

Celebration Chic

Holiday party clothes, hair and makeup.

This week in PINK



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 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 pfrfectly able to remain anonymous if you pre-

For more info/mation, give us a lall at (734) 459-27Ø0. Happy holida/s, and please keep our Cheer Club in mind!

Toys/or Tots

Canton's Jungle Java is∄ dropoff site for the annual U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program. Just/bring in an unw/apped 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

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VOLUME 30 NUMBER 45

SUNDAY December 5, 2004





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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-onone meetings with John Stewart, R-Plymouth Township, and Phil LaJoy, R-Canton.

PLEASE SEE FUNDING, A9



TOM HAWLEY I 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

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 bim 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

"His first word was just unbelievable.

PLEASE SEE AUTISM, A6

Law pops cap off liquor prices

BY JACK GLADDEN . STAFF WRITER

more than \$30,000 next year.

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 legislation 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 per-

"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

STAFPWRITER

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 committed 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 community 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 cham-

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

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



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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 an 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

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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 mat-

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 5, 2004

Some of the characteristics to look for are:

- A long attention span
- Heightened sensitivity
- Intense curiosity
- Resistance to routine and drill

old" for his/her age

■ A strong sense of fairness ■ Concern with issues "too

Forms are available in all Van Buren elementary and middle schools, and the administration building. All forms must be completed and returned by Jan. 188, 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-

THEATER AUDITIONS

(1)bserver

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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

Fax(734) 459-4224

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

AROUND CANTON

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 with 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

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

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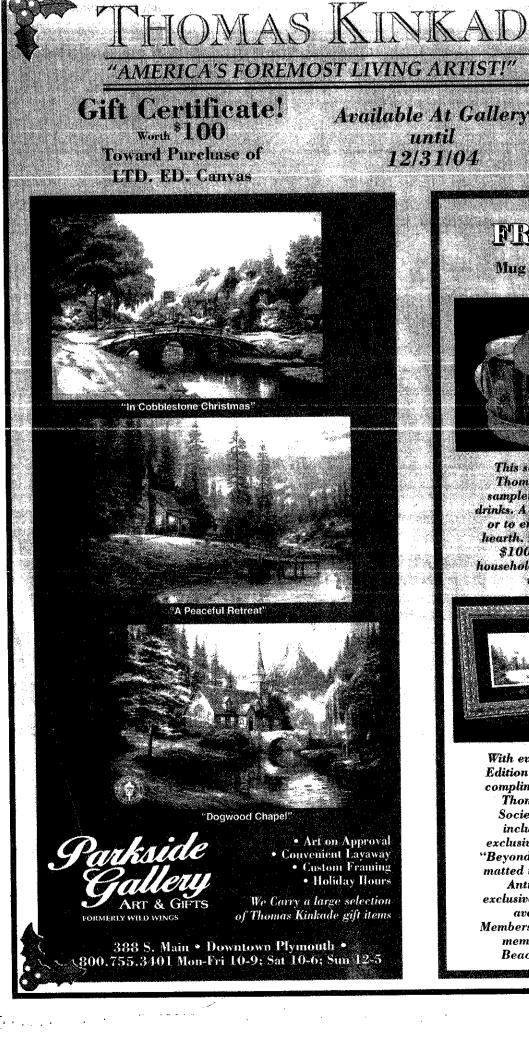
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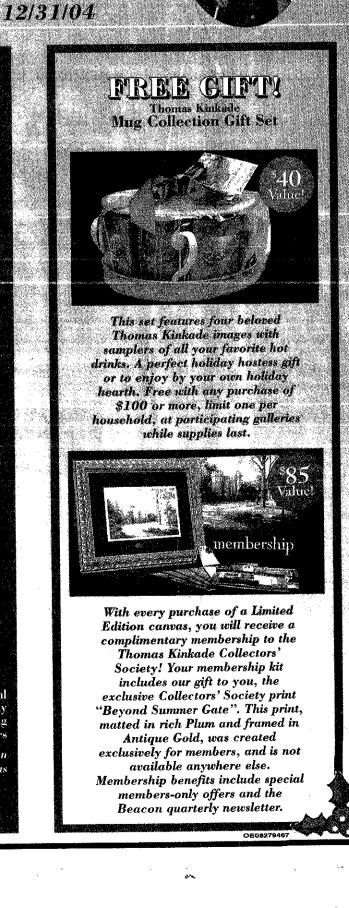
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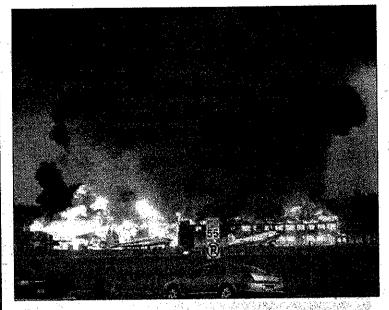
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Write a letter to the editor







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

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

"I wanted to help get a fundraiser going, to help rebuild it,"

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 olanning 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

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.yankeeairmuseum.org.

"Any profits go toward the museum," he said. scasola@oe.homecomm.net (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

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 à 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. yankeeairmuseum.org



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DEATHS

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

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

Walter R. Haines, 84, of Mio, formerly of Belleville, died Nov. 20, Alfred G. Hakala, 83, of Livonia, died Nov.

Evelyn Ann Head, 83, formerly of Farmington Hills, died Nov. 27. Robert "Joe" Henke, 67, of Farmington, died Nov. 27.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

James Sutherland, 64, of Farmington Hills,

Mae L. Taylor, 94, 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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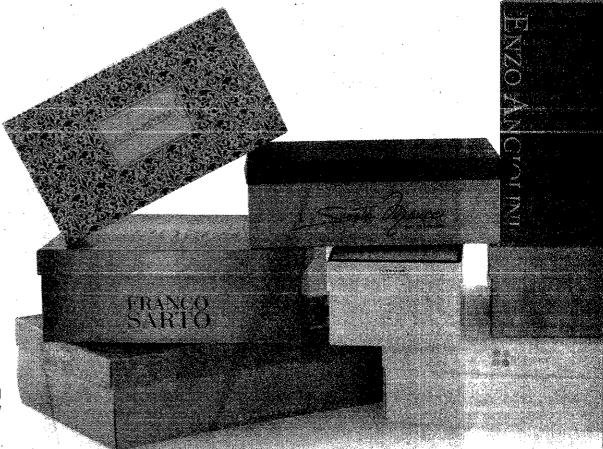
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A6

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

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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

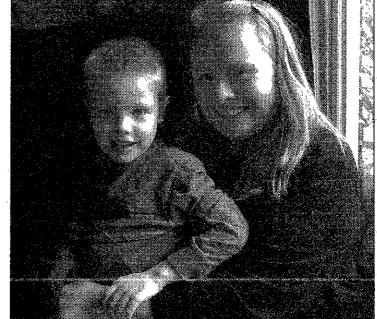
Center's CARE Program, which they say has changed everything. He has been in the program for more than a year now. His language skills have improved dramatically, as has his ability to play, though he still finds it hard to share things with his older sister.

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

With nowhere else to turn, Terri is asking the community for aid. She is holding a fundraising 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 ft can be," she said. kkuban@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 459-2700

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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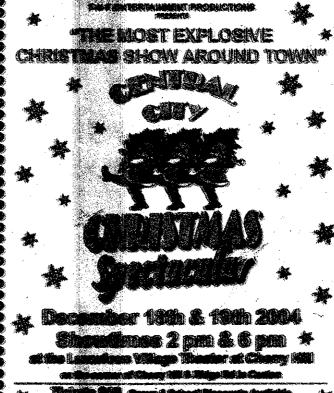
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Bouchard being mentioned as **GOP's choice for governor**

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 5, 2004

hen 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



Lessenberry

and hand were grazed by one bullet. Once, while chasing down criminals, his police cruiser was broadsided and sent reeling into two

trees, strik-

ing 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-yearold 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 donothing 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

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 longtime 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 per-

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

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

Rocky stands up for America, argues against bolting to Canada

ndrew "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 televi-

sion

Gallagher

Monday standing up for America. Reuther. Never happen. After an opening news seg-

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 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

Observer & Eccentri

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

ment 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

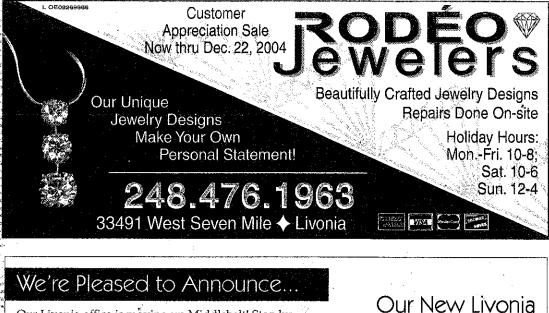
After all, John Kerry received more votes for president than anyone in history, except for George W. Bush. Bush didn't win a mandate, he won by a 3 percent margin. Many of those who voted for the president do not share the narrow views of religious fundamentalists or even the rabid views of Ann Coulter,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



Our Livonia office is moving up Middlebelt! Stop by the new office at 14921 Middlebelt Road (next to the Westborn Market that's just south of 5 Mile Road) during our Grand Opening Week, December 6-10.

Office Opens Monday, December 6, 2004!

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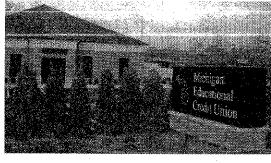
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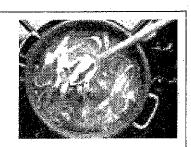
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FUNDING

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 Wavne 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 financ-

One 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 vear 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

"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 Porteili 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."

smason@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2112

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 becomes on

(WWCTR); which serves the communities of Belleville, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster, Livonia, Plymouth. Northville, Romulus, Wayne, Westland, and the joy uslams of Camon

Northville, Redford, and Van

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



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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."

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 ww.TippingToCool.com.

Conference focuses on 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 on-

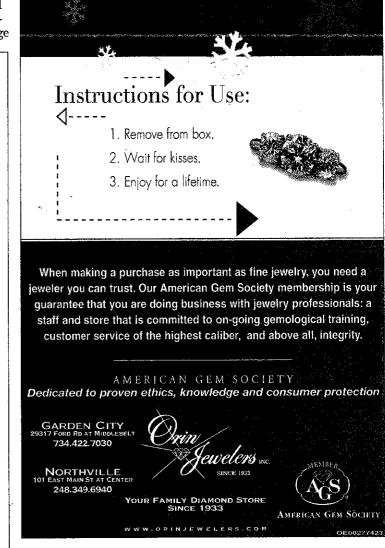
Jeanette Schneider at 248.440.0404 x202, check online at www.manyhouses.com, or visit any local RE/MAX office.



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Motor City Youth Theatre presents 'Annie Jr.' 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10

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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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representative for full program details and disclosures. Certain restrictions may apply.

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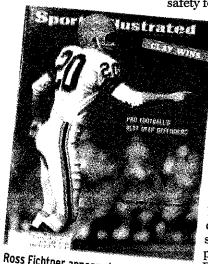
Plymouth man finds fame, happiness in 18-year NFL career

BY ED WRIGHT

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 maga-

It was mid-November of '66 and Fichtner, a strong safety for the Cleveland



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

Browns, was setting a torrid interception pace, having picked off eight passes in 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

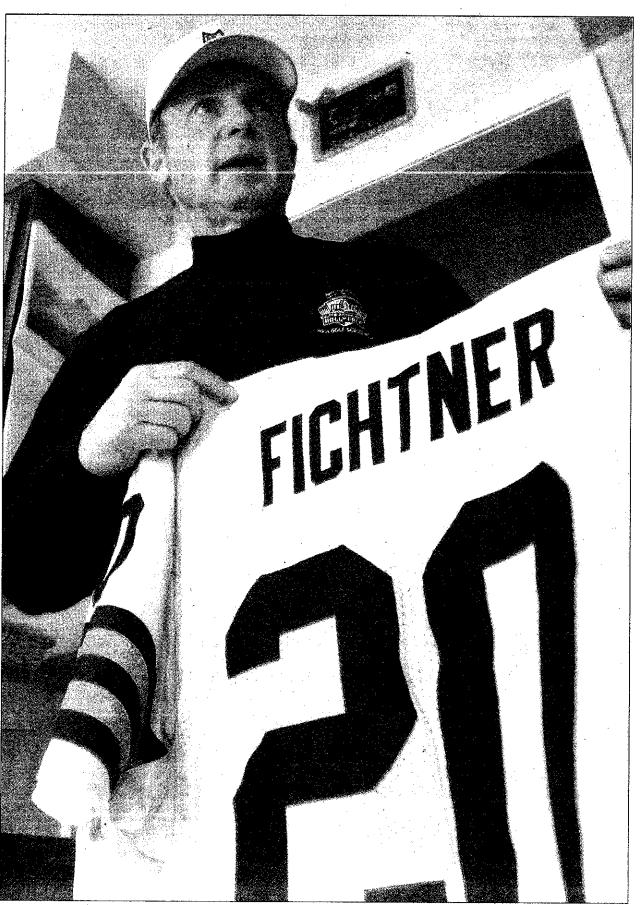
for a few days. "The guy took hundreds of photos," Fichtner remembered. "He

said they were going to put me on the cover." There was only one catch, Fichtner discovered later

"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.



Plymouth resident Ross Fichtner holds the jersey he was given by the Cleveland Browns in September at a ceremony commemorating PLEASE SEE FICHTNER, B3 the 40 anniversary of the team's NFL championship. Fichtner wore #20 during his eight-year career with the Browns from 1960-67.

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 oncecomfortable 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."

Heeding 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 a 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

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.

when they needed it."

"This is the first year in 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

'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 fivetime 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

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 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.

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 Tshirt. 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.co

Hoop tryouts

The Plymouth/Canton Crossfire girls basketbal organization will hold try outs for the upcoming season on Saturday, Dec. 11, in the Plymouth Christian Academy gym nasium, 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.noviicearena.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.

CC cage team has big holes to fill schoolcraft

STAFF WRITER

There's a big hole to fill in **Fedford Catholic Central's bas**letball lineup with the departire of 6-10 center Dan Vaterstradt to Rutgers Iniversity.

But several Shamrocks could ombine their talents to give lead coach Rick Coratti a very resentable front-court for the 2004-05 Catholic League sea-

Whether or not they can lelp the Shamrocks duplicate lst season's success remains to be seen; the team went 17-6 lst year, good enough for a dvisional title and a trip to the (atholic League and district fnals.

Also graduating were sarters Jim Cash (Albion), Dave Herberholz and Kyle Smith.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 5, 2004

'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

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.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2106

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

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

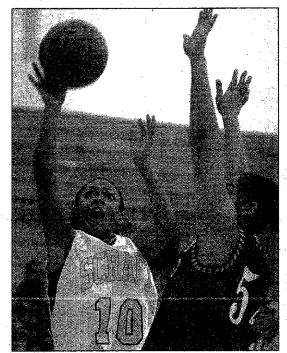
Amantha Combs (Belleville) contributed 15 points, six boards and four assists off the bench

tet 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

and Mikiko Williams added 10 points and a quar-

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 "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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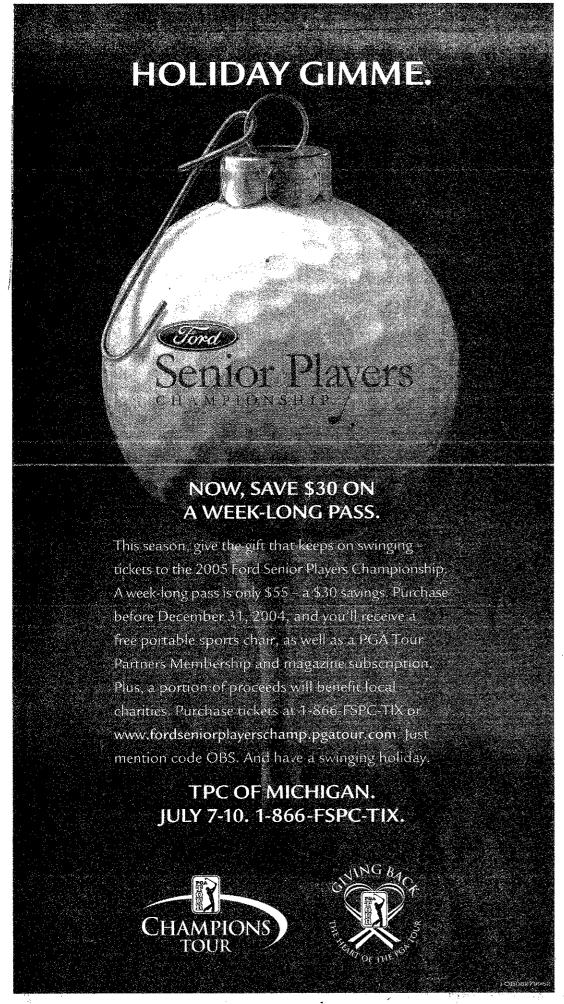




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THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASKETBALL Tuesday, Dec. 7 Agape Christian at Deerfield, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11 Franklin Rd, at Plymouth Christian, 7 p.m. Salem at Belleville, 7 p.m. Ann Arbor Green Hills at Plymouth, 7 p.m. PREP WRESTLING Canton at Monroe, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8 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 Plymoutl at Plymouth Cultural Center. 8:30 p.m

Walled Lake Northern at Canton at Arctic Edge Ice Arena, 8 p.m. PCS Penguins at Port Huron at McMorran Place, 4:30 p.m. Canton at Chelsea, 7 p.m. 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.

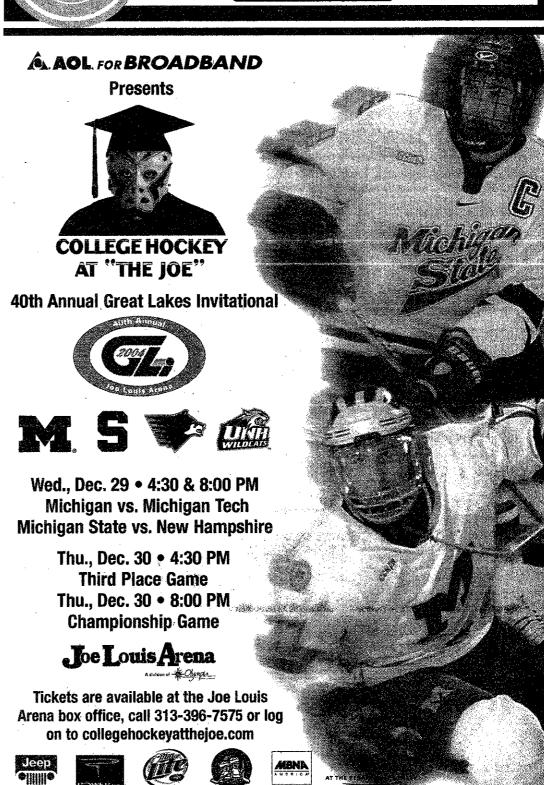
Saturday, Dec. 11 Salem, Plymouth and Canton at WI AA Conference Relays at Salem, 10 a.m. MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Tuesday, Dec. 7

Wednesday, Dec. 8 Lewis College (III.) 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, 5:3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10 (Kalamazoo Valley CC Tourney) Schoolcraft vs. Columbus St. (Ohio), 1 p.m. Kalamazoo Valley vs. Highland (III.), 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.





FICHTNER

lllustrious career

Getting his image splashed across the cover of the country's No. 1 sports magazine was a definitive highlight, but it was just one of several accomplishments on the charismatic Fichtner's impressive resume.

Following a distinguished high school football career at McKeesport (Pa.) High School, Fichtner headed to Purdue in 1956. He starred as a quarterback/defensive back for the Boilermakers for three years before getting drafted by the Browns in the third round of the 1960 NFL draft. The multitalented athlete was also selected by the American Football League's Buffalo Bills and the Canadian Football League's Montreal Alouettes.

"I actually chose to play for the team that was offering me the least amount of money," Fichtner revealed. "I only made \$10,000 that year and the 10-year All-Pro player who I was replacing was making \$10,500. But I was doing what I loved — playing football."

Demanding job

Fichtner said the biggest difference between the NFL of the 1960s and professional football today is the demands that were put on the players.

"There were only 36 players on each team's roster, so everybody had to play more than one position," Fichtner said. "Today, everything is specialized. Back then, I was the starting strong safety on defense, the third-string quarterback on offense, the secondstring flanker, the fifth-string running back and the secondstring split-end."

Fichtner was a pivotal member of the 1964 Browns team that captured the NFL championship. Cleveland was led by Hall of Fame running back Jim Brown.

"Jim and I were good friends," Fichtner said. "He was the best football player I've ever seen play.

"We just had a 40-year reunion for members of that team in Cleveland," Fichtner said. "Thirty-four of the 38 guys who played came back for the reunion. It was a great

Stepping down

of the following:

Ford

Dodge

1991

1988

1989

After playing eight years in



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ross Fichtner reflects back on his NFL playing days in his Plymouth basement, which is decorated with a variety of memorabilia.

Cleveland and one in New Orleans, Fichtner retired following the 1968 season due to the effects of several concussions he suffered during his career. He was hired as a sales representative for an independent lawn and garden supply company.

"I was a sales rep for five years before I realized that wasn't what I wanted to do for the rest of my life," Fichtner said. "I decided I wanted to get into coaching, so I made a few calls. Through divine intervention — that's the only way I can explain it - I got a job coaching defensive backs for the World Football League's Florida Blazers."

Over the next 10 years, Fichtner built a reputation as one of the NFL's best defensive-backfield coaches. His professional-coaching stops included Green Bay, Chicago and Minnesota.

"The best secondary I ever coached was the one in Chicago, which had Doug Plank, Gary Fencik and Virgil Ivers," Fichtner said. "We qualified for the playoffs once, but, more importantly, we built the foundation for the defense that ended up winning the Super Bowl a few years later."

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While coaching in the NFL was rewarding, it was also taxing for Fichtner, who rarely got to spend time with his wife,

"During the season, we'd get to eat dinner together maybe 10 times," Fichtner said. "All of the coaches were putting in 16or 17-hour days. Bart Starr was the best head coach I worked for. He understood the importance of family time and would let us go home for two or three hours some nights to spend with the family."

Fichtner hung up his coaching whistle in 1984 to devote more time to his family. That was the year he moved to Plymouth and resurrected his sales career at Schultz & Associates Lawn & Garden Supplies.

Two of Fichtner's three sons followed in their dad's gridiron footsteps. His oldest son, Randy, played at Purdue and is currently the offensive coordinator at the University of Memphis. His middle son, Rusty, was an outstanding linebacker at the University of Michigan before his promising career was cut short by a spinal injury. Fichtner also has a 19year-old son, Daniel, who is a graduate of Plymouth Christian Academy, and two daughters, Tami and Tanya.

"Except for Daniel, my kids are spread out all over the

country," Fichtner said. "But they're all still close at

heart," Karen said. Athletes in Action

Fichtner now makes speaking engagements for Athletes

in Action, a coaches ministry.

"We speak to coaches about how to build character in their athletes and how to build suc-cessful relationships between the members of the coaching staff, among other things," Fichtner said. "We also talk to pastors, businesses, and even parents."

What advice would he impart on today's youth coach-

"When I coached, I made it a point to correct mental mistakes on the field, but I think it's important for coaches to correct things like poor effort and bad attitudes behind close doors," Fichtner said. "I would never embarrass a player in front of his peers."

Victim of Jinx?

Fichtner jokingly admitted he is a believer of the infamous Sports Illustrated cover jinx, which reportedly brings misfortune to athletes who grace the magazine's cover.

He's also a victim of the jinx. "I had eight interceptions in six games before I was on the cover in 1966," he said, smiling. "After I was on the cover, I didn't get another interception the rest of the year. I didn't even

come close to one.' He only has Big Cat Williams to blame for that.

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INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids will be received by the Eastern Michigan University, Purchasing Department, 875 Ann Street, Suite 122, Ypsilanti, Michigan, 48197 until the following deadlines, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

TIME AND MATERIAL TRADES CONTRACTS

Wednesday, December 15, 2004

10:00 AM - Architectural Woodwork, Cabinets and Fixtures

10:30 AM - Painting

11:00 AM - Lath and Plaster 11:30 AM - Ceramic and Quarry Tile

01:00 PM - Glass and Glazing

01:30 PM - Masonry 02:00 PM - Carpentry

02:30 PM - Fire Protection

Bid Documents and Specifications may be obtained at the above address beginning Monday, December 6, 2004. Qualified Contractors must be located within 60 miles of Eastern Michigan University. All bids are to be in sealed envelopes and plainly marked as to the Time and Material contract being bid upon and the name of the bidder. The University reserves the right to waive irregularities, reject any or all bids, or accept any bid, when in the opinion of the University, such action will best serve the interest of the University.

