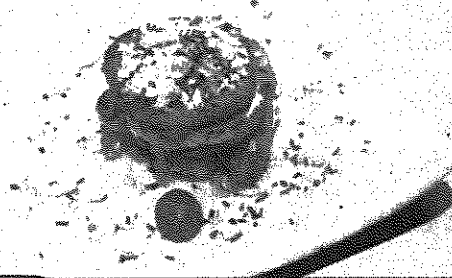


Season's eatings

Latkes help celebrate the Festival of Lights. Taste, Section D.



Filter
PURE ENTERTAINMENT!

'Tis the season
A Wonderful, Forbidden
and Spectacular time
for theater. Section E.



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serving Canton for 29 years

THURSDAY

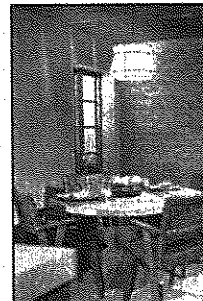
December 11, 2003

75 cents

CANTON Observer

Total design

Earth, water and fire
are elements of
design in Clodagh's
new book.
At Home, CI



VOLUME 29 NUMBER 46

www.hometownlife.com

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Dear Readers:

Beginning Sunday, Dec. 14, the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* will change the way we publish special announcements such as births and deaths. A new listing of area births and deaths, "For the Record," will appear in every edition of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. In 2004, the column will be expanded to include other items of record such as district court proceedings.

An expanded death notice/memorial or tribute may be purchased through the advertising department. See inside today's edition for more details.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (734) 953-2100 or (248) 901-2595 or srosiek@oe.homecomm.net.

As always, we welcome your comments.

Sincerely,

Susan Rosiek
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor

Memo

Cheer Club

The holiday season is here and so is the Plymouth-Canton *Observer* Cheer Club.

Please join us by bringing donations of new toys and canned or boxed food to our office at 794 S. Main in Plymouth during business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

The items will be collected until Monday, Dec. 15, when we'll turn them over to the good folks at the Plymouth Salvation Army. They'll distribute the donations to needy people in Plymouth, Canton, Northville and Belleville.

When you bring your donations by our office, we'll ask you to leave your name and hometown.

For more information, give us a call at (734) 459-2700.

Local officials brace for more cuts

Plymouth-Canton Schools — as well as the City of Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton Township — are bracing for more revenue cuts as the state legislature votes to accept a compromise with Gov. Jennifer Granholm that includes a six-month pause in the state income tax rollback to help erase a \$910 million budget deficit. If approved by the House and Senate, Plymouth-Canton will lose \$1.6 million in school aid funding, to go along with the more than \$900,000

from last year's cut.

While figures aren't calculated for the 5-percent loss to municipalities, estimated total revenue sharing losses — including two previous 3-percent cuts — will result in Plymouth losing an estimated \$92,210; Plymouth Township, \$224,156; and Canton Township, \$633,481.

The Senate appropriations committee, followed by the full Senate — despite a "no" vote from Sen. Bruce Patterson (R-Canton Township) — passed the compromise

Wednesday afternoon.

The House appropriations committee was stalled in its effort to pass the compromise Wednesday afternoon.

"The only problem is the House appropriations committee feels it has been left out of the compromise, and is holding off on a vote," said Rep. John Stewart (R-Plymouth Township), a member of the appropriations committee.

Stewart said he isn't one of those who feels left out because of a 20-minute session with

Granholm Tuesday evening.

"I asked her what was I going to get to take back to my district in exchange for my vote," said Stewart. "We discussed a reduction in the foundation grant cut for schools from \$196 per pupil to \$92. It appears to be the best we can do."

Plymouth-Canton school board Trustee Elizabeth Givens said the district will use some of its nearly \$20 million in fund balance to handle the cuts.

"It's bittersweet, but we have to deal with it," said Givens.

"We have adequate fund balance, so it's not as bad as it could have been. I don't think we will make more cuts this late in the year."

The 5-percent reduction in revenue sharing funds is down from an original 6 percent.

"I'm devastated they don't realize the importance of supporting local services," said Plymouth Mayor Stella Greene. "It's going to impact us dramatically when it comes to police, dispatch and emergency services."

This isn't your ordinary jumping

It's a little bit like Riverdance with their arms in motion. Or tap dancing in tennis shoes, with some acrobatics thrown in.

But what it is is 76 grade school students with jump ropes. Been there, done that, you say? Not like these kids.

They're the Gallimore Ropers and when they take to the gym floor with ropes in hand, they can put on a show guaranteed to intrigue an audience of any age.

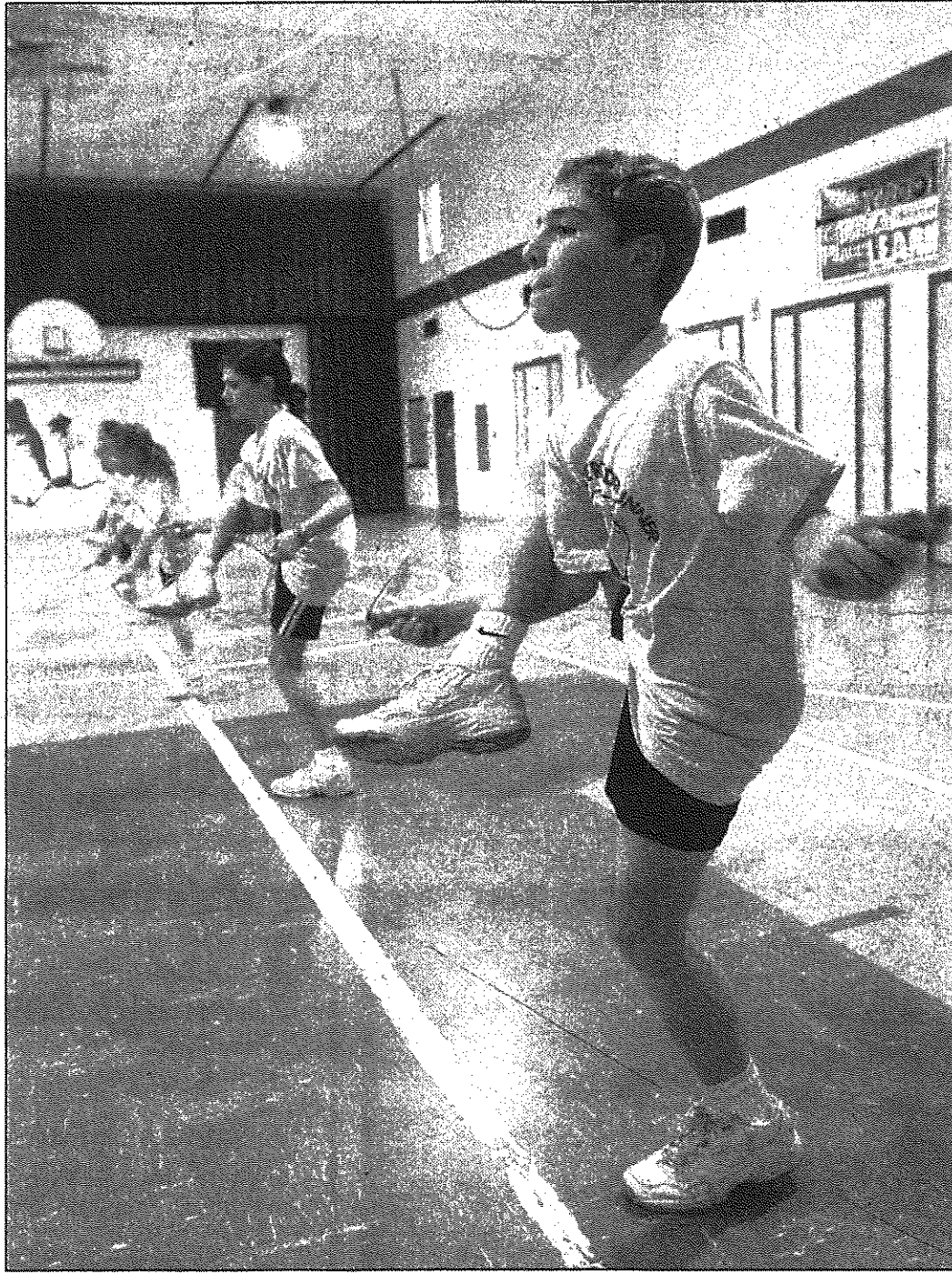
Founded eight years ago by Linda Rotramel, Gallimore physical education teacher, the Ropers consist of two squads, Junior Varsity and Varsity.

And when they pick up their ropes and begin jumping (you've got to call it rope dancing) to the music of Cotton Eye Joe or the Twelfth Street Rag, well, jump roping was never like this.

Why a jump rope squad? Rotramel says it's healthy and it's fun.

"I started this to get kids more

PLEASE SEE JUMP, A5



Doug Deykes and Cayla Rossetti of the Gallimore Ropers show their talents during a practice session. The school has a varsity and junior varsity squad.

Making life better is her passion, faith, commitment

Ann Conklin doesn't like to talk about herself. The director of the Canton Leisure Services Department for the past three

years — she's the department's first director — credits the employees and the staff for the accomplishments that have been made.

"As far as the focus being on me," she said, "I would really like to focus on Canton Leisure Services. There are no egos here. We check our egos at the door and it's all about us working together."

When Conklin was hired to run the new department, the leisure services activities in the township were fragmented, with various activities being sponsored by different departments.

"One charge given to me," she said, "was to develop some strong partnerships and collaborations and make the Leisure Services Department become one."

That she has been successful in that role is noted by the fact that the department now has 49 full-time employees and about 350 seasonal and part-time during the peak season.

And that is indicative of the commitment the township has



Conklin

PLEASE SEE CONKLIN, A5

A thanks to this local angel

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Sue Vargo of Livonia has no idea who the nice Canton woman was. But she saved the day and the lives of her dogs.

"Oh, I don't want a reward," Vargo said the woman told her. "I can't believe how far out of her way this woman went for us."

The woman would only accept a thank you and, unfortunately, Vargo does not know her name, but wants her to know she is appreciated by the Livonia family.

It was one of those situations you don't think will happen until it does. Vargo was babysitting for her 6-month-old grand-

son and decided to put her three shelties — Jesse, Sparky and Gus — in the fenced backyard. "I thought they were being really good this day," Vargo said.

And just when she thought it was safe, her doorbell rang. A woman was standing on her porch with a man whom Vargo had seen in her neighborhood. The woman asked if the dog sitting in her car belonged to her. Surprised, Vargo told her that the dogs were in the backyard. Sure enough, it was Jesse.

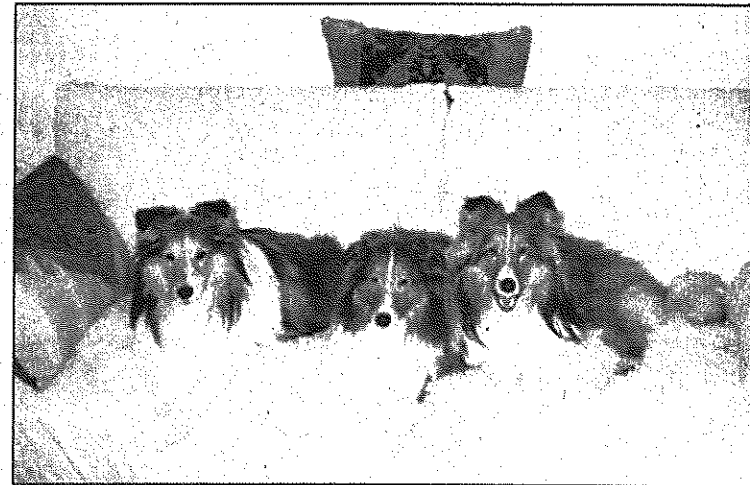
"I found him standing in the middle of Five Mile," the woman told Vargo. "So I coaxed him in my car, drove around until I found someone walking the neighborhood and asked if he recognized the dog."

At that moment, Sparky ran from the fenced back yard. The woman got back in the car and retrieved Sparky. Just then, the third sheltie, Gus, also got loose but came to the front porch.

Vargo, who is undergoing physical therapy, was unable to run after the dogs, who had found a way out of the backyard. She asked the woman for her address and told her she wanted to give her a reward. The answer was no.

"She said all she wanted was someone to do the same for her," Vargo said. The woman accepted a homemade Christmas ornament and went on her way.

"I just don't think it was thanks enough," Vargo said.



Sue Vargo's shelties, Gus, Sparky and Jesse, can thank an unidentified Canton woman for ensuring their safety after they found a way to scoot out of their Livonia backyard.

"She has to know how grateful we are as we love our dogs and would have been devastated if any harm came to them. She took time out of her day and

saved my dogs' lives. She's truly an angel."

jmaliszewski@oe.homecomm.net
(734) 459-2700



Send letters to Santa

He's making a list and checking it twice, so all little children need to get their letters to Santa Claus. The *Observer* will help get the word to Santa. Send us your letters and we'll pass them along. We'll also select some for printing just before Christmas. Send your letters to Santa Claus, c/o The *Observer* Newsroom, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

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INDEX

Apartments	F7	Jobs	G2
At Home	C1	Movie Guide	E6
Automotive	G6	Obituaries	A8
Classified	F6	Real Estate	F1
Classified Index	F5	Service Guide	G5
Crossword Puzzle	F6	Taste	D1

LOOKING AHEAD

American Profile
Kenny Chesney shares his childhood Christmas memories with us in his hometown of Luttrell, Tenn



Granholtm pushes manufacturing

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Jennifer Granholm Monday signed an executive directive making the licensing and permit process easier for manufacturers in an effort to stem the tide of some 170,000 manufacturing job losses in the state since 2000.

The directive, "Michigan Timely Application and Permit Service," establishes an online service for businesses to pursue licenses and permits. She signed the order at a manufacturing summit held at the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center in Plymouth.

"We don't want the bureaucracy to put up barricades," Granholm said following the summit, which included key figures from labor, manufacturing and government. "We're setting up a one-stop shop for businesses that want to expand in Michigan."

Nearly 50 representatives took part in the three-hour summit. At the end, Granholm said, the group came together on a consensus on how to restore manufacturing to the importance it has enjoyed in the state.

"Manufacturing is the backbone of our state's economy,"

Granholm said. "We are committed to finding ways to make it easier to retain, expand and grow manufacturing here."

The fight, she said, must be fought at both the state and federal levels. The group reached consensus on federal issues such as international trade, workforce training and development, rising pension and health care costs, trade between the U.S. and Canada and an energy policy.

State issues included taxes, workforce issues such as an education and training system, health care and state permitting. Summit participants agreed, among other things:

- International trade regulations aren't adequately enforced by the federal government. Particularly troubling, Granholm said, are currency manipulation and a need to make countries "live up to their World Trade Organization commitments."

- An increase in federal funding for job training, restoration (and increase) in the funding for the Manufacturing Extension program and capturing a larger share of federal money for research and development is needed.

- The rising cost of pensions and health care must be



Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm gets a hand from summit participants including Richard Dauch, CEO of American Axle and Manufacturing (left), former Lansing mayor David Hollister, now the head of Michigan's new Department of Labor and Economic Growth (standing) and teamsters president James Hoffa, after signing an executive order designed to speed the license and permit process.

curbed. The group suggested replacing the 30-year Treasury rate with a rate based on long-term corporate bonds and securing more funding for the uninsured and under-insured.

- Customs procedures governing the U.S.-Canada border must be streamlined. Among the suggestions: seeking federal funds to add technology, people and capacity to streamline entry across the border.

- The state must be competitive with other states in terms of business costs. Summit

participants called for the reauthorization of the Michigan Economic Growth Authority, which issues tax incentives to businesses. When it was over, participants were pleased with the progress they said they'd made. "This is an historic conference," said Michigan Teamsters president James P. Hoffa. "We've reached some historic consensus on how we can grow Michigan and get some jobs back here."

bkadrich@oe.hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700

Uncoupled box car makes tracks alone

It was the little runaway train that could — through Plymouth Township, Canton Township and Wayne — after a single box car traveled seven miles when it broke loose at the railroad yard in Plymouth shortly before 10:30 a.m. Tuesday.

"CSX transportation crews were switching cars at the yard in Plymouth when one of the cars drifted downgrade onto an open track and out of the yard," said David Hall, director of corporate communications for CSX Railroad in Louisville, Ky. "The car was stopped by another train crew just north of Wayne, which was able to couple the car and bring it safely to a stop."

Hall said the car crossed 12 grade crossings, "However all had gates and flashers that

operated properly. The top speed on that stretch is 50 mph, and the car reached about 19 mph."

Plymouth Police Chief Wayne Carroll said his crews had the four crossings in Plymouth guarded with police officers and other personnel to make certain there were no accidents.

"All the crossing lights and gates worked, but we had people watching to make sure nothing occurred," he said.

Hall said the cause is still being investigated.

"We need to commend the quick-actions of employees who worked with each other to put together a quick plan to stop the car in less than 20 minutes," he said.

"Safety is our number one concern."

Canton Foundation accepting donations for officer's family

The Canton Community Foundation has taken over administration of the memorial fund for Brian Darow, the township police officer who died last week after falling from a ladder at his home.

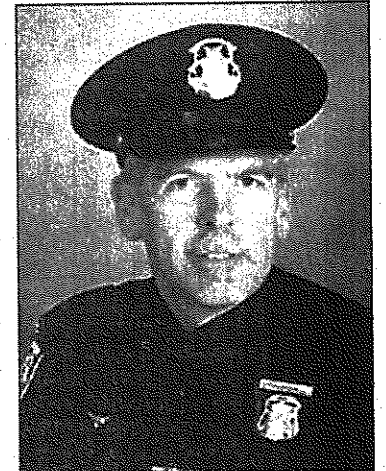
Darow, 47, is survived by his wife and two children in addition to his father, two brothers and one sister.

He was stringing Christmas lights on his house when he fell backwards from a ladder onto the pavement about 20 feet below.

The family had originally asked that memorial contributions be made to Thin Blue Line, a program that offers support to families of deceased police officers. Another fund was established by fellow officers at Bank One in Canton.

Longtime friend Bryan Amann said it was decided to transfer administration of the funds to the Community Foundation, which has many years of experience in administering such programs.

Joan Noricks, foundation president, said all donations to



Darow the fund will go to Darow's wife and children. The foundation is absorbing the cost of the administration fees.

Donations should be made out to the Canton Community Foundation, with Brian Darow on the memo line of the check.

Contributions should be mailed to the Canton Community Foundation, 50430 School House Road, Suite 200, Canton, MI 48187.

@ THE LIBRARY

Did You Know?

■ The library's next contemporary book discussion will be *The Naked Ape: a Zoologist's Study of the Human Animal* by Desmond Morris? All are welcome to attend at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15?

■ If your kids' holiday wish lists have started to drive you crazy, then why not take a time out for Barbie and Barney Backlash Day on December 16?

■ Chanukah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, will be celebrated from December 20-27.

■ Teens can register now to create their own shimmering CD holiday ornaments during a special program at the library at 7 p.m. Dec. 16. Call (734) 397-0999.

Web Watch: Check out these new web sites:

- www.craftster.org
- www.antweb.org
- www.mapsarea.com
- www.realchristmastrees.org

New Adult Books

- "I Am a Soldier Too: The Jessica Lynch Story" - Rick Bragg (nonfiction)
- "I Am What I Ate and I'm Frightened!" - Bill Cosby (nonfiction)
- "Trojan Odyssey" - Clive Cussler (fiction)
- "The Murder Room" - P.D. James (fiction)

New Children's Books

- "Armadillo's Orange" - Jim Arnosky (picture book)
- "The Treekeepers" - Susan Britton (fiction)
- "Saving Grace" - Priscilla Cummings (fiction)
- "The Divide" - Elizabeth Kay (fiction)

- "Mio, My Son" - Astrid Lindgren (fiction)
- "Rebel" - Willo Davis Roberts (fiction)

New CD-ROMs

- "Inside the SAT and ACT 2004"
- "Learn to Play Chess with Fritz & Chester" (age 8+)

Holiday CDs

- "Midwinter Night's Dream" - Boys of the Lough
- "The Gift" - Jim Brinkman
- "Harry for the Holidays" - Harry Connick, Jr.
- "Django Bells" - Gypsy Hombres

New Videos and DVDs

- "The Adventures of Indiana Jones" (DVD)
- "Legally Blonde 2" (video and DVD)
- "Looney Tunes: Golden Collection" (DVD)
- "Shogun" (DVD)

New Audio Books

- "A Perfect Day" - Richard Paul Evans (fiction, cassette and CD)
- "Cry No More" - Linda Howard (fiction, cassette)
- "Babylon Rising" - Tim LaHaye (fiction, cassette and CD)
- "The Namesake" - Jhumpa Lahiri (fiction, CD)
- "The Tristan Betrayal" - Robert Ludlum (fiction, cassette)

Hot Topic of the Week

December 17 is the 100th Anniversary of the first successful powered and controlled flight of an airplane, undertaken by inventors and aviation pioneers, the Wright Brothers. Though the flights, piloted first by Orville and then by Wilbur Wright, lasted less than one minute each, they marked the birth of a new form of transportation that has dramatically impacted our world.

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Weekdays 10:00 - 9:00
Sat. 10:00 - 6:00
Sun. 12:00 - 5:00

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Could you benefit from orthotics?

These custom-made inserts that fit inside your shoes look like arch supports, but do so much more for your feet. In addition to supporting your arch, they change the way you walk to correct common foot problems such as heel spurs, heel pain and flat feet. Orthotics fitted by Canton Foot Specialists are custom-made to fit your feet and are so effective, we guarantee them.

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Health care the focus for forum

Medicaid, new Medicare bill among the topics

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

As a medical professional, Karen Roberts of Canton wants to be able to answer questions about health care that come from her patients.

So there was Roberts, an occupational health nurse, at the Health Care Forum Friday at the Plymouth Historical Museum. She got answers to some of her own questions, but what she also got was a better understanding — and some definite opinions — of the health care situation in the state and in the country.

"I was interested in the Medicaid (portion)," Roberts said. "I need to broaden my background to be able to answer questions my patients have."

The forum, put together by state Rep. John Stewart, (R-Plymouth Township), featured Dr. Joseph Weiss, a member of the Board of Directors of the Michigan State Medical Society, and Paul Reinhart, the

Medicaid director of the Michigan Department of Community Health.

Topics ranged from the new Wayne County Health Authority to the ways the new Medicare bill passed by Congress will affect Medicaid users in Michigan.

Weiss, in particular, was critical of the new Medicare program passed by Congress. The bill provides, among other things, prescription drug coverage for seniors starting in 2006. The bill, which ballooned to some 657 pages, is confusing and no one, according to Weiss, knows what's in it.

"It's the best example of political tradeoffs we've ever seen," Weiss said. "Everyone had to have a little sweetener."

The one thing most clouded, according to Weiss, is the premium seniors will have to pay. It starts at some \$35 a month in 2006, but goes up from there.

"What you see today is not what you're going to see

tomorrow," Weiss said. "And it's going to go up, not down."

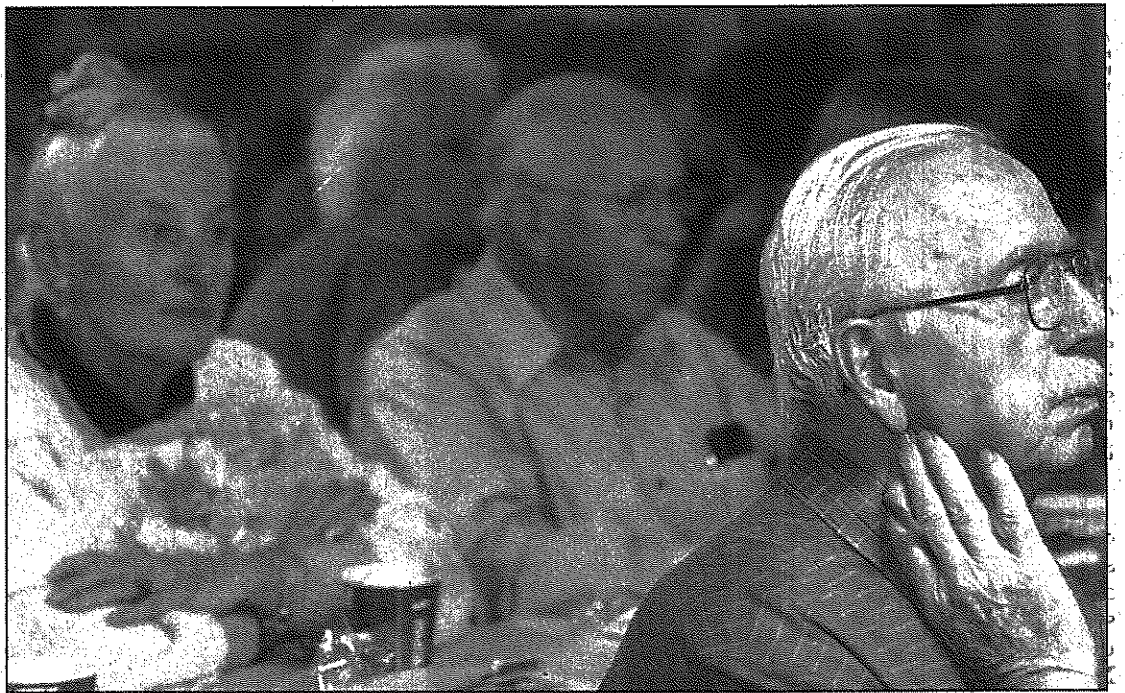
The effect the new bill will have on Medicaid was also a hot topic at Friday's forum. Reinhart, the state's Medicaid director, said the bill shifts responsibility to Medicare for processing pharmacy claims for some 200,000 people eligible for Medicare and Medicaid.

It's a potentially big impact, since Medicaid budget is some \$8 billion of the state's \$38 billion general fund budget.

"It's the largest single program operated by the state government," Reinhart said. "It could easily reach one out of every three dollars the state spends."

The state's Medicaid caseload hit its 21st straight record-breaking month last month, with some 1.3 million eligibles in the state. Some 54 percent of those are under the age of 18, with another 38 percent ages 19-65.

With unemployment rising in Michigan, Medicaid eligi-



Ronald Lieberman of Canton (right), Thy Frid of Plymouth (left) and John Olson of Plymouth were among some 100 people who attended a health care forum at the Plymouth Historical Museum Friday.

bles are expected to climb exponentially.

"As unemployment has increased, the caseload has grown correspondingly," Reinhart pointed out.

The burden isn't getting any less, either, as the state battles a budget crisis. Michigan's revenue has steadily declined, but Medicaid costs have nearly doubled.

"It's like trying to fit a size 13 foot into a size 8 shoe," Reinhart said.

Both Weiss and Reinhart advocated active participation to the 100 or so people who attended the forum.

Residents, Weiss said, should know the health care stance of the people for whom they vote and support those representatives who best

advocate their own position.

Participation is the best thing, said Weiss, pointing out that many people outraged by the new Medicare bill burned their AARP cards in protest.

"That's the wrong thing to do," Weiss said. "Your role is vigilance. The worst thing you can do is walk away."

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Of the season

This is one of more than 200 nativity items that were on display at the Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Dec. 5-6. During the weekend, church members accepted blankets, warm, gently used clothing and other items that were donated to the New Life Rescue Mission Shelter.

AROUND CANTON

CELEBRATION STRINGS

You're invited to Winter Concert 2003 performed by the new Celebration Strings Youth Orchestra at 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16 at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 10101 Ann Arbor Road, at Gottfredson Road.

Celebration Strings is an orchestra under construction. The first phase includes stringed instrument students, ages 9 to 15, who will perform next week. The orchestra's conductor is Lindsay Riemer. Featured music will be Tchaikovsky, Percy Grainger and Praetorius.

For more information or to buy tickets, contact the Plymouth Symphony at (734) 451-2112 or www.plymouth-symphony.org

HOLIDAY REFLECTIONS

The Plymouth Community Chorus will present the 30th Anniversary Holiday Reflections concert at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12 and Saturday, Dec. 13, and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 at Northville High School, 44700 Six Mile, between Sheldon and Beck roads. Tickets may be purchased at Evola Music in Canton, Sideways in Plymouthville, Edward's Caterer in Northville on at the Web site: www.ply-communitychorus.org

GROUND BREAKING

A ground breaking ceremony for the new Canton Chamber of Commerce will take place 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 45525 Hanford Road.

HOLIDAY STORE HOURS: SHOP FRIDAY 8:00 AM TO 10:00 PM; SATURDAY 6:00 AM TO 10:00 PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12 AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

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B. With coupon 559.20. 75 Ct. t.w. ring. Reg. 1135.00, sale 699.00.

C. With coupon 1359.20. 2.5 Ct. t.w. bracelet. Reg. 3200.00, sale 1699.00.

SAPPHIRE & DIAMOND

H. With coupon 239.20. Ring in white & yellow 14K gold. Reg. 565.00, sale 299.00.

J. With coupon 399.20. Ring in white 14K gold. Reg. 940.00, sale 499.00.

K. With coupon 1559.20. Kanchanaburi sapphire ring in white 18K gold by LaViere. Reg. 3675.00, sale 1949.00.

14K GOLD

D. GREAT BUY 329.00. 7" bracelet in white & yellow 14K gold. Reg. 660.00.

E. With coupon 599.20. 7" three-coin bracelet. Reg. 1500.00, sale 749.00.

F. With coupon 599.20. 7" toggle bracelet. Reg. 1500.00, sale 749.00.

BLUE TOPAZ

L. With coupon 143.99. Slide. (Chain sold separately). Reg. 360.00, sale 179.99.

M. With coupon 279.20. London blue topaz with diamond. Reg. 660.00, sale 349.00.

N. With coupon 159.99. Bracelet in 10K gold. Reg. 375.00, sale 199.99.

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TAKE AN EXTRA 20% OFF any single sale or clearance purchase in fine jewelry already reduced 40-50%

Valid Friday, December 12 and Saturday, December 13
*Excludes Special Events, Great Buys, Watches and Designer Collections in Fine Jewelry. Must present coupon for savings. Cannot be combined with any other coupon or discount offer.
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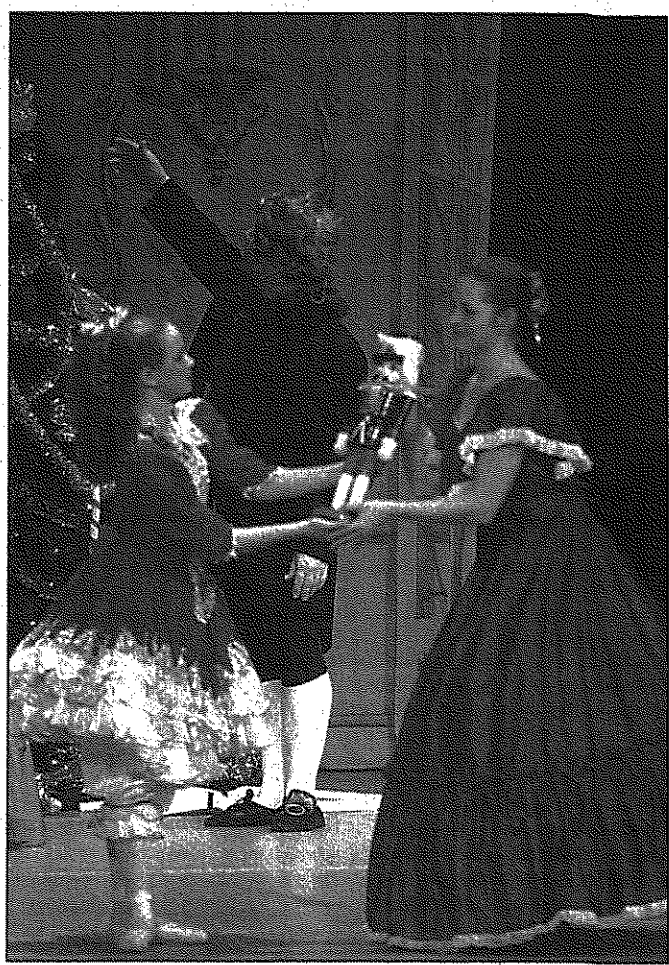
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Children's Foundation

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Holiday classic

After a lovely holiday party, Clara (Lauren Cavicchio) hands the nutcracker to her governess (Shana Pociocco). Herr Drosselmeyer (Beck Greene) says good evening to the rest of the guests during the annual Plymouth Symphony.

Township seeks signed pacts with sports leagues

Canton Township, which recently approved a Leisure Services Code of Conduct for all township recreational facilities, is now negotiating with sports leagues that use those facilities.

"I have been given a directive from the board to get these Youth Sports Agreements signed," Leisure Services Director Ann Conklin said. "We want to let the residents of the community know that the township is doing everything it can to ensure it's the best program possible."

Conklin said she is in negotiations with soccer, hockey and baseball groups to get the agreements signed.

"There are four basic criteria if someone wants to use our facilities that we're going to insist on," she said.

The agreement would call for a background check on all coaches, a transition plan for the boards of directors of the different groups, a copy of the group's financial statement to be filed with the township, and the township would have one voting representative on each board.

"It's a real positive," she said. "It's a partnership and a collaboration. We have absolutely no intention of wanting to be the administrators for the different sports programs."

Conklin said since the

different groups have different needs, the negotiations are taking a while.

"For instance," she said, "we have the capability of providing a voice mailbox for the groups at no charge. Some want it, some don't."

The agreement is tied in with the Code of Conduct that was approved earlier. That code basically calls for "appropriate behavior" by participants using township recreational facilities.

A variation of the code has been in use at Summit on the Park for years, but it now applies to all recreational facilities.

The code calls for a "zero

tolerance" policy toward criminal behavior. Beyond that it simply says that individuals will be advised of inappropriate behavior or action. If such acts continue individuals may be asked to leave the premises or suspended.

The Youth Sports Agreement, Conklin said, just gives the township the authority to control who uses the facilities.

"We have a responsibility to the community that if people are using our fields, it's an organization that meets at least some minimum criteria," she said. "Right now, we don't have that. Right now, anybody can use our fields."

Pigeon dispute goes to district court

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Canton attorney George Shea recites an old Latin legal quote when it comes to a pigeon problem in Nancy Spencer's neighborhood.

"There is a saying in the law that the law doesn't concern itself with trifles. And that's

what this is," he said.

Shea and Spencer will be in 35th District Court Friday morning to defend on a ticket charging the longtime Canton resident with a nuisance by attracting pigeons to her neighbor's yard by feeding other birds.

"We will try to convince the prosecution that this is some-

thing the township should not get involved with," Shea said.

According to the complaint filed by the township, Spencer created a nuisance by feeding birds, which attract bigger birds, specifically pigeons. Spencer denies the complaint, adding she has gone out of her way to get rid of pigeons. Her neighbors have not returned

The Observer's inquiries.

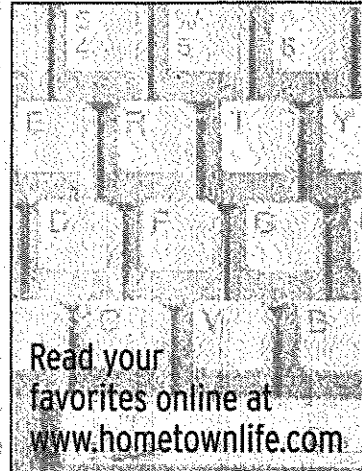
Spencer's neighbors maintain the pigeons have damaged their roof and dirtied the driveway, according to the ticket.

"The ordinance was written to prevent people from scattering seed to attract large quantities of noxious birds," Shea said. "She's feeding songbirds as many people do. Occasionally pigeons come."

Spencer waived arraignment in late November and entered a not guilty plea to the complaint charged in the ticket.

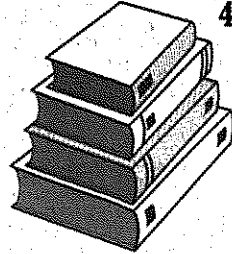
Conviction of the nuisance brings a maximum penalty of \$500 fine and 90 days in jail.

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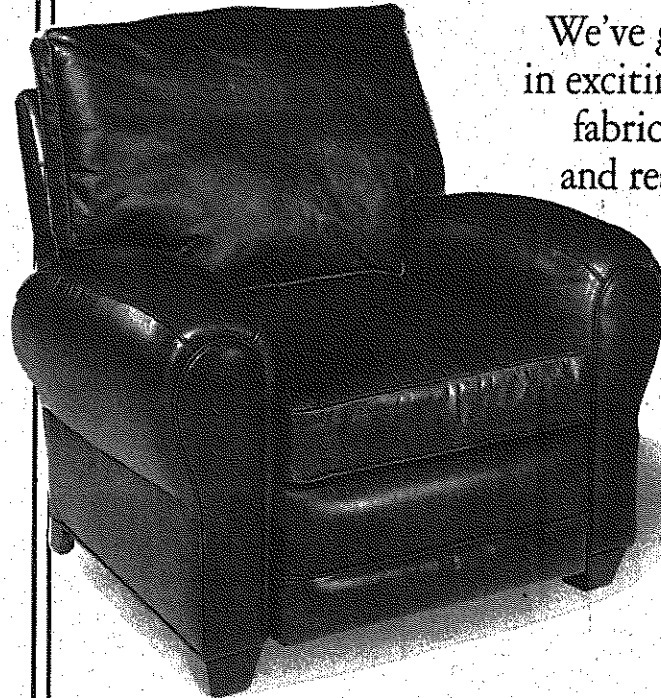
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CONKLIN

FROM PAGE A1

made to what Conklin calls "quality of life" programs. "We make life better for people and that's my passion," she said. "It follows my faith, it follows my conviction, it follows my upbringing." Before coming to Canton, Conklin was director of parks and recreation for Independence Township for 11 years and prior to that she held

the same position in Howell for 10 years. When she was selected from among 100 candidates for the Canton job, she knew she was coming to a community that placed much emphasis on leisure service activities. "I came here because of the opportunity to be part of a community that is totally committed to what we do," she said. "I'm very involved at the state level and there is no other place that has the support and resources we have in this community. The township board,

led by Tom Yack, so strongly believes in the difference a strong leisure services makes in the community." In her director's role, Conklin is responsible for supervising the Summit on the Park, the township's two golf courses, all township parks and functions such as the Canton Liberty Fest and athletic programs in the township. "I've had a wonderful career," she said. "There have been some sacrifices along the way and I have no regrets about it. I totally and completely believe in what we do."

JUMP

FROM PAGE A1

active," she said. "My goals are to promote physical activity, fitness and fun. It's a sport that is inexpensive, non-competitive and non-contact." The only cost to the kids (or the parents) is a jump rope and \$10 for the "Gallimore Roadrunner Ropers" T-shirts. Rotramel volunteers her time for the weekly practice sessions that last for an hour and 10 minutes after school. Each squad practices one day a week. The routines include such moves as speed jumping, heel to toe, double unders, Irish Jig, front crisscross, leg over and leg over cross. It's quite a workout for the jumpers and quite a show for the audience. And Rotramel does take her jumpers on the road. They've performed at half-time for the University of Michigan football games, for Canton Seniors at Summit on the Park and other schools in the area. "We're trying to teach them to give back to the community," Rotramel said.

On Jan. 30 they'll perform at half-time for the Canton High School football game. And on Feb. 13 they'll make their fifth annual trip to Burger Center in Garden City, a school for autistic children. That's one of Rotramel's favorite gigs. "The Burger students love the show," she said. "Then each of the students in the audience is given a jump rope and our students show them how to do the routines. Everybody loves it." When the performance is over the Ropers stay and have lunch with the Burger students. "It's one of our best events," Rotramel said.

She emphasizes the non-competitive aspect of the program. There are no medals, no trophies, no winners and no losers. Just fun. And a lot of work. The only thing she would change if she could is that there are tryouts to make the squads. The Ropers have become so popular that about 200 students show up for the tryouts, which last about a week. "We have to keep it to no more than 80 kids," she said. "We just can't handle any more than that. I wish we didn't have to have tryouts. That's the only thing I'd change if I could."

