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Friendship Station changes cause tension

Matt Jachman Staff Writer

The Plymouth community's senior citizen center is experiencing what many are calling growing pains as officials add programming and work to attract more participants.

The changes have upset members of Plymouth Township Seniors, a club

that's been using the township-owned Friendship Station, on Schoolcraft Road, for many years for card and mahjong games. Some members say they've felt displaced and disrespected by the moves.

But the intent was to bring in more seniors, not exclude anyone, officials said Friday during a senior coffee hosted by the Plymouth Community Council on Aging.

"The whole goal of what we were working on is to expand senior programming and to enrich the lives or seniors in our community," township Supervisor Shannon Price told about 60 people during the event at the Friendship Station. "It was never to push anyone out. Everyone's welcome.

"No one's getting kicked out," said

Bobbie Pummill, the PCCA director. Pummill said she's increased programming - yoga, knitting and crocheting, bingo, a weekly game day, line-dancing and other events have been added — in response to demand from area seniors, who for years have

asked her, "Why can't we use that build-

See SENIORS, Page A2

CUTTING EDGE



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER The culinary team, Patrick McKillen, Emma Stephens, Zachary Wolfiss and Taarika Sinhall, practicing for competition.

P-CEP students plan, chop, cut, cook, create their way to culinary competition

Joanne Maliszewski Staff Writer

"Too many cooks in the kitchen spoils the broth" isn't a proverb the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park competitive culinary team would necessarily embrace. For this group, every chef has a job, a way to do their job and all within a strict time period. The end result must be excellence.

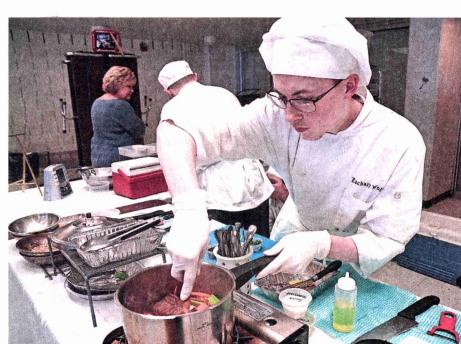
"For every second you're late, you lose a point!" said Diana Woodward, instructor/coach of the P-CEP Hospitality and Culinary Arts program.

And Woodward doesn't want excuses from the culinary team that spent this weekend in Lansing at the Michigan ProStart® Competition. Hosted by the Michigan Restaurant Association, the competition is a two-day event with culinary, management/entrepreneurship, ServSafe knowledge bowl and nutrition/marketing components.

The culinary team - Taarika Singhal, Emma Stephens, Zachary Wolffis, Patrick McKillen and alternate Cody Bates - have been practicing, practicing and then practicing again. These are the students who prepare meals for the Rock Cafe at Salem High School

'Everything we do is broken down to the minute," said Woodward, who has had her teams at the competition since

And she's not kidding. A recent practice, which literally simulated the actu-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Zachary Wolfiss sears beef short ribs before covering and locking the pressure cooker.

al competition, had the culinary team four chefs in a 10-foot by 10-foot space preparing its competition presentation, which included a starter, an entree and dessert. As if the effort for required precision isn't stressful enough, the team must prepare the three-course

meal without refrigeration, water or electricity. The team, however, is provided two camp stoves to complete its masterpiece.

Think it can't be done? Learn

See CULINARY, Page A11

Township attorney seeks county judge post

Matt Jachman Staff Writer

A Plymouth Township attorney who specializes in family law is running for an open seat on the Wayne County Circuit Court bench.

Michelle Letourneau-McAvoy, currently a Friend of the Court referee in the family division who deals with issues raised in divorce cases, such as child custody, child support and parenting time, is seeking a six-year court

Letourneau-McAvoy grew up in Livonia and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of

Michigan-Dearborn and a law degree from Wayne State University. She said she enjoys

working with families and helping them solve sensitive domestic issues. As a judge, Letourneau-McAvoy said, she would have the abil-

McAvoy

Letourneau-

ity to have even more of a positive impact on families. "When you're sitting ... either as a

referee or a judge, you're impartial, you're taking both sides in, you're evaluating the whole case — truly in the bests interests of the children," she said Tuesday.

If elected judge, there would be no guarantee Letourneau-McAvoy would be assigned to the court's family division, but family law has been her specialty for more than a decade. She began focusing on family law in 2004 and has been a Friend of the Court referee for five years.

"Family law kind of found me," she said. "I didn't know I was going to like it until I became involved in it." She also has experience in civil litigation,

criminal cases and probate matters.
An attorney since 1999, Letourneau-McAvoy worked as a legal secretary while in college and was a student attorney for the Legal Aid and Defender Association while in law school, representing low-income clients in civil cases such as debt collections and evictions. After earning her law degree, she remained on the staff at Legal Aid for about two years.

Letourneau-McAvoy's husband, Christopher McAvoy, is also an attorney. He joined her practice in 2006 and took it over when she was appointed a

court referee. They have two children. Letourneau said she's working on ways to make the court more efficient and accessible for people who want to have their day in court but may be intimidated by the system, can't afford an attorney or can't afford time away from work for multiple court appear-

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Like Dick Scott loves test drives.





JUDGE

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ances. She would continue those efforts as a judge, she said.

For example, she said, she is helping develop a program to cut down on the number of formal hearings required in family cases and have some matters handled by a court "support specialist" or a family counselor. That, she said, would make scheduling more flexible and convenient for families and offer a more relaxed atmosphere in which parties can settle differences.

"I understand that families are not onesize-fits-all and the court really does have a duty to listen to each family," she said.

Letourneau-McAvoy has been a volunteer at First Step, the resource for victims of domestic abuse, and was a member of the Student Transition **Advisory Committee** in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district at a time district officials decided to close two elementary schools.

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Art Van to build large store on Ford Road

Darrell Clem Staff Writer

Art Van Furniture is planning to build a twostory, 80,000-square-foot store in Canton — the biggest project of its kind in 13 years in Michigan, a company official confirmed.

It marks the first time Art Van has decided to build a store "from the ground up" since the Michigan-based company opened in Chesterfield Township in 2003, said Diane Charles, vice president of corporate communications.

Art Van plans to build the new store along Canton's bustling Ford Road business corridor, just west of Haggerty and across from IKEA.

"Our research shows that it's a great location," Charles said.

The site is just west of the new Black Rock restaurant. Canton Community Planner Jeff Goulet said the project would involve demolishing a medical office building on Ford Road and, behind that, a vacant two-story site that once housed

businesses such as a racquetball club.

Art Van hopes to begin construction this year and possibly open in spring of next year, Charles said. The company still has to formally submit the project, including a site plan, for approval by Canton Township officials.

"I think it's great news," township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said. "We're excited to have them build a beautiful facility in the community."

Charles said Art Van

doesn't yet have drawings to show what the Canton store will look like. She said it will be different from existing two-story sites in Michigan and more like newer stores in the Chicago area.

Art Van's project comes as the Ford-Haggerty area has witnessed a spike in redevelopment, including Black Rock and new, small retail centers. Another six-store center, the Shops of Canton, is coming to the site of what is now the Zax Auto Wash.

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SENIORS

Continued from Page A1

ing over there?"

"I wanted this community to have what every-one else has," Pummill said, referring to senior centers in neighboring communities. The PCCA is a nonprofit that serves Plymouth and Plymouth Township by organizing social and educational activities and providing resources for senior citizens and their families. Pummill works for the nonprofit, not for the city or the township

Members say they feel unwelcome

Plymouth Township Seniors, however, pushed back Friday, with some saying they have been made to feel unwelcome and were upset by the proposed rescheduling of their card and mahjong games and by being advised to move personal belongings from the Friendship Station.

"Nothing of ours was ever to stay and I was told that personally," Lu Havala saidat the meeting. "It was like, 'Here's your stuff. Get out of here."

"It's the little things that have been said to our members," said Jerry



PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP

The Friendship Station on Schoolcraft Road, where programming for senior citizens is being expanded.

Coll, a former president of the Plymouth Township Seniors.

Coll later said the problem boiled down to a lack of respect for the club and took issue with those who characterized the club as an exclusive group that was shutting other seniors from the Friendship Station

Coll, who represented the club on a transition committee, said members were told their Monday and Wednesday card games would have to start at 2:30 p.m. instead of the usual 1 p.m. in order to allow for more programming at the Friendship Station (Price says the proposed time was 2 p.m.). That starting time, Coll said, would mean card-players would

be driving home in the dark during winter months, which some club members wanted to avoid. The card games last about two-and-a-half hours, he said.

Card-players have been allowed to continue the 1 p.m. games through March and a 1:30 p.m. time has been proposed as a compromise, Price said. Coll said a 1:30 p.m. start year-round would be acceptable to club members.

'Transition's been

tough' Price agreed communication about the changes had been an issue and that people had spread misinformation, but asked the seniors to work together.

"The transition's been a little tough, but what we're doing is good," he told the crowd.

Pummill said she'd like to bring more regular programming to the Friendship Station, plus occasional informational and educational events, like a Medicare sign-up day, a senior nutrition program and a talk from an expert on how to guard against scams that target seniors.

Several seniors called for unity and putting hurt feelings aside.

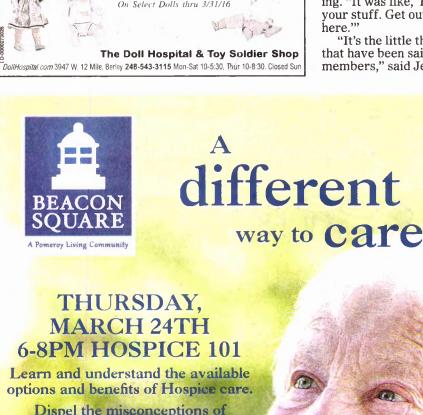
"Is this going to be a Friendship Station or a fighting station?" said Mary Lou Ferrara, a township resident since 1998 who said she attends senior activities in Livonia and Northville.

Pam Brady, who said she has joined Plymouth Township Seniors for mahjong games for about the last four years, said she was sympathetic to what Pummill and Price were trying to accom-

"It's all positive. We have growing pains," she said after the meeting. "Change is difficult for many people and adjustments have to be made."

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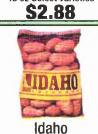


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BILL BRESLER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER It's green beer for Alicia Barnhart of Canton Township, celebrating St. Patrick's Day at the Penn Grill in Plymouth.

St. Patrick's Day in downtown **Plymouth**

They were wearing the green and drinking it, too, Thursday in downtown Plymouth.

St. Patrick's Day has been well-established as a day of celebration for Plymouth's bar and restaurant scene and Thursday was no exception, with the holiday meaning green beer. Irish food and live music, from the rock band The Strangers

at Sean O'Callaghan's to a bagpiper at Bode's Corned Beef House.

Sean O'Callaghan's downtown's version of a traditional Irish pub, served bangers (Irish sausage) and mash (potatoes), Irish stew and shepherd's pie (ground beef and vegetables), for example, as well as Irish beers.

BILL BRESLER STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER **Plymouth** residents Stuart Ferguson and Lisa Essien are early afternoon patrons at Sean O'Callaghan's Public House.



P-CCS middle school students capture C-SPAN StudentCam awards

Danielle Alexander

Two East Middle School and three Discovery Middle School students won honorable mention awards in the 2016 C-SPAN Student-Cam Contest.

East eighth-graders Aarushi Ganguly and Moriah Ma, as well as Discovery eighth-graders Linnea Brunvand, Lilyan Zebib and Marina Wennstrom, learned of their awards March 9.

"At first I thought the list of winners were in alphabetical order, so I was like, 'Oh, we didn't have any winners,' but when I realized it wasn't, I was like, 'Wait, we do have a winner. No, wait. We actually we have two!" Discovery social studies teacher Luke Haddad said about his students' two winning videos.

StudentCam is C-SPAN's annual national video documentary competition that encourages students to critically think about community and national issues. This year, students were asked to create a five- to seven-minute video answering the question, "What issue do you most want candidates to discuss during the 2016 presidential campaign?"

Ganguly's and Ma's video concerned the wage gap, Brunvand's was about the importance of early childhood education and Zebib and Wennstrom took on the

topic of immigration. East and Discovery social studies teachers Haddad, Jodi Svoboda and Angela Hogan, supported by media specialists Kathy Lester and Lisa Hastings, had their students choose an issue, research their chosen issue and create video documentaries using the



Discovery Middle School student Lilyan Zebib created a video with Marina Wennstrom on immigration.



Discovery Middle School student Linnea Brunvand created a documentary on the importance of early childhood education.



Discovery Middle School student Marina Wennstrom created a video with Lilyan Zebib on immigration.

fessionalism of these eighth-graders and know this is a project they will always remember doing."

After sharing her and her partner's video about the wage gap with family and friends, Svoboda's student Ganguly said her aunt was actually inspired to write a letter to her boss about the unequal wages that exist between her and her male co-workers, plus her mother's co-worker has decided to use Ganguly's video as a source in a college paper.

"I really did learn so much and not just about filming, editing and interviewing, but about controversial issues," Ganguly said. "It actually opened up what I want to do later for my career.'

Ganguly said she now knows she wants to pursue politics and be able to spread equality for all.

This year, C-SPAN received a record of 2,887 video submissions from almost 6,000 students worldwide; 150 student and 53 teacher prizes, totaling \$100,000 in cash prizes, have been awarded for winning documentaries. P-CCS received 2 percent of the awards.

248-860-4183



East Middle School students Aarushi Ganguly and Moriah Ma created a documentary about the gender wage gap.

program WeVideo (available to students as a pilot through the technology program) or another movie creation program of their choice; the three winning videos were created by Svoboda's and Haddad's students.

"If I could do projects like this every day, I would," said Svoboda, who has been having her students at East participate in this contest for five years.

Svoboda said she participates because not only does this project connect to the eighthgrade curriculum and Common Core State Standards, but it also has so much "life value."

During the three weeks students were given to complete their videos, they learned skills in research, interviewing, speaking, videotaping, storyboarding, editing and so much

"It's a culminating activity and very different from your typical paper and pencil tests," Svoboda said. "I get great feedback from parents and very few kids say they didn't like

Although this was Haddad's first time participating, he agreed and said he looks forward to doing it again next year, since he now understands not only how to better scaffold his instruction, but also has a better idea of what judges are looking for.

"This is definitely something I plan to do every year," Haddad said. "I was absolutely blown away by the pro-

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P-CEP mock trial team delivers honorable mention

Dawn Pyko Correspondent

The mock trial team at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park spent months preparing opening statements, witness testimony and closing arguments. The 21-member team was divided into three groups as they took the Oakland County Circuit Court House by storm Saturday, Feb. 27, when they battled the fictitious case of The People vs. Casey Camp-

The team is under the direction of Ted Nadon, Jeff Kangas and attorney Elizabeth Johnson. Nadon has coached the team for the past 20 years and thoroughly enjoys watching the students really critically think about the evidence and how best to present it. "I am iust amazed at how much better they do in competition than in practice," Nadon said.



P-CEP mock trial team members include (front row, from left) Olivia Allam, Richa Kalamdani, Samira Kalamdani, Cora Wallen, Natalie Flesher, Olivia West and Abby Rhoades; (second row, from left) Jeremiah Mckinney, Maya Zaben, Gabrielle Pavlic, Sarah Gendron, Sophia Barkoff, Rachel McCormick and Michael Mata and (third row, from left) Nash Salami, Katherine Springer, Ben Pyko, Terril Malone, Sven Olson and Loren Mata. Katie Paulot was also on the team.

Kangas joined Nadon about seven years ago and both coaches always have a great

sense of pride and accomplishment after the tournament. Johnson's husband Ted was a

coach for a number of years, but when he stepped down, she stepped in to take his place.

A mock trial is designed to re-enact much of what might take place in a courtroom. Students take on the roles of attorneys and witnesses and compete against each other in real courtrooms in front of real judges and lawyers. While the Plymouth-Canton students took on roles, there was no set script, so the team adjusted to the strategies employed by the opposing side. The P-CEP mock trial team studied the materials, learned relevant legal principals, developed the case and practiced witness examinations, just like real

Students arrived at the Oakland County Circuit Court as articulate and prepared advocates for their clients. They were knowledgeable concerning the law of their

case and practiced in courtroom etiquette. Each team was prepared to try both sides of the case and each team argued both sides during the competition. They were poised, confident, attentive and able to think on their feet as they responded to objections or unanticipated twists in the testimony. The students were convincing as both lawyers and witnesses for whichever side they represented. It became very apparent that these students were well-prepared and enjoyed arguing their case. Several of the students hope to pursue law as a future career.

Congratulations to Team C Gabrielle Pavlic, Sophia Barkoff, Sarah Gendron, Maya Zaben, Rachel McCormick and Terrill Malone — for earning honorable mention and the rest of the mock trial team on its accomplishments this season.

Canton library provides free SAT resources

Danielle Alexander

Staff Writer

With Michigan's 11th-graders taking the redesigned SAT on April 12, the staff at the Canton Public Library is encouraging students to use not only the free study resources available at the library, but all public libraries.

'Many students can't afford an expensive review course or to hire a tutor or they find that with a busy schedule of extracurricular activities or jobs, they can't make it to a review class," Canton Public Library department head of community relations Laurie Golden said. "For these students and many others, making use of materials available at their public library is a great way to improve their scores."

The Canton Public Library has more than 100 standardized test preparation print materials that can be borrowed, plus electronic books and student guides that can be accessed online with a library card. Golden said a handful of these do pertain to the redesigned SAT and, over time, this number will increase as more print resources are created and online materials, which normally take less time, are updated.

"If we don't have an item a student is looking for, we can see if another library that is part of The Library Network has what they need," Golden said, referring to 74 other southeast Michigan libraries which hold a reciprocal borrowing agreement with the Canton Public Library. "We could get it shipped over to our library and, when they are through with it, the student can return it right here."

In addition to resources, Golden said many public libraries offer SAT practice opportunities. For example, in January the Canton Public Library partnered with Sylvan Learning Center in Canton to administer an SAT practice test

to 100 students.

Beginning next week, Plymouth-Canton Educational Park seniors who achieved perfect scores on last year's ACT will provide a five-session "SAT Exam Cram," free of charge, at the Canton Public Library. These sessions will take place 4:30-6 p.m. March 22, 24 and 25, as well as April 5 and 7. Registration is required; however, students do not have to be Canton residents to attend.

