

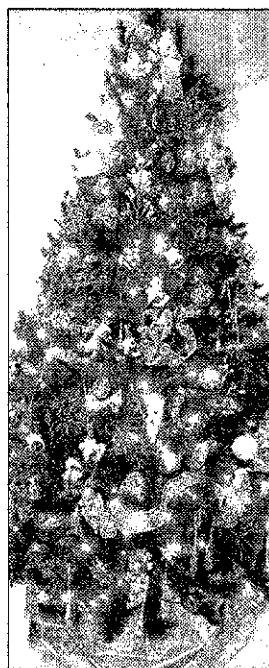


Celebration Chic
Holiday party clothes,
hair and makeup.
This week in PINK



World of Imagination
Michigan authors
mesmerize kids as
well as adults.

SECTION C



Cheer Club

The holiday season is here and so is the Plymouth-Canton Observer Cheer Club. Please join us by bringing donations of new toys and canned or boxed food to our office at 794 S. Main in Plymouth, during business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

The items will be collected until Friday, Dec. 10, when we'll turn them over to the good folks at the Plymouth Salvation Army. They'll distribute the donations to needy people in Plymouth, Canton, Northville and Belleville.

When you bring your donations to the office, we'll ask you to leave your name and hometown, so we can recognize your generosity in the paper. Of course, you're perfectly able to remain anonymous if you prefer.

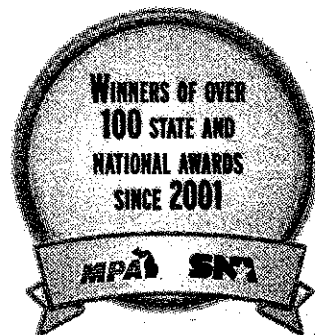
For more information, give us a call at (734) 459-2700. Happy holidays, and please keep our Cheer Club in mind!

Toys for Tots

Canton's Jungle Java is a dropoff site for the annual U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program. Just bring in an unwrapped toy any day through Dec. 15, and receive one free child's admission to Jungle Java, good for Dec. 6, 7, 8, or 13, 14 and 15.

Drop the toys in one of the boxes at the front of Jungle Java, located at 6481 Canton Center Road. All the toys collected will be distributed to less fortunate children across the metro Detroit area.

Your hometown newspaper serving Canton for 30 years



SUNDAY

December 5, 2004

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VOLUME 30 NUMBER 45

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'... not going to take it anymore'

Districts marshal forces to battle lawmakers over school funding

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

"Go to the window and shout as loud as you can: 'I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore!'"

It was a call to action straight out of Hollywood delivered to more than 500 school supporters who filled the auditorium of Edsel Ford High School Thursday evening.

The group of school officials and parents representing the 34 school districts

in Wayne County were there to hear what needs to be done to get the state legislature to fix Proposal A.

"The schools are taking a hit for the decisions being made in Lansing," said Doug Pretty, Allen Park superintendent and president of the Wayne County School Superintendents Association. "They're telling us it's our problem. We're asking you to get a message to Lansing. Tell them our schools are too important to be run into the ground like this. Our children are too important.

Let's make them understand that our kids count."

The meeting, "Our Kids Can't Wait - Fair Funding for Schools," was sponsored by the Tri-County Alliance for Public Education, Wayne County School Superintendents Association, Wayne County Association of School Boards, Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency and Michigan Parent Teacher Student Association.

Plymouth-Canton Schools Superintendent James Ryan, whose district is one of many struggling with a dwindling budget, thought he was going to hear some solid discussion about what's wrong with Proposal A and school funding.

And, while he said he did hear much

of what he expected, he also heard that school administrators aren't going to be able to affect much change. That will have to come, Ryan said, from taxpayers themselves.

"If they said it once they said it 20 times: 'Until we start hearing from voters we don't believe there's a crisis in funding education,'" Ryan said. "We (administrators) can yell all we want (but) voters need to let legislators know."

Ryan said his district has already started doing that, scheduling one-on-one meetings with John Stewart, R-Plymouth Township, and Phil LaJoy, R-Canton.

PLEASE SEE FUNDING, A9



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton resident Sam Shock, 4, suffers from autism. His parents are holding a fund-raiser Saturday to help pay for his therapy sessions, which will cost more than \$30,000 next year.

Family copes with autism

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

Last December, Terri Shock got the best Christmas gift she ever received when her son, Sam, spoke his first word. Better yet, the word was "Mom."

While this would be a significant moment for any parent, it meant so much more for Terri and her husband, Joe, because Sam was 3 years old at the time, and suffering from autism.

Actually, Sam speaking that first word was just one sign of major developmental progress he had made after his parents enrolled him into a program at Beaumont Hospital's HOPE Center in Berkley. Still, hearing him say "Mom" for the first time was like music to Terri Shock's ears.

"His first word was just unbelievable.

PLEASE SEE AUTISM, A6

Law pops cap off liquor prices

BY JACK GLADDEN
STAFF WRITER

A hand-written sign on the front door of Discount Beverage, in the Golden Gate Shopping Center on Lilley Road just south of Joy, reads: "Our liquor is at the lowest price set by Mich. state."

Most customers may not understand why the sign is there, but store owner Gautam Patel and manager Noreen Collet know. They're afraid that, in the eyes of the consumer, perception may become reality.

The sign is in response to a bill signed into law last week by Gov. Jennifer Granholm that takes the cap off retail liquor prices in Michigan.

Under the old law, the Michigan Liquor Control Commission dictated the retail price of liquor in the state since the end of Prohibition. The new law, which was introduced as leg-

islation by state Rep. Sal Rocca, R-Sterling Heights, won't allow retailers to sell liquor for less than the price set by the LCC, but they can raise it however much they want.

And that's why people like Patel and Collet worry about perception.

"The problem is people assume that since you are allowed to do it that you're going to raise the price on alcohol and get what you can get out of it," Collet said. "They figure small stores are the first ones that are going to jump on it. Most people assume that the large stores and discount clubs are already discounting liquor, even though you're not allowed to lower that price under the law."

Patel and Collet say they have no plans to raise the price of liquor in their store, but they're still concerned about that perception problem.

They even sent an e-mail to Granholm protesting the change in the law and requesting a meeting with the governor to present their case.

Michigan is one of about 18 states with liquor price-control laws. So why not just take the price controls off altogether?

"You could try," Collet said, "but you're always going to have the situation like the gas station wars. Someone is going to try to go lower than you, yet you still have to pay the light bills because electricity hasn't gone down any."

She also figures that if Michigan stores raise their prices on liquor by much that will just send people out of state.

"Right now you have all of these people running down to Ohio for cigarettes," she said. "If the prices start going up, they'll be going down for liquor."

jgladden@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 459-2700



HEATHER ROUSSEAU

Christmas in Canton

Christmas officially came to Canton Wednesday night with the annual lighting of the township's Christmas tree at Summit on the Park. Activities were held both Wednesday and Thursday nights. More than 500 people showed up for the two nights of festivities that included performances by the St. Thomas a'Becket bell choirs, carriage rides, holiday cartoons, and plenty of hot chocolate. Outgoing trustees John Burdziak and Bob Shefferly threw the light switch.

Grants prepare students for success

BY JACK GLADDEN
STAFF WRITER

Area students will get a chance to experience some firsthand career opportunities next year, thanks, in part, to grants from the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

At last week's monthly chamber luncheon, Fiegel Elementary School was given a check for \$500 to help students simulate career opportunities and the Plymouth-Canton and Wayne-Westland school districts were each given checks for \$250 to help fund bus transportation for students to Automotive Education Day at

January's North American International Auto Show at Cobo Arena.

It's all part of a new program initiated by the chamber's education committee to bring the business and education communities closer together.

"In the past, the chamber has given \$1,000 as a scholarship to some students," Christine Dail, chairwoman of the education committee, told chamber members. "We have decided to change that \$1,000 to a grant instead. The mission we see is to strengthen the ties between the business commu-

nity and the educational institutions in this community."

Dail said that the chamber hopes to get more contributions from the business community in the future.

"The vision is not only to keep it at \$1,000, but we'd like to see that \$1,000 grow," she told the chamber.

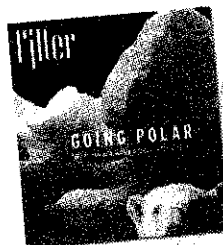
She said the whole idea behind the grant program is to get businesses to donate funds for educational purposes.

The money given to Fiegel will

PLEASE SEE CHAMBER, A2

Coming Thursday in Filter

Icy is in
Take on the wild winter weather at the Detroit Zoo where holiday activities are aplenty and the polar bears are super feisty.



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Jobs	E5	Sports	B1



AROUND CANTON

WINTER LUNCHEON

Schoolhouse Montessori of Canton will be hosting its annual Winter Program and International Luncheon on Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Discovery Middle School in room 305. The program will feature a children's performance and is followed by a luncheon where families will share traditional family recipes representing their country of origin.

The school, which opened in 2001, provides early childhood education. More than 130 families attend the school, representing cultures from five different continents.

Discovery is located at 6215 Canton Center Road. For more information call (734) 416-1849.

GIFTED PROGRAM

Van Buren Public Schools is accepting referrals for possible placement in its Gifted Program for the 2005-06 school year. Eligible students must be in grades K-7.

The program, which services students in grades 1-8, is designed for academically gifted and highly motivated students. The program stresses a

combination of acceleration and enrichment. There is a high level of academic work, a rapid instructional pace, and many opportunities to delve more deeply into subject matter.

Some of the characteristics to look for are:

- A long attention span
- Heightened sensitivity
- Intense curiosity
- Resistance to routine and drill
- A strong sense of fairness
- Concern with issues "too old" for his/her age

Forms are available in all Van Buren elementary and middle schools, and the administration building. All forms must be completed and returned by Jan. 18, 2005 to your school principal, or sent directly to:

Barbara Woody, G/T Coordinator, North Middle School, 47097 McBride, Belleville, MI 48111.

For more information call Barbara Woody at (734) 697-6370.

THEATER AUDITIONS

Auditions for the DuBois Theatre production of the Broadway musical *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* will be held on Jan. 5 and 6 in the

DuBois Theatre at Canton High School from 3-6 p.m. There will be an audition workshop held at the same location on Dec. 15 where those interested can learn the music and learn audition tips.

If you can't make the workshop, contact Mrs. Henry at Canton High School beginning Dec. 15. She will provide audition packets.

SLEIGH BELLS

The Canton Concert Band will present its holiday concert, A Sleigh-Ride Celebration, on Saturday, Dec. 11, at 7:30 p.m. at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road. The band will be playing an evening of classic holiday favorites.

Tickets are \$8, and are available at the Summit, located at 46000 Summit Parkway. For more information, call (734) 394-5460, or go online to www.cantonband.com.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Lee and Noel Bittinger Team at RE/MAX is offering three scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,000, for local high school seniors that are planning to attend a college or university in the fall of 2005.

To apply for the scholarship, entrants must submit a short essay (not to exceed three pages, double-spaced with a 12 pt. font) that address the following question: Describe how someone in your life has influenced you in a positive way and changed your life?

All submissions must include name, address and phone number of entrant, high school they attend, and college or university they plan to attend in the fall. All submissions must be received by Dec. 31, 2004. They should be sent

to The Bittinger Team, 43435 Joy Road, Canton, MI 48187.

"The Plymouth/Canton community has supported us for over 20 years. The Bittinger Team Scholarship is just one of the ways that we can say thank you by giving back to our community," Noel Bittinger said. "This is our way of paving the way for a stronger, happier future for the next generation."

For more information, contact the team at (734) 459-1010, or e-mail Bittinger at noelbittinger@remax.net.

MAKE IT-TAKE IT PARTY

Kids ages 5 and older can make a special gift for holiday giving Dec. 11 at the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

Class is from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., so bring a lunch and be ready to create wonderful art and play some games during this fun-filled day. Participants will even make the wrapping and have it all decorated to take home.

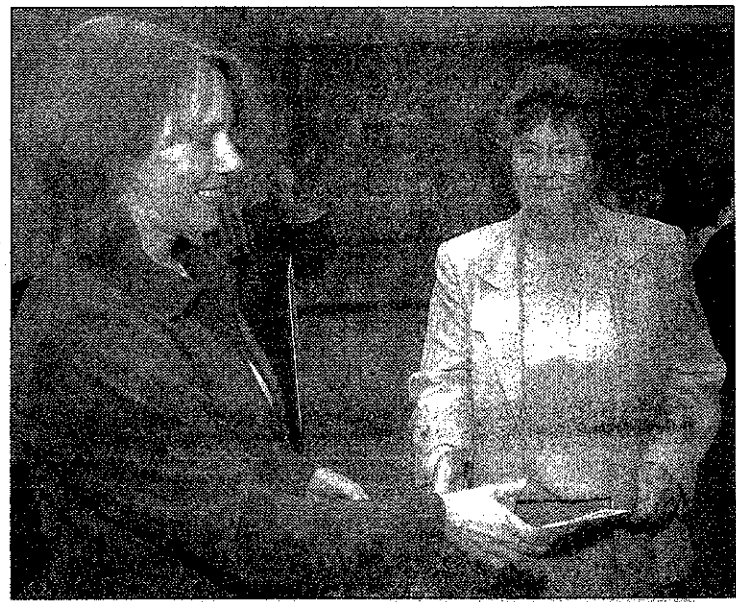
The cost is \$40 for PCAC members, \$45 for non-members. Class size is limited. To register or for more information, call the Arts Council at (734) 416-4278.

LUNCH WITH SANTA

Santa won't need his reindeer when he visits the Roman Forum on Saturday, Dec. 11. He will be arriving by helicopter instead at the restaurant's annual lunch with Santa event.

For \$7, the Forum is offering all the pizza you can eat, plus salad and soft drinks. Kids will get the chance to talk and take one photo with Santa. Each additional photo is \$1.

The restaurant is located at 41601 Ford Road. Santa is set to arrive at 10:45 a.m., and will be there until 2 p.m.



Christine Dail of the Canton Chamber of Commerce hands a \$500 check to Fiegel Elementary fourth-grade teacher Barb Toth.

CHAMBER

FROM PAGE A1

help sponsor a program for 200 third- through fifth-grade students in conjunction with Experiencia, an educational company in Taylor.

The idea is to expose students to career opportunities through a classroom curriculum for 30 days, then give them one day at Experiencia where they get hands-on practice in a simulated setting.

The third-grade students will study science before they visit Experiencia, where they will become scientists for a day.

Fourth- and fifth-graders will study a business curriculum, then will spend their day at Exchange City, where they will be anything from a baker to a mayor for a day.

Fiegel teacher Barb Toth, who accepted the check from Dail, said she has already started using the curriculum.

In dealing with scarcity and abundance, she said, she had five Rice Krispie treats, three Tootsie Roll Pops and one candy cane. Students had a chance to bid for the items, but the only thing they had to bargain with were minutes of recess.

"Some kids bid 17 minutes for a Rice Krispie treat, some bid 23 minutes," she told the

chamber audience. "Then we got to the one candy cane. It jumped up to 30 minutes of recess, and I had five of them who wanted it."

She then opened the bidding up.

"One child realized this was a scarcity item," she said. "He paid five recesses. I said 'Are you sure?' and he said 'I've gotta have my sugar.'"

Accepting the checks for the auto show program were Cindy Candella of Wayne-Westland Schools and Ron Gooding of Plymouth-Canton Schools.

The mission statement of the grant program is "to initiate, promote and facilitate educational programs to benefit the business community."

Schools wanting to apply for one of the grants must be members of the Canton chamber. Priority funding areas include business/education activities, promotion of vocational education, career planning and business community enhancement.

Requests for grants are to be submitted by Jan. 31 of each year to be considered for funding that year. Application forms may be picked up at the Canton Chamber of Commerce or online at www.cantonchamber.com. For more information, call the chamber at (734) 453-4040.

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Winter Clearance Kick-off Sale
Saturday, December 11th

Just when you thought our prices couldn't get any better...we will be kicking off our Winter Clearance on Saturday, December 11th. Almost all gently used items will be 40% off from 9:00 - 10:59am and 25% off the rest of the day.

No other discounts/coupons apply to this sale. Some large items may not be on sale.

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11:15, 12:00, 2:40, 3:30, 6:05, 7:00, 9:30
FRISAT LS 10:20

BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON (R) 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
FRISAT LS 12:00

AFTER THE SUNSET (PG-13)
1:10, 5:10, 9:15
FRISAT LS 11:20

SMALL WE DANCE (PG-13)
1:10, 3:10, 7:10

THE INCREDIBLES (PG) 2 PRINTS / 2 SCREENS
11:20, 12:20, 1:50, 2:40, 4:20, 5:00, 6:40, 7:20, 9:10, 9:40
FRISAT LS 11:30, 12:00

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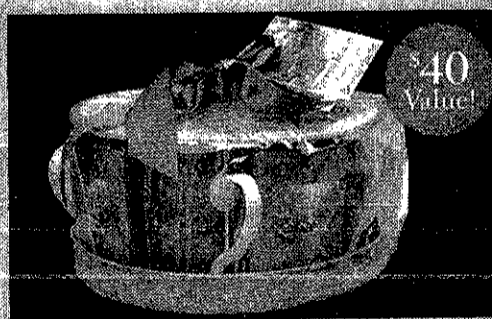
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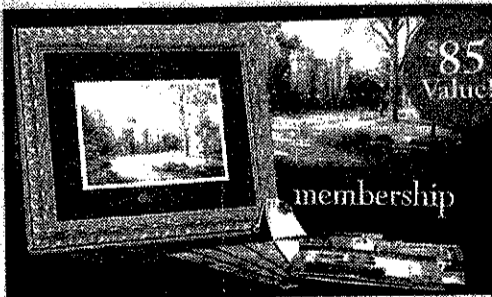


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"A Peaceful Retreat"



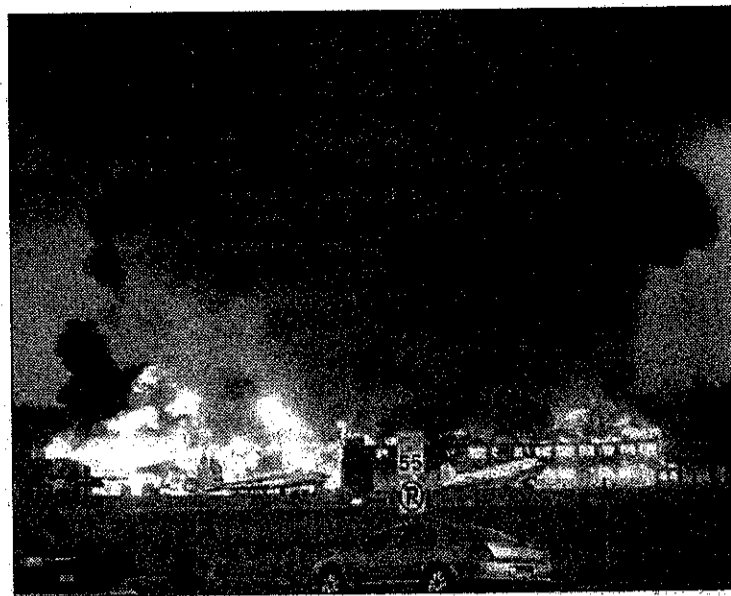
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The 1941 hangar housing the Yankee Air Museum was destroyed by fire on Oct. 9. Two Livonia Schools students are organizing a holiday gala, with all proceeds going toward rebuilding the memorial to the World War II generation.

