

Parents went wild when their children sang Alvin and the Chipmunks' big hit, *It's Christmas, Don't Be Late*, at the annual holiday celebration at Schoolhouse Montessori.



Santa Claus crosses many borders for Maber Thakkar, 3 1/2, a student at Schoolhouse Montessori, which celebrated the holidays with an international flair.

Santa gets an international welcome

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Awesome is an apt description of an annual holiday gathering with an international flair at Schoolhouse Montessori in Canton.

"There are so many cultures at our school," said Kelly Haar, student services coordinator for the school on Canton Center Road.

So how can you celebrate the end of a year and the holidays without going all out and including all the cultures you can find. At least the cultures - Romanian, Mexican, Korean, Swedish, Japanese, Indian and British to

name a few - that come with the 130 students, ages 2 1/2 to 5.

Each of the children's families provided the cuisine. "We shared foods and cultures," Haar said. At each dish, the contributing family placed a card explaining the dish.

While all dined and were merry, the children, who had prepared for weeks, provided their families with all-out entertainment, American style, with an array of holiday songs, including *Bells Will Be*

Ringin', Frosty the Snowman and *12 Days of Christmas*, for which the kids provided appropriate props.

But the children, who were dressed in their cultures' native costumes, also performed traditional standbys such as *Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang*.

The celebration was capped with the ultimate in childhood memories, the arrival of Santa Claus. "It was awesome," Haar said.

FOR THE RECORD

"For the Record," appears in every edition of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. This column will include items of record such as deaths, births, district court proceedings and other local information.

Deaths

A
John F. Allen, 80, of Rochester, died Dec. 5.

B
Bruce Backenstose, 71, of Oakland Township, died Nov. 30.
Gerald Joseph Bascik, 56, of Troy, died Dec. 2.
Lucille E. Battle, 85, of Westland, died Dec. 7.
Marguerite Baum, 46, of Livonia, died Dec. 6.
Billie Jo Briggs, 60, of Royal Oak, died Nov. 26.
Jessie B. Buhner, 87, of Bloomfield Hills, died Dec. 3.

C
Phyllis G. Canyock, 82, of Rochester Hills, died Nov. 22.
Philip Eugene Cartwright, 93, of Waterford Township, formerly of Farmington Hills and Birmingham, died Nov. 21.
Lester Chapman Jr., 70, of Westland, died Dec. 7.
William Choate, 52, of Farmington Hills, died Nov. 25.
Louis Churchill, 89, of Warren, died Nov. 24.

Robert James Clegg, 79, of Macomb, formerly of Rochester Hills, died Nov. 23.
David M. Collie, 47, of West Bloomfield, died Nov. 22.
Dorothy Jane Cruden, 67, of Beulah, formerly of Redford, died Dec. 9.

D
Harry Leon Day, 86, of Rochester Hills, died Dec. 2.
Christopher John DeChalk, 37, of Canton Township, died Dec. 11.
John H. DeRosia, 67, of Brighton, formerly of Southfield, died Dec. 5.
Susan DesChenes, 61, of Livonia, died Dec. 9.
Lisa Disinger, 22, of Rochester Hills, died Nov. 27.
August Richard Dobson, 81, of Farmington Hills, died Dec. 7.
Gerald Joseph Dorsey, 73, of Bloomfield Hills, died Nov. 25.

E
Edward E. Echoes, 48, of Garden City, died Dec. 6.

Sally Egan, 73, of Plymouth, died Dec. 7.
Kathleen S. Erickson, 59, of Clarkston, formerly of Portland, died Nov. 25.
Mark Elliott Estes, 41, of Detroit, formerly of Ann Arbor and Birmingham, died Dec. 9.
F
Kenneth John Fitzhenry, 56, of Rochester, died Nov. 30.

G
Henriette Garcia, 75, of Rochester Hills, died Dec. 3.
Henry Griffith Gassaway Jr., 99, of Southampton, Mass., formerly of Bloomfield Township, died Nov. 20.
Vivian L. Grove, 75, of South Carolina, formerly of Birmingham, died Dec. 2.
Michael Gulu III, 49, of Troy, formerly of Auburn Hills, died Dec. 6.

H
Edward A. Haddad, 69, of Clarkston, died Nov. 27.
George A. Hanosh, 73, of Plymouth, died Dec. 6.
Madeleine M. Helms, 93, of Traverse City, formerly of Pontiac and Clarkston, died Nov. 29.
Gordon C. Henderson, 83, died Nov. 27.
Rev. Beryl C. Hinz, 90, of Gladwin, formerly of Clarkston, died Nov. 26.
Wilfred "Wii" A. Hinze, 92, of Birmingham, died Nov. 24.
Loyal G. Huffman Jr., 76, of Southfield, died Nov. 30.

K
Rose Kaminski, 70, of Troy, died Nov. 21.
Johnathon Franklin Keiser, 19, of Orion Township, formerly of Bloomfield Hills, died Nov. 23.
Daniel Lynn Koehler, 59, of Bloomfield Hills, died Nov. 30.
Michael J. Kollins, 91, of Bloomfield Hills, died Dec. 3.
Carl Kralski, 91, of Westland, died Dec. 9.

L
Catherine L. Lahey, 91, of Waterford, formerly of Bloomfield Hills, died Dec. 4.
Nancy J. Lilley, 65, of Garden City, died Dec. 8.
Colleen Ann (Loop) Lorence, 49, of Redford, died Dec. 8.

M
Rosemarie M. Markus, 80, of Dearborn, formerly of Bloomfield Hills, died Nov. 19.
Harold Martin, 67, of Lehigh Acres, Fla., formerly of Canton, died Dec. 2.
Victor McCormick, 94, of

Rochester Hills, died Nov. 24.
Gladys M. McKenzie (Bond), 66, of Warren, died Dec. 6.
Hazel Taubee Moore, 82, of Florida, formerly of Rochester, died Nov. 28.
Monica K. Morris, 12, of Garden City, died Dec. 8.
Frank Henderson Moss II, 60, of Troy, died Dec. 4.

O
Frederick Orritt, 80, of West Bloomfield, died Nov. 28.

P
Robert Peters, 77, of Downer's Grove, Ill., formerly of Rochester, died Nov. 25.
Karen Ann Pointinger, 51, of Rochester Hills, died Dec. 3.

R
Alice Rea, 65, of Rochester Hills, died Dec. 1.
Ione Recht, 83, of Bingham Farms, died Nov. 25.
Mary Elizabeth "Betty" Ressler, 75, of Troy, died Nov. 22.
Edna "Teddy" Reynolds, 75, of Southfield, died Dec. 4.
Marguerite E. "Marge" Riemer, 86, of Rochester Hills, formerly of Troy, died Dec. 3.
Catherine Cavanaugh Roney, 78, of Bloomfield Hills, died Nov. 23.

S
Charles Elmer Rose, 79, of Auburn Hills, formerly of Troy, died Nov. 21.
Beverly Jeanne Rowe, 72, of Troy, died Dec. 4.
Stella Ruzyski, 92, of Redford, died Dec. 10.

T
John Saylor, 72, of Bloomfield Hills, died Dec. 4.
Waldemar Wilbert Scherff, 96, of Rochester Hills, died Dec. 3.
Henry A. Schwager Jr., 89, of Bloomfield Hills, died Nov. 17.
David Siewert, 53, of Livonia, died Dec. 5.
Kay Elizabeth Smith, 62, of Garden City, died Dec. 11.
Leslie Jean Sockow, 78, of Canton Township, died Dec. 11.
Mona Spezzano, 82, of Dearborn, formerly of Birmingham, died Nov. 14.
Henry Walter (Tom) Sullivan, 73, of Westland, died Dec. 8.

V
Sharon K. VanHollebeke, 63, of Westland, died Dec. 9.
Sister Mary Frances Vondruska, 89, of Farmington Hills, died Dec. 10.

W
Barbara Jean Watson, 70, of Birmingham, died Nov. 23.
Kathy A. Werner, 49, of Plymouth, died Dec. 7.

POSTAL PERIODICAL REQUIREMENTS

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No more township meetings in 2003

Canton Planning Commission and Board of Trustees meetings are all over for the rest of the year.

The next Planning Commission meeting will be Monday, Jan. 5, and the next Board meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 6.

All meetings will be held in the banquet center at Summit on the Park.

"Unless we have an emergency, that's it until next year," said Township Supervisor Tom Yack.

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Foundation awards grants, scholarships

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

The economy may be sluggish, but the Canton Community Foundation efforts in the community show few signs of it.

"I would say perhaps our donations have been down, but our two special events - annual golf outing and the Winter Ball - have been successful," said Joan Noricks, foundation president. "I think it is the trust factor - I would hope. We work hard for that credibility."

In November, the foundation reached the \$1 million in assets, a major achievement for the 14-year-old organization, which serves residents of Canton and Plymouth. Of the \$1 million, \$800,000 is endowed in an investment account

and growing. Last year the foundation contributed \$80,000 back to the community in grants to non-profits and scholarships to individuals.

Noricks attributes much of the foundation's grant and scholarship giving to contributors in the Canton and Plymouth communities. "I think people recognize the value of being a part of the programs."

In fact, new scholarships are in place as applications are now available for 2004. Among the new are a \$500 from the Canton Garden Club; \$500 from the Elizabeth Durack Memorial Scholarship (in memory of Dan Durack, Canton administrative services director's sister); Canton Community Foundation/Youth Leadership Scholarship and \$500 from the

Jack Demmer Ford Scholarship. The Kiwanis Club of Plymouth Canton Breakfast also increased their grant from \$500 to \$1,000.

In addition to the new the scholarships and grants, another 30 are available to Plymouth and Canton residents. Applications are available at high school guidance offices, the Canton Public Library and Plymouth District Library, and on the foundation's Web site, www.cantonfoundation.org

Deadline for submitted applications is Feb. 21, 2004. Donations to the foundation are eligible for a Michigan Income Tax Credit. Checks should be made to Canton Community Foundation and mailed to the foundation at 50430 School House Road, Canton, MI 48187.

CANTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS

The Canton Community Foundation awarded the following grants:

The arts:

■ Plymouth Symphony Society - \$520 - to support the annual benefit concert and auction.

■ Plymouth Oratorio Society - \$500 - to support the production of *Mass in D-Minor* and *2 Sacred Pieces*.

■ Canton Human Services Mural - \$2,500 - with a matching grant from Project Arts, commission of Mind's Eye Studios to create a mural, which depicts the cultural growth of Cherry Hill Village, for the reception area of the Canton Human Services center.

■ Park Players - \$2,000 - in cooperation with Detroit Cultural Affairs Department and Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs, sponsorship of *Stephen Schwartz in Concert* for high school students.

Community Development:
■ Salute to Service - \$500 - to sponsor Canton's annual Salute to Service Day, which honors veterans.

■ PCEP Orchestra - \$100 - to support the high school chamber orchestra's performance at the annual Salute to Service Day event.

■ Canton Chamber of Commerce - \$130 - to support the chamber's annual dinner and auction.

■ Leadership Canton Alumni

- \$200 - to support Leadership Canton Alumni's Annual Wine Tasting fund raiser.

■ Council on Foundations - \$400 - a membership fee to allow the Foundation to use a wealth of information and follow the highest standards and best practices.

Education:

■ Education Excellence Foundation - \$2,500 - assistance for 2002 Skills Camp at Field, Hoben and Fiegel elementary schools. The camp helps at-risk children with math and reading skills.

■ Family Resources Center Summer Reading Program - \$1,000 - to provide money for a teacher to mentor at a summer reading program for early elementary Canton students who attend Walker-Winter School in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

■ CHARACTER COUNTS! - \$10,300 - support from the Healthy Youth/Healthy Seniors Fund to provide a community coordinator to organize community events around the CHARACTER COUNTS! theme. Also, \$300 of it supports local membership dues, allowing schools and local groups to buy resource materials at a discount.

■ Canton High School Athletic Department - \$500 - support from the Healthy Youth/Healthy Seniors Fund to commission a mural encouraging excellence in sportsmanship.

■ WSDP Student Radio -

\$4,500 - support from the Healthy Youth/Healthy Seniors Fund to sponsor a tobacco intervention program.

Human Services:
■ Huron Valley Ambulance - \$10,000 - a fourth payment for a handicapped-accessible, wheelchair lift-equipped van that assists with the transportation needs of Canton's seniors, disabled, and at-risk populations.

■ Caring Resources - \$1,320 - to fund the cost of three storage units used to house donated items before the volunteer members of Caring Resources distribute goods to needy residents of the greater Canton area.

■ 100 Days to Health - \$2,000 - in cooperation with Canton Township Leisure Services and St. Joseph Mercy Health Systems, sponsor new community health awareness program.

Recreation:
■ Special Olympics, Michigan - \$500 - support to underwrite the participation of Canton athletes in the Special Olympics State Softball Tournament at Canton Softball Center.

■ St. Joseph Mercy Health Center Community Advisory Council - \$500 - in partnership with Canton's Meijer store, purchase bicycle helmets that were given away at the "Gear Up for Safety" event at Canton Liberty Fest.

STUDENTS EARN SCHOLARSHIPS

Rachel Brown-\$3,000-Yazaki North America, Inc.; Kristina Bulmer-\$500-Canton Community Foundation/Eastern Michigan University; Laura Cavicchio-\$300-Canton Business and Professional Women; Stephanie Chang-\$3,000-Yazaki North America, Inc.; Lydia Dobson-\$500-Denski Family; Dennis Dorogi-\$500-Canton Community Foundation/Eastern Michigan University; Jason Elias-\$2,600-Homer Elias Fund; Angela Hull-\$2,000-Yazaki North America, Inc.; Sandra Koelzer-\$300-Canton Business and Professional Women; Ryan Leach-\$500-Canton Community Foundation/Eastern Michigan University; Joanna Lin-\$500-Meredith I Whalen Memorial; Wendy McAllister-\$500-Canton Chamber of Commerce; Katherine McKeon-\$500-Kiwanis Club of Plymouth-Canton Breakfast; Kathryn McLean-\$500-Penelope Hope Klei; Susan Merenda-\$500-Harold Rosin/Canton Community

Foundation.
Crystal Miranda-\$500-Harold Rosin/Canton Community Foundation; Stephanie Pevac-\$3,000-Yazaki North America, Inc.; Benjamin Pew-\$1,000-Canton Community Foundation/Lawrence Technological University; Katherine Robiadek-\$5,000-Yazaki North America, Inc.; David Rossow-\$500-Boyer's Meat Processing, Inc.; Michael Rykalsky-\$500-Canton Community Foundation/Schoolcraft College; Kurt Sarsfield-\$3,000-Yazaki North America, Inc.; Adam Sonnanstine-\$2,000-Yazaki North America, Inc.; Sandra Sponseller-\$500-Canton Community Foundation; Rebecca Stagner-\$1,000-Canton Community Foundation/Lawrence Technological University; Bree Ann Stopera-\$500-Canton Community Foundation/Eastern Michigan University; Meghan Symons-\$500-Canton Chamber of Commerce; Lisa Ther-\$500-Bob Boyer/Canton Historical Society; Elizabeth

Thompson-\$500-Canton Community Foundation.
Winners included: Nazeen Uddin-\$500-Canton Community Foundation/University of Michigan-Dearborn; Trevor Verrot-\$3,000-Yazaki North America, Inc.; Amanda Walker-\$500-Canton Community Foundation/Schoolcraft College; Stephanie Watson-\$1,000-Wade-Trim; Matthew Whalen-\$500-Canton Community Foundation/University of Michigan-Dearborn; Ryan Williams-\$500-Regal Construction, Inc.; Luke Williams-\$3,000-Yazaki North America, Inc.

HOLIDAY STORE HOURS: SHOP SUNDAY 8:00 AM TO 9:00 PM; MONDAY THRU WEDNESDAY 8:00 AM TO 10:00 PM.

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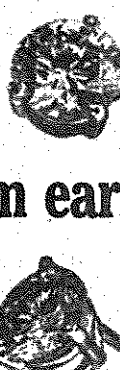
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11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
STURK ON TV (PG-13)
11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40
FRU/SAT LS 12:05
THE LAST SAMURAI (R)
12:15, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15
THE HAUNTED MANSION (PG)
11:45, 2:00, 4:40, 7:00, 9:10
FRU/SAT LS 11:15
TIMELINE (PG-13)
9:05 FRU/SAT LS 11:35
THE CAT IN THE HAT (PG)
(SAT/SUN 11:00) 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20
ELF (PG)
12:00, 2:10, 4:25, 7:15, 9:30
FRU/SAT LS 11:40

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Here are three firehouse recipes from Steve Borgelt, resident firefighter/paramedic/cook at Canton's Fire Station No. 1.

FIREHOUSE BEANS

1 pound ground beef
1 onion (chopped)
1 green pepper (chopped)
1 package taco seasoning
1 cup favorite barbecue sauce
2 tablespoons hot sauce
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1 large can Busch baked beans
dash cayenne pepper

Brown ground beef. Drain and add green pepper and onion. Cook until soft. Add taco seasoning, BBQ sauce, hot sauce, brown sugar, cayenne and beans. Mix well. Transfer to oven-proof pan. Cook at 350 degrees for 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 hours.

CHEESY MEATLOAF

1 1/2 pounds ground beef
1/4 cups dry bread crumbs
1/3 pound shredded cheddar cheese
1 can tomato soup (10 3/4 ounces)
1 egg
1/2 onion chopped
1/2 teaspoon salt
dash pepper

Combine all ingredients. Mixing lightly shape

into loaf in 11 1/2 by 7 1/2-inch baking dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 75 minutes.

ECLAIR CAKE

Custard:
2 small vanilla instant puddings
3 cups milk

Prepare pudding as directed on package until thick. Fold in 1 8 ounce package CoolWhip and set aside.

Line 9 by 13-inch pan with whole graham crackers. Cover with one-half custard mixture. Add another layer of graham crackers. Cover with

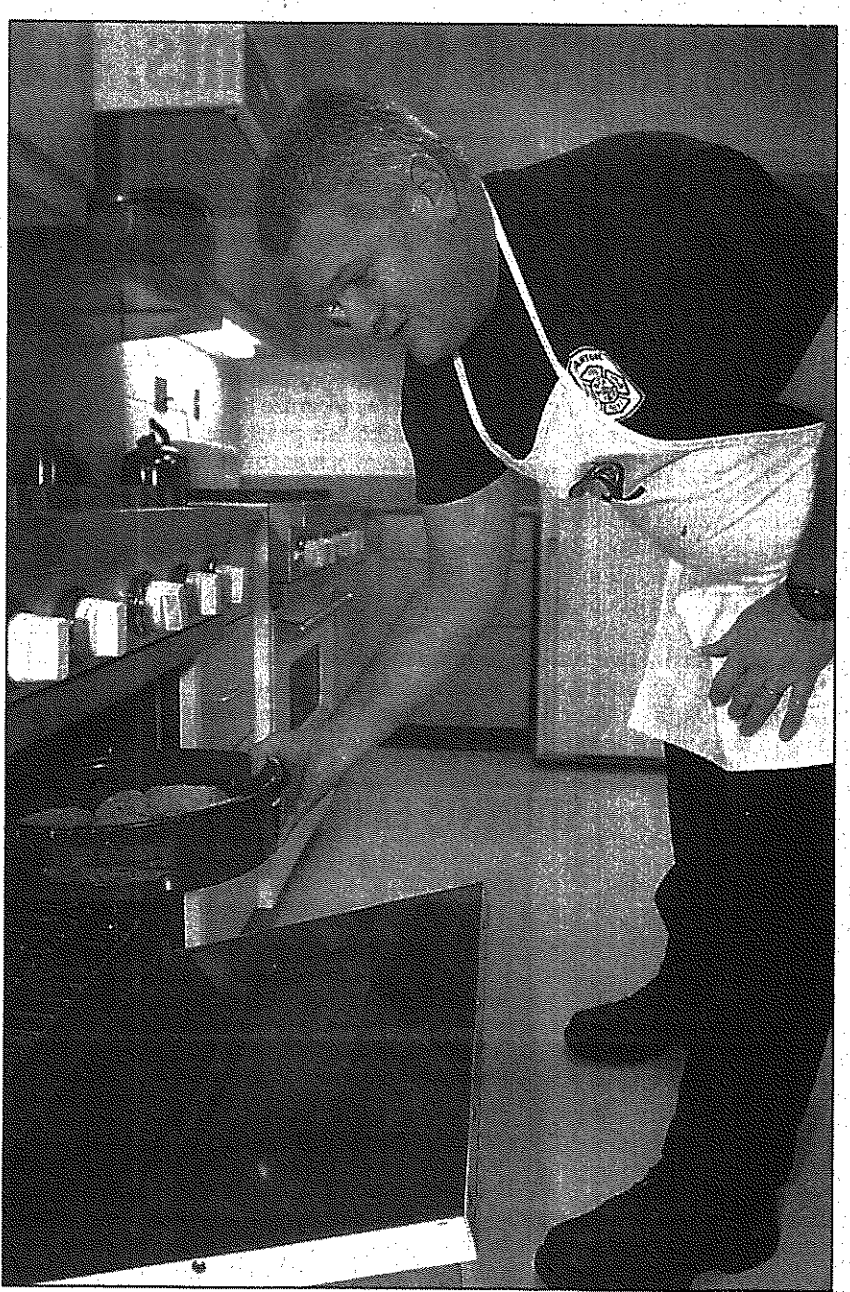
remaining custard. Top with third layer of graham crackers and cover with frosting.

Frosting:
2 ounces unsweetened baking chocolate
1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
3 tablespoons margarine
3 tablespoons milk
1 tablespoon light Karo syrup

Melt margarine and chocolate in saucepan. Mix in rest of ingredients. Spread on top of last graham cracker layer.



Canton firefighters Dave Erickson, Rob DeVries, and Mike Taylor share the honor of peeling 15 pounds of potatoes for dinner.



Steve Borgelt slides a roaster of chicken breasts stuffed with ham and mozzarella cheese into the oven. He'll serve them with parsleyed potatoes and salad.

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Masked man robs store

A man with a ski mask and a gun robbed the Cracker Barrel Party Store on Ford Road about 10:30 a.m. Thursday.

Police said the man entered the store, demanded money then fled east on Ford in a white car.

An undisclosed amount of cash was taken.

He was described as a black male, about 6-feet tall, 230 pounds, wearing blue jeans, a blue sweatshirt, a jacket, gloves and a ski mask over his face.

Anyone with information is asked to call Canton Police at (734) 394-5400.

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Eating has a new meaning for him now

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

When Mike Duran took his wife and kids to Cedar Point, he couldn't always join them on the rides. He just didn't fit.

"I've always been heavy my whole life," said the Canton resident, a Churchill High School graduate who works at the Kroger Distribution Warehouse in Livonia.

In the last 10 years, however, Duran says he got even heavier - up to 366 pounds. Dieting was a part of Duran's life. Sports and physical activity were not. He just couldn't physically participate.

Today, the six-foot Duran weighs 209 pounds and works out daily at Lifetime Fitness in Canton. "I wish I had done this five years ago."

The "this" in Duran's life is the much-discussed and sometimes controversial gastric bypass surgery, which he had July 1, 2002. That was the start of a whole new life for Duran.

He thought the surgery might be the answer after watching *20/20* and learned about an entire family whose members each underwent bariatric surgery. That prompted him to do some research. He joined support groups on the Internet and finally went to a seminar conducted by Dr. Michael Wood, who eventually operated on Duran at Bi-County Hospital. Dr. Wood did not respond to the Observer's inquiries.

Poor health is what finally prompted Duran to take action. He had become a diabetic with high blood pressure and high cholesterol, and sleep apnea. And he just wasn't happy with himself.

"We saw him change quite a lot," said Duran's wife, Ronda. "Things that weren't a problem, suddenly were."

Made famous by the likes of singer Carnie Wilson and *Today* show weather man Al Roker, bariatric surgery appealed to Duran because he had tried everything, including weight loss pills, the Atkins Diet, you name it. His decision

Surgery can be risky

Bariatric surgery isn't for everyone, yet can be a life-saver for those who qualify.

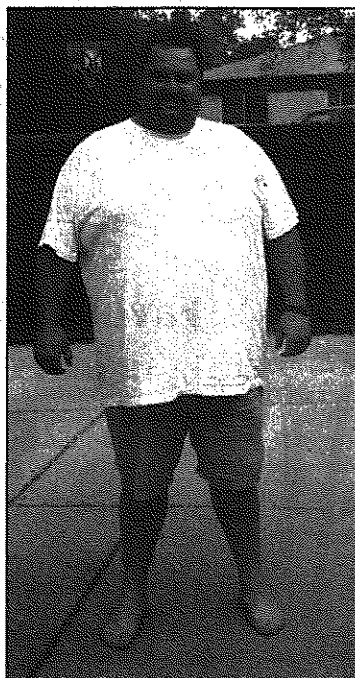
Known as gastric bypass surgery or stomach stapling, attaches a piece of the small intestine higher up on the stomach and compartmentalizes the rest, leaving only a small portion of the stomach, about the size of an egg.

According to the National Institutes of Health guidelines, patients who are 100 pounds overweight may be considered for surgery. Patients who are less than 100 pounds overweight may be considered if there is a life-threatening risk, such as diabetes. In 2003, approximately 103,000 American underwent the surgery, according to the American Society for Bariatric Surgery.

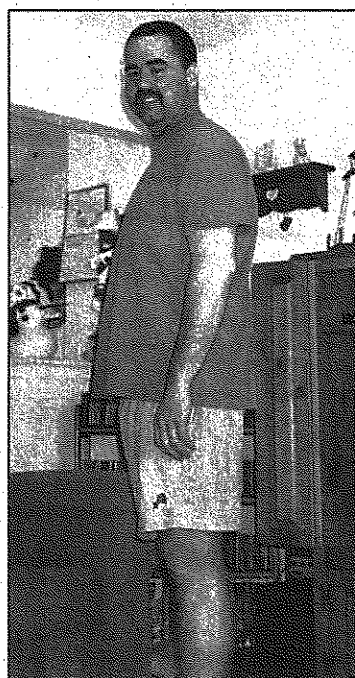
The surgery can result in complications including a leak in where the intestine is attached to the stomach, as well as blood clots, blood infections, pneumonia, bowel obstruction and injuries to the esophagus. Yet some physicians say these complications would affect severely obese patients who have any type of surgery.

wasn't made lightly, not that the doctor or the insurance company would allow that. "They flood you with information. They want you to know exactly what you're getting into."

He was put through tests, including psychological, before he got the word that he indeed was a candidate. Two days before surgery he went on a liquid diet. Surgery lasted only two hours.



This is Canton resident Mike Duran at 366 pounds, before his bariatric surgery in July 2002.



Duran still has to watch what he eats, particularly the amount of food.

Duran was afraid after surgery. He had so much learn about his new life. "You still have to watch what you eat." His life is now about high proteins, low carbohydrates and limited, if any, sugar, which metabolizes quickly. "You can't eat a hot fudge sundae, but you can have a scoop of ice cream."

A significant effect of the bariatric surgery, which is not widely publicized, is how small a piece of food must be - and how well chewed. "The intestine's opening to a smaller stomach is the width of a pencil." Something can get stuck and it's back to the operating room.

Following surgery, Duran lived on liquids and introduced food slowly back into his life. He joined a support group to give and get help to other

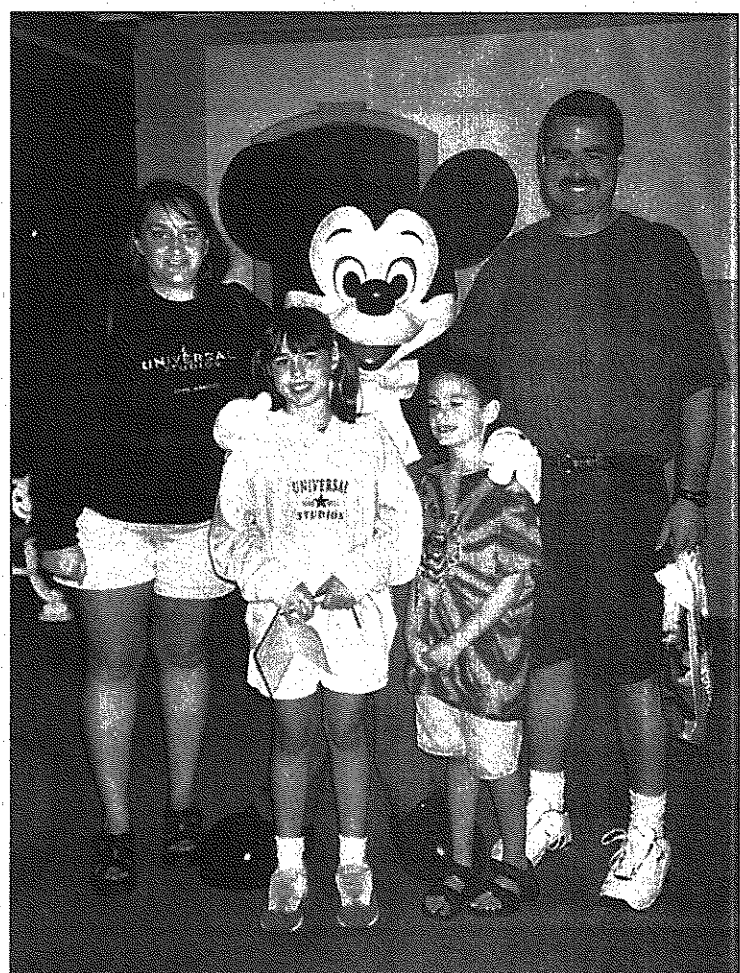
bariatric surgery patients. Exercise became his friend and ally. Vitamins are also a necessity.

"I think this has been wonderful for him," Ronda said. "We try to eat healthy and be aware of the size of portions." The Durans also watch what their kids, Kelsey, 10, and Trevor, 7, eat and how much activity they get.

When Duran has a burger - it's without the bun and french fries. Three breadsticks and a salad and he's full. Watching what he eats will remain part of his life. But it is worth the price.

"I'm in good health. I have self-confidence now and more self esteem."

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The Mike Duran who was overweight couldn't enjoy rides at amusement parks because he couldn't fit in the seats. After his surgery, Duran enjoyed a visit to Disney World with his wife, Ronda, and children, Kelsey, 10, and Trevor, 7.

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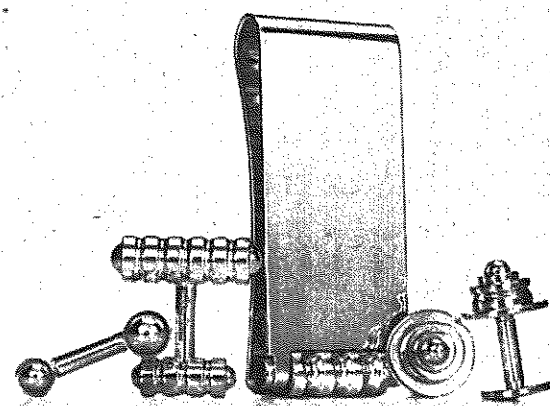
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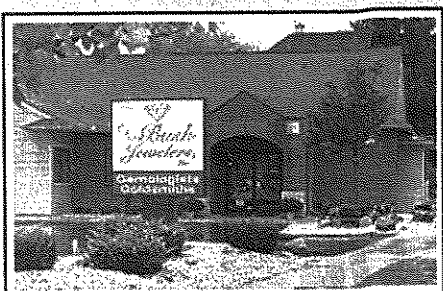
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DEPENTU

FROM PAGE A1

DePentu handles the musical lives of some 160 students.

