering free COVID-19 testing to schoolage kids.

Oakland County announced Aug. 26 that it will expand its free drive-thru COVID-19 testing to include kids ages 4-17 beginning Aug. 31. The children must have symptoms to qualify, and must be residents of Oakland County or attend

school in the county.

"As the school year begins, we are here to support schools, teachers and families, learning in-person or remotely," said Oakland County Executive David Coulter in a news release. "The availability of testing for symptomatic children is important to isolating and con-

trolling the spread of this disease in our

schools and community." Parents can schedule testing appointments for their children through the Oakland County Health Division's Nurse on Call hot line at 800-848-5533. No doctor's note or prescription is need-

"COVID-19 symptoms are milder in children than in adults, and some in-

"It is very important that parents and guardians trust their instincts and be overly cautious ..."

**Dr. Russell Faust** Oakland County medical director

fected children may not have obvious signs of being sick," Oakland County Medical Director Dr. Russell Faust said "It is very important that parents and guardians trust their instincts and be overly cautious of all health and behavior changes, and keep their child home from school and contact their pediatrician, family care practitioner or our Nurse on Call if their child is even mildly

Residents are encouraged to monitor their health carefully, and do daily temperature checks. Anyone with even mild

symptoms is advised to stay home. Drive-thru COVID-19 testing is available on Mondays and Wednesdays at the South Oakland Health Center at 27725 Greenfield Road in Southfield and on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Oakland County government campus, 1200 N. Telegraph Road in Pontiac. On Fridays, testing is at Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus at

28696 Oakland, Farmington Hills.



A rendering of the proposed Asian-themed mixed-use development in Novi. **COURTESY OF THE CITY OF NOVI** 

### **Project**

Continued from Page 1A

"It's a rough world out there," he said. The city currently owns the property north of Grand River and east of Town Center Drive where the Sakura Novi project is proposed. Purchasing the property, Aikens said, is a risk his business partners and family did not want him to take.

Aikens said the extension on the purchase agreement, as well as more residential housing, would be a "life preserver for the project."

During its meeting Aug. 31, the council offered a 30-day extension so Aikens could work with city staff in the hopes of

not having to start over with the project. Councilman Andrew Mutch said the council recognized that the coronavirus pandemic "really had an impact" on developments and market demand across the city, state and country, but he couldn't support the significant changes to the Sakura Novi development nor a six-month extension.

"I am comfortable doing, at most, a 30-day extension to hash out issues and see if we can continue the path we've been on, or stop this project and start fresh," he said. "This property is too important to the city, it's right in the center, we have spent significant money acquiring it, and I am not feeling the vibe."

Mayor Bob Gatt told Aikens that the council felt his pain, which came through "loud and clear." but he took exception to Novi being in trouble.

"We have shown that Novi is an exceptional municipality," Gatt said. "People willing to take a risk now will benefit and will have their feet on the ground when we come out of the pandemic, and I think we will be out of the pandemic in the next six to nine months."

Aikens noted the project plans retained 16,000 square feet of restaurants and retail in the front of the property with room to add more in the back and he would be "eager to move forward" and take 30 days.

Jim Clark, president of Robertson Homes, said it was a "very challenged" market and he did not expect the addition of 20 housing units "would garner such a reaction" from the council.

"We would appreciate the 30 days,"

The council ultimately approved a 30-day extension on the purchase agreement with a 6-1 vote; Fischer voted

"If you come back and say we need to add residential development to make it work, it won't," Mutch said. "In 30 days if we can't reconcile, maybe you are looking to walk away and we are looking to start over."

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

### **Escape**

Continued from Page 1A

murder and was released on a \$25,000 bond with tether and curfew conditions. Pleading no contest is not an admission of guilt, but it is treated as such for sentencing purposes.

She has been living with her grandparents, who contacted authorities after Kropiewnicki's tether was cut.

Her attorney, Doug Oliver, said over Zoom that he has chatted with the grandparents and they are worried.

"They were at their wit's end," he said. "From a practical standpoint, I

have no explanation for my client's choice."

Oliver added that he had hoped Kropiewnicki would spend the last months learning how to behave differently, taking responsibility for her past decisions and changing the course of her life.

"Unfortunately, that was just wishful thinking," Oliver said.

Authorities have warned the Northville man and his family that Kropiewnicki escaped her tether.

Simons, 30, remains at the Oakland County Jail where he is awaiting trial.

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

### SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION



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Toll Brothers builds homes in some of the most sought-after locations in the country and offers a wide selection of floor plans and hundreds of design options so interested buyers can find a new home that's truly personalized to their life and style. During the National Sales Event, buyers can explore a variety of home types— including move-in ready homes, homes nearing completion, and homes ready to be built—and take advantage of limited-time savings to make their dream home a reality at the best possible value.

Limited-time incentives vary among communities and will comprise a package of savings created specifically for this event, so buyers should contact their community of interest and speak with a sales consultant to learn more. To take advantage of these attractive packages, interested buyers must make a deposit between September 12 and October 11, 2020.

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Toll Brothers, an award-winning FORTUNE 500 company founded in 1967, embraces an unwavering commitment to quality and customer service. Toll Brothers is currently operating in 24 states nationwide and is a publicly owned company listed

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

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technology options. The Company also operates its own lumber distribution, house component assembly, and manufacturing operations. Through its Gibraltar Real Estate Capital joint venture, the Company provides builders and developers with land banking, non-recourse debt and equity

The Toll Brothers' National Sales Event "Love Everything About Home" is offered at is offered at Metro-Detroit the following

New in West Bloomfield Toll Brothers newest community

features. This is not an offering where prohibited by law 09/20 278996



Learn about limited-time savings during this event that you can use to personalize

your dream home. Reserve at West Bloomfield is now open and selling fast. This must-see community features spacious Ranch-style homes with an easy, low-maintenance lifestyle and resort-style amenities. All in a convenient location just steps to the West Bloomfield Trail and the beauty of the West Bloomfield Nature Preserve. Tour our gorgeous Berks ranch model home and our new Waltham two-story model home today. Priced from the mid-\$400,000s. Call (248) 654-8555 or visit

Resort-class Amenities in Canton Westridge Estates is the only new community in Canton offering resort-style amenities, including a clubhouse with fitness room, gathering room, kitchenette, locker rooms, pools, sand volleyball court, children's play park and walking paths. Westridge Estates is located just south of

ReserveatWestBloomfield.com for

more information.

