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SPORTS, B1

# CANTON OBSERVER

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## Changes continue as deputy chief retires

Public Safety Department sees shakeup at the top

**Darrell Clem**  
hometownlife.com

Changes among the Canton Public Safety Department's top brass are continuing as Deputy Police Chief Scott Hilden, ending a 24-year run, confirmed Friday as his last day.

Hilden, who rose through

the ranks from patrol officer, has retired in Canton to accept a job with Washtenaw Community College as its director of public safety and emergency management.

Hilden commended "the great men and women of our department" in Canton and said, "It's really a difficult job and they deserve a lot of credit."

His decision to accept the new job comes amid a flurry of other changes as Public



Hilden

Baugh, former police lieutenant, as deputy director of police. Meier had announced a department restructuring after he became director in

Safety Director Joshua Meier has named Christopher Stoecklein, former deputy fire chief, as the new deputy director of fire and Chad

April.

Hilden, who was once a school resource officer at Plymouth-Canton's three high-school campus known as The Park, said he saw an opportunity to return to those police-school roots by taking the Washtenaw Community College job.

"It's something that I think I'm going to enjoy very much," he said.

Meier lauded the job Hilden has done in Canton.

"The Public Safety Department is losing a valuable member of the organization," he said. "Scott has had a commendable career with the department and is wished the best in his future endeavors."

Hilden's successor hasn't been named.

Hilden, a veteran police official, knew by the time he reached middle school age that he was interested in po-

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

David Thompson of Plymouth with his Jeep. The body is a 1980. The chassis is a 1976. Thompson was an engineer for American Motors when it was purchased by Chrysler. He worked with the Toledo Jeep factory before moving to trucks.

## IT'S A JEEP THING

Enthusiasts gather every week to swap stories, peek under hoods

**David Veselenak**  
hometownlife.com

Greg Koenig is just one member of Wicked Jeeps' Southeast Michigan chapter that loves to get together and share updates to their vehicle. That includes the improvements he's made to his 2015 JKU.

"It's just a way for people to get together and talk about Jeeps," the Dearborn resident said. "We have in our club vintage Jeeps ... we have a couple that go back into the 1945, 1946. Of course, they don't drive them here. But they trailer them around."

The local chapter of Wicked Jeeps, a group of enthusiasts, recently held its weekly meetings at One Under Craft Beer and Eats, 35780 Five Mile, in Livonia. They've met there the last few Mondays and expect to do so until they find another location later to meet at, which is to be determined.

Seeing dozens of Jeeps, ranging from Wranglers to Grand Cherokees, is commonplace in the parking lot the last few weeks at One Under. Members will grab a meal and head to the parking lot to talk all things Jeep with other members. Swapping stories, peeking under hoods. It's all part of the Jeep culture. And they accept everyone, be it a single Jeep lover or a whole family.

"It's family friendly, everybody's



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mike Brimm is from Novi.

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## Nine newcomers up for three P-CCS seats

**Joanne Maliszewski**  
hometownlife.com

Three of nine newcomers will replace outgoing Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education members Mike Maloney, John Barrett and Sheila Paton at the Nov. 8 polls. Board member Patrick Kehoe, appointed last year, will run unopposed as the only candidate vying for the board's four-year seat.

Newcomers include Douglas Brooks, Bharat Malhotra, Patti McCain, Patricia Mullen, Pete Puzzuoli, Leonardo Savage, Michael Scopone, Girish Tiwari and Gurunath Vemulakonda.

Remaining on the school board is President Kim Crouch, whose term is up in 2018, Secretary Kate Borninski and Trustee Michael Siegrist, with terms that expire in 2020. Siegrist, however, is seeking election on the Democratic slate for Canton Township clerk. He faces Republican Linda Obrec in the Nov. 8 election.

Kehoe was appointed in August 2015 to complete the term of Mark Horvath, who resigned in July last year. Kehoe has supported new Superintendent Monica Merritt and says he believes the district is headed in a new and more positive direction under her leadership.

The Observer requested the newcomer candidates to respond to a Q&A, including biographical information. The candidates' responses are available at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com).



Kehoe

## Get to know your Sikh neighbors

Why do Sikh men wear turbans? What does langar mean? Learn the answers to those questions and more 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6, during "Sikh Mystique — Get To Know Your Sikh Neighbor," at the Canton Public Library.

"Most people don't have the opportunity to learn and experience other cultures in their busy everyday lives," said Paul Talwar, leading member of the Sikh Outreach and the Ply-

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# NEIGHBORS

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mouth Canton Interfaith Community Outreach. "This event at the library is unique as it offers a real hands-on opportunity for people to learn about a growing community in Canton in a friendly and non-formal way." This event is part of the library's "Get To Know Your Neighbor" series and is sponsored by the Sikh community of the Gurdwara Sahib Singh Sabha of Michigan, the Canton Public Library, the Canton Response to Hate Crimes Coalition and the Friends of the Canton Public

Library. "Our 'Get to Know Your Neighbor' events are a great way for our residents to meet and learn about the many diverse groups that make up our community," said Eva Davis, co-chair of the Canton Response to Hate Crimes Coalition and library director. "Our goal is to foster connections and inclusion in an open, non-judgmental setting." The event will include a presentation on Sikhism, the fifth largest religion in the world, with an opportunity to have questions answered, Talwar said. The afternoon will also feature spiritual, healing and dance music, in addition

to traditional dance performances and food. "Giving away free food is a 500-year-old tradition in Sikhism, so we'll be incorporating that into this event as well," Talwar said. "The library is a great neutral gathering place that is focused on life-long learning and programs like this further that goal," Davis said. Get To Know Your Sikh Neighbor is a free event and open to the public. The library is located at 1200 S. Canton Center Road. For more information on this program, go to [www.cantonpl.org](http://www.cantonpl.org) or call the library at 734-397-0999.



The Canton library is hosting an event, "Get To Know Your Sikh Neighbor."

FILE PHOTO

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## Firefighters graduate from command school

Canton Fire Department Fire Marshal John Oltman and Capt. William Wisler have successfully completed Fire Staff and Command School at Eastern Michigan University. The school is a comprehensive, 360-hour program designed to take fire officers beyond traditional operational methods and expose them to strategic thinking and creative, innovative problem-solving techniques. The curriculum consists



Oltman

Wisler

management, administration and critical situations. The school is mandatory for all Canton command officers and is a component of the ongoing training the department's firefighters participate in on a regular basis. Oltman has been with the department for 15 years, originally serving as a fire inspector. In his current role as marshal, he oversees the fire prevention and inspection

unit, which is responsible for plan reviews, site inspections, investigations and fire prevention. Wisler has been with the department for 16 years, originally hired as a firefighter/paramedic. In his current role as captain, he serves as a station supervisor, providing leadership and development of firefighter/paramedics, under the leadership of their assigned battalion chiefs.

## CHANGES

Continued from Page A1

lice work. He recalls living in Livonia when police cadets began walking the streets amid reports of stranger danger incidents. He literally followed in their footsteps. "I used to follow the cadets around. I thought that was interesting and kind of unique," he said. Hilden began as a patrol officer in Canton in 1992 and rose through the ranks of sergeant and lieutenant, until he was named deputy police chief in 2013. He said one of the best parts of his job was leaving his mark

on the department as deputy chief. "I was able to have a bigger impact on bringing a high level of professionalism and excellence to our department," he said. Hilden said one of the biggest challenges of police work, especially in recent years, has been trying to address public distrust of police by some people in the wake of incidents such as police-involved shootings. "There's a public perception that that's how all law enforcement behaves," he said, calling it "frustrating" for the vast majority of officers who do good work. However, Hilden added, "I will say in the Can-

ton community that we have had tremendous support." Hilden earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Michigan State University and a master's degree in liberal studies, with an emphasis in police supervision and management, from Eastern Michigan University. He is also a graduate of Eastern Michigan University's Police Staff and Command School. He has been involved in numerous special units, including police department instructor and school resource officer. He later worked as a shift commander in the patrol division and completed special assign-

ments as the department's community relations coordinator and special services lieutenant. As deputy chief, he led the patrol division consisting of four platoons of lieutenants, sergeants, police officers and public safety service officers. His role encompassed overseeing the execution and administration of the division, along with assisting the director with developing policies. Hilden and wife Anna have three children: Trevor, 23, Spencer, 21, and Celia, 16.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Matt Hinkle of Garden City is triumphant after successfully stacking his 1994 YJ model Jeep.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"Stacking" their Jeeps in the One Under parking lot.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nicolas Jefferson has owned his 2011 Wrangler Unlimited Sport for two years. He describes it as a work in progress, with steel bumpers, a winch, rock lights and larger tires. He is from Westland.

# JEEP

Continued from Page A1

welcome, stock Jeeps to hardcore," said Aaron Marquis, the club's president who lives in Toledo, Ohio, but hopes to move to Michigan soon.

Several thousand people are affiliated with

the club's Facebook page and the weekly meetings can see several dozen Jeeps show up.

### Jeep culture

One of those members who showed up with his Jeep at last week's meeting was Redford Township resident Matt Taylor. He built his Jeep Cherokee from the

ground up. It took him a month to complete the build, including creating his own front and rear bumpers.

"I just went all out," the former Canton Township resident said.

Taylor's attitude toward the vehicle's is similar to many others' in the group: once they owned a Jeep, they

couldn't see themselves owning anything else.

"I traded a rear-wheel drive import for my first Jeep," Taylor said. "My uncle's, like, 'Once you get a Jeep, you're never going to get rid of them.'"

Marquis said the Jeep culture is one that truly

grows when one purchases a Jeep. It's a special bond, he said, Jeep owners have with each other about their vehicles.

"If you've never owned one and you buy one, you start to see other Jeeps more," Marquis said. "As you get

more into the Jeep culture, you start to see more Jeeps.

"It just grows and grows and starts to feel like you're a part of the culture."

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## Ask Dr. Stewart

Dr. James Stewart offers treatment for sleep apnea and chronic snoring from his practice in Livonia, MI. Today, he discusses how sleep apnea can endanger your overall health.

### SLEEP APNEA IMPACTS YOUR OVERALL HEALTH

**Dear Dr. Stewart:** Does sleep apnea lead to any other problems besides feeling really tired during the day?

**Dr. Stewart:** Yes. Obstructive sleep apnea has been shown to impact a patient's overall health. Without treatment, the frequent episodes of waking up due to sleep apnea can lead to low blood oxygen levels and increasingly active hormonal levels, a combination that can cause a higher risk of hypertension, stroke, and heart attack. Sleep apnea has also been linked to acid reflux, weight gain, persistent headaches, and even type 2 diabetes. If you experience potential symptoms of sleep apnea, such as chronic snoring and daytime exhaustion, you should seek a diagnosis right away.

If you have questions about your sleep difficulties contact Dr. Stewart by calling 734-425-4400 or visiting [sleepbettermichigan.com](http://sleepbettermichigan.com).

