# RTHVILLE ECORI

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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CC hockey uses past and future to fuel state title

# As Easter nears, pastors guide their flocks

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

As the second Easter in a pandemic quickly approaches, churches' doors are open again, but the look and mood inside varies.

At some services, masks are required. At others, masks are optional. It

division in congregations gathered for a common purpose: to wors hip Christ.

At South Lyon's Fellowship Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Pastor Alan Conrow has sought to please everyone with a "grace-based approach," requiring masks be worn in the sanctuary

the time of service. All of this has sown a multi-purpose room during service in tics on top of that ... which masks are optional.

'Trying not to let COVID divide us and masks divide us is very difficult in this time. It's off the charts," Conrow said. "We struggle with that. None of these decisions are made flippantly. There are two narratives and two worlds

may depend on the area of the church or while simultaneously offering the use of colliding, and then you throw the poli-

SPORTS, 1B

Pastor Paul Jenkinson, leader of Oak Pointe Church's Milford campus where the final service of each Sunday is now mask optional, said church leaders have been put in a "very hard spot."

See PASTORS, Page 3A



Marty Boote, an environmentalist for ARC, stands near the bridge to the east of Northville Downs where the Rouge River begins its journey underneath the race track. Boote is part of a team trying to "daylight" the section of river long hidden. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# Hope emerges for Northville's hidden section of Rouge River

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The darkest stretch of downtown Northville lies in the 100-year-old tunnel beneath Northville Downs.

The tunnel, which stretches the length of four football fields, is the home of a section of the Middle Rouge River,

which back in its pre-subterranean heyday was the site of picnics, fishing excursions and a flourishing ecosystem.

Since it was covered in the 1920s to create property for what is now a horse racing venue, the once robust waterway has withered to its current sorry state.

"There's probably some animal life in there, but it is very limited," said Marty Boote, an environmental scientist employed by Ann Arbor-based Environmental Consulting & Technology. "There may be some macro-invertebrate, which are basically aquatic inseots. Mostly, it's probably just fungi

and bacteria.

See RIVER, Page 3A

## **Downtown South Lyon** restaurant set to open in summer

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The hotly-anticipated Italian restaurant planned for the former RCA building in downtown South Lyon is expected to open this summer.

The restaurant planned for 135 E. Lake St. on the eastern edge of downtown received unanimous approval for a Class C liquor license from the city council during its meeting held online March 9.

With that approval came the name of the restaurant: Dua Vino, a new concept created by Lyon Township resident Tom Palushai.

"I think it's good for the city," he said. "I'm a local guy myself here and I think we need all the restaurants we can get here.'

Palushaj said he was approached by the building's owner, Dan Schwegler, about the possibility of opening a restaurant in the building, which essentially sat vacant for years. Schwegler bought the building in 2019 with plans to restore it and add a restaurant.

Palushaj, who formerly owned the Lyon Grill in Lyon Township and the Firewood Grill in Howell, said he plans to bring a small Italian menu, which helps ensure everything is served fresh. He said diners can expect fresh ingredients.

"If you have a lot of items, some of them are not going to sell," he said.

The menu is still being finalized, but could include some more traditional bar food for the restaurant's rooftop dining area.

See RESTAURANT, Page 3A

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Volume 151 | No. 35 Home delivery pricing inside





# Where to sign up for COVID-19 vaccination

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com

**USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN** 

The vast majority of Michigan adults are poised to join health care workers, seniors and other groups as eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines in the coming days. But where can you find one?

hometownlife.com

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Michiganders 16 and older become eligible to receive a vaccine April 5. Expect a big demand for the shots, which continue to see supply far below de-

We've compiled a list of methods to sign up for one of the three approved COVID-19 vaccines. Important to note is all places currently require an appoint-

This list isn't exhaustive, but hopefully it gives you a good start.

Local government

Both county and local governments are providing access to vaccines across the area, though it does vary depending on which side of Eight Mile you're on.

Oakland County is handling its vaccine allotments directly, opting to give the jabs at designated places. Those looking to register to "save their spot" for an appointment can do so by visiting oaklandcountyvaccine.com.

In Wayne County (outside of Detroit), several local municipalities are handling vaccination efforts, especially for seniors. Clinics for vaccinations have taken place for seniors in Livonia, Northville, Garden City, Plymouth, Canton, Wayne and Westland.

To determine the status of those clinics, it's best to keep tabs on local municipal websites and social media.

Residents of Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Inkster, Redford Township, Allen Park, Garden City and Melvindale are eligible to receive the vaccine through Dearborn at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center. Those who qualify can register online at cityofdearborn.org/covid.

Wayne County has conducted vaccinations through clinics held at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, though it asks those seeking a vaccine to go through a health care channel. Visit the county's COVID-19 website to get up-to-date information on upcoming clinics.

Those who work in the City of Detroit may also be eligible through the city. More information can be found on the city's website.

For those who miss heading downtown to the major sporting event sites can get their fix (kind of) by getting a COVID-19 vaccine at Ford Field in Detroit. The Federal Emergency Management Agency recently launched a mass vaccination clinic at the home of the Detroit Lions that will run for several weeks and vaccinate thousands of people a day. Meijer is handling registration for the clinic, and those looking to sign up can do so at clinic.meijer.com/regis-

Keep an eye on social media as well in case appointments open up later in the day: at least once since opening a call for those seeking the shot came at the end of the day when it was determined there were unused shots and not enough appointments to fill them.

**Local pharmacies** 

One of the best bets to snag a shot is registering through a local pharmacy.

National chains such as Walgreens and Rite Aid are offering the shots at several pharmacies across the region. These pharmacies will ask for some basic information before signing up and have different protocols when it comes time for a second-dose appointment if one's needed.

If you're unable to find an appointment at the nearest pharmacy to you, open up the geographic radius. Some people are traveling as far as Toledo, Jackson and Saginaw to get an appointment.

Bigger stores such as Meijer, Kroger and Walmart offer the vaccine as well. Stores require an account to sign up.

Hospitals, health care systems

The area's hospitals continue their efforts to vaccinate the public as well.

Beaumont Health has opened up registration for shots and will administer them at a few locations, including the Beaumont Service Center in Southfield and the Beaumont Learning and Innovation Center in Dearborn. Those looking to sign up, which can be done online, must have an account with the health

The St. Joseph Mercy Health System also requires signing up for an account to register for the shot, which can be done online. The health care system offers appointments at hospitals across the region, including St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia and St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital in Pontiac. Some clinics in Washtenaw County, including St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Superior Township, have rerouted their doses to the Washtenaw County Health Department, which is administering them in Ypsilanti.

Those who are patients in the Ascension Michigan health system, which includes Ascension Providence Hospital in Novi, may be contacted by their health care provider to schedule an appointment. The system is currently not utilizing a registration or wait list for members of the public seeking a CO-VID-19 vaccine.

Garden City Hospital is reaching out to patients who have been treated the last few years to schedule a vaccine appointment. Community members who fall within the current guidelines can also register for an appointment once once becomes available by visiting the hospital's website. Vaccinations take place at the hospital's Medical Office Building at 6255 Inkster in Garden City.

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

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF NOVI:

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

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

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the City of Novi Clerk's office, located at 45175 Ten Mile Road,

- Regular business hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, May 1, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Election Day, Tuesday, May 4th from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Northville Public Schools will be voting on the following ballot

NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL EXEMPTING PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE AND OTHER PROPERTY EXEMPTED BY LAW 19.2383 MILLS FOR 5 YEARS

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Northville Public Schools, 405 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan 48167, telephone: (248) 344-3500

A sample ballot may be viewed at mi.gov/vote.

Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact

Cortney Hanson, CMC, MiPMC II City Clerk

Publish: April 1, 2021

#### City of Northville **Proposed Text Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance and Code of Ordinances**

At its regular meeting on April 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., the Northville City Council will consider introducing for first reading the following proposed text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance.

- Article 10 Central Business District, and Article 15 Schedule of Regulations pertaining to Building Height Overlay: Eliminates references to the building height overlay as this overlay was replaced by the Cady Street Overlay (CSO) District (Section 10.06, and Sections 15.01 and 15.02).
- Article 26 Construction of Language and Definitions pertaining to Floor Area Ratio and Basement Garages: Text amendments to add provisions addressing attached garages in basements of a dwelling in the maximum Floor Area Ratio calculation for singlefamily and two-family residences in the R-1B First Density Residential District, and R-2 Second Density Residential District (Section 26.02).
- Article 19 Site Plan Procedural and Approval Process, and Article 24 Administration and Enforcement: Text amendments to allow the Planning Commission to require a performance guarantee for implementation of site improvements in a final site plan (section 19.06), add a description of acceptable performance guarantees, and the administration of such guarantees (section 24.08).

Meeting Location and Participation

The meeting will be held via video conference as allowed by City Council's Local State of Emergency Declaration due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Members of the public body and members of the public participating electronically will be considered present at the meeting and may participate as if physically present at the meeting. The following is a link to attend the meeting. https://us02web.zoom. us/j/84203131960 US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592 Webinar ID: 842 0313 1960

Those needing assistance or accommodations should contact the City Manager's office at 248-449-9905. Log in instructions, electronic meeting information, and a user guide can be found at https://www.ci.northville.mi.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=11895963&pageId=1350 5469\*city OR from the main Home page, click on the Government tab, then Agendas and Minutes, scroll to the City Council section of the webpage, then scroll down to the link for the Council meeting

The proposed ordinance amendments are available for review on the City's website www. ci.northville.mi.us (go to Government, Governing Documents, and Proposed Ordinance Amendments) or by appointment at the City of Northville Municipal Building, 215 W Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-349-1300.

Written comments can be submitted by email to mmassel@ci.northville.mi.us, by mail to City of Northville Municipal Building, City Manager's Office, 215 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, or by using the City Hall 24-hour drop box.

