

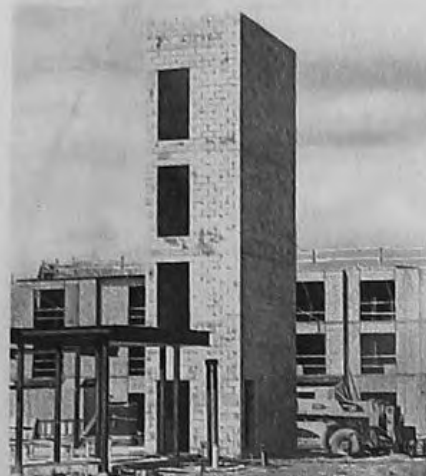
CANTON OBSERVER

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BLOWING THE WHISTLE
TEEN UMPIRE FED UP
SPECIAL REPORT, B1

New hotels under construction



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The new hotels will be four stories and bring in 178 new rooms.

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Two new four-story hotels are taking shape on Canton's east side, bringing a combined 178 rooms to accommodate business travelers, out-of-town shoppers and big crowds attending local sports events.

A&M Hospitality hopes to open the hotels by next winter on Ford Road, near the southbound I-275 ramp, said Mike Abdulnoor, the company's regional manager.

Towne Place Suites will have 87 rooms, largely tar-

geted for extended-stay guests such as business executives. Fairfield Inn & Suites will offer 91 rooms intended for short-term guests.

The hotels reflect a nearly \$20 million investment in Canton, Abdulnoor said, and local officials welcome it.

"We're glad to see them come," said township Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin, who chairs the Canton Downtown Development Authority.

Abdulnoor said the hotels can accommodate business executives visiting Canton

companies and those who need a central location between Detroit and Ann Arbor. He also said the new lodging is situated between I-96 and I-94 and not far from Detroit Metro Airport.

"We're very centrally located," he said.

The project will complement two other A&M Hospitality-managed hotels, immediately to the west, that already have a combined 183 rooms.

"Our occupancy rates are fairly high," McLaughlin said. "The hotel business is one of those things that can

be a big risk. They are expensive to build and maintain — and they are labor-intensive.

"I'm certain the analysis that was done by the corporate people showed that they could tolerate more hotels there," she added.

McLaughlin cited a few reasons why she believes the site is good for additional lodging:

» Thousands of visitors come to Canton for events such as the Memorial Day weekend Canton Cup soccer

See HOTELS, Page A2

'We're trying to build hope' in Flint



Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha and Plymouth Rotary AM president Leslie Greeneisen step forward to begin the program Tuesday morning.

Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

One of the chief missions of Rotary is to provide people with clean water, a goal Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha noted with irony when she spoke

INSIDE
How you can help in Flint, A5

Tuesday to Rotarians in Plymouth.

"Usually, it's clean water in developing countries. It's not

clean water in the middle of the Great Lakes," said Hanna-Attisha, a pediatrician whose research helped prompt — after months of stonewalling — government acknowledgment of the water crisis in Flint.

Hanna-Attisha, who heads a new pediatric health initiative at Hurley Children's Hospital, brought public attention to the youngest victims of Flint's

See ROTARY, Page A5

Mom-to-mom sale helps cash-strapped parents

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Canton-area mothers struggling to stretch their dollars while clothing their children can accomplish both during a one-day, one-stop shopping excursion in Canton.

They can find gently used children's clothing, toys and furniture as Canton Leisure Services brings a cash-only, mom-to-mom sale to the Summit on the Park from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 30.

"It's a very popular event. Canton is a huge community with lots of little people," said Jennifer Girard, recreation specialist.

And it's an event that can ease the burden on families struggling to pay their bills while caring for their children, said Laurie Aren, director of family and community ministries for The Salvation Army of Plymouth.

"It's a consistent problem," Aren said. "You feed those kids and they grow and you need more clothes. It's a real problem for a lot of folks who have cash-strapped budgets. We're seeing working people that are really struggling."

Families who have no money for clothing are referred to the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Clothing Bank. But Aren said mom-to-mom sales are one way to find clothing and, for others, a place to sell items their children no longer use to raise a little money.

In all, 66 vendors have signed up to have booths. Shoppers can find items for babies or older children — even maternity clothing. They also can shop for shoes, books, children's DVDs and videos, Halloween costumes, high chairs and other furniture.

Admission is \$2 at 8 a.m. and drops to \$1 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All sales are cash only.

For more information, call the Summit's front desk at 734-394-5460 or go to www.cantonfun.org.

Summit on the Park is located at 46000 Summit Parkway, west of Canton Center.

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Rock out with trivia, Elvis, prizes at chamber auction

Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

Rock star Alice Cooper was born in what city?

Nirvana lead singer Kurt Cobain and British singer Amy Winehouse both died at what age?

What singer in The Fugees sang on "Killing Me Softly," the remake of Roberta Flack's song?

The answers: Detroit, 27 and Lauryn Hill.

The questions may be different, but three rounds of rock and roll trivia — with winners receiving \$500 — are planned for the Canton Chamber of Commerce's 29th annual fundraising dinner and auc-

tion, set for 6:30 p.m. to midnight Saturday, April 16, at Burton Manor in Livonia.

Auction prizes are even bigger: tickets and airline package for the American Music Awards, a condo rental in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, a Tahiti Village getaway in Las Vegas and diamond earrings.

Chamber president Thomas Paden said chamber leaders had hoped to sell at least 300 tickets for the rock-themed event — the chamber's biggest fundraiser of the year.

"We're already past our target, so that's good," Paden said, adding that about 340 tickets have been sold.

Auction attendees are encouraged to dress as their

favorite rock star. And just to leave the crowd all shook up, Elvis is making an appearance.

"Things are looking terrific," Paden said. "We're looking forward to a fantastic night."

The chamber uses money raised from the auction to help support the local economy by providing programs, services and educational development for local businesses.

Auction co-chair Tammy Brown said the event gives attendees a chance to socialize and "get to know each other on a social basis" outside the work setting.

Tickets are \$75 per person and available to the public.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Thomas Paden, Canton Chamber of Commerce president, is predicting "a fantastic night" during the annual fundraiser.



PRICE: \$1

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Volume 41 • Number 84

Home Delivery: (866) 887-2737 | Return Address: 29725 Hudson Dr., Novi MI 48377

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Youth theater joins forces with Tipping Point for spring season

The Plymouth Uptown Players Youth Theater Program announces its spring season 2016 musical theater performances of "Go For Gold." Performances will be at 5 p.m. Friday April 15, and 11 a.m. Saturday, April 16. Both shows will be on stage at Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady Street, Northville. Tickets are \$6 each and will go on sale to the public after April 11.

Plymouth Uptown Players is a cooperative program between Tipping Point Theatre in Northville and the Ply-

mouth Community Arts Council. Rehearsals are held each Sunday evening at the PCAC in Plymouth, with dress rehearsals and performances on the professional stage at TPT. TPT provides directors for the PUPS school-year theater program, the PCAC's summer theater camps and week-long middle school drama workshops.

This season, 34 talented actors ages 6-14 have been working in PUPS' actor-centered theater program since January with PUPS di-



The Plymouth Uptown Players Youth Theater Program in "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" last year in Northville.

rector Sonja Marquis and assistant directors Nick

Yocum and Josh England. "Go For Gold" is a play

about reaching your potential in the setting of the Olympics. Characters include a modern day family, Greek gods and goddesses, Athenians and Spartans (OK, they may be wearing MSU gear), a talented Greek chorus and a rapping Zeus.

"I have been so pleased with our cooperative program with Tipping Point theater," PCAC executive director Lisa Howard said. "Artistic director James Kuhl and I share a common philosophy about PUPS; that it be an actor-centered program that de-

velops young people into confident students while providing a team/cast environment of peers with common interests. Tipping Point is top-notch with actors and staff that support our youth endeavors alongside their adult program. Our current director, Sonja Marquis, has been associated with both TPT as an actress and PCAC as a theater director for over three years."

The PCAC is located at 774 N. Sheldon Road in Plymouth. More information can be found at www.plymoutharts.com.

CANTON OBSERVER

Published Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Media

Community Office:

29725 Hudson Drive • Novi, MI 48377 • 866-887-2737
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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Subscription Rates:

Newsstand price: \$1.00 Thursday and \$1.50 Sunday
\$8.25 EZ pay per month
\$52.00 six months
\$104.00 per year
\$91.00 six months mail delivery
\$182.00 per year mail delivery

Home Delivery:

Customer Service: 866-887-2737
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The new Fairfield Inn & Suites is going up on Ford Road, near the southbound I-275 exit ramp.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The new hotels are under construction.

HOTELS

Continued from Page A1

tournament, which fills up hotels in neighboring communities as well.

» Visitors, including business executives, can find an abundance of restaurants and retail shops, take in a movie or head out to Canton's two golf courses.

"All of that is readily available in Canton," McLaughlin said.

» IKEA — a huge retailer just across Haggerty Road from the hotels site — is a destination for shoppers who sometimes spend the night.

"We have a ton of people coming in for IKEA. That's huge," McLaughlin said.

The new hotels are being built on the site of the former America's Best Value Inn & Suites, an aging, one-story place that was demolished early last year. It had begun to witness an uptick in crime, police have said.

The new construction comes after the Canton Township Board of Trustees in 2014 approved a site plan for the hotels. Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said then that he believes the project "is a great add to the community."

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When babies die, Angels Above swoops in with comfort

Kristen Jordan Shamus
Michigan.com

Cheryl Harmer's son lived 102 days.

Although the death of the baby she named David Andrew Harmer came 30 years ago, the memory is still fresh in her mind.

"I knew I was going crazy. That was a given," said Harmer, 56, of White Lake. "I wanted to know how to get out of it."

She found help through Compassionate Friends, a support group for parents who've lost a child.

Now, Harmer sews in honor of the son she lost all those years ago with a group of women dedicated to easing the pain of stillbirth and infant death by making care packages for grieving families out of donated wedding and bridesmaids gowns.

Angels Above Baby Gowns, the nonprofit organization started two years ago by Garden City resident Dawn Lafferty, has made more than 10,000 care packages, each of which includes an ornate burial gown, a blanket, a bonnet, a bracelet, an angel ornament and more.

"I sew in memory of my son," Harmer said. "The night we left the hospital after he died, they gave me his blanket. I have pictures, but nothing like this. I know I went shopping for something to bury him in, but I have no idea what it was. I was in such a fog, I just did what people told me to do. It would have been nice to have this package."

Angels Above has delivered the tiny satin and silk works of art, each unique, to more than 50 hospitals in Michigan and has expanded, now including chapters in several other states. Each hospital gets enough gowns to supply it for a full year, so care packages are at the ready whenever a family should need one.

Though it's rarely discussed, stillbirths and infant deaths are all too common. The infant mortality rate — the rate at which babies die before their first birthday — in Michigan is nearly 7 per 1,000 live births, according to the state Department of Health and Human Services. Michigan ranks eighth worst in the country for infant mortality. And the March of Dimes reports that 23,600 babies are stillborn annually in the U.S., affecting about 1 in 160 pregnancies.

Although Lafferty, 59, never had children of her own and never suffered through the loss of a baby, she feels empathy for those who have.

The idea for Angels Above came to her after reading a news story

about a woman in Washington whose baby had died; she was handed the infant's body wrapped in a washcloth.

Lafferty knew she could do better than that. She'd started her own sewing business at the age of 12, made many of her own clothes growing up, and sews costumes for theater groups on the side.

"I posted on Facebook, 'I'm thinking of starting a nonprofit group' ... and my friends instantly said, 'I'm in,'" Lafferty said. "They brought their machines over and we were up and running. It was two years ago in May."

Busy hands

Each Wednesday night and Thursday afternoon at Lafferty's house is busy. That's when women come from all over southeast Michigan to snip and stitch in the basement of her ranch-style house.

One evening in mid-March, three women sat side-by-side in chairs, using seam rippers and tiny scissors to carefully dismantle wedding gowns, removing the lace, the beads, and the appliques. Two others stood across the room at a table, inspecting donated gowns and deciding what should be done with each one.

The washing machine spun in an adjacent room, washing wedding dresses to be used for baby gowns.

Twelve-year-old Blu, Lafferty's dog, circled the room, trying to get pats from busy hands.

"He's part of the group," Lafferty said, reaching down to pat him on the head.

Her eldest sister, Sherry Ray, is one of the roughly 20 seamstresses who regularly come to Lafferty's house to sew.

"I remember when she started this," said Ray, of Westland. "I thought it was amazing. All these little ladies weren't here then. ... She said, 'I'm probably not going to do too well at it. I maybe will have a couple hundred gowns.' In two years, we've done over 10,000 gowns."

"It's just like wow. I'm so proud of her."

Organization is key

Each room in her basement is dedicated to the cause. Storage containers and shelving line the walls. Each drawer and container is stocked with something different — one for beads; another for lace; one for appliques; and separate spots for boning, ribbons and more.

"We don't waste anything," she said. "All our tiny little scraps are gathered up." Even the tulle from wedding gowns is reused. It's donated to animal organi-



Tori Disney, 45, of Dearborn goes through donated wedding dresses as other women deconstruct them to make burial gowns for stillborn babies and infants who die soon after birth at the Garden City studio of the nonprofit Angels Above Baby Gowns.

zations to stuff pet beds.

Tables for dismantling dresses are set up, as are cutting tables and pattern-piecing. A shelf along one wall holds a row of sewing machines and sergers.

The space is cramped and Lafferty said she'd love to expand to a donated building or larger work and storage area if she could, but money is tight and every penny that comes in is spent on the costs of shipping packages to hospitals and sewing supplies.

"We have no funding at all," Lafferty said. "Everything is self-funded at this point."

Branching out

Since she started Angels Above, Lafferty has branched out beyond sewing gowns and caps for hospital care packages.

She has partnered with hospice organizations to coordinate angel gown services, and connected with a group that provides financial assistance for burial costs to help needy families. Angels Above is in the midst of a prom-dress drive, donating prom dresses and fashionable bridesmaid gowns for free to needy high school students. It also donates first communion dresses and other gowns to area churches for families with special events who can't afford to buy something nice to wear.

Now, Angles Above is collecting money to buy CuddleCots for Michigan hospitals. The CuddleCot is a cooling device that attaches to a bassinet or Moses basket. It is used to cool the body of an infant who was stillborn or died after delivery and slows the decomposition process so the child's parents have more time to say good-bye.

In February, Lafferty and the Angels Above crew delivered their first one to Henry Ford West

Bloomfield Hospital, where as many as 19 families a year suffer that sort of loss, said Gina Clifford, clinical coordinator of the birthing center.

"Nobody talks about this. People don't talk about this," Clifford said. "The guilt alone makes them feel awful, you know? We've had patients say to us, 'What did I do wrong? If I would have come to the hospital on Tuesday instead of waiting until Thursday, then maybe my baby would still be alive.' But there's no saying whether that baby would be. It's just truly — it's horrible. So you support them."

The CuddleCot offers another way the hospital can offer that support, said Annette Penn, administrative nurse for the birthing center and special care nursery.

"I think it's greatly needed," she said. "Patients need to be able to say hello before they say goodbye to their babies. So by allowing them as long as they need in the room with their baby — whether they're here for 24 hours or 48 hours — we'll be able to allow the baby to stay in the room with them. They need to be able to give that first bath because who should be giving the first bath? It should be the mom and the dad. And the same with dressing the baby, just having those opportunities to do that. I've had three losses myself, but never had the opportunity to see, touch, hear or smell any of them, so I am very passionate about our program. Families should have mementos, they should have pictures. We always have to remember that patients see with their hearts, not with their eyes, so whatever we can do for them is helpful."

CuddleCots cost about \$3,000 each, Lafferty said, and the group is

now collecting money to buy another one for a hospital in Flint, Lafferty said, which has been hit hard by the water crisis.

"We asked all of our members to donate a dollar," Lafferty said. "Some donated more. ... I couldn't do any of this without all my volunteers. I couldn't do this on my own."

