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## 'Going on offensive' against opioids

Canton officials announce new strategy to combat epidemic

**Darrell Clem**  
hometownlife.com

Canton is witnessing a startling increase in overdoses and deaths from prescription painkillers and heroin, proving the community is not immune to the growing national opioid epidemic that shows no signs of easing, officials say.

It's a problem that officials say is ravaging families, causing a spike in

retail thefts to support drug habits and straining resources of police officers and firefighter paramedics who are trying to save lives and keep pace with a burgeoning problem.

Canton Deputy Fire Chief Jamie Strassner said the typical opioid user in Canton is a 35-year-old white man, but officials say the national epidemic crosses all economic, cultural and racial lines. It is an equal opportunity destroyer and killer.

Among Canton's statistics:

» Canton paramedics already have responded to 55 opioid overdoses this year. Strassner said Canton is on track to double the 37 overdoses of just two years ago.

» Canton has recorded six opioid-related deaths this year, double the three deaths of 2015. Paramedics go on emergency calls with Narcan, a prescription medicine that can reverse an overdose, or officials say the number of deaths would certainly be higher.

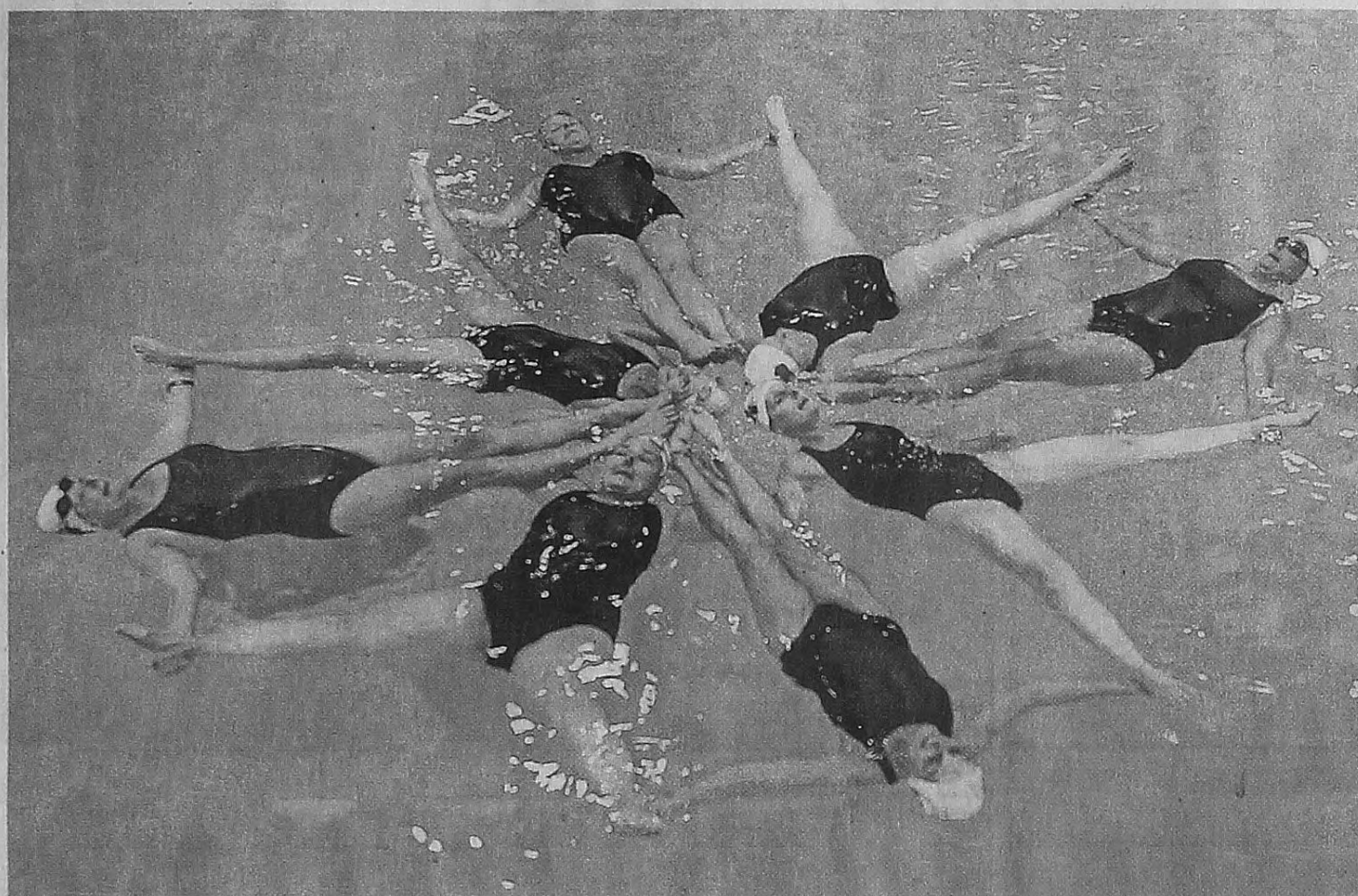
» The overwhelming majority of opioid incidents responded to by Can-

ton paramedics this year have involved white people, who represented 82 percent of opioid cases. Men account for a little more than half the incidents.

» The Canton Police Department has had 199 contacts with opioid users so far this year, a number that officials say is expected to surpass last year's 218. The incidents can happen anywhere.

"It could be at McDonald's in a bathroom. It could be in a park," police Lt. Mike Steckel said.

See OPIOIDS, Page A3



Swimmers practice a fan, opening to a circle. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## SWIMMERS DEFY AGE, STEREOTYPES

'Like running a marathon holding your breath'

**Tim Smith**  
hometownlife.com

Synchronized swimming is no joke, according to members of the Schoolcraft College-based Michigan Synchro Masters.

And don't be swayed by the "Saturday Night Live" mid-1980s comedy skit about synchronized swimming featuring Martin Short and Harry Shearer, which still gets plenty of hits on YouTube.

All you have to do to gain new-found appreciation for the sport is watch a group of middle-aged women practice intricate moves under and above the water, in perfect unison — well, most of the time.

Still think it's not serious stuff after that? Didn't think so.

"You have to be a pretty good swimmer and you have to be really very dedicated, because it's a difficult sport," Michigan Synchro Masters coach Joyce Lindeman said.



Lindeman

"Much of it is done underwater and they need to have good breath control, which we practice. Each person needs to learn how to do some of the beginning elements first, which might be a ballet leg and then move on to double ballet legs, and then into far more difficult routines."

### No easy task

Laura Perlowksi, 57, of Livonia said synchronized swimming is "fun choreography" with friends on one level.

But on another "it is like running a marathon while holding your breath and making it look easy," Perlowksi said.

"You run out of air," she said.

"You're using muscles you've never used before and you're trying to do half of it upside down while you're turning at the same time. It's very hard."

Carrie Tleczek of Garden City shook her head when asked about any misconceptions about synchro.

"I think they think it's not athletic," Tleczek said. "On the surface, it looks like we're having a fabulous time. But if you go underneath and watch what's going on, I think it will impress people."

"Because we don't stand on the bottom. When we lift people, no one's on the bottom heave-hoing people. ... You have to put art and creativity into it, you have to have expression and make contact with the judges and the audience to make it fun, so that they participate with you."

But Perlowksi, Tleczek and their teammates, who are ages 54-74 and

See SWIMMERS, Page A10

## Swastika drawn in wood chips on school playground

**Darrell Clem**  
hometownlife.com

A swastika made of wood chips was found on a Canton elementary school playground Tuesday afternoon.

The incident prompted Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district Superintendent Monica Merritt to issue a statement saying "actions of this nature will not be tolerated."

The swastika was seen by students on the playground at Bentley Elementary School, 1100 Sheldon Road.

School officials were investigating and Nick Brandon, the district's director of communications, said Canton police also were working with the district.

However, there was speculation among some in the Plymouth-Canton school community that the situation could have been a misunderstanding and that it could represent the Indian community's festival of lights, or Diwali, which began this week.

Long before the swastika became a symbol used by Nazis, it was used by the Indian community as a religious symbol. Canton — and Bentley Elementary School — have sizable Indian populations.

Brandon said parents were alerted to the incident by a district robo-call, or automated phone message.

In her statement, Merritt said the swastika symbol was found by students during recess. Officials were continuing to investigate.

"P-CCS is taking this situation very seriously and actions of this nature will not be tolerated," she said. "We will continue working in concert with Canton Police Department to fully investigate this incident."

"P-CCS will continue to build a school culture that embraces diversity and acceptance of all students," Merritt added.

School officials investigated the incident and the robo-call asked parents to report any information they might have about the incident.

dclem@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @CantonObserver



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Volume 43 • Number 37

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Published Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Media

**Newsroom Contacts**

**Dan Dean, Managing Editor**  
Mobile: 248-396-0706; Email: ddean@hometownlife.com

**Brad Kadrich, Reporting Coach**  
Mobile: 586-262-9892; Email: bkadrich@hometownlife.com



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**Brackney opens new office**



A ribbon-cutting was held Sept. 28 by Brackney Chiropractic Health Centers to celebrate the grand opening of its newly refurbished office. Brackney Chiropractic Health Centers is located at 8524 N. Canton Center Road in Canton. Customers, Employees, chamber members and residents were all among the attendees.

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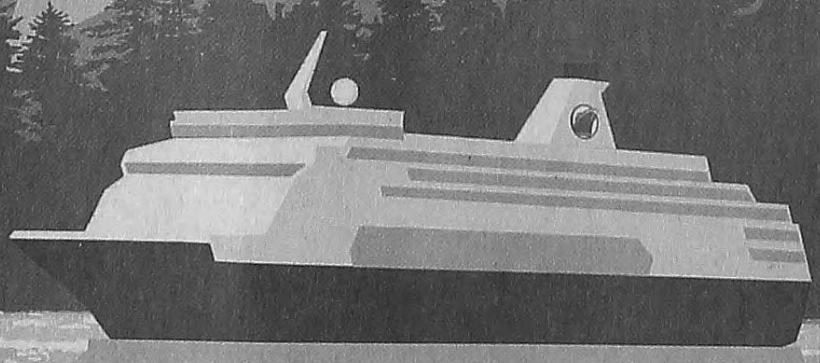
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# OPIOIDS

Continued from Page A1

» The cases police respond to include overdoses, drug-related traffic accidents, opioid possession cases, domestic violence cases and retail fraud arrests. Deputy Police Director Chad Baugh said cases involving driving under the influence of drugs are up 50 percent this year, compared to last year.

» Officials say opioid addicts, seeking money to feed their habit, steal everything from vacuum cleaners to high-end nail polish from local stores and sell the items at discounted prices to unscrupulous business owners.

"These addicts steal to support their habit," Deputy Police Chief Craig Wilsher said.

» Deputy Fire Director Christopher Stoecklein said a swift arrival is critical when paramedics are handling a drug overdose. Moreover, he said those cases become costly and can keep as many as four paramedics on the scene for up to an hour.

» At the 6,200-student, three-high school Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, school officials have on average had 20-60 incidents a year involving narcotics. Of those, only six involved opioids, said Kurt Tyszkiewicz, executive director of staffing, student services and policy.

» Officials say three out of four heroin addicts started with opioids and found they could find heroin cheaper.

Tyszkiewicz said the schools work with local police for drug prevention and awareness programs, as well as bringing in canines to conduct sweeps to find drugs at the high schools.

Officials outlined the drug problems Tuesday during a Canton Township Board of Trustees session. Yet they went beyond identifying the problem to reveal how they are tackling it by help-



Canton is going on the offensive against the opioid epidemic amid hopes of helping victims. GETTY IMAGES | ISTOCKPHOTO

ing opioid users find the help they need.

"We're going on the offensive," Public Safety Director Joshua Meier said. "We can't arrest our way out of this problem."



Meier

In a team approach, Canton has worked with Growth Works, an agency that can help opioid addicts find support in overcoming their problems. It involves finding short- and long-term treatment and providing peer support, often from recovering addicts, to help them find a path forward.

Growth Works also is engaged in talks with St. Mary Mercy Hospital of Livonia for what could become an even

more intensive approach to helping addicts through a longer-term approach.

Canton police also are working with other law enforcement agencies, including the Detroit division of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, to dismantle illegal opioid suppliers and distributors in southeast Michigan, while tracking down and arresting criminal enterprises that fuel heroin addiction.

Officials say opioid addiction not only places addicts at risk of stealing and selling stolen goods to support their habit, but also increases the likelihood they may become involved in human trafficking rings.

Brian Spitsbergen, Growth Works

director of community relations, said the opioid crisis is "devastating to our families and our communities."

Patrick Stropes, who works with Growth Works as a recovery and community support specialist, knows how to help opioid addicts because he battled drug addiction and alcoholism that got him into trouble for driving drunk, assaulting a female police officer and disrupting his own family life. He had incidents in which he remembered nothing.

He had repeated encounters with Canton police, he said, "but they never gave up on me."

Stropes stayed in treatment centers, halfway houses and hospitals, but he now helps others through Growth Works and area district courts.

"I'm right where I need to be," he said.

Spitsbergen said one big hurdle for opioid addicts, even when they are ready to seek help, is not having the health insurance to pay for it. Growth Works seeks ways to bridge that funding gap, though it's not easy, and Spitsbergen said he is hopeful that more medical facilities will step up to help.


For some addicts, he said, a rejection for help because of a lack of money or insurance can send them back into the drug-using cycle.

Canton's elected officials said they are inspired that local police and firefighters, with help from other agencies, are mounting an effort to help victims of opioid addiction find services they need, even as drug users face consequences for crimes they may commit.

"This is a national problem," township Supervisor Pat Williams said, "but we are going to come up with a grassroots solution that others can learn from."

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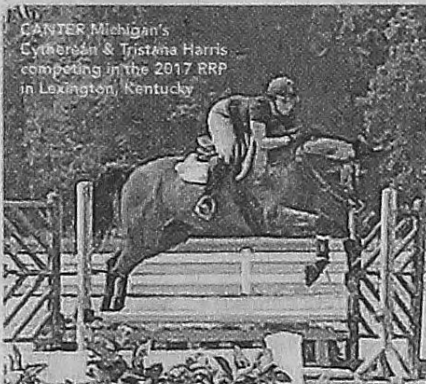
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Some 15 alumni of the Plymouth-Canton marching band took part in the halftime show at the U-M/MSU football game.

## Former P-CEP marchers heat up U-M/MSU halftime show

Sure, the Oct. 7 Big Ten football clash between Michigan and Michigan State held everyone's attention.

But the halftime show had a distinctly local flavor, with 15 former Plymouth-Canton Educational Park marching band students taking part. As the U-M and MSU bands performed in a "give peace a chance" halftime show, the bands were dotted with P-CEP alumni.

The P-CEP marching band is one of the best high school bands in the nation and the hard work the student musicians put in at P-CEP translates well to college marching bands, as evidenced by the presence of P-CEP alumni Alex Zygmunt, Jenna Craven, Alaura VanNest, Ian McKimmy, Alex Rockafellow, Ethan Fitzgerald, CC Christenson, Noah Brenny, Michael Leon and Rafael Bernal, all marching for MSU, and Nathan Rodwell, Kamryn Thomas, Marshall Rhea, Alex Farell and Sam Wilmarth in the U-M band. All 15 performers got their start marching for the state champion P-CEP marching

nand.

