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# NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Bald eagle may have been poisoned

Bird was found injured on Northville bike path

Ed Wright HometownLife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A normally ho-hum Michigan autumn task — putting away patio furniture for the winter — morphed into a surreal experience for Northville Town-

ship resident Bob Ondrus just after noon Nov. 20.

"I heard a whoosh sound," Ondrus explained. "When I looked over at the bike path that runs behind our backyard, I saw a bald eagle sitting there. It was very unusual because I've never

seen an eagle anywhere close to this area."

Ondrus lives in the Northville Ridge subdivision, about a half-mile east of the Arbor Hills Landfill at Six Mile and Napier roads in Salem.

"I thought it was odd, too, because eagles usually don't land near humans," he said. "It was almost as if she saw me out there and was telling me she needed

help."

When Ondrus grabbed his camera and walked over to the spot where the eagle landed, he realized the situation was dire.

"It looked kind of dizzy when I got close to it," Ondrus said. "Then it put its wings out and I knew it was not good."

See BALD EAGLE, Page 6A

## Children fill COVID-19 vaccination clinics ahead of holiday season

Susan Bromley HometownLife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Oakland County Public Health Educator Jennifer Kirby was excited to see at least 275 kids get their first shot of COVID-19 vaccine Nov. 22 at a Lakeland High School clinic.

Among them were her equally enthusiastic sons, Brody, 9, and Brayden, 11.

"They were excited to get the shot and asked me if they would be able to go the first day," Kirby said. "They've been exposed a lot and they both play on travel sports teams and have had games and tournaments canceled and were tired of going from in-person to virtual. This was their choice to do."

The Oakland County Health Division held several school COVID-19 vaccination clinics in November once Pfizer pediatric doses were authorized for children ages 5-11. Among them was a Novi Woods Elementary clinic Nov. 21 in which more than 1,000 children were vaccinated. As early clinics were booked solid, more clinics have been added with the hopes of protecting kids and their families this holiday season and avoiding the gloom of last winter, health officials said.

Kirby still remembers the "doomsday" letter she received from Huron Valley Schools in October 2020 informing her that the entire district would be going to fully remote learning due to the rise in COVID-19 cases.

Just over a year later, cases are spiking yet again and in October, Brody's class at Country Oaks Elementary was fully quarantined.

See CHILDREN, Page 7A



Some residents brought their furry friends to the Milford Christmas Parade on Nov. 27. SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Milford welcomes back Santa and annual Christmas Parade

Susan Vela HometownLife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Hundreds lined Main Street waving, sipping hot chocolate and huddling against each other as they welcomed back Milford's Christmas Parade.

One of Milford's oldest events, going back to the early 1950s, didn't happen last year because of COVID-19.

But these past months of mask wearing, vaccinations and booster

shots assured organizers that Santa might once again be safe as the hit star of the annual procession.

"They're out! They're ready to go!" said Andrea Perry of the Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce, standing in the cold the morning of Nov. 27 as parade entrants prepared for a festive trip along Commerce and Main streets. "The excitement is high!"

She wore a Twinkle Tour hoodie, promoting the event of bright lights scheduled for that evening.

She also gave kudos to local first responders who provided extra patrols and placed a fire engine at the front and end of the procession, in deference to the recent Waukesha, Wisconsin, tragedy, where a Milwaukee man tore through a Christmas parade, killing six and injuring 60.

Typically, parade organizers place just one fire engine in the holiday string of marchers and vehicles, and the fire

See PARADE, Page 9A

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# Highland Twp. woman, pets saved in house fire

Susan Vela [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Highland Township woman, three other people and their animal friends were spared "certain death" from a flame-engulfed home the eve of Thanksgiving.

Deputies from the Oakland County Sheriff's Office said they were dispatched to a burning \$350,000 home in the 6500 block of Milford Road, between White Lake and Chana roads, shortly before midnight on Nov. 24.

They learned a 41-year-old resident was in the basement, reluctant to leave because she was concerned about \$10,000 worth of birds, ferrets and other pets.

Deputies broke out a small basement access window, grabbed her wrists and pulled her to safety. The woman is a Huron Valley School District bus driver.

"The quick actions of these deputies saved this woman's life," Sheriff Michael Bouchard said. "The fire was spreading rapidly throughout the garage and the living area of this home."

"We were able to save a few of the animals but more importantly, this woman is alive today. A Thanksgiving Day tragedy was avoided."

The four residents were taken to a nearby hospital to be treated for their



Oakland County Sheriff's Office deputies said they rescued a woman from the basement who had remained in the home despite the fire because she didn't want to leave \$10,000 worth of birds, ferrets and other pets.

smoke inhalation.

Highland Township firefighters extinguished the fire, but first responders deemed the fire-ravaged home a total loss.

Deputies said the fire likely started when a family dog knocked over a heater in the garage and ignited a bed of straw. Flames moved to the garage and living area, blocking access to the basement.

A pig and three dogs also were saved.

The Huron Valley school community has been making others aware of the GoFundMe account created to help the family.



Flames engulfed a Highland Township home in the 6500 block of Milford Road on Nov. 24 shortly before midnight. PHOTOS COURTESY OF OAKLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## hometownlife.com

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Deputies said the fire likely started when a family dog knocked over a heater in the garage and ignited a bed of straw.

### CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 18.291

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 18.291 TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES, ORDINANCE 14-271, THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, AT ARTICLE 3.0 ZONING DISTRICTS, ADD SECTION 3.1.29 TO ESTABLISH THE PSV - PAVILION SHORE VILLAGE DISTRICT, AND SECTION 3.32 PAVILION SHORE VILLAGE REQUIRED CONDITIONS, RENUMBERING GENERAL EXCEPTIONS TO SECTION 3.33, AND TO AMEND ARTICLE 4.0 USE STANDARDS, SECTION 4.31 VETERINARY HOSPITALS AND CLINICS AND SECTION 4.71 LIVE/WORK UNITS. ALL BEING DONE TO ADD REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PSV, PAVILION SHORE VILLAGE DISTRICT.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, November 22, 2021 and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective seven (7) days after its publication. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

Publish: December 2, 2021

LD-000030000 3x3

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

**DATE:** December 2, 2021  
**PROJECT:** Novi Community School District Network Electronics, Wireless Access Novi, Michigan  
**OWNER:** Novi Community School District 25345 Taft Road Novi, Michigan 48374  
**ENGINEERING/ TECHNOLOGY DESIGNER:** Triple R Consultants PO Box 302 South Lyon, MI 48178  
**BIDS RECEIVED:** Until 2:00 PM local time on Thursday, January 13, 2022, the Owner will receive sealed Bids for the work as set forth in the Bidding Documents at:  
Attention: Jeff Mozdierz  
Novi Community School District  
25345 Taft Road  
Novi, Michigan 48374

At which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. A bid tabulation summary will be available.

The Bidding Documents will be on file on and after Thursday, December 2, 2021 on the Universal Service Administrative Co. website at <https://www.usac.org/e-rate> as well as on the State of Michigan SIGMA Vendor Self Service website. Bidders are responsible to check the websites from time to time to verify they have all current information and other documents related to the Bid.

An online pre-bid conference is scheduled for Thursday, December 9, 2021, at 10:00 AM Local time at <https://bit.ly/NoviERate2022PreBid>.

END OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Publish: December 2, 2021

LD-000030070 3x3

### CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 20, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider an AMENDMENT TO THE CONSENT JUDGMENT FOR OAK POINTE PLAZA IN THE MATTER OF SELECTIVE DEVELOPMENT V CITY OF NOVI. Oak Pointe Plaza consists of four parcels. The subject properties are located on the east side of Novi Road south of Nine Mile Road in Section 35. Amendment of the judgement is requested to allow 'Places of Worship' as a permitted use for these properties. No other changes to the site are proposed at this time.



Related information is available at Community Development Department.

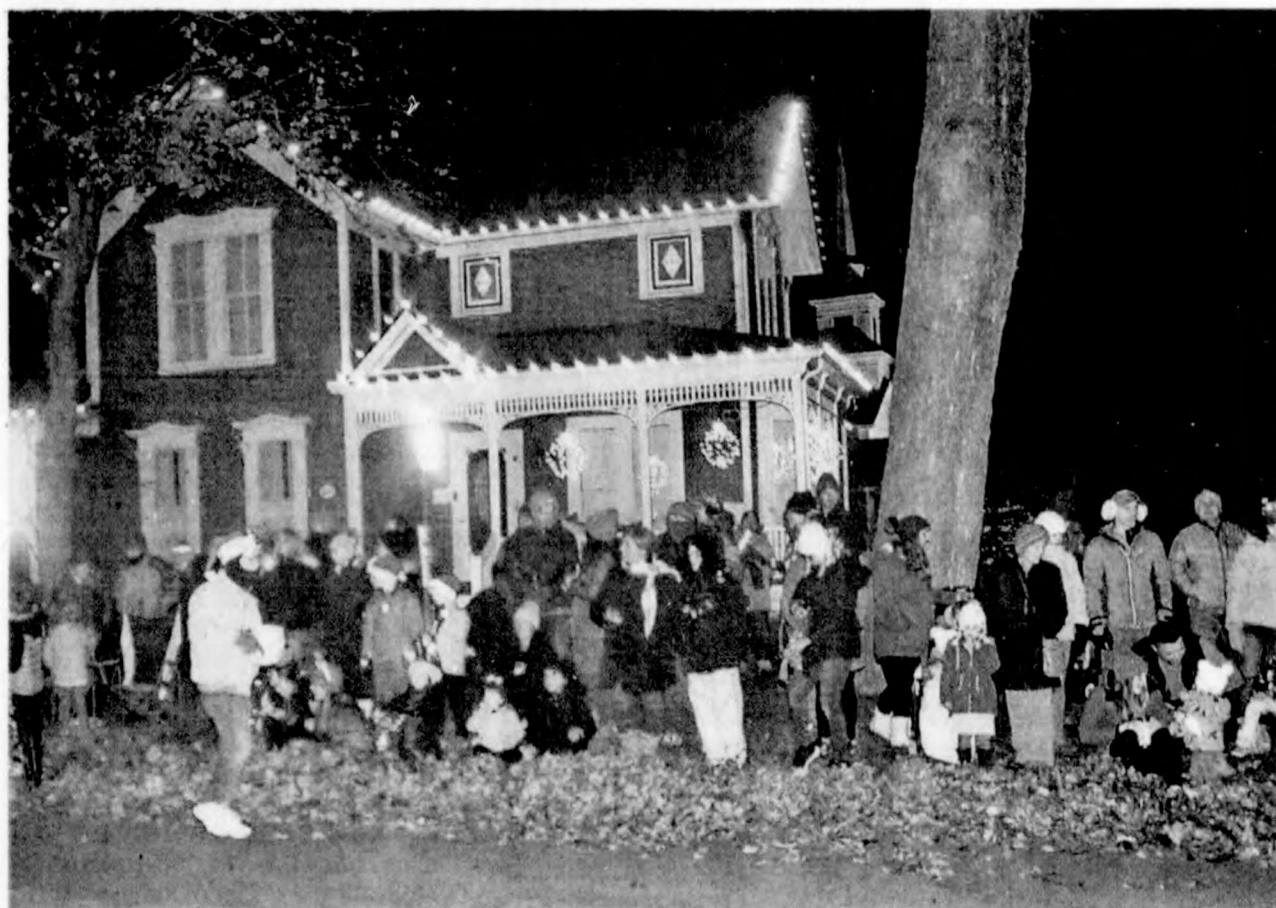
Subject Property Parcel ID's: 50-22-35-101-039, 50-22-35-101-031, 50-22-35-101-038 and 50-22-35-101-033

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be made to the Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during the City's regular business hours, Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and must be received by 12:00 P.M., Monday, December 20, 2021.

