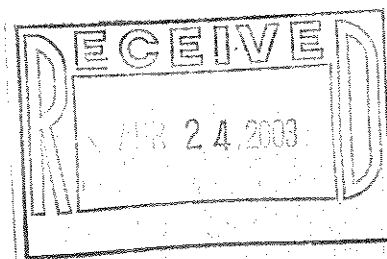


4-24-03



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CANTON Observer

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Arts, B1



VOLUME 117 NUMBER 69

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Was Days Inn death payback killing?

Police find suspect's daughter buried at his Belleville home

BY JACK GLADDEN AND HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITERS

A bizarre case of murder and suicide took another twist Wednesday when Belleville

police discovered the body of the murder suspect's own daughter.

Executing a search warrant at the Belleville home of murder suspect Thomas Joseph

Copperstone, police found his daughter, April Copperstone, 19, dead in a fruit cellar that had been sealed off with concrete.

Thomas Copperstone was a

suspect in the death of Jessica Louise Smith, 23, of Canton, whose body was found Easter Sunday by a housekeeper in a room at the Days Inn on Michigan Avenue at I-275. Copperstone was later found dead in a Washtenaw County field, apparently of a self-inflic-

ed gunshot wound. The warrant to search Copperstone's Belleville home was issued after police found a letter written by Copperstone addressed to his brother, in which Copperstone accused

PLEASE SEE MURDER, A4

Dual roles keep local Guard general busy

BY JACK GLADDEN
STAFF WRITER

For Canton resident Carol Ann Fausone (make that General Fausone), it was an opportunity just too good to pass up.

Fausone, formerly director of nursing at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, has been named assistant adjutant general for the state of Michigan for veteran's affairs. Fausone



Fausone

was promoted to brigadier general in the Michigan Air National Guard last year, the first woman in the 54-year history of the Michigan Air National Guard to attain that rank.

She is also the first woman in the 163-year history of the Michigan National Guard and the first Michigan medical officer of either sex to attain the rank of general.

She was appointed to the assistant adjutant general post earlier this year by Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

"This was an opportunity I don't believe I could pass up," she said. "There are 861,000 veterans in the state of Michigan. I'm working with the veterans homes in Grand Rapids and Marquette. It's a fabulous opportunity to represent caring with my nurse background."

But that's only one of her jobs. When Fausone was promoted to general, she was also assigned as an assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Force Health Protection and Readiness in Washington, D.C. In that role, she assists the deputy assistant secretary in developing and implementing programs, policy and operations for Reserve Affairs.

She commutes to Lansing on a daily basis and said she spends about 40-60 hours a month in Washington.

She declined to discuss precisely how the present situation in Iraq has

PLEASE SEE FAUSONE, A4



PAUL HURSCHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Easter eggs-citement

Jenny Yu, 2½, and Albert Li, 4½, holds hands as they wait for the start at the Canton Easter Egg Hunt Saturday in Heritage Park. Jenny's mom, Lynn Lu, stands behind her adjusting the video camera and Albert's mom, Xiamei Zhang, gives the two some scouting tips.

Family touched by outpouring of support

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

There are no jurisdictional lines for sympathy when a police officer goes down in the line of duty.

A Phoenix, Ariz., police officer, Robert Sitek, 35, formerly of Canton, was seriously wounded April 12 after being shot during a routine traffic stop. He continues to be listed in critical condition at Maricopa County Hospital.

Since then, he has received sympathetic e-mails from fellow officers in Hawaii, Michigan and even Australia, said mom Kathleen Sitek. She and her husband, Richard, who reside in Canton, are continuing to stay at a motel in Phoenix in order to be close to their son.

Sitek recently had his spleen removed after doctors discovered an infection caused by a bullet wound. His kidneys have also failed, and he is on dialysis treatments. He was shot four times during the traffic stop - twice in the abdomen and twice in his arm and hand.

The shooter was subsequently killed by Sitek's partner.

Kathleen Sitek she has been particularly moved by the expressions of respect and sympathy from Canton police during the ordeal.

"The Canton Police Department has stayed in contact on a daily basis and has offered to do anything it can to help," Sitek said. "What I'm seeing is akin to a genuine love between brothers. So many people only see one side of officers."

Canton police Lt. Pat Nemecek said when an officer goes down - particularly during a routine act such as a traffic stop - it tends to hit close to home for most police officers.

In this case, the officer taken down was originally from Canton. Sitek is a 1986 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School.

"That just sort automatically plugged us in," Nemecek said.

PLEASE SEE SITEK, A4

Sheldon Road underpass project derailed by commission

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

Members of the Plymouth City Commission have sent a message as glaring as flashing railroad crossing lights: They want no part of the Sheldon Road railroad underpass project, at least not at its inflated cost.

Commissioners cited concerns about escalating project costs as well as concerns about CSX Transportation's level of participation in the project. According to figures released by Wayne County, the city's costs have risen some 43 percent, to more than \$700,000.

"CSX (Transportation) has not signed up for the project,"

Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincock told the commission at Monday's meeting. "It's hardly an indication that this project will move ahead in a timely manner."

CSX Regional Vice President Tom Drake said that it is not true that CSX hasn't signed on.

"We've been signed on for months," Drake said from his

Livonia office Wednesday afternoon. "We'll be very disappointed if this project doesn't go forward."

CSX is legally obligated to pay 5 percent of the project's costs.

Whether or not Plymouth's decision will derail the \$9.6 million project completely is a matter of debate.

Approximately \$5 million is slated to come from federal funds; the city was to pick up a third of the local costs, with Plymouth Township picking up the other two-thirds under a 1999 agreement between the parties.

Wayne County Executive

PLEASE SEE UNDERPASS, A5

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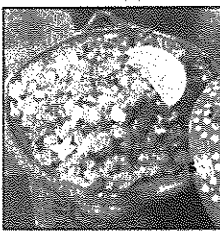
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LOOKING AHEAD

Cinco de Mayo
In Sunday's Taste section, read
about Cinco de Mayo and the unique
flavors of traditional Mexican food.



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Habitat to hand out annual volunteer honors

When officials at Habitat for Humanity-Western Wayne County gather for dinner next week to honor their top annual volunteers, they'll have a lot to celebrate.

Sheila Friedrich, Habitat's executive director in western Wayne, announced the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will honor two local men and a Livonia company for their volunteer efforts.

The dinner is set for Saturday, May 3, at Atlantis Restaurant, on Ann Arbor Road just east of I-275, in Plymouth Township.

Redford Township resident Ray Carrott, Canton Township resident Jim Fausone and Livonia-based Thrivent top the affiliate's list of honorees this year.

Ray Carrott
A member of the Board of

Directors since 1997, the Redford resident has been active on the building committee since 1995, having worked on all 15 completed Habitat houses. In 1983 Ray retired from the Detroit schools after 35 years of teaching, with 22 years spent counseling troubled high school youth.

He and his wife, Teresa, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their six children and 11 grandchildren. They are active in the St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in Redford.

Each year Carrott has contributed 400-500 hours of work at the building site, getting particular enjoyment from painting. He has personally solicited donations to paint nine of the 15 houses.

Jim Fausone
A Canton Township resident and Northville attorney, Fausone concentrates his legal practice in business matters, environmental regulation and litigation. Fausone practiced

with Dykema Gossett from 1982-1993 before withdrawing from the partnership to become president of an industrial services, waste transportation and environmental contracting company. He left that position in 1995 to start the law firm Fausone, Taylor & Bohn, LLP.

Fausone, chairman of Habitat's fund-raising committee, understands entrepreneurs as he has started three businesses over the last ten years, all of which he continues to operate. He is a 1981 magna cum laude graduate from Gonzaga University Law School and received his undergraduate degrees in environmental engineering and oceanography from the University of Michigan in 1976.

Fausone is a board member of the University of Michigan College of Engineering Alumni Society and is also a former member of Young Presidents' Organization.

He and his wife, Carol Ann Fausone, live in Canton Township.

Thrivent
Formerly Aid Associations to Lutherans, Livonia-based Thrivent has played "a significant role in providing affiliate leadership as well as monetary donations," according to Friedrich. Thrivent has been a co-sponsor of two homes, donating \$20,000 toward the completion of each.

Created by the merger of Aid Association for Lutherans and Lutheran Brotherhood, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a unique blend of financial savvy and service to members and communities. They are a Fortune 500 financial services organization, providing financial expertise, personal customer service and financial products and services. A caring, faith-based membership organization dedicated to helping nearly three million members live better lives and give back to their communities, Thrivent will be represented by Park Jarrett at the awards dinner.

CANTON CONNECTION

LIBERTY FEST PARADE

The Canton Liberty Fest Parade committee is looking for groups who would like to take part in this year's parade scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday, June 21.

It will be the second annual march through Heritage Park, following a successful debut last year. The theme will once again be patriotic.

Staging will begin at 8 a.m. in the rear parking lot of Summit on the Park. The parade will begin promptly at 9 a.m. and will proceed through the park for about 1 1/4 miles.

Entry forms can be requested by calling co-chair Deborah Zevalkink at (734) 394-5188. Entries must be received by May 30. Entrants will receive a map and additional staging information about one week before the parade.

SENIOR PARTY

The Senior party committee is accepting donations, either monetary or door prize gifts, for the seniors from any source. Anyone wishing to donate can call Sue Poniatowski, (734) 453-2570, or Lisa Hajduk, (734) 397-3432.

Parent volunteers are needed for decorating and chaperoning. Decorating volunteers should call Dottie Kelly, (734)

397-1423; chaperone volunteers can call Mary Ann McKinnon, (734) 459-0133, or Barb Martin, (734) 453-7161.

Tickets for the party can be purchased for \$35 at school on Thursdays in May during the lunch hour at Plymouth or Canton cafeterias. In addition, ticket sales will take place during lunch hours May 28-30 and June 2-4. Tickets can also be purchased through the mail by sending a check, along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Bob Boyko (734-451-1893), 49308 Harvest, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Any students who purchased tickets during registration at the beginning of the school year and have NOT received their tickets please submit a self addressed stamped envelope to Bob Boyko.

SUMMER ART SHOPS

Performing Arts, Show Choir, Visual Arts and Youngest Artists camps are scheduled for this summer at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon Rd. in Plymouth.

Kids ages 5-18 can participate in these week-long camps between 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. starting June 23. Fees start at \$60.00 for PCAC members. For more information, visit the PCAC's Web site at www.plymoutharts.com or call (734) 416-4278.

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FR/SAT LS 11:45

MALIBU'S MOST WANTED (PG-13)
1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:20, 9:15
FR/SAT LS 11:30

BULLETPROOF MONK (PG-13)
12:20, 2:35, 4:45, 7:00, 9:05
FR/SAT LS 11:15

ANGER MANAGEMENT (PG-13)
11:45, 2:05, 4:30, 7:10, 7:40, 9:25, 9:50
FR/SAT LS 11:40, 12:00

WHAT A GIRL WANTS (PG)
11:40, 2:15, 4:35

PHONE BOOTH (R)
FR/MON-TH 12:30, 2:30, 4:20, 7:30, 9:30
SAT/SUN 2:30, 4:20, 7:30, 9:30
FR/SAT LS 11:20

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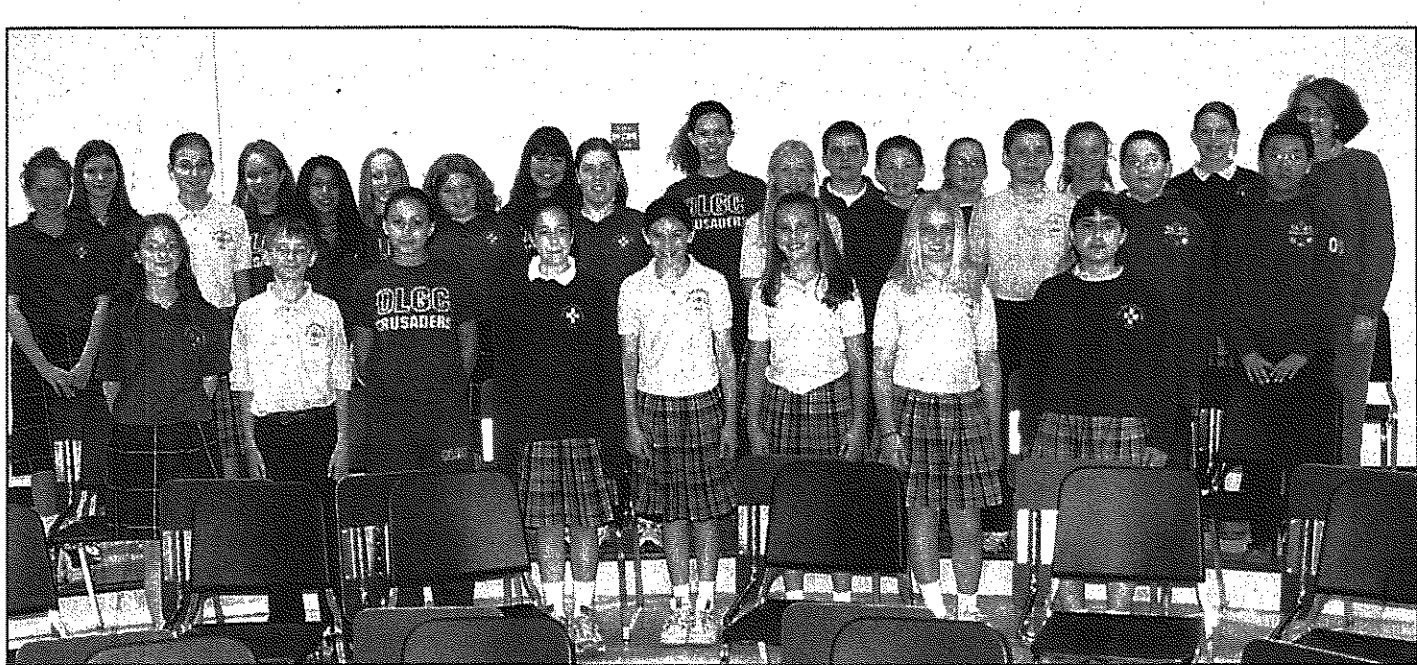
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Carnegie-bound

On April 26, the Counsellor's Youth Chorale of Plymouth will perform with the National Children's Choir in Carnegie Hall. This will be the choir's third appearance in the Big Apple, singing under the direction of Henry Leck. Selected by audition, they will perform with 220 other young musicians from around the country. Under the direction of Susan Lindquist and Dr. Richard Schneider, the chorale has performed at St. Patrick's church in New York City, Epcot in Disney World, and their 2000 European tour included performances in Canterbury, London, and Paris. The choir developed through and is supported by the Youth Music Ministry of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish. Coincidentally, the choir will perform in Carnegie on the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel. Membership is open by audition to all students with unchanged voices ages 11-15. For more information please call Susan Lindquist at (734) 451-1200.

@ THE LIBRARY

Did You Know?

- Canton seniors are invited to a one hour tour of the Canton Public Library on Thursday, May 1, from 3-4 p.m.? To register, please call the library at (734) 397-0999.
- There are over 3,000 islands in the Bahamas, and only 23 of them are inhabited?
- The Internet Branch Web pages of the Friends of the Canton Public Library have been updated and given a new look?
- In the United States, 61 percent of apples are eaten as fresh fruit? The remaining 39 percent of apples are processed into apple products with 21 percent of this for juice and cider.

New Children's Books

- "12 Again" - Sue Corbett (fiction)
- "Mommy's Little Helper Cookbook" - Karen Brown (nonfiction)
- "The Rudest Alien On Earth" - Jane Leslie Conly (fiction)
- "Farfallina & Marcel" - Holly Keller (picture book)
- "The Case Of The Graveyard Ghost" - Michele Torrey (easy fiction)
- "Gluey" "A Snail's Travails" - Vivian Walsh (picture book)

New Adult Books

- "The Da Vinci Code" - Dan Brown (fiction)
- "Sensei" - John Donohue (mystery)
- "Our Final Hour" - Martin J. Rees (nonfiction)
- "Thorn In My Heart" - Liz Curtis Higgs (fiction)
- "When You Go Away" - Jessica Barksdale Incan (fiction)
- "On Blondes" - Jonanna Pitman (nonfiction)
- "Murder In The Bastille" - Cara Black (mystery)
- "City Of The Beasts" - Isabel Allende
- "Haunted: a Tale Of The Mediator" - Meg Cabot
- "Rabbit-Proof Fence" - Doris Pilkington
- "Ultimate X-Men. Hellfire & Brimstone Vol. 4" - Mike Miller

New Videos and DVDs

- "8 Women" (DVD)
- "Door-To-Door" (DVD)
- "Road To Perdition" (DVD and video)

video)

- "Tuck Everlasting" (DVD and video)
- "White Oleander" (DVD and video)
- "Stargate" (DVD)
- "Welcome to Collinwood" (DVD and video)

New CD-ROMs

- "Princeton Review: Inside The SAT and ACT"
- "Feng Shui"
- "eMedia Intermediate Guitar Method"
- "Crazy About Corn" (ages 5-8)
- "My School Day" (ages 6-15)
- "Nancy Drew: Ghost Dogs Of Moon Lake" (ages 10+)

New CDs

- "Joyful Noise" - Derek Trucks Band
- "Faller" - Kathleen Edwards
- "Behind The Music" - soundtrack of Our Lives
- "Kill The Moonlight" - Spoon
- "Sleepless" - Peter Wolf
- "Essential Clash" - Clash

Hot Topic Of The Week

MILE! A new electronic service uses the Internet to connect more than 120 libraries and branches in southeast Michigan. The project, named Michigan Library Exchange (MILE), makes it easy to browse Michigan's largest library collection and request books online - anywhere, anytime. Until now, libraries have used a traditional inter-library loan system, which is staff intensive and subject to delays. This new model allows library patrons to identify and request the books they want directly. Participating libraries use software to allow their local automation systems to interact with each other by placing the request, alerting the owning library to send the book and if the patron wishes, alerting the patron via e-mail when the book has arrived. You can find the link to MILE on the library's catalog Web site at www.cantonpl.org or you can ask the library staff for additional information.

@ the Canton Library is compiled by Laura Dorigo of the library staff. The library is at 1200 S. Canton Center. For more information about library programs and services, call (734) 397-0999 or visit the Web site at www.cantonpl.org.

Survey finds strong opposition to importing Canadian trash

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

A group of Wayne State University students have found strong support for banning or at least limiting importation of Canadian trash to Michigan landfills.

Five WSU students completed a project on importing Canadian waste as part of a technical communications class. On April 17, the students presented their findings to Professor Frances Raney's class.

Steven Stone of Livonia presented the results of a survey of 327 people, including 156 from Observer & Eccentric readers, that found 79 percent opposed to importing Canadian waste, 78 percent favoring banning all Canadian waste and 68 percent favoring limiting foreign waste.

Part of the project was to approach a newspaper about running a questionnaire on the issue. In addition to 80 individual responses received by the Observer & Eccentric, 28 fourth grade students at Canton's Tonda Elementary School and 48 middle school students at Farmington's Dunckel Middle School filled out the questionnaire as a class project. The WSU students also had friends and other students fill out the questionnaire.

Many responses to the questionnaire contained side notes expressing outrage over the importing of Canadian trash.

A note by Tonda fourth grade student Allie Guastella expresses some of the fervor, "Every day Toronto is bringing 130 trucks carrying 4,000 tons. They are beating up our roads with that kind of weight. They are only paying 20-30 dollars, which is not expensive for them. All we are getting out of this is the money. Maybe I'm just a fourth

grader, but if people would read my article it might make a difference. Our legislature should change the N.A.F.T.A. law so that each country and state keeps their own trash."

RESEARCH ISSUE

The five students - Stone, David Bennfield of Sterling Heights, Dennis Hitchens of Lincoln Park, Ken Dunlap of Sterling Heights and Mike Nicolls of Lincoln Park - researched the subject, took the survey of public opinion and contacted legislators and the governor on the issue. They will present their findings to legislators and the governor as the final step in the project.

The five students took turns presenting their findings to the class. The students found that Michigan imported 3.8 million tons of trash last year and that 20 percent of all trash dumped in Michigan is foreign.

A major concern of those opposing importing trash from Canada and neighboring states is that Ontario, Indiana and Ohio do not have the same standards for waste disposal.

The bulk of Canadian waste is delivered to the Carlton Farms Landfill in Sumpter Township. According to the students' report, Sumpter Township received "royalties" of \$2.2 million from Toronto last year, representing 63 percent of its annual budget.

The students found that living near a landfill has been linked to health problems. They found a 33 percent increase in birth defects, an increased rate of leukemia, pancreatic, liver and prostate cancers and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. In addition there are marked increases in eye, nose and throat irritation. The students also reported that landfills have been shown to emit

carcinogenic, toxic gases into the air and leaking of landfill toxins have been shown to contaminate groundwater systems.

ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE

Part of the students' project is to take the information they've acquired and advocate for change.

In 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Michigan can not ban the importing of foreign waste because it would violate the commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution, which gives authority over interstate commerce to the federal government and the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Rep. Paul Giegelhem, D-Clinton Township, has introduced two bills that would limit the kind of trash acceptable for importing to Michigan. House Bill 4098 would allow Michigan to reject trash from other states or Ontario that contain materials that Michigan doesn't allow in landfills such as motor oil and car batteries. House Bill 4099 would require Canada to separate and dispose of returnable bottles and cans. Under Michigan's deposit law, 97 percent of returnable bottles and cans are recycled in the state. Ontario doesn't have a deposit law.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm spoke Monday before a Don't Trash Michigan rally in Madison Heights in support of several measures to limit importation of Canadian trash.

In a letter dated April 4 to Stone, Granholm explained the problems faced by Michigan legislation in light of the court's rulings and said she is working the congressional delegation on getting more authority for state action.

She writes that Michigan can and will enforce current state

laws that prohibit certain items of solid waste in landfills, such as motor oil and batteries.

"I have recently directed the DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) to increase the frequency and intensity of their landfill inspections to assure the public that prohibited items are not entering Michigan's landfills," she writes.

She also supports expanding the bottle/can deposit law to include more items such as juice and water bottles.

Stone said he appreciated the response from the governor and many other state officials, especially Giegelhem, with whom he had a long conversation.

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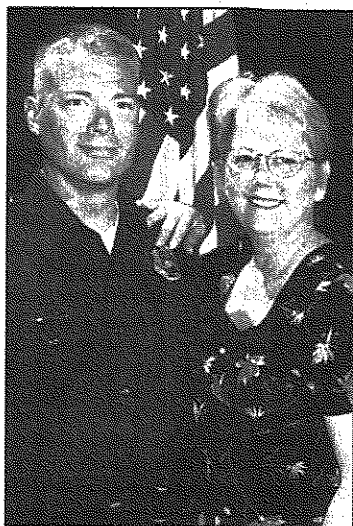
FROM PAGE A1

"That could happen to any officer at any time," Nemecek said. "The problem with a traffic stop is you never know who you're going to stop. The person (pulled over) may have a million other things on their mind. The results can vary from a simple ticket to the extreme, as it was in this case."

When police respond to other potentially dangerous situations, such as domestic disturbances, they at least have some information about the situation before they move in, according to Nemecek.

"You just don't know what you're stepping into with a traffic stop," he said.

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Phoenix police Officer Robert Sitek is undergoing exploratory surgery to discover the cause of an elevated fever after being shot four times during a traffic stop. He was a 1986 Plymouth Salem graduate and a former Canton resident. He's pictured above with his mom, Kathleen Sitek of Canton.

MURDER

FROM PAGE A1

Smith of killing his daughter. A missing persons report had been filed by Copperstone's ex-wife, who said the young woman hadn't been seen in months.

Belleville Police Chief Paul Davis said in a press conference late Wednesday that after executing the search warrant Wednesday, police made a grisly discovery. With the help of cadaver-sniffing dogs, the mummified remains of a young woman matching April Copperstone's description were discovered in a sealed-off fruit cellar on Copperstone's property on South Biggs Street in Belleville.

Davis described the body's resting place to be "crypt-like."

The body was covered with a comforter and encased in layers of cement blocks and had to be dug out with shovels.

"We did recover a body, and we suspect that body met foul play," Davis said. Police believe the body to be that of Copperstone, 19. Police estimate that she had been dead since Nov. 12, 2001, as detailed in her father's letter.

"Everything he said that was in the letter has proven to be true," Davis said, referring to the letter Copperstone had written to his brother. In the letter, Copperstone provided some details about what happened to his daughter after she died.

"The letter gave a chronological scenario of what happened," Davis said.

The Wayne County Medical Examiner's office is conducting an autopsy to determine the cause of death. But, because the primary suspects — Copperstone and Smith — are both dead, the autopsy results could signal the case being closed.

"It will probably go down in the files as a very tragic event," Davis said. "I have never in my experience been around anything like this today."

It all began shortly after noon Easter Sunday, when a Days Inn housekeeper discov-

ered Smith's body. Police Capt. Alex Wilson said Smith had been shot five times, three times with a 9 mm weapon and twice with a .22-caliber.

Police learned that the room had been rented Saturday afternoon by Copperstone, 47. Police said he had rented a room nine times in the past.

Wilson said Copperstone was not accompanied when he rented the room and Smith's family knew nothing about a relationship between the two. Police issued a public alert, asking residents for help in locating Copperstone.

Shortly after 4 a.m. April 21, police received information from a Chelsea resident that Copperstone's 2002 Jeep Liberty was parked near a field in western Washtenaw County.

Wilson said Canton sent detectives over and located the vehicle. Using a tracking dog, they discovered Copperstone's body about 200 yards away. He had one gunshot wound in the head, apparently self-inflicted. Police recovered a 9 mm automatic handgun and a .22-caliber six-shot revolver. They also recovered a purse belonging to Smith, Wilson said.

Trooper Mike Zarate of the Ypsilanti Michigan State Police post confirmed that no suicide note had been recovered and

that they are still investigating why Copperstone decided to take his life.

Canton police believe Smith, a 1997 graduate of Canton High School and a computer science major at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and Copperstone were intimately involved.

"We believe that they met in the fall of 2001 at a bar where (Smith) was employed as a dancer," Canton police Sgt. Todd Mutchler said.

They seemed to have shared a common interest in computers, according to police.

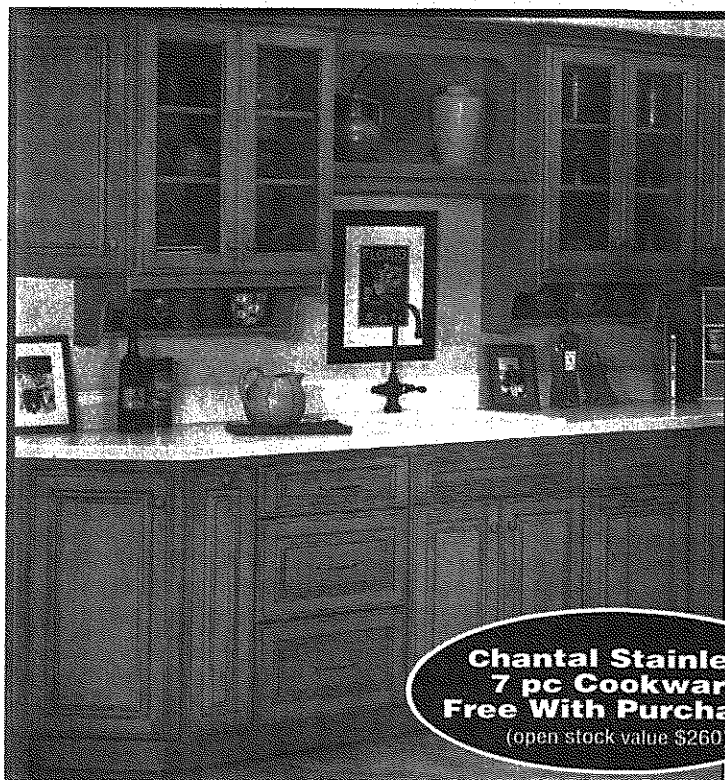
"Copperstone had had a job involving computers and had access to computers," Wilson said.

Police conducted a search of Smith's room at her parents' home and took her computer and a white envelope with two \$100 bills in it and "Jessica" written on it.

Copperstone had no known criminal record, according to Canton Police.

Services for Smith are planned for 11 a.m. Friday, April 25, at St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church. McCabe Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

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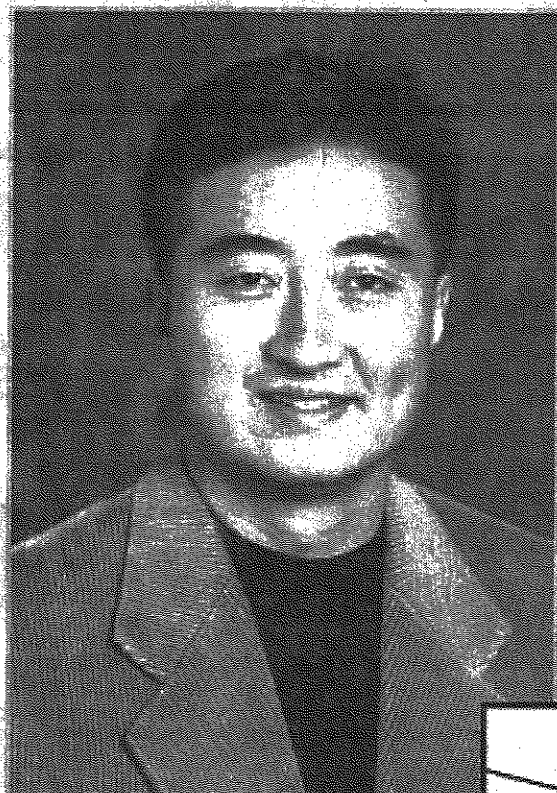
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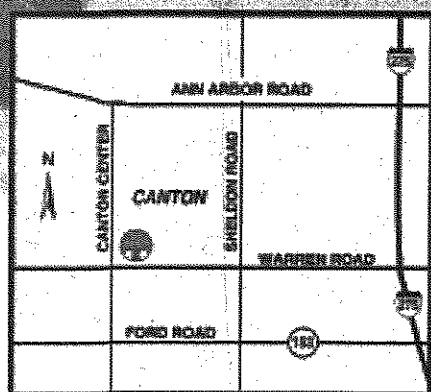
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FAUSONE

FROM PAGE A1

affected her work in Washington, but said the two jobs are blending together in regard to helping the troops.

"I'm sort of on this continuum with the men and women serving our country today in Operation Iraqi Freedom and as they come home post-campaign as veterans to take care of them," she said.

She said so far as she knows no Michigan service people have returned home with injuries and been placed in either of two veterans' facilities in the state. But she still spends lots of time visiting the two homes.

"There are more than 700 beds in Grand Rapids and 241 in Marquette," she said. "I go out and look at the veterans homes to make sure care is

being delivered and that we're doing it efficiently. Care is foremost. And helping take care of the men and women and their families who have served and taken care of our country is such an honor."

She also said her background in nursing helps in her new role. "When I go to visit the homes," she said, "to see the men and women who served, it's doing nursing in a different way."

Despite the dual commutes, Fausone somehow finds time to attend speaking engagements.

On May 8, she'll be the keynote speaker for the American Business Women's Association dinner in Southfield to recognize the Woman of the Year.

On May 18, she'll be the keynote speaker for the Northville Foundation Prayer Breakfast.

And on May 24, she'll be the

keynote speaker and grand master of Livonia's Memorial Day Parade.

But what she likes most is talking to students in school.

"When kids want you to go to their high school and come to their class, that's really important," she said. "I talk to them about what it means to protect our country, the importance of freedom, values and integrity. Then they'll ask questions like 'Where have you been?' and 'Where have you traveled?'"

She said that recently on the street where she lives in Canton, she saw three or four young kids waving a huge sign that said, "If you support our men and women (troops), Honk!"

"They were out there for at least five or six hours," she said. "It was great to see them and their enthusiasm."

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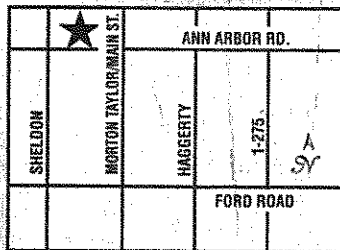
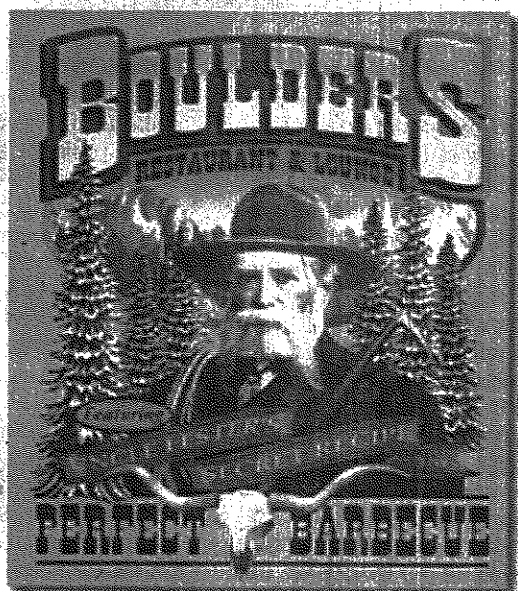
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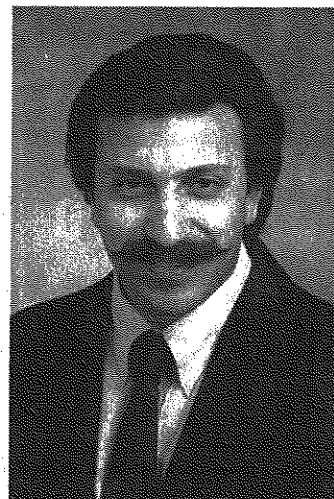


Dr. John Damiani, D.O.

...Announces the Opening of His New Office in Canton

Dr. Damiani is a board certified urologist on staff at the Oakwood Annapolis Hospital. He specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of problems of the urinary tract in men and women.

Dr. Damiani received his undergraduate degree from Thomas Aquinas College, Santa Paula, CA and obtained his medical degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, PA.



