



Students take part in saving the environment

Colton Hyma
Staff Reporter



The Green Team helps the environment by working to protect Mother Earth.

It's run by science teacher Christine Webster who is also known as "Mother Nature". She teaches Biology and AP Environmental Science and is very passionate about nature and taking care of the environment. She started Green Team back in 2009 with the hope that students would join her on her quest to help make a difference for the well-being of the planet. Everyone who is part of the group wants to make a difference in the community and the environment.

The goal of Green Team

is to educate the community and students about environmental issues. They educate the school and the community by posting their activities on their social media pages, and through the announcements and displays throughout the school. Some of the things they have done are cleaning up all the garbage at the beaches, recycling plastics and cans, gardening and yard work, and other projects around Hudsonville. They also sometimes go to the Nature Center on



photo by Jada Doerr
The Green Team
Making a difference
recycled cans on Wednesday, just like every week.

New Holland Street to just walk around, hang out, and observe and look at the environment. At the moment, they are just in the planning stages for the year. They plan on collecting recyclables and will be celebrating Earth Day when it comes

around in April. Due to COVID-19, some things such as the beach

cleanups cannot be done safely.

Most of the people that go to the Green Team meetings have enjoyed it and come back for more. One such person is Junior Samantha VanBeek. "I like how everyone is so accepting and interested in saving the environment," said VanBeek. There is also some high praise from the founder. "I love the community of people that come together around the idea of stewardship and love for the environment," said Webster. The group is always accepting new people to join them, and will make them feel like a part of the family. The Green Team takes place right after school on Wednesdays in Room 129, and anyone is welcome to join in.

Virus causes substantial changes in learning

Caden Lemmen
Staff Reporter



In the midst of a global pandemic, schools had no choice but to go online. New studies are showing the negative effects of online school.

Grades are either a burden or a cake walk to students doing online school in Michigan. According to The Detroit News Superintendent, Pat Watson, of Bloomfield Hills schools stated in a letter to the parents that students will be encouraged to take academic risks while receiving feedback from teachers, especially with the opportunity to try again.

Some districts are reporting their remote learning plans and grades are not changing because they immediately began a robust online program when schools were closed on March 12 and are continuing with those

plans. Some other schools have a stricter approach to online school. Jason Kennedy, superintendent of Ludington Area Schools, with 2,150 students near Lake Michigan, said his

district is moving into a more intensive mode. Hudsonville's students are reporting that online school is fairly easy. Alayna Steensma, a junior stated, "My grades in all my classes are doing amazing except Algebra. Overall, I would have to say online school is a whole lot easier than I thought it was".

Sleep schedules have changed for students and parents due to being

overwhelmed by online school. According to Click On Detroit, researchers at the University of Michigan are sharing results from a survey that supports what many already know: virtual



courtesy of www
Learning online Some students saw negative effects from learning online.

learning early in the coronavirus pandemic placed a serious mental hardship on American students and parents. Hudsonville online students experienced dramatic changes in their sleep due to online schooling. According

to Steensma, said, "My sleep schedule has been totally messed up. I can wake up and go to bed whenever I want, except Tuesdays and Thursdays. I have to have a zoom meeting with all my teachers at 9:00 am. Basically

I haven't had a normal sleep schedule since February."

Online schooling has affected many students' family life as well. According to Mlive, the ongoing debate around back-to-school learning is often framed as an either-or situation: either you send your students back to the classroom, or you don't. But the discussion is more complex than that, as parents weigh health risks with a school's readiness and capacity to deliver a quality education.

If parents have safety concerns with face-to-face instruction, even if limited in a hybrid situation, they have alternative choices. There is homeschooling and multiple online learning options to explore. Steensma said, "I'm home alone most of the time but lately me and my mother have been butting heads and I'm starting to get sick of just seeing my family. I miss seeing everyone at Hudsonville."

2020 election: Joe Biden vs. Donald Trump

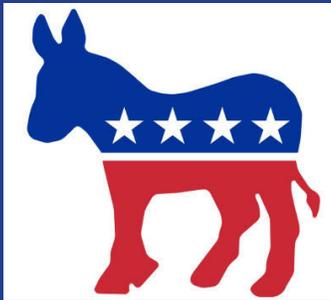
Ellen Derrer
Staff Editor



Some would say this year is the most important election that the US has ever had. The crucial issues at stake include climate change, women's rights, social justice, systematic racism, healthcare, education, gun control, LGBTQ rights, and more. Joe Biden is the candidate to vote for.

One reason to vote for Biden is because of his stance on climate change. According to NASA, "Evidence reveals that current warming is occurring ten times faster than the average rate of ice-age-recovery warming. CO2 from human activity is increasing more than 250 times faster than it did from natural sources after the last Ice Age." Even with scientists claiming that climate change is the biggest threat to the planet, Trump still denies that it exists. In 2017, he withdrew from the Paris Agreement, an international initiative group that works to reduce carbon emissions throughout the world to combat climate change. As the second-largest global emitter of carbon emissions, the US not being a part of the Paris Agreement is frankly selfish and fatal to the planet. Biden has said he will immediately return to the Agreement if elected, making him the obvious choice.

Another reason to vote Biden is because of his opinions regarding systemic racism. Over the summer, groups like Black Lives Matter made headlines with protests across the nation. Cases like that of George Floyd sparked uproar throughout the country. Although more people have recently become aware of systemic racism, it is not a new problem. It has just been brought to light more recently because of the ability to catch racism in action on camera. While the police have been especially targeted, systemic racism happens in every part of the lives of people of color and affects them from where they live to where they go to school to where they can get a job or get a promotion or how severe their criminal punishments are.



Trump has done nothing to combat systemic racism; in fact, he has done more to fuel white supremacy, as he is a racist himself. Along with a 30 year history of racist comments, some of his more recent racist remarks include his repeated reference to Covid-19 as the "China Virus", calling Black Lives Matter protesters "thugs", referring to white supremacists as "very fine people", and more recently at the first Presidential Debate, not being willing to condemn white supremacy when asked to do so. Biden has advocated for social justice and making changes to combat systemic racism, making him the better option.

Some would say that they don't agree with Biden's stance on gun control because it is their second amendment right. However, the right to bear arms was written in the Constitution 230 years ago, when people had pistols that could shoot three rounds per minute. Now, people have access to machine guns similar to those in the military. Having access to that kind of weapon is completely unnecessary and puts so many at risk. According to the American Journal of Medicine, "The United States' gun homicide risk is 25 times higher than other high income countries." In countries like the UK, Canada, and Germany,

where gun control laws have gone into effect, gun violence has dropped off to nearly zero.

With just these examples of the issues at stake in the upcoming election, it should be clear who the best candidate is. Many people frankly don't like either option. Both are old, white men who can't speak or think very well. But Trump is racist, an alleged rapist, homophobic, sexist, and a climate change denier, and Biden is not. There is a wall in Brooklyn, NY with 20,000 fact-checked lies that Trump has said during his presidency. If that isn't something that makes someone nervous as a US citizen, it is hard to imagine what will. Being the president means being transparent and honest with the people, and Biden is that person for the country.

Bryce Morningstar
Staff Reporter



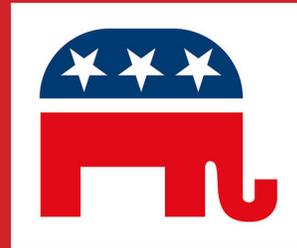
There are many reasons why someone might vote for Donald Trump in the upcoming election. Maybe they grew up in a family with both of their parents being cops or maybe some of their extended family members are firefighters or EMS. Police officers have had a bad reputation for a long time now, and when Trump actively puts into words his support for those on the front lines and first responders, families knew he was the one for the job. It is not only his love for those on the front lines and first responders that gets people excited for a possible four more years of him in office, it is his policies and plans he plans on continuing to grow that make the silent majority openly support Trump as he runs for his second term in office.

