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**Off to Paris** 

Artist with

stories.

Livonia roots savors telling

**Observer Life. C1** 

Your hometown newspaper

SUNDAY

January 4, 2004 75 cents



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# Plymouth Township makes high marks

# Ranked as one of hottest places to live in U.S.

Joe Sabo and his family have lived in Plymouth Township since 1986. And, while Sabo readily admits he'd rather live on Martha's Vineyard or the Hamptons, he said Plymouth Township is a favorable third choice.

"Plymouth Township has great proximity to expressways, and I don't feel landlocked by the congestion," said Sabo. "The tax base seems good, and the schools have been good to our children."

Township, which has been listed by Money magazine as one of the hottest places to live in the United States.

In the January 2004 edition, Plymouth Township is ranked 18th among cities in the central part of the U.S. with populations of less than 100,000. The comparisons were based on above average home prices, median household income and population growth over the past 10 years.

According to *Money*, the top cities are places "where people are most willing to devote a high multiple of their annual income to live happily ever after."

"We were excited to hear about it," said Plymouth Township Supervisor Steve Mann. "But, then again, we've always realized we do

Sabo isn't alone in his assessment of Plymouth have a hot town - not only in Michigan, but compared to those across the United States.

We've got one of the best school districts in the state (Plymouth-Canton); we have a lot of recreational offerings; and culturally, we have the Plymouth Historical Museum, the Plymouth Community Arts Council and the Plymouth Symphony," added Mann. "And, to top it off, we have a community with well-above-average income and home prices, but yet the lowest tax base in Wayne County. Where else do you get such a mix as that?"

Township Treasurer Ron Edwards reveals a big smile while talking about the latest rankings.

"I've always said we live in the greatest community around," said Edwards. "We have culture right in town, and we're within short drives to

places like the Detroit Institute of Arts and Greenfield Village.

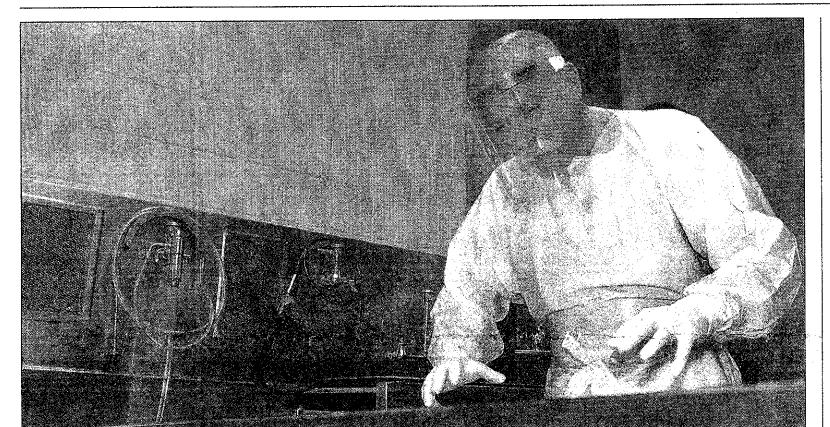
"We have great recreational opportunities, with Hines Park and Township Park, where people can ride bike or jog," he said.

"There's the township golf course (Hilltop), and places to ice skate with Compuware Arena and Arctic Pond. And, of course, there's the new soccer park.

'They're all quality of life issues that people are looking for," said Edwards.

Lillian Brown is a 30-year resident of Plymouth Township, and said she doesn't plan on going anywhere soon.

"It's a nice little community, and people are very friendly here," said the 74-year-old Brown. "I'm going to stay here as long as I can."



# Autopsy inconclusive on woman's cause of death

An autopsy performed on a woman found dead in Canton on Dec. 29 has revealed no trauma to her body.

The Wayne County medical examiner's office performed the autonsy on the body of Sandra Dee Spriggs (also known as Sandra Dee Eller) on Dec. 30. Results were inconclusive. The medical examiner and

Canton police are awaiting the

# Medical examiner known for expertise, integrity

When Oakland County needed a physician to restore the reputation and professional integrity of the Medical Examiner's office, officials turned to Ljubisa J. Dragovic, a Yugoslavia-born forensic pathologist.

That was in 1989, shortly after the former medical examiner had come under fire, and eventually resigned.

"There was a checkered history in office leadership," recalled Dragovic, who had been a Russell S. Fisher Fellow in the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Maryland. "They needed somebody to reinvigorate the agency and maintain professional prestige."

Dragovic - commonly known as "Lubi" or

"Doctor D" to friends and close colleagues was an assistant medical examiner in Wayne County at the time. He and his physician wife, Dr. Jadranka Dragovic, an oncology expert, had been recruited to the United States from Canada.

"We were thinking about relocating in Baltimore or San Francisco," he said, "when I was contacted about the Oakland County Medical Examiner's position."

#### **CHANGE OF PACE**

The job was to his liking. So rather than uprooting his wife and six children from

Grosse Pointe Farms (where they still live), Dragovic changed work sites. His commute would be to the Oakland County complex, rather than downtown Detroit.

Nobody knew at the time, but Oakland County - and the M.E.'s office - would soon be embroiled in a controversy that would attract international attention. Pathologist Jack Kevorkian, then living in Royal Oak, went public with his crusade to legalize assisted suicide by helping Janet Atkins of Portland, Ore., take her life in Oakland County.

Over the next decade, Kevorkian would help

PLEASE SEE EXAMINER. AG

results of toxicology tests, which could take from several days to a few weeks.

Spriggs' body was found by a Lotz Road resident on the rear of his property near an aban-



Sandra Dee Spriggs

doned bike path. On Christmas Eve he had found an Army-style camouflage jacket, a backpack, undergarments, socks and tennis shoes.

Police identified the 35-year-old woman through a telephone number found on a piece of paper. That call led to her ex-husband, who gave police the name of her adopted mother, who lives in Grosse Ile but had not seen her daughter in 15 years.

Spriggs has no known Michigan address. Canton Police Capt. Alex Wilson said police had located a Canton resident who told them he picked Spriggs up in Detroit on Christmas Eve and brought her back to his Canton residence.

At her request the man said he dropped her off at the Marathon Station on Michigan and Haggerty on Christmas Eve morning.

Wilson said the man has been cleared of any involvement with her death.

# Mother's death inspires daughters to charity work

When Kathryn Curran died 10 years ago of cancer at only 49 years old, the loss was especially hard on her daughters, Katie McManus and Maureen Lemon.

For years, the sisters mulled over ways to best pay tribute to the mother who was taken from their lives too soon. Feeling otherwise blessed, they shared another common thread floating through their thoughts: the

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idea of making a significant ongoing contribution to families in need of charity.

"I remember being on vacation in Cancun, Mexico, and telling a friend that I'd like to start my own charitable foundation one day," said McManus, former longtime editorial receptionist for the *Farmington* Observer.

Lemon, a Livonia mom of four

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HomeTown

daughters and a teacher in Redford Union Schools, had been thinking along the same lines.

"Everyone always talks about doing things, but it doesn't always get carried out," she said. "I felt we have so much, we should give something back."

The sisters brainstormed ideas during a subsequent New Year's getaway up north, but the plan still did-

E7

E6

D3

AZ

63

n't gel. It took a thunderbolt to get things moving.

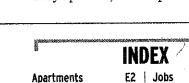
#### **GRATEFUL TIME**

That happened about two years ago when McManus was struck by a car while crossing the street. Her cuts and bruises and hip fracture

PLEASE SEE CHARITY, A6

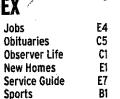


Sisters Katie McManus and Maureen Lemon started a charity in memory of their mom, Kathryn 'Taffy' Curran.



Automotive Classified Index **Crossword Puzzie** For The Record Health

4. 1787



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### LOOKING AHEAD

**Glow bowl** Glow in the dark bowling spreads in metro Detroit. Read more about it in the next Filter



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# LOCAL NEWS

**POLICE BRIEFS** 

A Redford Township man died last month of injuries suffered when he was hit by a vehicle in Redford 24 days earlier.

A2 -(\*)

Charles Poindexter, 57, died Dec. 22 at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, where he had been taken after the Nov. 28 accident.

Poindexter, who lived nearby, was crossing Seven Mile

**ARSON INVESTIGATION** 

Michael Reddy said.

restaurant New Year's Day is

being investigated as an arson

incident, Westland Fire Chief

in a dry storage area, but a

sprinkler system kept the fire

from spreading rapidly until

firefighters arrived and put it

"Nobody was hurt. However,

out completely, Reddy said.

closed for the rest of the day,"

The fire was contained to

the storage area, and Red

Robin reopened Friday, he

**DRAG RACING ARRESTS** 

said. The fire remains under

Two Dearborn Heights men

A Garden City police officer

"For the Record"

appears in every

Newspapers. This

edition of the

Observer &

Eccentric

column soon will expand to include births

and district court proceeding. Other obit-

uaries can be found inside today's paper.

Look for Passages to view paid obituaries.

were arrested early Dec. 27 for

drag racing on Warren near

reported stopping for a red

light on eastbound Warren

the restaurant had to be

Reddy said.

investigation.

Middlebelt,

The fire started about 5 p.m.

west of Beech Daly in the dark when he was struck by a westbound Chevrolet Suburban, police said.

It was rainy when the accident occurred around 9 p.m., said Sgt. Charles Bradley, supervisor of Redford's police traffic bureau. Poindexter was at midblock and not within a pedestrian crosswalk when he was struck, Bradley said.

Bradley said Poindexter suffered head and torso injuries; a investigator at the Oakland County medical examiner's office said he also suffered complications from injuries. Police are awaiting a full report from the medical examiner.

The driver of the Suburban, a Redford man, stopped at the scene, Bradley said.

He had just made a proper left turn onto westbound Seven Mile before the accident, Bradley said, and was traveling no more than 15 mph.

that the driver was under the

investigation.

There were no indications

influence of drugs or alcohol, Bradley said. The accident remains under

> Humorous Look at Lawyers and Judges." The public is welcome and lawyers and judges are encour-

aged to attend.

SUPREMES TO PLYMOUTH

State Rep. John Stewart (R-Plymouth) will host the mem-

bers of the Michigan Supreme

Court and Chief Justice Maura

Corrigan for a special presenta-

tion at the Plymouth Historical

Museum, 155 S. Main St.,

Jan. 8. Former Attorney

Plymouth 7 p.m. Thursday,

General Frank Kelley and

present, "An Historical and

Federal Judge James Ryan will

#### **VISIT INDIA VIA REDFORD**

Join the Cultural Coalition of Redford for a free presentation on the culture of India at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9, at the **Redford Community Center**, 12121 Hemingway at Capitol, north of Plymouth and west of Beech Daly.

Guest speakers will include Indian-native P.J. Rao and poet Sofia Anjum Taj, author of Whispers in the Spring."

Admission is free and refreshments and fellowship begin at 6:30 p.m.

#### LEISURE CLASS SIGNUP

Canton residents may register for winter Leisure Service programs and classes beginning 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10. Registration continues at 8 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 11. Those who are not Canton residents may register for classes five days before their start if space is available.

In an effort to improve the registration process, Leisure Services is piloting a new system.

Three hours before registration begins, residents may obtain one Fast Pass with a designated registration time. With a Fast Pass in hand, registrants have the option of waiting in line or returning 10 minutes before their designated registration time. Fast Passes will be distributed beginning at 7 a.m. Jan. 10.

#### **BLOOD DONORS NEEDED**

The American Red Cross hosts a winter blood drive from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Ian. 7. at the main showroon

### **AROUND WAYNE COUNTY**

#### **MUSICAL MINIATURES**

The Plymouth Symphony Society presents conductor Nan Washburn and Orchestra Canton in Musical Miniatures at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at St. Thomas A' Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley.

Guest artist will be Zachary Shemon, who is the 2002 Plymouth Symphony Youth Artist Winner.

He is studying saxophone at the University of Michigan.

Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors. Children grades kindergarten through 12 are admitted free to all subscription concerts.

For more information, contact the symphony office at (734) 451-2112 or at plymouthsymphony@aol.com

#### **RECYCLE THOSE TREES**

Livonia's Christmas trees will be collected for composting on the regularly scheduled trash collection day of the week from Jan. 5-9.

Decorations and plastic bags, of course, must be removed to ensure the trees won't waste valuable landfill space.

#### **CARNEGIE-STYLE PASTA**

Parents and students of Thurston High School Honors Band will host a spaghetti dinner benefit from 5-8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9, to defray the cost of their trip to Carnegie Hall in April.

Advance tickets for the dinner are \$5 per person; \$20 per family. At-the-door tickets are \$7 per person; \$25 per family.

Various celebrities will participate, plus a raffle and silent auction will be held. Ticket are available at all South Redford District schools or the board office.

#### **ELECTING OFFICERS**

The Westland City Council will elect officers during a meeting at 7 p.m. Monday at City Hall, on Ford Road east of Newburgh.

The current leadership has been President Charles Pickering and President Pro Tem James Godbout, the second-in-command. Other council members include Chervl

#### with the other two drivers stopped side by side in front of A fire that closed Red Robin him. Both the other drivers, iden-

tified as 20-year-olds who knew each other, began revving their engines and accelerated at a high rate of speed.

The officer said the pair reached speeds of over 60 miles per hour before being pulled over.

Along with the drag racing charge, both men were also cited for being intoxicated minors.

#### DRUG POSSESSION

Deaths

Three Detroit residents were arrested and a Livonia man's identification and credit cards were recovered following a traffic stop by Garden City police early Sunday.

The officer reported stopping the vehicle after seeing it make an illegal U-turn.

The driver was arrested for driving with a suspended license and held on a warrant.

B

C

Clark, J. Bunker, 72, of Lawrence,

D

G

Derminer, Michael James, 1 day old,

Bolinger, Barbara "Sue," 54, of

Cipelle, Frank, died Dec. 24

of Southfield, died Dec. 25

Redford, died Dec. 28

Kan., died Dec. 26

A male passenger was arrested for possessing a crack pipe and crack cocaine. A female passenger told

police she was a prostitute with a crack cocaine habit. She had a driver's license and credit cards belonging a Livonia man. She told police he was a customer and had taken his wallet earlier in the evening.

Police returned the identification and credit cards to the man, who told officers he hadn't realized his wallet was missing. Officers confiscated 10 cartons of cigarettes which the suspects indicated had been purchased with one of the stolen credit cards.

#### **CARPET THEFT**

FOR THE RECORD

died Dec. 29

died Dec. 28

Hills, died Dec. 28

Arbor, died Dec. 23

A carpet company owner told police last month someone stole some 150 yards of flooring from his company. According to Livonia police

reports, the contractor was replacing carpeting at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

Gardner, Edward E., 70, of Livonia,

Gates, Robert Lee, 66, of Howell,

Н Hutchins, William M., 80, of

Jenks, Jill A., 57, of Farmington

Johnson, Phyllis R., 84, of Ann

Savannah, Ga., died Dec. 26

When his employees finished laying the Artisan carpet, there were several rolls left over. They decided to leave the rolls on-site, and return the next day to retrieve them. But when they returned, the carpeting was missing. The company owner said it was valued at \$3,200.

A Livonia man told police Monday someone stole \$2,200 worth of scuba equipment from his shed on Hugh Street.

been stolen anytime between June, 2003, and the end of the year.

According to police reports, the gear was stowed in a plastic container in the shed, and the man had not opened the container since summer.

It appears someone stole the equipment from the container, and put the box back in its spot, so the owner didn't know it was missing.

Page, Ronald F., 54, of Farmington

Szybisty, John W. "Shubby", 79, of

W

Walch, John, 80, of Redford, died

Papadelis, Jeanette M., of Lake,

Hills, died Dec. 24

Redford, died Dec. 29

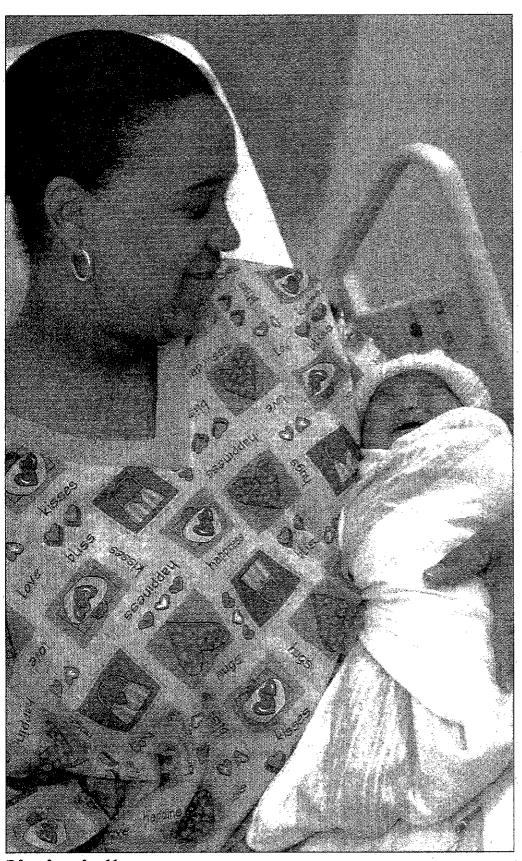
died Dec. 28

Dec. 27

**Enroli Now For Health** 

SHED BREAK-IN The equipment could have





### **Ringing in the year**

This first baby of 2004 is Cyniyah Diane Chavis, who made her appearance at 1:38 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 1, 2004, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital. Mom and dad are Cynthia and Steven Chavis of Detroit. The 7-pound, 12-ounce girl has two older sisters, Stephanie, 16, and Cameron, 3. Cyniyah was also among the first babies born this year in metro Detroit.

# Her charity fills stockings at Methodist Children's Home

BY CAROL MARSHALL STAFF WRITER

Kathy Goddard had the longest Christmas shopping list she's ever had this Christmas. Besides shopping for her own three children. and her family and friends, Goddard's list included gifts for 69 boys at the Methodist Children's Home in Redford. For the last four years,

Goddard has adopted Head Start families during the holidays, but this year, she decided to give even more.

She started an organization, Heaven's Hands, and asked for a list of requests for presents from each of the boys, who are between the ages of 8 and 16.

"After I got the lists, I had a raffle to help raise money to buy the presents. I spent a lot more than I made, but that doesn't matter. I would do it again," Goddard said.

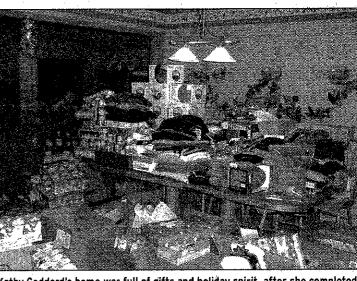
She sent out some 200 Christmas cards, and in each card were raffle tickets for Red Wings hockey tickets. Her friends and family then sent her money to help with her holiday shopping project. "Then I did some incredible

shopping. I took in about \$2,500," she said. "But I got a little carried away and spent about \$4,000."

For weeks, Goddard shopped online, particularly with those stores which offer free shipping for large orders. She made about 15 trips to local retailers, checking off items on her long list of gifts to buy.

"Sometimes I would see something in the store I hadn't really meant to buy, but I'd say to myself, 'Oh this is so perfect. The boys would love this,' and I couldn't help myself," she said.

Her instincts were right. Goddard delivered the gifts a week before Christmas, and had the chance to meet the boys at a holiday luncheon



Kathy Goddard's home was full of gifts and holiday spirit, after she completed her shopping for the 69 residents of Methodist Children's Home in Redford.



during Christmas week.

"One of the women that works there told me the gifts were so perfect she could have sworn I knew the boys," Goddard said. "It was great to be able to meet them in person. I really felt like I knew them, just from reading their Christmas lists. They were all so sweet and so nice, I wish I could've brought them all home with me. Could you imagine the grocery bill?"

Buying some 500 Christmas gifts is no small task, and Goddard said there is no way she could've done it without the help of her family and friends.

Even the students at her 11-

Children's Home in Redford. year-old's school, Cass

Elementary, threw in a little help, and "adopted" one of the boys for the holidays. "If I hadn't had the support

of my family and friends I would not have been able to do this. Anyone can go out and do the shopping, but without their support it would've been impossible," she said.

Goddard plans to do it all again next year, she said.

"I feel like I have so much, and I just love giving. It's an incredible feeling. It's fun," she said. "It just gives you a feeling of being worth something. You get so much more than you give."



Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, January 4, 2004

HORSES

www.hometownlife.com

# Horsepower **Raising thoroughbreds drives Oakland woman**

Dressed in faded jeans and a sweater, Helga Duffy waves to a visitor from the door of a barn at Red Bob Farms in Oxford.

**M** 

(\*)

It's a cool spring Saturday morning, a quiet day on the farm. Duffy, the owner, veterinarian and resident, has already completed the morning's clinic duties.

"If you ignore the dog, he's fine," she tells a visitor, warning that strangers shouldn't look at the huge dog keeping her company as she chats.

Horse racing in Michigan is a \$1.2 billion industry. But it begins on the farm, an agricultural undertaking where Lady Luck is the silent partner.

"It's a tremendous long shot," said Sue Burger, who worked for Duffy for 11 years and now breeds her own thoroughbreds. "You can do everything right and still not make money. The horse has a bad day, the jockey has a bad day. To really make money, it all has to click ...

"It's the love of the horse itself. You get really attached to them. They're such athletes." The former Helga

Laufenstein grew up in Austria and emigrated to Canada after obtaining her veterinary degree. She rode on the Canadian equestrian team and came to Oxford to train with Major Robert Borg, former head of the U.S. cavalry who, in 1960, coached the first three-day civilian Olympic equestrian event.



Geldings Tabion (left) and Showmaster get acquainted while soaking up sun on a warm spring day at Red Bob Farms in Oxford. Just one month old, the two will be considered 'in training' until the day they begin their racing careers at the age of 2.

Red Bob Farms is named after Borg and Irving Duffy, a redhead and Helga Duffy's late husband. Mr. Duffy, as his wife calls him, bought the land where Red Bob Farms now stands to develop a training center for the Olympic threeday event. His son was on the American Olympic team. After Borg, now 89, was hurt

in a riding accident, Mr. Duffy

decided to go into raising thoroughbreds. He died in 1980. Today, Helga Duffy (who doesn't disclose her age) runs the 260acre operation, including a veterinary elinic, dog boarding, raising hay, and breeding and training of thoroughbreds. The components work together to make the farm as self-sufficient as possible.

"There's people renting stalls

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for training thoroughbreds," Duffy said. "I rent them the stalls and the use of the track ... We sell hay because we have 100 acres of hay and we don't have horses that need that much."

Duffy still rides, "sometimes," she said. And even though the farm is her livelihood, she confesses to becoming attached to her horses. Some may stay with her for years as brood mares. Others may be sold off as yearlings, or later, after their racing careers are over.

"I know every one, how it acts, how it wants to act. They're like children growing up," she said.

Red Bob Farms is protected by a farmland agreement, which means it can't be redeveloped at least until 2010. Duffy has a grown daughter who recently married. She likes to visit but doesn't plan on taking over the farm.

"She has stuck in there. She's been through good and bad," said Ginny Ullmen of White Lake, a former Red Bob trainer who now works at Great Lakes Downs, Michigan's only thoroughbred racetrack.

She always bred very nice horses," Ullmen said. "She



From April to the end of October, thoroughbreds from Red Bob Farm in Oxford race at Great Lake Downs in Muskegon. On average, a horse only has one win per year in the \$1.2 billion industry of horse racing. In racing terms, the odds are not in your favor when it comes to having a winning thoroughbred on a consistent basis.

# **Red Bob puts race** horses in motion

The process of producing a winning thoroughbred begins before birth with picking the right parents.

Helga Duffy, a veterinarian and owner of Red Bob Farms in Oxford, ships many of her mares to Lexington, Ky. to be bred, even though it often means sending a young foal along. The mares spend four to six weeks there until they are declared in foal and shipped home.

Red Bob also has two stallions of its own used for breeding for mares unable to make the trip. Gestation is 11 months.

As the time approaches for the mares to give birth, Duffy and her small staff keep a close eye on them, particularly at night when most foals arrive.

When a Red Bob foal is 24 hours old, mother and child are put into a paddock alone for

three or four days. Come May and the warming of spring, mares and foals begin spending nights outdoors.

Most foals are born in May. All are considered 1-year-olds on the first of January of the following year. Duffy sells some of her foals as yearlings. Those she keeps begin training on her own track once they're officially 2-year-olds.

Racing also begins at the age of 2 and continues as long as the horse is "well and eager," Duffy said.

Once they begin racing, horses spend their summers at the track, where trainers and exercise riders are provided. It's up to the owner to hire a jockey, pick which races to enter, and pay for boarding.

The national average, Duffy said, is one win per horse per year.

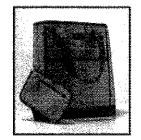


Stallions like Clear Course can weigh up to 1,500 pounds and are considered in 'standing' while breeding with mares. Some stallions can breed up to 200 mares a season and according to Duffy can with good care breed until they're almost 25 years old.'

# At Curves, resolutions are a group effort.



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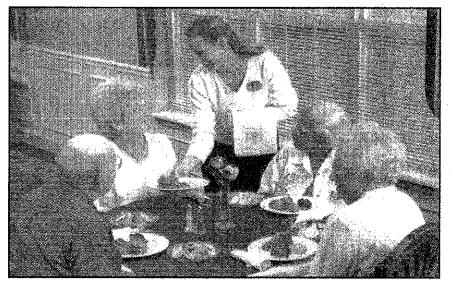
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(734) 844-6741 44248 Cherry Hill Road CANTON

\*Offer based on first visit enrollment, minimum 12 month c.d. program. New members only. Valid only at participating locations

always kept the facilities up to top notch."





