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## Deal, Pobur top city commission field

One new member elected; another to be appointed

**Matt Jachman**  
Staff Writer

Suzi Deal finished her first run for elected office Tuesday atop the field in the Plymouth City Commission race.

Deal, a 27-year city resident and an appointed member of the Planning Commission for the last three years, garnered 783 votes in the city election, 70 votes ahead of second-place finisher Colleen Pobur, who



Dalton



Deal



Pobur



Wright

was appointed to fill a vacancy two years ago after previously serving for six years.

Incumbents Mike Wright (665 votes) and Dan Dalton (602) finished third and fourth. Deal, Pobur and Wright each won a four-year term, while

Dalton gets a two-year term.

Deal credited name recognition, her roots in Plymouth and her history of being active in the community for the win. She was also the first-place finisher in the August primary.

"Ready to learn and roll up

my sleeves and serve the community," Deal said after results were announced at the Community Cultural Center. Deal is a mother, homemaker and a partner in Simple Threads, an apparel business.

Other commission winners said Tuesday's results were a vote of confidence. Deal and incumbents Wright, Pobur and Dalton had sent a joint campaign flier to voters.

"I think people are happy with the way things are going and I think that is a lot of what the vote reflects," Pobur said.

Wright described similarly

the feedback from voters he got while campaigning.

"Folks essentially said they're very comfortable with the way things have been going," he said. That includes, Wright said, being able to weather the economic downturn while keeping city services intact.

Sixth-place finisher Ed Krol, who won 284 votes, said he had confidence in Tuesday's winners.

"The four of them are good, in all honesty," Krol said.

See ELECTION, Page A2



Best friends: Canton Idol winners as youngsters (top) and now as young adults (bottom, from left) Hannah Rhode, Brett Moore and Ryan Wagner.

## Canton Idol winners: Best friends performing on stage

**Jill Halpin**  
Correspondent

Life has been a song for Plymouth High School senior Ryan Wagner and his pals, Brett Moore and Hannah Rhode.

The trio has been performing locally – both together and on their own – for many years, but their biggest moment came last August, when they took top honors at the BeckRidge Chorale's Canton Idol singing competition.

The highly competitive Canton Idol – a voice competition open to middle and high school students throughout southeast Michigan – features cash prizes of \$2,000.

Wagner took first place in the competition, with Moore winning second place and Rhodes taking third-place honors.

"It was really great to win, but it was even better because my good friends

were right there with me," said Wagner, 17, a Plymouth Township resident.

Moore agrees wholeheartedly.

Winning Canton Idol, he said, "was a good experience to share. It would have been great if any one of us would have won individually, but the fact that we all succeeded together was really great."

For Rhode, 17, of Canton, the opportunity to perform alongside lifelong friends

has been rewarding.

"Winning Canton Idol would not have been the same without them. We've known each other for such a long time, it's nice that we had a chance to perform together before we all graduate and move on," said Rhode, a Plymouth High School senior.

Singing – and acting – are the threads that have helped the trio form their bond.

See FRIENDS, Page A5

## Voters reject Schoolcraft College tax by slim margin

**Darrell Clem**  
Staff Writer

Schoolcraft College District voters Tuesday defeated a proposed tax hike by a scant 45 votes in unofficial totals, but the school's top leader vowed to find a way to push ahead with plans to improve.

"It's very disappointing," Schoolcraft President Conway Jeffress said. "We will have to start to do some serious thinking about how we proceed from here."

Voters rejected the 0.6-mill tax increase, 18,342 votes to 18,297. The 10-year proposal would have cost the owner of a \$200,000 home about \$60 a year.

College Trustee James Fausone had called the tax increase a critical component to

See REJECT, Page A5

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**Larry Ruehlen**  
STAFF WRITER

Redford Observer Reporter Beth Jachman was going about life Sunday evening when a horrendous blast shook Redford Township. She wasn't supposed to work that day, but Jachman – like so many other journalists who work for O&E Media – cares about the town she covers, so she grabbed her gear and went toward the sound. She contacted veteran photographer Bill Bresler and he made the short trip from his Livonia home to join her at the scene.

An entire home had exploded and there were more questions than answers when they arrived. As emergency crews worked the hectic scene, Jachman, a Redford resident, no-

See RUEHLEN, Page A2



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Volume 129 • Number 26

Home Delivery: (866) 887-2737 | Return Address: 29725 Hudson Dr., Novi MI 48377

**INDEX**

Business.....	A7	Homes.....	C1	Services.....	C1
Crossword Puzzle.....	C2	Jobs.....	C1	Sports.....	B1
Entertainment.....	B10	Obituaries.....	B8	Wheels.....	C1
Food.....	B9	Opinion.....	A9		

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## Local groups host Veterans Day event in Memorial Park

Local veterans organization will host a public Veterans Day ceremony at 11 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 11, at the Plymouth Veterans Memorial Park on Main Street.

Participating in the ceremony are: American Legion Post No. 391, Commander Johnnie Johnson; Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 6695, Commander Bob Caldwell; and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter No. 528, President John Spencer and their committee.

Veterans Day recognizes all military veterans and is a day for all to rededicate ourselves to the cause of peace. It is a day largely to thank living veterans for their dedicated service to our country.

The ceremony will start with a prayer, as well as the Pledge of Allegiance, national anthem and speakers from veteran organizations. The event will conclude with a closing prayer, rifle salute in honor of veterans and *Taps*.



Brian and Lisa Carney leave the polls at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## ELECTION

Continued from Page A1

Also in the race were Jack Wilson (fifth, 366 votes), Robert Jablonski (seventh, 202 votes) and Charles Gabbart

(eighth, 155 votes). Deal, Pobur, Wright and Dalton will be sworn in during a special commission meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday. They will join Mayor Dan Dalton and Commissioner Oliver Wolcott, whose terms expire in

2017. Diane Bogenrieder resigned from the commission, effective Monday, and the remaining commissioners will appoint someone to serve the remainder of her term, which also expires in 2017.

Some 1,277 voters cast ballots in Tuesday's commission race, about 17 percent of the city's more than 7,500 registered voters.

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## PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

Published Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Media

### Community Office:

29725 Hudson Drive • Novi, MI 48377 • 866-887-2737  
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
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### Subscription Rates:

Newsstand price: \$1.00 Thursday and \$1.50 Sunday  
\$8.25 EZ pay per month  
\$52.00 six months  
\$104.00 per year  
\$91.00 six months mail delivery  
\$182.00 per year mail delivery

### Home Delivery:

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## RUEHLEN

Continued from Page A1

ticed township Supervisor Tracey Schultz Kobylarz had posted information online, while Bresler captured images that would soon accompany the story online at our website, [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com).

What Jachman and Bresler did that night wasn't heroic, but it personalized what O&E is all about. We cover community news like no other organization in the state of Michigan. Our reporters break big stories because they are in the towns they cover. But they also write about you, too.

I once took a call from an excited grandmother who had a simple request. Her 5-year-old grandson had just caught two fish on a single hook and she wanted to know if we would put it in the paper.

That little boy took

home a copy of his grandmother's hometown newspaper and a photo of his big day graced the front page.

We cover hyper-local stories others often ignore. I know what we do still matters, but I also know that our business will continue to evolve.

Change is relentless and that was the case Friday, when valued colleagues dispatched one final deadline before walking out the door for the last time.

There were a few tears as friends said goodbye, but most left the newsroom smiling. Corporate buyouts often have that effect. Those who take them leave behind the daily grind and those who stay dig in.

Susan Rosiek, our former publisher, left me in charge of the newsroom. Few people will ever know how hard she worked or how much she cared.

We also said goodbye to three editors: Sue Mason, Karen Smith and Cal

Stone. All three cared deeply about journalism, but were excited about new opportunities, too.

O&E Media publishes 13 newspapers. From our flagship *Livonia Observer* to the *Birmingham Eccentric* and the *Northville Record*, our editions are ingrained in the communities they serve. The *Northville Record* started in 1869 and the *Birmingham Eccentric* was founded in 1871. The local newspaper is often the oldest member business in any chamber of commerce.

But newspapers, even local ones, are businesses that depend on subscribers and advertisers.

We are fortunate to have the power of our parent company, Gannett, behind us.

While our focus is on producing compelling content in print and online, Gannett and our advertising professionals at [Michigan.com](http://Michigan.com) are far ahead of the curve in providing solutions.

I went to lunch Mon-

day with our advertising director, Jani Hayden, to talk about the future.

Hayden could barely contain her enthusiasm for what lies ahead. The entire department is committed to delivering agency-style solutions these days, she said. Gone are the days of calling an ad rep to get a notice in the paper about a sale planned for next week. Our company now offers merchants improved search results, email blasts, social media campaigns and even website builds.

I left the lunch feeling more certain than ever that we not only had a good plan for moving forward, but also the right people in place to make it happen.

Larry Ruehlen is managing editor of digital content & audience development. Follow him on Twitter @Hometownlife. You can call him directly at 313-595-1007 or send him an email at [lruehlen@hometownlife.com](mailto:lruehlen@hometownlife.com).

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# Happy Halloween! Adult costume contest winners shine

**Julie Brown**  
Staff Writer

Robert and Johanna Mills were dressed as the Tin Man and Dorothy of *The Wizard of Oz* for Halloween this year.

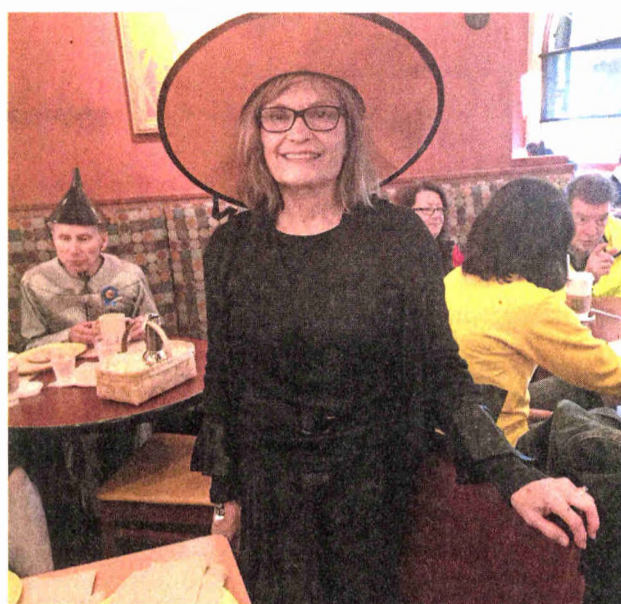
The Plymouth couple participates with RunDTP, a Plymouth group of walkers and runners which had a Halloween costume contest. The Millses took first place.

"We had outfits left," Robert said as he got his morning coffee at Panera Bread. "It still fit me. Why not? It's a great character."

The Tin Man costume was left from when the couple's children were younger and recalls the legendary character who found his heart. Johanna Mills got her costume at the Presbyterian Thrift Shop where she volunteers, which is affiliated with the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth.



Robert and Johanna Mills of Plymouth took first prize for their "Wizard of Oz" Halloween costumes.



Jackie Sanders of Plymouth was the third-place winner as a witch.

origin. Johanna added of the Halloween contest, "There was no prize prize. Just the applause." Ryan Kaltenbach and Theresa Gutierrez took second place in the contest dressed as a pilot and World War II-era Rosie the Riveter. Third-place kudos went to Jackie Sanders of Plymouth, who dressed as a witch.

The RunDTP website is [www.RunDTP.com](http://www.RunDTP.com) and the group is also on Facebook. The walkers and runners meet by Kellogg Park at 8 a.m. each Saturday and 6 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday and are punctual about setting out on their routes, which also end at Kellogg Park.

Families, pets and baby joggers are welcome and there's no charge to participate.

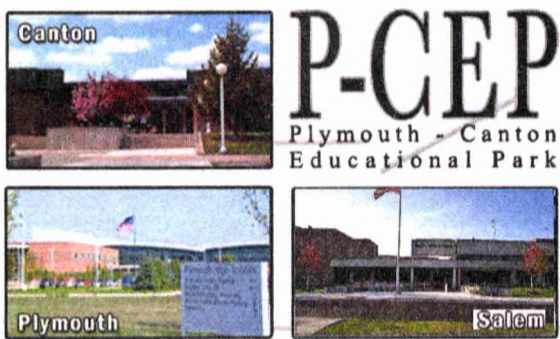
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"When you're in Michigan, you're not in Kansas anymore," she said with a smile after their morning walk. "It was a little chilly this morning." She carried a pre-

tend Toto dog in her wicker basket, making the walk easier than having a live dog. After winning first prize, the Millses walked in the group's Halloween

Scarecrow 3-Miler. He's usually a runner, but modified for his costume. On his head, Robert wore an "oil funnel upside down" to complete the look.

He's from Australia and has been here about 30 years. "It's becoming more so, the American influence," Robert said of Halloween celebrations in his country of



## P-CEP opens its buildings Nov. 5 for public tour

The Plymouth-Canton community is invited to tour "The Park" and learn more about curriculum and programs offered at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. The open house will be 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5.

Tours will begin at the front entrance of Salem High School. Visitors will see the

three high schools that comprise The Park, as well as laboratories, a performance arts auditorium and library media centers, guidance and counseling centers. Athletic facilities include swimming pools, gymnasiums and an 8,000-seat football field and events stadium.

For more information, go to [www.pccsk12.com](http://www.pccsk12.com).

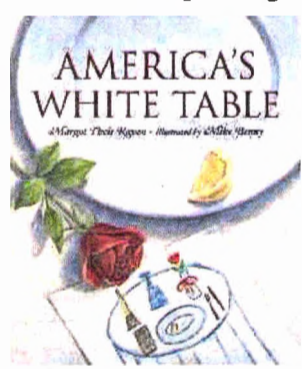
## Submit photos for library's 'Honoring Our Veterans' display

The Plymouth District Library is collecting photos of veterans and active military personnel for its second annual November "Honoring Our Veterans" display.

Photos can be submitted by emailing them to [info@plymouthlibrary.org](mailto:info@plymouthlibrary.org). The library staff can also scan original photos upon request. No personal information will be displayed with the photographs.

The library display will also feature a "white table" in November. Traditionally, the table is set with a white tablecloth, a black napkin and white candle, and a plate with a slice of lemon and salt. An empty chair leans against the table. The display is modeled after the table in the children's book, *America's White Table*, written by Margot Theis Raven and illustrated by Mike Benny. It is available for check-out at the library.

The tradition, little known to the general public, of setting an empty table with a white



tablecloth in remembrance of prisoners of war and those missing in action, had its beginnings with a group of fighter pilots who flew in Vietnam. What was started by the Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association — the so-called River Rats of Vietnam — has, during the intervening years, spread to other branches of the military where remembrance tables, or "missing-man tables," are set when units or commands gather for dinners or reunions.

For more information about the library's veterans' display, call 734-453-0750, ext. 4.



More than 40 crafters and vendors will participate in the Bizarre Bazaar.

## Bizarre Bazaar benefit craft show returns this weekend

The First United Methodist Church of Northville, 777 W. Eight Mile, will host the eighth annual Bizarre Bazaar with Attic Treasures Nov. 6-7. Bizarre Bazaar is a craft show with more than 40 crafters and vendors. Attic Treasures resale has a great variety of gently used items.

Attic Treasures runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sat-

urday, Nov. 7. Bizarre Bazaar is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 7. Admission is \$2 for both events. Fresh cinnamon rolls are available Saturday morning and lunch service begins at 11:30 a.m.. Prize drawings begin at noon Saturday.

Bizarre Bazaar and Attic Treasures raises money to support a variety of causes in the local community and around the world. Since

2008, Bizarre Bazaar has raised \$96,200 to sponsor 17 Village Banks in six third-world countries.

The Foundation for International Community Assistance began micro-financing 30 years ago and is considered the World Bank for the poor. Each bank is run by village members and requires \$5,000 to open, providing hundreds of loans to individuals to grow busi-

nesses in their small villages. Small loans of \$50 to \$500 plus interest are available and every loan is guaranteed by each bank member. Village Banks are one of the most powerful solutions to eliminating poverty for millions, creating hope for their future.

For more information about Bizarre Bazaar and Attic Treasures, contact [fumcbazaar@gmail.com](mailto:fumcbazaar@gmail.com).

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## Man charged in break-in once jailed for murder

**Darrell Clem**  
Staff Writer

An intruder who had been accused of trying to break into a Canton assisted living center once served 19 years in prison for second-degree murder, Michigan Department of Corrections records show.