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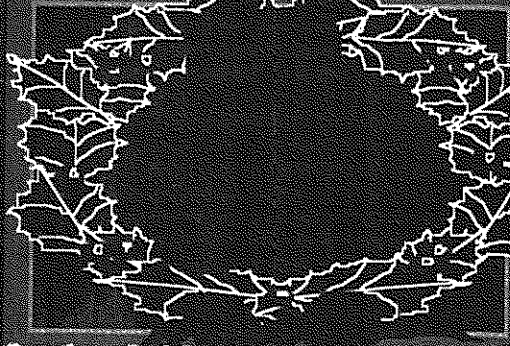
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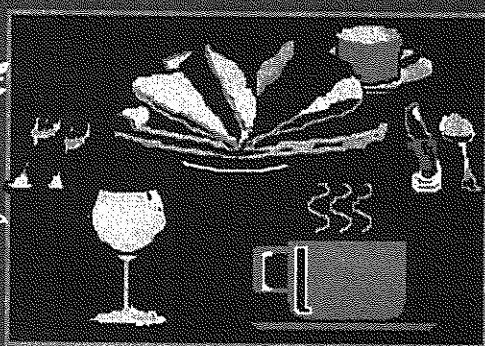
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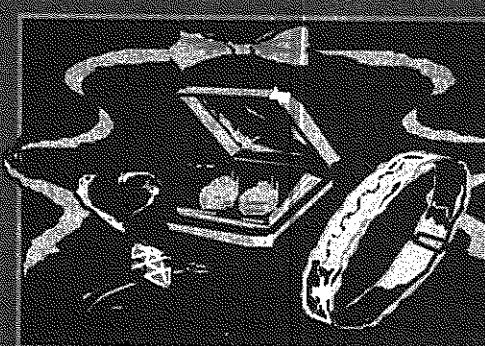
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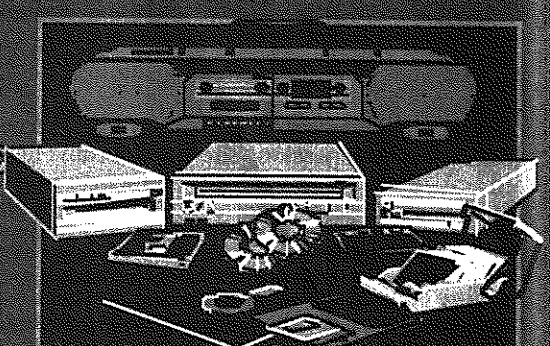
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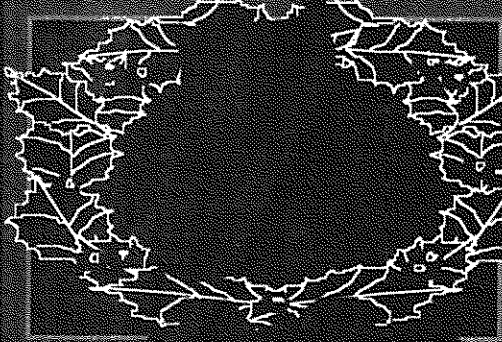
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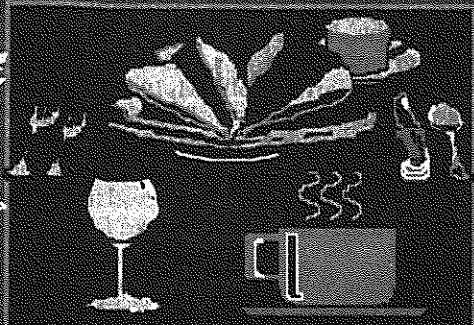
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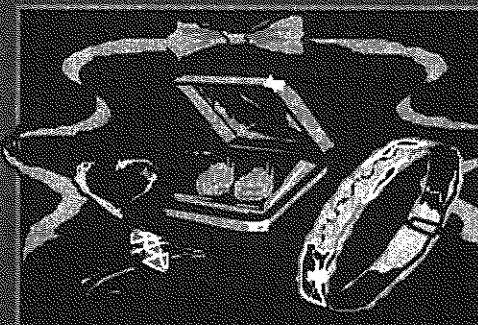
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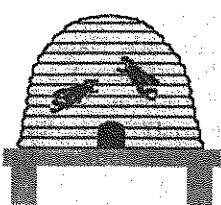
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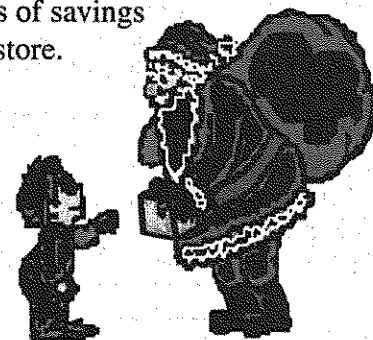
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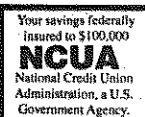


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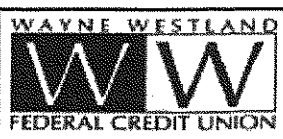
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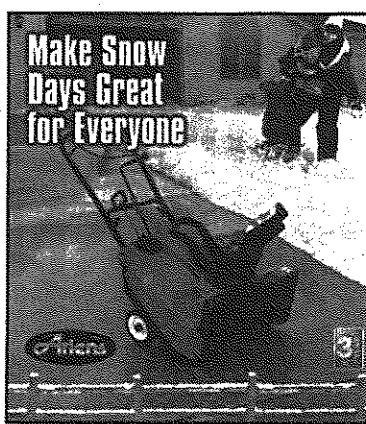
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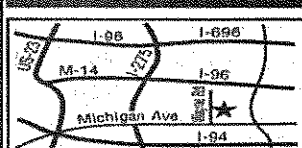


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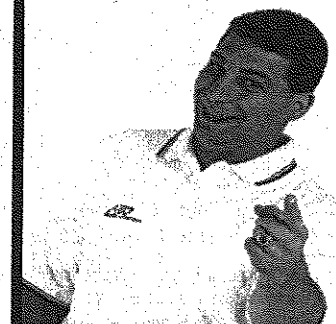
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Ann Riley
Services for Ann Riley, 73, of Canton, were held Dec. 6 at SS. Constantine and Helen Orthodox Church in Westland. Mrs. Riley was born Feb. 9, 1930 in Chatham, Ontario and died Dec. 3, 2003. She came to the Canton community in 1979. She was a retired bookkeeper in the automotive industry, and recently worked at LongAcre House in Farmington. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Western Ontario University in 1952. She served as president of the VFW Post #6695 Auxilliary in Plymouth, and

was a member of the Plymouth Elks Vivians. She spoke six languages, English, Greek, Russian, German, French, and Latin. She was an avid reader who loved history, and adored her grandchildren. Survivors include her beloved husband of 48 years, Floyd; sons, Kevin (Heidi) of Campbellsport, Wis., and Greg (Pat) of Belleville; grandchildren, David of St. Louis, and Elizabeth of Belleville; her lifelong friend, Soter (Connie) Liberty of Beverly Hills, Mich.; and many other loving friends and relatives. Memorial contributions may

be made to the Canton Fire Dept. EMS or St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. Arrangements made by Schrader-Howell Funeral Home.

Harold Martin
Services for Harold Martin, 67, of Lehigh Acres, Fla. were held Dec. 8 at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home. Mr. Martin was born Jan. 4, 1936 in Detroit and died Dec. 2 in Florida. He made his home in Canton until June 2000, when he moved to Lehigh Acres. He served his country in the United States Army from 1953-1956, and has been a member of the Plymouth VFW since that time. He was employed by General Motors in the HydraMatic Division, Local Union 735, from which he retired in 1981. He was also a member of the Masons for 35 years. Mr. Martin married the late Patricia Ann Calkins in 1957, and raised three sons until her death in 1982. He then met Annabelle, who lost her late husband John Mayer in 1981. The two families joined as one. For the past 20 years, Harold had been happily married to Annabelle. Harold and Annabelle shared their lives together, along with family. The joy of bowling, golf, and traveling fulfilled their life and times together. Harold was a loving father, friend, and mentor to many. He will be truly missed. Survivors include his loving wife, Annabelle; children, Rick (Tammi) Martin of Garden City, Mike (Colleen) Martin of Naples, Fla., Steve (Dana)

Martin of Livonia, John (Sally) Mayer of Livonia, and Kelly (Kevin) Gresock of Livonia; grandchildren, Ricky, Lauren, Jason, Gabrielle, Vicky (Dave) Schmidt, Samantha, James and Dana; sisters and brothers, Dorothy (Jack) Harrison of Livonia, Aline (Tom) Amundson of Cypress, Texas, and Leo (Pat) Martin of Okeechobee, Fla.; and his mother, Juliet Martin Fred of Okeechobee, Fla. Memorial contributions may be made to Hope Hospice of Southwest Florida, 2430 Diplomat Parkway East, Coral, FL 33909. A special thank you for all of their spiritual support and loving care of Harold. Arrangements made by Schrader-Howell Funeral Home.

George A. Hanosh
Services for George Hanosh, 73, of Plymouth were held Dec. 10 at the First United Methodist Church in Plymouth. Mr. Hanosh was born Dec. 11, 1929 in Detroit and died Dec. 6, 2003. He was raised in Detroit and graduated from Cooley High School. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from North Central College in Naperville, Ill., and his Master's Degree from Eastern Michigan University. He served in the United States Army during the Korean War and was stationed in Alaska. He came to the Plymouth community in 1967 from Garden City. He taught many subjects at Garden City High School, where he also coached swimming and tennis. He retired in 1991. After his retirement, he taught wood carving classes at the Plymouth Cultural Center. He was a member of the Plymouth Optimist Club. He attended many wood carving clubs. He was a member of First United Methodist Church of Plymouth. He enjoyed gardening, bowling, golf, wood carving and fishing. His greatest pleasures were being with his family and his wood carving. Survivors include wife, Diane; children, Barbara (Andrew) Lehmann of Plymouth and Ted (Stephanie) Hanosh of Adrian; grandchildren, Alexander and Mitchell Hanosh; step-mother, Lorice Hanosh of Phoenix, Ariz.; brothers, John, James, William, and Gerald Hanosh; and sister, Josephine Abud. Memorial contributions may

be made to the George Hanosh Scholarship Fund at Garden City High School or First United Methodist Church of Plymouth. Arrangements made by Schrader-Howell Funeral Home.

Edward S. Rekulc
Services for Edward Rekulc, 78, of Canton, were held Dec. 9 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church with burial at St. Joseph Shrine. Mr. Rekulc was born June 29, 1925 in Detroit and died Dec. 5 in Canton. He was a superintendent. Survivors include wife, Irene Rekulc; children, Susan (Thomas) Luberns, Nancy Rekulc, Michael (Cheryl) Rekulc, Patrick Rekulc, and Robert (Suzanne) Rekulc; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Arrangements made by Neely-Turowski Funeral Home.

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Saturday, December 13, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 14 at 5:00 p.m.

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40000 Six Mile Rd. (Just West of Haggerty) 248-374-7400 www.wardchurch.org

Physical Therapy UPDATE
Hands On Center
Presented by Hands On Center For Physical Therapy
GENDER-SPECIFIC TRAINING

Recent research focusing on female athletes need different types of training to get the same level of protection against injury. The comparison involved male and female college athletes who participated in sports that did, and did not, require large amounts of jumping and twisting. It seems that men in jumping and twisting sports developed additional strength in muscles that help keep the kneecap in place. Such sports exert extra strain on the anterior cruciate ligament, which runs behind the kneecap to connect the shin and thighbones. Female athletes derived no such benefit from the jumping and twisting sports. In fact, women who played jumping and twisting sports had the poorest protection against rotational strains.

When it comes to sports and exercise, it is important to know your body's capabilities and limits. At HANDS ON CENTER FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY, we are happy to help you with this endeavor. We hope you benefit from the information in our columns, and we are also available to discuss your personal health issues. Our clinic's goal is functional improvement of motoric and neurological systems by means of application of manual therapy, including techniques such as myofascial release, triggerpoint release, muscle energy, strain counter strain, cranial release, and joint mobilizations. Please call 455-8370 for an appointment. We are located at 650 South Main Street in downtown Plymouth and we offer easy access and easy parking.

25. Many younger female athletes develop kneecap pain after participating in running sports.

Johan Comuth, PT
Mark Mijnsbergen, PT
Bob Schoemaker, PT

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Don't Let The Weather Get You Disjointed

By Kevin T. Crawford, D.O., orthopedic surgeon

You know when it is cold and damp, because your joints ache more. Some people believe they can predict the weather due to arthritis. Which may lead folks to ask, "How did I get arthritis?" or "Am I too young to have arthritis?"

Osteoarthritis (OA), or arthritis, does not necessarily occur because of old age. It seems to bother older adults more, but research shows that it can be hereditary. OA is due to the breakdown of cartilage in one's joints, most commonly the knee.

Staying active can help prolong the effects of OA. Now that we are in the winter months, activity levels decrease, especially if most of your activity is running or walking outdoors. However, getting off the couch and into a fitness facility that has a pool will do wonders. Getting involved in a swimming program will help to keep the joints loose.

OA can be very debilitating as a person gets older. That is why staying loose and continually stretching is very helpful in relieving the pain and discomfort associated with OA.

If a person's OA does start to limit their activity, seeing a physician can help. Once a physician examines the patient, an anti-inflammatory drug can be prescribed. There are many medications being

advertised on TV and in magazine ads, such as Celebrex and Vioxx, which are good for relieving the symptoms.

For the young athletes, 20 - 40 year olds, there is a procedure called ACI. This replaces the degenerated cartilage with healthy cartilage from another part of the joint. There is another non-surgical procedure that all knee OA sufferers could benefit from, Hyaluronic Acid Therapy, also known as Joint Fluid Therapy. This procedure is performed by a series of injections at your physician's office. Joint Fluid Therapy is a process that can help joint movement and pain relief.

If medications and the less invasive approaches don't relieve the pain from OA, surgery may be needed. There are different surgi-

cal procedures for varying degrees of OA, total knee or hip replacement, to name a few. With new and emerging technology the longevity of the replacements has greatly improved, so talking all options out with a physician beforehand is recommended.

Dr. Crawford is a board certified orthopedic surgeon at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne. He has been practicing at Annapolis and in the western Wayne community for over nine years, specializing in bone and joint replacement. For more information about Oakwood Annapolis Hospital, orthopedic services or to make an appointment, please visit www.oakwood.org or call 1-800-543-WELL.

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BLOOMFIELD HILLS 4036 Telegraph Rd. (Next to Starbucks) 248.593.3665	FENTON 18010 Silver Parkway (in Silver Lake Village) 810.629.7440	LANSING 440 E. Edgewood (in front of Sam's Club) 517.394.7441	NOVI 27793 - C West Oaks Dr. (in West Oaks II) 248.596.1900	TAYLOR 8237 S Telegraph Rd. 313.291.2912
BRIGHTON 315 E. Grand River (East of Main St.) 810.227.7440	HARTLAND 10112 Highland Rd. (M-59 & Old US-23) 810.632.9300	MILFORD 101 E. Commerce (at Main St.) 248.684.7440	OKEMOS 4738 Central Park Dr. (Next to Panera Bread) 517.349.0300	WILLIAMSTON 725 W. Grand River (next to Famous Taco) 517.655.9899

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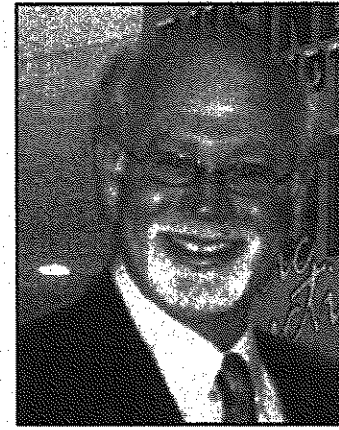
GOOD MORNING!



Business disruption ending

For several weeks now, work in front of Tenpenny Furniture in South Lyon has continued to block traffic and limit parking. Major decreases in business have resulted. Although the work is ending at last, officials at Tenpenny's report that the stores are in the most serious overstock condition in our 24-year history.

SHOP TODAY
INFORMATION YOU CAN USE



Tenpenny "Delighted" with record sales

Tenpenny Furniture founder John Tenpenny expressed his pleasure with his Selloff recently: "It's the biggest event in our 24-year history, and no wonder. We are selling America's finest for dimes on the dollar."

Thursday, December 11, 2003

Shopping News



OVERSTOCK MERCHANDISE jams the Tenpenny Furniture Warehouse.

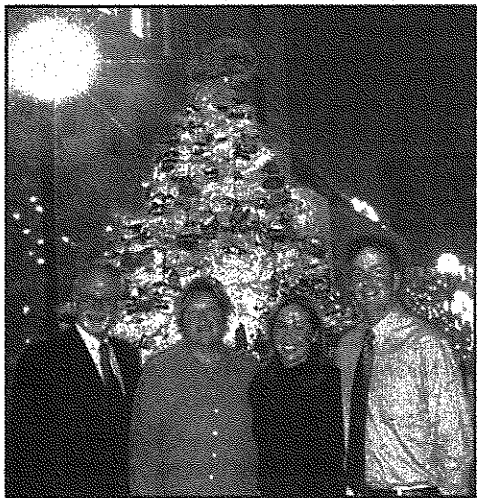


Lovers of the "real thing" will enjoy browsing for hours at Tenpenny. Shoppers who desire solid oak, cherry and pine are thrilled by the selection. In these days of "bargain" furniture at so-called "sale" prices, Tenpenny stands for lasting quality, beauty, service and value.



"What is on sale here? You name it."

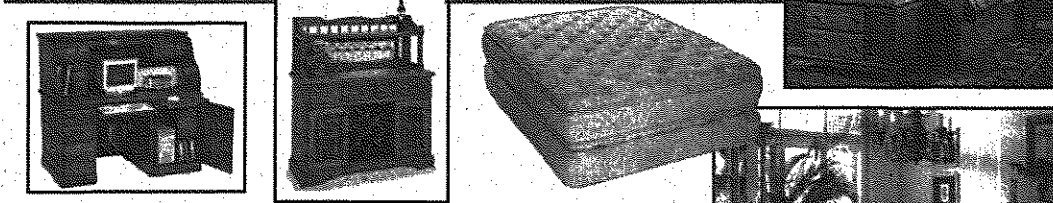
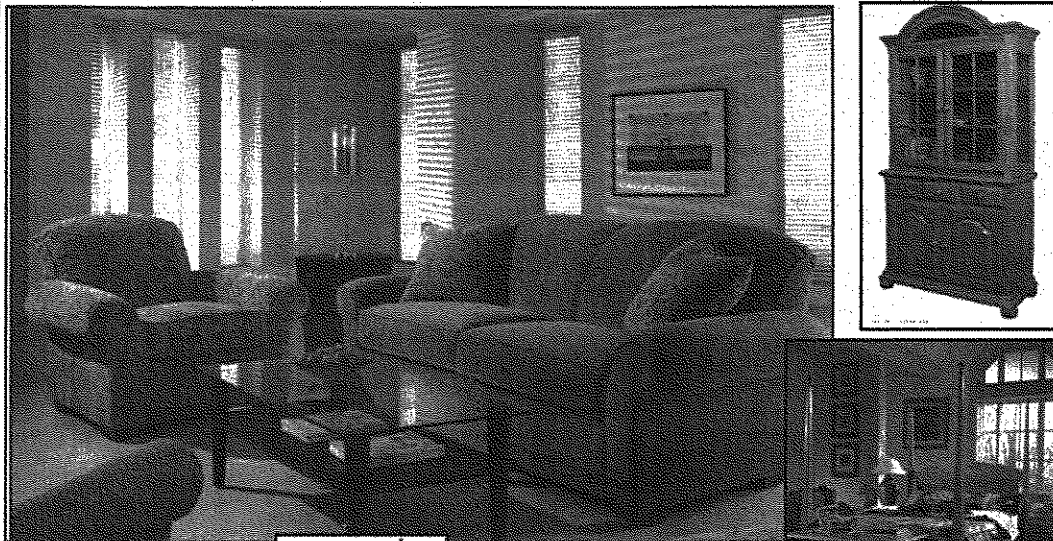
That was the attitude of customers as they browsed through the displays at the Tenpenny stores. Many people had never seen so much solid wood furniture from famous manufacturers. The selection of solid oak and cherry was especially popular. The stores are still jammed with remarkable values in dining rooms, bedrooms, living rooms, lamps, accessories, and about any thing you can name for the home. Shoppers with any interest in new furniture are urged to see these offerings soon. The store honors major credit cards and has several credit plans to help shoppers take advantage of these historic reductions.



Two Generations of Tenpenny Service

Tenpenny Furniture has been family owned and operated since it was founded in 1979 by John Tenpenny. "We have a proud tradition of outstanding quality, service and value," said Mr. Tenpenny.

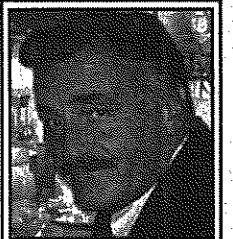
'Furniture Fever'
Area Shoppers Flock to South Lyon, Livonia & Howell for Tenpenny Million-Dollar Selloff



The Tenpenny Furniture selloff includes living rooms in decorator groupings, sofas, loveseats, occasional chairs, reclining furniture, sectionals, recliners, occasional pieces, tables, lamps and accessories. All merchandise is factory-fresh, in the latest fabrics, leathers, colors, finishes, and designs. There is a large selection of bedrooms and dining rooms is solid wood. Tenpenny's is Michigan's largest seller of solid oak and cherry home furnishings. There is an especially large selection of premium solid oak on hand for immediate delivery before the holidays. You can save on open stock pieces, and a complete line of Serta Mattresses in every size and firmness. The opportunities for selection are almost limitless: bookcases, rockers, desks, youth bedrooms, curios, and hundreds and hundreds of odd lot and miscellaneous items of every description! Dealers are welcome, but there will be no additional discounts for them, officials of the store said.

By Joan Batson
UltraSales Staff
SOUTH LYON

Even long time observers have expressed surprise at the remarkable events of the last few weeks in the Detroit area. When John Tenpenny, who is the founder and CEO of Tenpenny Furniture, made the announcement that a business interruption in South Lyon had made it necessary to sell off \$1,000,000 in fine home furnishings, it was good news for local shoppers. Especially for those who love solid wood and fine upholstery from famous makers.

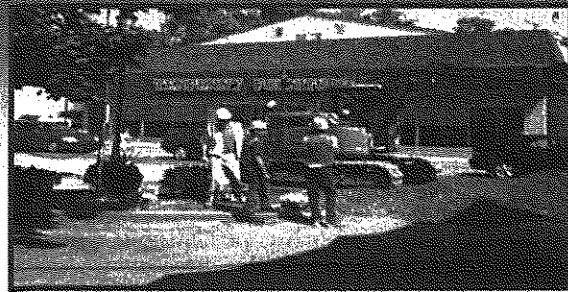


Expert is "Amazed"
Furniture consultant Lawrence Mullins expressed amazement at the selection ... "more solid oak and cherry furniture than I've seen anywhere"

The historic reductions at Tenpenny stores have caused a great deal of excitement. In some cases, markdowns to as low as 39¢ on the dollar were reported ... equal to 61% off regular list prices. Long-time sales records have been broken, and John Tenpenny declares: "We are not finished yet. This business interruption has caused the most serious overstock condition in our history. We still have a great deal of merchandise to dispose of, and more shipments are on the way."

Tenpenny Furniture is Detroit's favorite source for solid wood bedrooms, dining rooms and occasional pieces, especially in solid cherry and oak. The store also features luxurious living room furniture, accessories, and mattress sets. Nearly sixty famous brands are represented, including La-Z-Boy, Cochrane, Sumpster, Vaughn-Bassett, Serta Perfect Sleeper, Riverside, Craftmaster and many others. The Tenpenny stores provide free professional delivery and offer up to one year free financing.

BUSINESS INTERRUPTION SELLOFF!
TIME IS RUNNING OUT! HURRY!



"It's a win-win situation! You get the biggest furniture bargains in Michigan history and we clear our overstock situation!"

JOHN TENPENNY

"Serving Michigan Since 1979"



EVERYTHING IS ON SALE IN ALL 3 STORES!
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OUR VIEWS

You can change one person's life

Joy doesn't come to everyone at the holidays. It's been a rough year for many. Unemployment in Michigan remains high, hitting all strata of the workforce and the economy remains sluggish. The nightly news brings more horrors around the globe and many are wondering if life will ever get better for all.

While we may all believe there is nothing any of us can do about the state of the world, the holidays offer a perfect time when one little effort by one person can bring at least one moment of joy to someone.

Throughout Canton, volunteers have been working furiously to make the holidays brighter for individuals, families and especially children who may be in need this year. Toys for Tots remains strong with new, unwrapped toys accepted at various locations. The very active Plymouth-Canton Kiwanis Breakfast Club, and others, are doing all they can to provide new sweat suits for women at First Step, a shelter for abused women. And the list goes on.

Also significant in Canton is the yearlong work of the Goodfellows. Saturday's annual paper sale, generally a considerable fund-raiser for the group, came up short by about \$1,000 over last year. That means those families in need may not receive quite what the Goodfellows are accustomed to giving, or what they may need.

At the start of the season, the Goodfellows had 400 children who needed to be adopted for the season. The response has been hearty with only 42 children left. Adoption means buying them gifts for Christmas so they can celebrate the season with the joy a child should.

Goodfellows President Nancy Spencer is famous in Canton for many sayings. In this case, the most appropriate is this: "If everyone in Canton who can, gives a \$1, I could take care of all the kids without even trying." In other words, it takes so little to give so much.

The Goodfellows also provide all the fixings for a hearty Christmas dinner to needy families to complete the holidays. Any money raised by the Goodfellows goes to that effort and the purchase of gift certificates for families.

Perhaps we may not be able to change the world on our own. But we all can change a moment in someone's life by offering our help. Whether it's Toys for Tots, First Step, the Goodfellows or the charity of your choice, the holidays are a perfect time to make a difference in the life of someone else.

It's not too late.

There are many ways to give holiday help

As the sluggish economy continues this holiday season, local charities again find themselves in an unenviable position.

Demand for services is still rising, but the number of folks providing assistance is shrinking.

That's why those in a position to help must dig even deeper this year to help their friends and neighbors in need.

Cash is appreciated, of course, but many organizations could use donations of other items — maybe even some of those items taking up space in your garage or attic. Many organizations could also use a donation of your time.

Numerous Wayne County-based organizations could use a helping hand this year, according to the United Way, which is distributing a list of agencies in need. Some of those include:

The Wayne County Health Department, (734) 727-7006, which needs items ranging from chairs, file cabinets and desks to gift certificates for food.

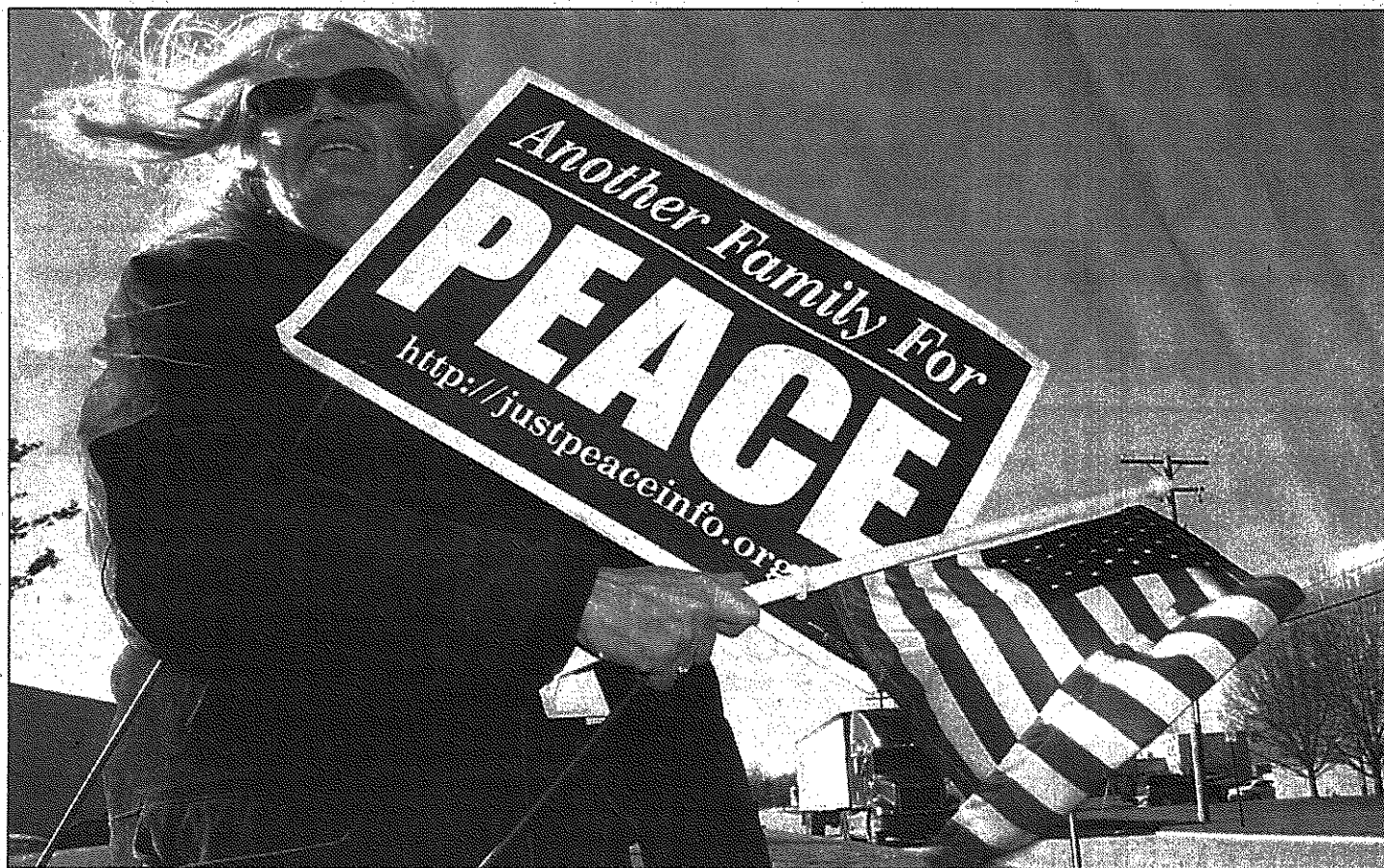
The Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency, (248) 888-1194, which needs items ranging from clothing for children and mothers and toys to beds and computer equipment.

The Salvation Army-Wayne Westland Corps, (734) 722-3660, which needs items ranging from sports equipment to TV/VCR combos to food and clothing vouchers.

Focus:HOPE, (313) 494-4369, which needs items ranging from children's books and art supplies to office supplies, manufacturing tools and a Mac computer work station.

These are but a few of the agencies on the United Way list. Copies of the full list are available at any area Gardner-White Furniture Store or by calling United Way Community Services' Tel-Help hot line at (313) 226-9442.

The is also available at www.unitedway.uwcs.org online. Pick a charity and do what you can.



Ann Arbor resident Leslie Desmond came out to get a glimpse of President George W. Bush to wave the flag and support peace.

LETTERS

Doesn't understand

The letter writer in "Misread constitution" correctly points out that the phrase "Separation of Church and State" does not exist in our Constitution. Actually, it came from a letter Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1802 to the Danbury Baptists in which he argued that the Constitution created a "wall of separation between Church and State."

James Madison, called the father of our Constitution, in an 1811 letter to Baptist churches in North Carolina said, "Having always regarded the practical distinction between religion and civil government as essential to the purity of both, and as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States ..."

The writers of the Constitution knew what they meant by the First Amendment and so does our Supreme Court and it is not to suppress religion, but to protect it.

What a lot of well-meaning Christians do not understand is that to involve government in religion is to open the door to a theocracy like the Taliban or the government in Iran. Our Founding Fathers knew that, why is it so hard for people today to recognize the danger in mixing government with religion? And yes, a religious symbol like the 10 Commandments in a U.S. Court is mixing the two, no matter how harmless it may seem.

Janusz M. Szyszko
Canton

One omission

Our addendum to Mr. Kirk Miller's essay discussing marital intimacy: he omits to condemn (as did Luther, Calvin, Wesley, Walter Maier, William Bradford, and Ludwig Fuerbringer, among many others; as did all Protestant churches for the 400 years ending August 1930) one guarantor to prevent intimacy and, indeed, destroy marriage: contraception.

Jason Allen
Westland

No on Dean

Howard Dean has promised that if he is elected president, the United States will no longer support Israel the way it has been supported in the past under both Democrat and Republican presidents. He insists his administration will be even-handed.

Sounds like Arafat and his often-repeated verbal garbage. Dean's comments were broadcast on CNN Sept. 10, 2003.

On the same broadcast, Dean opined that Hamas terrorists were "soldiers." None of the other nine aspirants for the Oval Office throne has made such a statement.

Last week, Dean reiterated that our country should have a government medicine program. That's socialized medicine, folks, right up Hillary and Karl Marx's alley. Dean decries the shame that the United States does not have a federal government care program the other industrial nations do, covering all of the people in each state.

Is there anyone out there who believes the care system in any country is better than the care obtained in the United States? Begin by asking the hundreds, the thousands, of Canadians who cross the border and get the medicine, the opera-

tion, whatever, to avoid waiting three months in their native land, getting help less ably administered, maybe not getting the government care promised in their collective system at all. Ask a Canadian what he pays to get his "free" care.

Dean for president? And I thought the Democrats picked a somewhat weak candidate when they selected Gore to head their ticket!

Neil Goodbred
Livonia

Fix school funding

Here we go again. Another enormous state budget deficit. Another statewide tour of pain by the governor. And, once again state politicians are looking to cover up the problem with rhetoric and bluster because fixing the problem is too difficult. This time, the school aid fund is about \$326 million short and the general fund has an estimated deficit of nearly \$570 million. The monstrous deficit has grown to nearly one billion dollars total.

In the past, our state leaders have kept schools whole by shifting the entire deficit to the general fund side. This is like robbing Peter to pay Paul; however, it has enabled our state leaders to pound their chests and proclaim that they have kept their promise to our children. In addition, they have protected high schoolers' right to scholarships and sixth-graders' right to laptops. But they have broken their promise to everyone else in the state.

The state has eliminated or reduced local authority to raise revenue from inventories, intangibles and property. New state taxes were passed based on the promise that local services would be maintained by sharing the new taxes with local governments. Instead, revenue sharing has been a favorite item for the state to cut.

It is long past time for our state leaders to admit that the school financing system is broken. Local governments have been bled dry to cover this up. Also, citizens must realize that the promise to share revenue from new state taxes on sales, income and others is broken.

Our state leaders need to scrap the current school finance system and return authority to raise revenue to local governments.

Garth Christie, CMC
Redford Township clerk

Finished with AARP

An open letter to William D. Novelli, executive director of AARP:
Dear Mr. Novelli

I received your request that I renew my membership in the AARP. FORGET IT. In fact, please cancel my membership and stop sending your publications to my home.

I joined the AARP in 1988 when it acted as an advocate for older people, however, that is no longer the case. By your position on Medicare you have forsaken those you purport to protect.

By preventing me from using the same process businesses use to buy materials (prescription drugs) at the best available price, you place me at the mercy of those who will continue to use this protected market to my detriment.

Jim Cook
Westland

Step up for dads

Who's my daddy? A question pondered by almost two in 10 adults today. A growing number of unwed mothers, alleged unwed fathers, and divorced fathers are asking the same question and for very good reasons. Today, one in three men tested for paternity in Michigan are EXCLUDED as being fathers. Estimates also now place as many as 14 percent of married fathers are actually supporting some else's children.

The reasons may vary but certainly, the promiscuous life styles of both men and women today are major contributors, which make the traditional so-called "certainty" of paternity by pregnant women suspect at the least and wrong at best.

No longer can women know by simply counting weeks who the father may be when there have been oftentimes multiple sex partners in the same week. No longer can, or should, men accept their paternity as a certainty simply because they are "informed" they are the father.

To make matters even worse, Michigan state officials and its courts appear oblivious to the truth and only interested in establishing the paternity of all unwed births either voluntarily or by default to establish child support ... regardless whether it is the correct father or not.

Perhaps the substantial federal reimbursements and incentives the state receives have been clouding the judgments of our state officials and judges regarding truth-in-paternity, leading to the epidemic of marital and nonmarital paternity fraud cases now estimated to be well over 10,000 cases annually in Michigan.

Even Michigan's attorney general, Mike Cox, touts his department's laurels in pursuing so-called "deadbeat" fathers without acknowledging that many of these men are pursued for someone else's child support obligations and others aren't even fathers at all! ...

There is only one method to ensure truth-in-paternity and that is through modern DNA paternity testing. A simple tested cheek swab specimen from the child and alleged father can secure a child's emotional, psychological and medical future for his or her lifetime. Moms and "dads" should verify paternity as early as possible ... for the child's sake and that of family lineages.

Murray Davis
vice president
Family Justice Association

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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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jmaliszewski@oe.homecomm.net

QUOTABLE

"I'm carrying an American flag, too. So what's the problem? I'm an attorney. And I'm a Quaker. I'm not a rabble-rouser. I'm a peacenik."

— Leslie Desmond of Ann Arbor, who came out to support peace during President George W. Bush's brief visit to Canton Dec. 1

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Education cuts could leave state as 'Mississippi North'

There's been lots of complicated and very political haggling in Lansing about how best to deal with this year's state budget deficit which was, at last count, \$930 million and rising. But make no mistake, behind the smoke and mirrors and spin and counterspin, our political masters are in the process of making a set of fundamental policy decisions that certainly will damage Michigan's ability to compete in the world economy — and could wind up condemning us to life as Mississippi North.

It's now clear that state support for our public colleges and universities will be cut yet again this year. It doesn't make much difference whether

this year's reduction is 6 percent or 3 percent, because higher education as a whole has absorbed more cuts in state appropriations over the past three years than any other sector. All told, I'd guess the net overall effect of these cuts is pretty close to 20 percent. Looked at another way, they will have cost each student at the University of Michigan's Ann Arbor campus almost \$1,500.



Phil Power

The short-term cost is that university boards will be forced to increase tuition yet again, making it still tougher for families of ordinary income to send their kids to college. According to the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, Michigan rates a D-plus for college affordability, and that was before this year's round of cuts. The long-term cost is, if anything, worse. Our public universities are already losing gifted faculty members and researchers to private institutions; class size is going up; buildings are deteriorating; morale is not good. It will take years and years to undo the kind of damage that is being done to our public universities, once ranked as among the nation's very best.

Of course, the political system — both the Legislature and the executive branch are complicated in all this — will respond that times are tough, that higher education has had a pretty cushy deal over the past few years and that any cuts to university budgets can easily be passed on to the students and their families.

A picture-perfect example of this sort of pass-the-buck thinking was produced last month by Speaker of the House Rick Johnson. In a letter to newspaper editors responding to the 5,000 college students who wrote letters objecting to further cuts for higher education, the speaker made these points followed by my translation into ordinary English, in italics:

"Protecting our state's students has been — and continues to be — one of my priorities. I'm proud to have fought to keep the Merit Award scholarship intact (sic) for students who do well

and achieve, along with the Michigan Competitive Scholarship, the Tuition Grant Program, and the Michigan Educational Opportunity Grant."

I'm all for higher education, so don't blame me for all this.

"It is sometimes misunderstood, but the ultimate decisions as to how our universities balance their budget are not done by the Legislature; the decisions are made by university boards.

Constitutionally autonomous, the ultimate decision to consolidate programs or raise your tuition is made locally and unfortunately is insulated from any pressure or direction by the Legislature."

Go blame university governing board members for any tuition increases. The Legislature's decision to slash state funding for universities has nothing to do with their tuition decisions. Anyway, if it was up to us legislators, your tuition increases wouldn't be so high.

"I would encourage you to continue the energy and momentum you have generated and to work directly with your university board to directly affect how your schools (sic) appropriations are allocated."

Don't bother me anymore with your whining about state appropriations; go after those nasty board members, instead.

Speaker Johnson, of course, is not alone amongst our political masters in self-serving hypocrisy. He's just more obvious about it.

This kind of disingenuous rhetoric merely masks the enormous and largely silent policy shift that has taken place over the past 30 years or so. Time was that investing public funds in the education of each citizen was considered an appropriate thing to do because of the public benefits brought about by educated people. But now the dominant idea is that higher education confers a private benefit mainly to the individual receiving it, and therefore the costs of education should be shifted to students and their families. A system of public support for higher education has now become a structure of user fees.

At U-M's Ann Arbor campus, for example, state appropriations made up around two-thirds of the general fund and tuition about one-third back in 1970. Today, the situation is perfectly reversed, with two-thirds of the general fund coming from tuition and other fees and one-third from public support.

I suppose there's not much anybody can do about the situation now. The budget is badly out of whack. The political system as a whole is deeply interested in evading responsibility. Higher education is an obvious target. And by the time Michigan's competitive weaknesses start becoming obvious to all, those now holding public office will have retired at public expense.

Phil Power served 1987-99 as a regent for the University of Michigan. He is also 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.

Chaplain explains how he can stand working in a place people go to die

You work for Angela Hospice? I have mixed feelings about what happens there," the bank teller told me as I went in to cash my paycheck.

"What do you think happens there?" I asked.

She looked very serious as she said, "You know — people go there to die. How could you stand to work in a place where people are dying?"

I smiled and told her, "God called me to work there, and it is nothing like you think. People come to Angela Hospice to enjoy whatever time they have left. They get the best of care. Friends and family can visit at all hours. They are kept as free of pain as possible. They have beautiful surroundings and a truly caring staff."

"Really," she said, "all that for anyone who comes?"

"Yes; all that for anyone who comes." As the teller continued with her calculations, she decided to ask another question. "You said you were a chaplain. What do you do all day?"

I said, "I'm glad you asked." As hospice chaplain, I assist in providing compassionate, comprehensive Christ-like care. We think of how the historic Christ treated people, and how he brought healing, reconciliation, forgiveness, compassion and mercy.

We do our best to provide spiritual care related to the needs and preferences of our patients and their families, no matter what their religious affiliation might be. We imitate the servant attitude, and welcome persons of all faiths.

It is the work of the chaplain to help hurt-

I share of God's love, compassion and mercy. I help to bring understanding of the dying process and a measure of spiritual comfort to grieving persons.

ing people deal with death and dying issues, to inspire faith, to be a good listener, and to bring reconciliation and hope in the midst of despair. I often use hymns, poetry, readings and music as tools for ministry.

When a grieving family member asks, "Of all the people in this world, our father has been one of the best dads anyone could have. Why does he have to suffer and die?" I offer spiritual care.

I share of God's love, compassion and mercy. I help to bring understanding of the dying process and a measure of spiritual comfort to grieving persons.

I listen as they describe their fears and share stories from my own experience. Their spirits are lightened as they begin to see that the journey their loved one is making is part of God's plan.

I tell patients and their families that I believe death is not the end of life, but a transition to the place where we will be with God and our loved ones forever.

The results of my visits are sometimes very dramatic. Tears cease, anger is resolved, estranged persons become reconciled to their dying loved ones, families are united and comfort is provided.

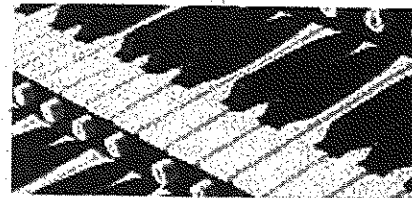
This is the work of a hospice chaplain.

Chaplain David Bevington is part of the spiritual care team at Angela Hospice along with Spiritual Care/Bereavement Manager MaryAnn Dobbs, and spiritual care volunteers. He serves as Protestant chaplain.



Chaplain David Bevington

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Duggan leaves politics to lead Detroit Medical Center

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

The new CEO of the Detroit Medical Center says he's in it for the long haul and has given up politics.

Wayne County Prosecutor Mike Duggan was named chief executive officer of the financially-troubled Detroit Medical Center Monday.

Duggan was hired by the DMC board to replace Dr. Arthur Porter, who stepped down in October. Duggan will take the position on Jan. 5.