By: Rick Paffenroth

Manager of Administrative Support Services, Purchasing Department

Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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FROM PAGE B1

Churchill's speed and his team's inability to finish off scoring chances combined to spell defeat.

"They have a very fast team," Feiler said. "I thought we played them pretty even over the first period. We had some opportunities in the second and third periods, but we couldn't put the puck in the

"We made a couple of adjustments after the first period by moving our forwards up. It helped some, but we couldn't take advantage of the chances we had to score."

Both goalies turned in steady efforts. Salem's Brandon DeMars stopped 23 shots while Churchill's Bob Zaremba stuffed 12.

"I thought their goalie played very well," Mazzoni said of DeMars. "He kept them in it."

There were no serious offensive threats in the scoreless first period, in which both goalies made six routine saves each.

Churchill dented the scoreboard first 58 seconds into the second period when senior winger Wes Carpenter broke away from the Salem defense at mid-ice and beat DeMars with a high shot to make it 1-0. Nick Harris and Kyle Burke were credited with assists on Carpenter's goal.

Both goalies turned in steady efforts. Salem's Brandon **DeMars stopped 23 shots** while Churchill's Bob **Zaremba stuffed 12.**

Less than four minutes later, the Chargers doubled their lead to 2-0 when Brandon Mishowski stuffed a rebound shot past the sprawling DeMars.

Mike Persha and Justin Stadler picked up helpers on the goal.

Salem capitalized on a twoman advantage power play with 4:18 to go in the second period when John Maurer sizzled a slap shot past Zaremba from the left wing to make it 2-1. Craigen Bauldry assisted on the goal.

Churchill's Dan Wensing closed out the scoring with a power-play insurance goal with six seconds left. He was assist ed by Matt Heinzelman and Justin Stadler.

Charger forward Justin Stadler didn't score a goal, but he had several dazzling rushes up the ice.

"I thought Justin played well," Mazzoni said. "He's a threat to score every time he touches the puck."

Chief icers slam Central

Nine different players scored to lead Canton's hockey team to a convincing 11-1 victory over Walled Lake Central Friday night at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena.

Canton improved its record to 2-1 overall and 1-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association. Canton jumped to a 5-0 lead

after the opening period and never looked back.

Senior captain Reece McCabe did the most damage for the Chiefs, recording a hattrick and a pair of assists. Mike Kondratek had one goal and four assists while Bryan Wioncek and Garrett Hyman each tallied one goal and three helpers.

Pat Gallagher, Kyle Kowalski, Sean Rago, Ryan Mooradian and Andy Barylski scored one goal a piece.

Senior Tony Hylko and freshman Kevan Swanberg split time in net for the Chiefs, who travel to Livonia's Eddie Edgar Arena on Wednesday night to tangle with Livonia Franklin.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for Year 8 Universal Service Fund (USF) Funding. Bidders may obtain bidding documents by contacting Jim Casteel of the PCCS Technology Department at (734) 416-2706. For additional information, contact Dan Phillips of the PCCS Purchasing Department at (734) 416-2746. Sealed bids are due on or before n m. Thursday December 16th, 2004. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

> Board of Education Plymouth-Canton Community Schools JOANNE LAMAR, Secretary

Publish: December 5 and 12, 2004









TER PROGRAMS

Indoor Soccer

Youth-Adult Leagues Season: January 2nd March 12nd Team Fee: \$895 Individual Fee: \$95 U6-U8 Team Fee: \$500 Individual Fee: \$65





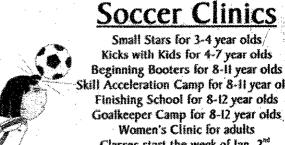
Flag Footba Elementary School—Adult Leagues

Season: January 2nd March 12nd Team Fee: \$850 Individual Fee: \$85

Dodge Bal High School and Adult Leagues

Season: January 2**--March 12** Team Fee: \$400

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Swim stars capture all-area positions

FIRST-TEAM INDIVIDUALS

"Allison Schmitt, Fr., Canton (200 freestyle): The freshman was dazzling in her first year of high-school swimming as she earned All-State honors in two events (200 and 500 freestyle), captured the 100 butterfly at the Western Lakes Activities Association conference meet and finished second in the 200 individual medley at the WLAA meet. Schmitt qualified for the state meet in six events and set several school récords.

"Allison has been a great asset and source of energy for the team," said Canton coach Molly Raines. "She works hard and loves everything to do with swimming."

Laura Timson, Fr., Liv. Stevenson (200 individual medley): The freshman placed fourth in the Division I state meet with a time of 2:10.64, tops in the area to earn All-State honors.

She also added a 12th place finshed at the state meet in the 100 breaststroke and had a season-best time of 1:07.75 to earn All-American consideration.

Timson also won the 200 IM at the WLAA and added a fourth in the 🕆 100 breaststroke.

"Laura came in as a freshman and did great job for us," Stevenson a coach Greg Phill said. "She is a very and worker and we look forward to shaving Laura three more years sbecause she's a great big meet per-🔩 former."

Jill Peterson, Soph., Westland Glenn (50 freestyle): The versatile sophomore now holds four individual school records including an area Thest in the 50 freestyle where she iglocked a 25.33 to win the WLAA ∓title.

Peterson also set a school record in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:07.84 and placed eighth in that Fivent at the state meet. She also -placed runner-up in 100 breaststroke at the WLAA meet.

Peterson also placed 20th in the 200 freestyle at the state meet with -a school-best 1:58.68. She is also a member of Glenn's school-record 400 freestyle relay team (3:55.59).

Peterson made seven state cuts çout of eight individual events this

"Jill continues to set her goals high, which keeps her motivated to "train hard and improve her times," Glenn coach Randy Ferguson said. "I'm anxious to see what she can do βν the time she is a senior."

Ashley Aquinto, Sr., Salem (div**ing):** A team captain, Aquinto quali-Ified for the Division 1 state meet where she finished 25th. She was The 2004 WLAA diving champion, compiling 335.40 points in 11 dives. The senior earned All-WLAA recognition for four years and All-Observerland honors the past three seasons. Aquinto has a 3.41 gradepoint average.

Ashlev has truly been the force in-diving for Salem the past four years," said coach Chuck Olson. "Ashley has displayed sportsman--ship and a competitive nature that was respected by teammates and competitors."

Anna Polkowski, Soph., Liv. Stevenson (100 butterfly): The sophomore was runner-up in the Western Lakes meet and was 27th overall at the state meet in the 100 butterfly. Her best time this season was 1:02.11.

In the 50 freestyle, she took second in the WLAA. She also went 25.85 in the 50 freestyle and 56.45 in the 100 freestyle.

***Only a sophomore, Anna is one of the cornerstones of our team," Phill said. "Anna will always step up when needed."

Marisa Gordon, Jr., Liv. Stevenson (100 freestyle): The junior was a double-winner in the WLAA meet in the 100 freestyle (54.14) and 100 backstroke (1:00.97).

At the Division I state meet, Gordon took 11th in the 100 backstroke and 12th in the 100 freestyle. She was also named Stevenson's 2004 MVP.

"Marisa is a very hard-working

and versatile swimmer." Phill said. "Marisa has spent the last three vears scoring big points for this team and I know she will have a great senior year."

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Mary Shereda, Jr., Liv. Churchill (500 freestyle): The junior earned four state qualifying times including the 200 freestyle, 200 IM, 500 freestyle and 100 backstroke.

She placed 20th in Division I and had a season-best time of 5:18.18 in the 500 freestyle. She was also 36th in the 200 freestyle and had a personal best of 2:00.94 in that event.

At the WLAA meet, The Churchill MVP took third in the 100 butterfly and finished fifth in the 200 IM.

"Mary brings 100 percent effort and dedication to the pool every day," Churchill coach Keith Niedbala said. "She is truly a coach's dream. I am proud of her accomplishments in and out of the pool. She deserves

Monica Pauza, Sr., Liv. Stevenson (100 backstroke): The senior placed 14th at the Division I state meet in the 100 backstroke with a seasonbest 1:01.83 in the prelims. She also took 18th in the 200 IM with a lifetime best of 2:14.14.

At the WLAA meet, the Stevenson team captain took fourth in the 200 IM and was runner-up to Gordon in the 100 backstroke.

"It's always hard to say good-bye to a senior, especially Monica because she has given us four years of hard work and dedication, along with stellar big meet performances," Phill said. "She will be missed."

Brynn Marecki, Fr., Liv. Stevenson (100 breaststroke): The freshman earned All-State honors and All-American consideration in the 100 breaststroke by finishing fourth in the Division I finals with a time of

At the WLAA meet, Marecki captured the 100 breaststroke and was runner-up to teammate Gordon in the 100 freestyle (54.41).

She was named Stevenson's Rookie of the Year.

"Brynn has a great work ethic and a lot of talent," Phill said. "I expect she'll be swimming great for years to come."

FIRST-TEAM RELAYS

Stevenson, 200 medley (Monica Pauza, Sr.; Brynn Marecki, Fr.; Anna Polkowski, Soph.; Marisa Gordon, Jr.): This quartet finished sixth in the Division I state meet with an area-best 1:51.09 clocking to earn All-State honors and All-American consideration.

They were also WLAA champions.

Canton, 200 freestyle (Susie Patrick, Sr. Izabela Paszkowska, Jr.; Allison Schmitt, Fr.; Laura Landis, Soph.): The talented foursome finished first in the WLAA conference meet and 12th at the Division 1 state

"The giris did an excellent job working together," Canton coach Molly Raines said. "Their energy was contagious and it really exploded at the state meet."

Stevenson, 400 freestyle (Anna Polkowski, Soph.; Monica Pauza, Sr.; Brynn Marecki, Fr.; Marisa Gordon, **Jr.):** This foursome finished 11th at the Division I state finals going an area-best 3:42.65 in the prelims followed by a 3:42.86 in the B final.

They also clocked a 3:43.07 to win

the Western Lakes title. "This relay had a great swim after a very long weekend," Phill said of the state finals held at the University of Michigan. "Only losing one swimmer (Pauza) to gradation, we'll set our sights on an All-American time standard next year."

SECOND-TEAM INDIVIDUALS

Katie Gorman, Fr., Salem (200 freestyle): A state qualifier on the Rocks' 400 free relay quartet, Gorman finished fourth at the WLAA conference meet in the 200 freestyle and 500 freestyle. She has

'Katie is proving to be one of the best freshmen in the area, which includes the best in the state," said



Allison Schmitt Canton

Mary Shereda

Livonia Churchill





Livonia Stevenson



Monica Pauza



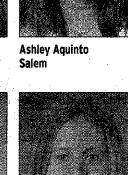
Livonia Stevenson



Jill Peterson

John Glenn

Livonia Stevenson



izabela Paszkowska Canton





Marisa Gordon Livonia Stevenson



Laura Landis Canton





Susie Patrick Canton



Salem





Mina Pirzadeh Canton



Allison Goldsmith Canton



Becky Hurn Livonia Stevenson



Katie Myers Salem



Kim Heaney Salem



Salem



Kate Musson Salem



Ally Stencel



Heather Michalsen



Alyssa Johnson

Salem Canton

Kim Heaney, Jr., Salem (100 breaststroke): Voted Salem's most improved swimmer this year, Heaney was a state qualifier in the 100 breaststroke (24th place) and on the Rocks 200 medley relay team, which finished 15th. She earned second in the 200 medley relay, ninth in the 200 IM and fifth in the 100 breaststroke at the WLAA meet. Heaney was selected to be a captain for the Rocks in 2005.

"Kim has been exciting the past three years at Salem working for a spot on the team to becoming a force in the WLAA conference and a competitive state competitor," said Salem coach Chuck Olson, "Kim is in a position for her senior year to really continue the success at the state level. She also gets the job done in the classroom (3.7 GPA)."

SECOND-TEAM RELAYS

Salem, 200 medley (Kelsey Lincoln, Jr.; Kim Heaney, Jr.; Ashley Aquinto, Sr.; Amanda Newman, Sr.): The Rock foursome earned second place at the WLAA conference meet and 15th at the Division 1 state meet.

"These student/athletes always stepped up their competitiveness to begin every meet," said Salem coach Chuck Olson. "Their success was an inspiration for the entire Salem team."

Salem, 200 freestyle (Kate Musson, Jr.; Ally Stencel, Soph.; Heather Michalsen, Sr.; Amanda Newman, Sr.): The quartet finished 31st at the Division 1 state meet and second at the WLAA conference

"These four student/athletes individually did not think of themselves as a '50' sprinter, but when they teamed up, the results were always positive," said Salem coach Chuck Olson.

Canton, 400 freestyle (Susie Patrick, Sr.; Izabela Paszkowska, Jr.; Alyssa Johnson, Soph.; Allison Schmitt, Fr.): The foursome placed 17th at the Division 1 state meet and third at the WLAA conference meet.

2004 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS SWIMMING

FIRST-TEAM INDIVIDUALS 200 freestyie: Allison Schmitt, Fr., Canton. 200 individual medley: Laura Timson, Fr., Stevenson. 50 freestyle: Jill Peterson, Soph., Westland John Glenn. Divina: Ashlev Aquinto, Sr., Salem. 100 butterfly: Anna Polkowski, Soph., Stevenson

100 freestyle: Marisa Gordon, Jr., Stevenson 500 freestyle: Mary Shereda, Jr., Livonia Churchill. 100 backstroke: Monica Pauza, Sr.,

Stevenson. 100 breaststroke: Brynn Marecki, Fr., Stevenson.

FIRST-TEAM RELAYS 200-yard medley: Livonia Stevenson (Monica Pauza, Sr.;

Brynn Marecki, Fr.; Anna Połkowski, Soph.; Marisa Gordon, Jr.). 200 freestyle: Canton (Izabela Paszkowska, Jr.; Laura Landis, Soph.; Susie Patrick, Sr.; Allison Schmitt, Fr.). 400 freestyle: Stevenson (Anna Polkowski, Soph.; Monica Pauza, Sr.; Brynn Marecki, Fr.; Marisa Gordon, Jr.).

SECOND-TEAM INDIVIDUALS 200 freestyle: Katie Gorman, Fr., Salem. 200 lM: Kelsey Lincoln, Jr., Salem. 50 freestyle: Izabela Paszkowska, Jr., Canton. Diving: Mina Pirzadeh, Jr., Canton. 100 butterfly: Allison Goldsmith, Sr., Canton. 100 freestyle: Susie Patrick, Sr., Canton. 500 freestyle: Rebecca Hurn, Jr., Stevenson. 100 backstroke: Kate Myers, Sr., Salem. 100 breaststroke: Kim Heaney, Jr., Salem.

SECOND-TEAM RELAYS 200 medley: Salem (Kelsey Lincoln, Jr.; Kim Heaney, Jr.; Ashley Aquinto, Sr.; Amanda Newman, Sr.). 200 freestyle: Salem (Kate Musson, Jr.: Ally Stencel, Soph.: Heather Michalsen. Sr.: Amanda Newman, Sr.). 400 freestyle: Canton (Susie Patrick, Sr.: Izabela Paszkowska, Jr.; Alyssa Johnson, Soph.; Allison Schmitt, Fr.).

COACH OF THE YEAR Greg Phill, Livonia Stevenson

HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Sarah Timson, Caitlin Larson, Lauren Siedlik, Jackie Demers; Franklin: Alyssa Supplee: Stevenson: Lisa Koch, Amanda Keedle, Stephanie Buckley, Meridith Bajor; Ladywood: Kelley Hodges, Holly Campbell; John Glenn: Jaclyn Burgess; Wayne Memorial: Katie Sweeney: Canton: Chelsea Seldon, Alyssa Johnson; Plymouth: Elaine Lafayette, Alyssa Liakos, Emily Clanton, Beah Knisely, Stephanie Goulet; Salem: Sarah Bugosh, Elena Gueorguiev; Redford Union: Rachael Rowe, Jessica McAfee, Danielle Nyquist, Jill Thompson, Maggie Brown; Garden City: Jessica Zalewski, Lily Zahor, April Cupps, Allison McDonnell, Erica Heard; Redford Thurston: Jessica Kuhn, Corie Traver, Nicole Tolentino, Desarae Hilyer, Kelsey Balint.

a 3.30 GPA.

has the ability and desire to have outstanding success the next three

Salem coach Chuck Olson, "Katie

Kelsey Lincoln, Jr., Salem (200 IM): An outstanding student (4.0 GPA), Lincoln also shined in the pool, finishing 20th in the individual medley and 18th in the 100 breaststroke at the 2004 Division 1 state meet. Voted the team's most valuable swimmer, Lincoln was also a key member of the Rocks' statequalifying 200 medley relay, 200 freestyle relay and 400 freestyle relay teams. She finished third in the 200 IM at the WLAA conference meet and second in the 200 individual medlev.

"Kelsey is a highly respected state class swimmer by teammates. competitors and coaches," said Salem coach Chuck Olson. "As a swimmer at Salem, no event is out of the question if that is what the

Izabela Paszkowska, Jr., Canton (50 freestyle): The junior set a personai-best in the 50 freestyle (26.05) at the state meet and turned in a 58.24 in the 100 freestyle at the WLAA meet. She was instrumental in the Chiefs' 9-0 record.

"Izabela is always trying to find ways to improve," said Canton coach Molly Raines. "She is so positive and optimistic throughout the season. Her hard work and attitude really make all the difference."

Mina Pirzadeh, Jr., Canton (diving): The junior finished first in diving at the Spartan Invitational and she qualified for the state meet in just her second year of diving. She turned in a top-six effort at the WLAA meet.

"Mina has done so well this year," raved coach Molly Raines. "Her goal

was to be in the top 12 at the conference meet and she made it all the way to the state meet. She worked really hard and I am excited for her senior year." Allison Goldsmith, Sr., Canton

(100 butterfly): Goldsmith qualified

for the state meet with a 1:02.20 in

the 100 butterfly and a 26.18 in the

50 freestyle. Unfortunately, she was

unable to compete in the state meet

member of the 400 free relay team that helped edge Salem and Northville in Canton's two huge regular-season dual-meet victories. "Allison puts in 150 percent every day in everything she does," said

Canton coach Molly Raines. "She

due to an injury. The senior was a

qualified for states every year. She is a determined athlete and scholar; she will do very well after gradua-Susie Patrick, Sr., Canton (100 freestyle): Patrick was one of the main reasons the Chiefs' went through the season unbeaten. The team captain finished third in the

100 freestyle and seventh in the 200

freestyle. She was also a member of

Canton's 200 freestyle relay quartet that turned in a gold-medal effort at the WLAA conference meet and the team's 400 freestyle relay squad that was third at the WLAA meet and 17th at the Division 1 state meet. "Susie is a great leader, both in and out of the pool," said Canton coach Molly Raines. "She has

worked very hard. I am looking forward to seeing her swimming career Rebecca Hurn, Jr., Liv. Stevenson (500 freestyle): The junior was a

WLAA finalist in both the 200- and 500 freestyles. She placed fifth in the 200 with a season-best 2:05.35 (in the prelims) and added a third in the 500 freestyle with a time of 5:29.43 (also

in the prelims). "Becky is a very hard worker and does a great job anchoring our distance events," Phill said. "We're looking forward to a great senior year from Becky."

Katie Myers, Sr., Salem (100 backstroke): A captain, Myers was a member of the Rocks' 200 medley relay team that finished second at the WLAA meet. She finished 13th at the WLAA conference meet in the 200 individual medley and fifth in the 100 backstroke. Myers has compiled an outstanding 3.58 GPA.

"Katie was a hard-working and supportive teammate all four years at Salem," said Salem coach Chuck Olson. "She is respected by her teammates and coaches for her effort and she is a stand-up person.

"Again, another great team of girls," said Canton coach Molly Raines. "It is great to have such a variety of ages. We worked hard and had a great year that we'll never

Very 'special' win

Whalers' goals spark victory over IceDogs

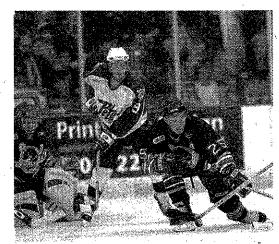
The Plymouth Whalers used excellent specialteams play in defeating the Mississauga IceDogs, 5-1, in an Ontario Hockey League game played Friday night before 3,233 at the Compuware Sports Arena.

The Whalers went 2-for-8 on the power play an added two short-handed goals to improve their record to 10-11-4-2, good for third place in the OHL's West Division. Plymouth is two points behind second-place Sault Ste. Marie and three points behind first-place Windsor.

Mississauga slipped to 11-9-6-1. John Mitchell, Tim Sestito, Jonas Fiedler, Vaclav Meidl and John Vigilante all scored for Plymouth. John Hecimovic scored the lone Mississauga goal. Mitchell added two assists for a three-point night as the game's first star. Sestito and Vigilante, who each added an assist,

were the game's second and third stars. Hecimovic scored his ninth goal of the season at 5:43 of the first period to give the IceDogs their only lead of the game. Plymouth rebounded 1:01 later on a short-handed goal by Mitchell, who scored his ninth tally of the season on a break-away

With Vigilante in the penalty box at 11:51,



Plymouth's Mike Knight had a stellar game Friday night along with the rest of the Whalers, who defeated Mississauga, 5-1.

Sestito scored another short-handed goal (his seventh of the season) when his hard shot from the left wing beat Mississauga goalie Dave Shantz top shelf at 12:21.

Plymouth broke the game open with powerplay goals in the second period by Fiedler and Meidl. Vigilante finished the scoring with his seventh goal of the season after taking a pass from Mitchell.

Mississauga outshot Plymouth, 33-32.

CC goalie gets healthy at the Flyers' expense

Illness cost Ross Tashjian a chance to play in either of Redford Catholic Central's first

two games last week. The junior goaltender finally got his opportunity Wednesday, and he might have felt a bit sick taking on his hometown team, Farmington Unified.

Forty-five minutes and 16 saves later, bolstered by a highoctane power play, Tashjian was the winner in a 7-0 rout over the Flyers.

"It was Ross' first game at Catholic Central and he's from Farmington, so I'm sure he was nervous before the game," said Shamrocks head coach Todd Johnson afterward. "But he's a solid goalie and he showed that tonight. He was in good position, poised. They had some good scoring chances in the first seven minutes of the game when it was still 0-0.

Concurring was Flyers' head coach Mark Vellucci, who credited Tashjian with coming up big early on, when a Farmington goal could have led to a different game altogether. "We had a couple chances early on but didn't capitalize," Vellucci said. "Their goalie made some nice saves, and they came out and scored on two power plays and pretty much

took us out of it. Catholic Central (3-0) supported Tashjian with a balanced offensive attack, featuring seven different goal scorers.

Getting it started midway through the first stanza was a power-play marker by junior forward Dan Barczuk (one goal, one assist), who beat Flyers' starting goalie Brandon Glossop on a play assisted by junior forward Wade Lafever and senior defenseman Colin Ronayne (two assists).

Five minutes later, also with the extra man, the Shamrocks scored when senior forward Jason Lewarne (one goal, two assists) took a pass from Ronayne and beat Barczuk.

TWO FOR THE MONEY

hand for the Flyers (2-2) was the second period.

Where the game got out of

Catholic Central killed off two five-on-three situations and made good on three power plays to take a 5-0 lead into the third. The Shamrocks outshot Farmington Unified 10-3 in the

stanza. Catholic Central's first goal of the middle period was a strange one. Senior forward Mychael Evans cleanly beat Barczuk, but the referees did not see the puck enter the goal, allowing play to continue. Less than a minute later, the Shamrocks scored anyway, but the second goal didn't count - the first one did. With the stoppage allowing a review. Evans was ruled to have

scored. With 5:23 left in the second, Lewayne sent a tape-to-tape pass across the slot to senior forward Mike Oakleaf (one goal, one assist), who snapped the puck into the Flyers net.

The Shamrocks made good on yet another man advantage. when, with 1:24 remaining in the period, senior forward Chris New (one goal, one assist) deflected a shot high into the

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Also, there have been reports of premature failures of the Johnson and Johnson/Depuy Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene knee and hip prostheses. If you had your knee or hip replaced with one of these systems, you may be entitled to a recovery.