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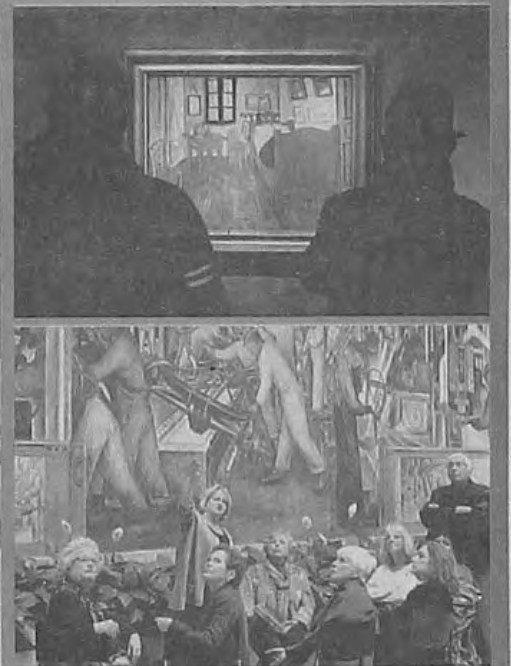
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## COME WONDER AROUND.

Every Thursday at 1 p.m. the Detroit Institute of Arts offers programs for adults 55+. Tour the galleries, take in a matinee at the DFT or attend a curator talk. To find out what's happening this week, visit [dia.org](http://dia.org) or call 313.833.4005

Services are made possible by tri-county millage support.

General museum admission is free for residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.



# No tricks, just treats (good ones, too) at Holiday Market's Halloween bash

**Darrell Clem**  
hometownlife.com

Choosing a nerd costume for Halloween, 11-year-old Jenna Hudson was first among a long line of children who stood outside Holiday Market of Canton and waited for the doors to open for a trick-or-treat bash.

"It's really cool, because I've never been first in line before," she said.

Jenna and her father Michael Hudson got in line more than an hour before the party started.

"I tried to wait in the truck, but she wouldn't let me," Hudson said.

Moments later Wednesday evening, Holiday Market welcomed a big crowd of children and parents who fanned out across the store for a scavenger hunt trick-or-treating party. Youngsters answered a series of trivia questions — Tony the Tiger is the character for what item? You blow out candles on what item? — and received clues to find their next treats.

Moani King brought nieces Mikalea LeBlanc, 4, and Juliet LeBlanc, 3, from Westland. The girls had matching, bright blue wigs and sported outfits identifying them as Thing 1 and Thing 2.

"I think this is amazing, because this is not just the cheaper candy they're giving



**BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**  
The Ghostbuster family: Parents Erik Martinelli and Michelle Martinelli, with 7-year-old Vince Martinelli and 2-year-old Jude Martinelli.



**BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**  
Seven-month-old McKinley Coldren is ready for her first Halloween.

out," King said. "It's some nice stuff."

Assistant manager Scott Mavracic was handing out Moon Cheese snacks, VerMints, Jelly Belly jelly beans and Cheetos at just one of the trick-or-treat stations. His visitors included a princess, a Rubik's Cube, Star Wars' Kylo Ren and superheroes, among other costumed children. Altogether, Mavracic said about 490 children attended the Halloween event.

Claire Pardington, daughter of Holiday Market owners John and Lisa Pardington, sported fangs as the store vampire as

she greeted the crowd. Not far away, a store clerk was dressed as a milk carton.

"I laugh every time she bags a gallon of milk," Claire Pardington said.

Holiday Market, in its 20th year, began hosting its Halloween parties six years ago. John Pardington said it's important to serve the community.

"Our business is in Canton, we live in Canton and we believe in giving back to the community," he said.

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**BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**  
It's an epic battle between reptiles. Eight-year-old Fred Johnson and Holiday Market employee Daniel Lasecki discovered that they wore the same costume.

## Canton Goodfellows needs help buying Christmas gifts

Canton Goodfellows, an organization that provides children's Christmas presents to struggling families, needs help with gift-buying.

Goodfellows volunteer Nancy Williams said the organization is helping 324 children this holiday season and sponsors still are needed to buy gifts for 80 of those youngsters.

Anyone who is willing to help is encouraged to send an email to [goodfellowscantonyahoo.com](mailto:goodfellowscantonyahoo.com).

Canton Goodfellows is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to make sure that no child goes without a Christmas. With the support of donors, sponsors and local businesses, it has provided gifts and clothing to children in Canton for more than 65 years.

In 2015, Canton Goodfellows served 125 Canton families with 321 children during the Christmas holiday.



**FILE PHOTO**  
Canton Goodfellows volunteers pack gifts during a previous holiday season.

## Pop culture fan? Check out Canton library programs

Pop culture fans might want to visit the Canton Public Library during Pop Culture Week.

Competitions, games, music, mayhem and entertainment make up the library's pop culture activities Nov. 14-20. The library team has curated events for all types of interests as a way to connect the community with what it loves.

### Trivia Night at the Library

On Monday, Nov. 14, from 6:30-8 p.m., teams will compete to win \$40 Barnes & Noble gift cards and other items by answering questions related to famous paintings, geography, science, pop culture, literature and more. Light refreshments will be served.

### 'Gilmore Girls' Celebration

"The Gilmore Girls" revival has been long-awaited by fans and with its release, the library invites fans to celebrate with Gilmore Girls trivia, a Stars Hollow photo booth and a cup of coffee. It happens 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16.

### International Games Day

International Games Day will be celebrated with a variety of board and card games on hand and patrons are also invited to bring their own to share. This event is for all ages and family participation is encouraged. It is set for noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19.

### Muggles, Music and Mayhem

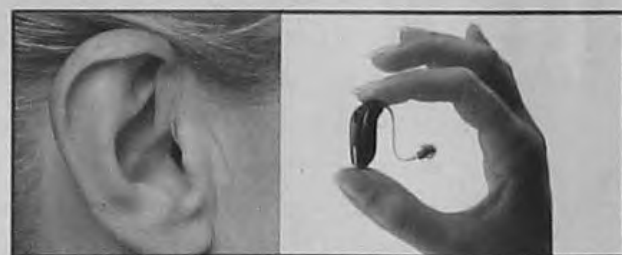
This celebration of all things Harry Potter includes wizard rock band Tonks & the Aurors, Potter-themed treats, butter beer, games and wizard trivia. Guests will also have a chance to win movie passes. All ages are welcome. It happens 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 20.

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# O&E newsroom loses nine employees to layoffs

**Dan Dean**  
Staff Writer

Tuesday was a sad day for community journalism as we lost nine hometownlife.com/Observer & Eccentric newsroom colleagues to layoffs. The move was part of an overall 2-percent workforce reduction by Gannett Co. Inc., the parent company of the O&E. Three advertising employees also were laid off.

So what happens now?  
As a reader and advertiser,

you can expect the continued professional reporting the Observer & Eccentric has delivered for decades. We will focus our resources in those communities that have the strongest growth potential, while not losing sight of the important news from throughout Wayne and Oakland counties.

We will look for stories that cut across municipal boundaries, whether it is covering common issues like government funding, stories of great



Dean

individual accomplishment or stories that garner interest beyond a specific geography.

Watchdog journalism has been a part of our makeup from the beginning. Our reporters have been a staple at city council, township board, planning commission and school board meetings for years. We will continue to mon-

itor what's going on. But we'll also be relying on our readers to tell us about their concerns, accomplishments and breaking stories.

Over the years, our veteran sports reporters have been some of the remaining few who still wander the sidelines at our local high schools. We'll still be there, even if not as frequently. Rest assured, our commitment to high school sports remains. We will look for more stories within the game, features on student-

athletes and issue-oriented pieces.

The Observer & Eccentric has been a national leader in community journalism for more than 40 years. We've been the backbone in many of our communities for more than 100 years and we will continue to lead.

Dan Dean is content strategist for hometownlife.com/Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. He can be reached at ddean@hometownlife.com.

## Strum your 'jumping flea' at Mini Uke Day

**Sharon Dargay**  
hometownlife.com

Ben Hassenger is both a king and an ambassador in the world of ukulele.

"It's a self-appointed title, Michigan's ambassador of the ukulele. And I didn't get a sash or anything like that," Hassenger said with a laugh. "I really try to be the hub of ukulele activities across the state. There are at least 20 active ukulele groups in Michigan. I call it the great uke state."

The Lansing-area resident is a member of the musical trio, The Ukulele Kings, co-founder of the Lansing Area Ukulele Group, and organizer of The Mighty Uke Day festival, Interlochen's Uketoberfest, and the Midwest Uke Camp. He also takes credit for helping to name the Farmington-area's ukulele group, Motor City Ukes.

He's planning a one-day festival that will include workshops, an open mic, group strum-alongs, and an evening concert. Mini Uke Day will run 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the concert starting at 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 5 at Trinity House Theatre, 38840 Six Mile, in

Livonia. Tickets are \$45 for four workshops, \$18 for the concert only or both for \$55. The concert features The Ukulele Kings and Andy Andrews, a ukulele musician and teacher. Tickets are available at mightyukeday.com and at the door.

Here's a few of Hassenger's thoughts on ukulele in Michigan:

**Q: First, how do you pronounce ukulele?**

**A:** The original Hawaiian pronunciation is oo-koo-lele. What that means in the Hawaiian language is jumping flea. In the mid-1800s there were a lot of Portuguese working in the islands. They had their own instruments that were predecessors to the ukulele and the native Hawaiians were amazed how quickly their hands moved up and down the strings, like a jumping flea.

**Q: What's the ukulele's appeal?**

**A:** I like to say it's the ultimate folk instrument because it brings folks together. I think that's the beauty of the ukulele, getting people together, sharing something together, face to face, in a group, working together. It's an incredibly



The Uke Kings will perform at Mini Uke Day at the Trinity House Theatre in Livonia.

social instrument. You just kind of share the joy of this little jumping flea.

**Q: Does it cost much to get started?**

**A:** That's one of the nice things about ukulele. I like to say it's a very accessible instrument. It's easier to learn how to play than a lot of instruments. It's easy to carry on an airplane, or stick in your car. But it's also accessible price-wise. You can get a playable ukulele for 50-60 bucks. Now, there is a thing called ukulele acquisition syndrome. It's a very contagious disease. It seems like you never have just one ukulele.

**Q: How many do you own?**

**A:** Of the ukuleles I play, I probably have 10. But then, because I teach a lot of school programs, I easily have 100 ukuleles in my house right now. It's ridiculous.

**Q: What kind of music is considered ukulele music?**

**A:** You can play all kinds of music. People think, well, a ukulele is just Hawaiian music or silly music. But you can also play jazz, pop, folk, rock, country, hip-hop. There's a band out of Traverse City and they're almost like a Goth band and they play the ukulele. It's incredibly versatile. It's popping up everywhere.

**Q: What unusual song have you played on ukulele?**

**A:** I worked up "You Shook Me All Night Long" (AC/DC) on ukulele.

**Q: Do you think the ukulele is a trend that will fade?**

**A:** I think people play it and genuinely like the instrument. It's not a gimmick. I mean, all the Beatles were huge ukulele fans, especially George Harrison. It has a huge history with all the British rockers, like Pete Townsend and all those people. If anyone goes into it with an open mind and picks it up, they can't help but love the instrument.