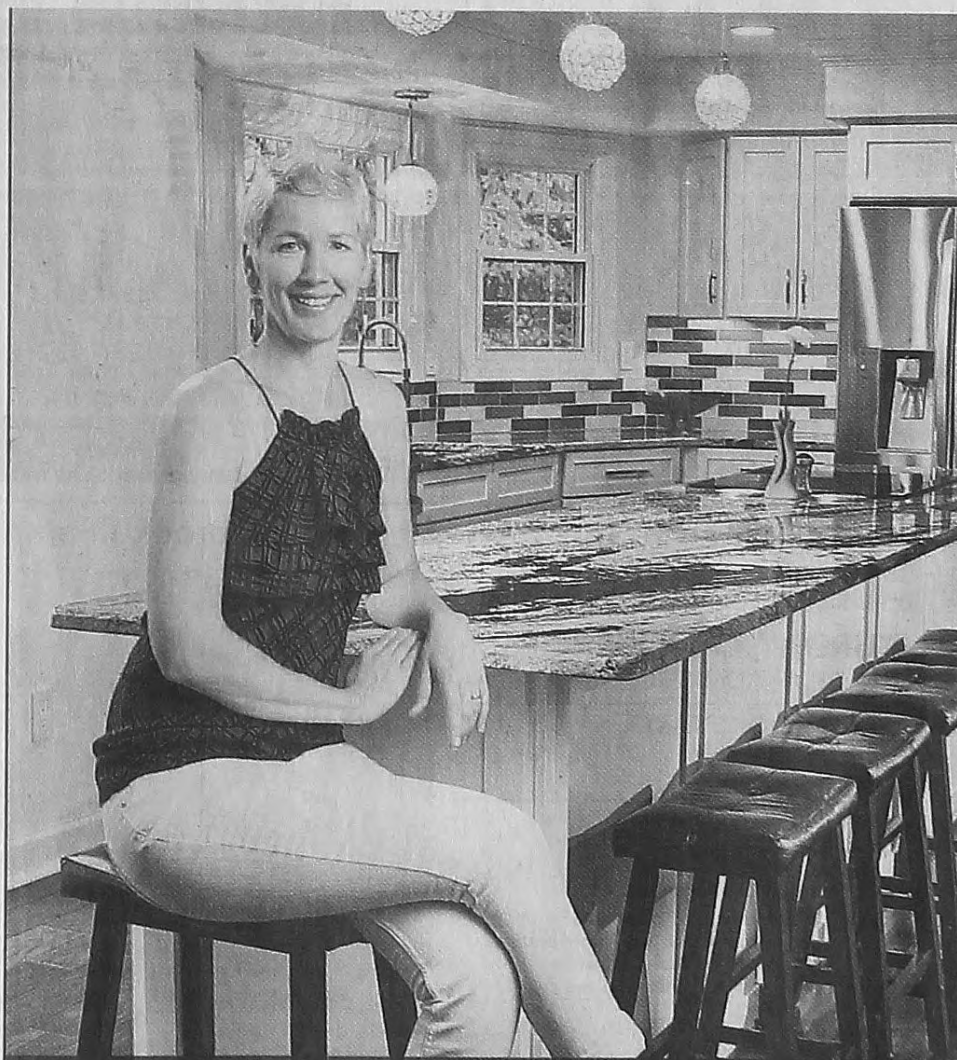
For a week straight, the two bands practiced separately at their respective universities, only coming together the day of the game to put the finishing touches on the performance.

On the field, they intertwined and, outside of uniform colors, looked and performed as one coherent unit. The 700 band members ended the performance by outlining the Upper and Lower Peninsulas of Michigan.

Besides the thrill of performing for the sold-out game, the P-CEP alumni were excited to perform together again.

"It was a lot of fun seeing everyone and practicing together again," said McKimmy, an MSU freshman tuba player. "It was like a band reunion."

Both the P-CEP alumni and the current P-CEP marching band performers have a long way to go before the end of their seasons. U-M and MSU are both bowl contenders and the P-CEP marching band has another month before the grand nationals in Indianapolis.



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# DCD breaks ground on 'transformational' renovation

**Brad Kadrich**  
hometownlife.com

Ainsley Shilling thinks the move by Detroit Country Day School officials to renovate and expand the middle school is a great idea.

Since Ainsley is an eighth-grader at the middle school, she should know.

Ainsley and dozens of other students, family, supporters and school officials were on hand Tuesday when DCDS broke ground on the first phase of a \$30 million program school officials call an "extraordinary multi-year, multi-campus project" designed to "transform the student experience."

The first phase is a \$14 million renovation of the middle school. Currently housing sixth- through eighth-graders, the school will add a fifth grade when renovations are complete, expected in summer 2018.

"I think it's really cool," Ainsley said. "(Fifth-graders) have been in junior school a really long time and it'll be nice to expand it. If they can move the (fifth-graders) into the middle school, it will make it easier for them to interact with each other."

The renovations will include dedicated classrooms for each middle school teacher, create space for STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) for project-based learning, feature an instrumental music room with practice and storage space, create new cafeteria space, secure outdoor play areas and incorporate newly renovated science labs and collaboration space for unique interactive programs such as LEGO League, robotics and Science Olympiad.

Additional project highlights include expanded academic classrooms, a film studio at the Upper School and specially designed arts spaces.

Ainsley's grandfather, DCDS Headmaster Glen Shilling, thinks it's cool, too.

"We need more room," he said, pointing out the middle school is at capacity. "We need more teaching and learning space so we can do the things a 21st century learning environment deserves. It's time to prepare for the next 25 years."

DCD Middle School Director Julie Bianchi has a hard time finding words to express her delight at the coming renovations.

"Middle school is a time of big changes," Bianchi said. "It's difficult to articulate how thrilled I am about all the possibilities coming to our students."



It's more of a crayon-breaking than a groundbreaking, but there is less mud. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Funded through the school's VIVID capital campaign, the \$30 million planned project will ultimately include renovating the existing middle school on Hillview Lane, built in 1991 and last updated in 2015, and developing a state-of-the-art campus to house pre-school through fourth-grade students at the current Lower School location on Maple Road.

Jonathan Boos, who co-chaired the campaign, knows first-hand how the renovations will affect the educational environment. His two children are DCDS

graduates.

"DCD has built a reputation as an aggressive leader in ... developing well-rounded students," Boos said. "It's critical we build on our foundation to remain a leader in education. The investment is significant. The success of VIVID will be measured in our ability to engage with everyone."

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Artist's rendering of remodeling details. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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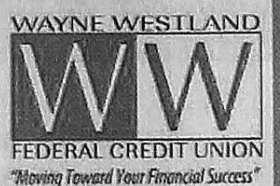
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### CANTON LIBRARY EVENTS

#### Hero Hangout: Comics Reading Group

**When:** 7-8 p.m. third Wednesday of each month  
**Details:** Do you love reading comics or learning about super heroes? Join us for Hero Hangout, a comic book club is for ages 7-12, and you choose what to read. Every week we will be sharing, reading and making comics. Participants are encouraged to bring a comic to share with a group, but are not required.

#### Library Board Meeting

**When:** 7:30-9 p.m. third Thursday of each month  
**Details:** CPL is governed by a six-member Library Board of Trustees of community

members elected quadrennially on a non-partisan ballot. The public is invited to attend.

#### On the Spot Tech Help

**When:** 5-7 p.m. each Wednesday and noon to 2 p.m. each Saturday  
**Details:** A team of tech-savvy volunteers has been assembled at CPL to help you find the answers to those tech issues you can't quite figure out on your own. Whether you need help while working on a project at one of our computers, setting up an email address or downloading an app on your phone, we can help.

#### Sylvan Practice Test: SAT

**When:** 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 28  
**Details:** Sylvan Learning Center is back at the

library to administer a full length SAT practice test, open to teens ages 14-17. Students should bring their own calculator and pencils and are required to attend the entire session. Registration is required and participants must have a valid library card.

#### International Games Week

**When:** Oct. 29 through Nov. 4  
**Details:** The library will have different programs each day.

#### Monster Mash Masquerade

**When:** 10-10:45 a.m. and 11-11:45 a.m. Oct. 31  
**Details:** Families with young children are invited to this open dance party where our littlest patrons can dance with their grownups to spooky tunes in their costumes.

A costume parade through the library follows the dance party. This program is designed for new walkers up to 5 years old. There is no registration required to attend, but please choose only one time.

#### ELL Conversation Groups

**When:** 9:30-11 a.m. each Thursday and Friday  
**Details:** Practice speaking English in an informal setting with Community Literacy Council volunteers. See the English Language Learner Program FAQ at [www.cantonpl.org](http://www.cantonpl.org) for more information.

#### Digital Drop-In Help

**When:** 10-11 a.m. each Friday  
**Details:** Stop in to get one-on-one help with your e-readers from the

friendly experts at the Information desk. Just bring your device and your desire to learn. Kindle users must bring Amazon log-in information as well.

#### Computer Skills Lab for Beginners

**When:** 9-11 a.m. second Saturday of each month  
**Details:** If you are looking to build a foundation of strong computer skills, including Internet use and setting up an email account, stop in to CPL's Internet Lab. We will have guided activities for practice with mouse skills, copying/pasting and more, with trusted experts on hand to answer any questions you may have or connect you to additional resources.

#### Family Storytime

**Details:** Family Storytime provides an opportunity for caregivers to actively engage with their children under age 5. Together with a youth librarian, you can build early literacy skills in a welcoming environment through meaningful stories, songs and play. Encourage a love of language and reading while practicing listening and cooperative tasks. Every Family Storytime is followed by a half-hour of ABC Activity Time. Go to

[www.cantonpl.org](http://www.cantonpl.org) for a full October program schedule.

#### Preschool Storytime

**Details:** Preschool storytimes feature longer books, flannel board and rhymes designed for children ages 3½-5. These activities help develop pre-reading and school-readiness skills. Children must be able to sit independently and be attentive for 30 minutes. Parents may attend, if needed, to help transition their child to this program, and all parents must remain in the children's department. Registration is required and you can pick a Monday or a Friday session. Go to [www.cantonpl.org](http://www.cantonpl.org) for registration and schedule.

#### Baby Storytime

**Details:** Baby Storytime is designed for babies 18 months and younger with an adult and features simple stories, songs and rhymes carefully chosen to build awareness of language and vocabulary, foster a love of books and provide a fun, interactive experience for babies and parents/caregivers. Baby Storytime sessions start Sept. 12. Registration is required. Go to [www.cantonpl.org](http://www.cantonpl.org) for registration and schedule.



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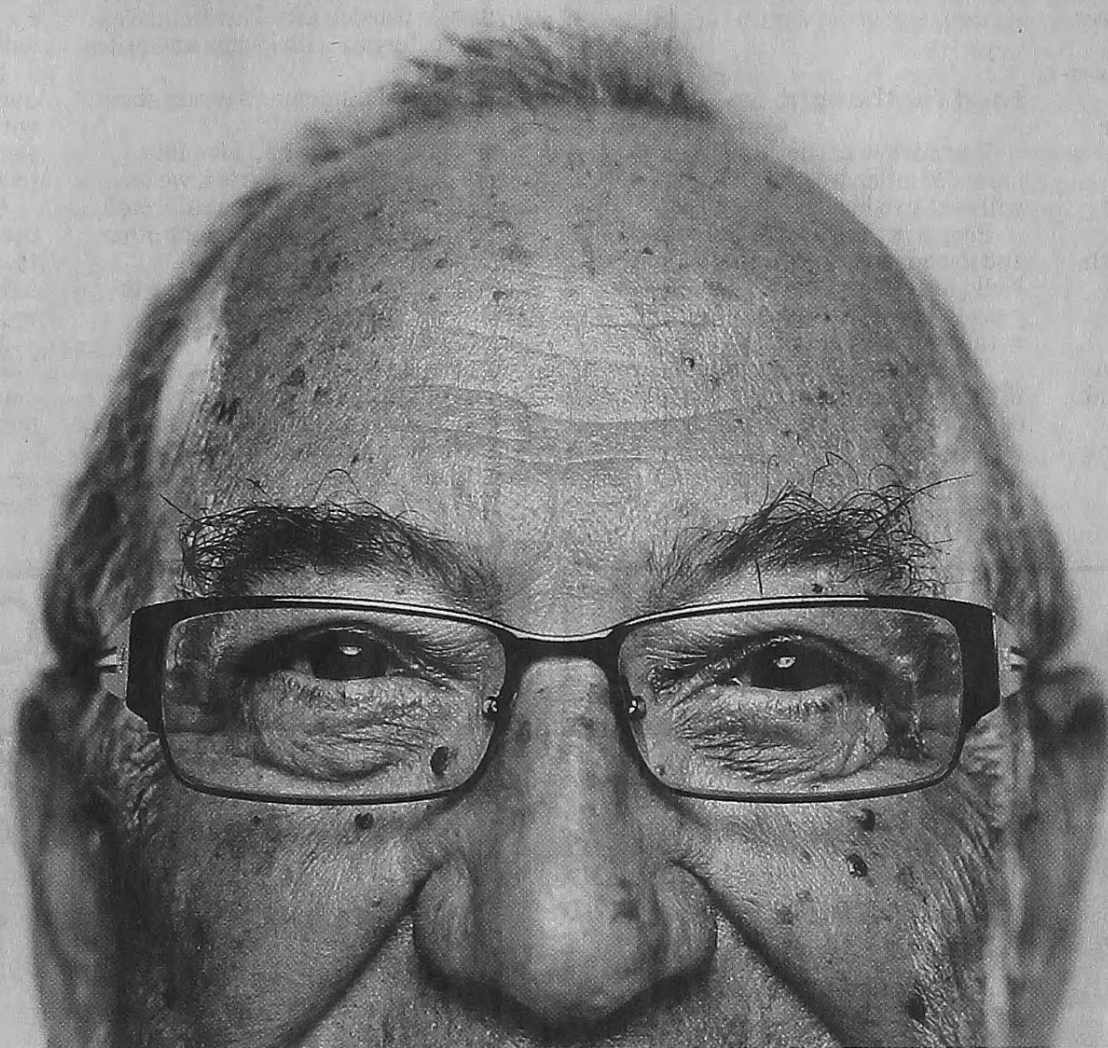

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**DEARBORN**

Caroline Kennedy Library  
24590 George St.  
Oct. 30 @ 2 pm  
Nov. 14, 21 @ 2 pm  
Dec. 4 @ 2 pm

**LIVONIA**

Best Western Hotel  
16999 S. Laurel Park Dr.  
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Nov. 10, 28 @ 10 am  
Dec. 5 @ 10 am

**SOUTHFIELD**

City of Southfield Parks & Recreation  
26000 Evergreen Rd.  
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Nov. 2, 16, 30 @ 10 am

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# SWIMMERS

Continued from Page A1

live all across metro Detroit, can't get enough of the sport and, in fact, will be competing Oct. 19-22 at the U.S. Championships in Clermont, Fla.

"We usually have about 350 competitors (from around the United States) at this meet," Lindeman said. "We have people swimming in age groups (in increments of 10 years, up to 90- to 100-year-old division), in solo, duet, trio and team events. ... There's also a technical routine with elements, like figure skating."

### Athletic and artistic

Lindeman said synchronized swimming also has something in common with gymnastics.

"We have gotten more and more toward that (gymnastics), a lot of lifts in the water, a lot of throws," said Lindeman, who helped launch synchronized swimming at Redford Thurston during the 1960s. "And our national teams will do five or six lifts and throws."

"These ladies usually maybe do one or two lifts in the whole routine. You can't touch the bottom. That's a penalty point."

There are 15 Michigan Synchro Masters team members and three coaches, with the performers divided into either grand masters or masters.

"The grand masters have achieved a higher score somewhere in their earlier life," Lindeman said. "(The divisions) allow them not to have to compete against people who maybe never did any synchronized swimming."

Tleczek is one of the grand masters, joined by Bridget Deska and Scotti Nichols (Livonia), Peggy Brady (Beverly Hills), Rhonda Shnerpunas (Plymouth Township) and Robin Wagner (Novi).