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Rim-rattlers

High-flying Tigers should be contenders

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 5, 2004

BY ED WRIGHT

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 sea-

Based on the potential dunk-ability factor of the highflying 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

The three transfers — 6foot-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

"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 beføre 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 vear. 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 for-

wards.

"Carlos brings a lot of toughness to our team," Krogel said. Other subs include Ali Allen (6-0 junior), Dujuan 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."

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Bowling doesn't dry up in the desert

ave 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 expe-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



Alley

Corp, which boasts 16 centers in greater Phoenix. Harrison 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

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 diame-

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 pat-

"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

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

■ 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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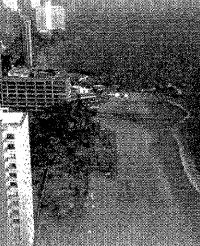
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PanCAN makes a difference

n 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 per-

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 I 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 exis-

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.



Section C Sunday, December 5, 2004

Brad Kadrich, editor (734) 459-2700 Fax (734) 459-4224 bkadrich@oe.homecomm.net

www.hometownlife.com

World of imagination

Michigan authors mesmerize kids as well as adults

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

hildren'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.

"I kept saying too many cats, kiddingly. 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.amazo

and www.barnesandnoble.com.

LOST IN THE WOODS

Barbara Walsh captures the

Livonia home.

antics of five cats living in her

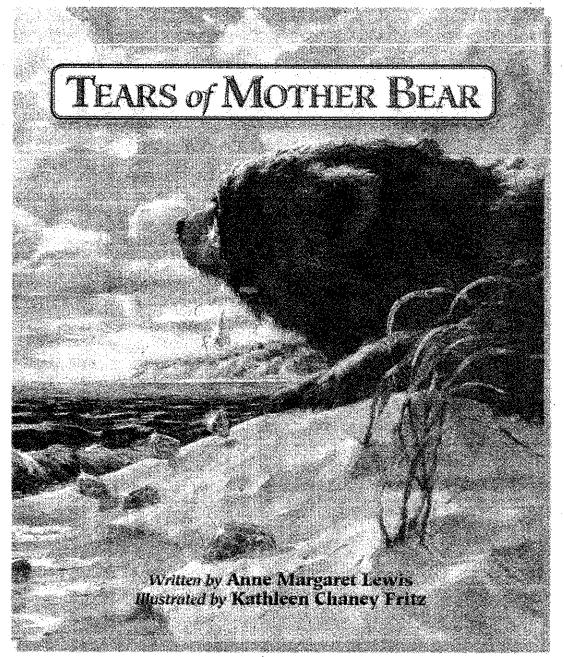
Carl Sams II and his wife, Jean Stoick, spent years photographing the deer in Kensington Metropark to come up with their new book, Lost in

"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 14The 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.



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 Rifenberick 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 Rifenberick. "He's feeling hopeless. Then one night he hears a neighing outside. 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

PLEASE SEE AUTHORS, C3

A grieving man finds the hope to go on in

a book by Jane Monroe Donovan.

www.firstpage publications.com.

Students shoot for positions behind the scenes

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.

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

"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.

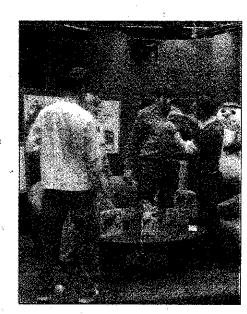
"We want them to do stuff so when they get out into the real world they

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

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

"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,

Smith-Grav

Cassandra Colleen Gray of

Smith of Livonia were married July 17, 2004, at Sweetest

Heart of Mary in Detroit before

the Rev. Mark A. Borkowski. A

Cassandra is the daughter of

Livonia. She is a 2002 graduate

English teacher at Clarenceville

High School. She is also a track

Bradley is the son of Susan

Gilling of Livonia and Dennis

He is a 2002 graduate of

Western Michigan University.

Attending the bride were her

sisters, Kelly Kessler as matron

of honor and Clancy Gray as

maid of honor, Bridesmaids

He is en environmental con-

reception was held at the Marriott in the Detroit

Gary and Peggy Gray of

of Western Michigan University. She is a math and

Smith of Plymouth.

coach.

sultant.

Renaissance Center.

Livonia and Bradley Gilling

LIBRARY PICKS.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 5, 2004

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 Korelitz
- 4. "Copper," Rebecca Lisle
- 5. "The Young Man and the Sea," Rodman

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

Proud grandparents are Bill and Ida Denton of Phillips-McInerney Canton and Rebej and Radhia Khelil of Bizert,

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

Ann Arbor. Sarrah is the couple's first child.

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medilator

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

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 Munci, Ind. in 1994.

He is employed as park plan-

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

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



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

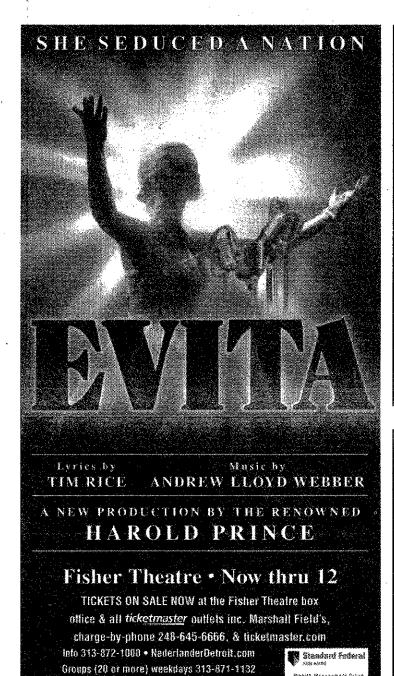
Attending the bride was her sister, Karin Stachowski, of Canton, as matron of honor. Bridesmaids were friends, Diana Ruschhaupt of Indianapolis, Ind., Samantha Tellez of Concord, Calif., and Gretchen Nachazel of Ann Arbor, Mich. Junior bridesmaid was her niece, Amber McInerney, of Quanicassee, Mich. and her niece, Erica McInerney, of Bay City, Mich. served as flower girl.

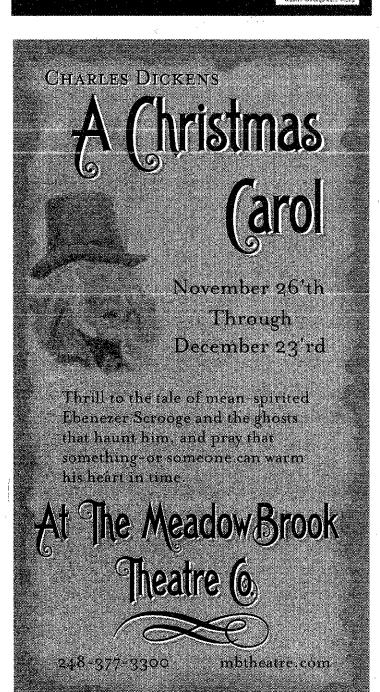
Attending the groom was his

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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Holiday musical finds hope just around the corner

Northville Christian Creative Arts and the Livonia Symphony Orchestra are joining this year to present the holiday musical, "Hope is Just Around the Corner" 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 17-18, and 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 19, at 41355 Six Mile Road, west of I-275.

Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door, and available atthe church and Christian Publications Bookstore at 33483 Seven Mile at Farmington, Livonia. For information, call (248) 348-9030 or the bookstore at (248) 477-



present...

A farcical romp full of mistaken identities, sight gags, physical humor, and, of course, a man dressed as a woman!

Charley's Aunt

By Brandon Thomas Director: Emily McSweeney

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*2 p.m. matinee; all other performances at 8 p.m.

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Tickets: 248-553-2955

\$13 regular price, \$10 on Thursdays and for seniors (on Sunday, Nov. 21st only) Large group discounts available. www.farmingtonplayers.org

Space donated by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

AUTHORS

"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 par-

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

"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

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 road-

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

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.

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Wilde.



SCENES

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 Atcho 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

"You meet the guests, have a script in front of you," said Atcho, 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

Actual prize may vary from vehicle shown.



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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Midnight

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ADDITIONAL FIRST NIGHT LOCATIONS

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DAVID SYME, Pianist - 7:00, 8:15, 9:30 pm Bernie Stevens Magic -7:00, 8:30 pm Teddy Bear Puppet Show – 7:15, 8:30 pm

Adam Mellema Storyteller – 6:00, 7:15, 8:30, 9:45 pm

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Full schedule and tickets available at TechnoMasters, 725 S. Adams, Birmingham, between Lincoln and Maple. Tickets available December 31st at TechnoMasters and at the door of each performance venue. I Cash or check only. No credit cards I accepted. Tickets are non-refundable.

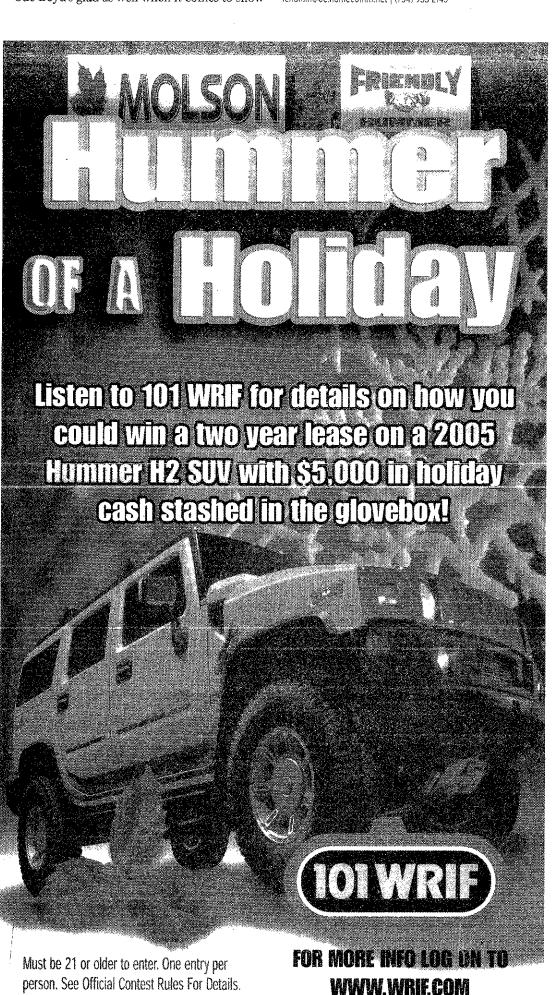
www.technomasters.cm/firstnight

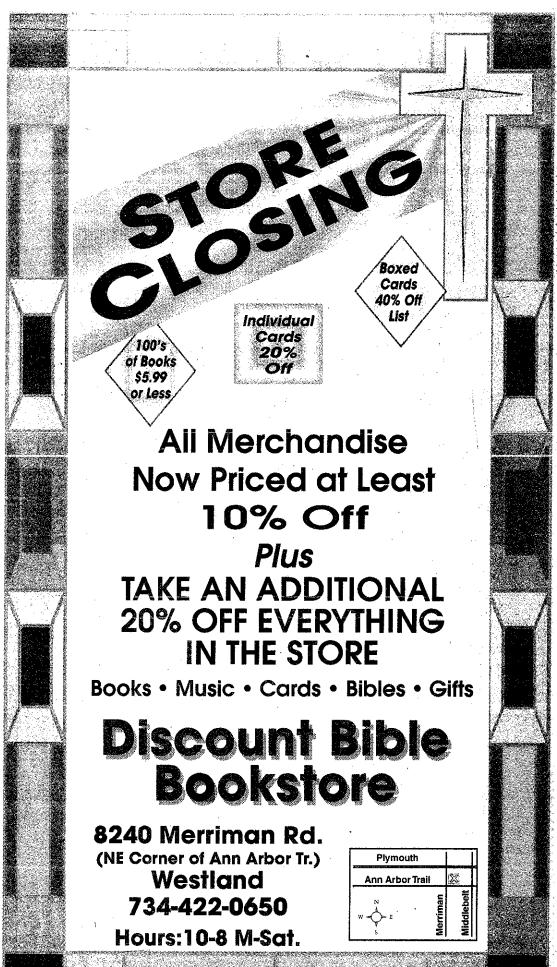


A Hearty THANK YOU to First Night Sponsors!









Holiday concert is scheduled

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 5, 2004

The ARPI Swedish Men's Chorus and the Scandia Women's Chorus will present "A Celebration of Light," a holiday concert at Antioch Lutheran Church, located at 33360 W. 13 Mile in Farmington Hills at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 12.

With a Lucia Procession presented by the Women's Chorus and music appropriate to the season in Swedish and English, and Swedish Lussekatter and gingerbread treats will be served at the Afterglow.

The combined choruses make up the largest chorus in the American Union of Swedish

Singers. The male chorus was organized in the 1930s. It was the fore-runner and nucleus of the Swedish Club of Greater Detroit. The chorus, which is dedicated to the preservation of Swedish and Scandinavian ethnicity through music, is under the direction of Arthur Elander.

The Scandia Women's chorus was organized in May of 1976. This concert will be one of the firsts for Ruth Anne Zimmer, recently appointed Scandia's director.

Tickets are \$10 and are available in advance by calling (248) 626-7906. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Holiday musical on tap at Players Barn

Dance Electric Performing Arts Studio of Farmington Hills presents their first annual holiday musical "Home? For The Holidays" at the Farmington Players Barn at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 18.

Local youth talent ages 7-18 will present the production written by Joey Albright (Purple Rose Theatre) and directed by: Joey Albright & Heather Sandberg. Call for advanced ticket sales, (248) 477-3830. Tickets are \$8 in

advance; \$10 at the door; special senior rate (age 55 & better) \$6; group rates available.

The production will feature youth from Farmington Hills, Livonia, Novi, West Bloomfield and Northville, Call (248) 477-3830 for more information.

SINGLES

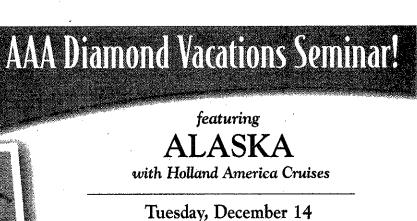
METROPOLITAN SINGLE PROFESSIONALS

Euchre Every Monday now through April. Anytime 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Main Lounge of Drakeshire Lanes, 35000 Grand River (just east of Drake) in Farmington Hills. Cash bar and dinner available. \$5/members, \$6/nonmembers.

Dances

Dances are 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Top D.J. Cash bar, hors d'oeuvres (8-9 p.m.) Door prizes, Admission is \$5/members, \$9/non-members unless otherwise noted. Ballrooms are non-smoking. Attire is dressy casual (no blue jeans or tennis shoes) unless other wise noted.

Friday, Dec. 10. Holiday Inn-Livonia. Six Mile at I-275 (exit 170), Livonia.

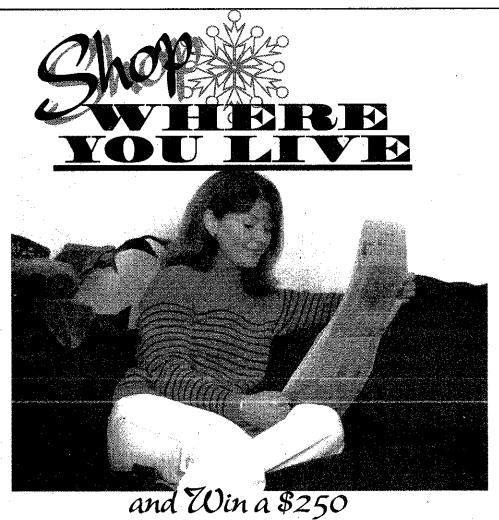


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Struck

(Dec. 5 -Dec. 8) By Dennis Fairchild

ARIES (March 21-April 20th)

Star

What comes to light unexpectedly early week is bound to get your adrenaline flowing. But before you blow your top, bear in mind that partners are also under a great deal of pressure at this time and will respond more favorably to sympathy than your legendary sharp tongue.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

Does absence make the heart grow fonder? A distant friendship is poised to take center stage, Bull. What transpires this week may lead you to the realization that there are some things that matter less than you think- and some that count more. Indications are that good times are ready to roll.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Avoid focusing on what went wrong or turned sour

recently and let your real need to do your own thing set you free, Twins. What others say belongs to them-you are simply going with the flow. You are free to follow the dictates of your heart 24/7,

CANCER (June 22-July 23)

The days leading up to the 11th's New Moon are iable to be taxing, tiresome and turbulent. However, don't try to hang on to what has obviously outlived its usefulness. Cut out what is no longer necessary, and refuse point-blank to cut your conscience to fit someone else's fashions, MoonKiddo.

LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)

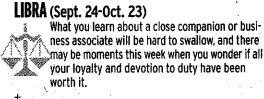
Be thankful that the last days of retrograde Mercury is bringing family disputes into the open, because the longer certain situations drag on, the harder they will be to resolve. So take the bull by the horns and insist that everyone say their piece- and makes peace.

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

Try not to get carried away by someone whose



role in your world may be less significant than you would like to believe. Mercury, your ruling planet, s currently making monkey business and may encourage you to let wishful thinking get in the way of common sense. Don't let it happen.



SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

You don't have to explain your actions now because partners are in a much more forgiving mood than usual. However, don't squander your resources on nonessentials, because Venus soon leaving your sign warns that while you may be long on energy, you're still short on cash.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

Thanks to Venus approaching your sign, what is now at stake personally and professionally is the right to determine your own future, Archer. Therefore, care less about what others say or do, and care more about following the route through life that suits you best. Start now!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 21)

The divisions that exist between you and other people are illusory, SeaGoat. In the grand scheme of things, we are all the same. Your ruling planet Saturn warns that what happens this week will convince you that enemies are only such because you don't treat them as friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 22-Feb. 19)
A serious change in direction demands imagination and courage, and you are now in a position to prove you have both. Don't let anyone, especially family or coworkers with whom you're friendly, dissuade you from what you know is right. It's your life; the choice must be yours.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

Even if the tide of fortune seems feeble now, continue to believe that some sort of breakthrough is now within sight. Of course, much depends on the state of your finances, but if your resources are low, then chances are your physical energy is too. Ease up and take a rest, Fish!

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

AROUND TOWN

Entertainment books

The Plymouth Optimist Club is selling Entertainment '05 books for \$20, with all proceeds being used to help children in southeast Michigan. Coupons help save 50 percent on things you do every day. The books can be homedelivered. For information or to order,

call Bill. (734) 453-8253.

Santa and the symphony Santa Claus takes time out from his busy schedule Dec. 11 to join the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra for its annual "Sing-Along with Santa" concert at 4 p.m. at the Bethlehem United Church of Christ. Admission to the concert, sponsored by Phizer, is \$12 for adults, \$5 for children. Tickets are available by calling (734) 994-4801, on-line at www.a2so.com, by e-mail at tickets@a2so.com or by stopping at the symphony office, 527 E. Liberty, Suite 208

Wavne State forum

Wayne State University's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology hosts a patient forum on endometriosis at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7, at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield. The forum will feature information on topics including endometriosis and infertility, surgical diagnosis and treatment, and the overall effect of endometriosis on the body. A reception starts at 7 p.m., the forum starts at 7:30 p.m. To RSVP, call (800) 992-3636.

Teen drug seminar

"Teens Using Drugs: What To Know and What To Do," a free, ongoing workshop series, will be presented by Ron Harrison, SW, in the Saint Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, Classroom EC4, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. Part One: "What To Know," will be presented from 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 4, Feb. 1 and March 1. It will provide information on understanding and recognizing teen substance abuse problems. Part Two: "What To Do," will be presented from 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 11, Feb. 8 and March 8. It will provide information on what should and should not be done when a teen substance abuse problem is suspected or identified, and will include a recovering teen speaker. The workshops are free and open to the public. Parents, teens. and people who work with teens are all welcome. Free literature about alcohol/other drugs and teens is provided. For more information phone (734) 973-7892, e-mail jessa@med.umich.edu or go to http://www.hvcn.org/info/teensusing-

drugs Holiday doll show

The Holiday Doll Show takes place 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 at the Wayne Tree Manor, 35100 Van Born in Wayne. The show features dealers, collectors and doll artists selling new, used, antique and collectible doils of all kinds including Barbies and their accessories. Admission is \$5, kids under 10 get in free with an adult. For show information, call (734) 455-2110.

Wayne BPW scholarships

The Wayne Business and Professional Women's Club is now accepting applications for a "Career Development Scholarship" to recognize and support women entering or re-entering the workforce or seeking to advance their career. To qualify a candidate must demonstrate financial need, live and/or work in Wayne or Westland, show formal acceptance into a college or vocational/technical program and have a minimum GPA of 2.8 if already enrolled. For an application, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Wayne Business and Professional Women's Club, Career Development Scholarship Committee, 14201 Robbe Road, Belleville, MI 48111. Completed applications must be postmarked by Jan. 21. For information, call Judie Quinn, (734) 699-6817.

Marquis Theatre

The Marquis Theatre in Northville presents "Rumplestiltskin" through Jan. 16. Performances are at 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays (Dec. 11, 18; Jan. 8, 15); Sundays (Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26; Jan. 2, 9 and 16) and Monday-Friday, Dec. 27-31. Tickets are \$7.50; no children under the age of 3. For group rates and more information, call (248) 349-8110. The Marquis Theatre is located at 135 E.

Main in Northville.

RE/MAX of Southeastern Michigan, with more than 65 offices and 1,325 associates, presents its third-annual "American Dream" scholarship program, open to high school seniors in counties. The scholarship program -\$500 to each of 20 student recipients 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 second 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. For more information about the scholarship program, or to obtain an entry form, contact Jeanette Schneider at 248.440.0404 x202, check on-line at www.manyhouses.com, or visit any local RE/MAX

Handcrafters sponsors its 22nd-annual Christmas Arts and Crafts Show Dec. 10-12 at the Northville Hillside Recreation Center in Hillside Middle School, located at 8 Mile and Center St. More than 90 juried artisans will display their talents with such works as florals, stained glass, seasonal items including Christmas decorations, jewelry, wood items and clothing, Show hours are 6-9 p.m. Dec. 10; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 11; and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 12. Admission is \$2.

Detroit Red Wing great Gordie Howe 6 p.m. Dec. 17 to sign copies of his to the Sport's Greatest Couple."

The International Library of Poetry has announced \$58,000 in prizes will be awarded in the group's poetry contest. To enter, send one original poem, any subject and any style, to The International Library of Poetry, Suite 19921, 1 Poetry Plaza, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Deadline for entry is Jan. 31. The contest is open to everyone and entry is free of charge.

New Hope Center for Grief Support is a Christian-based bereavement outreach and resource center located in Northville. Age appropriate groups for widows and widowers are provided in various locations in southeastern Michigan including groups for young widows and widowers and their children between the ages of 4 through the teen years. Groups for parents who have lost a child, adults who have lost a parent, pet loss, and other specialized groups are offered at various times of the year. All services for adults and children are offered at no cost to the participants. If you are grieving or know someone who is, please call our office at (248) 348-0115 for further information about services provided by New Hope Center for Grief Support, or visit www.newhopecen-

ter.net. Symphony fund-raiser

The Plymouth Symphony is selling the 2005 Entertainment Book, offering 50percent discount coupons at hundreds of restaurants and discounts for many other services and events. The 2005 Entertainment Book can be picked up at the Plymouth Symphony Office, next to the Cozy Cafe in downtown Plymouth, or by calling Mary Thomas, (734) 453-3016. Cost of the book is \$20, with proceeds benefitting symphony programs. Call the symphony office, (734) 451-2112.

Crafters, artists wanted

Officials of the Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters are looking for crafters and artists for "Spring Arts and Crafts Ensemble." The event is

Re-Max scholarships

Macomb, Monroe, Oakland and Wayne - was originally established as part of office.