Students plan USO-type benefit to rebuild museum

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

When Mike Cox began his senior high school internship working on a B-52 Bomber at the Yankee Air Museum, he couldn't believe his luck.

Cox, who plans to join the U.S. Air Force, has long been interested in military history. At the museum, he was completely surrounded by it.

On Oct. 1, Cox brought fellow students from his Livonia Public Schools Career Internship Program to visit the museum on a class field trip.

A week later, on Oct. 9, the wooden structure built in 1941 was destroyed - along with eight planes - in a fire. The loss is estimated at between \$5 million and \$7 million.

"I was shocked," said Cox, a senior at Stevenson High School. "It was history. Now it's all gone."

Cox went from a crew member on an airplane to an office job, categorizing artifacts.

"I wanted to help get a fund-raiser going, to help rebuild it," he said.

Michele Allen, a senior at Churchill High School and a fellow student in the Career Intern Program, agreed to help. Now, not even two months after the fire, a holiday gala fund-raiser is in its final planning stages.

On Dec. 18, the students will host a festive semi-formal event, which is modeled after the USO shows of the World War II era. Dinner by Elite Catering in Livonia, music, stand-up comedy and swing dancing will all focus on the '40s theme - an appeal to all generations, organizers said. The event will be held at the

Experimental Aircraft Association hangar, located at Mettetal Airport in Canton.

The hangar will be heated, and decorated for the holidays.

"They've been very helpful there," said Allen. "They have helped us with anything that we need."

Scheduled to speak at the gala along with Cox are: Fox 2 Meteorologist Rich Luterman, Museum Curator Gayle Roberts, and Mary Coulliard, director of the Career Intern Program in LPS.

Cox and Allen said they hope to draw at least 200 people, and perhaps raise about \$5,000 - all of which will be donated to the restoration of the Yankee Air Museum.

If the event is deemed a success, Cox said he hopes it will spur more fund-raisers and future support to re-create the museum which meant so much to him.

The museum is accepting both monetary and other donations. Eventually, Cox said, he hopes to see a new museum in place and be able to say "we did this."

The deadline for tickets has been extended. Cox and Allen are trying to spread the word and invite all who are interested in attending the holiday event. Donations to the cause are included in the ticket price, Cox said, though they accept additional monetary and other donations - including military and wartime artifacts and uniforms.

For more information, visit the Web at www.yankeearmuseum.org.

"Any profits go toward the museum," he said.
scasola@oe.hometown.com
(734) 953-2054

HOLIDAY PARTY FUND-RAISER

What: The Yankee Air Museum Holiday Party and Fund-raiser. For the cost of a ticket, patrons can support the rebuilding of the museum.

When: The '40s-themed holiday gala will begin at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18. All are welcome.

Where: The event will be at the Experimental Aircraft Association (Chapter 113) hangar, located at Mettetal Airport, at Joy and Lilley roads in Canton.

Cost: Tickets are \$65 per couple, or \$40 for a single admission. **To purchase:** Send checks payable to Mike Cox, with "fund-raiser" in the memo section, to Yankee Fund-raiser, c/o Mike Cox, 15899 Penn Drive, Livonia, MI 48154.

More information: <http://www.yankeearmuseum.org>

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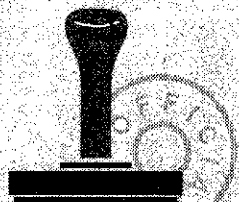
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FOR THE RECORD



For the Record appears in every edition of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's Community Life section in *Passages* on page C5.

DEATHS

A
Thomas Nathan Abbott, 53, of Westland, died Dec. 2.
Charles (Gene) E. Amyx, 68, of Birmingham, formerly of Plymouth, died Nov. 28.

B
Beatrice "Bea" G. Brooks, 93, of Farmington Hills, died Nov. 30.

H
Walter R. Haines, 84, of Mio, formerly of Belleville, died Nov. 20.
Alfred G. Hakala, 83, of Livonia, died Nov. 25.
Evelyn Ann Head, 83, formerly of Farmington Hills, died Nov. 27.
Robert "Joe" Henke, 67, of Farmington, died Nov. 27.

J
Lallah G. Johnston, 86, of Howell, formerly of Inkster, died Nov. 28.

M
Marian (Bell) Morrow, 87, of Naples, Fla., formerly of Traverse City, died Nov. 28.
Weston W. Meyer, 83, died Nov. 24.

N
Greta P. Nilsson, 95, of Livonia, died Dec. 1.

O
Virginia J. Osiecki, of Livonia, died Nov. 30.

R
Russell Chaignon Robinson Sr., 47, formerly of Livonia, died Nov. 26.

S
James Sutherland, 64, of Farmington Hills, died Nov. 29.

T
Mae L. Taylor, 94, died Nov. 29.

Calvin Coolidge Hilton, 80, of Wayne, died Nov. 29.

Planners meet for hearings

Canton's Planning Commission will meet 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 6, at Summit on the Park.
Here's a rundown of agenda items:

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Morris/Township Future Land Use Amendment - Consider request to amend Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan for parcel located south of Cherry Hill Road and east of Canton Center from medium-low density residential to local shopping.
2. Al-Haschemy rezoning - Consider request to rezone parcel located south of Ford Road and east

of Gorman from R-1, single family residential (1 dwelling unit/acre) to R-3, single family residential (3 dwelling units/acre).

3. Material Sciences Corporation - Consider request for special land use for a research and design center and testing laboratory for parcel located south of Koppernick Road and east of I-275.

NEW BUSINESS-SITE PLANS

4. Haggerty Medical Office Building - Consider request for site plan approval for property located north of Cherry Hill Road and west of Ridge.

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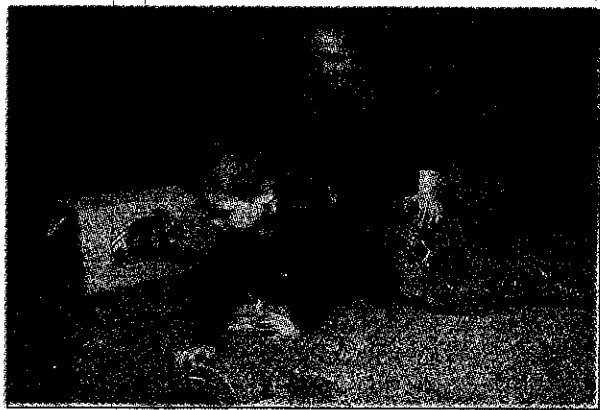
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Sam Shock plays with his mom, who was thrilled when he first called her 'Mom.'



AUTISM

FROM PAGE A1

It was so great," she said. "You start thinking after three and a half years of him not talking that he may never talk."

The Shocks didn't even know Sam had autism until he was 17 months old, when they started to notice he wasn't acting the way other kids his age are supposed to act. In addition to not talking, Sam wouldn't play with his toys. Instead, he would take blocks or his toy train tracks and line them up, and then just stare at them.

Alarmed, the Shocks took him to see several doctors, who checked him for a number of things, including his hearing. It was then he was diagnosed with autism, a neurologically based disorder that impairs language and social compatibility and often leads to repetitive behavior.

Terri Shock remembers that day like it was yesterday. "It was terrifying. You just don't know there's any help out there until you go out there and find it," she said.

Over the course of the next two years, the Shocks struggled with Sam's disease. Although they were doing the best they could to raise him, Sam wasn't making much progress. Then one day, Terri Shock said he disappeared. While she was busy doing something upstairs, Sam left the house and walked down to nearby Gallimore Elementary. Frantic, Terri Shock called the Canton Police Department, and they dispatched seven cars, she says. Fortunately, Sam made it back home on his own.

It was then the couple decided to enter Sam in the HOPE

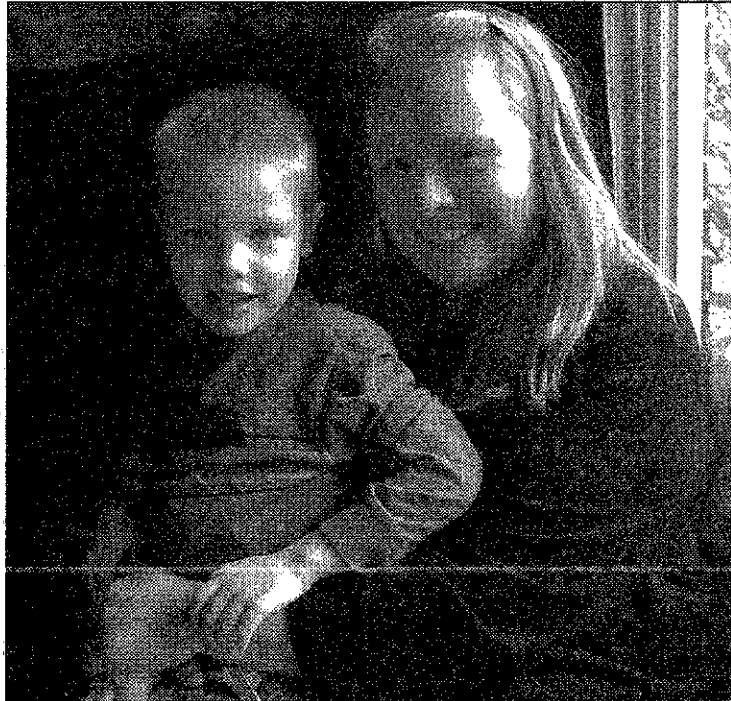
Center's CARE Program, which they say has changed everything. He has been in the program for more than a year now. His language skills have improved dramatically, as has his ability to play, though he still finds it hard to share things with his older sister.

According to Dr. Ruth Anan, director of early childhood programs for Beaumont's Center for Human Development, it is critical to work with autistic children at a very early age, if they are to have anywhere near normal lives as adults. She said the more intensive the therapy is, the better off they will be. Sam's therapy has been very intense, she said. He goes five days a week, for three hours each day.

Anan said she is just amazed at how far Sam has come in the last year.

"Sam has shown excellent response to intensive therapy. He's one of the kids who has great possibilities," Anan said. "He is not the child I met a year ago. Back then, he was not speaking at all. During the first three months of treatment, he made over a year's worth of developmental progress. Currently, he is functioning at a much, much higher level. Now he enjoys singing songs and playing on the computer."

But Sam's therapy has come at a cost. According to Terri Shock, health insurance companies won't cover the cost of autism-related treatments, meaning the couple has had to foot the bill out of their own pockets. This has been even more difficult because Joe Shock, a pipefitter at the Visteon plant in Plymouth Township, has been laid off from his job for most of the



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sam and his mother, Terri Shock.

last year.

Terri Shock said the cost of Sam's therapy will exceed \$30,000 next year. In addition to being enrolled in the CARE program, Sam also sees a speech therapist in Plymouth, which costs \$104 per hour, she said.

"With Joe being laid off, and me being unable to work because it is a full-time job taking care of Sam, it has been very difficult. We have been making ends meet by using our credit cards, which are now maxed out. We need help," she said.

With nowhere else to turn, Terri is asking the community for aid. She is holding a fund-raising dinner, which will take place next Saturday, Dec. 11, at the UAW Local 845 hall in Canton. All the money the

family raises will be used to pay for Sam's therapy. She said everyone is welcome to attend the dinner, which she said will be a festive affair to coincide with the holiday season. She hopes those that attend will learn a little about autism, which she said most people don't know much about.

As for Sam, her expectations for his future have increased dramatically since he started therapy. Where a year ago she wasn't sure if he would ever speak, now she sees college in his future and a life that won't be that abnormal. But she knows there will be challenges ahead.

"He'll always be a little different, but I'm OK with that. I just want him to be the best he can be," she said.

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Holiday fund-raiser on tap for Sam Shock

Canton residents Joe and Terri Shock are having a fund-raising dinner to help them pay for therapy sessions for their son, Sam, who has autism. The sessions, which insurance won't cover, will cost the couple more than \$30,000 next year. The spaghetti dinner will be held from 4-8 p.m., Dec. 11 at the UAW Local 845 hall, located at 8770 N. Canton Center

Road (at corner of Joy) in Canton. The Shocks are asking for a \$10 donation for adults, and children are free. They ask that people make checks payable to the Samuel Shock Trust. In addition to dinner, desert and refreshments, there will be several gift baskets raffled off. A number of local businesses have donated the gifts. Also, each family

attending the dinner will qualify for a drawing to win one of two rentals of a moonwalk through Sam's Bounce House, a company the Shocks started to help them pay the expenses of Sam's therapy and other treatments. For more information or to make a donation, call the Shocks at (734) 564-5286, or e-mail them at terrishock@comcast.net.

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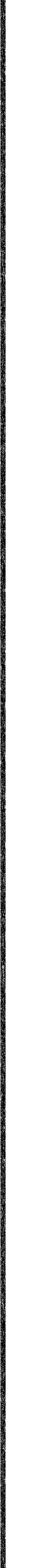
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Bouchard being mentioned as GOP's choice for governor

When he was a young cop on the beat, Michael Bouchard wasn't always cautious: "I always wanted to be the first guy through the door, you know, and I was getting hurt a lot."



Jack Lessenberry

His ear and hand were grazed by one bullet. Once, while chasing down criminals, his police cruiser was broad-sided and sent reeling into two trees, striking them so hard that the engine block cracked.

"Had it moved another 18 inches either way, the investigator said it would have wrapped around a tree and killed us," remembers Bouchard, now sheriff of the state's second-largest county, as his screen saver presents a montage of images from various versions of *Star Trek*, his all-time favorite TV show.

Later, when asked if he was hurt at all, he says, as an afterthought, "Well, yeah. About a year later, I had to have a piece of my spine removed."

One senses that part of him would like to ditch the paperwork, jump out the door and into a police cruiser and go bust a crack house. But that was then, and now he presides over a \$110 million department - and, some say, a large part of the hopes for the future of the Michigan GOP.

For it is no secret that many state Republicans think that Mike Bouchard would be the strongest possible candidate they could field against Gov. Jennifer Granholm two years from now. Others would like to see him take a crack at U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, although a consensus is building that Lansing-area U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers is a slightly more likely Senate nominee.

Running for either post

would be relatively low-risk, in one way, for the 48-year-old sheriff. He wouldn't have to give up his day job; last month, he was re-elected to a new four-year term as sheriff, winning more than 60 percent in a county that voted for John Kerry for president.

Bouchard had left police work and was busy building a career in the state Senate when Oakland County's elderly longtime sheriff dropped dead six years ago this month. Appointed by a special panel, he resigned from the Legislature and hit the ground running.

Since then, he has won wide notice for modernizing a sleepy sheriff's department that was built for a sprawling rural area and hadn't kept up with the urban explosion that has transformed Oakland into one of the nation's largest and richest counties. Clearly ambitious, he admits he is thinking about higher office, though he has mastered the politician's modest "it depends on where I thought I could make the greatest contribution," and on what's best for his wife and three young children.

His decision, he says, won't depend on whether he thinks he can win. But the truth is, nobody likes to lose.

And the polls have shown that Michigan's first woman governor is still hugely popular. In the only head-to-head matchup, a survey last fall designed to explore a potential Bouchard run had her killing him, 55 to 33 percent.

Yet his supporters note that he is still fairly unknown statewide.

Republicans now are roughing out the beginnings of a strategy against the governor, portraying her as a do-nothing executive who is more fluff than substance and who is out of touch on many issues.

She opposed a constitutional ban on gay marriage, which passed overwhelmingly last month.

Some think that may give them an opening. And many

think that Mike Bouchard, a one-time star guard for Brother Rice High School's basketball team, needs to come off the bench for the state GOP.

The Michigan Republican Party, after all, is in somewhat of a candidate crisis that in many ways resembles the plight of the national Democrats. Last month, it lost the presidential race in Michigan for the fourth straight time.

Democrats control the governor's office and both U.S. Senate seats. In fact, Republicans have lost nine of the state's last 10 U.S. Senate races. Though President George W. Bush made a major effort to win Michigan, he failed, and his party lost seats in the Legislature.

L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County's salty long-time county executive, thinks that in large part is because middle-class voters are increasingly leery of Republicans who appear too close to the religious right and appear more concerned with monitoring their neighbors' morality than respecting their privacy.

Bouchard is himself a fairly conservative Roman Catholic and a man who, like many Republicans today, says his political hero is Ronald Reagan.

But he doesn't come across as doctrinaire. Asked if he is more an ideologue or a pragmatist, he smiles and says "about 50-50," and then adds, "I have always believed you shouldn't sacrifice the good when you can't get the perfect."

Two years from now might not be the perfect time for Bouchard to run for governor. But increasingly, state Republicans feel that his doing so might be a very good thing.

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.

Rocky stands up for America, argues against bolting to Canada

Andrew "Rocky" Raczkowski, former state representative from Farmington Hills, sacrificial GOP Senate candidate against Carl Levin in 2002 and would-be state Republican Party chair, was on national Canadian television Monday standing up for America.



Hugh Gallagher

Rocky was taking part in a "conversation" with Canadians on our different values on the eve of President Bush's visit to Ottawa. CBC anchor Peter Mansbridge (Jennings, Rather and Brokaw all rolled into one erudite package) brought his intelligent nightly news program, *The National*, to Windsor to take the pulse of the neighborly relations along the longest peaceful border in the world.

Following the U.S. election, many blue state Americans were saying they were ready to pack it up and move north to Canada (where even the red provinces are blue).

Mansbridge, ever the complete journalist, snuffed out the notion that there's a great American exodus with figures from Canadian naturalization offices showing no big blip in American requests to make the big switch (more Canadians come here - Mike Meyers, Jim Carrey, Neil Young).

