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THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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SPORTS, 1B

Hundreds of students left districts in pandemic

Susan Bromley

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

Student enrollment has decreased dramatically in some local districts due to the pandemic, while barely impacting others.

In Novi, less than 100 students are gone from the previous year.

But both Huron Valley and South

Lyon have been decimated, with the two districts combined losing more than 1,100 students. If those students do not return this fall, their absence will equate to millions of dollars of lost funding.

"We lost 600 students and we attribute that to COVID-19," Huron Valley Superintendent Paul Salah said. "Just off the top, 210 are families that said, 'We are not interested in dealing with COVID-19 and the potential transmission with face-to-face' and they chose to homeschool. We also saw a number who chose to move out of state since they now have the option of working from home, and about 70 went to private schools.

South Lyon Superintendent Steve Archibald said his district is down 525 students. A committee is looking into where those students went. Archibald noted some is natural turnover, but most are likely related to the pandemic.

"A large portion was driven by us starting fully remote and folks pursued other options at that point," he said. "I think we have a large number who chose to homeschool, or are attending school of choice, parochial or an online option other than what South Lyon provided."

Huron Valley and Novi were two of

See STUDENTS, Page 4A

Officials use fire to destroy invasive plants at county parks



End could be near in Northville **Schools** board race

Ed Wright

Hometownlife con **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN**

One of the longest, most bizarre

Using a drip torch loaded with gasoline, Kelly Babowicz lights a fire along the edge of a forest at Lyon Oaks County Park on March 30. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE COM

Susan Vela

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The prescribed fire that happened March 30 at Lyon Oaks County Park scorched approximately 50 acres.

The Lyon Township park hasn't re-

ceived such burning attention in a few years.

The whole goal behind routine prescribed fires is to promote the growth of native species and control invasive ones, said Sarah Cook-Maylen, Oakland County's natural resources coordinator. Contractor David Borneman and his

Ann Arbor-based ecological restoration company managed the burn.

Wildlife species benefiting from prescribed fires include Eastern bluebirds, the American woodcock and ·Sandhill cranes.

See FIRE, Page 3A

Police turn to social workers for help as mental health calls climb

Susan Vela and Shelby Tankersley

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

The pandemic's toll of death, grief and isolation means more mental health crises and more leaning on police for help, even though those officers are not necessarily the most qualified to manage the mental aspects.

The predicament of having to navigate an upended mental state for the sake of safety can be scary for even the best police officers.

Novi Officer Samantha Grockau remembers a call in which she encountered a teen who ran away from home. He wanted to harm himself.

"I said to him, 'Tell me what happened, tell me what's going on,' and he

said a lot of it had to do with everything that's happened in the last year," she said. "It's all over the board on how

Mental health issues like substance abuse and attempts at self harm can have a deep, lasting effect on police officers as well.

See CALLS, Page 3A

it's affecting people."

school board races in recent memory appears to be on the path to closure five months after ballots were initially counted in November.

Kimberly Campbell-Voytal has been notified by Wayne County's 3rd Circuit Court that Chief Judge Timothy Kenny will review the lawsuit she filed on Jan. 14 against the Wayne County Board of Canvassers and James Mazurek on Friday, April 9 - nine weeks after the original deadline was set by the court.

Campbell-Voytal and Mazurek tied for fourth with 7,856 votes apiece in their quest to secure the final board seat, igniting a sequence of legal proceedings that included recounts and a drawing of sheets of paper out of a hat (Mazurek drew the paper with "elected" written on it).

In December, the Wayne County Board of Canvassers refused to name a winner in the race and suggested to Campbell-Voytal that she seek a resolution through the legal system. Mazurek has been serving on the board since Jan. 1.

"I'm doing the right thing, not necessarily the easiest thing," Campbell-Voytal said of her ongoing battle to exmaust all legal options to gain a seat on the school board. "I owe it to the residents who voted for me to follow this through to the end.

"Basically, the board of canvassers said that they couldn't bring closure to this and that I needed to take it to court, which is what I've done. I never imagined it would take this long, but with COVID the court system has been overloaded and there have been some unforeseen delays.

Campbell-Voytal said she has watched every Northville Board of Education virtual meeting that has been held since the election.

"I receive the packet from the district every week so I can prepare and keep in touch with the decisions and

See RACE, Page 4A

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2A | THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021 | O&EMEDIA (NR)

766 shots in South Lyon arms thanks to volunteers

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Want a COVID-19 vaccination? Get some volunteers together and get the iob done

Over the course of three days, 766 South Lyon area residents were immunized against COVID-19 thanks to six nurses and 65 volunteers.

"It doesn't get any better for people than to do this where they live," said Steve Kennedy, a South Lyon resident and city councilman. "It was wonderful, a well-oiled machine, professional, people weren't standing around waiting and the best part is, they got the vaccine.'

It all began with a simple phone call by Kennedy to Ready Nursing Solutions, a nursing staffing agency that had vaccinated residents of Abbey Park.

Kennedy wanted to know if nurses from the agency's subsidiary, Get Ready Vaccine, contracted by the Oakland County Health Division, could do the same for residents of Colonial Acres, a 55-and-over condominium community.

A representative came out, looked at the facility's clubhouse, and, he recalled, said, "Three days. You run it ar.d organize it, and we will pass out shots."

What followed was a fast mobilization and well-organized effort with officials and community residents banding together to get the year's hottest commodity, a COVID-19 vaccine to beat back a pandemic that has dragged on for a year.

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Nursing staff from Get Ready Vaccine, from left: Vergenea Smith, LaChristia Hines, Kenya Meriedy, Lillie Smith, Keasheawn Baker, Derrielle Robinson, and Darlene Seals. Get Ready Vaccine delivered COVID-19 immunizations to 766 South Lyon area residents at the Colonial Acres clubhouse from March 23-25, with the assistance of 65 volunteers from the community. PROVIDED BY STEVE KENNEDY

The volunteers printed and distributed fliers throughout Colonial Acres and within days were staffing and scheduling appointments for 8- and 10hour days on March 23, 24, and 25.

"We didn't post it on Facebook because it wasn't going to be Ford Field we had a limited number of slots," Kennedy said. "We exceeded it by 100 to make sure no dose was unused and at the end of each day, those bottles were empty. All of the volunteers we had really made it work.'

One of those beneficiaries was Denise Marie, a 63-year-old resident of Colonial Acres who has been looking for a COVID-19 vaccine for two months.

"I am so excited to get this vaccine," said Marie, who has a heart condition and high blood pressure. "I'm ecstatic, now I can hug my Mom and my kids and my nieces and nephews that I haven't been able to see."

Marie was the final person to receive a vaccine at the three-day event and had also volunteered everyday, wiping down tables and chairs for the patients who came before her, like Jamie Gilbert.

The 53-year-old South Lyon resident visit to the city.

was surprised and happy to have the opportunity to get the vaccine.

"It gives a little bit of peace of mind, but the real peace of mind comes when everyone, not just myself, gets vaccinated," Gilbert said. "It was nice to be around the medical community that doesn't care about race, ethnicity, gender or political affiliation, they just want to help. It's not about me, it's about humanity, and that still has a long way to go where we are out of this pandemic."

