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PLYMOUTH
OBSERVER

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Friendship Station changes cause tension

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

The Plymouth community's senior citizen center is experiencing what many are calling growing pains as officials add programming and work to attract more participants.
The changes have upset members of Plymouth Township Seniors, a club

that's been using the township-owned Friendship Station, on Schoolcraft Road, for many years for card and mahjong games. Some members say they've felt displaced and disrespected by the moves.
But the intent was to bring in more seniors, not exclude anyone, officials said Friday during a senior coffee hosted by the Plymouth Community Council

on Aging.
"The whole goal of what we were working on is to expand senior programming and to enrich the lives of seniors in our community," township Supervisor Shannon Price told about 60 people during the event at the Friendship Station. "It was never to push anyone out. Everyone's welcome."
"No one's getting kicked out," said

Bobbie Pummill, the PCCA director.
Pummill said she's increased programming — yoga, knitting and crocheting, bingo, a weekly game day, line-dancing and other events have been added — in response to demand from area seniors, who for years have asked her, "Why can't we use that build-"
See SENIORS, Page A2

CUTTING EDGE



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

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

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

"Too many cooks in the kitchen spoils the broth" isn't a proverb the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park competitive culinary team would necessarily embrace. For this group, every chef has a job, a way to do their job and all within a strict time period. The end result must be excellence.
"For every second you're late, you lose a point!" said Diana Woodward, instructor/coach of the P-CEP Hospitality and Culinary Arts program.
And Woodward doesn't want excuses from the culinary team that spent this weekend in Lansing at the Michigan ProStart® Competition. Hosted by the Michigan Restaurant Association, the competition is a two-day event with culinary, management/entrepreneurship, ServSafe knowledge bowl and nutrition/marketing components.
The culinary team — Taarika Singhal, Emma Stephens, Zachary Wolfiss, Patrick McKillen and alternate Cody Bates — have been practicing, practicing and then practicing again. These are the students who prepare meals for the Rock Cafe at Salem High School.
"Everything we do is broken down to the minute," said Woodward, who has had her teams at the competition since 2002.
And she's not kidding. A recent practice, which literally simulated the actu-



Zachary Wolfiss sears beef short ribs before covering and locking the pressure cooker. **BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

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

meal without refrigeration, water or electricity. The team, however, is provided two camp stoves to complete its masterpiece.
Think it can't be done? Learn
See CULINARY, Page A11

Township attorney seeks county judge post

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

A Plymouth Township attorney who specializes in family law is running for an open seat on the Wayne County Circuit Court bench.
Michelle Letourneau-McAvoy, currently a Friend of the Court referee in the family division who deals with issues raised in divorce cases, such as child custody, child support and parenting time, is seeking a six-year court term.
Letourneau-McAvoy grew up in Livonia and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan-Dearborn and a law degree from Wayne State University.
She said she enjoys working with families and helping them solve sensitive domestic issues. As a judge, Letourneau-McAvoy said, she would have the ability to have even more of a positive impact on families.
"When you're sitting ... either as a referee or a judge, you're impartial, you're taking both sides in, you're evaluating the whole case — truly in the best interests of the children," she said Tuesday.
If elected judge, there would be no guarantee Letourneau-McAvoy would be assigned to the court's family division, but family law has been her specialty for more than a decade. She began focusing on family law in 2004 and has been a Friend of the Court referee for five years.
"Family law kind of found me," she said. "I didn't know I was going to like it until I became involved in it." She also has experience in civil litigation, criminal cases and probate matters.
An attorney since 1999, Letourneau-McAvoy worked as a legal secretary while in college and was a student attorney for the Legal Aid and Defender Association while in law school, representing low-income clients in civil cases such as debt collections and evictions. After earning her law degree, she remained on the staff at Legal Aid for about two years.
Letourneau-McAvoy's husband, Christopher McAvoy, is also an attorney. He joined her practice in 2006 and took it over when she was appointed a court referee. They have two children.
Letourneau said she's working on ways to make the court more efficient and accessible for people who want to have their day in court but may be intimidated by the system, can't afford an attorney or can't afford time away from work for multiple court appear-



Letourneau-McAvoy

See JUDGE, Page A2

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JUDGE

Continued from Page A1

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

"I understand that families are not one-size-fits-all and the court really does have a duty to listen to each family," she said. Letourneau-McAvoy has been a volunteer at First Step, the resource for victims of domestic abuse, and was a member of the Student Transition Advisory Committee in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district at a time district officials decided to close two elementary schools.

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Art Van to build large store on Ford Road

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Art Van Furniture is planning to build a two-story, 80,000-square-foot store in Canton — the biggest project of its kind in 13 years in Michigan, a company official confirmed. It marks the first time Art Van has decided to build a store "from the ground up" since the Michigan-based company opened in Chesterfield Township in 2003, said Diane Charles, vice president of corporate commu-

nications. Art Van plans to build the new store along Canton's bustling Ford Road business corridor, just west of Haggerty and across from IKEA. "Our research shows that it's a great location," Charles said. The site is just west of the new Black Rock restaurant. Canton Community Planner Jeff Goulet said the project would involve demolishing a medical office building on Ford Road and, behind that, a vacant two-story site that once housed

businesses such as a racquetball club. Art Van hopes to begin construction this year and possibly open in spring of next year, Charles said. The company still has to formally submit the project, including a site plan, for approval by Canton Township officials. "I think it's great news," township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said. "We're excited to have them build a beautiful facility in the community." Charles said Art Van

doesn't yet have drawings to show what the Canton store will look like. She said it will be different from existing two-story sites in Michigan and more like newer stores in the Chicago area. Art Van's project comes as the Ford-Haggerty area has witnessed a spike in redevelopment, including Black Rock and new, small retail centers. Another six-story center, the Shops of Canton, is coming to the site of what is now the Zax Auto Wash.