BRENT STRONG, BUILDING OFFICIAL DIANNE MASSA, CITY CLERK

#### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE **ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021** CITY OF NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF NORTHVILLE, please take notice that any qualified elector of the City of Northville who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the City Clerk; the office of the Wayne or Oakland County Clerk; a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated state agency. Registration forms can be obtained at michigan.gov/vote and mailed to the City Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at www.expressSOS.com

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

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the City of Northville Clerk's office, located at 215 W. Main Street, Northville, MI 48167 at the following times:

- Regular business hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 1 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Election Day, May 4 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The election will be conducted in all voting precincts in the City of Northville for the purpose of voting on the following ballot proposal as presented and listed below:

Northville Public Schools

Operating Millage Renewal Proposal Exempting Principal Residence and Other Property Exempted by Law 19.2383 Mills for 5 Years

Full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained at the administrative offices of Northville Public Schools, 405 W. Main Street Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-344-3500

Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Clerk's Office.

Dianne Massa, CMC City Clerk

Publish: April 1, 2021

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Date: Permit No. Designated Site Name:

April 1, 2021 M10060275

Red Swamp Crayfish Control-Nuisance Animal

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Water Resources Division (WRD), proposes to issue a permit to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources-Fisheries Division for the proposed chemical treatment of Sheraton Pond (Latitude 42.44242, Longitude - 83.43500) and Pear Ridge Pond (Latitude 42.52374, Longitude -83.37534) for the control of invasive Red Swamp Crayfish. The applicant proposes to apply the pesticide, ExciteR (United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Registration No. 89459-41), to surface waters of the state as part of a research evaluation project to control invasive

The draft permit includes the following conditions:

Final Effluent Limitations which includes effluent limits and/or monitoring requirements for the active ingredients of ExciteR, Temperature, Specific conductance, Turbidity, Total hardness, 24-hour Weather Forecast, Treatment Area Observation, pH, and Dissolved Oxygen Additional permit conditions include Pest Management Measures, Water Treatment Additive conditions, Pesticide Discharge Management Plan (PDMP), Record Keeping and Reporting requirements, Posting and Notification Requirements, and Discharge Summary Report

The Department has determined that the permittee's Antidegradation Exemption, based on information required under R 323.1098 (8)(a), shows that a short-term, temporary lowering of water quality is acceptable. This determination is solely for purposes of satisfying state water quality regulations and is not intended to supplant local requirements, including land use or zoning laws. It is not, and should not be construed as, a finding by the Department that the proposed development meets local requirements or ordinances

Copies of the permit application, public notice, basis for decision memo, and draft permit may be obtained via the Internet at https://miwaters.deq.state,mi.us (select 'Public Notice Search, enter the permit number or site name in the search field, and then click 'Search'), or at the WRD's Warren District Office located at 27700 Donald Court, Warren, MI 48092-2793, Telephone: 586-753-3700

Persons wishing to submit comments or request a public hearing should go to https:// miwaters.deq.state.mi.us, select 'Public Notice Search,' search for this public notice, click 'View,' click 'Add Comment,' enter information into the fields, and then click 'Submit.' Inquiries should be directed to Darrin McCullough, Permits Section, WRD, EGLE, P.O. Box 30458, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7958; telephone; 517-242-8647; or e-mail: mcculloughd@

Comments or objections to the draft permit received by April 30, 2021 will be considered in the final decision to issue the permit.

Publish April 1 2021

### **Pastors**

Continued from Page 1A

"We spent oodles of hours trying to figure out best practices for our church and also to be helpful to our community," he said. "Some people could see (the mask-optional service) as unhelpful or irresponsible, but we had to weigh the emotional impact from this year and people's fatigue. We're not acquiescing but really trying to take a look at the whole person and the difficulty and burden for people."

He raised concerns about increased rates of depression and suicides and said for some people, feelings of isolation are more intense or wearing a mask "is a significant burden."

"It's a polarizing choice, but so is the choice for 100 percent masks all the time," Jenkinson said, adding that the earliest service is just that - masks required - while middle services offer a "restaurantstyle approach," with masks only required if moving in common areas.

At Holy Name Catholic Church in Birmingham, masks are not a choice. If you want to attend, you are expected to wear a mask at all times with the exception of when you accept communion.

The church, which serves about 2,400 families comprising at least 5,000 individuals, also encourages parishioners to register for services as it seeks to keep 6 feet of distance between people who are not from the same household.

Monsignor John Zenz said that even though the church is large and capable of holding 850 people on the main floor, because of the configuration of seating and makeup of the congregation, only about 110 people can be in the pews for each service while maintaining social distancing.

Zenz said the archdiocese has given general directions to Catholic churches, but allows individual pastors and leaders to determine what is best for their parishes. At Holy Name, he said the congregation is generally accepting of the more strict approach to restrictions.

"Everyone wears masks, myself included," he said. "People know (the rules) and if they don't want to wear a mask, they don't come."



Oak Pointe Pastor Paul Jenkinson is expecting a full house for his Easter weekend services this year. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE COM

Livestreamed worship services, which was the only option a year ago for all churches, remains an option. Zenz is grateful that this Easter the church will host in-person services.

'Last year we couldn't and that was very awkward and even painful for a lot of us," he said.

Teri Moore, a Birmingham resident and parishioner, has been attending regularly for 10 years and is grateful she can do so in person. She doesn't always register, but has never been turned away at the door.

See PASTORS, Page 6A



The Rouge River begins its subterranean journey through the Northville Downs complex.

#### River

Continued from Page 1A

"Due to the limited light, little can grow in the tunnel, except at the very ends. Fish aren't likely to swim through it, either. They'll only go a certain distance into it. Once they're not able to see visually, they'll stop. Long enclosures like this are known as fish passage barriers. It's a lot like dams, which cause the same situation for fish."

Northville Mayor Brian Turnbull was entertained by stories spun by his father, Bruce, about the elder Turnbull's daring trips through the tunnel.

"My dad and one of his buddies would fasten flashlights to the front of their canoes and paddle through the tunnel as a challenge," Turnbull recalled. "That was probably in the late-'20s, early-'30s. "I'm not sure that's something I'd attempt."

For the first time since the Roaring '20s, there is more than a ray of hope that the covered river will be rejuvenated. A planned development of the Northville Downs property includes "daylighting" the waterway and complementing it with a riverwalk.

"The city asked the developer, Hunter Pasteur, to daylight the river as part of its development plans, and they agreed," said Nancy Darga, a former member of the Northville City Council and a longtime environmental advocate and member of the Alliance of Rouge Communities. "The developer has agreed to fund at least part of the daylighting project's costs."

Boote explained projects similar to the covering of the Middle Rouge was commonplace in the United States in the first half of the 20th century when development of once rural land expanded at a furious pace.

"Obviously, the human race has used the landscape for its benefit," Boote said. "Certain things we do aren't good for the environment. ... we're finally starting to realize we have the opportunity to go back and fix some of those problems.

"ARC, which we are assisting, was formed to help restore some of what was done to harm the environment, and it's promoting and teaching stewardship so we don't make the same mistakes over and over."

Boote said covering a river like the Middle Rouge wouldn't happen today.

"It would be very, very difficult because of environmental regulations in place," he said. "This structure predates environmental regulations in the United States. The Clean Water Act and Michigan environmental laws came into affect primarily in the 1970s." Is Boote optimistic the river will be daylighted?

"I'm very optimistic," he said. "I think everybody involved in this is optimistic. Everybody is in support of it. It's just a matter of making it happen. One of the townlife.com or 517-375-1113.



Bruce Turnbull, shown in a 1920s photo after a successful fishing trip, reportedly paddled through the tunnel when he was a teenager.

COURTESY OF THE TURNBULL FAMILY

benefits of the Alliance is it provides various levels of expertise we can bring the parties together and collaborate. We can provide technical expertise to help the city and stakeholders as to what is going on and inform them. We can also bring funding into the

Boote said there are a lot of stream enclosures in metro Detroit, "but you don't see many on the size of a river like this."

How long will it take to rejuvenate the river? "The first step is the design process," Boote said.

"We're going to involve stakeholders and the public to gain input on what to do. "Permitting will be on the tail end of that. We're

probably a couple years out before the actual work starts. At that point it will be removing a lot of the infrastructure and demolishing what already here and moving a lot of dirt."

Boote said once the river is daylighted it will start to rejuvenate itself immediately.

"You'll be able to see positive changes very, very quickly by the time they take out the tunnel," he revealed. "I estimate the biological community will come all the way back within 10 years. Realistically, there will be a huge difference in the first year or two."

Once the river has been daylighted, Turnbull and his buddies will be able to canoe up and down the river just like his dad did a century earlier.

No flashlights required

Contact reporter Ed Wright at eawright@home-

#### Restaurant

Continued from Page 1A

A proposed opening date is tentatively set for Aug. 1, though that could change. A tax abatement for the project was approved by the city council last year.

South Lyon's Downtown Development Authority Executive Director Nathan Mack said having the liquor license approved is a major step to adding a new restaurant downtown.

"It's extremely important for them," he said. "It's going to be great for downtown, it's going to be great for the city."

The name is a combination of two languages. "Dua" in Palushaj's native Albanian means "love" or "want," and "vino" is Italian for wine. Combining the two created a name that sounded incredibly pleasing, Palushaj said.

'The word was really nice and easy and sounded good," he said.

Palushaj hopes adding the restaurant will help shape downtown South Lyon into a bigger destination. He knows there are plenty of people anxiously

waiting to see what happens to that corner. "I'm hoping to create that, yes. I'm hoping that that will be the turning point," Palushaj said. "There's a lot of people excited about this restaurant."

Rooftop dining is gaining popularity across the region. In addition to Dua Vino's rooftop patio, plans are in place to add a similar rooftop dining area at Poole's Tavern in nearby Northville.

Having such a patio, Mack said, will hopefully bring customers to the southwest Oakland County community

"People, especially in the warmer months, like that option," he said. "You sometimes have to go to bigger cities to get that kind of dining. It's just another reason to come down here."

