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Impact Point Will Benefit Springboro Community

No less a personality than Oprah Winfrey is among those helping make Impact Point become a reality sometime in 2011. Impact Point is a planned community building that will serve the Academy at Minds In Motion on the school's Eleanor Drive campus.

"We hope to break ground this summer for the 7,200 square foot building," says the Gina Pangalangan, the school's founder, Principal, and Director of Education. Now, she wears a fund-raiser hat as well.

Oprah's inadvertent contribution came in late November. Gina and Tricia Fote, Director of Development, were in Oprah's television audience during the "Ultimate Favorite Things" show. They attended the show thinking they would be interviewed about the school. Instead, they came away with items that will be auctioned on ebay to raise funds for Impact Point. Unsold items will be auctioned at the school's Gala in March.

"Impact point will be a multi-purpose space for arts, fitness and community service. It also will house our enrichment classes and Saturday classes. Right now we don't have the room to accommodate outside students in our enrichment classes," says Gina.

As of the end of 2010, more than half the estimated \$700,000 building cost had been raised or pledged. The school also hopes to receive some construction grants.

Gina began the Academy five years ago with just 17 students in four grades. Today, there are about 110 students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The preschool component opened in 2002 and



has approximately 200 children. "Both schools have a waiting list."

"We started with the preschool and parents pushed me to offer a kindergarten program. I researched the requirements with the state and decided we could easily meet them, so we did it. The kindergarten was very successful and, again, parents urged me to add elementary classes," she recalls.

Gina started the independent, non-profit school at a time when she was struggling with educational placement issues with her own children. The certified teacher brought more than 20 years of teaching experience to the project. The underlying philosophy recognizes that children have different learning styles and learn best in a small classroom environment that allows them to explore their interests and develop a passion for learning. Much individual focus, and varied,

motivating enrichment activities enhance the curriculum.

For more information about the Minds In Motion preschool or the Academy at Minds In Motion, call 937-748-1991 or go to www.academymustangs.com.

The Ball Is in Harrison's Court

Tom Harrison turned 60 this year and he works about 60 hours every week. Save your sympathy because Tom's work and passion are one and the same.



Tom and his wife, Shelly, opened the **Tom Harrison Tennis Center** on Commercial Way 14 years ago. It marked both the end of a long road and a new path for the Vietnam War veteran.

He was snagged by a tennis net on his road to college following his 1972 Army discharge. "A tennis pro asked me to help him teach and that got me started. I've been teaching tennis every since." He is USPTA certified and has taught for 30 years at area tennis and racquet clubs and the University of Dayton.

Since he loves coaching and enjoys kids, his path was set. "I learned a lot about the business side at the various clubs I worked. With Shelly's help, we opened our own tennis center."

Tom worked on plans for the center for five years and secured private financing for his two steel-framed, cloth-covered tennis courts. The courts are heated and resound year-round with students from five to 17-years-old, taking lessons or practicing. The freestanding clubhouse and pro shop is just feel away and includes a new snack bar.

"We're unique. We're small, non-membership – we're not really a tennis club as most people think of them. We're basically all about tennis."

And Tom's all about teaching tennis at the junior tennis center. Ten-week sessions range from 45 minutes for younger children to two hours for high school students. Currently, he teaches about 150 youngsters from Springboro and beyond, helped by his daughter, Emma Beckett, the assistant tennis pro.

Shelly serves as bookkeeper and Racquet Technician. Their younger daughter, Libby, earned a tennis scholarship to Bowling Green State University and is a dietitian with Atrium Medical Center.

Although the second-generation owner may be waiting on the court, Tom isn't about to retire because he's ready to teach the next generation of tennis enthusiasts.

For more information, call 937-746-6692, or check the website at www.thtenniscenter.com.

Lawyer 'Aims' to Help Employers

An attorney and a park ranger meet on the gun range at the Middletown Sportsman Club -- the rest isn't a punch line -- it's become a professional and family history.

One of those at the gun range was Springboro attorney Lisa (LL) Patterson. After taking a gun training class, she found target shooting an effective stress reducer. Assertive by nature and profession, she and the park ranger clicked. That chance meeting led to marriage, then, three children, Justin 5, Logan, 4, Lelah, 2, and two busy careers.



Lisa spent eight years associated with two, high profile, multi-city law firms specializing in employment law. In 2008, she took the leap from that security to opening her private practice in Springboro, "specializing in representing employers in Workers' Compensation, OSHA, VSSR and employment-related issues." Those years saw her immersed in Workers' Compensation, OSHA, related litigation, negotiations and courtroom appearances.

"Now, my clients benefit from my 16 years of legal experience." In addition to the years with larger firms, she also was an associate with two other firms, primarily focused on Workers' Compensation law. The evolution of computer and digital technology, and the Internet, enable small law firms to conduct business meetings, extensive legal research, and other functions with minimal staff and overhead.

In July, LL (Lisa) Patterson LLC moved from a small office on Mill Street to 345 W. Central Ave. "We needed a conference room and additional office space. Our new offices accommodate client and attorney meetings and training, and another attorney in the practice, as well as our paralegal."