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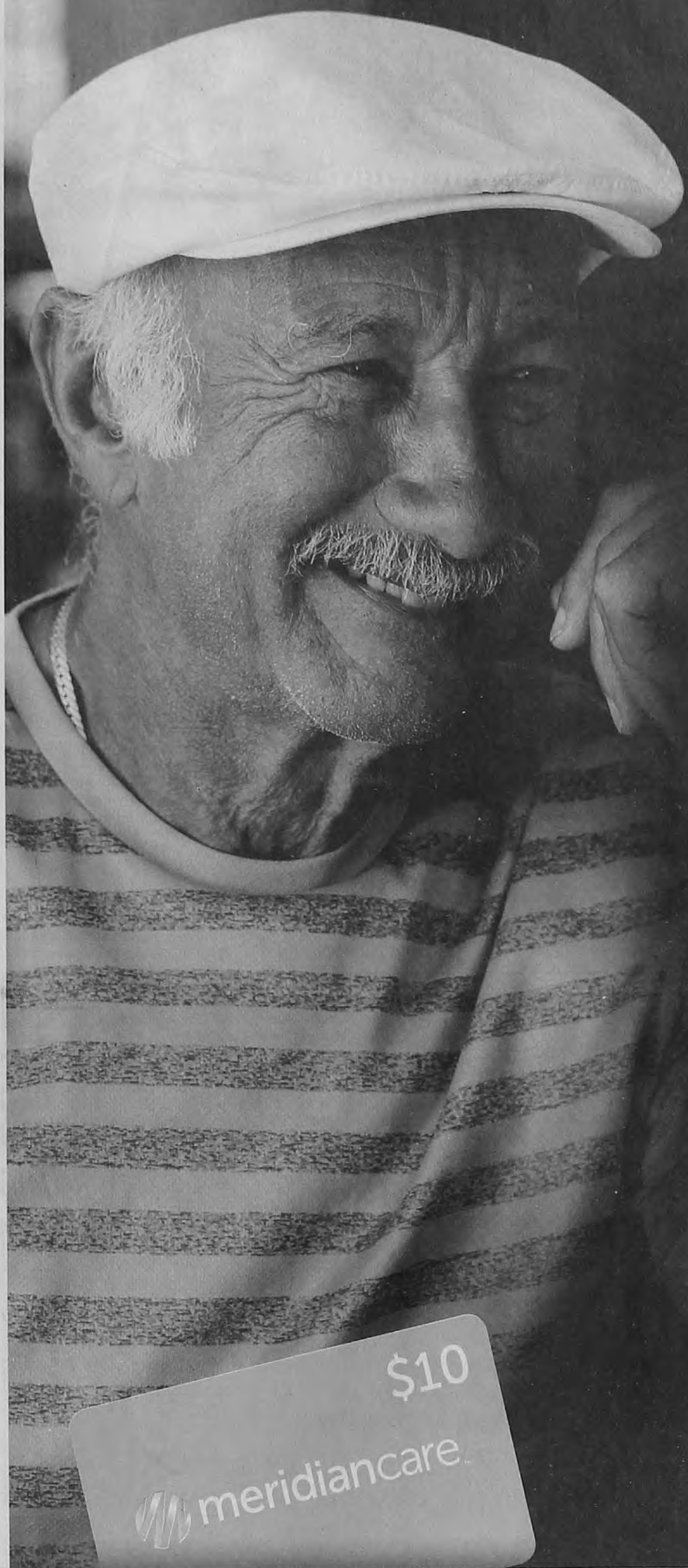
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# Don't allow taxes to unduly influence strategy

**Q: About a year ago, the company that I worked with for more than 30 years closed its doors and went out of business. At the time, I received severance pay, which was a year-and-a-half of my salary. I have been living off that money and it will be up in a few months. I am in my late 60s and I have decided to retire. I will be collecting Social Security, but that will not cover my needs. My question to you is, from a strategy standpoint, where should I get the additional income I need? I have three buckets of money: a traditional IRA, Roth IRA and personal investment account at Vanguard. Between the three accounts, I have nearly \$1 million and I will need about \$2,000 a month in addition to Social Security. What accounts should I access first? I have been told that I should first use my personal account before I touch my IRAs. Do you agree?**



**Rick Bloom**

MONEY MATTERS

many situations such as yours, it pays to begin to withdraw first from your traditional IRA, reducing your future minimum required distributions.

Although I do not ever want to let the tax tail wag the dog, it does not mean I do not want to take taxes into consideration. Taxes are important and we certainly do not want to pay more taxes than we have to. That being said, what I would recommend is taking a look at your tax situation and, in order to supplement your income needs, withdraw first from your traditional IRA, but only enough to keep you in the same tax bracket. Then, for additional monies you may need, I would then take it from the personal account. I would let the Roth IRA continue to reinvest and grow tax-free into the future.

Once you begin taking your minimum required distributions, I would follow the same strategy. If after taking your minimum required distributions you need additional money, I would first look to withdraw from the traditional IRA, but only withdraw enough to keep you in the same tax bracket. Remember, minimum required distributions are only the minimum; there is nothing to say that you cannot take more.

I recognize that the general belief is you should let your IRA grow for as long as you can before you tap into it. This is based on the belief that since traditional IRAs grow tax-deferred, it's always better to defer your taxes for as long as possible. That sounds like a good strategy, but do not be caught up in the mistaken belief that tax deferral is always good, because it is not. In many situations, you would be much further ahead by paying the taxes today versus in the future.

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).*

**In many situations such as yours, it pays to begin to withdraw first from your traditional IRA, reducing your future minimum required distributions.**



Lindsay Pack, shown with husband Michael and son Xavier, is losing weight so she can have another child.

# Beaumont opens weight control center in Canton

"You need to lose 100 pounds before you can think about having another baby."

Those were the grim words Lindsay Pack, 36, of Canton received from her obstetrician-gynecologist earlier this year.

The mother of two boys, including a 2-year-old and a 6-month-old, had been contemplating weight loss surgery for some time, inspired in part by her mother's 75-pound weight loss success with the procedure.

But this recommendation — along with the benefit of already having met her health insurance deductible earlier this year as a result of childbirth — motivated Pack to set the date sooner rather than later.

If all goes according to plan, Pack will have weight loss surgery in November and recover in the new bariatric post-surgical suites at Beaumont Hospital, Wayne. Follow-up appointments with her medical team will be scheduled at the new Weight Control Center in Canton.

"We'd like to have another baby," Pack said. "But right now, I can't keep up with my two boys."

As part of the surgery, Pack will have follow-up access to physicians, dietitians, exercise physiologists, psychologists and support group meetings at the weight control center. The center's staff also works with patients to arrange health insurance coverage.

"I think the exercise piece

is key to maintenance," said Pack, adding that while she's been thin most of her life, she gained 70 pounds while pregnant with her first son, and more with the second. "I love the support group opportunity at the center. You get to meet people going through the same thing as you."

Easy access to the new facility is another key perk for Pack.

"I've been driving out to the Royal Oak center for my pre-surgery appointments and that's 45 minutes each way," Pack said. "We need something on our side of town. The new center is four miles from my house."

Center location is also a point of pride for its medical director, Tariq Kakish, M.D., a board-certified bariatric physician.

"We're very excited to be in Canton, which is currently under-served," Dr. Kakish said.

A multidisciplinary approach, Dr. Kakish stressed, is the most effective route to permanent, healthy weight loss. "Working alongside our bariatric physicians, we have a whole team of health care providers who through education, nutrition and exercise, can help patients change their relationship with food," Dr. Kakish said.

Wendy Miller, M.D., corporate medical director for Beaumont Health Weight Control Centers, said patients are more likely to be successful long-term if the program is

located near their home.

In addition, "Individuals who aren't specifically enrolled with our program, are welcome to come to our healthy cooking demonstrations or work directly with our psychologists on emotional or psycho-social issues that may be contributing to weight gain," Dr. Miller said.

Featured equipment at the center includes a DEXA-Scan, which provides the most accurate measurement of percent body fat and can help determine an individualized, realistic goal weight.

The average weight loss for bariatric surgery patients is about 100 pounds, Dr. Miller said. Many patients resolve weight-related medical conditions after surgery, such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, low back and joint pain. Quality of life also often improves considerably.

"We provide all the support patients need, pre-operatively and post-operatively, to be successful in their weight loss journey," Dr. Kakish said.

Beaumont Weight Control Centers in Royal Oak, Rochester Hills, St. Clair Shores and now Canton, also offer a non-surgical weight loss program and weight loss programs for children and teens.

For more information about Beaumont Weight Control Centers or to sign for a free weight loss seminar, visit [beaumont.edu/centers-services/weight-control-center](http://beaumont.edu/centers-services/weight-control-center) or call 888-899-4600.

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# A Medal of Honor veteran is coming to Canton

After earning the Medal of Honor from President Barack Obama, retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Charles Kettles has been tapped as the keynote speaker as Canton celebrates Veterans Day.

Kettles in July received the medal for his actions May 15, 1967, which involved his life-saving efforts of rescuing soldiers who had been ambushed by North Vietnamese troops and were trapped in a river valley in Vietnam. Kettles, a UH-1D Huey helicopter pilot who was serving as a flight commander assigned to the 176th Aviation Company, is credited with saving the lives of 40 soldiers and four of his own crew members.

He is coming to Canton for the annual Salute to Service ceremony, set for 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill. It's an annual event in which Canton honors area service men and women who have served or are currently serving in the armed forces.

This special Veterans Day celebration will recognize military personnel currently in active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserves, as well as veterans of the armed services for their exceptional commitment and dedication.

The public is encouraged to attend this free event, presented by Canton



CHUCK KENNEDY | THE WHITE HOUSE  
President Barack Obama presents the Medal of Honor to retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Charles Kettles in July.

Township. Doors will open at 6 p.m. for the public to enjoy exhibited military memorabilia displays and a cookie and punch pre-show reception, prior to the start of the formal stage presentation at 7 p.m.

In addition to the Medal of Honor, Kettles was also awarded the following honors: the Distinguished Service Cross, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal with one Bronze Oak Leaf Clus-

ter, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, the National Defense Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star, the Korean Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with one Silver Service Star and one Bronze Service Star, the Korea Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Bronze Hourglass Device, the Master Aviation Badge, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star, the United Nations Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm Device.

The program will also feature musical tributes sung by the Workman Elementary Choir, under the direction of Keri L. Mueller.

In addition to the formal presentation, items for service men and women will be collected by the Michigan Military Moms, including individual size or travel size disposable hand and foot warmers; foot and body powder; Q-tips; beef jerky; hot chocolate mix; wipes; granola/power bars; and monetary donations to offset postage. Please note that all items must be small enough to fit a 12- by 12- by 8-inch U.S. Priority box.

For more information, call 734-394-5300 or go to [www.cantonvillage.theater.org](http://www.cantonvillage.theater.org).

