

Swimmers return to pool with no expectations in state meet

SPORTS, 1B

CANTON

OBSERVER

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Public safety, parks top Livonia's 2021 agenda

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan said the coronavirus pandemic could have derailed a lot of the city's plans in 2020. But, she doesn't think that happened.

"In some instances, the coronavirus actually helped to move some things

along faster," she said.

When Brosnan took office at the beginning of last year, she set roads, jobs, public safety and the city's master plan as her top priorities. Brosnan said those will continue to dominate her agenda in the new year as the city continues to trek through the pandemic.

Brosnan said Livonia will spend a lot of time looking to help small business-

es, especially restaurants.

"The biggest hope is that the vaccine is effective and we can distribute it widely enough and quickly enough to stop the virus," she said.

Public safety, roads

Throughout 2020, the city continued negotiations for collective bargaining

agreements with the fire and police departments. Brosnan said the agreement with the fire department has already helped it add staff, and hopes a completed agreement with the police department will reap benefits this year.

"It's my hope that this contract is going to give us the leverage we need to

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The Riley Park Ice Rink sees some action Dec. 30 as a few skaters whirl across its surface. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Cold can't stop bustle of downtown Farmington

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Sure, it's cold. But with school out and many on vacation, people are anxious to be out of the house, so the Riley Park ice rink in downtown Farmington is popular as ever.

"I do see that the ice rink is much more crowded this year, but that could be because of the pandemic," said Chris Burger, a manager for Dagwood's Deli

and Catering, which is just a short walk from the outdoor rink.

The presence of the rink, farmers market, social district and heating lamps meant to bring people downtown have helped keep business afloat during the pandemic. Three parents, Jennifer Brooks, Sarah Dickey and Paul Mitchell, grabbed some lunch at Dagwood's before taking their kids to the Riley rink for the afternoon.

"It's really amazing to see the town

full," Dickey, a longtime employee at Focal Point Studio downtown, said. "These are all stores that support us, and we support them throughout the whole year. Everyone is doing what they can to make it."

All three said it's nice to give their kids something to do outside. Mitchell mentioned some downtown amenities, like the booming social district in

See DOWNTOWN, Page 3A

Survivor of sexual abuse now advocates for others

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Caitlin Conklin never wanted a tattoo until she finally found the strength within to tell someone her dad had been molesting her for 10 years, beginning when she was 13.

The "still I rise" script occasionally exposed on Conklin's right forearm pays homage to Maya Angelou's famous poem and an insurmountable spirit in the face of life's injustices.

She needed a personal talisman that reminded her of everything she survived during her short life. She wanted such a charm to invite others to share their own stories.

Conklin, a 25-year-old Plymouth High School graduate and Northville Public Schools special education teacher, is ready to share her own experiences as an advocate for other sexual assault survivors.

She wants to share her survivor's tale by penning a book, starting a podcast or maybe partnering with a non-profit organization. For now, she's open to listening and sharing and promoting the power of speaking out.

"It was hard," she said of her decision to talk about her dad's visits to her bedroom. "Every time it would happen, I would sit there and say, 'OK. Is today the day?'"

"I didn't want to hurt the family, which is funny because really it was him hurting the family. But I didn't have that mindset. I knew that there would be repercussions."

Father as predator

As she told Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Ulysses Boykin during her father's sentencing, she was an awkward but happy 13-year-old girl wearing braces and "a horrendous haircut" when her father became her predator. She had just made the cheer team and was looking forward to her freshman year in high school.

"The person who was supposed to protect me from harm and trouble became my predator," she told the judge in a statement. "Shortly before the beginning of the 2009 school year, I became a statistic."

"The person I was supposed to re-

See SURVIVOR, Page 2A

Westland seats long-vacant ethics board

Mayor William R. Wild recently announced he filled the five vacant positions on the City of Westland's ethics board.

The ethics board consists of five members that are appointed by the mayor. Members serve a three-year

term, except that of those first appointed: two shall serve for three years, two for two years, and one for one year.

Members must reside in the City of Westland and current city officials or employees are not eligible for appointment. The board shall meet at least once

each calendar quarter, and more frequently as it shall determine.

The purpose of the ethics board is to issue written opinions regarding ethical questions and to engage in

See BOARD, Page 2A



Livonia library honors oldest patron

Nobody has a longer association with the Livonia Public Library than 105-year-old resident Virginia Slotnick. Her first Livonia Public Library experience was in late 1958 at the library's first storefront location on Plymouth Road.

She and her husband had just moved to Livonia and she was eager to continue her love of reading in her new city.

Sixty-three years later, Virginia Slotnick walked into the library's Robert and Janet Bennett Civic Center branch with her son, Dennis, hoping to check out some classical music as well as some books on CD. Before she started browsing, she sat with Adult Services Librarian Ken Bignotti for a short interview.

Slotnick recalled some of her early days as a library user at the Detroit Public Library Main Branch. When she was 12 or 13 years old, she would sneak off alone to the library without informing her parents. At that time, it was the novels of Zane Grey and Edgar Rice Burroughs that piqued her interests.

She also remembered "gaudy looking librarians who wore these big earrings and looked sharp" as something that drew her to the library. The only disappointment she could recall was looking for books on the Armenian genocide but finding none.

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Virginia Slotnick, center, is the Livonia Public Library's oldest patron. The library celebrated her with an interview and gifted her a poinsettia and Busch's Market gift card. COURTESY OF THE LIVONIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Board

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activities, which will promote ethical behavior.

The newly appointed members of the ethics board are as follows:

Lori Wilson is a longtime resident and has served on the City of Westland's Planning Commission for more than 20 years. Wilson is a retiree of AM General LLC where she worked for 45 years as the configuration and data manager, working under military contract in support of the Tactical Wheeled Vehicle STS Engineering Department.

Michael Williams is the president and CEO of Orchards Children's Services, Michigan's largest foster care and adoption agency. Williams is the former mayor of Albion and has an extensive educational background, including a master's degree in guidance and counseling, a program at Harvard University on strategic perspectives in non-profit management and a neighborhood builders program for leadership. Williams, a longtime resident, has served on the planning commission for more than 3 years.

Daniel Stachow has been a resident for more than 40 years. Stachow retired from General Motors after 44 years of employment. He is a veteran and the president of the Wayne-Westland Veterans Parade Council. Stachow has served on the City of Westland's Board of Review and Compassionate City Committee.

Don Nicholson has been a resident for more than 45 years. Nicholson has served on the City of Westland Parks & Recreation Advisory Council and the Disability Concerns Committee, where he served as chair. Nicholson is the owner of Don Nicholson Enterprises, LLC, which has provided services to the Wayne-Westland communities for over 25 years. Nicholson was the City of Westland's 2015 Business Person of the Year. He is the chair for the Westland Chamber of Commerce, President of Friends of Nankin Mills, winner of the Governor's Award for Tourism Partnership 2016 and each year brings the Cruisin' Hines, the Wayne Road Cruise and much more.

Deborah Thomas has an associate's degree in business administration from Henry Ford Community College. Thomas currently works in human resources and has served as a research analyst for the U.S. Marshal Service.

For more information, call 734-467-3200.

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FPS appoints interim superintendent

Shelby Tankersley HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Later this month, Farmington Public Schools will have a new, likely temporary, superintendent.

Bobbie Goodrum will take over as superintendent beginning Jan. 23 until the district finds a more permanent replacement. The school board unanimously approved Goodrum's appointment Tuesday.

Goodrum currently works as the district's assistant superintendent of diversity, equity and inclusion. Goodrum was placed in that role in August, and has been with Farmington since 2007. In November, the district announced Goodrum was appointed by the state's superintendent to serve on the Michigan Department of Education's Social Emotional Learning Network, as well.

"We look forward to working with you in this role, and thank you for being

willing to take on this position," school board President Zach Rich said.

Current Superintendent Robert Herrera resigned in November. Herrera, who took the job in May 2019, cited apparent harassment from school board member Angie Smith in his resignation agreement with the district. He will continue as superintendent through Jan. 22 before being placed on work leave and

See **FPS**, Page 4A

Survivor

Continued from Page 1A

spect, listen to, obey and trust began sexually molesting (me) in the night and did not stop."

Conklin admits two things propelled her to tell on her father when he last assaulted her in March 2019. There were the women and girls she had watched reporting on the sexual abuse of convicted Larry Nassar, who violated them under the guise of medical care. There also were two nephews she loved dearly.

She had been living under her father's authority, not knowing what to do with such a powerful secret. Yet enough was enough, especially if it meant keeping her nephews safe from her own abuser.

She told family, and the dominos began to fall.

Her father talked to a therapist. The therapist apparently shared with police what he had to say.

Caitlin Conklin pursued charges, which further tore her family apart, perhaps irreparably. She still doesn't know.

Daughter vs. father

Larry Conklin, 60, of Canton pleaded guilty to a first-degree count of criminal sexual conduct and three counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct in September 2019.

He was sentenced to 20-35 years in prison a month later, according to online court records.

His daughter was already tattooed when the two big proceedings happened.

"I realize that I betrayed you and cheated you out of so much," the father told his daughter during the sentencing. "But please know that I care about you, and I will always love you."

Caitlin Conklin has noted wryly that both her father and Nassar share the same first name.

She took her father's statements in court as one more manipulation from a controlling man who once texted her regarding the length of an ice cream date when she didn't return home after two hours. At the time, she was about 20 years old and visiting during a break from Grand Valley State University in Allendale.

And then he and his attorney filed a motion earlier this year asking for a lighter sentence. Conklin said it was like a slap to her face.

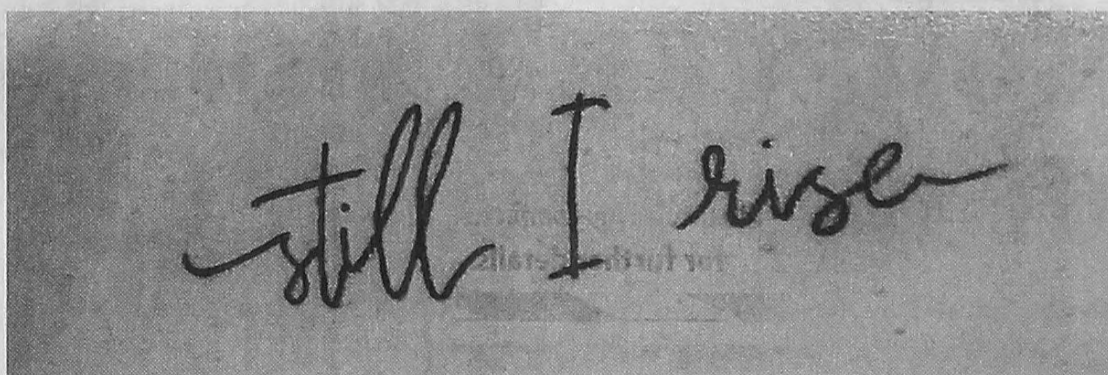
"He knows what he did is wrong," she said. "He admitted it. But he doesn't think it's wrong enough for 20 years."

