



Melting moments
Share fondue with a group, or your special someone, at The Melting Pot.

INSERTED SECTION
Also see today's Taste section featuring many fondue recipes you can make at home.

SECTION D



Yule tools
From homeowner basics to the latest in laser technology, tools to fill the wish list.

SECTION B

Memo

Holiday closings

Canton Township offices will be closed on Friday, Dec. 24, and Monday, Dec. 27, for the Christmas holidays. For New Year's, offices will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 30, and Friday, Dec. 31, except for the treasurer's office which will be open on Thursday, Dec. 30, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. to accept property tax payments.

Summit on the Park will be open from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 24. It will be closed on Saturday, Dec. 25. On New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, Friday, Dec. 31, and Saturday, Jan. 1, Summit on the Park will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Canton Public Library will be closed Friday through Sunday, Dec. 24, 25 and 26, and Friday and Saturday, Dec. 31, and Jan. 1. It will resume normal hours on Sunday, Jan. 2.

Swim, Gym, Film

Bring out the entire family and celebrate the New Year from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, at Summit on the Park. The aquatic center will be open from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. for all kinds of swimming and water activities.

Following the swimming, a movie will be shown, and popcorn and pop will be on sale.

Feel free to bring blankets, cushions and pillows to sit on - no chairs or outside food and beverages please.

Winter help

Plato's Coney Island (42405 Ford) is accepting donations of "gently used" blankets, coats and other winter clothing for needy families this holiday season.

It will distribute whatever is collected to families in Detroit, in conjunction with the Detroit Police Department.

For those interested in helping, drop off donations in the box at the back of the restaurant through Christmas day.

Both children and adult sizes will be accepted.

There is also a drop-off box at Plato's Farmington location (35227 Grand River).

For more information, call (734) 981-7301.

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**CANTON
Observer**



THURSDAY

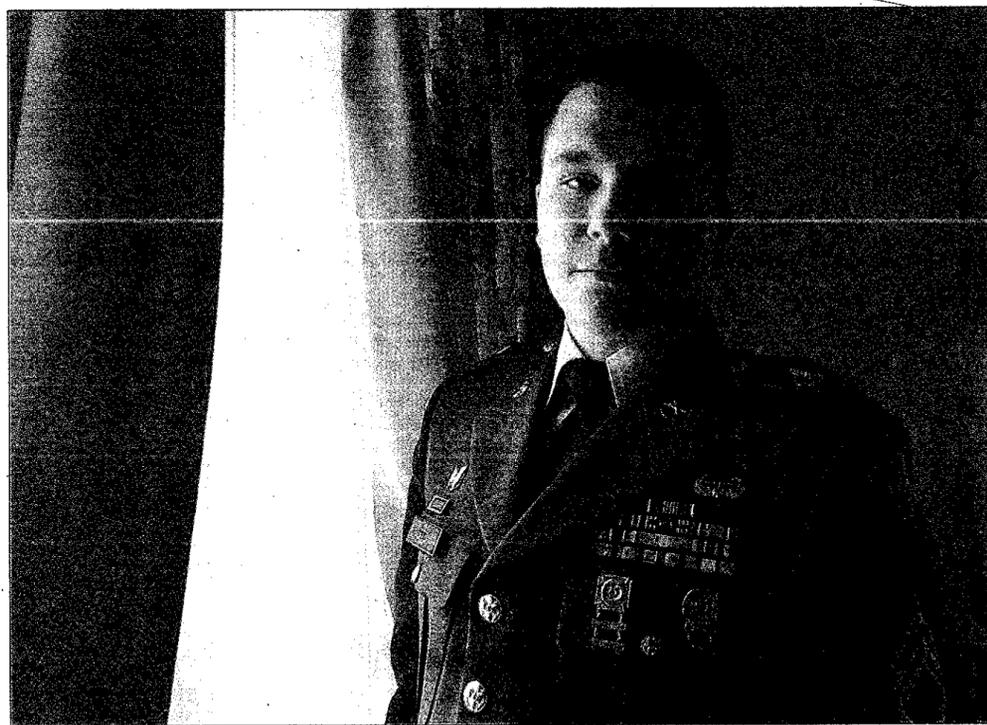
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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Army Staff Sgt. Johnathan Roe is home for the holidays after a year's service in Iraq. He will be heading back in March or April.

**New test
draws
mixed
reviews**

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

The decision by state lawmakers to scrap Michigan's high school MEAP test in favor of a new set of exams for 11th-graders — that will also serve as a college admission standard — is getting mixed reviews from Plymouth-Canton Schools staffers, parents and students.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm is expected to sign the bills that will expel the MEAP test, designed to measure the effectiveness of a school district's curriculum, and replace it with a college entrance test that will be an indicator of a student's success.

Mike Bender, Plymouth-Canton's director of secondary education, said the Michigan Merit Exam is a positive move, and will fit with compliance of the federal No Child Left Behind act.

"I think there will be some type of adjustment period to get used to it, and we'll need to do some aligning of our curriculum to teach what is expected on the Michigan Merit Exam," said Bender. "According to the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals, the new test lines up favorably with state standards and benchmarks."

"I think students will find it more appealing because the test can be used by college admissions when they submit an application for college, and it will also be considered for the merit award," added Bender. "For those who will enter the workforce, it will give them feedback on readiness."

The new high school test will be used to determine qualifiers of the \$2,500 merit scholarships awarded to students to help pay for college tuition.

At Salem High School, English teacher

PLEASE SEE TEST, A5

Home for the holidays

Local soldier counts the days until 2nd Iraq tour

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

Michelle Roe couldn't have asked for a better Christmas gift. The Canton woman received all her wishes a little early with the sudden visit of her son, 27-year-old Johnathan Roe, earlier this week.

Johnathan, a staff sergeant with the U.S. Army, spent a year in Iraq, and has recently been stationed at Ft. Carson in Colorado Springs, Co., awaiting his orders to return to the war-torn country.

This week he took the opportunity to make a short visit home to see his parents, Michelle and Greg, and his 4-year-old son Kaleb, who the couple have been watching since Johnathan got his papers telling him he was



Roe sits atop a military vehicle during a patrol in Iraq earlier this year.

headed for Iraq.

Johnathan, a 1996 graduate of Belleville High School, joined the Army a year after graduation. He vividly remembers the day he received his orders on Valentine's Day, 2003. He would be going over for a year. The news wasn't something he was

unprepared for, however. The possibility of combat is always in the back of a soldier's mind, he says.

"I knew that was part of the deal when I signed up. If something happened, I was willing to go," said Roe,

PLEASE SEE SOLDIER, A5

Library 'perks' up with new café

BY JACK GLADDEN
STAFF WRITER

If you need an espresso while trying to break "The Da Vinci Code," a doughnut or danish while reading about "The Five People You Meet in Heaven," or if you're a Canton township employee who didn't have time to grab a cup of coffee on your way to work, welcome to The Library Cafe.

The cafe opened Monday at, of all places, the Canton Public Library. It's just inside the main doors and to the left of the lobby. And it's been a vision of library board chairman James Gillig for years.

The small cafe, which is run by the Summit Gourmet, is managed by Patrick O'Donohue with help from other staff members of Summit Gourmet. It's

been in the planning stages for several months.

"I love the ambiance," said Jean Tabor, library director. "It's almost like you're sitting outside."

And O'Donohue, who's worked at the smaller cafe inside the lobby of the Summit Aquatics Center and the larger Summit Banquet Center, was also excited about the new project.

"It's a new concept for us," he said. "It's exciting. It's fun to work here."

The cafe features a variety of items from salads made to order to sandwiches, soup, sweet rolls and muffins, various coffees, energy drinks, fountain sodas and even O'Donohue's homemade hummus.

Tentative hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through

Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday and noon to 5 p.m.
Sunday.

"We wanted to be open an hour before the library opens," Tabor said. "We hope to catch township people coming to work or people dropping off books on their way to work."

In addition to the food and drinks, the cafe will have a rack with magazines and daily newspapers. Laptop computer users with wireless capability can also work on their computers in the cafe now that the library has gone wireless.

A large, flat-screen television is due to be installed on Friday.

"It will basically be set to CNN," Tabor said. "But it's also a computer so we can display messages on it."

And a red neon sign will be



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Library Cafe manager Patrick O'Donohue catches up on some work Monday, the cafe's first day of business.

installed in the front window and will be lit when the cafe is open. Yes, you can take food and drinks from the cafe into the library — at least for now.

"We just ask people to be careful," Tabor said. "We'll monitor the situation and if it

becomes a problem we'll stop it."

Tabor said only three other libraries in the area — Farmington, Southfield and Troy — have similar cafes.

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

Canton board OKs Target expansion

BY JACK GLADDEN
STAFF WRITER

An expanded Target store on Ford Road was approved by the Canton Board of Trustees Tuesday night.

The 14,900-square-foot addition will bring the south end of the store about 10 feet closer to Ford Road.

While that may not seem particularly significant to the average shopper, Canton Supervisor Tom Yack says there's a bit more to it than meets the eye.

"A few years ago Canton had

some severe setback requirements from major roads," he said. "Sometimes as much as 80 feet. People now understand that if you want to make Ford Road more friendly you need to move the structures closer to the road and have parking behind or to the side."

Since the store is located in a Central Business District Overlay, the revised setback is allowed.

When the addition is constructed on the south wall facing Ford, which is now a solid wall, it will have windows added that can be used for displays or signs.

Jim Tucker, the senior design project manager for Target, said the company had worked closely with the planning commission on the site plan.

"We appreciated the work the planning commission did," he said. "We worked through the issues with them and I think we have a better project because of that."

Tucker also told the board that contrary to what he had implied earlier, the store will not get a Starbucks inside. He said some

PLEASE SEE TARGET, A5

Coming Sunday in your Canton Observer

Prescription savings

Medicare card helps seniors save on drugs. See Sunday's Health section.



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LAJOY LISTENS

State Rep. Phil LaJoy (R-Canton) will be at McCoy's Grill and Ice Cream Parlor in Belleville to meet with constituents on Monday Dec. 20, from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. He will answer questions and discuss current legislative issues with local residents. No appointment is needed.

The restaurant is located at 333 Industrial Park Drive in Belleville. Residents can call (866) 525-6921 for more information. LaJoy's office hours have been canceled for Monday, Dec. 27.

CONGRATS!

Molly Noonan of Chicago, IL, formerly of Canton, has received her Master's Degree in Journalism from Northwestern University. She has accepted a position as an Editorial Assistant with *Elle Girl* magazine in New York City. Molly is a 1998 graduate of Canton High School.

YOUTH CONCERT

The Celebration Youth Orchestra (CYO) will be pre-

senting a concert this evening at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

The CYO is supported by the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra and is conducted by Lindsay Riemer, the symphony's assistant conductor. The CYO is comprised of two ensembles: the Celebration Strings and the Celebration Sinfonia.

The group debuted in 2003 for orchestral musicians ages 9 and up.

Tickets for the show, which begins at 7 p.m., are \$8 and can be purchased through the Summit on the Park by calling (734) 394-5460, or at the theater box office two hours before the show.

For more information, contact the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra at (734) 451-2112.

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 gift-

ed and highly motivated students. The program stresses a combination of acceleration and enrichment. There is a high level of academic work, a rapid instructional pace, and many opportunities to delve more deeply into subject matter.

Some of the characteristics to look for are:

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

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

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

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

THEATER AUDITIONS

Auditions for the DuBois Theatre production of the Broadway musical *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* will be held on Jan. 5 and 6 in the DuBois Theatre at Canton High School from 3-6 p.m. There will be an audition

workshop held at the same location on Dec. 15, where those interested can learn the music and learn audition tips.

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

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Lee and Noel Bittering 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 Bittering Team, 43435 Joy Road, Canton, MI 48187.

"The Plymouth/Canton community has supported us for over 20 years. The Bittering Team Scholarship is just one of the ways that we can say thank you by giving back to our com-



Scouts help out First Step

Troop 1375 from Eriksson Elementary collected donations of money, food, toys and household items for the local First Step program. This week the girls presented the donations to the Canton Police, which will transfer everything to First Step. Pictured are: Front row (left to right): Lisa Guthrie, Ana Cohen, Alison Panek, Emily Miller, Katelyn Valchine, Abby Schreiner, Megan Edison, Paige Rewers, Claire McManus, Julia Miller. Back row (left to right): Karen Guthrie - troop leader, a representative of First Step, Shawna McManus - troop leader, and David Schreiner of the Canton Police Department.

munity," Noel Bittering 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 email Bittering at noelbittering@remax.net.

each month at 7 p.m. at the Plymouth Salvation Army Building on Main Street. The third Thursday is a dinner meeting with a speaker. Call (734) 981-7259 for further info.

MOTHERS & MORE

The Wayne County chapter of Mothers & More meets twice a month in Plymouth. Call (866) 841-9140, Ext. 4329, or visit Web site mothersandmore63@onebox.com.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON CIVITAN

The Plymouth-Canton Civitan Club is looking for energetic new members to participate in community service projects. This club meets the first Thursday of

"I remember as a kid lying awake for hours waiting for him. Heck, I remember doing it last year." Santa strikes again

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Local generosity feeds Cheer Club

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Thanks in large measure to a contest among the Student Congress and individual classes at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, the Observer's annual Cheer Club was once again able to make a sizeable donation to the Plymouth Salvation Army's holiday adoption program.

Some 2,000 toys, including 479 from Tom Kimball's class at Plymouth High School alone, were collected by the students during the annual contest. Students raise money, and then use that money to purchase the toys themselves.

"It's a spirited contest," said teacher Lauren Cummings, Student Congress advisor. "The kids take it seriously, they have fun with it and they always do a fantastic job."

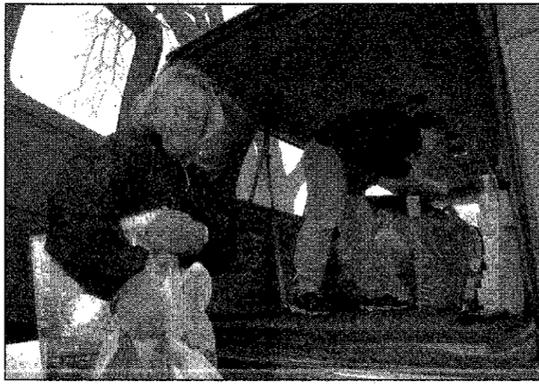
While the Student Congress donation accounted for the largest portion of the overall Cheer Club success, it certainly

wasn't the only donation as dozens of local residents stepped up to help the annual holiday drive.

According to Bill Moritz, outreach director for the Plymouth Salvation Army, the toys will now be used in the Army's Toy Shop. Families for whom adoptive families could not be found in the Salvation Army's annual adoption program will be able to come in to the Toy Shop and pick up Christmas presents for their children, Moritz explained.

In addition to the PCEP Student Congress and the many donors who requested anonymity, Observer officials wanted to thank the following donors who were generous enough to give:

■ From Plymouth — Terry and Susan Gronau; Mike and Nancy Riemenschneider; Ann Deghetto; Marion and Bob Pearson; Teresa and Brian Rokash; Arlene Olson; Gail Ross; the Arrington family; Bob and Cindy Modras; Peggy



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tammy Moyer and Joe Krogman of the Plymouth Salvation Army load donations from the Observer Cheer Club, which will help the Salvation Army provide Christmas presents to needy children from around the local area.

and Mike Beecroft; the Dane Baranski family; Horton Plumbing; Donna Page; Mrs. Martin's class at West Middle School; Morgan Weldon Cummings; Ella Jane Workman; Lindsey E. Case; Nicholas Case; the Krause family; and the McLin family.

■ From Canton — Ann Confer and family; Donna Anderson; the Salem High School Student Congress; Marc, Nancy, Kurt and Calle Faerber; Elise, Jeff and Courtney Simpson; the Daniels

family; Cindi Fry; Don and Rose Lebbon; Linda Chomin; Jonathan Vracan; Samantha and David McGrath; Kathryn and Leonard Sweet; Elaine Polgar; the Panoff family; the Canton Student Congress; the Plymouth High School Student Congress.

■ Westland — Janet and Michael Phillips.

■ Northville — Evan and Jenna Pomeroy; Nancy and Mike Murphy.

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

New members hope to re-energize Canton Community Foundation

BY JACK GLADDEN
STAFF WRITER

The Canton Community Foundation, which was founded in 1989 by Township Supervisor Tom Yack and two others, recently announced changes in its board of directors, which now totals 18 members.

The foundation named seven new board members to replace seven who stepped down, many after years of service.

"It's a huge changeover," said foundation president Joan Noricks. "I think it's really important."

Noricks said the foundation implemented term limits for the board about a year ago, something they hadn't had until that time.

"We brought in seven new people who I think are going to recharge the foundation," she said. "These residents represent a true cross-section of our community. We're very excited to have them helping guide future growth and direction."

Joining the foundation's board are:

■ Sally Bailey, director of sales for Traditions Condominiums.

She's been a Canton resident for more than 11 years and has served as president of the Chamber of Commerce and on the steering committee for Canton Relay for Life.

■ Shahnaz Broucek, also an 11-year Canton resident. She and her husband own Approved Mortgages Inc. and Greatland Title.

■ Michael J. Gerou, a 35th District Court Judge and a long-time Canton resident. He's also a past president of the chamber.

■ Carla O'Malley, president of Oakwood Healthcare

System Foundation.

A Canton resident for more than 20 years, she's also involved in First Step and the Greater Detroit Area Health Council.

■ Herb Scott, vice president of the Harvard Drug Group. Another long-time resident he's a member of the chamber, the Cultural Commission, the Lions Club and is active with Habitat for Humanity.

■ Ronald Thompson, an attorney with Thompson Morello PC. In addition to being a member of the State Bar, he is involved with the YMCA and Plymouth-Canton Schools.

■ The Rev. Alexander Whitfield, who moved to Canton recently from Sioux Falls, Iowa. He looks forward to bringing spiritual insight and a moral perspective to the board.

They will join other board members including Kristene Rautio of Community Bank of Dearborn; Deborah Krone of Wright, Griffin, Davis and Company; Terry Bennett, Canton Township clerk; Lynn Weaver of Yazaki North America; Robert Zulker of Gil-Mar Manufacturing; Joe Van Easley, a real estate broker; Gujrbachan Mann of Mutual Financial Services; Maria Stante of Stante Excavating; Paul Denski Jr. of Canton Waste Recycling; and Jack Demmer of Jack Demmer Ford.

"We are pleased to have such a diverse group of new board members to add to the outstanding people already serving," Noricks said.

"We are all looking forward to expanding our granting to meet more needs within this community."

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(734) 459-2700

Identity theft a major holiday concern

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

The Christmas season is a time of year known for its good cheer and spirit of generosity. Unfortunately, for some people, it is also a ripe time to rip people off.

For years, police departments have warned people about the perils of purse snatchers hiding in dark parking lots at the mall or other stores, especially during the holiday season when shoppers are out in droves.

In recent years, however, one of the biggest concerns has turned to identity theft -- cases where thieves steal credit card numbers or other personal information to make fraudulent purchases, loans, or withdrawals from bank accounts.

According to Sgt. Scott Hilden of the Canton Police

Department, identity theft is becoming a big problem.

"On a daily basis, we're fielding reports of three or four identity theft crimes. Three years ago, we might have received one a month," Hilden said.

Two of the main ways thieves steal credit card numbers are "shoulder surfing" and "dumpster diving." Shoulder surfing is when thieves stand over a person's shoulder while they are making a purchase or withdrawing money, and they steal the card number or the personal identification number (PIN). Hilden said people should be aware of what's going on around them when they make purchases.

Dumpster diving is when thieves go through a person's garbage in an attempt to find credit card statements or other personal information they can

use to make fraudulent purchases. Similarly, Hilden said thieves steal mail from mailboxes, especially when they see the red flag up. Rather, he said people should put their mail in a secure box, or take it directly to the post office.

Another way personal information is stolen is when people buy things on the Web. When making purchases over the Internet, Hilden said people should make sure they are using reputable sites.

"There are fictitious sites out there that aren't legitimate," Hilden said. "You want to make sure it is a secure site that is encrypted, and a reputable business."

Hilden said people should check the Web address and make sure it begins with 'https'. The 's' denotes it is a secure site. Also, he said most secure sites will have a little

gold lock somewhere on the page.

To guard against identity theft, people should check all credit card and debit card statements, to make sure there were no fraudulent purchases. If some are found, Hilden said people should immediately call the credit card company to cancel the card, and then call the police.

He said people should also check their credit reports on at least an annual basis. He said the three most reputable credit reporting companies are Experian (www.experian.com); Equifax (www.equifax.com); and Trans Union Corporation (www.tuc.com).

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Budget woes won't freeze ice fest

Parents organize to write lawmakers

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Organizers of the Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular say a sponsorship loss of \$30,000 won't keep the event from carving its niche for the 22nd consecutive year.

Farmer Jack Supermarkets pulled its sponsorship of Fantasyland, which annually is located in The Gathering. However, Plymouth International Ice Spectacular, Inc., president Ron Loiselle said the show will go on.

"Financially, we're not as good as last year, but not awful considering we lost Farmer Jack," he said. "We'll still do some nice, quality ice sculptures. Maybe not as many around downtown as in the past."

Loiselle is hoping a commitment from Rock Financial for \$8,000 and local companies Sanden International (\$7,000) and Amp Agency (\$6,000) will help make up some of the loss of funding from the

supermarket chain.

The Ice Spectacular has lost \$50,000 in funding the past several years.

Along with the \$30,000 from Farmer Jack, the city's \$16,000 contribution toward city services and \$4,000 from the Downtown Development Authority have also evaporated.

Loiselle said if all pending contributions come through, this year's budget will be \$130,000, which is down from last by about \$20,000. And, a far cry from the early years when the budget was well over \$200,000.

"If we don't get all the expected sponsorships, we could be forced to dump Fantasyland," said Loiselle. "We usually collect about \$5,000 from the collection box in the Gathering, but it's a far cry from what it costs."

Mike Watts, owner of WATTS-UP, Inc., and the festival's coordinator, said it costs \$20,000-\$25,000 to carve Fantasyland.

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

"If we don't stop it now, kids won't have what our kids have now. I want kids to have the same education as my kids. All the things my kids were exposed to, I want them to have."

It sounded more like a mission statement than a reason why for Nancy Zilka. The mother of a Wayne Memorial High School student, she has joined April Shepler and Wendy Braswell in leading a parental push to get state lawmakers to properly fund public education.

"I don't think enough people realize how it will affect them, if the schools fail," she said following a meeting of the Parent Funding Committee last week. "I don't think they realize how it will affect the value of their home."

For the third time in as many weeks, parents gathered with Wayne-Westland school officials to map out a strategy for getting lawmakers' attention to the problems school districts are facing because of the state's ongoing financial problems.

Those in attendance made a commitment to return to their home schools and identify five supportive parents to write lawmakers, asking that they commit to fully funding public education.

"If you do that across the district, they'll have a ton of mail," Superintendent Greg Baracy

told the group. "Remember, there's nothing you can say that's incorrect when you say you want your kids to have new textbooks. Tell them you want education funded. You want your kids to get the same education that you got."

The meeting came a week after parents and school officials gathered at Edsel Ford High School in Dearborn to begin planning for the letter writing campaign.

The idea is to send letters by no later than mid-January to lawmakers whose district include the Wayne-Westland Community Schools and to do follow-up letters and phone calls to see what has been done.

That would include two state representatives - Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, and John Stewart, R- Plymouth Township - and three state senators - Laura Toy, R-Livonia, Bruce Patterson, R-Canton Township, and Raymond E. Basham, D-Taylor.

Baracy cautioned the parents that the campaign must go beyond the initial letter writing, that follow-up letters will need to go out in mid-February or early March "to see what they're doing up there."

"If we write letters and do nothing else, we will have failed our children," he said. "They need to see we're going to be relentless, that we're going to keep up the pressure. I think they'll wait and see, if we can pull this off."

While the letter writing is

centered in the tri-county area at present, plans are to take it statewide. However, Baracy stressed the two-thirds of the public school students reside in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

The parents also received a brief preview of what Wayne-Westland faces because of the state's financial problems as well as other actions that may take place in the coming months to get lawmakers' attention.

Wayne-Westland, he said, will cut programs to maintain a surplus that will carry it through the start of its budget year on July 1 to October when it receives its first state school aid payment.

Also in the works is the issuance of a report card, grading lawmakers based on their votes on educational issues. There's also a possibility of a caravan of parents to Lansing to protest on the steps of the State Capitol and an action by some school superintendents who will take and drop their keys on the governor's desk, possibly in April or May.

"Every school district in the state is having the same problem," he said. "Kalkaska closed its doors early in 1994 and that got their attention. That's the reason for Proposal A."

The talk of a Kalkaska action didn't set well with Shepler.

"I have two kids and I want to see them educated properly," she said. "My role as a concerned parent is to get the word out to everyone in state government that if we don't get the money to educate our kids they won't be able to succeed."

"I want the kids to have the same education as my kids," added Zilka. "I want the money there for them, all the things my kids were exposed to, I want them to have."

Zilka believes that the parental ground swell needs to include the younger parents with children in kindergarten and first grade.

HOW TO REACH YOUR LAWMAKERS

Parents can send their letters to lawmakers at:

■ Sen. Laura Toy, P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536. She also can be reached by telephone at (517) 373-1707, by fax at (517) 373-3935 or by e-mail at SenLToy@senate.michigan.gov.

■ Sen. Bruce Patterson, Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536. He also can be reached by telephone at (517) 373-7350, by fax at (517) 373-9228 or by e-mail at SenBPatterson@senate.michigan.gov.

■ Sen. Raymond E. Basham, Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536. He also can be reached by telephone at (517) 373-7800, by fax at (517) 373-9310 or by e-mail at SenRBasham@senate.michigan.gov.

■ Rep. Glenn Anderson, Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514. He also can be reached by telephone at (517) 373-2576, by fax at (517) 373-5962 or by e-mail at glennanderson@house.mi.gov.

■ John Stewart, Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514. He also can be reached by telephone at (517) 373-3816, by fax at (517) 373-5952 or by e-mail at johnstewart@house.mi.gov.

"They need to do it now before the cuts," she said. "If we stop now, their kids won't have what my kids have now."

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FOR THE RECORD

DEATHS

A
Sherry L. Arebaugh, 45, of Rochester Hills, died Dec. 2.

B
Doris C. Barkham, 80, of Rochester, died Nov. 30.
Milma M. Bratton, 93, of Rochester Hills, died Dec. 4.
Patricia H. Breuning, 75, of Rochester, died Dec. 9.
William F. Brown, Sr., 98, of Auburn Hills, died Dec. 5.

C
Amy J. Capuano, 44, of Rochester Hills, died Nov. 25.
Russell C. Carter, 89, of Rochester Hills, died Nov. 21.
Grant Chamberlin Jr., 81, of Northville Township, died Nov. 25.

D
Robert R. Dindine, 82, of Rochester Hills, died Dec. 3.
Jeanne Elizabeth Dolan, 60, of Hamburg, formerly of Garden City, died Dec. 10.

F
Nathan D. Farnsworth, 67, of Clarkston, died Dec. 7.
Margaret A. Foust, 76, of Royal Oak, died Nov. 19.
Margaret E. Frank, 97, of Rochester Hills, died Dec. 5.

G
Marguerite (Peggy) Osmun Gail, 92, of Hilton Head Island, died Dec. 7.
Leonard H.T. (Terry) Gartz, of Westland, died Dec. 12.
Barbara J. Gerczak, 66, of Linden, formerly of Rochester, died Dec. 3.

H
Darryl Robert Harvey, 41, of Leonard, died Dec. 4.
Sam Hill, of Westland, died Dec. 12.

J
Ellie Rebecca Jakubowski, 3 months, of Plymouth, died Dec. 6.

K
Mildred G. Van Saw King, 91, of Florida, formerly of Rochester, died Nov. 20.
Charles M. Kleindl, 74, of Pontiac,



For the Record appears in every edition of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's Sports section in *Passages* on page C11.

died Dec. 1.

L
Stephen Mayes LaSalle, 75, of Northville, died Dec. 7.
Betty J. Lease, 80, of Clarkston, died Dec. 5.

M
Albert A. Martin, 68, of Rochester Hills, died Dec. 2.
Alene M. Masterson, 72, of Woodhaven, died Dec. 9.
Mina Opal Maxwell, 80, died Dec. 7.
LaSalle Mayes, 75, of Northville, died Dec. 7.
Mary A. McCright, 92, of Plymouth, died Dec. 10.
Larry G. Miller, 64, of Rochester Hills, died Nov. 28.

P
Edward O. Perttola, 82, of Canton, died Dec. 6.

R
Stella D. Rogalski, 85, of West Bloomfield, formerly of Livonia.

S
David Carson Sutton, 53, of Waterford, formerly of Madison Heights and Royal Oak died Dec. 9.

W
Ruth S. Weber, 85, of Auburn Hills, died Dec. 1.
Steven Donald Wedge, died Dec. 6, 2004.

Robert O. Weir, 78, of Clarkston, died Dec. 11.
Elva M. White, 87, of Troy, died Nov. 12.

SOLDIER

FROM PAGE A1

who was in Iraq from March, 2003 until April of this year. "After Sept. 11 (2001), I knew something would happen. I didn't know it would take this long."

After that, Kaleb went to live with his grandparents. Johnathan's wife, Janice, is living on base at Ft. Carson, but the couple have moved around so much, they thought their son was better off in a stable environment.

It has been a tough time for Johnathan. Not only has he missed his family, but he has also had to deal with all the perils a soldier in war always has to deal with. Twelve-hour shifts, and nightly mortar attacks. Guys he's known have been killed in action. And life in the desert is often brutal, he says. Summer heat that gets up to 140-Fahrenheit, and winter nights so cold they chill your bones.

"I knew it was going to be hot. But I don't think any of us realized how cold it gets there in the winter," he says.

Roe is a radio operator with the Ironhawk 3/3 Armored Cavalry Regiment. He spent the latter stages of his tour working as a gunner on patrols that included impromptu road blocks and searches of local homes looking for insurgents.

He said these patrols were often quite intense, and often led to combat-type situations.

"You're always a bit scared. After a while it becomes routine, but you always have in the back of your mind something could happen at any time," he said.

Roe recently learned he will be heading back to Iraq for another year, probably in March or April, which is why he wanted to



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Roe's parents, Michelle and Greg Roe, said his visit was the best Christmas gift they could've hoped for.

take advantage of the opportunity to come home this week.

Michelle Roe said these have been very tough times for both her and Greg, to say the least. They are both dreading the day when Johnathan must head back to Iraq. However, Michelle said having Kaleb makes it a little easier to bear.

"Thank God this boy is here. He is my lifeline," she said.

Johnathan Roe is approaching his next tour with optimism it will be the last or next to last tour of the war. Like most Americans, he is hoping the Iraqi elections, scheduled for January, will turn the tide of the war, and give the Iraqis the

ability to fight it for themselves. He said he was generally treated with respect over there, and he gets the sense that the average Iraqi believes in what America is doing.

As for Roe himself, he said the experience has forever changed him, and his outlook on life.

"I've grown up since then. Now, I look at every day and try improve myself. I wake up and think how I can be closer to my son," he said. "Personal possessions aren't as important anymore. It has opened my eyes a lot."

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TEST

FROM PAGE A1

Pat Barry disagrees with the change, saying it's a terrible decision by the state.

"It's a test for college students; it will take years to shift over to teach what they want taught on the new test," said Barry. "All those students who don't plan to go to college, this test will be highly inappropriate for them, and the success rate will plummet."

"All the state benchmarks are designed to be tested on the MEAP, and this ACT test is not aligned directly with our curriculum," said Barry. "It will take years to make the two align, and it's going to be a mess for years to come. It's political, and it's terrible."

High school junior Dustin Maynes, 16, of Canton, will be taking the MEAP exam this year. However, he believes the change to a college entrance type exam will benefit students.

"I think if they do something more like the SAT and ACT tests, it's going to be more beneficial because that's what the colleges want," said Maynes. "The MEAPs are partially considered a waste of time by students."

Nancy Haskin of Canton, who has a sophomore and seventh-grader attending Plymouth-Canton Schools, agrees with the change in tests.

"I just don't think the

MEAP is a true sense of how a child is doing in school," said Haskin. "If you have a child that falls into special needs, it's not a true measure."

"I think a college entrance type test is more of a true measure, and it's going more toward what the colleges are looking for," she said.

Laura Michalski, waiting to pick up her daughter, Kristin, a senior at the Park, said if changes are made the level of education will have to step up.

"Personally, I wasn't prepared for that type of test (in high school)," said Michalski. "I think the MEAP measures better. I would kind of like to see it stay."

Plymouth-Canton Schools Board of Education President Mark Slavens said he's unhappy the state went forward without discussing the change with local school districts.

"We've invested a lot of money in aligning our curriculum with the MEAP, and now suddenly they arbitrarily making the change without checking with school districts to see what effect it will have financially on the districts," he said.

"They pushed this bill through too quickly."

Bender said he expects the Michigan Merit Exam to be piloted in some school districts in the spring, with the remaining school districts to begin using the test in 2006.

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TARGET

FROM PAGE A1

other Target stores are adding Starbucks but the Canton store is not one of them.

Yack asked him what makes a Target a superstore.

"Generally that refers to a combined grocery and general merchandise," Tucker said. "This is not going to be a Super Target."

He said the store would have an enlarged food offering, but not a full grocery section.

Construction is expected to start next spring with completion expected by October 2005.

In other business the board: Approved a final plat for the second part of Antique Forest subdivision. The 22-acre project is on the south side of Ford Road west of Beck. It will have a total of 33 residential lots. Nine of those lots are south of Fellows Creek and will connect to the existing Antique Forest

subdivision.

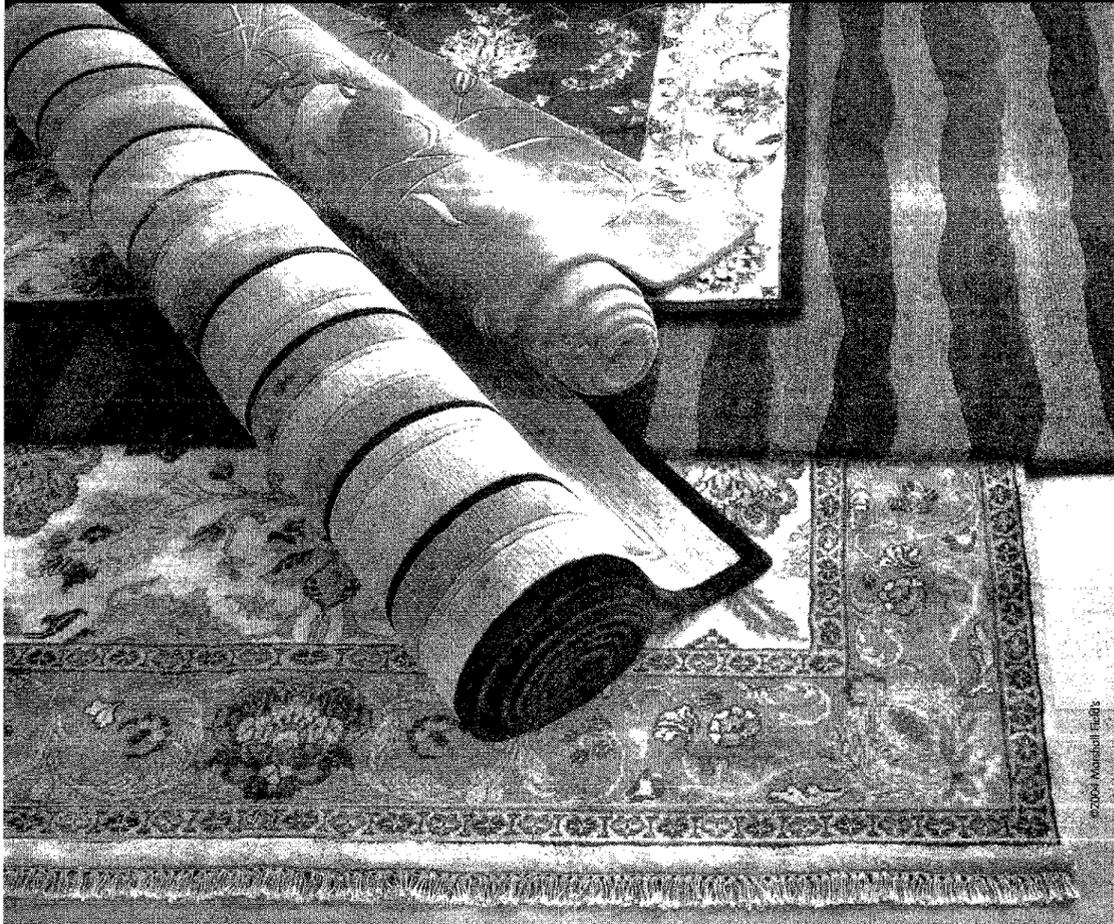
Approved the sale of two lots on Marlowe Street for one dollar to Habitat for Humanity. Habitat would build an affordable single-family home on the property for a moderate income family. Construction would take place in the spring of 2005.

Authorized the supervisor to sign a grant agreement with the Department of Natural Resources to conduct a tree survey to assess the condition of trees on public property throughout the township. Township staff will conduct the survey and do tree mapping for the project. The grant is for \$8,000. Canton will provide a match of \$12,000, however \$10,000 will be in the form of in-kind contribution for conducting the survey and doing the mapping. The project comes in the wake of ash trees lost to the emerald ash borer.

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Marshall Field's

Light shines for the children

Candle ceremony helps keep memories alive

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

It either snowed or rained most of the day leading up to the start of Sunday's local observance of the International Children's Memorial, sponsored in Plymouth's Kellogg Park by The Compassionate Friends, Livonia chapter.

Then a funny thing happened on the way to a rainout: Just before hundreds of people began to gather to honor the memories of children lost too soon, the clouds stopped dumping their rain on the ceremony.

And Gail Lafferty, the Livonia woman who is treasurer for The Compassionate Friends, doesn't think Mother Nature had anything to do with it.

"I think the kids took care of us," she said with a smile.

The local memorial shares a simple purpose with the international movement: "To pro-



Marlicia Tabor, 9, lights her family members' candles as they remember her uncle, Glenn Tabor, during The Compassionate Friends candlelight vigil Sunday. The event is designed to give grieving families a chance to honor the memory of their children.

vide a 24-hour wave of light that encircles the globe in loving memory of all children that their light may always shine." It does this when candles are lit at 7 p.m. in each time zone. As they burn down in one time zone, they're lit in

another, providing the 24-hour light.

More importantly, the ceremony provides an opportunity for friends and loved ones to gather together in a group where empathy is possible.

Nancy Glumb of Canton lost



PHOTOS BY HEATHER ROUSSEAU

Greg Blackwood (front left) is surrounded by family and friends as they gather around a tree bearing a photo of his daughter, Amy Blackwood, during The Compassionate Friends' candlelight vigil in Plymouth's Kellogg Park Sunday.

a son four years ago, then lost her daughter, Tabitha Allen, just over a year ago. Tears rolled as she held her candle and thought about her family lost.

"This is a moment for me to remember my children, it's like closure," said Glumb, who

attended Sunday's service with Tabitha's two children. "I can feel like I'm with other people who are feeling the same way."

The evening featured music, poetry and the traditional reading of the names of children who have passed away. Christmas trees covered with ornaments featuring the names of the children also dotted the Kellogg Park landscape.

According to Lafferty, who lost her son Max in a car accident at Christmas in 1995, the evening is a chance for grieving parents, siblings and friends to gather together and get through the holidays.

"This is always a difficult time," Lafferty said. "The most important thing is we have a

connection with other people. It brings back wonderful memories, our families are here and siblings are here, it's a real connection. It's a special night."

That's how Jessica Linto of Westland feels about it, too. Linto, 22, lost her older brother in a car accident eight years ago.

She has come out to The Compassionate Friends event every year to remember, and honor, her brother.

"It definitely helps me," Linto said. "I'm happy they put something like this together, it's wonderful they bring people together."

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(On stage) Pat O'Donnell, chapter leader of The Compassionate Friends Livonia chapter, who lost his son Brian, and Gail Lafferty, the group's treasurer who lost her son Max, read names of children while grieving friends and families remember their loved ones and comfort each other during a candlelight vigil in Plymouth's Kellogg Park Sunday.

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Lighting up Christmas comes to Nankin Mills

The holiday light show along Hines Drive has a little competition following the official tree lighting at Nankin Mills Saturday.

Participants sang Christmas carols on the lawn of the historic mill.

They were joined by Santa Claus who arrived with a Ho-Ho-Ho in time to listen to requests from youngsters in attendance.

Youngsters also had an opportunity to make ornaments and punched tin decorations as well as participate in holiday-themed games like fruitcake bowling, pin the tail on Rudolph and a reindeer antler toss.

The event was sponsored by Wayne Parks and the Friends of Nankin Mills, a volunteer organization which works with Wayne County to preserve the historic grist mill.

Built after the Civil War, the mill was purchased by



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

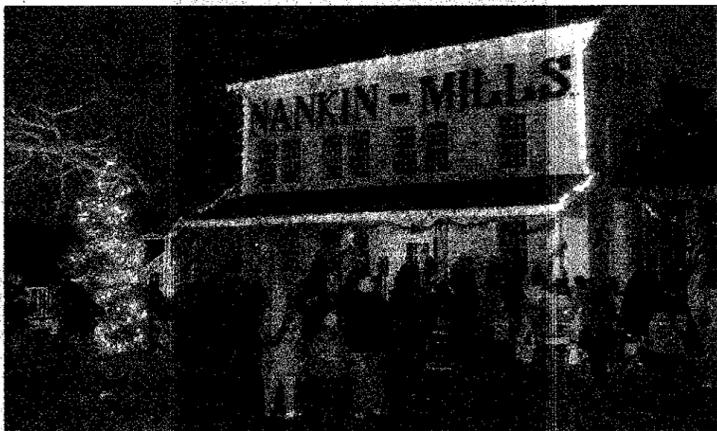
Ten-year-old Amanda Zammit wraps ribbon around her thistle ornament, one of the crafts that kids could try at the mill's tree lighting program.

Henry Ford in 1918 Henry Ford as part of a plan to develop village mill industries along the Rouge and other small rivers.