Ford Road, west of Ridge Road, and home prices start in the mid-\$500,000s. For more information, visit WestridgeofCanton.com or call (734) 844-0279.

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Hamlet Pointe and Hamlet Meadows are located within the existing community of The Hamlet offering an exceptional location close to Plymouth-Canton schools, the Ford Road Shopping District, expressways, parks and the quaint Cherry Hill Village.

At Hamlet Meadows, pricing starts in the upper \$300,000s. Two-story home designs range from 2,411 sq. ft. to more than 2,842 sq. ft. Brand new, open-concept designs are now available. Hamlet Pointe features large home sites and side-entry garages. Homes are priced from the upper \$400,000s. Three stunning model homes are now available to tour and quick move in homes are available. For details, visit The-Hamlet.com or

call (734) 398-5939.

Luxurious Living in Northville Final opportunities are now

available at two amazing single-family communities in Northville. Brothers at Montcaret is located on the south side of Seven Mile Road, 14 miles west of Beck Road just minutes from the historic downtown. Toll Brothers at Dunhill Park is on the corner of Beck Road and 8 Mile Road across from Maybury State Park. Both prestigious communities offer a range of home designs with an exceptional list of features on grand oversized home sites. Prices start from the upper \$700,000s. Call (248) 924-2601 or visit TollBrothersAtMontcaret. com or LiveAtDunhillPark.com for details.

Popular Villas in Ann Arbor North Oaks of Ann Arbor is the region's premier resortclass community situated in a

stunning 109-acre setting. Two

collections of homes are available. Townhomes from the upper \$300,000s and Villas from the mid-\$500,000s.

The Villas range from 2,041 to 2,631+ square feet and offer firstor second-floor master suites, island kitchens, open layouts, loft space, and more. The Townhomes just released new exterior styles and range from 1,861 to 1,890+ sq. ft. and include a 2-car garage, lower level with the option to finish and options to add a loft or rooftop deck.

A clubhouse with a fitness center, yoga room, billiards, great room with fireplace, verandas overlooking the lap and wading pools, locker rooms and a play park is now open. North Oaks is located minutes from the University of Michigan's north campus, the VA Hospital, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, and downtown Ann Arbor. Children attend acclaimed Ann Arbor Schools with the elementary and middle schools just 3 minutes away. For details, call (734) 224-6686 or visit North-Oaks.com.

Single-Family Homes from upper \$300,000s in Ann Arbor

Trailwoods of Ann Arbor, a new community of single-family homes tucked into a gorgeous setting with Ann Arbor schools and low Scio Twp taxes is now available. Two collections of homes offer all new open-concept designs with an impressive list of included features. The Village Collection is priced from the upper \$300,000s and The Parkside Collection is priced from the upper \$400,000s. Two gorgeous models are available to tour and quick move-in homes are available. For more information, visit TrailwoodsOfAnnArbor.com or call (734) 995-5503.

For Community Information, visit TollSalesEvent.com/

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### Man dies after construction mat falls on him

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A 49-year-old Howell resident died Sept. 3 from injuries he sustained while working on the \$610 million Saginaw Trail pipeline replacement project in Highland Township.

Consumers Energy spokeswoman Debra Dodd confirmed that the contract worker with the Snelson pipeline construction company died when matting used to aid the travel of heavy equipment on certain ground toppled and crushed him.

"Our thoughts are with this individual's family, friends and co-workers," Consumers Energy officials said in a statement. "Safety is our top priority and an investigation regarding the cause of this incident has begun in conjunction between our contractor and the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration."

Oakland County Sheriff's deputies said they were dispatched to Woodruff Lake and Center roads, along with Highland Township firefighters, at about 2:33 p.m.

The Howell man was pinned between a dump truck and a large wooden road mat. Deputies have determined the dump truck driver was standing outside of his truck near a large pile of the road mats when an excavator spun to load the truck and hit the pile of mats, pushing one toward the Howell man.

He was crushed between the mat and the dump truck. Construction workers managed to free him and emergency responders administered lifesaving measures before transporting him to a nearby hospital.

He was pronounced dead while in hospital care.

The incident remains under investigation, and an autopsy was scheduled.

For the Consumers Energy project, hundreds of workers have spent this summer replacing 12- and 16-inch steel pipe that has been in the ground since at least the 1940s with new, 24-inch U.S. steel pipeline.

It's the fourth and final phase of the Saginaw Trail endeavor. This year's work included Oakland County's Highland, Holly, Rose, and Milford townships, along with Grand Blanc Township in Genesee County.

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

### Metro Detroit Dish viewers miss out on ABC, CW channels

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

For about five weeks, Dish Network customers haven't been able to catch the nightly news from two metro Detroit TV stations.

WXYZ and WMYD, both of which cover the Detroit area, are "blacked out" from Dish subscribers as the cable provider negotiates with the E.W. Scripps Company, which owns the two stations.

"Scripps continues to advocate for market-standard distribution terms while Dish attempts to control our local stations' signals and limit our ability to create new services with other cable and satellite companies," the company said in a statement.

According to Scripps, WSYM in Lansing and WXMI in Grand Rapids are also unavailable to Dish customers right now. Across the country, the issue affects 42 local stations.

The blackout is the only time in the company's history contract negotiations have caused such an impasse.

Dish is facing similar disagreements with the NFL Network and Cox Media Group, which are also currently unavailable to customers. According to Scripps, the disagreement has no end in sight.

"At this point, we recommend that Dish customers in our local markets seek out a different service," Scripps said in a statement. "It appears that Dish is not interested in reaching a fair agreement with Scripps."

According to Dish the cable provider continually hopes to reach a "fair"

agreement.

"DISH routinely completes deals with station owners while avoiding service interruptions for subscribers, and we have recently worked with several broadcasters to complete these kinds of deals," a statement from the company reads. "It's disappointing that Scripps is using this blackout as a tactic to raise fees and restrict consumer choice."

### Dow Jones changes should not affect strategy



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

It was recently announced there is going to be a change to the components of the Dow Jones Industrial Average. Although changes in Dow components are not unusual, this is the most significant change in a number of years.