Maria Miller, spokeswoman for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, said prosecutors miscalculated two offense variables regarding aggravated physical abuse and criminal sexual penetration when offering a potential sentencing range to Boykin.

Corrected, the sentencing guidelines to consider are a recommended 9-15 years, less than half the original sentence length.



Caitlin Conklin, a 25-year-old Northville Public Schools special education teacher, is an advocate for other sexual assault survivors. PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAITLIN CONKLIN



Conklin took inspiration from Maya Angelou's "Still I Rise" when getting a tattoo.

The retiring Boykin has said he'll return for the resentencing. As before, he'll still have the discretion to go beyond the recommended years in prison.

'Still I rise'

Larry Conklin's victim is willing to tell her story again to court officials, considering the emotional and mental damage her father wrought. She predicts the damage is a "life sentence" that will stay with her until the end, no matter how much love and acceptance she finds with the children and family she wants to have.

She doesn't like the paternal traits she finds in her physical being. She has trust and abandonment issues, despite being in a loving relationship with a man since soon after pursuing charges against her father. There are other barriers she has tried working through with therapy.

She hopes to share her survivor's story in the courtroom on Jan. 26, when the hearing regarding a reduced sentence is

scheduled to happen. If not permitted, she plans to still "make the public aware of how I feel with whatever happens next."

"It's hard every single day," Caitlin Conklin said. "At the same time, I'm so much happier. I could have never imagined staying quiet just to please the rest of my family."

"My goal is just to continue to help more people. Individuals who have been abused... I'm hoping that they can find hope in my story and push forward the way that I've had to."

During her statements to Boykin, Conklin referred to research that shows that one in 10 children will be the victim of sexual abuse before their 18th birthday.

Attorneys representing the Conklins did not respond to requests for comment. Miller spoke on behalf of the prosecutor.

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

Agenda

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attract and retain police officers," she said. "It worked over in the fire department, and I'm certain that it is also going to work in the police department."

City Council President Kathleen McIntyre agrees police should be a priority in 2021.

"We need to get both of our police contracts done," she said.

Brosnan said the city will continue roads improvements this year, as well. Most notably, Merriman Road will be repaired and a left turn signal will be added to its intersection with Joy Road.

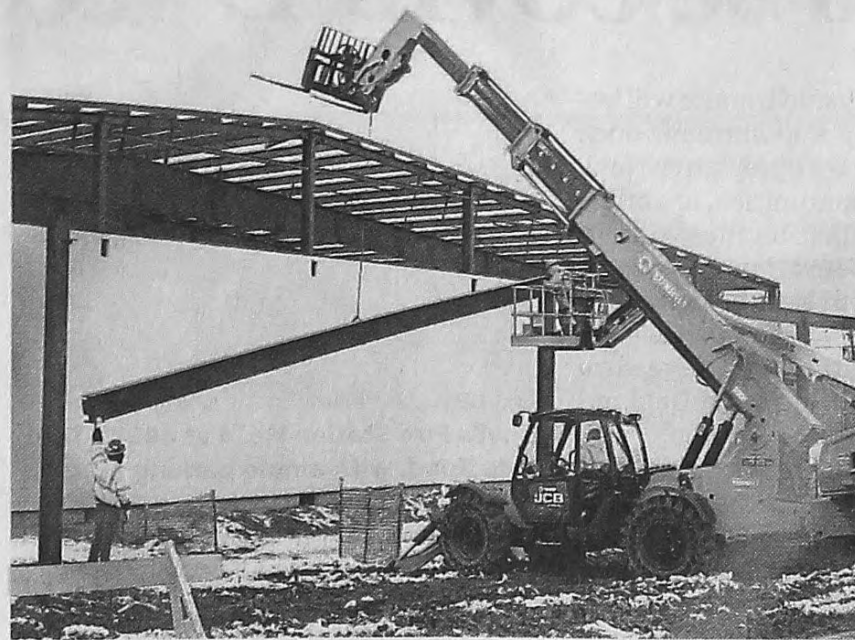
"That has, unfortunately, been the scene of some serious accidents, and it's needed a left hand turn signal for a long time," Brosnan said.

Focus on parks, recreation, Greenmead Historical Village

Throughout 2020, Greenmead Historical Village started getting more attention. The city has held more events there and hopes to make the park more of a destination.

Brosnan said transferring Greenmead to be under the direction of the parks department made all the difference. It previously was part of the city's community resources department.

"There's a very different model used



A construction crew lifts an I-beam into place Jan. 5 at the future expanded home of Livonia's Department of Public Works. The building is taking shape at 12973 Farmington Road.

JOHN HEIDER/
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

when you're looking at how you utilize an asset as a park," Brosnan said. "Shifting that over to Ted Davis' direction in parks and recreation, I think, will let us find ourselves with higher, better utilization."

City council also approved funding for a master plan at Greenmead as part of the 2021 budget.

As for the rest of its parks, the city plans to add more signage to help people better navigate what each park has to offer and is looking to expand the Stark Road bike path.

As the city's senior and recreation

centers have remained closed or in limited operation through much of the pandemic, McIntyre said she'd like to see the city offer its seniors more in 2021.

"The closing of the senior center has just been absolutely devastating to a lot of our seniors," she said.

The Livonia '21 master plan

Brosnan and McIntyre both sat on the steering committee when the Livonia '21 master plan was being made, and both continue to see it as a priority.

"So much work and resources went

into that, and the difficulty is then having the commitment to do the hard work of ... making it happen," McIntyre said. "I know that's one of the mayor's plans for next year - to do that - and I'm extremely happy about that."

"Council fully supports that."

The lengthy plan includes improvements regarding housing, development, infrastructure and more. Brosnan said 2021 will be the year the city begins to execute the plan.

"... Moving the master plan itself forward will be an amazing undertaking," she said. "I think to want to bite off more than that would not do us the service that we need to do on the master plan."

Infrastructure improvements

Alongside new initiatives are the projects Livonia started in 2020 that will continue this year.

One is the city's new Department of Public Works facility. When residents need to visit the DPW, McIntyre said the new facility should give them a much better experience than in years past.

"I'm very much looking forward to our new DPW building being open," she said. "That's going to, number one, make things much, much better for residents who need to come visit DPW."

Another big item is the consideration of forming a water consortium with Westland, Canton and Northville Township. Livonia will also consider creating water storage facilities.

Downtown

Continued from Page 1A

downtown Northville, are better suited for adults, so it's nice Farmington has something for everyone.

"This is great for the kids," he said. "I know in the other communities, a lot of it is more catered to adults. But, it's nice that this is somewhere for the kids to go as well."

The pavilion at Riley, equipped with tables, seating and a windshield, helps keep parents and non-skaters warm. Similarly, the city's Downtown Development Authority provided some businesses with heating lamps so people can stay warm while waiting outside.

"Isn't it great? The DDA did that," Becky Burn, owner of Sunflour Bakehaus downtown, said of her lamp. "We're so happy about it. We tend to have a line because we only let three people in here at a time, so it's been really nice."

Burger said the lamp outside Dagwood's keeps people in the area longer, which is good for all of the businesses, many of which depend on word-of-mouth advertising.

"They're definitely hanging around more," he said. "We always want anything that brings more people downtown, whatever it is. Whether it's the ice rink or the farmer's market or the Founders Festival, we always want people around."

Even for businesses that don't sell food and drink, people's desire to spend more time outside has helped them stay afloat during the pandemic.

"This has been our busiest year ever," Rob Woelkers, who owns PLUS Skateboarding downtown, said. "I think skateboarding kind of got tied into other outdoor activities you could do during COVID, whereas like your normal soccer league or hockey league or baseball league wasn't going on. We saw a ton of people who wanted to try skateboarding and had nothing else to do."

As the holidays pass by, businesses hope the social district, which the city has named The Syndicate and launched on New Year's Eve, will help bring more people downtown.

The social district allows for open beer and cocktails from participating businesses in designated areas downtown, including Riley Park.

"I think it's a great thing to have in town, especially because we can only have so many people inside," Burn said. "For restaurants and bars that cannot serve as many people, it's nice for them to be able to have people outside."

The hope among businesses is the district will help benefit everyone.

"I support, obviously, anything that they're doing to bring more people downtown and make Farmington cool," Woelkers said.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby_tankk.



Farmington's Riley Park Ice Rink is up and running. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

WAYNE-WESTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS WILLIAM D. FORD CAREER-TECHNICAL CENTER

Each year, Wayne-Westland Community Schools and the William D. Ford Career-Technical Center offer career-technical programs to the high school districts of Wayne-Westland, Melvindale, South Redford, Redford Union, Crestwood, Dearborn Heights #7, Van Buren, Plymouth-Canton, Northville, and area private schools. These programs are designed to prepare high school students for a broad range of employment and training services and are offered under the guidance of certified teachers, counselors, and cooperative education coordinators. For more information, please call (734) 419-2100 or visit our website: wwcsd.net/ford

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- | | |
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| Firefighting | |
| Game Design and Print Production | |

The William D. Ford Career-Technical Center offers 20 state-approved Career and Technical Education programs along with mathematics requirements for high school graduation. Admission to the Career-Tech center is based on student progression in their high school graduation curriculum as well as student interest, 11th and 12th grade status and counselor recommendation. All career and technical education opportunities will be offered regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability. A lack of English Language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in career and technical educational programs.