LaChristia Hines, clinical nurse vaccine coordinator for Get Ready Vaccines, said she and her staff have been allocated vaccines from the Oakland County Health Division to distribute to the county's homebound residents, as well as those in assisted living and retirement communities, many who are often not computer savvy and may otherwise not have access.

They were very happy to distribute Johnson & Johnson's one-dose vaccine in South Lyon and Hines praised the grassroots efforts of Kennedy and his cohorts, as well as the welcome she and her nursing staff received in her first

"We were very happy we could help out, we were simply the helpers he coordinated to the hilt," Hines said. "We don't mind doing the legwork, but to have so many helpful volunteers in South Lyon, who were very gracious and humble and accepting of us, it was awesome. The sooner we can get people vaccinated and reach herd immunity, will be better. Please take a vaccination, we don't care whether it's Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson."

Ready Nursing Solutions/Get Ready Vaccine is ready to accept more volunteer efforts and to give more vaccines. Hines encourages applications on their website. Target groups for the vaccinations remains homebound and elderly.

"There is a waiting list, but we're working through it rather quickly," Hines said.

Without volunteers, the South Lyon vaccination event would never have happened. Kennedy said some of those who received their shots were so overwhelmed with gratitude they were moved to tears

"We had people in their late 70s and early 80s and they couldn't get their shot," he said. "It just makes you feel good to help these folks get what they needed. I hope it slows the number of cases.'

As of March 30, nearly 70% of Oakland County seniors 65 and older have been immunized against COVID-19. Countywide, 35% of the 1 million residents who are eligible to receive the vaccine are either fully vaccinated or have received their first dose. Statewide, roughly 2.7 million residents have been vaccinated.

On April 5, eligibility for vaccinations will be open to all of the nearly 8.1 million residents of the state who are 16 and older and not a moment too soon. As of March 31, Michigan has the highest number of COVID-19 cases per capita in the country.

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

South Lyon Schools offers free COVID-19 testing

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

community is welcome to get tested.

"We thought this was a good service to offer to the community to try and re-South Lyon Schools officials are duce the number of positive individuals taking a pre-emptive strike against a who might be reintroduced into the possible COVID-19 spike from spring school population next week," Archi-

From March 29 to April 5, the South Lyon district recorded 16 COVID-19 positive cases that are school-associated with 212 quarantines resulting.

The high number of COVID-19 cases and resulting quarantines in the district

Sunday 7:30 a m to noon Afterhours, leave voicemail Email: cserv@dnps.com

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break.

Free COVID-19 testing will be offered noon to 7 p.m. Sunday, April 11, in a drive-thru format in the South Lyon High School parking lot, 1000 N. Lafayette St. Enter off 11 Mile Road.

The tests are aimed at diagnosing possible cases in students and their family members, but Superintendent Steve Archibald said anyone in the

CITY OF NORTHVILLE PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

Notice is hereby given that the City of Northville Election Commission will meet on April 13, 2021 at 8:15 a.m., to conduct business related to the May 4, 2021 Special Election. The Public Accuracy Test for the May 4, 2021 Special Election will be conducted as part of this meeting. The public accuracy test is conducted to demonstrate that the computer program used to record and count the votes cast at the election meets the requirements of Election law.

This meeting will be held at the City of Northville Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 215 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, (248) 349-1300. Interested persons are invited to attend.

> DIANNE MASSA, CMC, CITY CLERK **ELECTION COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON**

Publish, April 8, 2021

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE ELECTION **TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY MAY 4, 2021 NOVI TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN**

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF NOVI TOWNSHIP

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of Novi Township who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the Township Clerk, the office of the County Clerk, a Secretary of State branch office, or any other designated state agency. Registration forms can be obtained at mi.gov/vote and mailed to the Township Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at www.expressSOS.com

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk is Monday, April 22, 2021.

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168,497) at the Novi Township Clerk's office, located at 44114 Wyngate Dr, Northville, MI 48167, at the following times:

- Saturday, May 1, 2021 from 8 am to noon and Sunday May 2, 2021 from 1 pm to 5 pm.
- Election Day, Tuesday, May 4th from 7 am to 8 pm
- By appointment on regular business days, 9 am to 4 pm

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Northville School district will be voting on the following millage proposal as presented and listed below:

NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Northville Public Schools proposal will allow the district to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance and renews millage that will expire with the 2021 tax levy. For a period of 5 years, if approved and 18 mills are levied in 2022, is approximately \$10,000,044.

Full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained at the Novi Township Clerk's office, 44114 Wyngate Dr, Northville, MI 48167, telephone 248-404-7529. A sample ballot may be viewed at mi.gov/vote

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations should contact the clerk's office.

Janeen Crittenden Novi Township Clerk

Publish: April 8, 2021

bald said.

Honu Management Group will administer the rapid COVID-19 tests with results available in 15 minutes. The group is working in partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and Archibald notes similar opportunities were offered in other area school districts like Livonia, which was off for spring break last week.

Archibald said he has been told the rapid test accuracy is about 95 percent or better. Anyone testing positive on the rapid test will be given a PCR test, which is considered the most reliable test for COVID-19.

The quarantine period for those testing positive for COVID-19 is 10 days.

COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have been on the rise statewide. On Saturday, Michigan tallied more than 8,400 COVID-19 cases, the third highest single-day total since December.

prior to this past week contributed to a bus driver shortage in South Lyon which canceled busing for high school students.

Archibald expects bus service to resume for all students following spring break.

"This is one of a lot of simple things we can do in terms of mitigation strategies to continue with school and keep schools open," Archibald said of the testing. "This is one thing folks can take advantage of and help themselves as well as the overall good of the district."

Pre-registration for a test will help administrators prepare and speed up the testing process.

Register for test at a honumg.info/SLyonHS.

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

Weekend repair work on I-275 planned through April

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK -MICHIGAN

Those traveling the next few weekends might want to avoid Interstate 275 between Five Mile and 10 Mile roads.

ment of Transportation in the the process of resealing pavement joints on the stretch April 3 and 4. Affected communities include Livonia, Farmington Hills and Novi. Workers will be present 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

NOVI TOWNSHIP PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

A public accuracy test of voting equipment will be held April 17th, 2021 at 9 am at 44114 Wyngate Dr. The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the program and computer that will be used to tabulate the results of the election counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

> Janeen Crittenden, Novi Twp. Clerk

Publish April 8, 2021

The Michigan Depart- weather permitting, leaving at least one lane open for drivers at all times. However, some on and off ramps may be temporarily closed or blocked as workers move across the interstate.

The resealing is part of a warranty from work done in 2016 and will only take place on weekends through April. MDOT expects the project to be completed this month.

This work is not part of MDOT's 4-year, \$270 million project on the interstate slated to begin this summer at Six Mile Road. According to MDOT, the two projects will not overlap.

Fire

Continued from Page 1A

Phragmites, a perennial reed grass thriving along many metro Detroit thoroughfares, is considered one of Oakland County's invasive species.

Cook-Maylen said the county's prescribed fires are scheduled to happen until about mid-May and should renew about 1,000 park acres during that time.

Burns that already happened this year were at Highland Oaks and Orion Oaks.

About 100 acres burned at Highland Oaks in Highland Township, which was more than usual since no prescribed fires were allowed last year because of the pandemic. The county continues to catch up on the restorative work.