There are three companies leaving the Dow and three companies joining.

The three companies leaving are Pfizer, the pharmaceutical giant which joined the Dow in 2004; Raytheon Technologies, which in one form or other has been part of the Dow since 1939; and Exxon Mobil, the Dow's longest-lasting component as a member since 1928.

The three companies joining are Honeywell International, the industrial conglomerate; Amgen, the biotech firm; and Salesforce, the customer relationship management specialist.

According to the press release, the primary reason given for these changes was Apple's announcement that its stock would split 4 to 1. As a result of the

split, the Dow's exposure to the information technology sector of the economy would be reduced. You may ask why a stock split, which has no effect on a company's value, would reduce the Dow's exposure to a sector of the economy. The reason has to do with the way the Dow is calculated.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average is calculated not based upon a company's market value (market value = number of outstanding shares x share price) as most indexes are calculated; rather, according to share price. Therefore, when Apple splits its stock, its weighting on the Dow will decline.

Currently, Apple is the largest component of the Dow; its stock is priced at over \$500 per share. Apple accounts for a little over 12 percent of the Dow, but after the split, it will only be a little over 3 percent.

With that being said, the most important thing to understand is what this means for you and me as investors.

The Dow measures the daily price movement of 30 large U.S. companies. The 30 companies are selected to provide a broad overview of U.S. market conditions. It doesn't measure the total U.S. economy because small businesses

are not represented.

That being said, the Dow is the most quoted index and the one, unfortunately, many investors rely upon.

I say unfortunately because too many investors think that their portfolios should match the performance of the Dow. That is a mistake.

First of all, since the Dow is price weighted, it gives greater weight to an expensive stock versus a cheaper stock.

Second, the Dow only tracks 30 U.S.

companies. In a balanced and diversified portfolio, which you should have, not only are you going to have small-and medium-size companies in your portfolio, but you're also going to have exposure to international companies.

Third, in a well-balanced and diver-

Third, in a well-balanced and diversified portfolio, you're going to have cash and fixed-income investments such as bonds. The Dow assumes that you are 100 percent invested in stocks at all times, which for the great majority of investors, is a mistake.

I am not saying you should not look at the Dow Jones Industrial Average, because I do every day. However, I do not make investment decisions based upon the Dow, and neither should you.



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# **SPORTS**



## Teams react to surprise return of fall sports

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN** 

Livonia Stevenson head boys soccer coach Ken Shingledecker had the most doubts about the fall season at 1:30 p.m.

He said after Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's announcement Sept. 2, saying guidance for organized team sports

across the state will be made "very soon," he did not feel a fall season would happen. He expected more of an answer

However, as 4 p.m. hit the next day, Shingledecker's mood changed swiftly.

"I really did have my doubts," Shingledecker said. "The most: today. So it's kind of funny that today is the day where it all turns around.'

Association announced Sept. 3 that all fall sports, including football, boys soccer, volleyball, and girls swim and dive, have been reinstated for the 2020 fall

#### Football returns

When the football season was initia- See REACT, Page 2B

The Michigan High School Athletic lly postponed, Seaholm head football coach Jim DeWald had to break the news to his team on the football field.

When the MHSAA announced it was back on, Seaholm was in the middle of a weight-lifting session.

'They were so excited that the energy in that weight session was unreal,"

#### **CROSS COUNTRY**



The Northville and Plymouth high school varsity cross country teams take off on their Sept. 2 meet at Cass Benton Park. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# Northville shines in unusual opener

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Before the first race of his senior season, Plymouth senior cross country runner Patrick Byrnes addressed his team in the middle of a six-feet apart circle.

This very well could be our first and last meet," he said, encouraging the young Wildcats team to give everything they had in its first race of the season against Northville.

Byrnes, the No. 1 returning runner in the state, shined in his senior debut, finishing first with a 16:14.6.

However, Northville took over the rest of the meet, placing second through 13th, and taking the first dual meet of the season against Plymouth, 20-43, at Cass Benton Park.

Northville head coach Tim Dalton was most impressed by nine of his runners finishing the race in under 18 minutes, setting the tone for what he ex-

pects to be a competitive season for the Mustangs.

"We talked about how everyone can run the first mile in a race," Dalton said. "It's how you run that second and third mile, so I thought our group moved up, was very conservative in that first mile and did a good job on the back half of the

Senior Nathan Hayes was the Mustangs' fastest runner, finishing in 17:15.7. Of the next 10 finishers for the Mus-

tangs, seven were underclassmen, including Brandon Latta and Brady Herron, two sophomores who placed third and fourth, respectively.

Junior Peyton McCaslin and senior Zachary Helner rounded out the scoring for the Mustangs.

After Byrnes, three of Plymouth's scorers were underclassmen: sophomore Alex Bobak in 14th, sophomore

See OPENER, Page 2B

### It's Oakland Hills Country Club's turn for a US Open

Carios Monarrez Detroit Free Press **USA TODAY NETWORK** 

It's time for Oakland Hills Country Club to host the U.S. Open. It's time for the U.S. Golf Association to recognize the hard work one of the country's most historic golf clubs is doing, and award it our national championship for the first

time since 1996.

It's time because Oakland Hills has paid its dues, and it has been too long since the golf-mad state of Michigan has hosted a major championship.

I spent Aug. 24 at the Bloomfield Township club speaking with members and staff and listening to a presentation about the restoration of the champion-

ship South Course scheduled to be completed in July.

The \$12.1 million project is extensive and impressive. Its key component is the installation of a PrecisionAire system that dries, cools and heats the greens. It would give the USGA the assurance and control of green speeds that is crucial during the U.S. Open.

"At the end of the day," architect Gil Hanse said, "with players of this caliber, it comes down to two things. We'd have to build this course at 9,000 yards long, and that's not happening. It comes down to rough and it comes down to firm greens."

See US OPEN, Page 5B



### Lakeland avenges first loss with win against South Lyon

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Coming off of its first loss of the season to Walled Lake Central, the only team it lost to in the Lakes Valley Conference in 2019, Lakeland boys tennis came out against South Lyon with an opportunity to get back to its winning ways

The Eagles succeeded against the Lions, winning seven-of-nine flights to earn their third victory of the season. Lakeland won three of its four singles matches, while taking four of five doubles matches.

