



BUSINESS, A4  
DOG GROOMER  
CALLING IT A  
CAREER AFTER  
47 YEARS

Help clean  
Thayer's  
Nature Area

Wear your work clothes and bring gloves to help clean up Thayer's Corner Nature Area, 8250 Napier Road, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. April 29. Semi-annual park cleanup. Volunteers would be appreciated. Call 248-348-5102 with questions. It's the only volunteer-run park in the community.

Used  
clothing  
drive

The Northville Kiwanis Club and Northville Township will host a used clothing drive Saturday, May 6, at Northville Township Hall, at Sheldon and Six Mile roads, to help area charities. Northville Civic Concern serves the Northville Community with clothing, food, household goods to low-income residents. Vista Maria provides shelter to girls and women rescued from human trafficking. They need age-appropriate clothing for girls and women ages 12-plus. Clothing appropriate for teen girls is appreciated.

Northvilles add technology  
to connect with residents

Matt Jachman  
hometownlife.com

High-tech communication was a key theme April 19 at the Northville Chamber of Commerce's State of the Community luncheon. Northville Township Supervisor Robert Nix introduced a township smart phone app; Northville Mayor Ken Roth announced a city Twitter account and Facebook page; and the Northville Public Schools got in on the act by seeking immediate input from lunch-goers via phones and tablets.

"We really wanted to engage our citizens," Nix said in announcing the free township app, which is available for iPhones or Android-based systems. "Is this 21st century or what?"

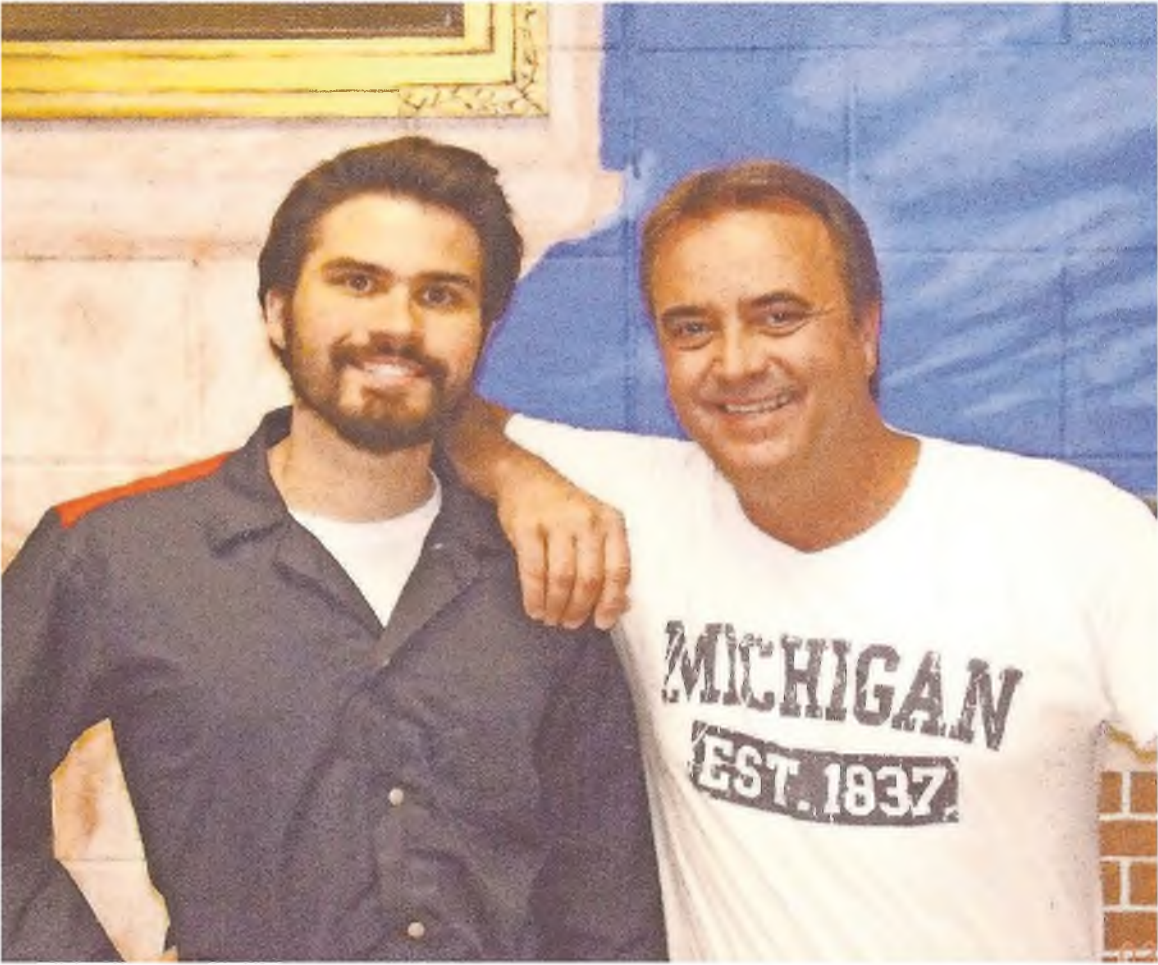
The Northville Township app gives users quick access to township departments, public safety and traffic notices, a business directory, a means of reporting problems like power failures and potholes and more.

"There's a lot to this app and a lot of work went into what's behind it," Nix said.

See TECHNOLOGY, Page A2



MATT JACHMAN  
Student presenters Dylan Curtis (left) and Tiffany Greven joined Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher in talking about the Northville Public Schools during the State of the Community luncheon. Part of their presentation was a video about the district, shown here projected behind them.



Pete Letkemann of Westland (right) visits his son Alex.

Inmate's dad advocates  
for successful outcomes

Brad Kadrach  
hometownlife.com

When Alex Letkemann was sentenced to 30 years in prison in 2008 for his role in the death of a Westland man, his father Pete could have done what many family members do in that situation.

He could have melted into the background, gotten lost and struggled with a system that, while trying to improve, still presents a degree of challenge as families try to navigate it.

Instead of giving into the system and watching other families give up, as well, Letkemann, a Westland resident, decided to do something productive.

He's part of a group of people in several organizations trying to change the system, making it easier for families to navigate the morass of red tape and other problems they face in dealing with issues such as visitation.

"People don't like to talk about it," said Letkemann, an engineering manager at Franklin Fastener in Redford. "When a loved one gets in trouble, they tend to close in on themselves. As I learned the system, people would come to me with questions. As I learned, I helped other people out."

It's a system he's been trying to help improve since Alex pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the highly publicized killing in a Canton garage of 26-year-old Daniel Sorensen of Westland. Alex took the plea in exchange for testimony that helped convict Jean Pierre Orlewicz of first-degree murder. Orlewicz, a 17-year-old



A lot of Pete Letkemann's time is spent working with legislators on potential improvements to the state's prison system.

INSIDE

Groups making prison system easier on families, A12

Plymouth Township resident at the time of the murder, is serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole.

The publicity that trial received — Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy dubbed it a "thrill kill" — eventually helped bring attention to the system, Pete Letkemann said.

"When everything happened with Alex, it sort of blew up ... everyone heard about it," Letkemann said. "It helped us put a human face on it."

See INMATE, Page A3

Protesters  
target Crawford  
on tax cut vote

Matt Jachman  
hometownlife.com

Protesters took to the streets April 18 in communities around the state, including Novi and Birmingham, to blast Michigan House of Representatives Republicans who voted against a state income tax rollback plan in February. On the other side, protestors gathered in downtown Farmington for a "I Paid My Fair Share" rally April 15.

The Tax Day protest outside the U.S. Postal Service station on Novi Road, organized by the Michigan Conservative Coalition, drew about 20 people who carried signs and waved to passing motorists, some of whom signaled apparent support by sounding car or truck horns.

Novi was among the towns picked for a protest because its state House member, Kathy Crawford, was one of 12 Republicans who joined most Democrats in voting against a plan to cut the state's income tax rate from 4.25 percent to 3.9 percent over four years. The plan would have cost the state an estimated \$1.1 billion in tax revenue by its fourth year.

"I think it's very important to tell people about the people who didn't vote for the tax cut," said Marge Mancuso of Commerce Township, who was waving a sign Tuesday.

"They run as Republicans, they claim to be conservative and they don't lower our taxes," said MCC president Roseanne Ponkowski of West Bloomfield, who was handing out fliers critical of the 12, whom the MCC has dubbed "The Dirty Dozen."

Neither Mancuso nor Ponkowski live in Crawford's 38th District, which includes Novi, South Lyon, Lyon Township, Walled Lake and part of Northville.

Reached Tuesday, Crawford, a second-term House member and former Oakland County commissioner, endorsed the group's right to protest, but said she stands by her vote.

"You can't blow that big of a hole in the general fund without it hurting something," she said.

Crawford said the legislation had no chance of passing the Michigan Senate or being signed by Gov. Rick Snyder.

"They weren't going to get it anyway. This was all smoke and mirrors," she said. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Lee Chatfield, R-Levering.

Crawford said there was no plan to make up for the lost revenue or specify what in the general fund budget would be

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Volume 147 Number 39



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## Township has an app for that

**Matt Jachman**  
hometownlife.com

Government in the palm of your hand. That's how officials describe Northville Township's new smart phone app, which gives users quick access to local information and a means of contacting township departments and officials.

Want to report an ordinance violation or pot-hole, find out about road closings, receive public safety alerts or learn how to apply for a building permit? Yeah, there's an app for that.

The app also features a township business directory and will soon offer access to social media sites like Facebook and Twitter.

The free app, available for both iPhones and Android-based smart phones, was announced by Supervisor Bob Nix

during last week's State of the Community luncheon at the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College.

"We think this is really going to be dynamite," Nix told the crowd of more than 180 people. "We're moving into the 21st century."

The app was developed over about two months under the direction of a township communications committee; officials said much of the work was done by Shaun Nicoloff, the township's director of information technology. A grant paid for most of the project, Nix said.

For questions on installing the app, send an email to App-Support@twp.northville.mi.us.

*mjachman@hometownlife.com*

## BJ's Restaurant gets first approval in Livonia

**David Veselenak**  
hometownlife.com

The proposed new restaurant wanting to move onto the former Champps property on Haggerty Road in Livonia cleared its first major hurdle this past week.

The Livonia Planning Commission voted unanimously at its meeting April 18 for recommending approval of a waiver petition for a new BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, proposed to be built at the site of the former sports bar located at 19470 Haggerty.

The California-based restaurant wants to demolish the existing building where Champps operated until last summer, when it suddenly closed, and build a new restaurant that's a little smaller than the current one on the property.

"It's about a third smaller than the existing Champps building," said Mark Taormina, the city's planning director.

The restaurant would have close to 300 seats available, which includes the patio. Joan Legay, director of property development for the restaurant group, said the new building is a prototype first seen at a recently-built restaurant in Ohio. The Livonia location would be the second to have the new style and the first in Michigan.

"It just offers great elevations," she said. "The windows are taller, there is more natural light pouring in, there's a really good-looking corner patio element and it has an indoor/outdoor feel to it."

"It's really a beautiful restaurant and am really proud to bring it to Livonia."

The company turned in its paperwork last month to begin the waiver petition process to the city.

The recommendation from the planning commission came with no discussion from the five members at Tuesday's meeting. It will now go to the city council for its review and determination.

Champps was first approved for the site in 1997, Taormina said. The restaurant closed several

of its restaurants abruptly last summer as its parent company dealt with bankruptcy. The Champps in West Bloomfield has continued to operate.

BJ's does operate some restaurants that brew on-site, though the Livonia location will not be one of them. Legay said many of them will be the company's own brews, but plans to highlight Michigan craft beer on several taps as well.

"We will have many taps, but 12 of them will be BJ's own beers," she said. "And we'll also showcase local brewers as well."

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## TAX

Continued from Page A1

cut.

"I would always look at (tax) reduction because I've been a lifelong conservative, but you can't just run willy-nilly," she said. Many of her constituents, Crawford said, told her the state should not cut taxes, but instead put the money toward road improvements.

Mancuso and Ponkowski weren't buying Crawford's reasoning.

"They could come up with the money by wise spending and keeping their word," Mancuso said. Chatfield's plan had been billed as a way of ending a supposedly temporary 2007 tax increase.

"Did we not have a huge tax increase on our gas to fix the roads?" Ponkowski said, refer-



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marlene Palicz (left) and Marge Mancuso protest April 18 at the Novi Post Office against 12 Michigan Republicans who voted against a small tax cut. One legislator being protested against was Novi's Kathy Crawford.

ring the 7.3-cents-per-gallon hike, from 19 cents to 26.3 cents, that took effect in January.

Bill Lethemon Jr. of Waterford, which also is not in Crawford's district, said Crawford's job includes finding alterna-

cent beginning next January and then by 0.1 percent every year for 39 years until it was eliminated.

Several protesters also showed support for President Donald Trump; the MCC provided grassroots support for Trump during his campaign last year and staged a number of pro-Trump "flash mobs" before and since the election.

"I think we truly have somebody in the White House who cares about us," said Tom Banks of Ypsilanti, who said he stopped by after hearing about the rally on the radio.

The rally also drew Robert Cortis's Trump Unity Bridge, a trailer decorated with U.S. flags and pro-Trump slogans that has shown up at many Trump events.

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## TECHNOLOGY

Continued from Page A1

Roth said city officials are employing many communication tools in order to reach people in the way that suits them

best.

"In today's world, it simply isn't realistic to ask people to communicate the way you want them to," he said.

Nix and Roth were followed by NPS Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher and two student presenters, who introduced a video on the district, talked about the need for flexible learning spaces and asked those in attendance to take an online survey about their ideas for district facilities.

The luncheon, which the chamber has sponsored annually for more than 20 years, drew nearly 200 people to the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College.

In announcing the Twitter account (@NorthvilleCity), Roth joked that his access is limited. "They take the keys away from me after 11 o'clock at night," he said.

Roth said the city's weekly electronic newsletter has been extensively revamped and that officials are planning a website update. Website users can take an online survey to let officials know what they'd like to see in a redesigned site.

The city also has begun posting video record-



MATT JACHMAN

Northville Township Supervisor Robert Nix announced the township's new smart phone app.



MATT JACHMAN

With some audiovisual help, Northville Mayor Ken Roth announced the city's new Twitter account, among other communications endeavors.

ings of city council meetings on the website. "It's a great resource for people who want to be engaged in city government," Roth said.

Tiffany Greven, a fifth-grader at Moraine Elementary School, made a pitch for flexible school spaces as she helped Gallagher present a snapshot of the school district.

Dylan Curtis, a Northville High School senior, was the other student presenter.

"I like that we can move around the classroom more freely to work together and collaborate," said Tiffany, whose class is using a nontraditional classroom space as

part of a pilot program.

District officials are considering a bond proposal that, in part, would pay for upgrading school buildings and revamping learning spaces in a way that they say fosters collaborative learning.

Gallagher said the school district is part of the fabric of the community and "a beacon for families and businesses alike," and continues to measure up academically to other districts with a lower per-student funding level than many of them.

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Al Bologna will hang up the clippers this month after 48 years in the dog grooming business. At left, Karen Miles washes a dog. At right is shop manager Patty Wenner.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Groomer to turn in clippers after 48 years

Sharon Dargay  
hometownlife.com

Al Bologna's clients have come in all shapes, sizes, personality and temperament over the past 48 years.

Happy customers practically "push in the door" of his Garden City salon, eager for their shampoo and cut. The nervous ones cautiously walk in "shaking like crazy," but settle down as the pampering begins. And the aggressive complainers not only bark, but sometimes bite.

"It comes with the job. We've all been in that situation. Luckily it's nothing serious," said Bologna, who has worked at Mister B's Pet Salon for 48 years, 37 as its owner.

Most of his furry customers are happy-go-lucky, playful and often smiling.

"There have been so many really nice dogs," he said. "Then, when they passed, you feel like you lost your own. You feel just as bad because we've worked on those dogs all those years. It's been one heck of a business."

### Retirement looms

Bologna will hang up his clippers for good Saturday, April 29, passing the torch to his employee, Michelle Becker, who will take over the dog-grooming business. Although he's retiring, Bologna said he'll be at the salon "in spirit" every day and won't forget his furry customers and their owners.

"It has been a pleasure working in this community so many years," he said. "I've gotten to know so many people. I'm going to miss everybody. It has been great."

Bologna began working at Mister B's as a "go-fer" fetching coffee and running errands, during the summer of his junior year at Bentley High School in Livonia. His uncle Pete Bologna opened the business in 1969 after attending dog grooming school.

"That summer, the building was being finished and we got it set up," Bologna said. "All of my family had dogs. He taught me with my dog and the family's dog. He taught me the fundamentals of grooming and one thing led to another."

### You're opening what?

His uncle set up shop in an era when dog owners took their pets to breeders or kennels for grooming. Dog salons were just starting to gain a following. They flourished as owners began to regard their pets as family members.

"It was such a different type of business at the time. He got a lot of ridicule when he put up the building," Bologna said. "You never went to a salon, to a business. You went to where you bought the dog."

Bologna continued to work at his uncle's salon through high school and while studying music and then business at Schoolcraft College. He was 28 when his uncle, who was



Al Bologna grooms Sasha.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

eager to retire in northern Michigan, offered him the business.

"By then, I had a good 10 years under my belt," he said. "I'm thinking, 'Yeah, I've enjoyed all of it, the customers and the grooming.'"

### Like a family

He took over ownership in 1980 and bought the building in 1992. Three of his employees have been with him since the 1970s. A couple of them joined his staff in the 1980s. They form a "family" of staff members that work well together and enjoy what they do.

"These dogs go out looking great," he said. "We're very lucky that a lot of people recommend us. I can send fliers and coupons out, but a person walking down the street with a dog that just got groomed is the best advertisement I can get."

Bologna said Becker will maintain Mister B's high standards and has told customers they won't notice a difference when she takes the reins May 1.

Meanwhile he looks forward to spending time with family and friends. He moved into his childhood home four years ago to care for his father, who recently was moved to a facility for physical rehab. He'll have more time to see his father, his son and two grandchildren.

Mister B's is located at 27852 Ford Road. Go to [misterbspetsalon.com](http://misterbspetsalon.com).

## George's Senate celebrates 80 years

When walking into George's Senate Restaurant on Haggerty Road, a customer is likely guaranteed three things: fresh food, quickly served dishes and a smile from owner George Dimopoulos.

Dimopoulos is still at work every day, often before 4 a.m., to ensure potatoes, dressings, soups and rice pudding are freshly prepared. The work ethic that helped him and his family build a chain of successful family restaurants continues to drive him at an age when most of his peers are retired.

"The people keep me happy," he said. "They keep me going. I love talking to them every day."

His uncle, George Hinaris, started the family business in 1937 by opening a Detroit restaurant on Michigan Avenue called Senate Coney Island, named for its close proximity to the Senate Theater.

In 1969, Dimopoulos immigrated to Detroit from his native Greece and worked in the original Senate Coney Island. He said he quickly learned the importance of working long hours, preparing fresh ingredients and providing a comfortable dining atmosphere.

Senate Coney Island added a second location on Ecorse Road in Taylor in 1972. Dimopolous brought the chain to Plymouth Road in Livonia in 1985, which is primarily run today by his sons, Niko and Steven.

After the original Detroit restaurant caught fire in 1990 and did not re-open, the family opened a Dearborn location on Greenfield Road in 1994. Then Dimopoulos opened the Haggerty Road location on the Northville-Livonia border in 2005.

While he spends most of his time at the Haggerty Road location, Dimopoulos and his wife Kathy keep a close eye on the other restaurants.

"She goes in all the time to taste the soups all day, to make sure everything is OK and tasting right," he said.

The effort results in a loyal base of customers, such as Lita Hoyer, who started visiting the Taylor location in the 1970s and recently dined at the Haggerty location.

"We love the food, but we love George more," said Hoyer, a West Bloomfield resident. "We have family who live in Chicago and, every time they come to visit, they want to eat at Senate."

The Senate restaurants have been frequented by famed sports figures Gordie Howe, Ernie Harwell, Tomas Holmstrom and Scotty Bowman. Pictures of Dimopoulos with each are

See **GEORGE'S**, Page A6



Senate Coney Island's George Dimopoulos (right) chats with long-time customers (from left) Lita Hoyer, Laurie Mercier and Mark Hoyer.

## ON THE BUSINESS CALENDAR

### Canton Chamber auction

Tickets are still available to attend the annual auction at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 29, at Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia. Tickets are \$75 person. To purchase, go to [cantonchamber.com](http://cantonchamber.com). The theme is country western. The evening includes a strolling, open bar, raffles, live and silent auctions and entertainment.

### JVS hosts job fair

The Jewish Vocational Service will host more than 40 potential employers at the JVS Job Connection from 9 a.m. to noon May 10 at the Southfield Pavilion, 26000 Evergreen Road.

The event is open to the general public and veterans at no charge and will have more than 40 employers, including

FedEx, DTE Energy, city of Southfield, Robert Half and more.

On-site job seeker registration begins at 8 a.m. (pre-registration not required). JVS and Michigan Works! career experts will offer brief one-on-one sessions to provide advice on job search skills and strategies. In addition, new this year, photographers will be on-site to take job seeker head shots for LinkedIn at no charge.

Go to [www.jvsdet.org/jobconnection](http://www.jvsdet.org/jobconnection) for more information.

### Seeking a new Spokester

Michigan First Credit Union has launched its statewide search for its next Young & Free Michigan Spokester, a minimum of a year-long paid role designated to one creative and energetic young adult who will serve as the spokesperson

for the credit union's education-focused program aimed at 17- to 25-year-olds.

The winner will become the sixth Young & Free Michigan Spokester, Michigan First President/CEO Michael Poulos said.

As the financial ambassador of the state's millennial generation, the winner will receive a \$30,000 salary with the potential for a \$5,000 bonus and an extension as the Spokester based upon performance. Throughout the duration of his/her term, the winner will also be provided with an Apple MacBook Pro, an HD video camera and a smart phone, as well as have access to the Young & Free Michigan car for the year with paid gas and insurance. The selected Spokester will be responsible for creatively promoting smart financial decisions

among his/her peers through the management of Young & Free social media channels, daily blog posts, weekly videos and participation in community events.

"At Michigan First, we are keenly aware of how important it is for millennials to not only be knowledgeable about their finances, but also be able to manage them," Poulos said. In an increasingly digital world, the Spokester position provides valuable hands-on experiences and support from a team of industry professionals, as well as a variety of networking opportunities, serving as a great resume builder and platform to create lasting relationships throughout Michigan. Interested applicants can go to [YoungFreeMichigan.com](http://YoungFreeMichigan.com) to learn more and view previous Spokesters' efforts that have paved

the way for successful, long-term careers.

To apply, individuals must be ages 18-25, willing and able to work full time and reside in Michigan from June 2017 to May 2018. Applicants should bring their creativity, personality and passion for helping young adults and the community at-large to a three-minute video showcasing why he/she is the ideal spokesperson.

A public vote May 16-23 will help determine four of the finalists, while the Michigan First team will select another three finalists. Announced May 25, all finalists must be able to attend the "Getting to Know Each Other" event June 7 at Michigan First, where each individual will participate in an on-site interview with a series of activities that the next Spokester will

be responsible for carrying out during his/her term. The winner will be announced to the public in mid-June.

### Advanced Manufacturing Expo

More than 110 companies are expected to participate in the first Advanced Manufacturing Expo-East to showcase technology solutions to improve productivity and profitability. The show is open to the public and free. The AME-East expo is set for 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 22 at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., in Novi. The show will feature booths spread throughout 30,000 square feet of space for companies involved in additive manufacturing, machine vision, automation, quality control gauging, metalworking and other technologies.



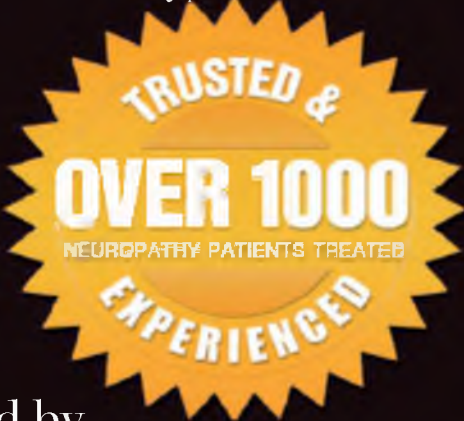
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## ON THE MOVE

### Named

University of Detroit Mercy named Gary J. Erwin of Plymouth Township as associate vice president for marketing and public affairs, effective April 17.



Erwin

In his new position, Erwin will oversee the university's Marketing & Public Affairs Department and promote the mission of the university to its internal and external audiences. He will be responsible for overseeing communication through publicity, publications, online systems and other marketing efforts that uphold the image, integrity and mission of Detroit Mercy.

Formerly executive director of marketing and communications with Henry Ford College in Dearborn, Erwin oversaw the institution's strategic, cross-discipline/interactive organization for the past seven years in all aspects of marketing and communications. Under his leadership, he coordinated the institution's marketing and re-branding efforts, including the new marketing brand and media buys for radio, television, print, digital, billboards and outside digital displays. Under his marketing efforts and leadership, Henry Ford saw increased enrollment and community participation in many college-wide activities and events.

A native of Northville, the Plymouth resident earned a master of fine arts in English from Western Michigan University and a B.S. in English from Grand Valley State University.

### County board promotes

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners announced April 5 the

promotion of Kate Layton to the position of senior community liaison. She will be responsible for managing the media relations, communications and community outreach efforts of the Board of Commissioners and its 21 members.

Layton joined the Board of Commissioners in March 2015 as community liaison and quickly began taking on new and increasing responsibilities. She previously worked as chief of staff for an Illinois state representative, where she was responsible for managing the district office, including staff, budget, communications, events and constituent services. Layton received a B.A. in communications and an M.A. in corporate and multicultural communications from DePaul University in Chicago, Ill.

### Joins as senior counsel

Kostopoulos Rodriquez, PLLC of Birmingham has announced that Ryan C. Plecha has joined the firm as Senior Counsel in KORO's litigation practice group. His practice focuses on complex civil and commercial litigation. Based on KORO's boutique nature, most cases he works on are complex and novel.

"We are thrilled to have Ryan join the KORO team. Ryan has excellent credentials, has received many accolades and has earned many client successes. Most importantly, KORO is excited that Ryan's unique understanding of people, business and the law will be an asset to KORO and our clients," said K. Dino Kostopoulos, founding and managing partner of KORO.

### Work starts on new credit union

Michigan Schools & Government Credit Union welcomed several Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce, city council and state of Michigan officials to its meet-and-greet and groundbreaking ceremony April 13. MSGCU is adding a 14th branch to its growing network, at 29657 Orchard Lake Road (north of 13 Mile Road). This will be MSGCU's fourth branch in Oakland County and its first in Farmington Hills.

MSGCU was warmly welcomed to the neighborhood by Farmington Hills dignitaries who committed their support and partnership to the MSGCU family.

"On behalf of the state of Michigan, we would like to welcome MSGCU here to Farmington Hills. We know that credit unions and other small businesses are the heart of our economy here in Michigan. We are thrilled to have such a community focused organization in the greater Farmington area community," said state Rep. Christine Greig, D-Farmington Hills.

"We are going to be building a facility but, more importantly, are the relationships we are trying to develop in the community. We take pride in what we do in the community and are excit-

ed to be here, in Farmington Hills," MSGCU President and CEO Peter Gates said.

The Farmington Hills branch offers an excellent location with high visibility and will provide added convenience for new and existing members within the area.

Construction of the new office will begin this spring. An official grand opening will be announced at a later date.

### Aqua Tots opens

Aqua-Tots Swim Schools, a national leader in swim instruction since 1991, is making a splash in Farmington Hills with the opening May 1 of a new indoor facility. The newest Aqua-Tots Swim School, the fifth in Michigan, will be at 14 Mile and Orchard Lake roads, next to Orange Theory Fitness and Office Max.

With pool temperatures at a comfortable 90 degrees and family friendly changing rooms, Aqua-Tots offers lessons to children ages 4 months and older, including adult lessons. Both group and private classes are available year round with morning, afternoon and evening times during the week and weekends with ample seating and complimentary Wi-Fi. Other features of the program include open swim times, monthly events, birthday parties and free open swims for infants ages 0-6 months. Given the

large number of lakes and pools in Michigan, Aqua-Tots also places equal emphasis on teaching water safety and drowning prevention.

### Bruegger's in Bloomfield Hills

Bruegger's Bagels, known for its authentic New York-style bagels and signature egg sandwiches, celebrated the grand re-opening of its Bloomfield Hills location April 24.

The new bakery boasts a fresh look with updated decor, menu boards, lighting, seating and new menu additions, including new seasonal breakfast and lunch sandwiches. It also has a new lineup of Rainforest Alliance-certified daily coffee brews and espresso beverages, seasonal single-origin pour-over coffees and organic 20-hour cold brew coffee, New York-style coffecake, cheesecake brownies, peanut butter bars, Lemon Poppy and Blueberry Greek Yogurt muffins.