Golden also said she encourages students to visit the Michigan Electronic Library, which offers SAT practice tests and skill building resources. It is free to all Michigan residents at

www.mel.org.
"There are many ways to help students prepare and it is so important to their futures," Golden said. "We encourage our communities to make use of what's avail-

Apply for Canton Community Foundation scholarships

For 25 years, the Canton Community Foundation has been awarding scholarships to deserving students in Canton and surrounding communities in order to help them achieve their academic aspira-

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Applications for the 2016 season are available now through April 1. Students can go to www.cantonfoundation.org. Click on the "Scholarship" button on the left side of the page and fill out the simple online application. Only one application is necessary for all of the scholarships offered, making it a quick and simple procedure.

Scholarship recipients are notified in late April, with an awards ceremony for recipients and their families the end of May.

For more information about the scholarships, the application process or the Canton Community Foundation, contact Beth Meade, managing director of donor relations, at bmeade@cantonfoundation.org or 734-495-1200.

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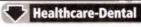
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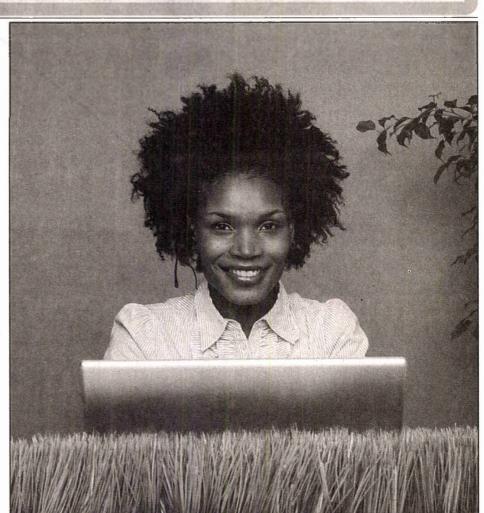
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All Saints achieves Evergreen designation

All Saints Catholic School has earned the highest Michigan Green School designation -Evergreen - once again. For the sixth straight year, the independent school in Canton has completed the necessary tasks to be a recognized Michigan Green School.

'Project Green School is important at All Saints, because we are called to be stewards for our environment," said Barb Zahari, sixth-grade teacher and club adviser. "We have been given the Earth as a gift from God and it is our responsibility to take care of it. I am very proud of our students and our community this year because we were able to maintain our Evergreen status, a status that took us five years to earn, and maintaining it is not easy."

The Wayne County Department of Public Services and Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency coordinate the program to recognize schools that achieve 10 or more energy-saving and environmental activities in an academic year. The activities are set up in categories that include recycling, energy saving, environmental protection and miscellaneous. A fifth category allows to propose your own activ-



All Saints students recycle.

ity. This annual recognition requires school to

re-apply each year. Last year, All Saints Catholic School was one of only three schools in the Plymouth-Canton school district and one of 52 in Wayne County to earn the Evergreen designation. The complete list will be published

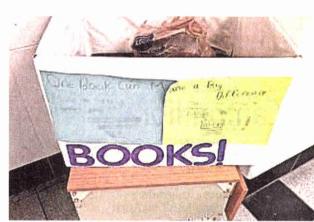
later this year.

'Because of the hard work from teachers, students and parents, All Saints Catholic School has received this award by completing at least 20 energy-saving and environmental tasks," said Nancy Gregor, Wayne County Michigan Green School co-coordinator

"The efforts they made to complete the tasks were very impressive and I especially enjoyed learning about their Waste Free Lunch program. I urge All Saints Catholic School to continue with the energy-saving and environmental tasks and hope they encourage others to follow.'



All Saints Catholic School has earned an Evergreen



Making sure nothing goes to waste, students donate books.



Author highlights charter academy's Literacy Night

Students and parents at Achieve Charter Academy in Canton had the chance to meet an awardwinning author to help

Maria Dismondy, author of six award-winning children's books, celebrated literacy at Achieve Charter Academy in

celebrate their Family Literacy Night last week.

Maria Dismondy, author of six award-winning children's books, including best seller "Spaghetti In a Hot Dog

Bun: Having the Courage to Be Who You Are," was at center stage as students celebrated literacy.

Kids also had the opportunity to hear her read one of her books.

Dismondy regularly speaks to thousands of students each month on the topics of bullying, character, the writing process and more. Her next book is scheduled to be released June.



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The announcement was made that the 2017 Lincoln Continental was named the 2016 North American International Auto Show's Best in Show at a Detroit Economic Club annual luncheon with Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans, Macomb County **Executive Mark Hackel** and Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson.

The Lincoln Continental is one of many amazing vehicles that will be available to consumers from Lincoln in 2016. Dealerships all over the country are preparing to receive these vehicles. Varsity in Novi already has the best of what Lincoln has to offer and will soon have the Continental, as well. The dealership has held the honor of highest volume sales globally since 1997.* Varsity offers a newly remodeled showroom, indoor delivery area and service reception where the highest in customer service is available.

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The 2017 Lincoln Continental was named the 2016 North American International Auto Show's Best in Show.

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ber one. Celebrating over 20 years in business, Varsity Lincoln has won many other prestigious automotive awards, including the Triple Crown Award, Lincoln Leaders of Excellence, Presidents Award, Ford One Hundred Club, CPO Sales Leadership and Premier Club. When you come to Varsity Lincoln in Novi, you're getting service

from the best. With both new and certified pre-owned Lincoln vehicles available, Varsity runs many specials throughout the year to better serve its customers. Right now, Varsity Lincoln is offering a complimentary maintenance plan for certified pre-owned Lincoln vehicles. This includes an oil change, tire rotation and multipoint inspection every 7,500 miles for one year/15,000 miles. With more than 200 certified pre-owned Lincoln vehicles available for as little as \$16,995+, it's no wonder that people will travel from far and wide to the Novi dealership to get "The Varsity Advan-

tage!"
"There are numerous benefits of purchasing a certified pre-owned, including the outstanding warranty that comes with the vehicles," said Jere Law, Varsity Lincoln's General Sales Manager and Pre-Owned Director. The 100,000-mile free bumper-to-bumper warranty that comes alongside all certified preowned purchases is better than a new car warranty! Additionally, anytime you bring your vehicle in for a service visit, you can receive a loaner for no cost, exclusively at Varsity Lincoln! The warranty is key with certified pre-owned and you will get the very best at Varsity Lincoln.'

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"Leasing or buying from a number one dealer in the country gives you the best selection, price and service," Law said. "Our dealership is ready to assist customers with anything, whether it is special financing or specific vehicle features. We can handle even the

most unique situations.' Besides the high volume of vehicles that Varsity provides, more proof of their dedication to customer service comes from the customers themselves. "If you want a really nice experience at a dealership, go to Varsity. I see the difference," customer Aretta Mackenroth said.

"Our customers speak for themselves about their experiences," Law said. "This dealership provides the Varsity Advantage. Team members here are selected based on their unwavering focus on customer care and satisfaction.

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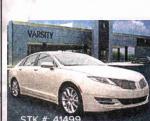
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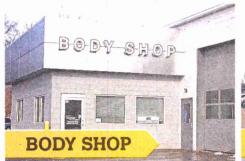
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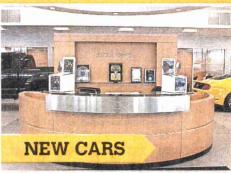
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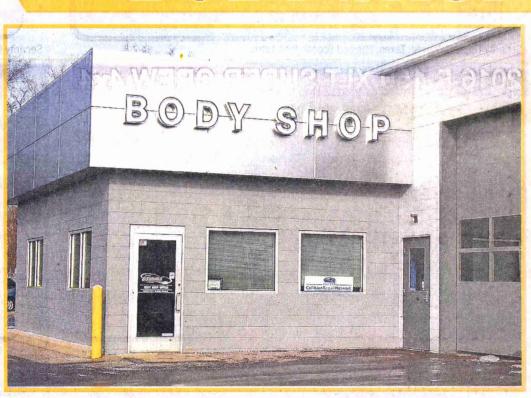
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New leader ushers in Pheasant Run golf season

Darrell Clem Staff Writer

A veteran golf industry professional who brings 25 years of experience to the job will lead Canton's 27-hole Pheasant Run Golf Club as the new golfing season arrives.

Paul Simpson, Pheasant Run general manager and head PGA golf professional, has become the successor to Greg Bores, who left last July for a new job in Charleston,

Simpson is no stranger to Pheasant Run, having served more than 14

years ago as its head golf professional and food and beverage manager.

Simpson

"We're very excited about Paul. We're glad to have him back," Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said Wednes-

Simpson most recently worked as general manager at Lyon Oaks Golf Club with Oakland County Parks and Recreation. He is a Class A member of the Professional Golf Association of America.

Simpson said in a statement that he is eager to lead Pheasant Run, a 27-hole championship golf course.

"I am very excited to return to Pheasant Run and lead the team once again," Simpson said. This is a great facility that will continue to develop golfers looking to get involved in the game, as well as provide an excellent golfing experience for even the most skilled golfer."

Canton Leisure Services Director Debra Bilbrey-Honsowetz said Pheasant Run had 37,194 rounds played in 2015 and hosted 122 outings. She said she is confident Simpson will usher in an era of success at Pheasant Run.

"We are pleased to welcome back Paul to Canton, where we know he'll be instrumental in ensuring great golf experiences at Pheasant Run Golf Club," she said. "We are confident that Paul will be an integral part in managing and advancing golf operations at Pheasant Run when we open again this spring, once the weather cooperates."

Simpson replaces

Bores, who ended his 17-year run at Pheasant Run overseeing 60 parttime employees, three full-time employees and a \$3 million annual budget. Local officials say Simpson's history with Canton has made the transition easier.

"I hope he does well," said Tom Yack, township trustee and former supervisor. "He certainly will be given all the resources he needs to accomplish his goals.'

Simpson is a graduate of Western Michigan University, where he majored in accounting with a minor in general

business. He also is a graduate of the Golf **Professional Training** Program and received the Titleist and Footjoy scholarships for his performance in the GPTP's level 2 and 3 programs.

Simpson and wife Shari live in Sylvan Lake with son Trevor and daughter Tiana.

Pheasant Run Golf Club is located at 46500 Summit Parkway. For more information, go to www.golfprgc.org or call 734-397-6460.

dclem@hometownlife.com Twitter: @CantonObserver 734-972-0919

Downtown's TranquiliTea marks 10 years in tea business

Julie Brown Staff Writer

What advice does business woman Colleen Cannon have for a new entrepreneur opening up

shop? "They really need to do their due diligence, make sure there's a need for the product or service," said Cannon, owner of the TranquiliTea store on Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth. She sells loose tea as well as tea pots and many related items.

Added Cannon, who's marking her 10th anniversary in business in Plymouth, "Find an area where they'll get the traffic they need.

She started smaller, at a location on Forest Avenue in downtown Plymouth, and moved to her current site in 2009. She praises her landlord, in the site where the Beitner family ran a jewelry business for years.

"Basically, I didn't take loans out, huge loans for a build-out. Start out small," said Cannon, a Livonia resident.

Saturday, March 12, was a day for fun at the



JULIE BROWN

TranquiliTea owner Colleen Cannon (left) helps customer Jacqueline Robinson of Plymouth Township shop Saturday,

shop with an Irish theme in time for St. Patrick's Day. Signs in the shop included Irish trivia such

Picking Porky, Joker and Polly Pineapple? (lollipop flavors); and » "What kind of in-

strument is a Bodhran?

(a drum)

» "What are Pear

"It's just kind of fun. I got some really wacky

questions," she said of trivia. "And, of course, we have all our Irish teas to sample."

The music of Irish band Searson, which has performed locally, played Saturday on the store's sound system. Cannon and husband Pat have been to Ireland twice and plan a return

Their son, who works



JULIE BROWN

Tasty Irish teas and treats were served Saturday, March 12, at TranquiliTea in downtown Plymouth, which is marking 10 years in business.

in the gaming industry, has a lecture to do in Dublin; the Cannons will fly over to meet him and his family.

Of her 10 years in business, Colleen Cannon said, "Up and down, the economy. Made it through that whole auto bankruptcy.'

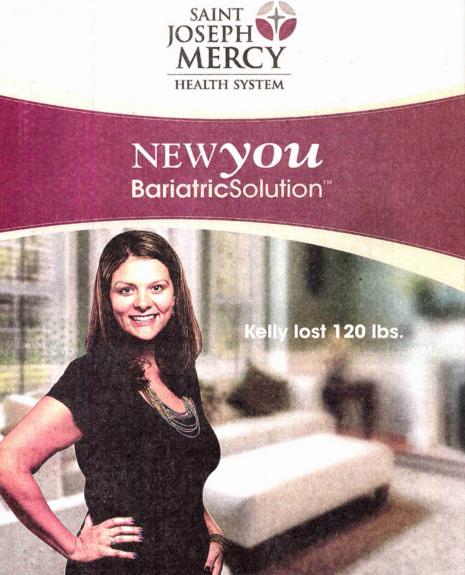
A business neighbor on Forest, the Omelette & Waffle Cafe, now serves her teas. "I think I'm a

good fit," she said of the local business scene. "They have been good to me," she added of cus-

Jacqueline Robinson of Plymouth Township was shopping for her sister's birthday Saturday morning and likes the store. "She loves the tea here. She drinks it all the time," Robinson said as her tea purchase was rung up.

Cannon also likes having the U.S. Post Office nearby, noting some 100 teas are available on her website. "They'll come in with a list of what they've seen online to check it out," she said of customers. "I just run over (to the post office) there and drop my little parcels."

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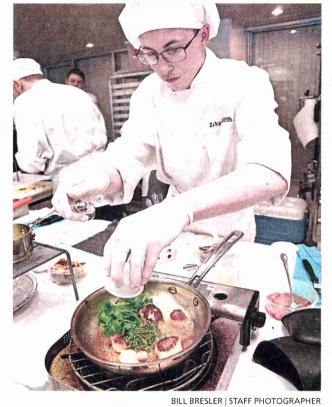
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Taarika Singhal wields a torch to brulee orange sections.



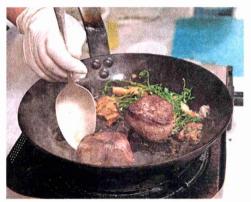
Zachary Wolfiss sears scallops.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Emma Stephens stirs one of many ingredients.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Zachary Wolfiss dices a shallot.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Searing a petite filet mignon.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Former team member Paul DiNicola is a mentor to this year's team.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Patrick McKillen whisks over an ice-filled bowl, cooling the inaredients.



Cody Bates (left) calls out time for the team.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Patrick McKillen, Zachary Wolfiss, Emma Stephens and Taarika Singhal listen to Diana Woodward's critique.

CULINARY

Continued from Page A1

from Woodward's team. The atmosphere is tense, stress is written on the student chefs' faces. their hands are moving fast and yet they create a meal superb enough for a fine dining experience. "I think the pressure helps me be better," said Ste phens, who is Wood-

ward's sous chef. With a sense of apprehension, the student chefs presented their meal to Woodward at the recent practice. Nerves were taut. Woodward, who watched – just like a judge -the entire production, pointed out the minute details in need of improvement, including placement on a plate, timing and the precision slicing food items.

Each item prepared by the students includes between seven and 11 components or recipes. For example, Singhal created nine components for the dessert, which included white chocolate, strawberries and passion fruit. The other chefs created a meal of scallops and braised beef.

'I am so proud of what I see." said Carey Gary, now retired but who started the Plymouth-Canton culinary program in 1972. Woodward was one of her students. "This program has grown by leaps and bounds. Diana does way more with these students than I ever did or could.'

The Plymouth-Canton culinary program is wellknown in the food industry. About 60 percent of Woodward's students go to the Schoolcraft College program and then on to stellar careers. Right now, one of Woodward's students is in the spotlight as restaurateurs bid for him to work at their restaurants. "He's that good," Woodward said.

Woodward, whom her students affectionately call, "Woody," makes sure her group is more

than well-prepared to enter the next step in culinary education. "They have to make sacrifices in their schedules to take this program,"

she said. Typically, the culinary program is not for freshmen. Even with the advanced program, Woodward has found that some juniors are not old enough to participate. Yes, students in the program are prepared for employment, typically as line cooks, but Woodward insists they head to a college program. "There is always more to learn, she said.

Competition is an important event for the P-CEP culinary students. At the 2015 the nationals, the result of many competitions - including a state contest in which Plymouth-Canton took first place in the nutrition competition — P-CEP lost by only a halfpoint to the winning team in the culinary contest. Competition can also bring status and scholarships for the students.

And that's why timing is everything in the state and national competitions, Woodward said. But timing isn't the only thing that must be perfect. How the student chefs cut, slice, dice, prepare the meal and even where on the counter a knife is placed are all items that are judged. For example, students must excel in cutting 40 carrots in 10 minutes. "They need to be perfect," Woodward said

While the culinary team listened intently to the needed improvements, another group of Woodward's students taking the role as management team - was rehearsing a presentation for its proposed restaurant for judges. "It's like 'Shark Tank.""

senior Jacob Lorenz said. In addition to Lorenz, management team members include Brynna Samuels, Samantha Rhodes, Kyle Branham and alternate Dylan Grandke. Offering just as much stress as experienced by the culinary team, the management team developed a concept for a restaurant. Greenstone, which would seat 70 people and offer a casual, lodge atmosphere.

The group's plans literally include a sort of blueprint of the facility, menu, staffing, marketing, costs, recipes, you name it - anything and everything that goes into opening a new restaurant. Students must be ready to answer questions from the judges, meaning they have to anticipate anything and everything that could be asked about their restaurant. The team also participates in a quiz bowl in which it will likely be asked questions about the U.S. Department of Agriculture's food code.

"Most of us are interested in a hospitality program," team member Samantha Rhodes said.

Samuels joined the program because she wants to be a nutritionist or dietician. Lorenz is really more interested in being a chef, but the management side, he



joined to see if being a chef was really what he wanted, has found it is not for him and instead has his eye on botany.

Grandke actually wants to be a food critic or chef.

"This is a good simulation for what working in the food industry

would be," Lorenz said.

jmaliszews@hometownlife.com 248-396-6620 Twitter: @jmaliszews





Holy Week: Public invited to walk a labyrinth

If you have never walked a labyrinth, especially during Holy Week, the First United Methodist Church of Northville invites you to join its members in a week-long prayer outreach.

The church, 777 W. Eight Mile Road, at the corner of Taft Road, will offer guided Labyrinth Walks, as well as a Prayer Vigil Center, during Holy Week. The church's entire Fellowship Gathering Place will be decorated with palm trees, special bench seating, meditative music and spring plants to create a peaceful, prayerful space. Stephen Ministers will be present as guides, said Veriditas certified labyrinth facilitator Norma Peltz, a church member.