The two groups pulled together Tuesday to perform their annual holiday concert, a light-hearted affair the musicians approached with a gentle touch.

And they played the holiday fare to throngs of people.

"We had a huge crowd this year; they seem to get bigger the bigger and better the orchestra gets," DePentu said. "It was cheerful and happy, like holiday pops. And the kids did beautifully."

That's the important part to DePentu, who likes that she's passing on her love of music to eager and willing youngsters. She's especially impressed with the middle school musicians, who have to add an hour to their already long day because music isn't offered for them during the regular school day.

"Those kids are so special," DePentu said. "The fact those middle school kids put up with so much to be part of the group is amazing. No other students have to go outside their school day to get the experience."

The attrition rate among middle schoolers is low, DePentu said, which means they already are familiar with the program — and with the other students in it — by the time they get to high school.

"When they come to the high school, they know they're going to walk in the door and there are their orchestra friends," DePentu said. "They have a home."

That's the atmosphere DePentu and Zurbuchen foster, and it's one the kids enjoy. There are 80 kids in the middle school string orchestras, and another 50 strings at the high school. Some 33 symphonic musicians make up the balance of what is a large musical family at the park.

It's an atmosphere parents respect for their children.

"(DePentu) really puts her heart and soul into it, and (Zurbuchen) is just as great," said Debra Madonna, whose son John graduated from the program last year. "I don't know which is Cathy and which is the music. She really

made orchestra the spot kids could call home at the high school — a small place in a big place."

It's important to DePentu, who plays the oboe with the Plymouth Community Band, to pass on her love for music. It's a love she's been developing her whole life. She remembers the exact moment when she knew music was going to be her life.

Playing with the Central Kentucky Youth Orchestra at the Mideast Conference, DePentu recalls perfectly the feeling that engulfed her when the group played Debussy's *Afternoon of a Faun*.

"I can still capture the feeling that this was the most perfect thing I'd ever done," she recalled with a smile. "Every so often, you connect with a piece. What I like most about teaching is that I can help a kid just one time get that feeling."

She makes sure her students know that, though they may never be part of a musical group again, they should have great pride and passion in what they're doing now.

After moving with her husband, Jon, to Michigan in 1991, DePentu started teaching at Lessenger Middle School in Detroit before moving to Plymouth-Canton. At Lessenger, she showed the kind of dedication to her craft for which she's become famous here.

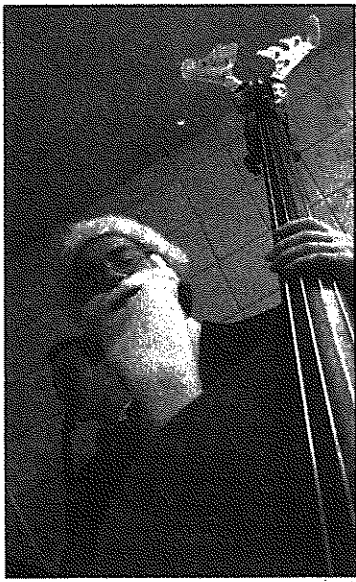
Ivy Custard, a secretary at Lessenger, remembers her daughter playing for DePentu. She recalls DePentu working deep into a pregnancy to get a holiday concert on the stage.

"She worked so hard with the kids," Custard recalled. "The music was very good. She was very dedicated."

Wearing her musical heart on her sleeve is one of the things that impresses her students.

"She knows so much about music," said junior Brendan Krueger, who has been with DePentu for five years. "She always uses 'nonsense' words to tell us what we need to do, but she reminds us she has a master's degree so she can make up words if she needs to."

"She's the epitome of teacher," Krueger added. "She looks after her students as if they were her own children. She encourages us to give her



P-CEP orchestra bass player Ron Thieleman gets ready for Tuesday's holiday performance.

feedback, and she actually listens to us and takes it into account. She's fantastic."

Pretty good testimony for a woman who has always found ways to put her talents to use. DePentu was a clarinetist and learned to play the oboe in seventh grade. When she was getting ready to move to the high school, she didn't feel like she could beat the first-chair clarinetist, so she volunteered to



The P-CEP Symphony Orchestra plays 'Sleigh Ride,' one of half-a-dozen songs the high schoolers performed at Tuesday's annual holiday concert.

be the high school's oboe player.

"I didn't want to be a second chair," she said simply. "They didn't have an oboe, so I started taking lessons."

DePentu looks at her career

with a self-deprecating eye, but her students feel she's earned the respect she gets. Want to know how they feel about her? Listen to Krueger.

"She puts so much work into the high school and middle

school," the junior said. "She makes orchestra more like a second family than a class. Fourth hour is something every student looks forward to every day."

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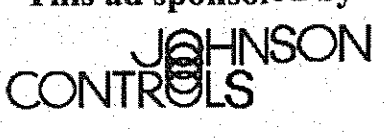
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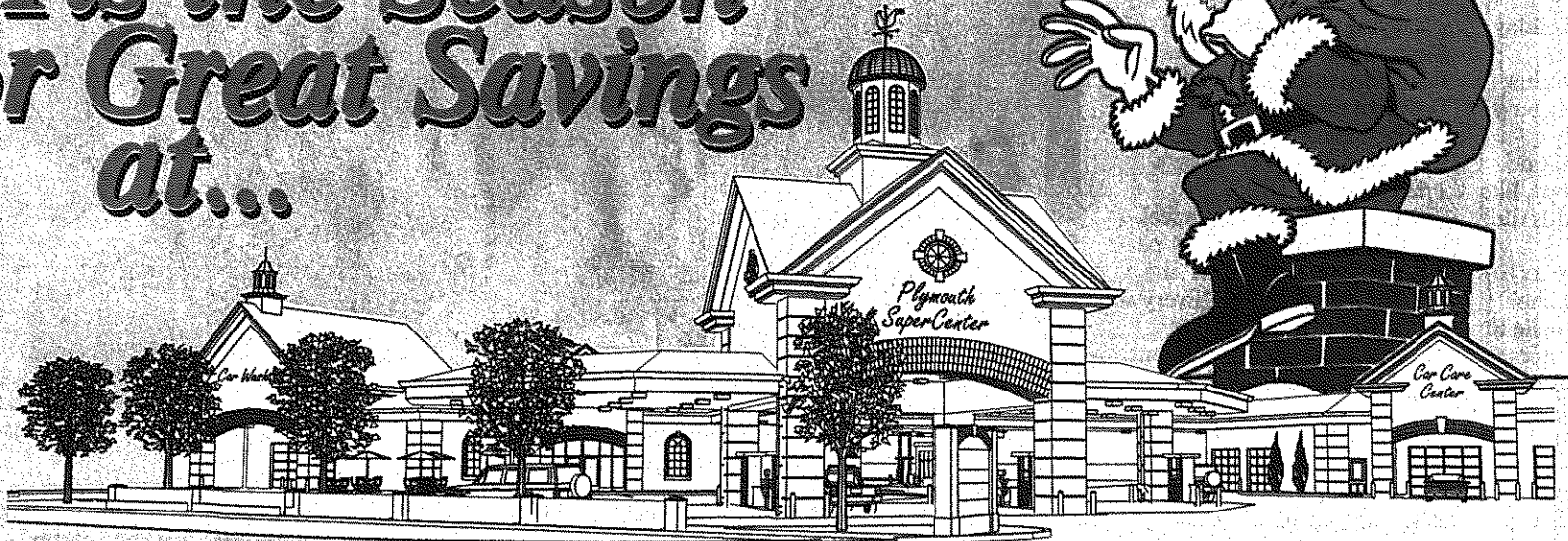

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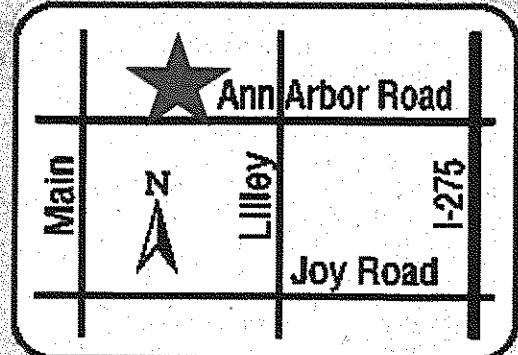
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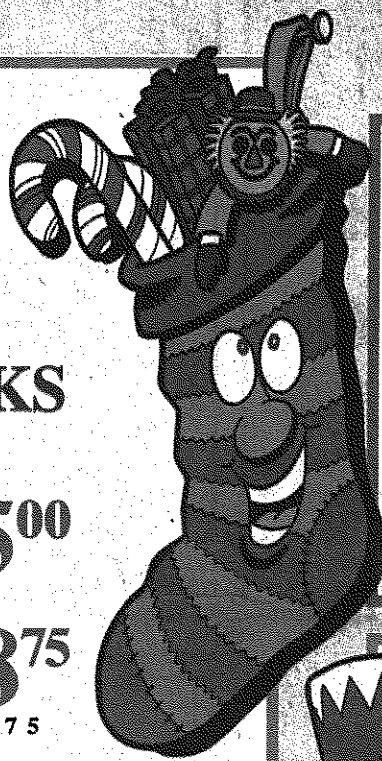
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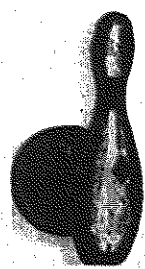


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Sidelines

Duhl honored

It's been quite a year for Salem graduate Scott Duhl.

A senior at Western Michigan, Duhl led the Broncos' soccer team to its first-ever NCAA Tournament berth, thanks to a 5-0 win over Bowling Green State in the Mid-American Conference Tournament final.

WMU's season ended with a 4-1 loss to University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in its NCAA Tournament opener, but Duhl keeps reaping honors.

The Broncos' first-ever four-time all-conference selection, Duhl was also named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America Great Lakes Region third team.

He is the first WMU player so honored since Steve Bibi in 1997. Duhl was second among the Broncos in goals scored with five; he also had three assists. WMU finished with a 12-7-2 overall record, 3-2-1 in the MAC.

Another former Salem player — Giuseppe Ianni, also a senior at WMU — had a solid season as well, collecting four goals and seven assists.

All-Americans

Sarah Pack, a junior at Madonna University and a Westland John Glenn graduate (from Canton), was named to the NAIA All-America third team in women's soccer.

A forward, Pack broke her own goal-scoring record by netting 32 for the Crusaders in just 23 matches. Madonna finished 16-6-1 for the season.

Also earning accolades were defender Christen Shull, a Salem HS grad, and midfielder Emily Jackson, from Farmington Harrison. Both were honorable mention All-Americans.

Shull, a senior, was a standout on defense for the Crusaders, but she also had eight goals and seven assists.

Jackson, also a senior, set a single-season school record with 23 assists. Jackson scored nine goals as well.

Hoop tryouts

The Western Wayne Wolfpack AAU girls basketball teams will be having a series of tryouts for their four age division. The season runs from mid-January to early April, with one or two practices a week and four-to-six tournaments. However old a player is on Dec. 31, that is the division she can play in.

The tryout schedule:

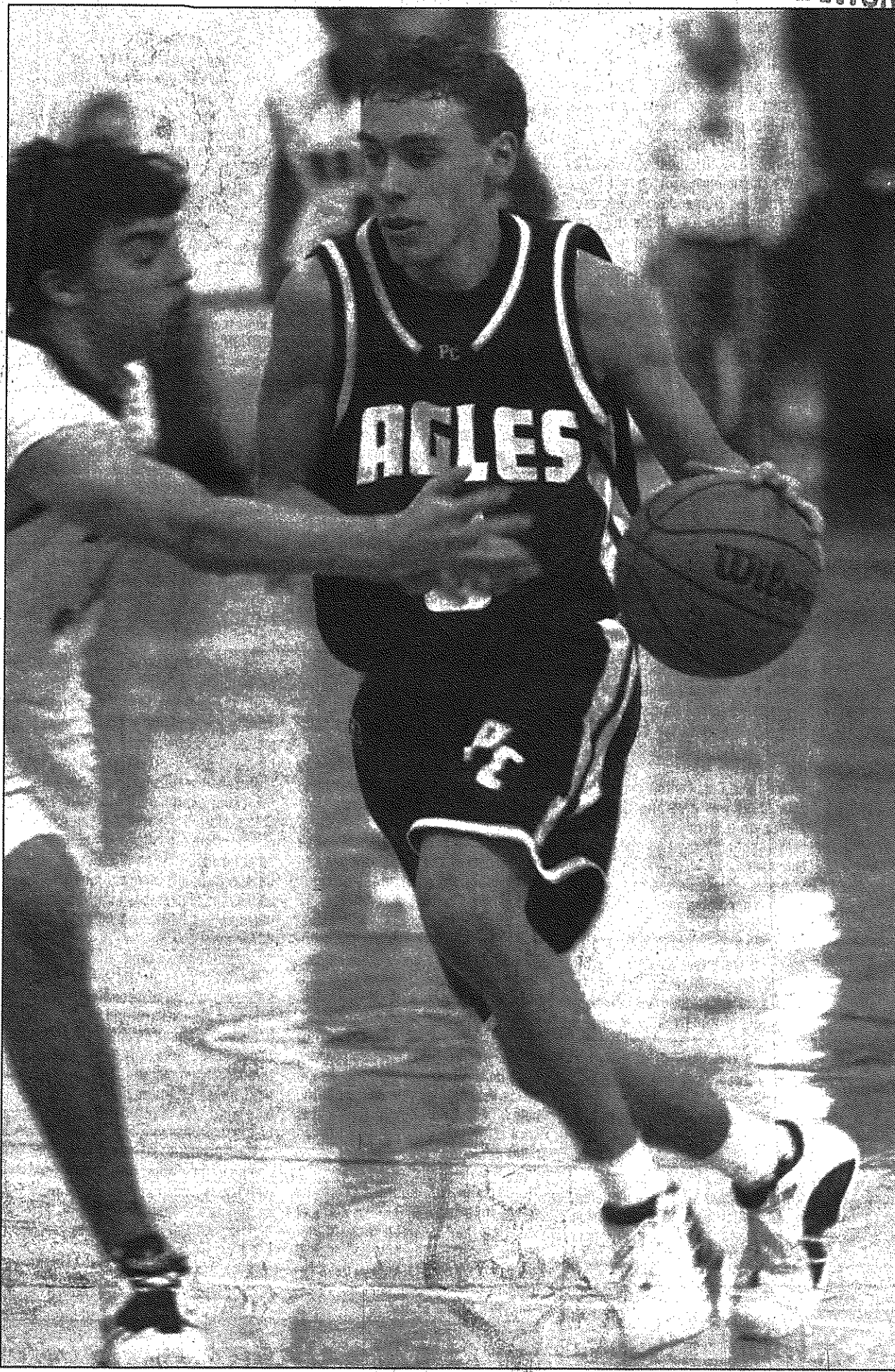
Under-10: 6-7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9 at West Middle School; 6-7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12 at Dotson Elementary School;

Under-11: 7:30-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9 at West MS; 7:30-9 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12 at Dotson Elementary;

Under-12: 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7 at West MS; 6-7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9 at Central MS; 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13 at Central MS;

Under-13: 7:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7 at West MS; 7:30-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9 at Central MS; 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13 at Central MS.

For more information, call Bob Blohm at (734) 459-1763.



Plymouth Christian forward Daniel Carty drives past Clarenceville forward Marc Simpson Friday at Clarenceville.

CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

PCA opens with a win

Eagles overpower C'ville

Another opening, another good show for Plymouth Christian Academy, which overcame some stage fright Friday in its season boys basketball opener by outscoring host Livonia Clarenceville 34-20 in the second half on its way to a 61-43 triumph over the Trojans.

Clarenceville, coming off a 41-29 loss Tuesday to Redford St. Katharine Drexel, stayed close for nearly three quarters before the Eagles went on a 28-13 run over the final 10 minutes and five seconds to put the game out of reach.

"We were so excited about the first game that we missed so many shots — I think it's because we had the butterflies, but overall I thought we took care of the basketball pretty well for the first game," PCA seventh-year coach Doug Taylor said. "In the third quarter we remembered how to play. We were able to push the ball up the court. I think our transition game pushed the lead up."

PCA's anchor in the middle, 6-foot-3 junior center Aaron Ciborowski, scored 14 of his 20 points in the second half to spark the Eagles' spurt.

Dan Carty, a 6-foot guard-forward, chipped in with 12 points and played a solid floor game as the Eagles' primary set-up man.

"We asked him (Carty) to turn it up in the third quarter," Taylor said. "He's like a point-forward. He was our third leading rebound and he handles the ball well."

"And I thought Aaron played well in the pivot the second half. He started at our school, played one semester last year at Salem and then he came back second semester. We're happy to have him back."

Meanwhile, senior guard Ben Baloga chipped in with 10, while Lew Tripp, a 6-2 pogo stick who gets plenty of lift off the floor, finished with nine. Tripp would have had 11, but he came up short on a first-half dunk attempt.

"He (Tripp) missed a dunk early and I think it got into his head because he usually makes it with no problem," Taylor said.

Clarenceville shot 19-of-66 from the floor (28.7 percent) and went to the line only five times (making two).

Jason Robinson, a 6-2 senior guard, was Clarenceville's leading scorer with a game-high 24 points, but he had to shoot the ball 27 times (making 10, including a pair of 3-pointers). Jemere Gainer, a 6-3 sophomore center, contributed nine off the bench.

The Trojans trailed 13-10 after one quarter and 27-24 at halftime thanks to a Robinson deuce just before the buzzer sounded.

Robinson's 3-pointer with 2:05 left in the third quarter pulled Clarenceville to within three, 33-30,

PLEASE SEE PCA, B6

Block earns recognition as top coach

As supervisor going on 30 years at CSX's Dearborn facility, Rich Block's day job is to repair freight cars.

The 49-year-old Block also doubles as Lutheran High Westland boys soccer coach, where in 13 seasons, he has put together an impressive 139-92-21 record.

Block, selected Observerland Coach of the Year, guided the 16-4-4 Warriors to their most successful state tourney run in school history, winning his first-ever regional crown before finally being derailed in the Division IV state championship game by Muskegon Western Michigan Christian, 4-1.

"The final game didn't go the way we wanted, but I told the guys to have fun and enjoy the experience," Block said. "I don't want them to forget that."

"It was a dream season because we had never won a regional game. Then we win our first regional, go on and win a state semifinal game, and get to the final!"

Block, a 1972 Livonia Franklin High graduate, credits his six seniors, led by All-Staters Brandon Noble, John Hilden, Jake DeVries and Jake Sliva, along with Kris Buczek and Adam Fisher, for showing the way.

"One of the main reasons we did as well as we did was because of the leadership of our six seniors," Block said. "Our freshman and sophomores fed off those six guys. Mentally, they taught them how to win."

Block, ably assisted on the coaching sidelines the past six years by former Lutheran Westland player Ken Shingledecker, has now won four districts, one Metro Conference and one regional title.

See All-Area boys soccer on page B2.

Offense stalls and Canton falls to Novi

What a start. Too bad Canton's basketball team couldn't sustain it.

The Chiefs bolted out to a 10-0 lead Friday at Novi, then went 10 minutes without scoring. The Wildcats, scoreless until the final minute of the first quarter, got going in the second, outscoring Canton 16-3 to take a six-point halftime lead.

It didn't get any better for the Chiefs in the second half, leading to a 46-33 non-league defeat. Canton dropped to 1-1; Novi is 2-0.

"We played tough defense, they played tough defense," said Canton coach

PREP BASKETBALL

Charlie Paye. "That's Pat's (Schuette, the Novi coach) style. Offensively, we just couldn't score. And it wasn't any one player — nobody could score."

"But give Novi credit. They did a good job inside, collapsing down low."

The Chiefs continued to stumble offensively in the third quarter, the Wildcats outscoring them 12-7 to take a 31-20 lead into the fourth period. Canton made a run in that last quarter, but could get no closer than seven.

Matt Paye paced the Chiefs with eight points, including two 3-pointers. Brad Waidmann had seven points and five rebounds. D.J. Bridges grabbed nine boards, but was limited to four points.

Novi got 11 points from Trevor Hoover, nine from Brad Simpson and eight from Anthony Harden.

"We really concentrated defensively on (Simpson), and I thought we did a really good job," said Paye.

The Chiefs return home this week for games against Ann Arbor Huron at 7 p.m. Tuesday and against Brighton at 7 p.m. Thursday.

Franklin, Central skate past Chiefs

It was a tough week for Canton's hockey team. When the Chiefs lost 3-1 to a good Livonia Churchill team Dec. 5, their coach, Jim Wheaton, was encouraged. "We proved we can play with anybody," Wheaton said at the time.

After Friday's 8-3 loss to Livonia Franklin at the Arctic Edge, Canton's home arena, it didn't look that way.

The Chiefs' loss was their fourth-straight, all in Western Lakes Activities Association play. They are 1-4 overall. Franklin improved to 4-0-1.

On Wednesday, in a WLAA game also played at the Arctic Edge, Canton was pummeled by Walled Lake Central, 10-1.

"The defense is hurting us," said Wheaton. "Obviously, we're giving up goals like crazy. But we're working, we're still working hard."

It didn't help when the Chiefs lost their No. 1 goalie, Tony Hylko, to a suspected concussion midway through the third period of Friday's game against Franklin. Hylko will probably be out of action until after the first of the year.

"It was a rough night all around," said Wheaton, who had another player — Garrett Hyman — slice his hand open on a skate in a freakish lockerroom accident after Friday's game.

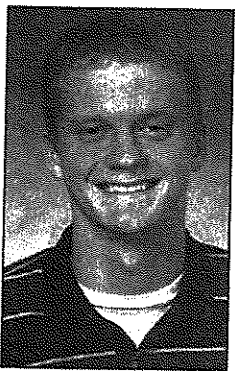
The Patriots took command early, scoring three times in the first period and adding four more goals in the sec-



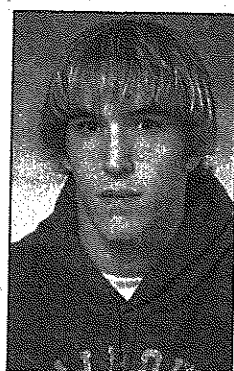
Canton's Nick Leadford (red jersey) battles with a Walled Lake Central for control of the puck Wednesday, something the Chiefs had a hard time doing.

PLEASE SEE HOCKEY, B3

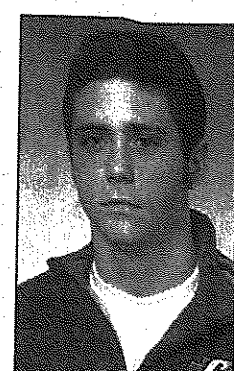
All-staters lead way on Observerland soccer team



Tom Huls
Salem



John Hilden
Lutheran Westland



Joe Hess
Canton

Tom Huls, GK, Salem: For the second-straight season, Huls - a senior - was unbeaten in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

A first-team Division I all-state selection, Huls posted a 0.7 goals-against average with seven shutouts. That brought his career shutout total to 14. Salem captured its second-straight WAAA title, beating Canton 2-1 in the championship match.

"Tom has tremendous quickness," said Salem coach Ed McCarthy, "he's intelligent on the field and he covers a lot of ground."

"But his best attribute is his quickness. There's no doubt in my mind he's the quickest goalkeeper in the state."

John Hilden, GK, Luth. Westland: The senior goalkeeper posted a 0.91 save percentage and a goals-against average of just over one per game.

Hilden had a total of nine shutouts en route to first-team All-Metro Conference, All-District and All-Region honors. He made second-team All-State in Division IV.

Hilden turned in his best effort in a regional-clinching double-overtime, sudden death shootout 1-0 win over Sterling Heights Bethesda Christian.

"We were outshot many times and John helped us very much with his strong goalkeeping to keep us in the game," Lutheran Westland coach Rich Block said. "He's a complete player, a superb keeper, and he distributes the ball well. We executed many of our plays based on John and his playmaking abilities."

Joe Hess, Def., Canton: A team captain, Hess was a strong defensive player on a strong defensive team that reached the WAAA title match and posted a 12-4-5 overall record.

A senior, Hess was named all-WAAA and was honorable mention all-state.

"He was a key part of our defense, an outstanding marking back who was an offensive threat as well," said his coach, George Tomasso. "He got forward a lot and helped the attack. He was a bit of a playmaker for me on the outside."

Indeed Hess did help on the attack, scoring three goals and adding three assists.

Pat Kolodziejczak, Def., Liv. Stevenson: The senior made first-team All-State, along with All-District, All-Region and All-Western Lakes.

Kolodziejczak was the only defender voted first-team All-State Division I by the Michigan High School Soccer

2003 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS SOCCER TEAM

FIRST TEAM	SECOND TEAM
GK-Tom Huls, Sr., Salem	GK-Steve Mischung, Jr., Canton
GK-John Hilden, Sr., Luth. Westland	GK-Chris Lantto, Jr., Liv. Churchill
D-Joe Hess, Sr., Canton	D-Matt Adsit, Sr., Salem
D-Pat Kolodziejczak, Sr., Liv. Stevenson	D-Jake DeVries, Sr., Luth. Westland
MF-Chris Conlisk, Sr., Salem	D-Jeremy Romer, Sr., Canton
MF-Jon Show, Sr., Redford CC	MF-Eric Vanston, Sr., Salem
MF-Dutch Morrell, Sr., Canton	MF-Jake Silva, Sr., Luth. Westland
MF-Nick Dordeski, Sr., Liv. Stevenson	F-Lew Tripp, Sr., Ply. Christian
MF-Mike Donaldson, Sr., Redford Union	F-Plamen Mitev, Sr., Redford Union
F-Tim Oswalt, Sr., Ply. Christian	F-Pete Bierzynski, Sr., Redford CC
F-Brandon Noble, Sr., Luth. Westland	F-Kyle Gismond, Sr., Westland Glenn
F-Jordan Fylonenko, Jr., Liv. Stevenson	

COACH OF THE YEAR
Rich Block, Lutheran Westland

HONORABLE MENTION
Churchill: Billy Sanders, Ryan Mack, Andrew Klebba, Brad Jackson, Devin Stenrose; Franklin: Sandro Pelle, Bobby Geisinger, Tony Calleja, Brandon Filipiak; Stevenson: Steve Abernethy, Dan Van Cleve, Dan Poulos, Bobby Merritt, Brent Lewis, Keith Sied; John Glenn: Chad Clenney, David Wood, Keith Derwich, Jon Zerebiny, Tim Ottewell, Xhensil Korcari, Cristain Ospina; Wayne: Greg Ekemian, Rex Fugaban, Chad Phipps, Brian Zilka, Tyler Pyne; Lutheran Westland: Kris Buczek, Jax Ha, Eric Kehoe; Clarenceville: Sokol Hoxhollari, Alex Cowen, Ali Ismail, Paul Bentley; Huron Valley Lutheran: Nick Husby, Glenn Metzger; Canton: Brad Marsh, Jason Houdek, Andy Cortellini, Curtis Rose; Salem: Steve Cox, Mike Newton, Steve Gizicki, Dave Hall, Thiago Harris; Plymouth Christian: Dan Carty, Matt Saagman, Nathan Bixler; Canton Agape: Josh Osbourn; Garden City: Adrian Vestemane, Steve Brockie, Derek Thomas; Redford Union: Sean Senkbeil, Dave Hoppe, Dan Hendrix, Brandon Surowiec; Redford Thurston: Mike Frisk, Dan Mapes, Alex Fuhrman; Redford CC: Eric Swiech, Brent Petkus, Steve Coxford, Pat Lambros, Mac Boumaroun.

said. "Most importantly, he scored a number of big goals for us. He scored for us in important moments."

Mike Donaldson, MF, Redford Union: Donaldson was the best player on a solid RU team that finished 12-2-3. He's a four-year member of the varsity and a three-year team captain. His 19 goals led the team and he also added 13 assists, in becoming an all-Mega Blue selection.

"Those are huge numbers for a guy who was basically a defensive player," said RU coach John Jazwinski. "He's a good athlete and a strong player. He'd find ways to score. And he had a great attitude. He pulled our guys in the right direction."

Tim Oswalt, F, Ply. Christian: A senior, Oswalt led Plymouth Christian into the Division IV regionals by scoring 28 goals. He added 14 assists (70 points total), earning Division IV first team all-state and all-Michigan Independent Athletic Conference accolades.

"The thing about Tim, he showed great leadership on the field and never gave up," said his coach, Terry Bixler. "When you score 28 goals, you're a marked man. He was often double and triple-teamed."

"But he was a very unselfish player. As soon as other teams collapsed on him, he would lay it off to Lew (Tripp) or Dan (Carty), and that would create space for him."

The Eagles went 16-3-4 for the season, losing 2-1 to Auburn Hills Oakland Christian in overtime in the regional semifinals.

Brandon Noble, F, Luth. Westland: The senior was named the top-ranked player in Division IV after leading the Warriors to the state final.

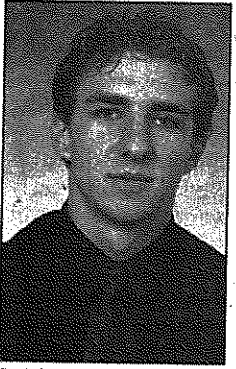
The team MVP finished with 33 goals and 11 assists to repeat on the All-Observer first-team. Noble also made All-Metro, All-District, All-Region and first-team Division IV All-State.

"Brandon was strong on the ball, he was our team leader and captain," Block said. "He stayed cool under all the pressure. If we need a game-winning goal, we would always look to Brandon."

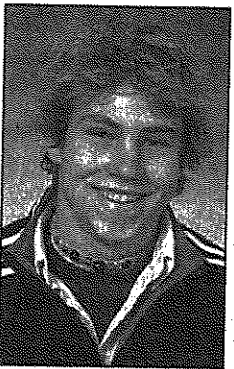
Jordan Fylonenko, F, Liv. Stevenson: The junior forward wound up with 14 goals and 14 assists as he earned honorable mention All-State, All-District, All-Region and All-WAAA honors.

"Jordan has the ability to get behind any defense," Richters said. "Once he fine tunes his shooting and finishing, he's capable of big numbers."

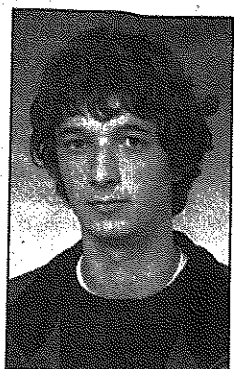
"He's one of the most dynamic players I've coached. He has a lot of potential."