Publish: December 2, 2021

LD-000030068 3x3





People line the streets as the parade takes a revised route leading through Northville's neighborhoods. PHOTOS BY ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Dancers from Performers Edge rock out to Christmas music at the parade. COURTESY OF STEVE FECHT



Santa waves to the crowd. COURTESY OF STEVE FECHT



Santa Claus was back in the driver's seat at the Northville Holiday Lighted Parade on Nov. 19.

## Northville holiday parade returns after COVID hiatus

Ed Wright | Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The holiday season warmth that radiated through downtown Northville overwhelmed the mid-November, 30-something-degree chill as the city's Lighted Parade returned following a COVID-19 pandemic-forced hiatus in 2020.

People young and old — many decorated in flashing holiday light necklaces — crowded along the new parade route's curbs and sidewalks Nov. 19 to observe the inspiring display of floats, marching bands and Santa Claus, who made a triumphant return in a stylish elevated sleigh.

"The kids are very excited," said Jason Domina, moments before the first float cruised by his family's prime location on Wing Street. "We've always attended the parade and we always have a great time."

Domina was joined by his fired-up kids: Jack, Savannah and Brynlee.

Directly across Wing Street from the Domina contingent sat Phil and Carol Brooks and their three grandchildren: Vivian, Graham and Audrey Johnson.

"It's great that the parade was able to return this year," Phil Brooks said. "This is the first Northville holiday parade my wife and I have attended and I'm impressed by the turnout."

"It's a perfect night for it."

Asked what they wanted the main man with the unmistakable white beard and red velvet suit to bring them this year, the Johnson children reeled off everything from a pointer (the kind teachers use in class) to a Nintendo Switch, which easily won the most-asked-for toy award in Hometown Life's unofficial survey.

When reminded Switch's availability is scarce this holiday season, Carol Brooks responded with the perfect reply: "Santa always delivers the goods."

The Salliotte family — parents Bill and Vanessa and children William, Frances and Louisa — enjoyed the event from a perfect spot along Dunlap Street, not far from the Wing Street intersection where the parade headed south for home.

"We moved to Northville from Royal Oak two years ago, so this is only our second holiday parade and our entire family loves it," said Bill Salliotte.

"They had a tree lighting ceremony and a smaller daytime parade in Royal Oak, but nothing like this," Vanessa Salliotte added. "This is spectacular."

The two older Salliotte children said they plan to ask Santa for — you guessed it! — a Nintendo Switch. They also agreed they want to add a puppy to the family mix as well, William hoping for a Saint Bernard.

"The parents have to sign off on the puppy," Vanessa said, smiling, subtly revealing that there may not be any runs to the pet food store for the Salliottes any time soon.

Several Northville Public Schools were represented in the parade, including Northville High School's marching band, which led the spirited procession with a medley of holiday tunes, the sounds of which echoed magically through the historical streets.

The parade lasted approximately an hour, but it must have seemed like a split second to the children who soaked in every last detail of the lights, music and merriment that they missed out on in 2020.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at [edwright@hometownlife.com](mailto:edwright@hometownlife.com) or 517-375-1133.

### METRO DETROIT HOLIDAY EVENTS

The Christmas in Plymouth and Mistletoe Market will take place downtown on Dec. 2 noon to 9 p.m. For more information contact [Info@downtownplymouthevents.com](mailto:Info@downtownplymouthevents.com).

Downtown Milford Christmas open house returns 6-9 p.m. Dec. 2 on Main Street. The seasonal event brings strolling entertainment, horse-drawn carriage rides, holiday caroling, special promotions and deals at downtown stores and restaurants as well as a highly anticipated visit with Santa Claus in Village Center Mall. Santa arrives at 6 p.m. on a Milford Fire Department fire engine.

Northville's Christmas In The Village event will be held 5-8 p.m. Dec. 3 at Mill Race Historical Village. The village's buildings will be beautifully decorated and there will be a Christmas Market, holiday inflatables, Christmas music and much more.

Fuerst Festive Nights in Novi takes place Dec. 3-5 at Fuerst Park, 45325 W. 10 Mile Road. Event runs 6-9 p.m. Friday, 4-8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Enjoy the holiday lights stroll, food vendors, Santa visits, marshmallow roasting, carolers, crafts, and more. Register for Santa visits on Festive Nights at [cityofnovi.org](http://cityofnovi.org).

South Lyon's Christmas celebration returns Dec. 4 as the Holiday Spectacular with a lighted parade (6 p.m.), reindeer, ice sculptures, Candy Cane hunt, craft show and more. Family-friendly activities begin at 10 a.m.

Holly Days returns to downtown Farmington Dec. 4. Festivities include the tree lighting event at the Governor Warner Mansion, which takes place at 5:30 p.m. Visitors can take in the festive decorations, as well as the lit-up floats, vehicles, and sleighs traveling along the road downtown.

The City of Livonia's holiday parade and tree lighting in back this year. Starting 4 p.m. Dec. 5, community members can gather for a parade featuring community groups and Santa Claus himself. The parade will run from Frost Middle School down Lyndon Road and Farmington Roads, ending in front of Livonia City Hall.

Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan, along with some help from Santa, will light the city's holiday light display after the parade. After the tree lighting, people will be welcome to head to the Civic Center Library, just a stone's throw from city hall, for hot chocolate, crafts and a visit with Santa. Learn more at [Livonia.gov](http://Livonia.gov).

Westland is hosting its annual Holiday Taste Fest 6-8:30 p.m. Dec. 7 at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road. Tickets are \$25 and will benefit Westland's rotary club and chamber of commerce. People will enjoy live music, food from local restaurants and a cash bar. Attendees are also encouraged to bring winter items for a clothing drive. For tickets or more information, call the Westland Chamber of Commerce at 734-326-7222.

The Farmington Hills tree lighting ceremony will take place at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 7 at the city hall campus on the southwest corner of 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads. In addition to a performance by the Farmington High School Vocal Harmonics, Santa Claus will make his appearance via a fire truck. Hot cocoa and cookies will also be served at the fire department headquarters.

Westland will kick off the holiday season with its annual Deck the City Hall event. The free event starts 5:30 p.m. Dec. 8 at Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road. Community members will gather outside city hall to sing Christmas carols and visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. For more information, visit [cityofwestland.com](http://cityofwestland.com).

The Northville Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the Handcrafters Tinsel & Treasures Market Dec. 10-12. Highlighted by holiday decor, handmade gifts for everyone on your list will be available. For more information, visit the Northville Chamber of Commerce website.

Farmington's beloved Farmington Community Band will host its free "A Broadway Christmas Carol" concert 3 p.m. Dec. 12 at North Farmington High School. The band will perform a collection of classic holiday songs. For more information, including this season's full concert schedule, visit [fbmusic.org](http://fbmusic.org).

Enjoy some holiday music in Farmington Hills with a pair of concerts performed by the Farmington Community Chorus. The chorus will perform as pair of concerts Dec. 17 and 18 consisting of holiday music at the Hawk community center, 29995 12 Mile. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased online on the city's website.



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# Eight in-state holiday shopping destinations worth the road trip

From Staff Reports Lansing State Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

With early shopping already underway, Michigan businesses are ready to welcome eager shoppers looking for a deal. There are plenty of local shops to check out across the state if you're looking for the perfect gift for your special Michigander, and even some Michigan-themed gifts for the out-of-state wannabes in your life.

Check out these places across Michigan that are worth a day trip:

## IKEA, Canton Township

Ford Road in Canton Township may be daunting for those not used to the busy five-lane roads of suburban Detroit. But as people across the state can attest, there's a big reason why so many will trek to western Wayne County, especially when it's time for holiday shopping.

For those willing to venture along Interstate 275, there's plenty to reward holiday shoppers at Michigan's lone IKEA store, located at 41640 Ford Road.

The Swedish store is known for its sprawling showroom of furniture, including couches, dining room tables and bedroom sets. Those looking for the ultimate gift can even buy an entire kitchen remodel. Be ready for a wait, though: It's a popular destination, attracting people from all over to shop under the blue and gold Nordic cross.

### While you're in town:

Looking for local flavor? The Takeout Box, Famous Hamburger, Samosa Factory, Palermo Pizzeria and Restaurant and Maverick's are a few choices that jump out. For dessert, head to Luca Pastry, an Italian bakery known for its sweet treats worthy of taking home (if they last that long).

## Cabela's, Dundee

Each year up to 6 million visitors are greeted by the giant bears outside the



The IKEA at 41640 Ford Road in Canton Township is the only IKEA in Michigan and draws shoppers from near and far. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

main doors of Cabela's as they prepare to wander through the outdoor clothing and equipment giant off US-23 at Exit 11 in Dundee, north of the Ohio state line.

With Cabela's now joined with Bass Pro Shops' Red Head brand, visitors will find the 225,000-square-foot retail store packed with hunting, fishing and camping gear.

The store features an indoor mountain that includes numerous inanimate wild animals set against their natural habitats. The store also has a running stream stocked with rainbow trout. Visitors also can wander through the aquarium that's home to various species of Michigan fish.

After shopping at Cabela's, enjoy a bite to eat or your favorite craft beer at the Great Lakes Eatery and Pub across the road. The restaurant features Michigan-themed sandwiches and entrees and numerous choices of cold beer.

## Apothecary Gift Shop, Holland

Located in one of the most historic

and prominent storefronts in downtown Holland, Apothecary Gift Shop at 35 W. Eighth St. is a one-stop shop for gift-givers looking for something unique. The store carries handbags, jewelry, cards, Michigan and Holland-themed merchandise, toys, games and other accessories.

The storefront's history can be traced back to the late 1800s. Before it was Apothecary Gift Shop, the business was Model Drug Store for over 50 years, owned by Keith and Barb Ditch — parents of current owner Sharon Fisher and grandparents of store manager Jennifer Foley. The pharmacy was removed and the business was renamed in 2015.

### While you're in town:

Visit one of Holland's newest entertainment venues, Sperry's Moviehouse, at 84 W. Eighth St.

Grab lunch and dessert at Crane's in the City, a cozy cafe with sandwiches, doughnuts and fresh pie, at 11 E. Eighth St.

Continue your shopping at several dozen boutiques along Eighth Street — both new and historic.

## Smith's Creek Alpacas Christmas Shop, Kimball Township

Those looking to mix holiday shopping with family fun don't have to look any further than Smith's Creek Alpacas Christmas Shop at 956 Burns Road.