The biggest issue for a president during the term in office is tax cuts or tax increases. Trump openly supports tax cuts, and has already put some big ones through office. Biden, while actively supporting high tax rates on richer citizens, also has shown support toward raising capital gains rates to the level of ordinary income rates. A capital gain or cap gain is a levy on profits of asset sales that are held for more than a year. The current rate is zero percent for low-class citizens, fifteen percent for middle-class citizens, and twenty percent for high-class citizens.

One of the more widely known policies is Trump's borders policy. It is not to stop the immigration of people into the country through the southern border, but rather a policy to stop illegal immigration into the country. It is also to help restrain acts of human and drug trafficking to and from Mexico. This is in accordance with laws that are already in place, including the Secure Fence Act. The secretary is taking appropriate actions to plan, and construct, a wall of appropriate materials and technology to most efficiently keep control and oversee all points of entry.

Many people might be against Trump as they think he is a racist leader that has no right

to be in office. That is simply not true. People know this is not true from these reasons. Trump is not racist as he was called xenophobic - having or showing a dislike of or prejudice against people from other countries- as soon as the corona virus became serious. The left used his travel ban to and from China as a weapon to get Trump on the bad side of the media. This travel ban saved lives, and does not conclude the president as being racist. Trump has done a lot for the African American community. He has the lowest unemployment rate for the African American community in years, and put the First Step Act into action.



Trump has done a lot for the economy of the United States. First off, he reduced the red tape and regulations that had a hold on the growth of the smaller

businesses, that is until COVID-19 hit and put major restraints on the economy. Not only did he promise to eliminate these restrictions on the growth of these businesses, but he kept that promise. His department for these restrictions were told if they add one regulation, they have to eliminate two regulations. The less restrictive business environment will help businesses flourish and grow in the economy.

Trump has also fixed multiple foreign affairs in his first four years in office. For example, he took out the main general of ISIS. Admittedly, his ways of going about it were under the radar with the military general, but the outcome is a big turn in the East for those fighting ISIS. He also improved relations with North Korea, despite hostile comments. North Korea and the United States cooperated successfully in famine reliefs and technical assistance programs, while also successfully cooperating on MIAs (missing in action)

Not everyone likes Trump, and that is okay. America is a free society, but with these examples, it is clear to see why Trump is right for office. Biden, on the other hand, is showing signs of dementia as he can barely form a sentence at any of his rallies. Which is why he is not the one for office, and Donald J. Trump is the man for the job.

Federal money moves

Drakke Cecchini
Staff Reporter



Taxpayers spend thousands of dollars every year, but a lot of them have no idea where that money goes and what it's spent on. This year for example, \$1 billion of coronavirus relief money was spent on jet engines, body armor, and dress uniforms.



Dollar bills The United States spends billions every single year on government programs.

The government spends about two thirds of its yearly budget on mandatory things like Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid. For the fiscal year of 2021, the budget for mandatory government spending will be \$2.966 trillion. Congress has control of discretionary spending, which is everything else after mandatory spending, will take up \$1.485 trillion. They decide how much of the \$1.485 trillion is appropriated for each program. To maintain faith in the government this year, \$378 billion is required to be spent on interest payments on the national debt. Military spending is the largest category of discretionary spending. It takes

up about \$934 billion. Government spending affects the economy greatly; It can result in things such as greater welfare benefits which can decrease inequality, allowing unemployed people to not live in absolute poverty by providing a steady source of income. It can also help more people get jobs, which can create a higher GDP in America. On the other hand, an increase in government spending on welfare programs, could make people be less enticed to go and get a job, even though it would still increase the labour markets efficiency. When money is used inefficiently in the government's budget, it can decrease economic growth, actually creating less jobs.

The multiplier effect is a theory stating that a little burst of initial government spending can trickle through the economy and be re-spent over and over again, increasing the economy. When there is a multiplier of 1.0, 100 jobs would be created employing 100 more people, as opposed to a multiplier of anything below 1.0 which would take away jobs.

Voting age needs change

Olivia Gonzalez
Staff Reporter



The 26th amendment was passed in 1971 to allow the voting age to be lowered from 21 to 18. Since then there has been a lot of controversy on whether or not 18 is a sufficient age to vote. The 26th amendment was made for the sole purpose of making sure the congress had limited power in anything related to pay salaries. This created an obvious conflict of interest that has yet to be resolved.

As of 2018, the United States has one of the lowest rates of voters within all of the developed countries. If the voting age were to be lowered to 16 it could easily create a habit for teens to continue to vote later on in their life according to the IDS, better known as the Indiana Daily Student. Dropping the voting age would not be a stretch because many countries already have lowered their voting age and had positive results. The NCBI, the National Center of Biotechnology Information, states that by the age of 16 the cognitive function

that makes calm, considered decisions, is fully developed. Along with high school students being affected by the outcomes of voting, students should have the right to speak out their opinions by voting alongside adults.

EDITORIAL

At the age of 16 in the United States, they can do many things that involve with the government, such as the simple task of driving a car. "If you are 16 you are held accountable on the roads of Michigan and can be regulated by the police if you break driving laws. If you are buying food at



To the polls The United States citizens are headed to the polls for the upcoming election.

McDonalds, or you are working at a job you are paying some sort of tax to the government. Because of this people should have a say in what money will be used for" said Michelle Jesky.

Many people may say that at 16 people are too young and immature to make important decisions for the country. Society thinks that teens will not vote even if they are given the option, but that is not the case. It does not matter how old someone is for them to not care, they will not vote. So a 16- year-old should have the same choice as an adult.

Paying attention to the no-name candidates

Kelsie Sparks
Staff Reporter



The 2020 election consists of not two, but four candidates. Candidates Jo Jorgenson and Howie Hawkins are both running in the minority party category. Jorgenson is the libertarian party candidate and Hawkins is the Green party candidate.

Jorgenson's campaign is based around the slogan "Let her speak!" This is based on the idea that Americans deserve to hear all candidates on the ballot and candidates should be allowed on the national debate stage with the major party candidates. One of Jorgenson's beliefs is getting the government out of small businesses so they can

determine for themselves if they want to reopen or close during the pandemic. She rewards the essential workers that remained at work and, also honors the people that assisted others during shutdowns. She believes that the government controls too much business and that hurts the progress. Another belief is that America should try to be more reserved but not isolationists, and America should be like a larger Switzerland, armed and neutral. Jorgenson also believes America should stay out of foreign affairs, focus on protecting itself and not everyone else. She wants to return control of education to the teachers, parents, and students: not the government. Along with reducing the cost of healthcare for every individual and cut policies that cripple economic

growth.

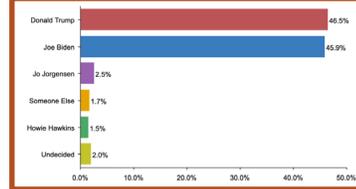
The other third party candidate from the Green party, Howie Hawkins wants to build the ecosocialist party as an activist and another option to the two-capitalist-party system. Hawkins is about finding solutions to threats that we face daily, such as climate change and the nuclear war race. He supports an ecosocialist green new deal that includes an economic bill of rights and a green economy reconstruction program. Hawkins wants to go 100% clean energy

by 2030, along with rebuilding railroads and transportation systems, transferring to

all organic agriculture, and green manufacturing. This new deal would cost 2 trillion dollars each year.