A season after losing the team's No. 1 singles player and the No. 1 doubles tandem, Lakeland head coach Chris Carlson said the Eagles remain strong early on in the 2020 season.

"I wasn't sure if we would be able to fill in those spots and be as strong as last year," Cārlson said. "What I have found after this week is I think we were able to do that.

"We're right where we were last year."
However, at the No. 1 spot, South
Lyon prevailed.

Lions junior Owen McCarthy defeated Lakeland's Adam Pluzczyk in



Caiden Carlson (pictured) beat South Lyon's Michael Wesner and David Vess, 6-2, 6-2. JOHN HEIDER/ HOMETOWN LIFE.COM

Lakeland's Will

Dungan and

straight sets, after falling to Pluzczyk in straight sets a season ago.

"What Owen was able to do in a year to improve his game and get ready for a top-level match like that, gives us a lot of strength, not just in terms of that flight, but also what that communicates to the other guys in terms of the type of effort that it takes to have that improvement," South Lyon head tennis coach Jeff Prueter said.

Lakeland dominated the rest of the singles matches, allowing South Lyon to score only four points in three straight-set wins.

In doubles, the Eagles' tandem of Will Dungan and Caiden Carlson earned the straight-set victory at No. 1 against South Lyon's Michael Wesner and David Vess.

Moving forward, Carlson said Lakeland is on the path it was a season ago, but it has to take a next step forward, focusing on the LVC Tournament, the regional and the state tournaments.

"I think we stayed pretty consistent," Carlson said. "We're looking to challenge at the top of the LVC and try to win the conference tournament again."

**Final results** 

Singles:

1. South Lyon's Owen McCarthy beats Lakeland's Adam Pluszczyk, 6-3, 6-2 2. Lakeland's Noah Weinberger beats

South Lyon's Evan Petrovich, 6-0, 6-0
3. Lakeland's Zack Swartz beats
South Lyon's Jacob Perrone, 6-1, 6-2

4. Lakeland's Elijah Parsons beats South Lyon's Josh Tucker, 6-1, 6-0

1 Lakeland's Will Dungan and Caiden Carlson beat South Lyon's Michael Wesner and David Vess, 6-2, 6-2

2. Lakeland's Hector Benitez and Alec Zerona beat South Lyon's Alexander Petrovich and Steven Garrett, 6-1, 6-2

3. Lakeland's Daniel Stebbins and Bryan Artrip beat South Lyon's Tom Cavanaugh and Evan Steele, 6-0, 6-3

Quinn McCarty beat Shreyas Talluri and Ajay Bikki, 6-1, 7-6 (6) 5. Lakeland's Logan Hayes and his

4. South Lyon's Parker Frye and

5. Lakeland's Logan Hayes and his partner beat South Lyon's Charles Swanson and Reid Covert, 6-0, 6-3

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

### **Opener**

Continued from Page 1B

Sean Byrnes in 15th — Patrick's younger brother — and freshman Anirudh Krishnan in 16th.

"We're a pretty young team, and I think, the way our training is, we will be there more towards the end," Plymouth head coach Jonathan Mikosz said. "But I think, with all of the changes to their first meet, was too much to overcome.

"What we ran today was definitely not a reflection of how we have been training and how we have been doing."

Byrnes, coming into the season with expectations looming — finishing last year as the No. 5 runner in the state, behind No. 1-finishing and Plymouth graduate Carter Solomon — just wants to make the most of his time with the Wildcats, no matter what it looks like.

"Our whole team is putting out the effort this season just because we don't know when the season will end, if it will end," Byrnes said. "We are treating every meet, every practice as if it's our last because it very well could be."

### Making adjustments

As Northville runners finished their first race of the season, their feedback to Dalton remained consistent: It was silent. It was weird.

Because of the coronavirus, cross country meets have changed dramatically, from cutting down the size of meets — axing invitationals and quad meets — to not allowing fans to cheer runners on at checkpoints throughout the race.

For Hayes, a Northville senior who has run at Cass Benton before, he remembers specific points in the race where he normally gets a shot of adren-

Because of the coronavirus, cross country meets have changed dramatically, from cutting down the size of meets to not allowing fans to cheer runners on at checkpoints.

aline, including the one-mile mark.

That did not happen, and he felt it

showed in his and other runners' times.
"I think it slowed us down a little bit,"
Hayes said. "The last 200 meters when
everyone is cheering you on, it definitely
helps you, a little finishing kick at the

Mikosz said a small dual meet is completely different from invitational and bigger races usually on the schedule. He said some runners are better in these smaller meets, but some feed off the energy of competitors, those running next to them.

"Especially for the younger guys, it's tough. In a race like today, it can be really spread out," Mikosz said. "There are a lot of guys that were potentially running by themselves — not having anyone to run with. Or you have a race like Wayne County or Holly, you have a ton of guys to run with and push them.

"Yeah, I think it's a big curve."
However, after the race, Dalton was focused more on the fact his runners got the opportunity to race, got the opportunity to show what they could do against an opponent.

It was his message to them before the race started.

"I just wanted the kids to compete," Dalton said. "We've checked that box. We're here, we have the opportunity."



Northville's Nathan Hayes was the first finisher in the school's Sept. 2 meet.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

### React

Continued from Page 1B

DeWald said. "It was off the charts."

After Whitmer's executive order 176 lifted restrictions on high school football, games are scheduled to begin Sept. 18. Teams will play six regular-season contests starting with their original Week 4 opponent, with every team making the postseason tournament.

Teams in the postseason will advance in the tournament as normal with the 11-player finals being held Dec. 4 and 5.

Spectators will be limited to two per participant

Livonia Franklin head football coach Chris Kelbert said his team has reverted back to strength training and conditioning since the season was postponed to the spring Aug. 14.

Kelbert was shocked by the news that came today, reversing the initial decision made by the MHSAA.

"I didn't expect this would come at all," Kelbert said.

North Farmington head football

North Farmington head football coach Jon Herstein is cautiously optimistic by the MHSAA's announcement.

"It's a little anxious, excited, those types of things," Herstein said. "Obviously, there's a lot of things that can still happen between now and then, so we have to do our part to still continue to be able to play and to practice.

"I think overall, we are excited to get back out there."

While Novi head football coach Jeff Burnside was excited by the announcement, his mind immediately went to season preparation.