Cindy Logie, 56, of Hazel Park started sewing with Angels Above Baby Gowns in November.

"I haven't had the loss of a child. I don't know anyone closely who's had a loss, but I had a wedding gown," she said. "I thought it would be nice to somehow do something with it. I didn't know anybody in the group. I just felt it was God who put that in my path."

She reached out to Lafferty through the Facebook page and came on a Wednesday night with a friend and her mother to help out. Now, she said, she's hooked.

"I'm just trying to help people who are suffering with such a loss. I pray over each gown that I sew because I just feel that to me, it's very important. I know that the family is going to be having a very hard time, and I just pray that this will give them comfort."

Harmer, who lost her David Andrew in the 1980s, got the surprise of a lifetime when her grandson was born.

"We were in the delivery room and I'm holding my grandson and amazed that this is my son's child," she said. "And I looked at him and I said, 'What's your name?' And my son says, 'David.' And I went 'Oooh.'"

Tears welled up. She was filled with joy that her grandson would carry her late baby's name, but sad at the memory of his loss.

"It was a dual emotion," she said.

HOW TO HELP

Even if you don't know how to sew, Angels Above Baby Gowns is always in need of volunteers. To join the group or learn more, go to its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/AngelsAboveBabyGownsGardenCityMI/Area/ or call Dawn Lafferty at 734-421-2322 between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. You can also email Lafferty at angelsabovebabygownsmi@gmail.com.

To donate a wedding gown, prom dress, bridesmaid dress or other formal gown to Angels Above Baby Gowns, you can drop it off at the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh Road. Other donation sites are spread all over the state, including sites from Battle Creek to Bloomfield Hills, Lansing to Livonia. To learn more about donation sites, contact Lafferty through the Facebook page.

The organization is also quickly outgrowing its space. If you have a building space or would like to be a benefactor to the organization in some other way, Lafferty welcomes help.

ANGELS ABOVE PROM DRESS DRIVE

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 9 at Garden City High School, 6500 Middlebelt Road. Angels Above Baby Gowns is hosting a prom dress drive. Anyone can get a dress free, but the organization asks for \$10 to cover the cost of cleaning. Any remaining proceeds go toward the expenses of the group.

GRIEF SUPPORT

If you or someone you know needs help coping with the loss of a baby through infertility, miscarriage, stillbirth or newborn death, the CCUDL Support Group at Henry Ford can help. For details, go to www.henryford.com/body.cfm?id=56779, call 248-325-0424 or email ccudl@hfhs.org. Compassionate Friends offers support to people suffering the loss of a child. There are chapters all over the state. To find one or learn more, go to www.compassionatefriends.org or call 877-969-0010.

CHAMBER

Continued from Page A1

Admission includes an open bar, a strolling dinner, entertainment and the opportunity to participate in live auctions and raffles.

For more information, call the chamber at 734-453-4040 or go to www.cantonchamber.com.

The auction is sponsored by Jack Demmer Ford, Inc., and Beaumont Healthcare Center-Canton.

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CANTON CRIME WATCH

Teen says father threatened her with broom, knife

A Canton teen told police that her father tried to assault her with a metal broom and also brandished a knife, threatening to “shut her up permanently,” according to a police report.

The 18-year-old daughter's allegations brought police to a house on John Drive, near Koppernick and I-275, where the father, 58, was taken into custody Saturday. He could be facing criminal charges.

The teen notified police that she was babysitting her niece and nephew and that they were playing with two cats that started to fight, prompting her father to come toward her with a metal broom she said he has used to beat her since she was younger, the report said.

She said he threatened to get rid of the cats and force her to leave home. She said he told her that he could beat her and police would do nothing.

The teen told police that she

used a child safety fence to protect herself from the metal broom. Moments later, she said her father tried to throw her against a wall and threatened her with the knife.

The teen said she managed to flee the home and went to a friend's house, after which she sought help.

When police went to the home, they noticed deplorable living conditions, including the stench of animals and garbage, old food left in the kitchen and a hole in the ceiling where water had leaked, the report said.

Police arrested the father and the investigation was continuing.

Dog attack

A 24-year-old man told police he was attacked by a dog and bitten on his right hand during an incident that unfolded last Thursday night at the Days Inn, on Michigan Avenue near Lotz.

Police went to the scene about 10 p.m. to investigate reports that a boxer mix ran toward the victim when he

came out of his hotel room. He told police he had to jump onto a car to get away from the dog, causing a windshield to break in the process, a police report said.

The victim and the dog owner gave conflicting accounts of what happened.

The victim said the dog — unchained — was already outside with its owner when he came outside. He said the dog began to chase him and bit him on the hand.

The owner said the dog had been inside a Days Inn room, but ran outside when his grandson opened the door, just as the dog-bite victim was walking outside.

Police ticketed the owner for having a dangerous dog at large and advised him to quarantine the animal for 10 days. Police said the last known rabies shot the dog had was in July 2014.

Fake suicide report

A Canton woman told police that a man she knows lied when he called the Canton Police Department to report

that she was suicidal.

She said he did it as revenge, saying she had previously reported him to police in Garden City, where he lives, after he refused to leave her alone.

Police went to the woman's resident in the West Point mobile home park on Canton's southeast side last Thursday afternoon after being told the woman might be suicidal.

She told police she had been trying for hours to get a drunken male friend to stop calling her and texting her. He sent 64 texts and talked incoherently when he left messages.

The woman told Canton police that she reported the man to Garden City police after he sent her a video taking a needle out of his sock drawer and telling her that he had “a rock” coming from Detroit. He reportedly told her that he wanted to get high and die.

The man became angry when she reported him and, in turn, called Canton police claiming she was suicidal. Police advised the woman on

getting a personal protection order and told her to contact them again if the problem persists.

Police learned the man had a criminal history, including home invasion in Lansing and possession of marijuana in Westland.

Identity theft

A Canton man who is unable to speak because of a recent disability came to the police station with his parents to report he had been the victim of identity theft, a police report said.

The 32-year-old man, with his parents speaking for him, had learned that someone filed an income tax return in his name. He found out when he went to file his own taxes, the report said.

The man filed the police report March 31. His parents told police that an identity theft affidavit is being filed with the Internal Revenue Service to support the claims of stolen identity.

— By Darrell Clem

Farmington Hills man killed after driving minibike into SUV

Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

A Farmington Hills man was killed April 2 after driving his minibike into a 2003 Chevy SUV at the intersection of Tuck and Eight Mile roads.

Stanley Smith, 39, was transported shortly after the accident to Beaumont-Farmington Hills, where he was pronounced dead.

According to Farmington Hills Police Lt. Paul Nicholas, Smith was westbound on Eight Mile Road shortly after 9:30 p.m. when he ran into the side of the SUV, which was turning left onto Tuck Road. Nicholas said the minibike was not street legal and had no lights and Smith was not wearing a helmet.

“This serves as a reminder to anybody traveling on the roadway to

wear proper safety equipment. This resulted from not wearing a helmet,” Nicholas said. “Seat belts and helmets are important safety devices.”

Nicholas also noted that it's believed that alcohol use by Smith was a factor in the crash. The driver of the SUV, a 37-year-old Farmington Hills woman, hadn't been drinking, he said.

The minibike was destroyed and the SUV sustained damage to the passenger side. Neither the SUV driver nor its passenger were injured. Smith had a suspended driver's license, Nicholas said.

An investigation into the crash is continuing.

Farmington Hills typically has “zero to two” fatal traffic accidents per year on surface streets, Nicholas said.

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Speeder arrested on drunken-driving charge

A 23-year-old Canton Township man was arrested on a drunken-driving charge after he was stopped for speeding on westbound North Territorial in Plymouth Township early Sunday morning.

The man, in a 2015 Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck, was traveling at an estimated 95 mph in a 50 mph zone, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report. An officer spotted him about 1:30 a.m. Sunday, the report said, and stopped him near M-14.

The officer smelled alcohol upon speaking with the driver, the report said, and the driver said he'd had two beers, then changed that to three, then

said he may have had five, police said. He took a test for alcohol in his body, the results of which police did not disclose.

Passenger trouble

Police responded to the intersection of Edinburgh and Latheron, in the area of North Territorial and Beck, early the morning of March 25 to help an Uber driver who was dealing with an unruly passenger.

Called out shortly before 3 a.m., police said the man appeared to be drunk and upset and was using foul language. He was given a disorderly conduct warning, police said, and told to go home.

— By Matt Jachman

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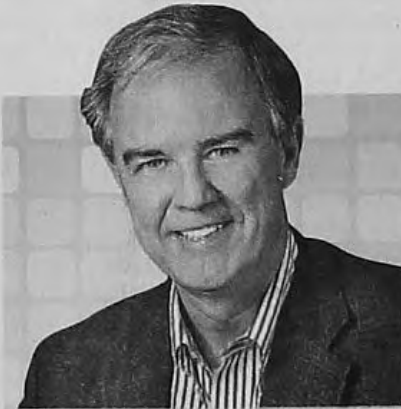
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You may be asking yourself: “What are hearing implants and will they work for me?” While these answers lie in the hands of a qualified Hearing Implant Specialist, there are some telltale signs that may mean a hearing implant is right for you. Get to know the facts. It's the first step to better hearing.



David C. Kelsall, M.D.,
Cochlear Medical Advisor

Dr. David C. Kelsall, a hearing implant surgeon and medical advisor to Cochlear, the world leader in hearing implants, answers common questions about hearing implants.

Q: Is a hearing implant right for me?

A: If you have tried hearing aid after hearing aid and nothing seems to work, it may mean a hearing implant is right for you. Other signs may include having difficulty hearing in noisy environments (such as restaurants) or on the phone. Be sure to discuss these signs with a Hearing Implant Specialist in your area. Hearing aids are typically worn before implantable solutions are considered.

Q: How are hearing implants different than hearing aids?

A: While hearing aids only amplify sounds, hearing implants help make them louder and clearer. Improving the clarity of your hearing may help you better understand speech in both quiet and noisy situations.

Q: What kinds of hearing implants are there?

A: There are hearing implant solutions for many types of hearing loss. They include cochlear implants, Hybrid™ Hearing and bone conduction implants. Visit your Hearing Implant Specialist to determine which one may be right for you.

Q: Does Medicare cover hearing implants?

A: Yes, hearing implants may be covered by Medicare and most private insurance.*

Q: Do hearing implants require surgery?

A: Yes, surgery is required. However, in most cases it is a short, outpatient procedure.

Q: Am I too old to get a cochlear implant?

A: No, it's never too late to begin your journey to better hearing.

Call 1 877 499 4000 to find a Hearing Implant Specialist near you.

Visit Cochlear.com/DET to take an online hearing quiz.

*Contact your insurance company or local Hearing Implant Specialist to determine your eligibility for coverage.
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Cochlear

Flint nonprofit has set up fund to help victims

The Flint Child Health & Development Fund was set up in January by the Community Foundation of Greater Flint to provide long-term assistance to children affected by lead-tainted water in Flint.

The fund will be used to

interventions and support programs to help children who were poisoned by lead to have the best possible outcomes. Efforts will include early childhood education, better access to pediatric health care, behavioral health

services, nutrition education and access to healthy food and more.

Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, who is at the forefront of researching how the tainted water affected children, is a founding donor of the fund.

She spoke Tuesday at the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex at the invitation of the Plymouth Rotary AM club.

Donations can be made online at www.flintkids.org or mailed to Community Founda-

tion of Greater Flint, 500 S. Saginaw Street, Suite 200, Flint, MI 48502. Make checks payable to Community Foundation of Greater Flint and mention the Flint Child Health & Development Fund in the correspondence.

ROTARY

Continued from Page A1

tainted water: children whose development could be severely impaired by lead poisoning that has lifelong effects.

She spoke early Tuesday to people at the Plymouth Rotary AM club, which is based at the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex.

Late last summer, Hanna-Attisha began studying blood samples from some of Flint's poorest children, noting a jump in the percentage of children with elevated blood-lead levels that corresponded to the city's switch to water from the Flint River. In some cases, she said Tuesday, the neighborhoods where water had the highest levels of lead were the same as those in which the greatest increases in lead levels among children were seen.

'They feel betrayed'

"They just feel absolutely betrayed," Hanna-Attisha said of people in Flint, who were already affected by business disinvestment and high levels of unemployment, poverty and crime. "There is a huge lack of trust, a huge feeling of betrayal."

Lead is a neurotoxin linked to attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, impulsiveness and even criminality, Hanna-Attisha said. The effects can be seen through generations, she said, as genetic changes have been observed in the grandchildren of people who were poisoned by lead.

"This is something we're going to have to live with for decades," she said.

Hanna-Attisha was called a hero Tuesday, but she shrugged off the compliment, saying she happened to be the right person there at the right time. She praised the work of Marc Edwards, a professor at Virginia Tech, for research that showed extremely high levels of lead in Flint's drinking water even as state officials assured the public it was safe.

"He was ridiculed and he was dismissed by the state," she said.

Some areas of Flint, she said, had lead levels in the water of 11,000 parts per billion or more, many times higher than the 15 parts per billion level at which the Environmental Protection Agency says corrective action must be taken.

Hanna-Attisha said the water crisis was the result of a "perfect storm" of factors, including an aging water-delivery infrastructure with lead in it, the switch in April 2014 from Detroit's water system to the naturally more corrosive water from the Flint River (the city switched back to the Detroit system in October) and the failure to treat the water with anti-corrosives that would have inhibited the leaching of lead from the pipes. Even Flint's population loss was a factor, she said, as the water system was built for a much larger population and now has areas of water pooling, or stasis in the system, that can accelerate corrosion.

Long-term plan

Hanna-Attisha said efforts on many fronts can help children affected by the crisis; programs from nutrition assistance to preschool to special education to early literacy initiatives and more, can help counteract the effects of lead poisoning, she said. Pipe replacement in Flint, she said, "is expensive, but it needs to happen."

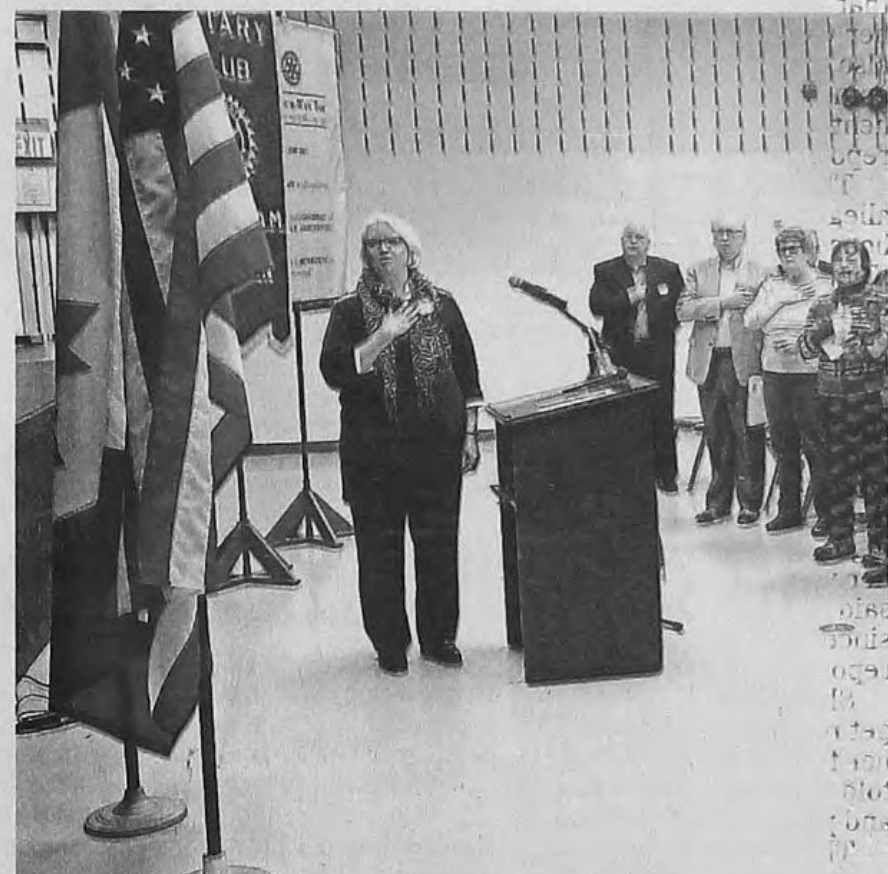
Still, she said, there is no cure.

