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THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Housing development planned along Haggerty

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Could the northeast corner of Novi support a major residential development? One proposal being considered by the city's planning commission would bring several hundred units to that part of town.

The planning commission reviewed a rezoning request for an empty piece of property on the west side of Haggerty between 12 Mile and 13 Mile during its meeting March 25, which was held on-line in accordance with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's executive order.

The development would create more than 270 units in a multi-family setting

across both three- and four-story buildings.

The commission was asked to rezone the property from OST-Office Service Technology to RM-2-High Density Multi-Family, but decided to postpone the rezoning due to too many questions and concerns over the plan.

David Landry, one of the petitioners

with BC Novaplex LLC, said there's been talk of developing the 22-acre property for 20 years. There were previous approvals for office projects at the site, but those approvals have long since expired.

The new plan, he said, would provide housing for people especially looking to

See DEVELOPMENT, Page 5A

Pandemic brings 'wartime nursing' to hospital

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

During a brief break from the emergency room where she works, Lauren Tierney was asked how she is doing.

"We are surviving," Tierney, 35, responded. "We are still seeing regular emergency and trauma patients, we still see and treat everyone, but we are inundated with COVID patients."

Tierney, a Westland native now living in Royal Oak, is clinical nurse manager of the emergency and trauma center at Beaumont Hospital in Farmington Hills. Eight years into her nursing career, she got a trial run for a pandemic when the first suspected COVID-19 case arrived in her ER about two weeks ago. Since, then, it has been an avalanche of patients.

"Over the past two weeks we are just seeing more and more. ... People have gotten sicker as the weeks go on," she said. "Some were discharged with CDC instructions and now we have to intubate a lot of people."

"The ICU is full and a lot of sick people (with COVID-19 are) all over the hospital."

While there are beds still available and designated units for COVID-19 patients, as hospital staff attempt to separate these patients from other areas,

See PANDEMIC, Page 5A



Lauren Tierney, clinical nurse manager of the emergency and trauma center at Beaumont Hospital in Farmington Hills, said the hospital is reaching capacity in its battle against the coronavirus pandemic. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

SUICIDE AWARENESS

Suicide rates increasing across state, metro Detroit

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Suicide deaths were climbing across Michigan and metro Detroit before the coronavirus pandemic forced people into greater isolation.

That has suicide prevention experts worried about the future since studies have linked perceived social isolation with risky health issues like depression, sleep issues, cognitive decline and weakened immune systems.

"We have seen a large increase in calls regarding COVID -19," said Melissa Bowman, whose duties include suicide prevention at Common Ground, a 24-hour crisis services agency serving metro Detroit. "Contacts are feeling confused and helpless. All calls, chats and texts end up talking about how this epidemic is affecting them in all ways."

"People are scared for themselves and others, feeling trapped and in ways lost, not knowing what to do."

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. The voluntary health organization also reports that 48,344 people died by suicide in 2018. An alarming 1.4 million attempted suicide that year.

For metro Detroit, the number of suicides climbed an average of 20 percent in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties from 2009 to 2018, according to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' data.

These counties also had the greatest number of suicides in 2018, the last year with data available. Wayne had 225 suicides that year; Oakland, 168; and Macomb, 145.

In the same 10-year time frame, not including the suspected under-reporting, Michigan had a total of 13,261 suicides. The numbers jumped by about 33 percent, going from 1,164 in 2009 to 1,547 in 2018.

Bowman said there are "so many reasons" for the upticks.

"Talking to people who are thinking about killing themselves is pretty much our every day," Bowman said. "We notice it going up drastically around any national events. (If) someone famous dies by suicide, our calls

See SUICIDE, Page 3A

During pandemic, we need a shot – of good news



John Heider
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

We've all heard of the sad and frustrating coronavirus pandemic in our communities: shoppers hoarding and fighting over toilet paper, hand sanitizer and bottled water.

Some gathered up those essentials, jacked up the price and sold them at

price-gouging levels. Scams racing through the area touted miracle snake-oil cures for the virus and others already are trying to con people out of their promised coronavirus relief checks from the federal government.

It's enough to make a frightening time even more weighty for the soul. We need a shot of good news like we need that eventual vaccine: desperately.

So if you can, in these uncertain times, share with us at Hometown Life your stories of hope: of neighbor helping

neighbor, of organizations going the extra mile to make sure no one goes hungry, homeless or uncared for.

It probably won't bring a quicker end to our new shelter-in-place, contact avoidance way of life, but it'll help remind us all that even when the going gets tough, the tough get going on a plan to lift all our hearts.

Send your stories, photos and messages of hope to John Heider, staff photographer, at jheider@hometownlife.com or 734-972-65456.

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Magna car seat designers helping any way they can

Jamie L. LaReau Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Auto supplier giant Magna International is using its car seat sewing skills to get more surgical face masks to the medical community during the coronavirus pandemic.

Magna has a team of nine designers in Novi who have backgrounds in fashion. The team typically designs luxurious car seats.

Now they're sewing face masks.

"Being able to create products, which is something I'm passionate about, to potentially help thousands of people is so important to me and to Magna," said Ashley Harris, an engineer at Magna

and a metro Detroit dressmaker with a private label.

Harris is sewing dozens of face masks daily. She and the team also put together an instructional guide for folks huddled at home with a sewing machine and time on their hands. Most fabric stores are open because they're considered essential services.

Magna is also boosting production at its cut-and-sew seating factories around the world to make medical masks. It secured more than half a million masks from China



A worker repairs a vehicle seat at Magna International. Employees there have been finding new ways to use their skills during the coronavirus pandemic. Magna has 348 locations around the world. DETROIT FREE PRESS FILE

hometownlife.com

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to donate to hospitals in North America and Italy.

Finally, Magna said it is in discussions with automakers on providing parts for "ventilators, face shields and more."

"Magna employees are problem solvers by nature, and we are committed to supporting the communities where we work and live," said Tracy Fuerst, Magna's vice president of corporate communications, in a statement.

Designer's guide to masks

Harris, 30, is leading the local effort to sew face masks. She joined Magna in 2017 as a product engineer on seat trim and was named Hour magazine's best dressmaker in 2019.

Her website states she graduated from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City and was a former intern for Vera Wang, known for designing wedding gowns. That glamour is on hold. Now Harris is sewing about 40 face masks a day.

"This is why I love this company so much," Harris said. "They allow us to be entrepreneurial no matter the situation."

Harris is also researching other ways the trim team can help in the fight against coronavirus.

Magna reported \$39.4 billion in 2019 sales. It

makes a variety of auto parts from technology to body and exteriors to power train. It makes car seats for vehicles such as General Motors' GMC Acadia, Cadillac XT5 and XT6 SUVs.

In recent years, Magna has pushed to hire people with degrees and backgrounds in fashion design to use their creative eye in seat design.

"It's all about blending art and engineering as we give our customers — and consumers — the best in seat-trim covers," wrote Frank Eupizi, Magna's director of engineering for seating, in a February Magna blog post.

The nine-member Magna group in Novi gives the "haute couture touch to a wide range of vehicles, including the 2020 Chevrolet Bolt,

Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid, Cadillac XT5 and Jeep Grand Cherokee," Eupizi wrote.

Cut and sew

Magna has 348 locations around the world including Spring Hill, Tennessee, where it makes car seats for GM's Spring Hill Assembly plant.

In Europe, where Magna's seating plants specialize in cut-and-sew capabilities, the company has increased production of face masks to help address a shortage in Italy. In Russia, Serbia and the Czech Republic, Magna employees produce 51,000 masks per day of two different designs, one more complex with an additional filter pocket, Fuerst said.

In Mexico, Magna factories are ramping up to 2,000 face masks made per day. These masks are for use within the local community.

"Our divisions and employees around the world are donating gloves to hospitals, meals to health-care workers, and hygiene kits to shelters," Fuerst said.

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SECTION 00 1113 - ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

DATE: April 2, 2020

PROJECT: Novi Community School District
Elementary Secure Entries
Novi, Michigan

OWNER: Novi Community School District
25345 Taft Road
Novi, Michigan 48374

ENGINEERING/
TECHNOLOGY
DESIGNER: Integrated Design Solutions, LLC
Architecture, Engineering, Interiors & Technology
1441 W. Long Lake, Suite 200
Troy, MI 48098
(248) 823-2100
(248) 823-2200 fax

BIDS RECEIVED: Until 9:00 AM local time on Thursday, April 23, 2020 the Owner will receive sealed Bids for the work as set forth in the Bidding Documents at:

Attention: Mr. Matt McCarty
Integrated Design Solutions
1441 W Long Lake Road
Suite 200
Troy, MI 48098

At which time all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. The bid opening will be conducted via online conference at <https://zoom.us/j/447650103> and via phone at +1 (646) 558-8656, meeting ID: 447 650 103. A bid tabulation summary will be available.

The Bidding Documents will be on file on and after Thursday, April 2, 2020.

The Engineering/Technology Designer will furnish electronic documents to the Bidders. The documents may be downloaded from: <http://cloud.ids-troy.com/bids/bids/novi/elementarysecureentries>. Bidders are responsible to check the website from time to time to verify they have all addenda, requests for information and other documents related to the Bid.

The Bid must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized Familial Relationship Disclosure Statement. The Board of Education will not accept a Bid that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.

A pre-bid conference is scheduled for Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 2:00 PM local time. In compliance with the State of Michigan Executive Order 2020-21 the pre-bid conference will be held online. Instructions for accessing the online meeting are included in Section 00 2113 - INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS, Paragraph 3.

Publish April 2, 2020



Graham E. Smith, left, stands with his parents Katherine and Ken Massey, of Farmington Hills. Smith fatally shot himself in 2011. His parents frequently share their story, trying to fight the stigma of suicide. COURTESY OF MASSEY FAMILY

Suicide

Continued from Page 1A

increase. A lot of it has a lot to do with just society, a lack of resources, a lack of mental health care, a lack of financial resources.

"There's not a lot of support for people and there's a lot of crisis."

She advised people to look out for others who feel isolated or burdensome. Key words to stay alert to are "hopeless" and "helpless."

And people should find someone to talk to.

"People don't talk about how to handle anxiety, how to handle anger — these normal, everyday emotions that people aren't really trained on how to work with and handle and deal with," Bowman said. "The brain is just another part of the body. Some people have what I like to call like a brain glitch. Something happens (and), just like a computer, it glitches. They suicide. They kill themselves usually due to lots of different things."

She noted that there's no demographic that hasn't been touched by suicide.

Hometown Life filed Freedom of Information Act requests to find the number of suicides local law enforcement agencies responded to in each of the past five years.

Westland police officers responded to 21 in 2019, far outpacing other communities but still lower than the 27 they reported in 2015.

"The numbers are pretty high," Chief Jeff Jedrusik wrote in an email. "There are many factors that play into them. Westland is a very large community with a much larger population than most of the comparable communities."

"There are stress factors that unfortunately lead to suicide. People living in the Westland community may be more susceptible to these stressful factors."

He listed gambling, finances, and drug or alcohol abuse among stress factors.

Jedrusik pointed out Westland's median income, which was about \$48,000 in a 2019, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, compared to about \$55,000 across Michigan.

About this series

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

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

"Limited income results in limited health care and mental health care options," he wrote. "People with mental health issues are much more likely to commit suicide than others."

He noted that Westland has more parks, cemeteries, and other communities, which may draw people from outside the city who want to kill themselves.

Livonia police officers responded to the second-highest number of suicides in Hometown Life's coverage area: 10 in 2019, compared to five in 2015.

"It's a very daily, routine part of our job to come across someone who is emotionally disturbed whether it's temporary or chronic," Lt. Charles Lister said.

Canton Deputy Police Director Chad Baugh agreed.

"In almost every situation, there's a component of mental health that can be addressed," he said.

His police officers have responded to 32 suicides, mostly hangings, from the start of 2015 through the end of 2019.

Police have been closing their offices for non-essential services because of the coronavirus pandemic. But they have emphasized that their police presence has not diminished.

Baugh is preaching calmness: "If we can help calm each other and be a calming voice. ..."

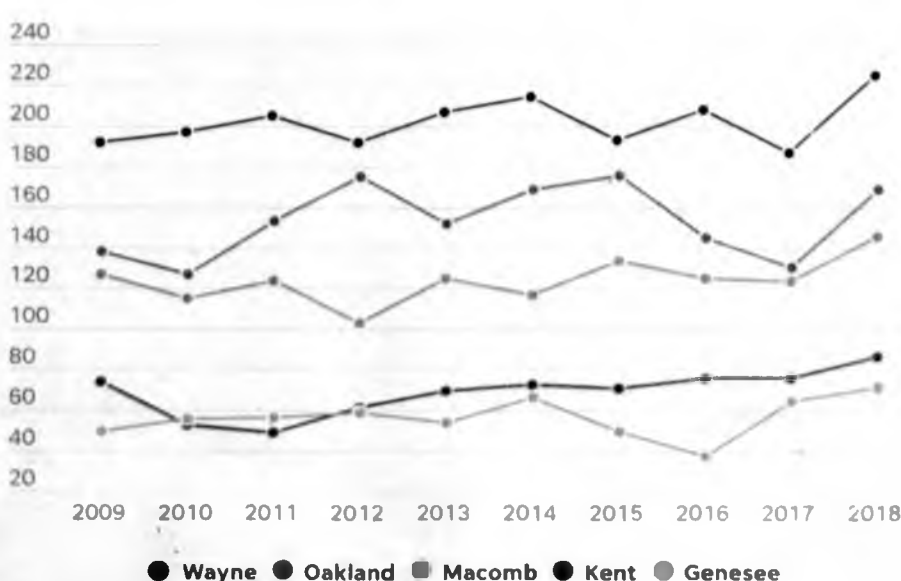
Law enforcement agencies that discovered more suicides in 2019 than in 2015 were Birmingham, Northville Township and Livonia police officers; Farmington public safety officers and Oakland County Sheriff's deputies in Highland Township.

