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Development cited in progress report

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

New jobs, new development, stabilized Wayne County finances and a new school district administration that will reach out to the greater community were highlights of the Plymouth area's progress report Wednesday.

In probably the most positive State of the Plymouths event since the Great Recession, community leaders spoke of new projects, increased optimism and the teamwork, both within their organizations and between public institutions. "The core of any community is a strong school system,"

an upbeat Monica Merritt, newly appointed interim superintendent of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, said to more than 100 people at the Plymouth Manor. "We know that change is in the air, but change for the better is what we will continue to strive for," she added. Also speaking Wednesday were Joe

Barone, the 10th District Wayne County commissioner; Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer; and Plymouth Township Supervisor Shannon Price. Merritt, who spoke last during the luncheon event organized by the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, said the district will increase efforts to seek col-

laboration and draw on talent from the community. "We have so much talent in this room and in this community," she said. She listed major developments in the district, including the opening of Liberty Middle School last summer, new

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TOUGH WORDS



Champions The Erudite Spellers and runners-up Spellbinders congratulate each other.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CANTON COUPLE SPELLS THEIR WAY TO TOP IN ADULT SPELLING BEE

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

"Meridic" and "kanji" were the winning words in the 25th annual Adult Spelling Bee organized and hosted by the Plymouth-Canton Community Literacy Council. More importantly, a Canton couple who took their first stab at a spelling bee walked away the winners this week. "I based it on the sounds (of the word) a little bit," said Nehal Sanghvi, who with her husband Sumanth Makunur captured first place out of 10 participating teams. The couple had to spell two words consecutively to take first place. Sanghvi convinced her husband to join her for the event March 23 at Liberty

Middle School. "He was happy to go, but he's not that much into languages," she said. But Sanghvi is. In fact, she speaks five languages, including English, three Hindi dialects and German. Sanghvi and her husband's team were the Erudite Spellers of the Michigan Educational Credit Union. When the second-to-last team misspelled "meridic," Sanghvi deduced how they misspelled it and got it right. She was aware of the last word, "kanji," and spelled it easily. "I was nervous. I have never been on stage before," she said. But she will likely

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Jason Houston, cheering for second-place finishers Spellbinders, reacts to a misspelled word.

P-CCS extends School of Choice boundaries

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

Students outside Wayne County now have the opportunity to attend Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. The school board on March 23 voted 6-1 to extend its School of Choice to other counties, as allowed under School of Choice, Section 105C. Trustee Michael Maloney opposed extending the program beyond Wayne County boundaries. He also opposed the board's February decision to move forward again this year with the program.

Enrollment for School of Choice seats in Plymouth-Canton schools is open April 9 to May 8. The SOC program has the potential of generating some \$1.8 million with the opening of a maximum 250 seats in the district. Bringing in the additional students has been accomplished without the need of hiring additional staff, which is the plan for the 2016-17 school year, Interim Superintendent Monica Merritt said.

In March, Trustee Patrick Kehoe questioned whether nearby Washtenaw County might be included in the Plymouth-Canton program. Some students on the east side of Washtenaw are actually closer in distance to Plymouth-Canton schools than to schools in that county.

The inclusion of students outside Wayne County would be included in the already determined maximum 250 open seats under the School of Choice program, Merritt said. "It think it makes great sense, actually," Trustee John Barrett said. Merritt told the board that any costs with a particular student who requires additional services will be paid for by the county in which the students resides. With the final vote that con-

See CHOICE, Page A2

Anti-drug program has unvarnished approach

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

In a grim, grainy-looking public service announcement, young people talk about horrific experiences with crack cocaine. "It will ruin your life," a

female voice intones. "You will have nothing if you smoke crack." "You want to just curl up in a ball and cry," another says. The video, produced by the Foundation for a Drug-Free World, is part of an anti-drug abuse campaign recently in-

roduced to eighth-graders at East Middle School in Plymouth. Called The Truth About Drugs, the program is an unvarnished look at the dangers of addiction, exploring specific types of drugs in detail and using video dramatizations and personal testimonials from

addicts to make its points. "It really is a matter of life and death," Plymouth officer Tony Angelosanto told students Thursday as he began a session during a health class with teacher

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NEWS BRIEFS

Yard waste collected beginning April 4

Seasonal yard-waste pickup in Plymouth and Plymouth Township begins Monday, April 4.

Yard waste — leaves, grass clippings, brush, shrub prunings, branches — can be put at the curb on a household's regular trash day in both communities. The material should be placed in 30-gallon yard waste bags or brown kraft paper or in trash cans marked with X's or C's, making sure the labels face the street. In the city, yard-waste

cans may also be marked "compost" or "yard waste" and, in the township, yard-waste stickers for the cans are available at township hall. Filled containers, whether bags or cans, should not exceed 50 pounds each.

Residents also have option of bundling sticks and branches with twine or string (no wire or plastic ties) to set at the curb. Bundles should weigh no more than 50 pounds each.

In the city, the bundles must be 4 feet or less in length and individual branches can be no more

than 2 inches in diameter. In the township, branches up to 6 inches in diameter can be bundled, but bundles can be no longer than 3 feet each.

Miracle League volunteers

The Miracle League of Plymouth needs volunteer buddies for its spring season, which begins Saturday, May 7, and runs for seven weeks.

MLP plays at Bilkie Family Field, a ballfield in Plymouth designed especially for young people with disabilities, and volunteer buddies help players navigate the field and play the game.

People interested in volunteering as an MLP buddy can email Chelsey Coleman at chelsey@miracleleagueplymouth.org for more information.

Art scholarships

Scholarships of up to \$1,000 are available to local high school seniors who have been accepted into a college art program.

The Plymouth Community Arts Council is accepting portfolios until Monday, April 25, for this year's Damaris

Fine Art Scholarship and Exhibit. Applicants must be seniors at one of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park high schools or in the Starkweather alternative education program.

Specific submission requirements are available in the application packet at www.plymoutharts.com.

All entrants will have their work featured in the PCAC's May exhibit. The scholarship-awarding event is 6-8 p.m. Monday, May 9, with the two winners to be announced at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Applicants should contact Lisa Howard at lisa@plymoutharts.com to confirm portfolio drop-off times; PCAC hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday or by appointment.

Students with art in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district show can still apply by submitting quality photographs of the work.

— By Matt Jachman

Plymouth coalition hosts concert to fight trafficking

The Pearls of Great Price Coalition, a Plymouth-based organization dedicated to fighting human trafficking, is sponsoring a local benefit concert Saturday, April 9, to support Clair's Home, a planned Detroit-based safe house dedicated to protecting women who have been victimized by human trafficking. The 27-bed home is expected to open this spring.

The concert will begin at 7 p.m. at Canton Friendship Church, 1240 Beck Road, Canton.

The event will feature contemporary Christian music performed by two "praise" bands: You Shine Through from the Plymouth First United Methodist Church and Kingdom Come Alive from the Canton Friendship Church. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted to adopt a room at Clair's Home.

The Pearls of Great Price Coalition, an organization of local individuals, churches and

organizations throughout southeast Michigan, is dedicated to helping thwart human trafficking. The organization is based at the Plymouth First United Methodist Church.

Organized by founder Carrie Wood in 2014, the coalition has hosted several successful events and activities, including sponsoring local prevention measures and assisting actual victims of human trafficking. "Human Trafficking is a social, moral and criminal issue, but most of all, it's an issue that devalues human beings by treating them as objects and commodities," Wood said.

"Unfortunately this crime happens all too often right here in our own communities. We created the Pearls of Great Price Coalition to help do our part in helping thwart this heinous crime and encourage others — individuals and businesses alike — to join our effort in helping end the scourge of human trafficking."

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CHOICE

Continued from Page A1

tinues the program and the extension beyond Wayne County, Merritt added, "This is music to our marketing department's ears."

The move also comes as the school board begins its budgeting process — with an expected \$3.6 million deficit — for the new academic year. According to Nick Brandon, district communications director, the SOC program has provided an additional estimated revenue of \$2.2 million in its four years.

But Maloney, who has

consistently opposed School of Choice, had previously said the program is not the way to balance the school district budget.

According to the proposed plan, the SOC program will remain limited, with 250 seats. Not all available SOC have been filled during the four years of the program.

In the current school year, the district has brought in an estimated \$1.4 million in revenue. Per-pupil funding follows the student, which is how P-CCS can increase revenue with additional students. According to state rules, the district will receive the per-pupil foundation allowance of

either the district the student comes from or Plymouth-Canton, whichever is lowest. Plymouth-Canton has been the lowest because a majority of SOC students come from the Wayne-Westland and Van Buren school districts.

The plan for the 2016-17 school year includes continuing the intra-district transfer program, with consideration given to current students before SOC placements. It will also continue with the P-CCS non-resident employee program. That includes placements for kindergarten through eighth grade, with staff choosing the elementary or middle school building

if space is available. High school placements will be allowed, with assignment at specific schools determined at random.

The P-CCS SOC program has increased its enrollment each year over its four-year history. In 2012-13, eight students enrolled. In 2013-14, 14 students enrolled. In 2014-15, 73 students were enrolled and, this year, 102 students are enrolled in the program. Over the four years, the configuration has changed for grades in which SOC are enrolled.

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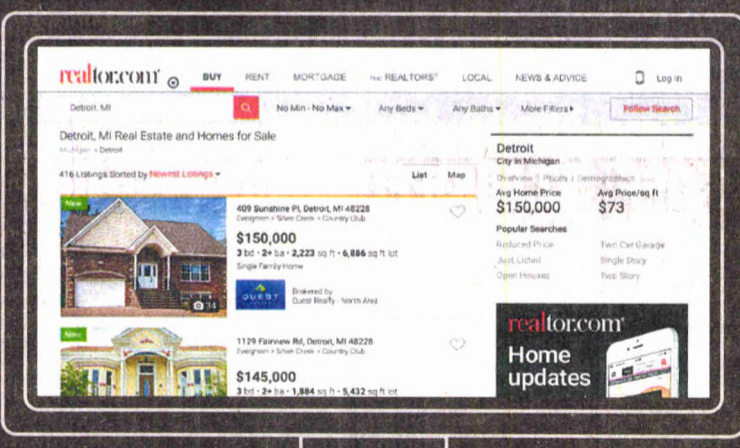
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ANTI-DRUG

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Mike Andridge.

Angelosanto, an 18-year veteran of the Plymouth Police Department and its crime prevention officer, brought the program to East earlier this year and spends about an hour every other Thursday in one of Andridge's eighth-grade classes. He said he hopes the program can be brought to other Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

Angelosanto compared The Truth About Drugs to the better-known DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program, but said its approach is more straightforward, even

scary. "DARE kind of touched around the drugs, but this actually goes right at the drugs," Angelosanto said later. "It tells you how harmful they are."

Angelosanto's lecture Thursday focused on crack cocaine and crystal methamphetamines, crystal meth for short. It included public-service videos, readings from Foundation for a Drug-Free World-provided material, vocabulary words like "mood disturbances" and "tactile hallucinations" and anecdotes from his on-the-job experience. Several students asked questions.

'I want it to scare you'

He spoke of the man in his 70s who fought



MATT JACHMAN

Tony Angelsanto, a Plymouth Police Department patrolman who also serves as a crime prevention officer, speaks Thursday to students at East Middle School. On the screen are images showing the physical harm that methamphetamines can do to people.

physically with his 50-year-old addict son in a

struggle to keep the younger man's alcohol

out of the house, of the distinct smell of crack cocaine addicts and of meth addicts who are convinced their arms are crawling with bugs and use lighted cigarettes to try to burn them off.

Scary is a word he used more than once. "I want it to scare you," he told the students.

He thinks the message is getting through.

"I think it keeps their attention," he said later. "Most of the time, they have a lot of questions at the end. I think it kind of hits home with them."

Eighth-grader Marisa Allard seemed to get it.

"When you're on those kinds of drugs, it's not really your choice any more," she said in class. "It's like your brain is on autopilot."

Andridge, who is new

to East (he formerly taught at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park), said there's value in having Angelosanto teach the program, as that gives students the chance to meet a police officer rather up close than just seeing a uniform. It also personalizes an anti-drug message with stories from someone who has seen its fallout firsthand.

"They hear it from a different perspective," Andridge said.

In other meetings of the health class, Andridge said, he and students use role-playing to build student confidence and drug-refusal skills.

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REPORT

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STEM (science, engineering, technology and mathematics) laboratories at some schools and the naming by Newsweek of Plymouth-Canton Educational Park — the home of Plymouth, Salem and Canton high schools — as one of the top 500 high schools in the country.

Also, Merritt said, three district schools were recently released from state oversight that sought to close achievement gaps, the Allen Early Learning Academy opened at the former Allen Elementary and the district was named to the College Board's AP Honor Roll, which recognizes districts that increase access to advanced placement courses while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students who perform well on advanced placement tests.

Plymouth building boom

Dwyer, who is serving an unprecedented fourth consecutive term as mayor, spoke of the city's building boom, which saw 40 new houses in



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Commissioner Joe Barone, who represents the Plymouth-Canton area on the Wayne County Board of Commissioners, spoke of improved county finances.

2015 and major additions to another 24 houses.

The city's state-equalized valuation, Dwyer said, is at an all-time high of about \$634 million.

But with Proposal A and the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution limiting the way increased values can be applied to property taxes, "we don't get a lot of extra revenue from all that house-building," he said. The city's total taxable value is about \$487 million.

Nevertheless, Plymouth increased its police force, from 15 officers to 16, in 2015 and now has all officers trained as medical first-responders, the mayor

said. Dwyer mentioned major development projects: the Starkweather Lofts apartments, under construction on Plymouth Road near Holbrook; the new Old Village neighborhood planned for the Starkweather School site, including the re-purposing of the school building into loft-style apartments; and the potential for what's commonly known as the Saxton's property at Ann Arbor Trail and Deer Street, purchased by the Downtown Development Authority last year.

The city, Dwyer said, enjoys a vibrant downtown that has become a

destination spot for people throughout the area.

"Our downtown is the place to be in southeastern Michigan," he said.

Price also spoke of new development, including expansions at Robert Bosch and Federal Mogul that will mean new jobs at the automotive suppliers, the recent opening of the Los Tres Amigos restaurant and LA Fitness on Ann Arbor Road and the building of 68 new condominiums on Plymouth Road, across from the Courthouse Grill.

Fox Hills' return celebrated

He gave a shout-out to Fox Hills Chrysler Jeep owner Jim Schebil, who challenged Chrysler's 2009 decision to close his dealership and won when the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal, letting stand a lower court ruling that favored him. Fox Hills reopened earlier this year.