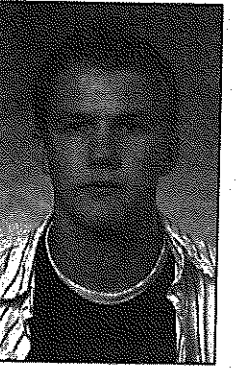
Patrick Kolodziejczak
Livonia Stevenson



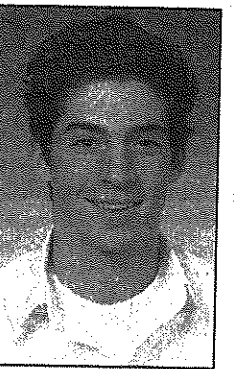
Chris Conlisk
Salem



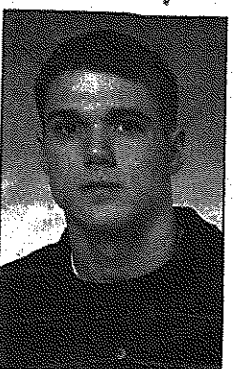
Jon Show
Redford CC



Dutch Morrell
Canton



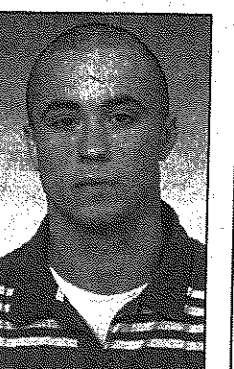
Nick Dordeski
Livonia Stevenson



Mike Donaldson
Redford Union



Tim Oswalt
Plymouth Christian



Brandon Noble
Lutheran Westland



Jordan Fylonenko
Livonia Stevenson

Coaches Association.

"Pat has been a four-year starter, which is pretty rare in our program," Stevenson coach Lars Richters said. "He will play college soccer somewhere. He was an absolute pleasure to coach because of his ability, leadership, unselfishness and passion for the game."

Chris Conlisk, MF, Salem: Conlisk quarterbacked the Rocks' offense and was responsible for most of their scoring, collecting a team-high 12 goals and seven assists (31 points).

A senior, Conlisk was second-team Division I all-state and was an all-conference selection. It was his second-straight season making all-WAAA; last year, he was selected as a defender.

"He has a tremendous balance of size, speed and skill," said McCarthy, his coach. "He's very well-rounded, a tremendous athlete. He can shoot the ball with his left or right foot and is very strong. There's no doubt in my mind he's one of the most dominating players in the state."

Jon Show, MF, Redford CC: Show was a third-team all-state selection, splitting time between forward and midfielder. While he only tallied five goals and six assists, he was the playmaker for the Shamrocks.

"If we gave two assists like hockey, he would have had 15 more assists," said CC coach Joe Nora. "He's an all-around great player with fast, great moves. He scored in every way possible."

Dutch Morrell, MF, Canton: The attacking center midfielder for the Chiefs, Morrell - a senior - had much of the offense run through him, and he controlled it superbly. Morrell led Canton in points, scoring nine goals and adding nine assists for 27 points.

Morrell's abilities earned him all-WAAA honors.

"He's an unbelievable athlete," said Tomasso, his coach. "He controls the ball very well and technically he's very good. He has a lot of skill."

Morrell, a team co-captain, was also Canton's set-piece specialist, scoring three goals on restarts. And he didn't limit himself, by any means; Morrell was also the placekicker for the Canton football team.

Nick Dordeski, MF, Liv. Stevenson: The junior midfielder finished the year with 17 goals and four assists en route to honorable mention All-State, All-District, All-Region and All-Western Lakes honors.

"Nick is one of our emotional leaders, vocally and physically," Richters

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THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS

MU's Suder ends career as an All-American

Four Madonna University volleyball players were named to the NAIA's All-American team Friday after the Crusaders rolled to one of the best records in school history and reached the NAIA Tournament quarterfinals.

Amanda Suder, a senior and a Salem HS graduate; Laura Lesko, a junior from Wyandotte (Roosevelt); Natalja Tinina, a sophomore from Riga, Latvia; and Ashley Frost, a sophomore from Lake Odessa, were all honorable mention All-Americans.

It was the first time each was so honored.

For Suder, who has played in every match in her four years at Madonna, it is a fitting end to a superb career. For the past two seasons, Suder has filled the newly-created libero — or defensive specialist — position for the Crusaders.

She did it well enough to earn Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference player of the year honors this season.

"In volleyball, passing is the key," said Madonna coach Jerry Abraham. "You have to have

COLLEGE SPORTS

someone extremely talented to fill that (libero) position. One thing about Amanda is we could rely on her consistency, day in and day out.

"She has a natural deep desire to win. She became a real mainstay, someone you could rely on all the time, someone you could rely on to play well every night. She was always into the game."

Her selection as WHAC player of the year certainly started with Madonna winning the conference title once again, but it wasn't as much from Abraham pushing her for the honor as the other WHAC coaches realizing her ability.

"Sometimes defensive players don't receive the attention they deserve," Abraham noted. "She's certainly deserving of everything she gets. As the game goes on, with the game on the line, Amanda gets better and better."

Because of the position she played, Suder didn't compile

the type of statistics that usually earn awards. She did, however, lead Madonna in digs with 806.

As the team's only senior, she was needed to lead in other ways as well.

"Tera (Morrill, from Livonia Franklin HS) and I came in together, and she redshirted a year, but we took the responsibilities (of leadership) together," Suder said. "We've had great leaders on the team before, so we knew what to do.

"We led more off the court and in practice."

As for playing four years at Madonna — three of which ended at the NAIA Tournament — Suder had nothing but fond memories.

"From my freshman year to my senior year, I'll remember everything," she said. "This was a great season, the young players coming in — it was a brand-new team practically."

But the way this season went will be among her best memories. "Just the team chemistry, and getting to nationals, the way we played," she said. "We got a lot of effort, but we were

able to focus on playing and still have fun while we were playing."

Going 44-4 — it's the fewest losses in a season posted by a Madonna team — would make a season a lot of fun indeed. The other three Crusaders given All-American honors enjoyed it, to be sure.

Tinina, a 6-foot outside hitter, led Madonna in kills with 784, kills-per-game average with 4.8, and service aces with 71.

Lesko, a middle hitter, was the Crusaders' leader in kill percentage at .429, was second in blocks with 172, and was third in both kills with 705 and digs with 492. And Frost, the team's setter, collected 2,255 set assists, an average of 13.42 per game, the second-best single-season total ever at Madonna.

It was a good season all-around. "You're always disappointed when you lose," summarized Abraham. "But we could not have played better up until that third game of our last match (against Biola University)."

Defense, late goals boost Salem

Defense had to carry Salem's hockey team through the first two periods of its non-league game against West Bloomfield. After that, the offense kicked.

Which took the Rocks to a 4-0 victory in a game played at the Orchard Lake St. Mary's Arena.

The difference, according to Salem coach Fred Feiler, was that the Rocks "were finally able to find the back of the net. And we played a real strong game defensively."

Four different players produced goals for Salem, which improved to 3-4-1, but none of them came until after two periods.

Tom Cooper opened the scoring at 1:30 of the third, with assists from Chris Wilson and Rob Quigley. The same three players combined to make it 2-0 at 5:16, Wilson getting the goal and Cooper

HOCKEY

and Quigley assisting.

Kyle Emmons pushed Salem's lead to 3-0 with a score at 11:41, assisted by Andy Thackaberry and Ryan Sharrow. Ryan Jones closed out the scoring at 13:02, with an assist from Andrew Majorana. The shutout went to Joe Moore, who made 21 saves in goal for the Rocks. It was his first career shutout.

Salem had a 31-21 shot advantage over the Lakers.

CC 4, Brother Rice 1: Birmingham Brother Rice scored first, but Redford Catholic Central scored more as the Shamrocks came away with the victory Wednesday at Orchard Lake St. Mary's.

"It was a good game," CC coach Todd Johnson said. "I

think we played pretty well against Culver over the weekend and it carried over into this game. We got an idea of how hard to work to be successful. It was a really good Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League game. And wins like that are good to get since all six teams in our league are ranked in the top six their divisions."

Steven Fadel opened the scoring for Rice four minutes into the game, but Harrison Niemann tied it with four minutes left in the period on a power-play goal from Billy Makela and Kevin Horal.

Michael Evans made it 2-1 three minutes into the second period, with Dave McGrorty assisting. Ten seconds into the third period, Danny Barczuk made it 3-1 with assists going to Mike Monterey and Michael Evans. Niemann closed out

the scoring with six minutes to play on a power-play goal from Horal and Pete Pfeiffer.

Andrew Godoshian made 19 saves in goal for CC (3-3, 2-0 MIHL), while Ryan Gregory stopped 25 shots for Rice (2-1-1, 0-1-1).

The Shamrocks play again Friday and Saturday in the MIHL Showcase in Trenton — featuring several Observerland teams. On Friday, CC plays Muskegon Mona Shores at 8:20 p.m. in the main rink, while Cranbrook plays Livonia Churchill at 4 p.m. On the practice rink, Farmington Unified plays East Grand Rapids at 2:10 p.m.

On Saturday, Churchill plays Port Huron Northern in the Tiefer Rink at 5:50 p.m., while Allen Park plays Farmington Unified on the main rink at 3 p.m. and CC plays Grosse Pointe North at 5:10 p.m.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL Tuesday, Dec. 16 A.A. Huron at Canton, 7 p.m. Salem at Saline, 7 p.m. Ply. Christian at Light and Life, 7 p.m. Clarenceville at Ecorse, 7 p.m. Garden City at Churchill, 7 p.m. Thurston at Franklin, 7 p.m. Stevenson at Roch. Adams, 7 p.m. Novi at John Glenn, 7 p.m. Wayne at Belleville, 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18 Brighton at Canton, 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19 Ply. Christian at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m. Salem at Howell, 7 p.m. A.A. Huron at Redford CC, 8 p.m. (Livonia City Tourney at Churchill) Stevenson vs. Clarenceville, 5:30 p.m. Franklin vs. Churchill, 7 p.m.	Churchill at A.A. Huron, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19 Macomb Christian at Ply. Christian, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20 Madonna Invitational, 8:30 a.m. PREP WRESTLING Wednesday, Dec. 17 Clarenceville at Country Day, 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20 Canton Invitational, 9 a.m. Glenn at Pinckney Inv., 9 a.m. Churchill at Olivet Invitational, 10 a.m. PREP BOYS SWIMMING Tuesday, Dec. 16 Dearborn at Churchill, 7 p.m. Novi at Franklin, 7 p.m. John Glenn at Edsel Ford, 7 p.m. Wayne at Ypsilanti, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20 Redford CC at Toledo St. Francis, 9 a.m. GIRLS GYMNASTICS Monday, Dec. 15 Wayne-Glenn at Salem, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17 Northville at Canton, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20 Canton at Vassar Inv., noon
PREP HOCKEY Monday, Dec. 15 Franklin vs. Northville at Novi Ice Arena, 6:10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17 W.L. Northern vs. Canton (Arctic Edge), 6 p.m. Ladywood vs. Regina (Arctic Pond), 6 p.m. Stevenson vs. Salem (Edgar Arena), 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18 Mercy vs. P-C (Arctic Edge), 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19 Franklin vs. W.L. Central (Edgar), 6 p.m. L'Anse Creuse vs. Canton (Arctic Edge), 8 p.m. (MIHL Showcase at Trenton) Churchill vs. B.H. Cranbrook, 4 p.m. Redford CC vs. Musk. Mona Shores, 8:20 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20 Ladywood at Port Huron (McMorran), 4 p.m. Stevenson at Country Day, 4 p.m. (MIHL Showcase at Trenton) Redford CC vs. Grosse Pte. North, 5:10 p.m. Churchill vs. P.H. Northern, 5:50 p.m. PREP GIRLS VOLLEYBALL Wednesday, Dec. 17 W.L. Northern at Franklin, 7 p.m. Stevenson at Redford Union, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Tuesday, Dec. 16 Marygrove at Madonna, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17 Lansing CC at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19 Mohawk College at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m. WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Friday, Dec. 19 Taylor Univ. (Ind.) at Madonna, 7 p.m. ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE Sunday, Dec. 14 Whalers at Oshawa, 6:35 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17 Whalers vs. Saginaw (Compuware), 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18 Whalers at Windsor, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20 Whalers vs. London (Compuware), 7:30 p.m.

HOCKEY

FROM PAGE B1

ond. Keith Robert, Matt Scriggia and Jeff Paison each scored two goals for Franklin, with Robert getting three assists and Scriggia two. Dave McCall added a goal and three assists, Matt Vicini had a goal and Joe Kozlowski had three assists.

"We played fairly well," said Franklin coach Terry Jobbitt. "We haven't played up to our potential yet."

"Canton's a young team with a new coach and they're learning. They tried to play their two lines against our four, and that's going to take its toll."

The Chiefs' offense got going in the second period, Bryan Wioncek narrowing the gap to 4-1 with a goal at 12:46 (Pat Davidson assisting) and, after Vicina's goal, making it 5-2 with a score by Reece McCabe (from Mike Olandese) at 9:14.

But Paison scored twice before the period was over to re-establish Franklin's dominance. McCabe got another goal for Canton at 13:43 in the third period.

Sam Burrows was in goal for Franklin; he had 39 saves.

Wednesday's loss to Central was no better for Canton. McCabe scored the only goal.

The Chiefs have two more games this week before the holiday break, during which Wheaton hopes several things can be improved.

"We're working on our defensive game pretty much," he said. "We're in a situation now where we can't change that much but we can keep working on things."

Canton hosts Walled Lake Northern at 6 p.m. Wednesday and L'Anse Creuse at 8 p.m. Friday. Both games will be at the Arctic Edge.

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Crusaders snap 6-game skid

It took a while, but Madonna University's men's basketball team found the range in the second half Friday in the opening round of the Gates Automotive Classic at Bethel (Ind.) College, and the result was a 74-64 victory over Trinity International (Ill.).

The win snapped a six-game losing streak for Madonna, boosting its record to 4-7. Trinity slipped to 2-13.

The Crusaders connected on just 11-of-31 (35.5 percent) first-half shots and trailed the Trojans, 39-35. But the second half was different; Madonna made 15-of-23 from the floor (65.2 percent), including 3-of-4 three-pointers.

Noel Emenhiser, who scored a career-high 36 points in an overtime loss to University of Michigan-Dearborn last Tuesday, continued his hot shooting with 23 points (7-of-13 from the field, 8-for-8 from the free-throw line). He also had three assists and two steals.

Dan Kurtinaitis contributed 17 points, six assists and four steals, and Joe Kofahl had 10

MEN'S BASKETBALL

points. Chad Nadolni finished with nine points, seven rebounds, five assists and two blocks.

Trinity got 20 points from Brandon Brown, 13 points from Carl Fine and 10 points from Chad West.

While Madonna converted 48.1 percent of its floor shots, the Trojans were limited to 20-of-59 shooting (33.1 percent).

SCHOOLCRAFT 99, ANCILLA (IND.) 49: Schoolcraft College ended a two-game losing skid Wednesday with a lopsided victory over visiting Ancilla (Ind.).

The Ocelots, now 5-2 overall, shot 55 percent from the field, including 41 percent from three-point range.

Ryan Baumgartner, a 5-foot-10 guard via Muncie South (Ind.) High School and Miami of Ohio, led a balanced Schoolcraft scoring attack with 17 points. Tyrone Scott chipped in with 16 points for the Ocelots, who led 42-21 at halftime, and seven-foot center Lamont Arrington contributed 13 points and nine rebounds.

Marcus Johnson finished with 12 points, while Ricky Morgan added 10 points, nine assists and six rebounds.

Here's what to get a bowler

Ten more shopping days 'til Christmas, and what have you picked out for your favorite bowler?

A quick visit to any of our many fine pro shops and you will have no trouble locating some appropriate gifts, including a simple rosin bag on up to one of the latest high performance balls.

Ten Pin Alley

Al Harrison

There is a wide selection of new products out now. You can buy all sorts of wrist devices, along with bowling ball bags designed to carry one, two, three or more of whatever balls and equipment you cherish.

Many bags are now on wheels, so that takes the strain off your back to transport all your items.

Some suggestions for stocking stuffers include bowlers tape, towels, ball cleaner, or perhaps a gift certificate for shoes.

Shoes have also entered the wide world of high-tech, which you can still buy the basic stuff at good prices. However, there are now a few companies making bowling shoes with interchangeable soles for differing approach conditions.

Perhaps the best gift of all would be a lesson or two from one of the local pro shops. It doesn't hurt to receive a little professional coaching.

But let the buyer beware. Some bowling balls and equipment are sold through

sources on the internet or through mail order companies. Keep in mind that this ball is an unfinished product. You still require the skills of a good pro shop operator, who can fit and drill your ball properly.

A pro can adapt the fitting to the style of your delivery and the usual lane conditions where you bowl.

There have been cases where top name-brand ball manufacturers have dumped their less-than-perfect balls to the dealers who operate out of the normal distribution system.

Those residing in the greater Detroit area are very fortunate to have the best pro shops available.

To be more specific, you can visit: David Mahaz at Cloverlanes, Livonia; Aleta Sill and Michelle Mullin, Country Lanes, Farmington Hills; Tom Relich, Oak Lanes, Westland; Bill Zacheranik, Mayflower Lanes, Redford; Mark Robey and Todd Kurowski, Westland Bowl and Skore Lanes; Ryan Wilson, Pro-Am Bowler's Supply, Livonia; Randy Pierce, Super Bowl, Canton; Mark Mohacsi, Merri Bowl, Livonia; Ray Kreuter, Langan's All Star Lanes, Walled Lake; David Sill, Novi Bowl; Mike Samardzija, K&S Pro Shop, Livonia; Howie Gerenraich, Pro-Am II and Airway Lanes, Waterford; Todd Stuart, Cherry Hill Lanes, Dearborn Heights; Lou Ivancik, Taylor Lanes; Bud's Pro Shop, Highland Road, Waterford; and Ed Dudek, Grennada Road, Livonia.

Most of the listed pros are top-notch coaches and run a lesson program along with the pro shop business.

The Greater Detroit Bowling Association will hold their Semi-annual meeting at 1

p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11, at Sunnybrook Lanes at Van Dyke and 17 Mile roads in Sterling Heights.

Each league, which is sanctioned, with the GDBA should send a delegate to represent your own league and have a voice in how the sport of bowling is being conducted in our area.

If you are not represented at the meeting, don't complain later on.

A pleasant surprise at the frozen food section in the supermarket.

Banquet Frozen Chicken meals offer a free game of bowling coupon right on the box with a coupon good for one free game (value up to \$3) at participating bowling centers with a toll free number and a dot.com for more information, along with a list of centers in your area that will honor the offer.

This is a program arranged by Strike Ten, the marketing arm of the American Bowling Congress.

Recommended reading: Each ABC member recently received a copy of American Bowler magazine, the official membership journal of the ABC.

On Page No. 17, is an article by pro bowler Parker Bohn, III. It's all about your timing and how to get it together.

If you are making bad shots, it can often be traced back to bad timing.

The photos show quite graphically how to make the necessary adjustments.

Try it and good luck.

Al Harrison is a resident of Livonia and a director of the Greater Detroit Bowling Association. He can be reached at (248) 477-1839.

Ottawa ends Whaler streak, 3-1

Two power-play goals scored by the Ottawa 67s in a span of 1:07 were the difference Friday in a 3-1 victory over the Plymouth Whalers in an Ontario Hockey League game played at the Ottawa Civic Center.

The loss ended the Whalers' three-game winning streak and the 67s three-game losing streak. Plymouth was 15-9-5-2 (37 points), still in first place in the OHL's West Division. Ottawa was 11-15-3-0 (25 points), tied with the Peterborough Petes for third in the East Division.

The 67s had a two-man advantage late in the first period when Matthew Albani scored with just seven seconds left in the period. Ottawa still had a man advantage one minute into the second period when Peter Tsimikalis scored, making it 2-0.

James Neal pulled Plymouth to within a goal with his second score in as many games, coming at the 15:51 mark of the second period. Assists went to John Mitchell and Brent Mahon.

Rodney Bauman gave Ottawa an insurance goal at 5:28 of the third period.

Paul Drew was in goal for Plymouth; he had 31 saves. Danny Batochio made 22 stops for Ottawa.

On Thursday, the Whalers began their three-game road trip with a pivotal 5-4 win at Peterborough.

The Petes also lost Friday, slipping to 11-16-1-2 and a tie for third in the OHL's Eastern Conference.

John Vigilante, who also had two assists in the game, got the game-winning goal at 13:43 of the third period. James Wisniewski (from Canton)

OHL HOCKEY

and Mitchell assisted.

"It was a very good road game," said Whalers' coach Mike Vellucci. "After being down 2-0 (after one period), I thought it was a great win. It showed a lot of character by the guys."

Paul Drew held us in in the third period. He played an outstanding game in goal."

Vigilante's goal was the second of the period for the Whalers. Jonas Fiedler scored on the power play at 2:58 of the period, with assists from Vigilante and Wisniewski, to boost the Whaler lead to 4-2.

But the Petes bounced back, scoring twice in a four-minute span of the third to tie it at 4-all. McKeown got the first at 4:31 and Josh Patterson scored the second at 8:08.

Peterborough pushed two goals past Drew in the first period, a power-play goal by Liam Reddox the first at 2:07. Michael Tuomi got the second at 11:27.

The Whalers scored three times in the second period, starting with a goal by Sean Thompson at 2:17.

Gino Pisellini tied the game at 3:35, and Neal put Plymouth ahead with his first goal of the season at 11:41.

Wisniewski, who missed the three previous games with a shoulder injury, certainly made an impact in his first game back, collecting three assists. Fiedler had a goal and an assist.

Drew had 21 saves; Peterborough's Jeff MacDougald had 25 saves.

SWIM RESULTS

SALEM 114 ANN ARBOR HURON 71
Tuesday at Salem

200-yard medley relay: 1. Salem (Nick Dixon, Casey Johnson, Patrick Sautural, Mike Higgs), 1:49.72.
200 freestyle: 1. Matt Jurcak (S), 1:51.95.
200 individual medley: 1. Dixon (S), 2:05.81.


50 freestyle: 1. Higgs (S), 24.94.
Diving: 1. Dorsey (AAH), 207.75 points.
100 butterfly: 1. Andy Weinberg (AAH), 55.74.
100 freestyle: 1. Jurcak (S), 52.37; 2. Higgs (S), 56.81.
500 freestyle: 1. Dixon (S), 4:59.24 (state cut).
200 freestyle relay: 1. Salem (Johnson,

Higgs, Nick White, Jurcak), 1:40.00.
100 backstroke: 1. Weinberg (AAH), 54.77 (state cut).
100 breaststroke: 1. Johnson (S), 1:08.28; 2. Penn Chou (S), 1:08.65.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Salem (Jurcak, White, Bill Horgan, Dixon), 3:42.02.
Dual-meet records: Salem, 1-0; Huron, 0-1.


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SPORTS ROUNDUP

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 flier, 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 fund-raising/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.

SOFTBALL/BASEBALL LESSONS

Total Baseball, 30990 Wixom Road, will offer pitching, hitting, and fielding lessons for ages 6-18.

Lessons are by appointment

only.

The cost is \$35 per half-hour or \$165 for five private lessons.

Call 248-668-0166 or email totalballwixom@aol.com or visit www.total-baseball.com for more information.

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 totalballwixom@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.

PLAYERS NEEDED

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 con-

tact Mike Roberts at (734) 397-1355.

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.

SOFTBALL CLINICS

Madonna University still has opening in two of its Girls Fastpitch Softball Clinics, each session lasting four weeks.

Session Two will be from 9-11:30 a.m. on Jan. 24, Jan. 31, Feb. 7 and Feb. 14; Session Three will be from 3:30-6 p.m. on Feb. 1, Feb. 8, Feb. 15 and Feb. 22.

The cost for each four-week session is \$120, or \$35 for one day.

All phases of fast-pitch softball will be covered in the clinics: hitting, bunting, infield/outfield play, base-running, pitching/catching and defensive positions.

Pre-registration is required. There is a maximum of 30 girls 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.

GOALIE WANTED

The under-17 Wings, a boys premier soccer league team, is seeking an experienced goalkeeper to begin play immediately for all three indoor sessions and spring outdoor season.

You must be born Aug. 1, 1986 through July 31, 1987.

For more information, call Jim Moryc at (734) 425-2666.

Madonna can't stay with WSU

It all came down to the three-point shot.

Madonna University's women's basketball team couldn't keep up with the hot-shooting Wayne State Warriors, the Crusaders losing, 96-88 Wednesday at Madonna.

Madonna falls to 2-8 for the season. WSU improved to 2-5.

Jodi Young proved to be the catalyst for Warriors, knocking down seven three-pointers. The Warriors finished the contest going 10-of-19 (62.6 percent) from three-point land.

Young led all scorers with 37 points, sinking 13-of-23 (56 percent) from the floor. Ebony Vincent netted 16 points, 13 assists and five steals for WSU, while Kristen Rogers tallied 14 points. Ralphanee Peyton contributed 10 points.

The contest was close at the end of the first half, the Warriors holding a 47-43 lead. The Crusaders shot well, hitting 59 percent (19-of-32) from the field in the first half and 50 percent (16-of-32) in the second. For the game, they hit 35-of-64 (54.7 percent), including

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

7-of-16 threes (43.8 percent).

WSU was equally accurate, making 36-of-69 shots (52.2 percent), including 17-of-26 in the second half (65.4 percent).

However, the Warriors' three-point accuracy, combined with Madonna's 25 turnovers (WSU had 12), proved critical.

Sarah Thompson finished the night registering double figures in rebounds and points leading all Crusader scorers with a career high 27 points and 13 rebounds. Marwa Ayoub tallied 15 points, Hayley Myers and Stephanie Childs both scored 14 points. Jackie Pingston added 11 points.

A Pingston three-pointer with 10:44 remaining gave Madonna their only second half lead, a 5-0 Warrior run ended all hopes of a potential Crusader victory.

Schoolcraft 69, Grand Rapids CC 61: A strong start enabled Schoolcraft College to

hold off Grand Rapids CC Wednesday at SC.

The Ocelots improved to 6-4 with the win. Grand Rapids is 4-3.

SC shot well in the first half, making 16-of-31 from the floor (51.6 percent). The Raiders were 11-of-35 (31.4 percent), which is why they trailed 39-28 at the intermission.

For the game, the Ocelots were 26-of-61 (42.6 percent); Grand Rapids was 24-of-68 (35.3 percent). SC also shot well from the free-throw line, converting 14-of-17 (82.4 percent), including all eight chances in the first half. The Raiders were 7-of-13 (53.8 percent).

India Monterio led SC with 24 points, 12 rebounds and six steals. Crystal Pittman added 12 points, and Ashley Gibson, Tiffani Pattillo and Takara Tuff each scored eight. Gibson also had five rebounds, four assists and four steals.

The Raiders got 21 points and 10 boards from Autum Kuhtic and 11 points and 11 rebounds from Aubrey Flesch.

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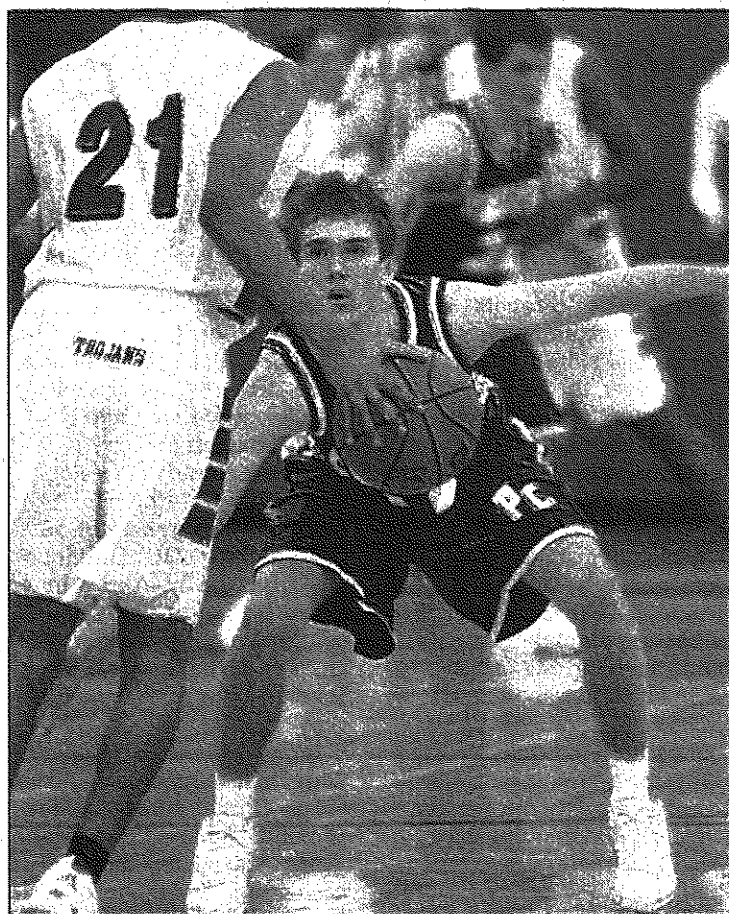
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The Eagles' Lew Tripp gets ready to play some tough defense against Clarenceville's Jason Robinson (21).

PCA

FROM PAGE B1

but PCA then reeled off seven straight points to take a 40-30 advantage on a shot by Ciborowski with two second remaining in the quarter.

PCA then stretched its lead to 55-37 with 3:42 left in the final quarter on a hoop by Tripp.

"We didn't get back on defense, they hit a few 'threes' and it just happened like that ... boom," Clarenceville coach Kevin Murphy said of PCA's second-half surge. "I thought we played well up to that point. Basketball is a game of streaks and we just didn't do anything during that streak."

PCA, meanwhile, shot 25-of-62 (40.3 percent), including 15-of-30 in the second half. The Eagles were also 7-of-14 from the foul line.

"We're excited for this season," Taylor said. "We have three experienced guards and a couple of good post players. It's a great group of guys and it's fun to play the up-tempo game. We have a small bench, but they did a nice job tonight."

Clarenceville will try and find some more scoring until Detroit Cass Tech transfer Donnie Carson comes on board Jan. 19.

"We're young," Murphy said. "We have to try and develop better practice habits. We're off in practice and on in the game. I thought we played pretty hard tonight."

"I know it may look bad that we got beat by two Class D teams, but those two teams are pretty solid."

Agape 66, Walter French 52: Charlie Henry poured in 34 points and Jordan Napier added 27 as Canton Agape Christian pulled away from Lansing Walter French Thursday at Canton's Discovery Middle School.

The win gave the Wolverines a 2-0 record. Walter French is 0-2.

Agape, trailing by a point after one quarter (11-10), took a six-point lead at halftime (35-29) thanks to a 15-point second quarter by Napier. The Wolverines increased their lead to eight (48-40) after three periods, and Henry took over in the fourth.

Agape outscored French 18-12 in that last quarter, and Henry had 14 of those points. He also had seven assists in the game, while Napier grabbed eight rebounds.

Tom Reynolds led French with 17 points; Demarlyn Brown contributed 11.

The Wolverines were bolstered by their free-throw shooting: They connected on 15-of-19 (78.9 percent), while French made 8-of-21 (38.1 percent).

Monroe 67, Salem 52: The Rocks got more scoring this time around, but it wasn't enough to get them a win Friday at Monroe.

Salem fell to 0-2. Monroe is 1-1.

Brian Bradley topped the Rocks with 19 points. Samad Mohammad scored 13. The Trojans got 15 points apiece from Mike Comstock and Joe Allera.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

PLAYERS WANTED

The Canton Alley Cats, a 10-and-under baseball team, needs two or more players for the 2004 season. Those interested must be Plymouth/Canton residents. Contact Glen Potter at (734) 844-8981 for information.