Included were:

■ A South Lyon High School senior who died by suicide about a week before graduation. His father found him dead when returning home from work on a May morning.

■ A 58-year-old Novi gunman who

Michigan: Most suicides in 2018



"If we reach one person, everything we're doing is good."

Ken Massey, advocate for families coping with suicide

Data Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

LOCAL SUICIDES SPORADIC

Community	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
South Lyon	2	2	2	1	1
Milford	3	0	3	3	3
Novi	5	2	3	2	4
Northville City	1	0	0	0	0
Northville Twp	2	0	4	5	5
Farmington	0	0	1	0	2
Farmington Hills	18	11	6	5	6
Wayne	1	2	1	1	1
Livonia	5	15	9	15	10
Plymouth	1	0	0	0	1
Plymouth Twp.	4	2	3	3	1
Birmingham	1	1	2	1	2
Bloomfield Twp.	4	2	1	2	0
Westland	27	23	13	30	21
Canton Twp.	9	2	10	8	3
Lyon Twp.	2	2	0	2	0
Highland Twp.	0	1	5	4	3

Source: Metro Detroit law enforcement agencies

barricaded himself inside his Venice Drive during a July standoff with police. It took 21 hours for police to enter the home. When they did, the man was dead.

■ In December, Plymouth Township police said they responded to a possible murder-suicide in a mobile home park.

Historic District Commissioner James Salamay, 46, apparently fatally shot his estranged wife Christina, 37, and then himself.

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

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2020-21 BUDGET

In compliance with "Act No. 43," State of Michigan Public Act of 1963, and "Act No. 2," State of Michigan Public Acts of 1968 ("Section 16" of the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act), Schoolcraft College publishes this notification of a public hearing on the proposed 2020-21 College budget. This hearing is to take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, at the Jeffress Center Board Room, J228, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, Michigan. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the above address during normal business hours.

Glenn Cerny

Glenn Cerny
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Publish: April 2 & 5, 2020

INVITATION TO BID (Revised in addendum #1) 2020 Hillside MS / Meads Mill M.S. Signage & Gym Remodeling NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Board of Education of Northville Public Schools is accepting firm prime contractor trade specific bids for all labor, materials, equipment and all other services to complete the gym remodeling at Hillside Middle School and Signage work at Hillside Middle School and Meads Mill Middle School.

Plans and specifications may be downloaded electronically and are available for review at the office of the AUCH Construction, 65 University, Pontiac, MI 48342 248.334.2000, on or after March 16, 2020. Bid Package consists of Instruction to Bidders, Proposal Forms, General and Supplementary Conditions, drawings and pertinent trade specifications. Contact Joe D'Agostini at jdagostini@auchconstruction.com for download instructions.

Your proposal will be accepted **NO LATER THAN 12:00 NOON, April 9, 2020 TO: NORTHVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION - 405 WEST MAIN STREET, NORTHVILLE, MI 48167. Bids must be delivered by a courier service (Fed Ex, UPS, etc...) or US Mail ONLY by the due date and time. At this time, hand delivery of the bid proposal by the interested bidders is not permitted.**

All bids will be opened and read aloud beginning at 12:30 P.M., April 09, 2020 at the Northville Board of Education, 405 West Main Street, Northville, MI 48167. Due to the Governor's order, the live bid opening will be held electronically. For electronic access instructions to view or listen to the live stream please use this link.

<https://meetingsamer.webex.com/meetingsamer/j.php?MTID=mccf49d88283931d8ba35dbb00b7db574>

The password is: **Northville**

All contracts to be entered into by the Northville Public Schools must and will comply with the equal opportunity laws of the State of Michigan.

All bids must be submitted on the forms provided in the bid packet.

All bidders must provide familial disclosure in compliance with MCL 380.1267 and attach this information to the bid proposal. The bid proposal will be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Northville Public Schools, Board of Education or the Northville Public Schools, Superintendent. The District will not accept a bid proposal that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.

Proposals must include a Treasury listed bid bond or certified check made payable to Northville Public Schools for not less than five percent (5%) of the contract for each proposal over \$24,924 and must be submitted on the bid proposal form furnished with the specifications. All proposals shall remain firm for a period of sixty (60) days.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in whole or in part; to award contract to other than the low bidder; to waive any irregularities and/or informalities; and in general to make awards in any manner deemed to be in the best interests of the owner.

Laurie Doner, Secretary
Northville Public Schools, Board of Education

Published: April 2, 2020

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Mom wins PPO battle in student fight case

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A West Bloomfield mother who went to court to protect her son from a former North Farmington High School classmate won a small battle this month.

Oakland County Circuit Judge Lisa Langton found the 17-year-old North Farmington defendant guilty of civil contempt for violating a personal protection order (PPO) because of a fight that took place after the North Farmington-West Bloomfield basketball game Jan. 10.

Langton ordered a sentencing for later this year and said a personal protection order, already about a year old, would remain in place in an effort to keep the son, Kenede Marion, safe.

The decision came several weeks after Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Robert Herrera said Kenede, a West Bloomfield senior, threw the first punch in the fight.

Afterward, Kenede was hospitalized for nearly a week because of a lacerated liver and spleen and fractured vertebrae.

The North student had a bruise on the right side of his face and responded negatively to his mother's questions that night about whether he needed medical attention.

Langton also extended the PPO and the stipulations intended to bar contact between the teens.

According to the PPO, the North Farmington defendant must avoid the Marion family's property and not attempt any third-party contact by mail, telephone or the internet.

"I support Kenede as what he reported was accurate and true," his mother, Kenya Marion, said in a cell phone text message. "Kenede is doing as well (as) can be expected. He is such a strong and resilient young man."

Kenya Marion is a Farmington Public Schools social worker and did not return to work until recently. She has filed a civil personal injury suit against her son's adversary in Oakland Circuit Court.

Her son went to North Farmington for 10th grade and most of 11th grade. He switched schools in March 2019, around the same time his mother filed the PPO.

The Marion family was upset when Herrera sent a letter to families about the fight, in which he said the North Farmington student was not at fault.

In the letter, Herrera stated the two boys were known adversaries. Kenede and other West Bloomfield students apparently exited the school building and lingered outside the doors. Kenede approached the PPO defendant when he also left the building, and things eventually turned physical.

"At this point, the North Farmington



West Bloomfield High School student Kenede Marion was hospitalized for nearly a week because of a lacerated liver and spleen and fractured vertebrae after a fight with another student after a basketball game in January. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

student was grabbed by a friend and turned to walk away from the West Bloomfield student," Herrera wrote. "The West Bloomfield student then ran in front of the North Farmington student and threw two punches striking the North Farmington student."

Kenya Marion's version of the evening's events included a hostile game where her son was verbally taunted and parents and students being confused by Kenede not getting any game time.

Kenede has said he was warned that

he would get jumped by the other student at the game. He said he was attacked while walking toward a vehicle to go home.

Mercy Kern said she became aware her son wasn't getting along with Kenede in December 2018. She said she wanted to address the issue with school officials and the Marions, but that the other family rejected the idea.

She and her son were not aware he would be violating the PPO when he attended the Jan. 10 basketball game.

"We will live with that," she said over the phone. "We learned the hard way. (But) Kenede was the instigator. ... He threw the first punch and (my son) defended himself."

Farmington schools also punished her son because of the fight. He was suspended for 10 days and denied access to after-school activities. The sprinter also was supposed to sit out at least half of his track season.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com.

Man faces charge of harassing after several calls to Milford police

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Milford police say a telephone caller broke the law by verbally abusing a police cadet answering the department's business line.

An arraignment is pending on a misdemeanor charge of harassing, threatening calls, according to online 52-1 District Court records.

In the police report, the cadet said a

Stephen Street resident called earlier this month to request police response because his son had stolen his vehicle.

He was asked to hold for Oakland County dispatchers, a Milford police report stated. His derogatory insults then began, and he hung up before the transfer could happen.

He then called several times. The report stated the caller used insulting, derogatory and sexist language and accused the cadet of being stupid.

Eventually, the resident stayed on the phone long enough to allow the cadet to transfer the call to Oakland County Sheriff's deputies, and officers were dispatched to his home.

An April 14 court appearance is scheduled. Court records indicate the resident will also show for a misdemeanor charge of having open intoxicants in his vehicle the same day the calls were made.

svela@hometownlife.com

Man charged in death of cyclist at Island Lake recreation area

Kayla Daugherty Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A man has been charged in connection with a fatal vehicle-bicycle crash at Island Lake Recreation Area last year, according to the Livingston County Prosecutor's Office.

Andrew Greff, 31, of Royal Oak, was arraigned on a charge of moving violation causing death on Feb. 13, Livingston County Prosecutor William Vaillencourt said.

Police said Daniel Horal, 62, was riding his bike west on State Park Way near the Kent Lake Beach entrance in the park when he was struck by Greff's SUV on April 24.

Horal, of Brighton Township, died from his injuries days later.

Vaillencourt said Greff was originally scheduled for a pretrial March 23, but due to the coronavirus pandemic, the hearing has been adjourned by the court to April 27.

Greff is currently out on bond.

He faces up to one year in jail if convicted.



GILLIS BENEDICT/DAILY PRESS & ARGUS

Milford police say ex-convict stole from car in dead man's driveway

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Milford police recently arrested an ex-convict for allegedly breaking into a vehicle parked in a dead man's driveway.

The arrested man, 32, faces a felony charge of larceny from a motor vehicle and a misdemeanor charge of breaking and entering a vehicle to steal property in Oakland County Circuit Court.

Milford police said in a report they were dispatched to Fenn Street the afternoon of March 6. Neighbors had alerted them to a stranger with a machine-powered reciprocating saw approaching the residence of a homeowner who recently had died.

Arriving police confirmed that a U-Haul vehicle was parked in front of the residence. The stranger had a wrench.

He told police that he was there to replace the battery of a Honda belonging to "Chris." He said "Chris" paid him to replace the battery.

The stranger could not provide a surname or phone number for "Chris." He told police the deal was arranged through his girlfriend's Facebook account.

Police noticed the reciprocating saw and other tools in the U-Haul.

The resident's ex-wife and daughter arrived and could not identify the stranger. The Honda belonged to one of their boyfriends and, the last time they saw it, they said, the Honda had an air-

conditioning unit on the rear seat.

An air-conditioning unit and catalytic converter with fresh cut marks were found in the U-Haul, police said. The Honda was missing its catalytic converter.

The stranger said a "crackhead" he recently met asked him to do the job in exchange for him using the U-Haul for scrapping purposes.

According to the Michigan Department of Corrections, the man was convicted of attempted larceny from a motor vehicle in 2019. He pleaded no contest.

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

Pandemic

Continued from Page 1A

Tierney said all units in the hospital will eventually be COVID-19 units "if it keeps up at this rate."

As of 3 p.m. Sunday, 810 COVID-19 patients were being cared for in Beaumont hospitals, with 210 more awaiting test results. The deaths of 35 Beaumont patients were related to COVID-19. Statewide, the number of confirmed coronavirus cases was more than 6,498 Monday with 184 deaths. The U.S. tops all other nations in the number of confirmed coronavirus cases at more than 140,000, including 2,400 deaths.

Numbers were not available for just the Farmington Hills hospital, particularly with so many tests pending, and it is ever changing.

Tierney said the turnaround time to get coronavirus test results is anywhere from two to eight hours.

The emergency department looks much different than two weeks ago,

"Everyone deserves to be safe and not be at risk for this."

Lauren Tierney

Clinical nurse manager, emergency and trauma center at Beaumont Hospital in Farmington Hills

with medical staff all wearing personal protection equipment – N95 masks, goggles, protective gowns and gloves – throughout their shifts. For nurses, that ranges from 12 to 16 hours right now.

The personal protection gear is typically only worn if a doctor or nurse is caring for a patient with active tuberculosis, which is rarely seen.

"Walking through the ER now is like wartime nursing," Tierney said. "Everyone is sick. Nurses are in protective gear, intubating patients much more frequently than before the outbreak, and we are so fortunate to have drive-through screening, keeping less sick patients out so A: nurses are not exposed, and B: the nurses are able to care for the

people who really need care."

The ER is not seeing "lower acuity folks" anymore and Tierney said more people are observing the stay-at-home advisory. Critically ill patients are brought in by ambulance or by family. These are patients with "serious respiratory issues."

"They probably couldn't walk from the couch to the kitchen sink without struggling to breathe," Tierney said. "Their oxygen saturation is in the 70s or lower."

How long a patient remains in the emergency center depends on the day. Some get beds quickly, and some have to wait. Most are staying longer in the ER than ideal.

Tierney said she is aware of the national shortage of medical supplies, but said at Beaumont they have been blessed with a great supply chain and a ton of donations. Still, the staff can "always use more N95 masks, goggles and face shields."

The protocol for wearing N95 masks has changed. Before the coronavirus pandemic, the masks were only used

when in a room with a patient and then discarded. They are now worn through an entire shift unless they become soiled.

Not having enough ventilators for patients is always a worry in a time like this, Tierney said, but right now, no one is sharing ventilators, and every patient who needs one, has one. There are no plans to rent ventilators, but she said that can be done if a ventilator shortage comes to fruition.

Tierney, the mother of a 14-year-old girl, asks everyone to stay home. Doing so will prevent further spread and allow medical staff to continue caring for those suffering dire effects from COVID-19.

