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WILLE KECOR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Lyon named testing, vaccination site

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

Lyon Township Fire Station #2 has been named a COVID-19 testing and vaccination site.

The township board unanimously approved an interlocal agreement with Oakland County allowing use of the fire station by county health staff to give tests and vaccines through December 2021. COVID-19 tests are expected to be administered inside the station this

Lyon Chief Ken Van Sparrentak explained to the board he was contacted by the county's homeland security three weeks ago as they searched for a southwest site to offer testing and was asked if Lyon could accommodate them.

"Since it's such a great public benefit, we will open the fire station by appointment," he said. "They bring the equipment, we provide plenty of parking... It may go for up to six months (of testing) and they may switch to vaccinations... I think it's a good thing."

Supervisor John Dolan agreed, noting it was a free service for residents who right now would likely go to Pontiac, one of a few other COVID-19 testing sites in the county, along with Rochester, Holly, and Farmington Hills.

Each site will have designated days

See SITE, Page 7A



Residents wave to members of the Spreading the Joy group as they sing carols at Abbey Park senior residence Dec. 10. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Spreading Christmas joy to seniors in South Lyon

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

Dozens of merrymakers descended on Abbey Park at Mill River in New Hud-

with Christmas songs playing while

son Thursday night. Under a clear winter sky, dressed in holiday attire including glowing Christmas light necklaces, they marched down the winding sidewalk around the expansive senior living community

calling out "Merry Christmas!"

From their patios and balconies, seniors enthusiastically returned waves and greetings.

"How wonderful!" one woman exclaimed, a sentiment echoed by Maurice St. Germain, who came outside to walk around the building with the visitors, a group of area residents who have dubbed themselves "Spreading Joy to

. "I'm delighted to see them," he said. "This is wonderful. Makes me feel the Christmas spirit."

It's been a lonely year for St. Germain, 88, who lost his wife of 65 years, Marie, to dementia in April.

Kristi Reed, administrator for Abbey Park, said it was amazing to see the community come together for the

"I think the community needs this as much as the residents," she said. "This year, it's about people needing to feel good."

See JOY, Page 8A

Abbo says landfill cleanup a priority

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

Since officially taking office on Nov. 20, new Northville Township Supervisor Mark Abbo has hit the ground running; well, at least as fast as COVID-19 restrictions will allow.

The Northville Republican soundly defeated incumbent and write-in candidate Robert Nix for the second time in three months. Abbo, who previously served three terms as supervisor from 2000-2012, also upended Nix in the Aug. 4 Republican primary (there were no Democratic candidates running for the position).

Abbo noted the transition in the township's top spot is going as

See ABBO, Page 4A

Case for man who dropped sandbag on I-96 driver heads to trial

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

A woman whose car was hit by a sandbag on Interstate 96 and the man who drove her alleged sandbagger home that night gave enough testimony Friday for a judge to send the case to

Novi's 52-1 District Judge Travis Reeds bound over the case to the higher Oakland County Circuit Court after hearing less than a half-hour of testi-

Reeds also ordered home confinement for David Vincent-Charles

See TRIAL, Page 7A

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Volume 151 | No. 20 Home delivery pricing inside





Hot cocoa bomb craze keeping area shops busy

mand.

David Veselenak

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

The latest confectionery craze has blown up for like bakers Catrina

The owner of Homestead Kitchen, 8036 N. Wayne in Westland, is one of many shops across the region creating the holiday season's biggest

It's become such a huge craze, Staats has had difficulty finding the proper equipment to make them.

treats this year: hot cocoa

bombs.

"It's getting harder to find chocolate," said Staats, who lives in Carleton and opened the Westland bakery in April. "The shelves are empty."

The indulgent balls of chocolate have become a star on social media, becoming popular on platforms like TikTok and Instagram earlier this fall and fast becoming popular among the masses.

The concept is simple: hollow balls of chocolate are packed with chocolate powder, marshmallows or and other tasty treats. Drop the ball into a mug, pour some hot milk over it and the chocolate melts, "exploding" and revealing the treasures inside.

The trend has hit many suburban bakeries and confectioneries, whose owners work around the clock to restock the popular holiday goodie.

Billy Earles, owner of

So Delish bakery in Livonia, said he brought two employees in last weekend to make them. He said they spent 15 hours crafting the bombs to help keep up with de-

"That goes to show you how many people are ordering," he said. "Somebody's making them all day every day. We could sell more, but we can't make them fast enough."

Fun and interactive

The interactive nature of the bombs is perhaps their biggest draw, said Chef Lois Hennessey, an adjunct instructor who teaches cake decorating at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington

"I personally think the reason they take off is it's an interactive experience. This is something fun, edible, consumable," said Hennessey, who formerly owned The Home Bakery in downtown Rochester.

While Earles has sold them in his shop at 33825 Five Mile since October, other area shops have just begun adding the latest confectionery craze to their menu. That includes **Sweet Retreats Chocolate** Shoppe, 314 N. Main St., in downtown Milford.

Owner Colleen LaClair said she began making the bombs the week after Thanksgiving and began selling them quickly.

"I tried to find them so that I could purchase and sell to my customers and I couldn't find any," she said. "We sold 36 of them in the first day we had them made."

Eats and Sweets in Plymouth jumped on the bandwagon this past week as well. The shop at 900 Starkweather in Old Village, which opened up earlier this year, just began offering the hot cocoa bombs.

It's a move, owner Bonnie Butler said, she's happy she did. Orders began coming in rapidly, so much so that she ended up selling about 160 at \$5.50 apiece.

Offering them to customers may have helped her shop, she said: with it

Due to the holiday, our office hours and being a slower month, Butler said she was worried about making sure employees could hours. With the influx from the trendy chocolate balls and other new goodies, it's helping keep the little business in the former train station chugging along.

Other shops have echoed the economic impact of the bombs. Staats said the chocolate balls accounted for a major part of their sales in early December.

"Saturday, we had record-breaking sales. which is a big deal for us," Staats said. "It was a third of our sales. I think we sold close to 140 bombs just on Saturday."

Making the move to offer trendy products like the hot cocoa bombs can be one of the main ways independent shops can keep the doors open, Hennessey said. Keeping up with competitors in offering the products can bring customers in, and once inside, they may discover their new favorite baked good such as a cookie or set up an appointment for a cake.

"I feel like it might be a ticket to get people in the door," Hennessey said.

Plenty to pick from

The hot cocoa bombs come in a variety of flavors. Most places sell a traditional bomb, which is made with a chocolate

See COCOA, Page 3A

hometownlife.com **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers**

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NOTICE OF CITY COUNCIL VACANCY **CITY OF NOVI**

Notice is hereby given of a vacancy on the Novi City Council. If you are interested in applying for appointment for the partial term ending in November 2021, please complete an application for Boards and Commissions at www.citvofnovi.org. Submit your completed application to the City Clerk's office, 45175 Ten Mile, Novi, MI 48375, by email to chanson@citvofnovi.org. or by fax 248-347-0577. The deadline for submission of applications has been extended to Wednesday, December 30, 2020 at 4 p.m. Interviews will be held on Monday, January 4 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road or electronically via Zoom if allowable pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

> Cortney Hanson, CMC, MiPMC II City Clerk

Publish: December 17, 2020

NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT PTSLU20-0005

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the representative for Novi Energy is requesting a Temporary Special Land Use Permit in accordance with 7.6.2 of the Novi Zoning Ordinance for temporary ground mounted solar panels for parcel 50-22-27-226-003 South of Ten Mile Road and West of Novi Road from January 5, 2021 through January 5, 2022. The property is zoned OS-1 (Office Service One) and the use is contrary to 3.14.1.A of the Novi Zoning Ordinance.

A public hearing can be requested by any property owner whose property is located within 300 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for a temporary special land use permit

A public hearing will be held electronically over ZOOM at 10:00am on January 5, as authorized under the open meetings act, mcl 15.261, et seq., as amended. All written comments or requests for a link to participate in the meeting remotely should be directed to koppermann@ cityofnovi org and must be received prior to end of business January 4, 2021.

Publish: December 17, 2020

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF NORTHVILLE

The City of Northville Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing on January 6, 2021 at 7:00pm to receive public input on the following variance requests:

- A request to permit a temporary office use on premises zoned R-2, Second Density Residential District, at 236 S. Center St., Northville, Michigan, 48167, parcel number 48 003-03- 0216-000. The applicant is seeking relief from Section 25.04(e), Powers and Duties of the Board of Zoning Appeals, of the Zoning Ordinance to use an existing residential structure as an office for 12 months.
- A request to build a rear addition in the west side-yard setback, and expand a nonconforming single-family residential building on premises zoned R-1B, First Density Residential District, at 406 Dubuar St., Northville, Michigan 48167, parcel number 48 002-02-0433-000. The applicant is proposing to construct a rear addition onto the house that extends the existing west wall of the structure. The existing west wall of the structure is in the side-yard setback and 3.93 feet from the property line. The Zoning Ordinance requires a minimum 7.0-foot side yard setback. Therefore, the applicant is seeking relief from Section 15.01, Schedule of Regulations, and 22.01(5), Non-Conforming Structures, of the Zoning Ordinance for a 3.07-foot side yard variance that permits extension of the non-conforming west wall.
- A request to move an existing garage to the rear of the parcel, and build an addition to the garage, on premises zoned R-1B, First Density Residential District, at 536 Orchard Dr., Northville, Michigan 48167, parcel number 48-005-02-0018-000. The garage relocation is proposed to accommodate a rear building addition onto the house. The applicant is requesting relief from Section 18.04, Accessory Buildings and Structures, to allow the garage to occupy more than 25% of the required rear yard (or setback area) The ordinance would allow 312.5 square feet in the required rear yard, where the applicant is proposing approximately 711 square feet. Therefore, the requested variance is 400 square feet from the requirement of 18.04 in the Zoning Ordinance.

Meeting Location and Participation

The meeting will be held via video conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic and in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Members of the public body and members of the public participating electronically will be considered present at the meeting and may participate as if physically present at the meeting. The following is a link to attend the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89923232117. US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656, Webinar ID: 899 2323 2117

Anyone needing assistance or accommodations should contact the City Manager's office at 248-449-9905. Log in instructions, information about electronic meetings, and a user guide can be found at: https://www.ci.northyille.mi.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=11895963&pageId=1350546 9#zoning, OR from the main Home page, click on the Government tab, Agendas and Minutes and scroll to the Board of Zoning Appeals section of the webpage.

Application Review and Written Comments

The variance applications are available for review at www.ci.northville.mi.us. From the Home Page, click Services, Building and Planning, then Board of Zoning Appeals.

Written comments to the BZA pertaining to the proposed variance requests must be submitted by 4:30pm December 28, 2020 to City of Northville Municipal Building, City Clerk, 215 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, or use the City Hall drop box, or emailed to dmassa@ci.northville.mi.us.