"We're glad to have you back and we know you're going to do a terrific job," Price said.

Price listed township projects, like improvements to Plymouth Township Park, a new liaison program between the police department and township homeowners associations and a Christmas tree-lighting event begun last year, that he said are making for a stronger community.

Barone, appointed to the county commission last year to fill the vacancy left when Price became township supervisor, said county government is in a much stronger financial position than a year ago.

The county has erased an accumulated budget

deficit of about \$157 million, has its first budget surplus in eight years, renegotiated contracts with most employee bargaining units and reduced unfunded liabilities, he said. Departments have been reorganized or eliminated for the sake of efficiency, he said, and work on the long-stalled downtown jail on Gratiot will continue.

"These are hard choice to make, but they're necessary," Barone said.

The county's consent agreement with the state, reached last August, was the best way of avoiding a financial calamity while keeping the powers of county government mostly intact, he said.

"A financially stable Wayne County allows our leaders here ... to actually continue (keeping) Plymouth the best," Barone said.

Chamber president Wes Graff said the buzz about the Plymouth community that he frequently hears from people from around the area is an affirmation that it is "doing something right."

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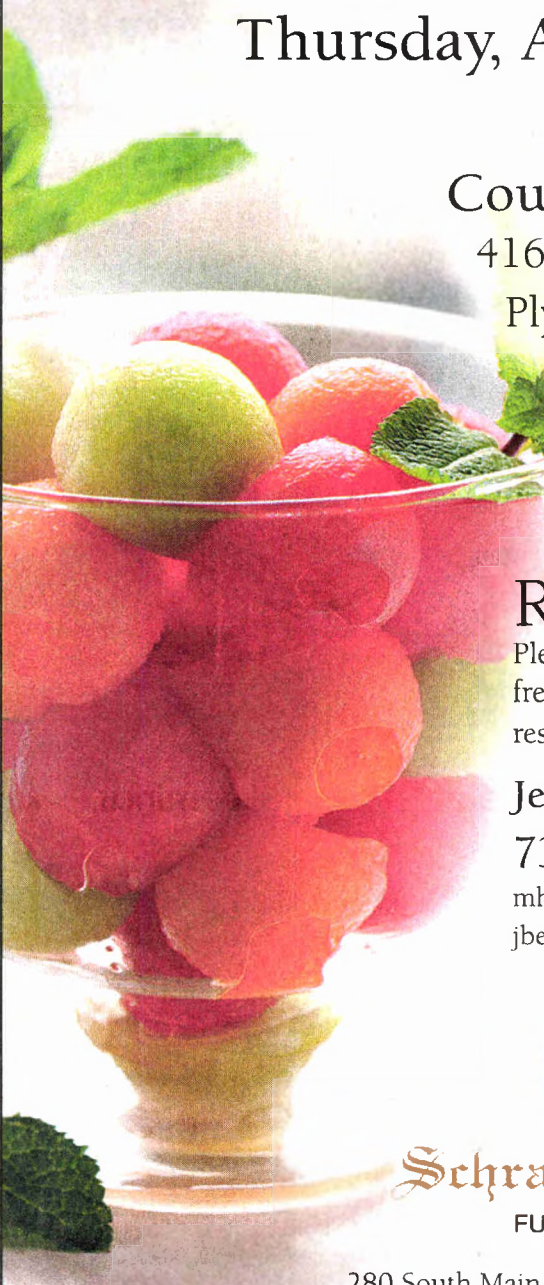
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School district holds art event for charity

Danielle Alexander
Staff Writer

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' student leadership council partnered with Abrakadoodle of Wayne County to prepare artwork with the intention of raising money for local homeless families.

When the student leadership council learned of the homelessness issue affecting students and families in their community, it chose to partner with Abrakadoodle, an education company whose programs inspire children's imaginations by immersing them in art to setup a creative service project for the school year to help bring attention and hope to these families.

Together, they planned a creative art experience that



Representatives from the P-CCS student leadership council share their finished canvases, which will be auctioned for charity in May.

TARYN REID

yielded finished canvases, which will be auctioned in May and donated to benefit St. Vincent de Paul's Journey to Housing program.

From 9 a.m. to noon March 18, more than 100 students from all schools and grades in P-CCS gathered at the Allen Early Learning Academy to

learn from seven Abrakadoodle teachers and create one of three special works of art: "Jeweled Tree," inspired by Michigan artist Natasha Wescoat, "City Scape," inspired by Van Gogh's "Starry Night"; or "Blue Dog," inspired by Louisiana artist George Rodrigue.

"I was amazed and blown away by the excitement and joy on these kids' faces knowing that they could help this cause by creating support," Canton 12th-grader and student leadership council representative Samantha McGrath said. "It was really cool how the student leadership council can really make a huge impact on the community. I believe the showcase is going to go really well."

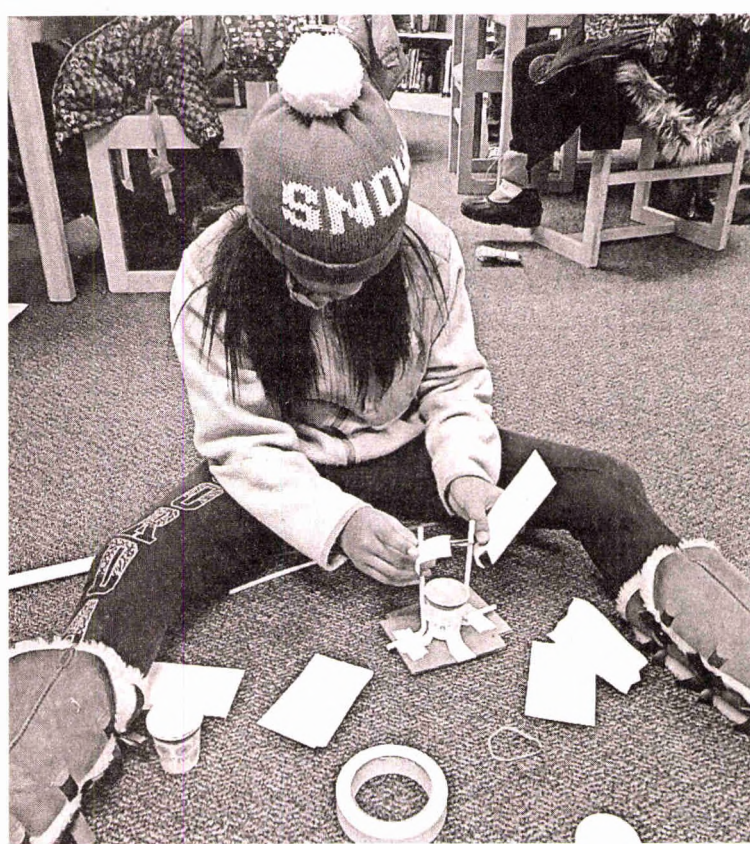
Abrakadoodle provided the instructors, lessons and ma-

terials for the event. Giving Hope (Women's Giving Circle fund of the Canton Community Foundation) and the Community Foundation of Plymouth also provided support.

"We offered projects that would be appropriate for the specific age groups that were there," Abrakadoodle co-owner of nine years Dawna Kelly said. "Our teachers could make each of the three projects more advanced or basic if they needed to."

The art showcase is planned for May 12 at Liberty Middle School. In addition to families and friends, the community will be welcome to view student work, which will be available for purchase.

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Little by little, engineering as a career grows on youngsters.

P-CEP senior introduces engineering to kids

Engineering has long been a male-dominated field and, for this reason, many young girls do not consider it as a career path. But Emily Johnson, a P-CEP senior and honor society student, has been interested in technology and engineering for years. Her experiences participating in robotics competitions and college engineering programs illustrated a dramatic lack of female representation. These experiences strengthened her resolve to succeed in a traditionally male field and to inspire other girls and women to do the same.

Johnson designed an engineering club called Girls ENgineering Imaginative INventions for fourth- and fifth-grade girls at Hulsing Elementary School.

In order to provide a greater deal of support for participants, Johnson recruited fellow P-CEP senior and future engineer Aleigh Gorham to help. The club's goal was to

show young girls that engineering and other male-dominated fields are a viable and possible career choice for them.

Once a week, 14 girls stayed after school until 5:45 p.m. and explored engineering concepts and careers together. They were challenged to think creatively with projects, such as balloon-powered cars, robotic-arms and Bristlebots.

During the meeting in which chemical engineering was featured, the girls made a plastic-like substance using only milk and vinegar. The age-appropriate, hands-on activities were focused on sparking their interest and introducing the engineering mindset. The girls learned about various engineering disciplines and women engineers were highlighted as role models.

"I liked that I could be apart of a cool program and I liked the creations we made because

I would have never thought about coming up with any of the cool things we did," one participant said. "When I first signed up, I thought it would be like any old program, but it's not. It's inspiring, fun and amazing, all at the same time. I know one time I almost couldn't make it, I totally freaked out! I was glad at the last minute I found out I could go."

After the program, most of the girls expressed an interest in pursuing engineering as a career and in attending similar programs in the future. Johnson thanked Tri-Dim Engineering for generously sponsoring the GENII program.

"I liked that we got to make awesome projects and some we got to design our self," another participant said. "It was pretty cool and even though I'm not going to be here next year, I hope they do it again so other girls can get inspired like I did."

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Canton woman celebrates five generations of family

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

The joy in Margaret Swanson's voice is proof of the happiness she feels as her great-grandchildren start their own families.

Gabriel, now almost 2 months old, arrived with his mom, great-granddaughter Elizabeth, at Swanson's Canton home recently to meet his great-great-grandmother. "They all came in with the baby. It's wonderful! To tell the truth, I didn't think I'd live that long,"

the 85-year-old Swanson said of meeting her first great-great-grandson.

But there's more on the way. She just received news that another "great" in Florida is on his or her way.

And who can't get enough of a newborn baby? Swanson is making the trip to North Carolina soon to see Gabriel again. "I want to see that baby," she said.

Swanson intends to stay around to see her family grow. "I've got my own teeth," she said. "I go to Curves four days a

week. If I could stay out of the fridge, I'd be much better."

But Swanson, a widow – her husband was Donald – also bowls, golfs and plays cards.

With the arrival of the fifth generation, Swanson doesn't have any real plans to leave a diary of sorts for the newcomers. "Well, we talk a lot," she said. "I hope they remember what I tell them."

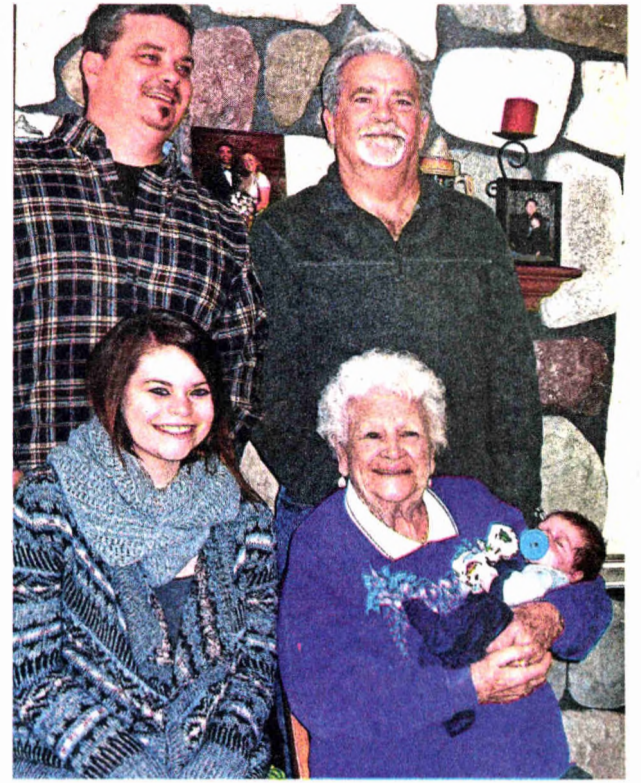
Swanson is mother to sons Craig (daughter-in-law Vicky) – the great-grandfather of Gabriel –

and John and daughter Carol. Gabriel's grandfather is Craig Jr. (with wife Carrie).

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

BILL BRESLER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Margaret Swanson holds her great-great grandson, 2-month-old Gabriel Greene. Clockwise from lower left, great-granddaughter Elizabeth Greene, Gabriel's mom; grandson Craig Swanson Jr.; and son Craig Swanson.



Canton's Lyons recognized in paramedic program

Delreesa Lyons of Canton is a single mother of five and a grandmother of two. Her story is the story of thousands of single parents nationwide who are finding out that parenting, working full time and going to school at the same time is not an easy thing to do. It is a full-time job, but Lyons, in her second semester in the Wayne County Community College District's Paramedic Program, said she is up for the challenge.

Recently, Lyons was recognized for her contribution to patient care and well being by the Henry Ford Health System in Wyandotte. While this recognition is typically reserved for employees who demonstrate excellence in service to patients, visitors and fellow co-workers, Lyons earned this recognition as a student.

Brandon Young, safety officer, EMS and Emergency Preparedness program coordinator at Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital and Lyons' supervisor, said he could not be more proud.



Delreesa Lyons of Canton with her award and Brandon Young, safety officer, EMS and Emergency Preparedness Program coordinator at Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital.

"The other week, I received an A.W.E. card written to 'Dell' (Delreesa Lyons) and the patient had nothing but incredible praise for the young lady. She made a tremendous impact on that patient and their

family," Young said. "This is the first time ever that a student has received an A.W.E. card. Her action reflects HFWH and we want to recognize that."

Lyons said she was shocked to hear that she

had been recognized, but her pride and dedication are evident in the glowing smile she wears every day. "When I talked with my children about receiving the Henry

Ford Wyandotte Hospital award, they were just as surprised as I was and they continued to encourage me to pursue my goals and trust in my abilities," she said.

These abilities are far-reaching, as Lyons works full time as a patient care technician at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in the Surgery Preparation Center and attends school full time at WCCCD as a paramedic student. She said, "Balancing work life, school life and parenting is extremely challenging." She had worked locally in the health care field for 12 years before going back to school in 2015. The change has not been without its sacrifices for both Lyons and her children.

Besides work and keeping her grades at school, Lyons makes sure that she devotes time to her family. She has mastered the art of multi-tasking and remains committed to her children's personal well-being and academic

success while setting a great example for them.

Anthony Arminiak, president of the Downriver Campus where the program is housed, said the Paramedic Program has consistently produced graduates who are knowledgeable about the policies, procedures and algorithms necessary to treat a wide variety of acute and life-threatening events.

