

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Orchard Crossing plan nears finish line

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After years of different housing development proposals for Erwin Orchards, one is nearly a done deal.

The Lyon Township Planning Commission unanimously recommended fi-

nal plan approval for the residential components of the Orchard Crossing development, which will put 121 single family homes and 40 duplex homes on 77 acres.

Orchard operations are expected to continue unaltered for now.

Applicant Lombardo Homes' overall

keeping the existing cider mill and a portion of the orchards on 104 acres while adding a bake house, tasting room, and event center. These facilities will return for site plan approval at a later time.

"This final review cleans up most of See ORCHARD, Page 8A

vision for the 181-acre property includes the items and any final tweaks to the plan," Township Planner Brian Keesey said during the commission's Feb. 14 meeting. "Accompanied by the (planned development) agreement, it will cover all the intricacies, the timing of

Milford rallies behind teen snowboarder after accident

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Amanda Oliverio was at home in Milford on Feb. 12 when the phone call came, and with it a mother's worst nightmare.

Oliverio's 15-year-old daughter, Chloe Howard, was being airlifted unconscious and intubated from a Colorado mountainside after a horrific snowboarding accident.

"It was the worst day of my life," Oliverio said. "We didn't know if she was



going to survive.

Chloe's father, Bill Howard, and Oliverio couldn't secure a flight to Denver until that night. Oliverio said minutes before leaving for the airport she opened a notebook to leave a message for Chloe's stepdad and found instead a random message left earlier from her daughter: "I love you so much! You're doing great, Mom!"

Chloe's personality - loving, upbeat, positive - shone through in the note, and is being reflected right back in her time of need, with an army of supporters uniting on her behalf.

That army includes friends, family and teammates on the Milford snowboard cross varsity team and on Team **RipTurn**, the United States of America Snowboard and Freeski Association race team with whom she travels and competes.

After just two years in the sport, Chloe Howard is ranked 14th nationally among snowboarders in her age group, said Milford snowboard coach Steve Jesionowski. Chloe is "definitely an important piece of the puzzle on the team," he said.

See SNOWBOARDER, Page 8A

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8

Buyers check out late-season vegetable offerings in 2020 at the Northville Farmers Market. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Task force reveals desired site for Northville Farmers Market

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN**

Following thousands of hours of deliberation and research, a volunteer task force has determined its preferred destination for relocating the Northville Farmers Market.

Now the hard part begins: finding a way to fund the project.

The task force whittled down an initial list of 15 properties to three before deciding on property formerly occupied by McDonald Ford near the intersection of Seven Mile and Main Street.

Ideally, task force members would prefer the market remain at its current site, near the intersection of Seven Mile and Center Street, but the imminent development of the nearby Northville

Downs property necessitated a new location.

Hunter Pasteur Northville, LLC, the Downs' potential developer, said 2024 would be the latest date it could commit to ensuring the market stayed at its current site.

The market, which has traditionally

See MARKET, Page 8A

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2A I THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022 I O& EMEDIA (NR)

South Lyon seeks buyer for vacant city lot, with caveats

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

The City of South Lyon has property for sale, but there are a few strings attached.

The parcel at 318 W. Lake St. is nestled in among the neighborhood streets downtown and is buildable as a single-

family home only. It must be a home that fits in with nearby homes. And it must be constructed within about a year.

"We are going to put out for bids on this property for someone to acquire and put in a house that is compatible for the rest of the houses in the neighborhood," City Manager Paul Zelenak said

The lot has 66 feet of frontage on W. Lake Street and is 132 feet deep. It formerly held the South Lyon Area Recreation Authority building and prior to that was a library.

In 2018, SLARA moved into a facility on Griswold and in 2020, the building at 318 W. Lake was demolished.

Zelenak said most of the homes in the W. Lake Street neighborhood are best described as arts and crafts architecture, bungalows with detached garages that are about 50 years old.

The city wants a home constructed on the lot that is similar in nature, perhaps like a historic bungalow at 412 W. Lake St. that is currently on the market for \$425,000.

"We don't want a very modern-looking house that is not similar to the homes on that block," Zelenak said.

He declined to estimate what the city might be able to get for a purchase price on the property. The city advertised the availability of the parcel a year ago with no takers.

While the main goal is to get a home constructed within a year, Zelenak said the city is willing to negotiate.

For more information, visit the city's website at www.southlyonmi.org or email pzelenak@southlyonmi.org.

hometownlife.com **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers**

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Phil Alimen, Content Strategist Mobile: 248-396-3870 Email: pallmen@hometownlife.com Follow us on Faceboook: @OEHometown

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South Lyon **City Manager Paul Zelenak** stands at 318 W. Lake St., site of the city's former recreation center. The city is looking for a buyer to develop the property. JOHN HEIDER/ HOMETOWNLIFE. COM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF NORTHVILLE

The City of Northville Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to receive public input on the Downs Planned Unit Development (PUD) requested by Hunter Pasteur Homes, LLC, located at 301 S. Center St., Northville, Michigan, 48167.

The project site encompasses approximately 48-acres of land over a number of parcels and lots, including:

- Vacant land on the south side of E. Cady St. (between S. Center St. and Griswold St.);

- Two vacant lots on the west side of S. Center St. (Lots 219 and 220 of "Assessors Northville Plat No. 3") between E. Cady St. and Fairbrook St.;

Land currently occupied by the Northville Downs racetrack and associated parking and horse stable areas (between E. Cady St. and 7-Mile Road, and between S. Center St. and River St.): and

Farmer's Market site on the west side of S. Center St., at the intersection of S. Center St. and 7-Mile Road.

Addresses associated with these parcels includes 301 S. Center St., 118 E. Cady St., 341 Beal Ave., 318 River St., 105 Fairbrook St., and 109 Fairbrook St.

The subject sites are delineated in the aerial photograph below.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF MEETING OF MARCH 2022 BOARD OF REVIEW

Notice is hereby given that the March Board of Review shall convene for the Organizational Meeting at 9:00 a.m. EST, Tuesday, March 8, 2022 in the Mayor's Conference Room/ Civic Center at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. The Board of Review will not hear appeals at the **Organizational meeting**

Notice is further given that the second session of the Board of Review will meet for the purpose of hearing and considering assessment appeals in the Event Quarter Room at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road on March 14, 15 and 16, 2022.

If you or your representative want to appeal in person, you are strongly encouraged to come into the assessing department on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, Friday, March 11, 2022 in order to schedule an appointment to ensure your time before the Board of Review. Appearances before the Board of Review are limited to five (5) minutes or less. Petitions are available at the Assessor's Office or at www.cityofnoyi.org > Services > Board of Review Notice.

NO APPOINTMENTS WILL BE GIVEN UNTIL A PETITION IS RECEIVED BY THE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT.

Written Appeals: Taxpayers may file a protest and petition in writing, instead of appearing in person. Letters of protest will be accepted on or before 3:00 p.m. EST, Tuesday, March 15, 2022. Postmarks will not be considered. When submitting a letter of protest for the Board of Review consideration, you must attach a completed petition along with any supporting



e County Parcel Viewe

The applicant is seeking to rezone the property to PUD, and develop a mixed-use project that contains a variety of buildings and uses, including ground-level commercial units, apartments, condominiums, row houses, townhomes, carriage homes, and single-family homes, integrated with public streets, parks and pathways. Current zoning of the premises includes Central Business District (CBD), Cady Street Overlay District (CSO), Racetrack District (RTD), and Second Density Residential District (R-2). The applicant has submitted a Preliminary PUD Plan. Section 20.06 requires a Public Hearing before the Planning Commission considers the Plan, and makes a recommendation to City Council on the Plan and the rezoning request.

MEETING DATE AND MEETING LOCATION

The public hearing will be held on March 15, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Northville Community Center, 303 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-449-9902. Members of the public may attend the public hearing in person or participate virtually using the following Zoom meeting participation link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83592963433, Or Telephone: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592, Webinar ID: 835 9296 3433

Members of the public attending by Zoom may participate in the public hearing as if physically present at the meeting. An electronic meeting user guide for the public is found on the City website www.ci.northville.mi.us. Those needing assistance or accommodations should contact the City Manager's office at 248-449-9905 during normal business hours.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment on the Preliminary PUD Plan and rezoning request.

APPLICATION AND WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Preliminary PUD Plan and related documents are available for review at the City of Northville Building Department during normal business hours of 8am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday, local prevailing time or on the City's website www.ci.northville.mi.us (go to Business, Proposed Redevelopment Projects).

Written comments to the Planning Commission must be submitted by 4:30pm, March 14, 2022 to the City Clerk, City of Northville, 215 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, or using the City Hall drop box, or emailed to dmassa@ci.northville.mi.us.

> DIANNE MASSA, CMC, **CITY CLERK**

Publish: February 24, 2022

information.

All agents protesting values on property other than their own MUST HAVE written authorization from each property owner they are representing.

Persons on fixed or limited income may be eligible for a reduction in property taxes due to poverty. Applications are available at the Assessing Department, or at www.cityofnovi.org. Any questions should be directed to the Assessing Department at (248) 347-0485.

BOARD OF REVIEW SCHEDULE

Monday, March 14, 2022 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Event Quarter Room Tuesday, March 15, 2022 - 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Event Quarter Room Wednesday, March 16, 2022 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Event Quarter Room

Located in the Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road Novi, MI 48375.

In accordance with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services advisory dated November 19, 2021, all persons in indoor public settings are advised to wear a face mask, regardless of their vaccination status.