> DOMINIC SILVESTRI, CHAIRPERSON **BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**



Advertisement to Bid

Northville Public Schools will be receiving sealed bids for "Asbestos Abatement for Summer 2021 Renovations at Cooke School and Silver Spring Elementary". This project will be completed in March, June and July 2021, prior to building renovation activities and will include the removal and disposal of asbestos floor tile, asbestos floor tile mastic, asbestos window caulk, asbestos transite overhang panels and non-asbestos carpet materials. Bids will be RECEIVED until 2:00 P.M. local time Monday, January 4, 2021. Sealed bids should be mailed or delivered to: Sealed Bid: Asbestos Abatiment — Asbestos Abatement for Summer 2021 Renovations at Cooke School and Silver Spring Elementary; Attn: Steve Banchero, Executive Director of Operations, Northville Public Schools; 405 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan 48167. The OPENING of the bids will take place at 2:00 P.M. local time at Board of Education, 405 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan 48167. Bid documents are available from Arch Environmental Group, 37720 Interchange Drive, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48335, (248) 426-0165, www.archenygroup.com. starting Wednesday, December 9, 2020, at 5:30 P.M. All bids shall be accompanied by a sworn statement, in accordance with MCL 380.1267, disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner(s) or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board of Education of the School District or the Superintendent of the School District. All bids shall be accompanied by a sworn statement, in accordance with MCL 129.313, certifying that the bidder is not an Iran linked business. The Board of Education shall not accept a bid that does not include sworn and notarized copies of the familial relationship disclosure statement and affidavit of compliance with the Iran Sanction Act. Northville Public Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids either in whole or in part or to waive any informalities or irregularities that may be in the best interest of the School District.

Publish: December 17, 2020

INVITATION TO BID NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2021 RENOVATIONS - COOKE SCHOOL 2021 RENOVATIONS - Partial Re-Bid - RIDGE WOOD, SILVER SPRINGS, WINCHESTER

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 interior remodeling work at Cooke School and the partial re-bid for Ridge Wood, Silver Springs, and Winchester for Doors & Hardware and Acoustical trades

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 December 14, 2020. Bid Package consists of Instruction to Bidders, Proposal Forms, General and Supplementary Conditions, drawings and pertinent trade specifications. Contact Jameson Purola or Shawn Debo for download instructions.

Your proposal will be accepted NO LATER THAN 12:00PM NOON, January 6, 2021 TO: NORTHVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION - 405 WEST MAIN STREET, NORTHVILLE, MI 48167. Oral, telephone, fax or electronic mail bids are invalid and will not receive consideration.

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud beginning at 1:00 P.M., January 6, 2021 at the Northville Board of Education, 405 West Main Street, Northville, MI 48167. A virtual meeting link will be provided via addendum for the bid opening.

A pre-bid walk through is scheduled for December 29, 2020 at 1:00 pm at Cooke School (21200 Taft Road, Northville, 48167). This meeting is not mandatory but highly recommended.

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 \$25,288 and must be submitted on the bid proposal form furnished with the specifications. 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

Laurie Doner, Secretary Northville Public Schools, Board of Education

Publish: December 17, 2021

Publish December 17, 2020

Benson announces plans for post-election audits

Paul Egan Detroit Free Press **USA TODAY NETWORK**

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson is planning "the most comprehensive post-election audits of any election in state history," amid ongoing allegations, many of them initiated and amplified by President Donald Trump, that the integrity of results in Michigan and around the nation are in question.

"I am a longstanding proponent of post-election audits to review election procedure and affirm public confidence in our elections," Benson said in a news release. "By conducting the most comprehensive set of audits in our state's history, the Bureau of Elections and Michigan's more than 1,600 local election clerks are demonstrating the integrity of our election."

Benson said the plans include:

A statewide audit to confirm the accuracy of bal-

lot tabulation machines, expected to be completed in mid-January. This involves hand-counting thousands of randomly selected paper ballots to make sure those counts conform with the machine tabulations.

 A "zero-margin risk-limiting audit of the presidential election" in Antrim County, where unofficial results were initially skewed as a result of what state and county officials have said was a programming error by the local clerk. "This is essentially a hand tally of every ballot, which can be compared with the machine-tabulated results," Benson said.

 Procedural audits of precincts and absentee ballot counting boards in more than 200 jurisdictions, including a large number of precincts in Detroit and Wayne County, and all absentee ballot counting boards in Detroit. Officials will review election processes, machines and ballots, and many of these audits have already begun or soon will, she said.

"Clerks across the state carried out an extremely successful election amidst the challenges created by record-breaking turnout and more than double the absentee ballots ever before cast in our state, a global pandemic, and the failure of the Michigan Legislature to provide more than 10 hours for pre-processing of absentee ballots," said Benson.

In addition to many Detroit and Wayne County precincts, procedural audits will also be conducted in precincts in Novi, Farmington Hills, Pontiac and Troy, among other places in Oakland County; and in precincts in Roseville, Sterling Heights, Clinton Township and New Baltimore, among other places in Macomb County, according to the list Benson released.

"As Attorney General William Barr, the FBI and CISA all have confirmed, this was the most secure election in our nation's history and we are confident these audits will continue to affirm that truth," Benson said.

Cocoa

Continued from Page 2A

shell and packed with hot chocolate powder and marshmallows. add festive touches like peppermint to the center.

LaClair said she is sticking to a more classic approach with her hot cocoa bombs, using highend Swiss chocolate liver. Hennessey said she along with Ghirardelli chocolate powder in the middle with marshmallows. Those are \$8.50 apiece at the Milford

Homestead Kitchen has three varieties, including a traditional, a Christmas one with treeshaped marshmallows, a peppermint and "Grinch" style that made with white chocolate and sports the Dr. Seuss character's signature green color. They sell for \$6 apiece or four for \$20.

Earles offers traditional chocolate and white chocolate peppermint

bombs at So Delish for \$6 each, though he recommends people call ahead and order, as they are being sold as fast as they can be made.

Some Staying power

There's no telling how long the hot cocoa bomb trend will keep up, but if customers seek them, shops will continue to deenvisions they will probably decrease in popularity, but sees them as potential mainstays for special events.

"I do think that people are just more in tune with what's out there. The creativity is just off the charts," she said. "I see it being something that will stick around for a while."

That's the plan for Homestead Bakery: so long as there's demand, Staats will sell them. Creating a fun item is just one small thing for customers in a year where so much has gone wrong.

"As long as people want them, we'll keep making them," Staats "We'll ride the said. wave.



City of Novi Public Hearing Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on January 12, 2021 at 7: 00PM. This meeting will be held electronically as authorized under the open meetings act, mcl 15.261, et seq., as amended. Members of the public body and members of the public may participate electronically, as

PZ20-0053 (Z. Joe Huang) West of Old Novi Road and South of Thirteen Mile Road, Parcel # 50-22-10-228-018. The applicant is requesting variance from the Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.5 for a proposed lot coverage of 27% (25% required, variance of an increased 2%). Section 3.6.2M for a watercourse setback of 10 feet (25 feet minimum required, variance of 15 feet). This variance will accommodate the building of a new home. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-4).

PZ20-0054 (Coy Construction) 23403 Mystic Forest Drive, West of Novi Road and South of Ten Mile Road, Parcel #50-22-27-429-006. The applicant is requesting variance from the Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.5 for a proposed 30-foot rear yard setback (35 feet required, variance of 5 feet). This variance will accommodate the building of a new deck and sunroom. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-4).

PZ20-0056 (JB Donaldson/Lineage Logistics) 46500 Humboldt Drive, West of West Park Drive and North of Twelve Mile Road, Parcel #50-22-09-176-019. The applicant is requesting variance from the Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 4.19.1.J for the quantity of accessory buildings (2 permitted by code, 34 carports proposed). This property is zoned General Industrial (I-2).

PZ20-0063 (Power Home Remodeling) 41370 Bridge Street, East of Meadowbrook Road and North of Eleven Mile Road, Parcel #50-22-13-351-020. The applicant is requesting variance from the City of Novi Code of Ordinances Section 28-5(d) for a proposed 35.83 square foot wall sign on the east elevation of the building. This property is zoned Light

PZ20-0064 (Erik Laird) 23437 W Le Bost Drive, East of Meadowbrook Road and South of Ten Mile Road, Parcel # 50-22-25-153-012. The applicant is requesting variances from The City of Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 5.11 to allow the installation of a fence in the front yard setback of a corner lot. Fence shall not extend toward the front of the property nearer than the minimum front yard setback distance by code. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-4).

PZ20-0065 (Stephen & Catherine Beasley) 1254 E Lake Drive, West of Novi Road and South of Fourteen Mile Road, Parcel # 50-22-02-151-017. The applicant is requesting variances from The City of Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 5.11 to allow hedge row shrubs in the area between the house and the lake. This property is zoned Single Family Residential

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Abbo

Continued from Page 1A

smoothly as possible in the midst of a pandemic.

"It's not going as quickly as I would have liked, given the COVID restrictions, but it is what it is," Abbo said. "Ideally, I like to meet with people inperson because you can get a better sense of what's going on. It's easier to get more clarity when you're face-toface with someone as opposed to talking on the phone.

"We're doing the best we can, though, and pushing hard to get things done." There are no surprises on Abbo's list of early-term priority goals.

"I want to move forward quickly on the (Arbor Hills) landfill situation," he asserted. "I'm not afraid to put resources toward that issue. It's a travesty what the administrators of the landfill have done to residents of our community the past several years. I'm hoping to meet with the new owners in early January and see what we can get done.

"Whatever it takes, we'll do: either join in with the State of Michigan's litigation or file our own lawsuit if neces-

Abbo said he intends to eliminate the 1% tax charged to residents to collect taxes in the township.

Creating a subcommittee that will update the master plan for Legacy Park (on the former state psychiatric hospital property) is also a high-priority item, he emphasized.

'We need to do a deep dive on our budget and see what we can do to reduce costs," Abbo said. "I also want to see if we can get more residents that are on wells tapped into our water system."

With four new members on the township's board of trustees and gathering restrictions in place at township hall, developing chemistry has been slowed, at least early on, the new supervisor re-

"Once we are all together, I want to make sure our goals are aligned and pointed in the same direction," Abbo said. "I'm confident this will happen."

Among the secondary, yet still-important, goals on Abbo's get-done list is reviewing township ordinances that may need closer looks.

"For instance, there are an enormous amount of real estate signs in the town-



Northville Township Supervisor Mark Abbo took office Nov. 20.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ship," he said. "Perhaps there is an ordinance in place that we can do a better job of enforcing."

Abbo said he has the utmost respect for the township's trustees — the returners and the newly-elected - and he sees no reason why they won't jell

"It's a fabulous board; they're all very, very enthusiastic and community-minded," he said. "I'm thrilled to have a team like that behind me.

"Our hearts are in the community of Northville Township and we want to do everything in our power to make sure it continues to be the great community that it is."

Abbo said he has already received a substantial amount of feedback from township residents since he was elected Nov. 3.

"I've received calls and emails regarding issues people had with the previous administration," he said, "and I'm already working on resolving these issues. So far, everything is

Abbo assured residents they will receive a detailed report of the new leadership's agenda at its debut board of trustees meeting Thursday. The Northville Township offices will remain closed through the end of the calendar year, except by appointments. Visit the township website at www.twp.northville.mi.us to access meetings virtually.

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

Do I have to pay taxes on unemployment, stimulus check?



Money Matters Rick Bloom

Dear Rick:

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, my wife has been unemployed and has received unemployment benefits. In addition, earlier this year my wife and I each received a \$1,200 government stimulus payment.

At the time, I was under the impression that the \$1,200 we each received was not taxable. Now I'm told that I have to pay tax on the stimulus money as well as on my wife's unemployment. Is that correct? The more people I ask, the more confused I get.

My second question deals with my 2019 tax return. I filed my return in June and I have still not received my refund. Is that normal, and if not, what suggestions do you have? I really don't want to contact the IRS.

Thank you, Chris

Dear Chris:

With regards to your taxes. I have some good news and some bad news. First, the bad news: Your wife's unemployment benefits are taxed as ordinary income to you. Just like wages are taxed, unemployment benefits are also subject to tax from the State of Michigan and the federal government. Therefore, when you complete your 2020 tax return, your wife's unemployment benefits are considered taxable income for you.

