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Let's Keep it that **VOTE NOVEMBER 8, 2016**

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Dwyer says lawsuit sounds like payback

Township board votes to sue city about dispute concerning costs related to disbanded fire department

> **Matt Jachman** hometownlife.com

Plymouth Township is set to sue the city of Plymouth over what township officials say is an unpaid retirement tab of approximately \$3.7 million.

The township Board of

Trustees voted 4-3 Tuesday to have township attorney Kevin Bennett file a collections action, with the four board members who lost in the August primary, and thus will be leaving office next month, favoring

The \$3.7 million is what

township officials say the city owes in pension and retiree health care costs related to the Plymouth Community Fire Department, which served both communities from early 1995 through 2011. The city left the arrangement at the beginning of 2012 to partner with the Northville City Fire Depart-

ment in a cost-cutting move. Board members who favored filing suit said the city has been given enough time to reach a settlement.

"I think we've exhausted pretty much every avenue,' Clerk Nancy Conzelman said. Talks on the debt, she added, have been going on for four years and have included "doz-

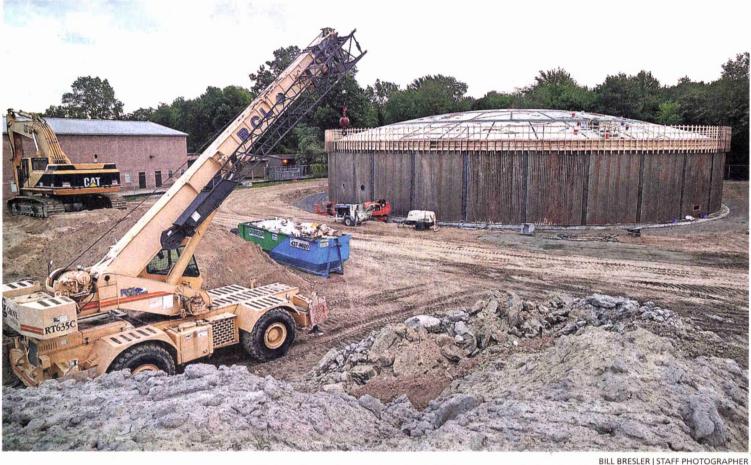
ens and dozens of delays."

"It's gone on too long," Treasurer Ron Edwards said. "This has to stop. They made the agreement. They're the ones

not living up to the agreement." Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer said the move smacks of payback. Dwyer endorsed

state Rep. Kurt Heise in the August Republican primary for township supervisor and Heise defeated Supervisor Shannon Price with a write-in candidacy. Heise has no opponent in the November general election.

See LAWSUIT, Page A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER The storage tank will fill at non-peak usage hours and allow Canton to release water during peak hours, placing less strain on the system.

TAKING SHAPE IN CANTO

hometownlife.com

In a milestone effort to ease Canton water rate hikes, a 2.5 million-gallon water storage facility is taking shape on Canton's north side and could be in use by May, officials say.

Officials are hopeful the \$10.2 million facility can help to reduce water rates or at least slow the increase — though precise projections aren't yet known. However, communities such as Novi and Plymouth Township have passed on savings to residents after their water storage facilities slashed what they pay to the Great Lakes Water Authority for service.

The Observer accompanied Canton officials Tuesday on a tour of the twoacre water storage site, near Joy and Morton Taylor, that township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said marks a turning point in longtime talks aimed at finding a solution to spiraling water rates.

"It's the future of Canton. It's so important," he said. "I'm very proud of the fact that we, as a team, were able to put this thing together. It positions us well for the

future.' A typical Canton household using 22,650 gallons of water every threemonth billing cycle is paying just under \$300 quarterly — or nearly \$1,200 a year - a price tag some residents say has been difficult to pay.

Matt Kennedy, an engineer for OHM Advisors, which designed Canton's water

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Matt Kennedy, an environmental engineer at OHM, leads the tour. In the background are Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin, Supervisor Phil LaJoy and Municipal Services Director

Clerks see spike in absentee ballot voting

Heated presidential election adding interest

> **Darrell Clem** hometownlife.com

Amidst a blistering presidential race, some western Wayne County clerks are noticing a sharp increase in the number of voters who plan to cast absentee ballots and avoid potentially long lines at Election Day polling places.

"There's a lot of interest in this election cycle. It has been unusual, to say the least," Canton Township Clerk Terry Bennett said.

Clerks say it's difficult to know how much the heated presidential race between Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump has influenced the surge of interest in absentee voting — but the uptick is real

Canton voters had requested 9,098 absentee ballots as of Thursday, nearly six weeks out from the Nov. 8 election. That's a big chunk of Canton's 66,160 registered voters. Those absentee ballots are expected to arrive in mailboxes as early as Wednesday.

Bennett said absentee ballot requests "are up probably by 20 percent" compared to this point in past presidential elec-tion cycles. "I think this re-flects people's interest in the outcome of what is going to happen on Nov. 8," she said. Canton voters also have a

flurry of local races, such as township supervisor, clerk, treasurer and part-time trust-

Livonia City Clerk Susan Nash said her office also has noticed an increase in requests for absentee ballots, with the first batch being mailed out Friday. She said 8,300 were set to be mailed out — compared to 7,500 at this point during the last non-incumbent presidential race in 2008.

Redford Township Clerk Garth Christie said requests for absentee ballots are up about 19 percent statewide. He said Redford sent letters to residents over age 60 earlier this year to notify them that they qualify to vote absentee, adding that he believes requests for absentee ballots have reached "a saturation

See ABSENTEE, Page A3



OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

See STORAGE, Page A2

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LAWSUIT

Continued from Page A1

"In my eyes, this is political retaliation from the three full-time elected officials who were not re-elected," Dwyer said. Price voted in favor of the suit, along with Edwards, Conzelman and Trustee Mike Kelly, who were all defeated in the primary.

Dwyer said the township has provided Plymouth with information about the money township officials say is owed, but not a formal bill with concise, understandable documentation that would stand up to an

audit. "I defy any official in Plymouth Township to show me a bill that they have ever given to the city of Plymouth, with corresponding information," he said.

Township officials have criticized Plymouth for what they said were

delays and for failing to provide pension information on firefighters who had worked for the city. The township eventually got that information from the state's Municipal **Employees Retirement** System.

The two communities did reach a settlement, of just over \$330,000, in July over joint fire department retiree health care expenses the township incurred from the beginning of 2012 through 2015. But payments for pensions, and for retiree health care going forward, have not been agreed upon.

Dwyer said he hasn't heard from the township since July, after city officials indicated talks should continue.

Dwyer said the pension cost is a "moving target" because some factors, such as the number of retired firefighters alive and collecting pensions, can change from year to year. The communities need to

come up with a formula that would allow Plymouth to make annual payments, he said.

Trustee Steve Mann, a former township supervisor who did not seek election to the board this year, called the action's timing "curious" and said collecting the debt should be left to the next board.

"I don't think it makes any sense to file it,' Mann said. "Not sure it's a good strategy. It's certainly not going to help the relationship at all. Mann voted against the suit, along with Trustees Bob Doroshewitz and Chuck Curmi, who both won in the August pri-

"We've been working on it for four years and it is an unfinished piece of business," Conzelman said. "I would be very wary of trusting the next board."

Heise, who will become supervisor next month barring a successful 11th-hour write-in challenge, said Tuesday that a suit against the city is "not necessary" and will hurt relations between the communities. Heise has said he'd favor further negotiations and leaving lawyers out of the dispute.

Asked about Conzelman's comment on the next board, Heise said, "She needs to end on a high note and this is not the way to do it.'

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CLARIFICATION

A story about candidates for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education that ran Sunday, Sept. 25, in the Plymouth Observer should have specified that Pete Puzzuoli sued six district administrators, not the school board. A settlement was reached to the satisfaction of all parties involved, according to his campaign worker Sonia S. Culver.

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STORAGE

Continued from Page A1

storage tank and pump station, said the goal is to have it in use by next May. It will allow Canton to draw water overnight from GLWA's system, store it and release it to local consumers when demand spikes during morning and evening hours. That places less strain on GLWA's system and is projected to slash \$3.5 million off the \$12 million that Canton pays every year for water.

In Novi, city officials reduced consumer water rates by 8 percent this year after building a \$4 million, 1.5 milliongallon water storage facility, similar to Canton's ground-level facility, said Rob Hayes, city engineer and public services director. He said costs to GLWA this year decreased 23 percent - or \$2.6 million though Novi officials expect the annual savings to climb to \$3.1 million.

"We don't see any reason why we shouldn't be able to hit that going forward," Hayes said.

Plymouth Township built a second water storage tower in 2007 and has managed to save about \$2.5 million a year that it pays for water, Treasurer Ron Edwards said. The latest water rates this summer decreased 5 percent and saved an average Plymouth Township resident about \$50 a year, he

While that might not be a huge decrease, it comes as consumers in some communities continue to face substantial rate hikes — some of them double-digit. Edwards said Plymouth Township's water storage efforts have been complemented by efforts to educate residents to try to use less water during peak usage times, roughly 6-9 a.m. and 6-8 p.m.

Ending a years-long debate in Canton on how to ease rate hikes, the



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER The pumping station controls the flow of water. The three-ton overhead crane helps with replacement of motors,

pumps and valves.

Water for the storage tank comes from 24-inch pies connected to the main.

township board in March approved a plan to proceed with the water storage facility and pump station by tapping into a GLWA water main that runs along Morton Taylor. RCL Construction Co. of Sanford just recently erected the actual storage tank.

"The tank went up in three days," Kennedy said, but that is just one part of a much-larger project before the facility can be used.

Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said Canton uses just over 10 million gallons of water a day, but the storage facility will allow the township to store water and release it to customers during non-peak

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usage hours. Placing less strain on GLWA's system will allow Canton to negotiate a better price for water.

Back in March, Faas said the water storage tank singularly amounts to "the largest capital investment Canton has made in its water system in its history."

In a positive move for taxpayers, Budget and Finance Director Wendy Trumbull said the entire project will be paid off in seven years, partly by tapping into low-interest bond money unspent from earlier water-sewer projects. The rest comes from the watersewer fund.

The best part: Canton is expected to recoup the money in less than four years through its savings with GLWA

Canton is expected to pay about \$131,000 a year to operate and maintain the storage facility - an amount officials say is small compared to the annual \$3.5 million savings.

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ABSENTEE

Continued from Page A1

point" there.

Redford is expected to send out 3,000 absentee ballots a month before the election.

In Canton, Bennett said large numbers of people came to the clerk's office after Monday's first presidential debate to request absentee ballots or register to vote. She said the influx also coincided with Tuesday's National Voter Registration Day.

"Between National Voter Registration Day and the presidential debate, we saw a lot of activity," she said.

Deputy Clerk Jackie Shamus said many of them want to vote by absentee ballot.

"They're coming in hot and heavy asking for absentee ballots," she said.

Westland City Clerk Richard LeBlanc said his office has had a sharp increase in the number of voters on a list to cast absentee ballots. Westland already had 4,700 permanent absentee voters, but he and Deputy Clerk Susan Hoff identified and sent letters to about 11,000 registered voters, 60 and older, to make them aware their age gave them the option to vote absentee if they choose.

In response, he said, 8,200 people signed up for the permanent absentee voter list.

"That's pretty impressive," LeBlanc said. "We probably had 20 absentee ballot requests a day. The closer we get to the election, it will be hundreds.'

Like Canton, Livonia had an uptick in absentee ballot requests after Monday's presidential debate, but not a major increase.

"There has been (an increase), but not a huge one," Nash said.

Wayne City Clerk Matthew Miller said his office has received 1,100 requests for absentee ballots and a bulk mailing is expected within days. He said Wayne had 2,000 absentee voters during the 2012 presidential election cycle.

Lately, Miller said, "I have seen just a little bit more of an uptick. Of course, after the debate on Monday, we had a line on Tuesday.'

Staff writers Scott Daniel, LeAnne Rogers and David Veselenak contributed to this story.

Simmons-Hill House at Livonia's Greenmead Park turns 175

David Veselenak hometownlife.com

The Simmons-Hill House that overlooks Eight Mile in Livonia sits silently facing the road, with thousands of people driving by not realizing its history. Come Sunday, visitors will get to take a peek at the mansion as it celebrates its 175th anniversary.
"It was called the best

house in the county," said Linda Wiacek, program supervisor at Greenmead Historical

An open house will take place 1-4 p.m. Sunday at the home, located on the Greenmead Historical Park property, 20501 Newburgh, just south of Eight Mile.