"This is a special deal," Peltz said.

A labyrinth is a bible



First United Methodist Church in Northville invites the public to walk the labyrinth during Holy

tradition documented in the Old and New Testaments. It is a single winding path that allows participants to have a meditative walk to the center and back out again. It is also an ancient circular pattern found in many cultures and civilizations

dating back more than 5,000 years.

At the First United Methodist Church, the canvas labyrinth is 40



Visitors may take as long as they wish to walk the labyrinth at **First United** Methodist Church in Northville.

feet in diameter and weighs 110 pounds. "It is sacred geometry and is found in 23 Gothic cathedrals," Peltz said.

Peltz said walking a labyrinth is a practice that "integrates the body with the mind and the mind with the spirit."

A labyrinth, which is not a maze, is for pilgrimage, walking prayer, centering prayer, spiritual retreat, self-discovery and a union of the body, mind and spirit, Peltz

Visitors may take as much time as they wish on the labyrinth. Hours at the church March 21-25

» Monday, March 21: 4-8 p.m.

» Tuesday, March 22 and Wednesday, March 23: 1-6 p.m.

» Maundy Thursday, March 24: 1-7 p.m. followed by worship at 7

» Good Friday, March 25: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., followed by worship at 7

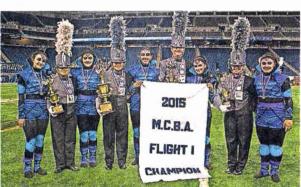
Vote for P-C Marching Band today

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band has been selected as one of 10 finalists for Comerica Bank's March the Park national anthem contest and is now turning to the public to decide the winner by voting for their favorite on the Comerica Cares Facebook page.

Support the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band, which is eligible if it wins - to receive a \$5,000 grant to support its efforts. Videos of the 10 finalists are on Comerica Cares Facebook and public voting will run until March 20.

In addition to the potential for the grant, the winning band will perform the national anthem at the Detroit Tigers game April 9 at Comerica Park. The winning band also will win 130 tickets to the game.

To vote, go to



The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band has been selected as one of 10 finalists for Comerica Bank's March the Park national anthem contest.

www.facebook.com/

ComericaCares. In addition to the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band, other finalists include:

» Bloomfield Hills High School, Bloomfield Hills

» Brighton High School, Brighton » Divine Child High School, Dearborn

» Holly High School, Holly

» Lincoln High School, Ypsilanti » Oak Park High

School, Oak Park » Roosevelt High

School, Wyandotte » Stoney Creek High School, Rochester Hills » Woodhaven High

School, Woodhaven/ Brownstown

Plymouth resident to be honored as PE teacher

Plymouth resident Caryl Dazer of Cass Elementary School in Livonia will be honored as the Midwest District Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year by SHAPE America-Society of Health and Physical Educators at its 131th National Convention & Expo in Minneapolis, April 5-9.

The SHAPE America Midwest District repre-

sents six states from West Virginia to Wisconsin. The award is given in recog-

nition of Dazer outstand-

ing teaching performance at the elementary school level and the ability to motivate today's youth to

participate in a lifetime

of physical activity. Dazer, a general and adapted physical education teacher for the past 30 years with Livonia Public Schools, will vie with three other district winners for the distinguished honor of National Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year. At the convention, SHAPE America and SPARK & Sportime innovators of equipment and evidence-based programs for physical educators - will celebrate the 27th anniversary of

this Teacher of the Year

The National Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year award recipient will be

awards collaboration.

announced Friday, April 8, at the SHAPE America Hall of Fame Banquet. Dazer's personal connection to the profession

is her No. 1 motivator. The teacher has a child with special needs and looks at her students with the same drive and determination she does for her own child, even referring to her students as "my kids."

She meets the needs of all students by using the whole child approach to learning. This approach holds that each child comes to physical education to learn and practice a healthy lifestyle, is safe, engaged as well as supported and challenged. Her instruction encompasses elements of all five of SHAPE America's National Standards for K-12 Physical Education.

Dazer likes to lead by example, serving as a role model throughout the school day. In class, she participates and demonstrates all warmups and motor skills. During lunch, she visits students and shows them her plate full of fruits and vegetables. After recess, she goes out on a walk with them.

'I like to think outside the box and expose them to cross-curricular activ-

ities," Dazer said. "We move to Dr. Seuss books, use resources from Fuel Up to Play 60 (FUTP60), an in-school and physical activity program, and find the latest technologies for skill demon-strations."

She is a program adviser for FUTP60, launched by the National Football League and National Dairy Council.

Dazer is also in the process of implementing a new program called Project Unify - a school curriculum offered through Special Olympics that teaches all children ways to accept others with disabilities.

In her spare time, Dazer mentors Wayne State University undergrad adapted PE students, providing input on their writing of lesson plans and individual education plans for stu-

Dazer is SHAPE Michigan's State Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year for 2014. Under her leadership, Cass Elementary received the Michigan Fitness Foundation Silver Award for Healthy Schools in 2015.

The educator received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Wayne State University in physical education/health and elementary education, respectively.



Thursday March 24

from 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Laurel Manor 39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, Michigan 48150

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT PURSUANT TO STATE LAW 257.252, THE FOLLOWING VEHICLE(S) WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE AT MAYFLOWER AUTO TRANSPORT, 1179 STARKWEATHER RD, PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN 48170 ON THE DATE AND TIME LISTED BELOW:

DATE

03/25/2016 at 7:30am

VEHICLE(S):

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	STYLE	VIN	CASE #
2014	GMC	TERRAIN	SW	2GKALREK8E6378774	15-5637
1996	MERCURY	MYSTIQUE	4D	1MELM6534TK623782	15-5359
2004	FORD	FREESTAR	SW	2FMZA52214BA56481	15-5860

INQUIRIES REGARDING THESE VEHICLES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO OFFICER BABER, CITY OF PLYMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT, AT 734 453-1234 x544.

LINDA J. LANGMESSER

Published: March 20, 2016

LO-0000275772 3x3



ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS **MEETING NOTICE** CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN (734) 453-1234

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 5:30 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following:

758 N. Holbrook

Non-Use Variance Requested Side Yard Setbacks Zoned: R-T, Two-Family Residential Applicant: DeWayne White

2. Z 16-03

1240 Fairground Non-Use Variance Requested Front Yard Setback Zoned: R-1, Single-Family Residential Applicant: Marie Everitt

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

> Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator 201 S. Main Street Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

Published: March 20, 2016



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hometownlife.com

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TUESDAY, April 5, 2016 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Schoolcraft College Livonia Campus VisTaTech Center

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- Local Exhibitors
- FREE Prizes
- FREE Refreshments
- FREE Admissions
- FREE Parking
- FREE Blood Pressure, Pulse, Height, and Weight Screening by Schoolcraft Nursing Department

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- The Elder Care Firm





Featured Guest Speakers





9:20 -10:15

Maurice Cox, RN, CCE-MT-P/IC and Michelle Moccia DNP, ANP-BC, CCRN

St. Mary Mercy Livonia

Healthcare Decisions



10:30 - 11:25 Rick Bloom, *J.D., CPA*

Bloom Asset
Management
Everything you Need
to Know about Estate
Planning



11:40 - 12:35 Dr. Sol Cogan, D.C. President and CEO

HealthQuest Management, Inc. New Technology in Pain Relief

Demonstrations and Workshops

9:00 - 9:30

Schoolcraft College Facts, Figures and Warning signs of Alzheimer's Disease and other Dementias

The Elder Care Firm

How to protect yourself and loved ones from long-term care costs

Botsford Commons
Why men don't listen and women
can't read maps

12: 30 - 1:00 p.m.

Schoolcraft College Exercise for Easing Arthritic Pain

Senior Helpers

Age in Place

Michigan Department of State Safe Drivers Smart Options: Keys to Lifelong Mobility

Questions? CALL 248.926.2203



Anakah Blocton, Amanda Ellenwood, Kiernan Schaefer, Shelby Falkiewicz, Catherine Christenson (back row) Alaina Small, Delaney Ooms and Carys Blocton (front row) at the end of the day in the clothing bank room at Fort St. Presbyterian Church in

Community Scrapbook



Members of Girl Scout Troop 40900 in Canton took a day off their winter break in February to go downtown to Fort St. Presbyterian Church and sort donated clothes for the Open Door program. Pictured are Kiernan Schaefer and Catherine Christenson with the bags of shirts they sorted and packed.

Skywarn weather spotting training coming to Livonia

David Veselenak Staff Writer

Warmer weather means severe weather when it comes to southeast Michigan.

Those looking to sharpen their weatherspotting skills can learn more at a Skywarn training session, taking place at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the auditorium at the Robert and Janet Bennett Library, located at 32777 Five Mile in the Livonia Civic Center campus.

'We're moving into the severe weather season. The idea is to make the community and residents more aware of the season itself," said Brian Kahn, Livonia's emergency preparedness director and a recent retiree of the city's police department. "It's a great program that teachers people about the weather.'

The session, which will last no more than two hours, will train attendees to spot severe weath-

er and relay it to local authorities quickly to reduce looming threats. The training is done in conjunction with the National Weather Service, the city's emergency preparedness department, the Livonia Amateur Radio Club and the Wayne County Amateur Radio Operators.

The event is free and no advance registration is required. Anyone is welcome to attend, not just Livonia residents.

Kahn said severe weather is something most people don't pay attention to until its almost arrived, something trained weather spotters can help alleviate by detecting signs of dangerous weather approaching. With their help, Kahn said, authorities can be alerted if something terrible, such as a tornado or other natural weather event, occurs in the area.

"It's out of sight, out of mind. You still have to prepare," Kahn said.



FILE PHOTO

Brian Kahn, Livonia's emergency preparedness director, at a 2014 Skywarn training event in Livonia. Another Skywarn training session is coming Wednesday to Livonia at the Robert and Janet Bennett Library on Five Mile, east of Farmington.

"There's nothing we can do to avoid the weather.'

For those interested in attending but not able to make it to Wednesday's event in Livonia, several other sessions are listed in southeast Michigan in future weeks. Those interested in locating another session can do so by

going to the National Weather Service's website and finding another local training session at weather.gov/ dtx/spotter2.

dveselenak@ hometownlife.com 734-678-6728 Twitter: @DavidVeselenak

Gospel singer to aid with water drive for Flint residents

Grammy-winning gospel singer Kirk Franklin will be making an appearance at the Westland St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store to host a Good Friday water drive to benefit families

Praise 102.7-FM host

Project:

Owner:

Scope of Proposals:

Randi Myles will broadcast live from the store on North Wayne and Hunter during the drive, which runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Along with bot-

Franklin, a seven-time

SECTION: 00010 - ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Northville High School - Electrical Upgrades

Sealed proposals from Prime Mechanical Contractors for the

construction of all Trades Construction Work are requested.

at Northville High School. All contractor or subcontractor

representatives shall meet at the Front Reception Desk. The purpose

of the walk-through is to clarify the procedures, scope of work, and

to identify any omissions or inconsistencies in Bidding Documents

Attendance by Representatives(s) of bidders of record is mandatory.

All contractors have until 12:00 P.M. on March 28, 2016 to submit

a Request For Information (RFI). All RFI's shall be directed to Greg

All modifications, corrections, or clarifications prior to receipt of the

proposal will be made by an Addendum issued by the Owner to all

Sealed proposals shall be received until 2:00 P.M. on April 4, 2016

which may impede preparation and submission of representative

Any contractor who missed previous walk-through must contact Greg Ziegler by 4:00 P.M., on March 24, 2016 to arrange a time

to visit project site. Contact Greg Ziegler at the following phone

number (248) 879-5666 or email gziegler@pbanet.com

ATTN: Michael Zopf, Administration Building

At which time all bids will be opened and read out loud.

after the date specified for receipt of proposals.

Information Tab: http://northville.k12.mi.us

Buy4Michigan via http://buy4michigan.com

All proposals submitted shall remain firm for a period of 45 days

Copies of the proposed Contract Documents may be obtained

from: Northville Public Schools, under the Business Office, Bid

PlanWell via http://www.e-arc.com/ (formerly dunnblue), Phone:

Proposals not received by the time and date specified in this notice,

will be returned to the Contractor unopened. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive irregularities and/or informalities and to make award in any manner deemed for the best

Assurance of Compliance with Federal and Michigan State

Fair Employment Practices Acts: The Contractor and any of his

subcontractors will agree not to discriminate against any employee

of applicant for employment, to be employed in the performance of

privileges of employment, or any matter directly or indirectly related

to employment, because of race, color, religion, national origin, age or

the contract, with respect to his hire, tenure, terms, conditions or

Northville Public Schools 501 West Main Street

Northville, MI 48167

interest of the School District

(248) 288-5600

Hillside Middle School - IDF Room Cooling

Due Date and Place: A Walk-through will take place at 3:30 P.M., on March 23, 2016

tled water, donations of

toiletries will also be

Northville Public Schools

Northville Public Schools

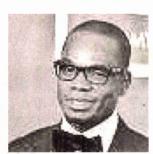
competitive bids.

Ziegler.

Grammy-winner, is slated to visit the water drive 2-3 p.m.

Located at 6613 N. Wayne Road, the St. Vincent de Paul store is also a donation center.

For more than 130 years, St. Vincent de Paul has provided vital ser-



Franklin

vices in southeast Michigan, including food, shelter, medical and dental care, utility assistance, disaster relief and emergency support. Additionally, SD operates 11 thrift stores throughout the community and provides outreach programs to the vouths.

Giving Hope seeks philanthropy nominations

Giving Hope, Women's Giving Circle is seeking nominations for local philanthropists who have made a difference in the Canton and Plymouth communities.

Those selected will be honored and featured in a video presentation at the Giving Hope 10th Anniversary celebration Friday, Oct. 21, at Laurel Manor. All nominees will be named to the Giving Hope Honor Roll.

Eligible are neighbors, friends, relatives, youth or a business that deserves recognition for making a difference in Plymouth and Canton.

Send nominee's name, address, daytime phone contact along with a short narrative about why the individual, couple, family or student deserves this honor to givinghopewgc@ gmail.com with a subject line of GIVING HOPE email nominations is Monday, May 16. (Nominators should also provide contact information.)

Nominees must live in Plymouth or Canton, have fostered an idea, event or action in philanthropy as a donor or volunteer to help make life better for other people. Nominations will be accepted for individuals or families.

A student category will honor a young person or persons up to age 21 who have demonstrated a commitment to philanthropy in their community.

In 2016, Giving Hope is celebrating 10 years of supporting Plymouth and Canton area nonprofit groups that help women

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and children. "Giving Hope members are compassionate, hardworking women from diverse backgrounds who are committed to making a difference in our community," said Cynthia Kabza Vercruysse, chair of the Giving Hope advisory board.

"Over the last 10 years Giving Hope has donated more than \$71,000 to groups dedicated to making an impact in lives of women and children," she added. "We are asking the public to speak out and nominate local individuals or families who have also engaged in communi-

ty philanthropy." Giving Hope, Women's Giving Circle was born out of the belief that women in the Canton and Plymouth communities can make a meaningful impact on the lives of women and families in

Local grants over the last decade have helped:

» First Step, the Wayne County program to assist victims of domestic violence

» The Plymouth Canton Community Schools Clothing Bank

» Enough SAID Campaign (a collaboration between the Michigan Woman's Foundation, the Detroit Crime Commission and the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office to bring to prosecution a backlog of sexual assault crimes)

» Community Literacy Council to support tutor training.

» Michigan Philharmonic Symphony to support the Celebration Youth Orchestra

» Plymouth-Canton Community Schools to support the Students Helping Homeless Stu-

dents project The Giving Hope, Women's Giving Circle is a donor-advised fund of the Canton Community Foundation.

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Published: March 20, 2016

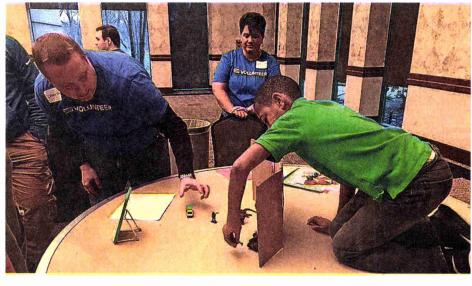
Teen center goes high-tech with workshop

Canton's B.L.O.C.K. Youth & Teen center recently teamed with 27 Best Buy and Geek Squad employee volunteers, along with several Break a Difference volunteers, to host a special Teen Tech Workshop for its student members.

This unique hands-on learning opportunity called "Blue Gives Back" recognizing Best Buy employees in their blue staff shirts who give back to local communities — enabled more than 30 students currently enrolled at the B.L.O.C.K. to experience the latest cutting-edge digital technologies in a fun and nurturing environment.

Program activities and topics included audio production with a banana piano; 3D design and printing; electrical circuit creation; stop-motion animation film-making; mobile app development; and more.

"This introduction to tech skills could possibly inspire future education and career choices," said Laura Mortier,



Jordan Jackson works on a project with Best Buy, the Geek Squad and Break a Difference volunteers.

B.L.O.C.K. coordinator and recreation specialist. "It's one thing to tell them about technology, but with this hands-on training, our students were exposed to the latest technology in a fun and interactive setting."

As experts in technology, Best Buy and the Geek Squad continue to

leverage their knowledge, resources and talented employee volunteers from all over the state of Michigan to host these special workshops that empower youth and help prepare them for the future.

By interacting with the latest technologies, these participants were able to see the benefits of digital learning up close while developing skills to help better prepare them for future education and career success. For more information about Best Buy's community relations and outreach efforts, go to https://corpo-

rate.bestbuy.com. Founded in 2013,



B.L.O.C.K. participants work with volunteers during the recent program focusing on technology.

Break a Difference strategically engages individuals and institutions across the nation through service to make positive impacts in communities and on those who serve. This organization recognizes service and volunteering as powerful tools to tackle such important matters as leadership development, team-building and employee engagement. For more information, go to

breakadifference.org. The B.L.O.C.K. Youth and Teen Center, located on the third floor of the Canton Administration Building at 1150 S. Canton Center Road, provides a fun, teen-friendly environment where students ages 11-17 can participant in supervised after-school programs, social events, and activities. For more information, go to cantonfun.org or call 734-398-5570.

Spotlight on Youth presents 'Enchanted Sleeping Beauty'

Spotlight on Youth will perform the musical "Enchanted Sleeping Beauty" March 20 at Inspire Theatre in Westland.

