



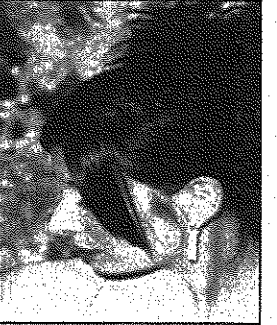
Merry Christmas

Your hometown newspaper

THURSDAY
December 25, 2003
75 cents

Observer

Shining
Subtle is in as
fashion trends for
2004 start New
Year's Eve.
Filter, Section E.



High alert shouldn't hamper holiday plans



Security officials are encouraging people to go about their plans this holiday week despite the U.S. Security Level being raised to orange or "high alert" on Sunday based on new terrorism intelligence.

That means those traveling in and out of metro Detroit can expect heightened inspections during some of the busiest travel days of the year.

The key words for airline travelers are "arrive early," said Detroit Metropolitan Airport Spokeswoman Barbara Hogan.

The number of travelers is expected to hit around 90,000 at the airport each day with Dec. 23, 28 and 29 being the busiest days.

Those traveling on domestic flights are asked to arrive two hours before take off; international travelers should arrive three hours early.

Because of the heightened security level, closer inspections of personal items are expected by Transportation Security Administration agents, said Hogan.

People picking up or dropping off

travelers at the airport can expect some changes as well.

Motorists will not be allowed to stop and wait at the curb for passengers not already outside.

People picking up travelers in the luggage claim area are encouraged to park in short-term parking, where the cost will be \$1 for those who leave within 45 minutes. Motorists can also expect random vehicle searches at the airport, Hogan said.

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano said the raised security level

means it is especially important for local police and fire agencies to be on alert.

As of Monday, the federal agents have not asked for additional assistance at the Canadian borders, Ficano said.

He said people can anticipate heightened inspections at public events and borders, but that they shouldn't be afraid to travel.

"It's natural for these spikes in security to happen, but people should go on about their normal activities," he said.



Gladys Heath was born on Christmas Day 1903. She looks back on a full and active life.

She's danced through a century

Local woman celebrates 100th Christmas-birthday

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

If you ask Gladys Heath her age, she'll tell you 25.

"I know it's going to be a big one," Gladys says before offering up 25 as her age.

That's a surprise to Cynthia Tipton. "She didn't tell you she's 21? She tells me she's 21," Tipton said.

Twenty-five ... 21. What's a few years when it's Christmas Day and it's your 100th birthday? It's a milestone that is passing

quietly for the Westland resident.

She has outlived three husbands and most of her friends, so it was Tipton, her caregiver, who helped with a cake and ice cream open house Tuesday at Grand Court where Heath now lives.

She is almost completely blind and hard of hearing, but while the former sometimes frustrates her, she's still happy, said Karen Miller, the daughter of Heath's late best friend.

"Her biggest problem with life for Gladys is not being able to see," said Miller.

"Sometimes she feels pity about it."

Miller has stayed close to Heath because of her mother.

"Gladys has pretty much outlived her girlfriends," she said. "She, my mom and another girlfriend were a trio of stinkers."

Her longevity may be in the genes. While her father died at a young age, her mother lived to be 98. Miller also believes prayer has something to do with it. She attended church up until she was 97. Her minister now visits her at the assisted living facility.

Heath has her favorite radio station - WWJ 950-AM - and listens to it faithfully

PLEASE SEE CENTURY, A5

Local cops ready to make losers out of drunken drivers

The arrival of the holiday season means police will be paying extra attention to looking out for drivers under the influence.

Local departments are participating in "You Drink, You Drive, You Lose" a statewide effort to cut down on the number of alcohol-related traffic accidents.

Some communities have received grant funding to pay for extra patrol shifts, in which officers will be assigned to spot drunken and alcohol-impaired drivers.

"These guys are specifically out there to target drunk drivers and impaired drivers," said Sgt. Wes McKee, supervisor of the police traffic bureau in Livonia, which received a grant to pay for extra patrols.

In Redford, police regularly schedule some extra patrols, on a voluntary overtime basis, for traffic enforcement. Stopping drivers who may have been drinking will be stressed during the enforcement period, which runs through Sunday, Jan. 4.

Police in Canton Township, Detroit, Dearborn, plus the Michigan State Police and the Wayne County Sheriff's Department are among the other local participants in "You Drink, You Drive, You Lose."

Special enforcement periods, McKee said, have been effective in making Livonia's roads safer during the holiday season in recent years. He also credited the work of Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

"This big push that MADD has I think has contributed to public awareness," he said.

The blood-alcohol level at which a driver can be charged with drunken driving in Michigan was lowered in October from .10 to .08. But police say a driver with any amount of alcohol in his or her system can be charged with impaired driving if police have reason to believe drinking affected the person's driving.

A first-time drunken-driving conviction means an automatic license suspension, a restricted license after that, local fines and court costs, probation, six points on the offender's driving record, community service and a mandatory state fee of \$2,000 over two years to maintain a license.

In Michigan in 2002, 1,279 people died as a result of traffic crashes, 422 of those in alcohol-related crashes.

Dear Readers,

Happy Holidays from the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*.

Today's holiday edition of the *Observer* includes news from throughout Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Redford, Westland and Garden City.

Holiday editions will continue through Jan. 4 and include an interesting lineup of stories from throughout the area along with your favorite sections and columnists.

Due to the Christmas and New Year holidays, the *Observer & Eccentric* Circulation Department will close at 1 p.m. Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, and New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, and reopen at 8:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 26, and Friday, Jan. 2, to assist customers with any delivery questions. You may e-mail customer service at custserv@oe.homecomm.net or call (866) 887-2737 for assistance.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season!

Sincerely,

Susan Rosiek
Susan Rosiek,
executive editor

Local stores share mixed reaction on holiday sales

Barb Bobby carefully inspected the goods in aisle one of the K.B. Toys store at Westland Shopping Center Monday, putting the finishing touches on her holiday shopping.

As expected, she was greeted by dense crowds of Christmas procrastinators. "It's crowded, but I expected it," said the Westland resident.

She began her holiday shopping just after Thanksgiving and said she's

got a lot of people to shop for - four adult children, their wives and girlfriends, and two grandchildren.

Store manager Jennifer Duering said she has noticed more store traffic and more merchandise has been on sale at the toy store this year. "We've had more customers in the store," she said.

"Everyone has been, I think, a lot more jolly, I've got to say."

Stock is already waning, she added, though it's hard

to tell just by glancing at the colorful shelves of toys and games. But the store is reflecting nationwide predictions that holiday shopping is up, compared to last year.

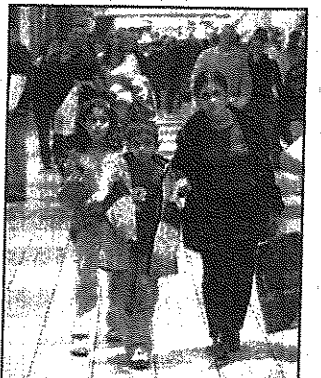
The National Retail Federation predicted holiday sales would grow this year by more than 5 percent - for a total of \$217.4 billion.

This accounts for retail sales that occur between November and December and often fall in the follow-

ing categories: general merchandise, clothing, accessories, home furnishings, books, music, electronics and sporting goods.

B. Dalton Bookseller, at Westland Shopping Center, has also been swamped with customers this season. But employees said it's likely the "Store Closing" sign has something to do with it. Everything must go, and shoppers are taking advan-

PLEASE SEE SALES, A5



Just before Christmas, the halls of Westland Shopping Center are filled with shoppers.

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INDEX
Apartments F5
At Home C1
Automotive G3
Classified Index F4
Crossword Puzzle F5
For The Record A2
Jobs F7
Movie Guide E14
Real Estate G1
Service Guide F1
Sports B1
Taste D1

LOOKING AHEAD
Safe port
The Salvation Army is a safe harbor for those caught in the storm of life. Sunday's *Observer* Life section.



Grinch pinches Baby Jesus, Joseph from nativity scene

This Grinch didn't steal Christmas exactly, but he did purloin a piece of the Nativity. A Canton resident told police that he had a Nativity scene in his front yard and sometime between midnight and 6 a.m. Sunday, someone stole the Baby Jesus and Joseph.

The statues were valued at \$150.

Purse snatched
An Ypsilanti woman reported to Canton police that someone stole her purse in the parking lot of Sam's Club.

She said she put the purse in the shopping cart as she was leaving the store about 7 p.m. Monday. As she was unloading items from the cart into her car, she noticed the purse was missing.

It contained \$650 in cash plus numerous cards and papers.

Christmas shoplifting
An employee of Walgreens on Ford Road in Canton told police a man came into the store about 11:15 p.m. Dec. 22 and grabbed four cordless shavers.

He ran to the parking lot where two people attempted to hold him until store security caught up with him. But he broke free and fled on foot.

The shavers were valued at \$600.

Wasted time
A thief who broke into a Livonia restaurant picked a bad time to commit the crime. The restaurant is in the process of going out of business, and the culprit didn't get anything for his troubles, according to police reports.

During the incident, Livonia police responded to a break-in alarm at 3:45 a.m. Saturday at Checkers Pizzas and Grinders, 28905 Plymouth Road.

When officers arrived, they found someone had thrown a brick through a window to get into building, causing \$200 in damage.

However, the thief didn't take anything from the business because there was almost nothing in the building, as the restaurant was in the process of closing.

Beer run
A Livonia man stopped three teenagers on a "booze cruise" early Tuesday morning.

According to police reports, the man was outside his house

POLICE BEAT

on Barkley, just after midnight, when he saw a teenage boy creeping across his driveway between his cars. The boy was headed to the garage.

Before the teen could get into the man's open garage, he stopped him and asked what he was doing.

"He came out and said he was going to get some beer," said Livonia Police Lt. Ben McDermott.

The teen, a 16-year-old Livonia resident, and his companions, two 15-year-olds from Livonia and Farmington Hills, were cited with curfew violations and their parents were contacted.

Senior robbed

A man is suspected of robbing a 74-year-old Redford woman Friday after getting into her house on the pretext that he was from the water department.

The robbery occurred in the early afternoon on Lenore Street near Joy Road, according to a Redford Township police report. The victim was not hurt.

She told police that she was at her side door, having just walked home from the store, when a man walked up and claimed he was from the water department. He wanted to check the meter, he said, and went with the woman into her basement, the report said.

He told her to tap on some pipes, she said, and then went upstairs. After doing so, she said, she went upstairs to find the man had turned on the kitchen and bathroom faucets. He told her to return to the basement, she said, and she did. When she went back upstairs again, he again told her to return, she said.

When the woman went upstairs for the third time, the man was gone and the back door was open, she said. Later, she discovered cash missing from her bedroom.

Arrest at bar

A 20-year-old Eastpointe man was arrested on charges of disorderly conduct and underage drinking early Friday after being accused of exposing himself to women at a Redford bar.

Police were dispatched to Rick's Sports Bar on Telegraph about 12:30 a.m. on a report of a fight. When an officer arrived there were

eight to 10 people outside arguing, his report said.

The officer recognized one man as under 21 and called to him. The man began running, police said, and the officer chased him, catching him nearby as he tried to get over a fence.

The bar manager told police the man had been drinking beer outside and was told he couldn't do so. He began yelling, the manager said, and was told to leave, but a short time was later seen exposing himself to two female patrons. He was physically taken from the bar, the manager said.

The suspect registered a blood-alcohol content of .233, police said.

He later said he wanted to complain that Rick's had served him alcohol even though he was under 21. The bar manager had told police the suspect had brought his beer from elsewhere.

Gifts stolen

Police are planning to seek charges against a 13-year old Wayne girl over the theft of a Christmas package and mail from a home in the 6700 block of Helen on the afternoon of Dec. 16.

Garden City police were called after a resident saw the girl, who was walking a dog with a second girl, go up to his neighbor's porch and take a package and mail.

The neighbor told police the girl opened the package and sorted through the mail before returning to the sidewalk. As she walked away, he said the girl removed items from the package, dropped the box, wrapping and the mail.

Officers located the two girls at Maplewood and Harrison. The girl told police she didn't know why she had taken the package and mail.

Two wooden plaques with children's names, Christmas gifts, were located in some bushes along Harrison. Those were returned to the owner.

The girl was taken into custody and released to her parents pending charges being filed through a juvenile petition. The second girl was not involved in the theft and turned over to her mother.

"I think we had only one other problem with mail theft but it wasn't related," said Garden City Police Lt. Michael Lindman. "That involved a family member or someone who had lived at the address previously."

AROUND WAYNE COUNTY

MURDER TRIAL SET

A Detroit woman charged in the Sept. 11 Westland party store murders has been scheduled for trial Feb. 2 in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Leslie Gordon, 24, faces trial for murder amid accusations she acted as the lookout person for 30-year-old Detroit gunman Michael Lamont Schofield, who turned the gun on himself following the worst killing spree in Westland's 37-year history.

The massacre at Neil's Party Store left four people dead: James Kuebler, 35, of Westland, Feras Yousif, 29, of Oak Park, Kenneth Sherman Littlefield, 63, of Canton, and his nephew, Keith Gaddis, 44, also of Canton. Schofield also shot and injured two others.

The botched robbery left Gordon facing trial for four counts of first-degree murder, four counts of felony murder, two counts of assault with intent to murder, and two counts of assault with intent to rob while armed. She will face life in prison if convicted.

ASSAULT HEARING DELAYED

A preliminary hearing in a Redford Township home invasion and assault case was postponed Tuesday in order to give one of the victims more time to recover.

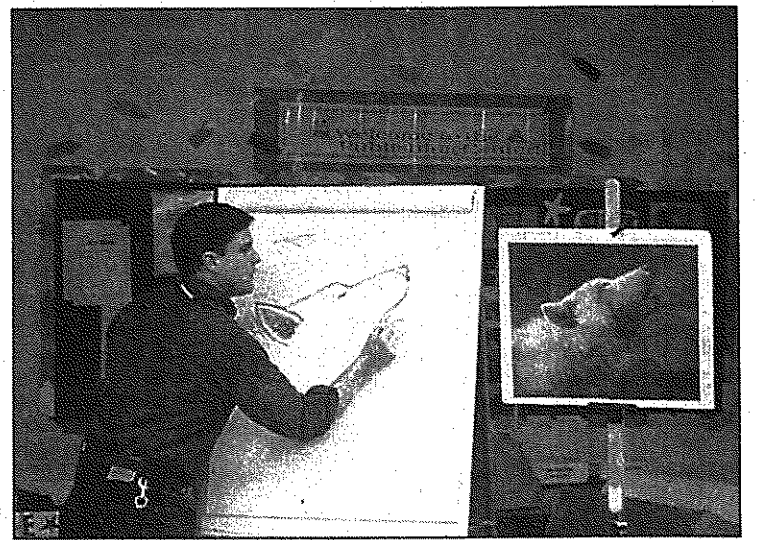
Wilma Lowe, who was tied up and kicked by two masked men at her home on Midland Street Dec. 12, required hip-replacement surgery as a result of the attack and is still hospitalized, said Heather Hynes, an assistant Wayne County prosecutor.

"She's a necessary witness," Hynes told Judge Charlotte Wirth in 17th District Court. "I cannot go forward without her testimony as well."

Richard Powers, defense attorney for suspect Joshua Allgeyer, argued against the delay. Felony suspects are generally entitled to preliminary hearing within 14 days after the date on which charges were filed. Allgeyer, 21, and Anthony Morgan, 19, were charged on Dec. 15.

Wirth, however, agreed to reschedule the hearing for Tuesday, Jan. 6.

Allgeyer and Morgan are both charged with several felonies, including armed robbery and assault. Allgeyer faces two other charges in a Dec. 4 incident at the same house.



Michael Glenn Monroe, a children's book illustrator, visited Coolidge Elementary in Livonia recently. Here he shows students the step by step instructions it takes to sketch a winter wolf.

A second victim, Lee Roy Wilder, was cut on the left hand in the attack and required surgery. A third, Allen Dobson, was unhurt.

All three were left tied up on the floor of their living room for about an hour after the attack before Wilder freed himself and called for help.

DRAWING ON EXPERTS

Coolidge Elementary School in Livonia continued its monthly program *Whole Lotta Learning Going On* with a December visit by renowned wildlife artist and children's book illustrator, Michael Glenn Monroe.

Monroe shared his artistic experience and love of nature with the students.

He even showed them his first painting - a snow-white winter mink.

He showed the students several drawing techniques during his visit.

In 1997, Monroe won the Michigan Duck Stamp award. He has illustrated nine books including *M is for Mitten: A Michigan Alphabet*, *Buzzy the Bumblebee*, and *A Wish to be a Christmas Tree*.

GATOR IN GARDEN CITY

It wasn't a crank call to Garden City Police Friday - there really was an alligator along a city street.

A couple of feet long, the Cayman species alligator was dead and frozen when found by officers.

"It was pretty recently deceased. It seems to be a pretty young alligator," said Officer Sean Breen. "It's very unusual

to find an alligator on the street."

Officers didn't locate the alligator's owner and it was unclear whether the alligator had gotten outside and frozen to death or had died before it was put outside.

Since the alligator was frozen when it was recovered, the officers kept an eye on it to see if it might have been in a type of deep hibernation and revive after warming up. That didn't happen, however.

OFFICIALLY FREE FOOD

While nearly every store and restaurant will be closed on Christmas Day, restaurant owner Jim Jenkins plans to keep the doors of Jimmies Pasties open to police and fire officials in Livonia for a free meal.

Jenkins, a 38-year resident of the city, cleared his plans with the mayor and will open from noon to 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 25, to offer free pasties, gravy, chili and soup to all fire-fighters and police officers working that day.

"All of my kids live out of state," Jenkins said. "I thought it would be nice to do something."

Jimmies Pasties, located at Five Mile west of Farmington Road in the Civic Center Plaza, opened in September.

Darlene Fulks discovered the special holiday plans when her daughter Renita - who works at the shop - said she would be volunteering there on Christmas day. As for the police and fire officials, Fulks said: "I hope they all get to eat." For more information, call (734) 421-3483.

FOR THE RECORD

L Dec. 19 Helen Mary Borkowski, 73, of Westland died Dec. 19	L Stephanie LaGosh, 83, of Plymouth, died Dec. 8
C Nellie Marie Calice, of Troy, died Dec. 20	P Richard Harold Patterson, 71, of Metamora died Dec. 19
T Thomas R. Caraher, 64, of Farmington Hills, died Dec. 20	H Helen Pinnegar, 82, of Westland, died Dec. 18
D Dorothy Clements, 82, of Farmington Hills, died Dec. 20	Y Yvette Plas, 89, of Plymouth died Dec. 18
G Elizabeth M. Gainer, 87, of Dunwoody, Ga., (formerly of Canton, died Dec. 9	S Martha Sanders, 88, formerly of Dearborn, died Dec. 11
A Thomas "Jack" Atkinson, 85, of Westland died Dec. 20	Y Barbara Young, 58, of Redford (formerly of Garden City) died Dec. 21
B Peter Bandoian, 77, of Livonia, died	H John Patrick Hughes Sr., of Farmington, died Dec. 1

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Back in time

Museum revs up with 'metal you can pedal' car exhibit

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

They're too big to drive ... way too big. But that hasn't stopped Greg Gladki and Charles Winekoff from amassing a collection of 100 vintage metal pedal cars.

And the Westland residents are showing off a portion of their private collections at an exhibit at the William P. Chrysler Museum in Auburn Hills through the holiday season.

"Metal You Can Pedal: Small Cars for Future Motorists" is a nostalgic trip back to childhood days.

"This is the first time we've ever done something like this," Gladki said. "The museum approached us men after seeing some of our cars at the orphan car show in Ypsilanti last June."

The museum exhibition includes 40 of their pedal cars. Gladki has 42 pedal cars, his father-in-law about 60. The rarest of the two collections is a 1937 Auburn Streamliner. It's hard to find and beautiful, Gladki said.

The pedal cars are displayed with the big cars on which they're modeled. The selection includes a large number of Chrysler products, including the two Hudsons, a 1935 Chrysler Airflow, 1937 Dodge Fire Chief and Chrysler fire truck and 1959 Hamilton Jeep.

There's also specialty cars like a 1949 Murray Rocket, 1955 Garton Kidillac and Hydraulics Weapons Carrier and 1962 Casey Jones train, as well as vehicles representing other auto manufacturers.

"I had one when I was a kid," he said. "I have a 1962-'63 photo of me and my sister standing next to my pedal car."

For Gladki, collecting the cars started when Winekoff, his father-in-law, gave him his wife's 1964 pedal car that he had stored in the rafters of the garage.

Gladki restored the car for his wife and it started him "on a kick."

"The pedal cars were patterned after the big cars," Gladki said. "The grille work and everything looked the same. If you looked at the pedal car, you'd see the big car."

When he first started collecting the cars, he could find 1960s-70s cars at flea markets and garage sales, or at auctions in Auburn, Ind., but he was limited in what he could pay for the cars.

The advent of online auctions like eBay, however, opened up the market.

"I got about 20 cars off Ebay, that's where you can get harder-to-find cars," he said. "On eBay, I saw a car go for \$16,000, but you can get them for \$50 up to whatever you want to pay."

Gladki has a cutoff on what he pays for his cars and tries to find unrestored models that he restores himself.

"Ebay brought prices down," he said. "The only place you could get the cars 10-12 years ago were shows and dealers who set their own prices."

A warehouse manager in Livonia, Gladki said he's gotten some pretty good deals and has sold a few '60s and '70s cars to upgrade his collection with 1930-40 cars.

His oldest pedal cars are his 1925 and 1926 Steelcraft Hudsons, his most recent is a 1970 Fire Chief.

The pedal care era began almost as soon as the world's love affair with the automobile. They reached their peak of popularity in the late 1920s and 1930s and experienced a resurgence in the 1950s and '60s with the advent of chain-driven models.

They were produced for more than 50 years except in the mid-1940s, when all metal production was directed to the World War II effort. Some one million of the metal-bodied cars and specialty vehicles



Westland residents Greg Gladki (left) and his father-in-law, Charles Winekoff, show off some of the 40 pedal cars they have on display at the William P. Chrysler Museum in Auburn Hills.

were produced until 1980, when manufacturers switched to plastic bodies.

Gladki stores his cars in his finished basement, which has been created to look like a parking lot for his collection, while his father-in-law stores some cars in his rafters and on racks he's created in his house.

He has never figured out the value of his collection, although he has taken photos of his cars for insurance purposes. Some of the cars in original condition are probably worth more than those he has restored.

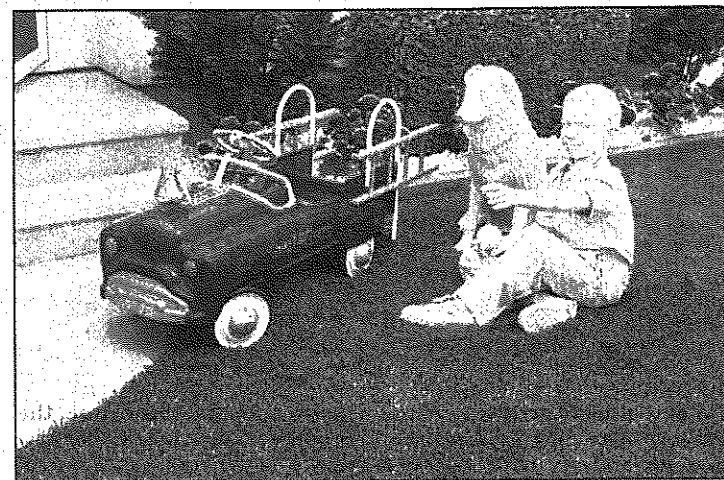
Gladki estimates he's

returned about 15 to like-new condition.

"I really don't want to know the value, then I'll know how much I've spent," he said.

"Metal You Can Pedal: Small Cars for Future Motorists" runs through Sunday, Jan. 11, at the William P. Chrysler Museum at Featherstone and Squirrel roads on the DaimlerChrysler Auburn Hills complex. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-6 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children ages 6-12 and seniors age 62 and older. For more information, call the museum at (888) 456-1924.

smason@oe.hometown.com | (734) 953-2112



Several of the pedal cars are featured in vignettes like this 1950-era one that shows off a Fire Chief fire engine pedal car.

Exhibition features 50 years of pedal cars

Among the cars that Greg Gladki and Charles Winekoff have on exhibit at the William P. Chrysler Museum are:

■ A 1925 Hudson was produced by Steelcraft in Cleveland, Ohio.

Murray Body Company in Detroit launched the subsidiary, Murray Ohio, in Cleveland in 1919 to supply steel stampings to the auto industry. It eventually became independent of the parent firm and began making pedal cars under the Steelcraft name in the 1920s to even out cycles in the auto industry.

■ A 1933 Buick was manufactured by American National in Toledo, Ohio.

American National was a holding company that controlled pedal car makers, among them Gendron, whose large factory served as the production base for all the American National companies.

By 1930, the combined production of American National

made it the largest pedal car producer in the United States, exporting to 28 countries.

■ A 1941 Pursuit Plane was also made by Murray in Cleveland.

Viktor Schreckengost was a sculptor and industrial designer who worked for Murray. Designed on the eve of U.S. entrance into World War II, Schreckengost's Pursuit Plane, with steering via the tail wheel, is so collectible that full-scale models have been made.

■ A 1955 Kidillac was manufactured by Garton in Sheboygan, Wis. It resulted from a chance meeting between General Motors designer William L. Mitchell and a member of the Garton family.

Mitchell designed the Kidillac in 1949 as a project for the private design company owned by GM's design chief Harley Chief. Using a body stamping made from a single sheet of steel and chain drive,

the Kidillac was relatively expensive because it required a costly press to make, but the car topped the Garton line well into the 1960s.

■ A 1958 Champion "Dipside" also is a Murray product and designed by Schreckengost.

It was Murray's top seller in 1951. The "dip" refers to the famous fender-line break, called the "Darrin dip" used by auto designer Howard A. "Dutch" Darrin on Packard and Kaiser products of the era.

■ A 1969 Fire Chief was manufactured by AMF in Olney, Ohio.

AMF, which originally stood for American Machine and Foundry, entered the pedal car business in 1952 when it bought Junior Toy Company of Hammond, Ind., which dated from the late 1920s.

Pedal cars complemented AMF's Roadmaster Bicycle business. Today, AMF is part of the Brunswick Corporation.

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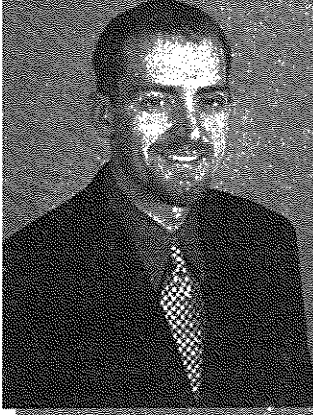
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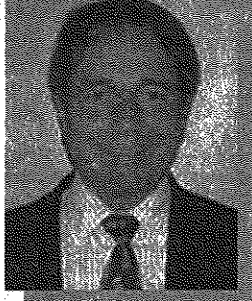
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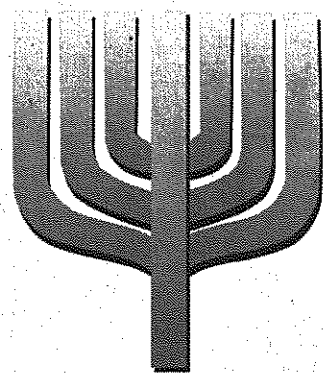
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Festival of lights celebrates religious freedom

Two thousand years after the first Hanukkah, the Jewish fight for religious freedom is far from over. Synagogue bombings in Turkey last month killed dozens, wounded hundreds – and reminded local Jews like Rabbi Peter Gluck of the significance of Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights.



On Friday, Dec. 19, he and his congregation of Bet Chaverim in Canton gathered around their menorahs to light the first candle. An additional candle will be lit on successive nights until all eight are burning on Saturday, Dec. 27.

The ancient ritual celebrates the miracle that happened after Jews reclaimed the Temple in Jerusalem from the Greeks. The word Hanukkah means to rededicate or dedication to one's faith.

"The Greek armies conquered the Temple and set up Greek worship. They forbade Jewish from worshipping anywhere according to Jewish religion. Some of the Jews take to the hills and start to

fight a guerrilla war against the Greeks. The Maccabees against all odds become victorious and are able to return to the Temple to find all the Jewish symbols taken down. They find two golden Menorahs and discover there's only enough special holy oil for one day but miracles happen and it lasts for eight so it's called the Festival of Lights.

"Hanukkah's very relevant today because this is the God of freedom. The Jewish faith teaches that God wants us to be free, not ruled by dictators, so there are lessons relevant to our current situation in the world where there are dicta-

tors trying to repress their people from worshipping in freedom."

Irrational hatred of the Jews by some continues today even though they make up only 3 percent of the U.S. population, less than 1 percent of the world. Hanukkah reminds Jews that even though their numbers may be small if they have faith and not give up, they can overcome much greater odds.

"The current global situation with the rise of anti-Semitism reminds us that the attempt to rob the Jewish of the freedom to worship the one God is not over," said Rabbi Gluck. "Anti-Semitism is on the rise in Europe, throughout the Middle East. Jews need the strength of their holidays to keep going. Clearly the Jewish religion is about political freedom and goes back to the exodus from Egypt with Moses defying the dictator Pharaoh, saying 'Let my people go.' American Jews don't take freedom lackadaisically. They see freedom as a tremendous blessing and something that should be cel-

The ancient ritual celebrates the miracle that happened after Jews reclaimed the Temple in Jerusalem from the Greeks.

brated and supported. In America we have freedom of religion. We're respectful of all groups to worship as they please. The fact the God of Freedom wants you to rebel against tyranny and live in freedom is so important."

At home, Rabbi Gluck, his wife and two children celebrate the holiday surrounded by half a dozen menorahs they light for eight nights. After special blessings over the candles, they will open gifts then sit down to a dinner of potato latkes. Later, they'll play the dreidel game, spinning the top, all the while remembering "miracles happen."