George Dzierzbicki and Sherry Miramonti live there along with seven alpacas, two goats, two dogs, a cat or two "and a partridge in a pear tree," Dzierzbicki joked.

The couple got married on the farm in 2003 and in 2005 started to raise alpacas. All the animals are retired and the couple no longer breeds or shows them. "They're just living their best life," Miramonti said.

Now, the couple sells goods made from the alpacas' fiber.

Many families have made visiting the shop a tradition and know the animals by name. Miramonti said the first thing kids tend to do is jump out of the car and run to see the alpacas. The best part of running the Christmas shop is the look on children's faces when they realize everything in the store is made from the alpacas' fiber, she said.

Customers can buy yarn, sweaters,

hats, gloves, scarves, socks, dolls, pillows and more at Smith's Creek. About half of the products are made by a Tennessee co-op where the couple sends alpaca fiber; the other half are products from Peru.

The shop is open noon to 4 p.m. on Fridays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sunday between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

### While you're in town:

Check out Green Barn Winery, a family-operated business that crafts small vats of distinct wines and meads from local farms.

## Horrocks Farm Market, Delta Township

This sprawling 70,000-square-foot business at the corner of Saginaw Highway and Canal Road just west of Lansing is so much more than a farm market — and worth experiencing during the holiday season.

There, you'll find plenty of fresh fruits, vegetables, barns and flowers, but also 1,200 different beers and thousands of wines, plus candy, coffee and popcorn produced on-site.

Founded in 1959, the store is stocked with fresh soup, sushi, cheese, bread, specialty groceries and bakery items.

Customers can also sample drinks from Horrocks' tavern and get dishes of Iorio Gelato while they browse clothing, books, wind chimes and other tchotchkes for sale.

Its newest additions — an outdoor beer garden with a rotating lineup of food trucks and a takeout pizzeria — both opened during the pandemic.

### While you're in town:

Try a seafood boil at The Tangy Crab located just across Saginaw Highway, or head two miles down the road to get some ribs, pulled pork, brisket and chicken at Smoke 'N Pig BBQ off Elmwood Road near the Lansing Mall.

## By Popular Demand The Collective, Detroit

It's not exactly a mall, but it's the same concept: a one-stop shopping destination for items ranging from clothing to home goods and more.

By Popular Demand houses 24 small businesses in a retail space at 6540 Saint Antoine St. in Detroit, a few steps from the Fisher Building in the New Center area.

The store was founded by husband and wife Devin and Daisha McKenzie in 2020. They opened their doors a year ago on Black Friday.

"It's been a really great year" said Daisha, who operates her own business, Trinkets & Such, in the collective. "And as the world has opened up and the holiday season is near, I am really excited to see how more people will come out and experience the vibe that we curated in this space."

Aside from the marketplace of small shops, the collective also houses a makeup studio, art gallery and photography studio on its upper level.

The store is open to the public every day except Monday from noon to 7 p.m., but for the holidays, it will open an hour earlier and close an hour later. On Black

See DESTINATIONS, Page 6A



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LET YOUR 'YES' BE 'YES', LET YOUR 'NO' BE 'NO'. ANYTHING ELSE COMES FROM THE EVIL ONE – MATTHEW 5:37

## ARE YOU AFRAID TO HATE SOME THINGS? ARE YOU AFRAID TO LOVE OTHER THINGS?

THEY SMILED AT THE GOOD AND FROWNED AT THE BAD...™ LUDWIG BEMELMANS. MADELINE

### THE FACTS CONCERNING THE RECENT CARNIVAL OF CRIME...

In June 1876, The Atlantic Monthly published a short story by Mark Twain: "The Facts Concerning the Recent Carnival of Crime in Connecticut." Twain portrays the narrator's conscience as a shriveled, moldy gnome who delights in torturing the man with feelings of guilt and remorse. The narrator eventually seizes his conscience and rips it to shreds. Having destroyed his sense of right and wrong, he proclaims, "You behold before you a man whose life-conflict is done, whose soul is at peace; a man whose WITHOUT A CONSCIENCE!" Joyously, he engages in the Carnival of Crime. Including 38 murders and arson of a neighbor's house. Not to mention "swindl[ing] a widow and some orphans out of their last cow, which is a very good one, though not thoroughbred, I believe."



Today, 145 years later, some people have taken Mark Twain's "Carnival" story as a challenge, not a warning. Our schools, colleges and universities have spawned a sprawling empire of injury. Poseur intellectualistic charlatans preach a depraved gospel of grievance, greed, and entitlement. Popular media proudly and industriously spread the resentment poison. Weak, wishy-washy, gutless and vain, community and church "leaders" cower from conflict. Truth sacrificed on the altar of cheap vaporous popularity. They lie. Say things they know are not true. Shrink from honesty, run from the light. A nest of vipers, they camouflage evil with a deceptive veneer.



Have you forgotten the fairytale of Hansel and Gretel? Abandoned, starving children

find a wondrous house made of delicious bread, cakes, and candy. Unfortunately, the Gingerbread House is a snare to attract and trap innocent children. Hidden inside, the evil witch lurks to catch, roast, and devour them. Through luck, bravery, and intelligence, the clever kids boldly destroy the witch. They escape the enticing fraud. Welcomed home to the modest woodcutter's cottage, they live happily ever after. No magical Gingerbread House with sham promises concealing ultimate destruction. Ordinary life, ordinary joy.

Is it ridiculous to think that our society may have fallen into the Gingerbread House trap? Is it unexpected that a materialistic culture promising everything to everybody all the time might lead to frustration, envy, and selfish anger?

Did you miss the news that roving bands of shoplifting punks have forced San Francisco drug stores to close? Did you fail to notice that well-dressed, well-fed smash and grab gangs looted luxury handbags and jewelry from mall stores? Then escaped in their own cars. Their own cars.

Are we talking about hungry folks forced to steal a crust of bread? Are these street urchins with rags on their backs, who have worn holes in their shoes walking to school?

When asked for charity, hard-hearted Ebenezer Scrooge replied, "Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?" But. That was a couple hundred years ago.

Today, we will spend over 750,000 tax dollars to provide Bob Cracht with 2 bedrooms of "affordable" housing. In San Francisco. The rest of California is a bit



cheaper. (In fact, it is much more, that chart is from 2 years ago!) "Feeding America", one of many food charities, runs 60,000 food pantries. There are 8 major federal food programs. And countless state relief agencies. Billions of dollars are spent annually. How far are you, right now, from a food pantry? Grocery stores do not get the smash and grab treatment.

What is going on? Bandits do not steal to eat. Or for nice clothes. Or for automobiles. Or TVs. Or cell phones. They already have all that stuff. For free. These scroungers steal luxury goods. Luxury. Only the best. Fancy leather wallets and handbags. Ridiculous watches. Gaudy jewelry. Would you buy any of this stuff? We cannot afford it, so we would have to save a long time. And think even longer. What is this entitlement, get-me sickness? Who has the cure?

### IS IGNORING THE PROBLEM THE BEST SOLUTION?

WILL IT GO AWAY IF WE SHUT OUR EYES?  
SHALL WE PRETEND EVERYTHING IS ALL JUST FINE?

Should you keep ignoring the problem? Is now a bad time to wake up and smell the coffee? Are you opposed to making our world, your neighborhood, a better place? Is it ridiculous to believe in basic values like, trust, loyalty, courtesy, kindness, thrift, and bravery? Are we fools to be helpful, friendly, cheerful, and reverential? Are you against an America that works for everyone because everyone capable of working works? Have you given up on the American Dream? Have you given up on your own ambition to live your life well and to be a blessing to your family?

IT IS POSSIBLE TO HATE WITHOUT LOVING.  
BUT IS IT POSSIBLE TO LOVE WITHOUT HATING?

Not everyone enjoys The Elder Law Reporter. Like you, I find that statement difficult to believe. Nevertheless, we must embrace all truth, whether comfortable and gratifying, or awkward and embarrassing. On reflection, it seems obvious and inescapable that there are some people who do not love, but merely hate. It also seems to me that the people who take the risk of love, also accept the responsibility of hate. So, in the interests of restoring some balance:

I hate cheating, but I love competition and fair play.

I hate money grubbers, but I love financial independence.

I hate government handouts, but I love getting something back for all the tax dollars I have paid in.

I hate getting old, but I love getting up in the morning.

I hate freeloaders, but I love cooperating with other hard-working people to achieve mutual goals.

I hate noisy, grasping, bossy, phony, hypocritical politicians, but I love public-spirited citizens willing to accept office and serve the rest of us.

I hate stupid rules and regulations imposed by ignorant idiots masquerading as super experts, but I love commonsense laws that make life better for everyone.

I hate grinding poverty, but I love the chance to work hard and make the world a better place.

I hate mean people, but I love charitable folks, giving generously of themselves, their time and treasure.

I hate blamers, whiners, complainers, Gloomy Gus and Debbie Downer, who sit on their lazy keisters hypnotized by TV and finding fault with everything that happened over the last thousand years of human history, but I love cheerful men and women who GIT R DONE!

I hate slovenly slugs who won't make their own bed, wash the dishes, fold the laundry or practice basic personal hygiene, but I love doers, workers, laborers, and peasants (because near as we can figure, all my ancestors were serfs and "of the land") (except for a few mercenaries).

I hate bitter resentful infantile complainers who won't raise a finger to help but will happily raise a brick to throw at police officers, court houses and through windows, but I love younger people facing challenges and meeting needs with grace and dignity.

I hate long-term care that evaporates lifesavings, robs dignity and fails to meet real needs, but I love supportive skilled home care that assists folks in their own homes, lets them enjoy the rewards of their working years, and allows leftovers for the kids.

I hate nursing home poverty, but I love planning that secures lifesavings while meeting real needs. Care that you have already paid for. With your tax dollars. Over your working life.

What do you hate? What do you love? It is up to you.

WHEREFORE, BY THEIR FRUITS YE SHALL KNOW THEM

Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Matthew 7:17-20

Is Nursing Home Poverty inevitable? The Michigan Elder Law Reporter comes to you twice each week. Letting you know that you do not have to lose your home, cottage, business, lifesavings, independence, security. Do you choose to give up everything you have earned? Is it ridiculous to think that someone who has been working on issues like this, for people like you, might have figured out a few things? Does it make sense to rely on "My lawyer/financial advisor/accountant/tax person/banker/best friend/fill-in-the-blank" when none of them have ever pursued a Medicaid application? Let alone succeeded with over 2000.

Well, here you are. Reading The Reporter. What do you think? Is it wise to choose failure? Will you have more choices with less money? Will your spouse be better off with fewer assets?

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## Children

Continued from Page 1A

Just over three weeks into this month, 191 cases of COVID-19 were identified in students and staff in the district, resulting in eight more classroom quarantines at four elementary schools.

The children vaccinated at the Novi and Huron Valley clinics are among more than 16,000 Oakland County kids ages 5-11 who have received their first vaccine dose, which represents 16.3 percent of the 98,739 kids in this age group in the county.

"It's clear that a lot of parents want to get the vaccine for their kids," Oakland County Communications Director Bill Mullan said. "It's a wonderful number to achieve in the first two weeks the vaccination is available. And we're looking to vaccinate anyone in the county who wants it, whether you're 5, 15, 50 or 100. We're ready to vaccinate."