On masters are Perowski, Mary Frances Saenz (Livonia), Marie Lamberg (Livonia), Gail Scherer (Plymouth), Sandy Allen (Westland), Beth Borland (Bloomfield Hills), Doreen Durandetto and Barb Hayes (Northville).

"These ladies are professionals in some way or another," Lindeman said. "We've got lawyers and engineers, executive directors, office managers, paralegals, educators."



Michigan Synchro Masters team members Scotti Nichols and Bridget Deska live in Livonia. Peggy Brady is from Beverly Hills and Rhonda Shnerpunas lives in Plymouth. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Maureen Kelly of Beverly Hills views video of a practice routine. She also is the team cook. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

### Food for thought

They drove earlier this week to Clermont (20 miles west of Orlando) and will rent two houses.

Preparing meals will be team cook and grand masters alternate Maureen Kelly of Beverly Hills, who also happens to be an assistant coach, along with Livonia's Pat Poirier.

"I plan our meals and plan everything for us on our trip," Kelly said. "I can't say we don't go to restaurants, but we very seldom do. It's a lot cheaper for our team to eat as a team and it's also a lot healthier to bring our own

food and we can control our calories."

During a recent practice at Schoolcraft, Kelly filmed the women using an iPad; the tool is used to help spot any flaws in their routines and correct them before the U.S. Championships.

"I'm watching arm and leg movements to make sure they're synchronized," Kelly said. "Mostly it's patterns. You can really tell when a swimmer's getting tired."

The former Maureen McMurray went to Royal Oak Kimball and swam with the Michigan Aquarius team, a longtime competitor of Michigan Synchro Masters (launched during the 1970s as a Garden City Parks and Recreation offering, with swims at Garden City East).

She joined Lindeman's group about 15 years ago.

"I love the sport and I love this team," Kelly said. "It's great; we have a lot of fun. We all get along really well, we all support each other in our other life activities."

"We watched our kids grow up together, get married. It's just been great."

Shnerpunas said the physical demands of synchronized swimming might be surprising to some, especially when she can refer to her water resistant TomTom watch.

"My daughter bought me this Tom-

Tom, it counts laps as I'm swimming," Shnerpunas said. "We (go) to the Livonia Rec Center for two hours on Sunday mornings. The movement I've had, I've acquired over 100 laps each and every time."

"There are routines that are normally four laps, but the amount of energy I'm expelling is equal to 32 laps of actual swimming. So synchronized swimming is much harder, much more difficult, than regular speed swimming."

Several team members can laugh about younger days when they worked as mermaids at Weeki Wachee Springs, a tourist attraction in Florida.

One of Weeki Wachee's 1970s-era performers is Dona Olson of Livonia.

The 1971 Redford Union grad is part of the group, but not competing this season. Years later, Olson and others don't wear fish tails or other bubbly costumes, but they love coming to the pool just the same.

"It's great exercise, it's great camaraderie," Olson said with a grin. "The girls are wonderful. It is hard, but it's great exercise."

### Staying power

Having already demonstrated admirable longevity, there's no telling how long Michigan Synchro Masters might continue.

After all, members already shown amazing longevity as a group. There are six "originals" going back to the Garden City days in the 1970s, including Shnerpunas.

"The core group was started by our original coach Shirley Burlingame, who saw many of the moms sitting in the bleachers during practices and said, 'You guys need to get in and participate,'" Shnerpunas said. "That's how the masters group was formed. It originally was our moms."

Nichols — whose name was Hoag during her school days — also has stuck with the program through the decades, as have Tleczek (Swartz), Lamberg (Neu) and Poirier.

"We just transitioned into it (over the years)," Nichols said. "So now it's more fun. It's more relaxed and we have a lot of friends we meet from around the country."

"You're swimming with music, so it's like dance in the water. You have counts, you got to do things on them, but it's fun."

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# Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts work together to benefit Gleaners

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in the Detroit area are partnering to collect more than 250,000 pounds of food during the week of Nov. 4-11 as part of their third annual Scouting for Food drive to benefit Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan.

On Saturday, Nov. 4, Scouts will distribute bags in neighborhoods throughout their service areas, which include communities in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Sanilac and Monroe counties. Individuals who receive Scouting for Food bags are encouraged to fill

them with non-perishable canned or boxed foods (glass containers will not be accepted) and place the bags on their porches for Scouts to pick up by Saturday, Nov. 11.

Gleaners will distribute the donated food items to individuals in need in Detroit-area communities. Last year, Gleaners distributed more than 34 million pounds of food to soup kitchens, shelters and pantries in southeast Michigan.

"The Scouting for Food drive helps Gleaners fill our partner agency pantry shelves before

the holidays," said Gerry Brisson, Gleaners president and CEO. "With colder weather approaching, many struggling families will be forced to choose between paying heating bills and buying food for their families. The donations from this drive help make sure that these families receive the support they need."

The Boy Scouts of America established Scouting for Food as a region wide service project in 1988. Vic Pooler, scout executive for the BSA's Great Lakes Field Service Council, said the food drive meets a need

for Gleaners at a critical time of the year for its clients.

"Scouting for Food has been a tradition of Boy Scouts of America nationally for over 30 years," Pooler said. "This longstanding commitment to community service is what Scouting is all about and partnering with our local Girl Scouts is a wonderful way for more Scouts to canvass areas in our region to provide more food for those in need before the holidays arrive and the demand becomes so much greater."

More than 800 Boy

Scout units with the Michigan Crossroads Council, the statewide Boy Scout organization that manages the Great Lakes FSC, and Girl Scout troops with Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan are expected to distribute bags and collect food.

"The Girl Scout Mission focuses on building girls who make the world a better place and that's exactly what Scouting for Food allows our girls to do," said Denise Dalrymple, CEO of Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan. "The steady incline of participation

from our troops each year truly speaks volumes about the kindness and generosity of our girls and volunteers, and their commitment to living out the Girl Scout Promise and Law. We are truly grateful to be a part of making a difference in the lives of so many families in need."

Last year, the Scouts collected close to 200,000 pounds of food for Gleaners. Since the inception of its partnership with Gleaners in 2009, the Boy Scouts have collected more than 2,000,000 pounds of food donations for the organization.

## AREA EVENTS

Send calendar items to LIV-OENewstip@hometownlife.com.

### Pet CPR training

The Plymouth City Fire Services, in cooperation with HVA for emergency medical services, is offering a free class in pet CPR training 6:30-8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 23, at the Plymouth headquarters, 1260 Gold Smith Road. Participants will receive a pet bandana. Pre-registration is required at <https://form.jotform.us/72613988582167>.

### Inspire Theatre to present 'Fright'

"It Happened One Fright," kicks off the 13th season of Inspire Theatre, Westland's only live theater. "Fright" is an original musical adaption including music borrowed from the '60s to the '80s incorporating several musical genres, from Michael Jackson to gypsy music.

Inspire Theatre is housed in the Westland Center for the Arts, 33455 Warren Road. "It Happened One Fright" runs for Oct. 27-29 and Nov. 3-5, at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$16 and are available at <http://inspiretheatre.ticketleap.com>. For more information, call 734-751-7057.

### Purple Pinkie Day

The Canton Rotary Club will celebrate World Polio Day with a Purple Pinkie Day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 24, to support a local polio immunization team traveling to Pakistan and India in February 2018. Rotary members will be collecting funds at Holiday Market, 520 S. Lilley Road, Canton.

Funds raised in Canton will be used by the Rotary team that is going overseas in February 2018 to purchase mosquito nets as an incentive to be given out to families that bring their children for immunization. All donors will receive an End Polio Now sticker and will have the opportunity to have their "pinkie" nail painted with purple nail polish. Go to [www.endpolio-now.org](http://www.endpolio-now.org) for more about Rotary and its efforts to eradicate polio. For more information, go to [www.cantonrotary.com](http://www.cantonrotary.com).

### Canton Trick or Treat Parade

All are invited to Canton Leisure Services annual Trick or Treat Parade 5-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27, to be held inside the Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway. Children of all ages are encouraged to attend this family-friendly event in costume and follow the not-so-scary trail from room to room, each filled with special surprises and little goodies. For those who dare, a spooky Haunted House will be available in the Summit's Gymnasium, that is scarier than ever. Please note



The Shahida Nurullah Quartet will perform Tuesday, Oct. 31, at Jazz @ the Elks.

that this interactive experience may be too intense for small children.

Tickets will only be sold in advance of the event until Oct. 26 for \$5 per child for Summit Members and \$6 per child for Canton residents. Until Oct. 26, non-resident tickets will be available for \$10 per child. Proof of residency will be required to purchase tickets and there is a 10-ticket limit per person.

Parents are responsible for the direct supervision of their children during this event. For more information, call 734-394-5460 or go to [www.cantonfun.org](http://www.cantonfun.org).

### Music at the Elks

Blues @ The Elks happens 7-10 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325 in partnership with the Detroit Blues Society ([www.detroitbluesociety.org](http://www.detroitbluesociety.org)). There is a \$5 donation at the door and bring your dancing

shoes.

Jazz @ The Elks happens 7-9:30 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month. There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres.

Tuesday, Oct. 31, brings the Elks debut of the Shahida Nurullah Quartet, with Nurullah on vocals, Rich Michaels on drums, Ray Tini on bass and Chuck Shermertaro on keyboards. In addition to her performing, Nurullah is a University of Windsor special instructor in jazz and pop voice.

The Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325 is at 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. For more information, call 734-453-1780, go to [www.plyaa325.com](http://www.plyaa325.com) or email [jazzattheelks@gmail.com](mailto:jazzattheelks@gmail.com).

### Ghost stories at Cady-Boyer Barn

The Canton Historical Society will host its annual evening of Ghost Stories presented by Judge Ronald Lowe, 6-7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, Suit-

able for ages 8 and up, this scary event will take place in Cady-Boyer Barn, located in Preservation Park, 500 N. Ridge Road.

Participants will enjoy hearing about ghosts, goblins and all things spooky from this popular storyteller, who will take you on an adventure with tales of fright, twists and turns, and things that go bump in the night. Cider and two doughnuts are included with the ticket and will be available while supplies last.

Tickets are \$5 per individual and can be purchased at the Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, the White Pole Barn at the Canton Farmers Market on Sunday, Oct. 15, and at the door. All proceeds benefit the Canton Historical Society.

Please remember that children must be accompanied by an adult and that parents are responsible for the direct supervision of their children during this special

event. For more information, please go to [www.cantonhistorical.society.org](http://www.cantonhistorical.society.org).

### Plymouth community forum

A community forum featuring five candidates for the Plymouth City Commission will be held 7-8:45 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1, at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main. Hear and question the candidates prior to the general election.

### FMAR fundraiser

Canton Vintner's Winery and Canton Brewworks, 8515 and 8521 N. Lilley, will be hosting a wine and beer tasting fundraiser for Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue 7-9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3. FMAR is a no-kill animal shelter for cats and dogs, located in Belleville.

Tickets are \$35 per person and includes a tasting of products at both venues, which are located next door to each other on Lilley, north of

Warren. Purchase tickets and get more information at [fmar1.org/events](http://fmar1.org/events).

### Canton to host film, discussion on race

A free screening of "A Continuing Series of Small Indignities: A Personal Conversation About Race," a documentary film, is the impetus for a community discussion on race. The Canton Response to Hate Crime Coalition will host the screening at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. It will be followed by a moderated community conversation and panel discussion.

The Canton Public Library, the Canton Police Department, Canton Response to Hate Crimes Coalition and Canton Leisure Services are sponsoring the film and discussion. For more information, go to [www.cantonpl.org](http://www.cantonpl.org).

## Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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Deadlines: **Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers**  
**Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers**  
Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

### Jennings



Charlene Marie passed away unexpectedly on October 13, 2017 at the age of 75. Beloved wife of Duane for 55 years. Loving mother of Tracey (Mark) Hartsough, Jennine (Todd) Senkbell, David Jennings, and Darrin (Laura) Jennings. Cherished grandmother of Jenny (Zachary), Josef, Rachel, Lauren, Tyler, Kaila, Alyssa, Zac, and Christa. Proud great-grandmother of Anika and Audrey. Dear sister of Rick (Susan) Noethen, Bernie (Jerry) Roers, and the late Marilyn Lane. Charlene worked as a Realtor for over 30 years. She was deeply devoted to her family and proud of her Irish heritage. Charlene was also known for her handmade greeting cards- received and held dear by many of her loved ones. A Funeral Mass was held October 17 at St. Colette Catholic Church. Memorials can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. [www.harrywillfuneralhome.com](http://www.harrywillfuneralhome.com)

### Penet

Edward L. Born April 10, 1921 at Detroit, Michigan. Died October 3, 2017 at Phoenix, Arizona. Son of Emile L. Penet (Belgium) and Petronella Houben (Holland). Two sisters: Mary Emil Penet, IHM, and Pauline Penet Teske (both deceased). Married Jacqueline Ann Naour of Detroit in 1943 (deceased 1999). Retired as National Director of the GM Dealer Organization (1979) to Sun City West in 1980. Married Dorothy Nelson on August 12, 2000. He had two children: Edward G. Penet and Ann E. Penet Meisenzahl (deceased). He is survived by wife, Dorothy, son, Edward and his wife, Bonnie, six grandchildren, five great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren. He was a member of the Sun City Posse, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Our Lady of Lourdes Men's Club, the Ministry of Caring, Eucharistic Minister and the Pebble Brook Golf Club. A private memorial will be held in Sun City West. In lieu of flowers, gifts can be made in his memory to any local St. Vincent de Paul Society or Capucin Services Center.

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and friends

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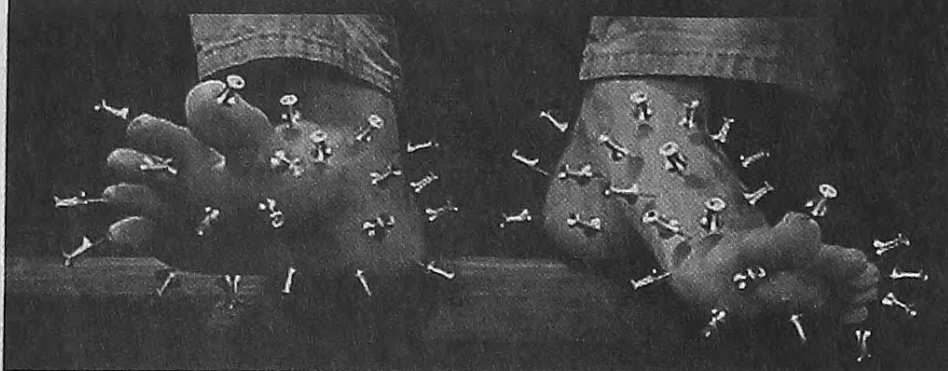
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# Canton teen wins Kelsey's Law Scholarship

Three University of Michigan first-year students and a Zeeland high school senior earned college scholarship awards for their winning entries in the second annual Kelsey's Law Scholarship: Stop Distracted Driving Contest.

The contest, sponsored by the Farmington Hills-based law firm Michigan Auto Law, calls for current high school students and recently graduated high school students from all over the state to submit compelling messages — in video, Tweet or graphic form — for the chance to win \$5,000 worth of college scholarships.

One of the winners is Kevin Chen, who graduated this past June from Canton High School and is currently attending the University of Michigan. He won for best tweet and needed just 106 characters (out of Twitter's 140-character maximum) to explain what kind of danger can happen in five-second increments:

*"Would you drive with your eyes closed? With every text being a 5 second blindfold... IT CAN WAIT. #xMyText"*

"Our hope is to get these powerful distracted driving messages shared among as many high school students as possible to impact their decisions and stop this potentially deadly driving behavior," said Steven Gursten, auto and truck accident attorney and Michigan Auto Law founder.