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SENIORS

Continued from Page A1

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

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

"Nothing of ours was ever to stay and I was told that personally," Lu Havala said at the meeting. "It was like, 'Here's your stuff. Get out of here.'" "It's the little things that have been said to our members," said Jerry



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

Coll, a former president of the Plymouth Township Seniors. Coll later said the problem boiled down to a lack of respect for the club and took issue with those who characterized the club as an exclusive group that was shutting other seniors from the Friendship Station. Coll, who represented the club on a transition committee, said members were told their Monday and Wednesday card games would have to start at 2:30 p.m. instead of the usual 1 p.m. in order to allow for more programming at the Friendship Station (Price says the proposed time was 2 p.m.). That starting time, Coll said, would mean card-players would

be driving home in the dark during winter months, which some club members wanted to avoid. The card games last about two-and-a-half hours, he said. Card-players have been allowed to continue the 1 p.m. games through March and a 1:30 p.m. time has been proposed as a compromise, Price said. Coll said a 1:30 p.m. start year-round would be acceptable to club members. "Transition's been tough" Price agreed communication about the changes had been an issue and that people had spread misinformation, but asked the seniors to work together.

"The transition's been a little tough, but what we're doing is good," he told the crowd. Pummill said she'd like to bring more regular programming to the Friendship Station, plus occasional informational and educational events, like a Medicare sign-up day, a senior nutrition program and a talk from an expert on how to guard against scams that target seniors. Several seniors called for unity and putting hurt feelings aside. "Is this going to be a Friendship Station or a fighting station?" said Mary Lou Ferrara, a township resident since 1998 who said she attends senior activities in Livonia and Northville. Pam Brady, who said she has joined Plymouth Township Seniors for mahjong games for about the last four years, said she was sympathetic to what Pummill and Price were trying to accomplish. "It's all positive. We have growing pains," she said after the meeting. "Change is difficult for many people and adjustments have to be made."

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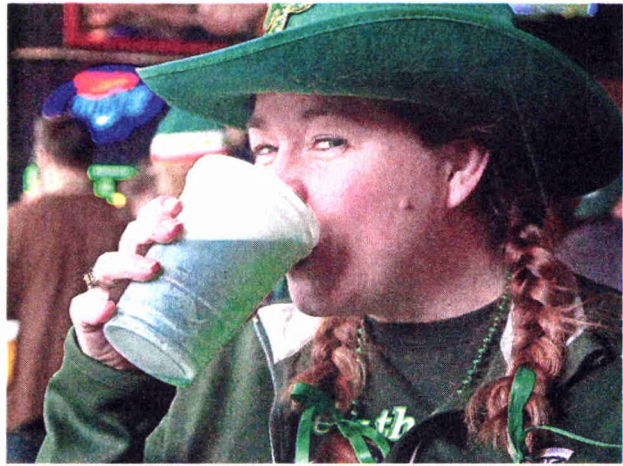
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It's green beer for Alicia Barnhart of Canton Township, celebrating St. Patrick's Day at the Penn Grill in Plymouth.

St. Patrick's Day in downtown Plymouth

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

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

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

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

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



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

Danielle Alexander
Staff Writer

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

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

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

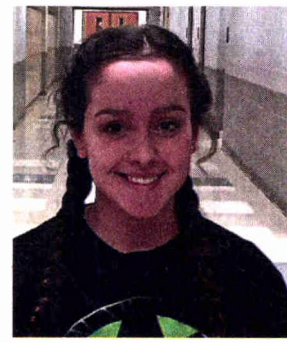
StudentCam is C-SPAN's annual national video documentary competition that encourages students to critically think about community and national issues. This year, students were asked to create a five- to seven-minute video answering the question, "What issue do you most want candidates to discuss during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

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

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



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



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



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



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

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

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

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

During the three weeks students were given to complete their videos, they learned skills in research, in-

terviewing, speaking, videotaping, storyboarding, editing and so much more.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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All Saints achieves Evergreen designation

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

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

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



All Saints students recycle.

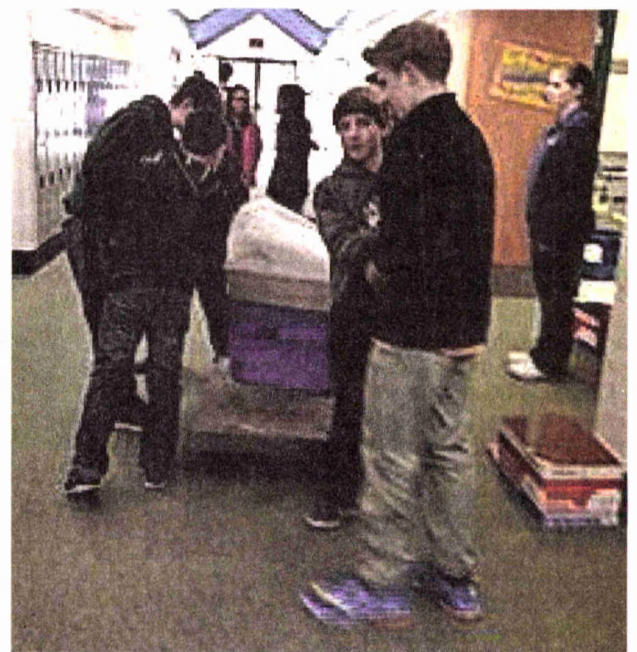
ity. This annual recognition requires school to re-apply each year.

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

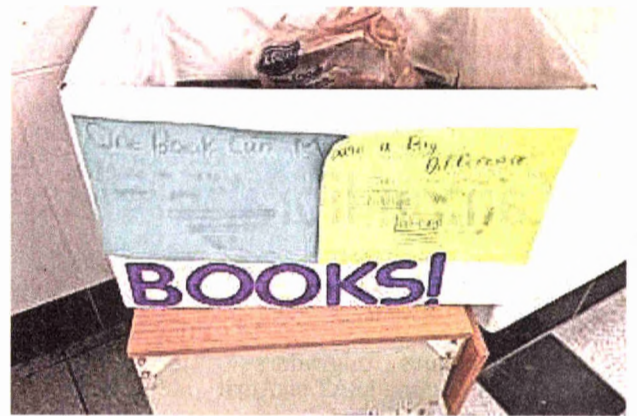
later this year.

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

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



All Saints Catholic School has earned an Evergreen designation.



Making sure nothing goes to waste, students donate books.