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





# Driver shortage cancels HS busing in South Lyon

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

A bus driver shortage is forcing high school students in South Lyon to find their own transportation.

High schoolers at South Lyon High School and South Lyon East were given the option to learn in school or virtually starting March 25 and continuing through April 1. There is no school April 2, Good Friday.

Superintendent Steve Archibald said on March 24 the district was short drivers due to one resignation, one leave of absence, and four drivers quarantined due to COVID-19, which resulted in nine routes unfilled.

"We made the decision this morning the best thing to do would be to move both high schools back to the transition-

al phase where they can attend in person or participate remotely from home and with that, we're not providing transportation to the high schools," Archibald said. "That makes sure we can transport elementary and middle school students in a normal and timely fashion."

The district employs 42 bus drivers in its transportation department, which Archibald praised, calling the scheduling and execution of routes a Rubik's

The district is always seeking to hire bus drivers, but in this particularly challenging pandemic year has also sought to contract drivers through the company National Trails.

Archibald said the bus driver provider works with multiple districts and simply did not have enough substitutes

to fill the holes in South Lyon.

The district lists all school-associated COVID-19 cases and quarantines on its website. Between March 22-23, five positive COVID-19 cases were reported at South Lyon High School with 85 subsequent quarantines, as well as four positive COVID-19 cases at South Lyon East with 42 quarantines resulting.

Pearson Elementary and Centennial Middle School each had one positive COVID-19 case reported on March 23 for a combined total of 32 quarantines.

In an email to families, Superintendent Steve Archibald said high school students would return to the transition phase of the district's learning model for March 25-26 due to the shortage.

A day later, the district was short yet another driver due to COVID-19, and Archibald sent another communication that the district would extend the "transition plan" for the week of March 29.

The transition phase allows students the choice to attend school in-person or attend virtually, in which they can participate in class via Google classroom with their high school teachers.

Students who attend Oakland Schools Technical Campus need to find their own transportation to their high school, but transportation will be provided from the school to the tech center.

Information regarding transportation for athletic contests will be communicated directly by the athletic directors or coaches

"By making this temporary adjustment, we are able to continue instruction and maintain transportation for students in elementary and middle school," Archibald wrote in his letter.

## Space-themed escape room opens

David Veselenak Hometownlife com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Joe Adams and the Mrak brothers have been hard at work on the spaceship docked in Novi.

Not a real spaceship, but the closest thing they could build. And as a part of Novi's latest escape room, they need help in fixing it.

Adams, Kevin Mrak and David Mrak recently opened Five Senses Escape Rooms at 40440 Grand River Ave. They have one escape room currently available: "Starship: Final Voyage." Opening the space took about three years and tens of thousands of dollars.

Locating it in an industrial park allowed for more creativity than other escape rooms.

'We wanted to have the 30-foot ceilings," said Mrak, who lives in South Lyon. "This ... is a ship."

The concept is simple: a small group enters a room usually based on a theme. There, they complete puzzles to "escape" within a set time. At Five Senses, participants are loaded into a spaceship set for decommissioning when something goes wrong and they need to fix it.

The trio first began constructing the room in Port Huron. They then decided to move it to Novi, opening up right as some of the additional COVID-19 restrictions were placed on indoor dining and entertainment venues last fall.

Ever since they could open earlier this year, they've received great reviews, they said.

"The response has just been incredible." Mrak said

Most groups that finish the room do so with a few minutes to spare, though

the record so far is 38 minutes. "It's like they were looking in our minds when we designed it," said Adams, a Howell resident.

Because of COVID-19, there are some modifications to the experience. Surfaces being touched by players are cleaned after every group, and the center can only accept single groups that come together.

While the space only boasts one escape room right now, the trio hope to open another one, perhaps by the end of the year.

The room is open on weekends and those interested in signing up can do so at fivesensesmi.com.

## Poetry going up in South Lyon

Michigan poets who have been appreciated internationally will be highlighted by having their poems enlarged in freestanding frames in downtown South Lyon and Paul Baker Park for the month of April, National Poetry Month, sponsored by the Cultural Arts Commission of South Lyon.

The free-standing frames were provided by the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs as part of a previous Art and Commerce Grant.

Poets whose work will be displayed are: Terry Blackhawk (Detroit; Mexico), Melba Boyd, (Detroit; China), Linda Nemec Foster (Grand Rapids; Poland), Tom Lynch (Milford; Ireland), Christine Rhein (Brighton; Italy), Jack Ridl (Saugatuck; Germany), Alison Swan (Ann Arbor, Ireland), Eric Torgerson (Mount Pleasant; Italy) and Melba Boyd (Detroit; China).

Ken Michalik, chairman of the commission, noted that National Poetry Month is a perfect time to highlight poetry in the community.

"I remember the poetry readings at Third Monk and at art openings in the city art gallery and really missed them," Michalik said. "Since we have outstanding poets right here in Michigan, why not give the community some uplifting words for April?'

Josie Kearns, former commission chair and co-chair of the Poetry Project, agreed.

"I realized that numerous Michigan poets are appreciated internationally from Poland to Ireland to China. This project was a way to highlight their international status even though they all live in Michigan," Kearns said. "Reusing the frames for a month's worth of poetry seems to be in line with the goals of MCACA and builds on a previous

Joe Matuzak, former commissioner and current co-chair of the Poetry Project, liked the large aspect of the poems.

"The poems will be up for only a month. But at 24-by-36, basically movie poster size, they can easily be read by anyone walking by," Matuzak said. "This builds on the previous project in which enlarged poems, written for specific local businesses, were hung in their stores.

For further information, contact Kearns with the Cultural Arts Commission of South Lyon at 248-437-5206.





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# The Michigan Elder Law Reporter<sup>TM</sup>

**MARCH 2021** 

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**VOLUME 31, ISSUE 3.4** 

You are tired. Caring for a loved one with dementia is no joke. You are worried. Where is the money going to come from? Lifesavings almost exhausted. Maybe a home equity line of credit... maybe credit cards... how long can I keep putting one foot in front of the other? What to do? So many people saying so many different things... Take a break with the newspaper... Boring... What does any of this have to do with me? Nothing but bad news anyway... Maybe that lawyer guy always yapping about nursing homes and such has something to say...

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## **EMERGENCY RULES EFFECTIVE "UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE"**

APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> CUT-OFF RESCINDED! FREE AT-HOME CARE FOR MIDDLE CLASS TAXPAYERS

NOBODY WANTS TO BE INSTITUTIONALIZED: BASIC FACTS

Thirty-nine years as an attorney. Thirty-one years focused on estate planning and elder law. Helping thousands of families deal with Alzheimer's, Lewy Body, Parkinson's, ALS Watching Dad cope with Mom's vascular dementia and death, One year of pandemic lockdown. One year of unnecessary death. By "Executive Order." Here is what I see:

Great' 40 years of ignoring regular folks... Big shot lawyer-guy... What do they know? What does he care?

Fact #1: Your husband, wife, mom, or dad does not want nal care. Neither do you. You want to stay home. So

Fact #2 Institutional Care is COVID-19 deadly. How deadly? Very. At least 70 times greater. But cooked books in New York means we do not know just how deadly. Fact #3 Institutional Care is Expensive. Assisted Living is \$4000-\$6000 per month. Nursing Home is \$10,0000-\$15,000

Fact #4 Your family is going broke. Nursing Home Poverty. Fact #5: Medicaid pays when you are broke Busted Played out. Sell the cottage. Cash in the CDs. Spend the savings. When your lifesavings are gone, you can share a room. Get a shower a week (whether you need it or not). Experience the adventure of group laundry. Listen to your roommate practice his Tiny Tim impression. Tiptoeing Through the Tulips. At

Fact #6: You want to care for your loved one "Richer or Poorer, Sickness or Health, Good times and Bad" "Honor your Father and Mother." You take this family responsibility stuff seriously.

Fact #7. Caring for you will kill your spouse. Break up. your kid's marriage. Caring for your spouse will kill you. Caregivers die first 40-50% of the time.

Fact #8 You can fix all of this. It will not cost you your lifesavings. Or your home. Or the cottage. Or your business Fact #9: Most folks would rather suffer the consequences than call 800-317-2812. Or take any other positive action. Fact #10. Refusing the help you have paid for with your

taxes. That is the tragedy. Sounds wonderful! Sure What does that guy know about tragedy? That stuff never works answay Not for us. We just pay and pay Promises. Promises. I'm all through with promises, promises now... One foot in front of the other ... It is getting worse ... Doesn't recognize the kids anymore... Hardly knows who

I am But I an do the It Il be CR Somehow YOU NEED HELP, BUT, THE CARE IS TOO DAMN EXPENSIVE Yes. Yes, it is. Care is expensive. Caregivers are difficult to find. The work is hard. The hours are long.

You or your loved one is safe at home, with family support But you need care. Maybe not a lot, but more than a little. Just enough to keep you at home. That is where PACE comes in. Compared to traditional, institutional care, PACE is a bargain. Much less expense. Meeting the need. Not so expensive. For

Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) is the

NOW: EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY PACE is a privately run program. Paid for with your tax dollars. The tax dollars you contributed while working. The

the government. PACE is free to you.

tax dollars that come out of every Social Security and pension check and IRA 401(k) distribution you receive. You have

But you must qualify. Maybe you have been told to sell the cottage. Or the farm. Or the hunting proper v. Maybe you have been told to "spend down." No more CDs for you! Cash in those stocks and bonds. No security. Not for you. Not for your spouse. Not for your family But

Last year we reported good news about PACE. Emergency Rules. Eligibility expanded for thousands more families. Keep your life savings, cottage, farm, rental properties, business. Poverty is no longer required provided you follow the complex rules. Care services are free. Keep your

income. No co-pay. No doughnut hole. No other contribution. Last year the State of Michigan said the special rules would expire in June. Then the State of Mi. higan said the COVID. rules would expire in November. Then the State of Michigan said the emergency rules would expire in April. Getting dizzy

Last week, the State of Michigan changed its mind again. Remember, these expanded rules have saved thousands of middle-class families like yours from nursing home poverty. Well, the State of Michigan said that these very beneficial rules would remain in effect, "UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE"! Many Michigan families have already acted on this information. They are securing at-home care for their loved ones. PACE keeps them safe from the deadly COVID-19

virus stalking long-term care facilities Just like the government keep changing things Do it this way, do it that way ... Masks are awful ... Masks are great... Six feet distance... Three feet distance... Even if I try to go for that PACE thing, they Il just change the

rules again and we'll be really be up a creek... Still, might be nice to get some help... Wakes me up at all hours... Just wandering through the house ... How much more can I take? One foot in front of the other

So lonely. HEALTHY SKEPTICISM OR DEADLY DOUBT?