Rodney Vansean Thomas, 40, had been released from prison in August 2013 after serving time for a murder in Detroit, but he has been returned to prison after he was charged with stealing televisions from senior living complexes in Westland and an attempted burglary in Canton.

Thomas, a Dearborn Heights resident, was sentenced to 18 months to 10

years in prison after he pleaded guilty in late October to one of three charges of breaking and entering out of Westland.

All other charges, including an attempted burglary in Canton, have been dismissed, Wayne County Circuit Court records show.

Canton police in August had urged senior housing facilities to remain alert after an attempted break-in at an assisted living center. Police had declined to identify the facility.

Canton authorities had said it appeared the suspect wasn't targeting people but, rather,



Thomas

items such as televisions.

Westland police had cited incidents in June through August in which an intruder broke into Westgate Tower on Elmwood, Our Savior's Manor on Annapolis and Greenwood Villa on Nankin Boulevard.

Westland police said the intruder took large flat-screen televisions off the walls of the senior complexes.

Thomas was identified and arrested by police through tips received from the public through social media after authorities received surveillance photos.

Staff Writer LeAnne Rogers contributed to this story.

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## Canton fire captains complete command school

Canton Fire Department Capts. Kevin Henderson and Jamie Strassner have successfully completed the Fire Staff and Command School at Eastern Michigan University.

The school is a comprehensive, 360-hour program that is designed to take the fire officer beyond traditional operational methods and expose them to strategic thinking and creative, innovative problem solving techniques.

The curriculum consists of five major topic areas intended to address the changing needs expected in today's fire service, including leadership, planning and decision-making, human resource management, administration and critical situations.

The school is mandatory



Henderson



Strassner

for all Canton command officers and is a component of the ongoing training the department's firefighters participate in on a regular basis.

Henderson has been with the department for 23 years and Strassner for 14 years. Both are currently serving as station supervisors, providing leadership and development of firefighter paramedics under the leadership of their assigned battalion chiefs.

## CANTON CRIME WATCH

### Motorist threatened at gunpoint outside Walmart

A motorist leaving a Canton retail store pointed a handgun at another driver and then waved the weapon out the window of his car, a police report said.

Canton police arrested the 42-year-old suspect who, according to the report, told authorities he pointed the gun because other people scare him and he was afraid for his life. He also admitted he had taken the gun into the Walmart store on Michigan Avenue, west of Belleville Road.

No shots were fired and no one was injured.

The incident unfolded about 5:30 p.m. Oct. 26, when police received a call that the suspect, driving a small green Honda, pointed a handgun at a 30-year-old Ypsilanti Township man who happened to be driv-

ing behind him in the parking lot.

The suspect was accused of pointing the gun toward his back window at the other driver before they both turned onto southbound Belleville Road. He then began waving the gun out the window, the report said.

The victim notified police after he saw the suspect pull into a driveway in Belleville. Police went to the scene and found the suspect with a loaded AR-15 rifle leaning up against his car and a handgun, unloaded, that he apparently used to threaten the other motorist.

Police said it appeared the man had been drinking alcohol. It was learned he did not have a concealed pistol license. The suspect was facing charges including felonious assault, carrying a concealed weapon, felony firearm and brandishing a firearm in pub-

lic.

### Child left in van

Police cited a 42-year-old Northville woman for child neglect after she left her 1-year-old daughter alone in a vehicle for a half-hour while she went inside the Walmart store on Ford Road in Canton.

The incident happened shortly before 3 p.m. Friday. A witness notified police that the child was alone and sleeping in a secured car seat inside a silver Dodge Caravan. A police report said the temperature was 45 degrees at the time.

Police said the woman returned to her vehicle about 3:25 p.m. She told police the little girl had been napping and that she forgot about her. However, surveillance video from Walmart showed the woman opening a van door and checking on the child before she went inside the store.

The woman was cited for

fourth-degree child abuse.

### Shot fired

A 31-year-old Canton woman who fired a shot as she and her husband struggled over a gun was taken to a hospital for evaluation after it was revealed she may be suicidal, a police report said.

The incident unfolded about 9:40 p.m. Oct. 28 on Longfellow, southwest of Saltz and Sheldon. The woman's husband told police that their family, including children ages 7 and 8, had gone to a Halloween event earlier and that his wife was depressed.

The woman reportedly said the family would be better off without her and went downstairs to get her handgun out of a safe, but her husband was close behind and grabbed her gun before she could get it. However, she then went for his gun in the safe and accidentally fired it, a police report said.

She suffered a bloody nose after her husband said he mistakenly hit her while taking his gun from her.

Police confiscated her gun, took her to a hospital and also cited her for reckless discharge of a firearm.

### Improper touching

A suspect who works for a medical transportation company allegedly hugged a 61-year-old Canton woman and asked her to touch his genitals when he gave her a ride home, a police report said.

The woman refused and the man left, the report said.

The incident was just recently reported, although it allegedly happened in August, when the driver took the woman to her home on Mott. The incident was reported to police by Michigan Adult Protective Services.

— By Darrell Clem

**gardenviews**

# Holiday Open House

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## REJECT

Continued from Page A1

helping Livonia-based Schoolcraft recover from a \$29 million revenue loss it suffered from the bruising recession. The tax hike would have brought in \$8 million a year.

The proposal was favored 8,529 votes to 7,568 in Livonia, but it lost ground in other communities, including Canton, Plymouth Township and Garden City.

"There's too many taxes as it is," Garden City voter Steven Dodge said. "There's just too much. The government's got to find a way to live within its means."

During an earlier informational meeting in Canton, resident Antonio Calderoni told college officials he supported the tax proposal, saying he had a friend and relative whose careers were boosted by their Schoolcraft studies.

"Your school caters to working people," Calderoni said.

Jeffress commended voters who supported the tax hike and said it's not yet clear what happens next.

"I think it's too early to say that," he said, adding he will have



Canton voter Bill Reidy heads for the polls. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

discussions with the college's elected trustees. "We have to collect our thoughts."

Fausone said the tax would have allowed

Schoolcraft "to invest in cutting-edge programs so that students are employable in those job sectors when they get out" of school.

He singled out efforts to expand Schoolcraft's nursing program and initial plans that have been hatched for studies in real estate, cyber security and data security. A new brewing and distillery program already is moving forward amid Michigan's burgeoning craft beer industry.

Jeffress said he isn't sure what college supporters could have done differently in their campaign for the tax increase. They had taken their plan on the road throughout the district, which has about 30,000 full- and part-time students in credit and non-credit courses.

Regardless, he vowed to continue to move Schoolcraft forward.

"I am still dedicated to many of the things we intended to do," Jeffress said. "I'll just have to be clever enough to get them done."

Schoolcraft voters live in the Plymouth-Canton, Livonia, Northville, Garden City and Clarenceville school districts. The college had last asked for a tax increase 29 years ago — and got it.

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## PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

### Drunken driving suspect fights blood-draw try

Four police officers were needed to restrain a suspected drunken driver who resisted attempts to draw his blood at a Canton Township clinic one night last month.

Extra police officers — two from Canton Township and one from Plymouth Township — joined a Plymouth Township officer at the clinic Oct. 24 after the suspect said he would fight a blood draw, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report.

The man would not hold still and directed racial epithets at a clinic technician who was trying to draw the blood, police said. With officers holding the man, the technician was able to get two vials of blood. The man then tried to fall out of a wheelchair, police said, but was caught by an officer.

The man then tried to fall two more times and refused to straighten his legs, but police eventually walked him out of the clinic and to a patrol car.

The man had been driving a Mercury Marquis on eastbound Ann Arbor Road shortly after 8 p.m., when an officer saw him veering within the right-hand lane and driving with the left wheels on the lane markers, a police report said. He was stopped just west of Haggerty; the officer found that his license had been revoked.

Upon his arrest for driving with a revoked license, police said, the officer noticed a smell of alcohol and that the man's eyes were bloodshot. He was given sobriety tests, police said, then taken to the clinic after refusing a breath test for alcohol.

The blood samples were sent to a Michigan State Police laboratory; the man was later re-

leased pending test results.

### Pot arrest

A 39-year-old man was arrested on charges of marijuana possession and driving with a suspended license Saturday afternoon after a traffic stop on M-14 near Sheldon Road.

An officer had stopped the man, who was driving a Ford Expedition, because of an expired license plate tab, a police report said. The officer could smell marijuana inside the vehicle and asked the driver if he had any marijuana, police said.

The man admitted that he did and handed over a marijuana "joint" from the Expedition's center console, police said.

### Warning

A 58-year-old man was warned about speeding after police searched his pickup truck Sunday night because it smelled of burned marijuana.

Police found nothing illegal in the Ford Ranger, which had been spotted on police radar traveling 63 mph in a 35 mph zone on southbound Beck, north of Ann Arbor Road, according to a police report. The Ranger's driver turned east on Ann Arbor Road, police said, and the officer who had spotted him stopped him near McLumpha and searched the truck.

The man told the officer he was returning from a hunting trip and had been with people who had smoked marijuana, the police report said.

The man also had a concealed pistol license and informed the officer that he was carrying a .38-caliber revolver. The officer verified the man had a license and a pistol of the same make and caliber registered to him and returned the gun, unloaded, to the man.

— By Matt Jachman

## FRIENDS

Continued from Page A1

Performing has been a passion for Wagner "ever since I began performing as a little kid," he said, and the Plymouth-Canton area's burgeoning community theater scene offered ample opportunities for Wagner and his friends to hone their talents.

Wagner's leading roles in local productions of *Footloose*, *Oklahoma*, *West Side Story*, *Shrek: The Musical* and more were made all the more

special with the participation of longtime pals.

Rhode and Moore also have put their stamp on many local productions: Rhode has played a wide variety of onstage roles, including a wicked step-sister in *Cinderella*, Ursula in *The Little Mermaid* and many more. Moore has taken the stage for roles such as Pinocchio, Oliver and a variety of others.

"We have all worked together many times, both in school productions and in community theater. Playing alongside your friends just makes it all the more

fun," said Wagner, who recently starred as Matt in the P-CCS Park Players production of *The Fantasticks*.

Plymouth Township resident Moore, 17, a Canton High School senior, said performing with his friends is "always a positive experience."

"Theater has helped us build a tight friendship that is like family — we can build off each other's successes," he said.

While still deciding exactly where they may land as college freshmen, the trio is certain

about one thing: They will remain in contact after graduating from high school, despite following different paths. Wagner plans on majoring in musical theater; Moore hopes to study film and media production and Rhodes will major in communications and theater.

"Performing together has strengthened our friendship and I'm sure whatever path we follow, we will always stay in touch," Wagner said.

"No matter where we go, I know that we will remain friends for a lifetime," Rhode said.

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# Plymouth's Old Village neighborhood serves up character and history

Dan Sabo  
Correspondent

Old Village has its own unique character and was important to the national scene in the 1800s, as it is today.

Mary Davis, a conductor on the Underground Railroad and local abolitionist, lived in Old Village in her later years. Growing up in Old Village, I was often told by family stories of the Underground Railroad and why Plymouth was an important stop on the route through Michigan, which loosely followed the Michigan Central rail line. When travelers arrived in Plymouth, they generally headed north, through Port Huron. A more southerly route along the Rouge took travelers through Detroit.

A few years ago, when going through family papers, I happened upon a piece typed by my grandfather Karl, for Mrs. Arthur Mills, dated April 18, 1953, yellowed with age. One of the way stations on the Underground Railroad in this area was located on the farm of Jehial and Mary Davis.

This farm was two miles northwest of Plymouth or, to be exact, on the southeast quarter of Section 16 of the then Plymouth Township. This same quarter section is now the site of the present Wayne County Training School.

Amelia Starkweather (Mary Davis' foster child) frequently mentioned the days of her girlhood on the Davis Farm and about the escaped slaves who at infrequent intervals might be fed and sheltered there on their way to Canada and freedom.

In the years which followed the Civil War, it seems that one of these former slaves continued his residence in Canada and there increased his general education and culture. And then, for a number of years afterward, in gratitude for assistance provided in time of great stress, he would sometimes return to Plymouth for just long enough to pay respects to Mrs. Davis. Mr. Davis died before the first shot of the war had been fired.

These and other related family papers were provided to the Plymouth Museum Archives by many local families in the 1950s and were also provided to the archives of the National Park Service at Nankin years later. They are on file there.

The Davis farm was located in what is now Northville Township and, then, Plymouth Township. After her husband died, Mary sold the farm, purchased a home on Main Street at the site of the former Plymouth Mail building, now Growth Works near Kellogg Park. She then relocated to what I always knew as the Davis House in Old Village, on Starkweather, where Puckett Heating is now located. Davis B. Hillmer made sure I knew it. In advanced years, she moved to the Starkweather Home on the corner of Starkweather and Liberty. Mrs. Davis was hiding slaves even after her husband died. Back then, it was extremely risky. One risked property, freedom and worse, due to the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850.

## Underground Railroad

An entire chapter could be written about Plymouth and its importance to the Underground Railroad. Nankin Mills, now part of the National Park Service, has a display and information about local Underground Railroad activity in western Wayne County. There is a link between Nankin and Plymouth townships. Many local pro-abolitionist folks were driven out of Nankin, a result being the burning of the first mill at Nankin. Two outcasts from Nankin, the Rev. Samuel Swift and the Rev. Samuel Bebbens, met in the little back room in Bebbens' Carriage shop in 1840, in Plymouth, to found the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Plymouth, which became a major hub of Underground Railroad activity in Plymouth.

There were many locations, many folks in Plymouth involved in the Underground Railroad in the 1850s and early 1860s. Saxton's is another location. The most important abolitionist who lived in Plymouth was Erastus Hussey. For a short time, before becoming a



Farming fruit was a part of Old Village.



A.J. Lapham's store was at the corner of Hardenberg and Holbrook.



A stock certificate for the Detroit & Howell Railroad Co.

major Michigan abolitionist figure and moving to west Michigan, was a neighbor to Erastus Starkweather - just off Six Mile Road, now Northville Township. I believe the fact that Mr. Hussey spent his earlier years in Plymouth is a reason Plymouth became a hub given his former connections and friendships in the area. Back then, everything was coordinated by church members, who believed that no matter what the color of one's skin, humans should be free.

Another of the many Old Village residents who I feel was important was A.J. Lapham. I had been in contact since January with his granddaughter, Janet Millross Renwick, and had the opportunity to visit with her and Jim Salamay of the Plymouth Museum over the summer. She was gracious enough to share photos and info with us both concerning her family in Old Village.

A.J. operated a business in Old Village for 60 years, which pre-dates the businesses on

the Liberty Street block. He supplied mainly the local farmers. I believe he may hold the record in Old Village and possibly all of Plymouth, as operating the longest continuous operating business as a sole proprietor - at least up until the time of his death.

His place of business, unfortunately no longer there, was located on the southeast corner of Hardenberg and Holbrook, not far from Plymouth Mills. Much of his business, according to his granddaughter, was tied to Plymouth Mills (located at the former Wilcox Lake Ford plant). He gleaned much business from local farmers traveling to the mill and, in later years due to his time in the area, was an extremely well-respected business person. His life and work in Old Village deserves mention in helping to make it what it is today. A.J. was also a trustee of the Plymouth Village Council, being shown as such in an 1898 souvenir book. There is an extensive history on him. I suggest to anyone interested, read his June 10,

1927, obit in the *Plymouth Mail* written by Karl Starkweather.

An interesting snippet of his life, especially given he was a former railroad man, was his mishap on Mill Street on June 3, 1918. When crossing the Pere Marquette line on Mill Street, he was side swiped by a PM steam locomotive. His car was totally wrecked and he was carried by the pilot of the locomotive down to Starkweather Avenue. When he regained consciousness, one of the first things he muttered is that he should have bought a Buick, which he later did, and drove it for many years.

## Truck farming

Truck farming was very important to the Midwest. Plymouth was on the cusp of that time a new national trend and Old Village was the hub. Once the rail lines came in 1871, Plymouth-area farmers became players. This was a main reason why rail lines were brought in.

The practice of growing fruits and vegetables on medi-

*There were many locations, many folks in Plymouth involved in the Underground Railroad in the 1850s and early 1860s.*



A ticket for the Plank Road Co.