COACHES NEEDED

The Plymouth High School athletic department is in need of coaches for the following sports: For the winter sports season, assistant coaches in wrestling and gymnastics are needed; for the spring sports season, a freshmen girls soccer coach is wanted.

Those interested in applying for these positions should contact Plymouth athletic director Terry Sawchuk at (734) 582-

5700/02; email him at Sawchut@pccs.k12.mi.us, FAX him at (734) 582-5650, or send resume to him at 8400 N. Beck Road, Canton, MI, 48187.

HOCKEY PLAYERS WANTED

The United Cerebral Palsy of Metropolitan Detroit (UCP/Detroit) is looking for a few good hockey players.

At 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, the UCP/Detroit Pucksters will host their annual charity game at the Dearborn Ice Skating Center pitting them against the Detroit Red Wing Alumni.

For a donation of \$600, you can be a UCP Puckster and skate against Red Wing alumni greats.

The UCP/Detroit will take the first 20 players as their roster. Funds can come from an

individual, a business or businesses or a combination of both. Donations can be made to United Cerebral Palsy of Metro Detroit and is tax deductible.

For more information call Dawn Dayton at (248) 557-5070.

COACHING POSITIONS

There are several positions for coaches for the 2003-04 seasons currently available at Plymouth HS.

A varsity baseball coach for the 2004 season is needed. He will be responsible for the organization of the sport, varsity assistants and junior varsity and freshmen coaches.

Other coaching positions that are open are volleyball assistant and boys basketball assistant.

Anyone interested in any of these positions should contact Plymouth athletic director Terry Sawchuk at (734) 582-5702.

ARENA BASEBALL

A league featuring seven-vs.-seven indoor baseball, with live pitching and colored balls, with games at 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Saturdays in three age divisions (under-10, under-12 and under-14 years), is being formed at Total Baseball, located at 30990 Wixom Road in Wixom. Cost is \$850 per team or \$90 per individual, which includes umpires' fees, balls, championship game and trophies. Call Total Baseball at (248) 668-0166 for information, or register on-line at www.total-baseball.com.

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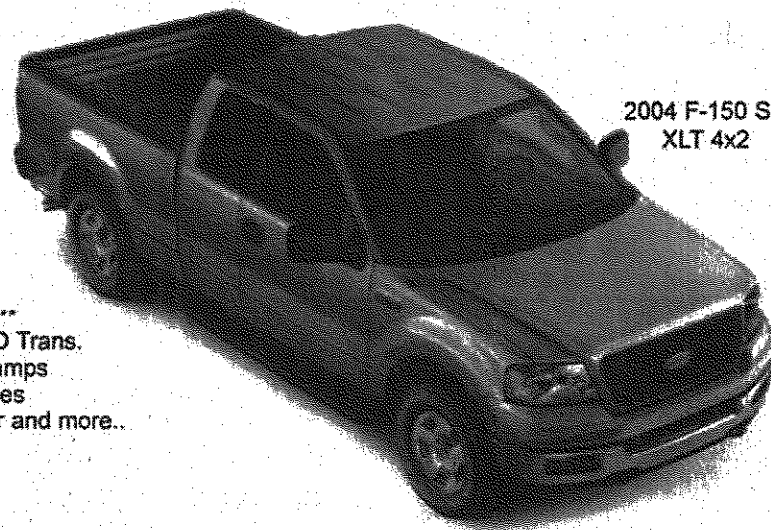
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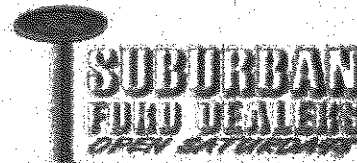
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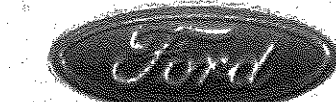
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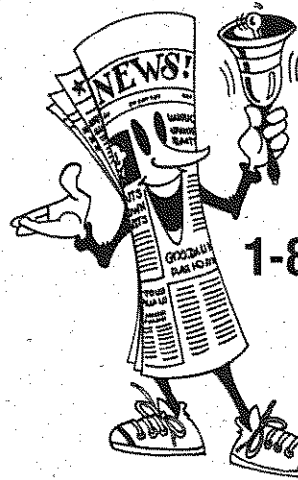
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Squeeze the day

Lynn Waldsmith Pawlik

Kids ask darndest questions

Asking questions is something kids do naturally.

Every day my kids ask me questions, and I love hearing them because it gives me an opportunity to see what they happen to be thinking about. This time of year, especially, I find myself being bombarded with endless questions.

"Mom, does Santa always wear that red and white suit?" my 7-year-old daughter asks me. "I mean, does he ever wear anything different?"

Like I said, I love when my children ask questions. It's the answers I have a bit of a problem with. I try to answer these Santa questions as best I can. Either I give a brief answer or simply say, "I don't know." Sometimes, when I'm really at a loss, I take the ultimate copout and simply say: "Well, that's a good question honey. What do you think?"

"Do you think Santa went to school Mom?" she presses me.

"Well, he certainly knows how to read because he has to read all those letters from kids. And he probably is good at math because he has to count all those presents."

Eileen nods her head and seems to accept this hypothesis. As I get peppered with all these questions, I start asking myself questions. Like, why did she ask me that? Did I answer it as well as I could have?

"You know, some kids don't believe in Santa," she suddenly blurts out. "They think their parents bring all the presents or something."

I pause, trying to act natural. "Really. Who do you know who thinks that? Do any of your friends think that?"

"No," she said. "Me and Rachel were just talking about it."

"I see. Well, what do you believe?"

She looks at me as though I just fell off the chimney. "Mom. You know I believe in Santa. So does Rachel."

I breathe a sigh of relief. My 4-year-old believes in Santa, too, of course. But she hasn't begun to ask questions yet. She just accepts and loves him for all she hears he is. Her initial fear of Santa has transformed into awestruck wonder.

On the other hand, her older sister is beginning to show signs of critical thinking. Her questions don't yet reflect any cynicism or doubt, just a keen desire to know the answers.

Eileen told me that one of the things she wants for Christmas this year is a dictionary. Not just any dictionary, but a kid's dictionary, she emphasized. One that has big print and lots of pictures.

The more I thought about it, the more I realized what a wonderful gift it would be.

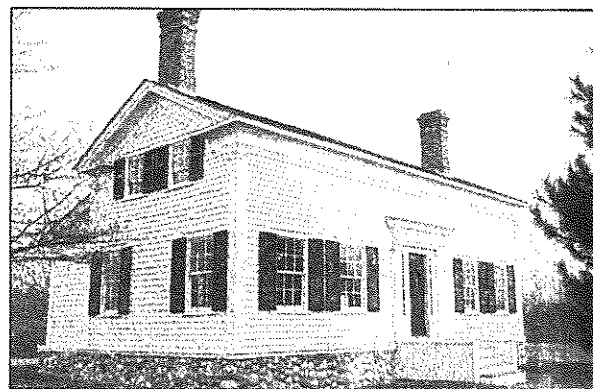
After all, kids think we grown-ups have all the answers. And even though I want to hold on to that little girl and all of her questions forever, I know she has to start finding some answers on her own.

"I have thousands of questions about lots of things," she told me one night while I was putting her to bed.

"I know, honey. That's good. That's how you learn things, by asking questions. It's good to have a curious mind."

Lynn Waldsmith Pawlik is a regular contributor to the *Observer*. She and her family live in Plymouth. You can e-mail her at pawwald@comcast.net.

Cranberries and nuts decorate a corner of the Shaw house.



Holidays are time for a walk through Greenmead Historical village.

Christmas by candlelight

Historical village steps back in time

Luminaries light the way for visitors in search of an old-fashioned Christmas. Here at Greenmead Historical Village, time stopped about a century ago.

Visitors will have the opportunity to learn about lifestyles of families living in the farming community then known as Livonia Township during Candlelight Tours which begin at 6 p.m. (last tour at 8 p.m.) Friday-Saturday, Dec. 26-27. Tickets are \$5, \$2 for children. Call (248) 477-7375 for more information.

Candlelight Tours provide a glimpse into Christmases past. Last year a blanket of snow made for an even more spectacular walk along the dirt roads leading to Newburg School (c. 1861), Newburg Methodist Church (1848), the Bungalow (1913), A.J. Geer General Store (1908) and Kingsley and Shaw houses built in 1843.

At each location presenters, some dressed in Civil War-era costumes, relay how holidays were celebrated amidst decorations made from natural items such as greenery and nuts. On Dec. 26, violinist Diane Dignan performs classical music in the church followed by Ward Presbyterian Bell Choir on Dec. 27. In between buildings, visitors can warm up with hot cocoa and cookies while listening to several members of the Livonia Civic Chorus sing carols at the Friends Meeting House (1846).

"The Shaw and Kingsley houses are the prettiest because they're all lit with candles," said Linda Wiacek, recreation supervisor.

History is alive in the village owned by the city of Livonia and operated by the Livonia Historical Commission. Research on decorations surrounding holiday celebrations began in the mid-1980s, according to commission chairman Suzanne Daniel.

"In 1850, Christmas wasn't a legal holiday in Michigan," Daniel said. "How they celebrated depended on religious backgrounds. The Catholics and Episcopalians had a good old time, but Puritans made it illegal. In New England, people worked on Christmas and children went to school. As German and Irish moved in, that began to change. By the Civil War, they'd made it a legal holiday."

TWO CHRISTMAS TIMES

The village is divided into two time periods. The west end illustrates mid-19th century life. The east end of the village reconstructs the intersection of Ann Arbor Trail and Newburgh, c. 1910-1925.

"By then Christmas was legal, but



Edward Vitez plays Santa Claus during the Greenmead tours. The costume was worn on visits to Civil War soldiers in the field.

not everyone had a Christmas tree," Daniel said. "There were public trees in church and school, but they didn't truck trees all over like today. If you lived in an area where you were able to cut one down, you might have had a tree. They had homemade decorations of natural items. If you were wealthy, you could purchase store bought. This was a farm community, which means we're behind times. We try to portray what it was really like 100 to 125 years ago."

Maureen Casey, her husband Michael, and daughters Shannon, 19, and Annie, 18, used paper stars and pine cones to decorate Newburg Church. Built in 1858, the building's decorations recall the 1915-25 time period.

Daylight tours, which include the church and Hill House (built in 1841) run 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 and 21, and include free concerts 3 p.m. each day (St. Michael's Junior High Chorus, Dec. 14, and Airport Varsity Singers, Dec. 21). Tickets are \$3, \$2 for children.

"There are a lot of greens that would have been available to them," said Casey, a regular volunteer at the village. "Greenmead is very important. You want to preserve history and the past. It's important for children to know that Livonia wasn't always like this."



Maureen Casey and her family decorated the church. For more on Greenmead, please see page C3.

TOYS IN TREES

The Shaw family would have been making gingerbread decorations for the tree and to serve with tea when guests dropped by their home. The prosperous family brought their traditions from England.

"Those days they put toys on the trees," said Jolene Jacobs, who volunteered to decorate the Shaw House with fellow Mill Race Questers Kathleen Kelton of Farmington Hills and Vera Davis and Pat Magdich of Northville. "The decorations came from around the house."

Osage oranges, placed on each step of the unusually steep staircase, were used to eliminate odors. Sleigh

bells from 1840-60 hang on a wall. "It's our favorite time of year," said Marian Renaud, program supervisor. "It's definitely old-fashioned."

And most definitely fun. Livonia resident Edward Vitez plays a Civil War-era Santa. Dressed in striped pants, he carries a sack full of candy canes and licorice that looks like chunks of coal.

"In the 1860s, Santa would have worn a red stocking knit cap," Vitez said. "The costume was designed by satirical cartoonist Thomas Nast during the Civil War period. I've seen pictures of him bringing things to the troops, fresh fruits and vegetables. Most of the foodstuffs couldn't get them. He also brought letters from home."

Garage sale success leads to establishing business

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

It was actually the people who would shop at Doug and Michele Schiftar's garage sales who noticed it first.

The sales, which did quite well for the Schiftars,



Owner Michele Schiftar (left) of Consignment Outlet in Plymouth and employee Sharon Toutant show one of the vintage furs for sale.

were actually drawing buyers from resale stores and consignment shops, and their other patrons were noticing.

Since the couple was looking for a new line of work anyway, the idea seemed a natural to them, and Consignment Outlet was born.

"We always had a lot of toys, a lot of items," said Michele Schiftar, who opened the store next to the CVS at Sheldon and Ann Arbor Road. "We'd always been pretty successful at garage sales, and we were looking for a new business. So we thought we'd give it a try."

The couple partnered in a fitness business, It Figures, that had previously occupied the space next to CVS. When It Figures closed, there was still the leased space, and the Schiftars decided the time was right.

They looked around at what the area needed and "noticed the closest store like this is in Northville," Michele Schiftar said. There's also a similar store in Canton, but Schiftar said it's mainly for children and sells mostly clothing.

Consignment Outlet takes a vast array of items, including men's and women's clothing, maternity wear, kids clothes and accessories. There are toys and furniture, furs and decorative household items.

The store also accepts what it calls "unique" items by special appointment. Schiftar said the most unique

thing she's taken in so far is a crossbow, complete with a \$500 scope. Price for the package at Consignment Outlet: \$675.

"It's been going really good," Schiftar said. "People are telling us, 'We're glad you're here.'"

The Schiftars take in items on consignment, decide the sale price, then split the price with the owner. The idea, Michele Schiftar said, is to find the right price. Too high, and no one buys. Too low, and neither the consignor nor the store makes any money.

"It's making the consignor and the buyer happy," Schiftar said. "You have to get enough money for the consignor, but the buyer still has to get a good deal."

Many of Schiftar's consignors had tried other shops and been turned down. Schiftar took their items and managed to sell them. That's a product of the Schiftars' insistence on customer service.

"A lot of shops they don't say hello, there's no goodbye, no thank you," she said. "We try to greet every person. Then, the consignor is happy because we sold their item, and the buyer is happy he got a good deal."

Consignment Outlet is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. For more information, visit the Web site at www.consignmentoutlet.com or call (734) 451-9423.

Author takes unusual approach to ghost story

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

When John Hall decided he wanted to break away from his usual writing chores as an editor for *The Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration News*, he chose an unusual approach.

"I thought of an emotional subject, which is usually a good starting point for a story," he said.

The emotional subject was the death of his wife, Janet, who is still very much alive.

"It became a double-edged thing," Hall said. "I started to write a book, but I also started to do a little self-analysis. My wife, I consulted her throughout the project. If she didn't like what I was doing, I wouldn't have done it."

Angels Working Overtime is a sentimental ghost story that deals with the trauma of losing a wife and mother. The twist is that Hall of Livonia tells the story in the first person, using the names, and photos, of his wife, Janet, daughter McKenna, now 8, and son Ryan, now 10.

"As I was going along it was more realistic if I used our names, it was almost autobiography. Every other name I use except the family is fictitious,"

he said.

The approach has caused some confusion when Hall sent copies of the self-published novel to friends. Some sent sympathy letters and had to be reassured that Janet was still alive.

In the short novel, Hall tells the story of the couple's courtship and marriage in their 30s. They have a strong bond with each other and with their two children, whose activities become the center of family life. Son Ryan is an avid athlete. Daughter McKenna is a talented young dancer.

The book is structured around McKenna's special dance number, *Angels Working Overtime*, in which she is featured as the smallest angel. The dance music, and title of the book, is taken from Deanna Carter's popular country song.

While the daughter prepares for a Christmas concert, her mother is killed in a senseless automobile accident, setting in motion the usual rounds of grief, anger, loneliness and struggles with religious faith.

But things become eerie when Hall begins to sense the presence of his wife and her attempts to communicate from the beyond.

Hall said he didn't begin writing with an outline and the story seemed to build as he kept writing. He said he would carve out a couple of hours each night to the project and share his work with his wife.

"I would give her the pages next day. When she was done crying, she would say do some more, do some more. She would encourage me," he said.

Angels is also a plea for organ donations. An epilogue provides some background on organ donations.

Hall has begun marketing his book, but doesn't expect to do any signings until after the holidays.

His next book project will draw on his six years as editor of the heating and cooling trade magazine. He said he has contacted more than 100 contractors to share their experiences in what he sees as a how-to on construction contracting. And he says he has more ideas for fiction.

"I think this is the tip of the iceberg," he said.

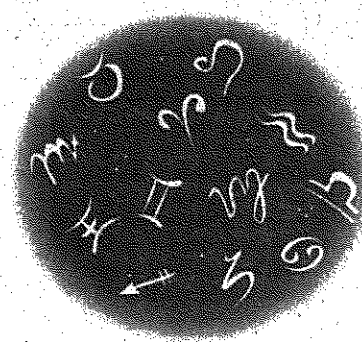
For information and excerpts, go to www.angelsworkingvertime.com.

Horoscope



Star Struck

(Dec. 14-Dec. 18)
By Dennis Fairchild



ARIES (March 21-April 20)

Because the rather baleful planet Saturn dominates your horoscope heavens now, you're bound to feel isolated, neglected, put down, rejected or rebuffed. Maybe you just need a jolt to make you realize that it's one thing to praise discipline and another to submit to it?

TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

Your main concern must be to overcome resentment - either on the home front or at work. Not an easy task, but current planetary activity signifies that a new format for the future must be agreed upon. The fine line between fantasy and reality is a bit blurry now.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Be careful who you antagonize during the next few days because the planets are giving the esoteric upper hand to Twin's rivals at the moment. No matter how many battles you've won in the past, the only way you'll win is if you get along with everyone.

CANCER (June 22-July 23)

You'll either begin a new love or an old love will burn more passionately than it has for quite some time. Lively planetary activity in the relationship sector of your chart means that you'll get along well with acquaintances, but affairs of the heart will bring you to life.

LEO (July 24-Aug 23)

You'll feel on top of the world during the days ahead. No matter where you go or what you do, your positive astro-attitude will also inspire others to feel good about themselves. Now is the time for going out and having fun - it's what you do best!

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23)

If you want to get ahead right now, you're going to have to learn to see people as allies rather than rivals. Watch your back by all means, kiddo, but don't become so preoccupied that you miss all the wonderful folks who are trying to attract your attention!

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23)

At some stage in the days ahead, you're going to have to decide whether or not to forgive someone who has let you down. The choice is yours to make, but don't let the situation drag on or go unresolved. Your astro-aim should be to empty your anxiety closet now.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

It would appear that you're too attached to something or somebody, and that you have an excessive fear of losing "it." What happens in the next few days will teach you that the best way to hold on to what you value most is to handle it gently.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

Sudden changes are likely at this time, but they're changes that, in the long run, could end up working in your favor, so don't fight them. This could be one of those rare occasions when something that appears to be negative turns out to be positive.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 21)

Don't get cosmically carried away and say so much without thinking now, because loved ones are unlikely to forgive your lack of discretion. Just because you think it's all a big joke doesn't mean that others will be laughing. Lighten up, and open up your eyes!

AQUARIUS (Jan 22-Feb 19)

Ignore the fights and feuds and fussiness that is taking place around you now and only focus on things that mean something to you. Don't push too hard; relax and retreat! What is meant to happen will happen when the time is right. Be patient a little longer.

PISCES (Feb 20-March 20)

Someone you either work or talk with is proposing certain changes now, and if you're smart, you'll go along with them cheerfully. Currently, all planets indicate that you have nothing to fear financially. In fact, they'll make life easier and more profitable for you.

Dennis Fairchild is the Birmingham astrologer-author of several books on divination. For personal astrological-intuitive consult info, call (248) 644-3555 or e-mail DenFairchild@aol.com.

College offers classes

A new sequence of computer animation classes highlights the schedule for Schoolcraft College's winter term. Three new classes will take students from basic animation techniques and simple animations to complex mechanical structures and architectural fly-throughs.

The new Culinary Arts Brigade program also is accepting new students for the winter semester. The program is specifically for graduates of culinary programs and others who want to advance their culinary careers or enhance their skills. Marcus Haight, formerly executive chef at The Lark Restaurant in West Bloomfield, will oversee the Brigade program.

Registration for these and all credit classes continues through Jan. 16. Students can register online, by telephone or by coming to the McDowell Center.

In addition to traditional classroom learning, Schoolcraft College offers classes that are online, computer based, that feature open entry and open exit or that combine face-to-face instruction with online delivery. With the variety of class choices offered, students can tailor their personal schedules and learning styles to what works best for them.

Winter classes begin Jan. 10. Registration forms are available in the winter schedules, in the Office of Admissions, and online at www.schoolcraft.edu. New students must meet with a counselor before registering.

To register by touchtone phone, call (734) 462-4800 and follow the system prompts. Neither phone nor online registration is available on holidays. To register online, go to the Schoolcraft Web site and fill in and submit a registration form.

Walk-in registration is available Monday and Thursday from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. and Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To register in person, come to the McDowell Center, where assistants will direct you to the correct office.

Schoolcraft College offers more than 60 career programs with specific job-related skills, ranging from accounting to welding. Its more than 50 transfer programs prepare students to go on to a four-year university.

For information, call (734) 462-4426. Schoolcraft College is located at 18600 Haggerty Road, between Six Mile and Seven Mile roads just west of I-275.

Community Chorus holds auditions

The Farmington Community Chorus will hold new member auditions for its spring session at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, and Tuesday, Jan. 13, at the William Costick Activities Center on 11 Mile just east of Middlebelt Road in Farmington Hills.

Now in its 24th year, the 90-voice mixed chorus includes singers from throughout the metro Detroit area and seeks

to expand its membership. The Farmington Community Chorus accepts members from age 19 to "don't ask"; all voice parts are welcomed. Directed by Steve SeGraves and accompanied by Susan Garr, the chorus will meet on Tuesday evenings (January-May) to prepare for the annual spring concert. This concert will be held May 7 and 8 at the Seligman Performing Arts

Center, Detroit Country Day School, in Beverly Hills, MI. The Chorus also performs several outdoor summer concerts.

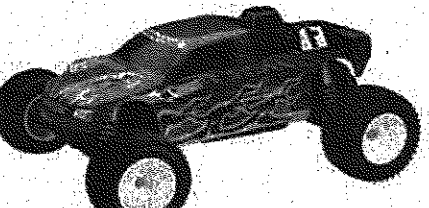
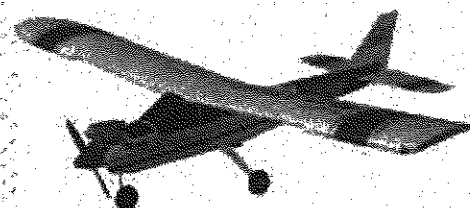
For more audition information, interested singers should contact Chorus Manager Kathy Hall at (248) 471-4516. For more information about the Chorus, visit the Web site www.farmingtonchorus.com.

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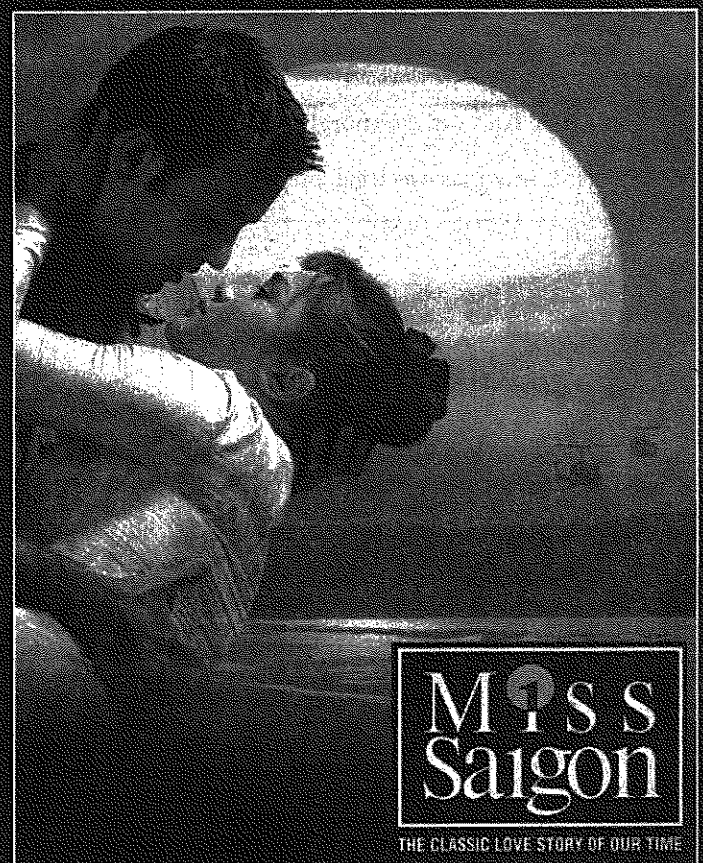
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Ben Yates and Joseph Paul answer questions from the day's lessons at the Greenmead one-room schoolhouse.

History comes to life at Greenmead

Learning about life more than a century ago is part of the Candlelight Tour experience at Greenmead Historical Village in Livonia Dec. 26-27. Last holiday season, visitors, sitting in Newburg School (1861), discovered students from ages 4 to their teens learned about writing, reading and arithmetic all in the same room. During the year, the one room school is a favorite of teachers like Kim Mlynarczyk who brought her third grade class from Hull Elementary School. "Livonia as a farming community had a lot of one room schools," said Linda Wiacek, recreation supervisor. "Some boys would only

complete part of the year, the rest they were farming. Schooling was thought of as a privilege." Eight year old Nick Wilson felt the same way more than 100 years later as he shared his Basic Reader (c. 1930s) with classmate Trevor Thomas. "It's cool to learn how the school house and Livonia were made," said Wilson. "I like it," added Thomas. "They have different ways to do stuff." A Christmas tree in a corner of the room attested to earlier ways. Children had cut colorful construction paper to make a chain garland. "Nick was really excited

about coming," said his mother Linda Wilson. "He brought his lunch and they put it in the tin pail until lunchtime. It's so fun for them." One of the goals at the village is to present a variety of programs that encourage children to enjoy history. From 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, doors will open at the Friends Meeting House for a reading of Clement Moore's "Twas the Night Before Christmas." There will be crafts to take home, caroling and refreshments. Cost is \$6 per child, recommended ages 4-8. Reservations necessary as space is limited. Call (248) 477-7375.

SINGLES

Send items for consideration in singles calendar to Hometown Life, Observer Newspapers, 794 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170, fax (734) 459-4224.

EVENTS

Single Adult Ministries

Single Adult Ministries of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, invites singles to join more than 500 single adults 11:30 a.m. every Sunday in Knox Hall, for fellowship and encouragement. The Rev. Paul Clough delivers messages to help equip you to maximize your singleness and relationship with God. Coffee, doughnuts and conversation. SPM has a program and activity for every age group and life situation. For more information or to have a newsletter sent, call the SPM office at (248) 374-5920.

Classic Senior Singles

Bible Study at 10 a.m. Thursdays in Room C307.

Single Parents

Wednesday evening program 7-8:15 p.m. in the Single Point Office.

Walking Club

Single Point Ministries of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church offers a walking club. It meets in the hospitality area in the Grand Mall 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays and walks are outside, rain or shine. Open to all fitness levels.

Bible Study

All members are invited to the learner's Bible study class 7:30 p.m. Thursdays in Room A101.

Metropolitan Single Professionals

Book Discussion Group MSP's book discussion group meets 7:30-8:30 p.m. the second Monday of each month at Borders Books in Farmington Hills. Borders will offer a 10-percent discount on all titles chosen for discussion.

Selective Singles Social and Travel Club

For people 35 years old and up. Activities include dinners, dances, cards, camping, theater, sports, travel.

To learn more about the club, call (248) 435-5320 or go to www.ssstc.org.

Single Mingle Dances

Meet new friends, dance and socialize, anytime from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Top 40 D.J., Cash Bar, Hors d'oeuvres and door prizes. For directions only, call (734) 462-3100.

Euchre

From 6:30-9:30 p.m. every Monday now through April, at the newly remodeled Main Lounge at Drakeshire Lanes, 35000 Grand River Ave. just east of Drake in Farmington Hills. The cost is \$5 for members, \$6 for non-members. Everyone is welcome.

Co-Ed Volleyball Lessons

Volleyball lessons are back by popular demand. The lessons will run for eight weeks. Lessons will be given by a professional instructor at Harding Park in Ferndale. RSVP by mail or a meeting.

West Side Singles

Dances to be held every Friday night at Burton Manor, located on Schoolcraft service drive, just west of Inkster in Livonia. The dances are open to the public. Doors open from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., 25 years of age and older. Dressy attire required, held in nonsmoking ballrooms with a disc jockey and budget bar. Admission price is \$4 before 8:30 p.m. and \$6 after 8:30 p.m. For information, call Anita at (734) 981-0909.

Bethany Suburban West

Sundays 10 a.m. breakfast at Redford Grille, corner of Five Mile and Beech Daly. Optional Mass at St. Aidan's at 11:30 a.m. on Farmington north of Six Mile.

Tuesday's Coffee & Conversation at 7 p.m. at Archie's on Plymouth Road, Livonia, between Merriman and Middlebelt.

Monthly meetings are 7 p.m. the third Saturdays at St. Kenneth Church Hall, 14951 Haggerty, between Five Mile and Schoolcraft.

Dances are on the first Saturday at St. Robert Bellarmine Church gym, corner of Inkster and West Chicago in Redford. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., dance from 8 p.m. to midnight. Cost is

\$9 and Dick Gerathy is the disc jockey Refreshments.

FastDater

FastDater is just getting started in the Metro Detroit area. They host singles events at different venues and currently have events coming up. The charge to attend events is \$35 credit card payment online or \$40 cash at the door.

Widowed Friends

Special Mass followed by Christmas celebration with pot luck dinner will be held at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at St. Columban Church located at 1775 Melton in Birmingham. Call Marge at (248) 666-4826 for further information.

New Year's Eve Dance

"Our Lady of the Woods Singles" and "Bethany South Singles" are having a dance together, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, at Our Lady of the Woods Church, 21892 Gudith Road, Woodhaven. Tickets are \$25 at the door, \$20 in advance. Call Robert at (313) 561-6354 or Marion at (734) 324-8983.

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<p><i>A Best Buy!</i></p> <p>Badia Coltibuono Centamura Chianti</p> <p>\$8.99 750 ml.</p> <p><small>Fresh berries, medium-bodied, supple & flavorful Chianti!</small></p>	<p><i>Quality grapes creating elegant flavorful wine!</i></p> <p>Nurnberger Gluhen</p> <p>\$5.99 750 ml.</p> <p><small>Unique spiced German wine. Delicious served warm or chilled.</small></p>	<p><i>Quality grapes creating elegant flavorful wine!</i></p> <p>California Blackstone Wine</p> <p>• Chardonnay • Merlot • Zinfandel • Pinot Noir • Cabernet Sauvignon</p> <p>\$8.99 750 ml.</p>
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REUNIONS

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 the 20-year reunion, please contact Debbie (Scott) Paulus at (734) 737-9743 or Laurie (Marra) Makawewicz at (734) 981-7263.

Cody High School

Class of 1957
Join in for the Cody Reunion of '57. Organizers invite other interested friends from all the 1950's classes. Being held at 7 p.m. Oct. 9, 2004, at Fox Hills Golf and Country Club near 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 Saturday, 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, 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. Contact Ferndale 1979 Reunion, c/o Richard Broder, 31700 Middlebelt Road, Suite 165, Farmington Hills, MI 48334.