"Think about the person you love the most, and remember that all these people who are compromised, whether they are sick or elderly or have some condition that makes them more susceptible, someone loves them, too," Tierney said. "Everyone deserves to be safe and not be at risk for this."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.

Development

Continued from Page 1A

work in that area, including in the Haggerty Corridor Corporate Park.

"I think the use can work," he said. "I don't think it's an island of residential."

"Our tenants want a place where they can walk and bike to work."

Novi staff indicated they had several issues with the plan as it stood, including issues surrounding wetland mitigation and traffic.

If approved, it would be the second residential development in Novi along Haggerty Road north of the I-696/I-96/M-5 interchange: the Country Cousin manufactured home park is the lone residential development north of the freeway on the Novi side of the road. Much of the east side of the road, which is in Farmington Hills, has homes and apartments.

That stretch of residential developments in Farmington Hills is one of the big reasons Landry believed the project would fit into that part of the community.

"Between 12 (Mile) and 13 (Mile), it's all residential," he said. "There's a ton of residential right there."

Much of the discussion was regarding the location of the development, given there is no other residential development nearby in Novi and the challenges it could face.

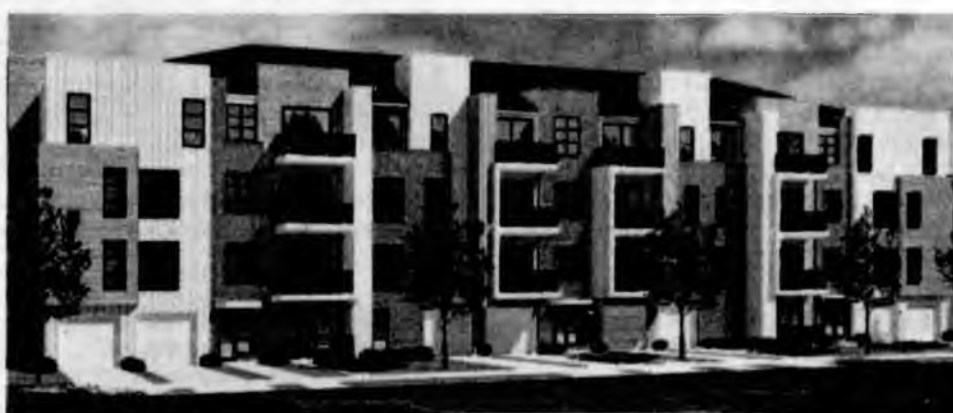
Commissioner Tony Anthony said while the property appeared as a sort of "island" within the city of Novi, that isn't the case if the residential development across the street was taken into account.

"I can see the connections with Farmington Hills. I do believe we need to have connections with our neighboring communities," Anthony said. "I could see this as an extension there."

The area would be part of the Novi Community School District, and Landry said there would be discussions about having busing available for students who live there.

Commissioner Michael Lynch said he wanted to proceed with caution, especially if other similar projects could come before the city.

"I think there's not as much demand (for office space) as there was in the



A rendering shows one of the types of buildings planned at the Novaplex development, which has been proposed for the west side of Haggerty between 12 Mile and 13 Mile roads in Novi. COURTESY OF THE CITY OF NOVI

past. I think we're going to be doing more of this as we go into the future," he said. "Whatever we do on this project, we need to be ready to apply on every other project across the city."

Commissioner John Avdoulos referenced another high-profile, unconventional project the planning commission had recently tackled and improved upon, and said the same thing can happen with the Novaplex project.

"It is a project that is out of the box, but we do have residential across the street. That's what made me more comfortable with this," he said. "We had the same issue with Sakura that came in. It was postponed and they came back and I'm very pleased with the final product."

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

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Hometown Life

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Original Kmart in Garden City demolished

David Veseienak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The original Kmart building site is no more.

The iconic Garden City store was demolished March 12, less than two weeks after preparations for the razing began.

Replacing the former department store on the western side of downtown Garden City will be an LA Fitness, which has acquired the property and plans to construct a gym on the site, Kim Dold, the city's Downtown Development Authority director, said.

LA Fitness had informed the city it would take about eight months before the gym could open.

Once built, the gym would join several other LA Fitness facilities in the area, including two in Livonia, one in Plymouth Township and one in Allen Park.

Dold said the gym would most likely look similar to the LA Fitness on Seven Mile west of Middlebelt in Livonia, which opened on the site of a former Farmer Jack grocery store back in 2018.

The building opened as the first Kmart back in 1962.

The company spent several decades growing, with thousands of stores located across the country, but has shrunk considerably in the past few years. Michigan currently has just one Kmart, located in Marshall, still operating.

The site is just the latest former Kmart to see new life in western Wayne County. The former store at Wayne and Cherry Hill in Westland contains a UHaul facility, and the former store on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township



As a backhoe grabs pieces of steel beam, a bulldozer punches a dusty hole in the wall of the former Garden City Kmart. The building at Ford and Middlebelt roads, home of the first Kmart store, opened in 1962. LA Fitness bought the property and plans to build a gym there in the coming months. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

has been flattened and will become a new Henry Ford medical center.

The former Kmart at Seven Mile and

Farmington in Livonia, which closed nearly three years ago, remains empty.

Contact reporter David Veseienak at

dveseienak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveseienak.



Tail Waggers veterinarian Dr. Sarah James, left, examines a puppy during a check-up on March 10 with assistance from veterinary technician Dominique Reynolds. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Tail Waggers pet clinic moves to new location within Livonia

David Veseienak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's been a roller coaster of a year for the people behind Tail Waggers 1990.

The people behind the nonprofit that helps serve pets with low-cost vaccines and provides emergency pet food to people all across the region thought they might have to close its doors last year after being hit with credit card scams. But after overcoming that challenge, the organization has kept afloat and has even relocated to a new facility it hopes will better serve its customers.

"After some financial downfalls and bad luck a year-and-a-half ago, basically the community rallied, didn't want us to close our doors, cheered us on and this location kind of fell into our lap," said Laura Kuchinski, the Livonia founder of Tail Waggers 1990. "It was a necessity."

Today, the organization sits at 16322 Middlebelt in a shopping center. Making such a move from 28422 Five Mile not only made financial sense to the organization, but Kuchinski hopes it will allow the program to grow.

"We wanted to be able to add more services, we wanted to be able to ex-



Bentley peeks cautiously from his hiding place at Tail Waggers in Livonia.

pand our volunteer program, we wanted to have a little more comfortable space for our clients," she said.

The clinic opened in its new facility, a former doctor's office, at the beginning of March. The property was easy to transform into a veterinary clinic, Kuchinski said, because the exam rooms were equipped with plumbing and other needs for patient treatment.

The nonprofit now has a dedicated room for its pet food and office space for its employees.

Tail Waggers provides vaccines for

cats and dogs, as well as heartworm testing and microchipping services. It eliminated spaying and neutering services back in 2018 due to rising costs and last-minute cancellations, though Kuchinski said she's hopeful that those services could eventually be brought back. More information on their offerings, including prices, can be found at tailwaggers1990.org.

Clinic manager Kelly Robertson said while it's only been a short time since the clinic began operations in its new space, she's already noticing a difference.

"I only have to open one door to get to any of the people I need to get in contact with," Robertson said. "We're all much closer together."

The move will hopefully bring new clients to the clinic and allow for additional growth. Making such a move, Kuchinski said, was due in part to the inspiration from the people and pets who use Tail Waggers' services.

"How do you let these people down? How do you tell them you're closing because of a little bit of financial hardship?" she said. "We've gotten pretty confident that the community will continue to support us."

Tax abatement sought for improvements on South Lyon building

David Veseienak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It didn't take long for the first business to show interest in South Lyon's new tax abatement program.

Lyon Township resident Dan Schwegler submitted an application approved March 9 for the creation of a commercial rehabilitation district at the old RCA building at 135 E. Lake on the eastern edge of downtown.

Schwegler said he applied for the creation of the district after the council approved a tax abatement program last month to provide some financial relief for restoring the building to its former glory.

"It's nice to see that they're willing to support the efforts to preserve what they do have," he said.

Schwegler now has to apply for the actual commercial rehabilitation certificate, which would provide some tax relief on the building for a set amount of time. After it gets reviewed by the city, it would then need to be reviewed by the state, he said.

No one spoke during the public hearing for the creation of the district at the council meeting, and the only council member to speak about the plan was Carl Richards. The only concern he brought up was a possible conflict over any kind of liquor license between the building and the nearby First Presbyterian Church of South Lyon, but other than that, he said such a program was made for buildings like the RCA building.

"If there's ever a property in this town that deserves consideration for rehabilitation, it's this property. This property has been ... an eyesore for many years," he said. "The intended goal of the new owners is very ambitious, whether they'll be able to achieve it or not, I hope so."

Schwegler purchased the building last year. The plans for the building include a new restaurant that could include top-floor dining.

The building - which is more than 100 years old - requires extensive work to keep it in its current condition. Schwegler said crews are finishing up work in the first level of the building, a process that has taken several months, before work on the upper levels can begin.

"They just finished pouring the elevator pit," he said. "Right now, we're working on the drain tile so we can pour a new foundation."

As it stands, Schwegler said he hopes to open the building by early 2021.

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The Penn Theatre in Plymouth hearkens back to the original Penniman Allen Theatre, built in 1918 and formerly just down the street from the present theater on Penniman Avenue. That building burned down in 1968. Harry Lush, an employee of the Penniman Allen Theatres in Plymouth and Northville, opened the Penn in 1941. PHOTOS BY PAMELA A. ZINKOSKY/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Northville, Plymouth news that made headlines a century ago

Pamela A. Zinkosky
Special to HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Our newspapers provide a treasure trove of insight into what life was like in our communities long ago.

The Northville Record newspaper dates back to 1869, and The Plymouth Mail to 1887. We can peruse online issues of each through local libraries and historical societies.

Here's a look at some headlines from these newspapers, precursors to today's Hometown Life community papers, from 1920 - 100 years ago.

State police made a fruitless raid

This Nov. 12, 1920, sign-of-the-times Northville Record headline speaks to a commonplace law enforcement concern - the illegal sale of liquor.

The article names only "the bowling alley" as the raid's target, saying police traveled from Plymouth to Northville.

"Not being satisfied with their search of the bowling alley the police went to the residence of the proprietors on Dunlap Street and searched everything from cellar to garret," the article states. No liquor was found save "two bottles which contained a small quantity of liquor - no more doubtless than might be found in many family medicine closets."

Northville must provide houses

An April 23, 1920, Northville Record article speaks to the "crying need in Northville for more houses." What's interesting is that the anonymous front page article reads like an editorial, admonishing Northville for not jumping on the bandwagon of building houses for those moving out of Detroit.

"If we sit and wait until conditions become normal again the demand for houses by those who feel they must get out of city will not be so great and North-



Maybury State Park is the former site of Maybury Sanatorium for tuberculosis patients, which opened in 1922 and continued to operate until 1969.

ville will have lost its chance to add many families to its citizenship," the article states.

The contract has been awarded

A March 16, 1920, Northville Record article proclaims that the city of Detroit will build a sanatorium "among the hills west of town." A Feb. 7, 1919 article provides more details about the tuberculosis sanatorium, stating that the Detroit common council authorized the board of health to spend \$100,000 on the land "between the U.S. Fishery road and the Base Line road west of this village," and made up of several former farms.

Eventually dubbed Maybury Sanatorium, named for William H. Maybury, who oversaw its development, it opened in 1921 and officially closed in 1969. The land is today known as Maybury State

Park, on Eight Mile (Base Line) and Beck roads.

Woman may hold any office

On December 24, 1920, this Plymouth Mail headline reports a radical fact: "a woman's services, thoughts and actions are not the property of her husband." Plaintiff William Leibnitz filed for a writ of prohibition against Phoebe Patterson, Michigan's first female judge, asserting that "as a married woman, she has no authority to be a judge of Michigan."

Judge Henry Mandell dismissed the case, agreeing with Patterson's lawyer, Paul Voorhies, who cited the 1918 ratification of women's suffrage as evidence that women do, indeed, have the right to hold "any township office open to other electors of the township."

Plymouth man held for murder of wife

The 1920s might have been a simpler time, but they still had their share of problems. This June 18, 1920, Plymouth Mail headline reports the murder of a woman named only as "Mrs. Arthur Sprague" by her husband, a Plymouth resident.

"Sprague shot his wife twice after entering the cottage of Arthur Hood ... where she was employed as a housekeeper," the article reports.

Apparently, Mrs. Sprague had left her husband, intending to divorce him, and went to work for Hood in Walled Lake. Arthur Sprague, who turned the gun on himself but did not die, was eventually sentenced to life in prison.

Theater management criticized

A Jan. 30, 1920 Plymouth Mail article reveals friction between Kate Allen, manager of the Penniman Allen Theatre, and the local Women's Christian Temperance Union. A reprint of a Jan. 22, 1920, letter to Allen from the Temperance Union asks that theater management "exercise a more rigid censorship of the pictures exhibited, that productions of the class of 'Broken Blossoms' may hereafter be excluded."

Allen's clipped response to the ladies' group calls their remarks "a personal criticism" and says the film "was passed by the board of review as excellent." The Temperance Union responds to Allen in a Feb. 6, 1920, Plymouth Mail article, stating that the organization was not criticizing Allen and that, "The youthful mind is very impressionable, and pictured scenes of murders and other crimes that would have no effect upon the adult mind, do often have an ill effect on the mind of the child."

Have an idea for a history article? Contact Pamela A. Zinkosky at pazink@yahoo.com.



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Franklin junior Kyle Fugedi has verbally committed to play football for Miami (Ohio). COURTESY OF KYLE FUGEDI

Franklin's Fugedi commits to play Division 1 football

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The current outbreak of the coronavirus COVID-19 has paralyzed the sports world at all levels, including college football recruiting, where coaches

around the country are now dealing with new restrictions designed to limit the spread of the virus.