While some tours are given in the home's main floors during the summer, this open house will allow visitors the chance to see the upstairs bedrooms and basement. Those interested in attending are requested to RSVP by calling 248-477-7375 or emailing greenmead@ci.livonia.mi.us.

The home was built in 1841 by Joshua Simmons, who came to Michigan from New York in 1824. Other structures were built on the property before the Simmons-Hill House, including a log cabin and the white barn east of the mansion that still stands today. Wiacek said that barn, which dates to the late 1820s, is believed to be the oldest barn in Michigan.

The property eventually was named Meadowbrook Farm by Simmons, a practice fairly common in those days, Wiacek said.

"It was typical of people to name their farms," she said. The Simmons-Hill House

that will be celebrated is the culmination of work Simmons did on the property, building the home for his family at the age of 40. It has several bedrooms upstairs, a parlor, library and recreation area in the basement, all places the public will be able to tour Sun-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Come to Livonia's historic Greenmead on Sunday, Oct. 2, for the 175th anniversary celebration of the Simmons-Hill House. The home overlooks Eight Mile Road, west of Newburgh.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER A portrait of Joshua Simmons hangs in the living room or parlor.

"That's pretty darn good," Wiacek said. "Not too shabby

at all." Simmons, who also served as school commissioner, highway commissioner and Livonia

Township treasurer during his life, died in 1882, while his wife, Hannah Simmons, died in 1884, Wiacek said. The Simmons family remained in the house until 1915, when it was sold and was passed across several families. The name then changed from Meadowbrook to Greenmeade, its name before the "e" was

dropped in the spelling. Property is sold several

It later changed hands again, being purchased by Detroit attorney Sherwin Hill and his wife Jean. Wiacek said the couple wanted the home as a retreat from city life, much as many of the homes in today's western suburbs were.

"In the teens and '20s, people of means wanted a country home, a country estate," she said. "They wanted to get out of the city. It was so hot and crowded and they wanted that fresh air, that clean, healthy way of living.'

Many changes were made,

including the opening of rooms and the addition of a sun room on the back of the building.

After both of the Hills died in the mid-1900s, the family made the decision to sell the property to the city to be developed as a park. The city purchased the land in 1976.

"That was a big year for preserving history, in a lot of different ways, throughout the whole country," Wiacek said.

The open house will be the last one of the season for the Simmons-Hill House. The home will reopen for tours later this year closer to the Christmas season after the home is decorated for the holidays.

Wiacek said it's her hope to see many people from the surrounding area come and learn about the rich history of

"I'd love to see hundreds and hundreds of people out here," she said.

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Plymouth Township abolishes compensation board

Outgoing members now free to adjust pay scale

> **Matt Jachman** hometownlife.com

The dissolution of Plymouth Township's local officials compensation commission leaves Board of Trustees members free to raise their pay — or cut that of their successors.

The board did away with the commission Tuesday when it passed, with a 4-3 vote, the second reading of an ordinance Trustee Mike Kelly had proposed earlier in September.

The commission was a five-

member appointed committee charged with meeting, every even-numbered year, to determine elected officials' salaries for the next two years. Under state law, a pay commission's recommendation takes effect the following year unless rejected by a vote of at least two-thirds of the members of a community's legislative

The commission last met in 2013 and failed to meet last year. In 2016, it had only one member, as one had resigned and three others had not been replaced after their terms expired.

While state law prohibits

cutting the salary of a local official while he or she is in office, board members could conceivably reduce the pay of their successors, who will take office in November. Board members who supported abolishing the board — Kelly plus Supervisor Shannon Price, Treasurer Ron Edwards and Clerk Nancy Conzelman - all lost their election bids in a bitter Republican primary

Kelly said he believes officials should be up-front about decisions regarding their pay.

But opponents criticized the timing of the move.

"Why are we in such a hur-

ry to do this?" said Trustee Chuck Curmi, who has previously questioned a system that lets board members accept raises unless they vote affirmatively, with a super-majority, to reject them.

"It could be a dirty trick. Could be," Curmi added later. Trustee Steve Mann said

the issue should be left for the next board to decide. "We've had one reading, so let's leave it there," Mann said.

Proponents pointed out Kelly had raised the idea in January, but that it hadn't come to a vote at that time.

Mann and Curmi voted against the measure, along with Trustee Bob Doroshewitz. Curmi and Doroshewitz won in the August primary and are among five candidates vying for four trustee spots in the November general election, while Mann, appointed to the board last fall to fill a vacancy, did not run for election this

Current salary levels have the supervisor earning \$111,384 a year, the clerk and treasurer \$104,959 each and the trustees, who are considered part-timers, \$11,921.

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Some 100,000 straight-party votes cast in area in 2012

David Veselenak hometownlife.com

While the federal courts will continue to examine the issue of straight-party voting in Michigan, data from 2012 shows it's likely that many in northwest Wayne County will continue to use the method in the upcoming presidential election.

More than 103,000 ballots cast in northwest Wayne County in the 2012 presidential election were of the straightticket variety. The most straight-party ballots were cast in Livonia, where 24,249 ballots were cast in that election as either straight-party votes for Democrats or Republicans. Westland and Canton had 20,089 and 21,034 straightticket ballots cast, respective-

On the smaller end, Plymouth Township had 7,133 straight-ticket ballots cast, Garden City saw 6,093 straight-ticket ballots cast, Wayne had 4,239 such ballots cast and the Wayne County precinct of Northville saw 425 such ballots cast.

Despite a law put into place last year banning straightparty voting, an injunction on the law was instituted by the federal court system after a lawsuit was brought forth earlier this year alleging the act of eliminating straight-

STRAIGHT-PARTY BALLOTS CAST IN 2012 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Community	Democrat	Republican
Redford	10,009	2,608
Livonia	12,181	12,068
Westland	14,544	5,545
Garden City	3,912	2,181
Wayne	3,152	1,087
Northville Township	2,994	4,712
Northville (Wayne Co.)	171	254
Plymouth Township	2,868	4,265
Canton	12,545	8,489
Plymouth		sk.

*Officials in Plymouth when reached said straight-party votes were not broken out in the 2012 election.

party voting would hurt voters. The injunction, which was not lifted by the U.S. Court of Appeals of the Sixth Circuit or the U.S. Supreme Court, meant straight-ticket voting will be allowed for the Nov. 8 presidential election.

Livonia Clerk Susan Nash said she anticipates a similar figure of straight-ticket voting in this election now that it's allowed.

"Forty-four percent was straight-party ticket voting," she said. "I can't see why it would change. Let's go back to 2008, I'm seeing similar-type numbers."

The first round of absentee ballots is expected to go out later this week in some communities.

Changes had to be made

Westland Clerk Richard LeBlanc said he's anticipating wait times for voters at the polls to be similar to what they were in 2012. But staff has had to make many changes on the fly, as the original thought was that straight-party voting would not have been allowed in November.

After the lawsuit and subsequent injunction, he said, his staff had to make a 180-degree turn to help inform voters that they'd have that option.

'Our expectation was that we would not have the straight-party option," he said. "A lot of that stuff had become changed and now, all of a sudden, it had to be changed



GETTY IMAGES | ISTOCKPHOTO Locally, more than 100,000 straight party ticket votes were cast in the 2012 election.

back."

The decision to eliminate straight-party ballots by the state Legislature included reasoning that Michigan remains one of the last states in the nation that uses it. Nine other states currently allow it.

Straight-party voting allows a voter to fill in one circle to vote for all candidates of that party on the ballot, including the presidential candidates, state Legislature candidates and down to local partisan races, such as township board of trustees.

Voters can decide to vote straight party, though they can still cast a vote for a candidate outside of that party and have it count. That's something, Canton Township Clerk Terry Bennett said, that's important for voters to know.

"But folks need to understand they can vote a straight party and they can vote individual races by exception," she said.

Northville Township Clerk Sue Hillebrand said while she sees the reasoning behind the Legislature's decision over the

issue, she said voters have

decided they want to keep that

system through referendums. ""I've been a supporter of straight ticket. It's a good system. I do understand the Legislature's interest in eliminating it. We are one of the few states that offer it," she said. "Michigan voters have overwhelmingly said they like straight-ticket voting."

Voters in Michigan have voted to keep straight-party voting twice, once in 1964 and again in 2002. The most recent law banning the practice put in place by the state is referendum-proof, as it contained a \$5 million appropriation. Laws that contain appropriations cannot be overturned by vot-

Nash said her work revolves around keeping voting moving forward. She's hoping this year's election will do just

"Our goal as a clerk is to get a voter in, to have the voting process ... all be consistent and smooth," she said. "And get people through in a timely manner.'

Staff Writer Brad Kadrich contributed to this report.

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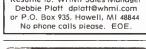
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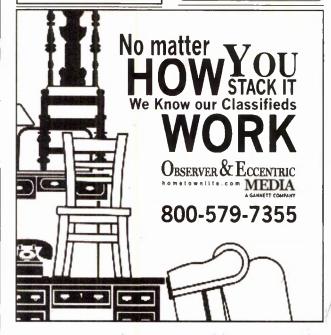
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LIVONIA YMCA

By Terry Jacoby

The Livonia YMCA is celebrating its recently renovated indoor tennis courts with an ace of a re-grand opening which includes an "open house" of complimentary access to the five courts from Oct. 3-8.

During the open house, YMCA members and community residents will have an opportunity to reserve a free court for an hour if they sign up at least 24 hours in advance and no more than 48 hours. To reserve an hour on one of the new courts, call (734) 261-2161.

The renovation project includes new LED lights; resurfaced courts; new ceiling and improved ventilation system: fresh coat of paint and new nets. It's the first renovation of the courts in decades and is sure to shed a bright LED light on the different tennis programs offered at the YMCA, including individual and group lessons, leagues and tournaments.

"We offer private lessons for beginners and experienced players, group lessons, open play and different types of leagues and travel tournaments as well as special-needs programs," said Paul Aris, tennis director at the Livonia YMCA.

Despite all of the different uses for the courts, Aris says there are opportunities for open play.

"Reserve-court play requires players to sign up in advance and there is a small fee asso-

ciated with open play," he said. "But during our open house we are waiving the fee but we still need people to sign up in advance. We want to have people see our renovated courts and also introduce them to how to reserve a court."

"We do offer scholarship opportunities to members who may not be able to afford things like tennis lessons," Wolverton said.

The tennis programs include teen development classes, high school organized practices, teen tournament training classes, junior development classes and junior competitive tennis.

The Pee Wee Fun Tennis program is for kids 10 and under and uses an exciting new format for learning tennis designed to bring kids into the game utilizing age-appropriate equipment, including smaller racquets, lower bouncing balls and lower nets.

"It's a fast, fun way to get kids into tennis and keep them playing," Aris said.

The USTA Junior Teams are forming which includes multiple 18 and younger teams and a 14 and under team.

The Livonia YMCA, a notfor-profit organization built in 1968, is located at 14255 Stark Road in Livonia. The facility is open from 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Mon-

day-Thursday; 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday; and 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

The facility, which is more than 100,000 square feet, also includes an indoor swimming pool, racquetball courts; a state-of-the-art Wellness Center; full-sized gymnasium; aerobics studio; and a multi-purpose room.

There also is a summer camp available on site for kids ages 3-15; facility rentals for birthday parties, scout groups and even overnight lock-in parties; a full men's, women's and family locker room facility; and the Y-Room which provides activities for children ages 6-12.

The Child Watch Care Center is provided for parents who have full facility membership with children between the ages of 3 months to 12 years.

The YMCA promotes youth development, healthy living and social responsibility in a family atmosphere.

There are different types of membership packages avail-

"We invite people to come in and see the facility and find the best plan that fits their needs," Wolverton said.



"We are very excited about the new courts and we want to show them off." said Brian Wolverton, executive director of the Livonia YMCA.



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Survivor of Andrea Doria tells her tale, solves mystery of famous sunken ship

hometownlife.com

Pierette Simpson was terrified to fly on an airplane to America when she was a child

So instead, she sailed on a ship that sank.

She survived and tells the tale, as well as solves a cold case, in the new documentary, "Andrea Doria: Are the Passengers Saved?" which has its world premiere at 7 p.m. Oct. 6 at the Detroit Înstitute of Arts Film



Simpson

Theater. Simpson was just 9 years old when she and her maternal grandpar-

boarded the SS Andrea Doria in 1956, leaving Pranzalito, a village located at the foot of the Alps near Turin in northern Italy. Simpson's mother Vivian had emigrated alone to the U.S. several years earlier in the hopes of creating a better life for her and her daughter. Post World War II, there was a great deal of poverty in Italy. The new world represented hope — a better education, better job, a better quality of life. When she was ready to send for Pierette, she gave her parents, who wished to remain in Italy,

an ultimatum 'She said, 'If you don't want to come, send Pietta on an airplane," said

Simpson, now a Novi resident. "I said, 'I'm not going on an airplane, it's too dangerous!' And so here I came, on a ship that sank.

