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First COVID-19 vaccines given in Novi

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Dr. Ala Shuker was ready for two shots Thursday, of a very different sort.

He took the first, a COVID-19 vaccination, in his right arm shortly before 2 p.m.

The second will be a shot of whiskey at home in West Bloomfield tonight as he celebrates being the first person immunized at Ascension Providence Hospital in Novi.

Shuker, an internal medicine physician, has not taken a day off work since mid-March, seeing COVID-19 patients

daily. He said the vaccination represents the beginning of the end of the pandemic.

"We have lost a lot of lives. People have lost family, friends, parents," Shuker said. "I have made too many phone calls, I have dreaded picking up the phone. I had to do one today. This shot is an important step for humanity to put this disease to an end... It is safe. What is not safe is getting exposed to COVID."

As of Dec. 17, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

See VACCINES, Page 7A



Alicia Murrell, RN, gives the first COVID-19 vaccine at Ascension Providence Hospital in Novi to Dr. Ala Shuker, who has worked daily with COVID-19 patients since March.

COURTESY OF LOUI MARTIN



People gather along Milford Road near the Huron Valley School administration building to call for the return of in-person instruction for students amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Parents protest closed schools in Huron Valley

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

More than a hundred parents and children gathered outside the empty Huron Valley Schools administrative building Dec. 16, rallying to encourage the district to open schools again for face-to-face instruction.

Many carried signs that read, "Save

with one intent in mind.

"I really just want to see my children in school where they belong," she said. "Districts around us still have face-to-face instruction. This (all remote) is unacceptable. It's stressful on working parents, and I don't know what single parents are doing."

Huron Valley switched to a all-virtual learning model at the end of the October



New-look Northville Twp. board eliminates one tax

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Northville Township's new-look board of trustees is making a good first impression on residents who are fans of tax reductions.

During the Dec. 17 board meeting — the first since the Nov. 3 election of four newcomers (Supervisor Mark Abboto, Treasurer Jason Rhines, Clerk Roger Lundberg and Trustee Cynthia Jankowski) — the board voted 5-2 to rescind a 1% annual tax-collection administrative fee that was adopted without the consent of voters in October 2017.

See BOARD, Page 7A

South Lyon water rates rise to fund \$10M upgrade

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Water and sewer rates will increase annually in the City of South Lyon over the next 10 years in order to pay for \$10 million in infrastructure improvements.

The rate increases will show up on April 2021 bills. Exactly how much users' costs will rise will vary in the first

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Grinch cancels plans to steal Christmas



Shelby Tankersley
Reporter

The Grinch has had a change of heart.

That's right: The grumpiest, greenest, nastiest, not-nicest of them all is not planning to steal Christmas this year.

His reason? This year has been hard enough, and even he has to draw the line somewhere.

"I really started to consider it when they canceled Milford Memories," he said in an exclusive interview with Hometown Life. "I started the year loving the looming sense of uncertainty and fear a lot of people were feeling, but it was eventually too much for even me to deal with."

"I just can't make people's year any more difficult."

The Grinch added that other pandemic-related hardships, includ-

ing the hard work done by local health care professionals, the cancellation of summer events and online schooling struggles pushed him to cancel his devious plans.

The Grinch, who social distanced before it was cool, said this year really hasn't been that different for him. But, he started channeling his energy into more typical hobbies when he decided to cancel his attempt at a holiday heist.

"I don't want to brag, but I've perfected my sourdough recipe," he said. "I've also been doing a lot of crocheting - my dog Max has a hat for every color of the rainbow. During the summer, I got a chance to binge 'Friends,' as well. I'm glad those crazy kids Ross and Rachel finally figured it out in the end."

However, don't expect a handmade hat from him next Christmas.

"Am I getting soft? Absolutely not," he said, scoffing. "Look, just because I'm giving you people a break this year



The Grinch has announced he won't be stealing toys from under Christmas trees this year. PROVIDED

doesn't mean you can relax about next year. You can bet your bottom dollar I'll be back in 2021."

But since everyone can sleep a little easier on Christmas Eve, the Grinch - grudgingly - said he wouldn't try to stop folks from spreading a little holiday cheer this season. If people were to make a point to call their grandparents, send a few Christmas cards or try to make life easier for those less fortunate, he's certainly not going to get in the way.

"You know, someone very wise once said 'Per-

haps Christmas doesn't come from a store. Perhaps Christmas means a little bit more,'" the Grinch said. "I mean, I'm a complete Scrooge, and even I think that's a pretty good statement. It's been a rough year for everyone, and maybe people really do need a little Christmas cheer this year."

"I mean, I certainly don't, but other people might. Whatever."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersley@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Twitter: @shelby.tankk

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

DATE: December 10, 2020

PROJECT: Project No. 20-NPS-SCS-02, Structured Cabling System

OWNER: Northville Public Schools
Business Office - Third Floor
405 W. Main Street
Northville, MI 48167

DESIGNER: Wright & Hunter, Inc.
818 W. 11 Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
Phone: 248-594-8850

BID DUE DATE: The Board of Education of Northville Public Schools will receive sealed bids for the Work as set forth in the Bid Specifications and Bid Forms (collectively the "RFB Documents") on or before **3:00 PM EST on February 8, 2021** (the "Due Date") at:

Northville Public Schools
Attn: Michael Zopf
Business Office - Third Floor
405 W. Main Street
Northville, MI 48167-1576

Northville Public Schools will not consider or accept a Bid received after the Due Date, the date and time specified for Bid submission.

BID OPENING: Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud immediately following the Due Date for submission of Bids via a Zoom meeting. You may attend the Zoom Bid opening by clicking the following link: <https://northville.zoom.us/j/92866985638?pwd=Qm10VQVWVWU1Zm51K3pNYlZkZ099>
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One tap mobile
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+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
Meeting ID: 928 6698 5638
Passcode: 398673

BID DOCUMENTS: RFB Documents will be available on or after **December 14, 2020** and can be obtained from the State of Michigan SIGMA web site and Northville Public Schools web site at www.northvilleschools.org > Departments > Finance and Operations > Bid Information.

Although the Bidder's meeting is voluntary, it is strongly encouraged to attend the Bidder's pre-Bid meeting scheduled for **December 17, 2020 at 4:00 PM EST** at:

Cooke School
21200 Taft Road
Northville, MI 48167

- All visitors shall complete the NPS Health Screening Form prior to arriving.
- All visitors shall meet inside the front entrance wearing masks and maintaining social distancing.
- All visitors must sign-in at the meeting.

Each Bid shall be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, money order or bid bond made payable to Northville Public Schools in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the base bid as a bid guarantee.

Each Bid must 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 Board of Education or the Superintendent of Northville Public Schools. The Board of Education will not accept a Bid that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.

Each Bid must also be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement certifying that the Bidder is not an Iran Linked Business. The Board of Education will not accept a Bid that does not include this sworn and notarized statement.

Each Bid must also be accompanied by a sworn and notarized Criminal Background - Sex Offender Affidavit. The Board of Education will not accept a Bid that does not include this sworn and notarized statement.

Withdrawal of any Bid is prohibited for a period of ninety (90) days after the Due Date.

The Northville Public Schools Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and all Bids, either in whole or in part, to waive any information or irregularities therein, and to award the Contract to either the Bidder submitting the best financial Bid (low bidder), in its sole and absolute discretion.

Sealed Bids may be adjusted by unit prices included by the Bidder to ensure all bids submitted are compared on the same basis with respect to required materials. The Owner reserves the right to accept alternatives in any order or combination and to determine the low Bidder in the basis of the sum of the best Bid and the alternatives accepted.

LETTERS TO SANTA

Christmas Day is just about here, and the excitement is building. Hometown Life is giving Santa a helping hand by collecting a bunch of letters and compiling them for his reading pleasure. Here's what some local first graders offered, just as they wrote it.

Dear Santa,
I love you. Can you please bring my mom an iPhone 12. Can you bring a monitor for my dad. Can you bring me a Lions Helmet. I love you so much.

Love, Ojas
Ps I LOVE you!
DEAR SANTA:
I love you so much, can you please

bring my sister and brother toys and games. I have been good. I will leave you cookies and milk.

I LOVE YOU BIG GUY!!
I LOVE THE ELVES!!!
P.S. Be careful with reindeer.

Ena Aguilar
Dear Santa,
Can I have a toothless toy please.

Your Friend, Michael
Dear Santa,
I love you so much. How are your reindeer? I hope your feeling healthy. Please bring me and my brother sanad and sister Selena and my cousin Bella a present.

Love Leo
Dear Santa,
How are the rader?

Can you please bring mi mom gloue? Can you please bring food to hungry ple? Please can you bring mi dad a woch? Can you please bring me a rabo dol? I hev ben zure good! I love you. I wel lev crea for the rader. I hop im on the nest list. I love Max and I love you

Love
Finley Riggs
p.s. Love Finley
Dear Santa,

How are your reindeer? Can you please bring my sister a dog? Can you please bring me a doll please? Have a safe trip!

Love your friend, Aven
P.S. I love you!
Dear Santa,

I love you you are the best. Do you like chocolate cookies? How are the reindeer? Give Mrs. Claus a hug from me. How is Mrs. Claus? How are the elf? Bring Baby Blue Books and Remi a dog toy please. Please

bring my momma her favorite dress that hers always wanted. Please bring my Grandma and outdoor automatic shower for the cabin. And please bring Bex a baby brother. Please bring my sister Marina the Indominus Rex. Please bring my daddy a chainsaw. Please could I have a princess suitcase with toys inside?

Love, ellie
Dear Santa,

For Christmas I would love to get a Nintendo Switch, lava lamp, mine-craft legos and backpack, hot wheels track, and Roblox toys.

Love, Aiden
Dear Santa
I love You! Can you Please bring my dog a Bow? Can you Please bring my Mom a fone Kas?

Can you give me A Hvr Bord? I Will Leve Mik and cookies.

Love Evelyn :)

Dear Santa, how is Mrs. Clos dooing? Can you please get my mom a rommbu and can you get me a hufbrord? And can you get my Dad a Zoya doll pleas? And can you get my bruthr a xbox gift cord? And can you get my sistr a rambo hode? Ive been good! I will get you choklit cookies and choklit milk. And I will give you Rander sum carrots. I love you big guy.. Love - Zoya to you Santa.

P.S. I love you

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer? Can you bring my brother a nerf gun? Can you bring my mom makeup? Can you bring my dad a game for the VR? Can you bring my sister a baby shark toy? Can you bring me an elf I can touch? Ive been good. I will leave you milk

and cookies and reindeer for the reindeer

I love you so much.
Love, Mackenzie
Dear Santa

I hope you are healthy. How are you and Mrs. Claus? Could you please bring my mom an iPad? Can you please bring my mamaw a picture frame? Can you please bring Mrs. Zorn money? I would like an electric scooter for Christmas I have been a good boy! I will leave you milk and cookies. Have a safe trip!