Despite the changes, one school has always stood out to Livonia Franklin offensive tackle Kyle Fugedi — Miami University in Ohio.

The three-star junior verbally com-

mitted March 12 to the RedHawks. He had offers from Indiana, Kentucky, Central Michigan, Western Michigan, Bowling Green and Eastern Michigan, in addition to Miami. He also received some interest from Michigan State.

See FUGEDI, Page 2B

Help Hometown Life tell local sports stories

Colin Gay and Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

From pros to preps, sports are in an unprecedented standstill.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association placed an indefinite suspension on the winter sports playoff tournaments and spring sports as schools have been ordered closed

throughout the state.

We at Hometown Life continue to find stories of those athletes and teams that would have been playing at this point every other year.

But we need your help to tell more.

If you have an athlete or a team that you feel should get showcased, if you have a story that needs to be shared, reach out to us with information and a few pictures, and we will help make sure

these compelling stories are told.

We want to showcase the athletes who may otherwise not get a chance to show what they can do during their senior year. We want to showcase our local teams.

Reach out to Andrew Vaillencourt at avallien@hometownlife.com, Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or both at Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com if you have a story to share.

HOCKEY

Stevenson coach aims to continue dad's legacy

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

David Mitchell grew up as a self-described "rink rat."

He followed his father Adam Mitchell around, watching him coach at University of Michigan Dearborn. David attended all the games, followed the team around, soaking in everything he possibly could.

It's where David Mitchell, the future head hockey coach at Livonia Stevenson, fell in love with the sport.

From that moment, David and Adam Mitchell were inseparable, establishing a connection that went past just father and son.

"It turned into my passion, my love," David Mitchell said. "It was his passion and his love."

"For me, it was not only 45 years of having a dad, it was 40-plus years of having that connection with your dad with the world of hockey."

Adam Mitchell died March 8 at the age of 74. Three weeks later, David Mitchell's life has not been the same.

After the death of a loved one, Mitchell said normally, the approach is to get back into a familiar routine, finding a way to get used to life without the person you lost.

But with the world at a standstill, schools and business closed and the majority of people sequestered in their homes due to the emergence of the COVID-19 virus, David Mitchell says he is still facing a level of shock and disbelief about his father's death.

Facing a life of balancing grief and the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, David Mitchell has reverted to looking back at the impact Adam Mitchell made, and how he can use that to move him forward.

Hockey advocate

Adam Mitchell used to have a joke with his son.

When watching David Mitchell coach his players at Stevenson, he would always tell his son "you yell too much." But as David remembered watching his father coach at U-M Dearborn and Livonia Churchill in the 1970s and '80s, he saw where he got it from.

"He was intense, he was loud," David Mitchell said. "We are very, very similar."

"You'd hear him, he was vocal. Like I

See LEGACY, Page 2B

Olympic dream delayed one year for CC wrestler

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When the disappointing news broke, Myles Amine leaned upon the mindset that helped him become a world-class wrestler.

"I try to stay optimistic at all times," he said.

Amine, a 23-year-old from Brighton, was four months away from realizing a life-long dream by wrestling in the Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

That dream has been put on hold after Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach agreed to postpone the Olympics until 2021 because of the global coronavirus outbreak.

Amine qualified to represent the small nation of San Marino in the Olympics as a freestyle wrestler when he reached the 86-kilogram semifinals of the World Championships last September in Kazakhstan. Amine has Sammarinese citizenship because his mother's

grandfather came to the United States from San Marino in the early 1900s.

The opening ceremony for the Olympics was scheduled for July 24.

"At first, I was a little bit disappointed, because it was so close, within a few months," said Amine, a Detroit Catholic Central graduate who wrestles for the University of Michigan.

"I was starting to get anxious. At the same time, with my optimistic side, I

See DELAYED, Page 4B



Detroit CC's Myles Amine, of Brighton.
TONY ROTUNDO/WRESTLERSAREWARRIORS.COM



Fugedi

Continued from Page 1B

"Miami checked all my boxes compared to the other schools," Fugedi said. "They gave me everything that I wanted. With their education being like a public ivy (league school), that's really what I wanted."

He added that the Miami coaches were always 100 percent honest with him, which was something he appreciated.

Offers from power five schools were intriguing, but the fit at Miami proved to be best for Fugedi.

"Personally it didn't matter to me how big the school is or how much it's talked about," Fugedi said. "Big Ten, SEC, anything, it won't affect me. I wanted to go to a good football school, a good academic school and one that will help me in the future."

Fugedi played both offensive tackle positions for Franklin, often ending up on the right side to protect the blind side of left-handed quarterback Jake Kelbert (who signed with Northwood). He expects to compete at both left and right tackle in college, wherever the coaching staff needs him.

"His athletic ability at his size is what all the colleges that came in (noticed)," Livonia Franklin football coach Chris Kelbert said. "They didn't expect him to be as big as he was, and then when watching him on film how athletic he was for 6-foot-6, 280 pounds."

Fugedi pairs that size and athleticism with elite footwork and agility, which he's gained from his experience as a hockey player at Franklin.

The Patriots playoff run came to an end just a few weeks ago in the regional semifinal.

He began playing hockey at a young age, following in the footsteps of his cousin.

"His hockey has definitely helped him," Kelbert said. "The balance, the footwork and the foot speed you need to play hockey has definitely helped him in this whole process and helped him become a better football player."

Fugedi was recruited by Miami's offensive line coach George Barnett and wide receivers coach Israel Woolfork, who also happens to be a 2008 Livonia Franklin graduate.

Woolfork went on to play college

football at Grand Valley State before taking a coaching position at Miami.

Kelbert said he thinks Miami is a good fit for Fugedi and is a place where he can secure playing time.

"He's an easy-going kid, loves to joke-around and be the funny guy a lot of the time," Kelbert said. "He's kind of stress free is how I'd put it."

"He doesn't get really high, doesn't get really low. I think that's another thing that makes him successful, he can stay even-keel and doesn't get the highs and lows that some of the other guys do."

Franklin's coaching staff places a lot of emphasis on watching film, and it's another area where Fugedi feels he excels. He spends considerable time during the season preparing for opposing rushers.

"I watch so much film on the other teams that I know what they're going to do every time," Fugedi said. "It helps me to be able to predict what they're going to do. With my footwork from hockey, it helps me really excel over players on the other team."

In the fall, he'll have the opportunity to keep growing his game both on and off the field before he signs in December. He wants to keep improving his footwork and get stronger, something he'll need to do in order to compete at the college level.

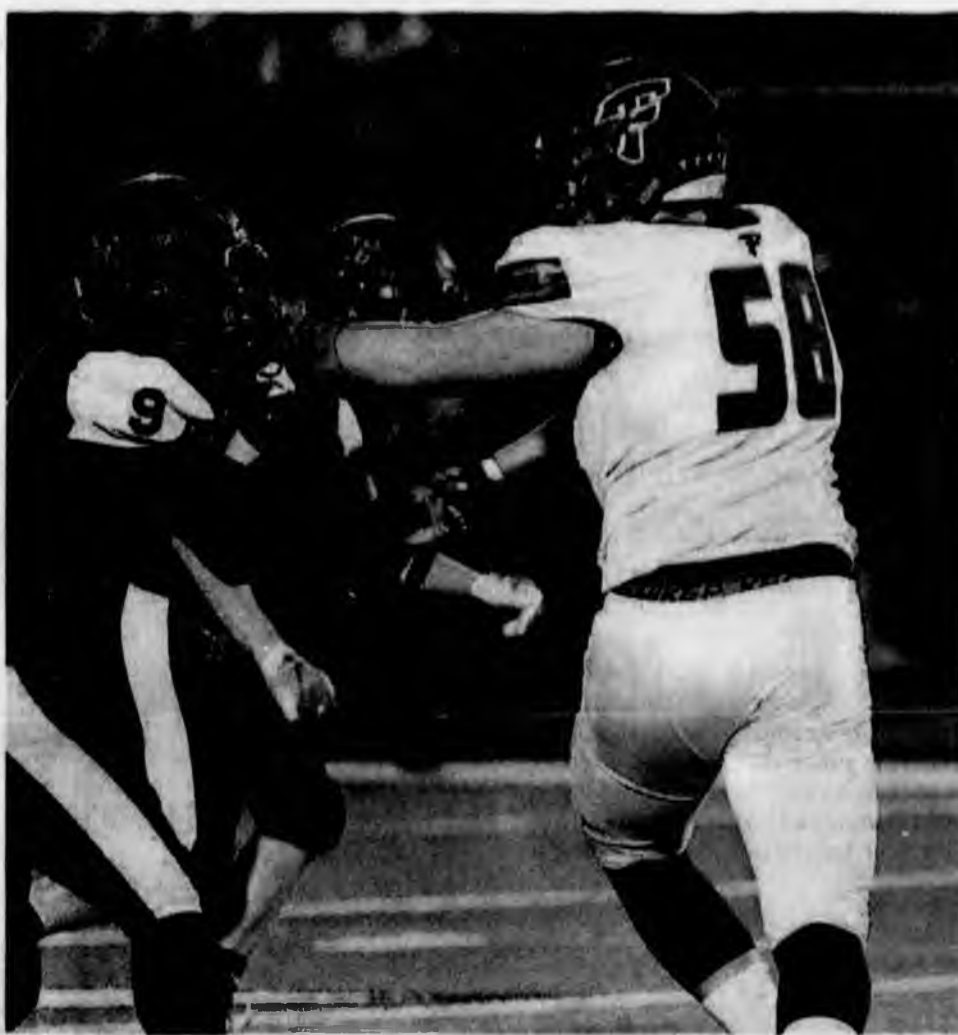
"He still has some improvement in his strength in the weight room," Kelbert said. "From where he was at this time last year to where he is now, spring to spring, he's already really made big improvements there."

"In high school, he's one of the bigger kids. In college, he's going to be a normal offensive lineman at Miami."

Before he joins the RedHawks, Fugedi said he wants to get Franklin to another state title game. When the Patriots last made the state final in 2017, he was just a freshman and didn't play due to an injury.

"I want to be able to prove that Franklin is a better football program than a lot of people think," Fugedi said.

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillencourt at availlenc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.



Franklin's Kyle Fugedi chose to commit to play football for Miami (Ohio) over a number of other schools, including power five programs. COURTESY OF KYLE FUGEDI



Fugedi, who also plays hockey for Franklin, races toward the puck. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



David Mitchell bonded over hockey from a young age with his father, Adam Mitchell. At right, they pose for a photo. PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVID MITCHELL



Legacy

Continued from Page 1B

try to, he was never demeaning. He was just loud with an encouraging motivational voice. He always wanted guys to do more, to do their best, to get the most out of his players, for the players to give their absolute best. He never, ever, ever put down kids and put down anything that they were doing. It was always trying to instill confidence in them, instill motivation in them to inspire them."

When Adam Mitchell yelled, he was loud. But he was always an advocate.

Adam assisted the Stevenson coaching staff throughout the season, heading up the yearly showcase the team hosts and coaching the fall team. He also went around the state, preaching and selling Spartans hockey to anyone who would listen.

"To me, that's the biggest hole we are

going to have to fill," David Mitchell said. Adam Mitchell cemented his imprint into the Stevenson hockey program simply by his presence.

David described his father as someone who was a giver, right until his last days. That is something the Stevenson head coach has tried to build his team around.

"It's what I try to do and what our coaches try to do: we try and make sure our players know that anything that we can absolutely do for them to help their career, to help them personally, academically, socially, whatever it is they need, they have a resource in us as coaches," Mitchell said. "They have a family."

Continue the trend

Adam Mitchell was a larger-than-life figure in many circles, whether it was as a hockey coach or working for the Detroit Red Wings for 36 years charting

statistics in the press box.

But to David, he was always Dad. He was always there for him.

"In a good way, he was always there. He was always there for me in the good times and the bad, the successes and the failures," Mitchell said. "He's not going to be replaced."

David Mitchell knows about the series of "firsts" someone goes through when they lose someone dear to them. For him, it's going to be the first time he takes the ice without Adam, the first time Stevenson has a fall game.

But for David, it won't be only the first time. It will be the second, the third, the fourth. The loss of Adam Mitchell will never be normalized.

Instead, David Mitchell said it will change him, continue to mold him into the person his father hoped he would be, instilling that drive to help others the way his father did.

"I want to make sure I keep feeling this way, with that type of inspiration

and that type of drive, two weeks from now, two months from now, two years from now, two decades from now," David Mitchell said. "I'll never forget what he did, how he did it, how much he did, how involved he was and, ultimately, how committed he was to his family, to my mother, to my brother and sister and to me and my kids."

David Mitchell will take the ice again. He will lead Stevenson to another season, a season in which they will honor Adam Mitchell in multiple ways.

Moving on is inevitable, but the Spartans head coach will never doubt how his father felt about him.

"One thing he did, he always made it known to me how proud he was of me," David Mitchell said. "I'll always hold that very special."

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

Golfers share thoughts on last swings for weeks, months

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Dusk was fast approaching at Mickey's Golf Range in Westland.

Worse yet for good friends Jeremy Sterner and Prash Mallya, who occupied adjoining driving range bays at the otherwise vacant facility, was the pending midnight start of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's edict that stated everyone except essential workers should stay at home to combat the spread of coronavirus.

Until the statewide order, golf courses were exempt from closing, giving driving range diehards like Sterner and Mallya a place to feel normalcy, a space for camaraderie, even if there are no hugs or handshakes after nailing a 30-foot putt.

While insisting that the public's health is far more important than hitting golf balls, the duo agreed that golf has served as a form of therapy during the recent days of social distancing.