When it comes to unemployment benefits, many people are under the mistaken belief that they are not subject to tax; that is not true. That is why in many situations. I recommend that people receiving unemployment benefits should have taxes withheld from their check.

By completing IRS Form W-4V, you can authorize the withholding of 10 percent of your benefit for tax purposes. Particularly, in cases such as this, where one spouse is continuing to work and the other is collecting unemployment benefits, it makes sense to

After all, you don't want to find that you have a significant tax liability when you complete your 2020 tax return. On top of the tax, you could also owe interest and potentially, an underpayment penalty.

It's important to remember that our system of taxes is really a pay-as-yougo tax system, which means that you're supposed to pay taxes as you receive income throughout the year.

Most people accomplish this either through their withholding by their employer, or by making estimated tax payments. If you end up not paying enough tax throughout the year, you may have to pay interest as well as the underpayment penalty, which is currently 3 per-

With regards to the stimulus money you received, the good news is that money is not subject to tax, and the \$2,400 that you and your wife received is tax free. That money is completely for you and your wife to enjoy.

With regards to your refund, I do believe an inordinate amount of time has gone by and you need to take action. Typically, the IRS pays refunds within a two- to three-week period; therefore, you have to become proactive. I would recommend you visit irs.gov, click on the refund tab and check the status of your refund. If that does not resolve your issue, you should contact the IRS. You're entitled to your refund, and you're entitled to an answer as to why you haven't received it.

After all, your refund may be lost in the system, or unfortunately, as many taxpayers have found, their refunds have been stolen.

One last note regarding the IRS: I know this sounds a little crazy, but it is true. The IRS, over the last number of years, has become easier and friendlier to deal with. In addition, the IRS has many tools online that you can use, and as far as I'm concerned, as a taxpayer you shouldn't hesitate to take advantage of it.

Good luck.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is www.bloomadvisors.com. If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please email Rick at rick@bloomadvisors.com.



The Michigan Elder Law ReporterTM

DECEMBER 2020

30 Years Serving Michigan Seniors

DELAY, NEGLECT, CONFUSION MEANS FRACTURED FAMILIES

DEATH IN THE FAMILY IS ALWAYS PAINFUL WHAT COMES NEXT IS FREQUENTLY WORSE **ESTATE SETTLEMENT IN SIX MONTHS?**

DEATH COMES FOR US ALL

Our time on this planet is limited. We do our best while we are here. To be a good spouse. A loving parent. A loyal sibling. A true American. To be able to look back on a life well-lived. You have worked hard. You played

by the rules. You planned. And when you pass, there will be leftovers. Maybe it is a loved one who has died. After the

grief comes the realization that you have a big job to do. You are responsible to take care of what has been left behind.

Now what? What comes next? You have heard the stories of family strife. You "know" that this will take at least a year, probably two. You keep hearing that probate or trust administration costs will swallow up 4-10% of the leftovers. Pretty

It does not have to be that way. Let us show you. WILL VS TRUST

Wills only work in probate. A will is simply instructions to the Probate Court and the Personal Representative (Executor). Wills do not avoid probate. Did I mention that the will only works in Probate Court?

Millions of families have believed that revocable living trusts would avoid probate for them. Millions of families have been disappointed. Trusts only work on assets that have been retitled into the trust.

Attorneys, bankers, accountants, insurance agents, annuity salespersons, financial advisors, and the guy who mops the floor at the bank all know something that you do not. Everybody else knows that trusts do not work in the real world. That fact has nothing to do with the trust itself.

Trusts only work on stuff in the trust. And your stuff is not in your trust. Inconceivable!

Remember all those papers in that trust binder? All those papers you did not read? All those papers your loved one did not read either? Well, there was a memo about putting assets into the trust. Whoopsie. Say hello to probate! This is not a mistake. New estate planning lawyers are taught not to worry about funding, in reliance on probate. I wonder if the probate attorney fees have anything to do with it ... Inconceivable!

Everybody knows you will not put your stuff into the trust. That is why you get a Funding Coach at the Law Offices of David L. Carrier. Someone to help you, nag you, enable you. To truly avoid probate. And nursing home poverty.

Simple will or the typical trust? Does not matter. Say hello to probate.

DELAY DESTROYS DE FAMILY

Probate or trust administration drags on. Month

after month. Family members wonder what is going on. One year. Two years. And on. Family fights fester. First, grief at mom's death. Then, impatience. Soon, annoyance. Next, suspicion.

"But our kids get along so well!" Check back 12-24 months after your death. No final resolution. No visible signs of progress. Tough? You bet. Inevitable? No way

GIT 'ER DONE! SIX MONTHS OR LESS!

Preserve your family. Preserve your sanity. You do the grieving. We do the paperwork. Six months after you say "Go!", we say "All done!" And four months of that time was required by the newspaper Notice to Unknown Creditors. Consistent communication calms kids

YOUR PROBATE AND TRUST ADMINISTRATION

Attorney Terri Macklin and Senior Paralegal Leah Dillard head up your Team. Our staff accountants, paralegals, and client service agents back them all the way. Attorney Claire Clary rounds out the Team. As former executive director of Widowed Persons Services, Claire adds years of insights from helping hundreds of newly widowed persons.

SIX MONTHS! REALLY?

Not every time. But it is always our goal. We work hard to beat your expectations. Hundreds of times, hundreds of families, every year.

UNEXPECTED COVID-19 DEATHS ARE RISING

You did not expect your loved one to pass so soon. You thought you had time. They did too. Things will get worse before they get better. Get

WHAT Now?

Preserve your family. Preserve your sanity. Call the Probate and Trust Administration Team now. It costs nothing. It could save your family. Make the rules work for the folks who play by the rules.

GET ANSWERS NOW... CALL THE LIFEPLANTM HOTLINE 1-800-317-2812

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How do I protect my health, home, lifesavings, family and legacy?

Why is an outdated will worse than no plan at all?

How can I be sure people I trust will make medical and financial decisions for me, if I cannot? How can I control the care I get (and do not get) in a medical emergency?

How can I protect my kids' inheritance from divorce, bankruptcy, and their own poor decisions? How do I avoid heavy taxes from the new law on my retirement plans (like my IRA or 401k)?

CALL OR EMAIL TODAY TO SCHEDULE A LIVE WORKSHOP WITH YOUR COVID CREW!

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SOME STATES BREAK CONSTITUTIONAL ELECTION RULES

THIS WEEK'S SIGN OF THE APOCALYPSE

Most middle-class folks play by the rules. We get to work on time. We do the job. Trustworthy. Loyal. Helpful. Friendly. When things go wrong

(as they always do!), you fix it. Other people cut corners. Leave early. Fake it. We all know some. On the job. On the softball team. In our own family. Even at church. How can you respect them? Sure, you can pretend that cheaters are the same as honest folk. For a time.

We do not go picking fights. Live and let live. But doesn't there comes a point...? When is

enough, enough? WHO MADE THE RULES?

In America, We The People, make the rules. Starting with the Constitution. And on down the line. Most places, it is the powerful who make the rules. Regular folks obey. Or else. Not here. Not

Here, you and I make the rules. For over 240 years, our American system for making and playing by the rules has worked. Better than anything else ever tried. In history. More freedom, more wealth for more people. Look it up. Therefore, naturally, some want to wreck it. By any means necessary.

In the meantime, people like us accept the rule of law. We do not throw tantrums when we lose. We work harder. We keep the faith. We work within the system. Especially when dealing with cheaters.

WHEN THE PEOPLE FEAR THE GOVERNMENT THAT'S TYRANNY WHEN THE GOVERNMENT FEARS THE PEOPLE, THAT'S FREEDOM.



What does the Constitution say about presidential

Each State shall appoint its Presidential Electors in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct.

U.S. Constitution, Article II, § 1, clause 2 We The People, through our Legislature make presidential election rules. All on the up and up.

Should the Governor, Attorney General, state or federal court judges or anybody else change those rules? In the middle of the game? How is that fair? How is that Constitutional?

IS A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION LIKE A BOWLING

You'go bowling. In a league. According to the League Rules. Your team signs up. Pays up. Shows up. Plays all season. On to the Championship!

Then, the Championship host bowling center changes the League Rules! One time only. They say. For this game only. For "fairness" the other

team gets gutter guards. No foul lines. Balls with a three-foot diameter. Not your team, of course. Only the other guys. And then.

They win! New Champions! Amazing! No practicing. Never won anything before. Beat the odds! Pictures in the papers and on TV. Cinderella Story! Wow! Congratulations!

Really? Does complaining make you a bad sport? You are so awful! You want to "throw out" 'overturn" "reject" the Championship results.

WE ARE COMPLAINING

At last count, 18 states are complaining. To the United States Supreme Court. The ultimate umpire. Eighteen states say that governors, attorneys general or other state officials changed the rules in the championship round. You may not have heard of it. Online, social media actively suppress this information. And say so. But the

truth is out there...



TIMELESS ADVICE FROM PAUL BURGE

Journalism is all about covering important

With a pillow, until they stop moving.

PAUL BURGE, IOWAHAWK

WE WILL STOP COMPLAINING What if the Supreme Court says no harm, no foul? We will accept it. That is our system. We built it, we love it, we will live with it. But

when did complaining about unfair stuff become unAmerican? Making The Rules Work For The Folks WHO PLAY BY THE RULES. RESULTS NOT

EXCUSES. Another unknown reality is that most folks eventually need long-term care. Rules determine whether you keep any of your lifesavings. At home care or an institution? What do the rules

For thirty years, protecting middle-class Michigan from nursing homes and nursing home poverty. Keep your independence. Preserve your life

Or you can rely on government wisdom and good

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Detroit Archdiocese restructures parishes

Plan is to share priests, avoid closings, for now

Niraj Warikoo Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

In one of its biggest restructurings in years, the Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit announced last week it is grouping its 216 parishes in southeastern Michigan into 51 families — each made up of three to eight parishes sharing priests.

The changes have been approved by Archbishop Allen Vigneron, according to a statement. A spokeswoman for the Archdiocese of Detroit, Holly Fournier, said the changes will not result in the immediate closings of individual parishes. But some are concerned that changes could eventually lead to future reductions.

The restructuring will mean that individual churches and parishes will be grouped together, usually with parishes nearby. For example, a family known as "West Wayne Vicariate Family 1" that is part of the first wave will include five churches in Dearborn and Dearborn Heights: Church of the Divine Child Parish, Sacred Heart Parish, St. Anselm Parish, St. Linus Parish and St. Sabina

A noted Catholic expert, Rocco Palmo, said the new Detroit plan to create 51 families "is drastic, quite possibly the most drastic I've seen" among dioceses in the U.S. who are doing similar reorganizations.

Usually, the consolidation in a diocese leads to a number of families that is about half the total number of parishes, Palmo said. In Detroit's case, it's about one-fourth, 51 families out of 216 parish-

"The notion of the AOD (Archdiocese of Detroit) eventually having all of 51 parishes is staggering," said Palmo, editor of Whispers in the Loggia, a Catholic news site.

The changes will take place in two waves, the first to launch in July 2021 and the second in July 2022. The families will be part of various geographic groupings, such as Northeast, Northwest, South, and Central regions.

The announcement comes as Catholic dioceses in Michigan and across the

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Matthew J. McKenna, MD

Family Medicine

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We're pleased to introduce patients to Dr. McKenna

Matthew J. McKenna, MD, is board certified in family medicine. Dr. McKenna

attended medical school at Michigan State University College of Human

Medicine in East Lancing, Michigan. He completed his residency in family

Pediatric and Adolescent Services including Well Child/Newborn Exams

medicine at Michigan State University in Flint, Michigan.

