



Travel, rest and play on the agenda for retiring Garden Spot columnist — AT HOME, B1

CANTON Observer

THURSDAY
May 12, 2005

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Teachers reach pact on wages

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

A tentative agreement has been reached between the union that represents more than 1,000 Plymouth-Canton teachers and the school district on a wage reopener clause for the last year of the current four-year contract. Plymouth-Canton Education Association President Chuck Portelli said teachers were expected to receive the details today (Thursday), one day after the PCEA executive board reviewed the information.

"I think it's a fair settlement," said Portelli, who declined to give details. "We resolved a number of issues that weren't resolved three years ago, that were sent to committees and we couldn't come to resolution on. This round, with the wage reopener, we brought them back and solved a number of them."

Both Portelli and Superintendent Jim Ryan credited the interest-based bargaining initiative for getting the deal done in eight bargaining sessions. "We had the right people and the right amount of time," Portelli said. "The last time was more like mediation. With interest-based bargaining, we actually heard each other and were able to try and meet each other's needs."

Ryan said both teams have been trained extensively on interest-based bargaining. "It's not walk out screaming at each other anymore," Ryan said. "If you vote down an option, you have to explain why and offer a better solution."

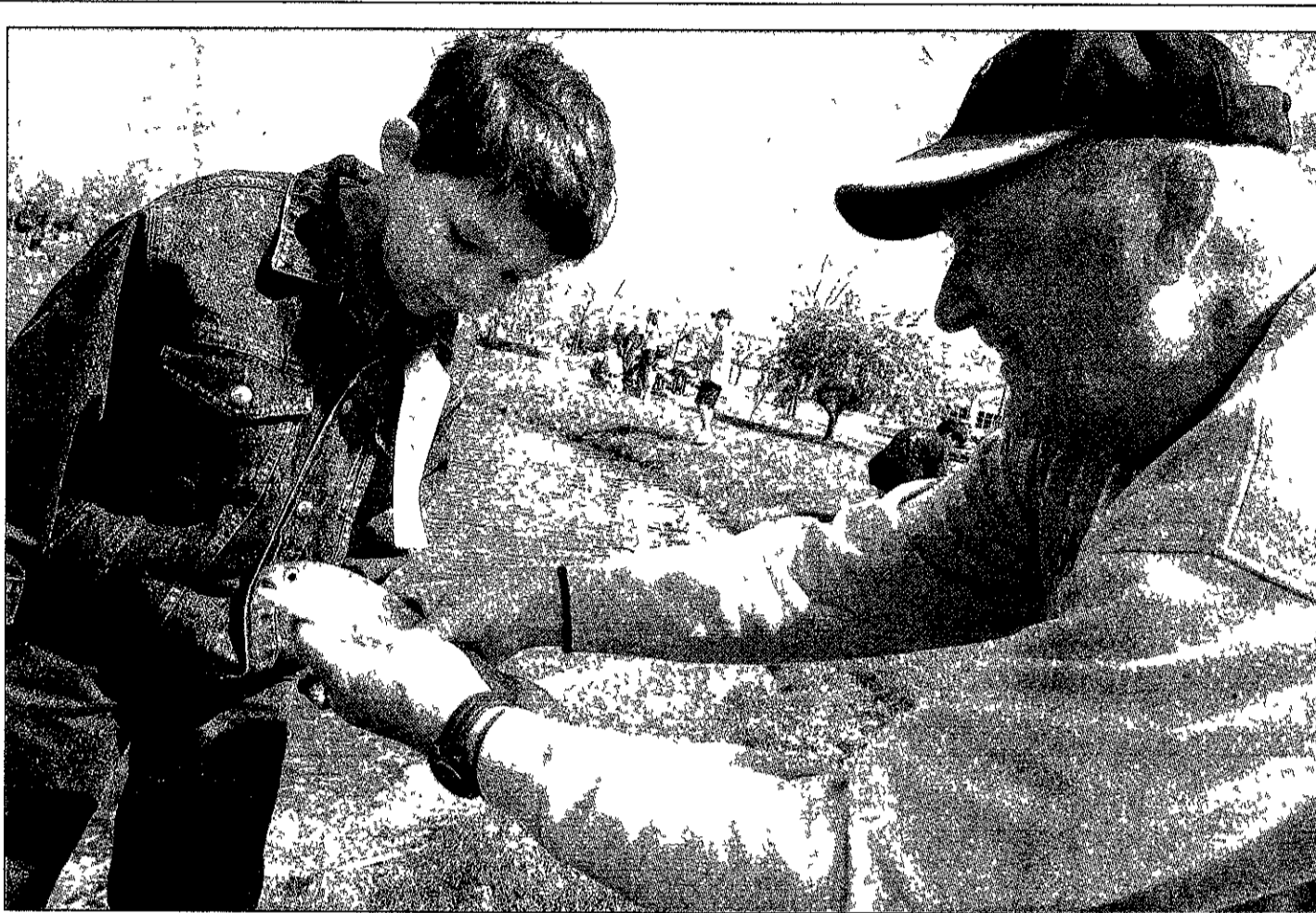
"It forces collaboration," he said. "I think it's the way of the future, the way people should bargain."

Teachers received a 2.75 percent pay hike in the first year of the pact, with 2 percent each of the next two years. The wage reopener covers the 2005-06 school year.

The PCEA will hold a general membership meeting on Wednesday, May 18, with teachers voting on the tentative agreement the following two days.

Ryan said he will take the contract to the Board of Education in an executive session May 24, and "hopefully bring it to the board that night to ratify."

Meanwhile, Ryan said there has also been a tentative contract agreement reached with the district's bus drivers, which is also expected to be ratified at the May 24 meeting.



Canton resident Connor Gagne, 6, takes a look as his grandfather, Ron Gagne, holds the fish they caught during the fishing derby.

Wetting a line

More than 800 take part in fishing derby at park

The 23rd annual fishing derby Saturday at Heritage Park proved to be a great way to spend a nice spring day. The weather was good and the fish were biting.

According to Bob Dates, recreation coordinator for Canton Leisure Services, 845 people participated in the event, which took place in two sessions - one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Dates has been coordinating the event since its inception more than two decades ago.

"It's very popular. It's become a tradition. A lot of families now have families

of their own, so we have second-generation fishing derby families," Dates said. Three ponds at Heritage Park were stocked with 1,500 rainbow trout, which were purchased from a fish farm in Dexter.

Even though some adults tried their luck, Dates said the event is really geared toward the children, and many took part Saturday. All in all, he said the event was very successful.

"Heritage Park has these great ponds. It's just a great setting to have a nice family event," he said.

By Kurt Kuban

Louis Paspal and his 7-year-old niece, Violet Webster, relax in the morning sun and watch their bobber during the fishing derby Saturday at Heritage Park.



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Corners set for upgrade

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

The bad news is Canton motorists will have to navigate around orange construction barrels at some of the township's busiest intersections. The good news is they are also some of Canton's most dangerous intersections, and the improvements should make them safer.

"Most of our problems are not between the intersections. They're at the intersections," said Township Supervisor Tom Yack.

Canton Township has identified 34 intersections to be improved over the next nine years.

Scheduled for this summer are the first three projects - Sheldon at Warren, Cherry Hill at Sheldon, and Sheldon at Saltz - are about 65 percent completed, according to Tim Faas, municipal services director. The debut projects in the plan were chosen mainly because they would be inexpensive and relatively easy to complete in a fast time frame, he said.

Next year, some of the township's most dangerous intersections will be improved.

There were 88 crashes and five injuries last year at the intersection of Cherry Hill and Haggerty. Next year, that intersection will be one of five intersections scheduled for improvement. Also slated for work is Cherry Hill at Lilley, where the most injuries occurred last year, totaling eight injuries and 57 crashes.

The total cost for all 34 projects will be a little more than \$10 million, according to Faas.

Last October, the township appointed the Intersection

PLEASE SEE UPGRADE, A8

Former stage mom starts up a new theater company

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

It was like love at first sight when Gina Meares first saw the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

"I knew right away that the theater was just such a beautiful venue and I wanted to see it used to its fullest," Meares said. "I want to take what's already going on with wonderful community theater and take it to the next level."

And just like that, Ovation

Productions was born.

Auditions for Ovation's first show, *Annie Get Your Gun*, will be held at the theater next week.

For nearly 10 years Meares, of Canton, had been following her daughter, Ashleigh Rotondo, from one theater production to another. She went above and beyond the call of "stage mom" and started helping out with productions and making costumes and sets.

Over time, she developed a passion for musical theater,

and when Rotondo leaves for college in New York this fall, Meares will still need an outlet for that passion.

She's hoping Ovation's will fit the bill.

"Ovation is like my baby," Meares said. "I have lots of hopes for it. We hope to really utilize the gorgeous stage we have at the Village Theater."

The company will actually have a second component when all the paperwork is

PLEASE SEE THEATER, A8



PHOTO COURTESY OF VILLAGE THEATER AT CHERRY HILL

Ovation Productions founder and Canton resident Gina Meares (right) and her daughter, Ashleigh Rotondo, 18, at the Village Theater are planning the group's first production, 'Annie Get Your Gun.'

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Coming Sunday on the PINK page



Why Meredith Baxter thinks Simple Works

Lotz Road closed

Lotz Road is now closed to through traffic, north of Ford Road and south of Warren Road, due to construction on the proposed Lotz Road Paving Project. Only property owners will have access during the construction.

The Wayne County detour is Ford Road to Haggerty Road and Warren Road to Haggerty Road. The scheduled completion date approximately three months, including final restoration of the site areas. The construction includes a water main relocation, a right turn lane for eastbound Warren Road traffic turning south onto Lotz, and a passing lane on the north side of Warren to allow westbound traffic to continue around turning traffic.

For questions about the project, please call Canton's Public Works Division at (734) 394-5150.

Health care summit

State Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, will host a special Summit on containment of health care costs at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18 at the Summit on the Park in Canton.

The featured guest speaker will be Dr. David H. Janda, M.D., of Plymouth, an orthopedic surgeon and founder of the Institute of Preventive Sports Medicine. Janda has made special studies of available ways to reduce health care overhead costs to businesses and individuals. Companies that have taken advantage of these programs have cut their costs immediately, without any

reduction in coverage. In several cases, formerly uninsured employees were able to obtain coverage they never had before.

Also speaking will be Amy Logue-Osborne, to be introduced by Mike Glaab, Certified Financial Planner. Logue-Osborn is an expert in the field from the American Medical Security.

Patterson, vice-chair of the Senate's Health Policy Committee, has introduced legislation so that Michigan employers and individuals can take the fullest advantage of new provisions in federal law. These will be explained in greater detail at this special meeting.

For further information, or to register for the summit, please call toll-free 1-(866) 262-7307, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Tree vouchers

The 2005 Tree Planting Partnership Program still has vouchers available to Canton residents. The vouchers can be used to replace street trees in front of homes that have had trees die or for homes that never had street trees.

Applications for vouchers are available from the Canton Planning Services office or can be printed off the Web site www.canton-mi.org. All applications are processed on a first come, first serve basis.

Once the office receives an application, an approved voucher will be sent to the applicant in the mail. The program participants will also receive a list of approved tree



Scouts collect clothes

Jamie Emens (from left), fifth-grade Troop 864, Clare Ashton and Alicia Ashton, fifth-grade Troop 864, were just some of the Girl Scouts from Tonda Elementary who participated in a collection drive for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools clothing bank. The 16 troops donated backpacks stuffed with school supplies to the local clothing bank, which Flossie B Tonda began in 1977. The Clothing Bank's mission is to dress children for school in a way that gives them the confidence they need to succeed. In the 2003-04 school year, the clothing bank served more than 200 individuals.

species and planting specifications. Trees must be purchased after the issuance of the voucher to be eligible for reimbursement.

Vouchers are valid from the date of issuance until Nov. 15 and vouchers must be returned to Planning Services no later than Nov. 30 for reimbursement. Please do not submit the voucher until the tree is planted.

For more information, contact Canton's Planning Services Division at (734) 394-5170.

White elephant and bake sale

The Canton Place Seniors are hosting a white elephant and bake sale on Saturday,

May 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the community room at 44505 Ford Road (corner of Ford and Sheldon). The public is invited to attend.

Homemade baked goods and refreshments are available for purchase. Proceeds benefit the Canton Place Resident Association.

New Web site launched

JC Development launched its Web site on April 18, 2005. The site, www.jcdevelopment.net, includes an exclusive interior and exterior photo gallery, home financing calculator, and emphasis on all JC Development communities

throughout southeast Michigan.

The site also includes information on Rustic Ridge, JC Development's newest community, located in Canton. With more than 50 years of combined home building experience, JC Development carefully selects each community site, while taking great pride in building superior homes for its customers.

Home buying seminar

Join Shore Mortgage and Keller Williams Plymouth Market Center Realty on May 21 for a first time buyers seminar. They will show you how to purchase a home, identify credit problems and discuss solutions. There will also be a home inspector available to answer questions.

The seminar, which begins at 10 a.m., will take place at Summit on the Park in Canton. Space is limited. Please R.S.V.P. by May 19 by calling (248) 433-4370.

Detention pond workshop

The city of Livonia will host a detention pond maintenance workshop on Thursday, May 19 at 7 p.m. at the Livonia Civic Center Library, located at 32777 Five Mile Road.

The workshop is sponsored by the Assembly of Rouge Communities, which Canton is a member, and is designed to introduce residents and property owners to general detention pond responsibilities, what detention ponds are, why we have them, how they function, and what maintenance is required.

Specific information will be given on watershed issues, maintenance tasks, vegetation in and around ponds, algae control, geese problems, and working with lawn care companies.

There is no cost for the workshop, but space is limited. Please R.S.V.P. to Kelly Karll at (734) 769-3004, or e-mail

KKarll@ectinc.com.

Liberty Fest volunteers

Canton Township is seeking volunteers and parade participants for the annual Liberty Fest on June 18. The parade begins at 9 a.m. at Heritage Park, which is the site for Liberty Fest events. For information, call Debbie Zevalkink at (734) 394-5188.

Childhood musical

The cast of the musical, *How To Eat Like a Child*, will focus on aspects of childhood, including how to fake an illness to stay home from school, beg for a dog, and surviving long car trips with siblings. The show is at 7 p.m. May 13 and 6 p.m. May 14 at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 42690 Cherry Hill Road in Canton. Tickets are \$5 for adults; \$3 for children, and free for children 2 and younger. Tickets may be purchased at the church office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, or call (734) 981-0286. Proceeds will be used to develop children's programs.

Canton Concert Band performance

The Canton Concert Band will present its first annual spring concert, "Sky Music, A Celestial Odyssey", at 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 14, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton. Tickets are \$8.

Tickets can be purchased at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Monday through Friday. The Village Theater box office, located at 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., will also be open two hours prior to each performance. The theater will offer hot hors d'oeuvres from 7-8 p.m. for an additional \$8. For more information or to purchase tickets by mail, please call (734) 394-5460 or visit www.canton-mi.org. For more information, contact director Jim Blough at jimb323@excite.com, or go to www.cantonband.com.

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Physical Therapy UPDATE

Hands On Center
Presented by Hands On Center For Physical Therapy
HOP TO IT!

More than a mere child's game, jumping rope is a training exercise used by serious athletes for good reason. Jumping rope is an aerobic exercise that increases heart rate, builds cardiovascular endurance, and burns a lot of calories (about ten per minute, at moderate speed). It also requires lower impact than jogging. Instead of pounding the ground with each step, jumping rope requires only a little lift. Thus, you may be able to jump rope even if you have bad knees. Jumping rope also works a wide range of muscles, in addition to those of the lower body. This includes the chest, shoulders and forearms. Moreover, because jumping rope is a weight-bearing exercise, it helps strengthen the bones.

We hope you have found this information interesting and informing. **HANDS ON CENTER FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY** is committed to providing outstanding care to our patients. We work closely with our patients to address their needs and incorporate their goals to develop, and implement a treatment program to give the greatest opportunity for success. To schedule an appointment, call 455-8370. Our office is conveniently located at 650 South Main Street in downtown Plymouth with easy access and parking. New patients are welcome.

PS Jumping rope can also improve coordination, speed and agility, which can be quite valuable in playing sports.

Johan Comuth, PT
Mark Mijnsbergen, PT
Bob Schoemaker, PT

Neighborly Advice

from Sandy Pattock-Beeler
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Moving is a complex process that requires advance planning. If you are relocating because of business you may have tight deadlines and will need to start packing and inventorying your household items without delay. Your Realtor can refer you to moving and storage companies that are capable of scheduling and immediate move.

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First Step shelter bursting at seams

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

The check to First Step was a big drop of water in a wash tub of need.

The Canton Rotary Club donated \$1,500 to purchase two commercial washers for the southeast Michigan-based family violence shelter.

This week about 35 women and children are living at First Step's Canton shelter, and it's hard to say exactly what the shelter's full capacity is because very often there are two or three families sharing space in each of the shelter's nine rooms.

"Imagine your house, and the normal wear and tear you put on it. Then multiply that by 30," said First Step executive director Judy Ellis.

That's why the commercial washers, designed for heavy use, were so badly needed, she added.

But the washers are on a long list of things the shelter desperately needs.

The shelter is too small, and the roof is leaking. It needs paint and repair, and is quickly becoming a money pit, according to Ellis, who added she will soon start a capital campaign to raise money for a new shelter, at a cost of \$3.5 - \$4 million.

"Raising that kind of money in this economy is pretty scary," she said. "But it's also scary to keep throwing money into a pit."

First Step, which was founded in 1978, has taken a hard hit in the last few years, according to Ellis. Since 2001, the agency has lost about \$700,000 in funding, most of which has been diverted to homeland security, Ellis said.

"Yet we see more people every year. The numbers are just astronomical," she said. "You name it - we need it."

First Step serves battered women and children in out-county and downriver communities, but the shelter is just a small part of the organization's efforts. First Step serves some 7,000 people a year. Some are at the shelter, but the agency



Canton Rotary President Lisa Kennedy (left) presents a check to Judy Ellis, executive director of First Step. The money will be used to purchase industrial washing machines for use at First Step's domestic violence shelter.

'Raising that kind of money in this economy is pretty scary. But it's also scary to keep throwing money into a pit.'

Judy Ellis
First Step executive director

also provides debriefing assistance for victims of sexual assault and violence, advocacy assistance, legal help and education for the community. First Step has also formed the community's first sexual assault response team. It has developed programs for children who have either been victims of domestic violence or who

have witnessed violence in the home.

Domestic violence occurs everywhere, Ellis said. There is no stereotypical victim or abuser.

"In every third house on the block, domestic violence occurs at some point in time," Ellis said. "Victims are anyone from teachers to corporate executives to homemakers. The abusers are mayors, police chiefs, heads of hospital systems, construction workers, really anyone. Violence occurs in Plymouth. Violence occurs in Inkster. It's really everywhere."

The shelter is where battered women and their children go when there is nowhere else to turn, Ellis said.