Hawkins wants to cut the military budget by 75%, meanwhile, Jorgenson

wants to visualize how much is necessary each year and decide the budget at that time. Each candidate is different in their views and plans; however, both provide new options rather than the normal Democratic or Republican party systems.



Forgotten candidates People tend to forget there are more than Republican and Democratic parties running.

Haunted mansion invites guests in

Ashley Strick
Staff Editor



The Felt Mansion in Saugatuck is considered to be haunted by many people. This October the now-owners are allowing people to stay overnight, on either weekends or weeknights, and some West Michigan residents are taking advantage of the opportunity.

The legend revolving around Felt Mansion is nearly 100 years old, and tells the story of Agnes and Dorr Felt who bought the mansion in 1928. Agnes had died not even two months after moving into the mansion, and her spirit is said to roam the halls of the house.

A carriage house accompanies the mansion, and a man named Aid presumably died there as well. During a tour, the guide had asked if Aid was present, and a rake that was leaning up against a wall, seemingly stable, had slammed on the ground. The guide said that everyone in the group ran out all at once.

In years past, the owners have taken patrons on paranormal tours, but this year they are letting guests stay alone in the mansion, and live the legend themselves. Patty Meyer

has been renovating the mansion since 2001, and has witnessed paranormal activity from inside firsthand.

She said she used to be a skeptic until one day when she was working inside the mansion, and a rug from inside

Agnes's room ended up bunched up in the corner after it had just been nice and flat on the floor. At first, she had figured it was her assistant trying to play a prank, and did not give it much thought until her assistant asked her about the same type of thing happening. The two laid the rug back out, and left the room and stayed together, and went back into Agne's bedroom to find the rug bunched back up and in a completely different room.

Another legend that consumes Felt Mansion is that of the "melonhead" children. The mansion allegedly provided for a hiding place for descendants of children with hydrocephalus who had been abused at the Junction Insane Asylum which was very close by Felt Mansion. Inside the asylum, people have

reportedly heard heavy breathing, loud footsteps and screaming, as well as seeing



courtesy of www

Spooky manor The Saugatuck mansion awaits its next guests. Twelve people or less are allowed for night stays.

strange lights from inside the building and silhouettes of people walking around. Many children inside the asylum suffered from hydrocephalus, a condition in which fluid builds up inside of the brain, causing the head to swell. These

children were called "melonheads" and were severely mistreated while living at the asylum. Some of these children ran away to the Felt Mansion, and legend says they still can be found roaming around the property.

The group that is offering the overnight visits said that they are not forcing anyone to stay, but it is up to the visitors to determine whether or not they would want to experience the paranormal for themselves. The stays begin at three in the afternoon, and wrap up at ten the next morning. To try and prevent an outbreak of COVID-19, groups of those who would like to stay can be no more than 12, which the owners say provide adequate space to stay safe amid the pandemic.

Ellie Norder
Editor/Columnist



OUT OF ORDER

With the times continuing to be everchanging, the question of what holidays will look like this year continue to surface. As the upcoming events begin, Halloween has been the immense question people continue to ask. Although there has not been a specific order set on what the 31st is going to involve, people are continuing to grow curious.

When it comes to running from door-to-door, yelling trick or treat in efforts to receive handfuls of candy, health experts have stated the virus continues to loom and in their opinion it would be best if the festivities this year would be put on pause, or done with various precautions. What this means for fellow trick or treaters is that it will be up to their parents to decide what will be best for them and their family.

As a kid growing up, Halloween was one of my favorite holidays. Getting ready and putting on the specific costume I had to have that year filled my young self with joy and excitement. Having kids have to skip out on that opportunity this year would mean they are being robbed a year of fun childhood festivities.

In Michigan, health officials have issued out tips for celebrators, their parents and homeowners who wish to hand out treats and celebrate the holiday kids have come to love. Suggestions such as staying home when sick and maintaining a six feet distance while wearing a face covering are urged, in order to have a safe and fun night.

The guidance from health officials also encourages older populations of Michiganders to consider hosting virtual parties instead of an in-person Halloween gathering. With this year being hard for seniors in high school already, the loss of celebrating holidays with friends for the last time is lost and left scrambling to come up with new ideas on how to celebrate.

Opinions? Comments?
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Mac and cheese with a hint of spice

Jada Doerr
Staff Editor



At the beginning of fall, society is reminded of the new season when the leaves change colors, when the temperature drops, and when pumpkin spice flavored products make their annual appearance. Pumpkin spice flavored products range from candles, to lattes and cookies, and the new edition-- pumpkin spice mac and cheese.

When Kraft initially announced the launch of the pumpkin spice mac and cheese, it was said to be exclusive to 1,000 contestant winners in Canada; however, due to the mac and cheese trending on social media, the company later said that there was also going to be a contest in the States. The contest was held September 25th through the 29th. Contestants had to use a specific hashtag and tag Kraft on Twitter for a chance to

win the limited-edition pumpkin spice product. The product was packaged like an average Kraft mac and cheese box, but along with the classic dry noodles and cheese packet, it included a

pumpkin spice flavor packet to mix in with the cheese and some cinnamon to sprinkle on top. The pumpkin spice version of mac and cheese is described as having hints of allspice, ginger, nutmeg, cloves and cinnamon. "To me, the pumpkin spice mac and cheese sounds so gross. I feel like they are ruining basic mac and cheese which is already so good," said senior Kaelyn Foltz.

Kraft is not the only brand that has tried broadening their brand's flavors. For example, earlier this year, Doritos came

out with Mountain Dew flavored Doritos. The limited-edition chips had the soda's citrus flavor in the crunchy chip. Other bizarre flavored foods include cheese

flavored Kit-Kats, blueberry and hazelnut flavored Pringles, pizza flavored ice cream, and many more. "I once tried bacon flavored mints and they were disgusting. They tasted like dog food. I would not recommend

it," said senior Braden TerHaar. These offbeat flavors of well-known foods are commonly a brand's attempt to increase their awareness. They use the controversial flavors to get people talking about it on social media platforms because even if no one is interested in the new flavor, the brand is still getting exposure.



courtesy of www

Pumpkin spice mac and cheese Kraft has released a new flavor of mac and cheese to contest winners.

EEE strikes Michigan once again

Baron Davis
Staff Reporter



Deadly Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) is back in Michigan and stronger than before, threatening sports game times for the second year in a row.

Once again, EEE has the potential to disrupt outdoor sporting events in Michigan. EEE is the most deadly mosquito-borne illness with a 33 percent fatality rate in people that become ill. Last year, Michigan accounted for 25 percent of the nation's 38 total cases. Although this is not much, cases have been on the rise in recent years. People under the age of 15 and over the age of 50 are at the highest risk of becoming seriously ill or dying from the virus if it is caught. According to health officials, to limit the risk of contracting EEE, people should wear pants and shirts with sleeves. Bug spray should also be used to repel the attraction of mosquitoes. In an effort to prevent the spread of EEE, the Michigan Department

of Health and Human Services plans to conduct aerial control treatment in high-risk areas in Michigan. As of October 1, the mosquito-borne illness has been found in 36 animals and 13 different counties. When animals are being infected at high rates, in which they are, humans are just as vulnerable and must take the appropriate steps forward to avoid infection. Counties that have taken action include Allegan, Kent, Barry, Ionia, and Jackson. Kent County, but not Ottawa County, has changed game times in its area due to EEE. The reason for this, according to Athletic Director Kevin Wolma, is because "There were a number of cases where EEE was found in horses in Kent County and the surrounding areas. Ottawa County has not seen the presence of EEE in horses and there has been

no human cases either." As long as Ottawa County continues to see the absence of EEE in both animals and humans, sports will continue to be played as normal. However, if EEE is found in Ottawa County like it was in Kent County,



This sucks! Sports officials and teen athletes hate yet ANOTHER virus going around.

courtesy of www

then game times will have to be moved up in order to limit the risk of contracting the virus. If game times are moved up, both coaches and players will have to adjust to new schedules. "It would affect our meeting times before

games and how much time we have to mentally prepare," said senior Brady Harmsen. With colder weather ahead, the threat of EEE will vanish because mosquitoes cannot survive the winter. However, until then, take the appropriate precautions and stay safe.

