

# OWNING OFFENSE

COACH OF YEAR: JASON MENSING; PLAYER OF YEAR: NICK LEVICKI

SPORTS 1B



# THE MONROE NEWS

MONROENEWS.COM

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016

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## Drug prices don't budge even after pressure from Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress's routine of publicly shaming drug company executives over high prices works no better than a placebo: It may make some people feel better, but it doesn't treat the problem.

In the last two years, House and Senate committees issued more than a dozen subpoenas to price-hiking drugmakers, collecting hundreds of thousands of documents and berating executives for more than 16 hours of public hearings.

But a review by The Associated Press of the list prices of nearly 30 brand-name medications and generic versions targeted by congressional investigators shows most haven't budged since coming under federal scrutiny, according to figures from Truven Health Analytics.

"These companies have made clear that they are not going to change course on their own — they will keep bilking the American people for all they can unless Congress acts," said Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Maryland, the ranking member on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Unlike most countries, the United States doesn't regulate drug prices. That means drugmakers, like other businesses, are largely free to set prices as high as the market will bear.

Congress has avoided

See **CONGRESS**, Page 9A

## TODAY'S OBITUARIES

Details, 9A

**V. ARLENE DOUGLAS**, 96, of Monroe

**MICHELE "MIKKI" EASTMAN**, 54, of Newport

**JEROME "GUS" OLLEGES**, 85, of Gibraltar

**PEARL M. (BARRON) SMITH**, 95, of Cadillac

**KIM MICHAEL WALKER**, 65, of Monroe

## WEATHER

Details, 8A

TONIGHT

Clear



50°

FRIDAY

Mostly sunny



67°

## TWO SECTIONS

Classified ..... 7-8B  
Comics ..... 5B  
Comment ..... 4A  
Community ..... 6B  
Local ..... 3A  
Sports ..... 1-4B

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# STILL 'FEISTY' AT 110

Italian-born homemaker of Monroe may be oldest person in Michigan

■ Although slowed recently by heart problems, Mary Marino still thrives on cooking, humor and a positive attitude toward life and family.

BY DEAN COUSINO  
dean@monroenews.com

**A**fter suffering two mild heart attacks this past year, Mary Marino has slowed down somewhat from her once busy lifestyle.

But as she marks her 110th birthday today, the vibrant Italian homemaker relishes her relatively good health and energy while missing the independence she once had while living and cooking on her own.

"I have a hard time hearing and sometimes I'm a little cranky and feisty," Mrs. Marino said from a wheelchair in the community room at Fountain View of Monroe where she has lived since May. "I miss making my own pasta and sauce, but they treat me real good here. Everybody has been really nice."

It's been quite an adjustment since she moved from Creekside Village located behind the Lutheran Home. At 110, she may be the oldest person in Michigan, her family and employees at Fountain View say. Last June, Jeralean Talley of Detroit, died at the age of 116. At the time, Ms. Talley was believed to be the world's oldest person.

Mrs. Marino will celebrate her birthday this afternoon with cake along with her daughter, Diane Bryant. On Sunday, a bigger family celebration is planned with up to 40 people expected to attend.

Mrs. Marino maintains that humor and having a good attitude and diet are key ingredients for a long life.

"Live a good, clean life and eat right and you can have good health," she said. "And be nice to people."

Confined mostly to a wheelchair, she remains fairly active and began physical therapy this week to build more strength in her legs. But she can't cook like she used to despite having her own private room and kitchen at Fountain View.



--Monroe News photo by TOM HAWLEY

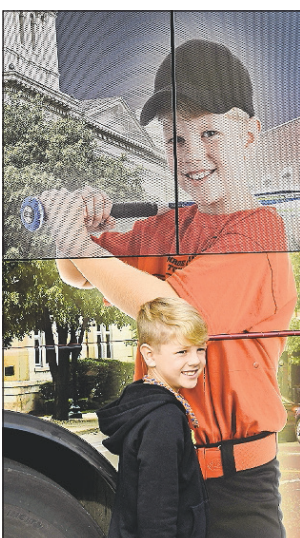
Mary Marino, who turned 110 years old today, is a resident of Fountain View of Monroe. Here she is fake dancing in her chair.

See **FEISTY**, Page 9A



--Monroe News photos by TOM HAWLEY

Richard Torpey, 77, of Monroe Post 1138, Veteran of Foreign Wars, poses next to his photograph and one of fellow veteran Al Yentz, 87, on the Lake Erie Transit "Ride with Pride in Monroe" bus.



Hayden McIntosh, 8, of Monroe poses with his photograph on the Lake Erie Transit bus.



Avery Drake, 13, and her sister Grace, 11, admire their photographs on the bus (below).



# ROLLING WITH PRIDE

Wraps come off newly decorated LET bus

BY DANIELLE PORTTEUS  
dportteus@monroenews.com

Avery and Grace Drake are perfectly fine with their friends and family seeing their smiling faces on the side of a Lake Erie Transit bus.

On Wednesday, the public transportation company for Monroe County unveiled the first of a series of three new wrapped buses featuring a community pride theme. The bus "Community Pride — City of Monroe" features photos of firemen, veterans, young athletes and citizens along with images of the Floral City including the River Raisin Centre for the Arts, the Custer status, Lorranger Square, the county courthouse and downtown Monroe.

The Drakes were among the handful of people who are featured on the wrap.

"I like it," said Grace, 11, who is a sixth-grader at Custer Elementary School.

The Drake sisters are dressed

in the Monroe Trojan basketball uniforms on the bus.

Avery, 13, said their mom, Leah Kuehnlein, works at LET and recruited them to be part of the new campaign.

Avery said she is proud of being on the bus and is not worried about anyone seeing her face.

"We have been involved in the sports and in the community," she said.

During a brief program before the bus unveiling, Joe Lybik, LET board chairman, talked about the history of the bus wraps, which began in 2008 with the "Spirit of Monroe" bus.

"We are proud to do this," he told an audience of about 40 people.

Two other bus wraps will be unveiled in Frenchtown Township and Bedford Township on Tuesday and Nov. 30 respectively.

Mr. Lybik said the **PRIDE**, Page 9A

See **PRIDE**, Page 9A

► **DEATHS**

**DEATH NOTICE**

**Pearl M. (Barron) Smith**

Nov. 12, 2016

Pearl M. (Barron) Smith, 95, died Saturday at Green Acres Assisted Living, Cadillac. Arrangements are pending with the Allore Chapel-Martenson Family of Funeral Homes.

► **FROM PAGE 1A**

**Pride** (cont.)

a lengthy one but important.