"The popular Bloomfield Hills location is the fifth bakery in the Detroit area to undergo renovations designed to enhance the guest experience, with all bakeries in the market scheduled to have remodels completed by the end of May 2017," Chief Marketing Officer Judy Kadylak said.

To join the Bloomfield Hills Bruegger's Bagels e-club and redeem the

offer, go to [www.brueggers.com/bloomfield-hills/](http://www.brueggers.com/bloomfield-hills/).

### New grocery service

There's a convenient new way residents can get groceries delivered right to their door in as little as an hour through their favorite local stores, free for an entire year.

Starting April 27, Instacart will launch delivery service for its Instacart Express membership program through popular local stores, including Costco (no membership needed!), Kroger, Whole Foods Market, Plum Market, Petco and Meijer. Instacart Express offers unlimited same day, one-hour deliveries with a free trial for an entire year. Price following the first year is \$99 a year or \$14.99 a month.

The delivery area will cover more than 1.6 million households and will also provide more than 200-plus new jobs. Areas of service include Dearborn, Warren, Allen Park, Taylor, Woodhaven, Flat Rock, Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, Westland, Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, Northville, Grosse Pointe, St. Clair, Royal Oak, Macomb, Rochester Hills, Troy, Farmington Hills, South Lyon, Pinckney, Brighton and more. For more information, go to [www.instacart.com/express](http://www.instacart.com/express).

## GEORGE'S

Continued from Page A4

displayed on the walls of the Haggerty Road location.

The careful attention to fresh dishes and customer service helped grow the business, but the Dimopoulos family has made extraordinary efforts to give back to the community. They made many donations to churches, schools, non-

profit organizations and needy families for decades.

His effort to provide free meals to hundreds of people who are alone each Thanksgiving garnered national media attention in recent years. Dimopoulos said his personal experience moves him to provide these meals.

"When I was young in Greece, I lived alone," he said. "So when somebody talked to me or did something for me, it meant a

lot to me, so I wanted to give back to others."

The Livonia Chamber of Commerce recognized the Plymouth Road location as its outstanding small business of the year in 2010. The chamber and city officials plan a special ceremony in May to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Senate Coney Island.

"George is a legend in this town," chamber president Dan West said. "He is a model we can all admire for how to run a

successful business with good relationships, loyalty to customers and dedication to the community."

To recognize the 80th anniversary of the Senate restaurants, each location will offer coney dogs for \$1 throughout the month of May. "This is a way," Dimopoulos said, "to show how much we appreciate the support we've received from all the communities and people throughout the years."

# DuMouchelles

## MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> - 7<sup>TH</sup> ESTATE AUCTION

### FEATURING THE GEORGE & PENNY SIMON COLLECTION

PROF. PETRO LAZZERINI  
CARRARA MARBLE  
SCULPTURE  
H 39"

GUY WIGGINS  
OIL ON ARTIST BOARD  
16" x 12"

ROBERT B. HOPKIN  
OIL ON CANVAS, C.1872  
51" x 65"

EASTMAN JOHNSON  
OIL ON CANVAS  
10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" x 6"

E. BERTONI  
CARRARA MARBLE  
SCULPTURE, H 71"

JEAN GAUTHERIN  
BRONZE, 1877  
"CLOTILDE DE  
SURVILLE"  
H 31"

BACCARAT CRYSTAL  
18-LIGHT CHANDELIER

A. GENNAI MARBLE  
BUST, C.1900  
H 15"

SEVRES PORCELAIN URNS  
19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY  
PAIR, H 27"

A. TIOT, BRONZE RECLINING GARDEN LIONS, PAIR, H 31", L 67"

HARRIET FRISHMUTH  
BRONZE FOUNTAIN,  
1920  
"JOY OF THE  
WATERS"  
H 43"

MARSHALL  
FREDERICKS  
BRONZE  
LORD BYRON  
H 32"

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CARRARA MARBLE  
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TOTAL H 61"

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# Swift penalties a must to end culture of corruption

School employees and people who work for our local, state and federal governments are paid to serve the public and they have a duty to maintain the public's trust. Unfortunately, too many people break that trust and receive insignificant punishments.

The most notable recent example of this in Michigan comes from the 12 principals from Detroit Public Schools charged last year with crimes for accepting bribes. Collectively, they helped cheat the struggling Detroit district out of \$2.7 million in supplies that the schools never received. Most of the principals involved in the scheme took plea deals and received jail sentences ranging from six



months to three years.

The federal government has been dealing with similar issues, including employees with the Department of Veterans Affairs. In 2014, VA employees were found to be systematically cooking the books to hide the long wait times many veterans were experiencing when they requested a medical appointment. According to the Washington Examiner, just a handful of these employees were fired and many were allowed to retire with full benefits.

Corruption has

plagued schools and communities across our state and our country for far too long and apathy to white-collar crime by those in prominent positions of responsibility has added to the distrust people have for the government. More needs to be done to increase penalties and end this ongoing culture of corruption.

Under current law, the courts may order the forfeiture of a public pension when a public employee is convicted of a felony resulting from the misuse of public funds or from the receipt of a bribe as a public employee. In the case of the DPS principals, Attorney General Bill Schuette has filed a suit seeking forfeiture of the portion of the pension paid by the Detroit Pub-

lic Schools and the state during the time of their crimes. This is something that should be done each and every time a public employee is convicted of such a felony, but the AG's office has found very few instances where public retirement benefits have been forfeited.

I have been working on a bill that replaces the word "may" in the current law with "shall," making pension forfeiture for public employees who steal from the public mandatory, not just subject to court discretion. Furthermore, the bill adds language to allow for forfeiture of the employer contribution to a defined-contribution plan, or a 401(k)-style plan, which the current law does not

address. Mandatory forfeiture of both pensions and employer contributions to defined-contribution plans will save trial expense in seeking this penalty and set a firm disincentive to breaching the public trust.

The House of Representatives unanimously approved my legislation, House Bill 4131, last week, and I urge the Senate to take it up for consideration soon.

We must ensure our state will never again be put in a position of financing corruption. Decades of mismanagement and deeply rooted problems do not change easily. Five decades of institutionalized corruption does not redeem itself with the stroke of a pen. Mandatory penalties that everyone can count on is

what our white-collar convicts need to keep on the straight and narrow.

For small township libraries and mega-municipalities alike, financial responsibility and stable administration are primary components of success. Public offices at every level across our state need experienced leadership they can trust. For this reason, we must have swift and sure penalties for those who breach the public trust, penalties that cannot be waived by politics.

*State Rep. Jim Runestad, of White Lake represents the 44th District, which includes Highland Township, White Lake Township, Springfield Township, Milford Township and parts of Waterford Township, as well as the village of Milford. .*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Yes on Lyon library millage

"The very existence of libraries affords the best evidence that we may yet have hope for the future of man." — T.S.Elliot

The Lyon Township Public Library is an integral part of our township. The people, young and old, need this resource to become better citizens, better people.

Please vote yes for the library mileage May 2.

Lois Gdowski  
South Lyon

### Restore trust with transparency

There are numerous lists one can read about on the Internet, and in the past few years, Michigan has not fared well in many of the rankings. It seems in most categories, education, environment, roads, etc. we tend to rank near the bottom. A big part of the problem is our inability as citizens to know exactly what is going on (or not going on)

behind closed doors in our state Legislature and governor's office. Our state ranks 50th, dead last, in a national study of state ethics and transparency laws, partly due to its weak public records law and an absence of laws requiring personal financial disclosures by lawmakers and top state officials.

We have a chance to move out of last place and improve transparency in our state government, but our state Senate needs to hear from us. Incredibly, the state House passed unanimously —that's 100 percent bipartisan support, which is unheard of in recent times — the Freedom of Information Act/Legislative Open Records Act. This would require the Legislature and governor be subjected to the same FOIA requirements as other state agencies.

SB 246 and SB 0247 have bipartisan support in the Senate, but Major-

ity Leader Arlan Meekhof (30th District) has been obstructing these bills and doesn't appear willing to budge. We need to put pressure on him and our own state senators to get this package of bills passed as soon as possible. I have called my senator, Mike Kowall, who is on the committee that will take up these bills. I encourage everyone to do the same. This would be a big step forward in restoring people's trust in our state government.

Sherri Masson  
Milford

### A Knight's thanks

The Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Council No. 7444 of Milford would like to take time to thank all the people who attended the Friday Knight Lenten fish fries. Our council thanks all those that were there every week for a fish dinner.

We also thank those that bought raffle tickets for this year's Knight's of

Columbus raffle. There were a lot of people who purchased a ticket. Thanks. And there were some who bought two or more, like Kelly Rogers, Bob Bonish, Colleen Gonzalez, Mary Segfeda, Steve Vigh, Larry Strauss, Joan Sare, Dave Craft, Ron Lennis, Emily Henning, Jodi Brooks, Pat and Dick Kostin, Joe Ciofo, Lisa Auger, Vickie Wiemer, Adam Wisniewski, Leroy Brown, Krystal Gibson, Marla Hayden, Amy O'Callaghan, Rose Ann O'Sullivan, Sally Beadle, Jim Crane, Jack Bolling, John Drouillard, Dave Morantes, Dan and Shaon Theriault, Gerard Michalak, Steve Matti of Milford Grovery, Greg and Jim Hlinski of Village Butcher, Gene Ryeson and Highland House, Shannon Prieur, Jake Thome and the girls at the Kroger bakery, Mark Stater and the crew at Pet Supply Plus. A spe-

See LETTERS, Page A8

## TAX PROBLEMS

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# Public libraries are key to knowledge

In large parts of Mexico, the idea of a library is quite foreign. The children may be shown the word, “libreria” in school but often the library they know will be composed of just the few books that the teacher has been able to collect. If they are fortunate their parents may have been able to secure some books for them at home.

The precarious place that the middle class occupies in the United States cannot be compared to what might be referred to as the middle class in Mexico. In some larger cities the multi-class system may putter along, but by and large throughout Mexico there is a two class system, the got's and the not-gots. Some folks call them the rich and the poor but economic discussions based on those two words cannot be applied by Americans to Mexicans.

Personally, I cannot imagine life without a public library. I actually find it strange if I go to a place of business, no matter what it is, and find that they don't have at least some small collection of books. When I visit my friends' homes I am interested in what books they might have, but, I must be careful about inquiry because even here in the United States, the information capital of the world, not every house has the resources to supply books to their children.

At least they can go to the public library.

The reality in Mexico is that they cannot. They simply cannot because there isn't one. The idea of having one is absent in many communities, as well. It is as far an out reach as building an opera house or a commercial bank – which were targets of both Mexicans and Americans in the late 19th and early 20th centuries for any community wishing to find respect in the then “modern” world.

In the United States, we were blessed when Mr. Andrew Carnegie came from Scotland and put the steel industry in the fast lane. Our nation was transformed and Mr. Carnegie became one of the wealthiest men in the world. Then, it seems, he came to realize that the few simple advantages he had been provided while growing up in Scotland did not exist in the United States. He perceived, as few do, what it was



**Alfred Brock**

GUEST COLUMNIST

that led to his success and he set out to share the opportunities he enjoyed with others.

He built libraries. He built them all over the place in the United States. He left us a legacy of information and knowledge that had been intended by the founders of our nation. He had provided the nation with an operational form of the Jeffersonian ideal of public education.

Our laws were changed and amended and in Michigan the state actually mandates that local governments set up, support and operate a library for public use. It has become so common place and ingrained in our society that it goes without question that we will have a library.

I want you to imagine then a situation where the library becomes a given. It belongs to everyone so everyone is supposed to get one. You've got to have one. The government mandates it. It doesn't have to be a good one. It's just got to be there. You don't even have to visit it. Just sort of know where it is. Maybe you don't have a library card. That's OK, right? You pay taxes, if you want one you can go get one, right?

Well, what if you go to the beautiful library building and were to find the roof leaking, heating and cooling system not operating properly and posing a danger to the few books that are left? That's right – the few books that are left.

Let's say you visit your local library and rather than seeking out the one single book you might need from many, you start to count the empty shelves. Row after row after row.

In the United States, it seems, that the idea of a library is becoming quite foreign to us.

What do you want your library to be?

*Wayne resident Alfred Brock is secretary of the Wayne Public Library.*

to drive in a snowstorm and stand outside in the cold in order to exercise their Constitutional rights.

Mr. Weber, no one is lucky that you are writing these types of letters now or have been for the last 15 years. You should be ashamed of yourself. Please get some help. Here are some suggestions:

1. I am guessing from your letter that you are a Christian (reference to abortion and sodomy). Please visit your pastor and bring your letter and this response. Consider participation in a bible study. Please pay attention to God's word regarding tolerance and embracing your fellow man.
2. If Option No. 1 is not possible then get professional help. You need it.
3. Consider helping those that are less fortunate than yourself. Volunteer! You obviously have too much time on your hands. Do something positive with it.
4. Take a class at your local community college. Suggestions include U.S. government and U.S. history.

Mr. Weber, if you read this response I am guessing that you will label me as the enemy (a.k.a. a “Liberal”). While I am not interested in sharing my political views in this letter, I will state that I am most definitely not a “Liberal.” What I am is an American. My family has bled and died for this country, including service in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War (Union), WWI and WWII. United we stand, divided we fall. Your letter writing promotes the divisive nature of strong-arm politics. You are not making America great, you are hurting this great nation. Please stop!

**Catherine Freeman**  
Canton

**Take a deep breath first**

Ah, Mr. Weber. You have outdone yourself this time. I have been reading your frequent letters to the editors and citizens for what seems like so

# Amended return should give man deserved deductions

**Q: I have a tax issue that I hope you can help me with. A few years ago, my wife and I got divorced. After the divorce, I continued to use the same tax person, the same tax person my ex also uses. This year, I decided to make a change. My new tax person tells me that the old one made a few mistakes on my return. Basically, the mistakes deal with my children. Under the terms of the divorce settlement, I got custody of the kids and, according to the settlement, was entitled to all the deductions for them. It appears that since the divorce, the tax person has been giving all the deductions to my ex. My new tax person recommended that I file amended returns. He tells me with the deductions and the credit, I should receive at least a \$5,000 refund for each year the mistake was made. The money is significant but, at the same time, I don't want to screw my ex-wife. My first question is, if I file an amended return, which I want to do, what, if any, would be the consequences to her? My second question is, do you think my old tax preparer has some responsibility?**

A: In your situation, it is more likely than not that after you file your amended return, the IRS will be contacting your ex-spouse. Based upon the fact that you are the one who supports your children and that the divorce settlement gives you the deductions, the IRS will deny the exemptions she claimed on her tax return. The result will be that she will owe money to the IRS and, based upon the tax



**Rick Bloom**

MONEY MATTERS

owed, it will also assess her interest and, more likely than not, issue a penalty. While she has an opportunity to get the penalty waived, that is not a certainty. In many cases, the IRS will waive penalties and, in other cases, it will not.

I am frequently asked when it makes sense to file an amended return. If the mistake results in you owing additional taxes, it makes sense to file an amended return. After all, it is much easier to deal with the IRS and penalties if you voluntarily come forward as opposed to it catching you. When the mistake is in your favor, I generally will tell the taxpayer to file an amended return if the dollar amounts are material. If, for example, there was a mistake and the result is you would get less than \$100 back from the IRS, I would probably tell you that it's not worth the time and the cost to file an amended return. If the dollar amounts are material and you have the necessary documentation, then I'd say it makes sense to file an amended return. In the situation at hand, where we're talking thousands and thousands of dollars, it certainly makes sense to do the amended return.

I recognize that there's the other side of the equation. Whatever you save is going to be assessed against your ex-wife. Since you are concerned about her, I would recommend giving her a

heads-up as to what you're doing. It gives her an opportunity to file an amended return on her own. If she files an amended return, yes, she would still be liable for the taxes and interest, but she has a much better chance of avoiding any penalties.

With regard to your old tax preparer, if they made an honest mistake, I would think they should be liable to pay your costs to prepare the amended return. In addition, because you can only file an amended return for three years after you filed the original return, if you find that the statute of limitation prevents you from filing an amended return for a particular year when they make a mistake, then it may be appropriate to seek additional monies for the lost deductions. If it was not an honest mistake, but an attempt to benefit your ex-spouse, then in addition to seeking compensation for your costs and for any additional taxes you had to pay for the years you couldn't amend your return, I'd also consider other actions such as filing a grievance with the appropriate regulatory authorities.

One last note: Don't forget that when you amend your federal return, it may result in you needing to also amend your state return. In your particular situation, by amending your state return, I think you'll find that you're also entitled to a refund from the state of Michigan.

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 your questions, email [rick@bloomassetmanagement.com](mailto:rick@bloomassetmanagement.com).*

## Get tips on how to spot a drug abuser

Staff from Henry Ford Maplegrove Center and the Farmington Hills Police Department will team up to talk about alcohol and other drugs, specifically what you need to know.

Lisa Kaplan, LMSW, program coordinator for community education at Henry Ford Maplegrove Center, said the program is designed for parents, grandparents and anyone else who has concerns about

loved ones who may be abusing alcohol or other drugs.

The presentation will take place 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 2, at the Costick Center, 28600 Eleven Mile Road in Farmington Hills.

Topics will include: symptoms of substance abuse; how opioid addiction develops; heroin addiction; tips for family members; trends in the Farmington/Farmington Hills community; rehab programs;

and local police statistics.

Participants are welcome to bring unused or expired medications to the event so that they can be disposed of properly by the Farmington Hills Police Department. The program is sponsored by the Center for Active Adults and the Farmington Area Commission on Aging.

To register, call 248-473-1830.

## LETTERS

Continued from Page A7

cial thank you to Mike O'Hagan who works at the Proving Ground and hustles over to our fish fries for carry outs, and he also bought a couple of books for the raffle. Can't forget the Ciarelli family (all 10 of them) for their great, great support. And then there's Kathy Johnson. She's usually our first customer, a carry out, but always bought a ticket. Hope your dad is doing well.

We hope everybody enjoyed their dinners and we wish you luck in this year's raffle.

Hope to see all of you at this year's Concerts in the Park at the AMP in Central Park, which starts at 7 p.m. June 8.

**John Rogers**  
Milford

**Just stop, Mr. Weber**

I found Leo Weber's letter to the editor published April 16 and titled "Liberals are annoying" very disturbing. Please note that my concern is not based on politics but on Mr. Weber's choice to publish such rude and intolerant rhetoric. Name calling of individuals that Mr. Weber deems to be "Liberals" (and therefore apparently his enemy) include such terms as: "pack of wild animals, out of control school brats, big mouths, unreasoning wild dogs, scurrilous folk, etc."

It appears that Mr. Weber is a conservative zealot and will not tolerate that others can or should have opinions that vary from his own, much less that they have the nerve to actually express them. Please note that Mr. Weber has every right to his opinions and to express them. My concern is the hate that oozes from his letter. He exercises his right to free speech and then he belittles others who want to discuss their concerns with an elected official! He even goes so far as labeling these people "vile creatures" because they chose

much more than 15 years. Are you really that hateful? Are you really that rigid? Are you incapable of seeing both sides of an argument?

You probably consider me to be one of those hateful liberals, but let's get something straight. While I have some liberal leanings, many of my opinions are very conservative. I prefer to think of myself as a reasonable, independent thinker who is willing to listen to all sides and accept everyone's opinion, even yours. What could be more American than that?

To be clear, I am not a fan of Mr. Trump. I did not vote for him. Nor do I not trust him — yet. But, I am hopeful. I want him to do well as president, because if he fails we all fail.

Bipartisanship is a good thing for all of us, and should be a part of everyday life in Washington. Apparently our former presidents have grasped the concept as we keep hearing about their friendships that cross party lines. Why can't our current elected officials do the same? (Why can't you?)

I notice that neither President Bush is in a hurry to rush to the White House to show support for Mr. Trump. I worry that they know something we don't, but should. Time will tell.

Perhaps, in the future, you could step back and take a deep breath before you compose a tirade to share with all of us. Of course, your way is acceptable — it is guaranteed by our Constitution, after all. It's just so easy to get caught up in the media hype of everything, good or bad, that gets reported. Stopping to think something through may soften or change your opinion Mr. Weber. Probably not.

**Diane Barrett**  
Livonia

**'Delusion of grandeur'**

It is a sure sign of spring when Leo Weber emerges from his lair to spout his right-wing nonsense. This man has no

problem attempting to degrade Progressives, Liberals, Democrats, or for that matter, anyone with common sense. Evidently, he considers himself the spokesman for Livonia. I don't know if the residents agree with that, considering he came in dead last when he ran for mayor. The term "delusions of grandeur" comes to mind.

On another note, the so-called rift between Putin and Trump is nothing but a charade. The Russians were warned about the impending missile attack on that Syrian base by our military leaders. This was done to make sure no Russian personnel or planes were at the base when the bombardment started. Of course, the Syrian pilots followed suit.

If any planes were destroyed, it was because they were not able to be flown. So, we couldn't hit the armory because it held the same poison gas that killed those people, and we would be blamed if it was dispersed and killed more innocents. We didn't hit the runways because they are too easy to repair. The end result was the planes returned, loaded up at that armory we couldn't touch, took off and proceeded to bomb the same town and a hospital where the victims of the gas attack were being treated. And, according to published reports, with the aid of the same Russian military we so gallantly warned. Just what in the hell did we gain by wasting our missiles on a deserted base?

Well, Trump got to flex "his" Navy's muscle and Putin got to rattle his saber to appease his hardliners. As a bonus, this was a distraction from the investigation of dealings between Trump's people and Putin's.

**James Huddleston**  
Canton

**Give credit where it's due**

Why do those in the media fail to provide accurate labels

for political candidates and office holders crediting them for policy stances and projected outcomes? Numerous studies released by experts representing well-respected publications like The New England Journal of Medicine and professors representing renowned institutions like Harvard University, forecast in excess of 40,000 preventable deaths in the U.S. per year if Obamacare is repealed and not replaced with a program that will cover the same number of people with a comparable level of coverage.

Republicans seem proud to be associated with the repeal/replace policy stance and freely admit that they do intend to strip health care coverage from up to 24 million, deny an estimated 30 million who never got coverage from any hope of any new protections and markedly reduce the level coverage of tens of millions more.

Those in the media should give Republicans the credit they crave and so richly deserve by mentioning when referencing any of them their signature projected policy outcome when their names are written or spoken in a public setting. Here is an example of how it should be done. Donald Trump, president who supports a policy that would result in over 40,000 preventable deaths per year in America, is preparing to leave D.C. for yet another golf get away to Mar-A-Lago, though in contrast by this time in his first term President Obama was yet to have played his first round of golf. Or Dave Trott, congressman who has voted to allow a projected 40,000 American deaths per year by voting to repeal Obamacare, has announced no plan for additional town hall meetings.

This form of truth in labeling would be a valuable service to prospective voters plus give credit where credit is due.

**Mitch Smith**  
Canton



Send calendar items to  
Community Content Editor  
Joanne Maliszewski at  
jmaliszews@hometownlife.com.

**Novi Half-Marathon**  
The fourth annual Novi Half-Marathon will take place 6:30-11 a.m. Sunday, April 30. The event offers a Half Marathon, 10K & 5K. Courses are flat & fast with scenic views of beautiful Island Lake and are run on both paved and country roads. The day will also feature a DJ at the start/ finish area. The Sponsor Expo with packet pickup & late registration will be held the day of the race from 6:45 to 8:30 a.m. Race participants will receive a high quality Leslie Jordan brand long-sleeve Tech Shirt. All participants receive finisher medals. Age group awards are provided in the Half Marathon, 10K & 5K events. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Novi Parks Foundation and the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute. Free bus shuttles to and from the Novi Middle School will be offered. Register online at [www.novihalfmarathon.com](http://www.novihalfmarathon.com) or print a form from the website and mail to the address on the form.

**Art & Soul Grand Finale**  
Art&Soul of Oakland County will be hosting its grand finale as a pop-up event 6-9 p.m. Saturday, April 29, at Galerie Camille, 4130 Cass Avenue, Detroit. A traveling monthly photo exhibit is part of Art&Soul of Oakland County's mission to activate a movement and a shift in thinking about foster care children. Art&Soul partners with award winning photographers to capture the soul of the hardest to place: older children looking for a forever family. Jext Telez, a Detroit based guitar effect pedal company, has donated 10 music pedals for 10 Detroit-based artists to customize for the April 29 event. Save the date and plan to see art, bid on a one of a kind music pedals, meet amazing artists, the featured children and enjoy live music from Greater Alexander. Go to [www.artandsoul dreams.org](http://www.artandsoul dreams.org) or call 248-227-4643 for more information.

**MLB Pitch, Hit & Run**  
Pitch, Hit & Run is the official youth skills competition of Major League Baseball. This free competition for ages 7-14 will take place at Ella Mae Power Park in Novi at noon Sunday, April 30. The event is an opportunity for young baseball and softball players to prove their ability to pitch, hit and run among the best in their age group. Players advance through three rounds of competition and compete in the National Finals on an all-expense paid trip to the MLB All-Star Game in San Diego, California. Finalists will compete on field prior to shagging fly balls during the Home Run Derby and attend the All-Star Game. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Greg Morris at 248-735-5646. The registration form is available online at [www.mlb.com/kids](http://www.mlb.com/kids). Click "register" to find the form and send it to [gmorris@cityof-novi.org](mailto:gmorris@cityof-novi.org) or stop by the Novi Parks office.

**Jedi Training**  
Do you feel the force within you? Come to the Novi Civic Center 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 4, for an action packed evening of Jedi training. Participants will learn different skills and moves to be able to fight off the dark side. All participants will make a light saber, enjoy a treat and be entered into a drawing to win a fun Star Wars gift pack. Price: \$8 residents, \$10 non-residents. Registration ends Apr 27.

**NHS Senior All Night Party ticket prices increase May 1**  
NHS Senior All Night Party ticket prices go up to \$100 on May 1. April 30 is the final day to order tickets for \$90 and the final day to order Words of Wisdom (\$5 each) for your senior. All orders can be placed at [www.northvillesanp.com](http://www.northvillesanp.com). As the SANP approaches, organizers are looking for additional prize and food donations. Please email [northville sanpcommunications@comcast.net](mailto:northville sanpcommunications@comcast.net) if you have any prizes you (or your business) are willing to donate or know of a restaurant that might be willing to donate food items. Thanks to everyone who has donated one or more pair of new, unused boxer shorts to date! Boxer Bingo is one of the kids' favorite activities every year (they win a pair of boxers by filling a bingo card), and we need hundreds of pairs of boxer shorts to make it a success.

**Rummage Sale**  
Faith Community Presbyterian Church in Novi will hold its annual spring Rummage Sale 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, May 4, and 9 a.m. to noon Friday, May 5. The Friday sale will be Bag Day, when anything that fits into a paper grocery bag goes for one price. Proceeds from the sale will be used for the church's 40th Anniversary celebration in October. Faith Church was founded in 1997 by a small group of

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Tradition! Novi students present ‘Fiddler’



Noah Canales as Tevya in Novi High School's production of "Fiddler on the Roof," which opens Thursday at the high school auditorium, 24062 Taft. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. April 27-29. Tickets are \$14 for adults and \$12 for senior citizens and students. For more information, go to [performingartsresources.org](http://performingartsresources.org).

people who believed Novi needed a Presbyterian church of its own. The church is located at 44400 W. 10 Mile Rd., just west of Novi Rd. For more information, call 248-349-2345.

**Michigan International Women's Show**

Gold and silver Olympic gymnast Laurie Hernandez and Keegan Allen from "Pretty Little Liars" will be appearing at the 22nd annual Michigan International Women's Show when it returns to the Suburban Collection Showplace May 4-7. In addition to Hernandez and Allen other features of the

show include: Ann Arbor Firefighters Charities fashion show; Aussie in the Kitchen Chef Paul Penney; spring makeup trends and helpful cosmetic tips; painting party to encourage originality and creativity; "Pawject Runway-Fido Fashion Show" and Wigs 4 Kids will be accepting ponytails for Michigan children and teens experiencing hair loss as a result of illness or treatment; plus more than 400 exhibitors. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$10; youth 6-12 are \$5 and children 5 and under are admitted free with a paying adult. For more information and exhibitor coupons, go to InternationalWomenShow.com, Facebook.com/michiganinternationalwomensshow, Twitter.com/iwsmichigan, Instagram.com/MIWShow or call 800-849-0248.

**Downtown First Friday**  
Celebrate the First Friday of the month 5-9 p.m. Friday, May 5, with the retailers and restaurants of downtown Northville. Many stores stay open late and feature refreshments, new merchandise, sales and visits from local artists. For more information, go to <http://www.enjoy northville.com>.