"Is this essential? No," Sterner said, pausing between swings at his heated bay. "But is it safe? Yes. When the state of Washington put its whole shelter-in-place program in place, they let golf courses remain open because golfers aren't in each other's pockets. It's easy to maintain a safe distance."

During a recent 18-hole round at Superior Township's Hickory Creek Golf Course, Mallya felt safe in light of the facility's seemingly beyond-clean protocol.

"First of all, they sanitized and cleaned the golf carts and made everyone ride in separate carts so that they could maintain the proper distancing," Mallya said. "All of the employees wore gloves, we could only use credit cards because paper money is a carrier of the virus. All the safety measures were in place."

"We both work out of our homes now, so we're cooped up until at least 5 p.m. every day. Once our work was done, it was nice to be able to come out here and



Jeremy Sterner points at his target during a recent night at Mickey's Golf Range in Westland. ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

hit some balls. It was like therapy."

Mickey's owner, Donald Trosper, had his driving range set up without employees since the coronavirus crisis started — a scenario that appealed to both Sterner and Mallya.

"You park your car, get your clubs, but your money in the golf ball vending machine, then hit some balls," Sterner said. "There are no crowds here, it's outdoors and it's refreshing to get out of the

house. We're not touching anything except our own clubs."

"We need something to keep our sanity," Mallya quipped, smiling. "If we feel like we're going to cough or sneeze, we step away. It feels safe here."

Sterner and Mallya both wear gloves during these uncertain times on the links and the golf balls sprayed across the driving range's acreage are collected with machines before being delivered

untouched by human hands into the vending machines.

While admitting they are going to miss the benefits — both mental and physical — that come with golf, both Sterner and Mallya said they'll do whatever is best for the well-being of the community.

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

LVC BOYS BASKETBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

With the basketball season suspended and seemingly unlikely to resume, it's time to take a look back at some of the areas top players.

The Lakes Valley Conference released its boys basketball all-conference team, which includes six athletes from Hometown Life area teams (South Lyon, South Lyon East, Lakeland, Milford), plus several more that earned honorable mentions.

Waterford Mott won the league for the third year in a row, posting a perfect 16-0 record in LVC play. Lakeland placed second with a 13-3 record.

The coronavirus suspension especially hurts the conference, which still had four teams alive in the playoffs, all playing for district titles. Mott, South Lyon East, Lakeland and Walled Lake Northern will have to wait and see if their seasons can continue.

Here is the full LVC all-conference team:

LVC All-Conference team

- Isaiah Jackson, Mott, Senior
- Dequaveon Washington, Mott, Senior
- Damarion Bonds, Mott, Senior
- Austin Boughton, Lakeland, Senior

- David Jabiro, Lakeland, Senior
- Nick Branton, South Lyon East, Senior
- Bryce Bird, South Lyon East, Junior
- Kevyn Robertson, Walled Lake Northern, Junior
- Jesse Lawson Jr., Walled Lake Northern, Junior
- Joe Carano, South Lyon, Senior
- Jeremy Eppes, Walled Lake Central, Senior
- Ronnie Savage, Milford, Senior
- Ben Crenshaw Jr., Kettering, Junior
- Sam Ahern, Walled Lake Western, Senior

Honorable Mention

- A'zion Price, Mott, Junior
- Caleb Zurek, Lakeland, Sophomore
- Zander Desentz, South Lyon East, Junior
- Alex Klein, Walled Lake Northern, Junior
- Connor McCollum, South Lyon, Senior
- Donovan Dickerson, Walled Lake Central, Senior
- Eric Elizondo, Milford, Junior
- Dominick Phifer, Kettering, Senior
- Noah Chambers, Walled Lake Western, Senior

LVC GIRLS BASKETBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS

For the third year in a row, Walled Lake Western was the Lakes Valley Conference girls basketball champion, finishing the regular season with a 14-2 league record.

Walled Lake Western is the only team from the LVC still alive in the state playoffs, which are suspended indefinitely. If the postseason is able to be resumed at a later date, Western would play Hartland in the regional finals.

LVC All-Conference team

- Jenna Galecki, Walled Lake Western, Senior
- Lia Krawiec, Walled Lake Western, Senior
- Olivia Warren, Walled Lake Western, Senior
- Abby Upleger, Mott, Senior
- Makayla Fuerst, Mott, Junior
- Lucy Cronin, South Lyon East, Senior
- Rachel Waranauckas, South Lyon East, Senior
- Angelina Haisha, Walled Lake Central, Senior

- Abbey Renner, Walled Lake Central, Junior
- Markayla Hollins, Kettering, Sophomore
- Izzy Dugal, Kettering, Senior
- Andie Wolfe, Walled Lake Northern, Junior
- Chloe Gilbert, Milford, Junior
- Molly Libby, Lakeland, Sophomore
- Megan MacDonald, South Lyon, Sophomore

Honorable Mention

- Riley Dillon, Walled Lake Western, Senior
- Mikaila Proctor, Mott, Junior
- Nina Perl, South Lyon East, Junior
- Joanna Zahra, Walled Lake Central, Senior
- Ireland Schoof, Kettering, Senior
- Kelly Hickey, Walled Lake Northern, Junior
- Jenna Hoppe, Milford, Sophomore
- Grace Goodnough, Lakeland, Sophomore
- Taylor Plummer, South Lyon, Senior

Some business decisions are based on your gut.

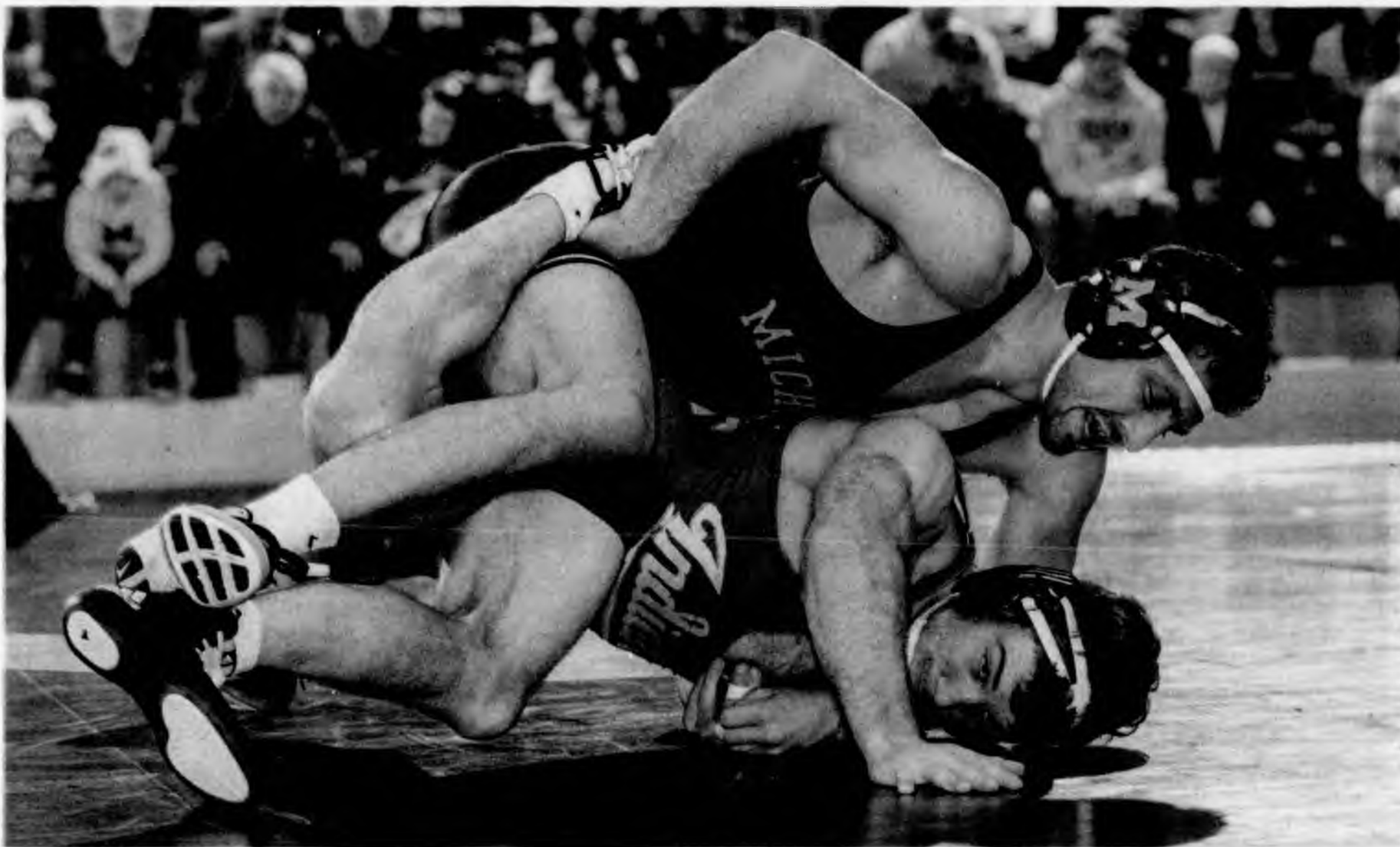
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Myles Amine of Brighton planned to wrestle his final season at the University of Michigan before representing San Marino in the Summer Olympics.
SAM JANICKI/UM PHOTOGRAPHY

Delayed

Continued from Page 1B

convinced myself maybe it's a blessing in disguise. I'm pretty young right now relative to the field of competition, being 23 years old. Getting another year to develop and getting another year of experience is a great opportunity for me. Getting it pushed back, having a great coaching staff, having some of the best coaches in the world, getting another year with them and my training partners, it's only going to make me better."

Amine made history for San Marino, a nation of 33,000 contained within the

borders of Italy, by becoming its first Olympic wrestler. He needed to reach the semifinals or place in the top six at the World Championships to qualify.

He achieved that goal with a 4-2 victory over Ahmed Dudarov of Germany in the quarterfinals. For good measure, he placed fifth.

"It was a really gratifying experience, making it to the semifinals," Amine said. "I kind of forgot I had more matches to wrestle. It was really just a great overall experience winning that match, getting to the semifinals, qualifying for the Olympics."

"Immediately after, I was able to celebrate with my entire family. You win for yourself, but in this sense it was win-

ning for a cause bigger than myself. My family's heritage, being the first ever Olympian in wrestling made that moment even more special. Looking back at it, it's allowed me to become closer to my heritage with San Marino."

Amine hopes to be joined by his brother, Malik, on the San Marino Olympic team. Malik was unable to qualify at the World Championships, but hoped to do so at the since-postponed European qualifier March 19-22 in Hungary and a last-chance qualifier March 30-April 3 in Bulgaria.

Because of the coronavirus, Amine has had to improvise to stay in shape.

Social distancing isn't a concept that works when training on a wrestling mat,

so Amine is unable to wrestle for the foreseeable future. He is part of an international group that trains at Michigan's facilities.

"Luckily, we have a little bit of a workout room in our basement," he said.

Amine took off the 2019-20 season at Michigan as an Olympic red-shirt year. He plans to compete for the Wolverines next winter before focusing solely on his Olympic preparation.

He is finishing his undergraduate degree in business administration and plans to pursue a master's degree in sports management in the fall.

"I've had my head in the books at home for the past week or so," he said. "Everything moved to online."

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Joseph Hicks Jr., of Lansing, fights during the 2020 U.S. Olympic team boxing trials in the winter. CHRIS GRAYTHEN/GETTY IMAGES

Coronavirus pandemic puts Lansing boxer's 2020 Olympics dream on hold

Phil Friend Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Joseph Hicks Jr. was one step away from the 2020 Summer Olympics as recently as two weeks ago. He still is, but his chance to be on the plane to Tokyo is in a holding pattern, thanks to the coronavirus pandemic.

In January, the Lansing resident was named USA Boxing's representative in the middleweight division (75 kilograms/165 pounds) for the Tokyo Games. But he still needed to work his way through one more qualification tournament in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to officially punch his ticket to Japan.

But with the coronavirus pandemic spreading across the world and the 2020 Olympics postponed, Hicks has no choice but to sit and wait until 2021.

"I was very disappointed," Hicks said. "I'm still on the team, so everything's still going to plan, there's just more time. Everything is still the same."

"I'm not going to say I'm happy I have to wait until 2021, but I'm still blessed to be in the position I'm in."

'Adopted by Lansing'

Hicks, 26, was born in Grand Rapids — also the hometown of former world champion Floyd "Money" Mayweather — and graduated from Godwin Heights High School, where he played basketball.

Hicks never donned the gloves until he was 19 years old. He spent the early part of his career training in Grand Rapids, but has been in Lansing the past 3 1/2 years. For two years, his home gym has been Greater Lansing Area Specialized Sports in south Lansing, which is run by his father-in-law, Willie Glass.

"I always say: From Grand Rapids, adopted by Lansing," Hicks said.

Hicks has only been boxing for seven years, a relatively short time for an Olympic-level athlete, but he's had a meteoric rise. He went from winning the Michigan Golden Gloves title in 2013 (and again in 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2019) to becoming the Golden Gloves national champion at middleweight in 2019.

And now, he's wearing the red, white and blue in international competition.

When Hicks is not in Colorado Springs, Colorado, training with USA Boxing, he's at Glass' gym, where he's joined by three coaches, Wayne "Uncle T" Easley, Steve Maniaci and Don "Phats" Lofton, all based out of Grand Rapids.

Maniaci, who has been with Hicks since the beginning in 2013, said Hicks was a fast learner and always knew he had a special talent.