Several Oakland County parks scheduled for 2021 burns are Addison Oaks, Groveland Oaks, Independence Oaks, Rose Oaks, Springfield Oaks and Waterford Oaks.

Cook-Maylen could not provide dates for the burns since factors like weather and ground conditions have to be right.

Oakland County typically alerts local firefighters, government officials and nearby residents about the park fires.

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



A member of the Restoring Nature with Fire crew walks through a field of grasses at Lyon Oaks County Park during a prescribed burn on March 30. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE COM

Calls

Continued from Page 1A

"I've dealt with my fair share of calls that have gone well and ones that have gone very badly," Grockau said. "I'd be able to speak for any cop when I say if it goes bad, it's going to affect you in every single way that it can.

"Even when it goes well, your adrenaline still goes through the roof."

The pandemic and everything it brought with it highlights the growing need for police to do more than just recognize when mental health issues are the underlying problem.

Many officers concur with the critics: At the end of the day, they're not mental health professionals. But as Novi Police Chief David Molloy said, people call police when "things are falling apart."

"We do the best we can with the tools that we have, but we're not (mental health) professionals. We're just not," Livonia Police Chief Curtis Caid said.

Calls up across the board

Police from Hometown Life area communities reported a nearly 30% increase in mental health runs in a month-to-month comparison of January 2020 and January 2021.

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Novi Police officer Samantha Grockau has been doing what she can during the pandemic to understand how mental health issues affect the citizens she works with in the community. Grockau has also been working with department management to create a peer support group for fellow officers. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM across people who are going through a crisis. They're suicidal. They're abusing narcotics, and they're not getting the assistance.

"This kind of program is kind of like a net. It's a bridge. In law enforcement, we're the ones in contact with the people on the street. We're problem solvers and we're obligated to provide people with assistance to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community."

Kjar said she started working with Walled Lake, Clawson and Auburn Hills police to discuss similar partnerships that might help their communities. She'd like to eventually work with all of Oakland County's law enforcement agencies.

Other agencies, like Hegira, offer mental health treatment for police officers and other first responders to work through the trauma they encounter at work.

"Police have historically had a stigmatizing view of receiving help," White said. "There's a fear of, 'You're going to take my gun away, my badge away, pull me off the road.' It's very closely tied to their ability to do their work and to their identity."

In Novi, Grockau is working with administrators to create a peer support group for staff that can connect officers with resources should they need them.

"Just like how we help civilians with resources, we need resources too," she said.

Challenges still exist

Distinguished Dulis of SML holes 1

Police officials were quick to point out the number of runs needing some sort of mental health strategy is actually higher than the approximately 220 counted this most recent January. Other types of runs — deaths by suicide, attempted suicides, and ones involving paranoia and hallucination — also imply calls for mental health assistance.

South Lyon Sgt. Chris Faught said police in the small community responded to 17 calls in January that included someone suspected of mental health issues. That compares to 10 in January 2020.

While police receive training for such matters, some experts say more training and awareness is needed to minimize criticism over police conduct.

"It really needs to be a partnership and a coordination of community resources ... Officers aren't mental health professionals and they have their own job to do," Jaime White, director of clinical development at Hegira Health, said. "It's about knowing when that handoff is necessary. We both have different things to offer."

Wayne police recently received mental health first aid training, which teaches them how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness and substance abuse disorders.

Northville Township police completed the International Association of Chiefs of Police One Mind campaign, which aims to unite communities, public safety agencies and mental health organizations so they become "of one mind." It also promotes mental health first aid training.

Similarly, police in Novi are required to undergo annual training on intervention and de-escalation, and Molloy said many of his officers seek further training on their own.

There are more intense endeavors happening.

Bring in the professionals

Among Hometown Life communities, Livonia had the highest number of mental health runs for January. In early March, its city council agreed to partner with the Livonia-based Hegira Health to embed two social workers in the department.

"I am so excited we're trying this program out with social workers who will actually be responding from our police department," Sgt, Stacy Hayne, who oversees the department's office of professional standards, said.

A larger community, Livonia will pay \$190,000 annually for the crisis support team. The department plans to add one social worker in April and, if all goes well, add another a few months later.

Canton police recently completed a bid process and were approved to embed one social worker in that department, which Police Chief Chad Baugh said he's been working on for over two years.

"A social worker in our department, as we see it, will not only be able to help in the moment but also help navigate the day after and the week after," Baugh said.

Theses programs are moves other departments can't fathom because of their comparative lack of funds. And so they rely on groups like Hegira, Common Ground and other mental health endeavors.

Connecting people with resources

Elizabeth Kjar, Common Ground's project director, noted that responding to mental health crises takes up a lot of time and resources and aren't what police are most qualified to do.

Common Ground received a \$1 million grant last May to help Oakland County hospitals, emergency rooms and law enforcement agencies address mental health issues in a long-term fashion.

Around the start of the year, Common Ground officially began a program with the White Lake Township Police Department, resulting in about 50 people agreeing so far to rely on Common Ground's referrals for various types of assistance, which includes suicide prevention.

Both Kjar and White Lake Police Sgt. Jeff Way said the program works to prevent frequent police runs to the same residences for the same basic reasons.

Arriving officers are screened for mental health problems by asking five basic questions that help determine whether a person has received mental health assistance, is suicidal or wants to be dead, or is experiencing interrupted or controlled thoughts or suicidal thinking.

They may call for Common Ground's crisis mobilization team. Or they may want to know if a seemingly troubled person would like a call from Common Ground, which aims to make contact within 24 hours.

Police officers stay in contact with Common Ground. They also continue to check on those agreeable to Common Ground's approach.

"They go out of their way, above and beyond," Kjar said of White Lake police. "They're doing things that perhaps other police officers maybe have not done in the past. They've going back to visit them just to make sure they're OK. There's a great amount of kindness and empathy that seems to be happening. It's real admirable."

Way said he's heard from other police administrators that such a program is long overdue, Kjar is of the mind that such endeavors could decrease complaints about police conduct.

"The program really kind of filled a big gap," Way said. "There's all this middle ground where we come Birmingham Police Chief Mark Clemence hopes to propose a partnership with Auburn Hills and Bloomfield Township police later this year that would create a mental health co-responder program with a fulltime county social worker working exclusively for those communities.

That kind of program still seems far-fetched for Farmington because of the time and money required, Public Safety Director Ted Warthman said.

"I don't think it's going to be feasible without some type of funding to bring a social worker on," he said. "If we have one here from 8 (a.m.) to 4 (p.m.), guess when our incident is going to happen: at 11 o'clock at night or 3 in the morning.

"So you really need to have them on call or on staff 24-7. I think it would be great but again funding and availability 24-7 to get one to the scene would be the biggest challenge."

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela. Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby_tankk.



4A | THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021 | O& EMEDIA (NR)

Race

Continued from Page 1A

dilemmas the board faces each week," she said. "This level of engagement is one thing that has helped me cope with the delay on the court's decision.

"To be frank, I feel the school district as a whole has done a pretty good job of making decisions to keep the students safe during the pandemic. The decisions the board has made have been well-researched, although I could have been an authoritative source on the board given my background."

Campbell-Voytal, a registered nurse, worked as a director of public health for Wayne State University before her recent retirement.

Campbell-Voytal said she is unaware of the details for the April 9 review by Kenny.