# January 11th 11:30-2:00 pm



Before you make a decision to move into a retirement community, you've got to visit our community in Plymouth and talk to our knowledgeable staff about the wonderful senior lifestyles we've created. We have an exciting activities calendar. We serve delicious meals

in a warm and comfortable dining room. And we have apartment homes with all the amenities you're looking for and a wide range of floor plans and sizes.

Call us today and make an appointment to tour our community. Come join us for lunch, dinner or ask about our Stay & Play!

Food and entertainment throughout the day, Singers, Bands, Violinist, Choral Group, Magician, Pianists as wonderful delights are presented by our executive chef for your pleasure.



# Glow-in-dark miniature golf looks for a big, bright future

#### BY ALEX LUNDBERG STAFF WRITER

Every now and again a concept comes along that has everyone slapping their foreheads wondering, "Why didn't I think of that?"

Glow-in-the-dark, black light miniature golf could be just such an idea.

Even as a new idea, it seems like something that should have been on everyone's getrich-quick action item list.

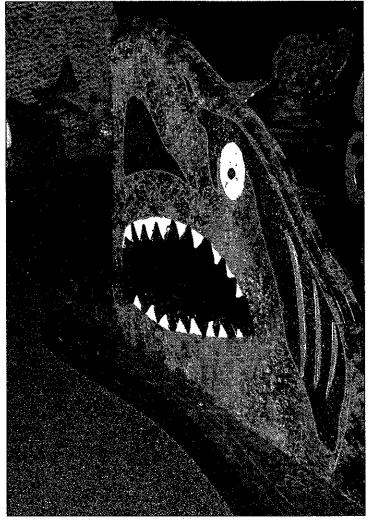
The Putting Edge, located in the Fountain Walk shopping center in Novi, is an indoor, 18 hole miniature course painted in fluorescent colors and illuminated by black light bars. The only "natural" white lights in the building come from the bank of video games in the front.

While there is no regular light, virtually every surface in the place shines. Golfers move through luminous undersea tableaus and around glowing jungle scenes. Near the front of the store, every possible product that glows in the dark or casts black light is up for sale. It's the brightest dark room in Oakland County.

Putting Edge opened its doors at Fountain Walk in May. It is a single-owner chain of locations that started in Toronto and now has 20 locations around North America with another course opening about once a month. General Manager Craig Lang said the Novi site does a brisk trade in large group parties.

"On Saturday (yesterday) we had 15 parties scheduled," he said. "That's kind of the norm now. We've had some days where we've had 700 to 800 people. Six hundred is the average for a Saturday."

During the week, most of the group business comes from corporations who choose the black light venue for team building events and holiday parties. On Dec. 18, a group from the Ford Motor Co. was



A glow-in-the-dark shark offers a toothy threat at the Putting Edge.

winding its way through the course.

"This is pretty cool," said Chuck Broadwater of Novi. He golfs in the summer but doesn't get in a lot of miniature golf. "It's a lot nicer than I thought it would be."

His co-worker, Andrea Glowanic of Farmington Hills, thought the idea of a black light golf course was a great concept.

"It's really interesting," she said. "It's a great place to go in the winter. I will definitely come back."

Mark Porter of South Lyon liked Putting Edge too. He's not a golfer, but often takes his young daughter to play miniature golf. He said he would be bringing her to come play the course soon. Of course, Putting Edge gets

a lot of walk-in traffic too. There's a regular rush of business after the local schools let out. They get all sorts of customers, from little children to senior citizens.

"It's a new thing," Lang said. "Kids come in and see the props glowing and have a great time. People think more of cosmic bowling than they do the "trippy, Pink Floyd" kind of thing. It's the new, hip thing to do."

The cost for a round of golf is comparable to a movie ticket (\$8 for adults) and there are

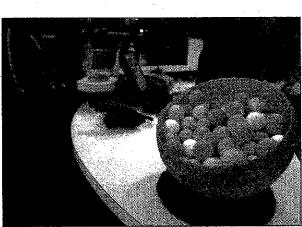


Thomas Cochran of Union Lake and his aunt, Joyce Struthers of Walled Lake, play a round of glow-in-the-dark puttputt at the Putting Edge in Novi.

special rates for children, seniors and matinees.

The management of The Putting Edge is also aggressively marketing the venue as a place for charities to hold their fund-raisers. Brochures at the front desk have a complete step-by-step plan to raise thousands of dollars with just three weeks lead-in time.

For more information, call The Putting Edge at (248) 348-4022 or visit them on the web at www.puttingedge.com.



Glow in the dark golf balls add color to the play at the Putting Edge

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The Putting Edge is Novi in the Fountain Walk Mall off 12 Mile Road.







# CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

# EXAMINER

FROM PAGE A1

many other patients, many terminally ill, end their misery by ending their lives. In some of the high profile trials that ensued, Dragovic and his office were pivotal, with forensic evidence and autopsy reports including those used in the 1999 murder trial resulting in Kevorkian being convicted and sentenced to 10 to 25 years in prison.

"Dr. Dragovic's testimony was crucial," said Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor John Skrzynski, who tried the case. "But his testimony is crucial in every murder case because he's the guy who explains how the victim was killed. And he does it in a way people can understand."

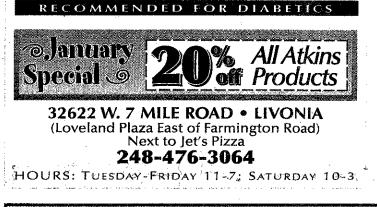
Imprisoning Kevorkian won't end the controversy of assisted suicide, said Dragovic. "Euthanasia (and assisted suicide) has been debated for centuries," he said. "And the discussion will undoubtedly continue for centuries to come."

#### **DEMANDING JOB**

Dragovic specializes in death



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Because of that expertise, Dragovic is routinely called as an expert witness.

- more specifically the causes and manner.

Dragovic and the four forensic pathologists working for him routinely perform more than 1,000 autopsies a year on victims of all violent or accidental death as well as those who died from unknown causes.

Because of that expertise, Dragovic is routinely called as an expert witness. He has testified in dozens of highly publicized cases, including the death of Malice Green. More recently Dragovic was an expert witness in the 2000 trial of Michael Fletcher, the Ferndale attorney convicted of killing his wife.

"Lubi has an absolutely passionate about rooting out the truth, regardless of who it helps or hurts," said Oakland County Deputy Prosecutor James Halushka. "And he has great disdain for those who try to hide or twist the facts."

OE08175812

That passion was never more evident than in the mid-1990s, when the medical examiner was at odds with many in the medical community for attributing too many baby deaths to SIDs (sudden infant death syndrome). Dragovic insisted too many of those deaths resulted from other causes, and he was critical of physicians, including pathologists, who he said did not probe deeply enough to determine the actual cause of death.

"To be a good medical examiner, you have to step on some toes," said Michael Baden, the forensic pathologist who wrote Dead Reckoning, a book which noted how numerous homicides over the years have been misdiagnosed as SIDs deaths.

"And Dr. Dragovic stepped on some toes with his position on SIDs. But he was absolutely correct."

The Michigan Legislature subsequently mandated that every county establish a Child Death Review Team to review all local infant fatalities. Halushka and Dragovic are on Oakland County's team that, among other things, established protocol for careful examination of all death scenes.

Dragovic is the first to credit his staff for bringing new luster to the medical examiner's office. 'We hire good people," he said, "and everybody contributes."

That's the way he likes it, Dragovic said, "and that's the way we will continue to oper-ate."

## CHARITY

FROM PAGE A1

healed nicely, and gratefulness for coming through the ordeal in one piece spurred her into action. A court settlement reached earlier this year provided seed money of \$1,000 to get the charitable foundation off the ground.

"What I needed was something to make me feel a part of it and my mom popped into my head," said McManus. "I thought of her nickname, Taffy. Then I thought I could work that into an acronym."

Thus Taking Action for Friends, Families and Youth, or TAFFY, was founded last spring. The foundation is dedicated to their mother and already the charity has provided help to a handful of recipients. And there seems to be no shortage of ideas for fund-raisers from extended family and friends.

Their brothers, Mike and Larry McManus, are enthusiastic supporters - Larry sits on the TAFFY board of directors and recently organized a bowling tournament that raised \$1,500, the most successful fund-raiser thus far.

We had our first euchre party in May and raised \$500," said Lemon, who recalled a special moment among the four siblings that night.

#### LUCK OF THE DRAW

Some 24 card players drew from a deck of cards to determine who they'd be partnered with for each round of play red aces against black aces, red twos against black twos, and so on in the completely random draw.

"For the last hand of the night, the four of us - Mike, Larry, Katie and I - ended up playing at the same table," said Lemon. The girls took it as a sign that their mom approved.

"She always gave of her time freely. She genuinely cared about people and always saw the good in them. She wasn't judgmental," said McManus, adding that their mother received Volunteer of the Month recognition at Botsford Hospital shortly before her death.

TAFFY's mission statement promises to "improve the quality of life for families, friends and children, by providing assistance to ease the burdens of life and inspire those receiving aid to keep faith."

On the list for help is Gina, a young woman from Florida who stayed with the Lemons last spring in a role of assisting with confirmation students from St. Agatha Church in Redford.

"She volunteered a vear of her life to a retreat program and I thought that was special," said Lemon, whose daughter Mallorie was a confirmation candidate. "This girl's mom just moved from an apartment into their first house. They have never been stable financially. Gina wants to go to college but right now the money she earns goes to helping her mother."

Upcoming tuition costs for a semester will be paid by TAFFY.

#### VOLUNTEERING TIME

"Our thought was that we'd build up a base of funds first but we've already given support to a few individuals," said McManus, who added that TAFFY overhead is nil because supporters have volunteered their time and talents to all enterprises thus far.

A young mom in Royal Oak suffering from a brain tumor and a man from Haiti whose family lives in extreme poverty have received checks from TAFFY. The foundation is open to suggestions from anyone in the community.

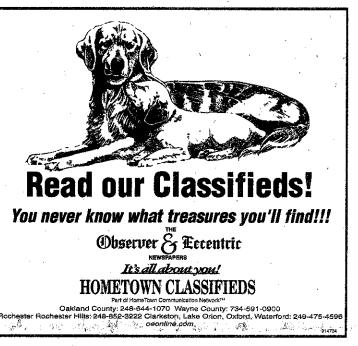
The families of two local youngsters - a 5-month-old boy and an 8-year-old girl both stricken with leukemia - will be receiving checks this month, as well as one of Lemon's eighthgrade students who is suffering with intestinal cancer.

A junior TAFFY board, headed by Mallorie Lemon, a ninthgrader at Clarenceville High School, is eager to assist.

"They helped with an auction and a raffle and they're all very motivated and eager to help," said McManus, adding that she hopes it will provide the same sense of well-being she and her sister get from TAFFY.

"It's good to give back," she said.

For more information on TAFFY, call (248) 449-4646 or visit www.taffv1. homestead.com.

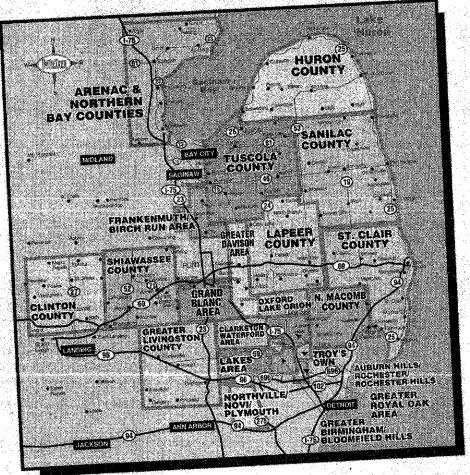




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#### A6 (\*)

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# **Running Detroit water system** no easy task for newcomer

ictor Mercado is a tough, short and pudgy engi-neer who came here a year and a half ago to do a vital and largely thankless job.

He is the man who runs Detroit's Water and Sewerage Department, most of whose customers don't live or work in the city at all, but in the suburbs and beyond.

Once upon a time, nearly everyone lived in

Detroit. and what tiny suburbs existed were more than happy to be able to buy service from the city. Today, the population has moved out, and the water and sewer lines

have expanded with them. Detroit's water pipes alone run 3,796 miles. But the era of good feeling is much shorter.

Jack Lessenberry

Today, more than a third of all Michiganders depend on Detroit for water. But since the city runs the system, suburbanites - especially, their politicians - often scream

bloody murder when there is a rate increase, as there is now almost every year.

Nobody says it openly, but everybody has heard the whispers that the blacks who live in and run Detroit just want to fleece the wealthier white suburbanites. Naturally, many Detroiters see the suburban reaction as just one more case of more affluent whites wanting to get out of paying their fair share.

All this tends to exasperate Mercado, a no-nonsense type who, apart from occasionally lusting after a 1956 Crown Victoria, is mainly interested in efficiency - and a little more understanding. When asked what one thing he would most like to help him do his job better, he doesn't ask for more workers or more money for the system.

"What I would really like to see here is a better understanding between the suburbs and Detroit about how actually we do our work. And that way we wouldn't have as much of as conflict as we do."

Mercado isn't naturally on anyone's side in this old and dreary racial and geographic divide. He is neither Anglo, African-American, nor a native of these parts. A 52-year-old Hispanic guy from the Bronx, he has spent his life working in and on a wide variety of public and private water and sewer systems from Delaware to Puerto Rico, mainly as a troubleshooter and an efficiency expert.

He knows what it is to go down a broken sewer main and look at a problem. The good news is that Detroit's system is really not in terrible shape, he says. "The water itself is the best or among the best in the nation." The rates are reasonable, and the facilities, while in some cases aging, seem to work tolerably well.

Then why is Mercado going to ask for a water rate increase that will average 7.5 percent a year? That follows a 9-percent raise last year, both numbers substantially more than inflation. In fact, if approved, some suburbs will pay considerably more than that.

Nobody says it openly, but everybody has heard the whispers that the blacks who live in and run Detroit just want to fleece the wealthier white suburbanites.

The reason, Mercado argues persuasively, has nothing to do with trying to make money off the suburbs - or indeed to make a profit at all. "I think there is a lack of understanding as to how rates are set," he said.

"People should come to our board meetings - they are open to the public, and they are posted on our Web site (www.dwsd.org). What we charge the suburbs is based on cost of service. This has something to do with how far away they are - but also on how much water they use and how consistently they use

The suburbs also piggyback their own charges, and rate increases, onto the city's, which sometimes leaves suburbanites the impression that their entire bill goes to downtown Detroit, when it may be less than half.

Rates are set based on the cost of providing services at peak usage times. (For sewer use, the peak is always during commercial breaks in the Super Bowl.)

Mercado also says that since arriving here he has wrung much of any waste and efficiency out of the system. Why then does he need another rate increase?

"Basically, we are keeping our costs flat. The only increases are because of capital improvements," Mercado said. Last year, a water main broke on the east side that dated to 1877, a year when Detroit had barely 100,000 people. In the summer, they often pump a billion gallons of clean water a day, and can treat even more sewage.

What's the biggest misconception about his job? "That it is easy," Mercado says with a short laugh. "People also tend to think it is very political, and it is not. In my position you need to know how a waste water system operates. If you don't know how it works, you don't know how to make it more efficient."

He gets a little testy when asked what he makes; \$240,000, more than the mayor or the governor. Not that he doesn't earn it. Imagine what it would mean to civilization in this or any other place if the water and sewer system broke down. Seeing that most people never think about that may be the biggest part of Victor Mercado's job.

Jack Lessenberry is editorial vice president of HomeTown Communications. He can be reached by phone at (248) 901-2561 or by e-mail at jlessenberry@homecomm.net.

# It's not just a beer: Taking time to revisit old friends from life

he new year is as good a time as any to look back and examine how far you've come since the changing of last year's calendar, to look down the road ahead, and determine where you want your life to be at the next changing. But sometimes those turns in life's road are unpredictable, and you never saw the detour sign. At

times like that, your best

bet is to just remember

your traveling compan-

you've taken.

ions rather than the road

It never occurred to

months ago how impor-

the people I've met along

tant it is to remember

epiphany went some-

thing like this: I came

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me until about nine



Carol Marshall

into the office one day last spring, and hadn't even taken off my jacket when my phone rang. I picked up the receiver and the voice on the other end of the line was one I hadn't heard in 14 years. I sat down.

It was my college boyfriend, and I had not heard that voice since the day he called me at the truck stop where I used to work. I was only 21 the last time I spoke to him and he phoned me to tell me he was getting married.

Over the years, I thought of him from time to time. I searched the Internet a few times, trying to find him. I searched the Michigan Bar Association Web site, because last time we had spoken he was going to be a lawyer. And I was going to be a writer. But I never found him.

He found me. Saw my byline and photo on a column I had written. The contents of the column were thoughts he just couldn't agree with, but he still liked my style, he said.

We agreed to meet for a beer.

"What do you think you're doing?" demanded my dear friend, writer Renee Skoglund. Over coffee in the newsroom, she warned me to watch my step.

"Never, ever mess with married men, Carol," she told me. "I don't care what your past with him is, he's married. Don't go." Oh, for cryin' out loud. It's just a beer, I

said. Turns out it wasn't just a beer at all, but

not for the reasons Renee warned me about.

For an hour, we sat at the bar and tried to catch up. Of course we could never really fill in all the gaps to those 14 years of living, but we scratched the surface. Sort of.

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02

FASTLUBE

I was for a little more than an hour nothing but potential and promise.

After a while, I gave up trying to draw the road map of my life since I last saw him, and decided to just be.

He could never fully understand the triumphs and failures I'd experienced since I had last seen him. He didn't watch me suffer when I was sick, and rejoice when I was in remission. He didn't know me when I dropped out of college, nor did he understand the sacrifices I made to return. He wasn't there when my son was born, when I had lost my job, when I attended the funeral of his successor in my list of life's great loves. He didn't know much about me except who I was for that three years in the mid-1980s when I had big hair and cute shoes and was going to be a writer.

I was for a little more than an hour nothing but potential and promise. I was no longer a middle-aged single mother. I was a girl he once knew. And it was wonderful to see myself through his kind eyes again.

It has since occurred to me that it doesn't matter much which rest stop on my road I choose to visit, as long as I stop back in once in a while to look around and rest.

"You must write a column about that." Renee told me. "You could call it, 'It's not just a beer." She was, after all, my mentor in finding my columnist voice. She has since passed away, and it matters not that I didn't love her until she was near the end of her path. The point is, she and I met and became friends when we needed to.

The college beau and I have stayed in touch. Maybe I'll give him a glimpse or two into the life I've led since our paths crossed. Or maybe it doesn't really matter.

In the new year, take a moment to backtrack on your path. Revisit a few stops that are now nothing more than postcard memories. Leave behind the things you've done and the accomplishments you could boast, and focus on the travelers you've encountered on the trip.

And if any of your traveling companions ask you to go for a beer, for heaven's sake,

FRONT END

Carol Marshall is a staff writer for the Livonia Observer.

SHOCKS/STRUTS

Inspect radiator for leaks

Drain and refill radiator

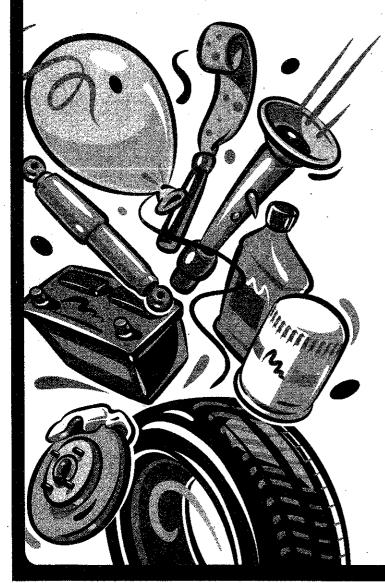
Check hoses, clamps and belts

Pressure test system for leaks



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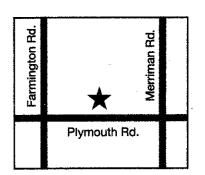
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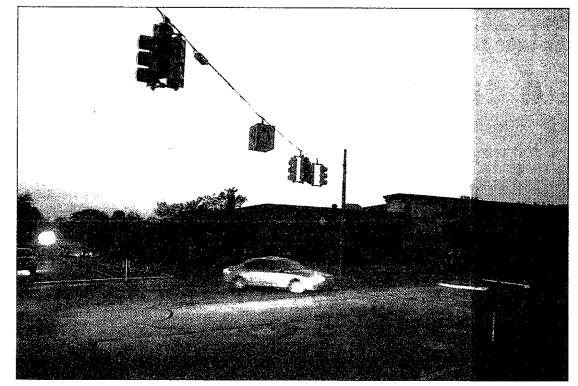
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IN FOCUS

he start of a new year causes us to look back at the old one, recalling good times and bad, happy and sad. Covering the *Observer* communities offers us many opportunities to witness life in all its aspects. With all of the school sports coverage, we get to see the thrill of victory and

the agony of **defeat**. There are wond**erful** occasions to **make** beautiful images, **and** to capture life's **more** challenging moments. The award-winning *Observer* photographers took a look back at some of their favorite images from the year that was, and we present them here for your enjoyment.





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Top: An automobile is illuminated by the headlights of another car as it passes through a dark intersection as the sun sets on Aug. 14, the day the lights went out. A power grid failure left millions without electricity from Detroit to New York and from Ottawa to Ohio on a sweltering summer day in August. Above: Nineteen month-old Brent Phillips looks for his daddy, Capt. Glenn Phillips, during ceremonies honoring 36 local reservists at George Armstrong Custer reserve center in Livonia. The soldiers were on their way to Fort Benning, Ga., before serving in Operation Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom.







Clockwise from above left: Ikram Bakko, aunt of killing victim Faris Yosif, watches in disbelief the shooting that was on video at the pretrial in the Westland Neil's Party Store massacre. Claire Beaudoin of Northville, 7, scrunches her face between her knees as she listens to camp director Julie Greeneisen at the Plymouth Community Arts Council Performing Arts Camp last summer. Sara Dage, 15, takes pride in her personal style as she stands out in the crowd at Livonia Churchill High School for a story on Back-to-School fashion. Yoyo champ Jake Maloney, headed for national competition, demonstrates some of his many maneuvers in this multiple exposure. Livonia's Hull Elementary second-grader Lee Jobman dumps another topping onto sixth-grade teacher Rob Witherspoon as part of a reading celebration in April.

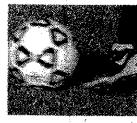


# Youth registration The Garden City

Soccer Club has set its spring registration dates.

The registration, all at the Maplewood Center, will be from 6-8 p.m. on Feb. 11 and March 2, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Feb. 21.

Fees are \$70 for new players in U5-U8 and \$55 for returning players from the fall. For U9-U19, new player fees



are \$85 and \$70 for returnees. A copy of a birth certificate is required for registration. For more information or to download a registration form, please visit the club's Web site at www.eteamz.com/gcsc.

The Plymouth **Recreation Department** will be taking Spring Youth Soccer registration during January during regular business hours - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The office is at the Plymouth Cultural Central, 525 farmer St. All first-time registrations require a birth ce

# CC icers outskate Farmington, 5-1

Sports



CC's William Makela tries to knock down the puck as Farmington's Jonathon Noble circles in the background.

# Churchill spikers take 2nd tourney

Group makes push to bring MLS to Detroit

The committee to bring a Major League Soccer franchise to Detroit kicks into

SOCCER

'Expansion is finally happening and we intend to

The meeting will last less than 90 minutes and will focus on organizing captains, along with providing an update on the entire campaign effort. Those joining the executive committee should expect to attend approximately four meetings in 2004. Those interested in joining the committee should respond to info@mmbucks.com and go to the MM Bucks Insider free e-mail newsletter.

# **Rolling resolution**

Make your New Year's resolution to become a better bowler. B3

> It was every bit a game between two teams that haven't played hockey in a while.

And it was nothing like the game when the two teams met on the same." ice surface 10 months ago.

But it was the same net result as Redford Catholic Central took a 3-0 first-period lead and turned it into a 5-1 win over Farmington Unified before about 1,000 fans at Compuware Arena.

"We needed a game like this," said CC coach Todd Johnson as his team evened its record at 4-4. "We were 1-4 at home and we only scored first in one game this year and that used to be our trademark. I think we were ready to play, but it was as crisp as it could be for two teams that haven't played in two weeks."

While both teams had been off since the Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League Showcase on Dec. 20, it was Farmington that started like it was still on break. After taking play to CC for the first minute or so of the game, the Flyers (4-5-2) struggled with the puck for the rest of the period.

"I think we were nervous a little bit," said Farmington coach Mark Vellucci. "We hadn't skated in a while and the . guys remembered the last game. Still, once we settled down, we played well."

CC – which won 4-3 in the district opener last February in a battle of the No. 1 and 2 teams in the state - held play in the Flyers' end for most of the period, outshooting them 10-1. And as to be expected, the Shamrocks converted their opportunities.

The first came on a 2-on-1 break in the game's third minute as Travis Hamway slid the puck to Dave McGrorty, who then fed it into the

PLEASE SEE HOCKEY, B4

tificate.

The fees for U6-U8 are \$60 for Plymouth residents and \$85 for non-residents. For U9 and older, the fee is \$65 for residents and \$95 for nonresidents.

For more information, call (734) 455-6620. You can download forms and get more information at the Web site www.ci.plymouth.mi.us.