Tons of toys

Century 21 Dynamic Realty in Westland collected their largest amount of toys ever this year with 425 toys. The real estate company sends out a thank you to all those who contributed.

2 arrested as suspects in series of robberies

The Livonia police, along with Detroit police, have arrested two men who are suspected of committing a series of armed robberies throughout Wayne County.

"They've been charged with the Dec. 7 armed robbery of a Dunkin Donuts here in Livonia, but we're expecting charges on robberies of other Dunkin Donuts stores in Detroit and Lincoln Park," said Livonia Police Lt. Ben McDermott. "We're also questioning them about possible involvement in a robbery at a Baskin Robbins here in Livonia. There may be other agencies who are also interested in these guys."

The first suspect to be arrested is a 35-year-old Detroit man. Last week, during a robbery of a Dunkin Donuts in Detroit, a witness was able to report the license plate number of the car used in the robbery. The car was tracked to the man. Police watched him for a few days, hoping to catch him in the act of another robbery, but he wasn't moving, accord-

ing to McDermott. "It turns out that he was inactive for a few days because, like everyone else, he had the flu," he said.

The man was arrested on Dec. 18. After questioning him, police also arrested a 26-year-old Detroit man.

Upon the first man's arrest, the car was impounded, and police found several items in the car which could link him to the robberies.

"We found a Michigan baseball cap, and a gun which matches the description of the weapon used in the robbery," McDermott said. "These arrests happened thanks to a cooperative effort between us and the Detroit Police Department."

Both suspects are being held on \$100,000 cash bonds. They have been charged with armed robbery and are charged as repeat offenders (second and third offense). One man has been charged with felony firearms.

By Carol Marshall

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CENTURY

FROM PAGE A1
at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. to hear the news.

She also has her favorite foods. Chocolate is No. 1 and ice cream No. 2. She'll be your best friend for chocolate, according to Miller.

"She was just introduced to M&Ms two years ago and ran amok with them," Miller said. "And Rice Krispie Treats is her food of 2003. She never had one until she was introduced to them this year and she just loves them. She could eat a whole box, if you let her."

She also loves to play bingo and win. It's her favorite Grand Court activity next to eating, Tipton added.

Heath has a sharp mind for being 100 years old, but the dates of other milestones in her life are a bit fuzzy.

She was born on Dec. 25, 1903, in Chatham, Ontario, Canada, and came to the United States with her parents when she was 9 or 10. Her father was looking for work, and the family settled in Detroit's Corktown.

She attended business school and was a stenographer. She worked in the office at a hardware store and did secretarial work for Furlough Trucking and Stahl Manufacturing.

According to Miller, Heath married Jack Franklin at about age 18, but it ended in divorce. She remarried Gordon Cathro around age 25. They were married 25 years, when he died. She was in her 50s or 60s when she married Al Heath, who died about 15 years ago.

Her only children are Al's stepdaughters - Eleanore Krisin who lives in Michigan and Ruth Wyper, who lives in North Carolina.

"Gladys liked ballroom dancing," Miller said. "She learned it as a young woman, but it was with her second husband Gordon that she did it a lot. She also liked to golf, and she and Gordon did a lot of swimming." With Al, she enjoyed traveling

and music. He played the violin. They would spend their winters in Florida so they could golf and swim.

She lived most of her life in Detroit and moved to Grand Court in 1995 after a fire next door forced her out of her apartment in Northville.

She lost the vision in one eye about 10-15 years ago and managed fairly well until she lost most of her remaining vision three or four years ago, Miller said.

"She was going strong at 96-97," she added. "Up until then, she was taking care of herself."

Tipton has been with her caregiver 12 hours a day, five days a week for about 10 months and the relationship is more of that of a mother and daughter rather than caregiver and client.

"Gladys is very passionate," said Tipton, patting Heath's hand. "She likes being touched and hugged. She's a joker and likes to dress up. Even though she can't see, she likes to hear that she looks nice because she knows someone took the time with her."

Tipton has taken Gladys on trips to Frankenmuth and shopping at the mall, getting her to wear everything, including jeans, a T-shirt and Keds.

A grandmother herself, Tipton brings the youngsters to visit Heath. They love her, she said, especially the boys.

"Whenever we have a party, they say, 'Take some to Gladys,'" she said. "The best part is she knows when they are here."

Tipton admits that she's picky about Heath's care. If the other caregivers don't do right by her, Tipton will leave them a long letter.

"Cynthia is more like family to her," said Miller. "She has more contact with her than anyone."

"Gladys is my inspiration," Tipton said. "She gives me the drive to go on every day. I see what she goes through and it inspires me to go on."

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SALES

FROM PAGE A1

tage of that just in time for Christmas. Self-help books like *The South Beach Diet* and Mitch Albom's latest effort, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, are favorite gifts this year.

"You can find something for everyone," said Lisa Laesch, a Redford resident and B. Dalton employee. "That's where half of my Christmas presents come from."

Gap, one clothing store that advertises extensively during the holidays, is showing improvement on a local level. Gloria Sage, store manager at the Westland mall location, said sales are "definitely better" compared to last year. "Our traffic is down," she said. "People are just buying more."

From sweaters on sale for \$20 to television ads, Sage said shoppers keep coming. "We get a lot of people that say, 'We saw the commercial, where is that purse?'"

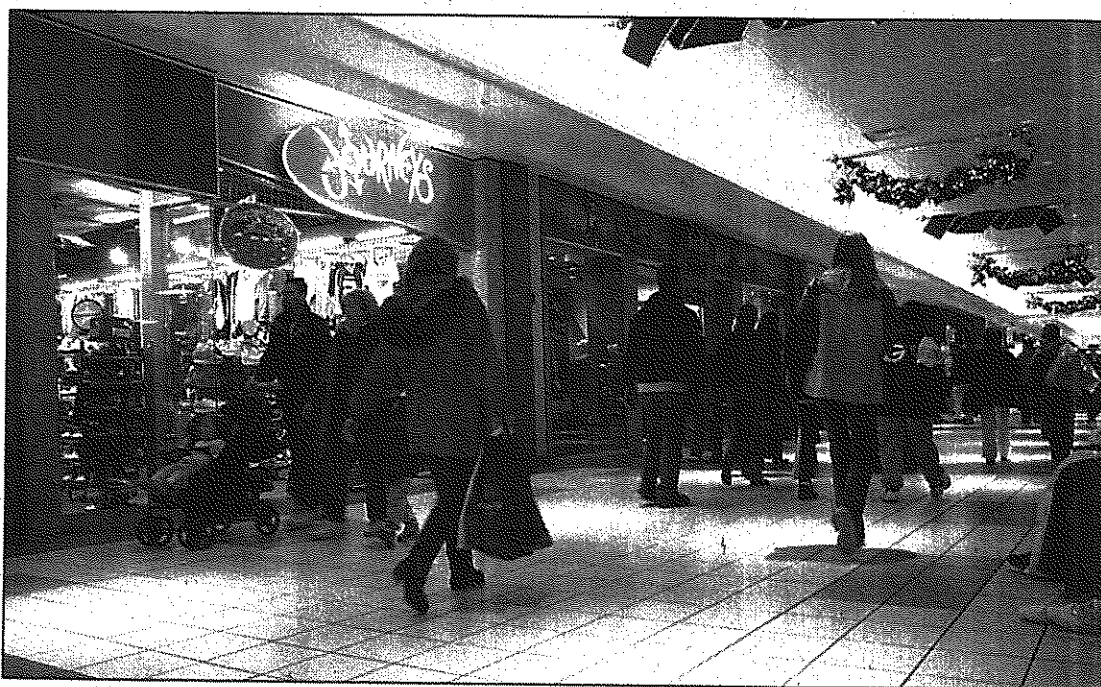
Sage admits she saves time and money by buying gifts for her family at the store and around the mall.

But some stores, like Champs Sports, are only now beginning to feel the holiday rush. Manager Lisa Arndt in Westland said it's starting to get a lot busier. Unlike Gap, the store has had a lot of traffic, but sales are slower.

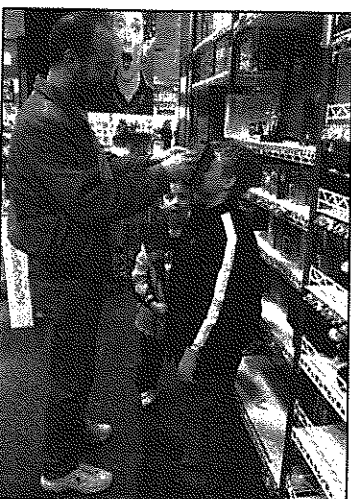
The story is the same in some downtown shopping districts and area strip malls. In Plymouth, shoppers sauntered from store to store surrounded by decorated Christmas trees and the sound of holiday music.

But Stella Delap, of Basket Kreations on Forest Street, said she believes business is down. "We're not nearly as busy as we were last year," she said. "I just think people are a lot more cautious. They're being a lot more conservative."

Delap, a Canton resident, creates gift baskets and relies



Shopping bags abound at area malls where time is running out to find the perfect Christmas gift.



Brian Elm and his sons, Scott, 10, and Eric, 7, are shopping at Spencer gift store at Westland Shopping Center.

on the business the holidays bring. On Monday she was surrounded by baskets ready for pick-up, and completing one that consisted of a festive sleigh filled with gourmet treats, coffee, cocoa, nuts, a blanket and more.

"A lot of people waited until the last minute (to order)," Delap said. "We have high hopes for the new year."

Across the street at Bugaboos

for Children, owner Amy Dickman said they offered more sales and specials this year - including free socks with every purchase. "We marked things down a lot. Everything is on clearance."

During the final shopping rush, she's noticed shoppers picking up last-minute stocking stuffers, like hair bows and tights. The kids' clothing and accessories store will stay open until 1 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

At Media Play in Livonia, parking wasn't an issue. General Manager Larry Ewing said the percentage of holiday sales this year appears to be down, but it doesn't account for online purchases - which seem to be on the rise every year.

DVDs make up a major portion of holiday gifts sold at Media Play, Ewing said, but other favorites this year included the Leapster from Leapfrog and the "leg lamp" inspired by the modern classic flick, *A Christmas Story*.

When in doubt, gift cards are always a good fit, Ewing said. It's another reason that holiday retail totals won't be complete until long after Christmas.

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FRI LS 12:00
PAYCHECK (PG-13) TH 4:40, 7:20, 9:50
FRI 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50
FRI LS 12:15
PETER PAN (PG) TH 4:15, 6:50, 9:20
FRI 11:00, 1:35, 4:15, 6:50, 9:20
LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING (PG-13)
TH 6:05, 9:55
FRI 1:00, 6:05, 9:55
SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE (PG-13)
TH 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
FRI 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
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OUR VIEWS

Have yourself a merry Christmas

As we sit with our families and friends and celebrate another Christmas, it seems the one wish common to the season — Peace on Earth — is still far from our grasp.

The remnants of war, and the reality of continued attacks on American and coalition forces in Iraq, along with continued unrest in the Middle East, make peace a distant and wistful hope.

It's particularly so for the families of Americans killed or wounded in Iraq, not to mention those simply denied the presence of loved ones who are serving their country so far from home.

It is our nature to want our families gathered around us, like a warm blanket of love, especially at the holidays. While the families of servicemen and women are denied that comfort this year, they can bask in the warmth of the knowledge that those husbands and wives, daughters and sons, brothers and sisters are serving with distinction.

Those of us left to gather will do so with love and gratitude, as befits the season. Sure, there will be plenty of food and presents, as the commercialization of the season comes to a close, but that's not really the reason we get together. We do so in the spirit of love and togetherness.

It won't be that way for everyone, of course. Local charities again report a decline, for the most part, in giving, but an increase in requests for assistance. Everyone gives what they can.

Still, each year we rouse ourselves during the holiday season to listen to the better angels of our nature. We reach out to others during this special time and promise to carry our concern forward into the new year.

For Christians, the year-end time has been appropriated to celebrate the birth of Jesus, a savior who came to the world not as a king, but as a baby born in a stable to humble parents.

The circumstances of Jesus' birth give profound weight to his later message of love and human kindness.

The commercial aspect is omni-present today, but once we get past that, Christmas is for most of us about home and hope, about family and love. We all long to be together, but in today's fast-paced, too-busy-to-take-the-time world, the fates don't always allow that.

Separations come, an assertion all too clear to the families of our servicemen and women this holiday season. Until we can have that perfect Christmas, we'll all simply have to muddle through, somehow.

Sometimes merry little Christmases can be the best kind. We hope yours fulfills your every hope and dream.

Keep families, friends safe during holidays

The holiday season is in full swing and will peak in about a week as we usher in 2004. And so the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* adds its voice to the many local, state and national organizations saying: If you celebrate the season with a drink, don't take it on the road. And in addition to the danger of driving drunk or impaired, we urge everyone who gets in a car to use a seat belt.

"Last year, 17,419 people nationwide were killed in crashes involving alcohol," said MADD President Wendy J. Hamilton, who sadly has had four members of her family, killed in alcohol-related crashes. "Beyond the tragic death toll, a horrific half a million people are injured in alcohol-related crashes each year. The holiday season is the perfect time for Americans to work together to help keep families together and roadways safer."

According to 2002 data issued by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, traffic fatalities in the United States reached their highest level in 12 years. Alarmingly, alcohol-related traffic deaths have increased for three years in a row — representing 42 percent of all traffic fatalities last year — while a lack of safety belt usage was blamed for 59 percent of all traffic fatalities. In total, more than 25,000 Americans died in alcohol-related crashes or crashes in which safety belts were NOT used.

You think it can't happen to you because you don't drink and drive, consider this:

Four drinks will elevate blood-alcohol level of a 160-pound man to .09. That's four 12-ounce beers. Four glasses of wine. Four shots of hard liquor. A 140-pound woman hits the same level with just three drinks. In Michigan, a bill lowering the threshold of legal intoxication from a 0.10 to 0.08 blood-alcohol level received a final stamp of approval from Gov. Jennifer Granholm and took effect Oct. 1. It means stiffer penalties for those caught drinking and driving. It also makes it illegal for people to drive with any amount of illegal drugs in their system.

We know that many people will drink this holiday season. However, if you choose to drink make the right choice and don't drive.



St. Genevieve Scouts give a 'Cat in the Hat' Merry Christmas to all during the Livonia Santa Claus Parade. And Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all from the Observer Newspapers.

LETTERS

Tax reductions grow economy

Mr. Hugh Gallagher might be right in saying that petty bickering about whether or not delaying the state's scheduled 0.1 percent tax reduction is actually a tax increase, but he does little to help matters with his childish references to Betsy DeVos and her personal net worth, or by insulting the growing majority in the private sector who would like to see a continuation of fiscal responsibility by our elected representatives in both Lansing and Washington. What difference does it make how someone pronounces the word "government"?

Holding the line on taxes is a proven and fundamental principle to growing our economy to the point in which additional revenue can be produced, without stifling job production. As Mr. Gallagher stated, a 0.1 percent increase in taxes is a drop in the bucket. An estimated \$75 million will not make much of a dent in a state budget deficit that is just shy of \$1 trillion! This emphasizes the main point, that being raising taxes is not going to fix the problem, and that the tax cuts by the Engler administration were not the cause. (Anybody remember Sept. 11, 2001?) The economy of this state and our nation as a whole is what determines the amount of revenue that is available for certain government programs.

"What's essential and what's unnecessary?" Indeed, this can be a difficult question to answer, but families have to make these kinds of decisions all the time. Our elected representatives in Lansing need to do much the same. They should continue to cut wasteful spending, trimming vital programs wherever possible and instead of trying to buy votes with "pork," they should eliminate programs that we do not need and presently cannot afford.

James A. Kidd
Livonia

Holiday gouging

With the holiday season upon us, one would hate to think about the topic of greed, but when it comes to the service stations in our area, not only are they greedy, they are our area Scrooge!

Let's examine the reason for the significant increase in the cost of gasoline on holiday weekends. I was filling my gas tank at the Garden City Speedway on 12/18 and the price was \$1.37 per gallon. I noticed a man going out to change the numbers on the sign. When I asked the clerk if the price was going down, she laughed and said it was going up 13 cents a gallon.

Why? I asked. She replied that it was Christmas and gas prices ALWAYS go up on holidays! I later noticed the same trend was happening at the Speedway in Canton and on Cherry Hill in Westland.

According to the Fuel Cost Index in the U.S. (excluding Hawaii and Alaska), gasoline prices went down 1.5 cents per gallon, but our neighborhood stations decided to gouge the consumers who may be traveling to see their loved ones this holiday season.

I am asking for consumers to drive pass stations that practice this heartless act and support stations that set and maintain prices at a non-gouging holiday rate.

Jerry Thorne
Canton

Money, money, money

We live in a society, and in a communi-

ty, where for all practical purposes, money is everything.

We want it. We try to get it. We envy those who have it. But worse, we look down on those who do not have adequate income, as if we are somehow better than they.

How stupid can we get? I guess the answer to that question is: We can get as stupid as we are.

Most of us in this community do not know how lucky we are. Lucky, because the very fact that we happen to be living here, no matter how we may have gotten here, indicates that most of us, by virtue of being here, know where our next meal is coming from.

And most of us have roofs over our heads to protect us from the rain and snow, and warm beds in which to sleep every night. Most of us are on the inside looking out.

I wonder, how many in this community have had the experience of being on the outside, looking in? Have you ever been homeless or broke and hungry? Are you somehow better than someone who is broke and hungry? Or are you better than someone because you have a nicer house, car or clothing?

Are you a better class of person than those less fortunate than you? I don't mean to bring you on a downer. I just think we should all be more aware of the world around us.

Kenneth Kemp
Farmington Hills

Support universities

To Phil Power: Thank you for your Dec. 11 column about the sad state of our public support for Michigan's universities (Education cuts could leave Michigan as "Mississippi North"). I could not agree more. I encourage you to continue to keep this important issue up in the line of sight of your readers.

Of course, the situation has actually worsened in just the past week, with the House-passed bill.

I sent my opinions objecting to the House effort to avoid the tax cut delay to my own state representative and senator, as well as Gov. Granholm.

I would gladly accept a six-month delay, or even longer, in the scheduled tax cut rather than see the continued reduction in state funding of key programs including education. I applaud Gov. Granholm for her statement today upholding her position on this.

Only an enlightened and energized public will change the way so-called leaders like Rick Johnson take this state. Alas, we live in a time when the public is content with being under-informed, when the prevailing mood is me, rather than we.

The public's main concern about our state's public universities is just to be sure that they do well in NCAA football and basketball. They seem to be valued more for their entertainment than for their scholastics.

Pogo was right; we have met the enemy, and they is us!

Dan Keifer
Rochester Hills

Honor King legacy

Congratulations to the neighbors and city officials who saved the Valley Woods Nature Preserve (in Southfield) for all of us to enjoy, not just those who can afford to buy a \$500,000 house.

These are the kind of common good,

social justice values that made my wife and I decide to move to Southfield 12 years ago.

Now, let's express our community values once more on Jan. 19. Let's all march together on Martin Luther King Day to show how much we value and wish to preserve our rich, diverse human environment as well as our natural environment.

Dr. King's legacy continues to show us the way. On Jan. 19, let us march to honor his memory and show the world his dream lives on in Southfield.

Sam Stark
Southfield

Veering left

Howard Dean is seeking the nomination of the Democrats to gain residence in the Oval Office. When Dean came to the fork in the road, he went left, way left.

"Left" will be meaningful when it is identified as the preference for government regulation, government intervention, the government edict, the government's increased prerogative of managing the economy. With the power and province of the stewardship of our economy in government hands, the control and "leadership" are necessarily designated to the Washington denizens who spend our money, deciding on the pork and beef to be distributed, to whom and how much to each vote-giver. The decline in one's inalienable rights will always be a consequence of the managed economy. Let's eschew any further use of the euphemism: A government-led economy is socialism, and socialism is slavery.

Dean has accepted all tenets of the planned economy, contradicting all of the preferences of the Founding Fathers, negating our dream and our culture. In short, Dean would be more than dangerous. He could accomplish the socialist takeover and the obeisance of the American people much more quickly than the "red" who would creep.

Dean's anti-war, anti-troops in combat position is further suggestion that we might elect a leader who will never stand tall, fight the enemy, prevail for our people to keep them free.

Elect whom you will, but make him a man who will honor the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, our dream composed of the free market and limited government, and a man who will no less than our strong, stand between us and the terrorists of all description.

Neil Goodbred
Livonia

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

QUOTABLE

"I do believe in Santa Claus. That's all I asked for for Christmas was my husband home safe."

— Norma Burger, on husband U.S. Army Spc. Donald E. Burger Jr.'s return from Iraq

Christmas provides memories that stay with us for a lifetime

According to the psychologists, important holidays like Christmas generate memories that are among the most intense and long-lasting of our lives. So it has been with me and, I am certain, with most families. Christmas produces remembrances that will stay with me for the rest of my life, some of them generating stories that become important parts of shared family history. Here are a few of mine ...

I remember when I was quite little - 4 or 5 years old, I'd guess - I believed firmly in Santa Claus. "Can we set out milk and cookies for Santa?" I asked my mother on Christmas Eve. "Certainly, dear," she replied. And so we did, right in front of the fireplace.

Certain I could stay awake to see Santa arrive by willpower alone, I stationed myself on the sofa. My mother pulled a blanket over me and turned out the living room lights, leaving me safe and comfy by the warm glow of the Christmas tree bulbs. And - amazing to recount (!) - when I woke up in the early morning, the milk had been drunk, the cookies eaten, and there were just a few crumbs left on the fireplace hearth along with Santa's presents ...

Much of my father's family lived in Traverse City, so nothing would do other than to take the long drive - six hours or so in those days - to spend Christmas in my grandfather's big, dark Victorian house on Sixth Street. His birthday was Dec. 24, not exactly an optimal date for a celebration. But he was always glad to see us arrive, loaded down with double-duty presents. My grandfather was a fierce man, an archetype of the old school. His oft-repeated doctrine - "There are two ways of doing things; my way and the wrong way" - was an adage that many in the family took to heart. But he was kind and gentle with his grandchildren. He used to sit down in a big red leather arm chair by the side of his fireplace, pull me up into his ample lap and read "The Night Before Christmas" to me before I went off to bed ...

Occasionally we would celebrate Christmas at home near Ann Arbor. When I was around 12, I whined long and loud enough to induce the purchase of a giant tree for the living room. We spent hours decorating it, handing the ornaments up to my father, who teetered on top of a big wooden stepladder.

That was the year my godmother came to spend Christmas with us. She was a no-nonsense woman who lived in (gasp!) New York and disliked our two Siamese cats. The feeling was mutual, and when she strode through the house wearing her corduroy slacks that went "swish, swish" as she walked, the cats would always beat it for a safe haven.

One morning, however, she walked (swish, swish) into the living room and (unintentionally) cornered the cats in front of the tree. Up to the top of the tree they went, lickety-split. Down went the tree, slowly and with great dignity, the falling ornaments making glittering geometric cascades as they headed for the floor, where they shattered in gentle, brittle, high-pitched sounds ...

After I graduated from college, I wound up in Fairbanks, Alaska, where I worked as the sports editor of the *Daily News-Miner*. My parents flew up to be with me for Christmas. Of course, we followed our established family tradition of going out into the woods to cut a fresh Christmas tree. "Going out" consisted of getting bundled up enough to survive a temperature that I remember as being pretty close to ... 40 below!

The "woods" around Fairbanks are mostly tundra, but we finally located a somewhat shriveled spruce-like growth that seemed a reasonable facsimile of a real Christmas tree. Taking the ax we had brought with us, I delivered a suitably stout blow to the base of the tree, only to see every one of the branches immediately fall off! The extreme cold had made the wood so brittle that one ax-blow denuded the entire tree. We trucked back into town and bought a pre-cut tree, probably imported from somewhere "outside," i.e. anywhere but in the arctic and had a happy Christmas, far away from home ...

This year Kathy, Nathan and I will be traveling to Denver to spend Christmas with our son, Scott, and his new bride, Molly. Unlike my grandfather, I feel that we should find ways to encourage them in establishing their own Christmas traditions.

Visiting them on their turf seems a gentle way to get that started. However, when we pack our bags, we'll include the old Christmas stockings for the entire family, including Scott's and one we got for Molly last year. Funny how much emotion and memory can accompany something as simple as a stocking ...

Finally, my holiday wish for everybody is best captured in an Irish blessing that came on a friend's Christmas card:

May you have warm words on a cold evening,
A full moon on a dark night,
And the road downhill all the way to your door.

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

Phil Power

Power

Bad deal for seniors and bad deal for Medicare

According to Greek mythology, the Greeks waged a fruitless war against the City of Troy. Unable to penetrate the fortified walls of the city, they hatched a new strategy. Within a large hollow wooden horse, presented as a gift, the Greeks hid the seeds that would sow the destruction of Troy.

Today, opponents of the Medicare system have built their own Trojan horse. After attempting for 38 unsuccessful years to break down the mighty walls of Medicare, they finally have begun the process. While framed as a gift to senior citizens, this bill will actually begin the end of Medicare as we know it.

Providing a real comprehensive prescription drug benefit and lowering prescription drug prices have been my top priorities since joining Congress. I entered into this debate leading the fight to do just that, and nothing would have pleased me more! But in the end, I was forced to lead the fight to protect Medicare itself.

Medicare has been a great American success story because it has brought dependable, affordable health care to millions of seniors and the disabled. Beneficiaries can choose their own doctors and they know that regardless of where they live, they will pay the same premiums and co-payments for care. Under this bill, all of that will change. Starting in 2010, it forces seniors and the disabled in demonstration areas to choose between HMOs, private insurance, and their traditional Medicare plan. Because of the way it is designed, Medicare costs will actually go up and the program will begin to be dismantled.

At least seniors and the disabled get a good prescription drug benefit, right? Wrong. About 30 percent of beneficiaries will receive substantial help, and that is great. The other 70 percent will receive very little - or actually pay more! First, there's a large gap in coverage; the government

provides no assistance for costs between \$2,250 and \$5,100. However, you must continue to pay the premium of about \$35. This means a person with \$5,100 in prescription costs will still pay about \$4,020.

It gets worse. About 2.8 million low-income beneficiaries won't even qualify for the much-touted financial assistance, and millions will actually receive less coverage than before because the bill ends additional assistance from Medicaid. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, 2.7 million seniors stand to lose wrap around coverage from their employers because of the way the law is written, which means as many as one in four Michigan retirees could lose their existing employer-provided prescription drug plan. That's about 143,000 people. This is simply unacceptable!

Moreover, instead of lowering prices, the bill actually raises prices! It excludes a provision to permit American pharmacies to re-import FDA-approved drugs from Canada, a provision I have fought tirelessly to include because it could reduce drug costs by at least 50 percent.

Add insult to injury, Medicare is stopped from using its large pool of beneficiaries to negotiate good deals - never mind that the Veterans Administration has been doing this for years. No one benefits from this except the drug companies.

It's not too late to change this Act. Most of the provisions don't take effect until 2006.

I invite you to speak out and join the fight to protect and strengthen Medicare. I have already introduced legislation with colleagues to lower prices for everyone - individuals and businesses - and I will continue to lead efforts to provide a real, comprehensive Medicare prescription drug benefit for those who need it.

The Trojan horse may have destroyed Troy, but here it only means opponents of Medicare have won a battle, not the war.

Debbie Stabenow, a Democrat, is Michigan's junior senator.



Sen. Debbie Stabenow

LETTERS

Medicare plan not for us

I would like to point out to the residents of the 11th Congressional District, that our representative, Thaddeus McCotter, voted yes to pass the Medicare prescription drug legislation. Yet, in an article recently published in the *Observer & Eccentric* newspaper, he is quoted as saying; "There is a danger that companies that provide drug benefits to retirees will abandon them to a Medicare drug plan under which they will be worse off. If my retirees are hurt, I'm not voting for it."


The fact is, most seniors in the 11th District, and in the state, will be harmed by this legislation. Many retirees, with UAW pensions, for example, could be kicked from their private drug plans, and forced into this plan which will, in

many cases, result in thousands of dollars more in out of pocket expenses. Further, a recent Detroit News editorial estimates 218,000 seniors will lose private drug coverage under this bill.

As anyone who has ever received a response from Rep. McCotter knows, he always signs his letters with the phrase, "I work for you." It is apparent, from this vote and many others, that Rep. McCotter does not work for his constituents, but instead follows the Republican party line. As the people of the 11th District, and the state of Michigan, closely look at the details of this flawed legislation remember; you can express your displeasure on Election Day 2004.