But clearly there is a big difference between the two great North American democracies. In Canada, the majority party is proud to call itself Liberal. In the United States, conservatives have convinced a sizable number of people, including some leading liberal politicians, that liberal is a dirty word. On the same night that Rocky was standing up for America, it was

announced that Canadians had picked a socialist as the greatest of all Canadians. The winner, Tommy Douglas, was the radical premier of Saskatchewan who invented the country's medicare system. He beat out Alexander Graham Bell, Pierre Trudeau, Wayne Gretzky and even Don Cherry. Imagine Eugene Debs or Norman Thomas being voted the greatest American, or even Walter Reuther. Never happen.

After an opening news segment that suggested that the president would be attending under controlled circumstances to avoid the catcalls he received on a similar visit to Australia, Mansbridge introduced an American from Washington state who was packing his family off to British Columbia. Even though Washington is a blue state, the man said he didn't feel comfortable in Bush's conservative America. He worried about personal freedom, the war in Iraq, the growing power of the religious right.

Mansbridge opened the conversation up to the Windsor audience, divided between Americans and Canadians.

That's when Rocky rose to the defense of the red, white and blue. As always, he was effusive. He acknowledged that Canada and the United States were both great countries where a person was free to express his views. He let everyone know that he had just returned from serving in Operation Enduring Freedom (where, unlike in Iraq, Canadians were part of the coalition). He questioned why the man from Washington didn't stay and fight for his views instead of running away.

The man repeated his concerns, especially with all three branches of the federal government in the control of the conservative wing of the conservative Republican Party (unless, of course, you believe that the Supreme Court is free of politics).

While I share the man's

concerns, I agree with Rocky that moving to Canada isn't the answer. Despite the silliness of Republicans like Dick Posthumus railing against Jennifer Granholm for having "Canadian values," the truth is that Canada and the United States have a wide range of opinions about values. In a small town in western Canada, the man from Washington might find himself surrounded by Canadian Conservatives (the loyal opposition). He might also find that pervasive political correctness and tighter libel laws are more restrictive than a John Ashcroft decree.

I love Canada. I go there every summer to attend the Stratford Festival. Toronto has always been a favorite city. I would like to see some of its level-headedness, insight and level of debate in the United States. But I'm not about to abandon my heritage as an American to go to Canada because I don't like how the election turned out.

After all, John Kerry received more votes for president than anyone in history, except for George W. Bush. Bush didn't win a mandate, he won by a 3 percent margin. Many of those who voted for the president do not share the narrow views of religious fundamentalists or even the rabid views of Ann Coulter, Sean Hannity and Robert Novak.

They just like Bush or didn't want to change presidents in the middle of a war or didn't like Kerry's hairstyle (me either).

Four years from now, who knows what will be? But, as Rocky told Canada, America's a free country where people can speak their minds.

Now's not the time to be leaving when every voice and every vote is needed.

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

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FUNDING

FROM PAGE A1

"Retirement costs are going through the roof, and (Lansing) is expecting us to fund all of that," Ryan said. "We have scheduled meetings one-on-one with (Stewart and LaJoy) so they can understand our budget."

The meeting was held on the eve of a state revenue estimating conference expected to show a combined \$577.9 million deficit in the state General Fund and School Aid Fund for fiscal 2005. Coupled with a \$35.5 million shortfall last year, the state could reduce aid payments by up to \$131 per student.

The speakers, ranging from Detroit Schools CEO Kenneth Burnley to Sue Bellows, the immediate past president of the Michigan PTSA, exhorted the audience to get involved and let legislators know that the current school funding isn't acceptable.

"The system of funding schools isn't working and we need help," said Daniel Lessard, president of the Wayne County Association of School Boards and Livonia school board trustee. "Let's tell them we are working as hard and as smart and we can and we expect the same of them. Let's tell them the system is broken and we expect them to fix it. Let's tell them our kids can't wait."

Lessard had praise for the audience which he said "tremendously outnumbered" the turnout of a similar meeting he recently attended in Oakland County.

"You do us proud," he said. Using statistics from the state Senate and House Fiscal agencies, Tom White, a member of the Clinton Regional Educational Service Agency

board, gave participants a quick lesson in school financing.

One of the biggest problems facing districts is retirement costs, which were switched from the state to school districts with Proposal A. As it now stands, districts will pay \$110-\$120 per student into the retirement system this year, up 2 percent from last year, White said. And a study done six months ago shows that the cost will continue to go up every year in the foreseeable future.

"It's about 2 percent for the next eight years, and what it means is that by 2008, districts will be paying \$1,200 per student into the retirement program," White said. "This is a serious problem facing schools."

White doesn't believe that the state's problem relates entirely to the economy. The state, he said, has cut taxes while spending more than it has taken in since 2001. The cumulative effect of cuts in income tax and the Single Business Tax for fiscal 2004-2005 on school aid was \$1.3 billion.

"If the legislature had left the tax structure alone, we would have \$550 million more per year," said White. "That's income we don't have now." He added that the K-16 Coalition for Michigan's Future is in the process of putting together a proposal, providing an alternative to solving the school aid funding problem. At the least, the group will ask lawmakers for an inflationary increase in school funding. If they don't approve the initiative, it would go to a vote of the people.

"We're not asking for the moon, but it's going to take people like you to get the message across to them," he said. "This is the target. It's their job to figure out how to hit the



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chuck Portelli is head of the Plymouth-Canton district's teacher's union.

bull's eye.

"If there has to be blood in the streets of Lansing to get action, let the people in this room decide whose blood."

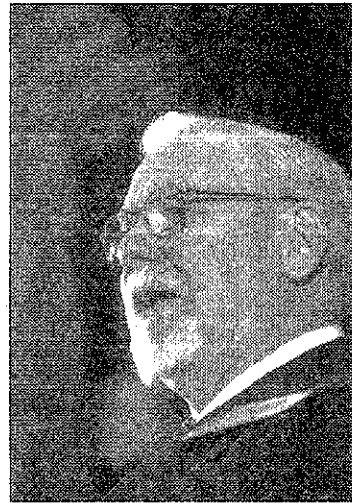
It was Mary Blackmon, secretary of the Wayne RESA Board of Education, with the help from Peter Finch in his role of newscaster Howard Beale in the movie *Network*, who issued the call to action.

"This is not specific to a few communities or even Detroit," she said. "It's all of our problem and affects all of our children. The educational community has been calling on the legislature to fix the problem and it's gone unanswered."

"You need to hold your elected officials accountable. Write to your lawmakers and tell them to fund our schools. It's their job to fund the schools and it's their job to change it. They can fix it."

After the meeting, participants broke off into individual school district groups to begin developing a game plan for getting the legislature's attention. According to Ryan, it's the only way change will come.

"I really thought everyone would leave being on the same



Wearing two hats as a Livonia trustee and as president of the Wayne County Association of School Boards, Daniel Lessard thanked the audience for a 'tremendous turnout for the meeting.'

page about what have been the shortfalls on proposal A," Ryan said. "The overpowering message 'Lansing doesn't believe there's a problem' was stronger than here's what's wrong with Proposal A."

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How schools have been impacted

The State Senate and House Fiscal agencies provided a lot of the statistics that Thomas White of the Michigan School Business Officials used in his presentation.

Among those statistics:

■ The state provides 80 percent of the total state and local revenues to local school districts, almost the opposite in pre-Proposal A times when it supplied 25 percent of the revenue. Today, the principal source state school aid money, 41 percent, comes from the sales tax.

■ The amount of state aid school districts receive declined in fiscal 2004, the first time since the passage of Proposal A.

■ Proposal A has reduced the spending gap between school districts. In 1993, the 10 lowest districts averaged \$3,476 per pupil and the 10 highest districts averaged \$9,726 per pupil, a 170 percent difference. As of 2000, the 10 lowest districts averaged \$6,700 per pupil while the 10 highest districts averaged \$11,389 per pupil, for a 70 percent difference.

■ Since 2002, K-12 funding has been cut - \$127 million in prorated foundation allowances and categoricals in 2002, \$111 million in reduced/eliminated categoricals in 2003-2004 and \$131 million in prorated foundation allowances in 2003-04.

■ Response to cuts in funding between January 2003 and May 2004 included the layoff of 2,700 employees (272 school districts), didn't fill open positions (393 districts), increased class sizes (277 districts) and reduced supply budgets (434 districts). Fifty-two percent of districts deferred maintenance on existing facilities and 36 percent froze salaries/benefits for some employees.

■ To balance budgets in 2004-05, districts expect to lay off 5,400 employees (216 districts), not fill open positions (330 districts), increase class size (226 districts), defer \$25 million in renovations and repairs (256 districts), reduce school days (90 districts), reduce staff hours (154 districts), delay purchasing textbooks (217 districts) and spend from savings (340 districts).

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

UTILITY EXTENSION PROJECTS

■ **Sanitary Sewer Extension (Geddes / Denton Road)** - The developer is extending the sanitary sewer starting from approximately 500 feet east of Denton to the west side of Denton Road to south of Independence Park. Trees have been cleared for the installation of the sewer. Residents will be notified upon completion. Sewer construction is anticipated to be completed in late November and should be ready for use by early January of 2005.

■ **Water Main Improvements (Dominion to Ford)** - The water main will be extended approximately 1,200 lineal feet on the east side of N. Ridge Road from Dominion to Ford Road. Construction will begin in February or March of next year.

SIDEWALK PROGRAMS

■ **2004 Sidewalk Repair Program** - Invoices will be mailed out early this month and payment will be due on or before 5 p.m., Friday, Jan. 14, 2005. The following subdivisions will be part of this year's repair program: Brookside West, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; Salem Manor, Cherry Hill Pines, Edenbrooke Farms, Edenbrooke Estates, Cherry Hill Oaks, Smokler Truesdell, and miscellaneous locations. The remaining portion of Smokler Truesdell and miscellaneous locations will be completed by mid-November.

■ **2004 Sidewalk Gap Program** - Placed on hold at this time. Project will be combined with the 2005 Sidewalk Gap Program.

Workshop to focus on needs of the disabled

Persons with disabilities wishing to learn about programs designed to help them are encouraged to attend a meeting 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8.

It will be held at the Ford Community & Performing

Arts Center in Dearborn.

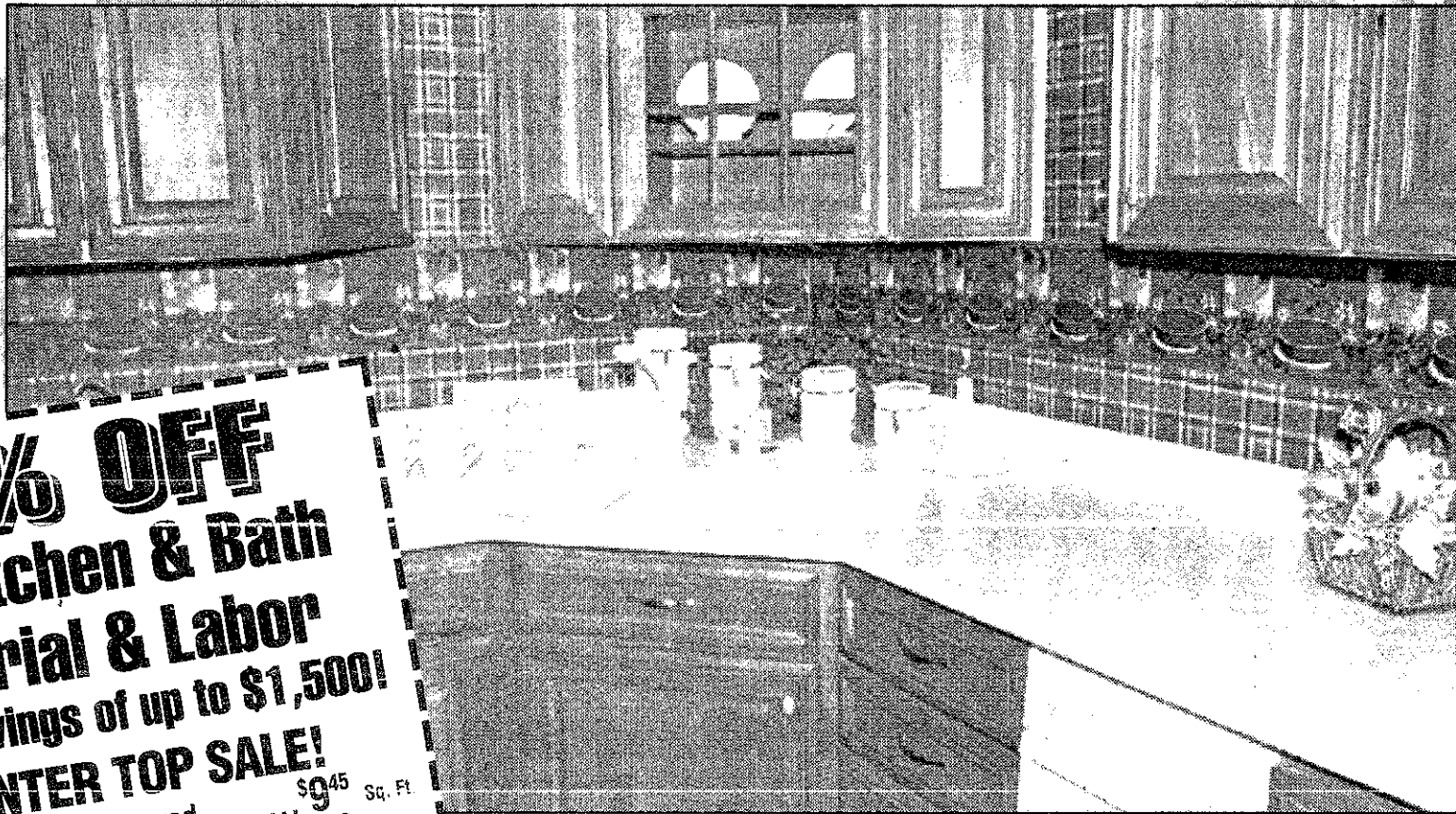
The Canton Leisure Services Department is administering a three-year, \$200,000 grant from Wayne County that will help fund the Western Wayne County Therapeutic Recreation

(WWCTR), which serves the communities of Belleville, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster, Livonia, Plymouth, Northville, Romulus, Wayne, Westland, and the townships of Canton and Farmington Hills.

Northville, Redford, and Van Buren.

For more information about the Therapeutic Recreation program, planned events and other details, contact Jon LaFever at (734) 394-1100.

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Conference focuses on 'Tipping to Cool' cities

Last winter, more than 1,400 representatives from communities across Michigan attended the sold-out Creating Cool conference in Lansing, to examine links between culture and economic development, as well as to define what it is that makes a community "cool."

On Thursday, Dec. 9, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs/Department of History, Arts and Libraries and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, will hold a follow up conference, *Tipping to Cool: Next Steps in Linking Culture, Community and the Economy*, to address how to make creative economic development happen.

"The optimism and energy created at last year's 'Creating Cool' conference was nothing short of inspiring," said Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm. "Over the last two years, hundreds of community leaders have joined in a critical dialogue about how we can and must build cities and neighborhoods in which people want to live, work and raise their families. The upcoming *Tipping to Cool* conference is an important next step."

Like the original conference, *Tipping to Cool* will bring together cultural, community, economic development and government leaders to take the next steps in revitalizing Michigan's cities and towns through creative collaborative effort. In particular, attendees will consider ways that arts and culture can drive economic development and assist government leaders in transforming their communities into places that will attract and retain the creative workers critical to the state's future economic growth.

The foundation for this conference stems from the principles that keynote speaker, Malcolm Gladwell, identifies in his best-selling book, *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*. Gladwell will explain how his ideas can be used to stim-

ulate Michigan's communities and will challenge attendees to implement his ideas to create change within their own communities.

"The overwhelming success of last year's conference demonstrated the value arts and cultural organizations bring to community revitalization," said Lillian Bauder, chair of the conference-planning committee and a member of the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. "We are delighted to build upon the insights from last year's conference in an effort to help communities identify additional resources and develop innovative, collaborative solutions to strengthen their communities' creative bases."

The event will feature sessions exploring an array of ways in which Michigan communities can employ creative strategies to address pressing challenges. These sessions will feature speakers drawn from Michigan and beyond who will share best practices, case studies and model experiences. For example, luncheon speaker Becky Anderson of HandMade in America will tell how she used North Carolina's craft heritage to foster community and create economic solutions for the region through tourism, education and workforce-development initiatives.

New this year is a component called Tips & Tools, which will feature static and interactive displays, opportunities for "mini-consultations" with State of Michigan agency representatives and private-sector experts, as well as short presentations on pertinent topics.

Teams from local communities are encouraged to attend. Registration for four is \$220 plus \$55 per additional person on or before Nov. 19 and \$280 plus \$70 per additional person thereafter. Registration is \$70 per person before Nov. 19 and \$85 thereafter. Call Get Real! Communications at (734) 669-7192 or visit www.TippingToCool.com.

RE/MAX offers American Dream scholarships

RE/MAX of Southeastern Michigan (RE/MAX) is presenting its third annual "American Dream" scholarship program, open to high school seniors in Macomb, Monroe, Oakland and Wayne counties.

The scholarship program — \$500 to each of 20 student recipients — was originally established as part of the celebration of RE/MAX of Southeastern Michigan's 25th anniversary three years ago. Because the program was so successful in its inaugural year, RE/MAX decided to offer the scholarship contest for a sec-

ond time last year, and again this year, making it the third annual program.

To apply, students must provide a short essay on what the "American Dream" means to them and the role that higher education plays in helping to achieve that dream. Essays and supporting materials will be judged on content, originality and creativity.

The deadline for submitting applications is Feb. 1, 2005.

"We originally established the 'American Dream' scholarship as way to acknowledge

a special year for our company, and at the same time communicate RE/MAX's belief in the importance of education as a means for today's youth to become tomorrow's leaders," said Jeanette Schneider, vice president and co-regional director of RE/MAX of Southeastern Michigan.

"Once we saw how many students across our four-county region were interested in the scholarship, we knew we had to extend this program beyond just one year."

For more information about the scholarship program, or to obtain an entry form, contact Jeanette Schneider at 248.440.0404 x202, check online at www.manyhouses.com, or visit any local RE/MAX office.



Youth production

Motor City Youth Theatre presents 'Annie Jr.' 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10 and 17, and 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 11-12 and 18-19, at the Livonia Civic Center Library Auditorium, 32777 Five Mile, between Merriman and Farmington Road, Livonia. Tickets are \$5. Call (313) 535-8962. Pictured are Emily Helman Scherrer (scrubbing the floor) and Allison Allen (standing).