Love, London
P.S. I love you!

Dear Santa,
I hope you ar healthy. Can you bring Samuela Transformers Robot? Can you please bring my Dad a watch? Can you please bring me a Disney Pixar car? I've been good. I will leave you milk and cookies. I love you so much.

Your Friend, Joel
Dear Santa,

I hope you are healthy! Do you have a dog?

I have two dogs and they love toys.

Can you please bring (them) toys?

Can you please bring mom clothes?

Can you please bring me Pokemon cards, Godzilla toys and a PSS?

I've been a good boy.

I love you.

Love, Liam
P.S. Eat the cookies!

Dear Santa,
Are you ready? Can you please bring bells for Grayson? Can you please bring food to hungry kids? Can you please bring me a MARIR game? I've been good. Please don't make a mess by the fireplace. I love you so much!

Love Sophie
PS Watch out!

Dear Santa,
I hope your helthey. Please give Dante tennis balls, skwekey balls, and a santa baby. Please give RayRay dolls. Please give food to kids who cant afford it. I have ben a good boy. I wont a toy dog and a Mad Hater hal with the wig not atatch. Good luck on the trip! Thank you so much!

Love, Jasper

Dear Santa,

How are the elves? Can you please bring Riley a treat and money to those that need it? Please bring me a rainbow hair doll, OMG doll, LOL doll,

and unicorn angel makeup. I am a good girl. I love you. I will leave milk and cookies

Love, Leah
Dear Santa,

I'm excited for Christmas I have a big wish list. Mommy wude want a new jewelry set. Mimi wude love a new phone. Pape wants a new shirt. Avery would love a new Barbie. I really want a princess cut. I can't wait for you to visit me! I hope you have a Merry Christmas.

Love, Lydia

Pickup crashes into Lyon Township mobile home

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Ford F-150 pickup truck weaved across Interstate 96's traffic lanes Sunday before exiting the highway and striking a Lyon Township manufactured home, according to Oakland County sheriff's deputies.

They were dispatched to Kensington Place manufactured home community park off of Grand River Avenue near Kent Lake Road at about 2:51 p.m.

They found the female driver, 34, of Lyon Township sitting on the ground on the passenger side with injuries. She was transported in an undisclosed condition to Ascension Providence Hospital in Novi, deputies said in their report.

The driver admitted she had been smoking marijuana and taking some prescription drugs.

None of the mobile home residents were injured.

An I-96 driver had called the sheriff's operation center to report the Ford F-150 truck was driving erratically and almost ran her off the roadway three times.

The caller followed the vehicle into the mobile home park and saw the crunch into a Petoskey Street mobile home.

The incident remains under investigation, and toxicology results are pending.

svela@hometownlife.com



Sysco food systems' Tom Batayah loads a box of food into the trunk of a restaurant worker in need's car Dec. 10 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Santa Claus helps to deliver some holiday cheer on Northville Civic Concern's annual holiday distribution day Dec. 4. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Food giveaway in Novi for restaurant workers

Help for hard-hit employees of restaurants and other service workers was provided during a drive-up food giveaway at Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

Sysco of Michigan donated a total of 300 food boxes, each packed to feed a family of four, and joined forces with The Michigan Restaurant & Lodging Association Educational Foundation and The Michigan Hospitality Industry Employee Relief Fund to coordinate the assistance for workers faced with financial

hardship because of the state's extended shutdown for dine-in services.

Suburban Collection Showplace provided the space and staffing for the drive-thru giveaway.

According to the Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Association, as of mid-November, approximately 2,000 restaurants had closed their doors permanently in the state in 2020. Approximately 250,000 employees are likely to be laid off from restaurants over the holiday season.



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New hotel offering themed rooms for holidays

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Families looking for an escape to the North Pole don't have to head very far for the experience this year. They can find it at the new hotel in Farmington Hills.

The Delta Hotels Detroit Novi by Marriott opened its doors at 37529 Grand River near the Halsted/M-5 interchange earlier this fall. To help mark the holidays, it is offering two rooms decked out with holiday-themed decor and gifts.

Dubbed the "Jingle Bell Inn," the rooms are the perfect place for families looking to celebrate the holidays away from home. It could be a welcome getaway for families who have been cooped up since March due to the coronavirus pandemic, said Shawna Fleming, the hotel's director of sales.

"The nice thing is, it's a different four walls and a different experience," she said.

The decorated rooms are available until Dec. 30 for overnight stays. Each comes decked out with decorations, a tree and several goodies for guests to enjoy. Cookies are served when guests check into the rooms, and there are further offerings of hot chocolate and candy canes once guests are settled in one of the double-king rooms.

"When guests arrive, we'll have holiday music playing and then we'll have some fresh cookies," she said. "Each family gets gifts. I have a few wrapped under the tree."

The holiday-themed rooms can be booked for \$299 per night through the hotel's website.

Fleming said she is also in talks to donate a night in the rooms to a family in need to help bring some additional Christmas cheer.

The hotel opened its doors in November after the facility had been closed for nearly a year. The hotel was previously a Crowne Plaza and before that, a Holiday Inn.

Fleming said the 139-room hotel was originally scheduled to open this spring under the Delta brand, but was delayed because of COVID-19-related shutdowns.

She said while the hotel was fairly up to date when Marriott took over, the



Shawna Fleming, director of sales for The Delta Hotels Detroit Novi by Marriott, gives a tour of the new Farmington Hills hotel's Jingle Bell Inn room Dec. 8. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

company still put about \$3 million into renovations and furnishings.

Those renovations included the new provisions space serving snacks and coffee, a new fitness center and some new furniture in each room, including brand-new 55-inch smart televisions.

The hotel also has a small banquet space for corporate events and weddings, when such activities are viable again.

A restaurant serving casual American fare called Founder's Tavern will operate when indoor dining is deemed safe again. Fleming said Marriott planned to

open the restaurant, but with the state temporarily shutting down indoor dining right around the hotel's opening, the tavern will remain closed.

"We had all of our bartenders trained on crazy craft cocktails that are delicious," she said. "We had some good things going."

The Delta brand is fairly new to metro Detroit, Fleming said: one operates in Romulus near the airport and others are located on the west side of the state. The Farmington Hills location is the brand's first in Oakland County.

Opening a new hotel concept in the

midst of a pandemic that has significantly reduced travel has been challenging, but Fleming said she believes the staff and amenities are ready to serve business or leisure guests once traveling picks up again.

"It's a leap of faith," she said. "We just have to trust that things are going to get better and that we have the right people in place, then when things do get better, people will come."

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





THE ONLY WAY TO BEAT COVID-19 IS TO FACE IT.

You can't forget the danger. Especially in the next few months. Wear the mask. Wash your hands. Practice physical distancing - at least 6 feet apart. Consider virtual gatherings for the holidays. Shopping locally. Ordering food for curbside pickup. We can beat this virus if we all face it together.

For more holiday safety tips, visit oakgov.com/covid



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VOLUME 30, ISSUE 12.2

DELAY, NEGLECT, CONFUSION MEANS FRACTURED FAMILIES

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DELAY DESTROYS DE FAMILY

Probate or trust administration drags on. Month



David Carrier

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. Finally, anger.

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How do I avoid heavy taxes from the new law on my retirement plans (like my IRA or 401k)?

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SOME STATES BREAK CONSTITUTIONAL ELECTION RULES

THIS WEEK'S SIGN OF THE APOCALYPSE

SHOULD OTHER STATES CALL THEM OUT?

DO YOU PLAY BY THE RULES?

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 come 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 yet.

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."



CONSTITUTIONAL ELECTION RULES

What does the Constitution say about presidential elections? It is simple:

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. Constitutionally.

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 LEAGUE?

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!

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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. Well.

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...

[Editor's Note: It is now up to 19 states.]



TIMELESS ADVICE FROM PAUL BURGE

Journalism is all about covering important stories.

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 say?

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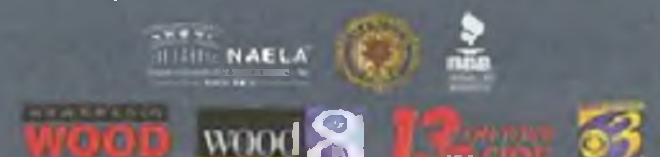
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Canton mother, son share vaccine trial experience

Ed Wright HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Canton Township mother Michelle Hall and her son, Hunter Hall, are among the thousands of unsung heroes in the battle against COVID-19.

Weeks before the Pfizer and BioNTech mRNA vaccine was deemed safe for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Halls volunteered to participate in a 44,000-person trial, the results of which helped determine the vaccine's effectiveness.

Harboring pre-trial feelings that ranged from growing apprehension (58-year-old Michelle) to all-in optimism (22-year-old Hunter), the Halls drove to a Farmington Hills research clinic Oct. 24.

"I was really nervous leading up to the first injection," Michelle admitted while sitting at a kitchen table in the family's Canton home. "Even as I sat in the room in the clinic, waiting to get the injection, I thought, 'I can run out now and they won't even care.'"

"What convinced me to go through with it was Hunter's insistence that this was the safest vaccine I'll ever get. He had just finished his final year at Michigan State University, taking classes like epidemiology and virology, so he knew what he was talking about."

Of the 44,000 volunteers who participated in the Phase 3 trial — a double-blind randomized control trial — half received a placebo consisting of salt water; the other half received the real vaccine.

"The researchers don't know who gets the vaccine and who gets the placebo and the trial participants don't know," Hunter said. "The only person who knew what my mom and I were being injected with was the nurse who actually did it."

"This type of trial is considered the gold standard in science."

Hours after returning home from the clinic, the Halls had a pretty good inkling of which injection they had received.

In the next 24 hours, Michelle developed a mild fever, slight body aches and soreness in her shoulder. Hunter, on the other hand, said he felt nothing after the injection was completed.

"They don't unblind the trial until this week," Hunter said Monday, "but we're pretty sure I got the placebo and my mom got the vaccine."

"It makes sense that my mom's body reacted to the vaccine, if she did indeed get it, the way it did because this is the strongest, most-effective vaccine ever developed."

Michelle's recent history with shingles and flu vaccines resulted in similar side effects, she said.

When the Halls returned to Farmington Hills in November for the second dose of the procedure, Michelle said she had no worries.

"I did develop a fever of 101 overnight and I had a headache, some body aches ... but I felt fine the next day," she said. "Saying that, I don't want to scare anyone away from getting the vaccine once it becomes available to them."

"I was among the 2 percent who felt side effects, and I usually feel effects from vaccines regardless of what they're for."

Hunter's second injection created no side effects, galvanizing his belief that he had received the placebo. If that's true, he will be eligible to be vaccinated for real as early as January.