Kenneth Hymes
Redford

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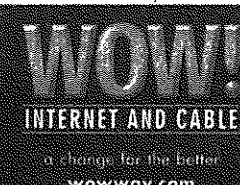
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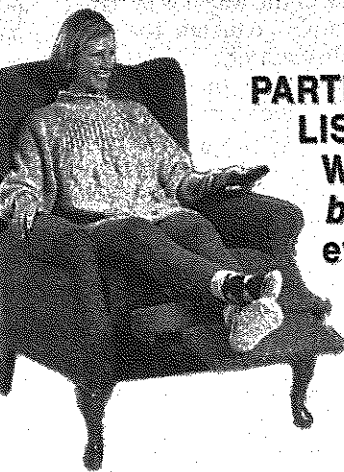
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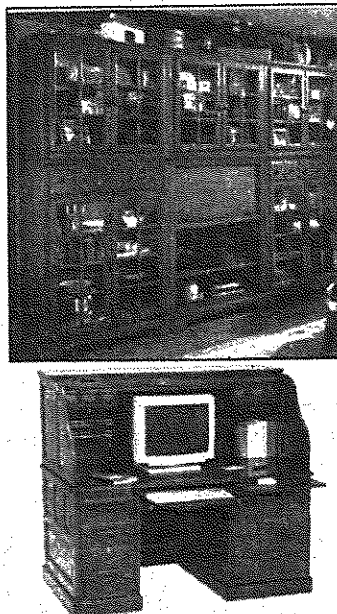
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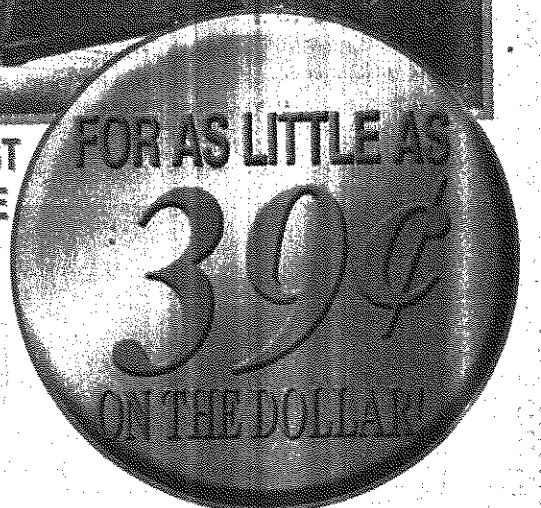


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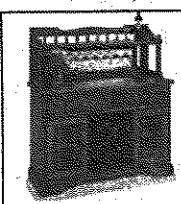
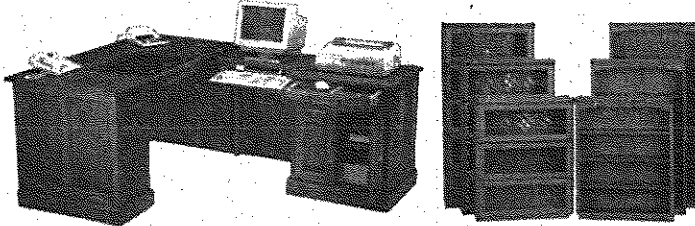
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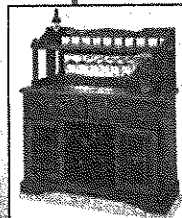
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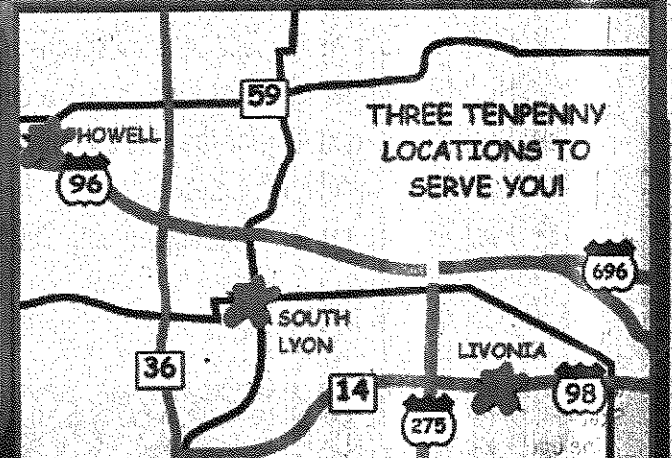
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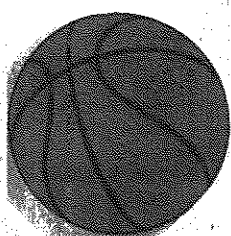
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Sidelines

Hoskins shines

Salem graduate Dave Hoskins, a freshman at Central Michigan, got his first start of the season last Saturday at the University of Michigan and responded with a 16-point performance.

The Chippewas opened poorly, trailing at one point 28-2, but they stormed back and in the second half trimmed the deficit — which was 50-32 at the half — to three points before falling 85-75. The loss left them at 2-6; U-M improved to 6-1.

For Hoskins, a 6-foot-5 forward, there were a couple of firsts in the game. He was 6-of-12 from the field, including 3-of-4 from three-point range — the first triples of his collegiate career.

Hoskins is averaging 6.6 points and nearly two rebounds a game. He's getting 19.5 minutes of playing time.

CMU's record may be deceiving. One of the Chippewas' wins came at Notre Dame, 69-68 on Dec. 6, when the Irish were ranked in the top-25. Hoskins had six points and three boards in that game.

United girls 15-1

Livonia United, an under-12 girls soccer team, competing in the both the under-14 and -12 divisions, finished the first season at the SoccerZone in Novi with a 15-1 record while outscoring their opponents, 102-18.

Members of United, coached by Stacey Werner, include Ashley Werner, Shannon Merritt, Ashley Welch, Sarah Seiler, Kristen Cremeens, Jacqueline Spearman, Jaclyn Mattered, Tessa Allen, Emily Clairmont, Nikki LeVasseur, Carly Davis, Kristen Jolly, Victoria Saferian, All Dixon, Helen Flood, Taryn Zmich and Rosie Schifano.

Open skate

The city of Plymouth will have open skating throughout the holiday break at the Plymouth Cultural Center, located at 525 Farmer.

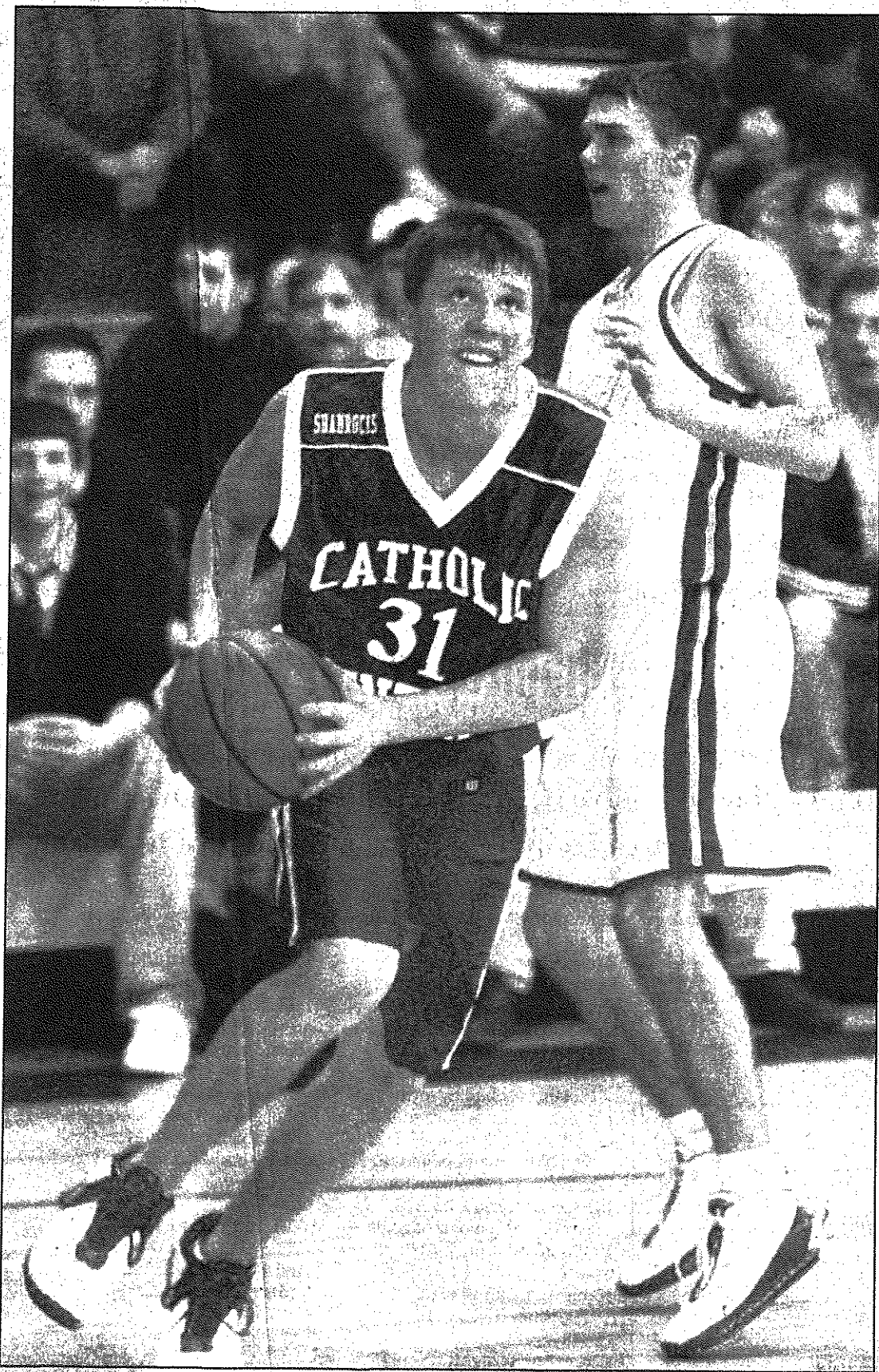
The open skate schedule is: 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26; 10-10:50



a.m. Saturday, Dec. 27; 4-5:50 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28; 6-6:50 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29; 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30; 9 a.m.-noon Wednesday, Dec. 31; 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2; 10-1:50 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 3; and 4-5:50 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4.

Cost is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children and \$2 for seniors before Jan. 1; after Jan. 1, the cost is \$4 for adults, \$3 for children and \$3 for seniors. Skate rental is \$2.

The open skate phone line is (734) 455-1782. For more information, call the Plymouth Recreation Office at (734) 455-6620.



Catholic Central's Jim Cash drives by Redford Union's Mike Donaldson in the first meeting between these city rivals in more than a decade.

CC's pressure befuddles RU

Strong 2nd half lead ensures win

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK
CORRESPONDENT

Not being able to deal with pressure can really turn up the pressure.

Both Redford Catholic Central and Redford Union had problems in dealing with each other's pressure defense Monday night, but the Shamrocks were better able to handle it and came away with a 56-47 nonconference victory.

"We were way too tentative and I don't know why," Panthers' coach Brett Steele said after his team suffered its first loss in four games this season. "We knew they were coming with it. But we didn't attack it as much as we should have."

The result was that RU squandered the 21-16 lead it held with 5:09 left in the first half, which ended with CC (3-1) holding a 30-25 lead.

The Panthers started rushing things when the Shamrocks went full court with their defense. The host team had no trouble bringing the ball up much of the time, but often junior guard Gregg Hill was forced to a sideline where he was double-teamed. It was then that RU ran into problems.

"It wasn't turnovers," Steele said. "It was more of an opportunity for us to attack with our guards — and we didn't. Our guards are our strength; that's where we're supposed to be strong. We just didn't do a very good job of it."

"We found some pretty solid defense," CC coach Rick Coratti said. "Earlier, they were playing harder than we were. That's a

pretty good team.

"But we matched them in the second quarter a little bit and in the third quarter, too.

"We've got some ingredients. We could become pretty good once we get going. We're getting better."

The Shamrocks suffered a worry with 4:06 left in the half and the score tied, 21-21, when center Dan Waterstradt was knocked to the floor in a scramble for a loose ball on a fast break and suffered a tailbone bruise.

He recovered enough to start the second half and finish the game. The 6-foot-11 center scored seven of his 13 points in the third period to help CC ease out to a 46-32 lead. Waterstradt had seven of his team's first nine points in the quarter to help make it 39-27 with 5:28 to play.

"They've got a lot of good athletes who have been in a lot of competitive situations," Steele said. "And when you've got a 6-10 kid, that makes everything a whole lot easier for everybody."

Hill led all scorers with 17 points, but nine came in the first quarter. Robert Fragoso did a nice defensive job on him after that but Hill isn't the kind of player who looks for his shot every trip down the floor. The next highest scoring Panther was Mike Donaldson with eight.

The Panthers turned up their own defensive pressure to full court in the fourth quarter and nearly found themselves back in the game.

They held the Shamrocks to just two points for the first five

PLEASE SEE CC, B4

Panthers dominate Blue Division Relays

Maury Masalin likes what he sees from his Redford Union boys swim team, which captured eight of 10 races to earn first place in Saturday's Mega Conference Blue Division Relays held at Eastern Michigan University's Jones Natatorium.

Of the four schools, RU led the way with 85 points. Garden City edged Redford Thurston for second place, 55-54, while Lincoln Park finished fourth with 35.

"It's the first time we've ever won this," said Masalin, whose Panthers dropped down this year from the Mega's White Division to the Blue. "We felt pretty good about the meet, but you never know. We did a little better than I thought."

In the all-relay format, RU won the 200-yard medley (2:07.9), 600 freestyle (7:07.0), 400 individual medley (5:08.85), 850 crescendo (10:25.0), diving (no team total available), 200 butterfly (2:15.79), 200 breaststroke (2:27.4) and 200 backstroke (2:21.43). The Panthers also added

SWIMMING

See relay results, page B2.

a second in the 200 freestyle relay and a third in the 400 freestyle relay.

Dan Shuffler, Mike Gardner, Dustin McLean and Matt Aren each figured in three first-place relay efforts for the Panthers, while Jason Suiter, Kyle Mullen, Eric Johnson, Dan Holst, James Overman and Justin Jarvis added two apiece.

"Jarvis did a great job in the backstroke as did McLean in the breaststroke," Masalin said. "We had a couple of people getting over some sickness and we did well."

Garden City coach Julie Johnston was pleased that her foursome of Tim Thackaberry, Joe Turbin, Josh Arsenault and Ken Kast swept the 200 and 400 freestyle relays.

The Cougars missed Matt Fitzgibbon,

who was unable to compete in the IM, butterfly and diving after undergoing eye surgery.

"It was a matter of touches," Johnston said. "I'm very proud of our 200 freestyle relay. With our 'B' team we almost took one-two in that event. We're looking forward to that meet (4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8 at home vs. Redford Union)."

Although Thurston did not get a first, coach Samantha Brand was encouraged.

"We had five kids out because of the holidays and missing practices," she said. "They swam some things they're not used to. But we brought home another trophy. I'm proud of them and we'll be pumped up for the league meet (in March)."

Chiefs, Spartans fall short

There was a lesson to be learned at Saturday's Madonna Volleyball Tournament, and for Canton, it was a particularly painful one.

The Chiefs were cruising along in pool play, having won all six of its games before its final pool match against Dearborn Divine Child.

"We came out real flat," said Canton coach Steve Anderson. "We knew we were already in (the final six)."

"We weren't very motivated and they were."

The result was a two-game sweep for Divine Child, 25-15, 25-21, which took the Falcons from the brink of elimination to the semifinals and, eventually, to the tournament championship.

Divine Child ended up tied with Plymouth, Canton and Livonia Stevenson at 6-2 in pool games. The tiebreaker was point differential: at stake, a bye into the semifinals.

The Falcons got the bye and, after Canton beat Plymouth 25-22, 25-18 in the quarterfinals, beat the Chiefs again, 25-16, 21-25, 15-6 in the semis.

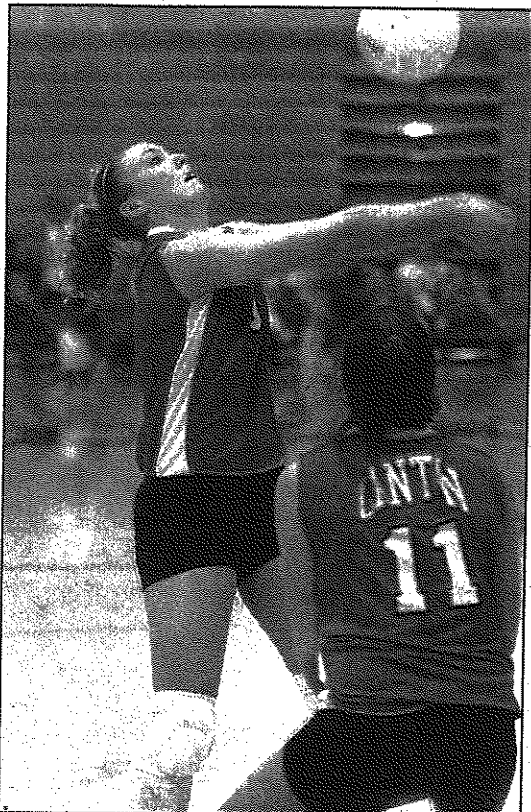
Divine Child ended up besting Royal Oak Shrine for the title.

"We just ran out of gas," said Anderson, his team 5-3-2 for the season.

Stevenson survived its pool, losing both games to Shrine 25-14, 25-14, but sweeping Roseville 25-12, 25-16; Whitmore Lake 25-17, 25-9; and Livonia Franklin 25-13, 25-21. In its quarterfinal match against Southgate Anderson, the Spartans emerged with the victory, 25-18, 25-15.

In the semis against Shrine, Stevenson made it closer but couldn't overtake the Knights, losing 25-13, 20-25, 15-7.

Maria Mezzadri led Stevenson with 27 kills and 11 solo blocks for the tournament. Other top hitters were Linda Montgomery with 22 kills, Kaitlin Armstrong with 20 kills, Lisa Montgomery with 18 kills and Kelly Gibbons with 15 kills. Setter Laura Flaugh had 65 set assists, went 40-for-40 serving with four aces; Lia Williamson was 38-for-38 serving



Canton's Kelly Baker (left) digs this ball out with teammate Molly Conlon (11) supporting. The Chiefs reached the semifinals of the Madonna Tournament.

PLEASE SEE TOURNAMENT, B3

Shorthanded Whalers lose

Playing with a depleted lineup, the Plymouth Whalers couldn't quite keep pace with the league-leading London Knights Saturday, surrendering the game-winning goal with :40 left in a 3-2 loss at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

Dennis Wideman's 11th goal of the season, with assists from Danny Syvret and Scott Sheppard, proved to be the game-winner.

Through the weekend, London was 23-7-1-2 (49 points), tied for

OHL HOCKEY

first overall in the Ontario Hockey League and in the Midwest Division with Guelph. Plymouth leads the OHL's West Division at 16-11-6-2 (40 points).

The Whalers went into the game with seven players out of action, including the two leading scorers — James Wisniewski (from Canton), currently playing in the World Junior Tournament, and Ryan Ramsay, out with the flu — and their No. 1 goalie, Paul Drew, also sidelined with the flu.

Still, they gave the Knights a battle, mainly thanks to the goaltending of Ryan Nie, who had 43 saves. Plymouth was outshot, 46-23.

London goalie Ryan MacDonald had 21 saves.

The Knights scored first, getting a goal from Trevor Kell at 11:19 of the opening period. The Whalers tied it four minutes later, Jordan Grant scoring at 15:27 of the first with assists from Mike Martinelli and Gino Pisellini.

A goal by Sheppard at 17:37 of the second period put the Knights up 2-1, but the Whalers again had an answer, this time John Mitchell scoring the tying goal, his 12th of the season, on the power play at 11:08 of the third period. David Liffiton and John Vigilante assisted.

The Whalers are idle until 2 p.m. Sunday, when they play at Mississauga.

TOURNAMENT

FROM PAGE B1

with eight aces; and Kristen Hutchins was 30-for-31 in serve receptions.

Stevenson is 4-3-1 overall. Although his team fell short of a title, Anderson was happy with its performance. "I liked the team concept they showed," he said. "On offense, I'm starting to see some players develop on the outside.

"Nobody really stands out on this team. There's nothing spectacular, they just have to keep the ball from hitting the floor."

In the semifinal match against Divine Child, Stephanie Price and Kara Jones proved best at that. Price had 13 digs, Jones had 10. Katie Esper led the Chiefs in kills with six; Kelly Baker, Annie Rosales and Andrea Johnson collected five apiece, Johnson also getting three service aces.

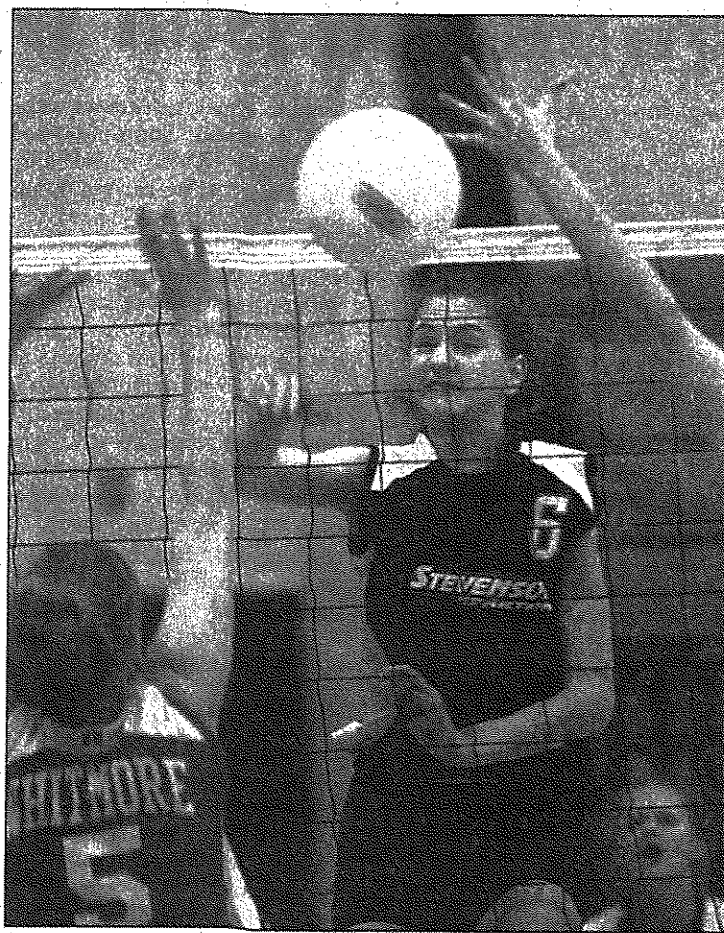
For Plymouth, advancing to the quarterfinals was something of an accomplishment, considering the Wildcats are a team — indeed, a school — of all freshmen and sophomores.

"They played extremely well," said Plymouth coach Kelly McCausland. "It did (surprise me). I knew they'd play well, I just didn't know they'd do that well."

Plymouth beat Allen Park Cabrini 25-21, 25-13; split with Westland John Glenn 17-25, 25-19; beat Wayne Memorial 25-19, 25-12; and split with Anderson 22-25, 29-27 in pool play before losing to Canton in the quarters for a 2-1-2 record on the day.

Jeanine Moise was tops for the Wildcats, collecting 27 kills and 34 digs. Sarah Haskins had 66 set assists and 25 digs, Kim Klonowski got 28 digs and seven kills, Katie Hughes finished with 15 kills and nine service aces, and Janet Hanchett totaled 17 kills and 24 digs.

Another Observer team that had a just-missed tournament was Westland John Glenn, which was 5-3 in pool play, tying for second with



Stevenson's Maria Mezzadri (6) hammers this shot at Whitmore Lake, helping the Spartans to a pool-play win at the Madonna Tournament.

Southgate Anderson. The Rockets beat Wayne Memorial 25-17, 25-21; split with Plymouth 25-17, 19-25; split with Allen Park Cabrini 26-24, 24-26; and split with Anderson 14-25, 25-21.

Like Canton, one game separated Glenn from a spot in the quarterfinals. Against Cabrini, the Rockets were at game-point, leading 24-20 in the second set — and lost 26-24. Instead of being 6-2 in games, they were 5-3 and lost the point-differential tiebreaker to Anderson.

"You know what? From our first tournament to our second tournament, we started playing better but still had some let-downs," said Glenn coach Ron Ruppel. "We played very up and down. We're a very young team — we have one senior who plays all around."

To make matters worse, the Rockets' second contributing senior, right-side hitter Jackie Vermette, suffered a sprained

wrist and was lost for the tournament. It's hoped she'll return by next week's tournament.

Glenn did get solid performances from senior outside hitter Caitlin Caldwell, with 14 kills and 20 digs, and sophomore middle blocker Jenny Swartz, with 14 kills. Megan Palka added seven service aces.

After two tournaments, the Rockets are 3-2-4 in match play.

Livonia Franklin didn't survive pool play either, but then again, the Patriots were in the tournament's toughest pool. They beat Roseville 25-19, 25-23 and Whitmore Lake 25-17, 25-19, then lost to Stevenson and Shrine 25-13, 25-22.

The 2-2 record gave Franklin a 2-3 overall record.

"We're a young team," said Patriot coach MaryHelen Diegel. "At the tournament, we had a much better showing than at our first match. We made adjustments better and were much more aggressive."

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL
Friday, Dec. 26
(Allen Park Tournament)
Salem vs. D.H. Crestwood, 5:30 p.m.
Allen Park vs. Woodhaven, 7 p.m.
(Kalamazoo Central Tournament)
Redford CC vs. Det. Country Day, 6 p.m.
Kalamazoo Central vs. Ypsilanti, 8 p.m.
(River Rouge Tournament)
John Glenn vs. Detroit City, 6 p.m.
River Rouge vs. Holy Redeemer, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 27
Allen Park Tourney, 5:30 and 7 p.m.
Rouge Tournament, 6 & 7:30 p.m.
Kalamazoo Central Tourney, 6 & 8 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 28
(UD-Jesuit Holiday Classic)
Borgess vs. Cincinnati Hughes, 10 a.m.
Monday, Dec. 29
Redford CC vs. Pontiac Northern at University of Detroit-Jesuit, 9 p.m.
(Toledo Emmanuel Baptist Tourney)
Maumee Valley (Ohio) Country Day vs. Temperance Bedford, 3:30 p.m.
Canton Agape vs. Emmanuel Baptist, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 30
Emmanuel Baptist Tourney, 3:30 & 7:30 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY
Friday, Jan. 2
Farmington Unified at Redford CC at Compuware Arena (NHL), 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 3
Churchill at W.L. Northern, 5:50 p.m.
PREP GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
Saturday, Dec. 27
Michigan-Dearborn Invitational, 9 a.m.
Saturday, Jan. 3
Saline Invitational, 8 a.m.
Flushing Invitational, 8:30 a.m.
Mich. Kick-Off at Dexter, 9 a.m.
W.L. Central Inv., 9 a.m.
Central Michigan Univ. Tourney, TBA
PREP WRESTLING
Saturday, Dec. 27
Center Line Tourney, 9 a.m.
Salem Invitational, 9:30 a.m.
Goodrich Invitational, 9:30 p.m.
Wyandotte Invitational, 10 a.m.
Redford CC at St. Johns, 10 a.m.
Saturday, Jan. 3
Wyandotte Invitational, 9 a.m.
PREP GIRLS GYMNASICS
Saturday, Jan. 3
Salem Invitational, 9:30 a.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Dec. 27
(Schoolcraft Christmas Tourney)
Kellogg vs. Georgian (Ont.), 5 p.m.
Schoolcraft vs. Geo. Brown (Ont.), 7 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 28
S'craft Christmas Tourney, 1 & 3 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 29
(DeVette Tourney at Hope College)

Univ. of Chicago vs. Concordia (Wis.), 6 p.m.
Madonna vs. Hope College, 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 30
DeVette Tourney at Hope, 6 & 8 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 3
Kirtland CC at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Dec. 27
(St. Xavier, Ill. Holiday Tourney)
St. Francis (Ind.) vs. St. Ambrose (Ia.), 1 p.m.
Madonna vs. Calumet (Ind.), 3 p.m.
Doane (Neb.) vs. St. Vincent (Pa.), 5 p.m.
Culver-Stockton (Mo.) vs. St. Xavier (Ill.), 7 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 28
St. Xavier Tourney, 1, 3, 5 & 7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 29
St. Xavier Tourney, 1, 3, 5 & 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 3
Kirtland CC at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Sunday, Dec. 28
Whalers at Mississauga, 2 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 29
Whalers vs. Windsor (Compuware), 2 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 1
Whalers at Owen Sound, 2 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 3
Whalers vs. Guelph (Compuware), 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 4
Whalers at Saginaw, 2 p.m.
TBA — time to be announced.

GYMNASICS

CANTON 139.25
VASSAR 115.25
Dec. 20 at Vassar
Vault: 1. Alyssa Kelly (C), 9.35; 2. Kate Staley (C), 8.9; 3. Jessi Bates (C), 8.7; 4. Heather Wagner (C), 8.55.
Uneven parallel bars: 1. Kelly (C), 8.8; 2. Bates (C), 8.55; 3. Staley (C), 8.35; 4. Mozhdah Rajaei (C), 7.6; 5. Heather Wagner (C), 7.05; 6. Megan Chappo (C), 6.95.
Balance beam: 1. Kelly (C), 9.2; 2. Bates (C), 9.15; 3. (tie) Staley (C), Audra Ahern (C), 8.25; 6. Janelle Hudak (C), 7.35.
Floor exercise: 1. Staley (C), 9.05; 2. Ahern (C), 9.0; 3. Bates (C), 8.9; 4. Lauren Foley (C), 8.65; 6. Hudak (C), 7.9.
All-around: 1. Bates (C), 35.30; 2. Staley (C), 34.55.
Dual-meet record: Canton, 2-0.
Canton coach John Cunningham's comments: "I'm very pleased with a 139 in that situation, considering we were without several people. Also, (the team score is) better than anything we did last year."

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

CC GAME REPLAYED

In case you missed it the first time, Fox Sports Net will replay the Michigan High School Athletic Association football and girls basketball finals over the holiday season at least once. Of local interest, Redford Catholic Central's Division I football win over Utica Eisenhower will be shown twice - at noon on Saturday, Dec. 27 and 12:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 16.

SKATING LESSONS

Basic skills classes in skating are being offered by the city of Plymouth Recreation Department from Jan. 5 until March 13. These classes range from beginning to advanced freestyle skating. Each class is 25 minutes, with an additional 25 minutes for practice either before or after the lesson (depending on ice scheduling). Cost is \$70 for city of Plymouth residents, \$90 for non-residents. For more information, call the city of Plymouth Recreation office at (734) 455-6620, Ext. 304, or check out the Web site at www.ci.plymouth.mi.us.

HOOP COACH WANTED

Redford Thurston is looking for a varsity girls basketball coach. For more information, please call athletic director Al Chambo at (313) 535-4000, Ext. 1166.

STRENGTH COACH WANTED

Farmington High School has a

position available for someone willing to serve as a strength and conditioning coach for the football program on a volunteer basis. The position would involve approximately nine hours per week, starting in January. To inquire call the athletic department at (248) 489-3352.