"We cannot reverse what happened. There is no lead pill or antidote," Hanna-Attisha said.

Hanna-Attisha is founding donor of the Flint Child Health & Development Fund, set up by the Community Foundation of Greater Flint to raise \$100 million to help Flint's lead-poisoned children over the long term. The plan will include better access to medical professionals, early childhood education, infant and child behavioral health services, nutrition education,



Plymouth AM Rotary president Leslie Greeneisen introduces Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha.



The Rotary meeting begins with the Pledge of Allegiance.



Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha speaks Tuesday at the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex about the Flint water crisis.



Hanna-Attisha



Listening to the story of Flint's water crisis.



Scott Lorenz and the crowd applaud at the end of Dr. Hanna-Attisha's talk.

research and more.

"We are actively trying to build hope in our community," Hanna-Attisha said.

Plymouth Rotary AM president Leslie Greeneisen said she envisions a Rotary effort

to help Flint's recovery through the Rotary District 6400, an umbrella organization that represents close to 50 Rotary clubs in the Detroit area and Ontario, including the Plymouth AM group.

Flint's needs, she said, fit with several key Rotary goals, including promoting literacy and promoting infant and maternal health.

"These stories are what inspire people to take that

action," said Wayne Titus, the Rotary District 6400 governor.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
734-678-8432
Twitter: @mattjachman



A ribbon-cutting at the new Beauty & Brow Bar in downtown Plymouth.

Beauty & Brow Bar opens in downtown Plymouth

On Sunday, April 3, estheticians and entertainment industry veterans Danielle Smith and Mikki Crossely opened their Beauty & Brow Bar concept store in downtown Plymouth. The Beauty & Brow Bar will offer simplistic, yet trendsetting beautifying packages for all bridal, photography and film and television makeup needs. Having worked on programs such as "American Idol," "America's Got Talent," "Kid Rock Charity Event," and the "Oprah Live Your Life Tour," Smith and Crossely have pledged to

bring all of their industry knowledge to their new concept store. In addition to working with such respected industry icons, Crossely also brings 19 years of industry experience of working with companies such as MAC, Bobbi Brown, Cover Girl, Trish McEvoy and Make Up For Ever. Smith is also bringing nearly a decade of beauty industry experience, while working for companies such as MAC, Cover Girl and Make Up For Ever. During a visit to New York and speaking to upper-level manage-

ment of one of the companies Smith represents, she had an idea. "Seeing how they have so many options for professionally trained industry artists to work with the everyday person in New York, I figured why couldn't we start something like that here in Michigan with the growth that is taking place?" she said. That's when she approached Crossely and they decided to open the Beauty & Brow Bar. For more information, call 313-241-8612 or 810-923-3659. Check it out on Instagram @barbeautybrow.

On the move



D.J. Maltese Construction Corp. and WhiteROCK Specialties have a new location at 412 N. Main Street in Plymouth. This is their fourth location since moving to Plymouth in 2002. Pictured on the stairway are (from left) Joe Maltese, WhiteROCK Specialties, from D.J. Maltese Construction Corp. (front) Katie Brewington, behind her Melissa Maltese, (back row) Dawn, Dominic Andrew and Christopher Maltese and (center) Gavin Maltese.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ribbon-cutting

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 7, to welcome the newly re-opened Fox Hills Chrysler auto dealership, 111 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth.

New leader

The Chiropractic Federal Credit Union Board of Directors unanimously elected Margie Brace to the position of chairwoman of the board. With her election, Brace becomes the first woman and first non-chiropractor to lead CFCU, which is the only credit union in the nation founded by chiropractors and exclusively serving chiropractors, their families and staffs.



Brace

"I have been so honored all these years to represent CFCU, whose sole mission for 66 years has been to provide the chiropractic family with the tools and products they need to practice their profession," Brace said. "At CFCU, we build relationships. That's my answer when people ask me why CFCU is special and why they should join. We have great rates and programs, and a dedicated staff, but we build lasting relationships with our members. It's what makes us different."

Logos certified
Canton-based Logos Communications, Inc., a business specializing in public relations, marketing, writing, social media and communications training, received national certification as a Women's Business Enterprise by the Great Lakes Women's Business Council, a regional certifying part-

ner of the Women's Business Enterprise National Council. WBENC's national standard of certification implemented by the Great Lakes Women's Business Council is a meticulous process including an in-depth review of the business and site inspection. The certification process is designed to confirm the business is at least 51 percent owned, operated and controlled by a woman or women.

"This is an important designation for our firm and we are pleased to join the community of other woman-owned businesses in Michigan and around the country who are contributing to the economy," said Sue Voyles, Logos Communications president. By including women-owned businesses among their vendors, corporations and government agencies demonstrate their commitment to fostering diversity and the continued development of their supplier/vendor diversity programs.

Program recognized
Canton's therapeutic recreation Camp Leisure Club, offered by Canton Leisure Services, was honored Feb. 16 with an mParks "Excellence in Programming Award" at the Michigan Recreation and Park Association's annual Conference and Trade Show in Acme. The award is one of three Therapeutic Recreation Awards honoring outstanding professionals and programs within the Therapeutic Recreation field.

Over the last two years, the program has served more than 240 families with individuals who qualify for these unique adaptive services. These inclusive opportunities are available to Residents of Western

Wayne County with a wide range of disabilities and impairments.

Programming has grown dramatically over the last 15 years and focuses on promoting the development of fine and gross motor skills, health and wellness, social interactions, and independence in the community. Canton Leisure Club is a welcoming group of participants of all ages and staff who have created a unique environment that offers a deep sense of belonging and family through field trips, camps and fitness classes that really mean so much more.

"It's a magic mixture of life, love, and learning. It transcends what makes us different, celebrating the diversity of the human form and its triumphant spirit, while connecting us all in the ways that we are the same. Leisure Club creates a place where 'disabled' becomes 'distinct' and becomes 'can.'" said Jennifer Provenzano, Canton recreation coordinator.

Speaking Saturday

Kurt Kazanowski of Homewatch CareGivers, a Plymouth in-home health care professional, will host an interactive workshop 9-11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 9, at the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce. He will discuss the challenges and solutions of the adult caregiver, with key topics including financial decision-making; how to receive/pay for home care services; VA benefits; and dementia and Alzheimer's care tips.

The workshop is open to anyone looking for guidance in caring for aging loved ones. Tickets cost \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. The link to the event site: <http://thehomecareexpert.com/workshop-april-9-2016/>.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a proposal For Student Pictures for Canton High School, Plymouth High School and Salem High School. Specifications of the Request for Proposal (RFP) are available on at PCCSK12.com, under departments and business office or by contacting Kristen Hennessey, Director of Procurement, and Plymouth Canton Community Schools at kristen.hennessey@pccsk12.com. Proposals will be accepted as specified in the Request for Proposals at PCCS - E.J. McClendon Educational Center located on 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 on/or before **Tuesday, April 26 2016 at 10:00 am**. Bids shall be labeled: Bid document enclosed: "Photography Service Bid". The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Kate Borniniski

Published: April 7 & 14, 2016

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The Senior Alliance will host a Public Hearing session for input regarding the 2017-2019 Multi-Year Plan (MYP) for services to persons age 60 and older in southern and western Wayne County.

The Senior Alliance would greatly appreciate your input!

Monday, May 9, 2016
2:30-4:00 P.M.

The Senior Alliance
3850 Second Street, Suite 100
Wayne, MI 48184

Thursday, May 19, 2016
1:00-3:00 P.M.

Canton Senior Center
46000 Summit Parkway, Room: Art 2
Canton, MI 48188

Tuesday, May 24, 2016
10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

Brownstown Senior Center
21313 Telegraph Road, Hall D
Brownstown Twp., MI 48183

A draft of the 2017-2019 MYP will be available online April 8, 2016 at www.aaa1c.org

Written comments accepted until May 31, 2016.

For more information, call
734-858-2238

Published: April 7, 2016

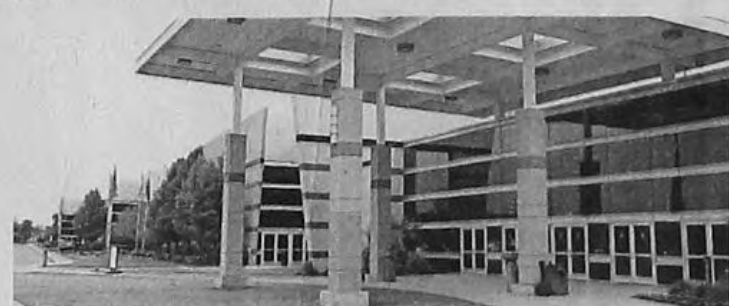
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Find a masterpiece at Great Lakes Art Fair

The annual Spring Great Lakes Art Fair at the Suburban Collection Showplace offers patrons the opportunity to experience nearly 200 of the region's finest artists and craftspeople in a single, indoor location. Organizers said the number of artists exhibiting in the fair continues to increase each year.

The Great Lakes Art Fair will take place April 8-10 at Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River, in Novi. Admission is \$7 for adults; children younger than 12 are free. Hours are 1-8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Featured mediums include painting, sculpture, ceramics, textiles and apparel, plus photography, metal, woodworking and jewelry, with live demonstrations and some select specialty items as well. Friday is Ladies Day, with admission is half off, plus the first 500 patrons will receive a



FILE PHOTO

Novi's Suburban Collection Showplace will host the Spring Great Lakes Art Fair.

complimentary gift card from Noodles & Co.

The GLAF offers an unofficial kickoff to the warm weather fair season and an opportunity to see new artwork before it "hits the streets" at outdoor fairs across the region. More information and \$2 discount coupons for entry are available at www.greatlakesartfair.com, while artists are featured on the GLAF Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/GreatLakesArtFair>.

"The reputation of the Great Lakes Art Fair as a high-quality destination event for artists has con-

tinued to expand and we have seen a steady increase of interest and participation from artists from all across the United States. This year we delighted to welcome an even broader array of talent, offering a wider spectrum of work than ever before" said Blair Bowman, owner of the Suburban Collection Showplace and the Great Lakes Art Fair.

The Great Lakes Art Fair is a juried art fair, with a panel of artists and curators collaborating to determine the ideal mix of mediums and artists that comprise the fair.



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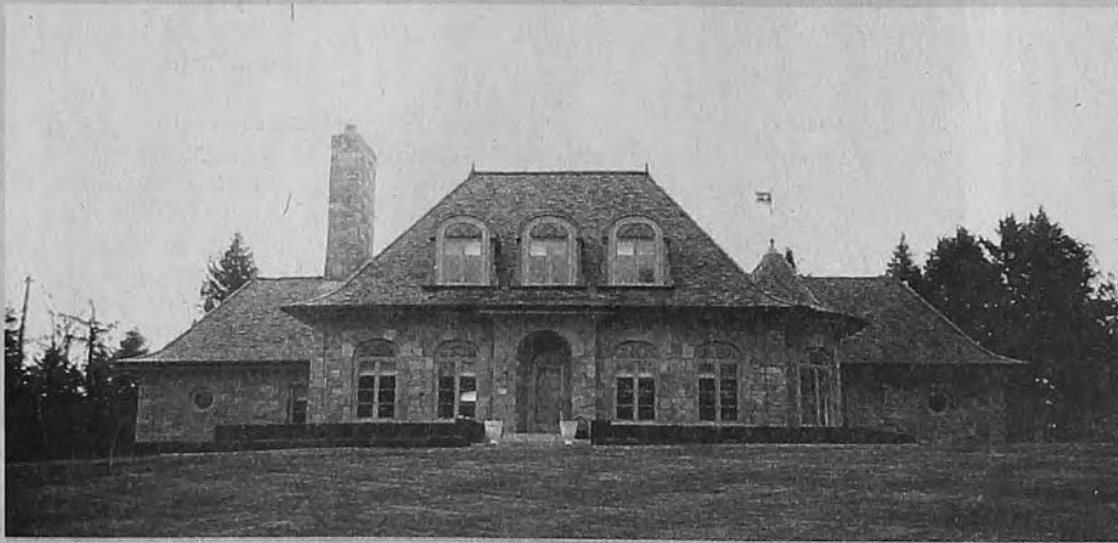
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OUR VIEW

Autism Awareness Month puts spotlight on issues

April is Autism Awareness Month, including World Autism Awareness Day. With the Garden City school district including both Burger Baylor School for preschool through high school students with autism, as well as the Burger Transition Center to help young adults, it's clear autism awareness is growing.

Both those facilities serve Wayne County and are part of greater awareness of autism and its impact on families. Burger Baylor recently hosted the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee men's basketball team in a game against students, while the Burger Transition Center hosted national expert Hal Wright on preparing special-needs people for life when their parents have died, including financially.

Autism Speaks was founded in February 2005 by Bob and Suzanne Wright, grandparents of a child with autism. Their longtime friend Bernie Marcus donated \$25 million to help financially launch the organization.

Autism spectrum disorder and autism are both general terms for a group of complex disorders of brain development. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and non-verbal communication and repetitive behaviors. With the May 2013 publication of the DSM-5 diagnostic manual, all autism disorders were merged into one umbrella diagnosis of ASD. Previously, they were recognized as distinct subtypes, including autistic disorder, childhood disintegrative disorder, pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified and Asperger syndrome.

ASD can be associated with intellectual disability,

difficulties in motor coordination and attention and physical health issues such as sleep and gastrointestinal disturbances. Some persons with ASD excel in visual skills, music, math and art.

Autism appears to have its roots in very early brain development. However, the most obvious signs of autism and symptoms of autism tend to emerge ages 2-3. Autism Speaks continues to fund research on effective methods for earlier diagnosis, as early intervention with proven behavioral therapies can improve outcomes. Increasing autism awareness is a key aspect of this work and one in which families and volunteers play an invaluable role.

Autism statistics from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identify around one in 68 American children as on the autism spectrum – a tenfold increase in prevalence in 40 years. Careful research shows that this increase is only partly explained by improved diagnosis and awareness. Studies also show that autism is four to five times more common among boys than girls. An estimated one out of 42 boys and one in 189 girls are diagnosed with autism in the United States.

ASD affects more than three million individuals in the U.S. and tens of millions worldwide. Moreover, government autism statistics suggest that prevalence rates have increased 10-17 percent annually in recent years. There is no established explanation for this continuing increase, although improved diagnosis and environmental influences are two reasons often considered.

Over the last five years, scientists have identified

a number of rare gene changes, or mutations, associated with autism. A small number of these are sufficient to cause autism by themselves. Most cases of autism, however, appear to be caused by a combination of autism risk genes and environmental factors influencing early brain development.

In the presence of a genetic predisposition to autism, a number of non-genetic, or "environmental," stresses appear to further increase a child's risk. The clearest evidence of these autism risk factors involves events before and during birth. They include advanced parental age at time of conception (both mom and dad), maternal illness during pregnancy and certain difficulties during birth, particularly those involving periods of oxygen deprivation to the baby's brain. It is important to keep in mind that these factors, by themselves, do not cause autism. Rather, in combination with genetic risk factors, they appear to modestly increase risk.

A growing body of research suggests that a woman can reduce her risk of having a child with autism by taking prenatal vitamins containing folic acid and/or eating a diet rich in folic acid (at least 600 micrograms a day) during the months before and after conception.

Increasingly, researchers are looking at the role of the immune system in autism. Autism Speaks is working to increase awareness and investigation of these and other issues, where further research has the potential to improve the lives of those who struggle with autism. More information is online at www.autismspeaks.org and www.autism-society.org.