"They think I can turn it around financially," Duggan said in an interview Tuesday. "The stakes are awfully high with two of the hospitals, Hutzel and Receiving on the verge of closing."



Duggan

Duggan, 45, of Livonia has built a reputation as an aggressive political figure eager to take on difficult problems. He served as longtime deputy county executive to Edward H. McNamara and was elected prosecutor in 2000 after trailing in early polls to Sharon McPhail.

He said he didn't accept the DMC position to further any political ambitions, such as run for Wayne County executive.

"I will be supporting Bob Ficano for county executive," Duggan said. Ficano and Duggan have been longtime political rivals within the county Democratic Party.

"I've gotten out of politics," he said. "I'm going to be here for years unless I mess up and then they'll get rid of me."

As deputy county executive, Duggan took on a variety of assignments, including negotiating the deal to build the new sports stadiums in Detroit, reorganizing the juvenile justice system, heading the program to fix Detroit's aging school buildings and directing the reorganization of SMART, the suburban mass transit system.

His former boss and mentor McNamara praised Duggan as a quick study with a brilliant mind.

"I have absolutely no doubt (he can turn around the DMC). They call him the bull, but he has tact and diplomacy. He understands," McNamara said Tuesday.

Circuit court will name replacement for Duggan

Three candidates have expressed interest in being appointed to replace Mike Duggan when he leaves in January to become CEO of the Detroit Medical Center.

Former Wayne County Circuit Judge Kym Worthy, Chief Assistant Prosecutor Virgil Smith and Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Nancy Diehl have already expressed interest in being appointed.

The Wayne County Circuit Court will appoint a replacement for Duggan to serve until the election next year.

Circuit Court Judge Timothy Kenny of Livonia said he expected the 62 judges to make their selection by early January.

"We're researching some legal issues to set up ground rules for who is eligible," he said.

Kenny said the Michigan Constitution gives the circuit court the power of appointment but doesn't set forth any procedure to follow. He said the two prosecutors who preceded Duggan, William Cahalan and John O'Hare, were both initially appointed to the position. Both went on to be elected and served for several terms.

"Being in office definitely gives you a leg up," Kenny said.

DMC CHALLENGE

As CEO of metro Detroit's largest health complex, Duggan faces major and immediate problems.

DMC operates 10 hospitals and institutes, two nursing centers and more than 50 primary care practices. Two DMC hospitals, Receiving and Hutzel, are operating on \$50 million in emerging state funding that runs out in May.

"It will have an impact on the city and on other hospitals if they close," Duggan said. "It's an important position and it's been

in trouble for 10 years. My objective is to keep the hospitals open, whether it means giving a couple hospitals to the new health authority of something else."

On Dec. 4, an agreement was reached by state, county and Detroit city officials to form a nine-member medical authority to help provide medical care for the uninsured and under insured in Wayne County. The details of the authority's mandate have not been worked out. The authority needs the approval of the Wayne County Commission and the Detroit City Council.

Duggan said one possibility was to have the authority take over operation of the two failing hospitals. An alternative is to have the authority buy care from the private DMC.

"The mayor, county executive and governor recognize that the problem of uninsured patients does not reside with a private business but is the responsibility of the public," Duggan said.

APPROACHED IN SUMMER

Duggan said he was first approached by DMC officials last summer.

"It was a 30-second conversation and I said no," he said. "They came back to me 10 days ago. They said they had five months to go on the funding and didn't have a candidate. The candidate they had was a finances expert and he turned them down when he looked at the finances."

Despite Duggan's lack of experience as a hospital administrator, the DMC board expressed their confidence in him.

"Our board is very confident in the selection of Michael Duggan as CEO," said Chuck

O'Brien, DMC chairman of the board. "After a three-month search, interviewing hospital executives from Michigan and around the nation. Mike's name surfaced as someone who is very aware of the importance of DMC, the challenges some of our institutions are facing and who is very concerned about the future stability of this organization."

Duggan said it's too early to support anyone as his replacement in the 2004 prosecutor's race.

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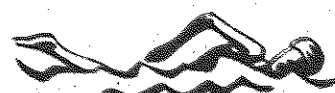
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Sidelines

Crusader honored

Natalja Tinina, an outside hitter for Madonna University, was named to the all-tournament team after the Crusaders reached the NAIA Elite Eight at last weekend's tournament in San Diego.

Tinina, a sophomore from Riga, Latvia, collected 94 kills in the tournament, fifth among tournament participants. She also had nine service aces.

Several other teammates were among the tournament leaders statistically. Setter Ashley Frost was fourth in set assists with 294, middle hitter Laura Lesko was 10th in kill percentage and 12th in blocks with 19, Caryn Inman was seventh in kill percentage and WHAC player of the year Amanda Suder (from Salem HS) was eighth in digs with 87.

Madonna lost to Biola (Calif.) University in the quarterfinals. Fresno Pacific eventually won the championship last Saturday.

Coaches needed

Plymouth High School is looking for a ninth-grade softball coach for the 2004 season.

For more information or to apply, please call athletic director Terry Sawchuk at (734) 582-5700/02.

Canton HS is accepting applications for a freshmen fastpitch softball coach. Experience in fastpitch softball is necessary.

For further information, contact Canton athletic director Sue Heinzman at (734) 416-2925.

Football fund-raiser

The Salem Linebackers booster club, which supports Salem football, will have a fund-raiser on Tuesday, Dec. 16 at the Canton Big Boy, located across from Meijer on Ford Road.

Turn in a flyer, available at the cashier, when you pay your bill and a portion of the total sale will go to the benefit of the Salem football program. Those participating will also be eligible for a door prize drawing for a Big Boy pie.

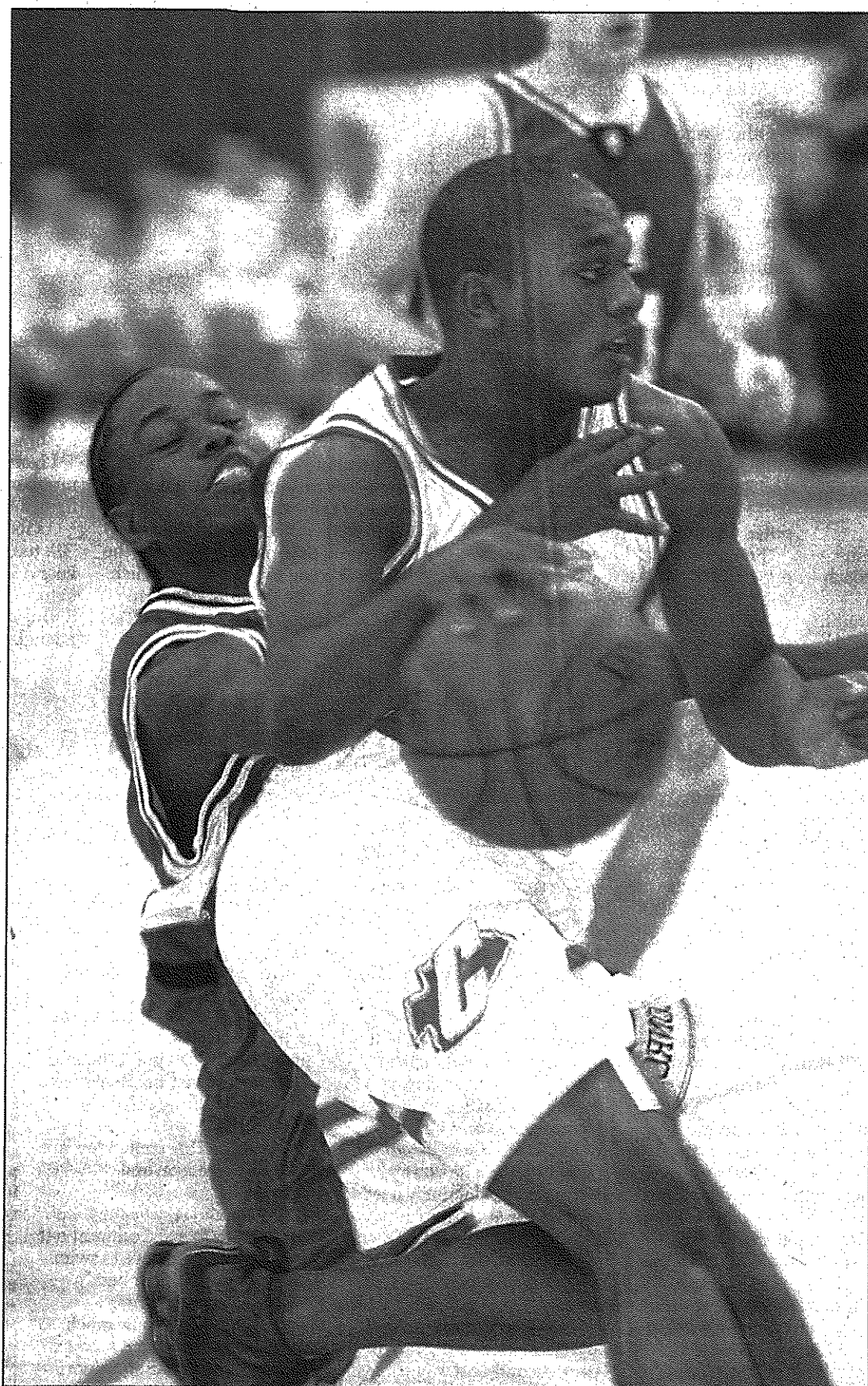
For more information, call Linda Sorensen, chairperson for fundraising/community activities for Salem Linebackers Club, at (734) 451-0214.

Crossfire tryouts

The Plymouth/Canton Crossfire girls basketball organization will have tryouts for the upcoming season from 6-8 p.m. Dec. 22 at the Plymouth Christian Academy gymnasium, located at 43065 Joy Road in Canton.

The tryouts are for girls 12-and-under. The tryout fee is \$15. Please arrive 15 minutes early to register.

For more information, call Gary Wheeler at (734) 459-7574.



Canton's Travis McKinney (white jersey) tries to go to the basket, but is fouled by Monroe's Anthony McIntosh.

Strong 2nd half carries Canton

Chiefs run away from Trojans

The way the first half ended, one could only worry — and wonder — how Canton's basketball team would handle it.

Charlie Paye, however, wasn't overly concerned. The first-year Canton coach knew the Chiefs had played well for most of the half. They just had to get back on track and play the second half the same way they played the first 11 minutes of the opening half.

So, even though Canton scored just two points in the final 4:30 of the second quarter, even though Monroe outscored the Chiefs 11-2 in that span to take a 24-20 halftime lead, even though Canton did not get a shot off in its final three possessions, committing three turnovers, Paye figured no changes were necessary.

He obviously knew what he was doing. The Chiefs scored the first eight points of the third quarter and never again trailed in rolling to a 61-42 victory Tuesday at Canton in both teams' season-opener.

Asked what he said to his team at the halftime break, Paye replied, "Nothing really. I told them we were playing well, we just had a lot of missed layups inside."

"It's hard to say what turned it around. I liked our intensity and the fact that we didn't let up. I thought we hit the offensive boards well."

There wasn't much Canton didn't do well, except shoot the ball. The Chiefs were 8-of-24 (33 percent) from the floor and 2-of-6 from the free-throw line (also 33 percent) in the first half. In the second half that improved slightly to 14-of-36 from the field (38.9 percent) and 11-of-18 from the line (61.1 percent).

But despite their poor shooting,

they remained aggressive and kept attacking the Trojans. That factor became pivotal in the third quarter, when the game turned in Canton's favor.

Three-pointers by Andrew Cortellini and Matt Paye, sandwiched around a basket by D.J. Bridges, gave the Chiefs a 28-24 lead three minutes into the second half. For the next couple of minutes the teams traded baskets and free throws, Canton clinging to a 33-30 lead with three minutes left in the quarter.

That's when the tide shifted completely in the Chiefs' favor, and Bridges was the instigator on offense. They outscored Monroe 11-0 until the Trojans' Mike Comstock buried a three-pointer at the third-quarter buzzer.

Not that it altered very much. Canton's lead was still 44-33 after three quarters, thanks to nine-straight points scored by Bridges in those final three minutes. He had 12 points in the third period and a game-high 19.

While Bridges was doing his damage on the offensive end, the Chiefs' defense was harassing Monroe into mistake after mistake. In the opening two quarters, it had been just the opposite: The Trojans' pressure forced 11 first-half turnovers by Canton, while they had eight.

But in the third quarter, Monroe committed nine turnovers while the Chiefs had just one. The final total for the second half read 15 turnovers for the Trojans, three for Canton.

"The defense was the difference," agreed Paye. "I thought Travis (McKinney) did a great job on their McIntosh."

Anthony McIntosh, Monroe's

PLEASE SEE CANTON, B5

Spartans rule in Observer girls swim

Make no mistake — watching this year's Division I state swim final was, for Livonia Stevenson coach Greg Phill, a real pain.

Not because of anything his team failed to do. The Spartans, winners of 13-straight Western Lakes Activities Association championships, finished 13th in the state. This after winning the WLAA title by 118 points.

However, Phill had been struggling with lower back problems for a while, and at the state meet it escalated. He got through it, but was incapacitated for several days afterward.

He's in therapy now and improv-

OBSERVER SWIM

ing, and was able to return to coaching his club swim team this week.

Still, able to make it through a season while struggling with an injury like that, and guide your team to yet another league championship, was more than enough to earn Phill the Observer coach of the year honor.

"We've been lucky," he said. "I'm lucky. I've been getting some good kids."

"But my kids work very, very hard. I won't take anything away from them."

Indeed, that talent earned the Spartans nine of the 12 first-team all-Observer berths, including all three relays.

That is dominance, which comes not from talent alone but the ability to develop it and desire to succeed.

Which is what the Spartans do — they continue to win.

"We're at the point now where they don't want to be on the team that loses the conference meet," Phill said.

That streak is safe, at least for another year.

To see the all-Observer swim team, please look inside today's sports pages.

Belleville starts fast, buries Salem; Agape clubs Deerfield

Bob Brodie's been coaching basketball long enough to know when, and if, something like this might happen.

It did, to Salem, in Tuesday's season-opener.

The Rocks hosted Belleville, perennially one of the better teams in the state. Most of the key players from last season's team had graduated, and the two who did return are out with injuries.

So the end result was predictable. The Tigers forced all sorts of turnovers, bottled up Salem's offense and ran at will in rolling to a 61-22 triumph.

Belleville is 1-0, Salem is 0-1.

"We had way too many turnovers," said Brodie. "One of our objectives coming into the game was to take care of the ball and we didn't. We wanted to contain their fast break, too, and we didn't do

that either.

"We have a lot of work to do."

Belleville got started on Salem quickly, building an 18-3 lead by the end of the first quarter. The second quarter was more of the same — the Tigers outscoring the Rocks, 19-7, to take a 37-10 lead at the half.

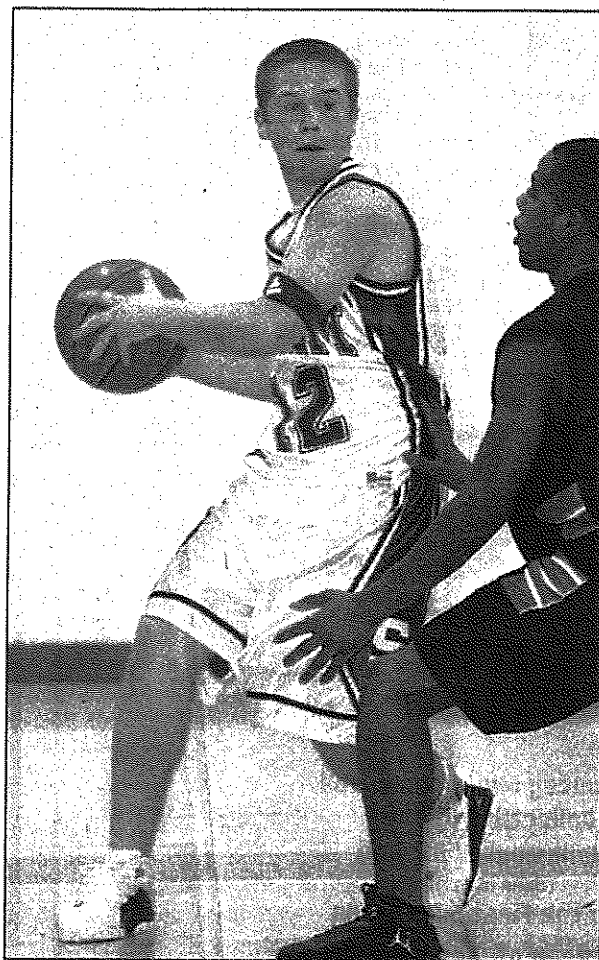
By the end of three quarters, Belleville's advantage had grown to 47-14.

Tyler Jones led the Tigers with 19 points. Robert Igbawana added 12.

High scorer for Salem was Brian Bradley with seven points.

As Brodie indicated, and as this game indicated, it could be a rough start to the season for the Rocks.

Their next five games, and eight of their next nine, are



Salem's Eric Vanston (with ball) tries to elude Belleville's Isaac Kindell, something the Rocks had problems doing all game long in a 39-point loss suffered Tuesday in both teams' season-opener.

PLEASE SEE BELLEVILLE, B4

Whalers claim 3-2 win against Sting

Erik Lundmark made his first goal of the season a memorable one.

Lundmark scored 1:54 into overtime Saturday to lift the Plymouth Whalers to a 3-2 victory over the Sarnia Sting in a game between Ontario Hockey League

West Division front-runners.

The win gave the Whalers a

14-8-5-2 record, with 35 points

in 29 games. Sarnia is 15-8-3-2 and has 35 points in 28 games.

Lundmark's game-winner came with assists from Ryan Ramsay and Tim Sestito, the second assist for each in the game,

which was played at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

The Whalers had the early advantage, getting power-play goals from

Gino Pisellini and Vaclav Meidl in a 46-second span of the second period. John Mitchell and Dan Collins assisted on Pisellini's goal, scored at 6:38; Ramsay and Sestito assisted Meidl at 7:24.

Sarnia answered with a second-period power-play score by David Psenyeczny at 17:24. Daniel Sisca tied it with just :21 left in the third period, forcing overtime. Joey Tenute assisted on both Sting goals.

Paul Drew played another strong game in goal for Plymouth, making 32 saves. Ryan Munce had 29 stops for Sarnia.

The Whalers played their third-straight game without defenseman James Wisniewski (from Canton), who suffered a shoulder injury two weeks ago.

Wisniewski is the Whalers leading scorer and quarterback the team's power play.

The Whalers are on a three-game road trip, starting today in Peterborough. They play in Ottawa Friday and at Oshawa Sunday.

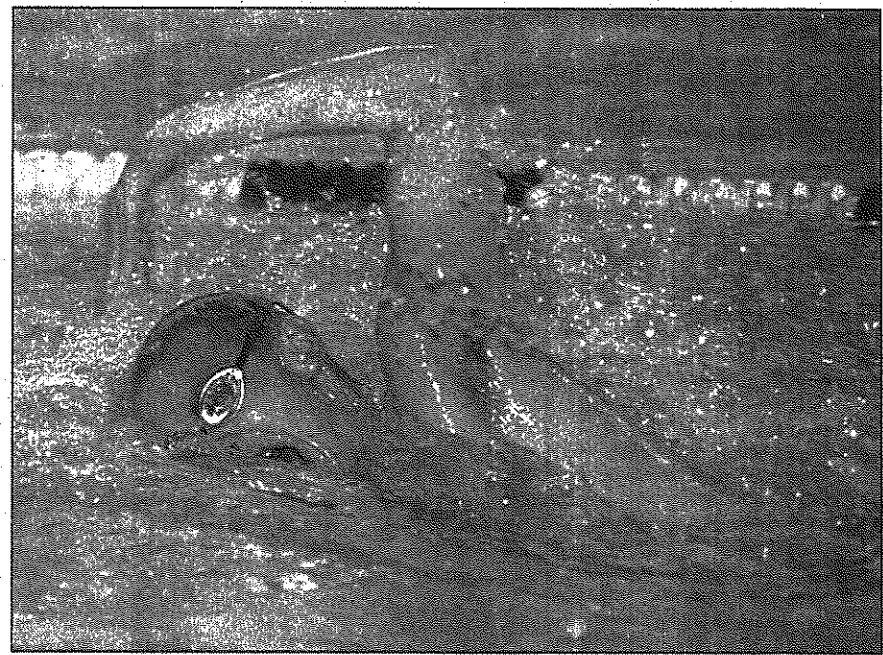
Paul Drew played another strong game in goal for Plymouth, making 32 saves.

Despite losses, Salem will challenge

Eleven — count 'em. It's a special number to this season's Salem boys swim team. And not just because that's how many consecutive Western Lakes Activities Association championships the Rocks have won. It counts for losses, too. Because that's how many swimmers from last season's team, which finished sixth in the state — and fifth the year before that, and third at state in 2001 — have graduated. That's how many must be replaced if Salem is to make it 12-straight league titles. "It's wide open for anyone who wants to work hard enough to take it," said Salem coach Chuck Olson of the conference race. "I can put the practices in, but they've got to work for it, to meet the challenge." Start adding up the losses from the 2002-03 team and it's almost overwhelming. Gone are Ben Dziado, who placed second at state in both the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard butterfly; Matt Showalter (100 breaststroke, 200 individual medley); Matt Vivian (sprint free); Jeff Nevi (backstroke, fly, free); Nick Yee (back, free); Mike Horgan (distance free, fly, IM); Bill Clark (sprint free); Joe Aumiller (IM);

Pete Skinner (distance free); Adam Sonnanstine (distance free, IM, breast); and Matt Poniatowski (distance free). And those are just the guys who scored points at the WLAA meet. "It's part of the game," a reflective Olson said. "You can't keep 'em forever. Things are starting to shape up. It always looks a little muddled this early in the year, but it's starting to look better." Of course, it would be a mistake to think Salem is without a strong returning cast — particularly since the Rocks' top returnees both scored at the state finals last season. Leading those who are back is Nick Dixon, a junior who placed sixth in the 500 free and 10th (.01 out of eighth) in the 200 IM at state. Also returning is Matt Jurcak, another junior who swam the 200 free at state and scored as a member of the 12th-place 400 free relay team. Jurcak will expand his range of events this season, according to Olson. "He could swim almost any event, wherever Dixon isn't," the Salem coach said. As for Dixon, the future looks bright. "He's just a workout kind of guy," said

Olson. "He's always pushing hard. We rely on him to set the pace (at practice), to show the guys what they can do if they work hard." "There are very few guys in the state who train the way he trains. He knows what he has to do and he goes out and does it." Others who will be counted on to fill the voids are juniors Penn Chou (IM, breast, back); Bill Horgan ("He'll swim everything and anything. He'll have a lot of opportunities to swim a lot of stuff for us this year," said Olson); John Kline (free, back); and Andrew Murawski (diving). At last season's WLAA, Chou scored in the IM and breast; Horgan scored in the breast; and Murawski was in the top 10 in diving. The team's captains are seniors Casey Johnson, who scored in the 100 breast and 50 free at last season's WLAA; Malcolm Barrett (breast); and Steve Lent (freestyle). "There are a lot of positions to fill," noted Olson. "Some guys who haven't had much opportunity the last few years are going to get it now." "We had a lot of juniors and seniors the last few years who took up all the



Nick Dixon scored at state meet in two individual events last season — one very good reason Salem will be difficult to unseat as WLAA champion.

spots (to swim at league). Hopefully, these guys have been paying attention, because they're going to get their shot this year, if they want them." Olson knows where the biggest challenges to end Salem's dominance in the WLAA will come from. Canton, which was second to the Rocks last season, has a strong group of returnees and, as Olson noted, "They got most of the

freshmen coming in in the district." Livonia Stevenson also has a large number of newcomers, and Northville figures to be strong again, too. As for Salem, Olson would only say, "It's too early to tell. You're going to hear a lot of names you haven't heard before." Question is, will they be good enough to make it 12-straight.

Chiefs look to give Rocks a battle in WLAA

What more could Ed Weber ask for. The Canton swim coach guided his team to a second-place finish last season at the Western Lakes Activities Association finals, and the Chiefs even did some scoring at the Division I state meet. Better news still, they have only three notable losses to graduation from that team, starting with Yuhei Uno, who qualified for state in 100-yard butterfly and 100-yard backstroke and narrowly missed scoring in the fly, losing a swim-off for the final spot. Also gone are breaststroker Scott Franke and diver Steve Kilijanczyk. Both scored at last season's WLAA finals. That leaves a lot coming back — a total of 39 swimmers (including newcomers) to be precise, the biggest team Weber's had. "Obviously we have a large

group of talented individuals," said Weber. "We have all the events covered. We have a variety of guys to use. Just being sure they're ready to go is our main concern." Leading the returnees is senior sprinter Joe Le, who scored at state in the 100 free last season and won both the 50 and 100 freestyles at the WLAA finals. "I think he's a little more aware of what he wants to accomplish this season," said Weber of Le. "He's a smarter swimmer." Le may also swim some other events, Weber said, but when it comes to the state finals his best will no doubt still be the 50 and 100 free. Other key returnees are senior Steve Reasor, who scored at the WLAA in the 200 individual medley and 100 breast; senior Jordan Champine, eighth in both the 50 free and 100 fly at

the WLAA; senior James Sattler, who scored in the 200 and 500 freestyles at conference; senior Sam Manees, a scorer in the 500 free last season, he'll swim the 100 and 200 freestyles this year; senior Aaron VanProyen, another 500 free scorer; junior John Faraoni, who was a scorer in the 100 fly and 100 back; junior Greg Calabrese, a scorer in the 50 free who will swim the back and fly; junior Kevin Cafarelli, a top-six diver at conference; sophomore Shogo Uno, a scorer in the fly who will also compete in the breast and IM; Nick Landis, another sophomore who scored in the fly and also will swim the back; and sophomore Nathan Phillips, who scored in both the IM and back at the WLAA. Swimmers Weber figures will also contribute include twin brothers Kenny and Neal Brunner, both seniors (Kenny in the breast and IM, Neal in the

fly, 50 free and 100 free), and freshmen Robert Blaesser (back), Matt Carlson (breast) and Ross Schwarz (fly, breast). "The sprints is where it starts for us," said Weber. "Joe Le, supported by Manees and Faraoni and Champine." "In the butterfly, we won't have as big an attack as in the sprints, but we have a lot of guys who can break a minute, starting with Uno, Landis and Champine. And the back is looking good with Faraoni, Blaesser, Le — and Phillips could be No. 1 there." The other events don't seem as strong. "We definitely need to work on the 500 (free) guys," Weber noted. "We need a real commitment, they have to be ready to go. Sattler is the leader there." "The IM is a question mark, but it is Reasor's and Shogo's (Uno) second-best event." The same could be said about the breaststroke, where several

swimmers figure to contribute. The real question is, can the Chiefs overtake Salem, winner of the past 11 WLAA titles? "We have as good a chance as we've had in the past," Weber allowed, then added, "But Chuck (Olson, Salem's coach) always puts together an amazing lineup." Although Canton was second in the WLAA last season, it did finish nearly 200 points behind Salem. However, the Rocks have lost many of those points to graduation. Other possible contenders are Livonia Stevenson and Northville. "We have to stay healthy, we have to stay focused on what our goals are, and we have to swim our best and dive our best," Weber summarized. The first look at how much the gap has closed, if it has at all, will be Saturday when Salem hosts the WLAA Relays, starting at noon.

BEST SWIM TIMES

BEST GIRLS SWIM TIMES	
200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY	
Stevenson	1:53.11
Plymouth Salem	1:54.08
John Glenn	1:59.21
Canton	2:01.09
Churchill	2:02.04
200 FREESTYLE	
Marisa Gordon (Stevenson)	1:58.79
Jill Peterson (John Glenn)	1:59.45
Andrea Giczewski (Stevenson)	2:00.38
Mary Shereda (Churchill)	2:00.72
Monica Pauza (Stevenson)	2:01.90
Anna Polkowski (Stevenson)	2:03.44
Kelsey Lincoln (Salem)	2:04.11
Amy Mertens (Salem)	2:04.28
200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY	
Amy Mertens (Salem)	2:10.59
Kelsey Lincoln (Salem)	2:13.61
Marisa Gordon (Stevenson)	2:14.60
Jill Peterson (John Glenn)	2:16.52
Kristyn Peterson (John Glenn)	2:16.74
Monica Pauza (Stevenson)	2:18.20
Magda Stawikowska (Churchill)	2:18.45
Julie Ward (Stevenson)	2:19.39
50 FREESTYLE	
Jill Peterson (John Glenn)	25.31
Andrea Giczewski (Stevenson)	25.49
Marisa Gordon (Stevenson)	25.65
Anna Polkowski (Stevenson)	25.89
Allison Goldsmith (Canton)	26.00
Lisa Gullikson (Salem)	26.06
Danielle Powers (Salem)	26.60
Izabela Paskowska (Canton)	26.61
DIVING	
Lisa Thompson (Stevenson)	229.75
Ashley Aquinto (Salem)	215.25
Paige Albers (Stevenson)	203.45
Nicole Dunn (Stevenson)	184.63
Chelsea Selden (Canton)	179.65
Audra Ahern (Canton)	179.20
Patti Ahern (Canton)	178.25
Mina Prizadeh (Canton)	177.15
100 BUTTERFLY	
Julie Ward (Stevenson)	1:00.91
Amy Mertens (Salem)	1:01.27
Anna Polkowski (Stevenson)	1:01.55
Allison Goldsmith (Canton)	1:02.20
Magda Stawikowska (Churchill)	1:02.90
Susan Patrick (Canton)	1:04.79
Heather Michalsen (Salem)	1:05.03
Rachel Rowe (Redford Union)	1:05.06
100 FREESTYLE	
Andrea Giczewski (Stevenson)	54.06
Jill Peterson (John Glenn)	55.44
Anna Polkowski (Stevenson)	56.43
Mary Shereda (Churchill)	57.24
Katy Trussdell (Salem)	57.41
Danielle Powers (Salem)	57.51
Allison Goldsmith (Canton)	58.18
Katharine Johnston (Ladywood)	58.23
Amanda Newman (Salem)	58.48
500 FREESTYLE	
Amy Mertens (Salem)	5:19.19
Marisa Gordon (Stevenson)	5:21.38
Monica Pauza (Stevenson)	5:23.09
Mary Shereda (Churchill)	5:23.67
Jill Peterson (John Glenn)	5:24.44
Kristyn Peterson (John Glenn)	5:24.56
Anna Polkowski (Stevenson)	5:28.89
Becky Hurn (Stevenson)	5:29.77
200 FREE RELAY	
Stevenson	1:42.18
Salem	1:43.13
John Glenn	1:46.03
Canton	1:46.25
Churchill	1:50.16
100 BACKSTROKE	
Andrea Giczewski (Stevenson)	59.81
Marisa Gordon (Stevenson)	1:01.25
Kelsey Lincoln (Salem)	1:02.51
Kristyn Peterson (John Glenn)	1:04.37
Monica Pauza (Stevenson)	1:04.75
Mary Shereda (Churchill)	1:04.86
Lisa Gullikson (Salem)	1:05.35
Alyssa Johnson (Canton)	1:05.37
100 BREASTSTROKE	
Amy Mertens (Salem)	1:06.18
Jill Peterson (John Glenn)	1:09.63
Julie Ward (Stevenson)	1:10.29
Lisa Koch (Stevenson)	1:11.42
Lauren Siedlik (Churchill)	1:11.77
Kelsey Lincoln (Salem)	1:11.94
Stephanie Turlo (Stevenson)	1:12.86
Kim Heaney (Salem)	1:14.01
400 FREESTYLE RELAY	
Stevenson	3:39.81
Salem	3:47.63
Churchill	3:55.92
John Glenn	3:56.60
Canton	3:57.95



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Stevenson dominates All-Observer team



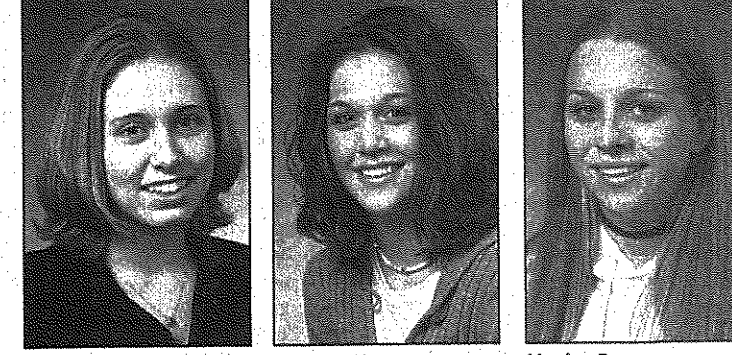
Paige Albers Liv. Stevenson
Ashley Aquino Salem
Andrea Giczewski Liv. Stevenson



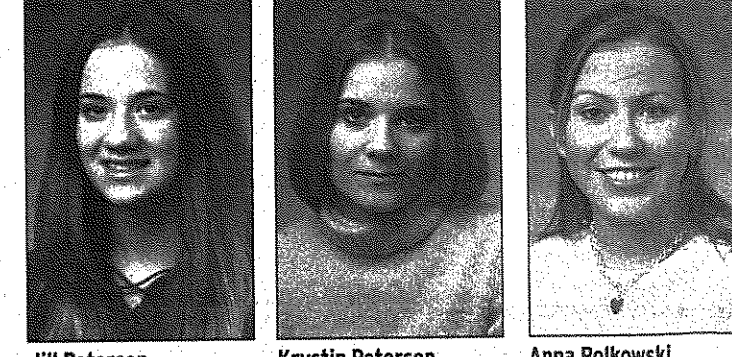
Allison Goldsmith Canton
Marisa Gordon Liv. Stevenson
Lisa Gullikson Salem



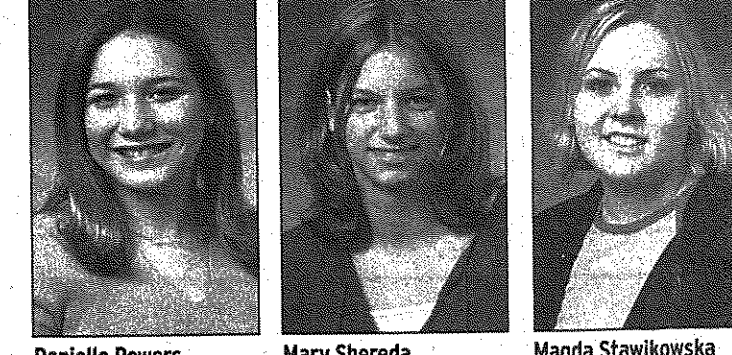
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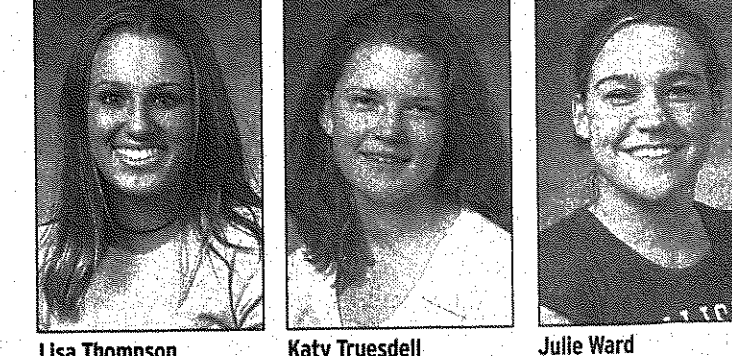
Heather Michalsen Salem
Amanda Newman Salem
Monica Pauza Liv. Stevenson



Jill Peterson John Glenn
Krystin Peterson John Glenn
Anna Polkowski Liv. Stevenson



Danielle Powers Salem
Mary Shereda Liv. Churchill
Magda Stawikowska Liv. Churchill



Lisa Thompson Liv. Stevenson
Katy Truesdell Salem
Julie Ward Liv. Stevenson

FIRST-TEAM INDIVIDUALS
Marisa Gordon, 200-yard freestyle, Livonia Stevenson: The sophomore was the WLAA champion in the 200 freestyle with a time 1:58.79, which also was the area's top time. She was a state qualifier in five individual events, including the 100 backstroke where she took 15th in 1:01.94. Her best time in the 100 backstroke was 1:01.25, which earned her second in the WLAA.

"Marisa proves time after time how valuable she is to our team," Stevenson coach Greg Phill said. "She also proved how unselfish she is by giving up one of her best events at state to be on three relays."

Kelsey Lincoln, 200 IM, Salem: Just looking at all Lincoln has accomplished over the two years, and it's no wonder her coach, Chuck Olson, treasures one other factor as much as her talent — her age.

Just a sophomore, Lincoln finished second at the WLAA finals in the 200 individual medley (2:16.2) and was third in the 100 backstroke (1:03.11). At state, she placed 13th in the 200 IM (2:13.61) and was 18th in the 100 back (1:02.51).

"Kelsey is one of the most versatile swimmers in the state, who has continued to improve in every event," said Olson. "Kelsey is a pleasure to coach because of her attitude to enjoy every day of practice and the opportunity to compete at the state level."

A 4.0 student, Lincoln was voted Salem's most improved swimmer for 2003.

Jill Peterson, 50 freestyle, Westland John Glenn: The ninth-grader led the area with a time of 25.31 where she took first in the WLAA meet. She also clocked a 1:09.63 in the 100 breaststroke to rank second in the area and swam to a 17th-place finish at the state meet in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:59.45.

Peterson, who carries a 4.0 grade-point average, qualified for the state meet in six individual events and already holds Glenn record in the 50 and 100 freestyles, along with the 100 breaststroke. She was also a member of Glenn's 200 freestyle relay team which swam at 1:46.03.

"Jill is a tremendous talent," Glenn coach Randy Ferguson said. "I truly believe she can take her swimming to higher level next year. Her all-around versatility is so valuable to the Glenn swim team."

Lisa Thompson, diving, Stevenson: The senior earned fifth places at both the Western Lakes and regional meets followed by a seventh place in Division I.

The captain and Spartan MVP diver posted the area's best dual meet dive (229.75 points) and finished with 352.25 points at the state meet.

"Lisa has been a great athlete and one of Stevenson's best divers for four years," Phill said. "Lisa's been a great team leader and will be missed tremendously."

Julie Ward, 100 butterfly, Stevenson: The senior was WLAA champion in the butterfly (1:01.36) and went on to finish 20th in Division I with an area best 1:00.91.

Ward also posted top ten area times in the 200 IM (2:19.39) and 100 breaststroke (1:10.29).

"Julie has been a very hard worker for all four years," Phill said. "She is a great team leader and will be greatly missed."

Anna Polkowski, 100 freestyle, Stevenson: The freshman was named Stevenson's 2003 Rookie of the Year after going 56.43 in the 100 freestyle. Polkowski took second in the WLAA meet in the 100 butterfly and ranked third in the area in that event (1:01.55).

She also posted top ten area times in the 200 freestyle (2:03.44), 50 freestyle (25.89) and 500 freestyle (5:28.99).

"Anna did a great job for a freshman and will be a pleasure to work with for three more years," Phill said.

Monica Pauza, 500 freestyle, Stevenson: The junior qualified for two individual events at the state meet including the 500 freestyle where she placed 19th overall with a time of 5:23.09.

She also took third in both the 200 and 500 freestyle events at the Western Lakes meet.

Pauza also ranked in the top ten in the 200 freestyle (2:01.9), 200 IM (2:18.2) and 100 backstroke (1:04.75).

"Monica is a very-hard worker and should have a great senior year," Phill said.

Andrea Giczewski, 100 backstroke, Stevenson: The senior captain and team MVP is headed to the University of Illinois-Chicago after finishing ninth at the state meet in the 100 backstroke (59.81) and 12th in the 100 freestyle (54.06), both area bests.

She was also WLAA champion in both the 100 freestyle and 100 backstroke. Giczewski also ranked in the top ten area times in the 200 freestyle (2:00.36), 200 IM (2:20.81), 50 freestyle (25.31), 500 freestyle (5:32.4).

"Andrea has turned into a terrific swimmer and is off to what I know will be a fine career in college," Phill said.

Amy Mertens, 100 breaststroke, Salem: Mertens, a senior, came back to Salem after swimming for a club team in Ohio last year.

2003 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS SWIM TEAM
200-yard medley relay: 1. Livonia Stevenson (Marisa Gordon, Soph.; Lisa Koch, Soph.; Julie Ward, Sr.; Andrea Giczewski, Sr.); 2. Salem (Lisa Gullikson, Jr.; Amy Mertens, Sr.; Heather Michalsen, Jr.; Danielle Powers, Sr.).

200 freestyle: 1. Marisa Gordon, Sr., Stevenson; 2. Mary Shereda, Soph., Livonia Churchill.

200 individual medley: 1. Kelsey Lincoln, Soph., Salem; 2. Magda Stawikowska, Sp, Churchill.

50 freestyle: 1. Jill Peterson, Fr., Westland John Glenn; 2. Danielle Powers, Sr., Salem.

Diving: 1. Lisa Thompson, Sr., Stevenson; 2. (tie) Ashley Aquino, Jr., Salem; Paige Albers, Soph., Stevenson.

100 butterfly: 1. Julie Ward, Sr., Stevenson; 2. Allison Goldsmith, Jr., Canton.

100 freestyle: 1. Anna Polkowski, Fr., Stevenson; 2. Katy Truesdell, Sr., Salem.

500 freestyle: 1. Monica Pauza, Jr., Stevenson; 2. Krystin Peterson, Sr., John Glenn.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Anna Polkowski, Fr.; Julie Ward, Sr.; Monica Pauza, Jr.; Marisa Gordon, Soph.); 2. Salem (Lisa Gullikson, Jr.; Kelsey Lincoln, Soph.; Amanda Newman, Jr.; Danielle Powers, Sr.).

100 backstroke: 1. Andrea Giczewski, Sr., Stevenson; 2. Lisa Gullikson, Jr., Salem.