This "for kids, by kids" musical is about the king and queen of Never Nod who have a new baby princess: Briar Rose. The witch, Evilina, who lives with a giant spider, sets a terrible curse on the poor young princess. Sixteen years later, it is up to Prince Alexander to come to Brian Rose's rescue and the court's, too, for they are all asleep. The prince must fight the Wall of Thorns, a false princess and, most frightening of all, the exalted Dark Knight.

Spotlight on Youth exists to create an extraordinary youth-centered theater experience and to advance theater as a means of educating, challenging and inspiring young people. It is comprised of children and young adults from Westland and many surrounding communities.

The final performance 2

p.m. Sunday, March 20. Call 734-751-7057 or go to spotlightonyouthmi.com for tickets. The cost is \$15 for general seating.

Inspire Theatre is located at 33455 Warren Rd. in Westland.

P-CCS creates district phone application

Danielle Alexander Staff Writer

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' first official school district phone application is available for free download through either the App Store or Google Play.

In addition to the district's revamped website and increased presence on social media, P-CCS director of communications Nick Brandon said the phone application is another way P-CCS is "getting with the times" in terms of technology.

"Through the app, we can provide better connectivity between the district and its

stakeholders, which are the students and families," Brandon

In addition to information about the district and transportation, the app also includes links to both Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's newspaper, The Perspective, and P-CEP's radio station, 88.1 The Park.

"We are one of the only districts left with a radio station and print newspaper, so the district is happy to recognize and celebrate student voices," Brandon said. "It's honestly my favorite part of the app because with one touch, people can con-

nect with both outlets." For now, Brandon describes

the phone application as simple, easy to navigate and informative: "The app will grow and develop every year," he said. "It's important to start simple and give access to the information students and families need

While searching for the app, Brandon said he encourages typing "Plymouth-Canton" and looking for the globe, which is the district's new logo.

'We hope this enhances the community's ability to connect with us and get info as quickly as possible," Brandon said.

dnalexander@hometownlife.com 248-860-4183

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SECTION B (CP)

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SPORTS

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SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Lady Ocelots eager to start legacy

After Florida trip, Schoolcraft's first softball team ratchets it up for March 26 home opener

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Rey Linares isn't sweating the details too much when it comes to his new Schoolcraft

College women's softball team. Yes, the Lady Ocelots went 3-6 on their recent spring training junket to the National Training Center in Florida.

But Linares — a longtime high school coach at Melvindale who has waited almost a year for the games to begin after Schoolcraft green-lighted its first-ever softball program — talked about the work ethic, talent, camaraderie and determination already being shown by his players.

"They're really coming together well," Linares said during Tuesday's practice at Skillbuilder Batter's Box in Dearborn Heights. "They played extremely well down



TIM SMITH

Plymouth alum Elaine Gerou is a member of Schoolcraft College's impressive pitching staff.

there. We went 3-6, but we had a couple four-year colleges on the ropes and lost in the last inning.

"They were anxious to get on the dirt for the first time; it was exciting stuff."



The inaugural Schoolcraft College women's softball team poses during spring training competition at the National Training Center in Clermont, Fla.

Filling a need

Linares said the potential for Schoolcraft to have a successful softball program is off the charts. A lot has to do with the wealth of outstanding high school programs in metro Detroit, from which he handpicked many of the 14 players on the 2016 roster.

"It's tremendous. It's a great opportunity for so many players," Linares said. "It's such a huge sport in this area right now. I wish we could take

more. There's so many players coming out of the woodwork

that want to participate.
"You could actually open up
a second college in the area
and still have enough players."

See SOFTBALL, Page B4

TOURNAMENT MADNESS

DREAMS DUNKED!

Great teams and athletes need improved odds to extend postseason life



Tim Smith

erhaps it comes with the territory of playing in an area that is overflowing with outstanding high school players and teams.

Consider Logan Ryan and Canton's varsity boys basketball team.

All season long, nothing could get in the way of the machine that was Canton basketball. Ryan was driving the locomotive, launching killer jumpers from all over the floor and throwing them down at the rim with authority.

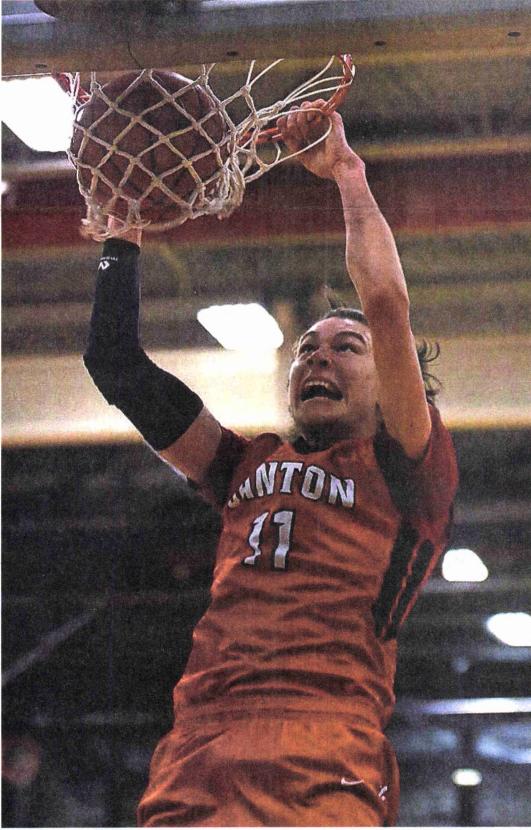
The Chiefs also featured sweet-shooting freshman guard B. Artis White, cool and calm while hitting treys in the heat of KLAA battle.

Don't forget gritty glue guys, such as seniors Jalen Cochran, Obi Okoli, Hamoudy Turfe and Chris English. Throw in important minutes from pesky sophomores Colin Troup and Noah Brown and it was a recipe for success for head coach Jimmy Reddy.

And, yes, every game throughout the regular season, Canton came, saw, dunked and won. Twenty consecutive victories without a loss.

Trophies were hoisted —
for the division, conference
and association championships. Never before had
a Chiefs boys basketball
regular season rolled to a
perfect record, at least as
far as Reddy could tell.
But then came the first

See SMITH, Page B3



MICHAEL VASILNE

These spectacular dunks by senior forward Logan Ryan did a lot to power the Canton Chiefs boys basketball machine in 2015-16.

USA HOCKEY

Energized NTDP U17s roll over Stampede

Two-goal game by Farrance lifts Team USA

Tim Smith Staff Writer

Barely five minutes into Friday night's USHL game at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth Township, visiting Sioux Falls scored when a puck hit a skate and bounced into the home team's goal.

"It was an inadvertent bounce, kind of a lucky, fortunate play for them," U.S. NTDP Under-17 head coach Don Granato said. "Our bench was unwavering, like, 'No problem, 55 minutes left in the game, don't sweat it.'

"Everybody was very engaged in this game."
In fact, Team USA (21-24-4-2) reeled off five unanswered goals following that tough bounce and went on to post a 5-3 victory before just over 1,300 fans. Two of them were scored by defenseman David

See NTDP, Page B2



RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY
Vying for position in front of the
Sioux Falls goal are Nolan Nicholas
(left) and NTDP U17 forward Brady
Tkachuk.



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GIRLS HOCKEY

Mercy Marlins capture D1 girls hockey championship

Second-seeded Mercy defeats Grosse Pointe South in final game, 3-2

> Dan O'Meara Staff Writer

With so many good, young hockey players last year, Farmington Hills Mercy had the foundation in place to win another championship in 2016.

The Marlins achieved the repeat and won their third title in four seasons Saturday with a 3-2 victory over Grosse Pointe South at Arctic Edge Ice Arena.

Mercy won its previous two championships in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League's Division 2 tournament. It played in the top division this year.

For the postseason tournament, the top eight teams in the 17 school league are seeded in Division 1, the bottom seven in Division 2.

The Marlins were the No. 2 seed after finishing in a tie for second place with Catholic League rival Livonia Ladywood. Both were 12-1-1 in the league and one-half game behind **Grosse Pointe Woods** University Liggett.

"Throughout the entire season, we were trying to figure out what worked and to put people in positions that helped the team the most, so we would know what to do when we got to the Catholic League championship and the state playoffs," firstyear Mercy head coach Valerie Sosnowski said.

The Marlins, who finished the season with an overall record of 23-2-1, had it all figured out and knew just what to do.

In a March 8 quarterfinal game, they routed No. 7 Bloomfield Hills, 8-1, and they blanked third-seeded Ladwyood



Mercy players gather around the championship trophy after capturing the Michigan Metro Division 1 crown.

key part of getting to where we are," Sosnow-ski said. "A lot of girls

cause they were unself-

"The girls are not

personal stats. They put

the team first. As a re-

sult, we move the puck

around and a goal can

The primary reason

for Mercy's success was

defense, however. Sen-

iors Caitlin Somerville

shared the goaltending

duties again this year

and made it extremely

difficult for other teams

to score on the Marlins.

played in the final game,

had a 0.62 goals-against

Somerville, who

average in the league

while playing 360 min-

average and 241 min-

utes. Kouvaris had a 0.37

"We had two phenom-

enal No. 1 goalies," Sos-

were four-year varsity

nowski said, adding both

players. "We wouldn't be

where we are today if it

the entire season, which

the entire league. That's a statement about our

goalkeeping and defense

"When they have the

is by far the lowest in

and our offense back-

puck, everybody plays

defense and, when we

have the puck, every-

body plays offense. It's a

team effort up and down

'We gave up 14 goals

wasn't for them.

and Katy Kouvaris

come from anyone.'

concerned with their

got a lot of points, be-

ish with the puck.

in a March 10 semifinal,

Junior Sophia VanAcker scored the winning goal in the victory over No. 4 South, breaking a 2-2 stalemate at 3:30 of the second period with an assist from junior Hannah Hamilton.

"We have a lot of respect for Grosse Pointe South," Sosnowski said. "They're a great team and it was a battle all the way to the end. The girls worked really hard. It was a great team

After an early South goal, junior Emmie McCann tied the score in the first period, then sophomore Makena Duval gave Mercy a 2-1 lead in the second. Hamilton and sophomore Amelia Bartels assisted on the scoring plays.

Maria DiCresce scored both goals for the Blue Devils (17-9-0) and was assisted each time by Lauren Kramer and Carson Dennis.

Like last season, the Marlins had a balanced offense and scoring contributions from a lot

of players. VanAcker was the only Mercy player among the top eight scorers in the league, with 23 points in 14 games. McCann had 17, sophomore Maddie Rennie 15, junior Natalie Vaitas 12 and Bartels 10.

"Learning how to play as a team and moving the puck around was a

Sosnowski, who was a Mercy assistant coach the past two years to Mitch McCann and Joe Jones, cited another reason for the team's success.

"There's a special relationship the girls have with each other," she said. "They have great chemistry in the locker room.

"They're friends in school; they're friends outside of hockey. They get along together and that comes through in the way they play on the ice.

In addition to the goalies, the only other seniors on the Mercy team are forwards Abbey Przekop and Natalie Cieslak.

The other members of the team are junior Natalie Masopust, sophomores Abbey Roegner, Elena Ervin, Cara Hodgins and Taylor Mackenzie and freshman Libby Bartels.

Libby Bartels and Roegner were the only new additions. The other 15 players returned from last year's team and most will be back again next season.

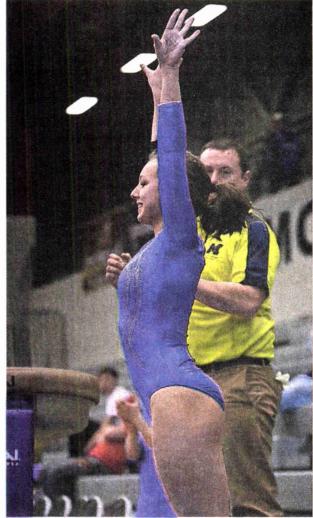
"We'd like to continue to grow and develop as players, as well as a team," Sosnowski said. "We're going to continue to hold ourselves to a high standard and put ourselves in the best position to win.'

The Marlins, who also won the Catholic League title, didn't get to play top-seeded Liggett again in the Michigan Metro playoffs. The Knights were upset by Grosse Pointe North in the first round, 3-2.

"We were ready for anybody," Sosnowski said. "It wasn't so much about who we played. We just needed to play our

"Playing Grosse Pointe South for the championship was a challenge and a really great game. I'm very proud of the girls."

Fantastic frosh!



MICHAEL VASILNEK

Salem freshman Riley Fisher is shown after triumphantly finishing her routine on vault at the recent gymnastics state regional at Plymouth. At the state finals in Rockford, she earned all-state honors on Division 2 balance beam, finishing 10th at Rockford with a 8.875 score.

BOYS BASKETBALL



Marlo Brown (right) and his Southfield Christian teammates fell to Aquavius Burks and Flint Beecher for the second straight season in the Class C regional championship game.

Beecher's late run stuns Southfield Christian, 78-65

Marty Budner Staff Writer

Same round of the state tournament, same

teams ... same result. For the second straight year, Southfield Christian met up with a very talented Flint Beecher squad in the Class C boys basketball regional championship game. And for the second straight year, the Buccaneers eliminated a very talented Eagles squad from

the state tournament. Beecher, playing with the complete starting lineup that won the Class C state championship last year, used a sizzling lategame blitz to put down Southfield Christian, 78-65. The game was played Wednesday at Flint Hamady — a virtual stone's throw from the Beecher campus - before an overflow crowd of more than 1,000 spectators who had the tiny gym rocking with nearly every basket.

"I thought we were in good shape in this game; we just didn't close out well," fifth-year Southfield Christian head coach Josh Baker said. "I thought we had a shot at them this year, but I thought we had a shot at them last year, too. They have a good program and that's the level we have to get to."

What made the outcome that much more disappointing for Southfield Christian fans was their team controlled the game's first 21 minutes

of play. Whether hitting from outside the arc or driving to the hoop, Southfield Christian was connecting from every corner of the floor offensively. Defensively, the Eagles, playing with a deep bench. kept constant pressure on the Buccaneers and

pounded with them on

the glass.

Southfield Christian held a 27-23 halftime lead thanks to a second-quarter defensive effort that held the high-flying Buccaneers to just six points.

The Eagles came out with the same aggressiveness and confidence to start the second half.

Southfield Christian outscored Beecher, 17-10, through the first five minutes of the third quarter, capped by back-toback treys from senior Richard Feagin that put the Eagles up 47-34. Feagin's treys sent the Eagles fans into a frenzy and gave his team its largest lead of the game

at 13 points. From that point on, everything went south.

Beecher closed the quarter on a 9-2 run, but still trailed by four, 49-45, heading into the final eight minutes.

After Southfield Christian's Brock Washington opened the fourth quarter with a trey for a 52-45 lead, Beecher responded with eight straight points to take a 53-52 advantage. Bryce Washington then a layup to put his team back on top 54-53.

Beecher, playing in the bonus situation throughout the final quarter, then went on another 8-0 run for a 61-54 lead. The Buccaneers kept up the pressure the rest of the game, gradually pulling away from the Eagles.

Beecher finished the fourth quarter with 33 points, outscoring the Eagles by 17 points in the second half.

Beecher (22-2) advances to the Class C state quarterfinal set for 7 p.m. Tuesday against Ithaca (23-2) at Troy Athens High School. Ithaca defeated Reese, 58-36, to capture its regional championship.

NTDP

Continued from Page B1

Farrance, who also helped set up the equalizer at 11:45 of the first by forward Logan Cockerill.

I think we followed the game plan really well," Farrance said about what helped the U17s overcome the early deficit. "We did just like coach drew it up and we got pucks to the net."

Farrance, who registered his first twogoal game of the season, added that the team was able to freewheel enough to thwart the Stampede (25-24-3-1).

"Speed is a big part of our team and how we play," Farrance said. "I think we have a speed advantage over them, which helped a lot.'

Granato said it was a positive to see Farrance have a big game.

"He's had a lot of ups and downs to the year, as most of the guys have," Granato said. "Not as many ups as these players are used to. Anytime a guy that's putting work in has a good night, you're happy for him. Certainly, that's the case with David to-night."

Before the end of the opening period, Sioux Falls made a bid to get to within a goal, when forward Lawton Courtnall broke in alone on U17 goalie and Northville native Dylan St. Cyr (26

But the 5-7 goaltender sprawled to make a spectacular and timely — save,



RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

U.S. NTDP Under-17 defenseman David Farrance (middle) is congratulated by teammates Grant Mismash (left) and Evan Barratt after scoring one of his two goals Friday.

preserving the twogoal cushion going into the first intermission.

"There's no question that (save) was a key,' Granato said. "But there are a lot of keys when you reflect on a game. I thought the energy level was very good, the jump was very good.

"It felt to me there was no one point in the game where we were vulnerable."

St. Cyr had to stand his ground at the start of the second period, too, to help Team USA kill off a penalty.

And shortly thereafter, the U17s went up 4-1 on a goal by 6-7 winger Keenan Suth-

ers (Macomb). Suthers rushed up the left wing into Sioux Falls territory and snapped a shot over the glove of Stam-

pede starting goalie

Stefanos Lekkas.

The lead grew to 5-1 at 1:57 of the third period on a power-play goal by forward Logan Hutsko (the game's second star; Farrance was the first star).

A shot by forward Evan Barratt hit a leg and bounced into the right circle, where Hutsko one-timed a roof shot that chased Lekkas (22 saves) and brought in backup Ales Stezka (who stopped all 11 shots he faced).

Sioux Falls closed out the scoring on goals by Daniel Warpecha (his second of the game) and Lean Bergmann.

Granato said his team came out strong knowing Friday was one of the final home

games this season. "I thought the players really took it to

heart that this was one of their last two home games this year," he said. "They played hard and deserved the win and I'm happy for our guys.

"The key is the progression, continually getting better. So we want to make sure that our last few games are our best few games. That's the objective moving forward.'

NTDP U17 ORIENTATION: Next year's Under-17 team will be selected following the U.S. National Team Devel-opment Program orientation, which takes place through Tuesday at USA Hockey Arena.

Scrimmages at USA Hockey Arena will be free to the public and are scheduled for 7 p.m. Sunday, 1:40 p.m. Monday and 9:30 a.m. Tuesday. Among 48 players born in 2000 who will

be participating are Drew DeRidder (Oakland Jr. Grizzlies), Blade Jenkins (Compuware) and Jack DeBoer, whose dad is former Plymouth Whalers head coach Intently watching the orientation will be USA Hockey coaches Danton Cole and Chris Luongo, who currently helm the NTDP U18s.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Tough start costs Ocelots in NJCAA D-II tourney

Schoolcraft falls 79-76 to South Suburban in quarterfinal

> **Tim Smith** Staff Writer

Cold opens might work for good television, but not in college basket-

Unfortunately, the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team found that out in crushing fashion Thursday night, losing 79-76 to South Suburban in the quarterfinal of the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II tournament in Danville, Ill.