"We all do our school assignment or study as a family and run errands together in order to get family time," Lyons said. "There is also time for fun, though. I carve out a block of time during the weekend and do something my children want because they also have made a sacrifice so that I may attend school."

"I explained to my children over a year ago that I was returning to school and that we all would have to sacrifice what we want in exchange for what we need and my children were very receptive," she added.

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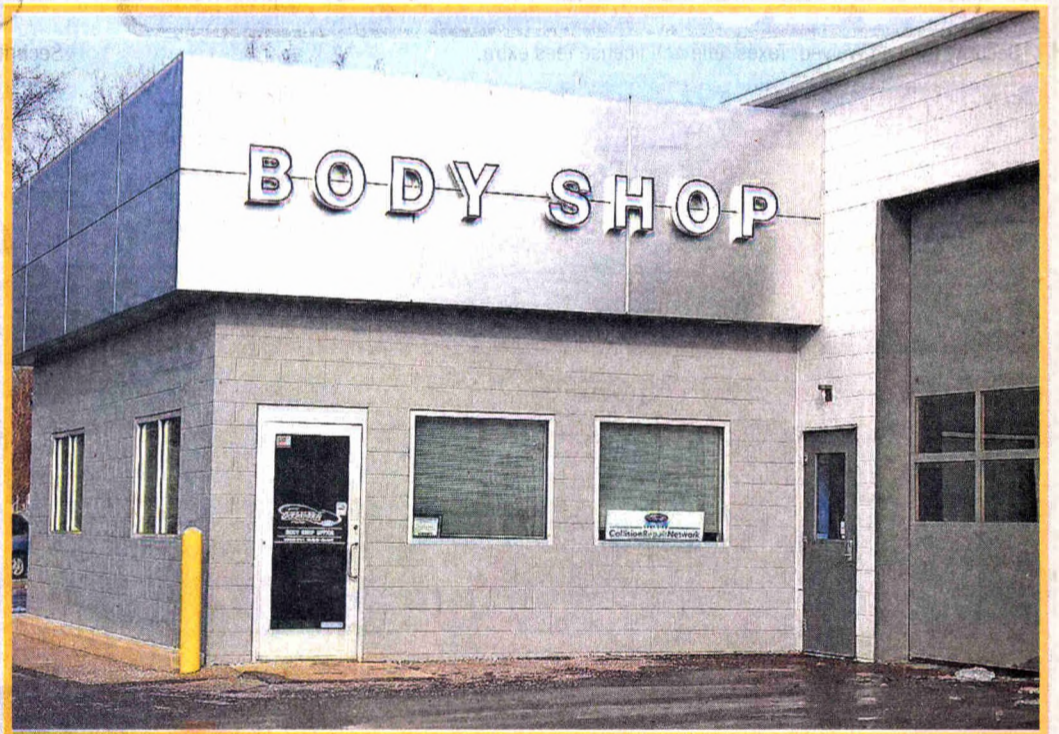
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Sky fall! Kids flock to marshmallow drop

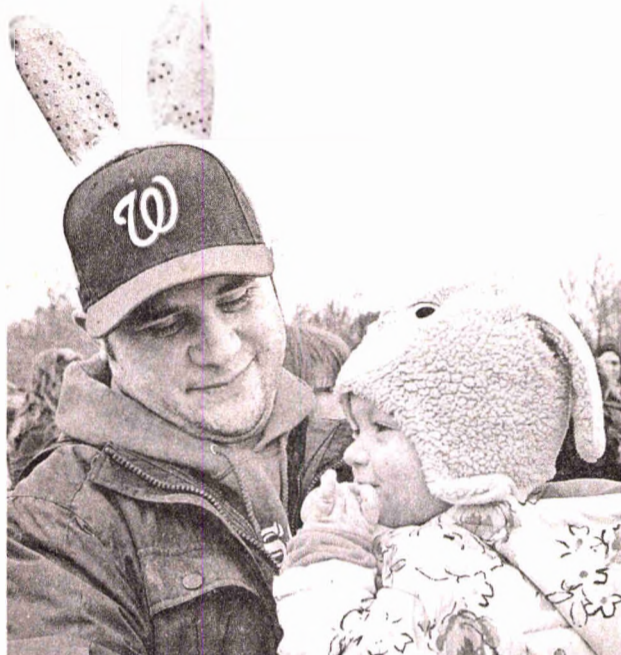
Like swallows to Castrano, thousands of kids converged Friday on Nankin Mills in Westland, hoping to grab a piece of Easter heaven. They were there for the 32nd annual Marshmallow Drop, during which more than 20,000 marshmallows were dropped from the sky. The children raced around gathering the marshmallows, which

were redeemable for prizes. "Wayne County's Marshmallow Drop has been a cherished family tradition for 32 years," Wayne County Executive Warren Evans said. "The Marshmallow Drop kicks off a highly anticipated season of fun activities for our Parks Division ... it really is an exciting time for the entire family to enjoy."



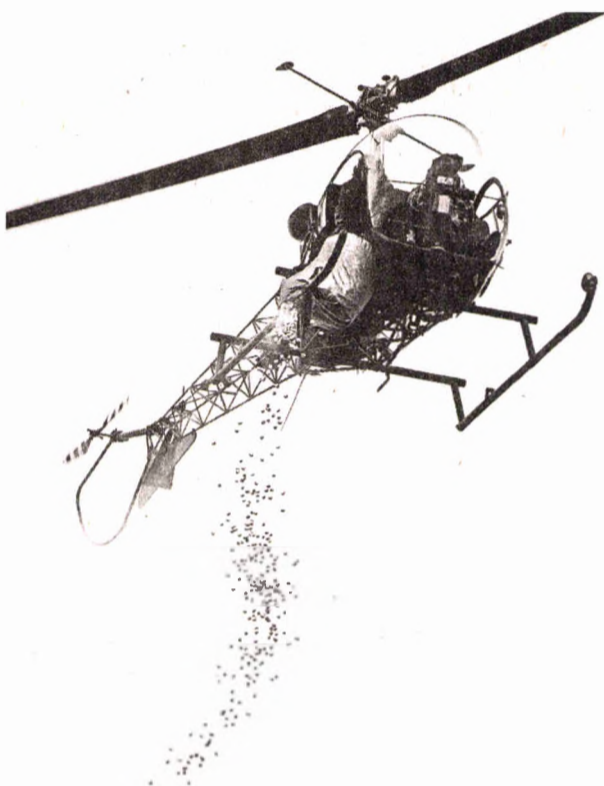
Shaun Williams and daughter Brenna Williams, 2, greet the Easter Bunny.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



A couple of bunnies from Canton, Justin Colbeck and 18-month-old daughter Brinley, wait in line to pick up a prize for their efforts.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



The helicopter drops the marshmallows and the race is on.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Two-year-old Andrew Sladewski shows off the spoils of the hunt. Andrew came to the marshmallow drop with mom and dad, Krysten and Brian Sladewski. They are from Northville.

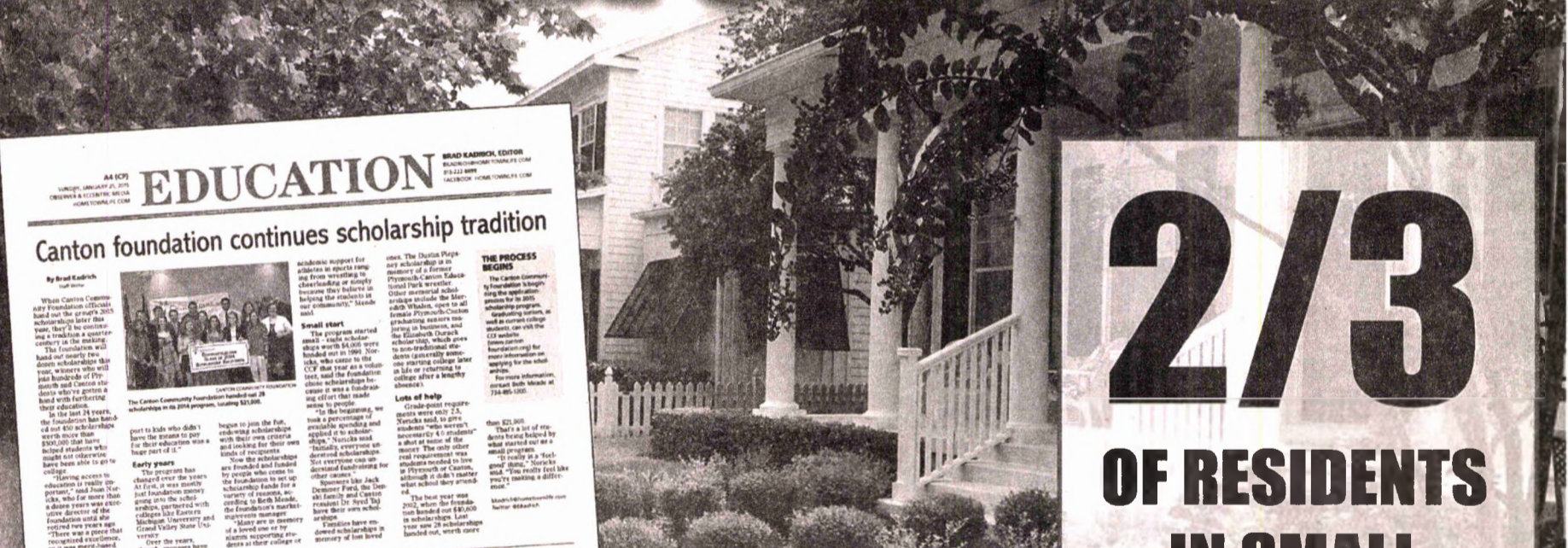
BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Two-year-old Naveen Sangha and his dad Mandeep Sangha spot the Easter Bunny hopping down the muddy trail. They are from Westland.

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EDUCATION

Canton foundation continues scholarship tradition

By Brad Karkh

When Canton Community Foundation was founded in 1984, it was one of the first in the state to offer scholarships to students in need. The foundation has since grown to offer more than 200 scholarships annually to students in the Canton area.

The foundation's president, Brad Karkh, said the organization has a long history of supporting local education. "We've been able to provide a significant amount of financial aid to students who are looking for their education," he said.

The foundation's scholarship program is open to students who are currently attending or planning to attend a college or university in the Canton area. The program is open to students of all ethnicities and backgrounds.

The foundation's scholarship program is one of the many ways in which the organization supports the community. The foundation also provides financial aid to students who are looking for their education.

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P-CEP student journalist testifies in Senate

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, welcomed testimony Tuesday from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park student Chris Robbins in a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing.

Robbins spoke on Senate Bill 848, which addresses press freedom for student journalists.

SB 848, known as the Student Free Press and

Civics Readiness Act, is co-sponsored by Colbeck and would allow students greater decision-making power in determining which articles are published and disseminated, pro-



Robbins

vided the articles don't violate federal or state laws, are libelous or slanderous, or incite danger.

"I would like to thank Chris Robbins and other student journalists, who are exercising their freedoms of speech and of the press while honing their journalism skills on behalf of our communities," Colbeck said. "Stu-

dent journalists across the state face barriers in their ability to exercise responsibility for determining the news, opinion, feature and advertising content of school-sponsored media and this bill would give them more freedom to make these decisions."

Robbins, who works on the Plymouth-Canton student newspaper The

Perspective, said he has learned a lot about his community by serving as a student journalist under the exceptional tutelage of his journalism teacher, Leola Gee, and that freedom of expression is essential for allowing a student to best engage in the journalism process.

"Making coverage decisions, being a part of

a team that works together and learning how to be an effective writer are crucial experiences that are best learned in a newspaper setting where students control the content," Robbins said.

SB 848 was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee and has been referred to the full Senate, where it awaits further consideration.

St. Joe earns Make-a-Wish award

St. Joseph Mercy Health System, headquartered in Canton, is among those organizations that have been honored by Make-A-Wish Michigan.

Make-a-Wish recently honored individuals, corporate partners, organizations and groups at the Southeast Michigan Donor and Volunteer Appreciation Event in Novi.

St. Joseph was recog-

nized for its generosity and dedication to the Make-A-Wish mission of granting wishes to Michigan children with life-threatening medical conditions. The health system received the Outstanding Corporate Partner Award for supporting Make-A-Wish Michigan since 2012.

St. Joseph's sponsorship of the organization's largest fundraiser - the Wish-A-Mile Bicycle

Tour - has totaled \$110,000 during that time. Not only does the organization sponsor WAM, but it also has a team consisting of employees, family members and friends who ride in the event. Through team fundraising, Team Joe's has raised nearly a \$250,000 to help grant wishes for Michigan children with life-threatening medical conditions.

Other award recipients included Steven Cook of Milford; Youth-Quest of Flint; Lauren Singer of Bloomfield Hills; Gordon Chevrolet of Garden City; American Red Cross of Washtenaw County; The Cystic Fibrosis Center at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital; and Ken Kavanaugh of West Bloomfield.



WESTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

This man is wanted for shoplifting and assault in at incident at the Macy's at Westland Shopping Center.

Archdiocese scraps plan for regional school

Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

The Archdiocese of Detroit has scrapped plans to create a regional Catholic school in western Wayne County.

Plans to open Divine Mercy Regional School were dismissed earlier this month because enrollment numbers didn't reach targeted numbers, according to a letter to parents posted on the school's Facebook site March 16.

The archdiocese was planning to close three schools in the area - St. Genevieve in Livonia, St. Raphael in Garden City and St. Damian in Westland - and combine them into one regional K-8 school for the 2016-

17 school year. A fourth school, at St. Robert Bellarmine in Redford, was closed last year.

Opening the new regional school was dependent on getting some 250 students to enroll. Enrollment fell far short of that when only about 75 students registered.

"We needed to get to (250) ... we didn't make that," said the Rev. Richard Aliart, pastor at St. Robert Bellarmine. "It's not so much that it was a hard decision ... we had to be realistic. We hoped we could get (to 250) with a late surge, but we didn't make it."

Aliart was one of four priests - including the Most Rev. Francis Reiss of St. Theodore of

Canterbury, the Rev. Simeon Iber of St. Thomas the Apostle and the Rev. Howard Vogan of St. Genevieve - to sign the letter posted to Facebook.

"While tremendous efforts to establish the regional school were made by many and significant resources were put forth by all our parishes, Divine Mercy Regional School fell short of an enrollment commitment that would have made the school financially possible," the letter read, in part.

Some parents in the neighborhoods served by the four schools believe the archdiocese should have known they weren't going to get to 250 students because

parents were voicing concerns about the location - Divine Mercy was going to be housed at St. Raphael, near Meriman and Ford - and leadership.