> **Cortney Hanson CITY CLERK**

Publish: February 17, 24 & March 3, 2022

Section 0.2 Advertisement for Bid

Northville Public Schools Request for Proposal

The Northville Public Schools (also referred to the District or NPS in these documents) will accept sealed bids for:

> **Amerman Elementary** Amerman Playground Update

Bid documents will be made available online at: https://sigma.michigan.gov or at Northville Public Schools: https://rb.gv/t6gajd

Proposals are to be submitted no later than 11:00 AM Local Time, March 2, 2022. The District will not consider or accept a bid received after the date and time specified for bid submission. Bids will be publicly opened immediately following the close of receiving bids.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in whole or in part; or, for reasons of establishing uniformity, delivery time or preference, to award the contract to other than the low bidder.

The contents of RFP and Bidder's (also referred to as Contractor in these documents) Proposal will become contractual obligations if a contract ensues. Failure of the Bidder to accept these obligations will result in the cancellation of the award. Award of a contract by the District is subject to the Contractor executing a Contract, which shall incorporate the contents of this RFP and the Contractor's Proposal and final approval if the same by the District's legal counsel.

In compliance with MCL 380.1267, the bid shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the board, or the superintendent of the school district. The bid shall also be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing whether the bidder is an Iran Linked Business in compliance with PA 517 of 2012. The Board shall not accept a bid that does not include these sworn and notarized disclosure statements.

Certified check or Bid Bond must accompany each proposal by an approved surety company in an amount not less than 5% of the proposal amount. All bids shall be firm for at least sixty (60) days from the date of opening of bids. Length of time required for completion shall be specified in the bid. All bids submitted must meet or exceed all specifications herein.

Any general questions should be referred to Steve Banchero, Director of Operations (248) 231-9879

Publish: February 24, 2022

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Rollover crash survivor looks to find unknown 'guardian angels' who helped

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Marisa O'Neill is certain she met her guardian angels this month.

Now she wants to give them a hug and say thank you for helping her and her three young children endure the most perilous moments of their lives.

Just after 4 p.m. Feb. 9, the Honda CRV O'Neill was driving - her three children, all 3 years old or younger, in their car seats behind her — rolled over three times after she collided with a vehicle while southbound on Interstate 275 near the M-14 interchange

She was told by law enforcement officers her car came in contact with a semitrailer during the ordeal and was pushed a short distance down the super-busy roadway - details that added to the horrific event.

Once the car finally came to a rest on its roof in the middle of the highway, the vehicle's airbags deployed and its windows shattered, the most wonderful sounds echoed from the backseat.

"I heard all three of my kids screaming, so I knew they were OK," O'Neill recounted, her voice cracking with emotion.

The family's situation was still dire. Admittedly in shock from the series of events that had just unfolded, O'Neill exited the car, carefully walked to the backseat door and unbuckled her infant daughter.

"When I looked back, I saw two men walking toward me, one wearing what appeared to be an orange construction vest," she said. "One of the men held my daughter while I unbuckled my other two kids. All three are 3 (years old) or younger, so you can only imagine the situation.

"Once I got all the kids out of the car, the man handed me my daughter while the other man put my two other kids in his car so they could stay warm until police arrived."

O'Neill believes a third man called 9-1-1.

"I was still kind of in a haze when the police and paramedics got there," O'Neill said. "I felt a kind of disbelief that all this was happening. I remember sitting in the back of the ambulance with my kids and asking the officers if the men who helped us were still there. I wanted to say thank you and give them a hug."

Much to O'Neill's dismay, the good Samaritans who provided perfect strangers with priceless comfort during a chaotic crisis - left the scene without telling emergency workers their names.

Law enforcement personnel were amazed O'Neill and her children did not sustain any injuries, given the the mangled remains of the CRV and that it rolled over three times in close-to-rush-hour traffic.

A resident of Farmington Hills, O'Neill wants to meet the men who were her family's saviors on that gray February day.

"I don't know if they were together or driving separate," she said. "With all my heart I feel they were my family's guardian angels that day. You hear about so much negative stuff these days. To have people do something so amazing like this, well, I just want to give them a hug and say thank you."



The O'Neill family's Honda **CRV** was totaled in a rollover crash Feb. 9 on Interstate 275. Marisa O'Neill and her three children were not injured in the crash. COURTESY OF O'NEILL FAMILY



Marisa O'Neill is searching for two men who came to her aid but left the scene before she could thank them. From left are O'Neill's children Benjamin, 1, Matthew, 2 months, and Isabella, 3. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE COM

If you know the individuals who assisted the O'Neill family Feb 9 contact reporter Ed Wright at eawright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113 to help O'Neill find the trio she considers heroes.

Rottermond Jewelers robber sentenced to **10-20 years in prison**

Susan Vela

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

A South Lyon man apologized for robbing Rottermond Jewelers in downtown Milford before an Oakland County judge sentenced him to 10-20 years in prison.

Dennis Maynarich, 49, had pleaded no contest to four counts of armed robbery and guilty to being a habitual offender.

He also owes \$30,400 in restitution.

Judge Jeffery Matis said Maynarich harmed others when he apparently used a plastic toy gun to commit his crime on Sept. 1, 2020.

One of the Rottermond sales associates told the judge that Maynarich's drastically actions changed the employee's day-to-day life after Maynarich entered the store, chatted for several minutes while looking at watches and then pointed the gun toward them.

The judge said the sales associate had to seek therapy after losing any sense of comfort. The FBI arrested Maynarich soon after the incident without anyone being

physically injured.

Maynarich's family members were present during the sentencing over Zoom. In the courtroom, his attorney Marsha Kosmatka emphasized that an assault incident happened long ago when Maynarich was about 20 years old.

He still managed to become a father, husband and truck driver. He was coping with grief from sick or dying loved ones and a job he lost because of injuries from a vehicle crash when he embarked on a short crime spree.

His crimes were not well planned and had a "next to zero" chance of succeeding, Kosmatka said.

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STATE OF MICHIGAN **PROBATE COURT OAKLAND COUNTY**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate CASE NO. AND JUDGE 2022-404594-DE

Estate of Jean J. Budden, Deceased Date of Birth:* November 24, 1933 CREDITORS

TO ALL CREDITORS: Notice To Creditors: The decedent, Jean J. Budden, Deceased died November 27, 2021 Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Douglas A. Budden, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1200 North Telegraph-Road, Pontiac, Michigan 48341 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of the unblication of this notice publication of this notice

Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith P.C. Douglas A. Mielock P42924 313 South Washington Square Lansing, Michigan 48933 (517) 371-8203

Personal Representative Douglas A. Budden 731 Maple Hill Lane Birmingham, Michigan 48009 (248) 288-9590 Publish: Feb. 24, 2022

CITY OF NORTHVILLE 2022 BOARD OF REVIEW WAYNE AND OAKLAND COUNTIES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Review of the City of Northville, Wayne and Oakland Counties, will meet for the purpose of reviewing and adjusting the 2022 Assessment Rolls of the City of Northville on the following dates:

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022: TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022:

4:00 p.m. Organizational Meeting (No Appeals 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00p.m. to 4:00 p.m. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Pursuant to Act 165 of 1971 and based on the proposed changes to assessed values for 2022, the Wayne and Oakland County Equalization Departments have set the following tentative equalization factors relative to the 2022 Real and Personal Propert Assessments: WAYNE COUNTY - Commercial Real 1.00; Industrial Real 1.00; Residential Real 1.00; All Personal Property 1.00. OAKLAND COUNTY - Commercial Real 1.00: Industrial Real 1.00: Residential Real 1.00: All Personal Property 1.00

Mail-in Petitions must be received by March 16, 2022 before 4:00 p.m. ALL TAXPAYERS wishing to petition their property's taxable value or assessment in person with the Board of Review will be seen by APPOINTMENT ONLY. To ensure every appeal is heard it is requested that appointments be scheduled prior to Tuesday, March 15. 2022. Please contact the City of Northville Tax Department at (248) 449-9901 for an appointment or with any questions you may have regarding your 2022 taxable or assessed value.

Publish: February 24, March 3 & 10, 2022

BOARD OF REVIEW



248-667-9920 frazerfunerals.com

4A | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022 | O& EMEDIA (NNNR)

Livonia man honors dad's memory with baseball cards

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In the spring of 1982, 7-year-old Matt Fournier purchased a pack of Topps baseball cards, carrying on a family tradition practiced by his dad, Ted.

In late January — 15 months after his 67-year-old father succumbed to lung cancer - Fournier purchased an obscure Kansas City Royals card from a man in New Mexico, completing a 40year journey to complete the 1982 set.

"After my dad passed away, I was going through some of my old Topps sets and found a box with the 1982 cards," Fournier, a Livonia resident and teacher at Emerson Middle School, said. "It was missing about 50 cards, so I got on eBay and talked to my friends who are collectors to try to find the ones I was missing.

"When the final one came in the mail and I slid it into the slot in the binder, it was a pretty cool feeling. I know my dad would have gotten a kick out of it."

The final card - bearing the mugshots of Royals George Brett and Larry Gura on the front and the number 96 in the upper-left corner of the back - cost him just over \$2.

"It was a common card, not a rookie card or a card that people wouldn't be willing to give up. So the actual card cost me about 50 cents, and postage was about \$1.50," Fournier said. "The fact that it was the last card I needed to complete the set is what made it special."

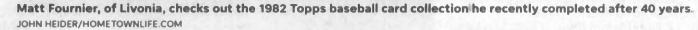
Fournier's passion for card collecting started in the early 1980s when he and his brother would make regular trips to Garden City to visit his dad.

"When the (Detroit) Tigers were home, my dad would take my brother and I to a game," said Fournier, head baseball coach at Livonia Franklin. "When the Tigers were on the road, my dad would take us to either a (sports) card show, 7-11 or Kmart where my dad worked, we'd buy a box of cards, go through them and organize them.