The Ocelots fell behind 37-30 at halftime, connecting on just 10 of 28 shots from the field (36 percent) and 4-14 from beyond the threepoint line.

Although the shots started falling more frequently in the final 20 minutes, enabling



Schoolcraft to briefly take a one-point lead with 8:35 to play, the Ocelots could not put the clamps on Jovan Mooring (21 points, 11 rebounds; 4-6 in triple

"This is a great tournament with many very good teams," Schoolcraft head coach Abe Mashhour said. "Teams have great size, athleticism and talent. To win it all is a great task as you have to play well for four consecutive days just to have a chance.

'I thought we played pretty well against South Suburban but they played well too and made

some timely shots and defensive plays. That's the thing about the tournament, because the quality of teams is so high — you can play well and still lose."

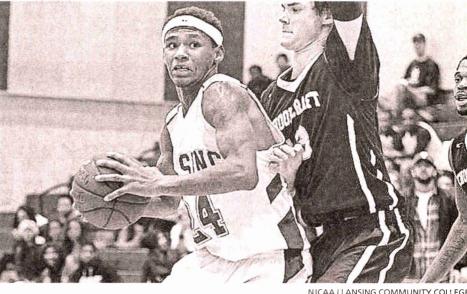
Leading Schoolcraft with 14 points each were sophomores Dre Black (Westland John Glenn) and Tyler Johnson (Howell). Contributing 12 points each were Ja-'Christian Biles and R.J.

Registering nine points and four rebounds was sophomore forward and Canton alum Davon Taylor. Also scoring nine points was Esa Abdul-

Despite the loss, which pushed the Ocelots down into the consolation bracket, there is no denying 2015-16 was an outstanding season for Mashhour and his squad.

The team took a 23-11 record into Friday's fifthplace semifinal game against Parkland.

Schoolcraft -- Michigan Community College Athletic Association champions and in the national tournament for



NJCAA | LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Schoolcraft College's Tyler Johnson (right) guards Lansing Community College's Javon Haines during a recent contest.

the second straight season — reached the Elite Eight with a 96-82 win Wednesday against Cecil Community College.

Spearheading the Ocelots with 22 points was Biles, a sophomore guard who has committed to play next season at University of Detroit

Also strong, as he has been all season, was Taylor, with 19 points and 14 rebounds (nine on the defensive glass).

Black (12 points), Johnson (eight points) and sophomore forward Anthony Wartley-Fritz (seven points) also were solid as the Ocelots surged to a 50-43 halftime lead and carried on from there.

"In game one we played pretty well,' Mashhour said. "But we needed some time to get rhythm going after being off for a week and a

tsmith@hometownlife.com Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Marian's Grobbel reflects on 'amazing' prep career

Marty Budner Staff Writer

It was some 20 minutes after Marian's twoyear reign as Class A girls basketball state champions had ended deep in Macomb County with a loss to Warren Cousino in the regional championship game.

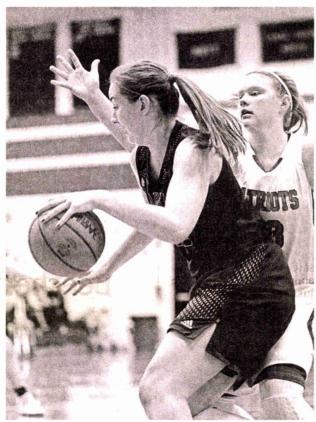
Liz Grobbel slowly walked out of the Roseville High School locker room, where she and her Mustangs teammates had listened to a few seasonending words from veteran head coach Mary Cicerone.

Speaking from the heart and trying to to be upbeat after the disheartening defeat, Grobbel took time to reflect on a memorable Marian career that included a pair of Class A state titles, 18 straight tournament victories and countless cherished memories.

"It's hard losing today, obviously, but I know I'm personally part of a team that had an 18-game offseason winning streak and that I'm very proud of," said Grobbel, the only non-starter who scored in last year's state title game. "I've had some amazing, amazing teammates over the years and I learned from (former Marian) captains how to be a captain and, hopefully, I've passed that on to my younger teammates.

"Just being part of the Marian program really taught me a lot ... how to build up my character, how to be a better leader and just help me to learn that teamwork is everything and how to work

together.
"Definitely though, I just think the program has grown a lot this year," she added. "Coming into the season, people said, 'Hey, this is not the same team. They've lost all five of their starters.' I think this year we really came together and did a wonderful job. I'm just proud of what we've done this year.'



JOHN STORMZAND I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marain senior Liz Grobbel (front) looks to make a move against a Cousino defender in the regional championship game.

A captain's responsibility

The only other players besides Grobbel, a Birmingham resident, with any varsity experience coming into this season were seniors Maria Hickey and McKenna Landis, plus junior Madeline Laurencelle.

So as a team captain, Grobbel felt personally responsible to see that if the Mustangs was not going to repeat as state champions, they were going to play with character and uphold the glorious winning tradition and outstanding reputation the program

enjoys across the state. "I felt a lot of responsibility as captain to keep this team going and make sure the team played with composure," she said. "I just think that everyone bought into the program, that defense wins championships and that you're not going to win things in a one-man

"I just tried to teach

them kind of the ropes of the game and the little tips that I learned over the years in winning those state championships. I think everyone

caught on really fast.
"I just think that we never gave up," she added. "Even when everyone was doubting us, even when we got blown out of games, we just kept moving on, took them as learning lessons and kept moving forward.'

Forward it did. Marian had a magnificent season, considering it did not have one returning starter from last vear's state championship team.

Despite all that inexperience, the Mustangs finished their season with a 17-8 record, their second straight Catholic League championship and their fifth consecutive Class A district

Marian dropped two of its first three games, including a 10-point loss to Cousino in the season's third game, but then won



JOHN STORMZAND STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Veteran Marian coach Mary Cicerone registered her 600th reer victory in the Class A district opener over host **Bloomfield Hills.**

eight of its next nine games. The Mustangs were in contention for the Catholic League regular-season title halfway through the season and regaining a bit of their swagger.

Winning like always

This team that everyone figured would be in rebuilding mode all season was winning just like it had always done. Although the Mustangs went into a brief tailspin and actually finished third in the Central Division regular-season standings, they got their act together once tourna-

ment time approached. Led by Grobbel's game-high 14 points, Marian defeated rival Mercy to win the Catholic League tourney. The Mustangs then sliced their way through the area's public schools defeating Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham Groves and Birmingham Seaholm — en route to the district champion-

Marian showed enough resolve to get past a talented St. Clair Shores Lakeview squad in the regional semifinal. That win set up the ominous showdown with Cousino for the regional championship.

In a battle in every sense of the word — two intentional fouls and two technical fouls were called and players were diving all over the floor for loose balls — Cousino prevailed again by 10 points, 49-39. Marian had not lost to Cousino in seven meetings prior to

While Marian was not a preseason favorite to win a third consecutive state championship, no one figured the Mustangs to win 17 games, either. Even Cicerone never expected the success this year's team attained.

"I would have said you're crazy (if told at the beginning of the season Marian would win 17 games)," said Cicerone, who earned her 600th career victory in her 33rd season at the program's helm. "But they came. We had a little spell there when we had a lot of kids missing but, for the most part, they came and they worked hard, they learned and they really grew.

"I'm proud of what this team has done this season. It was a good group and I had a lot of fun with them," she added. "They pushed my buttons, but they were a fun group. But I thought we had a great season.'

As for Grobbel, she couldn't be happier with her four-year varsity basketball experience.

"It's been absolutely amazing. I've learned so much playing under coach Cicerone," Grobbel said. "I think I've grown leaps and bounds on the court and off the court. She taught me about dedication, picking yourself up after bad games and picking each other up and learning not to quit.

"I've had so many amazing experiences and so many amazing teammates throughout these four years," she added. "I've grown a lot and I'll carry these experiences with me the rest of my

TOURNEY STREAK ENDED

The Bloomfield Hills Marian basketball team had won 18 straight tournament games dating back to the 2013-14 season before falling in the recent Class A regional championship game to Warren Cousino. Followina is Marian's tourney performances the past three years:

2013-14 **DISTRICT TOURNAMENT** Semifinal: Marian 41, Farmngton Harrison 27

Title game: Marian 59, North Farmington 35 **REGIONAL TOURNAMENT** Semifinal: Marian 65, Southfield-Latrhup 30 Title game: Marian 45, Rochester Hills Stoney Creek

STATE QUARTERFINAL Marian 43, Port Huron 17

STATE SEMIFINAL Marian 67, Farmington Mercy

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME Marian 44, Plymouth Canton

2014-15 **DISTRICT TOURNAMENT** Semifinal: Marian 49, North Farmington 18 Title game: Marian 74,

Farmington Harrison 42 **REGIONAL TOURNAMENT** Semifinal: Marian 43, Southfield-Latrhup 36 Title game: Marian 49, Farmington Mercy 33

STATE QUARTERFINAL Marian 51, Waterford Kettering 42

STATE SEMIFINAL Marian 57, Martin Luther

King 37 **CHAMPIONSHIP GAME** Marian 51, DeWitt 37

2015-16 **DISTRICT TOURNAMENT** Ouarterfinal: Marian 44, Bloomfield Hills 38 Semifinal: Marian 49, Birmingham Groves 37 Title game: Marian 53, Birmingham Seaholm 24 **REGIONAL TOURNAMENT** Semifinal: Marian 47, St.

Clair Shores Lakeview 36

Title game: Warren Cousino

SMITH

Continued from Page B1

game of the Class A dis-

What a reward

Guess where this is headed? Canton's reward for its once-in-a-lifetime season was an early date against another team pretty much just as sensational in 2015-16.

Canton faced Northville, a squad that entered the game at Salem High School with a 20-1 record (including a district-opening victory against Plymouth).

Two of the region's top teams butted heads that night, fully aware that for one of them — a season to remember would end on a sour, forgettable

Sure enough, that was the night the Chiefs would lose. Stifling defense by the Mustangs put the 6-7 Ryan in a straightjacket from the opening tip. He could not get open and, when he

was able to get any shots off, they meekly missed the target.

There would be no ferocious, emphatic jams this time.

Rainbow treys that White and others routinely knocked down over the course of 20 games vanished against Northville's torrid 'D.'

When all was said and done, Reddy and his team could only shake their heads and tip their hats to the job turned in by the Mustangs.

Of course, two nights

later, it was Northville's turn to have a season of destiny come to a crashing halt as Novi knocked it out of the postseason.

Planting a re-seed

As tough as it for lengthy tournament runs to not be in the cards for record-breaking teams such as Canton and Northville, perhaps something could be done to help them get a couple of kicks at the postseason

Reddy floated the idea of the Michigan High

School Athletic Association re-seeding the way tourney time is handled in the NCAA. That's not an original idea, of course, because every season in every sport brings sudden heartbreak to worthy teams such as these.

But really, other than helping athletic directors prepare for tournament travel, why do district draws need to be handled weeks in advance?

Can anything be done to factor in won-loss records when drawing up

Probably not. It is a sticky wicket to deal with and ADs have a tough enough job as it is.

these pairings?

Still, it would be nice for the Logan Ryans of the high school world to have a fairer shot at state championship glory.

The MHSAA should at least open up the planning playbook and take a

Tim Smith is sports editor for the Canton and Plymouth Observers. He can be reached at tsmith@hometownlife.com.

SOFTBALL

Continued from Page B1

Plus, with the skyrocketing cost of attending a four-year college, the time is right for a closeto-home option.

'We've got a lot of players that were offered to four-year colleges, but they weren't sure what they wanted to get into," Linares said. "Even with the scholarships that were getting offered, it still would have been a pretty significant out-ofpocket expense on their part to go to a four-year college, as compared to coming to Schoolcraft."

Linares said his team is well-rounded, with excellent pitching, defense and an offense that can go deep or play small ball. Fans in the area will get the chance to watch the Lady Ocelots play at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 26, in a doubleheader at Ford Field against defending MCCAA champion Ma-

"There's no quit in the; they absolutely work hard," Linares said. "We've got a very solid defense, we got a great pitching staff, we can really hit the ball and we can incorporate a lot of small ball into it as well. Our motto: 'For every inch they give you, take two.' That's what the girls strive for."

Thrilled to play

Co-captains Elaine Gerou (pitcher/utility) and Katlyn McIntosh (infield/outfield) concur



After a long career at Melvindale, Rey Linares is the first softball coach in Schoolcraft history.

with their coach. They are sophomores who were outstanding prep players at Plymouth and Garden City, respective-

"I'm really excited to have this opportunity to play, considering it's going to be my last year playing competitively with a sport I've been playing for over a decade," said Gerou, a transfer from Concordia University who did not play in 2015. "We have a lot of diversity on the team, girls from all over. We're really clicking well. We have very versatile play-

McIntosh said she wanted to play close to home and is thrilled to be part of the start of Schoolcraft's softball legacy. She also did not play last spring.

'It feels very cool; it's really important," McIntosh said. "It is such a



Livonia Stevenson alum Kassidy Lipinski is thrilled to be on Schoolcraft's first softball team

local school and there isn't really any local community colleges here that offer (softball)."

Another player who was glad to be able to join the Lady Ocelots is freshman infielder/outfielder Kassidy Lipinski, who graduated from Livonia Stevenson.

"I think it's really awesome," Lipinski said. "I feel really excited about the first team. I'm really excited we can make history.

Lipinski said she committed to play NAIA softball at Indiana Tech, "but when I heard about this team starting, I wanted to play here instead. I just wanted to stay home and I thought it would be cool to be part of this team. I'm real happy I'm still playing."

For freshman outfielder Molly Markiewicz, it is almost surreal that she is part of the first School-



Molly Markiewicz did not play softball at Farmington High School, but that didn't stop her from making Schoolcraft's inaugural team.

craft team. She graduated from Farmington High School, but did not play for the Falcons.

"It's really cool. When I get older, I get to tell my kids I was part of a first-ever college softball team," Markiewicz said. "And it's really special when people say, 'I didn't know Schoolcraft has a softball team.' And then I get to tell them about our team and how awesome we're doing.

Markiewicz said she didn't play high school or travel ball, but reached out to Linares.

"I was supposed to go to Central Michigan, but I got into Schoolcraft a week before and I emailed the coach, letting him know I wanted to play," she said. "And he let me come to some tryouts and practices and I made the team.'



Garden City product Katlyn McIntosh is looking forward to representing Schoolcraft on the softball field.

Sheer hustle

Linares said Markiewicz originally was expected to be a role player, maybe helping out as a pinch-runner. She now is firmly in the mix for important innings.

"At this point in time, she's our most improved player," he said. "She has literally worked so hard and so aggressively that she's forcing us to put her out on the field.

"She's a pure athlete, she just hustles. Everything she tried, she would not quit. The other girls took notice of that and it helped push them as well, too."

Linares said his pitching staff will be one to watch. It features Gerou, freshman Alaina DeFrain (Livonia Franklin), Sabrina Coleman (transfer from Jackson College), Kerry Prowse (St. Catherine H.S.) and Maria

Coleman (Dearborn). They will be throwing to freshman catcher Caitlin Fitzpatrick, one of Linares' players at Mel-

vindale who was Schoolcraft's best hitter in Flor-

Other key players figure to include McIntosh, who "was an allstate player for a few years in a row," and her former Cougars teammate Kelsie Powell, a freshman third baseman who opened eyes during the spring trip.

"She's currently batting cleanup for us and doing a tremendous job," Linares said about Powell. "She's our third baseman, just absolutely dominated at third base down there.

"We're getting a lot of calls from four-year colleges about her. Nothing could get past the kid.'

Lipinski comes over to the Lady Ocelots after four years as starting shortstop for Stevenson.

Competing for the top spot at first base is freshman and Livonia Churchill alum Rosie Garvin.

"She's working hard and doing really well," Linares said. "She'll get a lot of time at first base, a lot of power in the bat.'

Rounding out the roster are Shelby Shelton (sophomore IF/OF, Dearborn Heights Annapolis), Mackenzie Quinn (sophomore C/OF, Lake Erie College transfer) and Rebekah Mathers (freshman OF/C, Waterford Mott).

tsmith@hometownlife.com Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Ocelots fall apart in 10-run fifth

Sour ending to Schoolcraft's first game played in Michigan

> **Tim Smith** Staff Writer

For a while, the firstever game on Michigan soil by the new Schoolcraft College baseball

team was on-target. The Ocelots tied Thursday afternoon's opener of a non-conference twinbill against Cleary University with a line single to left by freshman and Westland

native Daniel Ammons. That two-out hit over the Cougars shortstop's head scored freshman Daruis Fluellen to make it 2-2 in the top of the

Then the Schoolcraft train got derailed by errors, wild pitches and 50 mph winds that turned every play into an adventure. By the time a lengthy bottom of the fifth ended, Cleary scored 10 runs — six unearned — and closed out a 12-2 mercy-rule shortened victory.

Between games at Parker Middle School in Howell, Ocelots head coach Rob Fay said the pitcher victimized by the onslaught - Plymouth

alum Jared Merandi deserved a better fate.

"It's one of those things," Schoolcraft coach Rob Fay said. "We threw a guy who hasn't thrown all year yet, wanted to give him an opportunity. He threw well, but we got to make plays, we got to make routine plays. And that's the bottom line."

To underscore his point, the first batter in the fifth was retired on a lazy fly ball to left. The next batter, Cole Gilmer, hit a grounder to shortstop that should have been an easy second out. But a knee-high throw to first was dropped.

By the time a second out was recorded, it was a 7-2 game. The Cougars then scored five more runs against freshman pitcher Jason Rakowicz of Livonia, with a windblown, routine fly ball to left dropping in to make

No excuse

"I'm not out there. I'm sure it (wind) had something to do with it," Fay said. "But it was blowing for both teams. So it's not an excuse for us.'

Gilmer, batting for the second time in the inning, then followed with an RBI single. A passed ball and two wild pitches contributed to another Cleary run and the final

"It's one of those things. We threw a guy who hasn't thrown all year yet, wanted to give him an opportunity. He threw well, but we got to make plays, we got to make routine plays. And that's the bottom line."

ROB FAY

Schoolcraft baseball coach

one scored when another ball was dropped at first

That ugly inning ruined what had been a promising game for the Ocelots, playing in Michigan for the first time after going 3-6 on a trip to Florida.