Author highlights charter academy's Literacy Night

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

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

celebrate their Family Literacy Night last week.

Maria Disimondy, author of six award-winning children's books, including best seller “Spaghetti In a Hot Dog Bun: Having the Courage to Be Who You Are,” was at center stage as students celebrated literacy.

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

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

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

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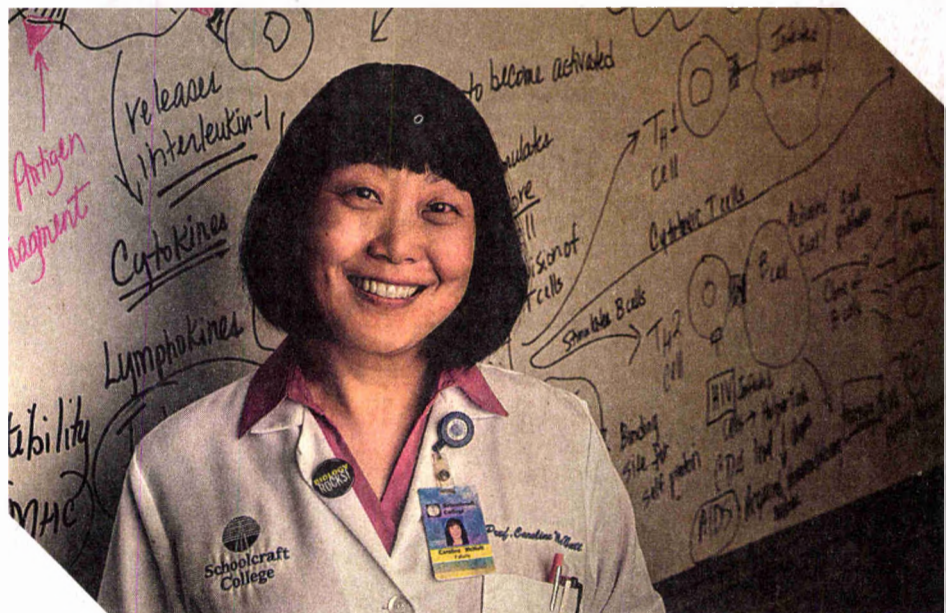
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New leader ushers in Pheasant Run golf season

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

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

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



Simpson

sional Golf Association of America.

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

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

Canton Leisure Services Director Debra Bilbrey-Honsowetz said

Pheasant Run had 37,194 rounds played in 2015 and hosted 122 outings. She said she is confident Simpson will usher in an era of success at Pheasant Run.

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

Simpson replaces

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Downtown's TranquiliTea marks 10 years in tea business

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

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

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



JULIE BROWN

TranquiliTea owner Colleen Cannon (left) helps customer Jacqueline Robinson of Plymouth Township shop Saturday, March 12.

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

» "What are Pear Picking Porky, Joker and Polly Pineapple? (lollipop flavors); and

» "What kind of instrument is a Bodhran? (a drum).

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

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

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

Their son, who works



JULIE BROWN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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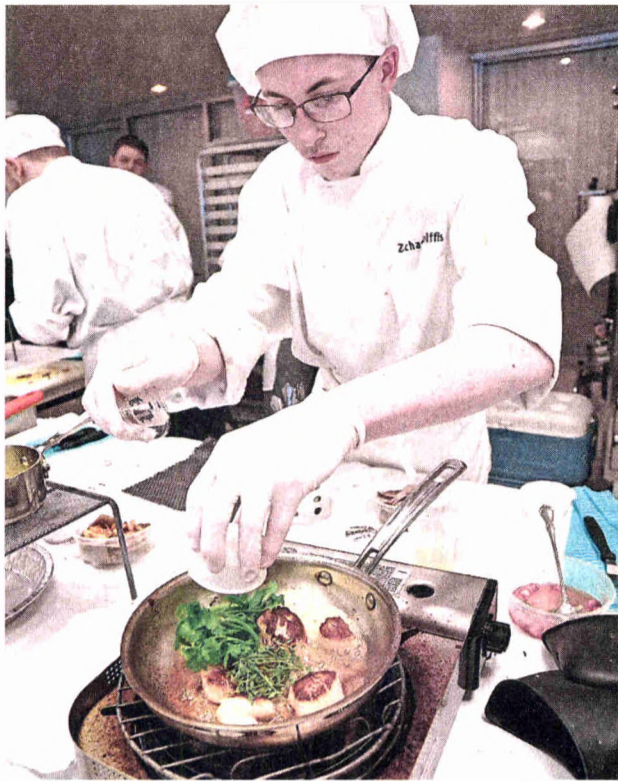
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Taarika Singhal wields a torch to brulee orange sections.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Zachary Wolfiss sears scallops.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Emma Stephens stirs one of many ingredients.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Zachary Wolfiss dices a shallot.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Searing a petite filet mignon.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Former team member Paul DiNicola is a mentor to this year's team.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Patrick McKillen whisks over an ice-filled bowl, cooling the ingredients.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Patrick McKillen, Zachary Wolfiss, Emma Stephens and Taarika Singhal listen to Diana Woodward's critique.

CULINARY

Continued from Page A1

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

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

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

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

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

Woodward, whom her students affectionately call, "Woody," makes sure her group is more than well-prepared to enter the next step in culinary education. "They have to make sacrifices in their schedules

to take this program," she said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Samuels joined the program because she wants to be a nutritionist or dietician. Lorenz is really more interested in being a chef, but the management side, he said, "looks good on a resume." On the other hand, Branham who

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

Grandke actually wants to be a food critic or chef.

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

would be," Lorenz said.

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Holy Week: Public invited to walk a labyrinth

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

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

"This is a special deal," Peltz said.

A labyrinth is a bible



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

tradition documented in the Old and New Testaments. It is a single winding path that allows participants to have a med-

itative walk to the center and back out again. It is also an ancient circular pattern found in many cultures and civilizations

dating back more than 5,000 years.

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



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

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

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

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

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

» Monday, March 21: 4-8 p.m.

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

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

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

Vote for P-C Marching Band today

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

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

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

To vote, go to



FILE PHOTO

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

www.facebook.com/ComericaCares.