"They come to us with two children, or as many as seven or eight children," Ellis said.

And families are having to stay longer than they used to,

because jobs are harder to come by and the parent that flees the home needs to be employed in order to make it on her own and provide for her children.

The Canton Rotary Club chose First Step to be the recipient of its community service grant and, in addition to the washers, has donated linens and towels, clothing, sundries and personal care items, said treasurer Susan Kowalski.

For information about First Step, its services or how to help, call (734) 416-1111. The 24-hour helpline is (734) 459-5900, or toll free at (888) 453-5900.

cmarshall@oehomecomm.net
(734) 459-2700

LaJoy visits Capitol Hill to get more transportation funding

State Rep. Phil LaJoy, R-Canton, went to Washington, D.C., last week with one mission, to make Michigan's case for increased transportation funding.

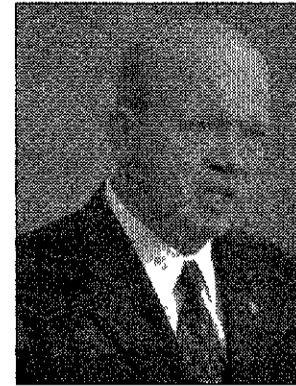
Michigan is currently a donor state, receiving just 90 cents back for every transportation tax dollar sent to the federal government.

"This pivotal trip was designed to show our representatives in Washington the need for Michigan to get more of our money back from the federal government," said LaJoy. "We accomplished that goal."

"As chair of the House Transportation Committee, I recently toured the state discussing the funding needs of our communities. Additional federal funding is needed to ensure we have quality roads on which people and goods can safely travel. The increased funding will also boost our economy by creating good paying jobs."

While in Washington, LaJoy met with members of the Michigan congressional delegation and their staffs.

LaJoy recently sponsored House Resolution 31 and House Concurrent Resolution 4 memorializing Congress to enact highway reauthorization legislation with a level of funding that closes the gap between federal fuel tax dollars paid by Michigan motorists and dollars received to address Michigan's transportation needs.



Rep. Phil LaJoy

Park to go to the 'dogs'

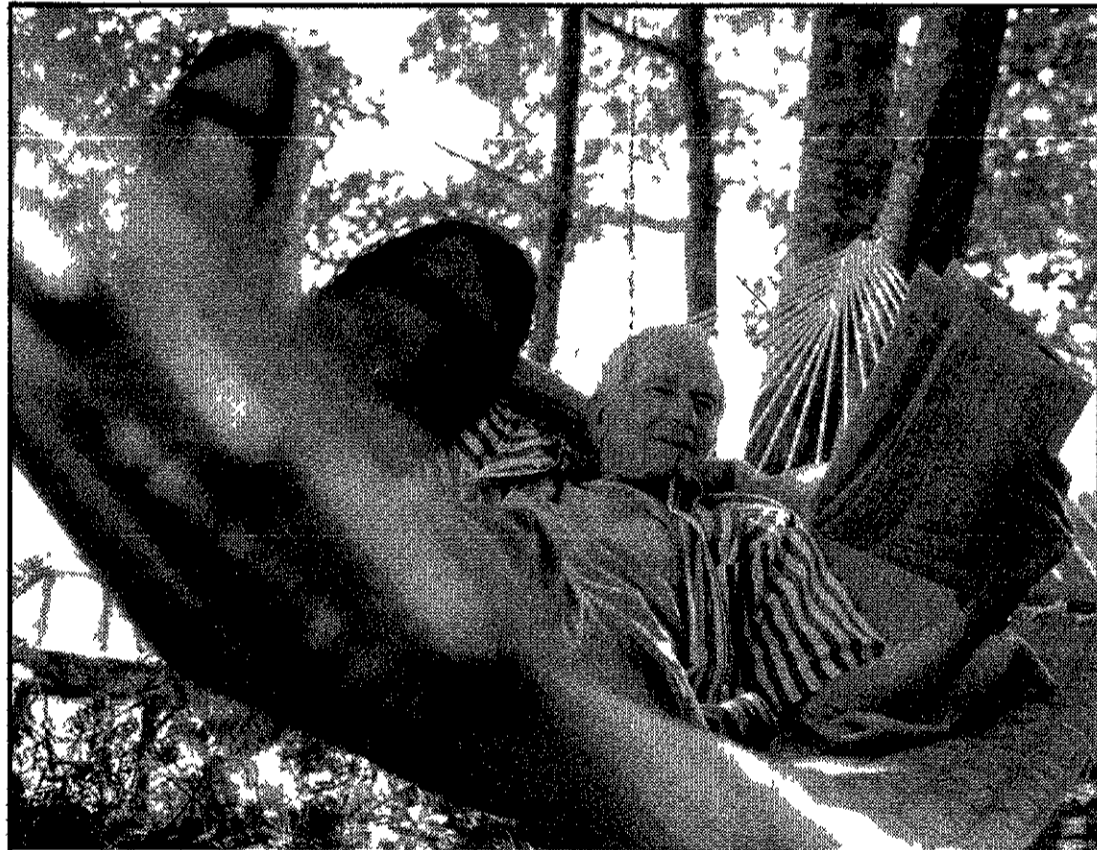
The Michigan Humane Society gets its annual dose of Plymouth generosity when the Kiwanis Club of Plymouth presents its annual Plymouth Dog Jog at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 14, originating from Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth.

Participants can help by getting pledges from family members, friends, neighbors and coworkers. Registration fee is \$30 the day of the event.

Contests are conducted in

three age groups for both males and females, along with prizes for Best Costume, Longest Tail and Best Look-Alike. Grand prizes will go to joggers with the three highest pledge amounts. All joggers/walkers get a T-shirt.

Registration starts at noon, with the walk starting at 1 p.m. Proceeds benefit the Michigan Humane Society and the Kiwanis Club of Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 455-4782.



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Couple celebrates 15 years of creating backyard retreats

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

Some two decades ago Linda and Terry Worful decided to buck the job market and start their own business building decks and other backyard projects. After a couple years working out of their home, they felt they were ready to take the next step by opening a showroom. Fifteen years ago they bought an old house on Lilley, just south of Joy, fixed it up with the help of friends and family, and threw open the doors of Outdoor Ingenuities, which specializes in creating "backyard retreats."

The company actually had its roots as a side job for Terry Worful, who began building decks at the same time he was working full-time for Kmart. He was doing such a good job, in fact, he soon had to hire several guys to help him keep up with the growing demand for his services. Finally, he decided to get his builders license and start his own business.

"It got to the point I was running two crews, while I still had my full-time job. I just decided to make it my career," said Terry Worful, 43.

Bringing his wife aboard only made sense. Having grown up in Livonia, she had a background in the arts and had a knack for design. Today, she designs all the projects, and Terry brings her conceptions to life. In addition to decks, they design and build brick paver patios and walks, gazebos, landscapes, and they also install hot tubs, as well as do deck maintenance and upkeep. They also do home interior work, especially finishing base-



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Linda and Terry Worful, who own Outdoor Ingenuities in Canton, will be celebrating 15 years of being in business with an open house this weekend.

ments. Today Outdoor Ingenuities has five employees, but the couple subcontracts work to several crews.

Looking back, Terry Worful wonders where the time has gone since the days he was working two jobs, especially when he drives through Canton and sees all the jobs he has completed.

"When I think about how many homes I've worked on in Canton, I realize how long we've been doing this. Really since the building boom began in Canton," he said.

Before moving to South Lyon recently, the couple lived in Canton for more than 20 years. They've been married 22 years and have three children. Working together has presented some challenges, according to Linda Worful. The spend so much time together, it has often been difficult separating

work life from family life. "Eventually you just realize when you get home, you don't talk about work," she said. "For a while it was hard trying to figure out who the boss was. I think I am, and he thinks he is. But I can't imagine not working with him."

The couple will celebrate their 15 years in business by having an anniversary celebration/sale Saturday between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. at the Outdoor Ingenuities showroom, which is located at 8325 Lilley, just south of Joy. There will be several deck, brick patio and hot tub displays, and plenty of deals available. There will also be refreshments available, including some cooked on a Holland Grill. In fact, one visitor will win a stainless steel Holland Grill.

For more information about Outdoor Ingenuities, call (734) 455-3325.

DEATHS

A
John David "Jack" Angott, 64, of Orchard Lake, died May 10.

B
Martha Irene Bickel, 69, died May 8.
Catherine Brenkert, 80, died May 6.

C
Rose M. Cerne, 86, of Canton, died May 7.

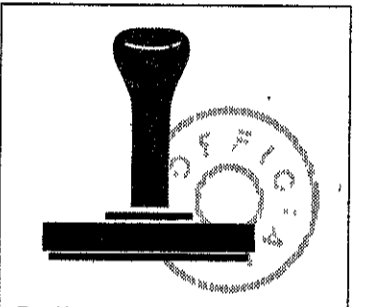
F
James Farnstrom, 47.

G
Thelma Ruth Gies, 87, of Livonia, died May 7.
Barbara Glover, 87, of Romulus, died May 9.

K
Joseph A. Kocian Jr., 67, of Whitmore Lake, died May 9.

M
Judith S. McKenzie, 69, of Westland, died May 8.

N
Pasquale A. C. Nuccitelli, 82, of



For the Record appears in every edition of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's *Sports in Passages* on page C13.

Farmington Hills, died May 9.

S
Charles William Somers, 88, of Marysville, Ohio, formerly of Farmington Hills, died May 6.
Alexandrine M. "Alex" Studara, 87, died May 9.

W
Charles R. Washburn, 70, of Plymouth.

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Answering the call of duty

Awards recognize firefighters who make a 'difference'

BY CAROL MARSHALL
STAFF WRITER

'It's a rare occupation that we call on people to do things that put them in danger.'

John Santomauro
Canton public safety director

It's not always easy doing a firefighter's job, according to Public Safety Director John Santomauro.

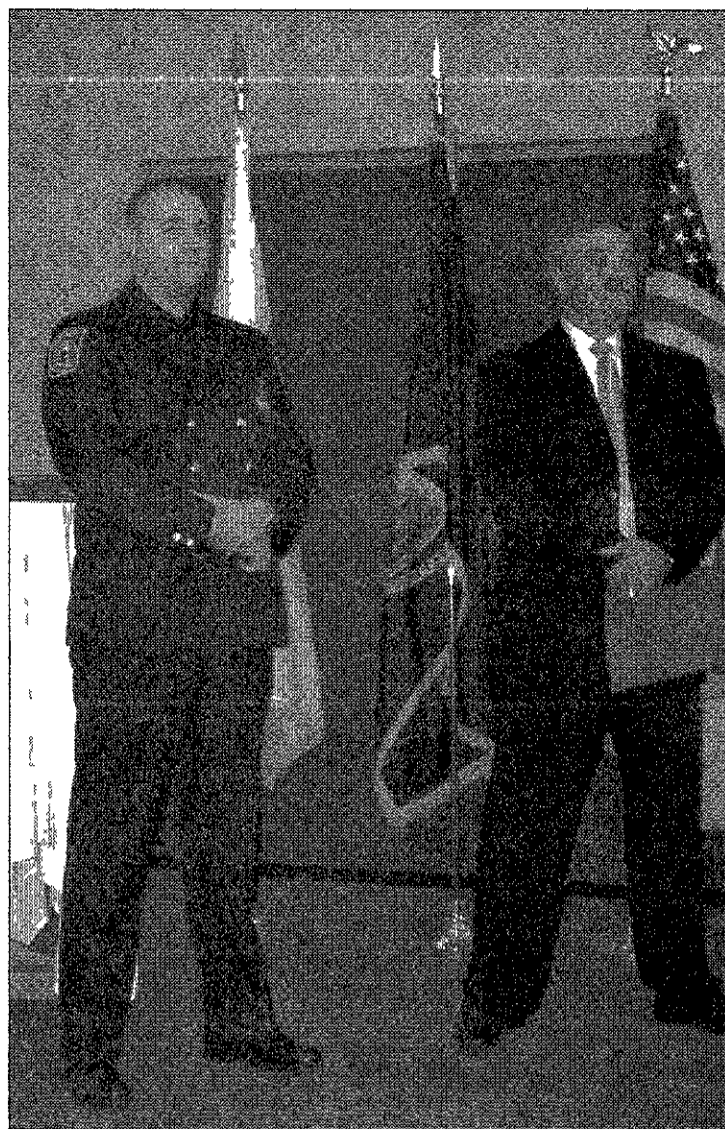
"It's a rare occupation that we call on people to do things that put them in danger," he said. And their willingness to do just that significantly contributes to a high quality of life for Canton residents, Santomauro added.

Then there are some firefighters who go over and above the call.

Firefighter of the Year Josh Meier was recognized for his initiative beyond normal service. Among other achievements, he was instrumental in the department's acquisition of state of the art firefighting equipment.

"His positive attitude has also manifested in the interest he takes in providing quality patient care and setting an example for other firefighters," said Fire Chief Mike Rorabacher.

cmmarshall@oe.hometownlife.com
(734) 459-2700



Canton Firefighter of the Year Josh Meier (left) stands with Public Safety Director John Santomauro at an awards ceremony Thursday.

McCotter bill offers tax credit for those who hire veterans

Congressman Thaddeus McCotter introduced legislation calling on Congress to amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow employers an income tax credit for hiring combat veterans.

McCotter, R-Livonia, discussed the legislation, entitled the Veterans' Employment Transition Support (VETS) Act, with local veterans and business owners at a press conference April 19 at Veteran's Haven in Wayne.

The VETS Act would provide a one-time credit to employers against income tax for hiring military service personnel who have been honorably discharged and have served in a combat zone or hazardous duty area. The credit would equal 40 percent of the veterans' first year wages, or up to 50 percent for disabled veterans.

The bill has 10 original co-sponsors, including Phil English, R-Pennsylvania, Don Manzuolo, R-Illinois, Candice Miller, R-Michigan, Stevan Pearce, R-New Mexico, Rick Renzi, R-Arizona, Silvestre Reyes, D-Texas, Bill Shuster, R-Pennsylvania, John Sullivan, R-Oklahoma, John Sweeney, R-New York, and Walter B. Jones, R-North Carolina.

"This bill ensures our valiant veterans' service to our nation continues when they come home," McCotter said. "By facilitating their transition to civilian life, we further their good works on behalf of our country and our communities."

"I look forward to working with my Congressional colleagues on this and a host of other proposals to ensure our veterans receive their full measure of our support as they return to their loved ones."

Please recycle this newspaper

Some 5,000 times a year, Canton firefighters and paramedics head out on the road to respond to the call. Medical emergencies, car crashes, and fires send them into action, and they just call it a day's work.

But once in a while, a day on the job distinguishes the firefighter and his or her actions. Such firefighters were recognized Thursday at the Canton Fire Department Sixth Annual Awards and Citations Ceremony at the Summit on the Park.

"When they go to work, they really make a difference," said Public Safety Chaplain Wayne Byrum. "There are a lot of people alive today because of the skills and the work of these firefighters."

One of those people is a 4-year-old who fell through a glass door on May 24, 2004.

A dispatcher instructed the child's grandparents how to administer first aid until paramedics could arrive. When the firefighters showed up, the child had lost so much blood, she was starting to turn blue, but they were able to slow the bleeding and rush her to life-saving treatment in a hospital, said Capt. Ken Arble, who awarded a lifesaving award to Capt. James Davison, Officer Dale Waltz, public safety service officers Robin Bush and Sarah Hathaway, and firefighters Todd Lemke, Josh Meier, James Harrison, Michael Thoms and Craig Poike.



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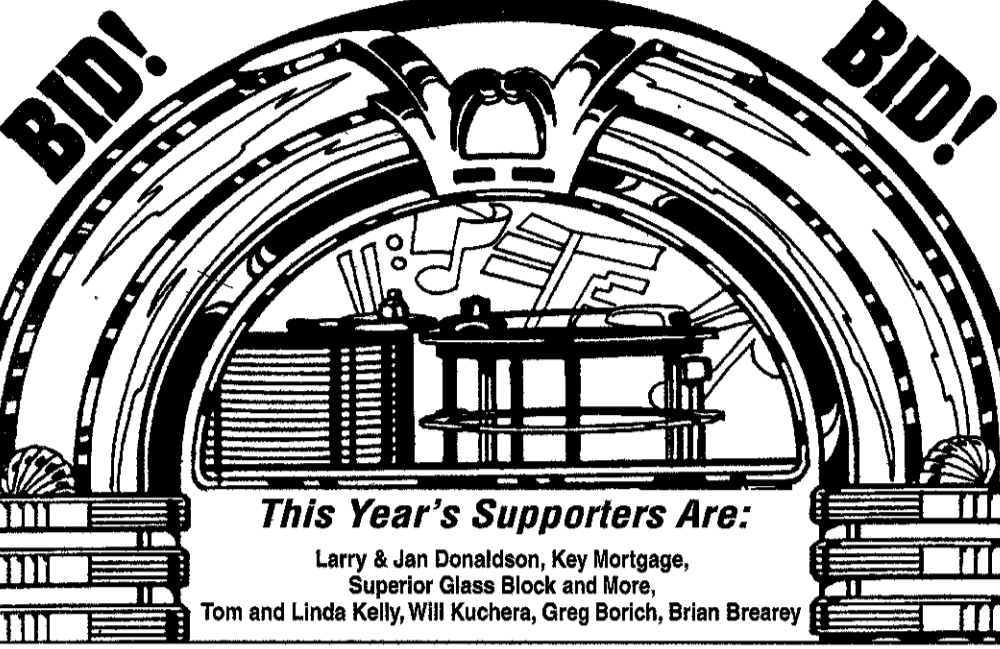
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Man to honor mother's struggle with bowling event

BY KURT KUBAN STAFF WRITER

Ray Tuck never wants to see anybody else go through what his mother went through during a long, debilitating battle with diabetes.

Although Alison Tuck ultimately lost that battle eight years ago at the age of 58, her son will honor her struggle and memory by holding a charity event on June 4 at the Super Bowl in Canton.

According to Tuck, his mother suffered from diabetes for many years. Not only did she have to do kidney dialysis every day, she also nearly lost her eyesight, and had both legs amputated below the knees.

"When you get to the point my mother was at, you really don't have a life anymore. I watched her whither away," Tuck said.



Alison Tuck, pictured here with her first granddaughter, died eight years ago at the age of 58, after a long fight with diabetes.

growing problem. That's why I started this event." Tuck said teams will play Scotch doubles, and there will be music and refreshments.

To register, or for more information about the event, visit Tuck's Web site at www.bowling4charity.com.

Professor Hill woos River City folks in musical

BY SUE MASON STAFF WRITER

Trouble may start with "T" and rhyme with "P" and stand for pool, but there's no trouble in sight for students at Wayne Memorial High School who are staging Meredith Willson's The Music Man this week.

"It's a difficult and challenging show, but we have a lot of great talent here, and after the response to the fall play, I wanted to do something with a large cast," said director Kate Sullivan.

Wizard of Oz, but it didn't have a lot of lead parts and I wanted to involve more students."