"From what I understand, he could make a ruling that day that will end this, or he could rule on the next step, which could include a redraw," Campbell-Voytal said. "Regardless of the final outcome, I'll know I did my due diligence for the people who voted for me."

Campbell-Voytal said her legal expenses during the ongoing battle have come out of her own pocket and from



Kimberly Campbell-Voytal talks about waiting for the Wayne County 3rd Circuit Court's final decision on her potentially winning a spot on the Northville Board of Education. Campbell-Voytal was at outside the Northville Board of Education offices on Main Street on March 31. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

supporters who have offered donations to help offset some of the legal costs.

"No matter how much effort I've had to put toward this, I know I've done the right thing."

Campbell-Voytal said she would consider running for the school board again during the next election, regardless of what Kenny rules in the coming. days.

Michigan law dictates that the "loser" of random draws that the two tied candidates held in December is entitled to request a recount, which Campbell-Voytal did. The three-day recount was granted on Dec. 7 and took place Dec. 10-12, revealing that each candidate gained five additional votes with seven "challenged" ballots.

On Dec. 16, each candidate picked up one more vote after a review of the challenged ballots, leaving the race tied at 7,861 votes each.

Six days later, after securing candidate-written briefs and discussing the scenario amongst themselves, the board of canvassers' motion to determine who was elected failed after the four canvassers' (two Democrats, two Republicans) vote on the motion resulted in a 2-2 tie.

On Dec. 31, while expressing doubts as to whether Mazurek was the "final certified member-elect," the Northville Public Schools school board accepted his election certificate and seated him on the board.

Campbell-Voytal's ensuing request to the Michigan Attorney General's Office to bring a quo warranto action to remedy the denial of her right to a second tie-breaking procedure — a process required by MCL 5 168.851 and 168.3852, the lawsuit states — was declined.

Campbell-Voytal is seeking a second tie-breaking random draw and a monetary award for legal costs and damages.

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

Students

Continued from Page 1A

the only public districts in the county who started school in the fall offering a hybrid plan of 2-days in-person per week, in addition to a virtual option offered by nearly all districts in the county.

Salah said the loss of students whose families chose to withdraw them from the district in favor of homeschooling was a "headscratcher" at first, considering that Huron Valley was offering a virtual academy using the district's own certified teachers to instruct kids.

However, he believes some families may have found homeschooling more convenient, rather than the regimented schedule of a virtual academy that has students receiving live instruction at specific times.

Return of students vital for funding

Novi Superintendent Steve Matthews said the district, which returned to five days in-person instruction early last month, has seen an enrollment decrease of 103 students, but 30 of those are private school students to whom Novi provided a teacher in a "sharedtime" format and was reimbursed.

In all, Matthews estimates Novi, which has a per-pupil foundation allowance of \$8,800 per student, will lose \$800,000 in funding from the decrease of 100 students.

"It's not insignificant, but what helped this year was a small amount of federal money (COVID-related assistance for districts)," he said. "We got \$100,000 in first round, and in the second round, \$400,000, and in the third round, we get \$1.2 million. Some of that helps make up a little bit of the difference."

A "blended count" approved by the state legislature, in which districts are allowed to base 75% of their budget on last year's enrollment numbers and 25% on this year's count, will save Huron Valley and South Lyon from staggering funding losses this year.

"We were largely held harmless," Salah said.

Huron Valley aims to get back between 250-300 of the lost students, some of whom protested remote learning, this coming fall. Another 200 were anticipated pre-pandemic as a permanent loss due to declining birth rates.

If the students lost to homeschooling or private schools do not return, the district stands to endure a staggering \$5 million decrease in state funding.

Salah is feeling upbeat, however, as the district launches a \$50,000 marketing campaign with ads in print, television, and billboards.

South Lyon went to 4-days in-person instruction last month, but recently canceled bus service for high schoolers due to a shortage of drivers, caused in part by COVID-19 quarantines.

Archibald remains optimistic and is working on surveys to send to families asking about their plans for this fall. He has also already spoken with some families who left and are anxious to come back to in-person education in the district next fall.

"We look forward to getting them back," Archibald said. "If they aren't planning to return or are unsure, we will ask what additional information or questions they have so we can follow up to assist them with their decision and hopefully bring them back home."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10. ٦

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The Michigan Elder Law Reporter[™]

APRIL 2021

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VOLUME 31, ISSUE 4.1

HISTORY IS WRITTEN BY THE WINNERS

TELL YOUR STORY, DO NOT LET THE LOSERS REWRITE YOUR HISTORY!

My GRANDFATHER SOLD LIQUOR FROM A PUSHCARL UNTIL HE MET MY GRANDMOTHER

Early 1900's. Alphonse, my grandfather, was apprenticed to a nushcart wine and liquor vendor. Soon he owned the pushcart. Alphonse prospered Bought a horse and

wagon. Things kept getting better and better. Then he noticed Laura.

Laura and her sister Rose were dressmakers, selling from their own shop. Every Sunday, the sisters wore the latest Parisian fashions to church. Every Monday, ladies lined up outside their shop for those fashions. Things kept getting better and better. Then Alphonse came along

Alphonse inquired whether Laura and Rose would enjoy a bottle of wine. Laura said no. Rose said yes. Eventually Laura allowed Alphonse to take her to dinner. And the vaudeville show, But there she drew the line. She was not interested in any street vendor peddling alcoholic beverages. Yes, the wagon was very fine. The horse was handsome (Laura was raised on a large farm). But his enterprise, prosperity, and interest were irrelevant. No street vendors. And with Prohibition on the horizon

One day, Alphonse asked Laura to dinner. He told her he had a surprise for her. She told him he could keep his surprise to himself, but dinner would be alright. Alphonse announced that he had sold his liquor business. He was now the proud owner of a wet-wash laundry that occupied an entire city block.



In the teens and

After washing, the clean (but damp) clothes were rete aed. Folks then hung out their clean clothes to line dry. Impressed, Laura accepted Alphonse. Their

family grew and prospered. Alphonse was anused (and a bit offended) when the church building committee asked them only to donate a bench to the new church. Laura insisted on both a church pew and a stained-

glass window. Their six children include 3 lovely, vivacious aunts, my Uncle Al, an authentic naval war hero in WWII. Korea and Viet Nam, and

my dad, a Navy photographer's mate, too young to make it overseas. Their life of faith and family are an inspiration to my dad's eight children and to dozens of cousins, nieces and nephews. And things kept getting better and better.

YOU MUST TELL YOUR STORY!

Turn on the TV, pick up a newspaper, look at the internet, listen to younger folks. Hard to recognize the America where we grew up. Seems as though everything terrible, awful, no good and very bad came from America and is worst in America. Your fellow Americans are "disgusted" with you-Shrieking outrage coupled with patronizing irony. Volcanic passion equaled only by stupefying

ignorance. Your sneech is criminal violence. Their violence is protected speech. How did that happen?

Decadent decline happens when we fail to proudly pass on our history. Right, America is not perfect. But it is more perfect than any other system. human beings have attempted over the millennia. American civic virtues are modeled throughout the world. Always without attribution, of course.

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children

United States where men were free."

families. Remembering where we came from. Who we are... and why. It is your responsibility, and mine, to tell the next generations. If we shirk this duty, others will happily fill the void with selfserving lie upon lie. Speak up!