"My dad had been collecting cards since 1959, so it was a great way for my brother, myself and my dad to kind of bond and share a common hobby."

Fournier said the internet made his journey to complete the 1982 set easier.

See CARDS, Page 5A







(NNNR) HOMETOWNLIFE.COM | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022 | 5A



Matt Fournier holds a Topps card of the Kansas City Royals' 1982 batting and pitching leaders (George Brett, 3.14 batting avg., and Larry Gura 2.72 ERA). PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Cards

Continued from Page 4A

"The way it works now, you can go on eBay, plug in the number and year of the card you're looking for and usually find someone, somewhere, who has the card and is willing to sell it," Fournier said. "Before the internet, you'd have to go to a card show where guys would have boxes of cards — both common and valuable ones — and you'd have to dig through the boxes to find what you were looking for."

Since his dad died, Fournier has also completed the entire 1975 Topps baseball card collection that Ted had begun.

"One of the cards missing from that one was a George Brett rookie card, which I ended up paying about \$60 for," Fournier said. "My dad, brother and I have never really been in it to make money. It's always been more of a nostalgia thing for us.

"I have some stuff that is probably pretty valuable, but I'd never think

about selling it."

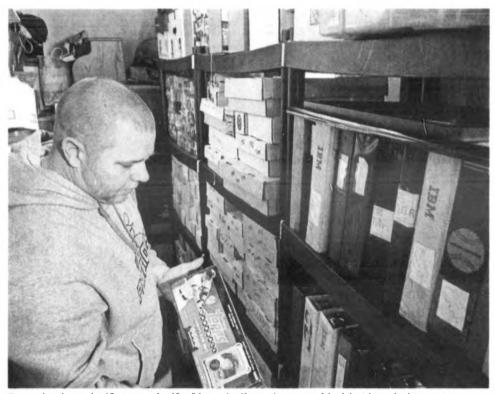
While sifting through some of his father's belongings last year, Fournier found an item that touched him so much he framed it.

"When my dad got remarried — it was either 1986 or 1987 — he and his wife honeymooned in Cooperstown (New York)," Fournier recounted. "He bought a couple postcards with photos of (Tigers greats) Al Kaline and George Kell. He wrote a note on each of them to my brother and I, saying, 'We're having a great time. ... I know you'd love it here.' For whatever reason, he never mailed them.

"When I was going through my dad's things after he passed, I found the postcards. My brother and I don't have a lot of hand-written notes from my dad, so those were very special."

An example of how the power of baseball resonates from the diamond to the heart.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at eawright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113.



Fournier has shelf upon shelf of baseball cards stored in his Livonia basement.



25

Some more baseball memorabilia from Fournier's collection.



Thursday, March 17 4:30 – 6:30 PM

At Anthology of Northville, we've got your green! Join us as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day with everything Irish – from entertainment and music to trivia with prizes.* Finally, feast on a traditional Irish favorite – corned beef and cabbage. Come indulge in Irish fun and see all our stunning community has to offer.

> This will be a socially distanced event. Masks required. *No purchase necessary to win.

RSVP REQUIRED / CALL TODAY! 248-504-4798

Continue Your Life Story With Us ANTHOLOGY OF NORTHVILLE 44600 Five Mile Rd. / Northville, MI Assisted Living / Memory Care

AnthologyMichigan.com



How historians uncover Underground Railroad sites

Annabel Aguiar Lansing State Journal USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

We know a few stories about the Underground Railroad passing through Michigan, collected from oral histories, journal entries, records of abolitionist magazines and other clues left behind on the path to freedom.

But documenting a 200-year-old secret network can be a maddening task.

"They didn't want to be found," said Amanda Campbell Crawford, an archaeologist for the U.S. Forest Service. "We know that there were probably a few thousand more stories that we don't know."

As chair of the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission, it's Campbell's job to find traces of the Underground Railroad in Michigan. The network was a major chapter in Michigan history due to its border with Canada, seen as a safe haven for Black people. The modernday Detroit-Windsor border was one of the busiest crossing points.

The government commission, formed in 1998, is composed of one member appointed by the state House speaker, one by the state Senate majority leader and nine appointed by the governor, all to four-year terms.

Their work includes fielding applications about suspected Underground Railroad sites and hosting networking events with other historians. While the pandemic interrupted quarterly meetings and moved their annual gathering online, it also quadrupled attendance.

Appointees include academics, members of communities with ties to the Underground Railroad and a member knowledgeable in historic preservation. All are unpaid volunteers save for the occasional lunch.

Michigan had known Underground Railroad sites in Battle Creek, Marshall, Jackson and Detroit, tracing the typical route through the southwestern portion of the state into Canada.

One major project for the commission this year is developing a statewide marker system at documented sites, funded by a grant from the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. The markers will show visitors a QR code directing them to information about the history of the property.



Kimberly Holley, director of the Sojourner Truth Institute of Battle Creek, shares the story of Perry Sanford, who escaped slavery in Kentucky and found a home in Battle Creek. NOE HERNANDEZ/BATTLE CREEK ENQUIRER

Separating fact from speculation

A marker at an eventually discovered site isn't an impossibility, according to Rochelle Danquah, a member of the commission and a Ph.D. candidate at Wayne State University.

"We know that movement was not static," she said. "We know that these different networks, they were breathing."

Danquah, who leads the commission's sites committee, primarily deals with people who report suspected Underground Railroad locations.

The documentation process for a physical location requires a thorough

application through the National Underground Railroad Network. The key is to suss out slightly unusual architecture from concretely verifiable passageways for freedom-seekers.

Nineteenth-century basements including areas to stow animals when it got cold and large crawl spaces — have been mistaken for signs of the Underground Railroad, Danquah said.

The real proof comes when a suspected site can be tied to evidence from a journal or other snippet of writing.

The bulk of uncovering the intentionally hidden network entails combing through documents and journals to match them up to suspected sites.

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In Marshall, a first-floor telephone booth at the National House Inn contained a hidden trap door. It led to iron grating in the risers between the stairs, where one could see through the glass front door as a lookout.

But without thorough corroboration, it's just a very likely story.

In Battle Creek, strong Quaker influence made the city a stop for freedom seekers looking for "stationmaster" and state legislator Erastus Hussey. Among them was Perry Sanford, a formerly enslaved man who made his home in the city. Like much Underground Railroad

See HISTORIANS, Page 7A



FORMULATED TO WITHSTAND

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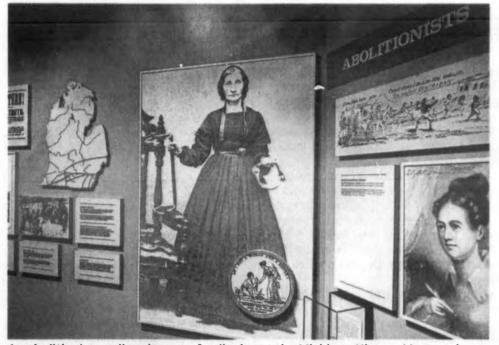
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An abolitionists gallery is part of a display at the Michigan History Museum in Lansing. Pictured at center is Michigan abolitionist Laura Haviland. NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Laura and James Flora stand at their Warren Road home in Canton that they've dubbed the Flora Home. Built in 1848, the home may have been used in the Underground Railroad. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Historians

Continued from Page 6A

history that is corroborated, it's largely confirmed through recovered writings.

Uncovering untold stories

Danquah is currently working to document the story of a family who fled from slavery and eventually moved back to the Lansing area to live, at face value an odd choice given its concentration of state power.

But abolitionist sentiment was creeping into political action by then, meaning Lansing might not have been the strangest choice for the family.

After a series of escapes into Michigan, where slave catchers were turned away by Quakers and free Black people protecting the escapees, the federal 1850 Fugitive Slave Act required that people be turned over to slave catchers even in free states.

In response, the Michigan legislature passed a Personal Liberty Act in 1855, prohibiting the use of county jails to detain escapees and advising prosecutors to defend those who were recaptured in order to neutralize the federal rule. That law was spearheaded by Hussey. But that narrative — one of wellmeaning white allies stepping in to help anonymous escapees — is a typical one in Underground Railroad research. That's according to Roy E. Finkenbine, a University of Detroit Mercy professor and history department chair appointed to the commission in 2009.

Contrarily, recent scholarship has emphasized the experience of freedom seekers and nonwhite people over mostly white abolitionists. Finkenbine's own research centers on abolitionist action of Native Americans within Michigan, finding evidence of groups including the Odawa and Ojibwe working together to help freedom seekers reach Canada.

He believes people are still drawn to the history of the Underground Railroad because it shows people coming together over racial, occupational and religious lines.

"In some ways, it's us at our best," he said. "Just as we are divided now as a nation, we were extremely divided ideologically then, as well as regionally, socially, racially."

He continued: "A lot of Americans want to remember this part of the history because it showed people coming together over a whole lot of things to help even in the face of legal structures to the contrary."



The Underground Railroad sculpture at Kellogg House Park in Battle Creek depicts abolitionist Harriett Tubman leading enslaved people to freedom. ALYSSA KEOWN/BATTLE CREEK ENQUIRER

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8

CANTON ROADSHOW

BRING ALL FORMS OF GOLD OR SILVER



8A | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022 | O&EMEDIA (NNNR)

Camp Dearborn to tear down green tents

Miriam Marini Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

A major feature at Camp Dearborn will be torn down this month due to safety concerns, the camp manager announced.

The military-style tents at the Milford camp have been deemed a "critical infrastructure failure" and will be closed for the upcoming camping season.