Mary Davis was a conductor on the Underground Railroad in Plymouth.

um-sized farms, shipping them to distant markets by trucking them via horse drawn wagon to shipyards or rail stations, was key. Note the 1868 Detroit and Howell RR stock certificate and the Plymouth Plank Road ticket. The rail line replaced the plank road between Plymouth, Detroit and on to Northville.

Speaking of fruit, trucks and Old Village character, here is an interesting vendor. On the photo back written in Karl Starkweather's hand: "... fruit vendor sees a car coming and about ready to hit the corner of his car - and it did." Date unknown, but believed to be about 1930.

Those interested in further NRHP research: *Detroit Free Press* article of Jan. 27, 2007, by Joel Thurtell: both Northville and Canton had much local governmental support for historic districts, unfortunately as the article states, Plymouth did not. I hope that changes. Change is good.

*Daniel Sabo is the grandson of Karl Starkweather.*

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Residents named

Two Canton residents, Lindsay Barnes and Manthan Pandit, have been named to the board of directors of Make-A-Wish Michigan.

As vice president and corporate controller of La-Z-Boy Inc., Barnes oversees its corporate accounting function, including consolidations, external reporting and technical accounting. Prior to her current role, Barnes served as director of financial reporting for La-Z-Boy since 2011 and served from 2002-11 with Borders Group, Inc. Barnes has also served as a volunteer director for the Borders Group Foundation (now the Book Industry Charitable Foundation) from 2004-10.

Pandit is vice president of sales and program management of Robert Bosch LLC. Pandit is responsible for the General Motor's global key account at Bosch within the Chassis Controls division. Prior to his current role, Pandit served as senior general manager for Bosch in Tokyo, Japan, where he was responsible for the domain sales function for the body electronics domain and global internal coordination of the Toyota global sales team. Pandit has also served as president of



A recent ribbon-cutting announced the opening of The UPS Store on Ford Road in Canton.

the Bluegrass Automotive Manufacturers Association's Board of Directors from 2011-14.

### UPS ribbon-cutting

A ribbon-cutting was held Oct. 29 by The UPS Store to announce its new location at 42807 Ford Road in Canton. Customers, employees, chamber members and residents were all among the attendees.

### Web builder joins JRT

Canton resident George Hester has

joined the web design team at J.R. Thompson Co. in Farmington Hills. Hester will build websites focusing on user experience and interface design, while using the latest technologies in markup, web standards and project management.

Hester will provide a wide range of services, including custom template development and graphic design. He will also create comprehen-



Hester

sive style guides to be used by other developers and internal client creative departments.

Hester began his career in web design working for Basso Design Group as a web developer, followed by a stint at SS Digital Media. Hester attended the Art Institute of Michigan, has a bachelor's degree in music performance on trumpet from the University of Michigan and is currently pursu-

ing a web development advanced certificate.

### Logos to offer workshops

Helping small and medium-sized businesses grow by maximizing communications, public relations and social media opportunities is the focus of new business communications training developed by Logos Communications.

The Canton-based public relations and marketing firm aims to help clients master social media such as Lin-

kedIn and Facebook, while also teaching the finer points of media relations and business communications, among others.

"Effective communication is the single most important business skill," Logos president Sue Voyles said. "We feel this training and coaching service will help business owners and managers communicate more effectively while fully leveraging the tools available to them."

The firm is practicing what it preaches, she added. A new website for the business communications training services has been launched at [www.BizCommunicationsTraining.com](http://www.BizCommunicationsTraining.com), along with a complete makeover for the Logos Communications website at [www.logos-communications.com](http://www.logos-communications.com).

Logos Communications' site has a new layout along with a fresh color scheme. Besides the new look, Voyles has added a blog on communication and business topics.

"As we continue to advise our clients on how to harness the potential of the Internet for visibility and marketing, we knew it was also time we refreshed our site to keep up with advances in online marketing," Voyles said.

## IHOPs offer free pancakes to veterans, active military

IHOP restaurants will once again honor the 22 million veterans currently living in the United States and more than 1.3 million armed forces members currently serving in the military by offering them a free stack of Red, White & Blue pancakes on Veter-

ans Day.

Participating IHOP restaurants throughout the United States will serve a stack of Red, White & Blue pancakes – buttermilk pancakes crowned with glazed strawberries, blueberry compote and whipped topping – free for veter-

ans and active duty military from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 11.

"Having served as an Army Ranger and infantry officer, I am proud to be part of a brand that honors the brave men and women who have dedicated their lives to keeping us safe

and free," said Darren Rebelez, president of International House of Pancakes LLC. "We are looking forward to having our nation's heroes as guests at their local IHOP and personally thanking them for their service."

Veterans and active

duty military simply show proof of military service to receive their free pancakes. Proof includes: U.S. Uniformed Services ID Card, U.S. Uniformed Services Retired ID Card, Current Leave and Earnings Statement, veterans organization card (i.e.

American Legion, VFW, etc.), photograph of yourself in U.S. military uniform, wearing uniform, DD214, military dog tags and citation or commendation.

Local IHOP restaurants include Novi at 43317 Grand River and Brighton at 8075 Nemco.

## Novi Equestrian Expo returns Nov. 13-15

The 21st annual Novi Equestrian Expo gallops Friday through Sunday, Nov. 13-15, into the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave. in Novi.

One of the region's most popular and long-running equine events, the Equestrian Expo is produced in collaboration with the Michigan Horse Council for the enjoyment and education of all Michigan horse owners and fans. The expo features exciting riding and agility exhibitions, a wealth of equine health and training tips, and an extensive shopping area that will delight horse lovers of all ages.

Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 6-11. 4-H members with ID card are free Friday and seniors 55 and older can get in for \$5 Friday. Expo hours are 2-8



Trainer Josh Lyons of Lyons Legacy in Tennessee will be at the Equestrian Expo.

p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Featured all weekend is Tennessee trainer Josh Lyons, considered among the world's top horsemen by applying a simple philosophy: "Knowledge

and motivation are the only tools needed to bring with you to the barn."

Also at the expo is trainer Terry Myers, pioneer of the Ride-in-Sync approach to symmetry between horse and rider. The clinic teaches horsemanship techniques which foster a partnership between horse and rider. With the philosophy that the horse cannot move properly until the rider is positioned properly, Myers teaches riders how the fluidity of their body in the saddle affects their horses' movement.

On Nov. 15, Oakland County 4-H Clubs will host their second annual Gently Used Tack Sale as a fundraiser for 4-H.

Complete clinician schedule and information can be found at [www.noviequestrianexpo.com](http://www.noviequestrianexpo.com).

## Needed: Apprentices to replace baby boomers in building trades

As baby boomers continue to exit the job market and more construction projects pop up in Detroit and other places, the end result is a shortage of trained workers for those jobs.

And that includes apprentices for the building trades.

To address the situation, a coalition of skilled labor unions and organized construction contractor associations have teamed to launch a campaign to encourage young people to consider becoming an apprentice.

MUST, which stands for Management and Unions Serving Together, includes the Michigan Building Trades Unions and their contractor associations who employ that labor.

"As both labor and management looked ahead at the growth in the

market, we expanded the MUST Careers to assist folks interested in joining the trades to more easily connect with our opportunities," said Donna Pardonnet, MUST Careers Management co-chair and executive director of ACT Michigan (Architectural and Construction Trades Michigan).

MUST began 15 years ago to help the construction industry with drug testing. Now it is addressing the talent gap, an issue resonating with Gov. Rick Snyder, CEOs and small-business owners all talking about the need to find qualified talent.

The campaign comes at a fortuitous time.

"We're looking at roughly \$5 billion in construction work pending in southeast Michigan in the next three to five years,"

said Patrick Devlin, secretary/treasurer of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council and also MUST Careers labor co-chair.

They hope to add 1,100 apprentices this year.

The advantage of an apprenticeship is that the person is paid while they learn and is usually debt-free when they graduate. Plus, they are guaranteed a job. They spend 90 percent of their time in the field on the job site, learning their craft working alongside a journeyman. Apprenticeships last from two to five years, depending on the trade.

To apply for an apprenticeship, applicants need to have a high school diploma or GED, be 18 years of age, have transportation and be drug free.

For more details, go to [www.MUSTcareers.org](http://www.MUSTcareers.org).

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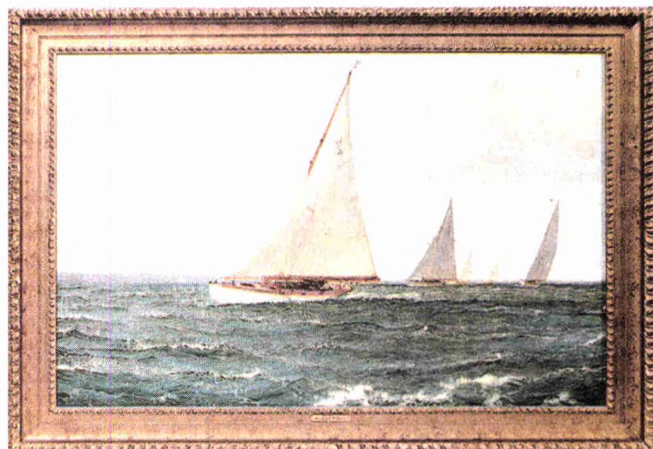
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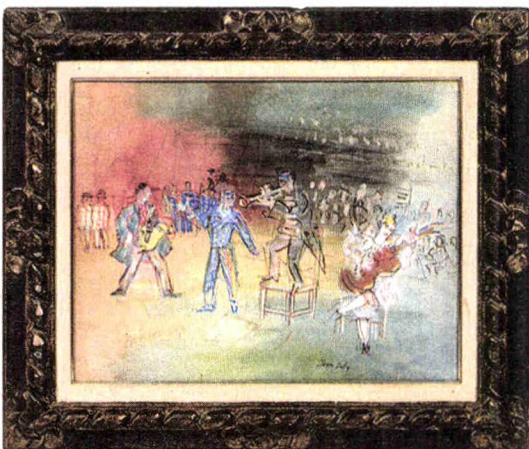
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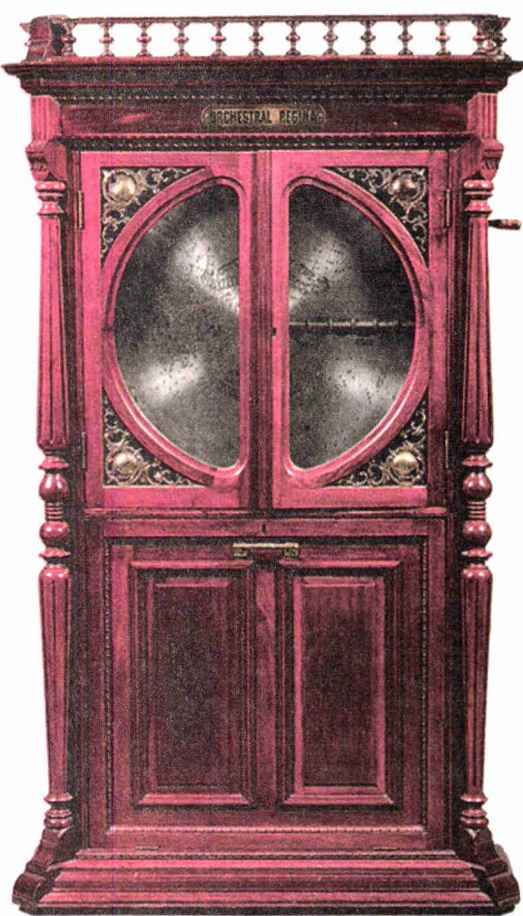
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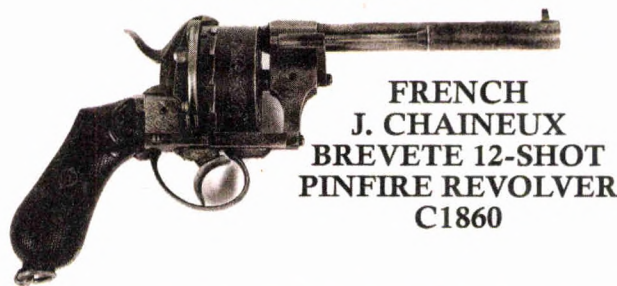
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## OUR VIEW

# Celebrate veterans, but also help them adjust to civilian life, new jobs

As our communities observe Veterans Day, Nov. 11, we pause to remember great sacrifices made on the battlefield and also on the home front.

Older veterans of World War II, Korea and now Vietnam veterans to reflect on their service to their country. Veterans are now returning from conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, many having served more than one tour of duty.

The Plymouth and Canton communities next week will celebrate all veterans. At 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, veterans organizations will gather in Plymouth's Memorial Park for the annual salute that will include speakers.

In Canton, a special "Salute to Service" ceremony will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road. This year's keynote speaker is Bob Hynes, director of public relations for the Yankee Air Museum at Willow Run Airport. The program will feature musical trib-

utes sung by the Workman Elementary Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Kerri L. Mueller.

In addition to the formal Canton presentation, items for servicemen and women will be collected by the Michigan Military Moms, including individual or travel size disposable hand and foot warmers; foot and body powder; Q-tips; Beef Jerky; hot chocolate mix; wipes; granola/power bars; and monetary donations to offset postage.

On the work front, Schoolcraft College offers a great resource with its Veterans Resource Center.

Its coordinator, Pam Paxton-Keehner, helps student-veterans navigate through the thicket of paperwork that helps them to return to the classroom and hone skills. She's proud of them, including Detroit policeman Lawrence Smith of Canton, who came to Schoolcraft for his associate's degree and went on to Eastern Michigan University, where he earned his bachelor's degree.

Smith spoke last year at a Schoolcraft ceremony on Veterans Day at the resource center, sharing his experiences. He applauded Schoolcraft and Paxton-Keehner for the help and encouragement they gave him.

We need to hear the stories of veterans of the earlier conflicts and also provide help for newer returning veterans. Schoolcraft's Veterans Resource Center is in the McDowell Center on the Livonia campus. Paxton-Keehner is available at pkeehner@schoolcraft.edu or 734-462-4351.

Center hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The Livonia campus is on Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile.

Let's honor all our servicemen and women this Veterans Day as we also help them join the workforce, hone skills and learn. Let's also work toward the day when armed combat is just a distant memory.

## GUEST COLUMNIST

# Colbeck touts direct primary care as all-in-one tool

What if there was a way that state government could fix the roads, repair potholes in healthy Michigan, stretch school dollars, free up more resources for local government and reform auto no-fault? How about one that would accelerate job growth? It turns out that one tool does it all. What is that tool? The answer is direct primary care.

Direct primary care eliminates the middleman for routine health care services and refocuses health care on the doctor-patient relationship. It provides better care for less money. In fact, more than 20 percent less.

Michigan is seeing rapid growth in direct primary care service providers in the wake of the passage of my bill (Public Act 522 of 2014) to protect these providers from insurance regulations. An estimated 150 doctors have already adopted the direct primary care business model in the state of Michigan and more are contacting my office as word spreads. Direct primary care is good for doctors, good for patients and good for employers seeking quality health care options for their employees.

How could it help fix our government policy potholes?

We spend \$664 million per year to provide health insurance for more than 51,000 state employees. A 20-percent savings frees up \$133 million per year.

We spend \$17 billion per year on Medicaid for more than 2.4 million of our 10 million citizens. A 20-percent savings frees up \$3.4 billion per year, of which almost \$1.4 billion comes from state revenue.

We spend \$1.25 billion per year on health care costs in education. A 20-percent savings frees up \$250 million per year, or more than \$167 per pupil.

We spend an estimated \$775 million per year on local government health care. A 20-percent savings frees up \$155 million per year for our communities to hire more policemen



Sen. Patrick Colbeck  
GUEST COLUMNIST

and firemen.

Each of us spends \$150 per vehicle per year on no-fault auto insurance. Health care services are the principle purpose of no-fault insurance. A 20-percent savings should reduce the cost of no-fault insurance by up to \$30 per vehicle per year. A reduction of 20 percent in the liabilities for the current \$18 billion Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association Fund would free up \$3.6 billion for further reductions in insurance premiums.