Fortunately, it is easier now than ever to make the record. You have a cell phone. It has a movie camera. Turn it on and talk. Let them know

Many folks seek out their roots through genealogy websites and services. When your children and grandchildren do the same, they will have your personal record.

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PUT US TO THE TEST...

As Ronald Reagan said:

in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected and handed

years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the

on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset

Reagan's fight for the future begins in our

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happens when the money is gone? Worried that your

loved one has a one-way ticket to the nursing home

if "something" happens to you? Wanting a lifetime

solution? Wishing to fix it? Waiting .-- waiting for

Now is the time. The door is open. There is no free

lunch, you paid for this. You do not have to go

IF YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT I AM TALKING

You faithful readers are probably bored hearing

about PACE all over again. I apologize! But there

are new readers with no idea what the heck PACE is.

Sorry! So, without boring the regulars too much, if

broke. You can make it better.

- C. ELECTRONIC METRONOME Mick. Tick. Tick... Kather annoying actually....
- YOU BE THE JUDGE! D. SLEEPYTIME[®] HERBAL TEA 1201 BIQIN MAT
- N. 11 #4 PUT US TO THE "PEACE OF MIND/GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP" TEST!
- (Yes, these are all the genuine article: the real McCoy! Accept No Substitutes!)
- A. We will get right to work, drafting your LifePlan™
- documents. You receive your review LifePlan™ (usually email, but paper if you like). Let's go over them together. Everything just right! B. In the meantime, carefully note how your sleep
- is improved by your choice of pillow, white noise or tea. (Forget about that metronome.... it is annoving.)
- At one of our comfortable, homelike offices, or such other place as may be convenient, you create your LifePlan^{1M} by signing a truly impressive array of documents.
- D. Calming waves of relief and security wash over you and your family.
- E. Now compare! I GUARANTEE:
- a. You will enjoy peaceful sleep unlike any other ever before! I hope. b. Your LifePlan[™] Peace of Mind will beat the MyPillow¹, white noise machine, metronome or
 - Sleepytime* tea, hands down! For sure! c. You will feel like a new person under the calm invigoration of your LifePlan^{TMI}
- d Your friends will accuse you of plastic surgery as deep lines of worry and anxiety fade quickly away! Wow!

If your LifePlan[™] does not "knit up the ravelled sleeve of care" (as Shakespeare said), select a different nem Maybe that will do the trick! Verily!





OOPS, THEY DID IT AGAIN! YOUR TEMPORARY OPPORTUNITY FOR FREE AT HOME CARE **EMERGENCY P.A.C.E. RULES EFFECTIVE "UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE"**

APRIL 1ST CUT-OFF RESCINDED!

FREE AT HOME CARE FOR MIDDLE CLASS TAXPAYERS

you don't know what all the fuss is about, go get last week's paper. Lots of detail.

> Old hat to the peanut gallery, but new to you. Go check it out!

TOO MUCH TO EXPLAIN AGAIN, LET ME SUM UP: YOU NEED HELP, CARE IS TOO DAMN EXPENSIVE! Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) is the answer.

You or your loved one is safe at home, with family support. But you need care. Maybe not a lot, but more than a little. Just enough to keep you at home That is where PACE comes in. . . .

Compared to traditional, institutional care, PACE is a bargain. Much less expense. Meeting the need. Not so expensive. For the government_PACE is free to you

Eligibility expanded for thousands more families. Keep your life savings, cottage, farm, rental properties, business. Poverty is no longer required. provided you follow the complex rules. Care services are free. Keep your income. No co-pay. No doughnut hole. No other contribution.

COVID RULES EXPAND ELIGIBILITY

Last year the State of Michigan said the special rules would expire in June. Then the State of Michigan said the COVID rules would expire in November. Then the State of Michigan said the emergency rules would expire in April. Getting dizzy yet?

Last week, the State of Michigan changed its mind again. Remember, these expanded rules have saved thousands of middle-class families like yours from nursing home poverty. Well, the State of Michigan

said that these very beneficial rules would remain in effect, "UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE"!

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO NOW ... WHILE THERE IS

Get the straight story. Telephone us now: 800-317-2812. No need to prepare for the call. Dial as you are. Very basic questions... you already know the answers... Your loved one is counting on you. Do not let them down. It is simple and free. Call 800-3192812. Your Discovery meeting and Analysis meeting are waiting for you. Get it done.

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STILL TIME UNDER THE COVID RULES

ATTORNEY

Po Not Throw Away This Opportunity_ Call Tomorrow or the Next Day._ How Long Bo You

PAID ADVERTISEMENT Americans can finally grow hair so thick "It will cover up your bald spots," says top US Doctor

Clinical trials show a new hair loss breakthrough can both help men and women naturally regrow a thick, full head of hair – without drugs, surgery, or side effects

Thousands are rushing to get a new hair restoration method based on surprising new studies from the University of California.

It is the world's first and only hair loss solution that revives dead hair follicles. And studies confirm it helps men and women regrow a thick, full head of hair, even after years of balding.

Now, with news of this breakthrough spreading like wildfire — the manufacturers are struggling to keep up with overwhelming demand.

That's because, unlike other methods, it is prescription-free, drug-free, and has no side effects. And while hair transplants can cost \$4,000 or more, this new approach costs pennies on the dollar and doesn't involve going to the doctor's office.

Instead, it leverages cutting-edge technology to prevent hair loss, fill-in embarrassing bald spots, and renourish thinning hair with results you can see and feel in 30 days or less.

As Jeanne F. from San Diego, CA reports: "When my husband began to use this product, all he had on top of his head was fuzz. His hair began to grow after 30 days and now it is about 2 to 3 inches long!"

Surprising Truth About Hair Loss

It is commonly believed that hair loss is hereditary



Breakthrough research proves this discovery helps fill-in bald spots, re-nournishes thinning hair, and leads to noticeable growth in as little as 30 days.

searchers discovered these

T-cells are the only way to

command hair follicles to

More importantly, they

showed that T-cells helped

revive the stem cells in your

hair follicles — spurring

new growth, filling in bald

Re-Nourish uses a

unique biend of all-natural

ingredients. By spraying it

on your hair once per day,

scientific studies show you

can revive dead stem cells

and improve the appear-

ance of thicker, fuller hair.

For example, the key nu-

After 6 months, nearly

trient of Re-Nourish was

tested on a group of severe-

spots and natural hairline.

grow new hair.

it," says Peter W. from Oncell in your body. The retario, Canada.

And Susan D. from Fort Pierce, Florida reports, "My hair was thinning. So, I began to use Re-Nourish every day on the front part of my scalp. Now I have thicker hair."

Dr. Al Sears, M.D. is America's leading anti-aging expert. He's authored more than 500 scientific papers. and his discoveries have appeared on more than 50 media outlets including, ABC News, CNN, ESPN, **Discovery Channel**, National Geographic, Lifetime, and many more.

Regrows Hair In Just 30 Days

Scientists now know that ly balding women. stem cells are the lifeblood of your hair follicles.

70% of the women saw significant improvement in Research from the Unihair growth. Their hair was versity of California shows noticeably fuller, thicker, they're the reason you're and healthier looking. Most able to grow hair. However, exciting of all, they grew these stem cells aren't alnew hair on parts of their ways active. In fact, studies

COVID-19 cases surge 38.5% in Michigan

Mike Stucka USA TODAY NETWORK

New coronavirus cases leaped in Michigan in the week ending Sunday, rising 38.5% as 45,192 cases were reported. The previous week had 32,630 new cases of the virus that causes CO-VID-19.