Handcrafters show

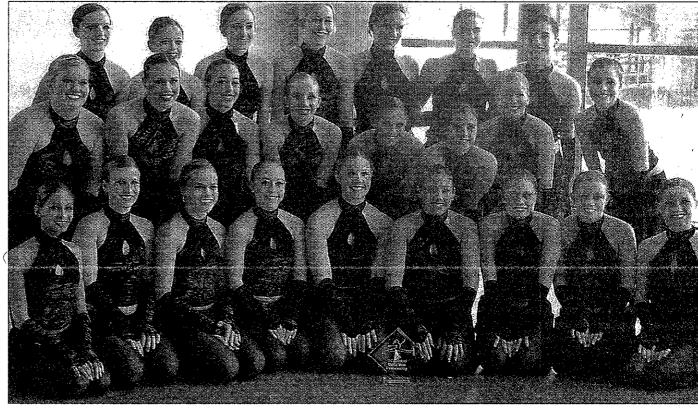
'Mr. Hockey' appearance appears at McCoy's Grill in Belleville at book, "Mr. and Mrs. Hockey, a Tribute Proceeds from the book signing benefit the Belleville High School Channel

19 group. A \$49.95 fee gets buyers an autographed copy of the book and a Gordie Howe bobblehead. McCoy's is located at 333 Industrial Park Drive in Belleville. Call (734) 699-3258.

Poetry contest

Grief support

scheduled for 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, March 19 at Canton High School. It's a juried show. E-mail Diane VanDyke at djvandyke@peoplepc.com or call (734)



Rockettes rock

The Salem High School varsity dance/pom pon squad placed first in varsity jazz at the 2004 Mid-American Dance Championships at Eastern Michigan University recently. The varsity Rockettes also finished second at the 14th-annual Great Lakes Dance Team Invitational sponsored recently by Universal Dance Association.

CLUBS

Rotary A.M.

The Plymouth Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. meets at 7 a.m. every Tuesday at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, New members are always welcome. Contact Robert Scoggins, president, Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., via e-mail at rscoggins@wideopenwest.com or call (734) 455-9565.

Mosaic

MOSAIC is a group where Moms come together to be refreshed and equipped for the important task of mothering. We present speakers on child & family issues, have smallgroup discussion time, crafts and brunch. Childcare is provided. We meet at Plymouth Baptist Church (42021 Ann Arbor Trail) on the first and third Tuesday mornings of each month, September to May. Contact Resha at 734-207-0658 or resha@iuno.com

Moms Club

Moms Club of Livonia-S/Plymouth offers a variety of activities. For more information, call Birthe (734)458-8143 or Martina (734)464-0481

The Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution meets the third Monday of each month except January, July and August. A group with ancestors who fought in American Revolution. Members partic ipate in community work involving veteran's hospitals, schools and community service. Call 734-420-2775 for more informa-

German/American Club of Plymouth Meets on the third Thursday of the month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located at 39100 Schoolcraft Road, Plymouth. Call Mary Ann at (734) 420-0857 for further informa-

American Legion

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

Woman's Farm and Garden Club-Plymouth

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

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

The Wayne County chapter of Mothers & More meets twice a month in

For more information, call (866) 841-

9140, Ext. 4329, or visit Web site mothersandmore63@onebox.com.

Antioch Lutheran presents holiday concert, Scandinavian style

The ARPI Swedish Men's Chorus and the Scandia Women's Chorus will present "A Celebration of Light," a holiday concert at Antioch Lutheran Church, located at 33360 W. 13 Mile in Farmington Hills at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 12.

With a Lucia Procession presented by the Women's Chorus and music appropriate to the season in Swedish and English, and Swedish Lussekatter and gingerbread treats will be served a the Afterglow. The event will be the perfect concert for families with young children to attend, whether or not they are of Scandinavian decent.

The combined choruses make up the largest chorus in the American Union of Swedish

Singers. The male chorus was organized in the 1930s. It was the fore-runner and nucleus of the Swedish Club of Greater Detroit. The chorus, which is dedicated to the preservation of Swedish and Scandinavian ethnicity through music, is under the direction of Arthur Elander.

The Scandia Women's chorus was organized in May of 1976. This concert will be one of the firsts for Ruth Anne Zimmer, who was recently appointed Scandia's director.

"A Celebration of Light" is part of a series of concerts to benefit the church's "Let There Be Light" 50th anniversary campaign. Tickets for the concert are \$10 and are available in advance by calling (248) 626-7906. Tickets will also be available at the door.



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Charolette Wilson



WALTER R. HAINES

Age 84 November 20, 2004 of Mio. MI, formerly of Belleville, MI Beloved husband of the late Ellen Marie, Father of Gary (Carol) Haines, Bonita (Allan) Kaledas, John (Virginia) Haines, Nancy (Tom) Schneider and Sherry (Keith) Ross Also survived by many loving grandchildren and great grandchildren. Funeral service was Monday November 22nd, in Mio.



GRETA P. NILSSON

December 1, 2004. Age 95. Born in Sweden February 19, 1909, she came to the United States and was a Livonia resident for the past 65 years. All her life, Mrs. Nilsson was an active community volunteer. She, along with her husband, Bror Sr., broadcasted a Swedish radio program for many years in the Detroit area. She was an active member of the Swedish Club and the Arpi Ladies auxiliary. She was also an American Cancer Society Volunteer, and was involved in the PTA in the Livonia Public Schools. The Swedish Ambassador to the United States and the Swedish Counsel of America recognized Mrs. Nilsson for her many contributions promoting Swedish cul-ture and heritage, at a ceremony in May of 2003. She is the beloved wife of the late Bror, Sr., dear mother of Nils (Betty), of Livonia, Bror, Jr. (Phyllis) of Toledo, Helen (the late Malcom) Martin of Livonia, and special Ma to Joni, loving grandmother of Paula (Wesley) Waite, Jim Nilsson, Kris Nilsson, Helen (Bill) Oesterling, Stacey (Mark) Warren, AnnMarie (Paul) Borgquist, John (Nicole) Martin, and Linnea Nilsson, great-grandmother of Zachary and Mason Warren, Stephanie, Caitlyn and Olivia Martin and Ronald Borgquist, and beloved aunt of Karin Johnson. Funeral services will be Monday 11:00 am at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., Farmington. Visitation is Saturday 4-9 pm and Sunday 1-9 pm. Memorial Contributions may be made to the Swedish Club.



'HAPPYT 19th. BIRTHDAY'

JESIKA RENEE SMITH Who passed away June 19, 2004. This is your birthday, Jesika dear, Not as it used to be.

The gladness of the day is gone, You are not here to see. No presents now; just flowers, my dear, upon your grave to lay, But, oh how happy we wuld be If you were back today.

We love you and miss you more than words can say. L'Il Shane, Mom, Sister, Brothers, Shane Sr. and nephews



RUSSELL CHAIGNON ROBINSON, SR. Thousand Oaks, CA

Russell aged 47, passed away peacefully early Friday morning from pancreatic cancer. He was surrounded by his three children in the comfort of his home. He was known as "The Copier Man" or Russ. Over ten years ago, he realized his dream of opening up a copier business. He felt proud to keep his business going and truly becoming friends with so many clients. Russ strived daily to run The Copier Man business honestly. Russ was born in Detroit, Michigan, on Valentine's Day in 1957 to Russell and Gayle Robinson. He was the 4th child out of 10, (4 girls & 6 boys). The family tells the story of how on the way to the hospital, so he would not be born in the car, his father had to constantly stop. There was a fierce snowstorm, and his father had to get out of the car to wipe off the street signs, as they could not even tell where they were going on that freezing cold night. He graduated from St Bernadine Catholic grade school in 1981. Back then he was known around the house and to his close friends as "Rusty" (so as not to conflict with his Dad's first name, Russ). In 1975 he graduated from Churchill High School, where he

enjoyed sports, especially football, track and cross-country skiing. He then married and on 06/12/76 he received his 3rst child Jennifer. His second child, Russell Jr, was born 8/04/78. For personal reasons Russ left Michigan in 1988 to start a new life. He certainly did start over. He started his own business; he married again and became a father again. He was kind, honest, perfectionist and a nice guy. He is survived by his parents Russell and Gayle Robinson; his first two children, Jennifer and Russell and their Mother Denise Aquino stepson Kyle and his son Tommy and their mother Colette. His siblings Kathleen, Linda, Debbie, Mary, Rick, Randy, Raymond, Robert, Ronald; many nieces, nephews and other relatives. Not to mention all those that loved him and he loved in return. Funeral services will be held on Dec.4th, 2004at 2:30 pm at Pierce Brothers Valley Oaks, 5600 Lindero Canyon Road, Westlake Village, CA91362 (818) 889-0902 Visitation Friday Dec.3rd 2004 from 5 to 8 pm. A Memorial Mass will be held Dec.11th, 2004 at 10am at St. Bernadines Catholic Church, 31463 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland Mi. 48185 (734-427-5150). At 9:15 am the hall will be open to visit and view pictures. A light snack will be provided in the hall after mass.



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Cookie walks offer holiday treats

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN

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,

It's a family affair for the Garden City resident who's mother Maxine Bondie cochairs 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)

■ 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 available. Call (248) 476-

■ 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

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

"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,

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:

Long Term Care Insurance

As you age... your health changes... What is your Plan? Presented by: Renee Merckx, CLTC, CSA

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 5, 2004

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. If 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

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.

The cost for care in Michigan today is approximately \$60,000 a year. Be realistic you WILL have to pay for this. YOU HAVE NOTHING PROTECTING YOUR MONEY! My name is Renee Merckx and I am a Long Term Care Insurance "Specialist" (CLTC) granted by the Corporation for Long Term Care Certification and a Certified Senior Advisor (CSA) granted by the Society of Certified Senior Advisors. Both designations are recognized by the Michigan Insurance Commissioner's Office, and are editorially and financially independent of the long-term care insurance industry.

I represent many of the top leading products offered in the insurance industry. As a Broker I am able to give you choices based on your needs. I specialize in both individual and employee group benefit programs. Don't let your retirement portfolio be left without the final piece in the puzzle....What is protecting your money and your health choices - NOTHING! Call: Renee Merckx, CLTC, CSA (Web: ReneeMerckxLTC.com

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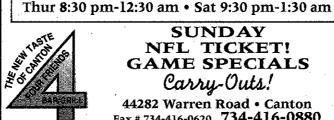
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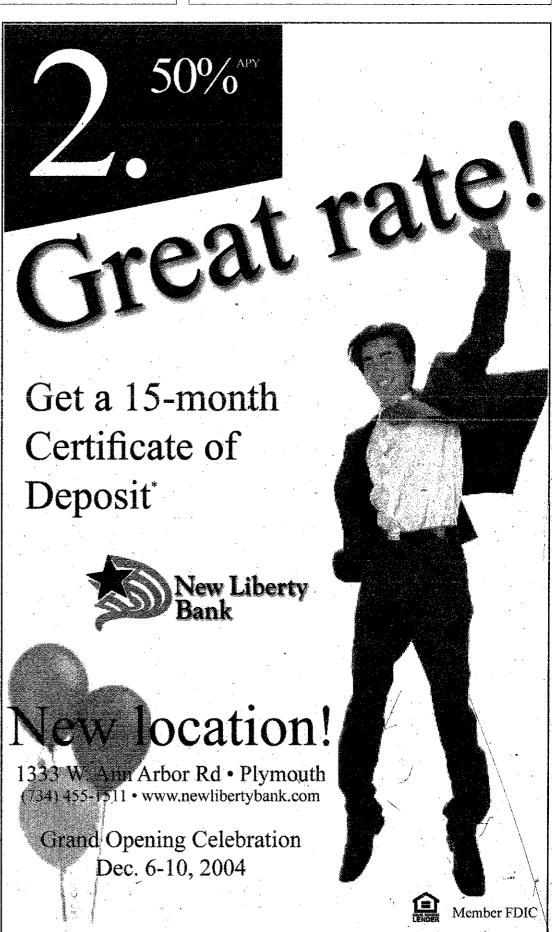
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Hanukkah marks Holidays shine at Greenfield Village religious freedom

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 rededication 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 vil-

"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

"Remember to put out apples for Santa's reindeer, not carrots. They is and 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 (nonmembers), \$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

REUHIONS

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 wiseppi@wideopenwest.com.

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Looking for classmates for reunion. Please contact Kathie at (734) 525-

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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 gkowalski@ameritech.net.

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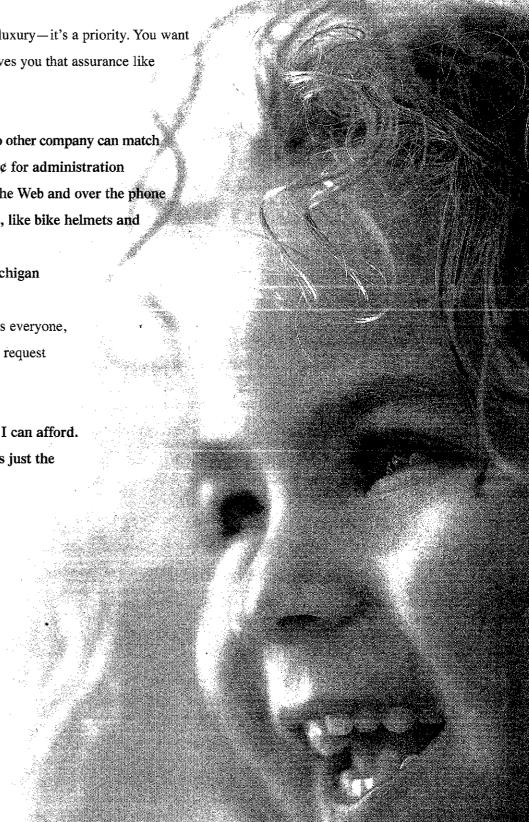


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Hugh Gallagher, editor (734) 953-2149 Fax: (734) 591-7279 hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net

Know your medicine

'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

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-thecounter medications and any vitamins, herbs or dietary sup-

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 lonnggg

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.





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."

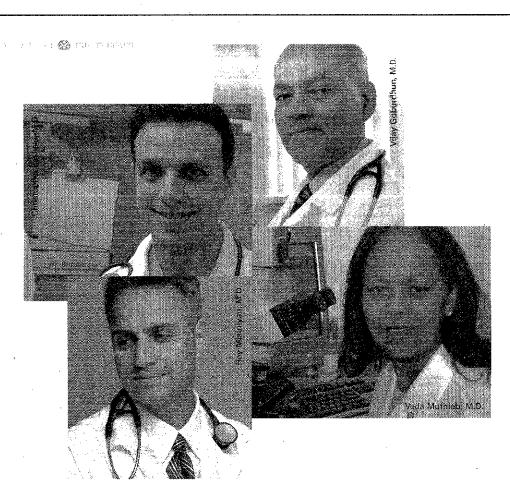
Of the 2 1/2 million people with epilepsy, it's estimated that approximately one-quarter are not able to control their seizures with treatment. Dr. Brien Smith said Ebmer is one of the lucky ones. Vagus Nerve Stimulator Therapy is frequently the last resort, and of those who receive the implant only 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 neurostimulator system by NeuroPace. "Currently there are two major studies by Medtronics 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 treatmentresistant 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

PLEASE SEE EPILEPSY, C9



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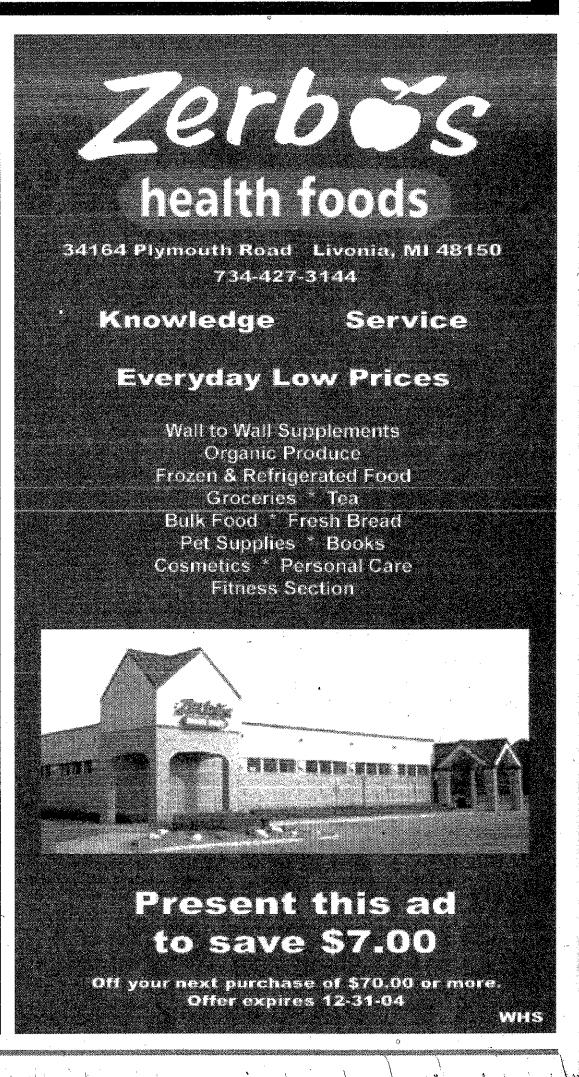
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Holiday gatherings an opportunity to discuss family health history

This holiday season marks the inaugural National Family History Day, a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services initiative to encourage families to discuss shared health histories. Many diseases such as cancer can be hereditary.

Knowing and documenting family disease backgrounds can save the lives of loved ones through early detection and readily available pre vention measures. Holiday gatherings are excellent opportunities for extended families to compare health history notes and take action if necessary.

The Karmanos Cancer Institute's Cancer Genetic Counseling Service works with more than 200 people annually to help ascertain their risk of developing cancer based on family history. Nationwide, more than 6 million people can benefit from cancer genetic counseling and testing which can be the key to disease prevention, early detection and treatment of can-

If you are at all concerned about your family history and its effect on your risk of getting cancer, you should undergo a genetics evaluation," said Nancie Petrucelli, certified genetic

counselor and genetics services coordinator at Karmanos Cancer Institute. "Most insurance plans cover genetic counseling and you don't have to be a cancer patient to find out."

During a genetic counseling appointment at the institute and other qualified centers, a genetic counselor will provide a complete evaluation by constructing a threegeneration family tree pedigree. The session will include personalized cancer risk assessment, a discussion of genetic testing options, and a review of information regarding

lifestyle changes to reduce cancer risk and aid in early detection.

"Some of the red flags we look for in our screenings are people who have had several family members with cancer, family members who have been diagnosed younger than age 50, family members with two or more types of cancer, and families of specific ancestries," said Petrucelli.

To make an appointment for the Institute's Cancer Genetic Con-Service, call (313) 966-7780. The Cancer Genetic Counseling Service is provided at the Karmanos Cancer

Institute's midtown Detroit main campus location as well as the Weisberg Cancer Treatment Center in Farmington Hills. Genetic counseling sessions are available Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or by appointment on Tuesday and Wednesday.

To learn more about the U.S. Surgeon General's Family History Initiative, visit http://hhs.gov/familyhistory. A downloadable family history tool, "My Family Health Portrait," is also available at this Web site.

EPILEPSY

FROM PAGE C8

director of the epilepsy program at Henry Ford Hospital.

"Electrodes are implanted in the brain and attached to a device implanted in the brain. When it senses a seizure it sends a jolt of electricity to interrupt the start of the seizure.

"Theoretically, this is a way to deliver a treatment directly to the part of the brain experiencing an interruption."

Both Smith and Barkley applaud Ebmer's efforts to start a support group for patients with epilepsy. For them the goal as neurologists is "no seizures, no side effects" but until that's accomplished through treatment life can be a struggle.

Smith especially can relate to Ebmer and the rest of his patients with epilepsy. At one point he suffered seizures before being diagnosed and treated for a benign brain tumor.

MAJOR RESTRICTIONS

"Epilepsy is like a short circuit of a battery," said Smith. "It leaves them with major restrictions. They can't drive. Sometimes employers aren't favorable because they're not able to do certain jobs. They don't have the same independence and autonomy as the normal person would have.

The next support group takes place 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, at the Redford Community Center. For information, call Ebmer at (313) 531-7361. To find out about a group in your area, contact the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan at (800) 377-6226.

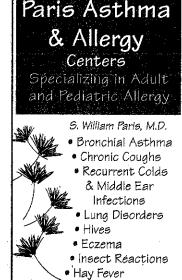
For more information, visit www.epilepsyfoundation.org/m

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CLARIFICATION

The illustrations that accompanied the Nov. 21 story on the health benefits of eating nuts were by Gwen Dietrich.

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DECEMBER

Grief and the holidays

Ward Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a holiday workshop for those who are grieving 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 6. at 40000 Six Mile Road, Northville. All adults who have experienced the loss of a loved one are welcome and encouraged to attend this free workshop presented by Cathy Clough, Director of New Hope Center for Grief Support. The workshop ends with a special time of remembrance. Registration not required. For more information, call Dorothy at (248) 374-

Diabetes Support Group

Host a discussion on a "Know Your Healthy Steps" 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, in the St. Mary Mercy Hospital Auditorium, 36475 Five Mile Road, at Levan Road, in Livonia. Please use Main Entrance on Five Mile. For more information, call (734) 655-8961 or visit www.stmarymercy.org. The speaker is Janice Wheeker, RN, St. Mary Mercy Hospital. This free program will help you understand the role of exercise in maintaining or improving your overall health. It focuses on the health issues of diabetes and how increasing your level of exercise can improve blood glucose, blood pressure, cholesterol and weight control. Free pedometers and educational materials. Dress comfortably for optional exercises. Pre-registration not required. Divorce support

The Women's Resource Center at Schoolcraft College offers a free Divorce Support Group 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, attorney Patricia Kasody-Coyle will also be available to answer questions in a private setting on a first come, first served basis, in Room 225 of the McDowell Center on campus, 18600 Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia, The

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One aspect of the Vioxx recall that is new is in the analysis of medical information. The capability of garnering data and evaluating it has moved to a higher plane than in the past.

Computers are more powerful, medical studies are more sophisticated, and experts in

statistics have developed better tools. The result is that investigators can mine data and find gems of information that in the past the medical community overlooked. This ability to

For physicians the meaning is that we need closer contact with patients. Giving you a

prescription and automatically refilling it for a year is no longer acceptable. The revelation

that a familiar drug formerly thought safe is no longer so, will happen again. Vioxx was the first instance but will not be the last. The medical community will take a higher standard for

For you, the meaning is that doctors will turn more to ways that are safe. For example,

we will not so quickly prescribe a drug for your high cholesterol, but ask you to give more

Learn the TWO causes of belly fat.
Learn the biggest reason why weight loss has become difficult despite efforts to diet and exercise.
Understand what <u>CRAVINGS</u> to sweets, breads, chocolate, and salty foods mean and what your body is trying to tell you.
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attention to a proper diet. We will not so readily recommend medication for fibromyalgia

but place an emphasis of the role of daily exercise, even when you are stiff and aching.

The Vioxx incident brings us back to the role each of us should play in our own care.

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LOOKING AT DRUGS IN A NEW WAYS

group provides a forum for discussion, receiving and sharing of information, call the WRC at (734) 462-

Extreme Challenge

The fund-raiser, benefitting Henry Ford Health System's pediatric hospice program, takes place 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m Saturday, Dec. 18, at the William Clay Ford Center for Athletic Medicine, 6525 Second, Detroit. The Extreme Challenge, combining 30 minutes of boot camp with 30 minutes of studio cycling, offers participants one of the most invigorating workouts ever experienced. Participants are asked to donate \$10 for members of the Athletic Center and \$15 for guests. Proceeds go to providing care and adult) that suffer from life-threatening illness. For more information and to register for the Extreme Challenge, call (313) 972-4040.

Hepatitis C Support Group

Meets 7-8:45 p.m. Monday, Dec. 19, the third Monday of every month, at the Farmington Hills Public Library, 32737 West 12 Mile, West of Orchard Lake Road. For more information, call (248) 674-8152.

Prostate Support Group Learn how prostate cancer develops

in the body at a discussion of the pathology of prostate cancer 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 6, at University of Michigan Hospital, Room 20108, 1500 E. Medical Center Drive, Ann Arbor, For information call (734) 936-5938.. The Network at the University of Michigan

mation for those contemplating, in the process of or having difficulty adjusting to divorce. For more infor-

support to children (pre-natal to early)

UPCOMING

program, sponsored by the Prostate Cancer Education and Support

Comprehensive Cancer Center, will feature Raia! Shah, M.D., clinical

6 Injections

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 Prescription Medication Doctor Visit

No Other Charges

assistant professor of Pathology at Cooking classes

the U-M Medical School, who will explain the nature of prostate cancer, ts causes, processes, development and consequences.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Blood Drive 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 9, at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 West 11 Mile,

Farmington Hills. No appointment necessary. For more information, call (248) 476-8860.

ONGOING

G.E.M.S.