A bases-loaded walk by Fluellen put Schoolcraft on the board in the second.

Cleary responded with a pair of runs, but Schoolcraft freshman starting pitcher Christian Mercure managed to throw enough curves for strikes on a day where it was difficult for any pitcher to get a feel for the ballto leave after four in-

nings down just 2-1. Then came the clutch base hit by Ammons that momentarily had the Ocelots thinking about a victory.

Unfortunately, a 15batter inning by the Cougars put a quick end to those thoughts.

Thankfully, with scheduled doubleheaders, teams don't have to wait long to turn the

page.
"We have to get some leadership going, to where guys step up and they believe in themselves a little bit," Fay said. "Again, they're going through the growing process, the maturation process of all this.

"But we can't wait for that to happen. In a matter of two weeks, we start conference play and all these guys who have played enough baseball in their lives, they know those are routine plays that need to be made.

As for Thursday's nightcap, it didn't go any better as Cleary prevailed, 12-3. Meanwhile, the Ocelots were scheduled to play a twinbill Friday at Owens Community College in Toledo.

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BOYS SWIMMING



The Brother Rice swim team raced to its third consecutive Division 1 state championship March 12 at the Holland Aquatic Center.

Relaxed Rice makes it three straight

that they felt pressure to repeat, because we never talk about win-

ning a state champi-onship," Venos said. "Their focus is always

just to walk in the door

and swim fast. I really

us being relaxed and

confident.

believe this is the key to

I honestly thought that

teams that had a shot at

the championship. The

big difference was the

brought to the meet.

confidence that our kids

were going to swim fast and I think that on Fri-

day, we were the most

on Friday and put our-

selves in a position to

at finals on Saturday.'

the opening 200-yard

just go out and have fun

year, Brother Rice started the meet by winning

For the third straight

because of this," he added. "We swam very well at the preliminaries

relaxed of the six teams

'They knew that they

there were five or six

"Going into the meet,

Marty Budner Staff Writer

Birmingham Brother Rice swam to its third consecutive Division 1 boys swimming state championship March 12 in Holland.

The Warriors won with 313 points, finishing 75 points ahead of second-place Saline (234). Two years ago, Rice banked 345 points en route to a 153-point victory over Livonia Stevenson and last year finished with 358 points to best runner-up Holland West Ottawa by 111

Although it was the closest decision in terms of point totals of the three state titles, it was nonetheless an impressive performance as far as veteran head coach Mike Venos is concerned.

'If you would have told me that we would come within 30 points of what we scored last year after graduating the kids we did, I would have thought you were crazy," Venos said. "Our senior class really did an excellent job of keeping everyone focused on what was important."

Venos explained the key to winning the fifth state title in his 17 years as head coach and the 10th in program history was performing well in the prelims Friday and staying relaxed throughout the competition. The swimmers, according to Venos, were not burdened by any pressure to repeat. 'I really don't think

seconds faster than Saline's Matt Lau (57.81).

medley relay. The team of sophomore Alex Margherio, senior Drew Grady and juniors Jake Zalinski and Jack Grady won in 1:31.55 to earn all-state dream team recognition. Drew Grady was a member of each winning relay team the past three years. Brother Rice's only

other win came in the 100-yard breaststroke, where Drew Grady earned another all-state honor by touching first in 55.18, more than two

COMPETITIVE SKATING

College synchronized team earns gold

First-year contingent tastes early success

The Motor City Collegiate Synchronized Skating Team's championship performance at the recent Tri-States Synchronized Skating competition was anything but beginner's luck.

Made up of local skaters who also attend college, the team turned in a golden effort at the Dearborn-hosted event.

The Motor City team practices one weekend a month and attends periodic competitions and exhibitions.

dents with a skating background.

Team members must be full-time college stu-This year's team consists of Stephanie Shenouda (University of Michigan), Katie Dunn



Pictured (from left) are Stephanie Shenouda (U of M), Katie Dunn (Madonna University), Summar Abdelnour (EMU), Mary Fredendall (MSU), Lauren McAlinden (MSU), Sarah Bartoszyk, Alyssa Burgess (U of D Mercy), Audrey Reding (U of D Mercy), Elizabeth Buchanan (GVSU), Natalie Menestrina (WSU). Not pictured are coaches Carrie Brown and Hillary Menestrina.

(Madonna University), Summar Abdelnour (Eastern Michigan University), Mary Fredendall (Michigan State University), Lauren McAlinden (MSU), Sarah Bartoszyk (University of Detroit Mercy), Alyssa

Burgess (UDM), Audrey Reding (UDM), Elizabeth Buchanan (Grand Valley State University) and Natalie Menestrina (Wayne State University). The team is coached

by Carrie Brown and

Hillary Menestrina.Not

Brown and Coach Hillary Menestrina. For more information

Pictured: Coach Carrie

on the team, send an e-mail to carrie@allegrosynchro.org

ewright@hometownlife.com

MARCH **BIBLE PROPHECY SERIES**

Time/Date: 7:15 p.m., beginning

Location: Metropolitan School Gymnasium, 15585 N. Haggerty, Plymouth

Details: An in-depth Bible prophecy series called Unlocking Revelation will examine prophecies of Scripture. Go to www.UnlockRevelation.com to see all locations and pre-register and receive a free Bible Prophecy DVD on the first night. Snacks will be served

Contact: www.UnlockRevelation.com

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, March 20 Location: St. Theodore Social

Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road,

Westland Details: French toast, ham, pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, milk, juice. Cost is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children, 2-10

Contact: 734-425-4421 **BUDDHISM CLASS**

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, March 24, April 14 and 28, and May 12 and 26

Location: The Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, 25301 Halsted, Farmington Hills

Details: Free five-week secular practical Buddhism class will apply Buddhist teachings to daily life through meditation, reflection and discussion. Secular Buddhism emphasizes the teaching of Eastern philosophy practices in a way that allows each individual to become their own teacher. Ideas such as "awakening" and "enlightenment" are goals in which there is no "one true way."

Contact: 248-478-7272; uuFarmington.org

DIVINE MERCY 101

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 22

Location: St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 44800 Warren Road, Canton

Details: Screening of DVD by the Rev. Chris Alar from Divine Mercy Center, Stockbridge, Mass. Contact: Sharlene Borke at

sharborke@gmail.com **DRAMATIC EASTER MUSICAL**

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 25-26

Location: Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City

Details: "Bow the Knee" Contact: Church office at 734-421-0472; Russell Weathers at

734-536-3553; pastor@mrbc.us **EASTER FAIR**

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, March 25

Location: Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann

Arbor Trail, Livonia Details: Egg hunt, crafts, prizes, interactive Bible stories, lunch. Children also will have the opportunity to "search" for items to make a hygiene kit for

boys in foster care at the Meth-

odist Children's Home, in Red-Contact: 734-422-0149; new-

burgumc.org **EASTER FUN**

Time/Date: 3-5 p.m. Saturday, March 26

Location: InsideOut Church. 1075 Venoy, Garden City

Details: The event will include carnival games, photos with the Easter Bunny, Easter candy and chances to win a prize package worth \$100, for families with children, fifth grade and young-

Contact: 734-983-8376 **EASTER FUN**

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Saturday, March 26

Location: Faith Community

Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merri-Details: Family-friendly event

with crafts, egg hunt, and presentation of the Easter story. Bring a basket for the egg hunt, which is for ages 12 and under Contact: Melissa at 734-765-

EASTER WEEK

Time/Date: Maundy Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 24; Good Friday, 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 25; Easter services 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Sunday,

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills **Details**: Maundy Thursday

service includes communion Contact: 248-553-3380

EASTER WEEK Time/Date: Palm Sunday service, 10 a.m. March 20; Maundy Thursday service, 7 p.m. March 24; Good Friday meditation,

service, 10 a.m. March 27 Location: Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, Livonia Details: A continental breakfast

noon to 1 p.m. March 25; Easter

follows the Easter service Contact: 734-421-1760; office@unityoflivonia.org

EASTER WEEK

Time/Date: Palm Sunday, 10 a.m., March 20; Maundy Thursday service, 7 p.m. March 24; Easter worship, 8 a.m. and 10

a.m. and egg hunt at 9:15 a.m., Sunday, March 27

Location: First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington

Details: Palm Sunday events include Sunday School at 10:15 a.m. and a coffee and snack time at 11 a.m. Maundy Thursday worship commemorates the Last Supper and will consist of Holy Communion and a Tenebrae service with song, prayer, scripture and a meditation. Brunch will be served between the two services on Easter

Contact: 248-474-6170; farmington-pres.org

EASTER WEEK

den City

Time/Date: 7 p.m. March 24-25 and 10:30 a.m. March 27 Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church 28680 Cherry Hill, Gar-

Details: Maundy Thursday service on March 24; Good Friday service is March 25 and Faster service on March 27, An Easter breakfast also will be held at 9 a.m., followed by an egg hunt at 9:30 a.m. March 27

Contact: 734-427-3660 **EASTER WEEK**

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 25; Passover Seder; 10:30 a.m. worship, Sunday, March 27 Location: Warren Road Church, 33445 Warren Road, Westland

Details: The Passover Seder retells the story of God's salvation of his people from Egypt through the elements of the Passover meal. The evening will conclude with a dinner that includes roast chicken and mashed potatoes. Breakfast kicks off Easter morning at 9 a.m., followed by the worship service

Contact: 734-458-7301

EASTER WEEK

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday service, March 24; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Good Friday services, March 25; 9:30 a.m. service on March 27

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford **Details**: Free Easter breakfast from 8-9:15 a.m.. All visitors will receive a free DVD, "My Son, My

Savior. Contact: 313-532-8655; 734-968-

3523 **EGG DROP**

Time/Date: 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 20

Location: Orchard Grove Community Church, 850 Ladd Road, Building C, Walled Lake

Details: More than 12,000 eggs filled with candy will be dropped from a helicopter for children through fifth grade to collect. Children will be grouped

Contact: Shawna Schwaninger at 248-926-6584 or email shawna.schwaninger@orchard-

grove.org **EGG HUNT**

Time/Date: Noon-1 p.m. Sunday, March 20

Location: Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, 321 5. Ridge Road, Canton

Details: Children may hunt for candy and small toys inside plastic eggs that will be hidden inside the church and have a photo taken with the Easter

bunny. Free Contact: 734-495-0035

FILM

Time/Date: 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday, March 20

Location: St. Thomas the Apostle Parish school gym, 31530 Beechwood, Garden City

Details: "Divine Mercy 101"

Contact: 734-427-1533 LABYRINTH WALKS

Time/Date: 4-8 p.m. March 21; 1-7 p.m. March 22-23; 1-6 p.m. and 7 p.m. worship, March 24; 7 a.m.-7 p.m., with worship at 7 p.m., March 25

Location: Northville United Methodist Church, 777 W. Eight

Mile, Northville **Details:** Stephen Ministers will be present as labyrinth guides at

7 p.m. Tuesday, March 22. Other sessions are self-directed Contact: 248-349-1144

MEGILLAH READING/PURIM CARNIVAL

Canton

Time/Date: 3-5 p.m. Sunday, March 20

Location: Congregation Bet Chaverim, 321 S. Ridge Road,

Details: Dress in costume, bring a box of pasta to use as a Purim gragger. All pasta will be donated to Yad Ezra food pantry. Event will include a cake walk, cafe and games. Tickets for games are \$5 for 20 tickets. All proceeds will go toward future Congregation Bet Chaverim

Contact: Michelle Nemeth at 734-905-6396; michelleandjim@mac.com

PILGRIMAGE

Road, Canton

programs.

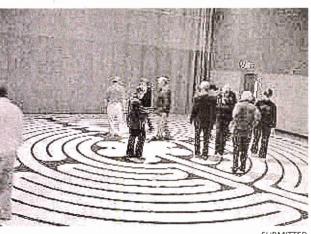
Time/Date: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday, March 30 Location: Carpool to the Divine Mercy Center in Clinton Township from St. John Neumann parish office, 44800 Warren

Details: Cost is \$10 and includes tour and lunch. Deadline to register is March 23.

Contact: Janet Gilbo at jgilbo@wowway.com or Sharlene Borke at sharborke@gmail.com

RELIGION CALENDAR

COMMUNITY LIFE



SUBMITTED

Northville United Methodist Church will use its labyrinth for silent, walking prayer March 21-25.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Time/Date: Registration deadline is March 23 Location: Turn in registrations

at St. Raphael, 31500 Beechwood, Garden City Details: Divine Mercy Roman Catholic Regional School is accepting registration for preschool through eighth grade. Registration forms are available at St. Raphael and St. Genevieve School, 28933 Jamison, Livonia Contact: 734-425-4420; divinemercyregionalschoolin-

fo@gmail.com **SUNRISE EASTER SERVICE**

Time/Date: 7:15 a.m. Sunday, March 27

Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merri-

man, Livonia Details: Service will be held outdoors except in extreme weather conditions. Coffee and refreshments will be served after the service. An Easter breakfast will start at 9 a.m.

Contact: Mary at 248-471-1322 **VESPERS**

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, March 20-April 17

Location: St. Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Cathedral Ravanica, 4575 E.Outer Drive, Detroit, March 20; St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 21931 Evergreen Road, Southfield, March 27; Nativity of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church, 39851 W. Five Mile, Plymouth, April 3; St. Michael Russian Orthodox Church, 26375 W. Chicago Road, Redford, April 10; and St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church,

2160 Maple, Troy, April 17 Details: Members of the Clergy Brotherhood of St. John Chrysostom of Metropolitan Detroit will conduct the services. An inter-Orthodox chorus will sing the

responses Contact: Olga Liskiwsky at 248-252-8184; Olgaliss0910@gmail.com

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 11 a.m. Tuesday,

March 22 Location: AMC Livonia 20, 19500 Haggerty, Livonia Details: Movie and lunch at Bahama Breeze. RSVP by March

Contact: Elaine at 734-717-0303

APRIL

CONCERT Time/Date: 7 p.m. Sunday, April

Location: Trinity Episcopal Church, 28660 LaMuera, Far-

mington Hills Details: Benefit concert for Farmington Neighborhood House features Wayne State University's Motor City Cabaret. A free will offering and canned goods will be collected Contact: 248-474-2860: trin-

ityfarmingtonhills.org CONCERT

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 16

Location: St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic Church, Bloomfield Hills, 2215 Opdyke, Bloomfield

Details: Features Aeolian Chorale, Carlos Seise, tenor, Quinto Milito, baritone, Timothy L. Huth, ars musica doctoris organ, John Sittard, conductor. Presented by the church and Friends of the Opera of Michigan. Free will

Contact: 248-644-5460 **DEVOTIONS, SWIECONKA**

offering will be accepted

Time/Date: Starting at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, April 3 Location: St. Colette Catholic

Church, 17600 Newburgh, just north of Six Mile, Livonia Details: 12:30 p.m. Mass, 1:20 p.m. exposition of the /Blessed Sacrament, 1:45-3 p.m. silent adoration and Sacrament of Reconciliation, 3 p.m. praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and a spiritual talk, 3:30 p.m. benediction; followed by Swieconka Polish Easter meal at 4 p.m. Menu includes ham, kielbasa, potato salad, blessed hardboiled eggs, beet horseradish, rve bread, butter lambs, salad, babka, lazy perogi, beets, cheesecake and beverages. Cost is \$15 per person. Meals must be paid in advance. Send a check or money order payable to WSDPAHS, to Laurie A. Gomulka, 32040 Grand River Ave., Unit #47, Farmington, MI 48336.

Include number of attendees.

Sponsored by the West Side

Must be received by March 26.

Detroit Polish American Histori-

cal Society

Contact: 855-POLONIA; detroit-

polonia.org **MOM-TO-MOM SALE**

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 23

3855 S. Sheldon, Canton

ONGOING **Our Lady of Loretto**

Location: Connection Church,

Details: Shop 100 tables of mom- and child-related items. Strollers welcome after 10:30 a.m. Admission \$2 Contact: 734-397-1777

CLASSES/STUDY

Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township **Details:** Scripture study Contact: 313-534-9000

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

St. Michael the Archangel **Parish**

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. second and fourth Thursday, through May

Location: 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia Details: Gary Michuta, author and Catholic apologist, leads a study of Isaiah. Bring your own Bible

Contact: 734-261-1455, ext 200 or on line at www.livoniastmichael.org.

Faith Community Wesleyan Time/Date: 4-5 p.m. every Saturday

Location: 14560 Merriman,

Livonia **Details:** This informal class includes fellowship, discussion and question and answers. All ages welcome. Bibles available if

Contact: pastor Tom Hazelwood at 734-765-5476

you don't have one

EXERCISE

Time/Date: 6:45-7:45 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday

Location: Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile,

Livonia

Hills

Details: Instructor Wendy Motta, a seven-year Zumba practitioner, teaches Zumba through drop-in classes. Each costs \$3. Participants should bring water, a towel and wear athletic shoes. For more information, email Motta through

zumba.com Contact: 313-408-3364

FAMILY MEAL Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday

Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington

Details: Free meal Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

HEALING SERVICE Time/Date: Arabic service, 3-4

p.m. first Tuesday of the month;

English service, 3-4 p.m. third Tuesday of the month Location: The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of Saint Mary,

18100 Merriman, Livonia **Details:** The service includes prayers of petition and intercession, hymns, Scripture readings and the anointing of the sick. Offertory candles are available for a free will offering in the vestibule of the church. Contact: Rev. George Shalhoub

at 734-422-0010 or email Stacey

Badeen at sbadeen@tbosm.com

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Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers . Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers

Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

many different backgrounds.

Grea just liked to have fun

and make people laugh.

After being laid off from a

long time delivery job due

to school and graduated with a 4.0 from BCC in

conscientious employee

for Deck-Aire Heating & Air

working with the people there

years with the love of his life,

Conditioning and enjoyed

Greg shared 16 wonderful

Nora Rees, in Melbourne, Florida. Greg passed away

after a long health struggle while under Hospice Care in

Palm Bay, Florida on March

8, 2016. Greg was preceded in death by his father Joseph

Normand Demers and is

Theresa, Livonia, MI; son,

MI; three granddaughters,

Derek Demers, Woodhaven,

Hailey, Savannah, and Ciara; sister, Judy (Jack) Bendig, Pearland, TX; three brothers,

Barry (Cathy) Grand Ledge, MI, Michael Oxford, MI, and

Kenneth (Lisa), Livonia, MI;

JOSEPHINE LOIS BROOKS

May 31, 1930 - February 15, 2016. Josephine Lois Brooks

Hughes, of Laurinburg, North

Carolina, passed away on Monday, February 15, 2016, at Scotia Village at the age of 85.