He completed an internship in osteopathic medicine and general surgery residency at Detroit Osteopathic and Bi-County Hospitals in Detroit, and his urology training at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

Dr. Damiani's other office location is in the Downriver area where he has been on staff at Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital and Oakwood South Shore Medical Center since 1995. Most insurances are accepted. To make an appointment call:

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UNDERPASS

FROM PAGE A1

Robert Ficano said in a written statement that other funding methods need to be found.

"We are looking at other financing options and would like to keep open the lines of communication," Ficano said. "Ultimately (Wayne County) wants to work out an agreement that best suits Plymouth and the county."

SAFETY ISSUES

Officials on all sides of the issue have said the importance of the underpass project cannot be understated.

"There are critical safety issues at stake that (we) are concerned about and will resolve," Ficano added.

County Commissioner Lyn Bankes, R-Livonia, whose district includes Plymouth and Plymouth Township, said she agrees the project can still move forward, but will have to be re-thought.

"The (federal) money's not going away, the money does not have a sunset on it," she said. "We're just going to have to regroup."

Bankes said she empathizes with the city's position.

"Quite honestly, I'm frustrated about the whole thing, too," she said. "I think their vote shows a lack of confidence in the process — and I don't blame them. I thought we had everything on the table, but this spring, everything fell apart."

Bankes lives in Livonia, where railroad underpasses help keep traffic flowing on major roads, including Newburgh and Middlebelt. There are nine crossings in Plymouth and Plymouth Township, and many motorists have reported being held up as long as 20 minutes by passing trains.

"You're never inconvenienced by a train (in Livonia)," Bankes said.

Two weeks ago, Plymouth commissioners voted 4-3 in favor of continuing to support the underpass. But the condition was they wanted some answers from Wayne County about why the costs escalated 43 percent.

Commissioner Colleen Pobur said it was a matter of being careful what you wish for.

"After we got the answers, I was even less comfortable with (the underpass project) than I was before," Pobur said.

RISING COSTS

The city's costs rose from an initial \$503,520 upon city approval in November 1999 to \$715,000 — a 43 percent increase. Water-main reconstruction was listed as the reason for the cost increase, according to Kevin Maillard, director of engineering for Wayne County. He sent a memo to the city outlining a breakdown of costs involved in relocating the water main.

The county's stance, as cited

in the memo, was that it would try to recoup the costs from Detroit Water and Sewer through a lawsuit.

Pobur said a lawsuit could take years, and was not a guarantee the city wouldn't be left holding the bag.

"It's incredibly bad business," she said.

Mayor Bill Graham said the water-main issue shows a lack of cooperation between Wayne County, the Detroit water department and CSX.

"I'd had concerns about this project from day one," Graham said. "Now, the cost of the project has risen dramatically."

Sincock recommended the commission not participate in

the underpass project.

The \$9.6 million underpass project would re-route Sheldon Road to dip under the CSX crossing near M-14. An estimated 22,500 motorists use Sheldon Road daily, according to Wayne County traffic estimates.

Many of those drivers live in Canton Township, said Canton Supervisor Tom Yack.

"Sure, there are some (Canton residents) who are going to be disappointed to say the least," Yack said. "People get irritated and frustrated at the crossing."

But, he said he didn't fault the city for its decision.

"They can't enter into such a

sizable project without knowing exactly what their costs are going to be," he said.

Plymouth Township has already committed to picking up \$1.3 million of the estimated \$9.6 million underpass project tab.

Plymouth Township Supervisor Steve Mann said the township has already agreed to pay more than its share of underpass costs shared by the city and township.

"I don't expect we're going to pick up the city's share," Mann said. "I'm disappointed the city backed out, but the township has already picked up more than its share. It should have

been a 50-50 split, but we're picking up two-thirds."

It will be up to the county to decide where to get additional funding now that Plymouth has backed out, he said. The ball, Mann said, is in Wayne County's court.

"We're still committed to the project. It's important, and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Mann said. "We hope the project goes forward. We've seen (traffic) backups that last 20 minutes or more, with people trying to get to work and live their lives. Traffic is a quality-of-life issue for us."

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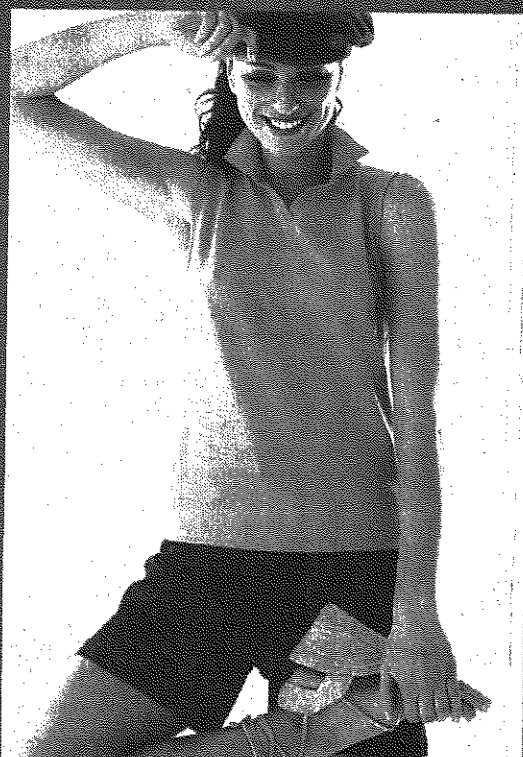
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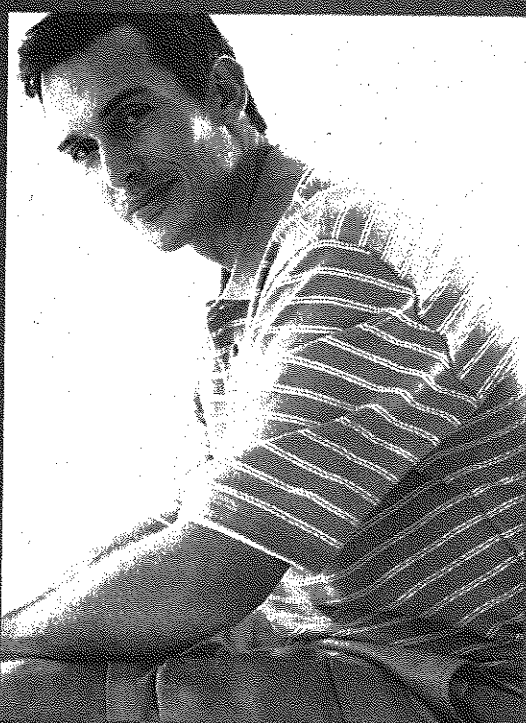
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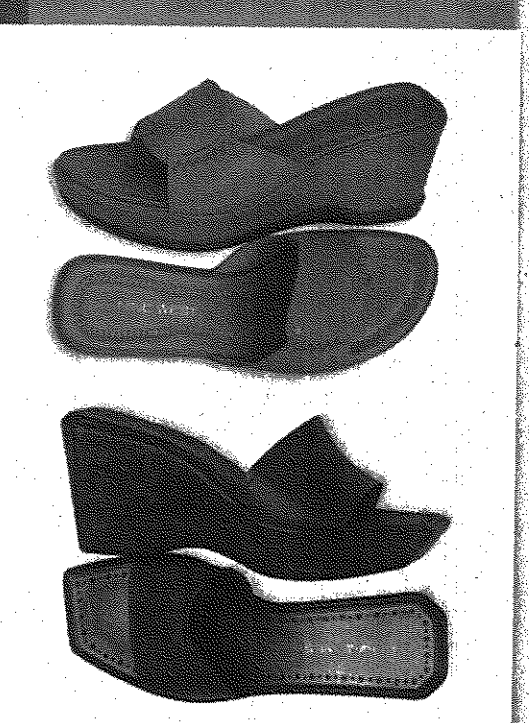
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OBITUARIES

Pauline Migut

Services for Pauline Migut, 82, of Ann Arbor were held April 22 at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Ann Arbor with the Rev. Eric Weber officiating. Burial was at St. Hedwig Cemetery in Dearborn Heights.

Mrs. Migut was born Feb. 9, 1921, in Oriskany, N.Y., and died April 17 in Ann Arbor. Mrs. Migut was preceded in death by her husband, John, and brothers, Joseph and Stanley Derwoyed.

Survivors include daughter, Patricia A. (Dennis) Mills of Ann Arbor; grandchildren, Darren Mills of Gilbert, Ariz., and Monica Mills of Denver, Colo.; son, Gary J. (Maria) Migut of Brighton; grandchildren, Scott, Brian and Christopher; and sister-in-law, Louise Derwoyed of Greenwood, S.C.

Memorial contributions may be made to either the American Cancer Society, the Alzheimer's Association or Lighthouse Hospice. Arrangements made by Nie Family Funeral Home.

Gary J. White

Services for Gary J. White, 64, of Farmington Hills were held April 22 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home. Burial was at Fort Custer National Cemetery in Augusta, Mich.

Mr. White was born May 15, 1938, in Detroit and died April 18 in Southfield. He was employed as Engineering Services Manager for Detroit Diesel. He formerly worked for General Motors for 40 years. He was the captain of the Michigan Publix Golf Association, and a member of AARP. He loved to golf and bowl. He served two years in the U.S. Army as an MP, stationed in West Point, N.Y.

Survivors include wife of 30 years, Siham; children, Suzanne (Jeff) Ruskusky of Chicago and Rachel White of Lansing; sisters, Patricia White of Seattle and Mary Lou Bartholomew of Canton.

Arrangements made by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home.

Julia W. Blankenship

Services for Julia Blankenship, 64, of Canton were held April 23 at the chapel of L.J. Griffin Funeral Home with the Rev. Jerry Yarnell officiating. Burial was at Cherry Hill Cemetery.

Mrs. Blankenship was born Aug. 20, 1939, in Detroit and died April 21 at Arbor Hospice. She worked as a housekeeper in a retirement home.

Survivors include son, Cecil (Ruth) Cruz; daughters, Sandra Seever and Julia (Eric) Scott; and four grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Arbor Hospice or St. Joseph Mercy Hospice.

Arrangements made by L.J. Griffin Funeral Home Canton Chapel.

Milton R. Kabel

Services for Milton Kabel, 80, of Genoa Township were held April 22 at Bell-Borek Funeral Home in Hamburg, with the Rev. Jean Tulip officiating.

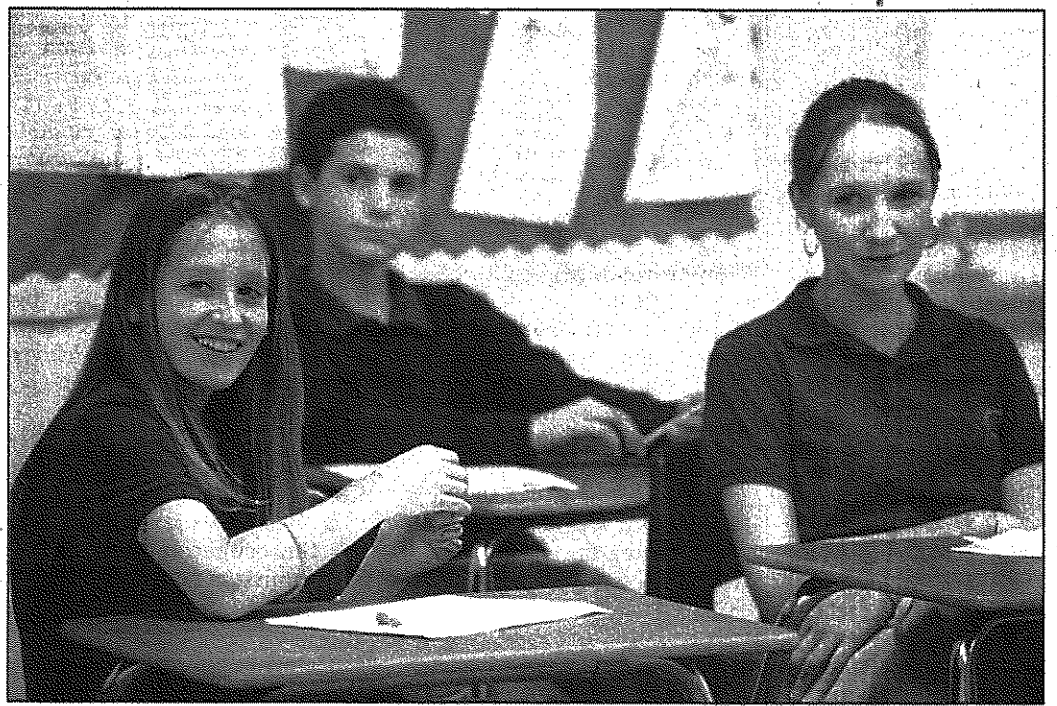
Mr. Kabel was born Jan. 24, 1923, in Detroit and died April 18 at home. He was plant manager for Fischer Systems Handling in Holly. He retired in 1991 after 49 years of service. He was a member of the VFW in Brighton and served in the U.S. Army. He earned the EA-ME Ribbon with four Bronze Stars, Good Conduct Ribbon, World War II Victory Medal and the American Theater Ribbon.

Mr. Kabel was preceded in death by his sister, Helen Wilson.

Survivors include children, Patricia (Lenard) Masuch of Glen Arbor, Carol (John) Morrow of Chelsea, Mary (Donald) Robertson of Baltimore, Ohio, Jon (Linda) of Linden, Timothy (Patricia) of South Lyon, Daniel (Teresa) of Las Olas, Calif., and James (Ruth) of Austin Texas; 20 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hidden Springs Church and envelopes are available at Bell-Borek. Also you can sign the guest book at www.bellborek.com.

Arrangements made by Bell-Borek Funeral Home.



PAUL HURSCHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Career day

Kelly Wilkin (from left) Paul Horning, and Brandi Higginbotham, all 13 and from Canton, listen to nursing students Jim Riano and Jeanne Burger from University of Detroit Mercy explain nursing careers during Career Day at Canton Charter Academy last week.

Spring event features kites, boomerangs

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM
STAFF WRITER

Defying gravity will be the order of the day Saturday in Heritage Park as flying discs, boomerangs, kite flying and juggling take center stage.

Canton Leisure Services' "The Sky's The Limit" event is planned noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 26, in Heritage Park. Recreation Supervisor Bob

Dates said the Flying Aces have become popular performers in Canton, and have previously performed at the Liberty Fest.

Kites won't be the only things flying through the air, either. Not only will people be able to learn to make kites, courtesy of the "Kites & Fun Things" store in Plymouth at "The Sky's the Limit," but see the fine art of boomerang throwing and juggling, too.

The first event planned is "The Flying Aces Ultimate Frisbee Show" at 12:15 p.m. Next will be Josh Casey's Amazing Juggling Show at 1:30, and the boomerang show is at 2:30 p.m.

For information about "The Sky's the Limit" or any other Leisure Services event, call (734) 394-5460.

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
REQUEST FOR BID**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, May 8th, 2003 for the following:

**CANTON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION
WARNING SIRENS**

Bid forms may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department counter or you may contact Mike Sheppard at (734) 394-5225. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk

Publish: April 24, 2003

OE08090409

**NOTICE
PLYMOUTH CHARTER TOWNSHIP
RESIDENTS**

If you experience an overflow or backup of a sewage disposal system or storm water system, you must file a written claim with the Plymouth Charter Township Department of Public Works within 45 days after the overflow or backup was discovered. Notice should be mailed to Plymouth Charter Township, Department of Public Works, 46555 Port Street, Plymouth, Michigan 48170. Failure to provide the written notice will prevent recovery of damages. Contact the Department of Public Works, 734-453-8131, Extension 21, for assistance immediately upon discovery of an overflow or backup.

Thank You
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

MARILYN MASSENGILL, CMC
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: April 20 & 24, 2003

OE08080021

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
REQUEST FOR BID**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, May 8th, 2003 for the following:

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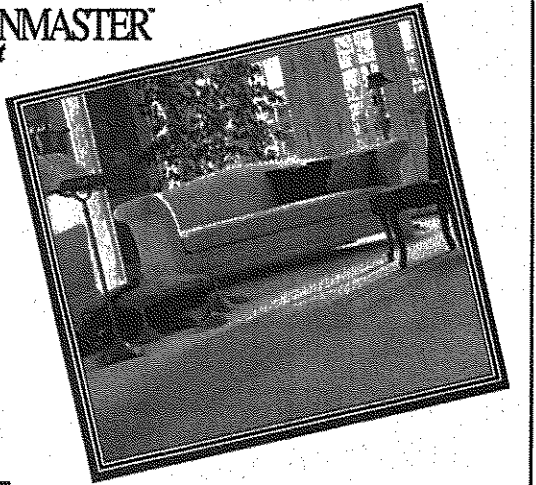
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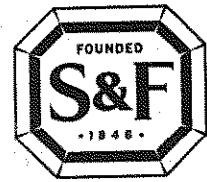
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Walkathon to benefit Angelman Syndrome research

BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

For almost the first year of her life, Madison seemed like a normal baby to her parents, Dave and Mary Pierrard.

But they wondered why she wasn't crawling, trying to talk or even sitting up on her own when she was 10 months old. So they took their bright-eyed little girl to the pediatrician, who suggested they see a neurologist.

Test results left the couple stunned. Their baby, the third of three children, was diagnosed with a somewhat rare genetic disorder called Angelman Syndrome. Madison was 15 months old.

"It was a shock because all along, we were thinking she was normal," Mary said. "That was one of the hardest things, she seemed normal. I couldn't comprehend it or I didn't want to."

Dave and Mary had to adjust to the idea that Maddy will probably never speak and that she would have multiple physical and mental disorders throughout her life. Physical therapy, occupational therapy, seizures and a perpetually happy demeanor marked by wide smiles and uplifted arms and hands quickly became the norm for Maddy as she grew.

"All of your hopes, dreams and wishes you had for them, they change," Dave said.

Now Maddy is 4 years old and the family has adjusted to the many changes in their lives. The boys, Spencer, 9, and Conner, 8, love their sister and say she's "a lot of fun."

"She has such a happy demeanor," Mary said. "She loves people and she's very friendly."

GETTING CONNECTED

It took a couple of years for the Pierrards to connect with other families impacted by Angelman Syndrome. Mary said they were hesitant to meet older children with the syndrome because she didn't want to admit that Maddy would be



A family portrait shows the children, Spencer, Conner and Madison, with mom Mary and dad Dave Pierrard.

that severely handicapped.

Maddy's neurologist, Eileen McCormick of the Michigan Institute for Neurological Disorders, suggested the Pierrards connect with families and support groups through the Angelman Syndrome Foundation.

Once they met other families, they weren't afraid to get a glimpse of Maddy's future.

"You have to realize that it's just like having a normal kid," Mary said. "When we saw other kids with the syndrome and they're walking around, we realized there's hope."

The family participated in a walkathon last year in the Chicago area to benefit the foundation. Mary decided she wanted to do something locally, so she began researching the idea of hosting a walkathon in Livonia.

"We hope to raise money, but mostly raise awareness," Mary said. "There are walks like this nationwide on the same day and eventually we hope to have a walk site in every state."

The local walk is the first Angelman Syndrome Foundation walk in Michigan.

STEP UP

The Angelman Syndrome Foundation National Walkathon, One Step Closer,

'All of your hopes, dreams and wishes you had for them, they change.'

Dave Pierrard
father

will be held Saturday, May 17, rain or shine, starting at Christ the King Lutheran Church on Farmington Road, just south of West Chicago in Livonia. Registration will be 8-9 a.m. and the walk will kick off at 9 a.m. Walkers can select a 3.5-mile or a 5-mile route.

Participants are encouraged to pre-register and receive sponsor forms for donations. To pre-register, call (800) 432-6435 or e-mail info@angelman.org. Registration will also be held on the day of the event. Each walker who raises at least \$75 will receive a walkathon T-shirt. All pledged donations are due on the day of the walk. Contributions are tax deductible. For more information, visit the foundation's Web site at www.angelmanwalk.org.

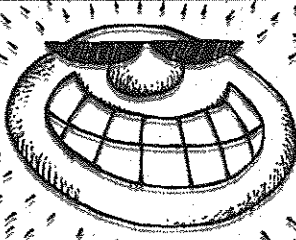
"We hope this will be the first of many," said Mary, who is the coordinator for the Detroit area.

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The Angelman Syndrome Foundation National Walkathon, One Step Closer, will be held Saturday, May 17, rain or shine, starting at Christ the King Lutheran Church on Farmington Road, just south of West Chicago in Livonia.

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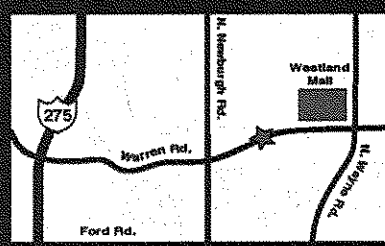
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OUR VIEWS

Massage laws need state input

Canton officials opened up a can of worms when they decided to rewrite the township's massage ordinance.

But it was something that had to be dealt with and, in fairness to the officials, it was bound to generate controversy. The problem started a couple of years ago, when the state of Michigan repealed a law regulating and licensing massage practitioners.

That left it up to local governments to police such businesses.

While Canton had a massage ordinance in place (enacted in 1980 and amended twice) it defined "myomassologist" as "a person who offers his or her services for hire in the practice of massage and is licensed pursuant" to state law.

Officials relied on that definition to separate legitimate practitioners from the less-than-legitimate. The rest of the ordinance was clearly an anti-prostitution law enacted at a time when a growing influx of so-called Oriental massage parlors were little more than fronts for prostitution.

Township Clerk Terry Bennett said the old ordinance was "very, very, very restrictive. Legitimate massage parlors couldn't operate in this area."

In recent years, however, there's been another influx, of legitimate and certified therapeutic massagers who operate out of hospitals, chiropractic centers or sometimes their own homes or businesses. While they go through national certification and have to meet certain requirements, there is no licensing except at the local level.

Township attorney Tim Cronin told the board, "The best world would be for the state to get involved in this particular industry if they saw fit. Unfortunately, the state hasn't seen fit."

In drafting the new ordinance, township officials solicited input from people who practice in Canton. Bennett said the final draft was sent to some of them for review and consideration, but the board got no response until complaints poured in at the second reading.

Some more onerous requirements were deleted and other language was softened. Nevertheless, the ordinance still requires a criminal background check, fingerprints and photographs of the applicants.

Practitioners argue that no other health care providers are subjected to such requirements. They believe the national certification standards they have to meet should be sufficient.

We think Cronin's point is valid. With the number of therapeutic massagers growing rapidly, now is not the time for the state to get out of the licensing business. It should, indeed, develop statewide licensing and monitoring standards as it does for other health professionals.

Meanwhile, it's up to local communities to come up with regulations of their own to allow professionals to conduct business while keeping out those who are using the term massage to mean something completely different.

Canton's ordinance may still be a bit onerous for those legitimate practitioners, but it's about the best compromise they're going to get.

AYP list doesn't offer true picture

The latest measurement of student achievement known as adequate yearly progress, or AYP, targets certain public and charter schools as being on the road to failure.

While we understand the universal and lofty goal that every child should be given the chance to succeed, we believe the AYP method spelled out in the federal No Child Left Behind legislation unjustly burdens districts that have consistently performed at or above state and national standards.

Still, school administrators throughout Oakland County and most of western Wayne County breathed a sigh of relief when their schools didn't appear on the list as needing to improve.

Their fears of landing on the list are justified.

In school districts with consistently high MEAP scores, one subgroup of scores could put a school on the list. If only 94.5 percent of students in a normally high-performing school opt to take the MEAP, the school is on the list. If one school does not increase MEAP scores from one year to the next, the school is on the list.

Sanctions spelled out in the federal legislation only apply to Title I schools — those that receive federal funding for special programming based on the number of students who receive free or reduced price lunches according to their household income.

So, again, we're left wondering what good the AYP reports will do for the non-Title I schools.

We know what it will do. The list will lead to inaccurate snapshots of how schools are really doing.



PAUL HURSCHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brian Leeson, 11, (far right) squirts paint onto a canvas, as Sam Nilles, 10, looks on Thursday evening at Tonda Elementary's Family Art Night. The two aspiring artists were contributing to a community homage to artist Jackson Pollack.

LETTERS

TAG problems

The administration has decided to move the TAG program to Central. That's fine, but there are two problems with this.

The first is that they are not moving the program in one move, but layering the kids in as they come up from elementary school. The sixth-graders will have no older counterparts to show them the ropes or to defend them when they are harassed for being in the TAG program. And they will be harassed for being in this program.

The second problem stems from the first. The TAG teachers are not being afforded the opportunity to move to Central with the program. It takes years to develop a curriculum that goes into more depth. It takes time to understand how to teach these students. In Indiana and Ohio, teachers must have special endorsements on their teaching certificates for talented and gifted. Unfortunately, this is not a requirement in Michigan. So next year's sixth-graders will be isolated from other TAG kids and probably not challenged.

If it is only a matter of solving the overcrowding at East, they've solved the problem. In fact, they've solved the problem so well that they might lose a number of students and their younger brothers and sisters. Increased enrollment has been causing problems in the district, but it does bring in approximately \$7,000 per student. A sudden decrease in enrollment can also cause problems.

The district has overhead in terms of facilities and support staff that would still be needed if students left the district. If even 100 parents feel the TAG program is not fulfilling their needs and move their children to private school, the decrease in enrollment would create a \$700,000 loss of revenue in a delicately balanced budget.

I just hope that the administration carefully considers the move they are about to make. If the TAG program must move to Central, please move the program in its entirety and move the teachers with it. If another solution can be found for East's overcrowding by redrawing the middle school boundaries, then perhaps that is a better solution.

Suzanne H. Hill
Canton

Facts omitted

I must say I find it quite interesting how this whole OLCG school situation has become Father John Sullivan's fault, especially considering that all of the improvements to the school were made after his arrival.

Perhaps Mr. Behn may have fooled people into thinking he made the changes, but Behn was in control of OLCG school for seven years before Father John came; why wasn't anything done then?

Mr. Behn must have changed a lot in the past few years. When I was at that school for grades three through five, not once did I see him visiting classrooms, nor did he know names and faces of the children. In contrast, when I was a student at West Middle School, with a student population about equal to that of OLCG, the principal was always visible and took time to talk with students and learn their names. This was even true at Canton High School, which had about 2,300 students! So many people are blaming Father

John while they seem to be ignoring all the good he has done. If he really wanted to close the school, why would he have turned the old church into more classrooms? Somehow, that must have slipped angry parents' minds. People just need to calm down and think about how un-Christianlike they are being with all of these insults and incorrect assumptions they are making.

Mr. Behn will not be at OLCG school next year, somebody else will. Deal with it. By the way, how professional is it to send home letters to parents insulting your boss and complaining that your contract was not renewed for next year? No one was under any obligation to renew his contract.

I think people should read the OLCG Parish "UP Building" article Mr. Behn wrote in 1999. In it, Behn says, among other things:

■ "Father John has taken heat from some parents for not visiting the school on a regular basis, yet in the 13 years I have been here, no pastor has been here more."

■ "When Father John first arrived, I was in the hospital recovering from back surgery. He called or visited me daily, telling me all of the school news. He greeted the students daily and was very visible in my absence."

■ "Father John insisted that students should not have to eat lunch in the classrooms. He provided for additional gym time and spent \$9,000 for the lunchroom tables."

■ "Father John was the first pastor to suggest any improvements in the school. He remodeled the school office (before starting on the rectory) and made sure that we had new windows cut in the walls to provide for greater visibility and security."

Those are the facts. My, how things must have changed in four years. I'm curious to know who would stoop so low as to invite outsiders (the *Observer*) in to a parish family disagreement, and to know just what you think a Catholic church is supposed to look like, Ms. Kapp. And yes, Emily Shmyr, my mother is indeed the director of Religious Formation. However, it is no secret that "this man," Stan Olszewski, is her husband.

Peace be with you.

Amy Olszewski
Plymouth

Police are professional

In response to Mr. Lavander's comments from March 20, the officer did what he had to do. The joke is now on the kid, isn't it? I wanted to answer your questions regarding the incident.

Your first question was "Why did the cop waste the time to write the report in the first place?" Well, if you knew anything about police work you'd know that an officer has to document all incidents he is involved in. If you've ever been to court you would know that documentation is a vital step in law enforcement.

Your next question was, "Had a bad day?" The officer involved is a trained professional who cannot allow a "bad day" to get in the way of his judgment. He takes pride in his work and would not allow a "bad day" to enter into the performance of his duties.

Your next question was laughable: "How many people were shot, raped or had a car stolen while he wrote this?" I am very happy and proud to report

NONE in our community. It is because of officers like him that we have the community we have.

The city and township of Plymouth are very lucky to have the caliber of officers that they have. Believe me, they could make more money in other communities. It is people like you, Mr. Lavander, who jump to judgment before you know what is going on that makes their job even harder.

Next time, maybe you will find out what is involved before you comment. These are highly trained professionals who do a thankless job and I, for one, am glad they are there.

Ray Yude
Westland

Comments still unwarranted

I would like to thank Mr. Mackleby for so precisely proving my point. As offended by my comments as Mr. Mackleby obviously was, so were those of us offended by Chuck Portelli's comments.

It is obvious that Mr. Mackleby has some economic stake here; I'm assuming he's a teacher. I'm saddened by his support of Mr. Portelli's comments.

Regardless of who made the suggestion of freezes, Mr. Portelli's comments were unwarranted and, as a "leader," should have been more careful in his wording.

That was my one and only point! And, my point still stands!

I made obvious offensive comments for people to see how absurd and offensive his comments were.

According to Mr. Mackleby's letter and teachers' responses at school, it worked.

Just to clear up a few of Mr. Mackleby's misunderstandings about me, I am perfectly aware of the role of the PCEA in our schools, along with the state MEA and national NEA, and I think their role is entirely unfortunate with some of the "agendas" they try to push in OUR schools.

I've probably attended more Board of Education meetings than most of your teachers. I also have no doubt that if our MEAP scores were stellar, Mr. Mackleby would be using them to "wield" in the other direction. And, if I ignorantly wielded MEAP scores, then please enlighten us!

I didn't create this benchmark and for now, it is exactly that, a benchmark by which our schools are measured. Just for the record, I don't agree with MEAP testing and will "opt" my children out of further MEAP, and other standardized, tests. Perhaps that is one thing we can agree on.

Robin Wilson
Plymouth

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We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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— Brig. Gen. Carol Ann Fausone, assistant adjutant general, on being named to her state post

Bizarre plans would gut state's MEDC program

It's so bizarre it can only be happening in Lansing.

Four Republican lawmakers want to snatch \$60 million from the budget of the Michigan Economic Development Corp. and use it to restore grants for high school students scoring well on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program test.

The idea is to take \$35.5 million in MEDC operating money from the state's general fund, \$14 million in Indian casino money that goes to the MEDC and \$10 million in tobacco settlement money that funds high-technology projects. That adds up to \$60 million, just about enough to restore the cuts Gov. Jennifer Granholm proposes making in the Michigan Merit Scholarship program. And it would leave the MEDC with around \$65 million in its 2004 budget, almost all of it federal Community Development Block Grant funds earmarked to pass through to local governments.

Make no mistake about it, if adopted, the net effect of this proposal would be to gut the MEDC, the independent agency charged with attracting new jobs and helping business growth in Michigan.

Never mind that the MEDC was started by Republican Gov. John Engler. Never mind that the MEDC has been recognized by *Site Selection* magazine five years in a row as among the top 10 economic development outfits in the country. Never mind that over its six-year history, the MEDC has spurred more than \$72 billion in private investment in Michigan, helped create more than 231,000 new, high-paying jobs in the state and increased the state's tax revenue by around \$4 billion.

At a time when our economy is in the doldrums and Michigan's unemployment rate is at a nine-year high, why would anybody be crazy enough to want to cripple the state's very successful economic development program? The only two motives pathological enough to justify such self-mutilation are ideology and politics.

Ideologically, look no further than the free-market fanatics at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, who call the MEDC "Michigan's chief dispenser of corporate welfare" and want the MEDC to be "eliminated entirely." A curious charge, as only a very small portion of the 6,000 Michigan businesses the MEDC helps each year gets any financial assistance; most get free help with worker's compensation cost counseling, site location services and worker recruitment and training. As virtually every other state in the nation has an active and competitive economic

development program, entirely eliminating the MEDC would be like unilaterally eliminating our nuclear weapons capability just before negotiating with the North Koreans about theirs.

Politically, the idea is beguiling but dangerous. Plainly, fat college scholarships for thousands of kids who may or may not need them is better politics than helping Michigan's economy prosper by helping businesses through the MEDC. But some day, those kids on scholarships are going to be leaving college and needing jobs. No MEDC, fewer good jobs; no good jobs, those well-educated kids will be leaving Michigan to pursue their careers elsewhere.

A fascinating subplot in all this has to do with the shenanigans now being performed by the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce, certainly the most influential organization in the state in promoting the interests of the business community.

Amazingly, the State Chamber is actively lobbying legislators to eliminate the MEDC. No less than three chamber staff operatives have been meeting with key legislators to urge defunding of the agency.

I called Jim Barrett, the president of the State Chamber, to ask what's going on, since so far as I know the chamber board of directors has not taken an official position.

"How come," I asked Barrett, "the state's leading pro-business organization is actively lobbying against the main pro-business agency in state government?"

"The Michigan Chamber is advocating reductions in government spending," Barrett responded. "We don't support increasing state taxes or fees, so it would be irresponsible not to cut spending, including that of the MEDC."

"Does that mean you're supporting the proposal being made to gut the MEDC?"

"I'm not familiar with any specific proposals from specific legislators," parried Barrett. He refused to say if any of his chamber staffers were actually lobbying legislators.

It looks to me as though the State Chamber — for whatever reasons — is in the middle of saying one thing and doing another. But that's what tends to happen when you mix ideology with politics. One wonders what the businesses that contribute to the chamber's budget think about what's going on.

In any event, the plot to cripple the MEDC is a bad idea and should summarily be killed.

FYI: Gov. Granholm has proposed a 20-percent cut in MEDC funding, which seems to me reasonable in light of current economic conditions. Let the record also show that I serve as the vice chair of the MEDC's Executive Committee, so I have a stake in this argument.