Fordson High School

Class of 1988
A 15-year reunion is being planned. Classmates are being sought. Respond to either www.classmates.com, class-reunion1988@yahoo.com, or mail your name, address and telephone number to: Class of 1988 Reunion, 11349 Fenton, Redford, MI 48239.

Garden City High School

Class of 1984
A 20 year reunion is tentatively scheduled for June 2004, at the Livonia Holiday Inn-West. More infor-

mation on classmates.com or e-mail: Michelle (Pietryka) Taylor at misidrew@comcast.net.

Grosse Pointe North

Class of 1991
Call (800) 677-7800, visit www.taylor-reunions.com or e-mail: info@taylorreunions.com.

Ladywood High School

Class of 1978
A 25-year reunion is planned for 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, at Sheehan's on the Green, 39450 Five Mile Road in Northville. Contact Ann (Start) Bloetscher at (313) 535-6564 for further info.

Lincoln Park High School

Class of 1974
A 30-year class reunion is being held with a five-night Western Caribbean cruise from Feb. 21-26, 2004. For more information, call Cindy (Conaway) Shaffer at Scottie Travel, (313) 277-3800, or scottietravel@vacation.com.

Redford Thurston High School

Class of 1993
Looking for classmates to assist in planning reunion. Contact Daune Koester at either (517) 432-3949 or e-mail dkoester@msu.edu.

Western High School

Class of 1993
A 20-year reunion is being planned and organizers need help in finding classmates. Please pass the word on to everyone you keep in contact with from our class. Please e-mail the information to wlv93reunion@hotmail.com.

Giving back to community to help those in need is a good feeling

When Bridget Johnson recently handed students at Madonna University a list of nonprofit organizations that needed volunteers she was surprised at the response. Maybe it's the spirit of the holiday season, but several students decided to make time to help homeless men, women and children housed at C.O.T.S. (Coalition on Temporary Shelter) in Detroit.

"I encouraged students to see outside of themselves that there are others out there with needs greater than theirs, and to perform service for the community," said Johnson, an instructor who introduces students to college life and in so doing increases personal and cultural awareness. Students learned first hand about homelessness by sleeping outside Oct. 17.

"I feel it's important because not everyone has the opportunity that they do. It's not a given that everyone goes to college."

It doesn't take much to help someone less fortunate. If you don't have a few hours to spare, a pair of socks, hats or gloves could give warmth.

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We give 3-1/2 million pounds of food to families a year."

JA'NOAH HOUSE

Time is running out to help the needy this holiday season, but giving is something that can be done all year round.

Audrey and Carl Mattson feed the homeless and poor every day. Right now they're busy gathering items to brighten the holidays for 250 children in the Cass Corridor, Brightmoor area, Brewster Projects, and Westland's Norwayne neighborhood. Their nonprofit Livonia-based Ja'Noah House need hats, gloves and socks for the homeless as well.

Ja'Noah House accepts all types of items that's why they're currently looking for a building to sort and store donations. For the last few years, they've picked up baked goods from Entenmann's in Livonia, and most recently from Panera's.

On Thanksgiving they gave out more than 100 dinners from their mobile home. During the rest of the year, youth from Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church in Livonia and St. John's Lutheran Church in Redford make sandwiches to feed the hungry. To help, call (734) 522-5077.

FIRST STEP

Giving can be as much fun as receiving. If you love to dance, don't miss First Step's annual dinner dance Friday, Feb. 6. The benefit raises money for women and children who are victims of domestic abuse.

During the holidays, violence tends to increase in the home. Desperate women and children flee the abuse in the middle of the night with only the clothes on their backs. That's why donations of cuddly teddy bears and stuffed animals are so important.

A wish list of other needed items is available by calling the Plymouth-based organization at (734) 416-1111.

Benefit boosts a good night's sleep

Motor City Harley-Davidson-Buell hosted a holiday party and fund-raising event on Dec. 13 benefiting Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit. Money and items raised from the event will support Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit's "Rest Educate Motivate (R.E.M.) Program," providing students a sleep education and sleep kit containing a sleeping bag, pillow, toothbrush and

other essentials. "Support from Motor City Harley Davidson-Buell is very important - especially during this time of the year," said Kathleen Donnelly, executive director. Guests enjoyed holiday refreshments, merchandise discounts, had their picture taken with WRIF's Arthur Penhallow as "Santa Boobah" and entered for a chance to

win \$50,000 cash. With the assistance of the National Center on Sleep Disorders Research and Oakland University School of Education, Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit developed the "Rest Educate Motivate. (R.E.M.)" program, designed to educate children on the benefits of healthy sleep habits. Students receive an activity book and a sleep kit containing a sleeping bag, pillow, night-shirt, toothbrush, toothpaste and other bedtime essentials. For information, call (248) 478-3242 or visit www.sweet-dreamzzzdetroit.org.

C.O.T.S.

The needs are many at C.O.T.S. as Pamela George of Washington Elementary in Livonia discovered. Students have just finished collecting toiletries to fill backpacks for the homeless. The idea came from the 4-6th grade Student Council on which George and Dan Vlcko serve as teacher representatives. Teacher Anne Sherwood volunteered her time to help out.

"The student council tried to help the community," said George. "We held a canned food drive for Livonia Goodfellows and now are working on Toys for Tots. C.O.T.S. has been an organization we've helped before. We called and asked them what they need. The students enjoy helping people in the commu-

CAPUCHIN SOUP KITCHEN

Like Smith, Brother Vincent Reyes is in need of toys. He has 18,000 boys and girls on the Capuchin Soup Kitchen's list. Deadline for donations is Friday, Dec. 19. If you can help, call Reyes at (313) 579-2100, Ext. 203.

But more than anything else, Reyes said the soup kitchen needs men's underwear and clothes. They give out 125 articles of underwear a week as part of shower program so disposable razors, samples of toothpaste, soap, would be greatly appreciated as would canned goods for pantry packs. The packs feed a family of four for a week.

"If kids don't have nutrition, they can't study and if they can't study, they can't get a job," said Reyes. "The Soup Kitchen is an island of hope."

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TPC OF MICHIGAN, JULY 8-11. 1-877-874-0767

LIBRARY PICKS

Every week the Plymouth District Library staff provides the *Observer* with its list of "Best Sellers" based on the number of requests for titles by library patrons. The books are available by placing a request with the library, (734) 453-0750.

Fiction

1. "The Da Vinci Code," Dan Brown
2. "The Five People You Meet In Heaven," Mitch Albom
3. "Big Bad Wolf," James Patterson
4. "Trojan Odyssey," Clive Cussler
5. "Safe Harbour," Danielle Steel

Nonfiction

1. "Dude, Where's My Country?" Michael Moore
2. "Lies (and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them)," Al Franken
3. "Who's Looking Out For You," Bill O'Reilly
4. "Flyboys," James Bradley
5. "I Am A Soldier, Too: The Jessica Lynch Story," Rick Bragg

Parent's Choice New Children's Picture Books

1. "How I Became A Pirate," Melinda Long
2. "The Richest Crocodile in the World," Daniel Postgate
3. "Oh, Baby!" Leo Landry
4. "Little Buggy Runs Away," Kevin O'Malley
5. "Skippyjon Jones," Judy Schachner

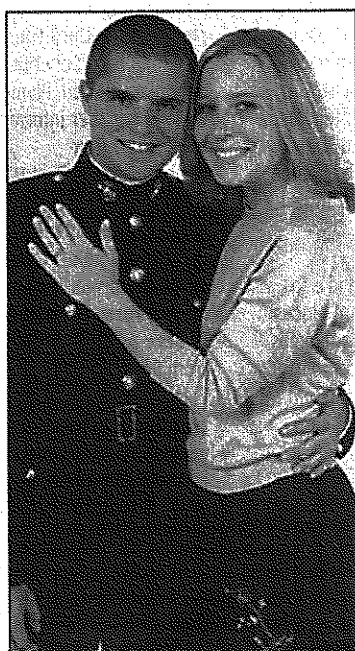
Flora-Shull

Mr. and Mrs. David Flora and Mr. and Mrs. David Shull, both of Canton, are proud to announce the engagement of their children, Jennifer Flora and Michael Shull.

Jennifer and Michael are both 1999 graduates of Plymouth Salem High School, and both attended Western Michigan University and received their B.B.A. degrees in 2003.

Jennifer is currently employed in Ann Arbor. Michael was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, second lieutenant, in May 2003. He is currently stationed in Quantico, Va.

The couple plans to be married July 3, 2004, in Plymouth.

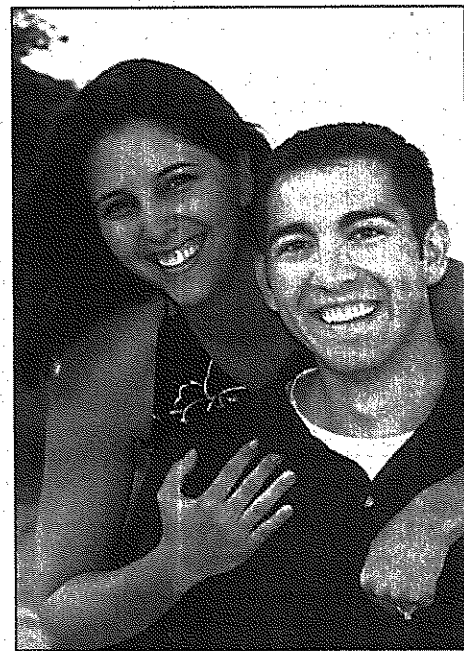


Wilson-Guzak

Thomas and Karen Wilson of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Jodi Rene Wilson to David Robert Guzak, son of Robert and Roxann Guzak of Flushing, Mich.

Jodi is a 1996 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School, a 2000 graduate of Central Michigan University with a bachelor of science degree in secondary education, and a 2002 graduate of Oakland University with a master of arts degree in counseling. She is currently employed as a high school counselor at Hartland High School in Hartland, Mich.

David is a 1995 graduate of Flushing High School and a 2000 graduate of Central Michigan University with a bachelor of science degree in sociology, and a bachelor of arts degree in psychology. He will earn a master's degree in social



work from Michigan State University in May 2004. He is employed at the Genesee Valley Regional Center as a youth specialist.

The couple will be wed in July 2004 at St. John's Chapel in Plymouth Township, followed by a reception at Fox Hills Country Club.

Patio, ramp aid the disabled

Wheelchair-bound consumers at New Horizons Rehabilitation Services, Inc. will have an easier time getting to the company's outdoor picnic area, thanks to a collaboratively constructed patio and ramp.

The City of Novi, Detroit Cement Masons Apprentice Program Local 514, Superior Materials Inc, Michigan Skid Loader and Take it Away Hauling worked together with Mark A. Jacoby, branch manager of the Novi New Horizons and Beverly Colwander, development director, to make this project possible.

"Every year, our Novi site is very fortunate to receive a donation from Josephine Stack to be used for repairs and upgrades at the Novi Branch," said Jacoby. "In the spring of

2002 that money was used to purchase two wheelchair accessible picnic tables."

Unfortunately, the picnic tables were in the front yard and it was difficult to get the wheelchairs to them. Colwander contacted George Fillar from the Cement Masons who agreed that he and the Local 514 apprentices would donate services and materials for the patio and make alterations to the sidewalks so consumers would have direct access to the tables instead of coming through the parking lot/driveway.

Superior Materials Inc. donated construction materials, Michigan Skid Loaders brought in their machinery and Take it Away Hauling took away some of the debris.

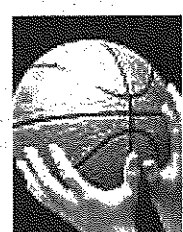
By November, everything

and everyone came together - the City of Novi, area businesses and employees of New Horizons, who all worked diligently to get this patio built.

"This community-business collaboration made it possible for the consumers of New Horizons Rehabilitation Inc. to benefit in what many people take for granted, the chance to go out doors and enjoy sitting at a picnic table at lunch time," Jacoby said.

New Horizons, a private, non-for-profit organization, provides a wide array of vocational and other rehabilitation services to people with disabilities as well as those with other barriers to employment. For information, visit www.NewHorizonsRehab.org or call (248) 340-0559.

Follow your favorite high school sports team each week in the Observer



MILITARY NEWS

Deployment

Marine Corps Sgt. Tuan A. Vogle, son of Kim T. Vogle of Plymouth, is currently on deployment while assigned to the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, home based in Camp Pendleton, California. Vogle is a 1990 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School and joined the Marine Corps in April 1998.

Graduation

Air Force Airman Toni I. Colon has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Colon is the daughter of Antonio Colon Jr. of Canton and Loyda Garcia of Sanguate, San Antonio, Texas. She is a 2003 graduate of Canton High School.

Air Force Airman Miranda J. Music has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Music is the daughter of Tim Music of Farwell, Mich., and Kim Jean of Plymouth. She is a 2003 graduate of Farwell High School.

Air Force Airman Robert J. Wallace III has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Robert Wallace, Jr. of Canton and Pamela Wrase of Van Buren Township. Wallace graduated in 2003 from Plymouth Christian Academy in Canton.

Delayed Entry Program

Kristen A. Zielinski has joined the United States Air Force under the Delayed Entry Program. Zielinski, a 1998 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School in Canton, has reported to Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, for active duty. She is the daughter of Glenn A. Zielinski of Canton.

Star Southfield Entertainment Centre • Southfield • Star Fairlane • Dearborn • Star Gratiot • Clinton Twp • Star Great Lakes Crossing • Auburn Hills • Star Taylor • Star Rochester Hills • Rochester Hills

HELP

Women and children affected by domestic and sexual violence

DONATE

New clothing, personal care products, household items, bedding, linens, school supplies, cleaning products, non-perishable food and baby items

WIN

A family four-pack of movie tickets. Drawings will be held each week through 12/21/03 at all seven metro Detroit area Star Theatres

Now through Sunday, December 21, 2003 drop off your donations at any metro Detroit Star Theatre and register to win.

All donations benefit the people aided by First Step.

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Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 ♦ fax: 734-953-2232

e-mail: OEObits@oe.homecomm.net

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

Death Notices 6340

COPLEY

BARBARA J. "Barbi", age 64, December 10, 2003 of Redford, formerly of Monroe. Beloved wife of Harry. Dear sister of Margaret (Bob) Freeman; Loving aunt of Robert James and Patricia; Sister-in-law of James, William, Marion and Dick. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Saturday at the Martenson Funeral Home, Allen Park. Interment Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery.

Davis (Smith)

Anita E., Age 74. Passed away on December 6, 2003. Beloved wife of the late George W. Davis; Loving mother of Linda Smith Golbiv, Donna Smith, Carol Smith, and Gayle Smith; Dear grandmother of Erik, Kristopher, Kate, Malissa, Jason, Joey and Damon. Also survived by great-grandson Casey. She retired from Veterans' Hospital. Memorial Service in Wilmington, Delaware. Interment at Lower Brandywine Cemetery in Wilmington, Delaware. Arrangements entrusted to: The Edward Korkolan Funeral Home, (248) 541-8325.

ESTES

MARK ELLIOTT, Born June 8, 1962 in Rocky River, Ohio. Died December 9, 2003 Detroit Receiving Hospital (Complications from diabetes). Resident of Detroit since June, 2003, formerly of Ann Arbor & Birmingham. Mark attended Cranbrook School. He enjoyed squash & spectator sports and he also volunteered helping the homeless. Husband of Teri; son of Susan McCarty and Thomas L. Estes; brother of Thomas L. Estes, R. Scott Estes (Elizabeth), Alice C. Estes; uncle of Sara, Grace and Samantha. Services held at A. J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, 32515 Woodward Ave., Royal Oak Thursday, Dec. 11. Interment: White Chapel Cemetery, Troy, MI. Memorials: Cranbrook Schools Annual Fund, P.O. Box 801, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303.

KERN

Mary "Manya", Age 94, entered the presence of God peacefully on December 11, 2003 in Oakland County, Michigan. Mary was born April 29th, 1909, in Chicago to Russian immigrant parents. She was majoring in home Economics at Purdue University when the Great Depression forced her out of school. Daughter, Sharon Newman Bordine, was Michigan's finalist in the Teacher in Space race for Christ McAuliffe's seat on the ill-fated space shuttle Challenger. She is married to Bruce Bordine, CEO of Bordine Nurseries in Rochester, Clarkston, Grand Blanc, and Brighton. Manya served as housekeeper to the family of Detroit Philanthropist Max Fisher. Known as an outstanding baker, she kept the Fisher cookie jar filled for 21 years. She was deeply committed to the common heritage of Christians and Jews. Burial was in Gary, Indiana. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions honoring Mary's memory can be made to the C.S. Lewis Foundation Scholarship Fund, Box 8008, Redlands, CA 92375

Death Notices 6340

MERRION

RUBY FOLKER, formerly of Livonia, died December 9th. She was born September 21, 1914 in Adrian, MI. and was a graduate of Redford High School. She was a resident of Rosedale Gardens in Livonia from 1936 to 1983 with her husband Francis (Fran) where they operated Merrion Electric Company. She raised four boys, Lawrence (Larry), David, Richard (Duke), and Chris. She subsequently lived in Port Charlotte, FL, Brighton, MI, Union City, OH and Rockville, IN. Survivors include her four sons, Larry, David, Duke and Chris, a brother Ken Folker, a sister, Margaret Macksey, 14 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren. A memorial service will be held on January 25, 2004 at Community of Christ Church in Brighton, MI.

Miller

Margaret E., age 86, of Birmingham, died November 12, 2003 at her home. She was born March 15, 1917 in Canada. Her husband Burton W. Moon, whom she married in 1938, died in 1989. Memorial service 3:00 p.m. Monday, December 15, at the Kinsey-Garrett Funeral Home, 420 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. www.kinsey-garrett.com

SHAHAN

Daniel H., Beloved husband of the late Nevart Loving father of Linda (Robert) DePietro and Claudia (Christopher) Swink. Also loved by grandchildren Ryan and Michael DePietro and Daniel Swink. Dear brother in law of Armen (Teryl) Asher. Dear uncle of Armen (Vartouhi) Asher Jr. and Lisa Asher. Will also be missed by good friend Ida Cononian, also remembered by many relatives and friends. Visitation Sunday 6pm-9pm at St. Johns Armenian Church 22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. Prayers Sunday 7:30 pm, Funeral Monday, 11:00 am at church. Interment at Woodlawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial donations can be made to Armenian General Benevolent Union of America or U of M Comprehensive Cancer Center (For Use in Cancer Research in Memory of Daniel & Nevart Shahan) or Children of Armenia Sponsorship Program (CASP) or St. Johns Armenian Church. Arrangements entrusted to the Edward Korkolan Funeral Home. (248) 541-8325

Let others know...

When you've lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages"... a directory located in every edition of your hometown newspaper.

Call 1-800-579-7355

Death Notices 6340

Sister Barbara Galant, RSM

Sister of Mercy, Teacher, Bookkeeper (Farmington Hills, MI) - Sister Barbara Galant, RSM, age 90, died on December 11, 2003 at St. Joseph of Mercy in Pontiac, MI. She had been a Sister of Mercy for 70 years. She was born on November 6, 1913 to Louis and Stella (Firlik) Galant in Grand Rapids, MI. She joined the Sisters of Mercy in 1933 and was given the name Sister Mary Cajetan, and made profession of perpetual vows in 1939. Sister Barbara earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Mercy College of Detroit and a Master's degree in Education from the University of Detroit. For 22 years she taught bookkeeping, typing, shorthand, mathematics and science to junior high and high school students in Muskegon, Posen, Parnell, Cheboygan, Pin-conning, Hazel Park, Saginaw, Bay City, Grand Rapids and Farmington Hills, MI. She later served as assistant secretary and assistant to the treasurer of the Sisters of Mercy Province of Detroit and spent several years as bookkeeper for the Sisters of Mercy in Grand Rapids. Sister Barbara is remembered as an outstanding teacher, a quiet and astute businesswoman, an avid reader and a person who enjoyed a good conversation. She is survived by her sister, Louise Rybicki of Grand Rapids, many nieces and nephews and the members of religious community. A welcoming service will be held on Dec. 14, 2003 at 3 pm at McAuley Center, 28750 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI, with a scripture service that evening at 7 pm. The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on Dec. 15, 2003 at 10:30 am at McAuley Center. Burial will be at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield, MI. Arrangements are under the direction of McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills, MI. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Mercy Ministry Fund, 29000 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI, 48336-1405.

Sister Mary Frances Vondruska, RSM

Sister of Mercy, Primary Teacher, Principal (Farmington Hills, MI) - Sister Mary Frances Vondruska, RSM, 89, died on December 10, 2003 at McAuley Retirement Center in Farmington Hills. She was born to Yugoslavian immigrants Joseph and Agnes (Bock) Vondruska on April 17, 1914 in Bannister, MI, and christened Agnes at St. Joseph's Parish. She was received into the Sisters of Mercy in Dubuque, IA, on August 16, 1934 and given the name, Sister Mary Frances Joseph. The majority of Sister Frances's 46 years of service in education were spent in Michigan parochial schools. She received a bachelor's degree from Mercy College of Detroit and a master's degree in education from the University of Detroit. These degrees were earned over a number of summers as there was no time for studies during the school year. Sister Frances taught children in Holland, Midland, Traverse City, Bay City, Ludington, Muskegon, Temperance, Rogers City, Detroit, Manistee, Auburn and Howell, MI. She also served as principal of St. Joseph Parish in Howell, MI, and retired to McAuley Center in 1989. Sister Frances is survived by two brothers, Frank Vondruska of Glennie, MI and Louis Vondruska of Waterford, MI; two sisters, Sister Mary Bertha Vondruska, RSM of Auburn, MI; and Helen Smolek of West Palm Beach, FL; several nieces and nephews; and the members of her Mercy community. A welcoming service will be held on Dec. 11, 2003 at 3 pm at McAuley Center, 28750 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI, with a scripture service that evening at 7 pm. The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on Dec. 12, 2003 at 10:30 am in the Sacred Heart Chapel at McAuley Center. Burial will be at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield, MI. Arrangements are under the direction of McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills, MI. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Mercy Ministry Fund, 29000 Eleven Mile Rd, Farmington Hills, MI, 48336-1405.

SMITH

Kay Elizabeth, Age 62 of Garden City, passed away December 11, 2003. She was born March 18, 1941 in Marquette, MI. She is survived by her husband, Charles; one son, Chuck (Shelia); two daughters, Becky and Chris (Bob) of Westland; her mother, Elizabeth Westland and grandchildren, Nathan, Noah, Nicholas, Hannah and Joey. Funeral service will be held Saturday, 3:00 pm from the Chapel of the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home with the Rev. David Dahlberg of New beginning officiating. Interment: Cremation.

SOCKOW

LESLIE JEAN, Age 78, Canton Twp., MI, died December 11, 2003 in Westland, MI. Jean was born Dec. 29, 1924 in Livonia, MI. She is survived by one son, Paul (Pam) Sockow of Canton MI; three grandchildren, Corie Cline-Smith of Plymouth, MI, Shelly (John) Dumphy of Westland, MI and Christopher Sockow of Canton, MI; three great-grandchildren, Bradley, Jacob and Joshua; one brother, Charles McKinney of Shelby Twp., MI and two sisters-in-law, Anita McKinney of Livonia, MI and Ardeth Sockow of Plymouth, MI. Leslie was a homemaker. She came to the Plymouth community in 1945 from Livonia, MI. She enjoyed ceramics & also sold Avon products for 20 yrs. She & her late husband, Robert Sockow had been married for 53 yrs. She was a loving Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother and Sister. Funeral service was held Saturday December 13, 2003 at 11:00 am at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home with Pastor Drex Morton officiating. Burial followed in Riverside Cemetery, Plymouth, MI. Memorials may be given to the American Lung Association.

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To submit an item for the Plymouth-Canton community calendar, mail it to 794 S. Main, Plymouth, MI 48170; e-mail it to burick@oe.homecomm.net or fax it to (734) 459-4224.

AROUND TOWN

Holiday Workshops

In co-operation with Canton Leisure Services, D&M Studio will be having its 17th-annual Christmas "Kids Only" fine art workshops and holiday all day paints workshops for children ages 6 and up. For more information, call (734) 453-3710.

Art Workshops

Ann Arbor Art Center offers a variety of workshops during at 1 p.m. Sundays during December. On Dec. 21, "Painters Choice." Select and glaze a pottery item. Call (734) 994-8004, Ext. 101, to register.

Musical Story Times

Evola Music Center presents Musical Story Times. Engaging songs, instrument play, playful stories and little feet moving in time to music. At 9:15 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, at the Plymouth Coffee Bean. Call (734) 455-4677 for further information.

Christmas Theater

"Christmas Bells are Ringing" will be performed live on stage at the newly renovated Marquis Theatre in beautiful downtown Northville, through Dec. 17. Come and enjoy an evening of Christmas Holiday entertainment with us. Call (248) 349-8110 for information.

Preschool Open House

Plymouth Children's Nursery located on Sheldon in Canton, is holding an Open House from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31, 2004. The school agrees and warrants that it will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on grounds of race, sex, color, religious creed, or national origin. Call (734) 455-6250 for further information.

Fish Fry

The Plymouth VFW is again featuring Friday Night Fish Fry for only \$7 from 5-7:30 p.m. Also, Sunday brunch is available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. the third Sunday of the month. The post is at 1426 S. Mill St.

Marquis Theatre

The "Wonderful Wizard of Oz" will be performed at the newly renovated Marquis Theatre in downtown Northville through Jan. 18. For ticket information or group rates, call (248) 349-8110.

Holiday Greenery

The Plymouth High School Pompon Squad is having a fund-raiser of fresh cut holiday greenery for your homes, businesses, gravesites, gifts, etc. To place an order, please call (734) 455-4318.

Basic Skating

The City of Plymouth Recreation Department offers classes through Dec. 20, every level. Each class is 25 minutes with additional 25 minutes of practice time at the Plymouth Cultural Center Ice Arena. Call (734) 455-6620.

Ext. 304, for further information.

Teens Using Drugs

A free, two-night series on identifying and helping teens harmfully involved with alcohol and other drugs. Part 1 "What to Know" is presented 7:30-9 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month from October through June at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center. Part 2 "What To Do" is presented the second Tuesday of each month October through June at same time and place. Call (734) 973-7892 for information.

Foster Care

Lutheran Social Services of Michigan is a foster care agency in the community that places children in loving foster homes. The agency is in need of loving and stable homes committed to parenting children ages 10 to 17 years old. Call (734) 971-5776 to find out how you can help.

Entertainment books

Plymouth Community Chorus is selling the 2004 Entertainment Books to help fund their musical scholarships and charitable activities. They can be ordered by calling (734) 459-6829.

Inline Roller Hockey Leagues

Skatin Station II in Canton is accepting registration. One game a week. Call (734) 459-6401 for more information.

Preschool Registration

The Plymouth Salvation Army is opening registration for its preschool programs for fall 2003. The 3-year-old program is on Tuesday and Thursday and the 4-year-old program runs Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For more information, call Peggy at (734) 459-1358 or (734) 453-5464, Ext. 25.

Fish Fry

Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center is again hosting an "All You Can Eat" Friday night fish fry or pasta dinner at the Fox Classic Clubhouse from 5-9 p.m. The cost is \$8.75 per person.

Storytime

Peggy Price Heiney presents a special story time for children ages 5-7. Stories, creative dramatics and book selection round out this monthly session at the Plymouth Library. Registration is required. Call (734) 453-0750 for further information.

Plymouth Symphony

Plymouth Symphony League is launching the 2004 Greater Detroit Area Entertainment Book Sale. The cost is \$30. Place your order at the Plymouth Symphony Office or call Mary Thomas at (734) 453-3016.

Recreation Registration

The City of Plymouth is now taking registration for its classes for all ages. Classes include gymnastics, dance, core body exercise, tots jump-a-rama, tae kwon do, personal development, aerobics, clogging, senior trips and programs and much more. Call (734) 455-6620 for more information.

CLUBS

DAR-Sarah Ann Cochrane Plymouth-Northville Chapter
Christmas Tea at 1 p.m. Dec. 15 at Greenmead,

Hill House in Livonia. The program is "Christmas in the White House" with speaker Sue Daniel. Any questions, call (734) 420-2775.

German/American Club of Plymouth

Meets on the third Thursday of the month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located at 39100 Schoolcraft Road, Plymouth. Call (734) 453-3966 for further information.

American Legion

Beasley-Zalesny Post 112 meets at the I.O.O.F. Hall on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. All veterans that served during any of the wars are eligible. Contact (734) 459-7324 for further information.

Woman's Farm and Garden Club-Plymouth

Meets every second Monday of each month from September to June, excluding January. Persons interested in joining, contact club president, Judy Krieman at (734) 459-1027.

Plymouth-Canton Civilian Club

Looking for energetic new members to participate in community service projects. This club meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Plymouth Salvation Army Building on Main Street. The third Thursday is a dinner meeting with a speaker. Call (734) 981-7259 for further info.

LBN

Local Business Network is a business networking organization dedicated to helping you grow your business. The Plymouth chapter meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. at Old Village Law located at 771 N. Mill in Plymouth. Please call Eric Morris at (313) 278-5070 or Scott Montgomery at (734) 462-2277 for further information.

Plymouth Optimists

Entertainment 2004 Books on sale with all proceeds to help children throughout southeast Michigan. Price is \$30 and is home delivered. Call Bill at (734) 453-8253.

Kiwanis Evening Club

Meetings are held at Atlantis Restaurant 39500 E. Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth, at 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, contact Charline Miller at (734) 455-4782.

Mothers & More

The Wayne County chapter of Mothers & More meets twice a month in Plymouth. Call (866) 841-9140, Ext. 4329, or visit Web site mother-sandmore63@onebox.com.

Exchange Club of Canton

Meetings are the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Roman Forum, 41601 Ford Road in Canton at 6 p.m. Areas of activity are Americanism, Community Service, Youth Activities and the Prevention of Child Abuse.

P/C Vietnam Vets of America

Chapter No. 528 meets every second Monday of the month at the Plymouth VFW Post No. 6695 on Mill Street, just north of Ann Arbor Road at 7:30 p.m.. If you were a U.S. serviceman or woman and served between 1964 and 1975, you can join the Vietnam Vets. Visit Web site www.geocities.com/tedenright/PlymouthCanto

nVVA528.html.

BNI Plymouth II

The Plymouth Chapter II BNI Group meets Wednesdays at 7 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant located at I-275 and Ann Arbor Road. The group is looking for new members. Call (734) 459-5696 for further information.

West Suburban Stamp Club

Meetings are 8 p.m. the first and third Fridays at the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main in Plymouth.

BPW

The Plymouth Business and Professional Women's Club meets the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Atlantis Restaurant on Ann Arbor Road. Guests are welcome. For more information and dinner reservations, contact Mary Brooks at (734) 420-0320.

SEPAC

Open to all residents of the Plymouth Canton community as well as school staff and administrators, SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Committee) meets 7-9 p.m. every second Monday of the month at Discovery Middle School in Canton. For additional information, contact Rich Ham-Kucharski, (734) 844-1714.