Parents said archdiocese officials told them they had "full confidence" the school would open.

"They should have known this wasn't going to happen when people voiced their concerns from the beginning," said Tabitha Kelly, whose kids attend St. Damian. "They (said) they expected 250 kids and we had no idea where they were getting their numbers."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @bkadrich

Man sought for Macy's shoplifting, assault

Westland Police have released photos of a man wanted for shoplifting and assaulting a loss prevention officer at the Westland Macy's store.

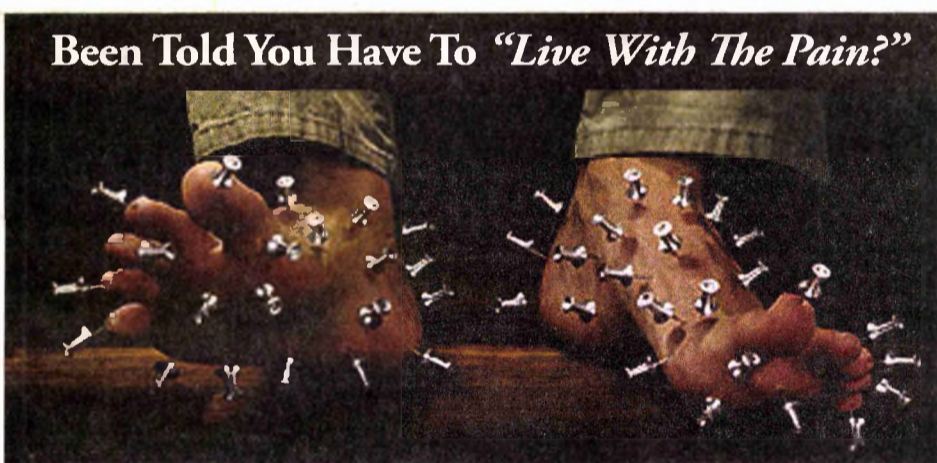
On March 11, police said the man shown in photographs was inside the Macy's store, 35000 Warren Road, at the Westland Shopping Center. The suspect walked out of the store with a large amount of clothing, according to police.

When confronted in the parking lot by a loss prevention officer, the suspect struck her and dropped the clothing, fleeing to a black newer

model Jeep. The loss prevention officer was not seriously injured.

The suspect was accompanied by a white female, a child and an infant. He is described as a white male, approximately 40 years old, 5 feet, 10 inches and estimated to weigh 300 pounds. He was believed to be bald, but the witness was unsure as he was wearing a hat.

Anyone who can assist police in identifying the suspect is asked to contact the Westland Police Department at 734-722-9600 or Sgt. Chris Gazdecki at 734-467-3250.



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BEE

Continued from Page A1

give the spelling bee a try again next year. "I have been encouraged."

Sanghvi had heard about the Youth Spelling Bee when a student at her son's school, Gallimore Elementary, won. She then discovered that the adult bee was fast approaching. Sanghvi expects her oldest son, now in third grade, will be ready to join the youth bee next year. The couple's two sons were in the audience last week and saw their parents win.

The Spellbinders from Community Financial Credit Union, with Sue Bellaire and Ami Solanacea, took second place. Their supporters, an excited cheering section, took the traditional "Spirit Basket" prize for their enthusiasm. The group cheering the Plymouth Rotary team won a second-place spirit prize.

While the youth spelling bee Feb. 23 took several hours to work through, the adult bee was short and sweet. "They started going down like flies," said Carol Saunders, a long-time literacy council member who organized the adult event.

True, the words were tough. At one point, Saunders asked judges if she should flip to the end of her word list. "They said, 'We think these words are hard enough,'" she said.

What really excites Saunders is that the adult bee is drawing more diverse teams. "I am so proud of these teams," she said.

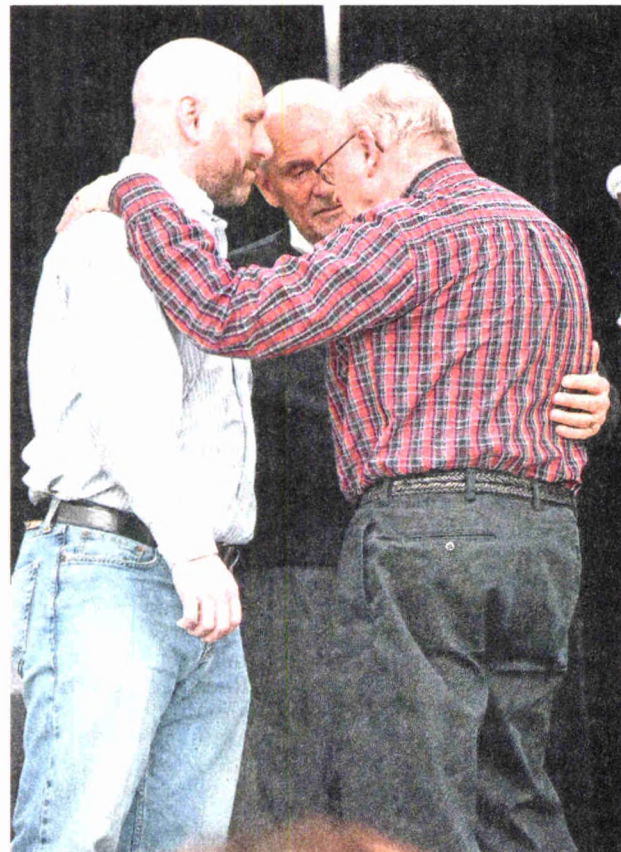
Last year, the Witty Websters team, sponsored by Lou LaRiche Chevrolet, was the champion. This year, the Witty Websters were represented by a new team of high school students from P-CEP.

The adult bee is designed as a fundraiser and to increase awareness for the literacy council, which provides free tutors to help adults improve their English skills.

The 10 teams were sponsored by local businesses. Some of the sponsors have participated with their own teams for several years, while other sponsors allowed other adults to sign up to represent their team. The emcee was Tony Bruscato, director of Plymouth Downtown Development Authority. Judges were Eva Davis, director of Canton Public Library, and Carol Souchock, director of Ply-



Ami Solanacea and Sue Bellaire react as the judges declare a win, but their joy was short-lived. There was a judges' error.



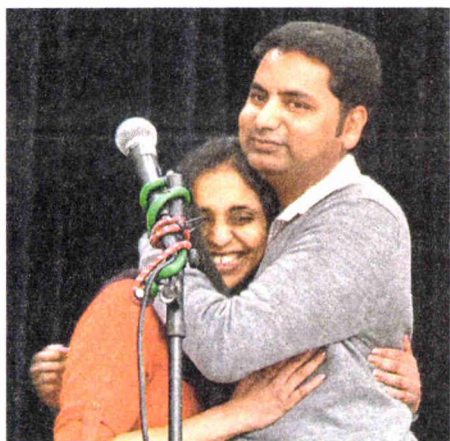
Ken Jenkins, Don Massini and Bruce Baxter are the Sedulous Spellers.



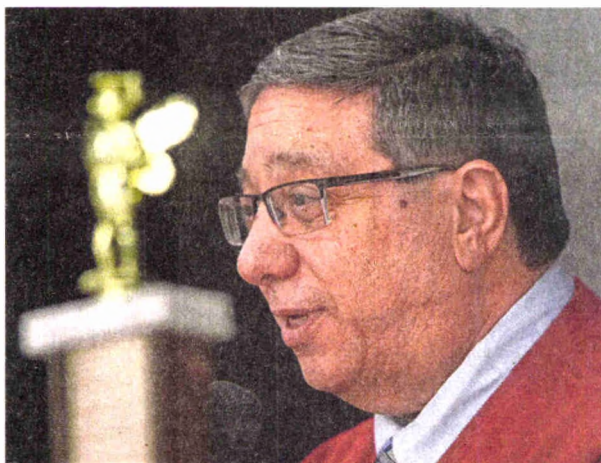
Ten-year-old Garrett Jenkins cheers for the spelling teams.



Judge Carol Souchock, director of the Plymouth District Library, says the answer is good.



Erudite Spellers Nehal Sanghvi and Samanth Makunur are the spelling champions.



The ever-erudite Tony Bruscato emcees the event.



Christine Danaubauer and Jason Houston of Community Financial Credit Union get rowdy for their team, the Spellbinders.

mouth District Library. The bee also had folks who helped with the pronunciation of the words. They were Dana Jones,

principal of Smith Elementary, and Amy D'Urso of Nielson Co. Plymouth-Canton Community Literacy

Council needs tutors to help meet the demand for literacy education. Tutors volunteer two hours per week in one-on-one meetings or ESL conversation groups to work with adults below ninth-grade English level. The next 12-hour comprehensive training will be May 19 and 21. For information, go to www.plymouthcantonliteracy.org or call 734-589-0011.



Ed Schulz is timekeeper, Carol Souchock and Eva Davis are judges and Amy D'Urso and Dana Jones are pronouncers at the spelling bee.

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Metro Detroit woman donates adapted bicycle to Livonia boy

Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Sometimes help comes from the most unexpected places.

That's a lesson Alison McRae of Livonia learned this week, when a woman she'd never heard of called with an offer to help McRae's special-needs son with a dream.

McRae opened up about her 6-year-old son William, who is entered in a contest to win an adapted bicycle in the 2016 Friendship Circle Great Bike Giveaway.

William, who has been diagnosed with cerebral palsy and epilepsy, among other ailments, is

hoping to become the recipient of up to 600 bicycles Friendship Circle hopes to give away at the end of the month.

Or rather, William was among those eligible. He's not anymore.

He no longer needs the raffle to get the bicycle. A friend of Alison's shared a link telling William's story and a group of female mountain bikers saw it and immediately stepped up.

"I can't even believe it," McRae said. "We're beyond happy."

The woman, whose name isn't being used because she couldn't be reached, called Riftin, the bike manufacturer, before calling McRae.

Turns out the woman, who has a special-needs child of her own, belongs to the female mountain biking Facebook group and "wanted to help."

"A complete stranger saw it and said, 'We spend so much on our mountain bikes, I want to do this,'" McRae said, reduced to tears just telling the story. "She has a special-needs son and she just wanted to pay it forward."

While William is no longer in the giveaway, those who've already donated to support his cause haven't done so in vain. The more money Friendship Circle collects, the more bikes it can give away. It's shoot-

ing for 600.

Bassie Shemtov, Friendship Circle's director, said the group will give away however many it's able to get. To do it, Shemtov knows Friendship Circle will need generous support.

"Our children are our greatest and most precious and valuable commodity," Shemtov said. "We are kindly asking you to show your generosity by supporting the children and putting smiles on the faces of boys and girls through-out the United States."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @bkadrich



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A donor has come forward to purchase an adaptive bike for William McRae of Livonia, here with mom Alison.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

'GUACAMOLE'

Time/Date: Showtimes are 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 31 and April 1-2, and 3 p.m. Sunday, April 3
Location: PARC, 650 Church, in downtown Plymouth. Park in the back and enter through door No. 24

Details: Better Than Ever Productions will perform the hilarious Texas comedy "Last Roundup of the Guacamole Queens" by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten

Cost: Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$17 at the door. Tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.betterthaneverprod.wix.com/btep> or call 734-306-7883. For groups of 10 or more, the ticket price is \$13; call for a reservation

FLINT WATER DOCTOR

Time/Date: 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 5

Location: PARC, 650 Church Street, Plymouth

Details: Dr. Hanna-Attisha, The pediatrician will talk about the Flint water crisis and her efforts to draw attention to the problems.

Cost: Tickets may be obtained at <http://rotaryclubofplymoutham.eventsbot.com>

Contact: 248-650-5717

The pediatrician will talk about the Flint water crisis and her efforts to draw attention to the problems. The cost is free, but Rotary members ask attendees to make donations to the Flint Child Health & Development Fund. Donations will be accepted at the door.

KARATE TOURNAMENT

Time/Date: Registration by Sunday, March 27; tournament Sunday, April 10

Location: Garden City Middle School, 1851 Radcliff in Garden City

Details: Shotokan Karate Federation of Michigan hosts a Michigan Karate Tournament. Age groups include 5-11, 12-17, 18-34 and 35-older.

Cost: \$40 for one event, \$50 for two events, \$60 for three events, and \$70 for four events. Registration deadline is Sunday, March 27.

Contact: Sensei Tony Valvona, 734-658-5683, or email Tony@karatemi.com

RECOGNIZING AND MANAGING HEART FAILURE

Time/Date: 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, April 5

Details: Free presentation at

Providence-Providence Park Hospital, Novi Campus, Out-patient Building, Conference Room A. Learn about congestive heart failure and current treatment options. For more information, call St. John Providence CareLink at 888-751-5465 to register.

K-9 VETERANS DAY EVENT

Time/Date: 11 a.m. Saturday, April 16

Details: The Michigan War Dog Memorial will host a K-9 Veterans Day event. Invited speakers to discuss the value of working with a K-9, OCS D K-9 unit, National Association of Professional Canine Handlers, WCC K-9s and K-9 Pipper from Traverse City Airport. Immediately following the event, the unveiling of a war dog plaque in the memory of Rob Wurtz.

The program will take place at the memorial, 25805 Milford Road, Lyon Township. For more information, contact Phil Weitlauf at pweitlauf@gmx.com or 248-685-8307.

DEMENTIA WORKSHOP

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to noon, Wednesday, April 20 through May 25

Location: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W 10 Mile Road, Novi

Details: The Area Agency on Aging 1-B and the Alzheimer's Association-Greater Michigan Chapter host free educational workshops for families caring for someone with a dementia-related illness, such as Alzheimer's disease. The Creating Confident Caregivers program is a six-week workshop series.

Caregivers will learn how to: reduce caregiver related stress; improve caregiver confidence; create a positive care-giving environment; plan daily activities for your loved one based on their strengths; and deal with behaviors caused by dementia and its effects on the brain.

Contact: Advance registration is required. To register, call the AAA 1-B at 800-852-7795. For more details or additional information, go to www.aaatb.com.

COMEDY FOR A CAUSE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. April 29

Location: Big Tommy's, 40380 Grand River Ave. in Novi

Details: Come show your support for deployed military troops. Big Tommy's will host a fundraiser for Troops Need Love Too, a Michigan nonprofit supporting deployed military. The evening features 10 come-

dians performing; two are veterans. 50/50 and silent auction planned, as well.

Cost: Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door.