The Kelsey's Law Scholarship is in honor of Kelsey Raffaele, a Sault Ste. Marie 17-year-old who inspired Michi-

gan's teen driving law after she was tragically killed in a 2010 car accident using her cellphone.

Bonnie Raffaele, Kelsey's mother, pushed Michigan legislators to pass Michigan's first teen cellphone ban (Public Act 592 of 2012). The law prohibits cell phone use by teen drivers with a Level 2 graduated license, which is when 16-year-olds can drive a motor vehicle without an adult in the state of Michigan. A teen driver who violates this law by using a cell phone would receive a civil infraction.

"Kelsey had a heart bigger than the universe and she would have been thrilled that this contest is in her honor," Bonnie Raffaele said. "If we can save just one life out of this tragedy, then our job has been done."

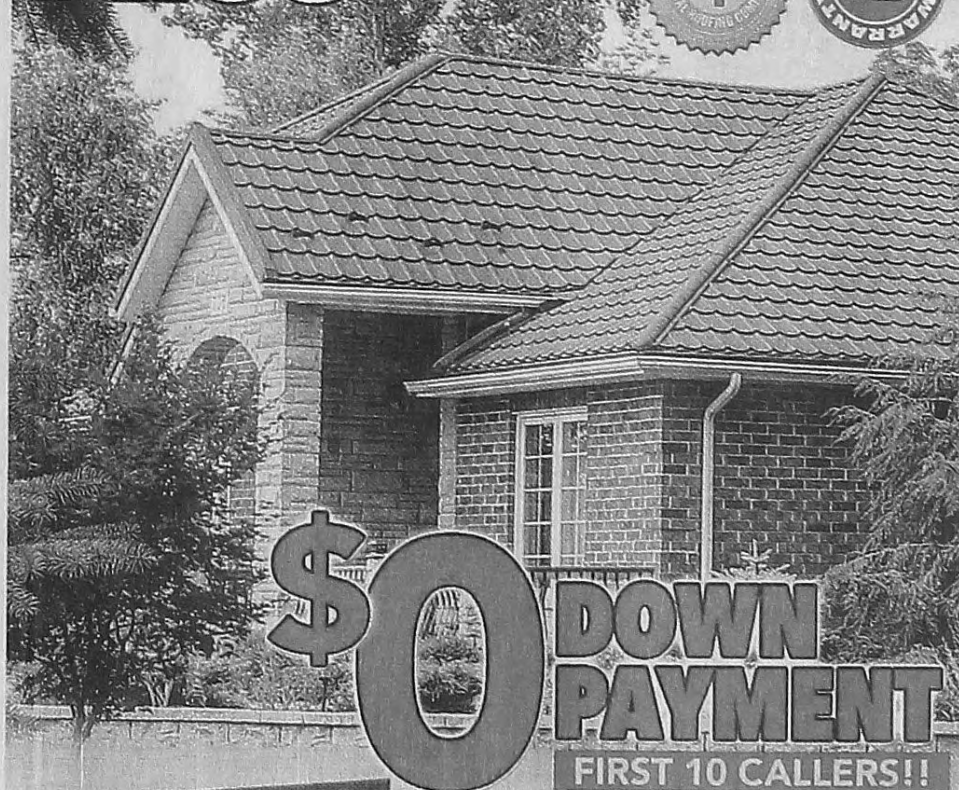
The Kelsey's Law Scholarship winners announcement coincides with the beginning of National Teen Driver Safety Week (<https://www.trafficsafety.gov/teens>). The annual campaign, sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, is designed to encourage all parents to talk to their teen drivers about the rules of the road.

To view more details about each winner and their submissions, go to <http://www.michiganautolaw.com/kelseys-law-scholarship/winners>.

The 2018 Kelsey's Law Scholarship: Stop Distracted Driving Contest is now open for submissions. The deadline to apply is Aug. 31, 2018. To apply, go to <http://www.michiganautolaw.com/kelseys-law-scholarship>.

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# Bonus, severance both count as ordinary income

**Q: I have an issue that I hope you can help me with. I recently lost my job. I worked for the same company for more than 25 years, but the owner of the business died and his family has decided to close the business. The business continued to pay my salary for six months as severance. In addition, I also received a large bonus of \$100,000. When I received the bonus check, taxes were already taken out. I've been told that since I already received my severance, that this money shouldn't be taxed. My question is, do I have to pay taxes on this money and, if yes, how is it taxed?**

**A:** Unfortunately, whoever told you the money was not subject to tax is wrong. Whether you categorize the money as additional severance or a bonus is relatively immaterial to the IRS. No matter what you call it, the \$100,000 you received as severance is taxed to you as ordinary income.

Because this money is ordinary income, it is taxed at your highest bracket. What you may find is that the large bonus you received puts you into a higher tax bracket. That means you may owe additional taxes than what was withheld from the check. Depending upon your situation, you may find that you have to make an estimated tax payment to the IRS in order to avoid any



**Rick Bloom**  
MONEY MATTERS

*You may find that you have to make an estimated tax payment to the IRS in order to avoid any penalty.*

penalty. If you're not familiar with how to do this, I recommend you sit down with someone professionally.

Of course, the question I have is, what are you going to do with the extra money? The key is to focus on your individual situation. If you're going to need the money to cover living expenses, that's one type of investment. On the other hand, if you don't need the money, you may be able to invest it long term. In that regard, remember one of the best investments you can make is to pay down debt. For example, if you carry a balance on your charge card, you're probably paying somewhere in the 20-percent range for that money. By paying down your charge card debt, you're getting a guaranteed after-tax return of 20 percent. I

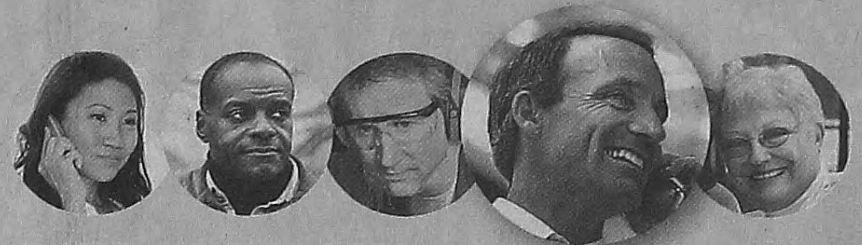
can assure you no investment can match that. Another good use of this money may be to convert all or a portion of your traditional IRA into a Roth IRA. The beauty of a Roth IRA is that money withdrawn from the plan is not subject to income taxes and the 70½ mandatory distribution rules do not apply to Roth IRAs.

What I caution against is focusing on how you can spend the money, as opposed to making it more productive. Yes, you are entitled to reward yourself, but let's not forget we are adults and we have to make adult decisions. When you receive a bonus or an unexpected payment, you should look for ways to invest the money, such as paying down debt, as opposed to looking for ways to spend it.

One last word of caution — beware of tax advice from people who are not tax professionals. These people mean well but, generally speaking, they have no clue how our tax system works. Taking advice from these people can be costly. Only take tax advice from true professionals — it will save you money and aggravation.

Good luck!

*Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). If you would like him to respond to questions, email [rick@bloomassetmanagement.com](mailto:rick@bloomassetmanagement.com).*



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OBITUARY

## Soccer community mourns O'Shea

Livonia native touched many lives during his career

**Brad Emons**  
hometownlife.com

The soccer community lost one of its favorite sons as hundreds of mourners recently paid their respects to Dan O'Shea.

The Livonia native, who excelled as a soccer player at Franklin High School, Schoolcraft College and Oakland University, died Oct. 10 at age 52 from an apparent heart attack, which caused him to crash his car in Com-

merce Township, according to a report from the Oakland County Sheriff's Office.

O'Shea, who lived in West Bloomfield, is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife of 24 years Lisa, along with daughter Jess and son Nick. He is also survived by his parents, Nick and Virginia O'Shea, brothers Jim, Brian and Nick Jr. and sister Judy (Maher). He is also predeceased by his sister, Eileen O'Shea.

More than 500 gathered Monday at

both Lynch & Sons Funeral Home in Milford and later at Edgewood County County Club in Commerce to remember and give tributes to the 1983 Franklin graduate, who wrestled and played soccer for the Patriots.

O'Shea grew up in a household with many Irish traditions, including dancing and Gaelic football, while spending summers at Feis (Irish dance competitions), along with trips to Ireland.

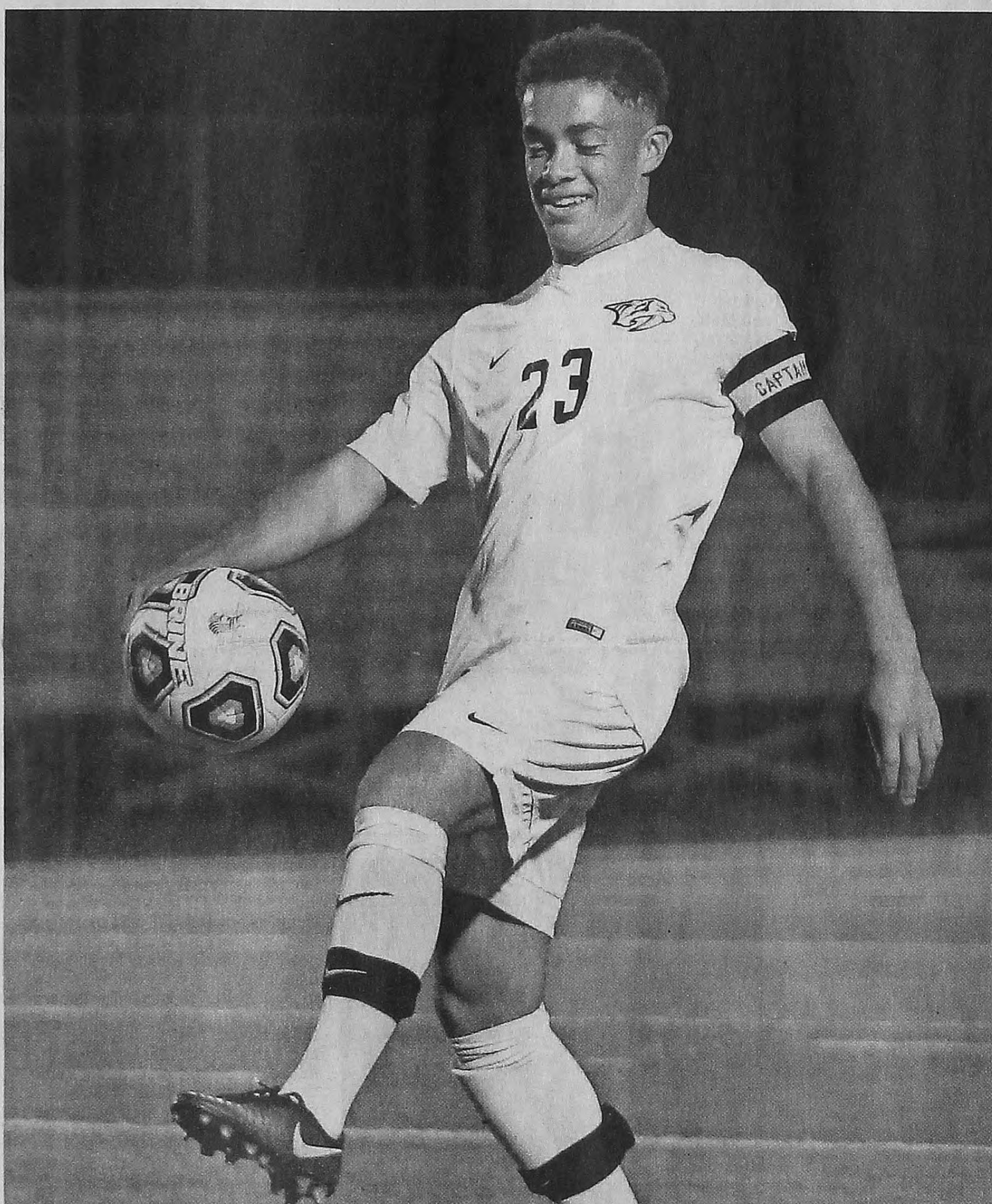
But he eventually traded his dance shoes for soccer cleats at an early age and, thanks to his father and Livonia



Dan O'Shea was soccer player, advocate.

See O'SHEA, Page B4

BOYS SOCCER



Although Plymouth's Bennett Brooks is a tireless worker on the soccer pitch, he also knows how to have fun. MICHAEL VASILNEK

USPBL BASEBALL

## League is a home run for players, fans

Circuit has sent 18 players from Jimmy John's Field to next level

**Marty Budner**  
hometownlife.com

Andy Appleby called it a "banner" year.

The United Shore Professional Baseball League recently completed its second season of independent league action at Jimmy John's Field in Utica. Appleby, the USBPL's founder, chairman and commissioner, couldn't have been more pleased with the league's progress both on and off the field.

The Bloomfield Township resident said the USPBL's main mission of developing players for the next level was unequivocally a success. In addition, he indicated fans and corporate sponsors were treated to quality action in a first-class minor league ballpark that attracted more fans than it did in its inaugural campaign in 2016.

"The first two years have gone much better than I anticipated," said Appleby, a former senior vice president of the Detroit Pistons. "I mean, the ballpark itself is intimately better than I even had dreamed over several years back.

"And the nice thing about it is, there is hardly a day that goes by that we don't make it better. We started out with a wonderful template and a beautiful ballpark, but we're making positive changes all the time.

"Now, with two full seasons, we have not just satisfied customers and not just satisfied families, but we have tremendously satisfied partners as well, both from a suite, premium seat and sponsor perspective and also with our group picnic area," he added. "We just had a banner year. And the best part is, we think there is more growth to come — and that's just on the business side."

See USPBL, Page B2

## DRIVING FORCE

Brooks works tirelessly to deliver for Plymouth in high-stakes situations

**Tim Smith**  
hometownlife.com

Watching Plymouth senior holding midfielder Bennett Brooks play is a bit like keeping tabs on a superhero.

There he goes, full-tilt into a mass of humanity to kick, thump or head away a soccer ball from his end of the pitch.

Oh wait, there he is again, racing back toward his goalkeeper, making sure he is the player who gets there before an opponent can do damage against the Wildcats.

Those are snippets of why the 18-year-old Brooks, ranked No. 4 by the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association, is held in such high regard by his soccer peers.


Plymouth coach Jeff Neschich certainly appreciates the way co-captain Brooks brings it for the state-ranked squad.

"Well-deserved No. 4, he's a fantastic player," Neschich said. "Very skilled, very athletic, very strong on the ball. He's playing the six, the hold-

See BROOKS, Page B3



Commissioner Andy Appleby proudly proclaims the success of his independent baseball league, which just concluded its second season at Jimmy John's Field in Utica. MARTY BUDNER




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## COLLEGE HOCKEY PREVIEW

# Schoolcraft drops the puck for third season

Ocelots plan to build off successful 2016-17 with offense, hard hitting

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

Slamming opponents into the boards and keeping the heat turned up high on the opposing goaltender are all Schoolcraft College men's hockey coach Rob Lindsay asks of his team during 2017-18.

"You got to get 10 shots and 10 hits a period," Lindsay said. "If you do that, you're probably going to win the hockey game."

The Ocelots didn't quite follow that blueprint last weekend, falling 9-5 and 9-3 to Ontario's Sault College in back-to-back contests at Redford Arena.

But that double setback won't deter a group of players looking to make a mark in the American College Hockey Association. Plenty of players from Livonia, Farmington Hills, Novi, Westland and Garden City are on the roster as Schoolcraft opens its third season overall and second in the ACHA.

"Putting this game aside," Lindsay said Oct. 15, following the second loss to Sault, "I think you see an ACHA competitor in the playoffs. I think we're going to get there."