MOPS-Plymouth

The MOPS group is now enrolling for fall. Relaxing fun time for moms while the kids ages 0-5 enjoy program of games, stories, singing and play. Meets first and third Fridays of the month from 9-11 a.m. at Lake Pointe Bible Chapel, 42150 Schoolcraft, Plymouth. Call (734) 420-0515.

Colonial Kiwanis of Plymouth

The Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth meets at noon Thursdays at Ernesto's, 41661 Plymouth Road, Plymouth. Guests are welcome. For information call Ernie Hughes, membership chairman, (734) 414-0400.

MOPS-Westland

The group is looking for moms who are interested in meeting with other mothers for encouragement, teaching, support and friendship. Meetings are the first and third Fridays of each month from September through May. Child care provided for ages birth to 5 years. Call (734) 728-2600 for more information.

La Leche League

Breastfeeding information and support group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. For more information and meeting locations, contact Michelle at (734) 397-0197.

Canton Rotary Club

The Rotary meets at noon on Mondays at the Roman Forum in Canton on Ford Road. All guests are invited to join in for lunch for more information on the community and international service projects. For more information, e-mail Mary Beardsley at ExecSec@rotary6400.org.

Astronomy Discussion

Plymouth Library offers a free monthly Family Astronomy Discussion Group from 7-8 p.m. for both individuals and families with children 6 years and older. Door prizes, slides, video and handouts. Call Mike Best at (734) 459-2378.

MOMS Club

A local chapter of the MOMS Club welcomes interested at-home mothers in the Canton/Westland area to meet the third Tuesday of each month. MOMS Club offers weekly activities, playgroups, community service opportunities and more. For more information, contact Wendi at (734) 394-2542.

Plymouth Canton Jaycees

Looking for people 21-39 interested in making friends, helping with good causes and having a good time. The Jaycees meet at 7:30 p.m. every second Wednesday of the month at the Plymouth Township Clerk's office. Call (734) 453-8407 or show up at the group's monthly meeting.

Community Democrats

The Community Democratic Club meets at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month at UAW Local 845 Hall. Business meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. The club serves Canton, Northville, Plymouth and the Livonia 11th District. For further information, call Becky Tavarozzi at (734) 398-5845.

Kiwanis Breakfast Club

The Plymouth-Canton Kiwanis Breakfast Club meets 7 a.m. every Tuesday at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, Plymouth. Guests are welcome. Call Charr Briggs at (888) 209-6424.

BNI

The Canton II Chapter of Business Network International (BNI) meets 7-8:30 a.m. every Wednesday at Denny's, 7725 N. Wayne Road, Westland. The Laurel Park Chapter meets 7-8:30 a.m. at Archie's Family Restaurant on Plymouth Road, east of Merriman, Livonia. The Plymouth I Chapter meets every Thursday at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, Plymouth. The Livonia Chapter meets 7-8:30 a.m. at Senate Coney Island on Plymouth at Stark, Livonia. Call the BNI regional office at (810) 323-3800.

Mothers of Multiples

The Plymouth-Canton Mothers of Multiples Club meets 7 p.m. the third Monday of each month Call Ann Davis at (248) 449-9337, or e-mail to pcmoms@hotmail.com.

Human Rights Group

The Human Rights Group meets at 7 p.m. the first Sunday of the month at the Plymouth Coffee Studio, 600 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth. Call Paulette at (734) 416-9288 or Charlene at (734) 963-0649.

Plymouth Newcomers

Plymouth Newcomers is a social organization dedicated to helping people meet others in the community through its monthly meetings and variety of interest groups such as book discussions, children's playgroups, adult social outings, euche, and a baby-sitting co-op. Call Colleen Abb at (734) 455-1647.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer Training

First Step, the Western Wayne County Project on Domestic and Sexual Violence, is looking for volunteers. Call (734) 416-111, Ext. 202, for more information.

Happy Holidays from Westland Jewelry
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- Christmas Silver Gift Bars
- 2003 Proof & Mint Sets
- Assorted Silver & Gold
- Gold Bullion
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All Titles
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20% OFF ANY JEWELRY PURCHASE
While supplies last
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INTRODUCING HOPE.

"BlueHealthConnection® gives Blues' members a wealth of resources, including access to professional nurses who can offer advice, tips—and hope."

When a health condition suddenly changes your life, sometimes it's hard to know just where to turn or what to do. That's why we introduced BlueHealthConnection—our personalized health management program that offers members a variety of ways to help them take charge of their health care. It gives Blues' members the resources they need to navigate through health problems and lead better lives.

— *Ernie Harwell*

My friend Charlie was having so much trouble with his diabetes, he wasn't able to get his regular walks in. One thing led to another, and Charlie's health got worse and worse.

But as a member of the Blue Cross Blue Shield family, Charlie learned about BlueHealthConnection. Charlie got a call from a nurse named Hope. True to her name, she taught Charlie how to take better care of himself. The Blues gave Charlie hope—and Hope gave Charlie some health tips, so he could stay at work, keep off the operating table and start walking again.

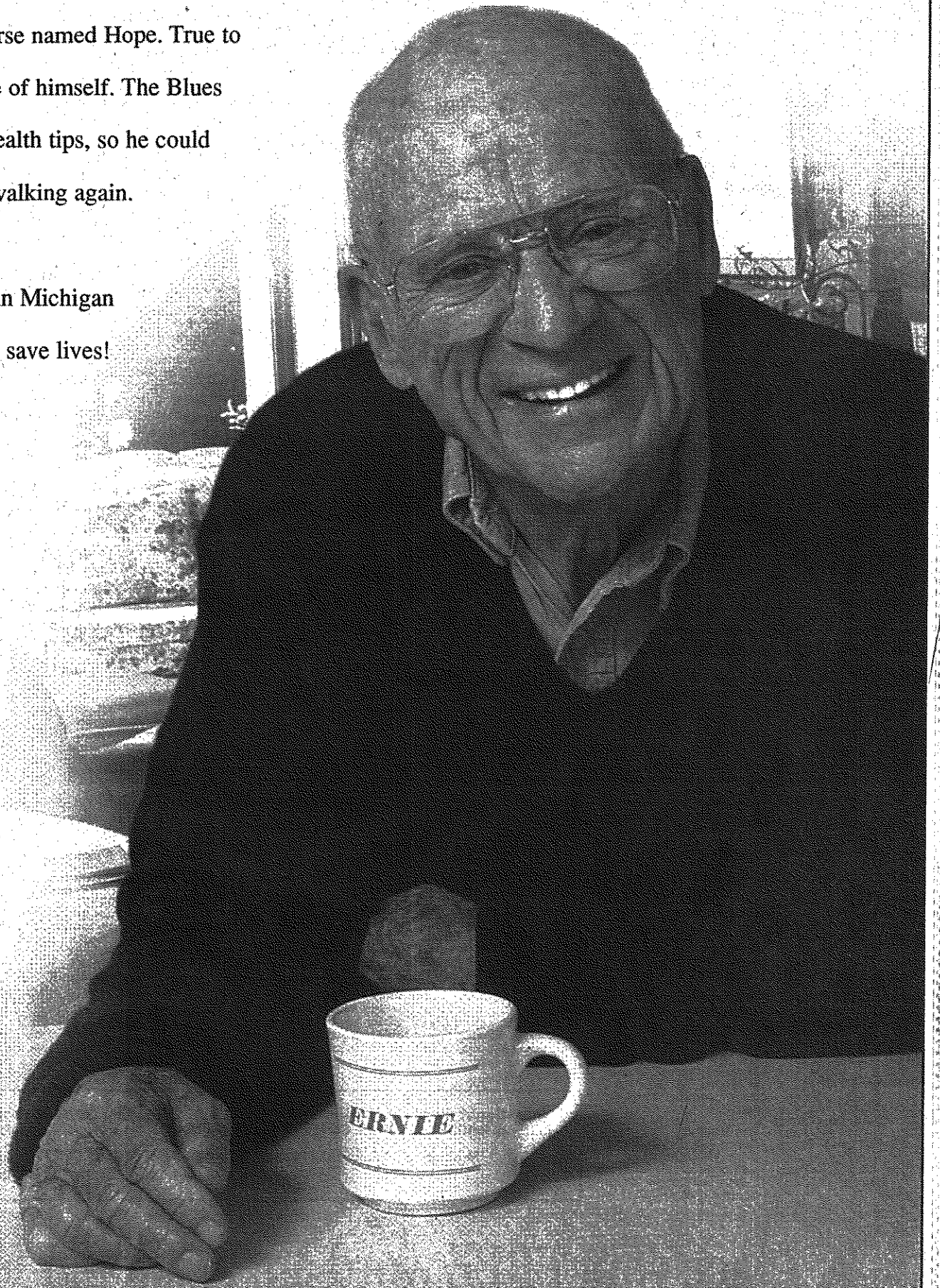
Isn't it great to know that we have a company here in Michigan that can save us money while they're helping others save lives!



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On stage

Clara (Lauren Cavicchio) is frightened by the battle between King Mouse and the Nutcracker Prince during the Plymouth Symphony/Plymouth-Canton ballet production of the holiday classic, 'The Nutcracker' at Salem High School last week.

Church serves dinner for those alone on Christmas Day

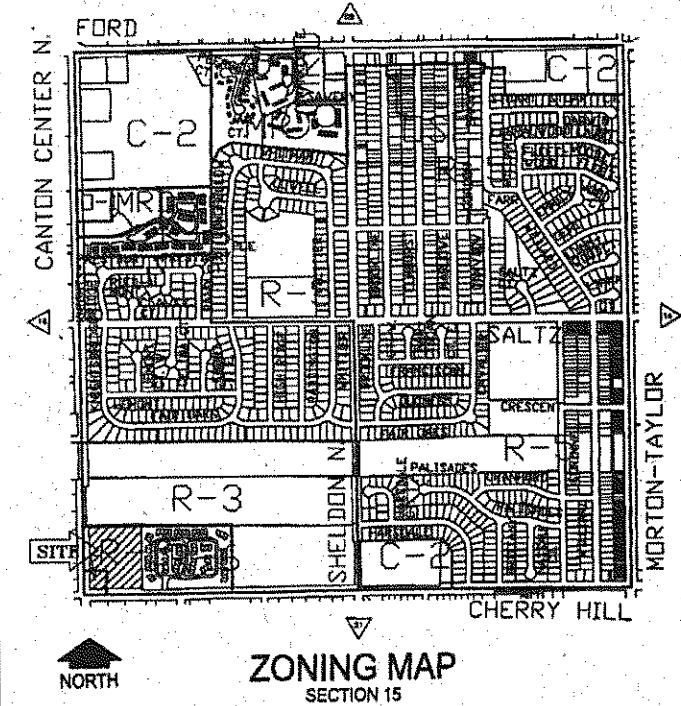
There is no reason to spend Christmas Day alone. Saint Dunstan Catholic Church is inviting anyone who is alone or doesn't have somewhere to go to spend the day with them. If you know someone who will be alone, tell them about the dinner which begins at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 25, at 1616 Belton Avenue in Garden City. Doors open at 1 p.m. There is no charge but reservations are necessary. Please call (734) 425-3282 to RSVP or for more information.

**PLANNING COMMISSION
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1943 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 5, 2004 in the **Chestnut Room, at Summit On The Park, 46000 Summit Parkway at 7:00 p.m.** on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance.

BROUCEKTOWNSHIP REZONING - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NOS. 059 99 0004 710, R-6, SINGLE-FAMILY ATTACHED RESIDENTIAL AND 059 99 0005 701 FROM R-3, SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (3 DWELLING UNITS/ACRE), TO C-2, COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL. Property is located at the northeast corner of Cherry Hill and Canton Center Roads.



Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Friday, December 26, 2003 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

Published: December 14, 2003 & January 1, 2004

**Read Taste
Thursday for great
recipes**

**PLYMOUTH TWP. PD
734-453-3869
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

Notice is hereby given that on 12/19/03 at 10 am at Mayflower Auto Transport, 1179 Starkweather, Plymouth, MI a public auction of the following:
1988 Chevrolet Caprice 1G1BU51H1JA137791

Published: December 14, 2003

**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

Published: December 14, 2003 & January 1, 2004

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what Christmas means**

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BEST YA HURRY AS HIS CUTOFF
DATE TO ORDER IS DECEMBER 21ST.

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FILET STEAK**

\$15.99 Lb.

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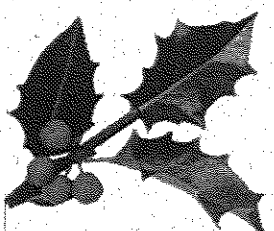
Why Pay \$17-19 Elsewhere

Rx briefs

Holidays

Holidays planned in the absence of someone dear can be a very difficult time. It's never easy to survive the holidays after losing a loved one.

"How do you plan for the holidays when a loved one is missing from the dinner table and you know their name will be whispered in conversation?" asked Linda Diehl, social worker and grief counselor for the



Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute Hospice.

"For one family, getting away from the holidays by taking a vacation may be the answer. For another, deciding not to celebrate the holidays could be viewed as a type of punishment during a time that requires great sensitivity. The key is to find the solution that is best for you and your family."

Different circumstances surround each family. This is reflective of how different families are and how unique a loss can be.

For more information about how to survive the holidays or ongoing support groups available through the Karmanos Cancer Institute Hospice, call (248) 827-1592.

Hazards lurk in play things

The mad rush is on to purchase toys and that worries Megan Owens. She says parents might want to take a look at PIRGIM's 18th annual Toy Safety Survey, "Trouble in Toyland," before heading out the door.

Owens, a field director for the Public Interest Research Group in Michigan, and Dr. Frank McGeorge, a doctor in the emergency center at Beaumont Hospital, released the survey in late November. The toys fail to meet requirements of the 1994 Child Protection Safety Act. The complete report is available at www.toysafety.net.

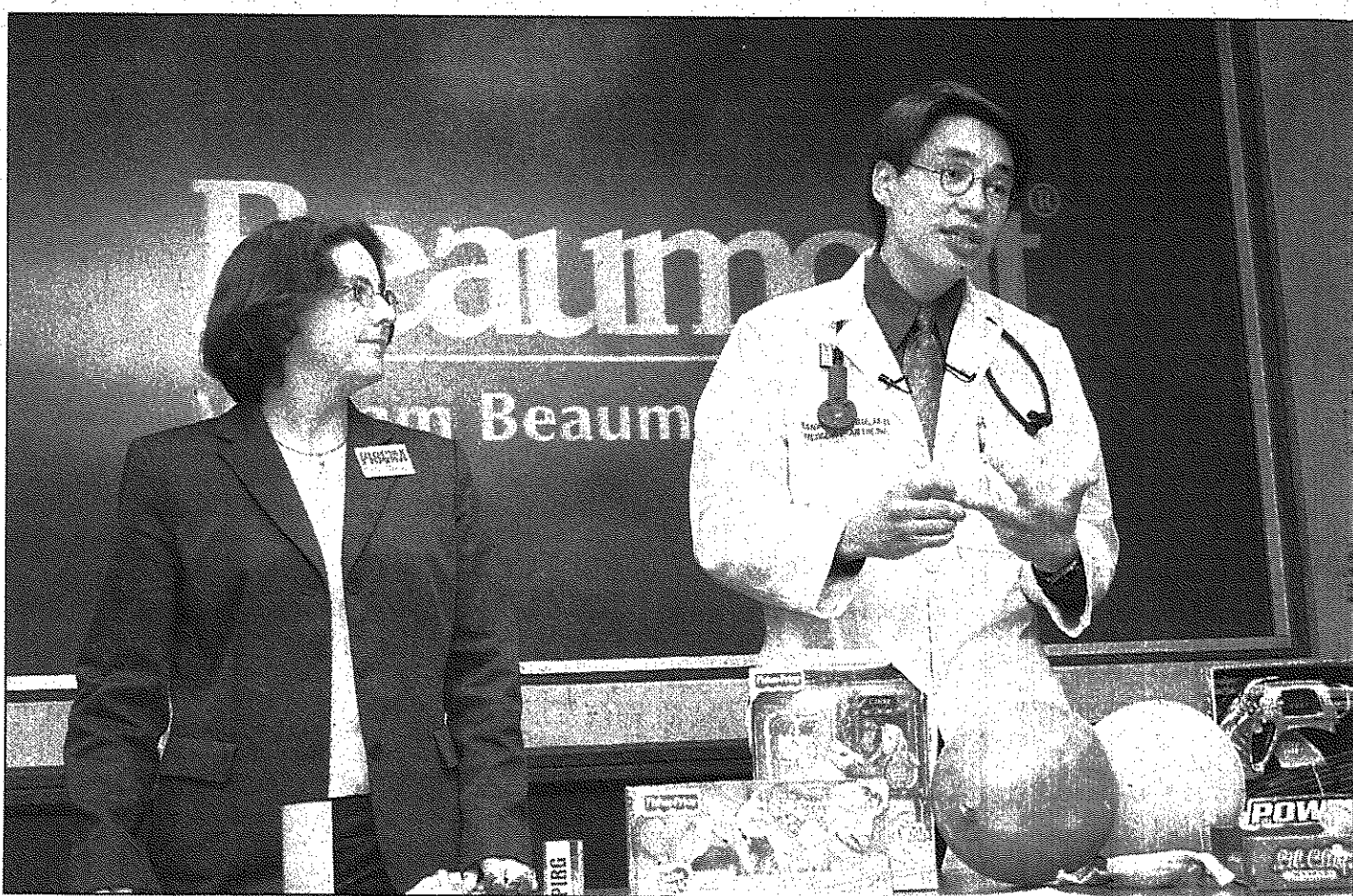
According to PIRGIM more than 212,000 people sought treatment in emergency rooms in 2002 for toy-related injuries. More than a third were under age 5.

CHOKING CONCERNS

"We found four primary hazards," said Owens. "Choking is No. 1 causing the most injuries and deaths. There are a lot of toys with small parts that children could choke on."

Owens pulls out the Fisher-Price Pony Parade for 5 to 6 year olds.

"If a younger child gets a hold of the carrot that comes with the pony, they could choke on it. It should have a warning label," said Owens. "A 1-3/4 inch ball can completely seal off a child's throat. There's a toilet paper roll guide we tell



PIRGIM field director Megan Owens released the consumer group's annual toy safety report during a press conference with Beaumont Hospital emergency room physician Frank McGeorge.

parents to use. If it fits inside the toilet paper roll, a child can choke on it."

Loud toys present another danger. Last month, the American Society for Testing and Materials came up with new standards for toys to protect children's hearing.

"It should create noise no louder than 90 decibels when held at 25 centimeters, about a child's arm length," said Owens. "A Hello Kitty cell phone was 102 decibels. Some toys you'd expect to be noisy

like a Battle Blaster gun, which at 25 centimeters was 94 decibels.

"It's common sense. If it's next to your ear and seems too loud, it is too loud for a child."

Common sense seems to be key to buying safely. The survey contains pictures of hazardous toys along with an explanation of the problem. Yo-Yo Water Balls, banned in several countries, bounce back very easily and have the potential to wrap tightly around children's necks and restrict circulation as well as cause injuries to eyes, faces and heads.

TOXIC TOYS

According to Owens some of the most shocking findings in the report were toxic hazards in toys. Owens pulls a little yellow rubber ducky from a shopping bag.

"It's 67 percent phthalates by weight," she said. "Phthalates make toys soft and chewy. They're used in everything from teething rings to books. With phthalates linked to disease, we don't want children chewing on them. Look for labels that say PVC free."

"The majority of manufacturers are making safety a priority but there are still some dangerous toys out there. One death is too many because these deaths are preventable."

Dr. Jodi Galdes knows first hand that toys don't always bring joy to children during the holidays. A doctor in the emergency center at St. Mary Mercy

Hospital in Livonia, she's seen frantic parents who bring in little ones choking on small parts.

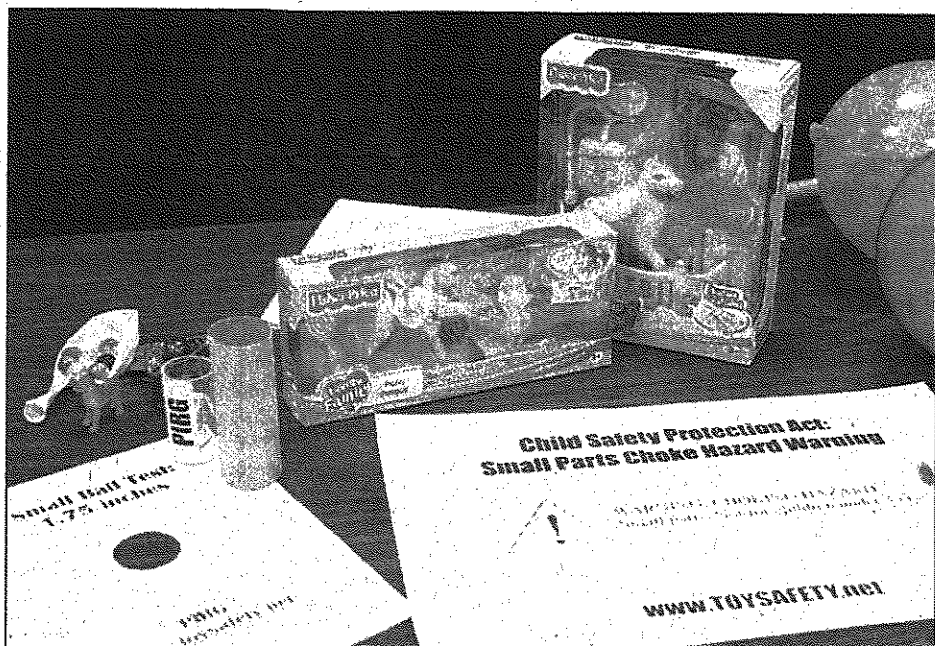
"Anything with small parts can harm a young child," said Dr. Galdes who grew up in Redford. "If a child inhales a toy, puts it up their nose, we have to remove them. Kids less than 3 try to pull apart things. They explore the world with their mouth. These are accidents where parents are right there. Children pick up things so quickly. It seems as soon as you come near them the instinct is to put whatever it is in their mouths."

Older siblings should make sure toys are put away so younger children don't get into them. The same for marbles.

Hazards seem to lurk everywhere. Crib toys with cords have strangled children. Older kids can sustain injuries from anything on wheels including skateboards and rollerblades.

Even with the safest toys, there's no substitute for an alert parent. Be cautious. Make sure to reduce the risks and keep an eye on children and how they're using toys.

"Without helmets or wrist protection, they risk fractures and head injuries. We see these children all year round so it isn't just the holidays. Medication is one thing though that concerns us during this time of year. Grandparents leave medication in their purses and the children take their medication when they've come in the house to visit."



The Fisher-Price Pony Parade (center) is among the toys on PIRGIM's unsafe list this holiday season.

www.depressioncenter.org

One of the biggest misconceptions about depression is that people who have it don't function well. In truth, even highly successful people unknowingly struggle with it. The University of Michigan Depression Center can help even if you're not sure you need help. And it's the only multi-disciplinary program of its kind in the country, so you can be sure you're starting in the right place. To learn more about depression and to take an online depression screening, visit www.depressioncenter.org. After all, even the most effective help can't start unless you know you need it.

OF ALL THE POSSIBLE SYMPTOMS OF DEPRESSION, THERE IS ONE THAT CAN BE ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS. Not knowing you need help.

M
University of Michigan
Health System
Knowledge Heals

Health officials release tips for preventing flu

A flu vaccination isn't the only way to prevent the flu. People can take other measures to avoid contracting the virus or lessen the disease's severity, according to the Wayne County Department of Public Health.

Since many health agencies have or expect to run out of influenza vaccines based on this season's high demand, Wayne County is reminding residents that increased personal hygiene and prescription drugs can also help combat flu.

For more information regarding influenza, contact the Wayne County Department of Public Health at (734) 727-7000.

"For persons who have not had the influenza vaccine, there are medications known as amantadine hydrochloride which can be prescribed by their health care provider," said Keith Tait, Disease Control Director for the Wayne County Department of Public Health. "The use of these drugs should be considered in non-immunized persons or groups at risk for complications, such as residents of institutions or nursing homes for the elderly. These drugs, however, only protect against influenza type A strains."

The health department recommends that everyone receive a flu shot, especially those individuals who are at increased risk - the very young, people over 50, and individuals with chronic disease conditions such as asthma, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

If someone is unable to be immunized against influenza through current and alternative medications, frequent hand-washing is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of infectious diseases including influenza.

"By frequently washing your hands, you are able to kill germs that you might have picked up from people or from contaminated surfaces," said Tait. "Hand-washing can help prevent not only influenza and colds, but it can prevent diseases like hepatitis A, infectious diarrhea and meningitis. Also, it is important to keep your hands from your face, cover your mouth when you cough and sneeze and avoid people with colds and flu if possible."

The health department recommends washing your hands before eating, after using the bathroom, changing children's diapers, before and after preparing foods, and more frequently when someone is sick

in your home.

The 2003-2004 flu season is nothing to sneeze at with early predictions from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cautioning people to get vaccinated as quickly as possible. According to the CDC, although early in the season, flu viruses are circulating at a higher level than usual and a strain of influenza is circulating that in previous years has resulted in numerous people becoming ill. Annually 36,000 people die from the flu and its complications.

The Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan is offering flu shots and nasal vaccine, FluMist, by appointment at its office, 25900 Greenfield, Suite 600, in Oak Park. Shots are \$17, FluMist \$65. VNA also offers homebound service. For an appointment, call (248) 967-8752. For more information visit the Web site at www.vna.org or call the Hot Line at (800) 296-8660.

Immunizations will also be available at VNA public clinics 1-3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15, at Kroger, 65 S. Livernois, Rochester, and noon to 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, at Kroger, 1905 Canton Center Road, Canton.

Holiday depression strikes senior citizens

Depression is never normal at any age. The holidays however, can be an especially troublesome time for older adults.

Seniors, their families, friends, and caregivers need to be sensitive to coping with depression around this time of the year.

The holiday season is traditionally a time to gather with family and friends and reflect upon the past while toasting the New Year ahead. For the elderly, the holidays can be an emotional time that can lead to depression.

"It's important to remember that events and traditions associated with the holidays can often trigger a heightened awareness of losses and limitations in older adults, resulting in the emergence or worsening of depression symptoms," said Dr. Albert Bayer, a geriatric psychiatry expert in private practice, serves as clinical coordinator for MPRO, Michigan's Health Care Quality Improvement Organization.

"Depression is not a normal part of aging, nor is it a natural reaction to changes associated with aging," stressed Bayer. "Families need to be in tune to the emotional needs of loved ones. When symptoms of depression are effectively

'Support is necessary. Be persistent until you get to the source of the problem.'

Vicki Boyle
registered nurse

acutely the passing of time, the absence of loved ones who have passed away and the distance of children who may have moved away," said Vicki Boyle, an RN employed by MPRO. Boyle is project manager for a special study on depression in the elderly.

"If someone suspects a senior in their life is depressed, the best gift of all is seeking help for that individual," said Boyle. First steps are important. Talk to the senior and see if you can figure out what's bothering them. Encourage them to see a physician. If they are apprehensive, go with them. An illness can trigger depression.

If the senior is in a nursing home, talk to the staff.

"Support is necessary. Be persistent until you get to the source of the problem," stressed Boyle.

The experts concur that depression is not an inevitable part of growing old. Depression is treatable. For questions on senior mental health see your physician. For information or questions on senior health care topics visit MPRO online at www.mpro.org.

recognized, they are typically very sensitive to appropriate treatment."

Some of the more common symptoms of depression in seniors include persistent sadness, withdrawal from regular social activities, slowed thinking or response, starting off into space, lack of energy or interest in things that were once enjoyable, weight changes or changes in sleep patterns, and inability to concentrate.

"We all experience an influx of emotions around the holidays, but it's important to remember that older adults may feel more

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

DECEMBER

Food and blanket drive

Until Dec. 23, Kramer Chiropractic is holding a food and blanket drive for underprivileged families. Bring in two blankets or one full bag of non-perishable groceries to 33481 Eight Mile at Farmington, Livonia and receive a \$150 Kramer Chiropractic certificate to use for yourself or give as a gift. For more information, call (248) 615-1533.

H.O.P.E. Luncheon

A luncheon to honor Troy Beaumont physician Dr. Joseph Meerschaert for all he does for those with disabilities 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the West Bloomfield Library, 4000 Walnut Lake Road. For information, call (248) 344-4063.

Healthy cooking classes

Classes include candy making the healthy way, desserts, and breads and loaves. Call (734) 261-2856 or visit www.macroval.com.

Sharing & Caring

All are welcome at a series of lectures presented by Sharing & Caring in the first floor conference room at Beaumont Cancer Center, 3577 W. 13 Mile at Woodward, Royal Oak. Sharing & Caring offers educational programs for breast cancer survivors, their family and friends. The series runs weekly through Dec. 18. To have a schedule mailed to your home, call (248) 551-8585. Prior to meeting, call (248) 551-8588 for schedule change information.

Women's fitness class

Women: Be Fit and Fabulous offers a variety of exercises - aerobics for cardiovascular health, strength training for muscle tone, easy yoga for flexibility and relaxation. Botsford Center for Health Improvement, 39750 Grand River, between Haggerty and Meadowbrook, Novi. For information, call (248) 477-6100.

Red Cross safety courses

Continue with CPR/Standard first aid with AED (automated external defibrillation) and Infant/Child CPR at the Livonia Service Center, 36650 Five Mile, call (734) 542-0442 or visit www.semredcross.org, and Bloomfield Service Center, 2388 Franklin road, call (248) 322-2500. Among the offerings are CPR review, CPR for the professional rescuer (and review), First aid/CPR/AED instructor, and nurse assistant training. Costs vary.

Volunteers wanted

SandCastles, a grief support program for children, teens and their families

offered through the Hospices of Henry Ford Health System, seeks volunteers for its sites in Southfield, Rochester, Clinton Township, Detroit, St. Clair Shores, and Downriver. SandCastles provides a supportive environment for children and teens, ages 3-18, and their families who have experienced the death of a loved one. The free meetings are held bi-weekly, and families are encouraged to participate for as long as they need support for their grief.

To register for training or for more information, call (313) 874-6881.

Fitness classes

Botsford Center for Health Improvement in Novi is offering exercise programs to people with chronic diseases and disorders such as osteoporosis, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis or other chronic illness. Ongoing classes include Bones in Motion, a program of monitored exercise and nutrition counseling to promote bone health for people with osteoporosis, and Kinetics, a low-intensity program to increase flexibility and strength for those with musculoskeletal or endurance limitations. Exercises are performed while in standing, sitting or lying positions. For more information, call (248) 473-5600.

Therapeutic group

Feeling sad, lonely, empty? You are not alone. Here is an opportunity to share in a therapeutic setting with other women who feel the same way. The Madonna University Psychological Services Clinic is offering this unique experience 7-8:30 p.m. Sundays through Jan. 11. Cost is \$15 per session. Call (734) 432-5771.

Flu shots

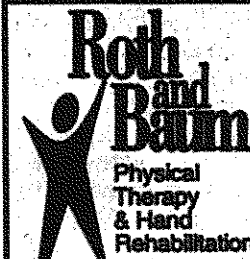
FluMist nasal vaccine is being offered by appointment at Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's Oak Park office for \$60. VNA accepts cash, check or Medicare Part B. For more information, call (800) 882-5720, VNA's flu hot line at (800) 296-8660, or visit www.vna.org.