The musical will be presented at 7 p.m. tonight and Friday at the auditorium on the east end of the Wayne Memorial campus on Glenwood east of Fourth Street in Wayne.

The Music Man follows fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill as he cons the people of River City, Iowa, into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys' band he vows

to organize even though he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef. His plans to skip town with the cash are foiled when he falls for Marian, the town's librarian, who transforms him into a respectable citizen by the end of the play.

Students have spent 4 1/2 hours a day, four days a week, for five weeks rehearsing. It has a cast of 40, including 12 youngsters from Schweitzer and Edison Elementary Schools who play the River City kids.

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Carl Levin talks politics with students at Plymouth High

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

When Plymouth High School sophomore Anjali Punjabi asked a question of the guest in her political and economics systems class, she didn't exactly get the answer she was looking for.

"What do you think of affirmative action?" Punjabi asked U.S. Sen. Carl Levin.

"Affirmative action I favor,

quotas I don't," said Levin, who is serving his fifth term in the nation's capital. "Affirmative action involves people who are left out. As a society, we have to involve everybody. However, I don't like set quotas."

After Levin spent an hour answering questions from some of the nearly 100 students from the combined classes of Erin MacGregor and Shannon McVey, Punjabi

noted that despite having many of the same political views as Levin, affirmative action wasn't one of them.

"I'm not sure which political party I favor, but all of my views are democratic," said Punjabi, who lives in Plymouth Township and whose heritage is Indian. "I'm against affirmative action. I believe all people, regardless of ethnicity or color, should have an equal opportunity when going to col-

lege.

"There should be nothing favoring them because of their color or race," added Punjabi, referring to the recent admissions case involving the University of Michigan.

Levin answered a number of questions, including those concerning the economy, the war in Iraq, abortion and the national budget.

"The war is costing us \$5 billion a month, and they've left it

out of the budget and put it into a supplemental where it's hidden, with less oversight and where the public won't notice," said Levin. "The budget artificially leaves out some big spending items."

As for the war in Iraq, Levin told students, "Whether or not you agree or disagree on the issues, now that we're there we need to make it work."

That corresponds with the thoughts of 17-year-old Joe

Miszczak from Plymouth Township.

"Originally, I supported the war, but as more information came out I was against it," said Miszczak. "His point of view is closer to mine, the reason was bad, but we need to stay there and give the Iraqi's democracy."

Last year, Levin spoke with high school students via satellite. This year, media specialist Charlie Jones arranged to have Levin visit Plymouth High.

COP CALLS

ICE CREAM MAN TICKETED

The Good Humor man would not be amused. Canton police ticketed an ice cream vendor after receiving reports of children being cheated out of their change.

According to police reports, officers caught up to the man at Heritage Park on the afternoon of May 7. Witnesses told officers that during the weekend fishing derby the man was selling ice cream to children and giving them incorrect change.

When officers questioned the man, they discovered he did not have a permit to peddle in the township, and he was ticketed for violation of township ordinances.

HOME INVASION

Canton police officers were called to an apartment on Honeycomb to investigate a home invasion.

According to police reports, someone broke into the apartment on May 6, and stole a video game console valued at \$150, said the victim, an 18-year-old man. Also missing were Playstation video games and six DVDs.

DRUNK DRIVER

Officers who stopped a driver May 7 for making a prohibited right turn on a red light found out quickly why the driver ignored the "no turn" sign.

As soon as the driver opened the door to his truck, a bottle of vodka fell out and landed on the ground.

According to police reports, officers ordered the man out of the car for a field sobriety test, and he was unstable and had to lean against his truck to maintain balance. The man told officers he was too drunk to be driving, but refused to perform the field sobriety test, saying he didn't want to make a fool of himself.

The man tried to walk away from officers, who grabbed his arm to keep him from getting back into his truck. He pulled away from them, but they wrestled him to the ground, handcuffed him and arrested him for driving under the influence of intoxicants and resisting arrest.

SHOPLIFTING

Canton police arrested a 32-year-old man after a shoplifting incident at Meijer, 45001 Ford Road.

According to police reports, a store employee called police on May 7, just before 1 p.m. when she saw a man leave the store with some \$348 worth of liquor and batteries. He had not paid for them, the woman said.

When officers found the man in the parking lot, he produced multiple forms of identification, but could not immediately remember the birth date on the identification. He also could not remember his exact age, according to reports.

Police took the items, nine bottles of vodka, two bottles of cognac and two packages of batteries, from the man, and arrested him.

After his arrest, at the Canton Police Station, he finally told police his true identity and age, and allegedly said, "Damn, I don't want to go back to prison." He was wanted for a felony warrant and misdemeanor warrant in Washtenaw County.

Police contacted the owner of the drivers license and other identification. The man, a Romulus resident, told police his wallet had been stolen two weeks ago.

By Carol Marshall



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25-year restaurant revamps eatery, 105-year lumber firm at new site

THE GROUND UP

After 25 years in the Livonia community, The Ground Round Grill & Bar has recently completed a full renovation. The new look aims to bring this local establishment up-to-date, inside and out.

"We are so proud of the new Livonia Ground Round," said Sam Matar, owner. "We are excited to serve our current and new customers in this state-of-the-art facility with the most innovative and finest cuisine."

The Livonia Ground Round features a diverse menu including everything from steak, pasta and seafood, to burgers and a wide variety of salads, wraps and sandwiches. The family-friendly environment remains the same, as kids can eat for free every Tuesday. The restaurant features also private rooms for special occasions.

Matar has organized several festivities this coming week, all to celebrate the newly renovated eatery. On Monday, May 16, seniors can buy one dinner and get a second one free between 5-9 p.m. The Senior Night special is limited to meals under \$9.

Family Fun Night will follow from 5-9 p.m. Tuesday May 17, as kids eat free while ordering from the children's menu. On Wednesday, May 18, the restaurant offers Guest Appreciation Night, also from 5-9 p.m., allowing customers to buy one dinner and get a second one for half price.

Hours are 11 a.m. to midnight, Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. Friday-Saturday; and noon to midnight on Sunday. The Livonia Ground Round is located at 17050 Laurel Park South, just off the southeast corner of Newburgh and Six Mile roads.

For more information, call (734) 462-1735 or see the Web



site at www.livoniaground.com.

DECKED OUT

Mans Lumber and Millwork recently celebrated the completion of its new facility - on 18 acres in Canton - with a grand opening event.

Formerly located on Ford Road, the new address is 47255 Michigan Avenue, near Beck Road. It features a 24,000-square-foot retail facility, complete with showroom, and a 60,000-square-foot warehouse and manufacturing facility.

The business itself is not new. According to Marketing Director Kristin Schrader, the family-owned operation has been in business for 105 years. Mans operates five lumber yards and deals with a range of customers - from contracted builders to homeowners.

As deck-building season hits full swing, Schrader said, the company can serve do-it-yourselfers and professional builders alike.

"I have been really surprised by the walk-in traffic we've had," said Schrader of the grand opening. She said Mans has always been a good place for homeowners to start when beginning a project at home, such as building a deck or refinishing a basement. The new location might be bringing more exposure to a Canton institution, she said.

"We're not one of the big industrial lumberyards," she said. "They don't deal with

homeowners. We really enjoy working with the public."

In addition to the lumberyards, the company offers kitchen and bath services, finished carpentry services and more.

Mans Lumber and Millwork is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (734) 714-5800 or see the Web at <http://www.namans.com>.

STACK IT UP

Garden City residents can choose their favorite Hidalgo stackable ring designs when Orin Jewelers hosts a special trunk show Wednesday-Saturday, May 18-21.

Hidalgo rings come in 18-karat white or yellow gold, or platinum. They are accented by enamel artwork or diamonds. Because the rings are stackable, sets of three, four, and five rings are sold together. In addition, the jeweler will feature Hidalgo necklaces, earrings, pins, watches, cufflinks, bangles and charm bracelets.

Hidalgo stackable rings cost between \$150 and \$2,000. Enamel watches retail from \$490 and watches with diamonds start at \$990.

Trunk show hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 18; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, May 19; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, May 20; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 21.

Orin Jewelers Inc. is located at 29317 Ford Road. For more information, call (734) 422-7030.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about new and changing businesses for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. E-mail tips on your new, favorite Wayne County shop to scasola@oe.homecomm.net or call (734) 953-2054.

THEATER

FROM PAGE A1

complete, she said. Full House Players will be the community theater company, putting on three musical productions a year with local actors, age 16 and older.

Ovation Productions hopes to bring in Broadway talent in "pre-Broadway" shows, which play small venues around the country to gauge audience reaction to the plays.

Rotondo's father and Meares' former husband, Dino Rotondo, works in entertainment marketing in New York. While he was in Canton last year to see his daughter play a lead role in *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat*, he fell in love with the Village Theater, Meares said.

"He felt it was a perfect venue to bring things from New York," she said. "I had talked about starting a theater group for years, and he sat down with me and said, 'Let's do it.'"

Meares hopes the Broadway contacts will help her take local theater to the next level.

"What I'd like to do is bring in professionals from New York and have them surrounded by local talent," she said. "I want to give people who participate in community theater this opportunity to work with people who really know how to use the theater to its fullest potential."

For her first show, she plans to use a production team from New York. Janine Grady-Creedon, of Canton, will be the musical director.

"I think they'll help us do everything our great theater can do," she said. She is also considering shows in which the lead might be a Broadway actor, and the rest of the cast local, to give them a chance to work with professionals.

"It's a little scary, my heart is beating a little bit," she said. "But I'll have lots of experienced people around me who'll be able to help. It's very excit-

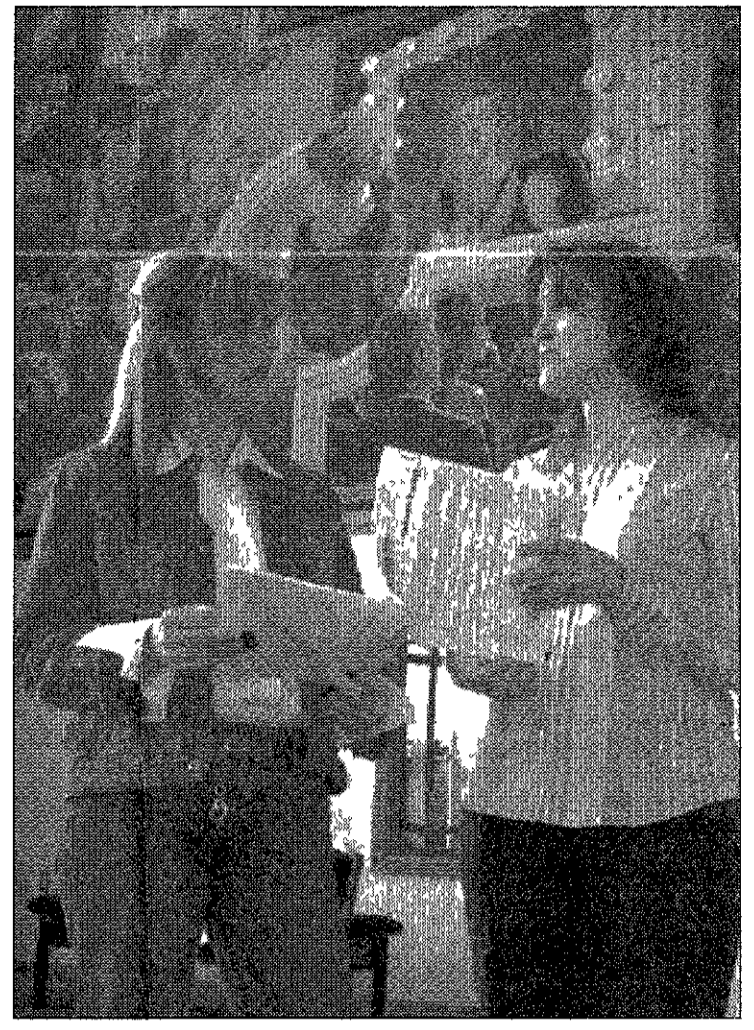


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VILLAGE THEATER AT CHERRY HILL

Gina Meares (left) and music director Janine Grady-Creedon discuss upcoming auditions for 'Annie Get your Gun' at the Village Theater.

'It's a little scary, my heart is beating a bit. But I'll have lots of experienced people around me who'll be able to help. It's very exciting.'

Janine Grady-Creedon
production musical director

The first production is being financed out-of-pocket, Meares said.

"I hope I can get this to stage for between \$45,000 and \$50,000," she said, without batting an eye.

Ticket sales from the first production will be used entirely to help fund subsequent productions.

Auditions for *Annie Get Your Gun* will be 7-10 p.m. May 18-19, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton. Enter through the back stage door. Audition packets are available at the Village Theater, or at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway. Those auditioning should bring a recent headshot and prepare about 16 bars of a Broadway song of choice. For more information e-mail fullhouseplayers@aol.com, or call Gina Meares at (734) 358-6966.

cmarsshall@oe.homecomm.net
(734) 459-2700

UPGRADE

FROM PAGE A1

Audit Committee, which met nine times, and established a system to prioritize intersection improvements. Criteria included constructability, cost, safety, traffic volume and the number of crashes, Faas said.

The first round of projects were chosen more for easy completion than for safety, which was heavily weighted for upcoming years' projects. With

the construction season rapidly approaching the first three projects were chosen because they did not require right of way purchase, which adds significant time to roads projects, Faas said.

The committee developed a system to prioritize and implement capital improvements, which will improve traffic operations and safety at Canton's busiest county-operated intersections.

Typical improvements include: upgrading traffic signal heads for better visibility,

re-timing traffic signals to include protected left-turn lanes, installing traffic signals where four-way flashers exist, adding pedestrian signals, lengthening turning lanes, widening intersections, and improving paved surfaces.

For more information on the Intersection Safety Improvement Plan, contact Canton's Engineering Services Division at (734) 394-5150.

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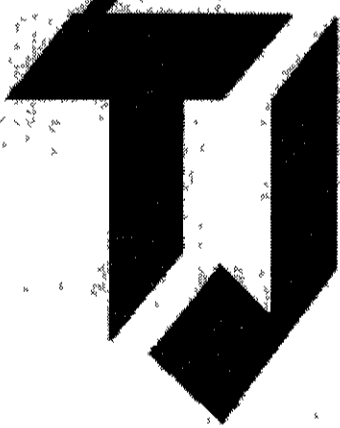
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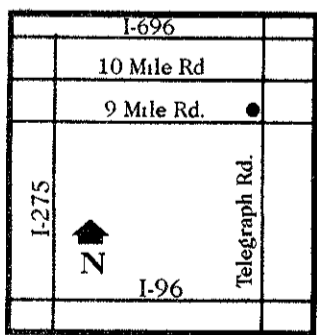
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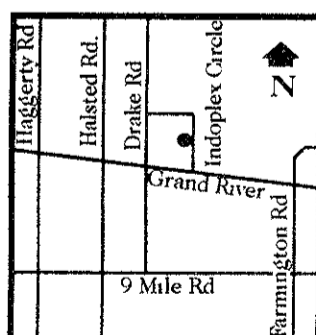
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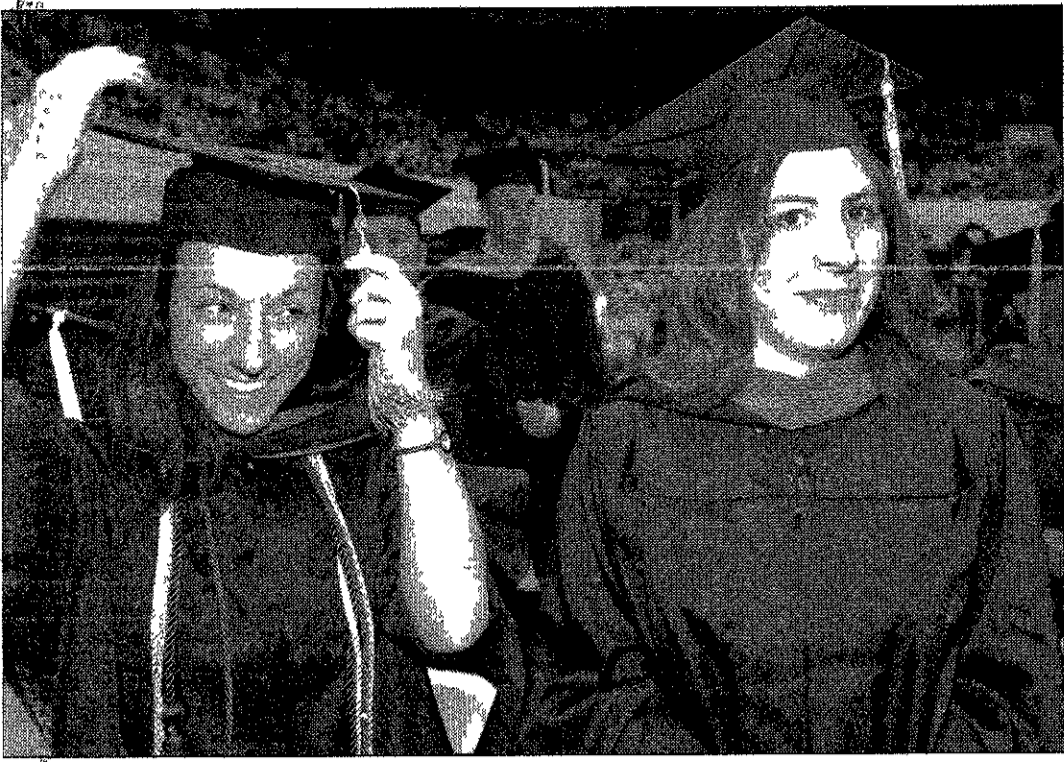


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Andrea Miller (left) of Allen Park and Kati Laszlo of Garden City move their tassels, symbolizing their graduation from Madonna.

PHOTOS BY DONALD J. ALLEY

Schoolcraft class more than 1,000



PHOTOS BY DONALD J. ALLEY

Schoolcraft College President Conway Jeffress begins the graduation ceremony on Saturday.

More than 1,000 students were eligible to receive diplomas at Schoolcraft College's 40th commencement, Saturday. Approximately 430 graduates were expected to attend the formal ceremony.

Maura D. Corrigan, Michigan Supreme Court justice, delivered the commencement address at the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township.

The college conferred honorary degrees on Corrigan; Leonard Rezmierski, superintendent of Northville Public Schools; and Thomas Marek, manager of corporate food services at Ford Motor Co. and a member of the Schoolcraft College Foundation Board of Governors.

On Friday, May 6, 140 Policy Academy, Policy Reserve Officer Training and Fire Technology graduates convened for their graduation, where they heard an address from Robert A. Ficano, Wayne County Executive.

Corrigan served two terms as Chief Justice of the state Supreme Court, was Chief Justice of the Michigan Court of Appeals, and was the first woman to hold the position of Chief Assistant United States Attorney. She is an advocate for child welfare and is recognized as a national leader in the areas of foster care, adoption and mentoring foster youth.