Mullan shared some more November numbers:

- Since March 10, 2020, more than 139,000 Oakland County residents have contracted COVID-19 as confirmed by positive tests.

- On Nov. 19, 2020, the 7-day case average in the county was 782 COVID-19 cases per day.

- A year later, the 7-day case average in the county is 677 cases per day.

"The Delta variant is aggressive and obviously we had hoped we'd be in a different situation this fall, but more needs to be done," Mullan said. "We need people to get vaccinated and to continue safety measures like masking."

Last year, when schools went virtual in November, the COVID-19 numbers dropped throughout December, Mullan said.

- On Dec. 10, 2020, the 7-day average was 578 cases per day.

- The highest seven-day case average in the county for the entire pandemic was reached on April 8, 2021, when the county was averaging 948 cases per day for a week.

Simultaneously, the public was lining up for the vaccines, which had become available at the end of March to all adults 18 and over.

It is clear the vaccines are working, Mullan said, with Michiganders who are not fully vaccinated accounting for 89 percent of all COVID-19 cases from Jan.



Evan Abbott, 9, gets a COVID-19 vaccination from Oakland County Health Department nurse Deb Collins during the vaccination clinic Nov. 22 at Lakeland High School. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

15 to Oct. 26 of this year. The unvaccinated also comprise 88 percent of those hospitalized with the disease, and 90 percent of those who have died from COVID-19.

"If you're vaccinated, you may or may not get it, but it protects you against serious illness and death," Mullan said.


Oakland County still has roughly 344,000 residents that have not been vaccinated. While some of those may have already had the disease, he encourages them to also get the shot with evidence showing the antibodies for those who have been infected don't stick around as long as the vaccine does.

Novi Woods Elementary will host another vaccine clinic for all individuals aged 5 and older 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dec. 12. Lakeland High hosts its next vaccine clinic 4-7:30 p.m., Dec. 13.

For more information, visit [www.oaklandvaccine.com](http://www.oaklandvaccine.com).




Multiple vaccination stations line high school's hallways for the clinic.



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# Parade

Continued from Page 1A

engine normally helps lead the pack. Most folks seemed happy before, during and after the event.

"It went great. It was amazing, a good time," said Matt Flora, attending the parade with his parents, wife and their two young children.

He grew up in Milford and recently moved back after living elsewhere for 15 years. He plans to make the parade an annual tradition for his family, just as it was for him as a boy.

Madeleine Atreo has lived in Milford about 15 years and likes to take her daughter Evelyn, 6, to the parade.

"It's just a tradition to come and get cozy and have fun at the parade and cheer for our friends and neighborhood," Atreo said.

Milford's annual parade normally draws a crowd of 800 to 1,000, which Perry said was the apparent size of the Nov. 27 parade audience.

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



Santa was the highlight of the Milford Christmas Parade on Nov. 27. PHOTOS BY SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Some of Santa's little elves wave to the crowd along the parade route.



There was more than enough candy for everyone to collect.



Parade fans bundled up at the intersection of Main and Commerce streets.



Santa wasn't far behind these dancers.



Members of the Milford Dance Academy perform.





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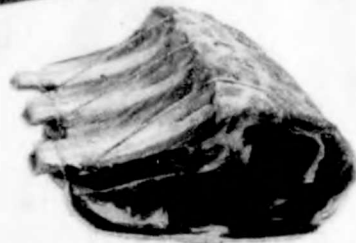
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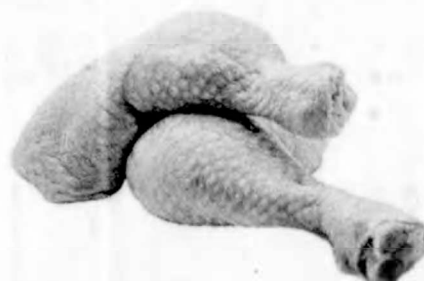
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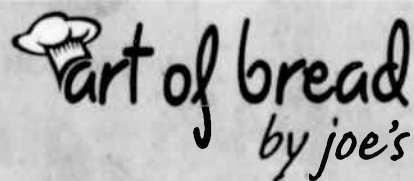
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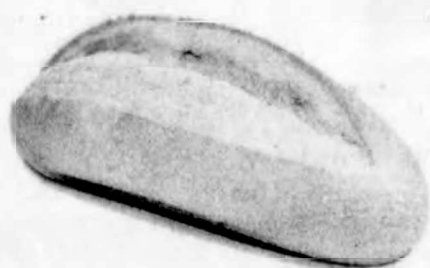
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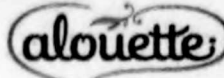


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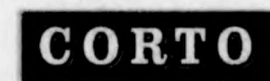
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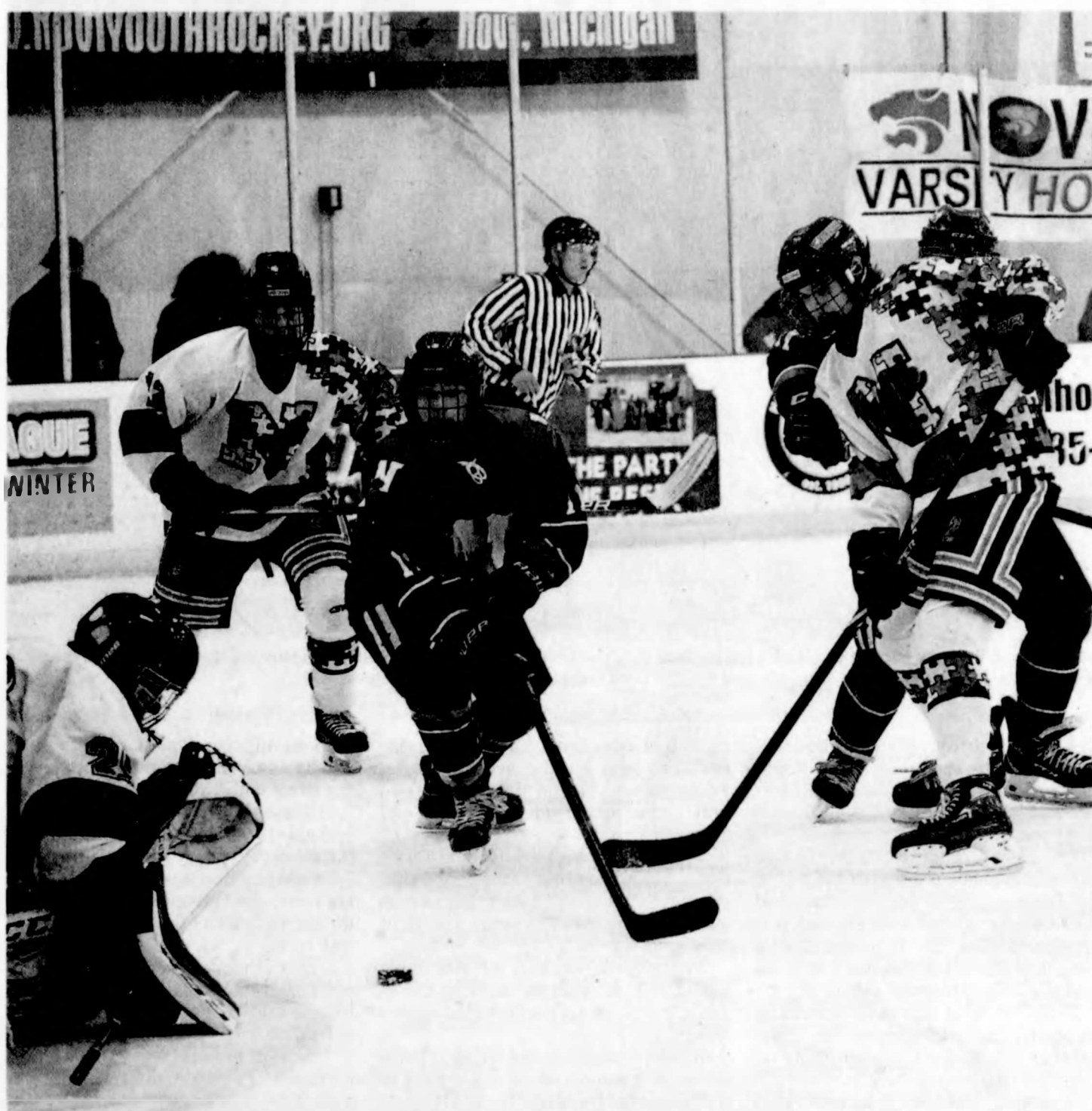
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Novi's Gabe Armstrong, center, looks to poke in a puck against Northville on Nov. 23 at Novi Ice Arena. Northville won, 3-1. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

TRACK & FIELD

## Hartland, Pinckney seniors qualify for nationals

Bill Khan Livingston Daily  
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The cross country legacies established by seniors Riley Hough of Hartland and Caleb Jarema of Pinckney aren't complete.

Two of the greatest runners in Livingston County history will officially conclude their high school cross country careers on the biggest stage possible after their performances in the Eastbay Midwest Region Championships Saturday in Kenosha, Wis.

Hough remained undefeated this season, winning the regional race with a time of 14 minutes, 49.5 seconds. Jarema grabbed the 10th and final berth for Eastbay nationals Dec. 11 in San Diego with a time of 15:10.8.

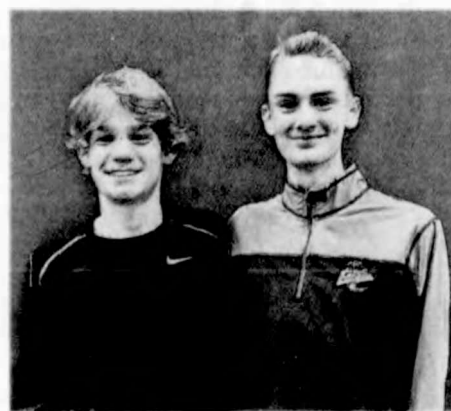
Hough's time is the fifth-fastest ever in the Midwest Region, which has taken place at Wisconsin-Parkside since 1985.

They are the fifth and sixth county runners to ever qualify for the meet formerly known as the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships. Hough won the state Division 1 championship, while Jarema won the Division 2 title three weeks earlier.

Brighton's Pat Hamparian qualified in 1980, home-schooled Sarah Kettel of Brighton qualified in 2014, Zach Stewart of Brighton qualified in 2018 and 2019, and Jack Spamer of Brighton qualified in 2019.

Hough is the only county runner to win the regional, finishing 4.3 seconds ahead of Izaiah Steury of Angola (Ind.) High School. Stewart's fifth-place finish in 2019 was the previous best by a county runner.

See NATIONALS, Page 2B



Pinckney's Caleb Jarema, left, and Hartland's Riley Hough, both seniors, have qualified for the Eastbay Cross Country Championships. COURTESY

## Northville outlasts Novi in early-season rivalry game

Brandon Folsom HometownLife.com  
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Northville goalie Dylan Eliason lost sight of the pass.