# Online auction event to benefit Seedlings Braille Books for Children

Win great items for yourself or holiday gift-giving and help blind children at the same time by bidding in an online auction Nov. 1-14 benefiting Seedlings Braille Books for Children, a nonprofit in Livonia.

Hot items include Disney Park Hopper Passes; Detroit Red Wings, Lions and Tigers tickets; an Apple iPad; two-night stay at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island; overnight stays at Michigan lighthouses; signed vinyl by Kid Rock, viewing of the "Live in the D" show with host Chuck Gaidica; tickets to the Henry Ford, Detroit Zoo; ski lift tickets, restaurant gift certificates, lunch with Livonia Mayor Dennis Wright; a Livonia Police Department ride-along; and more.

See the 175-plus items or make a cash donation at [www.biddingforgood.com/braillebooks](http://www.biddingforgood.com/braillebooks).

Seedlings hopes to raise \$10,000 for 1,000 braille books for blind and visu-

ally impaired children around the world. Every \$10 donation to Seedlings makes another braille book possible.

"Blind children are at a disadvantage when it comes to learning to read," Seedlings Founder/Director Debra Bonde said. "For every 100 books a sighted child might have, a blind child might have only five because braille books are scarce and often expensive."

Seedlings gives half of its books away for free, and the other half are sold for an average price of \$10 a book.

Braille literacy is key to a life of independence and opportunity, according to the National Federation of the Blind. Children fluent in braille have an 80-percent chance of being gainfully employed as adults compared to only a 20-percent chance if they are not.

"A sighted person who can't read has a hard time getting a job, and it's

no different for a blind person," Bonde said. "Seedlings' mission is to increase the opportunity for braille literacy by making braille books available and affordable."

Other great items include a Family Membership to the Henry Ford, tickets for Pictured Rocks Cruises and the S.S. Badger, family pass to Huckleberry Railroad and Crossroads Village, passes to the Motown Museum and Frederik Meijer Gardens, vouchers to the Ford Rouge Factory Tour and spots on the Wheelhouse Detroit Bike Tour.

Seedlings' supporters nationwide will also find wonderful deals at [www.biddingforgood.com/braillebooks](http://www.biddingforgood.com/braillebooks), including tickets to the Toledo Zoo, Shedd Aquarium in Chicago and Creation Museum in Kentucky. Gift cards are also available for Amazon.com, American Express, chain restaurants and national retailers.



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Founder/director Debra Bonde with some of the blind and visually impaired children Seedlings serves.

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# Fundraiser takes aim at pancreatic cancer

Brad Kadrich  
hometownlife.com

Sheila Kasselmann is a pancreatic cancer survivor largely because at the time she was diagnosed nine years ago, it was still confined to her pancreas.

Most people, Kasselmann points out, aren't that lucky. By the time they're diagnosed, the cancer has often metastasized to other organs. That's because there's no early warning, no early test or signal that the patient might have the disease.

That's a situation Kasselmann and the folks at the foundation she established, The Sky Foundation, hope to change. Its annual fundraiser — for the second year in a row — is set for Nov. 6 at the MGM Grand Hotel in Detroit.

"(Raising awareness) is more important than ever," said Kasselmann, who was diagnosed in September 2007. "It's very hard to raise awareness of this disease, and we're doing it in a way that gives people hope."

That hope is coming from the Bloomfield Hills-based Sky Foundation. Kasselmann founded it in June 2008, about five months after the surgery that saved her life. She was at a doctor's visit, and the doctor told her awareness of the disease had to be increased, and that she should start a foundation.

So she did. "Everyone thinks, 'Why me?' You think, 'What did I do?'" Kasselmann said. "I didn't do that. I told myself that if I was lucky enough to live, I was going to talk about this."

## Spreading the love

She's done more than talk. Her foundation has handed out more than \$1.2 million in research grants since its founding, including some \$400,000 last year alone. Last year's fundraiser, moved to the MGM after years at Birmingham's Townsend Hotel, raised some \$365,000, and organizers are shooting for more than that this year.

And it's a good thing, too, because pancreatic cancer is moving up the



Sky Foundation founder Sheila Kasselmann is a nine-year pancreatic cancer survivor.



Rod Meloni (left) will emcee the eighth annual fundraiser hosted by the Sky Foundation and its founder, Sheila Kasselmann.

list of deadly cancers. According to Dr. Howard Crawford, a researcher in the University of Michigan Departments of Molecular Biology and Internal Medicine, pancreatic cancer is now the third-leading killer among cancers, having recently passed breast cancer and trailing only lung and colon cancer.

Crawford said some 46,000 new patients are diagnosed every year with a disease that only has an 8-percent five-year survival rate. By 2020 or 2021, he said, pancreatic cancer will have surpassed colon cancer.

He pointed out the need for more research on early detection — something that doesn't exist now — by looking at cells in the bloodstream and using that information as a diagnostic, and finding a model of clinical trials.

The problem is the location of the pancreas —

it sits across the back of the abdomen, behind the stomach — makes it difficult to reach for testing. But doctors, he said, need to find a way if they want to push the survival rate into double-digits.

"We think it will be critically important," Howard said. "Because the pancreas is so hard to get to, we don't have the ability (now) to detect it (early). Our goal is to get pancreatic cancer up into the two-digit (higher than 10 percent) survival rate. That's still not great, obviously, but it's better."

Mary Beth Castorri wants to help. The disease claimed her husband, Ronald, in 2013, after a very short fight. During that battle, Castorri came across Kasselmann, who offered support "when there wasn't a lot" out there.

"This disease is not at the forefront, it doesn't have early detection like some of the others," Castorri said. "This disease needs attention. It needs money, and it needs attention."

Castorri, one of the folks organizing the Sky Foundation's Nov. 6 benefit, plans to help the disease get both. She said the fundraiser been moved to the MGM Grand because it had outgrown the Townsend Hotel, where some 300 people were attending.

Last year, in its first year downtown, more than 400 people attended.

## Auction action

"The Townsend was beautiful, and the people there were great," she said. "(But) we wanted to be in Detroit, and we had grown."

Headlining the event will be Dr. Diane Simeone, director of the Pancreatic

Cancer Program at U-M. Simeone, who like Howard has been a recipient of grants from the Sky Foundation, will talk about current research progress.

In addition to lunch and entertainment, guests will have the opportunity to bid on many silent- and live-auction items.

"We have some outstanding auction items this year, thanks to our extremely generous donors," said Castorri. "Highlights include sports memorabilia and tickets, vacation getaways, and even a trip to see the sold-out 'Hamilton' in New York City."

Proceeds from the event will fund research grants to institutions as varied as U-M, the Karmanos Cancer Center and even a doctor at the University of Washington. Kasselmann hopes the fundraiser will help raise awareness, and eventually produce an early detection method that will save lives.

Meanwhile, she's happily living her own life, because what choice does she have?

"You either cry or you laugh," she said. "I probably do both, every day."

*Sky Foundation's eighth annual lunch takes place from noon until 3 p.m. at the MGM Grand Hotel, 1777 3rd St. in Detroit. Complimentary parking at the hotel entrance is included in the ticket price.*

*For sponsorship opportunities and to order tickets, visit [www.skyfoundationinc.org](http://www.skyfoundationinc.org) or call 248-385-5143. Follow updates on Facebook @skyfoundationinc and on Twitter @skyresearch.*

*bkadrich@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @bkadrich*



David Ostafinski and his wife Susan enjoy running marathons together.

# Marathoner's dream: Run 100 miles in 24 hours

Sharon Dargay  
hometownlife.com

David Ostafinski has just 24 hours to achieve his dream of running a 100-mile marathon.

The Livonia man came close to his goal in 2005, when he logged 90 miles at a 24-hour event in Toledo, Ohio.

He kept the dream alive over the next 11 years, running in shorter events, including the annual Detroit Free Press Marathon, which he used as a "training run" earlier this month. When a friend signed up for the Tunnel Hill 100, a 24-hour marathon on an old railroad-bed-turned-hiking-trail in southern Illinois, Ostafinski knew it was time to revisit the challenge. He'll run the Tunnel Hill 100 on Nov. 12.

"I was younger at the time. I ran at a faster pace. I'm 64 now," Ostafinski said, comparing the 2005 and 2016 events. "I guess I never gave up on that dream. When you have the dream to do something big, you don't lose it. If I'm ever going to do it, this is the time."

There's more at stake this time around than just a personal victory. Ostafinski also hopes to raise \$10,000 for digging clean water wells in Africa through World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization. He set up a race donation page on World Vision's website and has raised just under \$2,000. If he succeeds, the Tunnel Hill 100 will be his biggest event in terms of both mileage and dollars raised for charity. Ostafinski has run

marathons since the 1970s and figures he has about 75 under his belt. His wife Susan trains with him and ran her first marathon in 2001. Her personal best is 62 miles during a 24-hour, 100-mile event. He's retired from Detroit Diesel and trains year around.

## Charitable cause

The couple started combining marathons and fundraising in 2012, when the church they attend, NorthRidge in Plymouth Township, asked members to run in the Chicago Marathon to raise money for World Vision.

"For every \$50 we receive toward the clean water program, it guarantees an individual clean water for life. When you put it into those simple terms — you can save a life for 50 bucks — people can say, 'I can literally make a difference,'" he said.

Church members continued fundraising while running the Detroit Free Press Marathon the following year. NorthRidge executive director Bryan Amann said runners collected approximately \$1.5 million for clean water over three years. The church's running ministry, RidgeRunners, turned its attention to fighting human trafficking last year. It completed its second marathon for the cause earlier this month.

Donate to Ostafinski's 100-mile, 24-hour marathon for World Vision's clean water efforts at [www.teamworldvision.org/participant/dave](http://www.teamworldvision.org/participant/dave).



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# Mastering the Mississippi

Former newsman finds nature, self on epic kayaking journey

**Jennifer Eberbach**  
Livingston Daily

Two old men challenge Old Man River. That is what former Livingston Daily managing editor Mike Malott once said he would have titled an article about his two-and-a-half month journey down the Mississippi River with Dave Randolph, of Clinton, Ill. It was a success. Malott and Randolph — a new friend and experienced kayaker he met via the internet — paddled 2,117 miles in 72 days.

With his feet back on dry land, the Hartland Township resident reported back to his old newsroom about the fabulous things and people he encountered on America's mighty waterway. Aside from physical transformation — dozens of pounds dropped and greater confidence in his kayaking ability gained — Malott came to some conclusions about life and people.

"It gives you time to have a nice, long talk with yourself," Malott said. "I thought a lot about life, and I came to interesting conclusions."

His most memorable moments included the inspiring encounters with people along the way and the times he was awestruck by the greatness of nature.

A gain-faith-in-humanity moment: "Just before St. Louis, we were told before we hit St. Louis we should talk to Mike Clark, a guy who runs a guide service Big

Muddy adventures," Malott said. "There is this one section of the river that is dangerous just above St. Louis, where they had demolished a bridge but never removed the concrete or the rebar — and if you go there in low water, it can be dangerous."

Clark ended up giving the kayakers more than advice for avoiding disaster.