Annual Checkups and Physical Exams

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Urgent Care for, Sudden Illnesses

Care for Chronic Conditions

Dr. McKenna specializes in family medicine services:

U.S. are facing challenges with priest shortages, finances and membership declines, according to experts. The Archdiocese of Detroit has more than 1 million Catholics over six counties in southeastern Michigan: Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Monroe, St.

Some pastors and others have raised concerns about the process of creating families of parishes, saying that it was too top-down driven.

The Rev. Timothy Pelc of St. Ambrose parish in Grosse Pointe Park wrote in a Nov. 15 bulletin that he had some concerns about the process, saying that "other parish changes in the AoD's (Archdiocese of Detroit's) past moved similarly, but at least there was time for a modicum of community consensus building."

Pelc said this new restructuring "will produce quick results, but at the cost of minimal parishioner buy-in."

The Archdiocese of Detroit said the new structure is part of their overall effort to 'Unleash the Gospel' by making parishes "radically mission-oriented."

"Our goal is to make our parishes places where individuals and families can encounter Jesus anew, grow as disciples, and be equipped to be witnesses the Risen Christ," the Archdiocese said in a list of Frequently Asked Questions about the new families.

"In drafting the groups, clergy were urged to consider what makes most sense for the future of the Archdiocese when there will be fewer priests, people and resources in many parts of the Archdiocese of Detroit," the Archdiocese said in a statement.

"Our mission hasn't changed, but how we approach that mission must shift in response to our circumstances," said Deacon Michael Houghton, missionary strategic planning director and Families of Parishes project manager. "We must move forward with greater collaboration and better stewardship of our resources. With this new model, our priests, deacons, religious and lay staff will be empowered to share their gifts and talents with the whole Family of Parishes, to the benefit of the entire community."

One challenge is deciding who will lead the families

On it website, the Archdiocese said the One-Pastor Model is where "one priest serves as pastor of the Family and others serve as associates" It said this is

The "In Solidum Model," parish pas-

Palmo said that it's interesting "that

in Detroit fits into a pattern in other areas, "a constant for dioceses in the Northeast and Upper Midwest over the last 30 years.'

In the past, the Archdiocese of Detroit would close parishes abruptly with little consultation, which upset many. The new model may help ease dioceses into new arrangements, but could eventually lead to fewer parishes long term,

The archdiocese's new families

First wave

Lakes Vicariate Family 1

- Our Lady of the Lakes Parish,
- St. Anne Parish, Ortonville

Lakes Vicariate Family 3

- Our Lady of Refuge Parish, Orchard
- St. Benedict Parish, Waterford

South Region

- St. Kenneth Parish, Plymouth

West Wayne Vicariate Family 4

- SS. Simon and Jude Parish, Westland
- St. Mary Parish, Wayne
- St. Richard Parish, Westland

Second wave (July 2022)

Lakes Vicariate Family 1

- Spirit Parish, Highland
- St. Mary Parish, Milford

The Archdiocese said that Archbishop Vigneron has endorsed two models of governance, what it calls the "One-Pastor Model" and the "In Solidum

"the best model for us to be on mission."

tors will become "Family Pastors" to all parishes within the family. They will rely on the help of vicars and deacons. One of the family pastors will be chosen as a "Moderator," defined as a servant-

it's being left to the pastors to decide whether they'll share responsibility for all the parishes in the respective family or just stay focused on their individual assignment."

Palmo added that what's happening

(Not all parishes listed)

Northwest Region

- St. Daniel Parish, Clarkston
- St. Rita Parish, Holly

- Prince of Peace Parish, West Bloomfield

Northwest Wayne Vicariate Family 2

- Our Lady of Victory Parish, Northville
- St. Colette Parish, Livonia
- St. Edith Parish, Livonia

- St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy Parish,
- Westland
- St. Thomas the Apostle Parish,

Garden City

Northwest Region

- St. Patrick Parish, White Lake

Chancery offices of the Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit, 12 State St., **Detroit.** COURTESY OF GOOGLE MAPS

- St. Perpetua Parish, Waterford
- **South Oakland Vicariate Family 2** Holy Name Parish, Birmingham
- Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish, **Beverly Hills**
- St. Owen Parish, Bloomfield Hills

• St. Regis Parish, Bloomfield Hills South Oakland Vicariate Family 7

- Our Lady of Sorrows Parish,
- **Farmington**
- St. Andrew Kim Parish, Northville • St. Fabian Parish, Farmington Hills

South Region

Northwest Wayne Vicariate Family 1

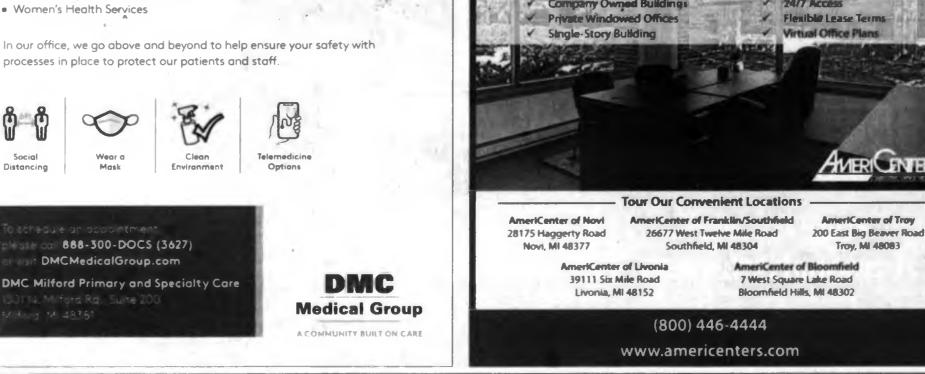
- Holy Family Parish, Novi
- St. James Parish, Novi
- St. Joseph Parish, South Lyon • St. William Parish, Walled Lake
- Northwest Wayne Vicariate Family 3
- Our Lady of Loretto Parish, Redford • St. Aidan Parish, Livonia
- St. Genevieve St. Maurice Parish, Livonia
- St. Gerald Parish, Farmington
- St. John XXIII Parish, Redford
- St. Michael Parish, Livonia
- St. Priscilla Parish, Livonia
- St. Valentine Parish, Redford
- Northwest Wayne Vicariate Family 4 • Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish,
- Plymouth
- Resurrection Parish, Canton
- St. John Neumann Parish, Canton • St. Thomas a'Becket Parish, Canton
- **West Wayne Vicariate Family 2**
- St. Aloysius Parish, Romulus
- St. Anthony Parish, Belleville • St. Stephen Parish, New Boston

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Trial

Continued from Page 1A

Garcia, 41, of Brighton while he awaits further resolution on felony charges of throwing objects at cars causing serious impairment, assault with intent to do great bodily harm and malicious destruction of personal property.

He can leave home for work and other

specific purposes.

Prosecuting attorney Jessica Blanch had asked the judge for an increased bond because, as she saw it, Garcia had committed a random act of violence in a fit of anger and is a danger to society.

The attorney noted that authorities tested Garcia's blood alcohol content at .089% - a smidge over the legal .08% limit - when taking him into custody.

"I tend to agree with you conceptually that this is a very serious crime," said Reeds, calling details horrific. "If proving beyond a reasonable doubt and the defendant is convicted and if I were the sentencing court, I would not hesitate to send this man to prison. That's not my role, though, today. He's not convicted as he sits here today."

Investigators have said Garcia crashed his truck along I-96 in Lyon Township the night of Oct. 4 before heaving several 40-pound sandbags from an overpass and seriously injuring Cindy Eckley.

The Livonia woman was driving home at about 11 p.m. after a reunion with the women in her family and dropping off a daughter-in-law.

Moving at 73 mph in the center eastbound lane, she saw a larger-sized man facing her on the Old Plank Road over-

Something large crashed through her windshield. Blinded from the blow to her face, Eckley managed to drive to the side of the road, retrieve her phone and call 911.

Sand, gravel and glass were lodged in her eyes. Once at the hospital, her vision was restricted to "a little bit of light and some outlines," Eckley testified Friday.

"I still have glass in my eyes," she testified. "Even with corrective glasses, I only have 20/40 vision in this eye. There is a shard that cut my cornea that is directly in my field of vision.

"I own an art gallery in custom picture framing. I cannot see well enough to measure materials or to see if anything is warped or damaged. I can't run the saw. I can't read the scales. I can't see well enough to run the equipment."

Hometown Life had the option of attending the Garcia's preliminary examination in person but opted to attend virtually as a precaution due to COVID-19. Over Zoom, only Reeds and his assistant were visible unless the attorneys moved into the camera's range.

Also testifying was David Masters who said he was driving to his New Hudson place of business when he saw a man walking and then almost running toward his truck with a flashlight.

Masters swerved to avoid him and then pulled over. The man wanted a ride home because his Chevy Silverado truck had broken down on the inter-

They chatted during the ride. Garcia also shared his name, age, phone number and that he was trained in siding and roofing work.

Masters said Garcia confessed that "when bad things happen to him, that he feels the urge to hurt people."

He also talked about "that bridge back there." Garcia told Masters he saw sandbags there after his truck broke down. He told the driver he walked up to the bridge and threw the sandbags onto the highway.

"I asked him if he had hit any cars. He said, yeah, he did. He hit one," testified Masters, saying the other man did not seem remorseful. "He seemed very calm and collected."

Masters called 911 with the information Garcia shared once he returned to his place of business. Police made their arrest.

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



Oakland County will set up a drive-thru COVID-19 testing site at Lyon Township's Fire Station No. 2 on Ten Mile Road. Once available, it will be used to administer vaccinations against the virus, as well. JOSHUA A BICKEL/COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Site

Continued from Page 1A

for testing; Lyon's chosen day will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays.

Oakland County Chief of Emergency Management Rob Seeley said the county hopes to start testing at Lyon Fire Station #2, 56675 Ten Mile Road, on Dec. 18.

The COVID-19 tests will be available to all adults 18 and older, and to children 4-17 who are showing symptoms, but appointments are required and can't be

made the same day. Lyon is the fifth and possibly the last COVID-19 testing site in the county, but may be followed by more vaccination sites.

Seeley was not ready to hazard a guess on when vaccinations could be administered at the Lyon Fire Station or the other sites in the county, noting that the first round of vaccinations to the state is anticipated for Dec. 20, but those are earmarked for healthcare workers, followed by citizens in longterm care facilities and first responders.

Currently, the county is administering about 3,200 COVID-19 tests per week between the other sites currently operating. The addition of Lyon Township as a testing site will bring the county to about 4,000 tests per week, Seeley

Seeley reached out to other fire chiefs in the area, including in Novi, Milford Bromley10.

and Commerce Township, with possible interest in their sites, but said some had difficulty fitting the testing into their operational picture. The county had set criteria that need to be met, including indoor drive-thru capabilities and at least 15 parking spaces available for county health staff.

Residents getting tested or vaccinated for COVID-19 will not be leaving their vehicles, but driving through the Lyon fire station's garage bay, which will shelter healthcare workers from weather.

The number of vaccinations administered will far exceed tests, and two shots are scheduled for full immunization. Days per week may be expanded when vaccinations are available based on operational capacity of the fire sta-

Seeley said he would be in line to get one as soon as it was available to him.

"I hope people listen to scientists and the county health department, and not blogs and YouTube and FaceTime that are not in favor or conspiracy theories and make good decisions when it comes to the vaccine. Do the vaccination. Please. The health department would not allow it to be given if it wasn't safe.

Trust the doctors and the science." To schedule an appointment for a COVID-19 test at an available county site, call 800-848-5533.