"This started about five to six months ago," he said. "The 'Community Pride' motto says it all. We wanted to demonstrate the importance of the millage communities."

The organization partnered with Sheroian Associates in Lambertville to create the campaign. They asked community leaders for their input on images to use on the bus.

Mark Jagodzinski, general manager of Lake Erie Transit, said the wrapped buses typically last seven to 10 years. If the buses experience any wear and tear or damage to the images, they can be fixed since the wrap was created in panels.

Currently, of the 32 buses in operation, nine

of them feature wraps, which includes the three newest ones.

"We have no plans to do any wraps after this," Mr. Jagodzinski said.

For Lake Erie Transit driver Mark "Whitey" Armstrong, seeing his face on the Monroe bus was an interesting feeling.

"It's weird," he said while taking a picture of himself on the bus. "I have family and friends who don't believe I'm on a bus, so I'm going to show them."

Mr. Armstrong, a Newport resident, has been driving a bus for the LET for about seven months. While he is traveling through the city, he might even catch a glimpse of himself while he is driving one of the other buses.

"It will be kinda of interesting to see myself while I'm driving by," he said.

was going on.

"The residents love her," Ms. Warrick said. "We're both Italian, so we have a little in common. She was bossing us around, saying we don't have enough olive oil. Go get some."

On making pizza, Mrs. Marino said the thinner the crust, the better.

"She's so sweet, delightful, sharp as a tack and so funny," the director said. "She has a passion for family, cooking and eating well. And she remembers things."

Mrs. Marino receives communion every Tuesday and prays the rosary every day. She keeps a crucifix over her bed with Jesus stretching his arms out from the cross.

"I talk to Jesus and God and they listen," she said. "I pray for my whole family to watch over them."

She also enjoys reading magazines, listening to big band music, Lawrence Welk and jazz and swing musician Bennie Goodman and watching "Dancing with the Stars" on TV. She sometimes exercises and does a little dance while in her wheelchair.

"I can stand up, but not walk like I used to," she said.

Born in 1906, Mrs. Marino worked in the laundry business when she was younger and was a homemaker much of her life. The oldest member at St. Joseph's, she took part in ceremonies when the church closed in 2014 and later in the welcoming service for parishioners at St. John Catholic Church. She has a son, Daniel Jr., 73; eight grandchildren and a dozen great-grandchildren.

"She likes people to visit and to see the grandchildren," Mrs. Bryant said. "The younger the better."

**Congress** (cont.)

passing laws that would change how drugs are priced, in keeping with the wishes of the powerful pharmaceutical lobby. That leaves lawmakers with few options beyond hauling executives before their committees.

Cummings helped kick off Capitol Hill's latest round of pharmaceutical

bashing in the fall of 2014 with a flurry of letters to makers of prescription drugs that had seen dramatic price spikes. Since then, the AP counted 29 drugs that were specifically mentioned either in letters from lawmakers or during congressional hearings. The list prices of 22 of those drugs did not change at all. Five fell, and two actually went up.

**Michele "Mikki" Eastman**

Jan. 19, 1962 - Nov. 14, 2016

Michele "Mikki" Eastman, 54, of Newport, passed away Monday, Nov. 14, 2016, at Toledo ProMedica Hospital following complications from a heart attack.



Born Jan. 19, 1962, she was the daughter of Stanley and Elaine (DiSabatino) Rogers. Following graduation from Airport High School in 1980, Mikki felt the calling to serve her country and joined the United States Navy. During that time, she met the love of her life, Gene Eastman, and they were married on Aug. 13, 1983. Together they had five children.

Family was of utmost importance to Mikki. She prided herself on being a good, strong wife and mother for her children. She adored being a Mimi to her grandsons.

Mikki also had a great compassion for others. No matter if you knew her for years or a few minutes, you were her friend. Mikki was also very active in the Monroe County Special Olympics, having been a coach for 24 years. She was especially proud of her athletes. During her time as a coach, she earned a Volunteer of

the Year Award and Coach of the Year Award from the State of Michigan.

She also enjoyed gardening, reading and crafts.

Cherishing her memory is her loving husband Gene and their five children: Jessica Rogers, ReAnna (Kevin) Henry II, Andrea Eastman, Stuart Eastman and Caleb Eastman; her grandsons, Dylan and Aiden; her parents, Stan and Elaine Rogers; brothers Stan Rogers and Shawn Rogers, sister Tracy (Terry) Brown, and a host of nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Joseph and Irene DiSabatino and Juanita and Melvin Cousino.

Friends may gather 2-8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016, at Merkle Funeral Service, North Monroe, 2442 N. Monroe St. Monroe, Mich. (734)384-5185. A celebration of her life will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 18, 2016, also at Merkle's, with her nephew, Pastor Jimmy McDonald, officiating.

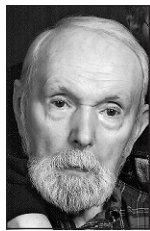
In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the family for funeral arrangements.

Online guests may leave words of inspiration and comfort or share a photo by visiting [www.merkles.com](http://www.merkles.com).

**Jerome "Gus" Olleges**

Dec. 10, 1930 - Nov. 10, 2016

Jerome "Gus" Olleges, age 85, of Gibraltar, passed away Nov. 10, 2016 at Beaumont Hospital-Trenton.



Born Dec. 10, 1930 in Detroit, Jerome was the son of William and Marguerite (Meyer) Olleges. He married the love of his life, Nancy Tonkin, on Feb. 29, 1968 in Gibraltar. A veteran of the United States Army, having served overseas in Korea, Gus worked for over 30 years at Detroit Stoker Company, retiring in 1992.

He was a life member of the VFW Post 4230 Rock of Gibraltar, life member of the Flat Rock Hiram Lodge 110 Free and Accepted Masons, past member of the Rockwood Moose Lodge, and he had attended the First Congregational Church of Rockwood.

Gus leaves to cherish his memory, Nancy, his wife of the past 48 years; a daughter, Geraldine (Harry) Sals-

berry, and a stepdaughter, Nanette (John III) Labadie; four grandchildren: Virginia (Christopher) Adam, Stephanie Salsberry (Christopher Woodward), Jennifer (David) Mundt, and John Labadie IV (Candice DeMoines); as well as many nieces and nephews.

Sadly, he was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Betty Behrendt.

A celebration of Gus' life will be Saturday. Friends may gather Saturday from 12 noon until a 3 p.m. memorial service at Ford Chapel-Martenson Family of Funeral Homes, 23620 N. Huron River Dr., Rockwood. Rev. Robin Honakor will officiate. Military honors will be provided by the Downriver Veterans Honor Guard.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Parkinson's Foundation. For more information, to send a floral arrangement or to leave an online condolence, please visit [www.martenson.com](http://www.martenson.com).