100 breaststroke: 1. Amy Mertens, Sr., Salem; 2. Lisa Koch, Soph., Stevenson.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Andrea Giczewski, Sr.; Anna Polkowski, Fr.; Monica Pauza, Jr.; Marisa Gordon, Soph.); 2. Salem (Katy Truesdell, Sr.; Heather Michalsen, Jr.; Kelsey Lincoln, Soph.; Amy Mertens, Sr.).

HONORABLE MENTION
Katharine Johnson, Jr., Ladywood
Rachael Rowe, Sr., Redford Union
Lauren Siedlik, Jr., Churchill

"Even though we lose one senior (Giczewski), who is our best swimmer, this relay team looks really promising for next year," Phill said.

SECOND-TEAM INDIVIDUALS
Mary Shereda, 200 freestyle, Livonia Churchill: The sophomore finished 32nd in the Division I meet and posted a season-best time of 2:00.72 in the 200 freestyle.

She also qualified for the state meet in the 500 freestyle where she took 23rd in 5:23.67.

At the WLAA meet, Shereda took fourth in both the 200 and 500 freestyles.

"Mary's a hard worker and know what a team is," Churchill coach Keith Niedbala said. "When she came into the season, she was ready to go and was in great shape. It was a lot easier for her because she swam with the Plymouth-Canton Cruisers in the off-season."

Magda Stawikowska, 200 IM, Churchill: The senior finished 25th in Division I in the 200 individual medley and posted a season-best time of 2:18.45, good enough for fourth place in the Western Lakes meet.

She also took fourth in the 100 butterfly at the WLAA meet (1:02.9).

"As a coach, Magda is the kind of swimmer you don't want to see leave," Niedbala said. "In the past, she has come up short in making the state meet. It was nice to see her hit the state cut. She worked for it and deserved it."

Danielle Powers, 50 freestyle, Salem: One of the top sprinters in the Observer-area, Powers — a senior — was a four-year state-meet qualifier and scorer. In her final season for the Rocks, during which she was team co-captain, she earned the Coaches' Award.

Powers placed sixth in the 50 freestyle at the WLAA finals (26.28) and was fifth in the 100 free (57.09). She also swam on Salem's 200 free relay and 200 medley relay at state meet.

"Danielle has been a pleasure to have coached the past four years," said her coach, Chuck Olson. "She's very dependable and dedicated to the team."

Powers has a 3.94 GPA.

Ashley Aquino, diving, Salem: In high school swimming, there are swimmers and there are divers, lumped together but separate entities — usually, Aquino, a junior, was the exception.

Aquino finished second at the WLAA finals in diving, scoring 355.00 points. She also placed 12th at the state finals (327.00). What was remarkable, Aquino also placed seventh at the WLAA finals in the 100 butterfly (1:06.86), which made her a member of the Rocks' 200 medley relay.

"Ashley is an outstanding athlete with a great competitive nature," said Chuck Olson, her coach. "She splits her practice time between diving and swimming. Her accomplishments are amazing and the prospects for her senior year are thrilling."

A two-year state qualifier, Aquino has been elected team captain for 2004.

Paige Albers, diving, Stevenson: The sophomore earned a trip to the state meet by finishing fourth at the regional.

In the state finals, she finished 15th overall with a total of 312.35 points. At the WLAA meet, Albers finished seventh (292.75). Her dual meet best was 203.45.

"Paige has come a long way from 13th at the regional as a freshman to 15th in the state as a sophomore," Phill said. "We look forward to having her another two years."

Allison Goldsmith, 100 butterfly, Canton: A junior, Goldsmith's value to the Canton swim team is easily discernible by the Most Valuable Swimmer Award she has captured — for three-straight years.

Goldsmith finished third at the WLAA finals in the 100 butterfly (1:02.7) and was seventh in the 50 freestyle (26.00). A state-meet qualifier, she clocked 1:03.18 in the 100 fly.

"Allison was good at everything we put her in," said her coach, Yvonne Lynn. "She's really a hard worker, the hardest worker in the pool and weight room."

Goldsmith has already been elected captain for Canton's 2004 team.

Katy Truesdell, 100 freestyle, Salem: A senior and team co-captain, Truesdell led Salem in both the pool and classroom, sharing the Coaches' Award with her teammate, Powers and capturing the Rachael Maurer Award, presented to a scholar-athlete and leader.

Truesdell finished fourth in the 100 freestyle at the WLAA finals (57.41) and was a member of the Rocks' 400 free relay team.

"Katy is a wonderful example of a scholar-athlete that not only excels in the pool and classroom, but also serves Salem as the head of the Student Executive Forum and is a National Honor Society member," said her coach, Chuck Olson.

Krystin Peterson, 500 freestyle, John Glenn: The senior finished 25th overall in the 500 freestyle at the state meet with a personal best 5:24.56. She also took a 22nd in Division I in the 200 IM.

Her best showing came at the WLAA meet where she swam a 2:16.74 in the 200 IM (third place) and a 1:04.37 in the 100 backstroke (fourth place). She also swam a 400 freestyle relay split time of 58.32. Peterson also was a member of Glenn's school-record 200 freestyle relay where she clocked a split of 26.24.

"Krystin is a coach's dream," Ferguson said. "She puts her trust in you (as a coach) and believes in herself that she can accomplish anything."

Lisa Gullikson, 100 backstroke, Salem: The best way to describe Gullikson's season was provided by Chuck Olson, her coach.

"Lisa's commitment to improve started the first day of practice and concluded at the state meet, helping Salem to a 16th-place finish," he said. "Lisa is positioned to have an outstanding senior year."

A junior, Gullikson finished fifth in the WLAA in the 50 freestyle (26.15) and was sixth in the 100 backstroke (1:05.35). She has been a state-meet scorer the past two seasons as part of Salem relay teams.

Her performance this year earned her Salem's Most Improved Swimmer award.

Lisa Koch, 100 breaststroke, Stevenson: The sophomore was a state qualifier in the 100 breaststroke where she ranked 37th overall. Her seed time was 1:11.42 and she clocked a 1:11.93 in the prelims.

At the WLAA meet, Koch placed in the fifth in the 200 IM (2:20.23) and added a fourth in the breaststroke.

"Lisa does a great job for us every time she races," Phill said. "Lisa is a very hard worker, and I really look forward to the next two years."

SECOND-TEAM RELAYS
Salem, 200 medley, Lisa Gullikson, Amy Mertens, Ashley Aquino, Danielle Powers: Two members of this state-qualifying relay team, Gullikson and Aquino are both juniors — and will return next year, which is good news for Salem coach Chuck Olson.

The Rocks were second in this event at the WLAA finals (1:54.86), then qualified 15th at state meet (1:54.08) and finished 14th (1:54.75).

Salem, 200 freestyle, Lisa Gullikson, Kelsey Lincoln, Amanda Newman, Danielle Powers: More good news for Olson — Powers is the only senior on this relay, which placed first at the WLAA finals (1:43.59). Gullikson and Newman are juniors, Lincoln's a sophomore.

At state, the quartet qualified 16th (1:43.71), and that's where it finished in a season-best time of 1:43.13.

Salem, 400 freestyle, Katy Truesdell, Heather Michalsen, Kelsey Lincoln, Amy Mertens: This Rocks' relay did just what they were supposed to do and at the right time they improved. At the WLAA finals, the four-some — Truesdell and Mertens are seniors, Michalsen's a junior and Lincoln's a sophomore — finished second in 3:50.35. Then in the preliminaries at the state meet, they went 3:47.63, dropping 2.7 seconds off their previous best time.

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THE **Observer & Eccentric** NEWSPAPERS

Emenhiser gets 36, but Madonna falls

Noel Emenhiser's career-high 36 points could not save Madonna University from dropping its sixth straight men's basketball game Tuesday at University of Michigan-Dearborn, 107-104, in triple overtime.

Dan Kurtinaitis, who added 24 points, hit a jumper to send the game into OT.

The Crusaders, who rallied from a 43-32 halftime deficit, also got 17 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists from Chad Nadolni.

Emenhiser also grabbed eight rebounds as the Crusaders fell to 3-7.

Christopher Shepard led UM-Dearborn with 25 points.

Robert Wesleyan 77,

Madonna 71: Shooting woes, particularly at the free-throw line, plagued Madonna University Saturday in a loss to Robert Wesleyan (N.Y.) in the consolation final of the Hungry Holiday Invitational, played at

Mt. Vernon (Ohio) Nazarene University.

The loss was the Crusaders' fifth-straight. Wesleyan is 3-4.

Madonna converted just 30-of-76 shots (39.5 percent), although its three-point shooting was strong (8-of-21, 38.1 percent). But the Crusaders were just 3-of-5 at the free-throw line (60 percent); Wesleyan was 15-of-23 (65.2 percent).

The Crusaders led, 41-39, at halftime.

Noel Emenhiser paced Madonna with 20 points; he also had five rebounds. Chad Nadolni had a strong game with 11 points, 13 rebounds, three steals and three blocks, and Chris Behrns had eight points, eight boards and two steals.

Wesleyan got 22 points from Dave Rudy, 15 points from James Floyd and 10 points from Jacob Rawleigh.

Madonna plays in the Gates Automotive Classic at Bethel (Ind.) College this weekend.

BELLEVILLE

FROM PAGE B1

on the road. On Friday, they travel to Monroe.

Canton Agape 81, Deerfield 45: Four players scored in double figures and two others had eight as Canton Agape Christian overwhelmed Deerfield Tuesday in both teams' season-opener, played on Agape's home court at Discovery Middle School.

Charlie Henry led the Wolverines with 19 points and 14 assists. Jordan Napier added 16 points and seven rebounds, Gabe Molnar had 14 points and Matt Cross totaled 12 points and four steals. Jack Anleitner and Joel Hays contributed eight points apiece.

Brandon Clark topped Deerfield with 21 points. Mike Havens added 10.

Agape led 15-4 after one quarter and 38-18 by halftime. The Wolverines maintained their 20-point lead through three quarters, 56-36.

Agape hosts Lansing, Walter French Academy at 7

p.m. tonight at Discovery MS.

St. Mary's 54, CC 52: Missed free throws doomed Redford Catholic Central on Tuesday night against Orchard Lake St. Mary's as the Eaglets held on for a win over the Shamrocks.

"We missed a lot of free throws and that was the story really," CC coach Rick Coratti said. "We were 13-of-26 for the game and 5-of-14 in the first half. If we make them, or a couple of the putbacks we missed, we win."

"I knew we'd struggle. We haven't had a lot of practice with everyone here because of football."

The Eaglets led just 23-21 at half, but started pulling away in the second half, as they went 12-of-18 from the line for the game.

Dan Waterstradt, a 6-foot-11 center headed to Rutgers, led CC with 20 points and 14 rebounds, while Jim Cash had 15 points. Robert Fragozo had five points and 11 assists.

Walled Lake Central transferred Brandon Cassise led OLSM with 29 points, while Andre Ratliff had 19.

Agape plans to challenge in initial MIAC season

Canton Agape Christian opened its boys basketball season Tuesday, and a new chapter for the program opened with it.

For the first time, the Wolverines' boys basketball team will be competing in a league. Agape has become part of the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference; the boys team will play in the upper division.

"It's great," said Agape coach Chuck Henry, now entering his 27th year of coaching, the last four at Agape. "It gives us a little identity. We can play for a conference title, the kids can make an all-league team. . . it's nice just being part of something."

The Wolverines may be something more than just a part of the MIAC. A year ago, Henry guided them to a 13-8 record against a non-league schedule.

Two starters from that team are gone: Matt Ratcliff and John Estrada. Also lost to graduation was Alec Turnowski.

But three starters return, including the two players who led Agape in scoring, rebounding and assists.

Henry, who coached at Wayne Memorial before coming to Agape, knows he may have something special. The ingredients are there for the Wolverines to contend for the MIAC championship.

Leading the way is the coach's son, Charlie Henry. A 5-foot-9 senior point guard, Charlie led Agape in scoring and assists last season, averaging 19 points and five assists a game.

Joining him is 6-3 senior forward Jordan Napier, who was second to Charlie Henry in scoring last season, averaging 17 points a game, and led Agape in rebounding with 10 a game.

The third returning starter is 5-10 junior guard Gabe Molnar. Also back are two players who were the first substitutes off the bench last sea-

son and are starters this year: seniors Joel Hays, a 6-foot guard, and Matt Cross, a 6-2 forward.

Others who will see plenty of action are Matt Molnar, a 6-1 sophomore swing player; Derek Leathers, a 6-1 sophomore post player; and Jack Anleitner, a 5-9 freshman guard. Bryan Horning, a junior guard who transferred in from Salem HS, will become eligible in the January.

On Tuesday, the Wolverines opened their season with a convincing 81-45 victory over non-conference foe Deerfield. Six players scored eight or more points for Agape, which certainly pleased their coach.

"I really like the way we pass the ball," Henry said. "We had four guys score in double figures and two others had eight."

That offensive depth could be imperative.

Last season, little could be done to prevent the opposition from concentrating on just stopping Charlie Henry and Napier.

"The experience we have, with Charlie and Jordan back as seniors, and we have more kids who can score," Henry replied when asked to list his team's strengths.

Not that their first season as a member of the MIAC will be easy. "Each year, it seems (Auburn Hills) Oakland Christian and (Allen Park) Inter-City Baptist are good," said Henry. "And Plymouth Christian will always be tough."

Agape will have some difficulties to overcome, notably a lack of size.

"Obviously, we're a small team," said Henry. "We're going to have to be good defensively and a good block-out team."

"We're going to need more than just Jordan (Napier) to step up and rebound."

If the Wolverines solve those problems, then their first season in the MIAC could indeed be a memorable one.

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THE
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NEWSPAPERS

Late Northville goal sinks Salem, 2-1 Gibson's free throws the difference for SC

A goal by Joe Vitale in the final minute of the final period lifted Northville to a 2-1 victory over Salem in a Western Lakes Activities Association boys hockey game Tuesday at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

The loss left Salem at 2-4-1 for the season.

The Mustangs scored first, getting a goal early in the second period from Troy Engelland. The Rocks tied it late in the period with an unassisted goal by Ryan Jones.

Regina 7, PCS 2: Two goals late in the second period gave Harper Woods Regina the cushion it needed to defeat Plymouth-Canton-Salem Tuesday in a girls hockey game at Arctic Edge in Canton.

The loss, combined with Saturday's 8-2 victory over Walled Lake, gave PCS a 1-5 record.

The Penguins' goals against Regina came from Jenn Emmert in the first period, a power-play score that knotted the game at 1-1 (assists to Olivia Pennebaker and Sarah Skonieczny).

Two Saddlelite goals pushed their lead to 3-1 in the second period before PCS answered with a goal by Stephanie Murray (from Jessica Rzetelny and Kelly Bargowski) to trim the deficit to 3-2 with 1:09 left

HOCKEY

in the period.

However, Regina scored two more goals in that last minute of the second period and added two more in the third.

Regina outshot the Penguins, 43-25. Amanda Watkins was in goal for PCS.

On Saturday at U.S. Blades, the Penguins got first-period goals by Murray and Emmert, then added three in each of the following two periods to beat Walled Lake.

Emmert and Pennebaker each scored twice, Pennebaker adding three assists and Emmert one. Rzetelny had one goal and two assists, Erika Perkovich got a goal and an assist, Amanda Rowley scored a goal, and Sharla Gillespie had three assists.

Watkins was in goal for the win, as PCS outshot Walled Lake, 40-20.

Salem 3, W.L. Western 2: Salem built a 3-0 lead by the midpoint of the third period, then had to hold off a Walled Lake Western rally to record its second win of the season Saturday at Lakeland Arena.

Goals from Chris Wilson in the first period (from Craigen Bauldry) and Mike Barr in the

second (from Ryan Jones) gave the Rocks a two-goal lead going into the third. Buddy Musa made it 3-0 at 7:20 of the final period (from Matt Van Hoet).

The Warriors scored twice in the final two minutes to close the gap, but could not get the equalizer against Salem goalie Brandon DeMars.

Culver (Ind.) 3-7, CC 1-4: The last time that Redford Catholic Central started out 2-3, the Shamrocks wound up winning their fourth-straight state title.

And while the Shamrocks have been struggling, they've also been improving — something that head coach Todd Johnson found encouraging after dropping a pair of games over the weekend to Culver (Ind.) Military Academy at Computware Arena.

"There's no moral victories in our program and the guys need to develop that tremendous passion for winning all the little battles," said Johnson, whose team lost 3-1 Saturday night and 7-4 Sunday afternoon. "But there were some pluses and minuses. For the first time in four years of playing them, we outshot them (Sunday). And we've started developing a work ethic to build on, that's

been missing in our first three games."

On Saturday, Culver (11-3-1) took a 2-0 lead into the middle of the third period, when Harrison Niemann scored from Jimmy Burns and Jason Lewarne. CC (2-3) had chances to tie it up, but couldn't get the puck in the net.

Culver clinched the win with five seconds left on an empty-net goal.

The Eagles outshot the Shamrocks 29-26, with CC goalie Andrew Godoshian making 27 saves.

On Sunday, CC had to play catchup all game and never quite got over the hump. The Eagles jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first period, before Jimmy Burns put CC on the board with 3:30 left from Niemann.

After trailing 5-1 in the second, Adam McGee scored from Bill Makela and Wade Lafever. Niemann cut that lead to 5-3 with 1:30 left from Lewarne and Burns.

But it was as close as CC could come. The Eagles sandwiched two goals around a tally by CC's Dave McGrorty (from Travis Hamway and Pete Pfeffer) to make the final tally 7-4.

The Shamrocks outshot Culver 32-24, with CC's John Garza making 17 saves.

When Ashley Gibson stepped to the free-throw line for Schoolcraft College with 0.7 left on the clock, her team tied with Sinclair CC (Dayton, OH), nothing seemed for certain.

The Ocelots had converted just 13 of their previous 23 free throws. And making 56.5 percent from the line is nothing to boast about.

But Gibson came through in the clutch, making both to give SC a 67-65 victory in the consolation final of the Schoolcraft College Invitational Saturday at SC. The win gave the Ocelots a 5-4 record.

Gibson finished with a superb game, totaling 12 points, 10 rebounds, four assists and three steals. Crystal Taylor led SC with 13 points; she also had six boards and two steals, and India Monteiro collected 10 points, 10 rebounds, three assists and three steals.

Sinclair, which led 42-37 at the half, was paced by Crystal Pendelton with 18 points. Lauren Campbell had 15 and Erin Crawford netted 12.

Poor shooting again plagued the Ocelots — they converted just 24-of-70 from the floor (34.2 percent). Sinclair was 23-of-55 (41.8 percent). The difference, however, was on the offen-

sive boards: SC had 25 to the Tartans' 12. Monteiro led SC with six.

Central State 67, Madonna 52: The sharpshooting Marauders of Central State (OH) proved more than a match for Madonna University Saturday at Central.

With three players scoring in double figures and the team converting 49.1 percent (26-of-53) of its floor shots, Central State pulled away from Madonna in the second half, outscoring the Crusaders 37-21.

The loss left Madonna at 2-7. Hayley Myers led the Crusaders with 11 points; she also had six rebounds and two steals. Sarah Thomson scored 10 points and had four steals, and Marwa Ayoub collected eight points, seven boards, six steals and five assists.

The Marauders were led by Erika Gary with 19 points. Danaea Williams got 17 and Aliaa Gamal had 15.

Central State forced 31 Madonna turnovers in the game and limited the Crusaders to 22-of-55 shooting (40 percent), including just 1-of-20 from three-point range (five percent). The Marauders were 5-of-12 from beyond the arc (41.7 percent).

WRESTLING RANKINGS

OBSERVERLAND
WRESTLING RANKINGS
(as of Dec. 9)

TEAM RANKINGS: 1. Redford Catholic Central; 2. Westland John Glenn; 3. Livonia Churchill; 4. Lutheran High Westland; 5. Salem.

INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS

103 pounds: 1. Sean Dong, Redford Catholic Central; 2. Jesse Gardocki, Livonia Franklin; 3. Alex Fowler, Livonia Churchill; 4. Alex Ludke, Garden City; 5. Danny Moore, Redford Union.

112: 1. Ryan Stump, Salem; 2. Jason Crothers, Wayne Memorial; 3. Nick Poole, Canton; 4. Dan Rabe, Livonia Stevenson; 5. Robert Malady, Livonia Clarenceville.

119: 1. Matt Steintrager, Redford CC; 2. Justin Smith, Churchill; 3. Mike Warren, Franklin; 4. Justin Keatts, Wayne; 5. Dave Kazaryan, Clarenceville.

125: 1. Kris Felice, Churchill; 2. Saif Naber, Westland John Glenn; 3. Josh Wischmeyer, RU; 4. James Jones, Franklin; 5. Marc Stafford, Redford Thurston.

130: 1. Jim Moore, RU; 2. Corey Phillips, Canton; 3. Mike Dendinos, Salem; 4. Ryan Hawkins, Franklin; 5. Saul Fuentes, Stevenson.

135: 1. Tim Hammer, Wayne; 2. Ryan Webb, Canton; 3. Chris Tomaski, RU; 4. Darryl Rice, John Glenn; 5. Dave Burr, Salem.

140: 1. John Gourlay, RU; 2. Rex Fugaban, Wayne; 3. Jameson Murray, Churchill; 4. Zak Vaughn, Salem; 5. Jeff Ryan, Thurston.

145: 1. Rece Cox, John Glenn; 2. Chris McGlone, Wayne; 3. Ali Ismail, Clarenceville; 4. Steve Hosey, Canton; 5. Danny Clement, Churchill.

152: 1. Dario Mainella, Stevenson; 2. Brad Bartram, Redford CC; 3. Daron Cruickshank, John Glenn; 4. Ben Adams, Churchill; 5. Will Schultz, Salem.

160: 1. Trevor Stewart, Redford CC; 2. Brandon Noble, Lutheran Westland; 3. Emilio Perez, Garden City; 4. Josh Loar, RU; 5. Doug Fellows, Stevenson.

171: 1. Dan Haller, Lutheran Westland; 2. Scott Schwarzlose, Redford CC; 3. Manuel Schubert, Churchill; 4. Jeremy Sparks, Garden City; 5. Bryan Longton, Wayne.

189: 1. Jake Fairchild, John Glenn; 2. Neal Kemp, Lutheran Westland; 3. Joe Bargerstock, Stevenson; 4. R.J. Ramsey, Wayne; 5. Jordan Schaefer, Salem.

215: 1. Eric Schambers, John Glenn; 2. Jeremy Henderson, Salem; 3. Eric Vojtkofsky, Redford CC; 4. Hafeez Qureshi, Churchill; 5. Jacob Galindez, Lutheran Westland.

275: 1. Jeremy Walker, Salem; 2. Pat Draheim, Churchill; 3. John Morasso, Redford CC; 4. Jameson Higgins, Lutheran Westland; 5. Ryan Pokrylky, Franklin.

Note: The first rankings of the season have been compiled by coaches Jim Gourlay (RU), Dave Chiola (Franklin) and Marty Altounian (Churchill).

CANTON

FROM PAGE B1

diminutive point guard, had knocked down eight points, including two long three-pointers, in the first half. He got just two free throws in the second to finish with 10.

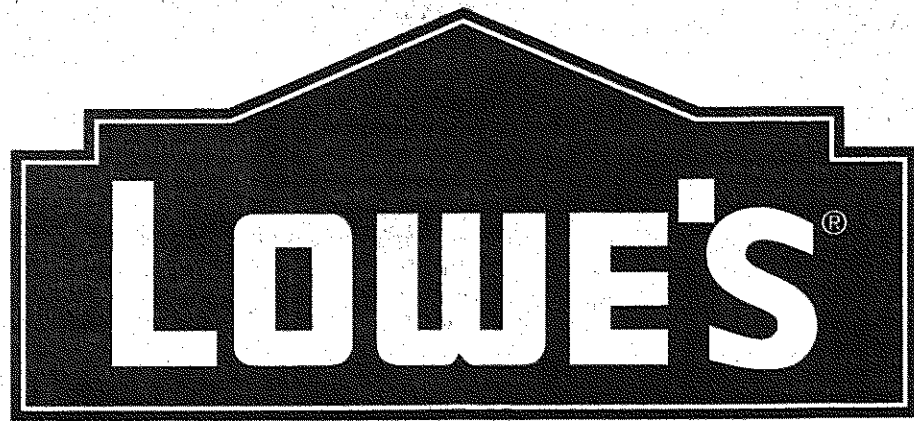
Certainly the Chiefs' man-to-man defense didn't relent. In the fourth quarter their lead was never in single digits; they had outscored Monroe 12-5 by the time the benches were emptied with less than two minutes left.

The Trojans had 18 second-half points; Canton had 41.

Bridges also had 10 rebounds — eight of them offensive — to go with his 19 points. Brad Waidmann added 12 points and Matt Paye got nine points, five rebounds, five assists and two steals.

Comstock also had 10 points for Monroe.

The Chiefs are on the road Friday, traveling to Novi for a non-conference game.



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The Canton Thunderbirds softball girls fastpitch 12U team is still looking for a few players.

The Thunderbirds have a coaching staff capable of helping both the experienced or novice player. Age requirement is 12 years or less on January 1, 2004.

For further information contact Mike Roberts at (734) 397-1355.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 11
Walter French vs. Canton Agape, 7 p.m.
at Discover MS
Friday, Dec. 12
Canton at Novi, 7 p.m.
Salem at Monroe, 7 p.m.
Ply. Christian at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Redford Union, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at A.A. Huron, 7 p.m.
Dearborn at Wayne, 7 p.m.
(St. Joseph Mich. Lutheran Tourney)
III. Lutheran vs. Howardsville Chr., 6:30 p.m.
Huron Valley vs. Mich. Lutheran, 8 p.m.
(Tip-Off Classic at Lutheran North)
Luth. Westland vs. Lutheran East, 5:30 p.m.
Luth. N'west vs. Lutheran North, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 13
Mich. Lutheran Tourney, 5:30 & 7 p.m.
Tip-Off Classic at Luth. North, 1 & 5 p.m.
Redford CC vs. Detroit King
at Beverly Hills Country Day, TBA.
PREP HOCKEY
Thursday, Dec. 11
PCS at Port Huron (girls), 4 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 12
Salem vs. W. Bloomfield (O.L. St. Mary's), 8 p.m.
Franklin vs. Canton (Arctic Edge), 6 p.m.
Stevenson vs. Berkley (Edgar), 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 13
Salem at W.L. Northern, 11:20 a.m.
Canton at Country Day, 8 p.m.
Churchill vs. Northville (Novi), 6:10 p.m.
Redford CC vs. Port Huron Northern
at Compuware (NHL), 7 p.m.
Ladywood vs. Walled Lake
at West Bloomfield, 8 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Thursday, Dec. 11
Canton at Southgate tri-meet, 5 p.m.

Annapolis, Crestwood
at Lutheran Westland, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 13
Salem Varsity 10 Tournament, 9:30 a.m.
Garden City Christmas Tourney, 9:30 a.m.
Clarenceville Tourney, 10 a.m.
GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
Saturday, Dec. 13
Portage Northern Tourney, 8:30 a.m.
Canton at Allen Park Invitational, 8:30 a.m.
Carleton Airport Invitational, 9 a.m.
Harrison Invitational, TBA.
PREP SWIMMING
Thursday, Dec. 11
Churchill at Farm-Harrison, 6:30 p.m.
A.A. Huron at Salem, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 13
Western Lakes Relays at Salem, noon.
EMU Invitational, 1 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Friday, Dec. 12
(Gates Automotive Classic
at Bethel, Ind. College)
Madonna vs. Trinity International, 6 p.m. Bethel
vs. Alma, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 13
Gates Automotive Classic, TBA.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Dec. 13
Indiana Wesleyan at Madonna, 3 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Thursday, Dec. 11
Whalers at Peterborough, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 12
Whalers at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 14
Whalers at Oshawa, 6:35 p.m.
TBA - time to be announced.

HOLIDAY BASEBALL-SOFTBALL

Separate baseball and softball camps will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, Dec. 29-30, at the Total Sports Complex, located at 30990 Wixom Road, Wixom.

Hitting, pitching, fielding, base running will be covered in the fundamental camp for ages 7-17.

The cost is \$135 per player (\$10 for each additional child).

Among the instructors is Detroit Tigers hitting coach Bruce Fields, former Redford Union and Willow Run coach Lee Bjerke and Jessie Milosek (softball from Bowling Green State University).

Space is limited.

To register, call (248) 668-0166, or visit www.total-baseball.com. For more information, email

totalbaseball@aol.com.

SWAT HITTING CLASSES

Tampa Bay Devil Rays scout James Bonnici will lead an intense hitting class for ages 13-18 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Each Tuesday and Thursday, Jan. 8 through Feb. 12, at Total Baseball, 30990 Wixom Road, Wixom.

The cost is \$310 per player.

Swinging with athletic training will focus on the mechanics of hitting while working with athletic trainers to improve bat speed and body strength.

To register, call (248) 668-0166, or visit www.total-baseball.com.

SOCCER REFEREES

Training for new soccer referees will be conducted at the

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Michigan State Youth Soccer Association office, located at 9401 General Drive in Plymouth.

Classes will be from 8 a.m.-noon on four consecutive Saturdays: Jan. 24, Jan. 31, Feb. 7 and Feb. 14. All four sessions must be attended.

Those interested must be at least 12 years-old.

Cost is \$50. Class size is limited.

Register on-line at www.msvarsareferee.net, or call (734) 454-7335 for more information.

HITTING CAMP

The Madonna University softball hitting camp will be from 2-4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 28.

The camps will feature two hitting cages plus one live

pitching station working off tees and soft toss, including slap, bunting and more.

Each session is limited to 24 girls. Cost is \$30 per session. Checks should be made payable to Madonna University Softball.

For more information, call Madonna softball coach Al White at (734) 432-5783 or assistant coach Curt White at (810) 844-0109.

ALL-MAC PLAYER

Eastern Michigan University linebacker Dave Lusky (Novi/Redford CC) was named to the first team all Mid-American Conference.

For the season, Lusky tied for the team lead in interceptions with two, as well as tackles with 143 (61 solo-82 assists) and had 12.5 tackles for loss.

THE \$5-A-DAY LEASE IS BACK...

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2004 Mustang V6 Coupe

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With \$2,823 customer cash due at signing. Includes security deposit and acquisition fee, excludes taxes, title and license fees. Customer cash due at signing is net of all rebates. Payment includes \$3000 RCL cash.

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(1) Some payments higher, some lower. Not all Lessees will qualify for lowest payment. For special lease terms and RCL Cash, \$3000 RCL cash on 2004 Mustang Coupe, take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 1/2/2004. RCL Cash may be taken in cash, but is used towards down payment in examples shown. Lease renewal cash of \$1000 on 04' F-150, only available to customers terminating their Ford Division Red Carpet Lease and re-lease for 36 months by 1/2/2004. Leases terminated early qualify if terminated within program dates. Supplies are limited, not all dealers will have all featured models. Residency restrictions apply. See dealer for complete details. All payment examples are for Current Ford Employees and eligible family member Lessees.

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YPSILANTI

BRIARWOOD
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SALINE

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I-96 at Milford Rd. 248-437-6700
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FRIENDLY
2800 N. Telegraph, 734-243-6000
MONROE



OPEN SATURDAYS

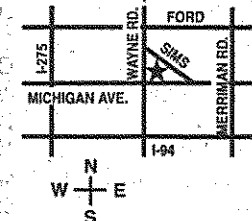
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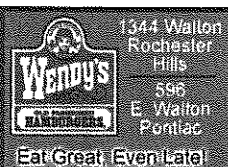


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OAKLAND BASKETBALL

Men's Basketball vs. N. Michigan Sun. Dec. 14 6 PM

Win a \$1000 Vacation from Passageways
Free T-Shirt Giveaways from Primo Crafts - Your T-Shirt Connection



Men's Basketball vs. Saginaw Valley Tues. Dec. 16 7:30 PM

Win a \$1000 Vacation from Passageways
Win a Free Motorola V66 Flip Phone
T-Mobile Summit Place Rochester Auburn Hills

Women's Basketball vs. Ohio Tues. Dec. 16 5:15 PM

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T-Mobile
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At Home

Inside

Joe Gagnon C2
 Rick Broida C2
 Monte Nagler C3
 Diana Koenig C3

Accents

Interact with dog

Yorkies, poms, chi-huahuas ... We call them "toy dogs," but in reality these breeds are just as closely related to wolves as German shepherds, huskies or any of their other big dog cousins.

Now there's an interactive toy that recognizes the wolf-like hunting and scavenging instincts of



even the cutest couch-potato dog.

The new Mini Molecuball treat-dispensing toy measures only 2 1/2 inches around, so it fits even the smallest paws and mouths. When a tiny pooch works the ball over, small bits of biscuits or other treats dribble out of it. The more a dog works, the more treats come out. This stimulates the dog to maneuver the toy in creative ways, providing hours of mental and physical exercise.

Steve Tsengas is president of the OurPet's Company, which makes the Mini Molecuball.

"Toy breeds are very cute, so there's a tendency to forget that they're just as closely related to the wolf as any other dog," Tsengas said.

"This means that they need to be provided with plenty of stimulation to maintain their physical and psychological health. Many well-meaning people are 'killing' their small dogs with kindness by removing challenges and activities from their daily routines."

Thanks to its molecular shape, the Mini Molecuball rolls and slides unpredictably in all directions, keeping the dog's interest and providing many different "angles of attack."

Since small dogs are often more pampered than big breeds, they are often more likely to become bored and destructive when left home alone.

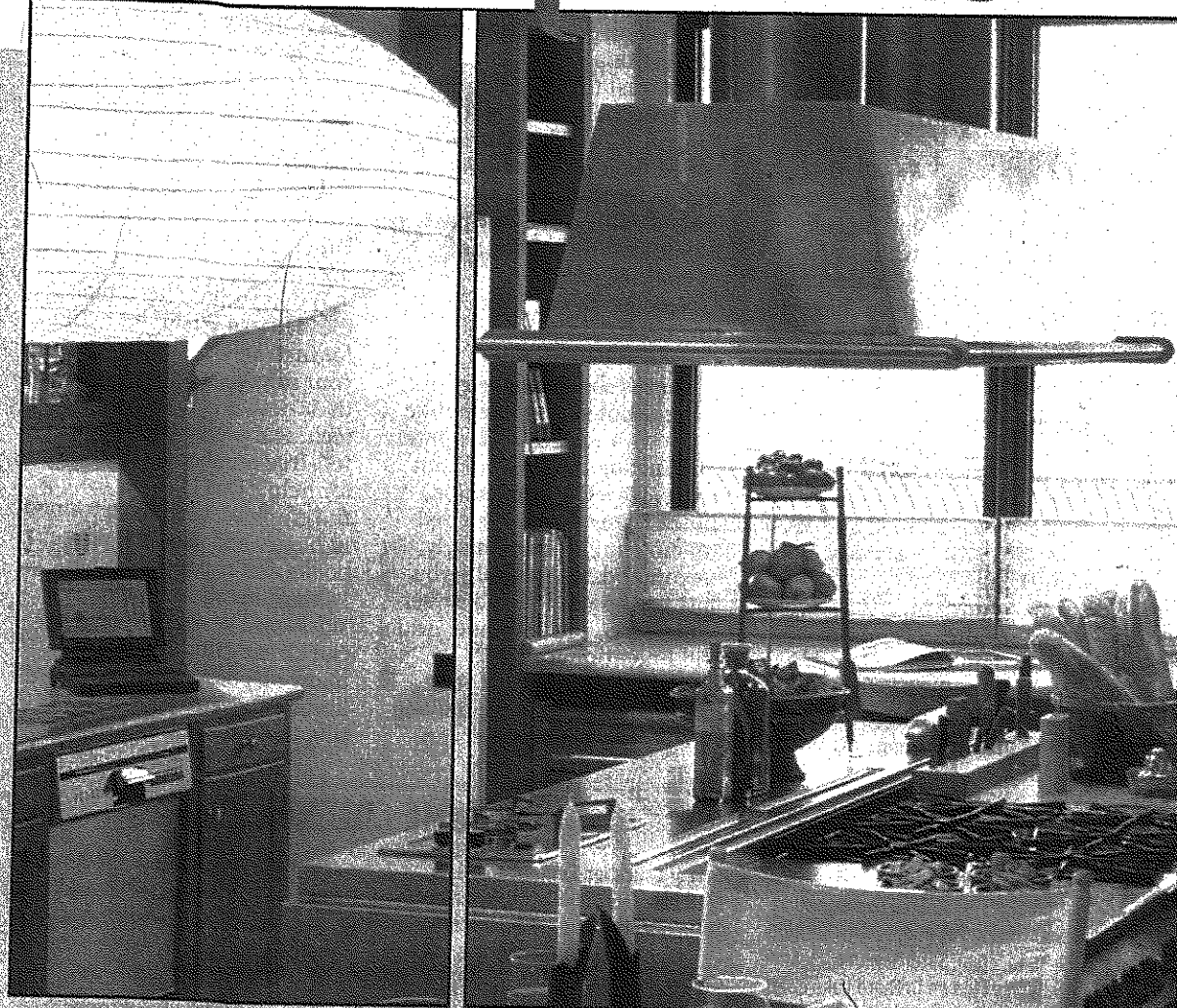
Before going out, toy dog owners can give their pet a Mini Molecuball filled with dry food or treats. Along with alleviating boredom, the Mini Molecuball can help overweight toy dogs by making them work for their food.

The Mini Molecuball is made of tough, safe, non-toxic thermoplastic material that stands up to the roughest of play.

This durable product can be used both indoors and outdoors, enabling the pet to take the toy anywhere.

Easily cleaned with soap and water, the Mini Molecuball is virtually noise free and will not damage walls, furniture or floors. The suggested retail price of the Mini Molecuball is \$3.99 - \$4.99.

For more information, call (440) 354-6500, or visit www.ourpets.com.



Total Design

Interior designer creates personal spaces

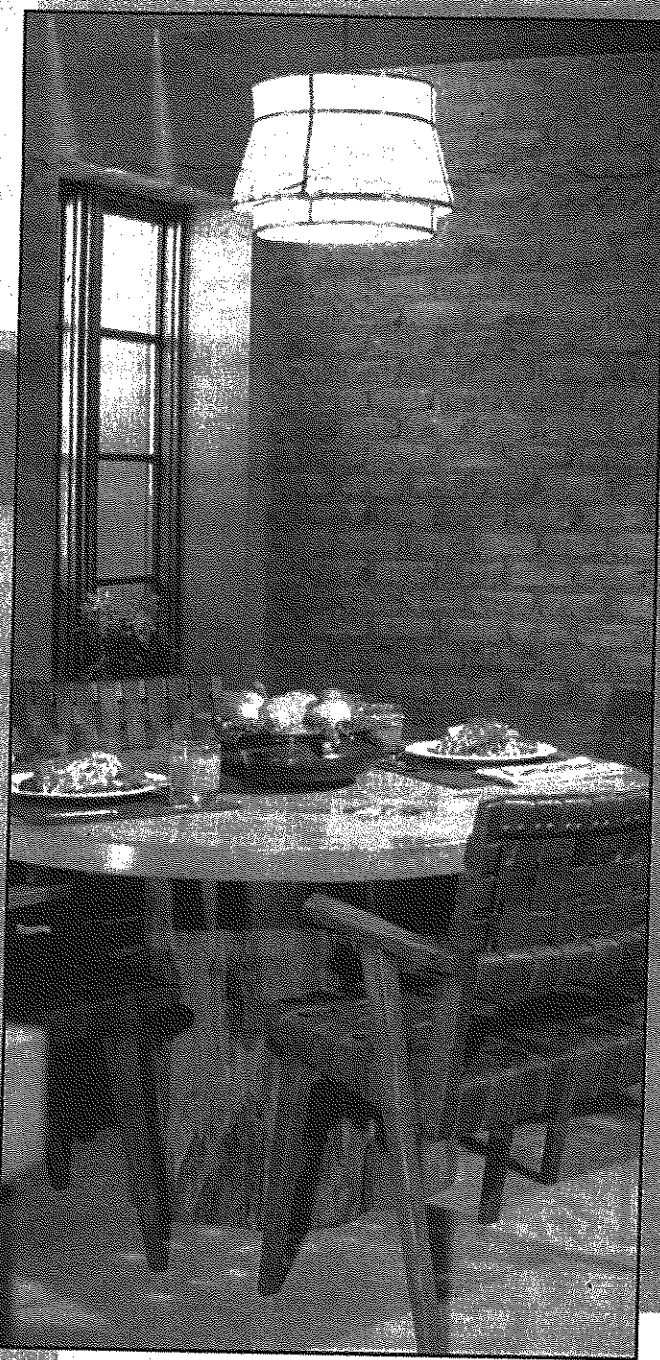
Clodagh's work in interior design is known worldwide. She was named one of the world's leading interior designers by *Architectural Digest* and *Interior Design* magazine inducted her into the magazine's Hall of Fame in 1997.

Clodagh completed her new book, *Total Design* (Clarkson/Potter Publishers, New York, \$45), and visited the Michigan Design Center in Troy recently to discuss trends and her book with interior designers.

She talked about feng shui in the home and biogeometry. She likes to incorporate the earth, water and fire in designs. Clodagh takes relationships of our experiences - whether it is with an object or a place - and uses them to shape the environment.

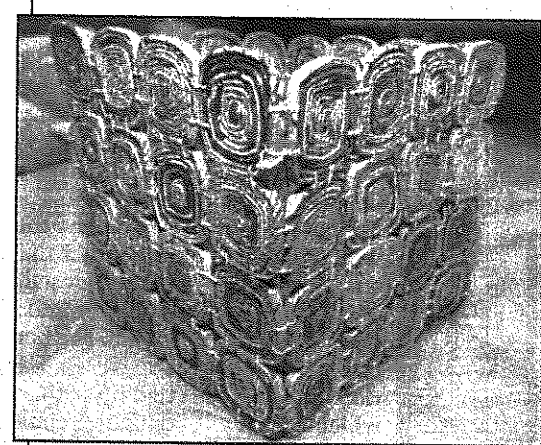
"We contemplate where they have been, where they are now and where they want to go," Clodagh said. Contemplating the space is the first of

PLEASE SEE DESIGNER, C10



Above, a square of a butcher block provides an inviting place for lunch, according to interior designer Clodagh in her book *Total Design*. The stove is placed in a protected area for feng shui purposes and allows the cook to see and converse with guests. At left, woven leather chair seats are reminiscent of the American West. Quarter-sawn oak floors are stained a shade between teak and walnut.