Alexis Coulter
Editor/Columnist



I'M NOT SORRY

So what's the first thing you think of when you hear the word gay? Do you think of a friend you may know who identifies as such? Do you immediately scowl? What's scary about words like this one that makes people pretend to vomit, or even go out of their ways to harass people who identify as another gender or for who they love? It's easy, this is a conservative town. Very conservative. Being a member of the LGBTQ+ community in Hudsonville can be pretty scary, because people don't know if they're safe using their preferred bathroom, or even holding hands with their significant other because of what people will say and do. Which is why it can be so hard for people to come out about any of this to the people that they think they can trust. When I first came out to my friends, I was terrified. I was so scared that I was going to become an outcast, become known as nothing more than a target for people to bully. But that didn't happen, thankfully. I was lucky enough to be surrounded by people who supported me and loved me for who I was. But some people aren't. Several members of the LGBTQ+ community that live in Hudsonville may not have supportive friends or family at the time. Yet people find it necessary to make their situations even worse, by bullying and picking on people for who they are. So think about that. Next time you see a kid that looks like a target, just take a step back. Would you want people to treat you this way? Imagine if people hated you because of who you choose to be, or who to like. Imagine if your family couldn't stand you just because you like someone they never could've imagined you with. You never know what kind of situation anyone has going on, and you never have the right to judge someone for that.

Opinions? Comments?
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Rising drownings cause concerns

Sydney Kline
Staff Reporter



A new record of drownings in Lake Michigan have made locals concerned about the safety of swimming in the lake. In the summer of 2020 the drownings have increased since last year. The number was 42 drownings in Lake Michigan in 2019 while this year in 2020 there've been over fifty, according to the Great Lakes Surf Rescue website. The rip currents in Lake Michigan have been getting stronger and more dangerous year by year.

Some ask, why aren't people aware of rip currents and their effects? People may be overconfident about swimming during rough conditions because they don't understand that catching a rip current could happen to anyone. Being a strong swimmer in a pool is a lot different than being a strong swimmer in a lake. People who visit Michigan from other states don't understand rip currents as well as locals may. Locals in towns surrounding the shoreline like Grand Haven, Holland, Saugatuck are concerned for the tourists

because they may not know the danger of the lakes at-risk currents according to M-Live. At most beaches, especially state parks, there are signs about the currents, informing people about how to avoid them or get out of one.

Over the years many more websites like the Great Lakes Surf Rescue website have been made to inform people about

the danger of rip currents because of how these drownings have spiked over the years.

In July 2020, a boy from Chicago Heights drowned in Lake Michigan around Gary. The Gary mayor was at the beach while the boy was drowning. The mayor talked about how devastating the drowning was for their city in an article done by the Chicago Tribune. This tragic drowning

was the 16th drowning and it was only July. The people who are living around the shoreline are concerned for their safety because of how bad the drownings and rip currents already are.

In a report by Woodtv8



Caught by the sea Two surfers save a women struggling to stay afloat.

courtesy of www

they addressed the issue of rip currents by talking about what Holland State Park is doing about it. The state park is working on putting a gate around the pier to prevent people

from being swept away off the pier. In the report, a visitor of the state park speaks out and says how they understand why they're thinking about putting up gates around the pier because people need something to protect them from themselves. They are also talking about closing the park in the spring and summer when conditions get dangerous.

Trick or treating six feet apart

Kids are worried about continuing Halloween traditions

Zac Baker
Staff Reporter



With Coronavirus cases increasing around the area, it has many people wondering if Halloween activities are safe to participate in this year. With the correct precautions, trick or treating can be done safely. The CDC (Center of Disease Control) has given us guidelines to follow which can be used while trick or treating. For example, the CDC recommends staying six feet away from others. It could be easy to stay a safe distance away from others when trick or treating. Kids might have to wait until other kids finish to go up to trick or treat in order. The CDC also recommends people wear masks; it would also be simple for both the trick or treaters and the people handing out candy to wear a mask in order to keep everyone safe. Another thing suggested by the CDC is to be surrounded by a small number

of people. Trick or treaters could travel in groups even smaller than what is recommended in the CDC guidelines. Furthermore, the majority of trick or treating takes place outside. It could also be easy to move it to an entirely outside activity this fall. The people handing out the candy could be outside at their houses, instead of opening the door to give candy to trick or treaters. Another solution, would be to put a bowl of candy outside of the house for kids to grab, in case people don't want to come close to contact with other kids. This would help to follow the guidelines as well. Some people would say

that trick or treating would give kids and parents an unnecessary risk of getting COVID. However, with many things being taken away this year because of COVID, it would be fun for kids to be able to trick or treat. This would be something for many people to look forward to. It is important to have some normalcy and fun going on during this pandemic. Overall, it's important for kids to participate in trick or treating for Halloween this year. If they are cautious, follow the recommended CDC guidelines, and move a majority of the trick or treating outdoors, there should be a lower risk of contracting the disease. So, there should be a problem with kids enjoying Halloween how it is meant.

EDITORIAL



COVID free jack-o-lantern Trick or treating can be done safely if CDC guidelines are followed.

COVID can not take away holidays

Families still planning to gather this holiday season

Vienna Putman
Staff Reporter



From falling red leaves to falling white snow, the holidays mark one of the most disorganized years. Plenty of people are trying to find a way to celebrate without being at risk or putting others at risk as well. Covid-19 has caused many plans to be canceled and visits with family to be difficult, especially with family members who are more susceptible to getting sick. But the students are fired up, and push through anyway. They are going to celebrate and party with close family and friends regardless of this year's restrictions. Many people go to parties during the holidays to celebrate with friends and family outside of the house. However, the coronavirus has other plans. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), people are more at risk of getting sick in large in person gatherings where people have a hard time social distancing. After surveying students on what they will do this

year, many of them said that they will still continue with their holiday activities. Putting the virus into consideration, many have stated that they would plan events with their close family and friends and make the most of what this year has given them. This holiday season will still be celebrated despite there being a virus. Whether people like them or not, masks have become a necessity these days. Most public buildings don't let people in without one. Wearing a mask around others can protect both the one wearing the mask as well as the other person. According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), masks protect people from airborne particles by putting a barrier to keep out any unwanted molecules. Many students that said that they would try their best to celebrate this year said that they would wear masks, and distance themselves from people

other than close family. Many people know that they must remain six feet away from others when not wearing a mask, so students who have family in other states are set. Although celebrating the Holidays when family can be across the country can be tricky, but the improvements in technology allow it to be easier to talk to them. In a recent survey, 38.2% of students found that Zoom made it easier to talk to friends and family, whereas 61.2% found that other forms of communication were easier for them. Either way, people are finding ways to combat the virus and safely talk to friends and family through FaceTime, Discord, Google Duo, etc. Whether it be in person or virtual, people are still finding ways to make this holiday season fun, and safe for everyone.



Celebrate safely This year, families will alter how they spend the holidays.