**V. Arlene Douglas**

Nov. 17, 1919 - Nov. 14, 2016

V. Arlene Douglas, 96, of Monroe, passed away Monday, Nov. 14, 2016, at Wellspring Lutheran Home, Monroe.



Arlene was born Nov. 17, 1919 in Litchfield, Ill. to Ralph and Besie (Kabel) Green. She was a graduate of Litchfield High School, and then graduated from the University of Illinois, receiving a B.A. in sociology, with a music minor.

On July 8, 1944 she married Dr. Dale W. (Doug) Douglas at the Central Christian Church in Gary, Ind. They moved to Monroe in 1955 from Dwight, Ill. Sadly, he preceded her in death on Aug. 21, 1996.

She shared her piano skills in many ways, serving as the organist at Christ Lutheran Church for five years, and then as the organist/assistant organist at First Presbyterian Church for over 30 years.

She served as a substitute organist at many churches, of all faiths, in the Monroe area for many years. She accompanied many soloists, choirs, and in the theater.

Her memberships included: Friends in Council, Friends of Sawyer House, Michigan Cancer Society, American Medical Auxiliary, Meals on Wheels, AAUW, Fine Arts Council, Monroe Golf and Country Club, the American Guild of Organists, and the Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority at the University of Illinois. She was a longtime mem-

ber of the First Presbyterian Church and served as an elder there.

She leaves to cherish her memory her children, Robert (Nancy) Douglas of Monroe, J. Brad (Mary) Douglas of South Lyon, D. Stephen (Carol) Douglas of Arlington Heights, Ill. and Jane Kwilecki of Ormond Beach, Fla.; grandchildren: Robert S. (Nicole) Douglas, Kari (Andrew) Marchese, Joe (Alisha) Irwin, Shawn Irwin, Michelle, Irwin, Ryan Irwin, Bobby Douglas, Sarah Jane Kwilecki; great-grandchildren: Madeline, Emma, Lucie, Abbey, Ellie, Henry, and Liam.

As well as her husband, she was also preceded in death by her parents and brothers Robert and Ralph Green.

Friends are invited to call 3-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18, at Bacarella Funeral Home, 1201 S. Telegraph Rd. A private burial will take place at Roselawn Memorial Park, LaSalle, then the family will greet friends Saturday, Nov. 19, at First Presbyterian Church from 1 p.m. until a 2 p.m. service to honor her life. Rev. Annemarie S. Kidder, pastor of the church, will officiate.

For those who wish to make a memorial donation in her name, the First Presbyterian Church, or the Wellspring Lutheran Home, for continuing education for nurses or CNAs is suggested.

Online condolences and special memories may be shared with the family by visiting the funeral home Facebook page, or the obituary page at [www.bacarellafuneralhome.com](http://www.bacarellafuneralhome.com).

**Kim Michael Walker**

May 22, 1951 - Nov. 15, 2016

Kim Michael Walker, age 65, of Monroe, passed away, Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2016, in his home.

Born May 22, 1951 in Monroe, Kim was the son of Orville and Gladys (Duby) Walker. He married the love of his life, Patricia Morris, on March 15, 1974. Sadly, she preceded him in death Oct. 13, 2014.

A dedicated husband and father, Kim worked as a steel worker for over 30 years at Detroit Stoker Company, retiring in 2006.

He enjoyed collecting Hot Wheels cars and watching Detroit sports teams, but most of all he cherished time spent with family and friends.

A celebration of Kim's life will be Friday. Friends may call 4-8 p.m. Friday at the Allore Chapel-Martenson Family of Funeral Homes, 203 E. Elm Ave.

For more information, to send a floral arrangement or to leave an online condolence, please visit [www.allore.com](http://www.allore.com).

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With 40 years of funeral service experience, Jeff has always tried to show the families of Monroe the kind of care and concern he would want. With Allore Funeral Home, he has the opportunity to help people when they need it most.

Born and raised in Michigan, Jeff has a true love for this community. He is member of the Monroe High School First Downers' football program, the Monroe Masonic Lodge, AMVETS of Monroe, American Legion and Monroe Shriners.

As a licensed funeral director and manager of Allore Funeral Home, Jeff brings a special kind of professionalism in his service to families.

Jeff is a loving husband to his wife, Susan Naveaux, who has been a nurse at Mercy Memorial Hospital for over 35 years, and is a committed father to Ryan (and Natasha) Welker and Derek (and Ashley) Welker.

Allore Chapel | 203 East Elm Ave. | Monroe, MI 48162 | (734) 241-5225 | [www.martenson.com](http://www.martenson.com)

## The Monroe News

Dedicated today, as was the Michigan Sentinel in 1825, to fairness and independence in presentation of the news.

20 W. First St., P.O. Box 1176, Monroe, MI 48161, tel. (734) 242-1100

LONNIE PEPPLER-MOYER, lead publisher  
JILL NEVELS-HAUN, editor

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

### OUR VIEW

#### ► TO THE POINT

The new Lake Erie Transit bus wraps give our community even more ways to roll out our pride in the people and places of Monroe County.



— Monroe News photo by TOM HAWLEY

Monroe residents pulled the tarp off the Lake Erie Transit bus Wednesday as they unveiled a new "Ride with Pride in Monroe" bus wrap with photographs taken of local residents, places and events in Monroe.

## Buses rev up pride in our community

Lake Erie Transit buses are displaying the best assets in our community — our people and our landmarks.

The buses travel nearly 1,300 miles a day, and now a few of them will make the journey displaying a new community pride theme. The public transportation company for Monroe County recently unveiled the first of a series of three new wraps for buses. The buses are putting art into motion.

The bus "Community Pride — City of Monroe" features photos of firemen, veterans, young athletes and citizens along with images of the Floral City, including the River Raisin Centre for the Arts, the Custer statue, Lorange Square, the county courthouse and downtown Monroe.

Officials said the bus wrap project was a lengthy one, but the community pride theme is one that Mark Jagodzinski, general manager of Lake Erie Transit, said the company was eager to pursue.

"It was really about recognizing the three communities that support Lake

Erie Transit with a millage," Mr. Jagodzinski said.

The company serves a total of 416,563 people in Monroe County:

- 289,670 on a fixed route for the City of Monroe and Frenchtown Township.

- 77,662 riders in Frenchtown Township.