The Plymouth Canton Little League is starting a new league for players from 9-to-14 years old. A registration meeting will be held from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Jan. 17 at the Plymouth **District Library.** 

The league will also send all-star players to the Little League World Series tournament system.

For more information, please call (734) 207 7793.

### **All-Area correction**

For the record, the All-Area girls basketball team, which ran Dec. 28, trans-

posed secondteam selections Karen Anger of

Livonia Karen Anger Churchill Liv. Churchill and

Ellen Canale of Salem. Here are the right names

with the Ellen Canale right Salem photos. The Observer regrets the error.

Spread the wealth was the theme last Tuesday for the Livonia Churchill girls volleyball squad, which captured its second tournament title of the season at the University of Michigan-Dearborn Invitational.

Churchill improved to 11-1 overall on the year with a 25-9, 25-19 victory over Pontiac Notre Dame Prep in the championship final.

The Chargers reached the final with a 25-10, 25-17 triumph over Riverview Gabriel Richard after beating Melvindale in the quarterfinals, 25-10, 25-12. In pool play, Churchill downed

Dearborn Edsel Ford, 25-12, 25-10, 25-16 and New Boston Huron, 25-8, 25-4, 25-8.

"We got a lot of contributions from a lot of different people," said Churchill coach Mark Grenier. "We had one girl out with an illness and another on vacation, but we had some other kids step up and they did a nice job. We've been able to go deep into our lineup."

Three seniors led the way for the Chargers.

Jacqui Gatt was the Chargers' top attacker on the day with 44 kills. She also had a team-high 56 digs and was 34-of-36 passing. Setter Ashley Cecil finished with 84 assist-to-kills and served at 91 percent clip (32-of-35). Senior Stephanie Merlo added 41 digs and was 79-of-80 serving with 10 aces.

Also getting into the act was junior Kelsey Mack, 25 kills and 10 aces; senior Kimmy Meyer, 18 kills; senior Jenna Kirby, 16 kills; senior Stephanie Gorte, 43 digs; and junior Kerry Schmansky, seven kills and seven solo blocks.

"We've had two nice tourneys now and hope to set ourselves to be in a nice position for the rest of the season," Grenier said. "So far the kids have responded very well."

nigh gear with a meeting at Monday Schoolcraft College.

The MLS, which enjoyed its most successful season in 2003, is seeking to expand by two to six teams in the next few years.

"This is an exciting time for soccer in America," said committee member Jim Duggan, a native of Livonia and general manager for the Mid-Michigan Bucks of the Premier Development League.

"Expansion is finally happening and we intend to show the MLS and potential investors that Detroit deserves a franchise. The Motor City has proven in the past that this is one of the

top communities in the country for soccer and we believe we will show that again."

Detroit has proven to be a viable soccer market after drawing 60,000 at the Pontiac Silverdome for a 1993 exhibition game between England and Germany. And at the 1994 World Cup, approximately 300,000 fans attended four different games at the Silverdome.

Just this past summer, over 4,000 fans saw the Bucks take on the New York-New Jersev MetroStars of the MLS in a U.S. Open Cup matchup.

show the MLS and potential investors that Detroit deserves a franchise.'

Jim Duggan

Bucks general manager

The MLS Detroit grass roots campaign is concentrating on the acquisition of season ticket deposits and is seeking volunteers within soccer organizations to recruit deposits from their own groups (soccer teams, clubs, stores, indoor facilities, etc. ...).

You can also go to www.MLSDETROIT.COM.

If you can attend the meeting at Schoolcraft, include contact information (soccer affiliation, e-mail address, daytime phone number) so you can receive more specific meeting details via e-mail.

# Whalers move into 1st after 3-3 tie

A tie is never as good as a win, but for the Plymouth Whalers, it was almost as worthwhile as a 3-3 tie with Owen Sound allowed the team to move into a first-place tie in the Ontario Hockey League's West Division.

Even though the Whalers (16-11-8-3) have gone 3-4-3 in their last 10 games, they were able to slide into the tie with Sarnia, since the Sting have gone just 3-6-1.

The Whalers fell behind 2-0 in the first period as Patrick Jarrett scored

**Even though the Whalers** (16-11-8-3) have gone 3-4-3 in their last 10 games, they were able to slide into the tie with Sarnia, since the Sting have gone just 3-6-1.

with assists going to Mike Letizia and

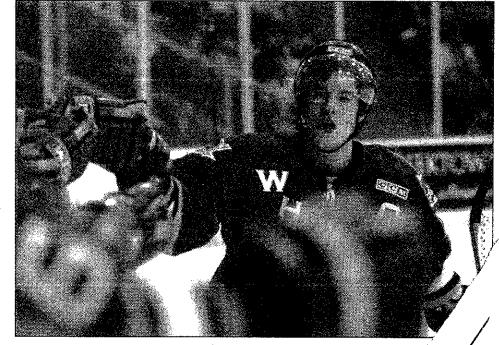
Dan Collins assisting. Tim Sesito tied

the score at 10:19 with John Mitchell

twice on Plymouth goalie Paul Drew, who did make 14 saves in the period. John Vigilante cut the lead to 2-1 just 46 seconds

into the

period



Ryan Ramsay scored the Whalers' final goal against Owen Sound on Thursday.

and Nick Vernelli assisting.

The Attack regained the lead with a power-play goal from Andrew Maksym with 3:28 left to play in the period. But Plymouth tied the score again at

the 9:09 mark of the third as Ryan

Ramsay got his 15th gr Paul Drew made 47 including eight in  $\phi^i$ Robert Gherson s<sup>\*</sup> The Whalers g a 2 p.m. game/

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### LOCAL SPORTS



## **Cup champions**

The Livonia Squirt AA Knights rallied from a two-goal deficit to beat Sault Ste. Marie (Ontario), 4-3, to win the Toronto Royals Challenge Cup (Dec. 5-7). The Knights reached the championship game with a 3-2 come-frombehind overtime victory over Georgina Blaze. Members of the Knights, coached by Rick Barr, include: Nick Barr, Justin Chantres, Kyle Gabrielson, Brendan Hay, Zac Hay, Jakie Meadows, Jimmy Moody, Jake Otto and Christian Wood. all of Livonia: Rvan Lowney and Josh Marlow, Redford Township; Nick Schuit and Mark Theisen, Canton; Michael Tibbits, Plymouth; and Duncan Grant, Northville. Assistant coaches include Brian Gabrielson, Brady Otto, Keith Hay and Ken Grant. The team manager is Doris Meadows.



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# Agape falls in final to Bedford

Canton Agape Christian may have bit off more than it could chew in when it stepped up three classes in quest of the Toledo Emmanuel Baptist boys basketball tournament title.

The Wolverines, a Class D school with an enrollment of 94, took Class A Temperance Bedford (enrollment 1,779) and came out on the short end, 61-40, in the championship final.

Agape, which had its fivegame winning streak snapped, is 5-1 overall. Bedford, featuring a front line of 6 feet, 7 inches, 6-6 and 6-4, is also 5-1. Brian Champine led

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Tuesday, Jan. 6

Churchill at Redford Union, 7 p.m.

Franklin at Crestwood, 7 p.m.

Willow Run at John Glenn, 7 p.m.

Wayne at Taylor Truman, 7 p.m.

Clarenceville at S'field Christian. 7 p.m.

Flat Rock at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.

Monroe at Garden City, 7 p.m.

C.L. St. Clement at St. Katharine, 7:30 p.m.

Redford CC at H.W. Notre Dame, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 8

Huron Valley at Ypsi Calvary, 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 9

Huron Valley at Lutheran South, 6 p.m.

Luth. Westland at Cranbrook, 7 p.m.

W.L. Western at Churchill, 7 p.m.

Redford Union at Franklin, 7 p.m.

Stevenson at John Glenn, 7 p.m.

Wayne at Salem, 7 p.m.

Thurston at Lincoln Park, 7 p.m.

Garden City at Allen Park. 7 p.m.

St. Katharine at Card. Mooney, 7:30 p.m.

Luth. North at Clarenceville, 7:30 p.m.

U-D Jesuit at Redford CC, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Monday, Jan. 5

Benedictine at St. Katharine, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 6

Huron Valley vs. Rudolf Steiner

at Livonia St. Paul's, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 7

W.L. Northern at Wayne, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 8

Huron Valley at Canton Agape, 6:30 p.m.

Clarenceville at Country Day, 6:30 p.m.

St. Katharine at Wyan. Mt. Carmel, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 10

New Haven Invitational, 8 a.m.

PREP HOCKEY

Wednesday, Jan. 7

Ladywood vs. G.P. Liggett

at Arctic Pond. 6 p.m.

Red. Unified at Woodhaven, 6:50 p.m.

Franklin vs. W.L. Western.

Churchill vs. Stevenson

### BASKETBALL

Bedford with 16 points, while Derick Seymour added 14. Charlie Henry, a senior guard, scored 16 for the Wolverines. Gabe Molnar

contributed eight. Agape trailed 20-15 midway through the second quarter when Bedford employed a half-court trap and went on a 16-1 run to go up 36-16 at halftime.

Agape attempted just one free throw and gave up 22 second-chance points "We did not do a very good job against the trap," Agape

### THE WEEK AHEAD

at Edgar Arena, 6 & 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9 Franklin vs. Notre Dame Prep, Stevenson vs. Canton, at Edgar Arena, 4 & 6 p.m Ladywood vs. Northville at Arctic Pond, 9:30 p.m. (A.A. Pioneer Tourney at Ice Cube) Churchill vs. O.L. St. Mary, 5 plm. A.A. Pioneer vs. E. Kentwood, 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10 Redford CC vs. New Trier (III.) at Compuware Arena (Olympic), 7 p.m. Redford Unified at N.B. Huron, 6:20 p.m. A.A. Pioneer Tourney, TBA. **PREP WRESTLING** Tuesday, Jan. 6 Wayne Memorial, Swartz Creek at Redford Catholic Central, 5 p.m. A.P. Inter-City, W.L. Northern at Clarenceville, 6:30 p.m. Plymouth at Franklin, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8 Stevenson at John Glenn, 6 p.m. W.L. Western at Churchill, 6:30 p.m. Wayne at Salem, 6:30 p.m. Redford Union at Woodhaven, 6:30 p.m) Garden City at Lincoln Park, 6:30 p.m. Allen Park at Thurston, 6:30 p.m. Lutheran Westland, Flat Rock at New Boston Huron, TBA. Saturday, Jan. 10 Bay City Dual Tourney, 8:30 a.m. Romulus invitational, 8:30 a.m. Avondale Tourney, 9 a.m. Fordson Invitational, 10 a.m. PREP BOYS SWIMMING Tuesday, Jan. 6 N. Farmington at Churchill, 7 p.m. Plymouth at Wayne, 7 p.m. Redford CC vs. Stevenson at Livonia Comm, Rec. Center, 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8 Redford Union at Garden City, 4 n.m. Thurston at Robichaud. 4 n.m. Saturday, Jan. 10

coach Chuck Henry said. "We had no second chance points. We gave up a lot of size."

In Monday's tourney opener, Jordan Napier led Agape to a 60-43 win over host Emmanuel. Napier, a 6-3 senior forward, finished with 26 points and 11 rebounds en route to all-tourney honors.

Henry, also an all-tourney pick, finished with 20 points on 6-of-8 shooting behind the three-point arc.

John Wood led Emmanuel with 11 points.

Agape led 27-23 at halftime before outscoring the Toledo school 17-11 in the third quarter and 16-9 in the final period.

Cranbrook Invitational, TBA.

W. Bioomfield invitational, 9 a.m. Salem Invitational, noon. Southfield Relays, noon. W.L. Western Invitational, 1 p.m. PREP GIRLS GYMNASTICS Monday, Jan. 5 Livonia Unified vs. Wayne-Westland at John Glenn High School, 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8 Wayne-Westland at Edsel Ford, 6:30 p.m. PREP SKIING Tuesday, Jan. 6 Ladywood vs. W.L. Northern at Alpine Valley, 3:30 p.m. PREP FIGURE SKATING Saturday, Jan. 10 Ladywood at Arctic Edge, 3-6 p.m. MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Tuesday, Jan. 6 Schoolcraft at Flint Mott, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7 Siena Heights at Madonna. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8 St. Clair at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10 Schoolcraft at Delta, 3 p.m. Madonna at Aquinas, 3 p.m. WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Tuesday, Jan. 6 Schoolcraft at Flint Mott, 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7 Madonna at Siena Heights, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8 St. Clair at Schoolcraft, 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10 Schoolcraft at Delta, 3 p.m. Aquinas at Madonna, 3 p.m. **ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE** Sunday, Jan. 4 Whalers at Saginaw, 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9 Whalers at Sault Ste. Marie, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10 Whalers vs. Kingston at Compuware Arena, 7:30 p.m.

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### LOCAL SPORTS

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# Make your New Year's resolution bearing down on the lanes

appy New Year to all my said for 2004. good friends.

Let's all make one good resolution for 2004, and that would be to become a better bowler.

No matter how good you

This can be

upgrade your

equipment,

get in better

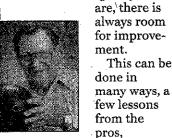
physical con-

dition (espe-

the legs) and

have a good

cially with



**Ten Pin** Alley Ä Harrison

attitude.

I have seen a lot of bowlers who could be very good except for a poor attitude, not just bowling but about everything. Even when we grow older, we can still improve. Sure we tend to lose some muscle, but we gain some of it back with knowledge and experience. <sup>°</sup>Looking back at 2003, there were some highs and some lows, mostly on the high side. Plenty of activities to look forward to, and the same can be

January: Livonians Doug

Lobb and Rich Deluca throw 300 games at each other in league play.

Senior bowler Jim Jimmerson bowls his first 300 game in over 40 years of trying. It was his first (and last) season in the Mayflower Senior Men's Classic as he and wife Clara had to move to Columbus, Ohio.

February: Demo Days at Super Bowl in Canton sponsored by Ebonite International and hosted by Randy Pierce's K&S pro shop. The eighth annual Senior/Youth Challenge is a huge success at Mayflower Lanes in Redford. March: The 100th

American Bowling Congress tournament began in Knoxville, Tenn., with many local area bowlers competing from February through June. The ABC delegates rejected a proposal for a single membership organization (S.M.O.).

Seedlings, a non-profit publisher of Braille books for children held its 16th annual fund-raising Bowl-A-Thon hosted by popular WNUC disc jockey Chris Edmonds at Cloverlanes in Livonia. They raised over \$20,000 to bring affordable Braille books to kids that need them.

The Wayne Westland Metro Bowling Association held its 21st annual 700 Tournament at Town 'n Country Lanes in Westland. Only bowlers who have achieved a 700 series or better are eligible to compete. Chris Dolby was the new champion for 2003.

April: Jess Macciocco, 70, rolled his third career 300 game in the Mayflower Lanes Senior Men's Classic league in Redford. Macciocco, a veteran of many bowling wars, rolled his second 300 only two weeks earlier, his first coming in 1990 in the Ford Engineering League.

Lady pro bowlers Aleta Sill and Michelle Mullin announce an upcoming summer camp for any bowlers who wish to improve their game.

Lots of 300 games this month from "Gump" Gadomski, Don Parks (804 series, Pat Aguis (first 800), Dave Hazelrigg, Dan Ramos (second in three weeks), Todd Wilson, Vic Lewandowski and Daryl Wludyka.

May: The Greater Detroit Bowling Association held its annual meeting at Sunnybrook Lanes, while the Wayne-Westland Metro Bowling Association held its annual dinner-dance at the VFW Hall on S. Wayne Road

in Westland. Many trophies and plaques were carried home by those individuals who were honored during the festivities.

June: The Professional Women's Bowling Association ended its winter-spring tour at Sunnybrook Lanes in Sterling Heights with the Women's U.S. Open, the final stop of the season and possibly the end of the ladies pro tour because of funding problems. It turned out to be a wonderful event with a large local contingent on hand to try for the cash and the crown, eventually won by Kelly Kulick of Union, N.J.

The directors of the Sunday Youth Classic traveling league staged their first-ever reunion tournament at Cloverlanes in Livonia. There have been over 2,000 members past and present who have come through this program, one of the finest in the nation for the advancement of youth bowlers, many of whom go on to star in the adult classic ranks and even the pro tour. The Young American

Bowling Alliance (YABA) held its Michigan State Championship event at Royal Scot Lanes in Lansing. Evan Relich of Garden was the boys singles event champion. July: The wedding of

Livonians Lila Smith and Mark Hickok was a fine example of love on the Lanes. Mark is one of the managers of Country Lanes, while Lila is a longtime bowler in the Greenfield Mixed League, also at Country Lanes. Their honeymoon was in Reno, Nev. where they must have won a lot of money.

Lois Yost of the Young American Bowling Alliance youth leagues passed away, a huge loss for the organized youth leagues.

August: The 67th annual John P. Gavie Tournament at ThunderBowl Lanes in Allen Park is one of the biggest oneday tournaments in the country and marks the kick-off the new bowling season.

The new Impact section appears in the sports pages of the Observer & Eccentric. It is likely to continue on as an annual promotion in the future.

September: The Greater Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame announced its selections for induction in 2003. Among those selected included Lee Snow, Crystal Trombley and Ron Byrd for superior performance. Mark Martin was chosen for Meritorious Service, while Joe Paulus was the recipient of the Thomas McKay Award. Rick Strobl

was given the Judge John D. Watts Award.

/**B3**...

(\*)

October: Lew Saad of the Greater Detroit Bowling Association celebrated his 100th birthday at Oak Lanes in Westland. He is the oldest active bowler in the state.

The GDBA Mixed Tournament began on Oct. 18 at Hazel Park Bowl and enjoyed nice three-week run.

November: The Old Timers 73rd annual tournament and party was held on Nov. 29 with nearly 550 participants entered. The local hall-offamers again were on hand to mix with the bowlers and still compete at a high level.

December: Rick Eiermann of Garden City captured the Michigan Majors Tournament of Champions at Taylor Lanes by beating Mitch Jabczenski in the finals. Eiermann earned \$1,500, along with a \$100 bonus for averaging 236. Fifth place went to Garrett Nagle of Westland, who earned \$300.

This was the month for Santa Claus to show his skills at delivering some of the things for all the bowlers who were not naughty, but nice.

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

Of local interest, Redford

Catholic Central's Division I

Eisenhower will be shown at

12:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 16.

football win over Utica

### CC GAME REPLAYED

Fox Sports Net will replay the Michigan High School Athletic Association football and girls basketball finals over the holiday season at least once.



# Crusaders take 3rd at tourney

The "second season" begins in earnest 7:30 p.m. Wednesday for the Madonna University men's basketball team, which hosts Siena Heights in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference opener.

, The Crusaders enter WHAC play at 6-9 after disposing of the University of Chicago, 66-53, last Tuesday in the consolation final of the 15th annual Russ **DeVette Holiday Classic before** 2.425 fans at the Holland Civic Center.

Siena Heights, 15-2 overall, was ranked No. 3 in the last NAIA Division II poll (released Dec. 9). The Saints captured all three of their holiday games including wins over Wisconsin**MEN'S BASKETBALL** 

Platteville (74-72), Clarke

tournament MVP Kyle

73.

College of Iowa (86-80) and

Lakeland of Wisconsin (80-69).

Host Hope College, behind

Kleersnyder's career and game-

high 24 points, beat Concordia

(Wis.) for the DeVette title, 76-

Kleersnyder, who had back-

joined on the all-tourney squad

Concordia's Ryan Wietor and

to-back double-doubles in

points and rebounds, was

by MU's Noel Emenhiser,

Chicago's Scott Fisher,

Emenhiser finished with 17 points, while Dan Kurtinaitis and John Bennett (Livonia Churchill) added 14 and 11, respectively.

Hope's Andy Phillips.

Chad Nadolni chipped in with 10 points and a team-high 12 rebounds. Kurtinaitis also had a team-high four assists and three steals, along with eight rebounds.

The Crusaders, who shot 15of-29 from the field in the first half (51.7), led 35-26 at intermission. MU shot 45.5 for the game (25-of-55).

Fisher scored 16 points to lead Chicago (4-6), which shot just 32.8 percent from the floor (19-of-56).

The Michigan Chargers, a 14and-under (eighth grade) boys basketball team will be staging tryouts Friday, Jan. 9 to fill a guard position for the 2004 travel season.

Candidates should have at least one-to-two years experience playing travel basketball and fit the team concept.

If chosen, a commitment is required through the end of June, along with fees and costs. Pre-registration is required to arrange a tryout for a cost of \$5.

For more information, call coach Pete Bader at (734) 354-9621.



CARKO

**AAU BOYS HOOPS** 



# **Ticket packages for Detroit Red Wings** and College Hockey at "The Joe" games are still available.

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### OUTDOOR CALENDAR

#### FISH BUDDIES FISHING CLUB

(\*)

The Fish Buddies Fishing Club meets the third Tuesday of each month in Rochester. Meetings are open to all anglers, boaters and non-boaters. Call Harold Leider at (248) 656-0556 for more information.

#### SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION

The Oakland County Sportfishing Association meets at 7:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of every month at the Drayton Plains Nature Center, 2125 Denby, Drayton Plains. Call (248) 693-4389 or visit the club's Web site at http://go.to/ocsa for more information.

#### DOWNRIVER BASS ASSOCIATION

The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Gander Mountain (14100 Pardee Road) in Taylor. For more information, call Ron Fodor at (734) 676-2863 or send an e-mail to riverrat122@home.com.

#### METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS

Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Livonia senior center located on the southeast corner of Farmington and Five Mile. Call Henry Nabors at (248) 258-5502 for more information.

#### MICHIGAN FLY FISHING

The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Middle School, located on Middlebelt Road between Seven and Eight Mile roads. Visit www.mffc.org on the Internet for more information.

#### FOUR SEASONS

The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road. Meetings are open to boaters and non-boaters and the club is open to new members. Visitors are welcome to the family club. Call Mark Boggs at (734) 464-6155 or e-mail fourseasonsfishingclub@yahoo.com.

### HOCKEY FROM PAGE B1

right side of the net past Flyers' goalie LeeTal Levran. Mychael Evans picked up the other assist.

It became 2-0 at the 8:01 mark as Mike Monterey fed Jimmy Burns on a nice pass through the defense and Burns flicked the puck past Levran. CC had a goal disallowed on a quick whistle, but made up for it on the next faceoff as Dan Barczuk tipped in a rebound off Drew Kahle's shot for 3-0 lead.

"I think we settled down after that," said Vellucci. "The first goal was a 2-on-1 and the second was a scramble, so we did have a couple of defensive breakdowns. But we started playing better."

True, but CC stayed the course and didn't let the Flyers get any quality shots on goalie Andrew Godoshian until the third period.

"We did a pretty good job in our defensive

zone," said Johnson. "We didn't give them a lot of chances."

After a scoreless second period and an increase in offensive pressure in the third, Farmington finally got on the board 3:42 into the last period as Ian Chornoby's pressure kept the puck in the CC zone. Brett Laird picked up the loose puck at the top of the slot, skated it an flicked it past Godoshian. It seemed to ignite the Flyers, who kept putting pressure on the Shamrocks. But the bubble burst with 3:26 left in the game and Kahle slapped the loose puck past Levran after a scramble in front of the net to give CC a 4-1 lead. "That deflated us," said Vellucci. "If we could

"That deflated us," said Vellucci. "If we could have made it 3-2 it might have been a different game. And we had a couple of second chances. But our problem has been consistency. And we haven't gotten timely goals."

The rest of the game was chippy, to be kind to both teams. And the Shamrocks closed out



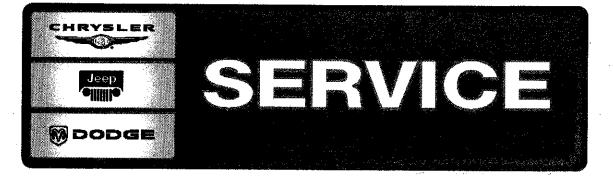
CC's Drew Kahle gets the puck past Farmington goalie LeeTal Levran for the Shamrocks' fourth goal.

the scoring with 1:26 left as Hamway knocked in the final goal from McGrorty and Evans.

Levran did make 19 saves on the night, while Godoshian stopped nine of the 10 shots he faced. "It didn't seem like this was a 5-1 game," said Johnson.

"Neither team has played in a while and it showed. But if we're paired again in the districts, it's going to be a very good match."

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# Stick with the Specialists"

### 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

nonresidents. 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

#### COACHES WANTED

# SPORTS ROUNDUP

#### 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.

#### **OPEN SKATING SET**

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 4-

# See your participating TireWorks Plus Dealer.

Bruce Campbell Dodge, Inc. 14875 Telegraph Road Redford, MI 48239 313-538-1500

Livonia Chrysler Jeep 30777 Plymouth Livonia, MI 48150 734-525-5000

Winners Dodge, Inc. 25151 Allen Road Woodhaven, MI 48183 734-675-4700 Crestwood Dodge, Inc. 32850 Ford Road Garden City, MI 48135 734-421-5700

Snethkamp Chrysler Jeep, Inc. 23951 Plymouth Road Redford, MI 48239 313-255-2700 Dick Scott Dodge, Inc. 684 Ann Arbor Road Plymouth, MI 48170 734-451-2110

Taylor Chrysler Jeep 12000 Telegraph Road Taylor, MI 48180 734-946-8200 ■ 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.

Troy High and Troy Athens high schools are in need of girls water polo coaches.

Interested candidates are asked to contact Troy director of athletics Jim Feldkamp at (248) 823-5093.