"He brings this trailer to the river to pick us up, throws the kayaks on the trailer, and says, 'Come over to my house,'" Malott said. "He puts us up overnight and feeds us a great dinner of shrimp in sriracha (chili sauce) and teriyaki pork loin — and doesn't charge us a thing. ... He was just wonderful entertainment for the evening. The entertainment was a reading from 'Life on the Mississippi' by Mark Twain. ... Then he transports us back to the river and gives us advice about getting through the port of St. Louis, which is considered the most dangerous port in the United States."

In Illinois, the kayakers encountered a park ranger who "hassled" them for trying to set up two tents on one site. However, someone offered up a campsite they had paid for but did not need. Faith restored.

Malott said living outdoors in nature agreed with him. "One of my favorite things on the Mississippi was, in certain places, it was very easy to find a

campsite. There were all these sandy beaches. They call it 'the big muddy,' but there is a lot of sand. Some of the campsites were beautiful sites that nobody could make use of other than a couple guys paddling down the river," he said.

"One thing that people don't realize is that there are thousands of islands, and we would pull off and stay there. They were either owned by the government or utility companies or formed by dredging."

In the quiet moments on the river, out of earshot from his kayaking partner and having long talks with himself, the retired newsman got the scoop on his own human interest story.

"You're relationships are what matter. I found that I missed my wife and family terribly. It's cornball, but the most important thing is to love and be loved back," he said. "The first conclusion I made, I would say, is that."

A friend who passed away was also part of the journey, in spirit.

The pair made their journey a fundraiser for Key Development Center of Brighton and the Hope Center of Lexington, Kentucky, in memory of substance abuse counselor Colin Crumm, who died last year after overcoming his own longtime battle against alcohol addiction.

Malott and Randolph started what would turn out to be a 2,117-mile voyage in August from Lake Irving and the riv-



Former Livingston Daily Press & Argus managing editor Mike Malott of Hartland Township sits on his kayak at the mouth of the Atchafalaya River on the final day of his 72-day journey down the Mississippi River with Dave Randolph of Clinton, Ill.

er's headwaters in northern Minnesota.

It took 71 days for the two men to paddle the entire river down to the Gulf of Mexico in Louisiana and one extra day to get back to civilization, for a total of 72 days.

Malott described the Mississippi as "three different rivers," because it changed along the way.

"Above Minneapolis it was like a small river, and we were mainly going down the river with northern woods on either side," he said of the river's beginnings. "There were stretches of wild rice, where all you could see for miles is the wild rice, and there was no place to pull over."

Then onto the stretch between Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, and St. Louis, Missouri: "It's mostly locks and dams, and you have to portage and drag your kayak, say, 300 yards or more, and it's still northern."

"Below St. Louis is where you start to see the really big barges. They were huge. The whole (strategy) was just stay out of their way,

which is easier said than done," Malott said.

The pair decided to finish off on an old route of the Mississippi River, a distributary called the Atchafalaya River in south Louisiana.

"Years ago, the Army Corps of Engineers rerouted the Mississippi. The Atchafalaya is much more natural and pristine. The end of the Mississippi is industrial with more boats, so we thought that would be the better route," he said.

The last 20 miles or so was swampy, he said.

"And we made it down to the Gulf. There were so many islands around it was hard to tell, but Google Maps told us we were in the Gulf, so we pulled over onto a sandbar and I had brought two beers in my cooler just for that purpose."

He was more than happy to reunite with family at the end of his journey, and they spent time enjoying New Orleans together.

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BOYS SOCCER REGIONAL

## Rocks' run comes to end against Novi

Salem reaches elite eight, but postseason march stops there

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

During halftime, Kyle Bandyk and his Novi teammates figured one goal would probably win Thursday's Division 1 boys soccer regional final against Salem.

So when Bandyk spotted senior forward Hernan Brarda niftily dribbling away from a defender along the right side of the field, he got ready inside the 6-yard box in front of Rocks senior goalkeeper Andrew Kozan.

Bandyk — a senior in his first season at forward following three years in the back — chipped his close-range shot

See ROCKS, Page B2



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi's Kyle Bandyk splits a pair of Salem players during Thursday's Division 1 boys soccer regional final at Ann Arbor Huron.

PREP FOOTBALL



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton defenders, led by junior linebacker Lou Baechler (middle) put the hurt on a Northville ball carrier during Friday's contest.

## Chiefs' ground game pummels Mustangs

McDonnell's four TDs lift Canton to 55-29 win

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

The fact Tim Baechler had to take his Canton Chiefs back to Tom Holzer Field to face Northville for the second time in two weeks wasn't something he was crazy about in the first place.

He really disliked the idea after his offense coughed up the football on the opening series of Friday's Division 1 first-round playoff game against the Mustangs — leading to an early 7-0 deficit.

But the veteran coach reached into his bag of tricks and pulled out senior running backs Julian Thornton here, Markus Sanders there and Reid McDonnell everywhere.

Canton racked up more than 500 yards on the ground and defeated Northville, 55-29, led by McDonnell's career game of 255 rushing yards, four touchdowns and a crucial interception that helped stem a second-half comeback bid by the Mustangs. The Chiefs (8-2) now advance to face Saline on Nov. 4.

"You play them a second week in a row, (Northville head coach Matt Ladach) brings out new stuff, new plays," Baechler said. "Literally, it's impossible to stop everything. I'm glad we're out of here."

"To play a team back-to-back and win in the playoffs is very hard to do. We dominated them, we put more on them, we won by more than we did the last time (42-27 on Oct. 21). So that's good."

"But we played very sloppy, we had



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton senior running back Reid McDonnell (right) tries to gain yardage against Northville tackler Trenton Guthrie during Friday's playoff game.

a couple stupid penalties. And that first turnover was the stupidest thing I've ever seen in my life."

Baechler was referring to a play where senior quarterback Jake O'Donnell could not get the handle of a snap, dropped back and hurried a short throw that landed in the hands of

*"To play a team back-to-back and win in the playoffs is very hard to do. We dominated them, so that's good."*

TIM BAECHLER  
Canton coach

See GRIDDERS, Page B3

USA HOCKEY

## World-class talent in Five Nations

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

The cream of the hockey prospect crop — players who might become a new wave of NHL stalwarts such as Patrick Kane, Dylan Larkin and Auston Matthews — will have the chance to rise up this week at USA Hockey Arena.

The 2016 Under-18 Five Nations Tournament is slated to run from Tuesday through Saturday, Nov. 5, at the Plymouth Township arena on Beck Road north of M-14.

Among participants in the tournament will be the U.S. National Team

See HOCKEY, Page B3



RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

Looking forward to the Five Nations tourney is U18 forward Randy Hernandez.



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REMEMBERING TOM BONDY

# 'Mr. Fix-It' Bondy leaves loving legacy

Plymouth softball's field chief, parent of four Wildcats players, dies at 59

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

There is no doubt Thomas L. Bondy was a great dad, husband and staunch supporter of Plymouth's varsity softball program.

Bondy, who died Wednesday at age 59, also literally was the best in his field — namely the pristine softball diamond that the Wildcats competed on over the years.

All four of Tom and wife Martha Bondy's children played Plymouth softball: Danielle, Amy, Jessica and Sarah.

"Tom Bondy was Plymouth Wildcat softball," former coach Bev McManus wrote in a text message Thursday. "He lived and breathed being at the field, watching his girls play ball on his neatly groomed field."

"He was our right-hand man, did everything for us and our program. We

loved him so much and our hearts ache in grief. Rest in peace, our friend. You will always be remembered and deeply missed."

McManus said Bondy also had a playful side, especially when dealing with her as well as another longtime Plymouth coach, Val Canfield.

"(He was) the man who did everything behind the scenes," McManus continued. "Val always said, 'You're fired.' He called Val and I 'Trouble 1' and 'Trouble 2.'"

"Val was the mean one and I was the nice one."

McManus said a request will be made to have the softball field dedicated in Bondy's honor.

Ever since Plymouth High School opened in the early 2000s, Bondy was the "field chief" at the softball diamond. Others referred to him as "Mr. Fix-It."

For hours on end, Bondy would cut and water the grass, making sure every blade was perfect.

Bondy also was a strong family man. One of eight children born to Patrick and Mildred Bondy, he and his wife built a large family in their own right.



BONDY FAMILY PHOTO

Thomas Bondy, keeper of Plymouth's softball field, died at age 59.

*"Tom Bondy was Plymouth Wildcat softball. He lived and breathed being at the field, watching his girls play ball on his neatly groomed field."*

BEV MCMANUS, former coach

Eisen.

In addition to softball and family, church was an important part of Bondy's life.

He was a dedicated volunteer at Grace Canton Church. Memorial donations in his honor can be sent to the church, 46788 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, MI 48187.

Schrader-Howell Funeral Home is located at 280 S. Main St. in Plymouth.

Funeral services are scheduled for 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2, at Grace Canton Church. Family and friends may visit before the service, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @TimSmith\_Sports

PREP CROSS COUNTRY

## Regionals loom for Plymouth Christian Academy teams

Plymouth Christian Academy's girls cross country team continues to pound the sidewalks in and around Plymouth as they trained for this weekend's MHSAA regional race at Willow Metropark.

It has been 10 years since PCA has fielded a girls team, which makes this season special for coach Rod Windle.

"The girls really work hard for one another and speak words of advice, encouragement, and sympathy to one another daily. They are growing in their love for running. I am proud of their efforts," Windle said.

The Lady Eagles placed third in the MIAC Championship last Friday, Oct. 21 and hope to qualify for States by finishing in the top three places for the Division 4 race.

The team is led by sophomore Sienna Ruitter. She broke her own school record by running a 19:10.9 in late September and earned first team all-conference honors this year.

The other team members include senior Jordan Reed, returning sophomore Joy Chamberlain and four freshmen, including Ella Godin, Danae Moriarty, McKenna Hay and Eva Warmbier.

Boys set for regionals

The boys cross country team at Plymouth Christian Academy has a winning tradition that was to be put to the test once again at the MHSAA regional at Willow Metropark.

PCA has won consecutive Division 4 regional championships and hope to make it three in a row.

"This team continues to embrace the work ethic and fun that was emphasized during coach (Jennifer) Lemieux's tenure as head coach," PCA first-year coach Rod Windle said. "Every day continues to be a beautiful day for our cross country team. I am proud to be a part of the program and traditions she established over the years."



Plymouth Christian Academy's girls cross country team, coached by Rod Windle (foreground), ran this weekend at the Division 4 regional.

The team finished second in the MIAC championships last weekend thanks to outstanding performances by second-place finisher sophomore Aaron Vickers and third-place finisher junior

Seth Windle, who both received first team all-conference honors.

Sophomore Quinn McLaren finished 12th and senior Ian Hay finished 13th to earn second team all-conference hon-

ors. Sophomores Aaron Geisler, Kyle Sedgewick and Caleb Godin and freshman Eric Moore round out the Eagles team.

## ROCKS

Continued from Page B1

inside the right post with 34:40 remaining in the second half to put the Wildcats up 1-0 at Ann Arbor Huron.