**'Alice' at the Marquis**  
Journey through Wonderland with Alice as she

follows the white rabbit and other curious friends as the Marquis Theatre presents "Alice in Wonderland." Come see this fun, interactive musical with lots of singing and dancing. Tickets for all performances are \$9. 2017-18. For more information please call the Marquis Theatre at 248-349-8110; go to [www.northvillemarquistheatre.com](http://www.northvillemarquistheatre.com); email: [marquistheatre@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marquistheatre@sbcglobal.net) or visit Facebook page at facebook.com/MarquisTheatreNorthvilleMi. Show times and dates are 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 22-23, 29-30 and May 6-7

**Evenings in the garden**  
MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center is the setting for a new season of Evenings in the Garden classes. Speakers will be sharing their wisdom and experience 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursdays at Tollgate, 12 Mile and Meadowbrook roads, in Novi. The cost of each class is \$20 and supports further adult education programming at MSU Tollgate. To find more information and to register, go to <http://tollgate.msu.edu/events/evenings-in-the-garden>. The classes are for novice and seasoned gardeners, homeowners, landscapers and outdoor enthusiasts. This educational series is an opportunity to get out of the house, meet others who are suffering from cabin fever and start planning for spring gardening

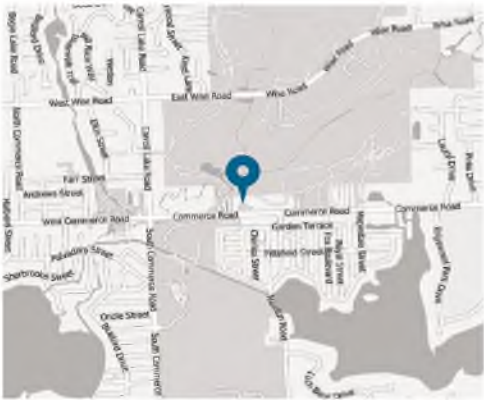


# Give your newborn a happy birthday.

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# New pet store holds grand opening in Livonia

Pet Valu, a premium pet supplies and accessories retailer, has opened a new store in Livonia.

Its grand opening, which took place recently at the store, 30997 Five Mile, gave the community a chance to check out the signature pet products and services Pet Valu is known for, such as its self-serve dog-wash stations where customers are provided all the amenities — without having to clean up. Also popular are its lines of adorable toys, gourmet treats, fashionable accessories, cozy furnishings and everyday pet supplies.

The Livonia Chamber of Commerce and Mayor Dennis

Wright participated in a ribbon-cutting

As part of Pet Valu's commitment to the community, each store partners with at least one local animal shelter or group to facilitate pet adoptions and fundraising activities. Pet Valu's partners in Livonia include Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Happy Days Dog and Cat Rescue, both of which were expected to show up during the grand opening celebrations last week.

A ribbon-cutting took place at the new Pet Valu shop that recently opened.



## Thornton Creek Elementary book fair



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Maddie Leneschmidt, 8, checks out some reading materia at Thornton Creek Elementary's Scholastic Book Fair. The fundraiser fair will continue for a week and proceeds will go to the school's library to purchase more materials for students.

## Northville Lions hold White Cane, book donations

The Northville chapter will join other Lion Clubs in Michigan for the annual White Cane Week, April 28 through May 7.

"This is the time each year when local Lions go out to the community to ask for donations to help fund eye care and services for the visually impaired in their local communities," Northville club president Barbara Morgan said.

The Northville Lions Club will collect donations Friday,

April 28, at the Center Street Kroger and Saturday, April 29, at Joe's Coney Island.

Monies raised during White Cane Week go to help support eye exams and eyeglasses for those in need in the community, as well as other Lion-supported charities like Leader Dogs for the Blind & Seedlings Braille Books for Children.

**Encourage summer reading**

The Northville Lions Club is looking to the community for help with a project to encourage students of southwest Detroit's Roberto Clemente Elementary School to maintain their reading skills through the summer months.

Lions member Linda Clark, who is heading the project said, "We would like to give

books to the students as they leave for their summer break. When I was teaching, I used to remind my students, 'The more you read, the smarter you get.'"

Club members ask the community to donate new and gently used books. Collection boxes are located in the lobby of the Northville City Hall and at the Northville Senior Center until May 31.

## Farmington Hills artist unveils painting of Mike Ilitch

**Jay Grossman**  
hometownlife.com

He'll always be known as "Mr. I."

A colorful oil and acrylic painting of Little Caesars founder Mike Ilitch was unveiled April 19 at the Farmington Community Library. Like a pizza with many toppings, the mural includes a portrait of Ilitch and pieces of his storied legacy: from the Detroit Tigers to the Red Wings, the Fox Theatre, the new arena, the Stanley Cup – even a large pizza and some crazy bread.

Farmington Hills artist Curtis Lewis said the mural is iconic, inspiring and imaginative ... everything Ilitch stood for in life.

"When they said the last one to cross Eight Mile should turn out the lights, he held the light switch and kept the lights on," Lewis said. "And as a result, a lot of those who left are trying to get back there."

Lewis said Ilitch deserves credit for restoring the Fox Theatre after years of neglect, for buying the Red Wings when the team owned last place and for having the vision to invest in Detroit when many



JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Farmington Hills artist Curtis Lewis poses for a photo with his painting dedicated to Mike Ilitch.

others were skittish.

"He was genuinely committed to this community and was truly a catalyst for Detroit's renaissance," Lewis said. "In good times and bad times, he was always there for Detroit."

The painting, titled "Mr. I. Thanks for the Memories," is part of a larger collection on display at the library that Lewis calls "The World Class Icon Collection." The exhibit in-

cludes portraits of Barack Obama, Rosa Parks and Pope John Paul II, along with legendary pop stars Michael Jackson and Prince.

Jaclyn Miller, branch head for the library, said the exhibit will be on display through the end of May.

"When Mr. Lewis presented us with this World Class Icon idea, we loved it right away," she said. "It's a really diverse, interesting display across all walks of life, entertainment and politics and art. It's tremendous."

Lewis said he met Ilitch on one occasion, at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. Lewis was unveiling a portrait of Coretta Scott King and the two men talked for about 20 minutes.

Born in Grand Rapids and raised in Detroit, Lewis said it was a childhood crush that first inspired him to draw. His talent earned him a full scholarship to the prestigious School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where he studied fine and commercial art.

"He's just an amazing artist," said Todd Lipa, director of Youth & Family Services for Farmington Hills. "The expressions of the subjects in his portraits are incredible. You can feel the emotion."

The Farmington Community Library is located at 32737 W. 12 Mile, just west of Orchard Lake Road.

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## ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS

### Novi-Northville merit winners

More than 1,000 high school seniors have won corporate-sponsored National Merit Scholarship awards financed by about 200 corporations, company foundations and other business organizations.

Scholars were selected from students who advanced to the finalist level in the National Merit Scholarship competition and met criteria of their scholarship sponsors. Corporate sponsors provide National Merit Scholarships for finalists who are children of their employees, who are residents of communities the company serves or who plan to pursue college majors or careers the sponsor wishes to encourage.

Most of these awards are renewable for up to four years of college undergraduate study and provide annual stipends that range from \$500 to \$10,000 per year. Some provide a single payment between \$2,500 and \$5,000. Recipients can use their awards at any regionally accredited U.S. college or university of their choice.

Local winners include Northville resident Brian M. Lucido of Northville High School, with a probable career in marketing, National Merit Alliance Data scholarship; and Novi residents Aarya N. Menon of Detroit Country Day School, with a probable career in astrophysics, National Merit Siemens scholarship; and Kyle B. Wierzbicki of Northville High School, with a probable career in medicine, National Merit J. Walter Thompson Co. scholarship.

## MILL RACE MATTERS

Mill Race Historical Village is at 215 Griswold St., north of Main Street, near Ford Field. Grounds open daily dawn until dusk. Mill Race relies on rentals and memberships to maintain the Village. Consider becoming a member or making a donation today; go to [www.millracenorthville.org](http://www.millracenorthville.org) for details.

**Upcoming events**

**Grounds closed for wedding:** 4:15-6:15 p.m. April 29.

**Lecture series:** Interurban Trains: 7 p.m. May 24. New School Church at Mill Race Village. No fee. Donations accepted.

**Member preview party:** 6-9 p.m. June 2.

### General info

**Website:** [www.millracenorthville.org](http://www.millracenorthville.org)

**Volunteers:** The Northville Historical Society at Mill Race Village accepts volunteers in many different areas. We are in special need of Sunday store clerks and help with our fundraising teas. Students, we're happy to verify your volunteer hours with school or scouts. Please contact the office for more information.

**Rentals:** Call or email the office to rent the Cady Inn or Church for a wedding or party. Many dates are available. More information on our website.

**Donations:** Archives donations accepted from 9 a.m. to noon each Tuesday.

**Archives:** The archives are open Monday and Tuesday. Questions about donations or research can be emailed to [Carri.lee@millrace-northville.org](mailto:Carri.lee@millrace-northville.org) or call the office during archives hours.

**Office:** The office is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. All other times by appointment only. Call 248-348-1845 or email [office@millracenorthville.org](mailto:office@millracenorthville.org).



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## What do you imagine for retirement?

Research shows that nearly 90% of people want to stay in their own home as they age. Woodhaven at Home is a new and unique member program that helps residents of Southeast Michigan maintain as much independence and financial security as possible so they can age in place.

Designed for healthy, active adults between the ages of 55 and 81 who value vitality and aging independence, Woodhaven at Home is structured

to provide asset preservation, the support and advocacy of a Wellness and Care Coordinator, and care at home if and when it is needed. Membership in Woodhaven at Home is offered by Livonia's first full-service retirement community, Woodhaven Retirement Community.

Visit us at [woodhavenah.org](http://woodhavenah.org) to find out more or to sign up for an educational seminar.



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# Groups making prison system easier on families

**Brad Kadrich**  
hometownlife.com

When Lois DeMott first got involved with the Michigan Department of Corrections — which came about because of the legal troubles of her then-15-year-old son — she didn't know much about how the prison system worked.

Like many family members of incarcerated loved ones, DeMott had trouble navigating a system she said was fraught with red tape. Getting a simple visitation with her son was difficult.

Inspired by those road-blocks, DeMott is not unfamiliar with the system anymore. In fact, the group she founded based on her early experiences, Lansing-based Citizens for Prison Reform, is working to make it easier for those who've followed in DeMott's footsteps.

According to the CPR website, the grass-roots group engages, educates and empowers family members and loved ones affected by crime and punishment to advance their rights.

"That came out of my own personal experience of never having dealt with the system before and, all of a sudden, being thrown into it," DeMott said. "What we experience — what we go through, some of the hardships — often don't seem real to families."

## Family connection

DeMott believed one of the biggest issues involving prisoners and their families was a matter of connectedness. She believed some of the policies within the MDOC made it much harder for the families of inmates to remain connected with their loved ones.

She formed the Citizens for Prison Reform, which began meeting monthly. The group has done educational presentations in the Lansing area every month since 2011.

The goal was to educate families about how the system works. DeMott felt the system's policies often left families in the dark about the health, condition and welfare of their loved ones.

She pointed to a couple of examples that demonstrated there was a need for improvement:

» A family authorization form, which she likened to the form patients fill out when they go to a doctor, wasn't automatically being given to prisoners; it was something the prisoner had to ask for. Without it, DeMott said, families didn't know if their loved one was ill or had been hospitalized. Because of the education effort put in by the CPR, the MDOC is now making that an automatic part of the intake process.

» Another issue was discipline. For example, she said, if a prisoner had received two substance abuse tickets, the director of corrections can take away visits for that prisoner. The problem, as DeMott sees it, is that family members don't know that until they arrive for the visit. Families have lost visitation for years for that reason.

"A lot of these prisoners and families don't know ... I still get calls from families who are in crisis because they don't know enough," DeMott said. "Our point all along has been that if you truly believe family support makes the difference, why are we punishing entire families, including small children who have parents or siblings on the inside?"



Westland's Pete Letkemann (left) and Citizens for Prison Reform founder Lois DeMott (center) with other Family Advisory Board members at the MDOC.

*"We've done a lot of legislative work and that started early on. We started bringing a lot of attention to capitol hill."*

**LOIS DEMOTT**  
founder, Citizens for Prison Reform



Citizens for Prison Reform founder Lois DeMott talks to the media at last year's Legislative Day.



One of the goals of the Citizens for Prison Reform is to educate people about what the prison system is like.

## Grant helps

DeMott applied for, and received, a Soros Justice Fellowship, a grant that funds projects designed to advance reform and change on a range of issues facing the criminal justice system.

Grant in hand, she began working more directly with MDOC officials because "we had some specific issues and concerns we were seeing," she said.

"We've done a lot of legislative work and that started early on," DeMott said. "We started bringing a lot of attention to capitol hill."

DeMott said the MDOC has been a willing partner in the work the CPR and its support groups, the Family Participation Program and the Family Advisory Board.

Kyle Kaminsky, legislative liaison for the MDOC and its liaison with the Family Advisory Board, said the department is working with the group because it's doing good work.

"The work they do is really helpful," Kaminsky said. "The information flows in two directions. They bring useful information to us so we have better knowledge and we can share information with them

that they can then disseminate to families."

The work is helping. Pete Letkemann, a Westland resident whose son Alex is in the system, said the group has effected some change, particularly in areas surrounding visitation.

According to DeMott, some prisons have made enough change that visitation has improved. Families who've traveled fewer than 400 miles, for instance, are guaranteed only a one-hour visit. And the rooms often are small enough, she said, that people have to wait hours for their visit — or don't get in at all.

"Can you imagine driving two or three hours and then having to wait?" DeMott said.

## Visitation issues

Letkemann said visitation can be affected by so many things — and so dramatically — that he's heard inmates tell their loved ones the risk of not getting a visit is high enough that the loved ones "shouldn't make the trip."

That's part of the reason, according to Letkemann, that only some 14 percent of inmates get visits. But that is starting to change, he said, because of the work the FAB is

doing.

"Sometimes, it feels like you're not doing any good at all," said Letkemann, who recently stepped up to the chairmanship of the Family Advisory Board. "Then you think back on some of the problems we've helped with."

The group has helped with enough that the state has considered making the Family Advisory Board — right now a volunteer group of maybe a half-dozen people — an official part of the system.

State Rep. Stephanie Chang introduced legislation in 2015 that would do just that (she has not reintroduced that bill again this year). Kaminsky acknowledged the bill, if ever approved, would formalize the FAB's standing. He wouldn't say whether he thought it was a good idea — "The department refrains from taking a position on legislation," he said — but acknowledged the group is doing good work.

"The current approach is working pretty well," Kaminsky said. "We're happy with the way it's working right now."

The groups are active now. The Citizens for Prison Reform hosts its sixth Legislative Day on May 11 in Lansing and

will use a replica of a solitary confinement cell to educate legislators about what that part of prison life is like. The Family Advisory Board meets quarterly, at the will of the MDOC.

DeMott called the working relationship between the CPR and the MDOC "fabulous." She said officials with the MDOC understand prisoners need "productive, positive things to do with their time," which will make them better citizens when they re-enter society.

"When we make things difficult, has that really helped them when they come out?" she said. "Does that make for a safer neighborhood? Who would you rather have living next door, someone who has been a victim (of the issues in the system) or someone who has been encouraged with family assistance?"

"The biggest issue we're working to address is the connectedness and the support of families ... how we can have better family connectedness," DeMott added. "The department is working with us, but it's a very big department. It's a huge ship to get turned around."

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# Police: Drunken driver had kids in the car

**Matt Jachman**  
hometownlife.com

Police in Novi filed a child-endangerment report April 17 with the Michigan Department of Human Services after arresting an alleged drunken man with two children in the vehicle he was driving.

Officers had been alerted by a witness who had seen the man on I-96 driving recklessly and nearly causing accidents, a Novi Police Department report said. The witness followed the suspected drunk off the freeway and east on Grand River, and officers stopped him in the area of Meadowbrook and Cherry Hill roads, the report said.

The man had two children — their ages and genders were redacted in the police report — in the back seat and a bottle of whiskey on the front passenger seat, police said. He said he

had had three beers while playing golf in another community, police said.

Tested later, police said, the man registered a blood-alcohol content of 0.15 percent, well above Michigan's legal limit of 0.08 percent.

## Booze theft

An 18-year-old man was arrested on shoplifting charges April 18 outside the Walmart at the Novi Town Center after witnesses told police he had run off when confronted about the theft of merchandise, most of it liquor, from the store.

The man had walked past the checkout area with a shopping cart containing several bottles of liquor, including bourbon, rum and vodka, shortly before 1 p.m. when he was confronted by a Walmart security employee and a store manager, a police report said.

He abandoned the cart and ran from the store, and when approached by a police officer, said, "I did not take anything," police said.

Police later found a suspected marijuana "joint" and a glass pipe in his backpack, but also found that he had a medical marijuana card.

## License plate stolen

The license plate was stolen from a Ford F-150 pickup truck April 19 or April 20 while the truck was parked outside a home on Arizona Avenue, police said.

The victim told police he had last seen the plate when he arrived home from work at 5 p.m. April 19; he found that it was missing about 10:30 a.m. the next day.

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# Livonia woman charged in stabbing of boyfriend

**David Veselenak**  
hometownlife.com

A Livonia woman faces criminal charges after police say she stabbed her boyfriend in their apartment after an argument.

Police say Vera Smith, 51, stabbed her 54-year-old boyfriend in the back with a kitchen knife while he was sitting at the dining room table in their apartment above a bar along Seven Mile Road.

Police say the two had had an argument earlier the afternoon of April 18 when Smith stabbed her boyfriend. He was taken to a local hospital and treated for non life-threatening injuries.

Smith was arraigned on



**Smith**

aggravated. If convicted, she faces up to 10 years in prison.

She was given a \$2,000 cash or surety bond, according to Wayne County Jail online records. She's due to return Thursday to Livonia's 16th District Court for a probable cause conference.

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# Ex-coach faces trial in student sex case

**Darrell Clem**  
hometownlife.com

Former Canton High School assistant coach Eric Christopher Locke, facing trial on charges he had sex with a 15-year-old girl, believed she was 18 when they had a relationship, a defense attorney said April 17.

Locke, 20, was led to believe that the girl, now 16, was older when they met through an app, Tinder, commonly used for dating, defense attorney Raymond Cassar said.

“He was under the belief when he met her

that she was of age,” Cassar said. “He cared a great deal about her. They were in a dating relationship.”

Locke was ousted as varsity boys hockey assistant coach after allegations surfaced that he dated the girl from November to February. Canton police have said the girl’s mother learned of the relationship and reported it to a high school resource officer at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Locke worked as an assistant coach and the girl attended school at

The Park, a campus of 6,100 students. But Cassar said it was through Tinder that the two met and developed a relationship.

Meanwhile, Locke was ordered April 17 to stand trial on three counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct after he voluntarily waived his right to a preliminary examination in front of 35th District Judge James Plakas, court rec-

ords show. He could face up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

Cassar vowed to fight the charges in Wayne County Circuit Court.

“This is a good man who has never been in trouble before,” he said, adding later, “He had a great future ahead of him. That future is on hold now.”

Canton police executed a search warrant of Locke’s home in Canton during their investigation, but authorities haven’t revealed what evidence may have been seized.

Locke remains free on a \$500,000 personal bond as he awaits trial. but he was ordered during his March 2 arraignment to be placed on an electronic tether to monitor his whereabouts. He also was ordered by Judge Ron Lowe to stay off school property and away from minors, including the 16-year-old girl.

Monica Merritt, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district superintendent, issued a letter after Locke was charged to alert parents that Locke had been “permanently removed” from

the district, saying “student safety remains the No. 1 priority of the district.”

Locke was employed by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district through a third party, CoachEZ, LLC, which issued a statement saying student safety is of “extreme importance to us.” The company also said Locke has been removed “from access to assignments in the schools we serve.”

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## Senior Center’s Bits and Bytes Cafe



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gayle Ford works on her iPad during an April 20 session of Meadowbrook Commons’ Bits and Bytes Cafe. The informational sessions on all-things computer are hosted by Meadowbrook’s manager Tom Gordon and take place at 10 a.m. the third Thursday of each month. Gordon goes over the basics and then some of smart phones, tablets and laptop computers and their operating systems.

## Pet supply stores are beginning to pop up all over Michigan

**Jay Grossman**  
hometownlife.com

There’s a new pooch in town.

As the pet supply industry continues to explode in the U.S. in terms of record-breaking growth, new pet food stores are popping up all over the place in southeast Michigan.

Over the past few months, Pet Valu premium pet supplies has opened four stores in Michigan — in Livonia, Warren and Macomb and now the newest location, 33230 W. 14 Mile Road in West Bloomfield, along the Farmington Hills border.

“Michigan is full of big-hearted animal lovers and we look forward to sharing in their passion for both their pets and the pets without homes in their town’s shelters,” said Joe Dent, vice president and U.S. general manager for Pet Valu, which has 300 stores around the country.

Cindi Morris, who once owned a Camp Bow Bow doggy daycare in Kentwood, recently opened a Pet Wants at 33772 Woodward Avenue in Birmingham. The store specializes in all-natural ingredients and makes free deliveries to customers in the surrounding area on orders of \$20 or more.

“What you put into your pet’s body has a real impact on their health and well-being,” Morris said. “You can buy high-quality pet food at the pet store, but it’s still mass produced and, if you don’t check the date on the bag, you have no idea how long it’s been sit-



Cindy Morris owns the Pet Wants store on Woodward Avenue in Birmingham.

ting around losing nutritional value.”

Americans love their pets. In 2016, a record-breaking \$66.7 billion was spent in the U.S. on pets. Nearly half the amount — around \$28.2 billion — was spent on food, according to the American Pet Products Association, the leading trade association in the pet industry.

At 5,000 square feet, the West Bloomfield Pet Valu is one of the biggest stores in the company’s chain. When fully staffed, the store will have eight to 10 full-time employees. Each employee, or “pet expert,” is accredited through a curriculum developed by the University of California-Davis.

The store is planning a May 6 grand

opening celebration, with plenty of freebies and refreshments, along with activities for the kids. Plus, there will be a number of rescue animals at the store ready and eager for adoption.

Pet Wants originally launched in Cincinnati in 2010. Pet Valu first opened in 2009 in Ontario, Canada. Both companies pride themselves on their relationships with local pet rescue groups. In the past month, Morris donated more than 150 pounds of dog food to Detroit Dog Rescue and more than 200 pounds of dog food and more than 90 pounds of cat food to Michigan Animal Rescue League.

jgrossman@hometownlife.com  
586-826-7030  
Twitter: @BhmEccentric

## Michigan Roundtable features youth conference, internship

Area youths have an opportunity to become engaged in social justice and also to seek an internship with the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion.

For 64 years, the Michigan Roundtable has hosted a spring youth conference engaging and connecting young people who care about social justice. The 64th annual Youth Justice Leadership Conference continues this tradition by honoring and featuring the work of youth involved in social justice and movement-making throughout Michigan from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 29 at the Marygrove Liberal Arts Building, 8425 W. McNichols Detroit.

Join the Regional Youth Interns and the Youth Voice Fellows who are hosting this year’s conference funded by DTE Energy Foundation themed “From One Generation to the Next: Bridging the Gap.” They are also featuring art and spoken word from the Youth Voice Art Project on regional racial segregation, which was funded by the Michigan Humanities Council and the Michigan Council for Art and Cultural Affairs.

All youth and adult allies from Michigan are invited to attend. The #YJLC program is designed by and for youth ages 15-25.

The Michigan Roundtable welcomes individuals and groups from high schools and college clubs, community organizations and neighborhood groups, religious youth groups and other youth in social justice programs.


In addition Michigan Roundtable opens its application process for its Regional Youth Internship Program. This is a 14-month paid internship for youth who are committed to building inclusive communities. Interns will develop community organizing skills including workshop facilitation, dialogue facilitation, leadership and professional workplace culture.

Registration for the Youth Justice Leadership Conference and the Regional Youth Internship can take place at <http://www.miroundtable.org> or by calling 313-870-1500, ext. 107.

The Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion is a not-for-profit human rights organization located in Detroit working to overcome discrimination and racism by crossing racial, religious, ethnic and cultural boundaries. It brings together community leaders from government, law enforcement, education, faith, grass roots organizations and business to understand different points of view and then take action to overcome structural impediments to inclusion and equity.

Programs are recognized by national organizations for bringing about sustainable change. The organization works to address inequity throughout the region through a process of recognition, reconciliation/reorientation and renewal. It strives to build relationships that create social justice and build sustainable inclusive communities.

*All youth and adult allies from Michigan are invited to attend. The #YJLC program is designed by and for youth ages 15-25.*



**The Senior Alliance**  
Area Agency on Aging 1-C

**THE SENIOR ALLIANCE WILL HOST THREE PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR INPUT REGARDING THE**  
**FY 2018 ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (AIP) FOCUSED ON PRIORITIZING SERVICES TO PERSONS AGE 60 AND OLDER IN SOUTHERN AND WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY.**

Monday, May 8, 2017	Wednesday, May 31, 2017	Thursday, June 1, 2017
<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>
The Senior Alliance Area Agency on Aging 1-C 5454 Venoy Wayne, MI 48184	September Days Senior Center 46425 Tyler Rd. Van Buren Twp., MI 48111	Dearborn Heights Richard A. Young Center 5400 McKinley Street Dearborn, Heights, MI 48125

The hearing will include a brief overview and highlights from the Multi-Year Plan with the majority of time allotted for public comment.

On April 28, 2017, the AIP draft will be available online at [www.aaa1c.org](http://www.aaa1c.org)

**Written comments will be accepted until 4:30 pm on June 2, 2017.**

Please send written comments to:

The Senior Alliance  
5454 Venoy  
Wayne, MI 48184  
Attn: Planning Special Projects Manager

**Call 734.727.2061 for more information**

1-C-000051-01-03 5/26



# Comcast promises more military hires locally

**Darrell Clem**  
hometownlife.com

Comcast, after making big strides toward hiring 10,000 military personnel by year's end, pledged April 18 during a ceremony at its Plymouth facility to continue the effort.

Since launching its initiative two years ago, Comcast already has hired 6,500 veterans, reservists, National Guard members and military spouses, including 83 employees in Michigan, officials say. The company offers job security to on-call military personnel when they are called to duty.

It's not simply an effort to do what's right, said retired Brig. Gen. Carol Eggert, senior vice president of military and veteran affairs for Comcast NBCUniversal.

"We're doing it because we understand the talent the military brings to us," she said.

Her remarks came before Tim Collins, Comcast's Plymouth-based regional senior vice president, formally signed a statement reiterating the company's pledge to hiring military employees. He sat next to Melvin Bauman, who chairs Michigan's Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve organization, for the signing.

Bauman said it's imperative that on-call military employees not worry about their jobs when they are called to battle or other service to country.

"That's one less thing for them to deal with," he said.

Bauman cited the Big Three automakers as another example of employers who are supportive of reservists and National Guard members.

Some military personnel who work for Comcast



Comcast veterans Staff Sgt. Brian Fox of the Indiana National Guard, Sgt. Richard Rec of the Army Reserve, Lance Corp. Aaron Clark of the Marine Reserve and ET1 Brian Howard of the Navy Reserve gather after the opening ceremony and document signing.



Army Reservist Kyle Wendt opens the event with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Comcast Regional Senior Vice President Tim Collins signs a document reaffirming the company's dedication to hiring military personnel. At right, Melvin Bauman, Michigan chair for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, looks on.

cast donned their uniforms for Tuesday's ceremony, which preceded a four-hour educational summit intended to strengthen the company's already close-knit relations with reservists and

National Guard personnel who, Eggert said, account for nearly half of the nation's defense forces.

"The military provides an excellent channel of talent," Eggert said, "but

you have to cultivate it and understand it."

Col. Shawn Harris, commander of the 63rd Troop Command of the Michigan Army National Guard, lauded Comcast for its support.

"We are always looking for ways to partner with this organization and ensure that our soldiers can find jobs," he said.

Eggert said military spouses, because they often have to relocate, can easily become underemployed. She said Comcast strives to keep them employed when they move or, at a minimum, offers a good severance package as they start anew. In a token of appre-

ciation Tuesday, she handed out military coins to personnel attending the ceremony.

Col. Keir Knapp, vice wing commander of the 110th Attack Wing of the Army National Guard, said on-call military personnel bring skills, leadership, dedication, promptness and other traits to their jobs. In turn, he said, they require flexibility without fear of losing their jobs.

He said they could be flying combat one day "and showing up for work on Monday."

**"The military provides an excellent channel of talent, but you have to cultivate it and understand it."**

**BRIG. GEN. (RET.) CAROL EGGERT**  
senior vice president of military and veteran affairs, Comcast NBCUniversal

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## Wayne County warns of measles exposure at Northville restaurant

**Robert Allen and Ann Zaniewski**  
Detroit Free Press

The first case of measles in Michigan this year was in Macomb County, health officials confirmed Friday.

A young child was sickened in March after traveling internationally, Macomb County Health Department Medical Director Kevin Lokar told the Free Press. He said there were no other cases in the county.

Officials with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced the case in late March but did not disclose the location, saying only that a person in southeastern Michigan had been hospitalized with the highly contagious respiratory illness.

The news comes as Wayne County health officials warned Friday that people who ate at a Northville restaurant earlier this month may have been exposed to measles.

Anyone who was at Early Bird Cafe at 333 E. Main St. between 7:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. April 8 may have been exposed, according to a news release from the county health department. The concern is not related to food safety or sanitation; rather, a customer with measles was at the restaurant.