The \$120 check each of the Halls received for their efforts — neither was expecting any compensation when they signed up — was secondary to their willingness to help the vaccine's journey toward approval.

"I have felt so helpless and even guilty that so many people are out there risking their lives fighting to help others, I felt like this was finally something I could do to help," said Michelle.

In another effort to help, she said, she made a habit of buying meals from local restaurants and having them delivered to families who were hard hit by the coronavirus pandemic and to healthcare and essential workers.

"But (volunteering for the trial) was something that felt so much bigger. I could finally feel like I was doing my part to contribute," she said.

Although admitting he was happy to do his part to help the Pfizer vaccine secure approval for emergency use, Hunter compared his role in the trial to recycling.

"We're doing a very small part of a really important thing," said Hunter, who graduated this summer from MSU with degrees in microbiology and human biology after just three years. "The hardest part for me was agreeing to give blood six times over the next two years. In the past, I've nearly passed out when I've had to give blood, but I can honestly



Hunter Hall, left, and his mother, Michelle Hall volunteered for the two-dose Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine trial, with differing results. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

say it's not that big of a deal for me anymore."

During the weeks between their first and second injections, the Halls discovered that — despite their stringent adherence to social distancing guidelines — they were in close contact with individuals who later tested positive for COVID-19.

"We both got tested and we both tested negative," Hunter said.

Michelle said although it's a near certainty that she has been vaccinated — giving her up to a 95 percent chance that she will not be infected with COVID-19, Pfizer asserts — she still plans to wear a mask in public to make people feel com-

fortable.

"For those people who are thinking about not getting the vaccine, I would recommend that they reconsider," Michelle said. "During the months since March when this all started, I was fearful of even going to the grocery store. I'd have just about everything delivered, or if I did go to a store, I'd only buy a few items, then get out of there."

"Last week, I went to the grocery store and I actually took my time. I was so relaxed, so at ease. Knowing I'm protected removed so much stress from my life."

Contact reporter Ed Wright at edwright@hometownlife.com.

Position on Schoolcraft Board of Trustees opens

Schoolcraft College has an opening on its Board of Trustees and invites individuals interested in filling that vacancy to contact Beth LaForest, director of strategic operations and board liaison, by email at blafors@schoolcraft.edu with any questions or to receive an application packet.

The deadline to submit an application is 3 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15, 2021.

The seven-member Board of Trustees serves as the college's policy-making body. To be considered a candidate for the position, an applicant must be a registered voter and a resident of the

Schoolcraft College district, which includes the Clarenceville, Garden City, Livonia, Northville and Plymouth-Canton school districts as well as part of the Novi school district.

Board seats have six-year terms. This position will be appointed by the Board of Trustees to serve into 2022. The applicant then must run in the next general election in November 2022.

The vacancy is the result of Trustee Gretchen Alaniz's decision to resign after serving Schoolcraft College and the community since 2013.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

School board wants to increase in-person learning

On behalf of the Huron Valley Schools Board of Education I wanted to clarify important information regarding HVS' Continuity of Learning Plan, which is required by the State of Michigan to be acted upon by the board every 30 days.

Each month the school district's administration makes a recommendation, but it is the seven-member board that is required to take action.

There is unequivocal support on the HVS Board of Education for Superintendent Dr. Paul Salah and his recommendations for keeping students and staff members safe throughout the pandemic. As a board we remain steadfast in examining the data presented by Salah and making our decisions in the best interests of our students, families and staff members.

Each time the board approves the Continuity of Learning Plan, it does so with three considerations in mind: the health and safety of staff and students, social-emotional well being of students and instructional consistency.

HVS was one of a handful of districts that brought students back face-to-face at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. Students were learning in the hybrid format. In an effort to enhance face-to-face learning, the board voted Oct. 19 to increase in-person learning to four days per week beginning Nov. 9. Before that decision could be implemented, however, the COVID-19 case rates increased exponentially in our communities and the Oakland County Health Division placed the county at risk level E — the highest risk level.

It remains the stated goal of the board to bring students back for face-to-face learning, four days per week, beginning with elementary students on Jan. 19 and secondary students beginning Jan. 25.

The school board and administration recognize the burden that remote learning places on families. We know that there is no substitute for students

learning in their classrooms with their teachers. Parents have our commitment that we will continue to weigh all the information when making our decisions regarding remote versus in-person learning.

Our entire board and administrative team want our students back in schools.

Tom Wiseman
Huron Valley Schools Board of Education president

Protect skateboarders, drivers

Responding to the article "Westland man, 20, headed to trial because of Northville Skateboarder's Death," this is a tragic accident that killed one young man and could potentially send another young man to prison for leaving the site of an accident.

I have traveled this same route between Northville and Plymouth over the years, many times in the dark of night. It is a very dark stretch of road with no shoulders for pedestrians or skateboarders. When I first heard this story, beyond the aching heart I felt for the families involved, I was stunned to learn that it is not illegal to operate a skateboard on these hilly, public roads after dark along with motor vehicles traveling the same route.

Because of the low visibility conditions of these roads at night and the fact that any one of us could unintentionally hit a skateboarder traveling this road after dark, I have chosen to no longer travel along this route at night. When a skateboarder shines their cell phone lights at oncoming traffic, it can blind drivers, thus endangering both the driver of any vehicles along with the skateboarder traveling alongside traffic.

In order to avoid any future such tragedies, the citizens of Northville and Plymouth would like to see some common sense skateboarder laws enacted to protect skateboarders and drivers so that no such tragedy ever happens again. Simply stated, it is too dangerous for skateboarders to travel these roads with no shoulders after dark alongside traffic.

A. Frank
Plymouth

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Charity donations deductible even if you don't itemize taxes



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

Dear Rick

I am in my 50s and do not itemize my deductions. I was told by a member of my church that I can make a tax-deductible charitable donation for 2020. Is that true?

Thank you. J.

Dear J.

Yes, you can make a charitable deduction even though you do not itemize your deductions. Under the CARES Act which was passed earlier this year, individuals who do not itemize their deductions are allowed to deduct up to \$300 of charitable contributions.

To qualify, contributions must be in cash. In other words, a donation of clothes or household goods would not qualify for this deduction; it must be cash. Therefore, if you choose to donate to your church, you should write a check and the first \$300 will be tax deductible. If you donate more, it will not be tax deductible, nor will you be able to carry over the difference to future tax years.

Whether you're taking the standard deduction or itemizing, it is important to remember the documentation you need when it comes to charitable contributions. In the old days, your canceled check was sufficient documentation in case the IRS came calling. However, that is no longer the rule.

Charitable contributions of \$250 or more require a receipt from the charity in addition to a copy of the canceled check. Most charities nowadays send

receipts. Save these receipts and file them with your tax records. On the other hand, if you do not get a receipt, then it is a good idea to contact the charity and have one sent to you. You do not need to send a copy of your receipt with your tax return; rather, you need to save the receipt with your tax records.

If you are over 70½ and not itemizing your deductions, and plan on donating more than \$300, you can make qualified charitable distributions (QCD). A QCD transfers money directly from your retirement account to a charity. Although in this transaction you do not receive a charitable deduction, you do receive a tax benefit. Money coming out of your retirement account, which would normally be taxed to you, is not taxed since it is donated directly to a charity. Therefore, seniors over 70½ who do not itemize their deductions and make charita-

ble contributions in excess of \$ should consider this strategy when making charitable contributions.

The key to doing a QCD is to have your IRA custodian directly transfer money to your charity of choice. If custodian sends you a check in your name and you sign that check over to the charity, you do not receive the favorable tax treatment. You will need to have contributions sent directly to the charitable organization. The time to do this is now; you do not have time to delay.

One further reminder regarding charitable contributions is to make sure that you do due-diligence on the organization. This time of year, there are many bogus charities attempting to take advantage of the generosity of American people. Always do your research to ensure the charity is legitimate.

Good luck.

Vaccines

Continued from Page 1A

reported 450,776 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and 11,212 deaths resulting from the disease. The first cases in the state were identified in March.

Since Jan. 21, the CDC has recorded nearly 17 million cases, with more than 306,000 deaths in the United States as of Dec. 17. Worldwide, the virus has infected more than 72 million and killed 1.6 million people.

Aveshah Williamson, a registered nurse who works with both post-op and COVID-19 patients at Ascension was second in line for the shot after Shuker. Although he often pokes patients with a needle himself, Williamson couldn't look as Michigan National Guard Medic Spc. Andrew Wasilewski administered the shot in a smooth motion.

Williamson admits that he had some concerns over the vaccination, but they were minor and he expressed confidence in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As he sat for the 15-minute observation period, Williamson said he felt fine, maybe even better than fine.

"This is the first step in turning back time and getting us back to normalcy," Williamson said. "It's a historic step to get us back to a normal life... I can't wait until it's available to the general public and across the country."

Lynn Chiesa, chief nursing officer for Ascension Providence, said the Novi campus received 975 doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine Dec. 17, while the Southfield campus received 1,950 doses the day prior. Between the two hospitals, there are 3,156 staff members.

Only five Novi staff received the shot that first day, a "soft start," with another 200 expected to receive a shot Friday.

Michael Kosal, director of pharmacy, expected that all 975 shots would be administered before Christmas. He was unsure when the next shipment would arrive, but within three weeks, a second



Above at left, Dana Falk, an educator for respiratory therapy, receives her first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine from Michigan National Guard Medic Spc. Nathan Koweck on Dec. 17. Above right, Aveshah Williamson, RN, receives his dose. PHOTOS BY SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



dose will be administered to all who have received their first shot.

"If I had my druthers, we'd vaccinate 400 tomorrow and then another 400 the next day, but we have to ensure proper processes," Kosal said. "This shot has 95% efficacy after two doses."

Chiesa said the first priority for vaccinations among staff are those who work directly with COVID-19 patients and, she was very excited to protect all employees from a disease they have seen devastate the patients they care for.

"The only way to put an end to this pandemic is through vaccination," Chiesa said. "Our hospital is excited. This is our defense against the monster, a shot of hope."

Kosal agreed that the best line of defense is the vaccination, a clear offense after having played defense with reactionary measures until this point.

He expressed confidence in the vac-

cination, noting that medical experts had used previous knowledge of SARS and MERS, other viruses that have similarities to the coronavirus, to aid them in faster development of a COVID-19 vaccine.

"You take that knowledge and apply it to get a faster solution," he said.

For Dana Falk, a respiratory therapy educator at Ascension Providence's Novi campus, that solution brought immense relief. She was third in line for the vaccination. Asked what it meant to her, she began to cry.

A respiratory therapist for more than 25 years, COVID-19 has been like nothing she has seen in her career. Particularly devastating to her, are the patients she has tended to who have died alone in the intensive care unit.

