

# CURRENTS

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Basketball player **Alena Puaauli-Pelham** and football player **Mason Tatum** are among the Apprentice School athletes sidelined for nearly one year by the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo by **Lena Wallace**

## Pandemic Keeps Apprentice School Athletics on Hold

Over 70 years of tournaments and championships came to a screeching halt for Apprentice School athletes in March 2020. COVID-19 put the school's athletic programs on hold for the first time since World War II. Now, nearly a year later, teams are still on hold with hopes to resume some normalcy soon.

When the NCAA canceled March Madness last year, Apprentice School Athletic Director **Michael W. Allen** knew COVID-19 was serious. And with many Apprentice School sports teams traveling all over the country, his priority was to get them home quickly and safely.

"We actually pulled our wrestling team off the mats in Texas in the middle of a tournament and flew them home immediately," he said.

Once all teams were home safely, Allen turned to his coaches for support, relying on them to keep the athletes informed with frequent and transparent messaging. Because of the unique atmosphere the Apprentice School offers, he knew the athletes would support one another.

"We have tried to lay the foundation for that family atmosphere here, so I know they have had to rely on one another just to get through this tough challenge and uncertain time," Allen said.

Apprentice School quarterback **Mason Tatum** used his time away from football to focus on his teammates, searching for ways to keep their spirits high.

## COVID-19 Vaccinations to Begin

Newport News Shipbuilding will begin the first phase of the company's plan to vaccinate employees against COVID-19 this week, NNS President **Jennifer Boykin** announced Friday, Jan. 29.

"The vaccine is in high demand, and like the rest of the country, Virginia and Hampton Roads are experiencing a slow rollout," Boykin wrote in a message to employees. "This impacts the speed at which we are able to vaccinate our workforce. Based on the latest information, we anticipate a limited supply through February, and are hopeful it will increase beyond then."

NNS is following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to determine the order in which employees are vaccinated. The vaccine is not mandatory, but it is strongly encouraged. A list of frequently asked questions about NNS' vaccination process is available at [nns.huntingtoningalls.com/411](https://nns.huntingtoningalls.com/411). The CDC website ([www.cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)) is another valuable resource for medical information.



## United Way Virtual Campaign Kicks Off

Newport News Shipbuilding's 2020 United Way "Better Together" virtual campaign runs from Feb. 1-19.

Giving online through the Newport News Shipbuilding Gives application ([nns.yourcause.com](https://nns.yourcause.com)) is easy and provides greater transparency and access to donors' contributions. Supporting United Way helps shipbuilders' friends, neighbors and family members in need. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for assistance in the community is greater than ever. One hundred percent of United Way donations support the community.

Email [unitedway@hii-nns.com](mailto:unitedway@hii-nns.com) to schedule a speaker from a United Way-supported nonprofit organization for meetings or events during the campaign.



Aaron Goetz uses "Bob," a unique internal tool, in the Pipe Shop. Photo by Ashley Cowan

## Shipbuilders Adapt to Meet a New Challenge

When the Navy discovered issues with the piping system that carries high-octane jet fuel on aircraft carriers, the decision was made to double the system's thickness. It may not sound like a major adjustment, but it presented a significant challenge for Newport News Shipbuilding's Pipe Shop.

The change impacted about 10 miles of pipe and 10,000 joints. What was considered an easy joint became one of the most difficult joint types and would require argon purges and machining of each pipe.

However, shipbuilders from Aircraft Carrier Engineering, the Pipe Shop and Manufacturing

## Pandemic Keeps Apprentice School Athletics on Hold

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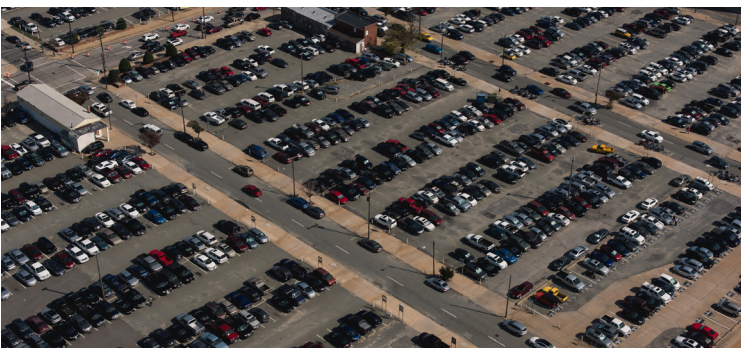
"Staying here is a big opportunity. Football is not always going to be there. I tell my teammates to just push on and get through school – that's what we are focusing on right now," he said.

Tatum finds encouragement through the Athletic Leadership Council, which allows him to meet with other team leaders for support he can pass on to the football team.

"I try and remind the team that football will come back. We just don't know when, but it will come back," Tatum said.

Though other colleges are playing sports right now, Apprentice School officials say safety is the driving factor in deciding whether to play team sports. Not only is the safety of the athletes important, but all shipbuilders the students come into contact with every day at the shipyard.