"His work ethic, the fact that he was so dedicated, and he just has the physical tools: the speed, the power, all those things," Maniaci said. "And then he came up so quickly ... when he had 10 fights, he was fighting people with hundreds of fights and years of experience and doing well and winning. We knew the sky was the limit and he's made that happen."

The Olympic qualifications for North and South American countries were supposed to start Wednesday in Buenos Aires. Hicks was one of about 30 boxers set to compete in his weight class, with the top four earning a berth to Tokyo.

"I always train every day like it's my last, so it doesn't really change (my training) for me," Hicks said. "I'll just take a little more time to learn something new, learn what the USA coaches can teach me."

Hicks believes he was all but certain to finish in the top four.

"If you ask anyone about me, my confidence and belief is the strongest thing in the world," Hicks said. "You could've put me in the ring with prime Tyson and I would've thought I was going to win."

Late bloomer

Hicks may not have started until he was 19, because his mother wasn't a fan of the idea, but he's always had an interest in the sport.

"My mom thought boxing was a violent sport, and she didn't want me doing it all the time. When I turned 19, I was able to sign the waiver myself and pay for it," Hicks said.

It's family that motivates Hicks, not just in boxing, but in life.

Easley, who is also Hicks' uncle, saw his potential in an early bout, when Hicks more than held his own against a boxer known for his ability for knockouts.

"They put (Hicks) with one of the biggest guys they could find and the guy hit him with so many punches. And he barely moved him," Easley said. "I'd seen him put 2-3 guys down in the first round. My nephew went every round with him."

"That told me that this is where he belonged and could handle himself in the ring, inside and out. I just decided, we get in there, work his defense, work his offense and put everything together. It should come together and that's exactly what it's doing."

Hicks' father died when he was 2, but the elder Hicks, an avid boxing fan, inspired Hicks to step between the ropes.

"Boxing is the way I connect with him," Hicks said. "It's been a while, but it don't get no better. When I'm in the

ring or the gym, I feel his presence. I feel him there. I think it's him telling me I can do better and me telling myself, for him, that I can do better."

Bound by the boxing ring

Hicks isn't the only boxer in his family.

He married his longtime girlfriend, Zoe Glass, on Feb. 22, 10 days before he left Lansing for Olympic training in Colorado Springs. She's a boxer, too, ranked third in the 119-pound weight class in the USA Boxing Elite Women's Rankings.

"I've been there on some of his losses and sad moments," Zoe said. "I've seen him come up and be at the top now. Boxing just connects us. It's how we met."

Hicks has a 4-year-old daughter, Aerial, who is always a presence when they train together in the ring.

"To have somebody that shares the same passion as you, and the same, if not better, ability than me, it's special," Hicks said.

The couple has been together for three years, and Hicks said he wouldn't be on the cusp of the Olympics if not for Glass's father, Willie, bringing him into the Team GLASS fold.

"It's a good experience because he's making history for himself and Lansing and the community as well," Willie Glass said.

"He says he fights for a different reason than a lot of other people do. He fights for his dad that's no longer here and wants to fight for his daughter as well. He's trying to achieve goals for a lot of personal reasons."

Team USA selection

Hicks' selection as the US representative at middleweight didn't come without controversy.

Over the course of eight days in December at the U.S. Olympic Trials, Hicks faced the top-ranked boxer, Javier Martinez, three times. Martinez won the first match by unanimous decision, sending Hicks to the losers' bracket in the double-elimination tournament. Hicks then worked his way back to the finals, beating the highly rated Troy Isley in the process, to take on Martinez again.

Hicks scored a split-decision victory, forcing a final match between the two combatants. Martinez won that bout by major decision, making him the U.S. champion.

But placement at the trials was only one piece of the final puzzle when it came to the Olympic team selection. Despite Martinez beating Hicks twice and

that No. 1 ranking, USA Boxing coaches chose Hicks for the Olympic team.

"At the end of the day, there wasn't a whole lot between them," said USA Boxing head coach Billy Walsh. "Javier had a lot more experience but just wasn't producing for us. We went with someone who had the potential to do that for me and the team. We're looking at who's going to perform and we took a chance on Joe to deliver the goods."

Hicks lost his first match of 2020 on Jan. 22, but it wasn't to just anybody — it was to 2017 world champion Oleksandr Khyzhniak on his home turf in Bulgaria. Hicks lost by unanimous decision, but he showed Walsh everything he needed to see.

"He had a never-say-die attitude," Walsh said. "He showed a tremendous amount of heart. Those are things you can work with. He's obviously, at this level, a novice, and I think we have good, overall material we can do something with. I think it was worth taking a chance on what I saw with his athleticism."

Hicks has competed in more than 100 bouts lifetime and the wins over Martinez and Isley — when Isley was ranked fifth in the world — went a long way toward putting him on track for the Olympics.

The list of American boxers who've won gold medals at the Olympics is filled with a who's who of the nation's greatest pugilists: Muhammad Ali, George Foreman, Joe Frazier, Sugar Ray Leonard, Oscar de la Hoya and Floyd Patterson, to name a few.

It's nothing more than coincidental that they're both from Grand Rapids, but Hicks' fighting style is very similar to Mayweather's. He's a counter-puncher who's capable of delivering a knockout (which he did once during the U.S. Olympic trials) but prefers a different strategy.

"I start off pretty slow for the first minute and then I'll figure my opponent out," Hicks said. "And if you can't make any adjustments, it's going to be a bad night for you."

If Hicks doesn't place in the top four when the Americas qualifiers take place, he'll get a final chance to qualify for Tokyo at the World Olympic Qualification Tournament in Paris.

"Because of the lack of international experience, it's an uphill battle for us compared to other fighters who have been on the international scene the past four years," Maniaci said.

"However, he's special, and with the right game plan and the right training and coaches at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, we like our chances."

Livestock raised at MSU feed students

Meat lab teaches process from birth on farm to fork

Mark Johnson
Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

LANSING — A Black Angus gave birth just after midnight on a cold, rainy morning.

The newborn stood beside her mother, who snuffed and snorted angrily when Anna Lindquist and farm manager Tristan Foster took the calf to be tagged and tracked.

It was the fourth calf of 2020 born at the Michigan State University Beef Cattle Teaching and Research Center. Foster expected another 30 calves over the following week.

Lindquist, a junior at MSU, trudged through rain, slush and mud to feed the cattle and tag the newborn calf. She and other students raise the calves born at MSU to adulthood. At which point, many of them are slaughtered, butchered and served in MSU's dining halls and at the Breslin Center and the Kellogg Center.

An average of 150 head of beef and 250 head of pork are harvested and processed each year, supplying thousands of pounds of burgers, sausage and other cuts of meat. It's what MSU beef extension specialist Dan Buskirk calls the "hyper-local beef."

Being with the animals is a joy for Lindquist. But she has no qualms about what's in store for them.

"Some of the younger generations think their food comes from the store," she said. "It has to come from somewhere before that. I want to help people realize that."

It takes several pages in a white binder just to list all of the different beef products produced at the MSU Meat Laboratory. It ranges from steaks to hamburger.

But the products all have one thing in common — they all come from cows born and raised at the MSU Beef Cattle Teaching and Research Center.

January is calving season at the farm. Students

Buy meat from MSU

The products available from the MSU Meat Lab vary with the time of year. Contact the Meat Lab staff at 517-353-9773 or msumeats@msu.edu for the current list of products and prices or visit the Meat Lab in Anthony Hall at 474 S. Shaw Lane, #1358.

and workers are on-hand around the clock watching pregnant mothers for signs of trouble. They make sure the newborn calves are healthy before tracking birth weight and gender and tagging their ears with numbers marked on plastic tags.

The calves get an injection filled with vitamins A and D and a mineral shot, said Buskirk, who is also an associate professor in the Department of Animal Science.

It proved a bit stressful on Jan. 24, for the mother at least. She watched from behind a gate, mooing in consternation, as Lindquist lifted the calf onto a scale to be weighed and processed before returning the 68-pound heifer calf to the pen.

Cows are artificially inseminated in April and their pregnancies are synced so they all have their calves at about the same time, usually close to Feb. 1, Buskirk said.

The calves grow up at the farm and, once they're weaned from their mother, their genetic potential, disposition, and growth characteristics are evaluated, and a determination is made whether to add them to the beef herd or, for bulls, possibly sell them to other farms for breeding, Foster said.

Student employees and about 140 more from two classes help out around calving season. They come to the farm in groups of three or four and stay the night, watching for signs of labor or health issues.

Lindquist came in after the night shift left. Her dad back in LeRoy has a small beef herd. After working with them, she knew she wanted a future involving beef production.

"I kind of like animals more than humans sometimes," she joked. "It was kind of natural for me to want to do something with them."

Workers at the MSU Meat Laboratory are waiting for the beef cattle to put on some more weight. Until then, pork products continue rolling out.

A dozen pigs from MSU pork farms came in for harvest Jan. 29. Two days later, students worked to turn leftover pork into breakfast sausage.

About 24 head of pork are processed each month and the meat is sent to every dorm on campus, said Jen Dominguez, MSU Meat Laboratory manager.

The meat lab employs a dozen students who are responsible for processing the meat that comes in from start to finish.

"They are essential," Dominguez said.

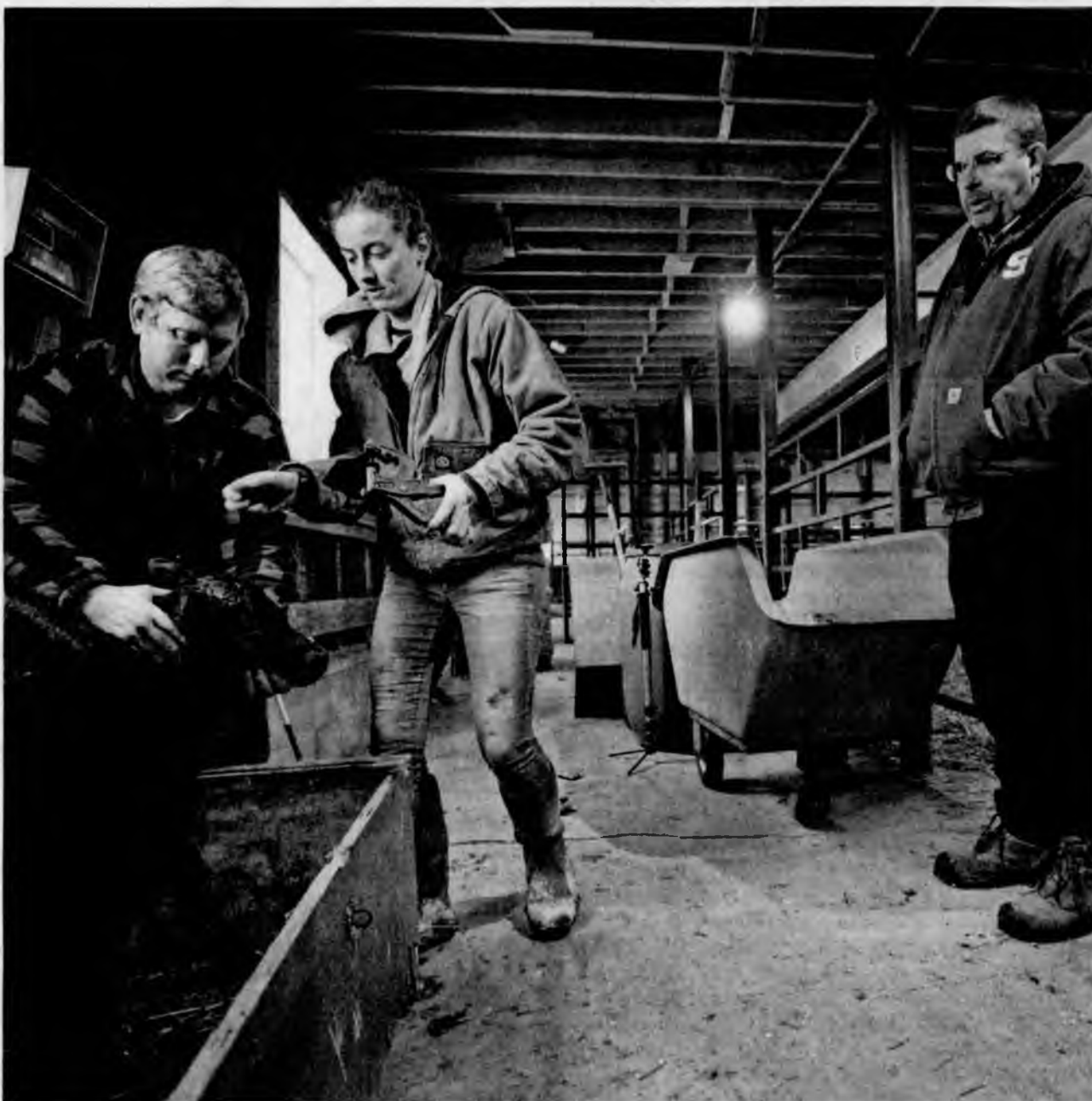
Their work includes handling animals, butchering, breaking down carcasses and processing



MSU students clean and disinfect machinery used in the processing of meat in the MSU Meat Laboratory in January. PHOTOS BY ROBERT KILLIPS/LANSING STATE JOURNAL



Animal Science major Brittany Brown stores the packaged and labeled pork sausage inventory at the MSU Meat Laboratory.



From left, Beef and Sheep Unit farm manager Tristan Foster and student Anna Lindquist tag and weigh a newborn Black Angus calf while associate professor and Beef Extension Specialist Dan Buskirk supervises. MATTHEW DAE SMITH/LANSING STATE JOURNAL



Freshman Eric Bao enjoys the fried pork sourced from the university at the South Pointe dining hall. PHOTOS BY NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL



MSU Culinary Services Sous Chef Ben Segueda talks about the food sourced from the university.