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

Men's Virility Restored in Clinical Trial; 275% More **Blood Flow in 5 Minutes**

A newly improved version of America's best-selling male performance enhancer gives 70-year-old men the ability and stamina they enjoyed in their 30's.

America's best-selling performance sexual enhancer just got a lot

It's the latest breakthrough for nitric oxide - the molecule that makes E.D. woes fade and restores virility when it counts the most.

Nitric oxide won the Nobel Prize in 1998. It's why "the little blue pill" works. More than sexual performance.

And this new discovery sexual and longer-lasting performance.

double-blind, placebo-controlled study "gold-standard" men.

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

But only five minutes after the first dose their 275%, back to levels of a perfectly healthy Sears. "That's like giving 70-year-old men the sexual power of 30-yearolds."

WHY SO MUCH **EXCITEMENT?**

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

They don't always

A very distinguished awarded doctor practicing at a prestigious Massachusetts hospital who has studied Nitric Oxide for over 43 years states a "deficiency of problem? bioactive nitric oxide... leads to impaired endothelium-dependent vasorelaxation."

In plain English, these older products may increase levels of nitric through. oxide. But that's only half the battle. If it's not bioactively available then your body can't absorb it to produce an erection.

Experts simply call it the nitric oxide "glitch." And until now, there's never been a solution.

NEXT GENERATION NITRIC OXIDE FORMULA FLYING **OFF SHELVES**

Upon further research, America's No. 1 men's health expert Dr. Al Sears discovered certain nutrients fix this "glitch" resulting in 275% better blood flow.

He's combined those nutrients with proven nitric oxide boosters in a new formula called Primal Max Red. In clinical trials, 5,000 mg Max Red have logged is required for satisfying impressive results.



200,000 studies confirm A new discovery that increases nitric oxide availability was it's the key to superior recently proven in a clinical trial to boost blood flow 275%

performance. increases nitric oxide Primal Max Red contains Physiology study, one availability resulting in a bigger, 9,000 mg per resulted in a 30 times even quicker, stronger serving dose. It's become so popular, he's having these increased levels trouble keeping it in lasted up to 12 hours.

of more than 500 scientific of research) involved papers. Thousands of a group of 70-year-old- people listened to him speak at the recent Palm Beach Health & Wellness Festival featuring Dr. Oz. NFL Hall of Fame quarterback Joe Namath recently visited his clinic, the Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine.

Primal Max Red has only been available for a few months — but everyone who takes it blood flow increased reports a big difference. "I have the energy to have sex three times in 31-year-old man! "It's one day, WOW! That has remarks not happened in years. nitric oxide expert Dr. Al Oh, by the way I am 62," says Jonathan K. from Birmingham, AL.

HOW IT WORKS

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

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

How bad is

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

To make matters worse, nitric oxide levels start declining in your 30's. And by 70, nitric oxide production is, down an alarming 75%.

Primal Max Red is the first formula to tackle both Combining problems. powerful nitric oxide boosters and a proven delivery mechanism that defeats the nitric oxide "glitch" resulting in 275% better blood flow. There's not enough space here to fully explain how it works, so Dr. Sears will send anyone who orders Primal Max Red a free special report that explains everything.

MORE CLINICAL RESULTS

Nutrients in Primal

In a Journal of Applied MORE nitric oxide. And

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

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

FREE BONUS TESTOSTERONE BOOSTER

Every order also gets Dr. Sears testosterone boosting formula Primal Max Black for free.

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Joy

Continued from Page 1A

That was the intention of Jamie Martin, a South Lyon resident who organized the group by putting out a call on social media to friends to join her in Spreading Joy to Seniors out of a desire to help the community's elderly, who are most at risk of COVID-19 and also suffering loneliness from the isolation.

The group kicked off its merrymaking Dec. 3 at the South Lyon Senior Care and Rehab Center, where Martin said more than 100 people joined in a beautiful show of support.

"This COVID stinks," Martin said. "I wanted to get out of my funk... I thought something has to be done, it makes me really sad... It's just a reality check to be thankful and present in the moment you are in, to count your blessings. It just makes you want to get out there and keep doing something."

This coming Thursday Martin, her group and anyone else interested are going to keep Spreading the Joy at 6 p.m. at Cambrian Senior Living, 52365 10 Mile Road in South Lyon.

Andrea and Bryan Jenkins, South Lyon residents who were at Abbey Park last Thursday with their children, Tanner, 4, and Layla, 1, plan to be there, noting it's a great family activity, and one which makes them feel grateful for their health and for a caring community.

Kim Thorell said something so simple to do for a few minutes really seems to make such a large difference.

"You could do this anywhere for people who are in lockdown," she observed. "It's a good way to bring Christmas to them."

Reed was excited about the joy brought to the Abbey Park residents.

"Even though they can't have visitors, it gives them a sense that the community cares and that we are going to get through this — as a community, we're not alone. It brings tears to your eyes, the community needed to give something and they did: the feeling of love, the feeling of hope."

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



At left, South Lyon resident Jamie Martin rallies the Spreading the Joy carolers at **Abbey Park senior** residence in Lyon Township on Dec. 10. Below, the Spreading the Joy carolers assembles to walk through the property singing carols for the residents from outside. The group kicked off its merrymaking Dec. 3 at the South Lyon Senior Care and Rehab Center. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM





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SPORTS





Churchill senior QB Gavin Brooks eludes a Wayne Memorial defender. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Churchill QB has choice to make after football pause

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Gavin Brooks knew early on that Concordia would be his college football home.

He attended camp on campus prior to the start of high school, instantly falling in love with the atmosphere of the Cardinals football team. To Brooks, Concordia was with him from Day 1, and Oct. 5 he chose them, signing to join the Cardinals in 2021.

From then on, the plan seemed to be set: the Livonia Churchill senior quarterback could focus on the remainder of the 2020 season with the Chargers while finishing up the required classes to graduate by the end of the fall semester, allowing him to enroll at Concordia in January for its seven-game regular season in the spring.

And then the pause happened.
Two days after Churchill beat area rival Livonia Franklin in the district

See WB, Page 4B



Franklin junior linebacker Trevor Alexander brings down Brooks.

John Glenn's Hart achieves college dream

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Justin Hart has always been around football. He started to play at age 7 and went to every game his nephew Mike Hart played in when he was a running back at Michigan.

Justin remembers running around in the backyard with a football in his hands, anxiously awaiting his chance to play.

He remembers his father being at each practice, game and event to cheer him on when he first started playing. But one year later, when he was 8, Hart's father died.

"Throughout my whole football journey, he's been my motivation factor, the thing that keeps me going," Hart said.

After the ups and downs of four years of football at John Glenn, using his father as his motivation every step of the way, Hart will continue the family football tradition at the college level, signing to play at Wayne State next season.

The John Glenn senior said the Wayne State staff showed how much it wanted him, communicating with coaches over the phone every day. The school also stood out with him wanting to major in biology, leading to a path of becoming an orthopedic surgeon

Hart, a Detroit native, said what sealed the deal was talking with players on the team, feeling like he could fit into the culture.

"I felt like those are the guys I should be playing with," Hart said. "They just made me feel like I was already a part of the team. I think that played a big role."

John Glenn development

When Hart was a sophomore at John Glenn, the varsity football players made him feel he was a part of the team.

He saw a group of players that had been together since they were kids, using their chemistry to lead to the Rockets' best season since back-to-back playoff appearances in 2013-14.

"I really learned how to play as a team," Hart said. "I was like the little brother, I guess, of the team, so I learned how that felt, what role that

"That's probably the year that I learned to have fun playing football, like bring the energy. They would always be at practice bringing the energy."

Hart had high hopes for his junior season. He was planning on playing both outside linebacker and tight end

See HART, Page SB

Will Michigan high schools finish fall sports season?

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

"We can only control what we can

control: This has been Cranbrook Kingswood girls swim and dive head coach Paul Ellis' message to his team throughout the 2020 season.

This is the message that continued

This is the message that continued the Cranes' trajectory toward a Division 3 state title, the team's second in the past four years. Ellis can't make a prediction regarding the remainder of the 2020 season, neither can his players. All they could do was prepare for what could be.

"We can't tell the Governor to let us finish," Ellis said. "We can't be upset if she doesn't lift the pause because we are trying to take care and qualm this pandemic. Is that the answer that we want?

"We want them to say, 'We can finish, we can get this season done and we can

move on.' But at this point with them, it's only we can control what we can control."

The outcome Ellis, Cranbrook Kingswood and the rest of the fall teams still in the hunt for a state title throughout the state was pushed back again, as the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services extended its guidelines to slow the spread of COVID-19 by 12 days to Dec. 20 — further postponing the high school football, swim and dive,

and volleyball postseasons.

In a Monday press conference, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer was asked about the possibility of a return for high school athletics, but she shifted her answer to focus on the academic side of in-person schooling.

"I believe that our first priority should be getting students back into the classroom safely," she said.

See SEASON, Page 78



South Lyon East mourns assistant swim coach

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Kacie Van Buskirk was not someone with a lot of words. The South Lyon East assistant coach didn't give big pump-up speeches to her team before big races. Her messages were simple.

"She was just like, 'I don't want to lose today,' or 'Just swim fast,'" South Lyon East head swim coach John Burch said.

But Van Buskirk left a large impact on the South Lyon East girls swim program as an assistant coach, years after competing for the Cougars herself as a 2011 graduate, a four-time All-State swimmer and former state champion.

South Lyon East announced Monday that Van Buskirk, an assistant coach with the team for the past five years, died over the weekend. She was 27.

"Kacie connected with her athletes by establishing trusting relationships," South Lyon East Athletic Director Greg Michaels said in a statement. "She assisted Coach Burch within the swim community by creating a positive program culture. I will remember Kacie for her positive attitude, passion for coaching and her loyalty to East. I feel extremely fortunate that Kacie was a coach at East - if she ever wanted to pursue being a head coach, she was ready. More importantly, she was a person who was great for our kids. These are just a few of the many amazing qualities Kacie exemplified each and every day."

'She reached a whole lot of kids'

Burch first met Van Buskirk when she was in his eighth grade class during the 2006-07 school year. She remembers, even at that point, that she was a hardworking athlete, translating both in the classroom and into the pool.

Van Buskirk joined Burch's team in 2007.

"She was an elite athlete in general," Burch said. "She had a lot of talent, but she combined that talent with a great work ethic and practice. I could count on her to always work as hard as she possibly could in practice. She is one of the toughest athletes I have ever coached. I could give her practice sets that were just incredibly difficult and I've had maybe three or four kids in my entire career that were able to do the same sets she was.

"That work ethic led me to realize that she was going to put that forth in

everything that she does."

Along with earning state runner-up honors at the 2010 state meet in the 500-freestyle — earning a school record that has yet to be broken — Van Buskirk, along with Corrine Caldwell, Rachel Green and Paige Drazga, earned a first-place finish in the 200-yard freestyle relay and set a Division 1 state record, which has since been broken.

Van Buskirk was a swimming All-American and an academic All-American, swimming collegiately at the University of Denver, leaving South Lyon East with six school records.

Van Buskirk returned to South Lyon after four years with the Pioneers and with an environmental sciences degree, and took the job as Burch's assistant.

She spent the past five seasons coaching with the South Lyon East girls and unified boys swim teams, doing what Burch thought she did best: building relationships and getting the best out of her swimmers.

"She was able to have that personal connection that a coach needs to have with their athletes, so it wasn't just about performance in the water," Burch said. "It was also about, 'Hey, how are you doing? How's life going?' Just having that inter-personal relationship with the athletes was just something she was really good at.