That held up as the game's lone goal, giving Novi (15-2-4) a regional championship for the first time in four seasons. The Wildcats will face East Kentwood (14-3-5) at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2, at Holt.

"In the first half, we were putting

some pressure on," Bandyk said. "Salem's a really good team and we wanted to keep it going in the second half and we knew we were going to eventually get one if we kept putting the pressure on."

"Hernan made a really good play and I was in the right spot and we just capitalized on it."

Coming close

The Rocks, who finished 13-7-3, made a late push only to face relentless defenders and junior goalkeeper Luke McDonald — who jumped high to tip a

30-yard boot by senior forward Jamie Crosby over the crossbar with 4:45 left.

"Luke thrives in these pressure situations," Novi head coach Todd Pfeiffer said. "In first round districts, we were playing at (Catholic Central), we go into a penalty shootout and he just thrived in that moment."

"He made a key save for us on their fifth shooter to set up the win for us. He's made two or three big saves every single game for us."

The KLAA Central Division rivals both won a 1-0 game during the season and Pfeiffer emphasized at halftime of Thursday's clean, well-played contest that it was imperative to get the first goal.

"I said, 'The next 40 minutes, you got to do all the little things,'" Pfeiffer said. "Run down every single ball, make sure you stay with your mark. Make sure we're marking tight on any set pieces they get because we know they're great in the air."

"It was a great hustle play by Hernan and that's what you need when you get this far."

Salem first-year head coach Kyle Karns gave a similar message to the Rocks, who showed the ability to overcome adversity in winning the district and edging Saline in Tuesday's regional semifinal.

"I told them at halftime, the games of four goals a game, three goals a game, those are done," Karns said. "At this point in the tournament, goals are stingy and you're just going to have to battle and scrap for one."

"(Bandyk's winner) was one of those situations where they play all the way to the whistle," he added. "It was right by the line and he did a great job keeping the ball in bounds and, unfortunately, just found the back of the net."

Not much room

Another key to Novi's win was being able to frustrate Salem players such as junior midfielder Christian Freitag,

who scored five goals during the post-season and demonstrated an uncanny knack to get to any open spaces near opposing goalies.

"We shifted the lineup around a couple times. We tried to find Christian up top and put more numbers forward," Karns said. "But (Novi) had the answer tonight and they did a great job."

Pfeiffer acknowledged how important it was to stay close to Freitag and other Salem attackers.

"We made sure we had one person in front (of Freitag) and one person in back," Pfeiffer said, noting the job junior midfielder Quinn Franchino did in containing the lanky Salem player.

According to Salem senior midfielder Mikey Schwartz, Novi defenders "were playing a little deeper than usual and they had two defensive center mids. So it was hard for our midfield to penetrate them and play a through ball."

On the map

But Schwartz said the Rocks' big postseason run is something that "means a lot" to him and his teammates.

"Since my freshman year, we haven't really gone on a run," Schwartz said. "So it means a lot to finally get a few trophies, get out there and make a name for ourselves in the states."

Karns also tipped his cap to the senior class, which includes Schwartz, Kozan, Crosby, Shane Rusinek, Jake Wymer, Adam Graunke and Mariglen Serjanaj.

"I just told the boys they should be proud," Karns said. "I'm proud of our seniors. They were obviously here well before I was."

"But for my first year, I couldn't be happier with the group that welcomed me and worked hard each and every day."

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PREP ATHLETICS

# Meteyer thanks Plymouth for his chance

**Tim Smith**  
hometownlife.com

Since taking the job as Plymouth High School's athletic director in 2013, Kyle Meteyer has relished leading the extended Wildcats team — not just those wearing black and silver uniforms.

Meteyer's leadership has helped Plymouth move forward into the technological age, with the formation of a website, not to mention launching a Wildcats Hall of Fame and all-state photo wall.

"We have tried to do everything in our power to make sure our kids are recognized and celebrated for being the champions that they are," Meteyer wrote in an email to the Observer.

But Meteyer is passing the baton to somebody new as he announced he is moving to Lake Orion High School effective Thursday, Nov. 3. He is taking the position of associate principal, taking over from an administrator who unexpectedly retired in September.

"Even though the timing was tough, it's good to take opportunities when they arise," Meteyer continued. "It is hard for me to leave mid-year; there is always a lot of unfinished business and

it pains me to leave tasks undone. "However, I hope that the momentum we've developed over the past few years will continue.

"High school athletics are about much more than one person — this school is full of great people and it'll continue to be a wonderful place to learn, prepare and thrive, long into the future."

**Will be closer**

Meteyer lamented the distance between his Plymouth office and family in the Rochester area. He and his wife have three young children. The Lake Orion position will come with the perk of working closer to his home.

In his farewell message blogged on the PHS website, Meteyer noted that while his duties at the Park were "consistently rewarding," he is looking forward to being "a closer part of the educational community. I envy those who work at P-CEP who were able to drop in on a Saturday to watch the school musical or attend a Friday night football game with their families or help out in a clutch situation at the school over a holiday or weekend."

Meteyer continued to thank the Plymouth High School community in his



PLYMOUTH ATHLETICS  
Kyle Meteyer is leaving Plymouth High School to become an associate principal at Lake Orion.

*"It is hard for me to leave mid-year; there is always a lot of unfinished business and it pains me to leave tasks undone."*

**KYLE METEYER**  
outgoing Plymouth athletic director

turn his back on athletics if his attention is needed.

"Because I'll definitely feel a hankering for athletics," noted Meteyer, a track and field coach at Salem prior to joining the Plymouth administrative staff, "I'm sure I'll attend more than my share of athletic events.

"And I am even in the process of becoming an MHSAA official for soccer and track and field, to stay intimately involved in those sports."

Plymouth is now beginning the process of finding Meteyer's successor.

Effective Nov. 3, however, questions about Plymouth athletics should be sent to department assistant Sharon Britton at 734-582-5702 or by email to Sharon.Britton@pcck12.com.

## GRIDDERS

Continued from Page B1

Northville's Ryan Doroudian, who returned the fumble 54 yards down to Canton's 1-yard line.

The Mustangs took the early 7-0 lead on senior Jack Burke's quarterback keeper with 6:56 to go in the first.

**Quick response**

The Chiefs were able to score the equalizer on the subsequent series, with Thornton (182 yards rushing) shooting through the left side of the line and scampering 48 yards for the score.

McDonnell capped off Canton's 61-yard drive in 13 running plays with a 5-yard TD, about 4:30 into the second half. The Chiefs set up that drive by stopping the Mustangs on a fourth-down run.

Northville (7-3), by deferring the opening kickoff of the night, got the ball to open the second half with a chance to get some momentum. Burke, however, injured his foot in the series and limped off, never to return.

"Anytime you lose a kid like Jack Burke, who is a phenomenal athlete, a great person, a great leader, it hurts," Ladach said. "And I think it hurt us more emotionally than anything else, because our kids love Jack Burke.

"When he went down, it definitely took some of our emotion out."

**On a roll**

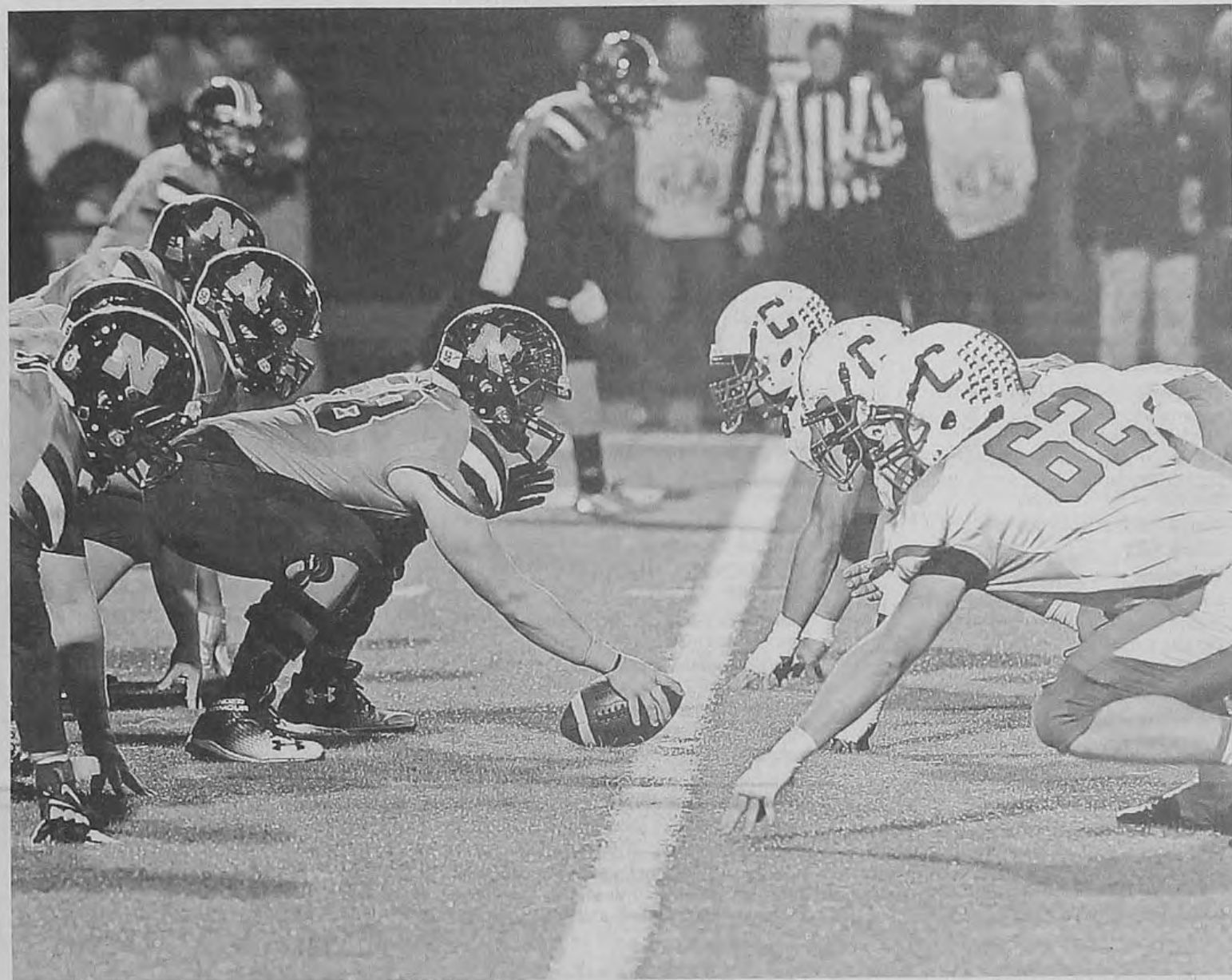
On Canton's next series, it was McDonnell again, racing up the gut for a 56-yard touchdown to make it 21-7 with 8:42 left in the third.

He topped himself just two minutes later, ripping through the line and rolling 69 yards for another TD. That launched Canton's six-touchdown half, which followed Baechler's move to a double-wing formation that the Mustangs did not have an answer for.