■ Farmington High School has a position available for someone willing to serve on a volunteer basis as a strength and conditioning coach for the football program.

The position would involve approximately nine hours per week, starting in January. To inquire, call the athletic department at (248) 489-3352. 5:50 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4. The cost is \$4 for adults, \$3 for children and \$3 for seniors. Skate rental is \$2.

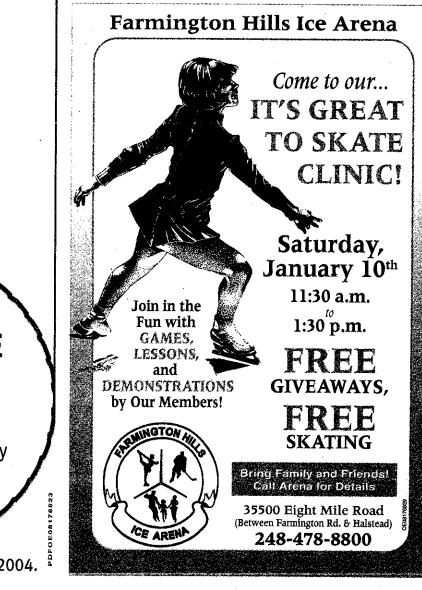
The open skate phone line is (734) 455-1782. For more information, call the Plymouth Recreation Office at (734) 455-6620.

#### **COACHES WANTED**

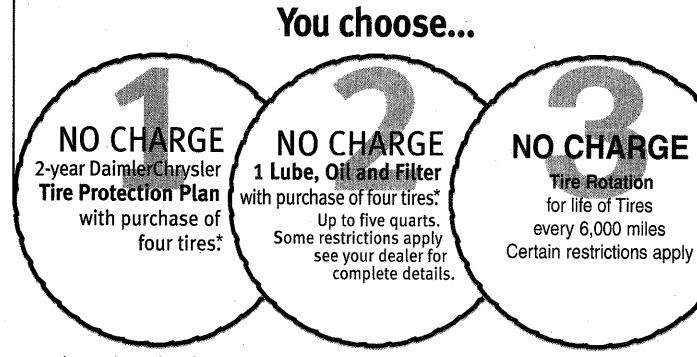
■ Plymouth High School is looking for a ninth-grade softball coach for the 2004 season.

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

■ Canton HS is accepting applications for a freshmen fastpitch softball coach. Experience in fastpitch softball is necessary. Contact Canton athletic director Sue Heinzman at (734) 416-2925.







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# Observer Life

C1 (\*) Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, January 4, 2004



# Devotion, love ruled relationship

everal months ago, a dear friend passed away who had such an angelic, loving spirit.

I admired her courage and strength a great deal.

For many years, Cindy Greschaw battled arthritis, a disease that primarily affects the joints and surrounding tissues, but can also affect other organ systems. Even though arthritis caused Cindy to be wheelchair-bound and in need of daily care, she always had a positive attitude.

Whenever I walked into a room, she would be sitting with a big smile ready to talk the day away. She would give me a hug, ready to hear what was going on in my life. She never complained about her health problems or pain. She focused on what was good in her life, such as family and friends.

Cindy's husband, Randy,

She never complained about her health problems or pain. She focused on what was good in her life, such as family and friends.

was her main caregiver. He took care of all her needs, making sure she was happy



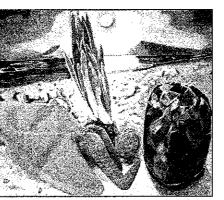
Dana Schutz is pictured at her parents' Livonia home, where some of her earliest work still hangs.

# American in Paris

# Local woman becomes internationally exhibited artist

Dana Schutz seems unchanged after nearly 10 years of living away from her Livonia home. Still smiling beneath a head of curls, the young artist is as enthusiastic about her painting as when she first picked up a tube of oils at age 15. Now 27, she's off to Paris for a one-woman show in January at the Emmanuel Perotin Gallery.

The New York Times and Village Voice are among the publications that have proclaimed Schutz an emerging artist to watch. Her meteoric rise is something she even finds hard to believe. Schutz never dreamed that she'd exhibit four pieces of work in the prestigious Venice Biennial as she did last June. The Venice Biennial was founded in 1895 as an international art exhibition in the Giardini di Castello. "It's been really amazing because I never thought this would happen so soon or at all," said Dana Schutz during an interview at her parents' Livonia home over the holidays. "I thought about giving tours on the buses in New York to survive while I was painting. It's really still amazing I thought maybe about doing shop windows." Instead, Schutz works everyday in her Harlem studio and teaches figurative painting at Columbia University. She originally moved to New York in 2000 to



Dana Schutz uses rich color to tell stories.

attend graduate school after earning a bachelor's degree from Cleveland Institute of Arts. She decided to remain in Manhattan even before receiving her master of fine arts from Columbia University.

"It's somewhere I always wanted to move," said Schutz. "For an artist it's an important place to be, so much art to see, everything you just read about in art history books." over the years. Vibrant, colorful paintings replace the dark, brooding ones done during her time at Stevenson High School in Livonia. Back then, she used her hands for tools. Now it's strictly brushes.

Scale is the same, though. In high school, Schutz worked large. In Cleveland, paintings shrank only to grow again. An 8-foot-tall painting of a guitarist seems almost surreal as he plays in a tropical setting. Her work is difficult to categorize. Sometimes it's abstract, but always figurative.

For a New York show, she painted a series based on a theme of the last man on earth. Her work can be seen on the Web site of the LFL Gallery in Chelsea which represents her – www.lflgallery.com./ Schutz first began to show there in 2001 and had a solo exhibit in 2002. Currently, she's in a group show there.

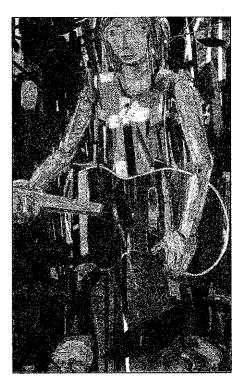
#### FAMILY TIES

Still, it's all so hard for her to believe. "I feel lucky because my parents have been so supportive," said Schutz, whose mother, Georgia, is now painting in her old studio in the basement since retiring from teaching art at Pioneer Middle School in Plymouth Township for 31 years. Georgia inspired Schutz to paint after bringing home oils. "She wasn't pushed," said Georgia Schutz, whose work is on exhibit at the Atrium Gallery in Northville. "Supplies were available. She took off on her own. I saw talent early on and once she hit ninth grade she became totally focused. I knew she was very hard-working and committed to what she was doing. She had set goals for herself but it was kind of meteoric."

'It's been really amazing because I never thought this would happen so soon or at all.'

www.hometownlife.com

Dana Schutz Former Livonia resident



This 8-foot tall painting is one of Dana Schutz's recent works.

Georgia, her husband, Dean, and former high school art teacher Connie Cronenwett are proud of Schutz's accomplishments – and reaping the benefits. All three traveled to Venice in June for the Biennial. Cronenwett recognized Schutz's talent during the four years she was her student. Now retired, Cronenwett is showing her work in the Livonia Civic Center Fine Arts Gallery in January with Churchill High School art teacher Phil Dimmer. She still substitute teaches in Livonia two days a week, hoping to recognize and encourage budding artists.

"I'm very pleased for her," said Connie Cronenwett. "Out of 33 years that I taught, she was one of three students who were exceptional in a couple of different ways. She's gifted. It's like breathing to her to work on her art. She would go home after school and paint for three to four hours.

"As a high school student, as many teens she was exploring the growing up issues. Some people found her work dark. I found it powerful because she

and safe.

Being a caregiver can be a very stressful job, especially when caring for a loved one. Randy loved Cindy deeply and always put her first.

One of my favorite memories of Randy and Cindy's relationship is from last year, when my mother gave a bridal shower for their niece.

When they arrived at my mother's home, Cindy happily explained that even though she was not able to help, her husband would under her supervision. This shows the love and respect they had for one another. I have a great respect for friends, family members and co-workers who care for loved ones.

It takes a special, caring, strong person to do this job.

Cindy and Randy were also lucky to have supportive friends and church community. People were often delivering meals and visiting with Cindy.

She also lived a very active life — from being taken shopping, lunches out and hair appointments. This outpouring of love and generosity Cindy and Randy receives is a perfect example of what holiday spirit is about.

It is not about receiving gifts or the amount of gifts received. It is about helping your fellow neighbor and showing affection to loved ones.

It is an amazing feeling to have after helping someone and no materialistic gift can beat it.

Have a happy safe holiday.

**Carrie Tynan** is a freelance writer from Livonia who writes on disability issues.

#### FOOD FOR SOUL

Trips to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney, and the nonprofit space Triple Candy in Harlem feed her artist's soul.

A typical morning routine for Schutz is to pick up coffee before heading to her studio at 133rd Street and 12th Avenue by the Hudson River. It's there in a building full of artists studios that she spends hours painting after sketching and drawing then mixing color – sometimes at length. Later she might take a break to visit a studio to see another artist's work. Each of these steps inspires the work which has changed

was delving emotionally and working things out, which she did. Her work now is brighter, freer, with more sense of light and vibrant color. I find myself entering a landscape which is recognizable, you might say it's a beach or tropical jungle with luxuriant plants, but within that landscape are figurative elements or remnants of part of our civilization. Those people or objects set up a tension in the viewer. She invites the viewer to bring their imagination to the painting so on one level you're rejoicing in the way she uses the color. It's so rich and glorious, a sensuous use of paint. On the other hand there's recognizable elements that make up this story you're viewing."

# Livonia teen works for the good of humanity

Kyle Sapkiewicz lives by his words. When the Livonia teen says, "People shouldn't let things stop them," he speaks from experience — lots of it. Hearing-impaired from birth, Sapkiewicz has seen and done more than many people in their entire lives.

When most juniors at Stevenson High School were hanging with friends, he was elbow to elbow with U.S. Sens. Carl Levin and Ted Kennedy, and former presidential candidate Al Gore. In fall of 2000, Sapkiewicz served first as a legislative intern in the Detroit office of Levin and then as a U.S. Senate page preparing chamber for daily business and assisting senators and staff in Washington D.C. Sapkiewicz was the first U.S. Senate page from Livonia, quite an accomplishment since the position is appointed.

A year later, he worked eight hours a day on the Gore presidential campaign. Now a sophomore at Western Michigan University, Sapkiewicz hopes to one day work in government. Currently he's majoring in public policy and administration.

"It was a wonderful experience for someone like me who loves government and history," Sapkiewicz said. "We had to get up at 4:30 a.m. and be at school by 6:15 so we could be getting the chamber ready by 9. We worked from 9 a.m. to about 9 p.m. It was quite a day."



But Sapkiewicz never tired, especially when the days included such memorable occurrences as Kennedy pulling him aside to tell him he thought he was one of the hardest-working pages he's ever seen.

The 19-year-old beams when telling this and other stories of his time in Washington D.C. and Detroit. Sapkiewicz is "interested in helping people" and believes government provides one way of doing that. One of his most rewarding experiences in Levin's office was calling the Pentagon to secure benefits for a veteran.

Another way Sapkiewicz helps is by volunteering his time to projects. In 2001 he and the rest of the youth group at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Livonia built three Habitat for Humanity homes in Dearborn. Participating in that effort earned him the Farmington Kohl's Kids Who Care Youth of the Year Award. Sapkiewicz was nominated by his older brother Nick who, with his parents, Bill and Becky, have encouraged him to stand up for what he believes in. The Observer Newspapers would like to honor children in the community who exemplify the spirit of giving. To nominate a child, please fill out and send in the form on page C2.

"I attribute my interests to my parents," Sapkiewicz said. "When experts say talk to your kids, listen — they did. We always watched Peter Jennings and the news together. They didn't just criticize politics. When they saw something they liked, they said so."

Bill Sapkiewicz is the one who nominated Kyle for Friday's Child, an Observer Newspapers series that recognizes young people making a difference. Although he was a carrier for five years, that is not a requisite.

"I'm proud of him," Bill Sapkiewicz said. "He's active in the community. He gave up Christmas break to work with neglected and abused children at Hope Haven Shelter in Mississippi."

Working with the children at Hope Haven is one of Sapkiewicz's more eyeopening experiences. He, along with seven other students, spent time playing basketball and pool with the children, sorting through donations and doing physical labor on the site as part of the Alternative Winter Program at Western Michigan University.



Kyle Sapkiewicz has fond memories of his days as a U.S. Senate Page in Washington, D.C. Here he's pictured with Sen. Ted Kennedy.

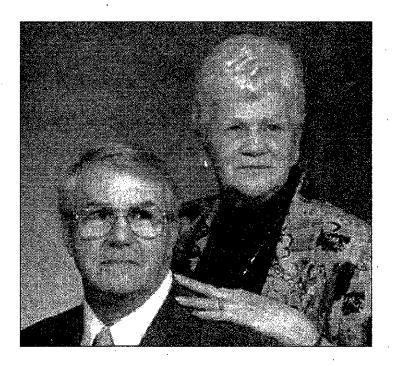
"One of the first things I noticed is that these kids are no different except for the fact they've gone through some horrible times," Sapkiewicz said. "What I took away with me the most was how little you have to do to make a difference in somebody's life to put a smile on their face."

## **COMMUNITY LIFE**

#### Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, January 4, 2004

#### www.hometownlife.com

#### ANNIVERSARIES AND ENGAGEMENTS



#### Gray

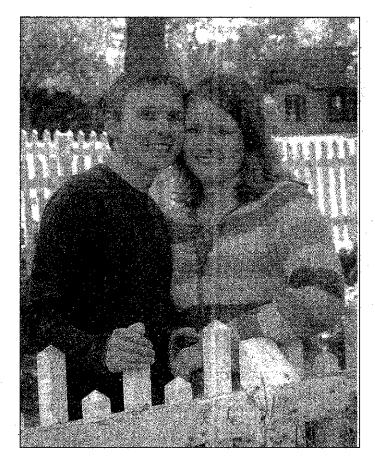
C2 (\*)

> Issac and Laurel Gray celebrated their 50th anniversary with a family dinner at the Hawthorne Country Club Dec. 27. They were married Jan. 1, 1954, at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Bethesda, Ohio. Their children are: Randall (Michele) Gray of Pueblo West, Colo.; Mitchell Gray, deceased; Kelly (Grif) Garner of Wayne, Mich. and Scott (Sheri) Gray of Wayne, Mich. They have 10 grandchildren, Ryan, Sarah, Emily, Dylan, Kelsey, Kayla, Joshua, Natalie, Blake and Jacob.



#### Soltesz

Joseph and Jane Soltesz of Livonia recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a luncheon for 120 friends and family at the Dearborn Inn. The Solteszes were married in Albuquerque, N.M., and have lived in Livonia for 48 years. Honoring their parents' special day were Deborah and her husband, Kyle Harris, of Texas; Laurel and her husband, Robert Jones, of Missouri; Christopher and his wife, Ann, of Texas; and Sara and her husband, Anthony Lisznyai, of Hillsdale, Mich. Oldest grandsons, Justin and Nathan Jones, presented a prayer in German and English from their great, great grandmother's home. The younger grandchildren, Eric and Elyse Lisznyai and Daniel and Matthew Soltesz each gave a meal prayer. Joe taught in Detroit and Jane in Ferndale. Both volunteer with the Livonia Historical Commission,



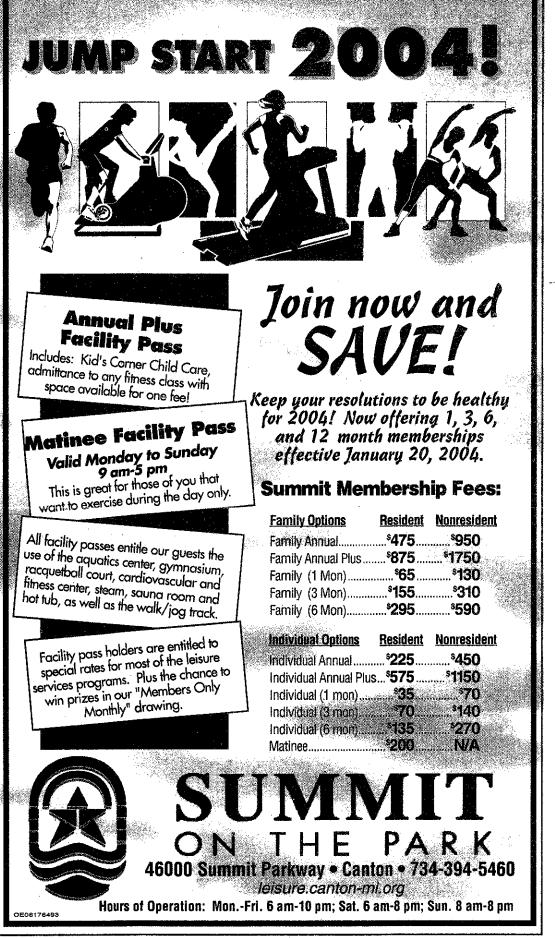
#### Jolley-Harden

Jenelle Louise Jolley of Novi and William Robert Harden of Livonia will be married May 14, 2004, at St. John's Chapel of Plymouth.

Jenelle is the daughter of Jeffrey Jolley and Janet Stock of Novi. She is attending Wayne State University.

William is the son of Robert and Deborah Harden of Livonia. He is a graduate of Northwood University and employed in automotive marketing.

Friday's Name:	Observer Newspaper serves by telling the in mind that a generous spirit often has li	ir story. You can help us do so by ttle to do with grade-point averag ipers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia M	We want to honor all the Friday's children i nominating a child in grades 6-12 who exem les; rather, it grows and is nurtured in child I 48150. Contact him at (734) 953-2149 or fa	plifies the spirit of giving.Keep	Classes teach kids to be a star Theatre Livonia is offering another session of Home School Theatre.
Phone number:	School:	Grade:	Homeroom teacher:	·	C.J. Nodus, director of Paper Bag Productions, Main Stage
School organizations:			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		Theatre Guild and Livonia Youtheatre, is offering eight weeks of classes 1:30-3 p.m.
Community volunteer organizati	ons:				Tuesdays beginning Jan. 13. The cost is \$35 per child and covers all materials. A perform-
Reasons for nominating this child	d:		· ·		ance will be held the evening of the eighth session. To register, visit the theater
Nominator's name and phone nu	mber:				located in Livonia Mall, Seven Mile and Middlebelt, at the end of corridor G across from the pet store. Use the G entrance on the north side of the mall.
	a waad daan kasa daan kasa suu kasi yasi sisi dasi dasi		nan mening industri karat karat karat takan karat karat.	and sud and shee such and the set	Registration is due on or before Jan. 13. For more, call Nodus at (586) 344-7774 or Debbie Lousignau at (313) 537-4723.



# Students put philanthropy into action

For the holidays, Detroit Country Day students participated in projects to help the less fortunate.

At the Upper School, the Community Service Club participated in the fourth annual Bloomfield Hills Optimist Club Holiday Gift Project. The students purchased, wrapped and donated gifts to 135 children ages three to 16.

At the Middle School, the Student Council raised \$10,000 for the Gateways Adult Community in Bloomfield Hills, \$5,500 for St. Jude Research Hospital and \$4,500 for the Humane Society; while the

Community Service Club delivered 2.500 pounds of food and supplies to the Wellness House of Michigan.

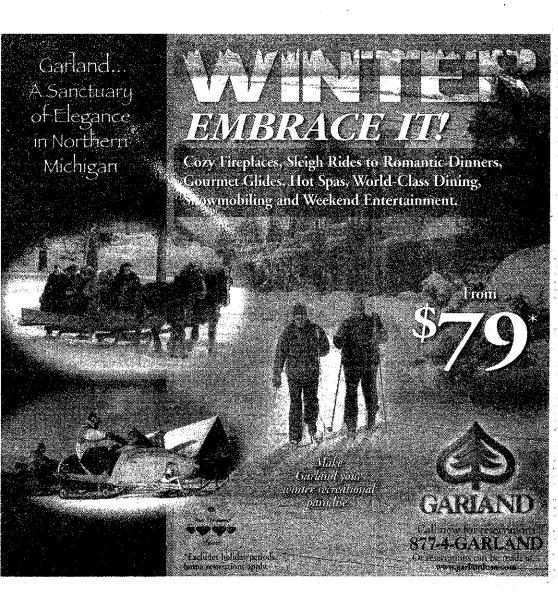
Sixth- grade students provided hands-on help during a Service Learning Day, which placed them in local community service organizations like Focus: Hope and Gleaner's Food Bank for the day.

And, as part of an ongoing eighth- grade class called "Character In Action," students volunteered at a local soup kitchen and a shelter for abused women and children.

"Our students and faculty are committed to a spirit of philan-

thropy - not only during the holiday season, but all year long," said Gerald Hansen, Detroit Country Day School headmaster "Under the leadership of our devoted teachers, students are making a meaningful difference in the lives of others at a local level."

Detroit Country Day is an independent, coeducational, college preparatory school offering a liberal arts pre-kindergarten through 12th grade education. Detroit Country Day serves more than 1,550 students on its four Birmingham/Beverly Hills-area campuses. Online: www.dcds.edu.



## **COMMUNITY LIFE**



The Scouts of Pack 750 in Livonia recently donated more than 75 stuffed animals to St. Mary Mercy Hospital's Emergency Center.

# Cub Scouts donate stuffed animals to ER

On Dec. 16, Julie Sproul was delighted to receive more than 75 stuffed animals from the Cub Scouts of Pack 750 on behalf of children coming into the Emergency Center at St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

The Scouts did odd jobs around the house to earn money so they could go shopping with their parents to purchase the furry toys for the project.

The boys, students in grades one through five at Kennedy Elementary School, are part of a pack chartered by St. Maurice Catholic Church in Livonia.

Pack Cubmaster Ed Zulik says the scouts have donated to St. Mary Mercy Hospital's Emergency Center for the last four years as part of their annual Holiday Service Project.

Last year one of the Scouts was given one of the stuffed animals when he was an emergency patient.

"It's truly a gift that lasts throughout the year," said Sproul, director of the hospital's marketing and public relations, "and appreciated by children and their families, very comforting for children in an emergency situation."

# Church youth director's talk uncovers lies in popular culture

Sara Grivas wants young people to learn from her mistakes.

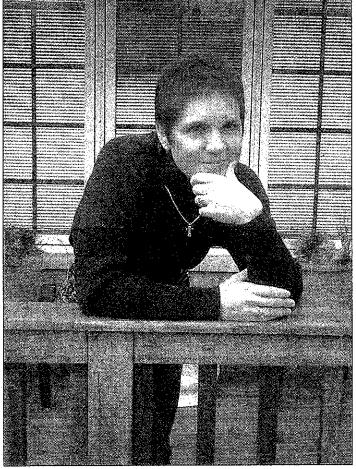
That's why she's working with youth at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Livonia along with speaking around the country about sex, drugs, violence, pornography, suicide and teen crime.

The 40-year old Livonia resident is warning parents that today's music, video games, movies, and television programs are leading youth astray. To the teens she says having pre-marital sex, doing drugs, drinking, and violence are not cool. After graduating from Churchill High School in Livonia and enrolling in the engineering program at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, Grivas became pregnant out of wedlock. Later, she married, had a second child and then "due to her actions" ended up divorced. She went back to Lawrence Technological University only to become pregnant with her third child, the second time out of wedlock. Through this entire time she was an atheist. Then in

1997, she married and became a Christian which led her to St. Luke Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor where she became an intern in youth ministry.

"My heart's always wanted to talk to kids and I blew it," said Grivas who's spoken at national music festivals, leadership conferences, and helped co-author a devotional titled "Fifty."

Grivas presents a "True





# Struck (Jan. 4-Jan. 7) By Dénnis Fairchild



#### ARIES (March 21-April 20)

It long last, someone in a position of authority may be prepared to offer you a helping hand but only in exchange for your unswerving lovalty. (Ugh-o.) Before you accept, be sure that you understand the full implications of what you are being offered- and why:

#### TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

Even adverse and challenging astro influences over the next few days urge you to become more forthright, forceful, and self-confident. Above all, Bull, realize that the many changes now taking place in your life are Heaven-sent and ought to be accepted as such.

#### GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

It really feels like a high-pressure off with the old and on with the new, eh? Your ruling planet Mercury is telling you that the rung of the ladder was never meant to rest upon- but only to hold your foot long enough to put the other a step higher. Act, now!

### CANCER (June 22-July 23)

You are being far too sensitive about something another said or you overheard. An inner-planet alliance over the next few days will enable you to smooth ruffled feathers while giving others the chance to smooth yours. This is no time to turn an ally into an enemy.

#### LEO (July 24-Aug 23)

laving staked your claim for better things, it's now a matter of keeping up the pressure and making sure others are aware. Self-confidence breeds success. Act as if you are in total control, even though you may not have a clue what's going on. It makes sense soon.

#### VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23)

ou're in danger of underestimating your need for others now, particlarly when it comes to what should clearly be a team endeavor. Delegate and decide next week. You stand to gain more through sharing potential accolades or tasks now than doing everything yourself.

#### LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23)

- - No matter how close you feel to someone, there is always the danger of crossed wires. Spell out your feelings about recent events clearly and concisely, and reduce any likelihood of any future misunderstand ings for '04. You have nothing to lose, and mucho to gain.

#### **SCORPIO** (Oct 24-Nov 22)

- Speak your mind over the next few days, especially where important career or financial matters are concerned. But make sure your
  - assumptions are backed up by facts or you run the risk of alienating colleagues and family. It's time to schedule ongoing afternoon naps.

#### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

- You're now given a chance to initiate, revitalize or resume a love affair or redefine your must-do list for love. However, be sure to
- assess the long-term cost- materially, morally and emotionally. Think twice. Next week's last-minute disclosures deliver facts and clarity.

#### CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 21)

Your finances still leave much to be desired but, with cosmic forces in your sign edging you toward an important resolution, you will soon be n a position to make more desirable (even essential) changes. Don't believe everything you're told right now.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 22-Feb 19)

The time has come to share a responsibility that is making too great a weight on your pocket or your patience. As long as you're prepared to shoulder the full weight of the burden, others will be only too happy lo let you, kiddo. Only you can call a halt!

#### PISCES (Feb 20-March 20)

was a year of far-reaching changes, unexpected developmen

Lies" Youth Talk at 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 11, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church. 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, Livonia. True Lies (www.truelies.org) is an organization that examines trends in popular culture in video games, music, television, movies and the Internet, providing valuable information to students, parents, ministers, congregations, educators and others who communicate and work with teenagers.

The presentation, featuring several photographs and video clips, is not suitable for small children as there is material shown which is inappropriate for them to view. "It's a program for anyone

Sara Grivas hopes youth learn from mistakes.

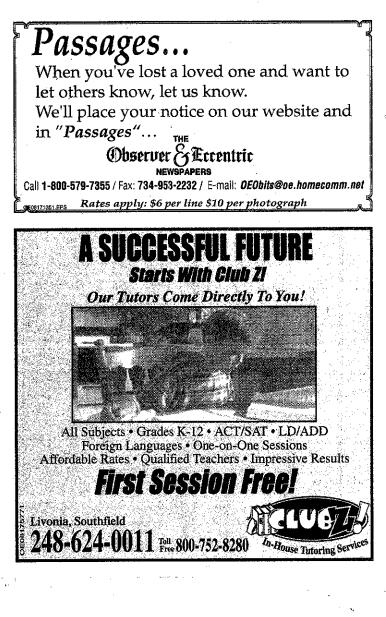
who works or lives with teens, and the teens themselves," said Grivas. "We want to help them make decisions. Three years ago I didn't know what

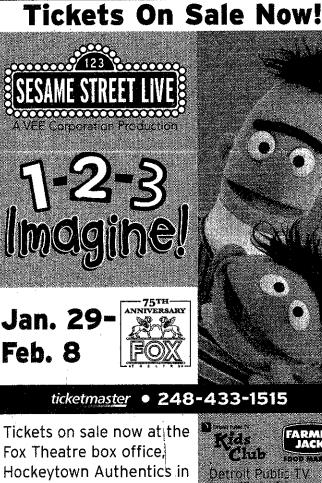
was out there - the video games and music that promotes sex, violence and driveby shootings. It's all about education."

and, sadly, some separation. However, even during the darkest days you should have been aware that you are traveling in the right direction. It's time to grow up and stop dwelling on the past.

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







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locations, including

Marshall Field's.



#### WALK INTO MY LIFE Loving and compassionate, SWF, 58, 5'6", sait & pepper hair, blue SMILE WITH ME Laid back and kind SBCF, 40, fullfigured. Enjoys movies, dining out, church functions and quality time eves, medium build. Enloys working on cars, gardening, knitting and cooking. Looking for a SWM, attractive a

with family. Seeking good-natured nded SBCM

camping, the outdoors, Harley's and much more. In search of a

height/weight proportioned SWM,

over 18, who is outgoing, with

similar interests Ad#:577503

HONESTY ABOVE ALL

A DECENT LADY Attractive, Intelligent, fun-loving, SWF, 66. Enjoys simple pleasures. Willing to meet a SWM, 60 plus,

· National

Enjoys golfing, hunting, fishing, cooking, music and more. Sseking a SWF, 40-55, who is attractive, fit, slim, honest and sincere. Ad#:581082

pleasant. Ad#:580747

DWM, 50, athletic, brown hair, blue

eyes, 5' 9", 175 lbs. Seeking a

SBM, 43, 6'4", nice-looking, kind, friendly and very giving. He enjoys playing chess, basketball, cards and dominos. Seeking a SF, 18-50,

for a possible relationship. Ad#:580413

SWM, 45, 6'2", 235 lbs, with a full head of hair. I love life and live it to the fullest. Looking for a long term

relationship. Let's talk and see

SWM, 49, hardworking, 5'8", 175 Ibs. Seeking a SWF, 45-48, who is

easygoing, intelligent and fit, for a long-term relationship in the Redford area only. No E-mails

SWM, 49, looks 39, knows how to treat a lady, someone who has a nice build and a pleasant personal-

ity. I am looking for a woman that

is looking for a good man. Hope to

hear from you as soon as possible

This 28 year old SWM is seeking a SF, 24-32, for friendship first and then a possible LTR. He might be

shy at first, but once you get to

know him he is very outgoing.

SEE WHERE THE NIGHT TAKES

Redford area. Ad#:411537

TIRED OF BEING ALONE

niessel Ad# 406401

I~M YOUR GUY

SHY AT FIRST

Ad#:579474

we have in common

fident and positive. Ad#:580705

SWF, 38-46, who is petite,

BOOST MY EGO!

A SWEETHEART

FAMILY MAN!

Ad#:579620

what

BE TRUE SBM, 42, tail, dark complexion, cars and some sports. Looking for a kind and caring SF, who is look-

outgoing and fun-loving. Enjoys a ing to get married one day and have a family. Ad#:471396 wide variety of interests. Seeking

DON

60. 60, for Ad#:577329

NO STRESS HERE

shine! Ad#:577003

Ad#:568183

only. Ad#:576294

CONVERSE WITH ME

WU STRESS HERE SWM, 51, 5'5", 150 Ibs., hazel eyes, brown hair, mustache. Looking for a SWF, 40-50, friends first and then go from there. Ad#:577164

movies, good conversation, the

60-63, who's out going, lots of fun 40-48. Ad#:577548 and enjoys life. Ad#:593076 LYING IS NOT AN OPTION

#### SOFT SPOKEN LADIES SWF, 51, 5' 3", with very blue eyes, who enjoys quiet times, camping, reading, long walks, etc. Searching for a SWM, 47-57, who likes doing things and likes to cud-dle. Ad#:580885

#### TIME AT HOME SBF, 27, 5'9", with long black hair. GET ALONG GREAT Outgoing and fun-loving, SW Mother, 21, who enjoys dining, Enjoys reading, drawing, crafts, fixing things and more. Looking movies, walks and meeting new with a nice personality. Ad#:588934 a SCM, 24-38, who is hones people, especially a SWM, 21-30. Ad#:577137

CUTE BLONDE WIDOW **MY HEART & YOURS** I'm 5', 105 lbs., 58, romantic SBF, 50, who enjoys playing chess and bowling, seeking a family-ori-ented, SM, 45-60. If you think you secure SF seeking a nice-looking , 5'7" to 6', slim to mediu build, who enjoys dancing, golf be interested, call me may be in Ad#:584996 live theater and good conversation. Macomb County, Ad#:403562

### LOOKING FOR LTR 🖉

SWF, 59, easygoing, low mainte-nance, 5'3", with an average build. Looking for a loving, caring, happy, financially stable, SWM, 55-65, for a long-term relation-bia. 614/500500 Want to be spoiled? I'm a fun-lov-ing, SWF, 55, tail, with green eyes & blondish-brown hair, who enjoys movies, camping, sewing, cooki and time at home. Looking for ship. Ad#:582529 sincere, warm, genuine, SWM, 55 NOT YOUR ORDINARY WOMAN 68, who enjoys life. Must be a non-

smoker, Ad#:543693 Youthful, charming, energetic, SBF, 47, 5'4", 140 lbs, Seeks SM, GOOD-NATURED 38-55, for healthy, monogamous relationship. You should be finan-SWF, 55, 6'1", medium build, col lege graduate, non-smoker. Enjoys cially, emotionally and spiritually working out, theater, movies, walk stable, Race open, Serious replies only. Ad#:582670 6'3"

#### A DIFFERENT KIND OF AD

Petite white female, 61, sort of oute and smart, spiritual and sp ited. Living with some health challenges. Seeks an honest, happy or male, tired of facino his challenges alone and ne some tender, loving, care. Grea cook. writer, philosopher. Ad#:572333

# BE MY BEST FRIEND Very kind and caring, SWF, 46, 5'4", medium build, blue-eyed

SWF, 35, enjoys races, fishing, camping and much more. In search of a tail SWM, 35-45, for blonde. Enjoys traveling, casinos friendship to start. Ad#:573872 fishing, archery and antiques Seeks an intellectual, SWM, 46 SAVVY LADY 60, for fun times. Ad#:532617 Cuddly, SWF, young-looking 52,

short, full-figured, Irish look-a like, **CARING, DECENT & HONEST** energetic & good-natured. My intelligent, humorous, outgoing, SWF, 48, who enjoys reading, long enjoyments are theatre, movies staying at home. I would like to quiet nights at home. In search of a caring, si cere, SWM, 45-58. Ad#:581965 meet an easy going, good friend, Ad#:562687

#### LET'S GET TOGETHER SWF, 61, 5' 3", with auburn hair

and brown eyes, who enjoys golf,

dancing, cooking and traveling, it you are a SWM, 59-66, and have

milar Interests call me soon!

R-E-S-P-E-C-T SBF, 34, looking for a stable, communicative, honest, respectful, educated, SM, 25-45, Could this be you? Ad#:57368 SOUND LIKE YOU?

#### COMPANIONSHIP

Ad#:580825

Expecting mother, with one child. Separated black female, 26. Looking for an open-minded sin gle male, over 18, who enjoys chil-dren. for companionship. companionship Ad#:580709

SEEKING KINDRED SPIRIT European, SWF, 58, 5'6", 135 lbs. blonde, with a variety of interests, Looking for a SW gentleman, 60-75, to share life together. 75, to si Ad#:579633

honest gentleman, to share fun with. Ad#:567167 SWF, 41, 5'6", 130 lbs., with blond hair and brown eyes. Interests are

#### DON'T HESITATE. I'm ready for fun & laughter: SBF, 46, 6', a smoker, social drinker. I enjoy watching sports and travel-ing. I'm searching for a SBM, 55-70, who shares my interests. 70, who shares my interests. Ad#:503750

ARE YOU THE LOVING TYPE? Respectful, SBF, 29, 5'2", light skin, red hair. Enjoys sports, movies and shopping. Looking for an attractive, SM, 18-35, who is loving, open-minded & intelligent. Ad#:565558

#### HOW ABOUT US? SWF, 61 years old, social drinker. Enjoys walks, working out, photog-raphy, dining out and more. Seeks a warm, honest, secure, essygo-ing, SWM, 57-68. Ad#:564711

ONE OF A KIND SWF, 48, attractive, intelligent, lov ing and dedicated. Seeking a SWM, 45+, a N/S, who is sincere, Intelligent, humorous and honest, for a long-term, devoted relationship. Ad#:448774

#### **COMPARE INTERESTS**

Thin, SWPF, 55, 5'7", attractive, brown-eyed brunette, seeks tall, energetic, trusting and d, SWM, 50-60, N/S athletic educated, SWM, 50-6 Please call... Ad#:563521 JUST ME.. SB Mom, 18, 5'8", dark complexion, a smoker. Likes going to the mail, watching TV and movies. Looking for a sincere SBM, 18-26. Ad#:563856

UNDERSTANDING SBF, 49, with black hair and brown eyes. Enjoys music, singing, the outdoors, etc. Searching for a SBF, 40-55, who is educated, fun-loving and communicative. Ad#:56\*932 PURSUE ME

#### LOOKING FOR FUN

and more. Seeking a SWM, ' plus, 53-62, who is well-

groomed and professional, for friendship first. Ad#:470261

SBF, 19, short, long hair, brown eyes, tattoos and piercing's. Enjoys

coing to the movies, talking on the

and hanging ou

friends. Looking for a SM, age unimportant, just to talk to. If Inter-

ested, please call! Ad#:574234

SOMEONE TO TALK TO

SB Mom, 23, 5'8", searching for a fun-loving SBM, 22-32, with ambition and goals. Must love kids. Ad#:561855

#### ALL AROUND GOOD WOMAN Funny, gulet-natured SBF, 31, 5'8".

weight proportionate, light complexion, proportionate, ingit com-plexion, hazel eyes, one son. Enjoys reading, movies and family time. Looking for an up-front SBM, 32-40. Ad#:561671 SIMPLE GIRL

#### SWM, 45-55, for nice times. Fun to be around SWF, 27, 5'2".

Enjoys walking, reading and writ-ing. Seeking a SWM, 23-35, who enjoys children and having a good time. Ad#:561516 SOMETHING MISSING 🖉

56 years young, want a special friend in my life. Missing the little things: a hug, a kiss, holding hands. Enjoys just about every-thing, but missing the most impor-Outgoing, SBF, 21, 5'5", 155 lbs., seeking a tail, truthful, silly but serious, SM, 29-50, preferably with no children, employed, with tant thing... the other half in my life. Ad#:406107

#### transportation. Ad#:573465 ONLY TIME WILL TELL Single, white lady, 70, 5'5", 125 lbs., blonde, blue eyes, easy to get

along with. She has very versatile interests, and wishes to meet an honest, white gentleman, who is truly single, 65-75, to start out as iends. Ad#:571130

DO WE CLICK? I SWF 45 5'2" fullfigured, enjoys spontaneous fun, fishing and horses. Seeking best friend, companion first, N/S, N/D, professional DB/WM, with real heart. Ad#:557779

SUGAR & SPICE DWF, 55, loves animals, God, nature, interior decorating and I'm seeking companionshi more. with SWM, 54-65, someone to talk with and care about. Ad#:557587

**BIG & BEAUTIFUL** Happy to meet you, outgoing, sociable, artist, 70, avid reader, movie fan, with many, many hob-bles. Seeking well-groomed SWM, 65-75, down-to-earth. Let's meet.

#### Ad#:556080 **BIG & BEAUTIFUL** Laid-back, loving SWF, 33, values family and friends. Seeking friend-ly, upbeat, humorous SWM, 26-29, with similar characteristics, for platonic relationship, Ad#:556339 BEAUTIFUL

SB Mom, 24, 5'5", 130 lbs., seeks nice-looking SBM, 24-30, who likes to have fun. Ad#:555886 SUNSHINE IN YOUR LIFE

#### SBF, 30, 5'7", 127 lbs., light skinned, short hair. Funny, outgoing, and always bring sunshine to the room. Enjoys bowling, skating, partying, and cooking. Looking for a SM, 25-42, with similar interests, can make her smile Ad#:555400

#### FROM THE HEART Funny, honest, outgoing SWF, 49,

5'6", medium build, auburn-brown hair, hazel eyes. Enjoys bowling darts, shooting pool, long walks & dining out. Hoping to find an open funny SWM, 45-60, with like interests, to share special times togeth er. Ad#:539251

### JUST BE YOURSELF Young-looking, SBF, 18, with light brown eyes, outgoing, carefree, straightforward, avid reader,

writer. Looking for goal-oriented, SM, 18-22, same attributes. Ad#:554301 VIVACIOUS Attractive SWF, 46, seeking secure, special, intellectual, sometimes crazy SWM, with similar traits. Must be daring and risk-

#### taker. Ad#:553757

FROM THE HEART She's a lovely SWF, 29, who values family first, enjoys tractor pulling to theater and the Arts. Seeking happy family man, 27-40, for friendship first, with varied inter-ests. Ad#:552859

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Tall. SWM, 28. whose personality

is easygoing, fun-loving and some-times a jokester. Loves spending

time with his son. He would like to

meet a SWE 21-30, who is e

going and laid back. Ad#:574799

LOVE & BE LOVED

tionship. Ad#:583714

LTR. Ad#:559315

Ad#:416125

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LOVE THE OUTDOORS

SWM, 56, 5'7", medium build. Loves the outdoors. Seeks fit lady,

courte romance. Shiawassee County. Ad#:403918

LOOKING FOR COMPANIONSHIP

SWM, 57, retired GM employee

LET'S RELAX & HAVE FUN

SOAR WITH ME E I am a SWM, 61, pilot who enjoys sand and sun, beaches, warm weather, flying, travel, etc. I would like to mset a SF, 48-58, in the White Lake area, All calls returned. Ad#:481076

#### ATTENTION LADIES.

Spontaneous, fun loving, SBM, 42, 5'9", 180 lbs., brown complexion, short hair. Interests include church, basketball, movies, sight seeing and walks. Looking SBF, 25-46, who's stable, trust worthy, fun, educated and loving. Ad#:591875

#### AMBITIOUS SEIM 45 5'11", with black bair

Described as outgoing, ambitious and optimistic. Enjoys writing, biking, tennsis, hiking, sight-seeing and much more. Leoking for a SAF, over 18, who is outgoing, sociable, personable, with similar interests. Ad#:589715 Self-employed, SWM, 33, enjoys concerts, fairs, comedy clubs and so much more. Looking for a pas-sionate, romantic, SWF, 18-45, who is looking for a serious rela-

#### **RESERVED, BUT OUTGOING**

DM, 42, 5'8", 180 lbs., with an average build. Interests are hunt-Ing, fishing, volleyball, snowshoe-ing and more. Looking for a SF, who is spontaneous, outgoing, eniovs the outdoors and trying any thing once. Ad#:588055

#### FIRST TIME AD

SWM, 36, N/D, N/S, drug-free. 5'8", dark hair, loves animals. Does not drive. Looking for kind woman of similar age to enjoy each other's company and long lasting friendtionship. Ad#:582557 ship. Ad#:609908 LOOKING FOR LOVE SEARCHING FOR YOU 6'5", SWM, 39, who likes concerts dining, sporting events. Would like

#### a SWF, 21-39, to spend quality time with and possibly a

HELLO LADIES.. Good-hearted, loving, caring sometimes funny, SWM, 49, 6'1" SBM, 18, Looking for a SBF, 20-25, to party with. No strings attached brown hair/eyes, in search of an Ad#:583894 understanding, SWF, 38-49.

#### SHY GUY

SWM, 28, 5'10", 210 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes. Interests include Single white male, 45, 6'2", 209 going to concerts, dinner and hanging out and having a good time. Looking for a SWF, 21-27. Ad#:583368 lbs. muscular athletic, brown hair, blue eyes, clean-cut, degree, never married, no dependents, outgoing personality. Enjoys roller blading, working out, etc. Seeks a friendly, single female. Wayne County. Ad#:404066 SHARE BLESSED DAYS SBCM, 60, looking for a SCF. 45-

# SWM, 40, 5'10", 160 lbs., physl-

ARE YOU SINCERE? cally fit and attractive. Easygoing and energetic, interests include Seeking female, 60-75, petite, fun to be with, likes to quiet life and has sharing time together, having a good time and being true. Looking a for an honorth time to build a loving & honest relationship. I have many interests, am 69, in the Flint area. Don't wait, an honest and sincere SWF, 25-40, who knows what she wants, for

Enjoys bowling, cooking, camping and much more. Looking for a SWF, 21-38, for a long-term rela-

#### SWM, 39, 5'6", 160 lbs., with long US blond hair. Interests are music, SWM, 45, 5'10", with brown hair movies, walking and much more. Looking for a SF, 25-42, who is caring, loving, easygoing and hor est. Ad#:584355

SWM, 52, with brown hair and a mustache. Enloys dining out, the outdoors, etc. Looking for a SWF, 40-53, who is looking for a long-term relationship. Flint area. Ad#:420370

call now! Ad#:403527

### Enjoys fishing, hunting, water sports and much more. In search of a SF, 25-65, who is fun to be with. Ad#:579382 INTRODUCE YOURSELF SWM, 30, 5'8", brown hair and eyes. Hobbies and Interests include, playing basketball and softball. Looking for a SF, 24-36,

55. non-smoker, non-drinker, who enjoys attending church functions. Ad#:582715

#### ONE MAN FOR YOU who is easy going and fun to be around, Ad#:579342 hair and eves, clean cut. Searching for a weight/height-proportioned, monogamous SWF, 35-55, who enjoys gardening, long drives, country life, and the simple things life has to offer. Ad#:557006 IN SEARCH OF LOVE

#### THE PERFECT MAN Handsome, SBM, 35, 5'10", nice smile. I'm nice, honest & respectful. I enjoy cars, sports, sightse-ing & life in general. I am ready to

good, strong relationship. Ad#:564348 HARLEY DAVIDSON MAN meet an attractive, slim to mee built, respectful, sincere SF, 100-160 ibs., who's marriage/familyminded. Ad#:561918

1 am 6', with brown hair, outgoing, fun, SWM, 42, with many hobbies. Seeking fun, adventurous, out-doors woman, 30-45, with similar interests. Ad#:571055 GIVE A CALL I'm a SBM, 47, 6'1", 200 lbs., who

M-Male, B-Black, El-East Indian, F-Female, C-Christian, W-White, A-Asian, S-Single, WW-Widowed, N/S-Non-Smoker, NA-Native American, H-Hispanic

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enjoys movies, concerts, and sports. I'm seeking an attractive, sportaneous, ourvy, well-propor-tioned, SBF, 37-50, 56"-6", with a light complexion. Ad#:575427

SWM, 46, 5'1", salt/pepper auburn hair, smoker. Looking for SWF, 52-60, for companionship.

# PIBSS 2 to CHAT LIVE or

leave a voice message for any of them right new!

#### HAVE FUN TOGETHER

BRING OUT MY SHINE SBM, 21, 5'10", 185 lbs., brown eyes, short wavy hair, medium SBM, 61, 6'1", with short hair, and brown eyes. Into racquetball, build. Enjoys having fun. Locking for a SF, 18-25, to bring out his roller-skating, walks & football Looking to meet an understandwith a good sense of Humorous, complimenting, SWM, 46, 5'11", enjoys dining, Church,

#### humor. Ad#:575348 WHY CAN~T WE BE FRIENDS ...

outdoors, relaxing and more. Seeking an attractive, well-groomed, SWF, 35-50. Crazy and funny SHM, 33, 5'6" 195 lbs., tattoos, N/S, non-drinker Searching for a spontaneous SF for friendship and possibly more. Age not an issue. Ad#:574155

#### VOURS TRULY

COMMON INTERESTS? Secure, SWM, 32, 5'8", blue eyes, brown hair. Loves cooking, DWM, 61, 5'10", brown hair, movies, sports and kids. Looking for a SWF, 25-36, height/weight white hair with various interests proportionate. Genesee County In search of sincere, D/SWF, 40-60. for companionship and relationship. Ad#:573810 NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING

#### **GENTLE SOUL**

is non-judgmental just like me.

per hair. Enjoys woodworking

movies, and working on cars 8

his house. Seeking a well-bal-

anced, SWF, 45-57, to share life

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GAINED D 20 SWM. 51. with brown hair and a Others say, I'm funny, compaswide variety of interests. Searching for a petite to average built, SF, 38sionate, loving, huggable, SBM, 33, 242 lbs., bald, tove to joke 54, who is down--earth, sincere around. Looking for an volup-tuous, SHF, 29-36, someone who and honest. Ad#:419021

#### ARCHERY LOVER SWM, 51, 6'2", 230 lbs., outdoor guy who is honest, clean-cut and trustworthy. Seeking a tall, good-looking girl with a nice figure who also enjoys archery. Ad#:575961 NUBIAN KING SBM, 31, strong, sincere, gentie, THE TIME IS NOW

SWM, 50, 5'11", 195 lbs., brown

eves and blond hair. I'm fun

dependable, outgoing, hardwork ing, and I love NASCAR! Hope t

meet a caring, honest, responsible SF, under 55, who has time for a

æ

with greer

DON'T USE ME... Very fit SWM, 40, 6'2

Just here to meet a nice SF, whose caring and interested in a THE TIME IS NOW Outgoing and caring SWM, 20, 5'5", 155 lbs., brown hair and green eyes. Enjoys the outdoors, movies, sports, animals and cud-ding. In search of a funny and out-going SWF, 19-27, who is willing to share her life. Ad#:575891 one-on-one relationship Ad#:571594 WORTH A CALL Quiet, shy SWM, 51, 6', 210 lbs., disabled, brown eyes, salt & pep-

Ad#:572149

### **ASTROLOGY**

# Local astrologers read the stars What's your sign? Here's what

Goodbye, 2003, and good riddance.

The year 2004 - and beyond - is bound to be better. One look to the stars and

you'll see why: A major astrological aspect

in June heralds an eight-year opportunity to secure peace, reverse environmental damage and encourage scientific breakthroughs.

That's according to astrologer and bookstore owner Robert Thibodeau.

And during 2004 Americans become more attuned to the healing benefits of whole foods and diet. Astrologer and Observer & Eccentric columnist Dennis Fairchild also says that by 2012 the medical insurance health care system won't look anything like it does today.

The Observer & Eccentric asked both men to make a few predictions for 2004. Fairchild combined Western and Eastern astrology. The Western system uses zodiac signs and interprets the position and influence of stars. moon and sun on a birth date; the Eastern system uses one of 12 animals assigned to each birth year, as well as water, earth, metal, fire and wood elements.

Thibodeau uses the Western system.

"I'm an astrological researcher. I make astrological

'l predict sports so people will think there's something to astrology and we can have a bigger conversation."

#### **Robert Thibodeau** Astrologer

predictions so I can grab the attention of the mass media and mass public, so then I can talk about spirituality, organic gardening, meditation, vegetarianism and doing yoga," Thibodeau said. "I'm good at (predicting) football and basketball games and I hate spectator sports. I predict sports so people will think there's something to astrology and we can have a bigger conversation.