Many more families could benefit. But tragically, they cannot believe it is possible. Healthy skepticism hardens into stubborn rejection. Everyone suffers. Clinging to the idea that it is "too good to be true" or "fake news"? Pitiful. I've spoken to some folks who were uncertain and suspicious. Accurate information and proof beat unfounded fears every day. Fact: You do not have to accept nursing home poverty for yourself or your loved one.

Exactly... just a come-on. Fake news. Never works for real people. Can't fool me with that too good to be true cran. What does a lawyer know about long-term care anyway? Shysters! What do they care We won't get fooled again ...

Do Vol On Your Loved ONE OLALIEY? Answer Yes To 3 Questions:

1. Need help with activities of daily life? Memory problems? Oxygen therapy? Blindness? Dialysis? These are just a few of the many ways to qualify

Let's do the homework together. Most folks get large benefits. It costs nothing to find out

2. Are you safe at home? 3. Gross social security less than \$23822 (Special rules for Get Answers Now: 800-317-2812. Yeah, yeah it's dementia. Of course, we need help with daily routine... Of course, there are memory problems... not thinking straight... Still safe at home, as long as I'm around. I wish we

benefits" huh... I'm so sure...."Costs nothing "who believes that 'It would be nice, though ... Bah ... nonsense' COVID-19 RULE CHANGES WILL NOT LAST COVID-19 emergency rules are temporary. The benefits are permanent. When the emergency is over, these favorable rules will be gone. Of course, this may not be for you. Why not find

got that much social security! What's a pension? "Large

Why not find out now? Sure, it might be nice to get something back from taxes, but that is not how it works \_\_ \$1400. whoop-de-do. We need real help.

out? Is it so bad to get back a little from the tax dollars you

have paid? Call our Discovery Paralegal at 800-317-2812.

not window-dressing. WHAT BENEFITS DOES PACE PROVIDES

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Podiatry I bet it's a dump, full of crazy people

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· Optometry and Eyeglasses

Audiology and Hearing Aids

· Podiatry, Diabetic Shoes and Orthotics Cardiology

Rheumatology "Medical specialists!"
I bet there a bunch of backs and quacks

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I bet they "get back" to you next week, next month.

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#### **Pastors**

Continued from Page 3A

"Being able to attend Mass and be in a community with others worshiping brings strength to everyday tasks and situations," she said. "I can see God's hand working in my life in so many different ways and to be able to worship and give thanks for that is vital."

Earlier in the pandemic, it was particularly devastating for her to be separated from the Eucharistic services, but communion has resumed at Holy Name.

#### **Dealing with COVID-19 cases**

Other religious traditions will have to wait, including feet washing, which is a Holy Thursday ritual in the Catholic church. Zenz said this year, that rite will be reserved for three people joining the church who have indicated they are not afraid to have their feet washed in the current situation.

Also missing will be processions for Palm Sunday and the Easter vigil, due to the need for social distancing.

But the safety measures Holy Name has kept in place have had the intended effect. Zenz is aware of only two congregants who have tested positive for CO-VID-19 since the pandemic began, and neither involved any interactions with the church.

Conrow said a congregant who recently tested positive for COVID-19 after attending the early March service is not the only congregant who has tested positive, but the only one who was in church when at risk for passing it on to others.

He notified Fellowship EPC members by email and said only two others had been potentially exposed.

Frank and Jane Severn. 15-year members of Fellowship EPC, opted for services in the sanctuary where masks are required. The couple, both 80 years old, missed attending church earlier in the pandemic.

"It was a grave loss," Frank Severn said. "The Bible describes church as a household of God and if we're all staying in our own room all the time and never gather together, you lose the sense of oneness as a community. We missed seeing and greeting and confessing our faith together and talking together. We



Pastor Alan Conrow of South Lyon's Fellowship Evangelical Church is trying to accommodate parishioners who want to worship with and without masks.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

missed the whole community aspect."

The couple recognizes the divide there has been in their church. Frank Severn notes some felt strongly about the mask mandate and said they wouldn't go to church if forced to wear

Conrow does not anticipate rescinding the mask-optional provision the church offers, unless there is an increase in exposure risk.

Some Oak Pointe Church members have also tested positive for COVID-19.

Jenkinson said there have been a "few deaths, but it's hard to say if they were from COVID."

He said the church has not had to cancel any services, but some individual meetings have been canceled. That includes student ministries after a CO-VID-19 outbreak at Milford High School on March 23 in which 11 students tested positive, resulting in dozens of quarantines.

The increase in cases again is disheartening, but Jenkinson has no plans

to turn back. The attempt to placate a divided church has not come without a cost.

#### **Dwindling numbers**

Prior to the pandemic, Oak Pointe in Milford had an average Sunday attendance of about 750 people. Oer the course of a month, about 1,000 congregants would attend services.

With a shift to virtual services last spring, then outdoor services last summer, then a return to the sanctuary last fall but with some of the congregation wearing masks throughout the service and some removing them for singing or when the sermon was given, to now with separate services, there are fewer in the pews, perhaps 500 on any given Sunday.

Some of that is because people are choosing to watch from home, but Jenkinson said some of the loss is because people have gotten out of the habit of going to church.

Others have left the church because they feel it does not line up with their political values or COVID-19 values, or because "we were too stringent for too long"

"It's a bummer and disappointing on three fronts: on some level people are still not feeling comfortable in public gatherings; it's also hard because you realize some people have just drifted away from the church; and then honestly, it's a bummer when people feel you're not doing it right with politics or COVID and they leave instead of staying and being part of the discussion and correction about an issue."

He acknowledged that those who profess their faith as Christians in church on Sunday are just as fallible outside of church and, even in the best of times, humans are inherently selfish by nature.

He recalled a sermon series over the summer taken from the book of Philippians, which he describes as the most overtly political book in the New Testament. He chose it to talk to the congregation about how they relate to each other as people, and how they live with their neighbor and God in a community.

"Like most things, you hear and agree, and then on Monday morning, you realize it's a pretty challenging thing to live out," Jenkinson said. "Ultimately, the only thing that can unify a congregation is the gospel.

"The only thing that can unify a church, but also a country, is what do you have in common? Of course you have differences. COVID, the next election, the next social justice problem we have — those are opportunities in which to shine the gospel, to make changes where needed and give grace where needed."

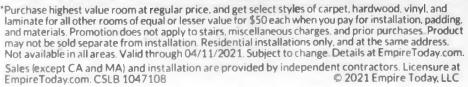
He believes the vaccines will bring more people back. In the past month, he is seeing the return of more families and elderly citizens, who bring with them happy smiles, whether hidden by a mask or not.

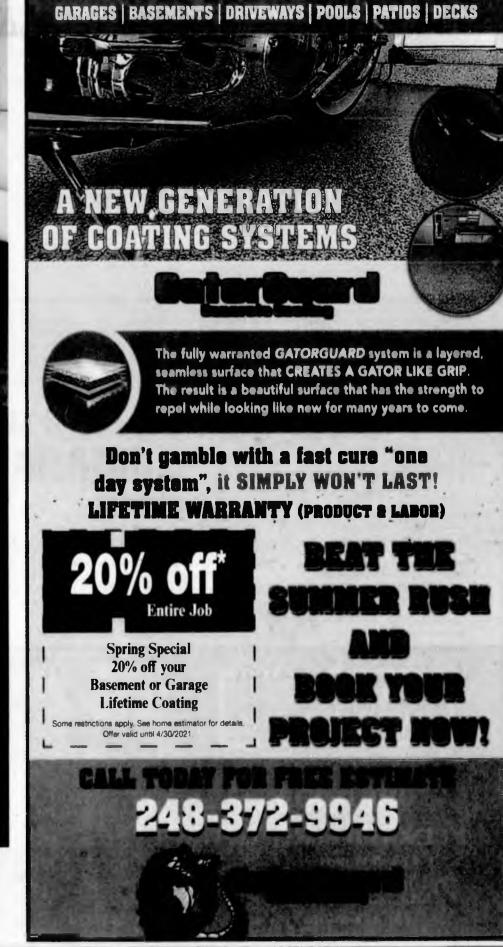
The arrival of Easter this year, he adds, gives renewed joy.

"Easter gives us an opportunity to focus on where the true hope is, a hope that can overcome challenges in any given year, but especially this year," he said.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @Susan-Bromley10.









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**GIRLS SOCCER** 

# Novi preps for 2021 with target on its back

Colin Gay Hometownlife com

**USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN** 

Novi head girls soccer coach Todd Pheiffer was the first one at Total Sports Wixom March 15 for the team's tryout, 1.034 days since the team lost a game.

As he walked in, the indoor practice field was dark. It gave him a chance to remember.

"I'm just looking around taking it all in like, 'I'm so glad to be back," Pheiffer said, awed by the fact it had been over a year since he coached this team. "I missed this. I missed the girls."