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WAYNE-WESTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS WILLIAM D. FORD CAREER-TECHNICAL CENTER

Cada año, las escuelas comunitarias de Wayne-Westland y el Centro de carreras técnicas William D. Ford ofrecen programas de carreras técnicas a los distritos de escuelas secundarias de Wayne-Westland, Melvindale, South Redford, Redford Union, Crestwood, Dearborn Heights #7, Van Buren, Plymouth-Canton, Northville y escuelas privadas del área. Estos programas están diseñados para preparar a los estudiantes de secundaria para una amplia gama de servicios de empleo y capacitación y se ofrecen bajo la guía de maestros certificados, consejeros y coordinadores de educación cooperativa. Para obtener más información, llame al (734) 419-2100 o visite nuestro sitio web: wwcsd.net/ford

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- | | |
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| Tecnología automotriz | Ocupaciones de salud |
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| Tecnología de construcción | JROTC |
| Artes culinarias | Producción de medios |
| Tecnología de medios digitales | Asistencia médica |
| Arte digital y diseño | Acondicionamiento deportivo y ciencia del ejercicio |
| Electrónica y robótica | Profesor Cadete |
| Técnico en emergencias médicas (EMT) | Tecnología de soldadura |
| Extinción de incendios | |
| Diseño de juegos y producción de impresión | |

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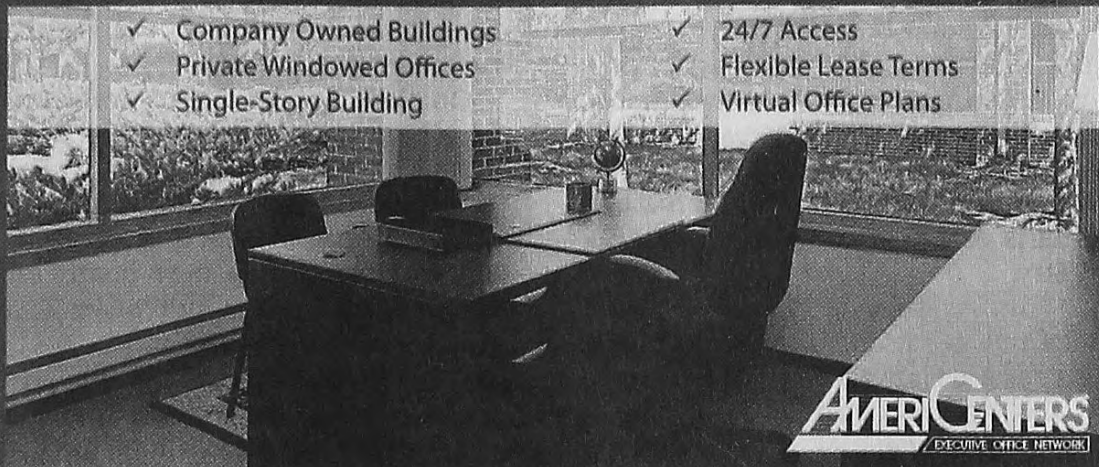
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Novi fire station to be COVID-19 vaccination site

David Veselenak [Hometownlife.com](mailto:hometownlife.com)
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Add one more location to get a COVID-19 vaccination in southwest Oakland County.

Vaccinations will take place for people in Phase 1A of the state's vaccination group, said Police Chief David Molloy, who also serves as Novi's public safety director.

Molloy said Oakland County reached out to the city in search of a space to offer vaccinations, with Fire Station No. 4 being the best.

In addition to its convenient location, it has room for enough vehicles to line up and space for the monitoring period required after recipients get the shot, Molloy said. Those who receive the vaccine are required to wait onsite for 15 minutes after receipt.

"It affords the opportunity for traffic to queue," Molloy said. "It's one of our larger fire stations."

Bill Mullan, communications director

for Oakland County, said the site will begin vaccinations by appointment only. He said the county is appreciative Novi, as well as other communities, are offering sites up for vaccination sites without any financial compensation.

"We are grateful to Novi because, like our other community partners, they are providing the location for drive-thru vaccinations at no cost to the Oakland County Health Division," he said.

Members of the general public will have to wait a while before they are eligible to stop by the station for their jab. The state is currently vaccinating those at the highest risk for COVID-19, including paid and unpaid persons serving in health care settings who have direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials and are unable to work from home, as well as residents of long-term care facilities.

The next set of people expected to receive the vaccine include those frontline essential workers and individuals who are 75 years and older.



Novi's Fire Station No. 4 at 49375 Ten Mile Road, with ample parking at its site, is slated to be used as a COVID-19 vaccination center in the future.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Molloy said it's expected the fire station will be used as a vaccination center for several months. It will continue to operate as a fire station, with firefighters staffing the building, he said.

As of Jan. 4, the State of Michigan has administered more than 140,000 doses of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, both of which were approved

for emergency use last month. It currently has more than 520,000 doses shipped across the state, with more than 83,000 shipped in Oakland County and more than 20,000 in Wayne County outside of Detroit.

The Novi station will be the second in southwest Oakland County to serve as a vaccination spot. Just down the road at 10 Mile and Milford Road, a COVID-19 testing and soon-to-be vaccination site has been set up at Lyon Township Fire Station No. 2.

The use of the fire station is not the first time Oakland County has utilized Novi facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Testing was done last year at Ella Mae Power Park, a space, Molloy said, saw plenty of activity and showed the county what could be done in Novi.

Vaccination appointments are required by calling 1-800-848-5533. Appointments are available based upon the vaccine supply received, according to the Oakland County website.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com

Milford man sails as Merchant Marine

Susan Bromley [Hometownlife.com](mailto:hometownlife.com)
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Kenny Rosol, a Milford native, is pursuing a dream he's had since he was 9-years-old, and which has taken him on an adventure thousands of miles from home.

The 2018 International Academy West graduate is on a ship in Korean waters this holiday season, recently sailing from Okinawa with the U.S. Merchant Marines.

We communicated with him via email to learn about an unusual career and life at sea.

What motivated you for this path?

KR: In middle school my dad gave me a USAFA information book, it covered the academy's history, mission, requirements, and overall experience. Though very young, this did spark this idea in my mind and since then I always wanted to attend a service academy.

I was a bit mature for my age and knew I wanted something bigger from college and high learning. I thrive in a team setting with a common goal in mind.

How would you summarize/define what the Merchant Marines is for someone who is unfamiliar?

KR: Merchant Mariners sail on all the Great Lakes freighters and then globally on the U.S. vessels. It is not a uniform service branch, but it is a recognized title for those who sail on the oceans/lake. On ships that sail globally (U.S. Owned) the "crew" is roughly 22 people, split between the deck, engine and steward departments.

What is required to become a merchant marine?

KR: To attend USMMA, you must receive a nomination to attend from a congressman, senator, vice president or the president. The Honorable David Trott nominated me the Fall of 2017. I received the acceptance in March 2018 and went to Kings Point, New York, in June 2018.

Going to USMMA, I will receive a bachelor of science, a third mate coast guard license, and become a junior officer in the Navy Reserve as a Strategic Sealift Officer.

There are three years (9 trimesters) of intense schooling...Then there are 3 trimesters of sea term.

We learn all we can, work very hard. You have to grow up quick to be successful. In addition to the sea term we are expected to complete our college credits at sea through what we call "sea projects".

Describe your current assigned duties and where you are, what a day typically looks like.

KR: At the moment I am a midshipman at the academy. This current sailing, I am on a product tanker that delivers various fuels to naval installations in the Far East. I have classmates that delivers tanks/jets/ammo/fuel to bases and ships. Other classmates are delivering Range Rovers from England It all depends

We are a tanker so we load/discharge liquid (jet fuel/diesel). Pumps are running, valves need opening/closing, pressures have to be monitored, it is a serious operation.

What do you like about being a Merchant Marine? What are the challenges?

KR: Going to USMMA is like no other school in America. We are a very small population that have the desire to serve the nation's interests and, of course, make good money. I never regret coming here; I could've gone to any public college in Michigan but I would not get the



Milford native Kenny Rosol with shipmates in the U.S. Merchant Marines.

COURTESY OF KENNY ROSOL

same satisfaction, and I know I will have a job when I graduate.

What have you learned while living overseas? What is the favorite place you have been to so far and why?

KR: When you graduate, any ship you work on will take you places most people you know will never see. From Antarctica, Australia, Far East, South America and Europe you will see the world. I have been to North Europe and the Far East as a student, I cannot wait to see more when I graduate. How can you turn down a career that makes you travel the world?

I never was attracted to an office job, or "clocking" in for 40 years retire and then live my life. I want to live my life now, serve the nation when called upon and live an adventurous life. I love Belgium, it's historic architecture and bakeries, ha! I would like to go to the Mediterranean next. I have many sea stories, of course, and am excited to have many more as the future comes.

How has the pandemic affected the Merchant Marines and you and your colleagues?

KR: Crew on ships are having to stay on the ships much longer than their contracts are written for. This is because of varying COVID laws in states and countries making it very difficult to change out crew.

Also, most companies are not allowing the crew to have shore leave; all crew must stay on board even when in port. That rule of course takes the fun away from going into port seeing the sights, nightlife, culture, etc. However, the industry is resilient. Hardworking Americans man the fleet and are delivering essential goods all over the globe for the U.S.; that never ended, the maritime industry never shut down.

Do you ever get seasick or homesick?

KR: Sea sick no, but I so miss my family and closest friends. There are rough days and then I realize how happy I am with what I am doing and that we all have lives to live. I will probably be do-

ing a bit of deck work then having an amazing dinner with the crew on the ship.

We decorate the ship for the holidays so we try our best. What gets at me most is that I cannot be home to help out, I don't like feeling helpless out here and I am not able to give my family a helping hand. However, I am helping my family by being successful out here in the long run, we will all be together when we do. As a family we say "semper gumbi" always flexible, you have to live with a bit of flexibility so you don't get hurt as much if that makes sense.

What are your future plans, both short-term and long-term?

KR: I want to sail on my license, see the world and upgrade my license as I get my sea time. In the long run I would like to get my masters in international relations from Georgetown or a similar school, however that is a bit away. I first want to sail, sail, sail!

Anything else you would like to add?

KR: I didn't know about the maritime industry until 5 years ago, and I guarantee most Americans don't know still. The industry affects us all and is closer to home than we think. The Great Lakes is a hub for commerce, our state is essential to the maritime industry.

Without this industry, America does not get its Amazon goods from China, card from Europe, fuel to its naval bases and support to all naval fleets across the globe.

Also, this industry is diverse and becoming more diverse annually. Crews on ships consist of all color, creed, background, sex, etc. If you can do the job well, you can be anybody and be successful here. It is an untapped industry that people ignore, they shouldn't.

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

Library

Continued from Page 2A

After Slotnick shared her thoughts, Livonia Public Library Director Toni LaPorte presented her with a beautiful potted poinsettia and a gift card to Busch's Market.

"I want to thank you for putting up with us for so many years," LaPorte quipped. Dennis Slotnick later added, "We used that Busch's gift card immediately after we left the library. She really liked that."

Virginia loves coming to the Livonia Robert and Janet Bennett Civic Center Library. "This is a beautiful Library," she said.

"She likes to check out classical music and non-fiction on CD," circulation staff member Jennifer Kankula commented. "Virginia is an inspiration to us all and such a pleasure to see."

Slotnick did mention that while she is now checking out material on CD, she preferred reading as she believed the printed word was more of a conduit to present memory and she could remember what she read easier than what she has listened to.

"Virginia is absolutely someone after my own heart" Bignotti said. "A long-lived, lifelong library user? What's not to love?"

Circulation Library Aide Cathy Leich summed it up best: "Virginia Slotnick is one of the people who really make it a joy to work here."

FPS

Continued from Page 2A

continuing to serve in an advisory role until June 30.

Board removes censure on Smith

Citing a desire to start fresh, the board also voted, 5-1, to remove the censure placed on Smith, with Smith being one of the approving votes. In November, the board voted to censure, or publicly rebuke, Smith and actions she had taken. The censure barred Smith from being an officer on the board and serving on outside committees.

Board member Claudia Heinrich cast the only dissenting vote, saying she would have liked the new board to work together for six months and revisit the decision at that time. Smith did not speak during on the issue at the meeting.

On Jan. 5, the board welcomed three brand new members. The board still needs to fill a vacancy left by Pam Green, who resigned in November.