Phil Power is the chairman of the board of the company that owns this newspaper. He would be pleased to get your reactions to this column either at (734) 953-2047 or at ppower@homecomm.net.



Phil Power

Canadian trash issue gets state politicians in a frenzy

"We don't want your stinkin' Canadian trash."

That's the message that state politicians are hearing loud and clear from their constituents. The idea that Canadian cities are delivering their trash, some of it potentially hazardous, to local landfills has raised the hackles of residents throughout the Detroit metro area.

Several weeks ago, a group of Wayne State University students asked the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* to run a survey on the issue as part of a class project. They polled more than 300 people, about half of them



Hugh Gallagher

O&E readers. The overwhelming majority favors banning importation of all foreign trash (which would violate the North American Free Trade Act) or at least limiting what is allowed to prohibit those items that Michigan cities and businesses are prohibited from dumping. Some of the side notes attached to the survey showed just how vituperative some people are on the issue.

That kind of reaction is sure to catch the ears of any semi-awake politician. It's a win-win for any fast-on-his-or-her-feet pol. They get to rail against foreign trash, come out strong for the environment, make disparaging remarks about Canada (which stayed home during the just-completed conflict in Iraq) and only offend a few landfill operators and the communities that receive fees from them (oh, yeah, and Canada).

All the stars were right for Gov. Jennifer Granholm to bravely go where every other politician was rushing. On Monday, the day before Earth Day (did you celebrate?), Granholm appeared at a rally in Madison Heights as part of a Don't Trash Michigan campaign, organized by a group that includes unions, environmentalists and church groups.

She is asking the federal government to give states more control over regulating trash. Specifically, Granholm supports legislation that allows states to prohibit any trash that contains items that Michigan residents are not supposed to dump — deposit bottles and cans, batteries, oil, etc.

Granholm, a native Canadian, is taking up the cudgel with the usual energy of a religious convert. After all, during the gubernatorial campaign, her opponent Dick Posthumus accused her of lacking solid Michigan values, of actually being tainted with Canadian values. What an opportunity to show just how strong her Michigan values are.

She says she doesn't want to start a trash war,

but a good skirmish could do her some good.

The U.S. Supreme Court has thrown a wrench in any state attempts to control importation of trash, ruling that interstate commerce is the preserve of the federal government. The court has also ruled that importing foreign waste is protected by the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Cynicism aside, Granholm and others who have taken up the issue are right to be agitated by the importation of Canadian waste. Just this past January, Toronto closed its own landfill and began to truck all its waste this way.

Last year, according to research by the WSU students, Michigan imported 3.8 million tons of trash. Twenty percent of all trash dumped in Michigan is foreign. Every day, 200 trucks cross the Blue Water and Ambassador bridges loaded with trash, most of it going to a landfill in Sumpter Township.

That trash is a potential health risk. Toxic gases and leaching from the landfill are polluting our air and water.

Of course, we have to dump our own trash (we even send some of our toxic trash to Canada). For years there has been a lively debate on landfills vs. incineration, with landfills generally getting the environmental nod. Neither system is perfect.

We need to continue the good efforts we have made to limit, recycle and control our trash. A bill is currently being considered to expand the deposit law to include more categories. It faces opposition from some business interests, but would be consistent with a real concern about landfills.

In a letter to one of the WSU students, Granholm makes this point: "... while out of state waste is a serious problem, 80 percent of the total trash put in our landfills comes from Michigan, and we must work to reduce the amount of solid waste we create."

Proposals by Granholm include increasing landfill inspections, limiting what the state will allow in out-of-state trash and increasing the cost of dumping in Michigan. She also supports expanding the bottle deposit law.

Rep. Paul Gieleghem, D-Clinton Township, has two proposals that deal directly with the issue, but that some say would not pass muster with the courts. House Bill 4098 would require other states or the province of Ontario to follow the same strict standards for dumping as Michigan, including bans on motor oil and batteries. House Bill 4099 would require Canada to separate and dispose of returnable bottles and cans.

Sure it's an easy "let's go get 'em" for politicians. But if they succeed, we'll all be better off.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the *Observer Newspapers*. He can be reached by phone at (734) 953-2149, by e-mail hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net or by fax at (734) 591-7279.

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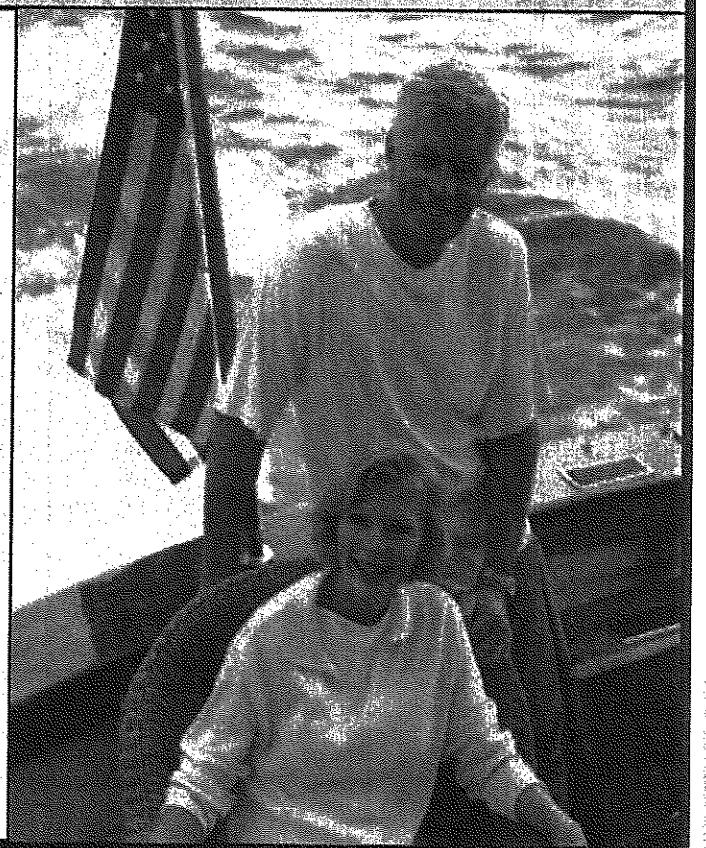
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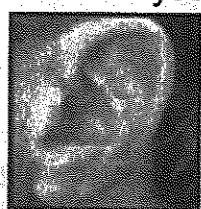
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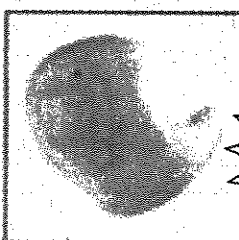
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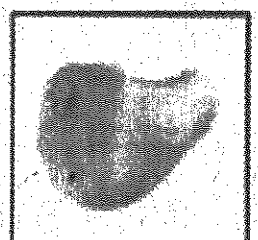
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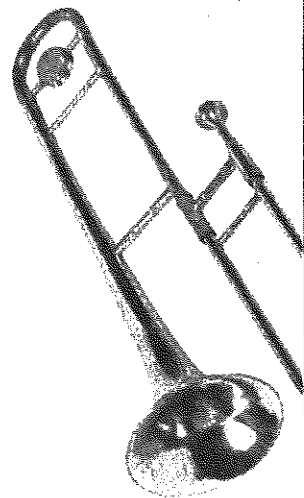
■ City bites

Spanish Wine Dinner. Assaggi Mediterranean Bistro, 330 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale (248) 584-3499, 7 p.m., Wednesday, May 7. Six courses \$85, limited seating.

Assaggi Mediterranean Bistro is open for Sunday brunch 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Creative Italian items include Seasonal Frittata, Tuscan Bread Salad and Pan Seared Scallops in Orange-Vanilla and Cardamom Sauce served with risotto. From Spain there's a Traditional Spanish Tortilla. From France, Seafood Crepes, Poached Eggs in Saffron Cream and Sweet Brioche topped with fresh fruit and served with almond mascarpone cheese. Sautéed Lebanese Sausage served with crispy haloumi cheese, finished in lemon and accompanied with a tomato mint relish is truly Mediterranean.

■ Band

The Franklin Village Band wants you. It rehearses at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of the month at the Franklin Community



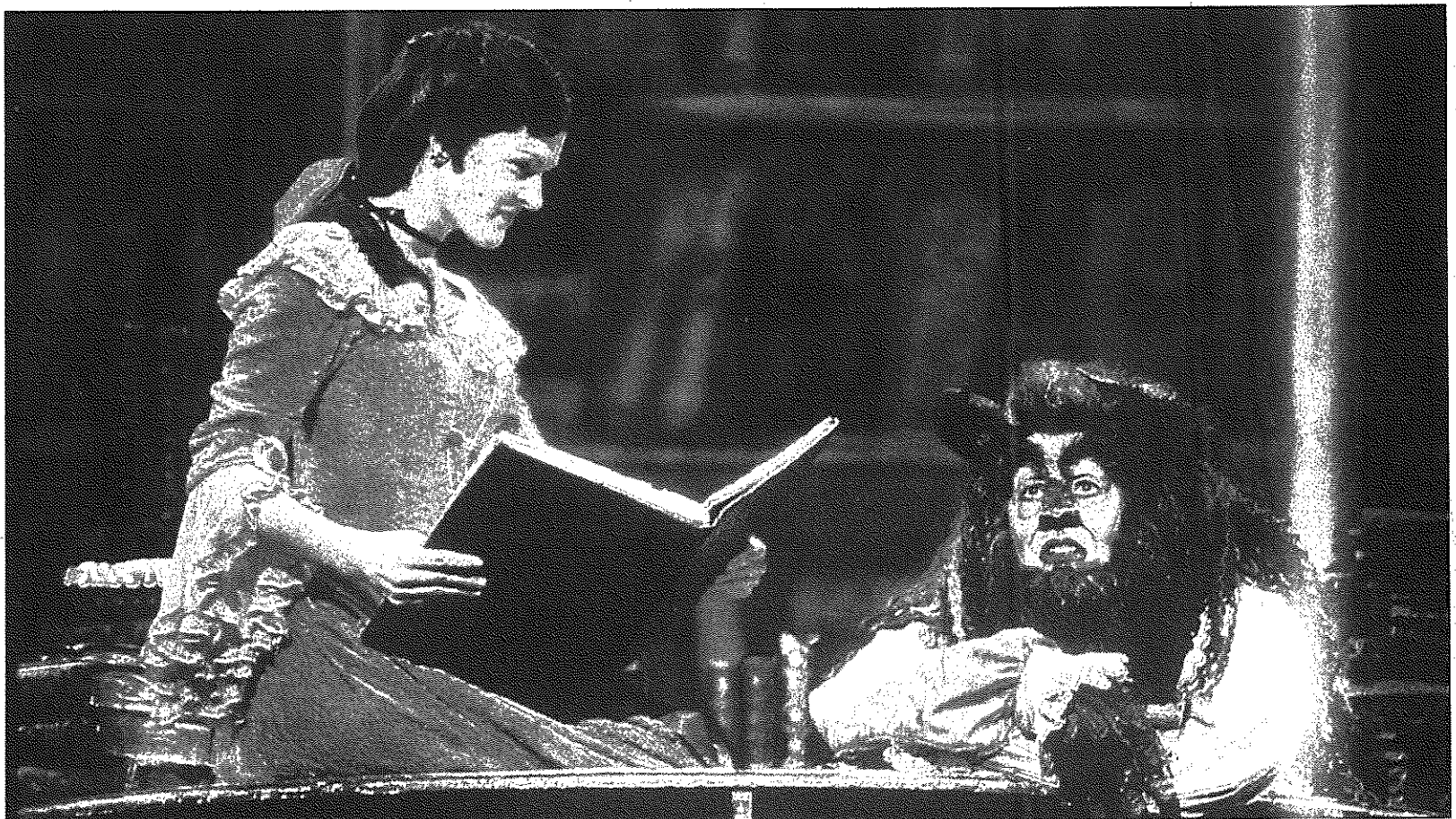
Church. No auditions, and all ages are welcome. For more information, call Bill Prisk, (248) 474-8869 or Bob Zimmerman, (313) 535-4119.

■ Gala

Celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival at a gala featuring "Classical Meets Jazz," an intimate performance and conversation with David Baker and James Tocco, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 10, at the Gem & Century Theaters, 333 Madison, Detroit. Tickets \$175 per person, of which \$115 is tax deductible. Call (248) 559-2097 for reservations/information or go to www.greatlakeschambermusic.com. This year's festival is June 14-29. Stay tuned for details.

■ New opera

Michigan Opera Theatre, Cincinnati Opera and Opera Co. of Philadelphia are co-commissioning *Margaret Garner*, a new opera based on one of the most controversial fugitive slave stories in pre-Civil War America. The project marks the debut of Grammy-award winning composer Richard Danielpour and librettist Toni Morrison, winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize for literature. Internationally renowned mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves will star in the title role. Michigan Opera Theatre will present the world premiere in May 2005.



Jennifer Shrader plays Belle, the bookish young girl who strikes a bargain with the Beast (played by Roger Befeler) to take her as his captive instead of her father.

'Beauty and the Beast' mesmerizes audiences

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Laura Dysarczyk gets as big a kick out of the kids in the audience as they do watching her dance across the stage as a dinner plate. One of the most magical moments in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* is when the napkins and whisks come to life for *Be Our Guest*. The song sets the table for a meal scene in the first act of the Broadway-style musical about a young prince doomed by a spell.

The show opens Tuesday, April 29, at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit.

"The lights are high and you can see the kids' faces," said Dysarczyk, who grew up seeing many of the touring musicals at downtown theaters. "It's the cartoon they've seen for years and it's come to life."

Of all the stops on the tour Dysarczyk is excited about performing in front of friends and family who've bought tickets for the show at the Fisher Theatre. She grew up in Canton dreaming about the day she'd be dancing on stage there — even if it is as a plate.

"My dance teacher, Joanne Zavisa of Joanne's Dance Extension in Canton, took us to theater all the time and my mom took me as well," Dysarczyk said. "I'd seen bits of the movie baby-sitting, then one Easter about six

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

What: Disney's Tony Award-winning musical about a young prince doomed by a spell

When: Tuesday, April 29, to Sunday, May 18

Where: Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit

Tickets: \$25.50-\$60.50, call (248) 645-6666. Groups of 20 or more, call (313) 871-1132

years ago my family went and saw it downtown.

"I just loved it. My mom bought me the soundtrack and I'd take it into the bedroom and play it and dance."

Dysarczyk does more than dance in the show. Not bad for someone who started out playing one of the mice in the Plymouth Canton Ballet Co.'s *Nutcracker*. Of course, Dysarczyk trained with the best. She studied acting with Gloria Logan at Plymouth Canton

PLEASE SEE 'BEAUTY', B3

Canton-raised Laura Dysarczyk kicks up her heels as one of the dancing plates in *Beauty and the Beast*.

Thai cuisine offers tantalizing and aromatic tastes

BY ELEANOR HEALD
CORRESPONDENT

Considered among the world's most tantalizing, Thai cuisine offers a unique blend of tastes. Despite location between India and China and the influence foods from these countries have on it, Thai cuisine retains singularity.

Described as nostril-flaring and tongue-searing, it's frequently considered fast food. Neither is accurate.

"Actually, Thai natives who've lived in the U.S. for some time, now order Thai food mild or medium," said Lawan Chandruang, who with her husband Adirek, opened the 70-seat Bangkok Bistro in Troy at the end of March 2003. The couple also owns Bangkok Bistro Cafe in Troy and Bangkok Express in Southfield.

The characteristic taste of Thai food comes from an aromatic mixture of salt, pepper, garlic, basil and Thai peppers pounded together. "If someone orders a dish prepared mild," Lawan said, "we add one Thai pepper; for medium, two peppers; and three for hot."

Additionally, herbs, spices, cilantro, ginger root, galangal from the ginger family, lemongrass and kaffir lime (both leaf and fruit) are widely used to further enhance aromatic qualities. Lemongrass, with the appearance of grass, smells minty and has a lemon-



PAUL HURSCHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Shrimp and Thai eggplant (left) and Panang curry with beef are among the favorites at Thai Bistro on Ford Road in Canton.

like taste. The fragrance of kaffir lime leaves boosts citrus elements and adds refreshing astringency.

Nam pla (fish sauce), which provides the salty dimension, is a key ingredient, critical to Thai-ness. It's made from lengthy salt fermenting of small fish, followed by extraction and boiling

of the liquid to make a clear and slightly brown broth.

Coconut milk, which creates a smooth creamy base, is another essential that blends other Thai ingredients together in curry dishes or desserts. For a satay, peanut butter, coconut milk and Thai chili paste are the main sauce ingredients.

MAXIMUM ENJOYMENT

"Thai food that's served in the U.S. today originated in the palace of the kings of Siam," Lawan said. "These are elegant dishes and not at all like the foods eaten by commoners of that time."

A truly authentic Thai meal consists of steamed rice served with many different dishes. The dishes are not considered courses and are therefore served at the same time in what Americans consider family style. This makes Thai food especially suitable for a large group eating out together and definitely removes it from the fast food category.

To maximize enjoyment of the different tastes and textures and to gain appreciation of the harmony of tastes, take a spoonful of one dish with some fragrant basmati rice, then a spoonful of another dish with more rice. Doing this drives home the fact that Thai cuisine is unique and not merely a regional adaptation of Chinese or Indian cooking.

TYPICALLY THAI

Among typical Thai appetizers, Tod Mun Pla is a fried spicy fish cake, served with cucumber salad, while Tod Mun Goong is a fried shrimp cake, served with sweet peanut and chili sauce.

PLEASE SEE THAI, B6

Did you miss the deadline for
Thursday's Classifieds?



You have a second chance to make Thursday's edition, if you call us by noon on Wednesday we'll put your ad in a special mini-directory, "Too late to Classified," which appears in Arts & Entertainment. Call 1-800-579-SELL (preferably by deadline) to place your ad.

The thoughtful sounds of Michael King

Birmingham musician ready to connect with audiences

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

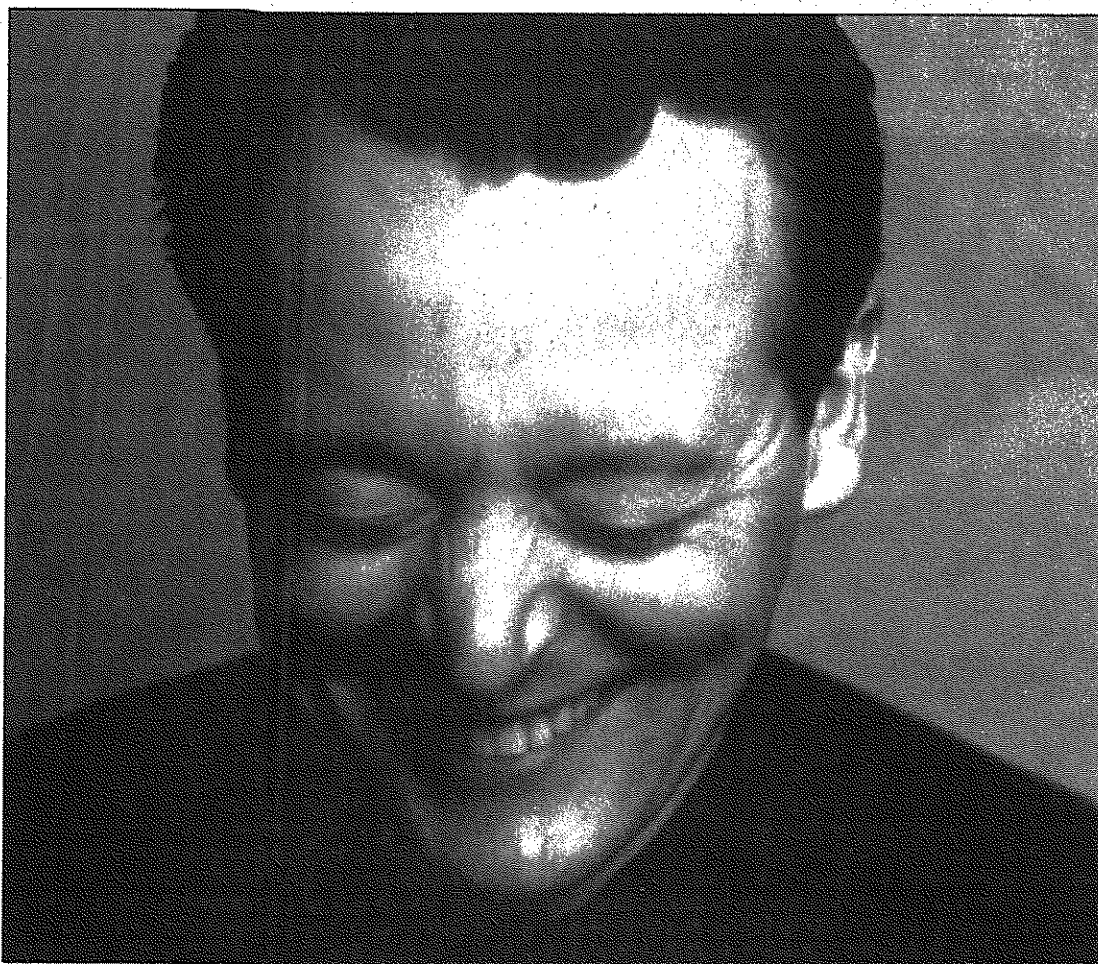
"We're connected through technology and moving through speed. And it's good, but connections need to happen without technology. It needs to happen through the heart."

That's what Birmingham singer, songwriter and producer Michael King is singing and thinking about these days. That human connection, the desire to be near people is why King is eager to perform this month and next at Memphis Smoke in Royal Oak and during Birmingham's Art Fair.

Performing keeps him feeling honest, joyful and fresh. It's a break from life in the recording studio where computers and re-takes can also be seen as sort of a life trickery, King said during a break from recording this week.

Thoughtful words from a thoughtful singer whose lyrical depth might be compared to Peter Gabriel or Paul Simon, with a Detroit progressive edge.

Michael King isn't new to



Michael King's mixes thoughtful lyrics into modern pop music.

the Detroit music scene. His history includes projects with Liz Larin, queen of the 2003 Detroit Music Awards.

A Detroit Music Awards Best Instrumentalist winner, King has had musical endeavors with Atlantic and MCA

records and EMI publishing. He worked with well-known producer Rupert Hine during the development of King's album *One by One by One* recorded with his former band Rebel Heels. He's worked with Howling Diablos, Stewart

Francke, Barbara Payton and Jesus Jones.

King has sold more than 20,000 CDs. His current album is *Michael King, Motion*. The songs feature live drumming and layers of piano with King's sometimes psyche-

MICHAEL KING

Who: Michael King, Birmingham singer, songwriter, musician and producer with three solo CDs to his credit. His newest release will be titled *Michael King, Motion*.

Shows: Memphis Smoke restaurant, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak, 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 29. CD release party at Memphis Smoke 9:30 p.m. Thursday, May 22, call (248) 543-4300. Birmingham Art Fair, performance 5 p.m. Saturday, May 10.

Web site: www.michaelkingmusic.com

Get the CD: The Michael King Motion CD is available through the Internet via credit card at www.cdbaby.com. Or send an e-mail to www.michaelking.com or mail a check for \$15 to: Michael King, PO Box 2034, Birmingham, MI 48009

rather be discovered, but I don't know if you see me at all." "This record to me was inspired by the sense of motion in people's lives," said King about the connection, or lack of connection.

He describes his fans, and potential new listeners, as progressive college students and beyond. The more mature generation might be reminded of Genesis, The The or Paul Simon.

"It's for people who like music off the beaten path," he said.

Motion also includes trance world beats that can be heard in the song *Late*. Other songs such as *Coldlife* artfully tangent into a melodic, sometimes spacey jam session one might imagine in a David Lynch movie.

Michael King doesn't do it alone. His band includes other fellow metro Detroit artists. Percussionist Eric Wilhelm has worked with Mitch Ryder and George Clinton. Saxophonist Johnny Evans played with Howlin' Diablos. Bass guitarist Peter Lewton played with Sun 209. Keyboardist Dale Grisa is also a composer and worked with Sheila Landis and Stewart Francke. Drummer/percussionist Danny Cox has played on more than 100 CDs and worked with Alexander Zonjic and Bob James.

It's a band worth watching, and listening.

lmini@oe.homecomm.net | (248) 901-2572

Too Late To... Classified

For those last minute ads that just had to get in!

Open Houses 3030	Homes For Rent 4050	Moving Sales 7130
W. BLOOMFIELD - Open Sun. April 27, 1-4:30pm. 7276 Cottonwood Knoll, Briarcliff Sub. between Orchard Lk. & Middlebelt, S. of Maple. PRICE REDUCED! Agent: 248-399-0512	W. BLOOMFIELD - Walnut Lake privileges, 2 bedroom, 2 car garage, full basement, appliances, a/c, fenced yard, Birmingham schools. Pets okay. \$1250/mo. + 1 mo. security. (248) 851-6246	FARMINGTON HILLS Apr. 26-27, 9-4pm. 28000 S. Harwich, N. of 12 Mile, Woodcreek Subdivision, between Inkster & Middlebelt. Furnishings, furniture, pictures, knick-knacks, all household items, clothing, antique player piano and sport equipment.
Garden City 3170	Help Wanted General 5000	LIVONIA 20051 Brentwood, April 25-26 & 27, 9-7 p.m. 248-868-0102
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	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY - Garage Sale/Live Auction. Sat. April 26, 2003. 10am-4pm. 16000 Pembroke, near Greenfield.	It's all about results!

Win tickets to 'Blast!'

We've been having a blast putting our new Arts & Entertainment section together. Premiering Thursday, June 5, the section will be called Filter, and include stories about music, comedy, clubs, movies and upcoming productions like *Blast!* running May 13-18 at the Fox Theatre.

To celebrate, we're giving away seven family packs of four tickets to the 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 13 performance of *Blast!*

Dazzling and breathtaking, *Blast!* is a celebration of movement and music that evolved from the drum corps *Star of Indiana*. Musical numbers include *Bolero*, *Everyone Loves the Blues*, and *Gee Officer Krupke*.

Winner of the 2001 Tony Award for Best Special Theatrical Event, you and your family and friends are sure to have a *Blast!* watching the show.

To enter our contest, send a sug-

gestion for the types of stories, restaurants, events, and venues you'd like to read about in Filter along with your name, address, and daytime phone number to Keely Kaleski, Assistant Managing Editor Features, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009 or e-mail kkaleski@oe.homecomm.net

Entries are due by Thursday, May 1. Winners will be notified by phone.

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Hilberry ends season with dramas, Bonstelle presents musical

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

Blair Anderson, chair of Wayne State University's theatre department, wanted to close the Hilberry Theatre's 40th season with fine classic drama.

"We wanted to celebrate the longevity of the program," he said of the graduate student theater. "So we tried to pick the best of the best."

There's no question that Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*, a gaze at aging southern belle Blanche DuBois, and Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*, a Russian aristocrat's attempt to save the family orchard at the turn of the century, qualify as elite classics.

Three remaining performances of *A Streetcar Named Desire* remain at the Hilberry, and *The Cherry Orchard* runs through May 17.

At the Bonstelle Theatre, Wayne State University's venue for undergraduate students, the classic musical *Sweet Charity* continues April 25-27.

Sweet Charity follows the misadventures in love of Charity Hope Valentine, a dance hall hostess who always gives her heart to the wrong man. The original Broadway production was nominated for 12 Tony awards with Bob Fosse winning for best choreography. Hit songs in *Sweet Charity* include *Big Spender* and *If My Friends Could See Me Now*.

Classic theater is the mainstay at the Hilberry and Bonstelle because of local interest, not academics, Anderson said, adding their target audience, which includes about 4,000 season ticket holders, is culturally sophisticated and knowledgeable. "Our audience is a discerning one," said Anderson. "What they keep coming back to see is classic theater."

CLASSIC DRAMA AT HILBERRY

What: Classic stage offerings close Hilberry Theatre's 40th anniversary season.

Where: Hilberry Theatre, Cass at Hancock on the campus of Wayne State University, Detroit.

Tickets: \$12-\$20, call the box office, (313) 577-2972 or visit www.theatre.wayne.edu.

■ Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* - 8 p.m. Friday, April 25, May 9 and 16; 8 p.m. Saturday, April 26, May 10 and 17; 8 p.m. Thursday, May 1 and 15; 2 p.m. Saturday, May 10 and 17; 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 30.

■ Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* - 8 p.m. Saturday, May 3, Thursday, April 24 and May 8.

CLASSIC MUSICAL AT BONSTELLE

What: Hit musical *Sweet Charity*.

When: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 25-26, 2 p.m. Sunday, April 27.

Where: Bonstelle Theatre, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

Tickets: General admission, \$14, students, seniors, faculty and alumni, \$11, children age 6-12, \$6, call the box office, (313) 577-2960.



In *'The Cherry Orchard'*, playwright Anton Chekhov takes the audience to turn-of-the-century Russia where aristocrat Madame Ranevsky tries to save her family's orchard.

nstafford@oe.homecomm.net | (248) 901-2567

'BEAUTY'

FROM PAGE B1

High School before earning a degree in theater from New York University. Since then, she's worked consistently in regional theaters like the Paper Mill Playhouse in New Jersey. She joined the cast of *Beauty and the Beast* at the beginning of March.

Dysarczyk's grandmother died on the first day of rehearsal in Nashville. She left for the funeral, but returned immediately. In between work-

ing individually with the dance captain, she stood in the wings, watching and then "tracking" through costume changes the actress she was to replace.

"I also play one of the Silly Girls that follow Gaston, Belle's suitor around the village," said the 24-year-old Dysarczyk. "They're pretty funny. They provide comic relief. She's the tall one so she's constantly getting bumped into. I love comedy. My idol was Gilda Radner.

"It's the magic of Disney and appropriate for all ages," she added. "It's not only a chil-

dren's show. It's theatrical and has everything Broadway has to offer. Its message is just so beautiful. You can't read a book by its cover. You can't really judge a person. You never know what you can find behind the person."

Dysarczyk knows her mother well and warns anyone wanting to see *Beauty and the Beast* to purchase tickets soon.

"I have the most supportive parents in the world," she said. "People better get their tickets fast because my mother is going to buy them all out."

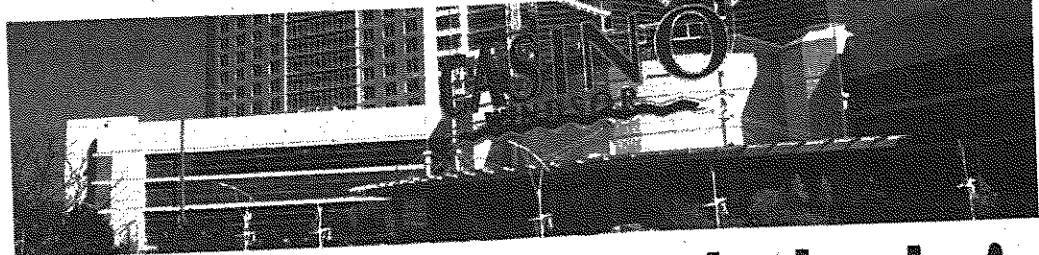
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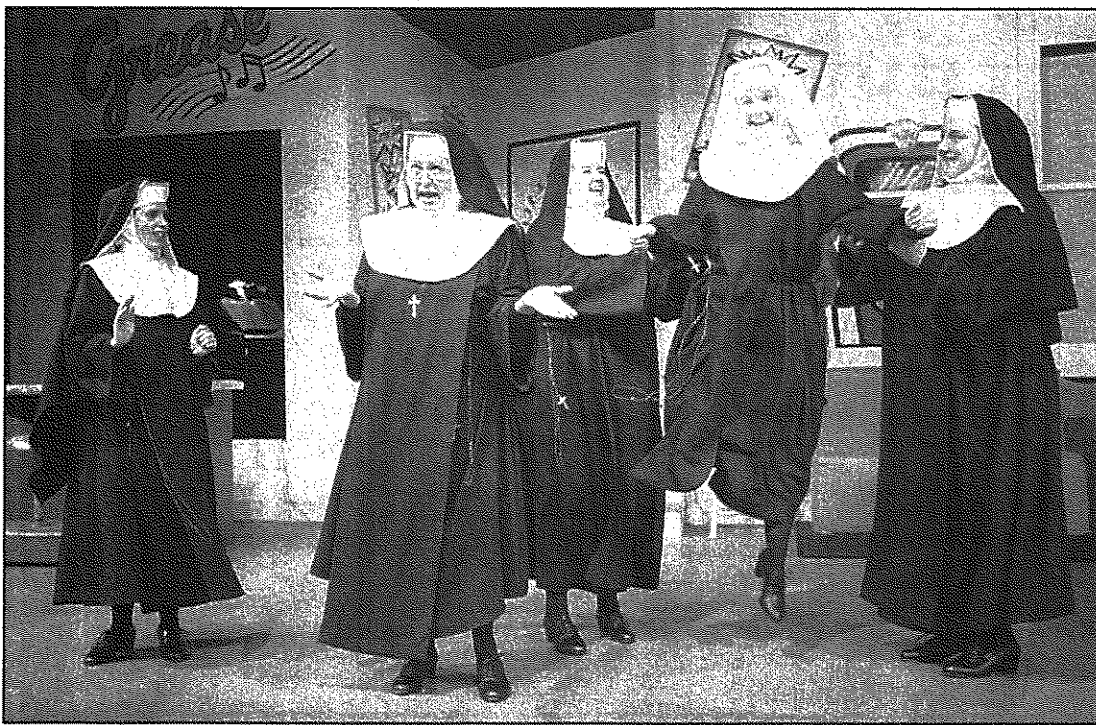
'Nunsense' is habit forming for Farmington Players

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Marcia Peterson struts across the stage singing "I just wanna be a star." Dressed in street clothes the actress looks like she could be rehearsing any one of the Broadway-style musicals so popular with community theaters these days. Then Peterson and the rest of the cast go backstage to put on their habits and veils.