LETTERS

More on candidates

Plymouth Concerned Citizens hosted two candidates for the upcoming election of the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees: Don Schnettler is running for township trustee and Jerry Vorva is a candidate for township clerk.

Schnettler, a building inspector for Washtenaw County, is a long-time resident of the township and has been attending board meetings regularly for the past 13 years. He is concerned about the lack of transparency and accountability with the current board. Public safety should be the No. 1 priority of the board and he believes that is not the case today.

Millions have been

spent at the park and taxpayers have subsidized the golf course with \$500,000 over the last five years, while our police officers have worked without a contract since December 2014. We don't have adequate fire equipment or a fully staffed fire department, which has been decimated to almost half of what it used to be. Schnettler feels this is totally unacceptable. He also believes that financial records should be available to the public at all times. The public doesn't even know if the township has enough money to cover its increasing legacy and debt obligations.

Vorva also spoke at the meeting. He was a police officer in the city

of Plymouth, a city commissioner and state representative for the 20th District before becoming a township resident. He has a law degree and a real estate business. He is concerned about property values in the township and how the actions of this board have negatively affected the reputation of Plymouth Township. Vorva feels that township residents need a clerk who will restore integrity and accountability to the job. We need someone who will work with the people and not against them. He would also like to repair the fractured relationship between the township and the city.

Both gentlemen will be on the Republican ticket in the Aug. 2 pri-

mary. The next meeting of the PCC will be at 7 p.m. April 27 at the library, with additional candidates featured. Everyone is welcome.

Jackie Peters
Plymouth Township

Man up, Governor

I believe the Republican legislature and Gov. Rick Snyder are to blame for the Flint water crisis. We voted down the Emergency Manager Law and within a month a few sentences were changed and money was added to the bill and it became law against the will of the people. Was it legal? Yes. Was it moral? No. Has it improved lives? No.

They shouldn't blame the EPA because our "Create-a-Bigger-Emergency-Manager" didn't make sure all the guidelines and procedures were in place before the switch was made. If the EPA had asserted itself, our leaders would have claimed government overreach including the fact that the Republicans

have three candidates running for President who want to get rid of the EPA.

Part of the Republican mantra is individual responsibility. It's time for the governor to "man up and resign."

Terry Cannon
Livonia

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The Los Gatos Latin band will play April 26 at the Plymouth Elks.

Elks continues blues and jazz music series

Blues @ The Elks happens 7-10 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325. There is a \$5 donation at the door and bring your dancing shoes. Blues @ The Elks is a partnership with the Detroit Blues Society (www.detroitbluessociety.org).

The blues program just keeps getting better and better! Tuesday, April 12, The Millionaires make their Elks debut. This multi-faceted 10-piece group is a Detroit-based band specializing in swing, jump blues, rhythm & blues and Latin jazz. They are dedicated to playing live music, music that swings, jumps, music that gets fingers snapping and toes tapping. In the band are Mark Berger, baritone sax; Bob Connor, string bass; Davey Lazar, trombone; Mark LoDuca, piano and organ; Dave Marcaccio, drums; John Slitti, congas and bongos; Steve

Wood, tenor sax and clarinet; Andy Wickstrom, trumpet; and Camille Price and Dan Devins on vocals. Go to www.millionairesplay.com.

Jazz @ The Elks happens 7-10 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month. There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres. Enjoy jazz in a listening room setting close to the entertainers.

Tuesday, April 26, also making its Elks debut will be the marvelous group from Ann Arbor, Los Gatos Latin. Pete Siers, founder and percussionist, says that the band has a small group sound with a lot more jazz influence, low volume, high intensity, playing ageless material like Tjader and others. Joining Siers will be conguero and lead singer, Al DiBlassio; Brian DiBlassio on keys; Cary Kocher on vibes; Kurt Krahnke on bass; and Siers on timbales. Go to www.losgatosmusic.com.

Costco looks to expand warehouse on Haggerty

David Veselenak
Staff Writer

More development is coming along Haggerty Road in Livonia later this year, though this newest project is an expansion of an already-popular business.

City council heard discussion during its study meeting Monday night surrounding a potential expansion of Costco, 20000 Haggerty. The company seeks to increase its warehouse space to offer more items to members, said Ted Johnson, Costco's development director for Midwest projects.

He said the company is looking to upgrade its older stores to match those stores that are being built now, in order to keep the inventory levels similar and give them a uniform look.

"This would be very similar in size to the one we opened in Pittsfield Township, perhaps two years ago," he said. "We want to be able to bring the merchandise that we're providing for a member in Pittsfield; we want that same merchandise available to our members here in Livonia."

Two additions would be made if approved, including along the back of the building facing I-275 and another area near the receiving area.

"Combined, this will increase the size of the warehouse from about 131,000 square feet to roughly 157,000 square feet," said Mark Taormina, the city's planning director.

The project was unanimously recommended for approval by the planning commission last month.

The item was placed on the city council's consent agenda for its April



CITY OF LIVONIA

Several additions are proposed to the Costco at 20000 Haggerty in Livonia.

18 regular meeting, meaning it is all but approved.

"Anytime we get remodels in Livonia, we appreciate the investment in our community," Councilman Brian Meakin said. "This is pretty exciting stuff to make this change to your structure."

Parking issues

There are some issues with parking at the lot, something that would need to be addressed by the company going to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The shopping center Costco is in is deficient about 170 parking spaces, though once the addition is complete, less parking will be available. That deficiency for the entire shopping center would increase to about 214 spaces where about 50 would need ZBA approval.

Johnson said the company is OK with the parking spaces it has currently and doesn't foresee a major congestion issue moving forward with an addition to the building.

He said a parking inventory was recently done on several busy days at the store and there were still empty spaces near the store.

"We are comfortable with a certain number when we build a Costco warehouse. The number we aim for is 700 spaces," he said. "The parking

inventory) showed there were quite a few spaces not utilized."

Councilwoman Maureen Miller Brosnan said she was slightly concerned with the deficiency of parking spots being taken away with the development. She said while other areas in the center, including as far away as the new Twin Peaks restaurant and Panera, which are included with the parking counts, are factored in, she said they seem too far for a parking location for most shoppers.

"My concern is that ... this is sometimes a very crowded parking lot," she said.

Taormina said the parking is fairly evenly

distributed and that parking in the lot nearby Costco itself was also looked at. A deficiency of the number of spaces there appeared to not be a major issue, he said.

Meakin said there have been times he's shopped at the store and has found himself walking a distance from the parking lot to the store, especially during the busy seasons. But he said it wasn't an issue if the company was OK with the parking situation.

"As long as you're comfortable with that, I don't have a major problem with it," he said.

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Canton Concert Band seeks members, elects new officers

The Canton Concert Band has announced new officers and is seeking new members to join its musical ranks.

The new executive committee governing the 10-year community organization includes Elizabeth Dornik, president; Patty Pulta, vice president; Jean Perczak, treasurer; Pauline Thorson, secretary; Debbie King, librarian; and Skip Bernard, member at large.

As a newly registered nonprofit organization, the group's responsibilities have grown to include fundraising management and marketing.

As always, the band is planning concerts for the future. This year's season includes many

local community concerts, as well as the annual spring and Christmas concerts at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

Under the direction of Jim Blough, conductor, the band is preparing for its spring concert at 7 p.m. May 14. It is titled "The Spirit of America" and includes patriotic favorites and, organizers say, a surprise or two.

The Canton Concert Band is always looking for new members. Musicians interested in joining the band should send an email to conductor@cantonband.com or call 734-249-8234. The band needs musicians who play oboe, bassoon, tuba, baritone, trombone and percussion.

Hindu Temple hosting citizenship workshop

A free workshop intended to help people with the process of becoming a U.S. citizen is coming to Canton.

The workshop is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 16, at the Hindu Temple of Canton, 44955 Cherry Hill Road.

It is being sponsored by the Hindu Temple and South Asian American Voices for Impact.

No legal fees are being charged for any



FILE PHOTO
The Hindu Temple of Canton is hosting a citizenship workshop.

application.

To register, send an email to acharyacp@yahoo.com.

World War II veteran reflects on freedom and service

Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

Gunther "Guy" Stern was just 15 years old when he was sent from his home in Germany to live with his aunt and uncle in St. Louis, Mo.

At the time, he considered it "a great adventure," as well as a way to distance himself from the Jewish persecution that had begun a few years earlier under Adolf Hitler's rule - and was progressing. His family, he said, "saw danger looming and made every effort to get their oldest son, me, out of the country."

"I thought, 'My God, how fortunate to get out of that hell hole'... gradually, (non-Jewish) classmates were turning against (me)," he said.

And he figured his mother and father and younger sister and brother would soon be joining him, that they'd all be together.

He was wrong.

Never again would Stern see his immediate family - or the other relatives he left behind in Germany in 1937.

"I didn't think there would be a long separation. Or an eternal one," he said.

Of course, several years would pass before he learned they lost their lives in the Holocaust - years Stern spent growing up, enrolling in college and, after being drafted, serving his new homeland as a U.S. Army interrogator during



Guy Stern in his office at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills.

World War II. He became part of The Ritchie Boys, a special intelligence group nicknamed after Camp Ritchie in Maryland, where the unit trained. It was composed primarily of German-speaking immigrants like Stern, who had fled Nazi Germany.

Now 94, Stern's ability to recall and share memories is more like that of a man decades younger. Without hesitation - and with an unmistakable German accent - he speaks of his war-time interrogations on the front lines, including the creation of "Kommissar Krukow," a much-feared Russian persona he concocted as a way to scare captured Germans into speaking or risk being sent to the dreaded Russian POW camps. His uniform was made from those of liberated Russian soldiers, his interro-

'WHAT HISTORY FORGOT'

Guy Stern will be on this Saturday's episode of "What History Forgot," which airs at 10 p.m. on the American Heroes Channel.

gation tent decorated with photos of Josef Stalin.

"Most were stupid enough to buy the story," he said, chuckling. "It all worked - 80 percent of the prisoners caved in."

He also talks of his own foolishness and inexperience during the Normandy invasion - his first assignment - which inadvertently resulted in a captured soldier telling him what he needed to know.

"After 10 minutes on shore, we started interrogating ... and this (prisoner) was one tough artillery sergeant. He

clammed up on me," Stern said. Within minutes of the interrogation's start, a German artillery shell exploded "pretty close" and everyone "hit the ground in the mud." Yet unlike the more seasoned soldiers, Stern immediately stood up, not realizing that an artillery shell was typically followed by a second. The captured soldier mistook that for courage, he said.

"He thought I was this bold, brave soldier - and that he better not fool with me," Stern said, grinning at the recollection.

'We did our best'

After the war, Stern went on to finish college, eventually earning a Ph.D. and enjoyed a fruitful career as a university professor. A few years ago, he was named director of the Harry and Wanda Zekelman International Institute of the Righteous at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills. And last fall, he took some time from to travel to New York City to film an episode of "What History Forgot," which airs at 10 p.m. Saturday on the American Heroes Channel. His segment highlights his participation in The Ritchie Boys.

While there's no doubt he's proud of his military service and his success as an interrogator, Stern is quick to note that he believes those truly worthy of praise and recognition are the soldiers who gave their lives on D-Day.

"We as The Ritchie Boys are touted as heroes. I think the men who are much more deserving are the troops who climbed those cliffs at Omaha Beach - they suffered horrible losses," he said. "We, The Ritchie Boys, we did our best."

Stern took his third wife, writer Susanna Piontek, at age 85, and the couple makes their home in West Bloomfield. His first marriage was brief, "like a lot of those that happened soon after war," he said. His son - the only child he'd ever have - has since died. So has Stern's second wife Judy, who taught high school for 40 years before dying from breast cancer.

Yet despite the sorrows and other challenges he has faced, Stern manages to keep a positive attitude - and outlook. In explanation, he quotes a line from Friedrich Schiller's "William Tell": "Look into the future, Werner, not the past."

To be downhearted serves no purpose, he adds. "What the hell use is that? ... at this stage in my life, I've learned to cope," he said. "There are trouble spots - about my family (for example), it still lingers."

And his work at the Holocaust Memorial Center plays an integral role in his disposition and how he lives his life, he added.

"This institution has been not just a job, but a symbol to me," Stern said. "In that symbol, as indicated and illustrated, is the fate of my family. And here, I am close to them."

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Beebe honored for service to Plymouth YMCA

A desire to connect more strongly with his two children is what initially led Jeremiah Beebe to the YMCA, but it was his commitment to the development of youth and to the community that led him to pursue other ways to serve the organization.

"Joining the YMCA Adventure Guides was the first step in my connection to the Y," said Beebe, who has participated with his daughter Grace, 11, and son Aiden, 9, since 2012. "I saw firsthand the positive impact this particular program had and it expanded my interest in the Y."

Beebe became a YMCA board member in 2014 with a desire to expand the Y's scope in Plymouth and in his local community of Belleville by making a positive impact on future Y programming and fundraising. The Plymouth YMCA branch includes Belleville in its service area.

Beebe was recognized for his efforts as he was awarded March 8 the YMCA Social Responsibility Advocacy Award during the YMCA Living Our Cause Celebration at the Detroit Institution of Arts. He was among the 13 honorees recognized that night, coming from YMCA branches throughout metro Detroit.



Jeremiah Beebe was awarded the YMCA Social Responsibility Advocacy Award.

"One of the main goals of the YMCA is to offer programs and services focused on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, that are designed to meet the unique needs of the communities they serve," said Sage Hegdal, executive director of the Plymouth YMCA. "Jeremiah has always done a

tremendous job at contributing to this focus. He has been an asset in many areas, but in particular he has a keen sense for helping to connect the YMCA to local organizations that have led to meaningful partnerships for the Plymouth Family YMCA. Our partnership with Vista Maria is an example of this. YMCA

teens have been able to volunteer at Vista Maria through our YVC program, and we are in the process of starting a Girls on the Run team there for the girls who live there. Jeremiah was critical in bringing us together, which has increased the capacity of both organizations to serve our community

better."

As a board member, Beebe has taken the core values and goals of the Y to heart. "The Y is accessible to all people and financial assistance is offered to families who cannot afford membership," Hegdal said. "Jeremiah understands how important this is and has taken an active role in assisting with fundraising for the Plymouth YMCA, looking for opportunities to make connections in the community and with businesses to develop sources for fundraising."

Beebe will happily admit that he enjoys everything he does with the Y, but has a soft spot for Adventure Guides. This parent-child program is designed and to strengthen the relationship between children and parents. Parents and kids explore fun activities, participate in learning experiences and develop mutual understanding through the process. Small groups of parent-child pairs called Circles meet on a regular basis in homes or other community locations, usually monthly. Circles sometimes come together for larger activities or "Expeditions" such as campouts, parties or charitable work.

"The core of the YMCA Adventure Guides program are the Circle

and Expedition meetings and activities," Hegdal said, "but the true value is the solid foundation for friendship and a lasting connection that is formed between parent and child that lasts a lifetime."

"Some Adventure Guide groups are designed specifically for fathers and daughters, some for fathers with both sons and daughters, as well as some groups which include moms," Beebe said. "This flexibility allows for groups to be formed in the ways that best serve the community. Our group, called the Flying Squirrels, allows me to spend time with both my daughter and son in ways that have created incredible memories and strengthened our connection to each other."

Beebe believes the program has allowed him to spend time with his children that is specifically focused on them with no distractions. Every activity, whether it is a baseball game, an overnight adventure, camping, hiking, bowling or other events, has been an opportunity for me to further my relationship with my kids," Beebe said. "The immediate gain is evident—spending time together—but the long-term gains are even more significant. I see the huge value in that."

Westland mayor selected for training at Harvard Business School

Westland Mayor William Wild has been chosen as one of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments Taubman Fellows for 2016.

SEMCOG's Taubman Fellowship for Executive Excellence provides local public officials who have record of demonstrated leadership an opportunity to broaden their

awareness of effective approaches to public-sector problems. The fellowship takes place at the Harvard University Business School.