"I'm a predictive astrologer so I can help people see what's coming, so they can be prepared.

Fairchild, who learned astrology from his grandmother, practices it because "it's real and it's fun."

Like Thibodeau, he likes talking about issues broader than a single prediction. Health, for example, is a favorite topic.

"My hope is to inspire people to not be sad about yester-

day and to pull their feet up (and get moving) for today ... and give them hope that you may have to shovel the driveway tomorrow, but you can do it," Fairchild said.

Thibodeau predicts most homeowners in the Detroit metro area literally will shovel out after New Year's. He predicts severe weather for New Year's Eve.

Here are a few other forecasts:

#### Fairchild

Howard Dean, a Scorpio Earth Rat, is hard-working, social and money-conscious, intellectual and determined. His very being resonates strongly with America's horoscope - however, not during pre-election time. He does well in early '04; things start to stink after spring.

President George W. Bush is bullish with voters at election time and looks to be the winner. Bush sparks an embarrassing decade-long swan song for Republicans in 2008. A good Iraq will not save America from a bad economy in the years following the election.

Red Wings rule late season. Pistons firings fly high early in season; 40 percent new/replaced players.

GM makes great strides for employee pensions this year,

but is slo-mo in car sales.

#### Pontiac Solstice sales start high, fall low.

Bill Ford earns positive applause during next few years as Ford flies high with auto innovations and revolutionary new CEOs. Expect new southeastern headquarters before 2012. Thibodeau

Economy - I predict the economy is going to come up slowly but surely. After the election, it's going to be really strong.

**President** – The last year and a half I've been predicting Dean would be our next president. We can expect that the election partially will hinge on whomever best addresses health issues and Social Security and retirement and medicine.

Vice President - Dick Cheney has very difficult aspects and his health may impede him in running for vice president

Health - Jupiter in Virgo will make us all get on a health kick and also people wanting jobs that are fun.

Weather - We can expect a pretty hot summer and a pretty severe winter.

Through 2012 - We're beginning an eight-year period of the renewal of arts, spirituality, love where religion, spirituality and science meet in a creative way that's healthy for the earth.

# Here's what 'Year of the Monkey' brings

The Chinese calendar is a fascinating system that not only records the passage of time, but is also a tool for forecasting events according to history and folklore. Every year, month, day and hour is represented in terms of five elements - metal, water, wood, fire, and earth, which are believed to be the basis of everything in the universe.

2004's Year of the Monkey, is "governed" by two uncomfortable elements: wood and metal - visualize when "tree meets ax."

As such, this cosmic combo could bring serious political struggles in both the headlines and in one's personal life, making it more difficult to make peaceful settlements without using force.

In accordance with what is called Feng Shui Flying Stars, areas with words related to "central" or "middle" - such as the Middle East, Central America, Central Africa, Middle America - will encounter

means that we last experienced the same type of wood-metal-monkey vibes in 1944 when the world was deep at war.

Sixty years later, the same planetary pair of elements may bring fierce terrorist fighting. Like D-day, it will be a decisive year for long-term world peace, but such peace may only come after a huge struggle.

On a brighter note, the element of wood is a symbol of spring, growth, a signal of a new beginning - like plants germinating, growing. As such, 2004 will stimulate rebirth and recovery and new hope.

2004 is the beginning of a new 20-year cycle in Feng Shui Astrology called the "Age of 8." It's a time of revolutionary changes. According to the I-Ching, this "Age of 8" represents "youth," so expect to see young people rise in power and achieve early success. Younger world leaders obtain more control now - and gee, isn't Ari Onassis' under-25-year-old

new revolution of technology including computers with artificial intelligence, medical robotics-mechanical 'implants' for arthritic people and problem pets can be expected. Also think: "The fountain of youth" as new discoveries in the field of anti-aging makes gains.

The Monkey Year encourages travel and tourism in February-August.

Expect a strong upsurge/mini-boom in the metal industry during late 2004.

Unfavorable industries in '04 include cloth, textile, fashion, clothing, paper, magazines, furniture, plants, flowers and consumer products related to wood.

In general, the metal-wood monkey is symbolic of revolution, movement and change. It will be a year of both conflict and disharmony in international relationships but also will provide binoculars for seeing a new and brighter vistas.

Now is a good time to open up your eyes. Seek options. Don't be stuck

# astrologer predicts for 2004

Break out the champagne those of you born under the signs of Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn. Jupiter is in the earth sign of Virgo and that means you're doing better financially, in your home life, love, family and friends. 2004 looks promising.

"It's an easier time for them," savs Robert Thibodeau, owner of the Mayflower Metaphysical Bookshop in Berkley.

The new year will bring freedom and new insights for Pisces, Virgo, Gemini and Sagittarius.

"They are shaken out of the old and pushed into the new. Or you can say that (they) must let go of their security and be more creative in individualizing and being uniquely industrious."

Thibodeau says those signs must either grow or "become moldy." Shakeups may leave Pisces, Virgo, Gemini and Sagittarius feeling insecure at first, but better off in the long run. Think freedom over security and intellectual smarts over emotion.

Cancers either will feel grounded or "time is up doing what you're doing," with Saturn in their sun sign this summer.

"When you're idealistic and laughable and flowing, Saturn means that you're going to find your ground and your roots and your long-term security," Thibodeau explains. "The negative side of Saturn is authoritarianism or being stuck with someone who is too authoritarian or drinking too much. What happens with Saturn is that you're carrying too much dead weight. and you've got to get rid of it."

Libra, Aquarius and Gemini will find their growth, happiness and money a year later, in 2005. People born under the sign of Aquarius at the end of January and early February risk being cheated or cheating next year if they become overly idealistic.

"The same for Leos born in late July and early August," he says. "They have to be careful of the same thing: Cheating or being cheated; lying or being lied to; misappropriating money or energy; feeling vampirized with your dreams."

On the positive side, 2004 is the perfect time for Leos to express themselves in the arts.

"The next couple of years might be difficult for people born in March 8-19, June 8-19, Sept. 11-21 and Dec. 12-21. They have to wrap things up and begin anew whether they are going back to school, building a home, a garden, having a baby. A lot of doors are going to close to them and some new ones willopen," Thibodeau said.

"These signs are way too serious. They need to start playing more. There is no shame in being true to yourself. The only guilt is that you aren't living up to your higher self."

On the flip side, Aries, Cancers, Capricorns and Libras should become more serious about their dreams.

"It's time to put up or shut up. It's a time when they are either going to manifest their dreams or give up their dreams in the next two years," Thibodeau explains.

"It's time to learn to be the same person everywhere, rather than there are some people you behave with one way and other people you behave with another way. Capricorn, Cancer, Libra and Aries can't be two different people in two places and they can't be putting on faces for people."

Thibodeau says people born under those signs are carrying too much weight on their shoulders. It's important for them to "have jobs they love and jobs that don't make them sick."

Despite the added responsibilities, Cancer is experiencing "a certain amount of luck" along with Pisces and Scorpios. Pisces should be careful when investing.

Scorpio is doing better financially, with luck and with making friends and renewing spirituality and health.

"Scorpios are feeling so free from whatever happened two to 10 years ago. They don't want anyone to mention them, hoping their luck will keep lasting," he said.

"I'm recommending if you're a Scorpio, you might want to make sure, now that you're freer of somebody who was attached or possessive, you may not want to get locked down right away unless it's with someone who will make you free."

conflict or natural disasters, agricultural and forestry mishaps.

The Chinese calendar year revolves around an ongoing 60-year cycle. This granddaughter the richest woman on the planet?

During the next 20 years of the "Age of  $8^{"}$  — which also represents the hand — a

Anger management group for teens set

Deborah Grossi, nationally certified professional counselor, is offering an Anger Management Group for teens ages 14-18, on Tuesday evenings beginning Jan. 13. This group is intended to be an educational group for teens who are having a tough time handling anger and

stress. Topics include: Anger is okay, aggression is not; anger-causing beliefs; and the connection between stress and anger.

Sessions will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. in Grossi's private office in Farmington Hills. Enrollment is limited; to preregister, call (248) 752-1201

#### LEGAL NOTICE

**Charter Township of Plymouth** 2008 Winter Taxes Due by February 17, 2004

Winter taxes are due December 1, 2003 and payable through February 17, 2004 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH. Payments can be made at the Township Hall during regular working hours, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's Office. After hours payments can be placed in 24 hr. DROP BOX located in parking lot adjacent to Building #1 or DROP BOX adjacent to entry way. Standard Federal Bank offices will also accept payment for your convenience through February 17, 2004.

RON EDWARDS Treasurer Charter Township of Plymouth OE08176592

Publish: January 4, 2004

Publish: January 4, 2004

#### GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT 6000 MIDDLEBELT GARDEN CITY, MI 48135

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction on January 6, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. The auction is to be held at Westland Car Care Towing, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI 48185.

Please Note: The bidding will start at the towing and storage charges.

1975 CADILLAC	4d	6B69S5Q262497
1983 CADILLAC	4d	1G6AD6980D9136475
1990 GMC	SW	1GKDM15Z1LB512124
1986 GMC	$\mathbf{PU}$	1GTBS14E8G2533727
1994 CHRYSLER	SW	1C4GK54LXRX256712
1991 FORD	$\mathbf{PU}$	2FTDF15Y0MCB06130
1993 FORD	2d	1FAPP6245PH171048
1995 FORD	<b>4</b> d	1FASP15JXSW167094
1991 FORD	2d	1FAPP11J8MW398557
1985 MERCURY	4d	2MEBP95F1FX644380
1991 OLDSMOBILE	4d	1G3NL54U6MM068163
1988 JAGUAR	4d	SAJHV1641JC523954

OE08176583

- By Dennis Fairchild

OE08176676

#### CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT 1150 S. CANTON CENTER RD. **CANTON, MI 48188**

Stop hurting others.

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction on Tuesday, January, 13, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. The auction is to be held at Westland Car Care Towing, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI 48185.

Please note: the bidding will start at the towing and storage charges.

1987	PONT 6000	YELLOW 4-DR	1G2JB51K2H7575381
1994	FORD PROBE	BLUE 2-DR	1ZVLT20AXR5163776
1995	FORD PROBE	BLUE 2-DR	1ZVLT20A9S5132010
1995	PLY NEON	BLUE 4-DR	1P3ES27C9SD155010
1989	DODGE RAM	RED P/U	1B7FE06YXKS055961
1988	GMC S-10	GREY P/U	1GTBS14E6J8537618
1989	GMC VAN	WHT/GRY	2GTEG25Z1K4508276
2001	FORD WINDSTAR	GREEN	2FMZA50441BA57477
1992	FORD PICKUP	GREEN	1FTEF15Y7NLB01118

Publish: January 4 and 8, 2004

#### WAYNE COUNTY DEPARTMENT **OF PUBLIC SERVICES** NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of Section 18, chapter IV, Act 283 of the Public Acts of 1909, as amended, seven or more freeholders have petitioned the County of Wayne to absolutely abandon and discontinue:

All of that alley, 20 feet wide, as dedicated to the use of the public, between Centralia Avenue and Beech - Daly Road (platted as Beech Road), and abutting Lot 777, Lots 617 through 628, both inclusive, and Lot 629, in B.E. TAYLOR'S GOLF & BRIDLE CLUB SUBDIVISION NO. 1, lying South of Grand River Ave., being a part of the SE. 1/4 of Sec. 19, T.1 S., R. 10 E., Redford Twp, Wayne Co., Michigan, recorded in Liber 61 of Plats on Page 69, Wayne County Records.

Therefore, it has been decided a Hearing be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2004, at 10:00 a.m., at Wayne County Department of Public Services, 415 Clifford Street, 3rd Floor, Detroit, Michigan 48226, and that a Hearing Examiner of the county shall hold said hearing and obtain all necessary facts and information concerning the advisability of either granting or denying said petition, and shall report all findings of fact to the Board of Wayne County Commissioners.

True copies of this notice are to be served, posted and published in accordance with the provisions of said Act No. 283 of 1909, as amended.

WAYNE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES Real Estate, 3rd Floor Attention: James M. Ford 415 Clifford Street Detroit, Michigan 48226 313.224.7730 Publish: January 4, 2004 OE08173776



Find your favorite recipes each Thursday in Taste

BAILEY

Kenneth Washburn age 88, of

Grand Rapids, formerly of Franklin, Mi and Canadian Lakes, MI, died on December 23, 2003 at Kent Community

BARRETT

Paul J., Jan. 1, 2004. Husband of Dorothy. Funeral Mass Monday, 11am, Church of St. Ives. See obit@ DesmondFuneralHome.com.

BEMUS

Mary Ellen Welch, Dec. 29, 2003 Memorial Service Jan. 10, 2004 1:00pm at A.J. Desmond & Sons, 32515 Woodward Ave. See obituary

@DesmondFuneralHome.com

MARKARIAN

MARKARIAN Deborah Sue, age 55, of Wayne, MI passed away on December 30, 2003 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center Wayne, Wayne, Mi. She was born on December 9, 1948. She is survived by: Husband: Jack Markarian, Daughters; Robin Hallup, the late Rochelle Webster, Son, the late Richard Hallup, Mother: Jeanette (William) Allen, Fathers: the late Robert Southard, Sisters: Belinda (Robert) Vetor, Audrey (Bruce) Meyers, Brothers: William Allen, James (Michele) Allen, Grandbaughter: the late Cassandra Hemphill. Funeral arrangements, will be Saturday Long A. 2004 at 2am

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances 1-800-579-7355 & fax: 734-953-2232 e-mail: OEObits@oe.homecomm.net

#### SINCOCK,

Elsie Helenof Rochester, Dec. 30, 2003. Wife of Thomas. Detailed obituary@ :www. DesmondFuneralHome.com

MORONEY

Passages

#### NEWCOMB

23, 2005 at Neith Community Hospital. He was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Iva Murdock Bailey, two sis-ters, Muriei and Vivian, two brothers, Loren and Leslie. He is output of by his two doubt Jean B. passed away on Dec. 23 in Bradenton, FL. She was 90 years old. Jean, formerly of Michigan, raised five chil-dren and was active at Nativity Episcopal Church and the local art guild brothers, Loren and Leslie. He is-survived by his two daugh-ters Kathy (Jim) Nowack of Zanesville, OH, Nancy Barnard of Gaylord, MI, 4 grandchil-dren; Amy Fieming, Courtney Nowack, Jeff Barnard and Leanne Barnard, on great grandchild, Kristen Fleming, three sisters and one brother. He served in the Army Air Corps during WWII and was a prisoner of the Japanese for 3½ years. He worked for Automotive Materials Corp. and Armerican Safety the local art guild. Some of her paintings are on display around the country. Jean also traveled extensively and made traveled extensively and made people smile around the world. She if survived by her children, Barbara Behrmann, Margery, Christopher and Edward Newcomb and seven grandchildren. She was pre-deceased by her daughter, Cynthia, and her husband, Dr. Arnoid B. Newcomb. A private service was held at her resi-dence. Her kindness and sense of humor will be great-ly missed. For those who wish and American Safety Equipment Corp. He was very involved in his community and church and enjoyed golf and bridge. A memorial serv-ice will be held on Saturday, Jamary 10, 2004 at 11:00 AM at Mayflower Congregational Church, Grand Rapids, Mi. The family is being served by If y missed to the who wish to celebrate her life, the fami-ly suggests making a stranger smile through a good deed or a kind word. This memorial will last a lifetime. The family is being served by Metcalf & Jonkhoff Funeral Service, Grand Rapids, MI. ROSEMONT

SINCOCK, DCROTHY L., of Plymouth, MI born May 28, 1919 in Larium, MI, died January 1, 2004 in Superior Twp., MI. Preceded in death by Husband, Robert J. Sincock. Survived by Children: Mary Ann Sincock of Trenton, MI; Craig R. (Susan) Sincock of Saline Michigan; Paul J. (Traci) of Plymouth, MI. Grandson Craig R: Sister: Marie (Marvin) Criger of New Smyrna Beach, Florida. In the 1940's she worked for Michigan Bell Telephone in Plymouth. In the 1960's and 1970's she had her own print-ing business 'House of Print'. She also was a columnist for the Observer Newspaper in the the Observer Newspaper in the 1960's. She was Project Coordinator for the Plymouth-Coordinator for the Plymouth-Canton Schools. She came to the Plymouth community in 1943. She was a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, past-president of the National Women's Farm & Garden Club in Plymouth, and she was a member of the Plymouth Symphony. Visitation Sat., Jan 3rd, 4-8pm; Sun, 3-8pm at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth, MJ. Funeral: Monday, Dec. 5, 2004 at 10:30am at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church. Her final resting place will be Estelle "Toddie" (nee Packard) age 90, of East Lansing, died December 29, 2003. Toddie was a 55-year resident of Bevery Hills, MI and very active in her church and numerous clubs. Beloved final resting place will be Riverside Cemetery, Plymouth, MI. Memorials may be made to the National Women's Farm & Garden Club of Plymouth or the Plymouth Symphony. and numerous clubs. Beloved wife of the late Leland Rosemont. She is survived by sons Richard (Jane) and

WELLS

sons Richard (Jane) and Leland, Jr., and sister Mary Keck of Greenville, PA. Memoriai service Tuesday, January 13, 2004, 1pm at the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, 1669 W. Maple, 248-644-2040. Donations in her memory to Hospice of Michigan, 400 Mack Avenue, Detroit, MI 48201 Mrs. Lillian M., passed away Wednesday, December 31,2003 at St. Joseph Mercy 31,2003 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, Michigan. She was born August 26, 1922 a daughter of William Charles and Anna C. (Stevens) Howes. In 1954 she was married to James Earl Wells in Brighton moving to Canton from Whitmore Lake in 1983. Mrs. Wells attended Devine Savior Catholic Church and was active with Plymouth

Devine Savior Catholic Church and was active with Plymouth Historical Society. Prior to her retirement she had been employed to Target as a stocker for many years. Mrs. Wells is survived by her daughter, Virginia L. Burrison of Gainesville, FL, step-son: James E. Wells, Jr. 3 grand-sons; James R. (Sue) Burrison, Jr. of Ann Arbor, Keith E. (Cathy) Burrison of Howell, Bryan M. (Sue) Burrison of Westland, 4 step-grandchildren; Shannon, James, III, Eric, Anna and sev-eral great grandchildren and Nerman G., age 77, of. Houston, TX, formerly of Redford, MI, passed peacefui-ly on December 25, 2003. Beloved brother of liene and Beloved brother of itene and Helen; former husband of Milly; father of Stuart, Gary, Christine and Carole; and grandfather of three. Preceded in death by his beloved broth-er, Lester, and daughter, Janet. The world has lost a gifted craftsman and storyteller.

#### SPRAGUE

SKOG

Samuel E. Dec. 31, 2003. Husband of Dr. Bette Erwin Sprague. Funeral service Thursday 2:00pm, Acacia Park Cemetery, Beverly Hills. obit@ DesmondFuneralHome.com



James, III, Eric, Anna and sev-eral great grandchildren and her brother; George Howes. Visitation will be Sunday, Jan., 4, 2004 from 2-6pm. at the Keehan Funeral Home, 706 W. Main St., Brighton, Final visi-tation will begin Monday, Jan., 5, 2004 at 9:30am. until the tilme of the funeral mass at 10:30am. at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 711 Rickett Rd., Brighton, Burial will foi-low at Kensington Cemetery, Brighton.

Jack Baker will officiate. Cremation rites accorded.



arrangements will be Saturday, Jan. 3., 2004 at 3pm at Uht Funeral Home, Westland, MI 48185. Father

Hugh Gallagher, editor (734) 953-2149 Fáx: (734) 591-7279 hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net

**C6** (\*) Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, January 4, 2004



Commitment to fitness pays off with dividends

www.hometownlife.com

### Start healthy

Obesity in children has become a major national health issue. The American Academy of Pediatrics emphasizes prevention through nutrition and physical activity. Karen Giles-Smith, a registered dietitian with United Dairy Industry of Michigan, offers tips:

Kick-start the day with a balanced breakfast that includes at least three different food groups. Snack smart. Stock the

fridae with nutritious snacks like string cheese, vogurt and single-serve containers of milk.

Don't skip the milk. A new study, published in the December issue of the Journal of the American Dietetic Association, found children who included calcium from dairy foods in their diets had lower body fat than those with lower dairy calcium intakes.

Get out and play together with your children. Take a walk after school or dinner

Limit time in front of the TV and computer. Children who watch TV for as few as two to five hours a week increase their chances of being overweight.

#### BY SANDRA DALKA-PRYSBY CORRESPONDENT

For many, making a New Year's resolution to get healthy and fit is an annual tradition this time of year. For some area residents, however, being healthy and fit is more than lip service. It's a way of life not just in the first months of the new year, but day after day all year long.

"I didn't want to wait until the first of the year -- after the holidays were over - to do something good for myself and my body," said Gina Krivda, 41, of Southfield. Months ago, this wife and mother joined Ladies Workout Express, a facility with a 30-minute workout circuit, to get more toned.

"I've always been fairly diligent about regular exercise," she said. "But I needed to add toning to my regular exercise activities of running or walking four or five days a week. This 30-minute program with hydraulic resistance works for me."

Krivda grew up in a family of 11 children, all of whom were physically active in sports and other activities as children. "Being overweight has never been a problem for me and my siblings," she said. "We have always been active." According to her, however, she wasn't always focused on healthy eating.

"Because money was tight when I was growing up, my family didn't have the luxury of all the fruits and vegetables recommended for a healthy diet," she said. "We ate a lot of the less-expensive foods that were high in carbohydrates." She continued this way of eating when she got married and started her own family. But

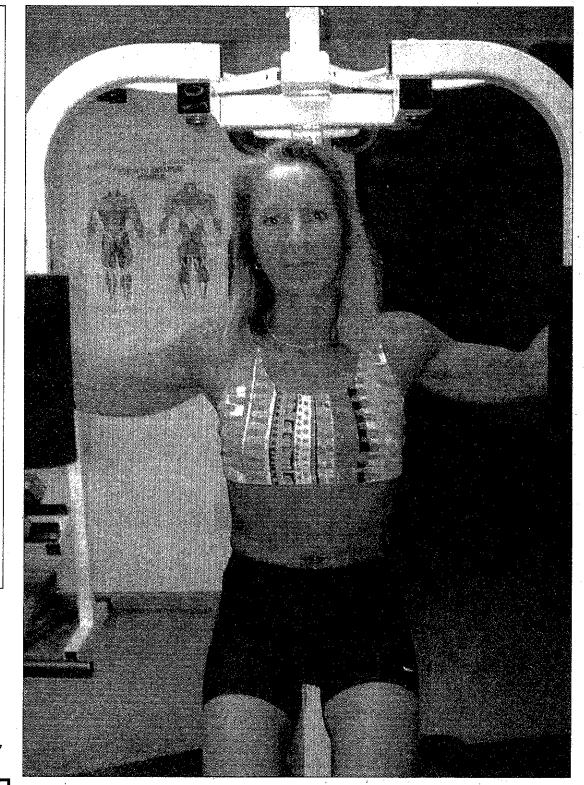


#### JOIN THE CLUB IN 2004

We want you to join us in reaching success in getting healthy and fit. Let us know how you are doing or, if you need help, e-mail Sandra Dalka-Prysby, an American Council on Exercise-certified lifestyle and weight management consultant, with your questions and concerns at sdprysby@hotmail.com. Also, we want to report on your weight-loss and exercise success. Send your story and picture to Hugh Gallagher, Health and Fitness, Observer & Eccentric, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Call (734) 953-2149; fax (734) 591-7279; e-mail hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net.

her diet changed about seven years ago, when she survived cancer. Krivda vowed then to feed herself and her family husband Jerry and son Justin, now 11 - those foods that better guarantee good health. Since then, she's made health and fitness a priority.

PLEASE SEE FITNESS, C7



Diana DeBruyne, 44, of Farmington Hills got a scare when two friends died of heart attacks. She has made a commitment to fitness.

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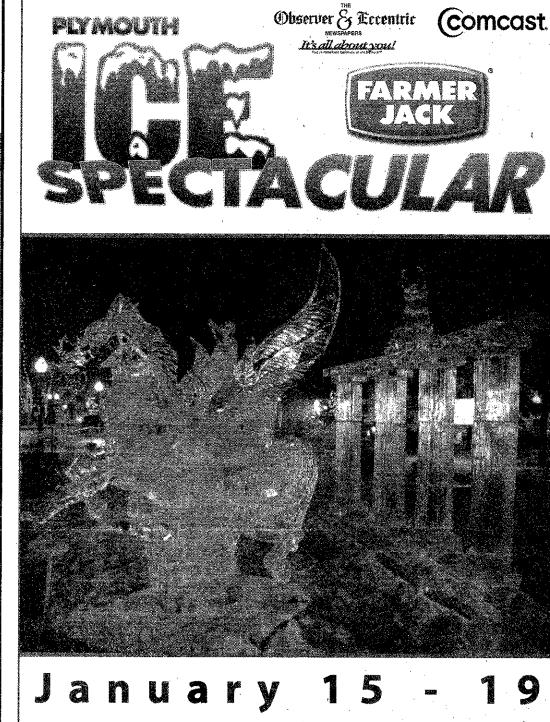


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FITNESS FROM PAGE C6

"Having and surviving cancer was a life-changing experience. It resulted in a healthier lifestyle for all of us," Krivda said.

#### **A MISSION TO LIVE**

Two life-changing experiences are also what led Diana DeBruyne, 44, of Farmington Hills to a healthier lifestyle.