Ficano was elected Wayne County Executive in January 2003. He had served as Wayne County Sheriff for almost 20 years, and began his public service career as assistant city attorney in Westland.

Madonna University graduates 865

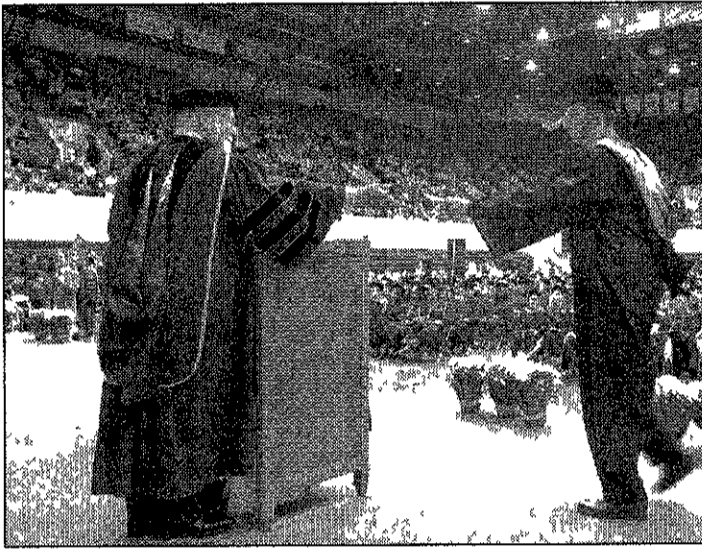
On Saturday, May 7, Madonna University held its 58th commencement in Calihan Hall at the University of Detroit-Mercy.

Approximately 865 graduates joined the Madonna University alumni ranks, with 573 students receiving a bachelor's degree, associate's degree or certificate, and the remainder earning a master's degree.

Honorary doctorate degrees were bestowed upon Sister Mafy Raymond Kasprzak, CSSF, Ph.D., of Rome, and Rochester Hills residents Michael and Jo Oblay.

Recipient of this year's Madonna University Distinguished Alumna Award is Sister Edith Marie Agdanowski, CSSF. Through her love for music, Sister Edith has brought out the beauty in God's creation.

Madonna University, at I-96 and Levan Road in Livonia, offers more than 70 career-oriented majors for men and women, including programs in e-commerce, fire



Joseph Timothy Fox gives his name to the announcer before receiving his baccalaureate during the Madonna University graduation ceremony on Saturday. It was held at the University of Detroit Mercy's Calihan Hall.

science, forensic science, sign language studies and sport management.

Twenty-two master's degree programs are available in the diverse areas of business, clin-

ical psychology, education, health services, hospice education, liberal studies, nursing, pastoral ministry and teaching English to speakers of other languages.



Jill Annette Blakely receives her degree during Schoolcraft College's commencements last weekend.



Ever wonder who teaches doctors what they need to know?

Allow us to introduce ourselves.

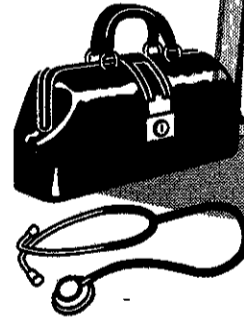
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Standing, Left to right: Bryan Hinch, MD; Anil Sli, MD; Walid Harb, MD; Bobby Lee, MD; Vijaya Arunachalam, MD.
Seated, Left to right: Cynthia Piko, MD; Jonathan Zimmerman, MD; Catherine Foster, MD.

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Dr. Erickson and Dr. Friedman also work at our second Livonia office located at 27513 Grand River.

Please call our office to discuss any concerns or schedule an appointment.

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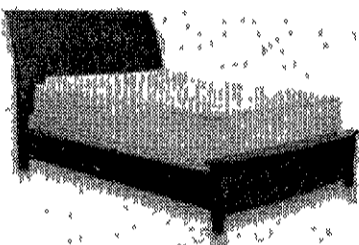
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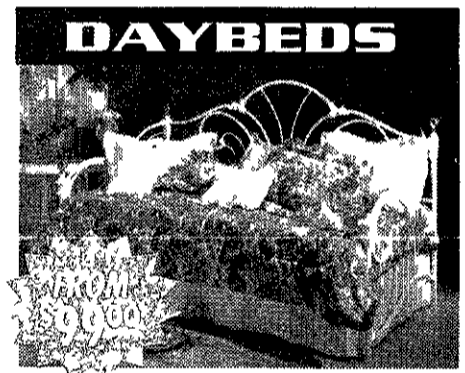
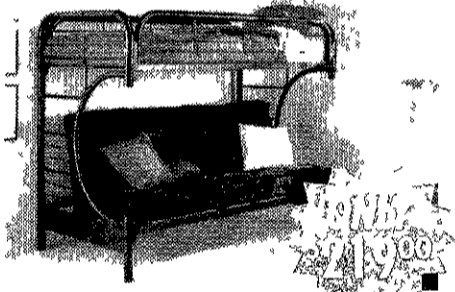
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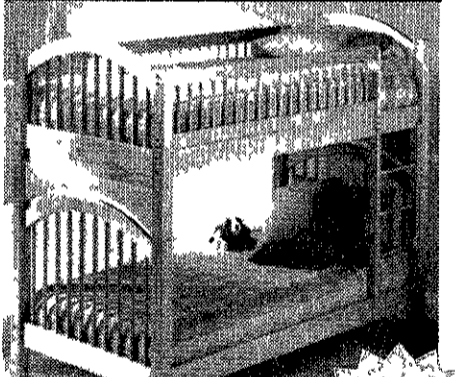
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OUR VIEWS

Tragedies help drive home safety message

We may not know all the details and causes yet of this recent horrible string of fatal crashes across the *Observer & Eccentric* area, but we do know the results. Relationships shattered, families torn apart, mourners left to ponder what could have been. And, of course, lives cut short.

There are no guarantees, but we know that there are safeguards we can all take to improve safety.

On Saturday, April 30, a fiery five-car crash on I-75 near Sashabaw Road left three people dead and a fourth critically injured. Police say a pickup truck crossed the narrow median in an area of the freeway where there are no guard rails, sparking the fatal pileup. Since then, state officials have announced they'll be adding guard rails on that section of I-75.

The next day, another crash. In Farmington Hills, two young men argued, got in their cars, and drove off onto Eight Mile, where one slammed on the brakes and bumped the other's car, causing it to hit a curb and roll — ejecting the driver. This one wasn't fatal, though witnesses wondered how it wasn't. The man broke his collarbone.

A day later, Monday, came the highly publicized Farmington Hills crash where a driver with an almost unfathomable 0.43 blood-alcohol level slammed into a car driven by a Farmington Hills woman and her two sons, 12 and 9, along 12 Mile. The woman and her sons were all killed.

Each tragedy comes with a lesson. Sure, there are obvious protections — guard rails will help keep drivers off the wrong side of the freeway; making drinking/driving even more socially unacceptable; rage isn't something to be acted out behind the wheel; and the adage "speed kills" still applies.

But there are also some less-obvious lessons. It's important to remain a defensive driver, scanning the situation, leaving yourself an "out" as you drive. It's also important, experts say, to limit our distractions — passenger conversations, cell phones, eating, CDs, even DVDs, etc.

These accidents serve as a reminder of the inherent dangers of something many of us take for granted — operating a motor vehicle. Drivers should remember these stories every time they get behind the wheel and turn the key.

Young scholars earn praise, recognition

This marks the 20th year the *Observer Newspapers* has honored outstanding young scholars as members of the Academic All-Star Team. As a local newspaper, we devote a good amount of news space to local schools and education, so it just makes sense to honor those who excel.

We have high expectations for our Academic All-Stars and over the years those expectations have been met and surpassed. In Sunday's *Observer*, we profiled some of the All-Stars who have received this honor over the last 20 years. Today we honor the 2005 team and Runners-up.

They are smart, motivated and eager to expand their world. They are also generous with their time and talent and eager to make the world a better place. They know and value the importance of a good education and they want others to enjoy this benefit. They are grateful to teachers who have inspired them and parents who have provided for and nurtured them along their path to academic and personal success.

Today, in a special section inside this newspaper, we salute the more than 45 students who have achieved outstanding academic success throughout their high school careers. They are indeed some of the best and brightest high school students from public and private schools throughout the *Observer* coverage area.

Congratulations to the 2005 Academic All-Star Team of David Budde, Detroit Catholic Central High; Lisa Tian, Canton High; Han Zhu, Canton High; Joy Schultz, Lutheran High Westland; Ann Marie Brouillette, Farmington High; Rishi Khetrupal, Harrison High; Scott Pfeffer, Detroit Catholic Central High; Meghan Warren, Mercy High; Sarah Crane, North Farmington High; Jeff Fishman, North Farmington High; Kathryn Schalek, Mercy High; Timothy W. Francisco, Churchill High; Jill S. Garrity, Stevenson High; Rachel Cannon, Harrison High; Michael Y. Han, Churchill High; Joel Thompson, Thurston High; Adriana Blazeski, Salem High; Jocelyn Sielski, Belleville High; Kathryn Chadwick, Stevenson High; and Claire Zelmanski, Salem High.

The *Observer Newspapers* salutes these outstanding young men and women — All-Stars and Runners-up — as they close the door on a successful high school career and move on to what promises to be an outstanding future.



LETTERS

Health insurance solution

I agree with David Spivey's column "Lack of health insurance takes toll" (May 1), but only to a point. Mr. Spivey does not come out and say it, but his statement, "In a just society, no one should be left behind," sounds like a pitch for a national health insurance plan better known as socialized medicine.

The problem of the uninsured can be solved without resorting to drastic measures such as socialized medicine which would make matters even worse.

The uninsured are those who are too wealthy to qualify for Medicaid and too young to qualify for Medicare. They do not receive health coverage through their employer and do not purchase health insurance on their own.

A recent Michigan study of people without health insurance found that many live in households with incomes of more than \$75,000, even more with incomes above \$50,000. Many uninsured are young adults between ages of 19 and 25, who feel they do not need insurance because they are young and healthy.

Solution? Make health insurance policies affordable by offering a variety of policies from basic to deluxe and design special, inexpensive policies for healthy, young adults who are not covered by their parents. And to make sure no one is left behind, make having health coverage mandatory, just like auto insurance.

Janusz M. Szyszko
Canton

Use native plants

As the temperatures warm and another growing season begins, it is time for home and business owners to make their planting choices. With nature on the retreat throughout Canton due to non-stop development, we can look to our front and back yards to create wildlife habitats. Dig up sections of that lawn and replace it with more attractive native wildflowers, shrubs and trees. Not only will these plants enhance the appearance of any home, but they also don't require the harmful fertilizers and herbicides that lawns are often blanketed with. The butterflies and birds also will greatly appreciate it.

There are also few things more relaxing than working in a backyard vegetable garden. Growing some of your own food puts one in touch with our ancestral, farming past. Additionally, it can teach children the wonders of life and show them that our food ultimately comes from the earth and not the grocery store.

The National Wildlife Federation provides some great instructions and tips on how to grow a backyard wildlife habitat at www.nwf.org.

Thaddeus J. Hejka
Canton

Setting things straight

Mr. Shea, I do not think the reporter "mixed things up," nor did I (in response to George Shea's May 5 letter). This is a confusing subject, and unless you watched the meeting, I can see how you

could easily get "mixed up." Allow me to answer your questions.

Nowhere did I argue against having the four meetings televised. In fact, quite the opposite. I clearly stated that we should not be voting in what are currently known as study sessions precisely because they are NOT televised and things could be slipped by with less public scrutiny.

When you allow voting in these sessions, you are requiring citizens to come to twice as many meetings in order to keep watch on their government. Citizen participation has been very, very weak (to say the least) at these meetings. I have made it a cornerstone of my campaign and my current position to increase citizens' participation. By requiring people to come to twice as many "meetings," I believe you will dilute their participation even further.

As far as ambushing the public, I have no idea what you are referring to. I have been quite vocal about ensuring that the entire board packet is made available to the public before the meeting so that they may read, study and comprehend before the meetings. Lastly, I want to retain my and the citizens' ability to bring up issues and concerns as needed (hence protecting their and my First Amendment rights). The items that you believe I have "ambushed the public" with during my presentations have been:

- Tax comparisons to surrounding communities
- Water comparisons to surrounding communities
- Citizen concerns
- Information on autism
- Citizens helping one another
- Internal rates of return on township expenditures.

Todd Caccamo
Canton Township trustee

Empty slogan

May 1, 2005, marked the two-year anniversary of President George W. Bush's pronouncement aboard the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln: "Major combat operations in Iraq have ended."

Now, two too many years of war later, all drivers who have a "Support Our Troops" ribbon magnet attached to their vehicles can bombard the White House with calls to withdraw troops and bring them home safe from harm's way.

Otherwise, the slogan remains a trendy accessory, as vapid as "I'd Rather be Sailing" or "Baby on Board."

Mary Dorsey
Beverly Hills

Revise Social Security

In this deafening national debate over whether to modify Social Security one of the greatest ironies is that those crying loudest to leave the system as is are those who are likely to be least affected by proposed changes.

As a professional portfolio manager and retirement counselor who makes his living helping people plan for and achieve financial independence, I am shocked and even humored by the sometimes inane discussion about this important topic.

But the irony I see comes from the fact that the intellectually anointed "progressives" are those who repeatedly promulgate the need for social change to evolve with modern man's ever growing knowledge and sophistication.

Yet, on this issue they sound like stodgy old conservatives defending the status quo! First modeled after Germany's "social insurance" program launched in 1889, our government welfare program has been essentially unchanged in its structure and funding over its 75-year life, despite massive changes in the demographics of the American workforce and population.

Why then do the senior liberal leadership, as well as powerful special interest groups like AARP, so vehemently oppose improving SSI? Because, very simply, money is freedom, and empowering future generations to be financially independent will reduce their power and influence.

These people and organizations derive their livelihood by fostering feelings of fear, envy and dependency. To make people financially independent would deny them their future source of power and sustenance.

Actuarial science has advanced by leaps and bounds in recent decades. There have been numerous viable proposals to begin phasing in a self-funded SSI program, yet liberals choose not to trust this science. Instead, they prefer to hurl invectives rather than offer fresh ideas. Ben Franklin warned, "Those who trade liberty for security deserve neither." It is time to put politics aside and display some courage to progress, lest we slide ever closer to a total welfare state.

James Martin, CFA
West Bloomfield

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

"We would be lost without our volunteers. We use them, especially the seniors, thousands and thousands of hours a year."

— Canton Township Leisure Services Director Ann Conklin, on the township's dependence on community volunteers

Time for state's parents to realize value of education

Over my years in this business, I've read a lot of sad stories. But one of the saddest ran last week in *The Detroit News*. It reported the results of an EPIC-MRA poll on the attitudes of Michigan parents toward their kids' education and jobs in today's economy. The findings are, frankly, terrifying:

- Only 27 percent think a good education is essential for getting ahead.
- Around a quarter say that a good career choice for their children is "whatever makes them happy." Only 8 percent chose "successful."
- Nearly half of parents don't think everyone needs a college education.

- Fewer than 5 percent think careers in engineering or computers are worthwhile for their children.

The disconnect between these parents and hard cold reality is astonishing. Don't they know that the high-paying, muscle-based, low-skilled jobs of the past are evaporating? Don't they realize parents in China and India see that their kids need to learn the math, science and thinking skills essential in the new globally competitive economy?

Those kids are going to blow our kids away. No wonder Gov. Jennifer Granholm pounded the podium at the Detroit Economic Club last week: "Wake up!" she barked at Michigan parents. No wonder state economic czar David Hollister keeps warning that a high school education just isn't enough for Michigan kids to make it.

And no wonder that economists, business leaders and journalists are all waving the red flag of alarm.

In the past, I've groused at the governor for being reluctant about the kinds of radical restructurings Michigan needs in order to be dragged, kicking and screaming, into the 21st century. But on this fundamentally important issue, she's been absolutely right from the start.

Last year, she had Lt. Gov. John Cherry put together a heavyweight commission on higher education in Michigan. I served on it — and found it a disturbing but energizing experience. We found that only 22 percent of adults in Michigan hold a bachelor's degree, more than 10 points less than our competitor states. We discovered that a distressingly high percentage of kids plan to go to college when they start high school, but somehow never get there. In our report, we recommended that Michigan take all the steps necessary to double the number of college graduates within a decade.

Much of the problem is cultural: Michigan families for generations have figured all you had to do was get a high school diploma to get a

good-paying job in manufacturing and you'd be all set. Plainly, that day is over. But changing deeply ingrained cultural habits is tough.

That's why Granholm is pushing bills to re-jigger the Michigan Merit Scholarship to provide at least \$4,000 in aid to any student who completes two years at any Michigan college or university.

That's enough to pay for an associate's degree at most community colleges. Some students will go directly into good technical jobs, while others will finish their four-year degree \$4,000 less in debt than before.

By combining state money for the Merit award and federal Pell grant funds, Michigan would be the first state to guarantee that all students who finish two years of college would receive enough scholarship support to pay for at least a two-year associate's degree from a community college.

The old \$2,500 Merit program bribed kids into taking the MEAP test and gave high scorers a pay-off. But that did nothing to encourage kids to actually obtain a college degree. Of the 100,000 or so students who graduate from high school each year, about half qualify for a Merit award, but less than half of these ever actually finish a college program. What's worse is that most of the 50,000 who don't qualify (based on just one test) conclude they're just not college material — and never try.

State House Speaker Craig DeRoche, R-Novi, is whining that the old Merit program works just fine and that taking away the \$2,500 awards penalizes high achievers. He's got it wrong. Our economy does not need kids who score well on standardized tests; it needs more people who obtain college degrees. The speaker surely has enough business experience to know that you get what you pay for. If we want more people entering the labor force with college degrees, that's what we ought to subsidize.

And with the state in the financial bind it's in, it makes no sense at all to cough up millions for the Merit award without getting something useful for it. When I talked with the governor about all this last week, I mentioned something that happened to me a long time ago when I was applying to colleges. The acceptance letter that most impressed me was one that said it was the college's policy that if I didn't flunk out, they would find the money somewhere to keep me in school until I earned my degree.

That's the kind of solid, concrete commitment from the state that could make a big difference in changing today's deep-rooted and deeply dangerous attitudes. I hope the governor takes the ball and runs with it — and that Michigan parents get their eyes on the ball.

Phil Power, the former chairman of Hometown Communications Network and regent of the University of Michigan, is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan.



Phil Power

Michigan deserves fair share for highway repairs

Highways laden with potholes. Bumper-to-bumper traffic on overcrowded streets. Large orange barrels and "detour" signs and roadway closures.

Sound familiar? Traffic congestion and weathered roads have become all-too-familiar to Michigan motorists, who end up with deteriorating cars and white knuckles. We need adequate federal funding to get our roads back in working order.

The Senate is currently considering a highway funding bill that provides federal funding for highways and bridges, highway safety initiatives, and transit programs.