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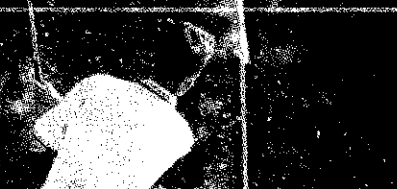
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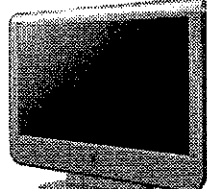
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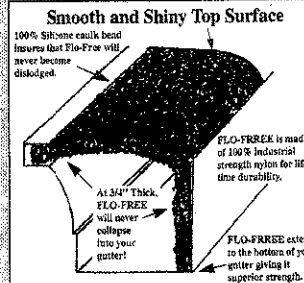


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A full life

Plymouth man finds fame, happiness in 18-year NFL career

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth resident Ross Fichtner almost got floored by boxing legend Cassius Clay in November of 1966. No, the two didn't exchange blows in a boxing ring, but the heavyweight champ, who later changed his name to Muhammad Ali, came close to dashing Fichtner's once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to appear on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*, the king of sports magazines.

It was mid-November of '66 and Fichtner, a strong safety for the Cleveland Browns, was setting a torrid interception pace, having picked off eight passes in six games.



Ross Fichtner appeared on the November 21, 1966, issue of *Sports Illustrated*. At the time, the Cleveland Browns strong safety led the NFL with eight interceptions in just six games.

SI decided to do a feature on the speedy defender and a few other elite National Football League defensive backs, so a photographer followed Fichtner around for a few days.

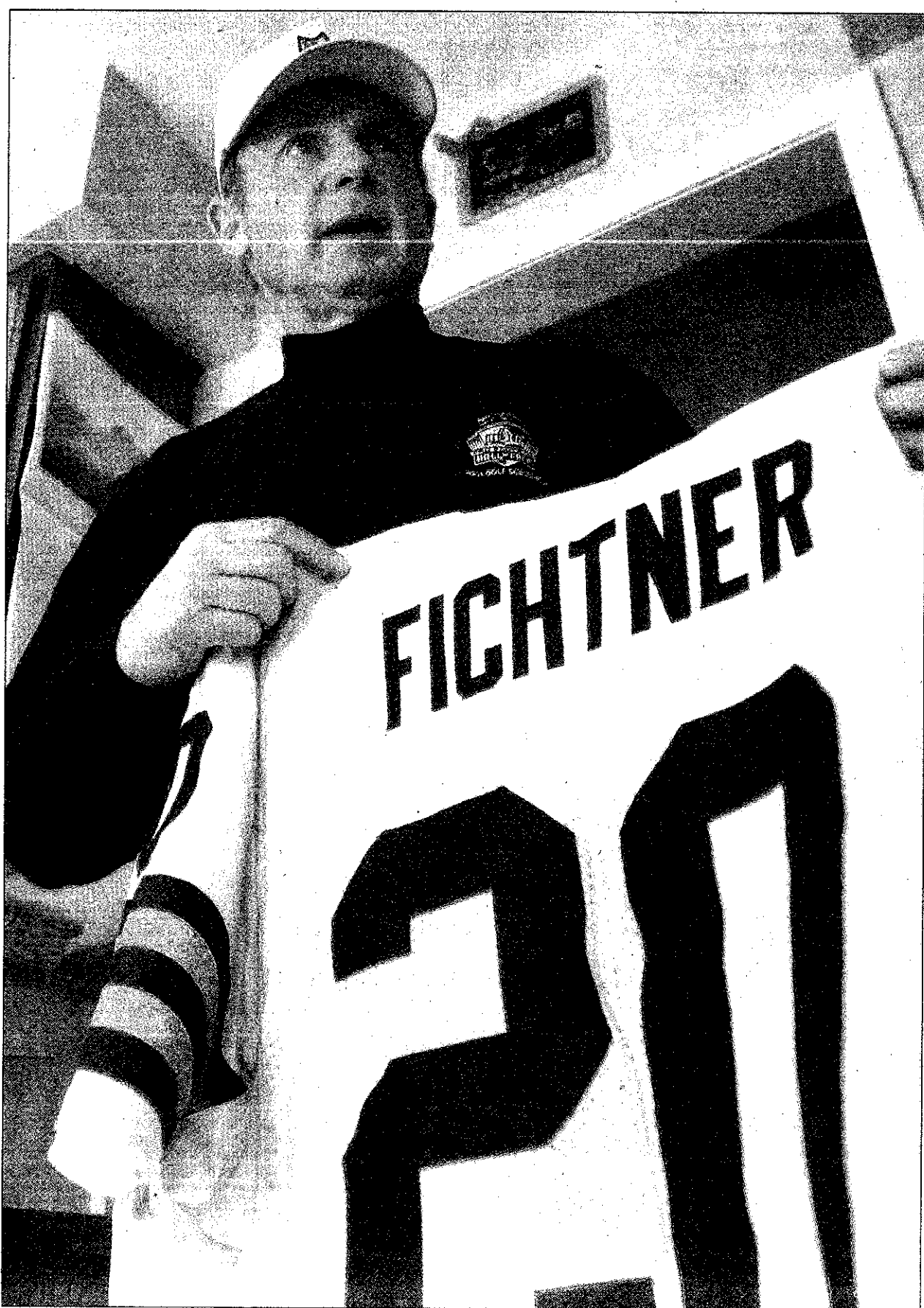
"The guy took hundreds of photos," Fichtner remembered. "He said they were going to put me on the cover."

There was only one catch, Fichtner discovered later in the week.

"Cassius Clay was fighting against Big Cat Williams that weekend," he said. "The people from *Sports Illustrated* told me that if Big Cat beat Clay, they were going to put a photo of the fight on the cover."

Needless to say, Fichtner immediately became one of Clay's biggest fans.

"When Clay knocked out Big Cat early in the fight, I was the happiest guy around," he beamed.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth resident Ross Fichtner holds the jersey he was given by the Cleveland Browns in September at a ceremony commemorating the 40 anniversary of the team's NFL championship. Fichtner wore #20 during his eight-year career with the Browns from 1960-67.

Sidelines

Youth wrestling

The second session of the Canton Wrestling Club will run from Jan. 3 through March 13. The cost is \$45 and includes membership in the Michigan Youth Wrestling Association and a club T-shirt. Registration will be held Wednesday, Dec. 15, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in room 305 of Canton High School's Phase III building. Practices will be held Mondays and Wednesdays. Athletes from first through eighth grades may participate. Practices will be divided into beginning and advanced wrestlers.

Contact Canton wrestling coach Casey Randolph at (734) 697-2083 or e-mail him at c_randolph44@yahoo.com.

Hoop tryouts

The Plymouth/Canton Crossfire girls basketball organization will hold tryouts for the upcoming season on Saturday, Dec. 11, in the Plymouth Christian Academy gymnasium, located at 43065 Joy Rd. (between Morton Taylor and Lilley roads). The school sits behind Calvary Baptist Church. Tryouts will be held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for girls 13 and under. The tryout fee is \$15. All girls interested in trying out should arrive a few minutes early to register.

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

Figure skating

On Saturday, Dec. 11, at 6 p.m., figure skaters who train at Canton's Arctic Edge will be skating in a holiday exhibition at the facility, which is located on Michigan Ave., just west of Canton Center. Admission is free to see some of the top skaters in the area performing to Christmas music. Learn to skate

The winter session of the Novi Ice Arena's Learn to Skate program will run from Jan. 4 through Feb. 19, 2005. Classes are offered in a variety of times on Tuesdays through Saturdays. Skate rental is available. In addition, Learn to Skate students who are registered will receive free admission to open skating at the Novi Ice Arena throughout the seven-week session.

The following classes will be offered: beginning tots; Snowplow Sam 1-3; basic 1-8; freestyle 1-2; adult 1-4; and home school. Open registration for Learn to Skate begins Dec. 5. Call the Novi Ice Arena at (248) 347-1010 or visit its Web site at www.novoicearena.com.

Clarification

Former Canton soccer player and current Albion College standout Ashley Rosaen was voted to the Michigan Independent Athletic Association's First Team after tallying nine goals and two assists for the 10-8-2 Britons. It was erroneously printed in Thursday's edition of the Observer that Rosaen was voted to the MIAA's Honorable Mention team.

Churchill outlasts Salem, 3-1

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Momentum was wearing Salem blue and white Friday night midway through the third period when Livonia Churchill hockey coach Pete Mazzoni called a time-out to address his skaters, whose once-comfortable 2-0 lead was perilously close to being erased.

"I told them to keep their composure and to play more organized," recalled Mazzoni, whose assertive time-out speech came seconds after the Rocks had gone on a power play with the Chargers clinging to a 2-1 lead. "We were scrambling and we needed to calm down."

Heading their coach's advice, the Chargers re-grouped and chilled.

They then proceeded to kill the penalty and clamp down on the Rocks over the final seven minutes to win 3-1 before an enthusiastic crowd at Livonia's Eddie Edgar Ice Arena.

The victory improved Churchill's record to 3-1 overall and 2-0 in the Western Lakes Activities Association. Salem dropped to 2-3 and 1-1.

"We're playing up and down," Mazzoni said, referring to his team's early inconsistent play. "We have some good spurts followed by some bad ones. We need to get more consistent. Our special teams have to get better, too. In games like this with a lot of penalties, we have to make the other team pay."

Salem coach Fred Feiler said

PLEASE SEE CHURCHILL, B3

Spartan swim coach 'Phill's trophy case'

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Greg Phill will look back on the 2004 Livonia Stevenson girls swim season with fond memories.

Named Observerland Coach of the Year once again, Phill guided the Spartans to their 14th consecutive Western Lakes Activities Association championship and a 10th-place finish in the Division I state meet held Nov. 19-20 at the University of Michigan.

"To take five kids to the state meet and finish in the top ten... I'm pretty happy with that," said Phill, who has been at the helm of the Spartans' program for 19 years. "This year was a very good year because the girls really came together



Phill

14 years we could have easily been third in the conference," Phill said. "Figured we were down 25 points to Northville going into the meet and our girls just stepped it up really big."

"We've never been challenged the previous years and it would be interesting to see how we'd react that. I think our girls

when they needed it." Stevenson's string of WLAA titles appeared to be in jeopardy this season, but the Spartans came away with another title, outscoring host Salem, 598-515, and third-place Northville, which finished with 450.

"This is the first year in the conference," Phill said. "Figured we were down 25 points to Northville going into the meet and our girls just stepped it up really big."

"We've never been challenged the previous years and it would be interesting to see how we'd react that. I think our girls

were a little apprehensive, but we raced well (in a dual meet) against Northville and gave us some confidence."

Lopsided dual-meet losses to both five-time state champion Ann Arbor Pioneer and runner-up Farmington Hills Mercy prepared the Spartans for the stretch run.

"History was on our side," Phill said of the string of WLAA crowns. "There hasn't been a Stevenson team that hasn't swam well in the conference meet, and that goes all the way back to Lois McDonald (Stevenson's longtime coach). The kids feed off that tradition and after a couple of events, the ball started rolling and they went after it."

See All-Area Girls Swimming on page B4.

Good spurts

Lady Ocelots get hot at the end, beat KVCC

BY PAT ALLEN
STAFF WRITER

Recently, Wake Forest men's basketball coach, Skip Prosser, said: "Basketball is a game of spurts, and often times whoever gets the last spurt wins."

While Schoolcraft College's women's basketball players may not have heard Prosser say this, or even know who he is, they sure do subscribe to his adage.

The Lady Ocelots went on an 8-1 run in the final minute to get past Kalamazoo Valley Community College, 75-71, in the opening round Friday of the Schoolcraft Invitational.

The game featured more flip-flopping than a pancake house with 14 lead changes and 10 ties.

The teams started the game in a

dead heat, with each team never trailing by more than five points in the first half, which ended 35-32 in KVCC's favor.

"I told the kids at halftime," KVCC coach Ron Welch said, "if we take care of the basketball in the second half and rebound, we walk out of here a winner. We just didn't do that."

And the Lady Ocelots took advantage. Schoolcraft (5-2) used an 11-1 spurt early in the second half to pull out in front by seven, their largest lead of the game, but the Lady Cougars rumbled back with a 10-2 run of their own to make it 50-49 with just under 10 minutes to play.

But back came the Lady Ocelots with an 8-0 run followed immediately by a 6-0 spurt for KVCC (2-3) to

PLEASE SEE SCHOOLCRAFT, B2



JERRY ZOLVINSKY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lizann Charles of Schoolcraft gets off a shot inside against Kalamazoo Valley CC's Lindsey Brown during Friday night's opening round.

CC cage team has big holes to fill

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

There's a big hole to fill in Jedford Catholic Central's basketball lineup with the departure of 6-10 center Dan Vaterstradt to Rutgers University.

But several Shamrocks could combine their talents to give lead coach Rick Coratti a very presentable front-court for the 2004-05 Catholic League season.

Whether or not they can help the Shamrocks duplicate last season's success remains to be seen; the team went 17-6 last year, good enough for a divisional title and a trip to the Catholic League and district finals.

Also graduating were starters Jim Cash (Albion),

Dave Herberholz and Kyle Smith.

"We have two juniors that will play by committee and fill his (Waterstradt's) shoes," Coratti said last week. "He's a tough kid to replace."

Certain to give it a go will be 6-7 junior forward Chris Harding and 6-5 junior forward Aras Butkunas, a gifted outside shooter. Also set for the low post is 6-2 senior forward and captain Dominique Fischer.

"He's a leader on and off the floor," said Coratti about Fischer. "And he's a slasher, he'll go to the basket strong for us."

Another key player is senior point guard Rob Fragoso, although he may miss Tuesday's season opener against visiting Orchard Lake

St. Mary's (7:30 p.m.) due to a broken hand.

"Rob's our floor leader, like he was last year," Coratti said. "He's our point guard and our top defender."

While Fragoso mends on the sidelines, Coratti will rely on junior guards Antyrio Raimer and Robert Forte to chip in with contributions. Also starting in the backcourt will be 6-3 junior Garrett Senczyszyn, a returnee who also is a good outside shooter.

Coratti expects the Shamrocks to make strides as the season progresses.

"We'll be a little inexperienced, with six of our top eight players being juniors," Coratti said. "Time will tell, but I think we'll be pretty good."

tsmith@oe.hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2106

SCHOOLCRAFT

FROM PAGE B1

cut the Schoolcraft lead to a single point.

The Lady Cougars used another streak with just over a minute remaining to reclaim the lead for the first time since 15:43 left in the second stanza.

But the lead wouldn't stick for KVCC as Schoolcraft put the ball in Charlese Greer's hands and Greer scored seven of the final eight points for the Lady Ocelots and all but one for Schoolcraft in the final two minutes.

"We wanted to go inside to Char and she came up with some key buckets there," Schoolcraft coach Karen Lafata said. "We really wanted her to get the ball inside."

Perhaps overshadowing the eight-point streak to end the game was the pressure defense that forced the Lady Cougars to turn the ball over on three of their final four possessions.

"I think we did some things in the last two minutes to help us win the ball game," Lafata said. "We played 40 minutes of pressure defense and that's tough on teams; I think after awhile teams start folding in to the pressure."

Greer scored 16 of her 21 points in the second half and pulled down six rebounds for Schoolcraft.

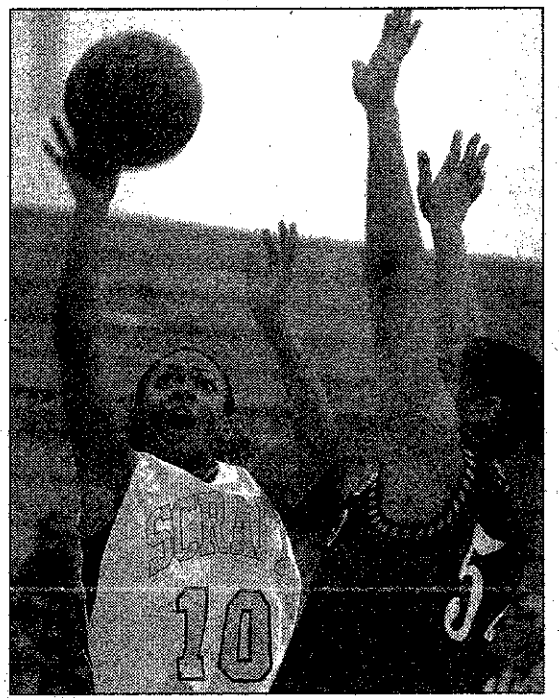
"She was in foul trouble early," Lafata said, "she really just didn't get into the offense (in the first half)."

Amantha Combs (Belleville) contributed 15 points, six boards and four assists off the bench and Mikiko Williams added 10 points and a quartet of thefts for the Lady Ocelots.

"Amantha had been starting for us," Lafata said, "and I talked to her the other day and said: 'I really think you coming off the bench, I think you can spark this team,' and I think that's exactly what she did."

"I just hope she accepts that role and comes in and becomes a great sixth man."

Ashley Gibson also had a noteworthy game,



JERRY ZOLYNSKY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lizann Charles of Schoolcraft gets off a shot inside against g against Kalamazoo Valley CC's Lindsey Brown during Friday night's opening round.

compiling nine points, seven rebounds, seven assists and six steals, the final steal coming with 21 seconds to play and the Lady Ocelots ahead by two.

"This was one of the best games of her career," Lafata said. "I thought she played an inspiring game, just in terms of her activity, she was talking to her teammates and just making big plays."

Schoolcraft took on the Lady Panthers of Olive-Harvey College in Saturday's final. Results will appear in Thursday's *Observer*.

OLIVE-HARVEY (ILL.) 56, SINCLAIR (OHIO) 50: Keyanna Mayfield had 17 points and Ashley Nooks added 12 to lead the Lady Panthers to a victory Friday against the Pride in the first round of the Schoolcraft Invitational. Mary Werden had 20 points for Sinclair but it wasn't enough, as the Pride fell to 4-1.

Taurel Williams added 11 for Olive-Harvey (6-4).

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THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Dec. 7
Agape Christian at Deerfield, 7 p.m.
Franklin Rd. at Plymouth Christian, 7 p.m.
Salem at Belleville, 7 p.m.
Ann Arbor Green Hills at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Canton at Monroe, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 8
Allen Park at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 10
Livonia Clarenceville at PCA, 7 p.m.
Monroe at Salem, 7 p.m.
Lincoln Park at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Novi at Canton, 7 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Tuesday, Dec. 7
Grosse Pointe North vs. PCS Penguins at Arctic Edge Ice Arena, 6:30 p.m.
Walled Lake Central at Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 8
Birmingham Country Day at Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m.
Plymouth at D.H. Crestwood, 6:50 p.m.
Canton at Livonia Franklin, 6 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 10
Northville at Plymouth at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m.