"We expected the second wave, we prepared as much mentally as you could, but you can't get used to people

going through it," she said. "You think you're accustomed to it (in the medical profession) that you get a thick skin, but this is different. The outcomes aren't great."

She is ecstatic about the vaccine and what it represents for humanity, and also for her own family. Her parents are both cancer survivors. She hasn't seen her Dad since January, or her Mom since March. Her son graduated from high school this year in a way that was anything but normal and then started college sitting in her living room. With the shot, she looks forward to a return to normalcy.

"The vaccine opens those doors," she said.

Other metro Detroit hospitals have begun vaccinating their staffs, as well. Oakland and Wayne counties started vaccinations Friday.

sbromley@hometownlife.com

Board

Continued from Page 1A

The two dissenting votes were cast by second-term trustee Mindy Herrmann and Jankowski.

Herrmann made a motion to delay the removal of the tax until the issue could be further discussed, stating that she did not believe it was a huge concern for township residents.

According to Herrmann's calculations, the annual fee cost the average township household \$5.55 per month.

"I feel like, while it was definitely a campaign issue for the supervisor, clerk and treasurer and had gained traction with residents, we as a board had not heard from people who were very upset about this fee," Herrmann said. "Before we rescind it, I feel we should make a concerted effort to study it and get feedback from our residents."

Abbo, who made elimination of the administrative tax a priority of his campaign for supervisor, acknowledged that while the fee is relatively small, "these small amounts add up."

"I don't believe we should collect fees or increase taxes just to make the job of elected officials easier," Abbo said. "I think it's our responsibility to find ways to make it our work. Northville Township is on solid ground (financially). I don't think the extra revenue this fee generates is needed."

Jankowski said the revenue the annual fee generated for the township would go a long way toward helping pay for major capital improvement projects

that are on the horizon.

Rhines and Lundberg said the issue of whether to rescind the fee was a major concern for residents during their campaigns.

"The number 1 issue on people's minds was getting rid of this fee," Lundberg asserted.

During the meeting's Arbor Hills landfill working committee report, Dave Drinan told the board that a freedom of information act request during the summer revealed that the use of fire suppression materials on the landfill property resulted in the contamination of two storm-water ponds with PFAS.

Drinan said the Northville Township-based Conservancy Initiative has contacted the Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) with a request to investigate why the contaminated ponds have not been cleared of the PFAS.

EGLE responded by demanding the landfill owner issue a report regarding the contamination. EGLE also included a deadline for the report.

In good news regarding the landfill, data collected over the past few months showed a significant decrease in the number of residents' odor complaints.

The board also learned that an air-monitoring system installed on the property of the township's Ridgewood Elementary School, which is located just east of the landfill, could be operational by the end of December.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at edwright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-3333.



A construction worker helps to finish up one of the two water storage tanks along Dorothy Street in South Lyon on Dec. 4. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Rates

Continued from Page 1A

same, no matter how much water they used," City Manager Paul Zelenak explained about the rate changes approved last month. "It's imperative that we make these improvements, and the only way to do that is pay for them based on water and sewer usage. We have not had a water and sewer increase in five years."

He added that because moderate increases were not made gradually in the previous five years, the city was forced to make a higher increase to pay for the needed improvements.

This will include building a new 600,000-gallon water tank and the upgrade of the existing 1 million-gallon water tank. The water and sewer plants will also get upgraded equip-

ment to ensure the reliability of the municipal system. Additional improvements will include security, backup systems and water lines.

The readiness to serve charge, which previously appeared on all bills as \$6 per quarter will now increase to \$23.81 per quarter. Water rates will see a 9% increase, from the current \$2.46 per unit (a thousand gallons) to \$2.68 per unit. Sewer rates are increasing 3.5% from \$4.52 to \$4.68.

Zelenak said various options were explored for funding the needed improvements, but this one was chosen as it will ultimately save a significant amount of money for the city and its utility customers by not having to pay for costs associated with borrowing money or taking out a bond.

For more detailed information on the water and sewer rates study, visit the city's website or call 248-437-1735. sbromley@hometownlife.com

Protest

Continued from Page 1A

student and staff quarantines and consequently teacher shortages and disruptions in learning.

Nick Shelton, a member of the parent group that helped organize the protest, said he feels it is safe for the kids to be back in school and that 80% of parents in the district who want face-to-face instruction are not being represented, while the 20% or less that wanted to be completely remote got everything they wanted.

He and his wife Christy, both Milford High graduates, enrolled all three of their children as students of choice next semester in the Brighton district, he said, which is offering full face-to-face instruction.

Daughter Riley said she really doesn't like online school.

"It's very, very hard and I'm not learning as much as I could," the Country Oaks fourth grader said. "I want to interact with other people, it's an important skill."

Nick Shelton said Brighton seems to have support of their teachers for in-person learning and said he wished that was the case in Huron Valley. He is peeved about learning pods the district recently began offering to families, too.

"Why is it OK to be back with non-teaching staff, but not with teachers?" Shelton said. "We just want a say and a seat at the table."

All elementary-aged students in Huron Valley Schools were made eligible to be enrolled in the childcare program as of last week. The program offers supervision for remote learners at Highland Elementary.

The program began earlier this month for children of district employees.

"We saw this as a service to alleviate some of the burden as we work toward bringing kids back four days face-to-face," district Communications Director Kim Root said.

She acknowledged "the pushback" the district is getting about having kids in the building for the learning pods while simultaneously not allowing face-to-face instruction at this time, but said it's not a fair comparison between the two "because of dramatically different numbers."

"We are dipping our toe in the water," she said. "We will have a ratio of one staff member for every 10 students and will use spaces throughout the building to distance."

Those staff members are neither certified teachers nor union employees. It is staffed by early childhood employees whose salaries are paid through the tuition, which explains the cost of \$33 per student, per day.

The learning pods are a short-term solution for families in emergency situations, unable to juggle working at home with students also learning at home, or those working outside the home who need childcare, Root said.

Students are now on break, and the intention was to offer the learning pods for two weeks following the holiday break, from Jan. 4-15, until elementary students return to four days a week face-to-face instruction, which is currently scheduled to be Jan. 19.

"If something happens, and we have another huge surge (in COVID-19 cases) could we restart the learning pods?" Root pondered. "Potentially, but it's not in the plans."

Niki and Sean Thornton stood alongside dozens of other protesters who moved to line sidewalks next to S. Milford Road, where passing motorists honked horns.

The couple said their daughter, a Lakeland High junior, had adapted to remote learning, but their son, an White Lake eighth grader, was struggling to get motivated in the online environment.

"The kids need to see more than the four walls of their bedroom and a screen," Niki said. "If they can have learning pods and Kroger can be open, they can be in school. Life has dangers; you weigh the pros and cons. At this point, not being in school is more dangerous. The learning pods are hypocritical."

Tabatha and Nick Girardi have four children, including one who is on the autism spectrum.

Not being in school is having a negative effect on their mental health, Nick said, and his 15-year-old, who normally carries a 4.0 grade point average, is struggling to pass chemistry.

His eighth grade daughter, Piper, agreed it has been hard to learn at home.

"A lot of classes are confusing," she said. "Math, I can't really ask questions and in band I can't play and she can't help us."



As first-grade student Riley, left, watches, her father, Nick Shelton, talks about hoping his two kids will get back to in-person schooling during a Dec. 16 protest outside the Huron Valley School District administration building.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

While she isn't concerned for her safety at school, she has another worry: that students won't go back for face-to-face instruction until next fall.

"Parents want the education, not the protection," Nick Girardi said. "The CDC has declared it's not a risk."

District officials were not on site for the protest, but Superintendent Paul Salah issued a statement the day before in response, saying that it has been his and the school board's goal to have students attend in-person four days per week "because there is no substitute for a highly-qualified teacher, face-to-face with students."

"We share the same concern that all Huron Valley Schools' parents have for the education, health and well-being of our community's children. We respect the right of all citizens to peacefully assemble and make their voices heard

concerning something as important as the education of their children."

Salah continued by noting the district had heard from thousands of parents over the course of the last five months and added that from the beginning of the pandemic, district officials had worked to make the best decisions on behalf of the safety of students, families, and staff, using data from the Oakland County Health Division.

"Making decisions in the midst of a global pandemic is not straightforward," he said, adding that the goal continues to be getting students back to face-to-face instruction, which he expects to be Jan. 19 for elementary students and Jan. 25 for secondary students.

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

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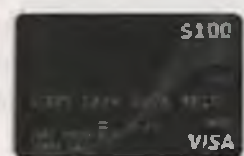
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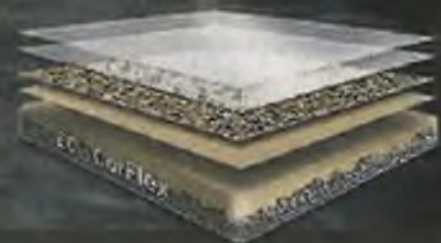
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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Burnside steps down as Novi head coach

Colin Gay HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Late in the 2020 season, Novi head football coach Jeff Burnside started something he had never done in his 20 years as a coach: stop.

During pre- and post-game, he would take a step back and soak in his surroundings. After a career of not celebrating wins well, he tried to stay in the moment. He wanted to truly enjoy watching his athletes play the sport they loved.

Burnside knew in the middle of the 2020 season that it would be his last with the Wildcats football team after eight years as the head coach and numerous more as an assistant.

He was exhausted. He thought of his 13-year-old daughter and the events he

missed in her life, those family camping trips they never took, those busy July months he spent at Novi preparing for the fall while his family was on summer vacation.

See BURNSIDE, Page 18



Alex Vargas, left, made a career in the football and lacrosse programs at Novi High School. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Multi-sport path earns Novi player lacrosse scholarship

Colin Gay HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When Alex Vargas was in third grade, he wanted to find a sport to keep him in shape when he was not playing football. A friend pointed him toward lacrosse, and Vargas quickly saw it checked a lot of his boxes.

"It's a non-stop sport no matter where you are on the field," Vargas said. "With other sports there's always the whistle. But with lacrosse, the only whistle is if it goes out of bounds or hits the goal. It's constant moving, physical, all the things I like in a sport."

Vargas continued on both the football and lacrosse paths at Novi High School. But through four years, his focus shifted, turning lacrosse into his future.

See SCHOLARSHIP, Page 48



Vargas will play lacrosse for Johns Hopkins University starting in 2021. COURTESY OF CHRIS JOHNSON

Haygood aims for football success at Madonna

Colin Gay HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Herb Haygood's coaching mindset began to develop when he played for Nick Saban at Michigan State.

It was something that some players would run from and feel uncomfortable with. But it was something Haygood took pride in.

"I'm always going to be looking to find someone better than you," Haygood remembers Saban saying. "In high schools, there's always a new freshman class. In college, there's always a new recruiting class. And in the pros, there's always a new draft."