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The mill closed after World War II and was acquired by the Wayne County Road Commission. It was given a new life in 1956 as a nature center.

Buke Zielke works on a tin ornament during the crafts program at the mill.



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Bitten man gets rid of deadly snakes

BY JACK GLADDEN
STAFF WRITER

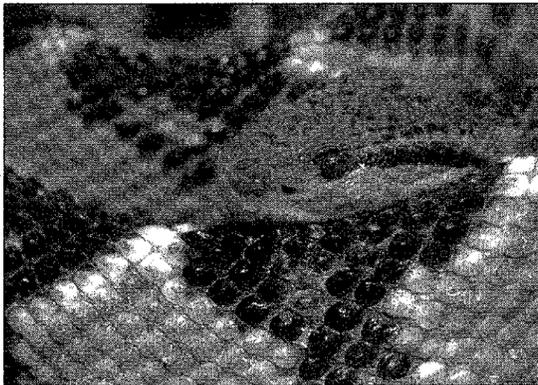
The venomous snakes are gone, shipped out to other locations where, apparently, it is not illegal to possess them. That's what Tim Cronin, an

attorney representing Canton Township, told 35th District Judge John MacDonald at a hearing Tuesday morning.

The township had requested the hearing in the case of Rudolph Hatfield who had more than 50 snakes in his southwest Canton home. Police said if the snakes were not removed by Tuesday they would ask the court for an order to dispose of them. They also said they would seek restitution for expenses incurred in dealing with the situation.

The case came to light after Hatfield was bitten by one of the snakes, a 9-foot-long bushmaster, while he was attempting to clean its cage on Dec. 4. Hatfield was treated at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia and later transferred to Detroit Receiving Hospital. Luckily for him the Detroit Zoo had an antidote to the venom.

He's recovering, but at Tuesday's hearing he was



The bushmaster, which is considered the largest and most venomous snake in the Americas, can reach 12-feet in length.

nursing a swollen and painful right hand.

At the hospital he told officials about his other snakes. When police and firefighters went to the house they found the snakes in cages in an upstairs bedroom. Hatfield was issued a citation by the township for violating a local ordinance making it unlawful to possess certain animals, including "poisonous reptiles, spiders and insects."

At Tuesday's hearing, Cronin told the court that Hatfield had relinquished his right to the bushmaster, which is presently in quarantine at the Detroit Zoo.

"A zoo official said the bushmaster will not be euthanized, but will be transferred to another zoo," he said. "The zoo wouldn't take the other snakes."

He said Hatfield had reached an agreement with Canton Police to remove the other snakes from his property.

"Mr. Hatfield has removed the other venomous snakes," Cronin said. "They've been shipped to other locations where, apparently, it's not illegal to possess them."

He said there were still three non-venomous snakes on the premises, but Hatfield

Bushmaster's bite can be lethal

Rudolph Hatfield should consider himself a lucky man. The Canton resident, who owned more than 50 snakes, was bitten by his 9-foot-long bushmaster and lived to tell about it. The species is considered one of the most dangerous snakes in the world.

The large venomous bushmaster is native to Central America and northern South America. It is a member of the pit viper family, which also includes rattlesnakes. While most pit vipers bear live young, the bushmaster lays eggs.

Bushmasters, which are the largest pit vipers in the Western Hemisphere, can reach a length of 12 feet. It features a diamond pattern of gray and brown. Their bodies

are slightly flattened, with wedge-shaped heads.

Similarly to other pit vipers, they have hinged fangs that lie flat on the roof of the mouth when not in use. Large bushmaster have long fangs that can reach 1.4 inches in length. When bothered, they often shake their tail tip against foliage to make a threatening noise.

The bite of a bushmaster, though weaker than other pit vipers, can be lethal to humans. Their venom kills by causing internal bleeding. They are noted for being able to produce very large quantities of venom.

In the wild, bushmasters typically eat small mammals. Zoos usually feed them domestic rats.

He said police and fire expenses amounted to \$1,852.97.

Hatfield said he would reimburse the township for that amount. In addition to the restitution, MacDonald fined him \$150 plus court costs for the incident.

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FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (PG-13)
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12:00, 12:40, 2:20, 3:00, 4:40, 5:20, 7:00, 7:40, 9:20, 9:55
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ALEXANDER (R) 6:15, 9:30

THE INCREDIBLES (PG) 2 PRINTS / 2 SCREENS
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@ THE LIBRARY

The library is closed Friday, Dec. 24 to Sunday, Dec. 26 for the Christmas holiday. It will re-open at 9 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 27.

WEB WATCH

- www.americangardenmuseum.com - "The American Garden Museum is a working archive that celebrates American gardens and their gardeners."
- www.sreetips.com/google.html - Helpful tips for using the search tool, Google.
- www.kingtut.org/education.htm - Discover the history of King Tut, view maps and browse artifacts from the tomb.

NEW MATERIALS LIST

To see a complete list of new materials added to the library's catalog this week, visit <http://catalog.cantonpl.org/fli> st.

Adult Fiction

- About Grace - Anthony Doerr
- The Glass Virgin - Catherine Cookson
- The Graduate - Charles Webb
- A Spy in Winter - Michael Hastings

Adult Non-Fiction

- 8 Ways to Avoid Probate - Mary Randolph
- The Backpacker's Handbook - Chris Townsend
- Diabetes Cookbook - Maureen Callahan and Karen A. Levin
- How To Restore & Repair Practically Everything - Lorraine Johnson

Teen Books

- Bucking the Sarge - Christopher Paul Curtis
- The Last of the Roundup Boys - Debra Seely

Slalom - S.L. Rottman
Son of the Mob: Hollywood Hustle - Gordon Korman
Children's Fiction

- 11,000 Years Lost - Peni R. Griffin
- Betsy and the Emperor - Staton Rabin
- Me and Billy - James Lincoln Collier
- Whispering to Witches - Anna Dale

Children's Non-Fiction

- Bird - David Burnie
- Dinosaur - David Norman and Angela Milner
- How animals play - Betty Tatham
- Utah - Doug Sanders

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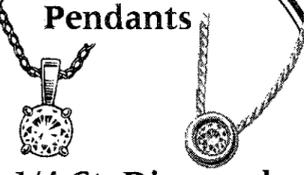
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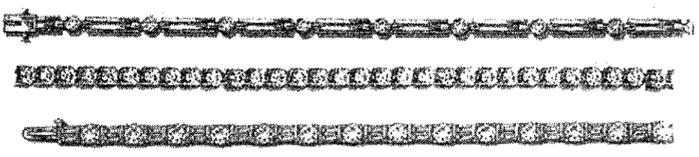
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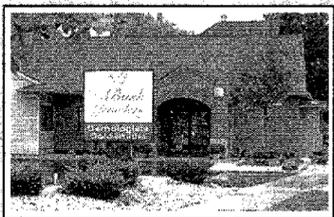
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OUR VIEWS

Headwaters need protection

Take a drive through Canton and you can begin to realize just how many little creeks there are in the township. They weave through neighborhoods and close to school yards, and can be found in undeveloped parks or running along major roadways.

There are dozens of these small streams in the township. Some are so meager in size, a person could clear them with a single leap. Yet, just because they are small doesn't mean they are insignificant in the overall scheme of things. In fact, biologists will tell you they are quite important.

Geographically, Canton is situated in the very heart of the Rouge River watershed, which means all the drainage in the township ultimately makes its way into the Rouge, via these small streams.

Considered the headwaters of the Rouge, these streams are the watershed's last bastion of good water quality. Traditionally fed by wetlands, they run cold and clear and help oxygenate and cool the Rouge.

Yet, because of all the development taking place, they are starting to show the same scars that have plagued lower regions of the river for years. Erosion is cutting at their banks, because more stormwater is being diverted into them. The waters are becoming more turbid, because of increased sediment loads. Riparian vegetation is being stripped away and replaced with fertilized lawns.

A perfect example of this can be seen in Cherry Hill Village, where a developer cut down nearly all of the vegetation along the Lower Rouge River to install a water main for a giant subdivision that will be built in the near future. The developer, Biltmore, has promised to restore some vegetation along the river, but it remains to be seen if they can replicate what was lost. Canton has a number of ordinances on the books meant to protect streams, including one that requires a 50-foot vegetated buffer along both banks of a river. Yet, with all the development taking place, it is hard for township officials to monitor every project. And to make matters worse, in many cases, Wayne County grants permits that supersede the township's ordinances, which is what happened with the Cherry Hill project.

All too often, it seems doing what's right for the river is the last priority. That needs to change if the headwaters are to be saved. The township and county must be more vigilant in protecting what's left. It makes little sense to spend millions of dollars to improve water quality in places like Dearborn, Wayne and Westland, if the headwaters continue to be destroyed.

Once they're gone, they're gone.

We need Detroit as much as it needs us

We folks in the suburbs may think we're pretty self-sufficient — we've got everything we need out here and we don't need that big, bad city on the river. How many times do we hear the refrain: Let them keep their crime, poverty and administration scandals; let them worry about their school district failures; and let them deal with their withering economy?

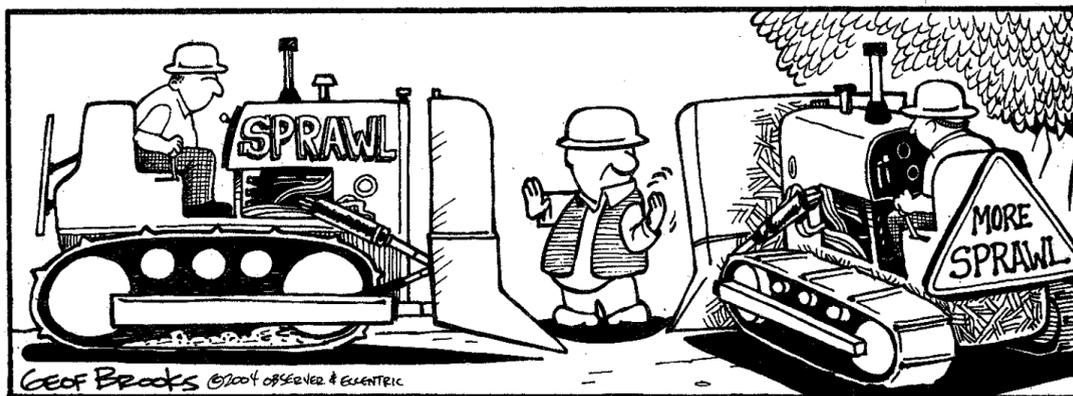
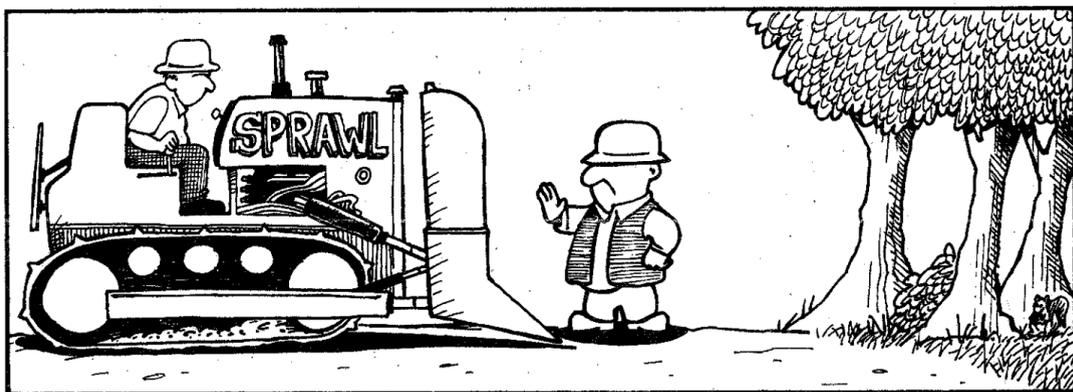
Well, try to see a major league football, baseball or hockey game in the suburbs — you can't. (Some might argue you can't in Detroit, either) You also won't find world-class offerings comparable with the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Detroit Science Museum, the Detroit Zoo (OK, it's technically in Royal Oak) and other major theatrical attractions like the Fisher and Fox theaters and many others. The search for architectural treasures that rival Detroit's historic churches, hotels and office buildings would be just as futile here in the suburbs.

Try to see the North American International Auto Show in Redford, watch the hydroplane races in Rochester or visit the Michigan State Fair in Birmingham. Again, you can't.

The point is that we need a culturally vibrant and economically vital central city as much here in the suburbs as Detroit does.

A cautionary story came from downtown last month: Two suburban school bus drivers were robbed while they waited outside a historic church, as students toured inside the architectural gem. Not unexpectedly, some people wanted that district to halt any such trips to Detroit. School officials, instead, agreed to scrutinize precise locations to which they send students, but to continue most trips — understanding the value of having students visit Detroit's cultural center.

Next month, many of us will pause in our suburban towns to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. and his message of peace, justice and equality. We should also remember that, while our suburbs may be great places to live and raise children, we must appreciate our interdependence with the city of Detroit.



LETTERS

Disturbing ad

As I was browsing through Thursday's paper (Dec. 9), I took an interest in an article on the terror readiness of the Educational Park. It's good to know our community recognizes the need to have a solid program of readiness. It's even better when weaknesses are recognized in programs designed for public safety. Half the solution is in realizing a problem may exist.

What I was not too pleased to see was the huge advertisement space given to a gun and knife show on the same page as the description of our safety weakness at the Park! Egads, what an eye catcher! I personally find it distasteful and irresponsible use of advertisement space. Granted the space was bought and paid for, but the ad did not have to be put on the same page as an article describing the shortcomings in protecting our high schools against those who commit violent crimes! Please use better judgment in the future.

Vickie Pavloff
Canton

Inspiring story

I am writing in reference to the article in the *Canton Observer* on Nov. 25 titled, "Hair to help." It was wonderful to read a heartwarming story like this and how surprised I was to see a great story on the front page! The news is always so negative and usually only bad stories seem to get published.

This story touched me so much because I could really relate to Kristine because I have dealt with many loved ones with cancer, too. Both my grandmas had breast cancer and my dad had brain cancer. Seeing a 10-year-old girl give up her hair and to take time to help others made me so happy. After I read the article, it made me feel like I needed to do something to help others. I have decided to volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House by making dinner for families who have children at Mott's Children Hospital.

Thank you for writing such an inspirational article.

Kristen Irwin
Canton

Captured spirit of evening

Just a note to thank you for your work in the Dec. 5 *Observer*. I very much enjoyed your article titled "... not going to take it anymore." I felt you captured the spirit of the evening and accurately reflected the purpose of gathering all those people together.

As the superintendent of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, I hope that something can be done to address the funding shortfall. We are on the brink of doing some truly amazing things in P-C that will be severely curtailed if we have another mid-year cut or another Foundation Grant freeze for 2005-06. Thanks again for your work.

Jim Ryan
superintendent, Plymouth-Canton Schools

Teachers as scapegoats

It is extremely saddening to read the attitude of Mr. Kremer as he reflects on contract negotiations between PCCS and its teachers (Nov. 18 letter to the editor). First, in business it is a good, productive sign when management and labor have an interest-based relationship where they can communicate rationally in an attempt to find a reasonably fair and equitable result.

Secondly, if I were part of the PCCS teaching workforce, I would not be leaving negotiations "satisfied" knowing my salary would be about 6 percent behind the projected rate of inflation for the duration of the contract.

Nor would I be "satisfied" knowing that, after all the mathematical comparisons are done about days worked, etc., according to labor statistics I would still be tens of thousands of dollars behind in salary of other comparable "professional" level workers.

Why does society always use teachers as scapegoats by blaming them for governmental financial difficulties? Why do teachers and their families always have to suffer the monetary burdens of financial mismanagement over which they have no control, especially when the state and federal governments are not ponying up the monies for education? Why wouldn't the government increase school funding at least by matching the inflationary rates and cost-of-living increases to funding allowances?

The "financial erosion" Mr. Kremer writes of starts much higher than the school district. So, yes, in both the short and long run of it, Mr. Kremer, it is your fault and the rest of tax-paying society's fault, for not making the tough decision of greater financial respect for teachers and for the improved, realistic funding for education at the time they were needed.

Matthew Otto
Plymouth

Think about our soldiers

Decades have come and gone since the day that the common war and woof was that young men and women became military personnel because they were incapable of performing any task in the world of work. That the enlistees were incapable and lacked more than ordinary intelligence was never true, of course, and I can attest both to the ability and the intelligence of men and women in the military in the forties. I was there, Charlie.

Today, our very best are in the military. But to get close to home and in the house, they are our real heroes. We go through many of our days without a thought to the welfare of our fighting men and women, snug and smug. But they fight for our safety and our freedom. Every day.

More of us must become true supporters of our military. We can support our troops by voting "yes" on proposals to increase spending for military projects and armament. Maybe we can get the secularists to "pray" on occasion for our military's well-being.

Neil Goodbred
Livonia

Hunting ban not progress

I am also sorry that this area went the way of so-called "progress." As I see it, there are at least three problems. First, people are leaving areas like Detroit to get away from that mess. Second, you have immigration. Everybody that comes over has to live somewhere. Third, you have the politicians and real estate people, who most of the time are one and the same, and jack up the value of the property and force people to sell because of taxes. If you are for any of these things then your getting what you want. If not, the attitude of the people has to change, and I don't see that happening.

Robert Eberts
Westland

Social Security isn't broke

I am concerned that Mr. Bush and his conservative friends are continuing their efforts to destroy the one New Deal program which gave the average working person in this country hope for a little security in their old age.

There is a lot of talk about fixing Social Security, but when I checked their Web site, it doesn't look broke. If nothing at all is done to the system it appears that benefits can be paid until 2058.

As I figure it, that means an 18-year-old who contributes to the system can at age 62 expect to receive his benefits. And, it seems that raising the income cap for contributions would take care of the program for an indefinite time.

Of course, I am not an economist, just one of those average Joes who benefits from the program. However, I just don't see how allowing an individual to withhold part of his contribution and use a part of that money to pay a brokerage fee will result in the person having a bigger payout when he retires.

I think someone is going to make money out of this change, and I doubt it will be that average working woman who earns the money Mr. Bush wants to let others play with.

They should leave the system alone, or certainly not let the fox fix the hen house.

James W. Cook
Westland

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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

QUOTABLE

"I'm now satisfied the members of both the House and Senate appropriations committees have failed us ... Rather than leave this very important topic to the appropriation committee members, who obviously haven't done a good job, I'm going to step in and try to find a solution."

— State Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, on finding solutions for the financial problems facing the state

State's ability to compete rests on higher education

"When I graduated from high school, lots of people felt that a (high school) diploma was the ticket to a good job with good pay. Today, that's simply not the case. The economic future of Michigan's citizens depends absolutely on getting post-high school education."

- Lt. Gov. John Cherry

He's right, of course. And so the big idea to come out of Cherry's Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth, which will release its final report this week, is that Michigan should guarantee "universal higher education" for all students.

The product of six months of work by a 41-person commission (full disclosure: I was one of 'em), the report is a collection of ideas on how to achieve Gov. Jennifer Granholm's goal of doubling the number of people with post-secondary degrees within 10 years. This comes at a time when Michigan is losing high-paying manufacturing jobs, average wages are dropping and unemployment remains stubbornly high.

Some examples of our recommendations:

- Require school districts to adopt "rigorous high school standards," whether graduates are headed for college or a vocational career. The commission also endorsed junking the MEAP test in favor of the more college-oriented ACT.

- Create an "emerging economy initiative" by supporting the Technology Tri-Corridor. We also recommended creating a "21st century research fund" that matches dollars invested in any research that could have commercial applications, although the report didn't mention any specific numbers.

- Encourage a "culture of entrepreneurship" by offering courses in high school and college in investing in venture capital opportunities.

- Allow community colleges to offer four-year baccalaureate degrees in high-demand areas such as heating and cooling technology.

The commission's research concluded that family incomes are directly linked to post-high school education. Each year of college brings an annual increase in earnings, on average, of 10 percent. But the commission also found that Michigan's relative standing in per capita personal income had fallen sharply. We ranked 20th among the states in 2001, but from 1969 to 2001 our income dropped nearly 12 percent, 47th worst.

The commission endorsed the idea that Michigan's economy badly needs to make the transition from "brawn-based" to "brain-based,"

but it found our state woefully unequipped to do what needs to be done. Fewer than one-quarter of Michigan adults have a B.A. or higher, far lower than high-growth states like Massachusetts and California, where the figure is one-third. Tragically, while 90 percent of the state's ninth-graders say they want to go on to college, only 41 percent enroll directly after leaving high school, and less than half of those emerge four years later with a bachelor's degree.

The underpinnings of the commission's report is an emphasis on changing Michigan's culture in by promoting a "new compact" that would provide all children access to higher education. How that would be paid for is not clear, although the commission talked about repackaging existing state and federal aid programs. I expect Granholm will propose more details in her State of the State and budget messages early next year.

All told, the commission's report points in exactly the right direction. Michigan must do everything in its power to "transform itself once again to be a leader in an era where knowledge is the key ingredient to economic success."

But there are problems, especially with money and focus. Michigan has cut state support for higher education by more than \$200 million in the past two years, and the budget outlook this year and next is dire. I don't understand how we can endorse the Cherry Commission's call for doubling post-secondary degrees in 10 years at the same time we tolerate a state that is dangerously withdrawing support for our public universities. It just doesn't add up.

As to focus, I fear political correctness required the commission to say nice things about schools, community colleges and the various universities around the state. Certainly, each of them has a role to play in helping us to a brain-based economy. But anybody who knows anything about economic development, high-tech growth and entrepreneurship knows that it is the state's research universities — the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Wayne State and Michigan Tech — that are going to play by far the most important role.

Having the political courage to focus resources where they will do the most good is always tough. We've been "eating our seed corn" for the past few years by cutting appropriations to our best universities, and I hope Granholm and the new Legislature have the wisdom — and the guts — to do something about it before it is too late.

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



Phil Power

Ceremony lights the way through fog of pain for grieving families

Memories are the mirrors of my mind, reflecting my joy at having loved you. Memories are the treasures you have left behind. Thoughts of you keep the lamp of love lit in the recesses of my mind. Memories are the miracles of my mind.

- Eloise Cole

I spent much of the day Saturday sitting on hard plastic bleacher seats in the gymnasium at Berkley High School, watching my son, a 14-year-old freshman, wrestling in the Berkley Invitational.

I watched Marcus take part in the sport I loved when I was his age, and pleasant memories came flooding back. I spent the day surrounded by parents doing the same thing. Then I spent Sunday evening surrounded by parents who can't.

The Livonia chapter of The Compassionate Friends held its annual candle-lighting ceremony Sunday in Kellogg Park, braving elements that would have kept most people indoors. It's part of an international children's memorial honoring — and, more importantly, remembering — children lost too young.

The idea is to light candles at 7 p.m. in every time zone around the world. As the candles fade in one zone, they're lit in another, providing a 24-hour wave of light encircling the globe "in loving memory of all children that their light may always shine."

For a large part of Sunday, it looked like there was no way Mother Nature was going to let that happen. It was freezing. It snowed. It rained.

Then, literally minutes before the event was to start, the mist that had replaced the snow stopped altogether. It was still cold, but candles light in the cold. People can huddle in the cold. What they needed was the rain to stop, and it stopped.

And Gail Lafferty, the group's treasurer, doesn't think it had anything at all to do with Mother Nature. Lafferty believes in her heart a higher power took over.

"The kids were definitely taking care of us," she said with a smile.

Smiling comes easier now for Lafferty, a Livonia resident who lost her son, Max, at the age of 18 when he died in a car accident the day after Christmas in 1995. This annual rite is one of the things that helps her get through the holidays, a season that might otherwise be lost to her.

"This is always a difficult time for us," Lafferty said. "This helps us get through the holidays. The most important thing it does is give us a connection to other people. It brings back wonderful memories. Our families are here, siblings are here. It's a real connection."

The causes of loss are all different — from car accidents to drug overdose, from cancer to suicide — but the sense of loss is the same. The memorial features the singing of songs and the reading of inspirational poems.

The tears flow from the first minute to the last, from the eldest eyes to the youngest. Grieving parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters and friends all gathered to cry, to laugh — but mostly to remember.

Jessica Linto of Westland lost her older brother when she was 14. He was 18 at the time, and he died in a car accident. It was hard at first but, as it does for so many others, it gets easier. Maybe not easier; the pain is always there and it's always deep.

It's dealing with the pain that has gotten easier, or at least bearable, for Linto, now 22 and able to smile when she remembers her brother. She can talk about him, with family, with friends. It's perhaps the biggest lesson she's learned in the eight years since his passing.

"Your friends want to talk to you, but they don't know what to say, or how to say it," Linto said. "I've come to the conclusion it's better to talk about him. It definitely helps me."

Nancy Glumb of Canton hasn't gotten to that stage yet. She's lost two children: a son four years ago, her daughter Tabitha Allen just over a year ago.

The tears started falling for Glumb, who attended Sunday's ceremony with Tabitha's two young children, as soon as the first poem was being read.

"It's like closure, a moment for me to remember my children," Glumb said. "I feel like I'm with other people feeling the same things."

That's the incredible part of this annual ritual, this yearly group hug that gets hundreds of people through one more holiday season. It's a difficult pain to imagine if you haven't gone through it, an impossible pain to manage if you have, a seemingly unbearable burden if you're just starting to go through it. But the candle-lighting ceremony helps.

"People feel good being here, although they're very sad, especially the newly bereaved," said Lafferty, the Livonia woman who is getting through her ninth holiday season. "It's a special night."

Which might explain why the rain stopped.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the *Plymouth Observer*. He can be reached via e-mail at bkadrich@oe.homecomm.net or by phone at (734) 459-2700.



Brad Kadrich

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Area leaders travel to Middle East to promote business

ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER



Ficano Patterson

The top political leaders in Southeast Michigan government took a weeklong trip to two countries in the Persian Gulf last week to learn more about the region and, it's hoped, encourage them to invest in the tri-county area.

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano went to the United Arab Emirates and Qatar with Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and Macomb County Chairwoman Nancy White. The junket was part trade mission and part cultural exchange. The tab for

the event was paid for by the Arab-American Chamber of Commerce.

For Ficano, the trip was all about letting an aggressively capitalist country know what Southeast Michigan had to offer.

"Emirate Airlines, which services the gulf states, is attracted to Metro Airport

and Willow Run," he said. "They're looking to capitalize on Canadian as well as American business."

The countries are also interested in doing business in a place that's respectful of business. Qatar, for example, invests \$7 billion a year outside its borders, they'd like to keep the proceeds from that investment.

"The United States is a good place for research and development," Ficano said. "China and other countries like it don't respect patents the way we do here."

He said the most important aspect of the trip was to entice business back to the

U.S. In the past three years, foreign development money dropped more than 90 percent from \$300 billion to just \$29 billion today.

Patterson said the trip to Dubai in the UAE was incredibly enlightening. "Take Las Vegas, New York and the French Riviera and roll them together and you still won't have what you have in Dubai," he said.

"That and there's no taxes at all."

He said the city is doing everything it can to cater to European travelers, going as far as incorporating five ski hills inside a 6 million-

square-foot shopping mall.

Patterson got a lot out of the city's use of the Internet for e-government.

"They're very forward thinking and progressive," he said.

He said the UAE's neighbor, Qatar, is a promising market for developers. He said that country is planning a huge building program with a goal of putting up 200 high-rise buildings in the next two years.

Arab American Chamber of Commerce Chairman Ahmad Chebbani said the trip was exactly what the chamber is about: Promoting understanding and commerce

between the two cultures.

"It was an extremely successful trip," he said.

"I am personally very content with the responses we got on both ends. The feedback has been very promising."

The trip was important, Chebbani said, because perceptions need to change on both sides.

He said many gulf state businessmen feel they are not welcome in the U.S. Whether or not that perception is true, it means they will be more likely to take their business, and money, elsewhere.

"We've got a lot of work to do," Chebbani said.

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Yule Tools

STORY BY KEN ABRAMCZYK | STAFF WRITER

Brady Kalem, store manager for Marsh Power Tools in Livonia, remembers his first tool — a quarter-inch electric drill purchased for him by his mother when he was about 12. “Anytime you needed a hole drilled — whether I was hanging mirrors or pictures, fixing a broken hinge or a broken fender on a bicycle — or anytime a door handle needed new holes for the screws, I’d get the drill and drill those out,” Kalem said. Basic power tools like a drill and hand tools are critical for the owner of a first home. Sometimes it’s better to start with the basics and work your way up. Perhaps you have the basics and a few power tools, but want to move into some of the new technology. Whether you are Harry Handyman, Neil the Neophyte or Roberta the Remodeler, this holiday season you can find tools to improve your precision and craftsmanship.

BACK TO BASICS

Homeowners need that first tool box to assist them with minor repairs, whether it is small engine repairs on lawn equipment, plumbing or heating and cooling adjustments.

Dennis Wright received his first 20-inch steel toolbox 27 years ago, when he and his wife were first married. The owner of Wright Hardware in Livonia says it’s hard to imagine owning a home and operating lawn equipment without basic tools.

A toolbox, screwdriver set, 25-foot tape measure, pliers and fiberglass claw hammer are just some of the basic items a first-time homeowner needs.

Wright said, “A fiberglass claw is a little more durable than the wood,” Wright said. “Channel-lock (pliers) are great for plumbing.”

Adam Becker, co-owner of Fairway Construction in Southfield, whose company recently completed a home renovation on ABC’s television show *Extreme Makeover* for an Oak Park family, says he uses a flat head screwdriver and Phillips screwdriver more than anything else. Ratchet sets and pliers are probably the most important tools for

PLEASE SEE TOOLS, B2

Accents

Bromeliad care

To help purchasers of bromeliads better understand and care for these exotic but hardy plants, Kent’s Bromeliad Nursery, the largest grower of bromeliads in the United States, is offering a free color care booklet with each plant shipped to the retailer.

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A division of Idlewild, Inc., SitesOfOurOwn.com creates simple-to-use Web sites that harness the latest in technology for both individuals and business users. Lee’s Specialty has been one of metro Detroit’s leading gift and stationery retailers for over thirty years and is located at 4076 W. Maple Road in Bloomfield Township.

For further information visit www.sitesofourown.com, or contact Lee’s Specialty at (248) 646-6700.

Chimney sweeps bring safety as well as good luck to home

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

It’s comfortable and comforting to have a fire in the fireplace. But it’s something that calls for responsibility as well.

Your thoughts of chimney sweeps might involve characters in Dickensian garb singing and dancing on rooftops. Legend says that a chimney sweep brings good luck.

Legends and images of

sweeps aside, keeping the chimney clean — removing creosote and soot deposits — is essential.

“It’s very important,” said Marie Gilreath of the High Hat Chimney Sweep Co. of Plymouth. “If you burn at least one or two fires every week during the fall and winter, it should be cleaned once a year.”



PLEASE SEE CHIMNEY, B2

MARKET PLACE

Submissions

Do you have a special item you’d like to showcase in Marketplace on the front of At Home? We’d like to feature it!

Send a photo or slide of the piece, along with information, to: Ken Abramczyk, At Home editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

‘Travel’ in style

Feather Your Nest Antiques, 10970 Ford, two miles west of Beck in Superior Township, carries this “vintage” luggage, which is made from natural fiber: cocoa shells. The pieces mix well with real vintage luggage. Each also makes a nice case for your CDs or an interesting handbag, and the largest size would be a great briefcase or overnighter. Prices range from \$45.95 to \$69.95. Call (734) 481-2400 or visit www.FeatherYourNestAntiques.com.



Don't let grout turn you into Grinch

Several weeks ago I received an e-mail from Andrea W. asking about grout replacement. Her problem was that the grout in her bathrooms was disintegrating. She also, in her words, graduated from the "School-for-the-Mechanically-Challenged" and didn't believe she could complete the project herself. Disintegrating grout can be easy, or a challenge, depending on why it is disintegrating.



Ask Dad

Harry Jachym

The problem may be the grout itself breaking down, or perhaps you just want a fresh look. You can remove the grout with a variety of tools, such as a utility knife, awl, screwdriver or can opener, but the best tool is a grout-removing tool, sometimes called a grout rake or grout saw. These can be found at just about any home improvement or tile store.

The work is pretty labor intensive and messy. The old grout will get all over the floor. To further compound the problem, there will be a considerable amount of dust in the air.

Before removing the grout, you should try to completely seal the room the best you can, including the warm and cold air registers. After you remove the old grout, vacuum the grout lines and surrounding area, then wipe them with water.

Apply new grout with a grout float - available where tile supplies are sold - to work the grout into the lines. Wipe the excess grout away with a damp sponge, then polish the powdery haze with a dry cloth after the grout is thoroughly dry (or after about 24 hours).

You can choose to use premixed grout or powder. Premixed grout is easier to use, but the powder is less expensive and gives you greater color selection. If you use powdered grout, I suggest mixing it with a polymer (latex) additive,

according to directions. Avoid getting the new grout wet for about 48 hours, depending on the humidity. After 48 hours, apply silicon-based sealer to the grout and let dry as directed.

Tile grout is porous and consequently allows moisture to pass through it.

Unfortunately, in newer construction, too often tile is placed on moisture-resistant drywall (called greenboard) or worse yet, regular drywall, rather than cementboard (a stronger substrate for tile). In the case of greenboard or drywall, there is a life expectancy of about 10 years or less.

If failing substrate is causing the tile/grout problems in your home, it will probably be best to call on a professional to do the replacement. Grout replacement is not difficult even for those who graduated from the "School-for-the-Mechanically-Challenged" and can save you money by doing it yourself.

For more information, visit your local library or try these sites: http://www.yournewhouse.com/Departments/TVShow/seg_tscript.asp?ts_id=6475&text_type=S&text_page=1&scssid=4G5SH6GRILLV8KPS7B736U3NK4A1FSWD or http://www.ehow.com/how_2421_re-grout-reseal.html

Harry Jachym is a Plymouth resident. Send any questions or comments to Jachym at askdad@comcast.net or in care of Ken Abramczyk, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

TOOLS

FROM PAGE B1

homeowners, he says. "A lot depends on whether they are building things," Becker said. "You are now seeing cordless saw kits and drill kits. These sets are relatively inexpensive. Those are probably the most useful things for your readers."

Socket sets ranging from quarter-inch to half-inch help with small engine repair, and retractable utility knives assist on a variety of house projects, whether marking drywall or wood, or cutting small wires.

MORE POWER

Power tools are a necessity for the serious home remodeler. Wright said his circular saw is probably the most important power tool, followed by the saber saw, palm sander and belt sander.

"A Sawzall (reciprocating saw) is great for any demolition work," Wright said. That tool cuts through walls for easy removal.

"A cordless drill is something you can't live without, but you'll still need the electric drill," Wright said. "Cordless drill-drivers are great for drywall, while the electric drills work on concrete."

Becker says screw guns, cordless drill and cordless saw kits and reciprocating saws are important for the handy homeowner who may want to undertake a project or two.

The jigsaw is another tool used by Kalem for wood projects, namely step stools and wooden boxes for birds.

TOOL IDEAS

Here is a list of tool ideas for the holidays.

First-time home owner

- Screwdriver set
- Hammer with claw
- Wrench set
- Pliers (regular and needlenose)
- Vice grips
- Channel-lock pliers
- Socket set
- Drill and drill bits
- Circular saw
- Wire cutters
- Retractable utility knife
- Circular saw
- Jigsaw

For the serious remodeler

- Drill driver and drill driver hammer drill: Acts as a power screwdriver and drill. Hammer drill allows user to drill into concrete.
- Compound miter saw
- Table saw
- Bandsaw
- Nailgun

For the tool junkie who has everything

- Laser level
- Sliding compound miter saw with laser
- Digital protractor
- Reciprocating saw

For woodworkers

- Planer
- Router

Kalem recently expanded his Livonia home. For major home renovations, Kalem recommends the following power

tools in a tool kit: a 7 1/4 -inch circular saw, finish nailer, brad nailer, framing nailer, screw gun and roofing nailer.

Builders use finish nailers for doing trim, casings, base and crown molding, while brad nailers help on thin materials that may split, such as shoe molding. Framing nailers, well, frame studs to create walls and help out in hard-to-reach angles. Screw guns help in hanging drywall.

Altogether, those tools can cost in the range of \$1,000-\$1,300, Kalem estimates.

Drill drivers and drill driver hammer drills are critical tools for the serious home remodeler. "Most of these have built-in adjustable clutches, and the hammer drill can drill into concrete," Kalem said.

GOING LASER

Lasers are the new technology in the tool chest. They may be on many a builder's Christmas list, too.

For builders who have everything, the digital protractor may fit the bill for those difficult miter cuts and angles. "When they operate it, it gives them a precise angle," Kalem said.

One Bosch unit has an Anglefinder and a Compound Cut Calculator to give the exact miter and bevel settings to make each cut of crown molding more precise.

"We are finding line lasers are real popular," Kalem said. "You want to track a point on the wall, then shoot it over there (on an adjacent wall). It's great for chair rail molding and wainscoting when you need to get from Point A to Point B."

Lasers are entering the world of compound miter saws, too. "You're seeing more with the laser-guided miter saws, and these are more and more popular," Kalem said. "It gives you better precision." While the builder's mantra "measure twice, cut once" may never reach obsolescence, the laser helps with accuracy of the cut itself.

Wright likes the new laser levels, which can be used to mark for borders, moldings or drop ceilings. "That's where a laser level really helps," he said.

A belt sander and finishing sanders assist floor installers in sanding hardwood floors. Finishing sanders are used around the edges. "They need a better finish," Kalem said.

Screw guns need electricity, but they make drywall quick work.

"They are much faster at up to 4,000 rpm, as a drill driver is about 1,800 rpm," Kalem said.

For the heavy duty demolition, reciprocating saws make quick work of destruction to remove walls.

"If you really want to tear out a room, that's what you would use," Kalem said.

Routers aren't always required for every project, but for the serious woodworker, they help in making cabinets and doors. Marsh offers three lines of router bits from Freud, CMT and Bosch.

Wright said customers often stop in his store "right when they're in the middle of a project. They need something right then and there."

kabramczyk@oe.homecomm.net (734) 901-2107

CHIMNEY

FROM PAGE B1

"If you burn a cord of wood, you should probably have your chimney cleaned," said Nyla Bendixen of Ben & Sons Chimney Service of Rochester Hills. "Most importantly, if you ... just bought a house that's 30 years old and has a fireplace, for heaven's sake, have it

cleaned before you use it." In the combustion process of wood burning, solid materials are produced that build up in the chimney and are highly combustible. Cleaning the chimney involves loosening and removing the material.

"Most times wood-burning fireplaces should be looked at after burning two to three face cords of wood," said Neal Bartholomew of Neb's Chimney Service Inc. of Rochester, who has been in the

business almost 30 years. (A face cord measures about 2 by 4 by 8 feet, he said.) "Gas fireplaces should be checked periodically, every five years."

Cleaning will prevent chimney fires and improve the draft as well, according to the Michigan State University Extension bulletin, *The Creosote Problem*.

Creosote can be seen if you open the damper plate and look up into your chimney.

Second-degree creosote appears gray-black and fuzzy; third-degree creosote looks hard, black and shiny, said Gilreath, whose husband, Ray, will have been in the chimney cleaning business 22 years next month.

Another indication that your chimney requires cleaning is if you notice a heavy sooty smell in the room with the fireplace on a rainy day, Bendixen said.

The smoke chamber area, the ledge above the damper plate, and the space between

must be cleaned, Gilreath said. A chimney sweep can inspect your chimney for cracks and deterioration. Some can do the repair work as well.

Vacuums and other modern tools are used, as well as brushes.

Gilreath, for example, uses the August West vacuum system, a high-speed dust collector. Some companies use cameras to view the inside of the chimney.

The cleaning process involves laying down sheets and tarps, to catch the debris and protect furniture and carpets. Bartholomew also places runners from the fireplace to the door. He leaves his vacuum outside, and runs a hose from it into the house.

Prices vary. Bartholomew charges around \$75, Ben & Sons \$69, Ray Gilreath \$85 to \$150.

Fall and spring - when people are starting to use their fireplaces more, or to use them less - are the busiest times for chimney cleaning, Bartholomew said.

When hiring a chimney sweep, ask what is involved in the cleaning procedure and whether the sweep is insured, Gilreath and Bendixen said. "Find out how long they've been in the business and what training they've had," Bartholomew said.

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Are you still looking for a gift for a special person? Garden books are ideal gifts and they can be a source of great pleasure – and anticipation – of what to do in the garden for the coming season.



Garden Spot
Marty Figley

Here are some recommendations: *Easy and Elegant Rose Design: Beyond the Garden*, by Ellen Spector Platt (\$19.95, Fulcrum) is suitable for beginners as well as "seasoned" floral designers.

Platt has written another winner with her ninth flower book, enhanced by the lovely photography of Alan Detrick. Whether using dried or fresh flowers, Platt's designs are innovative, from a single rose in a vase to a lush arrangement.

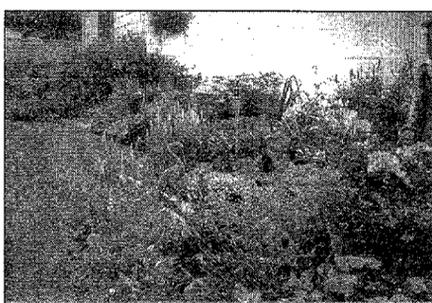
Pratt explains how to prepare the flowers for long-lasting beauty, and gives "recipes" and practical tips for many of the creations. She writes, "...you may start by trying to copy my ideas and then find you like your variation a lot better. Terrific!" This book will be a constant resource of wonderful ideas for whomever you "gift" it to.

The *Jewel Box Garden* by Thomas Hobbs (\$34.95, Timber Press) is the perfect book to keep nearby as you study and enjoy the 160 marvelous photographs of David McDonald. I predict that you will especially appreciate the beauty of the flowers and foliage when seen through the camera's lens. Hobbs gives a short description of each garden as he shares why they work.

Hobbs encourages gardeners to tap into their creativity and put their heart and soul into creating oases of beauty – intimate spaces where they can escape the pressures of modern life. The recipient will thank you many times for this treasure.

FLAVOR AND FRAGRANCE

Lasagna Gardening with Herbs by Patricia Lanza (\$15.95, Rodale) teaches gardeners how to enjoy flavor, fra-



Proper horticultural information will make a successful garden.

grance and beauty with no digging, tilling or weeding. Sound too good to be true? Well, Lanza has proved this can happen if you follow her directions.