The tents, which were constructed in 1996, are warped and brittle, Camp Manager Jason Spiller said in a letter to campers.

"At Camp Dearborn the safety, security, and well-being of our guests is always our top priority," the Jan. 27 letter reads. "When a safety issue arises, it is our responsibility to address it and pro-

tect our guests from any hazards."

In the 25 years the tents have been standing, they have not been regularly or adequately maintained, Dearborn Mayor Abdullah Hammoud said in an email to the Free Press. Residents have brought their own tools over the years to make repairs.

Exacerbating the poor condition of the tents was the total shutdown of the tents during the 2020 camping season. The section of the camp will be redeveloped into another type of accommodation for campers.

"No matter the replacement option we choose, we are going to upgrade and invest in Camp Dearborn to secure its longevity for generations to come," Hammoud wrote in the email.

Other options could include electric

hook-up sites, for trailers or RVs, or more rustic-style cabins. The decision will incorporate feedback and ideas from residents.

Refunds and season passes will be issued to reservation holders for the 2022 season.

An early bird window is open through Friday for current tent reservation holders to rent any available cabin or electric or full-hookup site during the same week as their tent reservations.

New reservations must be made by contacting the Camp Dearborn office at 248-684-6000.

Camp Dearborn was established in 1948 and is operated by the Dearborn Recreation Department. While it is open to the general public, rates are discounted for residents of Dearborn.



The green military-style tents at Camp Dearborn in Milford have been deemed a "critical infrastructure failure." JOHN WISELY/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Market

Continued from Page 1A

been open on Thursdays from early spring to late fall, annually draws approximately 34,000 visitors, task force leaders revealed. A good percentage of those visitors eat and shop at Northville businesses during the market.

The other two finalist properties were the city's Foundry Flask property, which was eliminated because of its recent acquisition and plans for future residential development; and the downtown U.S. Post Office property.

"The post office property would have been exceptional, but we can't count on the land being vacated any time soon, even though there has been discussion

about it relocating since I've lived in Northville," said Task Force Chair Andrew Krenz.

Negotiations are underway for the city to purchase the McDonald Ford property, task force member Susan Halfleigh said.

Building a new 12,000-square-foot building — and adjacent amenities and parking spaces for the 2-acre-plus site — will require securing grants and donations.

Northville Mayor Pro-Tem Barbara Morowski-Browne said she loved the design plans revealed during the Feb. 7 Northville City Commission meeting; however, she reiterated securing funding for the project is vital.

"The business plan for this project is critical," Morowski-Browne said. "A project like this has to be self-sustaining



A rendering of the north-facing exterior of the Northville farmers market. COURTESY OF KOHLER ARCHITECTURE

because it certainly can't be a future financial burden to the chamber of commerce or the city."

Task force members said they'd like

to see the new facility become a multipurpose event center and be available on a year-round basis, which could help generate funding sources.

Krenz said there are only two facilities that cater to events like wedding receptions and graduation parties within a five-mile radius of mid-town Northville.

The task force sought input from farmers market vendors.

"Without them, there's no market," Krenz said.

There was no formal vote following the task force's Feb. 7 presentation to the city commission; however, the commission's consensus on the project was positive.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at eawright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113.

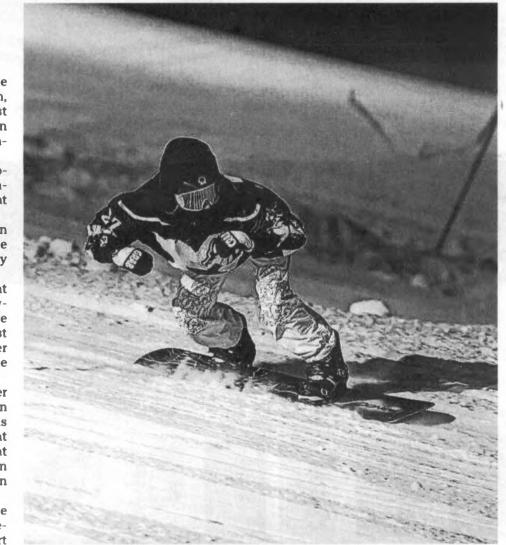
Snowboarder

Continued from Page 1A

She was missed at the Feb. 16 state championship meet at Mt. Brighton, during which the Milford boys took first and the girls placed third, riding in Chloe's honor and wearing purple bandannas, her favorite color.

"All of her teammates love her," Jesionowski said. "She has a strong work ethic and she's very sweet. ... She's a great person to be around."

He said brain trauma is uncommon in the sport and Chloe Howard's is the most serious injury ever suffered by any of his Milford athletes.



Orchard

Continued from Page 1A

construction, phasing, the uses allowed, it will all get incorporated."

Greg Windingland, vice president of land development for Lombardo Homes, said construction would be done in four phases as homes sold, but he did not give a timeline.

He presented a schedule of water, sewer and road permits that had already been submitted to the proper agencies or would be by the end of April

Boardercross is the snow equivalent of motorcross with dirt bikes, Jesionowski said. It appears Howard had come off a jump at a high rate of spect, lost control and overcorrected, "catching her toes" and landing head first on the course at Copper Mountain.

When Oliverio finally boarded her flight to Colorado, her child had been placed in a medically-induced coma. As she sat "ugly crying" in her airplane seat next to a stranger, a flight attendant handed her a note with a handwritten message from the crew, which had been informed of the situation.

"They said they couldn't imagine what we were going through," she recalls. "They were offering us comfort and prayers. Delta for the win."

The support and love continues to pour in for Howard and her grateful family, which also includes stepdad Remo Oliverio, stepmom Misty Howard, and siblings Camryn, Hayden, Alex, Payton and Jaxson.

A GoFundMe page established by Chloe Howard's aunt, Audrey Kaney, raised nearly \$20,000 as of Friday morning for medical expenses, as well as the cost of travel expenses and lodging for Howard's parents as they remain by their daughter's side until she can return to Michigan and start in-patient rehabilitation at the University of Michigan Mott Children's Hospital.

Amanda Oliverio said she hopes that will be in about three weeks. An MRI showed that Howard sustained about 30 tiny brain bleeds, and as a result doctors say it will take her about a year to recover.

Howard will not return for a year to virtual classes in the Huron Valley Virtual Academy, which the sophomore recently began attending to enable travel for her sport. Nor will she be getting her driver's license in April or visiting her professional snowboarder boyfriend Brian Rice, a Farmington native, in Colorado.

Instead, Howard will be relearning basics, like how to walk, get dressed, brush her teeth and hair, and tie her shoes. But she's already beginning to talk again, and although she remembers nothing of the accident and thinks she is

Milford High School's Chloe Howard is ranked 14th nationally in snowboarding in the girls 15-16 age group by the USA Snowboard and Freeski Association. PHOTOS COURTESY OF JERRY REA



Howard with her mom, Amanda Oliverio. COURTESY OF AMANDA OLIVERIO

in New York, Oliverio knew it would all be OK when her daughter finally opened her bright blue eyes.

"When I saw that for the first time, that is what I needed," Oliverio said. "I expected her to say something wildly inappropriate, because that is her."

Instead, Howard said: "Mom."

That was perfectly appropriate, and more than enough.

Howard began speaking in full sen-



Howard was seriously injured Feb. 12 in a snowboarding accident in Colorado that caused traumatic brain injury. Her recovery could take up to a year.

tences, and Oliverio has no doubt that her daughter's speedy progression in speech will translate to all areas of her recovery.

"They told me 12 months to get back to baseline and I told them six," Oliverio said. "She will prove them wrong. This kid is amazing."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412.

"We're very proud of what we have come up with for this plan," Windingland said.

He thanked the board and residents and added that he believes the developer did a good job of addressing previous concerns.

Keesey said a pedestrian crossing over Silver Lake Road was the only traffic issue not yet resolved by the Road Commission for Oakland County, which has delayed the crosswalk until further development on the orchard operations.

Other tweaks to the plan since last fall include an event center parking lot that will be partially paved instead of all gravel, a larger bake shop/farmer's market, and the possibility of a drivethru that would wrap around the 5,000-square-foot building.

The drive-thru raised concerns, as Commissioner Carl Towne noted it could "become a hazard with 8,000 people out there and craziness and kids. ... I want barriers to make sure there's not little kids getting hit. I'm not against it, I just want it safe."

Overall, the commissioners were pleased with the plan.

"We've put lot of trust in the planner and engineer," Commissioner Jim Chuck said. "The next phase is the operation. ... We've worked on this a long time, I like what I see. I have no concerns it won't come off the way it is."

Peter Blake, co-owner of Blake's Orchard, with whom Lombardo has been in negotiations to take over operations at the property, confirmed that no contract has been signed, but he remained excited to work with the Lombardo team and to be a part of the Lyon Township community.

"We think we have a pretty good handle on how to make this community proud," Blake said. "If we're going to do something, we're going to do it right. We have been here before and know the obstacles that can come and we know how to overcome them as well. ... We can't have full horsepower right off the bat, it takes time, but we have a plan."

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

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10A | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022 | O& E MEDIA (NNNR)



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SPORTS

Gymnasts, cheer team win conference meets

Livonia Red, South Lyon East prepare for postseason

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN**

The Livonia Red gymnastics team is entering the postseason with plenty worth celebrating.

The co-op squad between Livonia **Churchill and Livonia Franklin recently** wrapped up a perfect regular season and then followed it by winning the Kensington Lakes Activities Association championship.

On Feb. 7, Red posted a score of 145.50, just .70 away from breaking the school record, to beat crosstown rival Livonia Stevenson (137.875) on a super-

hero-themed senior night.