At 11:10 p.m. July 25, 1956, in dense fog off the coast of Nantucket Island, the Andrea Doria and the Stockholm, a Swedish passenger liner,

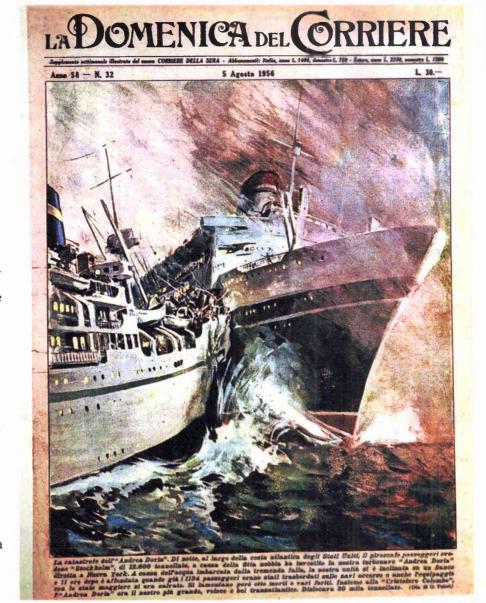
Although only a child, Simpson has a vivid recollection of the tragedy in which 46 people were killed.

"I remember the traumatic parts — the chaos, the noise, people screaming and the lights going on and off," she said. "We weren't able to stand because of the steep incline, first to the left and then back to the right. People were hurt and crying and calling out names to find family members.'

Simpson and her grandmother had been in the social hall when the ships collided and her grandfather had been sleeping in their cabin below. She recalls he came through water in the hallways to find them, his big blue eyes looking like he had seen a ghost.

The family joined a prayer circle with other passengers, the final line of their prayer, "Now until the hour of our death, amen.

Surrounded by a cacophony of noise and smells from broken fuel tanks, they formed a human chain, holding on



An artist's rendering of the collision of the SS Andrea Doria and SS Stockholm. The tragedy in 1956 took 46 lives.

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to each other and pressing to the railing on the lower side of the ship, where lifeboats brought by their rescuers were waiting.

Simpson couldn't see the lifeboats, hidden under the incline, and was filled with terror at the thought of going into the ocean. A rope was tied around her waist and she was lowered in the dark to the lifeboat, which would transport her along with her grandparents to the rescue ship Ile de France.

'Everything was very time-consuming, we were so fortunate the (Andrea Doria) didn't sink fast," Simpson said. "It was amazing that, because of the excellent construction of the ship, it stayed afloat. We were hit full speed by a ship that had a bow reinforced to break ice; it sliced through our ship like a butter knife.'

The lifeboat ride is also seared into her memory, with fellow passengers crying, screaming and vomiting as swells caused from the sinking ship rocked

them unceasingly. When they finally made it to the rescue ship, they climbed a Jacob's ladder to reach the



SS Andrea Doria Capt. Piero Calamai.

deck, which Simpson describes as being like scaling a skyscraper over the black seas.

The night was fairly warm and the moon was out and, upon reaching safety, she would fall

asleep. Her next memory is of her arrival in New York, where she and her grandparents were met by her step-father and great aunt as her mother was at home in Detroit with her new baby sister.

Her first impression of America was food. She recalls being told, "Mangia! Mangia! (Eat! Eat!)" and all she wanted was Jell-O, the prettiest looking food she had ever seen. She was less impressed a few days later with the hot dog she spit out at Belle Isle.

Simpson carried a lot of guilt about bringing her grandparents to America, in which they lost everything along the way, but she moved on with her life, finding the future her mother had sought for her -- receiving an education at Wayne State University as well as Michigan State University and going on to teach foreign language for 37 years in the Farmington Public Schools and at Detroit Country

Now 69, Simpson has returned to Italy every year since she was in her late 20s. The sinking of the Andrea Doria left not only a lasting impression on her, but became an experience she now shares with others in two books she has written, as well as her new film, all of which exonerate the maligned captain of the Andrea Doria, who died a broken man.

"His last words on his death bed were, 'Are the passengers saved?' Simpson said. "He died of a broken heart. He was criticized for the collision and that was never the case.'

Extensive research conducted by Simpson, including interviews with naval experts as well as other survivors, reveals the truth - that the captain was not at fault. In her film, which includes re-enactments and interviews with experts and survivors, the man she said carried out the greatest sea rescue in history is vindicated.

"I hope the film will go into schools so it can teach about the ugliness of prejudice, immigration, sacrifice, survival and pride of one's roots. Simpson said. "It's great to see how the American public reacts to what I have done.'

The award-winning film, which has been accepted to two film festivals, had a private premiere in Italy, where it was well-received. Simpson has been invited to the Italian parliament in November to screen the film.

"It's never too late to correct history," said Simpson, who is no longer afraid of airplanes, but is leery of boats. "I'm trying to set historical record straight.'

For more information, go to andreadoriamovie-



DATE OF HEARING:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PLANNING COMMISSION

PROPOSED ACTION: AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP **REZONE FROM:** REZONE TO:

IND, INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT PL, PUBLIC LAND DISTRICT Wednesday, October 19, 2016

7:00 P.M

TIME OF HEARING: PLACE OF HEARING: Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Plymouth, on a motion from the Board of Trustees, will hold a public hearing to consider the rezoning of a portion of Tax ID No. R-78-001-99-0001-704 from IND, Industrial District to PL, Public Land District. The property is located south of Five Mile Road, east of Napier Road, and west of Ridge Road.

Application: 2219-0916

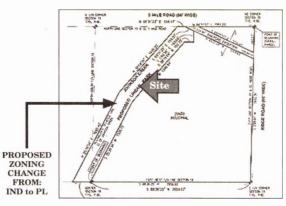
Applicant: Charter Township of Plymouth

AMENDED ZONING MAP NO. 019

Charter Township of Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: For parcel/lot descriptions, see tax records based on Tax ID No. R-78-001-99-0001-704.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that persons interested are requested to be present. Pertinent information relative to the proposed map amendment may be examined at the Plymouth Township Division of Public Services, Community Development Department, during regular business hours from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Written comments will be received prior to the meeting and may be mailed to 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170, or call 734-354-3270, ext. 5. The meeting will be held in the Town Hall Meeting Room at Plymouth Township Hall, which is located at 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170.



PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The Charter Township of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at all Township meetings, to individuals with disabilities at the meetings/hearings, upon one week notice to the Charter Township of Plymouth by writing or calling the Supervisor's Office, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. Phone 734-354-3201. TDD users: 800-849-3777

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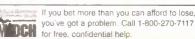
Goods are to be sold to satisfy landlord lien. All goods will

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Published: October 2, 2016

Seaholm debuts documentary on health woes

Local screening just one a few scheduled across the country

Why are Americans so sick? Who's responsible for feeding us information about what we eat, is it accurate and is it possible that by making one key lifestyle change, we can heal ourselves and our world?

Tackling these questions and more is "Eating You Alive," a new documentary debuting Tuesday, Oct. 4, at Birmingham Seaholm High School. Hosted by West Bloomfield-based Plant Based Nutrition Support Group, the event is one of just a few pre-release screenings taking place in select cities in advance of the film's wide release to theaters across the country, starting in November.

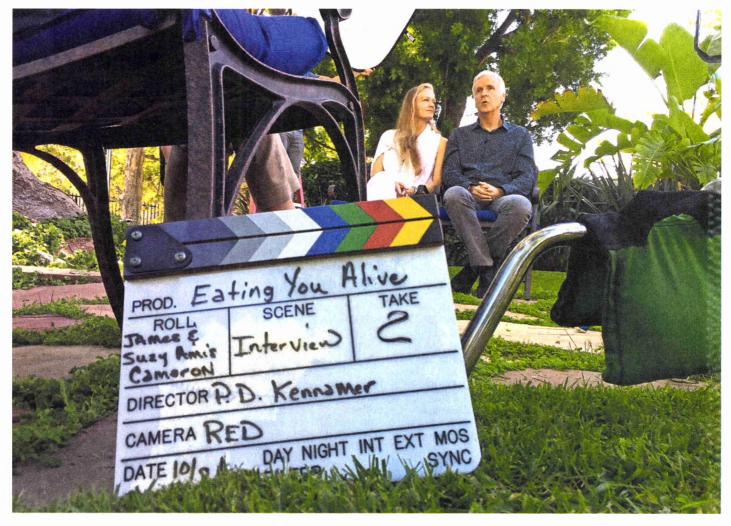
Featuring leading medical experts and researchers, "Eating You Alive" takes a compelling look at our nation's health woes and reveals the truth behind why more Americans are disabled and dying from chronic conditions than ever before and especially how one specific lifestyle change — choosing whole, plant-based foods over animal products — could be the solution.

Well-known physicians Dr. Neal Barnard, Dr. Caldwell Esselstyn Jr., Dr. Joel Fuhrman, Dr. Michael Greger, Dr. John McDougall and Dr. Dean Ornish are interviewed, along with many others, including Academy Awardwinning filmmaker and deep sea explorer James Cameron, environmental advocate and actress Suzy Cameron, magician Penn Jillette and the "hardest working actor in Hollywood," Samuel L. Jackson.

Logging more than 30,000 miles and engaging with dozens of physicians, celebrities and ordinary people, "Eating You Alive" provides the factual basis for why Americans are eating themselves to death and the real solution to battling obesity, heart disease, diabetes, strokes, Alzheimer's, arthritis and other debilitating conditions that rob us of our loved ones and our own health.

Southeast Michigan residents featured in the film include PBNSG founder Paul Chatlin; PBNSG executive director Kerrie Saunders, MS, LLP, PhD; telecom executive Marc Ramirez; and restaurant owner Amber Poupore.

"The film shows how one profound lifestyle choice can radically combat chronic disease and soaring health care costs and also have major global impact," Chatlin said.



The documentary "Eating You Alive" debuts Tuesday, Oct. 4, at Seaholm High School.





Chatlin Saunders

A growing body of medical research and countless real-life testimonies point to adopting a whole-foods, plantbased diet as a particularly powerful way to regain our health.

A whole-foods, plant-based diet consists of vegetables, fruits, whole grains, beans, legumes, nuts and seeds and generally avoids added oils, re-

"The film shows how one profound lifestyle choice can radically combat chronic disease and soaring health care costs and also have major global impact."

PAUL CHATLIN PBNSG founder

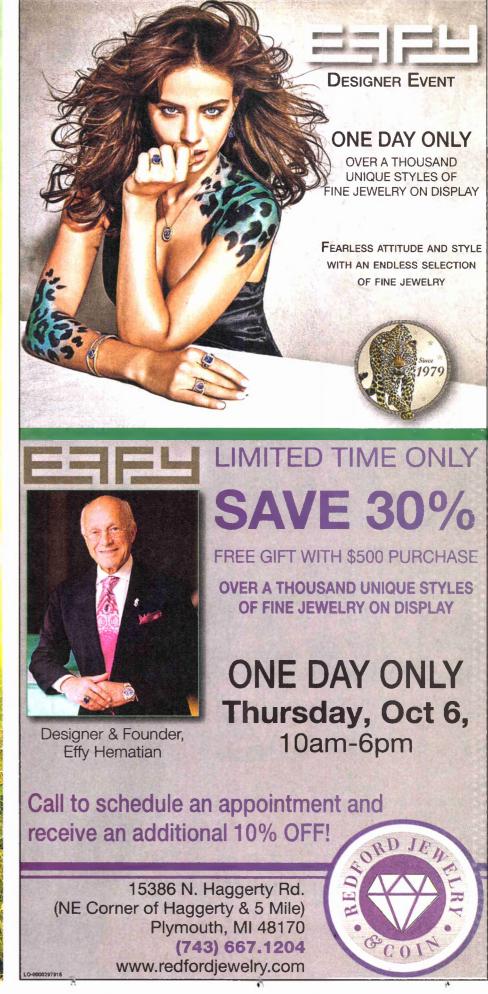
fined flours and sugar, along with all animal-derived products. In addition to its documented health benefits, a plant-based, or vegan, diet is least harmful to the environment and reduces the largely inhumane slaughtering of 22,000 animals per minute in the U.S. alone.

"PBNSG is hosting this screening because we want to inspire people to take control of their own health and to provide them with tools and tips for doing that," Chatlin said.

"Eating You Alive" premieres at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 4, at Seaholm High School, 2436 W. Lincoln, in Birmingham. The \$20 ticket price includes a meet-and-greet panel discussion with the film's producers and other guests to be announced. Tickets must be purchased in advance at www.pbnsg.org/eatingyoualive/. No door sales will take place.