UPCOMING

Michigan Thyroid Support Group
Meets 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12, with speaker Dr. Clinton Greenstone, director of Alternative Medicine at Oakwood Hospital, speaking at 7 p.m. Dr. Greenstone will talk about how he treats thyroid disease. The meeting is at the Plymouth Library, 223 S. Main. For information, call (734) 453-7945.

Read Taste Thursday

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"The entire practice is user friendly, unlike the large physical therapy 'mills."
-M.H.-Dearborn
"I have returned other times since then for various forms of therapy and my doctors and my family are as pleased with the progress I have made as I am."
-S.T.-Canton

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www.schoolcraft.edu

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www.condensedcurriculum.com

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18829 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: (248) 478-7860



RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND THE FEET

You may consider rheumatoid arthritis as a condition that afflicts the hands. Possibly, you have seen people whose hands fan outwards, called ulnar drift, and whose fingers take on an odd and gnarled appearance. You may have noted that not only the fingers but the hand is positioned awkwardly because the arthritic person's wrists can rarely move.

Drastic change to the hands is only half of what rheumatoid arthritis is about. The feet are just as involved, at times more than the hands. A person with rheumatoid arthritis is likely to tell you that the first realization of having the condition came on getting up in the morning. It felt like walking on marbles.

The reason for this particular reaction is that rheumatoid arthritis, early in its course, attacks the feet. The foot may be inflamed even before the hand. The site of inflammation is the balls of the feet, anatomically called the metatarsal heads.

The point of attack is the ligaments that keep the balls of the feet in place and lined up to each other. The effect of the arthritis on the ligaments is to weaken them. In turn, the metatarsal heads drop causing a dislocation that you would feel as walking on stones or marbles.

This feature of rheumatoid arthritis is particular to it, and allows a doctor to make a diagnosis without taking blood tests, and not waiting for the months needed for the x-ray changes to confirm that the metatarsal heads indeed have dropped.

www.drjweiss.yourmd.com

Old Moravian Lovefeast December 21 7:00 p.m.

The Metropolitan United Methodist Church invites you to their 29th Annual Old Moravian Christmas Lovefeast.

The Christmas Story is told in Scripture, anthems and carols, followed by the serving of a Moravian bun and water. The Festival of Lights with candle lighting of Moravian beeswax candles completes

this family Christmas event.

Admission is Free
Supervised, Free
Parking is Available
Call 313.875.7407
Ext. 301 for more
information



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A. There is now a very affordable option (\$89 for an entire family) for you to receive comprehensive health medical and dental benefits. Since this is not insurance there are no medical questions or exams so anyone can qualify. This plan is excellent for individuals and families as well as employers and employees.

Let me introduce you to "A New Dimension" in healthcare. A healthcare benefit savings plan that offers hospital, doctor, prescriptions, dental, accident, vision, chiropractic, hearing and much more. Along with these fantastic savings benefits members will also receive SIX fully insured benefits including a \$2000 Accident Benefit, a \$1000 Dental Benefit to ANY dentist nationwide. A \$10,000 Accidental Death Benefit, a \$4,000 Emergency Helicopter Benefit, and Outpatient Physical Benefit that will give a \$25 reimbursement for Doctor visits and finally a Hospital Indemnity Benefit.

All of these benefits are only \$89 per month for an entire family.

Members of this fantastic benefit savings plan have access to over 3500 hospitals nationwide as well as over 400,000 doctors and specialists.

Also, since this is not insurance there will be no pre-existing condition exclusions or limitations, no deductibles and no waiting periods. Even pregnancy, heart problems, diabetes, cancer or individuals with any type of medical history can qualify.

To enroll for this comprehensive healthcare plan call:

1-800-850-5721
Phones are answered 24/7



Showtime!

The Livonia Youth Theatre casts of 'Charlie Brown Christmas' and 'Christmas Magic' pose for photos before rehearsal. The shows run 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, (lunch at noon), and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, (lunch at 1 p.m.), at Livonia Mall, Seven Mile and Middlebelt, entrance G. The cost is \$7 for show, \$10 with lunch of hot dog, chips and drink. Also on the marquee is 'Miracle on 34th Street' which runs 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 and 20, and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 and 21. Tickets are \$8, \$6 seniors and students.



Patio, ramp aid disabled

Wheelchair-bound consumers at New Horizons Rehabilitation Services, Inc. will have an easier time getting to the company's outdoor picnic area, thanks to a collaboratively constructed patio and ramp.

The City of Novi, Detroit Cement Masons Apprentice Program Local 514, Superior Materials Inc, Michigan Skid Loader and Take it Away Hauling worked together with Mark A. Jacoby, branch manager of the Novi New Horizons and Beverly Colwander, development director, to make this project possible.

"Every year, our Novi site is very fortunate to receive a donation from Josephine Stack to be used for repairs and upgrades at the Novi Branch," said Jacoby. "In the spring of 2002 that money was used to purchase two wheelchair accessible picnic tables."

Unfortunately, the picnic tables were in the front yard and it was difficult to get the

'Every year, our Novi site is very fortunate to receive a donation from Josephine Stack to be used for repairs and upgrades at the Novi Branch.'

Mark A. Jacoby
New Horizons

wheelchairs to them. Colwander contacted George Fillar from the Cement Masons who agreed that he and the Local 514 apprentices would donate services and materials for the patio and make alterations to the sidewalks so consumers would have direct access to the tables instead of coming through the parking lot/driveway.

Superior Materials Inc. donated construction materials, Michigan Skid Loaders brought in their machinery and Take it Away Hauling took away some of the debris.

By November, everything and everyone came together - the City of Novi, area businesses and employees of New Horizon, who all worked diligently to get this patio built.

"This community-business collaboration made it possible for the consumers of New Horizons Rehabilitation Inc. to benefit in what many people take for granted, the chance to go out doors and enjoy sitting at a picnic table at lunch time," Jacoby said.

New Horizons, a private, non-for-profit organization, provides a wide array of vocational and other rehabilitation services to people with disabilities as well as those with other barriers to employment. For information, visit www.NewHorizonsRehab.org or call (248) 340-0559.

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Hickory Hills Boneless Ham

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lb

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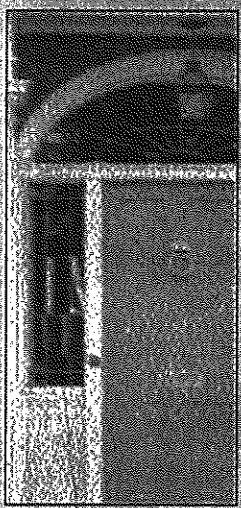
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Avoid costly heating bills this winter

Many homeowners around the country may be the victims of sticker shock when they open their heating bills this winter.

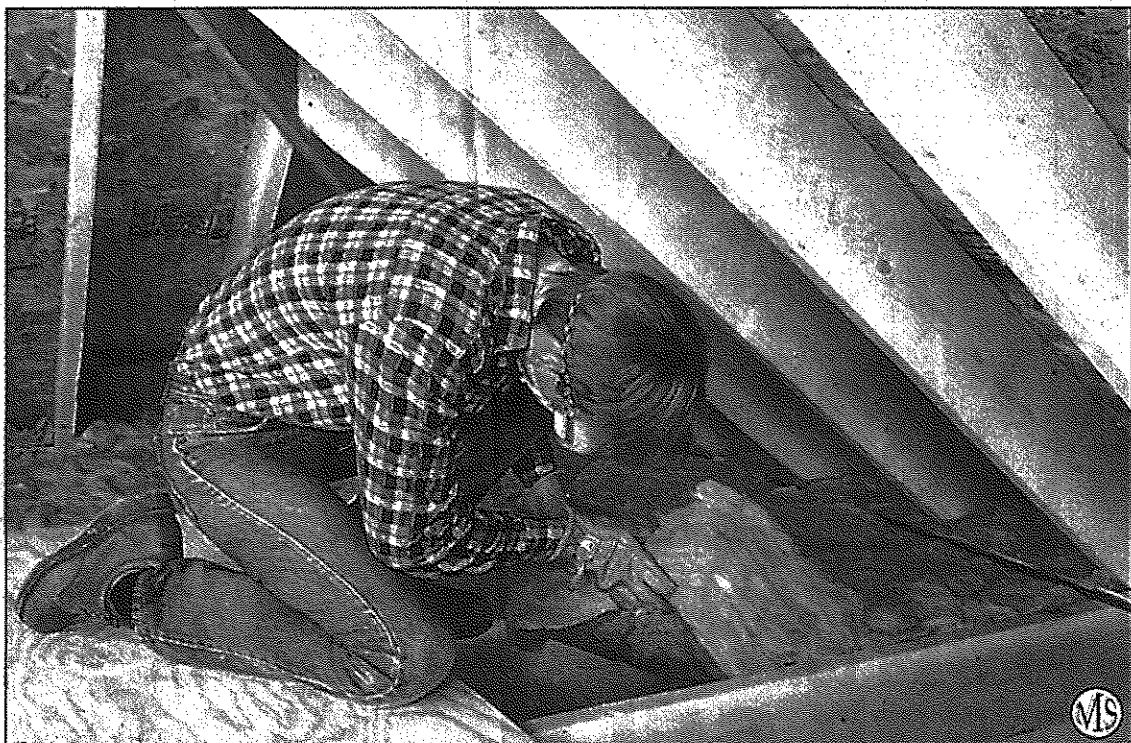
In fact, the U.S. Energy Information Administration is predicting that heating bills this year are likely to be much higher than last year due to projected increases in natural gas prices. With the majority of homes in North America using natural gas as the primary source of heat, the reality of the high cost of heating may burn a hole in many homeowners' pockets.

"However, homeowners may be surprised to learn that making a few simple energy-saving home improvements can help trim energy expenses - allowing them to spend their money elsewhere," said Tim Grether, Technical Services Manager at Owens Corning.

On the heels of an expensive winter heating season last year, it's important for homeowners to understand how to keep these costs from eating into their wallets. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, checking a home's insulating system is one of the easiest and most cost-effective ways to help save energy and, therefore, reduce energy costs.

R-VALUE

Understanding the R-value of the insulation is very important. R-value refers to insulation's resistance to heat flow. The higher the insulation's R-value, the



One of the best ways to lower energy bills and keep homes warmer is to make sure there's enough insulation in the attic. The thicker the insulation is in the attic, the less likely it is that heat will be able to escape through the top of the home.

greater its insulating power. Tiny air pockets trapped in the insulating material resist the passage of heat - heat gain in the warm summer months, and heat loss in the colder fall and winter seasons.

R-value recommendations vary by location. Homeowners can look into the recommended R-values for their geographic area and make sure that their home's insulating system meets the standards by visiting www.owenscorning.com.

Not only does insulation help

keep the house warm by reducing the escape of interior heat, it also helps slow the process of summer heat entering the home, which helps keep the inside cool and lessens the need for continuous air-conditioning.

"One of the best ways to keep heated or cooled air from escaping the home is by making sure it is properly insulated," said John Pagano, Vice President and General Manager of Residential Insulation at Owens Corning. "A properly insulated

and weatherized home can lower heating and cooling bills by as much as 30 percent. Over the lifetime of a home, that money can mean substantial savings for the homeowner."

TAKE ACTION

Adding insulation is just one way to significantly reduce heating bills. There are also other things homeowners can do to keep their utility bills manageable:

■ Install a programmable thermostat - A programmable thermostat can automatically lower and raise a home's air temperature when homeowners are at work or sleeping. If used appropriately, the energy savings can help offset the costs for a programmable thermostat in less than one year.

■ Change furnace filters frequently - Homeowners can improve the energy efficiency of their heating and cooling systems by cleaning air registers, baseboard heaters and radiators as needed and changing forced air heating system air filters monthly. An alternative to swapping the replacement filter is to use washable filters (around \$20 each). With care, they can last up to five years.

■ Plug drafts - The exterior of the house is the first line of defense against drafts - so caulking, sealing and weather-stripping around all seams, cracks and openings is important. Pay special attention around windows and where siding or bricks and wood trim meet. Homeowners can also reduce drafts from the inside by sealing areas near electrical boxes and plumbing penetrations.

"Air that escapes through ceilings, walls and floors can account for over 10 percent of your energy bill, so making sure that the drafts are plugged and the insulation is adequate is essential to keeping your home comfortable and your money in your wallet," said Grether.

Group urges U.S. government to pursue free trade in lumber

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

American Consumers for Affordable Homes strongly believes that the U.S. government must consider the economic impact of any proposal related to current duties imposed on Canadian softwood lumber imports into the U.S. before they con-

sume to push the burden caused by lumber companies onto the backs of first-time homebuyers, seniors and other Americans who pay the cost for lumber duties.

The group argues that the proposal announced by the Department of Commerce will significantly harm U.S. consumers to the benefit of domestic

lumber producers and landowners.

The U.S. now imports 34 percent of its lumber from Canada to meet domestic needs. If consumers cannot have duty-free lumber from Canada, we will be obligated to import it from other countries that are not penalized by duties. American Consumers for Affordable

Homes says we should have open trade in lumber between the U.S. and our most important trading partner, Canada.

More than 100 bi-partisan members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have called on the Bush administration over the past three years to end its challenge to Canada.

OPEN HOUSES OF THE WEEK



OPEN SUNDAY 2:00-5:00

3019 Chewton Cross • Bloomfield Village
(North off Maple on Chewton to Chewton Cross)

Completely Renovated!

Quality abounds in the details of this newly renovated home in Bloomfield Village!! A custom designed floor plan features a lovely two story foyer, high ceilings, hardwood floors and custom trim work. The top of the line kitchen includes custom cabinetry, granite counter tops and a breakfast area with french doors. It opens to a large family room, also with french doors, and with a fireplace. There is a butlers pantry off of the dining room.

The master suite is spectacular. It features a cathedral ceiling and a two way fireplace to the master bath. The bath has a jetted tub and separate shower and granite counter tops. There are his and her walk-in closets, and a bonus office or exercise room.

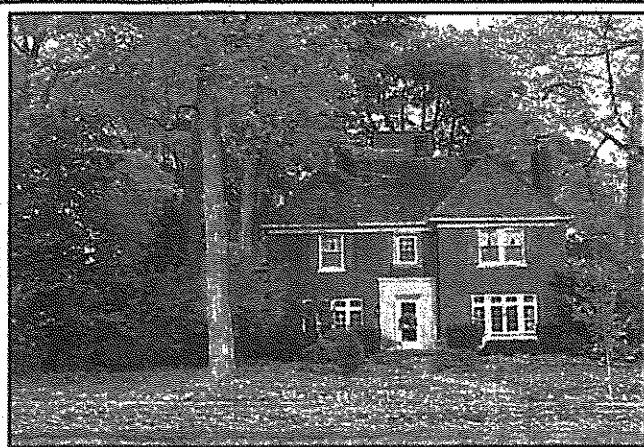
The basement has been finished, and has a kitchenette. There are 4 bedrooms, 3 baths and two half baths. This home is completely done and ready to move into!

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This lovingly updated vintage home offers over 3,800 sq. ft. with large rooms for family living and entertaining. The newer kitchen w/custom cabinetry is loaded with all the extras, plus a huge breakfast room. The Living Room has a beautiful fireplace, mantel, and HW floors. A lovely Formal Dining Room with French Doors. This home also includes a wonderful Family Room, Music Room, 6 large Bedrooms-an office/Library, 3 full

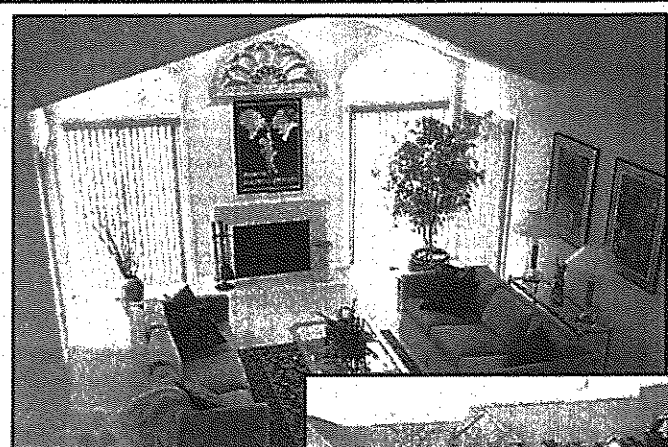
baths-lav, finished Basement, and an attached 3 car garage. A third floor walk up attic, has spacious storage, or could be finished for additional sq. footage.

This gracious home has two staircases. The main staircase is from the gracious front entrance. The back staircase has both an entrance from the kitchen or a separate entrance from the outside. This offers possibilities for an au-pair, in-law suite, or home office. The back yard is very private, with woods and relaxing brick patio.

The home is situated across the street from a park, and tennis courts in a lovely neighborhood. It would be difficult today to duplicate this beautiful Brick home with all its many amenities and at this price it is truly a special offering. \$949,000.

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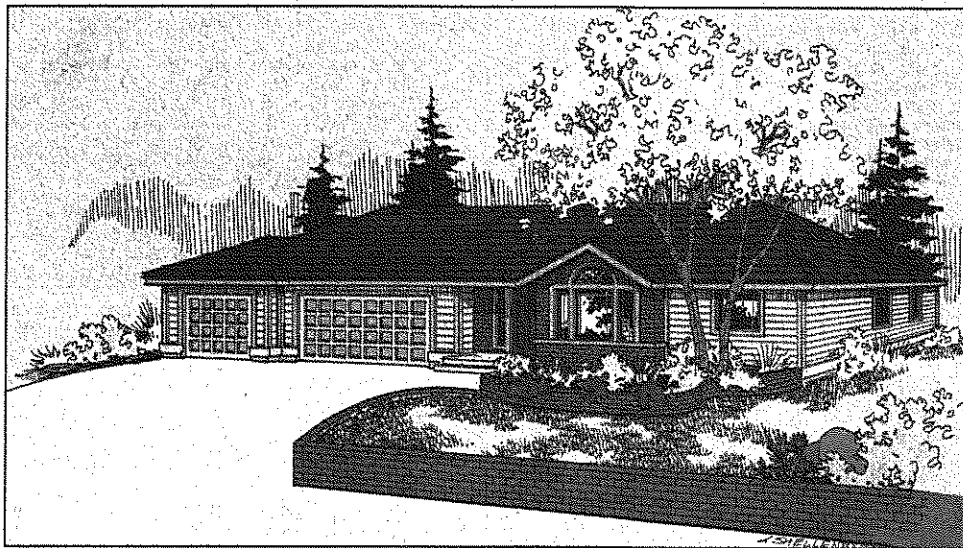
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Spacious Esquire has lots of nice features

A brick and wood facade hides the large three-car garage and open living space of the contemporary Esquire. Regular windows are accented by a half moon overhead. The covered porch leads to a front door with two long windows surrounding it.

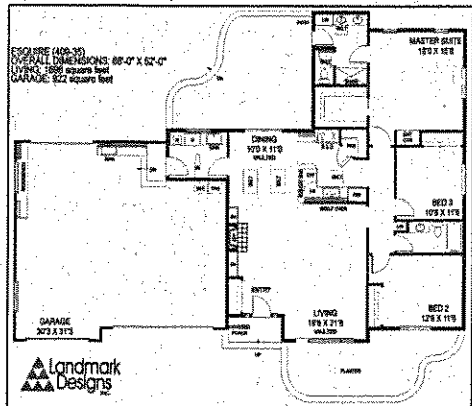
Guests will be pleased with the openness of this home. The living room and dining rooms are both vaulted and open to each other. There is a gas fireplace on the left wall halfway between the two rooms. A long shelf over the fireplace is ideal for displaying dishes, collectibles or other family treasures. Two large skylights bathe the dining area with extra light.

To the right of the dining room is a large kitchen. The range/oven is adjacent to a corner walk-in pantry, while on the wall opposite are the refrigerator, dual sinks, a lazy Susan and dishwasher. An eating bar faces the dining room.

UTILITY ROOM

To the left of the dining room is the utility room. It has a very large, deep sink, washer/dryer and a built-in ironing board. Through this room is the door to the garage. There are two workbenches on the walls, along with another deep sink. A pass through garage door in the rear allows one to drive a vehicle completely through the garage area.

The entire right side of the Esquire is bedrooms. Bedroom two and three are large. Each has a walk-in closet, large win-



dows and full bath between. The master suite is very open with a large walk-in closet and an open master bath. There is an oversized shower with a private stall, as well as dual sinks and a linen closet. To provide extra light, two skylights have been added.

The total square footage for this spacious home is 1,696 square feet. It is ideal for a first-time buyer or an empty nester.

For a study plan, including scaled floor plan(s), elevations, section(s), and an artist rendering, send \$24.95 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Road E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424. Please specify plan name (ESQUIRE) and the number (409-35). A catalog featuring hundreds of home plans is available for \$12.95, or save by ordering both for \$29.95. For faster processing, call (800) 562-1151 or visit www.landmarkdesigns.com.

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Canton

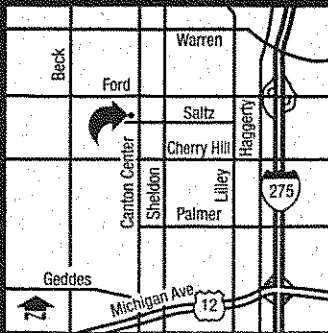
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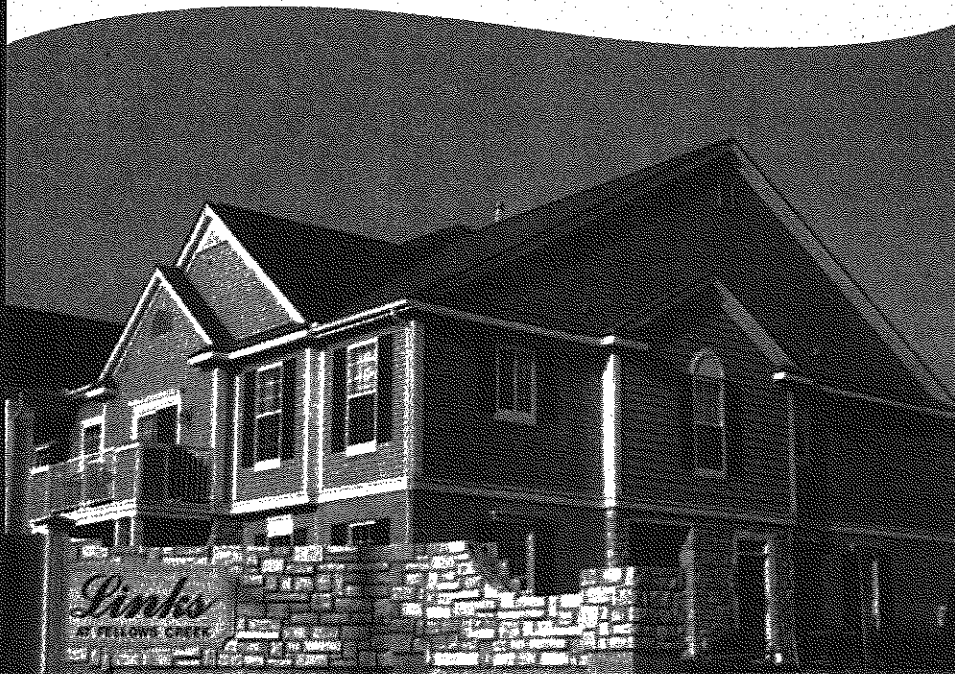
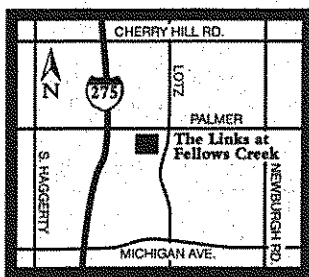
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FALL PREVIEW OF **Old World Charm** IN CANTON
BEAUTIFUL ALL-BRICK 2 & 3 BEDROOM RANCH AND TOWNHOME CONDOMINIUMS
Scenic landscaping and pond views decorate this lovely community complete with a brand new clubhouse featuring an inviting swimming pool and large social suite.



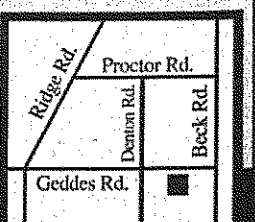
VILLAS PREVIEW PRICED FROM \$190's

With floor plans up to 1,835 square feet, the delightful Villas are the ultimate in style and convenience, showcasing attached 2-car garages, gourmet kitchens, first-floor laundries, full basements, luxurious master suites, ceramic tile in baths and more. Special upgrades available in select plans include three-way fireplaces and cathedral ceilings.



MANORS PREVIEW PRICED FROM \$150's

Featuring floor plans up to 1,655 square feet, the Manors' quaint design includes a host of wonderful amenities such as attached 1-car garages, kitchens complete with all appliances, first-floor laundries with washer/dryer, balconies or covered porches, spacious master suites, ceramic tile in baths and more. Fireplaces and cathedral ceilings are standard features in many homes.



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All information contained herein was accurate at the time of publication. In order to maintain the high degree of quality and incorporate management with greater facility and economy, we reserve the right to make changes in price, specifications, materials, or to change or discontinue models without notice or obligation. Floor plan dimensions are approximate. Alexander Bequette & Associates, 2003.

Observer & Eccentric Real Estate

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

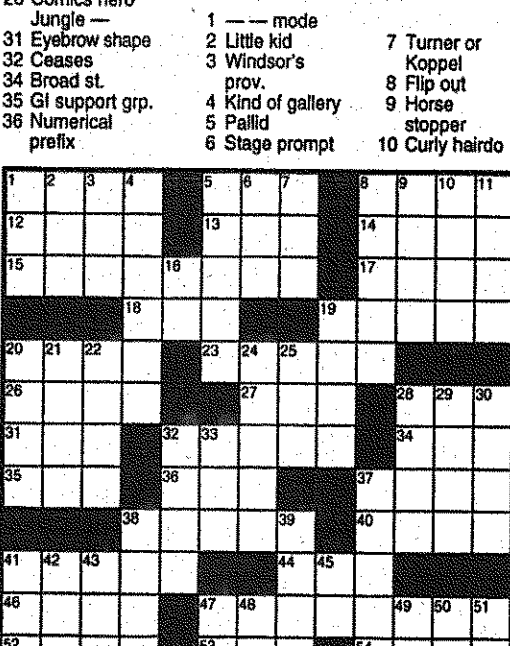
ACROSS

- 1 Spin like
- 5 Feign
- 8 Herr's spouse
- 12 Only
- 13 Hire a lawyer
- 14 Sports "zebras"
- 15 Like some garages
- 17 Limerick locale
- 18 Glasgow turnaround
- 19 Country estate
- 20 Light brown
- 23 Kim — of "Vertigo"
- 26 Clubs, e.g.
- 27 Natural resin
- 28 Comics hero
- 31 Eyebrow shape
- 32 Ceases
- 34 Broad st.
- 35 GI support grp.
- 36 Numerical prefix
- 37 In charge of
- 38 Entered data
- 40 Soothe
- 41 Cooks too long
- 44 — Claire, Wis.
- 46 Great Lakes state
- 47 Ant seeker
- 52 Tulip source
- 53 Rights-movement word
- 54 Plump and juicy
- 55 — So Cold!
- 56 Go by swiftly
- 57 Samms of "General Hospital"

DOWN

- 1 — mode
- 2 Little kid
- 3 Windsor's prov.
- 4 Kind of gallery
- 5 Pallid
- 6 Stage prompt
- 7 Turner or Koppel
- 8 Flip out
- 9 Horse stopper
- 10 Curly haired
- 11 Opportunist
- 16 S.F. location
- 19 Rain slicker
- 20 Rebekah's son
- 21 Strays
- 22 Wealthy, in Madrid
- 24 Kukla's pal
- 25 Large tank
- 28 Diner coffee
- 29 Courier and —
- 30 Insignificant
- 32 Shades
- 33 Whichever
- 37 Hors d'
- 38 Door openers
- 39 Triple Crown race
- 41 Nose jobs
- 42 Slang refusal (hyph.)
- 43 Peeve
- 45 Teaser
- 47 Politico
- London
- 48 Run a fever
- 49 Purpose
- 50 LP speed
- 51 Green parrot

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Livonia 3250

MOVE RIGHT IN! 3 Bed., 1 bath brick ranch, in the heart of Livonia, landscaping, roof, windows, cement, garage, carpet, paint, electrical, finished bsmt. Interior/exterior doors, kitchen & bath, all updates have been done. Must See! Open House Sat. & Sun. 1-4, 30919 Robert Drive, \$179,000. Call Now! 734-525-8434

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Lovely 4 bed cape cod nestled on a private setting. 3 1/2 baths, kitchen w/ granite counter, finished bsmt & 2 car garage. \$334,900 (65DAR) **CENTURY 21 ROW (734) 464-7111**

Northville 3280

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Plymouth 3347

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ROCHESTER Why rent? This 3 bedroom starter home has lots of updating, newer appliances, and beautiful finished basement \$99,500.