Group Exercise for Multiple Scienosis meets every Friday at the Livonia YMCA on Stark Road, Group swim from 6-7 p.m. Support group meeting 7-8 p.m. For more information, contact Karolyn Davis at (734) 459-9715 or Mike Hickey at (734) 522-0036.

Recover support group

The self-help mental health organization meets 2:30 p.m. Sunday, at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 7:30 p.m. Monday, at St. Matthew's Methodist Church, and 1:15 p.m. Tuesday, at Mt. Hope Congregational Church, all locations are in Livonia, Recovery, Inc. helps people who suffer from depression, tension, anger, low self esteem and other feelings and sensations that interfere with daily living. No charge. For more information, call (313) 561-2521 or visit www.recovery-inc.org. Blood needed

The American Red Cross has an urgent need for blood, to donate visit any day Monday-Saturday, at the Livonia Blood Center, 36650 Five Mile. Walk-ins are available or make an appointment by calling (800) GIVE-LIFE. To donate blood you must be age 17 or older, weigh 110 pounds or more accretic to negeral good.

Presented by the University of Michigan Health System at the East Ann Arbor Health Centers Demonstration Kitchen, classes include simple meals for one or two, happy healthy holidays, fish dishes, fast recipes, eating to stop. Hypertension, super soups and salads for all seasons. Pre-registration required for all classes. Cost is \$30. \$50 for two. Discounts available when registering for three or more regular classes. To register, call MFit at (734) 975-4387, Ext. 236, or sign up online at

www.med.umich.edu/mfit/nutrition.

Self help groups

Local church provides space for self help groups. Overeaters Anonymous, a 12-step program for eating disorders, meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Alcoholics Anonymous, a 12-step program for alcohol related problems, meets 8 p.m. Wednesdays and 7 p.m. Saturdays. Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, a 12-step program for co-dependency and destructive relationship problems, meets 7:30 p.m. Mondays, at First Baptist Church, 300 Willits, one block north of Maple, one block west of Old Woodward. Parking adjacent to church's north entrance.

Red Cross safety courses

Available including CPR/first aid with AED (automated external defibrillation). Infant/Child CPR. CPR/AED review for professional rescuers, CPR review for individuals with current CPR certificates, nurse assistant training, and baby-sitter training at the Livonia Service Center, 36650 Five Mile, call (734) 542-0442 or visit www.semredcross.org, and Bloomfield Service Center, 2388 Franklin Road, call (248) 322-2500. Among the offerings are CPR review, CPR for the professional rescuer (and review). First aid/CPR/AED instructor, and nurse

assistant training. Costs vary. Research volunteers needed

Healthy individuals age 12 and older with seasonal, late summer allergy symptoms (stuffy or runny nose; sneezing, itchy eyes, nose or throat, or watery or red eyes) are needed for a research study at the Michigan Respiratory Health and Research Institute in Novi. Individuals who qual-Ify receive study related office visits, limited testing, and investigational medications at no charge and compensation for participating in the study. For more information, call Julie at (248) 473-6400 or (800) 326-5959.

Hospice volunteers needed Volunteers are needed to help provide services to terminally ill patients, their caregivers and families. St. John Hospice provides services in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair counties. Volunteers can choose from a variety of functions that include offering companionship by providing respite relief for caregivers, making supportive telephone calls, running errands, and providing other services that are needed by patients, caregivers, and families. In addition, volunteers are needed to provide administrative support in the Farmington Hills office. Training to become part of the Hospice team will be provided to all volunteers. Scheduling will be at the convenience of the volunteer. For more information, contact Pamela DiSanto or Katie Landa at (800) 248-

Alliance for the Mentally III

2298.

The Wayne/Westland chapter, a self help and advocacy group for relatives and friends of the mentally ill, meets 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 South Wayne at Bayview, first light south of Cherry Hill. Westland. For more information, call (313) 562-8498. All are welcome.

Thanks to Our Schoolcraft College Super-Saver Injection Program **Culinary Extravaganza Participants** LOSE 5-10 POUNDS THIS WEEK 20 POUNDS THIS MONTH \$199* Enrollment \$65/Week

Our special thanks to the following for their participation and generosity in donating their services & products to making Culinary Extravaganza 2004 a success.

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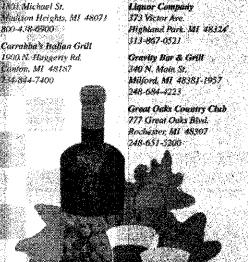
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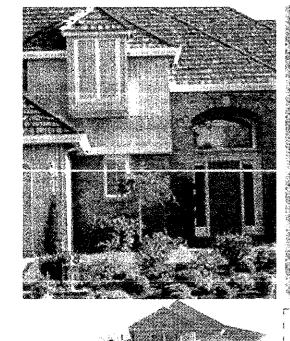
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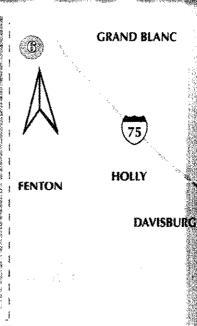
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for more information.

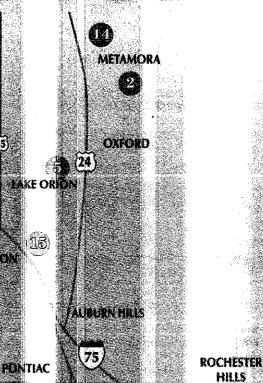
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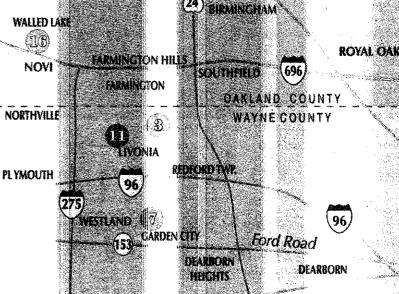
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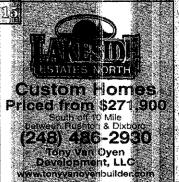


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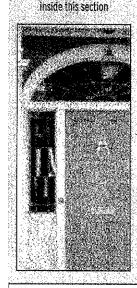
Section D

Sunday, December 5, 2004

Keely Schramm, editor (734) 953-2105 Fax: (734) 591-7279 kschramm@oe.homecomm.net

CLASSIFIED INDEX

CLASSIFICATION NUMBER Real Estate For Sale 3000-3880 ■ For Sale By City 3040-3480 ■ For Sale By County 3520-3570 ■ Misc. Real Estate 3580-3880 ■ Commercial/Industrial 3900-3980 Real Estate For Rent 4000-4440 Our complete index can be found



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View the Observer & **Eccentric Real Estate** Classifieds on the Web:

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-itskind 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 firstfloor 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 thirdfloor 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-

LoChircho 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.

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 quali ty 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 contrac-

■ 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-

■ 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 working 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 contrac-

■ 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 Dixie Hwy & White Lake - minutes from M15 at I-75

Thomas Sebold & 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 Sebold & 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 it's 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.

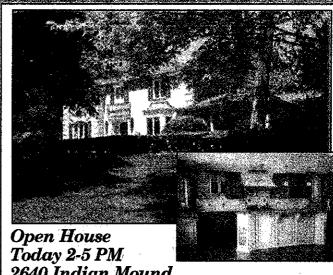
Three distinctively different homes are currently available and five sites in process of development; each offering a mix of amenities; including walkout or daylight bsmts, 3 car gar, 1st flr mstr, and of course each within a treed setting. Add Country Club style amenities...and well, you've got Peninsula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

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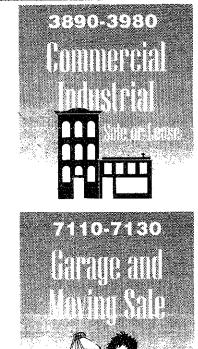




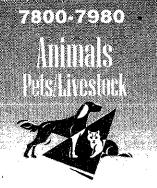












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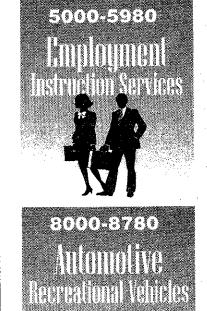
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, If you missed our regular Tuesday deadline for Thursday's publication, you can now call us 'til Wednesday at 11am and place your ad in our "Too Late To Classified" Section. Look for this to appear in Section C of the paper!

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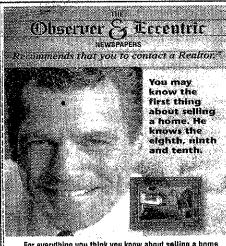
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master bedroom, gourmet kitchen Much morel \$165,000 CONTACT KIM PAGE (313) 215-6988 KELLER WILLIAMS

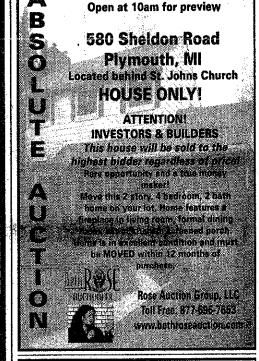


60365 LAMPLIGHTER - Off Pontiac Tr, W. of Martindale Ad., to Cobblestone, N. to home. Updated 3 BR Colonial w/new kitchen & finished basement at the back of quiet sub. Kitchen has new tile counters, wood flooring, new cabinets & appliances. Large lot is profess landscaped w/custom fencing, large deck w/built in gas BBQ. This home is extra clean & ready to move in! \$232,000

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Eye-catching Riverside has features galore

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

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.

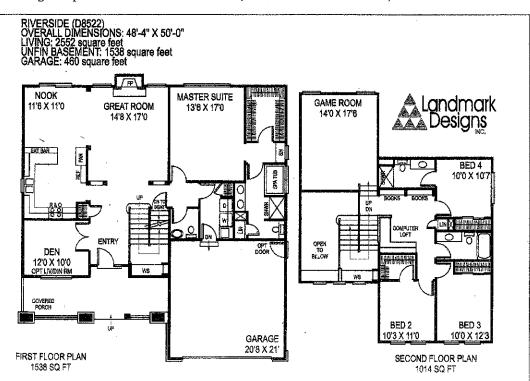
The right side of the Riverside is the master suite. It has a large main suite area with an elongated walk-in closet on the right side. The master bath has an oversized spa tub as well as a shower. Dual sinks with a linen closet are on the opposite wall. Just outside the master suite is the utility room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

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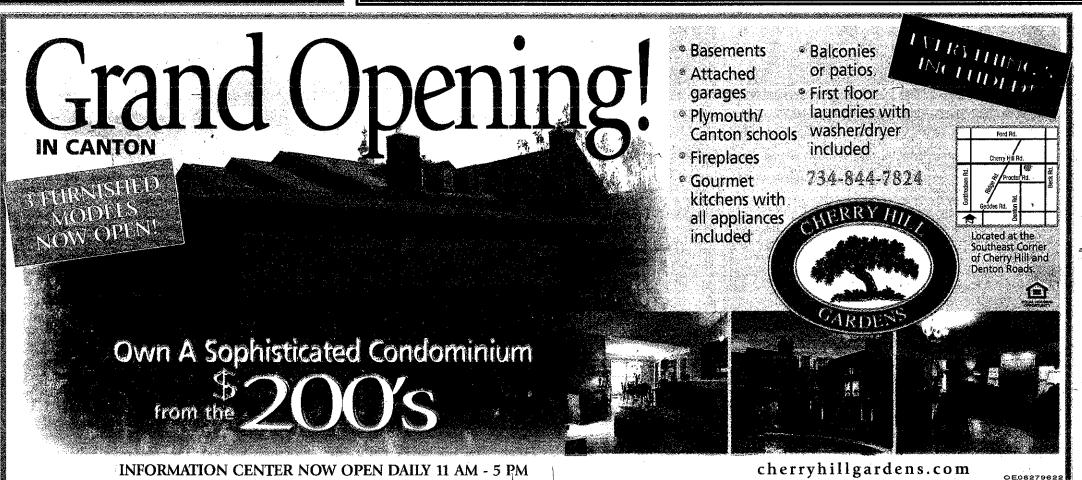
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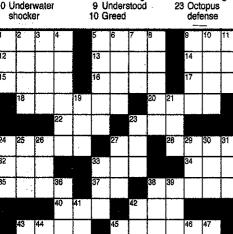
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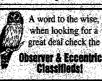
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Canton

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Dearborn Hgts

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t, doors. Denise McGuigan

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Livonia

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4 bedroom, 11/2 bath Windridge colonial with finished basement and 2 car attached

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car attached garage, \$309,900 4 bedroom, 3 bath Western Golf Estate colonial w/finished basement and 2 car attached

garage on large lot. \$314,500.

4 bedroom, 21/2 bath Woodcreek Farms colonial w/bsmt and 2 car attached garage on half acre lot. \$314,900.

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sq. ft., three bedroom, brick ranch located

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Enjoy pool, tennis, club house, surrounded

by private nature area. Call Mike Judge.

LIVONIA - Location, quality, value & REDFORD - First time buyers dreaml charm. Three bedroom brick ranch built in 1988. 2.5 bath, family room with fireplace, newer klicken cablinets, separate dining full becoment. The secretary area. full basement. Two car attached garage. A secluded setting w/mature trees (approx. 3/4 acre). Call Mike Judge.



Four bedroom, 3.5 bath, 5.000+finished sq. ft. on 2.5 wooded acres. 1998 built. Soaring cellings. Pics & www.localgem.com or 877.934.6683 ID 705 for details. Call Derek Bauer.

\$549,900 (C2300)

LIVONIA - Four bedroom, 2.5 bath home in Livonia. Two car attached garage. Newer roof, furnace, hot water heater, windows & more. Just hit the market! Finished basement, family room with

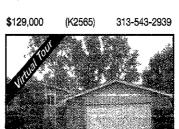
(D38973)



Many updates - roof, central air, ii. HWH: & sprinkler system. Call lorence Albert



patio. 8' DR off living room. 1.5 bath. Spacious kitchen. Private entrance and all appliances included, Call Alana Hill.



CANTON - 2,081 sq. ft. four bedroom custom quad with gourmet oak kitchen w/eat-on island, roof 00, windows 03, carpet 02, master suite with fireplace and Jacuzzi. Skylight, pool, patio & deck. Call Sylvia Florence Albert.

\$229,900 (A43620)



DEARBORN HEIGHTS - Sparkling ranch in North Dearborn Heights. Three bedroom, 2 full baths. New kitchen, roof, windows, & more. Beautifully finished basement & all app's stay. This home is Jim Donohoe.

LIVONIA - A must see! Three bedroom,

call Tom Reichard.

1.5 bath brick ranch in Rosedale Gardens. Updates: a/c 04, re-fin hardwood floors, landscaped in front and back, private fnc. copper plumbing. Finished basement

38705 Seven Mile Rd. Ste. 150 • Livonia (734) 591-9200



JUST LISTED!

REMODELED! VERY NICE all brick 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath home. Oak kitchen & builtins. Huge living room w/vautted cellings. Family room w/doorwall to tenced vard. Bsmt. 2.5 car garage \$199,900 (HI297TG)

Tony Garrisi 888-890-5151 Century 21 Today 734-462-9800

JUST LISTED!

SHARP CONTEMPORARY with open floor plan. bdrm, 2.5 bath. Great roon w/fireplace. Lg. kitcher w/cherry cabinets, Pergo



floors & appliances. Lowe

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WESTERN LIVONIA RANCH Remodeled kitchen & bath. Newer windows. Move-in con-dition. Clean! \$194,900. 734-751-1319

When seeking out the best deal check out the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds 1-800=579-73**5**5 YOU WILL LOVE THE 20' X

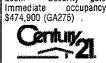
20' NEW CUSTOM KITCHEN

And first floor laundry. River runs through the huge county wooded lot. Stevenson High. Under \$160K. 24/7 info. (800) 679-3821 ext.1021 www.kevinPelia.com 22260 Haggerty Northville

3260

Mifford

JUST LISTED! 3 ACRES OF WOODS & HILLS Surround 3,600 sq. ft. country estate. Updated 3 bdrm, 3.5 bath colonial /finished walk-out bsmt Livina room, dinina room amily room w/fireplace & office w/private Kitchen w/nook adjoins



Security gate

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Northville

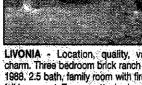


LIVONIA - Popular Burton Hollow sub. Four bedroom, 2 bath, 2133 sq. ft. Open



and two car garage. Call Larry Hatfield.

LIVONIA - Well maintained three bedroom





313-820-9711

\$314,900 (H31380) 734-591-9200X155 \$114,900



natural fireplace and wet bar. Quick occupancy too. Call Jim Bonohoe.

ult-in china cabinets, warranty



734-216-4942



DEARBORN HEIGHTS - Stop your

search! This home is a sparkling gem you must see. Three bdrm, 1.5 bath, w/walk-

out bsmnt, new furnace, central air, newer

carpet, floor, driveway, windows, eat-in kit

& dining rm. Visit www.alithehouses.net or

NOVI - Like new. (02 year built) end unit

ranch style condo. Two bedroom, 2 bath.

Two car garage and great Novi location.

Upgrades throughout, cathedral ceilings,

ietted tubs. Fireplace, hardwood floors and

248-231-4216

great view! Call Marilyn Handloser.

(C28280)

\$249,900



DEARBORN HEIGHTS - North Dearborn Heights condo with two large bedrooms plus 13x10 loft. 2.5 baths, vaulted ceiling in great room, finished basement, two car atth'd garage and very low association fee. Striking décor! Call Mary Marinelli.



Exceptional Plymouth

248-231-4216

bungalow with 1700 sq. ft. Enormous great room w/fioor-to-ceiling stone fireplace. Master suite with sitting area & full bath. Everything is updated! Call Marilyn

(M11704)

PLYMOUTH

\$259,900



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on December 11 from

Redford

IMAGINE A NEW HOME FOR CHRISTMAS.

kitchen, c/a, ceramic tile, iust

to name a few. Sign or close by Christmas add a deck (a

Call 313-533-3922

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IMMACULATE

affordable & updated ranch

has newer kitchen, bath

roof, windows, carpet, C/A

floor laundry. Attached garage. —Spacious yard. \$92,500 (LE199)

Century 21

/313) 538-2000 www.century21today.com

POURING ON THE CHARM...is

this wonderful brick bungalow in Redford! Newer items included in this wonderfully

cared for 3 bedroom home

cared for 3 bedroom nome include newer roof, shed, carpeting, H2O heater and Wallside windows! Partially finished bsmt offer workshop area. Concrete Patio in fenced

backyard and more! South Redford Schools. \$121,900.

ENGLAND REAL ESTATE

888-211-9560, 810-632-742

REDFORD BEAUTIES

GREAT BRICK bungalow on

huge 178' deep lot!! 3 bed.'s, 4th in bsmt. Newer

c/A, South heads schools, great neighbor-\$130,000 South

WONDERFUL BRICK 3 BED

Ranch w/ 19' x 10' Florida

room, finished bsmt w/ 4th

bed., wet bar too! Newer

windows & roof. South Redford schools. \$140,000

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NORTHVILLE PRICED SLASHED

3280

OPEN SUN. 1-4. Designer showcase detached condo. 3-4 bdrms, 3.5 baths, Island kitchen, 2 story family room finished walkout. Immediate

occupancy. CALL BEN 248-396-4440 A Real Hatale Unp....

WOODLANDS OF NORTHVILLE Beautifully maintained. landscaped and appointed with 5 bdrms., 4.5 baths. Fabulous

finished walkout, great room floor plan w/fireplace, huge nook. \$664,900 (600WH)

COLDWELL BANKER ()

PREFERRED 734-459-6000

3290

JUST LISTED!

NOVI BUILDER'S HOME! Ultra sharp 2 stor detached condo with gol course frontage. Built in 1995, this beauty features bdrm, 1625 sq. ft., hard-wood flooring, updated pathrooms, and decorated to perfection with a con temporary flair. \$269,900. 41645 Sleepy Hollow. S/of 14 Mile and W/of Haggerty.

CastlesGoRound.com NOVI RANCH BARGAIN Our loss is your gain. Transfered seller offers 4 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath brick. Treed site. Novi schools. Family

248-960-5905.

CALL BEN 248-396-4440 🌲 Nobi Calada Ann...

NOVI RANCH CONDO To settle estate. Florida bound wner savs make me an offer 2 Bdrm, 2 bath, end unit brick

CALL BEN 248-396-4440 A Real Sistato Con...

Orion Township

BY OWNER - 1991 red brick colonial, wooded lot w/mature trees, 4 bdrm 2 1/2 baths

many updates, appliance inci. \$235,900. 248-391-4552

3347 Plymouth HOME FOR CHRISTMAS! Buy & move into this beautiful brick colonial w/ 3 bedrooms 1.5 baths, finished basemen & attached 2 car garage, only \$234,900. The Firestone Team

REMAX/100 248-348-3000. RENT TO OWN Beautiful bungalow in Plymouth. 4 bdrm 2 bath. Finished bsmt. 1700 sq. ft. Call today 734-525-1419

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1920's English Tudor on 3 lots! Built-in bookcas sive updating. Basement w/office, 2 car garage. Musi see! \$265,000 (57HOW) CENTURY 21 ROW (734) 464-7111

BEAUTIFUL 3 bdrm 2 bath Brick Ranch. New carpeting, newer roof built in dishwasher, all applistay. Partially finished bint. 1.5 car garage. Large front porch & patio. 2 fire-places. 1 yr. home warranty. 8933 Rockland. \$145,900.

GREAT INVESTMENT Sharp 2 bedroom with natural, fire place, huge family size kitchen, move right in, LOW DOWN TERMS, only \$59,900 thru Dave Reardon RE/MAX Classic. Cell 734-417-7879 or

734-432-1010 HAPPY HOME Well updated 3 bedroom brick ranch from the new oak kitchen with appliances to the

finished basement and 2 car garage. This home is move in condition and offers one year warranty. Just \$134,900 BARGAIN 1230 SQ. FT., 3 Bedroom with

basement and garage. Very comfortable home with updated furnace, shingles, air, cement, windows and more. Great buy at \$119,889. CALL THE ANDERSONS CENTURY 21 DYNAMIC 734-728-7800





Open House Sunday 12/5 1-4 p.m. 31008 Bramley Cr.

\$229.999 lower level, neutral décor.

Jeff Wenzel 248.219.6955

Brand new, 3 bedroom Tri-level, carpeted, 1100 square feet and basement.

> **ROSS REALTY** 734-326-8300

3350

PLYMOUTH SCHOOLS -New subdivision located off Grand River, bwtn. Beech & baths, 5000 sq. ft. \$795,000. 734-459-2197 Inkster Rd. Several floor plans ammenties galore, oak foyer in

Southfield/Lathrup

\$2500 upgrade), at no charge. HURRY IN TODAY! Model open, Mon-Fri., 1-5, Sat. 12-3. 8 Mile & Greenview. CALL REGIS 238-431-1700

BEAUTIFUL 3 BEDROOM Ranch. Spacious living room, dining room, updat-ed kitchen. Newer carpet windows, furnace, C/A Sellers will help w/some costs. \$112,000 (MA280)

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,000. (248) 444-7267 RE/MAX in the Hills \$168,000. (248) 646-5000

ONLY \$95,000! On nearly an acre. 2 bdrm

is an investment opportunity or a super starter home TLC needed. (BE212)

PLUMBROOKE ESTATES

REDFORD-RENT TO OWN Beautiful 1150 sqft, 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, fireplace, sunroom, garage, \$1050, 810-599-3452 RENT TO OWN Beautiful bungalow in Redford, 3 bdrm 1.5 bath. Finished bsmt. 1250 sq. ft. Call today 734-525-1419 Row, 734-464-7111.

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JUST LISTED! SPACIOUS & UPDATED 3 Bdrm, 1.5 bath bungalow w/dining room. Remodeled master bdrm w/half bath Newer kitchen, furnace, C/A

& more. Bsmt. garage Immediate occupancy \$130,000 (WO201) Century 21

(3370)

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www.centurv21todav.com UPDATED - 3 Bdrm. 2 Bath Finished Bsmt, 2 Car Garage. 1-800-388-9921 Ext. 2209 *FREE* Recorded Info 24/7.

Royal Oak

JUST LISTED!