**Michigan measles infection cases by year:**  
2017 (to April 21): 2  
2016: 1  
2015: 1  
2014: 5  
2013: 5  
Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Two other Michigan measles infection cases — the one in Macomb and one earlier this month in Livingston County — have been confirmed this year, according to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Earlier, officials in Washtenaw County warned of possible exposure at two restaurants in Ann Arbor, Mark's Midtown Coney Island, 3586 Plymouth Road, from noon-3 p.m. on April 6, and Benny's Family Dining, 1952 S. Industrial from 12 p.m.-3 p.m. on April 7.

And in Livingston County, officials said two locations there also were exposed: St. Joseph Mercy Brighton at 7575 Grand River Road in Brighton between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. April 3 and Dragon Court restaurant at 7570 E. M-36 in Hamburg Township between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. April 5.

Measles is spread through a contagious person's coughing and sneezing. Symptoms

include fever, cough, runny nose and red eyes, usually starting one to two weeks after exposure, according to the news release. About three to five days after symptoms begin, a rash starts on the face and spreads down the trunk, arms and legs, lasting four to seven days.

"Measles can be serious, leading to pneumonia, or inflammation of the brain," according to the news release.

People are protected from the virus by having two doses of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine. The first dose is given to infants after their first birthday, and a booster is given to children ages 4-6. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that, if exposed to the virus, one dose of measles vaccine is about 93% effective at preventing measles, and two doses are about 97% effective.

But it's also easy to contract.

"Measles is so contagious that if one person has it, 90% of the people close to that person who are not immune will also become infected," according to the CDC website.

The CDC considers adults born before 1957 to be immune to the illness. For more information on measles, go to the CDC website at cdc.gov/measles.





Liquid Monk will perform Saturday, June 24.

# Novi music festival gets new name, dates

Now that the city of Novi has a new signature festival — The Main Event Novi, presented by Diversified Members Credit Union — it just needs Mother Nature to cooperate so people can head “downtown” this summer for two days of live music, beer and wine and great food from local restaurants.

Produced by 2 Stones Events, the festival launched last year under the name Vibe on Main the second Saturday of August. A pair of rain storms put a slight damper on the inaugural event, but those who stopped by or stuck around had a blast listening to some of the area’s best local musicians.

This year’s event will take place June 23-24 on Main Street in Novi. While it’s too early for a weather report, the music acts and atmosphere are going to be hot.

“We can’t do anything about the weather, but people are not going to want to miss the bands and musicians we have lined up for the weekend,” said Whitney McClellan-Stone, president of 2SE. “Even if you come for one or stay for them all, Main Street is going to be alive for those two days.”

The city gave the event extensive support behind the scenes last year and officials were impressed enough to sign a three-year partnership with 2SE to help firmly establish The Main Event Novi. The goal is to replace the Michigan ‘50s Festival, which had a remarkable 20-year run.

McClellan-Stone and her husband, Cal Stone, both served on the committee for the ‘50s Fest, which ended in 2009. Around four years later, then City Manager Clay Pearson and Sheryl Walsh, the city’s communications director, approached 2SE about creating a new festival.

“It took a while to put all the pieces together,” McClellan-Stone said, “but we were confident about making it happen in 2016 and, except for the rain, we were extremely pleased with the results.”

### Palate pleasers

Novi celebrates many diverse cultures, which creates an incredible variety of food offered by the city’s restaurants — Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Thai, Italian, Mexican, Mediterranean, U.K., Indian and American. The idea for this festival is to bring as many of those in as possible to offer “bites” (at a lower price point), as well as regular portions. “Restaurants who are interested in participat-

ing can contact 2 Stones Events (info@2StonesEvents.com) and we can provide the details,” McClellan-Stone said. “It’s inexpensive and a great way to expose your food to a large audience.”

Access is free to the beverage garden (sponsored by Hubert Distributors), but a \$2 wristband is required to purchase alcohol; all standard beers and wines will be \$5 each and premiums at a higher price. Again this year, local Rotarians will handle the sales, with a portion of proceeds benefiting that club’s efforts.

“Novi Rotary is thrilled to once again partner with 2 Stones Events and the city of Novi by coordinating the Beverage Garden for The Main Event Novi,” said Wayne Wrobel, club president. “Ever since the ‘50s Festival ended, there has been a recognized void for a major community event. The Main Event Novi fills this void and then some. It is a great event in a perfect location that brings the community together and showcases Novi as a destination and we are happy to be a part of it.”

A limited number of V.I.P. area wristbands (\$30 online; \$35 at the gate if still available; must be 21 or older) include appetizers (small bites, not a full dinner) and drink tickets for premium wines and craft beer.

Wristbands and beverages are cash only; an ATM will be located in the entrance to the beverage garden and near the food vendors.

### Business support

With the festival officially sanctioned by the city, 2SE is soliciting partnerships from local

### THE MAIN EVENT NOVI

**Presented by:** Diversified Members Credit Union  
**Produced by:** 2 Stones Events and the city of Novi  
**When:** 4-11 p.m. Saturday, June 24  
**V.I.P. reception:** 7-10 p.m. Friday, June 23; a fundraiser for the Mitchel Kiefer Foundation.  
**Details:** A one-day festival featuring five bands, food from Novi area restaurants, a beverage garden with beer/wine and a V.I.P. area.  
**Live music:** 4 p.m., Misty Lyn & The Big Beautiful, gothic roots; 5:30 p.m., Lilac Lungs, alternative pop; 7 p.m., Liquid Monk, electronic soul; 8:30 p.m., Doug Deming & The Jewel Tones, jumpin’ blues; 10 p.m., The Corktown Popes, Celtic that rocks  
**Cost:** Free, but wristbands (\$2) needed to purchase alcohol in the beverage garden (sponsored Hubert Distributors); cash only; ATM on-site.  
**Location:** Downtown Novi. Main Street will be closed from Rojo south to Potomac and west to the Atrium of Novi from 6 a.m. Friday, June 23, to 11 a.m. Sunday, June 25. Main Street Village residents can access their homes via Constitution (off Grand River Avenue) or Trans X Road (off Novi Road).  
**V.I.P. area:** Presented by V.I.P. partner Tom Holzer Ford; 4-11 p.m. Saturday, June 24. A limited number of tickets (\$30 online; \$35 at the gate if still available; must be 21 or older) include appetizers (small bites, not a full dinner) and drink tickets for premium wine and craft beer.  
**Volunteer:** All volunteers receive free wristbands for the beverage garden and a drink ticket; online registration begins May 1.  
**Web:** www.TheMainEventNovi.com  
**Phone:** 810-599-0491  
**Email:** info@2StonesEvents.com

businesses. Novi Mayor Bob Gatt and City Manager Pete Auger are encouraging businesses to recognize the value of this event and what it can do for the city — especially the downtown area.

“The city of Novi relies upon the strength of the business sector for its partnership in community engagement events and activities,” Gatt and Auger stated in a letter of support for The Main Event Novi. “There is one thing missing in our community ... a signature festival/ event. We have partnered with 2 Stones Events to host and coordinate an annual festival in the Main Street area in summer 2017. We sincerely appreciate the vital contribution you make to Novi and hope you will consider lending

your support to this important undertaking, which will add yet another gem to our community. It is only with your partnership that Novi will continue to grow and prosper for many years to come.”

Two local businesses immediately recognized the event’s potential. Diversified Members Credit Union, which is located on the northeast corner of Main Street and Novi Road, came on board early on as the event’s exclusive presenting partner.

“We are very excited to be part of the city’s crown jewel music festival. The Main Event,” DMCU CEO Kathie Trembath said. “We jumped at the opportunity to be the presenting sponsor of this event for two reasons. First, the music festival will gener-

ate traffic to the downtown area, which is great for local businesses. Second, what better way to give back to the community than by bringing together people to celebrate a variety of music, enjoy unbelievable food and spend time with friends and family?”

Diversified Members Credit Union is very active in the community, sponsoring many local events through the library, city, high school and chamber of commerce.

“The core value of all credit unions is the philosophy of people helping people,” Trembath said. “The Main Event Novi allows us to do this and provides a weekend of fun for everyone!”

Tom Holzer Ford is the sole V.I.P. partner and will be hosting the V.I.P. reception 7-10 p.m. Friday, June 23, featuring the Jill Jack Band. Proceeds from the ticket sales (\$50 online; \$60 at the door), which include food and tickets for beer and wine tastings, will go toward the Mitchel Kiefer Foundation. The driving force behind this foundation is the tragic death Sept. 19, 2016, of Mitchel Arthur Kiefer, a hockey player for the Detroit Catholic Central 2016 Division 1 state championship team.

“For a second year, Tom Holzer Ford is absolutely thrilled to be a sponsor of the festival, this year as the sole V.I.P. partner,” said Brian Burke, sales consultant at Holzer and a Novi City Council member. “Last year, we saw the opportunity and the potential for this event to pick up where the 50s Festival left off. When Cal and Whitney approached us, it took all of about five minutes to decide that we wanted to continue to

support this event.”

The dealership, Burke noted, has been serving the transportation needs of thousands of Novi residents for more than 42 years and the dealership recognizes this as a small way of giving back to the community.

“Bringing people, music, food and art together in such a great location as Main Street shows our commitment to Novi and the surrounding communities, as well as Oakland County,” Burke said.

### Music variety

For years, 2SE has been involved in booking the live music for many events in the region — like Brighton’s Smokin’ Jazz & Barbecue Blues Festival, Taste of Brighton and Fine Arts & Acoustic Music Festival; Northville’s Arts & Acts; Howell’s Rock the Block; the Michigan State Fair; and Milford’s Currents — but this new Novi festival is truly unique.

“Our concept for The Main Event Novi is to have five completely different genres of music,” Stone said. “Like all the different varieties of food from local restaurants, we want people to experience music that they may never have thought about trying.”

That includes electronic soul, bluegrass, alternative pop, blues and Americana. The live music begins at 4 p.m. and runs until 11 p.m., with each act playing a one-hour set.

“We have about 400 bands or musicians that we work with,” Stone said, “and we’ve tapped some of our personal favorites to perform in downtown Novi. Last year’s lineup was very diverse, but this year’s is unlike any other festival in the region.”

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I am an American We are One Nation

# ART HELPS BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Scotland-born museum official takes an active role in his adopted country

MEG JONES USA TODAY NETWORK

Each week, this series will introduce you to an exceptional American who is making a difference to unite, rather than divide, our communities. To read more about the American profiled here and more average Americans doing exceptional things, visit [onenation.usatoday.com](http://onenation.usatoday.com).

WEST BEND, Wis. - Art museums sometimes have reputations as lofty, elitist, even unapproachable institutions.

Graeme Reid thinks art should be accessible to everyone.

As director of collections and exhibitions at the Museum of Wisconsin Art, Reid trumpets the talent and dedication of artists in Wisconsin. He judges art competitions and gives tours of the museum on the Milwaukee River.

He believes beauty, in the form of paintings, sculpture, drawings and other artwork, can bring people together.

“Art offers you a different view or a different take. Maybe it makes you change your mind,” said Reid, 55. “Museums tend to unite rather than divide. Museums elevate rather than denigrate. Museums are more relevant now than ever.”

Reid is an American by choice. He grew up in Scotland and was a student at the University of Glasgow when he was offered a scholarship and graduate assistantship at Indiana State University. He worked weekends as a security guard at Swope Art Museum in Terre Haute, Indiana, and began giving lectures and tours before eventually getting hired as a part-time curator.

In 2001 he moved to Sheboygan, Wisconsin, to work at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center. Two years later was hired by the Museum of Wisconsin Art.

Reid believes in getting involved in his community. Though he curates professional art exhibitions and has judged competitions on the state and national level, Reid volunteers as a judge for an annual VFW patriotic art contest, home-schooled art competitions, a duck decoy



MARK HOFFMAN/USA TODAY NETWORK

Graeme Reid, director of collections and exhibitions at the Museum of Wisconsin Art, grew up in Scotland and came to the U.S. in 1990 on a scholarship to Indiana State University.

decorating contest and the Lakefront Festival of the Arts in Milwaukee.

After 18 years in America, Reid decided to become a citizen. America had become his country; he wanted to pledge his allegiance. He became a citizen on a Thursday, and the following Tuesday he voted in the 2008 presidential election.

“Without sounding awfully cliched, America has been very good to me,” Reid said.

*“Museums tend to unite rather than divide. Museums elevate rather than denigrate.”*

GRAEME REID

### Graeme Reid

**Location:** West Bend, Wisconsin

**Age:** 55

**Profession:** Director of collections and exhibition, Museum of Wisconsin Art

**Mission:** To spread the joy of art to everyone

**More info:** [wisconsinart.org](http://wisconsinart.org)

### Q&A WITH GRAEME REID

**What does it mean to you to be an American?**

To be an American means I am a citizen. Originally being from the U.K., I was a subject. But I'm a citizen here, and I get to participate in every facet of life, political life, and I can vote for the dog-catcher to the president. Being a citizen was something that was very important to me.

**What moment touched and motivated you to launch this effort?**

What motivated me to be part of the Museum of Wisconsin Art was to get in on the opportunity to give Wisconsin its own museum that focuses on the art and artists of Wisconsin. To be a part of bringing that to not just the people of Wisconsin but also to be part of bringing that to a national audience as well was just a tremendous opportunity.

**What gives you hope or what concerns you?**

What concerns me I think is the political division and a coarsening of culture. But what gives me hope is the role an institution such as the Museum of Wisconsin Art can do. I think museums provide more unity than division. It also provides an elevation of culture rather than a coarsening of culture.

**What do you hope to accomplish through your efforts?**

I hope that the art and artists of Wisconsin will appreciate what we do for them. But I think the public will hopefully appreciate what we do for them in terms of recognition of the talent within this state. Not just talent from the past, but current talent and future talent as well.

### ONE NATION NOMINATE AN AMERICAN

Who are your American heroes? Share stories and nominees at [onenation.usatoday.com](http://onenation.usatoday.com) or via email to [onenation@usatoday.com](mailto:onenation@usatoday.com) or post a video submission to Twitter, Facebook or Instagram (no longer than 2 minutes, please) with the hashtags #IAmAnAmerican #WeAreOneNation.

## On board the Green Bay



U.S. NAVY | MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS CHRIS WILLIAMSON

Capt. Nathan Moyer, commanding officer of the amphibious transport dock USS Green Bay (LPD 20), points out the ship's position to the conning officer, Ensign Zachary Fuller, from Northville, as Green Bay departs Sasebo, Japan. Green Bay, assigned to Commander, Amphibious Squadron 11, is conducting at-sea preparations for its upcoming Mid-Cycle Inspection (MCI). MCI is conducted at the mid-year point prior to the Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) and is used to inspect and assess the material conditions of a ship.

## Northville police offer drug drop-off April 29

The Northville Police Department will have a collection box for prescription drugs that are expired, unused or not needed during the 13th annual National Take-Back Initiative Day, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 29, in the police department lobby, 215 W. Main St. (lower level of city hall).

The event is sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Agency. The program will not accept any liquids or needles. All drugs collected will be destroyed. No paperwork is required; simply come into the lobby and place unwanted medication in the collection bin.

According to the 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 6.4 million Americans ages 12 and over — 2.4 percent of the population — abuse prescription drugs. The majority report obtaining drugs from friends and family, including from home medicine cabinets. Overdoses from all

drugs are now the leading cause of injury-related death in the United States, eclipsing deaths from motor vehicle crashes or firearms, according to the DEA.

This event provides a good reason to clean out your medicine chest, drawers and cabinets and get rid of medication that is no longer needed. Medications that lower high cholesterol, treat diabetes or regulate heart conditions, such as angina, can cause poisoning in young children who accidentally ingest them.

Typical ways of drug disposal — either flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the garbage — are not recommended due to environmental risks.

For this event, there is a parking lot on the south side of the building, with limited space, and plenty of street parking. For more information, contact the Northville Police Department at 248-205-2715.

## Pleasant Ridge hires its first female police officer

Jay Grossman  
[hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)

Meet Julie Reid, the first female police officer to serve in Pleasant Ridge since the city formed in 1928.

“It’s been a long time coming,” Police Chief Keven Nowak said about his newest hire. “We interviewed many candidates and Officer Julie Reid was our No. 1 pick.”

Reid’s mom wanted her to become an art teacher. Her dad thought she might become an interior designer. Reid, 28, had other plans.

“Growing up in Birmingham, I always wanted to become a police officer,” the 2007 Seaholm High School graduate said. “I’m a people person and I love interacting with the community and meeting people from all walks of life. Police work is a way to make a positive difference in the community — and to potentially

make a difference in someone’s life.”

Pleasant Ridge is a bedroom community of well-manicured homes and neighborhood parks. Located off Woodward Avenue, just south of Interstate 696, the city has a population of about 2,600 residents. With Reid, the police department has a total of nine officers.

“It’s similar to Birmingham in the sense it has that small-town feel to it,” Reid said. “But then you have a different dynamic because of Royal Oak and Ferndale on the borders, while Birmingham is more buffered.”

She’s starting out on the midnight shift, learning the different streets and businesses. A 2014 graduate of the Oakland Police Academy in Auburn Hills, she spent about two years with the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office as a court services deputy before



joining Pleasant Ridge. She earned her bachelor’s degree in criminal justice at Oakland University.

Nowak introduced her to the public April 18 at the Pleasant Ridge City Commission meeting.

“I’m very happy and hon-

ored to be the first female officer here,” Reid told the commission. “I’m happy to add a different dynamic and twist to the department ... it’s been wonderful so far. Everyone’s been amazing with the training and showing me the different streets and places. I’m happy

JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
**Pleasant Ridge Officer Julie Reid poses for a photo with Police Chief Kevin Nowak.**

to serve and protect the community.”

Debbie Reid admits she was a bit apprehensive about her daughter becoming a police officer. Now, she couldn’t imagine her doing anything else.

“Finally, I realized you have to let your kids fly and let them do what they want to do,” the proud mom said.

For her part, Julie Reid hopes to become a role model for any kid who wants to become a police officer one day.

“One day, you could be dealing with a serious life and death issue and the next day you could be talking to a classroom of students about your job,” she said. “If you’re looking for a job with some variety to it, this is an excellent career.”

[jgrossman@hometownlife.com](mailto:jgrossman@hometownlife.com)  
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Twitter: @BhmEccentric





Unloading mail aboard the USS Nimitz in 2003.

PH1 ARLO ABRAHAMSON | U.S. NAVY

# National ‘Mail Call’ exhibit at Yankee Air Museum

A name is shouted out, and a parcel is handed through the crowd to its eager recipient — mail call is a moment when the front line and home front connect. Letters, news and packages from home unite families, boost morale and in wartime, elevate the ordinary to the extraordinary.

The traveling version of the National Postal Museum’s permanent exhibition, “Mail Call” explores the history of America’s military postal system, and examines how even in today’s era of instant communication, troops overseas continue to treasure mail delivered from home. Organized and circulated by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), the exhibition tells the fascinating story of military mail and communication — from the American Revolution to current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The exhibition will debut May 6, at Yankee Air Museum in Belleville, and remain on display through Aug. 6, before continuing on its nationwide tour.

“We are very pleased to bring ‘Mail Call’ to southeastern Michigan,” said Kevin Walsh, executive director of the Yankee Air Museum. “This is the natural encore to our recent project that assembled and mailed nearly 100 care packages to our troops in the Middle East. Yankee Air Museum proudly joins the past with the present as we look to the future.”

Throughout American history, the military and postal service have combined forces to deliver mail under chal-

*“This is the natural encore to our recent project that assembled and mailed nearly 100 care packages to our troops in the Middle East. Yankee Air Museum proudly joins the past with the present ...”*

KEVIN WALSH, executive director , Yankee Air Museum

lenging—often extreme—circumstances. Mail call forges a vital link with home, whether it takes place at headquarters or in hostile territory, on a submarine or in the desert. On the battlefield and at home, mail has long sustained the vital connections between military service members and their family and friends. With compelling documents, photographs, illustrations and audio stations, “Mail Call” celebrates the importance of this correspondence. Visitors can discover how military mail communication has changed throughout history, learn about the armed forces postal system and experience military mail through interesting objects and correspondence both written and recorded on audiotape. The exhibit offers an appreciation of the importance of military mail and the hard work that has gone into connecting service men and women to their government, community and loved ones at home.

“Mail Call” features a number of items that bring to life the story of military mail. One such highlight is a kit with supplies for “Victory Mail,” a microfilm process developed in World War II to dramatically shrink the volume and weight of personal let-

ters. Beginning in 1942, V-Mail used standardized stationery and microfilm processing to produce lighter, smaller cargo—150,000 micro-filmed letters could fit in one mailbag. Visitors will also gain access to dramatic firsthand records and heartfelt sentiments through excerpts from letters exchanged between writers on the front line and the home front. The exhibit also explores how the military postal system works today and describes the new ways the men and women of the armed forces are communicating with home.

From the earliest handwritten letters that took days or even months to deliver, to today’s instant communication via email or the Internet, “Mail Call” presents the changing look and format of mail pieces through the decades. It also examines the complex operations systems set in place to ensure safe delivery, and it explores the incalculable role mail plays in maintaining the morale of American soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen.

“Mail has always played a very important role in the lives of the men and women of our armed forces and their families at home,” said exhibit curator Lynn Heidelbaugh of the Na-

tional Postal Museum. “Writing and receiving correspondence has a significant power to shape morale. The relationship between mail and morale is expressed time and again in messages from deployed military personnel, and it is a compelling reason behind the extraordinary efforts to maintain timely mail service.”

SITES has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people outside Washington, D.C., for 65 years. SITES connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science and history, which are shown wherever people live, work and play. Exhibition descriptions and tour schedules are available at [www.sites.si.edu](http://www.sites.si.edu).

The National Postal Museum is devoted to presenting the colorful and engaging history of the nation’s mail service and showcasing one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of stamps and philatelic material in the world. For more information visit [www.postalmuseum.si.edu](http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu).

Yankee Air Museum is located at 47884 D Street, Belleville, on the grounds of historic Willow Run Airport. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

## Waco biplane readies for flight at Yankee Museum

In Yankee Air Museum’s Hangar 1 at Willow Run Airport, a red 1992 YMF-5C Waco biplane sits covered in a dark corner. Rays of sunlight beam through the windows casting light and hope onto this lonely aircraft.

As the weather improves, so does the spirit of this extraordinary airplane. All winter long, it hoped for a flight, feeling the wind passing through the open cockpit and over its strong wings. However, with whom would it share this special moment? Will it be you? You could be one of the first riders of the 2017 flying season, Saturday, May 20, at the Detroit Aviation and Airline Collectibles Show!

Winter is slowly leaving Michigan, which means the iconic Waco biplane will be making its first public appearance in more than four months.

“We are excited to open the hangar doors and offer rides in one our newest flyable aircraft,” said Kevin Walsh, executive director of the Yankee Air Museum. “Passengers enjoy its vibrant red color, vast wingspan and open cockpit design.”

The YMF-5C Waco biplane pays tribute to the barnstorming era, an important time in aviation history, spanning the 1920s and ’30s, in which biplanes (or aircraft with wings stacked one above the other) became increasingly popular. Waco Aircraft Co. quickly became the most recognized biplane manufacturer and has retained their title, even to this day. Modifications have been made to modernize the aircraft, but the spirit of the barnstorming era continues to inspire those who fly in it.

Although generations have passed since their introduction, Waco biplanes continue to impress all ages with its open cockpit design and remarkable flying capabilities. “Everyone who flies in the Waco always has a great time and really enjoys learning the history of the aircraft,” said Geof Bush, Waco Air Adventure representative at the

Yankee Air Museum. Sitting in an open cockpit, you experience the true glory of flight. Riders view the remarkable landscape, landmarks and experience a new sense of freedom. The pilot will fly under Visual Flight Rules, which ensures the weather is ideal for an Air Adventure in the Waco. Yankee Air Museum pilots are knowledgeable about the aircraft, and have logged numerous hours of flight-time; thus assuring the experience exceeds expectations.

Members of the museum staff are excited to begin scheduling and booking flights for the upcoming year. “I love working with the passengers and making sure their flight is memorable,” said Megan Dziekan, customer service center manager at the Yankee Air Museum. “I can help schedule rides and answer any questions.”

Answer the call of the lonely Waco biplane. The aircraft is patiently waiting for quality flying time with area residents. With seating capacity for two passengers, a ride in the Waco is the perfect activity for family and friends! Do not miss this chance to reserve a flight at the Detroit Aviation and Airline Collectibles Show.

The show will open at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 20, at Willow Run Airport, Hangar 1, 801 Kirk Profit Drive, Ypsilanti.

Although on-site openings may be available, reservations for Waco rides are highly recommended. Anyone wishing to reserve a ride and view additional information, is encouraged to go to the YAM website at <http://www.yankeeairmuseum.org/waco-biplane>, email: [biplanerides@yankeeairmuseum.org](mailto:biplanerides@yankeeairmuseum.org) or contact Geof Bush at 734-776-7569.

Pricing on the WACO is as follows: one person (not to exceed 350 pounds in passenger weight):\$195 for YAM member, \$225 for non-YAM member; two people (not to exceed 350 pounds in combined passenger weight): \$295 for YAM members, \$325 for non-YAM members.



Yankee Air Museum’s Waco biplane is ready to fly.

## All about art



Joya Matar works on arranging magnetic graphics into art while visiting the DIA Away station.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

### CITY OF NORTHVILLE NOTICE OF ENACTMENT ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Northville City Council has adopted the following amendments to the Zoning Ordinance:

- Ordinance No. 03-20-17Za: Amends Section 26.02 Definitions “Lot Coverage” to clarify that any structure with a roof, including covered porches, are included in the lot coverage calculation.
- Ordinance No. 03-20-17Zb: Amends Section 2.06 Uniform District Requirements, Section 10.03 Special Land Uses permitted After Review and Approval, and Section 16.07 Home Delivery and Take Out Restaurants. The amendments eliminate take-out restaurants as a Special Land Use in the Central Business District, and leave take-out restaurants as a Permitted Use in the Central Business District.
- Ordinance No. 03-20-17Zc: Amends 21.01 Sign Regulations to allow an additional 12-square feet of wall sign area at a secondary entrance to a business site from an alley or parking lot in the Central Business District.
- Ordinance No. 03-20-17Zd: Amends Section 15.02 for clarification. The new language clearly requires no side yard setback in the Central Business District or Local Commercial District unless the building has a window or door in the side façade or the side abuts a residential district. In these cases, a 10-foot side yard setback is required.
- Ordinance No. 03-20-17Ze: Amends Section 26.02 Definitions “Basement” to change the text for the definition to mirror the labels in the basement illustration. The word “ceiling” was changed to “finished floor elevation.” This change is consistent with terms used in the Residential and Building Codes.

The ordinances were introduced for first reading on March 20, 2017, and were adopted by the City Council on April 17, 2017. The ordinances shall become effective on May 5, 2017. The complete text of the ordinance amendments are available for public review at the City of Northville Municipal Building, Office of the City Clerk or the Building Department, 215 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-349-1300, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or on the City’s website at [www.ci.northville.mi.us](http://www.ci.northville.mi.us).

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PREP BASEBALL

Mustangs pitchers silence Novi offense

Northville outscores Wildcats 9-1 in taking both ends of twinbill

Brad Emons  
hometownlife.com

If pitching is still the name of the game, then Northville's starting staff is right on target. The Mustangs got complete games April 18 from Connor Ziparo and Jon Michalak in a doubleheader sweep of KLAA Central Division baseball rival Novi, 6-1 and 3-0. "Tremendous job by Connor and Jon on the mound today," said Northville coach John Kostrzewa, whose team improved to 8-0 overall and 7-0 in the division. "They both threw strikes and

gave our defense opportunities to make plays. We played solid defense in both games. Shortstop Kevin Morrissey has been outstanding all year for us. It was great to see Jon get his first start of the year after having to battle strep throat for the majority of this early season." Of Ziparo's 89 pitches, 59 went for strikes as he scattered six hits and two walks while striking out four over seven innings. The Mustangs also turned a pair of double plays. "Towards the end, he was better than the beginning," Kostrzewa said. Jack Sargent went 2-for-3 with a double and two RBIs to lead Northville's 10-hit attack. Other contributions came from Nick Prystash (2-for-2, RBI, two runs), Morrissey (2-for-4, two runs) and Aram Shahrigian (RBI).

"Offensively in the first game, we did a real good job getting in a position to score all game long, but we struggled at times with runners in scoring position and less than two outs to get guys in," Kostrzewa said. Losing pitcher Nate Lys went 4 2/3 innings, allowing four earned runs on nine hits and four walks. Alec Bageris knocked in the lone run for the Wildcats. In the nightcap, Michalak gave up just four hits and a walk while striking out seven in going the distance. "Jon pitched outstanding, considering it was his first start of the year," Kostrzewa said. "Our defense played very well behind him."

See BASEBALL, Page B2



MARTHA MICHALAK  
Northville's Jon Michalak pitched a complete game shutout during Game 2 against Novi.

GIRLS SOCCER

Novi's fancy footwork stymies Northville



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Novi players (from left) Ally Kobakof, Avery Fenchel and Jessie Bandyk celebrate after taking a 1-0 lead in the first half against Northville.