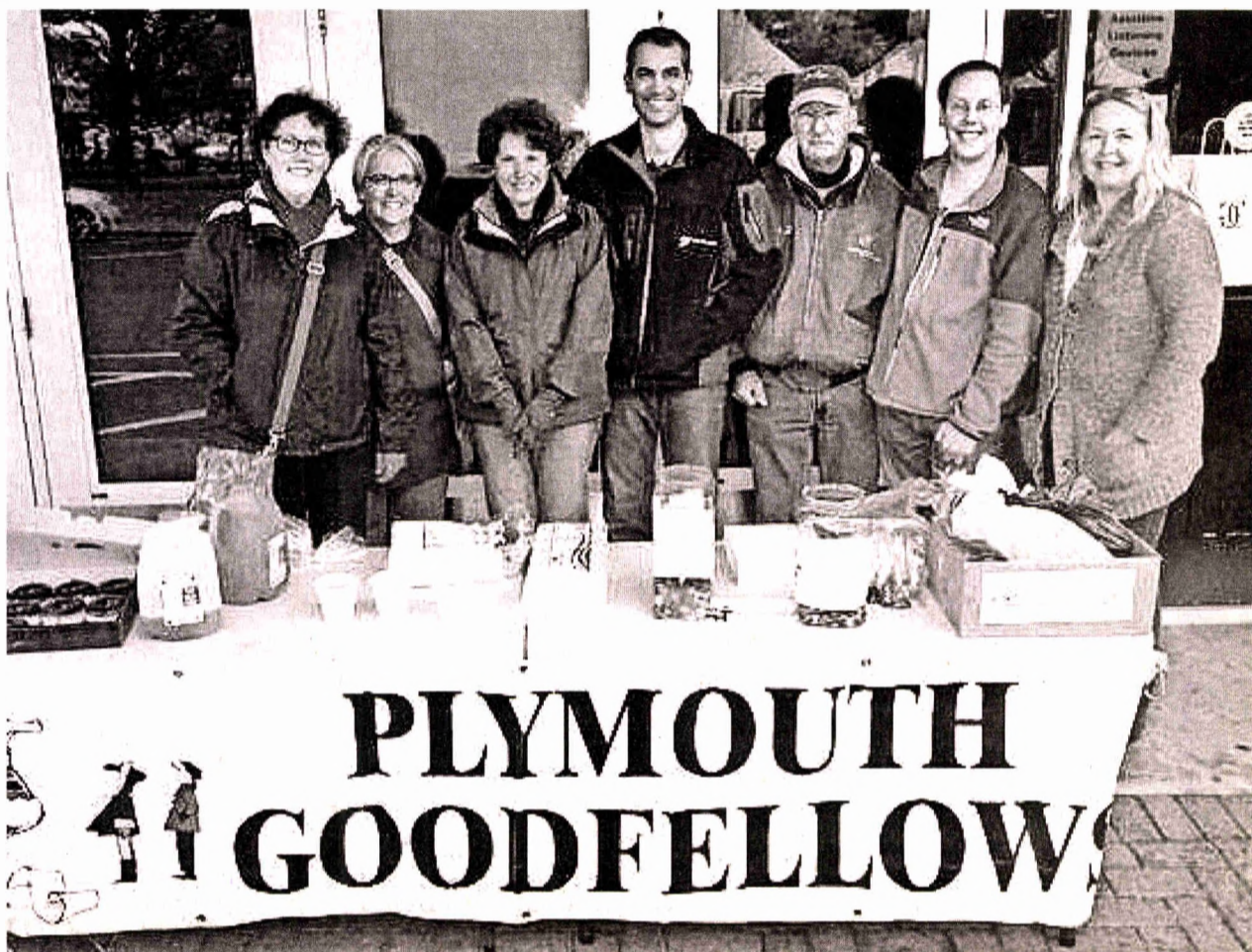
Last, but not least, Michigan businesses spend an estimated \$31 billion per year on health care. A 20-percent savings frees up \$6.2 billion per year for employers to invest in their employees and help their businesses achieve a competitive edge over businesses in other states. This would have a tremendous impact on job growth in Michigan. This job growth would in turn generate additional tax revenue to fill all of the potholes previously cited.

In short, direct primary care could be used as a "Swiss army knife" tool to fix many of the policy issues facing the state of Michigan. As we expand the use of this tool throughout our state, Michigan has an opportunity to be at the center of a free-market health care revolution. This revolution will reverse today's trend toward less care and more money to one that provides better care for less money.

For more information on direct primary care Services, see my healthcare reform strategy at [www.SenatorPatrickColbeck.com](http://www.SenatorPatrickColbeck.com) or go to [www.DPCare.org](http://www.DPCare.org).

Patrick Colbeck is a state senator representing the communities of Canton, Livonia, Northville, Northville Township, Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Wayne.

# Plymouth, Canton indeed make a difference



Pennies From Heaven, a joint project between the Goodfellows and the Observer & Eccentric, made Make a Difference Day much brighter thanks to community members who dropped off cash donations. On hand in Plymouth were Goodfellows Kristen Farmer, Christina Callender, Lillian Drauss, Harry Stansell, Tom Piesik and Mike Lax and, from the Observer & Eccentric staff, Julie Jarrett.

## LETTERS

### Dangerous legislation

At the beginning of the summer, Gov. Rick Snyder announced the formation of a "Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Task Force." It was an important move and perhaps an even more important acknowledgment — Michigan is facing a prescription drug abuse crisis.

According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, a record 1,533 people lost their lives to a drug overdose in Michigan in 2013 — with prescription pain killers resulting in more deaths than any other drug.

Now United States Attorney Barbara McQuade and law enforcement have weighed in, publicly calling out Michigan as a "drug pipeline" with pushers illegally pumping highly addictive prescription pain killers across the Midwest.

And it seems like every day we read another news story about prescription drug abuse claiming lives and tearing apart communities.

Unfortunately, lawmakers in Lansing are poised to pass a new bill that could make this crisis much worse.

Senate Bill 320, which could receive a vote from the Senate Health Policy Committee very soon, would for the first time ever give full prescribing authority to 3,000 certified registered nurse anesthetists, without requiring any additional training.

What's more, it would remove all physician oversight of opioid pre-

scription by nurse anesthetists, tossing away the common sense safety measures and oversight required of every other Michigan nurse with prescribing authority.

The numbers tell a frightening story. The Department of Health and Human Services recently reported that between 2009-12, 36 percent of fatal drug overdose victims had obtained prescriptions from five or more prescribers in the year before their deaths. The more prescribers, and the less oversight, the worse the problem.

Adding 3,000 new prescribers overnight, while stripping away basic oversight requirements will only drive those numbers higher and exacerbate Michigan's opioid abuse crisis. All with lives in the balance.

Gov. Snyder, Lt. Gov. Calvey and Attorney General Bill Schuette are taking important steps to combat Michigan's prescription drug abuse crisis. And law enforcement is fighting back. But just when policymakers, physicians, and drug treatment experts are picking up steam in their battle to address opioid abuse, Senate Bill 320 would make it worse.

We strongly urge lawmakers to reject this dangerous legislation.

Dr. Fred Campbell  
president,  
Michigan Society of  
Anesthesiologists

### Truth about vehicle warranties

True or false: Until your vehicle is out of warranty, it must be serviced by the new car

dealer or the factory warranty will be void. Although you may have answered "true," the correct answer is "false."

It's the law that consumers can have routine repairs performed by their local independent repair shop or do the work themselves without affecting the warranty. The Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act, enforced by the Federal Trade Commission, prohibits a manufacturer from voiding the vehicle warranty because service was done by a non-dealer.

According to the FTC, "It's illegal for a dealer to deny your warranty coverage simply because you had routine maintenance or repairs performed by someone else. Routine maintenance often includes oil changes, tire rotations, belt replacement, fluid checks and flushes, new brake pads and inspections." It is also important to note that the "Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act makes it illegal for companies to void your warranty or deny coverage under the warranty simply because you used an aftermarket or recycled part."

The council strongly recommends adhering to scheduled maintenance requirements and keeping records and receipts for all vehicle service. If a warranty claim arises, these records will provide proof that maintenance has been performed in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations and requirements.

Rich White  
executive director,  
Car Care Council

### Arrogance amazes

The sheer audacity, arrogance and incompetence of our GOP-controlled state Legislature just never ceases to amaze. After avoiding, evading and hiding and using one excuse after one for over a year, road repair has now died over, of all idiotic things, an argument over a tax cut.

The state House in particular has time to kick out the bums Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat, but not time to pass a long overdue infrastructure repair bill.

The Senate has long since approved a highway repair bill and Gov. Snyder agreed. The crazies in the House balked at any tax increase for anything ever.

People and business are leaving Michigan because of or crumbling roads. These are facts. So quit your pre-adolescent squabbles, man up and pass a permanent road repair bill now.

Those few of us who must stay here do not want to face another winter with roads further deteriorating to just dirt roads everywhere. You cowardly dumped this decision making on to us. If you are going to refuse to take any action, why are you in the Legislature? More specifically, why are we paying you?

You should really be ashamed and embarrassed into action now. Tax cut. Absurd, ridiculous and grossly untimely, out of the question. Fix our roads now or just get out of the way and let others for you.

Gerald Maxey  
Farmington Hills

# Man dies of injuries suffered in house explosion

**Beth Jachman**  
Staff Writer

A Redford man has died of injuries suffered in an explosion Sunday evening that leveled a home at 19462 Gaylord.

The resident of the home, William Rice, 58, died Tuesday, according to Redford police.

The cause of the explosion, which was felt for miles around and damaged neighboring homes, was a fuel oxygen mixture, police said in a statement.

Natural gas has been ruled out as a fuel source and the only other fuel source at the location was propane, the police statement said. Two sources of propane were present at the premises, according to police.

DTE checked for natural gas leaks Sunday evening and none were found, according to Sgt. Kevin Crittenden of the Redford Township Police Department. In fact, DTE confirmed that the house hadn't been hooked up to the natural gas lines since 2004.

But propane tanks were found on the site and that is under investigation, Crittenden said. The propane was being used to heat portions of the home, as well as the garage, which has an apartment inside, he said.

Propane isn't any more dangerous than natural gas, but when allowed to build up it can explode with a source of ignition, the same as natural gas, Redford Police Chief Eric Black said.

Redford resident Steve Hinzman said Sunday night he had just finished shooting pool in the garage in the back of the home that exploded. "It was like an atomic bomb had blasted," he said.

"Debris was flying everywhere," his wife Dawn Hinzman said.

Steve Hinzman said he helped attend to the man who was injured.

Crittenden said they don't know where the man was when the blast occurred, as he was already being assisted by neighbors when help arrived.

It's not "overly common" for propane to be used to heat a house in Redford, said Rick Pringle, Redford Building Department supervisor. It's more common in rural areas, he said.

"But it's not mandatory that you're hooked up to DTE," he said.

Broken windows and doors is the most common damage and structurally the neighboring houses seem to be intact, Pringle said.

"Most of damage appears to be minor, except for the house next door," he said.

The Tracey family lives right next to the explosion site and their home appears to be heavily damaged. They stood outside of the police tape Sunday evening looking at lumber and cinder blocks blown into their yard from the destroyed home.

"I was sitting on the sofa and the wall started coming down on me," Debbie Tracey said as she sat on a neighbor's front porch.

"I thought maybe a bomb had gone off," she Tracey said, but she grabbed her pet dogs and ran from the house.

Daughter Shannon Tracey was asleep when the blast went off and it blew her bedroom door open, she said.

She took a picture of the hole in the living room wall before leaving the house.

Homeowner John Tracey said he was sitting on his front porch and thought at first it was fireworks.

He's not sure how much damage his home suffered, as it was cordoned off with police tape and he hasn't been allowed to look at the



An explosion leveled a home on Gaylord, north of Seven Mile, in Redford Township around 6 p.m. Sunday.

side next to the blast. "People have been telling me it looks like my house is twisted," he said. "I don't know because I can't get on that side to see."

It shook the houses, knocked pictures off the wall, there's lumber all over and it blew out all the windows on the houses across the street — that's the way neighbor Sheilla Ericksen summed it up. She lives about four houses from the site.

"I thought somebody dropped a bomb," said Carol Harper, who lives three doors away. "Things started flying off the walls at me."

Things fell off her walls and her back yard is full of debris from the blast, she said.

People came out of their houses to see what was happening.

But then so many people stopped on the street to watch, the emergency vehicles had trouble getting through, she said.

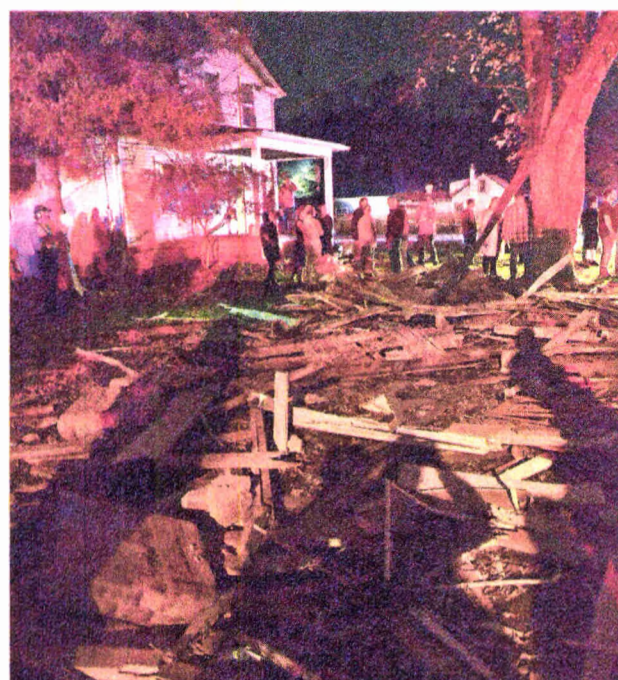
The explosion was felt for miles around and people began calling the police and fire stations to find out what was happening.

At one point Sunday evening, Redford Township Supervisor Tracey Schultz Kobylarz urged people to refrain from

calling the police department requesting information. "Lines are being tied up with inquiries, making it difficult for other emergency call information," she said.

Residents also began lighting up social media about the blast, including theories on the cause.

"At this time, it does not appear to be anything criminal in nature about this explosion," Crittenden said. "There has been a lot of things on social media that something negative in nature was going on, but we have found no evidence."



Debris fills the yard of a home located directly across the street from the explosion.



Debris from the home explosion hangs in trees.



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# Twelve Oaks Mall celebrates holidays with 'Peanuts' gang

To celebrate the launch of *The Peanuts Movie*, a special family-friendly holiday experience is being offered exclusively at Twelve Oaks Mall and Great Lakes Crossing Outlets from Nov. 6 to Dec. 24.

Developed in partnership with 20th Century Fox, the iconic *Peanuts* characters will take center stage within unique, interactive Ice Palaces at each participating mall. The indoor holiday displays will feature a 30-foot dome complete with falling snow, a light show and other activities for the entire family.

"We are thrilled to be featuring these loveable characters in this year's Ice Palace," said Melissa Morang, Great Lakes Crossing Outlet's marketing and sponsorship director. "For those of us who grew up alongside these characters, as well as children who might be experiencing the *Peanuts* gang for the first time, this year's holiday experience is sure to be crowd-pleaser."

In addition, kids can watch special scenes from the new movie, create and compare their icy hand print alongside Snoopy and Woodstock, have their photo taken with a life-size graphic of Snoopy and his dog house and much more.

Both malls will also offer the opportunity for families to visit with Santa Claus as part of the Ice Palace experience. Those who visit Santa will receive a complimentary gift.

The Twelve Oaks Mall Ice Palace, which is sponsored by



Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, is located in Center Court. Great Lakes Crossing Outlets Ice Palace, which is sponsored by LEGOLAND Discovery Center, is located in District 7. The Michigan Education Savings Program is

the presenting sponsor for both malls.

For more information on Ice Palace and holiday hours, go to [www.greatlakescrossingoutlets.com/events](http://www.greatlakescrossingoutlets.com/events) and [www.shoptwelveoaks.com/events](http://www.shoptwelveoaks.com/events).

# Domestic servitude survivor to speak at Madonna

Often tricked into working for little or no pay – in a country where they may not know the language – too many women and men are silent victims of domestic servitude.



Allen

*"This is a rare opportunity for student and the public to hear first-hand from a victim of domestic servitude."*

**TARA KANE**

Madonna University professor; chair of criminal justice department

One survivor will share her experience at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, at Madonna University in Kresge Hall. The event, free and open to the public, is part of the university's year-long Conversation about Human Dignity, organized through Madonna's Committee on Diversity and Inclusion.

The survivor scheduled to speak at Madonna was enslaved in her captor's home, after her parents were tricked into allowing her to visit. She eventually escaped and soon will graduate from college.