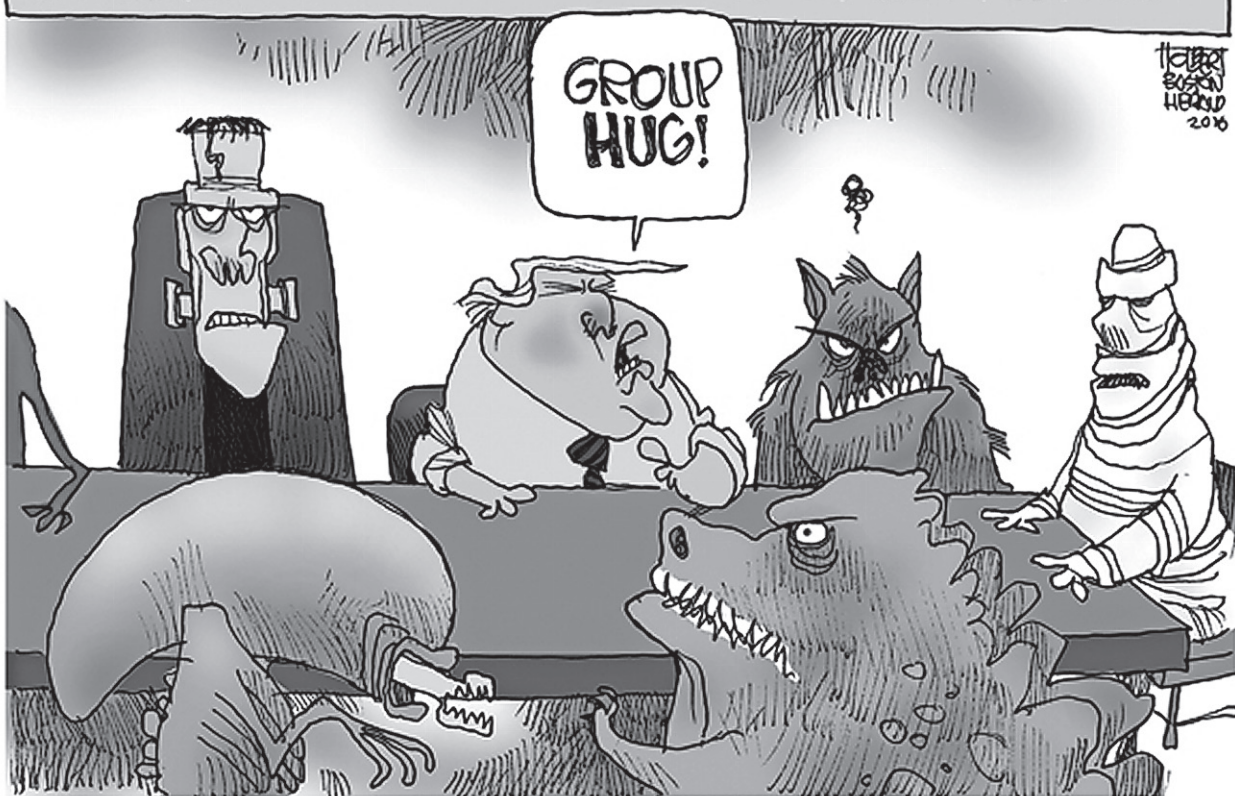
- 19,483 in Bedford Township.

- 29,748 through essential transportation contracted services for senior citizens and disabled customers.

The wraps, which began in 2008, have become a source of inspiration for the community that will reach well into the future. Of the company's 32 buses in operation, nine of them feature wraps. Two other bus wraps will be unveiled in Frenchtown Township on Tuesday and Bedford Township on Nov. 30.

Through the new community pride theme, Lake Erie Transit is giving the area one more reason to take pride in our area and note of what makes it special.

## THE DEMS TAKE DIM VIEW OF TRUMP CABINET PICKS...



### ► OTHER VIEWPOINTS

## Pompeo a solid pick for CIA

BY KENT BUSH  
More Content Now

I don't agree with many things Donald Trump does or says. Many of the people he has tabbed for positions of leadership have been controversial for some really important reasons.

But one appointment he made is an excellent choice.

Kansas Congressman Mike Pompeo is reportedly Trump's pick to lead the Central Intelligence Agency.

I can tell you a lot about Mike Pompeo. Before getting a chance to move back to Oklahoma, he was my representative in Congress.

I can give you his resume. He was first in his class at West Point. He was a decorated soldier in the Army. He got his law degree and became editor of the Harvard Law Review. He even founded an aerospace company in Wichita, Kan., before jumping into politics.

I can tell you about a measure he sponsored in the House of Representatives last year to recognize and honor the service of the "Atomic Veterans" — 200,000 service members who conducted nuclear weapons tests and were exposed to dangerous levels of radiation.

I can tell you that he never was one to fall out of touch with his district. He walked in parades and attended events in years when he was running and when he wasn't. Several times he attended local ice cream festivals and carnivals and was gracious to children and adults alike. Most Fridays, he could be found talking to students in one of the schools in his district.

In the 4th District in Kansas — home to Koch Industries headquarters — if you are the Republican nominee, you don't have to work



REP. MIKE POMPEO, R-KAN.

that hard to win. Pompeo still worked hard because he enjoyed working with people and he truly cared about his district.

Unlike many people who the president-elect has chosen to serve with him, Pompeo is a kind man and 100 percent not a racist.

When my wife and I ran into some snags in our international adoption, Pompeo and his Wichita staff were very helpful.

But my favorite story about him came after one of the worst days of my life. I was serving as the Augusta, Kan., Chamber of Commerce president and through certain circumstances, our board discovered some problems with the way money was being used by our director. Police were called, and with the director otherwise detained, I was the person television crews and newspaper reporters sought for an interview.

It was a rough night. I learned a lot about what it was like to be on the other side of the camera and notebook.

The next day, I got a call. When I answered, it was Mike Pompeo from his Washington, D.C., office. He expressed his concern for what

had happened at the chamber and offered the services of his local office if there was anything we needed from them.

"This is my mobile number, so you have it now," Pompeo told me. "If you or the chamber there ever need anything, don't hesitate to call."

He didn't have to do that, but he did.

Later that year, I gave him a chance to put his money where his mouth was. Our organization needed someone to draw a crowd to our annual banquet, and we didn't have any money to lure in a major speaker. Pompeo stepped up and made an incredibly nonpartisan and inspiring speech for everyone in attendance.

I don't agree with everything Pompeo believes in. He is further right on the political spectrum than I am.

But he did endorse Marco Rubio before the primary in Kansas that Ted Cruz eventually won, and still his qualifications are such that Trump gave him the appointment.