"So if you are not doing everything, on and off the field, to be the best person you can be, the next guy behind you is going to be in and replace you."

For the first time in his professional career, Haygood will begin a season in Saban's shoes, taking his first head coaching position with Madonna University, a school just launching its first season as a program.

Haygood, who was initially hired as a coordinator, takes over the position from Brian Foss, who left the team to pursue other professional opportunities, Dec. 8.

"He did a good job of making the foundation, getting kids here who wanted to be here," Haygood said. "Now, it's my job to get it to the next step and make sure our guys are competing."

Relationships spark success

Haygood said recruiting is all about cultivating relationships.

He saw this from a young age growing up in Florida, watching high school teammates, like former Michigan State defensive back Amp Campbell and former Florida defensive back Larry Kennedy, talk to Division I programs.

"I think we were just so used to seeing colleges and recruiters on campus or in the neighborhoods that it was more of a norm, that it was just kind of expected that that was what you were going to do," Haygood said. "You are going to earn a scholarship, you are going to go off to college, you are going to come back home and talk to guys."

Haygood had his opportunity to leave for East Lansing, becoming the first kick returner to ever be selected to the Walter Camp All-America team.

See HAYGOOD, Page 58

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Jake Crespi of Brighton recently scored his first college hockey goal for Michigan Tech in a victory at Bemidji State. COURTESY OF JBAUMANN PHOTOGRAPHY

First college goal 'super special' for Crespi

BIH Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

If Jake Crespi had been a star player at every step of his hockey career, the adjustment to playing a lesser role in college would have been tougher.

But Crespi, unlike many of his peers playing NCAA Division I hockey, wasn't always the player who was ticketed for success.

It wasn't until his two seasons playing for Brighton High School that Crespi became one of his team's most dangerous scoring threats.

Before and after his time at Brighton, Crespi had to prove himself by contributing in ways that didn't involve lighting up the scoreboard.

"Growing up, I never really was the guy to be counted on," Crespi said. "I never really was a goal scorer. I wasn't until high school. That's where I found my identity as a player. It takes some time to develop. Once you get comfortable finding your role and what you see for yourself, everything starts to click."

"It's definitely comfortable for me not putting up a lot of points. It was like that my first year of juniors. It's a big learning curve when you take a step."



"Once you get comfortable finding your role and what you see for yourself, everything starts to click."

Jake Crespi

It took until the 24th game of his Michigan Tech career, and fourth of his sophomore year, for Crespi to score his first college goal, which came Dec. 13 in a 3-0 victory at Bemidji State.

Blais Richartz won a race for the puck to negate an icing and passed the puck through his legs to Greyson Reitmeier, who fired a shot from the left circle. Zach Driscoll made the save, but Crespi pounced on the rebound in the slot to bury the puck for Tech's final goal with 12:30 left in the game.

"The rebound popped to me," Crespi said. "I didn't have to do much. It's one of those that worked itself out."

"It's been over a year since my last goal. It was super special to get that out of the way. I'm excited to hopefully score some more coming up."

Crespi isn't one to stress out if he isn't putting the puck in the net. He averaged seven goals a season in three seasons

with Belle Tire at the AAA level before deciding to play for Brighton his junior year in high school.

At Brighton, he scored 20 goals in 24 games to help the Bulldogs reach the state championship game before scoring 30 goals and 29 assists in 31 games to earn the state's Mr. Hockey award on a team that won the state title.

With the Tri-City Storm of the United States Hockey League, Crespi had eight goals and seven assists in 51 games in 2017-18.

He had eight goals and four assists in only 18 games the following season, one which was cut short by a shoulder injury that first flared up during his senior year at Brighton.

He had shoulder surgery before arriving at Tech, where he had two assists in 20 games as a freshman.

"I was feeling it out, getting used to my new shoulder, just trying to figure

things out at a much bigger and faster level," he said.

Finally healthy and with a year of college hockey under his belt, Crespi feels stronger and more confident on the ice this season.

"It's better this year," he said. "I've established a role with the team and earned trust with the coaching staff."

Crespi is one of five members of Brighton's 2017 state championship team playing Division I college hockey.

Forward Adam Conquest is a sophomore at Bowling Green, freshman defenseman Sam Brennan recently played his first two career games for Air Force, sophomore goalie Logan Neaton started in UMass-Lowell's season opener Sunday against Providence and freshman defenseman Tim Erkkila is at Northern Michigan.

For Crespi, playing for Brighton was great preparation for eventually playing major college hockey.

"You get to build a lot of confidence in yourself as a player," Crespi said. "You figure out your player identity and figure out what kind of player you need to be to be successful. As long as you're prepared and confident in your abilities, that takes you wherever you want to go."

MIVCA announces high school volleyball postseason awards

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The Michigan High School Association high school volleyball season remains on hold due to COVID-19, with two Hometown Life areas remaining in the hunt for a chance for a state title: Novi and Marian.

But the postseason awards season is still here.

Here is a look at area players who were names to the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association All-State and All-Region teams for the 2020 season.

All-State

Division 1 First team

Mercy senior setter Julia Bishop
Mercy senior middle blocker Charli

Atiemo

Marian junior outside hitter Ava Brizard

Second team

Marian junior middle blocker Sarah Sylvester

Marian sophomore setter Ava Sarafa

Mercy senior middle blocker Ellie Tisko

Novi senior libero Rachel Jennings

Honorable mention

Mercy junior libero Amina Robinson

Seaholm junior outside hitter Audrey Brown

Marian junior outside hitter Sophia

Treder

Livonia Stevenson senior setter Jenna Szabelski

Division 2

First team

Detroit Country Day middle blocker

Serena Nyamblo

Second team

Detroit Country Day junior outside

hitter Morgan Lockhart

Third team

Detroit Country Day junior outside

hitter Nyla Muskovin

Division 4

Second team

Plymouth Christian senior middle

blocker Emma Heussner

Third team

Plymouth Christian junior setter Hal-

lie Creighton

Honorable mention

Plymouth Christian freshman middle

blocker Allison Pilat

All-Region teams

Region 15

Novi sophomore outside hitter Sarah

Vellucci

Novi senior libero Rachel Jennings

Novi senior outside hitter Gaby Cum-

mings

Mercy senior setter Julia Bishop

Mercy senior middle blocker Charli

Atiemo

Mercy senior middle blocker Ellie

Tisko

Mercy junior libero Amina Robinson

Mercy senior Kaylin Collins

Farmington senior outside hitter

Lindsay Hubler

Lakeland sophomore outside hitter

Eve Martin

South Lyon East senior outside hitter

Samantha Deinek

Detroit Country Day junior outside

hitter Morgan Lockhart

Detroit Country Day junior outside

hitter Nyla Muskovin

Detroit Country Day junior middle

blocker Serena Nyamblo

Region 16

Seaholm junior outside hitter Audrey

Brown

Marian junior outside hitter Ava Bri-

zard

Marian junior middle blocker Sarah

Sylvester

Marian junior outside hitter Sophia

Treder

Marian sophomore setter Ava Sarafa

Marian sophomore opposite Ella

Schomer

Marian sophomore libero Lauren

Hemming

Groves senior outside hitter Becca

Apsey

Region 18

Livonia Churchill sophomore libero

Erica Maladecki

Livonia Churchill senior setter Madi-

son Johnson

Livonia Churchill junior setter Jordan

Wozniak

Livonia Churchill senior middle

blocker Emma Gendar

Livonia Churchill junior defensive

specialist Megan Avey

Livonia Churchill senior outside hit-

ter Olivia Clark

Livonia Churchill junior outside hit-

ter Molly Rudd

Livonia Franklin senior outside hitter

Jamla Murray

Northville junior outside hitter Jaden

Rice

Northville senior libero Livvy Setla

Northville sophomore outside hitter

Abby Reck

Northville senior middle blocker Syd-

ney Reed

Northville senior outside hitter Jenna

Boksha

Livonia Stevenson senior setter Jen-

na Szabelski

Garden City junior setter Meghan

Wladysiak

Garden City sophomore setter Ken-

nedy Fee

Garden City sophomore libero Skylar

Piper

Plymouth Christian junior setter Hal-

lie Creighton

Plymouth Christian senior middle

blocker Emma Heussner

Plymouth Christian freshman middle

blocker Allison Pilat

Region 19

Westland John Glenn senior outside

hitter Jessica Florn

Contact reporter Colin Gay at

cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-

6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-

Gay17.

Scholarship

Continued from Page 1B

when he decided to sign to play in college at Lewis University.

Both football and lacrosse, along with time in the weight room, proved vital to bring Vargas to where he is, becoming a better athlete and putting him in the best position to compete in a prominent role as a college freshman in 2021.

Bringing physicality

Novi head lacrosse coach Chris Johnson knew about Vargas before he came to the program, impressing the coach enough to give the freshman a position on the varsity team.

Vargas was undersized. Johnson was worried he would get banged up playing against 17- and 18-year-old seniors. But it was undeniable what the freshman brought to the team as soon as he took the field.

"Our team just performed differently," Johnson said. "There was just a quality about him where he brought an intensity... a sense of urgency. When you are trying to get guys who are young to have a sense of urgency, it's not always easy."

"Alex is one of those guys where when it's game time, he has a sense of urgency and he's always in the moment."

Sophomore year, after a season of varsity football and time in the weight room, Vargas was a different player from a size standpoint, adding 30-40 pounds of muscle during the offseason. He said his size made him harder to move around, but that ended up helping him develop a faster shot.

Now a senior at Novi, Vargas noticed how impactful the weight room was, especially when he was not able to use it.

"I noticed over quarantine — it was the worst it ever hit me — but just even a couple weeks of not doing anything took you out of it," Vargas said. "That constant being in the weight room through the football season, through the lacrosse season really kept things going."

With Vargas' experience playing both lacrosse and football, Johnson saw an opportunity to turn his small roster — it plagued Novi through the 2018 and 2019



Novi's Alex Vargas winces as he takes off his helmet after taking a hit to the ribs. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

seasons — into a larger one, convincing football players to join his team in the spring.

Now, the Novi head lacrosse coach said, 50%-60% of his players come from football.

"Alex was kind of that kid (Johnson) leaned on to move the lacrosse program back up," Novi head football coach Jeff Burnside said. "(Vargas) a darn good one. For how great he is at football for us, I know he is even better at lacrosse."

Burnside saw Vargas' effect on his football teammates. He watched as his fullback "worked himself to the bone" in the weight room, watched as his teammates followed his example in the spring, bringing physicality to the lacrosse roster.

"There was no backing down from Alex," Johnson said. "I see a lot of the football players: they won't back down. They will stand up to anybody no matter the size difference and are willing to test themselves."

Instant contributor

On the football field, Burnside viewed Vargas as an example.