He said he's worried about his players physically heading into the 2020 season, saying they have practically "been away" for the past two weeks,

With two weeks until the season opener, Burnside said the practice schedule will have to be ramped up.

"Unless we go into the weekend a little bit, which we very well may, if you just do the days, you are talking about eight days before the first game. Full hitting," Burnside said. "Seven (days) for J.V. and freshman. That's a tall ask."

Prior to the initial postponement of the season to the spring, teams were permitted to practice in helmets, not allowing contact until the week of Aug.

Herstein said it's a different animal for teams once they start blocking live opponents, people who are going to push back.

With this, Burnside views the first game on the schedule as the "first scrimmage."

"The first game is really the scrimmage, and, unfortunately, they are not going to have us behind them directing

things on the fly," Burnside said.

"The game is probably going to look a little rougher... more mistakes, penalties, mental mistakes because the kids, they haven't had a full summer like we typically have had."

Kelbert, echoing the message of Franklin athletic director Ron Hammye, said all teams are going to be in the same boat.

"Will the kids be ready? I don't know, but it's going to be the same for every team across the state of Michigan," Kelbert said. "It is what it is. We want to have a quality football season, and this may be our best opportunity."

### Questions remain

Shingledecker already knows it's going to be a tight fit for boys soccer teams across the region.

Without guidance from the state or the MHSAA, programs have been forced to reschedule games for later in the season. The Stevenson head coach said the Spartans are tasked with 18 games in a month-and-a-half.

However, that's not what he is thinking about.

"It's going to be a little bit more difficult type season, but I'm going to tell you: I don't think anyone cares," Shingledecker said. "We're going to fight through it and everybody's very super excited that this is going to happen."

Girls swim and dive, and volleyball teams are permitted to start their seasons Sept. 9, while boys soccer teams are permitted to start games immediately.

"Just about every coach has called me already," Churchill athletic director Marc Hage said. "They are exuberant."

Hage mentioned the Churchill volleyball team, how those players have been working on a makeshift field since the start of summer workouts on dry land.

While the Chargers will return to their gym floor for the first time since March next week, volleyball head coach Claire Urban said it should not take much time for players to become acclimated to the difference between the field they had been practicing on.

"We're just going to be playing very simple volleyball at first. We're not going to force, not run a crazy offense just yet. We're going to keep it simple and clean and do what we know how to do."

While questions for balancing facilities, to scheduling, to practicing have not been answered, Hammye is just excited for the opportunity that fall sports will provide some level of normalcy.

"I think, again, we go with what people feel and what we are being told is that we can do this stuff safely," Ham-

mye said.

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

### Brighton-trained fighter gets chance at women's MMA world championship

**Bill Khan** Livingston Daily

**USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN** 

BRIGHTON — Alesha Zappitella is a

No worries. It's safe to call her that without needing to duck for cover.

She freely admits it.

Among Zappitella's escapes from the brutal profession she has chosen is playing Magic: The Gathering, a collectible strategy card game in which players summon creatures, cast spells and activate abilities with the goal of reducing their opponent's life total to zero.

"She's a quirky person, that's how I would describe her," said James Gray, her mixed martial arts coach at Scorpion Fighting System in Brighton. "She's not afraid to do her own thing. When she went to fight in Japan, she dyed her hair pink and purple. She's one of those people who is not afraid to be who she is. She follows her own intuition without thinking about how the world will look at her or judge her."

It was while embracing her inner geek during a game with some friends that Zappitella received a life-changing

"I got a call from my coach, James Gray, and he's like, 'This is going to be the coolest day of your life," she said. "I'm like, 'Oh, what's going on?' He's like, 'You've got a title shot.'

"Honestly, it was surreal. It didn't feel like it was actually happening until about a day or two later it hit me. I just started crying because I realized, 'Wow, my dreams are coming true. They're coming into fruition right in front of me.'

When Zappitella isn't playing games, meditating, reading, painting or working with special-needs children, she trains to become one of the top women's MMA fighters in the world.

The Pinckney resident who grew up in Ohio will get the opportunity to achieve her goals Sept. 17 when she fights Ashley Cummins of California for the vacant Invicta Fighting Championship atomweight world championship

in Kansas City, Kansas.

The fight headlines a six-bout card that will be available on UFC Fight Pass. Invicta FC is an all-women's MMA fight

Zappitella has a 7-2 professional record, earning her title shot by winning a split decision over Lindsey VanZandt on July 2.

"The atomweight title had just become vacant," she said. "Rumor was that if I won my next fight, I got a title shot, but I wasn't sure how soon that would be or even if it was for certain, but I guess it was."

The 4-foot-11, 105-pound Zappitella will have the opportunity to realize a dream that formed the moment she met Gray at her first amateur fight five years ago in Southgate.

"He came up to me and told me if I kept on and I got on the right track that I could be a world champion one day," she

When somebody tells me something like that, especially when I'm branching out and I'm doing something I've never done before, it is very motivational. I didn't know who James Gray was. I didn't know much about mixed martial arts. All I knew was that if I put my mind to it that I could do this, because that's what I did with wrestling. I wasn't supposed to be wrestling, but I became one

Gray remembers seeing a raw, young fighter with tons of potential.

"She didn't have a lot of training outside of her wrestling background," Gray said. "She fought with so much heart and so much tenacity. There's a certain aura or energy you look for in people. Some people have 'it' or a fire in them; it was a rare thing. She was 20 years old, which is extremely young. You see this really fired-up, motivated, ready-totake-on-the-world type of woman with a wrestling background. If she can channel that energy, that's what it takes to be a world champion."

Zappitella, 25, began wrestling while tagging along at her brother's practices when she was 5 years old. She was the



Alesha Zappitella spars with Arden Eschtruth at Team SFS in Genoa Township. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

only girl on the Conneaut High School wrestling team in Ohio and placed sixth in the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials.

She came to Michigan on a college wrestling scholarship, but "I figured out college wasn't for me. School didn't fit me. I always watched fighting on TV, so I thought I'd give it a go. The first practice I went to, I was absolutely hooked. I stayed here ever since just to train."