Michigan ranked first among the states where coronavirus was spreading the fastest on a per-person basis, a USA **TODAY Network analysis of Johns Hop**kins University data shows. In the latest week the United States added 442,981 reported cases of coronavirus, an increase of 0.1% from the week before. Across the country, 25 states had more cases in the latest week than they did in the week before.

Many states did not report cases on Easter. That will make some state-tostate comparisons inaccurate, and also some in-state week-to-week comparisons inaccurate

Within Michigan, the worst weekly outbreaks on a per-person basis were in St. Clair, Sanilac and Huron counties. Adding the most new cases overall were Wayne County, with 8,160 cases; Macomb County, with 6,693 cases; and Oakland County, with 5,634. Weekly case counts rose in 69 counties from the previous week. The worst increases from the prior week's pace were in Wayne, Macomb and Oakland counties.

Michigan ranked 33rd among states in share of people receiving at least one shot, with 29.8% of its residents at least

partially vaccinated. The national rate is 30.7%, a USA TODAY analysis of CDC data shows.

In the week ending Friday, Michigan reported administering another 612,445 vaccine doses, compared to 522,482 the week before that. In all, Michigan reported it has administered 4,619,345 doses.

Across Michigan, cases fell in 12 counties, with the best declines in Wexford, Roscommon and Huron counties.

In Michigan, 212 people were reported dead of COVID-19 in the week ending Sunday. In the week before that, 141 people were reported dead.

A total of 768,892 people in Michigan have tested positive for the coronavirus since the pandemic began, and 17,259 people have died from the disease, Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the United States 30,706,126 people have tested positive and 555,001 people have died.

Note: In the Johns Hopkins University coronavirus data, cases and deaths for the Michigan Department of Corrections and the Federal Correctional Institution separately from Michigan counties

The USA TODAY Network is publishing localized versions of this story on its news sites across the country, generated with data from Johns Hopkins University and the Centers for Disease Control. If you have questions about the data or the story, contact Mike Stucka at mstucka@gannett.com.

Northville man charged with restaurant break-ins

Susan Vela

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

A 49-year-old Northville man is facing breaking and entering charges for restaurant burglaries in both Livonia and Redford Township.

Livonia police said they began investigating a burglary at Wing Snob, near Five Mile and Middlebelt roads, on March 15

Someone had broken in during the early morning hours by shattering the

The vehicle fled from officers, but they were able to take a good look at the license plate.

Soon after, the driver Mark Tulik was stopped and arrested in Detroit after a brief foot chase.

Livonia police detectives say Tulik confessed to committing the Wing Snob burglary.

He is residing at the Wayne County Jail and is expected to appear for an April 8 court appearance in Livonia's 16th District Court.

Livonia court officials have arraigned

Unfortunately, most people think there is nothing they can do to stop it. However, while many doctors will tell you that thinning hair, a receding hairline, and bald spots are due to your genetics, this is not the whole story.

"While genetics play a role, it's not the main reason vou lose hair," says Dr. Al Sears, the nation's top anti-aging doctor. "And surprisingly it's not just your age, thyroid, hormones, stress, or a vitamin deficiency, either."

The latest scientific research reveals that hair loss is primarily caused by the stem cells in your hair follicles dying.

"This discovery is a true breakthrough because by reviving these stem cells on your scalp, you can stop hair loss dead in its tracks and trigger new hair growth, even in areas that have been thinning for years," explains Dr. Sears.

Now, at his world-famous clinic, the Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine in Palm Beach, Florida, Dr. Sears and his team have used this game-changing discovery to develop a brand-new hair restoration formula that is taking the country by storm.

Sold under the name Re-Nourish, it is flying off the shelves with men and women of all ages raving about the results it delivers.

"I have seen a significant improvement in hair growth Previously, you could see thinning areas at the back of my head and now hair has grown over

reveal they're only active during certain phases of the

hair growth cycle. "Your hair grows in three phases," explains Dr. Sears. "First, you have the anagen phase, the hair growing phase. Then the catagen phase, when hair gets ready to shed. And finally, the telogen phase, where your hair is pushed from the fol-

licle and falls out." As you get older it becomes harder for your hair

follicles to complete this three-phase cycle. The results? Your hairs get stuck in the telogen phase. This is when they start falling out and stop regrowing, no matter what you try.

This process doesn't happen overnight, says Dr. Sears.

"At first, your hair dries out, becoming brittle, thin, and harder to style. Then, you start finding hairs on your pillow and down the drain. Finally, you're left with bald spots that age you prematurely."

Fortunately, *Re-Nourish* puts a stop to this. It revives the dead stem cells in your hair follicles and reactivates your hair's three-phase cycle, triggering new growth in as little as 30 days even in areas that've been balding for years.

Reawakens Dead Hair Follicles

For years, scientists couldn't figure out why hair follicle stem cells died.

However, a study from the University of California finally found the answer.,

It has to do with T-cells an important immune

scalp that had been bald for years.

In another study, Italian researchers gathered a group of both men and women with thinning hair and applied the core ingredient of Re Nourish. After 12 weeks, they reported a staggering 74% increase in hair growth.

"It's really mind-boggling that my hair started growing back," says Zan R., another Re-Nourish customer.

With results like this, it's no surprise that demand for Re-Nourish is soaring. Thousands of men and women are scrambling to get their hands on the limited-supply available.

Re-Nourish is not currently available in any store at any price. But we've secured a small batch for our readers.

Try Re-Nourish 100% Risk-Free

For the next 48-hours, Dr. Sears is offering readers a risk-free trial of Re-Nourish

Dr. Sears feels so strongly about this product that he is backing every order with a risk-free, 100% money-back guarantee. To take advantage of this special offer, simply call the Sears Toll-Free Health Hotline at 1-800-923-3245 now. Use Promo Code NP0321RN464 when you call in

[EDITOR'S NOTE]: Due to recent media exposure for Re-Nourish, the Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine is experiencing unprecedented demand. If the phone line is busy when you call, please try again to avoid missing this special one-time-only offer.

front door's glass. The cash register was gone.

Security camera footage revealed a white man using a hammer to smash the door. His getaway vehicle was a lightcolored, older Lincoln Town Car.

That same morning, there were two restaurant break-ins within 20 minutes of each other in Redford Township.

Security camera footage once again showed a white male suspect driving an older Lincoln Town Car.

Police there were on the lookout and spotted a vehicle matching the description and attempted a stop.

Tulik on two felonies - breaking and entering and possessing burglar's tools.

Tulik is facing seven felony counts from the Redford breaking and entering incidents. Those include two counts for breaking and entering, fleeing police and assaulting, resisting and obstructing a police officer. He's also dealing with a single count of possessing burglary tools.

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

Accused killer in #FindDani case scheduled for October trial

Susan Vela

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

Floyd Galloway, a former security guard accused of murdering a Farmington Hills woman he once worked with, has a new trial date.

A jury will begin considering evidence against Galloway, a 34-year-old prison inmate, on Oct. 12, according to online Oakland Circuit Court records.

For now, prosecutors have a request before the Michigan Supreme Court for a case review.