"I would like to trust that Ms. Smith will work with this new board and treat diverse ideas with respect," she said. "I would like to trust Ms. Smith not with words, but with actions over time. I would like to give this new board time to work as a unit before removing the censure."

Rich said he hopes removing the censure will allow the board to move forward from 2020's controversy.

"Hopefully, by removing the censure we can bring down the temperature in the community and bring the focus back where it belongs," he said.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby_tankk.

Obituaries

Carol Alayne Burger

TRAVERSE CITY - Carol Alayne Burger, 80, of Traverse City passed away Wednesday, December 23, 2020 unexpectedly at her home.

She was born on October 6, 1940 in Detroit, the daughter of Joseph Daniel and Sylvia Jeanette (Soucek) Pace.

Carol was a caregiver for her son Richard following his accident many years ago and also took care of her mother in her later years.

Carol enjoyed gardening, sewing and crafting. She participated in the Red Hat Society and the Long Lake Euchre Club. She loved helping others, being involved in events and most of all being a part of family and friend activities. She was known as the "Hub" by keeping family and friends together.

Carol is survived by her children, Deb (Mike) Brown of Traverse City, Sandy (Jack) Birdsall of Traverse City; grandchildren, Sara (Cory) Gillner, Kelly (Jarrod) Hoehn and Eric Birdsall; nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. She had been waiting to be a great-grandmother and was excited for her first great-grandchild to be born in June 2021.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband, William Burger; son, Richard Burger and brother, Dennis Pace.

Cremation has taken place. Graveside services will be announced in the spring. She will be buried with her husband and son at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth, MI.

Memorial Contributions may be made to the Munson Health Care Foundation; designate, Women's Cancer Fund 1150 Medical Campus Dr., Traverse City, MI 49684 or to the Hospice of Michigan, 10850 E. Traverse Hwy, Traverse City, MI 49686.

Please visit www.lifestorytc.com to share your thoughts and more.

Life Story Funeral Home, Traverse City.

Anna Milligan

On, December 29, 2020, I, Anna Milligan left this earth at the age of 95 to be with the two loves of my life - Irving, Jr., my husband who passed away in 1996 after almost 50 years of a wonderful marriage. Then, God called my beautiful daughter, Sharon (Peter) McGough to be with Him in 2015 at the age of 63.

I was born to Albert and Eva Kelly on May 5, 1925 in Inkster, Michigan. I liked to boast by telling people that I was born in a "Blind Pig" during prohibition times and raised in a grocery store. I graduated from Sacred Heart High in Dearborn in 1943 and worked in the Inkster Post Office. In 1947, Irv and I were married and lived in Dearborn, and in 1952, we were blessed with the birth of Sharon. In 1954, we moved to Plymouth, Michigan into the house that we had built, with me being the general contractor. In 1963, I went back into the working world at DSI for six years after being told that I was too old to hire (38 years old). Then, I accepted a position with Jim and Kal Jabara. When they sold their business, I stayed with Jim and finally retired at the age of 87.

I am survived by my wonderful son-in-law, Peter McGough who was always there for me; a nephew, Thomas Domako; several cousins and, many good friends.

Now, I will join my parents, my sister Alberta Domako and my two brothers, Albert Jr. and John Kelly. Please don't mourn for me. I had a good life and God gave me a wonderful sense of humor, which I hope I retain to my final days. When you feel down and out, just think of me and smile.

Friends may visit the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth on Saturday, January 2, 2021 from 9:00 A.M. until the time of the Funeral Service beginning at 11:30 A.M. at the Funeral Home. The Funeral Service will be celebrated by The Reverend Lynn Snider.

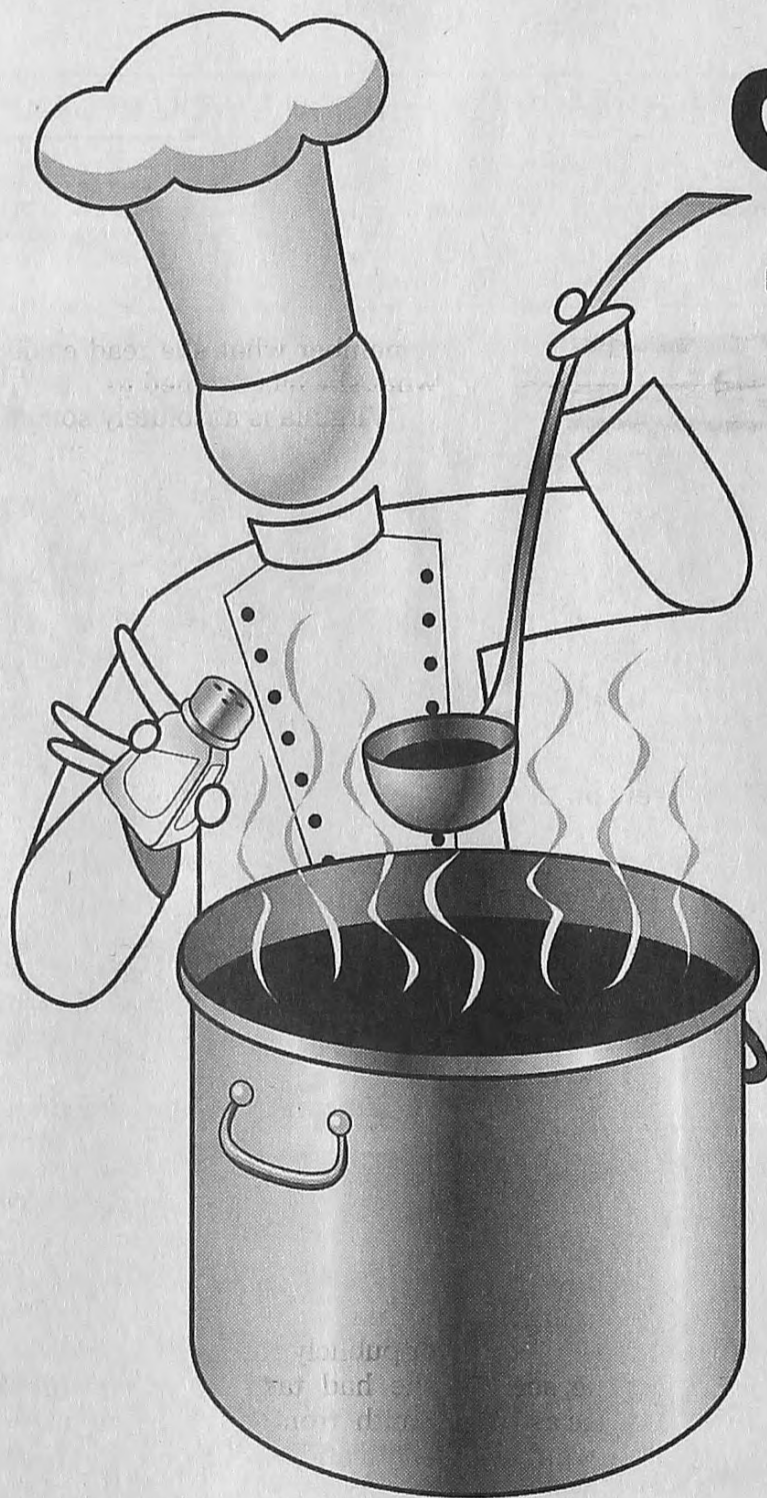
Anna will be entombed next to her beloved husband, Irving Milligan, Jr. Those who wish to honor the memory of Anna M. Milligan are invited to consider a contribution to the Salvation Army, 9451 South Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan 48170.

Contribution envelopes will be available at the Funeral Home. Condolences may be sent to www.schrader-howell.com



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SPORTS

Area swimmers return to the pool with no expectations in state meet

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Before returning to the pool Jan. 4, Livonia Stevenson head coach Greg Phill needed to make sure his athletes still wanted to swim.

One week ahead of the originally scheduled girls swim and dive state meet, the Michigan state government halted fall athletics. And while a return was announced based on the coopera-

tion between the Michigan Department of Health and Human Service and the Michigan High School Athletic Association - introducing a pilot program of rapid antigen COVID-19 testing - the state meet was pushed back yet again.

Phill told his players that he would understand if they did not want to wait for a state meet. Through the 20 weeks since the regular season began, girls swim and dive teams have been permitted only 10 weeks of practice and competition.

But the Spartans told Phill they all wanted to continue. They all wanted to see what they could accomplish with only two weeks until the pinnacle meet of the season.

"I've been coaching 44 years, and this is the first time we have seen anything like this," Phill said. "I've talked with some college buddies, I've talked with some other coaches; I don't think anyone really knows what to do. We're just

See **SWIMMING**, Page 3B



The Northville girls swim team had a chance to see what it could do before the season was postponed.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY EMILY RODEN

Northville's Kehoe signs to row at MSU



Northville senior Ava Kehoe reached the national championships as a sophomore, with hopes to reach that level again this year. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY AVA KEHOE

H.S. playoff teams adapt to COVID-19 testing protocols

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Paige Thornton has been the athletic trainer for Livonia Churchill athletics for the past six seasons. For the 2020-21 school year, she added COVID-19 tester to her job description.

"My job is to keep people safe, and it's been a little different this year," she said.

Prior to the start of the Chargers' first practice of the week leading into the regional final game against Oak Park - 52 days since the team last took the football field in the district finals - players, one by one, entered what would have been the concession stand in normal circumstances.

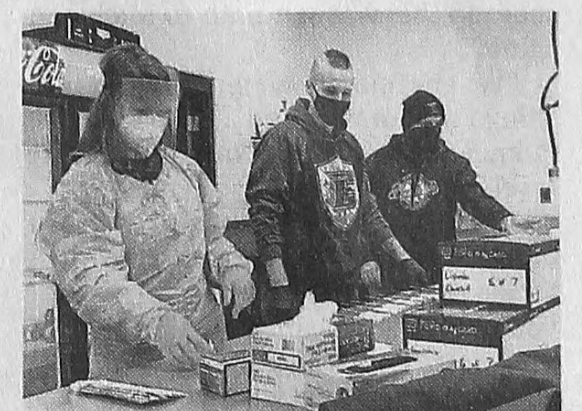
Thornton, clad in scrubs, face mask and face shield, helped each player administer a rapid antigen COVID-19 test, provided to Churchill and athletic programs throughout the state by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Service as a requirement to complete the fall postseason.

Prior to the MDHHS' introducing the rapid tests to schools, which, according to Michigan High School Athletic Association Executive Director Mark Uyl, had primarily been used in nursing homes, Thornton was not familiar with the testing and how it was administered.

The MDHHS pushed the fall postseason schedule back to Dec. 22 to ensure school officials - whether it was athletic trainers or school nurses - knew how to help administer the tests.

Thornton said that the MDHHS and the MHSAA have both held tutorial

See **TESTING**, Page 3B



The Livonia Churchill football team spreads out its testing, getting half of its players prior to the start of practice and half after three times per week.

COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

DREAM REALIZED

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Since she was in third grade, Ava Kehoe knew she wanted to be a Michigan State athlete. But she did not know what sport she would play.

Growing up playing soccer and dancing, Kehoe watched her sister join the Northville rowing team, a sport that she did not know existed. During the winter season freshman year, Kehoe gave it a try herself.

"I thought it was so different from anything I had done before," Kehoe said. "I had never heard of rowing until my sister started doing it. I thought it was so obscure that I wanted to try it out. I'm glad I did."

After an impressive career with the Mustangs - helping the Women's Junior 8+ team win a state championship at the 2019 SRAM Championship Re-



Kehoe fulfilled her lifelong dream - to be an MSU athlete - in signing to row for the university.

gatta and a regional championship Midwest Rowing Championships Regatta - Kehoe will get her wish: earning a spot to row with the Spartans starting in 2021.

Nick Bickes, Northville's rowing coach for the past four seasons, said he has seen his athletes shift their com-

mitment to the sport like a "flip of a switch:" turning on a level of dedication to hit every split and improve each day.

Kehoe made it clear to Bickes early on her goal was to row in East Lansing. The head coach made it clear what it would take to get there.

"That was kind of her real moment where she figured out what she wanted to do and we had the conversation of 'This is kind of where you need to be,'" Bickes said. "And she started to work toward that goal."

Northville's head rowing coach said that Kehoe's sophomore season was a big stepping stone in her future in the sport, placing 10th in the Women's JV 4x event at nationals.

Kehoe said her success early on was not expected - to her, it was surreal and crazy. But it also served as her moment where she flipped the switch. She

See **KEHOE**, Page 2B

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Who will be the breakout stars of 2021?

Chris Bumbaca
USA TODAY

Part of sports' mystique is the unpredictability of it all.

In 2020, who could have foreseen Randy Arozarena's rise from obscurity to a record-setting MLB postseason, or 20-year-old Tyler Herro lighting it up from the NBA bubble?

There's also the other side of the conversation: the can't-miss prospects and the already-anointed greats.

This next year will provide a fresh crop of breakout stars. While the conjecture may prove foolish, here are a few of USA TODAY Sports' best guesses as to whom will become household names in 2021.

Sunisa Lee

At 16, Lee placed second in the all-around at the 2019 U.S. gymnastics championships behind Simone Biles. She was also part of the Americans' world championship squad, earning team gold, and a silver and bronze in individual events. Now with the Summer Olympics around the corner, she has the chance to shine on the biggest stage in Tokyo.

Noah Lyles

Lyles had a breakout year in 2019, but has to wait an extra year for the spotlight of the Olympics. In 2019, Lyles won the 200-meter dash at 19.83 seconds at the world championships. He was also part of the United States' gold-medal winning 4-by-100-meter relay.

Catarina Macario

Born in Brazil, Macario's family moved to the United States while she was in high school. At Stanford, she was a three-time first-team All-American, two-time national champion and won the MAC Hermann Trophy – awarded to the nation's best player – twice. She was granted U.S. citizenship in October and joined the U.S. Women's National Team training camp that same day.

James Wiseman

The Golden State Warriors took



Noah Lyles poses with the United States flag after winning the 200-meter dash in 19.83 seconds during the 2019 IAAF World Athletics Championships.

KIRBY LEE/USA TODAY SPORTS FILE PHOTO

Wiseman second overall in the NBA draft after the 7-footer played three college games at Memphis. His professional career is three games old, but all indications are that the 19-year-old is handling the transition well.

Tua Tagovailoa

It does seem odd to have someone on a "breakout stars" list who has been a Heisman Trophy contender, national champion and a top-five draft pick. This is merely a prediction that Tagovailoa will have a bountiful 2021: returning to full health, gaining significant offensive weapons and, finally, taking complete control of the Miami Dolphins.

Sabrina Ionescu

Like Tagovailoa, it does feel weird to have a record-setting college basketball

player and No. 1 pick as a breakout star candidate. But Ionescu's rookie season with the New York Liberty lasted three games before an ankle injury ended her year. With the WNBA's rising popularity, Ionescu could become one of the league's elite – in terms of both play and popularity – in 2021.

Sixto Sanchez

MLB's 60-game season last year served as an appetizer for a rookie class that included the Miami Marlins right-hander, who can touch triple digits on the radar gun and then spin a slider that makes a hitter look foolish. Sanchez posted a 3.46 ERA over seven starts in the regular season before shutting out the Chicago Cubs for five innings (six strikeouts) in the wild-card series. With more performances like that, Sanchez won't be "just another live arm" for long.

Igor Shesterkin

Still technically a rookie, Shesterkin is one of the favorites to win the Calder Trophy next year. With Henrik Lundqvist gone after 15 years in net for the New York Rangers, it's Shesterkin's turn. In 12 games last season, he went 10-2 while averaging 2.32 goals against. He won all five of the contests in which opponents shot 40 times.

Chellsie Memmel

Likely the only person on this list who could have also appeared on it in 2008, the gymnast spent the quarantine posting videos on YouTube and other social media sites of her training – eventually leading to a comeback effort for the upcoming Olympics. As a 32-year-old mother of two, she would become quite the story if she makes the team.

Wander Franco

Franco has been the best prospect in baseball since 2019, and although he lost valuable maturation time with no minor league ball last season, the switch-hitting shortstop from the Dominican Republic is poised to make an immediate impact. He will turn 20 by Opening Day, and could quickly become one of the better players on the defending American League champion Tampa Bay Rays.

Emilie Castonguay and Rachel Luba

Castonguay is executive vice president and director of legal affairs at Momentum Hockey. She became the first NHLPA certified agent in Canada four years ago and the first female agent to represent a No. 1 pick when Alexis Lafrenière was selected by the Rangers in this year's NHL draft.

Luba, meanwhile, has built a stable of clients at her agency, Luba Sports, at age 28. The former UCLA gymnast represents professional softball players, MLB coaches and MLB players – including one of the most coveted free agents in the 2021 class, right-hander Trevor Bauer. The Forbes 30 under 30 honoree also co-hosts a podcast and is active on social media, providing a glimpse into what new-age athlete representation entails.



Ava Kehoe said that during the pandemic she envisions herself at Michigan State's boathouse among her future teammates to keep her going. But she also focuses on what she still wants to do at Northville: placing first at states and in the top five at the Midwest regionals. PHOTO PROVIDED BY AVA KEHOE

Kehoe

Continued from Page 1B

realized this was her path to Michigan State.

"When I found rowing, I found something I was pretty good at," Kehoe said. "I knew I wanted to take it to the next level."

While COVID-19 disrupted Kehoe's chance to repeat at nationals as a junior, Bickes was impressed with her perseverance and dedication.

Through the uncertainty, he said, she has been a good leader for the Mustangs, never losing sight of what her high school team was doing, despite focusing her attention on competing for a spot with the Spartans.

Kehoe was counting on having a chance to shine her junior season, but instead was forced to improvise: getting the attention of the Michigan State rowing team through an online recruiting page. She was first contacted by the Spartans in September, finalizing her recruitment in November.

Despite having her future finalized, Kehoe is still focused on her training, even though it has looked much different than it normally does, taking a different level of determination to get through.

"You need to have a certain headspace, I guess, just to be able to continue racing your race," Kehoe said. "When I am in a boat with all of my

teammates, I race the race for them or my coxswain because I know I can't let them down. But it's so different when you're by yourself or training by yourself. It's so easy to just give up.

"You just have to grit your teeth and bear it because you need to just continue. You don't really have anybody else to help you out."

During these times, Kehoe said she envisions herself at Michigan State's boathouse among her future teammates to keep her going. But she also focuses on what she still wants to do at Northville: placing first at states and in the top five at the Midwest regionals.

To Bickes, Kehoe has a lot of room to grow ahead of her first collegiate season.

"I think Michigan State's program is a high-caliber program that, with their training plan and the step up in training that she is going to see and the support she is going to get... I mean, the life of a student-athlete, she's very far from her ceiling in terms of what she can bring to the team," he said.

If given the chance in the spring, Kehoe wants to show the Spartans what they would be getting in the fall.

"I want to show them I'm here to work hard and I'm here because I truly love the sport," Kehoe said. "I really just want to do big things in it."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter at @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to LivSports@hometownlife.com.

Hartland teammates to continue football careers at Northwood

Bill Khan

Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

High school graduation is a time when lifelong friends often go their separate ways while swearing to stay in touch forever.

When Holden D'Arcy and Gavin Wisniewski head to college next fall, nothing will change in their relationship.

Teammates for 10 years in two sports, they will continue that partnership as college football players at Northwood University in Midland.

Wisniewski, an offensive lineman, verbally committed to Northwood about a month ago. D'Arcy, a quarterback, made the same decision a few weeks later.

"It's going to be awesome," D'Arcy said. "It's going to be pretty easy to go up there, because I'm going to know someone up there already. Playing at the next level with him has been our dream for a while now."

Winding up in the same college football program wasn't by design.

"We kind of stayed in our own place," Wisniewski said. "I knew Northwood was talking to him and he knew I was talking to Northwood. It wasn't really like we influenced each other's decision that much. It's both the perfect place we wanted to go."

D'Arcy and Wisniewski first played football together in second grade in a Hartland instructional league. They weren't always on the same youth football teams after that, but played baseball together most years.

"In second grade, I remember I came in a little nervous," Wisniewski said. "It was my first year of football. I was the center and Holden was the quarterback. We just became best friends and have been best friends ever since."

D'Arcy and Wisniewski talked through the years about ultimately playing college sports, but not necessarily together.

"It just kind of happened that way,"



D'Arcy



Wisniewski

D'Arcy said. "It's an added bonus we're playing together at the next level."

D'Arcy and Wisniewski were both first-team All-Livingston County.

D'Arcy was Hartland's starting quarterback for the second half of his sophomore year, missed his junior year with a knee injury, then bounced back with a terrific senior season. He was 61-for-116 for 1,039 yards and 13 touchdowns while running 73 times for 574 yards and nine touchdowns.

Being able to put those performances on film after the possibility the season would be moved to the spring was huge for D'Arcy.

"That was really important," he said. "It was awesome we got to play this year. I had a great time playing."

Wisniewski was a three-year starter on the offensive line. He had the versatility to play center, guard and tackle. He helped Hartland average 7.6 yards per carry.

He has a connection to Northwood, his father having played baseball for the Timberwolves.

"I knew about it, because he told me stories," said Wisniewski, who will major in marketing and communication. "I really just love business. I thought it was a perfect fit for me when Coach (E.J.) Arnold started talking to me. I instantly fell in love with the school."

D'Arcy plans to major in sports management.

"The thing I liked most about Northwood is the atmosphere and the culture Coach Arnold and all the guys are building there," he said. "I love that they have my major of choice."