SOFTBALL CAMP

The Annual Mercy Softball Camp for girls in grades five through 12 will take place 9 a.m. to noon on six Saturdays in early 2004. The dates are Jan. 10, 17, 24 and 31 and Feb. 14 and 21. The camp will take place at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills. The cost is \$50 for six sessions. To register contact Sue Graves at (734) 981-5455.

HOOP REUNION

Garden City High School is looking for former boys basketball players to play in its annual alumni game on Dec. 26. Players from the 1960s and 70s will play in a game at 6 p.m., former players from the 1980s will play at 7 p.m. and those from the 1990s and 2000s will play at 8 p.m. For more information, please call coach Greg Williamson at (734) 762-8350.

BASEBALL TRYOUT

The WaCo Wolves U-9 travel baseball team will hold winter tryouts for the 2004 season. The team will play about 50-60 games during the season plus a World Series. For more information, please

call Bill Hardin at (734) 516-3723.

LEARN TO SKATE CLASSES

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will hold seven-week learn to skate classes (30 minutes each), starting the week of Jan. 11, at Edgar Ice Arena, 33841 Lyndon, Livonia, for the following age groups: Youth (ages 4 and up) - 4:40-6:50 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays; boys hockey skills - 6:20 p.m. Mondays; tots (3-year-olds) - 4:10 p.m. Thursdays; and adult - 6:20 p.m. Thursdays. Registration will be from 5-8 p.m. (residents) and 7-8 p.m. (non-residents) Wednesday, Jan. 7, at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road). The cost is \$44 (residents) and \$58 (non-residents). For more information, call (734) 466-2412 or visit www.ci.livonia.mi.us.

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.

TOURNEY OPENINGS

Madonna University has openings for three high school girls volleyball tournaments - Monday, Dec. 22 (freshman

teams); Tuesday, Dec. 23 (junior varsity teams); and Saturday, Jan. 10 (JV teams). Interested coaches should call MU coach Jerry Abraham at (734) 432-5612.

MU HITTING CAMP

The Madonna University softball hitting camp will come in three sessions. Session One is from 9:30 a.m.-noon on Sunday, Dec. 21; Session Two is from 2-4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 27; and Session Three is 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.

SOCCER REFEREES

Training for new soccer referees will be conducted at the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association office, located at 9401 General Drive in Plymouth. Classes will be from 8 a.m.-noon on four consecutive Saturdays: Jan. 24, Jan. 31, Feb. 7 and Feb. 14. All four sessions must be attended. Those interested must be at least 12 years-old. Cost is \$50. Class size is limited. Register on-line at www.msycarefree.net, or call (734) 454-7335 for more information.

Franklin gets 1st win at C'ville's expense

It may have only been the consolation prize, but the outcome had significant meaning Monday for two area teams in search of their first boys basketball victories of the season. Senior forward Brandon Lee scored 13 points and sophomore forward Matt McCullough added 11 as Livonia Franklin gave coach Russ Keberly his first victory as Patriot coach with a 47-41 triumph over stubborn Livonia Clarenceville in the City Tournament at Livonia Churchill. Franklin is 1-3 on the year, while Clarenceville falls to 0-5. "It feels good," Keberly said. "It seems no matter how hard we tried, they (Clarenceville) wouldn't go away. Give them credit, they played hard." Jason Robinson, who had 25 points in Friday's first-round 55-44 loss to Livonia Stevenson, finished with a team-high 11. Bruno Shkreli, a junior guard, added seven, while sophomore center Tyron Williams contributed six.

HOOP WRAP

"From players one through nine, we're not that bad," Clarenceville coach Kevin Murphy said. "We just didn't execute. When we run our plays, we score or at least get good shots. "We're quicker to the hole, but we just blew layups. Franklin is disciplined. They ran their Flex (offense) until they got something easy." Franklin, which lost at the buzzer Friday to host Churchill, 45-44, hit 13-of-17 free throws compared to 8-of-21 in the tourney opener. Clarenceville was 11-of-19. "Lee has been our leading scorer, but our two sophomores (McCullough and Tom Jankowski) seemed to hit some big shots. "In order for us to win, we have to keep games to 40 points and run our offense. The key tonight is that we only had eight turnovers, six at half."

COACHES WANTED

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

STATE OF MICHIGAN COUNTY OF WAYNE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. C-2003-06 PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PROVIDING FOR AN EMERGENCY FINANCIAL MANAGER; PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS, PROVIDING FOR POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE TOWNSHIP; PROVIDING FOR POWERS RELATING TO DEBT OR LIABILITY; PROVIDING FOR ANNUAL MEETINGS OF ELECTORS; PROVIDING FOR REGULATIONS CONCERNING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS AND VACANCIES OF OFFICES; PROVIDING FOR THE DUTIES OF THE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR; PROVIDING FOR THE DUTIES OF THE TOWNSHIP CLERK; PROVIDING FOR THE DUTIES OF THE TOWNSHIP BOARD; PROVIDING FOR TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS PROCEDURE; PROVIDING FOR THE DUTIES OF THE TOWNSHIP TREASURER; PROVIDING FOR THE DUTIES OF TOWNSHIP CONSTABLES; PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF AND THE DUTIES OF A COMPENSATION COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR REGULATIONS CONCERNING TOWNSHIP BUSINESS OTHER THAN ELECTIONS; PROVIDING FOR QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS AND OFFICERS; PROVIDING FOR FINANCIAL REPORTS AND AUDITS; PROVIDING FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES; PROVIDING FOR PROCEDURES FOR ADOPTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS; PROVIDING FOR THE POSTING OF TRAIL-WAY ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR PROCEDURE FOR ADOPTING REFERENCE; PROVIDING FOR RECORDING AND FILING REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION PROCEDURES; PROVIDING FOR THE EMPLOYMENT AND DUTIES OF TOWNSHIP ATTORNEYS; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL, SEVERABILITY, SAVINGS CLAUSE, VIOLATION AND PENALTY, PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ORDAINS:

SECTION A. SUMMARY: PART I - ADMINISTRATION

CHAPTER I General Provisions* Section 1.010. This section provides for procedures relating to the publication and distribution of Code. Section 1.020. This section provides for procedures relating to the amending the code. Section 1.030. This section provides for the publication and distribution of amendments. Section 1.040. This section provides for the contents of Code. Section 1.050. This section provides for the short title for the Code. Section 1.060. This section provides for headings to the Code. Section 1.070. This section provides for responsibility to the Code. Section 1.080. This section provides for definitions. Section 1.090. This section provides for regulations relative to the title of officers to include deputy or subordinate. Section 1.100. This section provides for interpretations of tense/gender. Section 1.110. This section provides for a notice provision. Section 1.120. This section provides for penalties. Section 1.130. This section provides for severability. Section 1.140. This section provides for an effective date.

CHAPTER 2 Plymouth Community Citizens Watch Program Section 2.010. This section provides for regulations concerning the establishments of the program. Section 2.020. This section provides for the purpose of the ordinance. Section 2.030. This section provides for regulations relating to management. Section 2.040. This section provides for regulations relating to qualifications and appointment of managers. Section 2.050. This section provides for duties of managers. Section 2.060. This section provides for general regulations. Section 2.070. This section provides for regulations relative to suspension and dismissal.

CHAPTER 3 Constables Section 3.010. This section provides for the purpose of the ordinance. Section 3.020. This section provides for limitation of powers of constables.

Section 3.030. This section provides for bond requirements for constables. Section 3.040. This section provides for regulations relating to bonds, filing of bonds, certified copy as evidence of contents and execution, and actions against constables or sureties upon bond. Section 3.050. This section provides for procedures relating to the service of warrants, notices, and process, duties of constables, ordinance restricting or limiting powers, compliance with minimum employment standards, cost of compliance, and appointment as district court officer. Section 3.060. This section provides for the duties of constables, the service of writs, the service of process, and the service of orders. Section 3.070. This section provides for a police officer or a constable's right to pursue, arrest, and detain person outside of township limits. Section 3.080. This section provides for police officer or constable's authority to execute a bench warrant. Section 3.090. This section provides for constable's attendance at sessions of circuit courts, notice, payment, township officers, extra services, and compensation. CHAPTER 4 Employee Group Insurance* Section 4.010. This section provides for the purpose of the ordinance. Section 4.020. This section provides of the ordinance. Section 4.030. This section provides for procedures relative to contribution. Section 4.040. This section provides for details of the existing plans. CHAPTER 5 Employee Pension Plan* Section 5.010. This section provides for coverage. Section 5.020. This section provides for eligibility requirements. Section 5.030. This section provides for rules of contribution. Section 5.040. This section provides for vesting. Section 5.050. This section provides for retirement age. Section 5.060. This section provides for calculation method.

CHAPTER 6 Ordinance Enforcement Officer* Section 6.010. This section provides for the establishment of an ordinance enforcement officer. Section 6.020. This section provides for the authority and duties of ordinance enforcement officers. Section 6.030. This section provides for the appointment and removal of ordinance enforcement officers.

CHAPTER 7 Police Department* Section 7.010. This section provides for the creation of a Police Department. Section 7.020. This section provides for the authority and duties of the Township Supervisor. Section 7.030. This section provides for the procedures in making appointments. Section 7.040. This section provides for the rules and regulations of the police department. Section 7.050. This section provides for the powers and duties of members. Section 7.060. This section provides for regulations concerning property, equipment, and buildings.

CHAPTER 8 Emergency Management* Section 8.010. This section provides for the title of the ordinance. Section 8.020. This section provides for the purpose of ordinance. Section 8.030. This section provides for definitions. Section 8.040. This section provides for regulations for the emergency management office and the emergency management coordinator. Section 8.050. This section provides for the duties of the emergency management coordinators. Section 8.060. This section provides for the powers and duties of the Township Supervisor. Section 8.070. This section provides for procedures relating to the governor's declaratory request. Section 8.080. This section provides for duties and liaisons of each township department. Section 8.090. This section provides for a disaster contingency fund. Section 8.100. This section provides for the appointment of volunteers. Section 8.110. This section provides for the rights, powers and immunities of the disaster relief force. Section 8.120. This section provides for the authority to establish the temporary location of local government. Section 8.130. This section provides for immunity.

CHAPTER 9 Cost Reimbursement for Emergency Services* Section 9.010. This section provides definitions. Section 9.020. This section provides for the duty to remove and clean up. Section 9.030. This section provides for liability for the failure to remove and clean up. Section 9.040. This section provides for enforcement.

CHAPTER 10 Compensation Commission Ordinance* Section 10.010. This section provides for the title of the ordinance. Section 10.020. This section provides for implementation by resolution. Section 10.030. This section provides for enabling legislation. Section 10.040. This section provides for regulations concerning the establish salaries of elected officials. Section 10.050. This section provides for the creation of the commission, membership, and appointment. Section 10.060. This section provides for terms of office; appointment; filing of vacancies; and ineligibility. Section 10.070. This section provides for procedures relating to salary determinations; the effective date; rejection; and expense. Section 10.080. This section provides for procedures relating to commission meetings; quorum; open meetings; notice; majority vote; chairperson; session days; and expenses. Section 10.090. This section provides for procedures relating to referendum on this ordinance and elections. Section 10.100. This section provides for prohibitions relating to salary decrease during term of office.

CHAPTER 11 Downtown Development Authority Ordinance* Section 11.010. This section provides a resolution of intent, a public hearing and the authority created. Section 11.020. This section provides supervision of the authority. Section 11.030. This section provides for the powers and duties of the authority. Section 11.040. This section provides for the downtown district boundaries. Section 11.050. This section provides for rules concerning by-laws and rules of the authority. Section 11.060. This section provides for regulations in place if a director is appointed. Section 11.070. This section provides that ordinances shall be filed with the Secretary of State. Section 11.080. This section provides for penalties upon violation.

(CHAPTERS 12-19 RESERVED) SECTION B. VIOLATION AND PENALTY. This section provides that any person or entity that violates any provision of this Ordinance may, upon conviction, be fined not more than Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars or imprisoned not more than Ninety (90) days, or both, in the discretion of the court.

SECTION C. REPEAL. This section provides that all Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

SECTION D. SEVERABILITY. This section provides that any unenforceable section can be severed from the rest of the Ordinance.

SECTION E. SAVINGS CLAUSE. This section provides that adoption of this Ordinance does not affect proceedings, prosecutions for violation of law, penalties and matured rights and duties in effect before the effective date of this Ordinance.

SECTION F. PUBLICATION. This section provides that the Clerk for the Charter Township of Plymouth shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by law.

SECTION G. EFFECTIVE DATE. This section provides that this Ordinance, as amended, shall take full force and effect upon publication as required by law.

MARILYN MASSENGILL, Clerk Charter Township of Plymouth

Introduced: November 18, 2003 Adopted: December 16, 2003 Published: December 25, 2003 Effective: December 25, 2003

Publish: December 25, 2003

Stevenson edges Churchill for city title

Apparently no fourth-quarter lead is safe when it comes to the Livonia City Boys Basketball Tournament.

On Friday, host Churchill erased a 10-point deficit in the final period to stun Franklin on a buzzer-beater, 45-44.

In Monday's championship game, Stevenson turned the tables on the host Chargers, fighting back from an eight-point hole with just 2:56 remaining to earn its fourth straight city title, 41-40.

Jim Marcicki's three-pointer with just 20 seconds to go provided the final margin of victory for the Spartans, who enter the holiday break with a 2-3 record.

Churchill, which committed three costly turnovers down the stretch and could not get off a shot at the buzzer, falls to 2-2.

Keith Hearn, a 6-foot-1 senior guard, led Stevenson and all scorers with a game-high 25 points on 11-of-20 from the floor, including three 3-pointers. Marcicki contributed 10, including seven in the decisive final 2:28.

"Tonight we could have easily folded and we didn't," Stevenson coach Bill Dyer said. "Keith was really good. He was good defensively, the best he's played all season."

"This is the second year for this tourney and this is our fourth (city title) in a row. That's

why I'm really proud. It's a testament to the other guys who played for us and for these guys, too."

Stevenson used the same tactics it did in Friday's 55-44 win over Clarenceville — spread the floor, be deliberate and choosy with its shots, and take time off the clock.

The strategy seemed to work in the opening half as the Spartans took a 23-19 lead into the locker room on Hearn's three-pointer with just two seconds left.

But Churchill came out in the second half with a half-court trap and slowly began to take control.

Lefty Tim Van Dusen, a 6-foot-4 senior forward who led the Chargers with 22 points, scored with 4:43 left in the third quarter to give Churchill a 24-23 advantage.

Stevenson, meanwhile, went ice cold in the third period, missing its first 11 shots before Hearn ended the drought with a three-point play with 16.5 seconds to go followed by another basket with 5.3 remaining to close the deficit to 30-28.

Churchill then held the Spartans scoreless for the first 4:27 of the final quarter while going on a 8-0 run. Van Dusen sparked the surge with six points, while Nick Mansfield, the hero Friday against Franklin,

getting two of his nine.

"Churchill came at us with that half-court zone and we weren't attacking," Dyer said. "We sat back and we had problems with their size. We put Spencer Williams in there to cut the zone apart. We were trying to penetrate more."

Chargers, who led 38-28 with just under five minutes remaining, could not stand prosperity as Stevenson began to force the issue defensively.

"We have enough players to play full-court," Dyer said. "We pressured even harder. It seemed like we made plays at the end and they didn't. We were losing. We had to make plays."

With 2:56 left, Van Dusen hit a shot to put the Chargers up 40-32, but Stevenson responded on a pair of baskets by Hearn, followed by a three-point play and a free throw by Marcicki.

A short jumper by Brian Alpert with 1:44 left then cut the gap to 40-38.

Churchill, which had a total of 16 turnovers, then coughed up the ball one more time with 45 seconds left.

The Spartans misfired twice, but got the rebound and Marcicki stuck the dagger in Chargers' heart with a three-point bomb with 20 seconds to play to make it 41-40.

Stevenson got the ball back

again on another Churchill turnover, but couldn't convert successive front ends of a pair of one-and-ones with 0:09 and 8.8 seconds remaining.

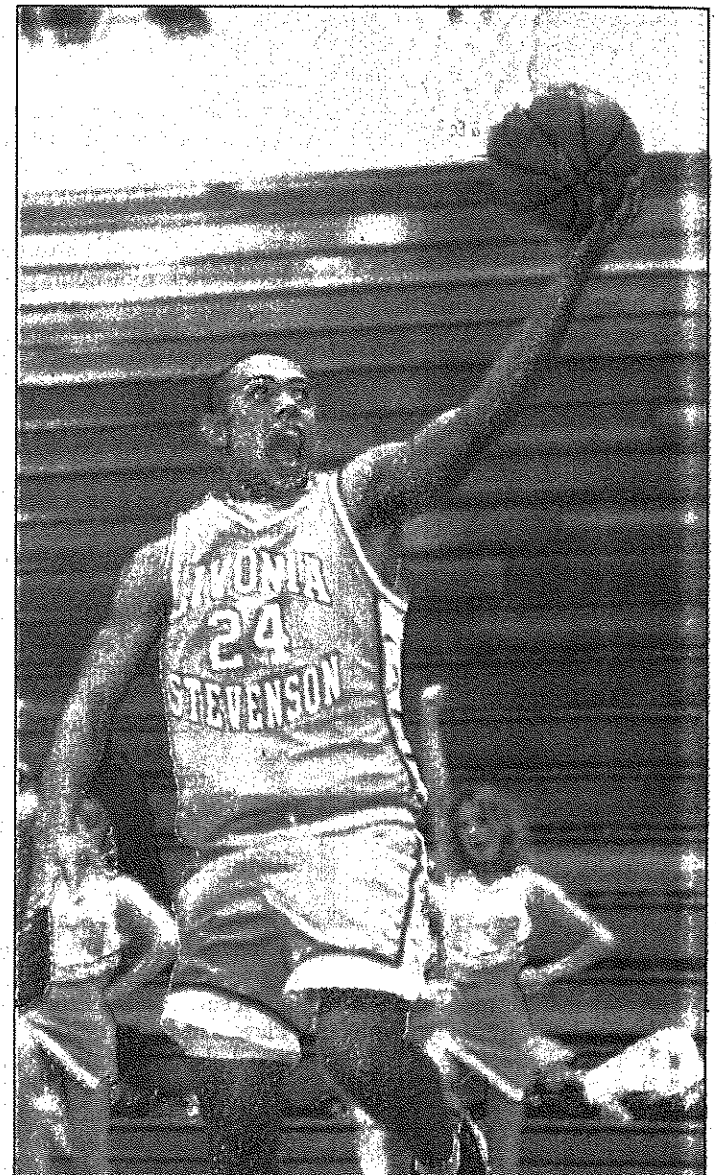
Churchill had one final chance at redemption, but Stevenson had three fouls to give before the bonus took effect. The Chargers tried a desperation lob play toward the basket from just inside mid-court, but the pass was intercepted as time expired.

"Defensively we were fine, we trapped well and forced them into tough situations," Churchill coach Jim Solak said of the third quarter surge. "We just blew it at the end. We had three costly turnovers and missed a couple of easy shots. And they (Stevenson) got some big-time rebounds. Give them credit."

Hearn, however, was the biggest thorn in Churchill's side. His 11-for-20 shooting helped offset the Spartans' 27 percent marksmanship (15-of-54) as a team compared with Churchill's 37.7 percent (17-of-45).

"He (Hearn) is a good player," Solak said. "I thought we took him out the end, but their other kids stepped up."

"The tough part now, is that we have a long break. We'll take a couple of days off. Hopefully we'll stay focused. We'll get Tristen Thomas (out sick) back, and we'll keep focused."



Stevenson senior guard Keith Hearn scored a game-high 25 points to lead the Spartans to a 41-40 victory over host Churchill to claim the Livonia City Tournament title.



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Accents

Home toolin'

Did you get a gift card for Christmas? Why not buy some tools or equipment to help get you through your next job?

Breeze through any project with this Husky Easy 1.5 gallon Air



Compressor, perfect for the garage or workshop. It lists for \$99.97 at Home Depot.

Other possibilities: a Ridgid 18-volt cordless drill (\$199), a Ridgid 18-volt combo (drill, reciprocating saw, circular saw, flashlight and two batteries for \$449) and a Strait-Line Laser Level Tool System, which includes the line generator, stud finder and adhesive base for laser-accurate level lines (\$69.97).

Socket sets, screwdriver sets or stud sensors are other possibilities for the do-it-yourselfers. For more information, visit your local hardware store or retailer.

Reuse that can

If you're like many Americans, you often find convenient ways to reuse common household items, such as the classic metal coffee can.

In fact, according to a recent survey, 71 percent of Americans reuse their metal coffee cans for storage or other useful functions. For years, people have found numerous everyday and unusual uses for the empty cans in their basements, workshops and yards.

Since 1907, Maxwell House has packaged its coffee in a metal can to protect it from oxygen, light and moisture and over the years, the company has heard from its customers, with many people revealing some of their favorite uses for the cans.

Recently, the coffee company shared some of the ways people use metal cans in their everyday lives.

From the truly practical-to hold such things as nails, tools, paint and pens and pencils to the more imaginative, such as feeding a horse or using the can as a planter, there is no shortage of ways to use metal cans.

The most common uses are hardware storage and arts and crafts, but there are also some more unexpected uses-such as using it as a portable trash can, vase or umbrella stand-that Americans have invented over time.

For some, the can works best as a cookie jar, and others find it a fitting piggy bank for all their loose change.

Whether storing gardening supplies, holding arts and crafts loose ends or even turning the can into a toy drum for their children.

Americans have demonstrated their characteristic resourcefulness.

How does your garden grow?



Many hands make light work was the motto for students of the Michigan School of Gardening when they undertook the project of landscaping their neighbor, The Teacher's Store in Livonia, owned by A.J. Badwhar.

Holly Pilon, the project coordinator and apprentice in the Michigan School of Gardening's gardening fine arts program, designed a low maintenance, four-season garden to showcase the display windows and entry to the store.

Janet Macunovich, co-founder and director of The Michigan School of Gardening, and Karen Auch, manager of the apprenticeship program at the school, supervised and advised the students during the three-day project.

"The students and apprentices from the Michigan School of Gardening had a unique opportunity to design and install a garden from the ground up and to do something good for the community as well," said Mary Lore, co-founder and director of the Michigan School of Gardening.

"Our students met with the store representatives to obtain information about their needs and budget. Then, they



New aluminum edging is shaped and hammered into place by Fred Bizovi. This edging will provide a clean barrier between the plant material area and the mulched area.

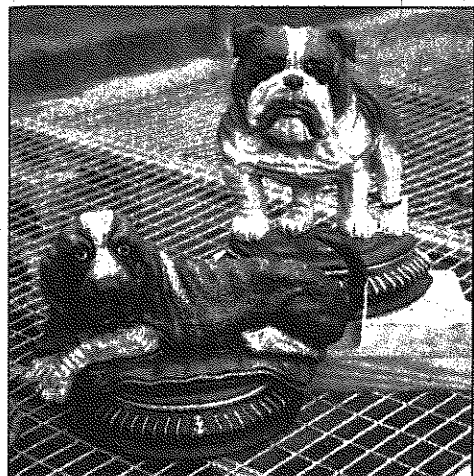
PLEASE SEE GARDEN, C3

Why, with volunteers, of course

MARKET PLACE

Submissions

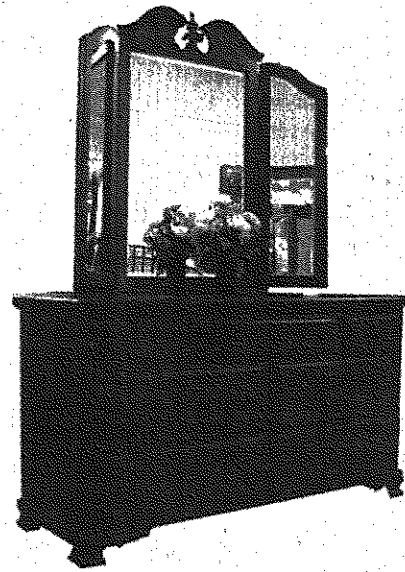
Do you have a special item you'd like to showcase in Marketplace on the front of At Home? We'd like to feature it! Send a photo or slide of the piece, along with information, to: Ken Abramczyk, At Home editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.



A-door-able

Goldner Walsh Nursery, 559 Orchard Lake Road in Pontiac, introduces a new line of Victorian reproduction doorstops. The precious collectibles, which retail for \$19.95 each, are made of cast metal and hand painted. Two styles are shown here: Hound

Dog, 13 by 9 inches, and Stalwart Bulldog, 11 by 9 inches. Also available are: Two Kittens with Rose Basket, 11 by 12 inches; Kitten with Posies, 11 by 8 inches; and Pensive Pheasant, 13 by 10-1/2 inches. Call (248) 332-6430 for more information.



This dresser adds a regal touch as an elegant focal point to the room.

There's a dresser for every taste

BY SANDRA DALKA-PRYSBY
CORRESPONDENT

Whether it's called a chest or a chest of drawers or a dresser, this piece of furniture serves the utilitarian purpose of holding clothes. But it can do more.

The dresser, especially in one of the newer styles and finishes, can provide a beautiful focal point for the bedroom.

According to Ed Wolf, president of Newton Furniture, with locations in Bloomfield Hills, Livonia, Novi and Utica, the selection of dressers available on the market is extensive. "There's something for everyone's taste from traditional pieces to antique reproductions to the currently popular painted dressers which have a 'cottage feel,'" Wolf said.

Wolf said that many of the antique reproductions are painted in red or green hues, while those pieces reminiscent of cottage-style furniture, with slats that give it the look of shutters, are in black or white. These particular pieces are pickled, distressed or rubbed out, all finishing processes used to achieve an authentic look.

The trend today, according to Wolf, who's been in the furniture business for more than 23 years, is toward mixing furniture styles instead of purchasing a collection of matching pieces.

"Although some customers still prefer the look of a bedroom set, many lean toward the eclectic style of decorating," Wolf said. "The dresser may be in one style and one type of wood, other pieces in other styles and woods, and the bed may be in metal. They like putting different pieces together."

Wolf said another trend in dressers is offering a variety of sizes and shapes to fit the larger bedrooms with higher ceilings in the newer homes. Customers want more options when it comes to dressers, as well as other furniture.

In addition to traditional five-drawer dressers, they want dressers with more drawers, or less drawers, or shelves. "They want something to use not only for storing clothing, but to house their home entertainment systems," Wolf said.

Many customers stay away from the trends and stick with traditional-style furniture, in the forever-popular woods and finishes of oak and cherry. "It makes no difference what's happening in the furniture market, many people still want their oak or cherry pieces," Wolf said.

Oak and cherry are also the woods of choice for another popular furniture style. "The Amish use only these woods, and they offer seven finishes for oak and four for cherry," according to Noreen Desilets, decorator at Laurel Furniture. This Plymouth store carries a large selection of Amish furniture, ranging from the plain to the ornate.

"People has the misconception that all Amish furniture is plain, but that's not the case. Amish industries create many beautiful pieces with intricate carvings in the wood."

She added that Amish furniture continues to be popular because of the fine workmanship. "The sides of the drawers are dovetailed (interlocking joints) together, and the inside of the drawers are often stained. These quality details aren't usually found in other available furniture."

According to Desilets, the makers of the Amish furniture are also willing to slightly alter the size of a piece to customize it to the customer's needs.

Keep necessary items in, take junk out

I have a walk-in closet in my bedroom that is too full. My closet is stuffed with clothes, shoes, blankets, pillows, mystery boxes and other assorted junk. The worst part is, I can't seem to find anything when I need it. Do you have some suggestions?

Domestic Planner

Diana Koenig

There are some specific problems associated with walk-in closets. First, they are so big that we tend to drop things in the closet just to get them out of the way. Consider this scenario: Guests are arriving shortly. To get rid of the clutter around your house, you toss everything into the walk-in closet. It is a convenient place to stick unfolded laundry, papers, toys, dirty clothes, even dirty dishes (in an emergency). Of course, the best way to prevent this calamity is to keep order in

the rest of the house, but let's deal with that troublesome closet right now. We must treat that closet like a 'special store-room' with a stern, uncompromising gate-keeper. As we bring things into the closet, we must get them past this gate-keeper. He knows exactly what should be stored in his closet and he allows only those things to pass.

All the rest, he turns away with the words, "This has no place in my closet." Obviously, the rejected items go somewhere else: We must determine where they go and keep them there. It is important to 'install' a gate-keeper just inside the door of each of your closets.

This, alone, won't solve all your problems however. Your imaginary gate-keeper may keep undesirable things out but you already have an incredible mess inside the closet. This requires an intense "closet investigation." Ask yourself: "Do I use everything in my closet and how often is it used?" The answer to these two questions will decide the fate of each item in the closet.

Start by preparing a box for items to be given away. Things never used and not needed should be put in this box.

Some items that fall into this category are hard to part with simply because we have a sentimental attachment to the items. It helps to prepare a 'sentimental' box for these articles.

Go through this box once or twice a year to see if emotional attachment toward any of the items has diminished.

Everything that does not go into the 'give away' box or the 'sentimental' box should be categorized as used either yearly, monthly, weekly, or daily. Items used once a year should be removed from the closet or placed high and in the back of the closet.

Articles used monthly should also be put in spaces that are harder to reach. Arrange daily and weekly items in a convenient place. They should be low and in front so other things do not have to be moved around to access them.

Moving things around to look for other things takes time

and creates organization problems. We tend to look at our walk-in closet as more space to fill with our treasured possessions. People tend to fill all empty space. Fight this tendency of human nature with all your might.

Don't cram something into every available space. If you do, you will have to completely rearrange your closet every time you bring a new article into it. Instead, leave empty spaces for some of those future 'treasures.'

There are several advantages to following these suggestions, and the results will amaze you.

- Your closet will have a neat and orderly appearance.
- You will be able to find items quickly.
- What you give away will profit someone else.