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DEARBORN HEIGHTS - Hawthorne Hills sub, 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, finished basement, 10x14 Florida room, 2 car side entry garage. All new items: roof, windows, furnace with air conditioning, hot water heater, kitchen. All appliances stay. Call Mike Judge \$149,900 (B8600) 734-591-9200x155

NORTHVILLE-21228 Glen Haven, N. of 8 Mile, W. of Meadowbrook Imm. occ. 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath with all appliances included. New berber carpet, fresh paint, large laundry room, 1 car garage, finished basement! Call Derek Bauer www.localgem.com for virtual tour \$184,900 (G21228) 734-678-4745

REDFORD - Here is a great opportunity to call this newly constructed 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, 1260 sq. ft., 2 car attached garage colonial with basement your new home! Act fast! Won't last long! Call Sam Evans or visit www.samsellshouses.com \$149,900 (S19335) 734-604-2405

LIVONIA - 11 new construction homes starting from the low 300's. Curtis Creek is located in Livonia with Livonia Schools. 5 premium lots have walkout basements. Call Sam Evans or visit www.samsellshouses.com \$ (CURTIS) 734-604-2405

LIVONIA - Welcome home to this well cared for ranch. Open floor plan with full size basement, copper plumbing, electrical, 2 car garage, windows have been updated. Beautiful hardwood floors thru-out. Call Nancy Warson \$169,900 (L27604) 248-470-6404

CANTON -3648 Aspen, N. of Geddes, E. of Beck Job transfer forces seller to part with this 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath colonial built in 2002. Custom master suite with jetted roman tub, sitting room, maple hardwoods, gourmet kitchen and more! Call Sylvia Florence-Albert \$399,900 (A3648) 734-216-4942

SOUTH LYON - Completely updated colonial with family room and 3 car mechanics dream garage. Located deep in sub on oversized lot and just minutes to downtown. Truly a must see. Call Marilyn Handloser. \$219,900 (H1008) 248-231-4216

REDFORD - A stunning 3 bedroom brick ranch with 2 full baths, a completely remodeled kitchen with beveled counter tops, finished basement with cozy family room, 2.5 car garage. Call Joe Nimmo \$139,999 (L18347) 313-268-5171

WESTLAND - 304 Marie, S. of Cherry Hill, E. of John Hix Tastefully decorated, 3 bedroom brick ranch. New birch cabinets, new floor, appliances stay. Patio, full basement, oversized 2 car garage, tear off roof in 03, newer furnace, air conditioning, windows and more! Call Judy Powell. \$169,900 (M304) 734-646-7541

REDFORD - Well maintained broad front 3 bedroom bungalow. Finished basement with bar, new kitchen countertop, glass block, carpet thru-out, bay window, fenced yard, attached garage, large lot, and more! Call Tim Wright. \$132,500 (L19507) 248-219-1752

LIVONIA -19941 Sunbury, S. of 8 Mile, E. of Middlebelt You won't find more home for less money! 3 good size bedrooms, 2 baths, large living room with gas fireplace, den could be 4th bedroom, 3 season sun room, full finished basement, so much more! Call Eric Rader \$177,900 (S19941) 734-355-0600

REDFORD - 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath bungalow. Natural fireplace in living room, 2 car attached garage, basement, deck and more! 1250 sq. ft! Call Kim Lindsay \$124,900 (W15491) 734-504-7670

WESTLAND - 6241 Hunter Points, S. of Hunter, W. of Wayne 1250 sq. ft., 2 bedrooms, 1.5 bath, open floor plan, fresh neutral colors, 1st floor laundry, large master bedroom with walk-in closet, finished basement, backs to wood. Clean! Call Jeff Kovach \$162,900 (H6241) 734-748-5187

REDFORD - Super starter home + 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, new and updated items: new roof 03, new windows, carpeting, kitchen floor, electrical service, fresh paint thru-out. Call Mike Judge \$83,900 (K15901) 734-591-9200x155

CANTON - 43939 Marne, S. of Cherry Hill, E. of Sheldon Charming colonial located on quiet cul-de-sac. Large eat in kitchen with new dishwasher, bay window, beautiful HDWDS thru-out. FPL, new carpet, 6 panel doors, newer roof & more! Call Sylvia Florence-Albert. \$189,900 (M43939) 734-216-4942

LIVONIA - Location, quality, value and charm! This well maintained brick colonial has it all with 1700 sq. ft. of quality living area, master bedroom with full bathroom, updates: windows, kitchen and carpet. Call Mike Judge \$199,990 (W19960) 734-591-9200x155

REDFORD - 14950 Aubrey, S. of 5 Mile, E. of Beech Finally some extra space! Updated ranch with over 1200 sq. ft. Move right in and enjoy the huge family room with doorwall and updated eat-in kitchen. Updates thru-out and more! Call Marilyn Handloser. \$104,900 (A14950) 248-231-4216

REDFORD - Walk-out basement is finished in drywall making this home unique and roomy. All updates are done. Home has open floor plan with tasteful decor. Patio, nice yard, great location. Call Kelly Penfield \$149,900 (B14148) 734-748-7775

denotes virtual tour

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TROY - Spacious 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath brick colonial in NW Troy on a large lot with mature trees. Family room with natural fireplace. Newer kitchen with center island and rear windows. Newer front windows and roof. Two car attached garage. Appliances included. \$415,000 (04WIN) 248-524-1600



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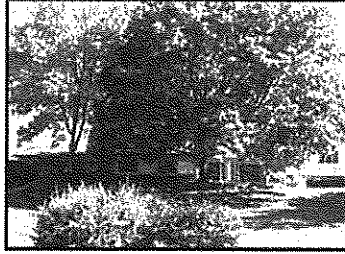
FARMINGTON HILLS - Great Condo! Great Area! 3 bedrooms, 3 full baths, gourmet kitchen w/hardwood floor. Cathedral ceilings, open & spacious, finished basement w/garden windows. GR w/gas frplc. Formal dining room. Doorwalk to huge deck overlooking pond w/fountain. \$329,000 (61SAN) 248-626-8800



BIRMINGHAM - Very sharp - 4 bedroom colonial, just a few blocks from downtown. Many updates including roof, kitchen, stainless steel appliances, HWH, mechanicals, windows and h/wd floors. Finished basement, 2 car attached garage, all on a large private lot w/immediate possession. \$479,900 (05WAS) 248-642-8100



NORTHVILLE - Incredible Value. Glorious waterfront estate in Stonewater sub. Largest sq. ft. built by Mocer. Every imaginable upgrade: marble, granite, cust cherry cabs, 2-story enclosed porch, spiral staircase, MBR w/3 way frplc, sitting room + glamour bath. Finished LL w/kit, bath & BR. \$1,249,000 (02MAN) 248-349-5600



BLOOMFIELD - 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with quality throughout. Hardwood floors, updated kitchen, Andersen wood windows, newer furnace and central air. Finished basement. Hilltop setting with paved walkways, patio and perennial gardens. \$399,900 (23DON) 248-524-1600



FARMINGTON - Spectacular. Beautiful colonial situated on professionally landscaped lot. 3 bedrooms with additional bedroom in lower level walk out. 3 tiered deck overlooking creek. First floor laundry, 3 baths, dining room and sprinklers. \$450,000 (95COU) 248-652-8000



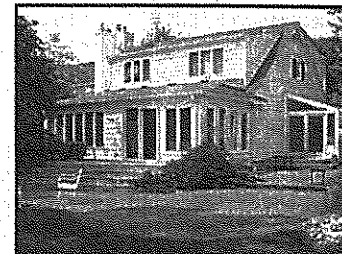
EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY - Gorgeous waterfront on prestigious all sports lake in the Walled Lake School District. Great neighborhood surrounded by higher priced homes. Existing cottage could be a handyman's paradise. Large extra wide lot. \$323,900 (22CLA) 248-363-1200



MILFORD - Welcome to royalty home. On a wooded 3.63 acre lot. Two story foyer & GR w/2 beautiful spiral staircases, FF master, 4 addl bedrooms on second floor w/Jack & Jill baths, 2 study rooms, finished w/o basement w/kitchen, library, toy room, too many features, spared no expense. \$2,200,000 (56TAL) 248-626-8800



HIGHLAND - First time on the market! 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial w/master bedroom w/2 sided fireplace and 2 large closets. Family room w/built-in entertainment cove and remote blinds. Very neutral w/tasteful decor. Golf community. \$394,800 (67PRE) 248-642-8100



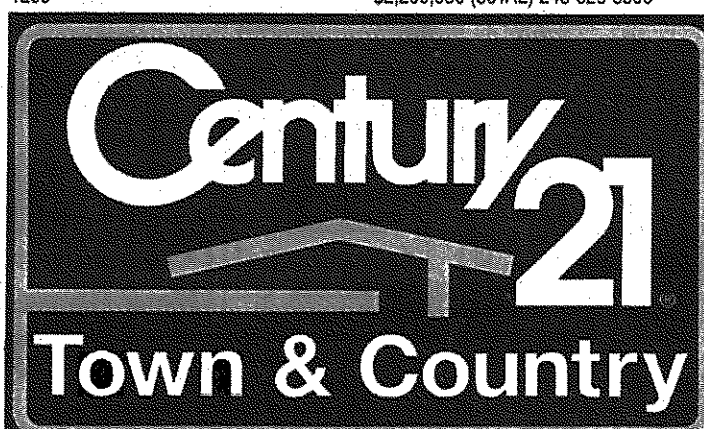
WEST BLOOMFIELD - Lake living at its best. Beautiful 3 bedroom, 3 bath 2-story home in a quiet bay location on Walnut Lake. Spacious master suite w/his & hers baths & WIC. GR w/Travertine marble fireplace and great view of lake. White kitchen and sun-filled breakfast room. \$899,000 (85COM) 248-349-5600



ROCHESTER HILLS - Builder's model colonial with 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, two story great room and foyer. Granite countertops throughout. Gas fireplace. Master whirlpool tub. Recessed lights and upgraded carpeting. Basement with daylight windows. \$444,900 (78GRA) 248-524-1600



ROCHESTER HILLS - Breathtaking corner unit. First floor master condo, professionally decorated. Features include hardwood floors, 2-way fireplace, loft, formal dining room and extra deep basement. Stamped concrete patio and walkway. 2 car attached garage. \$359,900 (48TOP) 248-652-8000



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FINE HOMES & ESTATES



TROY - New construction home. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, two story foyer, four car tandem garage and a large wooded lot. Kitchen with oak cabinets, island and granite counters. Luxury master bedroom suite with cathedral ceiling. Troy schools. \$419,900 (43EVA) 248-524-1600



RICHMOND - Lake Angela. Custom throughout this 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath home. Finished basement, imported tiles, cherry cabinetry, high ceilings, stainless steel appliances. Custom lighting, alarm, sprinklers, crown moldings, 3.5 car garage. \$355,000 (52BRA) 248-652-8000



ROCHESTER HILLS - 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath 1998 built colonial with two car side entry garage. Premium lot with beautiful backyard and huge deck. Ceramic tile two-story foyer, gas fireplace, master suite with his and hers closets and vaulted ceiling. \$324,900 (18FOR) 248-524-1600



PRIVATE RETREAT ON WOODED ACREAGE - Cliff top location provides breathtaking views from all 3 floors. Entertainer's dream, 3rd floor game room w/full bar & kit. Almost 3,000 sq. ft. of decking w/sunken hot tub. Luxurious master suite & fully appointed guest suite. One of a kind. \$3,000,000 (24SLA) 248-363-1200



WEST BLOOMFIELD - Exclusive private home. Absolutely beautiful property, well built, fully remodeled. 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, built-in pool, on breathtaking 1.5 acre lot. Must see to appreciate serenity. \$379,000 (80BAS) 248-626-8800



BLOOMFIELD HILLS - Sophisticated contemporary w/unique design, unmatched quality in materials. Built in 1997, 3 story colonial w/extensive use of maple, granite and glass t/o. 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, multiple exterior decks, open floor plan, gourmet kitchen and wine cellar. Total privacy. \$1,895,000 (00LAH) 248-642-8100



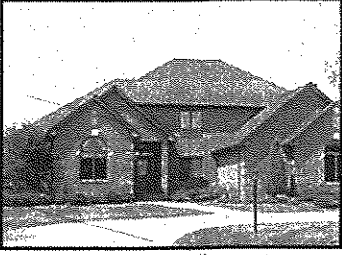
FARMINGTON HILLS - Words cannot describe this incredible 5 bedroom, 3+2 bath 2 story home that has been remodeled to look like \$1 million + new construction. The approx. 1 acre lot features beautiful in-ground pool w/bar & entertaining area. Trees & gardens! Wow! \$625,000 (21WEL) 248-349-5600



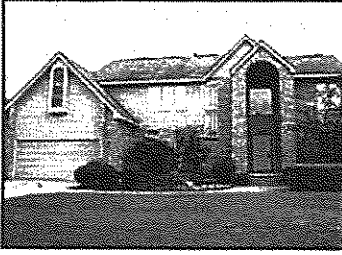
WESTLAND - Country in the city. 3 bedroom, 3.1 bath sprawling ranch w/great room overlooking inground heated pool w/underwater accent lights, + 2 fireplaces. Newer roof, windows, furnace, hot water heater & great location. Don't miss this one. \$349,900 (90JOH) 734-455-5600



TROY - Luxurious two-story condo with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and first floor master suite with Jacuzzi tub. Loft overlooking great room with gas fireplace. First floor laundry, basement, deck and two car attached garage. Hardwood floor in kitchen. \$339,900 (64MAY) 248-524-1600



VACATION YEAR ROUND - Spectacular custom contemporary, indoor pool area, large kitchen w/granite counters, crown molding, hardwood floors and so much more. Guaranteed to take your breath away. \$1,200,000 (56SCO) 248-363-1200



WEST BLOOMFIELD - Beautiful 2 story contemporary in West Bloomfield offering 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 lavs, finished basement, C/A, GR has a frplc, bar, doorwalk to large deck. Master suite has 2 WIC, Jacuzzi tub and s/shower. Black & white kit has all appls included, Sub Zero FFL. \$404,900 (35MAP) 248-626-8800



FRANKLIN - Lovely and elegant home sitting on over one acre of wooded property. Large rooms, full finished basement w/bath. Beautifully decorated w/quality materials, less than 4 years old. Move in condition. \$919,000 (00FOR) 248-642-8100



SOUTH LYON - Too many fine qualities. Spectacular best describes this stately 4 bedroom, 3.2 bath custom colonial deep in golf community. Certainly nothing spared. \$100,000 in upgrades & over \$40,000 in landscaping including pavers and custom deck. \$849,000 (57SAT) 248-349-5600



BELLEVILLE - Modern yet traditional. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial w/2 car att gar, basement, GR w/lots of windows & balcony from 2nd floor loft sitting area. Formal DR w/bay window, doorwalk from kit to brick patio, FF laundry, master suite w/master bath, garden tub & double vanity. \$254,000 (80WIL) 734-455-5600



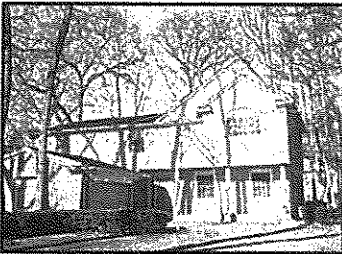
TROY - Wooded walk out. Spacious 5 bedroom, 3.2 bath on approximately an acre. First floor master, covered deck accessible from bedroom and family room. Walk out basement, 2 fireplaces, bedroom with skylights, newer appliances and roof. \$689,000 (30WIN) 248-652-8000



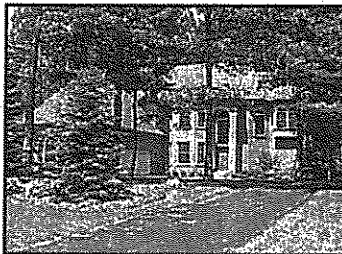
ARTIST AT WORK - Approx. 85 ft of waterfront peninsula, private DR in this 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath masterpiece. Finished w/o, custom detailed thru-out. Hard to find beauty & tranquility in this intimate setting - come & reward yourself. Lower Straits treasure. \$1,099,000 (05COM) 248-363-1200



TROY - High Fashion: is how the interior of this home feels - 2 story foyer, huge family room, 18 ft. ceiling & skylights, 5 ft. island in the kitchen, study, formal living room & dining room. All w/a quiet location, close to everything you will need. \$420,000 (30REN) 248-626-8800



BIRMINGHAM - A real beauty! Super home on wonderful lot. Updated kit w/cherry cabs, granite counters, h/wd flrs, Sub Zero refrigerator and Viking stove. FF w/frplc, master bedroom w/sitting room, fireplace & 4 large BR's. LR, DR, lib, skylights and vaulted ceilings. A real find. \$749,000 (69WIM) 248-642-8100



GENOA TOWNSHIP - Executive Retreat. Pine Creek sub offers 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home w/open floor plan. 2-story LR w/2-way frplc. Open FR, butlers pantry - cherry cabs w/Corian counters, Andersen windows, 4 car garage, in bsmt, granite foyer, sound system. Bar in bsmt. 2 frplcs, central vac. \$679,000 (65STA) 248-349-5600



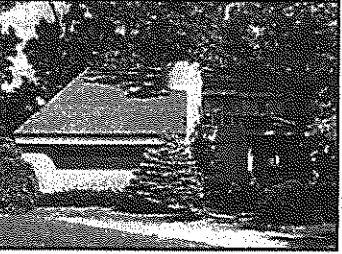
PLYMOUTH - Ranch w/finished walk out. One of a kind custom built 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home. Awesome finished lower level w/wet bar. Very spacious. Backs to woods. Clean and updated. \$409,900 (36CHA) 734-455-5600



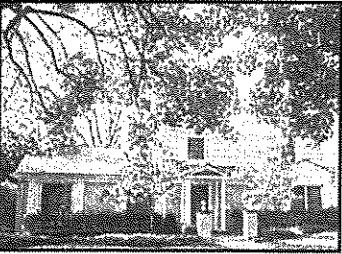
OAKLAND - Newly built Cape Cod. Located in Oakland Townships most secluded sub. This luxury home features cherry cabs and granite counters, two-way frplc in GR, octagon breakfast room, 9 ft. ceilings, stainless appls, spacious master suite. \$679,900 (45WOO) 248-652-8000



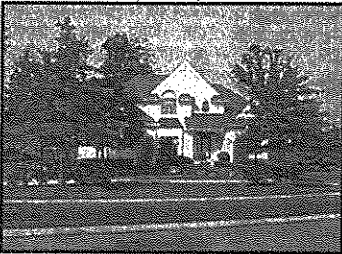
GORGEOUS COUNTRY SETTING - Over an acre rolling treed lot. Privacy & seclusion abound. Spacious quad 4 BR, 2 full BA & 2 half BA, huge LR w/FR, DR, spacious kit & bedrooms. Inviting sunroom. New furn & AC, newer roof. Blmld Schls. \$505,000 (49RIS) 248-363-1200



WEST BLOOMFIELD - .75 wooded acre lot. Custom built contemp, open floor plan/soaring ceilings, 4 BRs, 3.3 BAs, gour kit/h/dwd flrs. Fin LL w/o full kit. Master ste, Jacuzzi tub & his & hers walk-in closets. Upper Straits Lake priv. Whispering Pines Sub. \$580,000 (96ROL) 248-626-8800



BLOOMFIELD HILLS - Four bedroom, 3.2 bath colonial. Living room and dining room both w/fireplaces, gourmet kitchen, wood floors w/granite inlay, open floor plan with family room surrounded by windows. Full finished basement. \$679,000 (25GLE) 248-642-8100



SOUTH LYON - Custom Cape Cod. 5 bedroom, 3 bath & 2 lav in golf community on approx. .65 acres. Solid oak doors & trim, sauna, dual staircase, Andersen windows, 4 car garage, in bsmt, granite foyer, sound system. Bar in bsmt. 2 frplcs, central vac. \$679,000 (65STA) 248-349-5600



PLYMOUTH - A real masterpiece from top to bottom! 3 bedroom suites, 2 car attached garage, 2 gas fireplaces, marble foyer, maple cabinets, den w/wet bar, impressive great room, stunning walk out lower level. Beautiful view of wooded area. \$445,000 (41BEA) 734-455-5600

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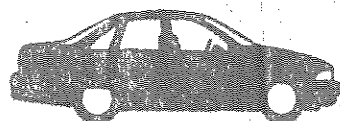
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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 14, 2003

Hey, why not get a car lease for Christmas?

Advertising Feature

CAReport



Anne Fracassa

BY ANNE FRACASSA
AVANTI NEWS FEATURES

Shopping different brands and models, comparing prices and options and negotiating your best deal are cardinal rules to follow when buying a car. It's all about shopping smart and spending wisely. The same is true when leasing a vehicle, and with Christmas approaching, this is a good time of year to do it for a loved one - or yourself.

You probably know a lot about leasing if any of your friends, co-workers or family have taken the plunge and raved about the advantages. But do you know what happens at the end of the lease? Did you know you could actually owe the company more than what the car is worth at the end of the lease? Leasing will be a positive experience if you know the rules.

There are several lease-end options to choose from, depending on the leasing company you choose. The safest choices, of course, are the lease companies connected to the major.

The first option is to return your leased vehicle and then just lease another new vehicle. If you've met all the obligations of your lease at its end - which include any charges for excess mileage and wear and tear - and you want a new vehicle to drive, just return it to the leasing dealership. That's all there is to it. End of story.

Within minutes of choosing the next vehicle you want to drive, you can start the paperwork on another lease. Another lease can be perfect, especially if the vehicle's actual value is lower than your purchase option amount.

The second option is to buy the vehicle you've leased and keep it. In this case, your lease agreement must have a clause allowing a "purchase option" - and most do. So if you really like your vehicle, it's still a good value against your purchase option price, you can buy your leased vehicle and keep it. Many people purchase that vehicle as a second vehicle for the family or their children because they have personal knowledge of the vehicle's background and want a reliable car.

Some people will find at the end of the lease that their car is worth more than the purchase option amount. In that case, you could purchase the car for the purchase option price, sell the car and then pocket the profit.

We've all known someone this has happened to: A person finances a vehicle, then decides to sell or trade it in before the end of the finance contract - and then finds out he owes more on the loan than the car is worth. What's happened here is that the loan interest and depreciation of the vehicle have accelerated beyond what you owe.

With a lease, you don't have to worry about owing more on the vehicle than what it's worth at the end of the lease. The lease company determines what your vehicle will be worth at the start of the lease.

So if it's worth less than the purchase option price, your best bet is to just turn it in to the leasing dealer and walk away from the car. You're

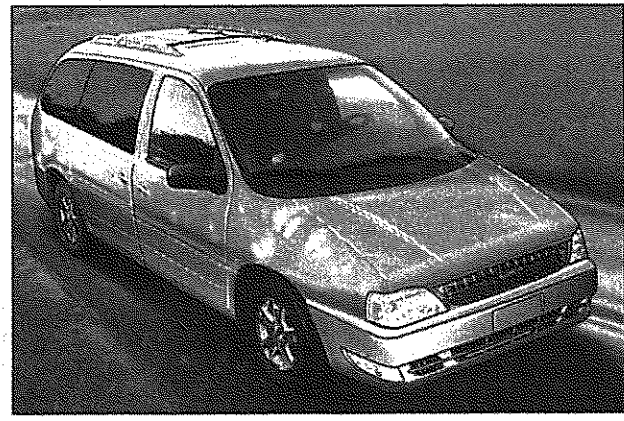
not stuck owing more than the car is worth, the hassles of trading it in or haggling with the dealer about the car's value.

And if your leased car is wrecked or stolen, most lease contracts have a "gap protection" clause that covers the difference between your insurance check and the lease pay-off price. With this clause, the only responsibility you'll have is the insurance deductible and any existing unpaid payments.

And at the end of the lease agreement, you won't have to worry about the car's value, advertising it, showing it to prospective buyers, negotiating a price or selling it.

Owning the title to a car really isn't all that great for some folks when you consider the value leasing delivers. The older an owned vehicle gets, the more maintenance and repairs it will need. Holding title to a car can get expensive.

Remember, shop for your lease, choose a reputable company and be sure to read all the fine print. If you do, you'll find your lease may be a



Leases are available right now on vehicles such as this 2004 Ford Freestar.

very pleasant experience - one you're likely to repeat for decades to come. Thousands of Americans do.

Then there's the issue of what advantages leasing can bring. Many automakers and their dealers are offering inviting lease options on the cars and trucks they sell.

Leasing is an attractive alternative to buying or renting a vehicle, especially for business owners who can deduct most of the expenses on their tax returns.

But is leasing a viable option for the average car owner? It sometimes can be, especially if you're counting pennies. It really all depends on how much you can afford to spend.

If you have a monthly income that allows you to make regular payments and don't want to put any money down on a car, leasing is a good option.

Leasing also is especially attractive if:

- You only need a car for a limited amount of time.
- You generally purchase a new car every three or four years.
- Like to know your monthly car costs in advance during those three or four years.
- Feel you will obtain a good return on the money that you would like use for a down payment.
- Want the general relief from the hassles of shopping for and haggling over the price of a vehicle, insuring it, maintaining it, repairing it and eventually selling it.

Leasing a car means the lessor will retain full ownership to the vehicle. Your monthly payments allow you only to use the car; you build no equity.

You will pay a specific payment every month, with the first and last payment due on the day you pick up the car. That first payment usually includes license and registration fees, along with a security deposit.

More and more people prefer leasing a vehicle, rather than buying one, today. But that may not mean there's a cost savings in the long run. In some cases, leasing could cost you more than owning a car.

If you decide to lease, you need to have a good credit rating, an average income, a steady job and good driving record.

There are several advantages to leasing, including:

- The down payment on a leased vehicle is generally much lower than if you purchase a car.
- The monthly payment is usually significantly lower than when you finance a vehicle.
- The lessor is generally responsible for all registration, inspection, paperwork, arrangement of insurance and most maintenance and repairs on the vehicle.
- You won't have to pay the sales tax on the vehicle you lease.

The wisest thing to do is sit down and analyze and compare the total cost of purchasing a car against the total costs of leasing, taking into account the difference in monthly payment costs.

There are different types of leases. It pays to shop around for the best program, just as it pays to shop for the best financial arrangement.

Make sure the company is reputable. Try to talk to people who have leased a vehicle from that company. Ask if the company has been good with delivery and promises made. Call your local Better Business Bureau and ask for a reliability report on the company.

If it is allowed, negotiate the lease terms. Because the monthly payment is determined by the resale value of the car at the end of the lease, you may be able to get a lower payment if the car has a low depreciation rate. But that also means you've got to have that car in excellent condition when you return it.

Finally, read the contract from top to bottom, and if possible, have a legal expert take a look at it. Sometimes the fine print will include a clause you can't live with later.

Don't be afraid to ask questions, especially these:

- How much will my monthly payments total at the term of the lease?
- Will I be penalized if I go over the mileage limit? Will there be a credit if I'm under the limit?
- Am I responsible for any maintenance costs to the vehicle? Which ones?
- What is the exact criteria used on "normal wear and tear" on the vehicle I'm leasing?
- If I am forced to break the lease, what are the penalties?
- Do I have any choices at the end of the lease, like purchase of the vehicle?
- Can I choose my own insurance company for coverage on the vehicle?

Leasing a vehicle can often mean you can get a much more expensive car to drive on what it would cost you if you financed a less-expensive car.

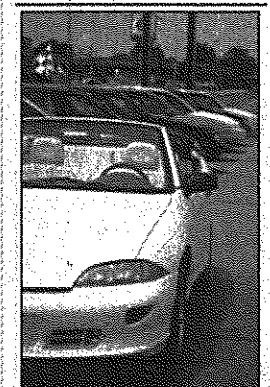
Again, shop carefully for your lease. It could save you money. Or it could cost you more. So be careful.

Anne Fracassa is editor of Avanti NewsFeatures. Write her at avanti1054@aol.com. For a copy of her new auto trivia booklet, send \$2 and a self-addressed stamped envelope to Anne at 29106 Palomino, Warren, MI 48093-3505.

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SAVE OVER \$7,600
FORD EMPLOYEE OR ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBER

\$13,173⁰⁸*

2003 TAURUS SEL

Continental Pkg., Premium 4 door, CD changer (6 disc), elec. temp control A/C, adj. pedals, all-speed traction control, perimeter anti-theft sys, air bags, 3.0L 4V cyl engine, auto OD trans, P215/60R16 all season tire, 16" 5-spoke wheels, leatherwood steering wheel, power moonroof, power pass seat, leather. (Stock #33770) WAS \$26,129

SAVE ALMOST \$9,000
FORD EMPLOYEE OR ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBER

\$17,240⁹⁰*

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/autolock, 4.0L SOHC V6 engine, 5-speed auto OD trans, P235/70R16 A/S OWL tires, 3.73 limited slip axle. (Stock #32821) WAS \$28,440

SAVE OVER \$10,000
FORD EMPLOYEE OR ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBER

\$16,221⁶⁷*

FINAL CLOSEOUT!
2003 TUSCANY CONV VAN

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\$24,342⁰¹*

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2004 MUSTANG V6 COUPE

Rear spoiler, single wing seat, power drivers, speed control, air, 6 CD changer radio, w/mach wheels, 16" bright alloy, overhead valve V6, auto OD trans, P225/55R16 94T BSW all-season 40th anniversary pkg., interior upgrade pkg. (Stock #40363) WAS \$21,440

\$13,345⁸⁴* FORD EMPLOYEE OR ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBER

A-PLAN 36 MO. LEASE RENEWAL	ZERO DOWN \$152 ³³ MO	\$1500 DOWN \$108 ³² MO
	\$5.00 PER DAY	\$2.50 PER DAY

2004 FREESTAR SEL

Metallic Red cc met. Flint leather, 3.54 ratio reg axle, electronic group, speed control, air, power driver & pass. seat, privacy glass, 4.2L OHV E7 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

\$24,654⁷⁴* FORD EMPLOYEE OR ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBER

A-PLAN 36 MO. LEASE RENEWAL	ZERO DOWN \$309 ⁷⁸ MO	\$1500 DOWN \$260 ⁸⁷ MO
	\$59.25 DUE AT SIGNING	\$2127.80 DUE AT SIGNING

2004 F150 S.C. STX

Blazing Yellow, flint cloth 4020/40, pref. equip. pkg. 503A, manual black mirrors, 4.6L E7 V8 eng., elec. 4-spd. auto OD, 3.55 ratio lim. slip axle, 6700W GWR pkg., carpeted floor mats, floor carpet, sliding rear window, AM/FM stereo/6CD in dash, fog lamps, cloth 4020/40, privacy glass. (Stock #40288) WAS \$26,300

\$19,071²³* FORD EMPLOYEE OR ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBER

A-PLAN 24 MO. LEASE RENEWAL	ZERO DOWN \$182 ⁰⁷ MO	\$1500 DOWN \$118 ²¹ MO
	\$242.00 DUE AT SIGNING	\$1095.30 DUE AT SIGNING

2004 ESCAPE XLS

Air, power side windows, mirrors and door locks, remote keyless entry, 3.0L duratec V6 engine, 4-speed auto OD trans, P225/70R15 A/S BSW tires, 15" alum wheels, convenience group, floor mats, speed control, perimeter alarm. (Stock #40102) WAS \$21,590

\$15,061⁸⁴* FORD EMPLOYEE OR ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBER

A-PLAN 24 MO. LEASE RENEWAL	ZERO DOWN \$209 ¹⁸ MO	\$1500 DOWN \$143 ¹⁹ MO
	\$48.79 DUE AT SIGNING	\$1088.79 DUE AT SIGNING

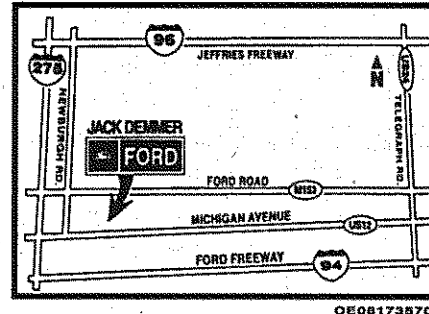
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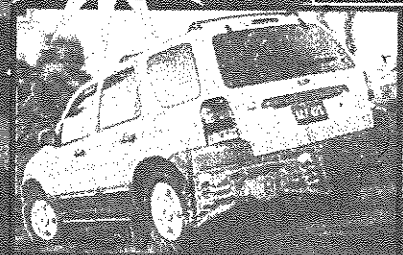
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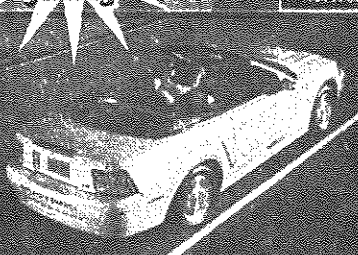
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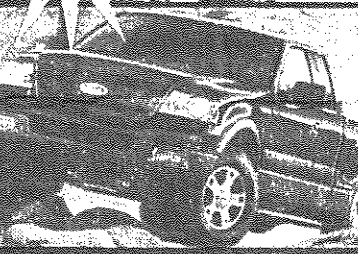
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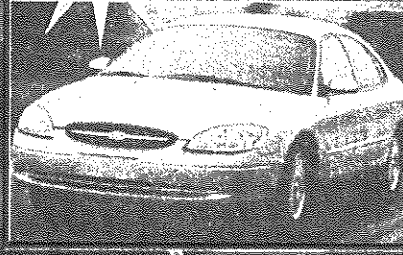
2004 F-150 4x4 LARIAT SUPERCAB
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\$20,449!



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