Testing

Continued from Page 1B

Zoom calls and have posted videos on how the testing process would work, which have been helpful. She also said that much of the process has been based on personal knowledge of health and human safety.

After the test is opened, players swab each of their nasal cavities for five seconds each, then put it into a reactant agent that will tell the player and the coaching staff a result in 15 to 30 minutes: one line means negative and two means positive.

At Novi, Athletic Director Brian Gordon said members of the volleyball team, which is still in the running for a Division 1 state title, come in at their designated time slot, meet with the nurse or trainer who has their information readily available, get tested and sent to a waiting room for results.

"We have kind of treated ours really no (different) than if you were to go and get tested for strep throat at your own doctor's office or an urgent care," Gordon said.

When the results are determined, they are entered, for each player, online and sent to both the MDHHS and the MHSAA, something which Thornton said takes "hours and hours."

Gordon said, after one round of testing, Novi, including team members, the coaching staff and members of the athletic administration, all tested negative.

Even prior to the testing, Thornton said Churchill has put emphasis on distancing as much as possible when possible, and enforcing the mask rule even when players are using face shields in their helmet.

But even with the rapid testing, Thornton feels there are still questions to be answered about the virus itself.

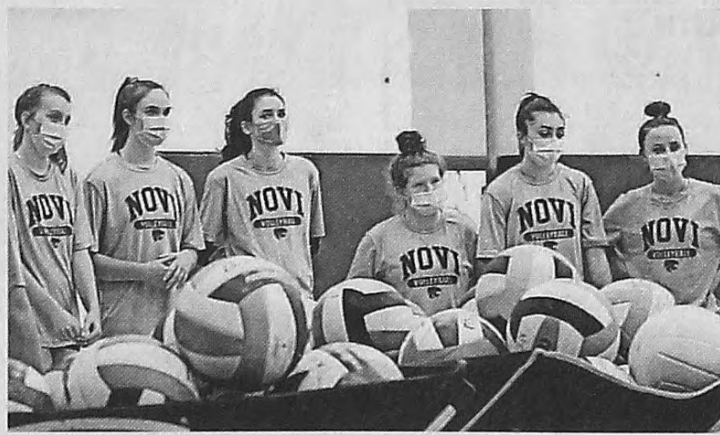
"The hardest part is what we don't know," she said. "You have kids whose parents will get it, but the husband will get it and the wife won't, or the entire family will get it. We just don't know enough about the spread, so it's very difficult... So the best way is just to say, 'Keep your mask on,' and test as much as you can.

"We've been overly cautious, I think, here at Churchill, just really an abundance of doing things the right way."

Bowl season

As she helped tape up players and prepare them for Monday's practice on a snow-covered field, Thornton could not help but think back on her time in college, working as a trainer for Michigan State football.

Churchill head coach Bill DeFillippo said he felt like this return to play has been like a bowl game, having



The Novi varsity volleyball team in the gym on Dec. 21 to prepare for the resumption of the state playoffs in 2021. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

focused on one opponent for nearly two months.

Novi Athletic Director Brian Gordon said the Wildcats want to play. They want to finish what they started.

"We will do whatever we need to do to keep kids safe, to keep coaches safe, to keep everyone safe so that we can have some closure for our fall season," he said.

"If this is a hoop we need to jump through, we will do it. We have been pivoting and adjusting on a dime for the past eight months. This is just one more thing."

However, the rapid testing provided by the MDHHS has only been used for the group of teams that were still in fall postseason contention. The winter sports are still waiting for guidance, remaining paused through at least Jan. 15 in adherence to restrictions made by the state.

With the amount of athletes involved in each winter sports regular season, also adding the number of middle school athletes into his total, Gordon said he would expect, if the MDHHS were to extend its testing requirements to the winter season, 600-650 tests having to be administered three times per week.

However, focused on the fall season, focused on the chance Churchill was given with the resources the school now has, Thornton remains set on doing her best to make sure her players are put in the best position to succeed on the football field, in practice or in games.

She is just happy they have the chance, no matter the circumstances.

"These kids have been super resilient," Thornton said. "They are as prepared as they possibly could be right now to play on Saturday."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter at @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

MHSAA allows limited tickets for remainder of postseason

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Michigan High School Athletic Association announced Wednesday that a limited number of spectators will be allowed at the remaining rounds of the football and girls volleyball tournaments.

Receiving approval from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, each football team will receive 125 tickets, while volleyball will receive 50 tickets for immediate family members.

The girls swim and dive finals Jan. 15-16 will not be permitted to have spectators due to the higher number of participants, which would push the total number of people in attendance past what is considered safe for indoor events, per MDHHS guidelines.

Spectators in different homes must be spaced out by 6 feet and must maintain distancing at all times. Those in attendance must wear face masks as well.

The football season resumed Saturday with the regional finals. The state semifinals will be held Jan. 16, while the state finals will be played Jan. 22-23. The sites have yet to be determined.

The volleyball postseason will restart with the state quarterfinals Tuesday. The state semifinals and finals will be held at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek Thursday and Saturday.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter at @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.



Livonia Churchill fans at a football game Nov. 13. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE PHOTO

Swimming

Continued from Page 1B

going to play it by ear and finish the season."

Area swim teams are in uncharted territory. After weeks without team practices, many head coaches don't know what to expect from the state meet, scheduled for Jan. 15-16.

As teams start the final sprint toward the end of the season, more questions seem to linger than answers, leaving coaches in the dark as to what they will see from their teams with one meet to go.

"This is all very frustrating: the back-and-forth, the 'we're going then we're not going.' The uncertainty was very frustrating because they didn't know if it was going to happen, they didn't know what it was going to look like," Northville head girls swim coach Brian McNeff said.

"No one has ever done anything like this, so it's not like you can look at what someone has done in the past and say 'OK, did this work for them or did it work for me when I did it this way?' Because no one has ever done this, it's kind of hard to gauge what will work and what won't."

Return to the pool

Prior to the first return Dec. 21, Milford head girls swim coach James Schuler did not think the state meet would happen.

Based on previous decisions made by the state, he expected the shutdown date would be extended to Jan. 16 with no practices allowed and that the focus would shift to the winter season.

"I don't think there was any apprehension about if states would happen or not," he said. "It was, 'Hey, we had a really good season. If it happens, we'll figure out what it means and figure out how to make the best of the opportunity.'"

But when Milford's swimmers returned to the pool, Schuler knew he could not have the same approach as he could have when they had last left.

While his swimmers were not out of shape entirely, they were not as prepared as when the tapering period started one week from the state meet in November. Schuler said the Mavericks needed to get back into the pool and get used to swimming again with good technique.

Facing a team that remembers the speeds they were swimming four, five weeks ago, Schuler told his players "I need you guys to put that out of your mind for right now, because you are going to have a reference of 'I was doing this five weeks ago.' We are not at the same place."

Novi head swim coach Kenneth Stark said over the month-and-a-half hiatus, his swimmers found places to swim to keep cardio up and muscles moving. But the tapering process - helping swimmers rest and recuperate their muscles to help them be at their top performance - can only last so long, he said.

As a coach, Stark is trying to get his team to focus on swimming fast again and with an intensity built off teammates.

With practices ramping up, McNeff's focus is on the balance of getting his swimmers prepared for high-octane competition while keeping them safe and



"I've been coaching 44 years, and this is the first time we have seen anything like this. ... I don't think anyone really knows what to do. We're just going to play it by ear and finish the season."

Greg Phill

Livonia Stevenson head coach

healthy.

However, he said, most teams are in the same predicament.

"Everyone is kind of in the same boat. No one was able to swim as much and you guys were probably a step above because you got to do something," McNeff told his team. "So that gives us the advantage."

'Like an all-star game'

While swimmers train for the final meet of the season, coaches know the product in the pool is not what it would have been in November.

"Whoever was doing well at the end of the regular season, that doesn't matter anymore," McNeff said. "You don't know what has happened in the past five weeks... It's wide open right now."

Even though expectations are out the window, coaches know there is only a slim possibility of swimmers making their best times, returning to the pool without the extensive training they are used to leading up to the meet.

"The state meet is not going to be anything special this year," Stark said. "I kind of look at it more of like an all-star game."

"We'll see where we end up. It's probably going to be one of the slowest state meets there's ever been. But it still gives the chance for some closure with the girls that the boys didn't have last season."

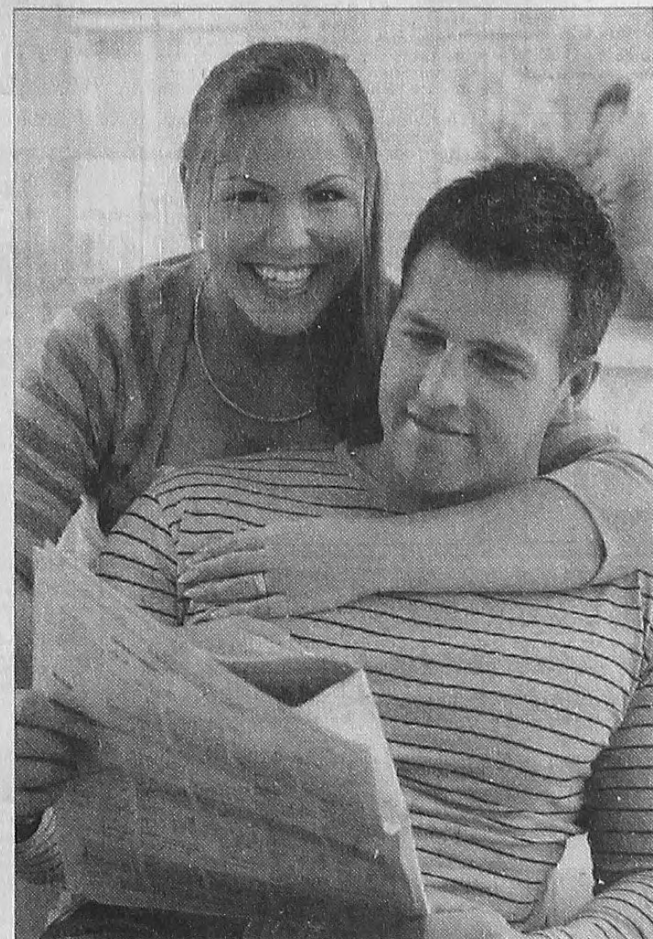
Phill said he wants his team to go into the state meet without expectations, having no idea what is going to happen Jan. 16.

"Will we swim the fastest times of the year? I don't know," Phill said. "I don't think so, but you never know at that meet. You never know when a quantum leap is going to happen."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter at @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
PUBLIC NOTICE
REQUEST FOR SEALED BIDS
TOWNSHIP HALL AV SYSTEMS UPDATE**

The Charter Township of Plymouth, the "OWNER", will receive sealed bids for the Township Hall AV Systems Update. This project involves the replacement of essential communications components within the council chamber and the augmentation of these systems to provide expanded functionality and control allowing greater community outreach and participation in township operations.