Walled Lake Northern at Canton at Arctic Edge Ice Arena, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 11
PCS Penguins at Port Huron at McMorran Place, 4:30 p.m.
Canton at Chelsea, 7 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Wednesday, Dec. 8
Tri-Mt. Anderson and Birmingham Brother Rice at Canton, 5 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 11
Canton and Salem at Salem Invitational, 9:30 a.m.
Plymouth at Armada Tournament, TBA
PREP VOLLEYBALL
Saturday, Dec. 11
Plymouth Christian and Canton at Livonia Stevenson Invitational, TBA
Salem at South Lyon Invitational, 9 a.m.
BOYS SWIMMING
Tuesday, Dec. 7
Salem at Ann Arbor Huron, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 11
Salem, Plymouth and Canton at WLA Conference Relays at Salem, 10 a.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Dec. 7
Spring Arbor at Madonna, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 8
Lewis College (Ill.) at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 12
Mohawk College at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 10
(Bethel College, Ind. Tourney)
Madonna vs. Bethel (Ind.), 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 11
Bethel (Ind.) Tourney, 6 & 8 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Dec. 8
Madonna at Wayne State, 5:30 p.m.
Schoolcraft at Grand Rapids CC, 5:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 10
(Kalamazoo Valley CC Tourney)
Schoolcraft vs. Columbus St. (Ohio), 1 p.m.
Kalamazoo Valley vs. Highland (Ill.), 3 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 11
K'zoo Valley Tourney, 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Friday, Dec. 10
Whalers at Sarnia Sting, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 11
Whalers vs. Owen Sound at Compuware Arena, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 12
Whalers at Guelph Storm, 3 p.m.

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Rim-rattlers

High-flying Tigers should be contenders

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

The maintenance crew at Belleville High School would be wise to add some extra reinforcement to the gymnasium's rims prior to the start of the upcoming boys basketball season. Based on the potential dunk-ability factor of the high-flying Tigers, those orange cylinders are going to be severely tested over the next few months. Although Belleville lost four starters from last season's 19-6 squad that advanced to the Class A quarterfinals, it will be

re-stocked with a nucleus of solid seniors, stellar juniors and three transfer students that should give fourth-year coach Mike Krogel incredible depth. The three transfers — 6-foot-6 center Michael Gibson and 6-5 forward DeMarcus Boone — won't be at Krogel's disposal until January, so the Tigers will be forced to play "small ball" for its first four games. "In our scrimmages against Novi and Rockford last week, we didn't take care of the ball real well and we weren't as patient offensively as I would have liked us to be," Krogel

said. "But the kids are still learning to play together, so we should be okay." "One thing that came out of the scrimmages that pleased me was how well our back-up players have developed. We had a pretty good idea of who was starting, but now we know that we have some depth, too." Graduated from last year's outstanding unit that lost to Detroit Redford in the elite eight are starting point guard Tyler Jones, who is playing football at Eastern Michigan University; 6-6 center Rob Igbawua, who is filling the paint for Wayne State's basketball team; shooting guard

Eddie Miller, who is playing for Concordia College; and Andre Olden. "We have a pretty strong junior class this year and we have two seniors who saw a lot of action last year," said Krogel, who coached 20 years at Woodhaven before taking over the reins at Belleville prior to the 2000-01 season. The two upperclassmen who saw ample playing time last year are 5-11 swingman Isaac Kindell and 6-1 shooting guard Josh Samarco. Kindell displayed his outstanding athleticism for the Tigers' football team in the fall, scoring a team-high 10 touchdowns while anchoring the team's defensive backfield. "Isaac came off the bench last year and played great defense," Krogel said. "He'll actually play

small forward for us at least the first four games, then he'll switch to guard when we get bigger after the break. Josh is a real good shooter." They will be joined in the starting line-up by senior Anre Partee, a 5-9 point guard, junior Tommy Clark, a 6-4 junior forward, and fellow 6-4 junior forward Leon Freeman, who is one of the top 11th-grade cagers in Michigan, according to many prep basketball experts. "Leon is our only starter back from last season," Krogel said. "He's going to play forward for us, but he can knock down the three, slash to the basket and post up. "Tommy was up on varsity at the beginning and end of last year. He's a very athletic player who can rebound and take the

ball to the hole. He averaged over 20 points a game for our junior varsity team." Juniors who will give the Tigers potency off the bench include 6-0 Carlos Clark, 6-2 Mike Donaldson and 6-3 Stephone Frederick, all forwards. "Carlos brings a lot of toughness to our team," Krogel said. Other subs include Ali Allen (6-0 junior), Dajuan Roberts, Ken Saylor, Josh Lemons and Caril Dail. "The Mega Red is going to be very tough this year," Krogel said. "Ypsilanti is probably going to be the team to beat. Romulus is young like us, but they should be very good, too. And River Rouge and Willow Run always give us good games." ewright@oe.hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2108

Bowling doesn't dry up in the desert

Have ball, will travel. I spent the Thanksgiving holiday in Phoenix, Ariz. visiting friends and it was my first trip to this spectacular area, and it proved to be a wonderful experience. Bowling in the desert country is pretty much like it is here, except for the fact that most of the bowling centers are owned and operated by the AMF Corp, which boasts 16 centers in greater Phoenix. My host, Craig Carter, took me to AMF Shea Village Lanes, located within a few blocks of his house. Craig had not bowled for about 30 years and he suspected that I would like to explore the local bowling scene, so he was eager to give it a try. He did not have a good first game, but I was giving him some very good coaching, and by the second game he enjoyed

a one-pin victory, 141-140. Bowling is a little more expensive in Phoenix. We paid \$4 per bowler, per line and \$4 for rental shoes. I also got to see a lot of sunny southern Arizona including the mountain towns of Jerome and Sedona, while taking advantage of the many scenic photo opportunities. **Size matters.** All bowling balls are not created equal. Some are larger than others. Recent tests by Ron Hickland, Ball Design engineer with Ebonite International and published in Pro Shop Insider (fall 2004) indicated that there can be a difference in performance based on the size of the ball. The actual size variation is in very small increments, so you or I could not tell the difference by just looking. The American Bowling Congress and Women's International Bowling Congress maximum diameter is 8.595 inches, while minimum diameter is 8.500 inches. Balls tested ranged from 8.585 to 8.510 inches in diameter. This may not seem like much

and I won't get into all the details, but the balls were tested by a pro bowler, a mega-buck amateur and a high average league player. Balls were thrown on both wood and synthetic lanes using a sport condition oil, a short house and a long oil house patterns. "The smaller the ball, the lower the pins flew," pro Jason Queen said. "It cut through the pins and carried better (the 8.510 model). The ball felt best in my hand, like a softball and it carried the best by far." According to the mega-buck amateur, "the 8.550 ball hit harder than the 8.585 ball, but less than the 8.510 ball. The 8.510 ball carried the best and hit the hardest." And for the high average bowler: "I really liked the way the smaller ball rolled off my hand and carried the pins. It had a very angular entry into the pocket, which was very predictable. The ball with the 8.595 diameter felt like it stretched my hand and was hard to rev up." Overall they all agreed that

the smaller ball carried better. Some manufacturers use a slightly larger diameter to allow for resurfacing. As a result of the test, it appears that size does matter, and they will continue to test the different size balls on a more formalized basis to collect more data and eventually place it into the manufacturing process. Last Tuesday night the Az-Zahir Hakim fund-raiser was held at Thunderbowl Lanes with loads of local celebrities and athletes on hand to help raise money for the struggling Detroit Lions. Just kidding, it was really for the Lions wide receiver's pet charity, the Children's Visitation Program (CVP) to benefit the children of parents who are incarcerated. Az-Zahir's commitment is personal because his own father is in a federal institution and he knows only too well what it's like for these children. Al Harrison is a resident of Livonia and a director of the Greater Detroit Bowling Association. He can be reached at (248) 477-1839.



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Bryce Dixon

PanCAN makes a difference

In September of 2004, I was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. This diagnosis would send me on a road I had never been down before.

I was diagnosed once before with another cancer, testicular, some 14 years ago. The difference was that testicular cancer, as bad as it is, is not a death sentence; people rarely die of the disease. However, pancreatic cancer is different, with a mortality rate of 99 percent.

After being diagnosed at the University of Michigan, I realized the only short-term care was a critical surgery known as the "Whipple" procedure. This removes about half of the pancreas and much of the surrounding organs and tissue.

After researching and interviewing surgeons, I ended up at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. I have then followed the surgery up with several months of chemotherapy and have now broken the one-year barrier of survival.

I still hold out hope I will be in that 1 percent who beat the odds.

When I was diagnosed, there was no support made available to us in regards to other patients with pancreatic cancer or their families. I have been very lucky to have strong support from family, friends and my church.

Then, a couple of months ago, my wife found an organization called PanCAN on the Internet. We saw there was an upcoming symposium on pancreatic cancer in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Upon arrival the first day, we were overwhelmed at the support offered by this great organization to pancreatic patients and caregivers. We were able to attend seminars with the top researchers in the field and hear of the wide range of clinical trials being held across the country.

With PanCAN, there is hope, as I was able to meet others that have survived up to nine years with this horrible disease.

PanCAN offers multiple layers of help to the pancreatic patient, family and friends. PALS (Patient and Liaison Services) offers support for both patients and families as they go through the journey the disease takes them. PanCAN also offers research grants to fund those in search of a cure.

There are also support items that may be purchased on the Web site (pancan.org) to garner recognition of the organization. PanCAN also offers a once-a-year symposium and fund-raising gala that honors those surviving the disease, holds face-to-face meetings with those who are the leaders in researching a cure and allows survivors and caregivers to meet and discuss common issues. The gala also raises much-needed funds and recognizes those leading the fighting against this disease.

Pancreatic cancer is responsible for more than 30,000 deaths each year in the U.S. and is the most fatal type of cancer in existence.

No early detection methods have been developed, and on average only \$779 is spent per patient on research, the lowest of any leading cancer. PanCAN is working to change these statistics.

Bryce Dixon was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer Sept. 17, 2003. He is a Canton resident.

Observer LIFE

www.hometownlife.com

World of imagination

Michigan authors mesmerize kids as well as adults

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Children's books make great gifts for the holidays, especially when they have a Michigan connection. Some such as *Lost in the Woods* by Carl R. Sams II and Jean Stoick teach life lessons. Others like Barbara Walsh's *Lucy and Too Many Cats* are just fun, springing from true incidents occurring in her Livonia home. Some are evergreen like *The Polar Express* by Grand Rapids native Chris Van Allsburg which won the 1986 Caldecott Medal, and Sams' *Stranger in the Woods*, on *The New York Times* best seller holiday list for four years.

This year's crop of authors create worlds of imagination to mesmerize kids as well as adults. Ever wonder where Petoskey stones come from? Anne Margaret Lewis, who grew up in Southfield, embroiders a new detail onto the Ojibwe Sleeping Bear legend.

LUCY AND TOO MANY CATS

Barbara Walsh with illustrator Aaron Rusch tells about an adventure with too many cats after her son-in-law left three of them with her to fight in Iraq. Walsh already had two cats of her own.



Barbara Walsh captures the antics of five cats living in her Livonia home.

"I kept saying too many cats, kidding. I thought I have to write this down," said Walsh, who by day works with brain injury patients as a medical case manager for Laurel Park Rehabilitation. "At the time, my son's little girl was going to be born and they picked out the name Lucy."

"The thing about war you don't realize is what people have to give up. They have to give up their homes. The family gets displaced, little animals. After he returned one of their cats ended up staying so now I have three. My son-in-law and daughter went and got another one. My other son has three, and another son has three. We're a 12-cat family."

Lucy and Too Many Cats is available online from www.amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.com.

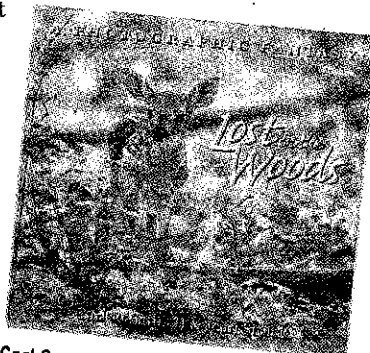
LOST IN THE WOODS

Carl Sams II and his wife, Jean Stoick, spent years photographing the deer in Kensington Metropark to come up with their new book, *Lost in the Woods*.

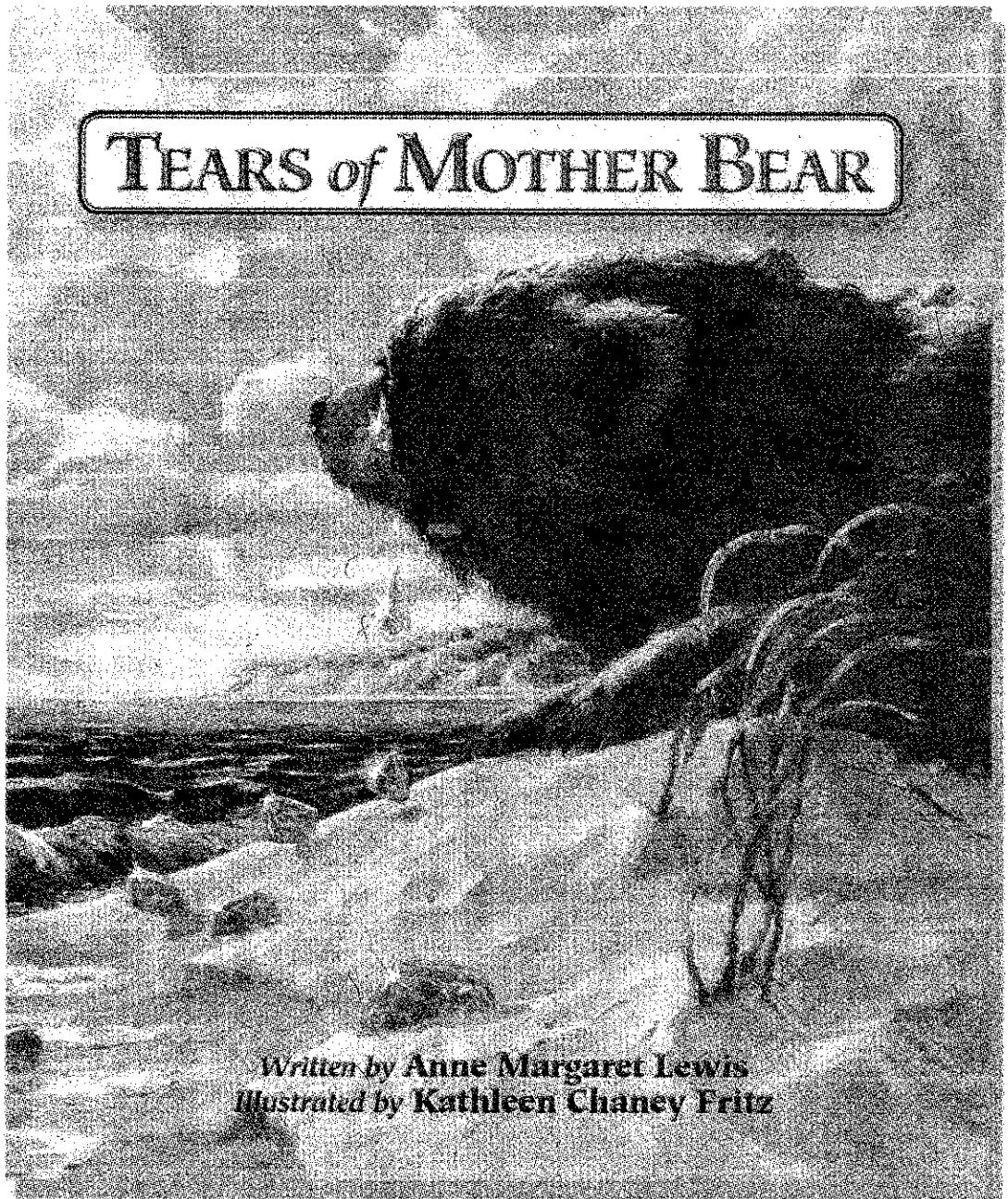
"It's all about patience and trust that the mother is going to come back and the fawn is waiting," said Sams, a Milford resident. "The reason we did this is because everywhere around the country people pull fawns out of the woods and think they're abandoned. They don't realize her scent draws predators to the fawn. She has to rely on the fawn's spots to defend itself until the legs are strong enough to run from predators."

Sams and Stoick never spent very long with the fawns (yes, they used more than one) because their scent draws predators.

"The key for us was finding the premature fawn. We photographed ones starting about the third week of May. The earliest fawn was born around May 14. The fawn on the cover is only about 3 to 4 pounds. The mom tries to keep them clean. Being born scentless, I've seen hunting dogs run right by them," said Sams, who will sign books 1-3 p.m. Dec. 11 at Arborland Borders in Ann Arbor; 2-4 p.m. Dec. 12 at Novi Borders, and 7-9 p.m. Dec. 15 at Brighton Borders. For more information or to purchase books, call (800) 552-1867.



Carl Sams II and Jean Stoick never spent very long with the fawns when they were photographing them for a new book because their scent attracts predators.



Written by Anne Margaret Lewis
Illustrated by Kathleen Chaney Fritz

Anne Margaret Lewis signs copies of her books 1-2 p.m. today at Borders in Birmingham.

WINTER'S GIFT

At Sleeping Bear Press in Chelsea, Adam Rifkenberick is excited about *Winter's Gift*, a holiday story by Jane Monroe Donovan of Pinckney. The story centers around a man grieving for his wife.

"It's a very touching story," said Rifkenberick. "He's feeling hopeless. Then one night he hears a neighing outside. It's a pregnant mare. He gives the horse a place to sleep. In the morning she gives birth to a foal with a star on its forehead."

The star is a symbol of the decoration the man's wife used to place on top of the Christmas tree. Many of the books published by Sleeping Bear have hidden meaning. Set in the Revolutionary War, *Scarlet Stockings Spy* tells the story of a young girl helping her brother, a soldier for the colonies. The way she arranges her wash tells him the size and the number of British ships in the harbor. It is the first book in the series *Tales of Young Americans*. The second, *A Friend on Freedom River* about a young boy who aids a family of runaway slaves, will be released early next year.

For more information, visit www.sleepingbearpress.com or call (800) 877-4253. Books can also be found at Borders and Barnes and Noble stores, and online at amazon.com.