"I wish we had a crystal ball so we knew what was around the corner, but we just don't have one of those," Allen said. "We are hoping that there will be a light at the end of the tunnel soon."



## Zone Parking to Begin March 15

On March 15, Newport News Shipbuilding will implement a zone parking system in company-owned parking lots. The Parking and Transportation Team is currently working with division leads to coordinate hangtag distribution, which is expected to take place later this month. The team also is developing a zone parking map and a list of frequently asked questions. These items as well as additional details about the zone system are forthcoming and will be shared with employees in the coming weeks.

& Systems Engineering worked together to implement improvements to allow the Pipe Shop to accommodate the changes and keep this work at NNS.

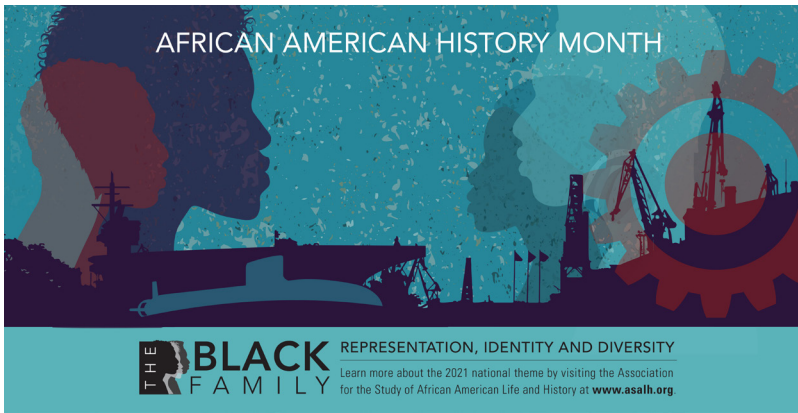
"The shop had to team with Engineering to determine the best course of action to set the shop up for success to meet this challenge," said M30/X18 General Foreman **Rob Teel**. "Even with all the planning we did up front, there were unforeseeable issues we have encountered and teamed with Engineering to find the best possible solution. We are literally working on process changes right now that will improve safety, reduce cost and help the shop on schedule."

Among the improvements was the development of a unique internal tool, known as "Bob," that assists with fit ups. Specialized tooling that eliminated grinding also was purchased. Implemented changes have helped the shop eliminate more than 26,500 crane lifts and 35,700 man hours of machining and crane lift time.

"This was the biggest challenge that my team and I have had in my 36-year career, and we would not have been successful without the customer-focused attitude of *Ford Class Platform Engineering*," said M30/X42 General Foreman **Kenny Quinn**.



## AROUND THE YARD



### Celebrating African American History Month

As we celebrate African American History Month in February, take time to not only recognize the great achievements and innovations of African Americans throughout our nation’s history, but also their significant impact on the success of Newport News Shipbuilding.

Look for posters recognizing the 2021 national theme – the Black Family – across NNS during the month. Additional coverage is available in the Inclusion and Diversity section of the NNS to Go app.

### Help NNS Conserve Energy

Newport News Shipbuilding’s O46 Energy Team is encouraging shipbuilders to do their part to reduce unnecessary energy use with a new awareness campaign.

As part of the campaign, posters featuring shipbuilders and tips to reduce energy consumption will be displayed across the shipyard. “We need everyone to be ‘energy engaged’ so we can have a healthier and more efficient workplace,” said **Brian Johnston II** (PEER O46).

Shipbuilders can help reduce energy consumption by:

- Using natural lighting in lieu of artificial lighting when possible.
- Turning off lighting, appliances, equipment and electronics when not in use.
- Inspecting air, gas and welding lines

for leaks before the start and end of each shift. When not in use unplug and turn off.

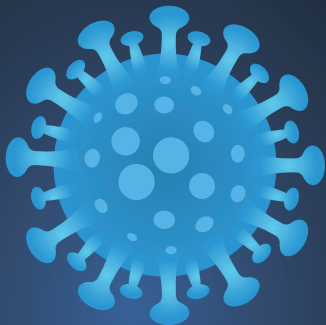
- Encouraging energy innovations and strategies with your team.
- Taking responsibility and reporting any energy concerns to the O46 Energy Team or your supervisor.

“Energy conservation relies on the sustainable choices we make today,” Johnston said. “Please take responsibility; saving energy today makes for a better tomorrow.”

For energy-saving opportunities at NNS, call the Energy Awareness Hotline at 586-6880. Call the Facilities Service Desk at 688-9888 to report leaks or needed repairs. View a poster from the campaign on MyNNS.



## Confirmed Cases of COVID-19



Cases reported last week: **179**

Total cases at NNS: **2,396**

Total number of NNS employees medically cleared to return to work: **1,571**

See case details at [nns.huntingtoningalls.com/411](https://nns.huntingtoningalls.com/411).