PHOTOS FROM TOTAL DESIGN



This catch-all basket has many functions and is made of recycled newspapers and magazines.

Store, owner have healthy attitude

Lori Broesamle has a down to Earth philosophy - both in her personal life and in her business.

Interested in helping the environment, the former Birmingham resident couldn't always find the Earth-friendly products she sought.

As a result, she opened a store of her own to carry the "eco-friendly" goods she and other people with similar concerns would want.

The store, Mia Mahalo, opened in August in Royal Oak. The name is Hawaiian for "my thanks."

"It was a long process of me getting more and more involved with this world ... More and more I was unable to get the things here," said Broesamle, who previously had a retail store for six years.

'It was a long process of me getting more and more involved with this world ...

More and more I was unable to get the things here.'

Lori Broesamle store owner

environment.

"I look for the organic things," Broesamle said. "I look for the clothing that has low-impact dyes."

Purity and quality are important as well, she says.

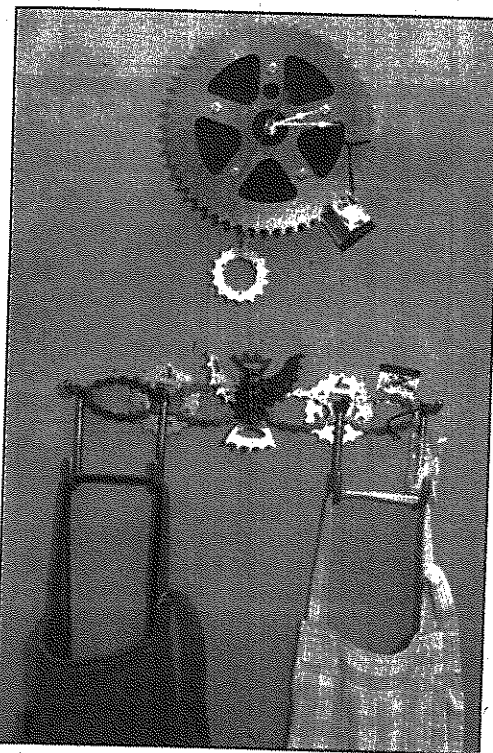
Among the items carried by Mia Mahalo are furnishings (from Twigware place settings to twin and full-, queen- and king-size beds), food (including rare honey from Hawaii - the only store in Michigan to stock it, according to Broesamle), and health, beauty and non-toxic cleaning products.

There are clothing for babies, youngsters and adults; kitchen linens; and towels for yoga (measuring 30 by 72 inches) or bath (40 by 72 inches). No chemicals were used in the processing of the towels.

Items made from recycled materials come in a variety of forms - a chair of recycled aluminum; large crayons in animal shapes made from used crayons; a container composed of recycled paper and magazines. Accessories by Resource Revival of Oregon include candle holders, frames and clocks consisting of recycled bicycle, car and machine parts.

There are objects made from nature

PLEASE SEE STORE, C10



Recycled bicycle parts make for interesting interior decor at Mia Mahalo in Royal Oak. Shown here are a coat rack and a clock made of bicycle gears and chains.

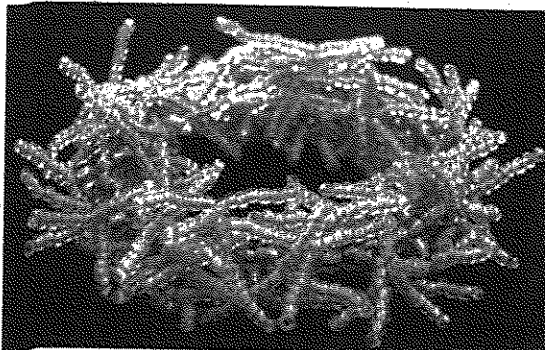
MARKET PLACE

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.

Wrist watching

Adorn, a fun boutique with a relaxed atmosphere at 200 Fifth Avenue, east of Washington in downtown Royal Oak, has added a new bracelet design to its signature label in time for the holiday gift season. The affordable bracelets, made from sprays of tiny glass beads, seem to dance on the wrist of the wearer. Since all designs are one-of-a-kind, these bracelets with matching earrings make a special, more personal gift. They're available in a variety of colors and patterns. Adorn features works by more than 40 local, national and international artists. Items include jewelry made from butterfly wings, bottle caps or marbles; handbags made from antique kimonos, screen prints or hammered copper; hand-painted or knitted scarves; jewelry boxes made from clay and gold leaf; and objects crafted from more traditional materials. Call (248) 548-6197, visit www.adornart.com or e-mail jewelry@adornart.com.



Mail in those warranty, registration cards

Let me begin this column by wishing all of you a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year. Many new products will be opened and used by consumers over the holidays. I would like to remind everyone to send in their warranty and registration cards which came with the gift. If there happens to be a recall on your product, the cards give manufacturers a quick way to inform you.

The other item you received in your gift was an operating instruction booklet. These booklets have a habit of jumping into a junk drawer before anyone gets a chance to read it. This omission can result in an expensive lesson by any consumer.

Manufacturers pay a service technician to visit your home and fix your new product. Consumers are unhappy that they needed service in the first place and are not pleased when the technician sends them a service invoice for payment when he writes on that invoice "showed customer how to set the control and flipped the switch to on." In many cases, manufacturers will not pay for the service technician for coming out to your home and that technician has every right to charge you for the service call and labor. Please read the instruction booklet before you call for service.

The holiday season is always the perfect time to do a little something for the appliance shop that takes care of you throughout the year. I remember a whole lot of customers who used to come into my little store and bring me cookies and

cakes and all sorts of things to show their appreciation. You know that any time during the year that they needed service, they received preferential treatment. They weren't just customers, they were friends. I remember the lady who purchased a used washer for her daughter and I sent the boys over to the house on Christmas Eve with a brand new Maytag tied up with a red bow. The daughter couldn't believe her eyes, the mother thought I made a mistake and I felt like Santa Claus.

When the technician comes over this holiday season, why not fix him a hot drink to go? You might notice the service van and think about how cold it is in there. He still has other calls to make and it would be a nice gesture to help keep him or her warm. A small piece of throw rug placed on the floor will help keep his sore knees from cracking in your presence. A roll of paper towel and soap and a sink are things seldom asked for but certainly appreciated. A smile and season's greeting should be a must when you open the door. I don't know why, but it always seems to help a technician fix the problem quicker.

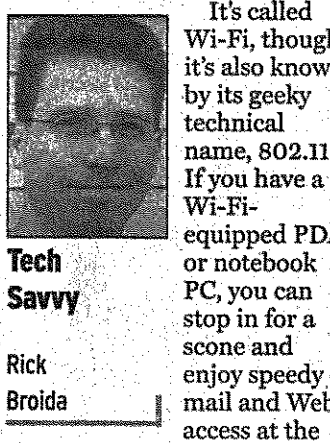
Respect is the parent to good customer relations in many ways. Treat that major home appliance or whatever gifts you receive with respect and you will find that they last longer and run smoother. Treat that technician this way and he or she will do a better job.

To the thousands of you who have read this column for many years, I must thank you for doing so.

I wish you all a happy holiday and a life filled with good customer relations.

Joe Gagnon can now be heard on WWJ-950 and WXYT-1270. His phone number is (248) 455-7281.

At the Panera Bread at 12 Mile Road and Halstead in Farmington Hills, the coffee's fresh, the bagels rule, and the high-speed wireless Internet access is free.



Tech Savvy
Rick Broida

I may move in. Panera Bread (and subsidiary Saint Louis Bread Co.) first began offering free Wi-Fi last August, starting with 70 stores and adding another 60

by year's end. The company ultimately plans to make these Wi-Fi "hotspots" available at all locations.

Contrast this with Starbucks, Borders bookstores, and Kinko's, all of which have added their own hotspots - but charge for the privilege. It costs \$10 for a one-day pass or \$29.99 per month for an annual subscription.

Needless to say, I'll be getting my baked goods and Google at Panera Bread.

There's something very liberating about sitting in a public place with your own computer and surfing the Web without wires. It's a fast connection, much faster than with a dial-up modem. It's surprisingly uncomplicated - usually you just fire up your Web browser and presto, you're online. And did I mention it's free?

Well, not entirely. If your notebook doesn't have built-in Wi-Fi, you can add it via an

inexpensive PC Card or USB adapter. Browsing at Amazon.com, I found the Netgear MA111 802.11b

Wireless USB Adapter for \$35 (after rebate) and the D-Link AirPlus DWL-650+ PC Card for \$40.

After that small investment, wireless Web browsing at Panera costs absolutely nothing.

When you get there, pick up the "How of Wi-Fi" brochure for instructions on configuring your notebook to work with their network. If you run into technical problems, there's a toll-free number you can call for help. (Don't bother asking the employees - they're trained in bagels and java, not notebooks and networks.)

Mark my words: in 2004, Wi-Fi will be everywhere. You can already find hotspots in many airports, hotels, and libraries. Even Denny's is getting in on the act. But except

for libraries, most places still charge for access.

Big mistake. As Panera Bread has proven, Wi-Fi can and should be free. I'll be surprised if Cafe.com and T-Mobile, two of the largest fee-based hotspot providers, are still charging a year from now. They can't possibly be making any money.

Or can they? Have you ever paid for Wi-Fi at a place like Starbucks? Would you make a special trip to Panera just for free Internet access? I'd like to hear your thoughts on the subject.

In the meantime, you'll find me at a corner table with a Frontega Chicken Panini in one hand and a mouse in the other.

Rick Broida writes about computers and technology for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Readers who have questions for Broida can email him at rickbroida@excite.com

HOME CALENDAR

Pet photos with Santa

HomeFurEver Animal Rescue will be sponsoring Pet Photos with Santa 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Pet Supplies Plus on Orchard Lake Road near 13 Mile in Farmington Hills. Minimum donation of \$5 for photos. Raffles for baskets of pet care products will be conducted throughout the day.

Auction

The Frank H. Boos Gallery, 420 Enterprise Court in Bloomfield Hills, will conduct an auction 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11.

The auction features jewelry, paintings, art glass and pottery, assorted clear and colored glass, dolls, toys, trains and vintage Christmas decorations. Call (248) 332-1500, e-mail artandauktion@boosgallery.com or visit www.boosgallery.com for information.

Animal attraction

"Paws" to help homeless animals while holiday shopping at the Store of Dreams, at Laurel Park Place, Six Mile and I-275 in Livonia, and Macomb Mall, Gratiot and Masonic in Roseville. For the third year, the Michigan Humane Society has stocked up on great gifts, as well as informative and entertaining events, while participating in the third annual Store of Dreams sponsored by Schostak Brothers & Company now through Sunday, Dec. 21. The schedule includes:

Pet Education Center Consultations, 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11; Volunteer Information Night, 7-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12; and Adopt-A-Pet, noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14.

For more information, call (866) MHU-MANE or visit www.michiganhumane.org.

American Regional Revisited

A collection of historic (1900 to 1960) Michigan Scarab Club member paintings focuses on representational and modern works at the American Regional Revisited, presented by the Golden Fig and The Antiques Centre of Troy.

The exhibition features works by Harold Cohn, Carol Wald, Charles Waltensperger, William Greason and others. It runs through Saturday, Dec. 20, at The Antiques Centre of Troy, on the northeast corner of Maple (15 Mile) and Coolidge. For information, call Ron Povlich at (248) 614-0148 or Judy Frankel at (248) 649-4399.

Wassail Evenings

Sweet Peas, a home accessories store at 2006 Cole in Birmingham, presents Holiday Wassail Evenings Tuesday, Dec. 16, and Thursdays, Dec. 11 and 18 (with extended hours 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.), offering a warm taste of the holidays while you browse. Call (248) 988-2810.

Letters to Santa

Children can prepare a special letter to Santa including all their holiday wishes 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day through Tuesday, Dec. 23, at Meadow Brook Hall, on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester. Also through Dec. 23, youngsters can visit with Santa at Knole Cottage, Frances Dodge's built-to-scale playhouse, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily.

Grand tour

Experience the adventure of the Grand Tour at Meadow Brook Hall on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester by retracing the journey of

the Dodge-Wilson family. Guests will receive boarding passes upon arrival into the Great Hall, where they will be part of a festive bon voyage before embarking on their Grand Tour. Tours are offered daily 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the last admittance at 4 p.m., now through Tuesday, Dec. 23.

Holiday Magic

Thursday, Dec. 11, is Holiday Magic in Royal Oak. Visit The Heritage Co. II (phone (248) 547-0670), Menagerie (phone (248) 544-2955) and Midnight Blue Designs (phone (248) 399-6060), all at 116 E. 7th, for late night shopping.

Home decor

Haberman Fabrics, 905 S. Main in Royal Oak, presents home decor classes for a variety of levels of sewing experience. You must register and pay tuition in advance. Call (248) 541-0010 for information.

The schedule includes

Fabric Book Jackets (fee is \$20), Thursday, Dec. 11; Beaded Throw Pillow (\$40), Thursdays, Dec. 11-18; Creative Christmas Stocking (\$20), Sunday, Dec. 14;

Hands-on clinics

Home Depot offers free, weekly how-to clinics for do-it-yourselfers. Experienced associates provide step-by-step instructions during the clinics, which last 30 to 45 minutes. For information, contact your local Home Depot.

The December schedule features:

You Can Remove and Install Wallpaper and Borders, 7 p.m. Tuesdays; You Can Install a Toilet, 7 p.m. Thursdays; You Can Lay Ceramic Tile, 10 a.m. Saturdays; You Can Try Power Tools Before You Buy Them, 2 p.m. Saturdays; and You Can Apply Faux Paint Techniques, 2 p.m. Sundays.

Nutcracker Tea

Children and their guests can enjoy tea sandwiches and desserts before a special visit with Santa in the Play House at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Drive (between Eight and Nine Mile), Grosse Pointe Shores. Reservations are required. Cost is \$11. Dates of the teas are: 4 p.m. Dec. 11-12 and 15-18, and 4 and 6 p.m. Dec. 15. Call (313) 884-4222 for more information.

Holiday events

Spend a leisurely afternoon with a tour at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, of the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Drive (between Eight and Nine Mile), Grosse Pointe Shores. The tour will be followed by sandwiches, pastries and tea in the Tea Room. The tea and tour are \$23. Reservations are required.

At a Holiday Open House

7-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, come for a "candlelit" evening strolling tour of the first floor and a night filled with the sights and sounds of the holidays. Cost is \$7. Call (313) 884-4222 for more information.

Traditional Holiday Evening

Gather your friends for a festive evening out 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Drive (between Eight and Nine Mile), Grosse Pointe Shores. See the elegant decorations, then enjoy a gourmet dinner and the entertainment of the Detroit Brass Society. Cost is \$45; reservations required. Call (313) 884-4222.

If you have an item for the calendar, please submit it at least two weeks in advance of the date it should be published.

Send to Ken Abramczyk, At Home Editor, Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or e-mail kabramczyk@oe.homecomm.net.

CLARIFICATION

A story on the Holly Walk in Rochester that ran in the Dec. 4 At Home section should have

indicated that Gail Duncan is the owner of Jerome Duncan Ford car dealership.

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Decorate your rooms following these tips

I have saved money to redecorate my family room. Hiring an interior decorator is not in my budget but I want it done well and in a timely manner. Could you give me some pointers?

Decorating or redecorating is enjoyable, but it is also a big job if you are the "interior decorator."



Domestic Planner

Diana Koenig

You can find success and satisfaction when you take time to organize everything. In the last few years I have redecorated several rooms in my house, one of which was my family room. I like to have things neat and in order so I am not very tolerant of stepping over ladders, paint cans, tools or looking at empty walls for more than a couple of days.

To avoid this you must carefully plan the renovations.

You will not want to move furniture, remove pictures from the walls, begin painting or wall papering until you have written a schedule and purchased construction materials, furniture (if applicable) and decor.

Here's a procedure in decorating a room:

Visit display homes, look in magazines, observe other people's homes and look in furniture stores to get ideas. If you are not an interior decorator by profession, you will need to train yourself by research and observation.

Avoid being trendy but still try to be current with styles and colors.

After making a decision on the theme of the room, make a decision on the style and colors.

If you are buying new furniture, your next step would be to visit several furniture stores, so you can find what you like and get an idea of what is a reasonable price.

Allow additional time in case furniture needs to be ordered!

Choose wall covering and/or paint to coordinate with the furniture.

Be a frugal shopper, allowing plenty of time to purchase these items on sale.

Go on a shopping marathon to find wall coverings, pillows, wall decorations, lamps, and other decor. Compare prices, look for sales and then make your purchase.

After you purchase everything, schedule a week to take the old down in order to prepare for the new.

On the first two days, empty the room and then paint or wall paper. Hold the furniture at the warehouse and schedule delivery when the walls are completed.

Make a decision on what to do with old furniture and decor when it is removed from the room.

You may choose to keep it in another room in your house, sell it at a garage sale or give it to a charity.

Prerange to have the carpets cleaned after the walls are painted or papered and before the furniture is delivered.

After cleaning the carpets or floors clean the windows and hang the room decorations.

Finally, the furniture is delivered, wall decor is hung and other decorations are arranged in the room. Decide where everything will go before the furniture arrives.

When I decorated my family room, this process took two months from start to finish. We changed everything in the room; furniture, walls, window treatments, wall decorations and other room decor.

The only thing we did not change was the carpet. The actual time it took once the old things were taken out was one week.

We finished the painting on a weekend but could not coordinate carpet cleaners and furniture delivery until the end of the week.

When my sons decided they had outgrown the train and sailboat decor in their room, I allowed them to help choose their new room decorations.

We looked through catalogs and decided on a theme. I

purchased items and brought things home for their approval because browsing around town for a good deal was not their idea of fun.

Allowing them to take part in the decision making and decorating teaches them organization principles and makes them feel important. I can spend time with my children while accomplishing a household task.

Occasionally something happens when I tackle the job as interior decorator that causes me to panic.

One such thing happened when my husband and I redecorated our bedroom.

I had completed my plan, made all my choices and purchased the materials. My mother-in-law had sewn and quilted an heirloom quilt around which I planned the rest of the room.

My husband had agreed to let me change our room from a masculine look to pink and lace Victorian. I removed everything from the room except the blue carpet and we proceeded to paint the walls mauve.

Upon completion of one wall, I burst into tears because mauve walls and blue carpet were not a good match.

I was sure I had made a decorating mistake.

In compassion my husband said, "Honey, it's OK, I'll just repaint with any color you would like." His encouraging words were all I needed to continue painting the walls mauve and proceed with my plan.

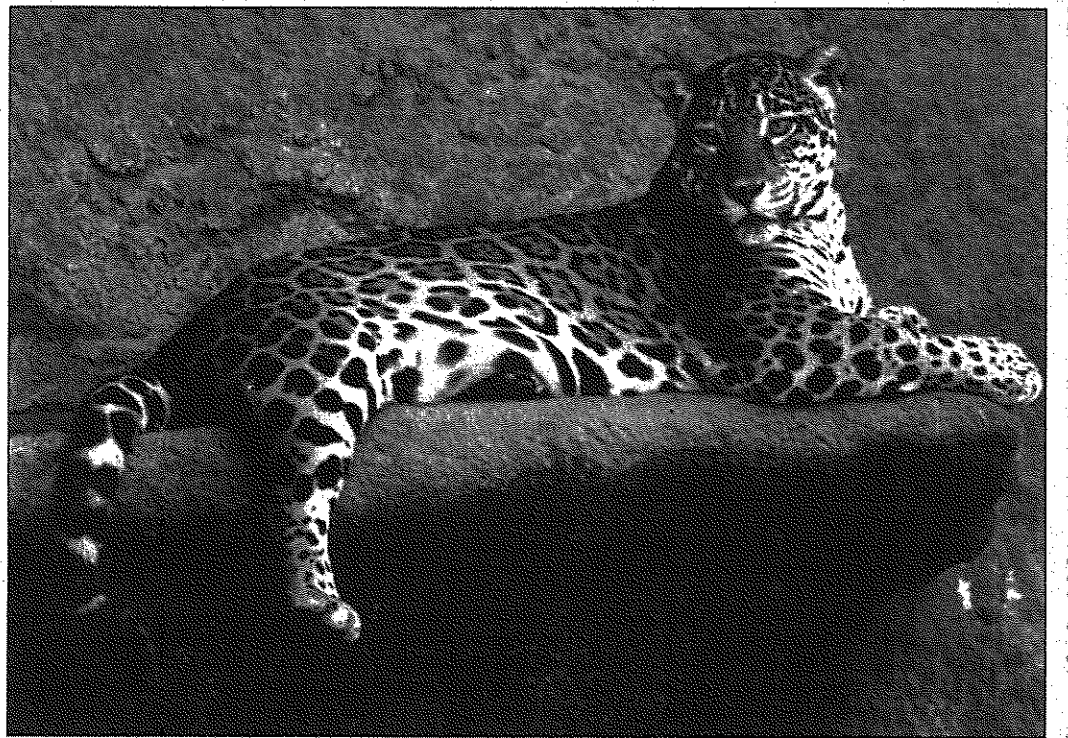
After the stenciling was done, the lace curtains were hung, decor was arranged and the antique white furniture delivered, I had a room fit for a queen!

TODAY'S REFRIGERATOR

BULLETIN:

"Appoint yourself Interior Decorator of your Home!"

Send your questions and success stories to: Diana Koenig, P.O. Box 1702, Manchester, MO 63011. Email: dianakoenig@hotmail.com www.domesticplanner.com.



Moving in close and using just the right lens rewarded Monte Nagler with this impact-filled photo of a Jaguar.

Take a shot of animal habitats at the zoo

Most zoos around the country are eliminating cages as much as possible and designing habitats closely resembling the actual environment of the animals on exhibit.



Focus on Photography

Monte Nagler

year either.

Let's begin with equipment. In addition to your camera body, a long telephoto (300-400mm) and a short telephoto (85-135mm) will work just fine. A flash for indoor exhibits will round out the essential equipment. Provisions for closeup pho-

tography will come in handy, too.

Like people, animals have distinct personalities. Some are active, some lazy. Some are interested in us "humans" peering at them, and some couldn't care less. Take time to study their movement and habits.

Watch their routines - animals tend to be repetitious. Focus in on the part of the act you like and shoot. Animals are alert and active right before feeding so you be on the alert, too. Shortly after feeding, most animals clean and groom themselves, and then it's siesta time. Each of these phases of animal behavior will offer rewarding photographs.

As always, be sure to check out your backgrounds. Make them as natural as possible, avoiding fences, telephone poles, and other zoo visitors. If you have to shoot through a fence, don't worry. Just place the lens as close to the fence as possible and use a

wide lens opening to minimize depth-of-field. In the final picture, the fence won't even be there.

Don't let those snakes and lizards behind glass in indoor exhibits scare you off.

If you press your camera and flash against the glass, all will be well, and unwanted reflections will be eliminated.

Did you know that zoos offer much more than animal photography? In addition to being a fantastic place for flower and other foliage photography, zoos are a great place to observe other people, especially kids. Children and their reactions to the different kinds of animals and animal behavior can result in prize-winning candid pictures showing amazement, humor and surprise.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message at (734) 953-2047. His fax number is (248) 644-1314.

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Painting window frames

BY MORRIS AND JAMES CAREY
FOR AP WEEKLY FEATURES

Painting wood windows can be a tough job, especially keeping paint off the glass. Masking tape takes time to install and can be a mess to remove.

Removal of paint with a razor blade is dangerous and can damage the freshly painted finish.

Instead, use a large putty knife as a paint shield. A 10-inch drywall taping knife works best. Lay the blade into the joint between the glass and the wood frame. Hold the knife firmly in place at an angle of about 30 degrees from the glass while brushing paint onto the wood frame. Excess paint will wind up on the knife instead on the window.

Watch for plumbing problems

Homeowners should be aware of troubles that come with frigid temperatures, especially when it comes to pipes.

"While serious plumbing problems are best left to professionals," says Larry Rothman, Master Plumber for Roto-Rooter, North America's largest provider of plumbing and drain cleaning services, "there are several precautions homeowners can take to prevent costly repairs."

■ Disconnect outside water hoses. Water left in the hoses can freeze and expand, causing faucets and connecting pipes inside your home to freeze and break.

■ Make sure outside faucets aren't dripping or leaking.

■ When pipes freeze, water pressure builds causing cracks no matter if the pipe is made of plastic, copper or steel. Even a tiny crack can unleash more than 250 gallons of water in a single day.

■ If your home has interior shut-off valves leading to outside faucets, close them and drain water from the lines.

■ Cover outside faucets using a faucet insulation kit available at home centers.

■ Insulate pipes in unheated areas, such as garages or crawl spaces with heat tape or thermostat-controlled heat cables.

■ Seal door and window leaks to reduce cold air drafts.

■ Your water heater works harder during cold weather. Flush it out and remove sedi-

ment buildup, which causes corrosion, shortens life span and reduces heating efficiency. Drain several gallons from the faucet near the bottom of the tank through a hose directed into a nearby drain.

■ Carefully test the water heater's pressure relief valve (water is very hot) by lifting up on the lever and letting it snap back. The valve should allow a burst of hot water into the drainpipe. If not, call a professional to have a new valve installed.

■ Set water heater's thermostat at 120°F for optimum performance.

■ Clear leaves and debris from downspouts to ensure easy drainage when water freezes and thaws.

■ Inspect and clean sump pump and pit. Pumps exposed to extreme cold can freeze preventing the pump from operating.

■ When leaving home for extended periods, shut off the main water valve and drain the system by opening faucets at the highest and lowest points of the house. Keep the heat on and set no lower than 55° F.

Follow these tips if you stay in the home during the colder months. Many additional steps should be taken for vacation properties that will be abandoned or left unattended for weeks or months at a time. Seek professional help for such properties. More seasonal tips are available at www.rotorooter.com.

GARDEN CALENDAR

Hill & Dale
The Hill & Dale Garden Club of Farmington Hills will have a general meeting 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, in the Day Camp of the Heritage Park Visitor's Center, Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile in Farmington Hills.

Materials for a project are needed. For information, call (248) 426-9037.

Herb Study Group
The Friends of the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens Herb Study Group will meet Monday, Dec. 15, in the Gardens auditorium, 1800 N. Dixboro Road in Ann Arbor. A pot luck lunch will take place at noon. The program, Holiday

Pampering and Unisex Skin Indulgence for the Harsh Winter Months, by Christina McCahan of Truth Salon in West Bloomfield, will begin at 1 p.m. The program is free. New members and visitors are welcome. For more information, contact Joan Wysocki at jdwysoc@aol.com or (248) 349-5310, or call the Gardens at (248) 998-7061.

Winter birds
The Adult Education Program of the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens in Ann Arbor offers a variety of classes, including Winter Birds, Friday-Saturday, Jan. 2-3; fee is \$60 (\$54 for members). Call (734) 998-7061.

Learn to dispose of chemicals properly

Household products are designed with safety in mind, but it's a smart idea to learn more about the safest ways to use and dispose of them.

According to The Chemical Educational Foundation, the following safety guidelines may help people protect their families and the environment.

■ Love your labels - Read and follow label directions on how to use, store and dispose of a substance.

■ Plan your purchases - Buy the right amount of a product to prevent waste.

■ Store properly - Keep products in their original container and store them securely, out of reach of children and pets.

■ Handle properly - Never mix household chemicals together, the effects can be toxic.

■ Proper disposal and recycling - Never pour household chemicals on the ground or

down a storm drain. Recycle what you can.

Special disposal and recycling programs may exist for the following products:

Automotive products, aerosol containers, paints and coatings, pesticides and fertilizers, and household batteries.

Find out whether or not your community has a household hazardous waste collection program. You may need to schedule a special pick up or

take items to a designated site. Check what your community's program will accept for recycling. If you cannot find a household hazardous waste collection program, call the manufacturer for recycling or disposal recommendations.

To learn more about household chemical safety or to receive a copy of *Solutions-Chemicals in Your Home*, call (703) 527-6223 or visit www.chemed.org.

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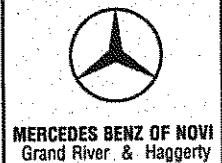
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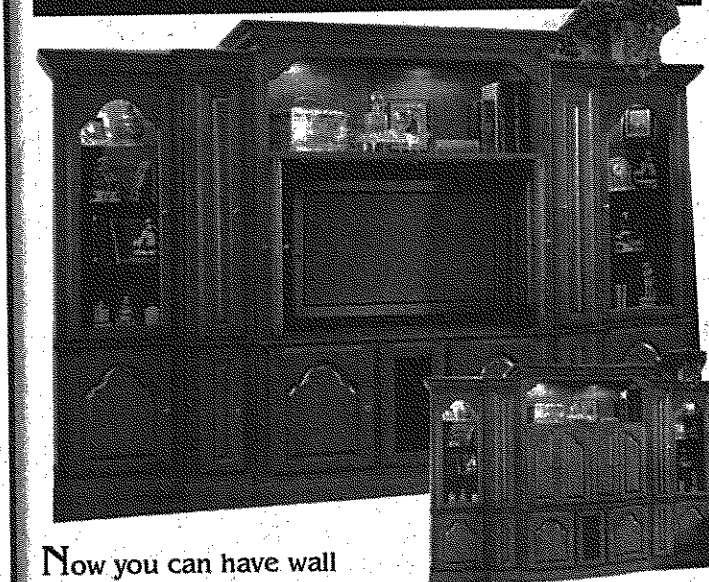
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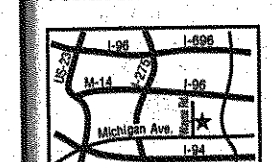
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It's a good time for scarification

BY LEE REICH
AP WEEKLY FEATURES

Halloween is long past, but its still a good time for scarification.

"Scarification" has nothing at all to do with "scaring." Scarification means "to scratch" and in the world of gardening scarification means "to scratch a seed." You scarify seeds whose seed coats are so hard that they are impervious to water and gases.

Under natural conditions, such seeds eventually imbibe water and gases, but only after the seeds have lain in the soil for a few years or passed through animals. Many gardeners are too impatient to wait a few years for germination.

Seeds of some perennial plants need to be scarified now so that they will be able to germinate next spring.

In some cases, scarification is needed because two to three months of cool, moist conditions are needed to break down germination inhibitors naturally present in many seeds.

That breakdown cannot occur unless the inside of the seed is cool and moist.

Less than 10 percent of red-bud tree seeds, for instance, sprouted when they were either scarified or kept cool and moist, but a whopping 88 percent germinated when the seeds were scarified and then kept cool and moist.

Inhibitors and a hard seed coat, alone or together, serve

the useful purpose of holding back seed germination until growing conditions are favorable.

The mechanics of scarifying are straightforward enough if you have just a few large seeds. Take the word scarification literally, and scratch each seed with a file. Or, you could whack the seed with a hammer (not too hard), or nip at it with a wire cutter.

To scarify small or many seeds, follow the lead of nature: Put them into a bag with some moist soil, and keep the mix warm for a couple of months.

Then, if necessary, move the bag somewhere cool for another couple of months. Another way to scarify is to just plant seeds outdoors early enough in summer. Or pour some boiling water over the seeds, then let them stand in the water for a day.

Scarification is needed mostly by perennials in the pea family, and that would include such trees and shrubs as honeylocust, black locust, wisteria, broom, mimosa, and redbud, as well as the herbaceous perennial lupine.

Scarification also speeds germination of some non-legumes, such as rose, cotoneaster, linden, and witch-hazel.

Some annuals also benefit from scarification.

Nip the tips off morning glory seeds before sowing them and young shoots should poke up through the soil within two days.

Repair poll has silver lining for contractors

BY DAVID BRADLEY
FOR AP WEEKLY FEATURES

Last year, the home-improvement business got whacked by a 2-by-4 in a consumer complaint survey. This time around, it got off comparatively light with a mild smack from a piece of lath.

Even this marginal upgrade has some contractors clicking their steel-toed boots for joy.

"On the surface there are several things happening in the industry that mean contractors are getting better," says Mike Turner of The Home Service Store, a firm that oversees contractors on repair jobs.

Turner sees a trend of general sophistication among home-repair firms, a signal to him that things are looking up.

"When the industry becomes more sophisticated, it means we are becoming more professional and better able to meet consumer expectations."

Behind the sophistication is a consolidation of repair firms that has forced less prepared firms - and shady contractors - to the sidelines.

In theory, bigger firms can offer a wider range of services and have the clout to guarantee work and closely supervise workers.

All of which, according to Turner and HSS, is to the benefit of consumers.

"We demand high levels of professionalism because that's the direction this business is headed, and it happens that the larger companies can dictate these greater expectations throughout their ranks," says Turner.

Even big-box hardware chains are screening contractor installation services to find contractors who share the mantra of quality service and professional demeanor.

The third element boils down to education of con-

sumers and contractors alike.

To lay all industry image problems at the feet of the contractor misses the consumers' role in how a project ultimately turns out.

Turner says the burden is on home-repair industry trade groups to help homeowners understand that clearly communicated expectations are coveted by aboveboard contractors.

"You have a train wreck coming if both sides don't clearly communicate," says Turner. "It can be as simple as a homeowner complaint that 'you didn't clean up the job site every day' while the contractor can legitimately contend 'you didn't ask me to.'"

Still, winning over consumer confidence - and lowering its place in the polls - has the home-improvement industry looking for long-term answers.

"The whole delivery system of the entire industry is driven

by small independent contractors and our entire industry, both big and small firms, needs to pull itself up by our bootstraps," says Turner.

"It's not like buying tires at 15 different stores. A home-improvement project is a one-of-a-kind job, and that's how our industry needs to approach things."

The annual national survey, conducted by the Consumer Federation of America and an association trade group, reported automobile sales in 2003 replaced home improvements in the uncovered No. 1 spot of consumer complaints.

The Home Service Store is a home-improvement management organization that provides property owners with a full range of home-improvement services and project guidance. For more information call 1-(866) HSS-6060 or visit www.TrustHSS.com.

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Pot extra bulbs now for blooming spring show

BY DENISE COWIE
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

I've always been a bit of a bulb junkie. But this year was going to be different, I vowed when the catalogs started arriving months ago.

This year, I wouldn't be seduced into over-ordering spring bulbs, so I wouldn't be scrambling to find space for them in the garden five minutes before the ground froze rock-solid.

And I kept that promise, at first. But then I came upon some interesting bulbs during a visit to Mostardi Nursery in Newtown Square, Penn. And a non-gardening trip to Lowe's took me right past the bulb bins. Even Trader Joe's wasn't safe, because colorful boxes of tulip and daffodil bulbs practically leaped into my arms from its entryway floral display.

The result? I have piles of bulbs waiting to be planted.

Not a problem, said Sally Ferguson at the Netherlands Flower Bulb Information Center in New York. She had some of her own to plant over the Thanksgiving weekend.

"You really shouldn't plant

until you've had sustained temperatures below 50 degrees at night for two weeks," she said, pointing out that planting bulbs (especially tulips) too early can lead to fungus or disease problems.

PLANT IN POTS

Ideally, bulbs should be planted about six weeks before hard frost, so they can begin developing their root systems.

But you don't have to plant them in the ground. You can plant them in pots, store them away in a cool spot for 10 to 16 weeks, then display them indoors or out as they bloom.

The amount of cooling that bulbs require depends on the varieties you choose, but generally they need at least 12 weeks, Ferguson said. So it's a bit late to force daffodils to bloom out of season in January - that would have meant potting them and starting their cooling period back in September.

But filling lots of pots with bulbs now and putting them in cool storage will give you design flexibility in a few months.

Indoors, you can group pots of different bulbs on a windowsill, on a table in front of a window, or in an entry foyer. But don't display them on a TV set or near a heat source, and move them from the windowsill to a cooler area when you're not home, to prolong the bloom.

"Outdoors, you can use potted bulbs to incredible effect," Ferguson said. When they're ready to flower, "you can put them in prime positions near the door, or by the mailbox, or right outside your windows - wherever you would want to see them."

UNDERUSED DESIGN

Growing bulbs in containers "is underused as a design trick in America," she added.

"People think, 'Oh, pots,' and they think indoors or they think outdoors in summer. But they don't think about creating the same excitement outdoors with pots in the spring, grouping them, and moving them around."

"Outdoors, the display season can last a long time - bloom comes in waves when you do a large container with layers of bulbs."

Smaller pots of bulbs can spend their cooling period grouped together in a relatively protected spot such as an unheated garage or basement, mulched in against the foundation of the house, or even sunk into a garden bed. But gardeners who want to layer several different kinds of bulbs for continuing display outdoors in big containers, such as whiskey barrels, will want to position the container before they plant, because it will be heavy to move.

In Zone 6 in Pennsylvania, Ferguson said, figure on using a pot more than 18 inches tall and about 25 inches across, big enough that the bulbs won't freeze. And some insulation, such as bubble wrap would

around the exterior of the container, would be useful in the coldest months, too. When it's time for the bulbs to do their thing, you can bring some smaller pots to join it.

"If you have a whiskey-barrel-size pot with some smaller pots, it looks better - and it's also a way to fight the elements," she said. "If you cluster the containers, they create little microclimates for themselves."

ROTATING POTS

Ferguson practices what she preaches. Attached to her house in New York is a formal terrace entry, "and when you come in, all these containers have displays of plants that come and go throughout the year," she said. Some of the pots are permanent fixtures, but others move around.

"As each comes into its own, it gets featured, and then as it fades out, I move in new pots. I keep things rotating. It's fun - and it's a great way to use fragrance, too."

Ah, yes, hyacinths. "People either love hyacinths or they don't, but outside almost everyone loves them. It's only when they are inside that they start getting an attitude," Ferguson joked. "And Monte Carlo tulip is a double early that smells like honey, so if you have it in a pot indoors this honey scent can permeate the house."

"Angelique is also fragrant, with a slightly rose-like scent in a double-late tulip that looks like a peony. Both are very good potted up."

"Prinses Irene is another, a Triumph tulip, orange with purple flames, and the perfume is... I don't know how to describe it," she said, laughing. "It smells just as one would hope it would smell."

For small containers, use just one kind of bulb per pot. Not only does it look more pleasing, but the bulbs are more likely to bloom at the same time.

"If you want to combine them (indoors), wait until you've brought them in out of

the cold... Then you can either take them out of their individual pots and put them in a bigger container, or leave them in their pots and combine them in a basket, and put ivy or something like that in between," to camouflage the pots, she said.

If you are layering bulbs in a big container for outdoor display, keep the bulbs at least two inches from the edge of the pot, so they don't get frost burn. But don't worry about the growing plants bumping into each other.

"They grow around one another," Ferguson said. "It goes back to the basic: Bulbs want to bloom. Even if you plant them upside down, they figure it out."

GET DRAINAGE

Before you start, put thin strips of wood or something similar under the pot so it is just off the ground, for drainage, and some curved shards over the drainage holes to keep them unclogged. Then fill the pot with potting mix (not topsoil) until it's 10 inches from the top.

Put 15 to 20 or more daffodil bulbs in first, because they are biggest.

Spread them evenly over the surface, and add more potting mix until the bulbs are covered by an inch or so of soil. Then put in the tulip bulbs, then part up.

For the outer circle of bulbs, face the flat side of the bulb toward the pot's wall. This isn't essential, but it will position the outer bulbs so their first leaves drape gracefully over the pot's rim.

Add another inch or two of soil, firm it down gently, and add the final layer of bulbs. Mingle crocus and muscari with the pointy sides up. (If you can't figure out which side is pointy, don't worry, they'll be fine.)

You want lots of these little bulbs - they can touch each other in the pot - because the crocus are the first up and the muscari will bloom all season.

Add four or five more inches of potting mix, until there are just a couple of inches of pot above the soil.

"This is where you can plunk down some pansies, which will last through the winter these days," Ferguson said, but don't substitute kale or any plant with a big root system that will interfere with the bulbs.

"Use blue pansies, and don't plant them thickly, so that the pansies and the (blue) muscari complement each other, but the pansies don't overwhelm the bulbs. They are just a little tease of what's to come."

Water your pot well, and, if squirrels are a problem, put an expandable window screen over it, with a rock to keep it in place, until the ground freezes. Then forget about it until the blooming starts.

Next spring, once the flowering fireworks are over, you can either toss the bulbs, or save everything but the tulips to bloom another year.

TIPS ON BULBS:

Most spring-flowering bulbs require a cooling period (in the range of 40 degrees), during which they develop roots.

If you grow bulbs in pots for either indoor or outdoor display, mark your calendar so you will remember to retrieve the pots from your root cellar, unheated basement, or that extra refrigerator when it's time for the bulbs to start growing and flowering.

The easiest bulbs to grow indoors are paperwhite narcissus and amaryllis, which don't require cooling. But large-flowering crocus, hyacinths, muscari, and miniature iris, which do need cooling, are also easy.

The required length of the cooling period differs from one bulb variety to another. Visit the Netherlands Flower Bulb Information Center at www.bulb.com and click on "Forcing Bulbs" for cooling guidelines and other information on growing bulbs in containers.

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Joel Roberts Poinsett died on December 12, 1851. A popular holiday plant is named after him. Research and explain who Poinsett was and how the plant received its name. Look through your newspaper to find other examples of a noun, verb, adjective or adverb being created from a person's name. Explain how and when the word came into use and why the person's name was used. Share with your classmates and create a poster showing what you have found.

Monday, December 15th is Bill of Rights Day. What is the Bill of Rights? Which one do you think is the most important?

The Wright Brothers first powered flight took place on December 17, 1903, so this will be the centennial celebration of that event. How did their technology change the world? What kind of business were the Wright Brothers in back in Ohio?