Related events include a restaurant dinner with the film's producers Oct. 3 and a pre-screening dinner at Seaholm catered by The Clean Plate at 4 p.m. Oct. 4. For details and tickets, go to www.pbnsg.org/eatingyoualive/.





Subdivision roads need work

Regarding Wayne County Executive Warren Evans meeting with Canton residents, where he told the crowd that it would be "disingenuous" to say subdivision streets will be given a high priority when so much work remains on major roads: We're not asking for a high priority. But we're tax-paying citizens, too, and the repair of our older subdivision streets is a legitimate concern. There must be some money that the county could appropriate for the townships on an annual basis that could be used for a subdivision streets repair program of some kind that wouldn't jeopardize major roads. Maybe it's not a high priority, but does that mean it should get nothing? Give us a small line item in the budget. We need it.

Jim Leddy Canton

Shame on Siegrist

I am one of tens of thousands of Canton absentee voters that should be appalled by candidate Michael Siegrist's claim that the integrity of Canton clerk's office is compromised. At a forum held at the Muslim Community of Western Suburbs in mid-September, he accused the Canton clerk's office of suppressing ballots with signature problems.

I personally know that nothing could be further from the truth. While recovering from major surgery at my home during a past election, I received a call from our Clerk Terry Bennett personally. She told me I had forgotten to sign my absentee ballot. I explained I was unable to drive and she came personally to my home to secure my signature. I signed it and my vote was counted. She explained that she came to my home because there wasn't enough time to notify me by mail as she does with all ballots with a signature problem. There is no other clerk I have ever heard of that goes to that extreme to ensure a single vote is counted.

Obviously, candidate Siegrist, a 10-month apartment renter of Canton, who claimed his entire family's alliance to Plymouth during his last campaign just two years ago, has sadly gone negative. The Canton clerk's office earned the highest award of excellence for a clerk's office in the state of Michigan. Shame on candidate Michael Siegrist for trying to cast negativity over thousands of election-day workers who take great pride in the high integrity of our voting process in Canton.

Vivien Pierson Canton

LETTERS TO WAYNE COUNTY EDITOR

Splitting votes

It pretty near killed me to have to vote only on the Republican side of the ballot last month for the Canton primary election. Please believe me, as a life-long strong Democrat, it was a hard thing for me to do. But I had to do it in order to vote for our proven Canton leaders Linda Obrec, Melissa McLaughlin and Pat Williams.

Come the November general election, though, when I fill out my absentee ballot, I will be so happy to continue to vote Democrat. This time, though, I will split my ticket and also fill in the ovals in for Linda for clerk, Melissa for treasurer and Pat for supervisor.

The main reason I had to go against all grain in August and vote Republican is because I know Linda Obrec, who is running for Canton clerk. I've seen the great work she has done as a volunteer leader for the Canton Newcomers & Neighbors, the Canton Lions Club, Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle, supporting the Canton Goodfellows and more. My heart will swell with happy confidence in our future should she have the opportunity to turn her attention to all of Canton through the clerk's office.

Teaming Linda up with Melissa McLaughlin, who is running for reelection as our treasurer, will create rock-solid public service offices. There may be no better expert on the intimacies of Canton Township than our fearless Melissa McLaughlin. Finally, because Pat Williams, who is running for supervisor, has been an outstanding trustee for the last 16 years, he will be able to jump into the office with both feet running. I have known Pat Williams for over 25 years and I consider him one of the finest, most honest and trustworthy friends that I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. His leadership means Canton will be able to continue building the positive momentum we have gained.

While I am committed to voting Democrat, it is also necessary for me to split my ticket and vote for all three in the "other" party. No matter how you vote, I encourage all Canton voters to vote for Linda, Melissa and Pat.

Clarice Killian

'Sleight of hand'

We can tell election season is upon us when the glossy mailers start arriving. The one from the Republican aspirants to Canton Township offices left me slightly bemused. As far as I can determine, not one of those people listed has been banging on the doors of their Republican colleagues in Lansing, demanding they stop rewarding big business with tax breaks at the expense of local government and schools. I guess that's the "fiscal conservative" reference in the flier.

Former state Rep. Dian Slavens, current state Rep. Kristy Pagen and current township Trustee Steven Sneideman have all been critical of the loss of revenue from the state. But because

they are Democrats, they were ignored by the Republicans currently in power. Another line that caught my eye says "Keeping taxes low" and demands closer inspection. Our township board, Republican-dominated, twice raised the public safety millage, increased the amount we pay for trash pickup (except

the most expensive homes that will pay

less) and you now pay a \$25 fee to proc-

ess your property tax bills, despite the

fact that you are already paying for

every aspect of the clerk's office.

These sleight of hand moves allowed them to shift the funds that would have gone to these departments and tell you what "good stewards" of your money they are. And yet, we are the ones paying for their misdeeds. All of the above actions have taken place in off election years, when they couldn't be held accountable. But this year, they can—

and they will.

James Huddleston

A reader's thanks

Thank you for including Wayne County news, events and opinions in your latest editions. Suburban residents need a Wayne County newspaper as the Detroit dailies seem to be ignoring us more and more. Please continue to cover the entire county.

Robert J. Duda

Pick Sommer Foster

I have known and worked with Sommer Foster, candidate for Canton Township trustee, for more than three years and want to tell the Canton community why I believe that Sommer is the best possible candidate.

I've witnessed Sommer's commitment to the Canton community first-hand. From her work on the library board to her work on Canton's first ever "Not In Our Town" unity rally, Sommer is always ready to roll up her sleeves and do the hard work.

In fact, when she first joined the team at Equality Michigan, she asked me if she could be the staff representative on the Canton Response to Hate Crimes Coalition. This was an extraordinary request, as this position fell outside of her job responsibilities and would only add to her already overfull

workload, but it was important to her to work within her community to build strong partnerships with law enforcement and marginalized communities, including the LGBTQ community.

As Sommer built solid relationships with then Director Todd Mutchler and the Canton Police Department as our representative on the Hate Crimes Coalition, she also worked with Trustee Steven Sneideman and Supervisor Phil LaJoy to pass a fully inclusive non-discrimination ordinance to ensure that all Canton residents are protected from discrimination.

Thanks to Sommer's relationships with the leadership at the Canton Police Department, she was able to organize a meeting with CPD and our Department of Victim Services in a successful effort to see how we could best work together to serve the Canton community. She then went on to participate in Canton's first "Not In Our Town" unity rally, where she spoke about the great work of then-Director Mutchler, Sgt. Dale Waltz, Canton Library Director Eva Davis and other Canton police officers.

Indeed, Sommer's commitment to building partnerships across diverse and sometimes competing factions is unparalleled in this race. No one will work harder to achieve what is best for the community of Canton than Sommer Foster. I wish I could vote for her, but I'm not a Canton resident, so I can only urge you to vote for her.

Yvonne Siferd

attorney, former director of Victim Services, Equality Michigan

Vote Anil Kumar

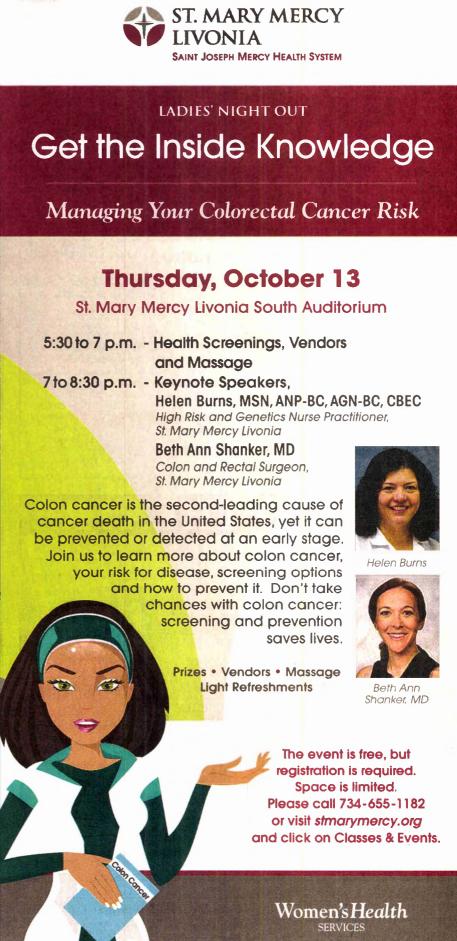
Dr. Anil Kumar, chief of surgery at Crittenton Hospital and on the clinical faculty at MSU, is the person who will represent the 11th Michigan Congressional District in Washington, D.C., better than the current representative. Dr. Kumar is an authority on opioids, is anti-fracking, an advocate for economic parity. The Oakland Press once listed him as, "a women's rights activist." Dr. Kumar is a spokesman for the 99 percent.

David Trott, the current representative, is a perfect contrast to Anil Kumar. Mr. Trott, a wealthy lawyer, is known for his foreclosures, plus closing and breaking businesses apart. He has been in Congress two years without any evidence of accomplishments except, perhaps, some which have benefited persons in his economic group.

Mr. Trott is a spokesman for the 1

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Take a hike!

Michigan has many beautiful destinations to view fall colors or simply enjoy sounds, sights of nature

Mark Spezia

Special to the Detroit Free Press

A myriad of Michigan hiking trails offer at least one of the following — eye-popping Great Lakes beach views, scenic overlooks that stretch for miles, picturesque rumbling creeks, powerfully flowing rivers, a canopy of majestic hardwoods, a peaceful thicket of pines or wide array of wildlife

Come autumn, of course, the state's pathways add their finest feature, beginning a transformation that leaves them ablaze with color.

Typically, fall's hues reach their peak the first week of October in the Upper Peninsula and later in the month farther south.

Here are some of Michigan's best fall foliage hikes:

UPPER PENINSULA

North Country Trail/Porcupine **Mountains hike**

Location: Bessemer. The hike: How does averaging one waterfall per mile sound? It's nearly possible on this 11-mile trek where the Black and Presque Isle Rivers run parallel to each other roughly four miles apart in the Western U.P. before emptying into Lake Superior. Hikers start on the North Country trail just north of Bessemer near the famous Copper Peak Ski Flying Hill. It follows the Black River and hits seven waterfalls in the roughly five miles before it meets Lake Superior. Great Conglomerate. Gorge and Potawatomi

Falls especially stand out. At that point, the trail crosses a foot bridge and briefly turns south before heading west to the Presque Isle River, which forms the western boundary of Porcupine Mountains State Park. On a trail following that river, hikers encounter three more cascades before again reaching Lake Superior. The hike as described here begins at the north end of Copper Peak Road, approximately 500 feet from County Road 513, north of the village of Bessemer. Color in this area is expected to peak about Oct. 7.

Chapel Loop, **Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore**

Location: Munising The hike: This 6.5-mile loop features one of the state's most gorgeous waterfalls (80-foot Chapel Falls), most scenic beaches (Chapel Beach) and most interesting geological features (Chapel Rock). Chapel Falls, about 1.3 miles into the hike, is surrounded by bright yellow foliage in the fall as it descends to Chapel Lake and can be viewed from either side or the top. Chapel Rock and Chapel Beach are about halfway in. Across the beach, the loop continues back to the parking area. The return trip offers a great view through the trees from high above Chapel Lake. To reach the trailhead, take H-58 west from Munising to Chapel Road and turn left (north), following Chapel Road to the parking lot. Pictured

Escarpment Trial, Porcupine Mountains

Rocks is expected to

the first two weeks of

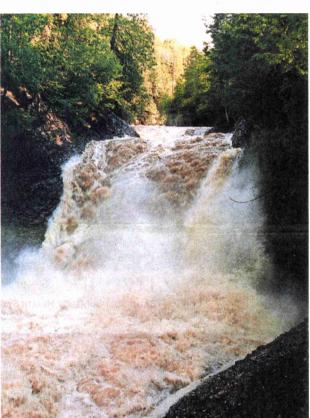
October.

reach peak color during

Location: Ontonagon The hike: The fourmile, one-way trial hugs the rocky ridge roughly 400 feet above one of the state's most popular scenic sites - Lake of the Clouds — offering amazing views of that lake on one side and Lake Superior on the other. Beyond Lake of the Clouds, which is surrounded by color in the fall, the trail continues east above the Carp River before descending through the trees and ending at M-107. To reach the trailhead, take M-107 west from Ontonagon into Porcupine Mountains State Park to the Lake of the Clouds overlook parking area. Color should peak in this area about Oct. 7.