Freshman scores game-winning goal as Wildcats post 3-0 victory

Brad Emons  
hometownlife.com

Avery Fenchel may not look the part, being one of the shortest and perhaps the lightest player on the Novi girls soccer team. But the freshman forward is already proving she's a big stick of dynamite after the host Wildcats posted a 3-0 win April 18 over rival Northville in a KLAA Central Division match-up at Meadows Stadium. Fenchel's goal with 13:17 left in the first half, which proved to be the game-winner, was a thing of beauty as

she dribbled down the left flank and into the box, taking on a Northville defender one-on-one. After a couple of fancy spin-a-rama moves while controlling her dribble, the ninth-grader deposited the ball into the upper right corner and over the outstretched hands of Northville goalkeeper Carlie Castiglione. "It was a great feeling," Fenchel said. "Great work from my teammates. They got the ball up to me, we just took our chances and that one went in, but the team

See SOCCER, Page B2

GIRLS LACROSSE

Northville drills Rocks in 16-5 win

Brad Emons  
hometownlife.com

Despite a coaching change before the season, it appears the Northville girls lacrosse team hasn't missed a beat. The Mustangs, defending Kensington Conference and KLAA Association champions, have made a smooth transition so far under Dan Madigan after Amanda Asher left following the 2016 season to take the head coaching position at Concordia University. On Friday, the Mustangs improved to 4-1 overall with convincing 16-5 victory over host Salem in their conference opener at Plymouth High School.

"New coach, new offense, new defense ... I think it's really working well for our team and I personally really like it and I'm excited for what the rest of the season has in store for us," said senior midfielder Sarah Chase, who had a goal in the win. "We're a pretty offensive-minded team and that's why I think we kind of struggled with defense in the beginning, but (Madigan) helped us fix that pretty quick and I think we should be good going forward. I'm pretty excited." With a veteran cast from a 15-3 team that posted its best season in school history, the Mustangs' offense was clicking once again in the win against Salem as they stormed out to a 9-0 advantage and a 10-1 lead at intermission.

"I think we came out kind of focused," Madigan said. "We had a couple days off, a little time off between our last game, so we had a lot of time to work and kind of stress our defense a little bit more, which really needed some work. That was a point of emphasis tonight and I think in the first half that kind showed a little bit." The majority of the second half was played with a running clock as Northville led by as many as 11 goals on four different occasions.

Northville senior goalie Kat Weissert was also sharp, stopping making six saves during the first 25 minutes. The Mustangs are averaging nearly 18 goals per game this season, while giving up 11. Their only loss came against unbeaten Hartland, 14-13. "I think our defense really stepped it up," Chase said. "We communicated really well, which we haven't done in the past, so I think it was a really big step for that. Our goalie played great and I think we really worked well as a team." Weissert played only the first half before being replaced by Ashlyn Doner.



Chase

See LACROSSE, Page B2

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PREP TENNIS

# Hanson set to retire; Lowes to carry Novi tennis torch

**Brad Emons**  
hometownlife.com

The Novi High boys tennis program will be under new management starting in spring 2018.

Dan Lowes, an assistant with the Wildcats since 2005 and a science teacher in the building, has been elevated to head coach. He'll replace Jim Hanson, who is retiring in June after 23 seasons with the Wildcats.

"Forty-seven years, 72 teams ... it's time to move on and do other things," said the 70-year-old Hanson, who was recently inducted into the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association Hall of Fame. "Dan has helped me for the last 15 years. It will be a smooth transition. He's been a big part our success of both our boys and girls programs. He's a teacher in the district and that's always good to have coach that is also a



Lowes

teacher."

Hanson guided the Wildcats to a pair of MHSAA Division 1 boys state championships (2014 and '15) and placed runner-up twice (2012 and '13).

The Wildcats have qualified for 15 boys state finals while achieving 10 top five finishes to go along with eight regional crowns.

Hanson's 47-year tennis coaching career includes a stint at Livonia Clarenceville. He has also been the girls coach at since 1984 at Novi. His current overall dual match record is 291-140-10.

"Obviously, I'll be able to play some more golf," Hanson said. "It will be a good change of pace for me. You'll miss it just like teaching, where I had



**Novi coach Jim Hanson (center) was recently inducted into the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association Hall of Fame.**

42 years, but you always get over it." Lowes inherits a team with plenty of talent to get back to the finals, but the 43-year-old Novi alum isn't taking a return for granted. Last fall, the Wildcats finished fourth in the state.

"We have been blessed with some talent, but you still have to work with the kids and our goal is to watch them improve every year," Lowes said in a Novi school district press release. "No matter how talented they are, you still want to see them improve."

Lowes graduated in 1992, the year before Hanson arrived at Novi High. He said he's thankful for everything he has learned from the experience of working with a legendary coach.

"I want to simulate and do a lot of the things Jim did, keep the tradition going," Lowes said. "Tweak things a little here and there, but we've got a good thing going, so you want to keep it going. And I think with little tweaks, we can maintain it."

Lowes, who studied biology and chemistry at Western Michigan Uni-

versity and earned a master's degree from Wayne State University, is in his 13th year as a high school chemistry teacher at Novi.

Becoming head coach at his alma mater is special.

"It's kind of an honor," said Lowes, who played varsity doubles for coach Jim Newbold, from 1990-92. "It's refreshing in a way that we've kept it close to home. I was part of the first KVC (Kensington Valley Conference) championship that Novi tennis ever got in '91 and '92, so to see it materialize into what it has become today and be a part of that is kind of fun, kind of exciting."

A longtime assistant with the girls team, Lowes, who also golfed and played basketball as a prep athlete, would also like to succeed Hanson as head coach following the current spring season.

"I really do believe that Dan is going to be able to carry the torch and make it a little bit brighter," Novi athletic director Brian Gordon said. "He could not have been partnered with a better mentor to show him the way and I'm sure the lessons he has learned from coach Hanson will help him moving forward."

Gordon said he expects Lowes to be a candidate for the girls job.

"I love whenever we have the chance to hire somebody who is in our building," Gordon said. "With Dan's extensive tennis background and being a part of the program for 14 years, we will just follow our process as we always do, but we will see when that time comes and we'll make that decision come this fall."

bemons@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @BradEmons1

BOYS LACROSSE

## Northville defeats Brighton to earn third straight victory

**Brad Emons**  
hometownlife.com

From Northville boys lacrosse coach Greg Durham's perspective, there were a lot of things to be pleased about following a 15-8 triumph April 18 at Brighton in a rematch of last year's Kensington Lakes Activities Association championship final.

Senior forward Cole Gingell finished with five goals and three assists as the defending KLAA champion Mustangs improved to 3-1 overall.

"Cole has continued to impress," Durham said of the Novi Detroit

Catholic Central transfer. "He missed a couple of games because of the flu, but is starting to get his 'mojo' back. He has been a great addition this season, leading the team in goals and shooting percentage."

Other offensive contributions for the Mustangs came from Nate Holloway (five goals), Ty Kilar (five assists), Zach Tardich (three goals, one assist), Anthony Salamone (one goal, two assists) and Kevin Conder (one goal).

"This was Nate Holloway's best game," Durham said. "He was all over the field -- on defense, extra man offense, extra man defense and scored

five goals in our six-vs.-six offense. He is really bringing the team together as our captain this season."

"Abe Khoury shut down Brighton's best attack man to one goal," Durham said. "Nate Czarnota continues to play great at the defensive middle position, shutting down Brighton's high-powered middies throughout the game. Jeff Varner had 10 saves on 18 shots, as he continues to play very well each and every game."

The loss dropped Brighton to 3-3 overall.

bemons@hometownlife.com

## BASEBALL

Continued from Page B1

Morrisey went 2-for-3 with an RBI, while Billy Flohr also knocked in two runs.

"In the second game, we struggled to put much of anything together," Kostrzewa said. "We did a real good job running the bases and getting in position to score runs. We couldn't get the timely hit. Credit Novi pitching for keeping us off-balance, but we did manage to manufacture a couple runs

that proved to be the difference."

Bageris, the Novi starter, gave up two earned runs on three hits in three innings. He took the loss. Cam Czap-ski went the final three allowing one earned run on three hits.

The loss dropped the Wildcats to 6-7-1 overall and 2-4 in the KLAA Central.

**NORTHVILLE 4, CANTON 1:** Aram Shahrigian's RBI sacrifice fly in the top of the fifth inning was the go-ahead run as the Mustangs (6-0, 5-0 KLAA Central) earned a Kensington Conference crossover victory April 17 over the host Chiefs (9-3, 4-1 KLAA South).

Michael Lionas also contributed an RBI and Jake McWilliams scored a pair of runs in the victory. Winning pitcher Ben Schmidt worked the first 5 1/3 innings,

allowing one run on three hits and three walks while striking out Jon Michalak came on to earn the four-out save, allowing two hits.

Canton's Justin Mattson went 2-for-3 with an RBI, while starter Noah Spencer, who pitched the first four innings, took the loss, allowing two runs on three hits while striking out five.

**PLYMOUTH 2, NOVI 1:** Brenden Lacorato threw a complete-game shutout April 17, leading host Plymouth (4-2, 4-0 KLAA South) to a Kensington Conference victory over Novi (6-5-1, 2-2 KLAA Central).

Lacorato, a senior, scattered six hits, walked one and struck out eight in seven innings.

Michael Wischer went 2-for-2 and scored a run on a bunt single. Chase Every also had an RBI.

Ryota Torri, the Novi starter, gave up two earned runs on three hits and two walks in four innings before giving way to Mitch Lys, who allowed three hits over the next two innings.

Brian Wendt, Nate Lys, Grant Pytel, Michael Hrit and Drew O'Connor each had a hit for Novi.

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GIRLS TENNIS

## Novi nets Brighton Invitational crown

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Novi captured four doubles flights and added a singles title Saturday to earn a two-point victory in Saturday's Brighton Invitational girls tennis tournament.

The Wildcats led the four-school field with 20 points, edging Holly (18) and Birmingham Groves (15) for the title. The host Bulldogs did not score a point.

Novi's Jordana Krstovski, a freshman, was the lone singles winner, taking the No. 2 flight with a pair of straight set victories along with a 5-7, 6-2 (10-2 super-breaker) win over Groves.

Singles runners-up going 2-1 on the day for Novi included junior Katie Xie (No.3) and sophomore Michelle Wang (No. 4).

The Wildcats' top singles player Jamie Fu, a sophomore, finished 1-2.

Novi's top two doubles teams of senior Jessica Lypka and freshman Ashley Zhou (No. 1), along with senior Alexis Malecki and junior Katie Valade (No. 2), yielded a combined 14 games in 12 sets.

Freshmen Scarlett Chen and Elizabeth Yang (No. 5) also won all three of their matches in straight sets, while juniors Alexis Felcher and Brittany O'Connell (No. 3) needed a super-breaker to beat Brighton and a second-set tiebreaker to beat Holly.

Seniors Ria Joshi and Sasha Tretyakova finished 1-2 at No. 4 doubles.



Krstovski

**DUAL MATCH RESULTS  
NOVI 9, SOUTH LYON 1  
April 21 at South Lyon**

**No. 1 singles:** Katie Xie (N) def Sarah Uratchko, 6-1, 6-1; **No. 2:** Michelle Wang (N) def Shealyn Lach, 6-0, 6-0; **No. 3:** Ashley Zhou (N) def Lizzie Hiscok, 6-2, 6-0; **No. 4:** Catherine Xu (N) def. Marena l'heureux, 6-0, 6-0

**No. 1 doubles:** Alexis Malecki-Katie Valade (N) def Colleen Barba-Bria Spalding, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3; **No. 2:** Teja Mogasala-Brittany O'Connell (N) def Erin Vincent-Rachel Debrincat, 6-1, 6-2; **No. 3:** Sasha Tretyakova-Ria Joshi (N) def Rachel Becker-Kaleigh Taggart, 3-6, 6-2, 6-1; **No. 4:** Scarlett Chen-Elizabeth Yang (N) def Abby O'Reilly-Kristen Shears, 6-4, 6-1; **No. 5:** Alexis Felcher-Reaveena Joshi (N) def Kaleigh McReilly-Hannah Johnson, 6-4, 6-1

**Dual match records:** Novi, 4-1 overall, 3-1 KLAA Central Division; South Lyon, 1-3 overall, 1-3 KLAA Central.

**NOVI 9, SOUTH LYON EAST 0  
April 18 at South Lyon East**

**No. 1 singles:** Jordana Krstovski (N) defeated Summer McEvers, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4); **No. 2:** Katie Xie (N) def. Camille Cave, 6-0, 6-1; **No. 3:** Jessica Lypka (N) def. Sahita Manda, 6-0, 6-0; **No. 4:** Catherine Xu (N) def. Natalie Kraemer, 6-1, 6-4

**No. 1 doubles:** Alexis Malecki-Katie Valade (N) def Maddy Sexton-Jen Kessler, 6-1, 6-0; **No. 2:** Brittany O'Connell-Ashley Zhou (N) def Ally Basch-Alyssa Rockwell, 6-0, 6-1; **No. 3:** Teja Mogasala-Angali Singh (N) def Megan McCombs-Sadie Storm, 6-0, 6-0; **No. 4:** Reaveena Josh-Haarika Karlapati (N) def Kayla Lundy-Madelyn Guzick, 6-1, 6-0; **No. 5:** Shannon Biring-Nikita Daniel (N) def Jaclyn Burczyk-Jillian Berry, 6-1, 6-1

**Dual match records:** Novi, 3-1 overall, 2-1 KLAA Central Division; East, 0-3 overall, 0-3 KLAA Central.

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## LACROSSE

Continued from Page B1

"Our goalie, Kate Weissert, has been playing pretty well for us," Madigan said. "She steps up and makes the saves that you kind of don't expect out of a goalie to make or you really don't count on them to make and she's kind of done it for us. That definitely helps our defense."

Sophomore Kendall Wasik paced Northville's offense with four goals and four assists, while another sophomore, Jessica Tardich, contributed four goals and two assists.

Junior Charlotte Beaudoin also finished with four goals, while Emma Dietrich, Amanda Malpede and Chase each added one.

Madigan, who formerly coached at Ann Arbor Huron, has tweaked a few things since after taking over for Asher.

"Kind of hearing it from a different mouth is a change, especially after being successful for a couple years, so I think the girls have taken to it pretty well and I hope to kind of continue that," Madigan said.

After going scoreless for the first 23:08, Salem's Brittany Mitton broke through with a goal.

Stephanie Miller and Madison Mullins both scored a pair of goals during the second half, while Leah Tardiff also had an assist.

"We're working as a team on our offense, so throughout our games, we're doing a better job working as a team and moving the ball more consistently," Salem second-year coach Nicole Jacobs said. "So yeah, I can only hope for good ball movement on our offense."

Senior Maddie Johnson went all the way in net for the Rocks (4-4, 1-1), facing a total of 22 shots.

There a couple of areas of improvement that Jacobs would like to see going forward.

"I think just working as a team, staying consistent with our passing, working on those 50/50 ground balls, just staying consistent," she said.

But a veteran Northville squad proved to be too much for Salem over the course of the 50-minute match.

"I think they have a lot of kids that are consistent ball carriers and they move the ball fluidly up the field," Jacobs said of the Mustangs. "That's what makes them successful."

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## SOCCER

Continued from Page B1

really helped get the ball there. They pressured the ball and that's why we got that goal in."

The freshman, however, was nearly at a loss for words describing the double 360-degree moves.

"It's just kind of something that happens," Fenchel said. "It was just something that was just kind of in the moment."

Novi padded its lead just 1:12 later, when Julia Stadtherr scored on a penalty kick to make it 2-0 after being tripped in the box by Northville defender Jordin Rickard.

And with 26:53 remaining in the second half, Novi put the game away when senior Vera Razburgaj sent a perfect through ball to sophomore Jessie Bandyk, who streaked past the final line of the Northville defense and guided a shot past Ellie Thallman, who had come in at halftime to replace Castiglione.

With the victory, Novi improved to 3-0-1 overall and 2-0 in the KLAA Central Division.

"I think we did well today," Fenchel said. "We had great competition and Northville is a great team. We stepped it up today, but it can be different any day. Today, we pulled through and got the win."

Novi goalie Callie Rich, a junior, posted a clean sheet, highlighted by a diving save on Northville's Erica Toupin just 15 minutes into a scoreless match. And it was only a minute earlier that Novi defender Reily Schultz cleared a shot off the line that appeared to being

going in off the foot of Northville's Sydney Schembri.

"I thought the first 10-15 minutes of the game, we did a really good job possessing the ball, working it around and, unfortunately, we couldn't finish them," Novi coach Todd Pfeiffer said. "Then we made a couple of mistakes in the back. We got a little nervous and started playing a little tentative. We started turning over the ball in the back and giving them some opportunities to score. We were able to prevent them from finishing those and then, once we got that first goal, it kind of gave us our confidence back."

In three of Novi's first four games this season, Fenchel has scored a least one goal.

"You can see she's not the biggest player, by any means, but she plays a lot bigger than she is," Pfeiffer said. "She's not afraid to take on any team. It's been great."

Novi lost a bulk of its lineup from a year ago that reached the MHSAA Division 1 state semifinals and captured the Central Division, Kensington Conference and KLAA Association titles.

Gracie Backus, Lauren Calhoun and Schultz are returning starters on defense, while Jacalyn Schubring and Bandyk returned at midfield.

"We lost a lot from last year with Chloe (Allen) and Katrina (Koomen)," Pfeiffer said. "One of the nice things we've been seeing in our games is that we've had six or seven different goal scorers. Today, we had three different goal scorers. Last year, we relied on two, three people to get our goal scoring, but this year every game we're having multiple goal scorers. We can count on anybody at any given time. (Fenchel) has done a great job stepping

up in the first four games and even Michelle (Jecmen), another underclassmen, she's stepped up and created opportunities for us."

It was another frustrating loss for the Mustangs, who dropped to 0-4-1 overall and 0-2 in the KLAA Central.

"We don't finish on our opportunities," said Northville coach Eric Brucker, whose team had five shots on goal. "We're five games in and we have two goals. If we don't finish, we're never going to win. It's an internal team effort. If we don't get that fixed, then we can't compete in this league. It's too good. So we're back to figuring out what we want to do collectively."

Northville's demanding early-season schedule has contributed to the slow start. Brucker also made wholesale lineup changes against Novi trying to find the right combination.

"We have to figure out and revise team goals and go attack the next game," Brucker said. "The good thing about high school is that you can't worry about the last game because the next game is right around the corner."

The two rivals will square off again Thursday, May 4, at Northville.

"Every time we play Northville, it doesn't matter what our record, no matter their record, there's always some ups and downs, some runs, some control of play or we're going to control the play," Pfeiffer said. "We just talked about we've got to play smart in the back, not try and do too much and try and count on your teammates. We got 25 players on our roster and 23 got in today. At any given time, we want to be able to call on anybody off the bench to help us out."

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PREP TRACK

# Lakeland repeats in Balawajder Relays

Eagles show depth with both boys and girls teams in win

**Brad Emons**  
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There was a special kind of symmetry that has developed between White Lake Lakeland boys and girls track teams.

And that was on display once again Saturday as the Eagles captured the Gene Balawajder Relays at Milford for the second straight year with 88.5 points in the co-ed scored meet that features boys and girls equally sharing the load and competing together.

Bay City Western was runner-up in the 12-school field with 64 points, followed by the host Mavericks (54), Walled Lake Northern (52), Ann Arbor Skyline (51), Williamston (46.5), West Bloomfield (45), Northville (45), Novi (44), Waterford Mott (38), Rochester (31) and Farmington (26).

The meet featured 10 co-ed relay running events and five co-ed field events also scored as relays.

“What’s nice is to have the balance between the distances and the sprints,” longtime Lakeland girls coach John Kababik said. “You can come here and be really tough in sprints, but then you get killed in the distances. We were able to score and score well in both.”

The individual star of the meet was Lakeland’s Grace Stark, who figured in three first-place finishes. The sophomore teamed with Andrew Hunt, Marisa Sailus and Justin Smith for a meet record time in the 400-meter relay (45.9).

Stark also ran a leg for the Eagles’ first-place 800 relay (45.9), which also included Smith, Noah Howard and Haley Rathwell.

Even more impressive was Stark’s final leg in the shuttle hurdle relay as she made up a 20-meter deficit to edge Milford at the finish line. Stark combined with Rathwell, Jason Dernay and Caden Allen for a first-place time of 59.3, while the Mavericks’ quartet clocked 59.6.

“It was fun, I liked it, I like going co-ed,” Stark said. “I think I was most happy with the hurdles, I’d say, because I was far behind. I was nervous coming off the eighth hurdle. I caught her on the ninth and I wasn’t sure I was going to get her or not.”

Last year as a freshman, Stark finished seventh in the 100 dash and was ninth in the 100 hurdles at the MHSAA Division 1 state finals. Earlier in the week in a dual meet at Walled Lake Western, Stark broke her own school record in the 100 hurdles with a time of 13.7.

“I just want to get mid- to low 13s,” Stark said. “I think I can push down there. In the sprints, I try to work on my drive phase. And for the hurdles, I wanted to work my form over the hurdles because it was a little iffy coming off of last season.”

Kababik, in his 40th season as the Eagles coach, hasn’t seen anybody quite like Stark during his tenure..

“She’s the fastest sprinter we’ve had in 40 years here at Lakeland High School and the fastest hurdler we’ve ever had at Lakeland High



JERRY REA

Northville’s Olivia Harp (right) hands off to Nicholas Couyoumjian en route to a first-place finish in the 6,400-meter relay.

School,” he said. “So she is something special.”

Lakeland’s other first came in the 4 by 3,200 relay, as Drew Wenger, Rylee Lukes, Zack Werth and Olivia Clymer combined for a time of 43:05.1.

“We thought we had a pretty good squad, both boys and girls, so we figured meshing them together — and we’re strong on one and two on both sides — so it was easy putting them together,” Lakeland boys coach Sean Williamson said. “And they’ve got a lot of speed somehow this year and it’s a good thing, so it worked out. We always want to win, too. Not much really surprised us. We kind of knew what we had going into it. We had strong field events and then the rest were there.”

The Eagles got scoring in other areas as well.

“I liked our hand-offs between the boys and the girls,” Kababik said. “It’s hard to get those things down based on the differences in speed and our kids did a tremendous job. We didn’t botch one hand-off today in the sprint relays, consequently we won the 4 by 200 and the 4 by 100 (and) the 4 by 3,200. We did really, really well today. I was happy with that today, not only our running events, but our field events came through for us. We were second in the (pole) vault, tied for third in the high jump and in the discus we were fifth. I couldn’t ask much more from those kids after graduating a lot of great athletes in the field events. Our field events people did a nice job.”

Milford’s quartet of Isaac Phillips, Victoria Heligenthal, Josh Deradoorian and Mallory Barrett capped the meet with a first-place finish in the final event, the 1,600 relay (3:45.7).

“Congratulations to Lakeland, first of all,” Milford coach John Fundukian said. “They have a lot of nice athletes. And what was special to see today was the girl from Ann Arbor Skyline, Chloe Foster, and Grace Stark of Lakeland — two of the finest athletes in the state of Michigan and the kids got to see them compete today. That was very exciting and that’s something you don’t see every day.”

In addition to the shuttle hurdle relay, Milford was second in the 3,200

relay. “We were happy with the way the meet turned out,” Fundukian said. “We love hosting it and the teams that were here. The athletes all get along and the coaches all get along really well. It was fun again to see today the boys and the girls competing together.”

Northville, which tied for seventh, was missing a couple of key performers, but won the 6,400 relay with the team of Ben Cracraft, Olivia Harp, Nicholas Couyoumjian and Ana Barrott.

“It was an OK day,” Northville coach Tim Dalton said. “We had a hard week of practice and the rain didn’t help.”

The meet, meanwhile, honored the memory of former Milford athletic director and coach Gene Balawajder, who died in 2007.

“I think all the teams at the Balawajder Relays are family-oriented teams,” meet director Brian Salyers said. “That’s how they coach, that’s how they compete and that’s why they’re here. We had great weather and great competition and that makes for a great day. And we’re real proud of the fact that we can deliver that year after year in honor of Gene Balawajder.”

**BALAWAJDER CLASSIC RELAYS BOYS & GIRLS TRACK MEET RESULTS April 22 at Milford**  
**TEAM STANDINGS:** 1. Lakeland, 88.5 points; 2. Bay City Western, 64; 3. Milford, 54; 4. Walled Lake Northern, 52; 5. Ann Arbor Skyline, 51; 6. Williamston, 46.5; 7. (tie) West Bloomfield and Northville, 45 each; 9. Novi, 44; 10. Waterford Mott, 38; 11. Rochester, 31; 12. Farmington, 26.  
**FINAL EVENT RESULTS**  
**Shot put relay:** 1. B.C. Western (Rebecca Clare, Olivia Bailey Jared Berry, Jacob Vantol), 143 feet, 5 inches; 2. W.L. Northern, 141-10; 3. Williamston, 138-7; 4. Novi, 134-11; 5. Northville, 133-2; 6. Mott, 132-1; 7. Rochester, 129-5; 8. West Bloomfield, 125-2.  
**Discus relay:** 1. W.L. Northern (Jaice Harvey, Paige Karbowski, Tyler Devon, Paul Fothan), 426-7; 2. Rochester, 422-4; 3. Farmington, 420-0; 4. Williamston, 412-7; 5. Lakeland, 395-6; 6. Mott, 386-1; 7. Milford, 38-10; 8. Northville, 380-7.  
**High jump relay:** 1. B.C. Western, 21-5; 2. Milford, 21-3; 3. (tie) Lakeland and Williamston, 20-3 each; 5. Northville, 20-0; 6. Rochester, 16-0; 7. West Bloomfield, 15-9; Novi, 15-2.  
**Long jump relay:** 1. West Bloomfield (Niko Mosley, Richie Sanders, Destini Cannon, Ja’el Neslon), 69-2; 2. Northville, 68-9.25; 3. Lakeland, 68-9; 4. B.C. Western, 66-11.75; 5. W.L. Northern, 66-11.5; 6. Williamston, 66-10.5; 7. Milford, 66-6; 8. Farmington, 64-5.5.  
**Pole vault relay:** 1. Novi (Scott Sawyer, Ashley Jameson, Emma Hammelet, Nate Lyon), 43:05.1; 2. Lakeland, 40-0; 3. W.L. Northern, 39-0; 4. Williamston, 37-0; 5. B.C. Western, 33-6; 6. Skyline, 26-6; 7. Milford, 23-6; 8. Mott, 17-0.  
**4 x 3,200-meter relay:** 1. Lakeland (Drew Wenger, Rylee Lukes, Zack Werth, Olivia Clymer), 43:05.1; 2. Farmington, 43:55.01; 3. Northville, 44:01.31; 4. Rochester, 44:09.37; 5. Skyline, 44:38.99; 6. Milford, 44:51.54; 7. Novi, 46:07.16; 8. B.C. Western, 47:27.66.  
**Sprint medley:** 1. Mott, 2:42.7; 2. West Bloomfield, 2:44.1; 3. Williamston, 2:44.6; 4. Lakeland, 2:45.8; 5. Skyline, 2:46.5; 6. Rochester, 2:47.5; 7. Novi, 2:47.5; 8. W.L. Northern, 2:52.6.  
**3,200 relay:** 1. Skyline, 9:38.7; 2. Milford, 9:52.8; 3. B.C. Western, 9:04.9; 4. Mott, 9:10.9; 5. Lakeland, 9:13.4; 6. Northville, 9:26.2; 7. Novi, 9:28.0; 8. W.L. Northern, 9:53.6.  
**800 relay:** 1. Lakeland (Justin Smith, Grace Stark, Noah Howard, Haley Rathwell), 1:37.1; 2. W.L. Northern, 1:37.3; 3. Novi, 1:39.0; 4. Williamston, 1:41.8; 5. Milford, 1:41.6; 6. B.C. Western, 1:41.8; 7. Northville, 1:42.0; 8. Rochester, 1:45.9.  
**6,400 relay:** 1. Northville (Ben Cracraft, Olivia Harp, Nicholas Couyoumjian, Ana Barrott), no times available; 2. Lakeland; 3. B.C. Western; 4. West Bloomfield; 5. Rochester; 6. Skyline; 7. Milford; 8. Novi.  
**Throwers relay:** 1. West Bloomfield, 1:52.0; 2. Skyline, 1:52.7; 3. W.L. Northern, 1:53.4; 4. Milford, 1:55.5; 5. Williamston, 1:56.5; 6. Farmington, 1:57.9; 7. Novi, 1:59.1; 8. Mott, 2:01.4.  
**Shuttle hurdle relay:** 1. Lakeland (Rathwell, Jason Dernay, Caden Allen, Stark), 59.3; 2. Milford, 59.6; 3. Novi, 1:02.2; 4. Skyline, 1:02.5; Williamston, 1:02.8; 6. B.C. Western, 1:03.2; 7. Northern, 1:03.3; 8. West Bloomfield, 1:03.9.  
**400 relay:** 1. Lakeland (Andrew Hunt, Justin Smith, Stark, Marisa Sailus), 45.9 (meet record); 2. Farmington, 47.2; 3. Novi, 47.3; 4. W.L. Northern, 48.2; 5. B.C. Western, 48.3; 6. West Bloomfield, 48.7; 7. Mott, 49.1; 8. Rochester, 49.4.  
**Distance medley:** 1. Mott, 11:36.1; 2. Northville, 11:47.8; 3. Skyline, 11:50.9; 4. B.C. Western, 11:58.8; 5. Lakeland, 12:02.2; 6. Farmington, 12:06.9; 7. Rochester, 12:17.1; 8. Williamston, 12:48.1.  
**1,600 relay:** 1. Milford (Isaac Phillips, Mallory Barrett, Victoria Heligenthal, Josh Deradoorian), 3:45.7; 2. Farmington, 3:47.1; 3. B.C. Western, 3:47.5; 4. West Bloomfield, 3:47.7; 5. Mott, 3:50.1; 6. Lakeland, 3:55.3; 7. Williamston, 3:56.6; 8. W.L. Northern, 3:57.6.