Today's Refrigerator Bulletin:
"A partially empty closet is a happy closet."

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

Learn about generators before you buy

The August blackout and the certainty of winter storms have many consumers looking into purchasing emergency generators for their homes. Before purchasing a generator, consider your real needs, and then use it safely. Once you purchase it, make sure to read the instructions and all the warnings. Consider what it is you will power with the generator.



Ask Dad

Harry Jachym

If you only plan to keep your refrigerator and a couple of lights operating, a generator in the 2,500-watt range should suffice. If you also want to run a furnace and watch television, you will then need to consider one that can supply 4,500 watts or more. You may not think of your house's cooling needs right now during this cold weather, but central air conditioning will add another 30,000 watts to your requirements. As the wattage supply grows, so does the cost.

You can find the wattage needs of your appliances on its data plate. That number usually only gives the operating wattage and not the surge (or peak) wattage. Surge wattage is the amount of power needed to start the appliance. Most appliances with motors need as much as twice the rated wattage to start. For example, a 75-watt ceiling fan motor will require about 150 watts to get started.

Portable generators give flexibility as they can be easily taken to other sites for other uses. They will not normally supply as much power as a permanently installed unit. Using the generator for only the necessities and/or rotating the use of appliances will help you get by with a smaller unit.

In either case, never connect the generator directly to the household circuit. In the case of permanent installations, it is mandatory that a double pole

isolation switch be installed, which disconnects the generator from the main house circuit, keeping it off the power grid. Connecting to the power grid can be fatal to utility workers making repairs and can damage your generator.

FUELING THEM UP

All emergency generators I'm aware of run on fossil fuels. Gasoline and diesel fuels are most easily obtainable. Gasoline was difficult to obtain during the August blackout. Natural gas generators became popular. Though natural gas may seem like a good idea on the surface, you'll likely need a new gas connection to your home that supplies sufficient pressure and volume to the carburetor, which can prove to be very costly.

Be careful. Your generator is producing enough amperage to kill you. Handle this source as you would any line voltage source. Properly ground the unit according to manufacturer specifications.

Never run a portable generator in an enclosed area. This includes your garage. Carbon monoxide produced by the running engine is a silent, deadly killer. In fact, keep the generator away from windows where this gas can enter the home. Shut down the generator engine and allow it to cool before refilling the fuel tank.

Be certain the cords used to connect the generator to appliances are of sufficient size to carry the load. As stated earlier, generators MUST be isolated from the home main circuit.

Hopefully we won't need an emergency generator, but as with all home emergency situations, it's always best to be prepared. From my family to yours, have a great holiday season and New Year.

Harry Jachym writes about home issues ranging from repairs and maintenance to building and remodeling projects. He is a Plymouth resident. Send any questions or comments to Jachym at askdad@comcast.net or in care of Ken Abramczyk, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

Get chores done before guests arrive

The holidays are here and that often means entertaining family and friends at home.

For many people this is the time to finally get around to the minor home repairs that have been neglected all year.

But when there's parties to attend, there isn't much time left for work around the house.

Enter Mr. Handyman, a national chain of service professionals that cater to a potential market of 100 million U.S. homeowners and commercial customers requiring property maintenance and repairs. Mr. Handyman is the sister company to Molly Maid Inc., both under the Ann Arbor-based Service Brands International umbrella. These companies say that these professionals are

bonded and well screened before they complete these repairs to homes.

Outside chores such as cleaning gutters, putting in storm windows and hanging holiday lights have been seen on many a homeowner's "to-do" list. These jobs are often put off for months or botched, so more and more homeowners are turning to handyman services for help.

"Many of our customers are people who have tried to tackle winterizing household chores, such as putting in a screen door themselves. Some of these have resulted in headaches, damaged materials or injuries," says John Eggenberger, vice president of operations for Mr. Handyman. "When it's time to do those chores again, they call us."

The company's service technicians visit thousands of homes across the country each day and they have compiled a list of the most requested home repairs during the winter holiday season:

- Weatherproofing: Lower heating by providing a barrier between the inside of the home and the outside. With possible guests coming and going, keep the warm air where it belongs and the cool air in its place. Exterior doors should seal tightly to avoid air leaks. Windows should fit snugly in their frames for the same reason.

- On older homes, storm windows may need to be hung at certain times of year and taken down at others. Caulking around windows and doors should also be inspected.

- Insulating: Windows are always the first to receive insulation when the weather gets cold, but homeowners often forget two other places in the home that can help keep heating costs down with proper insulation: The attic and attached garages. The entire floor of an attic should be insulated, except near electrical fixtures and attached garage doors need weatherproofing just as much as windows do.

- Gutter Cleaning: Keeping your gutters free of debris is one of the easiest ways to prevent basement water. It's important not to wait until the first spring thaw to clean your gutters, because by then it might be too late.

To find a Mr. Handyman near you go to www.mrhandyman.com

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Take steps to prevent x-ray damage to film

Starting to think about your 2004 vacation?

Well, part of vacation planning is getting geared up for those memorable photographs.



Focus on Photography

Monte Nagler

those treasured rolls of vacation pictures only to have had them hopelessly damaged by airport x-rays.

This potential problem has been compounded in recent years by the introduction of super fast films which are far more sensitive to x-ray damage than slower speed films.

To add to the problem, x-rays have a cumulative effect

on film. That is, if you're making three or four plane stops on your trip, your film is more likely to be harmed by repeated x-raying.

Many travelers, aware of possible x-ray damage, place their film in check-through luggage thinking it will be safe there.

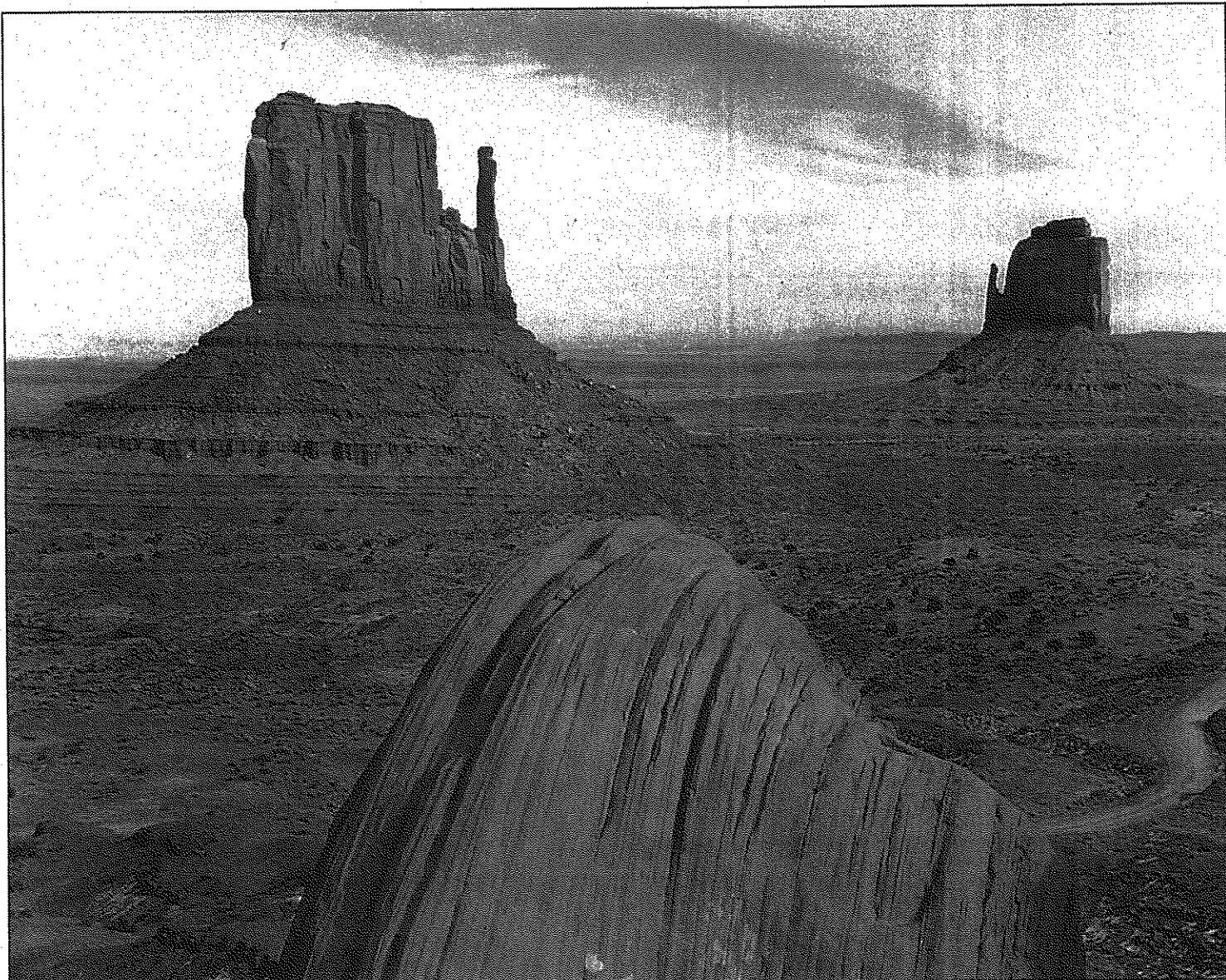
Not so. New security regulations require that all luggage be screened in very powerful scanners. There's no question... film in checked bags will be ruined.

Are there some things you can do to reduce or eliminate the danger of x-rays to your film?

Absolutely. To begin with, you can purchase a lead-lined film pouch from your camera shop. I prefer the heavy-duty variety. The lining will protect your film from potentially harmful x-rays.

Secondly, and if convenient, have your film processed while on your trip.

You'll not only get to see the results of your photographic skills sooner, but airport



No problems here. A visual inspection assured that all of Monte Nagler's film came out just fine.

x-rays can't harm developed film.

Thirdly, exercise your traveler's rights at domestic airports and request a visual inspection of your film.

By arriving early and being polite, you usually won't have any problems with security personnel.

By placing film in a clear plastic bag, you'll make the job

much easier for security personnel. By taking some simple precautions at the airport, you can be assured that those unforgettable photos will arrive home happy and

healthy from a pleasant trip.

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

Prevent home damage from frozen pipes

PRNewswire — In an effort to save money, many holiday travelers may be tempted to turn the heat way down or even off.

These people could find a nasty surprise when they return — thousands of dollars in damage and untold mental stress from damage caused by water pipes freezing and bursting.

Even a one-eighth-inch (3 millimeter) crack in a pipe can send more than 250 gallons (946 liters) of water cascading onto your carpets, furniture and personal belongings in one day.

As winter sets in and temperatures dip below 20° F (minus 6° C), water pipes in homes without adequate insulation may freeze and break. Homes in warmer climates are typically at greatest risk because pipes are often not well-insulated in crawl spaces and attics.

Since uninsulated pipes are the most vulnerable to cold temperatures, homeowners can prevent damage caused by frozen pipes by wrapping exposed pipes with insulation.

Other tips for preventing your pipes

from freezing are:

■ Don't cut your heat off and don't set the thermostat below 55 degrees.

■ Let the hot and cold faucets drip overnight and open cabinet doors to allow heat to get to uninsulated pipes under sinks on exterior walls.

■ Insulate pipes in your home's crawl space or attic.

■ Seal leaks that allow cold air inside. Look for air leaks around electrical wiring, dryer vents and pipes. Disconnect garden hoses and, if practical, use an indoor valve to shut off and

drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets.

■ If you're going away for an extended period of time, it makes sense to shut off and drain the water system.

You must be aware, however, that if you have a fire protection sprinkler system in your house, it will be deactivated when the water is shut off.

You can find more tips for preparing for winter and other preventable disasters by calling the contact below and by visiting statefarm.com.

CLARIFICATION

The floral arrangements at The China Closet featured in the Dec. 18 story about holiday table settings were by Christopher's Personal Touch Florist.

All of the tableware pieces were from Special Event Rentals.

Visit the Observer online at www.hometownlife.com

Open up the floorplans in older houses

FOR AP WEEKLY FEATURES

Most older homes were designed with multiple rooms, each with a specific function. The result was often a dark, small-feeling home that made entertaining difficult.

Today's home design blends spaces visually by cutting out walls, providing more open, bright rooms that flow together for light — and for interest.

Entertaining is also enhanced by allowing conversation between rooms, rather than having the whole party

wind up in the kitchen.

This design replaces a wall between the great room and the kitchen-breakfast area with a built-in counter and bookshelves.

Columns extend from the counter to the ceiling, creating an elegant look without blocking the view between the spaces.

Whether you're considering a new home or remodeling an existing one, think about cutting out some walls, to add functionality, elegance and light.

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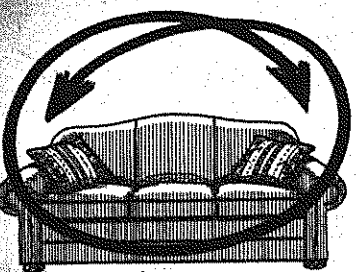
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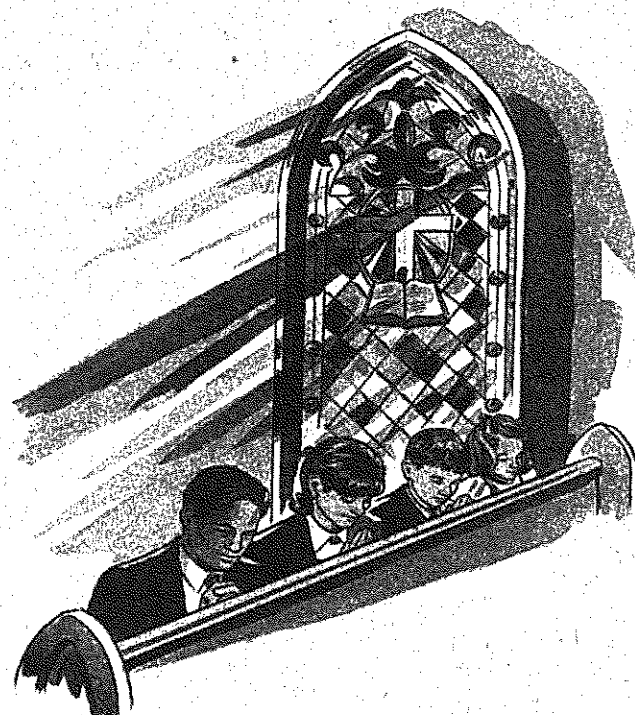
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THE FRIDAY BEFORE PUBLICATION

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474-3444
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9:30 a.m. Worship Geared Toward
Families With Children
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
Handicap Accessible

From Frustration to Fulfillment
Luke 2:1-7
Christmas Eve Family Choir Cantata 5:30pm
Service with Communion 10pm

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

God Hears Our Prayers

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Sandra Daily, Pastor
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10:00 a.m. Family Worship (Nursery Avail.)
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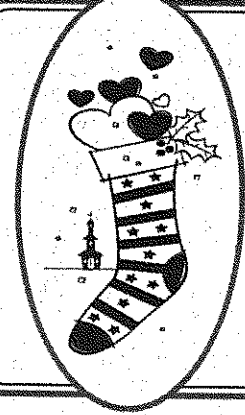
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Say A Prayer Today

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN



End the Year Well.... As we get older, it sometimes seems as if time is accelerating. Each year seems to go by a little bit faster than the one before, and perhaps this is just the wisdom of age reminding us how short our lives really are. Our busy schedules leave us little time for the things that we really value, and as we approach the year's end, the rush to prepare for the holidays exacerbates this feeling. We would like nothing more than to be able to spend time with our families and friends, but what we often end up doing is fighting the crowds at the mall in an attempt to finish up our last-minute shopping. Although the holidays are bound to be hectic, we shouldn't feel obligated to spend all of the time leading up to Christmas by shopping and going into debt. This year, consider telling your friends and family that you're going to have a modest Christmas with relatively few presents, and that what you really want to do is spend time with them. Telling your family and friends that you love them and that you enjoy their company may be one of the nicest gifts you give this year. Remember to also give your time to God, who surely enjoys knowing that you like His company too. Since none of us know how long we have left here on earth, we should spend our time wisely.....

What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. R.S.V. James 4:14

YEAR END

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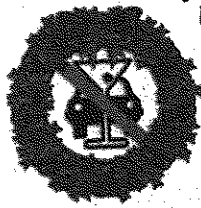
"Michigan's Premier Sleep Superstores"

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Side dish

Drive safe

It's the season to party and have a good time. But the Michigan Food and Beverage Association is once again urging don't drink and drive at the same time.



"Friends don't let friends drink and drive." This theme of the campaign encourages partygoers to be more responsible. Proprietors of taverns, restaurants, party stores and grocers will emphasize this message during the holiday season to prove they care about their customers and to prevent fatal auto accidents.

The campaign is coordinated by MFBA on behalf of its membership, the food and beverage industry and various community organizations that participate in this annual safety campaign. It runs through Jan. 2.

"Our members and industry want to save lives and give their customers a happy and safe holiday season," said MFBA president Ed Deeb. "The holidays are a time for family get-togethers, bright lights and parties," Deeb said. "It should not be a time of tragedy and sadness because of a drunk driver."

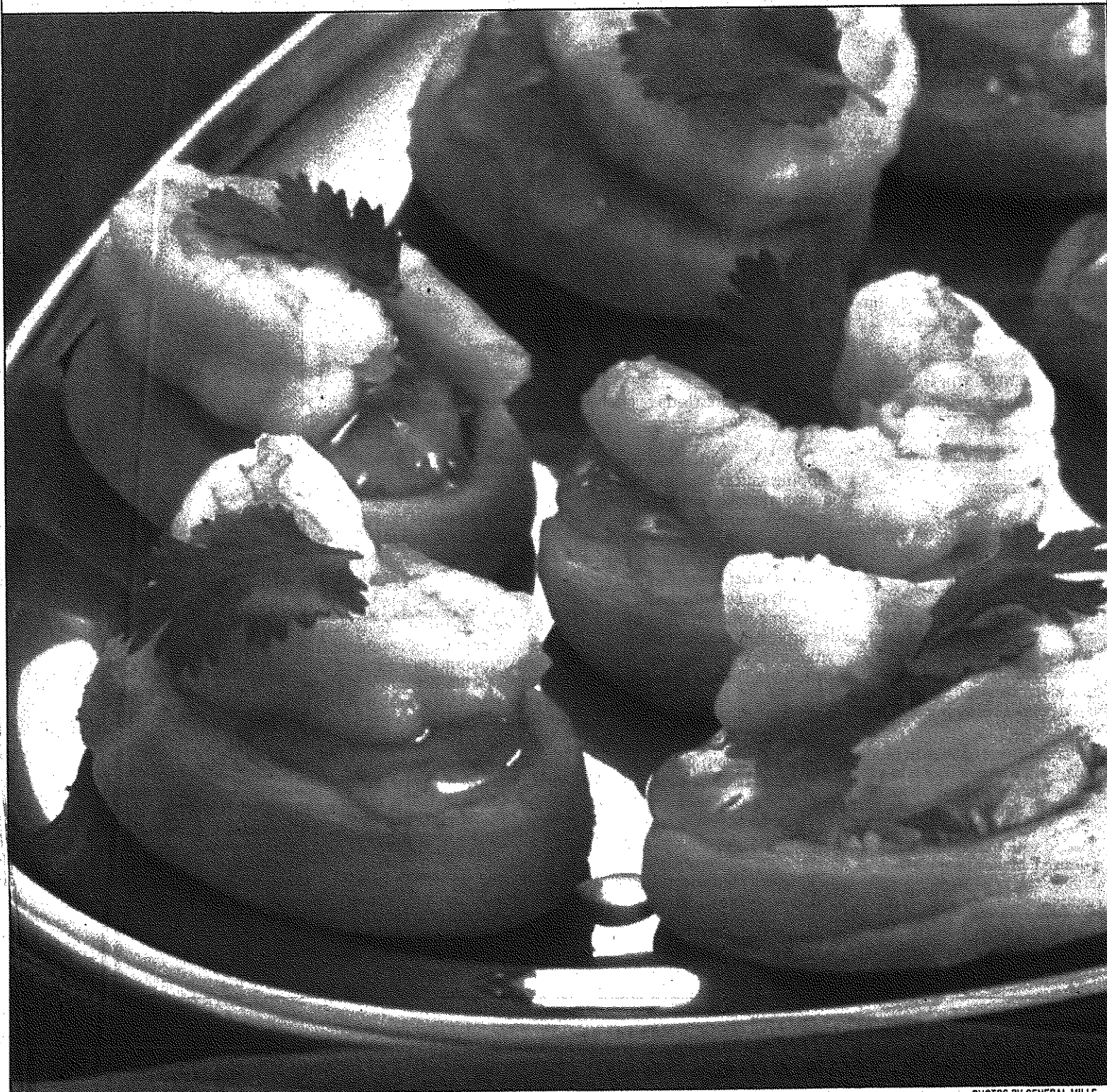
In 2002, more than 41 percent of traffic fatalities nationwide were alcohol-related, according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration. There were 490 alcohol-related traffic deaths in 2002. Nationwide nearly 17,417 people were killed by drunken drivers.

"Driving while drunk is a major concern to our nation and our industry," Deeb said. "It takes the efforts of our entire community to help eliminate tragic alcohol-related deaths."

Community organizations who wish to participate in this holiday season promotion are encouraged to call MFBA at (586) 393-8800. There is no cost to participate.

More chocolate

Cornell University researchers report that hot cocoa is full of health-boosting antioxidants, according to a study in the *Journal of Agriculture and Food Chemistry*. The scientists said that cocoa may be sipped hot or cold, but hot cocoa seems to release more antioxidants than the cold version.



PHOTOS BY GENERAL MILLS

Curry powder and coconut, topped with shrimp and apricot preserves, set the scene at your next appetizer party.

Where's the party?

Appetizers liven up the holidays

When serving holiday appetizers, there's no better compliment than having fellow partygoers admire and then devour every last morsel of your dish - especially when you know it only took you minutes to prepare the tasty, festive recipe.

Just in time for the New Year, here's a collection of versatile and attention-getting appetizers made easier by using refrigerated crescent dinner rolls as a base.

With a variety of ingredients and flavors, there are choices suitable for many party occasions, whether your calendar is filled with casual family gatherings or fancier affairs.

The recipes are relatively simple to prepare, because they use the technique of slicing and baking round spirals or "pinwheels" out of the crescent dough.

For an elegant starter, try



Pesto and roasted red peppers create a snappy pinwheel appetizer for your guests.

shrimp crescent bites. A flavorful combination of coconut and curry is sprinkled over the crescent dough, and after baking, the flaky bites are topped with apricot preserves and shrimp. You'll have a beautiful finger-food that is sure to leave a lasting impression.

And because each shrimp bite calls for just one medium shrimp, you'll be able to treat guests to seafood at a cost more reasonable than the standard shrimp cocktail.

Or, you can entice guests with simple and savory roasted red pepper and pesto pin-

wheels. The festive green pesto and rich red pepper rolled into the crescent dough will create a zesty party snack that will satisfy partygoers' appetites. This pretty appetizer adds a decorative touch to any party table.

For a casual gathering, offer guests a plate of pepperoni pinwheels, a new take on a crowd-pleasing flavor.

Pepperoni and mozzarella are spiraled within the crescent roll dough. After baking, the pinwheels are served with warm pizza sauce for dipping. Guests of all ages will be ask-

ing for more of these bite-sized snacks.

A bright addition to your holiday table or to munch while watching the big game, taco crescent wreath is perfect for pleasing hungry crowds. Slices of crescent roll dough are arranged and baked to create the golden wreath. The wreath is spread with a flavorful sour cream topping accented with chipotle chiles and cilantro. Colorful toppings like fresh tomato, avocado, ripe olives, cheddar cheese and cilantro finish up the taco wreath.

The decorative dish makes a colorful centerpiece, so it's a great idea for dressing up a party table. And it can be made and refrigerated up to two hours before serving, perfect for get-togethers when you want to prepare some dishes ahead of time.

Impressing partygoers need not take all of your energy this holiday season. By taking advantage of a convenient refrigerated dough shortcut, you can make stunning and tasty appetizers to offer family and friends, regardless of the occasion. For more easy appetizer recipes, visit www.pillsbury.com.

Shrimp, pesto and pepperoni highlight these creative dishes

SHRIMP CRESCENT BITES

1 (8 ounce) can refrigerated crescent dinner rolls (such as Pillsbury)
1-1/2 teaspoons curry powder
1/2 cup flaked coconut
1/4 cup apricot preserves
24 shelled deveined cooked medium shrimp
24 sprigs fresh cilantro

Heat oven to 375°F. Unroll dough into 1 large rectangle. Gently press perforations to seal.

Place curry powder in small strainer. Shake strainer to sprinkle dough evenly with curry powder. Sprinkle evenly with coconut.

Starting at long side, roll up jelly-roll fashion; pinch edges to seal. With serrated knife, cut roll into 24 slices.

Place cut side down on ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake 13-15 minutes or until golden brown. Immediately remove from cookie sheet; place on wire rack.

Cool completely, about 10 minutes. To serve, top each appetizer with 1/2 teaspoon apricot preserves and 1 shrimp. Garnish each appetizer with cilantro sprig. Makes 24 appetizers.

Nutritional information per serving (one appetizer): calories, 55; calories from fat, 20; total fat, 2g; saturated, 1g; cholesterol, 10mg; sodium, 130mg; total carbohydrate, 7g.

PLEASE SEE RECIPES, D3



NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BEEF ASSOCIATION

These beef skewers bring pesto and white bean dip together with garlicky beef for your holiday party. See inside today's Taste section for tapa recipes.

Winery is tucked away from the mainstream

California's wineries are growing larger and larger. It's good to note that they're not all that way.

When the winemaker is also the vineyard manager, there's an intrinsic connection between the good earth and the wine.

That's exactly how it is at Michel-Schlumberger, tucked away from the mainstream, off the beaten track in Wine Creek Canyon, a side pocket of the beautiful Dry Creek Valley.

Since 1989, Fred Payne has been both managing Michel-Schlumberger's 100 acres of vineyards and also making the wine. Recently, as Payne drove us through the vineyards with different elevations on benchlands, hillsides and uplands, he pointed out aspects of the vines that give each wine specific characters.

Payne knows this because he planted the vineyards, farms them and makes the wine. That in a nutshell is what Michel-Schlumberger is all about - crafting wines that express the traits of the place where the grapes originate.

The French call this terroir, a word we dislike because it says little to Americans. Site specificity, an American term intended to mean the same thing, sounds too techy. So let's just call it site personality expressed in the wine.

FOCUS ON WHITES

Payne works closely with proprietor Jacques Schlumberger, who traces his winemaking heritage to the Alsace region of France, where his family has grown grapes and made wine for more than four centuries.

No doubt, this is the root cause of Michel-Schlumberger's production of pinot blanc from the Colmar clone, originating in Alsace. If you're looking for a new taste in a white wine, look no further than the 2002 Michel-Schlumberger Pinot Blanc (\$20) with ripe pear aromas, accented by mineral notes that suggest a pairing with seafood.

PLEASE SEE WINE, D3

WINE PICKS

If you're continuing holiday entertaining between now and New Year's, Chardonnay is always popular. The following are some real deals under \$20.

Pick of the pack: 2002 Freemark Abbey (\$18) with aromas of ripe pineapple and other tropical fruits.

Wallet friendly: 2002 Black Opal (\$10); 2001 Bulletin Place (\$8); and 2002 Long Flat (\$8).

Steals of the week: 2002 Cousino-Macul from Chile (\$9) is a blend of tropical and citrus elements that's on the mark and 2002 Rothbury Estate (\$7), an incredible value.

All wines mentioned are available in the metro Detroit area. If a retailer does not stock a specific wine, ask that it be ordered from the distributor.

Tune into tapas for your appetizers

Simplify your New Year's entertaining. Tune into the tapas trend!

In Spain, tapas are "little dishes," typically served as appetizers. In Greece, they're called meze, in Italy, merende, in France hors d'oeuvres.

We'll call them "small plates," because they're perfect for entertaining. Guests will enjoy the leisurely pace, with no race to the dining table at the appointed hour. They can eat what they like, whenever they're ready.

Offer a variety of "small plate" choices. Purchased items like nuts, fruit and cheeses, and assorted olives are great small plate fare. Marinated vegetables and vegetable salads are also popular offerings.

When these small plates become the meal, be sure to provide some more substantial items as part of the menu. Beef Skewers with Garlicy White Bean Dip, Beef Tenderloin Bruschetta and Mediterranean Polenta rounds are easy to prepare and offer intriguing flavors for guests to enjoy. Plus, they all have make-ahead components, and incorporate prepared products to help streamline preparation.

For dessert, cookies, cake squares, small wedges of pies and tarts, and bite-sized chocolate make fabulous accompaniments to this holiday party menu (and can be purchased already prepared, too).

Serve buffet-style, from vari-

ous locations in the entertaining area. For example, nuts, cheeses and fruits on the coffee table, the savory small plate choices and wines on the buffet or sideboard, and desserts in another room with the coffee and after-dinner drinks.

Guests can pace themselves as they desire, and have plenty of time to munch and mingle. The host can, too, because the entire menu is set out at once. Just replenish the food and plates - as necessary. Don't forget to have plenty of plates on hand! Order from the local rental service or purchase sturdy paper or plastic well in advance of the party.