As the fullback, the Novi head football coach remembers him as a sophomore, helping players he was competing with for a varsity spot get better, giving them tips on how to improve, relaying the "We above me" culture that Burnside tried to instill.

"Alex is just an absolute team guy," Burnside said. "He plays himself to the point of injury, he just plays so hard. He could have been the type of kid that, 'I'm going to put everything into lacrosse,' and I would have totally understood. But I'm so glad he didn't."

"When I think 20 years down the road, he's a guy that will constantly come up in my mind of, 'That's a guy we need, guys like him.'"

This was the atmosphere Vargas found at Lewis University.

Established in 2020 by head coach

Joe Perruzzi, the Flyers went 5-2 in its first season prior to the rest of the season being canceled due to COVID-19. The Novi senior loved the campus, deciding he had found a college home.

"The chemistry in the locker room was unlike any other I have been in," Vargas said. "It's just like everyone was clicking. It was kind of unbelievable that it was their first year as a team. I just loved the program and what Coach Perruzzi was doing with it, and I wanted to hop on board."

In his first year with the team, Vargas said he hopes to fight for a starting spot and work to be the best leader he can be.

All this, Johnson thinks, is achievable based on what Vargas has done and what he plans to do if given the chance for one last season at Novi.

"I could see Alex going in as a freshman and contributing right away," Johnson said. "In a college program, that's a tough thing to do. But ... there was no shyness in his play."

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Haygood

Continued from Page 1B

along with being named as a Michigan State team captain as a senior in 2001.

After getting drafted in the fifth round by the Denver Broncos in the 2002 NFL Draft, Haygood played for the Indianapolis Colts and the Kansas City Chiefs before playing for NFL Europe's Scottish Claymores, the Montreal Alouettes in the Canadian Football League and the Tampa Bay Storm in the Arena Football League.

As he transitioned into coaching from his professional career, Haygood was reminded of his relationships with coaches like Mike Shanahan and Tony Dungy, people he felt he could call on any time, even years after he played for them.

As a recruiter, a coach and a person, this was the approach he took: treat others with respect no matter who they were. This mindset created recruiting hotbeds for schools that were not there before Haygood joined the staff.

When Haygood joined the Saginaw Valley State football program, he said the team had trouble getting kids to come from the Flint and Detroit areas. While on staff, he was able to instill relationships and build a pipeline of college graduates.

He did the same thing at schools like Olivet, Miami (Ohio) and Indiana, reaching the places these programs previously deemed unreachable.

In his six-year tenure at Eastern Michigan, Haygood, who finished second in 2016 as Scout MAC recruiter of the year, said his success dated back to relationships he began as far back as 2006.

"No one wanted to go to Eastern Michigan five years ago because 'You can't win there, you can't do this, can't do that,'" Haygood said. "Now you look at them, they are telling people no and they can be choosy ... You'll see their roster, it's full of Detroit kids now."

Bright future

From his first interview at Madonna, Haygood felt that this team would be successful.

"When you have a good administration that's going to be behind you, give you everything or put all the pieces in

"When you have a good administration that's going to be behind you, give you everything or put all the pieces in place, the recruiting part is easy, the football part is easy. ... it makes your job so much easier and it makes you want to go out and sell the place."

Herb Haygood
Head football coach, Madonna University

place, the recruiting part is easy, the football part is easy," he said. "You have to feel supported, and when you feel supported... it makes your job so much easier and it makes you want to go out and sell the place."

To Haygood, he would pitch to potential players that the only difference between the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and Division 2 football is the number of scholarships, not the quality of play.

As he guided recruits around campus to show off the new facilities, he pitched his desire for players to leave with a diploma in one hand and rings on another, Haygood felt it was an easy sell.

In Madonna's first year as a program, Haygood expects to be successful with the players he has. Since taking the job, a number of 2021 recruits have committed to play for the Crusaders.

But his focus is not quite to that first game. Haygood wants his players to finish the fall semester strong, while he finishes his recruiting class before focusing on the first game against Missouri Baptist Feb. 13.

However, Haygood knows he's ready to follow in the footsteps of Saban, Dungy and Shanahan. It may be a new title for him, but he knows it just boils down to cultivating and maintaining relationships.

"It's something I have prepared for way before this," Haygood said. "I was really already prepared to take over a program. I just didn't know it would be this one this soon."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com.



Madonna University's new head football coach Herb Haygood will guide the Crusaders when they start play in the spring. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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WINTER VISITOR

Howell Nature Center staff rescues snowy owl

Kayla Daugherty Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Howell Nature Center has a new resident at its rehabilitation clinic after a call came in Friday alerting staff to an injured snowy owl in Linden.

The caller struck the young male owl with a vehicle, according to a press release. The owl sustained road rash on its right wing, resulting in damaged flight feathers and swelling.

The owners of a nearby feed store in Linden said the owl had been hanging around for almost three weeks, hunting in the cow pasture across the street, according to the release.

"While the HNC wildlife team rarely has the time or resources to go out on rescue missions, two staff members offered to help as they knew that this young snowy owl was highly susceptible to predation," Elizabeth Schultz, community engagement manager, said.

Despite being injured, the owl gave Wildlife Education Coordinator Evin Luehr and Wildlife Park Coordinator Chelsea Hatcher "quite the runaround," according to the release.

The owl was eventually captured and brought to the nature center. The owl is in overall good health and staff are optimistic that he will be released back into the wild.



At top left, Howell Nature Center Wildlife Park Coordinator Chelsea Hatcher helps capture an injured snowy owl Dec. 11. At top right, the young, male owl had been hit by a vehicle before workers rescued it, and will need time to heal before it can be released back into the wild. Above, the owl sits through a vet check. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE HOWELL NATURE CENTER

Obituaries

Nicolaas Carel Petrus Akemann

SOUTH LYON - Nicolaas Carel Petrus Akemann (January 10, 1932 to December 10, 2020) South Lyon, Michigan, age 88, died peacefully Thursday, December 10, 2020 at Ascension Hospital Novi, with his wife Karen Temmen Akemann, and son Victor F. Akemann, along with many of his family virtually by his side.

Nico, as he was known and loved, was born in the Village of Loosduinen, Netherlands, on January 10, 1932, the son of Nicolaas Jacobus and Maria Hendrika Martina (van Gaalen) Akemann. His life was strongly influenced by his upbringing in German-occupied Netherlands during World War II and the Hongerwinter (hunger winter) Dutch famine.

After graduating from the technical school, Ambachtsschool aan de De La Reyweg, in 1948, he took his new found love of working with his hands to various jobs before his conscription in the Royal Netherlands Air Force in 1952.

During this time, the Netherlands and all of Europe were still recovering from the ravages of war, but not fast enough for restless Nico. Stories he heard of America from co-workers filled his head with dreams of a better life for him and his new love, Lilian Maria Verleije. The two married on July 4, 1956. As a young couple wanting to provide the best life for themselves and their newborn son, Marcelino, they booked a flight to the United States. With less than a hundred dollars and whatever they could carry in their suitcases, they landed in New York on February 22, 1957 to begin their life together.

Four more beautiful children - Victor, Maximillian, Nicole, and Dmitri were born between 1958 - 1965 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 1974 the couple moved to South Lyon, Michigan following a career promotion in the auto-industry. After 38 years at American Motors, Renault, Chrysler and



Jeep, Nico retired from the workforce having led an extensive career.

Nico, with Lilian by his side, stood up for justice and civil rights throughout their lives and worked towards their shared dream of ending poverty in the world. They carved out their beautiful lives for almost 54 years. Lilian succumbed to Parkinson's Disease in May 2010.

On May 19, 2013, Nico married the second love of his life, Karen Marie Temmen who was by his side until the end of his life. They adopted each others' family as if they were always there in their lives. It was so clear the two families loved Nico and Karen.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Lilian; his first son, Marcelino (Coleen); his brother, Johannes aka: Joop (Adriana); and sister Maria aka: Miep (Jan). He is survived by his wife, Karen; his children, Victor (Beth), Maximillian (Alexandra), Nicole (Alan), and Dmitri; 10 grandchildren, Camille, Forrest, River, Nico, Leif, Berkeley, Zolee, Ian, Shane and Austin; two great grandchildren, Kai and Caison; and his siblings in The Netherlands, Carel (Ute) and Anthonia aka: Toinni (Wim); along with two step children and 10 step grandchildren.

Nicolaas Akemann's strongest belief was that all people strive to be the best. That spirit is felt and carried on by all those who knew him.

Funeral services provided by Herrmann Funeral Home in Fowlerville, MI. The family will have a private visitation this week and a Celebration of Life at a later date.

We invite friends and family to share memories/tributes at: <https://www.mykeeper.com/profile/NicolaasAkemann/> and the funeral memorial site. Memorial donations can be made in his name to the St. Jude Children's Fund, a foundation he was most passionate about.

HERRMANN
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Carol Anne Heinz

MILFORD - Carol Anne Heinz of Milford, passed away at home of natural causes on Saturday, December 12, 2020. She was 37 years old.

Carol is survived by her parents Jim and Nancy Heinz, her brother, Stephen (Kimberly), her precious niece and nephew, Chloe and Austin, and her grandmother, Doris Welsh. She is also survived by 15 aunts and uncles, 26 cousins, and two "feline furballs", Sophie and Fernando, to whom she was very special.

Carol is predeceased by her grandparents, Emil and Mary Heinz, and Donald Welsh.

Carol was a bright and beautiful woman, loving, caring, compassionate and whimsical who shared her many talents with all. She loved to bake, cook, sing, create awesome thoughtful gifts, and take tender loving care of her family and friends. Carol was a bright light in our lives who will be missed forever.

Memorial Contributions can be made to St. Vincent de Paul St. Mary

For further information phone 248-684-6645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com



VIDEO GAMES

Games look up in a down year

Marc Saltzman
Special to USA TODAY

2020 won't likely go down in history as a good year for many things, but it has been a big year for video games.

Perhaps because many Americans were stuck at home during the global coronavirus pandemic, U.S. consumers spent more than \$33.7 billion on video games in the first three quarters of 2020, according to research firm The NPD Group. That's an increase of more than 20% from the \$27.9 billion spent in the same period in 2019.

Perhaps then it's no surprise that NPD forecasts a 24% increase in holiday game spending compared with to last year.

Spending could be even higher except new consoles – the Microsoft Xbox Series X and S and PlayStation 5 (with Blu-ray Disc drive or disc drive-free digital version) – constantly sold out after November debuts.

If you're looking for something to gift a gamer, or to treat yourself, USA TODAY's Marc Saltzman, Brett Molina and Mike Snider recommend a handful of games, divided into various age groups (but be sure to read the recommended age rating before you buy).

Keep in mind, most Xbox One games will work on the new Xbox Series X and Xbox Series S consoles, just as most PlayStation 4 games will work on the new PS5.