Tahquamenon Falls Trail

Location: Paradise The hike: Perhaps Michigan's best river hike, the 4.5-mile, oneway trail connects the Upper Falls with the Lower Falls along the Tahquamenon River. It's a rolling path that takes hikers to river level and back up several times. At one point, hikers descend a 71-step stairway to the river's edge. There are few better autumn sites in Michigan than coppertinged Tahquamenon Falls framed by thousands of colorful beech, maple and hemlock leaves. To reach the Upper Falls trailhead, follow



UPPER PENINSULA TRAVEL & RECREATION ASSOCIATION



The view of Lake of the Clouds from the Escarpment Trail.

MICHIGANTRAILMAPS.COM

M-123 north from Newberry about 21 miles. Color is expected to peak in this area during the first two weeks of Octo-

Summit Peak, **Porcupine Mountains**

Location: Silver City The hike: It's a steep 800-meter trip to a 40-foot observation tower atop the park's highest point and third-highest in the state - where it is possible to see into Wisconsin and catch a glimpse of Isle Royale National Park on a clear day. There are several trail options from there that take hikers into the park's interior, including the Mirror Lake Trail, which skirts scenic Mirror Lake and Lake of the Clouds before eventually reaching Lake Superior. The Summit Peak parking area can be reached by following South Boundary Road before turning north on Summit Peak Road. Color is expected to peak in the area around Oct. 7.

LOWER PENINSULA

Highbanks Trail

Location: Oscoda The hike: This is a seven-mile, one-way trail, offering tremendous views of the AuSable River. There are places to follow steps down to the river's edge such as the 300 steps that lead to Iargo Springs. The 3.5mile stretch between Iargo Springs and the Sand Dune Overlook is especially scenic in fall. Along the way, hikers pass markers of the area's logging history like the Canoer's Monument and Lumberman's Monument. The Sand Dune Overlooks features views of the Cooke Dam portion of the river and a large island. The hike described here begins at

Iargo Springs, which can be reached by following the River Road Scenic Byway about 18 miles west from Oscoda. Color is expected to peak here in mid-October.

Jordan River Pathway

Location: Alba The hike: The trail begins at Deadman's Hill, one of the most popular fall overlooks in the Lower Peninsula, offering stunning views of the Jordan River Valley. From there, the trail descends to the valley, beginning its 18-mile loop. A walk-in campground at the halfway point makes this one of the state's best overnight backpacking trips. For dayhikers, the best option is to follow the trail about 1.4 miles to a connecting trail, which forms the roughly 3.5mile Deadman's Loop. The Landslide Overlook at the 12-mile mark is a highlight for overnighters. To reach the trailhead, take U.S. 131 about six miles north of Alba and turn west on Deadman's Hill Road. The parking is two miles from there. This area is expected to see peak color in mid-October.

Antrim Creek Natural Area

Location: Atwood The hike: Antrim Creek may be small compared to state parks and other natural areas, but plenty of scenic sites and fall color are packed into its 156 acres which features a one-mile stretch of undeveloped Lake Michigan shoreline. The 2.1 miles of trails take hikers through a variety of landscapes, including hardwood forest, cedar swamp and meadows. The trail that runs along the banks above Antrim Creek at the south end of the preserve is a mustsee and eventually empties into Lake Michigan. To reach the trailhead. follow US-31 south from Charlevoix to Rex Beach Road. Turn right and follow Rex Beach Road until it ends at Old Dixie Highway. The entrance of Antrim Creek Natural Area is located on the west side of Old Dixie Highway.

Bloomer Unit Loop

Location: Ortonville Recreation Area

The hike: This threemile loop is one of the most scenic southeast Michigan hikes come fall as its rolling hills take hikers through a thick hardwood forest that is awash in color. Some points of the trail feature steep ravines on both sides as leaves crunch below one's feet. Another section skirts a farmer's field. There is also a cabin available for rent along the trail. To reach the trailhead, take M-24 north of Oxford to Oakwood Road. Turn west and go to gravel State Park Road to the short road leading to the parking area on the right. Color here should peak during the final two weeks of October.

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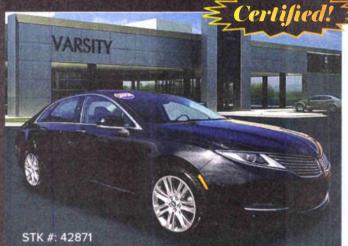
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SECTION B (CP)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2016 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

SPORTS

TIM SMITH, EDITOR TSMITH@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 734-469-4128

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Salem rains down points

Tim Smith hometownlife.com

Andrew Davis' performance was befitting for such a rainy night Friday as the Salem junior running kept pouring it on against South Lyon East.

At one point early in what turned into a 55-0 Salem victory, Davis ran the ball 15 consecutive offensive snaps for the Rocks.

He wound up with 312 yards on 27 carries and scored five touchdowns,

Davis gains 312 yards, runs roughshod over South Lyon East in 55-0 win

before watching much of the second half (played with a running clock) from the sidelines even though Anthony Mullins' team rushing record was in reach.

"I have to thank the Oline, they played great to-day." said Davis, who said he knew he was getting close to Mullins' record (estimated by some Salem coaches as

330 yards).

"And the defense, too. they gave me a chance to get the ball. It was the whole

Able to freelance it

Salem head coach Kurt Britnell praised Davis for his ability to zig and zag and burst around the edge, turning short gainers into long

ones. That was a recurring

theme Friday.
"He ran well, a few of them he did on his own," Britnell said. "We missed some blocks up front, got a little lazy up front with our feet. ... But a running back like Andrew can make us look good."

Also scoring on 56-yard runs for Salem were running back VerShawn Patrick and quarterback Trevor Genaw, who took over from Davis

See GRIDDERS, Page B3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Salem's Andrew Davis (No. 7) is on his way to one of five touchdowns Friday night.

G-FORCE TAKES CHARGE



JOHN KEMSKI I EXPRESS PHOTO

Best friends off the court and a menace to face on the court are Canton's (from left) Gabby den Boer, Sabrina Giacomini and Gina Giacomini.

LETTER PERFECT

Trio spearheads Chiefs' well-oiled volleyball machine

> **Tim Smith** hometownlife.com

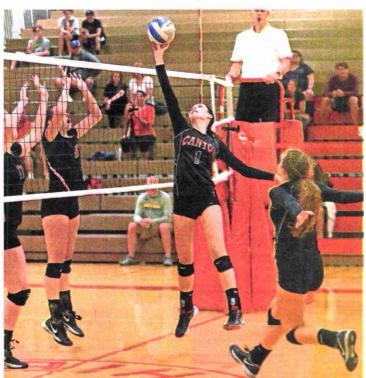
There is an energetic, continuous buzz surrounding Canton's volleyball team this season — especially when it comes to the Giacomini twins

and Gabby den Boer. The trio forms a "G-Force" as the Chiefs throttle KLAA opponents with a brand of knee-scraping, heavy-hitting

volleyball. Setter Sabrina Giacomini and outside hitters Gina Giacomini and den Boer know how and when to stoke Canton's fast-striking attack, one that often leaves rivals without an answer.

"I think there's a definite connection between the three

See G-FORCE, Page B4



JOHN KEMSKI I EXPRESS PHOTO

Elevating to tip the ball over the net during a recent game is Canton senior setter Sabrina Giacomini (No. 1).

ALL FOR ONE

TERRIFIC TWINS: Gina and Sabrina Giacomini, 17, are twin sisters and seniors for Canton's varsity girls volleyball team. Their parents are Tracy and John Giacomini of Canton. Gina plays outside hitter while Sabrina is a setter. Both girls began playing club volleyball during seventh grade for Legacy in Novi and have verbally committed to play collegiately at University of Michigan-Dearborn. They each are in their second full season with the varsity Chiefs. GABBY'S GOT IT: Gabrielle "Gabby" den Boer, 17, also is in her second season with Canton's varsity team. Her parents are Harrie and Sandra and older sisters Pretoria and Erica also played volleyball for the Chiefs.

The outside hitter was in third grade when she joined her first volleyball team, the Hurricanes. In ensuing years, her club volleyball experience has included the Huron Valley Volleyball Club and Next Generation. She intends to play at the collegiate level and is looking at Concordia University.

PREP FOOTBALL

Chiefs overpower Chargers, 51-7

Canton running game too much for Churchill

> **Evan Paputa** Correspondent

The rout was on, the rain was merciless, and the story was all but written as the Canton Chiefs led Livonia Churchill 44-7 with just three minutes left in the fourth quarter of Friday night's KLAA south divisional game.

That's when 5-foot-8, 150pound Canton senior running back Cam Dixon got his first carry of his career.

Dixon took a hand-off from quarterback Joel Foster and powered in from five yards out to put an exclamation point on the 51-7 triumph over the host Chargers on their Homecoming Night.

Following the touchdown, the entire Canton sideline erupted in cheers for Dixon.

"He's our scout team running back. He has a great attitude and we all love that kid. We have so much respect for him," Canton head coach Tim Baechler said. "They (Chiefs) get it.

Dixon's touchdown put a cap on a night of rainy football that saw the Chiefs (4-2) jump to an early 31-7 halftime lead thanks in large part to the running of Markus Sanders.

Sanders scored on a 65-yard touchdown run in the first quarter to put the Chiefs up 14-0 and a 29-yarder late in the

second quarter. Julian Thornton (11 carries

See CHIEFS, Page B2



TOM BEAUDOIN Livonia Churchill's Michael Hill looks to outrun Canton defender Jacob Donnelly (No. 33) Friday night.



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YOUTH FOOTBALL

JV Steelers win big on homecoming day

Canton Lions squads victorious against Comets

What a memorable homecoming day it was for the Plymouth-Canton Steelers junior varsity team, which earned a 32-6 win over the Macomb Mustang

Part of a big afternoon and evening at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, with the PC Steelers celebrating 40 years of football (with four games), the JV squad was led by Brayden Willis (three rushing touchdowns of 1, 5 and

A fumble recovery by Ryan Fisher early in the contest led to Willis' 1-yard plunge to open the scoring. Helping set up Willis' 5-yard TD was an interception and 28-yard return by Zack Bad-

Also coming up big was Brady Blakita, who zig-zagged 48 yards for a touchdown run.

Steelers quarterbacks Barrett Barker and Andon Locke were strong, as was the offensive line of Cananaugh Diton, Luke Nieset, Adam Nicholas, Michael Beydoun, Evan Lang, Landon Kowalski and Hayden Tennis.

Shutting down Macomb on defense were Baechler Houser, Evan Cosgrove, Brendan Matthews, Trevor Moulton and Jack Weiss.

Canton Lions

The Canton Lions varsity team secured a 25-2 win in their home opener Sunday with the Westland Comets Ethan Bennett put up six points early in the first quarter with a 37-yard punt return. This set the tone for a fastmoving offense, which was led in rushing by Shamar Lee.

On the next Lions offensive series, Marco Johnson threw a 14-yard touchdown pass to Preston Long. After a couple of runs and a 26-yard diving catch by Long down to the Comets 6-yard line, Johnson capped off the drive with a 6-yard touchdown pass to Charlie LePage.

Johnson was also a play maker on defense in the first half with a pick six; the extra point was run in by Lee.

The Lions' defense held tough through the game with consistent line penetration from Mark Dagher and Justin Johnson. Contributing to the stout defensive play were Giulian Bodiu, Colin Brewer and Long. In the secondary, Dain Humm and Lee kept the Comets' offense in check, along with Bennett adding an interception.

The Lions' offense controlled the ball the entire second half. The offensive line, led by Gabe Alexander, kept the game moving with help from Quentin Smith, V.J. Ragland, Ben Harger, Jeremy Davis and Kelton McCaslin.

The Lions will take on the Redford Eagles on Oct. 2 for their homecoming.

JV: A dominant junior varsity offense resulted in a 42-12 Canton Lions victory over the Westland Comets. Dylan Fleming reached the end zone first, followed by two extra points from Josiah West, the first of his three extra-point kicks for the day.

Fleming's interception in the second quarter gave the Lions good field position for Aaron Alexander to put six more on the board. Alexander would



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A running back for the Plymouth-Canton Steelers tears up some yardage during one of Saturday's homecoming football games.



Canton Lions freshmen players Bralen Willis (No. 1) and Alex Witt (No. 72) work together to bring down a Westland Comet.

reach the end zone again on a 60-yard run, followed by Derik Watson's trip to the end zone from a 51-yard pass from Avery Satterlee.

Luke Matusik ran for 21 yards for a touchdown in the second half.

A strong defense led by Alexander, JaMarcus Barnes, Gavin Bobby and Wesley Faulkner allowed only two touchdowns from the Comets. Fleming had a pick six in the second half; and Satterlee had an interception. Brandon Keen and Justin Rogers disrupted plays in the Comets' backfield the whole game through.