Unfortunately, the bill maintains discriminatory funding formulas that require about 20 states, including Michigan — known as "donor" states — to send more gas tax dollars to the Highway Trust Fund in Washington than they receive in transportation infrastructure spending, while the remaining 30 states — known as "donee" states — receive more in transportation funding than they pay into the Highway Trust Fund.

This formula was developed in 1956, and for the past 50 years, those states that benefit from it have fought tenaciously to defend it.

For many years, I have worked with other members of the Michigan congressional delegation to fight for a fairer return on our state's highway dollars.

We have made some progress over the years — for instance, 25 years ago Michigan received

about 75 cents out of every dollar we paid in federal gas taxes, and we've clawed our way to where we now receive over 90 cents. I won't be satisfied until we get our full return.

I introduced a bill earlier this year with Republican Sen. George Voinovich from Ohio that would increase the federal minimum guaranteed funding level, which would bring us one step closer to achieving fairness in the distribution of federal highway funding to states. At stake are tens of millions of dollars a year in additional funding for Michigan to pay for badly needed transportation improvements — as well as the jobs that go with it.

Last year, the Senate passed a highway bill that would have given Michigan about \$7.4 billion in highway funding over six years, which would produce about 100,000 new jobs. While it would not have fully corrected the inequities in funding formulas, it would have made some progress. The bill was never signed into law, however, because the president vowed to veto the Senate-passed bill, despite the fact that a strong, bipartisan majority approved the legislation.

The bill that the Senate is currently considering falls short of last year's effort. It provides fewer resources than the bipartisan bill that the Senate passed last year, and it fails to adequately raise the guaranteed rate of return to the states to 95 cents.

I'm going to fight for a fairer bill — along with senators from some other donor states — but we need the president to agree to support a bill that does not favor one group of states over another. We need a bill that is fair to everyone.

Carl Levin is the senior U.S. senator from Michigan.



Carl Levin

LETTERS

FOC hearings needed

In response to the Bennie Blades child support article, the attorney general got on radio talk shows trying to portray himself as a champion of helping the mothers. He referred to one, Sarah, saying that he helped her and she was getting a monthly check from Bennie's disability.

Truth be told, he had nothing to do with her payroll deduction order. She had to initiate it herself or she would not have it. She has a court order for \$379 per month and she got \$21 of it. Is she supposed to be very happy about that? The state's distribution formula had the rest of the money appropriated to the Wayne County mother (who got the \$170,000 and has a payroll deduction for \$750 of his disability) — the case the attorney

general is so proud of.

Will he do anything to get Sarah's money from her court order back to her? Absolutely not! How can a formula violate a court order?

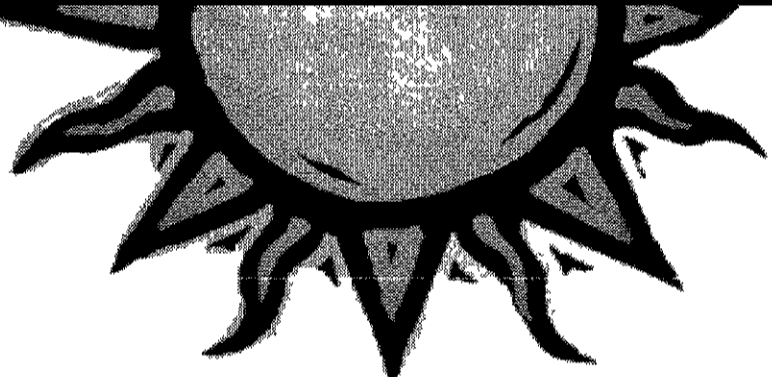
There is something radically wrong with the system, and we are asking for a Senate hearing in Lansing to address this issue. To continue to do something over and over that doesn't work is criminal. Just as seizing \$170,000 and giving it to one child is criminal. And the attorney general can take credit for all of it.

He can take no credit for helping four mothers and four children.

Please contact the senators and insist on hearings — especially if you have been involved with Friend of the Court.

Hope Brown

Citizens Taking America Back



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First Step director Ellis lauded as role model

Judith A. Ellis was recognized as one of the 2005 Role Models of the Year by Alternatives for Girls. She is executive director of First Step the Western Wayne County Project on Domestic and Sexual Violence. The award was given Thursday, April 21, at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center.

Recognizing the continued need for inspired leadership and positive role models for girls and young women, the AFG Role Model Award seeks to identify and honor exceptional women for their professional accomplishments, personal attributes and community commitment.

These women, by example, affirm the principles embodied in the AFG mission and provide inspiration and concrete evidence of what women can achieve when afforded the opportunity and guidance to make positive life choices. Two other metro leaders, Maha Freij, the CFO of ACCESS, and Rochelle Riley, a columnist for the *Detroit Free Press*, were also recognized as 2005 Role Models of the Year.

Previous recipients include: Venice Davis Anthony, Judge June Blackwell-Hatcher, Alexia Canady, Julie Fisher Cummings, Nancy J. Diehl, Maureen A. Fay, O.P., Ann H. Hoag, Denise Page Hood, Marilyn French Hubbard,

Mildred Jeffrey, Mary Kramer, Guadalupe G. Lara, Helen B. Love, Marilyn Malin, Dr. Glenda D. Price, Nanette Lee Reynolds, Claire J. Roberts, SIOR, Pamela Rodgers, Brenda Naomi Rosenberg, Roberta Sanders, Shirley R. Stancato, Joanne E. Start, Vista Swenson, JoAnn Watson, and Angela B. Wilson.

Wanting to help those who are most vulnerable in our community, Ellis started as a

volunteer with the First Step Western Wayne County Project on Domestic Violence more than 26 years ago and quickly moved up to become the executive director.

Under her leadership, the agency has grown from a small grassroots agency with one building and a 20-bed, short-term shelter, to a multisite, multiservice organization serving 35 Wayne County and Downriver communities and

close to 7,000 clients a year. First Step's comprehensive services include a 24-hour crisis and help line, on-call advocates to help victims, group and individual counseling, prevention and educational programs, some legal support, and a shelter for individuals and families in crisis.

This shelter houses between 330-350 children a year. Under her management, First Step has partnered with law

enforcement agencies, court systems, hospitals, and the state to devise viable solutions and to empower victims.

In her acceptance speech, Ellis said "it has been my privilege to witness the courage and strength of women and children as they moved out of the darkness of violence into a future filled with possibilities." She added, "We must role model a path of freedom where victimization is not allowed."



Ellis



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REUNIONS

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

Birmingham High School

Class of 1955
A 50-year reunion will be Sept 22-23, 2005, at the Radisson Kingsley Inn, Bloomfield Hills. Contact Nancy Yarnell Schutte at (248) 646-0235 or nys1937@comcast.net.

Bishop Borgess

Class of 1985
A 20-year reunion is planned for Friday, Nov. 25, 2005, at the Novi Sheraton. For details contact Dean Lundberg at (734) 718-2720 or dlundberg@comcast.net.

Camp Nahelu

1940-1970
Camp Nahelu, located in Ortonville, is planning a reunion on Sunday, May 29, in Orchard Lake. Organizers are looking for anyone who attended or worked at the camp from 1940 to 1970. Please contact Fran Gurwin Bell at (248) 706-0738 or e-mail JFARBell@aol.com.

Clawson High School

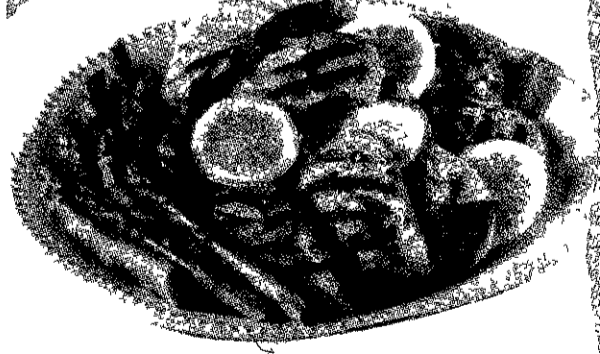
Class of 1955
A 50-year reunion is being planned. For more information, call Barbara or Warner at (248) 435-4351 or e-mail wiseppe@wideopenwest.com.
Class of 1975
A 30-year reunion is planned for July 9, 2005, at San Marino Club in Troy. For more information, visit www.clawson1975.com or contact Bev Serre-Raine at (248) 689-3381.

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Accents

Festival moves

The Festival of Trees is moving again. This time, it will move to the new Novi Expo Center this year. The move helps the festival increase its usable space from 10,000 square feet to 70,000 square feet.

Now in its 21st year, festival officials have set goals of \$1 million for Children's Hospital of Michigan and increasing attendance to 100,000. The festival's relocation was announced April 26 at Children's Hospital.

The new Novi Expo Center is located west of the old facility and is under construction at 46100 Grand River in Novi, between Beck and Novi roads.

The festival will commence Nov. 25 with the Black Tie Gala and will be open to the general public beginning Nov. 26 through Dec. 4.

Electrical safety

New educational tools can make learning about electrical safety fun for children, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

ESFI has released a Spanish version of its popular *Mr. Plug Fun Book*, designed to help teachers and parents explain electrical safety to children.

ESFI is also joining with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), which will launch Web-based electrical safety lesson plans in conjunction with its Risk Watch® program.

"As our reliance on electricity grows, the potential for misuse of home appliances, computers and entertainment equipment means that the need for electrical safety awareness is far more important," said Michael G. Clendenin, ESFI executive director.

The Risk Watch electrical lesson plans, for pre-K/Kindergarten through eighth grade, will teach youngsters of all ages to be safe around electricity. The lessons can be found on the Risk Watch Web site, www.riskwatch.org.

Risk Watch: Unintentional Injuries is the first comprehensive injury prevention program designed for use in classrooms.

Linking teachers with community safety experts and parents, Risk Watch effectively teaches youngsters and their families the skills and knowledge they need to be safe from the areas they're at greatest risk to unintentional injuries.

ESFI's *Mr. Plug Fun Book* includes coloring activities and puzzles to increase public safety awareness for children.

Available in English and Spanish, one version of the *Mr. Plug Fun Book* is for pre-kindergarten children, and another for children in kindergarten through the third grade.

ESFI's *Mr. Plug Fun Book* is available for downloading free of charge from the ESFI Library on ESFI's Web site, www.electrical-safety.org.

Print copies can also be ordered through the Web site.

Visit the site, or call ESFI at (703) 841-3329 for more information on electrical safety.

Goodbye to Garden Spot

Garden columnist retiring

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

For 18 years, Marty Figley has written about topics that cover the gamut of gardening - from delicate flowers to lush landscapes - in her column and articles for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*.

She has spoken about gardening to a wide range of groups, volunteered her time on community projects and donated books to organizations.

And she started a sunflower contest for the *Observer & Eccentric* that involved her traveling almost the full length of the joint Oakland and Wayne county area to measure super-sized entries every year.

But the root of her columns and activities has been people as well as plants.

"People. No question about that," Figley immediately replied when asked what she has enjoyed most about writing her column. "They were so willing to share what they did and how they did it. And the sunflower contest was fun."

Figley's last Garden Spot column will appear next Thursday. She is retiring to "travel, rest and play," she said.

"I tried in every column to show some way to have an idea or that (readers) would learn something," said Figley, a Birmingham resident and a member of the Garden Writers Association.

Just two of the many innovative ideas she came across were a woman who had filled in her swimming pool to make a garden, and a woman who set up Victorian-style rooms in her gardens.

ENERGETIC

Through her writing and myriad activities, Figley has cultivated fans, sources and friends.

"She had so many contacts and friendships. She was well-liked," said Corinne Abatt, former editor of the *Eccentric's* Creative Living section, which later became *At Home*.

"She established a personal network of gardeners. She was everywhere."

"She has been so active," said Carol Lenchek, Oakland County Michigan State University extension educator.

"Through her writing she has been a real ardent supporter of the master gardener program and the Plant a Row for the Hungry program."

In Plant a Row for the Hungry, surplus garden produce is donated to local food banks, soup kitchens and service organizations.

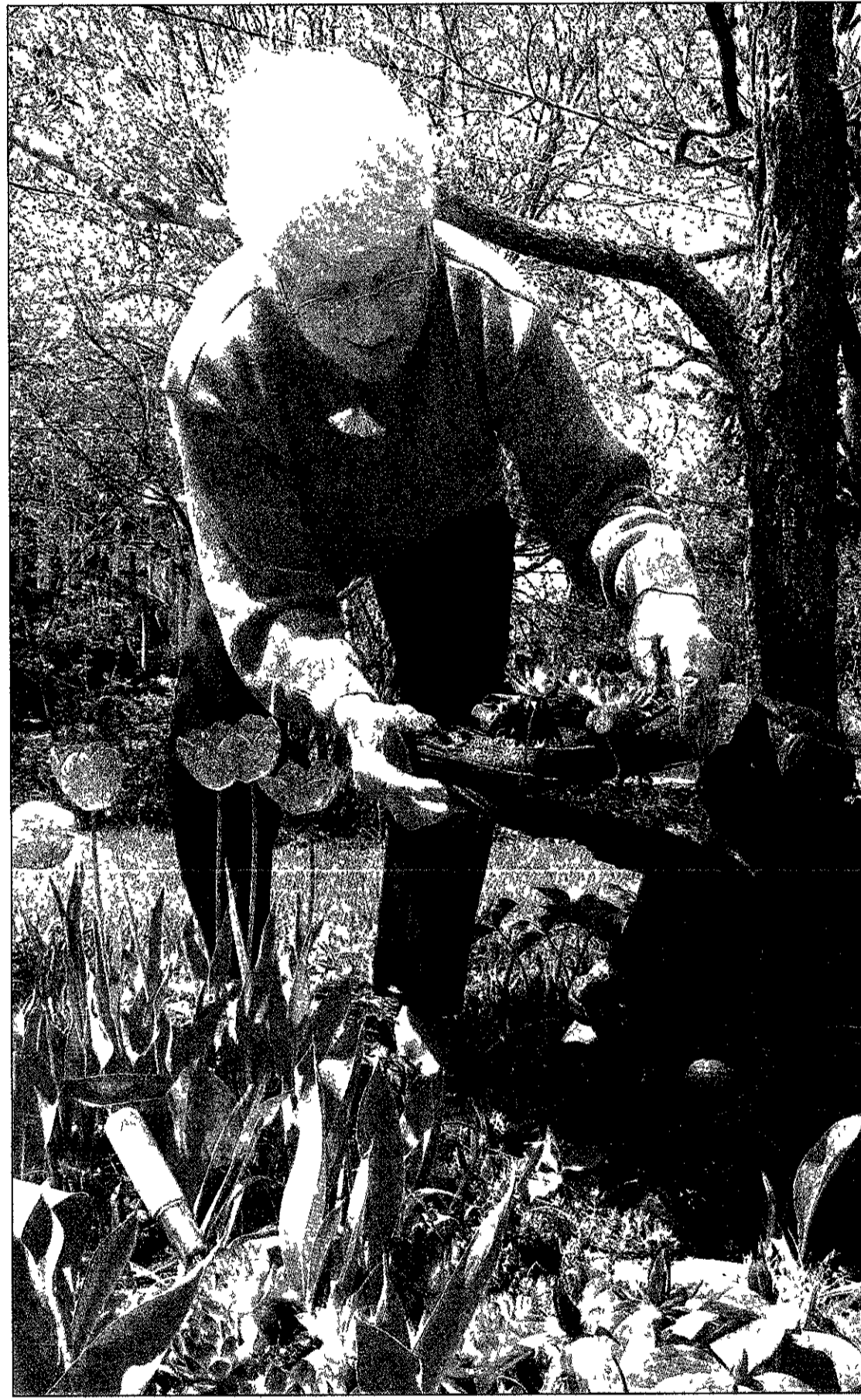
The Michigan Master Gardener Program is offered by Michigan State University Extension.

Participants attend classes to learn basic horticultural principles and environmentally sound gardening practices, then provide a minimum of 40 hours of volunteer service to their community.

Figley has worked on projects at The Community House and Hunter House in Birmingham, and the Cranbrook



Garden writer Marty Figley sits among a few of her flowers at her Birmingham home. Figley is retiring from writing her Garden Spot column.



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PLEASE SEE **RETIRING, B4** Marty Figley used an old shoe as a planter in one of her backyard gardens.

Home has rooms with views - both on the inside and out

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

Incredible - with its magnificent views and such elegant furnishings as chandeliers in the kitchen. Individual - with custom pieces and personal collections on display. Inviting - with its attractive arrangements of furniture and decor.

Those are just three of the adjectives that apply to a 7,500-square foot quadlevel residence in Bloomfield Hills, one of six distinctive homes on House Tour 2005, presented by Temple Israel Sisterhood (see related item).

The decor of the home is a tour de force by interior designer Gloria Colton. "I really love every single room," said Colton, who has been a designer at Gorman's Gallery for more than 25

years.

Many features about this 1950s quadlevel could generate applause, including the renovation by builder/architect Ben Heller of Morgan, Heller.

The work, which took more than two years, involved demolishing 75 percent of the house, raising the roof, building an addition and converting rooms.

Dramatic entrances - and exits - are in just about every room.

The furnishings are a beautiful blend of new and old, including heirlooms and furniture pieces from former homes.

Among the many collections on display are teapots, pitchers, vases, canes and antique pillboxes. The eclectic decor

PLEASE SEE **VIEWS, B2**

Finding tech support requires savvy searching

There comes a time in every computer user's life when you just want to throw the machine off the nearest pier, waiting only long enough to hear a satisfying splash before dusting off your hands and marching proudly away.

I call this the "Windows effect." It usually occurs when something isn't working. Or has stopped working. Or doesn't work logically.

Take my media-center PC (please!), which a few weeks ago refused to burn any more TV shows to DVD. One day it worked fine; the next, error messages.

You've no doubt experienced similar glitches. Maddening, aren't they? The worst part is trying to find help. Unless you're specifically having a hardware problem (like a clicking hard drive or busted monitor), there's no point in calling your computer manufacturer.



Tech Savvy

Rick Broida

And you can't call Microsoft, despite the fact that a significant portion of computer problems derive from Windows.

Fear not, gentle reader. I'm here to help you get help.

Let's start with your Web browser, which is key to this equation. Has it been acting flaky lately? Are you seeing strange toolbars? An unusual home

PLEASE SEE **SUPPORT, B2**

SUPPORT

FROM PAGE B1
page?

You've got spyware, and it's probably causing a host of other computer problems as well. You need to download and run two utilities: Ad-Aware SE Personal (www.lava-softusa.com) and Windows AntiSpyware (www.microsoft.com). They're both free, and, used together, they should rid your system of most spyware infections.

At the same time, nab the Firefox browser (www.mozilla.org), which is virtually invulnerable to spyware.

With a working browser, you can leverage the Web to find solutions to all kinds of problems.

I often start with Microsoft's Knowledge Base (support.microsoft.com), a huge repository of helpful information on Windows, Word, Internet Explorer, and other Microsoft products.