This practical approach to lasagna gardening includes a chart of the materials to use, where to find them, how to use them and Lanza's comments. Each herb is given center stage as it is described by the author who shares personal experiences with each one. Written in a friendly, "I'll-help-you" manner, you'll find ways to use the herbs in recipes, wreaths, teas and edible flowers. The book may even encourage someone to start an herb garden next year.

Two books by Brooklyn Botanic Garden would make lovely hostess gifts this season. *Designing an Herb Garden* (Beth Hanson, editor) includes the history of herb garden design and features several types of such gardens. The information is complete with guest writers sharing their expertise. Whether your garden area is shady or sunny, there's a plan here for you.

The *Butterfly Gardener's Guide* (Claire Hagen Dole, editor) begins with descriptions and photos of the various butterfly families.

The guide includes information about migration and how to encourage caterpillars to find a home in your garden, how to create a butterfly garden and how to enjoy these lovelies in their natural habitats.

The booklet is broken down into sections of the country where specific butterflies can be found. (Each booklet is \$9.95).

To order call (718) 623-7286, or purchase BBG books from BBG's online store: www.bbg.org/gardengiftshop.

Ask about joining BBG so you won't miss a single issue.

DISCOVER PLANTS

A very special book, *Plant Discoveries, A Botanist's Voyage Through Plant Exploration* by Sandra Knapp, (Firefly Books, \$60) will keep readers occupied for many hours.

Plants have played a large part in people's lives for centuries and their history is the story of the advancement of science as well as the story of adventure and human achievement. The book captures the excitement and wonder of scientists and explorers pushing back the frontiers of knowledge. Knapp says, "...the book is a voyage through the history of my science – taxonomy – using plant paintings made over the centuries as the vehicle. These images are the tip of the iceberg that are the art collections of the Natural History Museum."

Encyclopedia of Garden Plants by Frances Tenenbaum (Houghton Mifflin, \$45) provides excellent information about trees, shrubs, roses, perennials, annuals, bulbs and ground covers. The book focuses exclusively on garden plants of North America and provides all the information for growing, propagating and maintaining the best species for every sort of garden, climate and growing condition. This would be a most welcome addition to any library and I predict it will become a favorite.

GOOD GARDEN TIP: As the flower buds of your amaryllis bloom, use tweezers to remove the pollen-bearing anthers before they begin to shed. This adds days to the flowering period.

Marty Figley is an advanced master

Baking is a big part of the holidays

When do you start baking for the holidays? What do you bake and how much baking do you do? I have participated in cookie exchanges and have been disappointed with the cookies I have brought home. How do you produce a delicious cookie?



Domestic Planner
Diana Koenig

Baking can be one of the most special parts of our holiday preparations. Besides the shopping, addressing cards, decorating, and entertaining, we want to fill our home with the smell of baking cookies. Baking is usually one of our final preparations. We could always purchase pre-packaged goodies, but those are no real substitutes for homemade treats.

Preparation for next year can start Jan. 2. Gather up the newspapers and magazines that have accumulated over the holidays and begin looking for holiday recipes to add to your recipe file. Keep them together in one location. This will help you avoid searching through hundreds of recipes later. Continue to add new cookie recipes to your collection throughout the year. Call friends or relatives and ask for their favorite recipe. Carry index cards in your purse and use the time in the doctor's waiting room to look through magazines for cookie recipes.

Look for sales on baking goods and stock up well in advance. You will save money and have ingredients available if you unexpectedly get the

opportunity to bake because a meeting is canceled or a snow-storm hits. Put nuts and chocolate chips in the freezer. Candy toppings and sugar can be stored for a long period of time on the shelf in tightly closed containers. Flour will last longer in the refrigerator.

Depending on your schedule, you may need to prepare cookies ahead of time. They will stay fresh if you freeze them or store them in a cool place. I spend the month of December baking; not every day, but certainly often.

It is important to schedule baking times. If you double or triple the cookie batch be sure to measure the ingredients carefully, because you have also doubled or tripled the number of cookies that will not be up to snuff if you make a mistake. Minimize the kitchen mess by cleaning up as you work. Divide your kitchen into stations. Set up an area for mixing, putting cookies on baking sheets, removing from baking sheet and putting into storage containers.

If you have more cookies than cooling racks, use an old tablecloth for cooling. To save time and minimize the mess on baking day, you may want to mix the batter the day before. You can spend one session mixing and another session baking.

Cookie baking is a great opportunity to spend time with your children. Children enjoy helping with the preparations and tasting the end results. Younger children can help by pouring in measured ingredients, putting on candy sprinkles and placing cookies in storage containers. Older children can measure ingredients, put cookies on baking sheets

GOOD COOKIE TIPS

■ Never overbake. Remove cookies from the oven a minute or two before you have been instructed to.

■ Store cookies in air tight containers. Make sure cookies are completely cool before you put them in containers. To insure freshness, avoid opening the container often. Keep a separate container for your family's use and fill it with their favorites.

■ Make small cookies. Your cookie supply will last longer. People tend to count the number of cookies they eat, giving little thought to the size.

■ You should add a few new types of cookies to your repertoire each year, but always include the basics that you know everyone will enjoy.

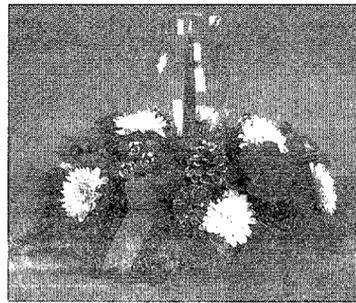
■ Make enough different kinds of cookies that a cookie tray would look festive and inviting. Use candy sprinkles and food coloring for some of your cookies to add color to your display.

■ Use a wooden spoon to mix cookie batter instead of a mixer.

Finally, bake more cookies than your family can eat. Purchase or collect tins of different sizes to fill with baked cookies to give to neighbors and friends. A baked gift often expresses appreciation far better than a more expensive purchased gift.

Today's Refrigerator Bulletin: "Mix, bake and indulge!"

Send your questions and success stories to **Diana Koenig's** e-mail at dianakoenig@hotmail.com or www.domesticplanner.com.



Seasonal centerpieces

From Christmas trees to Hanukkah centerpieces, Thrifty Florists – with stores throughout the Detroit area – offers a wide variety of decorations for the season. These centerpieces are two examples. Winter Sleigh Ride features a sleigh basket filled with assorted fresh evergreens, carnations, chrysanthemums, natural pine cones and decorations. It is 13 inches tall and costs \$34.99. Winter Glow Hurricane has an arrangement designed with fresh evergreens, carnations, chrysanthemums, pine cones and decorations, a candle taper and an old-fashioned glass hurricane jar. It is 12 inches tall and costs \$35.99.

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Keep kitchen safe during holidays

With the approaching holidays and the preparation of festive meals, safety experts are warning about the dangers of cooking fires in the kitchen.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 96,200 home structure fires were associated with cooking equipment. These fires killed 331 people, injured 4,183 others and caused \$511.3 million in direct property damage.

"Three out of every ten reported home fires start in the kitchen, more than any other place in the home," says John Drengenberg, manager of Consumer Affairs for Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL), the not-for-profit product safety testing organization. "Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries in the United States."

"These fires are caused by unattended cooking and human error, not mechanical failure of stoves or ovens."

This holiday season, UL and the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers are combining efforts to help prevent home cooking fires. They offer these ingredients of kitchen safety, whether you're stirring up a quick dinner or creating a multi-course masterpiece.

Supervision is key. Never leave cooking food on the stovetop unattended and regularly check food cooking inside

the oven.

Get in the zone. Keep children and pets away from cooking area by creating a 3-foot safety zone around the stove.

Keep away from the heat. To reduce the chances of bumping pots and pans and spilling their contents, turn panhandles in, but away from hot elements and burners.

It's not a closet. Never use the oven for storage. The oven can be turned on - burning or damaging the items stored inside.

Keep it clean. Keep the cooking area clean and clear of anything that can burn - towels, potholders, drapes, food packaging or other flammable objects.

It's made for food. Only use the oven for its intended use. Never use it to heat a room.

Roll 'em up. Make it a point to wear short, close fitting or tightly-rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle onto burners and catch fire.

Too hot to handle? Use thick, dry, flame-resistant potholders when handling lids and pans. A wet potholder or oven mitt presents a scald danger if the moisture becomes heated.

Protect your valuables. When removing pot and pan lids, tilt them away from you to protect your face and hands

from steam.

Keep a cool head. In the event of a range-top fire, put on an oven mitt and smother the flames by turning off the burner and carefully sliding a lid onto the pan. Leave the lid in place until well cooled.

Never carry the pan outside. Water and grease don't mix! Never use water or flour on a grease fire. Doing so can shoot burning grease around the kitchen, actually spreading the fire.

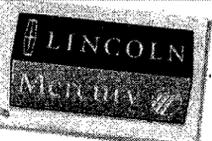
Use the right tools. If you're familiar with using a multi-purpose fire extinguisher, keep one handy in the event of a grease fire. Inexperienced users, however, can spread the fire. Make sure you know how to properly use a multi-purpose fire extinguisher.

Prevent flame spread. If you have an oven fire, immediately turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent flame spread.

Call for help. If you can't extinguish the fire yourself, leave your home, call 9-1-1, and wait in a safe place until emergency personnel arrive.

Life-safety devices a must. Make sure you have working smoke alarms in your home. Never disable smoke alarms and check them regularly.

Get out and stay out. Never return to a burning building for any reason.



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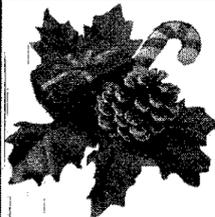
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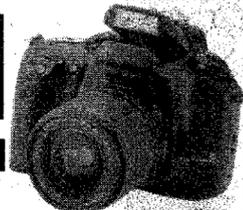
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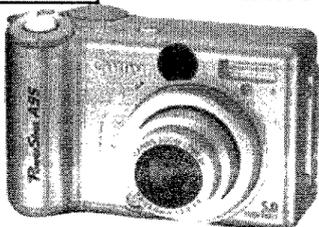


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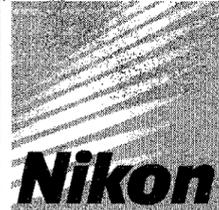
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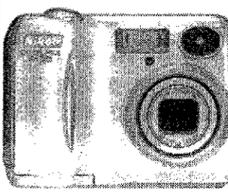
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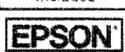


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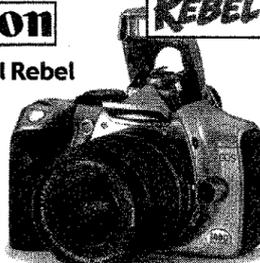


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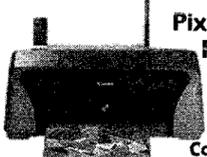
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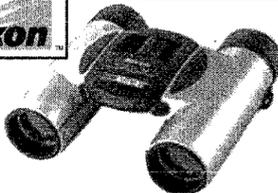
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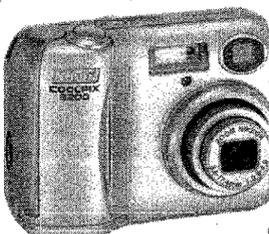
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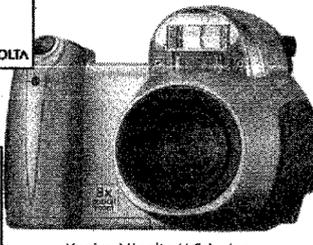
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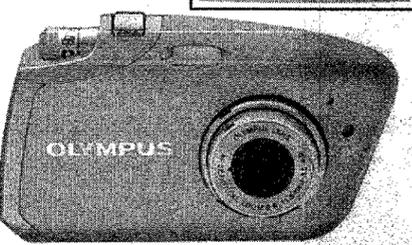
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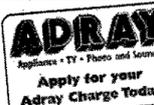


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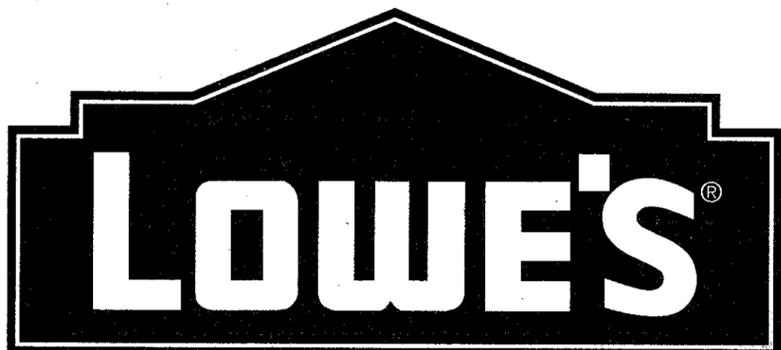
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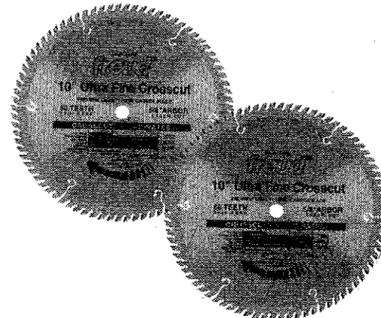
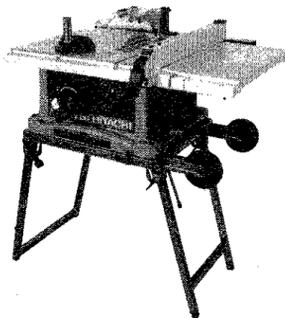


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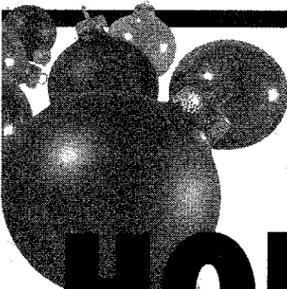
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Canton's Nick Landis helped lead the Chiefs to a third-place finish in the 200-yard butterfly relay at Saturday's Western Lakes Activities Association Relays held at Salem High School. Canton finished fourth overall, one spot behind Salem.

Stevenson prevails in WLAA Relays

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Stevenson couldn't ask for a better way to start the boys swim season.

The Spartans opened their season last week with a 127-59 dual-meet win (Dec. 7) over visiting Dearborn, posting four state qualifying times.

And the week ended Saturday as Stevenson repeated as Western Lakes Activities Association Relays champion, edging Northville for the team title, 254-238.

Host Salem finished third with 214 points followed by Canton (196), Livonia Churchill (155), Walled Lake Northern (143), Walled Lake Central (119), Westland John

Glenn (84), Walled Lake Western (82), Plymouth (81), Wayne (80) and Livonia Franklin (52).

"I thought we swam OK," said Salem coach Chuck Olson. "But we have a lot of work to do. Some swimmers who haven't had a chance to compete in the past got an opportunity and they did all right."

Three meet records were set including two by Northville and one by Stevenson.

"I knew it was going to be a close meet," Stevenson coach Jeff Shoemaker said. "We swam well and swam consistently. So far, so good, but we have a couple of areas to improve in."

"Now we have three solid

weeks of training. We'll go on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. These guys want to do something at the (Division I) state meet this year, just not show up."

Stevenson's 400-yard medley relay team of Jeff Pauza, David Godzinski, Garrett Baringhaus and Matt Massman set a meet record in 3:47.22, breaking the mark set in 1989 (3:48.11) set by Stevenson's Aaron Reider, now the head coach at Churchill, Alex Goecke, Scott DeWolf and Mike Goecke.

Shoemaker's lineup adjustment also reaped the 400 freestyle relay title as Adam Whalen, Salvatore Loria, Ryan Zuhke and Travis Hatt clocked a 3:30.79, just 6-100ths of a second

ahead of Northville.

"We did not put that much emphasis into this meet, but we had a couple of gambles that paid off," Shoemaker said. "Putting Travis (Hatt) in the 400 at the last minute — he does a 48.5 split as the anchor — was a great win. That was a 12-point swing. It was that close."

Stevenson also took the 200-butterfly relay as Steve Bruestle, Andrew Schoff, Joseph Fava and Baringhaus were clocked in 1:43.92. Stevenson's diving tandem of Cody Stafford and Steve Smith also placed first with a total of 337.05 points.

"Our divers also came through for us," Shoemaker

PLEASE SEE SWIMMING, C5

The sting Hornets hold off Salem comeback

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

In the movie *Jaws*, you knew the shark was coming when you heard the threatening music and saw its fin cutting through the water.

In Tuesday night's boys basketball game against Salem, Saline coach Terry Breneman knew a Rocks comeback was approaching, he just didn't have any warning when it would hit.

Salem's dramatic rally unfolded in the fourth quarter when the always-hustling Rocks trimmed a 16-point deficit to just four with three minutes left. However, Saline stuck a harpoon in the comeback with some clutch jumpers and free-throw shooting to hold off Salem, 57-47.

The setback dropped Salem to 0-3. Saline improved to 3-0 with the victory.

"Even when we were up 16, I knew Salem had a run in them," Breneman said as he wiped sweat from his brow moments after his team's narrow escape. "They're a well-coached team and they're the kind of team that you can never get comfortable with because they play so hard. They ran some different defensive looks against us that confused our young players at times. We're 3-0, but we're lucky to be 3-0 after this game."

Breneman said his Hornets and the Rocks are similar in many ways.

"Salem is young and inexperienced like us," Breneman said. "We had a good season last year, but my son (senior guard Geoff Breneman) is the only player we have back who started last year. This was a good win to get on the road."

PLEASE SEE HOOPS, C2

Sidelines

Chief spikers excel

The Canton volleyball team captured first place in the silver playoffs Saturday at the Livonia Stevenson Invitational tournament.

The Chiefs ousted Royal Oak Kimball, 25-10 and 25-14, before sweeping Gibraltar-Carlson, 25-16 and 25-23 in the playoff round.

Canton opened the day by splitting with Marian Catholic (25-8 and 25-20) and losing to eventual tournament champion Saline (27-26 and 25-21) and Monroe (26-24 and 25-15).

"We were playing in a very competitive pool," said Canton coach Alex Perrin. "Saline finished third in our pool, and ended up winning the 16-team tournament without dropping one playoff game."

"Our level of play was very high throughout the pool play. We had a seven-point lead against Saline in the first game before losing a few at the end. In the second game, we were tied at 21 before they scored the final few."

Chief standouts included Marie Martin (17 kills on 33 attempts, .485 hitting percentage); Stephanie Price (70 assists on 185 sets, five aces and 21 service points); Kelsey Bailey (14 kills, 11 aces and team-leading 2.05 serve-receive average); Lisa Western (17 kills, a .224 hitting percentage, and 1.96 serve-receive average); and Izabela Paszkowska (13 kills and 11 blocks).

Bear toss

When Plymouth Whalers' rookie Cory Tanaka scored on a breakaway late in the first period against the Owen Sound Attack Dec. 11 at the Compuware Sports Arena, he set off a chain reaction.

Many in the crowd of 3,129 pelted the ice with new teddy bears, brought to the game for Teddy Bear Toss Night, an event that occurs across the Ontario Hockey League and hockey venues around North America.

Officially, 514 bears were collected by Compuware service personnel and the Novi Bantam AA team after Tanaka's goal. It was the highest number of bears collected at a Whalers' game.

"It's a great cause," said Whalers coach Mike Vellucci. "It's pretty entertaining when you see all those teddy bears come out of the stands. The OHL does a great job in helping less-fortunate kids. We're just happy to be part of the effort."

Although the Whalers schedule the event and the Plymouth United Way distributes the bears, the event is made a success by the fans.

"It's a win-win situation for all involved," said Whalers director of corporate sales and marketing Rob Murphy. "We've enjoyed a long relationship with the Plymouth United Way and our fans came through in a big way. It's a fun event for a great cause."

Squeaker

Canton gymnasts edge Brighton by less than one point

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Canton's girls gymnastics team won its opening meet Tuesday night by the width of a balance beam.

The Chiefs nipped Brighton, 139.75 to 139.15, in one of the closest competitions veteran Canton coach John Cunningham can remember witnessing.

"I knew going in that both teams were pretty equal, but, to tell you the truth, I didn't think we were ready," Cunningham said. "I thought Brighton would win by a point or two. But after the first couple of events we were ahead and we were going to finish with the floor, which is our best event. We ended up doing OK on the floor — not great — but we won by six-tenths-of-a-point. That's like saying one fall (five-tenths) decided the meet."

Cunningham said he didn't notify his gymnasts of how close the meet was prior to the final event.

"I don't want to add any more pressure to the girls' performances than necessary," Cunningham said. "It's not good to tell a girl, 'If you get a 9.0 we win and a 8.5 we lose. They knew it was close going into the last event.'"

Sophomore Alyssa Kelley was brilliant for the Chiefs, placing first in all four events to win the all-around with a score of 36.80.

Jessie Murray also excelled for Canton, placing second in the vault (9.05), third in the bars (8.45), and fourth in the floor (8.95).

Canton returns to action Saturday at Vassar High School.

"We should win that meet," Cunningham said. "So instead of starting 1-1 like I expected, we should be 2-0 heading into the new year."

For a complete statistical wrap-up of the meet, please see page C2.

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CC grapplers triumph at Salem invite

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Redford Catholic Central's depth took a "heavy" toll on the Shamrocks' competition at the Salem Invitational Wrestling Meet held Saturday in the Salem High School gymnasium.

CC grapplers finished either first or second in the five heaviest weight classifications — 160 through heavy-weight — to lead the Shamrocks to a first-place showing. CC earned 253.5 points, 21 more than runner-up Salem and 51 more than

third-place Canton. Belleville (158.5), Wyandotte (149.5), Adrian (142) and Novi (117) filled out the seven-team field.

Three CC wrestlers turned in gold-medal efforts: Trevor Stewart (160 pounds), Brad Bartram (171) and Eric Vojtkofsky (215). Five other Shamrocks — Andrew Nadhir (125), Robert Price (130), Sean Dong (135), Matt Farmer (189) and John Morasso (heavyweight) — all copped second-place finishes in their respective weight classes.

The host Rocks were led by

first-place performers Matt Keffler (119), Ryan Stump (125), Jake Bennett (145), Val Gui (152), and Jeremy Henderson (189), who all posted 4-0 records over the course of the event.

"All five of our wrestlers who were in a finals match won, which was good to see," said Salem coach Greg Wochuk. "Matt Keffler looked dominant at 119 for us and Ryan Stump is really working his way back into form at 125. Scott Fysh, Val Gui, Jeremy Henderson and Jake Bennett wrestled well, too."

Two Chiefs won their respective divisions: 130-pound Corey Phillips and 135-pound Ryan Webb.

Webb, who defeated Dong, 8-6, in the final match, was voted the meet's Most Valuable Wrestler for the lighter-weight classes.

CC's Stewart was honored as the MVW for the upper-weights.

Shining for Belleville were Greg Rochon, who finished first at 140 pounds, and Scott Golden, who captured the heavyweight title.

For complete results on the meet, please see page C2.

RU duo hands Canton 1st loss

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

You can't stop Redford Union's high-scoring backcourt of Gregg Hill and Anthony Smelley, but you can try to contain them. Or so the saying goes.

But Canton couldn't quite succeed on that account as Hill and Smelley combined for 36 points — including all of RU's second-quarter scoring — to pace the host Panthers (2-1 overall) to a 44-40 non-league victory Tuesday night.

Redford Union head coach Brett Steele raved about the games turned in by Hill (20 points, four rebounds) and Smelley (16 points, four rebounds).

"They're big-time players who played well in a big-time game," Steele said. "That's what they're supposed to do. They're seniors and they've been through these things for three or four years. That's why

they're two of the best players in the area."

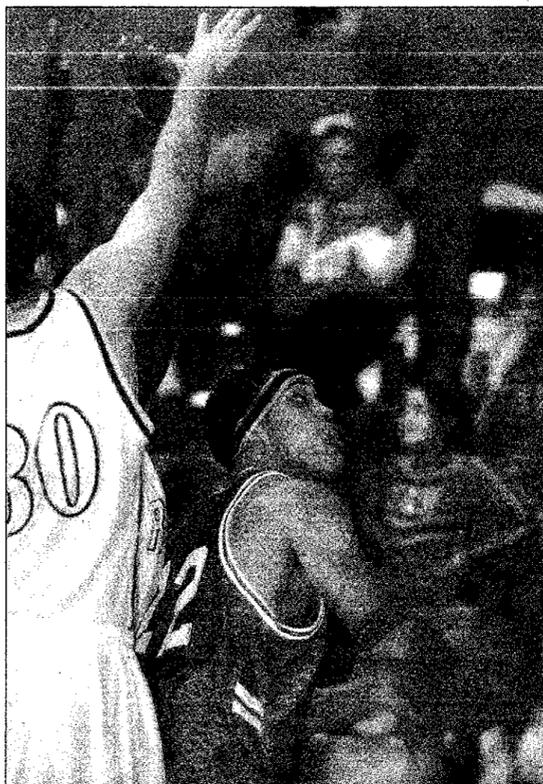
Steele said the duo could even take their play to another level. "They're really difficult to defend, they're very good off the dribble and they're getting better at learning when to pitch it, or pull up and shoot it," he said.

Canton coach Charlie Paye probably wouldn't want to hear that, since he said Hill "threw up some stuff that amazed me."

Paye said Hill and Smelley did a lot of damage during the first half, but that the Chiefs (2-1 overall) fared better defending them after intermission, when the Panthers led 25-21.

"We did better against them in the second half, but down the stretch we missed some shots that we normally make," Paye said. "Our intensity was there, but that (Redford Union) is a good

PLEASE SEE BASKETBALL, C2



Canton's Julian Smith attempts a shot against Redford Union's David Johnson III during the third-quarter of Tuesday night's non-conference game at RU.

WRESTLING RESULTS

Salem Invitational Wrestling Meet
Dec. 11 at Salem High School
FINAL RESULTS
 1. Redford Catholic Central, 253.5; 2. Salem, 232.5; 3. Canton, 202.5; 4. Belleville, 158.5; 5. Wyandotte, 149.5; 6. Adrian, 142; 7. Novi, 117.
103 pounds: 1. John Cole (W), 4-0; 2. James O'Keefe (B), 3-1; 3. Jeremy Stanikewitz (S), 3-1; 4. Ryan Schmettler (C), 2-2.
112: 1. Jerry Boggess (W), 4-0; 2. Dustin Zak (B), 3-1; 3. Nick Steiger (S), 3-1; 4. Sam Santilli (C), 2-2.
119: 1. Matt Keffler (S), 4-0; 2. Christian Cullinan (W), 3-1; 3. Ed Mohr (A), 3-1; 4. Antonio Cosme (C), 2-2.
125: 1. Ryan Stump (S), 4-0; 2. Andrew Nadhir (CC), 3-1; 3. Tim Davis (B), 3-1; 4. Alan Marvin (A), 2-2.
130: 1. Corey Phillips (C), 4-0; 2. Robert Price (CC), 3-1; 3. Cory Mervyn (C), 3-1; 4. Jeff Phillips (B), 2-2.
135: 1. Ryan Webb (C), 4-0; 2. Sean Dong (CC), 3-1; 3. Scott Fysh (S), 3-1; 4. Eric Mohr (A), 2-2.
140: 1. Greg Rochon (B), 4-0; 2. Konrad Konsitzke (C), 3-1; 3. Alex Baum (N), 3-1; 4. Ryan Olson (S), 2-2.
145: 1. Jake Bennett (S), 4-0; 2. Matt Sweda (C), 3-1; 3. Ty Waters (A), 3-1; 4. Matt Crawford (N), 2-2.

152: 1. Val Gui (S), 4-0; 2. Jamie Kollé (A), 3-1; 3. Steve Shaughnessy (W), 3-1; 4. Alex Freitag (C), 2-2.
160: 1. Trevor Stewart (CC), 4-0; 2. Marwan Faraj (C), 3-1; 3. John Favorite (N), 3-1; 4. Chris Hasse (C), 2-2.
171: 1. Brad Bartram (CC), 4-0; 2. Justin Cameron (N), 3-1; 3. Pat McWhirter (C), 3-1; 4. Dusty Crowley (W), 2-2.
189: 1. Jeremy Henderson (S), 4-0; 2. Matt Farmer (CC), 3-1; 3. Mike Carrier (W), 3-1; 4. Keil Price (C), 2-2.
215: 1. Eric Vojtkofsky (CC), 4-0; 2. John Kinville (CC), 3-1; 3. David Kennedy (B), 3-1; 4. Alex Smith (S), 2-2.
HWT: 1. Scott Golden (B), 4-0; 2. John Morasso (CC), 3-1; 3. Steve Kaptur (S), 3-1; 4. Cameron Holbrook (A), 2-2.
Southgate Anderson 34, Canton 31
Dec. 8 at Canton High School
189 pounds: Joe Higgins (SA) pinned Keil Price (C), 2:52; 215: Eric Davis (SA) dethroned P.J. Caram (C), 6-5; **HWT:** Josh Craig (SA) pinned Donnie Laramie (C), 1:24; 103: Ryan Schmettler (C) dethroned Joe Nguyen (SA), 13-10; 112: Nick Poole (C) won by major decision over Mike Roberts (SA), 11-0; 119: Stuart Bies (SA) won by major decision over Jay Fleischmann (C), 13-5; 125: Pete Bonneau (C) pinned Peter Jarbo (SA), :32; 130: Corey

Phillips (C) pinned Joe Berchiny (SA), 3:53; 135: Ryan Webb (C) won by a technical fall over Paul Shear (SA), 16-0; 140: Konrad Konsitzke (C) won by a major decision over Joe Gniewek (SA), 15-5; 145: Mark Esshaki (SA) pinned Dave Dauzy (C), :39; 152: C.J. Lynn (SA) won by a major decision over Marwan Faraj (C), 14-0; 160: Ian Grimsley (SA) won by a technical fall over Alex Freitag (C), 24-5; 171: Pat McWhirter (C) dethroned Joe Pajor (SA), 4-3.
Canton 61, Birmingham Brother Rice 12
Dec. 8 at Canton High School
HWT: Mike Banion (BR) pinned Donnie Laramie (C), :29; 103: Ryan Schmettler (C) won by forfeit; 112: Sam Santilli (C) pinned Mike Kazanawski (BR), 1:59; 119: Nick Poole (C) pinned Marcel Orw (BR), 3:55; 125: Jay Fleischmann (C) won by major decision over Adam Michalski (BR), 9-1; 130: Pete Bonneau (C) pinned John Birney (BR), 5:20; 135: Corey Phillips (C) pinned Andrew Boschert (BR), 1:53; 140: Ryan Webb (C) pinned Shane Shuina (BR), 5:34; 145: Konrad Konsitzke (C) pinned Jon Pazck (BR), :14; 152: Marwan Faraj (C) dethroned Anthony Wong, 9-3; 160: Alex Freitag (C) pinned Nick Deck (BR), 2:55; 171: Joe Klima (BR) dethroned Pat McWhirter (C), 7-5; 189: P.J. Caram (C) pinned Matt Shango (BR), 1:15; 215: Manuel Suleiman (BR) dethroned Tom Bonnell (C), 10-5.

BASKETBALL

FROM PAGE C1

team. They have two very good players."

TAKING OVER

Both teams pretty much traded baskets throughout the hard-fought game. It was 12-11 Canton after one frame, following a last-second putback by sophomore forward Steven Paye (six points). Hill and Smelley took over in the second, scoring six and eight points, respectively. They also hooked up on perhaps the prettiest basket of the night, as the half ended. Working the ball for a final shot, Hill sent a nifty bounce pass to Smelley for a lay-in. With Canton turning it up in the defensive pressure department, the Chiefs rallied to go up 32-30 with the third quarter coming to a close when Hill — again — came to RU's rescue. He took the ball through the lane and scored with a crowd-pleasing finger-roll to deadlock the score at 32-32. A trey by Redford Union junior guard Chris Brown opened up a 37-32 advantage with 5:50 to go. Brown let it fly

from beyond the top of the arc and when the ball went through, he thrust out an arm in excitement.

Characteristic of the game, however, Canton quickly closed the gap to 37-36 and did not go away quietly.

A defensive block by 6-4 senior forward Julian Smith at one end led to a layup by scrappy senior guard Andy Cortellini (five points), at the other to make it 40-38 Panthers with 3:15 left. But Smelley pretty much capped off the RU win in the final minute. He blocked a Canton pass attempt and dribbled to the other end for a layup to give the Panthers some breathing room.

Several players not named Hill or Smelley contributed to the RU victory. Senior center David Johnson III scored only two points and pulled down three boards. But Steele emphasized that the 6-3, 230-pound player shadowed Canton's 6-8 senior center Kevin Thornton so well that he scored only four points and wasn't a factor in the rebounding department.

Redford Union's next game is 7 p.m. Friday, at home against Southgate Anderson. The Panthers will follow that up with a game slated for 7 p.m. Tuesday at Redford Catholic Central.

SHADOWING

"David Johnson III did a tremendous job on their big

kid, Thornton," Steele said. "He averages 16 points and 13 rebounds and we held them to four ... He (Thornton) had no room."

Steele added that senior forward Bill Johnson (three points, five rebounds) put the clamps on another tough Canton player, Smith. All seven of Smith's points came during the first minutes of the third quarter, sparking the Chiefs to a brief rally that erased the RU halftime lead and put Canton up 28-27.

For the Chiefs, senior guard David Calille scored nine points and chipped in with three assists.

Paye said it didn't help Canton's chances for a victory that Cortellini inadvertently took an elbow to the head while closely guarding Smelley, and had to leave with about two minutes remaining. The coach added he didn't know whether Cortellini will be able to play Thursday at South Lyon.

Redford Union's next game is 7 p.m. Friday, at home against Southgate Anderson. The Panthers will follow that up with a game slated for 7 p.m. Tuesday at Redford Catholic Central.

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GYMNASTICS RESULTS

Canton 139.75, Brighton 139.15
Dec. 13 at Plymouth High School
Vault: 1. Alyssa Kelley (C), 9.45; 2. Jessie Murray (C), 9.05; 3. (tie) Kaitlin Pietila (B) and Nicole Drouillard (B), 8.9 each; 5. Rachel Page (B), 8.85; 6. Kate Staley (C), 8.8.
Bars: 1. Alyssa Kelley (C), 8.9; 2. Rachel

Page (B), 8.85; 3. Jessie Murray (C), 8.45; 4. (tie) Katie Carlson (B) and Alexis Johnson (B), 8.40 each; 6. (tie) Kate Staley (C) and Becky Cook (B), 8.3 each.
Balance Beam: 1. Alyssa Kelley (C), 9.0; 2. Nicole Drouillard (B), 9.0; 3. Rachel Page (B), 8.95; 4. Kate Carlson (B), 8.8; 5. Kara Ahern

(C), 8.7; 6. Jessie Murray (C), 8.45.
Floor: 1. Alyssa Kelley (C), 9.45; 2. Nicole Drouillard (B), 9.3; 3. Katie Carlson (B), 9.2; 4. Jessie Murray (C), 8.95; 5. (tie) Kaitlyn Burns (C) and Kara Ahern (C), 8.90.
All-Around winner: Alyssa Kelley (C), 36.80.

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HOOPS

FROM PAGE C1

Saline's full-court, pressure-packed defense forced 22 Salem turnovers, many of which were turned into easy layups at the other end of the court.

"We're not that big, but we're quick, so the past three years we've gone to the pressure defense," Breneman said. "In our first two games against Jackson Lumen Christi and Ypsilanti Lincoln, we were down 12 and 15, but we were able to come back thanks to our defensive pressure."

Geoff Breneman, who was playing on a sore ankle, recorded 13 points to lead the Hornets. His backcourt mate, junior David Stasiak, scored 10 points and sophomore center Vince Helmuth scored nine points and pulled down a team-high seven rebounds. Senior Dave Cardenas topped the Rocks' offense with 14

points. The 6-foot-2 forward connected on 5-of-7 shots from the floor and 4-of-6 free throws.

Junior forward Kevin Bradley contributed 13 points and eight rebounds for the Rocks, who also got inspired play from sophomore guard Mike Marek (four points, four steals and three assists).

Salem led 11-10 after one quarter, but found itself trailing 27-19 at the half after hitting just 3-of-10 second-quarter shots and committing eight turnovers over the eight-minute span.

Saline grabbed its biggest lead, 37-21, with 4:55 to go in the third quarter on a fast-break layup by Breneman. The Rocks trimmed the Hornets' lead to 46-35 at the end of the third quarter, but the comeback paled in comparison to the significant rally Salem was about to unleash.

Baskets by Bradley, Jeff Lake and Cardenas brought Salem to within 46-41 with 4:15 remaining. Breneman sank

two free throws a minute later, but they were offset by a crowd-raising three-point play by Cardenas, who took a backdoor pass from Lake and went hard to the hole with 2:44 left on the clock. He banked in the off-balance leamer while getting fouled. His ensuing free throw made it 48-44.

The Salem faithful's enthusiasm was dampened over the following 1:29, when the Hornets regrouped and pulled off a 4-0 run of their own to put the game on ice.

Salem outshot (40.4 percent to 34.6) and outrebounded (37-25) Saline, but trailed in the only statistical category that mattered: total points.

The Rocks return to action Friday night when they travel to Warren Cousino to battle the Patriots. The opening tip is set for 7 p.m. On Tuesday and Wednesday of next week, Salem will take part in the Allen Park Christmas Tournament. It will open Tuesday against Dearborn Heights Crestwood.

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Belleville escapes with 58-55 victory

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

If the best team won, its coach didn't think it deserved to.

Yes, Coach Mike Krogel of Belleville could afford to praise Wayne Memorial after the Tigers edged the Zebras, 58-55, Tuesday night.

But he saw a lot of things that a state-ranked team shouldn't be displaying.

Enough turnovers to choke a horse, a multitude of missed shots, plus inconsistent defense and rebounding.

Still, it was a win — and Belleville isn't likely to give it back.

"It was very disappointing," Krogel said after his team's third straight win over a Western Lakes Activities Association opponent. "I don't want to take anything away from Wayne. He (Coach Wayne Woodard) had a lot of guys step up. We didn't. The team that deserved to win, didn't."

"It still shows up as a loss," Woodard said after Wayne dropped its second game in as many tries.

What Woodard didn't care for was watching his team

squander a 42-35 lead after coming back from a 27-20 deficit.

The Zebras had just four turnovers in the first half, then coughed it up 12 times in 20 possessions over a nine-minute span starting right after the Tigers' Tommie Clark made a pair of free throws with 3:13 left in the third period to cut Wayne's lead to 42-37.

"Our first point of emphasis was to value the basketball," Woodard said. "There were times we did. There were times when we didn't. We made a lot of bad passes."

Wayne showed some stretches of terrific man-to-man defense, highlighted by back-to-back fast-break layups that gave it a 40-35 lead midway through the third quarter.

The Zebras ran off nine unanswered points in fashioning their seven-point lead.

But Belleville ran off eight unanswered points of its own thanks to four consecutive shot-less possessions by Wayne.

The Zebras turned the ball over without getting off a shot on five of their last seven

possessions of the third quarter. The Tigers led, 45-43, entering the fourth quarter.

Sophomore guard Rodrick Walker led all scorers with 27 points for Wayne including a triple with 1:47 to play that shaved Belleville's lead to 55-52. Maurice Nelson canned a three with 31 seconds to go to make it 57-55 but the Zebras weren't able to get off an open shot in their effort to tie the score.

Junior Leon Freeman led Belleville with 23 points and Isaac Kindell added 16 for the Tigers.

"I think we were lucky this time," Krogel said, "and I hope we can get better."

"We did not play decent basketball. We were not consistent on defense or on the boards. We were very lackluster on offense. But sometimes it's easier to correct things when you win."

Wayne played over an ankle injury to center Gene Nix, which occurred in practice Monday, that kept him on the bench most of the game. His minutes were sparse and he did not score.

"Our kids are hard workers," Woodard said. "We kind of

knew what we were getting into. We've got a lot of new kids and we're still all getting on the same page."

"I think for the most part we played hard. We just need to play a little bit smarter."

Belleville jumped out to leads of 10-5 and 14-9 before settling for a 14-11 lead after the first quarter.

Freeman hit two three in a row and Kindell added one to pad the margin to 27-20 before Wayne went on a 9-2 run. The half ended with the Tigers holding a 31-30 lead.

"Whenever we did get a little momentum going," Krogel said, "we couldn't get a break. But that goes back to Wayne playing hard. When you play hard, things seem to go your way more often."

Belleville made eight turnovers in the first half and nine in the second and also did a far better job on the offensive boards than Wayne did.

And even though the Tigers aren't members of the WLAA, it's going to be the first or second week in January before any WLAA team has beaten more league opponents than Belleville has.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

YOUTH WRESTLING

The second session of the Canton Wrestling Club will run from Jan. 3 through March 13. The cost is \$45 and includes membership in the Michigan Youth Wrestling Association and a club T-shirt.

Registration will be held Wednesday, Dec. 15 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in room 305 of Canton High School's Phase III building.

Practices will be held Mondays and Wednesdays. Athletes from first through eighth grades may participate. Practices will be divided into beginning and advanced wrestlers.

For more information, contact Canton wrestling coach Casey Randolph at (734) 697-2083 or e-mail him at c_randolph44@yahoo.com.

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.

For more information, call the Novi Ice Arena at (248) 347-1010 or visit its Web site at www.noviicearena.com.

SOCCER SIGN-UP

The Canton Soccer Club is accepting registrations for spring soccer for players 5 through 19 years of age (as of March 1).

Registration forms are available online at www.cantonsoccerclub.com or at the club office, which is located at: High Velocity Sports, 46245 Michigan Ave., Canton.

For more information, call (734) 480-7046.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 16
Canton at South Lyon, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 17
Belleville at River Rouge, 7 p.m.
Salem at Warren Cousino, 7 p.m.
Agape Christian at A.P. Inter-City, 7:30 p.m.
Lutheran Westland at Plymouth Christian, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 17
Waterford Mott at Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 18
PCS Penguins at Northville at Novi Ice Arena, 5 p.m.