The 2021 Novi girls soccer team trickled into the indoor practice field, one different than 2020 after losing 13 seniors from the group that had its season canceled due to COVID-19, but holding onto the same expectations as the teams of years past. Pheiffer circled up his players, urging them to take it in, to enjoy the moment.

"Everyone uses the cliche of, 'You never know when it's going to be gone," Pheiffer said. "But last year, you got to experience it. You know what happened when it was gone."

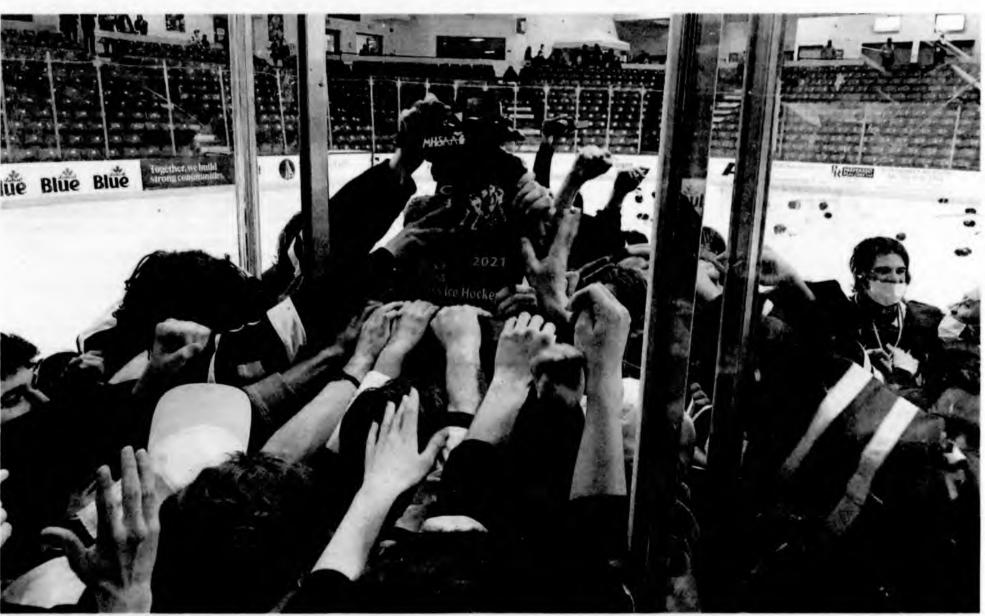
But Pheiffer also made it clear: this is

a new group. Novi has only three returning players from its state championship teams in 2018 and 2019.

The Wildcats head coach relayed the same message he gave to the 2019 prior to the start of its season after winning a state title the year before.

"'It's not about defending your

See NOVI, Page 3B



Detroit Catholic Central varsity hockey team members celebrate their Division 1 trophy with the JV Blue team, which helped them through the regional round.

# CC hockey uses past and future to fuel Division 1 state title win

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Brandon Kaleniecki didn't have to picture what it would be like. He had been there before.

Since taking over as Detroit Catholic Central hockey's head coach six seasons ago, the Shamrocks won two Division 1

"wooden mitten" trophy at USA Hockey Arena's center ice.

But for the hockey program as a whole, the 2021 Division 1 state title trophy, Kaleniecki's third, was heavy.

It felt the weight of the 2020 Shamrocks varsity team: a group which ended its season due to an emerging virus. It

state championships, hoisting the felt the weight of the junior varsity team: a group which took over when the virus nearly ended the varsity team's 2021 season in the regional round.

But when he watched a group of seniors take the trophy from Catholic Central Athletic Director Aaron Babicz, it was hoisted as if it weighed nothing, watching his players enjoy the moment

of bliss, of pure ecstasy.

To Catholic Central, this was not just another wooden mitten to add to its collection. It's a tangible example of how the Shamrocks used the past and the future of its program to achieve what they aimed for in the present.

See TITLE, Page 2B

# KLAA ADs oppose weekly COVID-19 testing for teams

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services updated its CO-VID-19 protocols for athletes in the state, requiring for all athletes ages 13-19 to participate in weekly antigen rapid

The safety measure is something athletic directors in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association disagree

The KLAA athletic directors released a statement, saying it is "unfeasible" to input data for each spring student athlete under the current guidelines and data platform and that a compromise must be made from the curfent guidelines to limit the amount of testing taken place on a weekly basis.

With this, the KLAA said it believes that the State of Michigan must provide assistance to every school to make testing all spring athletes even possible.

In the statement, the athletic directors said they believe that weekly test-

ing should only occur for lacrosse and soccer and that the starting date should be pushed back to April 12 to give member schools time to train and plan for the testing protocol, along with accounting for many schools' spring break sched-

See TESTING, Page 4B



## CC hockey earns D1 state title

Colin Gay Hometownlife com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN** 

Detroit Catholic Central took the ice with something to prove, someone some people — to play for. And when the Shamrocks were given a chance to do that, they did not disappoint.

Catholic Central (18-1) outshot Rockford (15-6-1), 41-10, beating the Rams, 5-1, in the Michigan High School Athletic Association Division 1 hockey final Saturday night at USA Hockey Arena.

The Shamrocks earned their 15th state title in school history and their sixth since 2010. Catholic Central is the only team to regain its title from 2019 after the 2020 semifinal and final was canceled due to the emergence of CO-

"We were playing for each other," Catholic Central senior Brenden Cwiek said. "We just had everyone around us. There's no reason why we should have allowed anything. We knew what we had.

"We just did what we had to do." Catholic Central took advantage of Rockford's mistakes early.

After the Rams killed their first power play of the game, the Shamrocks stepped up in the second, as forward Brennan Sass turned a rebound off a missed shot by Kaden Hemme into the first goal of the game.

Two minutes later, Catholic Central senior forward Billy Shields, with Rockford on a power play, forced a turnover, finishing on a filthy fast-break goal.

The Shamrocks outshot the Rams, 10-4, in the first 17 minutes.

The offensive drubbing continued as the Shamrocks put 20 shots on goal, adding two goals on a put back by Bret Beale and a free-for-all at the Rockford goal that Ryan Wantuck connected on.

While the Shamrocks offense continued its relentless barrage, Rockford's offense was in a stand still. The Rams recorded only two shots on goal in the second period.

"I think that's a lot of our depth as a team," senior Tommy Shea said. "We have four lines banging. We know one shift after another, we're going to wear teams down. Everyone's pulling weight, everybody's shutting the other team down. They are never going to catch a break all the way through."

After the Shamrocks allowed Rockford to score early in the third period a beautiful feed from Braeden Fouchea off a turnover to set up Carson Korte for the score — Catholic Central secured the four-goal victory with a score by Hemme, assisted by Shields.

Catholic Central beat Rockford in the regular season, 5-0, March 6.

As the Shamrocks celebrated on the ice with its junior varsity team - one that earned wins for the team in the regional round when the majority of its players were out with COVID-19 - out flooded a sense of relief.

Of closure: something many of the players out there had not experienced from 2020.

With this came motivation that carried Catholic Central through the condensed 2021 season and to the point they didn't have a chance to make it to a season ago.

But as Catholic Central sang their fight song after its resounding victory, Shea knew this win was not only for the members of the current varsity roster.

"We knew we were playing for (the junior varsity team)," Shea said. "We were playing for the seniors last year that didn't get a chance to finish out. That was for those guys."

Three Michigan Independent Hockey League teams — Catholic Central, Brother Rice and Cranbrook Kingswood - won each division of the MHSAA state finals, the first time this has happened since 2015.

#### HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY PLAYOFF SCOREBOARD

#### State finals

Division 2 — USA Hockey Arena Brother Rice (15-4) 2, Byron Center (18-1) 1 Division 3 — USA Hockey Arena Cranbrook Kingswood (14-4) 4, Calumet

Division 1 — USA Hockey Arena Detroit Catholic Central (18-1) 5, Rockford (15-6-1)1

#### State semifinals

Division 1 — USA Hockey Arena Detroit Catholic Central (17-1) 3, Brighton (10-5-3)0

Division 2 — USA Hockey Arena Brother Rice (14-4) 4, Trenton (13-8) 2 Division 3 — USA Hockey Arena Cranbrook Kingswood (13-4) 4, Flint Powers Catholic (14-4) 1

#### State quarterfinals

**Division 1** 

Detroit Catholic Central (16-1) 3, Salem (8-6)1**Division 2** 

Brother Rice (13-4) 6, Port Huron Northern Trenton (13-7) 3, Novi (12-3-2) 1

**Division 3** Cranbrook Kingswood (13-4) 1, U-D Jesuit

(12-4-1) 0

#### Regionals

Division 1 Region 7 - USA Hockey Arena First round

Troy (7-10) 9, Farmington (0-6) 1 Regional semifinal Troy (8-10) 2, Birmingham (10-5-1) 1

Detroit Catholic Central (14-1) 7, Berkley (10-7-1)1Regional final

Detroit Catholic Central (15-1) 2, Troy (8-Region 8 — Dearborn Ice Skating Center

First round Northville (5-6) 5, Adrian (2-10) 2 Salem (6-5) 5, Dearborn Unified (5-4) 1 Regional semifinal

Plymouth (6-6-2) vs. Southgate Anderson

(1-11) — Canceled Salem (7-5) 1, Northville (5-7) 0

Regional final

Salem (8-5) 2, Plymouth (7-7-2) 1; OT Division 2

Region 12 — Hartland Sports Arena Regional semifinal

Lakeland (15-2-1) 2 Fenton (8-8) 1 Regional final

Lakeland (15-2-1) vs. Hartland (13-2-1) cancelled, COVID-19

Region 14 - Oak Park Ice Arena

Regional semifinal Bloomfield Hills (7-7) 3, Utica Eisenhower (4-13-1)2

Regional final

Brother Rice (12-4) 11, Bloomfield Hills (7-8)

Brother Rice (11-4) 8, Chippewa Valley (2-11)

Region 15 - Novi Ice Arena

First round

South Lyon (8-7) 4, Canton (8-8) 0

Regional semifinal

Novi (11-2-2) 3, South Lyon (9-8) 1 Livonia Stevenson (9-3) vs. Allen Park Cabrini (3-6); Canceled — COVID-19

Regional final Novi (12-2-2) 2, Livonia Stevenson (9-4) 1;

OT

**Division 3** Region 21 - Wallace Ice Arena

First round Rochester Hills Stoney Creek (8-6-1) 7, Milford (11-4) 4

Regional semifinal

Cranbrook Kingswood (11-4) 8, Rochester

Hills Stoney Creek (8-7-1) 0 Detroit Country Day (9-2-1) vs. Pontiac Notre Dame Prep (0-11-1); Canceled — COVID-19

Regional final Cranbrook Kingswood (12-4) 11, Pontiac Notre Dame Prep (0-12-1) 0

Region 23 — Arctic Coliseum First round

Livonia Churchill (4-11) 4, Allen Park (6-10) 2 Chelsea (14-1-1) 4, Livonia Franklin (7-10) 1

Regional semifinal Livonia Churchill (5-11) 5, Dexter (8-8) 2 Regional final

Chelsea (16-1-1) 5, Livonia Churchill (5-12) 0

#### **Title**

Continued from Page 1B

#### Remembering the past

Heading into the 2021 season, Nich Borchardt was one of two players on the roster who knew what it was like to win a state title.