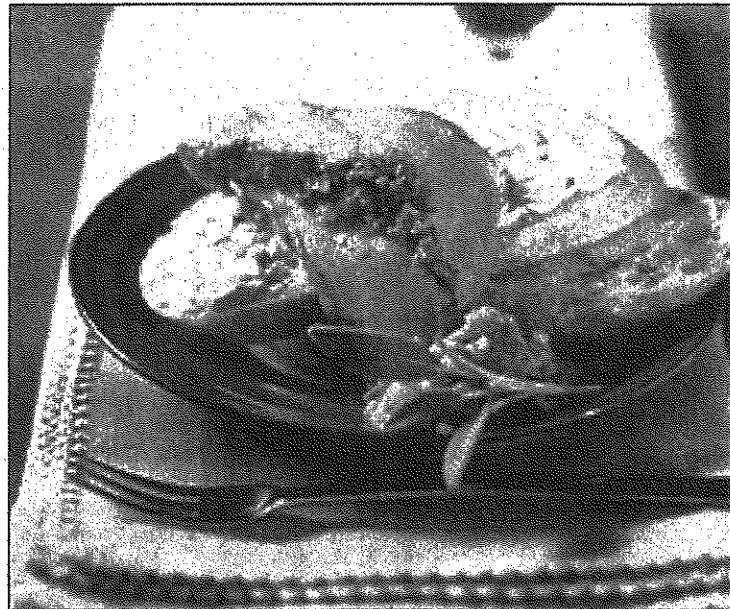
BEEF SKEWERS WITH GARLICKY WHITE BEAN DIP

1 pound boneless beef top sirloin steak, cut one inch thick
1/2 teaspoon prepared garlic-pepper seasoning blend

Dipping Sauce:
Garlicky White Bean Dip (recipe follows)
Prepared Basil-Pesto Sauce (optional)

Trim fat from beef steak. Cut steak crosswise into 1/2-inch thick strips. Thread beef, weaving back and forth, onto sixteen 6-inch metal skewers. Sprinkle garlic pepper seasoning on both sides.

Place skewers on rack in broiler pan so surface of beef is 3-4 inches from heat. Broil about 5-6 minutes, turning once. Serve with Garlicy White Bean Dip drizzled with basil-pesto sauce, if desired. Makes 16 appetizer servings.



Beef tenderloin bruschetta can feature a variety of spreads, such as goat cheese or pesto.

Cook's Tip: Other prepared dipping sauces such as hummus, artichoke-lemon pesto or marinara sauce may also be served with beef skewers.

Nutrition information per beef skewer: 41 calories; 6g protein; 0g carbohydrate; 2g fat; 23mg sodium; 19mg cholesterol; 1mg niacin; 0.1mg vitamin B6; 0.6mcg vitamin B12; 0.7mg iron; 1.4mg zinc.

1/2 cup sun-dried tomato spread
2 tablespoons finely chopped parsley
1 loaf french bread (24 inches long), diagonally sliced
Savory Spreads (see suggestions below)

Heat oven to 425°F. Make horizontal cut through center of beef roast, parallel to surface of meat. Cut to, but not through, opposite side. Open meat so it lies flat.

GARLICKY WHITE BEAN DIP

1 can (15-1/2 ounces) great Northern or cannellini beans
rinsed and drained
2 tablespoons water
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
1 teaspoon white wine vinegar
1 small clove garlic, minced
1/2 teaspoon salt

Combine all ingredients in blender or food processor. Blend until smooth. Makes 1 cup.

Cook's tip: Sauce can be made up to two days ahead of time and refrigerated. Bring to room temperature before serving.

Nutritional information per serving (1/16 of recipe): 32 calories; 2g protein; 4g carbohydrate; 1g fat; 157mg sodium; 0mg cholesterol; 0mg niacin; 0mg vitamin B6; 9mcg vitamin B12; 0.3mg iron; 0mg zinc.

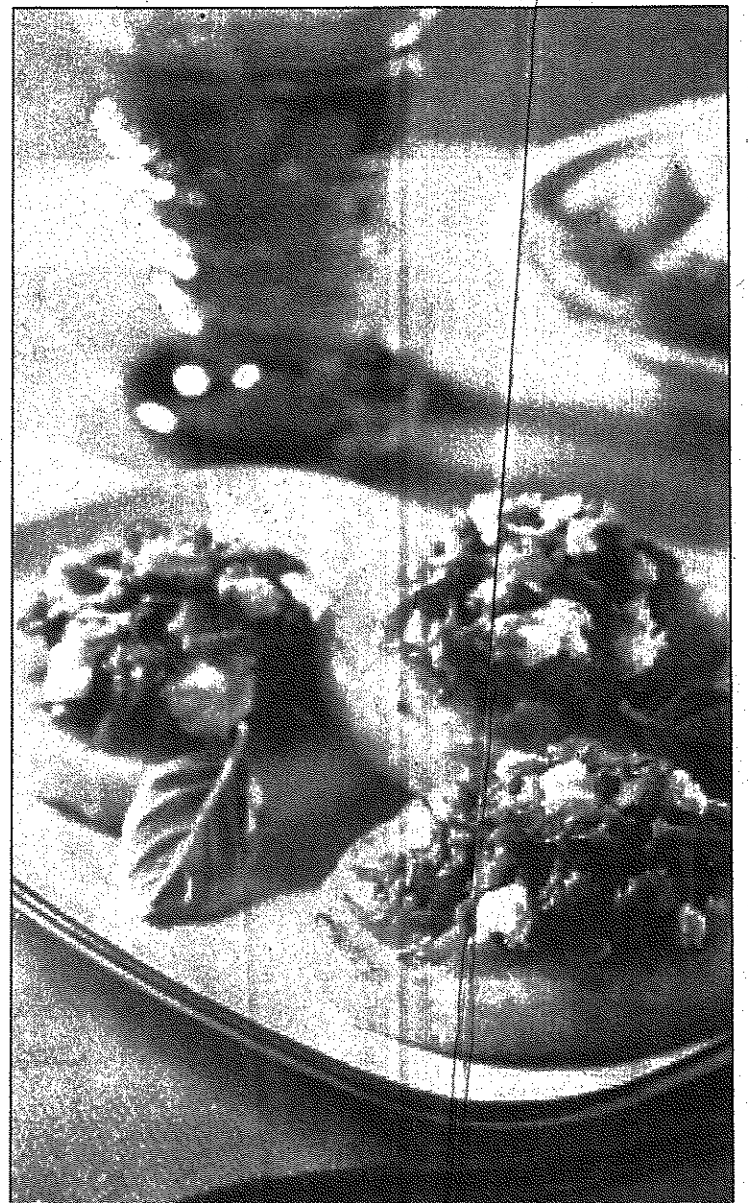
BEEF TENDERLOIN BRUSCHETTA

1 center-cut well-trimmed beef tenderloin roast (2-3 pounds), not tied

Combine sun-dried tomato spread and parsley in small bowl. Spread lengthwise on 1/2 of meat. Fold other 1/2 of meat over to form original shape of roast. Tie at 1-1/2 to 2-inch intervals with kitchen twine.

Place roast on rack in shallow roasting pan. Insert ovenproof meat thermometer so tip is centered in thickest part of beef, not resting in sun-dried tomato filling. Roast in oven 35-40 minutes for medium rare; 45-50 minutes for medium. Remove roast when meat thermometer registers 135°F for medium rare; 150°F for medium. Transfer roast to carving board; tent loosely with aluminum foil. Let stand 15-20 minutes. (Temperature will continue to rise about 10°F to reach 145°F for medium rare; 160°F for medium). Refrigerate roast for several hours or until chilled, if desired. (Roast slices more easily when cold.) Carve roast into 1/2-inch slices.

Slightly toast baguette slices, if desired. Spread baguette slices with savory spread; top each with one slice of beef. Makes 30-35 appetizers.



NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BEEF ASSOCIATION

Mediterranean polenta rounds include pot roast, bell pepper, basil and goat cheese.

Cook's tip: To tie a beef roast, use pieces of kitchen twine or butcher's string. Tie each piece of string firmly, but not tightly, into a knot against the meat. Trim off any excess string. When tying a stuffed roast, some of the stuffing may press out. Tuck it back into the tied areas with your fingers.

Savory Spreads: Olive Tapenade, Garlic-and-Herb Cheese Spread, Black Bean Spread, Herb Goat Cheese, Pesto mixed with Soft Cream Cheese, Eggplant Dip, Crumbled Blue Cheese or Hummus Dip.

Nutrition Information per serving (without spreads): 40 calories; 2g protein; 6g carbohydrate; 1g fat; 110mg sodium; 1mg cholesterol; 0.6mg niacin; 0.0mg vitamin B6; 0.1mcg vitamin B12; 0.4mg iron; 0.2mg zinc.

sliced fresh basil
1/2 cup finely diced red bell pepper
1/2 cup crumbled goat cheese
Thinly sliced fresh basil (optional)

Place Polenta rounds in single layers on 2 greased 15x10x1-inch baking pans. Brush oil lightly over tops of rounds. Broil each pan 1-1/2 to 2 inches from heat 15 minutes or until Polenta begins to brown.

Meanwhile prepare beef pot roast according to package directions. Remove from package reserving gravy. Shred pot roast in large bowl with 2 forks.

Stir in 2 tablespoons reserved gravy, sun-dried tomato spread and 1/2 cup basil. Top each Polenta round with about 1 teaspoon shredded beef mixture. Sprinkle with bell pepper and cheese. Garnish with basil, if desired. Serve warm or at room temperature. Makes 36 appetizers.

Nutrition information per appetizer serving: 73 calories; 4g protein; 8g carbohydrate; 2g fat; 240mg sodium; 12mg cholesterol; 2.0mg niacin; 0.1mg vitamin B6; 0.4mcg vitamin B12; 0.4mg iron; 1.1mg zinc.

MEDITERRANEAN POLENTA ROUNDS

1 package (16-17 ounces) fully-cooked boneless beef pot roast with gravy
3 packages (16 ounces each) prepared Polenta rolls, cut in 1/2-inch rounds
1 tablespoon olive oil
1/2 cup sun-dried tomato spread
1/2 cup loosely packed, thinly

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Physical Therapy UPDATE

Hands On Center

Presented by Hands On Center For Physical Therapy

THE PILATES METHOD

The Pilates Method is a holistic and unique approach to exercise that utilizes a philosophy of principles and fundamentals that were set forth by its namesake, Joseph Pilates was a German boxer and self-defense instructor, who in 1912 found himself interned in England, where he developed a technique for physical fitness designed for a confined space. He later immigrated to the United States, where he opened a body-conditioning studio containing machines designed to enhance rehabilitation that became very popular with dancers desiring to improve their technique or recover from injuries. Today, Pilates' visionary work consists of mat work and studio work with specialized spring-resistance equipment designed to tone, mobilize, and strengthen the body with minimal stress on joints. There are many fun, safe options today for keeping your body and mind healthy. A physical therapist is able to help you match your personality and lifestyle with the right health program to prevent injury and promote holistic health. At HANDS ON CENTER FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY, we offer state-of-the-art scientific methods and knowledge coupled with old-fashioned individualized care. We're happy to discuss your body and your needs. Please call 455-8370 to set up an appointment to speak to a professional. Located at 650 South Main Street in downtown Plymouth, we offer easy access and easy parking.

PS. Pilates is utilized as a safe form of exercise that is beneficial for general fitness and body awareness, injury prevention, technique improvement for athletes and dancers, remedial and rehabilitation work, and the elderly.

Johan Cornuth, PT
Mark Mijnsbergen, PT
Bob Schoemaker, PT

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CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #2094B, Special Land Use Approval for Proposed Service Station/Convenience Store, Parcels #057-02-0180-004 and -0182-003, Southwest Corner of Wayne Road and Cherry Hill Road, NE-20, Graham Roach (Neil Silver)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 6, 2004.

Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

KENNETH B. SHARP, Chairman
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

CE08173489

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF MEETING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #2101, Special Land Use Approval for Proposed Wireless Communication Facility, T-Mobile USA, 1055 Wayne Road, Parcel #063-01-0018-000, East Side of Wayne, North of Palmer Road, SW-21, Jesse Styles (Robert Campbell)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 6, 2004.

Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

KENNETH B. SHARP, Chairman
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

CE08173490

CITY OF WESTLAND SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES Mtg. No. 25 - 12/15/03

Presiding: Council President Pickering
Present: Godbout, Graunstadt, Kehrre, LeMaitre, Stottlemeyer, Wild

275-Approved agenda as presented, with changes.
276-Approved minutes of regular meeting held 12-01-03.
-approved bid for carpeting at Bailey Center to Independent Carpet One, amt. \$17,676.00
-approved purchase for Underbody Scraper to Shults Equipment, amt. \$7,602.00
-introduced Ordinance no. 5-A-7, to amend Chapter 50, Article V, by repealing Sections 50-161 thru 50-166.
-adopted Ordinance No. 248-A-38, to amend Zoning Ordinance 248 by rezoning from General Commercial Business to Vehicle Service, portion of Parcel #057-02-0180-0004, sw corner of Wayne Rd & Cherry Hill Rd.
277-Granted stock transfer in 2003 SDD/SDM Licensed Corp. at 1690 S. Venoy to J. Yono & J. Yono.
278-Granted site plan approval for proposed Office Building North Creek Estates Condominiums PUD, 3. side of Newburgh Rd, s. of Joy Rd, w/contingencies.
280-Granted request from D. Stern (N. Jackson) to rezone from Office Business to General Commercial Business, s. side of Warren Rd, w. of Wayne Rd, w/contingencies.
281-Adopted Resolution approving Deputy City Clerk Pay Plan for 1/1/04 to 12/31/04.
282-Approved 100% max. rate of pay & elimination of probationary period for N. Bonaparte.
284-Adopted Resolution approving Appointed Officials' & Mayor's Office Pay Plan for 1/1/04 to 12/31/04.
285-Approved Checklist Activity: \$519,869.42 and Prepaid: \$1,498,973.18.

Mtg. Adjourned at 10:43 p.m.

Minutes available at City Clerk's Office.

CHARLES W. PICKERING
Council President

NANCY J. BONAPARTE
City Clerk

CE08173492

TASTE CALENDAR

Please submit items at least two weeks in advance of the date it should be published. Send to Ken Abramczyk, Taste editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009 or e-mail kabramczyk@oe.homecomm.net

Super soups

M-Fit of the University of Michigan Health System conducts cooking classes in January, including one on soups 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7 at the East Ann Arbor Health Center Demonstration Kitchen, 4260 Plymouth, in Ann Arbor. Soups are easy as they can be made in one pot and they fill you up with several vegetables without a lot of calories. Learn how to make Thai chicken soup, wild mushroom and barley soup, magenta beet soup with dill, corn chowder with scallops and stewed figs with honey-yogurt sauce with instructors Kathy Goldberg and Lizzie Burt. Wonderful Winter Vegetables will be taught 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21 by chef Aaron Wynn. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$30 per person or \$50 for two people attending together. Call Nicole Goyarts at (734) 975-4387, ext. 236 or sign up on line at www.mfit-nutrition.com

Slow food

Save valuable time by using your slow cooker to make fabulous meals for your family and friends while you work and play. The inexpensive ingredients become succulent when simmered slowly all day. Move over fast food, it's time to slow down as you'll learn about the following dishes: navy beans with smoked turkey sausage, osso bucco (Italian braised veal shanks), aromatic Thai chicken with vegetables and dried plums in sweet wine. Taught through M-Care, University of Michigan Health System, the class is scheduled noon-1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3 at East Ann Arbor Health Center Demonstration Kitchen, 4260 Plymouth. Cost is \$30 per person or \$50 for two people attending together. Call Nicole Goyarts at (734) 975-4387, ext. 236 or sign up on line at www.mfit-nutrition.com

Warm winter salads

Learn some delicious and tantalizing salad recipes, such as German potato salad; roasted root vegetable salad; warm baby spinach and mushroom salad with ponzu dressing; apple, onion and walnut salad over a bed of field greens with warm cider dressing. Students will sample and take home recipes. Julie Boik is the instructor. The class meets Monday, Jan. 12, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Fee is \$22. To register for classes, contact The Community House, 380 South Bates Street in Birmingham at (248) 644-5832, or online at www.communityhouse.com.

Heavenly hors d'oeuvres

Discover how to make a beautiful array of bite-sized creations designed to impress but not stress. The class will make ginger seared shrimp on crisp wonton, vegetable spring roll, caviar and crème fraiche on blini and caramelized onion on goat cheese tart. Instructed by Peter Engelhardt, executive chef for The Community House, the class meets 7:30-9:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 26. Fee is \$23.

Great grains

Are you tired of the same old starches like pasta, potatoes, and rice? Discover how to make quick and healthy side dishes using unique grains such as couscous, quinoa (a South American grain) and risotto. Freeman E. Gunnell's culinary education has been under the direction of renowned chefs including Jimmy Schmidt, Wolfgang Puck and Madeleine Kamman. Freeman's well-rounded career includes working as chef de cuisine and as a pastry chef in gourmet restaurants as well as corporate and private settings. Freeman was recently awarded the prestigious International Association of Culinary Professionals pastry award to study at Ecole Lenotre in Paris, France. Class is 7:30-9:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 27. Fee is \$22. To register for classes, contact The Community House, 380 South Bates Street, Birmingham, 248/644-5832, or online at www.communityhouse.com.

Self-storage facility for wine opens

The Wine Cellar of Michigan at Grand Central Self Storage in Ferndale has opened to provide the state's first-and-only licensed self-storage opportunity for wine enthusiasts, including collectors, investors, merchants and restaurateurs.

This specially-designed repository offers connoisseurs their own purpose-built space, which features temperature and humidity conditions, plus year-round protection via advanced security systems-for storing and preserving fine wines in an assortment of separate lockers and bulk storage spaces.

Wine lovers utilizing individual units at The Wine Cellar of Michigan may stock and lock their prized collec-

tions, freed from the space, environment and security concerns which are commonly associated with constructing on-premises home or business storage.

The Wine Cellar of Michigan encloses 1,000 square feet of space in a climate-controlled, insulated and clear-span vault which is windowless but illuminated by motion-activated fluorescent lighting.

Interior conditions fall within specific parameters (55-degree temperatures, 75-percent humidity levels and no natural light).

The Wine Cellar of Michigan also is equipped with backup to maintain conditions even during emergency electrical power interruptions.

Individual self-storage units

at The Wine Cellar of Michigan are available for lease in terms as short as six months in duration.

There are 54 separately-secured lockers from which to choose, ranging in capacity from eight-to-54 cases of wine.

Horizontal case or rack storage readily may be accommodated.

Space also is set aside for bulk storage of the larger wine quantities often acquired by commercial businesses.

"Self storage for wine enthusiasts is a newer industry concept which previously was unavailable in Michigan," said David Leonard, managing partner of The Wine Cellar of Michigan.

"After researching the

market and applicable governmental regulations, we committed our existing self-storage organization - Grand Central Self-Storage - to introducing this unique service in the state. We believe wine connoisseurs will favorably respond to our convenient and affordable self-storage, with rates beginning at only \$12 per month over a minimum six-month period."

"The Wine Cellar of Michigan addresses demand created within various market segments, such as the baby-boomers, who are expected to drive continued growth in American wine appreciation and consumption," said Leonard.

Special circumstances sometimes generate quantity or seasonal purchases,

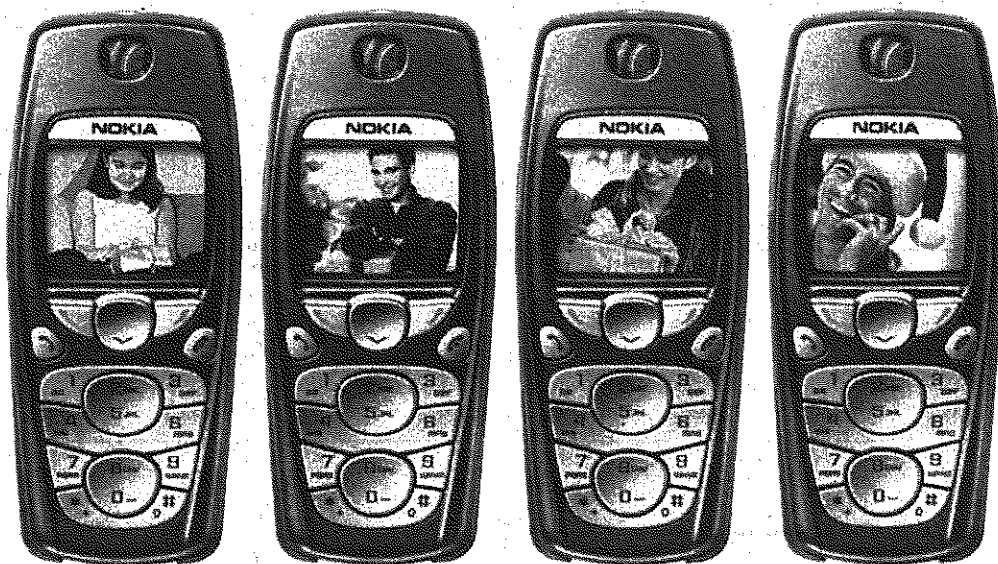
Leonard added.

"For example, historic quality anticipated in the 2003 vintage should generate substantially increased buying and storage activity among area wine connoisseurs," Leonard said.

The Wine Cellar of Michigan at Grand Central Self Storage is located on Bermuda Road north of Woodward Heights in Ferndale-between I-75 and Woodward Avenue, just south of downtown Royal Oak and I-696, accessible to the I-696 Bermuda/Mohawk exits.

For further information, please contact The Wine Cellar of Michigan at Grand Central Self Storage, 3101 Bermuda Road, Ferndale, MI 48220, (248) 542-5600, www.grand-central.biz

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New Year, New you

New Year's Eve's all about fun, and creating a look that's festive yet comfortable. Page 7

Hot Ticket

It's party time in Motown. Find out what's happening and make plans. Page 3

Table Hopping

Making the biggest splash on the restaurant scene will be the opening of Coach Insignia in the Detroit Renaissance Center. Page 4

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Music

Car City Callgirls are pop-punk-glam fun

Ricky Rat, the popular Detroit guitarist with big, wild black hair, has been working on several musical projects since The Trash Brats broke up last year. One of them is a fun pop-glam-punk-rock n' roll band called Car City Callgirls, in which Rat is the lone male.

Car City Callgirls are playing at Paycheck's Lounge on Saturday with Big City Blackout and Cocktail Shake.

The Callgirls are here to remind us that live music can be entertaining. Expect a lot of shine, glitter, funky hair, sexy attire and other eccentricities from these four women and one lone Rat.

"The energy and fun that the girls put off is really catchy," Rat said. "It's nice to be playing with people who are so fresh

PLEASE SEE **GROUP, E5**

Former Trash Brats drummer just wants to rock

Craig Cashew, ex-Trash Brats drummer, isn't trying to be a rock star, he just wants to play real rock n' roll.

In his new band, Big City Blackout, he's making music differently — this time in front of the drum kit as the band's lead vocalist.

The Trash Brats, of course, were one of Detroit's most notorious bands for more than 10 years and attracted big crowds for their raunchy stage shows and well-played music that fused rock/punk and glam. The Brats called it quits last year and since January, Cashew has been playing with Big City Blackout, which is performing on Saturday at Paycheck's Lounge in Hamtramck.

"Our style is just straight-up rock n' roll," Cashew said. "I know that sounds very cliché 'cause everyone says that now, but I mean it."

Big City Blackout is currently recording a CD. Refreshingly, this isn't a band



Ex-Trash Brats drummer Craig Cashew has been playing with Big City Blackout, which is performing on Saturday at Paycheck's Lounge in Hamtramck.

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Index

- **MUSIC**..... E2
Craig Cashew, ex-Trash Brats drummer, isn't trying to be a rock star, he just wants to play real rock n' roll.
- **STARSTRUCK**..... E4
Find out what's in the stars for you this week. Read your horoscope.
- **GET OUT**..... E6
Check out our entertainment calendar to make plans to "Get Out!" and do something fun.
- **COVER STORY**..... E7
New Year's Eve style is always about shine, but this year the shimmer isn't on dresses, it's on you.
- **TABLE HOPPING**..... E8
Making the biggest splash on the metro Detroit restaurant scene will be the planned April opening of Coach Insignia in the Detroit Renaissance Center.
- **DRINKOLOGY**..... E10
Let your passions run wild this New Year's Eve with Alizé Wild, Gold or Red Passion.
- **BEYOND BAD**..... E11
'Christmas Evil' was a groundbreaking movie - sort of. It was the first of the crazy Santa films that cropped up in the '80s and it is by far the best.
- **BIG SCREEN**..... E13
Middle-aged British women want to strip down for a charity calendar, but don't want anyone to see anything - uh, specific in 'Calendar Girls.'

Filter

PURE ENTERTAINMENT!

Observer & Eccentric

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Hot Ticket

Want something different for New Year's?

Finding something to do on New Year's Eve is easy, making a decision will be harder. If you're hitting a nightclub, choose your destination based on what to wear - a D&G dress or Levi's.

DON THE PRADA

Nearly every nightclub and pub is hosting a party. Want high style, energetic ambiance and crowds? Try Sevin in Pontiac - techno music, huge dance and lounge areas, and a continental breakfast after midnight are highlights. Dress to impress.

Wear your sexiest dress, highest heels, and shiniest lip gloss to Space Nightclub. Expect funky performers from around the world - contortionists, sensual dancers and more.

In Detroit, Bleu hosts Bleu Out 2.0 with Mike Anthony, DJ Vince and others. The club offers three levels and two sound systems. Complementary sushi and other appetizers, with a complimentary champagne toast at midnight.

GO CASUAL

Wear what you want, dance or just play darts with friends at Main Street Billiards in Rochester. The \$30 admission includes dancing, dinner buffet, free pool and party favors.

Venture out of your neighborhood to pub hop in Hamtramck. Swing to punkabilly rock band The Twistin' Tarantulas at Small's. Dress is casual, but vintage wear is even better. Shoot pool with area hipsters, then take a walk. There are lots of pubs to choose from in this hip city.

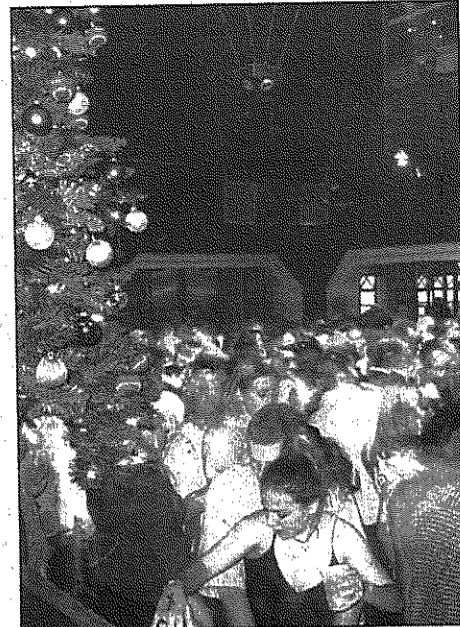
Want to ring in the new year at a bustling pub with a no-nonsense attitude? Try Gusoline Alley in Royal Oak, where no one cares what you're wearing. Just be friendly and ready to mingle with local rockers and other creative types. The highlight is a big beer selection and killer jukebox. Plus there's no cover charge, ever.

Rockers Gordon Bennett, Jiva Eightfold Path and Supernova are playing at the Magic Bag in Ferndale. Party later at The Bosco Lounge, where the crowd is understated and open-minded.

Eddie Leighton Project, a '70s and '80s cover rock band, will play at Blarney Bay Pub in Westland. The pub has eight televisions and is known for its wings and pizza. Come for dinner or just to party.

A BIT OF ELEGANCE

For live music and elegant attire, the Fox Theatre is your ticket. Enjoy the soulful sounds of Maze featuring Frankie



Sevin the nightclub in Pontiac is hosting a swanky New Year's Eve party for those who want to dress in their hottest attire.

Beverly with The O'Jays and The Whispers.

And there's always a sophisticated crowd at Big Rock Brewery & Chophouse in Birmingham. Big Rock has a friendly bar - expect lots of hugs and kisses at midnight. This year the restaurant will have a full menu and complimentary champagne instead of their usual limited menu on New Year's Eve.

GO GOTH

Maybe you want to celebrate without giddy fanfare. For a different type of celebration try Labyrinth, the gothic club in the basement of the Ramada Inn in Detroit's Cass Corridor. Wear black or deep red and you'll be fine.

MORE POSSIBILITIES

If nightclubs aren't your thing, here are some options. Have dinner at Hockeytown Cafe in downtown Detroit and take the shuttle to see the Red Wings play at Joe Louis, or catch the latest Second City Detroit revue, *Ten*.

For the first time ever, the Detroit Pistons will play on New Year's Eve at 4 p.m. Festivities include a pre-game basketball clinic for families; brunch at the Terrace Club followed by the game. Ring in the New Year early after the game with noisemakers, sparkling cider or champagne.

What more do you need?

Here's where to party

CLUBS & PUBS

Open at 9 p.m. unless indicated

- **Bleu** - 1540 Woodward Ave., Detroit, one block south of the Fox Theatre, www.bleudetroit.com, \$50 general admission or \$100 VIP lounge area, call (248) 705-2487 for advance tickets, or visit www.veropass.com
- **The Bosco Lounge** - 22830 Woodward Ave., next to the Magic Bag Theatre, Ferndale, (248) 541-8817. Cover \$10, reservations recommended but not required, www.thebosco.com
- **Big Rock Brewery & Chophouse** - 245 S. Eton St., Birmingham, (248) 647-7774, reservations required.
- **Blarney Bay Pub** - 27758 Warren, Westland (734) 421-6940.
- **Gusoline Alley** - 309 South Center St., Royal Oak, (248) 545-2235
- **Labyrinth** - 1703 Cass at Bagley, Detroit in the basement of Ramada Inn, (313) 438-6153. Cover \$5, www.labyrinthdetroit.com. Doors open 10 p.m.
- **Main Street Billiards** - 215 S. Main St., Rochester, (248) 652-8441.
- **Sevin** - 40 W. Pike, Pontiac, (248) 745-SINI. Tickets \$40 in advance, \$50 at door, \$175 VIP, www.sinnightclub.com
- **Small's** - 3642 Caniff, corner of Conant, Hamtramck, (313) 873-1117. Cover \$5. Doors 8 p.m.
- **Space** - 15 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac. Admission \$40 or \$100 VIP, at the door or call (248) 593-6666, www.spacepontiac.net

OTHER EVENTS

- 5 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. Red Wings game, 7 p.m. Second City comedy show - Start with dinner at Hockeytown Cafe, shuttles every 15 minutes to the Joe Louis Arena for the Red Wings vs. the Atlanta Thrashers. Tickets \$80 per person; or dinner at Hockeytown followed by Second City's comedy revue of *Ten*. Tickets \$50. Show only admission \$20. Hockeytown Cafe & The Second City are at 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (313) 965-2222.
- 4 p.m. The Detroit Pistons vs. the Portland Trailblazers at the Palace of Auburn Hills; 1-2 p.m. pre-game basketball clinic for families; brunch at the Terrace Club 2-3 p.m. Call (248) 377-0100 for brunch reservations. Game tickets are \$20 in advance or \$33 at the door, (248) 645-6666 or (248) 377-0100.
- 8 p.m. Maze featuring Frankie Beverly with The O'Jays and The Whispers at the Fox Theatre. Tickets \$69-\$89, (248) 645-6666.
- 8 p.m. Gordon Bennett at the Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale, (248) 544-3030, www.themagicbag.com. Tickets \$15 in advance, (248) 645-6666 or \$20 at the door.