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GIRLS SOCCER

# Northville on the rebound after slow beginning

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The Northville girls soccer team has begun to right the ship.

After starting out the season 0-4-1, the Mustangs made it four straight Saturday without a loss by going 2-0-1 in the Saginaw Heritage Invitational held at the Saginaw Soccer Complex.

In the round-robin format that featured 50-minute matches, Northville (3-4-1) opened with a 1-0 win over Midland as Sydney Schembri’s shot from 18 yards out caromed in off the right post for the game-winner in the second half.

The Mustangs then tied Linden, 2-2, as Megan Williams scored on a rebound after Sydney Schembri’s shot rang off the crossbar to make it 1-all at halftime.

In the second half and down a goal again, Northville’s Roan Haines scored with only 3:30 left off a scramble in front of the net following a corner kick from Kendall Dillon.

Ellie Thallman’s made five saves in the deadlock.

In the final match of the day, Northville’s Lauren Sibley scored a pair of first-half goals and Sarah Noonan added another with 6:24 left in the match to beat Flushing, 3-0.

Sibley’s two goals came off corner kicks from Abby Gardiner and Dillon, respectively. Nikki Buie assisted on Noonan’s goal from six yards out after she served the ball into the box.

Castiglione made three saves to notch her third shutout of the season.

**NORTHVILLE 2, SOUTH LYON 0:** On Friday, the Mustangs (1-4-1, 1-2) earned their first KLA Central Division victory of the season against the visiting Lions (3-2-2, 1-2) at Tom Holzer Field. Both Northville goals came in the first half as Kendall Dillon converted a penalty kick with 9:09 left after teammate Tara Beason was taken down in the box.

Sarah Noonan then made it 2-0 with 1:14 to go on a 22-yard strike from Megan Krygiel. Goalie Ellie Thallman made five saves to post the shutout.

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PREP SOFTBALL

# Northville bats too much for rival Novi

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The Northville softball team brought the one intangible first-year coach Scott DeBoer was looking for April 18 in a doubleheader sweep of rival Novi.

The Mustangs, who rolled to a 19-3 victory in the opener, completed the sweep in the nightcap, 6-5, in nine innings to improve to 5-2 overall and 4-2 in the KLA Central Division.

“We have to play with passion and they did tonight,” DeBoer said. “We lost the second game (last week) against Salem and I told them, ‘We settled’ for one against a good Salem team. Today, we had the passion in the second game. We have a lot of good softball ahead of us against a lot of great teams. We just have to take it one game at a time and we’ll show up to play.”

Natalie Turner scored the game-winning run all the way from first base on a bunt by Alexis Koehler after a Novi overthrow to first base in the bottom of the ninth to decide the second game.

Sophomore pitcher Hannah Laurin picked up her second win of the day, going seven innings in relief of starter Maggie Petix, who worked the first two innings after leaving with a 3-2 lead. Laurin allowed three runs on 10 hits and one walk over the final seven innings.

Novi reliever Maria Gustitus, who came on in the seventh for starter Ally Cummings, was charged with the loss.

Sarah Hige, Abby Tolstyka and Mackenzie Kamm each collected two hits and an RBI, while Megan Swart and Koehler also drove in runs for Northville.

Ashley Yarberry went 3-for-4 with three RBIs to pace Novi’s 13-hit attack. She had a two-run homer in the first inning and tied the game in the top of the seventh with an RBI single.

Gustitus also went 3-for-5, while Allison Purtell contributed two hits for the Wildcats, who trailed 5-2 through the first four innings before scoring single runs in the fifth, sixth and seventh to force extra innings.

“I got to give Novi credit,” DeBoer said. “That team battled that entire second game. They never gave up. Great execution on some running and some small ball. There were a number of clutch plays from both teams out on the field. I can’t say enough. That was an ESPN Classic. From the fifth inning on, each team had an opportunity.”

In the opener, the Mustangs scored 13 runs on nine hits in the first inning, but only two were extra-base hits. Northville then added six more in the second.

“Every ground ball they hit seemed to hit a hole,” Novi coach Bruce Lenington said. “It was one of those weird ones. I guess everything that could go wrong went wrong.”

Top hitters for Northville included Koehler (3-for-3, two RBIs), Kamm (3-for-4, RBI), Turner (2-for-2, RBI) and Tolstyka (three RBIs).

“Up and down the lineup, everybody contributed with hits,” DeBoer said. “In my 22 years of coaching, I’ve never seen anything like that. We just couldn’t miss.”

Gustitus had a two-run double, while Cummings, the losing pitcher, also collected two hits in the three-inning run-rule setback.

The Wildcats (4-6, 2-5) committed five errors in the first game and four more in the second.

**CANTON 7, NORTHVILLE 1:** On April 17, the Mustangs (3-2, 2-2 KLA Central) got out to an early 1-0 lead in the first inning, but the host Chiefs (2-1, 2-1 KLA South) stormed back for the Kensington Conference victory with seven unanswered runs. Sarah Hige’s RBI single staked Northville to the one-run lead, but Canton came back to pin the loss on starter Hannah Laurin, who allowed all seven runs on eight hits while striking out four in six innings. Abby Tolstyka went 2-for-2 in a losing cause. **PLYMOUTH 10, NOVI 0:** Right-hander Jenny Bressler pitched a five-inning perfect game April 17 as host Plymouth downed Novi (4-4, 2-3) in a Kensington Conference crossover. Bressler struck out 11 and retired all 15 batters she faced in the run-rule win. Jessica Tucci went 2-for-3 with four RBIs, while Mikayla Rose, Arie Bartholomew and Gina Barber each added three hits. Novi starter Ally Cummings took the loss.

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GIRLS TENNIS

# Northville cruises to championship of Ann Arbor Pioneer Invitational

**Brad Emons**  
hometownlife.com

Northville proved it was up to the competition Saturday, sweeping all four doubles flights and adding a pair of singles titles in winning the Ann Arbor Pioneer Invitational girls tennis tournament, which featured four teams ranked in the top 10.

The Mustangs, ranked No. 3 in Division 1, scored 22 points, followed by No. 4 Grosse Pointe South (12), No. 5 Pioneer (8) and No. 8 Troy (6).

All four of Northville’s doubles tandems earning gold medals by sweeping all three of their matches in straight sets: Serena Wang and Sophie Zhuang (No. 1); Neha Chava and Maya Mulchandani (No. 2); Connie Gao and Andrea Nam (No. 3); Alexandria Petix and Madson DeYoung (No. 4).

The Mustangs’ No. 5 doubles team of Jillian Ickes and Aidan Torres also won



MONICA MULCHANDANI

The Northville girls tennis team defeated three state-ranked foes to win the Ann Arbor Pioneer Invitational.

its exhibition flight with straight set wins over Pioneer and Troy.

In singles, Northville’s Renee Torres (No. 3) gave up just 10 games in six sets, while Tori Mady (No. 4) also went 3-0 on the day, highlighted by a 6-7 (2-7), 6-2, 6-2

three-set victory over Pioneer’s Mel Goldberg.

At No. 1 singles, Northville’s Shanoli Kumer was runner-up to Pioneer’s Kari Miller, 6-1, 6-0, after defeating South’s Maddie Paolucci in three sets, 6-4, 0-6, 6-4.

Northville’s No. 2 singles player Joanne Gao suffered a 6-11, 6-3 setback to South’s Laurel Sullivan after a three-set win over Pioneer’s Kara Dickinson and a 6-0, 6-0 triumph over Troy’s Sneha Yedula.

Northville, coached by Linda Jones, returns to action this Saturday at the Ann Arbor Huron Invitational, which will include No. 1-ranked and defending state champion Midland Dow along with No. 7 Huron, No. 9 Port Huron Northern, No. 10 Ann Arbor Skyline and Division 2 and No. 5-ranked Traverse City Central.

**DUAL MATCH RESULTS NORTHVILLE 8, LIVONIA STEVENSON 1**

**April 20 at Stevenson**  
**No. 1 singles:** Shanoli Kumar (N) defeated Noelle Hillert, 6-0, 6-1; **No. 2:** Joanne Gao (N) def. Jill Weiland, 6-0, 6-3; **No. 3:** Renee Torres (N) def. Molly Cormier, 6-1, 6-4; **No. 4:** Natalie Hay (S) def. Sufra Gill, 7-5, 6-1.  
**No. 1 doubles:** Serena Wang-Sophie Zhuang (N) def. Natalia Roznowski-Alison Malkowski, 6-0, 6-0; **No. 2:** Neha Chava-Maya Mulchandani (N) def. Leah James-Kayla Parker, 6-1, 6-3; **No. 3:** Connie Gao-Andrea Nam (N) def. Shannon Ward-Jillian Cormier, 6-1, 6-0; **No. 4:** Alexandria Petix-Madison DeYoung (N) def. Mackenzie Wilson-Jessica Hinkle, 6-0, 6-0; **No. 5:** Aidan Torres-Jillian Ickes (N) def. Mackenzie Pisko-Alyssa Engle, 6-0, 6-0.  
**Dual match records:** Northville, 5-0-1 overall, 4-0 KLA Central Division; Stevenson, 2-3 overall, 1-3 KLA Central.

**NORTHVILLE 9, SALEM 0 April 18 at Northville**  
**No. 1 singles:** Shanoli Kumar (N) defeated Lizzy Lu, 6-0, 6-0; **No. 2:** Joanne Gao (N) def. Bianca Ghita, 6-2, 6-1; **No. 3:** Renee Torres (N) def. Corina Ghita, 6-0, 6-0; **No. 4:** Tori Mady (N) def. Olya Venkat, 6-0, 6-0.  
**No. 1 doubles:** Serena Wang-Sophie Zhuang (N) def. Raegan Henderson-Emilee The, 6-0, 6-0; **No. 2:** Neha Chava-Maya Mulchandani (N) def. Trina Pal-Sarah Martin, 6-1, 6-0; **No. 3:** Connie Gao-Andrea Nam (N) def. Neha Narayan-Aria Mason, 6-0, 6-0; **No. 4:** Alexandria Petix-Madison DeYoung (N) def. Charlotte Bartenier-Megan Trulock, 6-0, 6-0; **No. 5:** Aidan Torres-Jillian Ickes (N) def. Rachel Zhou-Sharon Chen, 7-5, 6-0.  
**Dual match records:** Northville, 4-0-1 overall, 3-0 KLA Central Division; Salem, 2-2 overall, 1-1 KLA Central.

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# Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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**Holiday deadlines are subject to change.**

## CLAWSON



**BEVERLY J.** Age 80, of Northville, passed away on April 22, 2017. Beloved wife of Glenn Clawson. Cherished mother of Mark (Santee) Kenczyk, Steven (David Gleseski) Kenczyk, Kim (Randall McCure) Nice, Debbie (the late Dave) Nicholson, Dale (Cherie) Clawson, and Suzanne (Andrew) Butler. Dear sister of Cathy (the late Robert) Riker, William (Marge) Capler, Jr., Thomas (Leslie) Capler, Sr., Gregory (the late Michael Tatti) Capler, MaryJane (James) Giordano, and Ralph (Lori) Capler. Adored grandmother of 10 and great grandmother of two. Funeral service Thursday, April 27, 11a.m. at Casterline Funeral Home, 122 West Dunlap, Northville. Contributions appreciated to American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association, or Shriners Hospitals for Children. Share condolences at [www.casterlinefuneralhome.com](http://www.casterlinefuneralhome.com)

## COUTTS

**MARION E.** Age 89, passed away April 20, 2017. She was born December 12, 1927 in Detroit, daughter of the late Hugh and Ethel Sproule. She was formerly of Novi, prior to moving to South Lyon. Marion was an excellent, and passionate cook. She was a talented seamstress and spent many hours sewing and knitting for charity. She is survived by her loving children, Janet E. (Philip) Mueller, Robert J. Coutts, and Patrick A. Coutts. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Jeff, and Scott Mueller, and Sarah, and Alex Coutts. She was preceded in death by her husband, James in 2000. Visitation was held on Monday, April 24 from 2:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. and Funeral Service was held on Tuesday, April 25 at 11:00 a.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon. Marion was to rest beside her husband in Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Joseph Mercy Home Care & Hospice, 8273 W. Grand River Ave., Suite 110, Brighton, MI 48116. [www.phillipsfuneral.com](http://www.phillipsfuneral.com)

## DANIEL



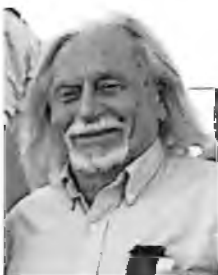
**LYDIA PAULINA** Age 94, of Northville passed away peacefully in her home on April 19, 2017. She was born on July 24, 1922 in San Nicandro, Italy; daughter of Guistino and Maria (nee Eusanio) Calderone. Lydia has lived in Northville for 16 years; she was previously of Prudenville and Wyandotte. She worked as a beautician for most of her life; she began a second career as a real estate agent focusing her sales in Wyandotte and Prudenville. Lydia was very social and active with Allen Terrace. She was the past President of the Resident Council and loved participating in games and clubs. Among some of the games she played were Left Right Center and Bingo. Every Wednesday night she enjoyed an evening out with the Allen Terrace dinner club. Lydia was a world traveler who went overseas several times, but she also liked the serenity of going up north. She was loved by so many; her smile and laughter would light up the room. Lydia was beautiful inside and out and had an uncanny way to be everyone's best friend and will be deeply missed. Lydia is survived by her children, Frank (Lynette) Socha, Linda (Richard) Jaworski, Mary (Dale) Cantrell, and Deborah (Louis) Ronayne; 11 grandchildren; and 15 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her grandson Frank Socha, her parents, her brother Geno O. Calderone, her first husband Frank S. Socha, and her second husband Neil Daniel. A memorial service will be held Saturday, May 13, 2017 at 4:00pm at the First Baptist Church, 217 North Wing Street, Northville, MI 48167. Pastor Jonathan Wilkes will officiate the service. She will be laid to rest at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock. In lieu of flowers contributions would be appreciated to the First Baptist Church of Northville. Share memories at [casterlinefuneralhome.com](http://casterlinefuneralhome.com)

## HOWE



**BARBARA BREAUŁT** of Milford, passed away in the loving care of her family on April 14, 2017, at the age of 74, after a courageous battle with cancer. Barbara was born April 7, 1943, the eldest daughter of the late Grant and Lorna (Hooker) Breault of Gladwin, MI. Barbara was raised her first few years on her Grandparents Alva and Bertha Hooker's farm, one of her favorite places as a child, in Gladwin, MI while her father was serving overseas in WWII. Upon Grant's return, the family moved to Flint, MI where Barbara attended school, graduating in 1961 from Bendle High School. Barbara met Gary Howe of Mt. Morris, MI in the summer of 1961 at Wallis drive up restaurant while out with friends. The two were married in October of 1962 and bought their first home in Mt. Morris. Gary soon decided to join the Michigan State Police which took the couple to Battle Creek, Bad Axe and then to Milford 41 years ago. Barbara always made a home for her family which included three children, Brian, Rebecca and Joshua. Barbara was known for organizing family events and held family and friends very dear to her. Barbara's hobbies included creating a beautiful home, shopping with friends, playing bridge and other card games, golfing, and traveling with family and friends. Barbara was involved in Welcome Wagon, the Garden Club and many scholarship committees. Barbara's spirit, strong will, generosity, stories and beautiful smile will be missed by both family and friends; she truly was one of a kind. In addition to Gary, her husband of 55 years, Barbara is survived by her children, Brian (Pam) Howe of Highland, MI, Rebecca Howe (Jodi) Howe of Howell, MI; grandchildren, Allison Howe, Bradley Howe, Alex Howe, Reese Greenough, and Grant Howe; brother, Gerald (Linda) Breault of Gladwin, MI; sisters, Marlene (Randy) Smith of Robbinsville, NC and Janet Breault of Milford, MI; half-sister, Kathy Doan of California and many nieces and nephews. Barbara was preceded in death by her brother Glen Breault of St. Helen, MI and her nephew Kyle McMullen of Gladwin, MI. Visitation will be held on May 4, 2017 from 10-11 a.m. immediately followed by the Memorial Service at 11 a.m. at Lynch & Sons in Milford, MI. The Memorial Luncheon will follow from 1-3:30 p.m. at Mystic Creek Golf Course in Milford, MI. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Community Sharing in Highland, MI or to a charity that focuses on children, areas that Barbara was passionate about. For further information, please phone Lynch & Sons, Milford at 284.685.6645.

## LANE



**ENEAS JAMES "JIM"** A long time resident of Highland Township, died at his home in the care of his family on April 18, 2017 after being diagnosed with cancer weeks earlier. He was 79 years old. He is survived by his beloved wife of over 55 years, Marguerite; his daughter, Christine Lane Chesney; his son, James P. Lane; his son-in-law, James K. Chesney; grandchildren, Meredith Rose Chesney, Brendan Kerold Eneas Chesney, and Eric James Chesney; sister-in-law, Mary Lane; nieces, Suzanne Lane and Rita (Russ) Hanschumaker; nephew, Michael Lane; and many dear friends. He was preceded in death by his brother, John Joseph Lane, Jr. Jim was retired from the Eaton Corporation in Southfield, with whom he worked as an electrical engineer for over thirty years. In retirement he volunteered as a Tax Preparer with AARP at area Senior Citizen Centers and enjoyed his golf leagues at Highland Hills and Hartland Glen Golf Clubs. A Memorial Gathering will be held at a later date. For further information please contact Lynch & Sons Funeral Directors, Milford, at 248-684-6645 or visit [LynchFuneralDirectors.com](http://LynchFuneralDirectors.com).

## PRASAD



**ASHOK R.** Age 60. April 20, 2017. Beloved husband of Terry Prasad for 35 years. Loving father of Alex (fiancee Olivia Juntila) Prasad and Haley Prasad. Dear son of Ananda and Aryabala Prasad. Brother of Dr. Rita Eckenrode, Drs. Sheila (Bachir) Meftah, and Audrey (Michael) Takacs. Mr. Prasad is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Ashok was the kindest, most gentle and selfless husband humanely possible. Most of all, he loved just being with his wife, Terry. He was undoubtedly the glue of his family and often said to Terry, "You and the kids are my world." Ashok graduated from the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor in 1978 and from Wayne State University School of Medicine, where his father continues to be a tenured professor, in 1982. He started practicing medicine with two of his Wayne State classmates, Kurt Hesse, MD, and Charles Godoshian, MD, and continued to care for his patients for the 35 years since. Ashok loved seeing patients so much he often frustrated his staff by taking so long with each patient! It was a rare occasion when Ashok did something for himself rather than others, but he did love attending Red Wings and Tigers games. However, nothing (to him) beat wearing a Michigan polo on a clear fall Saturday afternoon, marching up Main Street to a Michigan football game with family and friends. We expect that's exactly how he arrived at the pearly gates - too soon - a few days ago. His was a life well-lived; he will be dearly missed by all. Visitation at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River Avenue, Novi, 248-348-1800 on Friday, April 28, 2017 from 2:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. In state Saturday, April 29, 2017 at Meadowbrook Congregational Church, 21355 Meadowbrook Road, Novi from 10:00 a.m. until time of funeral service 11:00 a.m. Memorial donations may be made to Meadowbrook Congregational Church, 21355 Meadowbrook Road, Novi, Michigan 48375 or Frankel Cardiovascular Center of the University of Michigan Hospital. Online condolences to [obriensullivanfuneralhome.com](http://obriensullivanfuneralhome.com).

May you find  
comfort in family  
and friends

Paying  
tribute  
to the  
life of  
your  
loved  
one.



## WOODRUFF



**CHARLES EUGENE** March 14, 1943 - April 9, 2017. 74 of Harrison, passed away Sunday, April 9, 2017 at North Woods Nursing Center, Farwell, Michigan. Mr. Woodruff was born March 14, 1943 in Ann Arbor, Michigan the son of Charles E. and Alice (Miles) Woodruff. Upon his high school graduation, Mr. Woodruff enlisted in the United States Army and proudly served his country. Charles was united in marriage to the former Rebecca A. Romanow from 1971-2006. Mr. Woodruff had resided in Farwell since July of 2015, moving from Heartland, Michigan. Charles held a great passion for photography and specialized in nature photography and often would capture many shots during a hiking trip. Surviving Mr. Woodruff is friends and caregiver, Rebecca "Becky" Woodruff of Harrison; two sons, My van nguyen and wife Ranita of Vicksburg, Mississippi and Kieu van nguyen of California, and their mother Nguyen thi vang of Saigon, Vietnam; three grandchildren, Michael nguyen, Mia pell, and Sean nguyen; four great-grandchildren, Karlie nguyen, Katelyn nguyen, Natalie pell, and Brooklyn pell; many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Mr. Woodruff was preceded in death by his parents; and two sisters, Alice Lincoln Woodruff and Mary Jean Haddin. Memorial services for Mr. Woodruff will be announced at a later date. Inurnment with military honors for Charles will be held at Rural Hills Cemetery, Northville, Michigan. To share an online memory or condolence with Mr. Woodruff's family, please visit, [www.stockingfuneralhome.com](http://www.stockingfuneralhome.com). Arrangements for Mr. Woodruff are entrusted with Stocking Funeral Home, Harrison, (989) 539-7810.

## WENZEL



**MONA MAE (BARNUM)** December 14, 1937 - April 8, 2017 Age 79, of Lakewood Ranch, Florida, passed away on April 8, 2017. Mona was born on December 14, 1937, in Prescott, Michigan. She graduated from West Branch High School in 1956. Later she received an accounting degree from Cleary College. Mona was married to Anthony A. Wenzel on August 1, 1959. They were married for 25 years. Mona served as Green Oak Township Clerk for 10 years. She went on to work in accounting until she retired in 2000 and moved to Naples, Florida. During her retirement, Mona volunteered more than 11,000 hours at North Naples Community Hospital where she was named Volunteer of the Year and received the President's Call to Service Award. She was a member of the Green Oak Historical Society, Red Hat Society, and several other organizations. Mona served as a Girl Scout leader and taught Catholic catechism. She enjoyed crocheting, sewing, and decorating cakes. Mona made several Moses beds for newborn babies going home from the hospital without cribs. Mr. and Mrs. Wenzel unselfishly provided a home for Catholic Social Services to place foster children and expecting mothers many times. They loved to camp with their family and friends. Mona is survived by her children Monica (Michael) Johnson, Brian (Kathie) Wenzel, and Martha (John) Kiani; in addition to six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, several siblings, nieces, and nephews, and other family and friends. Mona is preceded in death by her husband Anthony in 1984. Memorial services will be held on May 20, 2017, at 11:00 am at Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Church in Brighton, Michigan. Father John Rocus will be officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to: West Branch High School Alumni Scholarship Fund in Memory of Mona Barnum Wenzel c/o Kay Hammond Salazar 3858 Miller Drive West Branch, MI 48661



## COLLEGE BASEBALL



KELLY CIESLAK

After Wednesday's rain delay and before playing at Comerica Park, Madonna University's baseball team took in the scene.

# CLIPPED AT COMERICA

Northwestern Ohio ace shuts down Crusaders, but doesn't spoil 'big-league experience' at home of Tigers

Tim Smith  
[hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)

The chance to play a baseball game at Comerica Park in Detroit nearly was ruined April 19 by Mother Nature.

But rain stopped, skies cleared and Madonna University's baseball team belatedly ran onto the field where the Detroit Tigers play, against the first-place team in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference, Northwestern Ohio.

The game was scheduled to start at 7 p.m., but Madonna senior left-hander Alex DeYonker, a Livonia Franklin alum, threw the first pitch at 8:08 p.m. A couple of minutes later, the Crusaders were down 1-0 on a 375-foot homer over the left-field bullpen by Kyle Fisher.

That run was more than enough offense for Racers pitcher Damon Proctor. With 955 fans watching, he threw eight scoreless innings in his team's 4-0 win.

"I think it was the fifth (pitch), but it was still the first batter," DeYonker said about Fisher's home run. "But hey, after that, I think I settled in."

DeYonker joked that the blast was "what happens when you leave a pitch down the middle. They hit 'em."

Madonna's offense just could not get untracked, managing five hits — a bloop double by Ryan Freemantle in the second and four singles.

Fisher (2-for-5), Rafael Lozada (2-for-4) and Carlos Baerga Jr. (2-for-2) sparked the offense for Northwestern Ohio, now 33-10 overall and 23-2 in the WHAC.

### The best

"We went up against the best team in our conference and No. 18 in the country and faced the best arm in our conference," first-year Madonna head coach Ted Falkner said. "It was a great challenge for our guys and we got work to do."

"But we have depth here, we just need the guys to continue to buy in to the team part of it and I think we're going to be fine setting up for the conference tournament."

Proctor showed his mettle, striking out eight and throwing 131 pitches before Racers head coach Kory Hartman brought in Ross Cervantes for the one-inning save.

The early run would have been enough, but the Racers tacked on a single run in the fifth (on a wild pitch with two outs) and two more in the seventh for good measure. On the flip side,

even in innings when Madonna batters barreled up on the ball, Proctor escaped unscathed.

In the fifth, after Mitch Hudvagner singled to center, both Matt Deneau and Jared Dokey smoked liners right at Northwestern Ohio infielders.

Madonna put a runner in scoring position with two outs in the second inning, when Freeman-tle's opposite-field fly ball down the left-field line dropped between converging Northwestern Ohio fielders, but Matt Deneau struck out.

Other than those chances, the Crusaders only managed singles by Ryan Lambrecht, Jared Hagan and Jalen Thomas.

Perhaps the biggest cheer of the night from Madonna fans came in the top of the seventh, when freshman third baseman Frankie Lucska (Garden City/Dearborn Divine Child) dove to his left to field a one-hop smash and threw out the batter.

### Adrenaline rush

Lucska said it was his second game at Comerica, having faced Birmingham Brother Rice for the Catholic League championship his junior year of high school.

"Definitely, but as soon as the first pitch, it's all about baseball," Lucska said about whether the adrenaline was pumping more than usual before the Comerica contest began. "I'd love to come out here every year, but gotta come out and get a 'W.'"

According to DeYonker (4-2), who took the loss despite giving up just one run over three innings, he occasionally caught himself glancing at the huge grandstands enveloping the lush field.

"Every couple pitches, I would just take a look around, see what was going on and then I'd have to focus right back in," DeYonker said. "It was an awesome sight to see."

Falkner was instrumental in the Crusaders being able to use the stadium, as his son plays T-ball with the son of Tigers owner Chris Iltch. Madonna gave up a home game at Iltch Ballpark.

"It's a big-league experience for them," Falkner said. "And the Tigers have done such a great job. They wanted to treat this as a home game for us. It was first class, everything they did for us."

He added that hopes are to play a game at Comerica every year, perhaps against Wayne State University.

"Talking with administration and the athletic director, I think we can make this annually," Falkner said. "Now whoever the opponent will be, we'll see down the road."

"We think we can make this something where we'll play Wayne State and we can have a metro Detroit challenge."

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APRIL 27, 2017



CRAFT BEER BOLSTERS ECONOMY, SPURS NEW INDUSTRIES

# MICHIGAN ON TAP



MICHIGAN ON TAP

# IS MICHIGAN CRAFT BEER AT APEX OF GOLDEN AGE?

ALEXANDER ALUSHEFF  
LANSING STATE JOURNAL

**G**RAND RAPIDS - Dave Engbers admits the first few years at Founders Brewing Co. in Grand Rapids were terrible. “We thought we’d make a decent product at a fair price and thought everyone would buy it,” said Engbers, who opened the brewery in 1997 with Mike Stevens. “Nobody did. In West Michigan, craft beer was still new. People were loyal to the domestic brands.”

For years, the brewery flirted with bankruptcy.

“So we said, ‘If we’re going to go out of business, let’s do it on our own terms,’” Engbers said. “Let’s brew beer we wanted to drink.”

Founders ditched the “unremarkable beers” on its tap list and introduced Dirty Bastard, a Scotch ale with a malty richness, a hint of smoke and an alcohol content of 8.5%. Breakfast Stout and Devil Dancer Triple IPA would soon follow.

“The turning point for us was when we became a product-driven company,” Engbers said. “Part of our success is due to our innovation.”