Amy Allen, a victim specialist with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Department of Homeland Security Investigations, will lead the presentation about domestic servitude, forced labor and sex slavery. A social worker focusing on child abuse issues for more than 30 years, she now works primarily with investigations involving child exploitation, human trafficking and human rights violations. The evening also will include a discussion of the signs of domestic servitude, forced labor and sexual exploitation.

"This is a rare opportunity for students and the public to hear first-hand from a victim of domestic servitude," said Madonna University professor Tara Kane, chair of the criminal justice department. "In addition, Amy Allen is a highly respected professional in her field and for her to be sharing her investigative experiences in such an intimate venue as Madonna is a unique treat for the school, as well as the community."

According to the website [FreedomForAll.org](http://FreedomForAll.org), victims of domestic servitude live and work in someone's home without pay, perhaps cleaning,

cooking, driving or caring for the elderly or young children. They are frequently from foreign countries and often told before they leave their home country that they will make a good income.

Instead, victims receive little or no pay, are held captive and have their passports confiscated. They may be told they will be deported or arrested if they run away. They may be sexually abused by their captors or denied adequate food or rest.

Similar to domestic servitude, victims of forced labor also are coerced to work for little or no pay, but they may be forced to work in mines, factories, farms, etc. Victims also can be subject to abuse and isolation and children are sought as workers for their small size and vulnerability. They may be coerced into working through debt bondage, being told they owe money to their employer and must work it off.

Victims of sex trafficking are commonly controlled by violence, threats and forced drug addiction. Most are vulnerable to trafficking due to pre-existing conditions in their lives, such as poverty or abuse. These conditions may also make it difficult to escape trafficking situations, as they frequently have nowhere to turn.

If you think someone you have been in contact with is a victim of modern day slavery, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline, 24/7 for help and information, at 888-3737-888.

# No charges expected in fatal accident

**LeAnne Rogers**  
Staff Writer

An Inkster woman was struck by a car and fatally injured Halloween night on Merriman in Westland.

The woman, 43, was crossing west on Merriman, north of Palmer, at 7:50 p.m. when she was struck by a north-

bound car driven by a Toledo, Ohio, woman, according to Westland Police.

It was dark and rainy at the time of the accident, police said, with the victim crossing in an area between intersections and wearing dark clothing.

The driver was not under the influence of alcohol; po-

lice said the pedestrian may have been drinking before the accident.

The investigation into the fatal accident is continuing, but police report no charges are expected to be filed against the driver.

[lrogers@hometownlife.com](mailto:lrogers@hometownlife.com)  
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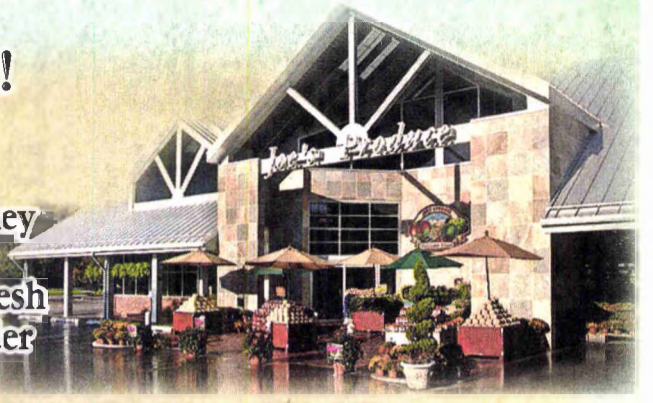
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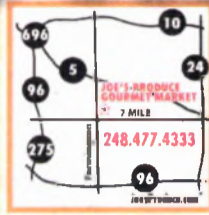
Place your order early for a farm fresh turkey or smoked ham, get those fresh oysters for that secret oyster stuffing; pick up the fresh fruits & vegetables for the trimmings & order the perfect pie to complete your meal.



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**SECTION B (CP)**  
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# SPORTS

**TIM SMITH, EDITOR**  
 TSMITH@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM  
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IN MEMORIAM

## Canton's Nolen succumbs to cancer at age 22

Small in stature, defensive back leaves big legacy

**Ed Wright**  
 Staff Writer

During the final days of his life, with his body weakened beyond measure by a relentless beast called renal medul-

lary carcinoma, Josh Nolen maintained the fighting spirit, million-dollar smile and selfless character that were his trademarks.

"When I went to the (University of Michigan) hospital to visit him a couple weeks ago, before I could even ask Josh how he



Nolen

was feeling, he asked me how the (Plymouth-Canton Steelers) football team I'm helping coach was doing," said Angelo Lanava, who forged a strong friendship with Nolen during their four years as football teammates at Canton High School. "And he wasn't just

asking to ask; he really cared. "Despite all he was going through, he always smiled when we walked in the hospital room. His smile and his personality were infectious."

Nolen died Friday afternoon from the effects of a form of kidney cancer that is as rare as it is difficult to contain. He was just 22 years old.

According to Wikipedia, as of 2009 just 120 cases of RMC had been reported. The median survival rate after diagnosis is just three months, the site noted.

Relatively small in stature — he stood just 5-foot-8 and weighed 170 pounds — Nolen

See **NOLEN**, Page B4

CLASS A VOLLEYBALL DISTRICT



Salem players are revved up after scoring a big point during Monday's district game against Canton.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO



MICHAEL VASILNEK

It's a photo finish for Salem's Chaz Jeffress (left) and Novi's Joost Plaetnick at the D1 regional.

## Jeffress nearly lifts Rocks

**Tim Smith**  
 Staff Writer

Led by the incomparable Chaz Jeffress, Salem's varsity boys cross country team nearly earned a spot at Michigan International Speedway.

The Rocks finished fourth with a team score of 156 points Saturday at the Division 1 regional held at Willow Metropark in New Boston, trailing Novi (55), Northville (60) and Novi-Detroit Catholic Central (75). The top three squads automatically qualify for the state finals, scheduled for Saturday in Brooklyn.

But Salem senior stalwart Jeffress will be there as an individual qualifier, after nearly capturing the regional championship. He came in second with a time of 15:33.2 for the 5,000-meter course, just behind Novi's Joost Plaetnick (15:33.1).

Also qualifying (top 15) were Plymouth's Ethan Byrnes (10th, 16:13.3) and Canton's Zac Clark (14th, 16:22.4).

"We ran well in windy conditions against three of the top teams in the state in Novi, Northville and Catholic Central," Salem head coach Steve Aspinall said. "All three of those teams will likely finish in the top 10 of the state next weekend."

"Chaz Jeffress had another extremely exciting finish and ran a great race, as did senior Griffin Skaff (27th, 16:54) and freshman Luke Haran (46th, 17:23), who both ran new per-

See **ROCKS**, Page B2

# DOWN TO THE WIRE

Chiefs take charge early, but determined Rocks rally late for win

**Tim Smith**  
 Staff Writer

For two hours Monday night at Northville High School, volleyball players from two Plymouth-Canton Educational Park teams battled tooth-and-nail.

Bodies flew all over the court to keep the ball alive in

the Class A district opener between Canton and Salem.

And the Rocks had enough extra oomph to pull out a 3-2 victory — winning the final three sets after the KLAA South Division Chiefs looked poised to move on to a date with No. 1-ranked Novi in a district semifinal.

Expertly tipping the ball

into an opening for the winning point in Salem's 15-12 fifth set win was senior middle hitter Emma Merlington.

"The ball came up and I saw an open corner and I said, 'Smart play, let's do it,'" Merlington said. "And it felt really great."

**Reset button**

Merlington, who registered seven kills, said the team huddled with first-year head coach Becca Middleton — ironically a former Canton volleyball player — after the second set, which Canton won

See **VOLLEYBALL**, Page B3

D1 GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY REGIONAL

## Rocks stay on winning course

Salem girls harriers earn fourth straight berth in state finals

**Tim Smith**  
 Staff Writer

The cast changes from season to season, which is a fact of life in high school athletics. But that doesn't slow down Salem's varsity girls cross country team.

On Saturday at Willow Metropark in New Boston, the Rocks finished second in the overall team standings to earn a berth in the Division 1 state finals Nov. 7 in Brooklyn.

The Dave Gerlach-coached Rocks qualified as a team for the fourth consecutive season, this time with 81 points — trailing only first-place Northville, regional champion with 32 points.

"This year has been unbelievable," Gerlach said about the 2015 season. "The last three years, we have lost our No. 1 and No. 2 runners to graduation and no one knew what this

See **SALEM**, Page B4



SALEM CROSS COUNTRY

Salem's girls cross country team qualified for the Division 1 state finals, finishing second at Saturday's regionals held at Willow Metropark in New Boston. Team members include (from left) Madison Justice, Gabrielle Mancini, Sierra Bowden, coach Dave Gerlach, Kayla Hughes, Madalyn Justice, Erin McCann and Hannah Jeffress.

GIRLS SWIMMING

Canton cruises to another division title

Chiefs boast strength in numbers

Tim Smith Staff Writer

Another season, another KLAA South Division championship for Canton's varsity girls swim team.

Spearheaded by a deep and versatile lineup, the Chiefs easily won their third straight division meet Saturday at Westland John Glenn with 691.5 points — surpassing runner-up Plymouth (566.5).

Veteran head coach Ed Weber emphasized that Canton did not finish first in the most events. But that didn't tell the tale, as the Chiefs outscored the rest of the division in eight of 12 events, with the top 16 finishers per event scoring at least one point.

"The entire year has been a team effort," Weber said. "Our team is very close and works well together. Daily practices are accompanied by smiles, laughs and encouragements from each other."

Weber said strong senior leadership sets the tone, but that the program's winning culture continues year after year.

"The senior leadership on the team is outstanding," Weber said. "They will surely be missed next year. As long as we stay healthy and committed, we'll continue the tradition of competing for South Division champions, which is a combination of dual meet record and championship placement.

"Three of the past eight years we've shared the title with Plymouth and five years we've won it outright. The formula for developing a winning tradition is a splash of athletes, trickle of talent, sprinkle of commitment and a drip of coaching."

Getting things started was a comeback win by the 200 med-



Canton's varsity girls swim team celebrates after winning Saturday's KLAA South Division meet at Westland John Glenn.

ley relay team of senior Federica Russo (backstroke), freshman Ellie Caruso (breaststroke), junior Meghan Mans (butterfly) and senior Rachel McGue (freestyle), prevailing in 2:01.24.

Mans also topped the field in the 200 IM with a time of 2:14.33, as well as the 100 backstroke (1:00.45). She has qualified for the state finals in three events (also 500 free).

In the 100 back, the Chiefs also had the third through fifth finishers in seniors Sydney Darnall (1:09.97), Ruoxuan Shi (1:11.12) and Madelaine Brownley (1:11.26) — testament to the team's strength in numbers.

Weber cited the one-two finish in the 500 free by senior Emily Osika and freshman Sophia Balow, with respective times of 5:34.37 and 5:45.32.

The Chiefs also came in second and third in the 400 free relay.

The 'A' team of freshman Jessica Clark, sophomore Kristen Wiseman, Mans and Osika finished in 3:50.75, with the 'B' team of Darnall, Balow, Russo and freshman Katelyn Waligora clocking a time of 4:07.17.

Victorious in the 400 free relay with a time of 3:50.75 was Plymouth's quartet of freshman Kelsey Peregor, junior Kathryn Waters, sophomore Grace MacLellan and senior Allison Lennig.

Other bright spots for the runner-up Wildcats were first-place performances by Lennig (200 free, 2:01.39; 100 free, 54.66), Waters (100 fly, 1:00.97) and the 200 free relay team of Waters, Peregor, junior Isabella Giacobone and Lennig (1:45.15).

KLAA SOUTH GIRLS SWIM MEET

Oct. 30-31 at Westland John Glenn TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Canton, 691.5 points; 2. Plymouth, 566.5; 3. Livonia Churchill, 263; 4. Westland John Glenn, 260; 5. Wayne Memorial, 246; 6. Livonia Franklin, 201.

FINAL EVENT RESULTS

200-yard medley relay: 1. Canton (Federica Russo, Ellie Caruso, Meghan Mans, Rachel McGue), 2:01.24; 2. Wayne (Olivia Husted, Julia Bryant, Alicia Beoney, Kayla Theus), 2:01.26; 4. Plymouth (Meghana Somsale, Vy Nguyen, Audrey Roth, Isabella Giacobone), 2:03.50.

6. Caroline Whitaker (P), 1:01.79; 7. Waligora (C), 1:02.93; 10. Newton (C), 1:04.52. 500 freestyle: 1. Osika (C), 5:34.37; 2. Balow (C), 5:45.32; 3. MacLellan (P), 5:52.34; 5. Yang (P), 6:03.65; 7. Sneha Sundar (P), 6:17.90; 8. Kelly Hansen (C), 6:24.95; 9. Abigail Jansen (C), 6:27.27; 10. Grace Warmann (C), 6:29.50.



MICHAEL VASILNIK

Plymouth's Ethan Byrnes (right) goes stride for stride with a Catholic Central runner during the regional. Byrnes qualified for the state finals.

ROCKS

Continued from Page B1

sonal bests. "Across the board, the times were not the fastest, but all of our guys competed hard and ran either new personal bests or awfully close to them."

Skaiff cracked the 17-minute mark for the first time and is ranked 42nd in school history. Aspinall also noted the efforts of senior Jacob Kubinski (39th, 17:11.1) and junior Alex Kroll (42nd, 17:17.8), while adding that sophomores

Andrew Beyer (47th, 17:22.7) and Ryan Exell (51st, 17:34.2) "earned valuable varsity experience."

As for Jeffress, he earned all-region honors for the third time, becoming the fourth Salem runner to accomplish that feat. He will look to improve upon last year's ninth-place finish at MIS.

Clark ran what head coach Bill Boyd called the fastest regional time for a Canton runner in program history as the Chiefs finished ninth in the team standings (237).

Other Canton finishers were Shane Andrews (34th, 17:02.3), Nick Socha (54th, 17:37.8), Daniel Jiminez (67th,



MICHAEL VASILNIK

On his way to running the fastest-ever time at a regional meet for a member of Canton's varsity boys cross country team is Zac Clark. He finished 14th and qualified for the state finals.

17:59.3), Zach Cannon (68th, 17:59.4), Braden Heimbaugh (75th, 18:12.2) and Zach Carey (87th, 18:39.4).

In addition to Byrnes, finishing for 12th-place Plymouth (255) were Brandon Boyd (22nd, 16:39), Lucas Kapala (71st, 18:05.1), Adam Stepek (74th, 18:10.5), Nate Schmidt (78th, 18:20.3), Nick Schweikhart (88th, 18:48.4) and Jarrett Warner (90th, 18:51.8).

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GIRLS SWIMMING

Northville edges Salem for KLAA Central title

Brad Emons Staff Writer

The same teams who battled Saturday for the KLAA Central Division girls swim title are expected to be the favorites again this weekend at the Kensington Conference meet.

Northville scored 576 points and survived a stiff test from Salem, which scored 555, to earn its fifth straight divisional crown in the five-school meet held at South Lyon East.

Rounding out the top five were host South Lyon Unified (467), Novi (297) and Livonia Stevenson (258).

Salem was led by the Zhang sisters, Linda and Lisa, who figured in five first-place finishes. Linda set a meet record in the 200-yard freestyle (1:53.99) and was first in the 100 butterfly (58.2). Lisa set a new KLAA Central record in the 50 freestyle (24.57). They also were members of the first-place 200 freestyle (1:39.68) and 400 freestyle (3:40.43) relay teams.

KLAA CENTRAL DIVISION GIRLS SWIM MEET

Oct. 30-31 at South Lyon East TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Northville, 576 points; 2. Salem, 555; 3. South Lyon Unified, 467; 4. Novi, 297; 5. Livonia Stevenson, 258.

Advertisement for Huntingdon Learning Center featuring a student and text: 'HUNTINGDON CENTER BEST SCHOOL YEAR EVER. TAKE THAT REPORT CARD FROM "OKAY" TO "OUTSTANDING".'

Advertisement for Redford Theatre featuring movies like 'Roman Holiday' and 'Animation Classics & Rarities Festival Vol. 5'.

PREP CROSS COUNTRY

# SMALL, BUT QUITE MIGHTY

Plymouth Christian Academy captures another Division 4 regional

**Tim Smith**  
Staff Writer

Plymouth Christian Academy's Eagles are the little team that could ... and is, dominating in Division 4 varsity boys cross country.

Evidence of such is Saturday's first-place finish at the D4 regional, held at Willow Metropark in New Boston.