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

» Bloomfield Hills High School, Bloomfield Hills

» Brighton High School, Brighton

» Divine Child High School, Dearborn

» Holly High School, Holly

» Lincoln High School, Ypsilanti

» Oak Park High School, Oak Park

» Roosevelt High School, Wyandotte

» Stoney Creek High School, Rochester Hills

» Woodhaven High School, Woodhaven/Brownstown

Plymouth resident to be honored as PE teacher

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

The SHAPE America Midwest District represents six states from West Virginia to Wisconsin. The award is given in recognition of outstanding teaching performance at the elementary school level and the ability to motivate today's youth to participate in a lifetime of physical activity.

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

awards collaboration. The National Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year award recipient will be announced Friday, April 8, at the SHAPE America Hall of Fame Banquet.

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

She meets the needs of all students by using the whole child approach to learning. This approach holds that each child comes to physical education to learn and practice a healthy lifestyle, is safe, engaged as well as supported and challenged. Her instruction encompasses elements of all five of SHAPE America's National Standards for K-12 Physical Education. Dazer likes to lead by example, serving as a role model throughout the school day. In class, she participates and demonstrates all warm-ups and motor skills. During lunch, she visits students and shows them her plate full of fruits and vegetables. After recess, she goes out on a walk with them.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Dazer

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LINDA J. LANGMESSER

Published: March 20, 2016

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

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

- Z 16-02 758 N. Holbrook
Non-Use Variance Requested
Side Yard Setbacks
Zoned: R-T, Two-Family Residential
Applicant: DeWayne White
- Z 16-03 1240 Fairground
Non-Use Variance Requested
Front Yard Setback
Zoned: R-1, Single-Family Residential
Applicant: Marie Everitt

All interested persons are invited to attend.

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

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Published: March 20, 2016

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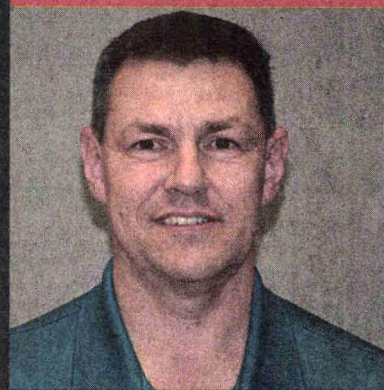
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11:40 - 12:35
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Anakah Blocton, Amanda Ellenwood, Kiernan Schaefer, Shelby Falkiewicz, Catherine Christenson (back row) Alaina Small, Delaney Ooms and Carys Blocton (front row) at the end of the day in the clothing bank room at Fort St. Presbyterian Church in Detroit.

Community Scrapbook



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

Skywarn weather spotting training coming to Livonia

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Warmer weather means severe weather when it comes to south-east Michigan.

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

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

The session, which will last no more than two hours, will train attendees to spot severe weather and relay it to local authorities quickly to reduce looming threats.

The training is done in conjunction with the National Weather Service, the city's emergency preparedness department, the Livonia Amateur Radio Club and the Wayne County Amateur Radio Operators.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Giving Hope seeks philanthropy nominations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and children.

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

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

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

Local grants over the last decade have helped:

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

» The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Clothing Bank

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

» Community Literacy Council to support tutor training.

» Michigan Philharmonic Symphony to support the Celebration Youth Orchestra

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

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

Gospel singer to aid with water drive for Flint residents

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

Praise 102.7-FM host

Randi Myles will broadcast live from the store on North Wayne and Hunter during the drive, which runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Along with bottled water, donations of toiletries will also be accepted.

Franklin, a seven-time

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

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

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



Franklin

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

SECTION: 00010 - ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Project: Northville Public Schools
Northville High School – Electrical Upgrades
Hillside Middle School – IDF Room Cooling

Owner: Northville Public Schools

Scope of Proposals: Sealed proposals from Prime Mechanical Contractors for the construction of all Trades Construction Work are requested.

Due Date and Place: A Walk-through will take place at 3:30 P.M., on March 23, 2016 at Northville High School. All contractor or subcontractor representatives shall meet at the Front Reception Desk. The purpose of the walk-through is to clarify the procedures, scope of work, and to identify any omissions or inconsistencies in Bidding Documents which may impede preparation and submission of representative competitive bids.

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

Any contractor who missed previous walk-through must contact Greg Ziegler by 4:00 P.M., on March 24, 2016 to arrange a time to visit project site. Contact Greg Ziegler at the following phone number (248) 879-5666 or email gziegler@pbanet.com.

All contractors have until 12:00 P.M. on March 28, 2016 to submit a Request For Information (RFI). All RFI's shall be directed to Greg Ziegler.

All modifications, corrections, or clarifications prior to receipt of the proposal will be made by an Addendum issued by the Owner to all bidders of record.

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

ATTN: Michael Zopf, Administration Building
Northville Public Schools
501 West Main Street
Northville, MI 48167

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

All proposals submitted shall remain firm for a period of 45 days after the date specified for receipt of proposals.

Bid Documents: Copies of the proposed Contract Documents may be obtained from: Northville Public Schools, under the Business Office, Bid Information Tab: <http://northville.k12.mi.us>
PlanWell via <http://www.e-arc.com/> (formerly dunnblue), Phone: (248) 288-5600
Buy4Michigan via <http://buy4michigan.com>

Rejection: Proposals not received by the time and date specified in this notice, will be returned to the Contractor unopened. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive irregularities and/or informalities and to make award in any manner deemed for the best interest of the School District.

Assurance: Assurance of Compliance with Federal and Michigan State Fair Employment Practices Acts: The Contractor and any of his subcontractors will agree not to discriminate against any employee of applicant for employment, to be employed in the performance of the contract, with respect to his hire, tenure, terms, conditions or privileges of employment, or any matter directly or indirectly related to employment, because of race, color, religion, national origin, age or sex.

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Teen center goes high-tech with workshop

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

By interacting with the latest technologies, these participants were

able to see the benefits of digital learning up close while developing skills to help better prepare them for future education and career success. For more information about Best Buy's community relations and outreach efforts, go to <https://corporate.bestbuy.com>. Founded in 2013,

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

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

Spotlight on Youth presents 'Enchanted Sleeping Beauty'

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

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

ed Dark Knight.