Luna Pietrzak
Editor/Columnist

LUNAR VIEW



In most areas of the country, mental health is a big issue and still has a stigma surrounding it. According to the National Alliance on Mental health (NAMH), nine out of ten teenagers today claim that the stigma surrounding the issue is making it harder to vocalize the hardships they may have. But throughout the years many people, especially teens, have tried to break down some of the stigma surrounding this topic. Mental health should be talked about more in schools because a student's mental health could affect a teenager's life greatly, not just emotionally, but academically as well.

Research suggests that mental disorders, like anxiety and/or depression, among teenagers are on the rise. This could be due to the increasing amounts of pressure put onto the students to get good grades and do extracurricular activities. Teachers and administrators should be more aware of some of the warning signs of mental illness so they could help that student according to their needs. Some teens may use mental illness as an excuse for not doing their work they were assigned. For others vocalizing mental illness may just be a way to get sympathy and attention from other people. But this creates a problem for teens that need certain accommodations in everyday situations.

It is a good thing for schools to have the space for teens to vocalize the struggles they may face but there should also be a time and a place to do so. If the student is in the middle of class they should not be talking about their mental health if it's not relevant. But on the other hand, if the class is talking about mental health or they are talking to their counselors it would be a better time to talk about it. Giving teens the space they need to express these feelings could lead them to be more successful.

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Ruth Bader Ginsburg left an admirable legacy

Ellen Derrer
Staff Editor



The notorious RBG: a name that will go down in history. Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a law professor and Supreme Court Justice, serving on the Court for 27 years. Her nomination for Court was historic, as she was the first Jewish woman and the second woman to serve on Court. Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, Ginsburg was known most profoundly for being an advocate for gender equality, bringing to light that gender discrimination is harmful to both men and women. After graduating from Cornell University with a BA in law, Ginsburg enrolled at Harvard Law School, where she was one of 9 women in a class of 500 men. While there, the dean of Harvard Law invited all the female law students to dinner at his home and asked them, "Why are you at Harvard Law School, taking the place of a man?" She also worked for the Social Security Administration office, where she was demoted after becoming pregnant with her first child. Ginsburg would say that experiences similar to these were crucial in fueling her activism. When her husband took a job in NYC, Ginsburg transferred to Columbia Law School, where she earned her law degree, tied for first in her class.

At the start of her legal career, Ginsburg found it difficult to find work, as she was rejected from every law firm in NYC because of her gender. After a few years of work at firms and as a researcher, Ginsburg landed her first position as a professor at Rutgers Law School, where she was told she would be paid less than her male colleagues because she had a husband with a well-paid job. Ginsburg participated in more than 300 gender discrimination cases throughout the early 1970's as president of the Women's Rights Project. Additionally, as director of the American Civil Liberties Union, she argued six gender discrimination cases before the Supreme Court, winning five. One of the reasons for her success was her strategy. Instead of asking the Court to end all gender discrimination at once, Ginsburg took aim at specific discriminatory rules and expectations, building on each victory. She also made sure to pick some male clients to show that gender discrimination was



courtesy of wwu
Ruthless RBG RBG left a legacy after serving on the court for 27 years.

harmful to both men and women. The cases that Ginsburg argued included those that appeared to be beneficial to women, but actually reinforced the idea that women needed to be dependent on men. Her strategy also extended to word choice, as she used the word "gender" instead of "sex", after her secretary suggested that "sex" would be a distraction to judges. One of the cases that Ginsburg argued was the case of Virginia Military Institute, where she won on the idea that all state-funded schools would be required to accept women for admission after a woman was denied from applying because of her gender. Another important case that Ginsburg was a part of involved Hobby Lobby, where the Court ruled that certain companies cannot be required by the government to pay for specific types of contraceptives, such as methods of birth control and emergency contraception, for their employees. Ginsburg dissented (spoke against the majority ruling of the Court), saying that it would disadvantage those who do not share their employer's religious beliefs, and noting

the cost barrier that many women face in attempting to gain access to different kinds of birth control. With her recent passing after a long battle with cancer, the spirit of Ginsburg will live on for many more years in the hearts of people young and old. Senior Sofia Buriouk said, "RBG has made an impact not only on the political side of being a woman in politics, but also the activism side of fighting for women's rights and LGBTQ+ equality." Her passing has also caused a stir in the government. With the upcoming election, there is controversy over whether the open Supreme Court seat should be filled by someone appointed by Donald Trump, as the current president, or appointed by the winner of the election in November. A similar situation happened in 2016, when Justice Antonin Scalia died with nine months left until the election. Then Senator Mitch McConnell declared that the Senate would not consider a replacement for Scalia until after the presidential election, nearly nine months away. Hypocritically, McConnell has now voiced his eagerness to fill the seat. This comes after it was also released that Ginsburg's last words were, "My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed." Whether or not her last wish is honored is up to the Senate.

Conspiracy theory gains support from voters

Sarah Cook
Staff Reporter



With the 2020 Presidential election approaching, the media has been saturated with political articles, memes, and videos. Appearing on some platforms is a group named QAnon. QAnon is a sprawling internet conspiracy theory that has gained the support from several of President Trump's supporters. The followers of QAnon believe that a secret political clique of Satan-worshipping Democrats, Hollywood celebrities, and billionaires run the world. It is also believed they engage in pedophilia, human trafficking, and the harvesting of a supposedly life-extending chemical from the blood of abused children. A popular claim is that Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, George Soros, and others are planning a coup against Trump and are involved in an international child sex-trafficking ring. QAnon

followers believe that Donald Trump is waging a secret battle against this cabal and its "deep state" collaborators to expose the malefactors and send them all to Guantánamo Bay, in Cuba. QAnon used to be something most ignored when they saw it on the internet, but in recent months it has gone mainstream. Twitter, Facebook and other social networks have been flooded with QAnon-related false information about Covid-19, the Black Lives Matter protests and the 2020 election. Supporters have also been trying to attach themselves to other activist causes, such as the anti-vaccine and anti-child-trafficking movements, in an effort to expand their ranks. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) presented documents to Yahoo! News in August 2019, that showed this conspiracy could potentially become a domestic terrorism threat. According to the report, the FBI is concerned about "conspiracy theory-driven

domestic extremists," specifically mentioning QAnon and other right-wing conspiracy theories. Newsweek reached out to the FBI for comment, but did not receive a response. In the offline world, some believers have been charged with violent crimes, including one QAnon follower accused of murdering a mafia boss in New York last year. Another follower was arrested in April and accused of threatening to kill Joe Biden. The FBI has warned that QAnon poses a potential domestic terror threat. In the past, the conspiracy theory Pizzagate became viral during the 2016 presidential campaign. The personal email account of John Podesta, Hillary Clinton's

campaign manager was hacked and the emails were posted on WikiLeaks for everyone to see. Proponents of the Pizzagate conspiracy theory falsely claimed the emails contained coded messages that connected several high-ranking Democratic Party officials and U.S. restaurants with an alleged human trafficking and child sex ring. One of the establishments allegedly involved was the Comet Ping Pong pizzeria in Washington, D.C.. This shows that QAnon is not the first, nor the last, baseless conspiracy theory to emerge in recent years.



courtesy of wwu
Trump supporters hold up signs Rallies protest the Pizza Gate.

