



## Area athletes earn all-state honors at track & field finals

SPORTS, 1B

# TIMES HERALD

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## Marysville High School celebrates graduates



Family members, friends and supporters fill the stands during Marysville High School's commencement ceremony at Viking Stadium in Marysville on May 31. PHOTOS BY ANDY JEFFREY/TIMES HERALD

**Andy Jeffrey**

Port Huron Times Herald  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

MARYSVILLE, MI — Under sunny skies at Viking Stadium, members of Marysville High School's Class of 2026 celebrated a milestone on May, 31 as nearly 190 graduates received their diplomas during the school's 105th commencement ceremony.

Family members, friends and supporters filled the stands on Sunday as graduates gathered for the 2:30 p.m. ceremony. The Marysville High School Band performed the processional and national anthem before four seniors — Taylor Caza, Raegan Fair, Makenzie Karkanen and Melanie Wehrwein — performed "Homeward Bound."

Principal Phil Gartland welcomed graduates and their families before reflecting on the accomplishments of the Class of 2026.

Marysville City Manager Quentin Bishop delivered the commencement address, encouraging graduates to embrace opportunities and make decisions that move them forward.

"Your life will not be defined by what you were given. It will be defined by the



Valedictorian Gavin Forbes addresses classmates and guests during Marysville High School's commencement ceremony at Viking Stadium in Marysville on May 31.

decisions you are willing to make," Bishop told graduates.

Bishop encouraged students to the "PPT test" to evaluate the people, places and things that influence their

lives and reminded them that growth often requires stepping through doors before feeling completely prepared.

Valedictorian Gavin Forbes reflected on the memories shared by the Class of 2026 and the uncertainty that accompanies the transition into adulthood.

"Many adults and parents say high school is the best four years of your life. But I hope this isn't true," Forbes said.

Forbes said graduates are headed down different paths, with some students entering the workforce, others continuing their education and many still determining their next steps.

"There are many adventures waiting around the corner," he said.

Gartland presented the senior class before members of the Marysville Public Schools Board of Education awarded diplomas to the graduates.

As the ceremony concluded, the Class of 2026 celebrated the end of one chapter and the beginning of another, surrounded by family, friends and fellow classmates on a warm spring afternoon.

Contact reporter Andy Jeffrey at [ajeffrey@usatodayco.com](mailto:ajeffrey@usatodayco.com).

## St. Clair County joins Southeast Michigan Chamber

**Dave DeMille**

Port Huron Times Herald  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Southeast Michigan Chamber of Commerce has expanded its regional network with the addition of the St. Clair County Chamber of Commerce, according to a community announcement.

The move adds St. Clair County as the newest subchamber under the Southeast Michigan Chamber of Commerce, commonly known as SMCC, continuing an expansion strategy that the organization traces back more than a decade. The chamber operates as a for-profit, privately held business entity that focuses on business networking, marketing and regional advocacy, according to the announcement.

SMCC's growth began in 2015 with the formation of the Gratiot Avenue Chamber of Commerce in Macomb County. In 2017, the organization re-branded as the Southeast Michigan Chamber of Commerce with the addition of the Warren Center Line Chamber of Commerce. More recent expansions included the Sterling Heights Chamber of Commerce and the Albanian American Cultural Chamber of Commerce in 2025.

With the addition of St. Clair County, the organization reports representing businesses across 57 communities serving a combined population of more than 1 million Michigan residents, according to the announcement.

John Johnson, president and CEO

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## Port Huron Art Hop draws thousands, names winners

**Janis Reeser**

Port Huron Times Herald  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Port Huron Art Hop wrapped up another successful year, highlighting local artists and engaging the community.

The event, which took place from May 15-29, transformed downtown businesses into galleries, showcasing more than 60 works of art, according to a community announcement.

Thousands of visitors attended the event, generating nearly 8,000 public votes for the People's Choice Awards.

### Art Hop winners

The Judges' Choice Award was presented to Medrano Dezigns for "In the Heart of Nature," displayed at Bella Bolla Pizzeria. The piece received the highest overall score from the judging panel.

Joining Medrano Dezigns in the Judges' Top Three were Tara Hutton for "Woman Times Three" and John Steffy for "Setting Luminance."

The People's Choice Awards, determined by public voting, saw Avery Christoffersen's "Out of the Dark and

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Sarah LaForge, back left, and Eileen Faulk pose with Port Huron Art Hop 2026 award winners on May 29. Back row, from left, John Steffy, Medrano Dezigns and Tara Hutton. Front row, Faulk, Draven Smith, Avery Christoffersen and Jessica Jeffrey.

ANDY JEFFREY/TIMES HERALD

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