

# The Monroe News

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

**An employee-owned newspaper**

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*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

Monroe County residents and schools rally to show support in the face of challenges and tragedy.

# Emotions stirred by local struggles

Friday was a great example of the Monroe County community pulling together to help those in need.

Earlier in the morning, students at Manor Elementary School hosted a fundraiser for a Marine Corps veteran who is fighting for her life.

Darlene Folmar, a Monroe resident, has gastrointestinal and liver cancer and will be heading out of town for treatments.

The school was observing National Make a Difference Day, which was part of National Anti-Bullying Week.

Nearly a hundred people were waiting in the cold to participate in the breakfast.

The outpouring of support overwhelmed Ms. Folmar and her sister, Debbie Miller, who serves as custodian at the school.

Students and teachers saw a need in the community and stepped up to help Ms. Folmar. Businesses and other community members pitched in to help provide food and gift baskets for raffles.

Hours later, the outpouring of support for another individual was seen throughout football stadiums in Monroe County, other parts of Michigan and Ohio.

Bedford High School's football team lost one of its players Thursday after

17-year-old Colton Durbin died from injuries he suffered in a car crash.

Cheerleaders, fans and students wore red, and many had buttons on their coats with Colton's picture wearing his football jersey.

News of Colton's death spread quickly through social media. The social media storm also helped rally support behind the family.

Some southeast Michigan and northern Ohio schools invited fans to wear red in Colton's honor. Others, such as Monroe and Whitmer in Toledo, held a moment of silence to honor the fallen defensive back.

Jefferson High School showed class by announcing Bedford's starting lineup after its own out of what the announcer said was "respect."

Schools across the region might have been united by football, but they understood there is far more to life than kicking around the pigskin.

The outpouring of support for both families was impressive, but not unexpected. Monroe County has a history of rallying together to support their own.

The community's willingness to help and show support for Ms. Folmar and Colton's family continues to make this a special place to live.