Jada Doerr
Editor/Columnist

I'M AN ARIES



July 23 to August 22 is the season of the Leo, the spotlight-loving zodiac sign, which is symbolized by the valiant lion. I have noticed that people who are identified as Leos tend to have a bright personality; this makes sense because they are categorized as fire signs. Leos are represented by the age group 28-35. People with this zodiac sign, or in the life stage, quit hiding who they really are and begin living life however they want and operating on their own terms. They do what they want, when they want. Leos are usually quite positive people who love entertaining others. The most compatible signs with Leos are Aries, Gemini, Libra and Sagittarius. They tend to have an almost magnetic personality that makes people want to be around them. I want the Leos in my life to be in my life forever because it feels like there is never a dull moment with them. While Leos are known to really like themselves, they also don't like to be alone. It seems they are always out and about and have something going on to keep them busy. Although they can be selfish at times, Leos are actually very loyal, fun, and are always down to do something if a friend asks. A trait that can come with both positives and negatives is that Leos are very, very honest. I actually don't mind this about Leos because I love a person who is blunt, but I know this is a trait that some people really don't like. Something else that I have noticed in many Leos is that they are very confident in their opinions, and they like to have things their way rather than going with the flow. This makes a lot of sense because the sign is known to sometimes be stubborn and/or controlling. Due to their self-confidence and boldness, there are actually quite a few successful Leo celebrities that many people may know like Kylie Jenner, Tom Brady, Jennifer Lopez, Chris Hemsworth, and Steve Carell.

Opinions? Comments?
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Ocean pollution killing animals

Kadence Weston
Staff Reporter



Humans are at fault for the tens of thousands of whales, birds, seals, and turtles killed every year from plastic and air pollution.

Plastic in the ocean kills fish, birds, marine mammals and sea turtles when they mistake plastic bags for food. These bags cannot be digested so once consumed the plastic stays in the animal's gut. The problem with this is that plastic in an animal's gut can prevent food digestion and can lead to a very slow and painful death. Because plastic bags take up to 1,000 years to break down, once an animal who has ingested this plastic dies and decomposes, the plastic is then let out to carry on and kill more animals. Furthermore, this plastic can destroy habitats and affect the mating rituals of these animals.

Pollution is also a main killer of wildlife. Pollution

is creating muddy landscapes and poisoning soil, killing plants and animals through long term exposure to air pollution. For example it can lead to chronic respiratory disease, lung cancer and other diseases. Toxic chemicals that accumulate in top predators can make some species unsafe to eat.

Michigan is focused

on working to prevent air pollution. State officials have been working since 2010 to put together steps that will bring down levels of harmful Sulfur Dioxide.

According to the Detroit News, the plan targets four industrial operations over emissions of the gas which has been linked to a host of respiratory illnesses. Some ways people can help with pollution is to reduce the number of trips they take in a car, avoid burning leaves, trash, and other

materials, and avoid using gas-powered lawn and garden equipment.

One way people can help is by donating to organizations like The Ocean Agency, a nonprofit organization that is finding donations to help find a plan to save the coral reefs from extinction. There are many more nonprofit

organizations just like The Ocean Agency that are working to reduce and eliminate ocean plastic pollution in a variety of different ways,

including Oceanic Society, Plastic Pollution Coalition, 5 Gyres, Algalita and Plastic Soup Foundation. These organizations are planning to help clean the oceans, and try as much as possible to get rid of all the plastic and other man made things in the oceans.



Plastic harm Pollution in the ocean has destroyed many marine habitats, including those of fish, birds, marine mammals, and sea turtles.

courtesy of www

Forest fires are uncontrollable

This year, California fires are worse than ever before

Sean Monroe
Staff Reporter



There are fires in California every year, but this year has been wild. This year alone 4.1 million acres of land have been burned to the ground from the numerous wildfires. Although California has natural wildfires, the intense fires that are being experienced now are not natural. They are caused from the super drought that California is facing which makes the land vulnerable to sparking fires from lightning strikes, or human activities such as campfires or more recently, a gender reveal. Science teacher Christine Webster said, "Climate change is definitely a reason for California's drought, causing dryer conditions and warmer temperatures that can make

wildfires more intense."

California having wildfires is not a new occurrence whatsoever, there have been fires in the past and plenty of them because of California's natural climate. Yet because it's been getting hotter and dryer, the dead trees and brush are more susceptible to catching fire easily. Preventing wildfires such as those that are currently being experienced is no easy task. One efficient way to prevent them is working on brush management. The natives of California used to perform controlled burns on shrubs and trees to clear the land of the dead plants and promote new plant growth, but the state banned those burns for 88 years from 1880-1968.

This caused a mass build up of brush that was just waiting to be

burned. Once the ban was lifted fewer than 90,000 acres were burned in a controlled manner

which left a lot more to be burned in future fires such as those that are now raging. While California has been experiencing the worst of it all, Oregon and Washington

have also received some of the consequences. A stagnant dome of high pressure and a northerly track of the jet stream has aided in the fires movement to the north leaving a scorched earth in its path.

Why do people still move into high fire risk areas like California? California is a place of many opportunities and great weather. Building in a fire zone is no different than people building homes in hurricane-prone areas or rebuilding in tornado alley after a F5 wipes everything out. Many places have their pros and cons, and California has its fires. It may look bad now but there is an end



Skies of gold With dry conditions and warm temperatures, dead trees and brush are catching fire easily.

courtesy of www



Filled with flames California's wildfires have burned 4.1 million acres of land throughout the state.

courtesy of www

BEWARE OF



BINGE-WATCHING



THE OUTBREAK:

200,000 **VIOLENT**
Acts seen on TV by
the age of 18

80% **BINGE**
Watch at least 2 episodes
of a show per week

1,040 **HOURS**
That teens typically spend
watching TV per year



THE SYMPTOMS:



EYESTRAIN

Looking at the television for a long period can result in strain in the eyes. This results in headaches or dry and irritated eyes.



DECREASED EXERCISE

Watching an abundance of television takes up time that could be used to get physical activity. Television has been shown to be directly linked to obesity.



TIME LOSS

Since the average length of each episode is around 40 minutes, many viewers can lose track of time after watching episode after episode.



WEIGHT GAIN

Eating while distracted can increase the amount of calories consumed because it is common for a viewer to not be aware of how much they eat.

THE EFFECTS:

SLEEP DEPRIVATION

The use of electronics before bed can prohibit in sleep. The screens stimulate the brain causing a delay the body's natural sleep patterns. Technology before sleep reduces the body's sleep inducing hormone melatonin.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Researchers have discovered that high exposure to television has been linked to negative affects on language use, attention, and cognitive development in children younger than 5 years old. This also reduces the amount of time spent between parents and their children.

MOVIE STORES DECLINE

Blockbuster's, a movie rental service owned by Dish Network, closed all their remaining stores in 2013 due to the competition with streaming sites such as Netflix and Hulu.

Ashley Strick

Editor/Columnist

STRICKLY
BUSINESS



The fall season in Michigan can usually guarantee one thing: apples. Because apples are one of Michigan's staple crops, many orchards open their fields of trees to the public to enjoy and pick apples of their own. Apple picking is one of the many fall activities West Michigan has to offer, and it is undeniably one of my favorites.

Places like Robinette's Apple Haus and Well's Orchard in Grand Rapids, and Grandview Orchard right here in Hudsonville provide hundreds of acres of pure apple picking bliss for children and adults alike. Teenagers like myself also find the fun in apple picking. Orchards are also a perfect place for fall photoshoots, and I know many of my friends take advantage of this opportunity. I look forward to seeing their pictures within the apple trees whether it be for senior pictures or just a fun photoshoot with friends. Apples also happen to be one of my favorite fruits, so it comes to no surprise that I love apple picking in the fall. The fact that there are so many different kinds of apples is fascinating, but my favorite kind is golden delicious, although Honeycrisps take a close second. Robinette's, for example, offers a selection from McIntosh, Honeycrisp, Gala, Fuji and many more, and they offer dates for people to pick their own starting in late July, continuing through the end of October.

An old Halloween tradition has a great need for apples. Bobbing for apples gained popularity over 2,000 years ago in Europe, and was actually a courting ritual for couples. The tradition has evolved over the years, and now is a game played at Halloween parties for the sole purpose of having fun.