Obituaries

Steven Alexander Smith

JOHNSON CITY, TN — Steven Alexander Smith, born April 23rd, 1950, passed away March 24, 2020, at the VA Hospital in Johnson City, TN. He is survived by his wife, also of Milford, Ann Marie Franz Smith and daughter, Courtney Smith Berry. He is pre-deceased by his parents, Frances H and Bartlett B Smith of Milford and a baby boy. Brothers are John B Smith of Chelsea, MI, and Christopher B and David L Smith both of Milford and sister, Sarah S Redmond, of Summerville, SC. Steve graduated from Milford High in 1968. Steve served in the Marine Corp in the Vietnam War. He is now at peace.

the pork, Dominguez said.

A cooling fan droned over the music coming from a radio while students clad in sweatshirts, white coats, gloves and hardhats ground, spiced and mixed fresh pork.

Once prepared, a student stuffed the pork into a machine that squirts it out to be packaged into 1.5 pound bags.

It was the second batch of pork sausage that month. The first went to the campus cafeterias, more than 600 pounds of spicy chorizo. The second batch will be sold at the meat lab's store and at the MSU Surplus Store.

More students cut the meat before it was ground and packaged. The cut-

ting and packaging stages are the highlight of the work for Emily Malcolm.

"It's pretty cool," she said. "Now I can say, 'Hey, I did that.'"

One of the best perks of the job? Getting to stock up on fresh bacon and peppered jerky, she said.

A steady stream of hungry students traipsed up to the Great Lakes Plate station through the afternoon.

Alex Sponsler, a senior who grew up on a farm in Jackson, said his pork lunch wasn't anything special, but he could definitely taste the difference.

"It's better than store bought, I think, with the texture and the fresh-

ness," he said.

When customers eat or buy MSU Meat Lab products, they're buying "Spartan" meat, Dominguez said. It means the meat is tracked from birth of the animal to processing.

"We're not buying outside animals," she said. "We know their histories."

Lindquist had an early shift Friday, but she wasn't complaining. She walked around the barns scooping out pens, refreshing the water troughs and making sure all the cattle are properly cared for.

"I like the hands-on," Lindquist said. "I like being physically out there and seeing a change."

"Some of the younger generations think their food comes from the store. It has to come from somewhere before that. I want to help people realize that."

Anna Lindquist
MSU student

Zoom is booming in COVID-19 era

Can you hear us? Here are tips to get started

Jefferson Graham
USA TODAY

If you're like the rest of us, Zoom has become a prominent new fixture in your life.

The video conferencing tool has been a backbone of enterprise. But now keeping our distancing amid the coronavirus pandemic has sent students and workers home, and people are climbing the walls looking for things to do. Zoom has soared to the top of the Apple iOS app chart as the No. 1 most downloaded app and No. 6 on Google's Android chart.

Zoom is similar to Skype and FaceTime in that it's used for video conferences. However, Zoom has expanded into new uses such as teaching, book clubs and just general hangouts. Zoom is free to use for meetings less than 40 minutes, and charges monthly subscriptions, starting at \$14.95 for longer meetings and larger groups.

New to Zoom or wondering how to get the most out of it? We've got 10 tips for you.

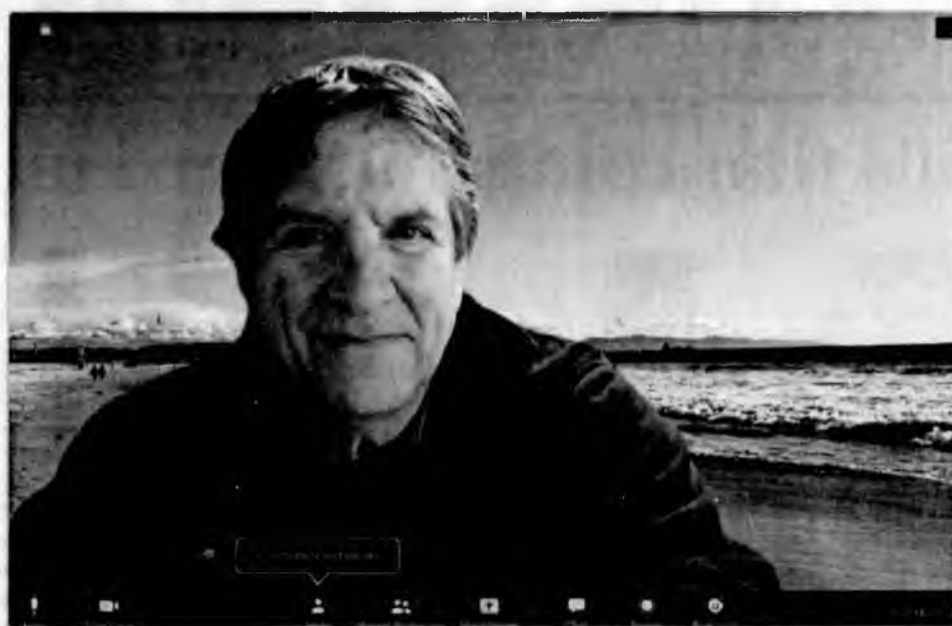
First, you'll need a laptop or computer with a webcam, an accessory webcam, or a smartphone or tablet with a built-in camera. (Which is pretty much every model nowadays.)

Begin by going to the Zoom website or downloading the app and registering your account. From there, once registered, click "Host a Meeting" and send out the invite URL to others to join. (Or you can await your invite on the other side, if you're a participant. The meeting can be joined on a host of devices.) Invitees don't even need to be on a laptop, or use the app. They can simply call in on a phone number as well.

Our tips:

1. Do an audio test

Don't skip over this step. Your meeting won't go very well if people can't hear you. Zoom will ask you to confirm that you've heard a tone and then playback sample voice audio.



Reporter Jefferson Graham uses the background feature of the Zoom app to put him at the beach SCREENSHOT

2. Have good lighting

Participants have a choice of appearing on camera or not. But if you're going to replicate the meeting experience, then you want to have the camera on. Otherwise, the conference table is empty. Or the class is devoid of students. People want to know who they are speaking to. So look your best! Dress well, comb your hair, sit up straight and place yourself in a great spot that's not full of distractions.

Michael Oldenburg, a marketing executive with drone maker DJI, suggests starting the meeting as a participant with the video off. This will give you a few moments to see yourself on the screen and make yourself look presentable.

3. Gear suggestions

If you're going to take meetings using the phone app, invest in a cellphone stand or mini-tripod with a phone attachment. AirPods or some other form of headset will let you be hands-free during the meeting and will help eliminate distracting background noise. You may also want to invest in a

higher grade webcam, as a good, accessory camera will give you better audio and video. Logitech's C920S (\$69.99) records in 1080p high definition. But if you're willing to spend more, the Brio (\$199.99) is touted as the "widest, sharpest, fastest" webcam, one that adjusts for backlight, records in 4K resolution and can zoom around the room if you're a pacer.

4. Multitasking could get you in trouble

Speaking of privacy, Zoom offers an "attendee attention tracking" feature that lets the employers check to make sure we're all paying attention. So if you're tweeting away during a meeting, or answering a personal e-mail, big boss will know.

5. Mute, mute, mute!

One of the cool features of Zoom is the ability to mute your mic when you're not speaking. This is a vital thing to stay on top of. Because otherwise, as the speaker talks, they could be accompanied by the sounds of typing, rings or kids screaming in the background. It's

an easy fix. Mute is the first thing you'll see on the bottom left. Click "MUTE" to go silent, and unmute when it's your turn to talk.

6. Bored with the standard look? Adjust it

In Zoom's preferences section, it lets you add a unique background, similar to the green screen you see weather reporters stand in front of on TV. Zoom does an admirable job of cutting you out and sticking you over another location. (See the accompanying shot where I appear to be at the beach, when in fact, I'm actually in the home garage.) To use it, go to "Preferences" and upload a photo. Make sure it's not one with distractions that will send the participants looking at the background and not you.

7. Share a screen

Hosts can share from their computer, everything from word documents, spreadsheets, Photoshop, Adobe Premiere and Apple Final Cut Pro editing programs, to opening cloud-based files from Dropbox and Google Drive. The share button is on the bottom tab, in the middle of the screen. Just click it, and choose which program you want to share.

8. React

Zoom has a chat window for you to offer text comments during a meeting, or you could respond like they do on Instagram and Twitter with graphical images. Zoom offers thumbs up and applause icons.

9. Record the meeting for later

Click record to keep the meeting archived, and when the meeting ends, Zoom will download the archived file to your hard drive.

10. Stream

You can stream the meeting to Facebook and YouTube, but you'll need to be a paying subscriber. There are a number of steps involved, which Zoom points out on its support page.

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Top 5 hard skills that companies need most this year

Kate Lopaze
thejobnetwork.com

You may be hearing about how it's a big trend for employers to zero in on soft skills when hiring. People skills! Leadership skills! Emotional intelligence! Those are indeed important, but when you're on the job hunt soft skills aren't the only ones you'll need to get to the interview (and beyond). No matter what job you have, you'll need some measure of hard skills as well.

According to a recent LinkedIn study, these are some of the most crucial hard skills that employers are seeking this year.

What are hard skills?

If soft skills are all about how we work (like organization, management, or creativity), hard skills are about the work itself – what we work on and what tools we use.

Hard skills are specific, quantifiable skills that allow someone to do highly specialized job functions. For example, for someone working in a bilingual community, being fluent in more than one language is a hard skill.

A hard skill is usually one that you can learn by taking classes or doing specific training. Using the bilingual example, you can build this hard skill by taking Spanish lessons or using an app-led learning program to develop your language skills. And once you've learned it, it's something you can demonstrate in a concrete way.

What are the top hard skills right now?

As we look to 2020 and beyond, the hard skills that employers want right



GETTY IMAGES

now are largely based on data analysis and technology. More than ever, companies are getting huge amounts of data and using tools to translate that data into business insights or decisions.

Blockchain expertise

Knowing how to wrangle cryptocurrency (mining it, validating it, storing it, or moving it) is not yet a super-common skill – but for those who have it, it's immensely valuable. To build your blockchain skills, you'll also need a solid base of coding and software development skills. There are courses online that can help you develop those base needs; then you can move on to blockchain-specific coding skills.

Cloud computing

These days, everything is backed up in "the cloud." Many companies are running their entire business out of cloud-based data and applications, and all

that data needs advanced engineering and management—so cloud computing is one of the hottest skills going. In fact, according to PC, cloud computing was the highest-paid IT certification of 2019. To hone this skill, you can take online courses to earn certification.

Analytical reasoning

If you're not necessarily interested in the nitty-gritty engineering aspects of tech, just about every single company out there is looking for analysts who can take endless amounts of data and help turn it into predictive analytics, or insight that can guide business decisions. Basic courses in data analytics and strategic thinking can help you get started in this skill area.

Artificial intelligence

As companies look for ways to support and refine their workforce with machine learning and data analysis, arti-

ficial intelligence (AI) is an incredibly powerful option. Whether it's business analysis, predictive algorithms, and metrics, or interacting with customers, AI is really the future of business across all industries. Those who can help develop more intuitive AI systems and harness the power of machine learning (while hopefully avoiding a Terminator-like future state) will continue to be in high demand.

To develop expertise in artificial intelligence, online courses in AI basics are widely available. Data analysis skills are also a valuable starting block if you're interested in building your AI skills.

UX design

You may not spend a lot of time noticing what your specific user experience (UX) is when you use an app, but you probably do notice when it's bad, or slow, or clunky. With so much of commerce and business conducted via online platforms, those who can design and refine a good user experience are a hot commodity for most companies. Classes in software and web design are a good start here, including specific platforms like Adobe.

Hard skills are often dependent on a specific job or company's needs, but if you're looking to broaden your skill base these five areas are a good place to start. These hard skills are future-facing and will also help you develop plenty of soft skills (like creativity and innovation) along the way.

Kate Lopaze is a career advice journalist for TheJobNetwork.com where this article was originally published. She investigates and writes about current strategies, tips, and trending topics related to all stages of one's career.