The senior thought, sure enough, Novi had slapped it in. He had left a good chunk of the net open for a shot. And the Wildcats, along with half the packed crowd at Novi Ice Arena, started celebrating.

Eliason stopped moving, sat stationary in his net and started to shrug off the gaffe. It wasn't that big of a deal, though. Novi was on a 5-on-3 power-play, the first of a pair of two-man advantages. Giving up a goal was almost expected.

Wait, what was that?  
 A referee behind the net started crossing his arms twice. He was waving off the goal.

And none of the Wildcats realized it. They kept celebrating.

Northville forward Tommy Loebach scooped up the loose puck and screamed down the ice. He even turned around to see if any Wildcats were in pursuit. They weren't.

Surely, the referees were going to blow the play dead. So once he got close to Novi goalie Henri Lettman, he rocketed a shot, and it even went in.

He fell down while celebrating in front of the Northville student section.

But the referees never called the play dead. Loebach's goal, which came nine seconds before the end of the second period, was going to stand.

And it went down as the biggest play of the night. What was essentially a two-goal swing ensured the Mustangs a 3-1 victory Nov. 23 against rival Novi in

Kensington Lakes Activities Association-West play.

"At the time, I saw the ref was kind of waving it off and waving it off," the junior said. "Everyone else was going toward the net. I just saw the puck, and I took it down the ice. I had time to turn around. I turned around and everybody else was still standing around the net, and the whole crowd was screaming. So I just took it. I took the shot, and it went in. Of course, I would fall on the celebration, but it was really a surreal feeling, and it was a great goal for me."

Northville sent 14 to the penalty box throughout the night, seemingly playing shorthanded most of the game.

Loebach's effort made it a 3-0 score. It could've been 2-1 has the refs let

See RIVALRY, Page 3B

## Marian senior receives state's top volleyball honor

Brandon Folsom HometownLife.com  
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's shaping up to be a week Ava Brizard will never forget.

On Monday, the Bloomfield Hills Marian senior officially signed her letter of intent to join North Carolina State.

Also, on Monday, the Michigan Inter-

scholastic Volleyball Coaches Association named the 6-foot-1 outside hitter its Miss Volleyball, an honor given to the best player in the state each year.

And, late Tuesday night, she floated above the net and slammed down the final point in the Mustangs' 3-0 victory over Davison in the Division 1 quarterfinal at Royal Oak.

The effort advanced the defending state champions to Thursday's semifinal at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek. On the line is a chance for No. 1 Marian to play for its fourth state title on Saturday afternoon.

"Oh God, probably this one," Brizard said when she was asked to pick her favorite moment of the week. "As great as

all the other things are, everything I do is for my team. To do this for my community and to send us to Battle Creek for the second year in a row, I'm just so proud."

After Brizard saw the ball spike on Davison's end of the court, she spun

See HONOR, Page 7B

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DIVISION 8 STATE FINAL HUDSON 14, BEAL CITY 7

# Hudson's stout defense outmuscles Beal City

Wright Wilson Special to Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Two teams with a lot of muscle up front and stingy defenses played well within character Friday morning at Ford Field, but Hudson proved to be a bit stronger, winning the Division 8 with a 14-7 win over Beal City.

The Tigers (14-0) owned better field possession throughout the second half and made good on their drive following the game's first takeaway to win their first state championship since 2010.

On the first play of the fourth quarter, Hudson's Nick Kopin jarred the ball loose from a Beal City ball carrier and Easten Strodman recovered at the 47.

Nine plays later, Kopin barged into the end zone from 2 yards out. The conversion pass was incomplete, leaving Hudson with a 7-point edge.

It was the only time Hudson could convert in the second half against a team that had only allowed 70 points all season entering Friday.

"Their defense was very solid — the second-best in D-8 — they were only giving up about 8 points (per game) coming into this and we knew defensively they were very tough," said Kopin, who had a game-high 131 rushing yards on 25 attempts. "Coach (Jeremy) Beal was on our backs, telling us we needed to run hard, run downhill the whole time, just keep going and keep going. I think that's what we did."

Hudson had three good chances to add to an 8-7 lead in the third quarter, but the Beal City defense refused to yield. The Tigers took their opening possession to the 2-yard line, but defensive lineman Matt Oswald stopped Brendan Akers from punching it in.

Hudson reached the 4 on its follow-up drive, but an illegal procedure call and a fumble pushed the ball back to the 12, where a fourth-down pass from Anthony Arreondo to Ambrose Horwath was incomplete.

Hudson took its first lead, 8-7, in the closing minutes of the first half. Hudson opened up its offense and started running to the outside, gaining big yardage. As a result, the Tigers put together an 11-



Hudson running back Nick Kopin is tackled by Beal City defensive tackle Peyton Sellers on Nov. 26 during the second half of Hudson's 14-7 win in the Division 8 state final at Ford Field. JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

play, 80-yard drive to get on the board 14 seconds before the break, when Kopin followed a block by left tackle Ty Morgan and got into the end zone from 6 yards out.

An illegal procedure call set the ball for the conversion attempt at the 7-yard line, but Anthony Arredondo connected with Ambrose Horwath for the lead, 8-7. Arredondo rolled out right and fired a low pass, but Horwath hauled it in at the goal line, rolling over the pylon.

Beal City (13-1) scored first, with 38 seconds remaining in the opening quarter, after both teams came up empty on their first two possessions.

Quarterback Hunter Miles scrambled

right, had extra time, found two receivers deep and hit the second, Carter Fussman, who hauled in the ball at the 5 and tiptoed up the sideline into the end zone.

But passing isn't really Beal City's forte; the Aggies had rushed for 3,500 yards and 49 touchdowns this season and threw for just 726 yards and eight TDs.

Beal City was forced to air it out down the stretch in order to make up the 7-point deficit, and it backfired on two series.

Bronson Marry ended the first drive when he intercepted an Aggie pass at the 30 and returned it to the Beal City 43

with six minutes to play.

The Aggies had another shot at tying the game with two minutes to play, but four passes fell incomplete, and Hudson was able to get the ball back and run out the clock.

"Field position was big. We had some big turnovers; Bronson had a nice pick for us. Defensively, it was a matter of just trying to not give up the big play, and make them earn every score," Hudson coach Dan Rogers said. "Two great teams, and that's what a state finals should be."

"Hats off to Beal City — that's a mirror image of us — tough kids, and it was a great football game."

DIVISION 4 STATE FINAL CHELSEA 55, HUDSONVILLE UNITY CHRISTIAN 52

# Chelsea wins 1st state title with second-half surge

Brad Emons Special to Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ford Field may never see another offensive show like this one.

Capping an unbelievable comeback, Chelsea used Hunter Shaw's 33-yard game-winning field goal as time expired Friday to upend Hudsonville Unity Christian, 55-52, in the highest scoring performance in MHSAA history for the Division 4 championship.

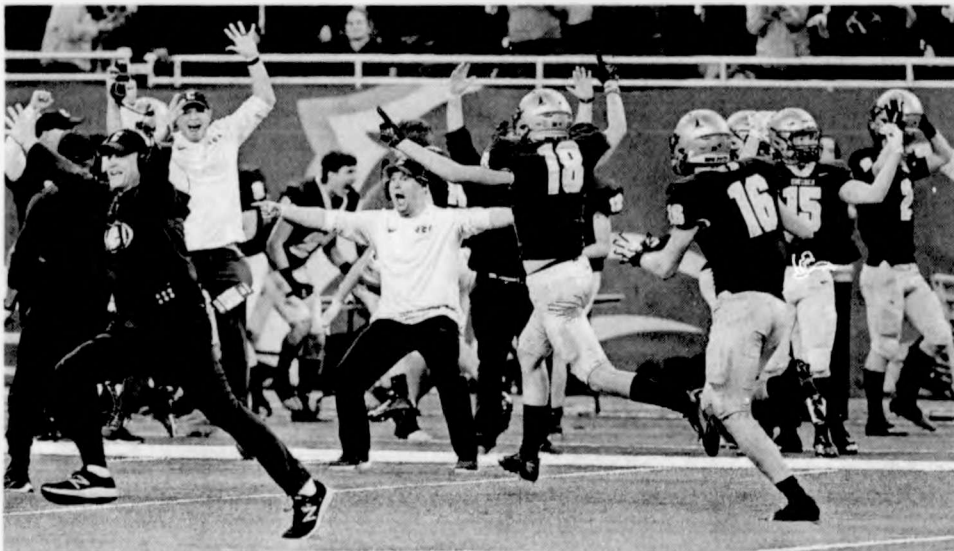
Chelsea, capturing its first title after a pair of runner-up finishes, capped a perfect 14-0 season thanks to the passing of Lucas Dunn, who finished 25-for-36 for 308 yards and six touchdowns. Dunn's favorite target was Lucas Hanifan, who caught nine passes for 135 yards and five TDs. Trenton Hill added 149 yards rushing and one touchdown on 33 carries.

Using its Wing-T attack, Hudsonville Unity Christian broke the MHSAA record for points in a season (803) in the highest scoring state final ever during the second quarter. The Crusaders came into the game averaging 58 points per outing.

The previous points record of 774 was set in 1999 by Division 5 state runner-up Muskegon Orchard View.

But Chelsea was able to match the Crusaders (13-1), whose closest game all season was a 31-point spread. The Bulldogs rallied with 24 fourth quarter points.

"Just staying composed, sticking to what we do, not putting our head down, not folding," Dunn said. "Teams that have played them (Unity) you could see



Chelsea kicker Hunter Shaw (18) celebrates after kicking a last-second field goal for a 55-52 win over Hudsonville Unity Christian and the Division 4 state title. ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

they'd fold and we didn't. We told our guys, 'Just play the game. Don't look at the score. Just play the game and good things will come.' And that's what happened."

In its closest test of the season, by far, Unity Christian went up 52-31 with 10:37 left in the fourth on senior quarterback Cameron Chandler's 35-yard TD run, but Dunn answered with 21- and 29-yard TD passes to Hanifan to cut the deficit to 52-45 with just over 6 minutes remaining.

Chelsea's Braden Watson then recovered a Unity Christian fumble at the Crusaders' 19 with 6:03 to go to send the Ford Field crowd into a frenzy.

And the comeback was made complete with 4:43 remaining when Dunn and Hanifan connected again to make it 52-all on a 16-yard TD toss. It was Hanifan's fifth TD of the game.

"We just kept fighting and our offense is as good as anybody's," Chelsea coach Josh Lucas said. "We proved that tonight. Dunn and Hanifan ... they're two good kids. Those guys were up here all summer long working on stuff. And we kind of found something we liked. The free safety made a heckuva play in the second quarter, but that's what we do all year and we're not going to get away from it. We continued to ride it."

Watson then recovered another Uni-

ty Christian fumble with 2:23 left, only to have the Bulldogs return the favor when Drew Chandler intercepted a Dunn pass with 1:11 to go.

"We were blitzing the gaps, we were doing what we were supposed to do, the ball just happened to be there," said Watson, a 6-foot-5, 210-pound junior defensive end. "We were just playing team 'D.' They started to wear out. They were going both ways. We knew they were running inside. We had to stop it and we did."