But the real secret to finding help? Discussion forums, also known as message boards.

For example, my favorite video-editing application, Pinnacle Studio 9, is rife with bugs. Rather than trying to describe a specific problem to an e-mail tech (who will invariably send me a useless, boilerplate response), I peruse the company's message boards. More often than not, I'll find that someone else has posted the same problem. And frequently, I'll find a solution as well.

If not, I can always post a new message asking for help.

With a working browser, you can leverage the Web to find solutions to all kinds of problems.

(Note: You usually have to register with a site before you can post messages.) In most cases, a helpful user or two will respond with some suggestions.

The moral: If you're having a problem with a specific program or product, check the company's Web site for forums. If it doesn't have any, you may be able to find related discussions elsewhere.

Take Musicmatch (please!), the popular, painfully buggy music manager.

The company has no forums of its own, but a Google search revealed several Musicmatch discussion sites.

Finally, bookmark these general-interest help sites:

Bleeping Computer (www.bleepingcomputer.com), Suggest A Fix (www.suggestafix.com), and Tech Support Guy (forums.techguy.org).

Rick Broida writes about computers and technology for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Broida, of Commerce Township, is the co-author of numerous books, including How to Do Everything with Musicmatch and 101 Killer Apps for Your Palm Handheld. He welcomes questions sent to rick.broida@gmail.com

VIEWS

FROM PAGE B1

features Art Deco throughout.

Also found throughout the home is the color green – a favorite of one of the residents – and such details as that in the kitchen cabinetry molding.

ON VIEW

The house sits on more than 2½ acres of wooded property, views of which can be seen from inside.

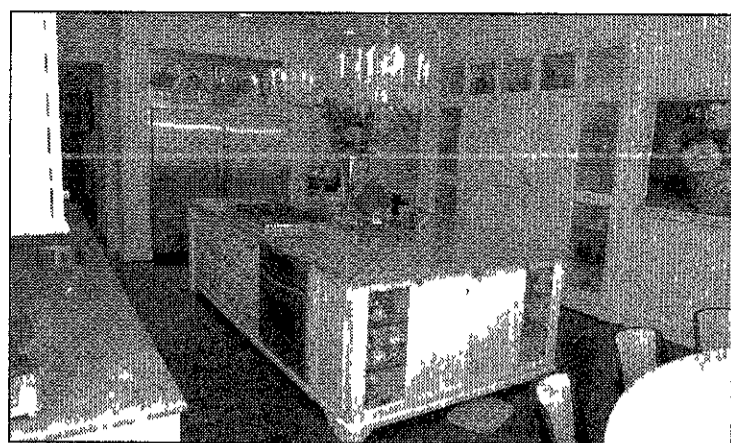
The family/great room offers a breathtaking view, inside and out. Three-fourths of this room was added on to the original space. Glass sliding divider doors were moved to a lower level suite.

Cream and yellow chairs and sofas, soft and plush, are arranged in the room, along with a baby grand piano that belonged to a resident's father, an Art Deco game table, a granite bar and a coffee table that holds collections of tortoise-shell and mother-of-pearl items.

Colton added a glass top to the table to make it more in proportion to the size of the spacious room.

As a touch of whimsy, a figurative sculpture (*Lady* by Alex Katz) sometimes is placed at the piano. A plank canvas art work by Gene Davis is over the bar.

The size of the kitchen was doubled. It features two crystal chandeliers over the 10-foot island. Granite countertops are a shade called Coastal Green. An "appliance garage" is off to one side.



LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Renovation work at the house included doubling the size of the kitchen. Crystal chandeliers are over the 10-foot island.

A custom-made table surrounded by French 1930s Art Deco antique chairs – obtained through Judy Frankel of Troy – is in the breakfast nook.

CONVERTED ROOMS

What was previously the living room is now the dining room, with a 1940s chandelier and 1930s buffet (both French), a Brazilian cherry wood floor, sconces converted from lamps, and an Art Deco table in Macassar ebony. A large Art Deco mirror from Los Angeles is over the original onyx fireplace.

Austrian shades are at the windows, which have a diamond pattern with beveled glass. A parson's table that was the first piece of furniture owned by a resident stands in the window nook.

Original Saarinen leaded glass doors lead to the library, which had been the dining room. The residents added a "see through" fireplace, surrounding it with Pewabic tiles. The library, with an acanthus leaf pattern on the carpet and faux painting on the walls, also contains 1940s Venetian glass lamps and a collection of tor-

toise-shell pieces.

The 10-foot front door is mahogany with beveled glass inserts.

The ceiling was raised in the foyer, which has a stained Brazilian cherry wood floor, and a handmade bronze and wrought-iron rail at a stairway. A candlestick collection stands along the rail.

At hand is a powder room, cool sophistication with a marble floor featuring a mosaic and steel pattern, and a softly shimmering, metallic-like wall covering. The shape of the marble pedestal sink is repeated in the ceiling overhead.

A niche with a silver border and mirrored back holds a Lalique collection on glass shelves. Also in the room are Art Deco relief pictures, and a blue Eglomise mirror.

Upstairs, four original bedrooms were made into a master suite. Furnishings in the blue room feature antique French hardware, and a dresser that is the color of pewter. A flowing design adorns sides of the bed frame.

ANNUAL TOUR

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HOUSE TOUR 2005

Presented by Temple Israel Sisterhood

■ What: A tour of six distinctive homes in Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Ferndale and Huntington Woods. Proceeds benefit community projects of the temple, including hospice and camp.

■ When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, June 1.

■ Tickets: Advance sale, \$25; tour day, \$30.

To order by mail, make check(s) payable to Temple Israel Sisterhood and mail with reservation form by Wednesday, May 18, to: Barbara Ben, 4234 Barn Meadow, West Bloomfield 48323.

After May 18, call Barbara Ben at (248) 855-9792 or Beverly Fine at (248) 661-6740 for tickets.

Tickets are also available at the Temple Israel Office. Call (248) 661-5700.

an assortment of residences. Some are the homes of families. Other owners have grown children.

"(The houses) must be architecturally unique," said event co-chair Elissa Kline. "We like to have variety."

"You want one that has interesting collections, maybe a story about it," said Laurie Blinder, vice-president of Ways & Means of the sisterhood.



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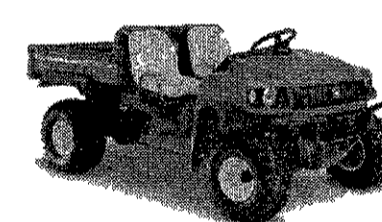


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What can you do? These tips will help stop our lakes from turning green and keep some green in your pocket.

- Sweep fertilizer off of driveways and sidewalks and back onto your lawn
- Recycle grass clippings by leaving them on your lawn
- Use fertilizer with no or low phosphorus.
- Select a slow-release fertilizer where at least half of the nitrogen is water insoluble (check the label)

Keep the green where it belongs.



A partnership of the Wayne County Department of Environment, Rouge Watershed Committee and agencies: the Friends of the Rouge, USEPA and MDEQ. Want more information? Call us at (888) 223-2363.

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RETIRING

FROM PAGE B1

Greenhouse in Bloomfield Hills, among others.

"She has helped make Oakland County in southeast Michigan a better place to live," Lenchek said.

"She is a powerhouse... She's a dynamo."

"She's a neat lady," said Fran Knorr, greenhouse committee chairman of Cranbrook House and Gardens Auxiliary.

"Enthusiastic, very creative. She has a lot of energy." The auxiliary presented Figley with its Life Achievement Award in 1997.

The highest award the greenhouse bestows, it has been received by only 21 people in the program's 30 years, said immediate past-president Judy Lindstrom, auxiliary program committee chairman.

"Marty's a delight," Lindstrom said. "She is always full of information. She has a wonderful, generous spirit."

GETTING STARTED

Alice Burlingame was Figley's predecessor, writing the Down to Earth column for the Creative Living section. Figley met her when she asked Burlingame to speak before her garden group.

"We just hit it off," Figley said. "There was no question that we were going to be friends."

A year and a half later, Burlingame introduced Figley to Abatt.

"Alice said 'Here is the person who will take over the garden column,'" Abatt said.

When Burlingame retired soon after that, Figley continued the Down to Earth column. She had never written professionally before.

"I never wrote anything but a letter," Figley said.

"I couldn't replace her, she was irreplaceable. I took over (the column)."

"She taught me a lot. I call her my mentor."

Figley's first column, in June 1987, was about Hughes Gardens at 10 Mile and Lahser in Southfield.

Her vast variety of writings since then includes a column about a hosta farm in Chesterland, Ohio. Figley won an award from the Perennial Plant Association for the column.

Figley helped her father put in a garden every year when she was growing up in Ohio. The family had a grape arbor, and Figley's mother raised lilacs.

Figley didn't start gardening until she joined the Southern

Michigan Unit of the Herb Society of America.

Her first garden was an herb garden in the back yard of the house in Birmingham where she and her husband, Lew, live. She took horticulture courses at Oakland Community College.

The Figley residence features deck and side gardens that include hellebores, clematis, peonies, white and red trillium, jack-in-the-pulpit, primroses, hen and chicks, tarda tulips, iris, scilla, crocus, thornless blackberry, vinca, cotoneaster, sweet woodruff, white bleeding heart, pulmonaria with blue and pink flowers, white lilac, hostas, Japanese painted fern, and yellow and white daffodils arranged in ribbon patterns.

A majestic evergreen in the back yard started as a gift from Abatt; it was a seedling in a cup when she gave it to Figley.

Among the herbs are wild ginger, tarragon and chives.

"I love the hellebores. They're just catching on. They come in many colors," Figley said.

Her advice? "Become a master gardener. Get involved with Plant a Row for the Hungry."

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GARDEN CALENDAR

Plant sharing

The Livonia Garden Club is sponsoring a Plant Sharing that will take place, rain or shine, 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 14, at Greenmead, Newburgh and Eight Mile in Livonia City (734) 425-6880 or (248) 486-9676 for information.

Poetry in the park

Poetry in the Park: Experiencing Nature Through the Power of Words is scheduled 2-4 p.m. Sunday, May 15, at the Valley Woods Nature Preserve in Southfield.

The nature preserve is at 10-1/2 Mile and Telegraph, along the Rouge River trail.

Creative writing instructor Cindy Frenkel will read nature poetry as the nature preserve and Rouge River landscape unfolds. Easy walking; bring a blanket or stool for sitting.

Advance registration is required. Call Karen Bever at the Southeast Oakland County Water Authority, (248) 288-5150, or e-mail LFDean@aol.com.

The event is sponsored by the Rouge Green Corridor Work Group in cooperation with the City of Southfield.

Herb study group

The Friends of the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum Herb Study Group will meet Monday, May 16, in the auditorium at the Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road in Ann Arbor.

Lunch will be at noon and the meeting will begin at 1 p.m. Mary Light, local herbalist and naturopath, will discuss pet health.

The public may attend. Admission is free.

For more information, call the Gardens at (734) 998-7061, or contact

Joan Wysocki at (248) 349-5310 or jdwysocik@aol.com.

Container gardening

Join Sue Grubba, advanced master gardener and landscape designer, for an insightful demonstration on the many aspects of container gardening in a class offered through Rochester Schools Community Education and Enrichment.

The class will take place Saturday, May 21, at Shades of Green Nursery, 496 E. Avon. Fee is \$15. Call (248) 726-3165 or visit www.rochester.k12.mi.us for registration and other information.

Containers, soils, plant material and planting will be discussed. As a special bonus, Shades of Green will raffish off a completed container to a lucky student.

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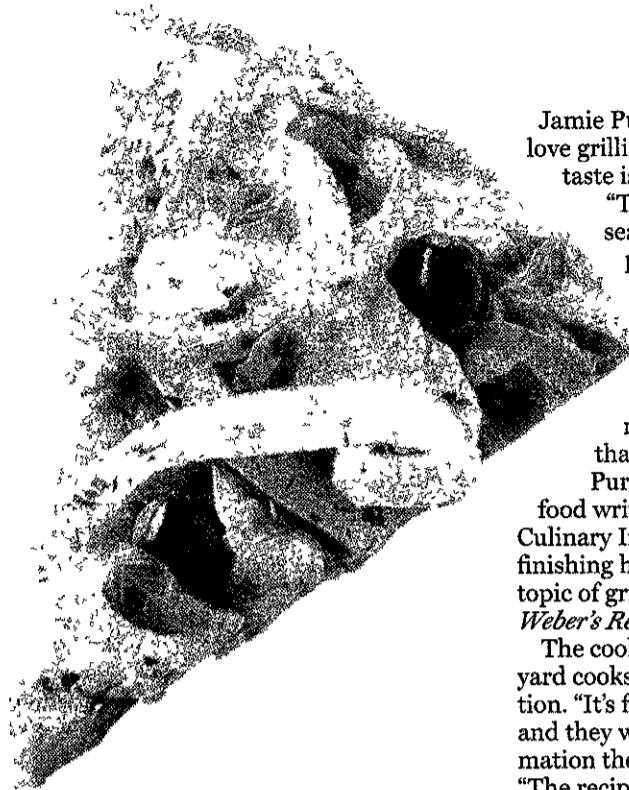
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BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Jamie Purviance believes Americans love grilling, because, he says, "the taste is paramount."

"The fact that the food is seared directly on a hot grill produces incredible caramelization," Purviance said. "You've got juices or fat from the meat with the smoke that is definitely a distinguished element, and people respond to that."

Purviance should know - he's a food writer and a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, recently finishing his third cookbook on the topic of grilling for Weber, entitled *Weber's Real Grilling*.

The cookbook was written for backyard cooks who need basic information. "It's for people who love grilling and they want the most concise information they can get," Purviance said. "The recipes are easy, exciting and delicious."

"There's a lot of step-by-step information. It's like a road map and you can use the book to see where you're going."

The book offers basics on trussing a chicken, which woods to use on particular foods, when to use direct or indirect heat, and what temperatures constitute high, medium and low.

MORE COOKING TIPS

Purviance said the new book is the most helpful to cooks of the three he wrote for Weber. The first two were *Weber's Art of the Grill* and *Weber's Big Book of Grilling*, the latter he co-authored with Sandra S. MacRae.

Purviance said this book was easier to write than the first two. "After I graduated from cooking school in 1992, I could make any recipe I could read, but could not make recipes on my own," Purviance said. "It was kind of like a musician who could read music, but couldn't compose."

"The first book was harder. It had to be an original, but the further along I got, and you do it more and more, you realize how flexible you can be."

"It gets easier as you go. It's like jazz and you play all the riffs you like."

How does one of Purviance's recipes get into the cookbook? "I have a team of recipe testers and they grade the recipes," he said. "If it scores at a B or

PLEASE SEE GRILL, B7

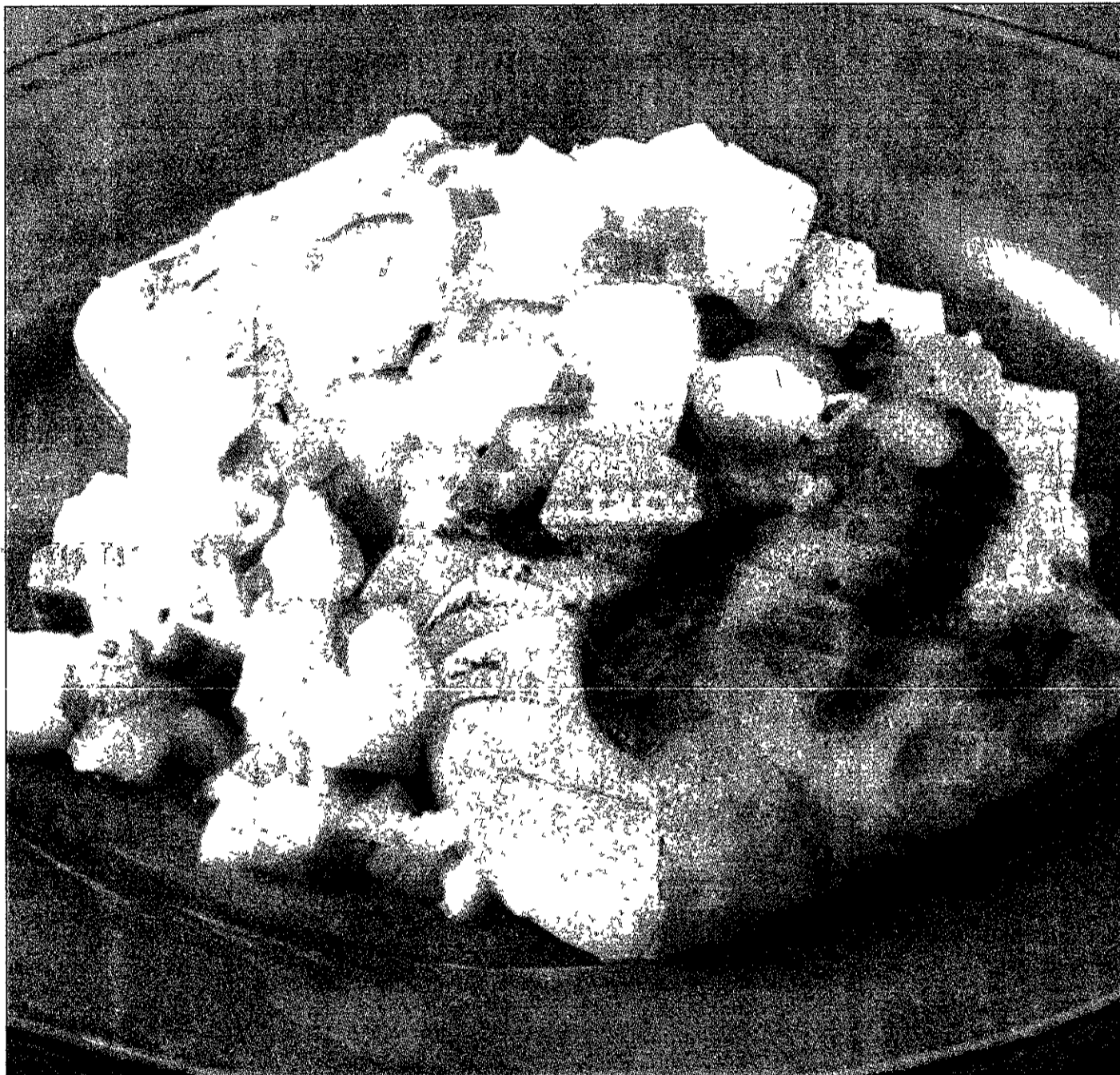
You'll be cooking with gas (or charcoal) with Weber's latest grilling cookbook

DIRECT OR INDIRECT?

"Direct heat means the fire is directly below the food. This arrangement works well for grilling thin, tender foods such as hamburgers, boneless chicken breasts, fish fillets, and sliced vegetables. These foods develop golden brown and delicious surfaces in the same amount of time that it takes to cook their centers just right. Generally speaking, it is best to use direct heat for foods that need less than 20 minutes of grilling time."