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- 1 Hero-worship
8 Not — (fair to middling)
13 Gave a prize to
20 Big name in cassette tapes, once
21 Bad booze
22 "Wouldn't It Be —" ("My Fair Lady" song)
23 Start of a riddle
26 Came after that
27 Violin master
28 Library no-no
29 Aflame
32 "Every day — new day"
33 ETs' craft
34 Brief tussle
36 Riddle, part 2
44 Not wholly
45 "Cool" moola amount
46 Bottom
47 Pro-school gp.
48 "Hi, Don Ho!"
49 Tease in fun
51 Store window info: Abbr.
52 Smear all over
55 Riddle, part 3

- 57 — -bah (big wheel: Var.)
58 Reach as far as
59 "On the Beach" novelist
60 Jimmy Shute
62 More furtive
63 "Uncle Moses" novelist
66 Riddle, part 4
69 Gen — (millennials)
70 Rental for relocation
72 Flip out
73 Feudal toilers
75 Novelty
77 Miniver's title
78 Riddle, part 5
82 Moon of Neptune
83 Be the victor
84 Sci-fi sage
85 Lasso part
86 Suffix with east
87 "Oh, really?"
89 Country singer
90 Charge to run a promo
91 End of the riddle
97 Firebug's crime

- 98 Possible reply to "Are you sure?"
99 "That's the guy!"
100 Calendar spans: Abbr.
101 Tehran native
104 Candle parts
106 Dominion
109 Riddle's answer
115 Barbuda's partner island
116 — two (a few)
117 Books filled with maps
118 Most sharp
119 Spacek of "3 Women"
120 Pedicure target

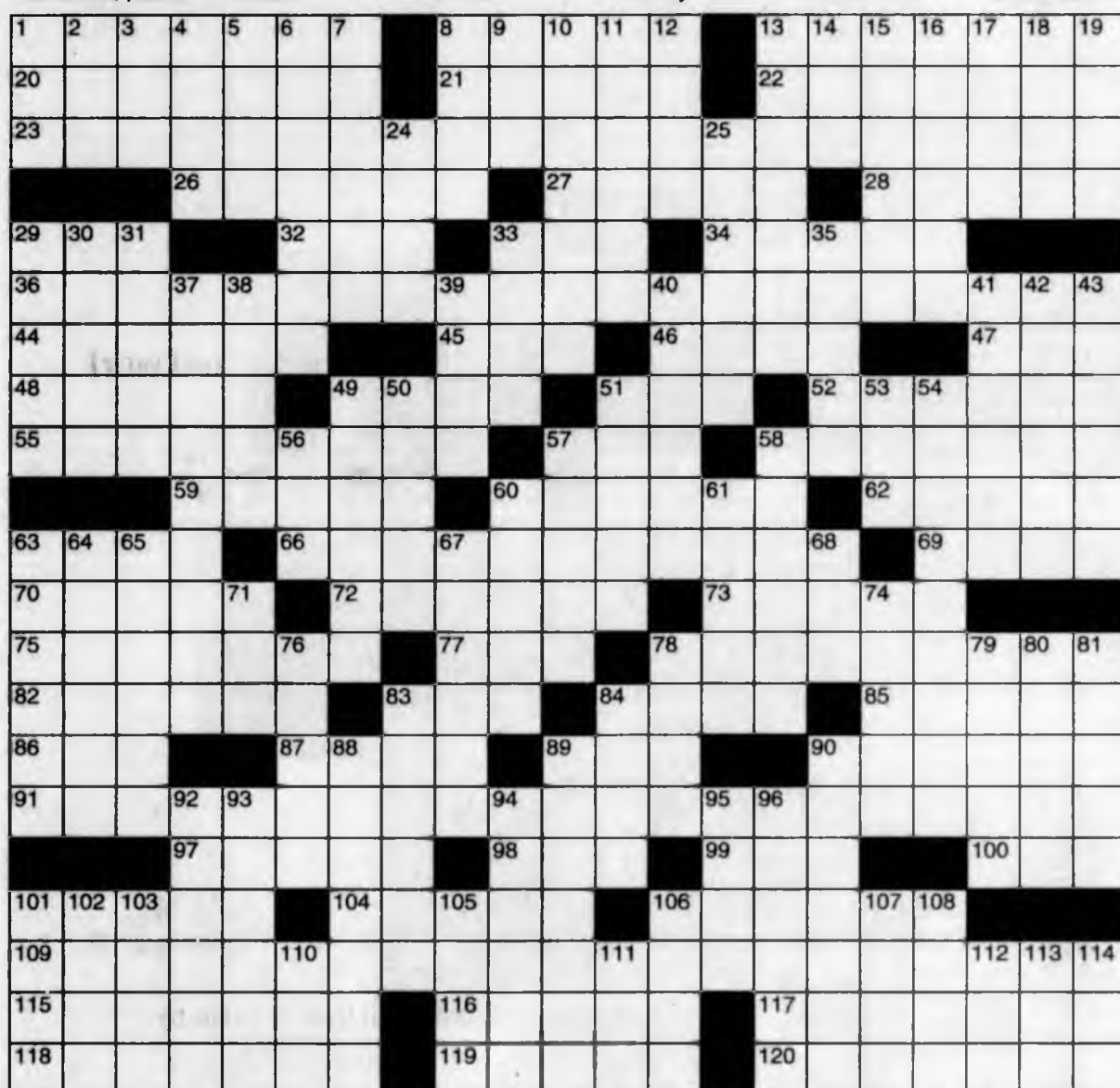
DOWN

- 1 Pal, to Pierre
2 Dict. lookup
3 Thurman of "Kill Bill"
4 Ear feature
5 Make — for it (take off)
6 Tautness
7 Alibi, e.g.
8 Like many horse hooves
9 Reaction to a punch
10 Optimistic
11 Leopardlike animal

- 12 — McAn (big name in footwear)
13 Format of AP Radio Network
14 "Alas!"
15 Lemmon/Wilder comedy
16 Take hold again, as a plant
17 Three, in Munich
18 Yale alumni
19 Bit of force
24 Try, as a case
25 Turkish VIPs of old
29 Wash gently against, as the shore
30 Novelist Calvino
31 Dice toss
33 Infantry division
35 1990s fitness fad
37 Tom Cruise's role in "Mission: Impossible"
38 Get — start (not begin on time)
39 "Sure, put me down for it"
40 Not in the country

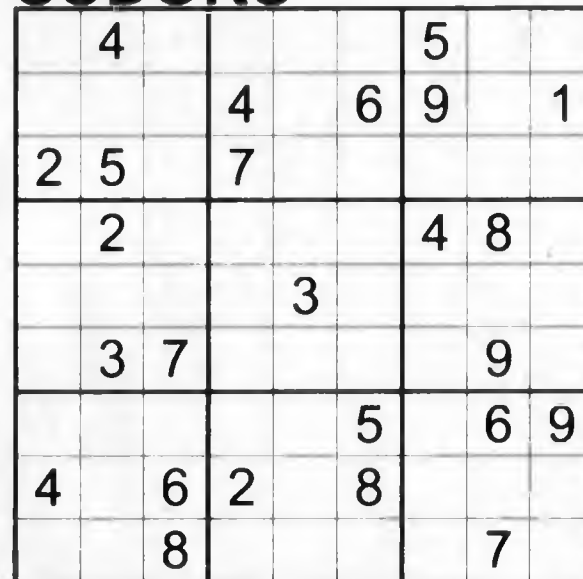
- 41 Neck and neck, scorewise
42 Fix at the vet's
43 Eva, Magda and Zsa Zsa
49 Objects
50 Middle name of Emerson
51 Rhino's pair
53 Canon camera series
54 Under oath legally
56 Roman 106
57 Odists, e.g.
58 Swiss canton or its capital
60 Reject rudely
61 Lay new turf on
63 Her niece is Dorothy Gale
64 Shepherd once of "The View"
65 Sounding like a crow
67 Bad blood
68 Prefix with cuspid
71 Zodiac feline
74 Italian handbag brand
76 Pouty states
78 Shed feathers
79 Composer Carmichael

- 80 On the move
81 Many minors
83 Hot dog, informally
84 Rural assent to a woman
88 Feline in competitions
89 Ailment with red spots
90 Confess about
92 Submit, as homework
93 Emergency room sorting
94 Waikiki wear
95 "Alas!"
96 Bites lightly
101 "Out of Africa" writer
102 Bit of Viking writing
103 Poker post
105 Corp. money handlers
106 "Climb — Mountain"
107 Make mad
108 Israeli statesman
110 Frat letters
111 Calendar spans: Abbr.
112 Onetime foe of the USSR
113 Waikiki wear
114 Immigrants' class, in brief



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



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!

4/02

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JAZZ MUSIC WORD SEARCH

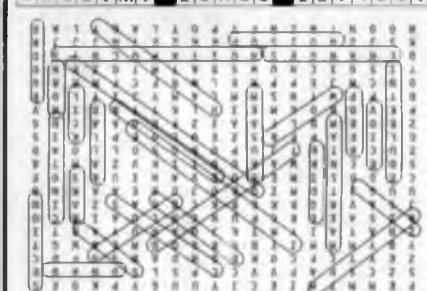
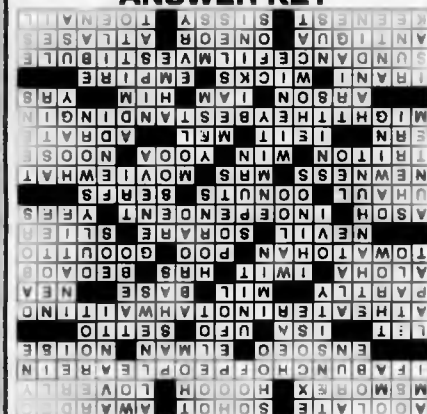
F E M M T M I E C J Y U U G Y P K D E S
S Z C S H A F V V C C P S L S D N A B E
Z E Y T C F C O R D G H D A B S S F D C
Y B I M M H I Y B N R G O B M E A W G T
Z H A T A I Y M T K J O A R U Y A B T I
R Z S A E E R C P U H C H L U A I B C O
J S A V R G R K E R K C B C A S Z A I N
U U G J T D M Z D B O J D B E A A R N B
C E G O S I M E E O E V A N I U B S O E
S D E C N R W A R U U I I K V Z A M T A
Z U C B I B T J U P U B G S D L L O A D
G L I E A P F B S Z E U L O E P L K I S
Z R O B M D L F A A I Z F E O A A C D G
P E V O R O G M E I H L K T T B D I H V
D T P P W T N S M M L A M Y J I Y L O E
O N C H J E P P R E L W R F C F M R R V
Y I S G I C N U W S B A T M T O Z E N O
O C H A N G E S N O I T A P O C N Y S O
K S J Z N O I S U F K K Z E T N J J R
H O O H T A Z N F Y P O T L A G Y L A G

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

WORDS

BACK-BEAT
BALLAD
BAND
BARS
BASS
BEBOP
BLOW
BLUES
BOOGIE
BRIDGE
CHANGES
DIATONIC
DOUBLE TIME
FUSION
GROOVE
HARMONY
HORN
IMPROVISE
INTERLUDE
JAZZ
LICK
MAINSTREAM
RHYTHM
SECTION
SYNCOPIATION
VOICE

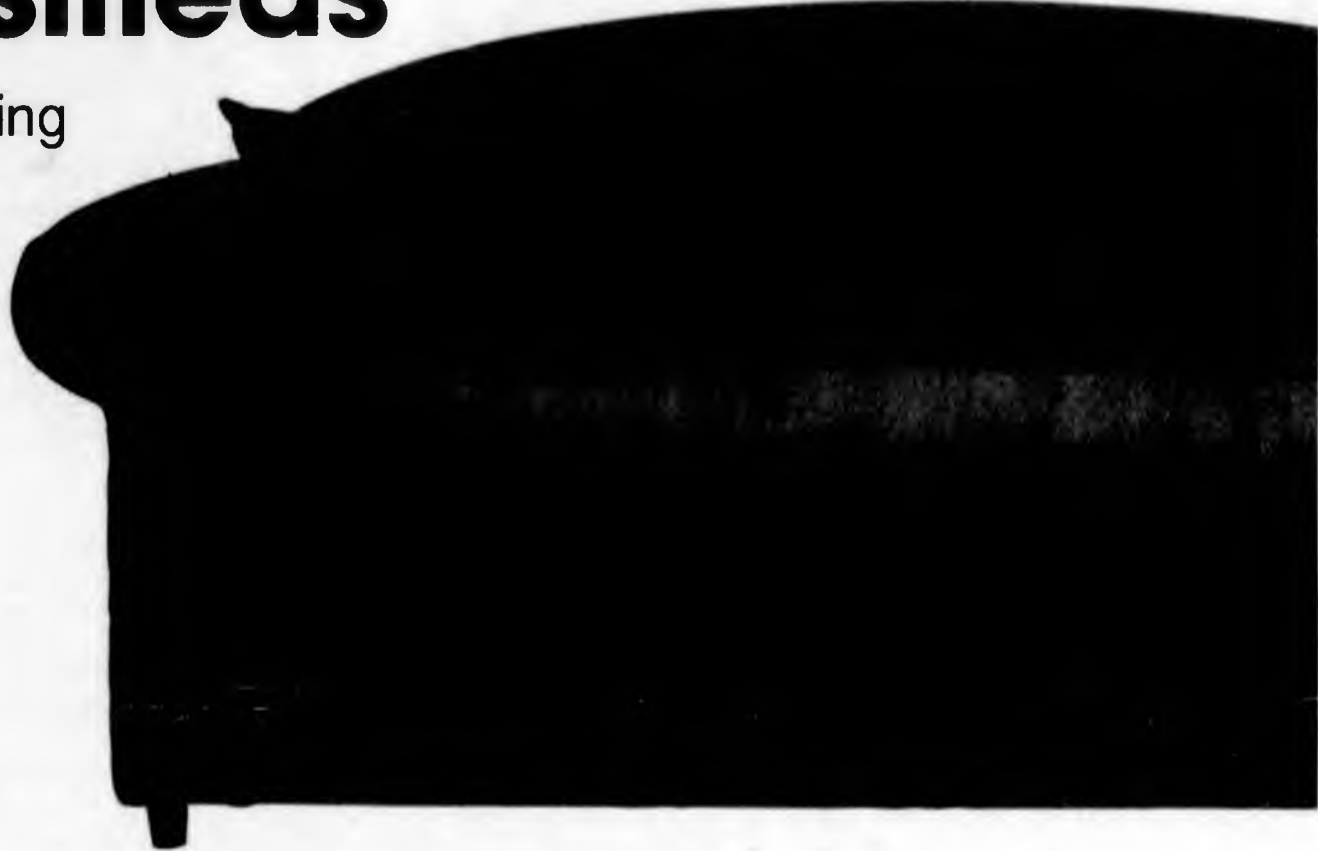
ANSWER KEY



4	7	2	6	9	3	8	1	5
5	1	8	7	2	7	9	6	4
6	9	8	9	4	5	2	7	3
9	6	1	4	2	5	7	3	8
2	5	7	1	3	8	4	9	6
3	8	7	6	9	5	2	1	7
8	7	9	3	1	7	6	9	2
1	7	6	9	5	4	3	8	7
7	3	5	2	8	6	1	4	9

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