That's when the absurdity begins as the talented nuns from Hoboken, New Jersey reveal their plight in song. 52 of the women in the convent have died from botulism after eating Sister Julia Child of God's vichyssoise. The five remaining nuns were able to bury all but four who are temporarily at rest in the freezer. They decide to put on a talent show to raise money to pay for the arrangements.

"It opens with Mother Superior using her clicker to get people's attention," said Emily McSweeney, director of *Nunsense*, the Dan Goggin's musical opening Friday, April 25, at Farmington Players Barn Theater in Farmington Hills. "It sets the tone. A lot of people who went to Catholic school remember scenes like this with a stern Mother Superior. We wanted to maintain the decorum of a nun."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Farmington Players production of *Nunsense* features Elizabeth Bibik (left) as Sister Mary Amnesia, Cynthia Tupper as Sister Mary Regina, Angela Boufford as Sister Mary Hubert, Megan King as Sister Mary Leo, and Marcia Peterson as Sister Robert Anne.

For them to be modest at all times and never lose that dignity. My sister-in-law in Chicago is a Dominican nun. I know them as women and not just as nuns. Even today in their civilian clothing after the changes with Vatican II in 1968 there are things they won't do." Focusing on the decorum of

nuns while they speak nonsensical lines is what's made *Nunsense* popular for 20 years. That and Goggin's music. The Farmington Players live up their production with a three-piece band, and dancing choreographed by Lucy Koviach. "There's not a song anyone will know but they'll walk away

humming," said McSweeney. "*Nunsense* is habit forming. It's all upbeat. There's not one quiet moment in show."

Characters like Sister Mary Amnesia keep the musical rolling along.

"She fell on her head and can't remember her real name. She's a little ditz but very

NUNSENSE

What: Farmington Players perform Dan Goggin's musical comedy about five surviving members of the Sisters of Hoboken convent

When: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 25-26, May 2-3, and Thursday-Saturday, May 8-10 and 15-17, and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 4 and 11

Where: Farmington Players Barn Theater, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills

Tickets: \$15.
Call (248) 219-0800

endearing," said Elizabeth Bibik, the Berkley resident playing Sister Mary Amnesia. "I like the role because she sings opera. I studied opera in Maine and it's kind of nice to blend the acting and opera together."

Goggin's *Nunsense* score is a favorite of Megan King's as

well. The North Farmington High School student plays Sister Mary Leo, a "novice and not exactly the most talented of the bunch." King recently sung in a musical at school.

"I like the convent humor in the cooking scene, the funny jokes," said King. "Each song is a different style - '50s, '60s, country, opera."

"And don't forget gospel," adds Angela Boufford who sings *Holier Than Thou*. Boufford plays Sister Mary Hubert, second in command after Mother Superior.

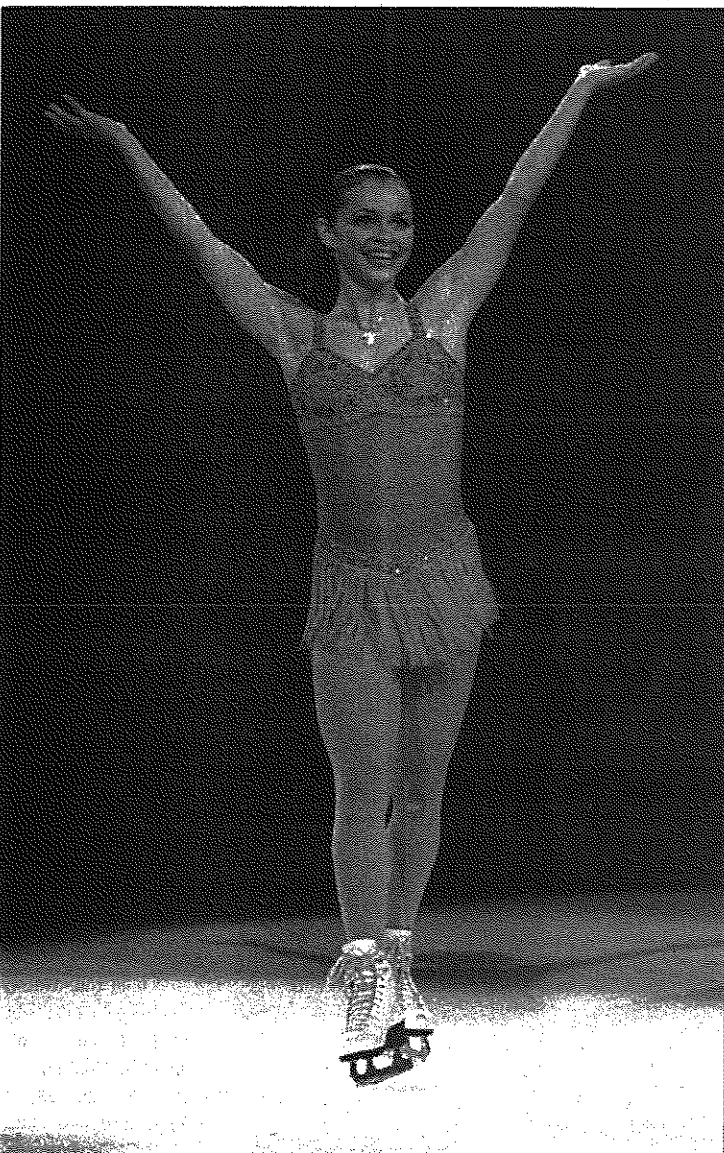
"It's always good when you can throw a little gospel into a Catholic show," said Boufford who works in Bloomfield Hills.

"But you don't have to be Catholic to enjoy *Nunsense*," adds Cynthia Tupper who assumes the task of playing Mother Superior. "It's going to be a lot of fun. I spent two years in parochial school but the audience doesn't have to be Catholic to laugh at some of the nonsensical things they do."

Playing a role in *Nunsense* is another story.

"The costumes are not that easy to move in," said Tupper. "They're hot. You put them on and you're 25 pounds heavier. It's given me a new respect for nuns."

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Sasha Cohen sets a romantic theme for her performance with music from *Romeo & Juliet*.

Champion expresses herself on ice

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

A few years ago, Olympic skater Sasha Cohen watched the 1968 film version of *Romeo & Juliet* and was in awe over the music.

"I knew when I watched it that someday I wanted to skate to that music," Cohen said.

Cohen will get her wish when she skates solo to the music in *Champions On Ice* May 2 at Joe Louis Arena.

"This is a special performance because the music is so amazing to me," Cohen said.

Cohen, 18, will skate with other pros including Michelle Kwan, Elvis Stojko, Vladimir Besedin and Victor Petrenko. The show gives Olympic skaters more freedom to express their creativity without the pressure of competition.

"This is my fifth time on this tour; it's so great to be relaxed on the ice without worrying about scores," Cohen said.

The show includes the solo and duo performances and a finale involving the entire cast. "Being around all these great skaters is so inspiring, it's just fun to watch," she said.

One of skating's brightest new stars, Cohen is one of only

a few women hoping to become the first to land a quadruple jump at the Olympics. She's quick to point out that she has accomplished the jump several times - just not at the Olympics yet.

A serious back injury in 2000 set her back a year, but she rebounded to make the U.S. Olympic Team. She placed fourth in Salt Lake City and at the 2002 World Championships, and third at the 2003 U.S. Nationals.

She knows she's a role model for young skaters nationwide and offers this advice to them.

"Keep a reality check as to what's really important in life," Cohen said. "If you aren't doing well, take a look at the events happening around the world ... there's more important things. Have fun, but work hard and don't do it for anyone but yourself."

It's her own determination that makes her succeed, not the words of others.

"I still have a lot to learn and shows like *Champions on Ice* let me do that because I work with so many great people. The music is great, the costumes are fun and we'll all see some really great new things."

lmini@oe.homecomm.net | (248) 901-2572

CHAMPIONS ON ICE

When: 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 2

Where: Joe Louis Arena, Detroit

Tickets: \$30-\$65 at the box office and all Ticketmaster outlets, or call (248) 645-6666

Performers: Michelle Kwan, Irina Slutskaya, Timothy Goebel, Evgeni Plushenko, Elvis Stojko, Sasha Cohen, Victor Petrenko, Michael Weiss, Philippe Candeloro, Surya Bonaly, Rudy Galindo, Nicole Bobek, Oksana Kazakova and Artur Dmitriev, Naomi Lang and Peter Tchernyshev, Shae-Lynn Bourne and Victor Kraatz, Elizabeth Punsalan and Jerod Swallow, Dan Hollander, Irina Grigorian, Vladimir Besedin and Olesiy Polishchuk, Ann Patrice McDonough, Tatiana Totmianina and Maxim Marinin

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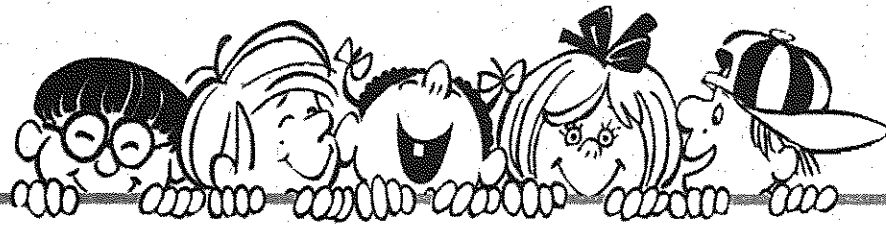
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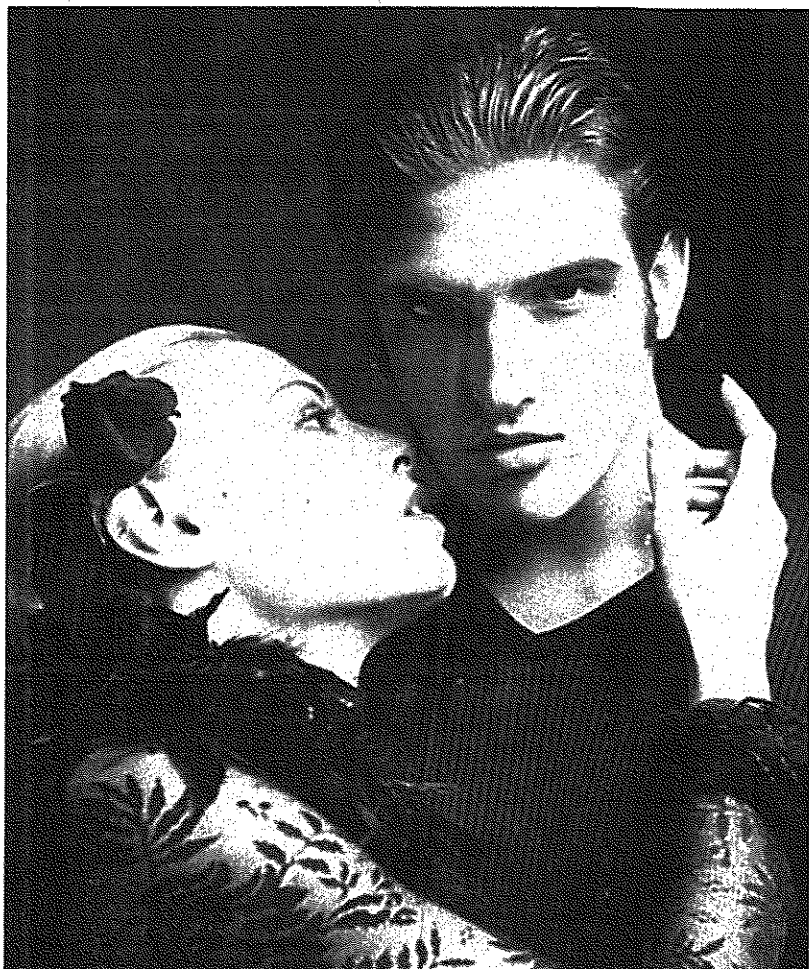
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Don Giovanni steals the heart of MOT audiences



JEROME MAGID

Michigan Opera Theatre last performed 'Don Giovanni' in 1995.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

"You can't resist a magnetic, charismatic seducer, can you?" asks David DiChiera almost tauntingly.

The Michigan Opera Theatre impresario is turning on the charm to lure audiences to the Detroit Opera House to see Mozart's *Don Giovanni* Saturday, April 26, to Sunday, May 4. But he doesn't have to. For more than two centuries, the story of the legendary womanizer has raised intrigue.

Baritone Gino Quilico and Brazilian tenor Paulo Sztot alternate in the role of the charming predator.

"It's one of the great masterpieces, a combination of musical genius that Mozart poured in and the way he brings together musical and comic elements," said DiChiera. "There's a bit of supernatural by bringing to life a statue that drags Giovanni to hell. There's a tremendous amount of eroticism. *Don Giovanni*, even by today's standards, is still considered risqué. It deals with subject matter of seduction.

"The Don Juan figure, on whom Mozart based Giovanni,

'It's one of the great masterpieces, a combination of musical genius that Mozart poured in and the way he brings together musical and comic elements.'

David DiChiera
Michigan Opera Theatre

is the most memorable female predator in literary history. People are always fascinated by the Don Juan figure."

Kyle Ketelsen would still rather play Leporello, Don Giovanni's man servant. This is the sixth time the Wisconsin bass-baritone has played the character who injects subtle comedy into the devastation left behind by Don Giovanni.

Ketelsen grew up in Iowa listening to his mother's opera recordings but it wasn't until high school when his choir director encouraged him to enter vocal competitions that Ketelsen considered a career on stage. After high school, he

considered flying helicopters in the U.S. Army and instead spent six years in the National Guard. But opera kept calling to him. Ketelsen began studying voice with Metropolitan Opera bass Giorgio Tozzi and by 1999 had earned a graduate degree from Indiana University. Ketelsen said, "Michigan Opera Theatre was one of the first professional opera companies to give me a good role." Since then, he's sung with the Washington and St. Louis operas. Future engagements include *The Marriage of Figaro* with New York City Opera.

"I grew up hearing these tunes and not recognizing them as opera," said the 31-year-old Ketelsen. "I'm Giovanni's traveling companion. More importantly, I'm part of Giovanni himself, Giovanni with a conscience, more morals and less courage. I love the role of Leporello. Who wouldn't want to be the clown of the show, to be comic relief and endear yourself to the audience? I'm given the tools by Mozart to steal the show."

DON GIOVANNI

What: Michigan Opera Theatre performs Mozart's opera about legendary lover Don Juan

When: Saturday, April 26, to Sunday, May 4. Performances 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday

Where: Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway

Tickets: \$18-\$105, call (313) 237-SING. Groups of 20 or more, (313) 237-3409.

For information, call (313) 237-7464 or visit

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Spotlight Players present comedy

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Mary Lynn Kuna doesn't have time to feel sad about the Spotlight Players' last production, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* opening Friday, April 25, at the Watertower Theater in Northville. She's too busy making preparations to move the theater troupe to Summit on the Park in Canton. The community center will be the temporary home for the Players until the new Canton Performing Arts Center is completed in the fall of 2004.

"There's no time to grieve," said Kuna. "We close our 'Forum' production May 10 and have to be out of the theater by May 16. And then we're performing something from the 'Forum' for the groundbreaking ceremony for the arts center on May 20."

Kuna expects the Spotlight Players to do three dinner theaters at the Summit during the 2003-2004 season. In the meantime, they're having fun rehearsing *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. The storyline follows a

SPOTLIGHT PLAYERS

What: Present the Stephen Sondheim musical *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*

When: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 25-26, May 2-3, and 9-10, and 6 p.m. Sunday, May 4

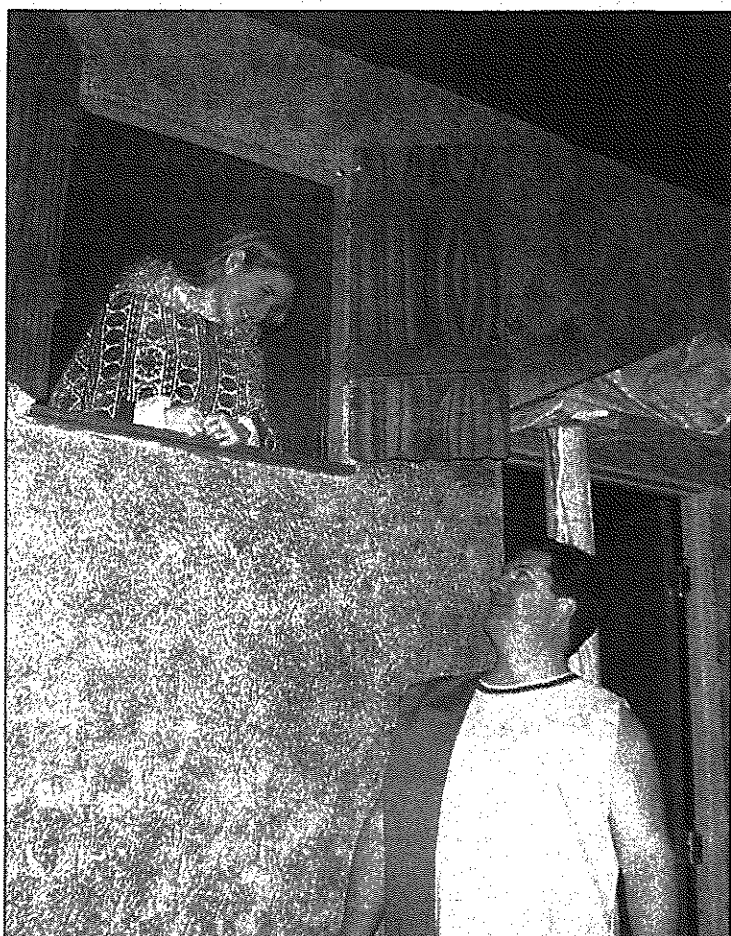
Where: Watertower Theater on the campus of Northville Psychiatric Hospital, 41001 W. Seven Mile Road, west of Haggerty, Northville

Tickets: \$14 ages 19 and older, \$10 ages 2-18. Call (248) 349-7110

crafty slave struggling to win the hand of a courtesan for his young master.

"It's a hilarious show," said Kuna. "And you can't beat the music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim."

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Spotlight Players (formerly the Plymouth Theatre Guild) closes its season with a 'Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.' Pictured are Kate Weiss and Mike Hammonds.

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THAI

FROM PAGE B1

"Thai appetizers are what I call city food," Lawan said. She marked Satay Gai as the most famous Thai appetizer and Koong Hom Pa, shrimp stuffed with ground chicken in a crispy phyllo roll, her personal favorite along with Thai Larb Salad.

Tom Yam Gai is chicken soup with lemongrass and galangal. It's also frequently called lemongrass soup. Thai hot and sour soup should not be confused with a Chinese soup named similarly. The Thai version is chicken, chicken broth, bamboo shoots, water chestnuts, Thai peppers, vinegar, mushroom soy sauce and egg drop in a wonderfully substantial, piping-hot mixture.

The best-known noodle dish is Pad Thai, which is stir-fried rice noodles with shrimp, Chinese chives, sometimes fried tofu, egg and bean sprouts, sprinkled with ground peanuts. "It should be served with a lime wedge," Lawan said. "Lime squeezed on the dish brings out the flavors and is a must for full enjoyment."

Pad Se-Ewe is rice noodles colored by sweet black soy sauce and tossed with egg, broccoli, meat or seafood. Pad Prik has stir-fried meat with chili/garlic paste and basil and is what Lawan calls "street food." Pork stir-fried with red curry is known as Pad Ped, which Lawan dubbed "gourmet."

If the choice begins with Ba Mee, then it's made with egg

noodles. Kao or Kanom Jeen at the beginning of the name signals rice noodles. Kao Soi is a dish from southern Thailand that's rice noodles with chicken curry. Kanom Jeen Nam Ya is rice noodles with fish curry, while Kanom Jeen Sao Nam is rice noodles with pineapple sauce and dried shrimp in a slightly sweeter dish.

Gaeng means curry, so Gaeng Musaman is a delicious Muslim-style beef curry with potatoes and peanuts. Gaeng Kari is an Indian-style mild curry, and is a good example of other influences on Thai food, as is Indian-inspired Gaeng Panaeng. However, Panang Neua, a Malaysian-style sweet beef curry, is an exception to the name rule that starts with gaeng.

If you enjoy seafood and a Thai eatery makes Haw Mok Talay in a clay pot, order it for a seafood stew of shrimp, squid, mussels, scallops, fish and crab legs stir-fried with a creamy curry sauce and served over a bed of napa.

Phu-Khet Fish takes red snapper to new heights with chopped garlic, onions and green peppers topped with fried basil.

Although Thai eateries don't focus much on dessert, coconut or mango ice cream is popular, as is a coconut flan. Banana "anything" is generally a treat to end a Thai meal.

Eleanor Heald is a nationally-published writer and Troy resident who writes about restaurants, food, wine and spirits for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. To leave her a voice mail message, dial (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1864#.

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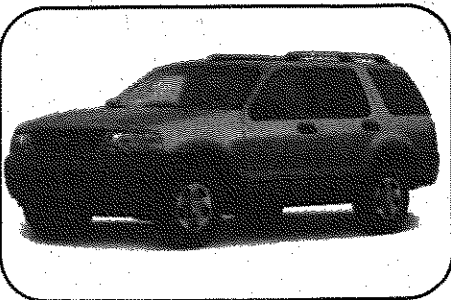
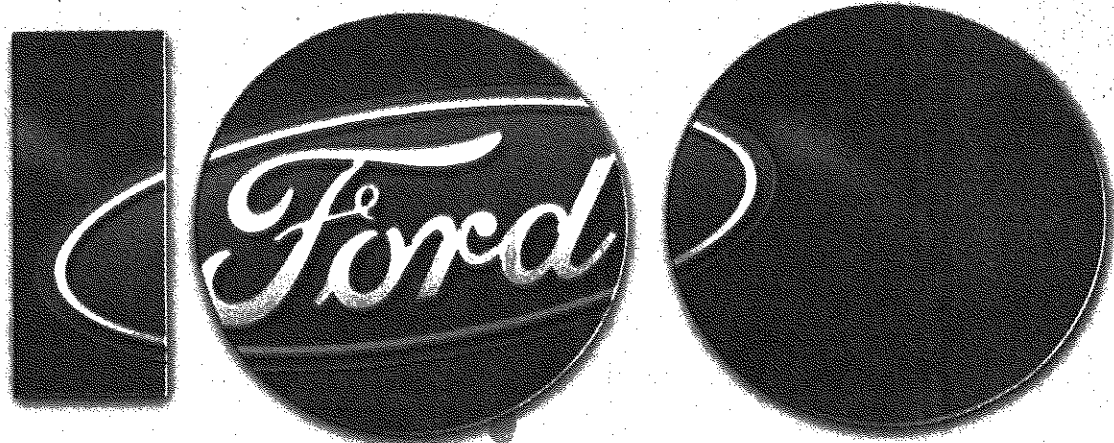
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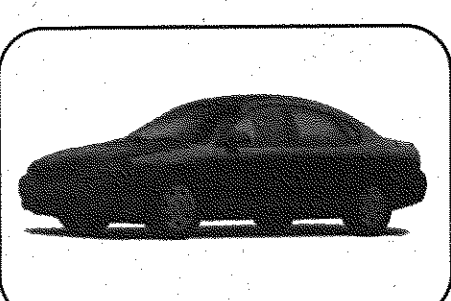
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"Just like human beings, both cats and dogs prefer a variety of palatable flavors over bland food," said Tsengas. OurPet's Gourmet Spray for Cats and Dogs has only one-tenth of a calorie per "serving" (a single spray), so any weight that a "poor eater" gains will be from the nutritious food itself. The spray is also absorbed quickly by dry food, so it leaves no residue in a pet's bowl.

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Although OurPet's Gourmet Spray for Cats and Dogs is an aid for all ages of picky eaters, it is especially useful for getting older pets with weaker senses of smell and less receptive taste buds to get excited about mealtime.

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For more information, contact OurPet's at (800) 565-2695, or visit www.ourpets.com.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Peggy Wilke and her father, Richard Latimer, enjoy the Florida room of the Wilke home in Farmington Hills, where Peggy and her husband, David, enjoy entertaining dinner guests.

Opening up a view

Florida room brings sunshine into dining area

What started out as a simple revision of a Florida room turned into a family project.

In 1997, David and Peggy Wilke bought a ranch home, built in 1955, in Farmington Hills.

Their imaginations ran wild what they could do with a Florida room at the rear of the home, which had aluminum windows, a bead board ceiling and brick exterior walls. "When we first walked into the Florida room, my husband thought it would be great if we knocked out the wall and remodel the dining room, and opened up the area," Peggy said. "There's no air conditioning, and there was no cross breeze, but (the remodeling) allowed us to bring a cross breeze into the house."

Peggy's brother, Pat Donnelly of Waterford, works in construction. Donnelly put in the new walls, put braces in the attic to help support the new ceiling, and raised the floor to align it to the same height of the kitchen floor and rest of the house.

Red oak hardwood was installed in the floors of the kitchen and Florida rooms, then new windows were put in place.



The living room features a large bay window.

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK — STAFF WRITER

PLEASE SEE VIEW, C2

1950s Beverly Hills home rejuvenated for 2003

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Pamela Livingston Hardy and her husband, Roland Hardy, took one look at the 1954 ranch in Beverly Hills and saw a home with potential but a style that was definitely archaic.

A recreation room beyond the living room and kitchen was cold and stark with old wood paneling, green shag carpeting and a

drop ceiling. The basement was one large room with little more than wood paneling and a tile floor. A bathroom — a half bath — just off the entrance of the house was, well, let's just say outdated, with a pink sink and pink toilet, old white tile and dated wallpaper.

But the couple saw the potential, and forged ahead with the purchase and renovations. Pamela was so eager to get

started, the renovations began three weeks before the couple moved into the home in fall 2000.

"The ranch is the thing of the future," Livingston Hardy said. "It could be the transitional house with design for 2003."

What was considered modern nearly 50 years ago is viewed with disdain when no changes



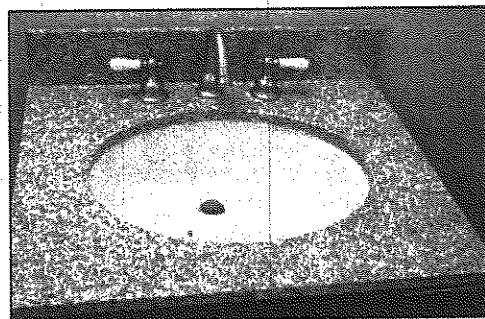
Pamela Livingston Hardy and Roland Hardy broke up the horizontal look of the ranch home in Beverly Hills by planting Bradley pear trees and installing a circular drive.

PLEASE SEE RENOVATION, C3

MARKET PLACE

Submissions

Do you have a special item you'd like to showcase in Marketplace on the front of At Home? We'd like to feature it! Send a photo or slide of the piece, along with information, to: Ken Abramczyk, At Home editor, *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.



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VIEW

FROM PAGE C1

GOING TO WORK

Peggy's father, Richard Latimer of Farmington Hills, completed electrical work and heat. "That wasn't easy to do in a crawlspace," which is where Richard needed to work to install the baseboard heating in the Florida room. Peggy's uncle, Ron Latimer, did the drywall.

The project evolved into a family affair, Peggy said. "I didn't even think of my uncle," she said. "We got a couple quotes and they were just so expensive. We thought about doing it ourselves, as I had muddied and sanded (drywall) before, but I had no desire to do it again."

"My dad contacted my uncle, he gave us a great price, and he did a great job." That project wasn't without its complications. When the old windows were replaced in the living room, it was discovered that water had seeped behind a sill and deteriorated wood. That needed to be repaired. New bay windows were installed and plaster needed to be matched up.

Then there were the pumpkin orange cabinets and 1970s wallpaper. "They had character," Peggy said. "We hated (the cabinets) when we started, but we liked them in the end."

"We have friends who have new homes, and everybody's looked the

same," Peggy said of kitchen cabinets. "These are really '50s looking. All we did was replace the hardware and put a countertop in and put in a stainless steel sink."

Wood paneling was replaced with bead board to lighten it up. A new Navy Grafix Formica countertop was installed in the kitchen, which opened up into the dining room.

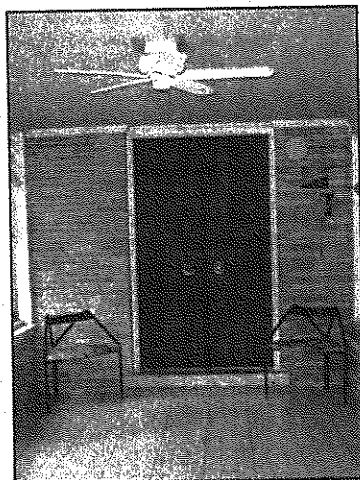
GOOD MATCH

Peggy and Dave installed a blue tile. "It was a such a good match, and it is a simple color." They also moved a butcher block from underneath a microwave oven to an open counter space, Peggy said. "We lost that space," she said of the old location. "We moved it so (the butcher block) would be used more."

The couple also did all the painting and staining themselves, Peggy said. Peggy helped her father with light fixtures, while her father completed all the electrical.

The project's total cost was about \$20,000 for the kitchen, living room and Florida room. The couple still wants to replace the carpet in the living room.

The living room was opened up with more light, with the new French doors from the Florida room to the living room and the new bay window to the back yard. "We



Here is Peggy and David Wilke's Florida room before it was remodeled.

replaced the window treatments, because the old drapes really cut the views down. We replaced the window and the panes (which also affected the view), and now have two bay windows."

Now when the Wilkes set up the Christmas tree in the living room they can see it when they sit in the family room, Peggy said.

"We just really like it," she said. "It's really opened up the whole area. It really brightens it up. We wanted to make the living room more of a 'family' room, and we love the flow from the dining room."

"Now we can get that nice cross breeze with that (bay window) and front door open. We have a perfect layout for a party, and when we have people over, they say it's such a comfortable house."

The Wilkes started the remodeling in October 2000, and they finished last Christmas.

"It took a while, but it was worth it. We did it as we had the money to do it. We never got in over our heads about it."

Got a remodeling project of your home that has transformed it? We'd like to know about it and include it in our At Home section. Send a letter describing the project, including before and after photos. Contact At Home Editor Ken Abramczyk at the Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009 or e-mail kabramczyk@oe.homecomm.net.



The kitchen also had an outdated look.

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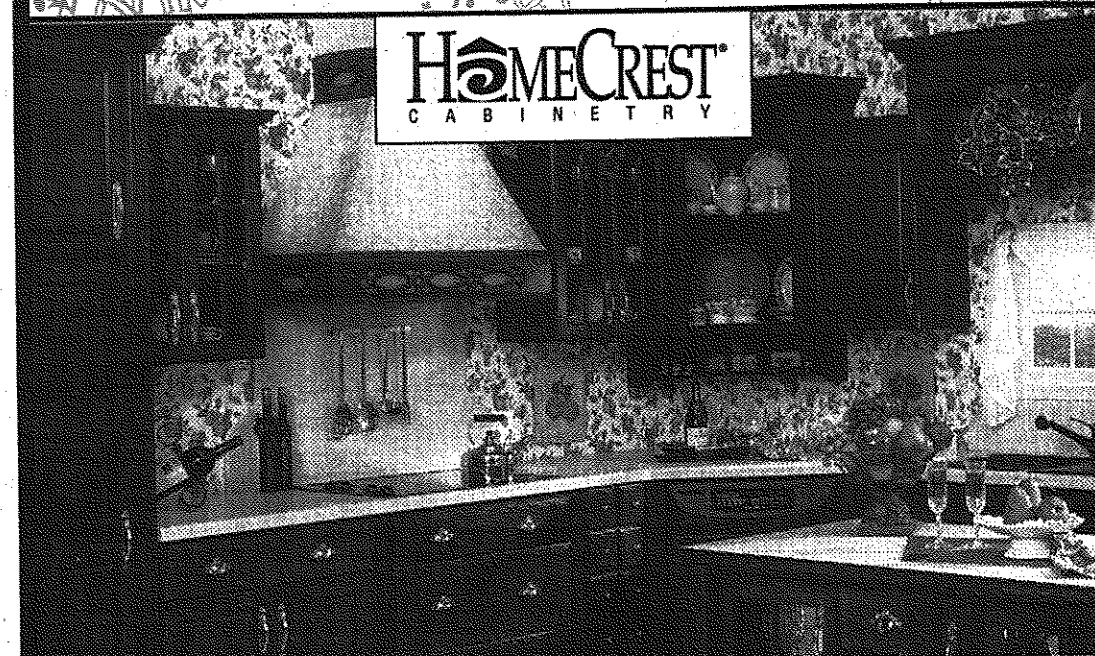
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The former rec room is now a comfortable and warm family room, all dressed up for relaxation.

RENOVATION

FROM PAGE C1

are made in the home's layout, decor or style. It just looks old.

The living room is the center of the home with the kitchen on the right and a recreation room on the northeast side of the garage.

On the west side of the home, three bedrooms and two bathrooms made up the ranch's main floor.

Today, when you walk into the entryway, a third bedroom to your immediate left has been converted into an office. Beyond that room, in the southwest corner of the house, the old main bedroom is now a guest bedroom. The bathroom is now a master bathroom suite and a 300-square-foot addition is the new master bedroom.

The recreation room was remodeled into a family room. It is now heated more efficiently, thanks to a new furnace installed in the garage.

Every window and light fixture, and nearly every door in the entire home, was replaced.

"We wanted to make something that was functional," Livingston Hardy said.

"We entertain a lot, and most (baby) boomers entertain a lot. (Guests) might come over to watch football or we might just have people over."

"Anyone looking for this kind of situation, this would be better than a condo or a big house."

Roland adds: "It was a lot of work to do. It needed a lot of TLC. It was in pretty bad shape."

The rec room had a drop ceiling and it was unheated. But the couple had the ceiling removed, new drywall installed in the new ceiling, and recessed lights put in. The room was insulated, and a second furnace installed (this one in the garage) to heat that new family room and more uniformly heat the house.

Crown molding was added, walls were painted a soft gray. New furnishings included an armoire built by a carpenter friend and then distressed.

The armoire was then painted white and gray, and the comfort level dramatically increased in the family room.

Move into the kitchen and drama is the key word. Livingston Hardy has created a

baking center on one side, with some drawers containing whisks and measuring cups and others flour and sugar.