"Indirect heat means the fire is off to one side of the grill, or better yet, on opposite sides of the grill, and the food is cooked over the unit part. Large foods such as turkeys, prime rib, and pork shoulders do well in this arrangement, because the indirect heat cooks them evenly from all sides, allowing their centers to cook just right before their surfaces are overdone. Generally speaking, it is best to use indirect heat for foods that need more than 20 minutes of grilling time."

- Jamie Purviance in *Weber's Real Grilling*



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WEBER'S REAL GRILLING

Grilled Jamaican-style halibut is topped with tropical salsa.

JAMAICAN HALIBUT WITH TROPICAL SALSA

Marinade:

- 1 cup fresh orange juice
- 1/2 cup Jamaican dark rum
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- 1 tablespoon freshly grated ginger
- 1 tablespoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper

- 4 halibut fillets, about 6 ounces each and 1 inch thick

Salsa:

- 1 cup finely diced ripe pineapple
- 1/2 cup finely diced ripe banana
- 1/2 cup finely diced cucumber
- 1-1/2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- 1 tablespoon minced red bell pepper
- 4 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1/2 teaspoon dark sesame oil
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon Tabasco sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- vegetable oil

To make the marinade: In a medium bowl, whisk the marinade ingredients. Add the fillets and turn to coat them evenly. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate

for one hour, turning once or twice.

To make the salsa: In a medium bowl, combine the salsa ingredients.

Remove the halibut from the bowl, pat dry with paper towels, and discard the marinade. Brush or spray both sides with oil.

Grill over direct high heat until the halibut just begins to flake when you poke it with the tip of a knife, six to eight minutes, turning once. Serve warm with the salsa. Makes four servings.

Recipes reprinted from *Weber's Real Grilling* by Jamie Purviance, \$24.95. More recipes, B7.

Enjoy pinot noir other than Sideways!

The film *Sideways* impacted interest in pinot noir more than those who first saw the film could ever imagine.

In the film, Miles (Paul Giamatti) and fellow wine lover Maya (Virginia Madsen) use what the uninitiated might call "geek speak" to discuss their fascination with pinot noir, while Jack (Thomas Haden Church) simply wants to pound down anything in a wine glass.

The best pinots jump with bright cherry fruit and often have notes of raspberries and ripe plums. Spice hints are created by judicious aging in French oak. A silky texture and an elegant lin-

gering finish are hallmarks of the best stuff.

PINOT NOIR AND FOOD

What's not brought to the fore in *Sideways* is pinot noir's versatility with food. It's not just a sipping wine as Miles and Maya seem to imply. Pinot noir bridges white to red meats, poultry and chicken to seafood, especially salmon.

It is sufficiently versatile to double as a casual wine - matching well with lightly grilled sausages or roast chicken. With pinot noir, there's no

butting heads with tannins. The wines are incredibly mellow and fruity. Saucing with them is a delight. Pan steam or pan sauté an inch-thick salmon steak. Create an ideal match with a sauce prepared from shallots,



Focus on Wine

Ray and Eleanor Heald

thyme, chicken broth, Dijon mustard and some of the pinot you plan to serve with the dish. Reduce this mixture over high heat, add some cream, then emulsify by whipping in a tablespoon of butter. Pour the sauce (see recipe below) over a cooked salmon steak or salmon fillet.

This sauce also works well with pinot noir and grilled pork tenderloin.

MORE MATCHES

Pinot noir also pairs well with veal

PLEASE SEE HEALDS, B6

OCC culinary students receive awards

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

A hot foods team and five other students in Oakland Community College's Culinary Studies Institute received awards at two separate competitions in April.

The five-member hot foods team took a second place at an American Culinary Federation Central Regional championship in Mt. Pleasant April 22. Team members were Asa Schwartz of Birmingham, Zachary Klein of Farmington, Lisa DeBastos of Berkley, Tammy Gauthier of Commerce and Joshua Martin of Dearborn. The team was coached by instructor and certified executive chef Kevin Enright and OCC graduates Andrew Sayes of Berkley and Taria Hanna of Farmington.

The students created a first course of Amalfi striped bass with acini de pépe salad with fennel slaw, leek sauce and fava beans, and a second course with Pellichero Salad with pesto ricotta tart, baby artichoke and cucumber tomato salad and arranged greens with red wine vinaigrette. The main course was a Valle d'Aosta Chicken, a breast stuffed with a capicola, fontina, mousseline, chicken thigh ragout in a zucchini parcel, a glazed chicken wing with black mission fig pudding, and a tourne rutabaga with broccolini, vino rosso sauce. Dessert was a Sicilian Pistachio Chiboust, a warm chocolate cake with zabaglione, caramelized tangerines, tangerine sorbet and raspberry sauce.

Five other students (Sarah Rougeau of Southfield, Danielle Monforton of Redford, Mike Mizell of Troy, Lia Mercurio of Warren and Brad Sova of Auburn Hills) received silver medals for dishes they created for a Sysco Cold Foods competition at the Novi Expo Center on April 19. That team was coached by certified executive chef Doug Ganhs. Instructor and chef Roger Holden won a bronze medal for his sugar piece in the professional category.

At Mt. Pleasant, the hot food team scored 36.21 points out of 40 in the Central region, which consisted of teams from the states of Missouri, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Louisiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, Texas, Indiana and Michigan.

Teams must complete a four-course menu, butcher a chicken and fish, and make several different cuts, such as a tomato concasse and a torne of a rutabaga, Enright said.

The students were well-prepared this year, Enright said. "In the beginning, they don't like it, but in the end, they are better cooks. They work together as professionals, and it was a super job. They were excellent."

HEADS

FROM PAGE B5

chops, mushroom risotto or grilled game hens. Any recipe with the seasoning affinities of dried cherries, star anise or roasted fennel works well.

Fontina, Camembert and aged Gouda make terrific cheese pairings.

A stellar match for bigger styles of pinot noir is lamb. Some wine connoisseurs put cabernet sauvignon with lamb because flavors are tied to the fat content. But when we prepare lamb, we strip the fat away. Then it pairs best with pinot and it's much healthier eating!

Grill some lean lamb chops and bring on the pinots! Accompany with a generous salad of spring greens and creamy lemony vinaigrette and crisp-tender green beans, tossed with extra virgin olive oil and a basil chiffonade topped with a sprinkling of sea salt.

SIMPLE PINOT NOIR SAUCE

This sauce creates the bridge between salmon, pork tenderloin or even beef tenderloin and a pinot noir.

- 1 tablespoon olive oil (not Extra Virgin)
 - 2 minced shallots
 - 2 cups pinot noir
 - 2 cups defatted chicken broth
 - 1 tablespoon dried thyme or 2 tablespoons minced fresh thyme
 - 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
 - 1/2 teaspoon cornstarch mixed with 1/2 teaspoon water
 - 2 tablespoons heavy cream (optional)
 - 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
 - Salt and pepper to taste
- In a medium skillet, heat the olive oil. Add shallots and saute for 3 minutes. Add wine and reduce volume by half.
- Add chicken broth, thyme, mustard and cornstarch mixture. Reduce until sauce coats the back of a wooden spoon.
- Add cream (optional) and whisk in butter. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Keep warm until ready to serve. Makes enough sauce for six main course servings.

The **Heads** are contributing editors for the internationally-respected Quarterly Review of Wines and Troy residents who write about wine, spirits, and restaurants for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@aol.com

WINE PICKS

The following **Pinot Noirs** in various categories topped our recent tasting.

Pick of the Pack: 2003 Sebastiani Sonoma Coast, \$15, a real deal, second consistent vintage at this value price. It has been selling fast!

Value runners up: 2002 Anapamu Monterey County, \$16; 2003 Meridian Vineyards Central Coast, \$11; 2003 Mirassou Monterey County, \$11; 2003 Avila San Luis Obispo, \$13; and 2002 Farallon Central Coast, \$8.

\$20 and over from California: 2002 Gary Farrell Russian River Cuvee, \$34; 2003 Drew Santa Rita Hills Gatekeepers, 2002 David Bruce Sonoma Coast David & Goliath, \$27; 2003 Frei Brothers Reserve Russian River Valley, \$24 (nice touch of oak); 2003 Clos du Bois Sonoma County Reserve, \$22; and 2003 MacMurray Ranch Sonoma Coast, \$20.

Great Pours from Archery Summit Oregon: 2002 Premier Cuvee, \$37; 2002 Red Hills Estate, \$75; 2002 Arcus Estate, \$75; and 2002 Archery Summit Estate, \$150.

Others from Oregon: 2003 Patricia Green Estate Old Vine Yamhill, \$38, and Domaine Serene Yamhill Cuvee, \$38. **New Zealand:** 2002 Spy Valley Marlborough, \$29.

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

Salad can be more than just a bowl of lettuce

In the following salad, yogurt and feta cheese supply protein and calcium, rounding out the nutritional profile. This spinach, red bell pepper and feta cheese salad with yogurt dressing is pleasing to the eye, the palate and your health.

SPINACH, RED BELL PEPPER, AND FETA CHEESE SALAD WITH YOGURT DRESSING

- 1/2 cup nonfat plain yogurt
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh dill
- Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1 bag (5 ounces) baby spinach, coarsely chopped (about 4 cups)
- 1 large red bell pepper, diced

- (about 1 cup)
- 1 stalk celery, trimmed and diced (about 1 cup)
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced green onions/scallions
- 1 ounce feta cheese, drained, rinsed and crumbled (about 1/2 cup)

In a small bowl, stir together yogurt, honey, dill and black pepper until blended. In a large serving bowl, toss together spinach, red pepper, celery and green onions. Drizzle dressing over top and lightly toss to coat. Sprinkle with feta and serve. Makes 6 servings.

Per serving: 41 calories, 1 g. total fat (less than 1 g. saturated fat), 6 g. carbohydrates, 2 g. protein, 1 g. dietary fiber, 91 mg. sodium.

Recipe courtesy of the American Institute for Cancer Research.

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, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or e-mail kabramczyk@oe.homecomm.net

Weight Watchers

Chef Tim Cikra conducts cooking demonstrations and tastings with Weight Watchers. During May he will be featuring chicken breast with balsamic vinegar, basil and mushrooms. Cooking demonstrations at all Weight Watchers locations and centers are open to the public. Call 1

(888) 3-FLORINE for further information. Appearances are at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 18 at the Weight Watchers Center at Northwood Shopping Center, 30935 N. Woodward, Royal Oak; 8:30, 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 21 at the center at Millenium Park Center, 28517 Schoolcraft, Livonia; 10, 11 a.m. and noon Wednesday, May 25 at the center at West Ridge Shopping Center, 35699 West Warren in Westland, and 12:15 p.m. Thursday, May 26 at the center at the Northwood Shopping Center, 30935 N. Woodward in Royal Oak.

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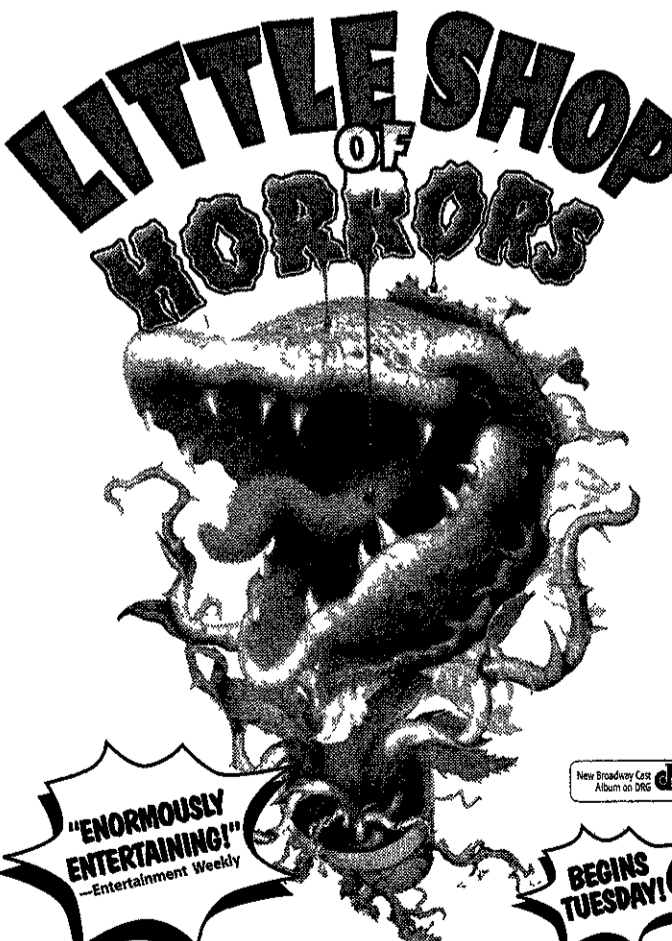
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GRILL

FROM PAGE B5

B-minus, I either revise it or junk it."

Recipes are generally limited in the book to 30 minutes of cooking or less, but food preparation for some may take several hours.

GRILLED PIZZA

Purviance gives instruction on grilling pizza in the book and at an accompanying Weber Web site: realgrilling.com

"The big difference between baked and grilled pizza is the thickness of the dough," Purviance said. "It only cooks on the grill for 6-8 minutes, so it needs to have thin dough." Toppings should not be placed on the pizza until the dough cooks on the grill for 2 minutes, so the toppings and pizza don't sink into the grill's grates.

"The grill should be good and hot over medium heat, and good and clean. Have oil on both sides of the dough. Put the raw dough on parchment paper, carry it to the grill, then flip it over and peel. Cook it for two or three minutes over medium heat. It might puff up a little bit, but it will deflate."

When it comes to recipes, Purviance isn't afraid to experiment.

Purviance likes grilled chicken on pizza with barbecue sauce replacing the tomato sauce, along with vegetables or even pesto with chicken for another variation. Onions, green and red peppers and mushrooms (all grilled) are great pizza toppings, he said.

Purviance likes the beef rub on page 27, good for steak, pork chops, pork tenderloin, chicken breasts and thighs, lamb chops and leg of lamb. The Pacific Rim marinade works quickly because soy sauce is a concentrated ingredient. It works well in chicken and seafood.

He also enjoys cooking with woods. "My favorites are mesquite and hickory, oak or maple," Purviance said. "I use a lot of mesquite in chicken, fish or steaks but you don't want the wood to overpower it, so I may use a mix of mesquite with oak."

While researching this article, I smoked baby back ribs with mesquite and coated them with the cola barbecue sauce on page 160. I tried Purviance's recommendation to cook the ribs over

DON'T GET 'FLIPPANT'

Jamie Purviance believes too many backyard cooks flip food too often, as he describes the story of Innocent Ed in the cookbook.

Purviance describes the grill situation and a cook who has food that sticks to the grill and doesn't sear properly.

Purviance thinks that happens all too often when Weekend Warriors tackle the grill and spend too much time tinkering. "When people fiddle with their food too much, it causes trouble," Purviance said. "They feel like they have to have the top open. The reason that's a problem is it slows down the cooking. The longer it takes, the drier it will be.

"With the top open, the grate will not be hot enough to sear." When the grate isn't hot enough, the food sticks to the grate and you lose some of the food. "You just flip it once or twice, and keep the lid on it as much as possible," he said.

-By Ken Abramczyk

an indirect heat and the wood with his rub on the ribs of kosher salt, freshly ground pepper, chile powder, cumin and garlic powder. (Before I cooked the ribs, I noticed I had temperature problems with the grill, so I installed a new gas regulator on the grill, and heated the grill to 300 degrees.)

I enjoyed the texture and slow, smoky flavor of the mesquite wood in the ribs. They were great. I didn't like the sauce that much that particular day. The sauce included cola, ketchup, extra virgin olive oil, soy sauce,



WEBER'S REAL GRILLING

Jamie Purviance developed these thin-crust pizzas with grilled red onions and black olives for his latest cookbook.

cider vinegar, cumin, granulated garlic and chile powder. It tasted better the following day, but I thought it might be better with fresh garlic. The ribs had an excellent texture, though.

I also used the chicken and seafood rub for another meal on chicken drumsticks. It was just the right blend of onion and garlic powder, kosher salt and fresh pepper, which I topped with a barbecue sauce to create a crispy and delicious Sunday evening dinner.

SCORES OF RECIPES

The book presents more than 500 recipes, all easy to follow with techniques in Grilling 101 to help the barbecuing novice with basic techniques or the old-timer with new recipes.

Purviance has written articles for Bon Appetit, Coastal Living and the Los Angeles Times. He was also food editor of Appellation, a wine magazine.

Purviance grills every day at his home in the San Francisco Bay area. He says his kitchen is comfortable with a Wolf stove, but he loves to cook outside on his seven grills, which he says he uses because he entertains often.

For Purviance, grilling offers a wonderful social event for family and friends. "It's about the experience of being at the grill, by being outside, it's a communal setting by the grill," Purviance said.

1 to 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh Italian parsley

To prepare the dough: In a medium bowl, combine the yeast and sugar with 3/4 cup warm water (105°-115°F). Stir once and let stand until foamy, 5-10 minutes. Add 2-1/2 cups of the flour, 3 tablespoons of olive oil, and the salt. Stir until the dough holds together. Transfer to a lightly floured work surface and knead until smooth, four-six minutes. Shape into a ball and place in a lightly oiled bowl. Turn the ball to cover the surface with oil. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and set aside in a warm place until the dough doubles in size, 1 to 1-1/2 hours.

To make the sauce: In a medium saucepan over medium-high heat, warm the olive oil. Add the onions and cook until soft, about five minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the garlic and oregano, and cook until the garlic is light brown, about one minute, stirring occasionally. Add the tomatoes, including the juice. Use the back of a large spoon to crush the tomatoes. Season with the sugar, salt, and pepper. Bring the sauce to a boil, and then lower the heat to a simmer. Cook until you have two cups of sauce, 40-45 minutes, stirring occasionally. Let cool slightly and then purée in a food processor or blender. Allow to cool.

Brush or spray the onion slices with oil. Grill over direct medium heat until well-marked, 10-12 minutes, turning once. Cut each slice in half.

Punch down the dough in the bowl. Transfer to a lightly floured surface and cut into four equal pieces. Cut parchment paper into 9-inch squares and lightly oil each sheet of paper on one side. Roll or press the dough flat on the oiled side of the paper into circles about eight inches in diameter, leaving the dough a little thicker at the edge than in the middle. Then lightly oil the top side of the dough. Lay the dough on the grate, with the paper side facing up. Grab one corner of the paper with tongs and peel it off. Grill over direct medium heat until they are marked on the underside, two-three minutes, rotating the crusts occasionally for even cooking. Don't worry if the crusts bubble; they will deflate when turned over. Transfer the crusts from the cooking grate to the back of a baking sheet, with the grilled sides facing up.

Spread about 1/2 cup of the sauce across each pizza crust, leaving a 1/2-inch border around the edges. Arrange the onions and olives over the sauce. Sprinkle the cheese on top. Transfer the pizzas from the baking sheet to the cooking grate. Grill until the crusts are crisp and the cheese is melted, four-five minutes, rotating the crusts occasionally for even cooking. Transfer to a cutting board. Garnish with parsley. Cut into wedges. Serve warm. Makes four small pizzas.