FIRST PAGE PUBLICATIONS

Joe Aller, owner of the Livonia self-publishing business, offers a variety of ideas for gift giving this season. His choices include *The Winter Spirit*, the story of a boy who finds Santa Claus' diary (by Gina Joseph, illustrator Maxwell Heiderer); *The Peanut Pickle* on how a child with peanut allergies survives the holidays (by Jessica Ureel of Rochester); *Let's Go to Chicago* by Karen Dean, an Ann Arbor artist and author, and *Where Do Baby Teeth Go* by Northville resident Denise Jenkins, illustrated by her husband, Walt Jenkins, about the tooth fairy who lives in the golden tower on top of the Fisher Building. Call (734) 525-1900 or visit www.firstpagepublications.com.



A grieving man finds the hope to go on in a book by Jane Monroe Donovan.

PLEASE SEE AUTHORS, C3

Students shoot for positions behind the scenes

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Two years ago Seth Grass had no idea it took nearly two dozen trained students and staff to run the television studio at Madonna University in Livonia. Three semesters later the video communication major is one of three students taking their turn at directing *Madonna Magazine*, a talk show aired on local cable. Homeschooled through his early years, the 18-year old senior is on the fast track to a successful career. But before Grass went behind the scenes, he had to learn to run a camera and audio board.

"It's very hands-on. We get to use and do every position," said Seth Grass, who grew up in Livonia. "The first time I directed a show it was a nutrition program where we had three guests. I had

to be confident. You want to make it seem you have all of the answers even if you don't. It went pretty smoothly. I credit students for knowing their positions. You're multi-tasking, doing 8,000 things at once and making it a show people can enjoy and understand."

Chuck Derry makes a point of teaching students all of the jobs they need to know to land a position in the broadcast business. Derry earned his first hand experience during 35 years as stage manager and director for Channel 7 news and Kelly & Co. In 1973, he put together the first TV studio at Madonna University and started teaching TV production. Today students tape 15 shows a semester which are aired once a week on CTND, the Catholic cable station in 40 southeast Michigan communities.

"We want them to do stuff so when they get out into the real world they

know what the director is talking about," said Derry, adjunct professor and advisor for the television and video communications program at Madonna University. "These are simple things that are very important for people in the business."

Like Grass, producing a television show was overwhelming for Gene Hugnagel. At age 48, the Garden City resident is just returning to school after a career with the U.S. Navy Seals. Camaraderie in the Madonna studio reminds him of days where teamwork was essential to completing a successful mission.

"If someone's having a problem everyone helps because everyone wants a quality show," said Hugnagel. "Everyone takes care of each other. I love show

PLEASE SEE SCENES, C3



Seth Grass places a microphone on guest Carl Sams II before taping 'Madonna Magazine.' At left is student Bobby Breen and Sam's wife, Jean Stoick.

LIBRARY PICKS.

Every week, the Plymouth District Library staff provides the *Observer* with their list of best sellers, based on the number of requests for titles by library patrons.

The books are available by placing a request with the library on the Web at plymouthlibrary.org or by calling (734) 453-0750.

FICTION

1. "London Bridges," James Patterson
2. "I Am Charlotte Simmons," Tom Wolfe
3. "Metro Girl," Janet Evanovich
4. "Hour Game," David Baldacci
5. "Northern Lights," Nora Roberts

NON-FICTION

1. "America (The Book)," Jon Stewart

2. "When Will Jesus Bring the Pork Chops?" George Carlin
3. "His Excellency: George Washington," Joseph J. Ellie
4. "How to Talk Like a Liberal (If You Must)," Ann Coulter
5. "Chronicles: Volume One," Bob Dylan

PARENTS' CHOICE

NEW CHILDREN'S FICTION BOOKS

1. "City of Stars," Mary Hoffman
2. "Lily B. On the Brink of Being Cool," Elizabeth Kimmel
3. "Interference Powder," Jean Karelitz
4. "Copper," Rebecca Lisle
5. "The Young Man and the Sea," Rodman Philbrick

BIRTHS

Sean David Dewitt

David and Colleen Dewitt of Plymouth announce the birth of their son, **Sean David**, on Nov. 20, in Providence Hospital, Southfield. He weighed 9 pounds 2 ounces, and was 22 inches long.

He joins big brother, Aidan, 7.

His grandparents are Robert and Mary Dewitt of South Lyon and Greg and Sharon Knoph of Livonia.

Sarrah Rae Khelil

Ramzi and Candie Khelil of Canton announce the birth of their daughter, Sarrah Rae Khelil, born Nov. 10, 2004 at the Women's Hospital in Ann Arbor. Sarrah is the couple's first child.

Proud grandparents are Bill and Ida Denton of Canton and Rebej and Radhia Khelil of Bizert, Tunisia.

Proud great-grandparents are Myrtle O'Brien of Wayne and Zohra Benkaram of Bizert, Tunisia.

Smith-Gray

Cassandra Colleen Gray of Livonia and Bradley Gilling Smith of Livonia were married July 17, 2004, at Sweetest Heart of Mary in Detroit before the Rev. Mark A. Borkowski. A reception was held at the Marriott in the Detroit Renaissance Center.

Cassandra is the daughter of Gary and Peggy Gray of Livonia. She is a 2002 graduate of Western Michigan University. She is a math and English teacher at Clarenceville High School. She is also a track coach.

Bradley is the son of Susan Gilling of Livonia and Dennis Smith of Plymouth.

He is a 2002 graduate of Western Michigan University. He is an environmental consultant.

Attending the bride were her sisters, Kelly Kessler as matron of honor and Clancy Gray as maid of honor. Bridesmaids

WEDDINGS



were Trina Gray, Kiernan O'Donohue, Janice Black, Stephanie Fries and Rachel Mallison.

Attending the groom was his brother, Martin Smith, as best man. Groomsmen were Gary Gray, Ryan Supplee, Thomas Hall, Thomas Taylor,

Christopher White and Nathan Leslie. Ushers were Jeff Gray, Brian Kessler and Corey Berzac.

Cassandra and Bradley spent their honeymoon on a Western Caribbean cruise. They are making their new home in Livonia.

Phillips-McInerney

Cheryl McInerney and Timothy B. Phillips were married Sept. 18 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia before the Rev. Walt Dickinson. A reception was held at Warren Valley Golf Course in Dearborn Heights.

Cheryl is the daughter of Mary Jean C. McInerney and the late Charles E. McInerney of Bay City.

In 1990, she received her Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in biology and Michigan teacher certification from Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant.

In 1995 she received her Master of Science in Education Degree with an emphasis in curriculum development from California State University in Hayward, Calif.

Cheryl is employed as coordinator of the Saint Joseph Mercy Health Exploration Station in Canton.

Timothy is the son of Eunice K. Phillips and the late Dr. Donald B. Phillips of Ypsilanti. He received his Bachelor of Landscape Architecture Degree from Ball State University in Muncie, Ind. in 1994.

He is employed as park plan-



ner with the Huron-Clinton Metro Parks and is swim coach for the Spartan Aquatic Club.

Attending the bride was her sister, Karin Stachowski, of Canton, as matron of honor.

Bridesmaids were friends, Diana Ruschhaupt of Indianapolis, Ind., Samantha Tellez of Concord, Calif., and Gretchen Nachazel of Ann Arbor, Mich. Junior bridesmaid was her niece, Amber McInerney, of Quanicassee, Mich. and her niece, Erica McInerney, of Bay City, Mich. served as flower girl.

Attending the groom was his

brother, Dan Phillips, of Columbus, Ohio, as best man. Groomsmen were friends, Tim Ruschhaupt of Indianapolis, Ind., Dave Gosser of Franklin, Ind., and Rick Mudry of Portage, Ind.

Junior groomsman was the bride's nephew, Nicholas Stachowski, of Canton, Mich., and the bride's nephew, Noah McInerney, of Bay City, Mich., served as ring bearer.

Cheryl and Timothy spent their honeymoon in Hawaii on the islands of Maui and Kauai. They are making their new home in Canton.

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AUTHORS

FROM PAGE C1

"I look for the same things when buying a gift as I look for when publishing - unique drawings to keep your attention and an interesting story," said Joe Aller. "People think it's easy to write a children's story, but you have to write on two levels, one for the child, the other for the parent."

MACKINAW ISLAND PRESS

Anne Margaret Lewis' books stem from her home in Traverse City. *Hidden Cherries* and *Tears of Mother Bear* are bringing much success to her new publishing company, Mackinac Island Press. Born and raised in Oakland County, Lewis spent summers visiting Sleeping Bear Dunes.

"I grew up coming up to the dunes as well as hunting for Petoskey stones," said Lewis. "I took the 100-year-old legend and intertwined it with Petoskey stones. I wanted to make those her tears."

Kathleen Fritz Chaney's beautiful oil paintings are so moving they sold to a collector at the book's premier party. *Hidden Cherries* was named the first official book of the National

Cherry Festival. Both books were on the Northern Michigan Best Seller List all summer.

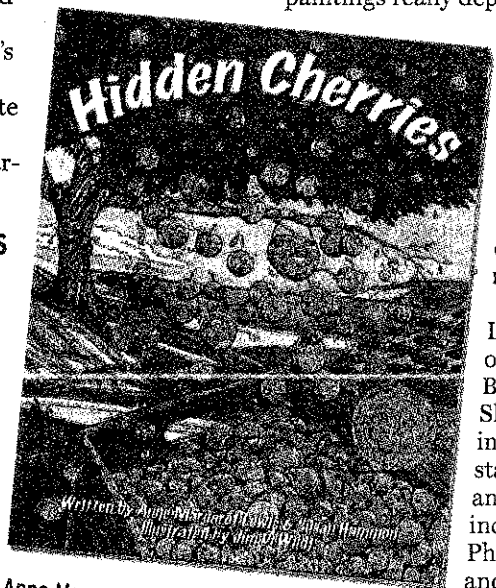
"A lot of people have memories of going to Northern Michigan," said Lewis. "Mother Bear" has a great bedtime story to it and Kathleen's paintings really depict the beauty of the lakeshore. *Hidden Cherries* depicts the fun of buying cherries along the roadside."

Lewis signs both books 1-2 p.m. today at Borders in Birmingham. Books are available at local bookstores or by visiting www.mackinacislandpress.com.

Publishing runs in the Lewis family as does the love of Petoskey stones. Husband Brian founded and operated Sleeping Bear Press until selling it two years ago. Now he's started Petoskey Publishing and has co-published books, including photographer Terry Phipps' *Seasons of Mackinac* and *Seasons of Sleeping Bear*, with University of Michigan Press. For people who collect Petoskey stones, there's the complete guide by Bruce Mueller and William Wilde.

Terry Phipps signs his books at Borders in Rochester Hills 2-4 p.m. today. For more information, visit www.petoskeypublishing.com or www.press.umich.edu.

lchomin@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2145



Anne Margaret Lewis' books stem from her home in Traverse City.

SCENES

FROM PAGE C1

nights, the energy of all the students. I'm a sponge and have to absorb everything that goes on. It's totally different from tearing down and putting together an M-16."

As a director taking TV III this semester, Sarah Atocho loves show nights as well. Recently she was in charge when photographer Carl Sams II and his wife Jean Stoick were interviewed about their new children's book *Lost in the Woods*.

"You meet the guests, have a script in front of you," said Atocho, a 20-year-old Ferndale resident who was an English major until taking a class in television production. "I enjoy working with TV I and II students to help them realize what they're doing. I like cameras and showing them how to focus from one object to the next."

"I'm amazed by how it all comes together. You walk in and there's a ton of equipment and wonder what it does. I didn't realize everything that went behind what you see on TV."

Sue Boyd's glad as well when it comes to show



Producer Sue Boyd (left) checks on last minute details with student Maggie Barylko and Marianne Carter.

night. As producer, her job is almost done. She's selected the guests, written a script, handed it over to the director, and then sits back to watch.

"It's great to meet everybody," said Boyd, an adjunct instructor who teaches script writing. "Everybody has a story. It's nice to take a half hour and let everybody tell their story."

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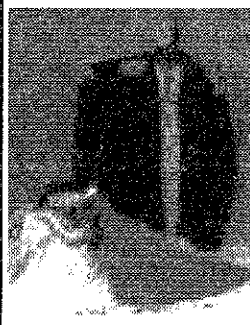
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Cookie walks offer holiday treats

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

The holiday season is a fun time of year. When else can you fill up a container with the cookies of your choice and not feel guilty eating all of them?

Sandra Johnson loves the chocolate chip, date nut filled, and pecan tarts she'll help bake in the kitchen at First United Church of Wayne just in time for the Cookie Walk 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Dec. 11.

It's a family affair for the Garden City resident who's mother Maxine Bondie co-chairs the event. Stepfather Ken makes the cookie dough.

"We'll have all different kinds of cookies," said Sandra Johnson. "There's the fancy cookies and plain cookies. I like them both. And we'll have a separate area for candy that people have made. People buy cookies not only for themselves but for

gifts. They're perfect if you don't have time to bake or are alone or don't bake a lot."

In addition to Johnson and the Bondies, several church members will be in the kitchen baking. Containers cost \$4 for a small, \$8 medium, \$12 large.

First United Church of Wayne is at 3 Town Square next to the Wayne Post Office between east and west bound Michigan Avenue. For more information, call (734) 721-4801.

Church members all over the area will be baking during the next few weeks. Here's a list of those offering sweet treats in time for the holidays:

■ Purchase cookies after the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services Sunday, Dec. 5, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 11575 Belleville Road, Belleville. For more information, call (734) 699-3361.

■ A large selection of cookies plus nut, apricot, poppyseed and sweet breads, Ukrainian kiefle and many more ethnic

and traditional holiday cookies, potato, cheese and sauerkraut pierogies and stuffed cabbage, candies and nuts will be available from 9 a.m. until sold out Saturday, Dec. 11, at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh, Livonia. Pre-packaged gift boxes of cookies will also be available. Call (248) 476-3432.

■ Cookies, cookies everywhere at the annual Cookie Walk sale 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, at St. Michael's Orthodox Church, 26355 West Chicago, between Beech Daly and Inkster roads, Redford. Cookies are sold by the pound. Come early for best selection.

■ Good Shepherd Lutheran Church holds a Holiday Bake Sale 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, at 26212 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 537-3778.

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Living Nativity seeks animals of every kind

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

At this point Jason Wilhoite isn't fussy about the kinds of animals taking part in the Living Nativity at Kenwood Church of Christ in Livonia on Dec. 17.

Wilhoite wouldn't dream of asking someone to volunteer a camel for the production, but sheep, goats or a donkey will do. He needs one or more of them to set the scene for the birth of Jesus.

"We have most of the actors together," said Jason Wilhoite, a 26-year old Livonia resident. "We're making costumes, and the manger is mostly constructed. We have a couple of leads on animals but right now I'm crossing my fingers. We're looking for sheep or goats, or a donkey would be cool."

"We want it to be like a traditional Nativity scene but with live people, shepherds and animals."

Wilhoite, and members of the church came up with the idea after seeing similar Living

Nativity.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to become part of local tradition - that people would come here in addition to going out to see Christmas lights," said Wilhoite. "It's a cool way to get people together, for people to stop by, have some warm apple cider and enjoy the time with their families. Sometimes people get caught up in the shopping and materialism. It's kind of nice to take a step back and remember what the true purpose is, to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, and remember all of the things with which we've been blessed."

The Living Nativity takes place 7:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, at Kenwood Church of Christ, 20200 Merriman, between Seven and Eight Mile, Livonia.

For more information about the Living Nativity, call the church at (248) 476-8222. To loan sheep, goats or a donkey, call Jason Wilhoite at (734) 765-4535.

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SPOTLIGHT ON:
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Presented by: Renee Merckx, CLTC, CSA

BEING A CAREGIVER - THE HARDEST JOB TO DO!

In the olden days, when a loved one got sick be it your Mom or Dad or Grandparents, you took that loved one into your home and took care of them. It was/is the right thing to do! This is your family. However in the real-world of today, with so many people living throughout the United States and families divided because of job relocation or second maybe even a third marriage, the guess work on who is going to be "MY" Caregiver should be a top question on your mind.

If you have been a caregiver it is one of the hardest, grueling, time consuming, and mind exhausting jobs out there. Let alone the dignity of changing your loved one's diaper or giving them a bath. This is just part of being a caregiver. There is the financial burden, the family burden on who will be that designated caregiver. LONG TERM CARE DOES NOT BRING FAMILIES TOGETHER IT TEARS THEM APART! It is called giving up your life, maybe leaving your job which you stop saving for your children's education or your retirement, don't you have a life and bills? To understand what it means to be a caregiver unless you have been in the caregivers shoes you DO NOT understand the burden! But because it is "MY" family you will do the job... at what costs?

After age 65 your odds are 1 in 3 for needing some form of help in your activities of daily living. If you have a family member in this age group, what is going to be your plan to take care of them? Who is going to pay for this care? This is not a question of "IF" I will someday need care the question becomes "WHEN" will this person need the care? Long Term Care Insurance helps by taking care of that loved one better. You keep your job and it pays the bills for care. You keep your money where it belongs in your family. It protects and keeps the family together.

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Hanukkah marks religious freedom Holidays shine at Greenfield Village

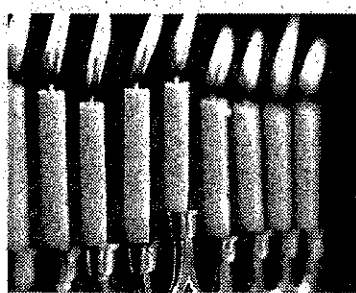
BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, Dec. 8 Rabbi Peter Gluck and the congregation of Bet Chaverim in Canton will gather to light the first of eight candles as a way of remembering the miracle that happened more than 2,000 years ago in Jerusalem. For those of Jewish faith, Hanukkah celebrates not only the rededicating of the Temple after reclaiming it from the Greeks, but the fight for religious freedom throughout time.

"Everybody brings their own menorahs and say the prayers and light the candles. We sing some songs, and then read the story about what happened back then," said Rabbi Gluck. "It's an important holiday, one that celebrates religious freedom, a central theme in Judaism. We're this many years later still discussing religion and freedom and how to have a society where people can practice their faith without being told that one faith is right and one faith is wrong."

"Judaism as a religion has always celebrated freedom from dictatorships. It's not a new thing at all. It's an old theme and concern, and why it's so important. Hanukkah still celebrates that freedom, the freedom of people to worship as they want. It's very important in our contemporary world where we're fighting and debating religion and politics."

At home, Rabbi Gluck will recognize the miracle of Hanukkah with his wife, Diane, and children, daughter Maleah,



At home, Rabbi Gluck will recognize the miracle of Hanukkah with his wife, Diane, and children, daughter Maleah and son Adam.

20, and son Adam, 12, after decorating their home with a collection of menorahs - and lights, the symbol for the holy oil that lasted eight days instead of one when rededicating the Temple.