The cabinets are a mix of vanilla glazed maple cabinets on the walls with cherry cabinets on the island.

The dramatic look is added by the red maranachi granite from Brazil.

"Every slab is different," Roland said.

The basement was once an open area, but with a few walls added. The walls helped create a workout room that houses a stationary bike and treadmill, a studio for Roland and a craft room for Pamela.

In the master bathroom suite the couple removed the flooring and paneling, then insulated and drywalled.

"We took it down to the studs and the cement for the ceiling," Livingston Hardy said.

They installed a soaker tub and spa shower with a bench. New light fixtures dress up the room and green mosaic tiles add beauty to it.

"Bathrooms are like sanctuaries now," Livingston Hardy said.

In the hall, a closet's opening was moved from the main hall-



PHOTOS BY JERRY ZOLYNSKY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The kitchen cabinets are a mix of vanilla-glazed maple cabinets along the walls while the island features cherry cabinets. The granite is a red maranachi from Brazil.

way to a location around the corner across from the master bathroom.

A walk-in closet and a make-up area are adjacent to the bedroom and the new master bedroom.

The addition of the master bedroom adds 300 square feet to the home, and also completes a U-shape in the back yard, creating privacy for the back patio area. The bedroom is blue with a grayish tint (Pamela's blue, Roland calls it).

Pamela changed the traditional brass hinges with silver ones. The foyer area was painted red.

The couple started three weeks before moving in and only finished in December.

Roland completed the front porch and walk in a tumbled stone, along with landscape lights. Bradley pear trees were planted.

"(The trees) are columns that take away that horizontal look," Pamela said. "Ranches



Pamela Livingston Hardy pauses in her living room.

are just so elongated, that circle drives help to break that up."

Got a remodeling project of your home that has transformed it? We'd like to know about it and include it in

our At Home section. Send a letter describing the project, including before and after photos. Contact At Home Editor Ken Abramczyk at the *Observer & Eccentric*, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009 or e-mail kabramczyk@oe.homecomm.net

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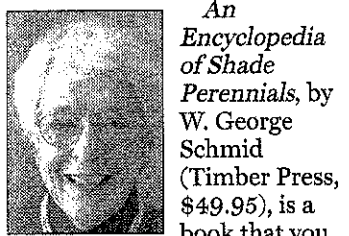
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Books offer beauty tips for landscapes

Spring is here! Can you believe it? Lots of things are going on in the garden, and there are several new books that will help to make your landscape more beautiful.



Garden Spot

Marty Figley

Schmid's story begins with his fascination of shade at an early age and its friendly environment, and progresses through his belief that "gardens made following designs by nature will be less demanding than those conceived along classic lines."

"I found myself thinking, 'Right plant, right place,' a credo we should all remember.

Schmid describes hundreds of shade-loving plants in (as he says) "plain English," listing height, flower, fruit, family and more.

Take time to savor this down-to-earth advice; you may be encouraged to find a shady nook in your own back yard.

The *Encyclopedia of Planting in Combination*, by

Tony Lord, photos by Andrew Lawson (*Firefly*, \$59.95), contains 4,000 color and planting schemes and 1,000 plant descriptions with full-color photos.

Lord advises readers to establish the overall effect desired; trees, major shrubs and hedges should be decided on first. You should include evergreens. Be aware of form and texture; harmonious colors are lasting; and for borders, carefully make a planting plan. Each entry includes height and spread, typical flowering season, a color bar showing full range of light levels, a raindrop symbol to show a plant's preferred soil water content, colored symbols to show preferred soil conditions, and zone and pH ranges.

NATURAL DECOR

Plan ahead and grow things that can be dried for indoor beauty when summer is just a memory. *Natural Decor: The Arranger's Garden and Project Book from Seed to Centerpiece*, Norma Coney (The Lyons Press, \$19.95), will set you on the right track.

Coney shares information about gathering in the wild, plant identification, proper tools and other tricks of the trade. Each project contains a "list of ingredients."

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Distinctive Gardening with Native Plants, by Lorraine Johnson (Fulcrum \$32.95), is organized by regions (we are in the Northeast Region).

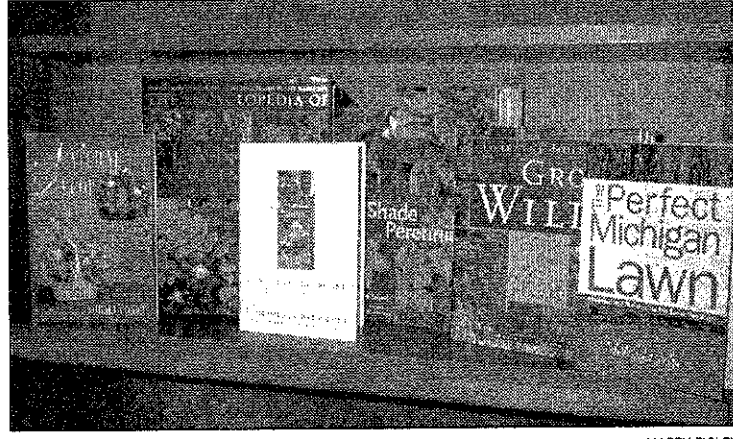
"There are many different approaches to the use of native plants and no one right way," the author says. "Just a single wild bergamot plant, tentatively purchased by a curious soul and added to a bed of exotics, will offer nectar to butterflies, bees and hummingbirds and seeds to birds and will perhaps inspire that curious soul to try other natives."

Johnson describes appropriate plants for the regions and takes us through some successful gardens. She shares the lowdown on how to correctly create natural gardens, and suggests looking at local native plant communities in the wild. Excellent advice.

The Perfect Michigan Lawn: Attaining and Maintaining the Lawn You Want, by Melinda Myers (Cool Springs Press, \$12.99), is now available, just in time for our growing season.

Myers is an award-winning horticulturist and gives good advice. She discusses the best grass varieties and suggests a maintenance schedule, and explains various methods of planting a new lawn or renovating an existing one.

In addition, she provides recommendations on how to address those inevitable lawn problems, such as weeds, dis-



MARTY FIGLEY

Dominique Browning's book is available at Goldner Walsh Nursery.

eases and insect pests, while still being kind to Mother Nature.

Myers rounds out the book with information about how to fertilize, water and mow to promote a healthy lawn, and be a happy lawn owner.

AUTHOR TO VISIT

In *Around the House and in the Garden: A Memoir of Heartbreak, Healing and Home Improvement* (Scriber, \$24 hard, \$12 soft).

The author, Dominique Browning, shares her feelings about everyday things after a divorce.

Each essay concerns how she slowly heals as she settles into a new home and life, and learns to rely solely on herself. Along the way she gives tips

about home decorating, gardening, and "nesting" with her sons. I really like the idea of a couch in the kitchen.

You will have a chance to meet Browning, editor-in-chief of *House & Garden* magazine, at 1 p.m. Friday, May 2, when she appears at Goldner Walsh Nursery, 559 Orchard Lake Road in Pontiac.

After lunch, Browning will share thoughts about her book, and sign your copy, available for purchase at the nursery. Admission is \$24.

Reservations are required; call (248) 332-6430, Ext. 233. Seating is limited.

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone.

Seminars begin on growing roses

The American Rose Society and Home Depot is now presenting rose seminars with local rose societies.

The seminar series begins with the first one at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 26 with Dave Szalony and Norman Krieger at the Home Depot at I-96 and Middlebelt in Livonia.

How to Grow Beautiful Roses is a one-hour seminar with handouts, potted roses on display, and American Rose Society members to assist the public.

On Saturday, May 3, Jim Sockolosky will host the seminar at the store at 5 Mile and Beck roads in Plymouth. On Saturday, May 10, Mike Kern and Irene Fahey will host the seminar at the Farmington Hills store on Northwestern Highway between 14 Mile and Middlebelt.

Pat Hibberd will discuss roses at the Brighton store and Dave Szalony and Norris Hardeman will host the seminar at the Northville store on 7 Mile and Haggerty on Saturday, May 17.

Also that day, Mary Jane Du Lyn and Bob Savageau will discuss roses at the Novi store at Grand River and Beck. All seminars begin at 1 p.m.

For information, contact the Roses-West Rose Society at (248) 449-4626.

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Consumer protection comes with the appliance repair act

Residents now enjoy more protection when it comes to home appliance repair, service and maintenance.

Effective June 21, 2002, the appliance repair act requires a service dealer who works on a refrigerator, dehumidifier, freezer, oven, range, microwave oven, washer, dryer, dishwasher, trash compactor, or window room air conditioner, to provide a detailed written estimate approved by the customer before performing any work.

The service dealer may not exceed the estimate by more than 10 percent without getting customer approval and must provide a 30-day labor warranty. Additionally, service dealers must return to the customer parts removed from an appliance.

This consumer alert provides an overview of the new protections. The following information was compiled and published by the attorney general's office. I've paraphrased it here.

Written estimate: A service dealer may not charge in excess of 110 percent of the amount noted in the written estimate unless verbal or written permission of the customer is obtained.

A written estimate must contain the service dealer's name, mailing address, and telephone number and a description of the problem requiring service or repair or maintenance.

Any charge for labor or parts must be stated separately along with the hourly or flat rate used to determine labor costs and any charge for transporting the appliance to an from the customer's premises.

If the appliance requires

dismantling, the service dealer must include that cost of dismantling and re-assembling, and any parts that would be rendered inoperable by the process.

The final bill: Written estimate and final bill may be combined in the same document. In any event the final bill must state the name and address of the service dealer, service call charges, the labor charges, service dealer's labor warranty and parts charge, the warranty provided by the supplier of the part, or the fact there is no supplier's or manufacturer's warranty on the part and the sales tax.

Any other charge must be stated in detail. The statement must inform the customer to notify the service dealer in writing, in person, or by telephone before expiration of the warranty to receive warranty work.

Warranty: A service dealer has to provide a warranty for a least 30 days on the dealer's labor.

This warranty requires the service dealer to correct, at no cost to the customer, any failure of the warranted parts if the customer notified the service dealer in writing within the applicable warranty time period. The service dealer has to make the warranted correction with 10 days after receiving the written notice of the failure, unless parts have been timely ordered but not yet received. The service dealer is required to make a written record of the parts order.

Next week I will highlight other provisions under the state law, including parts, consumer protections and where to write with complaints.

Joe Gagnon is host of Ask The Handyman on Infinity Radio AM 1270 8 a.m.-noon Saturdays and Sundays. You can hear his tips on WWJ 950 on week-days. You can call him on his show at (248) 356-1270.

Now is a good time for spring cleaning

I know my house needs a thorough cleaning at least once a year. I am not meticulous, but I would like it done properly. What should I do?

Spring is a great time to clean your home. It is time for new beginnings. Trees bloom, flowers sprout, and the sun warms the air. You can clean windows, sweep out dirt, and shake rugs while you bask in the sun.

Domestic Planner

Diana Koenig

Before you get started you need to make sure you have a system and the right tools for the job. Clean one room at a time moving from left to right and top to bottom. This routine ensures that you do not miss anything. Your tools should include a microfibre cloth, lambswool duster, and a dependable vacuum cleaner. Purchase any necessary cleaning supplies such as glass cleaner, disinfectant

spray, or baking soda, etc. Make a paper plan by writing down everything that needs to be done for your annual spring-cleaning. This should include: moving furniture, scrubbing walls, cleaning baseboards, wiping light switches, washing bedding and curtains, cleaning blinds, vacuuming heating vents, and dusting light fixtures.

Make your plan room-by-room. Walk into each room of your house and make a list of everything you need to do to completely clean the room. Stand up and sit down on the floor many times and noticed something I need to clean.

Master the disaster by scheduling your cleaning time like an appointment. Schedule the amount of time you will clean.

Limit the amount of interruptions that could steal away your cleaning time. Find a place for the children such as with grandparents, a neighbor, a friend, or a playgroup. Try

not to tie yourself down with phone calls and routine household chores during this time.

Cluster clutter in the room you are thoroughly cleaning. Place unnecessary clutter in a laundry basket. Once you are done cleaning cart the basket throughout the house and put each item back where it belongs.

Train the brain to think ahead as you clean. Be ready to tackle another cleaning project as you finish the current one. Proper preparation will maximize your cleaning time.

Prevention Cleaning Tips:

Keep an open box of baking soda in areas that have undesirable odors.

Store countertop items by sink areas in a decorative plastic basket. You can easily clean the area by lifting one basket instead of several items.

Use a squeegee or towel to remove excess water on shower doors and tiles. Damp bathrooms are the breeding ground for mold and mildew.

Use liquid soap by the sink. You will not have to

spend time cleaning soap scum.

Control clutter daily so your once a week or twice a month cleaning session will be spent cleaning and not putting things away.

Decorate with knick-knacks that are easy to clean. Items with grooves and rough edges are hard to dust. Some less fragile décor can be washed in the dishwasher.

Clean once a week. You will avoid dirt build-up and allow your house to smell fresh and clean all week long.

You will also be prepared for extra cleaning tasks if you have a routing cleaning time.

Today's Refrigerator Bulletin: "Good-bye dust bunnies!"

Diana Koenig is a writer, educator, speaker, consultant, and president of Domestic Planner@ Direct Sales Company. Send your questions and success stories to: Diana Koenig, P.O. Box 1702, Manchester, MO 63011 e-mail: dianakoening@hotmail.com www.domesticplanner.com

GARDEN CALENDAR

School of Gardening

The Michigan School of Gardening presents classes on a wide range of topics. The schedule includes these classes, which meet at 29429 Six Mile in Livonia, just west of Middlebelt in the Milo Shopping Plaza: Perennial Combinations (\$39.50), Thursday, April 24; Difficult Sites (\$62), Wednesdays, April 30 to May 7; and the four-session Healthy Soil and Wise Fertilizing (\$124), beginning Thursday, May 1, or Friday, May 2. Register early. Seating is limited. Some classes have pre-requisites. For more information, call (248) 4-GARDEN or visit www.michigangardening.com.

Container gardening

Shelly Buckman will present a free seminar, Container Gardening, 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 26, at gardenviews, 202 W. Main in Northville. Space is limited. Call (248) 380-8881 to reserve a seat. Buckman will discuss all aspects of container gardening. Learn about training plants to climb trellises and arbors, and understanding topiary forms.

Stamp club

The Plymouth Stamp Show will feature

2,800 pages of exhibits and 42 dealers from the United States and Canada. U.S., U.N. and Nordica Post Offices, seminars, society meetings and Saturday auction and youth program. It is a qualifying show for the American Philatelic Society's annual Champion of Champions competition. The show is scheduled 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Saturday, April 26, and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, April 27, at the Central Middle School at Church and Main in downtown Plymouth. The show is sponsored by the West Suburban

Stamp Club. Admission and parking are free. The auction is the Craig A. Whitford's Auctions of a sale of the Richard G. Ebach collection of Michigan Postal History at 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Livonia West. For information, call (734) 699-1026.

Pruning, fertilizing roses

Roger and Nancy Lindley, owners of Great Lakes Roses, are celebrating spring with a series of free public programs Sundays and Mondays at Great Lakes Roses, 49875 Willow Road, between Rawsonville and Sumpter

(Belleville) roads in Sumpter Township. Pruning and Fertilizing of Roses, a hands-on demonstration, will be presented 1 p.m. Sunday, April 27, and 11 a.m. Monday, April 28, in the display garden.

Great Lakes Roses offers more than 500 varieties of roses, and stocks the complete line of Felco pruners, books about roses, fertilizers, soil amendments and pesticides. Visit www.GreatLakesRoses.com or call (734) 461-1230 to request a flyer

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Life Lines

Cathy Standish

One family's driver's ed experience

We thought we were out of the woods. Our oldest son had successfully completed driver's training, gone through the extended period of driving with a permit, and had met the requirements to get his unrestricted license.

He's a good driver; I don't have a lot of worries. Sure, he could start braking a little sooner when coming to a complete stop. Sure, he could ease up on the lead foot when Mommy is in the car.

But boys will be boys, or something like that.

The driver's education experience was a little ex-cruciating. I soon discovered the imaginary brake my mother had been pounding on many years ago, strategically placed in the passenger's side of the automobile. Any automobile. Doesn't matter what make or model, or year the car was manufactured. All possess the imaginary brake for Mom to stomp on when riding alongside the learning driver.

The only element that has changed for moms through the years as they ride with their new-driver children is the type of sedative taken to sustain such driver's education journey.

So I guess we should have considered the spacing of our children more carefully. It is recommended that five-year recovery time span before the next child enrolls in driver's ed.

It gives the parent time to recoup, the family time to heal, the car time to cool.

Parental wrinkles developed during this experience can be sanded off, gray hairs can be colored.

Why didn't someone tell us of this before we had our sons 25 months apart?

Is it not the responsibility of some hospital personnel? The obstetrician, the pediatrician, the nurse, our parents? Should there be a warning, a disclaimer on the infant as they come into the world?

Perhaps it could read something like this:

"Though cute and cuddly, this innocent little bundle will grow into teen years and require to learn to drive. Spacing of five years or more between such bundles is highly recommended by the management to preserve the sanctity of the household and the sanity of the parents. Enjoy!"

Our second experience with driver's education is soon to begin. At least we know what to expect. Our second son will climb into the car after the first day of class, and with his wealth of knowledge he will instruct us on the laws of the road. He will make sure we stop a safe distance from the red light. He will offer safety tips as we merge onto the freeway.

We know this because we have done it all before.

Someone should have warned us.

But no one did. The obstetrician didn't warn us for fear it would cut into his revenues. The pediatrician didn't warn us because all children are a joy in that happy world in which they live. The nurse didn't warn us because she just didn't have time. Our parents didn't warn us because they were too busy counting the days, the weeks, the months,

PLEASE SEE STANDISH, C7



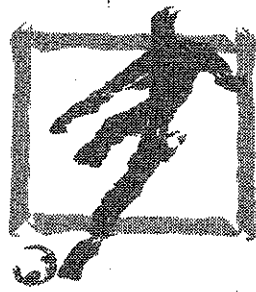
Summer camps 2003

A roundup of camping opportunities for every interest

ATHLETICS

Summer 2003 Gymnastics schedule at the Dickson Center Gymnastics room in Livonia starts June 16-Aug. 20 (Monday through Thursday). All levels (ages 3 1/2 to high school). Preschool half-day camps and grade one and up full and half-day camps. Visit the LPS Community Education Enrichment Office, 1800 Newburgh, Livonia.

Schoolcraft College offers kids physical fitness classes including: Youth golf: This program is designed for boys and girls ages 7-14, who are beginning and advanced beginning junior golfers. Instruction on pre-swing routine, the full swing, the short game, rules and etiquette. Equipment provided or bring your own.



Junior development tennis: For beginning players ages 9-12 years old. Class will cover developmental skills, rules, etiquette, scoring and strategy. Junior young stars tennis: An introduction to tennis for ages 5-7. Class will cover beginning skills, rules and etiquette. Junior future stars tennis: For beginning players ages 7-9.

Class will cover developmental skills, rules and etiquette. Junior excellence tennis: Organized competitive play for both skill level I and advanced level II. Instructor permission is required for level II. Ages 8-18 are welcome.

Junior tennis camps: Designed to provide conditioning, drilling on serves, volleys, overheads and groundstrokes and match play. Ages 8-18 are welcome.

Karate for youth: Designed for children 6-12 years old interested in learning about karate/self-defense techniques. Instruction will assist in the improvement of self-discipline, confidence, and good physical fitness.

Call (734) 462-4448 for information or visit www.schoolcraft.edu

Wolverine Camp Schedule at University of Michigan

Baseball camp:

Day Camp (ages 7-10) July 7-10, \$150.

Director Rich Maloney, (734) 647-4583

Boys basketball camp:

Fundamental camp, June 22-26; and July 27-31.

Director Billy Schmidt, (734) 763-5504

Sue Guevara girls basketball camp

Day camp (ages 7-16) June 16-19, \$275. Director Kelly Kenny, (734) 647-2918.

Wolverine girls soccer day camp

Aug. 4-8, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (ages 6-11) \$180. Director Carrie Maier Barker, (734) 763-7593.

Boys lacrosse camp

Advanced skills camp Aug. 3-7 (high school varsity); and Youth skills camp Aug. 9-12 (boys ages 8-14). Advanced residential \$495, commuter \$375; youth commuter \$250. Director John Paul, (734) 622-9942.

High school kicking camps

Teaching and training ninth-grade through high school senior punters and kickers. Wolverine kicking camp was established to teach young punters and kickers how to reach their full potential as kickers. The staff consists of coaches and former professional and collegiate athletes eager to work with young athletes whose goals are to win a starting position at their school, earn a college scholarship or ultimately play professionally. June 20-22 at the University of Michigan. Contact Jim Boccher, Michigan Football Office, (734) 615-2730.

Single Tennis Tournament for ages 7 and above will be held July 12-13 (ages 7-14); July 11-12 (ages 15-18); July 12-13 (ages 19-40) and July 12-13 (40+). The Canton Open will be held at Griffin Park July 11-13. Male and female divisions will be offered for each age group. Enjoy a Canton summer tradition. Cost is \$15 resident; and \$20 nonresident. Call (734) 394-5460.

World Series at the Canton Softball Center and Victory Park is for USSSA Boy's 14 and under who want to participate in the Baseball World Series July 20-27 and/or USSSA 16 and under Girl's Fast Pitch Softball World Series July 28-Aug. 3. Assist Leisure Services as they host over 75 teams from all over the country at Canton Softball Center. Call Pat VanDusen (734) 394-5193 or (734) 394-5460.

Youth programs in Westland include soccer, offered through the Wayne-Westland Soccer Association, (734) 458-7786. Softball through the Dad's Athletic Club of Westland. Call (734) 729-5293.

Basketball, baseball, cheerleading and volleyball through the Westland Youth Athletic Association. Call (734) 421-0640.

Summer programming through the City of Plymouth Recreation Department is listed at www.ci.plymouth.mi.us or call (734) 455-6620 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Youth Soccer in

Plymouth will be offered in the fall but registration is the entire month of June for children ages 5 1/2 to 16. Register at the Recreation Office during business hours.

TOPPS Soccer in Plymouth is for children ages 5-19 with disabilities. The program is open to children with autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and other disabilities. Children who use walkers or wheelchairs are welcome. Cost is \$15 for the season. Call Carol Palk, (734) 451-0071.

Jump-a-Rama preschool and beginning gymnastic in Plymouth will focus on body awareness, self-confidence, hand-eye coordination, inverted orientation and lateral awareness. Geared to children ages 3-10. Students should wear loose clothing such as leotards, shorts. Held at the Plymouth Cultural Center. Call Angela Jackson, (734) 981-9900. Ages 3-5 Thursday 4-4:45 p.m. June 5-July 10 and ages 6-10 Thursday 5-5:50 p.m. June 5-July 10.

Rockers Soccer Camp July 14-18 from 1:30-4 p.m. Cost is \$140 per camper (each additional family/team member will receive \$10 regular price). Held at the Thomas Brown Central City Park by qualified instructors (professional and college players). Camps are designed for boys and girls ages 4-14 of all skill levels. Call (734) 427-6017. Early registration discount is \$120. Must register by May 1.

THEATER/ART

Performing arts, show choir, visual arts and youngest artist camps are scheduled for this summer at the Plymouth Community Arts Council (774 N. Sheldon). Kids ages 5-18 can participate in these weeklong camps starting June 23 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with fees starting at \$60 for PCAC members. Call (734) 416-4278 or visit www.plymoutharts.com.

The Shoe String Theatre will offer Drama and Art Camp (half-days) from 9:30 a.m. to noon (drama) and 12:30-3 p.m. (art). After camp care is available 3-5 p.m. at the Bailey Center in Westland. Drama camp includes pantomime, improvisation and storytelling. An informal performance will be held on the last day of class. Arts and crafts camp includes printmaking, stenciling, jewelry, stamping and more. Call (734) 427-6017.

The historic Northville Marquis Theatre (135 E. Main, Northville) offers Theatre Day Camp for children (boys and girls) ages 7-14. Professional theatrical instruction is offered in a fun environment where children learn a wide range of theatrical skills and are part of a big musical production using Broadway and musical tunes from the past and present. Kids have the chance to learn singing, acting and improvisation. Teachers will be professionals with guest artists. Enrollments are now being accepted. Call (248) 349-8110 or visit www.northville-marquisttheatre.com.

Once Upon an Easel will host the annual Summer Art Camp Mania July 21-25 for ages 6-10. Your child will enhance his or her creativity while making multimedia art themed "Celebrate America." This one-week camp by D & M Art Studio will explore art materials such as papier maché, pastels, painting, charcoal, ceramics, cartooning and more. Prices include a T-shirt and materials. Fee is \$129 resident and \$149 nonresident. Class meets 9 a.m. to noon or 1-4 p.m. for one week. Call (734) 394-5460.

A similar Summer Art Camp program for children ages 3-6 will be offered Monday through Friday, July 7-11. Cost is \$79, member; \$79 resident; and \$99 nonresident. Call (734) 394-5460.

Ceramics workshops for children ages 3 and up are invited to paint fun ceramic pieces in these one-day workshops held at the Plymouth Cultural Center. May 3 from 11 a.m. to noon and June 7 11 a.m. to noon. \$10 per workshop. Call Angela Jackson, (734) 981-9900.

MUSIC

The National Music Workshop DAYJAMS will host a Rock 'n' Roll Day Camp for absolute beginners and experienced music students through the Rudolph Steiner School in Ann Arbor. Available for one-to-two weeks in guitar, bass, drums, keyboards and vocals from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 7-11 and July 14-18. Extended drop-off and pickup hours provided. Call (800) 295-5956 or visit www.dayjams.com.

TECHNOLOGY

ID Tech Camps at the University of Michigan Follow an innovating and challenging curriculum where students are immersed in creative and fun learning, enabling them to harness the power of technology while having a blast. All courses are designed with a focus on a final project. Multimedia and game creation for ages 8-17, July 27-Aug. 1 and

Aug. 3-8. Web design and graphic arts for ages 8-17 has openings in sessions beginning July 13-18; July 20-25; July 27-Aug. 1 and Aug. 3-8.

Digital video and movie production ages 10-17 starting July 13-18; July 20-25; July 27-Aug. 1 and Aug. 3-8.

Programming and robotics July 13-18; July 20-25; July 27-Aug. 1 and Aug. 3-8.

Stop motion animation July 13-18; July 20-25; July 27-Aug. 1 and Aug. 3-8.

For information or to receive a registration packet, call (888) 709-TECH or visit www.internaldrive.com/courses.

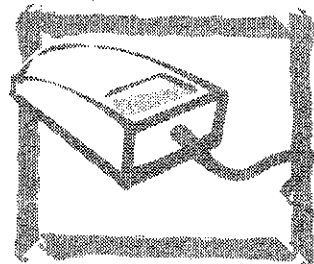
SCIENCE

Living Science Foundation Camps help children develop the skills and enthusiasm they need for life-long learning while instilling a curiosity and respect for the world around them. Your child will be immersed in a positive and wholesome environment. Self-esteem, confidence, and friendship will develop naturally where adventure and activity are balanced with quiet and reflective moments. Camps are hands-on, interactive and based on science activities that are designed to be informative, interactive and fun. Camps begin June 9-13 World of Animals, LSF Headquarters Plymouth (734) 207-8291; July 7-11 Rainforest, Northville (248) 349-0203; July 14-18, Rainforest, Livonia (734) 744-2602; July 28-Aug. 1, Animal Family, Livonia (734) 744-2602; and Adventure Camp Aug. 18-22 LSF Headquarters Plymouth (734) 207-8291. Visit www.sciencefoundation.org

Science camps sponsored by the Westland Parks and Recreation Dept. and Mad Science of Wayne County begin June 16-20 (Rockin' Rockets Camp) or Aug. 18-22 (Radical Robots Camps). Five half-day sessions \$95 per student. Full-day sessions \$140 at the Bailey Center (36651 Ford Road). Rockin' Rocket participants will enjoy learning about aerodynamics, principles of flight, locomotion, galaxies, etc. Radical Robots campers will learn about robot vs. human body parts, construction, motion, etc. Call (734) 397-2015 or (734) 397-5648 or visit www.madscience.org/waynecounty/.

FINE ARTS

Interlochen Fine Arts Camp offers programming for music students including dancers, actors, writers and visual artists ages 8-18. Interlochen is located four hours north of Detroit. For information, call (231) 276-7472 or visit www.interlochen.org. Though the application deadline has passed, the Web site says the admissions office will continue to enroll students as long as cabin and class space is available. Whether you possess a special talent in music, dance, creative writing, theater or visual arts, or just want to expand your horizons, there's a place for you. Music divisions include bassoon, chorus (males only) clarinet, dance (males only), double bass, harp, horn, oboe, percussion, saxophone (session B only), theater (males only), trombone, trumpet (session B only), tuba and viola. Intermediate Creative



Writing (four or eight weeks/two periods) offers students an immersion in the world of creating poetry and fiction. Intermediate Visual Arts students can study sculpture, ceramics, metalsmithing, drawing, painting, printmaking and fibers. Supervised studios are open in the evenings and outside of class time. Evening workshops, open to all students, include figure drawing, metal casting and wheel throwing. Interlochen's Dance Program offers opportunities either to explore a new art form or, for the serious dance student, for intense study and performance. Instruction in both ballet and modern dance is available. Dance majors have a four-week summer intensive that includes six hours of dance each day. Majors select from ballet emphasis (which includes pointe technique) and modern emphasis (which includes improvisation and composition). The dance curriculum includes ballet, modern, jazz, repertory, pilates, pointe and improvisation/composition.

Camp Bernstein, Blue Lake's Junior Camp, is ideal for personal and individualized instruction for young musicians. A special program for band and orchestra students, it features an atmosphere which promotes positive social relationships, building self-esteem, and rapid musical growth. Concerts, recitals, talent shows, skit nights, camp fires, dances, cabin parties, and cook-outs fill the campers' evenings with fun and excitement. For information, visit www.bluelake.org/bernstein.html. Session I: June 25-July 6 (grades six-seven next school year with six months to one and one half years musical study) Band - Nancy Rueke, Flint and Orchestra - Peter DeLille,

PLEASE SEE CAMPS, C7

Your Invitation To Worship

Mail Copy To:
Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150
Or Fax: (734) 953-2232

For Church Page Changes And Information Regarding Advertising In
This Directory, Please Call: Jean Etherington (734) 953-2160
THE FRIDAY BEFORE PUBLICATION



ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

You Are Welcome At
Tri-City Christian Center

3855 Sheldon Rd., Canton (Just N. of Michigan Ave.)
734-397-1777 • www.Tri-City-Christian.org

Come Join Us

Worship Service & Children's Ministries Sunday 9:00am & 11:00am
Youth Service Tuesday 7pm
Family Night Wednesday 7:00pm

BAPTIST

Pastor David Washington
and *The CCF Family* would like to invite you to...

Canton Christian Fellowship

*"Where the Word is Relevant,
People are Loved and Christ is the Key"*

Join us for Worship Service at 10:30am
Sunday School and/or New Members Orientation: 9:00am
Located at 6500 N. Wayne Rd. • Westland, MI
*Between Ford Road and Warren Road
Inside Good Shepherd Church*
734-721-9322

It's not about Religion, it's about Relationships.
Come to a place where lives are changed, families are made whole and ministry is real!

33640 Michigan Ave. • Wayne, MI
(Between Wayne Rd. & Merriman Rd.)
(734) 728-2180

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
Virgil Humes, Pastor

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Praise Service 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Children, Youth & Adult Bible Study 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.



CATHOLIC

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Traditional Latin Mass
St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8
23310 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan
5 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121

Mass Schedule:
First Fri. 7:00 p.m.
First Sat. 9:30 a.m.
Sun. Masses 7:30 & 9:30 a.m.
Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass
Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions
Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

47650 N. Territorial Road
Plymouth • 453-0326
Rev. John J. Sullivan

Masses Mon.-Fri. 8:00 A.M., Sat. 4:00 P.M.,
Sunday 8:00, 10:00 A.M. and 12:00 P.M.
5:00 P.M. Life Teen Mass

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth
1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI
734-453-0970

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:45 a.m.
Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Reading Room
Monday-Naturay, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Monday • Wednesday • Friday 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
734-453-1676

RESURRECTION CATHOLIC CHURCH
48755 Warren Rd., Canton, Michigan 48187
451-0444
REV. RICHARD A. PERFETTO

Weekday Masses
Tuesday & Friday 8:30 a.m.
Saturday - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

ST. GENEVIEVE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL
29015 Jamison Ave. • Livonia
East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Schoolcraft Rds.
MASS: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri. & Sat. 9:00 a.m.,
Tues. 7:00 p.m. • Sat. 5 p.m.
Sun. 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon
734-427-5220

CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

48801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1625
Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.
Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.
NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN: 455-3198

CONGREGATIONAL

Mt. Hope Congregational Church

30330 Schoolcraft, Livonia • 734-425-7280
(Between Middlebelt & Merriman)

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Nursery Care Available
"The Church You've Always Longed For."

UNITED METHODIST

"Building Healthy Families..."