Unity Christian gave it right back, though, with a fumble just 25 seconds later, and Chelsea's Regan Plank came up with the ball. A 13-yard pass from Dunn to Hanifan set up the game-winning field goal.

Before Shaw's game-winning kick, Unity Christian called a pair of timeouts to freeze the Chelsea kicker, who split the uprights with room to spare.

"It happened once in the (Freeland) semifinal game — right before halftime they tried to ice me," Shaw said. "And I made that one, too, to give us a chance to win the game. But this was a little more on the line, I'd say. I saw it curve in and I knew it was good and I just started celebrating."

For the game, Drew Chandler rushed for 179 yards on 19 carries, while Cameron Chandler added 103 on 14 carries.

Chelsea only gave up 14 second-half points after allowing 38 in the first half.

"I think number one, our kids had had enough," Lucas said of his team's second-half defensive surge. "And they (Unity Christian) were kind of gassed. You could see it."

## Nationals

Continued from Page 1B

After running alone up front all season, Hough didn't take the lead until about halfway through the race.

"This race I feel like was more about qualifying than winning," Hough said. "I always like to win, but if it didn't happen

in this race, it's not a big deal. All I cared about was qualifying.

"It was actually pretty nice (having a close race). It gave me some people to go off and they could also go off me. It just helped to push me through."

Jarema qualified by a 0.2-second margin over 11th-place Krishna Thirunavukkarasu of Westfield, Ind, making up about a 30-yard margin to pass him at the finish line.

"I started gaining on him a little bit, then I went down the hill and he was turning around to see where I was," Jarema said. "I could tell I was gonna catch him; he's turning around. There's a lot of people yelling, 'That kid's in 10th!' I don't know who it was, but I heard a lot of people cheering me on. Basically, I passed him at the line."

"I don't know if I really expected to pass him. I just knew I was gonna pass

him or pass out trying. Who cares if I get 11th or last? It's pretty much the same to me."

The top five runners broke 15 minutes.

"It was really firm," Jarema said. "I don't think there was really any mud. It was really hilly. There's equal downhills. People were really moving on the downhills. That was a race where it wasn't tactical either."





Northville's Connor Vissotski shoots between Novi defenders Nov. 23 at Novi Ice Arena. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Rivalry

Continued from Page 1B

Novi's original goal stand. It would've been an easy feat for the Wildcats to fight back and knot the score at 2 in the third. The Mustangs needed that insurance.

"From my perspective, it looked like both the ref and the linesman was down there in their positions," Northville coach Gordie Brown said. "They kept looking for a puck. All of a sudden, you see Tommy holding the puck. Obvious-

ly, Novi was cheering, and Tommy goes end to end on a shocker. It was definitely a two-goal swing. You could feel the momentum come back to us because you could feel us losing it at that time. Great job by Tommy for playing until the whistle blows."

Connor Vissotski and William Sherman also scored for the Mustangs.

Novi, which was missing five players due to illness, finally scored on its 12th power play, as Zac Rabinowitz and Nolan Londo set up Isaac Johnson for a goal with 4:45 left.

After the game, the Wildcats were left wondering "what if?" after seeing a

close game turn on a no-goal call.

"That's one of those strange plays in hockey where everyone thought the goal was in," Novi coach Mark Vellucci said. "They didn't hear no whistle. They kind of stopped playing."

"The funny part is the kid who grabbed the puck went down the ice. It's a lesson there that shows you go to the whistle."

Other than that miscue, Eliason played lights out.

Brown named both Eliason and defenseman Matthew Fine, who helped kill most of the 14 penalties, the team MVPs of the night.

"I was really exhausted," Eliason said. "Our team, I had confidence in them killing all the penalties off. You saw us do it. I don't know how many penalties it took for them to finally score. But I was just confident going into each one. ..."

"That's what I'm here for. I bail out the boys when they need someone, and they bail out me. I don't think they really owe me anything. I don't think I owe them anything. I think it was just a team effort to win the game."

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsombrandonj.

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# Hartland hockey extends win streak to win tourney

Bill Khan Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

BRIGHTON — For Kameron Ragon, one of the perks of finally being a starting goaltender is experiencing the Brighton-Hartland hockey rivalry firsthand. It was everything he hoped it would be, especially the result.

Ragon made 27 saves to backstop Hartland to a 3-1 victory over Brighton in the championship game of the Kensington Valley Thanksgiving Invitational Saturday at Kensington Valley Ice House.

"I've always heard the stories about it," Ragon said. "Obviously, a huge rivalry, a lot of fans. It was definitely a surreal experience. Definitely a lot of energy in the building going both ways."

Ragon, a senior, may be entrenching himself as Hartland's primary goaltender after two outstanding performances in the tournament. He made 21 saves in a 3-0 victory over Rockford in the semifinals.

He played in only three games as the backup to all-stater Ryan Piro last season and entered this season in a three-way battle for the No. 1 job.

"He's showing us right now," Hartland coach Rick Gadwa said. "That's why we went back to him today. His confidence in net; the way a goalie plays can change the way your team plays. A lot of teams play for guys. It's easy to play for Kam with what he's done the last two days."

Ragon's performance in net helped Hartland extend its unbeaten streak against Brighton to 10 games since losing 1-0 on Feb. 21, 2015. The Eagles are 8-0-2 against the Bulldogs over the stretch, the previous two games ending in ties.

"It definitely feels good to play in these tight games and to be called on," said Ragon, who was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament.

The Eagles leaned on Ragon more heavily than they would have preferred because of steady parade to the penalty box. He was Hartland's best penalty killer while Brighton went 0-for-9 on the power play, failing to score during two lengthy five-on-threes early in the second period.

Hartland committed 11 penalties for



Ben Pouliot, who scored Hartland's second goal, is defended by Brighton's Cameron Duffany during the Eagles' 3-1 win. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

22 minutes, while Brighton had six for 23 minutes. Hartland was 0-for-4 on the power play.

"It's definitely tough, especially when a few of those we thought maybe it shouldn't have gone that way," Ragon said.

At the other end of the ice, Brighton sophomore Levi Pennala stopped 20 of 22 shots in his debut in the rivalry. He's been alternating early this season with sophomore Ryan Nickerson.

Pennala, making his second start, stopped Ben Pouliot's breakaway with 4:03 left in the first period after the Eagles had taken a 1-0 lead on Lucas Hen-

ry's wraparound.

"He's looked good in both games," Brighton coach Kurt Kivisto said. "He's got two losses, but I thought he played pretty darn well against two pretty good teams."

Shortly after killing a second five-on-three, Hartland stretched its lead to 2-0 when Pouliot scored on a back-door tap-in off a pass from Jordan Haydu with 12:49 left in the second period.

Brighton's only goal came when Winston Lerch won a faceoff cleanly back to defenseman Mattix McMullen, who scored on a slap shot from the middle of the blue line with 3:26 left in the second.

After the Eagles failed to score during a five-minute power play, they put it away on Ashton Trombley's empty-net goal with 1:24 remaining in the game.

Brighton fell to 2-2, losing two of its three games over Thanksgiving break.

"It's early and we're young," Kivisto said. "The guys are going to be growing. We have a lot of sophomores playing big roles, killing penalties and on the power play. Those guys are going to be better because of it."

Hartland is 4-1, going 2-1 over Thanksgiving. The Eagles lost 4-2 to Livonia Stevenson before winning both games in the tournament.

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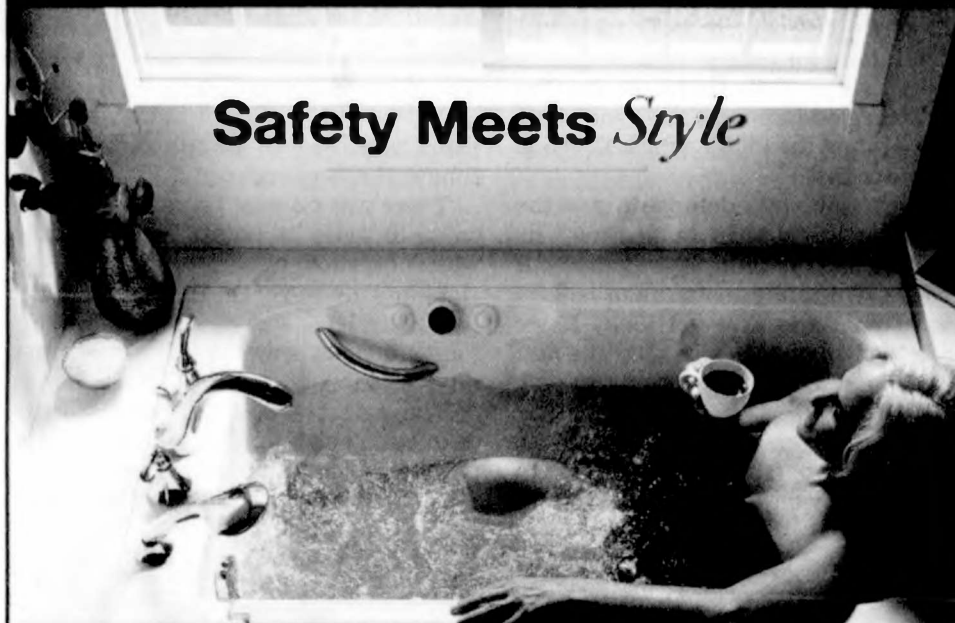
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DIVISION 2 STATE FINAL WARREN DE LA SALLE 41, TRAVERSE CITY CENTRAL 14

# Warren De La Salle QB channels 2020's pain into an epic 2021 title



**Mick McCabe**  
Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

It seemed like the low point of Brady Drogosh's life as he slowly walked off the playing surface at Ford Field.

It was some 10 months ago and Warren De La Salle had just lost to Muskegon Mona Shores in the Michigan high school football Division 2 state championship game, 25-19.

Making it worse was that Drogosh, a sophomore at the time, did not have his best game — not by a long shot.

He completed only five of 11 passes, for 59 yards and an interception. He also carried the ball five times, picking up just 13 yards.

"Last year, I came out a little nervous," he said. "Actually, me and the team came out a little nervous. Losing that game, I remember leaving the field and saying: 'We'll never walk off this field feeling like this again.'"

Drogosh didn't walk off the turf at Ford Field on Friday — he floated, and the feeling he had was about 180 degrees different from last season as he led No. 1 De La Salle to a 41-14 shellacking of No. 2 Traverse City Central.

Better yet, Drogosh was spectacular in finishing off the first unbeaten season in De La Salle history.

He completed 14 of 19 passes for 142 yards and three touchdowns and added 174 yards rushing and a touchdown on 19 carries.

"Being the first one in school history is crazy to me," Drogosh said of the undefeated season. "We've had great state championship in the past, and going undefeated and winning a state championship, there's no better feeling."

This was a tremendous team victory. The De La Salle defense limited Traverse City Central quarterback/linebacker Josh Burnham, who has committed to Notre Dame, to just 28 yards on 17 carries; he didn't complete any of his eight pass attempts.

Drogosh saw it coming on Traverse City's first play from scrimmage, when defensive end Mason Muragin busted through the line of scrimmage and tackled Burnham for a six-yard loss.