"Last year we couldn't, we were a first-year (ACHA) team. If you're a first-year team, you don't get in the rankings. This year, we'll be in the rankings."

Schoolcraft was an independent team in 2015-16, joining the league last winter. The team went 19-7-0.

Lindsay and assistant coaches Brendan Ryan, Craig Ward and Andrew Lindsay have sights on the program eventually joining the NCAA ranks as an official college program. Right now, it remains a club team.

"We're getting better every year," Lindsay said. "We've really stepped it up, we have some quality players. Our defense is very strong."

"We didn't show it today, but we have a very good defense and our offense, (it's) got a lot of speed."

The Ocelots opened the season the first weekend of October with home wins against club teams from Notre Dame and Michigan, 6-4 and 5-2, respectively.

## Local talent abounds

Schoolcraft's on-ice leadership team includes captain Andrew Nowak (defenseman from Livonia Stevenson) and assistant captains Vinnie Glenn (Stevenson), Jacob Stanley (Dearborn Divine Child) and newcomer Jonah Laines (Fenton). High-scoring Glenn and Stanley are forwards, while Laines is



Stickhandling against Sault College is Schoolcraft College forward Vinnie Glenn. RENA LAVERTY

a defenseman.

Lindsay added that first-year forward Nolan Cioch, from Livonia Churchill, "will be quite a player for us. On defense, I think Jonah Laines is going to be awesome."

Other wingers with local ties include Griffin Ahmet (Churchill), Alex Walkuski (Churchill), Austin Cole (Farmington Hills), Owen Hund (Garden City), Zac Nelson (Westland) and Matt Halash (Novi Detroit Catholic Central).

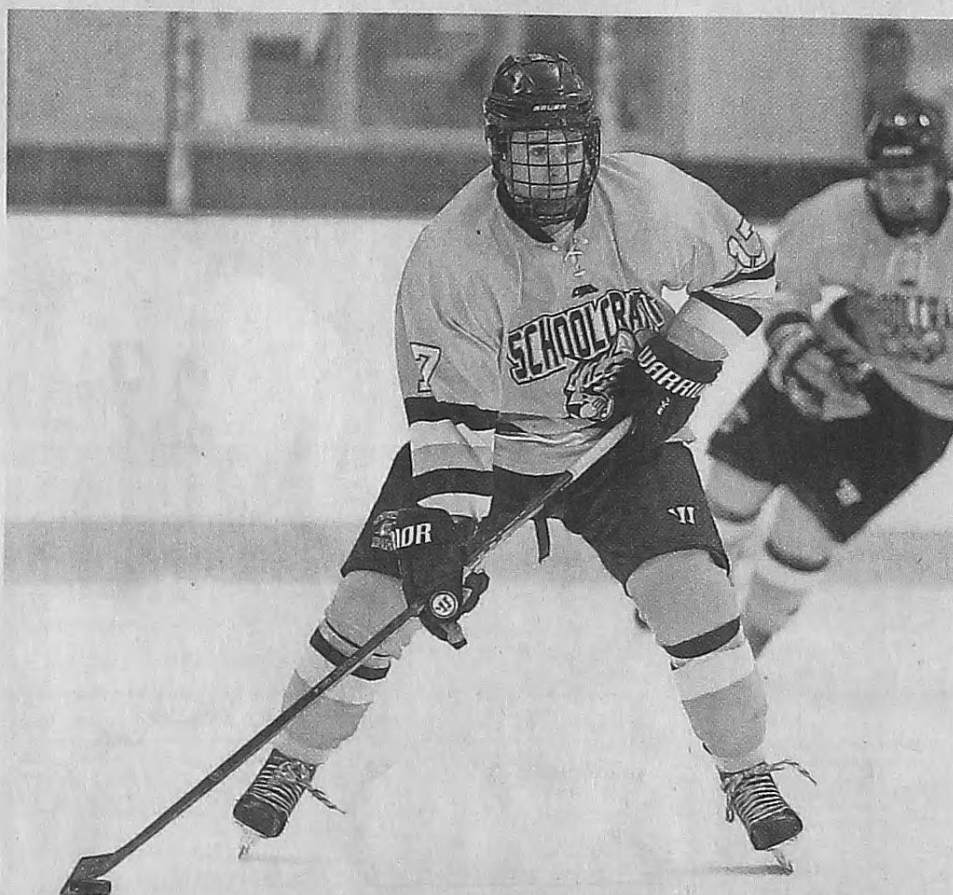
Joining Nowak among area players on the blue line are Logan Wilt (Westland), Zach Finzel (Stevenson), Kyle Lynch (Stevenson), Derek Klisz (Churchill), Scott Pohl (Stevenson) and Alex Pohl (Stevenson).

Dividing goalkeeping duties will be Bobby Diegal (Stevenson), Connor O'Reilly and Matt Monendo.

**UPCOMING HOME GAMES** (all at Redford Arena, Beech Daly, south of I-96): Alpena Community College (8:50 p.m. Friday, Nov. 10; 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11); Saginaw Valley State University (TBA Friday, Nov. 17); Ferris State University (9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1; 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2); Miami University (8:50 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8; 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9); Western Michigan University (6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16).

Go to [achahockey.org](http://achahockey.org) for more information.

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @TimSmith\_Sports



Schoolcraft College defenseman and captain Andrew Nowak looks to pass the puck during the Oct. 15 game at Redford Arena. RENA LAVERTY

## USPBL

Continued from Page B1

### Birmingham team wins title

On the field, Oakland County's representative — the Birmingham-Bloomfield Beavers — captured the championship with a victory over the first-year Westside Woolly Mammoths. Beavers manager Chris Newell, a Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes graduate, led his team to the regular-season and postseason championships.

In the USPBL's debut season, the Beavers led virtually from start to finish, only to fall in the title game to the Utica Unicorns. This year, the Beavers got off to a slow start, but rallied in the second half and entered the single-game elimination playoffs as the top-seeded team for the second straight season.

The Beavers had three of their players move on to Major League Baseball-affiliated clubs this season. Counting the league's three other teams, the USPBL has sent 18 players to the next level over the league's first two years.

Appleby is overwhelmed by that number.

"On the baseball side, we continue to produce really viable talent that might someday make the major leagues," Appleby said. "I said from the beginning, when we first started, that I'd be happy with one or two players called up. But to have 18 players from what essentially has only been a 15-month period, that's really good."

"That's way beyond what I had thought. I was hoping for one or two players, but now we have 18 and we think we'll have at least four to five more before the start of next year from this year's group," he added. "So with any luck, we'll be in that 25 range or so after two years, which would be really quite good."

"That's way beyond what I had thought. I was hoping for one or two players, but now we have 18 and we think we'll have at least four to five more before the start of next year from this year's group," he added. "So with any luck, we'll be in that 25 range or so after two years, which would be really quite good."

### Mission is his passion

Appleby's mission of giving youngsters a chance to realize their dreams of playing Major League Baseball is what fuels his passion as a league owner.



The Birmingham-Bloomfield Beavers, coached by Chris Newell, were recently crowned the 2017 USPBL champion. USPBL

"Everything in life is a numbers game," Appleby said. "And if we can continue to produce 10-15 major league caliber-type players every year, then I think it will be just a matter of time before we have that first major leaguer cross the white line."

"One other thing I like is that, of those 18 players, virtually none of those players would be playing today without the advent of our league and that's really powerful. It's a neat thing and it's a great business model if you can make it work, because most independent leagues really tend to sign sort of the washed up major leaguer-type players — and that's mostly to sell tickets."

"But we, on the other hand, are focusing on the 22-year-old kid coming out of college that is an excellent player but, for whatever reason, just barely didn't get drafted. If we are able to make those kids better, which we have and have shown a proclivity to do so, then they turn into entirely different prospects, No. 1, but, No. 2, they are still quite young."

"They're still young enough for major league teams to take a chance on them," he added. "It's a niche that's not easy to pull off, but we've been able to do it. If you can make it work like we have, it can be better for you."

### Positive fan experience

The USPBL sold out 92 of 150 games over its first two seasons. This year, the

league, which made a number of changes to the ballpark while expanding from three to four teams, enjoyed 50 sellouts by providing an even better on-field product and a fun, family-focused environment.

It proved to be a positive fan experience in what Appleby described as a "first-class" atmosphere.

"I think, universally, everyone thought the product improved this year by as much as 25 percent, I would say, if you had to put a scale on it," Appleby said. "We had a better crop of players coming in this year and our feeling is that every single year from now on, we are just going to get a little bit bigger, faster, stronger prospect, because we are going to be attracting more and more of the very top Division I athlete that didn't get drafted for whatever reason or did get drafted and wants to come and play for us for almost a prep year, if you will, before they get assigned to another MLB team."

"I think the word of mouth really helped us out. We had thousands of testimonials last year," he added. "Anybody who comes to our ballpark doesn't just say how nice it is, but they are almost like evangelists for the ballpark. It is that cool."

A few of Appleby's favorite moments this summer were the all-star game, including the home run derby, and the league playoffs. The postseason is a bit emotional in the sense that nu-

merous two-year players are experiencing their final games.

"The playoffs are really an amazing thing," Appleby said. "All sports playoffs are good, but this is especially good. We have a world-class league championship trophy and we try to make it as big-time as we possibly can."

"The level of baseball, especially in the playoffs, is kind of off the hook, because it's a one-and-done deal," he added. "It's bittersweet and it's emotional, because several of the kids who play know it will be their last game. It could be their last pitch or their last at-bat with us."

### Expansion in the works

The second season may be history, but Appleby's work is not done. He already is working hard to improve the product for its third season next summer.

Appleby said the new year could include even more expansion, as he plans to build another ballpark somewhere in the Midwest. He said there are 35 different cities interested in becoming part of the USPBL experience.

"Expansion is definitely out there. If we build a new ballpark, it will probably be ready for (2019)," said Appleby, owner of Rochester-based General Sports and Entertainment. "It will be somewhere in the Midwest. I don't have the answer as to what city it would be, because we've probably had 35 cities approach us, but we don't have a deal per se yet."

"We have a lot of work to do for us to get it right next year. I'm lucky, because they've made most every mistake twice in sports and I have a pretty good feel for what's needed and I have a lot of educational shortcuts just based on trial and error in this business for 31 years now."

"It's a never-ending battle with work. There is so much work to do all the time and it's all magnified when you own the league and four teams," Appleby said. "But it's all good, really good. I could not have asked for a better season in year two. And we're particularly set up real well for the future."

BOYS SOCCER

# Strong first half propels Canton past Churchill

Chiefs, sparked by Turko's two-goal night, prevail 4-1 over Chargers

**Tim Smith**  
hometownlife.com

When Livonia Churchill boys soccer coach Matthew Grodzicki and his team prepped for Wednesday's district game against Canton, there was a prevailing feeling of confidence.

But then the Chargers quickly found out what they were up against at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park varsity soccer stadium, giving up two fast goals to Canton junior forward Tyler Turko.

Despite a mini-surge early in the second half, Churchill could not bounce back, falling 4-1.

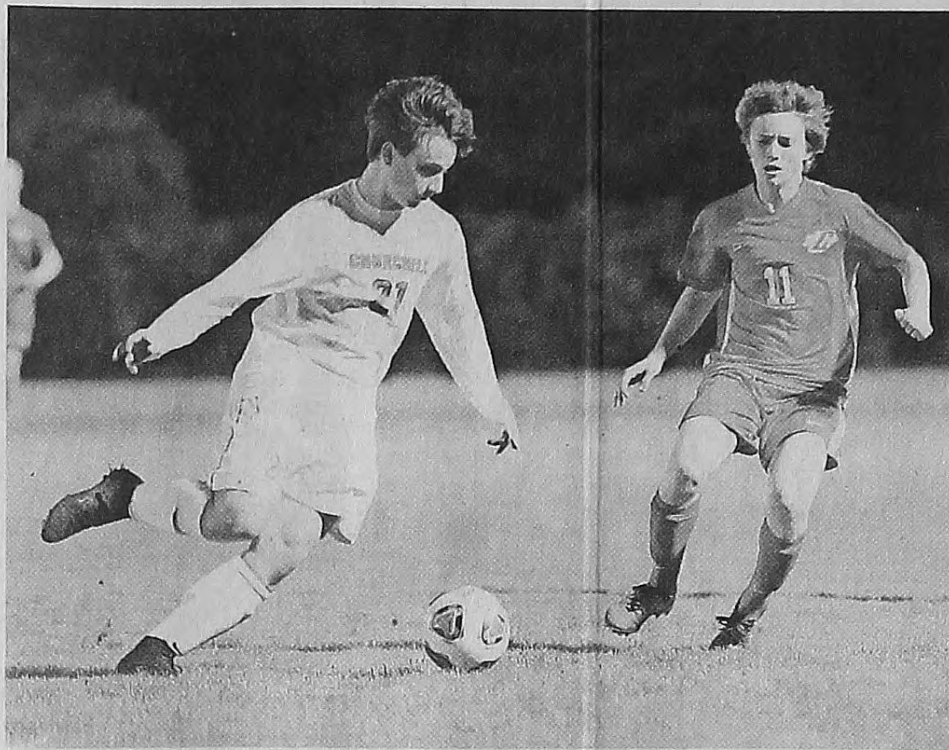
Two state-ranked teams (Canton and Plymouth) were scheduled to meet Saturday in the district final; the Wildcats edged Dearborn Heights Crestwood 2-1 earlier Wednesday on goals by Ryan Wu and Tommy Sullivan.

"We played good all season," said Churchill senior forward and captain Justin Jenkins, the lone goal scorer for the Chargers. "Last time we played Canton, it was 1-1, so the whole team felt we could come out and beat them this time. It just didn't go our way."

Grodzicki said the Chargers were ready and "we had a good game plan. And Canton just jumped on us early and it's tough to overcome."

Canton needed just 2:15 to get on the scoreboard, with Turko getting on the end of a perfect crossing feed from senior forward Jordan Forney and heading it past Churchill senior goalkeeper Adam Sinclair.

"They're moving well off the ball," Canton head coach Mark Zemanski said about Forney and Turko. "When they do that, we're a dangerous team."



Livonia Churchill's Michael Hudock (left) and Canton's Tyler Turko converge on the ball. At right is Churchill's Chris Huff. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

The Chargers had an early bid to strike back, when a corner kick by junior midfielder Chris Chahin was tipped over the crossbar by Canton sophomore goalie Sean O'Meara.

Canton then made it 2-0 with 28:37 left in the first half. Turko's free kick from about 35 yards floated over Sinclair and into the net.

"I was trying to hit back post to Jordan Forney and it just happened to go over the goalie," Turko said, describing his second goal of the night.

The half wasn't even at the midway point when the Chiefs struck again to go up 3-0.

Forney scored on a low shot with 21:23 remaining, slipping the ball past Sinclair — who moments earlier had sprawled to rob freshman midfielder Nick Yono of a goal.

Threading a long pass from the middle of the pitch into the 18-yard box was Canton senior midfielder Avery Olson. Forney did the rest.

"We had some really nice help; our midfield's all good," Zemanski said. "They can handle the ball and join the attack. Avery Olson, Nick Yono and (senior) Brett McGue all did a nice job."

**Tough blow**

Meanwhile, with about 11 minutes left in the opening half, Sinclair was knocked out of the game.

Sinclair came out and jumped in an attempt to snag the ball, only to collide with a Canton player. He had to leave the game and was replaced by junior Nick Reina.

"When our keeper got hit in the head, it really changed things for us," Grodzicki said. "Nick Reina did really good, it's good to get him some quality time. I'm looking forward to watching Nick next year."

Churchill got back to within 3-1 with 38:12 left in the second half. Chahin's corner kick was redirected inside the left post by Jenkins.