9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

•Dynamic Youth and Children's Programs
•Adult Education
•Child-Care Provided

Pastors:
Dr. Dean Klump, Rev. Deborah Thomas

First United Methodist Church of Plymouth
45201 North Territorial Road
(West of Schoolcraft Road)
(734) 453-5280

Clarenceville United Methodist
20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia
474-3484

Pastor James E. Britt
Worship Services 8:45 & 11:15 AM
Sunday Eve. Bible Study 6:00 PM
Nursery Provided
Sunday School 10 AM

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST
30900 Six Mile Rd. (Bet. Merriman & Middlebelt)
474-3484
Rev. Mary Margaret Eckhardt, Pastor
10:00 A.M. Worship & Church School
www.gbgn-umc.org/stmatthews-livonia
Nursery Provided • 734-422-6038

Catch the Spirit at
Sidingsgate
United Methodist Church
10000 Beech Daley, Redford
Between Plymouth and W. Chicago
Bob & Diana Goudie, Co-Pastors
313-937-3170

3 Styles of Creative Worship

8:00 a.m. - Cozy, Traditional, Basic
9:30 a.m. - Contemporary, Family
11:00 a.m. - Traditional, Full Choir
Sunday School
9:30 a.m. - Adults
11:00 a.m. Children thru Adults
Handicap Accessible
Prayer/Music/Support
Act 12:1-17

NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Stephen Ministry Congregation
36500 Ann Arbor Trail
between Wayne & Newburgh Rds.
734-422-0149

Worship Services
9:15 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School
9:15 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Terry W. Allen
Rev. Barbara E. Welbaum
visit our website: www.newburgumc.org

PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A)

ST. TIMOTHY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, USA

16700 Newburgh Road Livonia • (734) 464-8844
Education for all ages: 9:30 a.m.
Family Worship: 11:00 a.m.
http://www.StTimothyPCUSA.org
Rev. Dr. Janet Noble-Richardson, Pastor

GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
5835 Sheldon Rd., Canton
(734) 459-0013

Sunday Worship & Sunday School
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
July & August 10:00 a.m.
Education For All Ages
Childcare Provided • Handicapped Accessible
Resources for Hearing and Sight Impaired
www.genevachurch.org

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church (USA)
9801 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI
(between Merriman & Farmington Rds.)
(734) 422-0494

Contemporary Service
9:00 am
Traditional Service
10:30 am
Nursery Care Provided

We Welcome You To A Full Program Church
Rev. Richard Peters, Pastor
Rev. Kellie Bohman, Associate Pastor

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Main & Church • (734) 453-8464
PLYMOUTH

8:30, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Childcare Available 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Dr. James Skimins Senior Minister
Rev. Richard Jones Associate Minister
Accessible to All

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

NATIVITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
9435 Henry Ruff at West Chicago
Livonia 48150 • 421-5406
Rev. Larry Hoxey, Pastor

10:30 a.m. Worship Service and Youth Classes
Nursery Care Available
-WELCOME-

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Rev. Luther A. Werth, Senior Pastor
Rev. Robert Bayer, Assistant Pastor

With Jesus Christ, love really can be all it was meant to be!

Sunday Worship 8:30 am & 11:00 am
Sunday School at 9:45 am

Staffed Nursery for young children every Sunday

734-522-6830

Early Childhood Center
Register now for Fall child care and preschool (734-513-8413)

Location
14175 Farmington Road (just north of I-96)
www.christsaviors.org

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALEY
313-632-2266 REDFORD TWP.

Worship Service
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Sunday School
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Nursery Provided

The Rev. Timothy F. Halboth, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor

HOSANNA-TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
9600 Laverne • So. Redford • 313-937-2424
Rev. Steve Eggers

Sunday Morning Worship
8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:45 a.m.
Thursday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.
Christian Schools: Pre-Kindergarten-8th Grade
OPEN HOUSE
Wednesday, March 5th • 4 to 6 p.m.
For more information call
313-937-2233

Risen Christ Lutheran
46250 Ann Arbor Road
(1 Mile West of Sheldon)
Plymouth • 453-6252

Worship Service
8:15 & 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School (Adults & Children)
9:30 a.m.
Pastor David Martin

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN Church & School
5885 Venoy 1 Bk. N. of Ford Rd., Westland 425-0260

Divine Worship 8 & 11:00 A.M.
Bible Class & SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 A.M.
Monday Evening Service 7:00 P.M.
Kurt E. Lambari, Pastor
Richard Schumacher, Principal/Youth Director

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
32430 Ann Arbor Trail • Westland, MI
734 422-5550

Sunday Bible Study 8am
Sunday Worship Services 10am
Wednesday Evening Lenten Service 7pm

Rev. David W. Zeuschner, Pastor

Grace Lutheran Church
46001 Warren Road • just west of Canton-Center
Sunday Worship at 9:30 am
Sunday School at 10:45 am
734-414-7422

Our mission at Grace Lutheran is to make, teach and send out disciples who share Christ with all people.



LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

St. Paul's ev. Lutheran church & school
17810 Farmington Road • Livonia • (734) 261-1360
May thru October • Monday Night Service • 7:00 p.m.
Sunday Worship Services
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Pastor James Hoff
Pastor Eric Steinbrenner

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Timothy Lutheran Church
8820 Wayne Rd.
(Between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road)
Livonia • 427-2290
Rev. Carla Thompson Powell, Pastor
9:00 a.m. Sunday School (all ages)
10:00 a.m. Family Worship (Nursery Avail.)
http://www.timothyilivonia.com

EPISCOPAL

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
16360 Hubbard Road
Livonia, Michigan 48154
421-8451

Wednesday 9:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist
Wed (Sept-May) 6:00 P.M. Dinner & Classes
Saturday 5:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist
Sunday 7:45 & 10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
Sun. (Sept-May) 10:00 A.M. Sunday School
Sunday Morning - Nursery Care Available
www.standrewschurch.net
The Rev. C. Allen Kannappell Rector



EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

WARD
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

40000 Six Mile Road
"just west of I-275"
Northville, MI
248-374-7400

EVANGELICAL COVENANT

FAITH COVENANT CHURCH
1-1/4 Mile Road and Drake, Farmington Hills
(248) 661-9191

Sunday Worship and Children's Church
9:15 a.m. Contemporary
11:00 a.m. Traditional

Child Care provided for all services
Youth Groups • Adult Small Groups

Traditional Worship and Sunday School
8:30, 10:00, 11:30 A.M.
Contemporary Worship
8:45 A.M. & 10:15 A.M.
Nursery Provided During All Morning Worship Services
Evening Service • 7:00 P.M.
Ward Pulpit 11:00 A.M.
WJMUZ 560 AM

The Easter message is the core of the Gospel. The good news of Christianity is that death is not the last word, but rather a transition to our true home with God. Death may seem invincible; after all, each of us will die, having little control over the details of when, where and how we will die. On the surface, death looks both inescapable and permanent. However, we should not be fooled by the external appearance of death. For death affects only our bodies. At the core of our being is our immaterial soul, the eternal spirit which we share with our Heavenly Father. Although we tend to identify ourselves with our earthly bodies, the Easter message reminds us that this is a mistake. Our physical bodies are nothing more than transient shadows and not our true selves. Easter is a celebration of our true selves, our eternal souls. The Bible tells us: "The Good News was promised long ago by God through His prophets... It is about His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: as to His humanity, He was born a descendant of David; as to His divine holiness, He was shown with great power to be the Son of God by being raised from death." (Romans 1:2-4).

The Good News
And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. R.S.V. John 10:28

Visit One
Of These
Local
Churches
This
Sunday

If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 3625 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150. The deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

EVENTS

Senior care

Kathryn Bartz of Botsford Continuing Health Care will present "Choosing Appropriate Living Options for Seniors" 7 p.m. Thursday, April 24, at Our Lady of Loretto Church, 25700 W. Six Mile, Redford. Bartz will discuss the financial and legal concerns that accompany the type of care needed. Free, but donations accepted. Call the church rector at (313) 534-9000.

Contemporary praise

Vineyard Church of Farmington Hills, 29200 Shiawassee (just east of Middlebelt and south of Nine Mile), Farmington Hills, invites the public to an evening of contemporary praise and worship titled "Like Heaven" beginning 7 p.m. Friday, April 25. Various Christian musicians will host the event. Contact Sarah Hedeem at (734) 425-5942 or at sarahhedeem@yahoo.com.

Live simulcast

Women's Ministries at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton, will present Beth Moore in a live simulcast presentation titled "Beloved Disciple" 1-6 p.m. Saturday, April 29. Women from all over the country will get together for a day of Bible study. Tickets are \$15. To register or for more information, call (734) 332-9054.

Health fair

NorthRidge Church in Plymouth will sponsor "Spring into Good Health, a health fair, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 26. Booths on physical fitness, fire safety, child safety, heart disease and diabetes. Hearing evaluations, cholesterol testing and smoking ces-

sation information. Massages available. Call (734) 414-7777, Ext. 225.

Biker blessing

Detroit World Outreach, 23800 W. Chicago, Redford, will host a "Blessing of the Bikers" for the upcoming riding season 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 26. Bikes can be brought to the church parking lot at 9:30 a.m. The actual blessing takes place at 2 p.m. Food, live music, a bike show, vendors, contests and lots of activities. Call Pastor Miles Book at (313) 255-2222, Ext. 306.

Prayer luncheon

A prayer luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. with lunch served at noon April 30 at the Livonia Sweden House, 29477 Seven Mile Road at Middlebelt. Cost is \$6.75. Guest speaker will be Sister Loretta Mellon, O.P. Call Kathleen (734) 427-4371 or Mary Ellen (734) 427-0002 for reservations.

Prayer service

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia, will host its annual National Day of Prayer observance 7 p.m. Thursday, May 1. This is a stirring service of prayer, praise and thanksgiving with patriotic music featuring master organist Mark Lohmeyer. Refreshments. Call (734) 522-6830.

Prayer service

Residents of Canton Township will participate in the annual "Meet at City Hall," an observance of the National Day of Prayer, 12:20-12:40 p.m. Thursday, May 1, at the war memorial directly behind the Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, between Cherry Hill and Palmer. Call (734) 981-3442.

Mother/Daughter banquet

Bring your favorite doll to Wayne First United Methodist's mother and daughter banquet, "My Dolly and Me," 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 2, in the church's Fellowship Hall, 3 Town Square, Wayne. Enjoy "Dolls are Forever," a presentation by Joyce Murch, a local doll maker. Adults, \$7; children 3-12, \$3;

under 3, \$1. Ticket deadline: Sunday, April 27. Call (734) 721-4801.

Life after death

"Conversations With God," a 60-minute video featuring reports by researchers and survivors of the "near death experience" (NDE) will be shown 7 p.m. Friday, May 2, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile Road (between Inkster and Middlebelt, Livonia. Call (734) 421-1760 or e-mail UoFLivonia@aol.com.

Breakfast

Church Women United Suburban Detroit-West will host a continental breakfast 9:15 a.m. Friday, May 2, at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia. The program is titled "Many Gifts, One Spirit." Cost is \$2. Call Joan Patterson by April 28 at (734) 591-1842. If baby-sitting is needed, please call the same number.

Church hats

Hartford Memorial Baptist Church of Detroit will host "Women with Hat-titudes" a brunch and fashion show 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 3, at Neiman Marcus Somerset Collection, 2800 W. Big Beaver, Troy. Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased by calling Nedd/Worldwide Public Relations at (313) 567-6333.

Concert

BASIC Student Ministries of Alpha Baptist Church, 28051 West Chicago, Livonia, will present "BASIC Explosion" - an evening of Christian fellowship, food and music from Buck Enterprises - 7 p.m. to midnight Saturday, May 3. \$10 per person. Call (734) 774-0460.

Hospice/loss workshop

Madonna University's hospice education department will offer its third annual Grief and Loss Summer Institute May 8-10. The three individual workshops will be held 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Topics include Assisting Children and Teens in Grief; When Families Grieve; and a Bereavement Coordinators Workshop. Cost is \$85 for each workshop. Call Dr. Jack

LoCicero (734) 432-5471 or e-mail jlocicero@madonna.edu

Spaghetti dinner

Saint Dunstan Catholic Church, 1526 Belton, Garden City, will hold a spaghetti dinner 4-7:30 p.m. Friday, May 9, to benefit its "Feed My Lambs" pantry program. Adults, \$6; children 4-10, \$3; children 3 and younger, free. Call (734) 425-4396.

Blood drive

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road, Livonia (1 block west of Inkster Road), Livonia, will hold a blood drive 1-6 p.m. Monday, May 12. For an appointment, call Jay Hohenshil at (734) 455-3349. Walk-ins welcome.

Dementia

Church of the Holy Spirit Episcopal, 9083 Newburg Road, Livonia, will host a speaker and video presentation on dementia 7 p.m. Thursday, May 15. Mr. John Robertson is a therapist in the geropsychiatric unit at Botsford General Hospital. Question-and-answer period will follow presentation. Refreshments. Free will donation requested. Call (734) 591-0211.

Marriage encounter

Worldwide Marriage Encounter offers a weekend experience for married couples to improve their communication skills, learn the value of intimacy, and renew their love for each other. The next weekends are scheduled May 16-18 and June 20-22 at the St. John's Family Life Center, 44011 Five Mile Road, Plymouth. \$50 registration fee. Call Bill and Carol at (248) 528-2512 or Dan and Debbie at (810) 286-5524.

Cantata

The choir of St. Valentine Church, Beech Daly (between Five Mile and Schoolcraft), Redford, will host "You Are the Christ!", a cantata about Peter's reflection on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, 4 p.m. Sunday, May 18. Call Kevin Cushman, choir director and music minister, at (313) 535-8364.

Spring luncheon

Lola Valley United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware (at Puritan), Redford, will host a Spring Salad Luncheon 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 20. Boutique, table prizes, over 100 different salads. Call Lynn at (313) 533-6609.

Vacation Bible school

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia (Just north of I-96), Livonia, welcomes all youth who have completed 4th-7th grades to participate in the Faith Factor Day Camp Monday, June 23 - Friday, June 27. The camp will be held at Salem Lutheran Camp in Howell, Mich. Cost is \$75, which includes T-shirt, daily lunch, activities (fishing, archery, games, swimming, Bible study and more), transportation and cook-out dinner on Friday night for the whole family. Contact Sarah Grivas or Rich Parron at (734) 522-6830.

RUMMAGE SALES

First United Methodist

The United Methodist Women of First United Methodist Church (6443 Merriman Road) in Garden City will have their annual rummage sale 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 26. Lunch will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call (734) 421-8628.

St. Matthew Lutheran

St. Matthew Lutheran Church (5885 Venoy Road) will host their annual rummage sale Monday April 28-May 3. Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday is bag day. Bring your own bag and fill it for \$5.

Newburg United Methodist

Need clothes? Need toys? Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, will hold a "Mom to Mom Sale" 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 26. Maternity and infant-pretten clothes. Lots of toys and furniture. Table renters get free lunch and childcare. Bake sale. Call (734) 422-0149.

Hosanna Tabor Lutheran

Located at 9600 Laverne (west of Beech, north of W. Chicago), Redford, will hold a rummage sale 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 26. Bag sale 1-2 p.m. Snack bar.

Newburg United Methodist Church

Located at 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, will hold a rummage sale 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, May 2, and 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, May 3. Call (734) 422-0149.

St. Paul's Lutheran

Located at 20805 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills. Rummage, bake sale and white elephant 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, April 24, and Friday, April 25; bag sale 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 26. Light lunches available. Call Barb Weeg at (248) 476-0841.

Warren Road Light and Life Free Methodist

Located at 33445 Warren Road, half mile east of Wayne Road. Garage sale 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday-Friday, April 24-25 and 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 26.

St. Edith

Located at 15089 Newburgh, near Five Mile. Mom to Mom sale featuring gently used children's clothes, toys, books etc. 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 26.

ONGOING

Money matters

"Livonia Neighbors & Friends" meet 7:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Road, Livonia for social activities. Curt Wipple will discuss "Your Money: What Every Senior Has To Deal With" at the May 13 meeting. Call Ardythe at (734) 525-5975 or e-mail LIVONIANN@YAHOO.COM.

School applications

Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran School, 9600 Laverne, Redford, is now accepting application for grades pre-kindergarten to eighth for the 2003-2004 school year. Limited space available.



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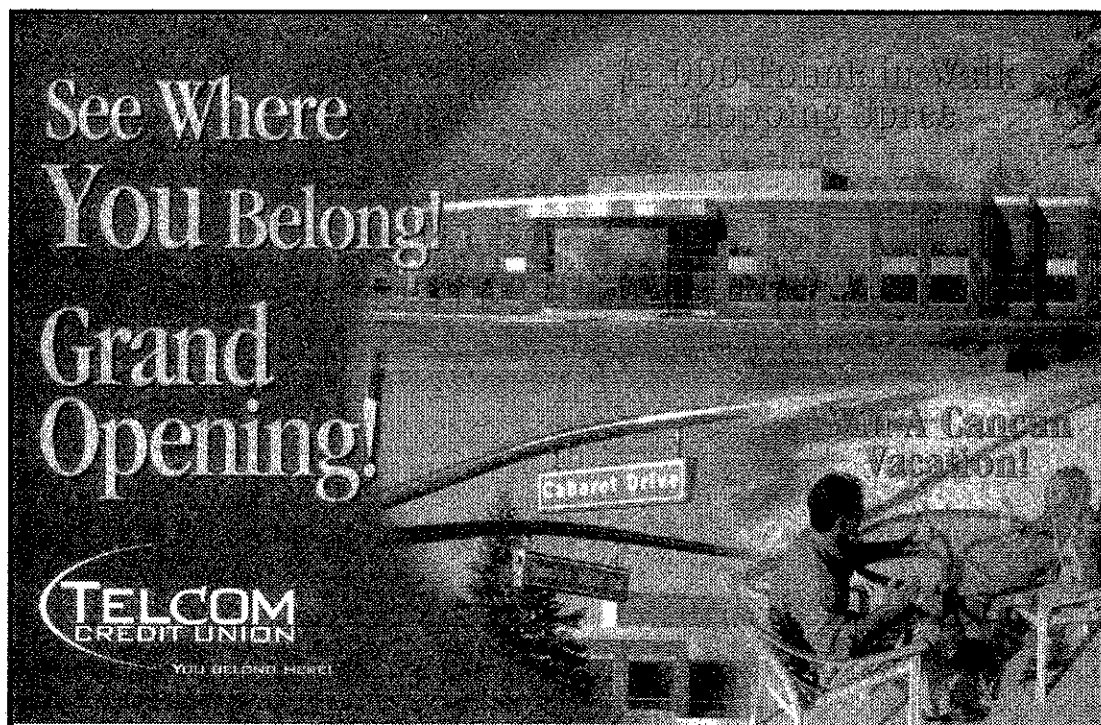
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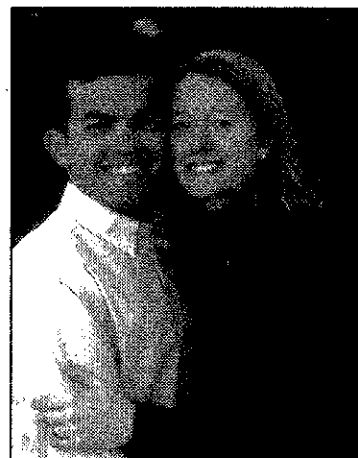
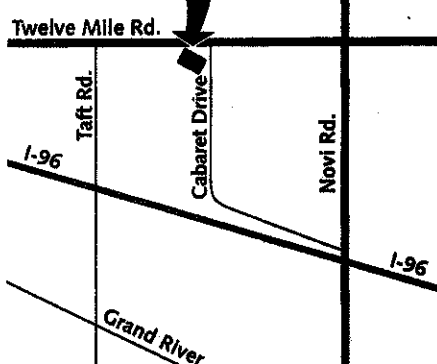
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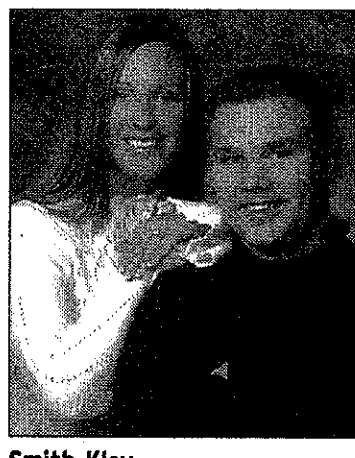


Dieker-McLane

Joseph and Phyllis Dieker of Dayton, Ohio, are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Robyn Carrie Dieker to Donald Daniel McLane, son of Donald and Denise McLane of Canton.

Robyn is a 2001 graduate of Eastern Michigan University with her bachelor of science in social work. She is currently employed by The Domestic Violence Project Inc./SAFE House in Ann Arbor.

Donald is a 1999 graduate of the University of Michigan-Dearborn with his bachelor of science in electrical engineering. He is currently employed by Ford Motor Company in Dearborn. A Sept. 13, 2003, wedding is planned at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Plymouth.



Smith-Kley

Gary and Patricia Smith of Olmsted Township, Ohio are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Stefanie Lynn Smith, to Michael Justin Kley, son of Milt and Sarah Kley of Plymouth.

Stefanie is a 1995 graduate of Olmsted Falls High School and of Eastern Michigan University with a teaching certificate. She is currently employed as a first grade teacher for the Livonia Public Schools, as well as attending Marygrove College for her master's degree in teaching.

Michael is a 1995 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School, and a graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a degree in industrial distribution. He has been employed by WW Grainger for four years.

A July 19, 2003, wedding is planned in Cleveland, Ohio.

Schmitt-Horst

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Schmitt III of Grosse Pointe Farms are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Katherine (Katie) Elizabeth Schmitt to Geoffrey Paul Horst, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Horst of Plymouth.

Katie is a graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School and a 2002 graduate of the University of Michigan. She has her bachelor of science degree in education and is presently teaching eighth-grade science for the Santa Clarita school district in California.

Geoff is a graduate of Plymouth Salem High School and a 2002 graduate of the University of Michigan with a bachelor of science degree in oceanography. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in marine biology from California State University in Northridge, Calif.

A July 2003 wedding is planned in Grosse Pointe at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church.



Jack Stout

Tom and Jeanne Stout of Plymouth Township are happy to announce the birth of their son, Jack Thomas Stout on March 27, 2003, at St. Mary's Hospital in Livonia.

Proud grandparents are Bill and Mary Stout of Plymouth and Ed and Jean Humphrey of Overland Park, Kan.

McFall-Green

Carl and Sally McFall and happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristen Jo McFall, to Mark Daniel Green, son of Stephen and Louise Green of Clarkston.

Kristen Jo is a 1995 graduate of Salem High School, in 1999 from Grand Valley State University, and works at CMS NorthAmerica, Inc. She was a Delta Zeta in college.

Mark is a 1995 graduate of Walled Lake Central High School and 1999 graduate of Grand Valley State University. He currently is employed by GHSP in Grand Haven. He was a Sig Ep in college. A Sept. 20, 2003 wedding is planned at First United Methodist Church in Plymouth.



Hendzell 60th

Walter and Eleanore Hendzell of Canton Township are celebrating 60 years of marriage on their April 14 anniversary.

They were wed in 1943 while Walter served overseas in the Army.

Mr. and Mrs. Hendzell have three married sons, Tom, Bob, and Gary; and eight grandchildren, residing in Michigan, Illinois and Indiana.

The occasion was celebrated with a family gathering.

Visit the Observer online at www.hometownlife.com

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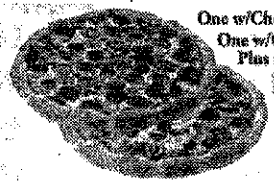
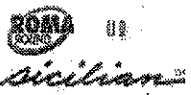
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From shopping to dining, we want you to experience the warmth of a small town community. In Wayne, business owners definitely cater to their customers. If you have any questions regarding these valuable coupons, please do not hesitate to contact any of the merchants or me directly. The heart of the Wayne business district is located at the cross of Michigan Avenue and Wayne Road. We are south of Westland and west of Garden City.

Sincerely,

Donna McEachern

Executive Director, Wayne Chamber of Commerce

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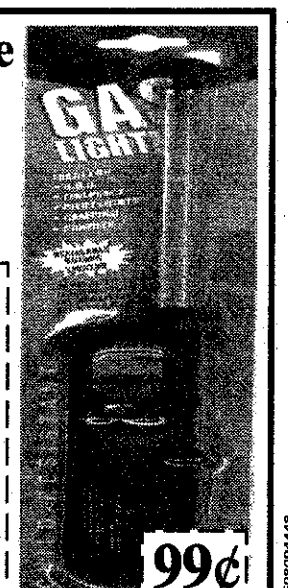
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As space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print, without charge, announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Reunions, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 794 S. Main, Plymouth, MI, 48170. Please include the date of the reunion, one contact person, and a telephone number.

REUNIONS

Redford Thurston High School
Class of 1993
Looking for classmates to assist in planning reunion. Contact Daune Koester at either (517) 432-3949 or e-mail dkoester@msu.edu.

Redford Union High School
Class of 1983
A 20-year class reunion is planned for Oct. 18, 2003, at the Farmington Hills Manor. If you have the address of a classmate or would like more information, contact Lisa Adamic Brewer at (734) 422-9698 or scottbrew@msn.com.

Rochester High School
Class of 1983
A 20-year reunion weekend extravaganza. At 5 p.m., Aug. 1, a family tour of RHS and an informal get-together at 7 p.m. at Rochester Mills. On Aug. 2 a reunion dinner at Great Oaks at 5 p.m.; and on Aug. 3 a family continental breakfast at 10 a.m. at Rochester City Park. Payment deadline for dinner and breakfast is June 15. Contact Cindy Moffatt at (248) 651-0084 or cindyatty2be@yahoo.com.

Royal Oak Dondero
Class of 1953
The 50-year class reunion for Royal Oak High School, now Dondero High School is being held on May 17, 2003 at Red Run Golf Club. Please contact either Roy Van Zandt at (248) 549-3863 or Shirley (Winter) Morse at (248) 353-5396.

St. Agatha High School
Class of 1972
A reunion dinner is being held at 7:30 p.m. on May 3, 2003, at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Call Patti Griffin Mathews for more information at (248) 698-9373.

St. Andrew High School
Class of 1963
The reunion committee is looking for classmates and faculty. Organizers are hoping to have the event in October 2003. Please call (734) 261-6555.

St. Francis deSales
Class of 1953
A 50th class reunion is being celebrated on Sept. 27, 2003. For more information, please contact Mariette

Gosselin-Carlton at (248) 333-2376 or e-mail to mariettejg@yahoo.com.

St. Mary of Redford
Class of 1973
A 30-year reunion being planned for Saturday, Sept. 6, 2003, at Knights of Columbus Monaghan, Livonia. For info call Jeannine at (248) 624-8021, Chris at (248) 816-8107, Mark at (248) 288-0713, or Patty at (248) 477-6251.

St. Norbert Elementary/High School
A reunion is scheduled for Saturday, July 26, 2003, on the St. Norbert school grounds and Social Hall. The reunion is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Refer to www.stnorberts.com for additional information.

St. Suzanne Elementary
Class of 1963
A 40-year reunion is being planned for Aug. 2-3, 2003. Organizers are in the planning stages and are still looking for classmates. Please contact Terri Moore at tmm111@comcast.net or Ed O'Malley at eromalley@comcast.net. Contact Linda (Walio) Tymczak at (248) 960-9377 for information.

Salesian High School
Class of 1956
A 47-year reunion is being planned for Oct. 11, 2003. Please contact either Ron Altwies at (734) 421-7143 or Tom Connelly at (248) 546-4536 for further information.

Troy High School
Class of 1958
A 45-year class reunion dinner/dance is being held Sept. 20, 2003, with festivities scheduled for Sept. 19 as well. Contact Addamae Akin at (248) 689-2241 before July 1, 2003.

Class of 1983
A 20-year reunion is being planned. Contact Lisa Keaser (Caponigro) at (248) 879-2456 or e-mail to keaser@msu.edu.

Walled Lake Central
Class of 1983
A 20-year reunion is being held at the Brentwood Country Club, 2450 Havenwood Drive in White Lake on Saturday, June 21, 2003. The reunion committee is looking for class of 1983 classmates. Please register at Classmates.com or call Jody Darling Rauhut at (248) 360-9763.

Walled Lake Western High School
Class of 1993
A 10 year reunion is planned for Saturday, Aug. 23. Please forward current contact information to: wlv93reunion@hotmail.com. Pass it on!

Waterford Kettering/Waterford Township
Class of 1963
A reunion is being planned for Aug. 23, 2003. For information, please con-

tact Charlene Cosgrove at (248) 874-9366 or Coni Baden at (248) 698-1346.

Wayne Memorial High School
Class of 1993
Searching for classmates for upcoming reunion being held October, 2003 at the Holiday Inn Livonia. Please contact Shelley Foster (Anderson) at (313) 277-2504 or e-mail wmhscas-sof1993@yahoo.com for more information.

Bagley Elementary School
Class of 1955
The Class of 1955 Reunion Committee invites alums and guests to a reunion party at the school on Saturday, July 26, 2003. Contact Web site "members.aol.com/bagleyreunion/" or e-mail to www.bagleyreunion@aol.com.

Bentley High School
Class of 1963
A 40-year class reunion is being planned for a fun-filled weekend, Aug. 30 to Sept. 1. Golf outing Saturday 9-10 a.m. at the Coyote Golf Club; dinner-dance at 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31, at St. John's Conference Center; with a farewell brunch on Monday, Sept. 1 from 10 a.m. to noon. Call Bob or Pam Camron at (734) 449-1091.

Class of 1973
A reunion is planned for 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 2, at Burton Manor in Livonia. For more information, contact Class Reunion Plus at (586) 446-9636 or e-mail www.classreunion-splus.com.

Berkley High School
Class of 1948
A 55-year class reunion is being held Sept. 25, 26 and 27, 2003, at the Wyndham Gardens Hotel in Novi. Call Nancy Howes at (810) 225-6090 for information.

Cabrini High School
Class of 1973
A 30-year reunion is being held on Saturday, Nov. 29, 2003, with a dinner/dance at Arnaldo's in Riverview, Michigan from 6 p.m. until midnight. The reunion committee is looking for Class of 1973 classmates. Please call Cathy Scimeca Cargo at (313) 388-0163 or e-mail her at cabrini73@aol.com.

Cass Tech
Class of 1953
A 50-year reunion is being planned for 6 p.m. Sept. 13, 2003, at the Northfield Hilton in Troy. On Sept. 12-14, there will be a casino visit, boat cruise, and school tour. Cass Tech will be torn down. This may be your last chance to visit. Contact Al Weatherly at (586) 786-1718 or Iris Bennett Czajkowski at (248) 855-1583.

Catholic Central
Class of 1961
For information about the Girls

Catholic Central of Detroit 40th reunion, call Jan Seefeld (248) 398-7777 or Nancy Nowak Kush (313) 291-1165.

Chadsey High School
Class of 1953 January/June
A 50-year class reunion being held on Sept. 19, 2003, at the Warren Valley Golf Club on Warren and Beech Daily in Dearborn Heights. Contact Fred Osada at (313) 278-9828 for further information.

Cooley High School
Class of 1958
A reunion is being planned on the Woodward Dream Cruise Weekend, Aug. 15, 16, and 17, 2003. Being held at the Marriott in Livonia. Also planned are Hospitality Suite, trip to the Red Devin, casino and a farewell brunch. Contact Ev Randlett at (248) 851-6929 or Dave Armstrong, at his e-mail address, DaveyArm@aol.com.

Costello Elementary
Classes of 1973-2002
A reunion of staff, families and students who attended Costello from 1973-2002 will be held at Costello 5-7 p.m. Thursday, May 29, 2003. Please RSVP (248) 823-3700.

Denby High
Class of 1953
A dinner/dance reunion is planned for Saturday, Sept. 12, 2003, at San Marino

Hall on Metropolitan Parkway. Please contact Doris Burrows Firestone at (586) 226-3319, Bob Pinder at (248) 332-8028 or Jean Sindon Like at (586) 268-4954.
A picnic is also planned for Sept. 13, 2003, in St. Clair Shores. Contact Judy Pouliot Berry at (586) 716-0916 or Wilma Fisher Jed at (248) 642-7246 for further information regarding the picnic.

Detroit Western High School
Class of 1978
A 25-year reunion is being held on Aug. 9, 2003, with a dinner/dance at Pvt. John Lyskawa VFW Hall, Dearborn Heights. Organizers are still looking for classmates. Contact Donna Willingham at (313) 605-0377 or e-mail orozcodo@sbcglobal.net.

Eastern High School
Class of 1953
The 50th Eastern High School Reunion Committee would appreciate your help in locating classmates for this event. Being planned for Nov. 15, 2003. Classes of 1952 and 1954 are also invited. For information, contact Chuck Wingard at (586) 777-1347 or e-mail charliewing1@comcast.net or call Lena Brigolin-Maiorana at (586) 777-9248.

Edsel Ford High School
Class of 1968
Planning a 35-year reunion with a weekend of activities. Beginning with dinner on Sat., Aug. 2 at the VFW-John Lyskawa Post in Dearborn Heights. For more information, call (313) 271-9008.

Ferndale Lincoln High School
Class of 1953 January/June
Alumni are asked to share their interest in attending a 50-year reunion in 2003 (September/October). E-mail Doris Swanson Winter at DJW1721@AOL.com or call Patt Simmons Stasiak at (248) 548-4243.

Franklin High School
Class of 1983
A 20th-year reunion is being held Saturday, Nov. 29, at Embassy Suites Hotel in Livonia. Graduates should send in their mailing address and contact information to class83franklin@hotmail.com

Fordson High School
Class of 1988
A 15-year reunion is being planned. Classmates are being sought. Respond to either www.classmates.com, classreunion1988@yahoo.com, or mail your name, address and telephone number to: Class of 1988 Reunion, 11349 Fenton, Redford, MI 48239.

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Runners place

Several Plymouth and Canton runners were among the 20,000 participants at Monday's Boston Marathon.

The following is a list of people who ran, along with their times: Thomas Gerou, 45, Canton, 2:56:01; Steve Zacharias, 41, Canton, 3:03:38; Terry Rush, 38, Plymouth, 3:19:32; Jonathan P. Miller, 27, Canton, 3:20:39; Steve Cooke, 38, Canton, 3:21:49; Donald Clark, 40, Canton, 3:32:47; James P. Robert, 54, Plymouth, 3:36:07; Kevin Galvin, 50, Plymouth, 3:39:05; Steven Bauslaugh, 47, Canton, 3:57:46; Kenneth Arble, 46, Plymouth, 4:02:13; Eric Forster, 34, Canton, 4:11:26; Brian Galvin, 24, Plymouth, 4:51:55; and Akira Matsuda, 49, Canton, 5:35:00.

Softball clinic

The Canton High School softball clinic is scheduled for Saturday, May 3, at the school's softball diamond.

The clinic will be run by Canton High School varsity players and coaches, and will include instruction in batting techniques, fielding, throwing skills, base-running lessons and other practice drills.