Zappitella began fighting at the amateur level in January 2015 and had her first pro fight in October 2016. She won her first five pro fights, lost the next two by decision, then won the next two by decision to earn a shot at the champi-

· "I think I have quite the advantage that I've been wrestling for 20 years," she said. "Wrestling is the most indepth martial art and it's the hardest to learn, especially once you're an adult. Wrestling really helps with body control and also confidence. Wrestling goes well with jiu jitsu. If you know how to wrestle, you can probably pick up jiu jitsu really well. Striking was a bit harder for me to pick up, but it's been five years now and I'm very confident in my strik-

Zappitella was working with elemen-

tary school special-needs students when the coronavirus shut down schools in March.

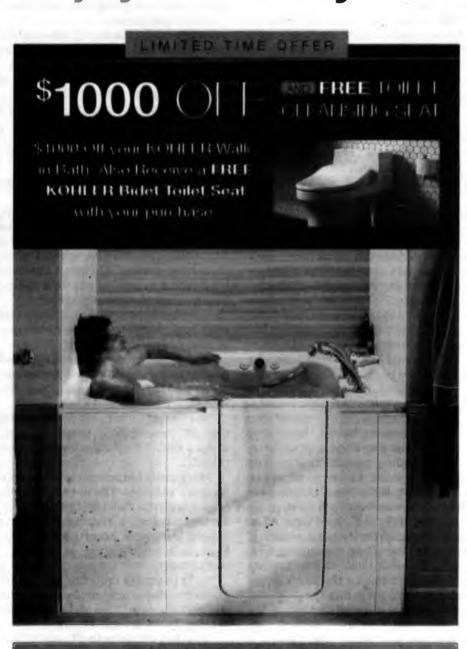
She suddenly had more time available to train, which she does four or five times a day, six days a week. Much of that training took place at home until Gray reopened his gym May 4 in defiance of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's stayat-home order.

"I thought it was such a wonderful opportunity for me, because I was still being paid and I was still able to train," she said. "Gyms got shut down, but that didn't stop me. I was still training on my own. I was dead set that I was going to turn 2020 into my year.

"When I didn't have access to a gym, it was a little bit difficult, but I made it work. I have a strength and conditioning coach I can message and say, 'Hey, what should I be doing?' And I also have pads and stuff at my house and I have friends who could come over and we'd run pads in the yard or I'd go for a run in the neighborhood."

Zappitella expects a highly motivated opponent when she steps into the cage in Kansas City. Cummins is 33 years old with a 7-5 record, competing in her first amateur fight 10 years ago.

# Enjoy the Easy Life



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A customer visits Spicer Orchards in Fenton on Aug. 21. Spicer Orchards has made changes to adjust during the coronavirus pandemic. ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

# Astonishing apple season anticipated

# Orchards, cider mills may benefit as cooped-up people seek outdoor activity

Susan Selasky Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

As bars, restaurants and other businesses struggle to survive the pandemic, the people behind one of Michigan's favorite fall pastimes are looking forward to a robust season.

Heading to a local orchard for a day of picking apples, eating doughnuts and sipping cider is an autumn tradition for many families and it looks like 2020 will be no different, COVID-19 or not.

In fact, experts are predicting the pandemic could have the opposite effect on the apple industry than it has had on other types of businesses. People are clamoring to be outdoors and have something to do that is safe, fun and —

let's not forget - delicious.

### A trip to the cider mill on a mild, sunny weekend day fits the bill

Although Plymouth Orchards and Cider Mill announced earlier this month it won't open this fall because of CO-VID-19, it apparently will be the exception rather than the rule.

"People are looking for something to do, they are looking for activities in their own neighborhood," said Janice Benson, the executive director of Michigan Agritourism. "We expect the fall season to be one of the best."

She said the demand for agritourism is higher than in recent history.

. But make no mistake, there will be

social distancing and mask wearing, even outdoors, as orchard owners aim to keep customers and employees safe. And there will be other changes.

#### No bounce houses

At Spicer Orchards in Fenton, Shannon Rowe, a farm partner, said they've made several changes to adjust for CO-VID-19 following Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's executive orders for social distancing.

They've added barriers on wagons to keep people 6 feet apart and you can only sit with your group.

only sit with your group.

Around the farm, they've spread things out, moving as much activities outdoors as possible, including check-

This year the farm's pumpkin patch is within walking distance, so there's no need for a wagon ride, as is the farm's corn maze.

"Every year we rotate our fields to keep soil in good condition," Rowe said. "When we planted crops, because of COVID, we purposely made it easier for people to reach them by foot," Rowe

Just don't expect a bounce house or anything that's an amusement ride of sorts or for entertainment purposes, Rowe said. That won't happen this year. Large school tours, bonfires and big

events are also out.
"We just felt we wouldn't be able to

make people properly social at those events," Rowe said.

Spicer's cider operation, which Rowe

said always followed strict food safety guidelines, has more sanitizing in place and the cashiers will be outdoors for the fall weekends. Spicer's Winery where they offer

wine and hard cider, will be mainly outdoors. Thanks to a special permit, Rowe said, they could have an outdoor service area for the wineries tasting room.

Moving things outdoors is a welcome change for the operation.

"It's better and an improvement then what we were doing before," Rowe said. Spicer's has also done a lot with signage, reminding people to stay with their group, social distance and wear a mask. So far, Rowe said, people have

been good about wearing a mask.

"We spent quite a bit of time, effort and money to promote mask wearing," Rowe said. "We will be monitoring, hoping to hire additional staff to monitor people to distance in the line and re-

mind people to put a mask on.
What's hard is social distancing in a line, Rowe said.

"It's human nature for people to move up."

### Smaller cider mills

For the first time, Franklin Cider Mill, one of the oldest in the area, will take online orders for cider and donuts doughnuts starting Sept. 1.

The cider mill also said it will have ordering through Grubhub. Changes in how workers serve customers are designed to get in them and out quickly.

Because of COVID-19 Franklin Cider
Mill's cider making operation will be
closed for people to watch. The amount

of people also allowed inside the building for purchases will also be limited.

Mask wearing, according to owner Laura Peltz, will be enforced and monitored. For those who cannot wear a mask because of a medical condition, staffers will call in the order and will bring you what you purchased.

Last year, Franklin Cider Mill began accepting credit cards and will do so this

At Dexter Cider Mill, a small, 2-acre mill on the banks of the Huron River in Washtenaw County, the plan is to be as normal as possible.