The victory gave them a 12-0 record to conclude the regular season as they celebrated seniors Mya O'Connor, Abby Lueck, Lauren Pline and Avery Boyk.

That weekend, they one-upped their effort by besting the field to capture a KLAA championship.

Up next for Red is the Division 1 regional March 5 at Salem where it'll face KLAA rivals Canton, Stevenson, Northville, Novi, Plymouth and the host Rocks, among four other teams making the trip to the area for the meet.

See MEETS, Page 2B



Livonia Red's Mya O'Connor (left), Abby Lueck, Lauren Pline, and Avery Boyk had a super senior season. COURTESY OF SHELBY DEVRIENDT PHOTOGRAPHY



Detroit Catholic Central's Josh Ross places a pretend crown atop Cooper Craggs' head after the Shamrocks beat Brother Rice on Feb. 19 in the CHSL tournament quarterfinal at Bloomfield Hills Marian. Catholic Central won by two points, 66-64. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Shamrocks win CHSL tourney opener

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A handful of media members swarmed Cooper Craggs as Detroit Catholic Central boys basketball coach Brandon Sinawi walked up and smacked his senior forward square on the chest.

"It's a new season," Sinawi said. "We're locked in and ready to go. It's playoff mode."

The fourth-year coach wore quite the smile.

He looked much better than he did following the Shamrocks' overtime loss to Brother Rice a week ago.

They had all but locked up a victory

over their rivals to the east until they loss to regular-season Catholic Leaguefumbled away the lead late and ultimately lost the game at the foul line during the extra frame. Sinawi was fuming mad afterward. His cheeks were fiery red. That locker room door didn't stand a chance when he viciously slammed it shut on his way home for the night.

And then they followed that with a See OPENER, Page 2B

Central champs Detroit U-D Jesuit three days later, extending their losing streak to five straight and finishing with a 2-6 record in their division.

That's right. The same Shamrocks that entered the CHSL season ranked in

Marian basketball gifts coach Cicerone final CHSL title

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Anna Herberholz never lost faith in her teammates.

But for a while, at least, she couldn't imagine the Bloomfield Hills Marian girls basketball team playing in the Catholic League tournament championship. Not with everything the Mustangs

(12-6) have endured.

Take their rematch with Farmington Hills Mercy in January, for example. They dressed just eight players because five contributors, including Herberholz, one of the best point guards in metro Detroit, were sidelined with injuries. They proceeded to get stomped by their rivals, which led to them losing three of four games during that stretch.

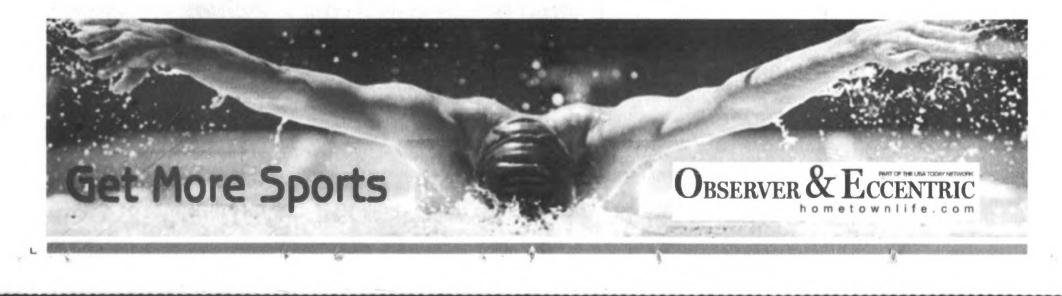
It was a terrible time.

The last thing coach Mary Cicerone wanted to do was change the identity of her team midstream.

Part of that was because she loved the makeup of her squad. They had the perfect mix of guards, post players and all-around scorers and rebounders in the starting lineup and coming off the bench.

The other reason was because Cicerone is retiring in March. After 39 seasons, 40 if you count her first year as a JV coach at Marian, she's hanging up her boots. Never again will the CHSL endure her stomping feet when her team misses a free throw, throws the ball away or fails to box out for rebounds.

See MARIAN, Page 7B



2B | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022 | O&EMEDIA (NNNR)

Opener

Continued from Page 1B

the top 10 of everyone's polls ended up dead last in their league.

"We've had a rough go these last five games, and we've lost some close ones," Sinawi said. "We've played hard and just didn't get the wins at the end of it.

"When adversity strikes, it's never how do you act. It's how you respond. And our guys responded today."

To the surprise of no one in Bloomfield Hills Marian's gymnasium, CC and Rice played another instant classic with both teams trading leads, bruises and bragging rights.

CC won the first game in January. Rice pulled off the comeback in overtime a week ago. And the CHSL tournament quarterfinal went back and forth until the final buzzer.

Quite literally.

Rice three-star guard Johnathan Blackwell missed the back end of two free throws in the bonus with 9 seconds left that would've put the Warriors ahead by two.

CC forward Kam Mayes corralled the rebound and dribbled up the floor to both set up the offense and prepare for what would likely be a final prayer. The senior got to the top of the key, turned to his left and handed off the ball to Craggs, who instantly grabbed a full head of steam and pounded the rock through the lane.

Craggs started falling as he went up for a potential game-winning layup about 4 feet from the rim, barely getting his shot over the extended defending arms of 6-foot-5 four-star Curtis Williams with 1.6 seconds remaining.

The ball lipped into the basket, and then it almost rolled out back near Craggs. And then it dropped in. Finally.

Craggs quickly sat upright, slammed the palms of his hands on the floor in celebration and was then greeted with cheers by teammates TJ Nadeau, Kevin Wendt and Mayes, who each helped him to his feet.

The Oakland University signee then toed the line for the ensuing and-one opportunity, which he buried as well.

CC 66, Rice 64.

No overtime was needed this time. "We didn't really have a play drawn

up," said Craggs, who totaled 10 points. "We were just trying to get someone to the basket. I saw Kam dribbling, so I took the handoff, went straight downhill and just put up a good shot. I wanted to put pressure on the refs to make a call, and that's what I got."

Wait, what?

You're playing against one of the best teams in the state, and you didn't even



Brother Rice's Johnathan Blackwell shoots Feb. 19 during the CHSL tournament quarterfinal against Detroit Catholic Central at Bloomfield Hills Marian. PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"We've had a rough go these last five games, and we've lost some close ones. ... When adversity strikes, it's never how do you act. It's how you respond. And our guys responded today." Brandon Sinawi

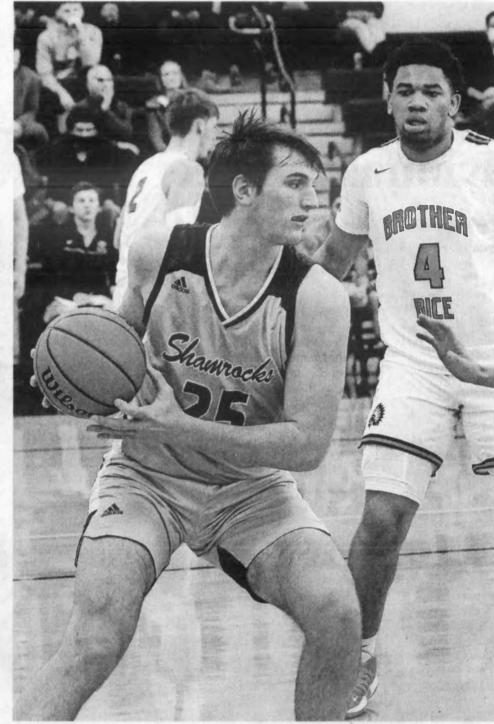
Catholic Central boys basketball coach

were getting ready to shoot the free throws about what we wanted to do. The consensus was that we wanted to go out there and play. Especially if he (Blackwell) missed it. He missed that one, and we just knew that we were going to make a play to the hoop.

"We love our guys, and we trust them. We knew that they were going to come out and give us a chance. God bless it. It went in."

Rice launched a full-court Hail Mary that obviously didn't go in before the final horn.

CC's bench quickly tackled Craggs, and the Shamrocks started an impromptu celebration in front of their student section. Teammate Josh Ross even paid tribute to Craggs by placing an invisible crown on his head.



Detroit Catholic Central's Cooper Craggs rebounds.

It feels good.

"This was a rubber match for us, and we felt like we should've had them both times. All week we were locked in at practice just knowing that we were going to get them this time, and we did.

"We know we shouldn't have finished last. We started playing bad in the middle of the season. Our team knows we're a good team, and we're here to show everybody that we can play."

What a turn of events for the Shamrocks, who'll face Warren DeLaSalle in the tournament semifinal at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Eastern Michigan University.

A win over the Pilots, who they split with during the regular season, adover the past two months.

From last place to a potential tournament championship. That's just how wild playing in the CHSL has been this winter.

"This is a new season for us," Sinawi said. "We've forgotten what's taken place. We were dead last, but we don't care. We've played two tough games against Rice. We've beaten DeLaSalle already. And we have the opportunity to go against U of D or (Orchard Lake St.) Mary's on the other side, and we'll see what happens.

"We wanted the heart. We wanted the fight. The guys showed a lot of grit.

... For a kid like Coop to make the play, he'll never lose that memory. He'll al-

have a set play for the winning shot?

"No, no. Listen, we don't need to draw up a play every time," Sinawi said. "We've got some guys who can make plays. So we trust our players. We talked about it on the bench when they (Rice)

"Probably not, no. Definitely not," said Craggs, when asked if he's ever made a bigger shot than that buzzerbeater to win it all. "That was a big shot. vances them to Saturday's championship, which is also at EMU.

CC is on the verge of going from the basement to the penthouse in its own league. It's just two victories away from righting its wrongs during Central play

ways have that game-winning shot against Rice."