The session runs from noon to 4 p.m. and is for players ages 9 and older. Cost is \$25, and players should bring all necessary equipment to go through a full softball practice, such as gloves, cleats, sliding pants and workout clothes.

For more information, call Colleen Brown at (734) 455-1614 or e-mail her at cbrown57@comcast.net.

College notes

Through 12 games, Carrie DiBasio (Livonia) leads the Gannon University (Pa.) women's lacrosse squad with 41 goals and 11 assists for 60 points.

The Bloomfield Hills Academy of Sacred Heart graduate has led the Lady Knights to a 7-5 record and a No. 8 ranking nationally in Division II.

Canton High School graduate Laura Stewart is getting the job done for Western Michigan University's softball team.

She leads the team's pitching staff with a 1.88 earned-run average, has recorded 66 strikeouts and five wins on the hill so far this season. The Broncos sit in first place in the Mid-American Conference's West Division with an 11-5 league mark.

Eastern Michigan University's Anthony Tomey (Catholic Central) was named the Mid-American Conference-West Division pitcher of the week.

The senior picked up two wins in relief over the weekend against Western Michigan - allowing one hit and eight strikeouts in 4 2/3 innings on Friday and striking out four of 12 batters in Sunday's game.

Tomey has three wins on the season - tied for first in the MAC West.

Whalers, Rangers play for series control

BY BRAD MONASTIERE
STAFF WRITER

OHL PLAYOFFS

The best-of-seven series between the Plymouth Whalers and Kitchener Rangers has morphed into a best-of-three series, which starts tonight.

After four games in their OHL Western Conference Finals, the Whalers and Rangers find themselves deadlocked at two games heading into tonight's Game 5 at

Kitchener.

That also guarantees another home game for the Whalers. Game 6 is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Saturday night at Compuware Arena. If necessary, Game 7 will take place at Kitchener Monday. All games will be broadcast at Talk Radio 1310 WXDX.

Plymouth knotted the series with a dramatic 3-2 win Tuesday night at Compuware. Chris Thorburn and Chad LaRose each scored third-period goals to breathe new life into the Whalers.

The Whalers are a battle-tested group this playoff year, having won a seven-game series against the London Knights in the West Semifinals.

The Game 4 win also ended

Plymouth's first two-game losing streak of the playoffs.

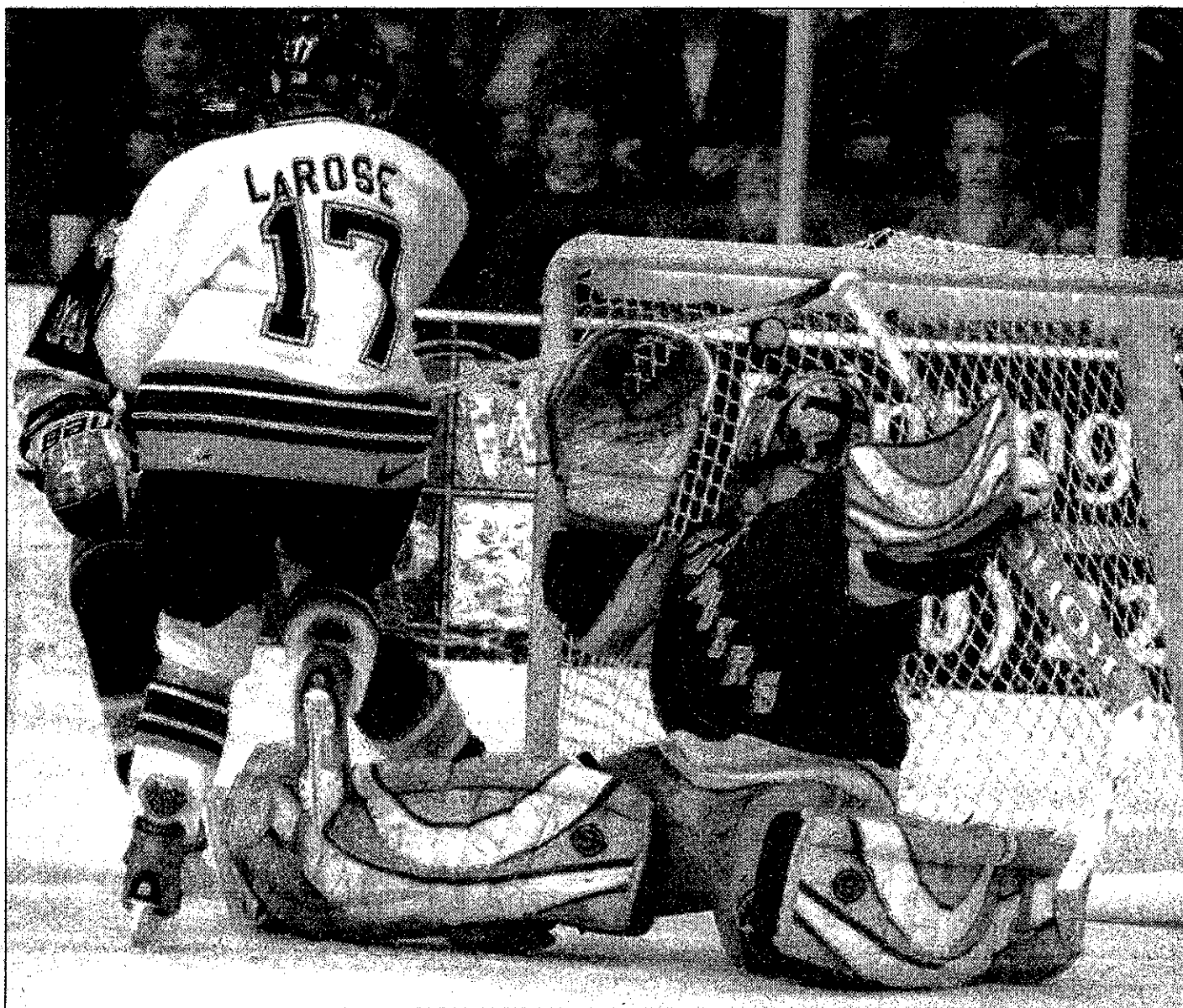
Whalers coach Mike Vellucci used an old coaching axiom when describing his team's approach to the next two or three games.

"Hey, we'll just take them one at a time," he said.

Plymouth has outshot Kitchener 85-49 in the past two games, but Rangers coach Pete DeBoer said his team's approach

would be simple entering Game 5. "If we win our home games, we know we win the series," he said. "We won't come out any different in the next game. Shots on goal don't really mean anything. We've had just as many quality scoring chances as they have in the series."

The winner of this series will take on the winner of the Toronto-Ottawa series for the OHL championship.



PAUL HURSCHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Chad LaRose (17) beats Kitchener goalie Scott Dickie for the winning goal late in the third period of Tuesday's Game 4 of the OHL Western Conference Finals. LaRose's eighth goal of the playoffs tied the series 2-2, with Game 5 set for tonight at Kitchener.

LaRose goal ties series for Whalers

BY BRAD MONASTIERE
STAFF WRITER

For the second-straight game, a winner wasn't decided in the OHL Western Conference finals until the final two minutes. But the result was one that had Plymouth Whalers fans giddy with excite-

OHL PLAYOFFS

ment. Forward Chad LaRose backhanded in a beautiful goal with 1:27 left in the third period to lift the host Whalers to a thrilling 3-2 win over the Kitchener Rangers at Compuware Arena.

The win ties the best-of-seven series at two games apiece, with Game 5 set for tonight at Kitchener.

In Game 3, the Whalers appeared to have scored a goal just as time expired in the third period that would have sent the game into overtime. But the officials ruled the puck did not cross the goal line before the game ended. LaRose made sure no such review was necessary this time. LaRose scored his ninth of the playoffs off a perfect setup from Karl Stewart,

PLEASE SEE WHALERS, D6

Crusaders go 2-2 on diamond

BY BRAD MONASTIERE AND PAUL BEAUDRY
STAFF WRITERS

Madonna and Cornerstone are two top softball contenders for first place in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference. Last weekend, they met on the diamond for a pair of games, but solved little as to who will carry the first-place crown this season.

The two teams split a Saturday doubleheader, with Madonna winning the first game, 5-0, before losing the nightcap, 3-0.

It was more of the same on Tuesday as the Crusaders (26-11 overall, 13-8 WHAC) split with Tri-State, drubbing the Thunder in the opener, 10-2, but getting nipped in the second, 2-1.

Madonna pitcher Jennifer Tenyer pitched a brilliant game in getting the win over Cornerstone (17-9, 10-4

MADONNA
Madonna pitcher Jennifer Tenyer pitched a brilliant game in getting the win over Cornerstone (17-9, 10-4 WHAC) in the opener.

WHAC) in the opener. She went the distance striking out six batters, allowing one hit and issuing no walks.

Kathryn Day and Mary Warchuck each had two hits for the Lady Crusaders in the win, while Sarah

Golob drove in a pair of runs.

In the second game, it was Cornerstone's turn to blank Madonna, picking up a 3-0 win. Warchuck picked up two of Madonna's four hits in the game, but was left stranded on base each time.

Cornerstone's Tracy Patterson got the win on the mound, striking out one and walking one in seven innings of work.

Golob was solid in taking the loss on the mound.

PLEASE SEE CRUSADERS, D5

Spring break is one thing, but this is silly

John McEnroe, in one of his infamous encounters with a despised chair umpire, blurted out: "You cannot be serious!"

That's basically been my reaction to what I affectionately call now "The Silly Season" of high school sports. Not to be



Brad Emmons

confused with fall or winter sports seasons, where you can actually take things seriously, spring sports have almost become a joke in these parts.

While most out-of-state school districts get spring break out of the way no later than mid-March, a majority of schools in Michigan continue to go against the grain - just like it does for girls basketball (held in the fall) and girls volleyball (held in the winter).

It's been a long-standing tradition in this state for spring athletes to hold coaches and athletic

directors hostage, pre- and post-Easter week.

And the issue becomes even more complex when spring break falls late in late April as it did this year.

ADs, however, lost the battle years ago, unable to schedule any events which conflict with supposed high school spring training in Cancun, South Padre Island, Panama City, Daytona or any other trendy warm weather destination.

PLEASE SEE BREAK, D4

Trio leads All-Observer volleyball squad

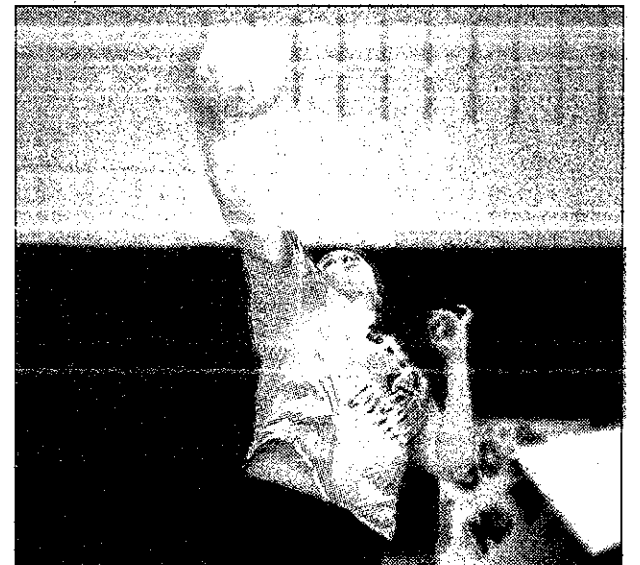
BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Mike Hughes' final season as Livonia Churchill girls volleyball coach was one of his most memorable in his 26 years.

Yes, the 49-8-3 record made it fun, no doubt. A pair of titles in the Western Lakes Activities Association, including the Western Division crown, along with a Division I district championship, didn't hurt either.

But Hughes, who bows out of coaching with a 765-254-81 mark with the Chargers, couldn't have asked for a better farewell.

"The kids played and played, they improved consistently all year long," said Hughes, who guided Churchill to a regional final and was named Observerland Coach of the Year. "It was one of the most pleasant and most enjoyable teams I've ever coached. They were funny and they had a good time. They enjoyed playing and I enjoyed coaching them."



PAUL HURSCHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Mandy Bradley delivers a serve in action from last season. Bradley was one of three Plymouth-Canton area players named to the 2003 All-Observer Volleyball First Team.

PLEASE SEE VOLLEYBALL, D2

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For totally local news,

Read on...

Madonna baseball team splits twinbill with Tri-State

It was only appropriate that the two cellar-dwelling baseball teams in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference played to a draw Tuesday at Livonia's Ford Field.

Host Madonna University, behind the five-hit pitching of Joel Halliday, won the opener, 6-1.

Tri-State (Ind.) battled back to salvage a split with a 3-2 triumph in the nightcap.

Madonna, 17-22 overall, is just percentage points ahead of Tri-State in the WHAC for last place. The Crusaders are 3-13 in conference play, while Tri-State, 6-29 overall, is 3-15 in the WHAC.

Halliday, a 6-foot-3 junior from Redford Union, faced just 28 batters, allowing one earned run. He struck out three and walked one in seven innings in improving his record to 3-4.

The Crusaders struck for four of their six runs in the third inning thanks to four Tri-State errors.

Left fielder Devin Cole (Garden City) led MU with two hits and one RBI. Designated hitter Chris Woodruff (Redford Catholic Central) and shortstop Scott Miller each added an RBI.

Nate Whewell (1-4) went all six innings for Tri-State, allowing six runs on six hits.

Shortstop Jon Walmer had two hits.

In the second game, Tri-State got three runs in the second inning and held on for a 3-2 win.

The Thunder used three pitchers with starter John Kimmerly (1-4) picking up the victory. He worked the first 4.1 innings before giving way to Ryan Funkhouser and Todd Babij, each going 1.1 innings.

The loss went to MU junior right-hander Chris Behrns (1-3), who gave up three runs (one earned) on four hits in five innings. Dan Duffey and Adam Kline (Redford CC) finished up.

Catcher Justin Fabian, who went 2-for-3, scored Josh Odom with an RBI single in the fourth. The Crusaders added another run in the fifth on a double by Miller, a single by Cole, a walk to Joe Greene followed by Woodruff's sacrifice fly.

But Funkhouser got out of the inning when he fanned sterling Mintzer and got Craig Jerore to ground out to short.

Grant Klinedinst had two of Tri-State's four hits.

Splitsville again

On Saturday, Madonna divided a doubleheader with Indiana Tech at Ford Field, winning the nightcap, 9-8, after losing the opener, 14-2.

The Warriors, who captured two of three during the week-

end series, improved to 31-11 overall and 16-4 in the WHAC.

After falling behind in the second game, 7-1, the Crusaders rallied for four runs in the sixth and three runs in the seventh innings before the game was called due to darkness.

Matt Rigley (RU) went 3-for-5 to lead the Crusaders, while Joe Green added a hit and two RBI. Lead-off hitter Brian Williams (Redford CC) went 2-for-4 with an RBI and two runs scored.

Relievers Mark Cole (Redford CC) and Adam Kline (Redford CC), the winning pitcher, combined for three strong innings in relief on the mound. Roy Rabe (Livonia Stevenson) started for the Crusaders and worked the first four innings.

Indiana Tech exploded for nine runs in the first inning of the opener before cruising to the 14-2 win.

Zach Hosier and Malcom Henderson each drove in three runs for the Warriors. Brian Turner went 3-for-4 with two RBI in the win.

Madonna's Mario D'Herin (Redford CC) belted a two-run homer to provide Madonna with its only offense of the game.

Joel Halliday, who didn't get out of the opening inning, took the loss.

Salem boys sweep past Canton

The day before Easter, the Rocks found all of the hidden eggs in their doubleheader with area rival Canton.

Salem used solid defense and pitching to sweep a twinbill from the Chiefs last Saturday, 3-1 and 8-2.

The first game was a pitcher's duel, with neither team letting runners on base easily. Canton's Carl McDevitt took the loss, despite pitching seven strong

innings. Salem's Steve Cox — the team's leader in runs batted in last year — drove in two to spark the Rocks. His RBI single in the fifth inning proved to be the difference in the contest.

Nate Krumwiede picked up a pair of hits and scored a run as well.

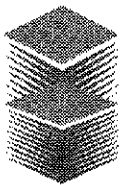
In the second game, the Salem bats heated up to the tune of five runs in the second inning, setting the stage for its

big win.

Mike Antich got the rally started with a bases-loaded double that drove in two. Two batters later, Drew Parling followed suit with a bases-loaded single, that also brought home two runs. Cox's sacrifice fly drove in the fifth and final run in the barrage.

Antich and Dylan Tobin each had three hits in the second game to lead the Rocks.

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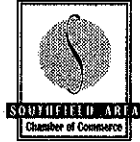
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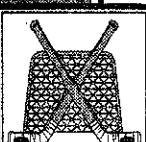
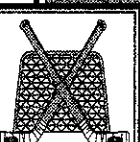
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Canton edges CC for 2nd at Elks Relays

BY PAUL BEAUDRY STAFF WRITER

Adrian ran away from the pack at the Dearborn Elks Relays on Saturday, but the real battle came between two Observerland teams.

And Canton came away on top, edging Catholic Central for second place, 36-34 - with a lighter than normal roster because of Spring Break.

"I was real proud of the effort the kids gave," said Canton coach Bob Richardson. "We were like a lot of teams there, in that we didn't have our full team, so we were spread a little more thin than we normally were."

"But the guys did a great job and we're looking forward to starting our dual meet season."

Adrian cruised to the win in the nine-team meet with 66 points, while Dearborn was

BOYS TRACK

fourth with 31, Birmingham Seaholm was fifth with 21, followed by Temperance Bedford 917, Taylor Truman (13) Westland John Glenn (12) and Southgate (2).

"It was a good meet but it was unfortunate that Salem, Brother Rice and De La Salle weren't there."

"But the competition was still very good," said CC coach Tony Magni. "Canton did very well for not having all their kids there. We ran well and could have done a few things here and there, but overall I was pleased."

CC had three winners: The shot put relay with Pat Clark, John Mulroy, Nick Barrett and John Smart (174-0), the 6,400 relay with Dave Lucas, Trevor Step, Max Working and Brian

Doot (18:36) and the distance medley relay with Mike Rossiter, Alex Kobylarz, Phil Schneider and Kevin Mason (11:17).

The Chiefs had one first, coming from Steve Kilijanczyk, Brian Solash, Rodney Preston and Devin Thomas in the intermediate shuttle hurdle relay (1:23.1).

Canton was second in the pole vault relay (Rich Hensel, Kilijanczyk, Derek Reeves; 29-0), the 800 relay (Andy Rossow, Brandon Reeves, Corey Walser, Thomas; 1:33.3) and the high-hurdle relay (Kilijanczyk, Matt McClellan, Rodney Preston, Solash; 1:08.6).

CC's lone second was in the discus relay with Clark, Barrett and Ryan Danescu (360-6) and had a third from the high-hurdle relay with Zach Zrull, J.P. Duprey, Jose Comse and Bill Makela (1:08). The same four were also fourth in the interne-

diate hurdle relay in 1:26.1. Canton was third in the high jump relay (McClellan, Rossow, Brad Waidman; 11-9), the 400 relay (Rossow, Brandon Reeves, Thomas, Walser; 44.7) and the distance medley relay (Jesse Williams, Solash, Sam Manees, Scott George; 9:30.6).

The Shamrocks were fourth in the 3,200 relay with Doot, Step, Working and Schneider (8:50), while Makela, Adam Hester, Rob Lawrence and Steve Mason were fifth in the 800 relay (1:36.4).

The Chiefs took fourths from the shot put relay (Brian Fawley, Chris Snider, Lester Booker, Joe Zujaj; 161-0 1/4) and the 1,600 relay (Williams, Kilijanczyk, Matt Trevarthen, Solash; 3:38.8) and fifth in the 3,200 relay (Ray Eisbrenner, Scott Reidsma, George, Manees; 9:30.6).

pbeaudry@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2106

BREAK

FROM PAGE D1

(Actually, some area teams now travel as entire groups to some of those southern spots to train and stay sharp.)

And what traditionally became a timeout for a week actually has turned out to be a timeout for almost two weeks.

Some athletes take off before school lets out, so ADs and coaches, fearing more defections, don't schedule anything two days prior to Good Friday. And they often wonder how many will make it back in time for the Monday after (which this year falls on April 28).

I've heard stories of prominent team members skipping out of events even before spring break begins, putting their seasons and coaches in a difficult predicament.

Thus, this 2003 spring sports season may become the silliest of all-time.

The usual March rainouts and cold weather, coupled with an early April snowstorm, wiped out nearly seven valuable days of scheduling this spring.

Throw in spring break week, senior proms, senior trips and graduation nights, the window to schedule shrinks even more.

Obviously, the only solution is to jam as many events into a eight-week span. One area high school baseball team, already faced with several makeup dates, will have to play 16 games during a 21-day span.

So much for practice. Who needs it, right?

I don't want to paint a broad brush and say that all high school athletes treat spring sports as a joke, because there are many who take their sport seriously. They use the break to improve and get better.

But the message that parents send when they take their kids out of school early, miss games and disrupt the team, is becoming more and more a serious problem. It puts the coaches in a bad situation.

And what a terrible message that is sending.

But the schools go right along, appearing powerless to confront the issue.

I'd continue the normal scheduling of league games through spring break and let the chips fall where they may. If you have to use JV players when varsity players defect, so be it.

Thank God there's no fall break, and when winter break hits, basketball, volleyball, swimming and hockey seasons don't shut down for a week.

I've taken three trips to Kansas in three years in mid-March and I've gotten the same response when asking the locals about how to do they handle high school sports during the spring:

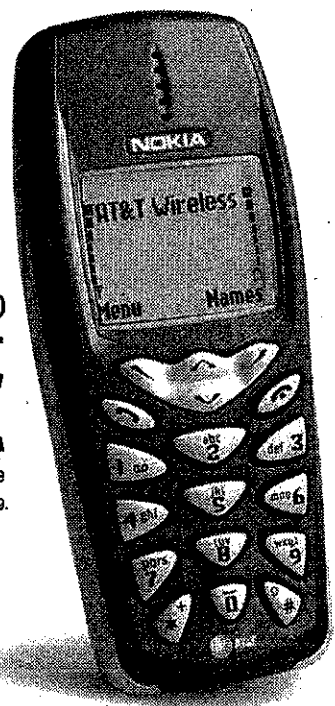
"Why wouldn't you schedule sports during spring break?" they say. "We do."

Sounds like a novel idea. Really, you cannot be serious.

Brad Emons is sports editor for the Livonia-Westland Observer. He can be reached at (734) 953-2123.

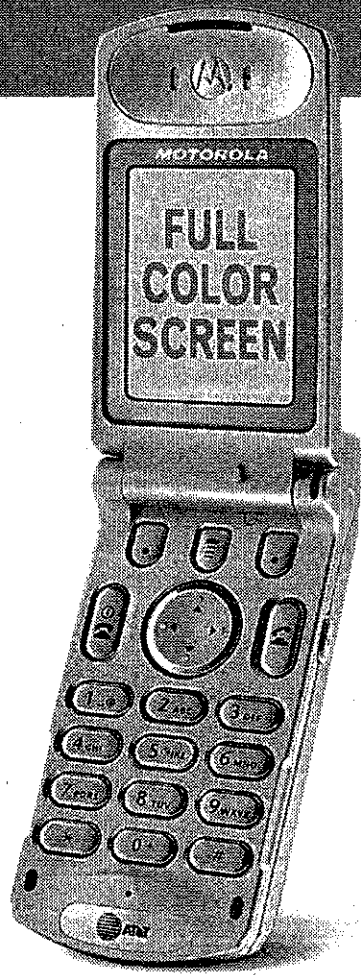
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THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL
 Thursday, April 24
 Wayne Memorial, John Glenn at Hartland Inv., 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m.
 Salem at
Friday, April 25
 Rochester Adams at Canton, 11 a.m.
PREP SOFTBALL
 Saturday, April 26
 Canton at Chelsea Tournament, 9 a.m.
Saturday, April 26
 (all double-headers)
 Redford CC at H.W. Notre Dame, 11 a.m.
PREP BOYS TRACK
 Friday, April 25
 Redford CC at Jackson Relays, TBA.
PREP BOYS TENNIS
 Saturday, April 26
 Redford CC at A.A. Huron Tourney, 8 a.m.
PREP LACROSSE
 Friday, April 25
 Redford CC at Brother Rice, 1 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASEBALL
 (all double-headers)
 Friday, April 25
 Tri-State (Ind.) vs. Madonna (Ford Field), 1 p.m.
Saturday, April 26
 Madonna at St. Francis (Ill.), 2 p.m.
Sunday, April 27
 Madonna at St. Francis (Ill.), noon.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL
 (all double-headers unless noted)

Thursday, April 24
 Madonna at Tri-State (Ind.), 3 p.m.
Saturday, April 26
 Aquinas at Madonna (Ladywood), 1 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE PLAYOFFS
WESTERN CONFERENCE FINALS
 (Best-of-7 series)
 Thursday, April 24
 (if necessary)
 Plymouth at Kitchener, 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 26
 (if necessary)
 Kitchener vs. Plymouth Whalers
 7:30 p.m. at Compuware Arena.
Monday, April 28
 (if necessary)
 Plymouth at Kitchener, 7 p.m.
 TBA - time to be announced.

CRUSADERS

FROM PAGE D1

Although she gave up six hits and one earned run, she struck out nine batters while walking just one.

MU splits with Tri-State

The Crusaders broke open a 2-2 tie with a pair of runs in the fifth inning, then scored six more in the sixth for a 10-2 mercy-shortened win in the opener of the doubleheader. Tri-State turned the table in

the second game, posting a 2-1 win.

Golob (11-5) shut down the Thunder (21-14, 9-11) on a four-hitter, walking just one and striking out six.

The Crusaders tattooed three Thunder pitchers for a total of 18 hits - 10 of them coming off starter Ariene Kurtz (9-9).

Mary Warchuck led the hit parade by going 4-for-4 with a double, Tenyer was 2-for-4 with three RBI - two coming on a double in the sixth inning - and Krystle Shina was 3-for-

4, including a two-run single in the sixth.

Natalie McDaniel led Tri-State by going 2-for-3 and earned the lone RBI with a double in the first.

The second game was a pitcher's duel as Tenyer and Erin Brockert shut the other team down. Tenyer (14-6) didn't walk a batter and struck out three while pitching a five-hitter. But Brockert (11-4) matched her, walking one, striking out two and allowing six hits.

Madonna got on the board

first as Warchuck singled, and Shina and Tenyer reached on errors to load the bases. Stacey Sexsmith grounded out to short, scoring Warchuck with the first run.

But Tri-State got two back in the fifth as Brockert, who reached on a single, wound up scoring the tying run on a wild pitch. Then Rohm hit an RBI single to plate Sara Piper. Emily Cunningham led Madonna by going 2-for-3, while Arin Fowler, Tenyer and Sexsmith had the other hits. Rohm went 3-for-4 to lead Tri-State.

Some bowlers are bikers

Vroom... goes the roar of the motorcycle engine as 65-year-old Jerry Holden of Canton pulls up in the parking lot of Mayflower Lanes astride his Honda Ace.

He then unstraps a double bowling bag, removes his helmet and is through the door on his way to compete in the Monday Morning Senior Men's League.

Jerry bowls Wednesdays and Fridays at Mayflower as well.

Recently retired from Universal Foods, he can now devote more time to his favorite pastimes, including playing senior softball and going touring on his Honda.

Mike Anger of Redford is another rider who is involved with bowling. He is the lane maintenance man at Mayflower Lanes and also rides a Honda.

Not to be outdone, Jim Jimmerson of Livonia is a true Harley-Davidson man who enjoys cruising with his wife, Clara, almost as much as bowling.

Now that Jim is retired from the Observer, he has more time for bowling and biking. I just hope you guys tie those bowling bags down real good, a runaway ball bouncing along the expressway would not be good.

There are others who ride and bowl. If you know of more let me know and they will be mentioned in future articles.

Next, let's see how many bowlers get to the lanes in their helicopters.

■ What happens when you combine clowns, bowling and charity?

The answer is a whole lot of fun while helping the Livonia Firefighters clown team.

Clown Bowl 2003 starts at 9:30 p.m. Friday, April, 25 at Woodland Lanes, 33775 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

The cost is \$20 per person including shoes and three games of no-tap bowling. It's always a lot of fun for everyone, young or old alike and the funds go to directly benefit the Livonia Firefighters who volunteer to do this. For reservations, call (734) 522-4515.

■ Woodland Lanes will also be the host site for Bowl-A-Rama, which benefits the Second Chance at Life Walk-A-Thon.

All proceeds go to the University of Michigan Transplant Center to further educational efforts aimed at increasing organ donations.

The time and date to remember is 7 p.m. Saturday, May 17.

The cost is \$15 per person with bumper bowling available for the kids.

There will be 50-50 tickets, lucky strike ball and a drawing to win up to \$2,500. Tickets are \$5 for drawing and can be purchased now through Carol Mancini at Woodland Lanes.) Carol is also taking RSVPs (by April 30) at (734) 432-2625.

Al Harrison is a resident of Livonia and a director of the Greater Detroit Bowling Association. He can be contacted at (248) 477-1839.



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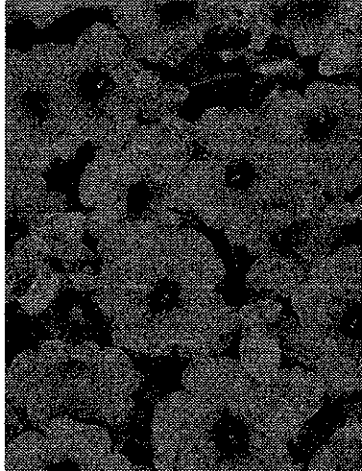
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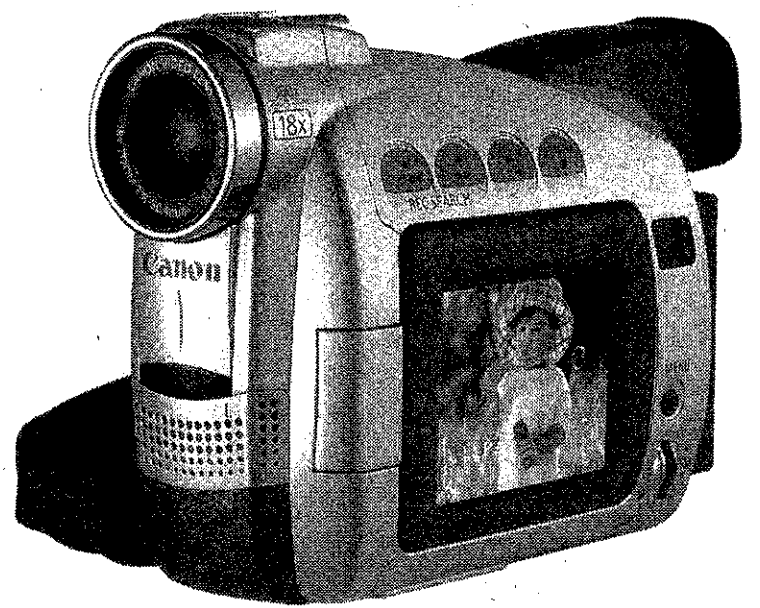
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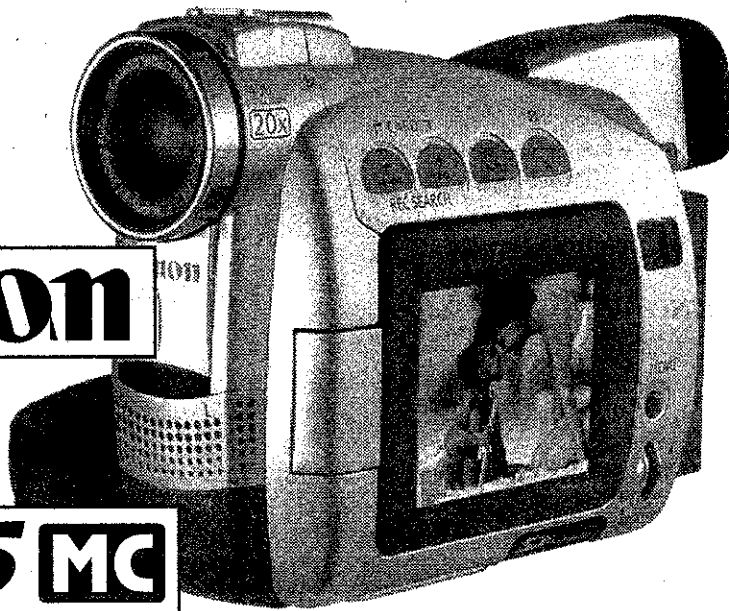
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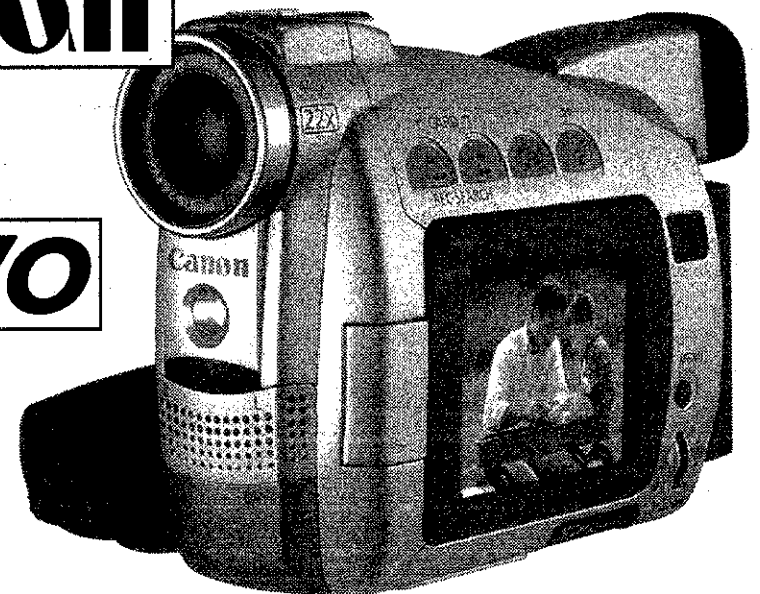
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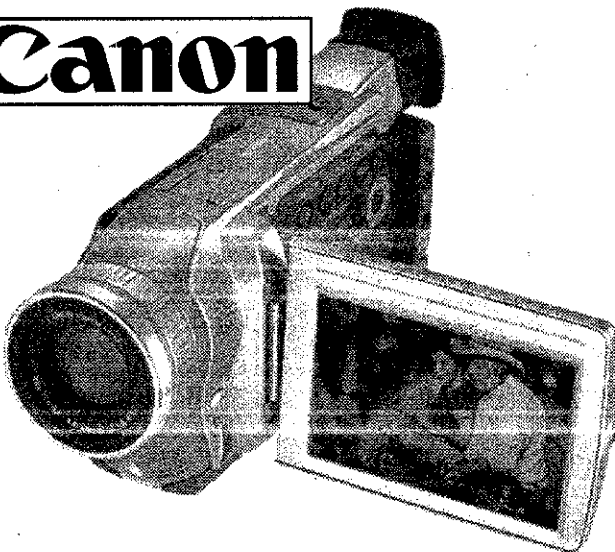
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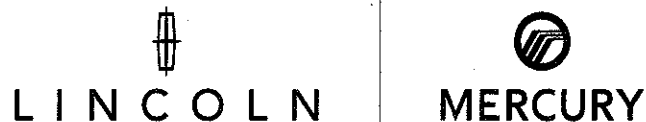
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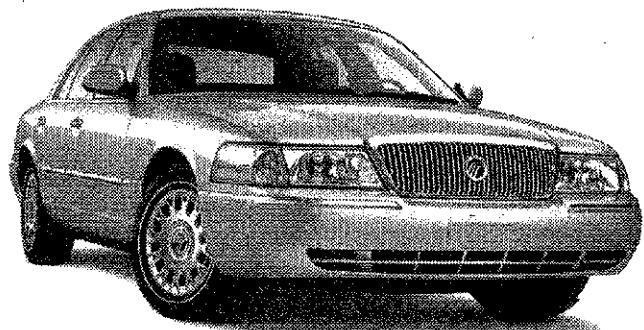
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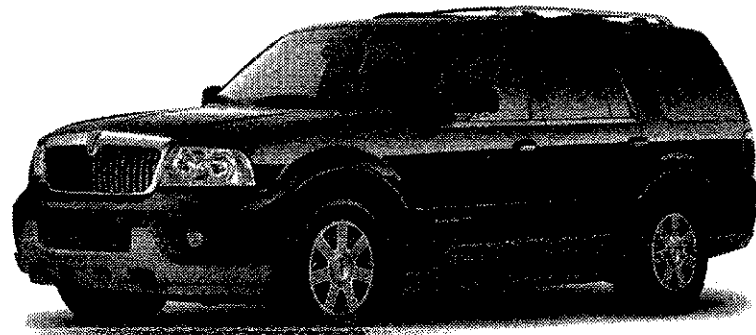
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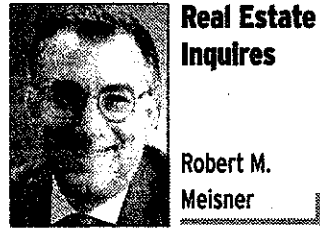
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Real Estate Inquires

Robert M. Meisner

Assessments and gated communities

Before I closed on my condo, I was informed of the association's monthly fee. But I was not told of the three-year assessment due in yearly installments that was approved prior to my closing. It was to begin after my closing. Shouldn't the title company be responsible for relating this information to the buyer?