Like many from his party, Pompeo is no fan of Hillary Clinton. He had a shot at her in the House Intelligence Committee's hearing about Benghazi and missed. As CIA director, he might take a second shot.

Hopefully, he will honor the tradition that winning sides often do and not "punch downward" at the losing side.

If Pompeo is confirmed by the Senate, I think he would do a good job in the role of CIA director. He is definitely Trump's best appointment so far.

*Kent Bush is publisher of Shawnee (Okla.) News-Star and can be reached at kent.bush@news-star.com.*

### Letters are welcome

Letters on matters of public interest are welcome. Full name, address and telephone number are required. Anonymous letters and those without verifiable names and addresses will not be published. Letters are limited to 400 words and may be edited. The e-mail address is letters@monroenews.com. Fax (734) 242-0937.

No one is more supportive of young people involved in politics than I am. Year after year, I not only teach my own students but also speak at colleges and universities, eschewing political correctness but urging, begging even, for the students to passionately advocate the beliefs they hold and to become active participants in our democracy.

But not by protesting our democracy. Not by challenging the Constitution.

Imagine, just for a minute, if the shoe were on the other foot here, and Hillary Clinton had managed to squeak by with a few extra votes in Michigan and Wisconsin, and

Donald Trump supporters were out there protesting the clear results of the Electoral College.

What would we be saying? What were most of us, faithful supporters of the Constitution that we are, saying just a few weeks ago? We were foaming at the mouth, that's what we were doing — at Donald Trump's comment, made in his usual mocking tone, that he might not accept the results of the election. It was Clinton's finest moment. She stopped short (but not by much) of calling him a traitor to the Constitution.

What does it make those young people in Portland?

The saddest statistic: Reportedly, more than half of those arrested at the protests in Portland didn't vote. What are they protesting? Their own laziness and indifference, and the laziness and indifference of so

much of their generation? To elect Clinton, all they had to do was vote in greater numbers than older people tend to. And they might be wise to do that, since they have a longer future ahead of them, with no Social Security and Medicare to look for (once they're done being crushed by student-loan debts). But no one cares because they prefer to get their sun protesting rather than getting the benefits they need by voting.

If you're not part of the answer, you're part of the problem.

We had an election. It was not rigged. A peaceful transition is a hallmark of a stable democracy.

We should give the new president a chance. He won.

And we — those of us who have a different vision of America and the world and each other — should keep fighting for what we believe in.



Susan Estrich  
Creators Syndicate

## Hunter shoots self in leg accidentally

BY RAY KISONAS  
rayk@monroenews.com

A deer hunter shot himself in the leg Tuesday morning while attempting to enter a tree stand in a remote wooded area of London Township in northwest Monroe County.

The victim, believed to be a Taylor resident, was able to use boot laces as a tourniquet to slow the bleeding. However, officials with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office reported that the man may lose his leg below the knee due to the severity of the injuries. His name was not released, but Tuesday reportedly was the man's birthday.

Maj. Jeff Kemp reported the man is in his late 50s or early 60s. He was hunting by himself around 8:30 a.m. off Allison Rd. east of Tuttle Hill Rd. when the accident occurred.

Maj. Kemp said the man was using a rope and clip

system to help haul his gun up with him into the tree stand. As he began to ascend, the clip pulled the trigger to the .12-gauge shotgun and it discharged a slug at close range. The man told officials he believed the gun's safety was on.

Maj. Kemp said the man fell to the ground, tied off the wound and called for help. He never made it into the tree stand, so he did not fall far.

Because the victim was in a remote area, it took emergency crews about 20 minutes to locate him. Monroe County Central Dispatchers pinged the man's cell phone, which helped locate him. The man was rushed to an area hospital and is expected to survive.

Members of the London-Maybee-Raisinville Volunteer Fire Department and Monroe Community Ambulance assisted at the scene.

## \$1.5 million spent on city street upgrades

Nearly \$1.5 million was spent on street improvements in the City of Monroe in 2016.

Patrick Lewis, director of engineering and public services for the city, said most of the work was done on about a half-dozen streets.

"Not all of them have been paid completely to the contractor," Mr. Lewis said Monday.

Following are estimates on how much the city spent on projects. The numbers are rounded to the nearest \$25,000 or so, he said:

■ Winchester St. from E. Third St. to the River Raisin — \$450,000.

■ E. Third St. from S. Monroe (M-125) to Scott Sts. — \$300,000.

■ Cranbrook Blvd. from N. Custer Rd. to Armitage Dr. — \$350,000.

■ Borgess Ave. from W. Elm Ave. to Vine St. — \$175,000.

■ Maple Blvd. (east-bound lane) from Linwood St. to Greenwood Ave. — \$100,000.

■ W. Elm Ave. from Lavender St. to CSX Railroad — \$100,000.

"We also did a streetscape project on N. Monroe between Elm and Willow, which wasn't really a street project, he said. "But that's going to be around \$250,000.

## State police road patrols increased before holiday

LANSING (AP) — Michigan State Police say they'll be increasing roadway patrols as the Thanksgiving holiday approaches and travel increases.

State police warn that the Thanksgiving holiday period is one of the deadliest times on Michigan roadways. They say that last year there were 11 fatalities, including five pedestrians, during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Authorities say Michi-

gan troopers will start enforcement efforts starting today. That will include looking for impaired driving, seat belt use, careless driving and speeding. Federal traffic safety money is used to pay for the extra patrols.

State police also plan a public awareness safety campaign. The agency is calling it Operation C.A.R.E., or Combined Accident Reduction Effort. It will run through Sunday.

## Michigan Lottery to send \$889 million to schools

LANSING (AP) — Michigan Lottery officials say nearly \$889 million will be contributed to the state's School Aid Fund in 2016, a year after it contributed a record of \$795.5 million.

MLive reports that lottery officials said in a news release Monday that its 2016 performance made it the fastest-growing lottery in the United States.

Officials said the lottery had its most successful

year as a result of record-setting jackpots for Powerball and instant lottery games reporting double-digit growth. The state has paid out more than \$1 billion in winnings this year.

Each dollar in tickets sold contributed 29 cents to the School Aid Fund, 59 cents to prizes for players, 9 cents to commissions for vendors and retailers and 3 cents to the lottery's ongoing operations and administrative costs.



Joe Flaherty and Brandon Sovey (from left) are the Jefferson High School football players featured on the Lake Erie Transit "Community Pride: Frenchtown Township" bus. The special wrap was unveiled Tuesday at the Frenchtown Township Hall.