PCA captured its fourth regional in five seasons with a score of 36 points, well ahead of runner-up Riverview Gabriel Richard (56) and Lutheran High Westland (81).

The Eagles, ranked No. 10 in Division 4, now have won the regional in 2011, 2012, 2014 and this year.

Leading the charge for head coach Jennifer Lemieux were Aaron Vicars and Seth Windle, who finished first and second with respective times of 17:08.10 and 17:28.40.

"Seth Windle and Aaron Vicars are wonderful teammates," Lemieux said. "They never compete against each other, but encourage each other to do their best."

In fifth overall was Gareth Matson (18:12.30), while the

fourth Eagle to land in the top 10 was Ben Fuller (eighth, 18:26.10).

Other PCA finishers included Ian Hay (20th, 19:18.70), Paul Chamberlain (30th, 20:05.40) and Aaron Giesler (52nd, 22:53.10).

"We won as a team," Lemieux said. "All our athletes ran hard on Saturday. We would not have been first with out every member doing their job."

"Gabriel Richard Riverview is a very strong team and we knew we had to go to work. Paul was able to recover enough to participate in the meet after his (foot) injury and we were happy to have him back running."

The team will compete at the D4 state finals, scheduled for Saturday at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn.

"Our (boys) team consists of five freshmen, one sophomore, one junior and two seniors," Lemieux said. "My expectation is the boys run hard and score in the top 10 teams of the state."

"Seth (also MIAC championship MVP) is ranked eighth



Plymouth Christian Academy's boys cross country team won the Division 4 regional Saturday at Willow Metropark in New Boston. Also, two PCA girls qualified as individuals. Standing (from left) are Kyle Sedgewick, coach Jennifer Lemieux, Aaron Vicars, Aaron Geisler, Seth Windle, Ben Fuller, Gareth Matson, Ian Hay and Paul Chamberlain. Sitting (from left) are Natalie Shaffer, Sienna Ruitter-Diaz and Joy Chamberlain.

and Aaron is ranked 10th at this time. It would be fabulous to see them as all-state runners. Gareth and Ben are ranked in the top 50. It is very exciting."

Lemieux cited a special ingredient to the cross country program's excellence — despite the challenges of trying to find enough athletes in a school with low enrollment.

"The key to the boys' success is their firm belief that they run for God's glory, not their own personal glory," she said. "They work extremely hard developing the gifts God has given each of them."

"Being a Division 4 school

has its challenges. We have 143 students total in our high school. We need to maximize the talent on the team."

**PCA girls qualify**

Also qualifying as individuals were two PCA girls runners (the school did not have enough participants to compete as a team in the girls division).

In second overall was Sienna Ruitter, with a time of 20:40.10.

Placing 10th with a mark of 23:02.10 was Joy Chamberlain.

"Sienna has been consistently strong all year," Lemieux said. "In her very first

race, she was 10th overall at the Holly Invitational.

"She was second overall at the Wayne County Championship meet. And she broke our school record, which now stands at 19:49.8."

As for Chamberlain, "she was very motivated to make it to the state finals. She ran an excellent race and we are very proud of her."

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## VOLLEYBALL

Continued from Page B1

25-15 to go up 2-0 (the Chiefs had won a nip-and-tuck opening set, 25-23).

"We just decided this is not going to be our last game as seniors," Merlington said.

Concurring was senior outside hitter Tess Ganich (24 kills, 18 digs): "After the second, we decided this is not how we want it to end and we are going to do everything we could, in our power, to get the 'W.'"

"We didn't play as well as we could have the first two sets," Middleton said. "But I reminded them (before the third set) that we are Salem volleyball and we were this year's Park champs."

"I said, 'We are going to earn this win, it's not going to be easy, but we're going to have to work really, really hard to come back and get this win.' And we're really good at five-game sets."

In the third set, won 25-22 by Salem, the Chiefs led 10-8 as they looked to sweep the Rocks.

But Canton gave points away on service errors and Salem's collective confidence began to grow with every clutch spike at the net or daring defensive play in the middle or back rows.

"That's a position I really haven't played in a while," said senior libero Drew Smiley (25 digs), who said a jolt of adrenaline helped her make some phenomenal reaction plays on defense. "But it was really exciting once I got the hang of it."

"I thought it was a really good game and I didn't want that to be our last game."

The set remained close at 20-18 Salem before Ganich served up three points in a row, helped by a spike by junior outside hitter Kendall Gillen (15 kills, 26 digs) and a tip by Merlington.

Closing out the win with another tip was Gillen.

**Momentum shift**

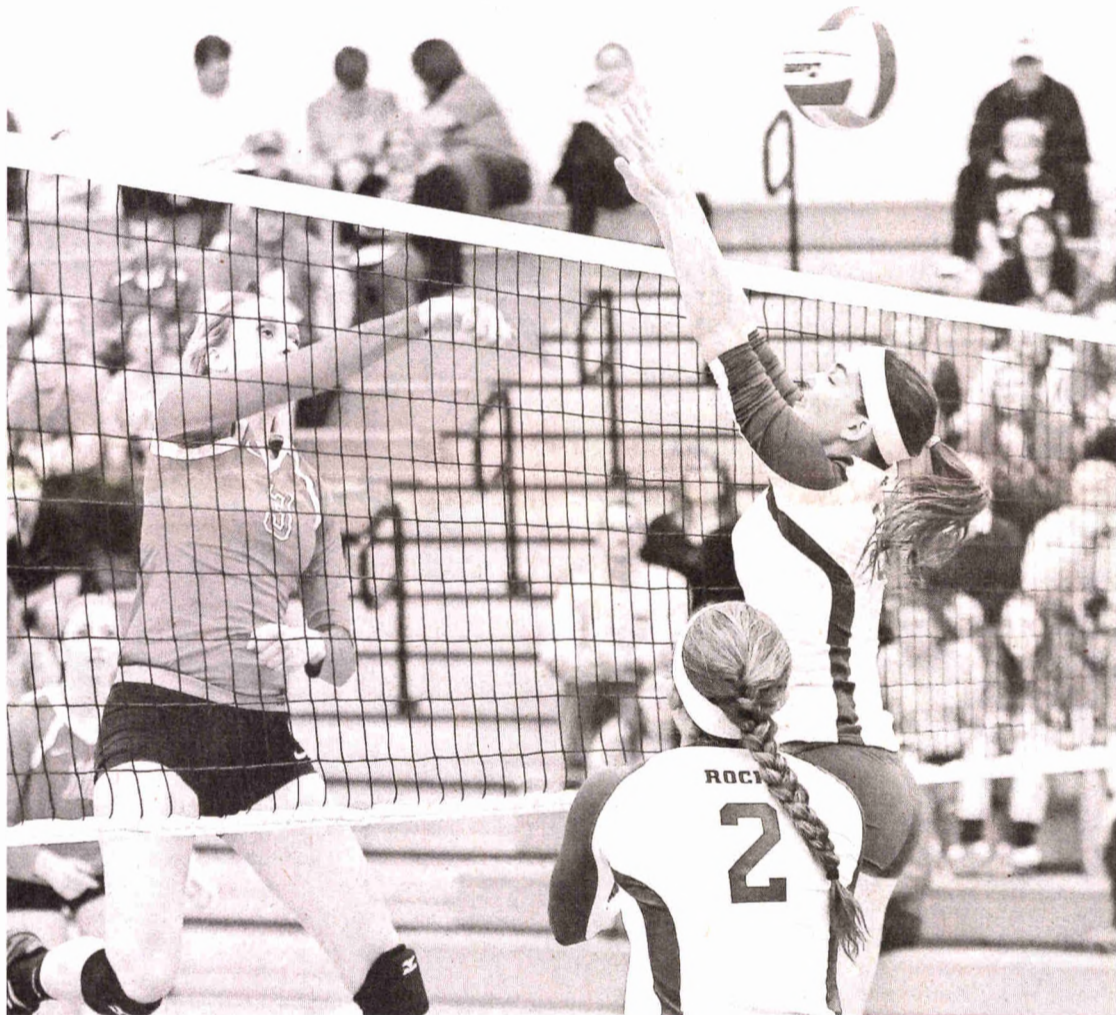
Both Canton head coach Irick Gardner and senior middle hitter Hannah Madis pointed to the third set as Monday's turning point.

"You hate to talk about losing at the end of the year, but a loss like that, people are looking for an answer," Gardner said. "The answer is we didn't lose it in Game 5, we lost it in Game 3. We had all the momentum, we let them back into it and we stopped playing."

"It wasn't over after two (sets), but we played like that in Game 3."

Madis said the Chiefs "got it in our heads expecting to win, because we did so well at the beginning and I think it got to us. And Salem was out to fight."

Still, the Rocks had a lot more work to do to crawl back



Canton's Hannah Madis (left) hits the ball over the outstretched arms of Salem's Lauren Wylie during Monday's district match.



Salem's Kendall Gillen (right) goes up against Canton's Gabrielle den Boer at the net during Monday's district match.

into the match after the third set.

In the fourth, which the Rocks won 25-18, coming up big at the serving stripe was senior middle blocker Lauren Wylie.

Featuring a hot-to-handle line-drive serve, Wylie registered two aces among a three-point run that put Salem ahead 11-9. Wylie chalked up four aces for the match.

Canton fought back to tie it at 13-13 on a tip by middle hitter Ciara Walega and a spike by senior Emma Clark (16 kills, 11 digs, four aces).

The Rocks (19-15-1) pulled ahead, however, helped by aces from senior right-side hitter Cassidy Hewett (three

aces, five kills, 17 digs) and Wylie. A Soltis-to-Gillen spike sealed the win and set up the deciding set.

During the fourth set, Canton standout Clark left with an injury and did not return for the fifth.

**Chiefs respond**

Salem took a quick 8-2 lead in the fifth set, but the Chiefs showed resiliency thanks to excellent serving from outside hitter Gabrielle den Boer (five kills) and defensive specialist Lexi Granowicz (19 digs).

Canton finally went up 10-9 after a block by Walega and maintained a 12-11 advantage with setter Emily Meredith (36 assists) preparing to serve.

But the Rocks' defense got a defensive side-out point, with Soltis teeing one up for Gillen to tie the game at 12-12.

Gillen then secured the victory with a three-point run, punctuated by Merlington's perfectly placed deep tip.

"Emma's been great all year," Middleton said. "She's not a true middle, she's shorter for being a middle, but this year as a senior, she really stepped into that role. And did a phenomenal job."

Meanwhile, Ganich said the Rocks remained confident, even after their seemingly comfortable lead in the fifth set slipped away.

"There's always nerves, but I don't think we were worried anymore," Ganich said. "We trusted in each other and we had faith we would pull it out."

In doing so, Salem turned the tables on Canton, which looked to be in the driver's seat early in the match.

"They (Rocks) earned it, they played hard enough three out of five games," Gardner said. "We played hard enough two out of five. And that's who wins, the team that wins three out of five."

Other Canton players with solid contributions for the night included right-side hitter Gina Giacomini (nine kills), defensive specialist Alyssa Burke (14 digs) and middle hitter Hannah Stefanek (six kills).

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COLLEGE SOCCER

## Schoolcraft sweeps at NJCAA regionals

**Tim Smith**  
Staff Writer

The trophy case at Schoolcraft College will have to get bigger.

On Sunday in Kirtland, Ohio, both the men's and women's soccer teams won the National Junior College Athletic Association Region XII championship.

Schoolcraft's men's squad followed up Saturday's 1-0 victory over Cincinnati State in the semifinal with a 2-1 shootout win Sunday against Owens Tech.

The Ocelots (14-2-3) needed to get to penalty kicks after playing to a 1-1 tie through regulation and two overtimes. In the shootout, Schoolcraft prevailed 4-3, with Livonia resident Jacob Rosen burying the deciding PK. Also scoring during the shootout was Livonia Stevenson alum Billy Werthman.

Schoolcraft reached the final thanks to Jon Quintana's free kick against Cincinnati State, with the goal standing up as the winner.

Next for the team is the NJCAA North Central District contest Nov. 7 in Maryland, against the Community College of Baltimore County-Essex.

Named to the all-region team were Werthman, Quintana, Victor Contreras, goalkeeper Andres Hernandez and head coach Rick Larson.

**Women prevail**

Also victorious were the Lady Ocelots, who blanked Muskegon 5-0 in the semifinal Saturday and followed up with Sunday's 4-1 victory in the final against Cincinnati State.

Schoolcraft (16-1) earned a berth in the NJCAA Division I National Tournament the week of Nov. 16. The tournament is hosted by East Florida State College.

Selected to the all-region team were (first team) Shae van Gassen, Colleen McKay, Cynthia Konan and Lacey Chanady and (second team) Cienna Rael-Whitsitt, Katie Vitella, Katie Dangelmaier and coach Dave Carver.

**MCCAA HONORS:** A number of Schoolcraft players were honored for their efforts in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association.

» **Women:** The conference champions boast the MCCAA Coach of the Year (Carver), Player of the Year (van Gassen) and Freshman of the Year (McKay). Making the first team were van Gassen, McKay, Cynthia Konan, Rael-Whitsitt and Chanady. Honorable mentions were Vitella, Samantha Alatto, Emily Bondy and Dangelmaier. The all-freshman team included McKay and Vitella.

» **Men:** Contreras was MCCAA Player of the Year and was an all-conference first-team selection, along with Quintana, Hernandez and Werthman. Honorable mentions were Connor Rutz, Cody Widlak and Youssef Barakat, while Rutz was on the all-freshman team.



Josh Nolen (center) is pictured with good friends (from left) Angelo Lanava, Marc Stevens, Jake Morris and Ryan Powell.

## NOLEN

Continued from Page B1

gained gridiron accolades at Canton while excelling as an afraid-of-no-one defensive back.

Nolen's cover and tackling skills were so ferocious that he earned a scholarship to play football for Saginaw Valley State University, where he played briefly before suffering a career-ending injury.

"Off the field, Josh was a great kid, a real gentleman, a great student," Canton football coach Tim Baechler said. "On the field, he was a fighter in the sense that he wasn't going to take a back seat to anyone. He had a competitive edge to him that almost crossed the line into being nasty, but that's what made him such a great player."

"The last time we went to see Josh in the hospital, he couldn't talk, but I could tell in his eyes that he knew we were there. I bent down, kissed him on the forehead and told him I loved him. His dad (Derek Nolen) said, 'He's moving his right hand; he wants to shake your hand.' So I shook his hand. He fought that disease as hard as you can fight it."

Canton's football team will honor Nolen's mem-

ory by wearing a decal with the No. 8 — Nolen's number at Canton — on their helmets during the remainder of the season.

A few hours after Nolen's death, the Chiefs, who weren't told of his death, defeated Livonia Stevenson, 70-35, to advance to Friday's Division 1 district final at Northville.

"This football program is a family," Baechler said. "The phrase we use is, 'Once a Chief, always a Chief.' We will keep Josh alive in our hearts and we will use the way he battled to motivate the players, just like we keep other players and coaches who we've lost — Homer Elias and Deshon McClendon — alive."

The community's love for Nolen was reflected in a GoFundMe account that raised more than \$15,000 to help his family offset mounting medical bills.

After being diagnosed with advanced stage RMC in late June — tumors were discovered on one of Nolen's kidneys and on a lung — he was transferred to the world-renowned M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, where he underwent a barrage of chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

He was transferred to the University of Michigan Hospital in September so that he could be

treated closer to his family.

During an early-July phone interview with the *Observer*, Nolen spoke confidently about how he would battle the disease with a combination of faith, positivity and support from his family and friends and hopefully be able to finish his senior year of college at Western Michigan University, where he was close to earning a degree in finance/economics.

On one of his final posts on his GoFundMe page, Nolen wrote: "Keep me in your prayers. I truly do appreciate all your love and support, it keeps me motivated and reminds me why I'm fighting this battle. I love you guys."

Despite dire reports from the doctors who were treating him, Nolen never gave up on pulling off a miraculous recovery.

"He fought so hard, right to the end," Lanava said. "Even when we saw him a couple weeks ago and he was at his lowest point, he was talking about getting better."

Visitation for Nolen will be 3-8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, at Life Application Ministries, 31601 Scheonherr, in Warren. Family hour at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 6, with funeral service at 11 a.m.

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## PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

# Mustangs look to shut down Canton's potent running attack

Brad Emons  
Staff Writer

Northville football coach Matt Ladach said he can only put last year's 48-7 pre-district football loss to Canton well back in his rear-view mirror.