It got worse from there, as the Trojans struggled to mount any type of offense against the Pilots, which Drogosh can appreciate.

"I play against my defense to start the practice every day in team time," he said. "We each go four plays against our defense. We rarely move them ball on them sometimes. We get lucky if we move the ball on them, so after the first play we knew they were going to play well."

Drogosh began the game playing well and never stopped. He led the Pilots to scoring drives on their first five posses-



Warren De La Salle quarterback Brady Drogosh passes against Traverse City Central during the Division 2 final.

PHOTOS BY JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS



Warren De La Salle celebrates its 41-14 win over Traverse City Central.

sions, which led to a 34-0 lead at half-time and school was out.

There was no way Traverse City was going to score 35 points, and Drogosh wasn't finished, either.

Before the end of the third quarter, De La Salle's lead was 41-0; much of the fourth quarter was played with a running clock.

The 6-foot-4 and 205-pound Drogosh runs hard, and he is elusive. His passing has improved since last season. "I've been saying all year long that

Brady Drogosh is the best athlete on the team," De La Salle coach Dan Rohn said. "I think there are a number of positions he can play. I think a lot of teams would play this kid on defense, too, because he runs so well."

It seems that Drogosh has improved immeasurably over a season ago. He attacked this season with a vengeance and became the leader of the team.

"We played some great competition all year long and he hasn't hesitated, hasn't backed off," Rohn said. "We got

our passing game going, we got our quick game going and that opens up so many things for us."

The passing game has been a point of emphasis by the coaching staff, especially in the playoffs.

The Pilots wanted to improve their offense and get a better balance between their running and passing games, which they did.

"It was a good game for me and the coaches talked to me a lot the last two weeks saying the last two games are going to be my best two games," Drogosh said. "I struggled early in the playoffs throwing the ball, so I had to be a lot more consistent. So this game I was a lot more consistent and last week I was more consistent."

Rohn had no problem explaining why Drogosh played so much better in this championship game than his previous one: It is all a process.

"He's just matured," he said. "You came into the state championship last year and you're a sophomore and you're playing against Mona Shores, which was a great football team. We missed a couple of plays early and I think had we hit them, the game would have been a little bit different in the first half."

Well, De La Salle hit every key offensive play this time, and Drogosh was the guy calling the shots.

He was the reason why the Pilots were able to leave Ford Field with a completely different feeling this time.

DIVISION 6 LANSING CATHOLIC 16, WARREN MICHIGAN COLLEGIATE 6

# Lansing Catholic rides dominating defense to third title

**Brad Emons** Special to Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

If the old saying, "defense wins championships," still holds true, then Lansing Catholic is Exhibit A.

In an almost textbook outing, Lansing Catholic earned its third title with a bend-but-don't-break approach Friday night against Warren Michigan Collegiate, 16-6, in the Division 6 final at Detroit's Ford Field.

The Cougars (13-1) locked down Collegiate's dual-threat quarterback Deion Black, who was harassed for most of the game as he went 10-for-25 for 225 yards with four interceptions and just 23 yards rushing.

Lansing Catholic's defense was stifling in the opening half as Collegiate (11-3) mustered only 53 yards of total offense — 14 passing and 40 rushing — and just two first downs.

Catholic's senior quarterback, Joey Baker, was 11-for-25 passing for 141 yards, but Lansing Catholic ran for minus-14 yards while taking a 9-0 advantage.

Lansing Catholic increased its lead to 16-0 with 2:06 left in the third when Baker scored on a 1-yard keeper.

That was set up by Dan Shipman's interception near midfield (tipped by teammate Brandon Lewis) which was



Lansing Catholic's Sebastian Golzynski holds the trophy while celebrating after the Cougars beat Warren Michigan Collegiate 16-6 to win the Division 6 football title Nov. 26 at Ford Field in Detroit. NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

returned 29 yards.

Collegiate got its only points on Black's 37-yard TD pass to Teshawn Thomas with 36 seconds left in the third. Black then tried to run for a 2-pointer, but stopped just short.

Collegiate was thwarted again with

8:07 left in the fourth when Jack Jacobs stripped Jamarion Willis on a 20-yard catch and apparent first down, recovering it himself to help protect a 16-6 lead.

Interceptions by Lewis and Mason Knippen in the final four minutes helped

seal the win for Catholic.

Yards were painfully hard to come by for both teams in the opening half.

But Catholic began to show some offensive life late in the second quarter through the air as Baker, who was 17-for-39 for 181 yards and two interceptions before the half, connected with Owen Biergens for a 10-yard TD with 34 seconds remaining.

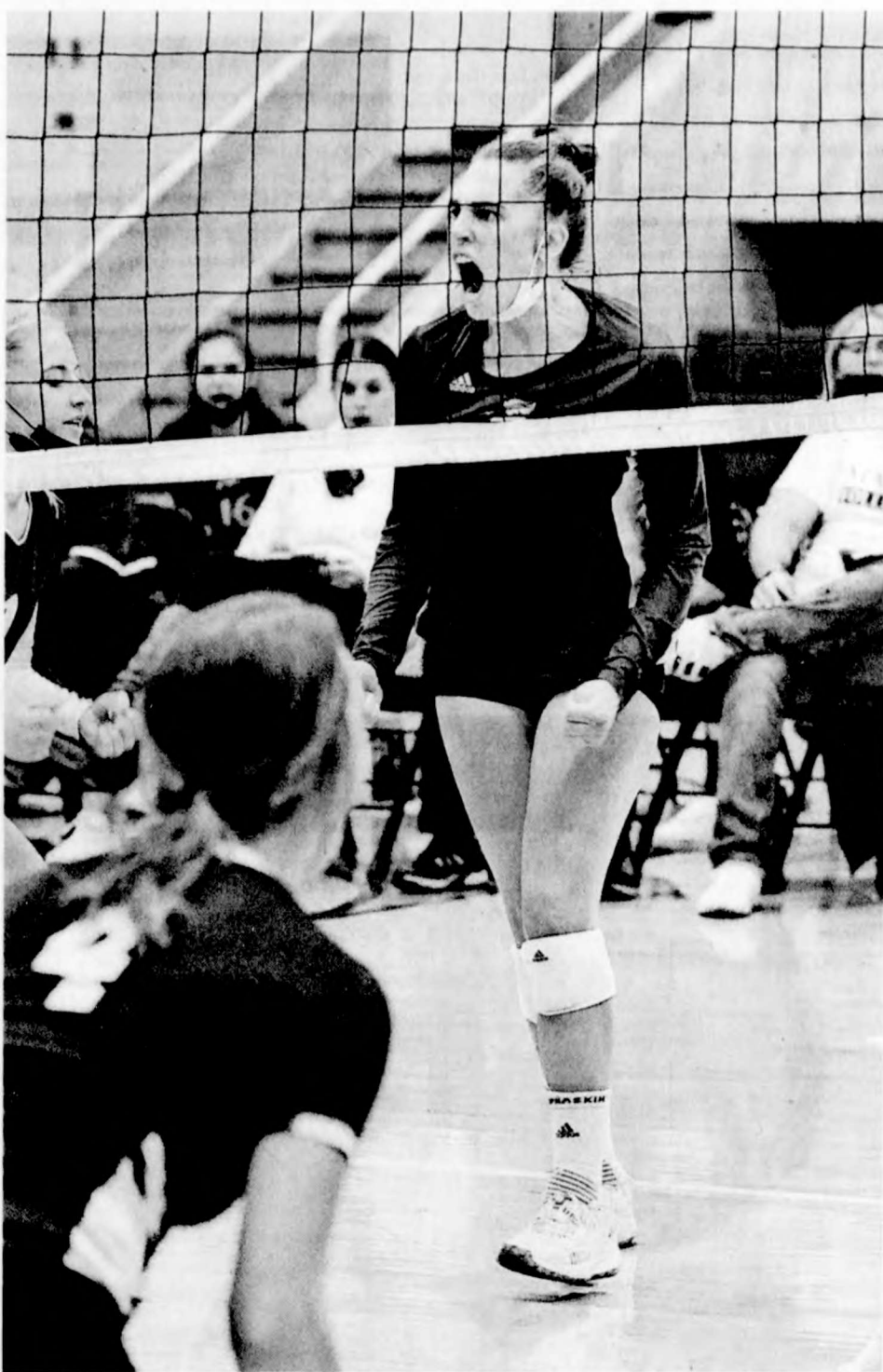
That came after Catholic moved into Collegiate territory for the fifth time, driving down to the 3 before setting for a 20-yard field goal by Jonah Richards with 4:58 left in the half.

Catholic forced a turnover on Collegiate's opening possession when Alex Watters picked off a pass at the Cougars' 33 and returned it to the 25, but Catholic couldn't capitalize on the field position as La'Darius Abston sacked Baker for a 1-yard loss on third down.

Richards tried a 39-yard field goal that fell short with 9:26 left in the first. The Cougars got good field position again after Michigan Collegiate went three-and-out, but came up empty again on fourth-and-18 after getting down to the 17.

Collegiate's Alfonso Gray III intercepted a pass at his own 27, but it couldn't spark the offense. (Gray, meanwhile, added an interception in the fourth quarter.)





Marian's Ava Brizard celebrates a point against Davison during the Division 1 volleyball state quarterfinal Nov. 16. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Honor

Continued from Page 1B

around, leap-frogged as low as she could and then sprung up to celebrate with her teammates.

How fitting. Celebrating is why she's even here.

Brizard grew up playing tennis. She did so for 11 years. And she was competitive about it.

So much so the losing stuck with her. Losing a point was tough. But losing a match was the end of the world.

Plus, it wasn't much fun celebrating a win by herself. She wanted to play with friends.

"I was kind of getting a little sick of it," she said. "My mom was like, 'Why don't you try a team sport?' She played volleyball in high school. So I went out, and I did a couple of clinics, and I fell in love with it instantly."

Seven years ago, she signed up for her first travel team.

That put her in the same gym as Mayssa Cook, who's in her fourth season coaching Marian.

Cook still remembers the shiny and sparkling barrette Brizard wore in her hair to her first practice.

"She was laser-focused on me," Cook recalled. "She looked so hungry (to learn). She looked so intense. The same Ava Brizard you see today is the same Ava you saw at 11. She was the same girl who wanted to hit the crap out of every ball. She would be so mad (when she failed). I think she would cry the whole car ride home, her mom would tell me, if she didn't dig a ball. You don't teach that (competitiveness), and she's had that since she was 11."

Brizard was a fast learner.

Cook, who coached at Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard back then, often challenged Brizard by throwing her into scrimmages with varsity players.

Whenever Brizard could make it to Gabriel Richard, Cook let her practice with the team. And it wasn't easy getting her to practice. The Brizard family lives in Novi. That's quite the hike for an open gym, but Brizard's father, Brian, quickly got used to making long drives for his daughter.

In 2015, Cook's Gabriel Richard squad went 42-0 en route to winning the D-2 state championship.

Brizard made Brian drive them through a winter storm so she could be there to watch the Irish win the title.

"I gave her a hug after the match," Cook remembers. "And I said to her, 'You are going to win a state title one day. That is going to be you.'"

"I never fathomed that I would be the one coaching her to it at the high school level."