## RIDING WITH PRIDE

### Lake Erie Transit unveils special Frenchtown bus wrap

BY PAULA WETHINGTON  
pwethington@monroenews.com

The second of three special-edition Lake Erie Transit buses set to roll out this year was unveiled Tuesday morning at the Frenchtown Township Hall.

The "Community Pride: Frenchtown Township" bus features a lotus flower, a sailboat, the Frenchtown Fire Department and Jefferson High School's football team among the images that showcase the lifestyle and landmarks of the beach communities and country farms.

The City of Monroe special-edition bus was introduced to the public Nov. 16, and the Bedford Township bus will be introduced Nov. 30.

With these updates, eight buses in the 32-vehicle fleet will have special-edition designs.

Mark Jagodzinski, LET general manager, said it won't be possible to restyle all of the buses. These three "Community Pride" bus wraps are meant as a thank you to the communities that have passed millages to support the public transportation network, which has provided bus service since 1980 in Monroe County. The City of Monroe has fixed-route schedules throughout



Frenchtown Fire Department personnel are featured on the back panel of the bus.

the day, and Frenchtown and Bedford townships have Dial-a-Ride services. Frenchtown Township's service includes student transportation to and from Jefferson High School.

Mr. Jagodzinski said the idea began after the most recent millage renewals with the question: "How do we become more part of the community?" This discussion came up,

and the project was several months in the making.

"It's been real positive," Theresa Sheroian, president of Sheroian Associates of Lambertville and marketing representative for the transit service, said about reaction to the community bus designs.

The photos for the Frenchtown bus, she added, were taken in the summer.

Before the unveiling, a ceremony and reception took place inside the Frenchtown Township Hall, where the speakers included Joseph S. Lybik, chairman of the LET board, and bus driver Jim Miller, who related his stories of growing up in the community.

Then it was time for other drivers to pull a tarp off the bus, and township officials and residents to peek at the faces and scenes that made it to the final design wrap. The bus was greeted with a round of applause.

Those attending included Joe Flaherty and Brandon Sovey, who are the Jefferson High School football players featured on the driver's side. They had big smiles while posing for photos, as did Joseph Peer, a third-grader at North Elementary School, who is the recreation summer ball player on the other side.

## Whew! Banded Monroe-area osprey makes long flight to South America

GROSSE ILE, Mich. (AP) — An osprey born in the Detroit area has landed — in South America.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says the osprey, named Monroe Julie, was banded with a satellite transmitter in June and started her journey on Aug. 23. Wildlife experts say that the transmitter shows she's now reached South America.

The osprey has a 7-inch antenna attached to her body. The equipment drops off in two to three years.

Monroe Julie was born on an osprey platform at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. An Eagle Scout built the platform. A team of biologists, veterinarians, utility workers and volunteers worked on the project.



— Photo courtesy of Mike Grosso/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Monroe Julie, born on an osprey platform in the Strong Unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge near Estral Beach, fledged this summer and began her migration southward on Aug. 23. She was outfitted with a satellite transmitter about the size of a nine-volt battery with a 7-inch antenna to track her flight.

## City's yard waste pickup extended

The City of Monroe has extended its yard waste collection.

Initially, collections were scheduled to end the week of Dec. 5. During its regular meeting Monday, the Monroe City Council voted to extend the pickups a week.

Final collections will take place Dec. 12-15 on regular collection days.

## Frenchtown to end leaf pickup Dec. 2

Weekly yard waste curbside pickup in Frenchtown Township will end next week, Supervisor Jim McDevitt said.

Trucks for Republic Services will pick up leaves, grass clippings, garden debris and branches until Dec. 2.

Collections will resume in April, Mr. McDevitt said.

## Pouring out questions about 'weird pour' coffee makers

I need help. I need to find out if anyone else is experiencing this phenomenon.

It concerns the coffee makers.

I'm attached to my coffee maker. I love my coffee maker. I also require specific things from it.

My coffee maker has to have a timer. When I get up at 5 a.m., entering the kitchen to a brewing pot makes me feel like I have servants. I do not have servants. But that roasted aroma allows me to believe the staff is preparing my morning cup exactly to my liking. In my mind I make a note to

give the staff a nice gift at Christmas. I also make a note to remind them to wash the windows. They're filthy.



Rebecca Regnier

But back to coffee makers. Along with the timer I like having a traditional basket instead of a

cone, only because that's the default filter we buy on our sprint through the grocery store. I also like the coffee maker to be black, because white, please note, turns brown. And finally it has to be the biggest one they sell. (On that note why is 12 cups the limit? Seems like it should be 18. What? I do not have a problem.)

The last coffee pot we had was very nice, it was a gift. It fit all the requirements. But the first time I poured a cup the coffee dribbled all over the place. It was a real mess.

I ascribed this to operator error. I was clumsy. So I worked at it. I concentrated. Yet every time I poured either water into the maker or coffee into a mug liquid would spill everywhere.

It had me concerned for my motor skills. Is this a first sign of something more serious?

One day, my husband mentioned he thought the coffee pot was defective because he was experiencing the exact same thing. This was a huge relief. I'm not dying. Awesome.

We set out to replace the otherwise nice coffee maker. We did this in secret as the "weird pour" coffee maker was a gift.

The replacement coffee maker is a different brand. It meets all my requirements. But guess what? It dribbles liquid everywhere when you pour from the pot.

I've tried pouring slower, at different angles, with my left hand, standing on one foot, and while wearing a crucifix. Nothing works. The pot, just like the previous one, pours like you're in the middle of an earthquake.

So I'm left to wonder, is my kitchen tilted? Is there a sink hole or gravitational anomaly warping time and space near the Lazy Susan? What, pray tell, is interrupting the normal laws of physics and making it impossible to pour without a huge puddle from every coffee maker we own?

I've taken to filling a tea kettle and using that to fill the coffee maker. Just to reduce paper towel consumption in our home.

So there it is. My need for input. Is this just how coffee works now? Is there some sort of coffee maker and paper towel business deal?

Help me out. I mean if this keeps up someone on my staff is going to lose their job.

Rebecca Regnier is a television journalist. Visit her online at [www.rebeccaregnier.com](http://www.rebeccaregnier.com).

# RIDE WITH PRIDE IN BEDFORD

BY DANIELLE PORTEUS  
dporteus@monroenews.com

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP — Two-year-old Nadia McIntosh smiled proudly and shouting "Mommy," when she saw her mother, Faustina McIntosh on the side of a Lake Erie Transit bus.

It took her a moment, but the youngster then realized her dad, Anthony McIntosh, was on there too.