Contact: Call 248-762-1151 for tickets

ESSAY CONTEST

Time/Date: Applications due April 1

Details: The Beloved Community, partnering with the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, has announced the second annual Dr. Martin Luther King Essay Contest. The contest is open to all sixth-through 12th-grade students in Plymouth and Canton, including those children who attend traditional public, charter and private schools or who are home-schooled. Participation in the essay contest is intended to foster a deeper understanding of the importance of diversity and inclusion and further the goals of education, deep reflection and reconciliation on topics critical to racial justice in the Plymouth-Canton community.

Contact: Inquiries about the application process may be directed to Loren Khogali at lorenkhogali@gmail.com or Sommer Foster at sommer.foster@gmail.com.

LIP SYNC

Time/Date: Deadline by 5 p.m. April 1

Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill

Details: Interested performers of all ages are encouraged to compete in the Canton Youth Advisory Council's Lip Sync Battle, "So You Think You Can Sync?" Contestants can register individually for \$10 or as a group for \$15, which is payable with exact change at the Summit Front Desk. At least one person in your group must live within Canton, MI, in order to enter the contest. This competition is for amateur performers only. No professional groups are allowed to perform. Only the first 30 acts to sign up will perform. Registration forms and music CD's must be turned in to the Summit on the Park. Attention: Laura Mortier. Groups and individuals must supply their own CD in good condition for their performance, which will be returned. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners: \$200 for the best group and \$100 for the top solo act.

Contact: Event information and registration applications can be found at www.cantonfun.org.



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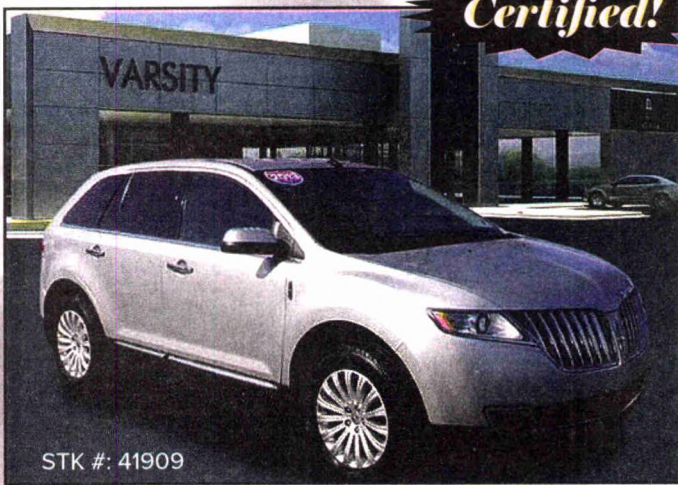
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BOYS GOLF PREVIEW

Rocks are getting back in the swing

Salem looks to move up in division, conference

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Bolstered by experience and promising newcomers, Salem's varsity boys golf team is poised to move up the KLAA Central Division ranks this spring.

Sixth-year head coach Ryan Nimmerguth, whose team finished sixth in the division in 2015, points to his team trending upward this time around.

"We lacked experience last year and it showed in our results," Nimmerguth said. "We return 11 players from last year and, with the few practices we have had this season, I can see the returners are much more comfortable and consistent."

"Our ability to handle the stress and mental focus that the game of golf demands will be important. If we can stay within ourselves and stay focused on our goals, this team has the potential to be successful in the KLAA."

Nimmerguth, looking to make up for the graduation of Jakob Lenders and Jake Stropes, can plug in newcomers such as junior Joey Dris-

See **ROCKS**, Page B2



FILE PHOTO

Salem's Adam Marcero watches the flight of a shot during a 2015 match.

PREP SOFTBALL PREVIEW — PART 1



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Sophomore Whitney Holden, shown during a 2015 contest, is one of several outstanding holdovers for the Plymouth Wildcats.

'CATS SET TO POUNCE

Last year's amazing season has Plymouth wanting more success

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Coach Lauren Delapaz got married in January and now is Lauren Evans.

But not much else has changed with the Plymouth varsity softball team, as many of the key components from the 2015 Division 1 regional champion (30-5 overall, 16-0 in the KLAA South Division) return.

"As a program, we have stressed that it is not going to be easy and have all agreed to put in the hard work needed to be successful," said Evans, starting her second season at the helm. "So far this season we have worked hard to improve daily."

"We have a great foundation in our returning players and look forward to seeing how things come into place and what new players step up



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Racing toward home plate to score during a 2015 game is Mikayla Rose, starting her junior season with Plymouth.

to complete the starting lineup and compete for their team."

The Wildcats were bril-

liant in 2015, with the program's most-successful season — featuring division, Kensington Conference,

district and regional championships (the latter for the first time in school history).

To be clear, Evans *did* lose standout seniors from last season, including versatile Alex Rakovitis and Caylin Waters (who both played infield and outfield), not to mention starters and team leaders Brittney Miller, Mikayla Marciniak and Rachael Ring.

But the 2015 team had so much standout depth, augmented by a cluster of promising players who were on the junior varsity in 2015, to ensure another standout squad.

Leading the way this season, which begins April 4 at Howell, will be senior co-captains Rachel Zerona and Cali Jones.

"They will both play a

See **WILDCATS**, Page B2

PLAYOFF CHAMPIONSHIP

Plymouth Sharks take bite out of their rivals

Squirt 'B' House 10U squad nips Canton Coyotes to win LCAHL Patrick Division playoff title

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Never giving up was the mantra for the Plymouth Sharks during the 2015-16 Squirt 'B' House 10U season and the team overcame bumps in the road early on to eventually win the Little Caesars Amateur Hockey League Patrick Division playoff championship.

The Sharks, coached by veteran Michael Curran and assisted by Jeff Miller and Joe Teed, wound up defeating the rival Canton Coyotes, 3-2, on March 20 at Trenton Kennedy

Ice Arena in the division playoff final.

Fittingly, the winning goalie was Riley Demeester — who along with several Sharks teammates never played organized hockey before this season. Demeester backstopped the victory with a number of stellar saves.


Still Canton got out to a 1-0 lead, but the Sharks hung in there and tied the game on a goal by Ethan James. Putting Plymouth up 2-1 was Charlie Teed and Joshua Granowicz then scored the game-winner

See **SHARKS**, Page B3




PAUL GRANOWICZ

The Plymouth Sharks Squirt 'B' House 10U team celebrates winning the LCAHL Patrick Division title March 20 in Trenton. Team members include (in front) Thomas Redmond; (second row, from left) Liam Goff, Grant Miller, Ethan James, Brady Peregord, Owen Curran, Lucas Fournier and Charlie Teed; (third row, from left) Brendan Abbruzzese and Riley Demeester; (fourth row, from left) head coach Michael Curran, Addison Hoover, Ben Minehart, Alex Gotsis, Sam Walsh and Joshua Granowicz; and (back row, from left) assistant coach Joe Teed, student coach Vinnie Marroni, assistant coach Jeff Miller.



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BOYS GOLF PREVIEW — PART 1

Wildcats boast talent, team approach



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Plymouth's Kyle Kozler blasts the golf ball out of a sand trap during a 2015 practice.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Following through after another good-looking swing is Plymouth's Jack Boczar. The junior is one of several elite returnees for the Wildcats.

Plymouth on quest to finish at the top this season

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Last year's 11th-place finish at the MHSAA Division 1 boys golf state finals "still burns at us," Plymouth coach Dan Young said.

If so, opponents in the KLAA and beyond should batten down the hatches, because the Wildcats promise to come

back even stronger for the 2016 season.

"We will learn from that experience and we will play to our potential this time around," said Young, whose 2015 squad captured the division, conference, district and regional championships.

Plymouth's continuing culture of success focuses on the "team first" attitude, Young

noted. But it doesn't hurt to have three golfers who are uber-talented in senior Kyle Kozler, junior Justin Kapke and junior Jack Boczar.

"They were the lowest scoring golfers a year ago," Young said. "I consider all three to be number one golfers for our team, which is a huge plus for us."

"They have a lot of tournament experience and can beat anyone on any given day."

The trio isn't alone as far as Plymouth's high-end talent is concerned.

Senior James Baldwin, junior Joe Fontana, junior Matt Decker, senior Vaishak Mendon, senior Jacob Sylvester and senior Reilly Sullivan are the next best returnees.

Joining the lineup will be senior Logan Stefanko, a transfer from North Carolina.

"You need four low scores to win as a team," Young said. "So we will have good competition daily for the top spots."

For as talented as the group is, the coach marvels at the work ethic continuously on display.

"We stress a 'team first' attitude and I believe this has been a staple of our program," Young said. "I feel we have great guys who are outstanding golfers. We will continue to work on our short game and our mental approach to playing great golf."

"We will improve as the season progresses and we will be at our best come playoff time."

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

BOYS BASKETBALL STATE SEMIFINALS

North Farmington earns shot at Class A crown

Raiders defeat Lansing Everett in basketball state semifinal game, 60-48

Dan O'Meara
Staff Writer

Good Friday was exactly that for the North Farmington boys basketball team.

It was without a doubt the finest day in the history of the program, as the Raiders advanced to their first Class A state championship game in East Lansing.

Led by the hot shooting of senior guard Billy Thomas, North put away Lansing Everett in the second half for a 60-48 victory in a semifinal game at the Breslin Center.

"I think it's a great win for our school and our program," Raiders coach Todd Negoshian said. "To have the seniors we do, who put in the time and the effort to be where we're at, it speaks volumes about them."

"I don't think we had an easy road to get here. We're just privileged to be here and happy to live to see the final day of the season."

North (24-2) faced top-ranked and undefeated University of Detroit Jesuit for the state title Saturday.

The Cubs (27-0) defeated the Raiders in a regional final last year on their way to being state semifinalists.

"Being our first trip to the regional final, I thought we folded a little bit last year," senior Alex Darden said. "We weren't used to the atmosphere. We learned from that."

"Having 11 seniors has helped us. We've played in a great atmosphere in a lot of games recently and we know what to expect this time."

Thomas began his high school career at Jesuit. He was on the U-D team that played at the Breslin two years ago and lost to Bloomfield Hills in the semifinals.

"My experience wasn't real pleasant," Thomas said. "But we're here for the last day and I'm feeling really blessed."

"I've been expecting this (game against his former school). It's going to be an intense match-up."

Leading scorer

Thomas made four 3-pointers Friday, shot 50 percent behind the arc and led the Raiders with 26 points.

He scored the first six points of the game with a pair



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Senior Jacob Joubert looks for an opening in Everett's half-court defense.

of threes to get the Raiders ahead early. He began the second half with two more treys to give North a 26-15 lead.

"Being here two years ago, it gave me some experience," Thomas said. "It really calmed me down. It wasn't my first time being in the gym, so I didn't have too many butterflies."

Junior Amauri Hardy was 5-of-7 from the floor and scored mostly on strong drives to the basket again, finishing with 15 points.

Defense is key

Seniors Jacob Joubert and De'on Jenkins contributed seven apiece. Darden, who added five points, had 13 of his game-high 14 rebounds on the defensive glass.

"It was huge," Darden said of the overall defensive effort. "For us to hold them to 17 points at the half was huge, especially when the offense wasn't doing so well."

"We knew they had a couple kids who really tagged it up, so we had to box them out and hold them to one and done."

Shooting woes

Once again, North asserted itself early and led by seven, but Everett closed the gap to

two after one quarter and was within three at halftime, 20-17.

The Raiders didn't shoot well in the first half (5-of-18), but neither did the Vikings (6-of-21) as the North defense kept the Everett shooters in check, too.

"We were just out of sync," Negoshian said. "I'm not sure if it was being in the Breslin or just a different routine and everything — not being in school, having a shootaround and getting on the bus to come here."

"Like I said at the quarterfinal, it helps playing the second game. It allows you to sit for a while, to let your nerves get through you, to see the environment."

Big third quarter

Led by Thomas and Hardy, the Raiders found their shooting touch in the third quarter, making five of their first six shots and going 7-of-11 from the floor.

North began the second half with a 14-0 run and boosted its lead to 34-15. That proved essential to the Raiders being able to hold the lead and close out the win.

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WILDCATS

Continued from Page B1

huge role in the success of the team on and off the field with their presence and ability," Evans said.

Juniors Mikayla Rose and Gina Barber "return with high expectations" after closing out last year on a high note.

Don't forget about sophomores Jenny Bressler, Whitney Holden and Jessica Tucci.

"(The sophomores) return with a year of varsity under their belts ready to go," Evans said. "Expectations are high for all the returners. They know what it took to

get us to a high level last year and it is on them to guide, lead and help new players to the team to jump on board."

Although it is a tough pill to swallow, losing five players to graduation, Plymouth will look to reinforcements from JV.

Juniors Maddie Rutkowski, Jocie Rutkowski and Kelly Gryniewicz, sophomore Madison Dunning and freshmen Haley Gagnon and Kiersten Metz are ready to jump into the mix and infuse the squad with "great positive energy and the desire to work hard" for the Wildcats in 2016.

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JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Tagging a base-runner during a game last season is Plymouth's Jenny Bressler, now a sophomore.

ROCKS

Continued from Page B1

coll and freshmen Cooper Rossio, Karan Singh and Cal Smiley.

Of course, the Rocks will be spearheaded by top returnees, including seniors Hayden Winch (39 average in 2015), Adam Marcero (42), Travis Stott (43), Woodie Mashni (40) and juniors Matt Schaumburger (42) and Shawn Weldon (41).

Adding depth to the lineup will be junior Luke Trulock and sophomores Justin Polce and Lorenzo Bucciarelli, while sophomore Bryce Henderson and junior Matt Denis are "showing great improvement," hitting in the low 40s

during practices.

Nimmerguth emphasized that, although he is optimistic about the upcoming season, the Rocks will face formidable challenges in the Kensington Conference against some of the state's top teams (Plymouth, Northville and Novi).

"It will be important for this team to get off to a successful start and develop some confidence," Nimmerguth said. "If that happens, we could be very competitive in the KLAA."

"A confident golfer is usually a successful one and we need our players to be more confident and believe in their abilities because they are very capable."

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BOYS LACROSSE PREVIEW — PART 1

Plymouth returnees key to season

Wildcats ready to take step toward conference crown

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

A tough opening night loss notwithstanding, Plymouth varsity boys lacrosse coach Brian Walsh sees plenty to like about his 2016 squad.

The Wildcats, who finished 9-8 last season in the Kensington Conference, were downed, 19-5, Thursday by No. 2-ranked Forest Hills Central.

But the latter part of that contest is what has Walsh feeling a bit better about the Wildcats.

"We were blitzed by their powerful offense initially," Walsh said. "But then we settled down and played well."