Borchardt, a senior forward and captain, and Collin Scheuher, a senior forward and assistant captain, are the only two holdovers from the Shamrocks' 2019 state championship run. Both used that experience to calm their teammates down, serving as living proof of what it took to achieve that peak goal.

"It was almost showing the guys like, 'Hey, we've been here before," Borchardt said. ""It's just another hockey game. We just have to play how we played all year long and we'll have success."

It was a mentality Borchardt and Scheuher brought into the 2020 season, aiming for another Division 1 state title with a group of 15 seniors.

Former Shamrocks defenseman Brendan Miles remembers chasing that championship feeling, winning one as a junior and wanting a chance at another as a senior in 2020, until it was cut short prematurely.

Now, a defenseman with the Fairbanks Ice Dogs, a junior hockey team in the North American Hockey League, Miles wanted Catholic Central to experience that championship feeling again, despite not having the chance at that closure himself.

"It's been two years in the making and it's finally come to where it's give all or give up," Miles said. "That's where the younger guys, they really want this. It's not just for them. It's for a lot of other people as well."

After earning the program's 15th state title, Kaleniecki emphasized the importance of including the 2020 class in the Shamrocks' latest championship, knowing their foundation helped this team through.

"I hope they know that we carried them with us," Kaleniecki said.

#### Picturing the future

While his team played both regional games as Catholic Central, the Shamrocks' JV Blue head coach Jamey Masters did not get a chance to join them.

Instead, he watched in the top corner of the stands, gazing down at them in a way a coach never really has the opportunity to do: viewing his players the way a nervous parent would during the regional semifinals and finals.

"You can't really contradict the varsity coach, Brandon Kaleniecki. He's got state championships," Masters rememing the rink in those games. Even



The CC varsity hockey team poses with the JV Blue team after its Division 1 state title win against Rockford. BEN SZILAGY/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE COM

bers thinking while watching his team play against Berkley and Troy. "And we're up here, 'Oh, you're doing it wrong.'

But Masters let Kaleniecki take charge, knowing what was at stake: a regional title, the fate of the 2021 season in the hands of one of the program's two junior varsity teams after the varsity team was forced to quarantine due to a

few positive COVID-19 cases. For the JV Blue head coach and his roster, the performance was not about putting forward a hidden agenda, proving a point by the team's play.

"The boys just knew they were stepping up for their brothers "Masters said. It allowed another set of players a

chance at the spotlight. Anthony Dickow and Nick Tullio rose to the occasion.

Dickow, a first-year JV Blue team member, who spent his first two seasons on the Catholic Central prep team, and Tullio, a third-year JV Blue player, who overcame multiple injuries to make it back in time for regionals, each scored the Shamrocks' two goals in the regional

"It was very special," Dickow said. "We wouldn't have imagined this like a week ago that we were going to be win-

ning a regional title for varsity." Tullio could sense the difference takthough he was playing with many of the team it fought for one week ago. same players, he knew he was playing for more. 'You had the weight on your back,

supporting the seniors, trying to win it for the seniors," he said. With the performance of the JV Blue

team in the regional round, Kaleniecki now has an idea of who he has in his pipeline, an idea of what his future could look like. But even more so, it made the pro-

high school sports can do as a whole. "It's bigger than just a team, high school sports," Kaleniecki said. "That's

gram even larger, representing what

what makes it so much fun. That's what makes it mean so much."

#### Celebrating the present

When the buzzer sounded, indicating the end of the Division 1 state finals, both the Catholic Central varsity team and JV Blue team started to run.

The varsity team rushed toward its goal. Players threw up their gloves in celebration, mobbing each other in jubilation for something all but two on the roster had ever experienced.

The JV Blue team rushed from the stands and into the basement of the arena, surrounding the gate to the ice, waiting for its chance to celebrate with the

After medals were handed out and the trophy was presented, Catholic Central skated toward the JV Blue team, lifting the wooden mitten trophy toward their teammates, their brothers, hoisting it together.

Embraces continued, the smiles sweeping across each person on the ice in celebration. The Shamrocks were flooded with relief, with closure, with remembrance of what they had gone through.

"I just marvel at their commitment to this cause," Kaleniecki said. "They wanted this bad and we knew it meant a lot to them and for all of us, begging for an opportunity to play. This is why we wanted to play because it means a lot to these kids and they worked so hard to be in these situations. They deserved that opportunity."

All of this proved to be motivation for the Shamrocks in 2021: the perfect combination, leading to a Division 1 state title two years in the making.

"To be able to do that two years later, especially after what happened last year, it's almost like the end of a perfect story," Borchardt said.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-

#### Novi

Continued from Page 1B

title,' "Pheiffer said. "'It's about you going (and) getting yours.'"

#### Target on its back

Abbey Pheiffer knows Novi goes into each game with a target on its back.

The senior goalkeeper has been with the Wildcats through its streak, not losing a game since May 21, 2018, against Grand Blanc. She knows each additional game, each additional win makes the target larger and larger.

"Every game I go out there ready to play, but there's also part of me that's nervous about it," Abbey Pheiffer said. "It's always a fun nerve,"

Pheiffer, Eva Burns and Taylor Nicholsen have each experienced this level of pressure. Through the first tryouts and practices, it's something they need to instill to the rest of the team.

Pheiffer knows it will take a lot of patience and leadership, making sure they understand the expectation of what Novi soccer is about.

"You got out there and you played 110% every minute you were on the field," she said. "No matter if you are on the bench or on the field, you are always a part of the program. You always matter, no matter what you are doing on the team. We are all one. We all work together. We win this stuff together and we all push through everything together."

To Burns, it's about dedication on the practice field, saying if you don't practice how you are going to play in game action, the outcome is not going to be as good as it would have been.

But the change is that each game, when completed, is like starting from scratch.

"If we lose, then we have to do better next time. If we win, that's amazing and we have to keep going, keep building off of it," Burns said. Each game is like a reset, and I hope we instill that in the younger players."

Todd Pheiffer knows what other teams are going to say and do against Novi soccer. To him, it's a sign of respect, an example of imitation being the greatest form of flattery.

He knows that with each win, the tradition of Novi soccer continues to build. To Nicholsen, that pressure is daunt-



Novi High School's varsity girls soccer team kicked off its 2021 campaign March 22 with a practice at Wixom's Total Soccer.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ing. But it's worth it.

"I think it's hard, but it makes us work harder," she said. "It gives us a motive to give it our all."

#### Facing COVID-19

Abbey Pheiffer, Burns and Nicholsen know this is their last chance, having been on a team together since the 2018-19 season.

So as the team began to gather for its preseason captain-led workouts, they were not going to take any chances.

"They were big on, when they were running their things, everyone had their masks, make sure you have multiple masks if something were to happen," Todd Pheiffer said. "And just be smart when you are not here. That's the one thing that people keep talking about. It's not spread throughout the school. It's kids are socializing outside of school and it's coming here."

Heading into the 2021 season, Novi is forced to think about things the players have never thought about before. Todd Pheiffer knows the virus has taken a toll on Novi athletics as a whole, stopping his boys team in the fall for a two-week quarantine.

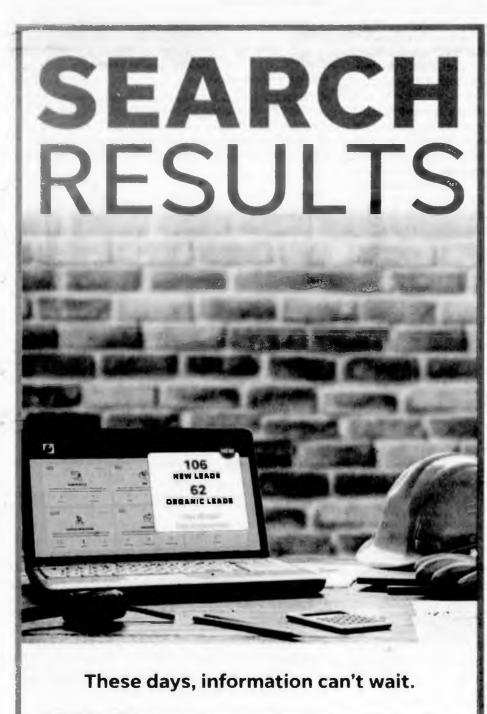
In her senior season, Abbey Pheiffer does not really know what to expect. She returns to the field for the first time

after her sophomore season was cut short with a torn ACL. The senior goalkeeper wants a chance to end it on her terms, win or loss, and not have it defined by COVID-19.