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

The final performance 2 p.m. Sunday, March 20.

Call 734-751-7057 or go to spotlightonyouthmi.com for tickets. The cost is \$15 for general seating.

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

P-CCS creates district phone application

Danielle Alexander
Staff Writer

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

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

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

stakeholders, which are the students and families," Brandon said.

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

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

For now, Brandon describes

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

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

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

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SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Lady Ocelots eager to start legacy

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

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Rey Linares isn't sweating the details too much when it comes to his new Schoolcraft College women's softball team. Yes, the Lady Ocelots went 3-6 on their recent spring training junket to the National Training Center in Florida.

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

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



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



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

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

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

Filling a need

Linares said the potential for Schoolcraft to have a successful softball program is off the charts. A lot has to do with the wealth of outstanding high school programs in metro De-

troit, from which he hand-picked many of the 14 players on the 2016 roster.

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

more. There's so many players coming out of the woodwork that want to participate.

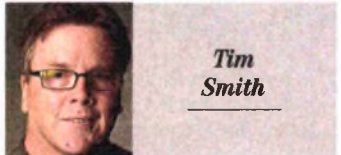
"You could actually open up a second college in the area and still have enough players."

See **SOFTBALL**, Page B4

TOURNAMENT MADNESS

DREAMS DUNKED!

Great teams and athletes need improved odds to extend postseason life



Tim Smith
Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

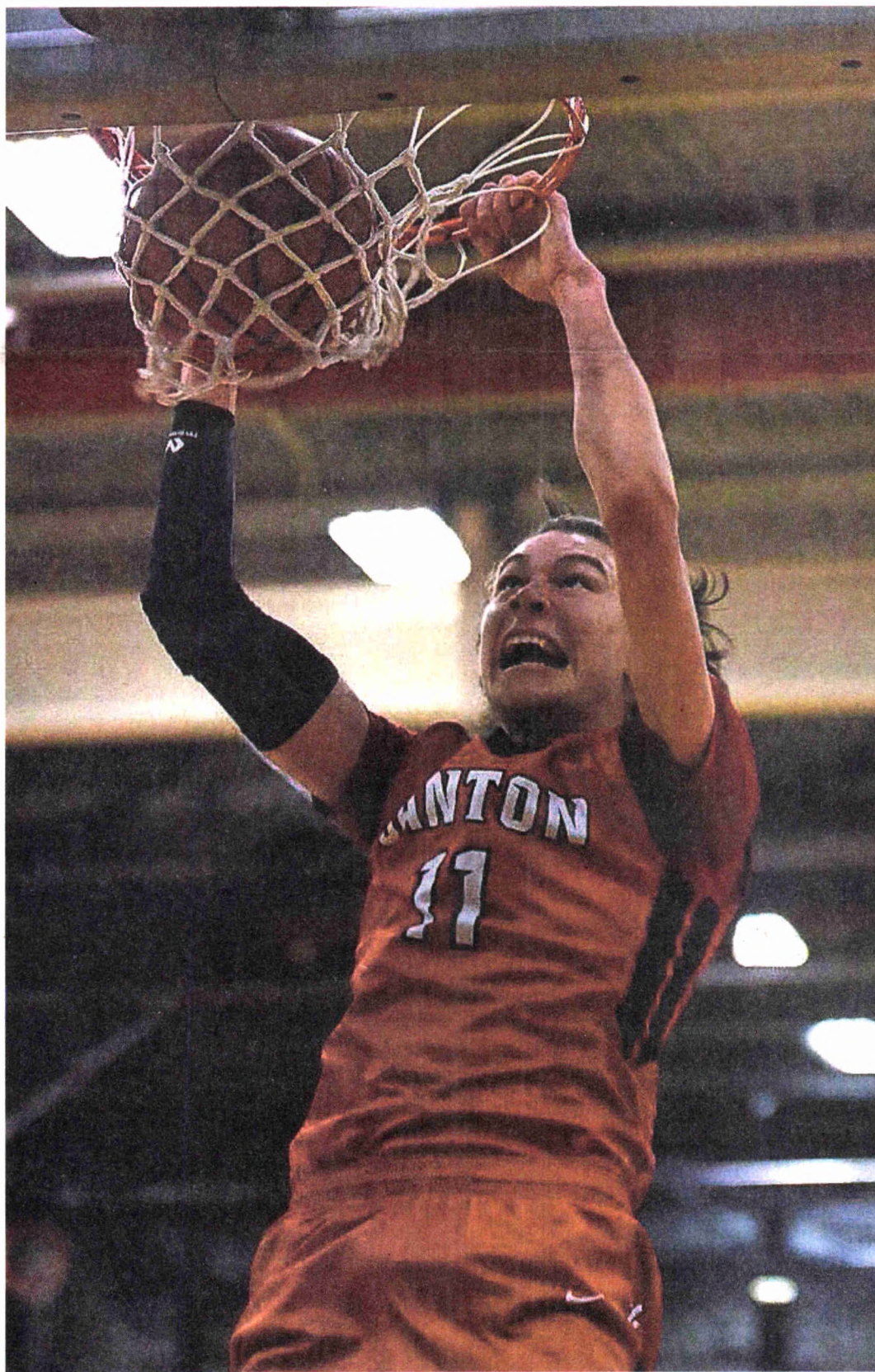
Don't forget gritty glue guys, such as seniors Jalen Cochran, Obi Okoli, Hamoudy Turfe and Chris English. Throw in important minutes from pesky sophomores Colin Troup and Noah Brown and it was a recipe for success for head coach Jimmy Reddy.