Apples are such a fun fruit, the diversity in their uses throughout the fall season is what makes me love them so much.

Opinions? Comments?
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Theaters have begun to reopen

Ellie Norder
Staff Editor



Due to COVID-19, movie sales and release dates have suffered drastically. But with the new issued guidelines, movie theaters have been granted the access to reopen.

As the cinemas begin to reopen, there is hope for big chains such as AMC to gain back some of the money they have lost due to the pandemic, and in efforts, try to turn their company away from facing bankruptcy. "I love going to the movies, and I would be sad if they were to shut down permanently," said Senior Lydia Gray.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on the film industry. World-wide, movie theaters and cinemas have been shut down. Along with postponing premieres, festivals and delaying release dates indefinitely. With cinemas and movie theaters closing, the global box office has lost billions of dollars and has caused companies to begin exploring for digital alternatives to solve their standstill problem.

While some delayed movie release dates and moved them to 2021 or 2022, a

few have released movies via subscription streaming platforms. As well as releasing films through premium video on demand, allowing viewers to watch and enjoy from the comfort of their homes.

With the new guidelines

regarding COVID-19, cinemas have been granted the access to reopen slowly and maintain needed safety measures. Although these

places are beginning to open back up, people who have in home theaters and large viewing areas may prefer to enjoy films from the comfort of their own home. Leaving movie studios questioning if they should continue to carry streaming options as a release strategy for new movies within the future. "Personally, I would much rather watch a new movie cuddled up in my basement than go to the movies," said Senior Lauren Randall.

With parents having

children at home in lockdown, streaming was found popular in efforts to help keep them occupied. Along with younger generations such as Gen X and Millennials, streaming and digital versions were found successful with a 60 percent purchasing rate between the two.

As of right now, the thought of sitting next to strangers for two to three hours at a time is a risk some people are not willing to take or feel comfortable with. Since studios have opened the option to stream new movies from home, the popularity continues to grow due to the fear of going out to the movies.

With the uncertainty of people not knowing what lies ahead in the future, the same goes for new films as well.

COVID-19 has changed the world in many ways since its start in early march. Along with challenging the way movies have typically launched in theaters, and moving forward studios may continue to produce new films via digital versions. "I would love it if movie industries continue the option to stream from home. It is much better," said Senior Emma Costen.



courtesy of www
Staying safe at the movies People return to the movies wearing masks and social distancing.

Pandemics affecting the world

Owen Abedoyejo
Staff Reporter



Coronavirus is not the first virus to cause a pandemic.

H1N1 first appeared in America in 2009 and soon managed to spread its way to the world. The world was at a relative period of pandemic peace when the virus struck out of nowhere. Scientists say that the virus emerged from pigs as a recombinant form of the flu from birds and humans. Within a year, the virus would spread through the pig population across the United States. At the start, there was no cure so some people panicked, although that was to be expected. Children had the highest rates to be infected with a 47% chance. Symptoms were fever, sore throat, headaches, runny and stuffy noses. Some people even had vomiting and diarrhea. The start of the vaccine began in April 2009, five months after the outbreak began and after a long race of researching and testing scientists finally

found a cure. In December of 2009, a vaccine became available for everyone. In 2010, the outbreak was officially over, only coming back as a seasonal virus.

During a battle of World War One, in 1917 The Spanish Flu struck. Its origins are unknown, but it's first sighting was in a military base in Kansas. The mortality rate was generally high. With no cure at all people, did what they could do best: isolate, quarantine, good personal hygiene. "They were fearful. They did not know how it spreads," said science teacher Christine Webster.

This virus killed 50 million people worldwide making this the worst influenza pandemic to date. According to Webster people would have been very fearful. The stopping of the flu came with the world is doing now, quarantining. Schools closed down and large gatherings were banned. The following year, the virus was gone.

It was not until 1945 when a vaccine was created and ready to go to the public.

Originally in Asia, and brought through trading ships and rodents, the Bubonic Plague arrived in 1346. At that time, this was one of the worst epidemics. It killed around 25 million people and lasted seven years, leaving the

European population devastated. The Black Plague was spread by infected fleas from small animals such as rats. And at the time, rats co-existed with humans, allowing the disease to spread quickly.

no one can say for sure what stopped the plague. Some theorize suggest it has run its course however the plague still pops up in different areas of the world. It appeared again with thousands dead in the 1600s in England and France. These super viruses can be reduced but never disappear. They will always come back.



courtesy of www
COVID spreads The coronavirus is a worldwide issue.

Late SAT for seniors

COVID-19 cancelled SAT last April-seniors are now taking advantage

Lily Taylor
Staff Reporter



Last spring, juniors and seniors all around America were scheduled to take the standardized SAT or ACT. Due to COVID-19, that was no longer an option. Although many colleges are making test scores optional on applications, many students still want to take it. Test scores are also commonly used for awarding scholarships if one receives a certain score. With the concern to improve previous test scores, there are also worries wondering if it will hurt the college application process.



Students take late SAT over late SAT due to COVID quarantine last spring.

and tutors over the years for these tests, but now the tests are not even a requirement for the application process. Seniors have even mentioned being upset about all the time they have put in to waste. "I just have put so much effort into studying for these tests and academically preparing myself for what appears to be for no reason now," said senior Emma Lewis. "Maybe it is a secret blessing in disguise for our class. Now we don't have to stress out

as much about completing applications because they aren't required and now we have more time to prepare ourselves," said Lewis. In a survey that went out to Hudsonville

High School seniors, a majority of the results showed many did not feel ready to take the SAT anymore due to the fact that it has been since last spring that seniors have studied and prepared for the SAT.

This long period of time has made it so some seniors were worried about the score they were going to receive and how it will affect the scholarships they applied for.

Some seniors said they just didn't want to take it anymore. Seniors reported wanting to spend their time doing something else instead of studying for a test they didn't even need anymore. They simply don't feel the need for it. Some even said that the SAT Hudsonville High School administered came up way too soon and they feel like they did not even have time to prepare.

Scheduled dates to take the SAT or ACT were cancelled due to covid. Schools are now administering the tests this fall. According to a study done in California, students and their parents have been calling and emailing school counselors in concern that the test might still end up being cancelled due to everchanging health regulations. Hudsonville had the SAT scheduled on October 14, assuming that it would be able to take place and would not be shut down before then. Colleges such as Grand Valley State University as well as Michigan State University and most other colleges are allowing updated transcripts to be sent in as late as July of 2021.

Students and parents have spent money on books

Education budget cut

Michigan last in nation for funding

Beau Taylor
Staff Reporter



Michigan has ranked last in the nation for school funding over the last 25 years, and from 2003 to 2015 the state ranked last in school performance growth.

One of the main reasons why this is a problem is that Michigan ranks 5th-worst nationally for equitable school funding. Michigan is among 16 states where the lowest-poverty school districts receive less state and local funding than the highest-poverty districts. This makes clear the fact that funding affects education; the lower the funding is, the worse the education seems to be. Funding comes from taxpayer money. About 40 percent of the 14 billion dollars in state revenues for the



Where's the school money? Tax payers started to wonder where their money is going if it is not going to schools.

school aid fund comes from sales tax collections. The other percent of taxes that is not going to schools is being spent in places like economic development, environmental projects, state police, parks and recreation, housing, and aid to local governments. Many people are wondering whether the majority of their taxpayer money is being spent in the right places.