"If we can get to winning games and we can get to where we have been in the past, that would be great," Abbey Pheiffer said. "But really for me, it's about having fun with my teammates that I've been with for the past four years."

Novi opens its season against Hartland April 6.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17.



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# Novi opens playoffs with win over Plymouth

Colin Gay Hometownlife com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi head basketball coach Chris Housey watched as Plymouth exploded out of the gate, punching his team in the mouth to start the game with a 13-5 lead in the first playoff game of the 2021 season.

In his three years with Novi, Housey learned that each game against Plymouth would be a dogfight, relaying that message to his team before the first-round game, the first playoff game for many on his roster.

"You can tell we were a little tense to begin with," Housey admitted. "But once we settled in and played basketball, we were fine."

Novi (4-11) used a 23-9 first-half run to earn its first playoff win since the 2017-18 season, beating Plymouth (3-13) on its home court, 56-48.

In the third quarter, the pendulum swung back toward Plymouth,

Starting with a 3-point play after a layup by junior point guard Jason Stewart, the Wildcats began to chip away at Novi's lead, regaining the lead nearly three minutes later after another 3-point play by Preston after a foul off a layup.

But after a back-and-forth end to the third quarter led to it being tied at 41, Novi swung the momentum back in its favor, starting the quarter on an 8-0 run and limiting Plymouth to seven points in the final eight minutes for the victory.

Novi was led by sophomore guard Te'John McGowan, who led the team with 14 points, while senior Bryce Lubin added 13.

"It says we got fight," McGowan responded when asked what this win says about this team. "We had a rough start, got better towards the end. Just kept fighting. Coach said 'Just keep fighting,' throughout the season. It (was) going to get better."

Watching one of his players get his tooth knocked in and Stewart, in the fourth quarter, separate his shoulder, Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup knew his team gave everything it had. He said Novi adjusted to Ply-



The Novi basketball team celebrates its first playoff win since the 2017-18 season. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE,COM

mouth's early pressure, crediting McGowan for taking advantage of easy tries at the rim.

But looking back on the season, a season in which he had only one returning varsity player that had any sort of experience, Soukup was satisfied with where his team ended up.

"We've had bright spots in terms of personal player development even if we didn't have great team success this year," Soukup said. "I was proud of them. They gave everything they could tonight."

Stewart led Plymouth with 14 points.

Housey and his Novi team have had a rough go of it

The Wildcats finished the regular season, 3-11, winning only one of their first 12 games before putting together a three-game win streak extending into the playoffs.

'We've lost some close ones, we've lost some notso-close ones. I just told our guys right now that we learned," Housey said. "They learned what it takes and learned from their mistakes, and now they know, in close games, we're able to pull them out."

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

## **Testing**

Continued from Page 1B

In the update by MDHHS, guidelines require athletes in unmasked competition must be tested up to three times weekly and that testing is recommended before any inter-team competition -- when players are in close contact with players outside of the local

Unmasked practice or competition may only occur after a negative antigen test in the 24 hours leading up to the event or a negative RT-PCR test within 72 hours of the unmasked practice or game.

According to MDHHS, athletes who have recovered from a confirmed COVID-19 case in the past three months and remain asymptomatic may participate without testing if they provide a letter from their doctor confirming this information.

As of March II, local health departments in the state reported 162 new and ongoing COVID-19 outbreaks at K-12 schools along with 135 confirmed outbreaks among minors associated with school and

club athletics. According to MDHHS, COVID-19 has risen 105% in the past four weeks among the 10-19 age range in the

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Twitter: @ColinGay17.

**Obituaries** 

# All-State swimmers announced

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After winning back-to-back Division 2 state titles in 2014 and 2015, the Seaholm boys swim and dive team returned to the top spot in 2021, winning its eighth state title in team history and its fourth since

The Maples had 11 All-American finishes with one state champion: senior Kam Liberman in the 1-meter dive, recording a 523.15, 62.95 points ahead of the second place finisher.

Farmington finished in sixth with a 141.5, recording five All-American performances, including a a first-place finish by Trevor Jones in the 100-yard freestyle and a first-place finish in the 400-yard free style relay.

Groves finished in eighth with a 110 and four All-American finishes, while Brother Rice finished in 12th with a 76 and three All-American finishes.

In Division 1. Detroit Catholic Central finished in fourth place behind state champion Ann Arbor Pioneer, finishing with 225 points. Northville finished in fifth with 209 and Novi finished in 12th with 51 points.

Milford junior Fletcher Smith earned a state title in the 100-yard butterfly, finishing in 50.50 seconds, a Hudsonville High School pool record.

Northville senior Conner Halberg earned a state title in the 500-yard freestyle, finishing in 4:31.31. Teammates Phillip Zhavoronkov and Jacob Mowers each earned All-State honors in the same event.

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

Halberg; 1:25.36

7. Detroit Catholic Central: junior Nolan Gresens, junior Kilian Bishop, senior Joey Dombkowski, senior Christian **Dunaltis: 1:27.74** 

#### 100-vard backstroke

- 4. Detroit Catholic Central junior Nolan Gresens; 51.65
- 5. Detroit Catholic Central senior Matthew Kozma; 51.80 6. Detroit Catholic Central senior Dallas Fisher; 52.50
- 100-yard backstroke

6. Detroit Catholic Central senior Joey Dombkowski: 57.55

5. Detroit Catholic Central senior Christian Dunaltis; 57.53

8. Bloomfield Hills senior Jameson Kanary; 58.32

#### 400-yard freestyle relay

4. Northville: junior Leonardo Simoncini, junior Evan Scotto-DiVetta, senior Josh Seidelman, senior Conner

5. Detroit Catholic Central: senior Matthew Kozma, junior Kilian Bishop, senior Christian Dunaltis, senior Dallas Fisher;

#### **Division 2**

#### 200-yard Medley Relay

5. Seaholm: junior Cami Wilson, senior Tate Chutkow, senior Bryce Liddell, junior Patrick Branch; 1:36.00

8. Groves: freshman Joey Stebbins, freshman Angus MacDonald, junior Jackson Zako, freshman Asa Allen;

#### 200-yard IM

2. Farmington senior Trevor Jones; 1:51.54

6. Groves freshman Angus MacDonald; 1:54.83

50-vard freestyle

T6. Seaholm junior Cami Wilson; 21.26

8. Farmington senior Jared Visser; 21.27

1. Seaholm senior Kam Liberman; 523.15 100-yard butterfly

#### 3. Seaholm junior Cami Wilson; 50.30

6. Seaholm senior Bryce Liddell; 50.95

#### 100-vard freestyle

1. Farmington senior Trevor Jones; 45.16

2. Brother Rice junior Conner Kulka; 45.71

#### 6. Seaholm senior Tom Girdler; 46.52

#### 500-yard freestyle

3. Groves freshman Angus MacDonald; 4:38:88 6. Seaholm senior Joe Novak, 4:44-52

#### 200-vard freestyle relay

3. Seaholm: junior Cami Wilson, junior Patrick Branch, junior

Owen O'Neill, senior Tom Girdler; 1:25.61

5. Farmington: senior Trevor Jones, senior Andrew Pan, senior Sibi Raj, senior Jared Visser; 1:26.11

#### 100-yard breaststroke

2. Seaholm senior Tom Girdler; 55.56

5, Brother Rice senior Elijah Venos; 57.28

6. Seaholm senior Tate Chutkow; 57.60

#### 400-yard freestyle relay

1. Farmington: senior Jared Visser, senior Andrew Pan. senior Sibi Raj, senior Trevor Jones; 3:07.59

3. Seaholm: senior Bryce Liddell, junior Patrick Branch, junior Owen O'Neill, senior Tom Girdler; 3:09.26

6. Groves: junior Jackson Zako, freshman Angus MacDonald, senior Billy Harvey, sophomore Ian Duncan; 3:12.46

7. Brother Rice: Junior Conner Kulka, junior Aidan Devine,

senior Richard Piker, senior Elijah Venos; 3:13.17

#### Jennifer Alice (Beno) Hunter

Hunter, Jennifer Alice (Beno) - Age 46, of Linden, passed away Sunday, March 21, 2021. A private service will take place immediately, with a celebration of life memorial service to take place at a later date. In Lieu of flowers those desiring may make contributions to the family for the chil-



dren's college funds, The Rock Church or the Linden Pay It Forward Project. Jennifer was born on November 17, 1974 in Pontiac, the daughter of George and Patricia (Young) Beno. She was a graduate of Milford High School, class of 1992. Jennifer received her bachelor's degree in Nursing from the University of Michigan, Flint. She worked a number of years as a nurse for Genesys Hospital. Jennifer was united in marriage to Chris Hunter on May 25, 2002 in Milford. She was a member of The Rock Church. In her free time she enjoyed supporting her children's sporting events, gardening, camping, boating on the lake, and spending time with family and dear friends. She is survived by her husband, Chris Hunter; children, Julia, Seth and Sophia Hunter; parents, George and Patricia Beno; brother, George Beno III; and several aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Tributes may be shared at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.



## **All-State swimmers**

#### **Division 1**

#### 200-yard medley relay

3. Detroit Catholic Central: senior Dallas Fisher, senior Joey Dombkowski, junior Nolan Gresens, senior Matthew Kozma;

7. Northville: junior Kyle McCullough, junior William Teng, sophomore Alex Subotich, junior Nathan Obrigkeit; 1:36.19

2. Northville senior Conner Halberg; 1:38.87 7. Milford junior Fletcher Smith; 1:43.09

#### 200-yard IM

2. Detroit Catholic Central senior Matthew Kozma: 1:52.54

#### 3. Canton sophomore Ryan Gurgel; 1:54.14

6. Detroit Catholic Central senior Christian Dunaltis; 1:55.30 50-yard freestyle

### T8. Northville junior Leonardo Simoncini; 21.64

100-yard butterfly

3. Northville sophomore Alex Subotich; 50.85

#### 1. Milford junior Fletcher Smith; 50.50

#### 2. Detroit Catholic Central junior Nolan Gresens; 50.56

100-yard freestyle 7. Northville junior Leonardo Simoncini; 47.33

#### 500-yard freestyle

1. Northville senior Conner Halberg; 4:31.31

#### 6. Northville freshman Phillip Zhavoronkov; 4:43.57

#### 8. Northville sophomore Jacob Mowers; 4:45.79 200-yard freestyle relay

4. Northville, junior Leonardo Simoncini, junior Evan Scotto-DiVetta, junior Nathan Obrigeit, senior Conner

# CC hockey beats Salem at full strength

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

The past two weeks for the Detroit Catholic Central hockey team have been deja vu of the end of the 2020 season.