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

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

But then came the first

See **SMITH**, Page B3



MICHAEL VASILNEK

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

USA HOCKEY

Energized NTDP U17s roll over Stampede

Two-goal game by Farrance lifts Team USA

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

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

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

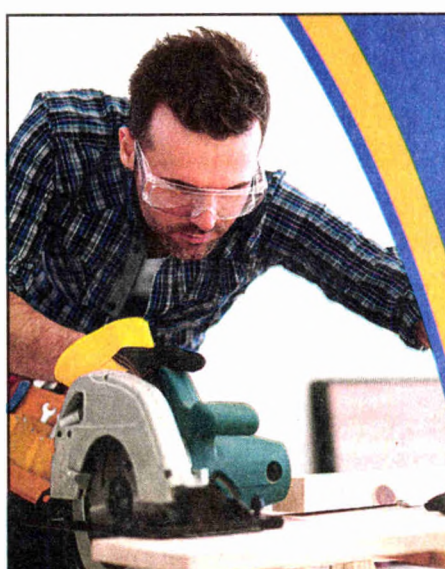
"Everybody was very engaged in this game." In fact, Team USA (21-24-4-2) reeled off five unanswered goals following that tough bounce and went on to post a 5-3 victory before just over 1,300 fans. Two of them were scored by defenseman David

See **NTDP**, Page B2




RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

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



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FIVE WAYS TO WELCOME SPRING

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

It's time to mark the vernal equinox and celebrate spring, which starts Sunday, March 20.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Daffodils

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

Make them last by following these tips from English Gardens:

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

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

» Keep the fresh flowers in a cool place.

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

Maple syrup

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

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



Daffodils are a sign of spring.



SUBMITTED

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



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

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

"Besides the tour, they can walk around and see the animals."

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

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

Spring equinox service

"The winter solstice is a celebration of light returning to the world. The days are getting longer," says Alex Mey-

ers, pianist for Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church in Southfield. "For the vernal equinox, the day and night are equal. It's a time of balance. Life is returning. We have new growth. We see flowers budding and bunnies in the field."

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

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

pation and there might be an Easter egg hunt."

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

For more information, visit northwestuu.org.

Mini-golf

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

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

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

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

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

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

Manufacturers want more control over appliance repair

Not long ago I wrote about the changes coming in the appliance repair industry, and they are coming along faster than I care to see.

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



Joe Gagnon
THE APPLIANCE
DOCTOR

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

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

The other day I ran into a man who told me how many times I helped him to repair appliances for himself and neighbors and how thankful he is for the knowledge I spread through this column. I am always appreciative of people who make these comments and it reinforces in me that none of

my ways were wasted. They have always been geared to helping others and give me a big sense of pride.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A growing movement: Why mindfulness matters

Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

Mindfulness: the ability to pay attention to the moment without judgment or criticism.

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

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

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

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

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

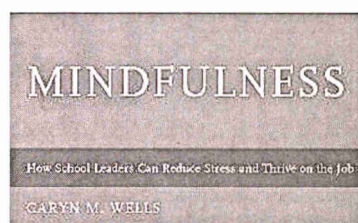
“Just entering into stillness and quiet and being able to



SUBMITTED
Oakland University Associate Professor Caryn Wells teaches classes on mindfulness.

“I’m not an expert on aging. But if you think of how busy our world is ... it can feel like 24/7 activity, so when is there a time to pause? Mindfulness really helps with pausing.”

CARYN WELLS,
Oakland University
associate professor



SUBMITTED
“Mindfulness teaches you that less is more, that it’s easier to accept than to resist,” Caryn Wells said about learning to be mindful.

see all that’s there,” she said of the practice. “Giving whatever it is that’s in front of you some space and looking at it honestly.”

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

People who engage in mindfulness see improvements in

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

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

Mindfulness strengthens the immune system. It also can lead to improved cognition and memory. It teaches kindness and compassion because you’re not judging. Instead, you’re listening.

“Let’s say you’re in your 50s or older, and good things happen and not-so-good things happen,” she said. “Mindful self-compassion is a very difficult thing because most of us have a harsh inner voice — it takes practice to step

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

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

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

GARDEN & NATURE CALENDAR

Seminars

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

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

Livonia Garden Club

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

ident@yahoo.com; livoniagardenclub.org.

Butterflies

Anna Szczotha, Master Gardener and member of Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association, will talk about the benefits of rain gardens and how to design one for your backyard, 7 p.m. April 20, at Nankin Mills Interpretive Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, West-

land. \$3 for non-members. sembabut-terfly.org.

English Gardens

» Learn how to “live healthier” with house plants at a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, March 26.
» Annual Garden Party runs Saturday-Sunday, April 2-3 and will include presentations on bees, fences and garden edges, container gardening,

hydrangeas, landscaping trends, annuals and more. Visit EnglishGardens.com

» Get tips for dividing and transplanting perennials at a free seminar, 1 p.m. Saturday, April 9.

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



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LOCAL WOMAN SHARES ADVICE FOR PATIENT ADVOCACY

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Sue Serlin

Research, questions

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

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

“I do a lot of research. When I go in and ask something of a doctor I don’t say it in an apologetic way. I don’t walk in empty-handed.”

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

“If you don’t research you’ll never find these things.”

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

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

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

“Get the doctor’s email,” she added. “I have found that 95 percent will give them. I use it wisely.”

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

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Serlin had a “learning lesson” about advocacy dealing with another son’s mental illness.

Theater to screen of ‘Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice’

Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

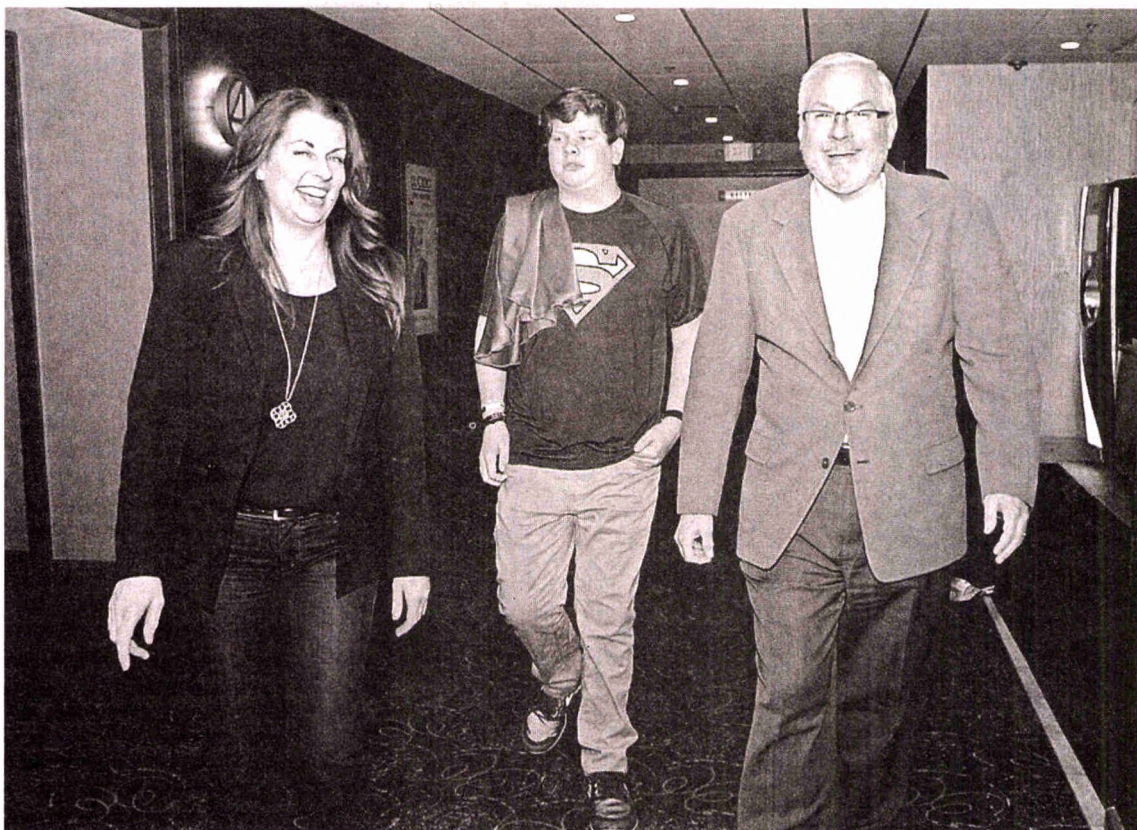
Paul Glantz might not fly or drive the Batmobile, but it’s easy to see how the CEO of Emagine Entertainment has become a hero.

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

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

Fans can purchase \$15 tickets in advance or \$20 at the door. The ticket price includes popcorn and a drink, and all proceeds go to the charity’s Design My Room program. Tickets can be purchased at <http://Batmanvsuperman2016.eventbrite.com>. The theater is located at 209 Hamilton Row.

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



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

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

Michelle Soto, founder of Wish Upon a Teen, said over 300 teenagers benefited from having their hospital rooms

decorated in 2015. This year, she expects the number of requests to double.

“We’re just so grateful to Paul for all his generosity,” Soto said Wednesday. “This fundraiser is super special because it’s such a popular movie with our teen popula-

tion, and it’s bringing the community together to raise funds for a great program.”

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

year at Groves High School. Sovran said the theater holds 152 seats, and that about 50 tickets have already been sold.

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

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

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

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

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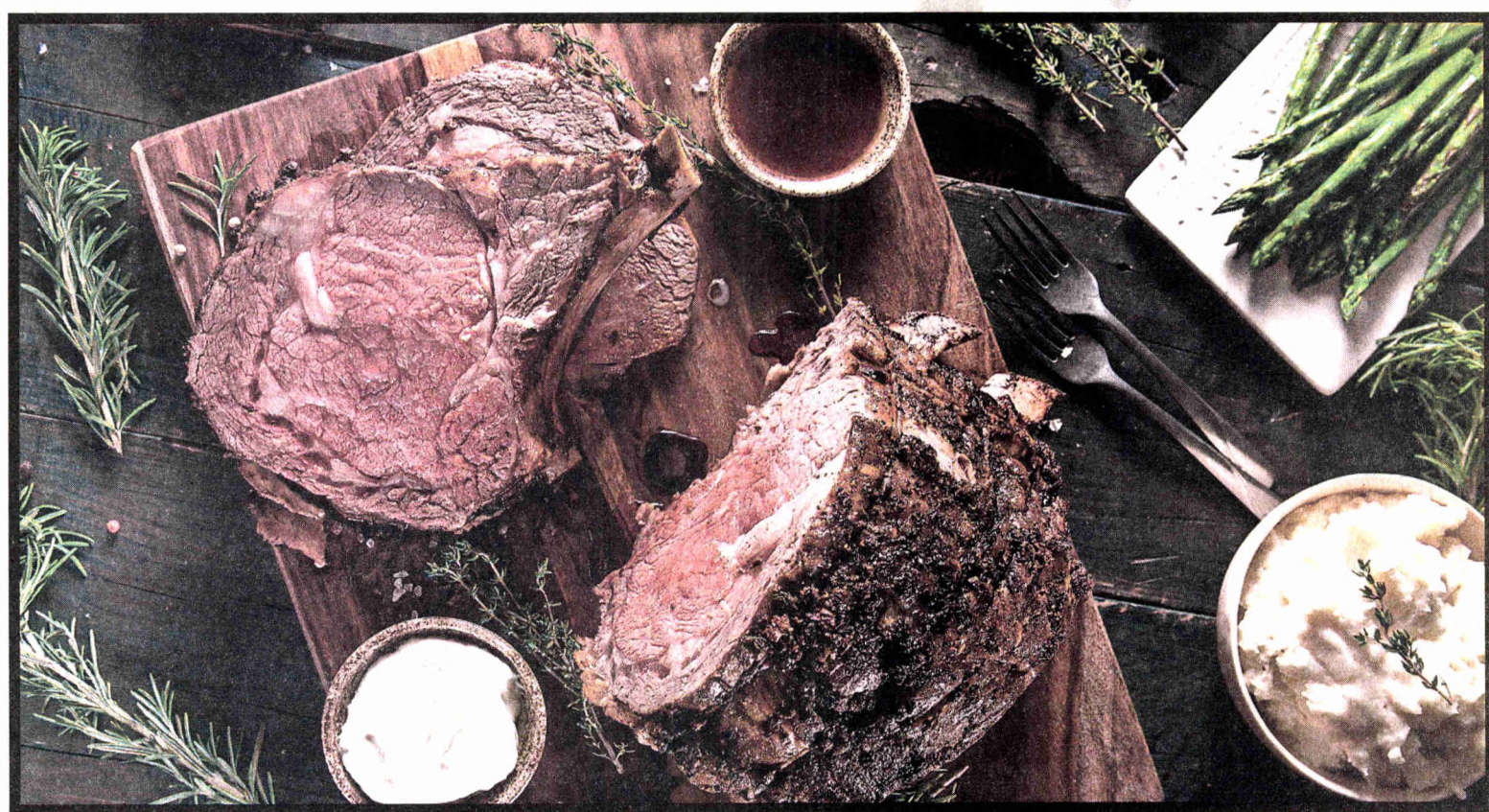
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Car Report