### COVID-19 Reminders

Newport News Shipbuilding continues to provide COVID-19 testing for employees who have symptoms or have been exposed to the virus. The test center is located at the old Apprentice School gym on Marshall Avenue. To learn how to use the test center, watch a video on MyNNS or the NNS to Go app.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued new testing requirements for international air travel. NNS adheres to these guidelines and strongly discourages all travel unless there is truly an emergent reason. NNS has no restrictions on personal international travel, however employees are expected to follow CDC requirements. Personal travel does not qualify employees for testing at the NNS Testing Center or for quarantine pay.

## DATEBOOK

### FEBRUARY 1

Join BeWell for Life wellness coordinators for free, virtual workouts from anywhere beginning Feb. 1. Visit Wellness Online to see the complete list of virtual classes and register.

### FEBRUARY 9

Join a panel of HII Family Health Center providers for a heart health virtual lunch and learn at noon. The panel will discuss tips to protect your heart in this 30-minute educational session. Register at [myquadmed.com/BeWell](http://myquadmed.com/BeWell).

### FEBRUARY 9

Time to set your 2021 goals. Join NNS' performance coaches and guest speaker **Jason Sutton** to hear their thoughts on goal setting. The NNS Lean Community of Practice (CoP) invites shipbuilders to attend its Chapter 1: Goal Setting event from 4:30 until 6 p.m. via Zoom. In addition to Sutton, guest speakers will include **Tim Mott** and **Justin Wright**. Register on MyNNS.

### FEBRUARY 15

Fresh Start, a free, eight-week tobacco cessation program can help you quit smoking for good and save you on your medical premium. Register at [myquadmed.com/BeWell](http://myquadmed.com/BeWell). Sessions begin Feb. 15.

## REMINDER: HII Insider Trading Policy

The Business Management Division reminds Newport News Shipbuilding employees of Huntington Ingalls Industries' policy on insider trading. The policy states that federal securities laws prohibit trading of a public company's stock or other securities (such as bonds or stock options) while in possession of material nonpublic information. This restriction includes increasing or decreasing an HII stock position in retirement or 401(k) accounts.

Material nonpublic information is defined as any information not available to the general public that could affect the price of the security and that a reasonable investor would consider important in deciding to purchase, sell or hold securities of the company in question. Insider trading can result in substantial civil and criminal penalties, including civil fines of up to three times the profit gained or loss avoided and a criminal fine of up to \$5 million. Individuals may also face a jail sentence of up to 20 years.

For more details, including information on transactions that are not subject to insider trading restrictions, read Corporate Policy A11 – Insider Trading. For questions about the policy or whether you possess material nonpublic information, contact the Law Department (O16) prior to executing any HII stock transaction.

## UPCOMING PMSA EVENTS

The Project Management Shipbuilder Association (PMSA) is planning several project management events in February. See a list of events below.

### Feb. 2

Everything You Need To Know About the New PMP Event  
Hosted by: PM Master Prep  
Guest speaker: Scott Payne

### Feb. 4

Project Management Professional (PMP) Exam Prep Information  
Hosted by: Reed Integration Inc.  
Guest speaker: John Greene

### Feb. 11

Titanic PM Blunders Event  
Hosted by: PMSA (Project Management Shipbuilder Association)  
Guest speaker: Rick Aiken

Visit the PMSA website on MyNNS for additional details and to register to attend an event.

As a reminder, PMP Exam Prep Classes are ongoing throughout 2021:

**PMP Exam Prep Courses** – Shipbuilders interested in 2021 programs should visit the PMSA PMI Certification website on MyNNS and select the PMP Exam Boot Camps tab or contact PMSA Boot Camp Lead **Debra Brand** via email.

**PMP Applications** – Shipbuilders interested in obtaining their PMP certification, should visit the PMSA website on MyNNS or contact PMSA Education and Certification Lead **Mary Amparo** via email.

## SEEKING SHIPBUILDERS

Visit [www.bulldyourcareer.com](http://www.bulldyourcareer.com) to search for the latest NNS job openings.

Job Title	Req Number	Dept.	Location
Cost Engineer 3	1620	O19	Newport News
Entry-level Pipefitter	4787	X42	Newport News
Entry-level Structural Welder	3569	X18	Newport News
Experienced Blaster	4096	X33	Newport News
International Trade Compliance Analyst 3	4168	O17	Newport News
Lean Leader – Manager Engineering 3	4227	K95	Newport News
Nuclear Quality Inspector 3	3776	O96	Ballston Spa, NY
Pipefitter Trainee	4745	X42	Newport News
Radiological Interpreter 3	3755	E37	Newport News
Welder Trainee	4746	X18	Newport News

Employees are encouraged to use **MyHR** or the “**Current HII Employees Job Search**” button at [www.bulldyourcareer.com](http://www.bulldyourcareer.com) to apply. The company continues to offer cash bonus awards for referrals to select positions, visit [www.huntingtoningalls.com/hii-careers/refer-a-friend](http://www.huntingtoningalls.com/hii-careers/refer-a-friend) for more information.