Video games for kids (of all ages)

● **Mario Kart Live: Home Circuit** (\$99.99; Nintendo Switch). The Nintendo console turns your home into a real-world racetrack, challenging you to control your kart racer through gates (included) and around objects in your home, as you speed toward the finish line against up to three friends or family members. From an immersive first-person view, you see what the driver sees,

including augmented visuals, such as power-ups, layered on the real world. Great for kids and kids at heart.

● **Animal Crossing: New Horizons** (\$59.99, Nintendo Switch). This charming and engaging game lets you survive – nay, thrive – on a deserted island. There, you can fish, plant flowers and trees, and furnish your home. Amid the pandemic, the game has been a sanctuary – and a way to stay in touch with others – for many.

● **NBA 2K21** (from \$59.99 for Nintendo Switch, Xbox One, PlayStation 4; \$69.99; for Xbox Series S/X, PS5). 2K Sports' latest edition of the pro basketball video game is worth the upgrade to next-generation consoles with sharp, lifelike visuals, and lightning-fast load times. There's also a new feature called The City, where players can take their own budding superstar created in MyCareer mode and play against others online in a sprawling metropolis filled with basketball courts.

● **Madden NFL 21** (\$59.99; for Xbox One, PS4 and PC). This year's game has the annual roster of actual NFL players and stadiums, but also a new "The Yard" mode that lets you play sandlot football. As of Dec. 4, if you are lucky enough to have a PS5 or Xbox Series X, you get an update with more realistic 4K player animations.

● **eFootball PES 2021 Season Update** (\$29.99; Xbox One, PS4). If soccer is more your thing, hit the pitch with Konami's latest, which features some of the world's biggest soccer clubs, like Manchester United and FC Barcelona, several solo and multiplayer game modes, and high-production quality.

Also to consider: **EA Sports' NHL 21** (\$29.99; Xbox One, PS4) is one of the better hockey game installments in recent memory, while Minecraft fans don't need to break the bank to get several dozens of hours of fun with **Minecraft Dungeons** (\$19.99; multiple platforms), an engrossing action-adventure

hybrid inspired by classic dungeon crawlers you can play solo or with up to three others.

Tips if buying games for teens

● **Among Us** (free for iOS/Android or \$5 for PC). While it debuted in 2018, this sleeper hit became a phenomenon in 2020. Innersloth's party game – typically played with four to 10 people online or via local Wi-Fi – challenges gamers to complete tasks, such as fixing up a spaceship, while imposters onboard are there to sabotage your efforts. You'll work together to undo the impostors' nefarious work and figure out the culprits.

● **Marvel's Spider-Man: Miles Morales** (from \$49.99; for PS4, PS5). Insomniac Games builds off the incredible world created in the 2018 game "Marvel's Spider-Man" by introducing players to a wall-crawler boasting new abilities such as electricity-based powers and the ability to go invisible. With an all-new story and a varied collection of crimes to bust and citizens to help, Miles gives the Spider-Man game series a major jolt.

● **Fuser** (\$59.99, for Xbox One, PS4, Nintendo Switch, PC). From Harmonix, the creators of Rock Band and Dance Central, comes their next music game worthy of your time and money. You are a DJ onstage at a virtual music festival and you must spin your way into the crowd's hearts. No special peripherals are needed as you mix from more than 100 song parts – from the likes of Lizzo, Post Malone and Lady Gaga – to create custom mixes, which you can save and share, if desired. You can also play online (competitively or cooperatively), unlock customizable content and more.

Also consider: **Marvel's Avengers** (Xbox One, PS4, PCs and Google Stadia), **Fall Guys: Ultimate Knockout** (PS4, PC), and **Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 1 + 2** (Xbox One, PS4).

Video game hints for those ages 17-up

● **Call of Duty: Black Ops Cold War** (from \$54.99; Xbox Series X/S, PlayStation 5, Xbox One, PS4 and PC). This year's edition of Activision's popular first-person shooting game series involves mind-bending spy games in Vietnam, Berlin and the Soviet Union. Beyond that, you can wage war on many new online multiplayer battlefields and, in a separate game mode, team up to blast zombies.

● **The Last of Us Part II** (\$29.99; for PS4) doesn't veer much from what made its predecessor so sought after – emotional storytelling, gripping action, and extraordinary graphics – as it reintroduces us to a more mature Ellie, the main protagonist, in a post-apocalyptic United States. Played from a third-person perspective, gamers can expect a broad variety of weapons, crafting abilities and a lush and interactive world.

● **Assassin's Creed Valhalla** (\$59.99; for Xbox One, PS4, PC, Google Stadia). This latest release in the action series is a brutal yet beautiful open-world game that challenges you to step into the boots of Eivor, a mighty Viking raider, as you lead your clan from Norway to a new home in England in the year 873 AD.

● **Ghost of Tsushima** (\$59.99; for PS4). You are a samurai combating a Mongol takeover in the gorgeous-looking open world action game. While you explore the beautifully rendered ancient lands, you get a mix of satisfying brutal swordplay and zenlike moments of reflection. You can also play in the cinematic, black and white "Kurosawa mode," a nod to the legendary Japanese filmmaker. An additional free Legends mode lets you tackle additional missions with two or four friends.

Other worthy suggestions: **Hades** (PC, Nintendo Switch), **DOOM Eternal** (Xbox One, PS4, PC), and **Watch Dogs: Legions** (Xbox One, PS4, PC).

Sollom

Continued from Page 3B

Processing so much new information is one of the toughest challenges of transitioning into college basketball.

"Your mind is going 100 miles per hour every day," she said. "It's very hard to comprehend, but that's what coach Arico wants. She wants you to always be put on the spot, always wants you to be

thinking. That's why I like her style. That's the kind of coach I like and want to play for."

Playing time can be hard to come by behind junior Naz Hillmon, a two-time team MVP and All-Big Ten first-team selection. Growth for Sollom will come, not so much in games, but going head-to-head on the practice court with Hillmon, voted preseason co-Player of the Year in the Big Ten.

Sollom was a force in high school, particularly on defense, largely because

of her 6-foot-4 stature. Now that her height advantage isn't as pronounced, she is trying to learn other ways to be effective on the court.

"Learning from Naz, she will make me better," Sollom said. "I feel like I have an advantage over any other freshman in the Big Ten. I'm able to play against the best of the best; no one else is able to. Once I have my opportunity to be like Naz, I feel like it will pay off in the long run. I'm excited to get to work, just to become a better basketball player."

While Hillmon will help make Sollom a better player in the long run, Sollom provides a challenge as well for the Michigan star.

"I give Naz grief for Whitney blocking her shot because she gets once or twice every practice," Barnes Arico said. "Whit can come out of anywhere and block anyone's shot."

Sollom made the first shot of her college career, grabbing a rebound and scoring on a putback against Central Michigan, on Nov. 25.

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Improve your research skills

By Kaila Kea
ZipRecruiter.com

Research skills are a valuable part of your professional toolkit. Employers want job applicants who are not just curious, but who possess the skills to systematically research the answers to questions.

An administrative assistant, for example, might be expected to conduct research about client needs to ensure that the company offers suitable services. A paralegal may be required to conduct research on old legal proceedings to aid lawyers in presenting a strong court case. In order to design equipment for safe everyday use, a mechanical engineer would conduct research on how people use machines. Across industries, researching is a highly useful skill.

We have compiled four tips to help you conduct better general research, strengthening your ability to present practical findings, formulate solutions and exceed your company's goals.

1. Define your research

Jot down a brief paragraph summarizing what you are researching. What is the question you are trying to answer? What will the research help you to accomplish? These questions will define the end of your research.

2. Make a plan

Now that you have identified the ends of the research you are conducting, you should identify the means. Make a plan for the project. Include a timeline, potential sources and deliverables.

Create the timeline to have a visual representation of when each item must be done. Make a note of potential sources to gain an idea of what people, places or publications you might consult to find the information you need. Deliverables are products of your research that you can present to your manager in intervals leading up to the deadline. If you are on track to conduct research for three weeks, you might

present one deliverable at the start of each week.

3. Know your sources

The more research you do, the more familiar you will be with the resources available to you.

Internet searches are frequently a good starting place for research. You can try a few different ways of formulating your query to see what gets you the best results. You should also familiarize yourself with authoritative websites and online databases or libraries related to your particular field. For some research you may need to

seek out physical resources from museums, libraries or other facilities.

People can also be valuable resources. Consult with colleagues, local researchers and industry specialists. Start by drafting a brief email to introduce yourself, explain the nature of your research, and ask if they would be willing to share their insights with you.

4. Check authority and expertise

A sound source is one that is reputable. This means that you can trust the information you find

there because it has been properly researched, vetted and verified. This is especially important for information you find on the internet. You should prioritize sites with .gov or .edu domain names. Be sure to consider the authority and expertise of all your sources.

When you conduct research for a report, project or presentation, you are becoming a source of information yourself. People will look to you as a knowledgeable conveyor of information. In improving your researching skills, you are empowering others to do the same.



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Community Announce

announcements, events...

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Whitney and Marilyn met at church when they were teens and have been in love ever since. They have resided in Plymouth for 56 years, still enjoying togetherness, family, sociability and tons of fun!

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\$10344 P14067 North Bros. 734-928-2108

17' HONDA PI7 LX 19K MI. \$13508
267316A North Bros. 734-928-2108

16' LEXUS HS 350 47K MI. \$12603
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16' SUBARU WRX AWD 12K MI.
\$27877 2674241B North Bros. 734-928-2108

SUVs

17' EXPLORER XLT 4WD 51K MI.
\$25248 P14013A North Bros. 734-928-2108

SUVs

18' FORD ESCAPE SE 27K MI.
\$14900 20C2192A North Bros. 734-928-2108

17' FORD ESCAPE SE 4WD 17K MI.
\$18900 P14020 North Bros. 734-928-2108

17' FORD ESCAPE SE 4WD 31K MI.
\$17088 P14062 North Bros. 734-928-2108

17' JEEP WRANGLER SAHARA 74K MI. \$26788 P14050 North Bros. 734-928-2108

18' NIS. ROGUE SL AWD 27K MI.
\$17113 2674337B North Bros. 734-928-2108

17' FORD F150 XLT 40K \$31240
P14076 North Bros. 734-928-2108

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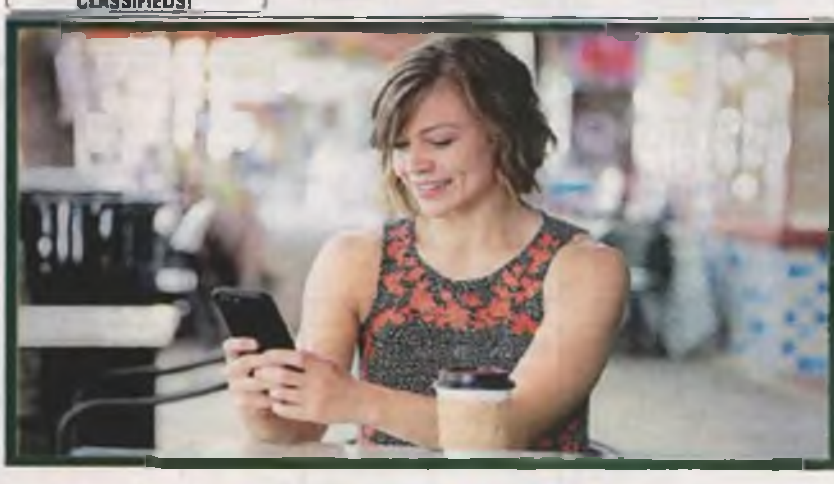
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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

GROUP DYNAMICS
ACROSS

- 1 Actress Seyfried
7 Buffets, e.g.
12 More dismal
20 Kind of tire or saw
21 Kate's TV housemate
22 Back wheel pin
23 "Sunshine of Your Love" band sitting in for another band?
25 Satellite dish precursors
26 In the know
27 Onassis' nickname
28 Condition of the "Dust in the Wind" band?
30 "Rocket Man" singer John
33 Qualified
36 Permit
37 Despite that
38 Plea to hear a song from the "New World Man" band?
41 Tiny setback
46 Lind
47 "A Horse With No Name" band doing a webcast?