Project Timeline

Mandatory Onsite Bidder's Meeting - 10:00am	January 15, 2021
Questions Deadline	January 20, 2021
Proposals Due - 1:00pm	January 29, 2021
Project Award	February 10, 2021
Installation & Configuration	March 15, 2021

Sealed bids will be received in the office of the clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth, 9955 N Haggerty Road, Plymouth MI 48170. All bids must be sealed and marked as "Sealed Bid - Township Hall AV Systems Update". Bids must be received by **Friday, January 29, 2021 by 1:00 p.m.**, at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Additional information on the specifications for this project can be found at http://cms5.revize.com/revize/plymouthmi/bid_detail_T14_R43.php

The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids and to award the contract to the vendor the township believes will best serve the interest of the township, at their sole discretion.

Jerry Vorva, Clerk
jvorva@plymouthtp.org
Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: January 10, 2021

LO-000358022 3x5

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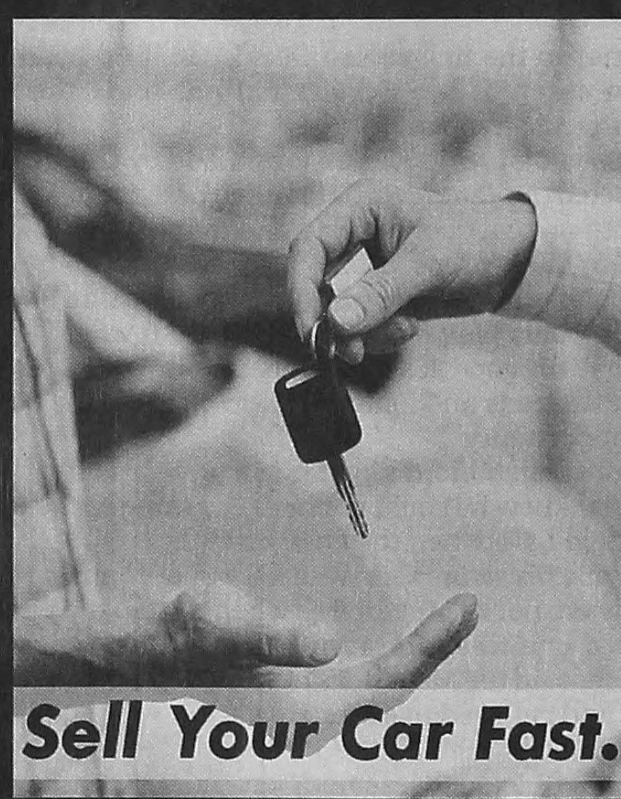
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SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Alcatraz Island locale, for short
 - 6 Info-filled
 - 11 Subjective paper pieces
 - 16 Yeshiva student, e.g.
 - 19 Land, in Italy
 - 20 Fast Amtrak service
 - 21 Salsa singer Cruz
 - 22 Pal, in Nice
 - 23 Concerning the effects of drugs on the mind
 - 27 Maestro — Pekka Salonen
 - 28 12:00, half of the time
 - 29 South, in Spanish
 - 30 Flinch in fear
 - 31 Squid feature
 - 34 "Chill out!"
 - 37 Amply skilled
 - 38 Belief in a national power structure
 - 42 Acting signal
 - 43 Blarney Stone's land
 - 44 "Sometimes you feel like —"
 - 45 Get moving
 - 48 Org. for tooth drillers
 - 50 Lid
 - 52 Bullfight yell
 - 55 Official endorsement via an amendment, say
 - 61 Savings acct. addition
 - 62 Days before holidays
 - 63 Rises
 - 64 Heaps
 - 65 Ornamental hairnets
 - 67 Jogged
 - 69 — Pointe, Michigan
 - 71 Gazpacho, e.g., in Spanish
 - 72 Talisman
 - 73 Cookie for 100+ years
 - 75 He's a doll
 - 76 Ear, nose and throat doctor
 - 81 B-ball official
 - 82 Sneak off to say "I do"
 - 83 The same: Prefix
 - 84 — Carlo
 - 85 Street — (popular acceptance)
 - 86 Video file format, in brief
 - 89 Wrestling win
 - 90 Quality among identical things
 - 100 TV's Griffin
 - 101 Oaths
 - 102 Swiss city on Lake Geneva
 - 103 Shelling out
 - 106 Moo goo — pan
 - 107 Short comic sketch
 - 108 Fist bump, colloquially
 - 109 Machine for a brain test
 - 115 Palme — (film award)
 - 116 Coiled
 - 117 Sprightly
 - 118 China's Zhou
 - 119 Mil. officer
 - 120 Taunts in fun
 - 121 Swift
 - 122 Nation south of Sicily
 - 6 Port southeast of Roma
 - 7 Canyon comebacks
 - 8 Stop nursing
 - 9 35mm camera type
 - 10 Thanksgiving staple
 - 11 Like mystical practices
 - 12 City in Illinois
 - 13 Added wing
 - 14 Fashionable Christian
 - 15 Stuffing herb
 - 16 "I, Claudius" star Derek
 - 17 PC-to-PC letters
 - 18 Actor Dafoe
 - 24 Aunt's spouse, in Paris
 - 25 Unified
 - 26 "Sorry, already have plans"
 - 32 Cantina snacks
 - 33 Bordered on
 - 34 Roman 901
 - 35 Above, in verse
 - 36 Country crooner Randy
 - 39 Fire output
 - 40 Mother of Don Juan
 - 41 Magical glow
 - 45 Clip out, as a coupon
 - 46 Imply in its definition
 - 47 In addition to
 - 48 Gorged on
 - 49 Fluffy floor-cleaning tool
 - 50 Walking aid
 - 51 They can't be taught new tricks, in a saying
 - 52 Raincoat material
 - 53 Most baggy
 - 54 Pact among nations
 - 56 ER hookups
 - 57 Bit of land in l'oceano
 - 58 Mink relative
 - 59 In smart garb
 - 60 Eastern spiritual path
 - 66 Crew tool
 - 68 Precept
 - 69 Saucer goop
 - 70 Suitemates, say
 - 72 Like one of a battery's terminals
 - 74 Pal of Piglet
 - 77 That girl's
 - 78 "How did — this happen?"
 - 79 Close by
 - 80 Fixin' to
 - 85 Longtime Honda model
 - 86 Rock or jazz
 - 87 Thanksgiving staple
 - 88 Suffix with host or lion
 - 89 Mickey's dog
 - 90 Obstruct
 - 91 Kevin of "Aliens in the Attic"
 - 92 Maytag products
 - 93 Rocker Ted
 - 94 Big pianos
 - 95 High-pH substance
 - 96 Skipped out (on)
 - 97 Ultimate purpose
 - 98 Be short with
 - 99 Old compact Kia model
 - 104 Abbr. on a food carton
 - 105 Escalate
 - 107 Clipper, e.g.
 - 110 "Sure," in Soissons
 - 111 Pointy part of Mr. Spock
 - 112 Links gp.
 - 113 Ruby or onyx
 - 114 Stuff in some viral genes

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19					20					21					22			
23				24						25					26			
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103			104	105		106							107				108	
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115				116						117					118			
119				120						121					122			

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

SUDOKU

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

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!

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

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

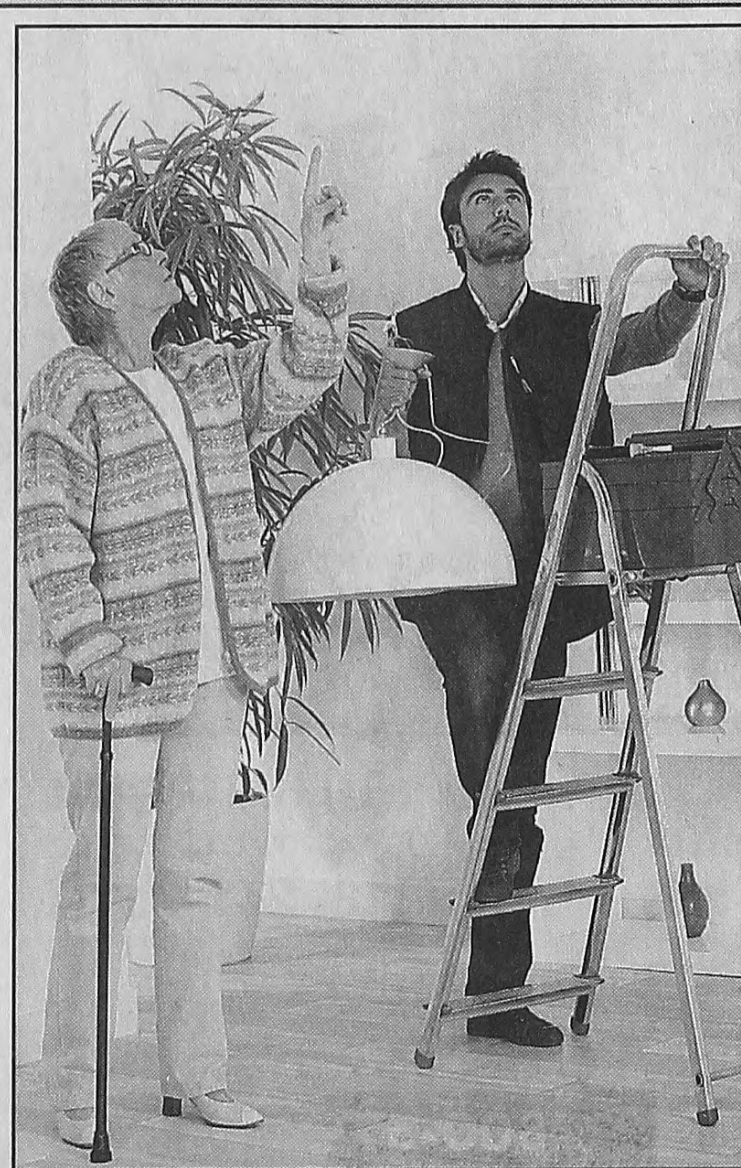
E T R U O C Y A L C Y E L L O V P
Y Q L O B L T L U A F E L B U O D
C D N A H K C A B U L U M P I R E
D R O P S H O T L Z F T W L L C D
E K Y G R A S S O E A N S A R O N
E N J E T L U A F P T I E W E U A
Y T I T L R E V R E S O T N Y R H
S R S L S L B R E A K P O I N T E
I U I U E S O Z I D W T I A D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

ANSWER KEY

- ACE
- ADVANTAGE
- BACKHAND
- BALL
- BREAK POINT
- CENTRE LINE
- CHIP
- CLAY COURT
- COURT
- DEUCE
- DOUBLE FAULT
- DOUBLES
- DROP SHOT
- FAULT
- FOOT FAULT
- FORECOURT
- FOREHAND
- GAME
- GRASS
- HALF-VOLLEY
- LAWN
- LET
- LINE CALL
- LOB
- LOVE
- MATCH
- NET
- RALLY
- RETURN
- SERVER
- SERVICE
- SET
- SET POINT
- SIDELINE
- SINGLES
- SLICE
- SMASH
- TOPSPIN
- UMPIRE
- VOLLEY