"Nolan Ouellette had three goals and Zach Gallaher had two. (Goalie) Trevor McManus was shelled continuously all night, but played very well with 17 saves."

McManus is entering his senior season and will look to spark Plymouth to a successful season before moving on to

college lacrosse next year.

"Having Trevor anchor our defense will give us confidence to face any team," said Walsh, entering his seventh season with the Wildcats.

Although it obviously is painful to lose U.S. Lacrosse All-American Ben Stover and all-state honorable mention player Kyle Robertson to graduation, as well as Justin Brodzik, Andrew Withers and Ben Riley, Walsh points to a strong nucleus of returnees.

In addition to McManus in goal, Plymouth's lineup will feature junior midfielder Ouellette, junior attackman Gallaher, junior defenseman Tyler Ramer, senior defenseman Mitch Gonzales, sophomore defender Charlie Shaver, junior attackman Jack Balch, senior attackman Derek Szczepanik, junior midfielder Nate Messer and junior midfielder Jacob Miller.

New to the fold are sophomore midfielders Jake Roach and Bradley Twiskiewicz, freshman midfielders Carson Miller and Ian Gozdor and freshman defender James Hansen.

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Senior goalie Trevor McManus (middle) is the backbone of Plymouth's defense.

MICHAEL VASILNEK

GIRLS TENNIS PREVIEW — PART 1

New-look Wildcats already show promise

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Despite turnover from the team that won the 2015 KLAA South Division championship, it could be another strong season for Plymouth's varsity girls tennis team.

The Wildcats showed they again will be competitive, winning the ninth annual Midnight Madness event March 18 at Huron Valley Tennis Center. Plymouth topped Salem, Canton and Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard in a hard-fought four-team scrimmage.

As with every team in every sport in every season, players are lost to graduation — such is the norm with high school athletics. It's no different with Plymouth, which lost Sarah Gamble, Tiahn Horton, Alexa Earls, Lauren Conley and Emma Mullenax from the team that went 7-4 to win the division.

Yet that only provides opportunities for new players and those who will have a bigger role this season, seventh-year head coach Rob McLaren said.



Plymouth's varsity girls tennis team won the Midnight Madness scrimmage March 18.

PLYMOUTH GIRLS TENNIS

"While we've lost some talented players to graduation, including our number one singles player and our number one doubles team," McLaren said, "we have some very talented freshmen who look ready to contribute right away."

"Jessica Braun will be taking over at one singles this year and I expect her to have a great season. Seniors Alyssa Lopez and Bei Li Martin will lead the doubles lineup."

Other leading returnees for the Wildcats include Amber Tseng, Swetha Duraiswamy, Kara Hug, Justine Ko and Amy Luo.

Braun will have the most responsibility among four freshmen, but the Wildcats also are optimistic that ninth-graders Allie Baker, Alayna Stults and Olivia Schafer will contribute as needed.

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BOYS LACROSSE PREVIEW — PART 1

Pakula's four goals power Chiefs to good start for 2016

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Memories of a successful stretch drive and tourney victory hopefully will carry over for Canton's varsity boys lacrosse team in the 2016 season.

And the Chiefs — who in 2015 went 10-7 and defeated Plymouth in a first-round tourney game before losing in the second round to Troy — opened with a 7-4 victory Wednesday against Farmington.

Spearheading the win for head coach Fred Karam's squad was senior attackman Carson Pakula, one of a quartet of co-captains (the others are senior midfielders Micah Rinke and Ben Phillips and junior defender Steven Szymusiak).

Pakula scored four goals against the Falcons, including the first two of the season.

Setting up Pakula's second goal in the first half was Rinke.

Sophomore midfielder Chase Meredith then took a feed from sophomore midfielder Nick Polydoros and scored to make it 3-0. Before the end of the half, Pakula danced around two Falcons defenders to pad the lead to four goals.

Farmington did slice the Canton edge to 4-2 in the second half before Pakula scored his fourth of the contest.

Closing out the scoring with two goals for the Chiefs was Polydoros, with Phillips setting up the final goal.

Also key to the win was outstanding work in face-offs by sophomore midfielder Connor Flanigan and strong goal-keeping by senior Trevor Stahl (11 saves).

Stahl was supported by senior defensemen Kumar Johnson and Jacob Wickens and junior defensemen Steven Szymusiak and Reed McDonnell.

The four defenders combined for six of eight takeaways for Canton.



Carrying the ball during a game from last season is Canton's Carson Pakula (left).

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Roster breakdown

Attack: In addition to high-scoring Pakula, the Chiefs feature juniors Drew Montgomery and Justin Renzi and senior Brett Moore. Polydoros and senior Lukas Pashigian also split time between attack and midfield.

Midfield: Polydoros and Pashigian are joined by Rinke, Phillips, Meredith, Flanigan, junior Andrew Goulet, senior Aditya Joshi and senior Jake Stephan.

Defense/LSM: The Chiefs feature McDonnell, Szymusiak, Wickens (all three available as defenders and long stick middies) along with Johnson, senior Connor Wingate, senior Clay Walker, senior Jimmy Weeda, junior Michael Maes and senior Austin Carr in the back.

Goal: Stahl will be the main man between the pipes, but he will be spelled by junior Nathan Janice, who also plays defense.

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Boxing day



MIKE GEROU

Mike Gerou, 35th District Court judge in Plymouth, invited court employees, family and friends to work out with him last Sunday at the new Canton business, TITLE Boxing Club. More than 20 joined Gerou for the workout. He was challenged by his daughter Elaine (a Schoolcraft College student who last semester wrote a story about the business for the Schoolcraft Connection newspaper), who gave him a 90-day membership for Christmas. His goal was to do 90 gym visits in 90 days, which he achieved. "In the process, I lost 14 pounds, rehabbed some nagging injuries and got into much better shape. I love the workouts and how much you can get done in an hour." Elaine Gerou also is on Schoolcraft's new softball team and she and teammates were part of the March 20 workout at TITLE Boxing, located on Sheldon near Ford Road.

SHARKS

Continued from Page B1

following an excellent play by Brendon Abbruzzese.

On the Sharks' third goal, which proved to be the game-winner because the Coyotes scored again, Abbruzzese hustled onto the ice during a line change and made sure the puck stayed inside the Canton zone.

The victory avenged a 4-2 loss to Canton in the opening round of the LCAHL playoffs.

But Plymouth roared back to win all its remaining playoff games to finish 20-12-6 overall.

In Round 1, the Sharks won 5-3 over Trenton, 8-3 over the Novi Sabrecats and 10-2 over the Suburban Warriors.

In the win-or-go-home Round 2, Plymouth rolled to a 6-0 victory over Lakeland and a 6-3 triumph over the Novi

Panthers.

That set up the ultimate match-up against the Cougars that ended with smiles and a trophy.

Members of the Sharks, based out of Plymouth Cultural Center and part of the Plymouth Canton Hockey Association, include Owen Curran, Lucas Fournier, Brendan Abbruzzese, Charlie Teed, Ethan James, Addison Hoover, Joshua Granowicz, Brady Peregord, Thomas Redmond,

Ben Minehart, Riley Demeester, Alex Gotsis, Sam Walsh, Liam Goff and Grant Miller. All are ages 9-10.

Success in the LCAHL playoffs followed a Chevel-dae Division regular season championship.

The squad got off to a slow start, however, going 1-9-2 to open the season. The team turned things around thanks to hard work and a spirit to never give up and clinched the division crown.

Then came the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association playoffs in late January at PCC, with the team going 1-2 and being knocked out in the first round.

That setback did not linger, as demonstrated by the team's subsequent championship in the LCAHL playoffs.

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Birchler Brothers fight famine with annual event

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The Birchlers — five brothers and graduates of Brother Rice High School — will bring a new twist to their annual concert for hunger relief next month in Plymouth.

For the first time in nine years, Jammin' to End Famine will include a new band with no Birchler family ties. The Higbros and TJ will feature James Higdon, an engineering teacher at Brother Rice, on bass, his brother and professional guitarist, Paco Higdon, and drummer TJ Hyland.

"Although not a Birchler in name, we do consider him a 'brother' as he teaches at our alma mater," said Tom Birchler of Livonia, who performs in the band The Paisley Fog with his brothers Keith and Dave.

Birchler hopes the new band will expand Jammin's audience, drawing students, their families and friends from Brother Rice in Bloomfield Hills. For the past three years, the school has partnered with the Birchlers on a portion of the annual event. The concert raises funds to buy the components of nutritious rice-soy casseroles that are distributed to hungry families locally and overseas by Oak Park-based Kids Against Hunger Coalition. Brother Rice students parcel the ingredients into individual packages during a community service day in the fall.

"It's a good service project to do. They love us coming in," Birchler said. "But I've never been able to get the Brother Rice community to come to the (concert) fundraiser.

He hopes Higdon's band will make a difference.

Higdon, who worked alongside his students at the packaging event last year, said Higbros and TJ will perform a mix of original tunes and cover songs at the concert.

"We're all over the place, from The Killers to Motorhead to Red Hot Chili Peppers," he said.

Pizza and music

Jammin' to End Famine 2016 starts at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 9, at the Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks Lodge, 41700 Ann Arbor Road. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students, available at the door or by contacting Tom Birchler at tombirchler1@gmail.com or by calling 248-722-1820.

Free pizza, salad and a cash bar will fuel visitors as they dance the night away. Jim Birchler of Ann Arbor will emcee. The Grunyons, an a cappella vocal jazz group that includes John Birchler of Plymouth, will open the show.

"We do a lot of different things, from standards from the jazz age to more current music. We'll have a few new things ready for Jammin'," John Birchler said.

The Paisley Fog, a rock band that focuses on tunes from the 1960s, may surprise



The Paisley Fog performs at Jammin' to End Famine 2015. The band will be back for this year's event on April 9, in Plymouth.



Boxes of food are loaded into the Kids Against Hunger Coalition trailer at Brother Rice High School.



An assembly line of students measures and packages meal components.



John Birchler (left) of Plymouth and Michael Burwell of Milford, the executive director of Kids Against Hunger Coalition, pitch in at the Brother Rice packaging event.

concert-going fans of National Public Radio.

"We may pull out an original my brother Keith wrote. He's a big fan of NPR reporter Joanna Kakissis. He wrote a love song to her," Tom Birchler noted. "Kiss Kisses Joanna."

Birchler's sons, Mark Warren and Mike Birchler, both of Livonia, will combine their efforts into a single band this year called Close Enough, playing classic 1980s-90s rock and funk.

Jammin' to End Famine has raised approximately \$39,000 over eight years and packaged thousands of meals for Kids Against Hunger Coalition.

"We're really hoping to take it to the next level. It is unlimited what we can do. We have an unlimited workforce," Birchler said.

Leaving a legacy

The brothers plan to dedicate the show to Kids Against Hunger Coalition founder and CEO Donald Burwell, a Southfield resident who died this week.

Mike Burwell of Milford, who has been executive director of the organization since 2008, said his father had Ph.D. degrees in education and theology, and a passion for helping others use their talents and improve their lives.

"My dad was a true servant. He was a good communicator and manager of people. And I think he prayed and believed in what God was telling him to the point that it was the law," Burwell said. "One of the reasons my dad started doing Kids Against Hunger Coalition was a passage in Matthew 25."

A portion of the Bible pas-

sage reads: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you came to visit me ... whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters, you did for me."

"The is what he based his whole Kids Against Hunger Coalition ministry on," Burwell said, adding that his father often read the Scripture at the start of packaging events in churches.

Burwell said his father's vision was to extend packaging events to all school districts in Michigan. The Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth nudged him toward his goal when it donated a truck and trailer in 2005, allowing the organization to go

mobile.

"Instead of people having to pack up and bring a bus load of kids to a warehouse, we're able to go into the community where people live. Most schools and churches have a room to accommodate our equipment," he said, adding "it's easy for people to go somewhere they know and package meals and feel good about themselves."

Since the Kiwanis Club's initial donation, the organization has added eight trailers and five trucks, enabling it to package at several venues in one day.

"From 1998 to 2004 my dad packaged 150,000 meals. From 2004 to the present, 18 million."

For more about Burwell's organization, visit kidsagainsthungercoalition.com.

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Girls' night out funds ShapeDown scholarships in Canton

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Giving Hope, Women's Giving Circle will make it easier for local families to afford weight management classes offered by St. Joseph Mercy Health System this summer.

"Our mission at Giving Hope is to support women and children of our community. Through Giving Hope we can affect change in our community," said Nancy Eggenberger, a member of the planning committee for the fund's upcoming annual signature event. "We've given out all kinds of grants."

Money raised at "Giving Our All for Family, Fun and Fitness" on Wednesday, April 13, will fund scholarships for St. Joseph Mercy Health System's ShapeDown classes in Canton.

The "girls' night out" event runs from 6:30-9 p.m. at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center, 8768 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. It will include food, a cash bar, shopping, fashions and a raffle of items such as spa certificates, a 24-inch flat-screen television, wine parties and more. Cost is \$35. Pre-registration is required. Visit cantonfoundation.org.

Free orientation sessions for ShapeDown are set for

6:30 p.m. May 5, June 2 and June 21, at St. Joe's Canton Health Building, 1600 S. Canton Center Road. Classes will run from 6:15-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 12-Aug. 30. Cost is \$400 for the eight-week series.

"We bill insurance and we always have scholarships," said Beth Darnell, ShapeDown coordinator. The Giving Hope contribution will put the program within reach of more local families.

Food, exercise, behavior

Darnell said St. Joseph Mercy Health System has offered the course for 23 years, mostly in Ann Arbor. It expanded the program to Livingston County two years ago and wrapped up a pilot program in Canton last week.

"It's a three-prong program ... nutrition, exercise and behavioral change," she said. "We do hands-on cooking with the children and the kids love that. We find that so many more kids taste what they make themselves. A hallmark of the program is active participation."

"The same is true of exercise. We don't have the kids do anything we wouldn't ask the parents to do. We do a lot of fun, family activities. It's great to see parents doing the hula hoop or running down the



Sabrina and Laurie Lanker took the ShapeDown weight management course. Sabrina, 16, now volunteers for the classes and Laurie says she and her daughter are closer than ever.

hallway."

The classes take a family approach to lifestyle changes and weight management. Parents attend sessions with their children, ages 6-18 and learn to switch from a "food police" role to a coaching role, allowing their children to take more responsibility for making good health decisions. While youngsters build their self-esteem, parents learn positive role modeling techniques.

"We're working with kids to have habits and it's lifestyle change, not putting a child on a diet."

Darnell said a research study three years ago showed that 70 percent of youngsters involved in the program reduced their body mass index (BMI) over 10 weeks.