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



The Livonia Red gymnastics team recently wrapped up an undefeated regular season and won a Kensington Lakes Activities Association championship. COURTESY OF SHELBY DEVRIENDT PHOTOGRAPHY

The South Lyon East competitive cheer team recently won the Lakes Valley Conference championship meet. COURTESY

Meets

Continued from Page 1B

Should Red make it out of its regional, it'll compete in the state finals March 11-12 at White Lake Lakeland.

"I think we started this season strong, and we finished the regular season with the best score I have had in my II years of coaching," Red coach Mandy Brown said in a statement. "This is just a fun and great group of girls to coach."

Over the past two years, Red has posted a 23-0-1 record.

Its roster includes eight from Churchill and nine from Franklin.

The Chargers include Boyk, Reva Bhate, Alexis Guldner, Elly Liebau, Lueck, Jaime Picciano, Pline and Sadie Yessler.

The Patriots include Nour Asfour, Chloe Bogedain, Mya Bolin, Izzy Brumm, Paige Dummer, Egypt Gee, O'Connor, Emiliya Ramazanova and Morgan Ruffing.

Up-and-coming South Lyon East surprise field at LVC championship

A big effort at the Lakes Valley Conference competitive cheer championship has South Lyon East excited entering the postseason.

The Cougars won the LVC meet on Feb. 5, which was enough to help them finish in second place in the final league standings behind only Milford.

The Mavericks won both regularseason meets and placed third in the LVC championship to take home the outright league title.

East got progressively better throughout the season, placing third in the first LVC meet, second in the next one and walking away with first place in the finale.

The Cougars scored 756.38 in the championship, followed by South Lyon

with 749.44 and Milford with 728.96.

"These athletes are so dedicated and hard working," East coach Julia Tilt said in a statement. "I've been telling them for the last couple years it takes time to build a program and hard work will start to pay off. Today their hard work paid off! (Feeling) proud is an understatement!"

This is East's best league finish during Tilt's three seasons leading the program. It's gone from fifth in the league, to fourth and now second.

Should the Cougars qualify for the regional, it'll compete on Feb. 26 at Hartland. The state finals are slated for March 4 at the Delta Plex in Grand Rapids.

"SLE has never been a top contender until this year," Tilt added. "SLE is a D-2 school in a league with mostly D-1 schools. They had an amazing day, and it paid off. This very young and talented team is up and rising."

This year's squad includes freshmen

Jocelyn Anderson, Sophia Clark, Audrey Jones, Lucy Kligman, Morgan Lear, Ava Matteucci and Alli Tilt; sophomores Olivia Allen, Sydney Crenshaw, Jacey Czajkowski, Trinity Taylor, Avery Stimmel and Natalie Tilt; juniors Cassie Ryan, Melia Paras, Emily Seybert and Hannah Westlund; and seniors Caroline Taylor, Riley Welton, Josie Larsen and Sydnie Pergament.

"These athletes are so dedicated, hard-working and talented," Tilt added. "They have been putting in the work since July with summer camp and sideline season.

"They have two days of tumbling and three practices a week (and are) determined to gain respect this year. Today proved they can do whatever they set their mind on! This team has big goals this year."

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

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Stevenson senior signs with Saginaw Valley

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Morgan Bogacki once suffered an almost-career-ending knee injury.

Now the Livonia Stevenson senior is on her way to Saginaw Valley State University to join the women's soccer program.

Bogacki was one of many around the area to sign a letter of intent to play a college sport over the past two weeks.

"Playing college soccer has always been a dream of mine since I was a little girl," Bogacki wrote in a statement. "Having this opportunity has become one of my greatest accomplishments.

"Freshman year, I made the Stevenson High School varsity soccer team and my team won the district title that same year. This year, I was named captain of the varsity team and have been captain of my club team for the past four years. A major challenge I was faced with was overcoming a torn ACL.

"The perseverance and drive to recover shaped the person and the player I am today."

Bogacki and the Spartans return to the pitch for practice on March 14. Teams around Michigan can start playing games on March 23.

She was an All-KLAA first-team defender as a junior, helping Stevenson win the East. However, the Spartans lost to Salem 3-0 in the league championship game.

She's spent six seasons with the Michigan Hawks Soccer Club travel team.

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



Livonia Stevenson senior Mogan Bogacki recently signed with the Saginaw Valley State University women's soccer team. COURTESY

Former Carlson coach takes over Plymouth baseball

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

New Plymouth athletic director Chaka Johnson didn't want to miss with his first coaching hire.

Nor did he want to miss out. That's why he both followed his intu-

ition and listened to those he trusts in the sports community while picking the Wildcats' next varsity baseball coach. Johnson recently awarded the job to

Jake Pacholski, 26, an up-and-comer with an already-impressive resume.

"I told him, 'You're setting the precedent for me, man. You've got to come in and get the ship right," Johnson said. "We've had some ups and downs with our baseball program. We've had loads of talent and ability, but the coach has been inconsistent with the message they've been sending. He's young. He can relate to those guys. His social media presence is awesome. His communication is great.

"A good friend of mine told me that he's a winner. Whatever he's touched, they've been successful in. They called me and were like, 'If you don't bring this guy in, you're making a mistake. You're missing the train.' I reached out to other coaches, and he's gotten rave reviews. He's a great leader, a good coach and an even better communicator. When I talked to him, I could just sense that we just teaching players how to excel in the batter's box. "One thing that was

important about him is he was a volunteer coach, so he wasn't in a paid po-Pacholski

sition, which showed he was strongly committed to being here," Kelley added. "He had to want to be here, and he showed a passion for being part of the program.

"He threw really good batting practices, and he swings a really good fungo. He coached first base and helped with hitting and base running. He learned the totality of the baseball program. The onfield details. The pre-game, the postgame. He learned to run a program, not just coach the team. He helped our student-athletes with time management. He helped with marketing promotions. He helped our student-athletes with academics.

"The things he took away from us are something that'll help him build programs going forward."

Johnson is hoping Pacholski brings the same dedication to leading the Wildcats, who won a Division 1 district championship in 2021 and return 12 seniors.

Johnson wants to see the program return to what it was under former coach Jason Crain, who won a program-record 128 games in six years at Plymouth before becoming the coach at Alma College in 2020.



New Plymouth baseball coach Jake Pacholski was a volunteer assistant with Wayne State University. COURTESY



needed him here."

In high school, Pacholski helped Dearborn Divine Child win both districts and regionals as well as make an appearance in the 2012 state semifinal. He went on to play at both Jackson Community College and Rochester University.

He jumped into coaching immediately after graduating with a degree in business administration.

He became a recruiting coordinator in 2017 at Michigan-Dearborn.

He then was a volunteer assistant from 2018 to 2021 at Wayne State. He helped the Warriors tie the school record for most wins in a single season (35) in 2019.

He left the college ranks to become the head coach last school year at Gibraltar Carlson, where he led the Marauders to a 21-win season.

He wasn't expecting to leave the Downriver area so soon, but he couldn't pass up the opportunity at Plymouth.

"I consider Plymouth, when it comes to advancing in your career, a top-five program at the high school level," Pacholski said. "I can see myself coaching here long term. I plan on being here for many years and to see where it leads me. Hopefully, we can build them up as contenders for district and regional championships."

Pacholski has also led the historic Lincoln Park Rails Baseball Club Organization for the past seven summers. His 18-U team alone has sent around 130 kids to play in college.

His travel work is what helped him catch on with college teams.

"He's got a lot of things going for him," WSU coach Ryan Kelley said. "He showed a lot of promise for us at Wayne State, especially coaching-wise. One detail that separates him from the rest was how he related to the student-athletes. They gravitated toward him. He had a good player-coach relationship with them.

"When he left our program to continue his coaching path, the team we had then was proud of him and his future but was sad to see him go. They spoke highly of him in exit meetings."

Pacholski wore many hats with the Warriors, which helped him learn different aspects of coaching a program vs. Coincidently, Johnson spoke with Crain about Pacholski before finalizing the hire.

"Jake got a lot of personal recommendations," Johnson said. "We interviewed several candidates. I felt like he didn't have the most experience, but he had what we needed to relate to kids in 2022. He's already come through. They're doing off-season training. The kids are just taking (a liking) to him. I'm asking the kids in the hallways, 'How's he doing? How are you relating to him?' They all say that they love him. It's been nothing but positive vibes at this point. "We won districts last year, so I ex-

pect nothing less than winning districts and moving far into the tournament. I believe we have the talent and foundational base of kids, as well as the support in the community, to go as far as the state championship. My goal as the AD is to build a winning program, have successful athletes and promote mental health and all those things. I want to build a winner, and I'm looking at that with Jake. I'm looking at it as a threeyear thing. In three years, we should be moving toward states."

Pacholski has liked what he's seen out of the Wildcats during volunteer four-player workouts.

"Looking at the roster, we'll pitch fairly well and play good defense," he said. "We're fairly athletic and, defensively, we have question marks at some positions, but I'm happy with what I've seen so far. My goals coming into Year 1 are to compete for a championship, whether it's a league or district championship. And our philsophy will be to just get better every day. Once the postseason starts, we hope to be playing our best ball."

The Wildcats' coaching staff will also include Matt Penn, Aaron Scheffer, Benn Baker and Collin Goslin.

Baseball practice in Michigan starts on March 14. Plymouth hosts Canton Prep for opening day on March 23.

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsombrandonj. 4B | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022 | O& EMEDIA (NNNR)







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68 | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022 | O&EMEDIA (NNNR)

Our top 5 boys basketball teams: Week 5

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Three weeks are left in the boys basketball regular season, and things are about get really interesting.