It's a new season and a new set of players as the Mustangs (10-0) get the Chiefs (8-2), this time at home beginning at 7 p.m. Friday at Tom Holzer Field, in the MHSAA Division 1 district final.

Canton is coming off a 70-35 first-round win over Livonia Stevenson, while Northville held on to beat Plymouth on the final play of the game at its own 1-yard line, 24-20.

"They're a talented group and well-coached and they're very disciplined, so it's a good recipe for success right now," Ladach said of Canton, which is averaging 38.8 points per game. "We definitely did not play well against them at all last year. In fact, they kicked our butts. It would be irresponsible for me to say that playing them last year is helping us prepare for them, because we didn't play well at all."

Northville's offensive output may not be as potent as Canton's, but the Mustangs are averaging 28.4 points per outing, while holding their opponents to 16.4.

And with senior dual



MICHAEL VASILNEK

Northville will be trying to contain Canton running back Markus Sanders (No. 2) in Friday night's playoff game.

threat running and passing quarterback Justin Zimbo steering the ship, the Mustangs have managed to find a way to win the close games.

As former Oakland Raiders owner Al Davis used to say, it's "Just win, baby," as six of Northville's 10 victories have come by 10 points or less.

"I've been saying it every week from that fact that they lean on one another, consistently do the right thing and they're just absolutely playing their guts out," Ladach said of the team's formula for winning tight ball games.

Ladach anticipates his team will be at near full strength for Friday's encounter with the Chiefs.

"We're little beat up," he said. "Plymouth is a tough team, so we're definitely banged up and bruised up, but in terms of injuries, we're fine. We're a little hurt, but not injured."

Northville's biggest challenge this week is slowing down Markus Sanders and Canton's explosive running attack out of its wing-T offense.

Ladach said it can be done, but only one way. "Every single player has to do his job and he can only do his job," he said. "He can't try and overcompensate for a teammate, just have to remain disciplined."

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## OBSERVER FOOTBALL PREDICTIONS

All games 7 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 6	Ed Wright	Dan O'Meara	Tim Smith
Canton (8-2) at Northville (10-0)	Canton	Northville	Northville
Livonia Franklin (7-3) at Jackson (8-2)	Franklin	Franklin	Jackson
Redford Thurston (6-4) at Allen Park (9-1)	Thurston	Allen Park	Allen Park
<b>Last week's record</b>	<b>4-2</b>	<b>5-1</b>	<b>5-1</b>
<b>Season record</b>	<b>96-27</b>	<b>88-35</b>	<b>81-42</b>

## SALEM

Continued from Page B1

team could do.

"This unit of seven have stuck together all year and have worked with the drive and passion it takes to be successful. They are a true team and all work together as pieces of a puzzle."

The top three teams qualified to compete at the Michigan International Speedway. In addition to Northville and Salem, third-place Farmington (128) made the cut. Plymouth (166) and Canton (238) came in sixth and ninth, respectively.

Overall individual medalist was Farmington's Maddy Trevisan, with a time of 17:52.1. In addition to being part of Salem's team entry in the finals, both Madalyn Simko (11th, 19:18.6) and Kayla Hughes (14th, 19:28.3) earned a medal and individual qualifier status.

Gerlach pointed to the team's pack mentality and comfort level with its home course as factors in its continuing run of success.

"The first mile, many runners go out too fast at the regional because of nerves, but we ran very smart," Gerlach said. "The group moved up about five places each over the last two miles and showed true grit."

"Pack running has been our strength all year and for us to put five in the top 20 and seven in the top 25 shows what a great team we are."

In addition to Simko and Hughes, the Rocks' stellar lineup included Madison Justice (17th, 19:46.6), Erin McCann (19th, 19:49.4), Gabrielle Mancini (20th, 19:52.2), Hannah Jeffress (24th, 20:08.4) and Sierra Bowden (25th, 20:08.7).

"Madalyn and Kayla ran terrific today to lead the way, earning them-



SALEM CROSS COUNTRY

Salem's girls cross country team celebrates Saturday after qualifying for the Division 1 state finals. The team came in second at the regional held at Willow Metropark in New Boston.

selves a medal and individual qualifier status," Gerlach said. "I am proud of this team and organization for qualifying to the state finals next week for the fourth year in a row."

"We look forward to competing on that large stage with 26 other terrific teams."

### Top 15 qualify

The top 15 finishers Saturday qualified as individuals for the state finals.

The group is as follows: 1. Trevisan (Farmington), 17:52.1; 2. Lexa Barrott (Northville), 18:17.1; 3. Abby Inch (Farmington), 18:34; 4. Natalie Douglas (Livonia Franklin), 18:51.8; 5. Emma Herrmann (Northville), 18:59.2; 6. Olivia Harp (Northville), 19:05; 7. Claire Kendell (Berkley), 19:05.6; 8. Corey Szymaniak (Garden City), 19:06.2; 9. Rachel Zimmer (Northville), 19:06.4; 10. Emma Smith (Northville), 19:14.6; 11. Simko (Salem), 19:18.6; 12. Hailey Harris (Northville), 19:26.2; 13. Erin Seibert (Livonia Franklin), 19:27.7; 14. Hughes (Salem), 19:28.3; 15. Caroline George (Livonia Churchill), 19:33.

As for Plymouth and Canton, there were several outstanding performances.

Placing 21st overall with a time of 19:53.6 was

Plymouth's Annie Bonds, with teammate Madelyn Rush in 23rd (20:06.2).

Canton's Anna Nagel-hout was 28th overall with a time of 20:19.4.

Other Park finishers included the following: 36. Ana White (Plymouth), 20:31.5; 38. Mary Galm (Canton), 20:38; 41. Kayla Neme (Canton), 20:53.1; 42. Amelia Carey (Plymouth), 21:01.1; 44. Arwa Harawala (Plymouth), 21:02.6; 54. Gwen Carey (Plymouth), 21:25. 61. Kate Cotham (Canton), 21:37.5; 65. Olivia Schafer (Plymouth), 21:53.4; 70. Carly Smith (Canton), 22:01.9; 76. Elise McIntee (Canton), 22:22.1; 91. Samantha McGrath (Canton), 23:46.2.

According to Plymouth head coach Alice Ahearn, the Wildcats ran a "great regional race as a team," spearheaded by Bonds and Rush.

"Our running pack is getting tighter and we've improved so much throughout the season," Ahearn said. "We came into regionals seeded to take eighth place and came away in sixth."

"I am very pleased with our young team and I hope they are proud of their accomplishments."

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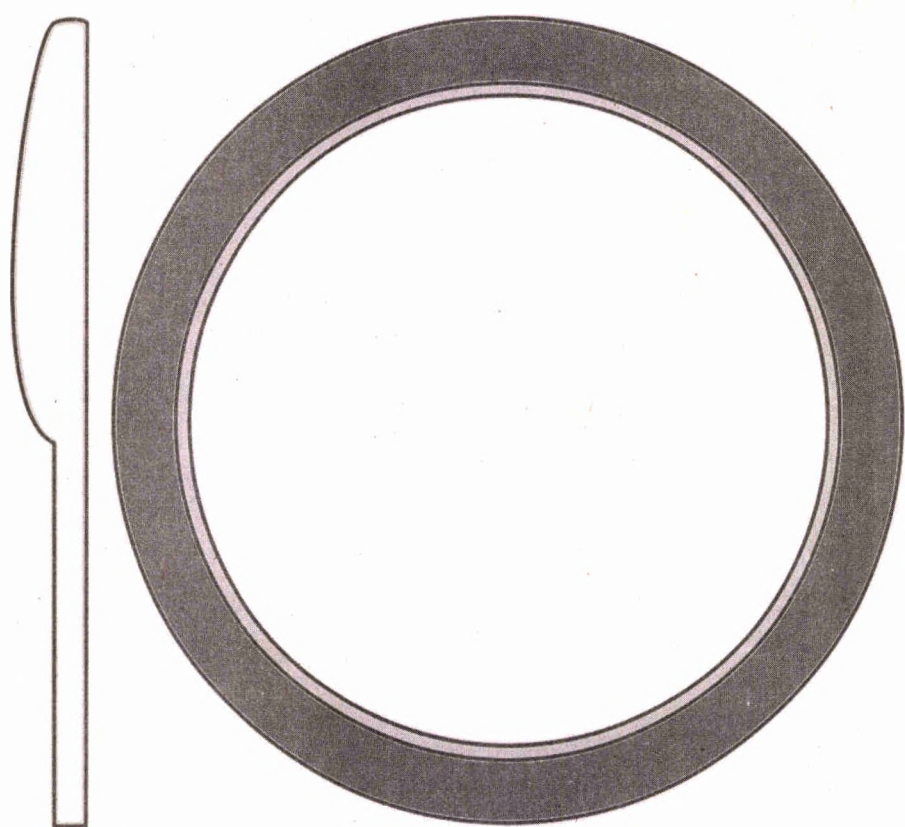












## PLACES VETERANS CAN EAT FREE NOV. 11

Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Former and active military members can get a free lunch at many local restaurants on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. "It's a way for us to give back to people who have given so much to us," said Drew Sienkiewicz, general manager of Applebees, 43500 Ford Road, Canton.

Veterans and active military personnel will get a chance to choose one of seven meals at no charge at Applebees with proof of service, such as a U.S. Uniformed Services ID Card, U.S. Uniformed Services Retired ID Card, veterans organization card, a photo of themselves in uniform or commendation. Meals include pasta, grilled chicken, chicken salad and chicken tenders, sirloin, shrimp, and hamburger.

The restaurant will open an hour early on Veterans Day and the free meals will be available from 10 a.m. to midnight. All Michigan Applebees will participate in the national restaurant chain's Veterans Day program.

Sienkiewicz said the "best part" of Veterans Day is talking with customers who served in the military. He assigns more staff than usual, so they can engage with veterans as they serve them lunch. Some customers bring in photographs of their time in the service.

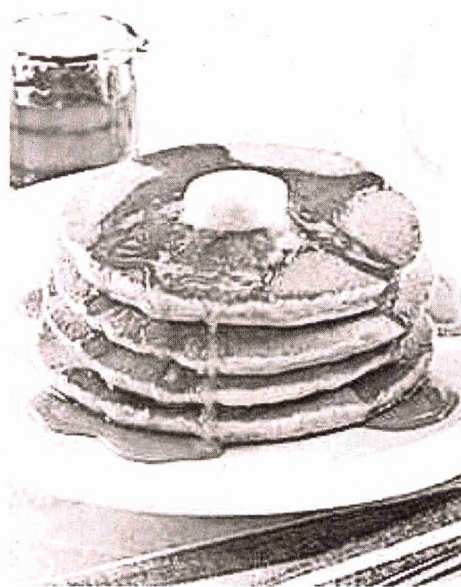
"It's about hearing their stories, reliving the past," he said, adding that veterans "love it." "We encourage people to show up in uniform."

Call 734-455-7510 for more information.

Here are nine other restaurants that will offer free meals to veterans. Be sure to take proof of military service with you:



Left: The American Standard hamburger meal is one of seven entrees available free to active military and veterans on Nov. 11 at Applebees. Right: Veterans and military personnel can get free hotcakes and other breakfast entrees Nov. 11 at Bob Evans Farms Restaurants.



» **Texas Roadhouse.** 36750 Ford Road, Westland, will open early Nov. 11, to serve lunch from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eligible patrons will choose one of 10 entrees and get sides and a non-alcoholic beverage. Call 734-729-4570 for more information.

» **Bob Evans Farms Restaurants** will offer five different breakfast choices, including a mini sampler breakfast. Bob Evans restaurants are open 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 11 at 41190 Ford Road, in Canton, 734-981-5222; and at 13911 Middlebelt, in Livonia, 734-261-7770; and from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at 46080 Michigan Ave., in Canton, 734-495-1451.

» **Chili's** has a menu of several lunch and dinner entrees available to veterans and active duty military personnel with ID. Restaurant hours are 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. at 29563 Plymouth Road, Livonia, 734-513-9477;

41680 Ford Road, Canton, 734-844-9050; and 20901 Haggerty, Novi, 248-344-9722.

» **California Pizza Kitchen** will offer a menu with six different pizzas, five salads and three pastas on Nov. 11. Hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Locations are 37546 West Six Mile, at Laurel Park Place, in Livonia, 734-591-0476; 31005 Orchard Lake Road, at Hunters Square, Farmington Hills, 248-737-5912; and 27500 Novi Road, at Twelve Oaks Mall, Novi, 248-449-3280.

» **Max & Ermas** gives veterans a choice of soup or salad, with a cheeseburger, seasoned fries and a cookie. Hours are 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., 15257 Beck, Plymouth, 734-414-1557; 6601 Newburgh, Westland, 734-728-6733; 37714 Six Mile, at Laurel Park Place, Livonia, 734-462-9870; 2240 N. Canton Center Road, Canton, 734-981-3370; and 27466 Novi Road, at

Twelve Oaks Mall, Novi, 248-344-7180.

» **Red Lobster** offers a free appetizer to veterans and active military personnel, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, Nov. 9-12, at 29980 Plymouth Road, Livonia, 734-427-0537; 5774 North Wayne Road, Westland; 734-326-7655; and 27760 Novi Road, Novi, 248-349-8470.

» **At Olive Garden** veterans and active military members can select a free entree from a menu that includes lasagna, chicken parmigiana, cheese ravioli, spaghetti and chicken. Family members dining with them get 10 percent off the cost of their meals. Local restaurants include 14000 Middlebelt, Livonia, 734-458-5100; and 43300 Crescent Blvd., Novi, 248-348-4279.

» **Little Caesars Pizza** will give free \$5 Lunch Combos to veterans and active military members from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Veterans Day. The offer includes four slices of deep dish pizza, with a 20-ounce beverage. Visit [littlecaesars.com](http://littlecaesars.com) for addresses and phone numbers of store locations in Garden City, Redford, Westland, Livonia, Canton and Farmington Hills.

» **IHOP Restaurants** will thank veterans and active duty military for their service with a free stack of buttermilk pancakes topped with glazed strawberries, blueberry compote and whipped topping, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. IHOP locations include 14200 Middlebelt, Livonia, 734-422-4467; 5946 N. Sheldon, Canton, 734-254-9846; and 43317 Grand River Ave., Novi, 248-773-8444.

## Make these hearty dishes in a snap with pantry staples

With the holidays around the corner and kids' school activities in full swing, it can be difficult to get a hearty, homemade meal on your family table, day in and day out.

But the solution for simple, delicious dishes is a lot closer than you think. With a well-stocked pantry full of ingredients like canned tomatoes, kidney beans and pumpkin, preparing a nutritious, creative meal that your family will love is easy.

As temperatures fall and your to-do list grows, don't let your packed schedule compromise sharing a heart-warming, homemade meal with your family. Simply reach in your pantry for foods that can help you make hearty meals, such as Vegetarian Three Bean Chili, Pumpkin Mac and Cheese, or Eggplant Cacciatore in no time.

For more nutritious and flavorful recipes, visit [CansGetYouCooking.com](http://CansGetYouCooking.com).

— Courtesy of Family Features

### EGGPLANT CACCIATORE

Servings: 4

2 tablespoons olive oil  
1 medium onion, chopped  
1 large eggplant, about 1½ pounds, cut into ½-inch pieces  
1 (14.5-ounce) can no salt added stewed tomatoes  
1 (8-ounce) can mushroom stems and pieces, drained  
1 teaspoon dried basil  
¼ teaspoon salt  
¼ teaspoon ground black pepper  
½ cup shredded low-fat mozzarella cheese

In 12-inch skillet over medium-high heat, in olive oil, cook onion about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add eggplant and cook until tender, 10 to 12 minutes, stirring constantly. Add stewed tomatoes, mushrooms, basil, salt and pepper, stirring to break up tomatoes; over high heat, heat to boiling. Simmer, uncovered, 5 minutes until mixture thickens, stirring occasionally. To serve, sprinkle eggplant mixture with shredded cheese.