"The double-wing is something we have in our tool box," Baechler said. "We practice it all the time, we just haven't used it yet. We brought that out and thank God we had it, because they had a difficult time adjusting and stopping it."

Canton padded its lead to 35-7 with 3:11 remaining in the quarter, on a short plunge (2 yards) by McDonnell.

Northville didn't fold its tent, however, as Michalak (10-of-27 passing) scored on a 1-yard run.



Northville and Canton linemen prepare to do battle Friday night. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The teams traded touchdowns just 13 seconds apart to make it a 42-21 Canton lead going into the fourth.

Sanders (148 yards and three TDs) busted one for 38 yards for the Chiefs, but Michalak responded with a 80-yard scoring toss over the middle to Anthony Abbott II.

**Getting it back**

With the Chiefs hanging on to the 42-29 advantage, McDonnell fumbled to give the Mustangs hope.

He atoned for that miscue on defense on the very next play, picking off a Michalak pass. Canton went on to score again, with Sanders taking it in

from the 7-yard line to all but seal Northville's fate.

"Yeah, I was pretty (ticked) after I fumbled; anyone would be," McDonnell said. "But I knew I had to respond or someone on the team had to respond to get the momentum back and that's what we did."

McDonnell and Thornton both praised their linemen for making their big personal games possible.

"The linemen and the backs, no one ever gives up on a play," McDonnell said. "We just block until the whistle. Everyone wants to help each other out as best we can."

Concurring was Thornton, noting

that the linemen "they always want to get better and they always want us to look good. And we thank them for it every time."

Meanwhile, Baechler said defeating the Mustangs in back-to-back weeks was a major hurdle that his team survived.

"It's no fun coming back here," Baechler said. "You got to get mentally psyched to go prove yourself again. It's very difficult. The advantage definitely goes back to the team that got beat in the first game.

"But we're, like, 'Hey, we've got bigger aspirations.' This is just another team in our way."

## HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

Development Program Under-18 team. Also in the tourney mix are Finland, Sweden, Switzerland and the Czech Republic. (Concurrently, the NTDP U17s are playing in the 2016 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge tourney, hosted in Sault Ste. Marie, Canada.)

"It's a tremendous honor for a USA hockey player to represent his country at any time," said Team USA Under-18 first-year head coach John Wroblewski, a former player in the NTDP. "It's an even greater honor to defend our crest on home ice.

"It's my first tournament on home soil and I look forward to seeing how our team owns up to the challenge."

The first test for Wroblewski's team, which includes Northville's Dylan St. Cyr in the nets, as well as forwards Josh Norris (Oxford), Logan Cockerill (Brighton) and defenseman Tommy Miller (West Bloomfield), is 7 p.m. Tuesday against Switzerland.

**Anticipation grows**

Also thrilled to compete in the high-profile tourney is NTDP Under-18 forward Randy Hernandez, a Florida native in his second season in the program since it relocated from Ann Arbor to Plymouth.

"It's going to feel so great to play in the Five Nations Tournament," Hernandez noted. "Representing your country and competing against the best coun-



U.S. NTDP Under-18 goalie Dylan St. Cyr of Northville makes a stop during a game earlier this season. He and his teammates will compete Nov. 1-5 in the Five Nations Tournament at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth. RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

tries in the world is unbelievable.

"We've been working so hard as a team and I can't wait to show what we're made of."

Each team will play four games, with three points awarded for a win, two for an overtime draw and one for an overtime defeat. The first-place team will be determined based on final point

standings.

Hernandez and other players on the U18s had the same international experience on home ice last February, during the well-received Five Nations Under-17 Tournament. That tourney ended on a high note with Canada and Team USA playing before a packed house at USA Hockey Arena.

**FIVE NATIONS FACTS**

- Tuesday, Nov. 1**  
Finland vs. Sweden 3:30 p.m.  
USA vs. Switzerland 7 p.m.
  - Wednesday, Nov. 2**  
Switzerland vs. Czech Republic 3:30 p.m.  
USA vs. Sweden 7 p.m.
  - Thursday, Nov. 3**  
Sweden vs. Switzerland 3:30 p.m.  
Finland vs. Czech Republic 7 p.m.
  - Friday, Nov. 4**  
Switzerland vs. Finland 3:30 p.m.  
Czech Republic vs. USA 7 p.m.
  - Saturday, Nov. 5**  
Czech Republic vs. Sweden 3:30 p.m.  
USA vs. Finland 7 p.m.
- Where:** USA Hockey Arena, 14900 Beck Road, Plymouth.  
**Tickets:** On sale at the USA Hockey Arena box office and at usahockeyarena.com. Tickets are can be purchased by phone at 734-453-6400. Tournament passes, which include tickets to all 10 games, start at \$30, and weekend packages start at \$20. Season ticket holders for USA Hockey's National Team Development Program will receive a special discount on tournament packages. Single-day tickets, which vary from \$5 to \$12, are also now available and include access to both games that day.

According to USA Hockey, 63 players on the radar of National Hockey League Central Scouting will be skating for the five teams. The last time the U18s won the tourney was in 2013-14.

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## Cook up a career with your passion for food

BY MATT TARPEY  
 CAREERBUILDER

Eating — we all do it. But for some people, it's more of a lifestyle than a life function. Foodies take eating to the next level, trying lots of new recipes, reviewing new restaurants and posting about what they're currently eating to social media.

Unfortunately, eating isn't in and of itself a profession. But if you are looking to turn your passion for food into a career, here are some jobs worth considering. (Job descriptions are sourced from the BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook. Growth estimates for 2017 to 2022 and average earnings are sourced from Emsi.)

### 1. Restaurant cooks

prepare a wide selection of dishes and cook most orders individually. Some restaurant cooks may order supplies, set menu prices and plan the daily menu.

- ▶ Expected growth: 9 percent
- ▶ Average hourly earnings: \$11.98

### 2. Chefs and head cooks

oversee the daily food preparation at restaurants and other places where food is served. They direct kitchen staff and



THINKSTOCK

handle any food-related concerns.

- ▶ Expected growth: 7 percent
- ▶ Average hourly earnings: \$20.98

### 3. Concierges assist patrons at hotels, apartments or office buildings with personal services. They may take messages; provide guests with local restaurant reviews and recommendations; and ar-

range or give advice on transportation, business services and entertainment.

- ▶ Expected growth: 6 percent
- ▶ Average hourly earnings: \$15.19

**4. Bakers** produce various types and quantities of breads, pastries and other baked goods sold by grocers, wholesalers, restaurants and institutional food services.

Some bakers create new recipes.

- ▶ Expected growth: 5 percent
- ▶ Average hourly earnings: \$12.61

### 5. Tour and travel guides

escort individuals and groups on sightseeing tours or through places of interest, such as public buildings and art galleries. They may also suggest local restaurants, attractions and events.

- ▶ Expected growth: 5 percent
- ▶ Average hourly earnings: \$14.32


**6. Food scientists and technologists** use chemistry, biology and other sciences to study the basic elements of food, analyze nutritional content, discover new food sources and research ways to make processed foods safe and healthy. Food technologists generally work in product development, applying research findings to develop new ways of selecting, preserving, processing, packaging and distributing food.


- ▶ Expected growth: 4 percent
- ▶ Average hourly earnings: \$33.54


**7. Waiters and waitresses**, also called servers, are responsible for ensuring that customers have a satisfying dining experience. The specific duties of servers vary with the establishment in which they work.


- ▶ Expected growth: 4 percent
- ▶ Average hourly earnings: \$11.47




*Matt Tarpey is a writer for the Advice & Resources section on CareerBuilder.com. He researches and writes about job-search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.*

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101 Gumbo, e.g.  
102 Proton's place  
106 Drillmaster's syllable  
108 Rent payer  
109 Hogs' pens  
110 Simple exercise to work the abs  
115 Coils  
117 Card that's an apt alter-nate title for this puzzle  
119 "Swing Time" co-star Fred  
120 Lifelessness  
121 Totally ripped  
122 Least sloppy  
123 Brook, e.g.  
124 Passed quickly**

**7 U2's genre  
8 Flamenco dance cry  
9 Dance from Buenos Aires  
10 Take a stab at  
11 Louise's film sidekick  
12 More weird  
13 "Sharkey" (old sitcom)  
14 Inverse trig function  
15 — cool head  
16 Online missives  
17 Mexico's — Villa  
18 Farewells, to François  
19 Close  
24 Wound result  
28 Producer for Eminem  
31 Began airing  
32 Runner-turned-baron Sebastian  
33 Erté's genre  
34 Designer von Furstenberg  
35 Bacon, e.g.  
36 Certain evergreen dropping  
38 Capital of New Hampshire  
42 Terrier type**

**44 With 94-Down, restless  
46 Mail-slot spot  
47 Evaluations of resistance to sudden impact  
49 Adjusted, as floor tiles  
50 Up in years  
51 Win — hair  
53 Oodles  
54 One-in-a-million  
55 Suit to —  
58 Mandate  
59 Climb aboard  
60 Oscar de la —  
62 Vertex  
64 Count — (cereal brand)  
65 Snarly dogs  
66 Adopt — (kennel program)  
67 Fix, as a dog  
69 Balm plant  
73 French for "nothing"  
74 Biotech material  
75 Says "I told you so!"  
76 Eyelid woe  
79 Writer Umberto  
81 Satisfy**

**82 Trim (down)  
83 Pack away  
85 Puzzle with pictures  
87 Ideas  
89 "ER" extras  
90 Samovar  
91 "The Swimmer" author John  
93 Detroit of "Guys and Dolls"  
94 See 44-Down  
95 "La Isla —" (Madonna hit)  
97 Pretends to be  
98 Patron  
99 Master cook  
103 "—Sade" (1987 film)  
104 Not from a major studio  
105 "Please, I'd like to help!"  
107 Before-surgery  
110 Potting soil  
111 Swiss river to the Rhine  
112 Made angry  
113 Ticket leftover  
114 Notice  
116 In position  
118 Vardalos of the screen**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20						21						22							
23						24						25							
26								27				28		29					
					30			31				32							
33	34	35	36		37		38		39								40		
41				42			43	44			45			46	47				
48						49				50	51			52		53	54	55	
56						57				58			59	60					
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65	66	67				68			69			70					71		
72				73				74			75			76					
77							78		79					80		81	82	83	
84								85			86			87					
			88		89	90				91				92					
93	94	95				96			97	98		99		100			101		
102			103	104						105			106			107			
108								109					110			111	112	113	114
115							116		117			118							
119									120						121				
122									123						124				

For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702/4247 or smccllellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

## SUDOKU

**Here's How It Works:**  
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

	6			8				4
2						5		1
		3		7			6	
	3			4				9
		4	5		9	3		
7					2			1
	5				1			8
8						3	9	4
		6	2					3

5	8	1	8	6	2	9	7	4
4	9	6	8	5	2	1	2	8
7	8	2	9	1	4	6	5	8
9	1	4	2	8	5	9	6	7
2	7	8	6	9	5	4	8	1
6	5	8	7	4	1	2	8	9
8	2	9	4	7	6	8	1	5
1	6	7	5	8	9	8	4	2
8	4	5	1	2	7	7	9	6