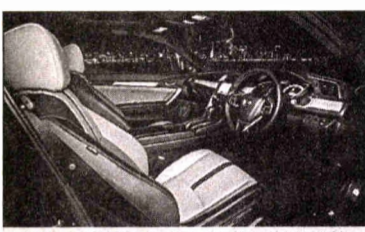
As New Coupe Goes On Sale, Honda's Stylish New Civic Already Looks Like a Big Hit



By Dale Buss

Honda's new Civic Coupe went on sale this month, and the company is trying to make the most of the styling of the new model that already is generating a lot of excitement in the sedan version that went on sale last fall.

Maybe it'll all even make the 2016 version of Civic a cult favorite that will enjoy something similar to the nameplate's popularity in the 1990s.



Inside, the new Civic is boasting with new amenities and better materials.

The Civic comprised an important foot in the door for Honda when it entered the US market in the Seventies as one Japanese import's answer to the gasoline-price crisis. It was smaller and relatively less expensive than now, but the first Civic established the brand's bona fides for fuel economy, got Americans used to the idea of a

high-quality Japanese car, and opened the door for Honda to introduce larger and upscale models such as the Accord and, eventually, its full product line into the crucial American market.

Nowadays, the task of Civic is somewhat different. As a well-established player in the American market and one that makes most of its cars for domestic consumption right in the Midwest, Honda doesn't need Civic anymore to prove its credibility.

And it really doesn't even need Civic for its exemplary fuel economy, which will peak out at 35 miles a gallon on the highway in upper-trim versions of Civic Coupe that have a gas-sipping continuously variable transmission. Fuel prices seem so reasonable to Americans these days that they don't care nearly as much about mileage as they did even a couple of years ago.

No, what Honda needs from Civic now is to create some of the brand excitement that Honda still lacks in many of its vehicles -- consumer enthusiasm that translates into sales.

So far, so good on that count: Civic sales in February were up nearly 43 percent over a year ago, setting a record for the month, and that of course was without

the new coupe version.

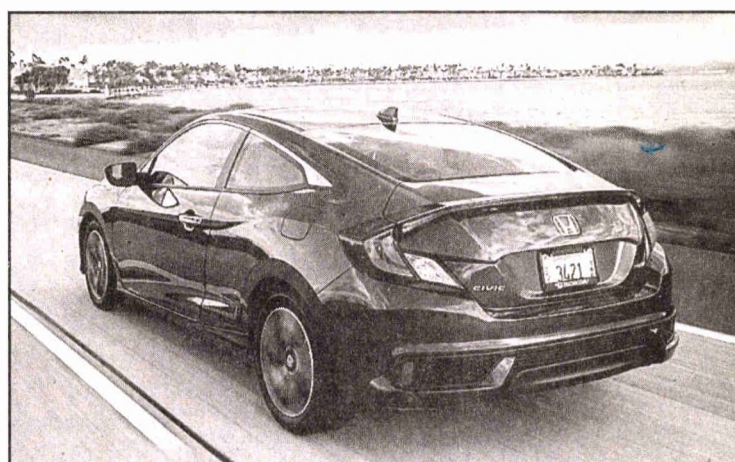
"Led by the all-new Civic, Honda cars are defying industry trends, even as our light-truck models are red hot this winter," exulted Jeff Conrad, senior vice president and general manager of the Honda division.

The restyled sedan is exciting consumers and reviewers alike with a notably more dynamic exterior as well as improvements in interior amenities and the quality of materials, as well as the fact that Honda is offering its broadest range yet of versions and trim levels.

Later this year, the 2017 Civic Hatchback will launch as the third variant in the line; the prototype will make its debut at the New York International Auto Show later this month. And still to come are Civic Si variants and what Honda calls a "radical new Civic Type R."

The new Civic is longer, wider, lower and racier-looking than its predecessor, with a lengthened hood and a swept-back rear. There's an additional three inches of rear overhang, for example, which is one of the main characteristics of the new design, while the front overhang is shorter and it has a longer wheelbase.

Another sporty touch is a two-piece tail-lamp assembly



The rear end of the new Honda Civic Coupe shows off the nameplate's sleeker new style.

that reaches from the car's rear quarters onto the deck lid and requires Honda engineers to make one of their legendary executions to ensure proper fit and finish of what is a very difficult design concept.

To boost the quality feel of Civic inside, Honda upgraded to triple sealing around the doors, added soundproofing in the roof and floor, and used hydraulic bushings to dampen suspension vibrations. New amenities include a keyless entry system with remote start and remote-link climate as well as a walkaway auto lock and pushbutton start.

Weight savings through use of more high-strength and ultra-high-strength steel -- almost 75 percent of Civic's body structure is made from the stuff now -- have

helped translate into a zippier car, which is powered either by a 2.0-liter engine that generates 158 horsepower or a turbo version of 1.5 liters that puts out 174 horsepower.

Which brings Civic back to the new Coupe version, which is especially tuned for "driving fun," as Conrad put it in a release. It "sets the bar for performance, refinement and connectivity in the compact coupe segment."

And there's more. As the Wall Street Journal noted, even the new entry-level Civic, the LX sedan version, includes automated-safety features that take "some of the most sophisticated technology on the market available and [make] it accessible to significantly more buyers, including younger ones."

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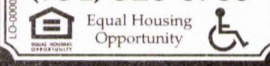
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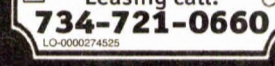
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