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Stop that cold air in your fireplace

BY JAMES AND MORRIS CAREY
FOR AP WEEKLY FEATURES

Worried about that fateful night when you will be stopped by a policeman and given a ticket because your taillight is out? Want to know an easy way to prevent that?

Are deer a problem where you live? Want to know how other folks are keeping these beautiful, but pesky, flower-devouring creatures at bay?

Want to learn how you can keep cold air from entering your house through your fireplace this winter?

For solutions to these problems and more, read on.

MESSY POWER STRIP

If you have a home office or

an at-home student, more than likely, you have a power strip sitting on the floor covered with an array of messy cords.

A way to clean up that mess is to attach the power strip on the underside of the desk structure.

The task is easy because plug strips come with keyhole shaped screw slots that make mounting possible.

However, if you aren't real skilled with a measuring tape, the prospect of hanging the plug strip can be disheartening.

Here's a simple procedure that will make the job easy:

Get a piece of paper and a pencil. Use the pencil to rub the position of the keyhole screw slots onto the paper --

a pencil rubbing.

Use the tracing to transfer the exact screw locations onto your desk.

Use the rubbing as a pattern to locate the position of, and install, the mounting screws.

AVOID TAILLIGHT TICKETS

Now you can drive more safely without worrying about whether your taillight (or brake light) is working. All you need is your garage door and some tin foil.

Staple or tape a piece of tin foil onto your garage door behind each tail light (the foil should extend slightly beyond the side of the vehicle).

Before raising the

garage door, and before starting the engine, turn the ignition key on and check taillights, brake lights and turn signals by using the rearview mirror to check what's working and what's not.

By the way, the same procedure can be used to check the front lights.

If you want to get fancy, you can use glass or plastic mirror tiles or sheets of polished metal.

DEER DETERRENT

We have several friends who, like us, love deer, but have difficulty with all the damage that these beautiful creatures cause to landscape and gardens. Recently, it has been discovered that hanging a piece of

bar soap from a string will deter deer.

Hang the soap between where the deer live and your favorite foliage.

One taste of this meal and they'll move on to a better restaurant.

ENERGY-EFFICIENT FIREPLACE

If you felt cold air coming into the house through your fireplace last winter, and couldn't figure out why, you need to know more about the mechanics of a fireplace damper.

It is made of metal and has no weather-stripping. So, as the fireplace gets used, it can warp and rust to the point where it won't close tightly. If this is the case with your

fireplace, look into a "chimney pillow."

This pillow is like a beach ball or an air mattress.

Place the chimney pillow into the fireplace flue just above the damper. Inflate it by using a hand pump, or blow it up by mouth. Close the tap on the fill hose.

The chimney pillow will keep hot air in and freezing cold air out.

A label or another reminder should be placed on the hearth or in the firebox telling you to remove it before starting a fire.

Deflation takes about a minute, and no tools are required.

For more home improvement tips and information, visit www.onthehouse.com.

Seal double glass French doors inside and outside

BY MORRIS AND JAMES CAREY
FOR AP WEEKLY FEATURES

Q. Lori asks: We would like some information regarding the best way to install double glass French doors. We have been told that sealing on the inside is the best way, and another person told us that sealing on the outside is the best way. Which is correct?

A. They're both correct, but the best way is to do both. The two-step process is simple. A metal flashing should be installed across the top of the opening at the exterior, and foam or caulk sealant should be used to completely fill the gap between the frame of the door and the frame of the opening in the wall. This configuration will not only be watertight, but should end up being airtight, as well.

A 6-inch by 1-inch by 1-inch Z-shaped metal flashing will have to be custom made by a sheetmetal company. The overall length of the flashing should be approximately 6 inches longer than the distance measured from the outside edge of the exterior trim at the left side of the door to the outside edge of the exterior trim at the right side of the door. Expect to pay about \$20 to \$25.

The 6-inch-wide surface of the flashing is inserted between the exterior wall framing members and the paper backing behind the exterior wall covering (stucco, wood siding, etc.). This all happens just above the top edge of the upper door trim. The flashing should be centered over the exterior door trim, and should pass over each side about three inches.

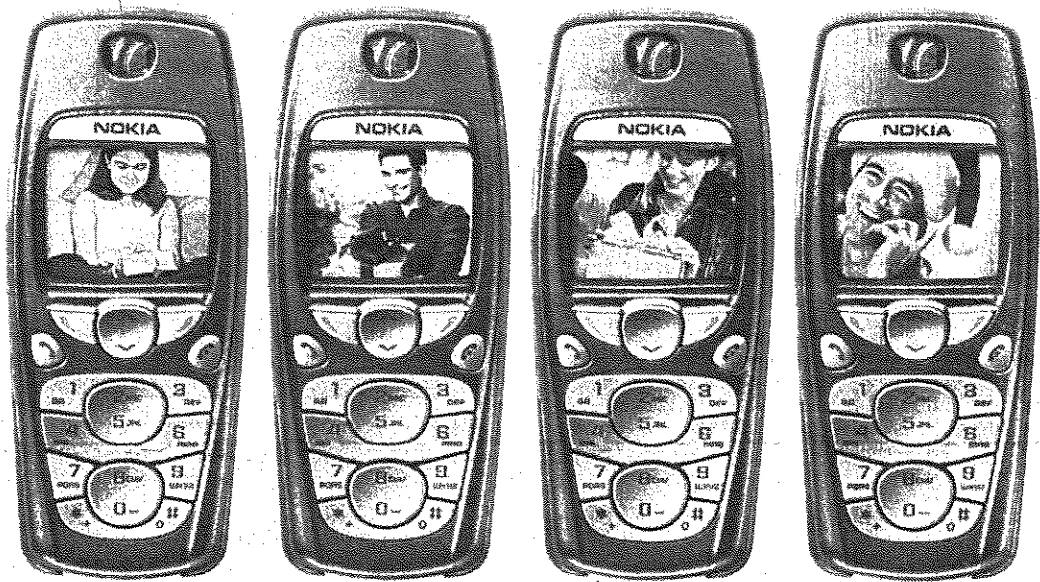
When in place, the flashing is behind the exterior wall covering, then bends away from the building at about 90 degrees for an inch (or enough to pass over the top of the exterior door trim), and then downward, again at 90 degrees, just enough to cover part of the top of the upper door trim. It will have to be painted to match.

The next step is to create a waterproof and windproof seal between the door and house frames. This can be done with a foam sealant. Although the foam is applied from the interior side of the opening, the purpose is to fill the outside-most portion (exterior side) of the gap. Once the foam is in place, install the interior trim, paint or stain, and varnish.

Remember to seal all six sides of the doors. And don't forget to weather-strip the doors to the frame -- top, bottom, sides and middle.

The metal flashing can be omitted, but really is the finest method of installation.

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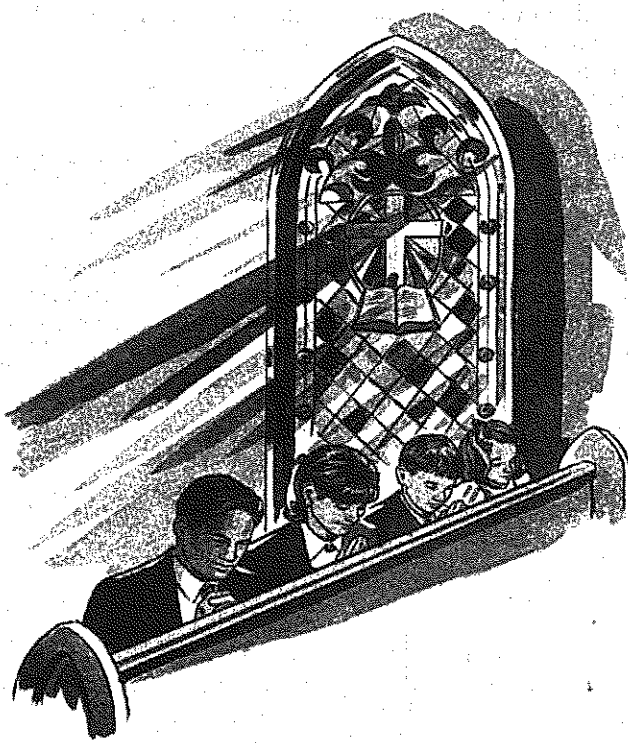
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8:00 a.m. Small and Cozy Worship
9:30 a.m. Worship Geared Toward Families With Children
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
Handicap Accessible
From Affirmation to Praise
Luke 1: 39-56

NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Stephen Ministry Congregation
36500 Ann Arbor Trail
between Wayne & Newburg Rds.
734-422-0149
Worship Service and Sunday School
9:15 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Rev. Terry W. Allen
Rev. Barbara E. Weilbaum
visit our website: www.newburgumc.org

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.

ST. GENEVIEVE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL
29015 Jamison Ave. • Livonia
East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Schoolcraft Rds.
MASS: Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 9:00 a.m.
Tues. 7:00 p.m. • Sat. 5:00 p.m.
Sun. 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon
Confessions: Sat. 3:00-4:00 p.m.
734-427-5220

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

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.

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth
1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI
734-453-0970
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Reading Room 550 South Main
Monday-Saturday 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
734-453-1676

PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)

ST. TIMOTHY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, USA
16700 Newburg Road Livonia • (734) 464-8844
Sunday School for all ages: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11:00 a.m.
http://www.StTimothyPCUSA.org
Rev. 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 10:30 a.m.
Education For All Ages
Children Provided • Handicapped Accessible
Resources for Hearing and Sight Impaired
www.genevachurch.org

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church (USA)
9601 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) 453-6464
PLYMOUTH
WORSHIP SERVICES
8:30, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Dr. James Skimins Rev. Richard Jones
Senior Minister Associate Minister
Accessible to All Rev. Mary Jean Bird
Associate Minister

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

BELL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH
Casual, Contemporary, Excellent Children's Program
Meets at Franklin H.S. in Livonia on Joy Road
(Between Merriman and Middlebelt Roads)
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734-425-1174
Join us for coffee, bagels and donuts after the service!

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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
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(just north of I-96)
www.christsaviorsavior.org

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY
313-532-2268 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 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Adult Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Christian School Pre-Kindergarten-8th Grade
For more information call 313-937-2233

Risen Christ Lutheran
46250 Ann Arbor Road
(1 Mile West of Sheldon)
Plymouth • 453-5252
8:15 a.m. - Worship
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School (Adults & Children)
10:45 a.m. - Worship
Pastor David Martin
All are Welcome! Come as you are!

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN Church & School
5885 Venoy
1 Blk. 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. Lambert, Pastor
Richard Schumacher, Principal/Youth Director

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
32430 Ann Arbor Trail • Westland, MI
734 422-6550
Sunday Bible Study 9am
Sunday Worship Service 10am
Wednesday Evening Advent Services 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

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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 am & 11:00 am
Pastor James Hoff
Pastor Eric Steinbrenner

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

EPISCOPAL

Say A Prayer Today

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

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WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church
40000 Six Mile Road
"just west of I-75"
Northville, MI
248-374-7400
Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor
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Contemporary Worship 9:05 A.M.
Nursery Provided During All Morning Worship Services
Evening Service • 7:00 P.M.
Services Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday
WMU 560 AM

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FAITH COVENANT CHURCH
14 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
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Worship warms the heart

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PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525
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
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"The Church You've Always Longed For."

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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-

End the Year Well..... As we get older, it sometimes seems as if time is accelerating. Each year seems to go by a little bit faster than the one before, and perhaps this is just the wisdom of age reminding us how short our lives really are. Our busy schedules leave us little time for the things that we really value, and as we approach the year's end, the rush to prepare for the holidays exacerbates this feeling. We would like nothing more than to be able to spend time with our families and friends, but what we often end up doing is fighting the crowds at the mall in an attempt to finish up our last-minute shopping. Although the holidays are bound to be hectic, we shouldn't feel obligated to spend all of the time leading up to Christmas by shopping and going into debt. This year, consider telling your friends and family that you're going to have a modest Christmas with relatively few presents, and that what you really want to do is spend time with them. Telling your family and friends that you love them and that you enjoy their company may be one of the nicest gifts you give this year. Remember to also give your time to God, who surely enjoys knowing that you like His company too. Since none of us know how long we have left here on earth, we should spend our time wisely...

What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. R.S.V. James 4:14

If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150. The deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

DECEMBER

Youth choir
Livonia Youth Choir present the concert, A Winter's Journey, 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, Livonia. Tickets are \$2. For more information, call (734) 425-1749.

Cookie walk
The cookie walk begins at 9 a.m. (doors open at 8 a.m.) Saturday, Dec. 13, at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 W. Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh, Livonia. Features more than 50 different types of ethnic and traditional cookies and candy, pierogi, stuffed cabbage, bread, nut roll, and poppyseed rolls. For more information, call Rev. Michael Matsko at (248) 476-3432.

Christmas Splendor
A Broadway style musical with flying characters, cutting edge special effects, a cast of more than 200 people, special lighting, Nativity with live animals, children's toy scene, and a few surprises 7 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 11-14, and 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Detroit World Outreach, 23800 West Chicago, Redford. No charge. Call (313) 255-2222 or visit the Web site at www.wayofvictory.com.

Journey to Bethlehem
The play honors the birth of the Christ Child 6-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, and 5-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster. For information, call (734) 421-1760. About 70 church members are involved with production, costumes and effects.

In Search of the Perfect Christmas
Spectacular Christmas celebration featuring the Trinity Choir, soloists and drama ministry in a presentation of "The Kingdom Song" by award winning composer and arranger Mark Hayes 7:30 p.m. (6:30 p.m. hors d'oeuvres) Friday-Saturday, Dec. 12-13, at Trinity Church, 10101 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. Special guest artists are Brass Works. Tickets available by calling (734) 459-9550.

Pancake breakfast
The breakfast is scheduled for 8-10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 10000 Beech Daly, Redford. \$5 adults, \$4 age 12 and under. Sponsored by Aldersgate Youth to help raise money for their Youth Mission Trip next summer.

Advent service of Lessons and Carols
Presented by Abiding Presence Lutheran Church Adult Choir 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at 1550 Walton, Rochester Hills. Call (248) 651-6550.

Christmas cantata
"I'll Be Home for Christmas" performed by the Forest Hills, Orchard Hills and Michigan Gallilean choirs 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Forest Park Baptist Church, 26805 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. For information, call (248) 476-0080.

Holiday concert
Presented by Langsford Men's Chorus under the direction of Steven SeGraves 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Covenant Baptist Church, 5800 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. Free will offering. Call (248) 855-9191.

Student choir musical
Merriman Road Baptist Church student choir presents the musical "Come in from the Cold" 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at 2055 Merriman Road, two blocks south of Ford Road, Garden City. The musical will be interpreted for the hearing impaired. For more information, call (734) 421-0472.

Christmas musical
"I Have Seen the Light: The Search for Christmas" features the First Baptist Church of Wayne Concert Choir and soloists 6 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.) Sunday, Dec. 14 and 21, at First Baptist Church of Wayne, 36125 Glenwood, between Wayne and Newburgh, roads. No charge. For information, call (734) 721-7410, (734) 326-4342, or (734) 523-9288.

Detroit Concert Choir
Presents "Music of Christmas" featuring glorious selections from throughout the ages 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at St. Hugo of the Hills, 2215 Opdyke, Bloomfield Hills, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church, 19950 Mack. \$15 adults, \$12 seniors and students. Call (313) 882-0118 or visit www.detroitconcertchoir.org. The choir's new CD "Sweet Sounds of Christmas" will be available at the concerts.

Christmas concert
Detroit First Church of the Nazarene sanctuary choir and orchestra present the musical "All is Calm, All is Bright" 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile, Northville. No charge. Call (248) 348-7600.

Holiday drama
Performances of "The Christmas Shoes" runs 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 12-13, and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Northville Christian, 41355 Six Mile, west of I-275, Livonia. Tickets are \$5, free for children age 4 and under. Call (248) 348-9030. The modern day musical drama depicts the lives of two unrelated families. One seems

destined to break up. The other struggles with a mother's terminal illness.

Christmas and Advent music concert
The concert is scheduled for 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, Livonia. Features the Adult Festival Choir, Jubellation Handbell Choir and Ringers of Joy Handbell Choirs, Confirmation Choir (grades 7 & 8), Laudate Choir (Grades 1-6), Brass Ensemble and other instrumentalists performing Advent and Christmas music along with carols. Free will offering. Call (734) 522-6830.

Christmas Concerts
"Gloria" 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, featuring Chancel Choir, Orchestra, Chancel Ringers, Children's Choir, and Crossfire, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Childcare to age 4 provided. Call (248) 374-7400.

Behold That Star
The Lutheran Chorales are celebrating 57 years of song in their Christmas Concert to be held 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Peace Lutheran Church, 12 Mile and Market roads, Farmington Hills. Tickets are \$10, \$5 children age 12 and under. Call (248) 553-3380.

A Christmas Drama
The drama is scheduled for 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, 8828 Wormer, Redford. For information, call (313) 537-7480.

A Lesson of Lessons and Carols
Special music event featuring musical reflections on selected biblical readings that follow the journey from Advent to Christmas 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, 1669 W. Maple, between Cranbrook and Southfield roads. Meet the artists reception follows. Free will offering to benefit future events in the Birmingham-First Concert Series. For information, call (248) 644-2040.

Christmas Journey
Come and enjoy the sights and sounds of Christmas by journeying through specially decorated rooms with various themes from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. The event follows a family worship with nursery (infant through 3 years old) care and 4 and 5 year old Sunday school at 10 a.m. Nativities, angels, snowmen, the symbols of Christmas and Christmas around the world are the inspiration for the festive displays throughout St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 422-6038.

Christmas music
Including "Alleluia Laudamus Te" performed by the Birmingham Concert Band and the Oakland Singers Encore 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1800 W.

Maple, between Southfield and Cranbrook roads, Birmingham. No charge. Donations to the Band's Interlochen and Blue Lake music camps scholarships gratefully accepted.

A Christmas Carol
YMCA-Service Learning Academy presents the holiday celebration production with an urban twist 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, at Martin Luther King High School Auditorium, 3200 E. Lafayette at McDougall, Detroit. Tickets are \$10 plus a toy to benefit Toys for Tots. Call (313) 494-7373.

The Story of Christmas
The Merriman Road Baptist Church Adult Choir presents the musical 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at 2055 Merriman Road, two blocks south of Ford Road, Garden City. The musical will be interpreted for the hearing impaired. For more information, call (734) 421-0472.

The Christmas Basket
A production written by Terry Fairley and members of The Master's Bible Chapel 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, at the Salvation Army Conference Center, 16130 Northland Drive, Southfield. No charge. For more information, call (248) 357-2007.

Breakfast with St. Nicholas
The breakfast is scheduled 7-11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, pancakes, sausage and beverage for \$4 with children age 7 and under free, purchase, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, Livonia. Proceeds support the Noah project at Central United Methodist Church (feeding the hungry) and benevolent care at United Methodist retirement communities. For more information, call (734) 422-6038.

Christmas cantata
"Tell the Story" presents a heart stirring message for all ages 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at Grace Baptist Church of Livonia, 28440 Lyndon, north of I-96 between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. Child care will be provided and transportation is available by calling the church at (734) 425-6215.

Candlelight Christmas concert

Features classic and contemporary sounds of the season, and composer/pianist Omar Jon Ajluni performing original compositions and new arrangements of traditional Christmas favorites 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at The Basilica of St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church, 18100 Merriman, between Six and Seven Mile roads, Livonia. \$25 adults, \$15 students. Call (734) 422-0010. Proceeds benefit St. Mary Academy for Children.

Children's Christmas service
"Miracle at Midnight" tells the story of the Savior's birth through music and drama 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, The concert is scheduled for 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, Livonia. Call (734) 522-6830.

Santa's Favorite Christmas Story
Presented by the Abiding Presence Sunday School Theatre Guild during the contemporary service 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 1550 Walton, Rochester Hills.

Based on the book by Hisako Aoki and adapted by church member Susan Bantz-Gustafson, the play presents a unique interpretation of the Christmas story. For more information, call (248) 651-6550.

Holiday services
Youth play 11 a.m. and adult play 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, and Candlelight service 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, at Community Free Will Baptist Church, 33031 Cherry Hill, Westland. Call (734) 721-9040.

A Christmas Cantata
Title "Emmanuel, Hope of Our Hearts" will be performed 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, 8828 Wormer, Redford. For information, call (313) 537-7480.

Service of Hope
The program begins 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. The pastors will lead the service using the liturgy for a Service of Wholeness and Holy Communion for those who are grieving, have a major illness, have lost a job, or experienced any kind of loss or setback. For more information, call (248) 474-6170.

Advent Lessons & Carols Concert
The event is scheduled 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at Christ Episcopal Church, 120 N. Military at Cherry Hill, Dearborn. Call (313) 565-8450.

Candlelight Christmas Eve service
The service begins at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman Road, two blocks south of Ford Road, Garden City. The service will be interpreted for the hearing impaired. For more information, call (734) 421-0472.

Christmas Eve services
Services begin Wednesday, Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m. family service with music by Cherub and Wesley Children's Choirs, 6 p.m. community service with music by New Generation Choir, 8 p.m. metropolitan service "The Traditional Nardin Park Christmas Eve" with music by combined Chancel and Sanctuary Choirs, 11 p.m. candlelight service (a sacred communion service), at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 West 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 476-8860.

More Christmas Eve Services
Family Christmas Celebration designed for families with young children (childcare provided for ages 2 and under) is scheduled at 4 p.m. at 9 p.m. and 1 p.m. candlelight services Wednesday, Dec. 24, at Trinity Church, 10101 W. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. Call (734) 459-9550. 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, at Northville Christian Assembly, 41355 Six Mile, Northville. Call (248) 348-9030.

Services are at 4 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, at Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 1550 Walton, Rochester Hills. All services will have instrumental music for prelude beginning 30 minutes before each service of worship. The 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. services are by candlelight. Call (248) 651-6550.

Family and candlelight services
7 p.m. (family) and 11 p.m. (candlelight) Wednesday, Dec. 24, with music by various choirs, and the brass ensemble, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, Livonia. Call (734) 522-6830.



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Let others know when a loved one is gone...

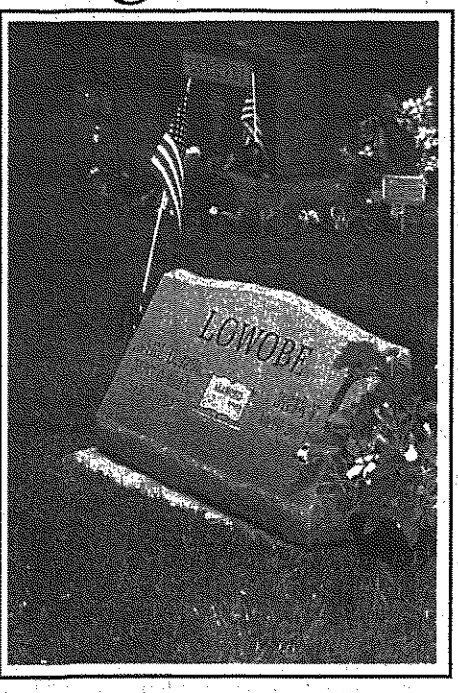
Pay tribute to your loved one in "Passages" a directory containing the names of those who have recently passed away.

Passages appears in each of The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

If you have lost a loved one, let us know directly or through your funeral provider and we will publish the notice in "Passages."

In addition, your information will be posted on our website, hometownlife.com

There are four ways you may personally submit information: Our Classified Department, 1-800-579-7355, will make arrangements to receive your written information or you may Fax it to: 734-953-2232, send us an E-Mail: OEObits@oe.homecomm.net or stop in our Livonia office.



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Southfield Eccentric / Troy Eccentric / West Bloomfield Eccentric / Westland Observer



Lori Broesamle, owner of Mia Mahalo, sits on a recycled aluminum chair in the Royal Oak store.

STORE

FROM PAGE C1

(pine needle baskets and candles made of 100 percent beeswax, for example) and the unusual (such as a box that dispenses cloth handkerchiefs like tissues).

Shoppers can find organic tea and coffee, marmalade, and pickled wild leeks; soaps made of such natural elements as seaweed, lemongrass, rosemary and rose hip tea; and cleaners for the home and pets.

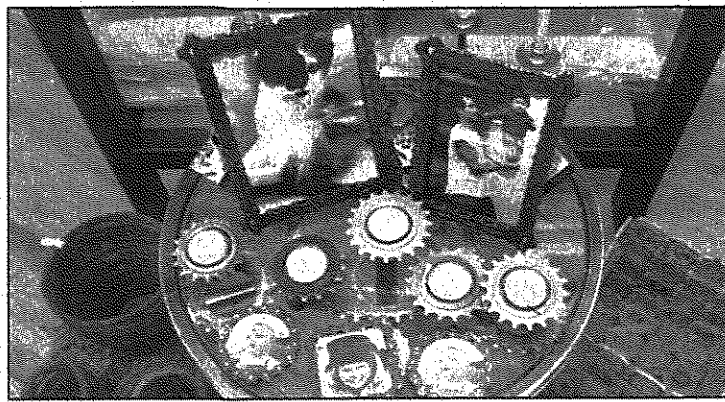
Among the health and beauty products are aromatherapy and holistic body care kits by Dr. Hauschka, and skin care items by Rosa Fina that just came to the United States this year from England.

The beds feature natural rubber mattresses and dowel foundations, and aren't made with chemicals or synthetics. The natural rubber supports your entire body and keeps your spine straight, Broesamle said.

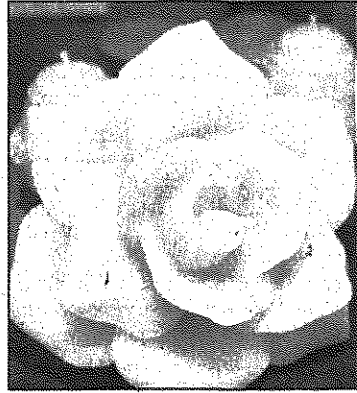
For your bed you can choose from five types of pillows, including cotton and buckwheat.

Housed in a building dating from the 1920s, Mia Mahalo itself is an example of eco-friendliness.

Display cabinets were made for the business by artist Leslie Denyer with a special chemical-free shellac. A shelf unit was made with reused flooring from a Sears store that was torn down in New York. The ceiling lights are full-spectrum



Even picture frames and candle holders at Mia Mahalo in Royal Oak are made of recycled material. These frames are made by a company in Oregon that specializes in pieces made out of bicycle parts.



A 100-percent beeswax candle in the shape of a rose is at Mia Mahalo in Royal Oak.

bulbs, which are designed to reduce the "blues" feeling.

Mia Mahalo offers baby and bridal registries, and presents speakers on such topics as healing touch, yoga and menopause. "It's good for people and that's what I want to do - something that's good for people," Broesamle said of the store.

Mia Mahalo is at 407 S. Washington. Phone (248) 546-1900.

DESIGNER

FROM PAGE C1

the "four-C" process she uses for clients. Next she cleanses the space of unnecessary items and clarifies the individual's needs, and then she creates the space toward that person's uniqueness.

Clodagh is known worldwide for her interior designs and enjoys earth, water and fire in designs.

She suggests passing old stuff on — "give it to someone who will enjoy it." That helps "cleanse yourself of stale thoughts."

Once these stale thoughts are removed, stimulating nostalgic experience remains to provide a happy and optimistic feeling, Clodagh states in her book.

The human senses stimulate nostalgia, she said. "We're all very sensual," she said.

"We're all as sensual as we want to be."

Hearths are important for sensual internal fire and energy. Kitchens should be fun to work in for people who enjoy cooking and entertaining, she said. Be generous in creating work surfaces, light, ventilation and storage.

"I like edible decor," Clodagh said. "I'll go to the farmers market. There's a kind of generosity about it. People come in and they feel welcome."



Clodagh

Clodagh shows an open kitchen, where visitors can see the food being prepared. "I like open kitchens where you can share the experience," she said. "I love restaurants and kitchens."

She doesn't call the living room that term; she prefers "common room." (The first term implies that you don't live in the rest of the house, she said.) "It functions like an indoor courtyard where people love to talk," she writes in her book. Activities you enjoy most, whether it is entertaining guests, reading, watching movies or listening to music, determines the contents of the room.

Celebrating the senses includes relaxing in the sunshine. "When you see light coming in the window, your body relaxes," Clodagh said. "We're like our pets in that we

'I like edible decor. I'll go to the farmers market. There's a kind of generosity about it. People come in and they feel welcome.'

Clodagh
Interior designer

like to sit in the sun and read a book."

Even the most expensive homes can be decorated with the simplest of items, Clodagh said. "We go to flea markets and yard sales to pick up stuff all the time," Clodagh said. "Four fish baskets at ten dollars each can go in a home of millions of dollars, it doesn't matter."

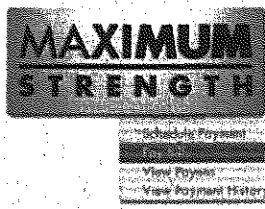
She also uses water in almost every project, such as animated water in an exercise room.

Clodagh believes bedding should be more relaxed and more inviting to make the bed more comfortable for its occupants.

"Beds are very important to us," Clodagh said. Residents spend about a quarter of their lives in bed, so a really good mattress is important.

"Nothing is less conducive to romance or to sleep than a desk piled with bills, so place the office outside of the bedroom."

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON BOARD PROCEEDINGS - NOVEMBER 25, 2003

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held Tuesday, November 25, 2003, at 46000 Summit Parkway. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Members Present: Bennett, Burdziak, McLaughlin, Zarbo, Kirchgatter, Yack, Shefferly / Members Absent: None Staff Present: Director Durack, Director Santomauro, Director Conklin, Jeff Goulet, Chief Rorabacher

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to approve the Study Session Board Minutes of October 21, 2003. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Shefferly to approve the Study Session Board Minutes of October 22, 2003. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the Regular Board Minutes of October 28, 2003. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Kirchgatter, supported by Zarbo to approve payment of the bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Table with 3 columns: Fund Name, Amount, and Recap for Nov. 11, 2003. Total - All Funds: 1,509,464.47

Table with 3 columns: Fund Name, Amount, and Recap for Nov. 25, 2003. Total - All Funds: 3,054,660.19

Fire Prevention Poster Contest Awards. Awards were presented to the following Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest Winners for 2003. 1st through 3rd Grade Winners were: 1st Place Shelby Hallman, 2nd Place Marisa Iafano, 3rd Place Kaitlyn Jateczak, Honorable Mention went to Jason Wu, Andrea Ringer and Kaitlyn McCafferty. 4th through 6th Grade Winners were: 1st Place Katelyn Rutherford, 2nd Place Kristen Pierson, 3rd Place Kayla Weber, Honorable Mention went to Dana Hoerman and Brian Fisher. Presentation of Captain's Badge to Dennis Draplin. Supervisor Yack presented Captain's badge to Dennis Draplin.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Item 1. Special Community Event Status And The Installation of Signs For The Canton Goodfellows' Annual Paper Sale. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve special event status for the Canton Goodfellows annual paper sale and approval to install signs advertising the event. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 2. Budget Amendments to The Police 2003 Budget. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the following budget amendments to increase the training and grant revenue accounts and the police overtime account. Increase Revenue: Training Revenue #207-000-652-4000 \$25,000. Grants - Public Safety #207-000-582-0000 \$53,600. Total=\$78,600. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 3. Establish Board of Trustees Meeting Dates For 2004. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to establish the Canton Township Board of Trustees meeting schedule for the year 2004 as follows: first, second, third and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. to be held at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton, MI. The following Township meetings will be canceled: August 3, 2004 Primary Election and November 2, 2004, General Election. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 4. Re-Appointment to The Election Board of Canvassers. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to re-appoint John L. Blumenshine(D) to the Canton Township Election Board of Canvassers and to appoint Robert A. Bovitz(R) to the Canton Township Election Board of Canvassers, both to serve four year terms expiring December 31, 2007. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 5. Authorization to Accept Transfer of Land From Robertson Brother, Co. At Links of Fellows Creek to Canton Township. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to authorize acceptance of the Quit Claim Deed transferring .063 acres of tax EDP No. 098-99-0021-006 from Robertson Brothers Company to Canton Townships as described. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 6. Request For Approval of Concept Plan For Patriot Park. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the concept plan for Patriot Park as presented. Motion carried unanimously

Item 7. Increase Purchase Order For Plymouth Canton Community Schools For Auditorium Rental. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the increase of purchase order #39073 for Plymouth Canton Community Schools in the amount of \$818.50 and to charge account number #101-691-941-2000. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 8. Appointment to The Senior Advisory Council. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the following appointments to the Senior Advisory Council for a three year term beginning January 1, 2002, through December 31, 2004, and the alternates to a one year term January 1 - December 31, 2002. Pioneers Club: Marie Davis, Jan Oman - Alternate. Royals Club: Barbara Kulp, Audrey Linn -Alternate, Eileen McCallum-term to run from January 1, 2004 - December 31, 2005. Zesters Club: Evelyn Aksamit, Katie Maglocchi-Alternate. Township Representative: Terry Bennett. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 9. Request to Apply For a Liquor License For The Performing Arts Center. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter that the request from the Charter Township of Canton for a new Class C liquor license, Dance 7 Entertainment Permit, Sunday Sales Permit, and other Permits, from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission under MCLA 436.1509 for use by the Township at the Village Theater and Township Auditorium to be constructed by the Township at 40500 Cherry Hill Road, Canton Township, Michigan be considered for approval and it is the consensus of this legislative body that the application be recommended for issuance and that a resolution be forwarded by the Clerk to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 10. Budget Amendment - Special Assessment Construction Fund - Cherry Hill Road Improvement Project. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the following budget for the Special Assessment Construction Fund for Cherry Hill Road Improvement Project. Increase Revenues: Amount to be provided from the sale of bonds #815-000-695-0000 \$2,000,000. Increase Appropriations: Engineering #815-500-803-0000 \$200,000. Contracted Services #815-500-818-0000 \$50,000. Bond Issuance Costs #815-500-900-0000 \$50,000. Construction #815-500-969-0000 \$1,700,000. Total = \$2,000,000. This budget amendment establishes the Special Assessment Construction Fund Budget at \$2,000,000 for 2003. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 11. Budget Amendment - Road Paving Fund - Denton

Road Paving Project. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the following budget amendment in the Capital Projects Road Paving Fund for the Denton Road installation project north of Cherry Hill Road: Increase Revenues: Amount to be provided from the sale of bonds #403-000-695-0000 \$1,500,000. Increase Appropriations: Engineering #403-506-803-0000 \$200,000. Contracted Services #403-506-818-0000 \$50,000. Bond Issuance Costs #403-506-900-0000 \$50,000. Construction #403-506-969-0000 \$1,200,000. Total = \$1,500,000. This budget amendment increases the Capital Projects Road Paving Fund budget from \$3,059,684 to \$4,559,684. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 12. Consider Approval of The Constantino Sanitary Sewer Main Easement/agreement For Parcel No. 068-99-0004-000 And 068-99-0005-000. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to authorize the Township Clerk/Supervisor to execute the sanitary sewer easement agreement for parcel No. 068-99-0004-000 and parcel 068-99-0005-000. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 13. Set Public Hearing Date For Williams-Bayer Industries LLC Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate Application. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to set the public hearing for Tuesday, January 13, 2004 to consider the Industrial Facilities Exemption application of Williams-Bayer Industries, LLC for their new facility to be located at 4601 Dewitt, Canton, MI 48187. Motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL CALENDAR: Item 1. Sale of Limited Tax General Obligation Bonds, Series 2003. Motion by Bennett, supported by Burdziak to approve the Bond and Escrow Agreement and authorize the Township Supervisor and Clerk to execute the necessary documents to complete this transaction. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SALE OF LIMITED TAX GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2003 CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON COUNTY OF WAYNE, STATE OF MICHIGAN

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Canton, County of Wayne, Michigan held on the 25th day of November, 2003, at 7:00 o'clock p.m. Eastern Standard Time. PRESENT: Members: Bennett, Burdziak, McLaughlin, Zarbo, Kirchgatter, Yack, Shefferly ABSENT: Members: None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Bennett and supported by Member Burdziak.

WHEREAS, Act 94, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended, (the "Act 34"), permits the Charter Township of Canton (the "Township") to issue its limited tax general obligation bonds to pay the cost of acquiring any capital asset for the use of the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township proposes to acquire from the Charter Township of Canton Building Authority (the "Authority") capital improvement items consisting of certain recreational improvements, a fire headquarters building, an addition to the police building together with all necessary and related appurtenances and attachments therefor (the "Project") and in order to do so must satisfy its obligations to the Authority under contracts with the Authority entered into in connection with the Authority's issuance of its Building Authority (Golf Course) Bonds, Series 1993, dated April 1, 1993 and its 1996 Building Authority Bonds, dated October 1, 1996 (together the "Prior Bonds") by providing sufficient funds to the Authority to allow the redemption of the Prior Bonds issued to pay the initial cost of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Township has proposed the issuance of its bonds to provide sufficient funds to the Authority to allow the redemption prior to maturity of the Prior Bonds; and

WHEREAS, the Township has received a proposal from Oppenheimer & Co. Inc. and R.W. Baird & Co. Inc. (together the "Underwriter") to purchase the Township's Limited Tax General Obligation Bonds, Series 2003 (the "Township Bonds"); and

WHEREAS, this Township Board determines that it is in the best interest of the Township to accept the Underwriter's proposal to purchase the Township Bonds; and

WHEREAS, the Underwriter and the Township have negotiated a Bond Purchase Agreement (the "Agreement") respecting the sale of the Township Bonds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The Bonds of the Township be issued in the aggregate principal amount, bear interest and be sold for the price and with the terms as set forth in the Agreement. 2. The Agreement as attached hereto as Exhibit A be and is hereby approved and either the Supervisor, Clerk or Finance Director be and are hereby authorized to execute the Agreement in behalf of the Township. 3. The Preliminary Official Statement prepared in connection with the offering of the Township Bonds be and is hereby approved. 4. The Official Statement prepared in connection with the offering of the Township Bonds in final form be and is hereby approved. 5. The officers and agents of the Township are authorized to take all other actions necessary and convenient to facilitate sale of the Bonds including any action necessary or convenient to do so. 6. J.P. Morgan Trust Company, National Association, Detroit, Michigan is hereby approved as Transfer Agent and Paying Agent for the Township Bonds. 7. Upon delivery of the Township Bonds, the proceeds of the Township Bonds shall be used to pay the cost of refunding the Prior Bonds by depositing sufficient sums in an Escrow Account established with J.P. Morgan Trust Company. J. P. Morgan Trust Company be and is hereby approved to act as escrow agent for the Prior Bonds. The Township Supervisor or Clerk be and is hereby authorized to execute the Escrow Agreement in behalf of the Township. 8. The Township agrees to the extent permitted by law, to take all actions within its control necessary to maintain the exclusion of the interest on the Township Bonds from gross income for federal income tax purposes under the Code including but not limited to actions relating to the rebate of arbitrage earnings and the expenditure and investment of bond proceeds and money deemed to be bond proceeds. 9. The purchase of a policy of municipal bond insurance insuring the payment of the Township Bonds from Financial Security Assurance, Inc.("FSA") be and is hereby approved. The Township shall comply with the conditions and requirements set forth in FSA's Municipal Bond Insurance Commitment issued under date of October 31, 2003. 10. All resolutions and part of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same hereby are rescinded.

AYES: Members: Bennett, Burdziak, McLaughlin, Zarbo, Kirchgatter, Yack, Shefferly NAYS: Members: None RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Item 2. Consider Site Plan For Taco Bell/KFC Restaurant. Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the request of the Project Sponsor, Mr. Eric Rauch, to approve the site plan for the proposed Taco Bell/KFC, subject to any and all state and local development regulations and further subject to any conditions recommended by the Planning Commission and staff, as described in the analysis and recommendation attached hereto. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 3. Consider Amendment #1 to The Cherry Hill Village Planned Development District And Revisions to The Approved Final Site Plan For Cherry Hill Village, Phases 3 And 4. (1) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the request of the Petitioner, Mr. David Stollman, to approve Amendment No. 1 to the Cherry Hill Village Planned Development agreement subject to any and all state and local development regulations and further subject to any conditions recommended by the Planning Commission and staff as described in the analysis and recommendations attached hereto. Motion carried unanimously.

(2) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the request of the Petitioner, Mr. David Stollman, to approve the revision to final site plan for the proposed Cherry Hill Village Site Condominium Phase 1 (Sub-areas 3 and 4) subject to any and all state and local development regulations and further subject to any conditions recommended by the Planning Commission and staff as described in the analysis and recommendations attached hereto. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 4. Consider Special Land Use For Canton Auto Sales Car Rental. Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the request of the Project Sponsor, Mr. Melvin Morris, to conduct the special use for the proposed Canton Auto Sales vehicle rental subject to compliance with any conditions contained herein and all other

regulations of the Township. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 5. Consider Resolution to Absolve Robert Rahaim From The Requirements For Intersection Improvements at Canton Center And Geddes Road. Motion by Bennett, supported by Shefferly that the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton resolves the following: *Intersection improvements at Canton Center Road and Geddes Road will be absolved from Robert Rahaim upon providing funding in the amount of \$96,000; *Township recognizes the Home Depot site has met the requirements set forth on August 10, 1999; *Township shall provide road widening improvements on Geddes Road at Canton Center Road. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 6. Sale of Approximately 7.03 Acres - Northeast Corner of Canton Center And Cherry Hill. Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to approve the sale of approximately 7.03 acres located at the northeast corner of Canton Center and Cherry Hill Roads for approximately \$1,652,050.00 to William Broucek. The purchase price for the property shall be paid in accordance with Paragraph 4 of the Offer to Purchase Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7. International Darin, LLC Request For Speculative Building Status. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the Resolution Establishing a Speculative Building International Darin, LLC, 4601 Dewitt, Canton, Michigan.