"This program is a



Wild

once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for local government leaders to broaden their perspectives by interacting with colleagues from around the world," said Robert Taubman, chairman, CEO and president of Taubman Centers Inc. "The experience truly enhances the way public officials serve the residents of

southeast Michigan."

Wild is currently serving his third term as full-time mayor of Westland, Michigan's 10th largest city. He oversees the city's \$60 million operating budget and its approximately 300 employees. The city has had seven consecutive balanced budgets with a 10-percent surplus.

Wild said he will continue to focus on strengthening Westland's core priorities: public safety, clean neighborhoods, finding efficiencies in government, exercising sound fiscal management, protecting the environment and creating a healthier and more vibrant community. "My hope is to further

develop my leadership and problem-solving skills," Wild said about the fellowship. "It is my hope that this experience will also help me gain important insights from policy experts and scholars on a multitude of challenges and key issues that will help me better serve the residents of Westland."



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ONE MORE JOB TO DO

U18 team ready to close out two-year mission at Worlds

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Ever since they joined USA Hockey's National Team Development Program in 2014, Kieffer Bellows, Grant McPhee and Co. have kept their eye on the prize.

Namely, it's the chance to

help Team USA win a gold medal at the 2016 International Ice Hockey Federation Under-18 Men's World Championship.

For them and their teammates, the U18 Worlds is the reason they have sacrificed on and off the ice over a two-year stint that included playing against bigger, stronger, older

opponents from Division I colleges and the USHL.

And they can't wait for the puck to drop in Grand Forks, N.D.

"It's what you work for your whole entire two years here," said Bellows, a forward from

See **WORLDS**, Page B5



RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY
Grant McPhee (left) of the NTDP U18 team celebrates after scoring March 31 against Muskegon. He and his teammates are preparing for World Juniors in North Dakota.

BLOWING THE WHISTLE

ABOUT THIS SERIES

In recent years, officials in all sports have come under fire, whether from overheated parents, increased social media or disrespectful players and coaches. Many leagues and governing bodies are having a difficult time finding enough adults to act as officials for youth sports events.

Observer & Eccentric reporters conducted a variety of interviews in the last several weeks, with referees, officials, executives and others who are involved in the recruitment and training of sports officials. We found that, while many still enjoy the unique thrill of being part of the game, others are being driven from the playing field, some haunted by the killing two years ago of local soccer referee John Bieniewicz.

Today is the second of a two-part package of stories, "Blowing the Whistle." The first set of stories is available online at hometownlife.com.

INSIDE

- » Former prep player moves straight into officiating, B2
- » 'You don't have a horse in the race,' referee says, B3

USA TODAY NETWORK
ILLUSTRATION

'YOU CALL THAT A STRIKE?'

Teen ump — fed up with harassment from parents, coaches — throws herself out of game for good

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Katelyn Sherwood loves baseball, just not being an umpire in today's "anything goes" world.

According to the 15-year-old Canton resident, who endured an unhappy stint as an ump in the Greater Canton Youth Baseball Softball Association, she had no problem calling players out at home.

She just didn't think she'd have to deal with so many people who were out — of line. What made it worse was most of her vocal critics were adult coaches and parents who were making it impossible for her to call boys baseball games in the age 9-11 division.

"I would get a lot of jeering from the parents and the coaches because they did not agree with some of my calls," said the Belleville High School sophomore, formerly a catcher on the Canton Cardinals travel boys baseball team. "This is supposed to be a fun game, this is supposed to be relaxing, it's fall ball, it's a way to get some extra practice for 9- and 10-year-olds."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Katelyn Sherwood decided a few months of being verbally abused for how she called Little League baseball was enough to drive her away from the game.

See **FED UP**, Page B2

MHSAA looks to recruit 1,500 new officials every year

Bill Emerick
Staff Writer

Think your job is challenging? Try this one on for size.

You're a top-level executive of a statewide company, given the task of recruiting some 1,500 essential employees — each and every year. Most, if not all, of these employees are starting from scratch, meaning they'll need extensive training and support right from the start. A successful campaign will mean approximately one-third will still be on the job a year later.

And then you start over again. If that sounds to you like a thankless task, you're not alone. But that's the conundrum facing Mark Uyl in his role overseeing all things having to do with game officials in state high school ath-



"We see the average age (of officials) creep up. There's a great need to recruit and retain aggressively."

MARK UYL, an assistant director with MHSAA

letics.

Uyl is an assistant director with the Michigan High School Athletic Association, the private governing body based in East Lansing that sets the rules for competition and eligibility for prep

sports in this state. Uyl, a 41-year-old resident of DeWitt, has been with the MHSAA for 12 years, during which time he has seen the landscape for recruiting — and, more importantly, retaining — game officials for the various sports the MHSAA sponsors shift in various directions.

'Recruit and retain'

It's Uyl's job to keep the thousands of registered game officials who work MHSAA contests happy and content, so much so that they're willing to come back for more.

"That's always been a focus for us, for sure," Uyl said of recruiting new officials. "We see the average age (of officials) creep up. There's a great need to recruit and retain aggressively."

The MHSAA sponsors state championship tournaments in 18 different sports, some specific to boys (football) or girls (volleyball) and some open to both (basketball, swimming). Some sports require a large crew of officials (football, five or six) and some need just one (cross country).

It's in this widely varying field that Uyl must navigate to keep the games running smoothly and fairly.

The MHSAA currently has about 10,500 registered officials. Those officials are certified to do 1.7 sports each and the average age is 52½.

The high-water mark for registered officials was 12,000 in 2007-09, which dovetails with the years of the great recession in the state. That's not a coin-

See **MHSAA**, Page B2

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Ex-prep player moves straight to official

Marty Budner
Staff Writer

be an admirable thing to do, to want to give back to the game. It's a good way for me to stay involved."

Giving back

The 40-year-old Favours still loves putting on the striped shirt and "giving back" to the game he loves. Whether it's on the football field in fall or the basketball court in the winter, Favours has worked on fields and in gymnasiums across the state.

Favours has worked his way to the pinnacle of the MHSAA officiating ladder. He recently worked one of the four boys state championship games for the second time in his career. He's previously worked two girls basketball state finals games and has done three football state championship games — one at the Pontiac Silverdome and two at Ford Field.

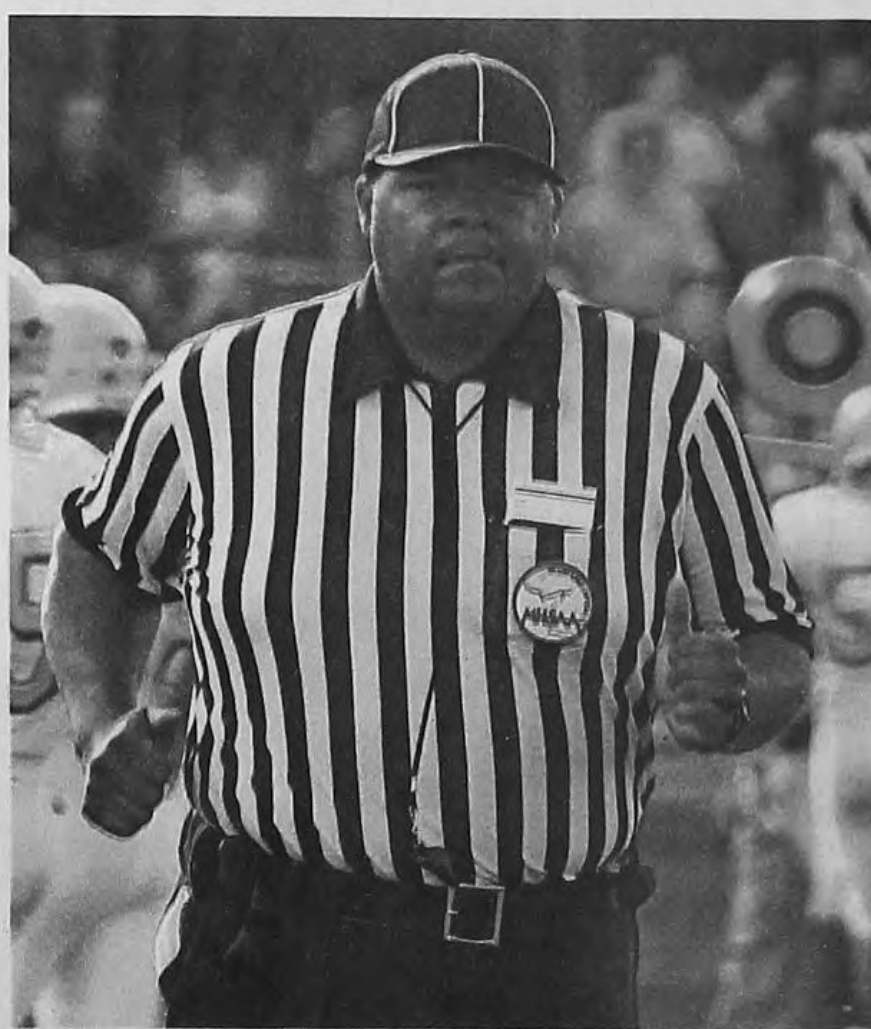
In addition, he's worked some Horizon League and MIAA college basketball games. Favours had the opportunity to work GLIAC college football years ago, but his day job demanded a lot of Sat-

"Officiating seemed like an interesting thing when I was growing up. I saw that officials were giving back to the game and I found that to be an admirable thing to do ..."

DONTA FAVORS
former Southfield-Lathrup athlete



See **PLAYER**, Page B3 Favours



Donta Favours has worked both high school and college football games over the years.

Donta Favours knew he was going to be a referee back in high school.

The 1994 Southfield-Lathrup graduate played prep basketball for the Chargers under head coach Bob Herm. While he loved to play, he also enjoyed refereeing the sport during those formative years.

Favours went to Central Michigan University, where he took a sports officiating class, got registered to become a certified Michigan High School Athletic Association ref at the tender age of 18 and has gone on to enjoy almost every minute of his eventful 22-year officiating career.

"At Lathrup, there was an intramural program for varsity basketball players to become referees," Favours said. "I got into it and took it seriously. I just enjoy it so much because it keeps me around the game I loved forever."

"Officiating seemed like an interesting thing when I was growing up," he added. "I saw that officials were giving back to the game and I found that to



Not all calls are seen the same way by players and officials, as this action from a game Mark Uyl worked during the College World Series demonstrates.

MHSAA

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cidence, Uyl noted.

"Whenever economic times become tougher, our numbers go up," he said.

By sheer number, football has the most registered officials, approximately 4,000. Basketball has about 3,800, while wrestling and ice hockey are at the other end, with some 450 each. It's those types of sports, ones that require either athletic skill or technical expertise, that are the hardest to staff.

"Those two sports are unique," Uyl said of ice hockey and wrestling. "Our pool of prospective officials almost has to come from former athletes in those two sports. We're always looking for officials in those two sports."

Unlike those specialized sports, game officials in the most popular sports often have no playing experience at all.

"We get lots of people in the major sports (baseball, basketball, football) who want to become officials who never competed in them," Uyl said.

1,500 per year

The target goal for Uyl each year is 1,500 new recruits. It's a good year if about one-third of those stick around to work another season. The biggest rate of attrition is always early in an official's career.

"If we can get an official to stay through the first three years, we usually have them for a long time," Uyl said.

"The data tells us the first three years are critical."

The MHSAA will sanction officials as young as 16 years of age under its legacy program, which focuses on attracting athletes who played sports in high school. The greatest number of new officials are in their early to mid-20s, an age before many people have yet to become tied down with career or family responsibilities.

"Where they really decrease is from about (age) 30 to 45," Uyl said of officials in general, not just new recruits. "That makes sense. That's when the demands of raising a family are typically the greatest. After that, their own kids don't take up as much time, usually, so we see a jump in that (45 and older) demographic."

A beginning official will almost certainly need to become a member of one of the various associations found throughout the state, from which most schools receive their assigned referees. A beginner will start at the lowest level, i.e. middle school, which can provide a tough start to a sometimes less-than-thankful job.

"You have a combination of the least experienced officials working with the least experienced coaches and playing in front of some young and not the most knowledgeable parents," Uyl said. "If somebody has a bad experience, we (may) never see them again."

The MHSAA makes an effort to pair younger officials with older, more experienced ones in a mentor's role. It can help to ease the criticism that's part of the job.

"Even if they don't work every game together, they can be a sounding board for the younger official," Uyl said.

A unique perspective

Uyl has a unique perspective from which to handle his position. A graduate of Caledonia High School on the west side of the state, he went on to play baseball at Calvin College

(bachelor's in 1996) before doing graduate work at Grand Valley State University (master's in 2001). In his spare time, he has continued to work as a baseball umpire, doing high school and college games. His experience includes Big Ten games and even an assignment at the College World Series.

He knows first-hand the allure for many to remain — or become — part of the action.

"Officiating can be one of the most satisfying things you can be involved with," he said. "For me, I still have a game to look forward to. Officiating has been for me the allure of the next game. It tests your courage and your fitness and your ability to control the situation."

While the amount of pay is no doubt attractive to some (\$25 to as much as \$70 per contest, depending on the sport and level), few officials will admit they're in it only for the money.

"It's a labor of love," Uyl said. "It's a way to give back. (The pay) might be a vacation fund or some extra money."

Even with all the support and training the MHSAA provides, it's still not enough to keep some officials from leav-

ing the ranks for good. The proliferation of club and travel teams, as well as the explosion of social media, have played a role in some officials walking away.

"You can't seem to go a week without seeing a story about a referee being pushed or verbally abused," Uyl said. "It doesn't take long for that attitude (from non-prep sports) to leak into the school environment."

And it's often parents who are the loudest voice of complaint. Uyl said the MHSAA receives "videos from phones at all levels, where 10 years ago we got maybe some VHS tapes."

"While social media isn't necessarily turning people away from officiating, it isn't making the job any easier," he added.

The MHSAA offers online registration and testing of officials for all sports, although a pen and paper option is still available for those who wish to go that route. Prospective officials must pass a test pertaining to rules and regulations before becoming certified. More information can be found at <http://www.mhsaa.com> under the "Officials" tab.

FED UP

Continued from Page B1

"So being insulted and criticized for my strike zone game after game, I thought it wasn't worth it."

Not worth it

The ongoing abuse certainly wasn't worth the \$35 per game, which she originally thought was good stuff when she was recruited by Joe Bottorff, a veteran MHSAA/GCYBSA umpire and assignor who also coaches varsity baseball at Plymouth Christian Academy.

"She started younger than normal because (Bottorff) was short umpires," said Rich Sherwood, Katelyn's dad who also coached her with the Can-



ton Cardinals. "She started a few months below the age where they normally want you to start."

Katelyn said she had a good rapport with umpires who

called the games she caught and heard comments such as "'Oh, it's a pretty good experience.' And since I had a good relationship with them, it seemed like a fun opportunity.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Richard Sherwood wonders whether social media is at the core of the way umpires are treated. "Maybe it's that people, they've gotten to the point where they feel like it's OK to criticize everything. Maybe that's the impact of the social media, everybody's got a voice and a sounding board."

So I was like, 'Why not do it? Plus I got paid.'

But just a short while later, she decided to give it up — she doesn't even play the game anymore — and focus on playing high school basketball.

Apparently, she isn't alone in making that same determination as the MHSAA and youth leagues are constantly on the lookout for new and capable people to call games, meets and matches under the microscope of fans who are quick to shoot a video in order to document what they perceive to be blown calls or dodgy decisions.

"In my work with assigning for the Canton (youth) baseball league," Bottorff said, "I can tell you that I had about five youngsters give up on umping this season due to coaches and parents riding them.

"Most of these were (age) 9-11 rec games. Many times I told them that I would have ejected someone in that situation and that they do not have to take abuse. But in the end, \$35 a game was not enough for them to continue to be treated that way and they found other ways to make money."

Out of control

Katelyn nodded that it might not be so bad to work in a fast food restaurant somewhere, especially compared to what she had to deal with in her few months as an umpiring fall 2014 and spring 2015.