"My wife pulls it all out and decorates the living room, dining room, the windows are all decorated with lights," said Rabbi Gluck. "We place one menorah in our window and every night add a candle so people see that we're celebrating a holiday that's lasted the length of Jewish history. The memory goes back to times before Jesus. That's when the Greeks attempted to control Jerusalem. The holiday celebrates the defeat of the Greeks and the rededicating of the Temple 160 years before the birth of Jesus."

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Barb King rushes from lantern to lantern making sure the flames stay lit along the streets of Greenfield Village. Holiday Nights are a special time of year for this historic Dearborn destination.

Model T and horse-drawn wagon rides take visitors into the past. See how families did or didn't celebrate the holidays in the 1830s and 1880s. Ride a zebra, frog or one of many hand-carved horses on the 1913 Herschell-Spillman Carousel, or skate on the ice rink.

Don't forget to bring an apple for Santa's reindeer.

King finds nights in the village more magical than during the day when she's busy working in the Firestone Farm house, the 1885 boyhood home and birthplace of Harvey Firestone who founded Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in 1900.

Day or night it's a good time to experience living history as presenters in vintage costumes greet visitors in the street and homes. Smell chestnuts roasting over a fire in an oil drum, or soft ginger cookies and sugar drops baking in homes. Back then women did their baking early in the day when there was plenty of light.

"We're trying to show people how Christmas would be celebrated in different houses," said King, a 25-year-old Livonia resident who's worked as a presenter at the village for seven years. A 1997 graduate of Churchill High School, King is working on a masters in education degree at University of Michigan-Dearborn. She says her mother always jokes that she's Laura Ingalls reincarnated because she's always been passionate about history.

"Christmas or wintertime is a time you can take it a little slower, not for women and baking but farming. Firestone is so busy, we're baking, trying to be an immersion experience where people can step back in the 1880s."

At the Firestone home the family's original holiday china is on display during the day. Different homes are open depending on whether it's day or night.

"There's a tree in the parlor with period children's toys," said King. "In the sitting



Barb King prepares for the holidays in the Firestone Farm house at Greenfield Village.

room off the kitchen flat surfaces are covered with greens. It's a German tradition. They were trying to turn the inside into a forest. The tree skirt is an 1880s American flag, a reminder that the Civil War was only 20 years ago. Today's flag etiquette would not allow it, but it's very patriotic."

"Edison is one of the neat homes to see. They have a Victrola playing music in the background, period Christmas trees. There's lots for people to see and do. I recommend they start at the back of the village and work their way forward."

Jingle Bells seemed to be the theme song of the village on one recent night. Picks n' Sticks played the melody inside the Adams Family Home while visitors sang along as Joel Palmer played his guitar in the horse-drawn wagon outside. Dave

Tanner guided the Percheron horses through the streets. Harvey and John are two of 18 Percherons that live in the village.

"I think it's wonderful, a great opportunity to get a taste for what life used to be like," said Palmer, who teaches at Plymouth Guitar.

At the Noah Webster House where there are 8 fireplaces but no central heating, Jim Kator hands visitors a list from the Ladies Book of Etiquette. There were certain rules to follow when the dining room table was full of ham, turkey, roast beef, and all of the trimmings on new Year's Day.

"You didn't partake of all of the spreads because you'd be full by the end of the night," said Kator of Troy, a retired engineer. "Today's Christmas came out in the 1870s but back in the 1830s gentlemen would call on their lady acquaintances."

Still further down the street stop to visit Dancer, a four year old reindeer and Noel, a yearling from the Rooftop Landing Reindeer Farm in Pewamo outside of Lansing.

"Remember to put out apples for Santa's reindeer, not carrots. They're too hard," said Dave Aldrich who was tending to the animals with his son Dave and answering questions from passersby.

At this time of year, they travel every day with the reindeer, taking part in parades and visiting schools."

Unlike Michigan white tail, reindeer have fur covering every part of their body to warm them when temperatures drop to 40 to 50-degrees below zero in their native home in the Arctic Circle.

"Even their nose gets cold," said Aldrich.

Holiday Nights run 6:30-10 p.m. (fireworks at 9:45 p.m.) Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 9-11 and 17-22. Greenfield Village is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., except for Christmas Day, through Jan. 2. Tickets are \$15 adults, \$10 children (non-members), \$12, \$8 children (members).

Greenfield Village and The Henry Ford museum is at 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. Call (313) 982-6001 or visit www.thehenryford.org

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CLASS REUNIONS

As space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print, without charge, announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Reunions, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48170. Please include the date of the reunion, one contact person, and a telephone number.

REUNIONS

Clawson High School

Class of 1955
A 50-year reunion is being planned. For more information, call Barbara or Warner at (248) 435-4351 or email wiseppl@wideopenwest.com.

Grosse Pointe North

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

Horace Mann Grade School, Detroit

Class of 1963
Looking for classmates for reunion. Please contact Kathie at (734) 525-5416

St. Florian School

St. Florian School in Hamtramck is seeking all former students, teachers and staffers to join the newly created St. Florian Alumni Association. For information, call Greg Kowalski at (313) 893-5027 or e-mail gkowsk@ameritech.net.

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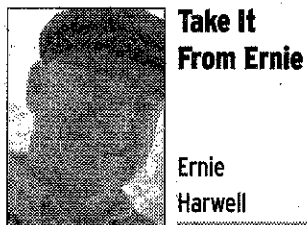
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Take It From Ernie

Ernie Harwell

Know your medicine

I've been very fortunate that I've never had to take a lot of medications. Even now. But I know that many people take two, three or more different medications several times a day.

Now if you have to take medications, it's important to know what to do. It sounds simple, but there's more to it than just swallowing some pills with a glass of water.

When your doctor gives you a prescription, be sure you know the name, what it's for, how to take the medicine and when to take it. If you're not sure, ask. Your doctor and pharmacist can answer your questions.

And always let your doctor know if you're taking other prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications and any vitamins, herbs or dietary supplements.

It's a good idea to keep a list of medications and dosage in your wallet or purse. And give a copy to a family member or friend.

Take your medications exactly as prescribed. Some need to be taken with food or at certain times. Just stick to the plan.

Medications can be helpful. But to get the best effect, you have to take them properly and safely.

And remember, take care of your health before it's longggg gone!

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns titled *Life After Baseball*, is available at local bookstores or by calling (800) 245-5082.

Observer & Eccentric HEALTH

Epilepsy

Medical condition changes every aspect of life



Redford resident Rudy Ebmer, who suffers from epilepsy, sits with some materials for the epilepsy support group he founded after doing extensive research on the illness.

TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Rudy Ebmer was only 9 years old when he had the first epileptic seizure after suffering a heat stroke. It literally changed his life.

Over the years, Ebmer's taken several different medications without success and undergone a variety of treatments - surgery to remove his right temporal lobe and then implantation of a pacemaker-like device that delivers mild waves of electrical stimulation to the brain via the vagus nerve in the neck.

Every five minutes his voice becomes hoarse, but it's a small price to pay to be free of the seizures caused by disturbances in normal electrical functions of his brain.

At age 39, the Redford resident is finally able to move on with his life and would like to help those suffering with the illness to do the same.

SUPPORT

Epilepsy is a neurological condition that changes every aspect of a person's existence including the ability to hold a job or even drive an automobile. Ebmer believes talking to others with the same difficulties eases the burden, especially of those with treatment-resistant epilepsy. He's started a support group that meets at the Redford Community Center every second Wednesday of the month.

"I'm trying to get more exposure," said Ebmer. "Growing up, I wasn't able to learn as well as I should

have been able to. Later, I had a hard time finding jobs. There's a lot of discrimination.

"I feel it's important to help other people to lead a more productive life. I felt I had a lot of information that would be helpful to people with epilepsy."

Of the 2 1/2 million people with epilepsy, it's estimated that approximately one-quarter are not able to control their seizures with treatment. Dr. Brien Smith said Ebmer is one of the lucky ones. Vagus Nerve Stimulator Therapy is frequently the last resort, and of those who receive the implant only about 5 percent become seizure-free.

"Even though it doesn't sound very exciting it opens up the avenue to stimulating the brain," said Smith, medical director of the comprehensive epilepsy program and epilepsy monitoring unit at Henry Ford Hospital which is participating in nationwide clinical trials of the responsive neurostimu-

lator system by NeuroPace.

"Currently there are two major studies by Medtronic and NeuroPace. It's Phase II trials on patient safety to make sure it's safe for patients. It then goes on to level III to see how well it works. If all goes well it may be approved in three years."

Smith's colleague Dr. Gregory L. Barkley is just as excited about the trial. They are currently recruiting patients with treatment-resistant epilepsy for the volunteer project. If interested, call Helen Foley at (313) 916-3955. For more on the responsive neurostimulator system, visit www.Neuropace.com.

"The responsive neurostimulator was developed from technology first used for implantable defibrillators that fire a jolt of electricity when heart rhythms are interrupted," said Barkley, a neurologist and vice chairman of the neurology department and founding

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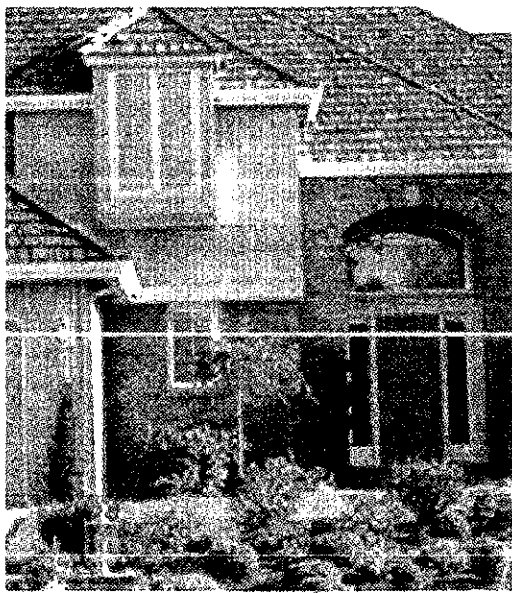


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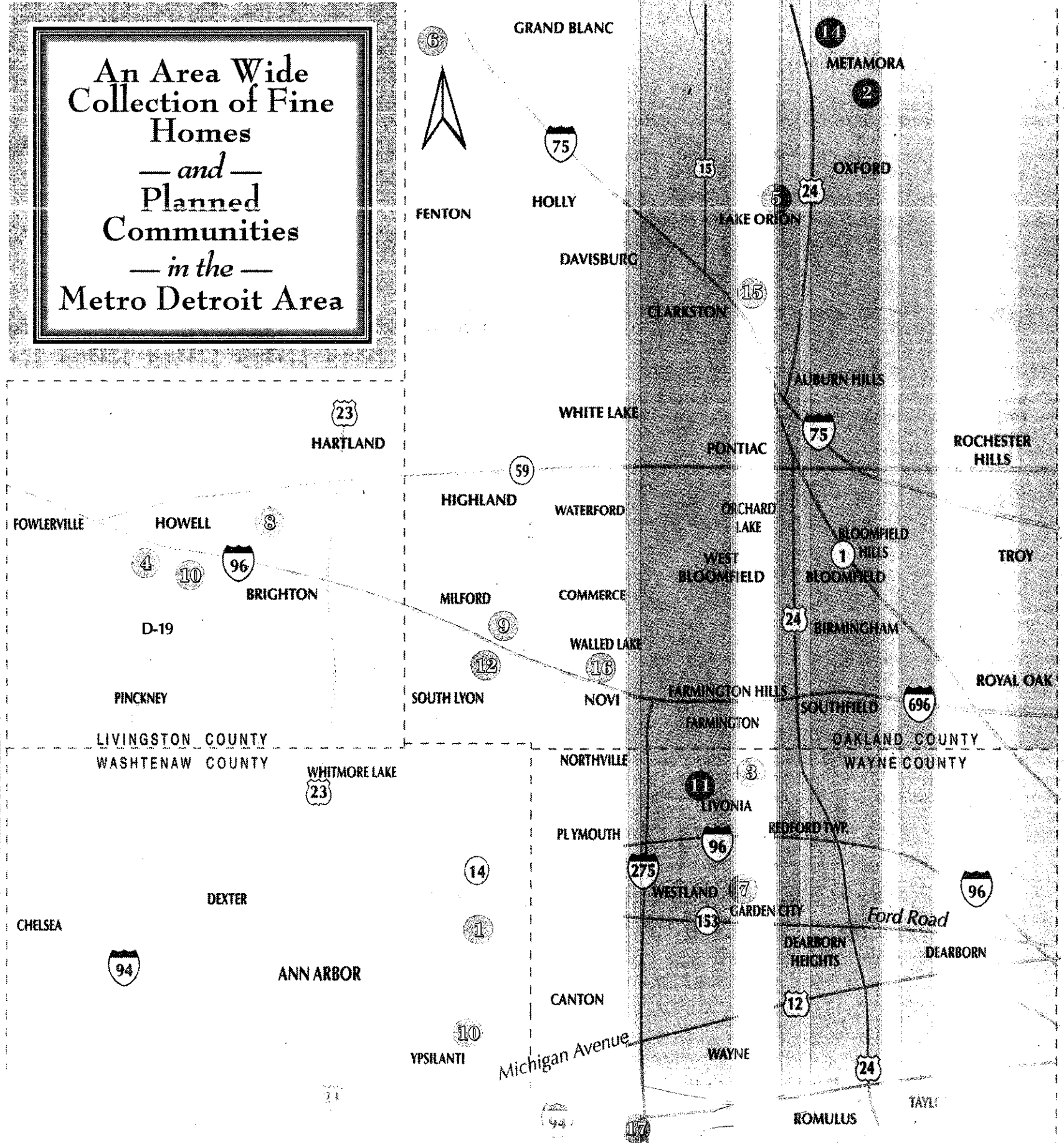


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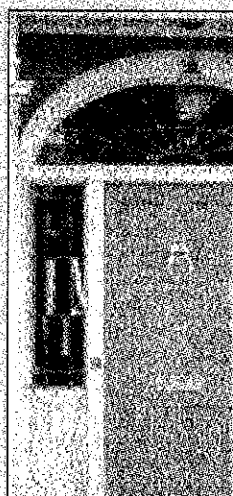


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Developer breaks ground on Rochester project

'Walkable' community a plus for buyers

LoChirco Custom Homes recently broke ground on a three-story, \$5 million condominium and retail project in downtown Rochester. The first-of-its-kind project for Rochester's central business district, 202 Walnut Street reflects a trend of offering residential housing options in suburbs that have "walkable" downtowns.

Like the condominium projects that are currently rising in downtown Royal Oak, 202 Walnut Street combines amenity-filled condominiums with first-floor retail. It will have eight condominiums on two floors ranging in size from 1,000 to 2,050 square feet, and in price from \$350,000-\$700,000. Complementing existing architecture in downtown Rochester, 202 Walnut Street has a traditional design featuring a brick facade with limestone accents. There will be first-floor parking, with two spaces for each condominium, a third-floor terrace, and many options for interior finishes.

"We're extremely pleased with the concept of this project by LoChirco Custom Homes. In size, scale and quality, it



Complementing existing architecture in downtown Rochester, 202 Walnut Street, a new LoChirco Custom Homes development, combines amenity-filled condominiums with first-floor retail.

reflects our development plans for downtown Rochester," said Rochester Mayor Karen Lewis. "This is a beautiful building and it will be a big draw for people who are looking for the convenience and pleasure of living in a downtown with restaurants and shops."

Joseph M. LoChirco, the president of LoChirco Custom Homes, grew up in Rochester and has a strong attachment to the city. "This is a dream project, to bring a high quality building to the central business district that will increase the vitality and fun of the area and be a great place to live. I think it will have great appeal to people who are downsiz-

ing and want more convenience and fun in their daily life and to young people just starting out who are very attracted to urban living," LoChirco said.

LoChirco Custom Homes, based in Rochester, has been building high quality homes and communities since 1989. For more information about the project, call LoChirco Custom Homes at (248) 601-0511.

Rochester, has been building high quality homes and communities since 1989.

For more information about the project, call LoChirco Custom Homes at (248) 601-0511.

Do your homework before remodeling or building

If you're considering building a new home or remodeling the home you're in now, here's a checklist from the Michigan Association of Home Builders to help you select your contractor:

- Do they have a permanent business address?
- Can they provide references?
- Ask to see their state

license or contact the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services' License Verification Unit at (900) 555-8374.

- Do they have current liability insurance and workers compensation coverage? Note: If you hire someone who is unlicensed and/or uninsured you may be held liable for any injuries that occur while work-

ing on your property.

- How long have they been in business?
- Check with your city building department for any local complaints.
- Check with your county clerk to make sure there are no civil suits against the contractor.
- Check with your local home builders association to

see if they are a member.

- Make sure you receive a complete, clearly written contract for the work to be done.
- Do not pay cash up front unless you have a signed valid contract.

You should get at least three estimates from different contractors to compare costs. Beware of bids which are too low or unreasonably out of line

with other bids. Be sure the estimates specify the total price, and the method of payment, the kind and quality of materials to be used and the estimated length of time it will take to complete the work.

For more information, visit the Michigan Association of Home Builders Web site, www.mahb.com.

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6193 Stonewood, Peninsula Park
at the Parks at Stonewood, Clarkston
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Thomas Sebald & Associates, Inc., perhaps best known for some of the most elegant estate homes in the Birmingham Bloomfield area, has embarked on a new venture, addressing a market segment that has until now, been overlooked; the discriminating buyer demanding "quality over quantity", and at a "sensible" price point by today's standards.

TSA has done just that at Peninsula Park, located in the Parks at Stonewood in Clarkston; each home offering "cutting edge" design, handcrafted to exacting standards, and using only the highest quality materials.

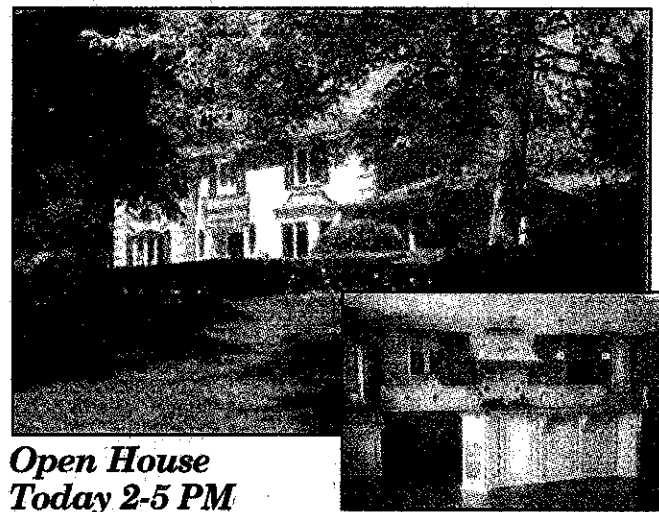
It is this exceptional design and execution that has earned Thomas Sebald & Assoc. a reputation of integrity and quality over the past 50 years in the Detroit area. This tradition is the foundation of this innovative project.