Item 8. Approve Bid For Printing The 2004 Service Directory And Calendar. Motion by Bennett, supported by Burdziak to approve the bid submitted by Kimcraft Printing in the amount of \$7,548 for printing of the 2004 Service Directory and Calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 9. Approve Purchase of Body Mounted Camera Stabilizer For Cable Studio. Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the purchase of the body-mounted camera stabilizer, submitted by Pro Video Systems Inc., in the amount of \$17,950. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 10. Authorization to Create And Fill Maintenance Tech IV Position. Motion by Bennett, supported by Shefferly to approve the request to create and fill one Maintenance Technician IV position under the FY2004 Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 11. Merit Commission Recommendation For Non-union Classified Employees' 2004 Compensation. Motion by Bennett, supported by Burdziak to approve the recommendation of the Merit Commission to increase the salaries of the non-union classified employees by 3.0% across-the-board and to increase the salary grade ranges for the non-union classified employees by 3.0%. These increases shall be effective 1/1/2004. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 12. Approval of 2004 Specialized Services Operating Assistance Program Contract. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the 2004 Specialized Services Operating Assistance Program contract with SMART in the amount of \$29,568. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 13. Approve Community Policing Contract. Motion by Bennett, supported by Shefferly to approve the contract with the Office of Drug Control Policy for partial reimbursement of the cost of the operations of the community policing team in the Wagon Wheel, College Park; and Holiday Estates mobile home parks in the amount of \$39,858 and to approve a grant match of \$26,574. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 14. Consider Purchase of Second License of ArcINFO 8.3 Software from ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to authorize the purchase of a second license of ArcINFO 8.3 from ESRI, for a total cost not-to-exceed of \$7,149.87, based on a fixed price offered through a State of Michigan contract. Funds are available in the 2003 Planning Services capital account No. 101-853-977-0000. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 15. Request to Create and Fill Two Continuing Part Time Clerical Positions. Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to create and fill one continuing part-time clerk position for Canton Softball Center and one for Summit on the Park. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 16. Award Bid for Printing the Leisure Service Discover Brochure. Motion by Bennett, supported by Burdziak to award the bid to Grand Blanc Printing for the printing of four editions of the Discover Canton Leisure Services Program Guide in an amount not to exceed \$46,718.40. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 17. Request to Increase Purchase Order for Landscaping for Tunnel at Pheasant Run Golf Club. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to increase Great Oaks Landscaping Associates, Inc., original contract \$6,397.50 for landscaping improvements at the Beck Road tunnel opening for a total contract amount of \$50,060.50 with the expenditure charged to the Pheasant Run Bond. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 18. Award Bid to Plan Replacement Trees in Canton Parks and Pheasant Run Golf Club. Motion by Bennett, supported by Burdziak to approve the award of bid for the Fall 2003 Park and Golf Tree Planting project to Horizon Lawn Maintenance, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$36,900. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 19. Approve Microsource, Inc. to Supply the Township with the Necessary Network Equipment to Meet the Needs of the Building Expansion and to Provide Additional Security to Canton's Internal Computer Networks. Motion by Bennett, supported by Shefferly to approve a purchase order in the amount of \$42,796 to Microsource for the purchase of additional computer network infrastructure equipment. Funding to be as follows: move to approve the re-programing of ITS Division monies from account #101-258-755-0000 Software, \$18,300 to account #101-258-977-0000, Capital outlay. Lastly move to approve the expenditure of \$24,496 from account # 402-302-975-0000, Construction, towards the purchase of the required computer network equipment. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 20. Approve TFG Installation Services Inc. Proposal to Install New and Relocated Furnishings. Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to award the bid and establish a Purchase Order in the amount of \$43,450.00 to TFG Installation Service Inc., 7550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan 48232 for furnishing installation throughout the Administration and Public Safety Buildings.

Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to table the request to award the bid and establish a Purchase Order in the amount of \$43,450.00 to TFG Installation Service Inc., 7550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan 48232 for furnishing installation throughout the Administration and Public Safety Buildings. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 21. Consider Purchase of Automated File System. Motion by Bennett, supported by Shefferly to award the bid and establish a Purchase Order in the amount of \$18,350.00 to Remco Office Systems & Equipment, Inc., 24901 Northwestern Hwy, Ste 113, Southfield, MI 48075, for the purchase of the Remstar Media Station Automated File System as detailed in their proposal for the Clerk's Office. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 22. Consider Approval of the Detroit Edison Easement Agreement Costs for the Ridge Road Water Main Extension for Parcel No. 072-99-0006-000. Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the cost in the amount of \$7,120.80 and authorize the Township Supervisor and Township Clerk to execute the Water Main Easement for parcel No. 072-99-0006-000. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 23. Extension of Governmental Consultants Contract. Motion by Bennett, supported by Shefferly to extend the contract of Governmental Consultant Services Inc. for issue lobbying for a term beginning January 1, 2004 and terminating on December 31, 2006 for a fee of \$4,000 per month. The contract may be terminated upon a 90 day written notice. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: Motion by Bennett, Supported by Zarbo to move from open session to closed session at 8:35 p.m. to discuss pending litigation and employee negotiations.

Closed Session: Roll Call Members Present: Bennett, Burdziak, McLaughlin, Zarbo, Kirchgatter, Yack, Shefferly. Members Absent: None.

Supervisor Yack called the closed session meeting to order at 8:35 p.m. Motion By Bennett, supported by Shefferly to return to open session and adjourn at 9:20 PM.

THOMAS J. YACK, Supervisor TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk

Copies of the complete text of the Board Minutes are available at the office of the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48188, during regular business hours and can also be accessed through our web site www.canton-mi.org after Board approval.

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

Cabrini High School
Class of 1984
If you're interested in working on our 20 year reunion, please contact Debbie (Scott) Paulus at (734) 737-

9743 or Laurie (Marra) Makawewicz at (734) 981-7263.
Catholic Central
Class of 1961
For information about the Girls Catholic Central of Detroit 40th reunion, call Jan Seefeld (248) 398-7777.

Cherry Hill High School
Cody High School
Class of 1957
Join us for the Cody Reunion of '57. We invite other interested friends from all the 1950's classes. Being held at 7 p.m., October 9, 2004 at Fox Hills Golf and Country Club in Plymouth. Cost is \$75/per person which includes sit down dinner, open bar, music, and many wonderful surprises. Call for

more info on golf and reservations at the Hilton Garden Suites. For further info, call Loretta (Muciek) Nedwick at (800) 859-9502.

Cooley High School
Class of 1954
A 50-year reunion is planned for Sat., July 17, 2004 at Livonia Marriott (not Courtyard) at Six Mile Road and I-275. A reception will be at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:30 p.m. An informal gathering will be held on Friday, July 16, in a hospitality suite at the Marriott. A bus tour of Cooley High School is also

in the planning stages. Call Daneen (Stark) Gallo (734) 462-2786.

Dearborn High School
Class of 1974
A 30 year reunion is planned for Saturday, Aug. 7, 2004, at St. Mary's Cultural Center, 18100 Merriman Rd., Livonia. Looking for classmates. Please pass the word. Contact Ann Kennedy Hutchins at (734) 591-6866.
Dearborn Lowrey
Class of 1954
Now organizing. Call Fay (Bolton)

Reeves at (248) 349-2094.

Ferndale High School
Class of 1979
A 25 year reunion being held on Aug. 7, 2004, at St. John's Armenian

Banquet Center in Southfield. We're looking for you classmates! Contact Ferndale 1979 Reunion, c/o Richard Broder, 31700 Middlebelt Road, Suite 165, Farmington Hills, MI, 48334.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for an **IP Network Telephone System "Lease"**. Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting the District's Technology Architect, Dwayne Henderson, of Fanning & Howey, Inc. at (248) 848-0123 or by phoning Dan Phillips of the PCCS Purchasing Department at (734) 416-2746. A pre-bid meeting will be held at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center, in Plymouth at 10:00 a.m. on December 18, 2003. Sealed bids will be due on or before 10:00 a.m. Monday, January 5, 2004 to the E.J. McClendon Educational Center located at 454 South Harvey Street, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170 where the bids will be opened and read publicly. Interviews with the three low bidders will be conducted shortly after. Bids must be made "Attention To: Dan Phillips - Attn: "IP Telephone Bid". The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
THOMAS WYSOCKI, Secretary

Publish: December 11 & 18, 2003

OE08172490

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for **Local, IntraLATA, InterLATA Telecommunications Service**. Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting the District's Consultant, Lynn Ingberg, of Plante & Moran, PLLC at (248) 223-3796 or by phoning Dan Phillips of the PCCS Purchasing Department at (734) 416-2746. Sealed bids are due on or before Monday, December 29, 2003 to the Plante & Moran Offices located at 27400 Northwestern Hwy., Suite #300, Southfield, MI 48034. Bids must be made "Attention To: Lynn Ingberg - Carrier Services Quote". The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
THOMAS WYSOCKI, Secretary

Publish: December 11 & 18, 2003

OE08171561

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Canton. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing or calling the following:

David Medley, ADA Coordinator
Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road
Canton, MI 48188
(734) 394-5260

Publish: December 11, 2003

OE08171087

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., January 5th, 2004 for the following:

MOVING SERVICES FOR MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENT ITEMS
MANDATORY PROJECT WALK SCHEDULED FOR 12/22/2003

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: December 11, 2003

OE08171088

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Oakwood

Side dish

Winery sets record

Though the Michigan grape-growing season was considered a challenging year, the fall harvest brought in a record production of 6,752 tons for the state's largest winery, St. Julian Wine Co. of Paw Paw.

The winery just committed \$250,000 for expansion of production facilities before the 'crush' began. An additional 16,000 square feet of winery and separate crushing facility were completed just in time for the ultra-premium wines of the 2003 harvest, officials said.

"In addition, October was the best sales month in our company's history," said David Braganini, president of St. Julian. "Sometimes things fall perfectly into place. In our case, it couldn't have been better timing."

The winery plans on expanding vineyard planting of premium grapes as pinot noir, sauvignon blanc, pinot gris, riesling, cabernet sauvignon and syrah.

For more information, visit www.stjulian.com or call (800) 732-6002.

Sailing the Net

Food Insight, published by the International Food Information Council Foundation, summarizes what the foundation calls "reliable sources" for food safety and nutrition topics in its September/October issue.

Among the sites mentioned are Tufts University Nutrition Navigator (navigator.tufts.edu), MEDLINE (medlineplus.gov), Healthfinder (healthfinder.gov) and the Mayo Clinic (www.mayoclinic.com).

These sites may be better sites to find out health and food information rather than the major search engines, according to Food Insight.

For more information, visit Food Insight at <http://ifc.org>

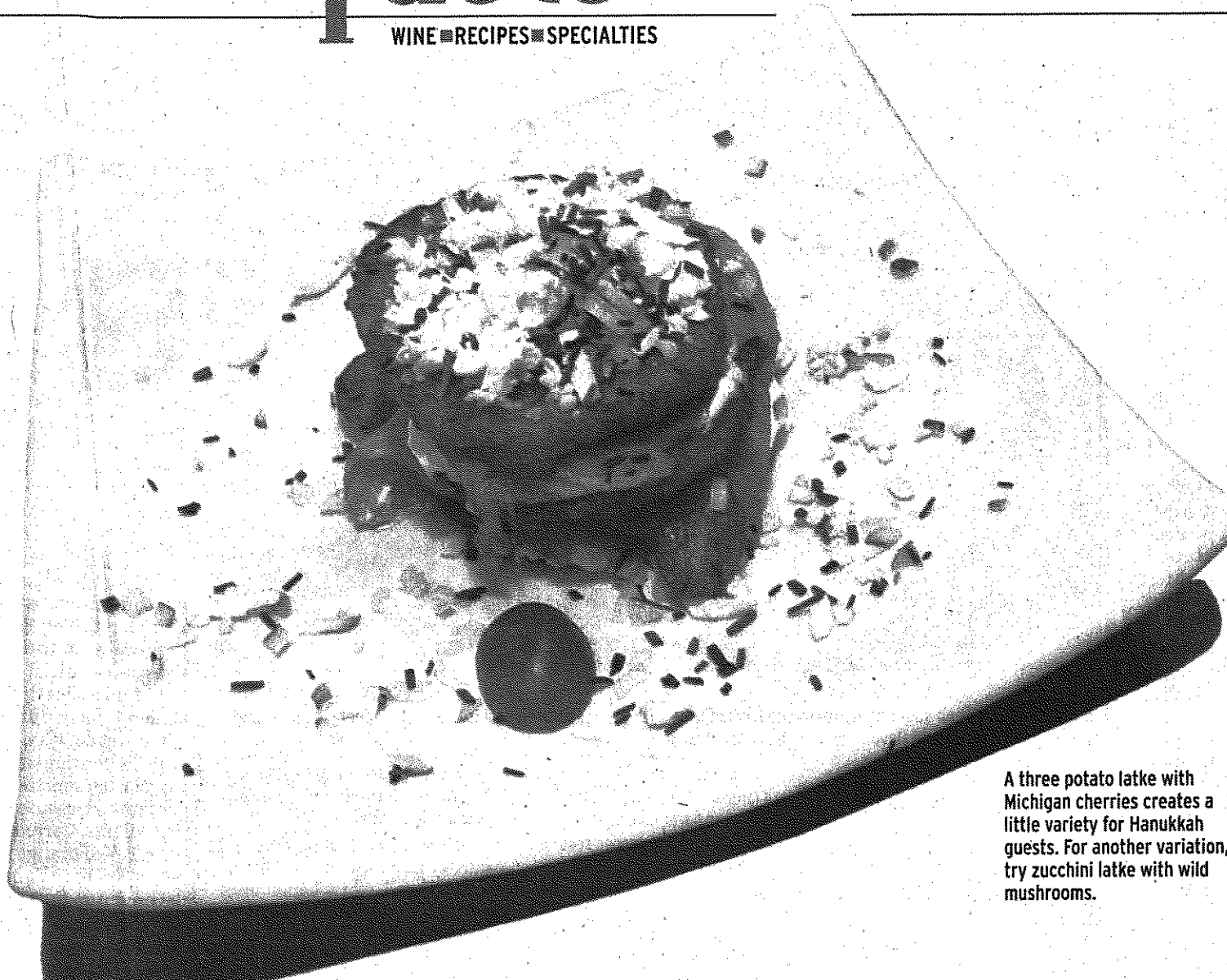
Gift certificates

Are you stumped on what to get a relative who seems to have everything or is shy about asking for possible gifts?

Get him or her (or both of them) a gift certificate for a restaurant.

It's a chance for you to get them to a restaurant they may not otherwise visit, help them pay for a meal at a little nicer place or give them an opportunity to get out on a special occasion.

Call the restaurant to check on availability of gift certificates.



A three potato latke with Michigan cherries creates a little variety for Hanukkah guests. For another variation, try zucchini latke with wild mushrooms.

Season's Eatings

Latkes help celebrate the Festival of Lights

Hanukkah, which begins Dec. 20 (actually sundown Dec. 19) and lasts for eight days, will soon mean the Detroit-area Jewish community will gather with family and friends for the Festival of Lights.

Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the ancient Temple of Jerusalem, reclaimed after the victory of the Maccabees over the Hellenistic Syrians.

Judah Maccabee and his soldiers cleaned and repaired the Temple, and when they were finished, they decided to have a big dedication ceremony.

For the celebration, the Maccabees wanted to light the menorah. They looked everywhere for oil, and found a small flask that contained only enough oil to light the menorah for one day. Miraculously, the oil lasted for eight days. Jews today celebrate Hanukkah for eight days by lighting candles in a menorah every night, thus commemorating the eight-day miracle.

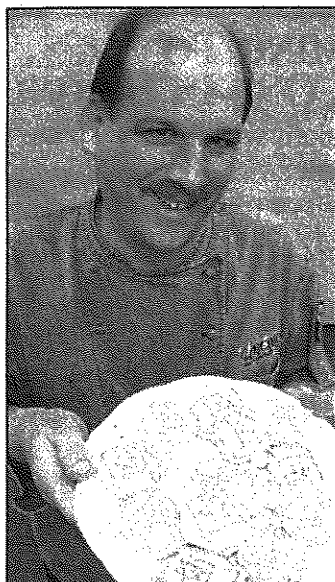
"They were fighting in the

Temple, and they had enough oil for one day, but they were able to keep the flame going for eight days," said Mark Sherman, managing partner with Milk & Honey Restaurant in West Bloomfield, explaining the significance of oil.

"So we eat latkes that are fried in oil."

Chocolate coins are gelt for the children. Dreidels are set on the table with words that translated mean "a great miracle happened there," Sherman said.

Sherman said Hanukkah generally is a festival



Milk & Honey owner Matt Prentice holds up a plate of dreidel cookies.

"for the kids."

Latkes traditionally are prepared with potatoes. Matt Prentice, owner of Milk & Honey Restaurant in West Bloomfield, believes latkes should have a little variety.

Prentice prepares them with everything from sweet potatoes to zucchini or stacks them with cheese in a lox tower. His three-potato latke consists of Michigan Yukon Gold potatoes, sweet

SWEET POTATO LATKES

2 jumbo yam or sweet potatoes
1 large Idaho potato
2 Yukon gold potatoes
1 cup flour
2 eggs
1/2 cup chopped dried cherries
salt and pepper to taste
vegetable oil as needed

Shred potatoes. Press liquid out through a strainer. Mix with remaining ingredients. Spoon latkes into a medium-heat, heavy sauce-fry pan with a thin layer of vegetable oil.

Cook 2-3 minutes each side to lightly brown. Remove from heat. Pat dry with paper towel. Serve warm. Yield: 30-35 two-inch latkes.

POTATO LATKES

4 potatoes (medium or large bakers), peeled
1/2 medium onion
1/2 cup flour
2 eggs
Salt and pepper to taste
Vegetable oil as needed

Grind potatoes and onions together. Press liquid out through a strainer. Add remaining ingredients. Spoon latkes into a medium-heated, heavy sauce-fry pan with a thin layer of vegetable oil.

Cook 2 to 3 minutes each side until lightly browned. Remove from heat. Pat dry with paper towel. Serve warm. Yield: 30-35 two-inch latkes.

ZUCCHINI LATKES

6 large zucchinis
1 cup flour
1 egg
salt and pepper to taste
Vegetable oil as needed

Shred zucchinis. Add remaining ingredients. Spoon latkes into

a medium-heated, heavy sauce-fry pan with a thin layer of vegetable oil. Cook 2-3 minutes each side until lightly browned. Remove from heat. Pat dry with paper towel. Serve warm. Yields 30-35 two-inch latkes.



Focus on Wine

Ray & Eleanor Heald

Sparkly French bubbles go head to head

In California's Napa Valley, there were only 20 wineries and less than 100 acres planted to the sparkling wine grapes chardonnay and pinot noir.

That was 1965. The year Jamie and the late Jack Davies founded their Schramsberg winery. From the start,

Schramsberg focused on methode champenoise, or the French method for sparkling wine production. Schramsberg is one of very few sparkling wine producers remaining in the world, and the only one in California, that barrel ferments the base wine. Fifty years ago, the practice was

the rule in Champagne.

Today, the Davies' son Hugh is at the helm as winemaker and Schramsberg's general manager. His vision for the future of California sparkling wines, in a market that considers French champagne the benchmark of bubbles, is to go head to head.

SPARKLERS V. CHAMPAGNE

Davies separates Schramsberg sparkling wines from champagne by avoiding use of decidedly French terms such as *tete de cuvee* and *cuvee de prestige*, which often refer to top-of-the-line champagnes. He prefers "limited reserve"

because it has a more American ring and Schramsberg has a wine labeled Reserve, which is one of two top-of-the-line sparklers produced in a stable of seven.

The 1996 Schramsberg Reserve (\$60) is principally

PLEASE SEE WINE, D4

Make your diet whole with grains

BY DANA JACOBI
CORRESPONDENT

If you blame a hectic schedule for the lack of whole grains in your diet, that is a thin excuse these days. There are many quick, enjoyable ways of including them.

At breakfast, instant oatmeal and other ready-to-eat whole-grain cereals all count. At lunch, a sandwich on any kind of 100 percent whole-grain toast provides two servings of whole grain. For snacks, there are whole rye and whole-wheat crackers enticing enough to eat like potato chips.

You live on take-out? Order pizza with whole-wheat crust when it is available. It is especially good topped with broccoli and spinach. For Tex-Mex, ask for a whole-wheat tortilla for your burrito. If you like Middle Eastern food, have tabbouleh. It is made with bulgur, which is precooked whole wheat.

Wild rice is a whole grain, one being used more and more in take-out salads. So are nutty-tasting wheat berries, another form of whole wheat that is especially delicious tossed with dried cherries or cranberries and an herb vinaigrette.

When you dine out, whole grains are often found in side dishes. At Italian restaurants, they even take the center of the plate. Your favorite trattoria surely serves polenta, cornmeal made from whole corn. Italian restaurants may also be a great place to discover farro, a kind of whole wheat used to make an earthy, brown pasta that is especially delicious topped with intensely flavored wild mushroom sauce or garlic-spiked sautéed broccoli rabe.

At home, you can enjoy whole-wheat pasta and bulgur,



AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Rinsing the grain, then sautéing it, keeps the kasha fluffy, with well-separated grains. Red bell pepper, scallions and parsley add crispness and flavor, along with seasonal color.

too. Bulgur needs only to soak in boiling water or broth like couscous.

But unlike couscous (usually sold in a form made from refined flour), bulgur is a whole grain.

If you think whole grains are not elegant enough to serve to company, this kasha salad made with whole buckwheat groats will change your mind. Rinsing the grain, then sautéing it, keeps the kasha fluffy, with well-separated grains. Red bell pepper, scallions and parsley add crispness and flavor, along with seasonal color.

HOLIDAY KASHA SALAD

- 1 cup whole buckwheat groats (kasha)
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 2 cups fat-free, reduced sodium

- chicken broth
- 4 large scallions, white and green parts, chopped
- 1 medium red bell pepper, seeded and finely chopped
- 1 firmly packed cup flat-leaf parsley, chopped
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt, according to taste
- Pinch ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil

Rinse buckwheat and drain it in a strainer. In a medium saucepan, heat oil over medium-high heat. Stir in buckwheat. Cook, stirring with a spoon until fragrant, 2 to 3 minutes. If kasha sticks, scrape bottom of pot firmly. Off the heat, pour in broth. Return pot to heat, cover, and cook over medium-low heat until kasha is fluffy, 10 to 15 minutes. Remove from heat, let sit,

covered, for 10 minutes. Turn kasha into a mixing bowl, fluffing it with a fork.

Stir scallions, red pepper, and parsley into the warm kasha. In a small bowl, whisk lemon juice and vinegar with salt and pepper, until the salt dissolves. Whisk in the oil. Pour over the kasha, mixing with a fork until the salad is evenly coated. Set aside for 1 hour to allow flavors to meld, or cover and refrigerate it up to 24 hours. Let chilled salad come to room temperature before serving. Makes 10 servings.

Nutritional information per serving: 92 calories, 3 g. total fat (less than 1 g. saturated fat), 14 g. carbohydrate, 3 g. protein, 3 g. dietary fiber, 239 mg. sodium.

Dana Jacobi writes about food and recipes for the American Institute for Cancer Research.

Stollen purchases will help charity

Did you ever wonder why a Christmas stollen looks the way it does, with a fold down the middle and a snowy white covering of powdered sugar? Since its origination in



Give Thanks Gerald Matthes

Dresden, Germany, at the beginning of the 15th century, the stollen is a representation of the Christ Child in swaddling clothes.

Today, six centuries later, there are stollens galore to be found — many are amazingly low cost. But the ingredient labeling reveals that they are laden with preservatives and artificial ingredients.

To find a superlatively made stollen is more difficult. And when you do, it's not inexpensive. Understandably, because the yeasted shortbread dough contains a treasure of festive ingredients. Correctly made, the candied orange and lemon peel is left to soak in dark, full-flavored rum for three weeks or more before the baker sets about making dense, fragrant loaves. Then a complex array of flavorings, fruit and nuts join smooth, creamy European-style butter.

By the way, it's interesting to note that up to the year 1647, in Germany, butter was not allowed to be used for baking during the weeks of Advent, leading up to Christmas. This period of preparation for Christmas was a time of fasting. So, with this prohibition of butter, oil was used and not with very good results. Eventually, the Pope was

petitioned and he removed the prohibition. We can be grateful he did. The butter version we enjoy today is a wonderful treat.

You will find stollens made (with or without a ribbon of marzipan down the center) by master pastry chef, Rick Michels at The Give Thanks Bakery in Rochester. His stollen weighs about 1-3/4 pounds. If you want something bigger, you need to be in Dresden on the first Saturday of December. Using a specially built horse-drawn cart, a giant stollen made by the members of the Bakers' Guild is driven through the cobbled streets past the famous Opera House to the old market square. (It weighs more than two tons!) People flock to buy a slice or two or three. All the proceeds go to local charities and that's a tradition we plan to preserve at Give Thanks. Ten percent of stollen sales will be given to the Suite Dreams Project in Rochester (a wonderful enterprise that designs and decorates fantasy rooms for critically ill children.)

Come early for your classic stollen.

It actually improves with age and will keep beautifully, when it is well wrapped, in your refrigerator. Or, until Easter in your freezer.

For all its longevity as one of the most delicious of dessert breads, I'm occasionally asked, "Is this stollen?" I try and keep a straight face and reply, "Of course not. We baked it ourselves!"

Happy Christmas to you.

Gerald Matthes is the owner of Give Thanks Bakery in Rochester. Visit www.givethanksbakery.com or call (248) 601-1542.

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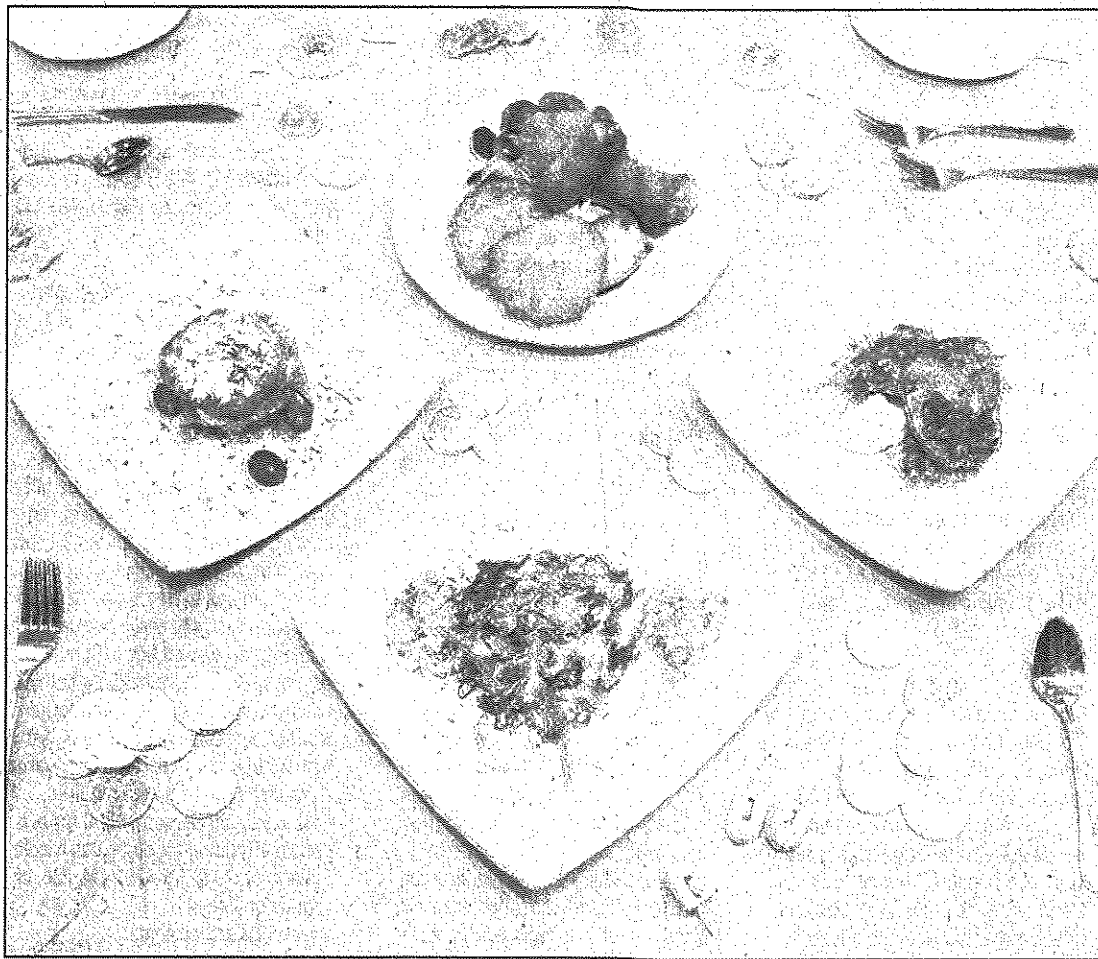
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Here are four different latke dishes (from left, clockwise): potato latke and lox tower, potato latkes and cheese blintzes with apple sauce, three potato latkes with Michigan cherries and zucchini latke with wild mushrooms.

HANUKKAH

FROM PAGE D1

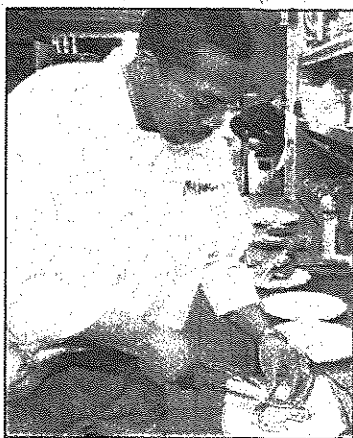
potatoes and Idaho potatoes and cherries.

Another has a mushroom compote. Saute button, cremini and portabella mushrooms with leeks, and add cream.

What's the key to a good latke? "Press out the excess starch from the potato," then use as little flour as possible, Prentice said. That prevents the latkes from obtaining a gummy texture.

Some prefer apple sauce with latkes, others like sour cream.

The latkes should be cooked in oil preheated to 350° F, checking it with a small piece of potato to ensure the oil isn't too hot to overcook the outside of the latke while undercooking the middle.



Executive Chef Clint Moore prepares latke at Milk & Honey Restaurant in West Bloomfield.

During Hanukkah, children are also given gelt.

Gelt are chocolate coins given as rewards, often with money, for studying well. When Syria occupied Judea, Jewish children were forbidden to study the Torah.

Dreidel is a game children often pretended to play while they actually studied the Torah when Syrian soldiers were nearby.

The Dreidel symbols announce "A great miracle happened there."

In Israel the symbols read: "A great miracle happened here." (See recipes for dreidel cookies.)

Milk & Honey is the only kosher restaurant in the Detroit area, according to Prentice. The restaurant is located inside the Kahn Building at the Jewish Community Center, 6600 Maple.

"I have a loyal Jewish following, and I thought it was absurd that Detroit didn't have a kosher restaurant," Prentice said of his decision to start the restaurant.

Today's Taste section includes some of Prentice's variations.

RECIPE

DREIDEL COOKIES

- 1 pound butter, soft
- 1 tablespoon vanilla
- 1/4 cups powdered sugar, sifted
- 4 cups all-purpose flour, sifted
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups vanilla buttercream frosting
- Blue food coloring

Beat the butter, vanilla and sugar until creamed well. On a low speed, add flour and salt and mix until all ingredients are well-combined. Wrap dough in plastic wrap and chill until they set

enough to roll out.

To create cookies: Preheat oven to 350°F (conventional).

Baking trays can be prepared with a light touch of cooking spray. (Using parchment paper or an oven-proof baking mat would be preferable.)

On a well-floured surface, roll out the sugar cookie dough to 1/4-inch thickness. Use a dreidel cookie cutter to create shapes. Place shapes on baking tray one-inch apart.

Cook to 20 minutes or until cookies are light golden on the edges. Remove from heat and cool.

Frosting: Frost dreidel cutouts with vanilla buttercream frosting. Accent the lines of the cutout with piping of blue frosting. With blue frosting pipe out a six-pointed "Star of David" on the front face of the dreidel. Yield: 48 cookies.

Recipes courtesy of Matt Prentice, owner of Milk & Honey Restaurant in West Bloomfield.

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1 1/2 cups Original Bisquick mix
 1/2 cup Italian vinaigrette dressing
 3 eggs
 1 can (8 ounces) pizza sauce
 1 package (3.5 ounces) sliced pepperoni
 1 package (4 ounces) shredded Italian-style blend or mozzarella cheese (1 cup)

Heat oven to 425 degrees F. Spray 13-by-9 inch pan with cooking spray.

Stir Bisquick mix, dressing and eggs in medium bowl until blended. Spread batter in pan. Spoon sauce over batter; top with pepperoni and cheese.

Bake 17 to 19 minutes or until edges of crust are golden brown. Makes 10 servings.

Recipe courtesy of General Mills.

Enjoy honey mustard tenderloin

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONEY MUSTARD TENDERLOIN

1/2 of a 16-ounce package peeled baby carrots
 12 tiny new potatoes, halved
 1/2 cup honey mustard
 2 tablespoons olive oil or cooking oil
 1/2 teaspoon garlic pepper
 1/2 teaspoon seasoned salt
 12- to 16-ounce pork tenderloin

Preheat oven to 425° F. In a covered large saucepan, cook carrots and potatoes in boiling water for 2 minutes; drain. Set aside.

In a small bowl, combine honey mustard, olive oil, garlic

pepper and seasoned salt. Spread half of the mixture on the tenderloin.

Place tenderloin in a shallow roasting pan.

Toss carrots and potatoes with remaining mustard mixture; spoon vegetables around tenderloin.

Roast, uncovered, in the preheated oven for 25 to 35 minutes or until an instant-read thermometer inserted into thickest part of the tenderloin registers 160° F, stirring the vegetables once. Makes 4 servings.

Nutrition information per serving: 308 cal., 9 g total fat (2 g saturated), 50 mg chol., 282 mg sodium, 30 g carbo., 2 g fiber, 24 g pro.

Please submit items at least two weeks in advance of the date it should be published. Send to Ken Abramczyk, Taste editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009 or e-mail kabramczyk@oe.homecomm.net

Holiday Appetizers

Learn an array of new recipes using meat, fish and vegetables at this class offered 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, at the Community House, 380 South Bates, Birmingham. Menu includes: hamburger wontons with curry dipping sauce, maple syrup glazed phyllos and much more. Michelle Bommarito is the instructor. Class is \$22. To register, call (248) 644-5832 or register online at www.communityhouse.com.

Hansel and Gretel

Parent and child will build a real gingerbread house, complete with lots of frosting and candy at a class 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Dec. 13 at the Community House, 380 South Bates, Birmingham. This fun to build holiday house makes a great gift and is the start of a wonderful family tradition. The class is taught by Lynn Heber, owner of Sweet Indulgence,

TASTE CALENDAR

located in Rochester Hills. Class is for children ages 5 to 9. One child per adult. One session is \$16 for adult/child team. To register, call (248) 644-5832 or register at www.communityhouse.com.

Make a Gingerbread House

A fun, holiday project where each student (grades K-6) creates his/her own Gingerbread House using snow icing, then decorates it with a variety of candies. It makes a wonderful holiday decoration and a great gift (use it as a surprise box and hide gifts of money inside). Each is a unique work of art. The class is presented by Ginger Works and is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, at Derby Middle School, Room 115. The class fee is \$13 per person.

For registration and information, please call (248) 203-3800.

Parent and child workshop

Together a parent and child will assemble and decorate an extra-large gingerbread house, approximately 4 pounds (or about 10-by-12 inches) made of sweet, fragrant gingerbread with lots of icing and candy. Please bring a cardboard box to carry it

home. This class will be presented by Ginger Works, 10-11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 20 at Derby Middle School, Room 115. The class fee is \$30. For registration and information, please call (248) 203-3800.

Super soups

M-Fit of the University of Michigan Health System conducts cooking classes in January, including one on soups 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7 at the East Ann Arbor Health Center Demonstration Kitchen, 4260 Plymouth, in Ann Arbor. Soups are easy as they can be made in one pot and they fill you up with several vegetables without a lot of calories. Learn how to make Thai chicken soup, wild mushroom and barley soup, magenta beet soup with dill, corn chowder with scallops and stewed figs with honey-yogurt sauce with instructors Kathy Goldberg and Lizzie Burt. Wonderful Winter Vegetables will be taught 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, by chef Aaron Wynn. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$30 per person or \$50 for two people attending together. Call Nicole Goyarts at (734) 975-4387, Ext. 236, or sign up on line at www.mfitnutrition.com.

WINE

FROM PAGE D1

pinot noir and 1997 J. Schram (\$80) is primarily chardonnay. "Like French champagne," Davies said, "limited reserve bottlings represent only two to three percent of Schramsberg's 50,000-case production. Wines for both the Reserve and J. Schram are set aside as unique blends, incorporating more barrel-fermented wines, that are then aged about six years on the yeast."

Not content to confirm that Schramsberg is crafting sparkling wine that rivals the finest from the Champagne region, solely by the way it's made, Davies put his two top wines in head-to-head blind tasting competition with prestige champagnes, including Roederer Cristal, Veuve Clicquot La Grande Dame, Krug Grand Cuvee, Taittinger Comte de Champagne, Perrier-Jouet Fleur de Champagne and Dom Perignon.

Over three years, Davies conducted 41 tastings in major U.S. cities with the following results: J. Schram and Schramsberg Reserve took first, second or third place in 35 of the tastings. "To persuade the gatekeepers around the nation," Davies said, "we knew we had to pit Schramsberg's top wines against champagnes most admired by Americans."

Davies believes results adequately reflect a growing national sentiment, that the best California sparkling wines compete well with French

counterparts. Another statistic is revealing. Sales of sparkling wine shadow stock market performance, yet during a still sluggish market this year, sales of Schramsberg are up a whopping 32 percent.

Davies believes that marketplace success of California's luxury sparklers, at their high price point, is predicated on creating opportunities to share the pedestal with French champagnes.

"There is resistance on the part of consumers," Davies concluded "to buy a sparkling wine at \$50 or more that is not champagne. I'm beating the drum loudly and repeating that California does produce very-high quality sparkling wine that's on a par with the very best from the Champagne region."

Other Schramsberg sparkling wines to try: 1999 Blanc de Blancs (\$31); 1999 Blanc de Noirs (\$31); and 2000 Brut Rose (\$33).

About 20 years ago Dolores Cakebread (proprietor of Napa Valley's Cakebread Cellars with her husband Jack) shared with us some of her recipes that harmonized splendidly with wines.

To rave reviews, we've opened countless dinners for guests with Dolores' Spinach Balls with Mustard Sabayon Sauce. It strikes a harmonious note with Cakebread Sauvignon Blanc or other light style.

Her other recipes are equally fabulous.

The secret's out. Dolores and Jack Cakebread have collaborated on *The Cakebread Cellars Napa Valley Cookbook*, Ten Speed Press, \$35. The book is available through

WINE PICKS

In our recent taste-off of California sparkling wines, in addition to the Schramsberg sparklers, the following scored at the top.

- Etoile Rose \$40
- Etoile Brut \$35
- 2000 Laetitia Brut Coquard \$25
- Chandon Reserve Brut \$24
- Roederer Estate Brut \$22
- Chandon Brut Classic \$17
- Chandon Blanc de Noirs \$17
- Chandon Riche \$17
- Laetitia NV Brut Cuvee \$16
- 2000 Korbel Natural, Russian River Valley \$14

The purse and palate pleaser of the season hails from Down Under: 2000 Seaview Methode Champenoise Brut (\$9).

All wines mentioned are available in the metro-Detroit area. If a retailer does not stock a specific wine, ask that it be ordered from the distributor.

Amazon.com, at Borders and Barnes & Noble.

The Healds are contributing editors for the internationally-respected Quarterly Review of Wines and Troy residents who write about wine, spirits, food, and restaurants for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. To leave them a voice mail message, dial (734) 953-2047, mailbox 1864#.

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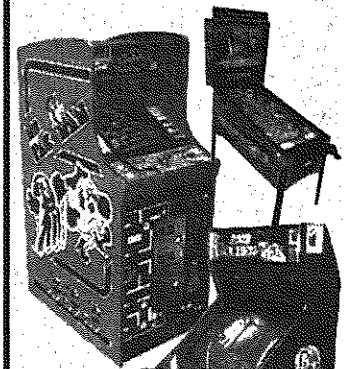
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Making a perfect vegan chocolate cake

BY J.M. HIRSC

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BROOKLINE, Mass. (AP) — Christopher Kimball doesn't have much sympathy for the woes of vegan bakers.

As the guiding force behind Cook's Illustrated magazine and the America's Test Kitchen public television series, he's more familiar with the troubles of ricotta-stuffed calzones and the blunders of buttery blueberry pancakes.

So it shouldn't have surprised me that he harrumphed when I recently complained to him of the difficulty of baking vegan cakes that don't crumble.

"That's why God invented eggs," he said dryly.

Yet my dilemma must have intrigued him, for he ultimately accepted a challenge to set his staff to work on creating the perfect vegan chocolate cake, complete with frosting.

Two months, 31 tests, 101 cakes and 23 batches of frosting later, we had a winner.

But in true Cook's fashion, getting from dare to done was a path littered with rubbery, tasteless cakes, butter substitutes that refused to melt, and even a few pureed beets.

The Cook's crew produces roughly 40 exhaustively tested self-proclaimed "perfect" recipes a month. They are the obsessive-compulsive people of the culinary world, making a recipe hundreds of times to get it just right.

Though their recipes generally are vegetarian or vegan only if the perfect version of those dishes would naturally be so, their somewhat fanatical nature made them ideal for this challenge.

Kimball delegated the heavy lifting to Erin McMurrer, director of his test kitchen and vegan neophyte. She confessed she initially wasn't overjoyed by the prospect, though she later warmed to life without eggs.

"I was scared. I was making something with ingredients I

had never handled," she said recently at Cook's test kitchen in Brookline, where I'd been invited to taste the finished product.

One of the toughest parts was "fighting the urge to toss an egg in for moisture or whip some cream in," she said. "The urge to use dairy came up every day."

As with every Cook's master recipe, McMurrer started with research to define her parameters. No eggs and no dairy were obvious, but what about refined flours and sugars? Many vegans also prefer the whole wheat-rice syrup route.