Plymouth at Ypsi Christmas Tourney at Arctic Edge, 9 p.m.
Canton at Northville, 3 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 19
Plymouth at Ypsi Christmas Tourney at Arctic Edge, noon

PREP WRESTLING
Thursday, Dec. 16
Dearborn Fordson at Belleville, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 18
Canton and Salem at Canton Invitational, 9 a.m.

PREP VOLLEYBALL
Thursday, Dec. 16
Lutheran Westland at Agape Christian at Discovery Middle School, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 17
Plymouth Christian at Lutheran West, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 18
Plymouth Christian at N. Farmington Invitational, TBA

Plymouth at Madonna University Tournament at Plymouth H.S., 8:30 a.m.

GYMNASTICS
Saturday, Dec. 18
Canton at Vassar, noon

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Friday, Dec. 17
(Notre Dame, Ohio Tournament)

Madonna vs. Tiffin (Ohio), 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 18
Genesee Co. at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m.

(Notre Dame, Ohio Tournament)
Madonna vs. Notre Dame, 5:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Dec. 18
Genesee at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.

Madonna at Taylor (Ind.), 3 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Friday, Dec. 17
Whalers at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 18
Whalers at Belleville Bulls, 7:15 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 19
Whalers at Oshawa Generals, 6:05 p.m.

TBA — time to be announced.

Last-minute goal gives Chiefs' tie

Pat Davison's goal with 33 seconds remaining Saturday night earned Canton's hockey team a 3-3 tie with Chelsea.

Davison one-timed a pass from Reece McCabe into the back of the net to cap a dramatic comeback. Mike Kondratek also was credited with an assist on the goal. Canton was 4-1-1 heading into Wednesday's cross-campus game against Salem (results will appear in Sunday's Observer). The tie left Chelsea with a 5-1-2 mark.

"We pulled our goalie with about 40 seconds to go and Chelsea cleared the puck," said Canton coach Mike Behen, describing the Chiefs' final-

minute heroics. "We were very patient bringing it back up the ice and Reece did a nice job of taking the puck out to the wing then finding Pat. It was a real exciting game. I wish we could have played overtime, but both coaches have to agree to it."

Canton led 1-0 on McCabe's first-period goal. After Chelsea scored twice in the second period, the Chiefs' Brett Giacchino tied the game at 2-2 with four minutes left in the second period. He was assisted by McCabe and Kondratek.

After Chelsea scored early in the third, the Chiefs found themselves in unfamiliar territory this season — behind late in the game.

"We haven't had to come back too much this year, so I was happy to see how well we reacted to being behind," Behen said.

Plymouth-Canton-Salem 1, Port Huron 0: The Penguins improved to 6-2 (5-1 in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League) when Lisa Ealy scored with 11:06 remaining in the third period off a pass from Keely Kowalski. Port Huron slipped to 1-4. PCS is in second place in the MMGHSHL, just one game behind Grosse Pointe South, which is unbeaten.

"Our defense did a nice job," said PCS coach Lori Callahan. "We had some good

opportunities to score, but we couldn't find a way to put the puck in the net except for Lisa's goal. The puck was either in the neutral zone or at our end of the rink for most of the game."

The Penguins outshot the Rebels, 31-7. Kristie Kowalski recorded the shutout between the pipes for the winners.

"Kristie didn't have a lot of chances, but when she did get them, she made the saves," Callahan said. "They shut us down offensively. Their goalie (Kristen Walker) was very good. When you get 31 shots like we did, you expect to score more than once."



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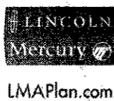
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Witty Holtz continues to captivate audiences

BY M.B. DILLON
SPECIAL WRITER

Supporters of Ann Arbor's Thomas More Law Center passed up basketball games and holiday events to hear legendary football coach Lou Holtz, eighth on the all-time win list in major college football history, at a fund-raiser last Friday night at Oakland International Airport in Pontiac.

The law center has hosted many speakers, "but never have we received so much adulation for one individual," said Richard Thompson, president and chief counsel of the public interest law firm, addressing a full house.

The not-for-profit law center, whose advisory board is chaired by former baseball commissioner Bowie Kuhn, is dedicated to defending the religious freedom of Christians across the U.S.

Holtz recently announced his retirement as football coach at the University of South Carolina. Prior to his five years there, Holtz led the University of Notre Dame to nine consecutive bowl games and a national championship.

Holtz, who turns 68 on Jan. 6, regaled his audience with a delightful mix of football lore, praise for the Thomas More Center, self-deprecating humor and a little "Life 101" with a magic trick thrown in.

A few highlights:

■ "Did you know Notre Dame was supposed to be in San Diego?" asked Holtz. "In 1842, the French priest Father Sorin set out from the east to establish a university in California. It was windy and snowing, and they stopped in South Bend, Indiana."

Father Sorin said to his men, "I'll tell you what. We are going to set up camp here tonight. We'll move the minute the weather gets better."

■ There were lean times at South Carolina.

"I had a kicker who said, 'Coach, I can't kick when you're watching.'"

"I explained to him that I was going to be at the games."

■ "If there is one thing we need to give the youth of America, it's respect for authority," said Holtz. "That has to be taught in the family and reinforced in the schools. If you don't have respect for authority, you're not going to be able to hold a job or lead people."

■ "When I left the University of Notre Dame, I was tired of coaching; I was tired of maintaining," he said. "When you try to maintain, there is no way. You are either going to grow or you are going to die. It doesn't have a thing to do with age. It has everything to do with whether you have goals, dreams and hopes."



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Good answers

Early results promising for Chief spikers

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

First-year Canton volleyball coach Alex Perrin walked into the Chiefs' pre-season scrimmage Dec. 4 with a few question marks regarding his relatively inexperienced team.

A few hours later, he walked out of the gym with many of the questions answered.

"We did better than I expected," Perrin said, "especially considering there were a lot of very competitive teams at the scrimmage. I wasn't sure how we would do, but I was pleasantly surprised. The girls played very well against teams like (Farmington Hills) Mercy and (Birmingham) Marian. We only have one returning starter, so I was pleased."

Perrin coached the previous five years at Farmington High School, where he helped transform the Falcons' once-struggling program into a competitive team in the Oakland Activities Association's top division.

"I moved from Birmingham to Plymouth this year, so when the Canton job opened up, I

applied," he said. "I'm looking forward to the opportunity to coach a group of outstanding athletes. We don't have a lot of players who play club volleyball, but the previous coaching staff did a great job because the girls are well-trained. We have some good decision-makers and we're good at controlling the ball."

Canton finished fifth in the Western Lakes Activities Association last season with a 5-4 overall match record. The Chiefs were second in the WLAAs Western Division behind Livonia Churchill.

Canton's lone returning starter is senior Andrea Johnson, a 5-foot-8 outside hitter. Among the other returning players include co-captains 5-6 senior Stephanie Price, who will serve as the team's starting setter, and 5-7 senior defensive specialist Molly Conlon.

"Stephanie was a part-time setter last year," Perrin said. "She's a good leader, she has good hands and she's a great decision-maker."

Other key returners include 5-6 senior Christie Daniels, a

defensive specialist; 5-7 senior Laura McKendry, primarily a right-side hitter, and Lisa Western, a 5-11 junior, who plays a lot of volleyball during the off-season, according to Perrin.

The newcomers include 5-11 junior Izabela Paszkowska, 6-2 freshman Marie Martin, 5-4 junior Rachael Beaudoin, 5-6 junior Sarah Alexander, 5-7 junior Krista Holcomb and 5-7 junior Kelsey Bailey.

"Marie is the only freshman who has played for one of my varsity teams," Perrin revealed. "She has the skills of a junior and she is highly coordinated."

The Chiefs opened their season yesterday at the Livonia Stevenson Invitational. On Tuesday, Dec. 28, they will compete in the West Bloomfield Tournament.

Plymouth

The Wildcats finished 46-7 last season playing a schedule that consisted of an equal mix of varsity and junior-varsity competition. Despite having only sophomores and freshmen, they advanced to the finals of their Class B district tournament before getting ousted.

Third-year coach Kelly McCausland, who played high school volleyball at Redford Union and collegially at Madonna University, has high hopes for this year's team, which consists of 10 juniors and two sophomores.

"I'm very optimistic," McCausland said. "It's going to be difficult competing without seniors, especially because we're in such a tough league. But since I've been able to coach these girls since they were freshmen, I've been able to prepare them for what we're about to face. I'm looking forward to the challenge."

upcoming campaign.

"The girls played together in several tournaments this past spring, so we have good team chemistry," said Henry, who is an elementary school teacher at PCA. "This was the second year we've had a team in the USA Michigan tournaments and it's proven to be very beneficial."

The Eagles will be led by senior defensive specialist Camille Kimberlin.

"Camille is an excellent server," Henry said. "She had a 96-percent serve average last season."

Junior Julie Bahbah and senior Kelli Feiler will serve as the team's captains this season.

"Both are all-around players for us," Henry said. "Julie has developed into an outstanding hitter and Kelli is an outstanding defensive player."

Other key returners include juniors Bre Ruark and Kelsie Tietjen.

"Bre is an all-around player who has played on the varsity since her freshman year," Henry said. "She is an excellent player and a great leader. Kelsie is only about 5-7, but she has an incredible arm span that makes her a tremendous blocker. She led our team with 98 blocks last year."

Providing PCA with excellent depth will be juniors Rachel Wiard, Stephanie Auwers and Jessica Lowman, and sophomores Katie Wendt and Megan Moriarity.

"Our No. 1 goal is to win the district title again," Henry said. "We'd also like to do well in regionals and win our conference."

PCA opened Saturday at the Livonia Stevenson Invitational.

Belleville

Coach Danny Simpkins has eight seniors returning from last season's team that finished fourth in the Mega White Division. The Tigers were upended by Westland John

Glenn in the championship game of their Class A district tournament.

"We have an experienced team coming back, so we should do well," Simpkins said. "Our goal is to vie for the conference title."

Setter Tammy Mida, 5-5, will serve as a captain for the Tigers.

"This is her third year as our setter, so she'll be our catalyst," Simpkins said. "She's the quarterback of our team. The better she plays, the better our teams plays."

Belleville's top hitter is 5-11 senior Cindy McGoldrick, who is the team's assistant captain.

"Cindy is a phenomenal volleyball player," Simpkins said. "She has great hitting skills, great blocking skills and she's smart. Whenever we need a put-down to get a point back in our favor, we turn to her."

Danell Dotson, a 5-6 senior, is the Tigers' top defensive specialist.

"Danell is very smart and she knows where to put the ball," Simpkins said.

Other returners include Tiffany Chudzinski, a 5-7 defensive specialist; Christina Solomon, a 5-10 outside hitter; Tessa Coleman, a 6-0 mid-blocker; Nicky Malls, a 5-11 outside hitter; and Meghan McNally, a defensive specialist.

Serving in reserve roles for the Tigers will be underclassmen Ashley Williams, Felicia Arnold, Vanessa Rivas, Tiffany Jablonski and Brandie Craig.

Belleville opened its season Saturday at the South Lyon Invitational.

"Wyandotte and Dearborn Fordson should be the teams to beat in the Mega White this year," Simpkins predicted. "Wyandotte moved down from the Mega Red, but they're good. Fordson always plays well."

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Regaining WLAA crown is goal of Salem swimmers

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

PREP SWIMMING PREVIEW

Last season was a rarity for the Salem boys swim team, which didn't win the Western Lakes Activities Association title for the first time in 12 years.

The Rocks were de-throned by Livonia Stevenson, which proved it will be a strong contender again this season following Saturday's first-place finish in the WLAA Relays at Salem.

"In order to win the conference, you need quality and depth," said veteran Salem coach Chuck Olson, whose team stroked its way to a third-place finish on Saturday. "We have good quality this year, but we don't have the depth we've had in the past. Hopefully, we can match up well against most teams and take advantage of our strengths against their weaknesses."

Four senior captains — Nick Dixon, Penn Chou, Matt Jurcak and Billy Horgan — will lead the Rocks into competition over the next three months. Dixon, a four-year varsity performer, placed in the individual medley and backstroke at the Division 1

state meet. Jurcak has been a state qualifier the past two seasons in the 200 freestyle, 100 freestyle and 100 backstroke.

"Penn is probably our most versatile swimmer," Olson revealed. "He'll swim a lot of breaststroke, IM and freestyle, plus he'll probably be on our 400 free relay team. Billy is versatile, too, swimming in the IM, fly, back and free."

In senior Andrew Murawski, the Rocks have one of the top divers in the area. He'll be joined in the diving corps by senior Brad Sokolowski, who played basketball last year after excelling on the board as a sophomore.

Other seniors who should make valuable contributions are Mike Higgs, Patrick Sautural, John Kline, Eric Martin, David Xia and Tim Skeeter.

"Stevenson will be tough as usual," Olson said, sizing up the WLAA race. "We'll do the best we can and see what happens. It's so early now, I'm not quite sure how we stack up against the other teams."

Canton

Sixth-year coach Ed Weber has 26 returners from last year's team that finished second in the WLAA.

"We lost a lot of power from last year's team," said Weber, referring to the graduated Joe Le (All-State), James Sattler, Steve Reasor, Sam Manees, Neal Brunner, Kenny Brunner and Aaron Vanproyer. "We have a lot of ability this year and we have quite a few kids who are capable of being state qualifiers."

"We have potential. We have some juniors and seniors who haven't been asked to help the team like they will be asked to do this season. Now is their time."

Weber said he expects at least three other teams to qualify for the WLAA's top spot this year.

"Northville has quite a few proven swimmers back," he said. "And I know Stevenson has quite a few state qualifiers back, so we'll have our hands full with them. Salem will be good, too."

Seniors Kevin Cafarelli (diving), Dave Conzelman (backstroke) and John Faraoni (a number of events) will serve as



JIM JAGDFELD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Matt Jurcak will be a key contributor to the Rocks' swimming success during the 2004-05 season.

captains for the Chiefs this season.

"Kevin has been diving all four years for us, so he has great potential," Weber said. "He is very capable of qualifying for the state meet. Even though he had to deal with some injuries last year, he came very close to qualifying. This year, if he stays healthy, he has a great shot."

Other key contributors for Canton this season include sophomore Matt Carlson (breaststroke and 200 IM),

junior Nick Landis (freestyle events, 100 fly), junior Nathan Phillips (IM, backstroke) and junior Shogo Uno (50 free, 100 fly).

Plymouth

The Wildcats are extremely young as their senior-less roster is dotted with just three juniors.

"We don't have a lot of experience, but we will improve as the year goes on like we always do," said coach Doug Schade, who has overseen the Plymouth

program since its inception in 2002.

The Wildcats will be led by junior Andy Knisely, who holds practically every school swimming record and is a two-year state qualifier.

"Andy should come close to making it to the second day of the state meet this year," Schade predicted. "He's a great athlete who participate in whatever sport is going on during that particular season. He also runs track; and he played football this year."

Schade is also optimistic about the future of sophomore David Kong, a backstroke, and junior Sorin Oprican, who excels in the fly and backstroke.

Sophomores who work for points this season include Casey Molloy, Jake Napier, Alex Alber and Justin Magill, a diver.

The Wildcats should also receive steady contributions from freshmen Ben Ambrose, Michael Conger, Jack Distel, Anoop Gopal, Justin Huey, Kevin Jaskolski, Ryan Kolesar, Robert Mattar, Justin Scaparo and Frank Su.

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Newcomers should infuse Canton gymnasts with talent to spare

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

GYMNASTICS PREVIEW

There's good news and bad news for the Canton girls gymnastics team this season.

On the down side, the Chiefs will be competing without last year's high scorer, Audra Ahern, who graduated and is now an assistant gymnastics coach at Eastern Michigan University.

The good news? "We have two girls who have the potential to be as good or better than Audra," said veteran Canton coach John Cunningham.

Ahern led the Chiefs to an eighth-place finish in last year's Division 1 state meet. With the addition of talented newcomers Jessie Murray, a freshman, and sophomore Hillary Brach, a higher state finish may not be out of the question for Canton at the 2005 state meet.

"Hillary is a cheerleader who is going to compete in gymnastics as well this year," Cunningham said. "She has been out of competitive gymnastics for three years, but she is an exceptional athlete. Jessica is an outstanding gymnast as well."

Senior Megan Chappo will be one of the Chiefs' top contributors this season once she overcomes an ankle injury that will have her on crutches for a few more weeks.

"It looks like she could be back by mid-January," Cunningham said. "She's one of our best gymnasts, so the sooner we get her back, the better."

Canton's group of sophomore athletes compares to any other 10th-grade class in the area.

"They really came on last year as freshmen," Cunningham said, referring to Kate Staley, Alyssa Kelley, Kaitlyn Burns, Chelsea Selden and Andrea Houdek. "They all have the ability to score between the 32 and 36 range, so they give us a lot of depth."

Among the team's junior standouts are Kara Ahern, last year's team MVP, and Mina Pirzadeh.

Patty Ahern, Jillian Hoard and Heather Wagner will provide the team with important senior leadership.

"Our league, the Western Lakes Activities Association, is one of the toughest in the state," Cunningham said. "We have six of the top eight teams in the state in our league, so it will be very competitive as always."

Salem

The Rocks finished ninth in the state last season under the guidance of coach Dana Driscoll.

"I have a positive feeling about this team," said Driscoll. "We did well last year and we have a lot of girls back, so we have the potential to improve."

The Rocks' top returner is senior captain Ashley Aquino, who placed fourth overall at the Division 2 state meet last spring. She was 11th in the vault, sixth on the bars, fifth on the beam and 14th on the floor.

"Ashley has improved and learned tremendously all four years she's been here," said Driscoll.

Another senior who is expected to make a significant contribution to the team is Elena Giorgunov, who earned a second-place finish on the bars at the Division 2 state meet. She was 12th in the floor-exercise event and ninth all-around.

"Last year was Elena's first on the team and she did great," Driscoll said. "She's very powerful and is excellent in all the events. She is very motivated, too."

Sophomore Sarah Bugosh finished 14th on the bars at last season's Division 1 meet.

"Sarah is still competing for her club team, so she is doing a lot of double practices," Driscoll said. "She is very talented."

Senior Meghan Negele, a four-year competitor, will serve as a captain along with senior Megan McCarthy, who, unfortunately, will not compete this year due to an injury.

Two freshmen with club experience — Brittany Young and Katarina Kariots — should both contribute immediately.

Plymouth

Coach Melissa Chang took over the reins of the Wildcats' program towards the latter stages of last season. She has just five gymnasts to work with after losing 11 from last year's squad to cheerleading.

Of the five, only Danielle Leist competed in the team's opening meet against Ann Arbor Huron last week due to injury and illness that best the other competitors.

"Even though she is new to the sport, Danielle did a great job performing for the first time," Chang said. "Gymnastics is a very difficult sport to excel in if you don't have experience, but she did well."

Paige Tofil is the lone returner from last year's Wildcat roster. The sophomore is especially competitive in the beam and floor-exercise routines.

Junior Laura Rowe, who is also a diver for the Plymouth swim team, and freshmen Aerial Shaifer and Jordan Aedehl will also compete for the Wildcats this season.

Any Plymouth High School students who would still like to join the team are encouraged to e-mail Chang at chan0305@tc.umn.edu.

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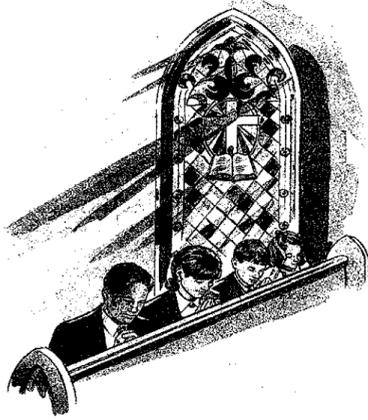
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14175 Farmington road, Livonia Just north of I-96
734-522-6830

Sunday Worship
8:15 & 11:00 am - Traditional
9:45 - Modern
Staffed Nursery Available

Sunday School
9:45 & 11 am
Early Childhood Center
Phone 734-513-8413

Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ
Rev. Luther A. Werth, Senior Pastor & Rev. Robert Bayer, Assistant Pastor

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY
313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP.

Worship Service
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Sunday School
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Nursery Provided
The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor

HOSANNA-TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
9600 Levee • So. Redford • 313-937-2424
Rev. Steve Eggers

Sunday Morning Worship
10:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Adult Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Christian School
Pre-Kindergarten - 8th Grade
For more information call
313-937-2233

MAKE TIME FOR God

BAPTIST

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

33640 Michigan Ave. • Wayne, MI
(Between Wayne Rd. & Merriman Rd.)
(734) 728-2180
Virgil Humes, Pastor



Saturday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Sunday Worship 7:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. • Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Praise Service 6:00 p.m. • Wednesday Children, Youth and Adult Bible Study 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Canton Christian Fellowship

"Where the Word is Relevant,
People are Loved and Christ is the Key"

Join us for Worship Service at 10:30am
Sunday School and/or New Members Orientation: 9:00am
Located at 6500 N. Wayne Rd. • Westland, MI
Between Ford Road and Warren Road
Inside Good Shepherd Church
734-721-9322

It's not about Religion. It's about Relationships.
Come to a place where lives are changed, families are made whole and ministers are real!

"More than Sunday Services"
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Worship Service

- Dynamic Youth and Children's Programs
- Excellent Music Ministries
- Small Groups For Every Age
- Outreach Opportunities

Pastor:
Dr. Dean Klump

First United Methodist Church of Plymouth
45201 North Territorial Road
(West of Sheldon Road)
(734) 453-5280
www.plumc.org

NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Stephen Ministry Congregation
36500 Ann Arbor Trail
between Wayne & Newburgh Rds.
734-422-0149

Worship Service
and
Sunday School
9:15 & 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Terry W. Allen
Rev. Barbara E. Welbaum

visit our website: www.newburgumc.org

Risen Christ Lutheran
46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth
(1 Mile West of Sheldon)
(734) 453-5252

Sunday Worship
8:15 & 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Christmas Eve Worship 4:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.
All are Welcome Come as you are!

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN Church & School 5885 Veroy
1 Blk. N. of Ford Rd., Westland 425-0260

Divine Worship 8 & 11:00 A.M.
Bible Class & SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 A.M.
Monday Evening Service 7:00 P.M.
Kurt E. Lambart, Pastor
Richard Schumaecher, Principa/Youth Director

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
32430 Ann Arbor Trail • Westland, MI
734-422-5550

Sunday Bible Study 9am
Sunday Worship Service 10am
Wednesday Evening Service 7pm
Rev. David W. Zauschner, Pastor

Grace Lutheran Church
Rev. Kirk D. Miller
46001 Warren Road/just west of Canton Center
Sunday Worship at 9:30 am
Sunday School at 10:45 am
734-414-7422

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

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

EVANGELICAL COVENANT

Timothy Lutheran Church
8820 Wayne Rd.
(Between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road)
Livonia • 427-2290
Jill Hegdal, Pastor
9:00 a.m. Sunday School (all ages)
10:00 a.m. Family Worship (Nursery Avail.)
http://www.timothyivonia.com

FAITH COVENANT CHURCH
14 Mile Road and Drake, Farmington Hills
(248) 661-9191

Sunday Worship
and Children's Church
9:15 a.m. Contemporary
11:00 a.m. Traditional
Child Care provided for all services
Youth Groups • Adult Small Groups

HOLY CROSS Evangelical Lutheran Church
Nursery at Both Services
Handicapped Accessible
Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 am

(734) 427-1414 • 38650 6 Mile Rd., Livonia
VISITORS WELCOME (1/2 Mile West of Middlebelt)

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN church & school
17810 Farmington Road
Livonia • (734) 261-1360

Sunday Worship Services
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Pastor James Hoff
Pastor Eric Steinbrenner

WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church

40000 Six Mile Road
"just west of I-275"
Northville, MI
248-374-7400

Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

Traditional Worship and
Sunday School
8:00, 10:15, 11:30 A.M.
Contemporary Worship
9:05 A.M.
Nursery Provided During All
Morning Worship Services
Evening Service • 7:00 P.M.
Services Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday
WMUZ 560 AM

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church (USA)
9901 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI
(between Merriman & Farmington Rds.)
(734) 422-0494
www.rosedalegardens.org

Contemporary Service
9:00 am
Traditional Service
10:30 am

Nursery Care Provided
We Welcome You To A
Full Program Church
Rev. Richard Peters, Pastor
Rev. Kellie Bohman, Associate Pastor

St. Genevieve Roman Catholic Church & School
29015 Jamison Ave. • Livonia
East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Schoolcraft Rds.
MASS: Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 9:00 a.m.
Tues. 7:00 p.m. • Sat. 5:00 p.m.
Sun. 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon
Confessions: Sat. 3:00-4:00 p.m.
734-427-5220

St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church
Immemorial Latin Mass
Approved by Pope St. Pius V in 1670
St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8
23310 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan
5 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121

Mass Schedule:
First Fri. 7:00 p.m.
First Sat. 9:30 a.m.
Sun. Masses 7:30 & 9:30 a.m.
Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass
Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions
Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.

RESURRECTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

48755 Warren Rd., Canton, Michigan 48167
451-0444
REV. RICHARD A. PERFETTO

Weekday Masses
Tuesday & Friday 9:30 a.m.
Saturday - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

ST. GENEVIEVE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL
29015 Jamison Ave. • Livonia
East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Schoolcraft Rds.
MASS: Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 9:00 a.m.
Tues. 7:00 p.m. • Sat. 5:00 p.m.
Sun. 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon
Confessions: Sat. 3:00-4:00 p.m.
734-427-5220

CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHURCH of CHRIST WEST
291 East Spring Street • Plymouth 48170

Sunday Worship • 11am & 6pm
Bible Class
Sunday 10am & Wednesday 7pm

734-451-1877 Michigan Bible School
Minister John Nativo
www.churchofchrist-west.org

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth
1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI
734-453-0970

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Reading Room 350 South Main,
Monday-Saturday 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
734-453-1676

CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
48801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1625
Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.
Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.
NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN: 465-3198

CHURCH OF GOD

Riverside Park Church of God
11771 Newburgh Road
Livonia
Corner of Plymouth
and Newburgh
734-464-0990

Service Schedule:
Sunday School 9:30am
Sunday Worship 10:45am
Wednesday Evening 6:00pm

Aldersgate United Methodist
10000 Beech Daly
2 blocks south of Plymouth Road

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m. Cont. Family Worship
11:00 a.m. Sunday School all ages
www.aldersgatemi.org

EPISCOPAL

Trinity Episcopal Church
11575 Belleville Rd., Belleville
4 miles south of Michigan Ave. on Belleville Rd.
Belleville Rd. & I-94
734-699-3361

Sundays-Worship at 8 & 10 am
Youth programs-8:50 am ages 11-17
Sunday School 10 am ages 3-11
Nursery 8:45 - 12:15 pm

Christmas Eve services 5 pm family
service child care provided
10pm Sr. Choir concert and
Candlelight service

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

NATIVITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
9435 Henry Ruff at West Chicago
Livonia 48150 • 421-5406
Rev. Larry Hoxey, Pastor
10:30 a.m. Worship
Service and Youth Classes
Nursery Care Available
-WELCOME-

NON-DENOMINATION-AL

BELL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH

Casual, Contemporary,
Excellent Children's
Program

Meets at Franklin H.S. in
Livonia on Joy Road
(Between Merriman and Middlebelt Roads)
at 10:00 a.m.
734-425-1174
Join us for coffee, bagels and
donuts after the service!

PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)

GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
5835 Sheldon Rd., Canton
(734) 459-0013

Sunday Worship & Sunday School
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Summer Months 10:30 a.m.
Dec. 28 & Jan 2-one service 10:00 a.m.

Childcare Provided • Handicapped Accessible
Resources for Hearing and Sight Impaired
www.genevachurch.org

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Main & Church • (734) 453-6464
PLYMOUTH WORSHIP SERVICES
8:30 & 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.
(Child Care at 9:30 & 11:00)

Dr. James Skrimms Rev. Richard Jones
Senior Minister Associate Minister
Accessible to All Rev. Mary Jean Bird
Associate Minister

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church (USA)
9901 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI
(between Merriman & Farmington Rds.)
(734) 422-0494
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Contemporary Service
9:00 am
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10:30 am

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Sun. 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon
Confessions: Sat. 3:00-4:00 p.m.
734-427-5220

THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS
WHERE HOMETOWN STORIES UNFOLD

In addition to our weekly Worship Directory, the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers publishes a traditional holiday directory before Christmas. If you are interested, please call 734-953-2153 for more information.

It's Easy To Criticize...

Offering constructive criticism to others can be beneficial, but only if the other person is receptive to our comments. In teaching situations or during on-the-job training, constructive criticism is usually necessary to instruct and help a person develop a trade or vocation. However, correcting someone, even in a kind or skillful manner, can be very challenging, since we are never sure how the individual may react. Many friendships and families have been destroyed because someone has been overly critical of another person's words or actions. Knowing when we should offer our comments can also be difficult, and we should be fairly certain that our comments are truthful and necessary. It often seems so easy to criticize others because we mistakenly believe that we are without fault or are such experts on most everything. The Bible tells us that we look at the speck in our brother's eye, but we pay no attention to the log in our own (Luke 6:41). Faultfinding and being overly critical of others, especially behind their backs, are wrong and can become habit-forming. However, kind words are good for the soul and help to build a person up.

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice. R.S.V. Proverbs 12:15

If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150. The deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

DECEMBER

Living Nativity
7:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, at Kenwood Church of Christ, 20200 Merriman, between Seven and Eight Mile, Livonia. For more information, call (248) 476-8222. There will be guided tours of scenes from Bethlehem, refreshments and crafts for the children. This is a free event.

Labyrinth walk
Offers a way of finding peace and clarity through movement 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, at First United Methodist Church, 33112 Grand River, Farmington. Call (248) 474-6573.

Christmas Cantata
"Born is the King" features music by composer and artist Matt Bono 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, at Peace Lutheran Church, 17029 West 13 Mile, between Greenfield and Southfield roads, Southfield. Call (248) 642-7047.

Global Gifts and Crafts Shop
Items created by crafts persons and artists, nearly all of whom are in the Third World, gifts come from worker cooperatives resulting from the work of our ABC missionaries and partner Baptist conventions, sale continues 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday through Dec. 18, includes a UNICEF Card Shop, at First Baptist Church, Birmingham. Two hours of free parking available in municipal lot adjacent to the building. Call (248) 644-0550 for more information.

Christmas Shepherd
Santa is yielding his annual visit to Nativity Church this year in favor of a special appearance by the Christmas Shepherd 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at the church, 9435 Henry Ruff, Livonia. The Christmas community candlelight service takes place 7 p.m. Dec. 24. Call (734) 424-5406 or (734) 646-5766 for more information.

Choir cantata
I'll Be Home for Christmas choir cantata 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, 8828 Wormer, Redford. Everyone is welcome to attend. Call (313) 537-7480.

Christmas services
7 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, and 10 a.m. on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 1343 Penniman, Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 453-3393.

Family friendly service
5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 24, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 620 Romeo Road, Rochester. The candlelight service features glow sticks for children, candles for adults. Call (248) 651-9361 for more information.

Christmas Eve services
For families 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 24, followed by Candlelight Service at 11 p.m. at First Congregational Church, Wayne Road, between east and west-bound Michigan Avenue, Wayne. Call (734) 729-7550.

Holy Eucharist services
Festive Christmas Eve service with guest organist Joan Haggard 6 p.m. Dec. 24, and Christmas Day Holy Eucharist 10 a.m. Dec. 25, at The Church of the Holy Spirit, 9083 Newburgh, Livonia.

Christmas Eve services
Candlelight services 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 24, at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt. Call (734) 421-7620.

Festival Services
5 p.m. Family Service, and 10 p.m. Choir Concert and Candlelight Festival Eucharist Friday, Dec. 24; 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist and 10 a.m. Lessons and Carols Sunday, Dec. 26, and 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist and 10 a.m. Chalking the Door Service Epiphany Feast, Saturday, Jan. 1, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 11575 Belleville Rd, Belleville. Call (734) 699-3361.

UPCOMING

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.

Catholic Church update
Were you once Catholic? Beginning Monday evening Jan. 11 for six weeks St. Mary's of the Hills Parish will host

sessions entitled While You Were Away. Join the discussion of what's happened in the Catholic Church as it relates to Mass, Sacraments and beliefs/practices. For more information or to register, call Jan Hall at (248) 853-5390, ext. 123.

Birmingham First Concert Series
Presents Everyone Dance, a varied program of music based on dance with concert organist Tom Trenney and Friends 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 14, in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, 1669 West Maple, between Cranbrook and Southfield roads. A meet the artists reception follows the program. No charge but a freewill offering will be collected to benefit future events in the concert series. For more information, call Trenney at (248) 644-2040, ext. 136.

ONGOING

Aerobic class
Trinity Church of the Brethren, 27350 W. Chicago at Inkster, is offering a Women's Low Impact Aerobic Class to the community every Monday and Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the church basement. To participate in this cost-free, 30-minute class, wear comfortable exercise attire (floor mats optional). Join us as we exercise for JOY. For more information, call the church office (313) 937-1199.

Worship services
All are welcome to attend worship services at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Five Mile and Inkster roads, Livonia, 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. every Sunday. For more information, call (734) 422-1470.

Community Bible study
Studying the Book of Proverbs, breakfast 7 a.m. or Bible study 8-9 a.m. at the American Table, Eight Mile, Farmington. Come when you can, leave when you must. For more information, call (248) 924-2779.

Contemporary service
New informal service in a casual environment 6 p.m. Sunday, at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, south of Ford. Fellowship hour after services including 10 a.m. traditional. Call (734) 421-7620.

Bible Study for Parents
For Parents with Young Children 6 p.m. Sundays at Trinity Episcopal Church, 11575 Belleville Road, four miles south of Michigan Avenue, Belleville. Child care available. Call (734) 699-3361.

Trinity Episcopal Church
Sunday worship 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., Bible studies Sundays at 8:50 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m., at the church 11575 Belleville Road, 4 miles south of Michigan Ave., Belleville. Call (734) 699-3361.

Orthodoxy 101
Explore issues of faith and morals in a course entitled "Orthodoxy 101." It meets weekly 7 p.m. Wednesdays at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 W. Seven Mile Road, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia. The course is open to the public, and there is no cost involved. The Rev. Michael Matsko will be the instructor and will lead the discussion. Please invite your friends and as Philip told Nathaniel, "Come and see." If you have any additional questions, call Beth at (248) 348-8631.

Support group
Provides spiritual, social and educational support for divorced and separated Catholic men and women 7:30-9:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month, at St. Andrew's Parish Center, 1400 Englewood, Rochester. For information, call (248) 652-9173 or (248) 652-3860.

Grief support programs
At Hope Lutheran Church, 3640 Madison at Carlisle, Dearborn. Families are encouraged to attend together as age-specific groups are offered within one convenient location. All are welcome. Six week series for ages 13-17 began 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21. Adult six week series began 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21. To register, call How-Peterson Funeral Home (313) 561-6163.

Grief workshop
Began Sept. 22 and continues 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile, between Merriman and Middlebelt, Livonia. Call (734) 422-6038.

Bible studies
Birmingham Bible Institute began its fall semester Sept. 21 with classes on 12 Tuesday evenings through Dec. 7. 22-courses will be taught, at Grace Baptist Church, 280 East Lincoln,

Birmingham. Students receive certificates for courses successfully completed. For information, call (248) 646-2000.

New contemporary service
Began 9 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 26, new contemporary service will be held the last Sunday of the month, at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia. A group of church members present a short drama on a theme relevant to the season, a church event, or current newsworthy situation. Sept. 26 drama is a look into the problem of being overloaded with requests for our time and abilities. For more information, call (734) 422-0494.

Prayer group
Join us 7 p.m. Thursdays for music, singing, prayer, and friendship, at St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Come to the back of the church, enter entrance No. 2. For more information, call Grace at (734) 464-1896, Shirley (734) 464-3656, or Geri (734) 464-8906.

Stronger Women
Walking group, jogging, aerobic exercise, crafts, speakers, coffee social, fun and fellowship continues 9:30-11:30 a.m. Thursdays through Nov. 18, at Faith Covenant Church, 35415 W. 14 Mile, Farmington Hills. Registration fee \$25, walk-ins \$5. Baby-sitting \$2 per child, \$4 per family per session. For more information, call (248) 661-9191.

Women of the Word
Tuesday Ladies Bible Study, Women of the Word, studies the Book of Luke, entitled Grace Under Pressure 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays, at Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile. \$15 registration fee includes interdenominational study materials. Childcare available for children through age 5. For more information, call (248) 348-7600.

Worship schedule
Resumed regular Sunday worship schedule beginning Sept. 12, at Antioch Evangelical Lutheran Church, 33360 W. 13 Mile at Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. Services will be held at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. with Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. A contemporary service called Praise Forth is held on the fourth Sunday of each month. For information, call (248) 626-7906.

New modern-style worship
Come be part of something big! Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church (14175 Farmington Rd., Livonia, just north of I-96) began a new MODERN-style worship service on Sunday, Sept. 12. This multi-media service will be informal, using modern and praise music, led by vocalists and various instruments. Dramas, led by the members, will often be part of this service. This service will be held at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday, between the traditional services at 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday School, youth, and adult Bible classes will also be offered at 9:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. each Sunday. For information, call Linda Hollman, Outreach Director, at (734) 522-6830.

New service times
9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. began Sept. 12 for the fall and winter months, at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Call (248) 476-8860.

New Sunday School
Beginning at Heart of the Hills Church, 5085 Orion Road, Rochester, for members of the community who want to increase their biblical knowledge using materials from Scripture Press. The non-denominational program is open to all ages. No charge for the classes taking place 9:30-10:15 a.m. every Sunday. Service follows at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call (248) 476-8860.

Adat Shalom
Synagogue Services are 6 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Saturday, 7:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. weekdays, and 8:30 a.m. Sunday, at Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 851-5100.

Welcome to the church
Would you like to know more about the Catholic Church? Are you already baptized Catholic and have been away from the church? Now is the time to inquire about coming into the church or returning to the community of believers. Call Our Lady of Sorrows at (248) 615-5574 for more information.

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.

Addiction No More
Do you have any addictive behavior problems - drugs, alcohol, overeating, gambling, etc.? Come to the meeting 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday in Room 202 at Detroit World Outreach, 23800 West Chicago, Redford. For more information, call (313) 255-2222, Ext. 244.

Detroit World Outreach
Non-denominational church with cutting edge drama productions, contemporary-energized music, hi-tech video and lighting, relevant life-changing messages, ministries for all ages; services times are 8 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday (Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m., junior high serves for grades 6 to 8 at 10:45 a.m.), Wednesday services 8:45 a.m. and 7 p.m. (Family Night), and service for ages 18 to 28 Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., at 23800 West Chicago, Redford. Call (313) 255-2222 or visit www.wayofvictory.com.

Wednesday Evening Prayer
7 p.m. Wednesday. This is not a structured service but an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests, at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 West 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Call (248) 476-8860.

Single Point Lighthouse Cafe
Single and feeling alone? Come join us. Single Point Ministries invites you to join more than 550 single adults 11:30 a.m. Sundays in Knox Hall for fellowship and encouragement. The Rev. Paul Clough delivers messages to help equip you to maximize your singleness and relationship with God. Coffee, doughnuts, conversation and Christ are always present. Single Point Ministries has a program and activity for every age group and life situation. For more information or to receive a newsletter, call (248) 374-5920.

Single Point Walking Club
Meets 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday in the Single Point office at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. All fitness levels welcome. Single Point Ministries (ages 30 and up) offers 45 ministries for singles including Men's Fellowship, Women's Fellowship, and PACS People Active in Christian Study Bible study group. Call (248) 374-5920.

AWANA
Every Wednesday night Faith Bible Church offers an AWANA program for children from kindergarten through fifth grade at Faith Bible Church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington

Hills. Drop your children off or stay for a Bible study offered to parents 7-8:30 p.m. For more information, call (248) 426-0096.

Scrapbook and cropping
If you're interested in learning about scrapbook and cropping, Faith Bible Church is offering a place to put it all together 3-10 p.m. the second Friday of the month, at 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. A Creative Moment consultant will be available to everyone from dihard scrapbookers to novices wanting to learn more about it. For more information, call (248) 426-0096.

Sunday Worship service
Abiding Presence Lutheran Church Congregational Praise Team leads the 11 a.m. Sunday Worship Service featuring contemporary style liturgy and music. 1150 Walton, Rochester Hills. No charge. For more information, call (248) 651-6550.

Worship service
Plymouth Baptist Church has added a second Sunday worship celebration. The new service times are 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Both services feature contemporary and traditional worship music and in-depth Bible teaching. Full nursery and preschool programs are also provided for both services. The church is at 42021 Ann Arbor Trail, west of Haggerty. For more information, call (734) 453-5534.

Contemporary worship service
A contemporary worship service is scheduled at 11:30 a.m. the fourth Sunday of the month at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 422-6038.

Worship services
8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Five Mile and Inkster roads, Livonia. For information, call (734) 422-1470.

Abilize Young Adult Ministries
Presented by Detroit World Outreach 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday. Using cutting edge music, high-tech video and lighting, drama, multi-media, and a relevant message that can change lives, Abilize is giving young adults ages 18 to 28 the opportunity to meet friends and hang out with people their age. Evening includes a live band, pool tables, ping pong, basketball, and the Motown Cafe in the Freedom Center on the Detroit World Outreach campus, 23800 W. Chicago near Telegraph, Redford. For more information, call (313) 794-0684 or visit the Web site at www.motownministries.org.

Auburn Hills Presbyterian
The Auburn Hills Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir presents Sunday School Christmas Program. Listen to Christmas, is 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19. Bring a dish to pass around for the 6 p.m. potluck dinner. Ticket to enter: A wintertime gift for the needy such as gloves, hats. The church is located at 3456 Primary Street, Auburn Hills. (248)852-3450

First Baptist
A global gifts and crafts shop and UNICEF card shop are open at the First Baptist Church in downtown Birmingham, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays until Dec. 18. The church is at the corner of Willits and Bates Street, one block north of Maple Road, one block west of Old Woodward Ave. The crafts and gifts come from church-related sources; all profits are returned to crafts persons and artists, nearly all in the Third World. (248)644-0550.