"We were a little shaky in the first half, but in the second half, we came out a little stronger," Jenkins said. "I just knew from the start that we needed a goal to bring the momentum back to our side. I saw the ball in the air, I tried and it happened to go in."

Jenkins nearly sliced the deficit to 3-2 about seven minutes later, when he raced into the box and sent a shot that O'Meara got his hands on.

"When the ball got played to me near the box, I thought I was going to put it in," Jenkins said. "But the goalie made a good save to keep it 3-1."

Canton tacked on an insurance goal with 16:40 remaining, when junior midfielder Bennett Austin ripped a shot from outside the right side of the box that found the mark.

Zemanski said he talked to his team at halftime about not getting complacent with the three-goal cushion. "We came out flat, we had a 3-0 lead," he said

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @TimSmith\_Sports

## Opening night



Jake Pivonka (right) of the U.S. National Team Development Program U-18 team scores a shorthanded goal against Miami University goalie Chase Munroe during the second period of the Oct. 13 home opener. Miami won 7-5 at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth. RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

**Bowling fundraiser**

A fundraiser at Vision Lanes, 38250 Ford Road, Westland, has been organized for Nov. 4, to help offset costs of medical care for Detroit police officer Johnson, a 14-year veteran who April 30 was shot and critically injured responding to a domestic violence call.

The event will take place 2-4 p.m. (check-in is at 1 p.m.). The cost to bowl is \$25 per person. All proceeds will benefit Johnson, who remains critically injured and requires long-term medical care.

There also will be a 50/50 raffle, themed raffle baskets and an optional "Strike it up" poker bowling activity. To learn more and sign up, go to

<https://tinyurl.com/yczmwxyq>.

**Hole-in-one club**

» Canton's Jim Nilan, 63, shot a hole-in-one Oct. 9 at the Fox Hills Golden Fox course in Plymouth. Nilan used an 8-iron and Titleist Pro VI ball to ace the 130-yard No. 14 hole. He finished the day with a score of 94.

» Westland's Bill Johnson, 67, shot a hole-in-one Oct. 2 at the Fox Hills Golden Fox course in Plymouth. Johnson used a 9-iron and Titleist Pro V ball to ace the 139-yard No. 3 hole.

» Northville's Gary Callender, 67, shot a hole-in-one Sept. 15 at the Fox Hills Golden Fox course in Plymouth. Callender used a gap wedge and Titleist ball to ace the 125-yard No. 3 hole.

## BROOKS

Continued from Page B1

ing mid spot for us. More of a defensive player. He's like our team leader and quarterback out there.

"I think one of his best attributes is being able to read the play and, when he decides to make a break on the ball, almost like a defensive back, (he) intercept passes. He's just fantastic at that."

**It starts with 'D'**

Brooks chalks it all up to hard work and being part of a great team.

"That's what our team's about, working hard," Brooks said during a recent practice. "From that, that's how we play strong defense. We don't give up many goals in games. That's how we create chances."

"We start with tough defense and, from there, that's where our offense gets generated."

Brooks added that he "wouldn't have gotten the ranking I got without the players around me."

His coach's reference to Brooks playing like a football defensive back was pretty much spot on as far as the player was concerned.

"I'm the last one of the midfielders sitting back and I sit right behind our defensive line," Brooks said. "So I kind of just direct people in front of me, both the other midfielders in front of me and the forwards as well, to make sure they're in the right position."

"The ball is usually in front of me, so I'm always directing where they're supposed to be."

The amazing consistency displayed by Brooks is partly because of his long-time dedication to soccer, which he began playing as a youngster.

"From a very young age, 5 years old or something like that, I started playing rec," Brooks said. "And then U-12, I started with the Plymouth Reign (club program). Up until last year, I was with Reign."

"Last year, most of the players I played with graduated. So this year, I played with Michigan Jags."

And Neschich doesn't discount the



Battling two Walled Lake Northern players for the ball earlier this season is Plymouth's Bennett Brooks. MICHAEL VASILNEK

importance of experience, especially from a player who is a keen student of the sport.

"I think it's a combination of all those things," Neschich said. "And also field awareness and visually seeing what's going on and being able to anticipate."

"He's a fantastic leader on and off the field. We call on him pregames, halftimes for input, His soccer IQ is very high."

**All for one**

And part of being a team leader is rallying the troops when adversity

strikes.

For the Wildcats, that took place when senior forward Alex Schafer badly injured an ankle Sept. 19 against Wayne Memorial. The team has dedicated the entire postseason to Schafer, with the social media campaign #Six-ForSchafer.

"We have a saying now, 'Six for Schafer,'" Brooks said. "It started because we won that game 6-0. And also, if we win six games consecutively (in the tourney), we'll be in the state finals."

Schafer might be in the back of Brooks's mind when he is competing



Brooks

**THE BROOKS FILE**

**Who:** Bennett Brooks, 18, senior co-captain and holding midfielder for Plymouth's varsity boys soccer team.

**What:** He is ranked No. 4 among individual players by the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association.

**Why:** Those who watch Brooks play describe him as a football quarterback, defensive back and basketball point guard rolled into one.

**Next up:** Brooks, whose parents are Julie and Curtis Brooks of Plymouth, is looking to play college soccer, although his immediate goal is to help the Wildcats go as far as possible in the 2017 MHSAA state tourney.

**Miscellaneous:** He carries a 3.6 grade-point average and is a member of the sports debate team and Council of Athletic Teams and Sports at Plymouth.

with smarts, skill and speed for the Wildcats. Top of mind is leading a team that seemingly has found its collective mojo toward an unforgettable finish.

And make no mistake. With Brooks at the steering wheel, the Plymouth Wildcats are on a mission.

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @TimSmith\_Sports

## PREP FOOTBALL

## Cioroch and Falcons learning together

Youthful players gaining valuable experience along with first-year coach

Marty Budner  
hometownlife.com

It's been a season-long learning experience for Farmington football.

Under first-year head coach Kory Cioroch, the young Falcons have struggled through some tough times en route to a 2-6 record after eight games. Farmington's two wins were against district rival North Farmington and Pontiac.

"You know, head coaching isn't easy," said Cioroch, an assistant to former head coach John Bechtel the previous five seasons. "I got a lot out of it this year. I learned more this year about myself and coaching in general than I learned in all of my other experiences.

"I'll be better because of it and I'm sure my team will be better because of it, as well," he added. "But we're starting to gel and starting to become who we want to be as a program. And over the off-season, we'll be looking to continue to mold some of that together and be better next year."

While the results may not be to his liking, Cioroch certainly likes the fact his young squad is gaining valuable experience.

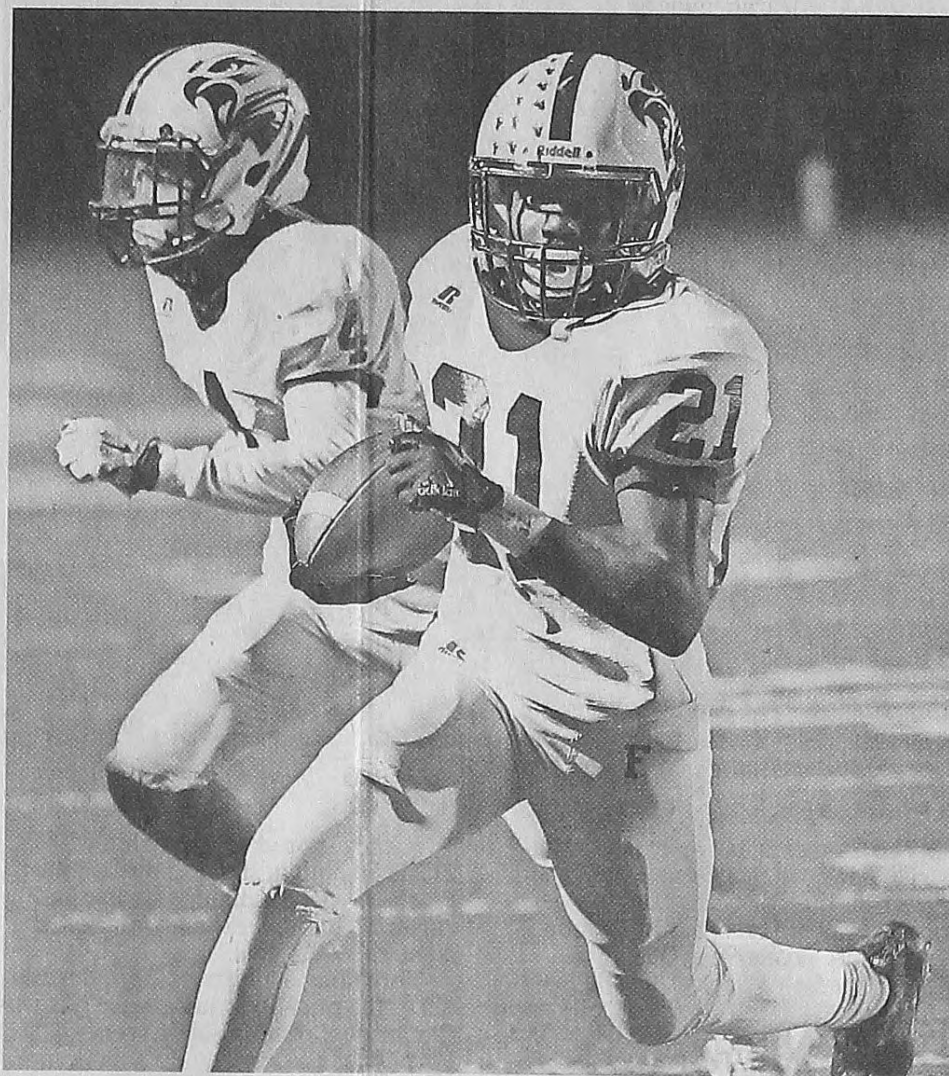
Farmington's roster includes just 12 seniors out of nearly 40 players. The underclassmen-dominated squad figures to return next year with a veteran's mentality.

"A lot of these kids were JV players last year — some of them were freshmen," Cioroch said. "We gained a lot of experience early on. A lot of those kids were playing their first varsity games and it was showing.

"You have to find the silver lining sometimes when you're struggling," he added. "But knowing we have a lot of these kids coming back and knowing they are one year older and one year stronger and have this experience under their belts, is something we've been looking forward to."

#### Brown and Blue Jug retained

The Falcons felt a bit of redemption for all their hard work in the 47-3 vic-



Farmington junior Kendall Williams has 1,003 yards rushing this season, with seven touchdowns. TOM BEAUDOIN

tory over district rival North Farmington to retain the coveted Brown and Blue Jug.

"Every year, that game is a big one for us. We put special emphasis on it, because it's a city rivalry, we play for a trophy and, over the years, we've had a lot of battles with them in general," Cioroch said. "Obviously, it feels awesome to come out victorious. Our kids played really well and they were very happy with the win.

"Getting the win over North Farmington in a rivalry is always a good one," he added. "We'll take any one we

can get and, regardless of record, we continue to get better every week."

Farmington excelled on both sides of the ball against North, gaining close to 500 yards on offense and producing a season-best defensive effort by holding the Raiders to just three points.

Farmington running backs Kendall Williams and Oscar Glenn both eclipsed the 100-yard mark to lead the offense. Williams finished with 274 yards on four carries with four touchdowns, while Glenn carried 10 times for 120 yards and one touchdown.

Williams, a captain, has 1,003 total

rushing yards on 128 carries on the season and has been one of Cioroch's most consistent players. He has seven rushing TDs and 73 receiving yards. Williams has even completed a pair of passes, one for a touchdown.

Glenn has 351 total yards on the season for an 8.4 yards-per-carry average, with four touchdowns.

"Kendall and Oscar have sort of been our one-two punch this year," said Cioroch, whose team averages 24 points per game. "Kendall has been absolutely fantastic. He gets better with each game. He's not only been an offensive stud for us, but he's also good on the other side of the ball at safety. He's not only a really good player, but a really good kid in general.

"Our offensive line has gotten a lot better and that was something that was sort of a point of contention for us early on, when we struggled to move the ball on the ground," he added. "For about five or six weeks now, we've just been running the ball and doing a real good job."

#### Majority of players return

Defensively, Farmington allows an average of 27 points, which has been the primary source of its problems this season. Three times the Falcons have given up at least 40 points.

The defensive stalwarts have been senior lineman Ray Massa, another captain, and linebackers Calvin Whitlow, a senior, and Jordan Turner, a sophomore.

"We gave up only one hundred and something yards of offense (to North Farmington) and, early on in the year, we were playing well defensively and didn't do well offensively," Cioroch said. "But lately, we've been doing well offensively and not stopping anybody defensively."

Cioroch already is looking forward to next season with the majority of his players returning.

"These kids got some valuable playing experience this year and we've seen progress," Cioroch said. "We'll just build on that going into the off-season and get better for next year. We want to be a little more multi-dimensional next year and that's something we're going to work on."

## OAA ROUNDUP

Coaches and team representatives are invited to send game information and story tips to [LIV-sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:LIV-sports@hometownlife.com). Game information will be accepted up to 24 hours after the game ends.

#### Girls golf

**DIVISION 1, REGIONAL 3:** Farmington Mercy not only had the top team, but also the top two individual medalists at this regional held Oct. 12 at Burning Tree Golf & Country Club in Macomb County. The Marlins won the six-team event with 337 points, followed by Livonia Franklin (340) and Grosse Pointe South (354). Individually, the Marlins were led by juniors Sophie VanderWeele and Mia Sooch who carded rounds of 76 and 78, respectively, to finish as the top two medalists. Mercy's other scorers were senior Maddy Gwinn (13th at 91) and sophomore Elyse Zurawski (15th at 92). Franklin's four scorers were junior Sofia Cueva (3rd at 81), sophomore Stephanie Cueva (sixth at 83) and sophomores Sophia Wygonik

and Summer Horan (tied for 9th at 88). Livonia Churchill placed fourth as a team with a 360 and did not qualify for state. However, Chargers Paige Peterson (81) and Ashley Harlock (89) qualified for the state meet as individuals. Livonia Stevenson senior Anna Vento also earned an individual qualifying spot with an round of 81. The state meet concluded Saturday at Grand Valley State University.

**DIVISION 1, REGIONAL 5:** Clarkston won this 10-team regional held Oct. 11 at Farmington Hills Golf Course with a team score of 332. Bloomfield Hills (second at 346) and Lake Orion (third at 350) were the other two state qualifying teams. The Black Hawks were led by senior Mikaela Schulz who earned low medalist honors with a round of 74. Bloomfield Hills' other scorers were Lizzie Pierce (sixth at 85), freshman Sanju Swamy (13th at 91) and senior Grace Wroldsen (21st at 96). North Farmington finished fifth overall and did not qualify for states, but Raider

senior Alana Jones was second low medalist with a round of 76 to qualify as an individual.

**DIVISION 2, REGIONAL 12:** Bloomfield Hills Marian and Birmingham Seaholm finished one-two at this regional held Oct. 13 at Huron Meadows MetroPark in Brighton. The Mustangs finished with a 338 team score and the Maples were just two strokes back in second at 340. Marian's top golfer was freshman Sharon Kennedy who placed second with a round of 78. The other Mustang scorers were senior Alexandra Robb (fifth at 84), sophomore Mario Hudson (sixth at 87) and junior Kate Zink (eighth at 89). The Maples were led by junior Hayley Roovers who won the tournament with a 76. Maple sophomore Sydney Pickell was third with an 82, followed by teammates Cate Joelson (9th at 90) and Morgan Schultix (12th at 92). Birmingham Groves was fourth overall and missed a state-qualifying berth by one spot. However, Falcon golfers Chloe Collon (ninth at 90) and

Anika Krishnan (14th at 93) earned individual state qualifying berths. The D-2 state meet finished Saturday at Bedford Valley in Battle Creek.

