

LOCAL NEWS

High school leagues in Iowa release fall sports COVID-19 guidelines

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The Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union released their guidelines Wednesday afternoon for the start of the fall sports season.

Iowa's fall sports include football, volleyball, boys' and girls' cross country, boys' golf and girls' swimming and diving. The two governing organizations released sport-specific guidelines as well as a general protocol for all sports.

In the general guidance release, the IHSAA and IGHSAA stated all schools, regardless of the Return to Learn plans, are eligible to participate in both leagues' sports programs. The decision on whether or not to allow teams to play will rest solely with the local school districts.

Should a school district elect not to participate in certain sports, students within that district will have two options if they still want to participate.

According to a press release, those options include the school district opting into a cooperative sharing agreement with another district that is offering the sport. However, this may jeopardize the host school's post-season eligibility if the combined enrollment moves the host school to the next enrollment class.

The other option is for students in a district not offering the sport they are

interested in to open enroll to another district. The students who open enroll would be immediately eligible to play in that sport, but would be ineligible for varsity competition in any sport their home district offers.

Many of the sanitizing and social distancing guidelines remain in place from the baseball and softball seasons. Any equipment that is shared by student-athletes should be sanitized before and after games and practices. Student-athletes are also encouraged to frequently sanitize their hands before, during and after practices and competitions.

Concession stands will still be closed as of the start of the season.

Schools will also implement spectator protocols based on the recommendations and guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control as well as the local health departments regarding the size of the gatherings and social distancing.

Spectators should maintain six feet of social distancing, with families allowed to sit together but still social distancing from others. Frequent reminders should be made via public address.

Schools may also require spectators to wear masks.

Locker rooms and training rooms will also be available for use, so long as social distancing of six feet and frequent sanitation guidelines are met.



Authorities respond Thursday afternoon to a crash at the intersection of Freeborn County roads 26 and 46 in Hayward. PROVIDED

4 TAKEN TO HOSPITAL AFTER 2-CAR CRASH IN HAYWARD

By Sarah Stultz
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Four people were taken to the hospital after two cars collided Thursday afternoon in Hayward.

According to the Freeborn County Sheriff's Office, authorities received a 911 report of the crash at 12:23 p.m. at the intersection of Freeborn County

roads 26 and 46.

The Sheriff's Office stated an 11-year-old girl, who was a passenger in one of the vehicles, was flown to St. Marys Hospital in Rochester.

Nor Poe, 45, of Albert Lea; August Thaw, 32, of Lincoln, Nebraska; and an 8-year-old boy were taken by Mayo Ambulance to the Albert Lea hospital.

A fifth person, Jennifer Kuznia, 28, of Lake Orion, Michigan, was treated at the scene for minor injuries.

Authorities stated Poe was driving westbound on Freeborn County Road 46 in a Honda SUV with three passengers when her vehicle collided with a Jeep, driven by Kuznia, that was southbound on Freeborn

County Road 26.

Kuznia's passenger, Joseph Damman, 35, was not injured.

The Sheriff's Office stated the crash is still under investigation with the assistance of the Minnesota State Patrol.

Also assisting at the scene were the Hayward and Albert Lea fire departments.

REGION IN BRIEF

Political signs not permitted on state highway rights of way

Placement of campaign and other advertising signage on any highway rights of way is not allowed under state law, reminds the Minnesota Department of Transportation in a press release. All state, county, city and township roads and highways fall under the same state law.

Highway rights of way include driving lanes, inside and outside shoulders, ditches and sight corners at intersections.

Also, landowner consent is needed before signs are placed on private property outside of the right of way.

MnDOT crews are required to remove unlawfully placed signs and impound them at one of its local maintenance truck stations.

Violation of the law (Minn. Stat. 160.27) is a misdemeanor. Civil penalties also may apply if the placement of signage contributes to a motor vehicle crash and injures a person or damages a motor vehicle that runs off the road. The Minnesota Outdoor Advertising Control Act (Minn. Stat. 173.15) also prohibits placing advertising materials on public utility poles, trees and shrubs, and painting or drawing on rocks or natural features.

When improperly placed signs are removed by MnDOT, every effort is made to temporarily store the sign and notify the owner where the signs can be retrieved.

For information about the proper placement of campaign signs or where to retrieve signs, contact the local MnDOT office at 507-286-7500. See also mndot.gov/govrel/rw_signs.html.

When placing signs, the best way to avoid an emergency or unintentionally striking an underground facility is to call 811 before digging, according to the Minnesota Department of

Public Safety. Go to the GSOC website and request that underground utilities be marked near the area of the digging.