Congregational Church of Birmingham
Congregational Church of Birmingham, UCC, 1000 Cranbrook Road, Bloomfield Hills holds the following special seasonal activities. 6:30 p.m. Dec. 16: A Candlelight Dessert: Women's candlelight celebration with music program by the Cranbrook Madrigal Choir. Offering to support Cribs for Christmas at the Furniture Bank of Oakland County. (248) 646-4511

7:30 p.m. Dec. 18: Amahl and the Night Visitors, opera in one act by Gian Carlo Menotti. Tickets: \$10/adults, \$8/ students and seniors.

1 p.m. Dec. 19: Service of Solace

Cong. Chaye Olam
Cong. Chaye Olam, 4875 West Maple, Bloomfield Township holds an Acis of Loving Kindness Shabbat at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17. Chaye Olam will feature as special guests "Adam and Adam," the home contractors who donated their services to provide renovations and accessibility enhancements at an Oak Park home as part of last month's ABC Television's Extreme Makeover - Home Edition series.

A sign-language interpreter will provide "real-time" translation of the Shabbat service. All are welcome. The Cong. Chaye Olam Website is www.cantordubov.org(248) 851-SHUL (7485)

JPI
The Jewish Parents Institute at the West Bloomfield Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield, presents a Hanukkah program for families from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19. This free event, which is open to the public, centers around the cultural traditions of the holiday season. Included will be entertainment, refreshments, crafts, candle lighting and more. (248) 432-5472. www.jccdet.org

Kolel Moshe
Kolel Moshe Institute for Lifelong Jewish Learning, located at Cong. B'nai Moshe, 6800 Drake Road, West Bloomfield, holds Total Beginner Learn to Read Hebrew at 11 a.m. Sundays starting Jan. 9. It is taught by Jewish Academy of Metro Detroit student Judy Margolin. Co-sponsored by NJOP National Jewish Outreach Program. No charge. Advance registration requested. Call coordinator Nancy Kaplan at (248) 737-1931



Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

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EBEN G. BABBIDGE IV

Age 83, formerly of Southfield, died in his sleep Saturday, December 11, 2004 in Melbourne, FL. He was many things to many people, his accomplishments and contributions great, but most of all, he was a loving father to his daughters, Lisa Babbidge Caskey of Colorado and Lynne Babbidge of Arizona; and a devoted husband to his beloved wife of 62 years, Anne. We have been blessed to have been a part of his life and to have learned from his wisdom and shared in laughter. He will forever be in our hearts. Arrangements by David Seawinds Funeral Home, 321-254-1532.

JEANNE ELIZABETH DOLAN
Hamburg, MI age 60, died Friday December 10, 2004 in her home with her husband by her side. She was born on July 21, 1944 in Detroit, MI, the daughter of Harley and Mary (Hale) Elwell. Jeanne was a Wife, Mother and Homemaker. On September 1, 1962 she married her sweetheart Dennis Dolan in Garden City, MI. Jeanne is survived by her husband Dennis, son Dennis (Mary) Dolan Jr. of Garden City, MI., daughter Linda Dolan of Garden City, MI., son Michael (Tabitha) Dolan of Pinckney, MI., brother Harvey Elwell of Lake Havasu, AZ., sister Elaine Miller of Prudenville, MI., and her seven wonderful grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents. A celebration of Jeanne's life was held on Wednesday, December 15, 2004 at 2pm at Borek Jennings Funeral Home Hamburg Chapel. Please sign Jeanne's guest book at borekjennings.com

ALENE M. MASTERSON
Age 72, December 9, 2004 of Woodhaven. Loving mother of James (Mary), Mallory (Hal) Newton, Susan (Gary) Koch, Danny (Karen) and Cathy (Rick) Lawrence. Also survived by 14 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and 3 sisters. Preceded in death by 3 brothers. Service was held Saturday from John Molnar Funeral Home, Brownstown Chapel.

In Memory Of

IN MEMORY OF JIM MYERS
In loving memory and in our prayers - a great friend & neighbor. We miss you - Happy Birthday Love Mike, Ann & Girls

MARY A. MCCRIGHT
Age 92, of Plymouth, and formerly of Detroit, died December 10, 2004. She was born April 30, 1912, in Wheeling, West Virginia. She was a resident of Tonquish Creek Manor in Plymouth, and a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Plymouth. She worked as a sales associate at J.L. Hudson's for 25 years. She is survived by her son, David McCright of Troy, as well as a number of nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her husband, Clifford V. McCright; her brothers, Charles Keller and Joseph Keller; and her sisters, Elizabeth Spangler and Helen Corrigan. Services were held Tuesday, December 14, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church. Interment at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Detroit. Arrangements entrusted to Schrader-Howell Funeral Home., (734)453-3333.

VIRGINIA D. SMITH
Age 85. December 12, 2004 Resident of Peterborough, Ontario, Canada. Former resident of Detroit, Michigan. Beloved Wife of the late Carl E. for 49 years. Loving Mother of Carolyn (the late Gerry Beranger) Smith, Judith Ann Smith & Susan (Nick) DeVault. Dearest Grandmother of Clayton & Cole DeVault. Dear Sister of Elmer, Arthur, Bob Grisdela, Jean Deakin & Bill Hardwick. Virginia graduated from Farmington High School and was a devoted homemaker her entire life. Visitation Thursday 4-8 PM & Funeral Friday 11 AM at THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME, Farmington. Interment at Oakland Hills Cemetery, Novi. Memorial contributions to Alzheimer's Association.

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Lady Ocelots claim title at K'zoo Valley tourney

Five Schoolcraft women's basketball players reached double-digits as the Lady Ocelots took home first place Saturday night at the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Holiday Classic.

Schoolcraft blew by the host-Cougars 87-68, using a 48-28 second half to claim victory.

Char Greer led the way for the Ocelots with 23 points on 9-of-11 shooting, while Ashley Gibson added 14 points with six assists and five steals.

Schoolcraft compiled 20 steals in forcing KVCC (4-4 overall) into 33 turnovers while holding the Cougars to 28 percent shooting in the second half.

Lindsey Brown was they only consistent weapon for the Cougars as she torched Schoolcraft for 29 points on 9-for-18 shooting and snagged a game-high 15 boards.

Schoolcraft shot 54 percent from the field and 85 percent

from the charity stripe in the easy victory.

Erika Mims (14 points), Lizann Charles (12 points, six assists) and Miki Williams (11 points, six steals) also contributed for the Ocelots, as they improve to 9-2 on the season.

SCHOOLCRAFT 94, COLUMBUS STATE (OHIO) 68: After trailing 39-40 at halftime, the Lady Ocelots took the lead and blew it open in a hurry Friday in the Kalamazoo Valley CC Holiday Classic.

Char Greer scorched the Cougars for 24 points and snagged 14 rebounds as Schoolcraft improved to 7-2 overall.

Sara Tyree (Westland John Glenn) added a dozen points and a half-dozen boards for the Ocelots and Sharece Cosby hit four buckets from beyond the arc to finish with 12 points as well.

Mickey Williams also added 11 points as Schoolcraft took advantage of their 28-13 advantage in the turnover department to come away victorious.

Defensively, the Lady Ocelots held Columbus State to 34 percent shooting in the second half as they quickly and easily pulled ahead to defeat the Cougars for the second time in this young season.

Brandi Hoffman led the way for Columbus State with 17 points.



Kings win Showcase

The Livonia Bantam Kings finished 3-0-2 to win the Little Caesars Thanksgiving Showcase at Modano Arena in Westland. Goals by Bryan Fortney and Matt Regan propelled the Kings to a 2-1 win over the Livonia Blues in the finals. The Kings opened with a 5-1 victory over the Novi Panthers on goals by James Leffler, Tyler Vines, Ian O'Malley, Shaun Venditelli and David Wells. Goals by Venditelli and Steve Regish gave the Kings a 2-2 tie vs. the Westland Predators. The Kings also battled the Dearborn Heights Mustangs to a 2-2 draw as Regan and Alex Hoelzel scored. In a semifinal rematch against the Mustangs, goaltender Chris Maceri, the tourney MVP, stopped all 15 shots in a 2-0 win as Regan and Venditelli tallied third-period goals. Other members of the Kings include: Michael Aja, Brian Azar, Mark Johnston, Blair Veit, Sean Venditelli, Thomas Wagner and Stephen Zoski. Coach Bob Regan was assisted by Mark Vines, David Wells, Tom Leffler and Jeff Elberling. The team manager is Mary Maceri. Team sponsors include Conner's Family Restaurant, Bates Hamburger's, Taste of the Orient and Tim Horton's.

S'craft men win handily

Even though the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team is down to eight eligible and healthy players, the Ocelots continue to win.

Mohawk College (Ontario) was the latest victim on Sunday, 100-56, as Schoolcraft improved to 10-1 overall.

Second-year guard Ty Scott led the Schoolcraft scoring attack with a game-high 26 points, hitting 10-of-18 shots from the floor, including 4-of-9 three-pointers. Swingman Martin Samarco (Belleville) added 24 on 9-of-14 shooting, including 6-of-9 beyond the arc.

Point-guard Genois Safford (Wayne Memorial) scored 16 points, missing just one shot on the day. He also dished out a team-high nine assists and five steals. Oakland University transfer Courtney Williams finished with 12 points and a team-high 13 rebounds. Jarred Axon contributed eight points.

Schoolcraft was 38-of-66 from the floor (57.5 percent), including 14-of-28 from three-point land.

Mohawk (6-12) was led by Marko Gacic with 16 points. Joe Palango and Orlando Hall added 11 and 10, respectively.

ST. AMBROSE (IA) 101, MADONNA 85: In Saturday's consolation final of the Gates Automotive Classic in Mishawaka, Ind., St. Ambrose (Ia.) got 23 points and 10 rebounds from forward Ryan Johnson to beat Madonna University.

The loss drops the Crusaders to 3-8 on the year, while St. Ambrose improves to 7-4.

Nick Ferreira added 20 points for hot-shooting St. Ambrose, which connected on 36-of-66 shots from the floor (54.5 percent). Matt Wilke and Chris Washington each added 12 points. Derrick Mudri scored a career-high 22 for the Crusaders, while Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Player of the Week Noel Emenhiser and D.J. Bridges (Canton) each added 14. Danny Peters contributed 10.

Bridges also grabbed a team-high nine rebounds, while Mudri dished out five assists. Emenhiser set the MU career scoring record with 27 in Friday's to bring his total to 1,787. Mudri added 10, while Bridges and Joe Kofahl had eight apiece.

All five Bethel starters scored in double figures led by Adam Schaper (16), Kyle Sears and Adrick Hills (15 each), Andrew Laird (14) and Josh Weimer (12).

Robert Morris (Ill.) beat host Bethel College (Ind.) in the championship final, 114-99.

San Diego contingent highlights Old-Timers

Garden City's Rick Eiermann, was the overall winner of the 2004 edition of the 74th Old Timers Tournament held Thanksgiving weekend at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park.

The event, as usual, was played to a full house.

In keeping with a tradition established several years ago, the San Diego (Calif.) Bowling Ambassadors came to town for the event, including a new member, Bob LaRoque, a U.S. Navy World War II veteran who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor 63 years ago on Dec. 7, 1941. He was introduced by hall-of-famer Tony Lindemann during the opening ceremonies.

Eiermann, 51 came through with games of 219-258-266 for a 743 series. He also serves as a director on the Old Timers organization and helps with the planning and operation of this event.

The late, great Joe Norr loved to come here from his San Diego home and participate in it each year until he passed away.

He persuaded the other San Diego resident to form the group primarily to come here



Ten Pin Alley

Al Harrison

videotaped it all. It is scheduled to be aired at a time and date to be determined on BrightHouse Cable Systems in Livonia, Redford, Farmington and Farmington Hills.

■ "Bring back the ladies professional bowling tour."

That's said quite often around the bowling scene and the Women's International Bowling Congress now owns the rights and assets of the Professional Women's Bowling Association, which it acquired in June.

"We're progressing steadily," said Jan Schmidt, WIBC director of tournaments and marketing. "However, advancement has been slow as anticipated due to the magnitude of the project and the many initiatives underway at WIBC, including transition to the U.S. Bowling Congress."

The women's pro tour planning team is now in place and working.

The group also includes Steve Miller, President and Executive Officer of the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) pros Kim Adler and Cathy Dorin-Lizzi; Roseann Kuhn, WIBC Executive Director; Frank

DeSocio, President of Strike Ten Entertainment; Chip Zielke, President of Circle Athletics; Barbara Waldorf, Director of Bowling Inc. Shared Services; Kathy Oberholzer and Donna Schroeder, both of the WIBC.

"Reinstating a women's professional tour should be a chief priority in all bowling organizations," Miller said.

Added Schmidt: "The PBA has provided invaluable assistance by sharing details on its successful quest to revitalize the televised Pro Bowlers Tour."

With all of these good people working toward the same goal, we hope to see the women's tour on TV sometime in the near future.

■ On tap for the weekend is the 15th annual Budweiser Michigan Majors Bowling Association Tournament of Champions, hosted for the first time by Oak Lanes in Westland.

This event features the top players of the organization.

The "best of the best" describes the field of 60 bowlers for this tournament.

All entrants must have won at least one title and are eligible on a point-basis only.

Lou Ansara's Big Boy restaurants will co-sponsor the Tournament of Champions with \$1,500 going to the winner. Qualifying rounds were held Saturday with the finals set for 10 this morning.

Qualifiers will try to dethrone Hall of Famer Eiermann, who won it all last year.

It is also the third jewel of the Michigan Master Bowling Association's triple crown, which also includes the Championship and the Match Game tourneys.

Larry Walker of Garden City and Gene Stus of Allen Park are the only MMBA members to have completed the Triple Crown.

n You're a good man, Charlie Riffle, who rolled an 812 series on games of 213 and back-to-back 300s in the Friday Night Men's Invitational League, Nov. 29, at Westland Bowl.

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

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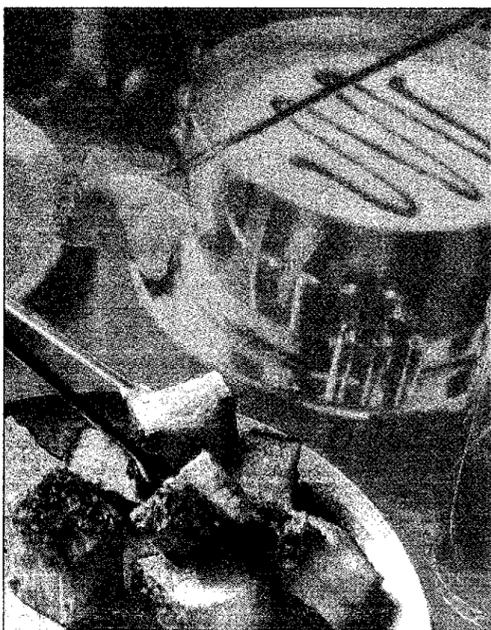
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Gorgonzola-Port Fondue makes a great presentation with port wine drizzled on top.

CATLEMEN'S BEEF BOARD

Variety spices up sauces for the holidays

Fondue

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Forget the date. Remember the food. That's how Aaron Van De Mark thinks of his first experience with fondue several years ago in Raleigh, N.C., taking a woman to The Melting Pot on a first date.

"I really wanted to impress her," Van De Mark said. "I brought her there and we had the time of our lives. The conversation wasn't the greatest, but the food was great."

See related story on The Melting Pot in this week's edition of *Filter*, Section E.

Van De Mark says he never dated that woman again, but fell in love with the fondue dining experience. "It's interactive, it's a dining experience and it's totally unlike any other dining experience," Van De Mark said.

He loves fondue so much, that he is now owner of The Melting Pot, 888 Big Beaver Rd. in Troy, which opened last week.

"It's people getting together and sitting down and relaxing with food for about two hours," he said.

CLASSICALLY SWISS

If you've traveled to Switzerland, you may have enjoyed a Classic Swiss Fondue or you may remember fondue from the 1960s. Whether you've been to Switzerland or not, it's easy to bring fondue into your home at your next holiday party.

PLEASE SEE FONDUE, D4

FONDUE RECIPES

You don't have to buy a specific "fondue vessel" as a small chafing dish works as well. Fondue should be heated on the stove and transferred to a fondue pot or chafing dish to serve and stay warm while you're eating. Fill the pot less than half full. If it's too full, it's easier to lose your dunking medium and harder to keep well-mixed.

If the fondue is too thin, turn up the heat a little and stir rapidly until some of the liquid evaporates, without letting it boil. If it gets too thick while people are eating, add some more wine, turn up the heat and stir vigorously until the fondue is smooth, without letting it boil.

Fondue always can be used at the cheese component for gourmet macaroni and cheese casserole. Toss cooked pasta with the fondue, top with additional cheese or bread crumbs, and bake at 350° F until bubbling.

PLEASE SEE RECIPES, D4

Side dish

Salad - or fries?

Wendy's employees may have to rework the traditional question - "Would you like fries with that burger?" They now may ask "would you like salad in that combo?"

Wendy's has rolled out a new menu that will "fundamentally change the way people think about combo meals," according to Tom Mueller, president and chief operating officer of Wendy's North America. Customers now can order a small chili, baked potato or one of two side salads - instead of French fries - in their combo meals at no extra charge.

"Everyone wants variety in their combo meals from time to time," said Mueller. "We believe this approach will help Wendy's stand apart from the competition. It's another example of how we're actively responding to consumers' requests for more varied and nutritious options."

Instead of eight combo meals - featuring hamburgers, chicken sandwiches or homestyle chicken strips - Wendy's is now giving customers 40 different ways to create a combo to meet their individual tastes and preferences. Consumers can substitute a small chili, baked potato, Caesar side salad or regular side salad for French fries.

Toast the New Year

Whether you call it champagne, bubbly or just plain fizz, sparkling wine is just the thing for holiday celebrations.

Whether you serve it to your friends, or take it as a thoughtful house gift to someone else's party, wines that fizz and bubble really are perfect.

Here are a few sparkling ideas, and best of all, they come from right here in Michigan: Larry Mawby of L. Mawby



Vineyards in Suttons Bay offers Conservancy, an Extra Dry sparkler voted best in class at the 2004 Michigan State Fair wine competition.

Bel Lago near Cedar makes a vintage-dated Brut from a red-white combination. Tabor Hill's Grand Makr and Good Harbor's Moonstruck are also highly rated Michigan fizzies, according to the Michigan Grape & Wine Industry Council.

If you enjoy Reisling, the council also suggests Shady Lane Cellars and Chateau de Leeianou or sparkling wines with a twist, such as St. Julian's Sparkling Raspberry or Passionate Peach.

Representatives of Michigan's wine industry will join with the Michigan Department of Agriculture for in-store Select Michigan demonstrations at Meijer, Kroger, Super Kmart and Family Fare stores in Detroit and Grand Rapids in December. For dates, locations and times, visit www.michigan.gov/mda under Michigan Marketplace.

Salsa takes on a new 'beet'

Salsa, America's favorite condiment, is quickly evolving from the traditional tomato mixture to creative, colorful combinations of vegetables, fruits, beans, spices and herbs.

With their delicious flavor and ruby-red color, beets make a great tasting and nutritious ingredient for flavorful, brilliantly hued Festive Beet & Citrus Salsa.

Two types of citrus - orange and lime - enhance sweet and sour Harvard beets while fresh ginger adds a burst of heat.

Serve the salsa as an accompaniment for meats or poultry, as an appetizing topper for pita chips or

crackers, or as a sandwich spread with deli meats or leftover holiday ham, turkey or beef.

For nutrition, beets are hard to "beat."

Beets and oranges are high in disease-fighting antioxidants, plus fiber and potassium.

"It's easy to design a great-tasting healthy dish, if you know your colors," says Roberta Duyff, registered dietitian and author of 365 *Days of Healthy Eating From The American Dietetic Association* (John Wiley & Sons, 2004), who created this recipe.

"Orange, red and yellow fruits and green vegetables are high in antioxidants.

When you combine those ingredients, the result is a colorful, nutrient-packed dish," she says.

FESTIVE BEET & CITRUS SALSA

- 1 jar (15.5 ounces) Aunt Nellie's Ruby Red Sweet and Sour Harvard Beets, rinsed, drained, and chopped or one jar (16 ounces) sliced or whole pickled beets, drained and chopped
- 1 medium orange, peeled, seeded and diced or 1/2 cup diced, drained mandarin oranges
- 2 tablespoons chopped green onion
- 2 tablespoons minced cilantro
- 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice

- 2 teaspoons minced fresh ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Place all ingredients in medium bowl; stir gently to combine. Cover and refrigerate about 30 minutes to let flavors blend. Serve with crackers, flatbread or chips, as desired. Makes about two cups (serving size: one tablespoon).

Nutrition information per tablespoon: 12 calories; less than 1 g protein; 3 g carbohydrate; less than 1 g fat; 60 mg sodium; 0 mg cholesterol; less than 1 g dietary fiber; less than 1 mg iron; 10 mg potassium; 21 IU Vitamin A; 2 mg calcium.

Recipe courtesy of Seneca Foods.



SENECA FOODS

Citrus and ginger keep the focus on bold flavors in this colorful and brilliant beet salsa.

It's cookie season!

Go to the kitchen and bake

BY BARBARA ALBRIGHT
FOR AP WEEKLY FEATURES

WILTON, Conn. (AP) - It's the time of year when even non-bakers push up their sleeves and get out the baking equipment. Making cookies is a family activity that works well because it spans the generations - and, of course, eating cookies seems to know no age boundary either! Here are some basic reminders to make sure your baked goods turn out delicious every single time:

■ Read the recipe instructions and gather all the ingredients and equipment you will need to prepare the recipe.

■ Make sure your baking powder and baking soda are current and that use-by dates have not expired. Baking is a precise science.

■ Measure ingredients correctly. Use clear glass or plastic cups to measure liquid ingredients and use stacked cups to

measure dry ingredients. Measure the flour carefully and as directed in the recipe. Spoon it lightly into the appropriate size of dry measuring cup and level the top off with the flat edge of a spatula or knife.

■ Check your oven's temperature with an oven thermometer and adjust accordingly. To avoid overbaking, check the cookies a few minutes before the minimum baking time. Bake cookies on the center rack in your oven for even browning. If you use more than one rack to speed up the baking process, make sure to rotate the baking sheets halfway through the baking time front to back and from one shelf to the other.

To get you started in the kitchen, there are a couple of new books on making cookies.

First up, *The King Arthur Flour Cookie Companion* (The Countryman Press, \$29.95), subtitled *The Essential Cookie Cookbook*.

This is an absolutely wonderful baking book, dedicated to telling the reader clearly and concisely how to make every kind of cookie imaginable. Helpful and charming illustrations supply technical detail on how to make cookies that come out tasting terrific, just the type of cookie you want to make.

For several favorite cookies, they have broken the category down further. For instance, there is the Essential Chewy Oatmeal Cookie, the Essential Crunchy Oatmeal Cookie, the Essential Crisp Oatmeal Cookie and so on. Then eight variations are added to change any one of these cookies into vanilla oatmeal, say, or cranberry-chew cookies, or "Coconutties."

In the center of the book, there's a section of mouthwatering color photographs of some of the cookies. Although the book is written by a flour company, I found several cookies that did not contain flour, and all-in-all, this is a serious cookie book written by folks who take baking seriously. Here's one our family liked:

SOFT MOLASSES COOKIES

- 1 cup (2 sticks, 8 ounces) unsalted butter
- 1 cup (7 ounces) sugar, plus more for coating the dough
- 1/2 cup (6 ounces) molasses
- 2 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 1/4 teaspoons ground cloves
- 3/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- 2 large eggs
- 3 1/2 cups (14 1/2 ounces) unbleached all-purpose flour

In a large mixing bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add the molasses while mixing at slow speed, then the baking soda, salt and spices. Add the eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Scrape down the sides of the bowl to make sure everything is incorporated. Stir in the flour. Cover the bowl and refrigerate the dough for 1 hour.

Preheat the oven to 350° F. Lightly grease (or line with parchment) two baking sheets.

Shape or scoop the dough into 1 1/2-inch balls; a tablespoon

cookie scoop works well here. Roll them in granulated sugar and put them on the prepared baking sheets, leaving about 2 inches between them.

Bake the cookies for 10 minutes. The centers will look soft and puffy, which is OK. As long as the bottoms are set enough to lift part way off the cookie sheet without bending or breaking, they're ready to come out of the oven. Cool the cookies on the pan for 10 minutes before transferring them to a rack to cool completely.

Makes 44 cookies.

Recipe from *The King Arthur Flour Cookie Companion*, The Countryman Press, \$29.95

For fans of chocolate chip cookies, Dede Wilson, food writer, cookbook author and television food-show host, has put together a collection of 75 different ways to make this all-American favorite.

Her new cookbook, *A Baker's Field Guide to Chocolate Chip Cookies* (Harvard Common Press, \$16.95) includes cookies, bars and brownies, all related to the traditional chocolate chip cookie. It's a handy hardcover book with a concealed ring binding so it can lie conveniently flat on a kitchen counter.

As its name says, the book is set up as a field guide with notes and symbols that explain concisely each recipe's type, its description, whether it's kid-friendly or especially quick to make, whether the dough freezes or stores well (Lifespan) and whether you can substitute ingredients (Related Species).

Among cookies featured in the book are Caramel Chocolate Turtle Cookies, Chunk Chocolate Bittersweet Chunk Brownies and Ginger Chip Brown Sugar Shortbread Fingers. The following recipe for chewy cookies with a rich brownie flavor baked up fine and went down very well with my family.

If you like, Wilson says, you can substitute milk or white chocolate morsels instead of the semisweet, and use pecans instead of the walnut.

CHEWY BROWNIE CHIP DROPS

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

- 1/2 cup Dutch-processed unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups (3 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate morsels
- 1 cup walnut halves, toasted and chopped

Preheat oven to 350° F. Line 2 cookie sheets with parchment paper.

Sift flour, cocoa, baking soda and salt together in a medium-size bowl.

In a large bowl with an electric mixer on medium-high speed, beat butter until creamy, about 2 minutes. Add granulated sugar and brown sugar gradually, beating until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes, and scraping down bowl once or twice. Beat in vanilla, then eggs, one at a time, scraping down bowl.

Add about one-third of flour mixture and mix on low speed. Gradually add remaining flour mixture, mixing just until blended. Stir in chocolate morsels and nuts. Drop by generously rounded tablespoon 2 inches apart on prepared cookie sheets.

Bake until firmed up around the edges but still a bit soft in the center, about 10 minutes (you want to keep them chewy). Slide parchment onto racks to cool cookies completely.

Good Cookie Tip: These cookies are so dark that it's hard to gauge doneness by color. Follow these textural clues: They should be firm around the edges, yet soft in the center.

Makes 48 cookies. Recipe from *A Baker's Field Guide to Chocolate Chip Cookies* by Dede Wilson, Harvard Common Press, \$16.95.

FAVORITE SUGAR COOKIES

Almost every year, I make cut-out cookies, baking along with others. This started with my mom, then continued with my friends, and now with my kids.

Following is the recipe that I think makes the best cut-out cookies. A tablespoon of light corn syrup makes the dough a

little more easy to handle. Rolling the cookies in between sheets of waxed paper or plastic wrap instead of on a floured surface keeps them from getting too tough from absorbing excess flour.

If the shapes are too soft to transfer to the baking sheet, another technique I employ is to simply pop the baking sheet into the freezer or refrigerator until the dough is firm. It then becomes much easier to transfer the cookies to the baking sheet for baking.

SUGAR CUT-OUT COOKIES

- 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 tablespoon light corn syrup
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract

In a medium bowl, mix the flour and salt. In a large bowl, stir together the butter and sugar until creamy. Stir in the egg and then the corn syrup and vanilla extract. One-third at a time, add the flour mixture until thoroughly mixed. Pat the dough into two disks, wrap them in plastic, and refrigerate for 1 to 2 hours, or until firm enough to roll. If the dough is too firm, soften at room temperature for about 5 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 375° F. Roll the dough to a 1/4-inch thick between two pieces of waxed paper or plastic wrap. Remove the top sheet of waxed paper and cut out the cookies with cookie cutters. Using a spatula, transfer the shapes to an ungreased baking sheet, leaving about 1 inch between the cookies. Sprinkle the shapes with colored sugar or sprinkles, if desired. (If the dough is too soft, place the sheet with the waxed paper and cut-out shapes in the freezer for 5 to 10 minutes to make it easier to remove the shapes.)

Bake for 8 to 10 minutes, or until the cookies start to brown lightly around the edges.

Set the baking sheet on a wire rack and cool for about 5 minutes. Transfer the cookies to racks and cool completely. The cookies can be stored in an airtight container in the freezer for up to 1 month and for up to 3 days at room temperature before you frost them.

Makes 12 to 50 cookies, depending on their size.

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TASTE CALENDAR

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

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CHARLES DICKENS

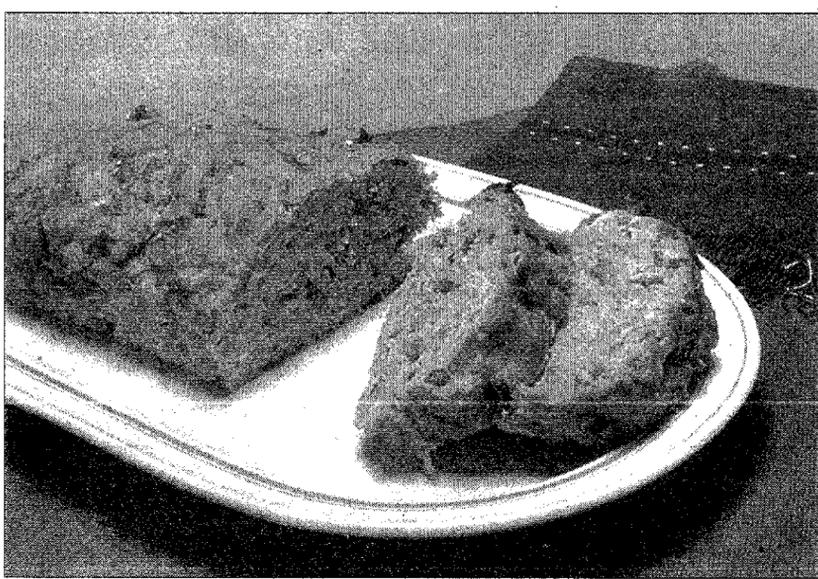
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This recipe for turkey meatloaf is a good example of how to enjoy more healthful comfort food. Chopped parsley, minced bell pepper and shredded carrot add color, fiber, taste and nutrition.

Have your comfort food and eat it, too

This time of year can be stressful. In times of stress, we want comfort foods — the foods we used to eat on special occasions, at grandmother's house, or when we were sick and mom pampered or nurtured us back to health with special dishes.

Unfortunately, many comfort foods are high in calories and fat but low in the nutrients and protective phytochemicals necessary to reduce risk of chronic diseases, like cancer, and to keep a healthy weight.

Many of these foods come from a time when the relationship between diet and disease was not well known.

But in recent years, cooks have learned to make such foods with less fat and fewer calories. With a few substitutions and some changes in technique, comfort food can be feed your health as well as your memories.

Substitution is the first step toward healthier comfort food. Substitute an ingredient low in fat for a high-fat ingredient, for example. Evaporated skim milk can be used in place of cream, and

olive oil can replace butter in many recipes.

Adding a few healthful ingredients such as vegetables, fruits, whole grains and beans can enhance the nutritional quality of the dish. Add diced bell pepper and zucchini to your spaghetti sauce, for example, and some variety of beans to your chili.

Finally, watch portion size. Most comfort foods are meals in themselves.

If you serve them in smaller portions and add a few side dishes such as cooked vegetables and salad, you'll have a more healthful meal and still enjoy your favorite comfort food.

The following recipe for meatloaf is a good example of how to enjoy more healthful comfort food.

Chopped parsley, minced bell pepper and shredded carrot add color, fiber, taste and nutrition.

TURKEY MEATLOAF

- 1/2 pound ground turkey breast
- 1/2 pound ground turkey
- 1/4 cup ketchup
- 1 cup unseasoned whole-wheat breadcrumbs

- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 large egg
- 1/2 cup shredded carrots
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1/4 cup green bell pepper, minced
- 1/4 cup red bell pepper, minced
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 3 tablespoons ketchup (optional, to use as a topping)

Preheat oven to 350° F.

Combine all ingredients except 3 tablespoons of ketchup in a large bowl.

Transfer mixture to a 9-by-5-inch non-stick loaf pan. Bake 1 hour, uncovered.

Remove from oven.

Spread the 3 tablespoons ketchup on top, if desired.

Cover lightly with foil and let meatloaf rest 10 minutes.

Cut into slices and serve.

Makes 5 servings.

Per serving: 278 calories, 10 g. total fat (3 g. saturated fat), 23 g. carbohydrate, 24 g. protein, 2 g. dietary fiber, 420 mg. sodium.

Recipe courtesy of the American Institute for Cancer Research.

Fruity Christmas trifle is long-time holiday favorite

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHRISTMAS TRIFLE

For the custard cream:

- 2 1/2 cups milk
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 5 egg yolks
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar

Heat the milk in a small saucepan over medium-high heat until barely simmering.

Separately, mix the granulated sugar, cornstarch and egg yolks with a pinch of salt in a heavy-bottomed medium saucepan, and heat over medium heat.

Whisk in the hot milk slowly, about 1/2 cup at a time, until all the milk is incorporated into the egg mixture. Stir constantly with a wooden spoon and cook for 12 to 15 minutes, or until lumps of custard begin to form. Lower the heat and whisk until smooth.

Remove from the heat and mix in the vanilla extract.

Transfer the custard to a large bowl. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap, poke a few holes in the plastic, and cool.

Place the heavy cream and confectioners' sugar in a medium mixing bowl. Whip on medium speed for 4 to 5 minutes, or until stiff peaks form, and refrigerate. Reserve 2 tablespoons of the whipped cream for decoration.

Once the custard has cooled, mix in one-third of the whipped cream with the custard using a rubber spatula to lighten. Gently fold in the remaining whipped cream and refrigerate the custard cream.

For the trifle:

- 1 1/2 pounds vanilla or lemon pound cake, sliced 1/2-inch thick
- 1 cup raspberry jam
- 4 ounces dry sherry

10 kiwifruit, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch slices, reserving several slices for decoration

24-ounce container pineapple, or mango, drained and cut in chunks (in the fresh fruit section)

Two 10-ounce containers frozen strawberries with their juices, thawed, reserving 1 berry for decoration

1/2 cup sliced almonds, toasted (about 1 ounce), for decoration

Preheat the oven to 350° F.

Lay the pound cake on baking sheets and bake about 10 minutes, or until partially dried. Remove from the oven and cool. Spread each slice of pound cake with a thin layer of raspberry jam.

Place a layer of pound cake slices, breaking them to fit evenly, into an 8-inch-deep trifle bowl, or 3-quart glass bowl. Drizzle one-third of the sherry onto the pound cake.

Line the edge of the bowl with the kiwifruit, leaving a slight gap between each slice. Fill in the gaps with chunks of pineapple. Spoon on one-third of the strawberries with their juices, making some visible through the kiwifruit.

Add additional kiwifruit, pineapple and strawberries to level out the layer. Add in and spread evenly one-third of the custard cream. Repeat this layering process twice, ending with a layer of custard cream on top. Decorate with the reserved whipped cream, kiwifruit, strawberry, and the toasted almonds.

For individual portions, layer the glasses proportionately and decorate each serving. Makes 16 servings.

Recipe from *Holiday Fare: Favorite Williamsburg Recipes, Colonial Williamsburg, 2004*, \$19.95, by John R. Gonzales

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FONDUE

FROM PAGE D1

Once considered unsophisticated, it is now an ideal party food — inexpensive, interactive and of course fun. One of the best parts about fondue is that its ingredients are flexible. You can use one cheese or a combination.

Accompaniments include breads, cherry tomatoes, grapes, cubes of chunks of celery or carrots, cubes of meat, lightly steamed broccoli, cauliflower and asparagus, apple and pear wedges or another seasonal vegetable or fruit. Just about any “dippers” will please a hungry crowd and will taste good with cheese, too.

Guests will hover over the Classic Swiss Fondue from *Cooking for Company* by Nicole Aloni, HP Books. And you'll have them grow a fondness for fondue.

It is the season to entertain and share time with family and friends, enjoying the great food and camaraderie of the occasion. This year, in the spirit of the season, host a “giving” party.

Remember those less fortunate. Ask guests to forego the traditional host or hostess gift. Instead they can bring a holiday gift identified by contents and whether it's for an adult or child, which the host will give to a charity for distribution.

And in turn, treat guests to a

special evening of “dipping and dining.”

What better way for everyone to connect than with a communal meal around the fondue pot? Dipping together encourages conversation, and it's fun.

For an easy main dish fondue, serve cooked beef top sirloin steak as the dipper. Simply season the steak, then pan-broil in a skillet. Cut it into bite-sized pieces for dipping into two delicious fondues.

Colorful Roasted Red Pepper Fondue is made with roasted red bell peppers and garlic which are puréed and then heated with Gruyère cheese and cream. (The peppers can be roasted a day in advance to save time.)

For the second dipping choice, Gorgonzola-Port Fondue makes a great presentation with the port wine drizzle glistening atop the white fondue. It's truly festive, and a delicious complement to the beef.

Round out the simple but satisfying supper with vegetable crudités, assorted bread sticks and crusty bread. Holiday cookies with eggnog or espresso are a perfect ending to this special occasion.

Information for this story also was obtained from the Cattlemen's Beef Board and National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

kabramczyk@oe.homecomm.net

RECIPES

FROM PAGE D1

FONDUE

- 2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 3 tablespoons kirsch
- 1 clove garlic, smashed
- 1 to 1¼ cups dry white wine
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1 pound Gruyère or 8 ounces Emmentaler, grated (4 cups)
- 1/8 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- White pepper

To serve, you will need the following items: fondue pot or small chafin, fondue forks or skewers, small plates, cocktail napkins, bread cubes, crostini or pita wedges, green apple wedges, blanched carrots or cauliflower.

In a small bowl, whisk the cornstarch into the kirsch to dissolve.

Rub the garlic clove around the inside of a heavy saucepan over medium heat and then drop it in. Add the 1 cup white wine and lemon juice and bring to a gentle simmer. Add the shredded cheese, one handful at a time, stirring constantly with a wooden spoon.

When the cheese is completely melted into the liquid, add the kirsch mixture and whisk to blend. Let simmer several minutes to thicken. If the mixture is too thick, stir in some additional wine. Season with the nutmeg and white pepper. Transfer immediately to a fondue pot and

serve with bread cubes, fruit or vegetables.

Serves 8 to 10 as an appetizer or 4 as an entree; makes 3 cups.

ROASTED RED PEPPER FONDUE

- 1 boneless beef top sirloin steak, cut 1-inch thick (about 1½ pounds)
- 2 teaspoons garlic-pepper seasoning
- Roasted Red Pepper Sauce:
 - 3 medium red bell peppers
 - 3 large cloves garlic, unpeeled
 - ½ teaspoon olive oil
 - 1½ cups shredded Gruyère cheese
 - ½ cup whipping cream
 - ½ teaspoon salt

Press garlic-pepper seasoning evenly onto beef steak. Heat large nonstick skillet over medium heat until hot. Place steak in skillet; cook 15 to 20 minutes for medium rare to medium doneness, turning occasionally. Remove to platter; keep warm.

Heat oven to 425° F. Toss bell peppers and garlic with oil in large bowl. Place peppers and garlic on aluminum-foil-lined metal baking sheet sprayed with nonstick cooking spray.

Bake in 425° F oven 30 minutes, turning peppers and garlic once; cool slightly.

Remove and discard skins, stems and seeds from peppers. Remove and discard skins from garlic.

Place peppers and garlic in food processor or blender container. Cover; process one minute or until mixture is

puréed. Combine pepper mixture, cheese and cream in medium saucepan. Heat over medium-low to low heat 8 to 12 minutes or until cheese is melted and mixture is smooth; stirring constantly. Stir in salt.

Pour cheese mixture into fondue pot set on low heat. Carve steak into bite-sized pieces. Serve with fondue. Makes six servings.

Cook's Tip: Before using a fondue pot, always follow manufacturer's instructions for proper care and use.

Nutrition information per serving: 356 calories; 22 g fat (12 g saturated fat); 7 g monounsaturated fat; 107 mg cholesterol; 388 mg sodium; 5 g carbohydrate; 1.2 g fiber; 35 g protein; 8.3 mg niacin; 0.8 mg vitamin B6; 1.9 mcg vitamin B12; 2.0 mg iron; 35.8 mcg selenium; 6.1 mg zinc.

Recipe courtesy of the Cattlemen's Beef Board and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

GORGONZOLA-PORT FONDUE

- 1 boneless beef top sirloin steak, cut 1-inch thick (about 1½ pounds)
- 2 teaspoons garlic-pepper seasoning
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ½ cup minced shallots
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 12 ounces crumbled Gorgonzola cheese (about 3 cups)
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- ½ cup whole milk
- ¼ cup port wine

Press garlic-pepper seasoning

evenly onto beef steak. Heat large nonstick skillet over medium heat until hot. Place steak in skillet; cook 15 to 20 minutes for medium rare to medium doneness, turning occasionally. Remove to platter; keep warm. Heat oil in medium saucepan over medium heat until hot. Add shallots and garlic; cook and stir four minutes or until tender. Reduce heat to low.

Toss cheese with flour; gradually add to saucepan, stirring after each addition. Whisk in milk and cook about 12 to 13 minutes or until sauce is smooth and creamy; stirring frequently.

Meanwhile in medium saucepan, cook port wine over high heat 8 to 10 minutes or until reduced to about two tablespoons (consistency will be syrupy).

Pour cheese mixture into fondue pot set on low heat. Just before serving, drizzle wine over cheese. Carve steaks into bite-sized pieces. Serve with fondue. Makes six servings.

Cook's Tip: Before using a fondue pot, always follow manufacturer's instructions for proper care and use.

Nutrition information per serving: 462 calories; 27 g fat (14 g saturated fat); 10 g monounsaturated fat; 96 mg cholesterol; 1006 mg sodium; 9 g carbohydrate; 0.2 fiber; 40 g protein; 8.4 mg niacin; 0.8 mg vitamin B6; 2.3 mcg vitamin B12; 2.2 mg iron; 42.3 mcg selenium; 6.6 mg zinc.