"It's daddy," she said.

Mr. McIntosh has worked at Lake Erie Transit for two years and was among several faces placed on a bus that will be used in Bedford Township as part of LET's Dial-a-Ride service.

The third and final "Community Pride" bus was unveiled Wednesday at Bedford Township Government Center.

This month, Lake Erie Transit unveiled buses featuring faces of local residents and images from its three millage communities — The City of Monroe, Frenchtown Township and Bedford Township.

Mr. McIntosh said the company was looking for volunteers to be photographed for the wrap and obliged.

"My wife was way more into it because she loves taking pictures," he said.

Dozens gathered prior to the unveiling for a brief program about the history of the wraps. Joseph Lybik, LET board chairman, as he did for the previous two unveilings, talked about the wraps beginning with the "Spirit of Monroe" bus in 2008.

"Lake Erie Transit is proud to be part of this community," he said. "(Bedford) is a beautiful area."

The Bedford Township bus features the Francis Family YMCA, the library, Monroe County Community College's Whitman Center, a golfer, firemen, a family, veterans and three members of the Bedford High School robotics team Bedford Express.

"Our coach was asked for some of us to be on the bus and



— Monroe News photos by TOM HAWLEY

Nadia McIntosh, 2 (above), was so excited to see her daddy and mommy, Anthony and Faustina McIntosh, pictured on the new wrapped Lake Erie Transit "Ride with Pride in Bedford" bus, which was unveiled outside the Bedford Township Hall Wednesday. The Gandee children (right); Braden, Kerrigan, Hunter and Kellen posed by their picture on the Lake Erie Transit "Ride with Pride in Bedford" bus (shown below).



being on it is a kinda weird," said Olivia Miller, 17.

The wraps will be on the bus for several years and Olivia thinks that is a cool idea.

"What is cool is that years from now I can look at the bus and see what I was like back then," Olivia said.

Sam Synowka, a 17-year-old



senior at Bedford High School, agreed.

"I have never been on a bus before," she said. "I think it's a really cool thing."

## Goodfellow sales ready in four communities

■ Volunteers will sell Goodfellow newspapers for any donation in Bedford Township, Monroe, Rockwood and Erie — all for charity.

BY DEAN COUSINO  
dean@monroenews.com

A century-long tradition of two local service organizations banding together to help the less fortunate at Christmas and throughout the year continues this weekend, but this time without two long-time supporters who have given much to the cause.

Members of the Monroe Exchange Club and Monroe Council 1266, Knights of Columbus, will bundle up against the cold Saturday to sell special Goodfellow editions of the Monroe News. The two organizations will split proceeds from the sale to use for their charitable activities.

Volunteers in Bedford Township and Rockwood also will be selling papers outside Friday and Saturday. The Erie Goodfellows will hold their sale Dec. 9-10 while Bedford volunteers will sell again on Dec. 9-10.

Missing from the ranks of Monroe's Old Newsboys will be Paul Braunlich and Denny Miller, both of whom died this past year. Mr. Braunlich was active with the Exchange Club, while Mr. Miller did the same with the Knights. The two clubs have agreed to dedicate the sale in

their memory.

"We lost two major Goodfellows," said Matthew D. Hehl, chairman of the Goodfellows for the Exchange. "Paul has been involved for at least 40 years. Lately, he was part of the relief wagon team."

Jay Jondro, chairman of the street sale for the K of C, said both he and Mr. Miller grew up two blocks from each other in Monroe.

"He and I worked on this (sale) for quite a while," Mr. Jondro said. "We were real close. He was among a number of guys that stepped forward when we needed them... he was a very active man."

The Exchangeites already have kicked off their pre-sale of Goodfellow tickets that can be exchanged for a paper on sale day. The club mailed 75-100 letters to local businesses and individuals asking for donations for pre-sale tickets.

Between the two organizations, at least 100 volunteers are expected to sell papers at about 40 different locations throughout the area. Friday morning, Exchange volunteers will also sell papers at DTE Energy's Monroe plant, Monroe County Community Credit Union and both Tim Hortons' restaurants. The bulk of the volunteers will hawk papers Saturday morning on street corners in downtown Monroe and in both Frenchtown and Monroe townships. Volunteers also will

sell all day during the Christmas in Ida Festival.

"We will have at least 10 new members selling," Mr. Hehl said. "They've done a great job of increasing membership."

The Monroe News press run is 9,000 papers.

"We used them all last year," Mr. Hehl noted.

Joe Peters and a crew of other volunteers from the K of C will prepare and serve food for volunteers Saturday.

Exchange uses its portion to assist low-income families with expenses for eye care and eyeglasses year-round and to provide college financial aid scholarships. A donation is also made to Family Counseling & Shelter Services of Monroe County to provide family, marital and individual counseling. The comprehensive shelter also offers specialized services to prevent domestic violence.

The Knights use their share to provide boxes of food to needy families and senior citizens in time for Christmas. About 200 families are expected to receive assistance this year, Mr. Jondro said.

The K of C works with the Salvation Army, which screens recipients who get boxes on Christmas Eve. There have been some changes made in recent years on what is provided, he said.

"In the past, we had mainly Christmas meals," he said. "Now

we provide food products for Christmas Week meals."

The Knights and their families and other volunteers pack and sort the boxes at 6 p.m. Dec. 23 at the K of C hall and deliver them the next day at 8 a.m. Joe Lamour heads the packing operation while Sam Liparoto and Jeff Rupp handle finances and purchasing of food.

Mr. Jondro said he was amazed to learn recently that this would be the 101st Goodfellow drive. He said Bob Lamour, another longtime volunteer for the Knights, researched history of the effort.

"There's a lot of history with these two clubs," he said.

The K of C began preparing food baskets in 1914 to feed the hungry in the City of Monroe, according to Mr. Lamour's research. That year, the Knights delivered 56 baskets of food to the needy. By 1932, in the height of the depression, they expanded throughout Monroe County and provided food for 450 families.

The Exchange club began serving the county in 1921. Ten years later, the club launched its first Goodfellow Newspaper Sale. The 2016 edition is the 85th year for the sale.

In 1933, a partnership between the Knights and Exchange began, Mr. Hehl said.

"This partnership has been working now for 85 years," he said.

# There's a new look for Bedford's Lake Erie Transit bus

By Jackie Giroux  
Reporter

As the tarp was pulled off Bedford's Lake Erie Transit (L.E.T.) bus during a special unveiling ceremony Wednesday, November 30 at the Bedford Township Hall, those in attendance were the first to get a glimpse of the bus's new look.