The pandemic has also caused a problem for school funding. Senator Wayne Schmidt, a Republican who chairs the Senate's education budget subcommittee, has mentioned that school funding has been cut up to 25 percent in some

places, and advised that schools should brace for even worse in the next fiscal year. Hudsonville High School Principal Jordan Beel said, "It would be nice if schools had more money, but I understand why the funding is so low." If that money is getting cut, some people are also wondering how schools will be able to pay for basic supplies like computers, desks, and supplies. Much of where the money goes is decided by Senator Wayne Schmidt.

With Michigan's state and local economies continuing to be negatively impacted by COVID-19, US Representatives have said that now is not the time to withhold Federal funding for Michigan's public schools and that the federal government simply must step in. The state budget

over the next two years is estimated to be in better shape than what was predicted back in May, but budget cuts are still expected if the state doesn't

receive more federal funding.

"We were expecting more cuts in the budget, but the cuts we were not as bad as expected," said Beel, also mentioning that if funding was increased he would look to hire more teachers so class sizes could be smaller and we could have more classes to offer to students. So hopefully we will be able to have better budget cuts next year and the following years, and hopefully next year covid-19 won't impact the school budgets as bad as this year did. Next year hopefully we can get a school addition the Beel was talking about having. Things including a extra gym and a extension that connect the buildings.

GUEST COMMENTARY

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice to all." Powerful words, and yet thefor are some who do not respect our country. Our country

is very human, especially in these times. But that does not exempt us from offering what is needed to the country. What does this mean? It means we give respect to people or places like the country or the president. And just because our president may need to be quiet sometimes, that does not mean that he doesn't have good intentions.

When we stand up for

the pledge of allegiance, think of those who died for their future generations to have the freedom that they need. When you look at the flag of the USA, think of its design. A blue sea, with 50 white stars in its midst. 13 stripes alongside it in red and white. The red on the stripes represents the blood of those fallen soldiers. Fallen soldiers, for whom did these fallen soldiers die? US! They

died for the future generations to come so that they may have freedom. So why are we kneeling or sitting or not taking off our hats for the pledge of allegiance? I want you to question yourself about this. I want you to make the decision that when you hear the pledge start, I want you to say those words out of respect, thoughtfulness, and gratitude.

-Logan Baker, 10th gr.

Trump reacts to virus

Luna Pietrzak
Staff Editor



Over the past six months Trump made a lot of different statements about COVID-19. Back in April, when China first released news about the virus being in Wuhan, Trump's first reaction was to send seventeen tons of medical equipment like medical masks to help contain the spread. Trump also went on record to praise China's president Xi Jinping for taking action early and quarantining Wuhan. When cases were first reported by the Center For Disease Control (the CDC) Trump's tone shifted from having been helpful to downplaying the severity of COVID. Trump said to a CNBC reporter that "the coronavirus was not a big threat and that they had it under control." After this was said many Americans criticized him for what he said. Throughout the first few months, Trump in an attempt to downplay the severity of the virus Trump took to Twitter to share his opinions and views. He threw out ideas like people should be drinking Lysol and inject bleach as a remedy for COVID. Then in an interview with a famous reporter Carl Bernstein, Trump claimed that the reason

he was downplaying the virus was in an attempt to prevent a public "frenzy" or panic in the country. But with this reaction, there was a slower response to the pandemic leading to around 19,000 deaths before there was a big public outcry for help.

But with how much he was downplaying the pandemic, Trump was also doing some things to contain the spread of the virus. On February 9th Trump restricted flights in and out of China in an attempt to prevent more people from getting it. But by mid-March with the number of cases still on the rise Trump furthered his banned travel to many European countries as well. Though these restrictions as a whole seemed to only help stop the spread of the virus by only a month or two. Trump also instituted the Small Business

Administration (SBA) to help provide loans to businesses that were affected by the coronavirus.

Although shortly after the presidential debate on September 29th news broke that Trump was diagnosed with COVID. Shortly after the news, he needed to be airlifted to the hospital due to poor vitals and some severe symptoms. This news led to many people that work in the white house and who were in contact with Trump to be tested for COVID. But after this Trump is still trying to say that COVID should not be as feared as it is.



Tweeting Trump "I always treated the Chinese Virus very seriously," said Trump via Twitter.

courtesy of www

Pro playoffs continue Games made up for lost season

Ethan Atkins
Staff Reporter



In the world of sports, the postseason is the climax. It is highly anticipated by both the players and fans alike. After many hard-fought games, fans pack stadiums, waving their rally towels and cheer on their teams at ground-shaking levels; however, this year's postseason will look unlike years past.

The fan noise will be from the sound systems, the stadium seats will be empty, and "home field advantage" does not seem to be an advantage this year. Yes, playoffs are still playoffs, but it looks a little different this year.

This year, Major League Baseball decided to modify their usual 12 team playoff, expanding it to 18 teams, and the modifications stretch further than the bracket. Both of the American League Divisional Series will take place in California, one will be played in Los Angeles, the other in San Diego. Both of the National Divisional Series will be played in Texas, with one series in Houston, and the other in Arlington. "Home-field advantage" will not play its typically large role with no home fans — let alone any fans — in the stands.

The MLB is not the only professional sports league forced to adjust their postseason; the NBA, for example, played the second half of their season in "the bubble". According to Sporting News, 22 of the 30 NBA teams finished their seasons at the Walt Disney World Resort

in Orlando, Florida. The purpose was to keep all of the players and coaches isolated during the remainder of the season, so that the health and safety of people involved could be monitored with the various COVID-19 protocols that were put into place.

Similar to the NBA, the NHL also created their own "bubble." Instead of being located in the United States, the league decided to have its teams play in Toronto and Edmonton, Canada. Forbes reported that the bubble's location was chosen because of how well Canada had handled the pandemic. ESPN describes that the players were tested every single day; through eight weeks, there was not a confirmed positive case of coronavirus. The NHL season ended on September 28, and according to ESPN, the league's bubble turned out to fulfill its role.

As empty as the stadiums may seem, some states have been allowing fans to attend games up to 20 percent capacity. The CDC recommended that if fans decide to go, they are encouraged to follow social distancing guidelines, limiting physical contact and avoiding areas of high traffic throughout the venues. While attending sporting events, the CDC said that wearing a mask is most important when social distancing is difficult to achieve. Fans are being let back into the stands, but it still may take a while to get back to the roar of the crowds that sports fans and athletes have missed so dearly.

Marching band overcame COVID together

Alexis Coulter
Staff Editor



In August, Hudsonville Marching Band had been told they would not be attending any competitions to perform their show in. But at the beginning of this month, the band was able to turn that decision around and attend a competition at Hastings Highschool. At the time, the Marching Band had only had a little bit over half of their show done for the competition, but they were happy nonetheless to perform and show their family members who attended what they had been working on in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The moment I stepped onto the field day of the competition I knew that it was going to be great." Senior Alexis VanOosterhout said a week after the competition. The band had received an award of participation for going to the show, and even though it wasn't quite what the band expected, they cherished it nonetheless.

The band had received more good news when they had been told they were

allowed to perform at the last home football game. They would perform before the actual game for family and friends to get an extra performance in and show off the rest of their show, then perform for the halftime show for the crowd at the home football game. Yet unfortunately, the band was met with yet another event being

cancelled as the whole football team was due to be quarantined. It looked a little grim to the band, seeing as the performance they had been preparing for since their last competition was now shut down, they continued to look ahead and prepare for October 24. A Saturday performance where they could show off all their hard work one last time, for all friends and family that members wished to invite. The band is ecstatic to be able to perform for their families, ready to show off how hard they've worked since the beginning of the summer. After their performance on Saturday, their season will officially have ended, leaving behind nothing but memories of the craziest season of their lives.



Tootin' around The marching band practiced for an upcoming event.

photo by Lily Taylor