"It would start with the coaches and then escalate to the parents," she said. "And then the kids, being 9 and 10

'You don't have a horse in the race'

Veteran hockey official ready to call penalty on fans' unruly behavior

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

"You're an idiot," one spectator screamed during a recent Michigan High School Athletic Association boys hockey state tourney game.

The venom was directed at one of the officials, who called a penalty in the late stages of a close contest. Others around him didn't hold back, either, although the referee wisely acted as though he didn't hear the harsh words.

Chances are, according to Jim Gaglead, the angry fans were heard loud and clear.

"If you have real thin skin, it won't help your day, that's for sure," said Gaglead, a hockey referee for 27 years who now assigns officials to staff MHSAA high school games in metro Detroit. "You just got to go out there with the mindset that you're in charge of the rules and that officials make calls on the actions of the players."

"At the end of the day, you don't have a horse in the race and you're just trying to make sure that the contest is called fairly."

Gaglead said that the lack of respect isn't limited to hockey. But just like in soccer and other sports, it is becoming increasingly tough to find enough men and women to officiate.

"It's very difficult right now," he said. "I think it goes back to when most officials started working high school or any hockey. At the end of the day, it's how thick their skin is to be able to get through the lower ranks and work their way up and still make it enjoyable."

"There's some guys who do it because they need the money and some guys because they love hockey, but more and more, it's difficult. We have challenges on trying to fill high school hockey games."

Not worth it

According to Gaglead, unless the culture changes, don't hold your breath that men and women will be getting in line to don the stripes. He caught an insider's glimpse as to why several years ago.

"When I was still doing USA Hockey, I would train



Jim Gaglead is an approved assignor for the MHSAA. He is tasked with finding referees for high school games. He also is a member of Livonia Ice Hockey Officials.

and mentor quite a few younger kids (refs) when they were first starting out," Gaglead said. "I'm talking 15-, 16-, 17-year-olds ... they just couldn't handle the verbal abuse from coaches, parents and players."

It takes a unique talent in itself.

"So most of them do not pursue it after a few years in it. I would say probably if 10 young officials start, after three years there's only one or

two continuing on."

Adding to the "thanks, no thanks" situation is social media — not to mention cell-phones that easily become video cameras.

"The biggest problem, with social media, everybody has a phone," Gaglead said. "I get videos all the time from coaches and parents where you see that kind of thing happen."

"Officials just get tired of not being able to go out and do their job as far as making on-ice, split-second decisions without having everything criticized."

Another point to ponder is that officials calling games at the youth and high school levels don't get paid a lot (\$25 to \$75 per game) for the abuse that gets directed their way.

"It's amazing how it will snowball throughout the course of the game to where, by the end of the thing, sometimes players take on the features of the crowd and it just gets out of control," Gaglead said. "Officials go off the ice and think, 'Wow, it's 70 dollars, but I put up with two-and-a-half hours of just total chaos.'"

Who would want to sign up for that?

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FED UP

Continued from Page B2

years old, they're going to follow what their parents and their coaches are doing.

"So then they started being disrespectful towards me. It just wasn't a fun experience."

"Funny thing was, I ran into a lot of the coaches multiple times, but it didn't get better. I don't think I could have gone a few more months."

Rich Sherwood said he felt heartsick at what Katelyn put up with and pinned the unraveling of respect and human decency to the way of the 21st century world.

"Maybe it's that people, they've gotten to the point where they feel like it's OK to criticize everything," Sherwood said. "Maybe that's the impact of the social media; everybody's got a voice and a sounding board."

"So their views come out all the time. So now, when they're interacting with real humans, instead of over social media, the same thing happens."

Price to pay

And fewer and fewer individuals are joining the officiating club for that very reason.

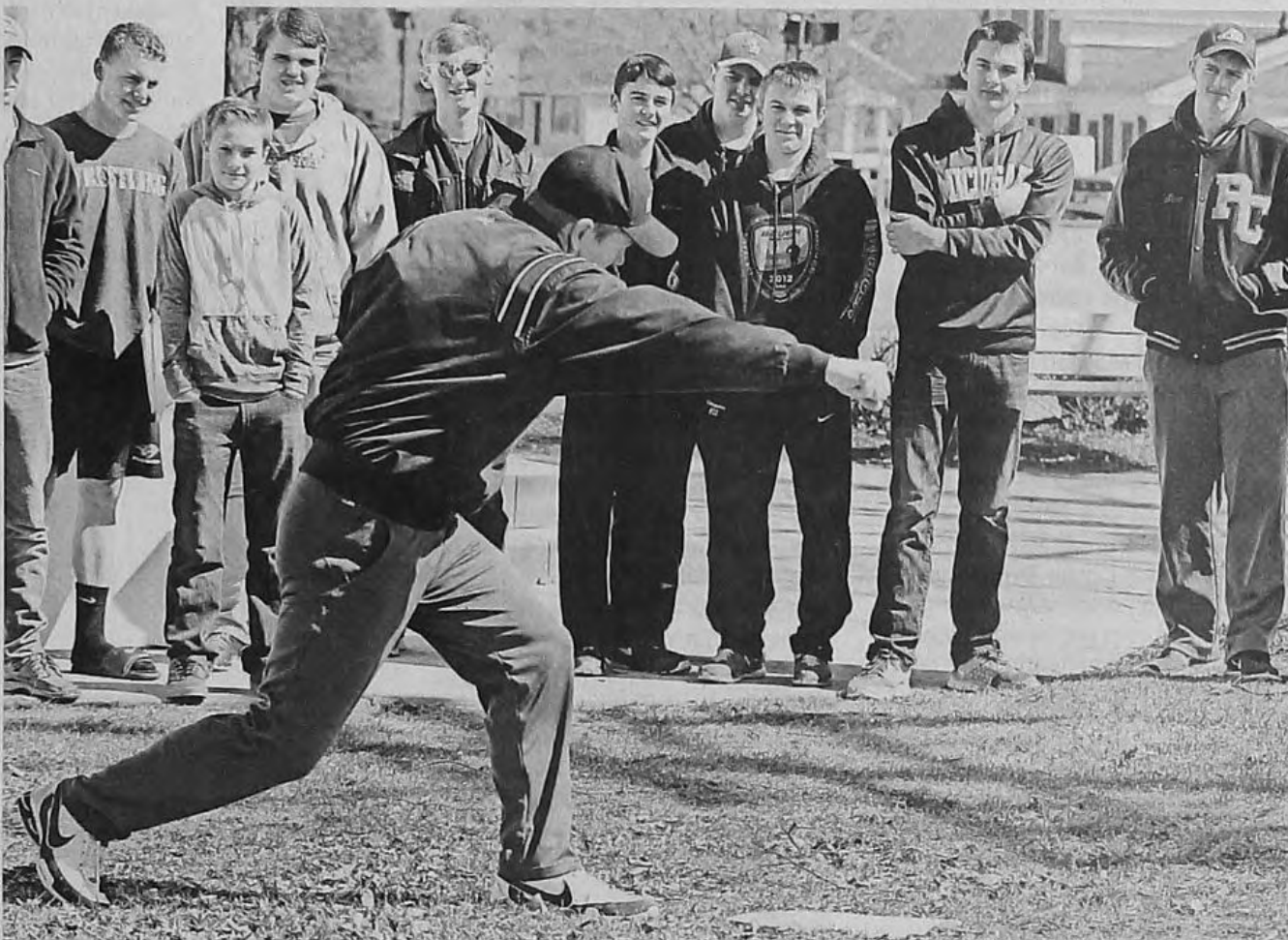
"I know the lady who runs GCYBSA," Sherwood said. "She told us they're having such a hard time getting officials that they've had to raise how much they pay the officials per game in order to attract new ones and keep the ones they have, because this is such an ongoing thing."

"This has got to be costing parents more money, because that means their fees are going up."

Also on the rise are blood pressures on diamonds and in bleachers and dugouts all over the place.

Consider a "game in the life" of Katelyn, as recalled by her dad.

"What happened was, a pitch was thrown in the dirt and it hit a batter after it hit the dirt," Sherwood said. "Katelyn said, 'Batter, take



Baseball umpire and coach Joe Bottorff shows prospective umps correct technique for calling a runner out during a 2015 clinic.

MICHAEL VASILNEK

your base.' The coach said it was a dead ball because it hit the ground. She said it's a dead ball when it hits the batter, but it's a live ball when it hits the dirt.

"After the game, he started arguing with her again, that (she) she needed to look at the rules and that she didn't know them. I was there, I said, 'Coach, that's the right call.'"

Sherwood said an adult ump from another field was brought in for his opinion and confirmed that Katelyn was correct. "But they were insulting her throughout the game because they thought she didn't know the rules," he said. "It's like, come on."

Last straw

But that was the appetizer for the main course, the single event that convinced the teenager to get out of the umpiring biz.

"There was a runner on

first, someone caught the ball and they're yelling 'timeout,' so Kate raises her hands," Sherwood said. "The girl on first base thought it was three outs. So she walked off first base. So immediately, the coach is yelling 'Throw the ball to first.'"

"They throw the ball to first and they think they got an out ... Kate says, 'Safe, you called a timeout, play is dead.' So (the coach) comes out and was getting in her face."

Making matters worse were the dirty looks the 9- and 10-year-olds were giving her.

"I felt like saying to the coach, 'Instead of putting all this effort into yelling at the umpire, maybe you should teach your kids how to play the game,'" Sherwood said. "The problem isn't that the umpire recognized that you called a timeout and that it's a dead ball. The problem is your kids are throwing the ball all over

the field."

After that verbal onslaught, he added, Katelyn walked off the field and "was just crying. She was like, 'I don't want to do this anymore, that was such a horrible experience.'"

Ugly experiences such as that might give other youngsters pause before considering becoming an umpire or doing the job for any length of time.

The code

Organizations like the GCYBSA and Plymouth-Canton Little League want what happened to Katelyn as the outlier and not the standard.

In the GCYBSA's code of conduct, boorish behavior from a parent could jeopardize a player's spot in the league.

"I pledge to be a positive role model for my child by showing respect, courtesy and positive support for players, coaches, umpires and opponents at all practices and

games," reads the code of conduct that parents must agree to during the registration process. "I will not engage in ANY unsportsmanlike conduct, verbal, physical or gestures that takes away from a positive sports experience."

The code concludes with a clear-cut edict that not abiding by it could lead to "disciplinary action which could include warnings, suspensions, forfeits or termination of participation in the GCYBSA."

Likewise, no shenanigans against umpires or anybody else is tolerated in the PCLL, especially under the watch of new president Jeff Holt.

"Everyone who is involved is a volunteer on some level," Holt wrote in an email to the Observer. "I expect our league — kids, coaches, umpires, parents, stakeholders — to treat each other with dignity and respect. Common courtesy. I won't put up with nonsense."

"Every constituent in PCLL is part of our extended family. That includes our umpires."

Worth remembering

Echoing that stance is Don Lohmann, PCLL chief umpire and vice president of baseball operations.

"We have a zero tolerance policy when it comes to abuse on any level," Lohmann said. "Although, we do not have many issues of this sort in PCLL, they do occasionally occur."

"When they do, we respond quickly and proportionately. ... One of the points I stress to our umpires is to make every effort to diffuse situations before they get to that point and to keep their ears open. We must all remember that this is a game."

Unfortunately, every season in every league in every town is peppered with bad behavior that unfairly targets officials just like Katelyn Sherwood.

That's not a game, it's a crying shame.

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PLAYER

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urday work, which curtailed any future as a college football referee.

Demanding side job

Favors will tell you that officiating itself is a demanding side job which can cause havoc with family situations for refs who elect to make it a part-time profession by working four or five days a week. That's one reason why Favors is still a bachelor.

"My career over the years has affected my dating situations," said Favors, a district sales manager for Pay Systems in Farmington Hills. "The time you need to build (personal) relations, you're out there on the court. I've made a lot sacrifices over the years."

"You try to balance your work life, your traditional job and your family. There are a lot of factors involved and you have to put your priorities in

place. I've seen it a lot of different ways, where people screw up their priorities."

"I've seen where people divorced because they're refereeing too much," he added. "You miss out on a lot of time with your family. There are a lot of refs who take off in the middle of their careers because they realize they haven't spent much time with their families."

Favors' career is filled with many highlights and a minimal amount of low lights.

Favors is president of the Metro Detroit Athletic Officials, a 500-plus member organization which helps train referees. He also officiated in the very first game at the Suttons Bay gymnasium years ago.

He's enjoyed officiating some of the state's most well-known stars — Draymond Green (Saginaw, MSU and now with the Golden State Warriors), Shane Battier (former Detroit Country Day and Duke standout who won an NBA championship with the Miami

Heat) and Jason Richardson (Saginaw Aurthur Hill grad who starred at MSU and played professionally).

Favors also had the opportunity to officiate the last basketball game played inside his alma mater at Lathrup just this past February. The Chargers played district rival Southfield; the two schools will consolidate starting next year.

"I've got to say that was pretty sentimental for me," Favors said. "It was great that I was allowed the opportunity to referee where I played. For the school to be closing, it was a great honor for me to be there for the last time."

No ejections

Among the few low lights, Favor recalls an instance early in his career when a spectator threatened him and his crew out in the parking lot following a junior varsity football game. He's also quick to point out that while he's handed out his share of technical fouls, he's never ejected a coach from a game.

One other aspect of officiating which bothers Favors is the lack of quality referees who are available for both the boys and girls games since a lawsuit forced the MHSAA to conduct the seasons at the same time. Previously, the girls played in fall and the boys in winter.

"I think you had more qualified officials who were able to do the girls games before the lawsuit," he said. "The girls had their own time. Now you have to think about all the games going on."

"Boys and girls are playing in the same season. One league plays boys on one day and in another league the girls may play on the same day. There are just not enough officials to go around and call the games."

"I mean, there are enough people, but not the quality of referees," he added. "It's not that the quality of refereeing has gone down, but it's that the ability to have quality officials has changed. The availability of the top-tier guys to work the games is more difficult now."

The good times have certainly outnumbered the bad times and Favors still loves what he's doing. While he usually pockets \$60 per varsity game, which is lower than some parts of the state and the country, it's not about the money. It's more about making friends and, like the officials he admired in high school, giving back to the sport he loves.

"I've worked in pristine conditions. I've worked in not so pristine conditions," Favors said. "I've been to the scariest areas of any city and I've been to the greatest suburbs. I've put a lot of miles on the car."

"The biggest thing over the years is I've gained a lot of friends and associates through officiating. It's like a brotherhood, a fraternity. Once you forge a relationship with your fellow referees, it carries over."

"It's not about the money," he added. "It's about the kids, being active and staying involved. And, for me, it's really about the game I've loved all my life."

2015-16 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS BOWLING TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Julia Huren, John Glenn: Fueled by a regional-best game of 258, Huren knocked down 1,279 pins in six games to place second behind only Farmington's Candyce Bradley (1,290). She then placed second in the Division 1 state meet individual tournament, closing out a stellar career that has led to a scholarship at Arkansas State University, one of the top women's collegiate programs in the country.

"Julia is not only our best bowler, but she's our best bowler under pressure, and that's what it takes to do well at the state tournament," said coach Cabildo. "She is coached by a former professional, Aleta Sill, and when you have a coach like that, it's going to make a difference. "Julia has everything it takes to be successful. She's athletic, she's smart, and she owns six to eight bowling balls that she'll bring to the lanes, using the one that is best for the conditions."

Candyce Bradley, Farm. Unified: Bradley was named the team MVP for the third straight year after winning the regional championship at Super Bowl and reaching the state semifinals.

She was the No. 2 qualifier in the state singles tournament. Bradley had the top average in the OAA for the third year in a row at 211 and was named to the all-league first team. She had a career-high best game of 275, and her highest season series was 486.

"Candyce is an even better teammate and role model than she is a bowler," coach Dennis Hermani said. "The sky is the limit for this young lady when it comes to bowling, but her leadership and commitment to the team are what set her apart."