Anyone buying a condo should get a letter from the association at least five days before closing indicating the amount of assessments that are due as of the time of closing. What is not always clear is whether the association will provide you with information regarding an assessment that had previously been levied but had not been collected at the time of closing. Any interested purchaser should determine if there are any special or additional assessments which have been levied already but have not yet due or which are contemplated in the near future. To the extent that the title company had some responsibility to find out that information you may have a claim against it.

We are thinking about going to a gated community, which will require a vote of the co-owners and an expenditure of funds presumably by way of an additional assessment. What are your comments on it?

The popularity of gated communities is on the rise nationally as well as locally. The perception that it provides additional security as well as "prestige" usually results in gated communities having an increased value per square foot. Of course, you must overcome the obstacles of your Community Association documents to obtain a gated community, but it may well be beneficial in the long run from a financial and perhaps legal perspective.

Robert M. Meisner, a lawyer, concentrates his practice in the areas of condominiums, real estate, corporate law and litigation. He can be reached at rmeisner@mich.com.

RECREATION LAND

Some 27,700 acres of land in the 7-county area of southeast Michigan are devoted to recreation and open space. Here's a breakdown as of 2002:

State Parks	40%
Golf Courses	13%
Municipal Parks	13%
Metro Parks	10%
County Parks	6%
Private Recreation	5%
Nature Preserves	4%
Private Campgrounds	3%

Source: SEMCOG, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments



PAUL HURSCHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Joan Dawkins says almost all her business today is referrals from satisfied customers.

How to select a good agent to help you sell, buy (and avoid the bad apple, too)

BY DOUG FUNKE
STAFF WRITER

There are some 10,600 agents currently affiliated with the Western Wayne/Oakland County Metropolitan Consolidated and North Oakland County real estate associations combined.

Their experience levels and competencies range across the board. All want your business. So how do you go about finding a good agent to help you sell or buy a house? Perhaps more important, how do you avoid the stinker?

Be wary of guarantees and outlandish promises, said Dale E. Smith, executive vice president of the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors.

"If they say something like 'I can guarantee we'll get \$135,000 for a house,' I'd want something in writing," Smith said. "Something to the effect that if the listing expires and it's not sold, the broker will buy it."

"If somebody promised me they were going to do all kinds of great things and it sounded too good to be true, I'd say, 'Give me some documentation,'" Smith added. "If somebody said they will advertise in 15 different publications, I'd want to see some specific examples of where ads had been placed."

Smith should know. He was a broker/owner of two real estate firms for 10 years.

"You need to make sure you feel comfortable with style and how you interact," Smith said of interviewing prospective agents.

"The first question is one that warms the person up - are you in my marketplace? How many have you listed, sold? If the answer is zero, that doesn't mean they're unqualified. If it is zero, there may be some (sales) in other areas they can talk about."

MARKETING PLANS

"Then you get into hardball questions," Smith said. "What kind of unique marketing do you do? I'd be looking for what an agent does other than the MLS ... contacts with other brokers, public mailings. Do they have a data base of people looking for properties like mine?"

And don't discount new agents just because they're new, Smith added.

"There's something to be said for new education, new marketing ideas," he said.

"They're enthusiastic. But make sure they're spending enough time in the industry to market effectively."

Walter T. Baczkowski, chief executive officer of Metropolitan Consolidated Association of Realtors, also is a former sales agent.

"Obviously, if someone says absolutely your home will sell at this price - and I don't know any Realtor who would say that - if that came out of someone's mouth, I'd be leery," he said.

"If you don't feel comfortable they're able to give you a realistic market value backed up by solid documentation, ask why they would say that," Baczkowski said.

"If someone said they only advertise in XYZ publication because that's the only one that works, that's telling me up front it's not going to be the broadest exposure," he said.

KNOW PLAYERS, RULES

Everyone should be clear on agency and commissions.

"It certainly is a question a savvy buyer or seller should have if a broker doesn't mention who they're representing and where the commission is coming from," Smith said.

And if you're thinking about buying a condominium, be sure to review and understand the bylaws and financial assessments before making an offer, legal experts advise.

A good working relationship keys the entire process, Baczkowski said.

He said he would first get a sense from lawn signs what real estate offices are active where he's selling or looking to buy. He then would call at least three brokers for references on agents, then interview those agents before settling on a representative.

Ask specific, pointed questions, Baczkowski advises.

"How will my home be marketed in local papers, magazines, on the Internet? Will there be a lock box? Will there be a set time for you to call me so we can have ongoing communication?"

"If relocating, will I get help on some little things and big things like school information, places for kids to go, doctors, other service providers?" he added.

Joan Dawkins, a 20-year veteran and associate broker with RE/MAX on the Trail, Plymouth, treats personal references like gold.

"The best way to get a good Realtor is word-of-mouth from friends and relatives," she said. "Most people like to refer an agent who has done a great job in every area keeping them informed, educated and knowledgeable about the entire transaction from beginning to end."

A good Realtor will do the little things that aren't so little like make sure would-be buyers understand that the property tax likely will be much higher after the sale than stated on the feature sheet, Dawkins said.

In addition to a good reference, a good marketing plan, good communication, good information and good vibrations, the professional designation of Certified Residential Specialist should carry weight with prospective clients, Dawkins added.

"It takes a certain number of years, a certain number of transactions," she said. "At least you know you're getting a Realtor with experience and good training."

Folks looking for a Realtor need to know about experience, people skills and availability, said Linda K. Rea, affiliated with Real Estate One, Troy. She's a 35-year veteran.

Interview at least three agents from marketing materials, signs in the neighborhood, newspaper articles, referrals, of course, from friends and family," Rea said.

CHECK REFERENCES

"Ask for references and call a few of those people," she said. "How do you know if someone's honest? When a Realtor says something, ask for backup proof."

"I think a Realtor needs an (office) team to keep themselves out in the field doing what they do best - listing and selling," Rea said. "If someone's doing a lot of business, they're probably not unethical. If they were, they wouldn't last."

Sharon Whitfield of Bloomfield Hills recently had a sour real estate experience.

"I would advise people to never be rushed," she said. "If you're a first-time buyer or seller, you should always consult an attorney. There's so many things thrown at you in a hurry, it's hard to understand it all."

For information on filing a complaint against a real estate agent, call the state of Michigan consumer and industry services enforcement division at (517) 241-9202.

To verify a license or disciplinary action, call (517) 241-9427.

dfunke@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2137

Mortgage Bits

Tim 'Timbo' Phillips



Be creative, as you seek a mortgage

My 3-year-old daughter recently became enamored with the bright colors and moving parts of an old Rubik's Cube. I thought it would be a gas to show her how to solve the three-dimensional puzzle, but she insisted on showing me instead.

As a young boy, I eventually learned to "solve" the cube from any starting orientation always in less than two minutes. The solution to the seemingly impossible puzzle is in knowing about a dozen specific "moves" that alter the position or orientation of specific pieces without affecting the other pieces.

You can manage unwieldy mortgage situations by applying "Rubik-like moves" whenever possible. For example, you want to refinance both to improve your interest rate and to drop your private mortgage insurance, but you have not yet reached the mystical 20 percent equity stake in your home to do so. A possible solution is to refinance using a split loan. Take an 80 percent mortgage to avoid PMI, then a small home equity loan for the remaining portion.

How about this one? You are a business owner in need of a residential mortgage, but you will have difficulty documenting a qualifying income.

Simple. Use a lender who offers no-income or no-ratio mortgages, no-document loans, stated income deals, or alternative documentation programs. In some situations, a letter from a CPA, a "blanked out" Schedule C, or showing ample deposits into your business checking account may suffice.

What if you do not have adequate cash assets or home equity to fund the major home renovations of which you have been dreaming? No problem. Secure a mortgage that is based on the "future value" of your home after improvements. You can borrow more because your "new" home will be worth more.

You want low monthly payments, but still want to build equity fast. If you are willing to be creative, use a mortgage that combined an adjustable-rate loan with a biweekly payment schedule. Not bad, huh?

Like Rubik, the solution to your situation may be simpler than you think. The toughest part may just be dialing the phone to begin the quest.

Timothy J. Phillips is a mortgage specialist and newspaper columnist. You may reach him at (734) 451-8267, or via www.HomeQuarters.BIZ. Homebuyers should always consult a professional for guidance specific to their situation.

REALTOR FULL PAGE AD INDEX

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Coldwell Banker Preferred	3E
Coldwell Banker, Schweitzer	4E
Real Estate One	1F

For the Best Home Buys in your Hometown check the Sunday and Thursday Real Estate Section

HOME Of The WEEK

Plymouth Meadows



is where you'll find this distinctive English manor-style home that features a grand 20' high cathedral 36x26 great room that's perfect for memorable occasions. Additional unique features include 4 fireplaces, picture-perfect grand foyer & bridge, 20x13 formal dining room, skylit vaulted 22x13 kitchen, year-round sunroom, custom stained glass & more. There's also an opulent 1st floor 18x17 master bedroom with fireplace + his & her baths & a jetted tub. Plus an Extra Deep 1,700 square foot walkout lower level with 2 fireplaces, 4 doorwalls + a roughed-in 3rd full bath. And... The home sits high on a priceless 1/2 acre lot that backs to 13 scenic acres of protected park. Attractively priced at \$694,000.

Call Mike & Mary Gladchun
RE/MAX on the trail 734.459.1234



HOMES SOLD IN WAYNE COUNTY

These are the Observer & Eccentric area residential Real Estate closings recorded the weeks of Dec. 9-13 at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Table with columns for city, address, and price. Includes listings for Canton, Detroit, and Livonia.

Main table of homes sold with columns for city, address, and price. Includes listings for Garden City, Livonia, Redford, and Westland.

Coldwell Banker Schweitzer Real Estate advertisement. Includes photos of houses, a 'Too New for Photos' graphic, and contact information for Pam Danaher.

GMAC Real Estate advertisement. Features 'Trusted Advisor' and 'Skilled Negotiator' text, photos of homes, and contact information for Quality Properties Inc.

Center seeking support. The Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit, a nonprofit monitoring, testing, and information organization, always needs supporters.

COLDWELL BANKER SCHWEITZER REAL ESTATE

Grid of 24 real estate listings. Each listing includes a photo of a house, a brief description, and contact information.

Bottom advertisement section featuring 'Phone In, Move In...' with mortgage options and contact information for www.cbschweitzer.com.

Real estate briefs features news and notes on professional associations, office activities, upcoming meetings and seminars, new services/products and consumer publications.

Write: Real estate briefs, *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, 48150. Our fax number is (734) 591-7279. Our e-mail address is dfunke@oe.homecomm.net.

CAREER SEMINAR

Keller Williams Realty-Livonia offers a free, no-obligation class on how to get into real estate sales and what you can expect noon Saturday, April 26, at its offices, 31500 Schoolcraft, just west of Merriman.

To register, call (734) 266-9000.

BUY HOME CLASS

Rosemary Firestone, RE/MAX 100, and her financial services team, offer a free class for home buyers 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, April 29, at First Michigan Title, 38777 Six Mile, Suite 100, just west of I-275, Livonia.

To register, call (734) 420-9600.

SELL HOME CLASS

Matt Kenkel, associate broker, ERA Alliance, Farmington Hills, and West Bloomfield Community Education offer a class, "For Sale by Owner," 7-9:15 p.m. Wednesday, April 30, at Orchard Lake Middle School.

Cost, which includes a FSBO marketing guidebook, is \$30. To register, call (248) 539-2290.

(800) 643-9600 Ext. 22532.

EXAM PREPARATION

Oakland Builders Institute and Livonia Community Education present a 16-hour class to prepare for the state builders license exam 6-10 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, May 5-14, at Riley Middle School, 15555 Henry Ruff, Livonia; and through Waterford Community Education 6-10 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, May 12-21, at Kettering High School, 2000 Bender.

Cost is \$207 plus \$20 for a textbook in Livonia (734) 744-2602; \$205 plus \$20 in Waterford (248) 674-3145.

SELL HOME CLASS II

Alma Mathley, Professional Real Estate Title, conducts a free seminar, "For Sale by Owner," 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, May 13, at Hunter Community center, 509 Fisher Court, off Main Street two blocks north of 14 Mile, Clawson. To register, call Mathley at (248) 851-2975.

FHA FUNDAMENTALS

Mortgage U, an affiliate of Wetzel Trott, hosts a seminar on the fundamentals of FHA mortgages 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 15, at its offices, 30300 Telegraph Road, Suite 150, Bingham Farms.

Cost is \$189. To register, call (800) 278-0200.

BUY HOME CLASS II

Standard Federal Bank and Grandmont Rosedale Development Corp. co-sponsor a free seminar for home buyers 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 3, at St. Timothy's Methodist Church, 15888 Archdale, (north of Five Mile just east of Southfield), Detroit.

Participants may apply for a Standard Federal mortgage designed to make ownership more affordable for people will low to moderate incomes.

To register, call (313) 835-8190 or

Great ranch home in Garden City. Three bedrooms, 1 bath, 2.5 car garage. Newer carpet, freshly painted throughout. Large yard, attic storage. Great starter home. \$134,900

Ask for KERYN YOUNG (248) 644-7000

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CANTON. Stunning 4 bedroom and 2 1/2 bath Colonial in Pheasant View sub. Spacious gourmet kitchen with island, recessed lighting & hardwood floors. Fabulous master suite has a fireplace, dressing/seating areas, walk-in closet and master bath. All appliances and hot tub stay! Three car attached garage. Just move right in! \$399,000 (D66Ove)

FARMINGTON HILLS. Open front door to exquisite 2 story foyer with oak flooring extending into kitchen & hearth room with fireplace. Beautiful maple cabinets with granite counter tops. Formal living & dining rooms plus separate family room. A spacious master suite with alcove sitting. Three car garage. Completion early summer! \$465,000 (D60Wet)

LIVONIA. Cozy Bungalow in mint condition is a perfect starter home. Unique Cottage-style design both inside & out with updates including: bath, windows, hardwood flooring and custom kitchen. Spacious living room with fireplace that opens to dining area. Family room has built-in book shelves and it leads to deck with private fenced yard. \$133,500 (L09Lun)

LIVONIA. Clean, sharp and spacious upper end unit Ranch Condo with 2 bedrooms and 2 baths. Florida room with storage and 4 door walls. Updates include: furnace, hot water heater, humidifier, air conditioning, disposal & all appliances included - stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer & dryer. This is a must see! \$159,900 (L49Un)

PLYMOUTH. Great 3 bedroom Colonial in nice area of Plymouth. Large bay window in living room, hardwood floors & wainscoting. Updated kitchen with oak cabinets & newer appliances that all stay! Natural fireplace in spacious family room. Large master with his & her closets. \$194,000 (L23Wol)

PLYMOUTH. Beautifully decorated 2 bedroom Condo that is freshly painted in neutral tones. Light and bright entry with skylights, Andersen windows and all appliances included! Great advantage is car port directly across from unit. Walk to downtown and note low maintenance fee. \$141,500 (L91Pin)

WESTLAND. Lovely 3 bedroom Colonial in Livonia school district that is ready to move into. Large deck on back for entertaining. Central air conditioning. Half bath has been updated. Partially finished basement great for kids' play area. City certs have been done! \$159,900 (L32Fre)

REDFORD. Don't miss seeing this great starter home on beautiful tree-lined country street. All brick 3 bedroom home with hardwood floors. Oversized treed lot, 200 feet deep and nicely landscaped. Two car garage, central air, newer windows, Florida room (glass & screen), partially finished basement with glass block windows and newer electrical. \$151,900 (L85Nor)

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(734) 462-3000

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MILFORD
Unspoiled acreage w/275 ft. on the Huron River surrounds this custom built ranch. Upscale and contemp. floor plan was designed to capture the view from all rms. Entertain w/ease - prem. kit w/hearth rm opens to the lg. wrap around deck. The finished level provides add'l living space or perfect guest quarters. \$438,000 (88COO) 734-455-6000

DEARBORN
Located in the prestigious gated TPC golf course community, this detached condo offers exceptional views of the 7th fairway from both the great room and master suite. Contemporary and neutral with upscale amenities... \$546,000 (14TUR) 734-455-6000

8595 SUNFLOWER, NORTHFIELD
Relaxed and refined. Nestled away from the rush of the city. Minutes to Whitmore Lake for those sunset strolls. Meticulous three bedroom Cape Cod has it all! Hardwood floors, cathedral ceilings, loft/study, decking, basement, two car attached garage and tastefully decorated. Look no further. \$215,000 (59SUN) 734-455-6000

DEARBORN
Stop renting! Downtown Dearborn condo with one bedroom, one bath. Updated and lovely with loads of appeal and close to everything. Guests enter through secure lobby. \$89,900 (73GAR) 734-455-6000

PLYMOUTH
Charming 1950-built ranch in Hough Park! This 3 bedroom home offers three baths, spacious living room, family room, light filled kitchen, with spacious breakfast eating area, finished lower level complete w/bedroom, bath, kitchen and recreation room, and 2 car attached garage. The deck and patio provide great areas for outdoor entertaining. \$438,000 (37MAP)

WAYNE
Growing family need more room? Don't miss this 1600 square foot four bedroom, three full bath Cape Cod with two car garage and tons of updates. Super clean and well maintained. Nice Wayne neighborhood. \$146,000 (62FOU) 734-455-6000

VIEW NEARLY 10,000 LISTINGS AT www.weirmanuel.com

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COMFORT IS ITS FORTE - You'll treasure this enticing 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath colonial. Enjoy the recently updated kitchen w/nook, formal living room/dining room and large family room. Newer windows and roof. Spacious bedrooms w/walk-in closet. Finished basement, home warranty package, fenced yard w/patio, deck & satellite dish. \$217,900 (712AB)

PERFECT STARTER - Great curb appeal. Enjoy the large living room and eat-in kitchen. Three bedrooms, updated bath w/pedestal sink, newer floor and white cabinets. Newer siding, roof, windows. Freshly painted and 2-1/2 car garage. \$117,900 (590DU)

CHARMING RANCH - Updates galore in this beautifully decorated home. New breakfast nook, totally remodeled kitchen, updated baths, finished basement, new furnace, A/C and more. Two-car garage with a new door. Super home with fast occupancy! \$184,900 (975OR)

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY - Open and airy 4 bedroom colonial nestled in independence Hills amid 2 parks and walking trails meets all the comforts you need! First floor laundry, formal dining room, bay windows, full basement and so much more. \$354,900 (387W)

NEARLY NEW COLONIAL W/REAL COMFORT - Four bedroom, 2-1/2 bath 2 story. Two car garage, family room, hardwood flooring. Master suite, walk-in closet, laundry room, washer/dryer, eating space kitchen with built-in microwave, pantry. Appliance package, formal dining room, CH/A. Basement, landscaped, sprinklers. \$279,900 (085SPD)

GORGEOUS GLENGARRY COLONIAL - Backing to commons: some custom 2-toned paint and window treatments, multi-level deck, 4 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, hrdwd floor in foyer & half bath, 2-story family rm w/fireplace, living rm & formal dining room w/bay window. Gourmet kitchen with all appliances. Walk to Summit center and park. \$334,900 (220SE)

IT'S ALL HERE IN LIVONIA - Great family neighborhood, close to Hoover Elementary, community pool & tennis. Updates include: roof, furnace, A/C, windows, front door, living room, dining room and family room carpet. 19x10 workshop addition w/separate garage door, fenced yard, 4 bedrooms and 2 baths. \$227,900 (709SU)

UPDATED COLONIAL - Super sharp Canton home featuring new kitchen, windows, siding, gutters, and exterior doors. Other recent improvements include: roof, furnace, air conditioning, hot water heater, baths and garage door. \$199,900 (008BR)

LOWER MAINTENANCE-FREE LIVONIA CONDO - Private entry. Brick 2 bdrm townhouse condo. Refinished hardwood floors, new steel doors, window treatments, hot water heater & bathtub liner with lifetime warranty. Newly painted, full basement, central air, and all appliances included. Quiet courtyard setting. \$93,500 (278MI)

NEWLY RENOVATED TOWNHOUSE - Featuring oak kitchen cabinets w/all appliances, including washer & dryer, 1-1/2 baths, generous room sizes. Private entry, 1 car attached garage with direct access. \$129,900 (684OR)

NORTHVILLE LAKEFRONT - Enjoy the views from this Moccari built classic colonial with walk-out. Two story foyer, dual staircase, family room with dual fireplace, gourmet kitchen, spacious master suite, deck off kitchen, brick paver patio, and a 3-car garage. Many extras! \$1,199,900 (952MI)

HAPPINESS DISCOVERED - Three bedroom, 2-1/2 bath 2-story backing to commons. Two car garage, open foyer, living/dining room. Family room w/natural fireplace, master w/private bath & walk-in closet. Main level laundry, dining area kitchen w/built-in microwave, all appliance pkg. CH/A, ceiling fans deck, & fully landscaped. Immediately avail. \$248,880 (866RI)

SOUTH REDFORD - Remodeled kitchen, hardwood floors, super 3-season room, huge master bedroom & full basement makes this home a must see! Nestled beautifully in sub with a 1 1/2 car garage. Very quick occupancy. \$138,900 (931SE)

ROSEDALE DELIGHT - Fast occupancy on this beautiful 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath ranch on huge private lot! Updates such as roof (brand new), windows, nicely fenced basement with office, 2-1/2 car garage - a true must see! \$184,900 (227WA)

CUTE & COZY - Move right in to this super 3 bedroom ranch! Nice & neutral with Pergo flooring, large country kitchen with newer cabinets, newer windows, updated bath. Great deck for those summer nights. \$114,900 (299CA)

PRICED TO SELL - 1772 Morrison, Canton, S. of Ford, E. of Morton Taylor. Affordable and spacious 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath colonial. Large remodeled kitchen and family room with fireplace, new carpet, roof porch and more updates. Quick occupancy. \$229,900 (772MO)

BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME! - Fabulous 2 acre wooded parcel in Salem Twp. Part of prestigious Pinecrest Estates Development. Conveniently located to expressway & town. Upgraded private road & ready to build. \$175,000 (491PI)

DETACHED CONDO IN PLYMOUTH - Beautiful Cape featuring 3 bedrooms and 2-1/2 baths. Great room with gas fireplace, dining room, den, island kitchen w/hardwood floor, 1st floor master suite, full basement and an attached garage. Over 2,400 square feet. \$369,900 (391NO)

IMMACULATE RANCH - Awesome 4 bedroom ranch w/numerous updates! Windows, roof, kitchen, light fixtures, flooring & carpet, countertops and 6-panel doors. Loads & loads of storage! Call for more great details! \$194,900 (872RO)

CAPE COD - Beautiful brick 3 bedroom cape cod built in 2001. Large lot, vaulted ceiling & fireplace in great room. 2-1/2 baths, 2-car garage. Master bedroom with bath (Jacuzzi tub) and walk-in closet. \$284,900 (977SI)

SUPER QUAD LEVEL - Super 4 bedroom quad-level with an updated kitchen, family room, baths and lav. New windows, doors, closet doors, privacy fence and 16x16 deck. Freshly painted and two 2-car garages. \$264,900 (219WI)

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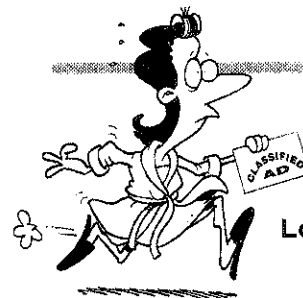
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If you missed our regular Tuesday deadline for Thursday's publication, you can now call us 'till Wednesday at 11am and place your ad in our "Too Late To Classified" Section. Look for this to appear in Section B of the paper! Let us work for you!

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3000's Real Estate. List of properties including 3030, 3040, 3050, etc.

Open Houses 3030. Brighton Open Sat., Apr. 26, 1-4pm NEW CONSTRUCTION AWAITS YOU...

Open Houses 3030. Hartland OPEN SUNDAY 1-4. Livonia For a Busy lifestyle! Open Saturday 11-1

Open Houses 3030. Northville OPEN SUN. 1-4. 17004 LOCHMOOR 5/6 Mile, E/Beck

Open Houses 3030. Novi Open Sun 12-5. BEAUTIFUL, AFFORDABLE. 1900 soft Colonial, \$284,500.

3900-3980 Commercial/Industrial. List of properties including 3900, 3910, 3920, etc.

Open Houses 3030. CANTON Sat 12-5. Newly updated 4 bedroom, 2.5 baths, 4375 Westminister.

Open Houses 3030. CLINTON TWP. Open Sun 1-4. 41110 Justin Dr., 3 bedroom, brick ranch.

Open Houses 3030. FARMINGTON HILLS - 38213. Saratoga Cr Sun. 1-5. (off 11 Mile, W. of Halsted).

Open Houses 3030. FARMINGTON HILLS. PRICE CUT! \$15,000. 9 Mile & Halsted. It's gorgeous!

3000-3890 Real Estate For Sale. BIRMINGHAM ESTATES Cottage style charm.

Open Houses 3030. BIRMINGHAM Spacious 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, colonial, finished basement.

Open Houses 3030. Romulus-5906 Wayne Road. 2.8 acres incl. 1,338 sqft ranch. 2 bdrms. L.R., D.R., den. 2 car gar.

Open Houses 3030. Inkster-28315 Parkwaywood. 2 bedroom bungalow, part-finished basement. Immed. occupancy. Move in \$0 down. \$79,900

Open Houses 3030. Redford-14210 Marion. 3 bdrm, 1,770 sqft. Hardwood floors, fireplace much character & charm. \$174,900

3000-3890 Real Estate For Sale. BIRMINGHAM ESTATES Cottage style charm. OPEN 2-4pm

Open Houses 3030. BIRMINGHAM Spacious 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, colonial, finished basement. 2 car attached garage.

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Open Houses 3030. --BERKLEY-- OPEN SUNDAY 1-4. Beautifully maintained ranch with many updates.

Open Houses 3030. Grosse Pointe Farms - Owner Wants Out! Make us an offer. Great Value in this spacious 3 bedroom brick ranch.

Open Houses 3030. Livonia - Great starter home or investment property. Totally renovated two bedroom home.

Open Houses 3030. Redford-7336 Dolphin. Mini Cond. 3 bd. 1 ba. ranch, updates galore. Fin. Basement, pole barn & 1.5 car gar.

Open Houses 3030. Detroit-7343 Grandmont. Beautiful 2 story w/fin. bsmt. updates include: furnace, siding, electric, nat fireplace. \$114,900

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2003 Cadillac Escalade Provides Security and Luxury

Advertising Feature

Thursday DriveTime



BY DALE BUSS
AVANTI NEWS FEATURES

There's no better prospect than taking a Cadillac Escalade for a trip through the Upper Midwest when the snow is falling and winter winds are swirling. The eight passenger SUV is huge, high off the ground and sure-footed, and the feeling of security it provides driver and passengers is matched only by the 2003 Escalade's luxurious creature comforts.

That's the ample good news. But along with the cooing and cooing come some not-unexpected drawbacks as well: Escalade rides and handles too loosely; it gets atrocious mileage; and operating the vehicle's various acoutments can be so complicated as to seem to require a co-pilot.

Listing at prices starting at \$50,795, Escalade is the two-year-old SUV entry for Cadillac, which once again is trying to recapture some of its past glory with an overhaul of its entire product lineup. Cadillac says that Escalade appeals to younger buyers, and it received the 2001 "Most appealing Luxury SUV" award from J.D. Power & Associates, a renowned evaluator of customer satisfaction with autos and auto makers.

No doubt the Escalade's cabin scored huge with consumers. The front, middle and rear seat levels each have their own climate controls, ensuring maximum comfort even for family members whose internal thermostats diverge widely. Heated mid-level seats that recline are a pleasant plus as well. One quibble: Heat for the middle seats emerges from the ceiling too close to the head of the right-side occupant.

On our family trip, the 2003 Escalade's vast entertainment options were a big hit. The optional Panasonic DVD system for mid-and-rear-seat passengers allowed my two teenagers to pass the hours quickly watching *Lord of the Rings*. The newly available XM Satellite Radio was an absolute delight: How many places can you find hour after hour of music from the tortured but significant Seventies, or a continuous program of fami-



2003 Cadillac Escalade is loaded with luxurious creature comforts.

ly-oriented humor from old Bill Cosby routines to snippets from *Laugh-In*? We never even got to the point of playing a CD on the Escalade's Bose-equipped audio system--how nineties would that be?

Minor complaints about the interior include the fact that buttons and knobs bearing only icons are so numerous that they could overwhelm many drivers' ability to remember the associated functions. Instead, words of description with many switches would be a big help. And while Bulgari is certainly a gold-plated brand, placing one of its clocks on the center console seems redundant, with a large digital clock just a few inches away on the dashboard.

For 2003, in addition to making the cabin even more a den of comfort, Cadillac has improved Escalade's handling and performance. A new four-channel electronic-brake-control system replaces a three-channel hydraulic control, providing benefits such as more stable, controlled ABS stops--as illustrated by the necessity for quick braking on a snow-covered stretch of Interstate 94 recently near Jackson.

The robust six-liter Vortec 6000 engine in the all-wheel-drive version lends Escalade 345 horsepower, more than any other SUV, and remarkable pickup for such a huge vehicle. Another pleasant surprise is Escalade's turning ratio of just 39 feet, very tight for a mammoth SUV and handy when you're poorly navigating unfamiliar city streets.

The 2003 Escalade also features safety enhance-

ments including front-seat dual-level airbags for driver and passenger-sensing system so the airbag knows whether to deploy. Huge arrows on the side mirrors that blink along with front and rear turn signals are a useful touch. GM also has added power-adjustable feature to the brake and accelerator pedals for the new model year.

A striking advantage at night in Escalade is the high-intensity discharge headlamps, which drench the road ahead with simulated daylight; GM says Escalade is the only SUV to carry these lamps as a standard feature.

Yet, for all that functional aplomb, Escalade doesn't necessarily turn heads the way some of Caddy's new sedans do. It is boxy-looking and unremarkable, especially compared with some of its competition in the ultra-luxury niche. Escalade looks rakish only by contrast with plain-looking cousins such as GMC Yukon and Chevrolet Suburban.

Escalade doesn't display best-in-class handling either. It's a bit mushy and unresponsive. And while even large potholes on the rustic roads of Oakland Township are effectively damped by Escalade's cushy suspension, the ride overall seems more truck-like than it should.

With fuel efficiency on a 900-mile round trip to Wisconsin that averaged only about 15 miles a gallon even on the Interstate system, Escalade required way too many stops to refill its 26-gallon tank. But once the fuel-tank cap was back on, it sure was a nice vehicle to climb back into.

Write Dale at daledbuss@aol.com.

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