Not long after Cook took over Marian, Brizard visited the school and decided to transfer.

**"As great as all the other things are, everything I do is for my team. To do this for my community and to send us to Battle Creek for the second year in a row, I'm just so proud."**

**Ava Brizard** Marian senior

And the rest has been history. Already this season, she's collected 537 kills, 364 digs, 51 aces and 37 blocks.

She's been the most important player Cook's ever coached, the coach said. Cook said she had to pinch herself to see if she was dreaming when she learned that Brizard had won Miss Volleyball.

"I've seen her play with 17- and 18-year-olds since she was 11 years old," Cook said. "I never had a doubt in my mind that she could be a sixth rotation starting outside as a freshman. She's had one of the best high school careers I've seen out of any kid. ..."

"She just brings everything that you could ask for, from her attitude, her work ethic, how she treats her teammates, how she is with her coaches, the focus she brings and the tenacity she has on the court. I have never, in my 20 years of coaching, seen a player that's brought that kind of skill with that kind of character to the game of volleyball."

"Regardless of what happens the rest of this week in the playoffs, I could not be any more proud of any kid I've ever coached than this kid right here."

Cook said the younger Mustangs have learned about hard work and dedication from Brizard. She expects her players will ask, "What would Ava do?" next season while she's playing in the ACC and no longer leading practices back in Michigan.

Marian is just two wins from repeating as the state champions. There's still a lot of celebrating, stomping and screaming left for Brizard. NC State can wait.

But imagine where the program would be had she stuck with tennis.

"She couldn't stand it," Brian said. "I don't know what you know about tennis, but you'll lose a point here and win a point there. She'd lose a point, and it'd be the worst thing ever."

"But with volleyball, she can celebrate every point with her teammates."

And she will Thursday in Battle Creek.

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsom-brandonj.

## Tigers sign left-hander Rodriguez to 5-year deal

Evan Petzold Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Tigers have their established starting pitcher.

The Tigers signed left-hander Eduardo Rodriguez to a five-year, \$77 million contract, a source with knowledge of the situation told the Free Press. He can opt out after the second year and has a no-trade clause. He can make up to \$3 million in performance bonuses.

Rodriguez, 28, has pitched six seasons for the Red Sox after making his MLB debut in 2015. He has a career 4.16 ERA. He pitched 32 games (31 starts) in 2021, posting a 4.74 ERA, 47 walks and 185 strikeouts.

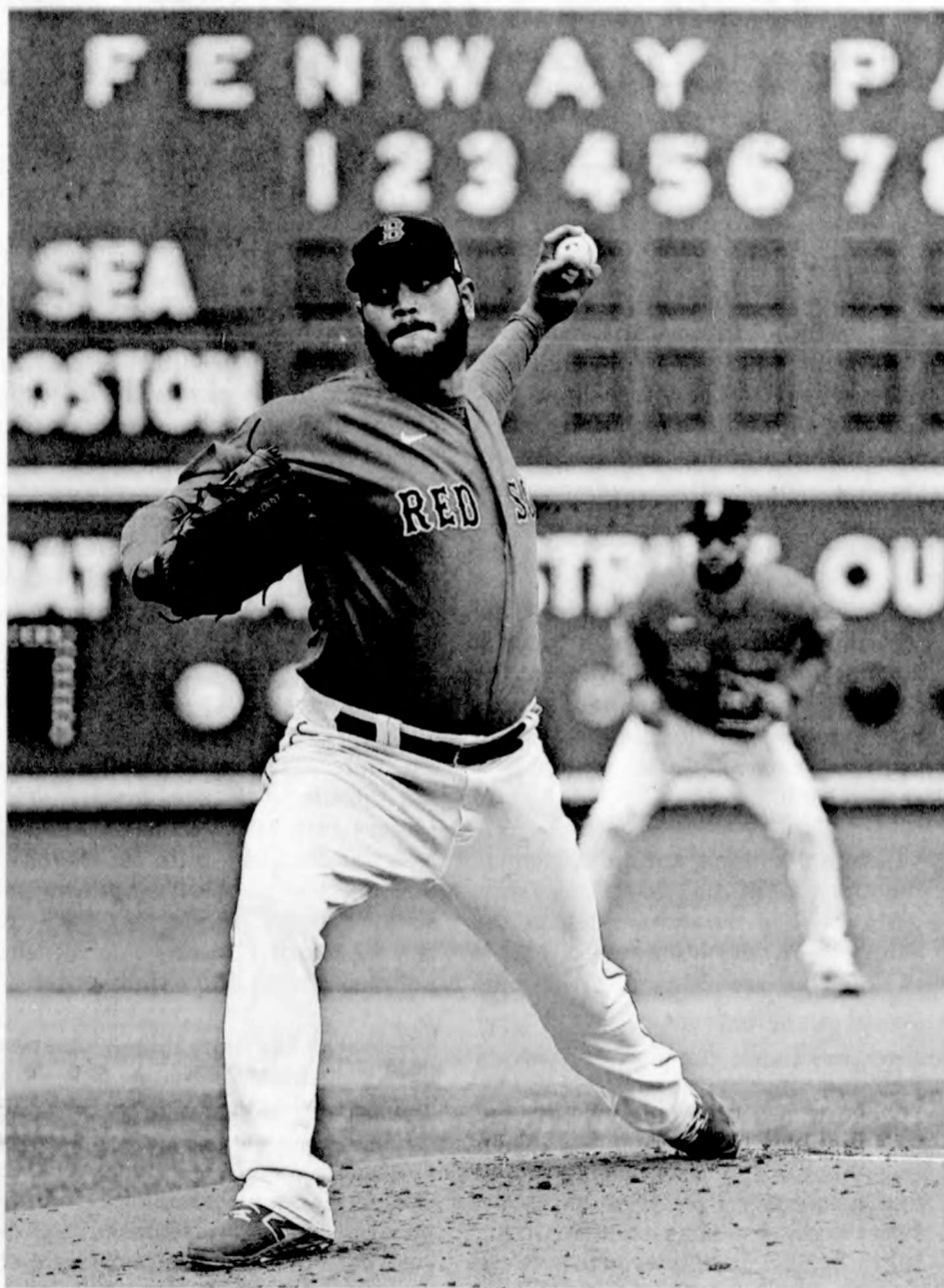
The Red Sox extended Rodriguez

the \$18.4 million qualifying offer, but he turned it down during last week's GM Meetings in Carlsbad, California.

In 2020, Rodriguez tested positive for COVID-19 and developed myocarditis, a heart condition. After missing the shortened season, he bounced back in 2021. He set a career high with 9.8 strikeouts per nine innings and made three starts in the postseason.

He also had a 3.32 FIP, the best mark of his career, despite a career-worst 4.74 ERA. Fielding Independent Pitching (FIP) removes results on balls in play and focuses solely on the pitcher's controllable outcomes: strikeouts, unintentional walks, hit-by-pitches and home runs.

Rodriguez finished sixth in American League Cy Young voting in 2019.



New Tigers pitcher Eduardo Rodriguez had pitched six seasons for the Red Sox after making his MLB debut in 2015. He has a career 4.16 ERA. USA TODAY SPORTS

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## State Quits Rate Reaches Record High Led by Growth in Leisure and Hospitality

By ZipRecruiter

Today's state JOLTS report, which captures the extent to which labor market conditions differ across the country, shows one unifying sign – the Great Resignation is a national trend, and people are looking for better opportunities regardless of their job market. Here are three key takeaways:

**1** With 7.1% of the workforce quitting their jobs in one month, Hawaii is leading the way in the Great Resignation. The state's quits rate is more than double the current national rate of 3.0%, which is a record high.

Hawaii, Montana, and Nevada are at the forefront of the Great Resignation with the highest quits rates in the country. Hawaii's quits rate of 7.1% is the highest rate seen in any state on record.

Hawaii and Nevada saw the steepest job losses during the pandemic, due to the importance of tourism and the large share of employment in leisure and hospitality. Those industries are now rapidly restocking, creating opportunity both for unemployed people and for currently employed job seekers.

Nevada has the lowest gap between its job openings and hires rates, which suggests that time-to-hire is particularly rapid in the state, with employers able to fill vacancies more quickly than elsewhere.

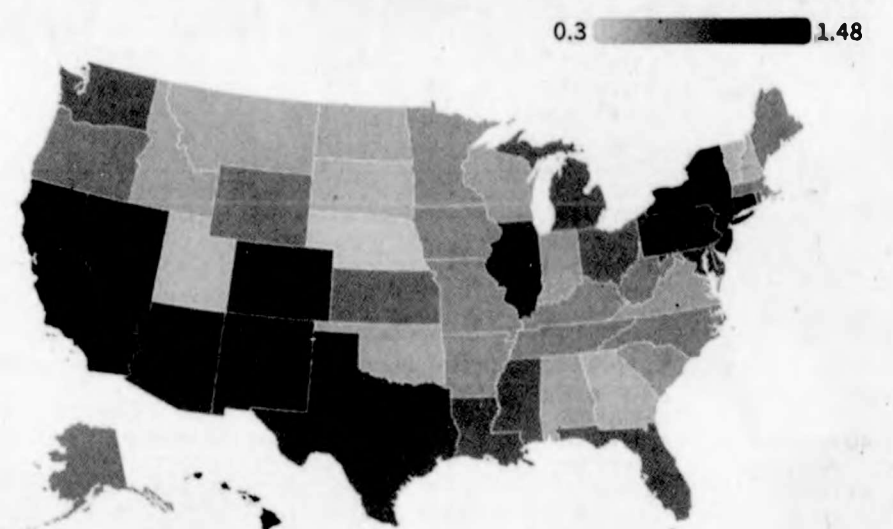
Montana has more than 2 job openings per unemployed person, putting substantial bargaining power in job seekers' hands. The abundance of opportunities available in Montana is encouraging people to leave their jobs for better ones.

**2** Nebraska made history last month with the lowest state jobless rate ever recorded, at 1.9%. Nebraska's quits rate is also low, making the pool of employed job seekers small. Because of this, the city of North Platte, NE is offering people up to \$5,000 to move there.

Nebraska has more than 3 job openings per unemployed person – the highest ratio in the country.

Although businesses have reported difficulty filling vacancies nationwide, employers in Nebraska face the steepest odds. That is because there are 69K job openings but only 19.3K

Unemployed persons per job opening  
 November 2021 Release



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, State Employment and Unemployment and Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey, Released Nov. 2021

unemployed people in the state.

Unemployed people in Nebraska have more options and face less competition in the current job market—not only due to a low unemployment rate, but also because of a relatively low quits rate. These combined factors benefit Nebraskans because they face little competition from other unemployed people, as well as from employed job seekers.

**3** Hires are lagging behind job openings most dramatically on the east coast, where high

employment costs and a higher share of workers in white-collar jobs often lead to slow hiring processes.

The hires rates in Massachusetts, West Virginia, and Maryland have not caught up with their job openings rates in the current labor market. Although Massachusetts and West Virginia have some of the highest job openings rates in the country, ranking in the top 4, they nevertheless have the widest gaps between openings and hires, an indication of slower hiring processes than in the rest of the country.

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