Pure Picks 2003

This week, we look back at the best stuff released in 2003 (and one album that we regret not picking). Without further ado, here are 2003's Pick of the Picks.

Albums

The Shins, *Chutes too Narrow*
(Sub Pop)

The Shins humbly produced some of the best melodic pop music with the release of their sophomore album. A penchant for a good hook and a love for melody and The Kinks are all over this accessible, fun album. (www.dark-coupon.com)

OutKast *Speakerboxxx/The Love Below* (La Face)

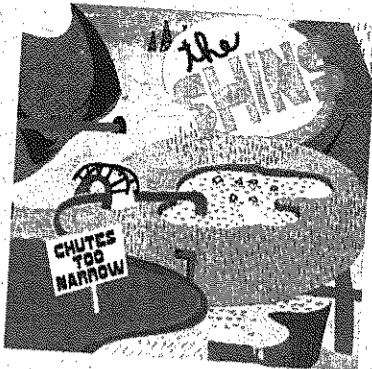
How many times did you find yourself "Shakin' it like a Polaroid picture" this year? Hip hop got a huge creative push (not to mention an infusion of fun) this year with the release of the duo's split album. Andre 3000 jiggys through big band beats set over funky grooves, while partner in crime Big Boi put lots of soul into his more traditional southern hip hop. (www.outkast.com)

Rufus Wainwright *Want One* (Dreamworks)

Stylistically big, Loudon's son released an oddly hopeful album full of layered pop arrangements and *Pet Sound*-esque harmonies that focuses on themes of loneliness and struggle. Wainwright has created a large pop landscape that successfully passes as a wonderful Broadway soundtrack. (www.rufuswainwright.com)

The Strokes *Room on Fire* (RCA)

With cunning guitar work, (I am still shocked there isn't a keyboard anywhere on the single *12:51*) The Strokes released the best New Wave rip-off album of the year, proving they can refine a sound that changed the rock landscape. The Strokes brought the hand clap and sass back to rock, and they just keep strutting it. (www.thestrokes.com)



Film

"Lost in Translation," directed by Sofia Coppola

The quite desperation and beautiful cinematography of Coppola's second film subtly pieces together the tale two strangers who meet at a hotel in Tokyo, Japan and end up spending a few days hanging out. One of the few movies this year that made you walk out of the theater with a new view on life. If you missed seeing the most touching film of the year, it's still showing at the Landmark Maple Art Cinema, 4135 West Maple Road in Bloomfield Hills. Call (248) 542-0180 for showtimes.

Book

Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides

Technically, it was released last year, but the paperback version of the Pulitzer prize-winning novel by the author of *The Virgin Suicides* was released in September of this year, so it counts. The novel follows the family lineage of the Greek-American Stephanides family from a tiny village in Turkey to present day. A majority of the plot is set in the glory days of Detroit, providing a moving and accurate history of the decline of the Motor City. A must-read for local book lovers and history buffs alike.



Local band Deadstring Brothers

With the release of their self-titled, first full-length album, the Brothers twanged their way into a permanent place in the local music scene and proved that Detroit Rock City is also a great place to start a country band. (www.deadstringbrothers.com; www.timesbeachrecords.com)

Missed album

Cat Power, *You are Free*
(Matador)

Singer/songwriter Chan Marshall fills *You are Free* with regret and redemption.

The chillingly sparse guitars, and haunting vocals make the record's vulnerability its strength. (www.cat-powermusic.com)



Fad Friendster.com

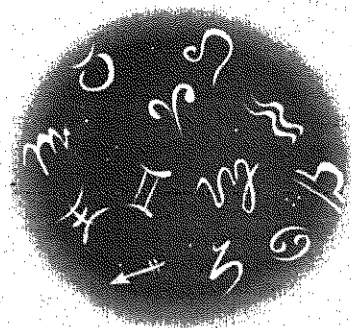
Based on the simple idea of connecting people through their friends, the online community changed the perception that meeting people through the Internet was just for ax murderers and child molesters. No longer content with blogs, people everywhere began sending "testimonials" to friends and messaging strangers, and in the process became addicted to this year's plague. Copycat sites such as mspace.com began popping up around the Net, making creating online profiles suddenly the most frivolous way to waste a Saturday afternoon. Add me!

Horoscope



Star Struck

(Dec. 25-Dec. 27)
By Dennis Fairchild



ARIES (March 21-April 20)

If life is a series of payments, then you have paid many of your dues. However, there are still a few installments to be made. Take what transpires between now and the New Year as an opportunity to dispense with hangers-on as well as hangovers from the past.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

A craving for financial as well as emotional security is the hub of the Taurean wheel of life. However, if you are to benefit from planetary influences during the coming year, you must take more on trust - starting now! Something needs to be double-checked. Do it now!

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Money seems to be a never-ending problem for Twins, and with your ruling planet Mercury now moving backward, the song will probably remain the same. There are compelling reasons - some of which only you know about - for keeping funds in reserve.

CANCER (June 22-July 23)

You may be the strong, silent type, but you need to open up in the days ahead and let others know what you're thinking and feeling. Whatever you're going through, you can bet that family and colleagues have been through it before too, so learn from one another.

LEO (July 24-Aug 23)

This is not the moment for grand gestures, so no matter how generous you feel, you must avoid giving to those who may not be thankful. With retrograde Mercury likely affecting your judgment now, you're advised to keep a tight rein on your instincts and income.

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23)

It's now time to yank your head out of the sand and address a long-standing problem close to home and heart. You can no longer rely on others to bear the emotional weight of the situation. It's time to put your legendary tact and diplomacy to good use - start now!

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23)

Too much stress is harmful to your sensitive system, so don't feel guilty about delegating certain responsibilities and, if necessary, discarding some. It's easy to get trapped on a treadmill - the time has come to prove you can get off. Bark now, don't break your back!

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

So much seems to be slipping away lately, eh? But you should be grateful for the opportunity to explore other avenues. Above all, however, Scorps must remain confident that the process of spiritual progress necessitates going through an adolescent phase.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

You seem to be trying to cram so much into your life that you're in danger of losing sight of a personal goal. However finely tuned your sense of responsibility may be, your first duty right now is to yourself. Snap out of it, Sadge!

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 21)

If someone close to you is behaving oddly now, it's only because they have misread the situation. Equally, it's possible that you may have misinterpreted it yourself, Cap! With your budget still in a state of flux, don't sign anything until the end of next week.

AQUARIUS (Jan 22-Feb 19)

You won't be short of opinions as 2004 begins, and some of them are likely to stir things up a bit. Whether that's good or bad remains to be seen, but don't tone down your beliefs for fear of offending people. Some things need to be said.

PISCES (Feb 20-March 20)

Although you may have every reason to feel dejected because of others' lack of sympathy and support, in fact, what you are currently experiencing really is simply the final chapter in a long, drawn-out unpleasant personal or professional saga. Face front in '04, Fish!

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

Pure Picks is written by Stephanie Tardy. Is there something you want considered? To submit information on local entertainment or other ideas to be featured in this space, e-mail stardy@oe.homecomm.net.

GROUP

FROM PAGE E2

and new to the band idea. It reminds me of being 15 years old and just starting out."

For the moment, the band plays mostly cover songs of older obscure bands like The Forgotten Rebels, Rose Tattoo, Hollywood Brats and others.

"We are so sick of all the boring and dull bands in the rock n' roll scene today, so we're a reaction to all that sullenness," Rat said.

"When people see us, they will be reminded how fun a rock n' roll show can be."

The five-member band has been playing together for less than a year. It's so fresh that some of the women just learned to play instruments over the past couple years.

Their first original song, *I can't see s---*, will debut at Paycheck's.

The Callgirls is more of a side project for Rat, who's also putting together another band that he said will hopefully become his main gig. He already has a vocalist and drummer and is seeking another guitarist and bassist.

"We're taking our time as we want to get things right!" Rat said.

DRUMMER

FROM PAGE E2

claiming to invent a new sound because new sounds are rare. Instead, Cashew openly labels his music as just 'rock n' roll' and honestly compares it to Van Halen and Aerosmith in their earlier years, Thin F and Cheap Trick.

NOTHING NEW

"So as you can see we're not doing anything new," Cashew said. "Everybody is trying to be garage rock. We're just rock n' roll. So I guess it's kind of similar to the Trash Brats music."

Cashew sang backing vocals for the Brats. He said playing in Big City Blackout feels like a fresh start, yet as a veteran musician, his attitude toward the music business and "making it big" is realistic.

"I take the music industry with a grain of salt," Cashew said.

"It is the most fake, pretentious, backstabbing business ever. The friends you

BIG CITY BLACKOUT, CAR CITY CALLGIRLS, AND COCKTAIL SHAKE

Where: Paycheck's Lounge, 2932 Caniff, Hamtramck

When: Doors open 9 pm. Saturday, first band comes on around 10 p.m.

Admission: \$5, call (313) 874-0254

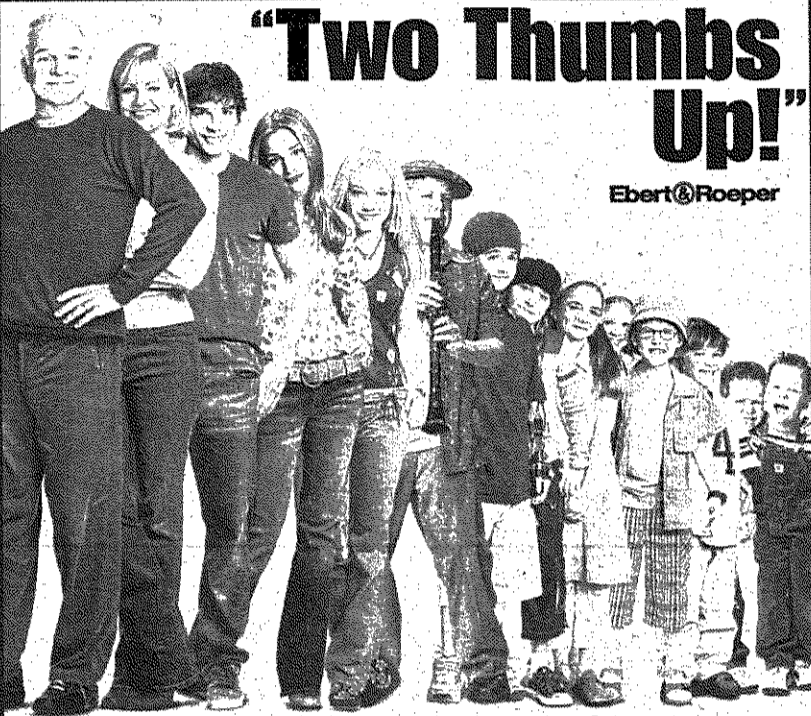
Web sites: www.bigcityblackout.com and www.paycheckslounge.com

make are far and few in-between. But playing music is like an addiction. I'll never stop. I gave up on being a rock star years ago. If something happens, great, but if it don't that's fine too, 'cause I'm having a ball!

"We just do our thing and hopefully people will dig it. Bands are always talking about saving rock n' roll, well, we're actually doing it."

"Out of a Possible 10 It Gets a 12."

JOEL SIEGEL, GOOD MORNING AMERICA



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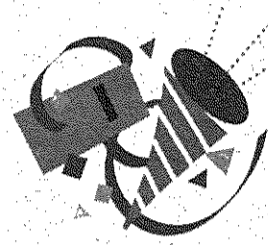
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Your Guide to Entertainment

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PROFESSIONAL THEATER

Detroit Repertory Theatre

Here and There by Esther Blumenfeld 8:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday; 3 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday; \$17; through Dec. 28, and New Year's Eve, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit; (313) 868-1347, www.detroitreptheatre.com

The Masonic Temple Theatre

The Producers, the new Mel Brooks musical, through Jan. 11, \$27.50 to \$75, (248) 645-6666, (313) 872-1000, www.nederlanderdetroit.com

Jewish Ensemble Theatre

Nobody's Giltgul by Lois Roisman, continues to Jan. 4, Aaron DeRoy Theatre, 6600 W. Maple, corner of Drake, West Bloomfield, \$20 to \$32, discounts for seniors/students, (248) 788-2900.

The Radio City Christmas Spectacular

Through Dec. 27 at the Fox Theatre in Detroit. Tickets \$18-\$60.50, (313) 471-6611.

Fisher Theatre

Les Miserables through Jan. 4. Curtain 8 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Addition shows 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22 & Dec. 29, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, \$25-\$66.50, (248) 645-6666, (313) 872-1000, www.nederlanderdetroit.com

DINNER THEATER

Genitti's Hole-in-the wall

My Big Fat Michigan Holiday, dinner and show, every evening, through Wednesday, Dec. 31, \$45; Children's theater, Saturday-Sunday to Dec. 28, \$12.95 children, \$14.95 adults, 108 E. Main, Northville, (248) 349-0522, www.genittis.com

CONCERT

BBSO

Between the Holidays concert 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30, Temple Beth El,

Telegraph at 14 Mile Road, \$25 adults, no charge for kids accompanied by adults, (248) 645-2276 in advance, and at the door, www.bbsso.org. David Syme will be performing with the orchestra.

FAMILY FUN

Toy & Hobby Expo

Features model railroad displays, vendors and collectors selling vintage toys, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Novi Expo Center, 1-96 at Novi Road, \$7, kids under 12 free with an adult, parking \$5, (734) 455-2110.

Detroit Institute of Arts

Variety of activities for all ages including puppet performances, music, storytelling, tours, drop-in workshops and more. Special hours for the week between Christmas and New Year's Eve, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, Dec. 29-31, closed Dec. 25 & Jan. 1, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Detroit Symphony Orchestra

Party 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31. Variety of music, dancing, party favors, champagne, late night breakfast buffet, The Max, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (313) 576-5111 or www.detroitssymphony.com

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle

New Year's Eve, Ralph Harris, two shows 7:30 p.m. (\$55 couple), 10:30 p.m. (\$70 couple), 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak, (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase New Year's Eve Tim Walkoe, 8 p.m. (\$22.50) & 10:30 p.m. (\$29.50, includes champagne toast, party favors), 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, (734) 996-9080. Next week, Keith Ruff, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 26-27.

Firefly Club

The George Benson Quartet plays 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. New Year's Eve, \$40 per person, \$75 per couple, includes buffet, champagne toast, Paul Keller birthday



Lush Bar Room, the ultra trendy Pontiac nightclub, hosts New Year's Eve with DJs DT & Capt'n 20. Sexy, soulful house music, 21 and over only. With dinner at Pike Street restaurant, \$75 per couple, or \$50 per couple without dinner - party favors, champagne toast, hors d'oeuvres, desserts and CD giveaways, plus live broadcast of the New York City ball drop on 42-inch plasma screens. Located at 18 W. Pike St. For reservations call (248) 334 7878.

celebration 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, \$10 cover, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor, (734) 665-9090.

Sweet Georgia Brown

Larry Nozero, Friday, Dec. 26; Odessa Harris, Saturday, Dec. 27, Gwen & Charles Scales, New Year's Eve. Special menu offering. Call restaurant for details, 1045 Brush St., Greektown, Detroit, (313) 965-1245.

Finnish Cultural Center

New Year's Eve Dinner Dance, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, dinner 8 p.m. The Ray Adams Band will play music for all ages, champagne midnight toast, snack. Tickets \$35 per person, call (248) 478-6939 by Dec. 30 for reservations, 35200 W. Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

Historic White House Inn

Dinner, horse drawn sleigh rides, Sheila Landis Duo 5 p.m. to midnight. New Year's Eve party begins at 10 p.m. includes champagne and party favors, \$29.95, sleigh rides \$10, One East High Street, Metamora, (810) 678-2150.

Gem & Century Theatres

Dinner at the Century Grille, dancing to the Ed Wells Jazz Band, choice of seeing either *Forbidden Christmas* or *Triple Espresso*, dinner show & dancing, \$100 per person, dinner & dancing, \$59.50 per person, show & dancing, \$59.50 per person, (313) 963-9800, www.gemtheatre.com

Santia Banquet Center

Doors and bar open 7 p.m., dinner 8 p.m. entertainment and dancing featuring the Bugs Beddow band beginning at 9 p.m., \$75 per person, includes dinner buffet, full bar, champagne toast, pizza snack at midnight, entertainment, 1985 Cass Lake Road, Keego Harbor, (248) 682-0420.

Woodruffs

Five course dinner, entertainment by Vanessa Johnson, seatings 6 p.m. (\$55 per person), 9 p.m. (\$85 per person), 212 W. Sixth St., Royal Oak, (248) 586-1519.

Hotel Holly

Four course dinners 4-11 p.m., \$40 per person, 110 Battle Alley, Holly, (248) 634-5208, www.hollyhotel.com

AUDITIONS

Masonic Temple Theatre

Auditions for 12 children to be in the orphan chorus in *Annie*, running Feb. 10-15 at the Masonic Temple Theatre. Interested girls ages 7-14 who sing and dance well should bring two head shots and resumes with all contact information attached to the Fountain Ballroom of the Masonic Temple Theatre, 500 Temple Ave., Detroit, 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 29. Must be between 3'7" and 4'11" tall. Be prepared to learn a couple of songs from the show to audition. Musical accompaniment provided. Auditions start at 11:30 a.m.

Main Stage Theatre Guild

The Mousetrap, 4-7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4, 7-10 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5, Theatre Livonia in Livonia Mall, 29514 Seven Mile Road, corner of Middlebelt; three

women ages 20-50; five men ages 20-60, readings from script, (586) 344-7774.

Paper Bag Productions

Cinderella, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4, Theatre Livonia in Livonia Mall, 29514 Seven Mile Road, corner of Middlebelt, 5-8 girls, 3-5 boys, plus chorus, children ages 5-18, welcome. Be prepared to sing whatever you think you sing best. Readings from script, (586) 344-7774.

Sara Smith Productions

Youth Theatre production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, 5-8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9 or 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham. Show plays March 6-7. To schedule an audition, call (248) 644-5832.

COLLEGE

Hilberry

David Mamet's *Glengarry Glen Ross* continues in rotating repertoire to Jan. 31, 4743 Cass, Wayne State University campus, Detroit, \$12 to \$20, (313) 577-2972.

YOUTH

Marquis Theatre

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, 2:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday through Jan. 18, 135 E. Main St., Northville, \$8, (248) 349-8110.

Anderson Theatre

The Flight Fantastic in collaboration with Henry Ford Museum, presented by September Productions, 2:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 27-30. \$8 adults, \$7 children, For reservations, call (313) 982-6001.

CHORAL

Plymouth Oratorio Society

Begins rehearsals 7:15 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5, First United Methodist Church, North Territorial Road, west of Sheldon, Plymouth. Selected works are Mozart's *Solemn Vespers* and Beethoven's *Mass in C*. No auditions needed call Don Pratt, (734) 455-8353 for information.

Farmington Community Chorus

Auditions for spring session, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6 and Jan. 13, William Costick Activities Center, 11 Mile Road east of Middlebelt, Farmington Hills. Call Kathy Hall (248) 471-4516 or visit www.farmingtonchorus.com

DANCE

Ballroom Dancing

Moondusters will host ballroom dancing to live bands, featuring popular swing, fox trot, waltz, cha-cha and other Latin 8:30-11:30 p.m. every Saturday \$6. Dressy attire. Singles and married. Meet at the Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road and Five Mile, Livonia. Ballroom dance lessons 7-8 p.m. Saturday, call Joe (248) 968-5197

New Year Shine

Let the Eve be a catalyst for style that's all about the glow



Above, middle and top, layers of hair straightened with a flat iron and finished with a glossing spray create these saucy look.

New Year's Eve style is always about shine, but this year the shimmer isn't on dresses, it's on you.

On the hair, the lips, and with some dazzling accessories, hints of shine create a festive feel. Clothing should be simple because again, this is about you.

When dreary winter sets in, we need a little glamour to perk us up, so we've enlisted the help of a few local style experts. We found shine at a salon whose name represents just that, Platinum The Salon, at 223 E. Maple in Birmingham.

At Platinum, stylist Ghazwan Bolin, who's known for maintaining the coifs of many local celebs, uses his hands and innovative styling products to make hair a lustrous accessory.

"It's about Hollywood shine," Bolin said. "New Year's is about being what you dream of. ... You want to look like J. Lo or Christina Aguilera, you call me."

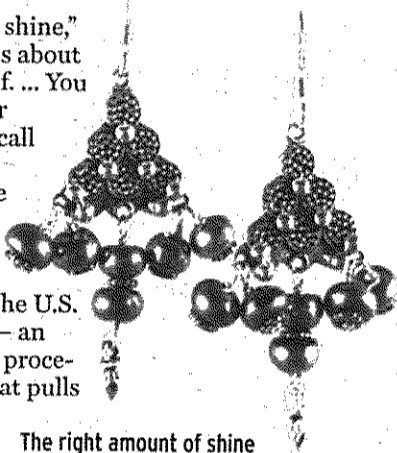
Platinum is innovative not just because of its emphasis on shine as an accessory, but because it's one of few salons in the U.S. to introduce threadings – an Arabic eyebrow shaping procedure involving thread that pulls hair from the roots.

"It doesn't hurt at all," said Angie Genovesi of Birmingham, who Bolin transformed into a glamour girl for the cover of Filter. Making Genovesi's hair glossy, Bolin said, requires the right color and cut, plus flat irons and products like Dixon Spray Shine. When hair is the focal point, cosmetics should be minimal. Genovesi used a simple gloss from Bonne Bell to give her lips a polished clear shine. And she added a simple Wet n' Wild lip liner for some color.

And for New Year's Eve attire, forget sequins. Since the shine is on your hair and face, the clothing should be simply elegant. For extra glamour stick with funky accessories.

For jewelry, our next stop was Adorn, a boutique at 200 Fifth Ave. in Royal Oak. Artist/owner Sandy Marsh carries her own Adorn jewelry line plus the creations of more than 50 artists from the U.S., Canada and Brazil.

The pieces are made with metal, semi-precious stones,



The right amount of shine are on these Gypsy Earrings created by Isajul, \$33. Available exclusively at Adorn in Royal Oak.

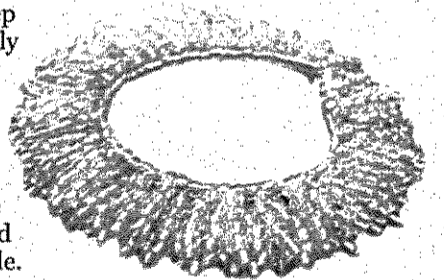


The lighthearted stylist Ghazwan Bolin knows that New Year's hair is all about fun. Here he's pictured with Birmingham model Angie Genovesi.

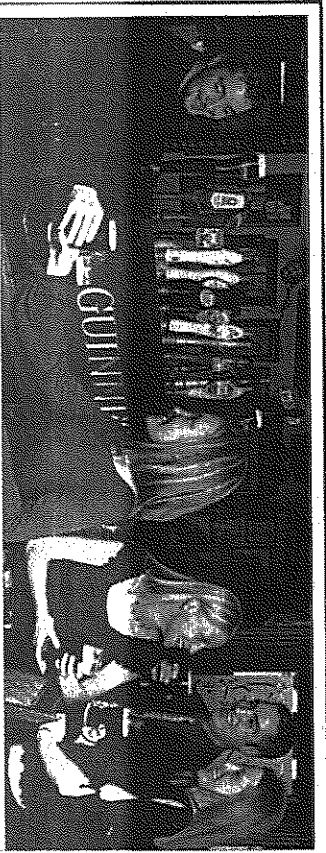
glass, fiber, clay and wood. Marsh strives to keep prices affordable – \$8-\$150. Marsh intentionally created an atmosphere that's fun and relaxing – perfect for New Year's accessory shopping. Adorn's signature line includes a Party bracelet, in a variety of colors, with eye-catching moveable beaded fringe.

The Party bracelet can be worn with a simple black shirt. Add a shiny glamorous hairstyle and slicked lips and the feel is festive yet comfortable.

"It's all about fun for New Year's," Marsh said.



The beaded Party bracelet by Adorn, in Royal Oak, moves on the wrist and shimmers in the light.



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Table hopping

Forecast for 2004 area restaurant scene bright

BY ELEANOR HEALD
CORRESPONDENT

Making the biggest splash on the metro Detroit restaurant scene will be the planned April 2004 opening of Coach Insignia in the Detroit Renaissance Center.

General Motors' mother ship in the Ren Cen has made a market for restaurateur Matt Prentice and his Unique Restaurant Corporation's newest venue, seating 220 on the 71st and 72nd floors. Relax in a martini booth or an Edith Ann-style cool chair in a Ron Reg-designed atmosphere. Coach Insignia will be hard to beat as the hot spot for cocktails followed by dinner.

Wine aficionados associate Coach Insignia with the name of the ultra premium chardonnay and cabernet sauvignon produced by California's Fisher Vineyards. Proprietor Fred Fisher explained that the trademarked Coach Insignia when he simplified the emblem design of his family's Fisher Body coach for use on his wine label. As such, the Coach Insignia name has been licensed for a fee to Matt Prentice, URCS founder and president.

"I'm a native Michigander," Fisher reminded. "My wife Jenelle and I are pleased to tie into the heritage of General Motors at the Ren Cen and Matt's restaurant. Coach Insignia honors my family's tradition of craftsmanship and Matt's love affair with food and wine. Prentice revealed that he's shooting for a Wine Spectator top Award of Excellence. "A budget has been set aside for Master Sommelier Madeline Triffon and her team to achieve it," he said.

MORE UPCOMING FOR DETROIT

Andiamo, another multi-unit independent operator, will expand business in Detroit. Proprietor/partner Joe Vicari is undecided on the exact name of this new Andiamo in the Wintergarden, the ground-level development in the Ren Cen. "But it will tie into the Detroit waterfront," he said.

Construction beginning in January is projected to have a June 2004 opening for another Ron Reg-designed interior. In addition to a 200-seat restaurant, there will be a gourmet counter deli with an attached cafe, serving both carry out and eating in.

"I'm excited at the prospect because the location is great," Vicari added. "I love the Detroit waterfront and I believe the site, with easy valet parking, brings a built-in audience. Detroit is making a comeback."

Frank Taylor, managing partner in the Detroit restaurant Sweet Georgia Brown, will take on new partners Alexander Zorjic, noted area jazz musician, and Robert Forcher, of Detroit Lions fame, in Seldom Blues, a jazz supper club.

Seldom Blues, scheduled to open in May 2004, will be in the Wintergarden overlooking the Detroit River. Top national and local

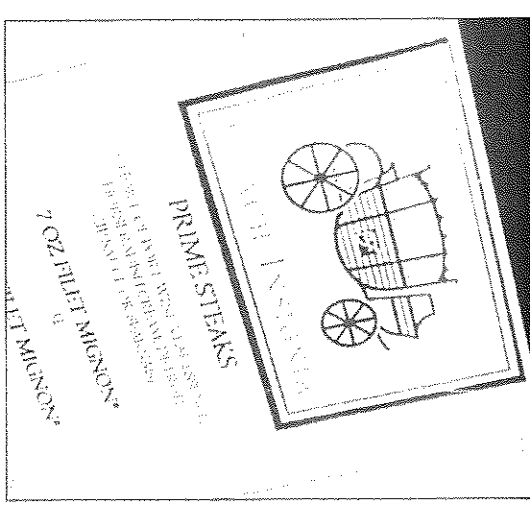


Restaurateur Matt Prentice and Master Sommelier Madeline Triffon toast the anticipated success of Coach Insignia, the newest Unique Restaurant Corporation venue.

CHANGES IN THE SUBURBS

Lina and Marvin Bernstein, proprietors of The French Courmet, 23421 Woodward Ave. in Ferndale, have at long last acquired a liquor license for their small 30-seat French restaurant.

A facelift will be followed by a revised menu, complementing a wine list, featuring principally wines from many French regions as well as champagnes and select after-dinner pours.



Here's a preview of the menu for Coach Insignia. The restaurant in Detroit's Renaissance Center is scheduled to open in April.

and a number of local charity events. "I'm reviewing many options," Baker said. "I'm confident that I will be involved in a new restaurant project by the end of 2004."

EXPANDING CHAINS

Jerry McVeety, President of McVeety & Associates, International Food Service and Hospitality Consultants in Farmington Hills, views additional national chains as a positive in the area.

"Top chains are needed," he said, "because it moves up the dimension of restaurant food service to another level. People associate a level of comfort with the better chains. Chains complement independents who are doing well and affords them the same positive prestige."

California-based The Cheeseecake Factory is returning to its Michigan roots and plans a summer 2004 opening in Somerset South, Troy. In the 1940s, Evelyn Overton baked her famous cheesecakes in Detroit. Once their children were grown, she and husband Oscar moved the business to Los Angeles and added more cheeseecake varieties. In 1978, the first Cheeseecake Factory restaurant opened in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Today, sporting the mission statement, "Something for Everyone," The Cheeseecake Factory dishes up everything from fresh fish tacos to steaks and chops.