In prison because of a sexual assault he pleaded guilty to, Galloway faces a premeditated first-degree murder charge in the 2016 disappearance of Danielle Stislicki, 28.

Stislicki's body remains unfound, and prosecutors are in the process of asking the Michigan Supreme Court to let them use evidence gathered in Galloway's sexual assault on a Hines Park runner as evidence that he murdered Stislicki.

Oakland Circuit Judge Phyllis McMillen and the Michigan Court of Appeals already have denied the request.

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



Floyd Galloway in the 47th District Court of Judge James Brady on Sept. 9, 2019, JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

THESE STATEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION THIS PRODUCT IS NOT INTENDED TO DIAGNOSE, TREAT, CURE OR PREVENT ANY DISEASE, RESULTS MAY VARY.

Currie Road closes in Lyon for paving project

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The long-awaited paving of Currie Road in Lyon Township begins April 12, closing a 1-mile section of the road for the next five months.

The first phase of the massive multi-million dollar 2-mile project affects Currie Road from Nine Mile to 10 Mile Road.

The Road Commission for Oakland County will close that section until early October, with access only given to home and property owners. The detour for through traffic is 10 Mile Road to Napier Road to Nine Mile Road, back to Currie Road and vice versa.

The first phase of the project includes paving the one-mile stretch of gravel with asphalt, installing con-

crete curbs and gutters, improving drainage and placing new signs and pavement markings.

The cost of the first phase is about \$2.7 million, with the majority of it federally funded. Tri-Party funds, with costs shared by RCOC, Lyon Township, and the Oakland County general government, are used for the remaining portion.

lafrate Construction of Warren is the contractor. This section of Currie Road carries approximately 1,300 vehicles daily.

Phase two of the project, paving Currie Road from Eight Mile Road to Nine Mile Road, is expected to start in the spring of 2022 and will include installation of two roundabouts – a compact roundabout at Nine Mile and Currie Road and a single lane roundabout at Eight Mile and Currie Road.



This gravel section of Currie Road between Nine Mile and 10 Mile Road is slated to be paved by next summer. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE COM

Milford councilman flees after crash into utility pole

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A Village of Milford councilman recently crashed into a downtown Milford utility pole, drove away in his damaged vehicle and then blamed the wreck on dietary supplements when finally talking to police.

According to police and court reports, David Pehrson, 57, is heading to Novi's 52-1 District Court in April to face the consequences of driving away from property damage.

It's a misdemeanor citation and a possible blemish for an elected official whose political career is dependent on local voters.

Pehrson declined to comment for this story, and Village Manager Christian Wuerth and Village Council President Jerry Aubry did not respond to requests for comment.

A lengthy March 12 police report named Pehrson and identified "utility pole" as the victim.

Their conflict officially started when a person walking north on Main Street, near the south end of the business district, heard a crash and saw a white truck on a pole. The truck reversed and drove off.

Police said they were dispatched to Huron and Main streets at about 7:25 p.m. because someone was reporting that a white truck drove away after smashing into a pole. The truck was last seen northbound on Main Street.

Officers found the pole, along with several car parts and car fluid, near the intersection.

They were securing a white Ford grill and a U.S. flag front decal plate inside a patrol car when a passerby stopped. He said he knew where the rest of the vehicle was.



He had driven past an apparently freshly-damaged white Ford F-150 truck with the front end severely wrecked. After firefighters ruled out the utility

pole being a public safety hazard, the man led officers to a Commerce Street address, the same address Pehrson used on county election documents

when running for council president last year. A damaged Ford F-150 was in the driveway.

An officer wrote in the report the damaged car seemed to be the one responsible for the struck pole. He approached the front door and saw Pehrson, whom he recognized "from previous encounters."

The councilman was sitting on the couch, using his cell phone.

An officer knocked and thought Pehrson was directing him to the side door. He went to that entrance. No one came to that door.

While officers tried to make contact with Pehrson, a woman arrived and said she and Pehrson were supposed to go out together that night.

She eventually departed. The home's interior lights went out. The police left.

The councilman agreed to speak with an officer the next day at his home. The police report detailed the interaction.

Pehrson took the officer to his laundry room and pointed to the supplements for testosterone boosts, Plexus meal replacements and Keto diets that he had been taking.

He confessed to getting lightheaded during the prior week. He remembered getting to Village Pizza, near the intersection of Huron and Main streets, the day before and not much after that. "David stated that the last thing he remembered was when he rounded the corner at Main and Huron, he possibly saw an animal, which caused him to swerve off of the roadway, and strike the pole," the officer said in the report. "David stated that he struck the steering wheel and does not remember anything afterward.

"David indicated that he needed to figure everything out and that he can't be getting blurry vision while operating a vehicle."

The officer asked the councilman if he had consumed any alcohol prior to his crash. Pehrson said he had visited a restaurant where he drank soda. The councilman also said he was still feeling lightheaded and had blurred vision. He declined medical attention.

Officers submitted to the state a request for a driver evaluation.

Because police decided to leave when Pehrson didn't come to the door, Hometown Life reached out to Police Chief Tom Lindberg.

"I will simply say the investigating officers exhausted all legal means during the immediate investigation," Lindberg said by email. "This included clear communication with their chain of command up to and including me.

"The investigation was handled with extreme professionalism as is the standard for the Milford Police Department."

Pehrson, according to the police report, told an officer he wasn't aware of the initial visit. He didn't know until someone mentioned the activity at his home and he saw his truck. He told police he was disgusted.

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

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8A | THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021 | O& EMEDIA (NNNR)

Dog lost after crash reunites with family

Susan Vela

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A young South Lyon couple recently reunited with their lovable German shepherd Beau, a canine who walked away from a highway crash and then went missing for nearly 24 hours.

Ciara Horner, 19, and Austin Reid, 23, said they don't really remember what led to their truck jumping an Interstate 696 guardrail the afternoon of March 24.

The few things they know for sure are it happened near Halsted Road and Beau escaped when first responders rushed to their multi-vehicle wreck and opened their door.

"We woke up in ambulances and our dog was gone," Horner said. "Our hearts just immediately dropped. We couldn't sleep, couldn't think about anything except him and if he was OK."

Horner and her boyfriend consider Beau, still not a year old, an emotional support dog who instinctively knows how to make his co-owning human parents feel better.

They were able to leave hospital care within hours and quickly contacted the South Lyon Murphy Lost Animal Recovery. Founder Heather Ineich visited the crash site that night and left behind food and a camera in case Beau returned.

Horner and Reid were still in their pajamas the next morning when they learned a Farmington Hills police officer had spotted a German shepherd in the area of the Essex Club Condos north of Twelve Mile Road. They ran out the door.

Farmington Hills had posted on Facebook that an uncollared Beau went missing after the crash, so officers were on the lookout.

Spotted during a shift

Officer Brian Harbaugh has patrolled the city's streets for 25 years. While a big fan of suppressing crime, he became a police officer to help others. That remains what he loves most about the job. He knew about Beau the morning he started his 7 a m to 3 nm shift Be-

started his 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. shift. Between runs, he searched some areas near where the crash happened.