Nancy Koziski Steinhauer, who runs the family cider located on the banks of the Huron River, said social distancing markers on the floor are in place, masks are required and they've installed acrylic shields.

"We are so small, hopefully people will be respectful of everything and I think people are going to be good about it," Steinhauer said.

People might think of it, she said, as grab-and-o and head out to another area park.

What will be missing this season is Sandhill Crane wines. The winery, Steinhauer said, will not be offering wines in the tasting room.

### A good crop of apples

This year's orchards won't disappoint and are flush with fine apples.

The Michigan apple crop estimate, announced at the U.S. Apple Outlook on August 20, is in line with last year at 22.5 million bushels. As one of the top states for apples, Michigan typically ranks third in production behind New York and the No. 1 Washington.

York and the No. 1. Washington.
Although some growers feared a May frost could harm trees, many took precautions to protect the crop.

The apple crop is nice with good quality and excellent sized apples, according to Bob Tritten, MSU Extension fruit educator.

"It's a lot nicer crop than they thought back in May with the frost," Tritten said. "They are pleasantly surprised."

Michigan is home to more than a dozen apple varieties. The season typically begins with the Paula Red variety. Honeycrisp harvest, a favorite and highly sought out apple known for its juicy taste and crisp texture, is about 2 ½ weeks away.

It's a beautiful crop this year at the 200-acre Erwin Orchards in South Lyon, the owners said. The orchard is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

"It's the best we've had in years," Linda Erwin said. "Mother nature was good to us this year. All varieties are available."

able."

Erwin said throughout the summer, they've had a record number of people out for their crops, starting with asparagus in May. When Erwin's opened its raspberry patch in the middle of August, it was picked out two days later. More than 700 pounds of raspberries were

"I think people just like to get out and be outside," Erwin said. "And to pick their own fruit, they know where it came from. There is a sense of safety."

# **Obituaries**

### Marjorie Joyce Lippe

HARRISON - Marjorie Joyce Lippe, age 75, went home to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on August 28. Marj was born on October 6, 1944 to Howard and Lucy Frisch and grew up in several towns throughout Pennsylvania. At age 17, she enrolled at Huntington College in Indiana. It is there that she was introduced to the first love of her life, Jesus Christ. She asked Him to come into her life and from that point forward her commitment and love for Jesus lead her every word and action. While at Huntington, she went on a blind date that ended in holding hands and skipping though campus with



her future husband of 55 years, Emmett Lippe. Marj earned her bachelor's degree in Education at Huntington College and later pursued her master's degree at Michigan State. Teaching 1st Grade was her passion. She loved the interaction with young children and deeply cared for each child she taught. Her class motto was "Love is Spoken Here" and she lived that motto every day; even beyond retirement from Okemos Schools in 2003. Her other passion was her family and friends. Marj was a light to everyone she met and cherished the deep friendships that were formed. She treasured her children and grandchildren and was the sweetest, kindest, and most loving mom, grandma and aunt you can imagine. The love of her life was her husband Emmett, whom she married on June 12, 1965. He was her Guy and she was his Gal and they would tell each other each night. The love and commitment they shared for more than five decades is truly inspirational. They spent their retirement years in Harrison, MI and Tavares, FL. Marj was preceded in death by her parents Howard and Lucy Frisch, her brother Gary Frisch and her beloved son, Matthew Lippe. She is survived by her husband Emmett Lippe, sister Lolly (Ken) Frued, brother George (Donna) Frisch, Sister in law Susan Mead, and sons Marc (Mary Ann) Lippe and Justin (Wendy) Lippe. She has 7 grandchildren: Melissa (Kevin) Foss, Sarah (Connor) McDevitt, Jacob, Hannah, Michael, Annie and James Lippe. She has 5 great-grandchildren: Delaney, Charlie, Parker, Sloane and Cillian. Due to Covid-19, no public service will he held. Family and Friends can share memories at www.grwilliamston.com Marj will be laid to rest in Summit Cemetery in Williamston. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Huntington University, Williamston Schools Foundation, Okemos Education Foundation or the Novi Educational Foundation in her memory.

> Gorsline Runciman Funeral Homes



The seventh hole of the South Course at Oakland Hills Country Club is part of an extensive \$12.1 million restoration expected to be completed in 2021, COURTESY OF OAKLAND HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

### **US Open**

Continued from Page 1B

The course should be the least of anyone's concerns. The venerable club was founded in 1916 and has the pedigree anyone would cherish. It has hosted six U.S. Opens and three PGA Championships.

No one doubts the course will be amazing when the work is done. The question on everyone's mind is what would it take for the USGA to award Oakland Hills the U.S. Open, which wouldn't come until 2028 at the earli-

est?
There are a lot of factors involved, but

the most important one is relationships.

The USGA can pick almost any course it chooses to host the U.S. Open. I think it comes down to USGA leaders being comfortable with the Oakland Hills leaders and feeling they could have a good working relationship for the numerous years of preparation that lead up to the tournament.

Although it has been a long time

since Oakland Hills hosted the U.S. Open, that was in part by choice. I've spoken with lots of people over the years at Oakland Hills who told me club members in 1996 were put off by the way the USGA took over the club during the tournament.

Egos were bruised and Oakland Hills chose to take itself out of the U.S. Open rotation and partner with the PGA of America to host the 2004 Ryder Cup and the '08 PGA Championship.

In the world of golf majors, you either work with the PGA or the USGA, but not both at the same time. To put it in Detroit terms, you're either a Ford or a Chevy person.

But the leadership from 1996 is different on both sides now. The relationship has been mended, evident in 2016, when Oakland Hills hosted the U.S. Amateur.

"We have a committee, a future-sites committee, at the USGA that's constantly looking at where all of our Open championships go," Ben Kimball, then the U.S. Amateur director, said in 2016. "We want to take our Open championships to the best venues in the country.

This is certainly one of them."

On Aug. 24, Oakland Hills head pro Steve Brady said the club's "relationship with the USGA, I think, is wonderful."

Even greater! When do we tee off?
Unfortunately, relationships are harder than carrying a bunker at 275 yards. There are relationships formed through temporary business alliances,

like hosting a U.S. Open.

And then there are long-term trusting relationships like the ones formed between the USGA and members of private clubs that volunteer their time to serve on USGA committees.