Families are encouraged to read food labels, increase fruits and vegetables, remove junk food from their home. They're taught how to make lifestyle adjustments if they're taking medications that cause weight gain.

Family bond

"I think part of the success of the program is that the

child and parents decide to do this together as a family," Darnell said. "They are pulling together and that means the family's whole culture can change at home."

Laurie Lanker of Pinckney said she and her daughter, Sabrina, 16, are "closer than ever" after taking the course.

"We ran a 5K together. We went for a hike on Mother's Day instead of going out to eat. We learned how to celebrate without food, and get away from food being a reward," Lanker said.

Sabrina enjoyed the program so much, she returned to volunteer as a teen mentor.

"I like working with the program teachers. They're fun," Sabrina said. "I help with the physical activity, cooking lessons and talk to the kids about my experience. I like working with kids because my dream is to be a special education teacher. I wanted to be here for the kids because I struggled with being healthy growing up and I want them to be as healthy as they can be."

For more about the ShapeDown program, visit stjoesan-narbor.org/shapedown.

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Birmingham resident builds screech owl nesting boxes

Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

The Eastern Screech Owls of Southeast Michigan have Oz Forrester to thank for their new homes along the Rouge River.

The Birmingham resident built some owl nesting boxes and located them along a chip trail that runs next to the river. He also refurbished some of the older nesting boxes along the trail that were starting to look a bit worn down.

"I've volunteered with Friends of the Rouge for a long time and I love to hike these trails," Forrester said. "This is just my way of helping out. I think we now have seven boxes along the trail."

The owls only weigh a few ounces and will normally seek an old dead tree to turn into a habitat. They'll find a suitable hole in the tree and make a home.

"But we're so tidy today that nobody leaves dead trees around," Forrester said.

A pair of DPS workers from the city of Birmingham helped install the nesting boxes. They're about 12-15 feet off the ground.

Forrester said he knows the boxes work because he installed one in his backyard, only to discover five little screech owls right as they were about to leave the nest.

"I had an extra one and I put it in a tree in our backyard and saw five owls as they fledged one night," he said. "So we know they're around."

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Oz Forrester, left, built new homes along the Rouge River for the Eastern Screech Owl.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Women to Work offers job searching assistance

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

The Women to Work program of Southfield-based JVS helps women re-enter or enter the workforce.

"This is a program that's intended for women who have not worked substantially recently," said Judy Richmond, JVS Women to Work coordinator. The program, also open to men, is offered free of charge.

An informational meeting will be held 9-11 a.m. Tuesday, April 26, at the JVS offices, 29699 Southfield Road in Southfield. Those who plan to attend should call Richmond at 248-233-4232 to register in advance.

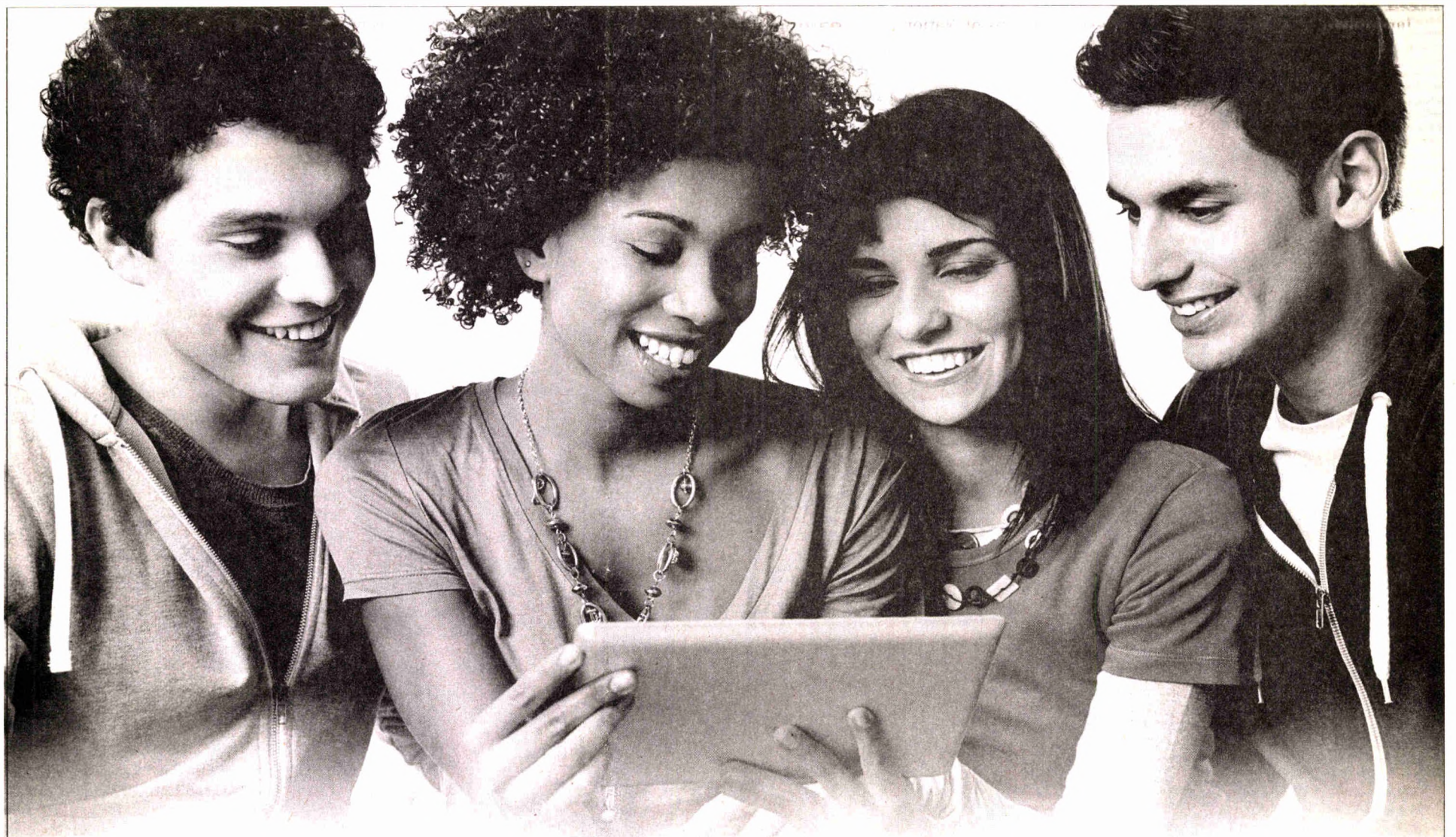
Women to Work offers help with resumes, job interviewing, networking, stress management, social media and job search strategies.

"The program is popular because people find success as a result of attending," said Richmond, noting they also keep their employment.

The program's current session is set to begin Tuesday, May 3, at the JVS Southfield office. It will continue to meet two mornings a week 9 a.m. to noon through Wednesday, June 1.

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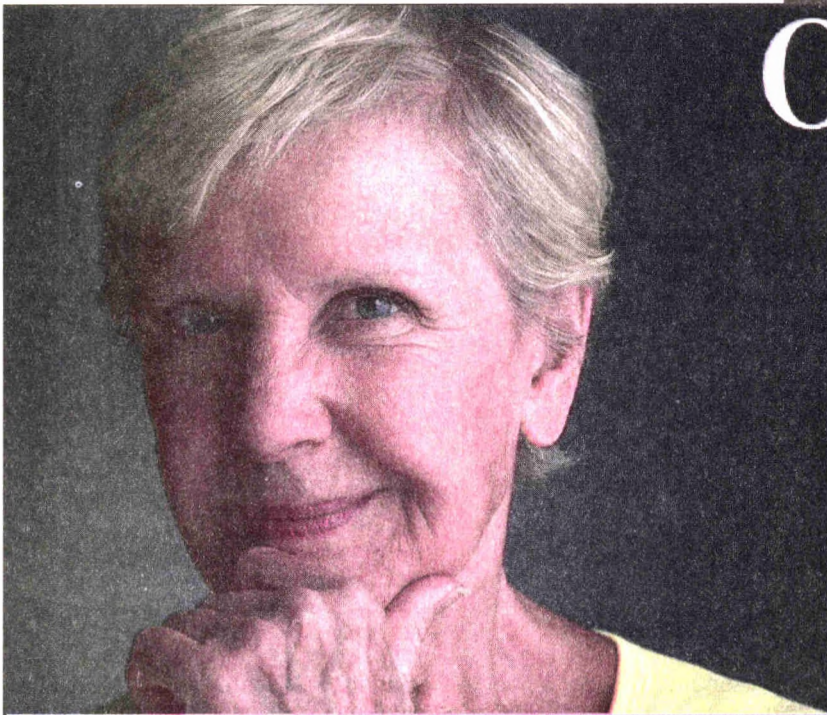
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A late career change may be worth the risk

BY MARY LORENZ
CAREERBUILDER

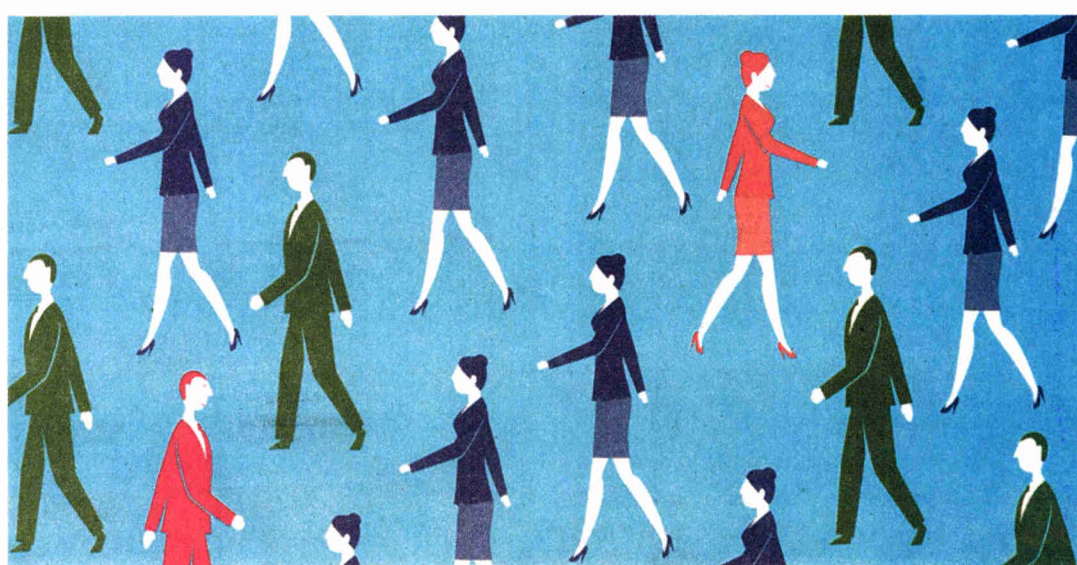
Ever dreamed of leaving it all behind to open a bed-and-breakfast in Vermont? Got a hunch you'd make one heck of a Hollywood screenwriter? Many of us fantasize about quitting our jobs to pursue passion projects, but the idea of starting from scratch in a completely new career can be terrifying — particularly if you have already been in the workforce for years.

Changing careers later in life, however, is not uncommon. And as many people can attest, the risks of actually going for something you have always dreamed about are well worth the rewards.

Whether you've lost that loving feeling for your current job or just can't shake the idea that there's something else out there for you, it's never too late to change careers. Consider these tips before you do.

Find your motivation.

Before you decide to change careers, ask yourself what is motivating your decision. "When job seekers are just running away from a bad career or work situation without understanding their motivation for the next role, they not only set themselves up for being in the same situation in



THINKSTOCK

a few years, but their lack of enthusiasm will come through in the interview process," says Leila Hock, a career strategy coach and founder of Alignment Coaching.

Be flexible.

"Many employers are reticent to hire 'older workers' — and particularly those who do not have the experience in their particular field — for a full-time job," says Art Koff, founder of RetiredBrains, an information resource for seniors. He suggests seeking work on a project basis, part time or seasonally. Starting small is a good way to get in the door and gain experience while still leaving time to enjoy the benefits of retirement.

Do your homework.

The only way to truly know if a career change is right for you is to actually do it. But the next best thing is talking to those who have gone before you. Tap into your personal and professional contacts to "network like crazy," says Lynne Sarikas, director of the Graduate Career Center at Northeastern University in Boston. "This is a great way to learn how others have made similar career transitions and to learn about the various roles in your desired field and the key skills (necessary) for success."

Recognize your deal-breakers.

Switching careers often

means making compromises. Ask yourself what you are willing to give up to make your dreams possible, advises Whitney Johnson, author of "Disrupt Yourself: Putting the Power of Disruptive Innovation to Work." For example, are you willing to work part time or on a contract or freelance basis? Are you willing to start from the bottom? Can you afford to take a pay cut? Are you willing to take classes to gain necessary skills? "Identify where you want on terms that would work for you," Johnson says.

Don't sell yourself short.

Switching to a career in a field in which you have little to no experience can be tough,

and it's easy to get discouraged. But as someone new to the field, you have a lot to offer that is unique, so use that to your advantage.

"Focus on your transferrable skills," Sarikas says. "Don't focus on the part of the job description you haven't done before. ... Focus on your passion for the work and the skills and experience you bring to the table. Sell the hiring manager on the unique strengths and perspectives you bring to the position."

Concentrate on the rewards, not the risks.

"When you are later in your career, it can be scary to try to make a change and start over again," Hock says. Instead of focusing on what you might lose, concentrate on everything you will gain, from increased satisfaction to new experiences. Most importantly, remember that you've already proven you have what it takes to succeed in one career. "Focus on what has helped you succeed thus far and how that will propel you in your next career," she says.