Eight years ago, two of DeBruyne's friends - one 32, the other in his early 40s died of heart attacks. The then-36-year-old registered nurse felt that a heart attack was a possibility for her, especially since her job was so stressful.

"I was so scared that I set out on a mission to live healthy spiritually, mentally and physically," she said. With her husband Randy as her greatest supporter, DeBruyne reduced her work schedule to part time and began a lifestyle that includes cardio exercises everyday for at least 45 minutes and weight training for muscles and bones. She became more aware of her eating habits and learned about proper nutrition.

"I've been on a mission, one that has given me more energy and stamina. My breathing is drastically improved with the cardio exercises and my blood pressure and heart rate and cholesterol levels are lower," DeBruyne said. "I've have been able to maintain a healthy weight and, most importantly, I have a much greater sense of well-being.'

According to DeBruyne, it is imperative in our stressfilled society to find healthy outlets. The consequences of unhealthy living could be deadly at any age.

Diabetes, hypertension and heart disease are just a few potentially deadly conditions that are increasing at an alarming rate among our population, especially among younger people.

"As a registered nurse for more than 20 years, I see a

huge need for a change in our society," she said. "We all need to identify our unhealthy behaviors and attitudes and make the appropriate changes."

#### **WORKING TOGETHER**

Anna DeBoard, 57, of Plymouth is also a registered nurse, who is on a mission to spread the benefits of good health. She and her husband of five months, Roy Johnson, 61, have a mutual interest in the importance of regular exercise and healthy eating. They are currently involved in sports ministry at their church, Trinity Presbyterian of Plymouth.

The couple's goal is to develop a walking program for the membership to add to the church's basketball and volleyball programs.

"My husband recently retired as a physical education teacher and coach and is a weight trainer," said DeBoard, who has been a nurse at Children's Hospital in Detroit for more than 12 years. She recently completed a master's degree in exercise science and wellness from Wayne State University. "It's important for both of us to help others realize the importance and need for healthy living."

DeBoard explained that living a healthy lifestyle wasn't always a goal. "It was something I had always planned to do, but working and raising two children left very little time to make a commitment to regular exercise," she said. "By my mid-40s, I was feeling flabby and sluggish. One day I decided that I couldn't wait any longer. It was time to get fit."

According to DeBoard, little by little she changed her diet – no red meat, more fruit and vegetables, a cutback on carbohydrates and the addition of soy products and added regular exercise.

"It didn't take long for me to discover how good it feels to live healthily. This feeling has made it easy to stay committed to this lifestyle," she added.

# Don't make shoveling a marathon event

While the Detroit metro area has experienced a mild winter so far, soon residents will break out their snow shovels and salt to clear driveways and sidewalks. The American Heart Association warns that for most people, shoveling snow may not lead to any health problems, however, the risk of a heart attack during snow shoveling increases for others.

"In people who are normally inactive with known or hidden heart disease, snow shoveling can trigger heart attacks and even sudden cardiac death," notes Barry Franklin, director of Cardiac Rehabilitation and Exercise Laboratories at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak and co-author of the book Take a Load Off Your Heart.

One of the reasons heart attacks can occur during snow shoveling is the combination of colder temperatures and physical exertion which increases the workload on the heart. As a result, too much strain on the heart during these conditions can cause a heart attack.

"Researchers have found that the heart rate and blood pressure responses to shoveling

heavy wet snow often approached and exceeded the same responses during maximum exercise testing," said Franklin. "Within two minutes, most subjects had already exceeded their upper heart rate limit for aerobic exercise training. It is no wonder that each year many middle aged and older individuals experience cardiovascular complications during snow shoveling."

A local study, conducted by Franklin and Dr. Pertha Chowdhury, through Beaumont, showed a dramatic rise in fatal heart attacks during and after major snowstorms. The researchers reviewed medical examiner records in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties and found that in the week prior to two major snowstorms, there was only one fatal heart attack related to snow shoveling. In the week during the snowstorms, the number of fatal heart attacks climbed to 22. In the week after the snowstorm, there were 13 fatal heart attacks.

Of the 36 fatalities, only three were women. Moreover, four of the 36 victims had been using an automated snow thrower rather than shoveling.

To help make snow removal safer, the association has compiled a list of practical tips.

Consult a doctor. If you have a medical condition or don't exercise on a regular basis or are middle aged or older, schedule a meeting with your doctor prior to the first anticipated snowfall.

Give yourself a break. Take frequent breaks during shoveling so you don't overstress your heart. Pay attention to how your body feels during those breaks.

Don't eat a heavy meal prior or soon after shoveling. Eating a large meal can put an extra load on your heart.

Don't drink alcoholic beverages before or immediately after shoveling. Alcohol may increase a person's sensation of warmth and may cause him or her to underestimate the extra strain the body is under.

Be aware of the dangers of hypothermia. Heart failure causes most deaths in hypothermia. To prevent hypothermia, dress in layers of warm clothing, which traps air between layers forming a protective insulation.

Wear a hat because much of your body's heat can be lost through your head.

Use a small shovel or consider a snow thrower. The act of lifting heavy snow can raise blood pressure acutely during the lift. It is safer to lift smaller amounts more times, than to lug a few huge shovelfuls of snow. When possible, simply push the snow.

Listen to your body. If you feel the warning signs for heart attack, stop what you're doing immediately and call 9-1-1. The warning signs of a heart attack include uncomfortable pressure, fullness, squeezing or pain in the center of the chest that lasts for more than a few minutes, or goes away and comes back; pain spreading to the shoulders, neck and arms, and chest discomfort with lightheadedness, fainting, sweating, nausea or shortness of breath.

For more information, call the American Heart Association at (800) AHA-USA1 or visit online at americanheart.org.

# Create a safe environment for sleeping infants

A safe sleeping environment is the perfect holiday gift for infants this Christmas, Wayne County Medical Examiner Carl J. Schmidt said Wednesday.

In 2002, the medical examiner's office investigated 85 infant death cases and found that 60 infants - a heartbreaking 75 percent - died while sleeping in unsafe sleep environments. The number is expected to be lower for 2003, but the percentage remains high. Unsafe conditions involved infants who slept with adults or other children in adult beds, infants who did not sleep in the recommended back position and infants who slept with soft bedding that restricted breathing.

"Every year, many babies die during their sleep when their airways become blocked or when their chests can't expand to breathe," said Schmidt. "Many parents, grandparents, baby sitters, day care providers and other caregivers are largely unaware of the potential risks that may

lead to an infant death when they put an infant down to sleep."

It is also unsafe for infants to sleep on the floor with pillows, on the couch, in a reclining chair, in a car seat in the house, or in any combination of these.

There are four elements of a safe sleep environment - a crib, bassinet or port-acrib where the infant can sleep alone; using a crib that meets safety standards; knowing how to position the infant in the crib. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends placing a baby on his or her back. A side position is not recommended since babies often roll onto their stomachs, which puts them at higher risk of their airway becoming blocked, and removing all soft, pliable objects such as plush toys and pillows.

"The holidays are a good time to give a crib or bassinet as gifts to parents with infants," said Schmidt.

Too many people are unaware of the need to protect the baby from unsafe sleep

environments because they often don't hear the details of how infants are dying in the community unless the death was ruled a homicide."

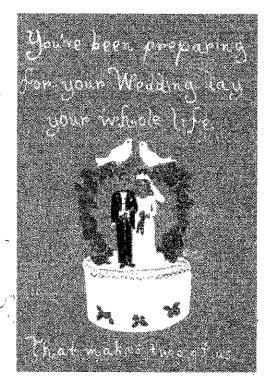
"Parents understandably want to be close to their baby and many parents believe that sleeping with the baby is a form of bonding. However, it is not the safest way of bonding. There are many better ways to bond when the parent and baby are awake," he said.

Experts say cribs became stigmatized by "crib death," the old term for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome or SIDS, which was used mainly to describe the death of a baby during sleep. Infant deaths related to unsafe sleep areas are not the same as SIDS. SIDS is the diagnosis given for the sudden death of an infant under one year of age that remains unexplained after a thorough case investigation, including an autopsy, a death scene investigation, review of the infant's health status prior to dying, and other family medical history.

(\*)

C7 -

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### COMMUNITY LIFE

# Author provides resolution solutions

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(\*)

It happens every year. We make resolutions we can't keep, then we judge ourselves because of our failures!

Barry Neil Kaufman, best-selling author of *Happiness is A Choice*, solves the resolution dilemma: Instead of creating a resolution for the entire year and doom ourselves to failure, set one intention each day. If we aren't successful with our intention one day, we simply set the same, or another, intention the next day.

Try some of these happinessinducing intentions. Once you get the hang of it, you'll be off and running with your own creations.

1. Take something you value (earrings, a favorite book, a jacket, a photograph), wrap it up as a gift and leave it for someone anonymously to express your gratitude to that person, without requiring anything in return. Notice, without judgment, how you feel each step of the way. You have just given yourself a great gift!

2. Drop a judgment you hold about someone you love - then tell them about the judgment you dropped and why you dropped it.

3. Practice creating inner happiness every day. The very next time you DON'T get what you want, decide purposely to create happiness anyway. Show yourself that inner happiness is, indeed, a choice.

4. When encountering the next stranger you meet (the bus driver, the waiter, the bank teller, the cashier), open your heart to really focus on them and love them - and then allow yourself to say something that would express your caring.

5. With someone you want to be closer to, share a secret you've been holding - being authentic brings people together.

6. The next time you want something, really want something, allow yourself to say a non-directive prayer in which you ask God and the universe to do its "thing" rather than grant you your wish - that would be an act of trusting the universe. You'll probably feel great after

this one! 7. Find one "should" that has been guiding your life (that you don't really agree with) and chal-

# REUNIONS

As space permits, the observer a Eccentric Newspapers print, without charge, announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Reunions, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 794 S. Main, Plymouth, MI 48170. Please include the date of the reunion, one contact person, and a telephone number.

#### Cabrini High School

Class of 1984 If you're interested in working on the 20-year reunion, please contact Debbie (Scott) Paulus at (734) 737-9743 or Laurie (Marra) Makavewicz at (734) 981-7263.

#### Cody High School Class of 1957

The class of 1957 has invited other interested friends from all the 1950s classes. Being held at 7 p.m. Oct. 9, 2004, at Fox Hills Golf and Country Club near Plymouth. Cost is \$75/per person which includes sit down dinner, open bar, music, and many surprises. Call for more info on golf and reservations at the Hilton Garden Suites. For further info, call Loretta (Muciek) Nedwick at (800) 859-9502.

#### Cooley High School Class of 1954

A 50-year reunion is planned for Saturday, July 17, 2004, at Livonia Marriott (not Courtyard) located at Six Mile Road and I-275. A reception will be at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:30 p.m. An informal gathering will be held on Friday, July 16, in a hospitality suite at the Marriott. A bus tour of Cooley High School is also in the planning stages. Call Daneen (Stark) Gallo at (734) 462-2786.

#### Dearborn High School Class of 1974

A 30-year reunion is planned for Saturday, Aug. 7, 2004, at St. Mary's Cultural Center, 18100 Merriman, Livonia. Looking for classmates. Please pass the word. Contact Ann Kennedy Hutchins at (734) 591-6866.

#### **Dearborn Lowrey**

Class of 1954 Now organizing. Call Fay (Bolton) Reeves at (248) 349-2094.

### Ferndale High School

Class of 1979 A 25 year reunion being held on Aug. 7, 2004, at St. John's Armenian Banguet Center in Southfield. Contact Ferndale 1979 Reunion, c/o Richard Broder, 31700 Middlebelt, Suite 165, Farmington Hills, MI 48334.

#### Fordson High School

Class of 1988 A 15-year reunion is being planned. Classmates are being sought. Respond to either www.classmates.com, classreunion1988@yahoo.com, or mail your name, address and telephone number to: Class of 1988 Reunion, 11349 Fenton, Redford, MI 48239.

#### Garden City High School

Class of 1984 A 20-year reunion is tentatively scheduled for June 2004 at the Livonia Holiday Inn-West. More information on classmates.com or e-mail Michelle (Pietryka) Taylor at misidrew@comcast.net.

#### **Grosse Pointe North**

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

#### Lincoln Park High School

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

#### Mumford High School

Class of 1964 & 1965 A joint 40-year reunion is being held Aug. 4, 2004. Contact Andrea Hoberman Lewiston at (248) 738-3699 for further details.

#### **Redford Thurston High School**

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

# **3** Council volunteers win awards

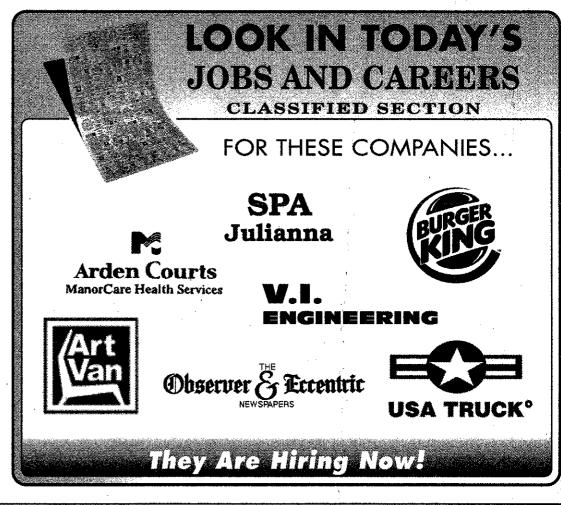
Three volunteers with the Child Abuse and Neglect Council of Oakland County received Distinguished Volunteer awards from the Association of Fundraising Professionals- Greater Detroit Chapter at its 12th Annual National Philanthropy Day event. They are Sandy Bean of Oakland Township, Nina Cutler of Bloomfield Hills and Jennifer Venegoni of Clarkston.

Bean has been involved as a volunteer on the development committee of the council for more than five years. She is a tireless worker on the annual Merry-Go-Round gala, cochairing the event last year, and its auction committee this year. Cutler is a longtime child assistant, providing comfort to children who come for an interview concerning allegations of sexual or physical abuse. She eases the concerns of these youngsters by reading, playing a game, or taking part in age-appropriate activities. She also serves as a mentor to the Council's new volunteers.

Venegoni just completed the first case assigned to her as a child advocate. The particular assignment lasted a year. She was trained by the Council and appointed by the 6th Judicial Circuit Court-Family Division to serve as a special advocate for an abused/neglected child while under the Court's jurisdiction. Chapter has been serving the community for 24 years. The AFP has members in 171 chapters in the United States, Canada and Mexico, working to advance philanthropy through advocacy, research, education and certification programs.

The mission of the Child Abuse and Neglect Council of Oakland County is to be an advocate for the safety of all children and a leading resource in the prevention of child abuse and the protection of children through education, intervention, treatment and research, in collaboration with the community. The programs are housed in the CARE House, 44675 South Woodward, Pontiac.

The AFP Greater Detroit



### Will You Reach Your Goals This Year? By: Brian Tracy

What kind of goals do you have set for the new year? Study after study has revealed that the ability to set goals and make plans for their accomplishment is the "master skill" of success. It is the single most important skill that you can learn and perfect. Becoming an expert at goal-setting and goal-achieving is something that you absolutely must do if you wish to fulfill your potential as a human being. Why do so few people set goals? According to the best research, less than three percent of Americans have written goals, and less than one percent review and rewrite their goals on a daily basis. So the reasons why people don't set goals have been of considerable interest to me. I think that there are five basic reasons why people don't set goals. The first reason is that they are simply not serious. Whenever I speak with a man or woman who has achieved something remarkable. I learn that the achievement occurred after that person decided to "get serious." Until you become completely serious and totally determined about your goals, nothing really happens. The second reason why people don't set goals is that they don't understand the importance of goals. We find that young men and women who begin setting goals very early in life invariably come from families in which the importance of goals is emphasized. The discussion that takes place around your family dinner table is one of the most powerful formative influences in your life. If your parents didn't have goals, didn't talk about goals, didn't encourage you to set goals, and didn't talk about people outside the family circle who had goals and were moving toward a higher level of achievement, then you very likely grew up with the idea that goals are not even a part of normal existence. This is the case for most people. And for many years, it was the case for me. The third reason why people don't set goals is because they don't know how to do it. One of the greatest tragedies of our educational system is that you can receive 15 to 18 years of education in our schools and never once receive a single hour of instruction on how to set goals. Yet we find that in certain schools where goalsetting programs have been introduced since first grade, young people become excited about goal-setting - even if the goal is only to increase the scores by 5 or 10 percent over the course of the semester, or to be on time every day in the course of a month. Children become so excited about achieving goals that by the third or fourth grade, they love to go to school. They get the best grades. They are seldom absent. They are excited about themselves and about their lives. So encourage your children to set worthwhile and realistic goals from an early age. The fourth reason why people don't set goals is fear of rejection. The fear of rejection is caused by destructive criticism in early childhood and

is manifested, in adulthood, in the fear of criticism by others. Many people hold back from setting worthwhile goals because they have found that every time they do set a goal, somebody steps up and tells them that they can't achieve it, or that they will lose Don't let 2004 be just another year ...

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## Brian Tracy - LIVE! THE SCIENCE OF POSITIVE FOCUS

As space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print, witho

lenge it by asking yourself what you really want. Then take action toward that want. (Remember to come from a place of respect and love). 8. This New Year, decide to potice and acknowledge, even gloud, at least three blessings every day. Blessings are experienced by those who notice them. There are so many blessings: The air, your heartbeat, your ability to speak and be understood, the trees, the early morning sunshine, a child's smile, food (big smiles and blessings here).

Aren't we blessed to even be able to consider all of the above? Wow! Being "wow'ed" is part of experiencing our blessings.

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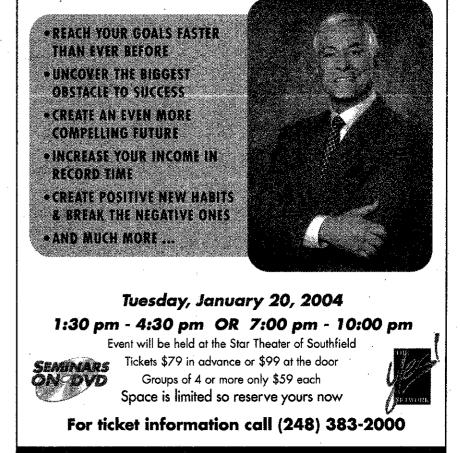
their money or waste their time. Because each of us is strongly influenced by the opinions of those around us, one of the first things that you must learn when you begin setting goals is to keep your goals confidential. Don't tell anyone about them. Often, it's the fear of criticism that, more than any other single factor, stops you from goal-setting in the first place. So keep your goals to yourself, with one exception. Share your goals only with others who are committed to achieving goals of their own and who really want you to be successful and achieve your goals as well. Other than that, don't tell anybody about your goals, so no one is in a position to criticize you, or to discourage you from setting your goals. The fifth reason why people don't set goals - and perhaps the most important reason of all - is the fear of failure. People don't set goals because they are afraid that they might fail. In fact, the fear of failure is probably the greatest single obstacle to success in adult life. It can hold you back more than any other psychological problem. The primary reason why you fear failure is simply this: You probably do not understand the role that failure plays in achievement. The fact is that it is impossible to succeed without failing. Failure is an indispensable prerequisite for success. All great success is preceded by great failure. If you wish to fulfill your potential, you have to be willing to risk failure over and over and over, because there is no way that you can ever accomplish worthwhile goals until you have fallen on your face so many times that you have eventually learned the lessons that you need for great achievement. In doing research for his classic book The Law of Success, Napoleon Hill interviewed more than 500 of the most successful men and women in America. All of them admitted to him that they had achieved their greatest successes just one step beyond the point where they had experienced their greatest failures. A key to succeeding through goalsetting is expecting temporary setbacks and obstacles as/inevitable parts of the goalachieving process. So these are the words and phrases to remember in setting and achieving goals: The first is get to it! Get started; take the first action at hand. The second is opportunity. Begin to prepare yourself now so that you will be ready for the opportunities that will inevitably arise. The third is ability. Resolve to learn what you need to know to live the kind of life you want to live. The fourth word is leadership. Take charge of your time and your life, and accept responsibility for your results. And, finally, stay with it. If you stay with it long

enough, nothing can stop you from winning.

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#### D1 (\*) Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, January 4, 2004

# New Homes

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# Welcoming farmhouse ideal for families

Looking for a traditional farmhouse that has some extra pizzazz to its facade? The Silverdale fits that description. It has a covered porch with railings, a twocar garage, second story, and tall chimnev. There are large, uniquely shaped windows on the front of the home as well as on the garage.

Upon entering this home, your guest will be greeted by one large, long open room. The living room is in the front with a fireplace on the left wall, while the dining room is in the rear. Both rooms have large windows that bathe then in light.

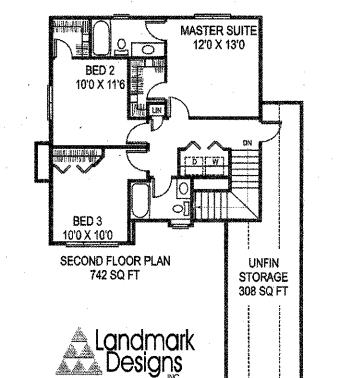
In the right rear corner of the Silverdale is a spaciously open "C" shaped kitchen. There is a small pantry on the center wall as well as a half bath tucked between the pantry and the stairs to the optional 749-square-foot basement. There are two doors just off the kitchen, one leading to the garage and the storage area in the rear. The other one opens onto a covered porch that's great for family gatherings.

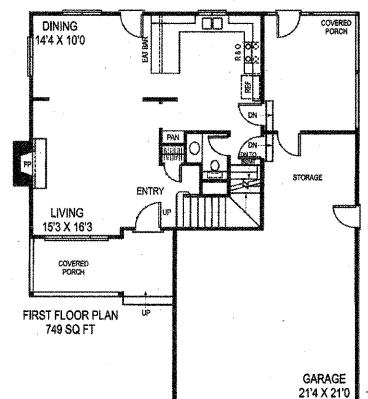
Adjacent to the entry to the right is the stairs to the second floor. All the bedrooms are upstairs. The master suite is a large square room with a walk-in closet and a full bath with a tub. Bedrooms two and three each have large windows, providing an abundance of light for the rooms. Bedroom two has a corner walk-in closet, while bedroom three has a wall closet. The full bath with a tub is adjacent to bedroom two. The washer and dryer are also on this floor as it is easier for doing the laundry.

At the end of the hall next to the staircase is a long, unfinished 308-squarefoot storage area. This is ideal for storing those seasonal items, as well as providing an area for kids to play.

Overall, the Silverdale provides a warm, open living space with a usable square footage of 1,491.

For a study plan, including scaled floor plan(s), elevations, section(s), and an artist rendering, send \$24.95 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Road E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424. Please specify plan name (Silverdale) and the number (D6711). A catalog featuring hundreds of home plans is available for \$12.95, or save by ordering both for \$29.95. For faster processing, call (800) 562-1151 or visit www.landmarkdesigns.com.







# Mdjui IIIAG2riiig needed to protect **England's heritage**

LONDON (AP) - Billions of pounds (dollars) are needed to preserve England's historic landscape and protect it from "unthinking development," suspect renovations and the damaging effects of increasing traffic, heritage experts say.

The "Heritage Counts 2003" report said 1,373 buildings listed as Grade I or Grade II on the register of historic buildings are regarded as being at risk.

Seventy-five percent of gardens, parks and open landscapes have lost their historic features such as fountains and pavilions, it said.

The report, an annual audit of the state of the historic environment produced by the preservation groups English Heritage and the Historic **Environment Review Steering** Group, added that many conservation areas -- where strict rules on restoration apply were blighted by poor renovations carried out by homeowners.

In one conservation area alone, 95 percent of buildings had replacement windows that did not match and in another 54 percent were of a different style.

"Conservation areas are being eroded by thousands and thousands of small changes, whether these are by private owners or sometimes by local authorities themselves," said English Heritage chief executive Simon Thurley.

"Changes such as a new porchway, a garden concreted over, or the replacement of sash windows with PVC dou-

'Changes such as a new porchway, a garden concreted over, or the replacement of sash windows with PVC double glazing may seem innocuous on their own but when taken together have an enormous impact.'

Simon Thurley English Heritage chief executive

ble glazing may seem innocuous on their own but when taken together have an enormous impact."

The report warned that increasing road traffic has "the potential to damage historic sites and have an adverse impact on the wider historic environment."

But it said local authorities are so stretched financially that they often lack the money to repair historic sites.

It estimated that 3.5 billion pounds (U.S. \$6 billion) was needed to repair and replace features and facilities in England's parks alone. But the amount local councils spent on maintaining parks and gardens in 2001 was 126 million pounds (U.S. \$214 million) less in real terms than what was spent in 1979.