It's my understanding Oakland Hills hasn't had many of the latter recently. That needs to change if it wants to give itself the best shot at hosting a U.S. Open

Once those relationships get stronger, the USGA shouldn't have any qualms about awarding Oakland Hills the U.S.

Even the local economy, which is hard to forecast eight years out, holds promise when you consider the smashing success of the PGA Tour's return to

Detroit last year with the Rocket Mortgage Classic.

Oakland Hills has also been working with the Detroit Sports Commission, which partners with all the big hitters in town to try to land major events.

Oakland Hills is a private club, but its members and leadership understand there's a public trust with Michigan golf fans who count on the club to bring the biggest tournaments to our state.

Hanse is one of golf's premier architects who has worked on renovating and restoring some of the best clubs, including upcoming U.S. Open host courses like Winged Foot and Pinehurst.

He's optimistic about Oakland Hills' chances, but even he doesn't know the secret ingredient the USGA looks for when it awards the U.S. Open.

"There's room here to do it, but there's so many considerations that go into it that obviously I'm not privy to," he said. "I will say that I'm hopeful once we're finished that if any of the governing bodies come out to take a look they'll be favorably impressed.

"Hopefully we'll find a way to get them back here."



For more information regarding this directory Elizabeth Andolina at EAndolina@gannett.com

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# 26 industries that have added jobs

By ZipRecruiter.com

he U.S. economy lost 22 million jobs between February and April, and had only recovered 42% of them by July, according to the latest jobs report.

But not all industries contracted during the pandemic. Some added thousands of employees to meet surging demand for groceries, gardening supplies, hand sanitizer, sewing machines, ventilators, video game consoles, plexiglass sneeze guards and mortgage refinancing, among other goods and services.

Here are the 26 industries that have added the largest numbers of jobs to the economy since February:

- 1. Warehouse clubs and supercenters: 156.9K
- 2. Supermarkets and grocery stores:

3. Building material and garden sup-

- ply stores: 62.2K 4. The federal government (exclud-
- ing the post office): 48.9K 5. Couriers and express delivery
- services: 45.7K
- 6. Local messengers and delivery and private postal service: 14.3K

- 7. Children's and infants' clothing stores: 10K
- 8. Tax preparation services: 8.3K 9. Mortgage and nonmortgage loan brokers: 6K
- 10. Surgical appliances and supplies
- manufacturers: 5.3K 11. Internet publishing and broadcasting and web search portals: 4.2K
- 12. Direct life insurance carriers: 3.9K 13. Department of Defense: 3.6K 14. Farm product raw materials
- wholesalers (including of grains and field beans): 3.4K
- 15. Animal slaughtering: 2.9K 16. Securities Brokerage: 2.8K
- 17. Claims adjusting: 2.8K
- 18. Consumer lending: 2.6K 19. Scientific research and develop-
- ment services: 2.4K 20. Miscellaneous computer and elec-
- tronic products manufacturers: 2.2K 21. Soaps and cleaning compounds
- manufacturers: 1.9K
- 22. State hospitals: 1.7K 23. Direct property and casualty
- insurers: 1.7K 24. Sewing, needlework and piece
- goods stores: 1.6K 25. Plastics packaging materials, film and sheet: 1.6K
- 26. Investment advice: 1.6K

We are

#### Other jobs report findings

 Performing arts and spectator sports lost 12.8K jobs in July as fall and winter season events were canceled or pared back. That industry now employs fewer than half as many as it did last year (253.7K vs. 514.2K). State mass layoff notices for July read like a list of the nation's top orchestras, theaters, opera houses and sporting venues.

· Several high-wage industries where jobs can be performed from home continued to struggle as businesses sought to defray pandemic-related revenue losses. For example, employment declines continued in management of

companies and enterprises (-12.2K), advertising and related services (-8.2K), computer systems design (-7K) and publishing industries

 Employment in support activities for mining (-10.6k) also continued to contract, as anemic global demand thwarted a recovery in commodity prices.

 As of July, payroll employment was lower than its pre-COVID February level by 12.9 million jobs (or 8.4%). In other words, the pandemic has sent the economy back to 2014-level numbers of jobs. Payroll employment now needs to grow by about 2.6 million per month to recover by the end of the year.

**JOBS** 

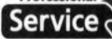


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# THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

### **CROSSWORD PUZZLER**



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

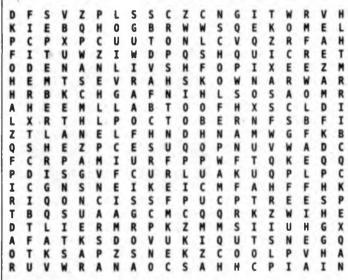
#### SUDOKU 8 6 5 3 3 9 3 9 1 4 5 8 9 6 5

Difficulty Level ★★★

Here's How It Works:

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

### **AUTUMN WORD SEARCH**



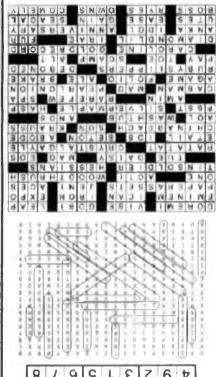
Find the words hidden vortically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

### **WORDS**

**APPLES** AUTUMN CIDER CINNAMON COOL CRISP **CROPS EQUINOX FOOTBALL GOURDS HARVEST** LEAF BLOWER **LEAVES** MAZE **OCTOBER PUMPKIN RAKE** ROAD TRIP **SCARECROW SCARVES** SCH00L **SEPTEMBER** 

**SQUIRREL** 

**TREES** 



8	7	9	9	L	ε	2	6	7	
2	G	3	6	8	Þ	1	9	L	
Þ	1	6	7	7	9	3	8	9	
9	8	Þ	Z	3	G	L	1	6	
1	7	1	Þ	6	8	9	3	9	
6	3	9	L	9	1	8	Þ	7	
L	7	2	8	1	6	9	9	3	
9	9	1	3	Þ	2	6	1	8	
3	6	8	9	9	1	Þ	2	1	

### **NOTICE TO PUZZLE READERS:**

BEGINNING IN OCTOBER, WE WILL BE CHANGING TO A NEW WORD SEARCH PUZZLE.
WE ARE CURRENTLY TESTING NEW OPTIONS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE MOST SEAMLESS
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