Jo was born in Raleigh, NC, on May 31, 1930, to the late Broadus Garland Brooks and

Alma Hall Brooks. She was

Following her graduation

the youngest of two children.

from Women's College in Greensboro, Jo married Herald

H. Hughes, Jr. on July 7, 1951

and began their life together

with Herald's death in July 2015. They spent most of

They are survived by four

are survived by seven

children, Herald Hughes. III

(Becca), Kathleen Kilbourne

(Ed), Marijo Swanson (Steve), and Heather Hughes. They

grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. In addition to

her parents and her husband,

her older sister, Sybil Brooks

Rhodes. A memorial service celebrating her life will be held Saturday, March 19 at 11:00 a.m. at the Morris Morgan

Entertainment Center at Scotia

Village. Visitation with the family will immediately follow

the family requests memorials

to The Scotia Village Foundation, 2200 Elm Avenue,

Laurinburg, NC 28352, or First

United Methodist Church, 101

W. Church Street Laurinburg,

Jo is preceded in death by

of nearly 64 years that ended

their married lives in Orlando,

Florida and Livonia, Michigan.

and many nieces

HUGHES

survived by his mother.

downsizing, Greg went back

Heating and Air Conditioning. He was a dedicated and

DEMERS KOETTING **GREGORY ROBERT** January 23, 1949 - March 08, 2016 Melbourne, FLorida Gregory Robert Demers was born Jánuary 23, 1949 in Massachusetts to Joseph and Theresa Demers. Greg moved with his family to Livonia. Michigan and graduated from Franklin High School in 1967. Greg joined the Navy and served his country honorably, specializing in radio electronics. Greg enjoyed the water, whether fishing, scuba DONALD F. Of Talbott, diving, or just spending time near the ocean with friends. Tennessee, formerly of Birmingham, MI, passed away Greg loved to play golf and played the piano beautifully. February 1, 2016. Age 83. Veteran Greg also had a great love of the U.S. Navy for people. He 'never met a stranger' and introduced during the Korean War. Husband of people to one another making one great circle of friends from

BJ. Loving father of Fred (Lisa), Mike (Terry Ann), Terry (Jim) Lannen, and William (Tammy). Dear grandfather of eleven and great-grandfather of three. Loving brother of Jean Tobe. Memorial service to be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 26 at Potere-Modetz Funeral Home, 339 Walnut Boulevard, Rochester, MI, 48307. A luncheon following at the home of Jim and Terry Lannen, 2863 Portage Trail, Rochester

Hills, MI, 48309.



NORMA JEAN age 73, of Plymouth, passed away March 15, 2016. Born in Filion, Michigan, to William and Bernetta Forbing. Mother to Lee (Lisa) Moss, Timothy (Deborah) Moss, and Rachel (Jason) Potter. Grandmother of 15 loving grandchildren and six beloved great-grandhildren. Norma is also survived by 8 of her siblings: Margaret, Frances, Luella, Agnes, Jerry, Marilyn, Ruth, and James Preceded in death by her dear grandson Jacob and three of her siblings: Percey Virginia, and William. Memorial donations may be made to the American Lung Association. To view full obituary and leave a

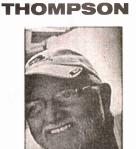
condolences pléase visit schrader-howell.com





FRANCES H. Age 89 Born April 4, 1926 passed away peacefully March 10, 2016 (Formerly of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan) Beloved Wife of William Raymond and loving Mother to Charles William. Born in Detroit and resided in Indian Village growing up. She graduated from Ligget School and the University of Michigan. She went on to teach Kindergarten at Thircle School in Detroit then Echo Park Day School in Bloomfield Hills for over 20 years. She and her husband retired to the Mountains of Taos in Northern New Mexico. There she pursued skiing, raising llamas and donkeys. Her passions in life besides her vast love of all creatures great and small was cooking and entertaining. Frances was an avid reader and gardener of herbs and flowers. Always one for a good story to tell or be told but to always "Leave Em Laughing". Donations in her memory may be made to "Best Friends Animal Society" For more information please go to bestfriends.org or contact them at 5001 Angel Canyon Rd. Kanab, UT 84741 attn: Jonna W. (435) 644-2001

ext. 4873



THOMAS Age 72, formerly of Canton, MI, passed away March 9, 2016. He was born April 16, 1943, son of Thomas C. Thompson and Molly (Mitchell) Thompson Yurchak. He is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Ellen J. (Miller) Thompson. Dear father of Lisa (Michael) Walsh of Elgin, South Carolina, and Michael Thompson of Centerville, Ohio. Grandfather to Sydnie Thompson, Tyler (Alysa) Woodring, Devon Walsh, Pamela Walsh, and Jessica Walsh. Great-grandfather to Audrey and Emily. Survived by his sisters, Marie and Fran (Chris); brother, Vincent; and sister in-law, Charlotte. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Edward; and sister in-law, Joyce. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews. Tom will be remembered for his kind heart and willingness to help others. He will be dearly missed. A memorial service is to follow at a later



FIVE WAYS TO WELCOME SPRING

Sharon Dargay

Staff Writer

It's time to mark the vernal equinox and celebrate spring, which starts Sunday, March

With the U.S. Weather Service predicting a high temperature of 43 degrees in Canton - a degree or two more warmer then in many surrounding communities - Canton Farmers Market at Summit on the Park may be just the place to greet the new

First, forget that it's called a "winter" market, one of three held indoors February-April. Then, head straight to Prochaska Farms' vendor

table for spring greens.
"We will be bringing spinach," says Mike Prochaska, owner of the Tecumseh farm. "And we will have some living lettuce bowls, which are a plastic bowl and we have grown lettuce in them. You take them home and they are ready to harvest. You harvest as much as you want and it keeps growing.

"We will have a few pansies this month. They are in decorative planters. Most people leave them in the planters. They do well even in cold weather."

He'll have early spring favorites like rhubarb and asparagus in April or May.

Meanwhile, he suggests frying a little bacon with onions, adding the fresh spinach and cooking until it wilts. Add a little vinegar and enjoy.

The market runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, March 20, at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, west of South Canton Center Road, south of Cherry Hill Road.

Here are four more ways to give a nod to spring:

Daffodils

Daffodils are an easy and inexpensive way to add a little spring sunshine to your home.

Make them last by following these tips from English Gardens:

» At home, cut the stems at a 45-degree angle and place them in a clean vase, filled halfway with room-temperature water.

» Re-cut the stems and change the water every twothree days to help the flowers last longer

» Keep the fresh flowers in

a cool place. » Daffodils release a substance that can harm other flowers. Either separate them from other flowers or first place them in a container of cool water to soak overnight

and then add to an arrange-

Maple syrup

ment.

The Making Maple Syrup Tour at Maybury Farm in Northville is for all ages and starts with a wagon ride to the sugar bush for a presentation on tapping maple trees and collecting sap. The tour continues to the sugar shack where sap is turned into syrup, and ends at the farm welcome center.

"It's a nice tour," says Carol Lehmann, assistant and coordinator of the Northville Community Foundation, which



Daffodils are a sign of spring.





Spinach grown at Prochaska Farms in Tecumseh will be sold March 20, the first day of spring, at Canton Farmers Market.



The maple sugar tour stops at the sugar shack at Maybury Farm in Northville.

operates the farm. "We have 100-percent maple syrup on site to buy and they sometimes let people taste it in the

sugar shack. 'Besides the tour, they can walk around and see the ani-

The farm is home to goats, sheep, llamas, horses, pigs, chickens, peacocks, turkeys, rabbits, ducks and a steer named Pedro.

The sugar tours are at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The farm is located at 50165 Eight Mile. Cost is \$6 per person. Children age 2 and under are free. For more information, call the Foundation at 248-374-0200 or visit facebook.com/maybury-

Spring equinox service

"The winter solstice is a celebration of light returning to the world. the days are getting longer," says Alex Meyers, pianist for Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church in Southfield. "For the vernal equinox, the day and night are equal. It's a time of balance. Life is returning. We have new growth. We see flowers budding and bunnies in the field."

Meyers participated in the solstice celebration at the church in December and volunteered to lead the equinox event at 7 p.m. March 22, at the church, 23925 Northwestern Highway. It will be held in place of the church's regular Tuesday night vespers service.

"We'll do a pagan-derived ritual for the equinox. Everything will be explained for people who aren't familiar with traditions of pagan faith. There will be a guided meditation to focus our thoughts for what we want to seed and sprout in our own lives, what we want to accomplish in our own lives. There will be refreshments, audience partici-

pation and there might be an Easter egg hunt."

Meyers says the equinox celebration will last approximately 45 minutes and will include music, as well as a blessing of plants. Participants may bring plants from home.

For more information, visit

northwestuu.org.

Mini-golf

Mini-golf on the first day of spring lets you jump start your practice so that by summer you're putting like a pro. There are advantages to spring play: No crowds and no

waiting for slower players. "We're usually one of the first (mini-golf) courses to open for the year," says Bob Brenay, manager of Putt-N-Fun in Farmington Hills. "We've got the diehards out here. I've got two sisters in their 70s. They come out once a week. And there's a guy with his mother who come out."

Brenay says on sunny days, in warmer spring temperatures, Putt-N-Fun's three 18-hole courses get busier, but there haven't been many of those days this month. The go-karts, batting cages and bungee trampoline at Sport-N-Fun, where the mini-golf is located, will open later this spring. But golfers can putt their way past Fiberglass animals, through the moving blades of a windmill, past the doors of a dog house, and around water hazards from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. March 20.

Each course has different challenges, including attractions with moving parts, water traps, slopes, loops and banked areas. Each hole is a par two.

"It's fun for everyone. Anyone can play here and have a good time.

Cost is \$6 to play one round of 18 holes. Putt-N-Fun is located at 30749 Grand River Ave.; 248-471-5100.

Manufacturers want more control over appliance repair

ot long ago I wrote about the changes coming in 🛮 the appliance repair industry, and they are coming along faster than I care to see.

They are going to lock-up the accessibility to appliances so that only a qualified technician with the proper codes can get into the product. They are going to have plug-in connectors that will give the service tech a complete diagnosis of what is at fault with the product. Technicians will have periodic unannounced drug tests and background checks to ensure that each is worthy of entering your home. There will be a red recall flashing light installed on each product to warn consumers that the product may malfunction and cause a serious problem. These steps will be taken to give a



manufacturer more control of who services their products and create more dollars for the bottom line.

The question remains: What happens to a guy on radio who helps consumers repair their own appliances?

The other day I ran into a man who told me how many times I helped him to repair appliances for himself and neighbors and how thankful he is for the knowledge I spread through this column. I am always appreciative of people who make these comments and it reinforces in me that none of my ways were wasted. They have always been geared to helping others and give me a big sense of pride.

Now we have companies that produce very thorough videos on how a homeowner can repair their own appliance or even a lawnmower and trust me, they are good. This progressive step may be a solution on how to help consumers after the products are locked-up and again, I can't announce the company which currently has 4 million customers across the country, but drop me a note at the email address below and I will be happy to let you know.

Yes, I think the lights are dimming in many ways for the appliance doctor but I will continue until the good Lord flicks the light switch. In my hurry to give you a website in

my last column, I made a mistake. The correct site is saferproducts.gov and I hope you will excuse the error.

Things are shaping up in Lansing as drafts of bills are being written on the issues of appliance recalls and ionization smoke alarms. I hope to have something solid in my next column to pass on to you.

I also hope to be at the senior expo coming up at Schoolcraft College on April 5. Should you run into me, you may ask me about the time not so long ago when a big-time television producer called me and signed me to a contract. He was going to make the Appliance Doctor a huge hit on do-it-yourself television. He had three networks that were bidding for the show, scripts already written and willing to put a lot of

money in my pocket. In the end it didn't come to fruition and I'll hold the reason why until we talk in person.

Please understand that I am quite pleased with what is going on in the appliance repair industry. I should not be the focus of it all but simply a messenger of the good things that are happening. Repair and do-it-yourself projects will never be removed from the hands of many people because it is just in our nature to save money and feel the sense of pride that comes with a successful repair job. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can email your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twmi.rr.com

A growing movement: Why mindfulness matters

Jay Grossman Staff Writer

Mindfulness: the ability to pay attention to the moment without judgment or criti-

Oakland University Associate Professor Carvn Wells has carved out a career teaching graduate students, community leaders and other professionals about mindfulness and mindful leadership. Teaching someone how to "be in the moment" is her special-

"That's very elusive because many people spend time dwelling on past regrets or tomorrow's agenda," Wells said. "The part that I think is so unique is no judgment and criticism - criticism for ourselves and others.'

Mindfulness applies to all ages, but Wells said it takes on a special emphasis as people reach their 50s and find themselves juggling a busy career and family demands, along with an increased awareness of their health.

"I'm not an expert on aging," she said. "But if you think of how busy our world is - baby boomers involved with cell phones ... the social media ... staying connected with family and work. It can feel like 24/7 activity, so when is there a time to pause? Mindfulness really helps with pausing.'

It's a growing movement that reaches out to all professions, from doctors to police officers, from educators to the military. Wells said mindfulness teaches people how to gain a perspective and grab hold of their anxieties.

'Just entering into stillness and quiet and being able to



see all that's there," she said of the practice. "Giving whatever it is that's in front of you some space and looking at it honestlv."

To practice, she recommends sitting in a quiet room and focus on taking calm deep breaths. Focus on each breath. Clear away the mental clutter and simply focus on the mo-ment and the practice of breathing.

People who engage in mindfulness see improvements in

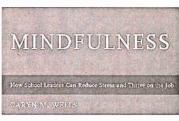
mental and physical health. Especially when it comes to depression or anxiety or high blood pressure levels. It can also help with a good night's

"Consider personal relationships and when you're with someone who always seems to push your buttons," she said. "Mindfulness teaches you how to respond in a better way. You learn to observe and listen, rather than an automatic reaction.

Associate Professor Caryn Wells teaches classes on mindfulness. "I'm not an

Oakland University

expert on aging. But if you think of how busy our world is ... it can feel like 24/7 activity, so when is there a time to pause? *Mindfulness* really helps with pausing." **CARYN WELLS,** Oakland University associate professor





"Mindfulness teaches you that less is more, that it's easier to accept than to resist," Caryn Wells said about learning to be mindful.

back and understand there's a common humanity in the sense that we all go through things. Mindfulness reinforces kindness, compassion and self-compassion.'

Wells recently wrote a book on mindfulness that's titled Mindfulness: How School Leaders Can Reduce Stress and Thrive on the Job (Rowman & Littlefield, \$35). The book comes out at the end of March and is available on

"People in our age bracket, if we look back and say what is really important, it's about being there for the moment, she said. "Mindfulness teaches you that less is more, that it's easier to accept than to resist. I think this really makes a difference in the lives of people ... it's just very gratifying work."

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Seminars

Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County offers one-night seminars in native plants and butterfly gardens this month at Wayne County Community College, west campus, 9555 Haggerty, Belleville. Drew Lathin will talk about gardening with native plants, 7 p.m. Thursday, March 24. Brenda Dziedzic will talk about the plants, care and beneficial insects that can help draw

butterflies to your garden, 7 p.m. Thursday, March 31. Cost is \$15 per course. mgwwc.org

Livonia Garden Club

Drew Lathin, general manager of Creating Sustainable Landscapes, will explain what rain gardens are and how they work at 7 p.m. April 5, at the Civic Park Senior Center, located at Five Mile and Farmington Road, Livonia. Igcpresident@yahoo.com; livoniagardenclu-

Butterflies

Anna Szczotha. Master Gardener and a member of Southeast Michigam Butterfly Association, will talk about the benefits of rain gardens and how to design one for your backyard, 7 p.m. April 20, at Nankin Mills Interpretive Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. \$3 for non-members. sembabutterfly.org.

Mindfulness strengthens

the immune system. It also

can lead to improved cogni-

tion and memory. It teaches

because you're not judging.

"Let's say you're in your

happen and not-so-good things happen," she said. "Mindful

50s or older, and good things

kindness and compassion

Instead, you're listening.

self-compassion is a very

difficult thing because most

— it takes practice to step

of us have a harsh inner voice

English Gardens

» Learn how to "live healthier" with house plants at a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, March 26.

» Annual Garden Party runs Saturday-Sunday, April 2-3 and will include presentations on bees, fences and garden edges, container gardening,

hydrangeas, landscaping trends, annuals and more. Visit EnglishGardens.com » Get tips for dividing and transplanting perennials at a free seminar, 1 p.m. Saturday, April 9.

Local English Gardens stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor; 734-332-7900; 22650 Ford Road, Dearborn Heights, 313-278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Roval Oak, 248-280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, 248-851-7506.



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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

LOCAL WOMAN SHARES ADVICE FOR PATIENT ADVOCACY

Sharon Dargay Staff Writer

Sue Serlin learned about patient advocacy the hard way — by responding to health challenges in her own family.

challenges in her own family.
When doctors discovered
her son had rheumatoid arthritis years ago, she researched
the disease, learned about medications, asked questions and
managed to get him into an
experimental program that
helped.

Serlin had a "learning lesson" about advocacy dealing with another son's mental illness. The Farmington Hills wife and mother wrote a book about him called *Goodnight My Son, I Love You*, after he took his own life in 1998.

And a few years ago when her husband, Al, acquired sepsis, a blood infection that affected his brain and weakened his bones, she intervened on his behalf at every level of his health care.

Serlin's advocacy helped him benefit from several therapy programs — from "laughter yoga" to speech pathology, physical therapy to tai chi — to aid in his recovery.

Through the past 50 years Serlin has honed her advocacy skills and now hopes to share her advice with others through a panel discussion at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 23 in the administration building at Beaumont Hospital, located at 13 Mile and Woodward Avenue in Royal Oak.

The free session, "Navigating the Maze of Doctor/Patient/Family Communications As It Applies to Suicidal Concerns and Mental Health Issues," is co-sponsored by Serlin's organization, SIFT, (Suicidal Ideation Family Teams) a support group of clergy, professionals and lay persons with involvement in the mental health system, and the Alliance for the Mentally Ill (AMI) of Oakland County, based in Farmington Hills.

Serlin said the session will

Serlin said the session will help participants learn how to navigate the health care system for loved ones with mental or physical challenges, including those those who may be suicidal.