"She reached a whole lot of kids."
Senior Maria Mayorga, a second-year
South Lyon East student, who came to
the program after moving from Illinois,
said she was pretty shy when she first
joined the team, but that Van Buskirk
helped her feel comfortable and "I came
out of my shell."

Van Buskirk served as an environmental scientist, testing sites for pollution and chemicals in the ground water — Burch said her swimmers used to joke with her that, "She was playing with dirt all day long."

But with her job and the amount of travel that was required, Van Buskirk never had the ability to become a head coach, even though Burch said she has everything to be a successful one.

"I was more than willing to work with a coach who was going to miss practice a few days here or there because I knew the quality of coach that she was," Burch said. "If it was any coach, I wouldn't necessarily want a coach that ... would occasionally have those days she was going to miss. But it was fine with Kacie because I knew that she would come back and be ready to go."



Kacie Van Buskirk served as an assistant coach for the South Lyon East girls swim team and the South Lyon boys unified team for five years. COURTESY OF JOHN BURCH

Just swim fast

When Burch got the call Sunday morning from Julie Cippola, Van Buskirk's cousin and best friend, he was stunned.

He felt for those swimmers she was close to, somebody who they loved and they trusted as a coach and as a leader.

"Everything that's going on with CO-VID, you are like, 'How do we do this?" Burch said. "Normally, you are like, you want to give every single one of the kids a hug, you want to support them, you want to be there for them. It made a very

difficult situation even worse.

"I've never had to go through this as a coach before and I certainly don't ever want to do it again. She just meant so much to all of us."

With the end of the girls swim and dive season on hold, with the state meet in limbo, Burch said Van Buskirk's message to her team would be the same as it would be in those short, simple speeches: "I don't want to lose today."

"I think she would want them to keep going," Burch said. "I really do."

Obituary information was not yet available.

Legendary Detroit King coach James Reynolds dies

Mick McCabe Special to Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Detroit King's James Reynolds was nearing the tunnel at Ford Field in November 2007 when he looked up into the stands and in the first row was a slew of Detroit Public School League football head coaches.

The coaches were yelling congratulations to the first PSL coach to win a state championship.

"He was our mentor, he was our leader, he was our advisor," said former Denby coach Drake Wilkins. "All of us bumped heads with him, but he was the pinnacle. You got a stripe on your sleeve if you knocked off King.

"You wanted to beat him simply because he was the best. But that particular day we all sat down there and supported King. That was a big treat for all of us."

Reynolds died Saturday morning. He was 75.

He is survived by his wife, Joann, and daughters Ranae and Rhonda Reynolds-Williams (Gaylon) and grandson Jeremiah Tramon Williams.

It is no exaggeration to say that Reynolds was the best football coach in PSL history. He was the winningest PSL coach (253-112), guiding the Crusaders to nine PSL titles and six runner-up finishes from 1974-2009.

Over the years he coached some of the PSL's best players: Darnell Dickerson, Anthony Adams, Deon Johnson, Nick Perry, Clarence Thompson, Herb Gibson and Kerwin Moore.

Under Reynolds' direction, King was the first PSL school to reach the state football finals (1989 and 1990) and then the first team to win the state title.

Former Michigan coach Lloyd Carr first met Reynolds in 1980 when Carr joined Bo Schembechler's staff as an assistant.

King was one of Carr's frequent recruiting stops and him and Reynolds quickly established a friendship that lasted for 40 years.

ted for 40 years. "By the time we met, Jim was estab-



Detroit King head coach James Reynolds gives the state championship trophy to his players after beating Midland, 47-21, in 2007.

RASHAUN RUCKER/DETROIT FREE PRESS

lished and well-respected," Carr said.
"He was a gentleman and a guy that loved his job. He loved his kids, but he was tough. He wanted them to come out of the whole athletic experience prepared for life. He wanted them to do more than just play with a ball for a few years."

Reynolds changed the way PSL teams played. For years PSL schools had the biggest offensive and defensive lines in the state. But Reynolds determined guys that big weren't of much use by the time the fourth quarter rolled around so his interior linemen were often smaller — but much quicker.

King was struggling when Reynolds took over and he built his program by recruiting. He attended King's basketball practice the day cuts were made and promised the players if they came out for football he wouldn't cut them.

With the addition of former basketball players, the Crusaders became more athletic. It worked out well for some of the former basketball players, too.

o. In his senior year, former basketball player Herb Gibson signed a National Letter of Intent to play football at Notre Dame.

The King players adored Reynolds because they knew football was a means to an end for him. He worked hard to get his players into college.

"Being an inner-city kid and not being a product of my environment, he taught me more about life than about football and I respected that," said Anthony Adams, who played at Penn State and nine seasons in the NFL. "When you think of coaches you always think they just want to win and that's it ... But Coach wasn't worried about that. He was worried about you as an individual. He was worried about you getting good grades. He was worried about you being respectful."

Jeff McCall was King's quarterback in 1997 and was also a Free Press Top 10 scholar-athlete in the state. Reynolds asked him where he was going to go to college and McCall said Tuskegee.

Reynolds asked him why there and McCall said it was where his father and Reynolds had gone.

"You're not going to Tuskegee," Reynolds said. "You're going to the Ivy League."

When McCall told him he didn't know anyone who had ever gone to the Ivy League, Reynolds replied: "That's why you're going to the Ivy League."

McCall became the first African-American quarterback at Columbia. He was a three-year starter and was captain his senior season.

A few years after graduating from Columbia, McCall earned his MBA at the Harvard School of Business.

Today, McCall is the CEO of Great

Today, McCall is the CEO of Great Lakes Dental Partners in Chicago, a private equity-backed company.

"I don't say this to toot my own horn, but two Ivy League degrees later, that's because of Coach Reynolds," said McCall. "He saw something in his kids that we didn't see in ourselves. "He tried to pull the best out of us. ...

"My life is forever different because coach Reynolds was in my life."

It was important to Reynolds that his players play the right way and act with a degree of class.

"There was a level of discipline, of focus and high expectation," McCall said, "that not only got the best out of his players on the field but also prepared them off the field.

"He was really preparing us for life."
Tyrone Spencer graduated from King
in 2003 and played at Grand Rapids
Community College and Wayne State.
Whenever he spoke with Reynolds they
never talked football, it was always
about how Spencer was doing in college.

"Honestly, it was how he just cared, he always cared," Spencer said. "He'd come see my spring games and that meant everything to me. He was a true educator. He was a football coach, but he was about teaching us and making sure that we had what we needed to be successful in life."

Spencer is now King's head coach, succeeding Dale Harvel, who died suddenly in 2016.

"Coach Reynolds is my motivation; he's the reason I do what I do," Spencer said. "He's our foundation. He's what the program is. He started it; he estab-

Reynolds was a bear of a man. At 6-foot-3, he seemed unapproachable at times because he didn't say a lot.

"He really was a bit intimidating type of guy, but his heart was as big as his size," said Wilkins. "He was the gentle giant. I truly believe that Reynolds was the guy that everybody respected. He was that type of guy."

King won a state championship under Harvel and two under Spencer. Yet, the person whose name is on the program is Reynolds.

"To me, when you go to see Martin Lutheran King play or when you competed against Martin Luther King, Harvel or Spencer may have been on the sidelines, but that's Reynold's teams," Wilkins said. "Even though physically he may not have been on the sidelines, that's what you were looking at — James Reynolds' team."

South Lyon Unified hockey team brings holiday cheer to community

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The South Lyon Unified hockey team knew December was going to be rough.

With an inability to unite the community on the ice until 2021, members of the hockey team, both from South Lyon and South Lyon East High Schools, came up with a way to spread a bit of holiday cheer from the back of a pick-up truck.

South Lyon Unified's two co-captains, J.D. Michaels and Mitch Skamiera, along with assistant captains Dominic Dudek, Brandon Heffernan and Tyler Hinkson, dressed up as Santa and his elves and passed out candy canes to local families in a South Lyon subdivision.

"We were saying how, over the years, all my neighbors when I was young, everyone did cool things in the sub for me," Michaels, who dressed up as Santa, said. "I think it would just be good for us captains to take leadership because right now, everybody is in a dark spot, and to see joy and get everything going would be pretty cool to do."

As the hockey players wait for an answer on if they will be able to play this winter, Michaels said this act of kindness for the community gives members of the team an excuse to see each other outside of workouts, connecting off the ice and making the most of the situation.

In March, this is something Michaels is used to. He said he dresses up as the Easter Bunny and, due to COVID, sat in the back of a truck taking pictures with area kids.

To forward and short-term elf Dominic Dudek, South Lyon Unified is showing its impact on the community that is usually made on the ice.

"I think it shows you are more than a sports team," Dudek said. "You want to help out the community and just be the best group you can to show off."

But South Lyon Unified remains hopeful and ready for the season ahead if given the chance.



Members of the South Lyon Unified hockey team exchanged their jerseys and skates for Christmas favorites recently. COURTESY OF GREG MICHAELS

After the season was postponed, the captains came up with an idea they coined as the COVID Cup. Each captain drafted a team, and head coach Bill McCreary and the rest of the coaching staff came up with a spreadsheet full of workouts, with each team getting a point once a player completes it — from puck shooting to running.

"I think it's very important to just keep being involved with one another because team chemistry, it's huge in

success," Michaels said. "When we get lazy, as soon as we go back things won't start to click again."

South Lyon Unified had an idea that a postponement was likely on its way. Despite getting through eight preseason practices, they watched as hockey teams and football teams from across the state were forced to isolate due to COVID-19 cases.

But despite the uncertainty, Dudek knows how important high school ath-

letics are to him and the community.

"High school is much more than school," Dudek said. "You have something to play for, just playing the sport you love, just doing what you do. You put everything aside and just play the sport that you love."

Until they can get back onto the ice, the South Lyon Unified hockey captains geared up Sunday in an attempt to unite the community in a different way than they were used to.



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championship, the state of Michigan announced guidelines to combat the spread of COVID-19 for three weeks, shutting down in-person schools and high school athletics. The pause was then extended until Dec. 20, all but cementing the chance for the Michigan High School Athletic Association to complete its football season in the calendar year, which was its initial goal.

"It was tough. It was a blow and I wish it didn't happen," Brooks said. "But at the same time, you have to realize it is what it is and you can't be surprised by anything that has happened this year."

This leaves Brooks with a choice to make: remain at Churchill for the spring semester with hopes of the Chargers finishing its three possible games for a Division 2 state title, or leave for Concordia and start the next chapter of his

Churchill is not the only team in metro Detroit that will have this problem if the season continues into the spring. And the Chargers are not the only ones that could be losing their starting quarterback.

Churchill head coach Bill DeFillippo knows the three-game completion of the playoffs in 2021 will be completely different than it would have been had the postseason continued this fall.

"It's nice that people are trying," De-Fillippo said. "I just don't know how they can do it in March and expect kids who have plans to go to college in January, try to maybe come up with the decision of 'Should I stay?" Brooks has not decided what he will

do. He knows he's in a tough position, but he's trying to stay in the moment. not overwhelming himself with what could be. That is what the senior quarterback

said he learned in 2020: that you can't look too far ahead. "You have to handle things one step

at a time and one day at a time," Brooks said. "If you get ahead of yourself, it can be gone at the snap of a finger.

We have learned that more than ever this year."

'Thrown into the fire'

Jonathan Coddington first saw

Brooks as an underclassmen never shying away from competing with older

From his first camp on campus in Ann Arbor, the Concordia offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach saw a driven and motivated quarterback who loved football. He saw potential.

Then when he saw Brooks as a senior, leading the Chargers offense to a regional final appearance, Coddington saw Concordia's possible future.