4 BEDROOM COLONIAL With fabulous open floor plan. Finished bsmt. Kitcheri w/breakfast bar family room w/fireplace & doorwall to

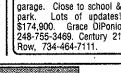


Century 21 Today www.century21today.com

NORTH ROYAL OAK Move in ready! Stunning remodeled kitchen, & updated bath, await the new owner of this 3 bed. 1 bath ranch. Maple cabinets stainless appliances, hard wood flooring, private back-yard, convenient to downtown Birmingham Won't last at \$179,900. (248) 596-9545

JUST LISTED!

ROYAL OAK-Walk to Town Terrific starter, 3 bdrm. bath brick ranch w/detacher garage. Close to school & park. Lots of updates!





South Lyon, MI 48178

Great location for the commuter. Many updates including custom cherry kitchen, roof, finished

\$0 DOWN

5 bedrooms, 3

3380

AFFORDABLE Starter or Investor. 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath. Many updates, large yard. Double garage, living room w/fireplace & large family room. Priced to sell, near

A Rool Hately One....

JUST LISTED!

Cantuny 21

www.century21today.com LOVELY 3 BDRM brick ranch, car attached garage. Open Sun. 1-4pm. 29750 Guy.

JUST LISTED!

ranch w/2 car garage. Home

Century 21 Today www.century21today.com

Gorgeous 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, hardwood, cathedral ceilings. New kitchen & updated bath \$170,000. 248-790-0164

SOUTHFIELD- REDUCED! Birmingham Schools. Numer ous updates and move-in ready! immediate occupancy Great location. Home warran ty. \$234,90. Ken Ferguson 313-608-8453. Century 21

TOTALLY UPDATED!

All the "majors" are updated in this 1.056 sq. ft., 3 bdrm., 2 full bath ranch. 2.5 car garage. Large lot. Home is immaculate! Move right in! \$134,900 (SH272FT) FARIDA (248) 797-5511

Century 21 Today (248) 855-2000

3424 BRICK RANCH- JUST LISTED!

Brick ranch within walk distance to schools & rec. hdrm 2 hath hsmt Undated kitchen, bath, hot water heater furnace, stove, fridge & dishwasher. Beautiful tree lined street. Just Reduced Beautiful tree 124,900. Cali

REMERICA REMERICA HOMETOWN III 734-459-9898 (3321-0)

HICKORY HOLLOW COOPERATIVE Multi-family, non-profit housing cooperative located on 13.5 acres of open landscape. Near major freeways. Wayne-Westland School District. Immediate occupancy for

2 bedrooms. Equities: \$4480-\$4590 For more info, contact 734-729-7262.

West Bloomfield

JUST LISTED! BUILDER'S MODEL

New construction. 4 bdrm 2.5 bath colonial. 2 story oreat room w/fireniace & glass window. countertops in Granite kitchen. Daylite bsmt. \$545,000 (MI396)

Century 21

Century 21 Today 248-647-8888 www.century21today.com

SKYLINE - MODEL 3BR, 2BA, comes with stove, refrigerator,

garbage disposal, skylights & more! Only \$39,800

SKYLINE 3BR, 2BA, all appliances, including CA, Jacuzzi tub, deck, shed & more!

Must see! \$29,900 BENDIX

Great starter home! 2BR, 2BA, all appliances, window air,

nice lot! Only \$12,500 Others Priced From \$14,000 to \$60,000

Novi Schools **QUALITY HOMES**

HIGHLAND HILLS **ESTATES** on Seeley Rd.

N. of Grand River Meadowbrook & Haggerty Rds. Call Joanne or Sue (248) 474-0320 or (248) 474-0333

3440 Dakland County West Bloomfield

JUST LISTED!

LARGE LOT Surrounds beautifut odrm, 1.5 bath brick colo-Spacious kitchen opens to family room w/fireplace. Partially fin ished bsmt. Deck. Fenced yard. \$229,900 (LE666)

Century 21 Century 21 Today

248-647-8888

www.century21today.com Westland

3 BEDROOM 1.5 BATH RANCH a lot to offer kitchen & al That has a Remodeled Remodeled appliances stay. Finished bsmt, 2.5 car detached garage \$155,900

> REMERICA HOMETOWN (734) 459-6222

ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL 3 Bdrm, 2 bath raised ranch. Two fireplaces, oak kitchen w/new Pergo Floor, sink, extra cabinets, dishwasher. Skylights, master w/walk in closet & bath access. Newe hot water heater, insulated Immaculate home \$185,000

CALL DEANNA 734-267-3082; 734-459-9898 REMERICA HOMETOWN III

AMERIDREAM HOME -0- Down. Seller will pay for buyer's cost on this totally remodeled home. 3 Bdrms, 2 baths, 2 story. Will consider option. \$133,900 ZANA 734-516-2736 MAYFAIR REALTORS 734-522-8000

MUST SEE TO APPRECIATE! bath condo over looking wooded area. Newer carpet &

vindows thru-out. FHA/VA

\$121.900

CENTURY 21 PREMIER (734) 453-4300 OUTSTANDING
3 bdrn,m 1,5 bath brick ranch
bsmt. & garage. \$151,900
GREAT STARTER

Many updates! 2 bdrm hom \$78,000 Century 21 Towne Pride (734) 326-2600 ww.century21townepride.com

Wixom-Commerce

JUST LISTED!

(GR319KH)

COMMERCE mmaculate 3 bdrm., 2 ful bath home w/finished bsmt C/A. Huge concrete drive Pella windows. Great location & schools. Immediate occupancy. \$232,900

> Kimberly Hahn (248) 790-0659 Century 21 Today 248-360-9100

COMMERCE mmediate оссиралсу 2000 built, 3,200 sq. ft. bdrm, 2.5 bath colonial w/3 car garage. Bridge over-looks 2 story, great room w/fireplace. Dining room, library, upper level family room, gourmet kitchen. 1st master suite & laun-Some hardwood s. C/A. Bsmt

\$410,000 (AP211LJ) Lisa Johnson 313-919-0313 Century 21 Today 248-647-8888

JUST LISTED! HOMESTEAD SHORES Custom 4 bdrm w/left, 3.5 baths, 3.5 car garage or 1/2 acre lot with every amenity imaginable Private beach & boat

launch on all sports lake Call for a list of amenities and your private showing
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ON ALL NEW 2003 MODELS 3 Bedrooms • 2 Baths GE Appliances Skylights & More **QUALITY HOMES** SALES OFFICES

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at Novi Meadows

lagier Rd. 1 mile west of Wixom and 1 mile S. of Grand River (248) 344-1988 South Lyon/Milford

at Kensington Place on Grand River i-96, exit 153 acros from Kensington Metropark (248) 437-2039 In Wixom at Commerce Meadows

(248) 684-6796 In Wixom at Stratford Villa (248) 684-9068

3540 Brandon Twp. New 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath colonial in a country setting. 248-628-6200

Washlenaw County

WILLIS - 9771 BUNTON RD Completely renovated brick farmhouse on 4.88 acres. Built in 1848, 3200 sq.ft. Asking \$574,900 FRED BAWDEN 313-610-7087 REMERICA ACTION REALTY 3829 Monroe St., Dearborn

Wayne County 3570 INKSTER - 3 begroom, for sale by owner. Land contract, \$4,000 down. Weak credit okay. (734) 578-3579.

Wyandotte LET'S TALK VALUE! Clean 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath ranch w/ a part finished bsmt, hardwood floors, natural fireplace enclosed 3 season sunroom Appliances stay!! \$169,900 CENTURY 21 PREMIER (734) 453-4300

.akefront/Waterfront 3580 GREEN OAK TWP Beautiful Waterfroot home located at

Hidden Lake Estates, 4 bdrm. 3.5 baths, extras incl., addi tional lots available 248-446-3298. www.antekbuilding.com HAMBURG - Waterfront acre. Built 1993 ranch #399,500. 248-470-5952 Rose. KELLER WILLIAMS 22260 Haggerty, Northville

Condos

BLOOMFIELD HILLS-WABEEK 3 bdrm, 2.5 baths, all upgrades, no bank qualifying, appraces, no dark qualifying, no credit app, no down pay-ment. Only 3 payments & closing cost moves you in. Call Today! 313-530-6190

ADAMS WOODS Picturesque setting in this beautiful complex. 3 Bdrm condo. 1st floor w/ hardwood floors, crown molding. Finished lower molding. Finisi level. #320.000. Kathleen Robinson 248-646-2517, Ext. 208

PRICE REDUCTION

A Real Estate Cos...

BLOOMFIELD **OUTSTANDING!**

Only way to describe this only way to describe this ranch condo on the 1st fairway. A favorite illoor plan w/2 BR's + den totally redone from top to bottom. 'Chef's' kit, new baths, Level....must appreciate. \$640000.

LIGHT AND BRIGHT.

Let the sunshine inever in the winter months

Windows w/great views

room....including the 8th fairway & green. Ranch Prof finished Lower leve \$500000

FABULOUS MASTER SUITE. Everyone says..."this is why you want to live here!" Many other features including newer HW fl in kit Finished Lower level. Setting w/feel of private backyard. \$339000.

BRIGHTON NEW DETACHED CONDO Brand new rare ranch home spectacular Hidden Lk comm unity. Ready for immediate occupancy. All-sports lake privileges. Reduced to privileges. Reduced to \$474,900. Call 248-446-3911

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CANTON -ABBEY WOODS CONDOS (Morton Taylor & Joy Rd) All end units with 1st Floor master suites & den, 1 & 2 bedrooms up w/loft from \$278,900. (We customize) Models Open 12-5 except Thurs. 734-354-1553

Canton CHECK OUT THIS END UNIT CONDO!! FHA/VA terms. 2 Story condo w/ private entry, decorated w/

neutral tones, upstairs laundry closet, many updates & appliances stay! \$114,900 CENTURY 21 PREMIER (734) 453-4300 CANTON CONDO - 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, den, 1st floor mas-ter & laundry, end-unit, 2 car garage. 734-459-0219 CANTON- The Heathers. Brand-New! First floor master, 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath. Full bsmt, 2

car garage, \$269,900. Three to

choose from, one w/ granite!

AwardWinnerHomes.com (248)739-1093 JUST LISTED! **FARMINGTON HILLS** Botsford Commons Senior Community. 3 bdrm, 2 bath end unit ranch on cul-de-sac that backs to woods Bsmt. & attached garage 24 hr. emergency & securi

tv systems. Pool, restau

rant, library, general store, theatre, medici clinic &

more in complex \$245,900 (MU213) Century 21 Century 21 Today (248) 855-2000

www.century21today.com

A word to the wise, when looking for a Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!

Condos

JUST LISTED!

FARMINGTON HILLS car attached garage. 1.879 ft., 3 bdrms, 2 baths Living room w/cathedral celling & fireplace. Dining room. Kitchen w/2 pantries doorwall to deck. Appliances stay. \$228,888 (SI296)

Cantuly 21

(248) 855-2000 www.century21today.com LIVONIA: 2 bdrm, 11/2 bath ranch condo in newer com-

Century 21 Today

NOVI: 3 bedroom, 3 bath ranch condo with finished walkout lower level. 2 car attached garage. \$249,900. MARY McLEOD

plex. Attached garage. Imme diate occupancy. \$169,900.

www.marymcleod.com JUST LISTED!

RE/MAX Alliance 734-462-3600 248-477-2006

Northville READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS! 3 levels, beautiful condition. 3½ baths, formal dining. sharp kitchen, great walk-out lower level, deck, patio, WATERFRONT, peaceful

West Bloomfield Enjoy nature's beauty year ound! 2-3 bedroom, 2 bath nove-in "model" cond. West lloomfield Schools, LAKE PRIVILEGES, \$264,500.

setting! \$364,900.

Laverne Eady, Realtor (248) 626-4711

JUST LISTED! NOVI

Beautiful open & airy 2 bdrm., 2.5 bath townhouse condo. Two-sided fireplace between living room & hearth kitchen. Luxurious Hardwood floors bsmt. 2 car attached garage. \$259,900 (YE418)

Century 21

Century 21 Today

www.century21today.com NOVI - LOVELY 1993 condo, 2 bdrm, fire place. \$399,500. Rose. 248 22260 Haggerty, Northville PLYMOUTH TWP. CONDO-



ROCHESTER HILLS -RENT TO room, 2 bath condo with 2 car attached garage and bonus room, approximately 1400 sq. ft., \$1500/mo., plus deposit. No bank financing required (248) 227-1922

ROCHESTER HILLS

Meadowfield ranch condo, a bedroom, 1½ bath, full bsmt.

garage, spotless, immediate occupancy, \$179,999. By owner. (248) 318-9890 SHELBY TOWNSHIP CONDO Private,updated,immaculate Close to shopping and dining 49516 Lordstown Court \$159,900. 810-441-9549

Southfield

Stonebrook Everything updated in this

Open Sun. 1-5 p.m.

spacious ranch condo with private entrance, pool, all new GE appliances, cabinets, countertops, flooring Just \$127,900 (248) 352-4460 W. DEARBORN

CURRAN & CHRISTIE 831 Monroe St., Dearborn WALLED LAKE 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, finished bsmt w/wetbar attached garage, \$141,000 LC available. (248) 669-4928

2 bedroom Snow St. condo. Walk to Ford Engineering. PAT FERA (313) 274-9486 CENTURY 21

JUST LISTED! WEST BLOOMFIELD

Spacious 2510 sq. ft., 4 bdrm, 3 bath ranch condo w/fabulous pond view. Family room w/fg. gas fire-place. First floor laundry. Finished walk-out lower level to patio. New roof & C/A. Near shopping & rest-aurants. One year warran-Immediate occupancy

ty. Immediate occupa \$244,900 (LA462EB) Ed Barter 248-763-0120 Century 21 Today 248-855-2000

WEST BLOOMFIELD DETACHED CONDO With West Bloomfield Schools. Over 2,300 sq. ft. 4 bdrms., 2.5 baths, 1st floor master suite, custom hardwood floors. Finished bsmt. 2 car garage. \$339,900 (P0573KM)

Kathleen McPherson (248) 770-3362

JUST LISTED!

Century 21 Today (248) 360-9100 WESTLAND Golfside Village. Westland Schools. New 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath, basement, 2 car garage. \$149,990. Furnished Model Open 12-5. AwardWinnerHomes (734) 641-0500

Thomas Ervin

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without the services of a Realtor®. It would appear that the seller would save money by avoiding the cost of a sales commission. As logical as this sounds, the opposite is often true because Realtors® usually have the ability to get a higher sales price than an amateur. Here are some things to consider.

CREATION OF DEMAND

A Realtor® can create more and more demand for a home than an owner acting alone. This increase in demand increases the price of the supply of homes that are available to meet this demand. Demand is created by commissioned salespeople who don't receive a paycheck unless they make a sale. So, Realtors® are motivated to produce results. Realtors® are always advertising to attract buyers to their listings. These advertisements provide a constant supply of buyers who are interested in buying a home in certain geographic areas.

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estate on a regular basis. The asking price must attract buyers, be competitive with similar homes, and allow for some negotiation. Many sellers lose money at the outset with improper pricing. It is best to use a professional when making the critical decision of the asking price. THE POWER OF AN AGENT There are numerous situations in which it is better that the

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could become intimidated by the buyer and sell the home for less

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PLYMOUTH This Home Is Wonderful Gorgeous 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath w/3 car garage, basement, family room w/gas fireplace, library, cherry kitchen w/island & granite counters, doorwall to deck, 1st floor laundry & so much more. (B60WIL) 734-455-5600 \$422,900



4 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial in northwest Troy With Troy schools. Private premium lot with mature trees. Den, first floor laundry, vaulted celling in family room, crown molding 170. Newer furnace, C/A, HWH & drive. (B44HOU) 248-524-1600



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TROY Elegant Two-Story
With 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, library, dining room, FFL,
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WASHINGTON New Construction
4 bedroom colonial with 3.5 baths, FFL, butler's pantry,
basement with egress window and a three car side entry
garage. Gourmet island kitchen with built-in appliances. (B84RID) 248-524-1600 \$409,900



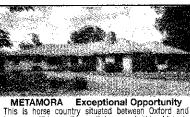
WASHINGTON TWP. Gorgeous
4 bedroom, 4 bath home with a grand entrance. Master
bedroom with jetted tub and large walk-in closest. Great
room with high ceiling. French doors in library.
Hardwood flooring. Backs up to a wooded area. (B02WQQ) 248-524-1600 \$439,900



CLARKSTON New Construction Colonial 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths with open floor plan. Gourmet kitchen w/stainless appls and granite counters, 2-story family room with granite surround gas fireplace. Dual staircase. Master bedroom w/pan ceiling & jetted tub. (B08HID) 248-524-1600 \$499,900



ROCHESTER HILLS New Construction nial with 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and three car side entry garage. Gourmet kitchen with maple cabinets, island and outler's pantry. Master bedroom with tray ceiling and bath with whirlpool tub. (B25GRA) 248-524-1600 \$409,900



This is horse country situated between Oxford and Lapeer within walking distance of this historic downtown area. Over 300 acres of rolling hills and woods. Lovely ranch overlooking Reed Lake. (B86MET) 248-652-8000 \$4,700,000



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Exquisite home on cul-de-sac backing to pond. Moceri built 4 bedroom, 4.2 bath, designer chef's kit, butlers pantry, formal living & dining rooms, judges paneling in library, extensive ceiling hgts, fin w/o w/theatre rm. (B64CRC) 248-652-8000 \$1,850,000



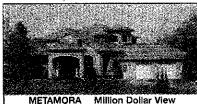
OXFORD Country Club Living
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HIGHLAND Golfers Paradise / Near Milford stunning 1.5 story contemporary, designed by Lubin of Bloom Hills. Located at 12th green, wall of windows, soaring cellings, 8 ft doors, fin w/o, curved walls, Amish cabs, theater rm/full bar. \$1,400,000 (B34GLE) 248-363-1200



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COMMERCE Lake Sherwood Lakefront Gorgeous 2 story colonial has the most beautiful view of Lake Sherwood, 2 furnaces, upstairs laundry, Extra garage. Lower level w/great room and 2nd kitchen and full bath. Sun room. This is a must see home. (B16DRI) 248-363-1200 \$910,000



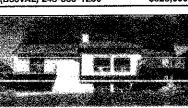
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WEST BLOOMFIELD Lakefront On Cass Lake Beautiful 4 bedroom ranch with all the extras and fabulous view of Cass Lk, all sports lake. A must see. Entry level has open floor plan. 3 car garage, cathedral ceilings and skylights. West Bloomfield Schools. (B96ISL) 248-626-8800 \$699.900



WEST BLOOMFIELD Fabulous Lake Front Home Two story foyer and great room, first floor master suite, dual frplc in GR & kit. Absolutely beautiful landscaping, brick patio, house is surrounded with brick sidewalk and deck. Finished w/o bsmt w/BR, BA & sauna. (B87ROS) 248-626-8800



WEST BLOOMFIELD No Earthly Reason
To accept 2nd best when you can own this 4 BR, 3 full
2-half BA contemporary on a prime wooded cut-de-sac
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MILFORD Welcome To Royalty Home
This home has it all, sits on wooded 3.63 acre lot. Two
story foyer & GR w/2 beautiful spiral staircase, FF MBR,
4 add'l BR on second floor w/lack & Jill baths, two
study rooms, finished w/o bsmt w/kit, Library, toy rm. (B56TAL) 248-626-8800 \$1,999,000



WEST BLOOMFIELD Shows Like A Model Home Come home to this spacious 1993-built colonial w/open floor plan. 4 bedrooms. 2.5 baths, FR, LR, dining room library, FFL, MBR with Jacuzzi and WIC, Oversized BR's. Full basement. Neutral decor. 2 frplcs. 3 car gar. \$512,000 (B86TOR) 248-626-8800



WEST BLOOMFIELD Well Kept Contemporary 3.5 baths, 2 story foyer, large k w/tall cabs, guest suite, high ceiling & fireplace in room, 2-way staircase w/bridge overlooking family room, FFL. Prof. landscpd, sprinkler. Immed. occup. (B73WIN) 248-626-8800 \$436,900



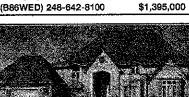
WEST BLOOMFIELD Bloomfield On The Lake Super clean 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath colonial with Aupere suite, well maintained family home. Formal living room and dining room, den/office, great room with wet bar, MBR has private deck and bath suite. Bloom, sohls. (B85WOO) 248-626-8800 \$449,999



OAKLAND TWSP. Sensational mestate on approx 10 acres of serene setting cons. 6 baths, guinnet fut open flowing the plan. rm, BR, Gentlemans garage, clist pool, 3 tier deck (B01BRE) 248-642-8100 \$1,800,000



BLOOMFIELD Fabulous
Newer construction. 6 bedroom, 3.2 bath colonial
features outstanding floor plan, MBR suite w/sitting rm,
bath and spa, fit for royalty. Hardwood floors, custom
moldings, gourmet kit & 4+ car garage. Birm. Schls.



NOVI Stately Custom Built
4 bedroom, 3.2 bath colonial. Your own private retreat, approx. 1+ acres w/private lake. Open and spacious - perfect for entertaining. Marble entry, 1st floor MBR, gourmet kit w/Corian, custom pool and hot tub.





BIRMINGHAM New Construction
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4 bedrooms, 4.1 baths, butler area, 2 fireplaces and home theatre. Jack and Jill bath, 5th bedroom & bath in LL. Skylights, kit w/island, formal DR & master suite. (B20PLE) 248-642-8100



BEVERLY HILLS
Custom 4 bedroom, 4 bath home w/all the modern amenities w/the feel of country estate. Kitchen w/granite, hdwd firs, MBR suite w/jetted tub, fireplace and sitting area. Partially fin bsmt w/BA & exer rm. (B60BEV) 248-642-8100



BLOOMFIELD HILLS Lovely
4 BR, 3.1 BA colonial in Bloom. Vige, loaded w/charm.
Wood firs, open staircase in foyer & FR w/begged fir.
built-ins & frplc. Sunroom, newer kit w/Corian & island,
FFL, LR w/frplc, formal DR & fin bsmt. (B09BRA) 248-642-8100 \$739,000

Rochester

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own laundry area & frpic, Hdwd firs & cedar deck (B76BAT) 248-642-8100



BINGHAM FARMS Custom 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial on approx. 1.79 acres. 2-way froic in MBR & living room and den. Formal dialing room, some hardwood floors & finished basement w/gym. 2.5 car garage & Birmingham Schools. (B51BRI) 248-642-8100



WEST BLOOMFIELD Elegant
3 BR, 2.5 BA detached condo on private cul-de-sac.
Open fir plan, cath ceilings in LR & MBR. W/O W/FR. lib
& wet bar. 2 frpics, whits kit w/center island. DR. 3
decks & MBR ste w/WiC. All appls, 2 car gar & warr. (B54DEE) 248-642-8100 \$407,900



LATHRUP VILLAGE Contemporary
4 bedroom, 2.5 bath brick colonial w/neutral decor,
recently painted, plush carpet and ceramic floors in
foyer and kitchen. Kitchen has island and white
cabinets, FR w/frpic and doorwall to yard, double lot. (DOOLAT) 248-642-8100



PLYMOUTH Tudor Estate On 10- Acres news Spals analiable

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NORTHVILLE Outstanding Ranch Fabulous ranch w/fin W/0 LL on wooded lot almost 2 acres within minutes of downtown. This home boasts 5 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, GR, FR, rec rm, cathedrai ceilings 2 fireplaces, master suite w/skylight, gorgeous bath







SOUTH LYON Great Golf Community 4 BR, 2.5 BA former builders model. Numerou 4 BR, 2.5 BA former builders model. Numerous upgrades. Neutral decor. Crown and chair modding. large MBR, profes landscaped & brick paver & walkway. 3 car heated gar. 1 yr. home warr. Walk to course. (B02ROY) 248-349-5600







NOVI Spectacular Custom Home Beautifully detailed offers 4 spacious BRs. 4.5 BAs Master suite features fireplace. 2 WIC & granite bath gourmet kit w/Viking stove, Sub Zero frig. Walkout LL w/heated floors, sauna & full granite kit. Awesome lot. (B55VAS) 248-349-5600 \$999,900



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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

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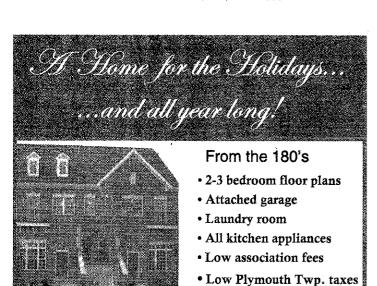
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- Use no more than three colors-one for siding, one for trim and one as an accent color.
- For a tall house, emphasize horizontal elements in the window trim colors. Or, to keep a small house from looking even smaller, choose light colors and keep 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.