### VEGETARIAN THREE BEAN CHILI

Servings: 6

2 tablespoons vegetable oil  
1 large onion, diced  
1 large green pepper, seeded and diced  
2 large garlic cloves, minced  
1 tablespoon chili powder  
1 teaspoon ground cumin  
1 can (28 ounces) crushed tomatoes  
1 can (16 ounces) diced tomatoes  
1 can (15½ ounces) pinto beans, drained and rinsed  
1 can (15½ ounces) white kidney beans, drained and rinsed  
1 can (15½ ounces) red kidney beans, drained and rinsed  
1 can (4 ounces) chopped green chilies, drained  
½ teaspoon salt  
¼ teaspoon chipotle Tabasco pepper sauce  
chopped parsley (optional)  
shredded cheddar cheese (optional)

In large saucepan over medium heat, in hot oil, cook onion, pepper and garlic until softened, about 5 minutes. Add chili powder and cumin, cook 1 minute. Add crushed tomatoes, diced tomatoes, pinto beans, white beans, red beans, green chilies, salt and Tabasco sauce. Over high heat, bring to boil; reduce heat to low. Cover and simmer 15 minutes to blend flavors, stirring occasionally. If desired, sprinkle with parsley and cheddar.

### PUMPKIN MAC AND CHEESE

Servings: 4

8 ounces rotini or medium shell pasta  
5 tablespoons butter, divided  
¼ cup all-purpose flour  
1 can (12 ounces) Nestle Carnation Evaporated Fat Free Milk  
1 cup milk  
½ cup Libby's 100% Pure Pumpkin  
1 ½ teaspoons salt  
¼ teaspoon ground black pepper  
¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg  
2 cups shredded Swiss or Gruyere cheese  
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese  
Cook pasta as package directs. Drain. Set aside.

Heat oven to 375 F. Grease 1½ quart baking dish. In 4-quart saucepan over medium heat, melt 3 tablespoons butter. Stir in flour; cook 1 minute. Gradually stir in evaporated milk and milk, cook until mixture is thickened and smooth. Stir in pumpkin, salt, pepper and nutmeg. Remove from heat; whisk in Swiss and cheddar cheese until smooth. Stir in cooked pasta; toss to mix well. Spoon into baking dish. Melt remaining 2 tablespoons butter; stir in bread crumbs to coat well. Sprinkle on top of casserole. Bake 30 minutes or until sauce is bubbly and mixture is golden.



**'Want to go on a 1,300-mile bike ride?'**

## Family story about biking Lake Superior becomes feature film

**Sharon Dargay**  
Staff Writer

Edd Benda first heard the story five years ago at Thanksgiving dinner. His uncle Karl recalled biking 1,300 miles with his cousin, Dan "Dudza" Junttila, around Lake Superior at age 17. He still owned the bike he had pedaled 40 years earlier and the essay he had written for school about the trip.

"I was so fascinated about the time and place that young men could do that. They woke up, said what do you want to do today? Want to go on a 1,300-mile bike ride? Sure," said Benda, recalling Karl Benda's conversation. "I don't think I've developed the confidence to ride 125 miles a day over a span of 10 days with change in my pocket and a shirt on my back. Had it not been cool the morning they left, they wouldn't even have had jackets."

Inspired by his uncle's impromptu journey, the former Birmingham resident expanded the story into a feature film, *Superior*, which will end its nine-city tour of Michigan at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, at the Maple Theater, 4135 W. Maple, west of Telegraph, Bloomfield Township. Benda, who wrote and directed the film, will be on hand for a Q&A with the audience. Tickets are \$10; themapletheater.com.

The movie, filmed in 21 days in summer 2014 in the Keweenaw Peninsula, premiered in June at the Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, Calif. as part of the Dances with Films festival, and was screened at the Heartland Film Festival Oct. 6-25, in Indianapolis, Ind.

It was produced by Beyond the Porch Productions, a company Benda and Washington native Alex Bell, who served as cinematographer on *Superior*, created three years ago while they were students at University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts.

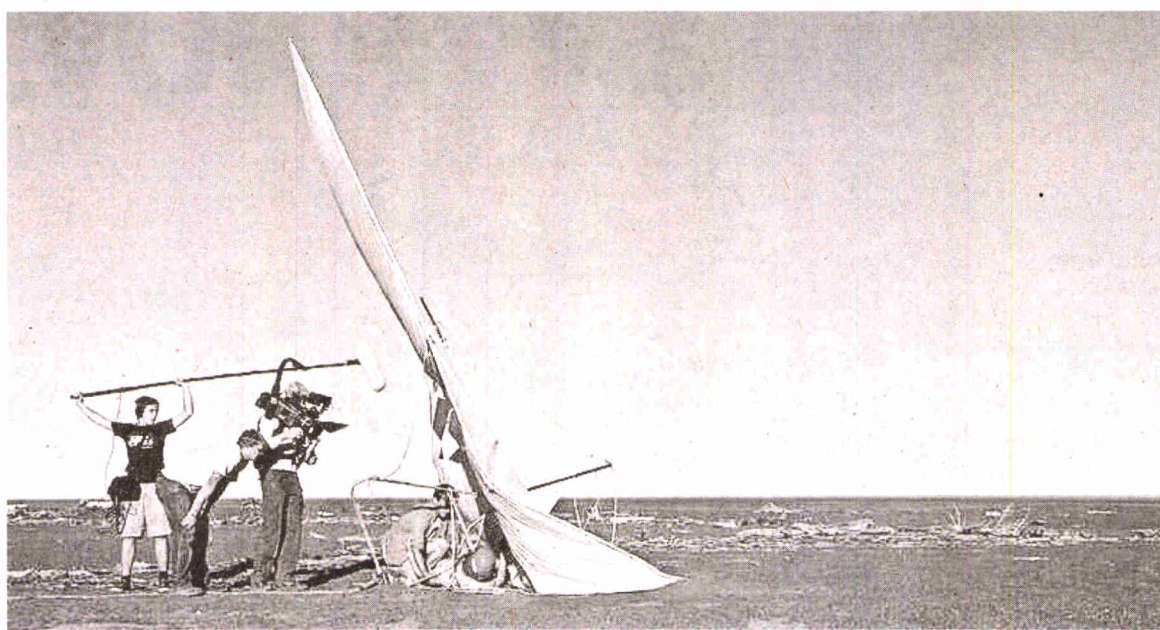
*Superior*, set in 1969, tells the story of two best friends, Derek Suntula, (Paul Stanko) and Charlie Eskola, (Thatcher Robinson) who bike around Lake Superior the summer after high school graduation. It's their last adventure before Eskola goes off to college and Suntula likely is drafted into the military.

Benda tapped film school alumni for his crew and auditioned lead actors in a forested area of Griffith Park in Los Angeles, Calif., hoping to simulate a Michigan environment.

"Hurdle number one was can this person hike to the middle of the woods and have a smile on their face," he said. "Everybody else in the film is local, from the U.P."

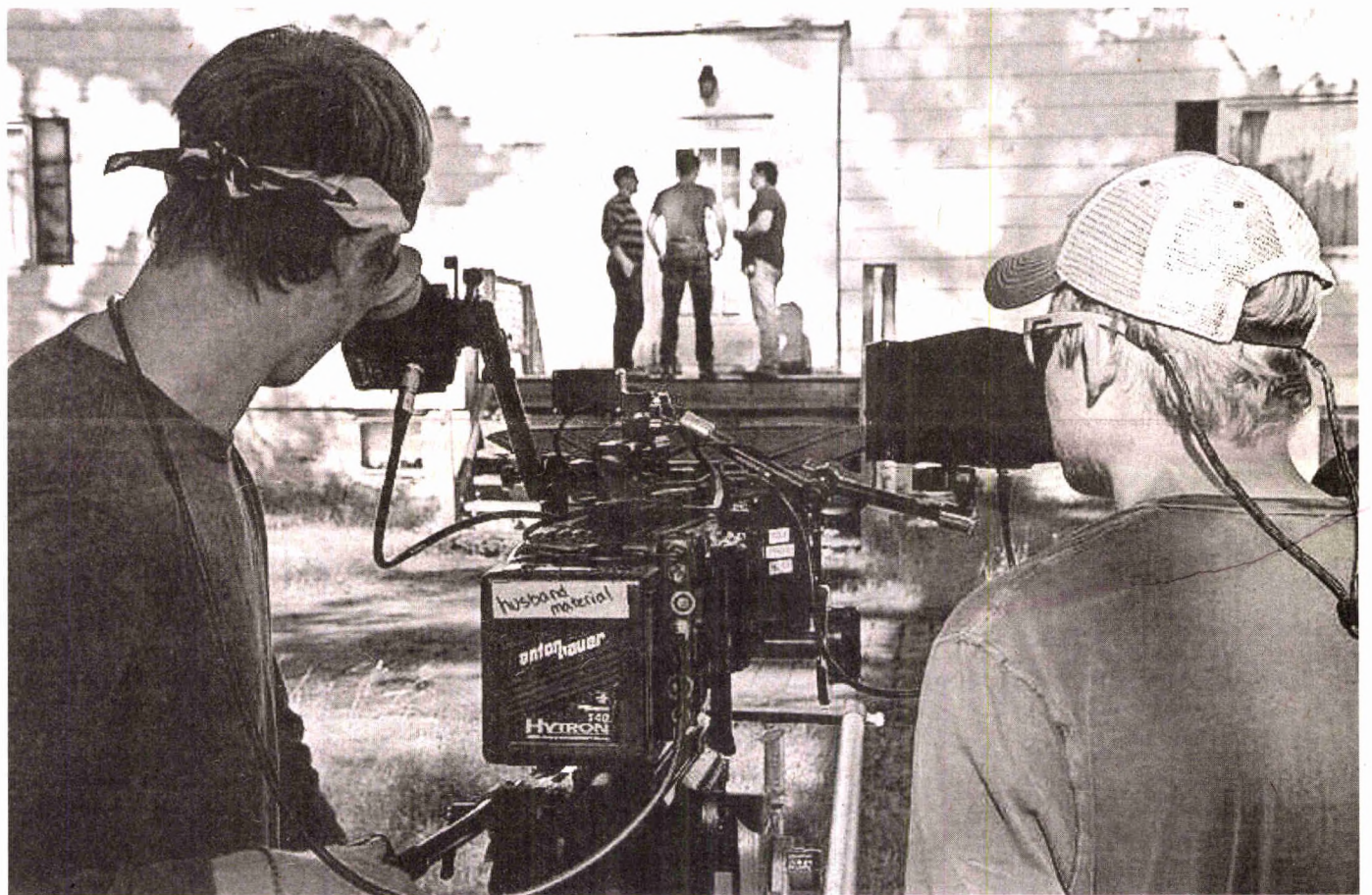
### Battling black flies

The lead actors biked more than 100 miles during filming and everyone on the crew and cast fought black



SUBMITTED  
Above: Thatcher Robinson (top) and Paul Stanko star in "Superior." At left: The crew films "Charlie" (Thatcher Robinson) and "Derek" (Paul Stanko) in the wreckage of a hang glider flight gone awry.

SUBMITTED  
Below: Director Edd Benda (right) and Alex Bell, director of photography, plan the composition of a shot in "Superior."



flies.

"We were constantly battling bugs and the weather. That was part of the struggle and the charm of what we were doing. If anything went wrong with the film equipment, the nearest place (for replacements) was an eight-hour drive to Minneapolis."

The group bunked in a cabin owned by one of Benda's aunts. They drew names randomly for sleeping arrangements that included beds, a couch and a mattress on the basement floor.

"There was a lot of comedy and good humor about the way we lived," he said, adding that the team remained in good spirits. "Having a team that I worked with for years and

knew and they knew what needed to be done, was crucial."

### Learning the craft

Before *Superior*, Benda worked on short film projects, such as *The Hipster Werewolf*, (2013) while at USC.

His film experience prior to college had been watching movies, listening to his father quote movies, and working on film projects while at the International Academy in Bloomfield Hills.

"I set up a production studio in an old closet," said Benda. "The summer before my senior year I had that space and built it into a studio. I managed a film elective class in association with one of our faculty members. I wanted

to tell stories and I wanted to do that visually."

Storytelling had always been a part of his childhood. Family dinner time was like a story slam, with his relatives trying to outdo each other. Benda wove some of their characters, places and story bits and pieces into the *Superior* script.

He also read his uncle's school essay about the trip.

"He got a B minus on the paper. That was our baseline," Benda said, with a laugh. "We knew we had to do better than a B minus."

For more about Benda, visit [eddbenda.com](http://eddbenda.com). Check out *Superior* on Facebook.

## GET OUT! CALENDAR

### ANIMALS

#### DETROIT ZOO

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through March 1

**Location:** I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

**Details:** Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$10 for senior citizens 62 and older, and for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and parking

**Wild Lights:** 5:30-9 p.m. Nov. 20-22, 27-29 and Dec. 4-6, 11-13, 18-23 and 26-31. Admission is \$9 in advance and \$11 at the gate for ages 2 and older. Parking is \$6 per car. Features illuminated sculptures, holiday entertainment and activities, ice carving and arts and crafts. Buy tickets online at [detroit-zoo.org/events/wild-lights](http://detroit-zoo.org/events/wild-lights)

**Contact:** 248-541-5717

### ARTS AND CRAFTS

#### NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

**Time/Date:** Opening reception is 6-9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6. Exhibit hours are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and

noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, through Dec. 12

**Location:** 215 W. Cady, Northville

**Details:** "Small Works," an all-media juried art exhibit consists of 120 pieces that are no larger than 12-by-12 inches. A Northville Camera Club exhibit is located in the lower gallery.

**Contact:** 248-344-0497 or [www.NorthvilleArtHouse.org](http://www.NorthvilleArtHouse.org)

#### PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER

**Time/Date:** 1-7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7

**Location:** 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

**Details:** Holiday Art Sale will include juried one-of-a-kind pieces by PCAC artists, friends and instructors, baked goods, PCAC gift certificates, \$2 suggested admission

**Contact:** [plymoutharts.com](http://plymoutharts.com); 734-416-4278

#### VILLAGE POTTERS GUILD

**Time/Date:** 5-8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21; and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22

**Location:** 326 N. Main, behind the Crossings Restaurant, in Plymouth.

**Details:** Annual Holiday Sale includes

functional and decorative pottery created by 25 members of the Guild. Shoppers will find mugs, ornaments, tiles, dinnerware, vases, jewelry and platters ranging from \$4-\$200

**Contact:** 734-207-8807; [villagepotters-guild.org](http://villagepotters-guild.org)

#### VILLAGE THEATER

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday and during public performances, through Nov. 29

**Location:** 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

**Details:** "Sky/Ground" features abstract landscapes from above and below by artist Leslie Sobel, who uses a combination of scientific imaging, including satellite and photomicrographs, computer code and maps to create her work

**Contact:** [cantonvillagetheater.org](http://cantonvillagetheater.org); 734-394-5308

### DANCE

#### DANCING WITH THE DETROIT STARS

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Nov. 14

**Location:** The Townsend Hotel, 100 Townsend Street, Birmingham

**Details:** In this charity event for South Oakland Shelter, area movers and shakers will pair up with professional dancers in a celebrity dance competition. Includes strolling dinner, cocktails and a silent auction. Tickets are \$200

**Contact:** [southoaklandshelter.org](http://southoaklandshelter.org)

#### MUSIC HALL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7

**Location:** 350 Madison Ave., Detroit

**Details:** Shaping Sound features contemporary dancers bringing a mash-up of dance styles and musical genres to life. Tickets are \$30, \$40, and \$50

**Contact:** [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com); [starticket.com](http://starticket.com)

### COMEDY

#### G. SUBU'S LEATHER BOTTLE

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11

**Location:** 20300 Farmington Road, Livonia

**Details:** Comedians Grandma Lee with Bob Lauver. No cover, age 18 and over

**Contact:** 248-474-2420; [gsbusleatherbottle.com](http://gsbusleatherbottle.com)

#### MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

**Time/Date:** 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8

**Location:** 310 S. Troy Street, at Fourth Street, in downtown Royal Oak

**Details:** Fortune Feimster, a former member of the Sunday Company at the Groundlings Theatre and a writer and performer on E! Network's show, *Chelsea Lately*, performs stand-up. \$20

**Contact:** 248-542-9900; [comedycastle.com](http://comedycastle.com)

#### MR. B'S PUB

**Time/Date:** 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13

**Location:** 215 S. Main, Royal Oak

**Details:** Comedian/storyteller Greg Martin, performs a new stand-up special, "Flaky," with proceeds of the show going to his Waterford-based charity, DRAW, which helps communities hit by disaster. Admission is \$10 at the door. Reserve a spot on the Flaky: Greg Martin Comedy Show Facebook page

**Contact:** 248-399-0017



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