In addition to Serlin, panelists will include Fred Cummins, president, AMI-Alliance for Mental Illness, Oakland County; Gigi Colombini, LMSW psychotherapist, suicide prevention specialist; Manuel Tancer, Wayne State University professor; and Martin Schock, M.D., in hematology/oncology at St. John Hospital Macomb.

The Rev. Eileen Patra of Unity of Livonia will moderate.



Sue Serlin

Research, questions

Serlin hopes participants will leave the session with specific tools to help them speak up on behalf of loved ones who are unable to advocate for themselves.

She said fear often stops individuals from asking questions of health professionals, inquiring about a different treatment course or even finding a new doctor. Serlin said research helps allay fears.

research helps allay fears.
"I do a lot of research. When I go in and ask something of a doctor I don't say it in an apologizing way. I don't walk in empty-handed."

Research helped Serlin find some of the programs that benefited her husband as he recovered from sepsis. When she couldn't find a local class for laughter yoga, she spoke to her husband's occupational therapist, who was instrumental in starting a session at a local hospital.

"If you don't research you'll never find these things."

Serlin said she doesn't wait for doctors to share information. She asks questions and keeps asking until she receives an answer she understands.

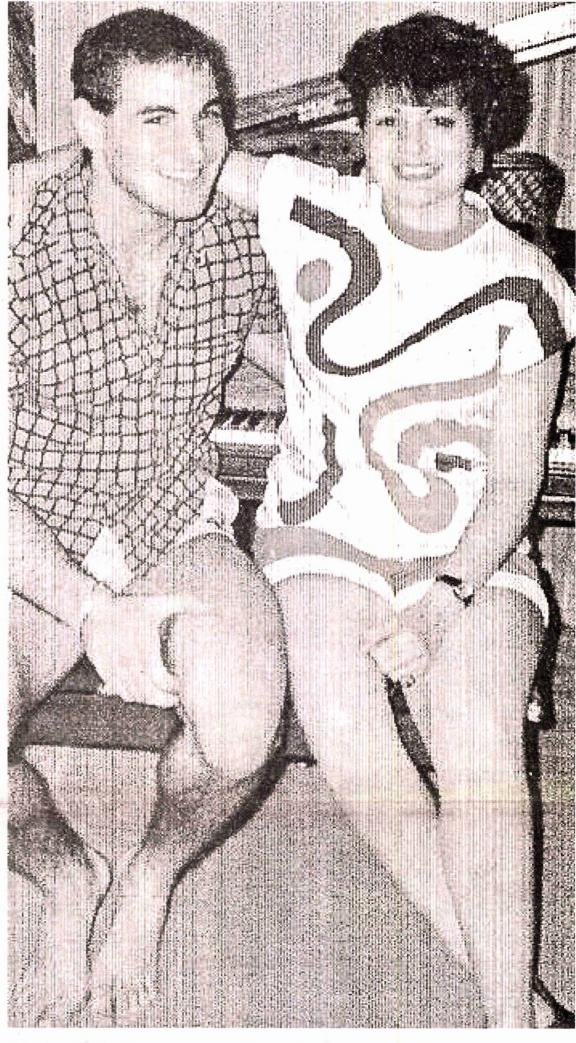
"I'm not out there to make mincemeat of doctors. Families need to know how to talk to doctors. I'm there to help build this team from a solution standpoint. I'm coming from a positive perspective," she said. "If I told you a certain doctor was rotten and gave them a blistering report, how does that help me? If you can't find a solution, get out. Go to someone else."

Serlin also suggests that advocates keep a journal about their loved one's progress that they can share with the doctor if needed.

"Get the doctor's email," she added. "I have found that 95 percent will give them. I use it wicely."

SIFT will hold a support group meeting for families and friends of loved ones who currently are suicidal at 7 p.m. April 6 at Beaumont Hospital.

sdargay@hometownlife.com Download our free apps for iPhone, iPad or Android!



Serlin had a "learning lesson" about advocacy dealing with another son's mental illness.

Theater to screen of 'Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice'

Jay Grossman Staff Writer

Paul Glantz might not fly or drive the Batmobile, but it's easy to see how the CEO of Emagine Entertainment has become a hero.

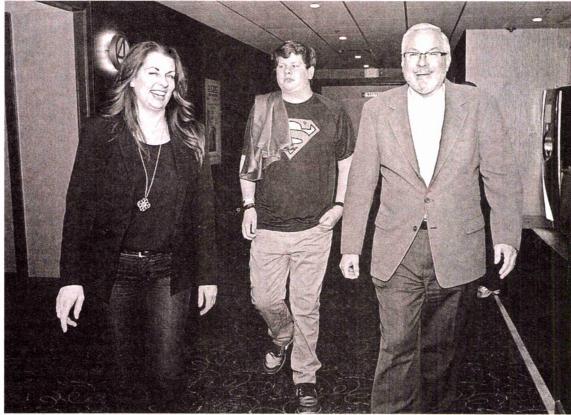
pecome a hero.

For the March 25 grand opening of Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice, he's partnering with Wish Upon a Teen and donating all proceeds from a 2 p.m. matinee showing of the movie at the Emagine Palladium in Birmingham. The organization provides programs to young people battling life-threatening illnesses.

"Emagine is dedicated to serving the communities in which it does business and we can't think of a better way to demonstrate that commitment than to treat these deserving young people to a great day at the movies," Glantz said about the matinee fundraiser.

the matinee fundraiser.
Fans can purchase \$15
tickets in advance or \$20 at the
door. The ticket price includes
popcorn and a drink, and all
proceeds go to the charity's
Design My Room program.
Tickets can be purchased at
http://Batmanvssuperman2016.
eventbrite.com. The theater is

located at 209 Hamilton Row.
Design My Room is Wish
Upon a Teen's signature program for teenagers facing
extended hospitalization due to
life-threatening illness or serious injury. Thanks to partnerships with hospitals
throughout the country, Wish



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wish Upon a Teen founder Michelle Soto, Groves High School student Trevor Sullivan and Emagine Entertainment CEO Paul Glantz.

Upon a Teen is given access to the teen's hospital room and allowed to redecorate it to feel more comforting and relaxing — more like "home."

Michelle Soto, founder of Wish Upon a Teen, said over 300 teenagers benefited from having their hospital rooms decorated in 2015. This year, she expects the number of requests to double.

"We're just so grateful to Paul for all his generosity," Soto said Wednesday. "This fundraiser is super special because it's such a popular movie with our teen population, and it's bringing the community together to raise funds for a great program."

Nancy Sovran, executive director of Wish Upon a Teen, is co-chairing the matinee event with Trevor Sullivan, a 15-year-old heart transplant patient who's in his freshman

year at Groves High School. Sovran said the theater holds 152 seats, and that about 50 tickets have already been sold. Trevor's dad, Phil Sullivan,

saw how Wish Upon a Teen helped his son during his extended stay at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor. He received his new heart in November and is expected to return to school later this month.

"When Trevor was stuck in the hospital, Nancy and Michelle's group came out to decorate his hospital room to make his stay in the hospital feel like home to him," Sullivan said. "Trevor is doing great and he's looking forward to being an ambassador for this event... he's just like any other teen right now, throwing the football around and shooting baskets with his brother."

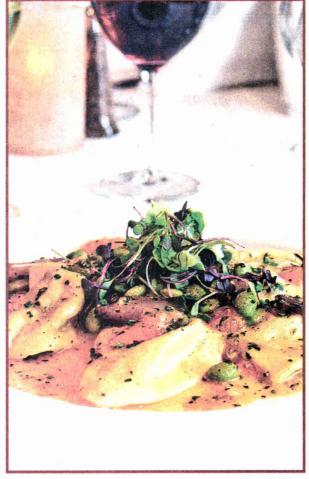
This is the second time

Glantz has opened the theater to Wish Upon a Teen. In December, he opened a theater for Trevor and his friends to see a private showing of Star Wars: The Force Awakens. At the time, Trevor was still in recovery and needed to stay away from large crowds.

"These families deserve to have a few moments where they can forget about doctors and appointments," Soto said. "And it's heroes like Paul who help make that happen."

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







Five Course Pasta Dinner \$20 Sundays at Fiamma Grille

Join us at Fiamma Grille every Sunday for a spirited and tasty Italian meal. We will be featuring a 5 course prix fixe menu with an optional wine pairing and live music by the strolling Duo Italiano. Come and gather around a table with family and friends in the Italian tradition of Sunday dinners to enjoy great food and each others company.



Prime Rib Dinner \$28 Mondays at Fiamma Grille

Every Monday we feature a 14-oz Certified Angus slow-roasted prime rib with natural au jus, hot horseradish creme, twice-baked potato, fresh vegetable and choice of salad.







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Get informed about informational interviews

BY DEBRA AUERBACH CAREERBUILDER

hen job seekers hear the word "interview," they usually associate it with the chance to score a job. Yet when it comes to informational interviews, that's not quite the case. Informational interviews are much more about making connections and learning about a particular industry or occupation than they are about finding employment. They can be incredibly valuable — if they're handled the right way.

Here's what job seekers should know about informational interviews and how they can get the most out of their meetings.

Why they're helpful

John Paul Engel, president of the executive recruiting firm Knowledge Capital Consulting, says that these interviews give job seekers the chance to learn from those whose professional life they'd like to emulate. "There is someone out there that has exactly the job, business (and) life you want. Who better to help you build a road map to that place than someone who already covered the territory?"

Beyond helping job seekers discover more about their desired careers, informational interviews can also build im-



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portant business skills.

Erica B. McCurdy, a business strategist and life coach. says, "Informational interviews help someone just starting their career learn from those who are already well-established. During this process, the (job seeker) also gets practical experience in the art of having business conversations with a stranger, asking solid questions, managing time and learning to follow up."

How to get one

Job seekers interested in setting up informational interviews should first tap their connections, Engel advises. 'Alumni are an excellent source," he says. "Ask your friends and family if they know someone that does what you want to do. Worst case, just cold-call."

If it comes down to contacting strangers, Engel suggests a creative way to get their attention — and get them to commit: "Send a note offering to do one hour of volunteer work for their favorite charity in exchange for each minute of their time."

Questions to ask

Standard questions for an informational interview include, "How did you get into this field?" and "What advice would you give someone like me just starting out?" Sara Ferraioli, a partner and managing director in Winter-Wyman Contract Staffing's hu-

man resources division, says these types of meetings also give job seekers an opportunity to ask questions that they may be afraid to ask during a normal interview — but that can help them prepare for the real thing.

"During an informational interview, it's OK to ask questions that might seem taboo or inappropriate for certain job interviews. Asking these questions during informational interviews will prepare you for topics that arise in the job interview," she says.

"For example, some younger job seekers may not have insight into what typical entry-level salaries look like," Ferraioli continues. "Having conversations with hiring

managers will often provide accurate information about money. When you are eventually offered a job, you will be knowledgeable about the salary you are being offered and can gauge whether it's in line with current industry standards."

What you can get out of it

It's not about getting a job but it could lead to one. "When you go to an informational interview, one of the most important questions you can ask toward the end is, 'Who else should I be talking to?" says Lidia Arshavsky, a career strategist and certified professional résumé writer. "Especially if you are new to an industry, introductions to new people who can provide insights and connections are invaluable. And if you prove yourself to be a motivated, self-starting top performer as you follow this chain of connections, you are highly likely to ultimately have someone mention your name when their friend or colleague tells them they are looking to fill an opening."

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

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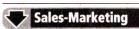


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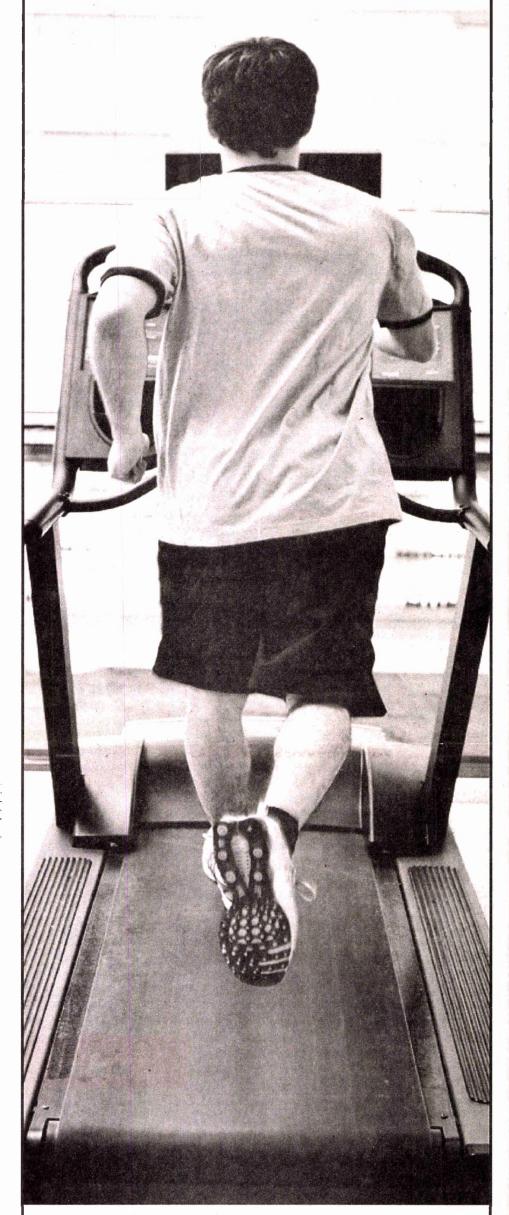
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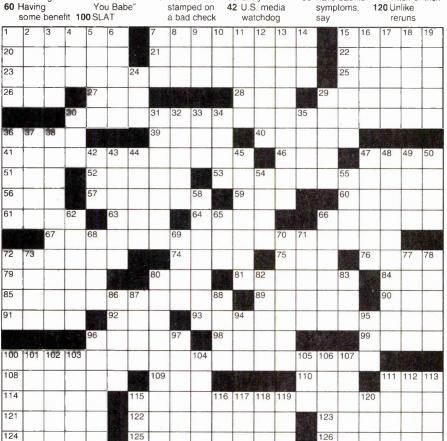
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For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702/4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles' books at QuillDriverBooks.com

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

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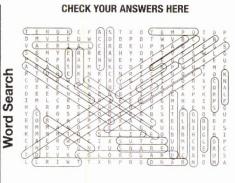
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle

WORDS ACCENT

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As New Coupe Goes On Sale, Honda's Stylish **New Civic Already Looks Like a Big Hit**



Honda's new Civic Coupe went on sale this month, and the company is trying to make the most of the styling of the new model

that already is generating a lot of excitement in the sedan version that went on sale last fall.

Maybe it'll all even make the 2016 version of Civic a cult favorite that will enjoy something similar to the nameplate's popularity in the 1990s.



The Civic comprised an important foot in the door for Honda when it entered the US market in the Seventies as one Japanese import's answer to the gasoline-price crisis. It was smaller and relatively less expensive than now, but the first Civic established the brand's bona fides for fuel economy, got Americans used to the idea of a

high-quality Japanese car, and opened the door for Honda to introduce larger and upscale models such as the Accord and, eventually, its full product line into the crucial American market.

Nowadays, the task of Civic is somewhat different. As a well-established player in the American market and one that makes most of its cars for domestic consumption right in the Midwest, Honda doesn't need Civic anymore to prove its credibility.

And it really doesn't even need Civic for its exemplary fuel economy, which will peak out at 35 miles a gallon on the highway in upper-trim versions of Civic Coupe that have a gassipping continuously variable transmission. Fuel prices seem so reasonable to Americans these days that they don't care nearly as much about mileage as they did even a couple of years ago.

No, what Honda needs from Civic now is to create some of the brand excitement that Honda still lacks in many of its vehicles -- consumer enthusiasm that translates into sales.

So far, so good on that count: Civic sales in February were up nearly 43 percent over a year ago, setting a record for the month, and that of course was without

the new coupe version.

"Led by the all-new Civic, Honda cars are defying industry trends, even as our light-truck models are red hot this winter." exulted Jeff Conrad, senior vice president and general manager of the Honda division.

The restyled sedan is exciting consumers and reviewers alike with a notedly more dynamic exterior as well as improvements in interior amenities and the quality of materials, as well as the fact that Honda is offering its broadest range yet of versions and trim levels.

Later this year, the 2017 Civic Hatchback will launch as the third variant in the line; the prototype will make its debut at the New York International Auto Show later this month. And still to come are Civic Si variants and what Honda calls a "radical new Civic Type R."

The new Civic is longer, wider, lower and racier-looking than its predecessor, with a lengthened hood and a swept-back rear. There's an additional three inches of rear overhang, for example, which is one of the main characteristics of the new design, while the front overhang is shorter and it has a longer wheelbase.

Another sporty touch is a two-piece tail-lamp assembly

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The rear end of the new Honda Civic Coupe shows off the nameplate's sleeker new style.

that reaches from the car's rear quarters onto the deck lid and requires Honda engineers to make one of their legendary executions to ensure proper fit and finish of what is a very difficult design concept.

To boost the quality feel of Civic inside, Honda upgraded to triple sealing around the doors, added soundproofing in the roof and floor, and used hydraulic bushings to dampen suspension vibrations. New amenities include a keyless entry system with remote start and remote-link climate as well as a walkaway auto lock and pushbutton start.

Weight savings through use of more high-strength and ultrahigh-strength steel -- almost 75 percent of Civic's body structure is made from the stuff now -- have helped translate into a zippier car, which is powered either by a 2.0-liter engine that generates 158 horsepower or a turbo version of 1.5 liters that puts out 174 horsepower.

Which brings Civic back to the new Coupe version, which is especially tuned for "driving fun," as Conrad put it in a release. It "sets the bar for performance, refinement and connectivity in the compact coupe segment."

And there's more. As the Wall Street Journal noted, even the new entry-level Civic, the LX sedan version, includes automated-safety features that take "some of the most sophisticated technology on the market available and [make] it accessible to significantly more buyers, including younger ones."

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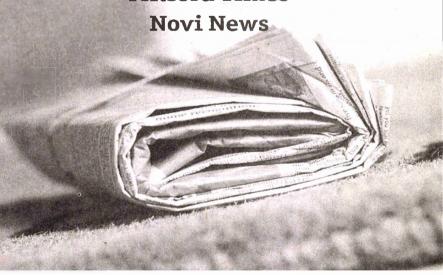
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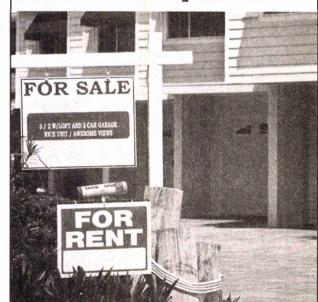
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