As tempting as it was to see if she could produce a completely healthy whole-grain chocolate cake, I gave her a break. Even vegans should allow some sin in their diet. Even Cook's cooks have their limits.

Following her research, McMurrer baked eight test recipes to get a sense for what she wanted. One of them was my own, which I had developed with a pastry chef. She hesitated at first, but I urged honesty as to how it fared.

"Offensive, rubbery texture," McMurrer said, reading from the comment cards of taste testers. "The frosting was sour and hideous. Texture isn't bad. Frosting is awful."

Harrumph! Now with a better understanding of just how bad most vegan cakes can be, McMurrer launched into a dizzying array of tests to fine-tune the best of the eight.

She started with a search for the best dairy milk alternative, baking batches using alternatives ranging from vanilla and chocolate soy milks to water and coconut milk. The coconut milk won, but for good measure she tested again, light versus regular.

Sorting out the best egg substitute took four batches — silken tofu, blanched silken tofu blended with oil, unblanched silken tofu blended with oil, and commercial egg substitute powder.

No fewer than four tests and 14 cakes were needed for McMurrer to determine the best mix of cocoa powders and chocolate. Then she got a little whacky, at least by Cook's standards.

"Just for the fun of it, we decided to omit all the cocoa. We added the 4 ounces of unsweetened chocolate and to improve the texture we added a banana," she said. "The result was nobody wanted a chocolate banana cake."

On to fat, and the frustrating realization that many vegan butters and margarines don't melt.

"This was a really gross one," she said of tests involving nine oils.

When it came to sugars, she got whacky again. Test 19, Part E involved 6 ounces of canned beets pureed and combined with 6 ounces of light brown sugar.

"Actually, it wasn't that bad," said Rebecca Hays, another Cook's tester who helped McMurrer. "It gives a little bit of a strange color to the cake." It also didn't win.

The day I arrived to taste the finished product, McMurrer greeted me with two bowls of frosting. Just one more test, she promised. Both tasted fine to me, but the critical Cook's crew had plenty of complaints.

VEGAN CHOCOLATE CAKE WITH CREAMY CHOCOLATE FROSTING

For the Cake:

- 1 and 2/3 cups natural large-crystal cane sugar (testers preferred Sugar in the Raw)
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup oat flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup Dutch-processed cocoa (testers preferred Scharffen Berger Natural Cocoa Powder)
- 1/3 cup natural cocoa
- 1 1/2 ounces unsweetened chocolate, chopped
- 1 cup hot brewed coffee
- 1 cup light coconut milk
- 2 tablespoons cider or white wine vinegar

1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
3/4 cup vegan butter substitute (testers used Spectrum Spread)

For the Frosting:

- Two 10-ounce packages vegan or other semisweet chocolate chips (testers used Tropical Source)
- 1/2 cup hot brewed coffee
- 4 tablespoons boiling water
- 1/2 cup light coconut milk
- 4 ounces silken tofu

To make the cake:

Adjust oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 350° F. Spray two 9-inch round cake pans with nonstick cooking spray; set aside.

Process sugar in a food processor to a fine powder, 30 to 40 seconds. Sift sugar, flours, baking soda and salt into a large bowl, then whisk to combine.

Combine cocoas and chocolate in a large bowl and cover with hot coffee; whisk until smooth.

Combine coconut milk, vinegar and vanilla in large measuring cup. Place vegan butter substitute in a medium bowl. Add

coconut milk mixture in two additions, whisking until smooth after each.

Add vegan butter-coconut milk mixture to the chocolate mixture and whisk to combine, then add this mixture to dry ingredients and fold gently with rubber spatula until just incorporated and no streaks of flour remain.

Divide batter evenly between cake pans and bake until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, 20 to 25 minutes, switching position of and rotating pans after 12 minutes. Cool cakes in pans on wire rack to room temperature, about 2 hours.

To make the Frosting:

Place chocolate chips in a medium bowl set over a saucepan of barely simmering water. Pour hot coffee and boiling water over chips, then whisk until smooth. Whisk in coconut milk until incorporated.

Process chocolate mixture and tofu in food processor until smooth and combined, 10 to 15 seconds, scraping down bowl once or twice.

Transfer the mixture to a medium bowl and cover with plastic wrap. Refrigerate until cool and texture resembles firm cream cheese, 1 to 1 1/2 hours. (If mixture has chilled for longer and is very stiff, let stand at room temperature for 1 hour.)

Transfer cooled chocolate mixture to the bowl of standing mixer fitted with whisk attachment.

Whip mixture at high speed until fluffy, mousse-like, and the mixture forms medium stiff peaks, 1 to 1 1/2 minutes.

To assemble, invert cakes from their pans. Spread a dab of frosting in center of a cardboard round cut slightly larger than a cake.

Place one cake, centered, on the cardboard round. The frosting helps hold it in place.

Using an icing spatula, spread about 1 cup frosting evenly onto the top of the first cake. Place the second cake on top of frosted bottom layer and spread about 1 cup frosting on top. Cover sides of cake with remaining frosting.

Recipe provided by Cook's Illustrated magazine.



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Take a swig of Traverse City

Take a look at the turquoise and deep blue colors of the turquoise Lake Michigan waters and you'll want to take a big swig of this icy cool nectar of a place and exhale with an exhilarating "ahhh."

You won't do that now as the wintry winds whip up off the lake. But it might not be a bad idea to plan your next trip right now to the Leelanau Peninsula for next year.

From Frankfort to Mackinaw City, you generally can find plenty to do and see throughout the northwestern Lower Peninsula.

Motorists traveling from Detroit usually take I-75 then drive west from Grayling or Gaylord to get to the Traverse City area, but for those who want a change of pace, they might consider a drive along Lake Michigan on U.S. 31. Starting at Grand Haven, you can drive through some great small towns, such as Montague, Whitehall, Pentwater, Manistee and Beulah. In Traverse City itself, it is impossible to find a respectable hotel for less than \$100 during the peak summer season, but Internet searches can help you locate a room at a reasonable rate.

Rooms generally ran at the minimum of \$120 last summer and probably will cost more next year.

Michigan wineries appear to be growing in reputation and popularity.

A drive north on M-22 from Traverse City will take you to some of the ones that are highlighted on the national stage. Try Boone's in Sutton's Bay for lunch, then drive down a county road to L. Mawby's winery.

If you love sparkling wines or champagnes, this is the place to try brut, what Mawby is generally known for.

It's a modest place with a handful of tables with the actual winery located in the

PLACES TO TRY

Apache Trout Grill, 13671 Bayshore Drive, Traverse City (231) 947-7079

Trillium (in the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa), 100 Grand Traverse Village Blvd., Acme (231) 938-2100 (reservations suggested)

Pearl's, 617 Ames St., Elk Rapids (231) 264-0530

Tapawingo, 9502 Lake St., Ellsworth (231) 588-7971
Reservations are required

next room. A quote from a New York Times article was enlarged and placed on the wall. A Florida man sees the quote, and his boast sounds almost regretful, that his secret had been discovered, as he says, "I knew all about this place before the New York Times did." The winery's location is marked by a grape-shaped metal sign.

Black Star is a little larger winery. Visitors can watch workers create Leelanau cheese in the back room, squeezing cheese curd with cheese cloth, as water sops all over the floor there. Next door three people serve up wine samples.

There are plenty of wineries on the peninsula.

It was off to Leland and Glen Arbor for some more walking through the small towns and getting a good smell of the fresh lake water.

A stop at the Cherry Republic produced a purchase of jars of cherry salsa and cherry jam. You can drive down a few county roads to see the small towns (Honor, Burdickville, etc.), but it won't

take long for the afternoon to disappear.

The Northwestern Lower Peninsula region, of course, boasts great fishing. Arbutus Lake produced about 15 bluegill and sunfish. The largest one was about 7 inches, but most were small. Still, it was a lot of fun casting offshore in a nice weed bed for a couple of hours, then eating lunch in chairs, relaxing in the sunshine on a Tuesday afternoon. If you flyfish, the Boardman, Jordan and Platte rivers are within a good cast of Traverse City.

From there enjoy a drive to Glen Lake for an afternoon swim.

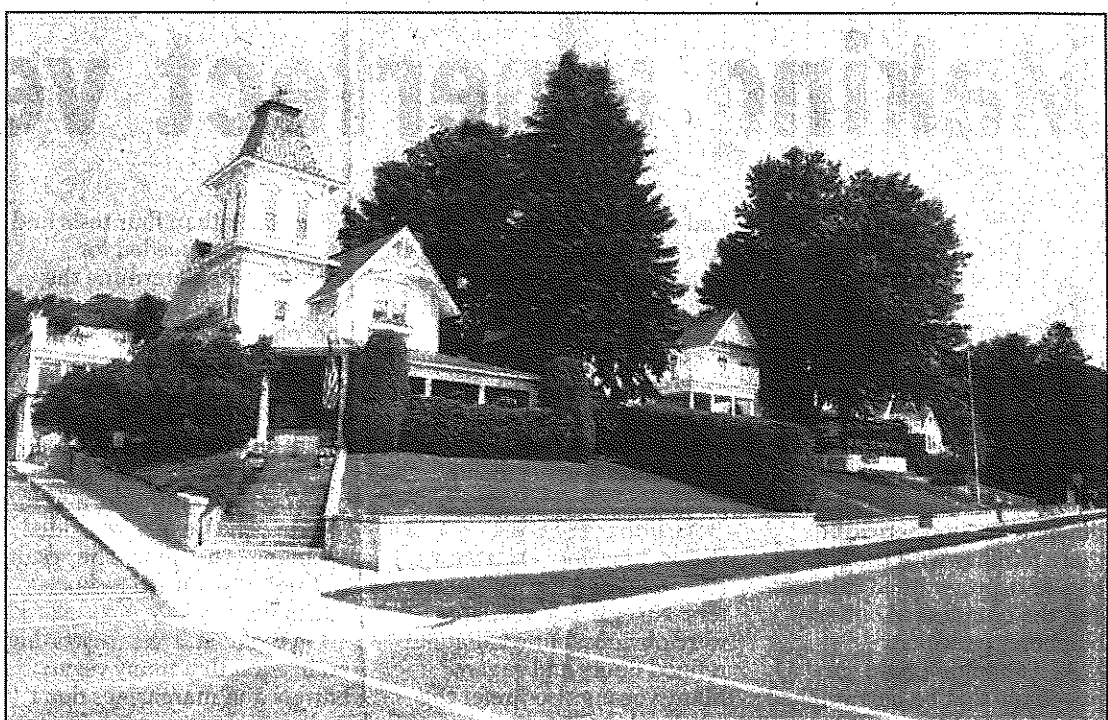
If you want to walk or bike ride, Traverse City has the Traverse Area Recreation Trail, a 10-mile paved trail that is popular with walkers, runners, in-line skaters and bicyclists. It extends from M-72 from the west to the city of Acme. There are several bike and hiking trails in the area, and some challenging ones at the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Ski lodges are plentiful in the area for families.

If you enjoy Victorian architecture in old homes, then Petoskey captures and keeps its old style charm, while a trip to Harbor Springs brings a beautiful morning on the bay, capturing the flavor of more Victorian homes.

You can certainly eat well throughout this trip. Chef Charlie's in Elk Rapids has a great cheese tortellini salad with peppers and tomatoes with an excellent pesto, which is sold by the jar.

You'll marvel at the cooking prowess of chef Stuart Briozza and the kitchen staff at Tapawingo in Ellsworth, which was an absolute culinary adventure, with sweet corn and truffle pudding with crispy prosciutto, grilled lamb with

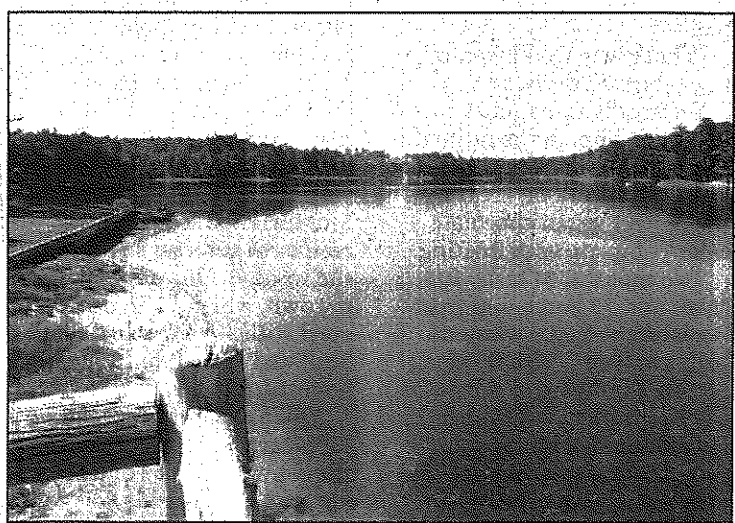


Harbor Springs has beautiful Victorian homes.

corn cake, pepitas and orange with salt roasted lamb ragout and seared sea scallops with pea emulsion, golden tomato, smoked bacon, bibb lettuce and mint. The menu included other delights, such as sea trout and young pheasant. Desserts created by pastry chef Nicole Krasinski included wild Michigan blackberry Napoleon and peach and berry crisp. Tapawingo is truly an experience.

You can catch a beautiful sunset and a good meal of cilantro and ginger marinated duck and rainbow trout at Trillium inside the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, or enjoy the hubbub of Apache Trout Grill, where on a busy evening in the warm weather months you can wait outside and enjoy beverages near the water and watch the boats before you are seated for dinner.

Pearl's in Elk Rapids is an unexpected delight. It's very casual and noisy, and food is



Lake Arbutus features several spots to cast your line in.

less expensive than two of the three restaurants mentioned above, but the Cajun and Creole dishes are flavorful and enjoyable. Louisiana jambalaya included tasso ham, chicken and shrimp.

The food was fresh and had a cayenne burn without dismantling your taste buds. You

can enjoy oysters Rockefeller while admiring the voodoo dolls on the wall. It has great ambience.

It's not hard to see why the Traverse City-Petoskey area is packed with tourists every summer from all over the United States. They like to take a giant swig, too.

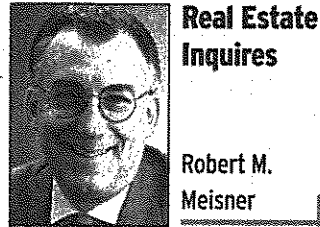
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Real Estate Inquires

Robert M. Meisner

File proper claim for bankruptcy

I am on the board of a condo association and one of our co-owners has gone into Chapter 13. We are concerned about what action we should take.

You should be sure that you file an appropriate claim with the Bankruptcy Court, presumably protecting the secured interest of the association in the assessments, interest, attorney fees, and costs incurred by the association. If your condo association attorney does not have expertise in bankruptcy, you should insure that he/she picks an attorney who has expertise in bankruptcy law. I am advised that many associations lose out on substantial sums because they have not filed a proper claim.

We are concerned about a non-board co-owner who seems to be directing the present board in to what action should be taken. The board seems to be giving this individual unauthorized access to board business, both documentary and otherwise.

This could well be deemed a breach of the fiduciary duty of the association board in maintaining confidentiality and otherwise discharging their fiduciary duties. Certain business of the board must be kept private and it is ultimately the board's decisions for which they will be held accountable. While they can always seek the advice of outsiders, including professionals, it is best that the board recognize that the board members ultimately will be held responsible for their acts or omissions. They are best advised to gain professional assistance as opposed to bowing to what might be considered political pressure.

Is there a booklet I might obtain that would explain the laws or bylaws that Michigan Condo Associations are guided by and where can I obtain it?

There is no specific booklet that can guide you in specific terms about the laws or bylaws that Michigan Condo Associations are guided by. You should seek professional advice from an experienced condominium attorney who can interpret the law and your bylaws.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of *Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track*, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$2 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@mich.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

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REALTOR FULL PAGE AD INDEX

Realtor	Page #
Century 21 Town & Country	12E
Coldwell Banker Preferred	3E
Coldwell Banker, Schweitzer	2E
Real Estate One	1F

For the Best Home Buys in your Hometown check the Sunday and Thursday Real Estate Section

Asking the right questions makes buying house easier

(MS) - Gearing up to buy a home is exciting and scary. On the one hand, you are about to have something that is all your own, where you can live, raise a family and build a future. But it's also a huge personal and financial commitment. Despite this, many have overcome nerves and risen to the challenge.

According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the rate of U.S. homeownership was more than two-thirds during 2000, the highest rate ever.

Purchasing a home is not difficult, but you will have to give your time, energy and of course, money to the process. These tips from HUD will make preparing to buy a home seem a bit less scary.

IN THE BEGINNING

There are many questions you should ask yourself when you are considering purchasing a home. Assess your financials - make sure you have a steady source of income, good credit and money saved for both a down payment and monthly mortgage.

Determine your housing needs in advance. Make a list of your priorities - where you want the house to be located (near school or job), how large, what type of home you want. Set a minimum list of what your home must have and a wish list of what you want to have but don't consider essential. You can even get some ideas online on a site like www.owners.com, a national database of homes for sale by owners.

A good primer to help you navigate through the process is *Home Buying for Dummies* (John Wiley & Sons) by Eric Tyson and Ray Brown. It will help you with issues such as how to research neighborhoods and home values and select the best mortgage.

As you visit homes, make a checklist to see if all the homes have sufficient bedrooms, bathrooms, storage space and room for your furniture. If you see potential problems or maintenance issues, ask the seller or agent about it. Most homebuyers see an average of 15 homes before making an offer.

MORTGAGES 101

A mortgage is usually used to purchase a home. Simply put, a mortgage is a legal claim on the property that secures promise to pay the debt. Mortgage payments are affected by the amount of the down payment, size of the loan, interest rate, length of repayment term and payment schedule.

Choose your lender carefully. Ask friends, family and your real estate agent for recommendations. In the end, pick a company that you feel comfortable with. Look to mortgage providers like LendingTree and Champion Mortgages to get started.

The type of loan you get depends on your lifestyle - your budget, your spending



Preparing to buy a home? It can be a daunting task. But if you are armed with the right questions, the process can be a little less painful.

If you want the lowest monthly payment and will be in your home for more than five years, look into a fixed-term mortgage if your income is fixed or expected to decline. Because the monthly payment is predictable, it makes budgeting easier. Or, try a short- or long-term ARM if you expect your income to rise.

habits and income throughout the loan period and how long you plan to stay in your home.

A long-term Adjustable Rate Mortgage (ARM) of five years or longer is good if your income is fixed or expected to decline.

ARMs start with an initial lower interest rate, though your monthly payment fluctuates based on the market (There is a cap on how much the interest can go up or down). A short-term ARM of three or fewer years is good if you expect your income to increase.

If you want the lowest

monthly payment and will be in your home for more than five years, looked into a fixed-term mortgage if your income is fixed or expected to decline. Because the monthly payment is predictable, it makes budgeting easier. Or, try a short- or long-term ARM if you expect your income to rise. But remember, the sooner you repay the loan, the more you'll save in interest payments.

Even if you qualify for a loan, proceed with caution. Lending Tree discourages overborrowing because it may not work with your budget.

CLOSING

After you've applied for the loan, the lender will review your application. If the loan is approved, a closing date is set and you'll be able to move in. Make sure you have enough money for closing costs. These can include the appraisal fee, taxes, credit reporting charge, deed recording fee and other costs. During the final walk through, make sure that any problems you discovered have been fixed.

Now, you can sit back and take a sigh of relief. Congratulations are in order. You are a homeowner!

Mortgage Bits

Tim 'Timbo' Phillips



Gift funds help sell homes

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recently estimated that there are almost 35 million renters in the United States. Of them, about 30 percent (over a million) can afford a new home's mortgage payment, but lack adequate funds for a down payment.

While there are several ways for renters to acquire 100 percent financing for home purchases, the more attractive mortgage choices often require some sort of buyer contribution, or down payment. Lenders usually offer better interest rates and loan terms when the buyers have "a little skin" in the deal so that the lender is not assuming as much risk.

For my clients, I often reach for one of my favorites - the FHA's 203(b) home loan. This mortgage's scant 3 percent buyer contribution has opened the home ownership doors for borrowers for decades. Unfortunately, even this small cash requirement is a major barrier for many borrowers.

To meet this challenge, many nonprofit entities throughout the country have established "gift funds" for renters who lack these needed monies. These "down payment assistance programs" fill buyer funding gaps by making "gift" donations from previously pooled funds. The granted money may be used for the buyers' closing costs and for down payment requirements.

Many DPAP providers can provide down payment gifts for all types of mortgages - FHA, conforming, and even sub-prime. One donor company, Neighborhood Gold, sweetens the buyers' grant even further by offering renewable mortgage payment protection for the first year of the new mortgage's life.

Neighborhood Gold's Michigan account executive, Sid Krommenhoek, says his program is now the leading down payment grant provider in the state. He explains, "Realtors and sellers love our program because it greatly increases the pool of available buyers. Realtors can sell properties more quickly, and there's no cap on the gift amount. It's a 'must have' for listings, especially in slower real estate markets."

Every DPAP offers slightly different terms, but they all require consent and cooperation from the party selling the subject property. You may find more detailed information about DPAPs and a one-page grant application form for Neighborhood Gold at www.HomeQuarters.BIZ.

Timothy J. Phillips is a mortgage broker and newspaper columnist. You may access his archives at www.HomeQuarters.BIZ, and you may phone him toll-free at (866) 369-4516.

HOME of The WEEK

20 MERRIMAC COURT | BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI

Dramatic ranch on a hilltop setting in the City of Bloomfield Hills. This lovely custom home offers an extraordinary living room with marble floor, high ceiling, beautiful sculpted mantle and a bay window. The formal dining room leads to a large updated kitchen with banquette! The family room has a home theater, fireplace and wet bar. The five bedrooms with adjoining baths are an added feature. Full basement, three car heated garage, beautiful private lot with patio, hot tub and gazebo. \$1,230,000.



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 <p>BLOOMFIELD HILLS \$425,000 All the bells & whistles! 3 bedroom ranch with 1st floor laundry, updated kitchen, 3 car garage, finished basement, central vacuum, hardwood floors and more! (BGN17ALD) 888-870-9123</p>	 <p>CANTON \$499,000 Truly a delightful home. Absolutely stunning detached condo. Premium wooded location. Custom kit. Formal din rm & great rm w/gas FP. Lg fam rm, den or home office. 1st fl mst ste. W/O bsmt. BGP-61War 888-870-9127</p>	 <p>CANTON \$449,900 Sweeping view of 27th hole. Exceptional 4 BR, 2.1 BA brick colonial on a fab lot. Gourmet kit/nook with granite cntropts, dbl conv oven, Jenn-air dwdraft range and custom hardwood floors. 2-story Gr Rm. BGP-68Cro 888-870-9127</p>	 <p>CANTON \$379,900 Phenomenal home and price! 4 BR, 2.1 BA colonial backs to Pheasant Run Golf Course. New beige carpet thruout. Int has been completely repainted in two-tone neutral tones. 3 car garage. Bright, sunny kit. BGP-08Cro 888-870-9127</p>	 <p>CANTON \$289,900 Enjoy carefree condominium living! Wow! 2002-built 3 BR condo with loft and first-floor master. Located in popular Canton golf course community. Upgraded lighting, gas fl, 1st-floor laundry. Must see! BGP-50Cle 888-870-9127</p>	 <p>DEARBORN HTS. \$129,900 3 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath brick ranch - basement & 2 car garage. Updates: furnace, C/A, cement driveway, windows, gutters & trim, roof on garage, circuit breakers, disposal, crptg and bathroom. City certs completed. BGL34FOR. 888-870-9105</p>	 <p>DETROIT \$130,000 1st flr fresh paint-crpt-LR-DR-kit. cntr tops-floor-dw-BA. Updated: furn & A/C 02, sep. furn & A/C 2nd flr. 3 frpls, 2 gas & 1 nat. 1st flr: 2 BR-LR-DR-kit & BA-2nd flr. LR-DR-kit-BR-BA-1/2 BA fin LL-live on 1st floor & rent up. OEL46FRE 888-870-9105</p>
 <p>FARMINGTON \$250,000 The ultimate! Wonderfully charming & and totally updated. Walk to downtown Farmington. Custom master suite, 2 fireplaces, custom kitchen, built-ins, hardwood floors, landscaped lot. (BGN10STA) 888-870-9123</p>	 <p>FERNDALE \$209,900 Need space? Over 2000 sq. ft. & 3 full baths. Hardwood floors, huge master bedroom with jet tub, AC, 2 fireplaces, and full basement, 2 car garage. New roof, furnace and hot water heater. (BGN30PIN) 888-870-9123</p>	 <p>GARDEN CITY \$147,500 An absolute dollhouse! This impeccably well kept home offers lots of room and has a family room, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, a den, and an oversized 2 car garage. (BGN74FLO) 888-870-9123</p>	 <p>LIVONIA \$354,500 Beautiful 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, colonial. 2-story foyer, 1st floor laundry. White kitchen. Paver brick patio, 2.5 car attached garage. Finished basement. One year home warranty. OEL37GLE 888-870-9105</p>	 <p>LIVONIA \$349,900 Pride of ownership & a wooded lot! 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home w/2350 + sq ft. brick fireplace & vaulted ceiling in great room, oak cabinets w/pull outs, large breakfast with bay window. Large 2 tiered deck out back. (BGN48TRI) 888-870-9123</p>	 <p>LIVONIA \$314,900 Classic colonial.. Large den, eat-in kitchen with view of the back yard-family room has cathedral ceiling with slider to deck. Master bedroom suite has walk-in closet. Seller is motivated. Refrigerator nego. (BGSLY01BRE) 888-870-9131</p>	 <p>LIVONIA \$208,900 3 bdrm, 2 bath colonial. Updates incl: roof, furn, c/a, windows (mostly wd, few vinyl), kit w/oak cabs, & more. Home on low-traffic ct & backs to a park. Gas FP, sprinkler sys, 2 car att gar, tiered deck & full bmt. OEL50DEB 888-870-9105</p>
 <p>LIVONIA \$194,900 3 BRs, 2 full BAs w/updates! Brand new kit w/new white cabs, cntr tops, & flring. BA has new vanity w/stone top, newer windows, furn, A/C, roof, elect, new carpet LR & hall, fresh paint t/o refin HDWD flrs in bdrms. OEL37COU 888-870-9105</p>	 <p>LIVONIA \$193,000 Tidy, neutral, updated home! w/275 ft. frontage w/ view of city golf club. Updates include roof, windows, carpet, air-con., private rear yard w/no neighboring property there. Home Warranty. (BGN30COU) 888-870-9123</p>	 <p>LIVONIA \$186,000 Well maintained home! This well maintained home has 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, a 3-season room, finished basement and 2.5 car garage. Close to schools, parks and shopping. Home warranty provided. (BGN21BRE) 888-870-9123</p>	 <p>LIVONIA \$171,800 Well maintained brick ranch. Furn, C/A and vinyl windows 10 years, covered patio. Walk to elementary and high schools; short ride to middle school. Close to freeways and local shopping. OEL13PER 888-870-9105</p>	 <p>LIVONIA \$165,000 3 bdrm, 1 bath, brick ranch Across from McKinley Elem. & Franklin High. Features: 2.5-car garage, hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen, new windows & doors, keyless entry. Possible 4th BR in bsmt. 1 year Home warranty. OEL50HIL 888-870-9105</p>	 <p>LIVONIA \$165,000 Great investment opportunity in N. W. Livonia! Main house offers 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. Apartment over garage offers 1 bedroom and 1 bath. Both city certified. (BGN35WES) 888-870-9123</p>	 <p>LIVONIA \$159,900 3 BR, 1 BA brick ranch with alum trim in "Livonia Estates". Fantastic LR, nice kit w/eating space & all appl. Partly fin bsmt w/glass block wndws, washer & dryer, C/A air, vinyl wndws, updated elect serv. 2 car gar. OEL62SUN 888-870-9105</p>
 <p>LIVONIA \$77,900 Bright & airy condo with large rooms. Pleasant view from balcony. Many updates include kitchen, bath and newer windows. New roof in 2001. Pool and clubhouse for relaxation. (BGN07BOB) 888-870-9123</p>	 <p>NORTHVILLE \$124,900 Excellent 3 BR, 2 full BA brick condo in popular Northridge Farms. Price reflects need for some TLC. Kit w/all appliance. 1st flr laund w/washer and dryer. Great location. Fantastic investment oppor. Must See. OEL73SUR 888-870-9105</p>	 <p>NOVI \$430,000 Stunning executive home with 2 story foyer.. Hardwood flrs, gourmet kitchen, 3 car garage, private wooded yard. Beautiful finished basement with bath & fifth bedroom, Master + jacuzzi + walk-in closet. (BGSLY55PAI) 888-870-9131</p>	 <p>PLYMOUTH \$549,500 Plymouth! first offering! impeccably detailed 3 year colonial on a quiet court. Every amenity-3 1/2 garage, 3 1/2 baths, full walk out, large rooms, island Corian kit, Pella windows. A children's paradise! BGP-13-Ply 888-870-9127</p>	 <p>PLYMOUTH \$469,900 Country living in the city! 5 acres of treed property. Ranch with finished walk-out. Stream, pond, pole barn, workshop. Abundance of wildlife surrounds this truly delightful setting! A must see property! BGP-00Can 888-870-9127</p>	 <p>PLYMOUTH \$439,000 New affordable construction in Plymouth! On small lake w/stonecast FP, cherry cnt, granite cntns. Custom mlds & trim. Brazilian hwd flrs. Cer BA & laundry. 4 BR, 2.5 BA, daylight bsmt. Avail in Nov. BGP-00Elm 888-870-9127</p>	 <p>PLYMOUTH \$398,000 Secluded elegance...on private treed lot. Soaring ceilings in GR & DR. Gourmet kitchen w/Corian & huge island. cozy den, lux master bedroom/bath, guest room with private bath. Cedar deck to admire woods. BGP-65Arb 888-870-9127</p>
 <p>PLYMOUTH \$309,900 Quiet cul-de-sac setting! 4 BR, 2.5 BA 2850 sq. ft colonial. FR with raised hearth FP and wet bar, library, formal LR and DR. Sunroom with cathedral ceiling leads to a paver patio. Newer carpeting and kitchen floor. BGP-01Bar 888-870-9127</p>	 <p>PLYMOUTH \$249,900 Impressive grandeur! 4 BR cedar bungalow within walking distance to town! Updates inc newer Andersen windows, covered front porch, roof, cedar decking, paver patio, AC, HDWD flrs, 1st flr Indry. BGP-32Ann 888-870-9127</p>	 <p>PLYMOUTH \$202,900 Best location in complex! 2 BR, 2 BA end unit ranch backing to wooded setting. Prof painted t/o. New kit cntns, LR w/gas FP. Newer windows. Full basement w/glass block windows. Custom brick paver off dw. Clean! BGP-65Woo 888-870-9127</p>	 <p>PLYMOUTH \$164,900 Doll House! 2 BR, 1 BA within walking distance to Kellogg Park. Newer win, fur, water htr, & copper plmb. Kit appl. Inc. Fenced yard and nicely landscaped. Room upstairs could be library/den. BGP-11Pal 888-870-9127</p>	 <p>REDFORD \$109,900 3 bdrm, alum. Bungalow. Kit w/all appliances. Formal DR. Newer copper plumbing, hi-eff furn and C/A. Newer roof (tear off). Full basement with glass block windows. Many updates! OEL31KEE 888-870-9105</p>	 <p>REDFORD \$159,000 Quality built newer home.. Inviting open floor plan includes island kitchen with built-in dishwasher, fireplace, master bedroom with bath and walk-in closet, 2 car garage, full basement. (BGSLY74GAR) 888-870-9131</p>	 <p>REDFORD \$139,900 Updates galore! 3 bedroom with fenced yard. New roof, siding, walk, windows, doors, kitchen. Cabinets, tops, tile floor, appliances. Paint and completely updated bath. A must see!!! (BGN98SAR) 888-870-9123</p>
 <p>SOUTH LYON \$286,900 Custom built 4 bedroom colonial. Meticulously maintained - hardwood floors, fresh paint, trac lighting, master bath, private wooded yard and 3 car garage. Home is warranteed. 888-870-9131</p>	 <p>SOUTH LYON \$149,900 55+ walk-out condo.. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths and large patio over looking stunning wildlife. Neutral decor with ceramic entrance. Club house and beach. (BGSLY70CAM) 888-870-9131</p>	 <p>SOUTH LYON \$140,000 Co-op 55 + community. Immediate occupancy. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Won't disappoint you. All appliances included. Central air. Lake privileges on sandy beach. Call for appt. (BGSLY45ARL) 888-870-9131</p>	 <p>SOUTH LYON \$119,000 Excellent location for your dream home. 10 acres in area of farm and fine homes. Township says no splits available. Engineered septic system expected. (BGSLYVLSIX) 888-870-9131</p>	 <p>WEST BLOOMFIELD \$284,900 Spacious, totally updated! 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial with West Bloomfield Schools. Finished basement, attached garage, large lot & 2 fireplaces. (BGN42CED) 888-870-9123</p>	 <p>WEST BLOOMFIELD \$169,900 Fabulous 1st floor condo! View of pond. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, private basement, 1 car garage attached, 1st floor laundry, newer appliances stay. Neutrals throughout. Very clean. (BGN85MAP) 888-870-9123</p>	 <p>WESTLAND \$144,900 3 bedroom, 2 bath, all brick ranch! Located on court lined street with beautiful trees. 2 car garage, nice backyard. Hardwood floors, nice floor plan. Livonia school. Immediate occupancy. Home Warranty. (BGN19MAC) 888-870-9123</p>



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Household Goods 7160 Dining Room Suite New, cherry. Large double pedestal table w/8 chairs.

Household Goods 7160 Dining Set - Cherry traditional, table, 6 chairs, china cabinet.

Household Goods 7160 Dining Set American Drew Cherry, 6 Chairs, pedestal table, china cabinet.

Household Goods 7160 Dining table & chairs - single pedestal, claw foot, medium oak.

Household Goods 7160 Furniture - Moving Must sell, will sacrifice entire contents of our elegant estate.

Household Goods 7160 Gorman's glass top table w/ glass pedestal, glass chairs.

Household Goods 7160 KING SIZE MATTRESS & BOX SPRINGS (exposed to cats).

Household Goods 7160 SOFA-BED Light green, excellent condition. Redecorating.

Household Goods 7160 ROUND TABLE 42" W/4 Chairs, queen sleep sofa, lamps & misc.

Household Goods 7160 SOFA & CHAIR VICTORIA 1920's carved rosewood, exc. cond.

Household Goods 7160 SOFA \$100 - Wing back chair, \$150. Oak coffee table \$100.

Household Goods 7160 SOFA-BED Light green, excellent condition. Redecorating.

Household Goods 7160 TABLE & BUFFET - Oak, table seats 6-10, w/2 leaf & pads.

Household Goods 7160 TRAIN SET Thomas Roundhouse, includes table & board w/tracks & scenery.

Household Goods 7160 WOOD WILLOW Carpet by Stark - French blue lattice pattern.

Household Goods 7160 APPLIANCES FRIG. - Whirlpool Gold, bottom freezer.

Household Goods 7160 RANGE - Electric Whirlpool, self cleaning, \$500.

Household Goods 7160 STOVE 30" white, electric, glass top, exc. cond.

Household Goods 7160 POOLS SPAS & HOT TUBS CAL SPA 1999 Atlantis, 2 GE pumps.

Household Goods 7160 BARGAIN BUYS STROLLER - GRACO - DOUBLE Like new, exc. cond.

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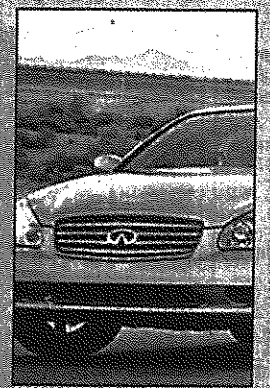
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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 11, 2003

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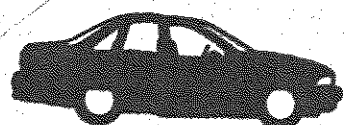
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The 2004 Toyota Highlander-4 Runner

Advertising Feature

Thursday DriveTime



BY DALE BUSS

The advances that Toyota has made in the U.S. market - which have enabled the company to muscle at least temporarily into the No. 3 sales spot ahead of traditional Big Three member Chrysler - are nowhere better illustrated than in how it has managed to cover huge segments of the American SUV market in just a few short years.

Exhibits No. 1 and 1A: Toyota's Highlander and 4Runner models. Between the two of them, they satisfy demand over a huge part of the segment's spectrum. There's the car-based Highlander and the truck-based 4Runner. You've got 4Runner's middling gas mileage of 15 to 19 mpg for a typical version and Highlander's nearly impressive 18 to 24 mpg. Prices range from a suggested \$24,000 to \$31,000 for Highlander, to a range of \$27,000 to \$37,000 for 4Runner.

And yet, both vehicles offer conservative but nifty styling, seven-seat possibilities, and the patented Toyota-made drivability that would make either one a good selection for someone in the market for a mid-sized, mid-priced - but fully capable - SUV.

Highlander, an offshoot of the Toyota Camry sedan chassis, has picked up more power and a third-row seat in the model's update for the 2004 model year. As one of the first midsize "crossover" SUVs to appear, in 2001, Highlander has helped set a standard for the segment in combining the image, size and versatility of an SUV with the better handling, less cabin noise, improved crash worthiness and easier entry and exit of a car.

Typical of Toyota's middle-market philosophy, Highlander's styling is pleasant if not striking; 17-inch alloy wheels are available on the Limited version I drove, as well as a roof rack and heated outside mirrors. Engine choices are a standard 2.4-liter, four-cylinder that is



The Toyota 4 Runner is a robust all around vehicle.

paired with a four-speed automatic transmission and a 3.3-liter V6, and a five-speed automatic, that Highlander shares with the Lexus RX 330 SUV. Both packages offer ample power and also come with the fine handling that Toyota has become noted for.

Entry into Highlander is easier than for its truck-based cousin, requiring neither climbing up nor stepping down. Even the optional third-row seat can be folded down for cargo carrying. Actually, Highlander offers more total cargo space than the truck-based, and squarer, 4Runner. Controls are placed where they should be, although Highlander's transmission-shifter lever is uniquely positioned more as part of the dash than on a central console, opening up space between the front seats. And in one of the niftiest interior innovations I've seen in a while, the space below the floor console in the center is hollowed out, creating great possibilities for eliminating many women's No. 1 complaint about vehicle interiors: There's no place to put a substantial purse without having it get thrown all over the vehicle.

4Runner is a taller, squarer vehicle that is

just more robust all around, especially in its brand new 2004 version, which is 4.5 inches longer in length and wheelbase and more than three inches wider than the version that came out in 2002.

Completely new from the ground up, 4Runner is loaded with the latest in off-road electronic technology such as electronic traction control and downhill assist, a new and more powerful V6 standard engine, a first-time-available V8 and a new shock-damping system that improves stability and handling in sweeping turns. Shoulder room, hip room and cargo capacity have grown as well.

The SR5, the top-of-the-line version that I drove, offers a V8 so smooth that it demands comparison with V8 powertrains put out there by other SUV makers. And at least in comparison with the V8s that power the Cadillac Escalade and Lincoln Navigator, Toyota's version - at least as deployed in 4Runner - is tops in terms of smoothness and noise level

Write Dale at daledbuss@aol.com.

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2003 TAURUS SEL

Continental Pkg., Premium 4 door, CD changer (6 disc), elec. lamp control, AC, adj. pedals, all-speed traction control, perimeter anti-theft sys., air bags, 3.0L V6 engine, auto OD trans, P215/60R16 all season tires, 16" 5-spoke wheels, leather/wood steering wheel, power moonroof, power pass seat, leather. (Stock #33770) WAS \$26,129

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2003 EXPLORER SPORT

Redfire Clearcoat med flint L/B cloth bucket, prem. sport group, convenience group, air, AM/FM stereo w/single CD/cass, comfort group, power windows/locks/doorlocks, 4.0L SOHC V6 engine, 5-speed auto OD trans, P235/70R16 A/S OWL tires, 3.73 limited slip axle. (Stock #32621) WAS \$26,440

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\$13,345^{84*}

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	\$5.00 PER DAY	\$3.50 PER DAY

2004 FREESTAR SEL

Metador Red coat, med. flint leather, 3.54 ratio req axle, electronic group, speed control, air, power driver & pass. seat, privacy glass, 4.2L OHV EFI engine, 4 spd auto OD trans, rear cargo net, power locks, stereo, 6 disc CD, reverse sensing sys., perimeter anti-theft, power heated mirrors, adj foot pedal, leather seats. (Stock #40328) WAS \$34,230

\$24,654^{74*}

A-PLAN 36 MO. LEASE RENEWAL	ZERO DOWN \$308 ^{76**} MO	\$1500 DOWN \$288 ^{87**} MO
	\$593.35 DUE AT SIGNING	\$2127.89 DUE AT SIGNING

2004 F150 S.C. STX

Blazing Yellow, flint cloth 40/20/40, prot. equip, pkg, 503A manual black mirrors, 4.6L EFI V8 eng., elec. 4-spd. auto OD, 3.55 ratio lim. slip axle, 6700# GVWR pkg., carpeted floor mats, floor carpet, sliding rear window, AM/FM stereo/CD in dash, fog lamps, cloth 40/20/40, privacy glass. (Stock #40288) WAS \$26,300

\$19,071^{23*}

A-PLAN 24 MO. LEASE RENEWAL	ZERO DOWN \$182 ^{77**} MO	\$1500 DOWN \$118 ^{21**} MO
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\$15,061^{84*}

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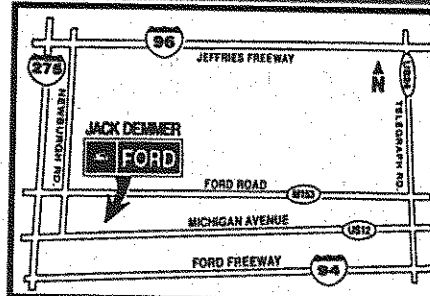
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