#### Boys soccer

**CATHOLIC CENTRAL 3, NORTH FARMINGTON 0:** Catholic Central blanked North Farmington in this first round Division 1 district game played Monday at Catholic Central High School. The Shamrocks scored first on an 'own goal' by the Raiders which turned into the game winner. CC had 14 shots on goal to North Farmington's three. Kevin Blossfield and Andrew Nicholns shared netminding duties for the Shamrocks.

#### Volleyball

**ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART 3, ROEPER 0:** On Oct. 16, Academy of the Sacred Heart defeated host Birmingham Roeper in three games, 25-14, 25-9, 25-12. Last week, Roeper opened the season a three-game sweep over Inter-City Baptist high school.

## O'SHEA

Continued from Page B1

YMCA coach John Moore, was introduced to the sport of soccer.

O'Shea and his older brother Brian, a standout goalkeeper himself, played on numerous soccer teams together.

"Dan was the guy that everybody wanted to be like ... maybe not be, but be like," Brian O'Shea said. "Dan was a solid player. Didn't matter where you went or what position you asked him to play, Dan would go out and do his damndest to get the job done. It wasn't about Dan. Anything he did, whether it was on the field or off the field, it was about the team or whoever he was doing the task for."

During his days at Franklin, O'Shea was known as "Dapper Dan," often giving fashion advice to his brothers for dates and job interviews, O'Shea went on to play one season at Schoolcraft College before moving on to OU, where he played three seasons and formed a lifelong bond with coach Gary Parsons.

"Danny was a blue-collar, solid starting player for us, never a star kind of guy, just got the job done," Parsons said. "Everybody on the team loved the guy. He was just a 100-percent team kind of guy and would do anything for the team. Just his whole personality was so spot on as a player. All the guys loved him; (he was) a team guy who never asked for anything and all the above. The quintessential team guy."



The late Dan O'Shea (left) is survived by his daughter Jess, wife Lisa and son Nick.

Dan's oldest brother Nick played professionally and was the OU women's head coach before moving on to his current position with the Houston Dynamo as the Dash Development Academy director.

Nick O'Shea Jr. remembers his brother, the soccer player, as tough to beat one-on-one.

"He was just very smart about how he went about it," he said. "He wasn't the biggest, strongest or the fastest, but he just figured out how to stop people. He was smart. He could think the game, make good decisions, tough. He was a midfielder, an attacking-type player when he was at Franklin, then he was able to play in the back for Oak-

land. He was pretty versatile, too."

Dan O'Shea was also a fixture and a galvanizing force for the Redford Marauders club team.

"He was kind of the glue that kept all these teams together," Jim Rhoad said. "He had that something about him, a personality that everybody wanted to be around. He wasn't a yelling leader, just a guy you wanted to follow. Always solid from all his days. All the way from Franklin, all the way to those Marauder days, you could always count on him."

O'Shea's impact, however, went well beyond soccer. The Oakland University grad with a B.A. in communications spent the past five years working as

director of marketing at Valicor.

He used his IT talents and his knowledge as a player and coach to impact the lives of others and was instrumental as an administrator bringing the soccer community into the world of technology and social media. He helped streamline the registration and online payment processes and club communications.

"As I listen to people talk about him over the last four or five days is the fact that he made everybody feel important," Nick O'Shea Jr. said. "I think the one thing he did was very humble, put others first and whatever your interest was, he took an interest in. And whatever you valued or cared about, that's what he cared about. I just think he was humble to the point where he made other people feel important and cared about."

The hundreds of mourners who gathered Monday afternoon inside Lynch & Sons, including members of the football team at West Bloomfield High School, where Dan's son Nick is a standout kicker, were all touched when a rendition of "Danny Boy" was played.

"He was a friend to anyone and everyone," said Bill Friend, one of O'Shea's closest friends growing up. "He was always helpful. He was the type of person that always had a smile on his face. He would help a stranger, a friend in need. And he didn't ask questions. It was always taken care of."

[bemons@hometownlife.com](mailto:bemons@hometownlife.com)  
Twitter: @BradEmons1

**BOYS SOCCER**

# Plymouth draws first blood in tough district

**Tim Smith**  
hometownlife.com

When two high school boys soccer teams as closely matched as Salem and Plymouth get after it, a bounce here or there probably would determine the final outcome.

Monday night at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's varsity soccer stadium, the Division 1 district opener between the Rocks and Wildcats actually came down to a couple, as Plymouth came away with a 1-0 victory.

The first bounce led to the game's only goal,

scored with 22:30 to play by senior Brent Brownrigg when senior Ben Tetlow's sharp-angle shot from the right side of the box bounced off Salem junior goalie Buraq Oral right to Brownrigg. He made no mistake with his short-range put-back.

"I was watching Benny, I was really hoping he'd get the cross in," Brownrigg said. "At first I thought he was shooting, but after Buraq mishandled it, I just tried to put a foot on it and it popped in."

Salem coach Kyle Karns did not blame his goalkeeper one bit for the

deciding goal.

"(Tetlow) got in behind, ball went across, Buraq made an initial save," Karns said. "Couldn't control it. It's a tough spot to give up a rebound right there in front, but Buraq's been solid for us all year."

Then with 12:20 remaining in regulation, Plymouth senior goalie Chris Tsakoff slipped while punting the ball and officials gave Salem a direct kick outside the 18-yard line with a chance to tie the contest.

Salem's go-to scorer, senior Jason Warras, subsequently drilled a

low shot into the wall of Plymouth defenders and junior Justin Wojcik managed to clear the rebound out of trouble.

"Chris had half the net covered, all we had to do was cover the other half," Wojcik said. "It was just a good defensive play."

Plymouth then closed out the win with solid positional play, spearheaded by senior midfielder Bennett Brooks — seemingly everywhere when his team needed him.

"We lost last time to them in the last 10 seconds," Wojcik said. "But this time, we worked our butts off to go the full 80. It's an amazing victory."

Here are other takeaways from the game:

**AS ADVERTISED**

Two state-ranked teams left it out on the slippery pitch, as expected.

"You're not going to see many games in the playoff format that are blowouts and a Park game being one of those, it's always going to be tight and highly contested," Karns said. "I thought we played really well in the first half. We had some good chances, we had some good shots."

"Talked about some things at halftime and felt good and, in the second half, the game was back and forth. We just couldn't convert the chances we did get."

**NO EASY TASK**  
Plymouth coach Jeff

Neschich said his team (13-4-3) will have to face more of the same in order to escape a tough district.

"It's a tough road to the district championship," Neschich said. "Crestwood's going to be a tough team, if they're likely to beat John Glenn, that's going to be a good challenge."

**ELSEWHERE**

Also Monday in other opening matches of the district, Canton routed Livonia Franklin (8-1), Livonia Churchill edged Wayne Memorial (3-2) and Dearborn Heights Crestwood posted a 4-0 victory over Westland John Glenn.

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @TimSmith\_Sports

## KLAA ROUNDUP

*Coaches and team representatives are invited to send game information and story tips to LJV-sports@hometownlife.com. Game information will be accepted up to 24 hours after the game ends.*

**Volleyball**

**NOVI 3, SALEM 0:** Senior setter Erin O'Leary finished with 49 assist-to-kills, six kills and six aces as the Wildcats (39-3, 13-0) wrapped up a KLAA Gold Division crown Oct. 17 over visiting Rocks, 25-12, 25-8, 25-12. Also contributing to the Novi win were Lauren Murphy (five kills) and Claire Pinkerton (10 digs). Novi will host the KLAA 'A' tournament Saturday, Oct. 21, at Novi Middle School.

**EAST KENTWOOD INVITATIONAL:** On Oct. 14, junior libero Hannah Grant had a team-best 67 total digs and six service aces as Northville (37-6-1) finished 5-0 on the day capped by a 25-13, 25-11, 25-14 win in the finals over Bay City John Glenn. The Mustangs, who got a team-high 26

total kills an four solo blocks from Clare McNamara, also defeated Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern (25-22, 25-16), Portage Northern (25-19, 25-21), Bloomfield Hills (21-25, 25-18, 15-9) and Traverse City West (25-14, 25-20). Setters Rachel Holmes and Gabi Fisetto chipped in with 69 and 31 assists, respectively. Holmes also had 25 digs. Other top performers included Brianna Maccoux (19 kills, 28 digs), Morgan Rodgers (15 kills), Courtney Gozdor (11 kills), Ally Zayan (12 digs) and Nyia Setla (11 digs).

**Field hockey**

**ANN ARBOR PIONEER 2, NOVI 0:** On Oct. 17, junior goalie Cece Steck made 17 saves in a losing cause as the Wildcats fell to No. 2-ranked Pioneer.

**Girls golf**

**DIVISION 1-REGIONAL 2:** Saline (324), Northville (339) and Plymouth (346) are headed to the MHSAA finals Oct. 20-21 after taking the first three qualifying berths

Oct. 13 at Lake Forest G.C. in Ann Arbor. Plymouth's Shae Zydeck and Saline's Catherine Loftus shared medalist honors with 76 each. Northville scorers included Mariella Simoncini, third (78), Nicole Whatley, fourth (79); Katelyn Tokarz, 15th (89); and Sufna Gill, 19th (93). Sedona Shipka took 28th with a 101. Other Plymouth scorers included Erin Johnson, sixth (81); Sara Vohra, 18th (91); Rachel Stibel, 22nd (98); and Maire Sullivan, 24th (99). Novi, which placed sixth with a 376 total, was led by individual qualifier Abby Livingston (85), while Leah Kiura was one shot off the cut with a 85. Other scores for the Wildcats included Kirsten Kroetsch (24th, 99) and Despina Alexander (36th, 108). Manasa Potluri led seventh place Canton (419) with a 90 (17th place), while ninth-place Salem (424) got a 29th from Megan Kozlowski (103). Additional individual qualifiers included Ann Arbor Pioneer's Katy-Mina Lee and

Amaya Melendez with 82 and 84, respectively.

**DIVISION 1-REGIONAL 3:** Farmington Hills Mercy and Livonia Franklin finished 1-2 Oct. 12 at the Division 1 regional hosted by Burning Tree Golf & Country Club in Macomb Twp. and qualified for the state finals slated for Oct. 20-21 at Grand Valley State University's The Meadows. The Marlins tallied 337 strokes while the Patriots were right behind with 340. Leading Mercy to victory were juniors Sophie VanderWeele (overall medalist with a 76) and Mia Sooch (second, 78). Other scorers for the Marlins included senior Maddy Gwinn (13th, 91), sophomore Elyse Zurawski (15th, 92) and junior Zoe Fish (23rd, 99). Franklin boasted four finishers in the 80s, led by junior Sofia Cueva (81) and sophomore Stephanie Cueva (83), who came in third and sixth, respectively. Other scorers for the Patriots included sophomores Sophia Wygonik and Summer Horren (tied for ninth, 88

each) and junior Olivia Napier (25th, 101). The three individual qualifiers were Livonia Stevenson senior Anna Vento and Livonia Churchill senior Paige Peterson (tied for third, 81 each) and Churchill sophomore Ashley Harlock (11th, 89). Churchill and Stevenson took spots four and five in the team standings with respective totals of 360 and 371.

**Cross country**

**LIVONIA CITY MEET:** On Oct. 13 at Cass Benton Park in Northville, Stevenson and Franklin were the respective winners in the boys and girls races at the Livonia City Meet.

» In the boys race, Livonia Stevenson tallied 25 points to finish first, followed by Churchill (53) and Franklin (54). Individual city champion was Franklin's Grant Rudd with a time of 16:41. Others in the top 10 were Stevenson's Owen Rowader (16:49.56), Ben Griffith (17:07.75), Thomas Saad (17:15.91), Charles McDougall

(17:27.22), Colin Sheahan (17:28.54), Shane Beers (17:39.58); Churchill's Eric Pensari (17:16.27), William Hengy (17:26.72) and Brendan McCoy (17:28.01). Logan Evanchuk of the Patriots was 11th with a time of 17:41.15.

» In the girls race, Franklin won with 36 points, followed by Churchill (42) and Stevenson (44). Individual city champion was Franklin's Erin Seibert, with a time of 19:41.47. She enjoyed a comfortable lead over the second-place finisher, Churchill's Gabrielle Swider (20:03.59). Finishing in places 3-10 were Sierra Greener (Churchill, 20:09.00), Cassie McDougall (Stevenson, 20:10.63), Allyson Stabler (Franklin, 20:37.45), Emily Esker (Franklin, 20:41.11), Abbie Haupt (Churchill, 20:43.99), Kayla Senczyszyn (Stevenson, 21:03.81), Emily Lauzon (Stevenson, 21:07.29) and Ruby Walker (Franklin, 21:15.98).

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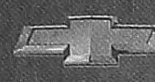
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CHEVROLET 

5K SET FOR NOV. 11

# Family steps it up to honor Rick Austin

Outpouring of love from Livonia Churchill community continues for late track coach

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

Rick Austin wouldn't have made a big deal out of seeing his name up in big letters at Livonia Churchill's football field — where the track was dedicated in Austin's name Oct. 13.

His daughter, Kaylin Austin, noted that she didn't think her dad would have "liked all the attention like that."

But there's something else he would have been filled with pride about. On Saturday, Nov. 11, the inaugural Rick Austin Memorial 5K Run/Walk is scheduled to begin and end at the high school where he was such a fixture for decades.

The longtime Chargers track and field coach died unexpectedly in March at the age of 57, from complications following heart surgery.

"I think we kind of didn't know the impact he had on so many people until he passed, unfortunately," said Austin's son Travis, 27, actually a Livonia Stevenson alum (where he played football). "It's a heck of a legacy, but we owe it to him and his memory to keep this going, try to make this a success."

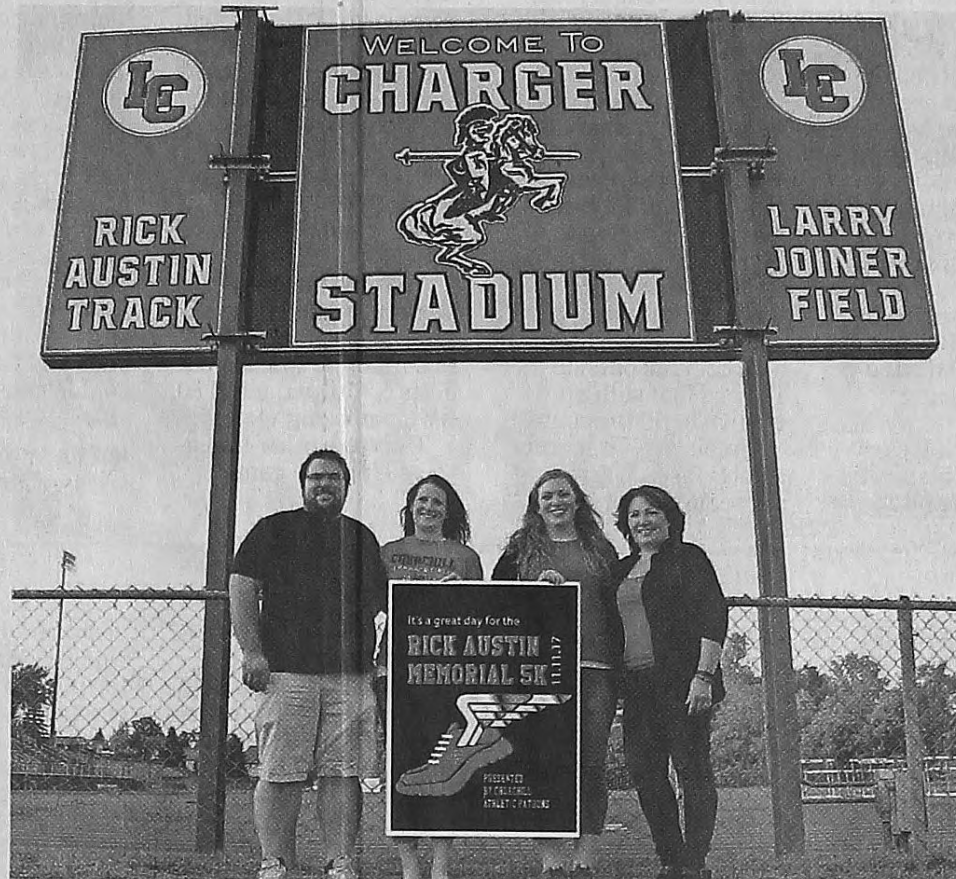
## He'd like that

Travis added that his dad would have been thrilled to find out about the 5K event.