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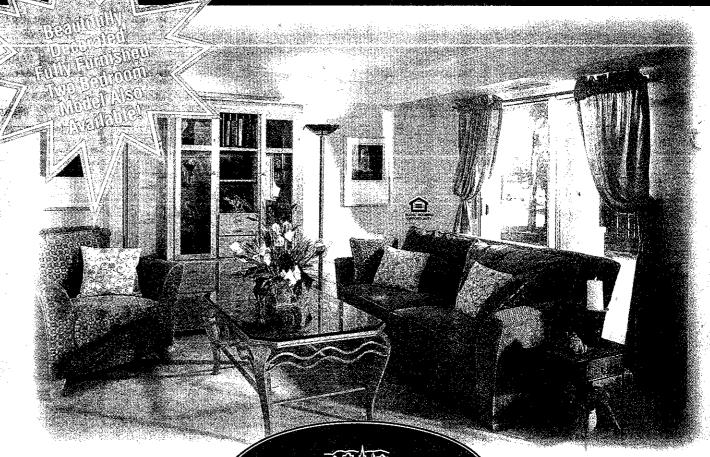


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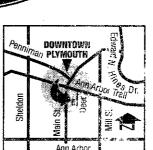
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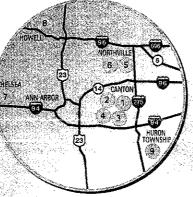
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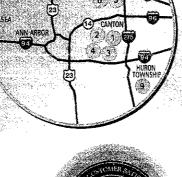
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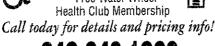


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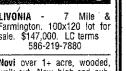
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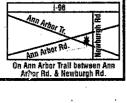
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Small efficiency, appliances c.a., washer/dryer, all utilities No pets. \$500. 248-345-2552 PLYMOUTH LARGE UPPER 1 bed, porch, deck, heat, water stove, fridge, new carpeting \$600 + sec. 734-453-0975.

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Homes For Rent

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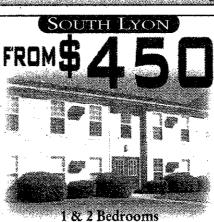
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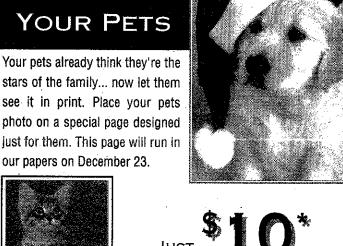
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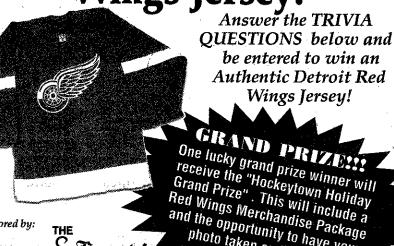


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Confessions Of A One-Time Call Center Employee



WORKWISE Mildred L.

Ever wonder why your computer problems multiply rather than diminish when you contact a call center? You

call, and the tech sends you to Sales. After asking a few questions, you hear the line suddenly drop to a dial tone. Or a tech says to you after a long, involved call, "I'm sorry we couldn't finish everything," then, in subsequent calls, refuses to work with

Andy Tucker, senior technology specialist at Computer Network & Specialists Inc.,

Homewood, Ill., has been on the inside. He describes his daily job responsibilities simply: "To help the customer. When there is a problem with a client's

computer or network, I work on finding a resolution. This means taking the time to listen to what the customer has to say. In my current position, we do want to repair a computer."

Tucker didn't always work for a company like this. After earning the designation of Advanced Electronics Technician, which required two years of study, he worked for another two years in a call center with about 100 other employees. There he learned that his sole purpose was to answer telephones -- nothing more. He was led to believe that he was being hired to repair computers, and while he did troubleshoot in that job, there was no

assurance that repair would be authorized.

'RUNAROUND'

A variety of people helped (or didn't) at this help desk. Many had little or no

experience. The two-week training session covered extremely basic information about

troubleshooting computers, not software or fielding calls. One of the trainees thought this job a good way to break into computers. Most of the techs lacked computer education and training. "It was actually a joke at the call center," he confides, "that if you knew how to turn a computer on and could read a script, you were hired."

'RUNAROUND'

English as a second

Customers contact a call center with the expectation of being helped, but call

employees read scripts and often don't meet the customer on his level of understanding, Tucker observes. When the call doesn't evolve according to the script, the tech can't respond. The current outsourcing trend increases communication problems by introducing

language, rather than first. Add this to the fact that most people who call are nervous and you have one huge communication jungle creating a recipe for frustration --"on both ends," Tucker says.

One significant disconnect (pun intended) involved the call center's plan to refer to itself

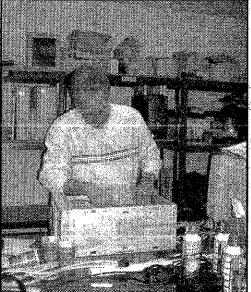
as a "solution center." This made no sense to Tucker, because the center wasn't providing

solutions, just largely giving customers the runaround. "All through class." he continues, "the instructor and managers would say, 'This is very easy. Just follow the troubleshooting forms and you will get through this.' That was how the company was able to hire people without computer training or experience. Here is our form. Just answer the questions and you will get through this." However, he wasn't the only new employee who knew how to troubleshoot computers before they were hired.

Most of the customers calling this particular center were neophytes who'd purchased a

service contract. But some techs used a few tricks, such as keeping a customer on indefinite hold to persuade him to hang up and call again. Other times, they'd just hang up so that another tech would have to deal with them. "Or they'd have the customer do something that would require a call back," Tucker recalls. "Some techs bragged about their ability to blow off calls." Sadly, the techs were doing what they were told, to get the person off the telephone quickly, usually in an average of 15 minutes. Management informed them if their call time exceeded the average. From Tucker's standpoint, this practice only encouraged techs to focus on time rather than providing customer service. Good techs tended to move on because of:

-- frustration at having a customer do something that clearly wouldn't fix the



problem so they could get specific service approved; and

-- anger vented on a tech during a person's umpteenth call-back. Seats stayed warm at Tucker's call center when an employee dropped out, which

"There is a reason," he says, "that on the inside it's called hell desk' instead of help desk."

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Driver/Sales Rhino Seed & Turf Supply is offering a very unique opprotunity to the right person. If you are a self-motivator with excellent people and verbal skills and have a CDL Class A license, this job is for you. This job would be servicing the Metro Detroit area. Salary plus commission and benefit package. Forward resumes to Rhino Seed & Turf Supply PO Box 86, Bradley, MI 49311

DRIVERS **NOW HIRING**

OUR DRIVERS EARNING OVER \$1100.00 A WEEK TRUCK DRIVING

DEDICATED RUN FLATBED DIVISION Home weekends Bonus & Full Benefits

E/SIEW 800-762-3776

Exp. preferred. Chauffeurs, CDL. Good police & driving record! Apply: Ross Towing, Southfield. 248-356-6011, 248-353-5364

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> **Nu-Way Truck Driver** Training Centers 1-800-736-1912

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Drivers-Owner/Operator OWNER OPERATORS DRIVERS, and FLEET OWNERS: \$ Earn up to

91¢ per mile \$ w/fuel surcharge! ★IRP Plate Program ★Fuel Taxes Paid **★Free Permits ★No Up-Front Money** ★No Charge for Satellite Dedicated, Local and Long Haul Runs Availabl

1 yr verifiable exp. Required. Lease Purchase Program Available. Call Joei for more details: 1-800-447-5173 x5413

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Why Wait Until Jan. 1? Start A New Career TODAY! \$36,000 + Benefits

No Experience Necessary 18 Day CDL Training Tuition Assistance From Top Companies Job Placement Available Financial Assist For Just About Anyone (WIA Approved)

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Classifieds! 1-800-579-7355

CONTROL

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers publishes 15 twice-weekly newspapers. Our papers are state and national award-winners

Controller. The Controller reports to the VP/COO and is responsible for all financial operations for the corporation's largest division. Other responsibilities include financial management, financial analysis, budget development/planning for entire division, and management of business office department which includes accounting, payroll, credit and customer service. Person must have strategic mindedness, be a team player working closely with all department heads, and have excellent computer and communication skills. A bachelor's degree and CPA required.

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers offers a competitive salary including participation in executive bonus plan, plus comprehensive benefits plan and generous time-off policy.

Fax: (734) 953-2057 Mail: 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, Mi 48150

Retail Sales Manager

The national award-winning Observer & Eccentric Newspapers is seeking an independent, creative, and driven leader with a proven track record to be our retail sales manager, located in our Birmingham office. The successful candidate must have working knowledge of newspaper retail/classified operations with a minimum of five years sales experience. Minimum 2 years management experience preferred. Excellent communication, leadership, and organizational skills are essential. Bachelor's degree or equivalent in marketing, advertising or related business field required. You must also be able to:

 Maximize financial performance/efficiency of sales department. Play a key role in market research & analysis to ensure marketing & sales

Make sales presentations, recruit, train, & motivate sales staff to be

Salary is commensurate with experience and contains an attractive full benefits package. Please email your resume, cover letter, and salary requirements in confidence to: (preferred) E-mail: employment@oe.homecomm.net The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

36251 Schoolcraft Road Livonia. MI 48150 Fax: (734) 953-2057

Mass include lob cade: RSM

Call 7 Days A Week

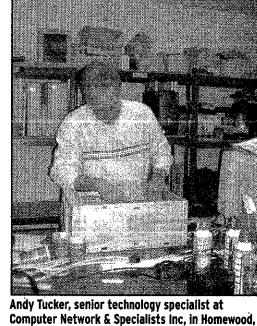
and service Michigan's Western Wayne and Oakland Counties. We are seeking a financial professional to join our company as

Newspaper or publishing industry experience highly desired.

and salary history in confidence to: (preferred) Email: employment@oe.homecomm.net

To apply, please forward resume

Please reference job code: Controller



occurred almost daily, because new techs filled them immediately.

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp comments upon the



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Services Childcare NeededElderly Care & Assistance 5420......Nursing Care & Homes Food/Beverage

5620.

Help Wanted-General 5000 5000

DRYWALLER Full-Time for Canton Apts. Must have own tools & reliable transportation. 734-455-7200 EDM - Wire Polisher/Grinder \$10-12/hr. 2 years automotive

manufacturing experience. 1st or 2nd shift. Suburbs. Call Jen 586-447-9690 Snelling Personnel Services ELECTRICIANS Looking for Apprentice of Journeyman Electrician (m/f).

Cali (248) 640-2322

Environmental Management Company
Is seeking a "Subsurface
Probe Operator" with a CDL B
drivers license for
Environmental Field Activities
Offering Comprehensive Offering Comprehensive Salary and Benefits Package, Applications may be obtained at SQS, Inc., 7522 Baron Drive, Canton, MI 48187. EQE





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elp Wanled-General 5000

Paramedic Certification, ACLS Certification Prior to Hire, and Completion of Conference of Western Wayne County Written and Physical Agility Testina. Job description with complete qualification will be available on the Canton Township website www.canton-mi.org or may be viewed at the Canton Township Human Resources Division, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd. Canton. application form must be origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services. An

Equal Opportunity Employer. **FIREPLACE**

Neèded for installation of prefab fireplaces in new home construction. HVAC & construction exp. helpful but will

FLORAL DESIGNER Exo. a must. Locking for customer service-oriented nigh energy, inspired de-Oall to set up interview. ench test (734) 697-1765 Fax resume: (734) 697-5807

GEAR HOB & SHAPE Tifco Gage & Gear Co., nov in Livonia, is looking for ar experienced operator for new equipment. New location, new opportunities! Days, overtime and benefits. **Experienced only**

need apply at: 33067 Industrial Rd., Phone 734-525-8000, Fax 734-525-8400.

sales/service - will train Call (248) 426-0633.

Geriatric Resource Coordinator

organization is seeking a coordinate enrollment on Patient Assistance pro-Computer skills and ability to multi-task a must. Email resume to:

HEALTH CLUB COUNTER weekends am or om avail. Busy body. (734) 591-1212 HOUSEKEEPERS Full/part-

HVAC FABRICATOR Howell based company looking for skilled and quality minded skills, to add to our shop team.

Full benefits and excellent wages. Call 517-552-8005

Help Wanted-General 5000 **HVAC MECHANIC**

Fox Run has an opening for an HVAC Mechanic. Candidate will be responsible for light maintenance of all heating cooling & ventilation systems for system and equipment failure. Inspects, monitors and evaluates efficiency and safety of systems to ensure trouble

High School diploma or GED plus 1-2 years exp. in HVAC maintenance is required. Must possess current EPA certification to handle refrigerants

To apply, email resume and cover letter to HumResFRV@ ericksonmail.com Fax: (248) 668-8710 or send to: Fox Run Attn: H.R./HVAC, 41100 Fox Run Rd. Novi, MI 48377 EOE

HVAC SERVICE you a top-notch techni ? Join our group of professionals, commercial & res idential experience required. competitive wages, BC/BS & more. Dan Wood Plumbing & Heating 248-348-4242

JANITORIAL WORK Mature individuals part time day/evenings hrs.2-3 days per weeks, Commercial building in Livonia, Plymouth areas. Call 734-522-0983 9am-5pm,

JANITORIAL: Hiring part time AM Cleaners in Livonia & AM Cleaners in Livoling Westland area. Must have a OutSource Partners 1-866-718-7118, ext. 51

JANITORS/CLEANERS \$7.50/hr. Part Time, M-F. eve Plymouth_/Canton 734-283-6934

KENNEL HELP NEEDED Farmington Hills boarding kennet: looking for energetic person and animal lover. Must be able to work weekdays. Call 248-474-2027

LABORER-

Construction Co. With minimum 5 years exp. for sewer & water crew. Building manholes water mains, for industri-al & small subdivisions. 734-524-0519

LANDSCAPE COMPANY NEEDS: **Construction Manager**

Estimator, Designer, Sales, Foreman. Due to recent expansion Crimboli Nursery and Landscape is seeking qualified individuals for long State term employment. desired salary. Call or Fax: 50145 Ford Rd. Canton, MI 48187 (734) 495-1700 Fax: (734) 495-1131

LAW ENFORCEMENT Full time, no exper. Reg.d. Wa train, MrF. age 17-34. Good pay, excellent benefits, educational and travel opportunities

LEAD AND ASSISTANT\ **TEACHERS**

Tutor Time Child Care/ Learning Centers seeks ull and part-time staff for centers in Farmington and West Bloomfield CDA/ ECE and experience in licensed child care center prerred. Competitive salary & enefits. EOE

FARMINGTON HILLS Fax 248-888-0618 E-mail site444@tutortime. WEST BLOOMFIELD

Earn extra \$\$ advertise with O & E 1-800-579-SELL

Help Wanted-General 5000

LICENSED TECHNICIAN HVAC/CONTRACTOR
Requires 5 yrs in the HVAC field: possess current State HVAC mechanical contractors license in: HVAC equip., ductwork refrigeration, unlimited heating services, unlimited refrigeration and AC services; tion; refer to website for complete job posting and an appli-cation www.pccs.k12.mi.us. Plymouth Canton Community Schools, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth.

LOAN OFFICERS Excellent pay plan. 3 locations offering FHA, VA, conventional, non-conforming, etc. High tech office environment with 40 plus investors. Health, Life, Dental and 401K, avail, Experienced only. Call Chris at (734) 432-0404 ext.101.

LOAN OFFICERS Midwest Mortgage Banking Company, looking for in house Loan Officers . Salary & benefits, leads provided. (248) 594-7900

LOAN OFFICERS Commission-based. Executive Mortgage Services in Royal Oak. Fax: (248) 398-3292. LOAN OFFICERS WANTED! Bored of your job & interested in being a loan officer w/a leading mortgage lender* that offers great benefits & superb compensation? Fax a resume

to John, 1-888-752-5536 *We are an equal housing lender. **MACHINE TOOL** Company has openings for the following positions: SHOP SUPERVISOR INSPECTOR SAW OPERATOR •EXPEDITOR/PRODUC TIVITY CONTROL Apply Global CNC Industries 11865 Globe , Livonia, 48150 Fax: 734-464-2225

MAINTENANCE F/T for Westland Apts. Exp. preferred. Must be able to lift

at least 60lbs. (734) 425-0052

Maintenance Person needed for Farming ton apt, community, Mushave minimum of 2 years experience in carpentry plumbing, electrical & HVAC. Must have a valid drivers licease & ability to pass a background check with strong leadership capabilities. Apt. available after 30 days, includes benefits & advancement opportunity.

Call Mike at (248) 476-8080 **MAINTENANCE** PERSON

For large suburban apt. community. Experienced in All aspects of apt maintenance. HVAC cert. & valid drivers icense required You must hava reliable transportation pe on cail. Belietits package includes housing & BC/BS. Call 734-981-6540 or fax

734-844-1537 Excellent opportunity for the right individual to handle all aspects of building mainte-nance for our Troy office building. Must have experi-ence in HVAC, electrical, plumbing and prev. maint. Hands on position with potential for growth. Strong oral communication abilities and tenant relation skills a must. Competative wages with full benefits. Immediate opening. Fax resume and requirement to

734-769-4796. Transwestern Commercial Services.

For the best auto classifications check out the Observer & Eccentric Newspaper. 'lt's ali about RESULTS!

Help Wanied-General 5000

MAINTENANCE Opportunity is Knocking Apartment Community in Northern Oakland County seeks career-minded, goal oriented, experienced Maintenance Supervisor Great Pay (including annual bonuses) Excellent benefits

(Medical, Dental & Optical)
Stock Purchase Programs Paid Vacation, Sick & Personal Days

• Paid Holidays & more...

You Must Have: rior Property Maintenance Experience

Knowledge of HVAC,
Carpentry and Electrical

HVAC Certification

Apply in Person At: Country Ridge Apys. Haggerty Rd. between 13 Mile & 14 Mile (248) 661-1812

MAINTENANCE PERSON

For large suburban apt. munity. Experienced in All aspects of apt. maintenance HVAC certified & vaild driver's license requried. You must have reliable transportation, own tools and be willing to b on call. Benefit package include housing & BC/BS. Call 734-981-6450 or fax 734-844-1537

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR Growing co. looking for quali fied person for full time posi-Must be HVAC certified, at least 2 yrs exp. on large com-munity. Offering good benefits. Pay based on exp. Please fax resume to: 734-397-5188.

MAINTENANCE TECH Maintenance position at apartment community in the Canton area. Basic plumbing, electrical, HVAC & customer service skills required. Previous experience a must. Excellent wage & benefits package, resume to: 734-455-1159.

"It's All About Results' Observer & Eccentric 1-800-579-SELL

Maintenance Technicians

Seeking "experienced Maintenance Technicians to work in our Main-tenance Department Responsibilities will in clude preventative main tenance to production equipment, work from manual and/or electrical schematic, sketches, man-uals, specifications and written/oral instructions perform mechanicai skilis including but not timited to, mechanical, electrical pneumatic, and hydraulic prepare and šet or equipment for production work directly from work orders with minimal directions, perform other related activities assigned and needed handle emergency worl order calls, ability to work flexible work schedules. REQUIREMENTS: Strong electrical and/or mechanical background and equipment troubleshooting experience. High schoo diploma and a minimum of 3 years experience in industrial maintenance required. Some technical training preferred. Re-location assistance will not be provided Samuel Son & Co. Ltd. offers excellen wages and benefits. EEOC All qualified applicants send resume to: Samuel, Son & Co., 20001 Sherwood Ave., Detroit, Mi. 48234. Attn. Human MI. 48234. Attr: Human Resources Department (#100) or email to: H R @ S A M U E L . C O M (MSWord Format), or fax (313) 893-9275 NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE.

Management **Opportunities**

Supermarket retailing is an exciting, competitive, and fast-paced career field. Busch's is seeking career-oriented manage-ment training candidates with the same motivation and competitive edge Store managers coordi competitive edge. nate total store operations lead and mentor thei team, and ensure Busch's high guest service standards. We offer a strong, innovative and growing company, with an exciting wage and benefit package Become a part of a great family tradition. Qualified candidates must possess a bachelor degree or be willing to achieve one. Please e-mail resumes:

jobs@buschs.com, fax to 734-944-4327 or mail to Busch's/HR 565 E. Michigan Ave. line, MI 48176. Visit us at www.buschs.com or call 734-944-4322

Help Wanted-General 5000

MANAGER & TELLER Cashland is seeking manag er and full time teller cand dates for our new Garder City location. Both candi dates must possess excel lent customer service skills money-handling capabilities dependable, flexible, and able to work evenings & weekends. Management experience required for all manager candidates. We offer an excellent work environment, hands-on training health, dental, and vision insurance, Fax resume (734) up an application at 2221 S Wayne Rd., Westland.

MECHANIC

Part-time. Plymouth Equip ment Rental. Call Mark (734) 981-0240

MECHANIC/EXPERIENCED 313-532-5210

MECHANIC/PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE Good wages & benefits. Call (248) 684-9520

MEDICAL OFFICE CLEANING AVAILABLE Part time, 3-4 hours per day, Mon-Fri., Ann Arbor & Canton area. (734) 495-9220

Mortgage Loan Officers

for West Bloomfield office local leads every day Conformina/Non-Conformina Experienced only. Cail Patrici 248-932-4060 ext. 249.

Your Search Ends Here!

No matter what you're looking for, a new home, a new job, a new car, or maybe a contractor to work on that new home...

your search ends here in



1-800-579-SELL "It's All About Results!"

MORTGAGE LOAN OFFICERS Earn up to 80% commit spai Excellent product mix. full training and benefits use Company leads and your efforts to earn in the 6 figures. Fax resume: 248-626-8879 or Call: Anjel Otto 248-626-8877

MOTORCOACH DRIVERS SEMINAR Dec. 8th & 9th, 6pm Sharp! Indian Trails Motorcoach offers:

 Annual average earnings of \$30,000+ •No Experience Required •Experienced Drivers Welcome •Paid Training

 Paid Health Insurance
 401(k) Retirement with Company Contributions
•Paid Holidays& Vacations •Must be 24 yrs. (min). 28685 Smith Rd., Romulus, MI (E. from Middlebelt, N. of

NAIL TECH My nail tech is moving and the clientele is waiting. Great pay. Livonia/ waiting. Great pay. Livonia/ Westland area. 248-349-0256

NAIL TECHNICIAN Full or part time for Birmingham Nail Salon. Call 248-647-2122

News America Marketing Is looking for part time Ad Change Reps to install advertising in local grocery stores in the Detroit area. Steady flexible hours, \$8.00 per hou Valid driver's license and reli able transportation required. No experience necessary – will train. Call 1-800-866-3344 PIT PERSON Lube tech; must

before, Also licensed mechan ic wanted (734) 367-6457 PLATERS EXPERIENCED Plating Co. Looking for exp. platers. Copper, E. Nickel, Silver and Hard Chrome. Exc.

pay, benefits, retirement pack-age, hiring bonus paid to aualified applicants. resume to 313-341-0315 or call 313-341-4791 for appt Tues.-Thurs., 1-3pm only. PLUMBER Residential/Commercial

Service Plumber with min. 2 yrs. exp. Apply on Mondays from 8-6 at: 30633 Schoolcraft in Livonia PLUMBING-DRAIN CLEANING

Join our group of profession-als, exp., only. Competitive wages, BC/BS & more. Dan Wood Plumbing & Heating 248-348-4242

Help Wanted-General 5000 Help Wanted-General 5000

PRE-SCHOOL **INSTRUCTOR**

Canton Township is accepting applications for Pre-School Instructor. \$8.24-\$11.33 per hr. Must be available to work Wednesdays from 8:00am-3:00pm and Saturdays from 9:00am-12:00pm High school 9:00am-12:00pm. High schoo graduate or equivalent. Min. 2-3 yrs. of experience working in related field. Ability to work days, evenings, weekends, and holidays, or flexible schedule. Applications available at the Canton Township Humar Resources Division, 1150 S Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188. An application form is also available on the

www.canton-mi.org. All applicants must complete a Canton Township application form in its entirety and the form must be received by the Canton Township Human Resources Division prior to 4:00 p.m. December 22, 2004 Faxed applications will not be accepted. The Charter Township of Canton does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

PRESCHOOL TEACHER for Christian Preschool, Begin Jan. 3, 2005. This school has an exc. reputation and a strong program for 3 & 4 yr. olds. Applicants must have educa-tion & exp. in early childhood. Call First Presbyterian Church, Northville 248-349-0911

Promo reps ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING! 37 Promo reps needed for our metro area locations. No experience needed. Complete training & benefits. \$400-\$1200 weekly.