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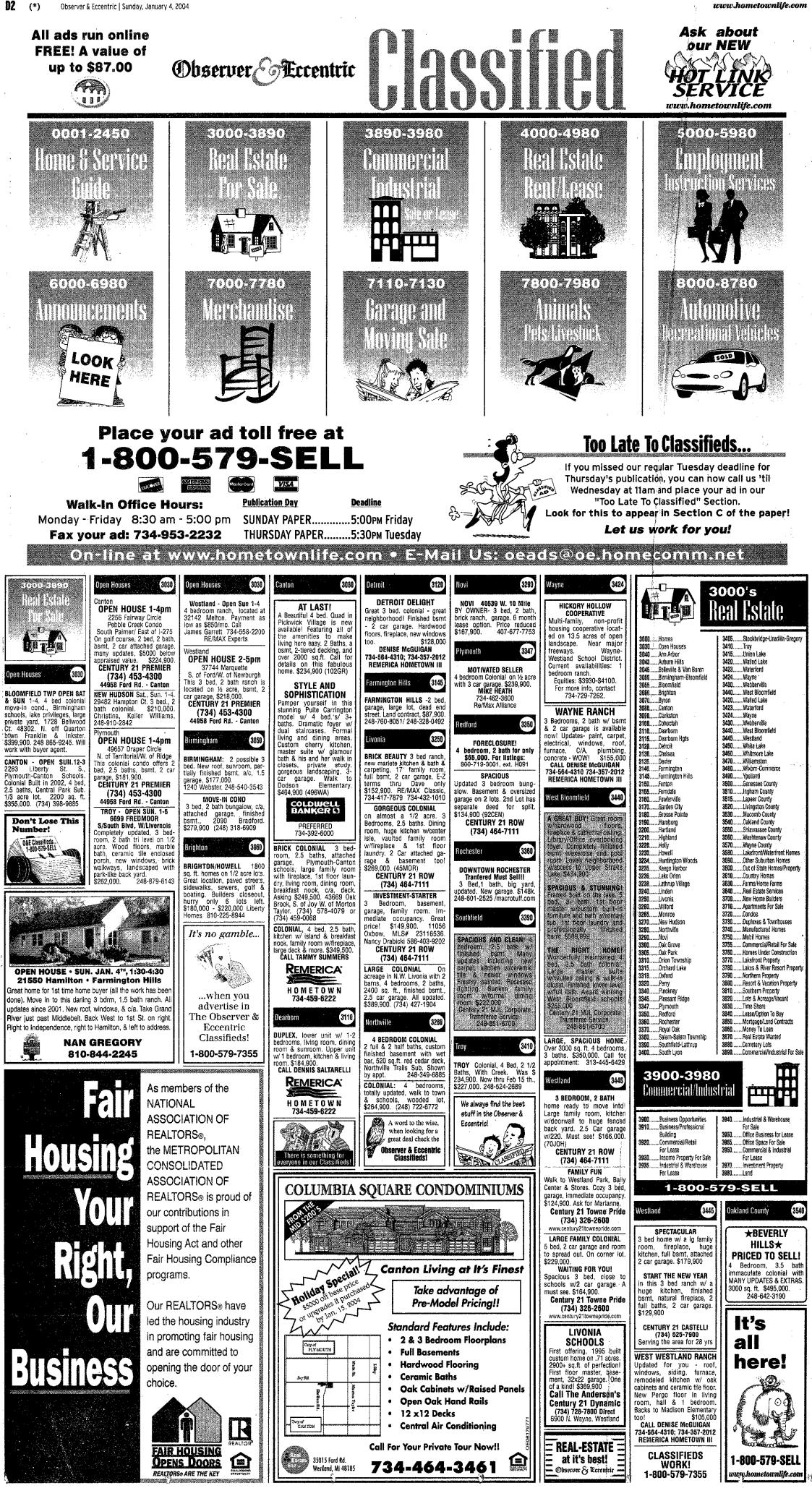
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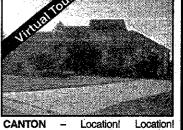
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ROCHESTER HILLS Outstanding 5 bedroom, 3.1 bath home with treed and ravine locale. Kitchen with hardwood, granite, center isle and newer appliances. Walkout lower level with full bath and large jacuzzi and recreation room. Huge deck with glorious views. \$337,000 (74HIC) 248-642-8100



SHELBY TOWNSHIP One of the best locations in complex with all the bells and whistles, Customized floor plan to gain better flow; top of the line kitchen, cabinetry and built in desk. Speakers/surround sound, deck, wood blinds, bay in master and library, gas fireplace and much more. \$309,800 (88BLE) 248-642-8100





NOVI Everything you value. 4 BR, 3.5 BA colonial on a quiet cul-de-sac on approximately 1 acre. Open floor plan w/HDWD firs, granite counters & butler's pantry. Formal LR w/bay windows & fireplace. Extraordinary MSTR suite, DR & study. Northville schools, near sports & state parks. \$549,900 (81DEE) 248-349-5600



FARMINGTON HILLS Words cannot describe this incredible 5 bedroom, 3+2 bath 2 story home that has been remodeled throut & looks like a \$1 million + new construction. Approximately 1 acre lot features a beautiful in-ground pool with bar and entertaining area. Trees & gardens! \$625,000 (21WEL) 248-349-5600



DEARBORN Spectacular & tranquil best describes the view of the 9th fairway from the soaring 2 story window, spacious living room, open floor plan, hardwood floors in foyer, kitchen and family room, with fireplace, 2 car attached garage, basement and appliances. \$499,000 (39TUR) 734-455-5600

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BELLEVILLE Modern yet traditional/4 BD, 2.5 BA colonial w/2 car attached garage, basement, great room w/lots of windows & balcony from 2nd floor loft sitting area. Formal dining room w/bay window, doorwall from kit to brick patio, FFL, MSTR suite w/master BA, garden tub & double vanity. \$254,000 (80WIL) 734-455-5600





BLOOMFIELD Quality thruout this four bedroom, 2.5 bath beauty with a hilltop cul-de-sac setting, paver walkways, patio and numerous perennial gardens. Finished basement, updated kitchen, Andersen wood windows, newer furnace, hardwood floors. \$399,900 (23DON) 248-524-1600



ROCHESTER HILLS Investment opportunity. Four bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial with finished basement, 3 car garage, large beautiful lot and a separate one bedroom apartment building. Newer roof, oak kitchen, carpeting. Family room with wood burning stove. \$329,900 (09LIV) 248-524-1600





Custom built home to enjoy gracious country living on private paved road.; 4 bedrooms, 3.1 baths, 3 car garage, walk out basement with 9 foot ceilings, first floor master, cedar deck and bay windows. \$583,000 (57HIG) 248-652-8000



OAKLAND Beauty and nature combined. This is the Goodison Hills home you've been waiting for. High, private and wooded, overlooking Paint Creek and trail. Gourmet kitchen, all appliances included, hardwood floors, 4 bedrooms, 3 car finished walk out. \$539,715 garage, 15FOR) 248-652-8000



NEW HOME IN CASS LAKE COMMUNI-

TY. Where lifestyle is truly remarkable, 3

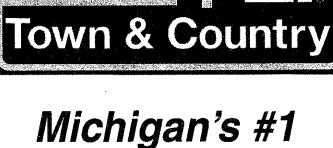
bedrooms, 3 baths, walkout carpeted and

prepped for full bath. 3 car garage, deeded

dock in private marina and tennis court.

Quality interior. Move in immediately.

\$475,000 (62WOO) 248-363-1200



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**Century 21 Firm!** 

# FINE HOMES & ESTATES

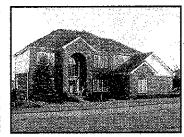




TROY New construction. Four bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial with two story foyer, 4 car tandem garage with large wooded lot. Kitchen with oak cabinets, island, granite counters. Luxury master bedroom suite with jetted tub and separate shower. \$419,900 (43EVA) 248-524-1600



**ROCHESTER HILLS Builder's spec colo**nial with dimensional shingles, maple kitchen cabinets, ceramic tile bath, bay windows and marble surround gas fireplace. Deep waterproofed basement with warranty. Master bath with jacuzzi tub. \$319,900 (21GRA) 248-524-1600



EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOM HOME Sits high above the 1st green with views to the eastern horizon. Amenities include 2 story foyer and great room, spacious kitchen, formal dining room, luxury master. Class "A" golf membership. Home Warranty. \$464,900 (04TRO) 248-363-1200

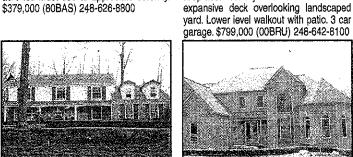
PRIVACY IS AT YOUR HOME This 4 bed-

room, 3 1/2 bath colonial on approximate-

ly 1.5 acre, wooded lot has lots of privacy.

Open floor plan with finished walkout

with built in bar. \$409,000 (80HIG)



WEST BLOOMFIELD Exclusive private

home. Absolutely beautiful property, well

built, fully remodeled, 5 bedrooms, 3

baths, built-in pool, on breathtaking 1.5

acre lot. Must see to appreciate serenity.

BEVERLY HILLS Extensively updated. Not the typical Georgetown colonial. 4 or 5 bedrooms, 3 full baths, 2 powder rooms. Great in-law suite. Refinished hardwood floors thruout. Newer kitchen, roof, landscaping. 2 fireplaces. Finished lower level. Paved patio. Circular driveway. \$499,900 (22LIN) 248-626-8800



WEST BLOOMFIELD Spacious West Bloomfield home. Lovely 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, Bloomfield schools, FR w/marble fireplace & door leading to back yard. Library, 1st floor laundry, master suite w/walk in closet & full bath. Ceramic & marble floor thruout. 2 car attached garage & more. \$392,900 (42LON) 248-626-8800



this home feels-2 story foyer, huge family room, 18 ft. ceiling + skylights, 5 ft island in the kitchen, study, formal living room and dining room. All with a quiet location, close to everything you will need. \$420,000 (30REN) 248-626-8800



FRANKLIN Fabulous 4 bedroom custom

home. Newer construction, beautiful open

floor plan with cathedral ceilings & exten-

sive hardwood. Gorgeous family room with

fireplace. Luxury master bedroom &

\$599,900 (15LAK) 248-642-8100

HUNTINGTON WOODS Rare opportunity to own this 3 bedroom, 3 bath ranch on approximately 3/4 acres lot in estate section of Huntington Woods. Sunroom, marble fireplace, Pergo floors, first floor laundry, newer furnace, A/C & roof. Brick paver walk & porch, 2 car attached garage. \$465,000 (59TAL) 248-642-8100



BIRMINGHAM 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial in the middle of a great street, N. of Maple. Eat-in kitchen with hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings and fireplace in family room. Formal dining room and living

SOUTH LYON. Custom built. Hurry, still time to make selections. 4 spacious bedrooms, 3 full and 2 half baths. 3+ side entry garage. Golf course community. Walk out lower level. Corner lot in great neighborhood. Builder uses only top quality materials. \$504,900 (01GRE) 248-349-5600



PLYMOUTH Better than new. Almost 3 years old & all decked out. 4 bedrooms & 3.5 bath cape cod w/professionally finished basement. Premium setting w/extras & up-grades everywhere. GR, den, hearthroom, kitchen, 1st floor master suite + 3 car gar. Spectacular. \$509,900 (75HIL) 248-349-5600



SOUTH LYON Golf community. Stunning 4 bedroom, 2 +2 bath cape cod with golf view in front and nature preserve in back. First floor master. Large gourmet kitchen, 2 story great room with gas fireplace. Finished walkout basement with loads of storage. South Lyon schools. \$579,900 (00COU) 248-349-5600



ORCHARD LAKE Best of two lakes. The views will amaze you. Orchard Lake in front & Upper Straits in back. 6 bedroom, 3.5 bath contemporary home. Huge dining room can entertain your largest group. Fabulous opportunity. Has not been available for 30 years. \$2,399,900 (47OLD)

705 S. Main St., Plymouth 175 Cady Centre. Northville

(734) 455-5600 (248) 349-5600

CANTON Absolutely stunning home. Large 5 bedroom, 4 full & 2 1/2 bath colonial on an oversized lot. Offers professionally finished lower level with den, rec room, wet bar & bath. 2nd floor laundry, hardwood floors, 3 car attached gar + stamped concrete patio, walkway & porch. Much more, \$479,900 (64LIB) 734-455-5600



TROY Candidate for Architectural Digest. Spectacular 4 BD, 5 BA custom built ranch w/over 5000 sq. ft. presents spacious GR w/cathedral ceiling, gourmet kit w/hexagon breakfast room & custom cabinets, fully equipped kitchen in lower level + bedroom & office. Hobbyist or collectors gar + 3 car att gar. \$693,000 (32ADA) 734-455-5600

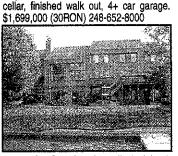


PLYMOUTH Custom contemporary home. Exquisite thru-out! 3 story atrium foyer, spiral oak staircase, great room w/fpl opens to sunroom, kitchen w/newer granite counters, formal DR w/hardwood floor. library or music room, master suite w/fpl, jetted tub, finished LL walkout to inground pool. \$675,000 (77WES) 734-455-5600



PLYMOUTH A cut above the rest. Large 4 bedroom, 3 full & 2 1/2 bath colonial built in 2000 presents basement, 3 car attached garage, duel staircase, gourmet kitchen with island, master bedroom with sitting area and master bath, 2 way fireplace + deck and patio. \$589,900

₹£.



OAKLAND TOWNSHIP. Executive estate.

Secluded 4+ wooded acre site with an

immaculate home designed for privacy

and ease of entertaining. Only minutes to

downtown Rochester and N. Oakland's

corporate suites. Gourmet kitchen, wine

LAKE ORION. Exquisite Park Island. Soaring cathedral ceiling and windows, great views from every room. All sports lake with dock. Master suite with dual walk-in closet, marble surrounded tub and shower, extensive use of marble and granite, finished walkout with fireplace. 899.000 (72PAB) 248-652-8000

(248) 642-8100 (248) 524-1600



248-363-1200

294 E. Brown, Birmingham 4820 Rochester Road, Troy 2600 Union Lake, Commerce Twp.

PRESTWICK VILLAGE GOLF Way above part Exceptional 4 BD, 2.5 BA home located in desired golf community w/golf, swim & tennis. Large 1st floor MSTR suite w/2 WIC's & jetted tub. Spacious vaulted great room. Large kit & hearth room w/2 way fireplace, hardwood floors. Quick occupan-\$399,900 (42NAI) 248-363-1200

(248) 363-1200

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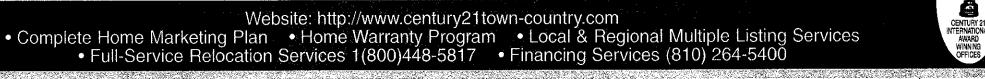


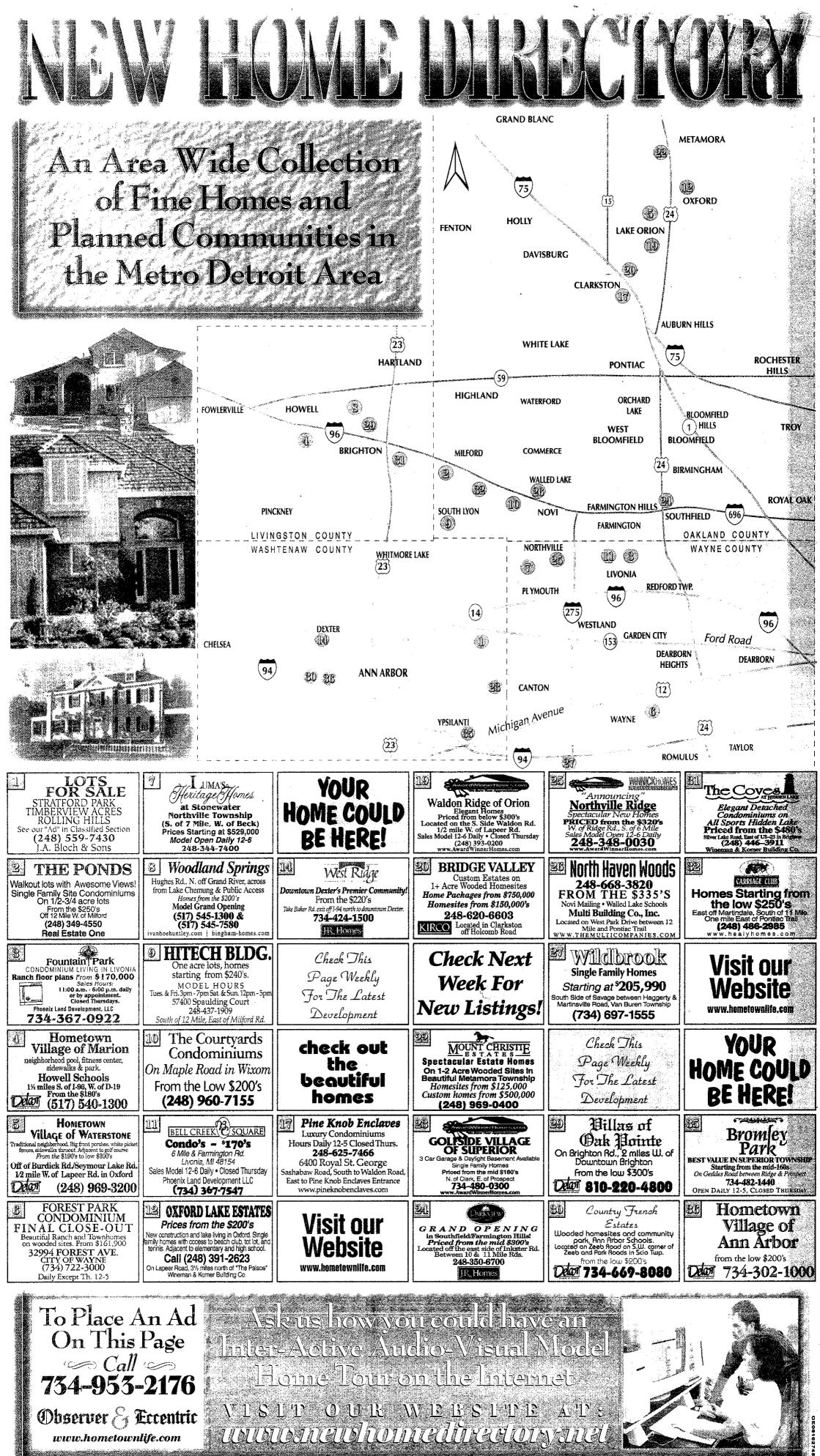


7125 Orchard Lake, West Bloomfield (248) 626-8800









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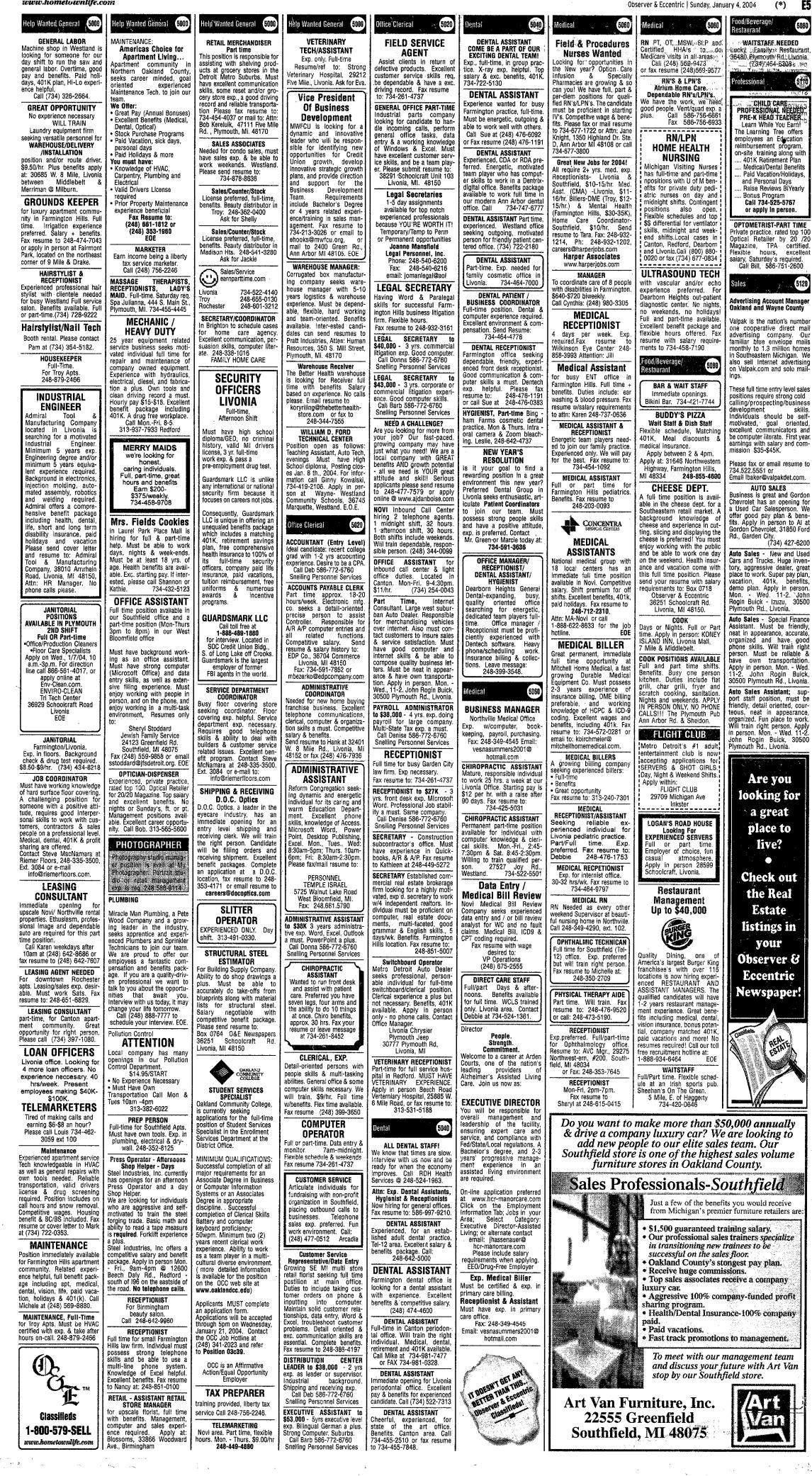


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BY ANNE FRACASSA AVANTI NEWS FEATURES

Observer & Eccentric |Sunday, January 4, 2004

If you live in a snow belt state, or even if you want the versatility and safety of a four-wheel-drive vehicle, this new Kia Sorento 4X4 LX is for you.

Anne

Fracassa

The LX model is not the top-of-the-line, stacked-tothe-max Sorento, by the way. Its shift-on-the-fly is a top performer, getting me out of a 6-inch base of snow I encountered in a flash. In two-wheel-drive, I spun and spun. Turned the knob for four-wheel-drive and I was on my way in a second.

And you know what I liked the most? Its price. The Sorento LX costs \$22,995 out the door, including anti-lock brakes, alloy wheels and a roof rack. Everything else comes standard at the base price of \$21,300. I call that value for you bucks.

Sales of Kias are skyrocketing. The Sorento has also amassed a host of awards in the past few months, mostly touting its value.

Powered by a standard 3.5-liter dual overhead cam 24-valve V6 engine, the Sorento is rated at 192 horsepower. The engine is mated to an electronically controlled four-speed automatic transmission with overdrive.

It gets you where you have to go without a lot of effort. Unfortunately, you can hear engine noise and the road noise is especially annoying. The suspension needs a little more tuning as well. Last complaint: The center instrumentation needs to be a little clearer and the stereo's buttons are too little and hard to figure out at first.

There are two trim levels on the Sorento, EX and LX. Like I said, the EX is stacked-to-the-max with options and only has a handful of options to choose from.

The LX model is equipped very, very well. Standard features include air conditioning, power windows, door locks, heated mirrors, cruise control, eight-speed



Kia Sorento Vehicle type: Special purpose vehicle. Engine: 3.5-liter dual overhead cam V6. Mileage: 15 mpg city/18 mpg highway. Where built: Korea. Price as tested: \$22,955.

CD sound system, full overhead console, map lights, garage door opener pocket and eight-way adjustable driver's seat.

In the rear, there's a 60/40 split flip-and-fold rear seat. There are also four 12-volt outlets strategically placed throughout the cabin to accommodate everything from Gameboy to a television to a computer.

Safety issues are addressed well with dual front airbags, front and rear side-curtain airbags, front pretensioners and three-point belts and headrests for all five seating positions.

Allowing even more versatility, you've got a rear cargo cover, cargo tie-down hooks and plenty of nooks and crannies for storage. There's a full-size spare tire, too. What I found real convenient, especially when driving in the snow - because of the salt spray in the rear - is the rear window, which is a lift gate with flip-up glass. It also features a defroster, wiper and washer system that was really effective with just a couple of sprays and wipes. You don't have to waste a half-gallon of fluid to get it clean.

Now, take all that and upgrade it to the top-of-the-line EX model. With that, you'll get alloy wheels, two-tone body cladding, power sunroof, fog lights, the

HomeLink programmable remote system, a Delphi premium AM/FM/CD/cassette stereo with steeringwheel-mounted controls, remote keyless entry system and a system that measures outside temperature and features a compass, altimeter and barometer.

You can also opt for the luxury package on the EX, which will give you chrome trip, a 280-watt stereo, climate control, automatic headlights, leather-wrapped steering wheel and leather seating surfaces.

So, a fully-loaded with everything but the kitchen sink on a Sorento will cost you about \$27,000. By the way, the Sorento LX 4X2 is priced at just \$19,900. Pretty good value.

I rarely mention warranty programs, but Kia is something to look at. Kias have a 10-year, 100,000-mile limited power train warranty, a five-year or 60,000mile limited basic warranty and a five-year or 100,000-mile anti-perforation warrant. Finally, there's a five-year, unlimited mileage roadside assistance program.

Value. That's what I found in the Kia Sorento. I think you will too.

Write and Anne Fracassa at avanti1054@aol.com

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