A few conference races have been decided (sorry, Brother Rice), a few more are about to be wrapped up (good job, Canton) and some more just got a lot more interesting (hey, Bloomfield Hills and Birmingham Groves). So all of that played a factor in Hometown Life's Week 5 poll.

Let's take a look at where each team landed this time:

Note: These records are based on results from before Feb. 14.

1. Birmingham Brother Rice (11-4, 5-3 CHSL-Central) (Last week: No. 1)

The Warriors almost had a perfect week. They knocked off rival Detroit Catholic Central in overtime. They followed it with a convincing win against Warren DeLaSalle. But they needed the Shamrocks to upset Detroit U-D Jesuit to keep their Catholic League-Central hopes alive. Instead, the Cubs beat CC and finished with a one-game lead over Rice in the final league standings. Oh well. There's still the Catholic League tournament championship left for the Warriors to win.

2. North Farmington (12-3, 5-2 OAA-Red) (Last week: No. 2)

The Raiders bounced back from their loss at Oak Park with wins at West Bloomfield and Jackson. The problem is that keeps them in third place of the Oakland Activities Association-Red behind Ferndale and the Knights. The Eagles need just one more win to earn a share of the league title, but they'll likely win two of their final three to win the championship outright. North is playing for second place at this point.

3. Canton (11-4, 11-0 KLAA-West) (Last week: No. 3)

Plymouth had the Chiefs dead to rights and couldn't pull through last week. Once again, Cole Vickers and the rest of Canton's deep rotation pulled off a comeback in the final moments to keep their record perfect in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association-West. The Chiefs can afford to lose two of their next three league games and still win the division title, but the only game that should give them a challenge is the rematch against Hartland. The Highlanders took Canton to overtime on Jan. 18, but the Chiefs snuck away with a four-point win. The rematch should be another classic.

4. Novi Detroit Catholic Central (8-7, 2-6 CHSL-Central) (Last week: No. 4)

The Shamrocks are on a five-game losing streak, yet



Canton's Lake McIntosh dribbles against Plymouth on Feb. 11. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

they're still one of the 20-best teams in the state. That's how hard the Central has been this season. And it's not going to get any easier. They open the CHSL tournament Saturday at Marian against Brother Rice. If they're going to snap that streak, they're going to need to shut down a Warriors' squad that's currently on a heater.

5. Bloomfield Hills (11-3, 3-1 OAA-White) (Last week: No. 5)

And just like that, the Black Hawks are back atop

the OAA-White standings, albeit a three-way tie with Birmingham Groves and Lake Orion. It looked like their loss to the Dragons on Feb. 4 was going to keep them at arm's length from contending for a title, but their neighbors to the south, Groves, knocked off Lake Orion to give us a nice three-way stew for league contention. Bloomfield Hills still controls its destiny.

In the hunt (in no particular order): Birmingham Detroit Country Day, Birmingham, Groves, Livonia Stevenson, Milford, Northville, Plymouth Christian Academy, Redford Union, South Lyon East, White Lake Lakeland.

Obituaries

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Jacyne Juanita Woodcox

Jacyne Juanita Woodcox, beloved mother and grandmother, passed away February 9, 2022, in her home with her family at her side.

Born in Detroit, MI on July 9, 1952, Jacyne lived a full life of adventure, kindness, determination and fierce independence. She graduated from



South Lyon High School in 1970 and earned a degree in Finance from the University of Tennessee.

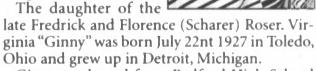
Jacyne worked as a financial advisor for Ameriprise where she endeavored to help others live their best lives. She enjoyed reading, photography, knitting, gardening, traveling, and the outdoors. Jacyne embodied grace, intelligence, and resilience. She will be most remembered for her laughter, patience and unconditional love.

Jacyne will be deeply missed by her son Bill Pack, her son Benjamin Pack and daughter-inlove Jamie Costello. She is also survived by her granddaughters Henrietta Fern, Penelope June and Winifred Zuzu Pack, Casey Cox, and Candace Marion, and by her grandson Tristan Pack. All of them will miss their "Grams". She will also be missed by her brothers Richard, Lonnie, Mike, and Gary, and her sister Marlena. She is preceded in death by her parents, Saralee and Bill Woodcox, and her grandson Clint Cox.

A memorial service and celebration of her life will be held on March 25th at the Life Event Center, 1404 Tuckaleechee Pike, Maryville, TN from 5-7pm. In lieu of flowers, Jacyne requested that donations be made to Ijams Nature Center of Knoxville or the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley. Smith Funeral & Cremation Service, Maryville, 865-983-1000, www.SmithFuneraland-Cremation.com

Virginia Mae Taylor

Virginia Mae Taylor age 94, a long time resident of Northville, Michigan, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, Battle Creek, Michigan and Novi, Michigan passed away 2/1/2022 in Manistee, Michigan under the very loving at Maple Ridge Manor.



Ginny graduated from Redford High School and went on to attend Michigan State University earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education. It was there that she met Robert "Bob" Taylor. They were united in marriage and shared 57 years together.

Known for an infectious smile and giggle Ginny and Bob raised three sons in Battle Creek and Northville, Michigan where she was a long time teacher, retiring from the Northville Public School System in 1984.

Ginny and Bob retired and spent 20 years at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina where they enjoyed golfing, playing bridge with friends and traveling until his passing in 2007.

Ginny then spent the next 10 years at Fox Run Retirement Community in Novi, Michigan reconnecting with old friends and making many new ones.

Virginia was preceded in death by her husband Robert, son Stuart, two siblings, Florence Masterson and Carol Barrows.

She is survived by her brother Carl (Nancy) Roser; Her sons Jeff (Sue) and Bart (Terry) Taylor; grandchildren Morgan Taylor and Garrison taylor and four great grandchildren Brandon, Hailey, Lacey, and Huxley.

At this time no services or memorials are planned according to Virginia's wishes.

Our top 5 girls basketball teams: Week 5

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The girls basketball regular season has just two weeks left before the district tournaments start.

That means a bunch of teams in Hometown Life's Week 5 poll have either won or are on the verge of winning a league title.

Let's see who made it in this week's rankings: Note: These records are based on results from before Feb. 14.

1. Redford Westfield Prep (16-1) (Last week: No. 1)

The Warriors have the week off, which is good news for the rest of the state. They've been beating on bigger and stronger schools all season long. They close out the regular season with matchups against Grosse Pointe North and Saline, two more Division 1 opponents, next week.

Expect more from their speedy guards and hardnosed defense. They've won eight straight since their three-point loss to Ypsilanti Arbor Prep. That winning streak should be in the double digits when the playoffs start.

2. Farmington Hills Mercy (13-2, 9-1 CHSL-Central) (Last week: No. 2)

What a senior sendoff for the Marlins. They celebrated the careers of captains Sarah Cunningham and Sophie Dugas as well as manager Bianca Marcon on senior night.

Then they also captured the Catholic League-Central championship by beating Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard, 46-32.

At the beginning of the season, with how tough Mercy's schedule looked, it seemed like it'd be a battle to even be in contention for the league title. But the Marlins won it convincingly by knocking off the top teams in its league down the stretch, winning seven straight after falling to Dearborn Divine Child on Jan. 11. Now they're hoping to win the CHSL tournament.

See GIRLS, Page 7B

(NNNR) HOMETOWNLIFE.COM | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022 | 78



Bloomfield Hills Marian coach Mary Cicerone protests a call during the Catholic League tournament championship Feb. 19 at Wayne State University. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Marian

Continued from Page 1B

"I started the season thinking I had a really great team. And then, well, we kind of...," she trailed off after thinking about the adversity the Mustangs have faced. "We did a whole flipflop on our team.

"Those kids who normally come off the bench were starters for more than half the season."

It was baptism by fire for the youngsters.

First, they lost to Mercy, the eventual CHSL-Central champions, and then to Dearborn Divine Child.

Herberholz returned to the lineup after missing two games with a sprained ankle, but she played her first two nights back in the lineup with lingering pain.

They got by Warren Regina but lost to Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard three days later.

"It was really hard to watch." Herber



Bloomfield Hills Marian's Elle Ervin (right) defends.

just got to show up each night to play each game. I didn't know if anyone else was going to get hurt. What else would we do? It's good to be back at full

Girls

Continued from Page 6B

3. Wayne Memorial (15-1, 12-0 KLAA-East) (Last week: No. 3)

With Livonia Franklin losing to Belleville last week, that ensured the Zebras their sixth-straight Kensington Lakes Activities Association-East title. They'll represent the division during the two KLAA crossover games against the West next week, a pair of games they're likely to win. Detroit Free Press writer Mick McCabe ranked Wayne No. 10 in his Super 10 poll on Sunday, which means the Zebras are the 10th best team in the state, regardless of division. It's easy to see why. They've won 15-straight since dropping the opener to Arbor Prep, McCabe's No. 9 team in the Super 10.