After having the season cut short in the final four due to the start of the CO-VID-19 pandemic, the virus reared its head again at the start of the playoffs for the Shamrocks, sidelining the majority of the varsity roster.

"I was just upset because I know all the seniors this year have worked very hard and gave everything they got," Catholic Central senior Brett Beale said. "It would have been a shame to go out like that."

Catholic Central did not have to.

After its junior varsity program led the team to the team's two regional wins, the full varsity roster returned to the ice, beating Salem, 3-1, in the Division 1 state quarterfinal.

With his full group returning to the ice, Catholic Central head coach Brandon Kaleniecki expected some rust knowing it would be hard for the group to simulate game experience in practice sessions

"We had moments where we looked like ourselves and moments where we didn't," Kaleniecki said. "Salem did a good job and took us out of our sync for a little while. Ultimately, going into the third period 1-1 in the playoffs is what you expect. You are going to have to win some ugly ones, and we were able to find a way in the third.

After the Shamrocks took control early in the second period — with Beale taking passes from JC Garbacik and Jackson Ewald, resetting in front of the net and firing for the first score of the game — Salem seized a rare chance its opponent gave.

With the Shamrocks already down a man after a roughing penalty by forward Jackson Ewald, Kaleniecki's group was called for a too-many-men penalty, giving the Rocks 37 seconds of a three-onfive power play.

Passing around the outside of the zone, Salem forward Peter Manigen, from the left side, shot the puck past Catholic Central goalkeeper Bobby Masters to tie the game at one, a score that lasted through the end of the second period.

But just over two minutes into the third period, the Shamrocks took the lead for good as Tommy Shea took a pass from Jimmy Mordeau for the score, secured later in the period after Beale's second score of the day.

"He has raised his game to another level in the last month," Kaleniecki said of Beale. "You saw it in the second and third period: He was really our best player. That's great to see from the senior captain, the assistant captain. We needed it. We needed someone to kind of take the reins a little bit

Catholic Central put 37 shots on net against Salem, 34 of which were saved by goalkeeper Andre Genereaux. Salem attempted only 17 shots on goal against the Shamrocks.

As Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher watched his team battle against Catholic Central, a team that had outscored the Rocks, 15-1, in their past three meetings, he saw the character his players had been exuding all season long: buying in and blocking shots.

'They did everything they needed to do to win the hockey game, and they just didn't. That's a credit to Catholic Central," Ossenmacher said. "They're a program where you have to do everything

'We did as much as we could."

# Mercy basketball wins third-straight district title

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

Alexis Roberts knows how deep Mercy's basketball team is.

As the team's senior point guard, leading a roster with six other seniors, her job is to get the ball to the hot hand, which, she said, can change from night

"Anybody can get hot at any given moment," Roberts said. "It's finding the open player and trusting them with the

Offensively, Roberts herself was the hot hand, leading Mercy (14-3) to its third-straight district title — the team's ninth in the past 10 years — beating North Farmington (6-10), 56-32, Friday night at Novi High School.

Roberts led the team with 14 points, two rebounds and four steals, distributing the ball from the half court to players like senior Ellie Tisko, who tied Roberts' lead with 14 points, adding two steals and a rebound; and Madeline Kenney, who recorded eight points, three rebounds and two steals.

That depth came in handy early.

North Farmington came out firing, as Heaven Rogers and Sela Lefler ignited a quick 5-0 run to start the game. But one made basket from Kenney turned the tides, starting a 17-2 run to take a 10point first-quarter lead.

The Marlins offense continued to build momentum from there, using a 6-0 lead at the end of the first half to keep an II-point lead going into half- best half all season. We were playing,



Mercy basketball won its third-straight district title over North Farmington. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

North Farmington head coach Jeff Simpson knew his team was the underdogs coming into the district final, facing "one of the top teams in the state." Despite the deficit, he felt the Raiders were in as good of a position as they had been all season.

"That first half might have been our

we were executing our game plan, shooting the ball, we were defending them well and then it got away right at the tail end of the first half," he said.

That six-point swing by the Marlins continued into the second half, starting the third quarter on a 12-2 run, helped by five points and a steal by Roberts.

"She's really good at knowing when to push and when to go slow," Mercy head coach Gary Morris said of his senior point guard. "She's also very aware, if we have a hot shooter, trying to get her touches or try and take advantage of a situation where we maybe feel we have an advantage, whatever position that might be. She's just been very smart, a very experienced player."

Holding onto a 20-point lead heading into the fourth quarter, Mercy capped off its district title with a 7-2 run led by Kenzie Williamson, who scored five points and added two steals in the final

Rogers led North Farmington with 14 points and 12 rebounds, while Lefler added 10 points and four assists.

As Mercy celebrated a district title, along with its 12-game win streak, Roberts continued to have her goals. She wants this veteran group to continue to play together, to continue to prove to the rest of the state that the Marlins can play with anybody.

But 17 games into a season that has been affected by COVID-19 in every way possible - something that Mercy was not immune too, Morris said — Roberts is just thankful for the opportunity to still play.

"It's really a blessing because not everybody has the same opportunity," she said. "We have to take advantage of every opportunity we have and just take it one game at a time and just keep going.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17.



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# Stakeaways from the latest jobs report

Julia Pollak ZipRecruiter.com

ccording to the jobs report released this month by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the economy added 379,000 jobs in February, beating expectations. That is a significant improvement over January, when the economy added only 166,000. It is also about twice the average monthly job gain before the pandemic.

Nevertheless, given that the economy is still down 9.5 million jobs since a year earlier — and 11.9 million jobs below its healthy pre-COVID-19 trend — the job gains should be seen as fairly modest. They do not yet signal a rapid rebound, but rather the slow reawakening of the labor market after the COVID-19 winter.

Here are some key takeaways from the report:

1. The leisure and hospitality sector is finally reviving

Before the pandemic, about

11% of workers were employed in the leisure and hospitality sector, which includes hotels, restaurants, spectator sports, theaters and museums. But the sector is a much larger share of the economy in some states, like Nevada, where it typically accounts for 25% of employment. And it was responsible for a disproportionate share of the job losses at the start of the pandemic: 37%.

As of the February jobs report, it is still down 3.5 million jobs, or 20%, year-over-year. But, encouragingly, it was responsible for the vast majority of the job gains that month -355,000 of the 379,000 economywide total. The gains were concentrated in the following industries:

- Restaurants: +286,000
- Hotels: +36,000
- Entertainment: +33,000 Even though the gains were heavily concentrated in one sector, more industries across the economy contributed job gains than losses overall, which is an encouraging sign that a modest jobs recovery is resuming more broadly.



2. Very few workers returned to the labor market

The labor force expanded by only 50,000 and is still 4.2 million smaller than it was a year earlier. Many Americans clearly face barriers to returning to work, such as continued school closures and reduced public transportation. The decline has been uneven, with the white male labor force contracting 2.2% in a year but the Hispanic female labor force contracting 4.4% and the Black female labor force contracting 5.6%.

3. State and local government education was the weak point of the report

Even before the February report, employment in the education

sector had tumbled, with yearover-year employment changes ranging from -25% in sports and recreation instruction to -6% in elementary and secondary schools. Instead of leading the recovery or cushioning the job losses in other industries, state and local government education departments shed yet more jobs in February.

There is a risk that reduced education budgets, staffing cuts and school closures could cause long-term scarring in the labor market in the form of reduced skills and productivity, increased dropout rates, ballooning student debt levels and youth mental health problems. Making up for the recent disruptions to education by restoring access and quality will need to be a key priority in the coming months.

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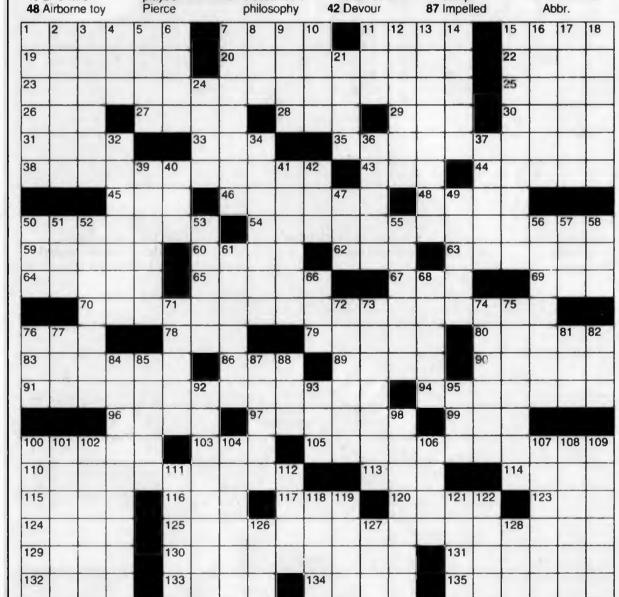
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For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com

#### can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle! BAKE A CAKE Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, ZXLWKOOCYCAND ROTBFAAZZW AMDO MOGTIB EETU UNOCOCSND SE C C S C BEBCOF ALMOND ANGEL **APRON BAKLAVA BATTENBURG** BEAT **BIRTHDAY BISCUIT BOWL BROWNIE** BUTTER CANDLES

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