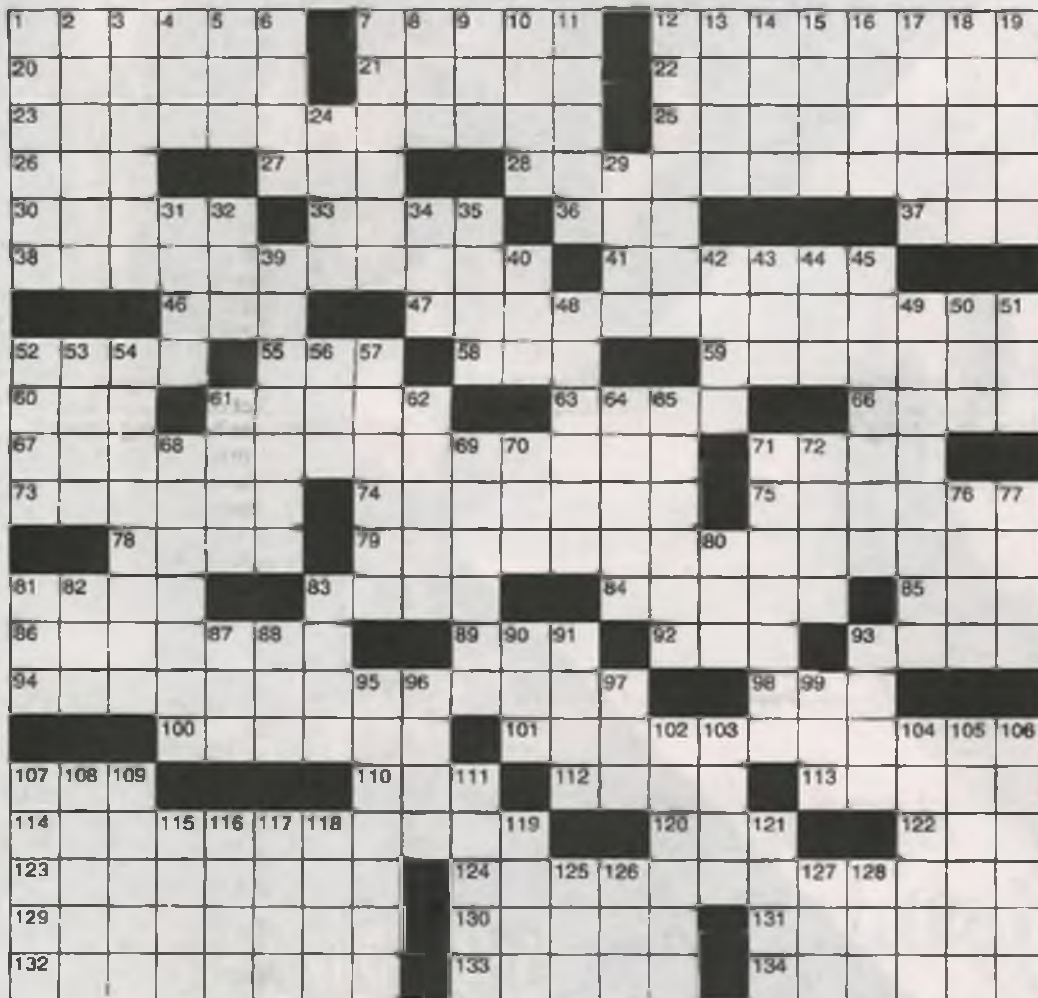
- 52 Crib sleeper
55 Prefix with life or west
58 Quarterback Manning
59 Kind of clam
60 Tooth
61 Kate's TV housemate
62 Composer Franz — Haydn
63 Wide receiver
66 Urban haze
67 "More Than a Feeling" band performing for 24 hours straight?
71 "Woe — you!"
73 Ancient
74 Puts back on, as weight
75 Christie's Hercule
78 Grass houses
79 Maestro directing the "Drops of Jupiter" band?
81 Recipe directive
83 Small, agile deer
84 Fake fat brand
85 Year, in Brazil
86 "The" or "an"

- 89 Prefix with realist
92 Summer hrs. in D.C.
93 Infamous "Impaler"
94 "Beth" band's last utterance at the end of a concert?
98 Greek letter
100 Kleenex sheet
101 "These Dreams" band's musical beat?
107 Recipe directive
110 Hosp. areas
112 Nagging pain
113 British sort
114 "If You Leave Me Now" band playing the same tune over and over?
120 Granola tidbit
122 Slip up
123 "Be well!"
124 Smoke generator used by the "Make It With You" band?
129 Scrooge's first name
130 Lofty nest
131 Hardy's bud
132 High anxiety
133 Salon tinters

DOWN

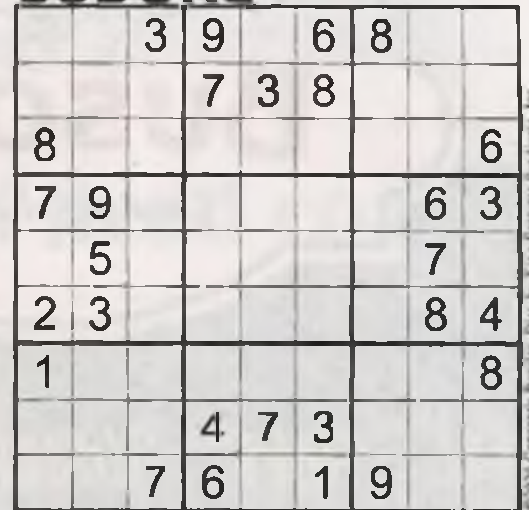
- 1 Bow wielder
2 "Taxi" actress Henner
3 Very skilled people
4 Long of "House of Lies"
5 Flow checker
6 — Romeo
7 Beach city near L.A.
8 Building wing
9 With 52-Down, he said "Open, sesame!"
10 Connect
11 "The Goldbergs" actor George
12 Extreme
13 Soap actress
14 Chows down
15 God of war
16 Angry talk
17 "No way!" slangily
18 Overjoy
19 Put back to the default
24 Neighbor of Saudi Arabia
29 Classic soft drink brand
31 "Yowza!"
32 Gun rights gp.

- 34 Meadow
35 J.D. Salinger title girl
38 "Drums Along the Mohawk" novelist Walter D. —
40 — Aviv
42 "Mama" Elliot
43 Folding bed
44 French "a"
45 Malleable
48 Having a lot of, as a nutrient
49 Undying
50 Prefix with realist
51 Unit of work
52 See 9-Down
53 As sick as —
54 Batters' successes
56 Belief suffix
57 Cherished by
61 Abrupt shock
62 "— Jacques"
64 Veg-o-Matic company
65 Boot part
68 Sightseer
69 Tennis' Andre
70 Mai —
71 Revision issuer
72 Verb go-with
76 Actress Chaplin
77 Stomped (on)
80 Toon
81 Hefty's Cinch —
82 Bi- plus one
83 Classic autos
87 Film special FX
88 — Alamos
90 "Disgusting!"
91 Zeus' mother
93 "— con Dios" ("Go with God")
95 Hamilton and Burr, notably
96 Roman tyrant
97 Tic- — toe
99 "Know — enemy"
102 — Scholar
103 Athletic group
104 Belonging to them
105 Kind of wasp
106 Edible mushrooms
107 Wasn't idle
108 Abu —
109 Flood barriers
111 In the worst way, informally
115 Euro tractor
116 Laptop brand
117 Stare intently
118 Tram loads
119 Hunted beast
121 Soft mineral
125 Afore
126 Atmosphere
127 "Wheels"
128 Color grade



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

SUDOKU



Difficulty Level ★★

12/24

Here's How It Works

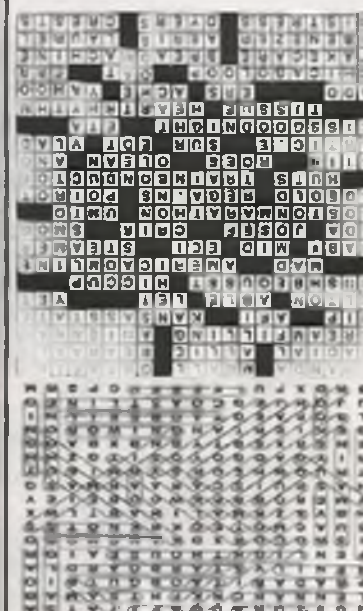
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues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

ALL AT SEA

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backward or forward, up or down, even diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

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

ABOARD
AFT
AHOY
ANCHOR
BAY
BEACH
BERTH
BUOY
CABIN
CHANNEL
COASTLINE
COMPASS
DECK
DINGHY
DIVING
DOCKS
EMBARK
FATHOMS
FISH
HARBOR
HORIZON
JETTY
KNOTS
LIFEBOAT
LIGHTHOUSE
LINER
MAST
OAR
PORT
QUAY
RADAR
ROPES
ROWING
SAILORS
SCHOONER
SHARKS
STARBOARD
SUBMARINE
SWIMMING
TRAWLER
TUGBOAT
VESSEL
VOYAGE
WAVES



ALL AT SEA

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

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DEXTER | FARMINGTON HILLS | LIVONIA | NOVI | PINCKNEY | PLYMOUTH/NORTHVILLE
ROCHESTER HILLS | SALINE | SOUTH LYON | TECUMSEH | WEST BLOOMFIELD