"Candyce is all class and sportsmanship at all times. It carries over into the classroom where she carries a 3.25 GPA in the IB program."

Katie Worden, Farm. Unified: Worden qualified for state with a third-place finish in the Division 1 regional at Super Bowl, and she advanced to the state quarterfinals with a fourth-place finish in the qualifying round.

She bowled a 175 average in 59 games overall, and she had a 171 average in league matches. She had a career-high game of 257 at the state meet, and her high series of 426 happened at the Cougar Classic in which she placed fifth. Worden will bowl for Pikeville University in Kentucky.

"Katie always shows up during the biggest matches and tournaments and has done so her whole career," coach Hermani said. "She won the Division 1 state singles JV championship last year."

"The jump to varsity this year may have intimidated some but not Katie. She bowled well enough to finish as the ninth-best bowler in the state for Division 1."

Emily Dietz, John Glenn: Dietz put the wraps on an outstanding career at John Glenn by placing ninth and earning an individual state-meet berth with a pin total 1,043 at the Rockets' Division 1 regional tournament. Thanks in large part to Dietz and fellow seniors Huren and Ashley Kolb, the Rockets went unbeaten in dual matches over the past four seasons.

Dietz has earned a scholarship to bowl for Youngstown State University, an emerging Division 1 college program.

Meghan Macunovich, Canton: The junior had another remarkably consistent season, averaging just under 195 pins for 28 league games including a high game of 251.

Macunovich reached the Division 1 state finals for the third straight year thanks to her six-game score of 1,097 at regionals before finishing 17th a week later at the finals with a 1,161 tally.

"Meghan is a great asset to the team," coach Kristin Truszkowski said. "She is constantly working to better her own game; and plays an important role in helping her teammates."

Rachel Doran, Farm. Unified: Doran, who averaged 186 for the season in 56 games, had her best performances in tournaments, finishing second three times and third once. She was fourth in the regional singles competition and qualified for the state meet.

Doran had 25 games of 190 or better, giving her 49 over the past two seasons. Her high game was 246, her high series a 454. She is an all-state nominee again after being named to the third team last year.

"This young lady has a very bright future in bowling, and we are fortunate to have her back in the No. 4 spot of our rotation next year," coach Hermani said.

Ashley Kolb, John Glenn: A four-year varsity standout, Kolb placed seventh at the Rockets' Division 1 regional event with a pin total of 1,058. She was a mainstay in the Rockets' back-to-back state-qualifying team efforts. Kolb has earned an athletic scholarship to bowl for Youngstown State University beginning next season.

Emily Zalenko, N. Farmington: Zalenko averaged 175.6 pins per match and had a high game of 255. She made the Mercy all-tournament team with a fourth-place finish.

She placed 11th in the Oakland County event. As a team captain, she was an exemplary team leader, according to coach Mike Horner.

"Emily was always one of the first to practice every day and worked extremely hard at improving all aspects of her game," he said. "She was our anchor bowler and battled it out against opposing teams' best bowlers all season."

"We are thrilled that she has another year to represent North Farmington, and she has already been named one of our captains for next season."

Kayla Thompson, Wayne: Thompson placed 12th at the Zebras' Division 2 regional tournament with a pin total of 1,011.

Christina O'Harris, Wayne: O'Harris placed 13th at the Zebras' Division 1 regional tournament with a six-game pin total of 994.

Rachel Lopez, Salem: The Rocks' captain was a standout all year, and helped her team finish third at the team regionals to earn a spot at the team state finals in history.

Lopez averaged 170 during the regular season and placed 11th at individual regionals with a 1,019 tally.

"Rachel was a true team leader, and dedicated to her role," coach Kathie Hahn said. "She kept her team involved together on the lanes and outside of the bowling alley."

Lopez also was a scholar-athlete involved in National Honor Society, Student of Salem Athletics (SOSA) and Link Crew.

Marissa Bruni, N. Farmington: The sophomore bowled an averaged of 173 per match and had a high game of 253. Bruni made the Mercy and Oakland County all-tournament teams with fifth- and seventh-place finishes, respectively.

"Marissa has blossomed into an exceptional bowler who came to us just last season with no prior experience," Horner said. "She is an intense competitor who never stops working to improve."

"Her hard work at practice is a continuous example for all of her teammates. She has unlimited upside potential."

Heather Lillystone, Mercy: Lillystone carried a 165 average in Catholic League matches and tournaments. She is a three-year varsity starter and was named the all-league first

team. She made the Mercy all-tournament team with a 562 series and was the runner-up in the league singles tournament with a four-game total of 742.

Lillystone was a team captain and was named to the academic All-Catholic team.

ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS BOWLING FIRST TEAM
 Julia Huren, sr., John Glenn
 Candyce Bradley, jr., Farm. Unified
 Katie Worden, sr., Farm. Unified
 Emily Dietz, sr., John Glenn
 Meaghan Macunovich, jr., Canton

SECOND TEAM
 Rachel Doran, soph., Farm. Unified
 Ashley Kolb, sr., John Glenn
 Christina O'Harris, sr., Wayne Mem.
 Kayla Thompson, jr., Wayne Mem.
 Emily Zalenko, jr., N. Farmington

THIRD TEAM
 Rachel Lopez, sr., Salem
 Marissa Bruni, soph., N. Farmington
 Heather Lillystone, sr., Mercy
 Maddy Vance, jr., Farm. Unified
 Shaelyn Wojewski, sr., Wayne Mem.
 Katherine Kehoe, sr., Salem

HONORABLE MENTIONS
 Mercy: Bridget Furlong, Lilian Lebednick; N. Farmington: Varisha Essani, Ashlynn Toles; Farmington-Harrison: Courtney Pyle, Rylie Gradin; Plymouth: Madalyn Harden; Salem: Brynna Samuels; Canton: Emily Kacic; Redford Union: Mia Sopko.

Maddy Vance, Farm. Unified: Vance finished her first year on varsity with a 171 average in 49 games, increasing the number by 17 pins. She had a high game of 225 in the regional tournament and a high series of 424 in the Cougar Classic in which she placed ninth overall.

"Her OAA average of 174 was the 12th best in the league and earned Maddy a spot on the All-OAA second team," coach Hermani said.

"This is an amazing start for a young lady who had no varsity experience, but she did have a fifth-place finish to her credit at the JV states last year."

Shaelyn Wojewski, Wayne: Wojewski placed 16th at the Zebras' Division 1 regional tournament with a six-game pin total of 991.

Katherine Kehoe, Salem: A four-year member of the Rocks' varsity, Kehoe averaged 163 during the regular season and contributed to the team qualifying for states with a third-place tally of 3,483.

At individual regionals, hosted by Super Bowl in Canton, she registered a 916 score to finish 27th.

"Katherine was such a consistent bowler her four years she was on the varsity team," Hahn said. "She respected and helped her teammates with their game and always did it in a fun way."

GIRLS TENNIS PREVIEW — PART 2

Senior Yu again to lead Rocks

Rest of lineup still being determined as season looms

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Second-year Salem girls tennis coach Ty Moss knows she has senior Chelsea Yu penciled in for No. 1 singles.

The rest of this season's lineup remains in flux, although Moss is optimistic she has plenty of talent to choose from during the 2016 season.

"One position that is for certain is Chelsea Yu," Moss said. "She will play in the No. 1 singles spot for her third year in a row. She is an amazing player and a great leader as one of the team's two captains."

The other captain is senior doubles player Madison Kulik. Joining Yu in the singles

lineup will be junior Bianca Ghita and promising freshman Lizzy Lu, but Moss said the fourth singles player is still to be determined as the April 12 KLAA opener looms.

Kulik certainly will be in the doubles lineup, as will other returning varsity players, including seniors Rachel Godfrey, Ashley Henderson and Amy Lawler; juniors Sarah Martin and Trina Pal; and sophomores Corina Ghita, Raegan Henderson and Emilee The.

"We have a few newcomers as well that I look forward to adding to the varsity team roster," said Moss, whose 2015 squad went 6-3 overall and 2-3 in the KLAA Central Division. "Our JV team will be strong as well this year, as we have a lot of players who have taken tennis lessons and classes throughout the year."

"Having a strong JV program is important as those



Three returning players certain to impact how Salem's varsity girls tennis team fares are (from left) Chelsea Yu, Madison Kulik and Bianca Ghita.

players will, hopefully, become solid varsity players in the years to come."

The first test for the Rocks

is set for Tuesday, April 12, against Novi at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
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GIRLS TENNIS PREVIEW — PART 2

Positive outlook abounds for new-look Canton squad

Chiefs look to move up in KLAA South standings

Tim Smith
Staff Writer

It's a different lineup, to say the least, for the Canton varsity girls tennis team, what with six top players from the 2015 team having graduated.

But veteran coach Barb Lehmann is a "glass half-full" type person who isn't dwelling on the fact the Chiefs lost No. 1 singles player Jasmine Najm-Henry, No. 3 singles player Alexis Madau, the No. 1 doubles tandem of Megan

Plave and Maranda McMaster, No. 2 doubles player Amy Dalton and No. 5 doubles player Merna Afnan.

"While great players on the court, they were also great teammates and role models," Lehmann wrote in a recent email to the Observer.

Stepping right in to team leadership roles are senior co-captains Heather Thibault and Kaylee Rivera, plus the 2016 squad has a nice mix of returnees and newcomers.

"The season looks bright with the addition of (freshmen) Isabel Espinoza and Marquette Winston," Lehmann said. "They are joined by addi-

tional new players and great returning players."

Rivera and Lily Pita, both singles players, are the top returnees, but Lehmann said she is looking for improvement from Caroline Scheuing, Megan Griffin and Cindy Stuch.

"We should find even more success as match play begins in mid-April," Lehmann noted.

Canton finished 4-5 overall and 3-2 in the ultra-competitive KLAA South Division (fourth place) in 2015, with hopes of moving up in the standings this spring.

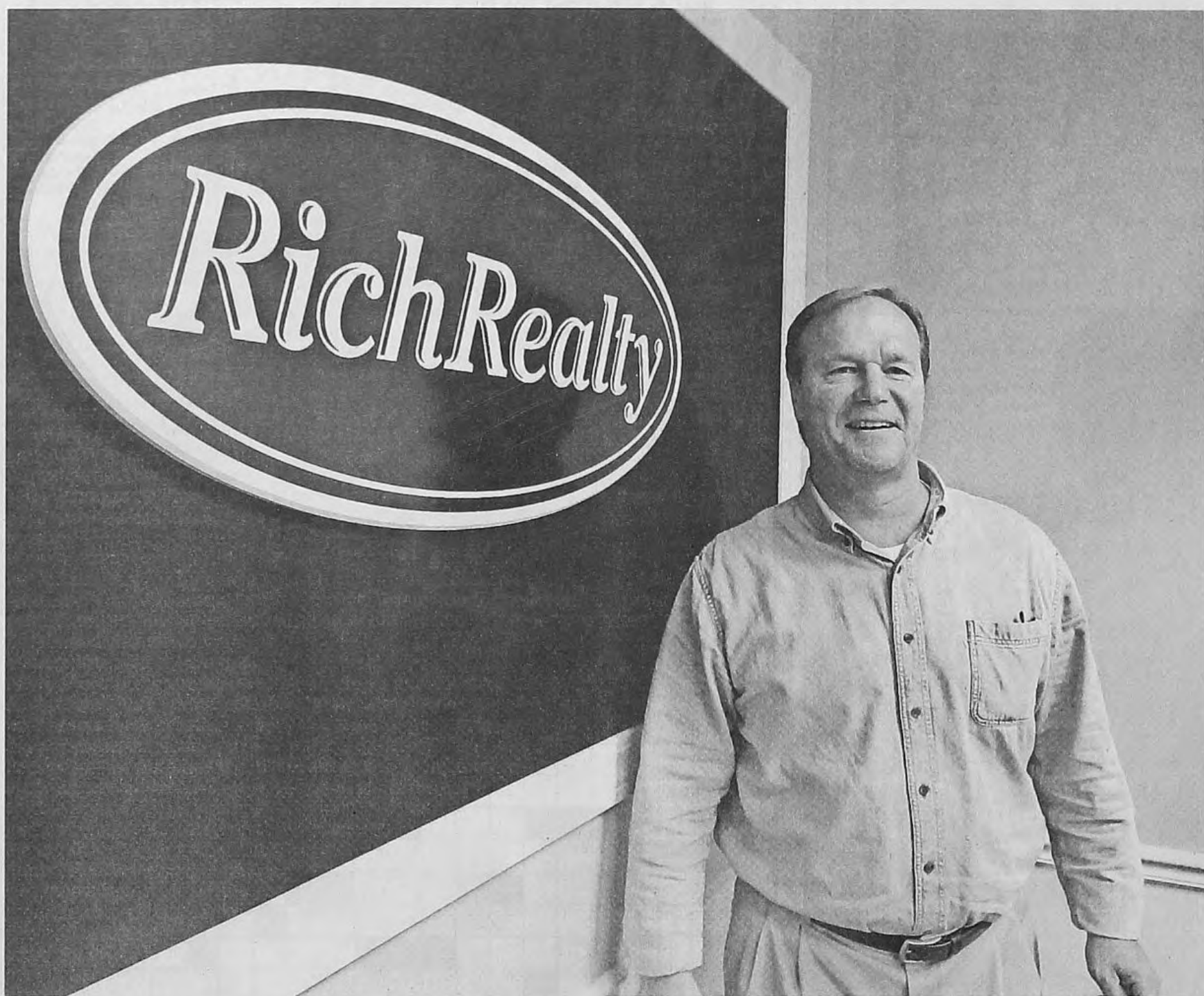
Lehmann, who is beginning her 24th season at the helm, is



Canton's co-captains are seniors Heather Thibault (left) and Kaylee Rivera.

being assisted by new junior varsity coach Bev Lardin, in her first season with the program.

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Richard Eisiminger, broker/owner of the RichRealty Group in Plymouth, said, "I would definitely agree with the market being strong."

JULIE BROWN

Industry report: Home sales strong locally, in greater Midwest

Pending home sales rose solidly in February to their highest level in seven months and remain higher than a year ago, according to the National Association of Realtors. Led by a sizable increase in the Midwest, all major regions except for the Northeast saw an increase in contract activity in February.

The Pending Home Sales Index, a forward-looking indicator based on contract signings, rose 3.5 percent to 109.1 in February from a downwardly revised 105.4 in January and is now 0.7 percent above February 2015 (108.3). Although the index has now increased year-over-year for 18 consecutive months, last month's annual gain was the smallest.

Richard Eisiminger, broker/owner at the RichRealty Group of downtown Plymouth, said, "I would definitely agree with the market being strong." He and colleagues serve Canton-Plymouth-Northville-Novato, which he finds especially strong.

"Inventory is what's driving the prices up. It's very low. So good for sellers, not good for buyers," Eisiminger said.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, says pending sales made promising strides in February, rising to the highest index reading since last July (109.8). "After some volatility this winter, the latest data is encouraging in that a decent number of buyers signed contracts last month, lured by mortgage rates dipping to their lowest levels in nearly a year and a modest, seasonal uptick in inventory," he said. "Looking ahead, the key for sustained momentum and more sales than last spring is a continuous stream of new listings quickly replacing



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Pending home sales rose solidly in February to their highest level in seven months and remain higher than a year ago, according to the National Association of Realtors.

what's being scooped up by a growing pool of buyers. Without adequate supply, sales will likely plateau."

Eisiminger noted of low interest rates, "It continues to bring us qualified buyers. We are staying very busy."

Eisiminger compares this market locally to those of the past two springs with "buyers in a good number and just tough to find good qualified homes."

He said for a well-located home in turnkey condition, "It could be gone in a week for sure, maybe less, with multiple offers."

According to Yun, the one silver lining from February's noticeable slump in existing-home sales was that price appreciation lessened to 4.4 percent, which is still above wage growth but certainly

more favorable than the 8.1 percent annual increase in January.