(248) 304-1234 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CO. seeks person to prepare apartments for move-ins. Should have or be interested in learning basic plumbing, carpentry, painting and drywall skills. Must be able to work independently. Call Mgr. Tim at 248-624-1388 or fax

resume and cover letter to 248-624-7674. Real Estate Agent Busy Re/Max mega agent needs licensed agent to be trained into proven system and work overfloow of leads. Best pay structure in industry Fax resume to 248-960-7878

RESTAURANT IN FERNDALE OPENING SOON
Now hiring: Servers, Cooks &
Dishwashers. For inquiries (248) 399-5150

RETAIL SALES

organized & experienced

Please send resumes to

Observer & Eccentric

Newspapers Box #1013

Livonia, MI 48150

ROUTE SALES & SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

DETROIT, MI
Safety Kleen is looking for a
Route Sales & Service Rep. to
operate an existing route. This
multifunctional role will entail

the servicing of solvent and water-based parts cleaners in

the Automotive and Industrial Markets. It also includes pick-ing up waste material from

ing customer base, while

adding products and related

services, as well as, pros-

A High School diploma or

GED is required. Two-to-three years route experience would

communication skills, attention to detail and the

attainment of commercial driver's license are also

We offer great pay and

benefits. To apply, please fax resumes to:

734-946-3064, EOE

SCHEDULER - Experience

required for a growing home care agency. Exc. wages & benefits. 1-800-968-8195

Security Guard

Experienced security guard to

patrol and secure residential construction project in Rochester Hills. Flexible evening

hours – must work weekends

Must be responsible with

Drug testing required. Fax resume to: 248-865-1630

Attention LPierce

reliable transportation

must provide references.

Excellent

pecting for new accounts.

beneficial.

necessary:

Good salary & benefits.

WORK:

Upscale

Days, part-time, Experience preferred, Call for details: areas. 7345 578-5920 RETAIL SALES

ig i i a great place to We have full & part time shifts available. Contact Mary at The Better Health TAILOR- Experience necessary, needed for clothing store. Store at 248-471-9600

Call Chad 734-453-0790 RETAIL STORE MANAGER TEACHER ASSISTANT independent Bloomfield Montessori Pre Birmingham area shop school. Good pay, flexible hrs. Exp. needed. 248-646-5770 Home accessories & flo rais. Must be committed

TEACHER ASSISTANT Bloomfield Montessori Preschool. Good pay, flexible hrs. Exp. needed. 248-646-5770

Mornings only. EXPERIENCE A MUST. Call 248-477-8020 TEACHERS&TEACHERS ASSISTANT

TELEMARKETERS \$8.50/hr + bonuses. Mon-Sat. 2pm-8pm. Call: 734-402-2515 Ask for Aaron .

dry cleaners, auto body shops and photography operations. Your responsibilities will include maintaining the exist-TILE TECHNICIAN Virginia Tile Co. in Farmington Hills has a full-time position open. Candidates must be energetic & detail-oriented. This position entails sort-

seeking an experienced Accounts Payable Clerk to ing of materials, UPS shipping & receiving responsibilities. Hi-lo exp. a plus. Benefits, profit sharing & 401K. Cali: HR Manager: (248) 476-7850, ext. 2264 or fax resume: (248) 476-3828 or equivalent, have at least three (3) years accounts payable experience (high voltion of computer systems accuracy and excellent com munication skills (verbal and written) required. We offer competitive wages and excellent benefits! Send/Fax your TITLE COMPANY

looking for: Manager and Experienced

Exc. pay. & benefits. Fax resume: (248) 427-0057 or call: (248) 737-7290 TRAVEL AGENT

preferred. Fax resume to (734) 971-2951 or call Jan at (734) 971-0655. TRUCK DRIVER

type trailer. Fax resume to (734) 722-8130 or call Jack, (734) 722-3800

Bundle MIKIN Haulers

Needed Saturday night and Thursday during the day to deliver the Observer Newspapers to carriers in Wayne County.

If interested please call 734-591-0500

Help Wanted-General 5000

VENDING

MACHINE

MECHANIC

ivonia firm seeks ar

organized, efficient per-

son to do repairs at cus

require working knowl-edge in controls, wiring,

relays, motors & elec-

tronics. You must have a

good driving record and physical condition to

assist on installs. Excell

ent pay, full benefits

Email resume to:

servicefirm1@vahoo.com

or fax to 734-427-8370.

VINYL FLOOR INSTALLER

Experienced vinyl floor installers needed for builder

and residential customers

or e-mail : info@riemerfloors.com

WAREHOUSE

\$10 PER HOUR

Retail furniture chain has

full time positions. Apply at

30411 Schoolcraft Rd

Livonia, MI 48150

Fax (734) 525-4707

WAREHOUSE 2nd SHIFT

Seeking to fill 5 position pull, pack & ship orders

benefits after 90 days

Union membership afte

60 days. Pre-employment testing including drug screen required. Apply in

person on Wed., Dec 8

The Harvard Drug Group

Allied Commerce Center

Corner of Plymouth &

Merriman

31778 Enterprise Drive, Livonia

WAREHOUSE

PART TIME

Need a good permanent par time job with a fixed weekly

openings for blue jean jobs in

our clean, modern warehouse

Permanent positions in order selecting and stocking for

persons in good physical condition. Moderate lifting

required. Must pass physical

and drug screen. \$10/hr. for qualified individuals.

Sun. thru Thur, 7pm-1am

Mon., Tue., Thur., Fri.

Or call 248-380-3601

ACCOUNTANT

Full-time accounting position

include, but are not limited to

Recording and maintaining accounting records, perform-

ing financial calculations

knowledge for compliance with federal and state proce-

dures and regulations, analy sis, reconciliation and verifi-cation of business records

and transactions for accuracy compilation of statistics

compilation of statistica reports as required, develop

maintain & analyze budgets and related reports. Position

requires flexibility and willing ness to help where needed

problem-solving skills, verba and written communication

and teamwork skins Candidate should have fully

developed computer skills, including accounting and MS Office software, plus ability to learn quickly. Competitive pay

Send resume to: R. Britten. 15000 W. 10 Mile Rd., Oak

Park, MI 48237. Or fax to: 248/967.0755

ACCOUNTS

PAYABLE CLERK

Full_time. FOURMIDABLE is

work in the financial area of its

corporate office in Farmingtor

Hills, Mi. High school diploma

ume), competency in utiliza

resume and salary history to

FOURMIDABLE

P.O. Box 9053

Farmington Hills, MI

48333-9053

Attn: Recruite:

Fax: 248-488-5536

or E-mail:

recruiter@fourmidable.com

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLES

CLERK

Non-profit organization located in the Metropolitan Detroi

area has an opening for an

Account Receivables Clerk. This position is responsible

for preparing and processing billings, maintaining files and following up on unpaid invoic-

es. Associates Degree in Accounting preferred with

good communication, and

and good benefits

seeking

teamwork

9:30am-5pm Send resume to

HR Department

Novi, W

./mmediate

schedule?

2:30-4:30pm:

company van.

tomer locations.

SERVICE PARTS PICKER/PACKER

Full-time Temporary Position Service Parts Picker/Packer needed for 3 to 4 months to pick and pack parts in busy service parts department of manufacturing firm for delivery to customers. Must be high school grad with good math skills and basic computer knowledge. Send resume to:

Diamond Systems
Attn: H.R. Dept.
23400 Haggerty Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
www.dlamondsystem.com Equal Opportunity Employer SET-UP/DISPLAY

new opportunity. Company training Fast Promotions Must be neat & willing to learn. \$400/wk. Call ASAP.

Holiday Help- possible permanent position. (734) 641-4700 Material is cut and delivered to job site. Must have comp & liability insurance. Call Stev McNamara at Riemer Floors Inc.: 248-335-3500, Ext. 3084 to your



SHOWROOM CONSULTANT CORT Furniture Rental has an opening for a Showroom Consultant in Novi location. Candidate will have at least 1 year of retail/customer service experience, self-motivated, organized and multi-tasking. CORT offers competitive base salary in the mid \$20k range plan, flexible benefits, 401(K) educational expense reim-bursement and employee discount Email confidential resume AND salary requirement to

jweihs-ferguson@cort1.com or call (734) 262-0112 EEO/AAP/M/F/D/V •

SNOW PLOW DRIVERS With experience, CDL a plus, Guaranteed many hours when it snows! (734) 459-0655 SNOW PLOW DRIVERS Snow Busters Snow Removal, is looking for exp. drivers with

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SNOWPLOW DRIVERS \$75-in & up! Musi have own truck w/plow. Quick pay.

Must tailor Men's & Women's.

TEACHER For pre-school in Farmington Mature & responsible.

Sought for Farmington YMCA early childhood center. Call Mary Beth 248-553-1909

Processor & Closer in purchases and refinance.

Exp. corporate agent, hourly wage plus bonus. SABRE exp.

Exp. in moving salvage trucks & equipment on a Lowboy

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CUSTOMER SERVICE Full time person needed for Romulus base home improvement company. Looking for an energetic personality to answer a multi-line phone system, as well as make out-going quality control calls. Professional phone ethics & attention to detail a must. Sales experience preferred but not required. Please call Angela at: (734) 326-2074. **CUSTOMER SERVICE REP**

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Must have a high school diploma or valid equivalency certificate.

for a valid-industrial Truck Driving Permit for operation of a forklift.

BUILDING MECHANIC III \$45.112.20 TO \$46.779.20 (subject to union negotiations). Overtime occasionally available. Have five (5) years full-time paid experience within the last ten (10) years in the building maintenance and heating and cooling trades performing building mechanic and heating and cooling work. A two-year Associate's Degree in Applied Science specializing in heating and cooling may be counted towards the five (5) year full-time paid work experience requirement; and possess and maintain a valid driver's license and have an acceptable driving record; and must have or be eligible

BUILDING MECHANIC IV

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available. Have five (5) years full-time paid experience in the heating and air

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industrial work within the last ten (10) years; and possess and maintain a valid

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CODE ENFORCER OFFICER \$39,873.60 TO \$44,387.20 (subject to union negotiations). Possess and maintain a valid driver's license; and have either: One (1) year full-time, paid experience in inspection work, dealing with codes and/or law enforcement, OR completion of at least (20) hours in law enforcement or psychology at an accredited college or university. Applicants must have the ability to meet and deal effectively with the public and to be able to write clear, concise reports. It is also desirable that applicants have mathematical ability and mechanical aptitude. PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO CANDIDATES WHO ARE QUALIFIED TO BE REGISTERED AS A

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> FRONT DESK RECEPTIONIST

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5110

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Newspaper is looking for a driven, resultsoriented sales professional to sell advertising to community retail businesses. This position is based in our Birmingham office. The ideal candidate will have a bachelor's degree or equivalent work experience with at least 2 years of outside sales experience (media experience preferred). Strong background in selling advertising for niche publications preferred. Proven track record of prospecting new business also desired. Must have own transportation. We offer a great work environment plus excellent benefits.

> Please submit resume to: (preferred)

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers 36251 Schoolcraft Rd, Livonia, MI 48150 fax: 734-953-2057

Please reference job code: AE

5120 Help Wanted-Sales

EXPERIENCED SALES REPS for rapidly expanding local branch of national ice cream & food service distributor. Company car, established & new accounts. Please be familiar with the Metro Detroit area call 313-838-7277 x 26 INSIDE SALES

Award winning Detroit Jewish News located in Southfield is looking for driven, result-oriented sales reps, full time for our expanding publication. Duties include prospecting for new business as well as servicing existing customers. We offer a competitive pay and benefit package. If you enjoy a fast paced fun work envi-

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Novi based reseller industrial electronics is looking for a highly quality inside Sales Person to handle telephone sales and support for customers located throughout the USA. This is an excellent opportunity for a bright, conscientious and friendly person in a small (non-smoking) office environment. Please send your resume to: Greg Rathsburg at PO Box 505, Novi, MI 48376 or at: Mail@Rathsburg.com Inside Sales w/Telemarketing

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Help Wanted-Sales 5120

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Position Wanted

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5640

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6000 Personals 6280 Car Pools 6020 Happy Ads 6040 Graduations 6300 Cards Of Thanks 6060 Mother's Day 6320 in Memoriam

6080 Father's Day 6340 Death Notices 6100 Holiday Potpourr 6360 Lost & Found 6120 Sweetest Day 6380 Tickets 6140 Valentine's day 6480 Transportation/Travel 6420 Health, Nutrition, Weight Los

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Antiques/Collectibles 7020

Market Place

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7060

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This Classification continues in Section F

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*Note that we are not open for exhibition on Monday FREE PARKING, WEDNESDAY EVENING EXHIBITION FREE VALET PARKING

•ALL SALE DATES

Thursday, December 9th9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m

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FINE ART: PAINTINGS BY IVAN G. OLINSKY, FRANCIS JOHN WYBURD, KAREL APPEL, ZOLTAN SEPESHY, ALBERT LYNCH, FRANCESCO COLEMAN, LOUISE NEVELSON, CHARLES WALTENSPERGER, LEONARD. REEDY, NICOLA SIMBARI, TARKAY, & OTHERS; PAUL KLEE INK SKETCH.

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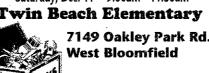
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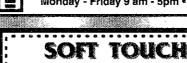
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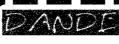
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Advertising Feature

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 5, 2004

GAREPOR



Anne Fracassa

By Anne Fracassa **Avanti NewsFeatures**

Everywhere I traveled this week, I got noticed. Or should I say the 2004 Subaru Baja Turbo got

From northern Michigan to the local Meijer, people would ask, "What kind of car is that?" Then would proceed to check out the exterior and interior of the Baja. Most people were impressed.

I was most impressed with its looks. The exterior of the Baja looks more like a passenger car. In the rear, of course, is what amounts to a flat bed.

But even though this car/truck crossover vehicle is a bit unique and radical, it's the sportiest vehicle out there on the highways and byways.

And did I mention that it's a blast to drive? Power is taken care of by a dual overhead cam 210horsepower 2.5-liter intercooler and turbocharged boxer four-cylinder engine that gets its technology from the 2004 Impreza WRX high-performance sports car.

Out in front is a hood scoop that delivers outside air to the engine-mounted intercooler. This four-cylinder would actually outperform a six-cylinder engine in a heartbeat, mostly based on its merging and passing performance both on the highway and in city driving. The engine is definitely a strong performer and never let me down in any situation.

Again, the exterior of the Baja is really sporty. From its recessed fog lamps to its aggressive front treatment and grille, the Baja really makes a statement about what this crossover is all about.

The great thing about the Baja, too, is its versatility. Depending on exactly what you need for your active lifestyle, the Baja can be switched around to provide as much as 90 inches -- seven and a half feet -- of pickup bed to carry even the longest of items.

All you have to do is fold the rear seatback down, then lower the Switchback door between the cargo bed and interior section and you've got all the room in the world to work with.

There's a bed liner back there as well to protect your



2004 Subaru Baja Turbo is impressive

investment.

We took the Baja to a rural Sears store up north to purchase one of those newfangled leaf vacuum units that looks like a lawnmower and can mulch about eight bags' worth of leaves into one. The box was larger than life, but it fit back there snugly.

You can also opt for a Subaru accessory bed extender. That can extend the normal flatbed to 58 inches. You can put anything your heart desires in the regular bed, including mountain bikes or any other outdoor equipment vou see fit to throw back there. There are four tie-down hooks that can keep it all secure as well.

And if you're really a traveler, Subaru offers attachments for the roof rails and cross bars that can allow you to carry kayaks, snowboards, skis and bicycles. Pretty rugged and very, very versatile machine.

Slip inside the Baja and you'll find nothing that resembles a truck in any way, shape of form. The interior is outfitted and has the comfort features of a fine sport sedan. All Baja models are four-passenger vehicles, by the way.

In the rear, your passengers will be treated to major comfort features that you won't find in some of the other utility-oriented vehicles out there. Stuff like darkened glass, three-point safety belts, a rear-seat console box and cupholders.

You want a little luxury? Try out the leather-trimmed upholstery, six-way power driver's seat, 100-watt AM/FM stereo with six-disc CD changer, leather-wrapped steering wheel, leather-wrapped shifter, air conditioning, power tilt and retractable moon roof, power windows, mirrors and door locks, cruise control, outside temperature gaugé and remote keyless entry system. And all that is standard equipment.

The Baja Turbo also is equipped with full-time allwheel-drive. There are 8.4 inches of ground clearance, allowing Baja to go where it wants. There are also fourwheel disc brakes with four-channel/four-sensor anti-lock brakes.

You want even more fun? The Baja is equipped with a Sportshift feature. That allows you to move the shifter to the right of the gated transmission panel and you're on your way to manual gear shifting. All you have to do is move the shifter forward to upshift and rearward to

Safety features are all there, including dual front airbags, front seatbelts with pretensioners, force limiters and height-adjustable anchors and three-point safety belts for all positions.

Sounds like a pretty decent vehicle, huh? You bet. And if you buy one, be sure to be prepared for questions galore. Go see it, bet you'll like it.

Write Anne Fracassa at avanti1054@aol.com.

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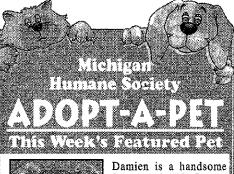


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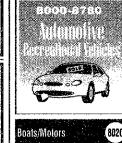
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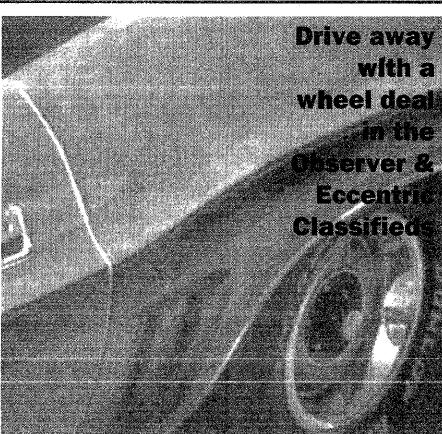
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Vehicle	Stock	Was	NOW
04 CIVIC LX COUPE Automatic, pwr windows, pwr focks	#H32707	\$16,450	\$13,38 8
04 CIVIC EX COUPE Automatic, ABS brakes, moonroof	#H31510	\$18,150	\$14,93 9
04 CIVIC EX COUPE Automatic, ABS brakes, moonroof	#H32634	\$18,150	\$14,93 9
04 ACCORD EX SEDAN Automatic, ABS brakes, moonroof	#H32466	\$22,990	\$18,749
04 CRV LX 4WD Power windows, power door locks	#H32372	\$19,890	\$17,72 4
04 ELEMENT EX 4WD, auto, demo, running brds, roof rack & more	#H31825	\$23,629	\$20,342
04 ODYSSEY EX Rr entertainment center, ABS brakes & more	#H31882	\$24,834	\$23,230

Power windows, power door locks, CD player and more! (MODEL CM554552W)



4WD, power windows, power door locks and more!! (MODEL RD7744PW)

2004 CRV LX



*Destination, documentation and plates extra. **Lease plus tax. 12,000 miles per year. Due at signing Accord \$2425, CRV \$3800. \$0 security deposit. Expires 12-15-04.

Mon & Thurs 8:30-9:00 Tues, Wed, Fri 8:30-6:00

Saturday 10:00-4:00 2575 S. State, Ann Arbor



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- an American REVOLUTION

SALES HOURS: MON. & THURS. 8:30 A.M. - 9 P.M.;

TUE., WED., FRI. 8:30 A.M. - 6 P.M.



JACK





3.9 DOHC V8, five speed automatic transmission, air, heated/cooled front seats, moonroof, sport tuned suspension, message center, ext. rear park assist.. Stock #41904. WAS \$45,445



2.3L engine, automatic overdrive transmission, air conditioning, AM/FM CD, fog lamps, power mirrors, roof rackleather steering wheel. Stock #50570; WAS \$22,125

LOW AS 24 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL



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 \$25,790

LOW AS 124 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL

Due on Delivery

Extra For Your Trade

EXPIRES 12-17-04

4.2 EFI engine, four speed automatic trans, dual zone air conditioning, overhead console, dual sliding doors, AM/FM stereo cassette. Stock #41554. WAS \$28,932



3.0L V6, automatic transmission, air conditioning, power driver's seat, leather ABS brakes, power heated mirrors. Stock #50054, #45, \$25,805 AS LOW A SIAPLAN PRE-PAY LEASE



AS LOW A S | 36 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL



5.4L engine, four speed automatic transmission, air conditioning, leather seats, heavy duty trailer tow, climate controlled seats. Stock #40184. WAS \$54,020



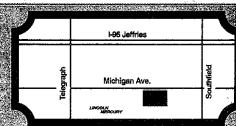
4.6 V8, automate transmission, Class 3 trailer tow package, A six disc compact disc, air conditioning with dual zone controls. Stock #41166. WAS \$44.270



4 6 V8, automatic transmission, dual zone climate control, traction assist, dual media audio, electronic mirrors/compass group.

Stock #41790.

*Plus tax, title, license & destination. Rebates computed in price. Includes retiree bonus rebate for customers terminating curedit plus tax, title, acquisition fee. + Trade ins '95 or newer, less than 100,000 mi. Limit 1 per customer. †† Must cert s are 10.500 miles/yr. (Navigator 12,000 miles/yr. With approved ble: Must take delivery from dealer stock. Expires 12/17/04.







wheel, speed control, air conditioning, 16" alloy

wheels 20 DOHC engine, automatic trans, P205/50R16 BSW tres, heater package, heated seats, power moonroof eats power reated mirrors, power moonroof
[\$ 1 0 C K # 5 1 1 3 4]

eamideamiv.ea

– NOW –

3.5.4 ratio reg aute, electronic grp, rightleft hand pwr dr, aux alc tri zone jeso auto, 24cms. 4.2. OHV EFF erg. 4 spd auto old trans, P28560F18 BSW all season, ASP III identified, reg ASP identified; Etablice crossbars, value grp IIII, perimeter amil-hast, hometink, active selety plig I & III, reverse sensing sys, memory plig, pwr. heated signal mirrors, memory action pedig, their memoryseas, family erit center, safety canopy wiside air bags.



2005 Focus SE

NOW -

[STOCK #50581]

Was \$22,605 - NOW ir, depower rstrt sys-pass a bag, floor mats, dual ower mirror, 3.0L 2V 6-cylinder flex fuel engine, utomatic overdrive, P215/60RX16 all season tire, E preferred equipment package, 5-spoke ainted alum wheels, rear spoiler, power driver eat with lumbar, 60/40 split/fold rear seat, 5-pass wifloor console floor shift, AM/FM stereo/CD player.

[STOCK #50458]



True blue clearcoat, premium flint premium cloth captain's chair preferred equipment ploc 507A, XLT series, 5/4L EFI V8, electronic 4-speed automatic overdrive, iP256/70RX-17 GWI all-terrain, 3.55 ratio limited slip axle, 7200# GWWR pkg, tow & go, discount, electronic shift-on fly, sliding rear window, trailer tow pkg, 17" mach alum whis wipaint accents:

[STOCK #5135 Was \$33,925

-93Juo. \$1884 DE AMOUNT PUE \$361.69 AMOUNT DUE

for leases expiring January 1, 2005 through April 30, 2005



— NOW ---

roof side rails, duratec 23-2.3L |4 eng. 4 sed auto old trans, P225/75R15 als bsw tires, oof rack wilhoriz crossbars, 15" alum wheels, etractable cargo cover, conv grp, floor matsront and rear, speed control, perimeter alarm. [STOCK #50444]



NOW -

birch oc. graphite doth sport birts, order code XLT V6, advance trac w/rsc, air cond, radio w/ CD, 4.00 SOHC V6 flex fuel eng, 5-spd auto o/ s. P235/70R16 a/s owl tres, 3.55 ratio reg axle.



[STOCK #51620]



On your trade-in! With the purchase or lease of a new vehicle. 1995 or newer, less than 100,000 miles. All prior sales excluded. Good through 12/31/04.

ONE PER CUSTOMER



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