Then, at 10:18 a.m., he responded to the call about a large German shepherd



Farmington Hills officer Brian Harbaugh assisted in Beau's recovery. He poses with Beau, owners Ciara Horner and Austin Reid, and, in the background, Tina Horner, who is Ciara's mother. PROVIDED BY FARMINGTON HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

being on an elderly woman's porch. She was afraid to get her mail.

With the woman living about a mile from the crash site, Harbaugh figured it had to be the missing dog that triggered a social media campaign for his safe recovery.

She called dispatch again to report the dog was gone. Harbaugh still wanted to check out the area.

"Sure enough, I see this German shepherd walking on Avon Lane there," Harbaugh said. "I stopped the car and yelled, 'Hey, Beau!' "

The dog stopped and looked at Har-

baugh, which got the police officer thinking: "I said, 'OK. This is definitely him.'"

Harbaugh offered some chicken from his lunch but the dog was standoffish and seemed scared.

The dog proceeded to another porch and laid down. No one in the neighborhood seemed bothered or scared so the officer asked dispatchers to reach the owners.

Horner and Reid, still in the clothes they slept in, drove as quick as they could. Ineich went with them and led the off-leash recovery. "It was him. We turned the corner and couldn't believe it," Horner said. "We started freaking out."

Ineich said Beau's owners followed her instructions perfectly. They had an emergency bag with a familiar blanket and some stuffed animals. Ineich set a food trap nearby in case the stressed, possibly injured Beau ran away.

Horner had the blanket around her shoulders and held the stuffed animals and collar and leash when Beau was curious enough to leave the porch to research whether his owners really had come to the rescue.

She willed herself to stay low and to keep speaking to her beloved pup in a low voice, in the strange neighborhood.

Beau's tail wagged and then wagged some more. He scooted between Horner's legs as a FedEx vehicle came by yet Horner managed to get him collared.

"As soon as he was with her, he was just wanting to be petted," Harbaugh said. "They were emotional. You definitely, definitely could tell they really missed Beau and he definitely was a big support for their family.

"I'm a pet owner, too. Our pets are like our kids, you know. If one goes missing, I could see how emotional it would be."

His department shared a dispatch record of the call: "11:45:14 Bo has been reunited with family."

Beau isn't just any German shepherd. Horner's sister breeds German shepherds and Horner knew and loved Beau's mother. She and Reid had their eyes set on Beau since Day One.

When they returned home, they gave Beau some good old-fashioned care.

He seemed a little thin. He whimpered when touched, perhaps from getting tossed around in the truck and then being lost. Nothing seemed broken. Still, Beau was super docile for a couple of days.

He seems to be getting back to normal and was anticipating a vet's appointment a week after the crash.

Horner and Reid are especially thankful for Ineich's assistance. They're also grateful for everyone else who remained vigilant in the search for Beau.

"Oh, God it was the happiest day of my life," Horner said of the consequential reunion.

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

Grieving mom now trains others to use Narcan

Susan Bromley

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Jacqueline Salo lost her son Zachary Young to a heroin overdose the day before Thanksgiving in 2017.

His death ended a painful 6-year addiction to the drug and broke his mother's heart, but not her fighting spirit.

Last week, Salo was working to prevent a similar tragedy from befalling others, training individuals in the use of Narcan in Birmingham.

More than a dozen 10-minute trainings occurred during the 2-hour drivethru event Feb. 26, the first of its kind in the city and hosted by the Alliance of Coalitions for Healthy Communities, which works to prevent substance abuse.

"You have to give them a chance, if they're still breathing," Salo, a Rochester Hills resident, said. "I am volunteering to help spare someone else this pain. I know that this is what he would want. I don't want another parent, sister, brother or anyone else to suffer this loss."

Narcan, or the generic equivalent naloxone, is a nasal spray that can save the life of a person who overdosed on opioids. The ACHC, which represents 21 communities in Oakland County including Milford, Birmingham and Novi, has conducted hundreds of trainings, also providing 5,000 Narcan kits to individuals to take home over the past several years.

The drive-thru training is new this year, and along with numerous online trainings, is considered a silver lining to the COVID-19 pandemic by Tracy Chirikas, community relations manager for the ACHC, a different way to reach more individuals.

"Everyone should be trained in the use of Narcan, because the people that have been portrayed as the ones who have ODs are not just limited to that," Chirikas said. "We are a society of people who don't know how to manage our pain very well, and we wait ' til the last minute when the pain is excruciating



Amanda Choma, right, teaches Ian O'Reilly how to safely administer the opiate overdose medication Narcan during a drive-up training session held by the Alliance of Coalitions for Healthy Communities. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNERE.COM

and may overmedicate."

The training is beneficial for caregivers of individuals who take more than one prescription, the elderly, those in hospice, as well as those who are family of individuals who struggle with substance abuse disorder.

Zachary Young's struggle with substance abuse coincided with a diagnosis of severe depression when he was 13. He began using marijuana and then advanced to Percocet, Vicodin, and molly (an ecstasy drug). When he was 16, the Stoney Creek High School student who had formerly been very stylish with "perfect" hair suddenly was neglecting his grooming, "looking unkempt and clean."

A decline in hygiene is one of several behavior changes associated with heroin addiction, but Salo had not seen her son for a few weeks after he went to live with his father. She learned of Zachary's heroin use from a school counselor to whom her son had confided.

Over the next six years, Zachary Young tried several rehabilitation programs and medication including Vivitrol, was in a hospital psych ward at one point and took to stealing to get money for drugs.

He graduated from Stoney Creek in 2013, but could never stay on a successful path.

Salo recalls a trip to Detroit at 3 a.m. to get her son and after picking him up begging him in the car to go to rehab. She spent many sleepless nights wondering where he was, if he was sleeping by the river as his father had found him at one point.

She tried to get him job opportunities, and researched how heroin affects brain chemistry. She knew her son didn't want to be the way he was.

son for a few weeks after he went to live with his father. She learned of Zachary's heroin use from a school counselor to him were unsupportive and he would relapse," Salo said. "There was a stigma, a shame, even from aunts, uncles, cousins, and he knew that. I never gave up on him. If your mom gives up on you, what do you have left?"

In 2017, Zachary Young did an 8month stint in jail on felony theft charges. He was r leased and was only out for a couple days when he overdosed.

Salo found her son that November morning, but could not save him. Zachary Young was dead at 22.

Now, Salo volunteers — to shatter the stigma, to raise funds to prevent drug abuse, to train others in the use of Narcan, to give another chance to even one mother or child.

There are thousands of possibilities.

"Nationally, overdose deaths have climbed to 81,000 Americans in the past year," Chirikas said. "It was on the increase prior to 2020, but not as large. When we think about overdoses and why someone is 'misusing or abusing (opiates), it's due to increased isolation, which leads to depression and anxiety and not knowing what will happen next."

Chirikas said personally, she has attended more funerals in the past year for individuals that had been in recovery for 2-4 years and then suffered a relapse.

"We'd love to be at that place where we can eradicate ODs, but we're doing everything we can to equip families and individuals who struggle with this disease."

She hopes to do that with further drive-thru Narcan trainings, as well as ones hosted virtually.

To learn more about Alliance of Coalitions for Healthy Communities, future Narcan trainings and how to save a life, visit achemi.org/training/narcantraining- save-a-life/

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

NNNR) HOMETOWNLIFE.COM | THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021 | 9A



10A | THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021 | O&EMEDIA (NNNR)



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