Mary Lorenz 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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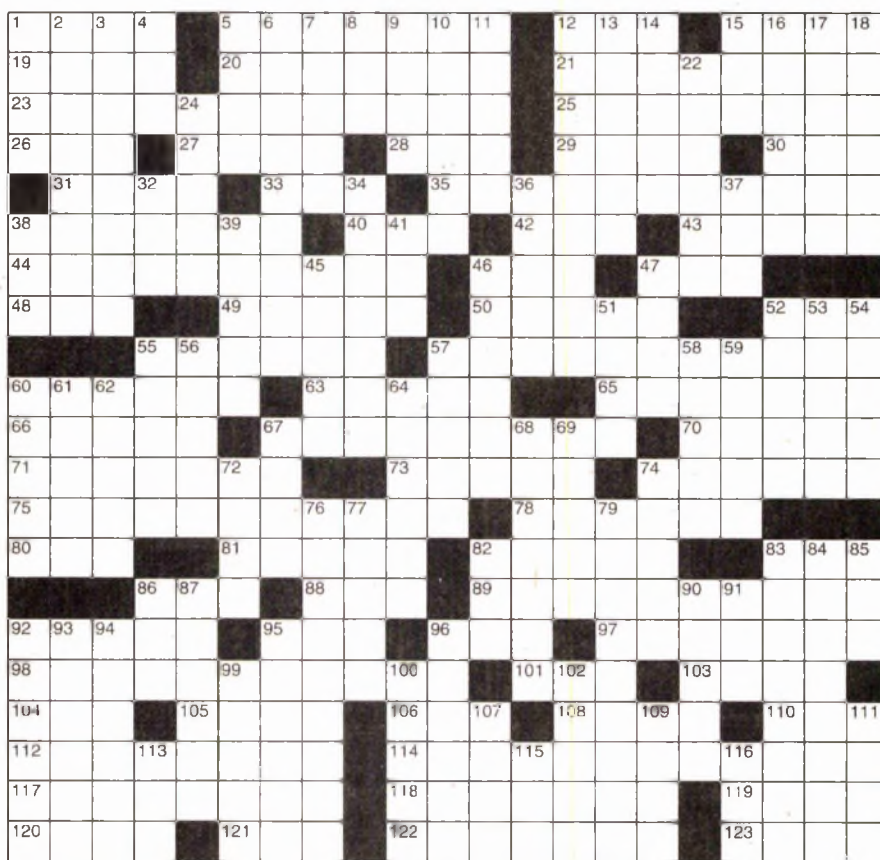
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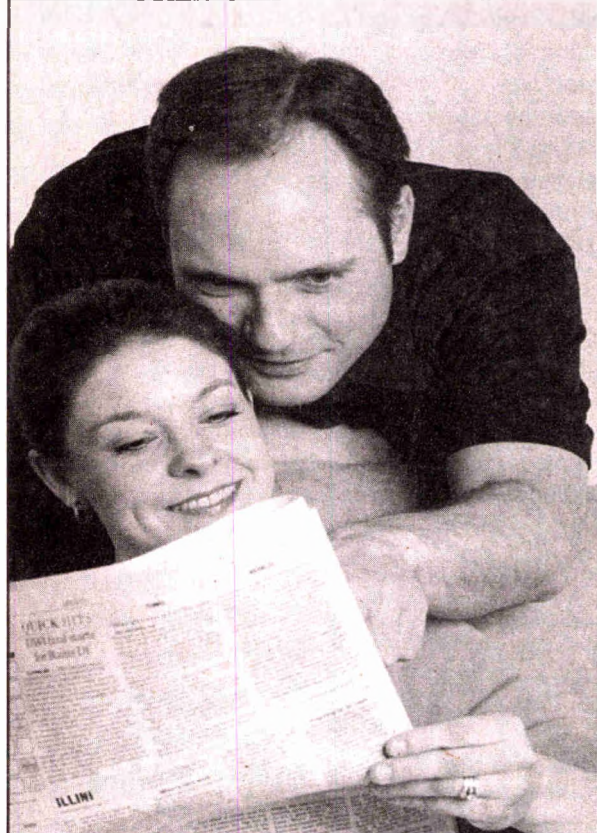
SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| ACROSS | 1 Merchandise taken back, briefly | 5 London or Manhattan area | 12 Divs. of dollars | 15 Leaf support | 19 Mimicry pro | 20 Angle units | 21 Girls' night out, perhaps | 23 Small-scale golf variety | 25 Massive | 26 Fr. holy woman | 27 Pop artist | 28 Utter fibs | 29 To be, in Quebec | 30 Wedding chapel vow | 31 Like — of sunshine | 33 Draft lottery org. | 35 Insult-hurling sort | 38 Conversed with | 40 Settle a debt | 42 The, in Quebec | 43 Stop | 44 Food cart's counterpart on a ranch | 46 Bummed out | 47 "I get it!" | 48 FDR's follower | 49 Grill master's cover-up | 50 Opera parts | 52 Actor Jack of "Barney Miller" | 55 Wichita resident | 57 Execute a long slap | 60 Snooping (about) | 63 Juan or Eva of Argentina | 65 Exact copy | 66 Backed — corner | 67 Phrase with synonyms starting this puzzle's eight longest | 70 Indonesian skewered meat dish | 71 Less quiet | 73 Analyze the makeup of | 74 Clan emblems | 75 Expert witnesses' unproven theories. | 78 Kia minivan | 80 Noah's craft | 81 "L'shanah —!" (Hebrew "Happy holidays!") | 82 Shoulder lift | 83 Bee chaser? | 86 Bygone Olds | 88 Eden woman | 89 Beanbag tic-tac-toe game | 92 Stand by for | 95 Medical scan, briefly | 96 — Puf (body sponge) | 97 "Billy Budd" star Stamp | 98 Worker in the trenches? | 101 Antitrust org. | 103 Old Cuzco native | 104 Portuguese for "year" | 105 Tony winner | 106 Plant pouch | 108 "Woe is me!" | 110 Pollution-fighting org. | 112 Aily of Rodan | 114 Bit from a shredder | 117 Charged | 118 Trip for nature lovers | 119 — Alt-De! | 120 Kiln used for drying hops | 121 Modern art? | 122 "Ain't gonna happen" | 123 Former U.S. gas brand | DOWN | 1 Smart blows | 2 Tombstone inscriptions | 3 Dwindle | 4 Tolkien monster | 5 Ocean Spray prefix | 6 Dial, Zest and Coast | 7 Arnold, Duchin and Merckx | 8 Rim | 9 Writer Bellow | 10 Actual thing | 11 Daisy's kin | 12 Common cudites go-with | 13 Fractions for many agents | 14 Bull's sound | 15 Sleuth | 16 Russian carriage | 17 Chopin's 27 | 18 Southern Indian city | 22 Moralize | 24 Actress from a pulpit | 32 Dog show gp. | 34 Sound-swapping reverend | 36 Eye-opener? | 37 Grazing area | 38 Educ. inst. | 39 Nashville nasality | 41 The Atlantic's Cape — | 45 Pictorial plot | 46 Sweatboxes | 47 Tennis pro | 48 Arthur | 51 Give it — | 52 Set of rooms | 53 William of — ("razor" philosopher) | 54 Green-lights | 55 Newsstand | 56 Novelist Nin | 57 Seek water with a divining rod | 58 Printer brand | 59 "Oro y —" | 60 Martial-arts mercenary | 61 "God is — side" | 62 Smell nasty | 64 "Law & Order" actor | 67 Common jazz combo | 68 Rinse | 69 Australia's — Rock | 72 Prefix for "outer" | 74 Old Roman wraps | 76 Marshy tract of land | 77 What GPS aids in: Abbr. | 79 Nebula, in part | 82 Bassist Sutcliffe | 83 Notions | 84 Performers like Houdini | 85 Suffix with journal | 86 Rock's Ocasek | 87 Cultural | 90 Brittle | 91 Stimpys' cartoon bud | 92 Slow, to Solti | 93 Flyder of film | 94 In conflict | 95 "Lite" beer | 96 Lorraine of "The Sopranos" | 99 D. in Greece | 100 Ruhr hub | 102 Knock at gently | 107 Nile critter | 109 Retro hairdo | 111 Guthrie with a guitar | 113 Facial flaw | 115 — distance | 116 Star pitcher |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------|--|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---|----------------|-----------------|---|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|



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

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

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

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D M C O V E R L O A D T G S I L V L V K
F E T V C B A M N F R B P K T B E B G C
E I H K F I A O A A S O I R T N N U A F
Y L H Y M I R C N L I L A P D E L M A Y
A H B E D H L S U B N F L O N D F I S K
I I N A P R P T F T I U C E N N L N F M
A A R E E L A Y E L E R T U C U N L T T
S R N E A M E T T R I S O R R O U L S H
N F T N T N R R I N E S U E I Y U V A
B I T E D C A E O O A D X S D T O G Y N
G R A I R T A L P R N V U C M N I T S T
N E K P I I O B T L N F A R E Y L O N D I
E M X O I G E L E E F T D V I E I O N B
G A N U I M U S M I H E A D Y N G H G O
I R U S L M T O D E R R B L X Y E E I D
T K T O M F D U T P T D I A L Y S I S O I
N E H R P A S E R R I X V V E U S S I T E S
A R G A A S R R I X V V E U S S I T E S
O C H R O N I C U R O N O D V L A N E R

WORDS

- ABDOMEN
- ACUTE
- ALBUMIN
- ANEMIA
- ANTIBODIES
- ANTIGEN
- ARTERIES
- BACTERIA
- BIOPSY
- CATHETER
- CELLS
- CHRONIC
- DEHYDRATION
- DIALYSIS
- DIFFUSION
- DONOR
- ENDOCRINOLOGIST
- FATIGUE
- FILTER
- FLUID
- INTRAVENOUS
- KIDNEY
- MALNUTRITION
- MARKER
- NEPHRON
- NEPHRON
- OVERLOAD
- PAIN
- PERMEABLE
- RECIPIENT
- REFLUX
- RENAL
- TISSUE
- TRANSPLANT
- ULTRAFILTRATION
- ULTRASOUND
- URINE

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

| | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <p>Crossword Answers</p> <p>REPO APER PITCHANDPUT STEELE ARAY SPOKETT CHUCKWAGON HST KANSAN NOSING INTOAT NOUISIER JUNKSCIENCE ARK AWAIT DITCH ANO GODZILLA INDICTED OAST</p> | <p>Word Search</p> <p>CHELSEA RADIAN ANDPUT ANDY SIS WAGON APRON KANSAN PERON THROWAWAY ASSAY SCIENCE TAVAH REO WALL TCH NELLS ZILLA CTED AST</p> | <p>CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE</p> |
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Car Report

As New Serial One Campaign Demonstrates, Honda May Be Industry's Most Social Media-Savvy Brand



By Dale Buss

Honda is in the midst of launching one of its sleekest-styled and most interesting of its newest vehicles, the coupe version of the Honda Civic. But it's also starting a new social-media campaign that goes way back to the very beginnings of the brand's presence in the U.S. market.

Now Honda is following the restoration of Serial One, the initial version of the N600



which was the very first Honda that was sold in America, in 1969. Consumers can follow the progress of the restoration with weekly updates as N600 mechanic Tim Mings brings the vehicle back to life.

It's just 122 inches long and could actually fit between the wheels of some full-size vehicles

in the U.S., with an alloy engine that could reach only 81 mph -- but it was very fuel-efficient.

"We're so proud to bring the story of Honda's roots in the US to life through the restoration of this vehicle," Alicia Jones, social-media manager for American Honda, said in a release. It "really embodies the Honda Spirit."

Mings owns an N600 and has restored more than 1,000. Serial One had collected dust in a "junk pile" for almost 50 years, Honda said, but a "twist of fate" has helped bring it alive in this series.

Jones talked with me about Serial One and Honda's social-media strategy:

Of all the things that you could have done to boost the brand socially at this point, why Serial One?

Alicia Jones: We've been wanting to bring this to light for almost two years. We found the right time and the right moment and felt like it was a great opportunity to tell another Honda "Power of Dreams" [the current marketing campaign] story because there is such a tight connection between Tim's story and the car and the brand.

Compare and contrast this effort to other parts of the "Power

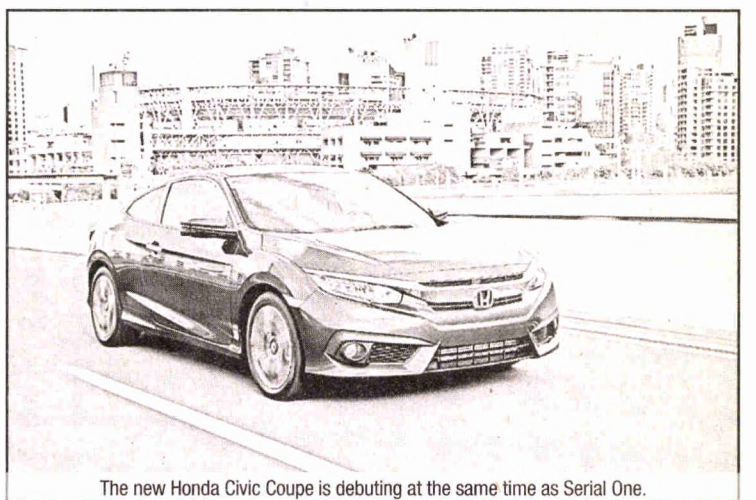
of Dreams" campaign, like that award-winning, two-minute TV ad, "Paper," which uses paper art to tell the history of Honda.

Jones: This gives us the opportunity to have content that lives for a long period of time, in iterative stages. Restoring a car takes quite a while and we've been capturing content along the way and will be showing it for 34 weeks via our social channels. So this is a social media-led campaign, and our intention is to tell the longer, emotionally driven, personal story of Tim and his vehicle, through all these different pieces of content we're going to create through a video series, GIFs and a Serial One site.

It gives us an opportunity to drive engagement. There are a lot of passionate people who love the brand, and this is an opportunity to instill that passion.

Of all auto brands, you're definitely a leader in the variety and depth of social-media marketing that you do. Are you trying to make it a differentiator for Honda?

Jones: It's all very strategically driven; it's definitely not by accident. We work really hard to create social content on an ongoing basis that is primarily driving engagement and wanting



The new Honda Civic Coupe is debuting at the same time as Serial One.

people to comment and share. That's ongoing. But then we have these greater opportunities and we seek out these greater storytelling opportunities, that's why we seem to do things differently.

Every year, we're looking for a great story-telling-based opportunity to talk about the brand. It's a hard thing to try to communicate brand meaning, or a deeper meaning to a brand, in a 30-second spot. But this story with the personal connection that Tim has is a hook that puts people in a more emotional place with the brand.

Is this a luxury given that you've got some important immediate needs, like ramping up Civic?

Jones: We are doing social-

media support for Civic. This [N600 campaign] is intended to support the brand as a whole. It gets to the roots of what social is all about -- our opportunity to have a direct, one-to-one relationship with customers instead of relying on them to take their Honda into a service bay.

What do you think is Honda's greatest overall need right now: to reflect on the brand or to promote some of your great new products like Civic and Ridgeline?

Jones: New product goes hand in hand with what people think about the brand. But we're in a great place with lots of fabulous new vehicles being released right now, and we've also had these great storytelling opportunities in social. You can't separate them.

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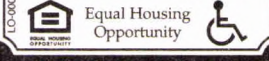
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