The JV Lions record sits at 2-1 as

they prepare for their homecoming match-up Oct. 2 with the Redford Ea-

FRESHMEN: The freshman Lions dominated on both sides of the ball in their 32-6 win over the Westland Comets. Caleb Williams put up six points in the first quarter, with Devin Kaigler scoring the extra point. Williams' 75yard touchdown run and a 66-yard touchdown run by Kristopher Easley brought the score to 19-0 at halftime.

Williams and Easley both reached the end zone one more time in the second half, with 80- and 94-yard runs, respectively, and Kaigler scored another extra point.

The Lions were a menace on defense, preventing any Comets first downs in the first half and allowing only one Comets possession in the third quarter. The defense was led by Evan Borsvold, Easley, Cameron Jon-ca, Williams, Bralen Willis and Alex

The Comets' only touchdown came by way of a 38-yard drive in the fourth

JR. FRESHMEN:

The junior freshmen started off slowly, but eventually gained unstoppable momentum.

Lions highlights on offense included a 36-yard touchdown run from Aaron Jones, who also followed with a 51-yard touchdown run. Jones went on to run for 17 yards on a big third down con-

Jake Christensen and Maxwell Tegen both caught first-down passes from quarterback Brandon Willis. Finn Stubin got in on the action with a 15yard carry.

The Lions defense was not to be outdone. Numerous fourth-down stops included one that prevented a Comets touchdown on fourth and two. Other key defensive plays included a solo, open-field tackle by Jones to prevent a big run by the comets. Brandon Willis and Cole Balog combined to stop the comets from gaining yardage. Landon Garrett, Bradley King, Finn Stubin and Jack Lockhart all contributed with tackles, while Ayden Balog's tackle in the backfield resulted in a five-yard loss, Max Hornbacher and Ethan Rose combined for a four-yard loss.

PREP SWIMMING

Salem girls swimmers prevail

Hometown life.com

Apparently, members of Salem's varsity girls swimming and diving team were a bit under the weather when they faced Livonia Stevenson Thursday

The Rocks showed their resilience, however, earning a 108-77 victory over the KLAA Central Division opponent.

"The women did a phenomenal job tonight," said Salem head coach Brandon Larkins, in an email to the Observer. Every single girl pushed through their sickness and gave it their all. Looking forward to what the future holds.

Swimmers from both teams also made Michigan Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association cuts with excellent times; MISCA cuts are a notch below MHSAA cuts which the athletes continue to work toward reaching.

For Salem, getting the dual meet off to a strong start was the 200-yard medley relay team of Katie Xu, Miranda Li, Sarah Griffiths and Jenna Chen. The

finished in 1:57.79 (MISCA cut). Xu also qualified for the MISCA meet with her first-place times of 2:18.24 in the 200 IM and as part of the victorious 400-free relay with Morgan Davis, Griffiths and Chen (3:52.35).

Other Salem firsts were registered by Chen (50 free, 27.12), Camille Burt (1-meter diving, 241.30 points), Davis (100 free, 57.67, MISCA cut), Griffiths (500 free, 5:31.99, MISCA cut) and Molly Rowe (100 backstroke, 1:04.58, MISCA

tsmith@hometownlife.com Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO Salem's Kate Grimes competes during the 500-yard freestyle event during Thursday's dual

CHIEFS

Continued from Page B1

for 40 yards) and Reid McDonnell (18 carries for 118 yards) also scored rushing touchdowns for Canton in the first

Ben Tubaro added a field goal with three seconds left in the second half to give Canton a 31-7 halftime advantage.

"We ran hard, took care of the ball. Very physical, our offensive line was physical. Our backs, running, faking, and blocking were physical. Very excited, we're starting to play a little bit,' Baechler said.

Sanders rattled off chunks of yardage all game long, accumulating 224 rushing yards and two touchdowns.

Churchill's (4-2) lone score of the game came on a 24-yard Evan Cummins touchdown run with 3:21 left in the

Canton's offense tends to get the

majority of attention, but the defense played as good as Baechler could have imagined, allowing just 176 total yards and only six first downs.

"That's a great team and we gave up seven points, are you kidding me? It's not my fault it rained... That's just the way that it is," Baechler said.

Defensively, Canton was led in tackles by Lou Baechler with eight. Senior defensive lineman, Jake Warner, anchored the d-line that was able to pressure Cummins all night.

'We just decided to stay tough. We came out, hit them hard and they shut down from there. We had momentum

all game," Warner said. With rain falling all night, the Canton running game thrived while the Churchill spread struggled to pick up mo-

mentum. "I thought, as far as us, I thought we had an advantage. We're mostly a run team and we shut down their pass. They had a lot of good plays that they beat us and then we got lucky on a few

of them," Warner said. For Churchill, falling behind to Canton's staple power running game put them behind the eight-ball in the first

After Thornton's touchdown, Churchill drove 62 yards to the Canton 18yard line, but the drive stalled on a fourth-and-7 play. Cummins (5-of-14 for 82 yards) stood in the pocket, but his pass sailed through the hands of Michael Hill in the end zone.

"We started out playing pretty well in the first quarter, but lost a little momentum when we dropped the fourth down in the end zone," Churchill head coach Bill DeFillippo said.

Churchill plays travels to play crosstown rival Franklin (4-2) next Friday at

"We'll regroup; one game's not gonna make the year. We got to get ready to play a pretty good Franklin team next week," DeFillippo said.

Canton travels to play at Wayne Memorial (1-5) next Friday at 7 p.m.



Canton's Reid McDonnell (No. 18) tries to elude the tackle of a Livonia Churchill player during Friday night's KLAA South game.

REMEMBERING A LEGEND

The 'King' had unique relationship with Oakland Hills

hometownlife.com

Arnold Palmer, the man whose name is synonymous with golf, touched the lives of people worldwide. The Detroit area and Oakland Hills Country Club in particular — was definitely one of the places he left his mark.

The "King," as he was widely known, died from heart complications Sept. 25 in Pittsburgh. He was 87.

Palmer, who burst onto the scene after winning the 1954 U.S. Amateur at the Country Club of Detroit, played a major role in growing the game of golf with his tremendous talent and charismatic personality. The Pennsylvania native was a course magnet, consistently drawing massive, energetic galleries which came to be known as "Arnie's Army."

"I never met him personally, but my observation from watching him outside the ropes is that Arnold was a very unique guy who made it electric for all the people out in the gallery," said Lee Juett, a longtime Oakland Hills Country Club member who most recently served as general chairman of the 2016 U.S. Amateur, which the club hosted in August. "He had that charisma and he certainly engaged the galleries in an exciting way, more than any other player past and present, as far as I could tell."

Played Oakland Hills six times

Palmer found his way to historic Oakland Hills, where he became an honorary member in 2010, six times during his legendary playing career, which spanned more than five decades.

Palmer's first venture around the challenging Oakland Hills course, which Ben Hogan dubbed "The Monster" after winning the 1951 U.S. Open, was the 1961 U.S. Open, in which Palmer finished tied for 14th. In 1981, Palmer, playing in his first U.S. Senior Open at the age of 51, survived a spectacular three-way playoff with Billy Casper and Bob Stone to capture the title. It was his first and only triumph at Oakland Hills.

In other Oakland Hills appearances, the aggressive, unorthodox right-handed swinger finished second in the 1964 Carling World Championship, tied for 16th at the 1972 PGA Championship and missed the cut at both the 1979 PGA and 1991 U.S. Senior Open.

Mike Dietz, president of Dietz Sports & Entertainment in Farmington Hills, recalls how his mother made sure she went to Oakland Hills to watch Palmer

"My memory of him was when he was back at Oakland Hills when he won the '81 U.S. Senior Open," Deitz said. "My mom and dad were members at Oakland Hills and they always volunteered to work tournaments. I just remember my mom - she was in her early 50s then — and her girlfriends just thought he was the greatest. They loved being part of 'Arnie's Army.' It was a big, big deal for

"They would follow him and they watch him," he added. "I remember how popular he was and just seeing him at Oakland Hills was special. I just remember how much people loved him from so many generations. He was a great, humble guy."

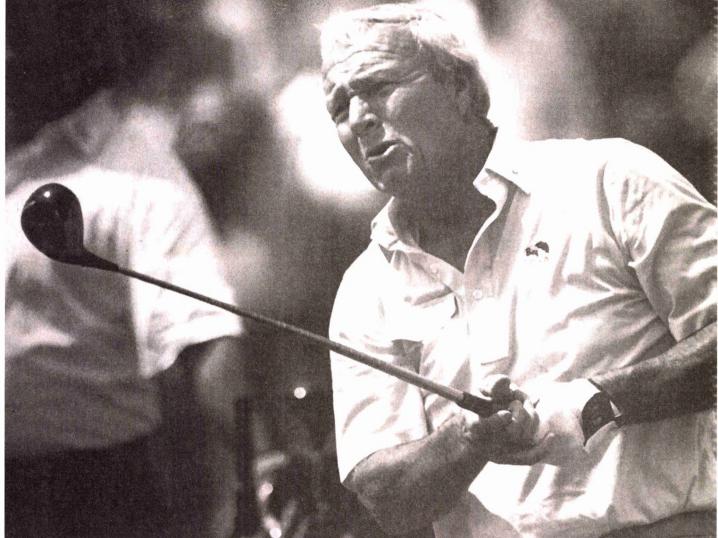
During his storied career, Palmer captured seven majors — four Masters, one U.S. Open and two British Open titles. He was a member of six U.S. Ryder Cup teams and captured 62 overall PGA Tour crowns. Palmer is the first person to have won the following three championships the U.S. Amateur, U.S. Open and U.S. Senior Open.

Crossing paths with the legend

Oakland Hills Country Club head pro Steve Brady said he crossed paths with Palmer a "half-dozen" times over the years.

Brady recalled a couple of brushes with the golfing superstar in 1984 while competing in a U.S. Open sectional qualifier at the Sharon Golf Club in Sharon Center, Ohio.

"I was playing in the 36-hole sectional qualifier and my dad was caddying for



Legendary Arnold Palmer played in both U.S. Senior Opens (1981 and 1991) that Oakland Hills Country Club has hosted. Palmer won the 1981 title in his first year of senior eligibility.



Oakland Hills CC members Mike Dietz (from left), Casey Kondel, P.J. Ruokis and Jim LeBar share a photo op with golfing legend Arnold Palmer in 2010.

ARNIE AT OAKLAND HILLS

Golfing legend Arnold Palmer played historic Oakland Hills Country Club six times during his storied Hall of Fame career

Year	Tournament	Finish (score)
1961	U.S. Open	Tied for 14th (281)
1964	Carling World Open	Second place (279)*
1972	PGA Championship	Tied for 16th (289)
1979	PGA Championship	Missed Cut
1981	U.S. Senior Open	Champion (289)**
1991	U.S. Senior Open	Missed Cut

*Lost by a stroke to Bobby Nichols

**Won three-way playoff with Billy Casper and Bob Stone

me," Brady said. "It looks like we're going to qualify and we're semi-celebrating. So my dad and I went out to watch Palmer. He was coming up 18, a fairly straightaway hole, but he was on the right side and he had to punch it through these trees. There were probably somewhere around 100 people there watching him.

We were watching him take his shot and he hits it, but he didn't quite get it underneath the tree. He clips a branch. So he turns around to whoever was there and we were waiting for his reaction. And it looked like he wasn't going to make (the cut) even if he had hit a good shot through the trees. He turns around and just goes, real subtle, under his breath, 'Oh, s-.' Nobody could hear, but we were

"His presence was just unbelievable. Here's the best player in the world and he's Arnold Palmer and he reacts as if to say, 'I just didn't have it today," he added. "I believe that was the first time he had to qualify for a U.S. Open. He had been exempt up until that time."

Brady had run into Palmer earlier in that tournament.

"I'm in the locker room and I'm doing my business in the stall and there's this other guy in there," Brady said. "I couldn't see him, couldn't see his face. So he gets out and I get out and it's Arnold Palmer. That was the first time I ever met him. Washing his hands. He said, 'How you doing? Where you from? Good

"Arnold was pleased to have been recognized after many years as an honorary member of Oakland Hills. He certainly had some history at Oakland Hills and in Michigan, which he certainly appreciated."

longtime Oakland Hills Country Club member

luck.' Even though it was just a couple of minutes, he couldn't have been a nicer

Last trip to famed course

Palmer's last trip to the renowned Bloomfield Township course was six years ago, when he was invited to speak during the club's annual Scholarship Trust Program before a capacity crowd. It was an evening Bob Byerlein, Oakland Hills Country Club's golf service manager, vividly recalled while checking in members for Tuesday's afternoon league

"He got choked up when he spoke to the members in the main dining room that night," Byerlein said. "I think he really enjoyed being at the club and what Oakland Hills meant in history for him. He was very emotional that night about Oakland Hills and the Detroit area. He

was just a fantastic guy. "He was very giving of his time with the membership," he added. "We had a VIP reception upstairs and, about halfway through it, they tried to give him an 'Arnold Palmer' (iced tea and lemonade), but he shook it off for a little stronger drink and he had us top it off a couple of

times. He was just a great guy.' Juett said Palmer sincerely relished his honorary membership.