Recipe courtesy of the Cattlemen's Beef Board and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

Find perfect wine to pair with festive meal

(AP) — Picking the perfect wine to complement your holiday dinner and please your guests' palates can be a puzzle.

Master sommelier and Target Stores wine consultant Andrea Zimmer has several wine suggestions to guide your choice:

■ In many homes, ham is a Christmas favorite for guests of all ages. This holiday tradi-

tion is best paired with tangy, racy white wines from the Riesling grape.

■ Prime rib, or another fine cut of beef, is a hearty way to celebrate the season of giving. A rich Australian shiraz pairs beautifully with red meat.

■ Try pairing tasty gingerbread men and other Christmas cookies with demi-sec (slightly sweet) cham-

pagne or sparkling wine to complete your Christmas meal.

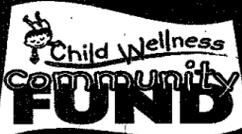
■ Shrimp is the perfect finger food for a New Year's cocktail party. Paired with pinot grigio, these tender morsels taste sweet and succulent.

■ Vegetables and dip are a delectable snack. The raw vegetable flavor of

crudités is enhanced with a racy, herbaceous sauvignon blanc.

■ Chocolate-covered fruits are a treat to tempt chocolate lovers. Guests will savor the taste of demi-sec (slightly sweet) champagne or sparkling wine while enjoying their chocolate-dipped bites. (Source: Andrea Zimmer, for Target Stores)

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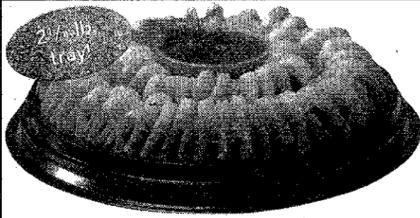
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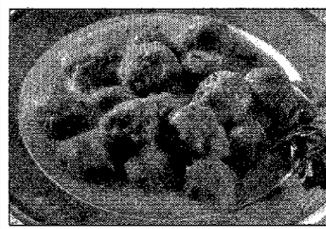


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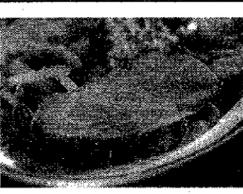
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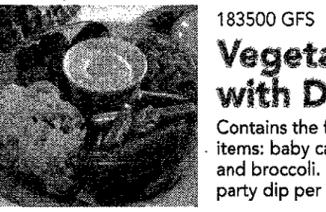
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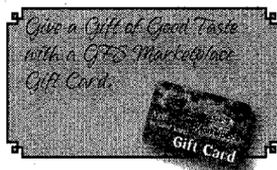


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Here are tips for feeding party guests

(AP) - The entertaining season is here, time to plan spreads full of holiday cheer.

Here are some suggestions for feeding a crowd, whether office colleagues, family, friends or all the above.

Make it easy with a potluck party or simple finger foods, and enjoy these festive holiday events.

■ **Potluck party** - Invite a group of friends to celebrate at your place and ask each to bring their favorite dish.

A simple and easy option is a tasty tart.

Line a tart tin with pastry shell and bake for 10 minutes. Peel and slice 6 tomatoes and 3 onions very finely. Fry onions in a saucepan until transparent.

Spread a thin layer of Dijon mustard over the base of tart.

Cover with a layer of tomatoes, then a layer of onion and sprinkle with 1-1/2 cups grated Swiss cheese. Season with salt and pepper, bake for an additional 30 minutes and serve warm.

■ **Warm welcome** - Greet guests with a finger food to start. Prepare succulent jumbo shrimp with a delicious honey-mustard dip.

Combine 3 cups of water, 3 peppercorns, 1 lemon slice and 1 bay leaf; bring to boil. Add shrimp; boil until they turn pink. Drain shrimp; add ice to stop the cooking process.

In a small saucepan, combine 2 teaspoons scallions, 1

teaspoon lemon juice, 2 teaspoons honey Dijon mustard; stir with fork until warm. Transfer to a bowl; arrange shrimp over the edge of bowl and serve.

■ **Dazzling dip** - Impress the company with a creamy, delectable dip for crackers or chips.

Mix a 6-1/2-ounce jar of liquid from marinated artichoke hearts, an 8-ounce package of cream cheese and 1/2 cup of Dijon mustard.

Add sliced artichokes from jar. Blend until smooth and chill.

■ **Seasonal gravy** - Spice up traditional gravy by adding a seasonal fruit flavor.

Combine 1/2 cup fresh cranberry sauce, 2 tablespoons whole-grain mustard, and 1 tablespoon orange rind with gravy powder.

Blend with water; simmer over low heat until thickened. Serve over turkey, mash potatoes or fresh vegetables.

Also bring fruit into the festivity by using it as decorations around the mantel and the dinner table.

■ **Holiday ham** - A fine asset at the holiday feast is a honey-baked ham.

One version calls for 1 egg yolk mixed with 3 tablespoons honey Dijon mustard.

Spread mixture over ham and sprinkle with 2 or 3 tablespoons of bread crumbs. Bake until it turns a golden brown color.

Slice and serve. (Source: Maille Fine French Condiments)

Lentil soup doesn't take long to make

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A hearty soup made from scratch doesn't have to be a long project.

Here's a case in point: a savory lentil soup with flavor that comes from vegetables and plenty of garlic, that you can serve up in your soup bowls or mugs in about half an hour.

The recipe is from the "fast" cooking feature in *Food & Wine* magazine's December issue.

If you cannot easily find Spanish serrano ham, use prosciutto for a similar Mediterranean touch in the ham and arugula garnish.

Most other ingredients you will probably find you already have at hand in your kitchen.

LENTIL SOUP WITH SERRANO HAM AND ARUGULA

(Total time: 30 minutes)
 1-1/2 cups lentils
 8 cups very hot tap water
 1/2 cup plus 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
 2 medium onions, very finely chopped
 3 medium carrots, very thinly sliced
 2 celery ribs, thinly sliced
 5 garlic cloves, 4 thinly sliced and 1 minced
 2 tablespoons tomato paste

Crushed red pepper
 Salt and freshly ground black pepper
 2 ounces thinly sliced serrano ham or prosciutto, cut into 1/2-inch-wide strips
 1 bunch arugula (1/4 pound), thick stems discarded

In a large saucepan, cover the lentils with the water and bring to a boil.

Meanwhile, in a medium soup pot, heat 1/2 cup of the olive oil until shimmering. Add the onions, carrots, celery and sliced garlic. Cover and cook the vegetables over moderately high heat, stirring occasionally, until they are softened, 5 to 6 minutes.

Carefully add the lentils and

the boiling water. Add the tomato paste and 1/2 teaspoon of crushed red pepper to the soup and season with salt and black pepper. Cook the soup over moderate heat until the lentils are tender, about 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a small skillet, heat the remaining 1 tablespoon of olive oil until shimmering. Add the minced garlic and cook just until fragrant, about 30 seconds.

Add the ham and a generous pinch of crushed red pepper to the skillet and cook for 30 seconds.

Add the arugula and cook just until wilted, 30 seconds longer. Ladle the soup into large bowls, garnish with the ham and arugula, and serve.

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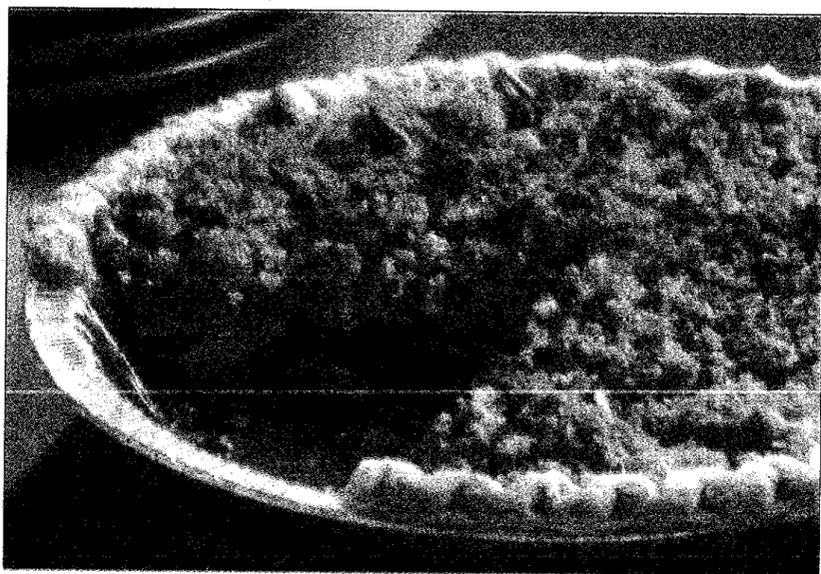
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Adding tart cranberries gives the French Cran-Apple Pie flavor and color. The tart cranberries are balanced with slightly sweet apples.

Try a baking short cut and use frozen crusts

Holiday pie bakers take note: Bringing the pie is easy with frozen crusts.

No matter how you slice it, a piece of delicious homemade pie marks the perfect ending to a festive holiday gathering.

Bakers who usually shy away from volunteering to bring pie to family celebrations or office potlucks may want to entertain the idea this year and try their hand at making a simple pie using a convenient pie crust in its own portable tin.

"During the peak of pie baking season, go portable and start with a pre-made Pillsbury Pet-Ritz frozen crust in a to-go tin," recommends Marilyn French, senior home economist for Pillsbury.

"For some bakers, the crust is the most challenging part. I like to assure people that they can bake a pie if they choose a crust that's ready fill, bake and take."

The first one-crust recipe developed by French features a new twist on a traditional apple pie. Adding tart cranberries gives the French Cran-Apple Pie a burst of flavor – and vibrant color. The hint of tart cranberry flavor is balanced with slightly sweet cooking apples such as Golden Delicious or Cortland. This is a creative way for bakers to combine two favorite seasonal flavors into one beautiful dessert.

A pie baker whose gathering includes a large number of chocolate lovers may opt to bring a layered Creamy Chocolate-Mint Pie that looks as decadent and rich as it tastes. A mint-flavored cream cheese layer provides a festive green touch, and it's topped with a creamy chocolate filling that will please the chocolate fans. Serve with a small bowl of chopped chocolate mints and let each guest top off a slice with a few extra morsels of the favorite after-dinner sweet.

French recommends keeping

several frozen crusts on hand during the holidays for unexpected company or last-minute desserts. Canned fillings from the pantry – such as pumpkin, cherries or apples – help create delicious flavorful spur-of-the-moment desserts. Visit www.pillsbury.com for more one-crust pie and holiday dessert recipes.

FRENCH CRAN-APPLE PIE

1 Pillsbury Pet-Ritz frozen deep dish pie crust

Filling:

- 4 cups sliced peeled apples (4 medium)
- 2 cups fresh or frozen (thawed) cranberries
- ½ cup sugar
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup firmly packed brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg

Topping:

- ¾ cup all-purpose flour
- ¾ cup firmly packed brown sugar
- ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- dash nutmeg
- ¼ cup firm butter or margarine
- ½ cup chopped pecans

Heat oven to 375° F. Place cookie sheet in oven to preheat.

In large bowl, stir together apples and cranberries. In small bowl, stir together remaining filling ingredients. Add dry ingredients to fruit; toss to coat. Pour into crust-lined pan.

In small bowl, stir together all topping ingredients except butter and pecans. Using pastry blender or fork, cut in butter until crumbly. Stir in pecans. Sprinkle evenly over top of pie. Place pie on cookie sheet in oven.

Bake 45 to 55 minutes or until apples are tender and crust and topping are golden brown. Cover edge of crust with stripes of foil after 15 to 20 minutes of baking to prevent excessive browning. Serve warm with whipped cream

or ice cream, if desired. Makes eight servings.

Bakers tip: Use a slightly sweet cooking apple, such as Golden Delicious or Cortland, in this recipe to balance the tartness of the cranberries.

CREAMY CHOCOLATE-MINT PIE

- 1 Pillsbury Pet-Ritz frozen deep dish pie crust
- 1 ½ cups milk
- 1 package (4-serving size) chocolate pudding and pie filling mix (not instant)
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened
- ½ cup powdered sugar
- ¼ teaspoon peppermint extract
- 3-5 drops green food color
- 2 cups frozen (thawed) whipped topping
- 2 thin rectangular chocolate and green mints, unwrapped

Heat oven to 400° F. Bake pie crust as directed on package for One-Crust Baked Pie Shell. Cool completely, about 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, in two-quart saucepan, stir together milk and pudding mix; cook as directed on package. Continue cooking over low heat while adding chocolate chips, stirring until melted. Set aside.

In medium bowl, beat cream cheese, powdered sugar, peppermint extract and one-two drops of the green food color until smooth. Gently fold in one cup of the whipped topping.

Spread cream cheese mixture in shell. Top with chocolate mixture.

Refrigerate at least two hours until set. To color remaining one cup whipped topping, in small bowl, stir together whipped topping and remaining two drops food color. Garnish pie with whipped topping. Chop mints and sprinkle over whipped topping.

Cover and store in refrigerator. Makes eight servings.

Recipe courtesy of Pillsbury.

Stir-fried pork dish on table in 20 minutes

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Food authority Mark Bittman has great credibility when he offers a recipe for making a tasty dish with a minimum of time and fuss.

Usually, he has refined his ingredients and their cooking down to the essentials.

But that's Bittman's culinary forte.

He's famous as The Minimalist, the title of his weekly column in *The New York Times* – and to further inspire confidence, remember that one of the most popular books he has written is *How To Cook Everything* (Wiley, 1998).

Here Bittman turns his attention to pork, offering a recipe that will take only about 20 minutes to put on the table.

What basics should the cook keep in mind?

"I rely heavily on fresh ingredients, but having the right pantry staples around makes daily life much easier," Bittman said.

This recipe combines the fresh meat with simple items – soy sauce, garlic and onion.

Pork is often his choice for such recipes, he says, because its distinctive flavor marries well with countless others.

"The key is start simple and get yourself comfortable with the cooking basics."

STIR-FRIED PORK IN GARLIC SAUCE

(Preparation and cooking time: 20 minutes)

- 2 tablespoons peanut or vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons peeled and chopped garlic
- 2 dried hot red chilies, or to taste (see note)
- 1 to 1 ½ pounds boneless pork tenderloin or shoulder, cut into thin shreds
- 1 bunch scallions or green onions, trimmed and cut into 2-inch lengths (separate the white parts from the green parts)
- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 4 cups cooked white rice

Put oil in large, nonstick skillet (12 inches is best) and turn heat to high; a minute later, add garlic and chilies; cook, stirring

occasionally, until the garlic begins to color, just a minute or so.

Add pork and stir once or twice.

Cook until it begins to brown, about 1 minute. Add white parts of the scallions and stir; cook another minute, stirring occasionally.

Stir in the green parts of the scallions and stir; cook for 30 seconds, then turn off heat and add the soy sauce.

Serve immediately with white rice.

Makes 4 servings.

Note: Bittman suggests standard hot red chilies, or any variation of dried chilies you like, to taste. They are left whole – but not eaten, presumably, he says.

Nutrition information per serving: 497 cal., 14 g fat (3.7 g saturated) 77 mg chol., 980 mg sodium, 57 g carbo., 31 g pro., 2 g fiber.

(AP recipe developed by Mark Bittman, courtesy National Pork Board)

Information and recipes on the Web: <http://www.theotherwhitemeat.com>.

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Real Estate Inquires

Robert M. Meisner

Association Web site needs parameters

One of our board members is thinking about a Web site for our community association. Do you have any comments on that?

Web site may be an excellent way to improve communication between the association and its members as long as certain protections are provided in regard to the format of the Web site and access to same. It may also be a source of revenue for the community association inviting property managers and other service providers to advertise on the Web site. However, it should not be undertaken without a clear understanding of the responsibilities of the board overseeing the Web site with the benefit of legal counsel advising the board as to the parameters and limitations of the Web site.

Our management company refuses to allow members of the board to look at certain expenditures made by the management company on behalf of the association even though we have attempted to get that information. We have now terminated the management company but are wondering what recourse we have.

Most management contracts provide that the management company will provide an accounting of the its expenditures both during and at the end of its representation of the association. In addition, if you think there has been any fraud or mismanagement on the part of the management company, you should demand an audit of the books and records of the management company's affairs as it relates to your association. Your CPA can help you in that regard and, if necessary, your attorney can advise you as to what remedies you have against the management company for failure to provide proper accounting to the association. There are some management companies who have actually absconded with funds from an association and you are best advised to make sure that that has not happened in your case.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of *Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track*, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$2 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit rbmeisner@meisner-associates.com.

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PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mary Winkler believes giving clients tickets to a community theater performance like the Farmington Players is a great way to introduce them to the community and say thank you.

Looking for gifts? Realtors offer suggestions for saying thank you

BY KEELY SCHRAMM
STAFF WRITER

A nice closing gift can leave a positive lasting impression and lead to more business. That's why Realtors give them. But, it's not the only reason.

"My card says 'A Realtor and a Friend,'" said Renee Reyer, a Realtor with Remerica Country Place in Canton. "I want them to really understand that it's not just I got my check and I'm outta here. I want them to say 'Wow! She really thought about this and went the extra mile, she cares about me.'"

One of her clients had a particularly hard time getting a mortgage. Reyer helped the couple get a starter house and bought them a lawn mower after the closing because they didn't have one.

"It depends on the clients and what their needs and interests are," she said. "First-time homebuyers might need sheets and towels. Some might be so broke for the first couple of months after buying a home that a gift certificate from Meijer's might come in handy, they can even buy groceries."

EVENING OUT?

If you're looking for the perfect gift for someone difficult to buy for, you might be inspired by some of the gifts Realtors give their clients.

Mary Winkler suggests giving tickets to a play or musical at the Farmington Players community theater.

"It's a brand-new theater, shaped like a barn, and located on 12 Mile Road between Farmington and Orchard Lake roads. This is a great way to introduce buyers to one of the amenities of their new community, and show them you value

them as clients. Tickets range from \$10 to \$15 each. Celebrate a house closing. Buy tickets for your clients ... they will be impressed, remain loyal and call you back for future business."

For more information, visit www.farmingtonplayers.org or call (248) 553-2955. The next show, *Proof* by David Auburn, opens on Jan. 28.

Winkler worked in commercial and residential real estate before relocating to Michigan from California after her husband, Jim, accepted a job here. A year ago, she and her family got involved in the Farmington Players after her son, Chris, 14, got a part in *On Golden Pond*.

"We just have fun volunteering," she said. "I am always thinking for novel ways to get the word out about the theater. It's good for Realtors to know about things in their community. If I'm sold on something I have no problems telling everyone about it."

One of a Realtor's jobs is to educate people about what amenities are available in different communities. Buying tickets to a community theater production, Winkler said, is terrific for building a Realtor/client bond, and costs very little.

She's also taken clients baskets filled with wine and nice things to eat after a closing to help them celebrate their new house.

FRIENDSHIP

Barbara Quinn, a Realtor with Century 21 Today in Farmington Hills, also surprises clients with incredible baskets after closing.

"You get to be friends," she said. "You don't want to sell houses people won't be happy in. You help them find the



Play tickets are a gift option for Realtors.

house they want to live in. I usually buy my buyers and sellers a basket with wine, cheese and crackers and different candies. It's good for moving day - they have snacks - people absolutely love it."

If she sells a very expensive home, she'll surprise her clients with Waterford Crystal wine glasses or a vase. New couples appreciate receiving towels for the bathroom or something for the kitchen.

After the closing for clients retiring to Florida, Dawn Pfaff, a Realtor with Max Brook of Bloomfield Hills, presented them with gift certificates to restaurants in the area of their new Florida home, and a subscription to *Coastal Living* magazine.

Another client was moving to a condo with beautiful gardens but was nervous about her lack of a green thumb. Quinn got her a gift certificate for gardening consulting and a nice vase to showcase her new skills.

When a family bought a home with a home theater, Pfaff gave them a large popcorn bowl filled with theater

candy, microwave popcorn, gift certificates to Best Buy and a one year subscription to *Entertainment Weekly* magazine.

Pfaff gives first-time homebuyers a toolbox with hammer, screw drivers, tape measure, a carbon monoxide detector and Home Depot gift certificate.

George Jonte of Real Estate One in Novi goes to Bronner's in Frankenmuth every year and purchases "Our First Christmas in Our New Home" ornaments and puts them in decorative bags for first-time home buyers.

Sean Haas of Real Estate One in Millford has an artist do a pencil sketch of every client's home. He then frames it and presents it to them. Jane Evans of Real Estate One in Troy shops online at Roland's Housing Warming Gifts, www.rolandsgifts.com. She picks out planters and has the client's name and address etched on them. Roland's offers a variety of gifts that can be personalized including address plaques, doormats, mailboxes and birdhouses.

Tina McNeal, a Realtor and associate broker at Real Estate One, enjoys surprising clients at closing, "when there's a lull in the paperwork," with something they always wanted but never bought for themselves.

Instead of trying to guess what clients need and want, McNeal gives certificate booklets that can be redeemed at www.selectagift.com.

Clients enter their certificate number and are directed to more than 50 items to choose from including pots and pans, tool kits, and even watches.

"They love the fact that they get exactly what they want," said McNeal. "It's not as impersonal as a gift certificate, there's some thought to it."

Mortgage Bits



Timothy Phillips

Relieve stress, take control of your debt

It's often difficult for people saddled with debt to see clearly. Many feel too embarrassed or guilty to place a call for help. Others are too busy with the day-to-day task of robbing Peter to pay Paul to even consider whether or not they have other choices. Sadly, many allow depression to fool them into believing that bankruptcy is their only choice when, in fact, help may be a mouse click or a phone call away.

If you are not a homeowner, your choices may be limited to a debt arbitration (or negotiation) regimen to establish a more manageable payment plan based on reduced payoffs for a complete debt settlement. I have never recommended the use of "for-profit" entities like Consumer Credit Counseling for any of my clients. Instead, I have them exhaust nonprofit sources for help first.

"Focus on the Family" is among my favorites. Their Web site, www.family.org, is filled with online resources to help people understand debt and how to better manage it. You can help yourself to a fast start by searching that site using the word "debt." If you cannot get online, you can phone them at (800) A-FAMILY for print resources.

If you are a debt-laden homeowner, you will still benefit by using the Focus on the Family organization. However, unlike your contemporaries who may not be sitting on a helpful pool of home equity to help, you may have some very useful options. It may be a proper choice to relieve your consumer debts - credit card balances, furniture payments, and even overdue collections - with a restructured mortgage against your home.

Next week, I will show you how to mathematically determine whether or not a debt consolidation refinance is right for you. If you cannot wait until then, or you want me to do the arithmetic calculations for you instead, you may contact me directly on my toll-free number below.

If your debt is stressing you out, you must change something. Take control of your debt and you will take back control of your life.

Timothy Phillips is a mortgage banker and newspaper columnist. You may access his Wealth Academy archives at www.PhillipsHQ.com or phone him toll-free at (866) 369-4516. Homebuyers should always consult a professional for guidance specific to their situation.

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MOVERS AND SHAKERS

This column highlights promotions, transfers, hirings, awards won and other news within the real estate, construction, architecture and mortgage communities. Send a brief summary including town of residency and photo to Real Estate Movers and Shakers, Attn: Keely Schramm, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Our fax number is (248) 644-1314 or e-mail kschrmm@oe.homecomm.net.

Broder & Sachse Real Estate Services Inc.

A commercial, residential and industrial property management and development company, and sister company Sachse Construction & Development Corp., a premium commercial construction and design/build firm, have moved from Farmington Hills into larger offices in downtown Birmingham.

The growing companies relocated 35 of their more than 80 employees to approximately 10,000 square feet on the second floor of the 260 E. Brown Street

Building, said John Hamburger, vice president at Broder & Sachse and Sachse Construction. The firms' remaining employees are stationed at project sites and managed properties around the country, he added.

Broder & Sachse Real Estate Services, Inc. (www.brodersachse.com) currently manages more than 60 properties consisting of more than 6.5 million square feet. Broder & Sachse has provided full-service commercial, residential and industrial real estate services since 1993.

Sachse Construction (www.sachseconstruction.com), founded in 1991, provides premium commercial and large-scale residential construction and design/build services throughout Michigan and the United States. Recent high-profile projects include one of the country's largest private small animal hospitals, Oakland Veterinary Referral

Services in Bloomfield Hills; Junior Achievement of Southeast Michigan's Finance Park in Detroit; luxury loft condominiums in Detroit and Royal Oak and hundreds of high-end retail stores at the Somerset Collection in Troy and in other upscale malls throughout the country.

Real Estate One Bloomfield branch

Wendell Jefferson has joined the Real Estate One Bloomfield branch office, 4120 Telegraph.

Jefferson has been in residential real estate for less a year, but he comes to Real Estate One from Home Quarters with a dozen listings in hand.

"We are very happy to have Wendell join our team. With his sincerity, enthusiasm and desire to learn, we expect great things from him," said Branch Manager Laura Cantin.

For more information, call (248) 644-4700 or visit www.realestateone.com.

Mortgage rates fall sharply, experts report

BY JEANNINE AVERSA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mortgage rates around the country fell sharply, a development that should bring a dose of good cheer for people wanting to buy a home.

Freddie Mac's weekly survey released Thursday, Dec. 9 showed that rates on 30-year, fixed-rate mortgages dropped to 5.71 percent, compared with 5.81 percent the previous week. It was the lowest rate since early November.

Rates on 30-year mortgages hit a high this year of 6.34 percent the week of May 13. After that, rates, while bouncing around, had drifted lower as the economy hit a soft spot. Rates shot up last week as the economy flashed growth signs, but fell this week as a lackluster jobs report eased investors' inflation fears.

"Responding to a weak labor market report that showed November job

growth to be far less than had been anticipated, long-term yields - and that includes mortgage rates - reversed last week's hike," said Frank Nothaft, Freddie Mac's chief economist.

Rates on 15-year, fixed-rate mortgages, a popular option for refinancing, sank to 5.14 percent from 5.23 percent.

One-year adjustable rate mortgages fell to 4.15 percent, compared with the previous week's 4.19 percent.

The nationwide averages for mortgage rates do not include add-on fees known as points. Thirty-year and one-year ARMs each carried a 0.7 point fee. Fifteen-year mortgages carried a 0.6 point fee.

A year ago, rates on 30-year mortgages averaged 6.02 percent with 15-year mortgages at 5.36 percent and one-year ARMs at 3.77 percent.

Separately, the seasonal adjusted percentage of mortgage payments 30 or more days past due dipped in the third quarter to 4.41 percent, from 4.43 percent in the previous quarter, the Mortgage Bankers Association reported.

The share of mortgages that started the foreclosure process in the July-to-September quarter stood at 0.39 percent, unchanged from the previous quarter. "The performance of delinquencies and foreclosures is improving as expected" helped by a solidly expanding economy, said Doug Duncan, the association's chief economist.

In another report, U.S. households saw their net worth in the third quarter rise to a record \$46.68 trillion, reflecting in part higher home and other real-estate values, the Federal Reserve said. The third quarter's figure surpassed the previous all-time high registered in the second quarter of this year.

**CANTON**

4 BEDROOM CANTON COLONIAL Stunning 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial court location backs to woods. Over 2600 sq. ft., with island kitchen, large master bedroom with jacuzzi & separate shower. Beautiful finished basement. Stamped patio & 2.5 car garage. (P222F) \$365,000

**NORTHVILLE**

NORTHVILLE ESTATES HALF-ACRES SITE! This spacious tri-level features 2865 sq. ft., 3 huge bedrooms, 2.5 baths, updated kitchen, & a walk-out family room. Private wooded lot. All this for \$299,900 (P56SUM)

**CANTON**

CAVALIER VILLAGE SOUTH SUB Lovely 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial deep in the sub. Professionally landscaped. Backyard is fenced in with maintenance free vinyl fencing perfect for a dog or kids play. Newer roof, furnace & A/C. Household intercom! MUST SEE!! (P56PAL) \$229,900

**PLYMOUTH**

BREATHTAKING PLYMOUTH RANCH CONDO Exclusive Eaton Estates. Finished walkout. Master suite with jet tub and separate shower, 2 fireplaces, 3 baths, oak kitchen with island & 2nd kitchen in lower level. Priced below SEV. (P88EAT) \$379,900

**CANTON**

SMOKLER TRUESDALE SUB! Great family home with loads of updates! 4 bedrooms, 1.5 baths. New maple kitchen with ceramic floor, cul-de-sac location. Home warranty at closing! (P99WAL) \$199,900

**PLYMOUTH**

EXCEPTIONAL 3 BEDROOM CAPE COD! Luxurious 1st floor master suite. Great room, formal dining room, island kitchen, walk-out basement. 3 car garage. Professionally landscaped. Meticulous! Call today! \$439,900 (P25QUA)

**CANTON**

GREENBROOK VILLAGE SUB NO 1 Beautiful newer kitchen w/corner counters & cabs. Open to a larger family room. 3 bms. 2.5 baths, finished bsmt that makes a great rec room. Walk out to landscaped yard that everyone will envy. Must see... (P79RUD) \$229,500

**LIVONIA**

SPARKLING LIVONIA BRICK RANCH Totally updated 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath ranch in popular Castle Gardens! Unique 1st floor laundry w/skylight. New kit, carpet in LR & FP. Updated 6 panel doors, newer furnace, HWH, C/A roof, fire bsmt, glass block wif, 2 car at gar & fenced yard! Nice! (P26SUS) \$229,900

**GARDEN CITY**

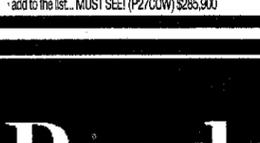
GARDEN CITY BRICK RANCH WITH EXTRA-DEEP LOT Lovely 3 BR 1.5 BA brick ranch w/2.5 car gar & rare deep lot (60x235). Update kit w/ceramic flr, vinyl wndws, hdwd under carpet, ceiling fans, lg. LR w/crown molding, newer furn, humid., HWH, C/A, roof. Bsmt w/half BA & glass block win. EXCEPTIONAL! (P27BEE) \$169,900

**PLYMOUTH**

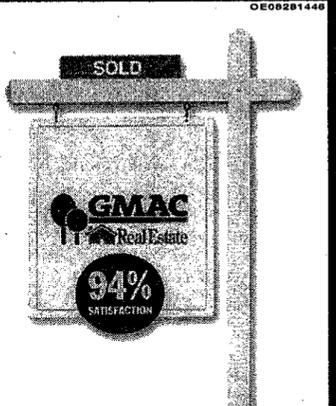
WALK-TO-SCHOOL NEIGHBORHOOD 3 bedrooms brick ranch, 4th BR in bsmt. Oak kit w/Pergo floor. Updated baths, new furn & gar dr. Priv fenced yard has underground sprinklers, lush perennial gardens & mature trees. Quick occupancy available. (P18FAR) \$239,900

**WESTLAND**

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS! 3 bedroom brick ranch, 4th bedroom in basement. Oak kitchen with Pergo floor, updated carpet and windows. Dining area in living room. Roof replaced with tearoff. Oversized garage. Just a great house! (P05BEE) \$149,900

**WESTLAND**

COUNTRY IN THE CITY! This must be the place, spacious 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial sitting on just about an acre. With over 2,300 sq. ft. Custom built. Family room (32x20), it's gorgeous. Oak kit, formal dining room, & finished basement add to the list... MUST SEE! (P27COW) \$285,900



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distributed to the Baldwin Church & Center of Hope in Pontiac and also Open Door Outreach and Leggett Elementary School in Waterford Township. The coat drive will continue through Dec. 31. For more information, call Suzanne Shew at (248) 366-1627.

Career seminar

Looking for a cure for the common job? Real Estate One conducts career seminars on real estate appraising and sales at its office, 32961 Middlebelt Road, on the southwest corner of 14 Mile and Middlebelt roads. Seminars begin at noon every Wednesday, and last approximately one hour. Call Steve Leibhan, sales manager, at (248) 851-4100, Ext. 405, for more information.

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CANTON Move right in! Spotless throughout w/the finest finishings. Hdwd flrs, granite kit, doorwalls to tiered decking. Huge fam rm w/FP. Prof fin bsmt w/full kit, fam rm & bath. 4 bdms, 3.5 baths. \$349,900 (24141918CHA) 248-324-3800



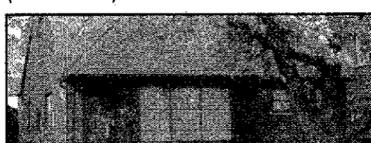
CANTON A new home for the holidays? this Cherry Hill Village classic is a decorator's dream come true! Imagine what you can do w/ not 1 but 2 front porch levels. 3 car gar. Maple island kit w/appls. 3 bdms, & study. Freshly painted. \$437,500 (24127750HAN) 248-324-3800



SHARP RANCH Located in a great neighborhood and close to everything. Move right in, maintenance free home w/new roof, furnace, doors, wndws, and more. All appls stay. Nice mstr w/priv, updated bath. \$201,776 (241060603WEY) 248-324-3800



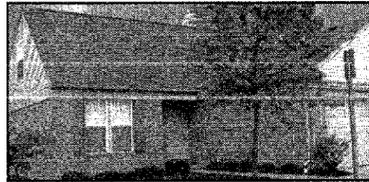
GET IN ON THE GROUND FLOOR! Seldom available 1st floor master boasts dramatic ceiling lines, sun lit kitchen looks over expansive decking. Basement ready to be finished. 1st floor laundry. Att garage. Priced to sell! \$144,900 (24148836HUN) 248-324-3800



REDFORD CHARMER Brick & wet plaster construction. Hardwood under carpet. Totally re-done oak kitchen w/loads of cupboard space. Glass doors to 2nd floor & bsmt. Bay window dining area. Neighborhood of pride. \$122,500 (24068966WOR) 248-647-0100



ALMOST NEW-Westland Absolutely stunning, totally updated kit w/new white Euro cabinets, counters, ceramic floor. New GFA, furn, HWH. New carpet, windows & lites. A must see. \$119,900 (24145826JOH) 248-547-2000



AFFORDABLE NEWER CONDO Desired 1st flr mbr. Soaring ceiling in GR w/beautiful open staircase to upper level. Bright, white kit w/all appl's. Att gar, private end unit, deck. Full bsmt. C/A. Lovely complex w/pool. \$144,900 (24148860HUN) 248-324-3800



GORGEOUS CAPE COD 2 story foyer w/Palladian wndw. GR w/vaulted ceiling & FP. Neutral carpet thru-out. Dr w/doorwall to cedar deck. Crisp white kit w/bst bar. Luxurious mstr w/garden tub & sep shwr, his/hers WIC. \$264,900 (24084282RIV) 248-324-3800



QUAINT & CLEAN Livonia - 3 bdrm ranch. Freshly painted, eat-in kit, some newer carpet. Fin bsmt w/ 1/2 bath, custom built dark room. Spacious rear yard, all systems updated (heating, plumbing, electric). Garage. \$155,900 (24148524CLE) 248-547-2000



GREAT STARTER Completely updated. New roof, newer windows, furn, A/C, carpeting & more. Tons of storage in attic and shed. Fenced yard. Close to x-way, shopping & schools. Will help with financing. \$93,000 (24109240WIN) 248-324-3800