ANSWER KEY (Grid showing words found in the puzzle)

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



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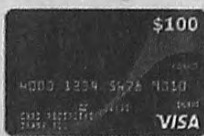
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Promotion: Offer is not able to be fulfilled for systems not installed by 3/27/21 and subject to refund. \$100 VISA® Reward Debit Card: \$100 Visa® reward debit card requires service activation. You will receive a claim voucher via email within 24 hours and the voucher must be returned within 60 days. Your \$100 Visa® reward debit card will arrive in approximately 6-8 weeks. Card is issued by MetaBank®, N.A., Member FDIC, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. No cash access or recurring payments. Can be used everywhere Visa debit cards are accepted. Card valid for up to 6 months; unused funds will forfeit after the valid thru date. Card terms and conditions apply. EQUIPMENT: Equipment shown may require additional fees. Touchscreen shown only available with upgrade to premium packages. ADT 6-MONTH MONEY BACK GUARANTEE: Money back guarantee only applies after ADT has made attempts to resolve a system related issue and has not been able to resolve that issue within the first six months of your contract. Equipment must be fully removed before a refund will be processed. Conditions preventing normal system operation cannot be caused by the customer. ADT THEFT PROTECTION GUARANTEE: The customer presenting ADT with this ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE will be able to receive a reimbursement of up to five hundred dollars (\$500) of Customer's homeowner's insurance deductible (if any) if, and only if, ALL of the following requirements are met to ADT's reasonable satisfaction: (i) the property loss was the result of a burglary that took place while the security system installed at Customer's protected premises was in good working order and was "on," and while all of Customer's doors and windows were locked; and (ii) the intruder entered the residence through a door, window or other area equipped with an ADT detection device, and such detection device was not "bypassed"; and (iii) Customer is not in any way in default under the ADT Residential Systems Customer's Order; and (iv) Customer files a written claim with their homeowner's insurance company, and such claim is not rejected or otherwise contested by the insurer; and (v) Customer reports the burglary loss to the appropriate police department and obtains a written police report; and (vi) Customer provides ADT with copies of the insurance claim report, the police report within sixty (60) days of the property loss and proof of settlement by insurance carrier; and (vii) Customer certifies in writing to ADT by signing this ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE and presenting it to ADT within sixty (60) days of the property loss that all of the foregoing requirements have been satisfied. Customer understands that presentation of this ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE signed by Customer is required and understands that ADT reserves the right to reject any application for reimbursement that does not comply with ALL of the requirements. Photocopies or other reproductions of this Certificate will NOT be accepted. By signing below, Customer certifies to ADT that all of the foregoing requirements have been satisfied. Please mail to: ADT Security Services, Account Management Support Center, Attn: Theft Protection Guarantee Claims, 14200 E. Exposition Avenue, Aurora, CO 80012. BASIC SYSTEM: \$99 Installation, 36-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$27.99 per month (\$1,007.64). 24-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$27.99 per month (\$671.76) for California. Offer applies to homeowners only. Basic system requires landline phone. Offer valid for new ADT Authorized Premier Provider customers only and not on purchases from ADT LLC. Cannot be combined with any other offer. The \$27.99 Offer does not include Quality Service Plan (QSP), ADT's Extended Limited Warranty, VIDEO LITE: ADT Video Lite is an additional \$299.00 Customer Installation Charge. 36-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$59.99 per month (\$2,159.64). 24-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$59.99 per month (\$1,439.76) for California, including Quality Service Plan (QSP) Form of payment must be by credit card or electronic charge to your checking or savings account. Early termination fees apply. Offer applies to homeowners only. Local permit fees may be required. Satisfactory credit history required. Certain restrictions may apply. Offer valid for new ADT Authorized Dealer customers only and not on purchases from ADT LLC. Other rate plans available. Cannot be combined with any other offer. ADT COMMAND: ADT Command Interactive Solution Services ("ADT Command"), which help you manage your home environment and family lifestyle, requires the purchase and/or activation of an ADT alarm system with monitored burglary service and a compatible computer, cell phone or PDA with Internet and email access. These ADT Command Interactive Solutions Services do not cover the operation or maintenance of any household equipment/systems that are connected to the ADT Command Interactive Solutions Services/Equipment. All ADT Command Interactive Solutions Services are not available with the various levels of ADT Command Interactive Solutions Services. All ADT Command Interactive Solutions Services may not be available in all geographic areas. Standard message and data rates may apply to text alerts. You may be required to pay additional charges to purchase equipment required to utilize the ADT Pulse Interactive Solutions Services features you desire. Two-way encryption only available with compatible SKV devices. GENERAL: For all offers, the form of payment must be by credit card or electronic charge to your checking or savings account, satisfactory credit history is required and termination fee applies. Certain packages require approved landline phone. Local permit fees may be required. Additional monitoring fees required for some services. For example, Burglary, Fire, Carbon Monoxide and Emergency Alert monitoring requires purchase and/or activation of an ADT security system with monitored Burglary, Fire, Carbon Monoxide and Emergency Alert devices and are an additional charge. Additional equipment may be purchased for an additional charge. Additional charges may apply in areas that require guard response service for municipal alarm verification. Prices subject to change. Prices may vary by market. Some insurance companies offer discounts on Homeowner's Insurance. Please consult your insurance company. Photos are for illustrative purposes only and may not reflect the exact product/service actually provided. LICENSES: AL-21-001104, AR-CMPY(001)725, AZ-R002(17)617, CA-A026320, CT-ELD(1)93844-L5, DC-E68302653, DE-60251800016, DE-07-212, FL-ET(1)303427, GA-LA0205336, IA-AS-02036, ID-ELE-SJ-39131, IL-127.001042, IN-C.P.D. Reg. No. -19-08088, City of Indianapolis IAC-000156, KY-City of Louisville IAC-000156, LA-F1914, LA-F1915, LA-F1982, MA-1355C, MD-107-1826, ME-LM00017382, MI-3601205773, MN-TS01807, MO-City of St. Louis, CO#354, St. Louis County, 100194, MS-15007956, MT-PSP-ELS-LIC-247, NC-25310-SP-FRMV, NC-1622-CSA, NE-14451, NJ Burglar Alarm Lic. # -NJ-348F00021808, NM-353366, NY-0068518, City of Las Vegas, 3000008296, NY-Licensed by the N.Y.S. Department of State UDD#12000317691, NYS #12000286451, OH-53891446, City of Cincinnati: A036, OK-AK1048, OR-170997, Pennsylvania Home Improvement Contractor Registration Number: PA022999, RI-3582, RI-7508, SC-BAC5630, SD-1025-7001-ET, TN-1520, TX-813734, ACR-3492, UT-8422596-6501, VA-115120, VT-ES-23827(C), WA-602588894/EDPROTECH934RS, WI-City of Milwaukee: PAS-0002966, WV-WV042433, WY-LV-621499370 Priority Way South Dr. Indianapolis, IN 46240 ©2020 DEFENDERS, Inc. dba Protect Your Home LO-GC155761-103

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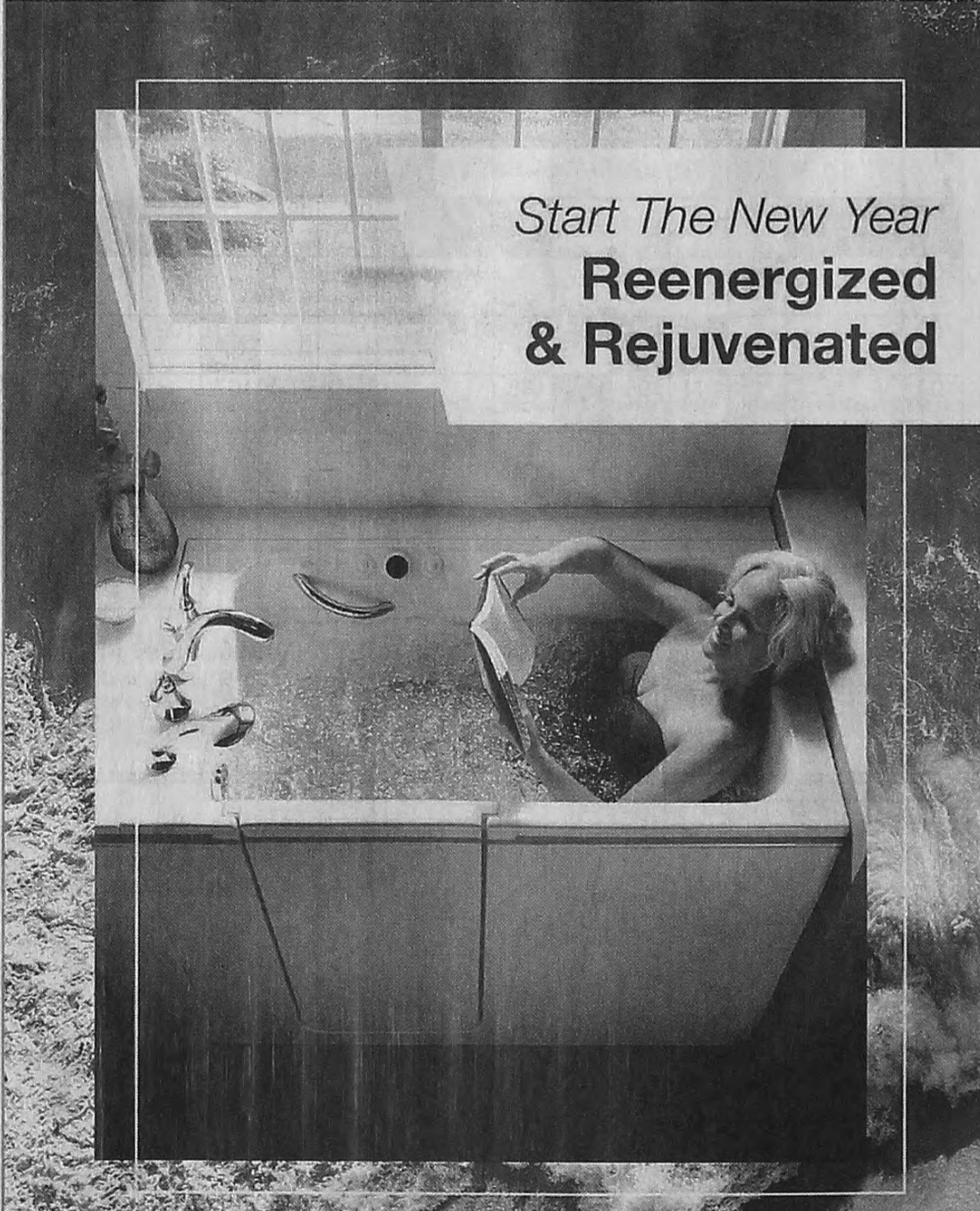


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