Today, Founders is among the top 20 largest brewers in the country. Its beer can be found in 45 states and 29 countries. In Michigan, it’s the second largest brewery next to Bell’s Brewery in Kalamazoo.

Craft beer seems to be in the midst of a golden age in Michigan. It had an economic impact of \$1.85 billion in 2014, according to the most recent statistics from the Denver-based Brewers Association. When those stats are updated later this year, it is expected to surpass the economic impact the hunting industry has on the state, which was \$2.3 billion last year, said Dave Lorenz, vice president of Travel Michigan.

“Craft beer is growing rapidly,” Lorenz said. “It’s a huge economic driver.”

Breweries continue to pop up. There are 287 breweries open in the state, according to Michigan Beer Guide, which has tracked the state’s craft beer industry since 1997. Another 44 plan to open within the next year.

“The reason craft beer is so successful is the growing change in the Michigan consumer to want something more than the mass market, engineered, cheap beer,” said Rex Halfpenny, the publisher of Michigan Beer Guide. “We want something new, something local, more artisanal.”

### The early years

In the 1990s, you couldn’t convince someone to buy a six pack of cloudy, unfiltered beer for \$8 when you could get a 12-pack of light beer for \$12.

“It was quantity over quality back then,” said Steve Bushka, the brewmaster of Frankenmuth Brewery who got his start at Bell’s in 1991 when it was Kalamazoo Brewing Co. “Back in the day, people’s palates were different. It took time for their palates to change.”

Engbers said when Founders replaced its beer menu, its business came to rely on the craft beer enthusiasts, who were more loyal customers. He said Bell’s and Frankenmuth Brewery were trailblazers for the Michigan craft beer scene before the state allowed brewpubs to open in 1994.

“They cleared the path for the second generation of breweries in the late ‘90s — Founders, Arcadia Ales, New Holland Brewing Co., Atwater Brewery — that helped build the craft beer community,” Engbers said. “They set the standard.”

The decline of Stroh’s in Detroit also helped push people to craft beer, Halfpenny said.

“Stroh decided to close their Detroit brewery just as (Larry) Bell opened in Kalamazoo,” he said. “Michiganders left them and went to something else.”

And as people became more accustomed to these new breweries, Buskha said, “beer became a destination.”

### Beer tourism

When the Michigan Brewers Guild hosted its first summer beer festival in Ypsilanti in 1998, it drew roughly 600 people and 26 breweries.

This year, it expects 13,000 people and 100 breweries to attend, with 1,000 beers available to drink, said Scott Graham, executive director of the guild, a trade association for Michigan craft brewers. The guild now hosts four festivals across the state, which have a combined attendance of 35,000 people.

“We see people travel to Michigan from out of state for the sole purpose of going to breweries and beer festivals,” Graham said. “(Craft beer) is going to continue to have a significant impact.”

Craft beer has become a pillar of Michigan tourism. Some communities have even incorporated their beer scenes into their brands.

Take Grand Rapids for instance, which was voted Beer City USA in 2012 and 2013 by the now-defunct Examiner.com. It was also voted Best Beer Scene by USA Today readers. If you drive west on Interstate 94 and 96, you’ll eventually see billboards that read “Beer City” and “Cool City” in big, bold letters.

It’s at the heart of the city’s beer tourism



COURTESY PHOTO  
The 2016 Summer Beer Festival in Ypsilanti drew thousands of craft beer lovers. About 8.5% of beer sales in Michigan are craft beers.

marketing plan, said Kate Herron, director of marketing at Experience Grand Rapids. Herron said the Beer City title helps land conventions in the city and visitors from around the state and region. It also helps draw people from metro Detroit and Ann Arbor, who accounted for roughly 20% of beer tourists in 2015, according to an economic impact study commissioned by Experience Grand Rapids.

“We had a strong beer scene before, but the Beer City label was the tipping point for locals saying, ‘Oh, wait. This is something people will travel for,’” Herron said. “It definitely exploded.”

In 2015, beer tourism drew more than 40,000 people to Grand Rapids, the report said. It had a \$12.3 million economic impact in the county, which is now home to more than 40 breweries.

To further promote the local industry, people can pick up beer passports at certain breweries and get stamps for each one they visit. If they visit eight breweries, they get a “Brewsader” T-shirt from the Grand Rapids Art Museum. So far, Experience Grand Rapids has given away 5,500 shirts.

“It’s funny what people do for a T-shirt, but breweries are seeing an increase in patrons,”

Herron said. “Once breweries started coming in, people started seeing it as a destination.”

Michigan Brewers Guild has also identified Ann Arbor, Detroit, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Marquette, Traverse City and Ypsilanti as beer-centric communities. Each have their own “beer trails” for people to visit.

“It’s not about drinking as much as it’s about experiencing the atmosphere,” Lorenz said. “Craft beer is clicking up on the list that inspire people to travel. People take vacations to go from craft brewery to craft brewery.”

### The end of an era?

In 2004, Michigan craft brewers accounted for 1.1% of the state market share of beer sales.

By 2013, they took up 4.74%, according to the Michigan Beer Guide. It nearly doubled in 2015 to 8.59%.

“I still argue it’s going to go to 20%,” Graham said. “If you asked me 10 years ago, I would have had a hard time saying 10%.”

But the time for rapid growth may be coming to a close.

Last year, Michigan craft beer’s market share remained at 8.59%.

Halfpenny attributes the slow-down to the rise in popularity of imports such as Modelo and “alcohol pops” such as Not Your Father’s Rootbeer and Henry’s Hard Soda.

Graham said some breweries might not be able to maintain the double-digit growth they’ve seen in the past.

Some have changed tactics to continue their growth. Bellaire-based Short’s Brewing Co. started out-of-state distribution last year to keep up. It was a big change for a company that had a Michigan-only sales philosophy.

In 2014, Founders sold a 30% stake of the company to Mahou San Miguel group of Madrid, Spain, to tap into the international market. Because the stake is larger than 25%, the Brewers Association no longer considers Founders a craft brewery and won’t include its sales in the next economic impact study.

Graham said the impact won’t be as high without Founders included. That’s because Founder’s accounted for 14.5% of all Michigan-based craft beer sales in 2016, according to state excise tax reports. The Michigan Brewers Guild still considers Founders as a craft brewery.

Once breweries leave the local market and go into distribution, Engbers said, it gets highly competitive.

“The challenge Founders has is that we’re up against local, regional and national breweries that are considered the best in the world,” he said. “The consumers will decide your fate.”

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





MICHIGAN ON TAP

STANDING TALL



MICHIGAN’S CRAFT BEER INDUSTRY HAS ASCENDED INTO NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

DILLON DAVIS  
BATTLE CREEK ENQUIRER

Like the froth bubbling to the top of a pint of a Two Hearted Ale, Michigan’s craft beer industry has ascended onto the national stage in recent years.

Amid increasingly crowded beer taps, Bell’s Brewery and Founders Brewing Co., as well as Short’s Brewing Co., New Holland Brewing Co. and Atwater Brewing Co., among others, continue to stake their claim to regional watering holes and grocery store shelves. For some of the state’s brewers, it is seen as a testament to the quality of Michigan’s beer offerings as well as its aggressiveness toward opening distribution channels in new markets.

“We’ve been doing this a long time and it takes a while,” Founders co-owner Dave Engbers said. “... It’s like opening up a restaurant in that it takes some time to work the bugs out.”

After several years of tinkering, Engbers and Mike Stevens launched Founders as Canal Street Brewing Co. in Grand Rapids in 1997. The name was an homage to 19th-century Grand Rapids breweries near its original site on Monroe Avenue, formerly known as Canal Street. Engbers said he and Stevens were home brewers with regular day jobs when they decided to write a business plan for their own craft brewing operation.

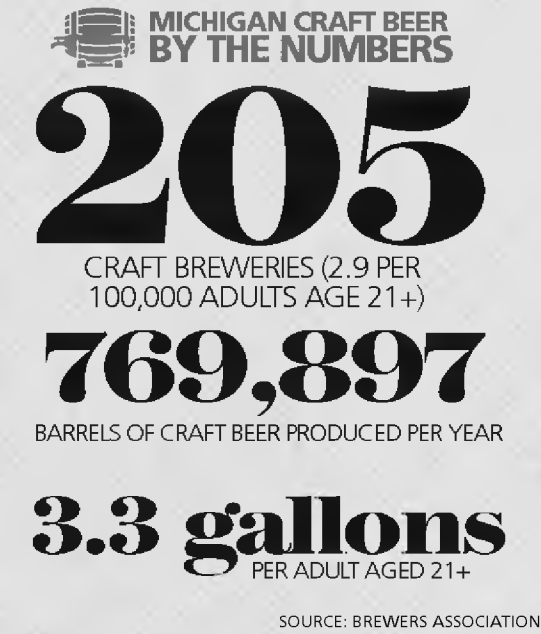
Founders struggled for years to get on solid financial footing.

Today, it is synonymous with the Michigan beer name. With sought-after suds such as Kentucky Breakfast Stout, All Day IPA and Dirty Bastard, Founders beer is distributed to 45 states and 29 countries. It is ranked as the 16th largest brewing company in the U.S., according to the Brewers Association annual report released in March.

“We’ve embraced technology; we’ve embraced, you know, there are certain simple things we’ve gone back to in running a business,” Engers said. “I always say that we’re a manufacturer, but we are in the relationship industry.”

**The buzz around Michigan beer**

Sales of craft beer in the United States increased 10 percent to \$23.5 billion in 2016, the Brewers Association said. Craft beer makes up about 22 percent of the country’s overall beer market, at about \$107.6 billion. In Michigan, the association said there are more than 200 breweries — roughly three breweries per every 100,000 citizens over the age of 21 — producing 769,897 barrels of craft beer (and



counting) each year.

Outside of the state, Michigan beer maintains a strong reputation in a crowded industry. Several of its breweries — Bell’s, New Holland, Founders and Atwater — are in more than 24 states apiece while Marshall’s Dark Horse Brewing Co. and Kalamazoo-based Arcadia Brewing Co. are in about a dozen states.

Ben Darcie, a beer writer known as the Michigan Beer Dude, said there are usually positive responses for the small percentage of the state’s breweries able to venture into other markets.

“People are all about Michigan beer right now and especially the reps from Michigan breweries that get to get out there,” said Darcie, who also works with Gravel Bottom Craft Brewery & Supply. “You will at least get, ‘Oh man, I’ve heard about you guys,’ being Michigan beer because the buzz is just huge surrounding our industry and it’s capitalized essentially by, you know, the crown jewel that’s Bell’s and our queen jewel is Founders.”

“We have quite a few powerhouses that distribute but, most importantly, they’re decorated.”

**A taste of home for Michiganders**

None are perhaps more decorated than the state’s oldest brewery, Bell’s. It was founded by Larry Bell in the mid-1980s and generally is regarded as the grandfather to the generation of Michigan craft brewers that succeeded it.

Bell’s in 2016 was ranked as the country’s seventh-largest craft brewing company and the 14th-largest overall brewing operation.

Bell said his brewery has been “relatively slow and methodical” in venturing into new geographic areas. The reason, he said, is the desire to develop relationships before springing into other markets.

This year, Bell’s said it’s venturing into its 32nd state, Texas, targeting consumers already familiar with the brand.

“Because Michigan went through a recession for so many years, many people left Michigan but they took their love of Bell’s with them,” Bell said. He said displaced Michiganders and Midwesterners in general gave the brewery a built-in audience in the Lone Star State. Other markets tend to be a tougher sell, he said.

The growth strategy tends to differ depending on who you ask. Short’s founder Joe Short said he, like Bell’s, tends to gravitate to markets where a “natural fit” exists. However, Short said his Bellaire-based operation, which he considers a destination-type brewery, is more of a regional draw than a national one.

Short’s is available in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

“A lot of these markets, there’s a lot of Michiganders that have a connection to Michigan and know our brand already,” Short said. “Then there’s, I’d say the majority of the rest of the population, are just learning about not just our brand but craft beer in general. We get to have a chance to meet new customers and engage with new customers but also be able to provide former Michiganders a brand they already know and are familiar with from back home.”

Short’s, the state’s fourth-largest craft brewery by volume, also is known for its diversity of beer options. It maintains a healthy catalog of more than 200 beer flavors ranging from the established Short’s Local’s Light or Soft Parade to others with dominant flavors of fruits, vegetables, rye and coffee.

“Our fan base is always looking forward to the next one coming out,” Short said. “We cater to that. We’re a group of people that love beer and we make lots of different beer because that’s fun for us.”

Darcie said Short’s model is one that could bode well for future success, particularly as it provides options to a generation craving them.

“They want all the selection, they want all the old breweries and all the new breweries all the time.”

Contact Dillon Davis at 269-966-0698 or [dwdavis@battlecreekenquirer.com](mailto:dwdavis@battlecreekenquirer.com). Follow him on Twitter: @DillonDavis



MICHIGAN ON TAP



Brian Rasdale is co-owner of BAD Brewing Co. in downtown Mason, which has been open since 2012.

MATTHEW DAE SMITH/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

BAD Brewing Co.

**Address:** 440 S. Jefferson St., Mason  
Brian Rasdale opened BAD Brewing Co. in downtown Mason in the summer of 2012. The former police officer drafted the business plan in 2011 during a six-month layoff from the Lansing Police Department. He left his job in August 2013 to focus on the brewery full time. BAD stands for Brian After Dark, referring to how

Q&A

he would spend the night brewing beer after his shift at the police station.

**You went from police officer to brewmaster. What was it like transitioning a hobby into a career?**

**Rasdale:** It was pretty scary from the get-go, leaving a job that had good benefits. I was doing both for about a year and a half. As the brewery

got busier, I had to make a decision. And the decision was to come to the brewery full time.

**What were some of the major hurdles you had when you started the business?**

The main problem we had when we first opened was that the brewing system was way too small. We closed eight days after we opened because we ran out of beer. We closed down for about three weeks. And at that time, we started looking at larger brewing systems. We ended up getting a 2.5 barrel system. But that was the major thing, beer. It sucked, but we had to close the doors down. We couldn't push a product that fast and have a quality product.

**When you opened in 2012, BAD and Harper's were the only breweries in the region. Today there are 11 with five on the way. It's not even close to what Grand Rapids has. But still, is the Lansing-area becoming saturated?**

I don't think so. We don't feel it at all. We're kind of on our own little island out here. Mason is far enough out where we pull people from Jackson and Lansing. It's getting to that point.

But I think every small town that can support a brewery will have one.

**Michigan is fast approaching 300 breweries. Where do you think the craft beer industry is headed in Michigan?**

I think that small breweries like this, that niche is not going to go away. It's going to be in distribution where things might happen. You go into a beer store right now – where can they put more beer? That's where you'll see a bit of the bubble.

**What's your favorite thing about running a brewery?**

Being a small brewery, we have a bit more room to play around. It gives us more freedom. We can use artistic ability to say, "Alright, let's play with some stuff that a bigger brewery might not be able to." They might not want to take the risk if it doesn't turn out too great. We can have fun with it and make new beers and use different ingredients.

— Alexander Alusheff



Bryan Wiggs has worked with Dark Horse Brewing Co. in Marshall since 2008.

TRACE CHRISTENSON/THE ENQUIRER

Dark Horse Brewing Co.

**Address:** 511 S. Kalamazoo Ave., Marshall  
When Bryan Wiggs turned his life from pursuing a career as a golf pro to brewing craft beer, he also signed up to be a physical laborer, an artist and a scientist.

Q&A

Wiggs, 37, is a Flint native who joined up with the Dark Horse Brewing Co. crew in 2008. Wiggs' job — officially Head of Brewery Operations/Token Hippy — has had him managing people, creating new brews and being on TV when a reality show filmed there. "Dark Horse Nation" aired on the History Channel in 2014.

**Why work in beer?**

**Wiggs:** Michigan was opening up quite a few breweries back in the early 2000s. I stumbled into a brewery in Battle Creek called Arcadia Brewing Company. They let me volunteer and paid me in beer. I thought it was the coolest thing ever.

Once I volunteered for a little bit, I thought

this was something I wanted to get into and the timing was right. I quit my real job, got a pair of boots and the rest is history.

I was in the golf business. I actually was just about to go and attempt to get my player's card and turn pro, be a country club pro or something like that. But beer called instead.

**Did you know the Dark Horse crew before you joined?**

That was the neat thing about the Michigan beer scene in the early 2000s. Nobody knew what they were doing so everybody kind of got together in the brewer's guild and kind of helped each other out.

Being only 15, 20 minutes down the road, I was out here quite often. I was backstage of a show and got called out for having the brewery I worked for's beer, and this lady screams, "My husband makes better beer than you." It just so happened to be Kristine (Morse), (owner) Aaron (Morse)'s wife.

I said, "No way." I came to kick the door in the next week and we became great friends. Aaron's still a mentor of mine.

**Is it hard to come up with new recipes at this point?**

It's always a challenge to come up with some-

thing new, especially if you're going for something that's never been done. We did this big, 17.5 percent beer a few years back that was like, "Well, why didn't it get to 20? Back to the drawing board."

At first, it's kind of challenging, but then again, that's where the passion kicks in, that creativity, the artist part of the brewing can kind of take over. I don't know how many recipes I've written, but it's a lot and each one is more and more fun.

**Are there any that you're particularly proud of?**

There's one on tap called Nuptiale that has been back by popular demand. I made it for my wedding a few years back and hence, Nuptiale. That one's kind of cool because it holds a place for me and family.

I made a ginger beer a while back that was really good. Rain in Blood orange pale ale is a neat one that we have in package. The Kamikaze Kaleidoscope, the summer whit beer that we do now, is one that we developed last year. Any of them that make it out to the world you are pumped about, you kind of puff your chest about. "Yeah, I wrote that recipe."

— Andy Fitzpatrick



MICHIGAN ON TAP



JEFFREY M. SMITH/TIMES HERALD

Brewer and co-owner Kris Paul of the War Water Brewery in St. Clair says he’s excited to create beer in Michigan.

War Water Brewery  
Address: 201 N. Riverside Drive, St. Clair  
**Q&A**

Kris and Kevin Paul opened War Water Brewery at 201 N. Riverside Drive, in a 1,000-square-foot space of St. Clair’s Riverview Plaza in 2015. It later expanded to 4,000 square feet in the same building to accommodate bigger crowds and higher-capacity brewing equipment.

Now they are expanding once more, to 20,000 square feet, to take up nearly half of the building. But Kris Paul said they’re still exploring how much more they can build on to the two-story structure facing the St. Clair River and give back to the town where they’re from.

**How did you get involved in brewing and end up in St. Clair?**

**Kris:** I got involved in the brewing process not long or around college. Just home brew like everybody else for 20-plus years off and on. If something shiny or a distraction comes up and you go, “What is that?” You come back to things you enjoy. So I’ve done that over the last 20 years. In 2005, my brother and his wife elected to open our pub in Carmel, Indiana. My brother and I are originally from St. Clair and grew up here. We left (the) east side of Detroit in the mid- to late ’70s to come here.

We elected to start brewing our own brew and figured we’d continue with our Irish heritage and my brother (selected) Danny Boy as sort of the theme and mantra for the beer company. We started Danny Boy Beer Works. ... My brother being in the Indianapolis area elected to continue to look in that area. At that time, I was working in engineering here in Detroit. It really wasn’t my passion. I loved beer. The manufacturing aspect of beer, I really liked. So started looking for an area here in Michigan or St. Clair County that would be suitable for handling a manufacturing facility.

**Can you talk more about the expansion you’re currently working out now?**

This calendar year, we’re in great hope that we’ll be able to have our actual brewhouse in place. The great plan is to take this 50,000 square feet, possibly expand it into maybe 75,000 square feet by adding another floor through residential development. But the core of this building, in the center of it, will be renovated to be our production facility. Turn it into a brewhouse. Some hundred barrel and larger tanks to support that. Some canning lines. Full kitchen. We’ll start using this as our distribution center for greater Michigan and greater Indiana. Along with that we want to continue to upgrade the natural beauty and the park we have out front, all that we overlook here in St. Clair, and bring in higher-end retail and some residential up in the second floor and even possibly a third floor.

**What has it been like being a part of the downtown St. Clair community and how would you like to continue to evolve?**

My family’s been a small business owner for 30-plus years and retired about a decade ago. We watched St. Clair probably at its best and then start to falter and stumble and, I guess, coast a little bit and not see continued success. ... With the resurgence of what’s going on and the community support, it’s unbelievable. To get this amount of support from the public, it’s very rewarding to be able to do something of this magnitude in such a cool, wonderful city like St. Clair. So it’s kind of re-energizing for me, as well as my family. It’s a lot of work, but it’s incredible.

**People are really proud of supporting their local brewpubs and drinking Michigan beer or Midwestern beer. Does that make it more fun? What is like being part of that niche area but also such a growing industry?**

The industry itself is awesome. It’s a very open book. Everybody in the industry is. As big as it seems when you get into it, they get much smaller once you kind of move around and get to meet all the big names. Again, it’s humbling and energizing to find out how generous they all are. Just the general public, being able to do something, an idea and a product here on a more intimate level, that consumer being able to go direct, it’s a lot of fun.

— Jackie Smith

MICHIGAN BEER EXPERTS  
SHARE THEIR FAVORITE DRINKS

ALEXANDER ALUSHEFF  
LANSING STATE JOURNAL

LANSING - There are nearly 300 breweries in Michigan, producing well over 1,000 different craft beers. To save you from having to try them all, we asked experts in the craft beer scene to pick their favorites. Read on for their recommendations.

Rex Halfpenny

- Publisher, Michigan Beer Guide**  
1. **Expedition Stout, 10.5% ABV, Bell’s Brewery, Kalamazoo** - One of the very first beers I found in Michigan when I first came here in 1988, and it has been in my cellar ever since. Rich complex aromas and flavors, ages well, never disappoints.  
2. **Final Absolution, 10% ABV, Belgian Trippel, Dragonmead Microbrewery, Warren** - Rich golden liquid with complex layers of Belgian-yeast-derived esters (fruity) and phenolics (spicy), great seafood beer.  
3. **Dirty Bastard, Scotch ale, 8.5% ABV, Founders Brewing Co., Grand Rapids** - This is a firm, malt-driven brew with rich hop complexity.

Rick Coates

- Editor, MiBrew Enthusiast Magazine**  
1. **Black Cherry Porter, 7% ABV, Short’s Brewing Co., Bellaire** - I bought the very first barrel of this beer over 12 years ago and have been a fan ever since. I love cherries and porters, and this beer celebrates both exceptionally well.  
2. **Va Ja Ha, Blonde Ale, 5% ABV, Rare Bird Brewing Co., Traverse City** - Any beer that Matthew McConaughey is drinking, I am going to drink. He was in Traverse City this past March and stopped into Rare Bird and ordered this beer! When they ask to take your



- order, just say, “Alright, Alright, Alright,” and they will know what to bring  
3. **The Nightswimmer, Stout, 8% ABV, Stormcloud Brewing Co., Frankfort** - There is something magic when a full moon is shining over Lake Michigan. This stout celebrates that magic, and the tap room is just a short walk to Lake Michigan. Another highlight is northern Michigan hops are used!

Robert Allen

- Spirits of Detroit columnist, Detroit Free Press**  
1. **Two Hearted Ale, IPA, 7% ABV, Bell’s Brewery** - Every time I taste this beer, it seems better than the last time I had it. The citrus-floral-piney notes from 100% Centennial hops are bountiful but not overwhelming, balanced masterfully with bready malts that add some caramel sweetness. The bitterness doesn’t stick out the way it can in other IPAs of similar alcohol content, and I think this helps make it appealing to an especially wide audience — from people just dipping their toes into craft beer, to seasoned beer-tasters. Even better: It’s available year-round.  
2. **Backwoods Bastard, bourbon barrel-aged Scotch ale, 11.2% ABV, Founders Brewing Co.** - I love the way a mix of distinct flavors, with some extra aging, unite to make this one sing: the complex malts and subtle peaty-ness of Founders’ Dirty Bastard scotch ale, stored for months in barrels that previously held bourbon. The result: Notes of caramel, toffee, dates, plums, earthy spice, vanilla and that boozy, woody finish that lingers with a tingly warmth. This beer releases in October, but in my experience, it doesn’t reach excellence for a good 6-12 months. The time seems



to smooth it out and coalesce the flavors. Savor this one with small sips, and give it time to warm up in the glass a bit.

3. **Plead the 5th, Russian imperial stout, 11% ABV, Dark Horse Brewing Co., Marshall** - Big and bold, this beer looks black as spent motor oil. It’s velvety smooth and incredibly satisfying. The roasty, dark-chocolate and coffee flavors one would expect from an imperial stout are in there, along with some molasses and cherry notes, and a little alcohol warmth. Sometimes they release a bourbon-barrel-aged version, but this beer stands firm on its own. Plead the 5th releases in December but can be enjoyed not-so-fresh, and well-stocked craft beer stores sometimes have it on their shelves for months — until I get at it.

Kim Schneider

- Brewer, River’s Edge Brewing, Milford**  
1. The one in my hand, sometimes brewed by a friend  
2. The one with friends and family, often brewed by a friend  
3. The one on the water probably in a kayak with a fishing pole.  
My answers aren’t meant to be funny. They’re genuine and how I feel about the industry that I’m so proud to be a part of. Michigan brewers make some phenomenal beers, and it’s about the experience shared with this art that I feel is so memorable. Beer for me is about experience, enjoying good company, conversation, outdoors and being in the moment.  
Alexander Alusheff is a reporter at the Lansing State Journal. Contact him at (517) 388-5973 or aalusheff@lsj.com. Follow him on Twitter @alexalusheff.





MICHIGAN ON TAP

# HOW MICHIGAN HOPS INDUSTRY CAME BACK

NICOLE HAYDEN  
PORT HURON TIMES HERALD

In the span of a decade, Michigan has grown from being home to just a few acres of hops farms to boasting nearly 1,000 acres across the state. At the turn of the century, hops farmers pulled out of Michigan because of uncontrollable mildew and disease. Agricultural practices have advanced since then to complement Michigan's rich soil and agreeable climate needed to grow the crop responsible for flavoring Michigan beers.

The trend began with a few small farms near Traverse City. About five years ago, larger investors realized hop farming was a hot industry and farms with nearly 500 acres began to grow the tart yellow flowers, said Sean Trowbridge, secretary of Hop Growers of Michigan.

Trowbridge estimated that about three large hops farms in Michigan, out of the nearly 55 farms, are responsible for producing the majority of the state's hops. And of the about 300 breweries in the state, the majority brew at least some of their beers with Michigan-grown hops.

"Historically, hops in the U.S. have been grown in just the Pacific Northwest," Trowbridge said. "They can have anywhere from 40,000-50,000 acres at a time in that region."

But hops grown in Oregon will never produce the same flavor as hops grown in Michigan. The plant is very sensitive to the soil and climate, which impacts flavor and aroma. Even if the same hop variety is grown in both states, the outcome will be different.

**Small-farm dedication**

Anne and Ron Hasenbusch founded Barkshanty Hops in Port Sanilac about six years ago in Michigan's Thumb region. Less than three years ago, they opened Elk Street Brewery and Tap Room just down the road in Sandusky.

The majority of the beers they brew are made with hops grown on their farm, which is less than three acres with about 3,000 plants and nine hop varieties.

"Barkshanty Hops is part of our brand," Anne Hasenbusch said. "We love being able to say we grew the hops locally and brew the beer locally."

The husband-wife duo started dating while at Western Michigan University in 1984. Anne bought Ron a homebrewing kit as a gift that year and the obsession spiraled from there.

Their brewery opened Nov. 28, 2014 – exactly 30 years after their first date.

Ron said his brewery is designed for whole-cone hops, which means instead of drying the hops and turning the plant into pellets, he uses the fresh cones to flavor the brew as you would flavor hot water with a tea bag.

"By using whole cones, I believe you don't lose any of the aromas," he said. "When you heat the hops to turn them into pellets, you are drying out the hop and that aromatic oil."

As a small farm, harvesting the crop is much more labor intensive. The Hasenbusch team does not own a mechanical picker, so they harvest each hop cone themselves.

"So basically we are whacking the top (of the 18-foot plant) and whacking at the bottom and hauling the strands over our shoulders and dumping them over a wire in the back of a pickup truck to keep them from tangling," Anne Hasenbusch said. "Ron built a machine that does some of the separating for us, but someone has to pull the bine through manually and someone is at the bottom to make sure the bines don't tangle. If a tangle happens, you shut it down and start all over again."

**Large farm investment**

No matter how large the farm and expensive the equipment, hops farming is still one of the more labor-intensive agriculture practices.

Hop Head Farms near Kalamazoo has about 200 acres of hops across seven farms. They plan to add an additional 300 acres in the coming years. They distribute their hops around the globe to 300 different breweries. They provide hops to local small breweries in the Kalamazoo area as well as some of the largest Michigan name brands such as Bell's Brewery and Founders Brewing Co.

Matthew Gura, Hop Head Farms hop yard manager, said the company has more than 20 full-time employees, in addition to seasonal workers.