For dessert? Cheeseecake, of course. In autumn 2004, the company that brought Macaroni Grill to metro Detroit will bring its family-friendly, Maggiano's Little Italy concept of Old and New World southern Italian dishes to Troy. It will be in the former site of Rio Bravo on Big Beaver Road.

For 2004, there's lots more stirring in the pot of several restaurants. As they say, stay tuned. You'll find it all in Filter.
Contact Eleanor Heald at (734) 953-2047, mailbox 1864#.

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Drinkology

Get passionate on New Year's Eve

BY ELEANOR AND RAY HEALD
CORRESPONDENTS

Let your passions run wild this New Year's Eve. Or take on golden or red hues.

The first with Alizé (ah-lee-zay') Wild Passion. The other two with Alizé Gold Passion or Alizé Red Passion. All three show the inventiveness and the joie de vivre of the French at \$18/750mL.

Alizé Wild Passion is a proprietary blend of natural passion fruit juices, mango and tangy pink grapefruit combined with French cognac. Alizé Gold Passion is a passion fruit and cognac blend. Alizé Red Passion adds cranberry to the passion fruit/cognac combo.

Serve all three chilled, over ice or use one of the following recipes.

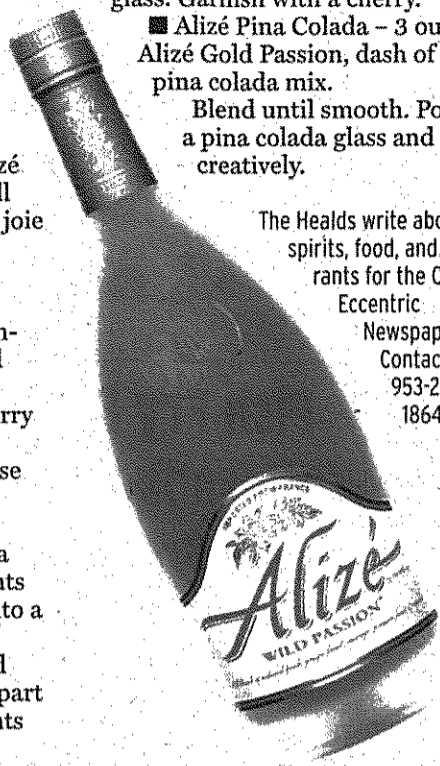
■ **Wild Thing** - 2 parts Alizé Wild Passion, 1 part Premium Citrus Vodka and 1 part lemonade. Blend ingredients together with ice. Shake and strain into a martini glass. Garnish with a cherry.

■ **Alizé Cocktail** - 2 parts Alizé Red Passion, 1 part Apricot Brandy and 1 part fresh lemon juice. Shake all ingredients

with ice. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass. Garnish with a cherry.

■ **Alizé Pina Colada** - 3 ounces Alizé Gold Passion, dash of rum, pina colada mix.

Blend until smooth. Pour into a pina colada glass and garnish creatively.



The Healds write about wine, spirits, food, and restaurants for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.
Contact (734) 953-2047, 1864#.

Folk

Crossroads Ceili celebrates Irish music



Liz Carroll, All-Ireland Fiddle Champion, headlines Crossroads Ceili at the Ark in Ann Arbor, Saturday and Sunday.

The Ark's annual Crossroads Ceili, Saturday and Sunday, is a great way to mark the turning of the year. It's a gathering of local Irish-music singers, instrumentalists and dancers all sharing the stage with nationally known champion fiddler Liz Carroll.

Performances are 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Tickets \$13.50, call (734) 761-1451 or www.a2ark.org.

Also appearing are students from the Heinzman School of Irish Step Dancing, including Paul Cusack and Pat Quinn, who toured with *Riverdance*, and young fiddlers from Mick Gavin's School of Music.

Pianist Barbara MacDonald Magone, Siobhan McKinney, 2003 All-Ireland Harp Champion, the award-winning Detroit Grupa Cheoil, and Dan Gorno, a traditional French-Canadian dancer, will perform too.

Fiddle workshops with Carroll, and piano workshops with Magone, will be offered 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the Ark.

The fee is \$15 for children 14 and under, and \$25 for adults. Call Gavin (313) 537-3489 for more information.

Gavin, a Redford resident, was inducted into the Comhaltas Hall of Fame in October. This honor is given to those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Irish life and culture. Gavin who plays the fiddle, has organized Irish concerts in the metro Detroit area since the 1970s.

In recent years he has focused on teaching Irish music, and tutored a number of children and adults from metro Detroit.

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Small screen

And a very merry 'Christmas Evil' to you, too

All right boys and girls, it's time to cozy up by the fireplace, sip a little hot cocoa and listen as I tell you a tale of Christmas.

Once upon a time, there was a young man named Harry who was maybe the only person in the whole wide world who understood the true meaning of Christmas. Just like Santa, he kept a list of all the boys and girls and wrote in a book who was naughty and who was nice and what bad and good things they did. And then he looked all around at the parents who were nasty and didn't keep the spirit of Christmas.



Beyond Bad
Greg Kowalski

And then he got an ax. *Christmas Evil*, aka *Terror in Toyland*, may be the finest Christmas movie ever made. Well, if you're willing

to accept a Santa with a cause and the determination to drive it home with sharp instruments.

'Christmas Evil' was a groundbreaking movie - sort of. It was the first of the crazy Santa films that cropped up in the '80s and is by far the best.

Brandon Maggart gives the performance of a forgotten career as Harry, a low-level management type working at the Jolly Dreams toy factory, where the workers stand in dreary rows assembling extraordinarily cheap toys. Harry isn't too steady to begin with, having been traumatized when as a little boy he saw mama kissing Santa - really kissing Santa - under the Christmas tree and has never

been able to get over the shattered image.

His job at the toy factory proves even more disillusionary when he sees corporate greed usurping the spirit of giving. Teetering in the edge of insanity, he paints a big red sleigh on the side of his

white van, dons a white beard and Santa suit and sets out to confront those who don't keep Christmas well.

On the steps of a church he confronts three naughty folks and stabs one guy in

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CHRISTMAS

FROM PAGE E11

the eye with a toy soldier bearing a bayonet and then plants a merrily colored ax in his head. The other folks are similarly dispatched.

Harry tracks down a vile co-worker and attempts to smother him in his bed with a sack of toys. When that fails, he slices the guy's throat with a Christmas ornament.

Pretty soon, the police are on his trail and haul in every Santa in town into a police lineup. But the townsfolk take action when they corner Harry on a street and chase him through town as they carry some

good old-fashioned burning torches.

Poor Harry finally makes his way to his long-suffering brother's house and is promptly strangled by his brother. This leads to a charming ending in which Harry is loaded into his van by his brother, they get into an accident and the brother is thrown from the van, which goes sailing off a bridge and up and up and up into the sky.

Take that Steven Spielberg.

GROUNDBREAKING

Christmas Evil was a groundbreaking movie – sort of. It was the first of the crazy Santa films that cropped up in the '80s and is by far the best.

Maggart is superb as he gets crazier and crazier. And the film reeks with atmosphere. It was shot in real snow with most of the action taking place outside at night.

The result is genuinely creepy, something that is missing from most supposed horror flicks – these days.

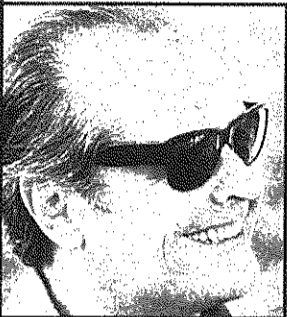
Christmas Evil is not to be missed. It's available in various stores. Thomas Video in Clawson has it under the alternate title *Terror in Toyland*.

Merry Christmas!

Greg Kowalski has been very, very good this year. He can be reached at (248) 901-2570 or by e-mail at gkowalski@oe.homecomm.net.

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Joel Siegel, GOOD MORNING AMERICA

"Nicholson is hilarious...
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Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

WINNER
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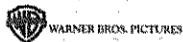
Jack Nicholson Diane Keaton

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Big screen

Tasteful 'Calendar Girls' has plenty of sweet, funny moments

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

In the tradition of *The Full Monty*, about British steel workers who bare all, comes *Calendar Girls*, based on a true story about late middle-aged British women who do everything but the so-called Full Monty.

That is, they want to strip down for a charity calendar, but don't want anyone to

see anything... uh, specific.

The nudity idea is concocted by Chris, the brash member of a stuffy women's club. Chris is played by Helen Mirren, who at 58 is still very purr-worthy.

INSPIRATION

Chris is inspired by the X-rated skin magazine she finds under her son's bed. A lot of the comedy comes from the

older women fretting about how much to reveal, how much to hide behind pastry confections and who should be allowed in the room when the picture is taken. (At first, they want the photographer to peek through a keyhole.)

Most of the gags are relatively tame — one gal guzzles wine before her shoot, another worries about her hidden tattoo.

Mirren plays the most daring of the models, and isn't afraid to have some fun

with her bare-all scenes. But the others remain relatively hidden, which saps some of the boldness from this story that purports to blast timidity.

Calendar Girls has some sweetly funny moments, but it may be too tasteful for its own good.

The Touchstone Pictures release, is rated PG-13. Running time: 108 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

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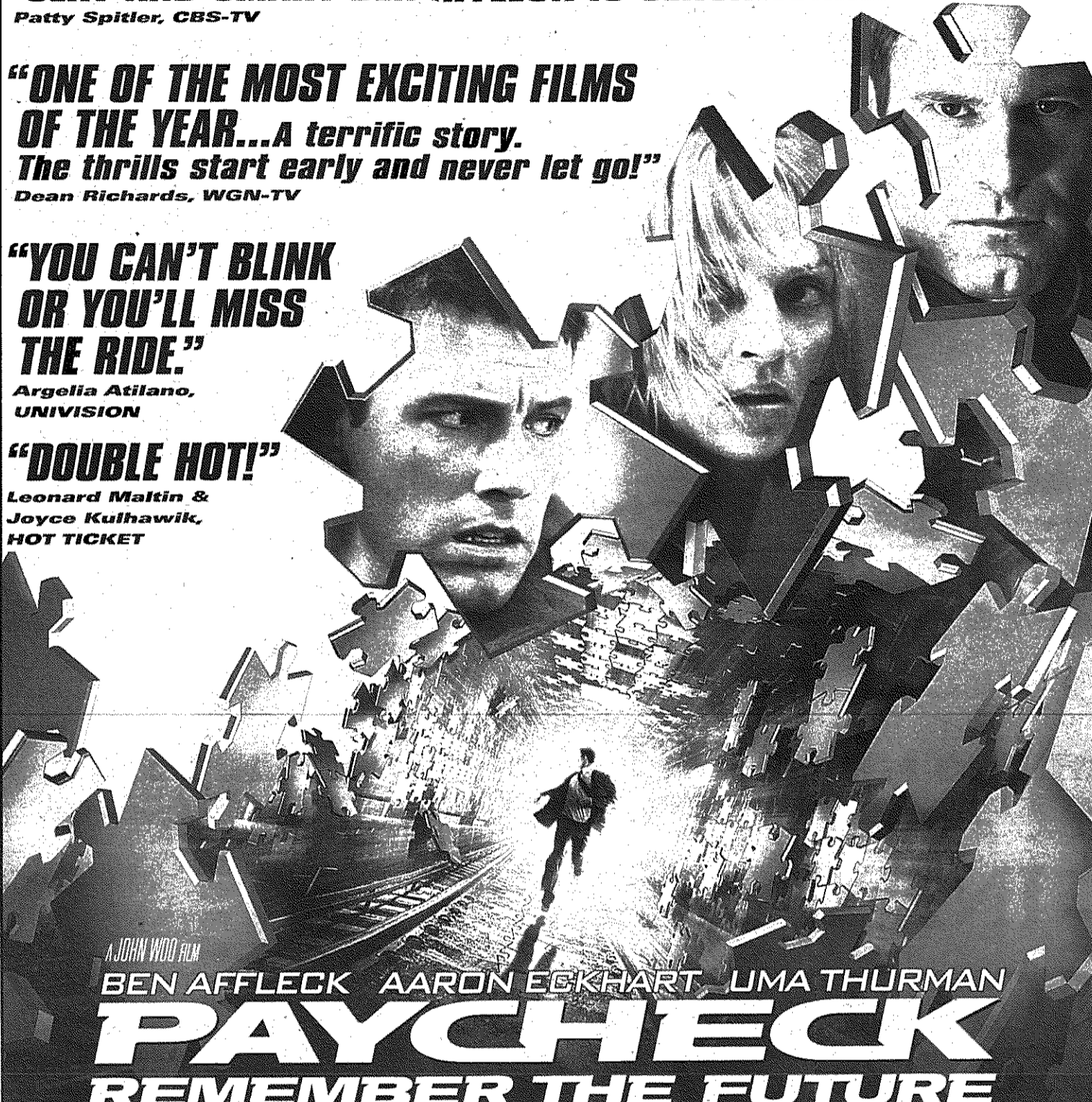
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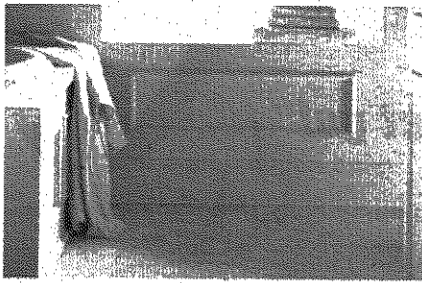
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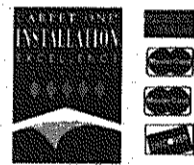
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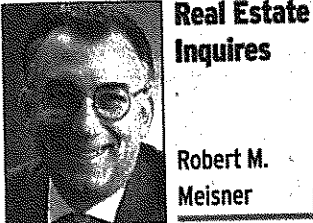
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F1 (*) Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 25, 2003



Real Estate Inquires

Robert M. Meisner

Consider problems with mixed use condos

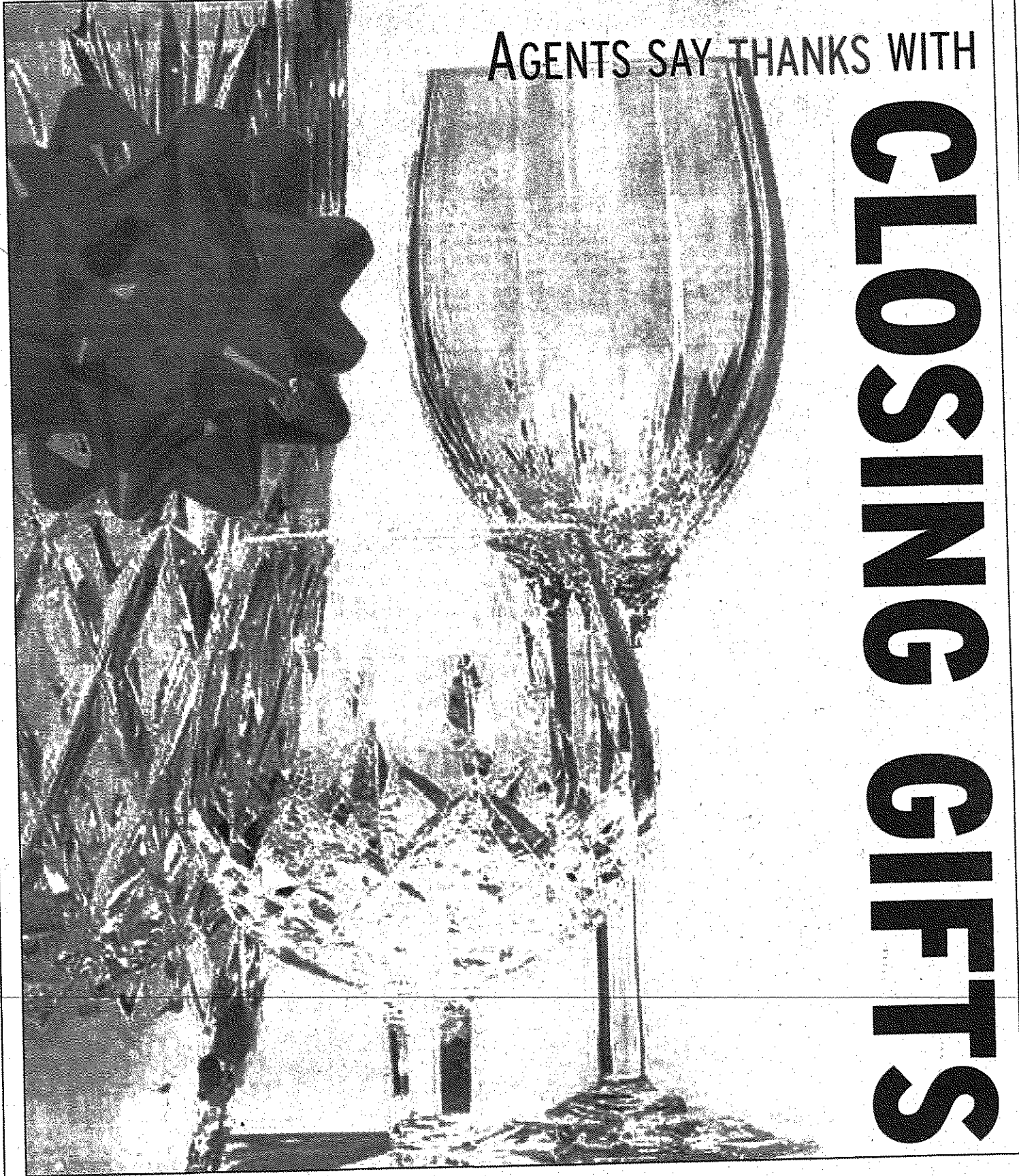
We are thinking about doing a mixed use condo development in southeastern Michigan. I am wondering if you have any knowledge of how mixed use developments - combining a hotel with a residential and some commercial - have worked in downtown Chicago.

Whenever you have mixed use in a single environment, you have a potential problem in terms of various entities getting along with one another. For example, the residential component may have issues regarding what percentage of the total expense of the building is defrayed by the commercial component. Chicago, based upon my knowledge, has successfully operated mixed use developments but has had the opportunity to do so over a considerably longer period of time. As in any situation, the wording of the documents as they relate to various rights given to the respective entities, is extremely important so as to insure that disputes, which will inevitably arise, can be resolved internally without the necessity for litigation. You are best advised to consult an attorney who has experience with mixed use development and has knowledge of the Michigan relevant condominium statutes.

I have a lot on a lake and I am thinking about giving an easement to traverse my property to a neighboring non-riparian "backlot" owner. Some of the other riparian owners do not think I can give an easement to a backlot owner to construct and maintain a dock on the lake. Do you have any comments?

This is a very hot issue and has been widely litigated. Basically, what the Michigan Supreme Court has said is that if you grant an easement to construct or maintain a dock, the Court must determine whether the dock is necessary for the non-riparian owner's effective use of the easement and whether the dock unreasonably burdens the property of the grantor of the easement. Presumably, such an easement could not be used to create an unreasonable use that would overburden the lake in violation of other owners riparian rights. What is clear is that the case supports the ability of a riparian owner to grant an easement to third parties to enjoy certain riparian rights subject to certain limitations. You are best advised to consult with a knowledgeable real estate attorney before entering into any type of transaction of this nature.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track; second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$2 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@mich.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.



Gifts one way to show appreciation

BY NORMAN PRADY
CORRESPONDENT

"I'm always cruising," Darlene Larsen said.

She means that she's cruising through stores for that wonderful gift she wants to give you when you buy a house from her.

Larsen is a sales agent with Cranbrook Associates, Bloomfield Hills, and enjoys shopping for, and giving "closing gifts," tangible symbols of appreciation to customers for "well-done deals."

The specifics of the gift "depend on the clients, their tastes and likes," Larsen said. It's her way of thanking "people who were terrific to work with, people I had a great time with."

"I had two sellers - a divorced couple - it was a sad situation. I sent them each a \$100 gift certificate to a restaurant. Others, I might take to dinner."

And if the transaction was for, say, a half-million-dollar house, "I might buy them an Orrefors crystal bowl" for about \$300.

Larsen likes to match her gifts to the house, family or situation. Consider the metal tub she turned into a gift basket.

"They could use it after for magazines or for ice at a party. They had three kids under five. I did toy trucks and dolls for the kids. A bottle of Tequila for the mom, along with the fixings for the Margaritas I knew she enjoyed."

"For another couple, I did a basket of teas and a doll house kit for their little girl. I found it at a discount store."

Meanwhile, there's stuff perched eagerly on a shelf in the hobby room of Larsen's home, stuff that eventually will join her parade of thank-you gifts.

"I have a beautiful pair of

binoculars that go with a bird feeder, and I'll get a gift certificate for bird seed" as part of that gift, she said.

"There's some Waterford crystal tucked away, \$90 champagne, boxed champagne glasses."

Bill Bouscher understands Larsen's motivation.

Vice president and sales manager at Prudential Chamberlain Stiehl, Birmingham, Bouscher said, "after you've had a very intense relationship with somebody for a month or two months, you get to know them pretty well."

"You don't want to let that relationship go."

His company operates a continuity program of mailings to maintain contact with past customers and he has ideas about closing gifts.

"A million different things," he said.

Bouscher said he especially likes to give "cookbooks and

clocks. And to the seller, a framed picture of their old house."

"And a homeowner's binder to help the new owner keep track of all house papers, and maintain a record of repairs and the history of the house."

At Quality GMAC Real Estate, Livonia, sales agent Jerry Henderson said, "We've found that people can give food, cookies, wine, but you have to give something that reminds them of the agent."

"Waterford crystal is something nice they'll keep in their home and every time they look at it they'll say, 'Ah, yes.'"

But is Waterford only for the more expensive house? "No," said Henderson, "the price of the house doesn't influence the price of the gift."

"Even if the house is in the lower price range, someday they'll be moving up. The bowl is an investment in the future."

Mortgage Bits



Tim 'Timbo' Phillips

Wishing a happy New Year

We may be seeing the beginning of the end of our recession. As far as my loan origination business goes, it appears that the annual spring ramp-up for mortgages has already begun. There's no rest for the weary, especially in the wake of that record refinance run we just finished.

Despite the recent increase in mortgage activity, I've resolved to make sure to give this holiday season its fair amount of reflection and thanks.

Accordingly, I asked for special dispensation from my editor to share my thoughts and feelings with you during this joyous time of year because I have so many things for which to give thanks.

First of all, I am very thankful to have the opportunity to serve in a career field that helps people realize their dream of home ownership. Helping people buy homes, manage debts, or repair their credit is very gratifying. I am especially thankful to those of you who have entrusted me with your very livelihoods in the form of mortgage business.

I am truly thankful to all of my readers, and am humbled by your continuous words of encouragement. I also welcome and appreciate the grumbling from those of you who disagree with me. Your perspectives give me better vision.

I am indebted to my peers in other professions who have encouraged me to post my archives on the Internet. That encouragement was a huge vote of confidence in my writing, and virtually all of my past articles are now available for free download at my Web site www.HomeQuarters.BIZ.

I am often asked where I get new and original ideas every week for this mortgage column. The answer lies with you - my readers, my peers, and clients.

Finally, thank you to my wonderful and supportive family, and to the professionals on staff at the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. You folks make this whole thing fun. May God grant you all a happy and abundant New Year.

Timothy J. Phillips is a mortgage broker and newspaper columnist.

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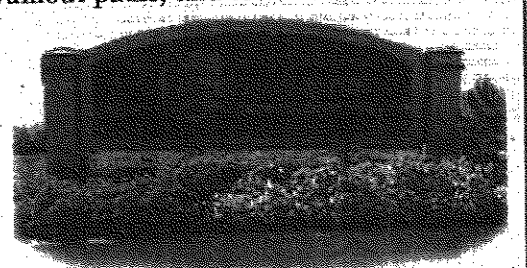
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Automotive

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 25, 2003

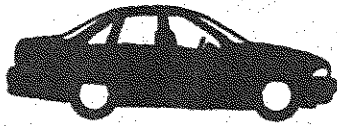
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2004 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY-REVIEW

Advertising Feature

Thursday DriveTime



BY DALE BUSS

There's a revitalization of the American minivan market going on these days, and Chrysler is hoping to create some of the same kind of excitement in that revived marketplace that it did 20 years ago when it introduced the first minivan. Company executives are jazzed about the fact that they're going to introduce next year the first minivans in which not only the third row of seats but also the second row of seats — alright, both rows — actually folds down flush into the floor of the vehicle, creating a massive cargo space with minimal hassle.

In the meantime, the top of their line is the Chrysler Town & Country. Because I already lease a 2002 version of this vehicle, I'm very familiar with it, and actually quite partial to it. And though the 2004 version isn't much different, driving one has underscored my conviction that, in many ways, Chrysler still retains leadership in the minivan segment with Town & Country. Exciting new competitors keep coming on the scene. Honda's Odyssey took a big chunk out of Town & Country and Dodge Caravan sales when it was introduced a few years ago. The latest excitement in the category is Nissan's Quest, with its glass-paneled roof and other interesting doo-dads. I haven't driven Quest yet, but I have tested Odyssey. And overall, I'd still give the edge to Town & Country if I were buying or leasing a new minivan tomorrow.

Town & Country exhibits a satisfactory blend of a number of attributes. It provides decent power and acceleration — not as peppy as most sedans, but certainly not as sluggish as a good number of SUVs. At 19 miles a gallon in the city and 26 on the highway, its mileage is exceptional compared with nearly all SUVs and with many sedans, thanks to its highly efficient 3.3-liter, six-cylinder engine.

Handling, too, is satisfactorily down the middle, and dependably so. With Town & Country, Chrysler truly has been able to stick very close to the origi-



The Chrysler Town & Country still leads the minivan segment of the market.

nal promise of the original minivans born in Lee Iacocca's heyday in 1984: carlike ride and handling with trucklike carrying capacity. Another attribute of the vehicle that gets little notice is that the responsiveness of its accelerator and brake pedals are just about right: not too touchy, not too balky. It's an advantage that you get used to if you drive Town & Country a lot, but it's never to be taken for granted.

Styling-wise, Town & Country is holding up pretty darn well even though its design now is several years old. The fore-weighted wedge shape remains aerodynamic and yet substantial-looking. Odyssey certainly isn't of a more appealing design, and neither is Ford's newest minivan, Freestar, a remake of Windstar. Slap chrome wheelcovers and other accents on Town & Country in the Limited version, and you've still got a very handsome vehicle indeed.

One drawback inside the vehicle that is dictated partially by the wedge-shaped design is that I find the roominess of the front of the vehicle to leave something to be desired. Just the few inches of space that you lose laterally with the design makes the front feel unduly cramped.

Otherwise, interior roominess is, again, about the

best combination of factors I've found in a vehicle. Second-row passengers in the Town & Country Limited, for example, have plenty of room to recline their seats, even when there are passengers in the third row. Third-row seating itself is spacious. And yet even with seven people occupying seats in the van, there's still ample cargo room in the way-back.

I don't especially like center-console module that, in the Limited, can be moved back and forth between a position between the front-row seats or between the second-row seats. There's still a sense with Town & Country that designers haven't quite figured out how to provide drivers and passengers with enough places where their stuff won't roll all over the vehicle. In the 2004 version, however, this is partially addressed by a decent-sized compartment at the center of the base of the control panel, where earlier versions had a holder for CDs.

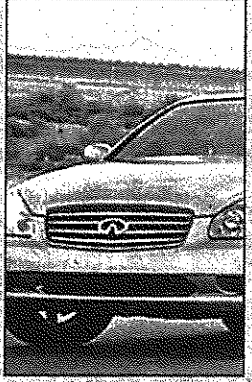
Chrysler is counting on a spate of new products this year and next year to help revive the company's fortunes. The company should make sure that it continues to include Town & Country as a big part of their plans.

Write Dale at daledbuss@aol.com.

OE06173044

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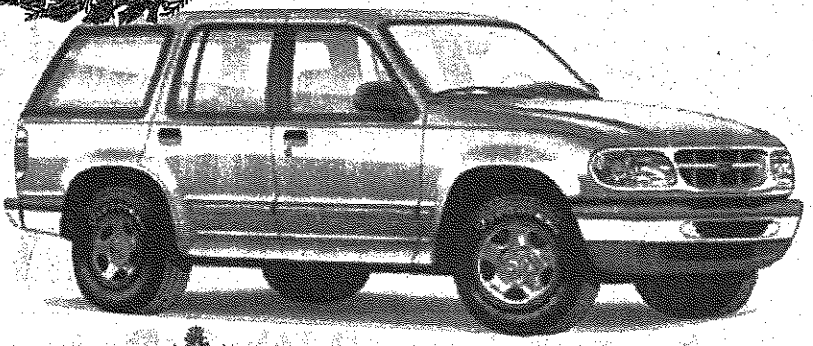
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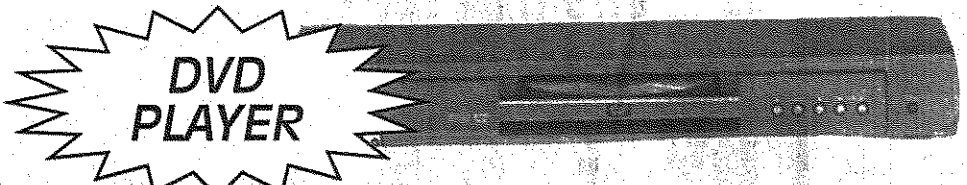
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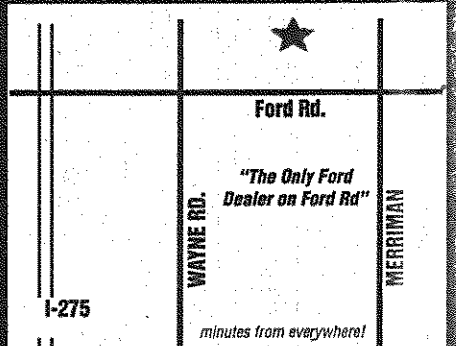
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