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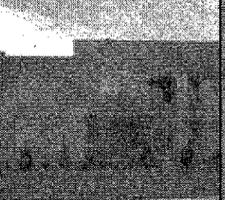
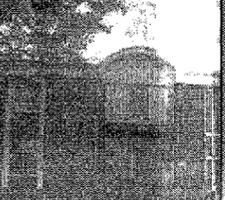
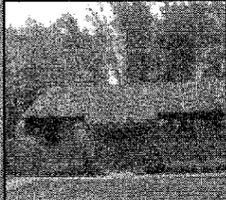
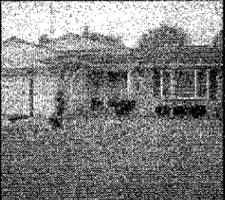
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 <p>ANN ARBOR \$309,900 Best lot in sub! Tudor w/woods on side & back on cul-de-sac. Spacious kit overlooks FR w/vaulted ceilings & sky lts. 6 panel drs w/o. Spac kit & FR open to private yd. New dbl. front drs w/leaded glass. 1st floor Indry. (OEP49PT) 734-453-6800</p>	 <p>BRIGHTON \$224,500 Lovingly maintained ranch in small friendly sub w/3 shared ponds for fishing and ice skating. 2 car garage, finished basement. 1/2 acre corner lot with pool. (OESLY14ESS) 248-437-4500</p>	 <p>CANTON \$410,000 Better Than New Two-story On Oversized Lot Backing To Commons Area In Highly Sought After Fallows Creek Estates. Dramatic 2-story Foyer, 9 Ft Ceilings, Nook W/door To Brick Paver Patio, Bay Windows In Living Rm (OEN71FAI) 248-347-3050</p>	 <p>CANTON \$309,900 Meadow Ridge Stunning Princeton Model On Premium Lot. Professionally Landscaped W/brick Paver Walk & Stamped Concrete Patio Overlooking Pond. Extra Deep Insulated Garage W/attic Storage. (OEN20PON) 248-347-3050</p>	 <p>CANTON \$279,900 3-4BR, 2.1BA w/3 car side-entry garage sized kit & nook. Formal LR & DR. 1st flr Indry. FR w/gas FP. Spac mstr BR w/mstr BA. Upstairs has loft which could be converted to 4th BR. Fin bsmt. P/C schools. Must see! (OEP638AY) 734-453-6800</p>	 <p>CANTON \$250,000 Desirable "sunflower village" On A Premium Lot 100x150 Mature Trees 4 w/2.5ac Colonial. Designed For Style space & Entertaining Features Includes A Spacious Foyer formal Drkr. Newer Updated Kit. Was Thoughtfully Redone Creating Attractive Cabs & Yard. Newer Windows, roof, lum, ac. 1st Flr Laundry. Minor Exclusions. (OEP97BAR) 734-453-6800</p>	 <p>CANTON \$234,900 Colonial 3 bedrooms, 1.5 bath w/eye catching staircase. Newly updated kitchen. Natural fireplace, hearth and doorwall to large fenced yard off family room. Home warranty included. (OESLY34DER) 248-437-4500</p>
 <p>CANTON \$230,000 Incredible Value! Kitchen Completely Updated! W/new Oak Cabinets, New Floor, New Dishwasher, Formal Dining Rm W/crown Molding, Formal Living Rm, Family Rm W/natural Frpl, Lower Level W/hobby Rm, New Hot Water Htr. (OEN15WED) 248-347-3050</p>	 <p>CANTON \$224,850 2 BR, 2.5 BA end unit townhome. Upgraded t/o: granite cnts in kit & baths, cer flrs, carpet, pad, closet org, custom wndw treatments, light pkg, gas log FP w/blower & more. State of the art clubhouse, pool & ex rm. (OEP29EAS) 734-453-6800</p>	 <p>COMMERCE \$458,000 Premium cul-de-sac location! Spectacular newer brick colonial! 4 bedroom, 3.5 car garage. Daylight windows in basement, 2 way fireplace, granite island in kitchen. (OESLY35PLA) 248-437-4500</p>	 <p>DETROIT \$95,000 Beautifully Updated Bungalow In Warrendale * Updated Kit * Spacious Mstr Bed W/lots Of Storage * Nwr Wndws & Doors * Nwr Furn & C/A * Part Fin Bsmt W/ Full Bath * Nwr Drive * New Roof * Nwr Appliances! A Drive By! (OEL31GRE) 734-591-0333</p>	 <p>DETROIT \$84,500 Charming & Well Maintained Brick & Stone Front Home Located On A Nice Street In The Warrendale Area. Newer Dimensional Roof, Hdwd Frs Through Most Of Home, Fresh Paint T/O. Good Size Dining Area In Kitchen. (OEN41PAT) 248-347-3050</p>	 <p>FARMINGTON HILLS \$1,300,000 Park Your New Sports Car In Front Of Your Spectacular New Home, Now You Can. Seller To Contribute \$75,000.00 Cash Back To Buyer At Close W/ Accept. offer. Not To Be Duplicated, 2 Acre Private Setting. (OEN55NOR) 248-347-3050</p>	 <p>FARMINGTON HILLS \$405,000 Located At The End Of A Cul-de-sac, this Home Sits On A 3/4 Acre Wooded Lot. dramatic 2-story Windows, vaulted Ceilings, sky-lts, h/w Frs, gourmet Kit, mstr Ste W/jetted Tub, II Fam Rm W/frnch Drs To Fab 24x26 Game Rm (OEN52HOL) 248-347-3050</p>
 <p>FARMINGTON HILLS \$329,900 Beautiful 3 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath Det Condo W/wooded Setting On Lg Lot. Cath Ceilings, Nat Frpl, Lg Mstr Ste W/Wic, Dressing Area & Jacuzzi Tub. Kit Boasts Island, Eating Area, Hdwd Floors. Private Wrap Around Deck. (OEL67BUR) 734-591-0333</p>	 <p>GREEN OAK \$449,000 In the middle of a hrdwd forest backing to Moose Ridge Golf Course. All appl. stay. Master has a separate rm for the incl hot tub w/ its own private deck. One of a kind home, like living up north without the drive. (OESLY43AND) 248-437-4500</p>	 <p>GREEN OAK \$139,900 Looking for privacy and wildlife? This 5.5 acre parcel offers the best of both worlds. Nature privacy yet just minutes to town. Great location for all expressway access. Build your dream, perk ready. (OESLY00DIX) 248-437-4500</p>	 <p>HARTLAND \$359,900 Newer Cape Cod backing and siding to protected land! 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 3 car garage, basement w/daylight windows. 2 story great room w/corner fireplace. Upgraded lighting and intercom. (OESLY63GIO) 248-437-4500</p>	 <p>HOWELL \$239,900 Spectacular, spacious colonial with open floor plan, neutral colors, great room with fireplace and extra large master suite with bath and walk-in. Oversized garage, full basement and professionally landscaped. (OESLY84ASH) 248-437-4500</p>	 <p>INKSTER \$95,000 Absolutely Stunning! New Berber Carpet, new Vinyl Wndws W/marble Sills, ceramic Tile In The Bath, al Oak Kit. Furnace, hwh, & Roof All Under 5 Yrs Old! Wonderfully Fin. Bsmt W/war & Built In Seating. Huge Mt Suite. (OEL32WES) 734-591-0333</p>	 <p>LIVONIA \$279,900 Well Maintained 3brdm, 2.5 Bath Colonial. Lr, Formal Dr, 1st Flr Dan & Fam. rm W/trpl. Spacious Eat-in Kitchen, White Cabinets, Micro & Dishwasher. 2 Doorways To Multi-level Deck. Enjoy Park-like Yard. (OEN88VAC) 248-347-3050</p>
 <p>LIVONIA \$269,900 Newer Built Brick And Cedar Ranch With A Very Open Floor Plan With Cathedral Ceilings, A Fabulous Stone Fireplace, A Professionally Finished Basement, And A Quiet Location On A Secluded Cul-de-sac. (OEN65GR) 248-347-3050</p>	 <p>LIVONIA \$259,900 Sharp 4 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath Brick & Alum Col W/cen/office. Updtd Kit W/oak Cabs, Corian Cntrs, Ceramic Tile Fr & All Appls. Lg Formal DR, FR W/natr Gas Fp. Baths Updated. Partly Fin Bsmt. 2 Car Gar Vinyl Wind T/O. (OEL99BAR) 734-591-0333</p>	 <p>LIVONIA \$209,900 "Rosedale Gardens" Classic 3 Bed Brick Bung on DBL 80' Lot. L/R W/ Gas Fp. Updated Kit W/oak Cab, Counters & All Appls. New Wndws In Bedrms. Orig Solid Doors. Nw Roof. Nwr Furn, C/A, New Drive. 2 Car Gar. 1 Yr H/w. (OEL28ARD) 734-591-0333</p>	 <p>LIVONIA \$170,000 Desirable End Unit Has Lg. Foyer W/LR Leading Onto Deck & Sep. Dining Area. Lg Kitchn W/marillat Cabs, Lg Pantry, 1st Flr Indry, Kit Appl, Inc. Kit/Foyer Floor Pergo. Mstr Bdrm W/wic & Full Bath. 2nd Bdrm W/full Bath. (OEL78MER) 734-591-0333</p>	 <p>LIVONIA \$170,000 Price Reduced!! 1212 Sq.ft. brick Ranch In Steveson District. Aggressively Priced For A Quick Sale. Updates include: Furn, C/A & Wndws. Fin Bath, Newer Siding & Gutters, Hwh, Elec. Service, & Vinyl Windows. (OEN09FLA) 248-347-3050</p>	 <p>LIVONIA \$150,000 Excellent 3 Bed, 1.5 Bath Brick Ranch On A Blvd Str In N. Livonia. Updated Kit Cabinets Appliances stay, Wood Frs T/O. Updates incl: Furn, C/A & Wndws. Fin Bsmt w/ G/B Wm, Copper Plumb & 1/2 Bath. 2 Car Gar. Home Warr. (OEL64ANT) 734-591-0333</p>	 <p>LIVONIA \$90,000 Entry Level Unit In Top Location W/loads Of Updates Incl Kit w/ pergo Flr, All Appliances & Pickled Cabinets. 2Yr. Wallside Windows & 9' Doorwall. Ceramic Bath. Stack Washer/ Dryer In Unit. Assoc Fee Inc Heat/Wtr. (OEL02OB) 734-591-0333</p>
 <p>NORTHVILLE \$1,275,000 Transfer forces sale! Magazine quality 5 BR, 4.2 BA custom built showplace on Mystic Lake. Gourmet kitchen, Lux master w/gas FP & kitchenette. Phenomenal sunroom. Professionally finished W/O w/full kitchen & more! (OEP60MAN) 734-453-6800</p>	 <p>NORTHVILLE \$799,900 Immed. Occupancy! Existing New Dynasty Bldg Co Floorplan W/9 Ceilings On 1st Fl, huge Kit & Hearth Rm W/custom Cabinets W/granite Counters, extensive Use Of Hardwood Floors, 3.5 Car Garage, unfin W/O, 2-story Foyer. (OEN28MER) 248-347-3050</p>	 <p>NORTHVILLE \$759,900 Immed. Occupancy On This Priced To Sell Colonial On Low Traffic Interior Street! Gently Used Only 2 Yrs Lived In! Stunning But Neutral Decor W/finrn Daylight Bsmt, 18x16 Ceramic Tile In Foyer, Hallway, kit, hearth Rm (OEN28COO) 248-347-3050</p>	 <p>OCEOLA \$245,000 A ranch with a finished walkout, 5 acres, 30 X40 barn with 4 stalls. All new appliances, new roof 2003, gardentub, wood burner. Peace and quiet and privacy! This is a must see! (OESLY20ARG) 248-437-4500</p>	 <p>PLYMOUTH \$497,500 New construction. Custom quality inc granite cntropts t/o, cherry cbnts, ceramic & brazilian HDWD frs, 9' cigs. Custom moldings, ceramic baths & 1st flr laundry, stonecast FP surround, LL prepped for bath. Jac tub. (OEP35IRO) 734-453-6800</p>	 <p>PLYMOUTH \$289,900 3BR classic vinyl sided colonial built in 1916 w/lots of updates. Enjoy the covered front porch or relax in spacious backyard. HDWD frs in LR & DR. Full fin basement w/oversized glass block windows. Home warranty. (OEP29ANN) 734-453-6800</p>	 <p>PLYMOUTH \$229,000 Wonderful location! Charming kiddie park just down the street! Fresh paint t/o. All hwd frs recently refinished, newer win, elec updated, new kit cnt, sink & new vanity in 1st flr ba. Close to elementary school. (OEP50BYR) 734-453-6800</p>
 <p>PLYMOUTH \$223,900 Tucked away serene setting of "The Meadows" in this upper unit ranch w/easy access & undgrnd heated gar. Amenities inc: cer entry & ba, welcoming rm, 2 bay win, balcony off gr, all app stay. Lush Indscp & canopy. (OEP35DEE) 734-453-6800</p>	 <p>PLYMOUTH \$189,000 2 bks to dntwn Plymouth on quiet street! Seller will assist w/land contract, newer drywall, electricity, baths, kit, furn & air. Needs new roof! Zoned for office use w/value in land. See MLS#24083732. Fenced yard! (OEP80DEE) 734-453-6800</p>	 <p>REDFORD \$150,000 Mechanics Dream Studio/garage! On 5 Acre Lot, Wrksp Is 23'x20'w/220, h2o, & Gas Hookups, skylights & Is Attd To A 2 Car Gar. Cape Cod Home w/Expd Hdwd Frs LR, 3 Bdrms! Updated Bath, Windows, & Plumbing. (OEL45MER) 734-591-0333</p>	 <p>REDFORD \$118,900 Nice 3 Bdrm, brick Ranch W/part Fin Bsmt & 2 Car Garage. Great For First Time Buyers. Home Offers New Windows & Doors (04), New Furnace, Central Air & Humidifier (04) & New Bathroom. (OEL28KIN) 734-591-0333</p>	 <p>REDFORD \$55,000 1st fl. Build Equity By Owning Your Own Home Assoc. Fee Covers Heat, water, & Maint. Pets- Assoc \$20 More Per Month-Common Pool. Xtra Storage And Laundry Located In Common Bsmt- \$1000 Paint And Carpet Allowance (OEL20JOY) 734-591-0333</p>	 <p>SOUTH LYON \$449,900 New construction. Quality thru-out! Beautiful executive home featuring tray ceilings, walk-in closets, bay windows garden tub, Jack and Jill bath. Open floor plan. Landscaping and sprinklers. (OESLY31GLE) 248-437-4500</p>	 <p>SOUTH LYON \$199,999 A stylish brick ranch in a quiet, mature neighborhood, minutes from downtown South Lyon. Freshly painted, newer appliances. Private basement, mature trees, flower beds and patio. Must see! (OESLY61ORC) 248-437-4500</p>
 <p>SOUTH LYON \$123,900 South Ridge condo beautiful end unit, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1st floor laundry with private master suite with large walkin closet. Great location. Close to pool, shopping and walking trails. (OESLY70GRE) 248-437-4500</p>	 <p>SOUTH LYON \$94,900 55+ Adult co-op. Priced to sell Bring all offers! Great co-op with 2 bedrms, dining rm and living rm. Finished basement with bedroom/study. Large work rm and a utility rm. Florida rm walking distance to clubhouse. (OESLY65LEX) 248-437-4500</p>	 <p>SOUTHFIELD \$239,900 Beautiful Updated Quad. Spacious FR W/gas Fp, formal DR & Liv Rm W/new Bay Wndw. Lg Met Bdrm W/ Bath, WIC, Refln. Hdwd Frs In All Bdrms. Freshly Painted. Glass Bk Wndws, updated Elec 1 Yr Home Warranty. (OEL35KEN) 734-591-0333</p>	 <p>SOUTHFIELD \$89,900 1st Time Buyers Or Investors. Move In At Closing. Updates Including: Windows, Roof, Chimney, Carpeting, Kitchen And Bath. Great Location On Low Traffic Street. All Measurements Approx. Easy Showings. Home Warranty. (OEL49PO) 734-591-0333</p>	 <p>WESTLAND \$143,000 3BR br home w/open flr plan & updates: newer roof, heating, hot H2O, flooring & carpet. Lg mste ste w/wood stove overlooks fenced yd w/patio, BBQ grill w/2.5 car gar. 1st flr Indry & eat in kit w/w/ pntry. All appl. (OEP00LIB) 734-453-6800</p>	 <p>WESTLAND \$137,900 This Freshly Painted 2 Story End-unit Condo Is Ready For Immed. occup. Sharp Kitchen Comes W/stove, Reflg, Microwave & Dishwasher. Private Deck Off Living Rm Overlooks Wooded Backyard. Upscale Ceiling Fans In Fam Rm (OEN15WAR) 248-347-3050</p>	 <p>YPSILANTI \$334,900 Positively Immaculate! HDWD frs in kit, foyer & powder rm. Lg island kit w/tons of cab & closet space. Pass thru FP in FR & den. Massive mstr ste w/garden tub, sep shower & huge WIC. Backs to woods. Imme occupancy. (OEP66EAG) 734-453-6800</p>

If it's on the market, it's on our website... www.cbschweitzer.com

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NOVI
WONDERFUL HM IN POPULAR CHASE FARMS Home w/a great open flr plan, spacious kitchen & brkfst area, formal LR & DR, comfortable den, FR w/cath ceiling, brick patio, deck & great fin'd bsmt. 349-6200 24125231 \$487,500
248-348-6430

ANN ARBOR
PRIVACY IN THE WOODS You will love this 6 acre Executive Estate. 4 BRs, 3 1/2 baths, 3+ gar, large kitchen w/brkfr rm over looking golf course, LR w/large FP, mstr suite w/whirlpool tub. T354 PC220342 \$454,900
734-326-2000

NOVI
ROYAL CROWN EXCEPTIONAL COLONIAL 2 story features 4 BRs, including step-up mstr w/2 walk-in closets, 2 vanities & soaking tub. Island kitchen, great room w/ volume ceilings & professionally finished lower level. 349-6200 24101543 \$449,900
248-348-6430

CANTON
SPECTACULAR FINISHED BSMT! Pride of ownership shows in 4 bedroom, 2 full & 2 half bath colonial. Golf community. Bright airy home. Beautiful mature landscaping. Call now for appointment. 23W45996 \$427,000
734-455-7000

LIVONIA
NEW CONSTRUCTION W/LIVONIA SCHOOLS 4 BR, 2.5 BA colonial has 2421 SF, bsmt & 2car att garage. Ceramic tile in BAs, cherry cabs & birch flr in kitchen, nook, 1/2 BA, foyer, staircase. Curtis Creek-11 hm development. 24023356 \$374,900
734-591-9200

PLYMOUTH
LUXURY PLYMOUTH WALKOUT RANCH CONDO Super walkout & deck to private woody yard & fresh pond. 2000 square feet. 23N51013 \$359,900
734-455-7000

LIVONIA
WELCOMING SPACIOUS RANCH Over 2060 SF w/3 BRs, 2.5 BAs, kitchen, DR, FR w/FP & mstr w/BA & WIC. Full finished bsmt. Fenced yard w/cement patio, garage & shed. Numerous recent updates! 349-6200 24110562 \$337,500
248-348-6430

LIVONIA
LIVONIA SHOWCASE!!! Vacation year round in this beautiful 5BR, 2.5BA contemporary home. Master BR suite w/sunroom, overlooks pool & hot tub. 1/2 acre lot on cul-de-sac. Close to everything! 348-6430 24140669 \$319,900
248-349-6200

LIVONIA
LOCATION, QUALITY, VALUE & CHARM 3 BR brick ranch, built 1988, 2.5 BAs, FR w/FP, full bsmt, 2 car att gar, a secluded setting w/mature trees (approximately 3/4 acre). 24112385 \$314,900
734-591-9200

CANTON
BEAUTIFUL CAPE COD / A LOT TO OFFER Desirable Covington Sq. sub. New hwdw laminate flring throughout kit/GR. New carpet throughout. 4-tier cedar deck w/hot tub. Fin bsmt. 23D1174 \$299,900
734-455-7000

CANTON
3 BR, 2.5 BATH COLONIAL In wonderful Sunflower Sub. Newer neutral carpet, freshly painted, roof 03, new stainless steel appliances, new garage door opener, FR is open to kitchen w/fireplace & doorwall to deck. 24129532 \$282,500
734-591-9200

LIVONIA
POPULAR BURTON HOLLOW SUB. 4 BR, 2 BA, 2133 SF Open flr plan w/ vaulted ceilings in LR, DR & kitchen. New roof (04), window & DR. Florida rm overlooking landscaped & fenced yard. 24142312 \$269,000
734-591-9200

LIVONIA
WONDERFUL HOME! Beautifully appointed home w/hardwood flrs in nicely updated kitchen, finished bsmt w/full bath, 1st flr laundry, newer roof, central air, hwh & furnace. Livonia schools! 349-6200 24109478 \$248,900
248-348-6430

ROMULUS
SCORE LOW-LIVE HIGH with this 3 bedroom cape on the 13th green. Great room, dining room, 1st flr mstr w/2 showers. 2nd bedroom has a 17' walk-in closet. Large bsmt w/ rough plumbing for 3rd bath. Located on a court. 23M5949 \$244,900
734-455-7000

ALLEN PARK
SPACIOUS COLONIAL! Lovely home totally renovated & expanded in '92! Over 2900 square feet! LR area & FR! Multiple bedroom suites - perfect for guests/extended family! 349-6200 24079621 \$239,000
248-348-6430

YPSILANTI
SPACIOUS CAPE COD 3 BR, 2.5 bath, 2248 square feet cape cod. Master suite & laundry on 1st floor. Cathedral ceilings in great room. Family room w/gas FP. Lincoln Consolidated schools. 23T7896 \$229,900
734-455-7000

WARREN
FABULOUS, UPDTD/SPACIOUS RANCH! 1736 square feet, 1st flr Indry, 2 car att gar, 3 BRs, 2.5 BAs. Full finished bsmt w/BA. Large kitchen, great rm & mstr bedroom. Built in 1987. Fireplace tool. 24146412 \$224,900
734-591-9200

WAYNE
FABULOUS RAVINE LOT 1,865 square feet, brick bungalow, fireplace, cove ceilings, formal dining room, sunroom, C/A & much more. W321 \$219,900
734-326-2000

NORTHVILLE
WALK TO DWNTWN NORTHVILLE-LOVELY RANCH Desirable Yerke Estates. Open floor plan. Neutral decor, oak floor, updated kitchen, newer window & furnace, new deck & brk patio, fin bsmt, large fenced yard. 1 year home warranty. 349-6200 24121746 \$214,900
248-348-6430

PLYMOUTH
FABULOUS BARBERRY UNIT! 2-story ceiling makes this LR inviting. FR w/adjacent powder rm. Can be bit w/3rd bedroom. Available upgrades. Exterior landscaping, sprinkler system, lawn maintenance & snow removal. Prime location. 23A1205 \$210,900
734-455-7000

LIVONIA
3 BEDROOM COLONIAL Over 1500 square feet, updates, fenced yard, Livonia schools, excellent location. More photos at www.localgem.com or call 877-934-6683 ID 712 for details. 24131293 \$199,900
734-591-9200

FARMINGTON HILLS
CAREFREE LIFESTYLE CAN BE YOURS 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Tiled entry. Open flr plan. Mstr bedroom w/WIC. Eat-in kitchen. Spacious LR w/gas FP. Formal DR. 1st flr laundry. Full basement. Brick paver patio. 349-6200 24089471 \$199,500
248-348-6430

WESTLAND
DESIRABLE MILLPOINTE SUB! Ceramic foyer, large kitchen w/oak cabinets, vaulted ceilings, skylights, FP in LR, 4th bedroom in full fin bsmt & ceramic shower & bath, C/A, deck, 2 car garage. S200 PC220072 \$194,900
734-326-2000

DEARBORN HEIGHTS
WELCOME HOME! A show stopper! All brick custom built ranch, corner lot 2 FPs. Florida rm. Fin bsmt. Built-in range. Well maintained, beautifully decorated. This is a lot! 23R25305 \$189,900
734-455-7000

TAYLOR
COMFORTABLE AND INVITING Cozy 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath colonial w/a newer open kitchen. Natural FP in family rm. Some new windows & doorwall. Beautifully fin'd bsmt. 349-6200 24134371 \$187,500
248-348-6430

PLYMOUTH
THE "ARBOR" HAS AN OPEN FLR PLAN. Fin'd LL rec rm next to Indry & powder rm. Townhome comm. will feature landscaping, sprinkler system, lawn maintenance/snow removal. Low association fees. 23A1205 \$184,900
734-455-7000

DEARBORN
VINTAGE 1,421 SF BRICK BUNGALOW with 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths near Oakwood Hospital. Nicely appointed with upgrades that include a finished basement. 24137797 \$179,900
734-591-9200

GARDEN CITY
EXPANSE NOT EXPENSE is this remodeled 3 bedroom Garden City cape cod w/2,400 square feet, remodeled kitchen w/all appliances & bath w/vanity, deck, 3 car garage & huge master bedroom. P330 \$177,500
734-326-2000

PLYMOUTH
CONTEMPORARY FLAIR!! Enjoy this spacious condo! Vaulted ceilings! Skylights! 2 car gar! 2 BRs/2.5 BAs! Neutral decor! Frplc! Convenient location! Quick occupancy! Won't last!! 349-6200 24043061 \$176,500
248-348-6430

LIVONIA
UP NORTH FEELING IN THE CITY! Great, fully fenced .6 acre lot with a 3 car gar w/heat & 220--mechanic's dream! Cape cod 1272 SF, 3 BRs, 1.5 baths. Large family rm w/deck overlooking backyard. 24147495 \$174,900
734-591-9200

WESTLAND
NEW CONSTRUCTION LOOK & FEEL AT THIS LOW PRICE 1,475 square feet. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2 car gar. Meticulously maintained colonial in sought after sub. Partly finished basement doorwall leading to deck. P382 PC220902 \$173,500
734-326-2000

WESTLAND
OUTSTANDING LOCATION. Clean, well kept condo. New carpet on 1st floor, oak kitchen cabinets, all appliances included. Fin basement. Access deck from doorwall. Absolutely turn-key! 349-6200 24103092 \$172,500
248-348-6430

LIVONIA
DESIRABLE STATE STREET SUB 3 bedroom brick ranch with 1 1/2 baths. Hardwood floors, family room in finished basement. Covered patio. 2 1/2 car att garage. 24150100 \$170,000
734-591-9200

LIVONIA
MOVE RIGHT IN & RELAX. Clean & updated brick ranch, Livonia schools. 2.5 car garage, finished bsmt w/full BA. 3 BRs, 2.5 BAs. Updates: Kit, BA, windows, roof, electrical, plumbing, cathedral ceilings & all appliances. 24119118 \$169,900
734-591-9200

DEARBORN HEIGHTS
NEW CONSTRUCTION Here is a great opportunity to make this brand new house your home. Quality built new construction w/3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, 1350 SF, bsmt, 2 car att garage. Visit Samsellshouses.com 24124861 \$169,900
734-591-9200

DEARBORN HEIGHTS
SPARKLING RANCH -NORTH DEARBORN HEIGHTS 3 BRs, 2 full baths. New kitchen, roof, wndws & more. Beautifully finished bsmt and all appliances stay. This home is immaculate & offers immediate occupancy. 24102450 \$164,900
734-591-9200

BELLEVILLE
COUNTRY LIVING 4 bedroom, 2 bath home located on 1.13 acre lot with 2 car garage and a pole barn. Includes above ground pool and fenced yard. 24139342 \$160,000
734-591-9200

GARDEN CITY
COMPLETELY UPDATED HOME IN GARDEN CITY! A beautiful kitchen & private elegant mstr ste are just two of the updates in this mint condition 3 BR, 3 BA bungalow. Come see all the others! Walk to elem & high school. 348-6430 24131460 \$159,900
248-349-6200

WARREN
3 BR, 1.5 BA RANCH -JUST LIKE NEW Move in condition. New refinished hwdw flrs, new kit cabs & counters. Just painted neutral throughout. New roof & A/C. Fin bsmt with 1/2 bath. 349-6200. 24123335 \$157,500
248-348-6430

DEARBORN
GET READY TO PACK YOUR BAGS! Gorgeous condo. Many nice upgrades. Mstr ste is on a flr of its own w/walk in closet & bath. DR & LR feature cozy 3 sided gas FP. Balcony off kitchen. Make appt today. 23S4305 \$157,000
734-455-7000

DEARBORN HGTS
NORTH DEARBORN HGTS CHARMER Rare find four bedroom ranch w/partially finished bsmt. 1 1/2 baths. Updated kitchen, new furnace & C/A, electrical, interior paint, updated bath & lav. Move right in! Large lot! R702 \$155,000
734-326-2000

NOVI
DETACHED RANCH CONDO Great 2 BR carriage w/1 car direct access gar. New windows, neutral decor, ceiling fans. Open floor plan.**6 MONTHS FREE ASSOC FEE** Move right in! 349-6200 24118495 \$150,000
248-348-6430

SOUTHFIELD
BRIGHT & CHEERY RANCH Neat & Tidy brick ranch with a white picket fence. Frplc in family rm. Finished basement w/tons of storage. Many updates. Excellent location! 349-6200 24053850 \$149,999
248-348-6430

DEARBORN HEIGHTS
3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH BRICK RANCH You will enjoy this open & airy ranch. Updates include: Kitchen, both baths, roof, windows, carpet, fresh paint & more. 24053654 \$149,900
734-591-9200

REDFORD
ATTRACTIVE 1 1/2 STORY BUNGALOW 3 bedrooms, 1.5 BAs, 1100 SF, bsmt & gar. Updates incl: Roof, furn, kit cabs & counters, electrical. Heated garage is a handyman's woodwork dream. Landscape & fenced yard. 24150285 \$145,000
734-591-9200

DEARBORN
DEARBORN BUNGALOW. Cozy 3 bedroom, 2 full bath home painted with sunshine! Hwdw flrs under carpeting, huge master w/lots of storage & sky lite. Many newer features! 349-6200 24078298 \$143,000
248-348-6430

DEARBORN HEIGHTS
HAWTHORNE HILLS SUB 3 BRs, 1.5 BAs, finished bsmt, 10x14 Florida rm, 2 car side entry garage. All new items: rf, wndws, furnace w/ ac, hwh, kitchen, all appliances stay. 23113275 PC070182 \$142,900
734-591-9200

LIVONIA
READY FOR YOU TO MOVE IN 1,152 SF, 3 bedroom, brick ranch located in South Livonia (schools), newer tile bath and 2 car garage. 24138583 \$140,000
734-591-9200

NORTHVILLE
UPDATED AND MOVE IN READY CONDO! Desirable Highland Lakes condo. 2 BRs, 1.5 BAs, updt kitchen & bath, ceramic tile, carpet, finished Lower Level w/ workroom. Enjoy lake, pool & clubhouse. Lowest price in Highland Lakes. 349-6200 24101955 \$139,999
248-348-6430

REDFORD
FEELS LIKE HOME! Step inside this 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath ranch and you'll love the warmth. It has a LR/DR combo, updated kitchen, newer circuit breaker, CA, furnace & garage. New roof in 2004. 23R12065 \$139,900
734-455-7000

REDFORD
3 BEDROOMS, 3 BATHS, 3 CAR GARAGE Lovely home has the following updates, newer windows & treatments, furnace & air, electrical, paint, corner lot, neat & clean. All appliances stay. W155 PC220762 \$138,500
734-326-2000

REDFORD
THE BEST IN THE SUB! 1470 SF, 3 BRs, 1 baths. Totally remodeled kitchen, bath, newer roof (house & garage). Fin'd bsmt. Newer wndws, hwdw flrs. Four seasons sunroom w/heater & a/c. 349-6200 24146334 \$134,990
248-348-6430

WESTLAND
DESIRABLE AREA Brk and vinyl ranch with newer windows, furn and central air. New roof prior to closing. Part fin bsmt. W114 \$129,900
734-326-2000

ROMULUS
NEEDS A LITTLE... Spacious tri-level w/huge bkyd that's completely fenced. 1.5 BAs, partly finished bsmt & newer kitchen cabs. Hurry! Going, Going... 23115748 \$129,900
734-455-7000

INKSTER
DELIGHTFUL BRICK RANCH Spotless 3 BR, 1 BA w/updt kit & all applncs. Newer roof & windows. Prvt yd w/fence & abv grnd pool. Walk to park. 349-6200 24115241 \$125,900
248-348-6430

LINCOLN PARK
BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED 3 BR RANCH many updates, including the BA. Huge kit with drwall to patio, part fin'd bsmt. More! N206 \$125,900
734-326-2000

WAYNE
CUTE BUNGALOW 3 BR home w/ newly remdd kit w/recessed lts newer oak cabs & ceiling fan. Anderson patio door to a huge wooded deck. Newer vinyl windows thru-out. W376 \$124,000
734-326-2000

INKSTER
ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL 3 BR brk bungalow. Remodeled kit and bath. Lovely fin bsmt. 2 1/2 car gar. Newer furn, HWH and carpeting. S109 \$119,900
734-326-2000

REDFORD
GREAT 3 BR HM with fin bsmt, nice open flr plan. Updts incl: furn & air, wndws, updt kit, extra insulation & built-in china cabinet off kitchen. 24137145 \$119,900
734-591-9200

DEARBORN HEIGHTS
3 BR/1.5 BATH COLONIAL Large LR, remdd kit, Newer furn-air & H2O, updt wndws&elect. Nice loft-FR upstairs. BA off kit is great for newer pool in the summer. 24148835 \$119,900
734-591-9200

REDFORD
PERFECT STARTER HOME 3 BRs, 1.5 BAs, fin bsmt, 2 car gar, Redford Union Schools. Recent updts-roof, kitchen cabinets, vinyl flooring, carpet & paint. 23K19798 \$109,900
734-455-7000

LINCOLN PARK
UPDTD 3 BR COLONIAL Newly remdd eat-in kit, freshly painted, fin bsmt w/Berber carpet. Nice size lot, most applncs stay, near schools. 349-6200 24096942 \$109,500
248-348-6430

REDFORD
3 BR UPDTD RNCH Updates: kit w/ new flr & dbl SS sink, carpet, wndws, roof on house & gar, steel entry door, copper plumbing. Some applcs stay. Gutters 8 years, woodburning stove in bsmt. 24149016 \$108,900
734-591-9200

WESTLAND
HOTTEST BUY TODAY! 2 or 3 BR aluminum ranch on a nice lot. Clean w/lots of updts incl: furn, crpt, rf shingles, C/A & vinyl wndws. Lg kit w/good table space. P324 \$94,900
734-326-2000

INKSTER
GREAT 3 BR RANCH with LR, FR, and part fin'd bsmt, C/A, 2 car gar. Y268 \$90,000
734-326-2000

LIVONIA
LIKE NEW-On the Pond Condos 1 BR, 1 BA, furn and all applncs stay. Pool, tennis ct, club hse, surrounded by prvt nature area. \$89,500
734-591-9200

REDFORD
CUTE, CLEAN, UPDTD! MOVE IN CONDITION! Nwr furn, siding, wndw, roof & drwayl! Plus stove, fridge, wshr/dryer! 24130948 \$82,777
248-348-6430

WESTLAND
PRICED TO SELL Nwr furn, AC, HWH, electr, nwr crpt, wndws. Beautifully maintained 2 BR mch, stove, fridge, wshr/dryer included. 1 year home warranty. \$182 \$74,900
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Bloomfield 3056. UPDATED RANCH! All on floor - neutral, updated fireplace in living room.

Brighton 3060. JUST LISTED! A HOME FOR YOU! Beautiful 5 bdrm, 3.5 bath colonial on nearly an acre.

Brighton 3060. BRIGHTON/HOWELL Builders close-out. Only 3 lots remain.

Brighton 3060. NEW CONSTRUCTION - in exclusive sub. Great location on 1 acre.

Birmingham 3060. BRICK UPDATED COLONIAL 3 bed, \$455,000 www.salebyownerrealt.com/8381

Birmingham 3060. ALMOST FEARLESS Gorgeous 4 year old luxury condo.

Canton 3080. JUST LISTED! 3 BEDROOM COLONIAL 2227 sq. ft. Large family room 18x17, A/C.

Canton 3080. GREAT LOCATION! \$234,900 Plymouth-Canton school district, 4 bdrms, den, screened in porch!

Canton 3080. INCREDIBLE SPACE! Enchanting 2524 sq. ft. colonial in great Canton Twp. location.

Canton 3080. STOP & CHECK IT OUT! 3 Bdrm, 1 bath ranch w/ finished bsmt & fireplace.

Canton 3080. YOU WON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES! FHAVA terms. Clean 4 bdrm, 2 bath home offers many updates!

Canton 3080. DEARBORN - Invest in a 2 family. Just City inspected. Good cash flow.

Canton 3080. GREAT LOCATION - Adorable and very clean 2 bedroom ranch with finished basement.

Canton 3080. MUST SEE! - Four bedroom, 2 bath bungalow. Hardwood floors throughout!

Farmington 3140. JUST LISTED! IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY On .5 acre lot, 3 bdrm, 2 bath cape cod within walking distance.

Farmington 3140. A HOME FOR YOU! Lovely 1999 built, 3 bdrm, 1400 sq. ft. colonial w/gown floor plan.

Farmington 3140. STOP & CHECK IT OUT! 3 Bdrm, 1 bath ranch w/ finished bsmt & fireplace.

Farmington 3140. HANG YOUR STOCKING BY THE FIREPLACE - of this sweet 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath brick ranch that you will love.

Farmington 3140. A HOME FOR YOU! Stunning brick ranch. 3-4 bdrms, 3.5 bath, 2,322 sq. ft.

Farmington 3140. CUL-DE-SAC LOT For 1997 Built, 2,419 sq. ft., 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath brick colonial.

Farmington 3140. ELEGANT RANCH Professionally decorated! 3 Bdrm, 1.5 bath, living room with fireplace.

Farmington 3140. EXCELLENT STARTER HOME Everything's been updated. Super clean 3 bedroom, 2 full bath ranch with living, dining, family rooms, 1 car attached.

Farmington Hills 3145. JUST LISTED! NICELY UPDATED 4 Bdrm colonial has new roof, siding, windows, kitchen cabinets, deck & C/A.

Farmington Hills 3145. SHARP RANCH! Custom wood carpet, marble foyer, marble columns & arches in formal dining area.

Farmington Hills 3145. BEAUTIFUL UPDATED RANCH! New 2004 roof, windows, carpet, kitchen, furnace, hot water heater, electrical surface & front door.

Farmington Hills 3145. HANG YOUR STOCKING BY THE FIREPLACE - of this sweet 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath brick ranch that you will love.

Farmington Hills 3145. JUST LISTED! A HOME FOR YOU! Move-in condition. 3 bdrm ranch w/finished bsmt.

Farmington Hills 3145. JUST LISTED! JUST LISTED! As far as the eye can see nothing but pure country living here!

Farmington Hills 3145. JUST LISTED! ELEGANT RANCH Professionally decorated! 3 Bdrm, 1.5 bath, living room with fireplace.

Farmington Hills 3145. WEY! Our Classified Department is ready to take your ad at 8:00 a.m. 800-579-SELL (7355)

Century 21 Chalet. REAL ESTATE CAREER INTERVIEWS WEDNESDAYS 6:30 PM.

LIVONIA Beautifully renovated 3 bedroom ranch with new furnace, siding, windows, light fixtures and carpeting.

DEARBORN HEIGHTS Large Cape Cod that is priced for immediate sale. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Bank owned.

REDFORD Bargain bungalow. Solid home with 3 bedrooms, 3 baths in quiet neighborhood.

WESTLAND Well kept ranch with oak cabinets in a large, eat in kitchen. Updated bath, new landscaping, 1.5 car garage.

REDFORD Nice starter 3 bedroom home. Newer roof, furnace, windows, siding & more.

TAYLOR Everything is done. Fresh paint, newer carpet & 6 panel interior doors.

Century Plaza Corner Five Mile & Newburgh 37290 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 (734) 432-7600 www.hometownlife.com

3900-3980 Commercial/Industrial. List of area codes and corresponding locations: 3900...Business Opportunities, 3901...Business/Professional Building, etc.

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CHEAPER THAN RENT! Seller will assist with closing costs! Home is mortgageable through "RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM".

Gentry Real Estate, Inc. (248) 887-7500. Real Estate, Inc. (248) 887-7500

Garden City 3170

CLEAN 3 BDRM RANCH With remodeled kitchen, finished bsmt, freshly painted thru-out. \$129,900

SHARP LOOKING 3 Bdrm brick ranch, family room, large kitchen, finished bsmt, oversized 2 car garage, many newer updates. \$154,900

CASTELLI (734) 525-7900 Serving the area for 29 yrs

Harland 3200

MAKE HOLIDAY MEMORIES HERE! Move right into this wonderful 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch with open floor plan...

Howell 3230

GIVE YOURSELF A PRESENT! Immaculately cared for ranch style modular home on 9.73 acres!

Novi 3230

FOR SALE OR RENT TO OWN 3 Br. Ranch w/ master suite, 2.5 bath, finished bsmt...

Livonia 3250

AWESOME CUSTOM 2500 Sq. Ft. ranch in Bicentennial Sub. 3 Bdrms, dining room, family room...

Livonia 3250

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Livonia 3250

AWESOME CUSTOM 2500 Sq. Ft. ranch in Bicentennial Sub. 3 Bdrms, dining room, family room...

Livonia 3250

NEW CONSTRUCTION With immediate occupancy, 3 Bdrm, 2.5 bath cape w/ floor master ste., gas fireplace, landscaped. \$199,900

Livonia 3250

WELL MAINTAINED 3 Bdrm brick ranch, finished bsmt, oversized garage, newer windows, furnace & more!

Northville 3280

WESTERN LIVONIA RANCH 3 Bdrm ranch, 1.5 bath, 2 car attached garage on cul-de-sac.

Northville 3280

PHEASANT HILLS 5 Bdrm colonial w/ nearly 4,300 sq. ft., open floor plan, walk out lower level.

Novi 3290

FOR SALE OR RENT TO OWN 3 Br. Ranch w/ master suite, 2.5 bath, finished bsmt...

Novi 3290

FOR SALE OR RENT TO OWN 3 Br. Ranch w/ master suite, 2.5 bath, finished bsmt...

Novi 3290

NOVI BUILDER'S HOME! Ultra sharp 2 story detached condo with golf course frontage.

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Redford 3350

JUST LISTED! GREAT BUY! 3-4 Bdrms, 1.5 bath ranch w/ updated roof, windows, plumbing & carpet.

Redford 3350

POURING ON THE CHARM... This wonderful brick bungalow in Redford! Newer items included in this wonderfully cared for 3 bedroom home.

Redford 3350

REDFORD MERRY CHRISTMAS! This 3Bdrm brick ranch, 1.5 baths, completely remodeled w/Oak Merril Cabinets in Kitchen.

Redford 3350

RENT TO OWN Beautiful bungalow in Redford, 3 bdrm 1.5 bath, finished bsmt, 1250 sq. ft.

Redford 3350

SPACIOUS 5 bdrm., 2.5 bath bungalow. Living room, dining room, updated kitchen, den, Bsmt. w/suuna, 2 car garage.

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West Bloomfield 3440

JUST LISTED! A HOME FOR YOU! Elegant colonial, 4 bdrm, 3.5 bath, 2,242 sq. ft. Living room, dining room, family room w/fireplace & cathedral ceiling.

West Bloomfield 3440

WILLIS - 9771 BUNTON RD Completely renovated brick farmhouse on 4.88 acres. Built in 1848, 3200 sq. ft. Asking \$574,900

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Lapeer County 3515

JUST LISTED! TUSCOGA COUNTY LOG HOME On 18 wooded acres w/pond, 90 minutes from Birmingham. \$373,000. Call Lynn Area Wide Real Estate 810-691-5432

Lapeer County 3515

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Condos 3720

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Help Wanted-General 5000. DIRECT CAREGIVERS. For group home and apartment programs serving people with disabilities. 1. Garden City: Full and part-time afternoons and sleep midnights. 2. Dearborn: Full time afternoons and midnight/afternoon split. 3. Westland: afternoons and midnight sleep shift. 4. Plymouth: afternoon shift. 5. Livonia: day and afternoon shift.

Help Wanted-General 5000. Driver. Independent Contractors wanted for auto parts delivery in Metro Detroit area. Late model full size pickup or cargo van is most. Licensed, insurance, MVR required. Call DSI (734) 466-9720.

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Help Wanted-General 5000. DRIVERS SALES. For delivery to party stores markets & drug stores. Call 248-380-6566. Environmental LAB PACK SALES REP. Environmental firm seeks aggressive and motivated Sales Representative for S.E. MI.

Help Wanted-General 5000. FIREPLACE INSTALLERS. Needed for installation of prefab fireplaces in new home construction. HVAC & construction exp. helpful but will train the right candidate.

Help Wanted-General 5000. HOTEL FRONT DESK CLERK. Seeking 3pm-11pm full time candidate with previous hotel experience. We offer competitive starting wage, a great work environment and travel discounts.

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Help Wanted-General 5000. FITNESS INSTRUCTOR. Canton Township is accepting applications for the position of Fitness Instructor (Land). H.S. graduate or equivalent and interest in physical fitness and exercise promotion.

Help Wanted-General 5000. HUMAN RESOURCES. Dearborn Truck dealership seeks Human Resource Assistant for immediate hire. Process job postings and new hires, maintain database and employee files.

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Help Wanted-General 5000. MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN. Full-time, experienced, for Canton apt. community. Great opportunity for right person. Please call 734-397-1080.

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Help Wanted-General 5000. REPAIR TECH. For roofing/siding/gutters. Experienced w/own tools & reliable transportation for Detroit area. Call: 248-304-1081.

Help Wanted-General 5000. RESTORATION TECHS & CLEANING PEOPLE. For a growing 24 hr emergency restoration co. Good wages. Full-time. Benefits after 6 mo's. Must be reliable & have good driving record.

Help Wanted-General 5000. RETAIL FURNITURE SALES PERSON. Exp. Part to full-time. Interior designs abilities helpful. Plymouth area. 734-454-9222.

Help Wanted-General 5000. RETAIL SALES. Growing company in Plymouth is looking for talented individuals to manage established accounts. This is an entry-level position with lots of growth opportunity.

Help Wanted-General 5000. MORTGAGE LOAN OFFICERS. For West Bloomfield office. Live, local leads every day! Conforming/Non-Conforming. Experienced only. Call Patrick: 248-932-4060 ext. 249.

Help Wanted-General 5000. MORTGAGE PROCESSOR/ASSISTANT. Must have experience. Fax resume: 775-383-7983 or email: pimausa@yahoo.com.

Help Wanted-General 5000. NAIL TECH. My nail tech is moving and the clientele is waiting. Great pay. Livonia/Westland area. 248-349-0256.

Help Wanted-General 5000. OFFICE CLEANING. PLYMOUTH Mon-Fri, eves. \$8.50/hr. Mature couple. 734-981-3541. OFFICE CLEANING. PT Eves. Mon-Fri. LIVONIA or PLYMOUTH areas. Call for appt. 248-615-3554.

Help Wanted-General 5000. OPERATION MGR. \$30,000/yr. Hand On Operator to supervise all aspects of running a service business. Email: gisbcjc@hotmail.com. ORDER PROCESSING. International machine safety products company is seeking a self-motivated, proactive individual for general help in processing & fulfillment of customer orders.

Help Wanted-General 5000. PICTURE FRAMER. with sales and computer experience. Part-time/full-time. Fax to 248-661-1221. PIT PERSON. Lube tech, must have worked in a quick lube before. Also licensed mechanic wanted (734) 367-6457.

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Help Wanted-General 5000. TEACHER - for new infant room at Troy Christian childcare. Call 248-619-0530 or fax resume 248-619-0542.

Help Wanted-General 5000. TAX PREPARER. Busy tax office looking for experienced Tax Preparer. Must have 3-5 years experience interviewing clients to prepare both individual & corporate income tax returns. Experience with Lacerte tax software or similar tax program. Full time/part time. Ask for Sam 248-855-1656. VINYL FLOOR INSTALLER. Experienced vinyl floor installers needed for builder and residential customers. Material is out and delivered to job site. Must have comp & liability insurance. Call Steve McNamara at Blomer Floors Inc.: 248-335-3500, Ext. 3084 or e-mail: info@riemfloors.com.

Help Wanted-General 5000. TAX PREPARER. Busy tax office looking for experienced Tax Preparer. Must have 3-5 years experience interviewing clients to prepare both individual & corporate income tax returns. Experience with Lacerte tax software or similar tax program. Full time/part time. Ask for Sam 248-855-1656.

Help Wanted-General 5000. TEACHER - for new infant room at Troy Christian childcare. Call 248-619-0530 or fax resume 248-619-0542.

Help Wanted-General 5000. TEACHER - for new infant room at Troy Christian childcare. Call 248-619-0530 or fax resume 248-619-0542.

Help Wanted-General 5000. MANAGER & TELLER. Cashland is seeking manager and full time teller candidates for our new Garden City location. Both candidates must possess excellent 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) 721-9806 or stop in and pick up an application at 2221 S. Wayne Rd., Westland.

Help Wanted-General 5000. MORTGAGE LOAN OFFICERS. For West Bloomfield office. Live, local leads every day! Conforming/Non-Conforming. Experienced only. Call Patrick: 248-932-4060 ext. 249.