For Gura, hop farming has become his lifestyle and his religion. He gets to the farm by 6:30 a.m. each day and stays well into the evening. During harvest season, crews are working 24 hours straight for 40 days.

"You get a warm feeling seeing such rapid progress of the plant," he said. "When it starts to bloom and develop cones, it's an anxious and exciting time. It's a constant puzzle trying to conquer the changes year to year."

He said once you work on a hop farm — for even just an hour — you gain a greater appreciation of what goes into producing a pint of beer.

"A lot of the process still isn't automated," he said. "Like every plant gets two to four strings (that the bines grow up), and there could be 800 to 1,000 plants in one acre, so that could be 4,000 strings you are tying by hand and pushing into the ground by hand, and then you have to wrap the plant itself around the string by hand."

Gura said since the industry is so challenging, he expects the continued growth in Michigan will be focused on the large commercial farms with 200-500 acres of hops each. He said those are the farms that would better be able to sustain operations and expand to meet demand.

Contact Nicole Hayden at (810) 989-6279 or [ornhayden@gannett.com](mailto:ornhayden@gannett.com). Follow her on Twitter @nicoleandpig.



**HOPS FACTS**

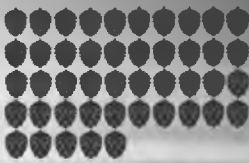
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THE NUMBER  
OF ACRES  
OF HOPS  
HARVESTED  
BY MICHIGAN  
IN 2016



1 2 3 4

MICHIGAN RANKS  
FOURTH IN THE  
COUNTRY FOR  
MOST HOPS  
PRODUCED BEHIND  
WASHINGTON,  
OREGON AND IDAHO



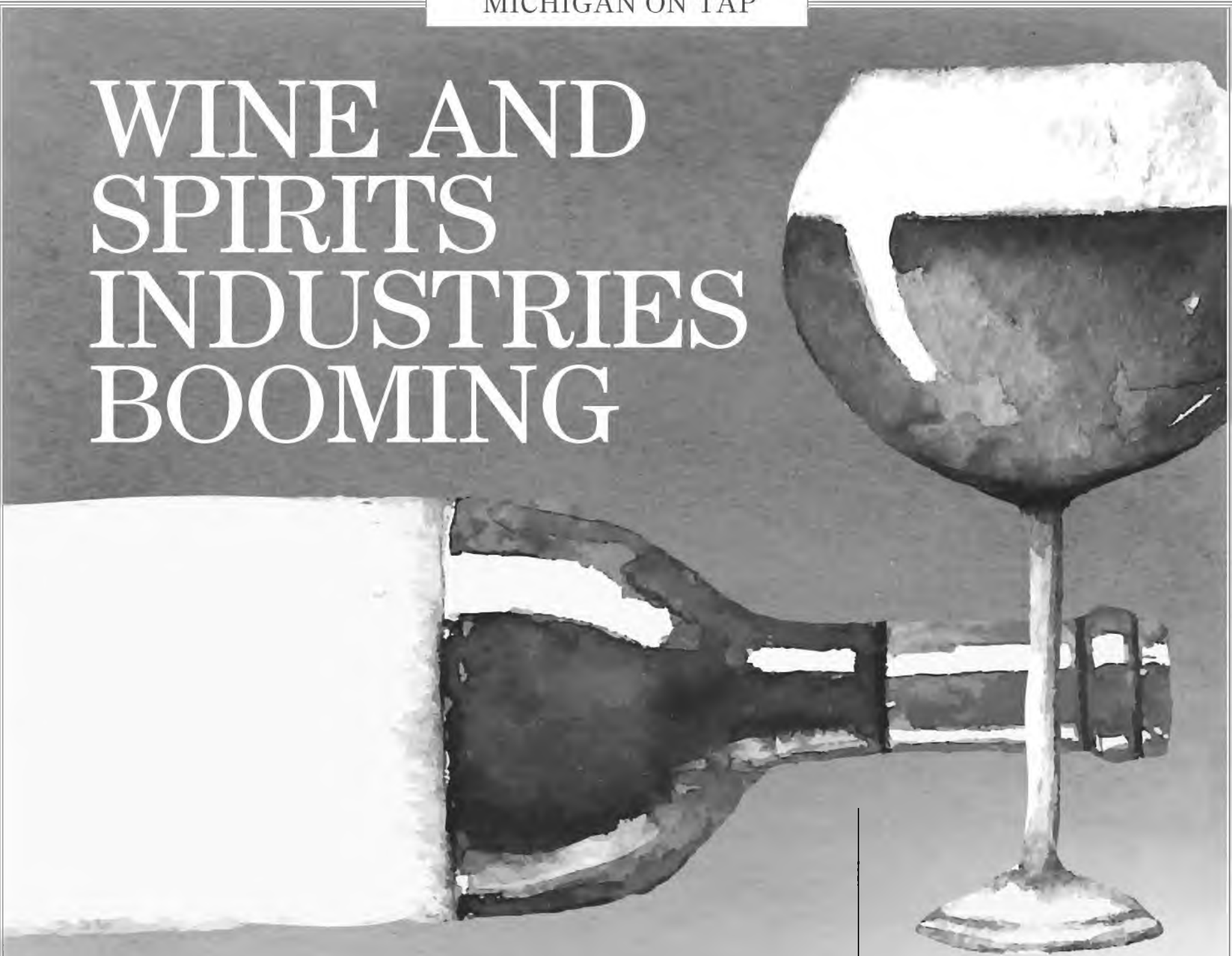
THERE ARE  
NEARLY 55  
HOP FARMS  
IN MICHIGAN

SOURCES: HOP GROWERS OF AMERICA, HOP GROWERS OF MICHIGAN



MICHIGAN ON TAP

# WINE AND SPIRITS INDUSTRIES BOOMING



BOB GROSS  
PORT HURON TIMES HERALD

It's not all beer and skittles in Michigan. The state's wine and distilled spirits industries also are booming.

The state now has 26 craft distilleries that are members of the Michigan Craft Distillers Association. Landis Rabish, head distiller at the Grand Traverse Distillery in Traverse City, remembers that just 10 years ago, there were about that many craft distillers in the United States.

"We were one of the first 30 craft distillers in the U.S.," he said. "That was 10 years ago; June 2007 was when we had the company up."

Rabish said the distillery has an economic impact in the Traverse City area.

"Our local farmers love us," he said. "We're just shy of 11,000 pounds of grain per week."

"We bought and processed over a million pounds of local ag (in 2016), and the number keeps going up," Rabish said.

The state ranks in the top 10 nationally for both wine grape production and wine production, Karel Bush, executive director of the Michigan Grape and Wine Industry Council, said in an email.

"There are 127 wineries in Michigan producing 2.4 million gallons of wine annually — and most of that is from Michigan grapes," she said.

Have a little wine

Bush said the wine industry council will be doing a study of economic impact later this year.

"The last one was done a decade ago," she said. "At that time, the impact was \$300 million annually, contributing more than 5,000 jobs across the state."

She said most wine grapes are grown in four Michigan counties — Van Buren, Berrien, Leelanau and Grand Traverse, all within about 25 miles of the Lake Michigan coast.

"Michigan produces red and white, dry to sweet, sparkling, rosé — a great variety," she said. "The most widely planted grape is Reisling, and most Michigan wineries produce at least one Reisling, usually more than one in varying degrees of sweetness."

"Pinot noir is No. 2, followed by chardonnay, pinot grigio and cabernet franc."

She said state wineries produce more white wine than red wine.

"Our growing season is shorter than some other regions, and red grapes require a longer, warmer growing season to ripen fully," she said. "So it makes sense that Michigan wineries would produce more white wines."

Making wine — and drinking it — has a long history in Michigan, she said.

"The first commercial winery was Pointe Aux Peaux, built in the Monroe area in 1870," she said.

The state also produces wines other than those made from grapes, she said.

"Michigan grows a lot of cherries and wines, and many of the wineries make a cherry and or apple wine," she said. "There are several that make exclusively fruit wines, including blueberry, raspberry, peach and more."

She said some wineries are starting to make hard ciders — and some orchards are beginning to make wine.

"To manufacture and sell hard cider requires the same license as wine, with the increase in demand for hard ciders, a lot of wineries have

begun to offer hard cider," she said. "The production process is very similar to wine."

"The main difference is the alcohol content — cider must be less than 7 percent. Apple wine will generally be 10 to 12 percent."

Making the hard stuff

The Michigan Craft Distillers Association does not yet have statistics showing economic impact in Michigan — according to Dianna Stampfer, executive director, those figures will be compiled and released in May.

State distillers, however, are making a mark in the United States. According to a news release from the Michigan Craft Distillers Association, seven state distilleries received a collective 28 awards at the American Distilling Institute's Annual Spirits Competition, April 4 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Stampfer said craft distillers produce handmade spirits using Michigan grain and fruits and are part of the state's \$102 billion agricultural industry.

"Distilleries are also part of the Pure Michigan tourism experience," she said in her email, "providing visitors the opportunity to taste grain-to-glass spirits."

Rabish said the Grand Traverse Distillery takes an "old-school" approach to making spirits, using a process that "removes all the negatives of alcohol, so you're dealing with the most consumable alcohol, which is ethyl alcohol."

He said making spirits starts in much the same manner as making beer — producers start with a mash that's cooked to make a product called wort that will be fermented using yeast to make alcohol.

"You ferment it, and for (brewers) you're almost there," he said.

He said making spirits requires more steps. "That goes into a still, and we're going to boil that off and collect the vapors," he said.

He said the still at Grand Traverse Distillery weighs about 6,000 pounds, stands about 16 feet tall and holds about 315 gallons.

The product must be aged before it can be sold, he said.

"You can make a beer and be drinking it within six months," he said. "With a whiskey, you have to wait three years."

"The bare minimum we like to do is a three-year product."

He said Grand Traverse expects to produce about 200 barrels of whiskey in 2017. Each barrel holds 53 gallons, but will lose up to 25 percent due to evaporation during the three years of aging.

Rabish said making spirits is a fast-growing industry, and because of that, there has been some shakeout among the number of craft distillers in Michigan.

"We're the ultimate in quality," he said. "You want competition, you want this industry to grow."

He said craft distillers make a handmade ultra-premium product compared with large companies that produce on an industrial scale.

"Some of these companies, it's a computer screen," he said. "Just a guy watching a computer screen."

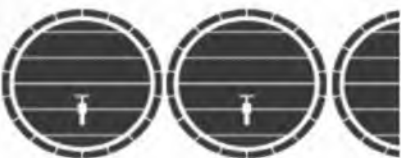
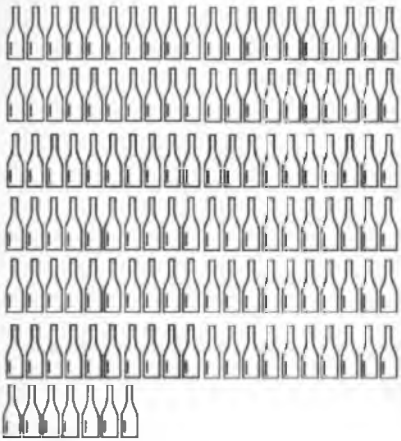
He said there are other benefits to drinking a product made locally.

"Be kind to your body," Rabish said. "Drink good booze."

Contact Bob Gross (810) 989-6263 or rgross@gannett.com. Follow him on Twitter @RobertGross477.

MICHIGAN WINE BY THE NUMBERS

127  
WINERIES



2.4  
MILLION GALLONS OF WINE  
PRODUCED ANNUALLY

3,000  
ACRES OF GRAPES

5th  
IN U.S. WINE  
GRAPE PRODUCTION

SOURCE: MICHIGAN GRAPE  
AND WINE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

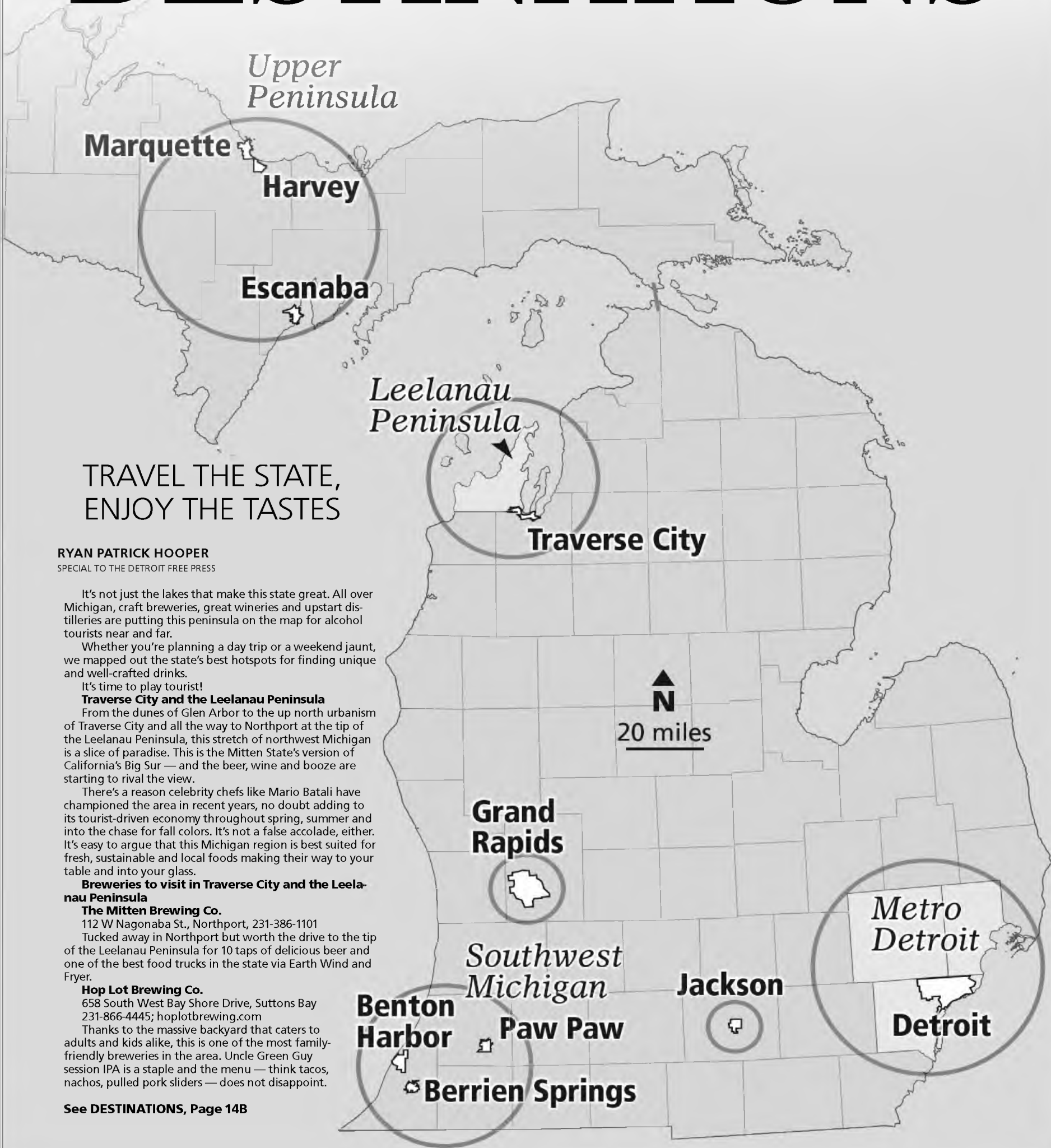


MICHIGAN ON TAP



ANDRAYA CROFT/SPECIAL TO THE FREE PRESS  
More than 6,000 barrels of Founders Brewing Co.'s craft beer are aged in an old mine 85 feet underground at Michigan Natural Storage in Grand Rapids.

DRINKING  
DESTINATIONS



TRAVEL THE STATE,  
ENJOY THE TASTES

RYAN PATRICK HOOPER  
SPECIAL TO THE DETROIT FREE PRESS

It's not just the lakes that make this state great. All over Michigan, craft breweries, great wineries and upstart distilleries are putting this peninsula on the map for alcohol tourists near and far.

Whether you're planning a day trip or a weekend jaunt, we mapped out the state's best hotspots for finding unique and well-crafted drinks.

It's time to play tourist!

**Traverse City and the Leelanau Peninsula**

From the dunes of Glen Arbor to the up north urbanism of Traverse City and all the way to Northport at the tip of the Leelanau Peninsula, this stretch of northwest Michigan is a slice of paradise. This is the Mitten State's version of California's Big Sur — and the beer, wine and booze are starting to rival the view.

There's a reason celebrity chefs like Mario Batali have championed the area in recent years, no doubt adding to its tourist-driven economy throughout spring, summer and into the chase for fall colors. It's not a false accolade, either. It's easy to argue that this Michigan region is best suited for fresh, sustainable and local foods making their way to your table and into your glass.

**Breweries to visit in Traverse City and the Leelanau Peninsula**

**The Mitten Brewing Co.**  
112 W Nagonaba St., Northport, 231-386-1101  
Tucked away in Northport but worth the drive to the tip of the Leelanau Peninsula for 10 taps of delicious beer and one of the best food trucks in the state via Earth Wind and Fryer.

**Hop Lot Brewing Co.**  
658 South West Bay Shore Drive, Suttons Bay  
231-866-4445; hoplotbrewing.com  
Thanks to the massive backyard that caters to adults and kids alike, this is one of the most family-friendly breweries in the area. Uncle Green Guy session IPA is a staple and the menu — think tacos, nachos, pulled pork sliders — does not disappoint.

See DESTINATIONS, Page 14B



MICHIGAN ON TAP



DAVE WASINGER/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Marquette grapes hang on the vine waiting to be picked during the grape harvest at Sandhill Crane Winery in Jackson.

Destinations

Continued from Page 13B

**Jolly Pumpkin Artisan Ales**  
13512 Peninsula Drive, Old Mission Peninsula, Traverse City, 231-223-4333; jollypumpkin.com  
This Old Mission Peninsula outpost — the rare brewery-distillery-restaurant combo — is without a doubt one of the best views to pair with your beer, liquor or pizza.

**Right Brain Brewery**  
225 E. 16th St., Traverse City  
231-944-1239; rightbrainbrewery.com  
Tucked away in a residential neighborhood outside of Traverse City's main strip, this brewery is not only inventive in its presentation (no reclaimed wood here) but also in its brewing — like the Mangalitsa Pig Porter, featuring real cherrywood smoked pig parts. If that doesn't sound appetizing, it's just one out of the 20-plus they offer on tap or in bottles.

**Tandem Ciders**  
2055 North Setterbo Road, Suttons Bay  
231-271-0050; tandemciders.com  
A favorite among locals, Tandem Ciders is a small-batch cider operation that features an owner who actually lives on the same property. A slice of cider lovers utopia tucked away in the middle of the Leelanau Peninsula.

**Wineries to visit in Traverse City and the Leelanau Peninsula**  
**Black Star Farms**  
10844 E. Revold Road, Suttons Bay  
231-944-1270; blackstarfarms.com  
Black Star Farms is not only a winery but also a world class destination for a weekend getaway. The estate features a duo of wineries, an inn and delicious farm-to-table dinners that show off the abundance of fresh foods available on the Leelanau Peninsula.

**2 Lads Winery**  
16985 Smokey Hollow Road, Traverse City  
231-223-7722; 2lwinery.com  
The trio of vineyards across 58 acres make for a stunning view from this gorgeous, modern winery.

**45 North Vineyard & Winery**  
8580 E. Horn Road, Lake Leelanau  
231-271-1188; fortyfivenorth.com  
Boasting more than 100 wines from a single, sustainable winery is impressive enough, but the service and location are also standouts.

**Distilleries to visit in Traverse City and the Leelanau Peninsula**  
**Grand Traverse Distillery**  
781 Industrial Circle #5, Traverse City  
231-947-8635; grandtraversedistillery.com  
What if every drink on the menu was composed from spirits made under that very roof? Enter Grand Traverse Distillery. With their diverse set of micro-batched liquors, this is a must-visit locale.

**Traverse City Whiskey Co.**  
201 E. 14th St., Traverse City  
231-922-8292; tcwhiskey.com  
The world breaks everyone, and afterward, you should probably have a strong drink. Only the first part of that line comes from Hemingway, but after a sip of Traverse City Whiskey, we think you'll agree.

**Northern Latitudes Distillery**  
112 E Philip St., Lake Leelanau  
231-256-2700; northernlatitudesdistillery.com  
Married couple Mark and Mary Moseler have varied and unique palette, featuring seasonal liquors such as Cherry Bounce or unique vodka flavors displaying flavors like horseradish in the Apollo Horseradish Vodka.

**Metro Detroit**  
The most diverse region in Michigan has beers, booze and food to match. Detroit and its surrounding areas offer a range of alcohol-fueled experiences — from gritty urban production facilities to elegant cocktail lounges.

**Breweries to visit in Metro Detroit**  
**Batch Brewing Company**  
1400 Porter St., Detroit  
313-338-8008; batchbrewingcompany.com  
Located in the heart of Corktown just down the street from the famed Mudgie's deli, this charming brewery and restaurant has quickly integrated itself into the community. The constant rotation of 16 taps keeps this spot fresh.

**Griffin Claw Brewing**  
575 S. Eton St., Birmingham  
248-712-4050; griffinclawbrewingcompany.com  
Griffin Claw has made an outsized impact in the craft beer scene in a relatively short amount of time thanks to its collection of award-winning beers. Griffin Claw's brew-

master Dan Rogers has been brewing beer for over 25 years — and 19 of their beers are medal winners.

**Kuhnenn Brewing Co.**  
5919 Chicago Road, Warren  
586-979-8361; kbrewery.com  
There are three simple rules for brewing beer — make it, make it delicious and then make some more. Kuhnenn abides to this decree.

**Cellarman's**  
24310 John R Road, Hazel Park  
586-413-4206; cellarments.com  
Beer should be simple — and that's how Cellarman's likes it. The beers are made from natural ingredients and the ciders use Michigan fresh-pressed apples. .

**Drafting Table Brewing Company**  
49438 Pontiac Trail, Wixom  
248-956-7279; draftingtablebeer.com  
This westside brewery draws its roots from Europe. Owner Aaron Rzeznik spent part of his childhood in Germany and brought those influences home to Michigan.

**Distilleries to visit in Metro Detroit**  
**Two James Spirits**  
2445 Michigan Ave., Detroit  
313-964-4800; twojames.com  
As the first distillery since Prohibition in Detroit, there's no doubt Two James has led the revival of distilling in the Motor City. With 11 signature spirits on deck, their tasting room remains a major destination in Corktown.

**Valentine Detroit Distilling Co.**  
161 Vester Ave., Ferndale  
248-629-9951; valentinedistilling.com  
Just last year, Valentine Vodka received designation as the world's best at an international competition hosted in London. Their signature spirit and the handsome tasting room is the perfect spot for a nightcap to enjoy a Bloody Mary.

**Rusted Crow Distillery**  
6056 N. Telegraph Road, Dearborn Heights  
313-551-4164; rustedcrowspirits.com  
Vodkas and rums are this distillery's specialty. Full of personality, Rusted Crow liquors are flawlessly crafted to encourage adventures in drinking.

**Grand Rapids**  
Grand Rapids is Michigan's beacon for beer lovers. "Beer City USA" isn't just a nickname for T-shirts and trinkets — it's an earned title in an increasingly crowded craft beer market.

The city's bonafide beer scene also has attracted an overall libation culture to town with a trio of distilleries that caught our attention.

**Breweries to visit in Grand Rapids**  
**Founders Brewing Co.**  
235 Grandville Ave. SW, Grand Rapids  
616-776-1195; foundersbrewing.com  
A Michigan powerhouse that, along with Bell's in Kalamazoo, boosted Michigan's national profile as a craft beer haven. Their once-a-year release of Kentucky Breakfast Stout (KBS) is worth the trip alone.

**Brewery Vivant**  
925 Cherry St. SE, Grand Rapids  
616-228-1604; breweryvivant.com  
Not your typical IPA-laden affair. Extensive menu offers snacks and delectable meals matched with Belgian and French-inspired beers inside of a (not spooky) former funeral home.

**Grand Rapids Brewing Co.**  
1 Ionia Ave. SW, Grand Rapids  
616-458-7000; grbrewingcompany.com  
A something-for-everyone modern reboot of late 19th century Grand Rapids brewery with a host of award-winning suds on tap and lengthy menu.

**Hideout Brewing Co.**  
3113 Plaza Drive NE, Grand Rapids  
616-361-9658; hideoutbrewing.com  
The best kept secret in Grand Rapids? This Prohibition-themed brewery with 24 taps (the Gangster IPA is a favorite) and a beer garden out back.

**Distilleries to visit in Grand Rapids**  
**Long Road Distillers**  
537 Leonard St. NW, Grand Rapids  
616-228-4924; longroaddistillers.com  
An award-winning distillery on the city's historic west side. Their take on Aquavit — a Scandinavian spirit dating back to the 15th century — recently won best of show at this year's American Craft Spirits Association Awards.

**Gray Skies Distillery**  
700 Ottawa Ave. NW, Grand Rapids  
616-893-3305; grayskiesdistillery.com  
A modern and minimalist distillery in Grand Rapids' North Monroe industrial neighborhood. Their goal is simple — "good hooch made local."

**The Knickerbocker**  
417 Bridge St. NW, Grand Rapids  
616-345-5642; newhollandbrew.com/theknickerbocker  
New Holland Brewing's foray into the liquor game is The Knickerbocker. Their rum inspired the entire Grand Rapids operation and is a must-try for new visitors.

**Upper Peninsula**  
It's not surprising that Michigan's reputation as a craft beer mecca has extended to the Upper Peninsula. While college town Marquette gets several mentions in our list of breweries, there are an array of options from Houghton to Escanaba.

**Breweries in the Upper Peninsula**  
**Blackrocks Brewery**  
424 N. 3rd St., Marquette  
906-273-1333; blackrocksbrewery.com  
To describe this brewery as laid-back is an understatement. Blackrocks is popular with the locals of Marquette — that's always a good sign. Their 51K IPA is a must try.

**Upper Hand Brewery**  
3525 Airport Road, Escanaba  
906-233-5005; upperhandbrewery.com  
Consider this a Bell's Brewery up north outpost if you will. Upper Hand is an Upper Peninsula secret — good luck finding their beers outside of here and northern Wisconsin. Worth the trip for Bell's fans.

**The Vierling**  
119 S Front St., Marquette  
906-228-3533; thevierling.com/wp1  
The Vierling's history goes back more than 150 years and, like many in the state, only found its hustle slowed by Prohibition. Their small-batch beers are available year round in house at one of the oldest saloons in Michigan.

**Chocolay River Brewery**  
200 W Main St., Harvey  
906-249-1338; chocolayriverbrewery.com  
Just outside of Marquette, this is one of the few breweries you can find that opens at 7 a.m. That's because Chocolay River is a brewery and full-service restaurant, making it a must stop in the small outpost of Harvey. The Breakwall Blueberry Wheat beer is a favorite.

**Wineries in Jackson**  
If highly curated wine palette describes you, you'll have to add Jackson to your list of destinations on the Michigan wine trail. With nearly a dozen wineries clustered close together, making multiple stops on a tour of the region has never been easier.

**Sandhill Crane Vineyards**  
4724 Walz Road, Jackson  
517-764-0679; www.sandhillcranevineyards.com/  
This small-batch winery and vineyard in Jackson offers bold, complex wines and is helping put Jackson on the map as a must-stop on Michigan's wine trail.

**Chateau Aeronautique Winery**  
1849 Rives Eaton Road, Jackson  
517-569-2132; chateauaeronautiquewinery.com  
Though their selections are narrow, their duo of wine flights — one dry, one sweet — easily appeal to those for a taste for Old World wines made with Mitten State grapes.

**Cherry Creek Old Schoolhouse Winery**  
11500 Silver Lake Highway, Brooklyn  
517-592-4663; cherrycreekwine.com  
This winery has been making wine for over 100 years. Enjoy a wide selection of wines and other treats — olive oils and vinegars are also a staple product here — in an former schoolhouse from the 1870s.

**Wineries in Southwest Michigan**  
Featuring beaches, quaint towns and - yes, plenty of wine - Southwest Michigan is an appealing choice for a charming weekend getaway.

**Lemon Creek Winery**  
533 E Lemon Creek Road, Berrien Springs  
269-471-1321; lemoncreekwinery.com  
Soaked in the world of wine since 1984, this family-run business boasts a Cabernet Sauvignon made from Michigan grapes that's a signature libation in their arsenal.

**St Julian Winery**  
716 S. Kalamazoo St., Paw Paw  
269-657-5568; stjulian.com  
For 95 years, St. Julian Winery has built a reputation as an institution in the state of Michigan. Traditional wines are a primary focus, but don't shy away from venturing into their cider, spirits and dessert wine menu.

**12 Corners Vineyards**  
1201 N. Benton Center Road, Benton Harbor  
269-927-1512; 12corners.com  
Just four miles from the famed Michigan gold coast, 12 Corners has bullied its way into a competitive market in a short period of time. With vinifera and hybrid grapes across 115-acres, visitors can expect everything from a Riesling to a Traminette at any 12 Corners location.