A colorful wrap now covers the entire bus. On that wrap is a collection of photos representing community pride that include residents and students of the community as well as local sights around the bus's service area – Lambertville, Temperance and Samaria.

Theresa Sheroian, president of Sheroian Associates in Lambertville, which is the marketing partner for L.E.T., said that the bus wrap is made of a 3M Performance Graphics vinyl called 3M Controltac that usually lasts for 7 to 10 years. "All the sides contain volunteers, riders and destinations from the community," she said. The slogan "Ride With Pride in Bedford" is also featured on the wrap.

Buses with the Community Pride theme that serves the City of Monroe and Frenchtown were also unveiled earlier in November.

Development of the wrap had been in the works for months. L.E.T. and Sheroian

Associates called on community leaders for suggestions of whom and what to include on the wraps. "We invited the volunteers/riders to have their images taken as a part of our Bedford Community Pride campaign for use on the bus wrap and to be included in Lake Erie Transit media outlets: website, Facebook page, community services materials and print ads. The campaign and whom will appear on the bus wrap was kept very secret until the unveiling for the element of surprise," said Theresa Sheroian.

"Lake Erie Transit is proudly a community-driven organization," said Mark Jagodzinski, L.E.T. general manager. "These Community Driven bus wraps are a great way to show that pride for everyone to see and reflect the pride of the people in each community."

After the unveiling, individuals whose picture is on the bus wrap were able to take a ride on the bus – the first passengers to ride on the bus featuring "Pride in Bedford."

When you are out and around in the Bedford community and spot the Bedford L.E.T. bus, be sure to take a look. Chances are at least one of the pictures on the bus wrap is that of someone you know!

*Bedford's Lake Erie Transit bus was unveiled recently at the Bedford Township Hall. A colorful wrap covers the entire bus with a montage of photos giving it a new look. Representing Bedford community pride are pictures of students, volunteers, riders and local sights around the bus's service area.*



# Bedford Now

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# It's a wrap!

Bedford LET bus unveiled

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1/4 mile south of Alexis Rd at Brondes Ford Toledo.



— Monroe News photos by TOM HAWLEY

Lake Erie Transit's "Ride with Pride in Bedford" bus was unveiled Nov. 30 outside the Bedford Township Government Center as the people whose picture was taken for the wrap took a ride on the bus driven by Jim Miller.

# POINT OF COMMUNITY PRIDE

BY DANIELLE PORTTEUS

dportteus@monroenews.com

**BEDFORD TOWNSHIP** — Two-year-old Nadia McIntosh smiled proudly and shouted "Mommy," when she saw her mother, Faustina McIntosh on the side of a Lake Erie Transit bus.

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YMCA, the library, Monroe County Community College's Whitman Center, a golfer, firemen, a family, veterans and three members of the Bedford High School robotics team Bedford Express.

"Our coach was asked for some of us to be on the bus, and being on it is kinda weird," said Olivia Miller, 17.

The wraps will be on the bus for several years, and Olivia thinks that is a cool idea.

"What is cool is that years from now I can look at the bus and see what I was like back then," Olivia said.



The Gandee children — Braden, Ker-ragan, Hunter and Kellen — pose by their picture on the bus wrap. The Gandees completed their last Cerebral Palsy Swagger walk in the spring.



LOCAL

## Residents roll with transit system

Community buses boast photo wrap of area riders



By [David Patch](#) | BLADE STAFF WRITER

Published on Nov. 17, 2016 | Updated 1:34 a.m.



Mia Monday, 11, of Monroe near her image, gets ready to get on the bus for its initial ride. The people who posed for the bus wrap and their families were the first, and for free, passengers on the bus.

THE BLADE/JETTA FRASER  
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MONROE — As Griffin Bennett gets older and advances from grade school through middle school to high school — and through various levels of youth hockey — he'll still be 8 years old in the picture that now adorns one side of a Lake Erie Transit bus.

"He's gonna get a big head out of this," said his father, John Bennett, after LET unveiled, during a Wednesday ceremony at Monroe City Hall, the first of three "Community Driven" buses it plans to operate in its service areas.

Similar buses for Frenchtown Township and Bedford Township are to be unveiled Tuesday and Nov. 30, respectively, in those communities.

"Lake Erie Transit wanted to show how important the millage communities are ... how proud we are of each community we serve," Joe Lybik, chairman of the agency's board of commissioners, said during the ceremony Wednesday.

Mark Jagodzinski, Lake Erie Transit's general manager, estimated the wraps' cost at about \$10,000 per bus, funded from the agency's advertising budget.

The wraps should last about 7 to 10 years, he said while noting that they're made up of many panels, so any section that is scratched or otherwise damaged can be replaced easily by Toledo-based Off Contact Productions, which made them.

Griffin already looks different from the picture on the Monroe bus, which shows him in a hockey uniform and helmet: several of his baby teeth are now missing compared to his photographed smile.

He's among about a dozen local residents depicted on that bus, including several other children, two members apiece from Monroe's police and fire departments, two military veterans, and several other people.

Richard Torpley, a Vietnam veteran, is shown saluting with a prosthetic arm that is the result of a war wound.

Mr. Torpley said he agreed to be photographed as a favor to a friend who commands his Veterans of Foreign Wars post. It will be nice for friends and acquaintances to see his picture on the bus, he said with a smile, "as long as they don't ask for signatures [autographs]."



Mia Monday, 11, said she was happy with her photo, while mom Alicia Monday, an LET bus driver, called it "awesome."

But while happy at first with her image, Avery Drake, 13, then noticed that her socks weren't both the same height.

"That's going to bother me for the rest of my life," she said, perhaps only half-jokingly, to which sister Grace Drake, 11, chided, "You wear short and long socks all the time!"

Mia, the Drake sisters, and young Bennett all got involved with the bus wrap because relatives work for Lake Erie Transit, while others were recruited through local groups such as the VFW.

The pictures were chosen from a larger pool of volunteers who were photographed over the summer for possible inclusion.

Transit authority officials said they couldn't use everyone's picture on the buses, but everyone got copies of the photos and was invited to ride the bus for a short, special trip after it was unveiled.

The portraits are superimposed on scenes from the community. For the Monroe bus, that includes various downtown buildings, the Custer monument, the River Raisin Battlefield memorial, and Lake Erie.

Mr. Jagodzinski said the three special buses normally will be assigned to routes in the communities for which they're decorated.

LET's total fleet has 32 buses, of which five others also have special decorations.

Contact David Patch at: [dpatch@theblade.com](mailto:dpatch@theblade.com) or 419-724-6094.

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