Help Wanted-General 5000. MORTGAGE PROCESSOR/ASSISTANT. Must have experience. Fax resume: 775-383-7983 or email: pimausa@yahoo.com.

Help Wanted-General 5000. NAIL TECH. My nail tech is moving and the clientele is waiting. Great pay. Livonia/Westland area. 248-349-0256.

Help Wanted-General 5000. OFFICE CLEANING. PLYMOUTH Mon-Fri, eves. \$8.50/hr. Mature couple. 734-981-3541. OFFICE CLEANING. PT Eves. Mon-Fri. LIVONIA or PLYMOUTH areas. Call for appt. 248-615-3554.

Help Wanted-General 5000. OPERATION MGR. \$30,000/yr. Hand On Operator to supervise all aspects of running a service business. Email: gisbcjc@hotmail.com. ORDER PROCESSING. International machine safety products company is seeking a self-motivated, proactive individual for general help in processing & fulfillment of customer orders.

Help Wanted-General 5000. PICTURE FRAMER. with sales and computer experience. Part-time/full-time. Fax to 248-661-1221. PIT PERSON. Lube tech, must have worked in a quick lube before. Also licensed mechanic wanted (734) 367-6457.

Help Wanted-General 5000. PLUMBER NEEDED. Variety of work. Good wages for right person. 734-788-0838. PRE-SCHOOL INSTRUCTOR. Canton Township is accepting applications for Pre-School Instructors. \$8.24-\$11.33 per hr. Must be available to work Wednesdays from 9:00am-3:00pm and Saturdays from 9:00am-12:00pm. High school graduate or equivalent. Min 2-3 yrs of experience working in related field.

Help Wanted-General 5000. TEACHER - for new infant room at Troy Christian childcare. Call 248-619-0530 or fax resume 248-619-0542.

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Help Wanted-General 5000. RESTORATION TECHS & CLEANING PEOPLE. For a growing 24 hr emergency restoration co. Good wages. Full-time. Benefits after 6 mo's. Must be reliable & have good driving record. Sunjoo Restoration Service, 27189 W. Warren, Dearborn Hts., 800-574-2000 E.O.E.

Help Wanted-General 5000. RETAIL - Experienced Fashion Consultant/Sales Help & Management. New FAB Apparel Shop. Downtown Birmingham. (248) 647-5483.

Help Wanted-General 5000. RETAIL FURNITURE SALES PERSON. Exp. Part to full-time. Interior designs abilities helpful. Plymouth area. 734-454-9222.

Help Wanted-General 5000. RETAIL SALES. Days, part-time. Experience preferred. Call for details: (734) 578-5920.

Help Wanted-General 5000. ROUTE DELIVERY-ENTRY LEVEL. Growing company in Plymouth is looking for talented individuals to manage established accounts. This is an entry-level position with lots of growth opportunity. Position will require you to drive a company owned beverage truck throughout the southeastern Michigan area. Ideal candidates will have excellent communication skills, a good driving record, and the motivation to learn. Submit resume to: Route Delivery #11, P.O. Box 701248, Plymouth, MI 48170. Or fax to (734) 416-3810 email: hr.manufacturing@hotmail.com. EOE.

Help Wanted-General 5000. SALES & CUSTOMER SERVICE POSITIONS AVAIL. License insurance & financial needs needed, great earning potential. Send resume to: 248-380-2816.

Help Wanted-General 5000. SCHEDULER - Experience required for a growing home care agency. Exc. wages & benefits. 1-800-968-8195.

Help Wanted-General 5000. SET UP/ DISPLAY, SALES. For bridal promotion company. Livonia area. Light travel. Hourly plus commission. Part/full time. Eves & weekends required. Please fax resume to: (734) 422-8640.

Help Wanted-General 5000. STYLIST. Farmington Salon & spa. Come join our friendly staff & wonderful work environment. Flexible hours & great pay. 248-478-7870.

Help Wanted-General 5000. TAX PREPARER. Busy tax office looking for experienced Tax Preparer. Must have 3-5 years experience interviewing clients to prepare both individual & corporate income tax returns. Experience with Lacerte tax software or similar tax program. Full time/part time. Ask for Sam 248-855-1656.

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Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5000. CLERICAL PART TIME Flexible hrs. Must possess exc phone skills. Excel & computer exp. is required. Send resumes to: Box 1026 Observer & Eccentric 36251 Schoolcraft Rd. Livonia, MI 48150.

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5000. CONTROLLER. Ann Arbor area country club and golf course seeks dynamic, dedicated Controller. Responsible for accurate and timely monthly financial statements, coordination of the annual audit of company assets, and employee benefit plans. CPA a plus. Must provide leadership and team building. Please fax a cover letter, along with a resume to: (248) 905-5511 or e-mail to: humresnew@hotmail.com.

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5000. DATA ENTRY. Could earn \$15/hour and up! Medical billing. Training provided. PC required! Call 7 days. 1-800-935-1311 ext 308.

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5000. FRONT DESK. 20 hrs per week. 8:30am to 12:30pm weekdays & willing to fill in occasionally weekends. MUST have at least 2 years reception/administrative experience. Real Estate background preferred. Fax resume to: (734) 459-4701.

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5000. General Office/Administrative Clerk/Full-Time. Southfield office. Medical insurance background a plus. Data entry proficiency, excellent phone skills, & must have immediate opening. Fax resume: HR Dept., (248) 557-2058.

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5000. LEGAL ASSISTANT. Bankruptcy firm located in Southfield seeks Full time experienced Paralegal. Exp. at answering phones, excellent organizational and communication skills, excellent attention to detail and the ability to work independently. Please fax resume with cover letter & salary requirements to: 248-352-9270.

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5000. LEGAL SECRETARY. Personal injury attorney, 15 hrs/wk. Bingham Farms. (248) 594-0009.

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5000. LEGAL SECRETARY. Downtown Detroit law firm with general practice at answering phones, typing dictation, noticing deposits, etc., to work for 2 attorneys on a split schedule. Must be computer literate & type 60 wpm. Needs exp. a plus. Send resumes to: Gitteman & Pascal, P.C., 24472 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield, MI 48075, attn Sherry.

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5000. LEGAL SECRETARY. Small law firm seeking Legal Secretary who can multi-task at answering phones, typing dictation, noticing deposits, etc., to work for 2 attorneys on a split schedule. Must be computer literate & type 60 wpm. Needs exp. a plus. Send resumes to: Gitteman & Pascal, P.C., 24472 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield, MI 48075, attn Sherry.

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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 plan is on target. • Make sales presentations, recruit, train, & motivate sales staff to be highly successful. 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

Attention Independent Contractors! STORE and RACK HELP NEEDED for OAKLAND & WAYNE COUNTIES. We're looking for Drivers to fill racks and store newspapers twice a week on Sundays & Thursdays, for The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Must have truck or van, valid driver's license and insurance. Please call Carol 734-891-4259 for more information.

Adult Carriers Needed. West Bloomfield Area Independent Contractors. Deliver newspapers two days per week. Thursday and Sunday. (734) 805-3623 Ask for Renisha.



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Help Wanted-Dental 5040

CHAIRSIDE Dental Assisting Position For caring person in new Livonia facility. Exp. preferred. 734-462-6400

DENTAL ASSISTANT Experience wanted for busy Farmington practice, full-time. Must be certified in radiology and be energetic, outgoing & able to work well with others. Call Sue at (248) 476-8092 or Fax resume (248) 476-1191

DENTAL ASSISTANT Needed full time. Minimum 2 years experience required. Spanish-speaking a plus. Call (313) 539-3000 or Fax resume to (313) 539-3969.

Dental Patient Coordinator Full Time DentalCare Partners is seeking an enthusiastic and friendly team player with strong organizational skills for our busy Livonia dental practice. Responsibilities include scheduling appointments, proper collection of payments, coordinating the recall process and providing daily operational support. We offer competitive pay plus incentives, full benefits, training and advancement, flexible schedules and more. Fax resume to Joe at 248-442-9616 or email recruit@dcpartners.com

DENTAL ASSISTANT EXPERIENCED only Full-time. Busy, friendly, patient-centered Canton practice. Must be enthusiastic. Exc. salary & benefits. 734-981-4246

DENTAL ASSISTANT Exp. Full-time, friendly Livonia office. Must be self motivated. Are you the one? 734-674-7728

DENTAL ASSISTANT - Part time, Mon, Wed., Fri. Exp preferred but not necessary. Located in Redford. Call 313-634-3313

DENTAL FRONT DESK Great place to work. Dental exp. & computer knowledge necessary. Full-time. Livonia. 734-425-4206.

DENTAL LAB OFFICE/CLERICAL Looking for friendly, self motivated person for a fast-paced dental lab. Excellent pay & benefits. Fax resume: 248-799-7575.

DENTAL RECEPTIONIST Full-time. Must have computer skills & previous exp. with all front office duties, including insurance billing, excellent communication skills. Call: (248) 493-6000

DENTAL RECEPTIONIST/INSURANCE BILLER Canton. Full time. Organized team player w/great communication skills. Dental & GenTech experience preferred. Excellent salary & benefits. 734-981-4246

ORTHODONTIC Seeking skilled, pleasant and enthusiastic Assistant. Self motivation and an eye for quality and detail is most desired. Send resumes to Box 1023, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

Administrator/Office Manager for ophthalmology practice in West Bloomfield. Skills/experience to include: management of all staff, team building, Microsoft Office, ability to maximize efficiency and profitability, AR billing and collections. Salary negotiable. Send your cover letter and resume to: maeder2595@yahoo.com.

BILLING SPECIALIST 2 years billing experience required. BC/BS follow-up experience strongly preferred. Full-time position in Livonia physician group office. Fax resume to 734-632-0182 attention human resources.

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

CARDIOLOGY PRACTICE interested in full-time. •Biller •Receptionist •Medical Assistant Must have 3 yrs. exp. or more. Competitive wages & benefits. Providence Hospital Medical Building. Fax resume to: 248-559-6783

CERTIFIED HOME HEALTH AIDES Exp. CHHA'S Aides needed for Western Wayne & downriver areas. Please fax resume to attn: Clinical Mgr. 734-324-2405 or apply in person to US Home Care, 13665 Northline Rd. Southgate. Please provide clinical documentation.

DIRECT CARE STAFF Part time. Afternoons only available. WCLS trained only. \$7.46/hour. Livonia area. Contact Debbs at 734-524-1361.

Help for Medical Office in Livonia. 1. General clerical duties, willing to train. 2. Exp. medical assistant. Ask for Tina. 734-425-5200.

MA & RECEPTIONIST Resumes are now being accepted by an OBGYN office in Bloomfield Hills for CMA & Receptionist. Both positions need to have medical office experience, be self-starters, & able to work independently under the supervision of the physician. Please fax qualifications to: 1-248-322-9377

MEDICAL ASSISTANT Internist office needs reliable experienced person. X-ray knowledge helpful. Southfield area. send resume 248-355-3216

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST Part-time or Full-time for pediatric office in Novi. Computer skills necessary. References. Fax resume to 248-305-6179

MEDICAL ASSISTANT Full-time for OB/GYN office. Experienced only. Fax resume to (248) 338-8534 or call: (248) 338-8900

Medical Assistant - Oncology Experienced. Full-time days. Rochester Hills/ Troy area. Must have laboratory experience. Send resume to Practice Administrator, 3950 S Rochester Rd, Suite 1300, Rochester Hills, MI 48307

MEDICAL CODERS Needed emergency department coding experience & certification required. Full-time for Western Wayne County Physician Group Please send resumes to: Observer & Eccentric Newspapers 36251 Schoolcraft Rd. Box 1016 Livonia, MI 48150

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST Exp. for internist office. 30-32 hrs/wk. Fax resume to 734-464-9797

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

Medical Secretary PART TIME Busy medical office in Bingham Farms is looking for a part time medical secretary. Duties include: answering phone, scheduling & filing. Must demonstrate good written & verbal communication skills. Afternoon hours needed Mon-Thurs, 3pm-6pm, Fri, 1pm-5pm. Medical knowledge is preferred but not necessary. Please fax resume to: 248-540-4937 or call between 9am-12pm, (248) 540-4800

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

NOW HIRING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST/COTA PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT Needed contingent/part-time. Good pay! Flexible. Fax resumes 248-945-1130

PTA WITH DEGREE to travel between Canton & Southfield sites. AM and PM schedule. 734-981-9410

X-RAY TECH Busy Orthopedic practice in Livonia has part time & full time positions available. Digital exp. preferred. Please fax resume to: (734) 484-0404.

XRAY TECHNICIAN Registered. Full time for busy Livonia Dr's office. Please call 734-261-3650

Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080

ANGELO BROTHERS RESTAURANT Now Hiring Waitstaff Apply within after 3pm, 33550 Ford Rd., Westland 734-427-1872

BAKER Some experience preferred. Food service background helpful. Apply in person at 42885 Five Mile Rd., Plymouth. (734) 420-0317

E. G. NICK'S RESTAURANT IN WEST BLOOMFIELD Now hiring: Waitstaff, Bar-tenders, Host Staff & Kitchen Help. Call (248) 470-7732 or fax (877) 876-3566.

FINE DINING SERVERS & BUSSERS Minimum 2 years formal dining experience. Apply in person Shenandoah Country Club, 5600 Walnut Lake Rd. W. Bloomfield Monday-Friday 11-4 p.m. or email resume to yghantous@hotmail.com

FOOD SERVICE SUPERVISOR Full time, kitchen management skills, computer skills, budgeting skills, food ordering skills, staff supervision, meal planning, ensure agency regulatory adherence. Call for appt., (313) 846-6942

MANAGER Stage Deli is now hiring full time evening manager. Excellent compensation and responsibility. Apply in person: 6873 Orchard Lake Rd. 248-855-6622

OTOTOLES NOW HIRING SERVERS Apply in person: 24555 Novi Rd., Novi.

PAINT CHEMIST United Paint & Chemical Corporation is a supplier of coatings to automotive manufacturers and the plastic injection-molding industry. We have an immediate opening for a Chemist in our Research & Development Laboratory at our Southfield, Michigan facility. This position requires a Bachelors Degree in a scientific field and laboratory experience in the coatings or similar industry. Applicants should be skilled in DOE methods and report writing. The Chemist will be part of one of our strategic business units focused on a specific customer and/or product group. Regular activities will include interaction and technical support to manufacturing and the end-user. We offer competitive salary and benefits package. Please send resume and cover letter, including salary requirements, to: United Paint & Chemical Corporation 24671 Telegraph Road, Southfield, MI 48034. ATTN: HR-CHEMIST or jkeller@unitpaintonline.com

Help Wanted-Professional 5110

PURCHASING MANAGER Manufacturer and Supplier of Coatings to the automotive industry is seeking Purchasing Manager. Individual must be well organized and capable of providing significant return for this position based on business acumen and supply chain strategy. Needs to work closely with R&D and coordinate inventory levels with production scheduling. Applicants should have 2-3 years background in chemical purchasing, automotive preferred. Must be capable in Word and Excel. Qualified individuals should send resume with cover letter to: HR PO BOX 1 Southfield, MI 48037 EOE

Help Wanted-Sales 5120

A NEW CAREER? REAL ESTATE IS BOOMING! Excellent Commissions. Great Training. **TIM COURTNEY** Oakland/Livinston area (248) 437-2600 **DOUG COURTNEY** W. Wayne (734) 459-6222

Help Wanted-Sales 5120

Real Estate Agent **A CAREER IN REAL ESTATE! LOOK NO FURTHER** If you desire to work in western Wayne county, be with number 1, see our other ad for details. Call Denise Setser 734-392-6000

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Help Wanted-Sales 5120

LEASING AGENT Part/Time for Westland Apts. Leasing/ Customer service exp. preferred. Must be reliable. 734-425-0052

NEW HOMES SALES ASSISTANT Residential builder is seeking New Home Sales Assistants for area communities. Candidates must possess excellent people skills, computer knowledge and must be dependable. Weekends a must. Qualified candidates, please fax your resume to (248)324-2066

OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED Looking for full time real estate agents (if unlicensed, we can recommend schools), incomparable training. North-west Livonia location. Serious inquiries only. Call Tim Reilly: (734) 591-0333

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Help Wanted-Sales 5120

REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS Are you thinking of making a career move? CENTURY 21 Town & Country offers the largest marketing program, the best tools and the greatest support of any company in Michigan. Consider a move to the Birmingham office of Town & Country, conveniently located in the heart of town. CALL Margie at (248) 642-8100

Real Estate CAREER SEMINAR 12/8 6:30pm, 12/15 2pm, 12/17 2pm Real Estate...Getting started...Start up costs? Potential earnings? Training? Support? Mentoring? Commission Splits? GET ANSWERS 734-266-9000 **KELLER WILLIAMS LIVONIA**

Real Estate FREE CAREER SEMINAR Getting started...Start up costs? Potential earnings? Training? Support? Commission split? We'll answer all these questions and more. Tues., Dec. 21st @ 6:30pm Thurs., Jan. 6th @ 6:30pm Fri., Jan. 14th @ 2:00pm Call 734-459-4700 www.realestatecareers.net **KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY Plymouth**

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Help Wanted-Part-Time 5200

DETAILING, Painting, power-wash, Livonia area. \$12/hr. Fax work exp. 888-281-9274 or call for info 248-345-9274.

JEWELRY SALES Permanent part time position. Exp. preferred. 734-455-3030

OFFICE CLEANING Hard working individual needed for our Livonia office. 7am-9am, Mon-Fri. \$8/hr. Please email: jim@totalend.com Fax resume: 734-427-8370, or call (734) 427-3510.

ROUTE MANAGERS Have a light truck? \$15+/hr. Dog waste removal routes. Also computer/phone position available. (734) 266-5070.

TELEMARKETING Exp. telephone prospecter for Southfield media production company. Daytime, flexible hrs. Hourly + commission. Call 248-358-2828 ext. 224

Job Opportunities 5310

AAA ATTENTION READERS: Since many ads are from outside the local area, please know what you are buying before sending money.

ANNOUNCEMENT: NOW HIRING For 2004 Postal Jobs to \$59.00/hr. Paid training, full federal benefits, no experience necessary. Green Card OK. Call 1-800-605-5049 ext #1000

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Job Opportunities 5310

NOW HIRING - For 2004 POSTAL JOBS \$17.50-\$59.00/hr. Paid training. Full benefits. No exp. necessary. Green Card OK. Call 1-866-399-5718 ext. 3500

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DEARBORN HGTS. Perfection Plus
Great location for this 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath condo backing to Hines Park. Open floor plan, 2nd floor laundry, deck off kitchen, full basement and 2 car attached garage.
(E12LEG) 734-455-5600 \$170,000



CANTON "Tee It Up"
28x10 deck overlooks 13 & 14 hole. Extensive fin barn. Cherry wood wet bar, recess light, carpet, bright open kit w/angled sink, pull out drawers, pantry. Mstr ste w/3 closets, 2 car att gar. End unit condo.
(E05CLE) 734-455-5600 \$345,000



VAN BUREN. Awesome Cape Cod
Elegance from the front door to the back yard, presenting 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2 car attached garage, basement ready for your custom finishing DR, FR w/frp/c & library. Built in 2001 & ready for you.
(E32WAL) 734-455-5600 \$299,999



MILFORD Custom Built 2001
This custom built 3 BR, 2.5 BA contemporary shows like a model. Two story GR, custom moldings, library with French doors, double oven & cooktop. Newer custom deck. On approx. 3 acres w/horses allowed.
(E87HOL) 248-349-5600 \$450,000



FERNDALE. What A Charmer!
Newer roof, siding, windows and updated electrical. Large master bedroom. Great garage storage. Freshly painted throughout. Neutral decor. Park at street end.
(E11BRO) 248-349-5600 \$116,900



PLYMOUTH. Fabulously Renovated
4 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial in "Old Village" just a short walk to downtown offers 1st floor master suite, 2nd floor family room w/fireplace, 1st floor family room in LR, finished basement, 2 car gar w/ opener & kit appls.
(E81ADA) 734-455-5600 \$359,600



CANTON. Quality Built Pond Setting
A winning combination. Premium lot overlooking pond, master suite w/Jacuzzi tub, WIC, 2 story foyer, maple kitchen, FFL, deck, 2 car full basement. Private golf course. Community pool & clubhouse.
(E27HOG) 734-455-5600 \$241,900



SHELBY TWP. Outstanding Open Floor Plan
Spacious 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial on lg premium part wooded lot presents 2 story great room w/frp/c, lg kitchen w/island, 2 car attached garage, part finished basement, doorwall to lg deck & stamped concrete.
(E79STR) 734-455-5600 \$304,900



NORTHVILLE. Waterfront Estate
Exquisite "Monarque" model on Mystic Lake in Stonewater. Custom T/O. No expense spared. Full fin LL w/full bath & media room. Designer landscaping. Immaculate condition. Pre-approved buyers.
(E40MAN) 248-349-5600 \$1,085,000



NOVI. Novi For Under \$125,000
Priced to sell. Clean, well maintained 2-story town home. 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths with private entrance and private patio in back. Updated kitchen, newer windows T/O, newer carpet, newer front door.
(E84OLD) 248-349-5600 \$119,800



GARDEN CITY. Curb Appeal, Updated & Clean
Spacious open floor plan, LR w/crown molding, custom woodwork & open staircase. Kitchen w/oak cabs, newer floor & eat-in kitchen. Newer siding & windows. Finished basement & 2 car garage.
(E42RUS) 734-455-5600 \$141,900



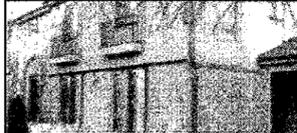
LYONS. Just Like New
Bright open flr plan w/3 bdrms, 2 baths, light oak kit w/Corian, wood flrs, Andersen doorwall, cabs & lighting. Sprinkler system, newer sod in front, newer roof, gutters, siding, HWH, gar door, wired for sound.
(E46EME) 734-455-5600 \$314,920



LYONS. Martindale Meadows Home
Located across from walking park. Less than 20 year new home w/updates. Neutral decor & beautiful landscaping. 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths.
(E15STE) 734-455-5600 \$224,900



DEARBORN. Mrs. Clean Is Moving!
Wonderful 3 bedroom brick bungalow that is clean as a whistle. Hwd flrs, partially fin bsmt. Remodeled kit w/large DR, Cedar closets, updates throughout the home. Walking distance to Evapod Pk. & Divine Child.
(E11MAY) 248-349-5600 \$162,500



CANTON. Condo Comfort
Move-in ready perfection. 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths. Finished basement and attached garage make this the affordable choice. Plymouth Canton Schools. Great complex with low association fee.
(E35BED) 248-349-5600 \$154,400



BELLEVILLE. Beautiful Colonial
4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2 car attached garage, 2 story foyer & GR, cath ceilings, hardwood T/O kitchen. Master bedroom w/cath ceiling & bath w/jetted tub & separate shower. Basement planned for 3 baths.
(E05WIL) 734-455-5600 \$265,000



GARDEN CITY. Mr. & Mrs. Clean Live Here
3 bedroom brick ranch w/bsmt, 2.5 car gar, updated kit w/Corian, wood flrs, Andersen doorwall, cabs & lighting. Sprinkler system, newer sod in front, newer roof, gutters, siding, HWH, gar door, wired for sound.
(E48CHE) 734-455-5600 \$169,900



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.
(E60WIL) 734-455-5600 \$422,900



DEARBORN HGTS. Spacious
3 bedroom colonial. Full of charm. Front porch, honey decor. Updates include: newer roof, oak kitchen cabs, bathroom floor & more. Hardwood floors T/O formal LR & DR. Deep backyard w/shed. C/A & FFL. Under \$100K.
(E03NEW) 248-349-5600 \$99,900



LIVONIA. Welcome Home
Immaculate 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial in excellent location. Newer carpet, roof and custom triple pane redwood windows. Open kitchen w/doorwall to large deck. 2.5 car extra deep garage. Finished basement w/bar area. FR & ex rin.
(E64COU) 248-349-5600 \$199,900



WESTLAND. What A Boy!
Extremely clean 1st floor condo offering 2 bedrooms, 2 baths w/open floor plan. Master bedroom w/WIC separate laundry & appliances.
(E68SHO) 734-455-5600 \$109,900



NOVI. Rare Find In Novi
Updated 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath ranch w/voluntary main living room & den. Private 2 tier deck, hardwood floors, under carpet. Finished basement, master bath, updated w/ceramic tile. Newer vinyl windows & flooring in kit.
(E05MEA) 734-455-5600 \$234,900



SOUTH LYON. Great Family Home
Charming 4 bedroom, 1.5 bath, bi-level wood floor plan, updated oak kitchen w/ceramic tile floor. Same room, walkout basement & 2.5 car garage.
(E54LYO) 734-455-5600 \$179,900



LIVONIA. Honey, Stop The Car
Awesome brick ranch w/3 bedrooms & 2 full baths. Super finished bsmt. Has wet bar & office. Let's carry. Great house for entertaining inside & out. Fireplace & updated kit. Most mechanicals & windows updated.
(E10OH) 248-349-5600 \$189,999



NOVI. The Best In Town
Submittent location to x-way & shopping. 3 bedroom ranch w/cath ceiling, granite kitchen, hardwood floors, updated kitchen, patio, doorwall to deck, drywall & full bath. Loaded w/appliances. Move in condition.
(E10GLE) 248-349-5600 \$129,900



BROWNSTOWN. Wonderful Newer Home
3 bedroom, 2 bath brick ranch built in 2003 offers 2 car attached garage, full basement, ceramic floors, skylight, master bedroom w/WIC, 1st floor laundry, great room w/gas fireplace.
(E08JUN) 734-455-5600 \$222,900



WESTLAND. Recently Remodeled Brick Ranch
Remodeled kitchen & bath, re-finished hardwood floors, newer roof, windows, cement, plumbing & electric. Service all offered in this 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home w/2 car garage & fin bsmt w/pos. office.
(E51BR) 734-455-5600 \$139,900



NOVI. Pottery Barn Perfect!
Just move into this spacious updated home. Numerous updates. Ceramic entry, HW floors, carpet, fresh paint. Finished FR in LL w/frp/c & office. Lg LR w/frp/c. Newer blinds T/O. High ceilings. Tennis, pool & pond.
(E02CRO) 248-349-5600 \$159,900



NORTHVILLE. Ranch Condo
Beautiful and unit 2 bedroom ranch ground level condo w/cath ceilings. Private location w/attached garage. Open floor plan, C/A and easy living. Community pool, tennis courts & huge clubhouse & much more.
(E77ONA) 248-349-5600 \$127,500



NOVI. Won't Last - Honest.
Superior 3 BR, 2.5 BA colonial in excellent location. New this year: kitchen, patio, doorwall, some carpet, newer roof, windows & more. Great finished basement w/drywall & full bath. Loaded w/appliances. Move in condition.
(E05JAM) 248-349-5600 \$279,900



NOVI. Nothing Could Be Finer
Charming 2 bedroom, 2 bath ranch overlooking a lake-like pond offers gas fireplace, C/A, basement, patio, some appliances, hickory hardwood floors.
(E07PON) 734-455-5600 \$218,000



WYANDOTTE. Updated With Plenty Of Charm
Newer Pergo flooring in kitchen & living room. 2 car garage, partially finished basement, spacious eat-in kitchen w/appliances. All this in this 3 bedroom, 2 full bath bungalow.
(E63ORC) 734-455-5600 \$131,000



LIVONIA. Looking For A Ranch?
Offering 3 BR, LR, DR & 2 BA. White eat-in kitchen. Finished FR in LL w/frp/c. Updates. Appliances stay. Hardwood floors T/O. Glass block windows, large fenced rear yard. Garage-insulated & drywalled. C/A.
(E93DEE) 248-349-5600 \$169,000



NOVI. Mint Novi Townhouse
Beautiful 2 BR condo features updated kit, 2 skylights, vaulted ceilings, finished basement, WIC in MBR. Newer carpet & roof. Fresh paint T/O. Close to pool & tennis courts. Come, buy & enjoy life at Crosswinds.
(E70PON) 248-349-5600 \$164,900



CANTON. Delightful Brick Ranch
This awesome home was just recently painted & carpeted & had wood flooring installed. Backs to Freedom Park of Canton. Offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, great room oak kitchen, FFL, basement, C/A, 2 car att garage, fenced yd.
(E36RID) 248-349-5600 \$209,900



FARMINGTON HILLS. A Home For All Seasons
3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, extra shower stall, C/A, lg eat-in kit, fireplace in family room, nice doorwall to patio, oversized 2 car garage, shed for extra storage, newer windows, electrical panel & bath fixtures.
(E19CRE) 734-455-5600 \$205,000



PLYMOUTH. Private Treed Interior Lot
In Ridgewood Hill! Full front porch, hardwood floors in LR, DR, kit & lib. Kit new '03 w/Corian counter & sink, cherry cabs, formal DR w/newer Andersen bay window. FR w/fireplace, 2 tiered deck, basement & 2.5 car att gar.
(E86WOO) 734-455-5600 \$365,000



WIXOM. Nearly 1/2 Acre
In prestigious sub, 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath with 3 car garage. Master suite with cath ceiling. His & hers walk-in closets & soaking tub. Ceramic tile in kitchen & nook. Security system. Intercom w/radio. Sprinkler system.
(E09DEW) 248-349-5600 \$319,900



WESTLAND. Rare 3 BR Quail Run Condo
This one is move-in ready. Neutral colors throughout. Light oak hardwood floors in foyer & kitchen. Master bedroom with vaulted ceiling, double closets and master bath.
(E57QUA) 248-349-5600 \$182,500



DEARBORN. Beautiful Bungalow
Near the historic district. 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, updated kitchen, windows, electric, HWH & roof. Original trim, redone hardwood floors, 2 car garage w/new door. Walk to Ford Engineering.
(E05AUD) 248-349-5600 \$159,900



DEARBORN. Stunning Dearborn Hills Colonial
3 bedroom, 1.5 bath w/huge family room overlooking extra deep private yard! 2 car garage, updated kitchen 7 bath. New vinyl windows & carpet 11/04. Hardwood floors in living room/dining room. Walk to golf course.
(E35MOH) 734-455-5600 \$269,000



PLYMOUTH. Move Right In!
Excellent location in Plymouth. This 2 bedroom condo has newer carpet, kitchen cabinets, dining room flooring & windows in living room. Large private basement and more.
(E99SHE) 734-455-5600 \$90,900



SOUTH LYON. Great Home
Clean 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath ranch on double lot. Third is included. Two car detached garage, heated porch & deck overlooking wooded yard. Some updates, newer carpet and kitchen floor. Appis stay. Take a look.
(E38DON) 248-349-5600 \$179,900



NORTHVILLE. Northville Township
Looking for land to build your dream home? Don't look any further, these two parcels come to approximately 2.76 acres. Currently zoned residential, with the right developer, it could be RM-1 material.
(E91RID) 248-349-5600 \$500,000



REDFORD. Newer Brick/Vinyl Ranch
3 bedroom, 2 bath, partially finished basement, C/A, lg above-ground pool, deck, privacy fence, walk-in closet in MBR. Newer siding, windows, 2 car garage w/ opener & insulated door. 160 amp electrical service.
(E00MIN) 248-349-5600 \$178,900



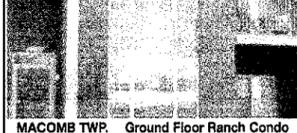
BELLEVILLE. All Sports Lake Living
2 bedroom, 2 full bath home on Belleville Lake offers garage, updated kitchen & baths, upstairs deck off master bedroom w/whirlpool tub. Newer vinyl windows.
(E95POT) 734-455-5600 \$249,900



CANTON. Edenbrooke Estates
Wonderful 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath colonial w/2 car attached garage, partially finished basement, newer roof & vinyl windows, C/A, privacy fence & deck. Updated oak kitchen w/island.
(E27HYS) 734-455-5600 \$199,900



LIVONIA. Super Sharp Ranch
Beautifully decorated & immaculately clean home with a huge fenced-in yard. Home boasts hardwood floors, coveled ceilings, custom window treatments, newer bath, large updated kitchen. Newer w/rf/cops and roof.
(E91FLO) 248-349-5600 \$139,900



MACOMB TWP. Ground Floor Ranch Condo
Newer home w/2 BR, 2 BA, 1 car att gar w/ opener. Prime location. Open floor plan w/upgrades. Neutral decor, C/A, FFL & LR w/frp/c. Open kit w/magle cabs. Appis stay. Recessed lighting. Low assoc fee. Pool.
(E20WAR) 248-349-5600 \$164,900



NORTHVILLE. End Unit Ranch Condo
Bright, clean & neutral end unit upper ranch condo w/open floor plan. Cath ceilings in great room, dining room & kit. Includes: FF master, study, FFL, all appls & deck overlooking pool area. Close to town & x-ways.
(E55SUR) 248-349-5600 \$134,900



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(Delivered Wednesday)

Real Estate Display.....Friday, December 17, 3 pm
Auto Display.....Monday, December 20, Noon
Recruitment Display.....Monday December 20, 3 pm
Liner.....Monday December 20, 6 pm

Thursday, December 30 Publication

(Delivered Wednesday)

Real Estate Display.....Thursday, December 23, 3 pm
Auto Display.....Monday, December 27, Noon
Recruitment Display.....Monday December 27, 3 pm
Liner.....Monday December 27, 6 pm

Sunday, December 26 Publication

Real Estate Display.....Tuesday, December 21, 5 pm
Auto Display.....Wednesday, December 22, 5 pm
Recruitment Display.....Thursday December 23, 10 am
Liner.....Thursday December 23, Noon

Sunday, January 2 Publication

Real Estate Display.....Tuesday, December 28, 5 pm
Auto Display.....Wednesday, December 29, 5 pm
Recruitment Display.....Thursday December 30, 10 am
Liner.....Thursday December 30, Noon

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7280.....Cameras & Supplies
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7310.....Commercial/Industrial Machinery For Sale

7320.....Computers
7340.....Electronics/Audio/Video
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7380.....Farm Equipment
7400.....Farm Produce-Flowers, Plants
7410.....U-Picks
7420.....Christmas Trees
7440.....Firewood-Merchandise
7450.....Hobbies-Coins, Stamps
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7470.....Jewelry
7480.....Lawn, Garden & Snow Equipment
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7850.....Farm Animals/Livestock
7860.....Horses & Equipment

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By Everything Goes
Fri & Sat Dec 17 & 18 10-4.
#1 19240 Burlington Palmer Wood, N. off 7 Mile, just West of Woodward.
Antique Furniture & Access Carved Grandfathers clock grand piano, oriental rugs, glass & bronze statues, hot tub, sectional sofas, ornate & oriental pieces. BMW 525 & much, much more.
#2 29158 Wellington West #74, Southfield, MI off 12 Mile, W. of Telegraph, across from Star Theater High End Furniture/Access Baker, Henredon, Drelex crystal, china, silver, inlaid. For Details 248-968-1077 Office 248-655-0853

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ESTATE SALE - Royal Oak
1815 Sycamore, E. of Woodward, N. of 12 Mile, on Evergreen to Sycamore. Fri-Sat. 10-4 & Sun. 12-4. Complete household, mahogany furniture, lawyer's bookcases, lacart print, glassware, Minton, Wedgewood Jasperware, Lenox, Doulton, Belleek, books, men's clothing - large, quality hand tools, radial arm saws, compressor, exercise equipment, 1988 Honda, 41,000 miles. Conducted by Parrott Bay. (586) 549-6120

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The Hockeytown Holiday Grand Prize Winner will be drawn on Dec. 17th from all of the correct entries.

RED WINGS TRIVIA QUESTIONS

1. What three players have been selected # 1 overall by the Detroit Red Wings in the NHL entry draft since its inception in 1963?
2. What three goalies won the Vezina trophy as the NHL's best goaltender while playing for the Detroit Red Wings?
3. Only three players have worn the # 13 for the Detroit Red Wings. Name those three players.

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THE 2005 MAZDA MPV

Advertising Feature

Thursday DriveTime



BY DALE BUSS

The minivan category has been revitalized over the last couple of years by a spate of new and improved entries from all the major players. In a way, this is a surprise, because the rejuvenation of minivans has occurred in the midst of the market's continuing focus on sport-utility vehicles and various hybrids of SUVs, station wagons and minivans - seemingly, a development that would tend to leave minivans even more marginalized.

But the reason minivans are enjoying a bit of a renaissance with the automotive consumer is that there still is a huge and appropriate niche for them in the market, and the major van producers refused to give up on the category.

Ford, Chrysler, Nissan, Honda and Toyota are among the major automotive manufacturers that have introduced new or vastly improved minivan models in the last few years. Toyota has upgraded its Sienna model a few times, making it a fair to middling entry. Ford's new Freestar model is basically an overhaul of its old Windstar minivan, but even the new rendering leaves Ford clearly in the middle of the pack in this category.

Honda's Odyssey has vastly improved in its most recent iteration, finally making it an overall competitor to Chrysler's Town & Country and Dodge Caravan, though Odyssey's exterior styling still leaves lots to be desired. Nissan shook up the segment last year with the introduction of its new Quest minivan, a quirky machine with sunlights that run lengthwise into the passenger compartment and both exterior and interior design that make it look a bit like something out of Lost in Space.

I had a difficult time deciding, after driving around a 2005 Mazda MPV for about a week, where Mazda's entry fits into - or how it con-

tributes - to the advancement of the market's minivan fleet overall.

Available in just one body length, not a stretch version that is available in most of its competitors, MPV is among the smallest minivans. It uses a 200-hp V6 engine and 5-speed automatic transmission. ABS is standard. Two models are offered: LX with 16-inch alloy wheels, and top-shelf ES with 17s. Front side airbags and traction control are optional on LX, standard on ES. For 2005, rear air conditioning moves from standard on LX to optional; it remains standard on ES.

MPVs seat seven. The second-row bucket seats can slide together to create a two-passenger bench. The three-passenger, third-row bench folds into the floor. Dual sliding side doors are standard and have roll-down power windows. Power-operated side doors are available. The best I can say for the performance of MPV is that it is adequate. Acceleration by the 3.0-liter, DOHC, 200-horsepower, V6 engine is ample, and so is the powertrain in every routine traffic situation. But neither is there ever the feeling that MPV has a lot of power in reserve. Handling is nice and precise, and the interior of MPV is plenty comfortable even in the relatively unadorned version that I drove.

Where I think MPV is above the norm for the category is at least two areas. The first is styling.



The Mazda MPV has deep surrounding windows that give you a great feeling of being visually in touch with everything.

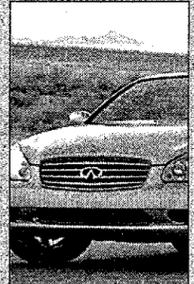
Believe it or not, I like how MPV is molded on the outside, with a front end that is much more of a protuberance that with most other minivans. I'm not sure if it's actually longer from the tip of the front bumper to the bottom of the windshield on the MPV than on competitors, but it seems that way, somehow. Perhaps it's because the front hood seems to have a lower overall profile. In any event, while the styling is relatively simple, I like how MPV looks.

More important is how things look from inside MPV, and in that regard I believe this vehicle may be best in its class. The windshield and, actually, all the windows surrounding the car are deep, and you're seated up high enough in the vehicle to give you a great feeling that you're in touch visually with everything necessary for completely safe operation of the vehicle - not to mention the enjoyment inherent in the feeling of openness. So overall, I would count MPV as a contributor to the gradually rising quality and increasing appeal of the minivans that are available to American consumers. At a suggested retail price of \$26,190 for the version I drove, MPV makes a worthy consideration.

020828203

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GM Certified Used Vehicles THE RIGHT WAY

CARS	CARS	TRUCKS
2002 SUNFIRE 2 DR Bright red, air, alloys, CD, 5 speed.....Only \$8,999 2003 ALERO 4 DR Red, 4 cyl., power options, alloys..... \$9,498 2003 CAVALIER LS 2 DR Blue, snrf, alloys, pwr options, sharp!..... \$18,284 2002 GRAND AM SE 2 DR Bronze mist, air, auto, 14,100 miles..... \$10,730 2004 FOCUS ZTS Red, 1.2k, power options, 6 disc, alloys..... \$11,648 2004 ALERO 2 GX 4 DR Full power, silver or white.....Your Choice..... \$11,895 2002 GRAND AM GT 4 DR White, leather, pwr roof, chro, x-clean..... \$12,998 2001 GRAND PRIX GT 4 DR Bright red, full power, sunroof, alloys..... \$13,295 2002 GRAND PRIX GT Silver, power options, CD EQ..... Hurry!..... \$13,395 2002 GRAND PRIX GT 2 DR Bronze mist, roof, chro, heated leather, 1 owner..... \$13,395 2004 GRAND AM SE 4 DR White, V6, full power.....Special..... \$13,395 2002 MONTE CARLO SS Dark blue, full power, just awesomel.....only \$13,288	2003 AZTEC Liquid gray, full power, sunroof, alloys, 22K..... \$14,495 2003 MONTE CARLO Bronze, 9280 miles, like new, alloys, CD..... \$14,995 2003 GRAND AM GT 4 DR Silver, 23k, roof and chro..... \$14,998 2004 VIBE Fusen orange, sunroof, alloys, power opts., 16K..... \$15,799 2003 HONDA CIVIC EX 4 DR Black, sunroof, full power, 21k miles..... \$15,998 2003 BONNEVILLE SL Black, moonroof, chrome, heated leather, 23k..... \$19,488 2004 GRAND PRIX GTP Black, 260hp, 10,080 miles, comp grp..... \$21,895	1999 SONOMA X-CAB Black, rare step side lower.....Hurry..... \$7,895 1997 SIERRA REG CAB V8, air, auto, fiberglass cap, low miles..... \$7,998 1999 JEEP WRANGLER SAHARA 4X4 Dark green, 4.0 5 speed, hard top, sound bar..... \$13,598 1999 SILVERADO EXT 4X4 Z71, black, low miles, Clearance Price..... \$14,995 2003 CHEVY 5-10 X-CAB ZR2 Dark blue, low miles, matching cap..... \$17,998 2003 SIERRA X-CAB SLE White, V8, 22,300 miles, rhino liner, more..... \$18,998 2001 FORD F-15