"Arnold was pleased to have been recognized after many years as an hon-orary member of Oakland Hills," Juett said. "He certainly had some history at Oakland Hills and in Michigan, which he certainly appreciated."

GRIDDERS

Continued from Page B1

and junior QB Ryan Young (who did not even throw a pass) in the second half of a game that was a 41-0 margin at halftime.

Patrick broke loose for a 56-yard score to make it 48-0 in the third; Genaw closed out the scoring in the fourth, motoring around right end.

'VerShawn has worked his tail off, I'm so proud of him and the progress he's made in a year," Britnell said. "... And Trevor, he can run our offense, too. He doesn't miss a beat. He's a good athlete."

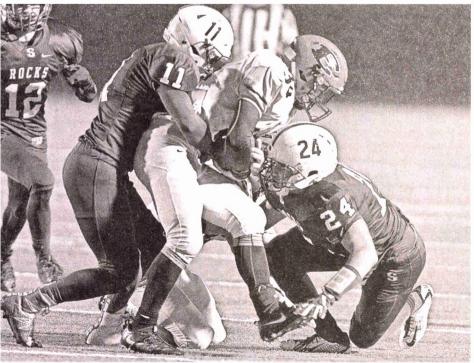
Setting the tone

The Rocks, who evened their record at 3-3 entering a big KLAA Central Division game at Novi, were in control from the start and dominated on both sides of the ball (enjoying a 469-23 edge in yard-

Senior Trevor Nowaske blocked a Cougars' punt and recovered it in the end zone for a touchdown just 2:06 into the Salem homecoming game at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Interceptions by Salem's Genaw and Mason Phillips III also kept the Rocks on the attack and they didn't slow down a bit even on the rain-soaked turf.

After the Genaw pick, Davis ran the ball every snap and scored from the 1-yard line to cap off a 48-yard march in six plays.



South Lyon East ball carrier Anthony Salter is brought down by Salem defenders Desmond Dewberry and Parker Selby (No. 24).

Following the Phillips interception, it was more of the same as Davis scored on a nine-yard run

Salem added three more TDs in the

second quarter, on runs of eight, 46 and 67 yards by Davis.

On the latter, he took a pitch from Young, dashed around the left edge and saw nothing but daylight.

We played decent in all facets," Britnell said. "We finished, played mistakefree for the most part. We had a good team victory, all the guys played.

"...Good football tonight on our end, hopefully we can build on that and finish strong. We have a couple tough division games coming up."

South Lyon East dropped to 0-6 overall with the defeat.

PLYMOUTH 35, WAYNE 33: The Wildcats prevailed Friday night in a see-saw

KLAA South Division football matchup. Plymouth (2-4) outgained the Zebras 446-302, but could never really pull away as the teams traded scores all night long.

Both quarterbacks had big nights throwing the ball despite the rainy conditions. Plymouth junior Zach Beadle connected on 10 of 21 passes for 236 yards and four touchdowns — two on big gainers to Colton Wieloch (46 and 86 yards).

Beadle's other TD tosses went to Isaac Emminger to open the scoring in the first quarter (a 20-yard completion) and a 13-yarder to Dorian Johnson.

The Zebras' Gjerdonte Williams completed 11 of 30 passes for 306 yards and

four touchdowns. The other Plymouth touchdown was scored by Carson Miller (11-yard run). He ran for 72 yards in 17 carries while

Darius Timmons carried the ball 13 times for 83 yards. Plymouth led 14-6 after the first and

21-19 at halftime before going up 35-27 after three.

PREP CROSS COUNTRY

Canton boys keep setting records

Tim Smith

Hometownlife.com Another meet, another milestone for

Canton's varsity boys cross country

The Chiefs (2-1, second behind Plymouth in the KLAA South Division) prevailed 21-38 Tuesday against Wayne Memorial in a battle between top run-

Canton's Zac Clark and Shane Andrews were impressive once again, with respective times of 17:10 and 17:14 (first and second overall). Head coach Bill Boyd noted those times were the 12th and 13th fastest times in the history of Wayne's course.

In third for the Zebras (1-2) was Blake Barber, followed by Canton runners Nick Socha (18:01) and Andrew Lake (sixth, 18:24). Rounding out the lineup for the Chiefs was David Kight (18:36).

Next up for Canton is Saturday's Hanson's Invitational, followed by Tuesday's meeting with Westland John Glenn at Cass Benton in Northville.

 Also Tuesday, Plymouth remained undefeated in the KLAA South (3-0)

thanks to a 20-35 win over Livonia Churchill. Also in the winning column was Salem, posting a 19-43 victory over South Lyon. The Rocks are 1-2 in the KLAA Central.

Girls cross country

Salem remained tied with Northville at the top of the KLAA Central standings in girls cross country (3-0), thanks to a 17-44 victory over South Lyon on Tuesday.

The Rocks took the top-four spots and were never in danger of losing. Earning medalist honors was Erin McCann (first, 20:17), followed by Gabrielle Mancini (second, 20:22), Bridget Nelson (third, 20:42) and Madison Grant (fourth, 20:44).

Also in the top-10 for Salem were Shea Wilson (seventh, 20:59), Hallie Younglas (eighth, 21:01), Charissa Johnson (ninth, 21:18) and Jessica Hughes (10th, 21:24).

"The girls are running hard, but having difficulty stepping up with grit and competing with the passion and intensity needed," Rocks head coach Dave Gerlach said. "In some ways we are just happy with running hard. In

this sport an athlete that wants to be successful has to have the fire and passion to beat their competitors.

Today, this was apparent as the girls were more aggressive and went after South Lyons top two runners. We are looking for more consistency and steps forward each week.'

 Plymouth, despite a first-place time of 19:49 by senior Annie Bonds (a career best), fell 21-34 Tuesday to Livonia Churchill at Cass Benton.

Other Wildcats with solid performances included freshman Lily Tiplady (sixth, 21:06), sophomore Ana White (eighth, 21:23) and sophomore Amelia Carey (ninth, 21:52).

"They gave it their all and many achieved season records and a few achieved career records in the race which is a very tough thing to do at Cass Benton," Plymouth coach Alice Ahearn said.

MIAC CONFERENCE MEET: Plymouth Christian Academy's cross country teams enjoyed success Saturday at the MIAC conference meet at Spencer Park in Rochester Hills.

The boys team performed very well, finishing in second place, only two

points behind leader Ann Arbor Greenhills. PCA's Aaron Vicars battled a Greenhills runner in a race to the finish, with Vicars outkicking on the last 200m to finish first at 16:43.

In fourth for the Eagles was Seth Windle (17:11), followed by Quinn McLaren (18:13) and Ian Hay (18:16), who all ran strong races and earned key points.

Personal bests were turned in by Caleb Godin (20:49), Aaron Geisler (22:56), Eric Moore (24:01) and Kyle Sedgewick (24:09).

• The PCA girls team placed fifth overall. Leading the way was sophomore Sienna Ruiter, who on her birthday finished second with a time of 19:10 (a personal best).

Other solid showings were turned in by Eva Warmbier (23:24), Joy Chamberlain (23:41), Jordan Reed (26:18), and Hannah Askew. The latter, making her cross country debut, ran 28:06. All times were either personal or season's bests.

tsmith@hometownlife.com Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

G-FORCE

Continued from Page B1

of us," den Boer said when asked about the G-Force concept. "Gina and I are playing back row and front row togeth-

"And Sabrina being a setter, there's that definite connection that Gina passes and Sabrina sets and I hit. We're all in sync."

Concurring with that assessment are the Giacominis.

"Oh, for sure. I definitely think so," Gina said. "We all just work really well together. We're close on and off the court. It's definitely good energy.

"We all know each other's skill level, we all know how we work and how to encourage each other on the court. We played with each other before. It just works really well."

Sabrina noted that she thinks they do form a G-Force "because, we're all experienced. Us three work together the best. I don't know what it exactly means, but I think it's very positive."

Chemistry counts

The Chiefs have many outstanding players, of course. Those include seniors Emily Meredith, Tia Cucuz (both co-captains, along with den Boer and Gina Giacomini) and Lexi Granowicz, among others.

Yet it is the nucleus of the Giacominis and den Boer that revs the Canton volleyball engine.

First-year varsity head coach Brenden Kowalski is thrilled he can bank on the trio for consistently playing with

"They're all seniors, they've known each other forever," Kowalksi said. "And they're all six-rotation players for us. The expectation for them is they're always going to be on the court, every set of every match. That is important.

"Sabrina is running a 5-1 (offense) and the other two are my starting outsides. So you have to have that chemistry, because our team is so outsidedriven, we rely on our outsides to get a lot of kills for my team."

That's exactly what Sabrina Giacomini — dubbed the unofficial on-court captain by Kowalksi — tries to do in her role. Sometimes, when the opportunity arises, she takes care of the terminating herself.

"I've contributed to the offense," she said. "Hitting-wise, attacking in the



JOHN KEMSKI Į EXPRESS PHOTO

Ready for her next chance to spark the Canton Chiefs' hard-hitting attack is senior outside hitter Gabby den Boer (No. 7).

front row and serving, just being an offensive setter."

Clubbing it

All three 17-year-olds display plenty of confidence, along with undeniable talent. They point to several years experience on elite club teams as an important factor.

The Giacominis were teammates at Legacy Volleyball Club (based out of Novi), making a regional team one year and a national team in 2016 and

"With national, you go to bigger tournaments," Sabrina said. "They're further away and you get a lot better competition, more higher-ranked teams.

"And that helps, because when you get to school and you face tougher teams, it transfers, competition-wise."

Gina said playing for Legacy since seventh grade "made me a smarter, all-around player. Seeing good competition in club made me more ready for high school, because club is different. You see better players in club than you do in high school.'

Hammering the point home in the same way she routinely scores points for the Chiefs, den Boer concurred.

"It (club volleyball) is faster paced," n Boer said. "And you see a ton of different teams."

Meanwhile, Kowalski smiled about the unique situation of one Giacomini setting up another in the front row. "It's an interesting dynamic," Ko-

walski said. "We build our team off a lot of communication. The hitters are supposed to talk to the setter, to say, 'I need this ball more inside, outside, higher.'

"They are both so competitive, it can be tough at times for them, because they don't want to harp at each other too much because they have to go home and live with each other every day.'

Sabrina and Gina said there are no worries there. If nothing else, they are able to break down Canton games and discuss things that need to be worked

"We talk about it," Sabrina said. "We give each other tips on what we noticed, what we could do better.

"Or if we played to our potential, because we know our potential. That definitely helps.'

They're grinders

The 'G' in G-Force could represent something besides letters in a name. Canton plays a gritty, grinding style of

They practice that way, too, den Boer emphasized.

'We have the mentality of 'train rty,' so practices are tough,' said. "(Kowalski) tells us we're not going to be the prettiest team to watch, but we're going to make it work.

"We're going to do every little thing to get that ball off the ground. We're not going to let it hit unless there's a body with it. We should have bloody elbows every day."

And that's the kind of volleyball den Boer loves to play most.

"I thrive in a competitive environment," she said. "There's nothing like playing a competitive game out there with the whole team, just everyone cheering each other on.

"Every point, the adrenaline is exhilarating. ... This group of girls is like no other I've ever been with. We have no drama, we're all so close and we're best friends."

Friendship doesn't automatically translate into points and victories, but it

"We know when one of us is struggling, we know what to say to each other," Gina said. "When to say it and when

All in all, that's pretty G-ood stuff.

tsmith@hometownlife.com Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

CITY OF PLYMOUTH CLOSE OF REGISTRATION GENERAL ELECTION. NOVEMBER 8. 2016 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that registration of qualified electors for the General Election

to be held on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016, will be taken at the Office of the City Clerk during regular office hours. Close of registration is OCTOBER 11, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. to vote in the General Election. Any interested person may also register at any Secretary of State Branch Office during their regular business hours. Qualifications of any election (registered voter) elector are as follows:

1. Citizen of the United States

2. At least 18 years of age

3. Resident of the State of Michigan for thirty (30 days)

4. Resident of the City of Plymouth on or before thirty (30 days prior to the day of the election.

Qualified electors who are currently registered with the City Clerk, will not have to reregister. If you have a physical problem and cannot come into City Hall, please call and make other arrangements. The telephone number is 734-453-1234, x234 or 225. City Offices are open from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Linda Langmesser, CMC

Published: October 2, 2016

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CITY OF PLYMOUTH ACCURACY TESTING FOR VOTING EQUIPMENT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2016, 3:30 p.m.