"I think he'd be excited for the run. I don't think he'd like to have his name on it," he said. "He was more of a development kind of guy. He coached in every facet of his life or was the coach in every facet of his life. He just liked to work with young people and set them up for life."

The initial idea to put together a 5K in Austin's memory was hatched by Travis's wife Becca (another Stevenson alum).

According to Becca (Bartek) Austin, she came up with an idea to launch a fundraising race for Churchill Athletic Patrons (to help provide college scholarship money for alums) because she had "connected" with Austin about running, especially after graduating from Central Michigan University.



Honoring the memory of Rick Austin by organizing a 5K run/walk in his honor are (from left) son Travis, daughter-in-law Becca, daughter Kaylin and wife Annette. The debut race is Nov. 11. AUSTIN FAMILY PHOTO

## AUSTIN MEMORIAL 5K

**What:** The inaugural Rick Austin Memorial 5K Run/Walk, a fundraiser for Churchill Athletic Patrons (which helps provide scholarship help to college athletes).

**When:** Saturday, Nov. 11, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Packets will be available 4:30-7:30 p.m. Nov. 10 and also the morning of the race beginning at 8 a.m. in the Churchill Field-house.

**Where:** The race will start at Livonia Churchill High School (8900 Newburgh Road) and continue through neighborhood streets, up to Ann Arbor Trail, and conclude at the newly named Rick Austin Track.

**Tee-ser:** In order for participants to get a T-shirt in their size, they are urged to sign up before Oct. 25 at a2racemanagement.com/registration/.

**Fees:** \$20 for ages 13-18 and \$25 for adults. **Info:** Contact Kaylin and Becca Austin at chscapfunrun@gmail.com.

thing to behold.

"They've all given us so much support and just telling us how much they miss him in the building, the year's not the same," she said. "The kids, how upset all the kids were. With Kaylin being in the building, she can still see that."

"They put together a really nice dedication page in the yearbook this year, that had a letter I wrote to say to the kids how much we appreciate them."

As of last week, about 48 sponsors have stepped forward to take part. Their names will be on the back of Rick Austin Memorial 5K Run/Walk T-shirts.

"It's so funny, people say, 'I want to go, but I don't run,'" Kaylin said. "We need to put walk in big letters. You can walk, too."

Fittingly, the race will conclude at the newly named Rick Austin Track, which was officially named in ceremonies Oct. 13. The football field at Charger Stadium also was named that night in the honor of former Livonia Churchill athletic director Larry Joiner.

"What a great opportunity to give back to the school that Rick was so dedicated to," Becca said. "We made it a big family thing and the hope is that it will be an annual run."

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
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"About six years ago, I became a runner," Becca said. "I've been with the family for 10-plus years now. And running was always the thing I connected with my father-in-law over ... When he passed, that was something I greatly missed, was having that 'dad' runner."

Becca, with backing of the rest of the Austin family, then took the idea to Livonia Churchill athletic director Marc Hage. He immediately gave the thumbs-up sign.

"(Rick Austin) was also a Central alum. That's always been a strong connection we had, the Chippewa bond," Becca said. "He would always check up on me, 'Becca, are you doing your speed work? How are your long runs going?'"

"I'm an athletic trainer as well, so he would always talk to me (about proper training regimens). It was cool because I know he knew all that stuff, but he

would still ask me anyway. 'What do you think, am I doing this right?'"

## Greatly missed

Kaylin Austin, 22, now is interning in the counseling office at Churchill, where she is seeing evidence continue to pile up about just how much her father is missed.

"Mr. Hage made rubber bracelets with (her father's) name on them," Kaylin said. "I see kids all over the school wearing them, so that's been really cool, too. I was real excited."

"We were trying to figure out a way to give back to the school and when Becca came and gave us that idea, 'Why didn't we think of that, too?' That's perfect, so it's been really fun to put it together. I'm excited to get it going."

Austin's wife Annette said the ongoing love and support for her husband by the Churchill community is some-

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# ISAAC MOORE

FOOTBALL SENIOR  
LIVONIA FRANKLIN PATRIOTS

Isaac Moore's power performance against Grand Blanc on Oct. 13 featured more than 220 all-purpose yards and a touchdown as Livonia Franklin clinched a playoff spot with a 35-0 victory.

The senior running back and defensive end was rewarded for that showing by winning the Hometown Life Prep Athlete of the Week award for Week 8.

Moore tallied 9,119 votes, good for 27.19 percent of the 33,532 votes tallied during the poll. He pulled away from a competitive field, with four of the five other candidates receiving more than 5,000 votes each.

Farmington Mercy junior golfer Sophie VanderWeele (second, 7,212 votes, 21.51 percent) and Novi senior football player Sean Gilliam (third, 5,915 votes, 17.64 percent). In fourth place with 5,698 votes (16.99 percent) was Salem junior girls cross country runner Hallie Younglas. Birmingham Groves junior football player Damonte Mccurdy placed fifth (5,075 votes, 15.13 percent).

**WHAT HE DID:** With the Patriots needing a victory over the Bobcats to clinch a MHSAA playoff berth, Moore kept chewing up yardage and helping his team move the chains. He ran 24 times for 158 yards and also reeled in two passes for another 63 yards. With the game close early in the second half, Moore caught a pass over the middle and then forced a couple Grand Blanc players to miss with their tackles. The end result was a sensational, 52-yard TD which made it 14-0.

**WHAT HE SAID ABOUT BEING NAMED ATHLETE OF THE WEEK:** "At first I thought I had it and then people started catching up. And then, I guess I got all the real stars, the real people. It means a lot of people's really watching me play. "... We're going now, we got a lot of spirit going. We just got to keep it up. This (award) means a lot" because it stemmed from a playoff-clinching win.



TO VOTE FOR ATHLETE OF THE WEEK, GO TO [WWW.HOMETOWNLIFE.COM/SPORTS](http://WWW.HOMETOWNLIFE.COM/SPORTS)

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## 8 steps to help you find a job in 30 days

BY PETER JONES  
 THEJOBNETWORK

**Y**ou need a new job and you need one fast. Maybe you've just been laid off, or quit or you're just starting out — or you're doing some secret job hunting from a position in which you're miserable. No matter your reasons, if you follow these steps, you'll have a great shot at scoring a new job in 30 days.

### 1. Make a spreadsheet.

Excel is your friend in the organization game. And organization is the key to getting a job fast. Keep track of company name, position title, a link to the job posting itself, application materials, due dates, plus the date you applied, follow-up dates and notes. If you hate Excel, try JibberJobber or Fresh Transition instead. But do keep all your details organized and easily referenced — you'll be glad you did.

### 2. Do your homework.

Be informed — very informed — about the industry where you're applying. Research every company and every position. Research the people who might be interviewing you and supervising you. Research the top people and the company's mission. The more you know and the



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more prepared you are, the better you'll do. And the more you strategize and target your applications, the more efficient your search will be.

### 3. Dig deep.

What do you actually want in a job? What have you liked and disliked about your current and former positions? Why do you want a change? Think about your values and which kind of work environments suit you best. Try to aim for places that match up with

your innate talents and tastes first. You'll be a better fit right out of the gate.

### 4. Budget your time.

Once you have a game plan and an organizational system, you'll want to devote time every day to your job search for 30 days.

You couldn't possibly spend all day every day on it, but even just 30 minutes of concentrated work a day will move you that much closer to the finish line.

### 5. Get social.

Your promo toolbox consists of your social media platforms. Get them all up to fighting speed. Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn ... make sure these accounts are active and up to date. Make sure you're using them correctly and are working consistently toward building your personal online brand.

### 6. Network.

The one step you might like to avoid is probably the most

important. Sometimes all the difference is made in who you know and who knows you. Think of it as initiating mutually beneficial relationships. Keep in mind what you have to offer. It's not just a one-way street.

### 7. Follow up.

Your interviewer will likely tell you that they will be in touch with you soon. Tell them immediately how much you appreciate them taking the time to interview you and mention you are eagerly awaiting a response. Then follow up with the same. Send a handwritten thank-you note — you'd be surprised at how effective this can be. Then follow up with a phone call if you haven't heard back in two weeks. And don't forget to note when and how you've followed up on your spreadsheet.

### 8. Be patient.

Keep looking. Keep working at it. Don't get discouraged after a few rejections. If you're consistent and keep honing your tools, you'll get there.

*Peter Jones is a career advice journalist for TheJobNetwork.com, where this article was originally published. He investigates and writes about current strategies, tips, and trending topics related to all stages of one's career.*

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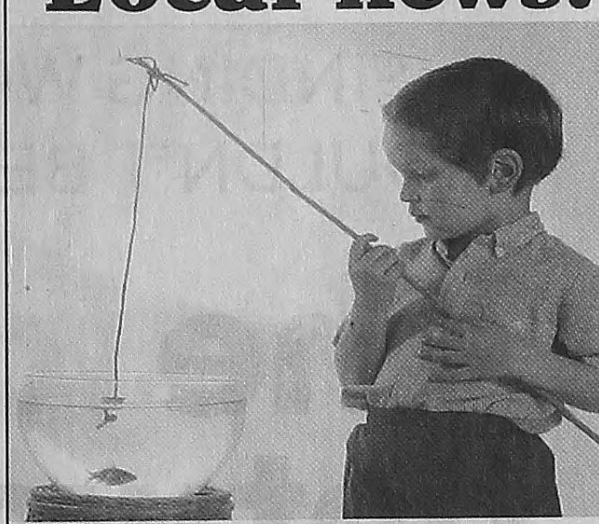
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# Car Report

## HYUNDAI TESTS 'SHOPPER ASSURANCE' PROGRAM TO BOOST CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE 4 WAYS, PLANNING NATIONWIDE ROLLOUT IN 2018



By Dale Buss

As U.S. auto sales level off and competition tightens for what is still a healthy pool of customers, brands are turning to traditional levers such as bigger financial incentives to make sure they're competitive.

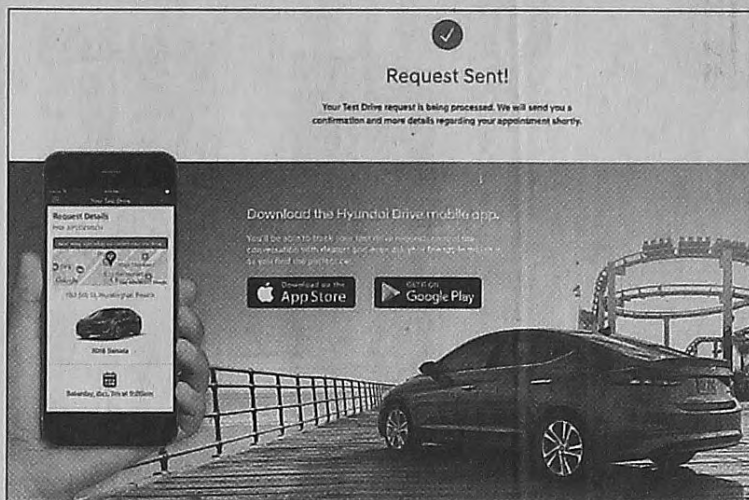
Hyundai dealers are bringing something new to the game: a program called Shopper Assurance that aims to make the buying experience better. It launches in Miami, Orlando, Dallas and Houston and will roll out to all U.S. Hyundai dealers in early 2018.

Of course, the car-buying experience is infamously frustrating to American consumers and especially to millennials, who want to handle as much of the process as possible online. But Hyundai's research found that if the brand could address four pain points, 84 percent of consumers would visit a dealership that offered solutions over one that did not.

"It is the future of car buying, and our commitment to creating a flexible, efficient and better way to purchase a car in partnership with our dealer body," said Dean Evans, CMO of Hyundai Motor America, in a press release.

Specifically, Shopper Assurance offers:

- **Transparent Pricing:** Participating dealers post the fair market pricing on their web sites (MSRP minus



- **Flexible Test Drive:** Customers can contact the dealer through a Hyundai platform that allows them to schedule by phone or by app in available markets, for delivery of the test-drive vehicle at a location of their choosing.
- **Streamlined Purchase:** Buyers can complete most paperwork online before visiting the dealership for a vehicle in the dealer's inventory, including applying for financing, obtaining credit approvals, calculating payment estimates and valuing trade-ins.
- **Three-Day Money-Back Guarantee:** Return the car for a full refund as long as it's got less than 300 miles.

Hyundai could use a lift. The brand's sales in the US were down by 15 percent

through September compared with a year earlier, while the overall light-vehicle market was down only less than 2 percent in the same period. Lately Hyundai has struggled mainly with the fact that it's relatively light on SUVs and crossovers compared with sedans, and American consumers have shifted significantly away from the latter.

Hyundai hopes to get about 700 of its 820 dealers to go with the voluntary Shopper Assurance program. Its Genesis luxury brand will get something similar in 2018.

"We did extensive research, some of that internally over the last two years, asking customers what they wanted," Evans told me. "We had good ideas, from being close to customers for years, about test drives. And what were other companies like Amazon and other remote business models like grocery stores doing to bring products to people? There were some studies out there and we said, look at the pain.

"It's a balancing act all the time with retailers and customers. Every store runs a little differently. We're trying to highlight overall improvement categories like time saved without being too prescriptive, and dial in a better experience over time."

"We can't dictate pricing to the dealer body, but we recognize in the marketplace that there is a transaction price that consumers all kind of figure out and go get in the research process through TrueCar and Edmunds and so on. When a customer comes to a Hyundai retailer, especially online, I want that number that they want to sell their car for to be about the same as everyone online says it should be. We want our price to validate that."

"Because of all those variables, and because the dealer network is at various stages of adoption, we're staying at the high level in this year. But some dealers, even tomorrow, could be down to the

penny with the price, a guaranteed trade-in and digital signage online. I want the customer to see only maybe a \$500 difference between my trade and what they see on Kelly Blue Book and CarMax. We're trying to show them transparency, not guaranteeing some online transactional-level sale price."

Do consumers remember Hyundai Assurance, which the brand launched in 2009 to guarantee it would pick up car payments if someone bought a Hyundai and later lost their job?

"What they think of Hyundai today," Evans said, "is that we're definitely a value brand and a rational brand and with these assurances, and they pop up every once in a while. That's why we attach this to 'Assurance': There's some value in that and we love the word. How do we make the customer more at the center of our world? We think this could be the Assurance that's most memorable over time."



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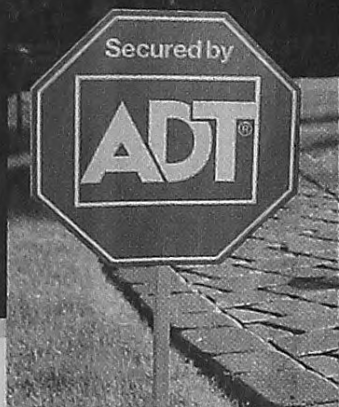
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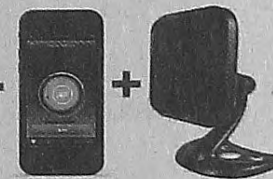
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