## SPOOKTACULAR WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

**Crossword Answers**

**Word Search**

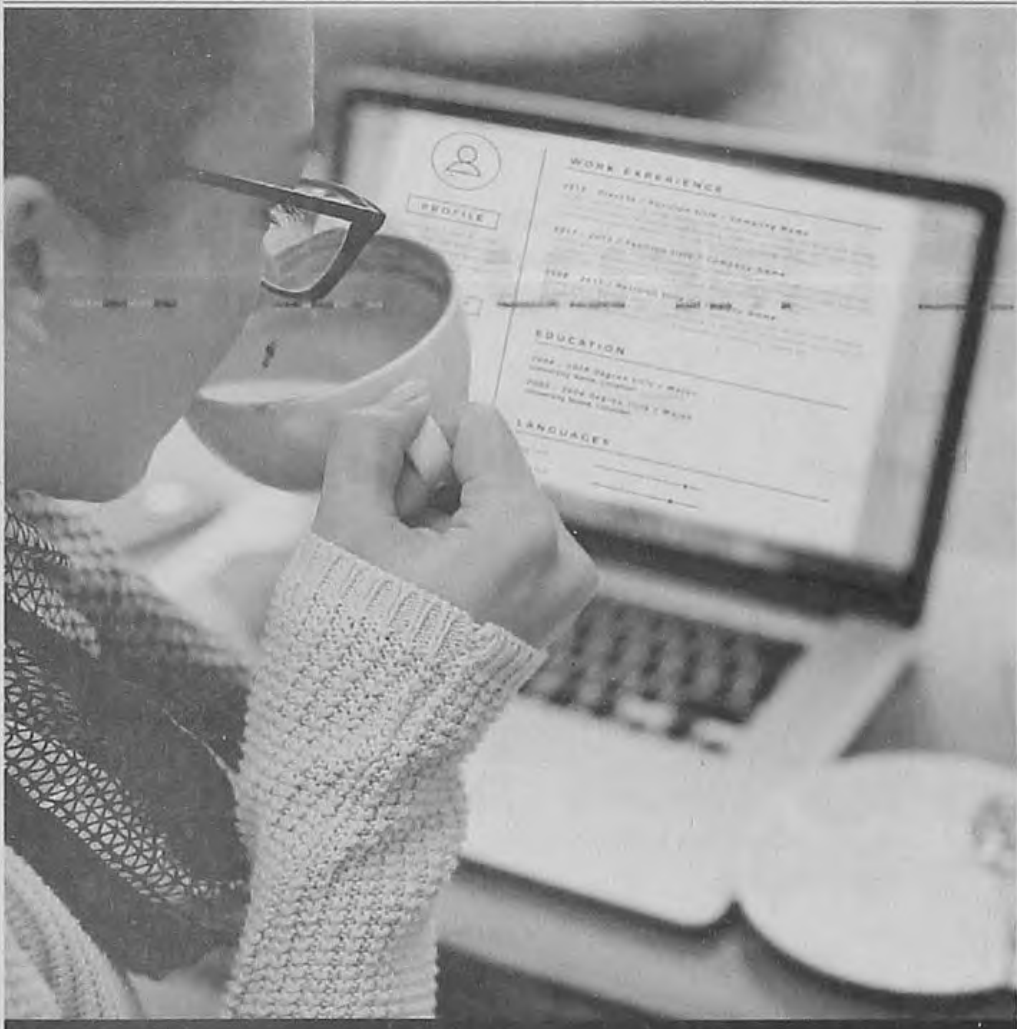
**WORDS**  
AFRAID  
AFTERLIFE  
ALARMING  
APPARTITION  
AUTUMN  
BEAST  
BIZARRE  
BLACK  
BOO  
BROOMSTICK  
CACKLE  
CANDY  
CARVING  
CASKET  
CATS  
CAULDRON  
COBWEBS  
DARKNESS  
DISGUISE  
EERIE  
FANTASY  
HALLOWEEN  
HAYRIDE  
HOWL  
LANTERN  
MACABRE  
MAKEUP  
MIDNIGHT  
MOONLIGHT  
MYSTERIOUS  
NIGHTMARE  
PUMPKIN  
SHOCK  
SPECTER  
UNEARTHLY  
WIZARDRY

### CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

**Crossword Answers**

MORTAL	ROTATE	CAKEPAN
IDIOTIC	SOLARIS	BREMADE
FITNESS	SOLARIS	OCEANIA
ANTILOOK	GELID	SPTICER
ASA	COMMERCIAL	HUB
DEPP	ORCA	PARDON
OXYS		
EGOISM	OMIT	REEDS
CORN	KERNEL	ABE
OHARA		
ONKEY	ECOLOGY	SHOOTAT
NEALON	REACTOR	CORE
CASE	CAR	ADD
HEY	KNEE	
UPPER	MIDDLE	OGRAST
READIED	NOBIL	OGTEMPS
STYLE	RAB	COUNTYSEAT
ENDUE	COAL	HETERO
NAB	ORBACH	TAGO
STEW		
ATOMIC	NUCLEUS	HUP
TENANT	STIES	LEGRAISE
HAIRDOS	SEVEN	OFHEARTS
ASTAIRE	ANEMIA	TOREUP
NEATEST	STREAM	SPEDBY

**Word Search**



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# Car Report

## TOYOTA MAKES MAJOR BET ON FLYOVER COUNTRY WITH NEW TEXAS HEADQUARTERS, ANN ARBOR TECH SITE



By Dale Buss

Toyota already has deeply committed to Michigan, putting one of its three major technology-research centers in Ann Arbor, for example. Most of its North American vehicles are engineered here.

But even as it's going smoothly, Toyota's move of its North American headquarters to Texas from California is taking on even more importance for the U.S. auto industry: It's one of the few places where a company's balance of investment is shifting toward Flyover Country and away from the West Coast.

In fact, Toyota Motor North American CEO Jim Lentz was so eager to support the company's move to Plano, Texas, from Torrance, Calif., that he and his wife were among the first people with the company to move physically from Southern California to the Lone Star State.

Toyota stunned the auto industry and big swaths of America a couple of years ago when the Japanese automaker announced that it was going to pick up all of its sales, marketing and administrative operations in Southern California — along with about 4,000 jobs — and move them lock, stock and barrel to ... Texas?

But now after moving more than 1,200 tons of Texas limestone into place in the new digs still under construction in Plano, as well as 12 acres of glass and 17,000 tons of reinforcing steel, "there's no place like home" in the Lone Star State, Toyota has announced.

"Our new state-of-the-art North American headquarters is designed to stimulate ever better ways to serve our team members, customers, and community," Lentz said in a press release. "As we get closer to completion, we look to recruit people who want to challenge what's possible at Toyota and within the auto industry."

A big focus for the new North American headquarters, as Toyota hires more than 1,000 new people, is to "address mobility challenges" as the industry shifts more heavily toward self-driven automobiles, and ride-sharing and other services, as well as electrified vehicles, he said.

Lentz told me that internally, Toyota's various cultures — most notably, the sales side and the engineering side — are integrating "quickly" in the new state even as the new headquarters campus is still taking shape.

"The strange things you heard about one culture versus the other really don't exist," he said. "And while they still talk about 'the Toyota effect' here in Plano, to me there's been a Plano effect on us. We looked at almost 100 different locations to

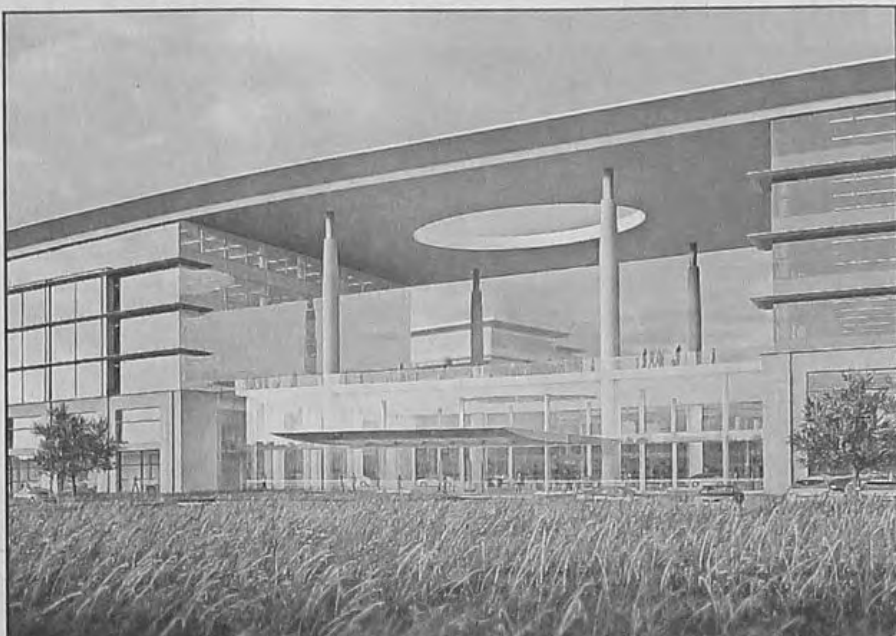
relocate to, and there is no better one in the country than the North Texas-Plano area. There's a great campus, and great opportunities for our team members and their families to live in all sorts of different types of places."

Speaking of that, Californians made quite a bit out of the fact that Toyota was moving to Texas, of all places. Their anti-business environment already had led to the bleeding of hundreds of companies from the Golden State, many of them relocating to Texas, and Toyota's affront became the biggest of them all.

Lentz noted that "Texas didn't poach us, which is what most people believe. But there's still this friendly, sometimes not-so-friendly, competition going on between California and Texas."

One thing that has changed in the last two years: Oil prices have slid dramatically, and that is starting to nick the Texas economy. But Lentz said that factor hasn't helped Toyota much in Dallas, where demand and competition for white-collar workers of all stripes continues to be torrid.

In any event, Toyota's continued buildup in Flyover Country is running counter to what is occurring as the self-driving phenomenon builds:



Toyota North American Headquarters (Plano, TX)

Just about every automaker now is investing more in non-manufacturing operations in Silicon Valley than in the traditional home of the U.S. industry, in the Midwest, Mid-South and Southeast.

Toyota Research Institute has three offices: one at Stanford University, one at MIT — and one in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The mobility thrust also is shaking up traditional notions of what an auto show is. The International Consumer Electronics Show just announced that Nissan CEO Carlos Ghosn, for example, will be delivering a keynote at its show in January in Las Vegas, and CES has grown as a forum for auto companies announcing tech

advances. Meanwhile, however, both the North American International Auto Show in Detroit and the Los Angeles auto show have launched mobility exhibits to coincide with their traditional auto exhibits.

How does Toyota handle this plethora of marketing opportunities? "To have something new and newsworthy at every major auto show in the world, and at CES and at the [Specialty Equipment Manufacturers Association] show, no longer works out," Lentz said. "You have to pick and choose. And as this industry shifts more toward mobility, the bets may be off on where things take place."

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