Lisa believes strongly that well-informed employers and thoroughly trained employees can be a crucial factor in forestalling litigation. "I actively help employers to develop and implement on-site training programs for injury reporting, and accident investigation of both worksite injuries and occupational diseases. In speaking to groups and clients, as well, we discuss the importance of injury prevention through training."

The Niagara Falls native's assertiveness may result, in part, from her "no nonsense, get the job done and don't whine," family background. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Toronto and her law degree in 1995 from Capital University Law School, Columbus. A Springboro resident for 11 years, she and John juggle careers and childcare, with little time left for target practice.

Her professional 'target' is "to acquire a stronger toe hold in the Miami Valley area. "I want to keep the firm small, but with sufficient staff to ensure local employers have quick, convenient access to knowledgeable, experienced, professional representation in my area of expertise."

For more information, call 937-748-9770, email info@llpattersonllc.com or go to www.llpattersonllc.com.

Extensive Retrofit Gives Thaler Machine a New Home, and Beverage Warehouse a New Lease on Life

If Thaler Machine Company decides on a company slogan it might be “*Still* made in the USA.”

Spurred by solid sales and cramped quarters, the 58-year-old precision machine company in September completed a retrofit of the former Anderson Beverage Company Building on Tahlequah Trail.

Pete Thaler set up a small machine shop in Dayton in 1952. The family-owned business expanded to a Miamisburg location in 1995. The Miamisburg site specialized in prototype, development, tool work, design, and inspection, while the Dayton shop focused on production machining. Now, Springboro is home to the functions and staff from both former locations.

The second and third Thaler generations now operate the business. Bill Thaler, Pete Thaler’s son, serves as company president. His son, Pete, is company vice-president.

With five acres at the new location, Thaler has room for expansion. The 80 full-time employees work three shifts and Pete anticipates adding up to 35 employees in the next few years.

During the extensive retrofitting, “I got on a first-name basis with lots of Springboro City officials,” says Pete. The challenge of retrofitting that much space for a process requiring precise temperature, humidity, electrical, computer, and other controls, could have been daunting.

“You need many more permits to transform a building for a new use, but everyone on the city staff was awesome to work with.” Given Thaler’s focus on aerospace and automotive clients, most areas of the transformed building could pass for surgical suites.

“When we acquired the Miamisburg facility it allowed us to expand into aerospace. At that time, 80 percent of our business was with the automotive industry. We diversified across the board. Today, if one industry is impacted, the impact on us is minimal. We’ve experienced growth across the board, despite the recession.”

According to its web site, www.thalermachine.com, the company works with nickel alloy, titanium, composite, and other exotic materials and can machine parts to within a tiny fraction of the width of a human hair.

Thaler also manufactured Ultra Precision Parts for NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope, the successor to the Hubble Space Telescope and has been involved with Sandia National Laboratories in High Speed Machining Research.



Pioneer Employees Help Warm Winter Chill for Needy

Employees at Pioneer Automotive Technologies on Pioneer Boulevard recently conducted a Coat Drive to benefit agencies helped through Warren County United Way.



United Way

Pioneer employees helped area residents in need this winter by donating 76 winter coats, 14 hats, 34 pairs of gloves, 10 scarves, 69 jackets or sweaters and two snowsuits.

Pioneer supplies advanced mobile electronic products, including navigation systems, head units, amplifiers, speakers and other analog and digital entertainment components to automotive manufacturers.

Thank you to Pioneer for caring about your community!

Doing Business With Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB)

It seems that businesses are always looking at ways to do more with the federal government, but trying to find a way through the myriad of regulations to learn how can be a daunting task. WPAFB is “right up the road”, but it can be difficult, if not impossible for small businesses to get contracts or even make contacts at the base to attempt to do business.

The Air Force has set up a website to help businesses learn how to bid on and obtain Air Force contracts – www.AirForceSmallBiz.org.

This website can help you register your business with the Air Force and search current contracts that are being let by the Air Force.

The Air Force also has a Small Business Specialists at WPAFB that can get you started on your way to that first contract with the Air Force. You can contact Linda Greaves, Director of Small Business at Wright-Patt, linda.greaves2@wpafb.af.mil, 937-257-3211 or Carol White, Director of Small Business at Air Force Material Command, carol.white@wpafb.af.mil, 937-257-3211



BUSINESS MATTERS



Springboro Business Expo

“That Spring Thing”, the Hometown Business Expo coordinated by the Springboro Chamber of Commerce, is slated for March 19, 2011. Each year, since its inception in 2001, the Expo, presented in 2011 by Ralph E. Wade Insurance, has grown and exceeded expectations. With over 160 booths, including more than 20 non-profit groups, 9 food vendors and plenty of day-long free entertainment provided by local talent, 2011’s Hometown Expo is bound to continue that trend. From 10:00 a.m. until the doors close at 4:00 p.m., the Springboro High School halls and gyms will be filled with families and kids enjoying a variety of fabulous exhibits, free food samples, kids’ activities, giveaways and prizes, music, dancing and singing, and above all the chance to win the 2011 Grand Prize. Sponsored



by Custom Connections, one lucky winner will win a 50” LCD TV with delivery, installation, wiring and a five year warranty all included.

This is the local Springboro event of the year, not to be missed!