"Any further moderation in prices would be a welcome development this spring," Yun said. "Particularly in the West, where it appears a segment of would-be buyers are becoming wary of high asking prices and stiff competition."

Eisiminger noted it's not good for prices to skyrocket "which comes back to 101 supply and demand." He noted in 2005-06, a seller could put on almost any price "and it would sell. We have to get up but maybe not so fast," Eisiminger said of not repeating that era this time.

According to the NAR, existing-home sales this year are forecast to be around 5.38 million, an increase of 2.4 percent from 2015. The nation-

al median existing-home price for all of this year is expected to increase between 4 percent and 5 percent. In 2015, existing-home sales increased 6.3 percent and prices rose 6.8 percent.

The PHSI in the Northeast declined 0.2 percent to 94.0 in February, but is still 12.6 percent above a year ago. In the Midwest the index shot up 11.4 percent to 112.6 in February, and is now 2.5 percent above February 2015.

Pending home sales in the South increased 2.1 percent to an index of 122.4 in February but are 0.4 percent lower than last February. The index in the West climbed 0.7 percent in February to 96.4, but is now 6.2 percent below a year ago.

Staff writer Julie Brown contributed to this report.

Architectural control issue: best to ask lawyer

Q: The developer of our subdivision had architectural control responsibilities. He claims now that he has assigned that to the Board of Directors of the association. The board is trying to enforce those requirements against us but I see nothing in writing that was recorded regarding the assignment. What do you think?

A: Based upon a recent Michigan Court of Appeals decision on similar facts, the court held that a developer can assign its rights under a restrictive covenant to an HOA, either orally or in writing unless the restrictive covenant include a limitation or conditions on the developer's ability to assign its rights. Therefore, if your documents provide that the assignment can only be in writing and must be recorded, the assignment is not effective. Obviously you will need to have a knowledgeable attorney review your documents to see whether the assignment has been properly effectuated.

Q: I am wondering if you know of any authority where second-hand smoke has been considered a nuisance in a particular situation in an apartment or condominium?

A: Yes. At least in California, second-hand smoke can be a nuisance based upon the facts in a particular situation. I am advised that there are various high-rise condominiums in California that have amended their restrictions to be a smoke-free building in all respects. It depends on the circumstances of each case and you are best advised to consult with a knowledgeable community association attorney to research the cases regarding the prohibition on smoking in and outside of a condominium unit.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. Visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are from 6-9 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate.

Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. The Red Lobster is next to 7-Eleven, near Trenton Road.

For more information, call Bill Beddoes at 734-934-9091 or Wayde Koehler at 313-819-0919.

Short sales

If you owe more than what your house is worth, you may be interested in a free informational seminar on short sale procedures.

Bonnie David, broker/owner of Quantum Real Estate, is the presenter. It will be 6-7 p.m. each Thursday at 129 N. Lafayette, downtown South Lyon.

For more information, call the office at 248-782-7130 or email june.quantum@gmail.com.

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96.

For more information, email Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com or visit www.FreeForeclosureTour.com.

Fire extinguisher can be a life-saver when used correctly

A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives; but portable extinguishers have limitations. Because fire grows and spreads so rapidly, the No. 1 priority for residents is to get out safely.

Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing; everyone has exited the building; the fire department has been called or is being called; and the room is not filled with smoke.

To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word PASS:



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Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area.

» Pull the pin. Hold the ex-

tinguisher with the nozzle

» Pointing away from you, and release the locking mechanism.

» Aim low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.

» Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly.

» Sweep the nozzle from side-to-side.

» For the home, select a multipurpose extinguisher (can be used on all types of home fires) that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle.

» Choose a fire extinguisher that carries the label of an independent testing laboratory.

» Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a

fire breaks out. Local fire departments or fire equipment distributors often offer hands-on fire extinguisher trainings.

» Install fire extinguishers close to an exit and keep your back to a clear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.

» Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.

Workshop features 'nutrient-dense' condiment-making

When you think of condiments — the ketchup, mustard or mayo you slather on a sandwich — does the word "healthy" come to mind? Probably not. But an upcoming workshop through the Lathrup Village Recreation Department will show you how fun and easy it is to make condiments, sauces, dressings and marinades that are nutrient-dense and healthful.

"We are so health conscious nowadays, this seemed like such a perfect fit for Lathrup Village and our surrounding communities," said Maralee Rosemond, recreation coordinator.

The interactive session, 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, April 12, will be presented by volunteer team members of the nonprofit Healthy Traditions Network — the Metro Detroit Chapter of the Weston A. Price Foundation. Price was a dentist in the 1930s and 1940s who traveled the world and discovered that people who ate traditional diets indigenous to their village or community had much better oral health and overall health than people in industrialized areas whose diets lacked essential food factors.

"He was one of the first authors of books on health through nutrition. He realized that most of our health comes from our food as long as it's



Diana Wing
GUEST COLUMNIST

good nutrient-rich food," said HTN Chapter leader, Susan Randall of Birmingham, who also is a vendor in the Lathrup Village Farmers Market (June-October).

Randall explained that HTN offers seminars and demonstrations throughout the metro area so that people can learn about and experience foods that sustain and uplift.

"We teach fermentation, cultured foods, sour dough bread, bone broth. We connect consumers to farmers we know ... that use organic practices," she said. "They may have pastured beef and chicken. They sell bones for the bone broth and they sell eggs. We also promote naturopathic, functional doctors, chiropractors, and anybody that helps with nutrition-based health, and preventative and integrative medicine."

Bone broth

As bone broth is becoming popular, Randall recommends that consumers buy organic. Bone broth benefits include immune support, joint protec-



Learn to make nutrient-dense condiments.

SUBMITTED

tion, gut healing, bone strengthening, increased energy.

"Bones collect what the animals eat and there are very toxic grains and chemicals. Animals are shot up with antibiotics and hormones. You don't want that in your broth," she said. "I'll buy organic chickens and I'll save the bones and I'll make organic turkeys and save the bones, and when I get a bag full, it's slow and low in the crockpot."

A panel of 4-6 persons from

HTN typically will present a workshop and explain the food-making process, provide recipes, and bring product samples. For the nutrient-dense condiment workshop, HTN members will make fermented mustard, two different kinds of ketchup, a peanut sauce, a mayonnaise and more.

Like many other members of the group, Randall was looking for support when she joined HTN.

"I had a whole list of autoimmune diseases," she said. "I

was so sick I could barely walk. Now I'm living a very active, energetic life ... I'm so happy I found Healthy Traditions Network to help me get to another level of wellness. It's a fabulous, fun group."

HTN also will present a program 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, May 17, at Lathrup Village City Hall. The guest speaker is Richard Ng, M.D., from the Center For Holistic Medicine in West Bloomfield. A specialist in holistic medicine, sports medicine, acupuncture, nutritional medicine, natural hormones, strength training and conditioning, Dr. Ng will share his knowledge on detoxing your body naturally.

"He's phenomenal. He's the man who saved my life. That's how I found the group," Randall said.

Register for the Healthy Traditions Network workshops through PayPal by visiting the events page at HTNetwork.org, or by calling 248-828-8494. Tickets are \$20 per person in advance. Pre-registration is required for Ng's program. Tickets are available at the door for the nutrient-dense workshops for \$30 per person. Call for special pricing: \$30 for 2 persons. Workshops will be held in the Community Room of Lathrup Village City Hall located at 27400 Southfield Road.

Pair lamb with mint salsa or pesto for fresh flavor

Spring gatherings wouldn't be the same without one classic centerpiece: leg of lamb.

Whether roasted or grilled, a leg of lamb is a tried and true addition to the spring table. As elegant as it is, it's also simple to prepare.

For a new take on tradition, swap conventional mint jelly with a vibrant salsa verde or mint-pistachio pesto for a fresh, but familiar, flavor that complements the rich taste of American lamb. Follow these easy guidelines for preparing the perfect boneless leg of lamb roast:

» For generous portions, figure on one half pound of American lamb per serving.

» Use a good meat thermometer to determine doneness. medium rare: 145 F; medium: 160 F.

» Remove the roast from the oven when the internal temperature reaches 10 degrees less than your desired temperature; it will reach desired doneness while it rests, allowing the meat's juices to settle.

» Carve the roast across the grain so the meat will be tender.

Find more springtime celebration-worthy American lamb recipe ideas at americanlamb.com.

Courtesy of Family Features

GRILLED BUTTERFLIED AMERICAN LAMB LEG WITH MINT-PISTACHIO PESTO

Serves: 6-8

3 pounds boneless leg of American lamb, butterflied salt and pepper (to taste)
1 cup shelled pistachios
1 cup fresh mint (leaves only)
½ cup fresh Italian parsley
¼ cup plus 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
1 tablespoon lemon juice (to taste)
1 teaspoon lemon zest
½ teaspoon sea salt (to taste)
freshly ground black pepper (to taste)
pinch red chili pepper flakes

Heat oven to 350 F.

Lay lamb leg open on a cutting board. Trim off visible fat. Season lamb generously with salt and pepper; allow to sit at room temperature for 30 minutes prior to grilling.

Toast pistachios by placing in single layer in shallow dish or pan and baking 8 to 10 minutes.

In food processor, add pistachios, mint, parsley, oil, vinegar, lemon juice, lemon zest, salt, pepper and chili flakes; blend until somewhat chunky.

Heat grill to medium-high. Grill lamb leg to medium-rare (remove from heat when thermometer reads between 130 F and 135 F), or to desired doneness. Rest meat, lightly covered, for at least 10 minutes before serving. Slice meat across grain into thin slices.

Serve lamb with pesto, grilled vegetables and salad.

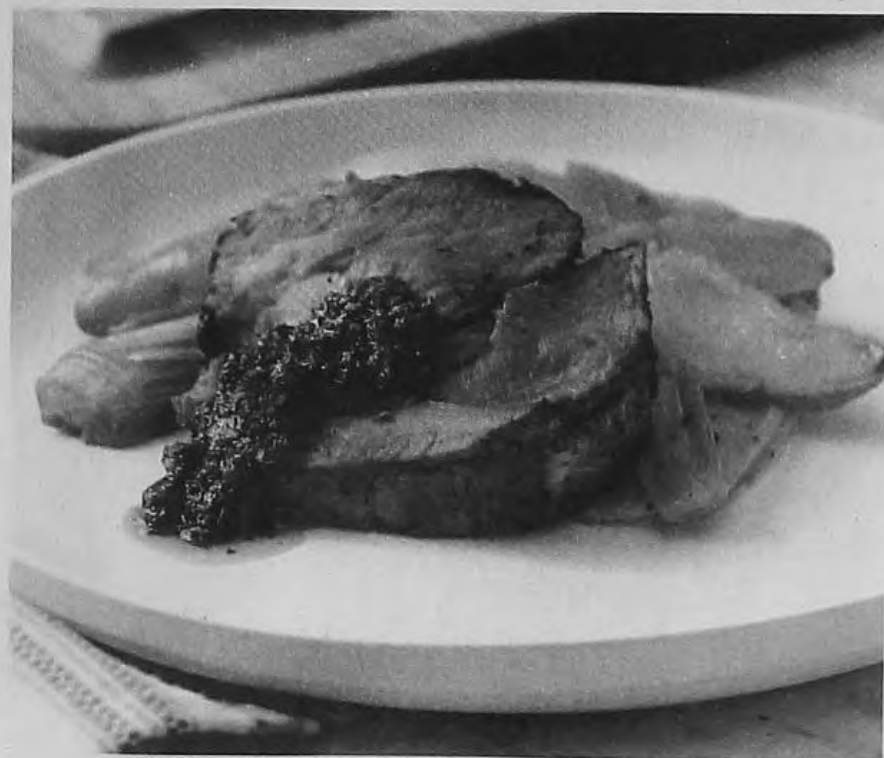
ROASTED BONELESS LEG OF AMERICAN LAMB WITH FINGERLING POTATOES, LEEKS AND MINT SALSA VERDE

Serves: 6-8

3 garlic cloves, smashed and peeled
2 cups loosely packed fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves
1 cup loosely packed fresh mint leaves
3 anchovy fillets
1 tablespoon capers, drained and rinsed
½ teaspoon kosher salt
¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
2 tablespoons plus 1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil, divided
3-3 ½ pounds boneless leg of American lamb, butterflied
2 ½ teaspoons kosher salt, divided
3 large leeks
2 pounds fingerling potatoes, halved lengthwise
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil

Position rack in lower third of oven (so roast will be in the middle) and heat to 325 F.

With food processor running, add garlic cloves. When finely minced, stop motor, remove top and scrape down bowl. Add parsley, mint, anchovies, capers, salt and pepper. Pulse until ingredients are finely chopped. Pour in 2 tablespoons olive oil and pulse to combine. Transfer about two-thirds of paste to small bowl and cover with remaining olive oil. Cover tightly and refrigerate until serving time, or up to 2 days.



SUBMITTED

Roasted Boneless Leg of American Lamb with Fingerling Potatoes, Leeks and Salsa Verde

Lay lamb flat on cutting board with fat side up. Trim fat to no more than ¼ inch. Turn meat over and trim away any large chunks of fat from interior, but leave the rest intact. Be careful not to trim away connective tissue that holds meat together. Season lamb on both sides

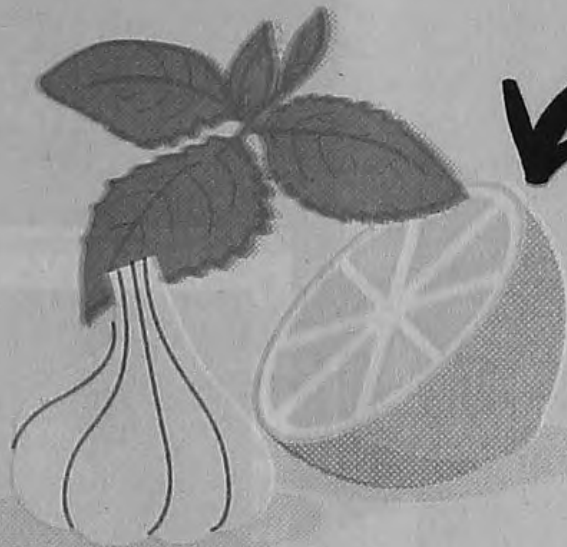
with 2 teaspoons salt. Spread salsa verde paste over interior of meat to edges, rubbing into crevices. Reserve remaining salsa verde. Roll lamb up lengthwise into cylinder. Use kitchen twine to tie cylinder at 1 ½-inch intervals. Tie another piece of twine lengthwise

to secure ends. Allow lamb to sit at room temperature 1-2 hours before roasting. If you plan to wait more than 2 hours before roasting, loosely cover and refrigerate roast, but bring to room temperature before cooking. Pat outside of roast dry using paper towels before roasting. Trim dark green tops from leeks. Halve leeks lengthwise and rinse well. Pat dry and cut into 2-inch pieces. Put leeks and halved potatoes in large roasting pan. Drizzle vegetables with olive oil, season with remaining salt and toss to coat. Spread vegetables around roasting pan in even layer. Place lamb roast on top, seam-side down and transfer to oven. Roast until an instant-read thermometer inserted into center of meat reaches 135 F for medium-rare, about 1-1 ½ hours. Transfer lamb to cutting board and allow meat to rest for 20-30 minutes, loosely covered with foil. The internal temperature will increase to 145 F. Bring reserved salsa verde to room temperature. Toss vegetables in roasting pan to coat in pan drippings. If they are tender and browned, set aside in a warm spot while meat rests. If not, return to oven to finish cooking. Trim away kitchen twine and cut roast into ½-inch-thick slices. Arrange slices over vegetables. Stir salsa verde to incorporate oil, spoon it over meat and serve.



No More Mint Jelly

Mint is actually a great pairing with lamb but mint jelly? No More!



Try

A MINT PESTO, MINT CHIMICHURI OR A SIMPLE MARINADE OF LEMONS, GARLIC AND FRESH MINT.

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

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