Plymouth Cultural Center 525 Farmer Street Plymouth, MI 48170

The City of Plymouth has scheduled and will be conducting the accuracy testing for the optical scan voting equipment for the GENERAL ELECTION to be held on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016. The test is scheduled for Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

This is an open testing session and any interested person is encouraged to attend. Election Source from Grand Rapids, Michigan, has been contracted by the City of Plymouth to conduct the testing to assure the equipment has been programmed appropriately.

If there are any questions, please direct them to the City Clerk's office at 734-453-1234, ext. 234 or 225. The Plymouth Cultural Center is in compliance with the American Disabilities Act and is handicapped accessible.

Linda Langmesser

City Clerk



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Published: October 2, 2016

LO-0000293132 3x3

ACTRESS JUDD TO LANSING'S FEMALE LEADERS: WORK TOGETHER

Alexander Alusheff

Lansing State Journal

LANSING - One thing actress Ashley Judd remembers about attending her former husband's IndyCar races are the bikini contests.

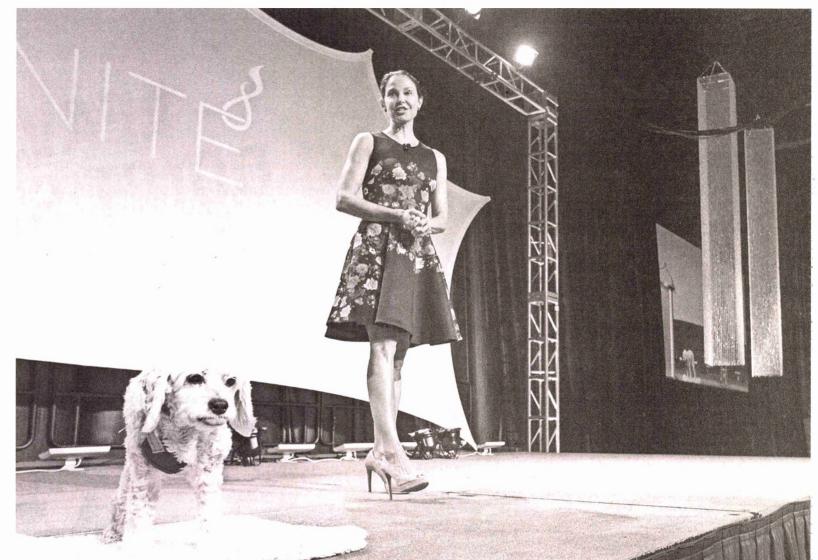
The women who competed in them were called "lollipop girls' after the sticks they held that had the race car's number at the top

"I was disgusted with the whole thing," Judd said, who added she would internally shame the women or not speak with them. "I was not able to honor our differences and have a spacious enough mind ... about my fellow girls and women that allowed me to have a strong female-to-female alliance.

Judd spoke to more than 300 people, mostly women, during her closing keynote speech at the ATHENA International Leadership Conference on Tuesday at the Lansing Center. ATHENA International is a nonprofit organization that seeks to support, develop and honor women lead-

Judd is known for her roles in the movies "Ruby in Paradise" and "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood", but she is also a humanitarian and political activist. She has addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations on the modern slave trade. She was appointed as Goodwill Ambassador by the United Nations Population Fund. She was previously married to nowretired Indy Car driver Dario Franchitti, who won the Indy 500 three

The way forward for women, Judd said, is a



MATTHEW DAE SMITH/FOR THE LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Actress and humanitarian Ashley Judd delivers her keynote closing address at the ATHENA International Leadership Conference at the Lansing Center. On stage with Judd is her certified comfort dog, Shug.

journey toward interdependency.

"It's the pluralism and diversity of women sharing our experience, strength and hope is what I believe is the way forward," she said. "It will create a sustainable way for everyone to be able to reach their full potential.'

Judd said in her journey toward this, she had to be able to love everyone, including the women in the bikini contests.

"Let go of that binary thinking, like 'they really should be doing this differently."

When she accomplished that, it allowed Judd to stand up for women, she said. Most recently, Judd said she received an ovation during a conference after calling out a Saudi Arabian minister for how

women are treated in his country. She also called out the host of the conference for barely having any female leaders as panelists

Judd said she is a fierce advocate of speaking with dignity and respect. She draws courage from attending events like ATHENA where she gets the "dynamism of female-tofemale alliances where it is really okay to say "What the heck is going on in the world?"

Sarah Jennings, chair of ATHENA's Lansingbased Women's Interest Network, said Judd's speech was inspirational.

"I'm not sure anyone could leave here and not want to make a change,"

Jennings said. Jennings said the conference was intended to encourage women to

leave a legacy and give back to the community.

Her challenge to the attendees before concluding the conference: "Make sure what was ignited here does not fizzle out."

Alexander Alusheff is a reporter at the Lansing State Journal. Contact him at (517) 388-5973 or aalusheff@lsj.com. Follow him on Twitter @alexalusheff.

MSU Tollgate Farm celebrates autumn

Terry Jacoby

The MSU Tollgate Farm Pumpkinfest has grown faster than a pumpkin patch.

This year's event. sponsored by VIBE Credit Union, promises to continue the trend from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 8-9 at the MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center, 28115 Meadowbrook, in Novi.

"This is our third year and we grew from 300 (visitors) the first year to 5,500 last year," said Ellen Koehler, education coordinator with the center. "There is a lot of community excitement and collaboration heading into this year's event and we are really excited about hosting it again in 2016."

Koehler said the central theme of the event, obviously, is the pumpkin and the fundraiser for educational programming at the center.

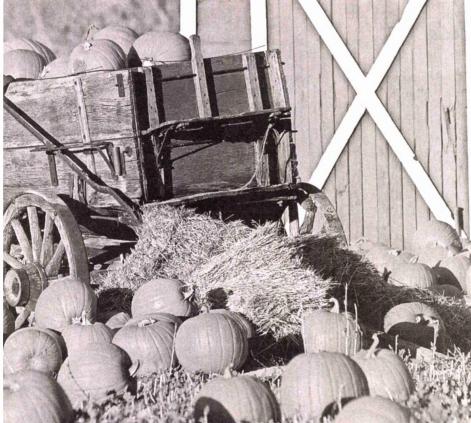
"The pinnacle experience is getting on that wagon and riding out to the pumpkin patch, where you can search around and pick out your pumpkins, whether as a family, a group or as an individual," she said. "We will have thousands of pumpkins and they should be ready to pick."

There will be plenty of fun activities for the kids, including pumpkin bowling, a straw maze, a pumpkin decorating station, bounce house, inflatable archery stand and a Pheasants Forever shooting booth. The Novi and Walled

Lake public libraries will offer story times throughout both days, with a special appearance by children's author Linda McLean.

They also are going to be running the face painting, which is always a big hit with the kids, Koehler said.

New this year will be a



RONDA KIMBROW, GETTY IMAGES | ISTOCKPHOTO

MSU Tollgate Farm hosts a Pumpkinfest the weekend of Oct. 8-9.

local re-enactment club staging historic harvest food ways.

"They will be on-site with their camp and fire and talking about the three sisters of corn, beans and squash and will be in full Native American and colonial garb," Koehler said. 'They will even have their kids with them in costume and they just share their stories. The crowds just love it."

The popular Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum will be present, too. "They are coming out and will have five separate activity tables, along with a 30-person workshop at four different times," she said. "It's a cow's eye dissection workshop.

The MSU Bug House and the Yesteryear's Antique Tractor Club also will be on hand to share special exhibits.

And, of course, the MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center's farm animals will be in the middle of all the fun.

On the music side, Gemini will be performing a free concert at 1 p.m. Saturday. Billy Brandt and the Sugarees will play at 3 p.m. Saturday. Whoa Nelly will be playing Sunday, as well as the Farmington Community Band.

Yummy and MSU dairy store ice cream will be among the many sweet treats available during the two days Parmenter's Northville Cider Mill will be providing cider and doughnuts. There will be other food concession stands so "no one goes home hungry,' Koehler said

"VIBE has been a wonderful sponsor for this event, helping with funds to get it off the ground and also helping

with activities," Koehler said. "We also are fortunate to have a huge group of volunteers who help make this event happen. We have more volunteers this year, including National Honor Society members and other groups of high school students from both Northville and Novi and local teen clubs are coming out to help and make things happen."

Entry to the event is free. Parking is \$5.

The MSU Tollgate Farm site represents a working farm with animals and retired draft horses from Greenfield Village. The 160-acre farmstead is currently owned by the Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Americana Foundation. Go to www.tollgatecc. msu.edu/events for more information.

Passages

How to reach us: 55 · fax 313-496-4968 · www.mideathnotices.com

Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers

Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

HERRMANN



THOMAS J., M.D. Age 80 of Bellaire, MI, passed away Monday, September 12, 2016. He was born May 28, 1936 in Detroit, MI, the son of Thomas A. and Josephine (Lynch) Herrmann. Beloved husband of Mary A. (Backelant) Stephens. Tom graduated from the University of Detroit High School, University of Notre Dame, the University of Michigan Medical School, and the Harvard Business School. He became a transplant surgeon and had the privilege of working under Dr. Thomas E. Starzyl, often referred to as "the father of modern transplantation". Under Dr. Starzyl Tom was part of the team that performed the first liver transplant in the world. Tom later went into administration at the University of Michigan and became the associate dean of the medical school. Prior to retiring he was Director of physician services for the Humana Health Systems. Proud father of Thomas (Kathy) Herrmann of Bend Oregon, Janette Herrmann Luitgaarden of Seattle Washington, Michael (Terri) Herrmann Of Sylvania Ohio, and Renee (Thomas) Loftus of Denver Colorado; grandfather of nine. Tom was an avid sailor who loved spending time on his sailboat, his beloved "Bounty". A Memorial Mass of Resurrection will be held Friday, October 14, 2016, 11 a.m. at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church, 2201 South Old US 23, Brighton, MI. Dr. Herrmann's family wish to offer a special thanks to Dr. Andrew Riddle and Dr. David Heimburger, Munson Hospital and the caring staff at Munson Hospice, Memorial contributions are suggested

to the University of Detroit High School, Please sign the

family's online guestbook at

macdonaldsfuneralhome.com

MANUEL

WALTER THOMAS Age 71, passed away suddenly June 14, 2016. Born in Andersonville, Tennessee on October 12, 1944 to Delia and Thomas Manuel (killed in action in WWII). Raised by Delia (93 years) and Henry Manuel (pre-deceased). Walt was a loving husband to Judy (Hill) for 53 years, the doting father of Wendy (Matt) McNew, Jeff Manuel, Paula (John) Martin, Nathan (Kim) Manuel and Shari (Larry) Frazier, proud grandpa of Michael (pre-deceased), Samantha, Heather, Nicholas, Kaydee and Violet, great-grandpa of Logan, Memphis, Chloe, and Chase. Brother of Henrietta (Jim) Payne, Ponezella (Ken) Knipe, Lola (Don) Robinson, and Demanda (Lyle) Touroo. Walt retired from General Motors after 36 years and enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, traveling as well as helping friends and neighbors He is dearly missed by family, friends and neighbors

YOUNG

OLA F. age 70, of Ann Arbor; passed away peacefully at home on September 29, 2016. Beloved Wife of almost 53 years to George Young; dear Mother of Claudette L. (Mark Lozier) Young, Channon C. (Steve) Knowlton, Jennifer L. Young, George E. Young and Jason Degan. Proud Grandmother of Abbey L., Garrett M.G., George Ethan, Ola G., Sequoyah I., Andrew J., Jenna M., and James M.; caring sister of Beech (Nettie) McIntosh, Juanita (the late James) Wofford, Eula (Vern) Woodard. Ola was preceded in death by her parents Matthew and Willie McIntosh and three of her siblings. The visitation will be Tuesday, October 4th, from 2 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 (betw Sheldon and Beck). Funeral Service will be Wednesday, October 5th at 1 p.m. at the funeral home. Cremation will follow. Memorial contributions to Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, P.O. Box 8249 Missoula, MT 59807 attn: Memorial Donations or visit their website at: www. RMEF.org. To share a memory, please visit

vermeulenfuneralhome.com

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