4. South Lyon East (14-2, 12-0 LVC) (Last week: No. 4)

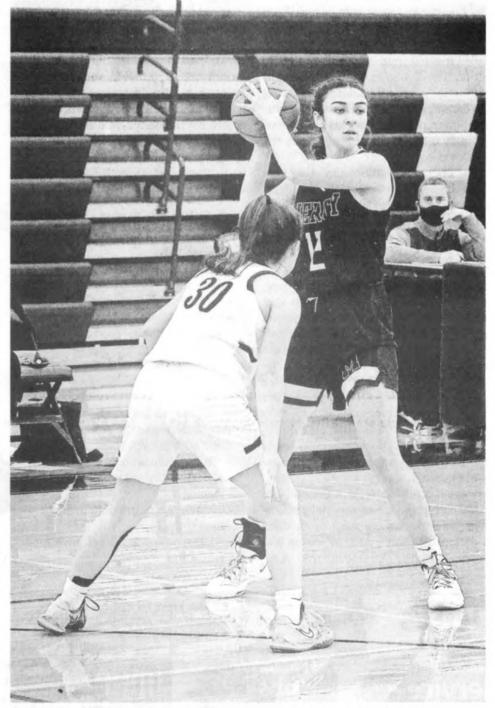
The Cougars must win just two of their final four games to repeat as league champions. And that shouldn't be too much to ask. They've already beaten each of their last four opponents by at least 23 points or more. With the district tournament only two weeks away, expect East to coast to a Lakes Valley Conference championship and enter the postseason with plenty of confidence.

5. Plymouth Christian Academy (14-3, 7-0 MIAC) (Last Week: No. 5)

It was a challenging and emotional week for the Eagles, who picked up wins against Southfield Christian and Auburn Hills Oakland Christian to remain undefeated in their league. That included celebrating 1,000-career point scorer Anna Fernandez on senior night and playing in front of a packed crowd on homecoming. Two of their next three games will be tough. They head to Adrian Lenawee Christian, a state power that recently sent Bree Salenbien to Gonzaga, and Wixom St. Catherine, which has won 11-straight.

In the hunt (in no particular order): Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills Marian, Birmingham Seaholm, Birmingham Detroit Country Day, Garden City, Livonia Clarenceville, Livonia Franklin, Milford, Northville, Redford Thurston, South Lyon, Wixom St. Catherine, White Lake Lakeland.

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



holz said. "All I wanted was to be out there helping my team."

Slowly but surely, the backups started gaining confidence.

And then two more injured players returned to the roster, just in time for the start of the CHSL tournament last week.

Marian downed Regina in the quarterfinal and then took Mercy to overtime in the semifinal. The Mustangs pulled off the 45-44 upset, and double-double specialist McKenzie Swanson even saw playing time late in the evening, as she, too, made her way back from injury.

And just like that, Cicerone's MASH unit found themselves playing for the CHSL tournament championship.

"You just start redoing things," Cicerone said. "And you say, 'OK, this is what we can do with this group.' Midseason, we were like, 'We've got a whole different group. We've got to do something different.' We focused more on the defense. We told the kids that it's too late in the season for you to become a shooter, so don't shoot.

"We pounded it into the people who we know are consistent scorers. So we got everybody a role who came off the bench and were now starters."

And that's how the Mustangs wound up beating Divine Child in the Feb. 19 championship at Wayne State University.

They slowed down the offense, waited for wide-open shots and let their defense do the talking.

Herberholz, who finished with 22 points, scored 16 of Marian's 24 first-half points off drives to the hoops. Some fell in the hole, others drew a foul, and the senior ultimately finished 8 of 10 from the foul line.

But her biggest moment came at the very end.

She dribbled around the arc, killing the final 12 seconds. As the final horn buzzed, she slammed the ball as hard as she could, turned to her teammates and screamed, "Let's go!" And then the rest of her teammates joined her at half court to celebrate the 44-36 victory.

That's right. The down-and-out fourth-place finishers in the Central upset the field to win the tournament title.

"I always had faith in us that we could make it this far," Herberholz said. "It's just like how you play each game. You've strength and be back together again.

"(Getting almost everyone back healthy), it's perfect timing. Sure, we had some bad luck with all the injuries, but it's great timing to get back and win when it counts as a team together." And doing it for Cicerone, who's on

her way out of coaching? "That was definitely one of the goals this year," Herberholz added.

Cicerone found herself a seat on the bench as CHSL city-wide athletic director Vic Michaels presented Divine Child with its runner-up medals and trophy at half court.

Marian AD Mike Watson walked behind Cicerone and patted her on the back.

"This is your 20th (tournament championship)," the first-year AD said.

"Are you sure?!" Cicerone asked, surprised. "That sounds like a lot."

"You deserve it," Watson responded.

And then, one by one, Michaels called each Mustang onto the floor to accept their championship medals.

And then Cicerone, who was named the CHSL Coach of the Year during a special halftime presentation, made her way to half court to accept the 'championship trophy.

She grabbed it and then smiledwhile posing with Michaels for a picture as her players jumped up and down and clapped for her. Then she hoisted the trophy in the air. Moments later, her players swarmed her with hugs.

How's it feel to go out like this?

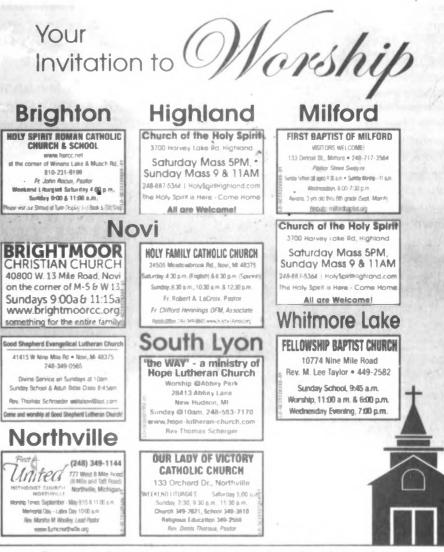
"I always like to win — HELLO! but it's a little sweeter because I'm going out with a championship and we came in as the underdogs," Cicerone said. "Nothing's better than coming in as the underdogs."

The arena's seats were emptied by the time she cradled the trophy in her left arm and made her way across the court and back to the locker room alone.

For one final time, Cicerone's team won a conference title. And the Mustangs never lost faith.

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Twitter: @folsombrandonj.

Farmington Hills Mercy's Sarah Cunningham looks to pass Jan. 7 against Bloomfield Hills Marian. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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December JOLTS Report The Best Job Seeker's Market Ever Was Growing Ever **More Favorable for Workers Before Omicron**

By ZipRecruiter.com

In December, job openings rose from 10.78 million to 10.93 million, almost matching their all-time record high, while hires fell from 6.60 million to 6.26 million. The diverging numbers highlight the intensifying hiring challenges facing U.S. companies amid a record-low number of unemployed job seekers per opening (just 0.58, down sharply from the pre-Covid average 2.3).

Job openings nationwide are now 55.8% higher than before the pandemic. They hit all-time record highs both among small businesses with less than 10 employees (1.5 million openings), and among enterprises with more than 5,000 employees (235,000).

Layoffs and discharges hit their lowest levels on record (0.8%)-a sign that workers now have more job security than ever before. Given the trouble businesses are having in finding and attracting new hires, employers are hanging onto the workers they've got. That's good news for workers, because when employers can't replace low-performing workers, they have to find other means to increase productivity, such as investments in training, technology, and improved management practices

cord-high number of workers quit in trade, transportation & utilities in December.

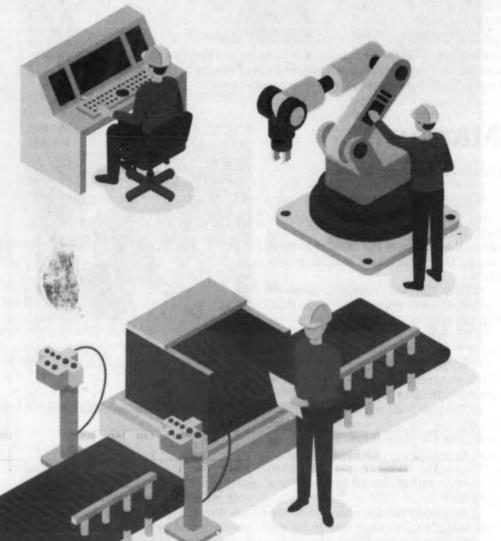
An additional source of strain on employers is relatively high retirements (known as "other separations" in the data), particularly in the West where more workers retired in one month than ever before. 1.5 million more workers have retired than would have been expected before the pandemic. Mid-size businesses with 50-249 employees had the highest quits rate on record at 3.8% (1.5 million). They account for 36% of all quits in the private sector, an outsized share.

Top 5 Industries with Largest Increases in Job Openings Since Pre-Covid February, 2020

- +149.67% Nondurable goods manufacturing
- +119.23% Other services
- +91.67% Mining and logging
- +90.08% Durable goods manufacturing
- +89.96% Accommodation and food services

Top 5 Industries with the Largest 1-Month Increases in Job Openings

- +22.60% Information
 - +15.00% Educational services
 - +12.20% Mining and



Workers continue to leave their jobs in extremely high numbers, especially in lowwage industries where most work must be performed onsite, such as leisure and hospitality (5.8%) and retail (4.9%). A relogging

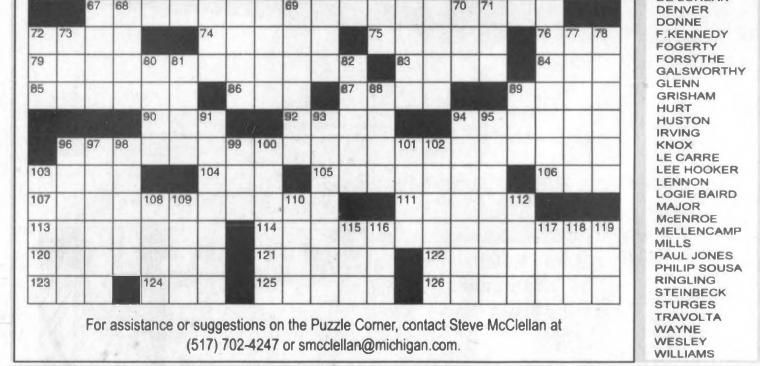
- +9.50% Accommodation and
- food services
- +9.37% State and local government education



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