For real-time travel information anywhere in Minnesota, visit 511mn.org.

Free school supplies to be available

BeMobile Verizon announced its seventh annual backpack giveaway, according to a press release. In an effort to support parents as the school year approaches, BeMobile will share backpacks filled with school supplies at no cost.

The event will be from Tuesday through Friday in each BeMobile Verizon location during regular business hours, which can be found at bemobile.com.

In light of the current operating conditions for retail stores, additional precautions will be taken for this year's event. Backpacks will be distributed over multiple days and parents or guardians may call ahead to reserve up to three backpacks for pickup in order to prevent a concentration of people and make proper distancing easier. Remaining backpacks will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Backpacks will be handled only by employees and given directly to the person receiving the backpack. Children are not required to be present to pick up backpacks and no purchase is necessary.

"This one of our favorite events each year. Giving back to the community is so important to each and every one of us at BeMobile," said Jason Prinsen, director of sales and marketing at BeMobile. "Our teams are excited to hand out backpacks and supplies to families. We are thankful to our employees, guests and communities for participating again in our annual event."

During the event, BeMobile will give away nearly 5,000 backpacks to local children.

Surf Ballroom is coming to Albert Lea.

Jaclyn Garlock will display her larger-than-life acrylic paintings — one is 6 1/2 feet by 11 feet — depicting scenes in and around Clear Lake's historic rock 'n' roll landmark as The Albert Lea Art Center's first show since the COVID-19 pandemic forced the center to shut down earlier this year.

Garlock has been painting with acrylics since about 2000, and said her first acrylic show was at the former Art Center in 2001. Prior to that she worked in serigraphy — or silkscreen printing — for many years, before she had to give it up after the chemicals started giving her bad headaches. While she wishes she could have delved into oil painting — a medium that also involves harsh chemicals — and misses creating serigraphs, she has created detailed work with vivid color palettes through acrylics.

She has painted a number of different series, including "Working Girls," which Garlock described as paintings showing "extraordinary women doing ordinary things." She tends to create her paintings from photographs she has either taken or staged.

Now Garlock, a Clear Lake resident, has turned her focus to Surf Ballroom, which has seen the likes of everyone from The Everly Brothers, Roy Orbison and Little Richard to Alice Cooper, Santana, BB King and Lynyrd Skynyrd, among many others. The venue also hosted Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper in February 1959 in what ended up being the last time the three musicians would perform; they died in a plane crash following the performance.

Garlock knows the current Surf Ballroom owners, who she said purchased the venue in 1994 — "They really brought it back to life," she said. Garlock helped work on the pineapple stenciling in



Jaclyn Garlock will have paintings depicting Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake on display in The Albert Lea Art Center's first show since the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the gallery earlier this year. COLLEEN HARRISON/ALBERT LEA TRIBUNE

"You paint what you know, paint where you live. What a fun thing to paint."

— Artist Jaclyn Garlock

the lobby of the building. Turning the focus of this series to the ballroom just made sense.

"You paint what you know, paint where you live," she said. "What a fun thing to paint."

While an artist through and through, Garlock said it's the finished work that motivates her.

"I've never been much of a process person," she said. "I like the result."

Originally Garlock was scheduled to display her Surf Ballroom series in line with Albert Lea's Eddie Cochran Days in June, but the coronavirus pandemic put both events on hold.

Art Center Artistic Director Beth Tostenson said she kept in touch with Garlock, wanting to make sure the series would still come to Albert Lea, and said it's



Garlock said her acrylic paintings are painted from photos she has either taken or staged in and around Surf Ballroom.

a great series to showcase as the Art Center comes back.

"After four months, we're finally opening the Art Center," Tostenson said.

"We're just really excited to have (Garlock's) show," she continued. "Her art is just wonderful."

"I'm really excited to be here," Garlock said. "It's what I do."

The Art Center's hours will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays for the time being, Tostenson said. Those wishing to make an appointment to visit the Art Center outside of those hours can contact her at 507-481-4025. Masks and social distancing will be

required inside the building, which will have a 30-person maximum. There will be no gallery opening reception.

Other Art Center news

The Albert Lea Art Center, 101 S. Broadway Ave. in downtown Albert Lea, has started a "Mask up, Albert Lea" initiative, asking people to send in their creative masked selfies. The self portraits will be printed and displayed in the Art Center's front window.

Tostenson also said the Art Center received a grant for a selfie wall. A pair of angel wings will be on display inside the building for guests to use to take pictures.