"The very first game, I could tell the difference," Coddington said. "Just with the velocity of the ball coming out of his hands, just the power that he had behind his throws. Between the end of his junior year and the start of his senior year, you could really tell."

As an early enrollee in January, Coddington said Brooks would be "thrown into the fire" during the team's spring season, soaking in the offense and getting to know the team around him.

If he were to enroll in the spring, Brooks, who is planning on entering the nursing school to become a CRNA, said he would not only learn the offense, but "know the offense" heading into the fall season with hopes of taking over the starting quarterback job.

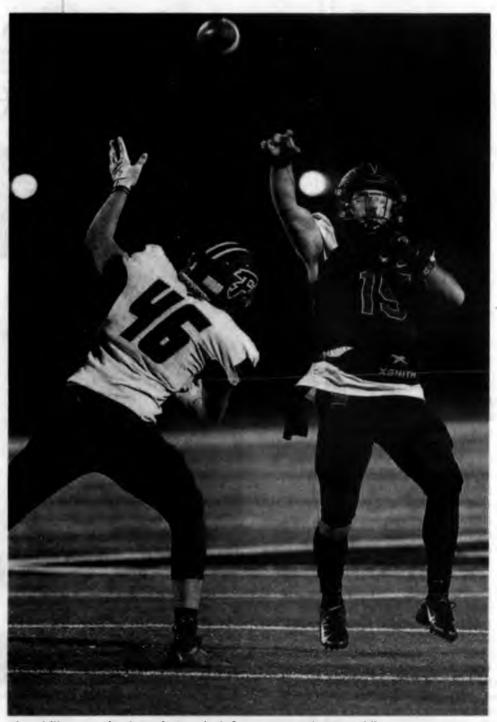
But Brooks also knows what he has with the Chargers. With the group he has, the quarterback thinks Churchill has what it takes to appear in its first state championship in school history, that they have all the tools they need to win it.

No matter the decision his son makes, Michael Brooks, Churchill's linebackers coach and a former college football player at Ferris State, will back him up 100%.

"I tell him all the time, 'You have to do what's best for you. If what you really want to do is enroll early and to get that season and to go away to school, that's what you should do," Brooks said. "'You can't put your life on hold for the hopes of something that may never come.'

"As much as he's loved his time at Churchill and as much as he loves his teammates, I don't know if it's the best decision to put college on hold for the hopes of playing another couple games."

Coddington said Concordia will back him up as well, knowing Gavin's initial decision to enroll early was made prior to the halting of the fall season. He said the decision is up to his incoming freshman quarterback.



Churchill quarterback Gavin Brooks lofts a pass against Franklin.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Gavin Brooks knows what he has done at Churchill. Taking over in 2019 what many perceived as a rebuilding year for the Chargers — he led the team to a district title and a regional final. He did the same thing in 2020, with aspirations to go further.

Churchill got Brooks to where he is today, and no decision would change

"Churchill has really been everything I hoped it would be," Brooks said. "They have been nothing but the best for me.

"No matter what happens with possibly enrolling early at Concordia and all the stuff having to do with the season, that I'm always going to be there for those guys."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com.





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Hart

Continued from Page 1B

for John Glenn, trying to bring that energy from his sophomore year back. But during the first week of practice, he suffered a high ankle sprain.

Throughout the season, Hart was sitting out practices, but playing in each game because the team did not have anyone to fill his position. The Rockets finished the season 1-8, scoring 70 total points all season.

"Sitting out, I hate sitting out," Hart said. "That's probably why it got so bad because I didn't sit out. It was a real bad time for me."

Hart's high ankle sprain never fully healed throughout the 2019 season, and took two months to heal during the offseason. But when fully healthy, Hart said he felt faster and stronger, gaining 30 pounds after focusing on lifting during his injury.

Despite being limited on the football field due to the pandemic, Hart soon found that his game would shine when head coach Calvin Griggs took over the team in July.

The senior said the combination of Griggs' energy and his offensive playbook but him in a position to succeed.

"He would run the short routes for me to get open," Hart said. "He would run routes where it was just designed for people to get open. We had blocking plays, easy blocking plays to set it up easy. It just all worked together for our team."

Hart also had the ability to have a better idea of what his opponent would do, playing both ways.

"Playing tight end, I know what the d-end does, what the outside linebacker does," Hart said. "I was able to hook them, block them easy. On the defensive side of it, I was able to read their keys, especially if it was something I would do, like look to where I was going to block, I would pick up on that type of stuff."

While his team finished with only two wins in 2020, losing to Livonia Stevenson in the first round of the playoffs, Hart knows that success is ahead for John Glenn.

"This new group, they are going to be good," Hart said. "Like I think we had two sophomores on varsity, three freshmen on varsity. They are going to be



Justin Hart proved to be a major factor in both John Glenn's offensive and defensive game plans his senior year. **COURTESY OF JUSTIN HART**

great, especially with Calvin Griggs coaching them. They are going to be a special group of guys."

Playing for something

Hart knew he wanted to play college football when he first took the field. But it became a realistic possibility, he thought, when he was in eighth grade.

After playing evenly with the older players when he joined the Dearborn Heights Raiders junior football team in seventh grade, Hart was a self-described "monster," running people over at guard, running back and defensive

His confidence, from that point forward, was sky high. He knew he could get to the collegiate level.

For Hart, defense has always been his priority, but, he said, playing offense had brought him more opportunities in his recruitment.

"It was different for me (being recruited as a tight end)," Hart said. "But I came to the realization that since it was my first year playing offense, that I have the ability to grow at that position

Hart got the attention of a few Divi-Valparaiso and a preferred walk-on spot at Central Michigan.

Hart told each school he did not care where he played. He just wanted to play football. He wanted to live out his motto, something he created when he was only a freshman: "I Do This For My Angels."

Heading into college, he will have a chance to continue their legacy at Wayne State.

"I lost a lot of family members growing up, and I just feel like it's my job to make them proud," Hart said. "That's why I keep trying to be the best at everything I do."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at sion 1 schools, including an offer from cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17.





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MHSFCA releases all-region football honors

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Postseason football awards are continuing to flood in.

Here's a look at the members of the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association All-Region teams from the Hometown Life coverage area.

Division 1

Region 2

Detroit Catholic Central offensive lineman Bruno Guberinich

Lakeland wide receiver Mike Sherrill Lakeland defensive lineman Mark Tingle Detroit Catholic Central defensive back Sam Dersa Lakeland defensive back Shane Ells Lakeland head coach Joe Woodruff Region 3

Canton offensive lineman Josh Martin John Glenn tight end Justin Hart Livonia Stevenson running back Caden Woodall Canton running back Zack Badger Canton quarterback Kaleb Burg Canton defensive lineman Jacob Davis Canton linebacker Aran Patrick Canton defensive back Caleb Williams Canton head coach Andrew LaFata

Division 2

Region 6

North Farmington offensive lineman Jai'Lun

South Lyon wide receiver Quinn Fracassi North Farmington wide receiver Aaron Rice North Farmington running back Justin Whitehorn South Lyon running back Jordan Singleton North Farmington quarterback Jacob Bousamra South Lyon defensive lineman Gus Taylor North Farmington defensive back Jasper Beeler South Lyon defensive back Dakota Blackwell Region 7

Livonia Churchill offensive lineman Lawrence Hat-

Livonia Franklin offensive lineman Kyle Fugedi Livonia Churchill wide receiver Jordan Garcia Livonia Churchill quarterback Gavin Brooks Livonia Franklin quarterback Zac Olesuk Livonia Churchill defensive lineman Demarius Gibson-Wells

Livonia Franklin defensive lineman Aaron Mass Livonia Churchill defensive lineman Khalil Ford Livonia Franklin linebacker Evan Pittenger Livonia Churchill linebacker Boston Clegg Jr. Livonia Churchill defensive back Jimmy Targosz Livonia Churchill defensive back Josh Brown Livonia Churchill head coach Bill DeFillipo

Region 8 Seaholm offensive lineman Caden DeWald Groves offensive lineman Ben Simmons Seaholm running back Will McBride Seaholm defensive lineman Jake LaBarre

Division 3

Region 11

Garden City offensive lineman Hunter Ohman Brother Rice wide receiver and defensive back Roc-



South Lyon East QB Zander Desentz thought he had scored a touchdown on this run, but the play was called down just outside the end zone. The Cougars scored on the next play. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

South Lyon East quarterback Zander Desentz Garden City defensive lineman Chazz Tennant South Lyon East head coach Joe Pesci

Division 4

Region 15

Redford Union offensive lineman Spencer Wallace Redford Union running back Dawaune Strickland Livonia Clarenceville defensive lineman Justin

Redford Union linebacker Alonzo Wilson Livonia Clarenceville defensive back Sean Brian Redford Union athlete Parker Kennedy III Region 16

Detroit Country Day offensive lineman Caleb Tier-

Cranbrook Kingswood defensive lineman Bryce

Detroit Country Day defensive lineman Will Leggon **Detroit Country Day linebacker Joe Miller** Detroit Country Day defensive back Danny Ma-

Cranbrook Kingswood specialist Chase Paulus Detroit Country Day head coach Dan MacLean Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter

Obituaries

Virginia M. Hausrath

Virginia M. Hausrath. age 98, passed away on November 24, 2020. Virginia was born on August 28, 1922 in Cleveland, Ohio to Walter J.L. and Harriet Keller. Virginia is survived by her children: Deborah R. (John) Rosczyk, Daniel R. (Wynn) Hausrath; 5 grandchildren: Rachel



Rosczyk, David Hausrath, Jeff (Joey) Rosczyk, Stephen Hausrath, and Daniel (Amanda) Hausrath; Virginia is also survived by her 4 great-grandchildren. Adebay Rosczyk, Devyn, Harper, and Emma Hausrath. She is preceded in death by her husband, Richard. Virginia feceived a B.A. in economics from Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio and a M.A. Degree in Education from Wayne State University. She taught many years in the Detroit Pubic School system. Her interests included reading, quilting, gardening, and traveling. After retiring, Virginia moved to Salem Township in Northville with her husband. She was instrumental in the formation of the Salem-South Lyon District Library in 1992, where she served as treasurer for several years.

Visitation will be held on Monday, December 14, 2020 from 10:00am until the time of service at noon. Virginia will be laid to rest with her husband at Great Lakes National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Salem-South Lyon District Library, 9800 Pontiac Trail, South Lyon, MI 48178.

Fire inspectors: Working from home due to pandemic sparks more risk

Sione Terranella Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

A total of 112 people died in residential fires this year, with the majority of victims being children and people with disabilities, according to the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society.

As people work from home and go to virtual school, the increased use of electrical devices and charging stations creates the perfect combination for an electrical fire.

With everything being virtual and needing electricity, people jam their digital devices into overfilled outlets and power strips, which causes a serious risk of fire due to straining the home's electrical

Mix this situation with holiday lights and decorations, and the situation only becomes more dire. According to the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society, overloading outlets and power strips, using

damaged extension cords pushed under rugs, chairs or near water can seal the deal for electrical fires, shocking incidents or electrocutions. Michigan has seen a 78% increase in multifatality fires and a 15% increase in deaths from fire, the

fire inspectors group said in a news release. As of Tuesday, 93 residential fires occurred with deaths, a 9% jump compared with last year.

The Michigan Fire Inspectors Society is warning the public to pay extra attention to electrical safety indoors this holiday season, which is a time that's more prone to residential and electrical fires.

"We really want people to take a few minutes this year to walk around their home and look for overloaded outlets, damaged extension cords under couches or rugs, or worn-out holiday lights, so they can be safe this holiday season," said Kyle Svoboda, district chief of Plainfield Fire Department and Michigan Fire Inspectors Society executive board

COVID-19 also creates more concern from fire departments, which worry about the increased numbers of people staying inside and using various electrical devices and charging stations.