Yes, and rare to find such appointments as Pella windows, granite work surfaces, Brazilian cherry flooring, cedar siding & trim, stained wood garage doors and brick or stone on all four sides; standard features - just a sampling.

Peninsula Park is a cluster of 17 beautifully distinctive homes/sites nestled within its very own 14 acre nature preserve; each home's backyard extending beyond the property line into the Suzanne g. Knorr Nature Preserve; a 90 acre protected greenway shared by the Peninsula Park homeowners.

Three distinctively different homes are currently available and five sites in process of development; each offering a mix of amenities; including walkout or daylight bsmts, 3 car gar, 1st flr mstr, and of course each within a treed setting. Add Country Club style amenities...and well, you've got Peninsula Park.

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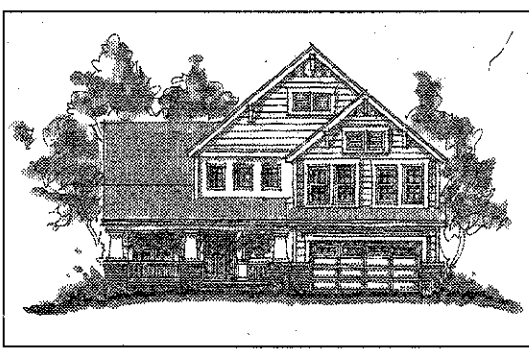
With a more traditional farmhouse style, the Riverside has many additional features that make it an eye-catcher. The large column posts on the covered porch, the numerous windows, the double louvered vents at the peak of the two different rooflines, and the brick that has been used for cornices on the two-car garage and across the face of the home all add to the attractive facade.

Entering the two-story Riverside has one's guests facing the long great room at the rear of the home. To their left are French doors that open into a den or optional living room. Because it is set off from the rest of the home by the elegant doors, it would make a wonderful retreat from the family or a great place to have an in-home office if needed.

The great room has a large fireplace on the rear wall and there are small arches at the entry. To the left of the great room is the nook and kitchen. The nook has patio doors opening to the rear deck and backyard. An eating bar faces the nook. Shaped like a "C," the kitchen has a large amount of counter space and cabinets. It has a pantry on the wall between the kitchen and the great room.

The right side of the Riverside is the master suite. It has a large main suite area with an elongated walk-in closet on the right side. The master bath has an oversized spa tub as well as a shower. Dual sinks with a linen closet are on the opposite wall. Just outside the master suite is the utility room with a door to the garage and a half bath.

As one goes up the stairs to the second floor,



on the landing half way up is a window seat. Continuing on up stairs are three other bedrooms and a game/family room. Bedroom two has a corner walk-in closet while bedrooms three and four each have wall closets. A full bath with a tub is located between bedrooms three and four, but bedroom four actually has a full bath with a shower.

In the hall outside the bedrooms is a computer loft, ideal for studying and doing homework. Books line the wall opposite. The large game room is up a couple of steps from the level of the bedrooms. As a bonus, if needed, there is an unfinished basement with 1,583 square feet.

Order or search through thousands of plans on-line at www.landmarkdesigns.com. Use the code CODE and save 15 percent on full set orders. Or call (800) 562-1151, making sure you have the discount code CODE and the plan name and number RIVERSIDE (D8522). Study plans for \$24.95 are available for all plans.



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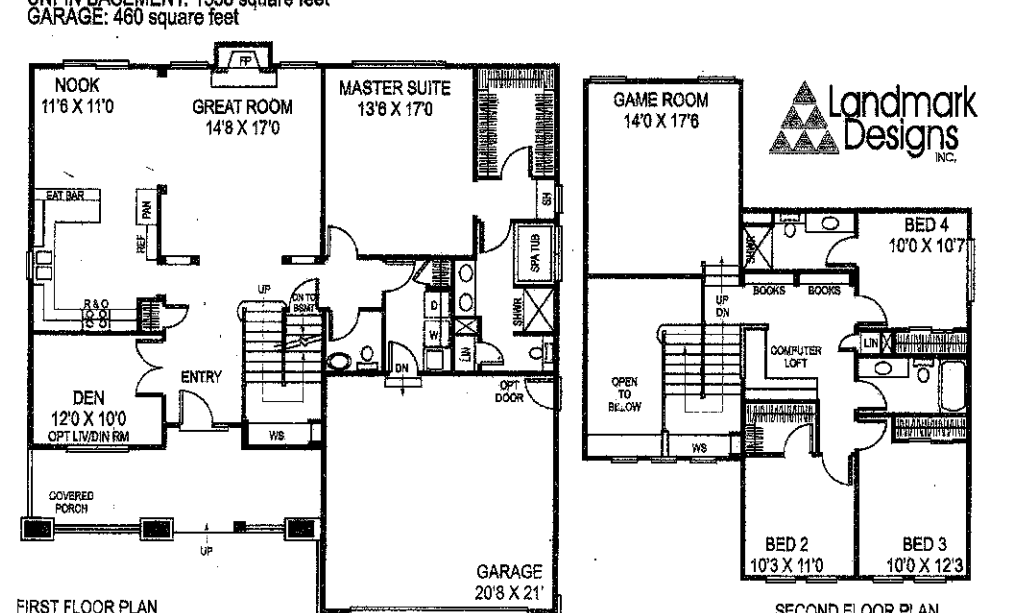


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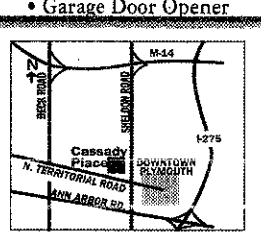
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Tips for choosing siding

(NAPSI) - The right siding can color someone's opinion of your home. However, choosing the color palette for the exterior of your home can be an overwhelming and challenging process. Whether starting from scratch or remodeling, color decisions will affect your home's long-term resale value and curb appeal.

The good news is that recent years have brought advancements in material science that have allowed siding manufacturers such as CertainTeed to introduce more colors, including darker and bolder hues, to their color palette. For instance, beyond the traditional beige or pale yellow, you can now choose a vibrant Ivy Green or Barn Red. The bad news is, you have even more choices.

To avoid sensory overload, here are a few tips for selecting the right colors for your home:

- Consider colors that harmonize with your surroundings, including your neighborhood and natural environment.

- Select a siding color that coordinates with your home's roof.

- Use no more than three colors—one for siding, one for trim and one as an accent color.

- For a tall house, emphasize horizontal elements in the window trim colors. Or, to keep a small house from looking even smaller, choose light colors and keep contrasts to a minimum.

- Keep in mind that the larger the home, the more intense the siding color appears.

- Select colors from a trusted siding manufacturer that has done its homework in regard to color. While quantity of colors on a company's palette can seem impressive, it's the right colors that will increase the value and curb appeal of your home.

- Choose siding that comes with lifetime color fade protection to ensure that your color investment lasts.

To learn more about color selection, visit www.CertainTeed.com and search for "ColorView," or call (800) 782-8777.

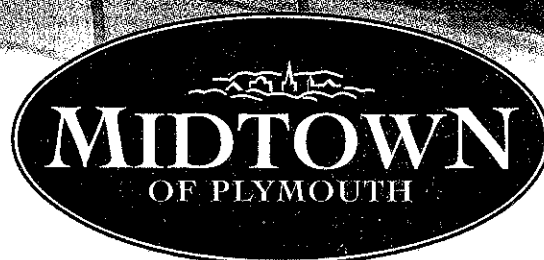
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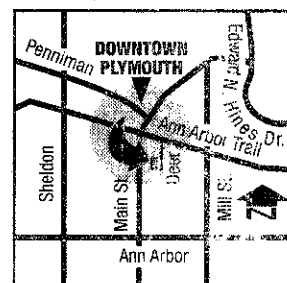


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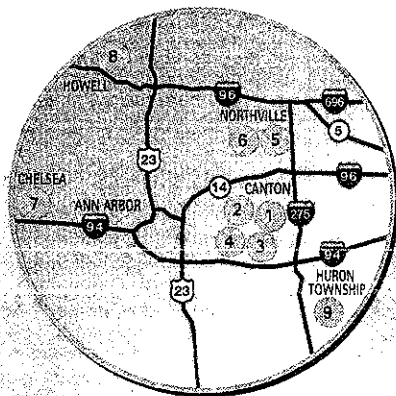
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AS LOW AS \$15,311^{15*} 24 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL **\$89^{99**}** A-Plan ^{\$1833.00} Due on Delivery

2005 MERCURY MONTEGO
3.0 24 valve V6, air conditioning, six speed automatic transmission, leather, passenger power seat, AM/FM 6 CD MP3 audio, adjustable pedals. Stock #50383. ~~WAS \$25,750~~
AS LOW AS \$20,725^{30*} 24 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL **\$199^{99**}** A-Plan ^{\$2128.78} Due on Delivery

COUPON GET \$500⁰⁰ Extra For Your Trade[†]
EXPIRES 12-17-04

2004 MERCURY MONTEREY
4.2 EFI engine, four speed automatic trans, dual zone air conditioning, overhead console, dual sliding doors, AM/FM stereo cassette. Stock #41554. ~~WAS \$26,595~~
AS LOW AS \$15,155^{68*}

2005 SABLE LS
3.0L V6, automatic transmission, air conditioning, power driver's seat, leather, ABS brakes, power heated mirrors. Stock #50064. ~~WAS \$25,805~~
AS LOW AS \$16,389^{30*} 36 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL **\$3721^{68**}** A-Plan

2005 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER
4.0 V6, automatic transmission, AM/FM CD, keyless entry, running boards. Stock #50210. ~~WAS \$31,690~~
AS LOW AS \$21,501^{30*} 36 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL **\$199^{99**}** A-Plan ^{\$1076.47} Due on Delivery

2004 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR
5.4L engine, four speed automatic transmission, air conditioning, leather seats, heavy duty trailer tow, climate controlled seats. Stock #40184. ~~WAS \$34,020~~
AS LOW AS \$36,424^{70*}

2004 LINCOLN AVIATOR
4.6 V8, automatic transmission, Class 3 trailer tow package, AM/FM six disc compact disc, air conditioning with dual zone controls, steering wheel controls. Stock #41166. ~~WAS \$44,870~~
AS LOW AS \$28,963^{41*}

2004 LINCOLN TOWN CAR SIGNATURE
4.6 V8, automatic transmission, dual zone climate control, traction assist, dual media audio, electronic mirrors/compass group. Stock #41790.
AS LOW AS \$27,224^{15*}

*Plus tax, title, license & destination. Rebates computed in price. Includes retiree bonus rebate for customers terminating current Lincoln/Mercury leases. **All leases are 10,500 miles/yr. (Navigator 12,000 miles/yr. With approved credit plus tax, title, acquisition fee. + Trade ins '95 or newer, less than 100,000 mi. Limit 1 per customer. †† Must certify that customer is not A-Plan eligible. Must take delivery from dealer stock. Expires 12/17/04.

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2005 FOCUS L2SELS 4 DOOR
~~Was \$17,990~~
NOW \$13,725^{15*}
Integrated fog lamps, leather wrapped steering wheel, speed control, air conditioning, 16" alloy wheels, 2.0L DOHC engine, automatic trans, P205/55R16 BSW tires, heater package, heated seats, power heated mirrors, power moonroof. [STOCK #51134]

Zero Down 24 Month Lease	\$1500 Down 24 Month Lease
\$228 ⁹⁹ PAYMENT	\$165 ⁹⁹ PAYMENT
\$354 ⁰⁰ AMOUNT DUE	\$1877 ⁰⁰ AMOUNT DUE

2005 FOCUS SE 4 DOOR
~~Was \$17,550~~
NOW \$13,327^{15*}
2-sp. variable wipers, center console, rear defogger, air front courtesy/map lights, 2.0L DOHC engine, auto trans, P185/70R15 BSW tires, conv. grp, speed control, tilt, duplicate radio controls, sport group, integrated fog lamps, tachometer, leather wrapped steering wheel, 15" alloy wheels. [STOCK #50581]

Zero Down 24 Month Lease	\$1500 Down 24 Month Lease
\$235 ⁹⁹ PAYMENT	\$172 ⁹⁹ PAYMENT
\$362 ⁶⁵ AMOUNT DUE	\$1885 ⁰⁷ AMOUNT DUE

Introducing the All New Ford Freestyle, Five Hundred and Mustang - plenty in stock ready for immediate delivery!

2005 F-150 XLT SC 4x4
True blue clearcoat, premium tint premium cloth captain's chair, preferred equipment pkg. 507A, XLT series, 5.4L EFI V8, electronic 4-speed automatic overdrive, P235/70R17 OWL all-terrain, 3.55 ratio limited slip axle, 7200# GVWR pkg, tow & go discount, electronic shift-on-fly, sliding rear window, trailer tow pkg, 17" mach alum whls w/paint accents. [STOCK #51353]

~~Was \$33,925~~ **NOW \$23,878.30^{15*}**

24 MONTH LEASE ZERO DOWN \$1500 DOWN \$1497^{11} \$85⁸⁶ mo.**
\$361.69 AMOUNT DUE \$1884.01 AMOUNT DUE

2005 ESCAPE LIMITED
~~Was \$20,810~~
NOW \$14,875^{14}**
Air, roof side rails, duratec 23-23L 14 eng, 4-sp auto auto trans, P225/70R15 a/s bsw tires, roof rack w/horiz crossbars, 15" alum wheels, retractable cargo cover, conv grp, floor mats, front and rear, speed control, perimeter alarm. [STOCK #50444]

Zero Down 24 Month Lease	\$1500 Down 24 Month Lease
\$189 ⁹⁹ PAYMENT	\$124 ⁵³ PAYMENT
\$404 ³⁰ AMOUNT DUE	\$1925 ⁰⁰ AMOUNT DUE

2005 ESCAPE LIMITED
~~Was \$27,200~~
NOW \$20,229^{15*}
leather comfort grp, pwr 6-way driver seat, floor mats, spd control, air, perimeter alarm, duratec 3.0L V6, 4-sp auto auto trans, P225/70R15 a/s bsw tires, conv moonroof, mirror console w/straps, bin, cargo conv grp, rear cargo storage bin, retractable cargo cover, 1m lux comfort grp, reverse sensing sys, pwr heated mirrors w/mem 1, heated mt driver & pass seats, mach AM/FM stereo w/6-CD in-dash. [STOCK #51620]

Zero Down 24 Month Lease	\$1500 Down 24 Month Lease
\$228 ³⁵ PAYMENT	\$162 ⁹⁷ PAYMENT
\$445 ⁰⁵ AMOUNT DUE	\$1965 ⁷⁵ AMOUNT DUE

2004 Freestar Limited
~~Was \$37,480~~
NOW \$26,267^{15*}
3.5L ratio reg auto, electronic grp, right-hand pwr dr, aux alc 1 zone aux auto, 24hrs, 12, 04V 3.5L eng, 4 spd auto o/d trans, P235R18 BSW all season, AS 11, 16" alloy wheels, ABS, defogger, cruise, crossbars, vlc grp, 11, perimeter anti-theft, home-link, active safety pkg 1 & 4, reverse sensing sys, memory pkg, pwr heated signal mirrors, memory adj. fog pedals, driver memory seats, family 1st row, safety cargo wide air bags. [STOCK #42564]

SAVE OVER \$10,000!

2005 TOYOTA SE TOURUS SE
~~Was \$22,605~~
NOW \$14,720^{15*}
Air, depower 1st/2 pass bags, floor mats, dust power mirror, 3.0L 2V 6-cylinder flex fuel engine, automatic overdrive, P215/60R16 all season tires, SE preferred equipment package, 5-spoke painted alum wheels, rear spoiler, power driver seat w/ lumbar, 140 mph speedo, rear seat, 6-pass w/100 console floor shift, AM/FM stereo/CD player. [STOCK #50458]

Zero Down 24 Month Lease	\$1500 Down 24 Month Lease
\$208 ¹⁴ PAYMENT	\$145 ⁵⁰ PAYMENT
\$513 ⁶³ AMOUNT DUE	\$2037 ²³ AMOUNT DUE

SUV LEASE PROGRAM
for leases expiring January 1, 2005 through April 30, 2005.
SEE DEMMER FOR DETAILS

2005 Explorer XLT 4x4 6 DOOR
~~Was \$32,550~~
NOW \$22,972^{15*}
Silver birch oo, graphite cloth sport bits, order code 220A-XLT V6, advance trac wisc, air cond, radio w/ single CD, 4.0L SOHC V6 flex fuel eng, 5-sp auto o/d trans, P225/70R16 a/s w/ tires, 3.55 ratio reg axle, regional XLT disc pkg, black roof rail w/crossbars. [STOCK #51436]

Zero Down 24 Month Lease	\$1500 Down 24 Month Lease
\$218 ⁸⁹ PAYMENT	\$156 ²⁴ PAYMENT
\$480 ⁰² AMOUNT DUE	\$1703 ⁶¹ AMOUNT DUE

2004 RANGER SC XLT FX4 4x4
~~Was \$27,350~~
NOW \$17,094^{15*}
Speed control, leather w/steering wheel, power window/lock group, remote keyless entry, FX4 off-road group, 16" spoke alum wheels, 4.0L SOHC V6 5-sp auto automatic overdrive trans, P245 OWL all-terrain tires, 4.10 ratio limited slip axle, 5.4L GVWR, P235 all-season tires, 16-disc CD w/MP3 cap. [STOCK #43083]

SAVE OVER \$10,000!

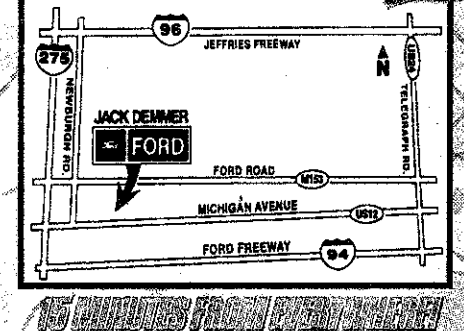
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*Plus tax, title, license & destination. Rebates computed in price. **All leases are 10,500 miles/yr. With approved credit plus tax, title, acquisition fee not included in final pay amount. Tax and plates extra. Purchase price and lease payments for A & Z Plan Buyers.