"COVID-19 has kept a lot of people confined and numerous electrical devices are being plugged in everywhere," Svoboda said. "When you add on various holiday decorations and lighting, problems can occur. Electrical safety needs to be a top priority."

To protect people from having electrical fires or issues, the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society recommends taking these steps:

• Inspect all electric cords and holiday lights for signs of damage or wear and tear. If cords are frayed, bare wires are exposed or sockets are broken then dispose of the damaged cord or string.

• Replace broken lights, and use extension cords properly. Never overload or run cords under furniture, carpets or rugs.

• To ensure the products you use at home comply with national safety standards, always look for the label of a nationally recognized testing laboratory such as UL, CSA or Intertek.

• When using appliances, inspect-them for signs of damage and use the appliance only in its intended

Another electrical danger is arcing, which happens when there are loose electrical connections. According to the National Fire Protection Association, this is dangerous because it was the heat source in 3 out of every 5 electrical home fires from 2012 to 2016.

The Michigan Fire Inspectors Society recommends using arc-fault circuit interrupters that are designed to detect and stop dangerous arcing before it becomes a deadly electrical fire, according to a news release.

"While the public continues to be key in preventing fires, Michigan also needs strong residential electrical codes and requirements updated to the most current versions of the National Electrical Code and International Residential Code to ensure electrical fire prevention," Svoboda said. "That includes requirements for smart technologies like arc-fault circuit interrupter and ground-fault circuit interrupter breakers, which can detect and stop dangerous arcing in damaged wiring or prevent shocking and electrocution near areas with moisture."

Season

Continued from Page 18

Michigan High School Athletic Association Executive Director Mark Uyl said in a statement that he was disappointed in the announcement made by the state but that he and the MHSAA will chart out a plan to complete fall and winter seasons.

Livonia Churchill head football coach Bill DeFillippo knows he does not have any answers that can fix the overarching problem that caused the halting of the Chargers' postseason. He only knew he wanted to play.

"I'm just, selfishly, I'm disappointed because we had such a great group of kids," DeFillipo said. "That's speaking personally, not just our on-field performance. We really have a great group of high-character kids that you love being around. If there was any year you wanted to see how far you could go and see how you could finish, it was with this group."

Will teams finish?

As the MHSAA devises a schedule to finish its fall postseasons, questions are already coming up regarding what it would look like and how it would be put into practice.

Normally, for volleyball players a high school season would be complete in the fall, and many would play a club season from January to the end of June. According to current MHSAA rules, players are not allowed to practice for club and high school teams at the same time.

Novi head coach Kacy Moran, who also coaches at the club level, said this presents a predicament for many of her players Without a rule change or a waiver made by the MHSAA.

But Moran knows what many of her players would want to do.

"I think if you make the players choose, then you get into a sticky situation," Moran said. "On the one hand, I can guarantee that every player that is playing in the Elite Eight right now would want that last-game finish, whether it's in the Elite Eight, final four or final."

For some football teams, including Churchill, rosters could face high school seniors leaving in January to enroll early for either spring training at the Division 1 level or for a spring season at one of many other schools, including the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

"It's nice that people are trying," De-Fillippo said. "I just don't know how they can do it in March and expect kids who have plans to go to college in January, try to maybe come up with the decision of 'Should I stay?' And who knows if the numbers are going to be any better in March?"



Churchill's Ryan Hutchinson, left, upends a Franklin ball carrier. Churchill is one of four teams vying for a state title.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"We can't be upset if she doesn't lift the pause because we are trying to take care and qualm this pandemic. ... at this point with them, it's only we can control what we can control."

Paul Ellis
Cranbrook Kingswood girls
swim and dive head coach

'I think we can do this'

With the latest postponement of the playoffs, many coaches are focusing their attention on what they had the chance to do in 2020.

At Detroit Catholic Central, who was schedule to take on Davison in the regional football final, head coach Dan Anderson focused on the team's two mantras: "Adapt and overcome" and "faith over fear." Both, he said, were character traits those on his roster took this season.

"Everything those kids have been through. The kids are just so resilient," Anderson said. "They take it in stride, there's disappointment, for sure, but they are thinking, 'OK, this is the next curveball you are throwing us? This is what we need to do to stay on track to get to our goal."

North Farmington head coach Jon Herstein said it came down to an old cliche: "playing every rep like it's your last," equating this to the fact that it would not necessarily take an injury for a player to be sidelined in 2020.

Moran, who was not surprised by the latest postponement, said there are life lessons that her players at Novi are learning, even if they may not be in the most traditional way.

"I think that they have demonstrated a lot of resiliency and we know that if you are resilient, you are going to be more successful in life," Moran said. "I think they have proved to go with the flow and be flexible.

But to Moran, knowing what the Wildcats have done this season on the volleyball court, knew this season was more than she or the rest of her team could have expected during a pandemic.

"I think they are very much appreciative right now that we got as far as we did and we were able to have a season," Moran said. "I think that if you asked any of them, they would much rather have this situation right now than no volleyball at all the entire fall."

While this is the mindset many coaches are taking, looking back at what they accomplished in the midst of uncertainty, Anderson uses it to fuel his view of the future.

To him, he's confident. He thinks a season is still within reach. Not for him, but for those Shamrocks on his roster.

"Hopefully we move forward, just for the kids sake," Anderson said. "I'll get other years to coach — I've done this for 29 years and, Lord willing, I can do it for another 20 if I can.

"I think we are going to be able to do this. I do. Maybe that's just me being positive and trying to stay positive, but I think we can do this."

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



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Improve your instructing skills

By Kaila Kea ZipRecruiter.com

job candidate who can follow instructions well is valued in the workplace. However, a job candidate who can give instructions well possesses a standout skill that employers quickly notice on a resume or during an interview.

Instructing means teaching and reinforcing information or a process. ONet Online, an occupational data resource, cites instructing as a top social skill used to work with people to achieve a goal.

Instructing is comprised of three key component skills:

Public speaking

When giving instructions, you have the opportunity to use your voice to help people better understand a topic and get their questions answered. Whether instructing a large audience, a small

group or one-on-one, proficiency in public speaking can greatly aid in giving instruction.

Improve your public speaking by incorporating practice into your daily routine. Start by practicing in front of the mirror, during car rides to work, or in front of a phone or video camera. Then, increase your audience by practicing in front of family or friends. You can also seek opportunities at work that require presenting, training or pitching as all of these functions require speaking in front of sizeable groups. Harvard's Division of Continuing **Education and Professional** Development offers tried and true public speaking tips at bit.ly/39nDnBo.

Interpersonal communication

By learning to effectively the National Soft Skills

Association reported that interpersonal skills not only help people to "communicate and collaborate effectively," but play an integral role in helping companies be productive and competitive.

You can improve your interpersonal communication by refining both your verbal and body languages. Use positive, professional language that conveys your message plainly. Speak with a clear, even pace. Work on demonstrating work-appropriate body language throughout your interactions - this includes consistently making eye contact, facing the person (or people) you are interacting with and maintaining good posture.

Improve your knowledge

Before you can give instructions on a topic, you must be knowledgeable opportunities to increase your knowledge about topindustry or position. Some resources might include professional or vocational certificate programs, workshops and classes. You can also increase your knowledge through selfstudy. You can subscribe to and read journals that are geared specifically toward professionals in your field.

opportunities on the go.

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Network within your industry to seek knowledge from well-informed colleagues via informational interviews. You can also consider joining a professional or social organization that is centered on the topic you want to learn more about. Immersing yourself in groups in which your topic of interest is presented, discussed and researched can help you to become proficient in speaking, writing and instructing about it.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

THAT '70s PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo SHOW **ACROSS** 102 Perfectly 39 "Pest" of 84 1973 Jim 53 - a soul 1 Motion 54 "Like - not!" 103 "Blue Velvet" brand since kiddie lit Croce hit 55 Suffix of 40 Beet variety 85 Gourmet detector, e.g. the early singer 7 Portion out beliefs 105 "The Color 1900s 41 Letter stroke mushrooms 91 Class for tots. 7 Curtain 45 Scoff 13 Person **58** Ending for Purple" sleeping next novelist 8 Actor Holm 46 - kwon do for short serpent 59 Microscope 109 In -9 French wines (martial art) 92 Buckwheat to you, often 47 Tolkien brute noodle of 20 Like many (irritated) 10 Linguistic component expressions 48 TV "Science 110 Habited nuclei 62 Her first Japan Guy" Bill 11 Teeth: Prefix 94 Fail to put in 21 Surprise Vogue cover sister attacker was in 1986 111 Slip- ---12 Work unit 50 Frontiersman 96 Caviar source 22 Nero or (some shoes) 13 Process by Wild Bill -97 The Doors 66 Green and 112 Links peg which an 52 L-P linkup song with a Napoleon Gore Calif. city in 23 "Hello, Dolly!" 56 - Lankan 67 — matter of 114 Boatload electron is 57 Tumbler's fact 115 Pod veggies emitted its title 119 Affluent Rio 25 Capital of 68 Japanese 14 Involve in surface 99 Refrain from dog 69 Video game 60 Wildlifeimbibing the country neighborhood contention Georgia 122 Sitcom 15 Print tracking ID 100 "Holy" council 61 Balletic bend 26 Doe's dear? 103 Gives rise to resolution pioneer associated 27 Alley- -72 — glance with nine abbr. 63 Thanksgiving 104 Shiny plastics 75 Music genre 16 Baseball's Ott side servings 105 Jungian inner 28 Sousing sort featured first for brooders 17 Popular font 29 TV's Cheers, names in this 64 Joking type personality type 18 Puccini 65 Water barrier 106 Fictional 76 Co-author **Duzzle** for one 125 Hand-held of the 2006 sleuth Arsène 30 Top pilot 70 Tot amuser 107 Pointless 31 Ice sheets bestseller filming opera 71 Add up to 33 1960s-'70s Three Cups 19 Iroquois tribe 72 State as fact 108 Prefix equipment of Tea" 126 Soviet members 73 City in Ohio meaning talk show 81 Like low-fat 24 Liquor, 74 Luke and "people" host statesman 37 She played 113 Spanish river mozzarella Gromyko slangily Leia's father 86 Eggs, in labs 127 Lost lady in 29 Elton John's Bree on 75 "And on and 115 Bits of wit 87 Pro's vote The Raven - and the 116 Baseball's 'Desperate 128 Stinging-88 Dot in the Jets" 77 Architect Slaughter **Housewives** 31 Italian car 117 Farmland unit 42 Al Bundy **Ludwig Mies** tentacle reef sea, to Jorge portrayer Ed dweller 32 Soft drink 118 Shanty 89 Actor Baldwin van der ---120 Pick-up-sticks 78 Eden dweller 43 Nebraska city 90 Tunneling 129 "Aiready?" 34 Zen master's 130 Got lippy with 79 Actress math game 44 Jekyll's bad rodents question 35 Suffix with 121 Prefix with 93 What to do Greta 45 She played after hiding, DOWN 80 Jewish month form 1 Pouches 36 Tony-winning 122 Classroom the mother in a kids' after Adar game 95 "M" star 2 Coup d'actress Johns 81 Baby food aides: Abbr. 49 Football's Joe 3 Comic Dunn 82 Malted quaff 123 Antique Olds 98 Big snakes 4 Air pollution 38 Very valuable 124 Actress 51 Country next 83 No longer in 101 — Gras 5 Iraq export violins to Georgia the mil., e.g. 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 22 23 25 38 39 40 43 62 125 126

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

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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!

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