THIN-CRUSTED PIZZAS WITH YESTERDAY'S GRILLED CHICKEN

1 four-inch ball ready-made pizza dough
extra virgin olive oil
2 cups good-quality tomato sauce
4 grilled chicken breasts, thinly sliced
1-1/2 to 2 cups thinly sliced grilled bell peppers
1/2 cup sliced black olives
1/2 cup tightly packed fresh basil leaves, torn into small pieces

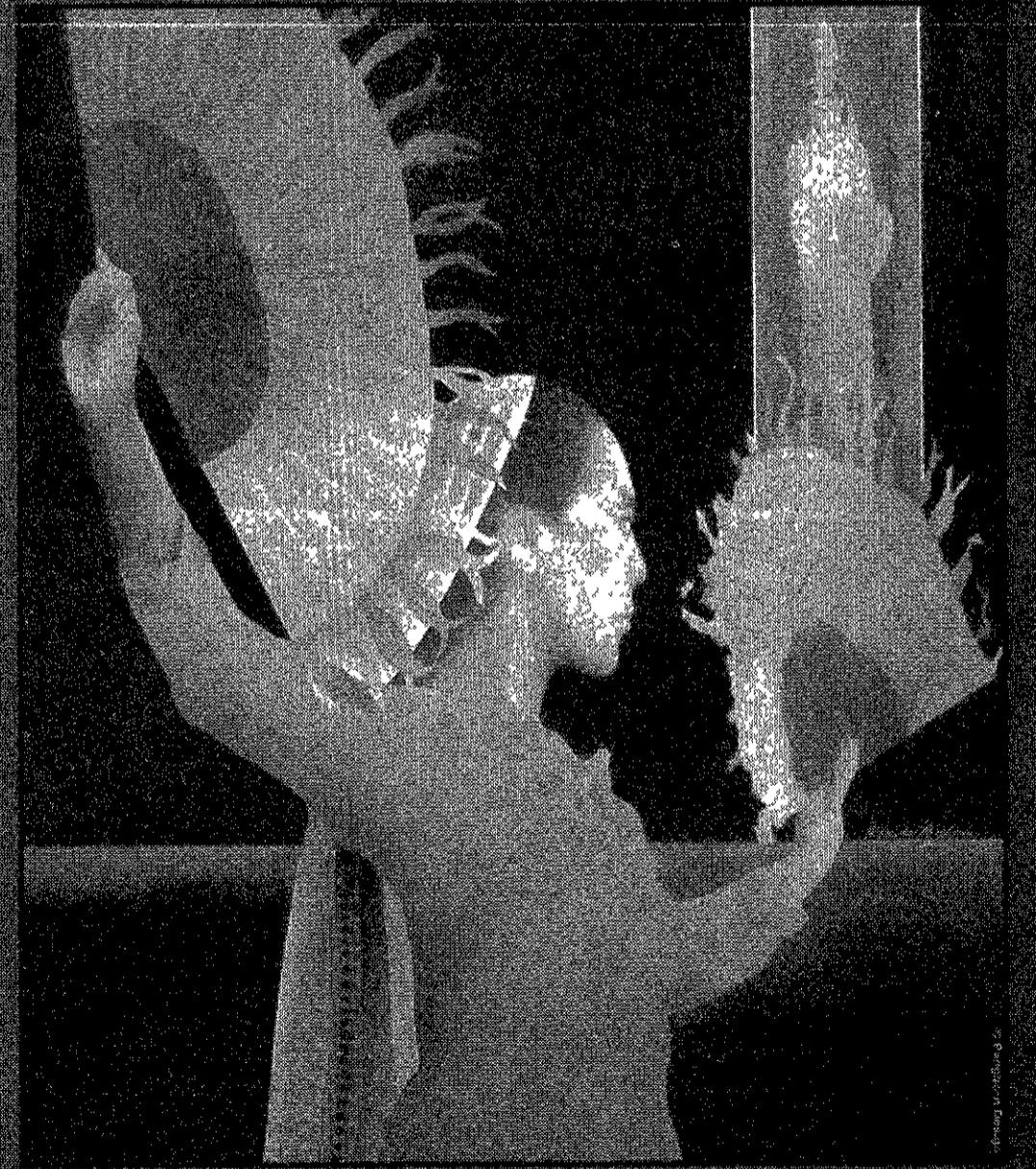
Cut the dough into four equal pieces. Cut parchment paper into 9-inch squares and lightly oil each sheet of paper on one side. Roll or press the dough flat on the oiled side of the paper into circles about 8 inches in diameter, leaving the dough a little thicker at the edge than in the middle. Then lightly oil the top side of the dough. Lay the dough on the grate, with the paper side facing up. Grab one corner of the paper with tongs and peel it off. Grill over direct medium heat until they are marked on the underside, two to three minutes, rotating the crusts from the cooking grate to the back of a baking sheet, with the grilled sides facing up.

Spread about 1/2 cup of the sauce over each crust, leaving a 1/2-inch border around the edges. Arrange the chicken, peppers, olives, and basil over the sauce. Transfer the pizzas from the baking sheet to the cooking grate. Grill until the crusts are crisp and the cheese is melted, four to five minutes, rotating the crusts occasionally for even cooking. Transfer to a cutting board. Cut into wedges. Serve warm. Makes four small pizzas.

Recipes reprinted from Weber's Real Grilling by Jamie Purviance, \$24.95.

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Fix a sandwich with Italian flair

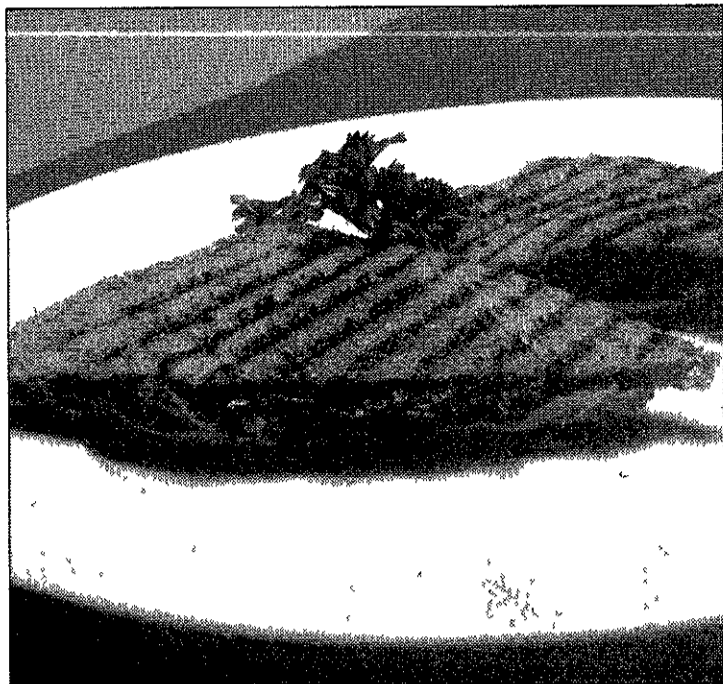
BY DANA JACOBI
CORRESPONDENT

Some food fads seem to come straight from appliance makers determined to clutter up our kitchen counters. Currently, the hot new gadget is the sandwich grill or panini press. Similar to the waffle iron, some versions produce a crisp, thin-toasted sandwich that can be addictive.

Most Italians prefer panini filled with thin slices of mozzarella cheese and tomato, plus fresh basil leaves, though these crustless sandwiches may contain another kind of cheese and grilled vegetables, or a slice of prosciutto. Although sometimes eaten cold, more often the sandwich is brushed lightly with olive oil and heated on a hinged grill. The heavy cover presses the panino while making it crisp and golden on both sides at once.

Italians consider the American grilled cheese sandwich a panino. As with other panini, the secret to its perfection is weighting it down. But this does not necessarily require a special grill. You can just as easily place a heavy, cast iron skillet on top of the sandwich as it cooks, turning the panino once. To make several panini at one time, I use the hinged contact grill so many of us have, though it does not press the sandwiches as firmly as the skillet.

Italians consider panini a snack. Despite what they claim, Europeans do snack. But they do it more wholesomely and modestly than Americans. They go to a coffee bar, for example, to enjoy a savory panino plus a cup of espresso, usually while standing up. Most Americans still snack on fat-laden chips by the handful, along with a sweetened beverage, while doing other things, so preoccupied that the calories we consume barely register on our minds.



Most Italians prefer panini filled with thin slices of mozzarella cheese and tomato, plus fresh basil leaves, though these crustless sandwiches may contain another kind of cheese and grilled vegetables, or a slice of prosciutto.

My favorite panini use whole grain-bread and Swiss cheese, plus roasted vegetables or thin apple slices, a delicious way to consume two servings of whole grain, plus some veggies and fruit.

ITALIAN TOASTED CHEESE SANDWICH

- 2 slices whole-grain bread, crusts removed (if desired)
- Canola cooking spray
- 1 garlic clove, halved lengthwise (optional)
- 1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 slice reduced fat Swiss cheese, such as Jarlsberg Light
- 1/2 cup roasted vegetables, commercially prepared or leftovers

Coat the bread slices lightly with cooking spray on one side. Place the slices, sprayed side down, on a cutting board. Lightly rub top of bread with the cut side of the garlic. Sprinkle oregano over one slice, then top with the cheese, followed by the roasted vegetables. Add the second slice of bread, sprayed side facing up.

Heat a hinged electric grill or, if cooking stove-top, a griddle or a skillet, preferably cast iron, over medium-high heat. Place the sandwich on the cooking surface so that the cheese is closest to the heat. If using an electric grill, close it. If grilling on top of the stove, use a small heavy skillet or pan to weigh down on top of the sandwich.

Grill the sandwich 1 to 1 1/2 minutes, or until the cheese has melted and the bread is well browned on the bottom. Carefully flip the sandwich and grill until brown on the second side, 30 seconds to 1 minute.

Using a serrated knife, cut the sandwich in half diagonally. Serve immediately.

Makes 1 sandwich.

Per serving: 210 calories, 6 g. total fat (3 g. saturated fat), 30 g. carbohydrate, 13 g. protein, 5 g. dietary fiber, 326 mg. sodium.

Dana Jacobi writes for the American Institute for Cancer Research and is the author of *The Joy of Soy*.

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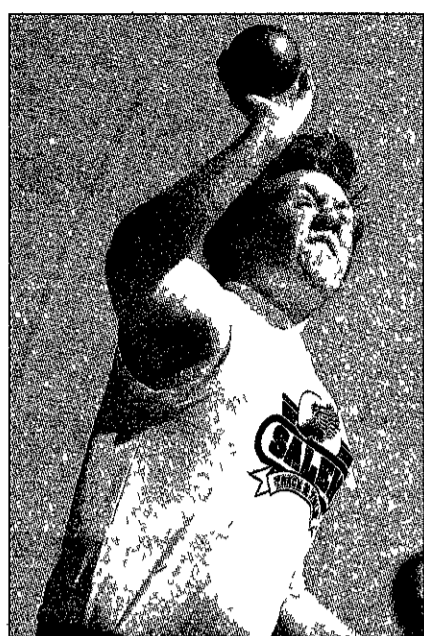
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35th Annual Observerland Relays



Salem senior Jay Pawlowski competes in the shot-put competition at the Observerland Relays on Saturday.



Canton senior Rodney Preston completes the qualifying heat of the 110-meter hurdles at the Observerland Relays at the P-CEP track on Saturday. Preston went on to win the event with a time of 15.16 seconds.

PHOTOS BY JOE FARAOHI

Back on track

For complete results, please see Page C3.

Churchill edges Canton for 1st Observerland title since 1989

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Front-runners in track events know their lead is in peril when they can see their opponents' shadows and hear their footsteps.

At Saturday's 35th Annual Observerland Relays hosted by Salem, defending champion Canton shadowed Livonia Churchill all afternoon and evening, but the Chargers outlasted the Chiefs and third-place Livonia Stevenson to claim their first

Observerland title since 1989.

Churchill placed first in five events to earn 81 points, edging the Chiefs (77) and Spartans (72). The top 10 spots in the 17-team field were filled out by Redford Catholic Central (52), Farmington Harrison (33), Salem (32), Farmington (30), Northville (24), Plymouth (19) and Redford Thurston (18).

"This is a special group of kids," said Churchill

PLEASE SEE OBSERVERLAND, C3

PCJBA founder Van Wagoner dies at 78

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

When John Van Wagoner moved his sports-loving family from Redford Township to Plymouth in 1964, it didn't take him long to fill a gaping hole in the community's athletic landscape.

There was no organized youth basketball league in Plymouth for Van Wagoner's two young sons — Tim and Dave — to play in, so he decided to take action.

What Van Wagoner did was found the Plymouth Canton Junior Basketball Association beginning with the 1964-65 season. The PCJBA served as one of the primary feeder leagues for the Canton and Salem high school basketball programs for close to 40 years.

Van Wagoner, 78, passed away April 19 in Stuart, Fla., his retirement resi-

dence for the past 17 years.

"My brother and I played a lot of basketball when we were young, so when my dad found out there wasn't a youth league in Plymouth, he got some neighbors together in our basement and they started the PCJBA," recalled Dave Van Wagoner, who played basketball at Salem and has coached several local high school and middle school teams. "He sold the idea to the school district and the superintendent, and the league started with four or six teams the first year. Over the years, it has really grown."

"My dad didn't coach in the league, but he was the first president. He did everything from sweep the gym floors to make sure there were referees at every game. He was president for probably nine or 10 years before he turned it over to someone else. He was a huge basketball fan."

Beginning in the mid-70s until two years before his death, John Van Wagoner coordinated annual trips to the NCAA basketball tournament for up to 30 family members and friends, Dave Van Wagoner remembered.

"We'd either go to the regionals or the finals, depending on where they were being played," Dave Van Wagoner said. "Dad would take care of all the details of the trip for everybody. It was always a great time."

"The last NCAA trip he planned for us was two years ago in Orlando. That was kind of his last hurrah."

A memorial service will be held for John Van Wagoner Saturday at 11 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Plymouth. The church is located on North Territorial, just west of Sheldon.

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PREP TENNIS

Salem nets 7-1 victory over Chiefs

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

The Salem boys tennis team manufactured a healthy dose of momentum for Saturday's Western Lakes Activities Association meet by upending cross-campus rival Canton, 7-1, Monday afternoon on the Rocks' courts. The victory improved Salem's overall record to 9-2-1.

"We're playing well heading into the conference meet," said Salem coach Bill Nelson. "Northville is always tough, so they're probably the team to beat, but I'm confident we can do well."

The WLAA meet will be held at three sites: Livonia Churchill, Livonia Stevenson and Livonia Rotary Park.

Chris Treadwell, the Rocks' No. 1 singles player, set the tone for Monday's victory by rallying to edge Canton's Zach Hoernschmeyer, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

"Chris was concerned heading into the match with Zach because Zach had beaten Northville's No. 1 player, who Chris had lost to," Nelson said. "He lost the first set, but then he settled down and took his time more in the final two sets."

Salem went on to sweep all four singles matches as Rob Wallen downed Mike Keeseey, 6-4, 6-4; Lawrence Washington upended Eric Szydlowski, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2; and Pete Bartlett downed Tom Williams, 6-0, 6-1.

The Chiefs' lone point came when their No. 2 doubles tandem of Duke Kapelanski and Greg Warnecke swept Alex Gui and Pawel Kargol, 6-2, 6-1.

Salem's three doubles points came from the duos of Blake Foster and Neil Bakshi at No. 1; Dave Geick and Alex Poe at No. 3; and Cam Loftus and Ross Heidenreich at No. 4.

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Canton blanks Wildcats

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

You couldn't blame Canton goalkeeper Brittany Cervi if she suffered from a mild case of goalie envy during Monday night's game against cross-campus opponent Plymouth.

While her counterpart — Wildcat goalie Brittany Warner — was busy making 13 saves in the Chiefs' 2-0 victory, Cervi barely touched the ball throughout the 80-minute contest.

A stellar effort from the Chiefs' defensive unit stationed in front of the 18-yard box was the primary reason for Cervi's inactivity, said Canton coach George Tomasso.

"Our defense was outstanding tonight," said Tomasso, whose team improved to 8-3-2. "Any time you have these two schools playing against one another, emotions are going to be high, and they were tonight. With all the emotion and passion involved with this game, I never really felt comfortable until the very end when we scored to go up 2-0."

The setback dropped

Plymouth's record to 6-8-2 overall.

"I thought we could have played better," said Plymouth coach John Delplace. "For most of the game, it seemed like we gave about 85 percent effort against a team that you need to give 100 percent effort to beat. I'm disappointed because this was a game the girls have been looking forward to for a long time."

Canton's first goal came eight minutes into the game when Molly Priebe threaded a perfect centering pass to Becci Houdek, who drilled the ball past Warner.

"We've been working on combining on offense all season, and it paid off on that goal," Tomasso said. "They did a nice job all the way around on that one."

Thirty-five seconds later, the Chiefs nearly scored again, but Houdek's header bounced harmlessly off the cross-bar and out of bounds.

During a five-minute stretch late in the second half, Warner made three spectacular saves to keep her team within one goal of

PLEASE SEE SOCCER, C4



Plymouth's Meghan Hill (left) battles Canton's Becci Houdek for possession of the ball during Monday night's Western Lakes Activities Association match on the P-CEP soccer field. Canton won 2-0.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sidelines

Soccer pairings

Brackets for the Division 1, District 6 soccer tournament set for May 31-June 4 at Canton High School were released Tuesday.

The host Chiefs will take on Ann Arbor Pioneer on Tuesday, May 31 at 5 p.m. The winner of that game will play the winner of a first-round match between Wayne Memorial and Livonia Churchill on Thursday, June 2 at 5 p.m.

In the lower-half of the bracket, Salem will square off against Ann Arbor Huron May 31 at 7 p.m. The winner of that contest will take on Westland John Glenn on June 2 at 7 p.m.

The championship game is set for Saturday, June 4 at noon.

Szczepanski lauded

Former Salem pitcher Kelli Szczepanski was named the Most Valuable Player and Rookie of the Year of the Adrian College women's softball team for the 2005 season, coach Molly Moore announced May 3.

Only a freshman, Szczepanski led Adrian in wins (nine), innings pitched (136.2) strike outs (91) and she compiled a stellar 3.49 earned run average.

The Bulldogs finished their season May 2 by sweeping Kalamazoo College in a doubleheader. Szczepanski earned the win in the opening game, yielding just five hits in seven innings while striking out seven.

Salem netters 3rd

The Salem boys tennis team finished third in the eight-team 2005 Woodhaven "Warrior Classic" Invitational Saturday.

The Rocks finished with 16 points, four fewer than first-place Saline and one point behind runner-up Warren DeLaSalle.

All four of Salem's singles players earned a pair of wins while its No. 2 doubles team racked up three victories.

Rock meeting

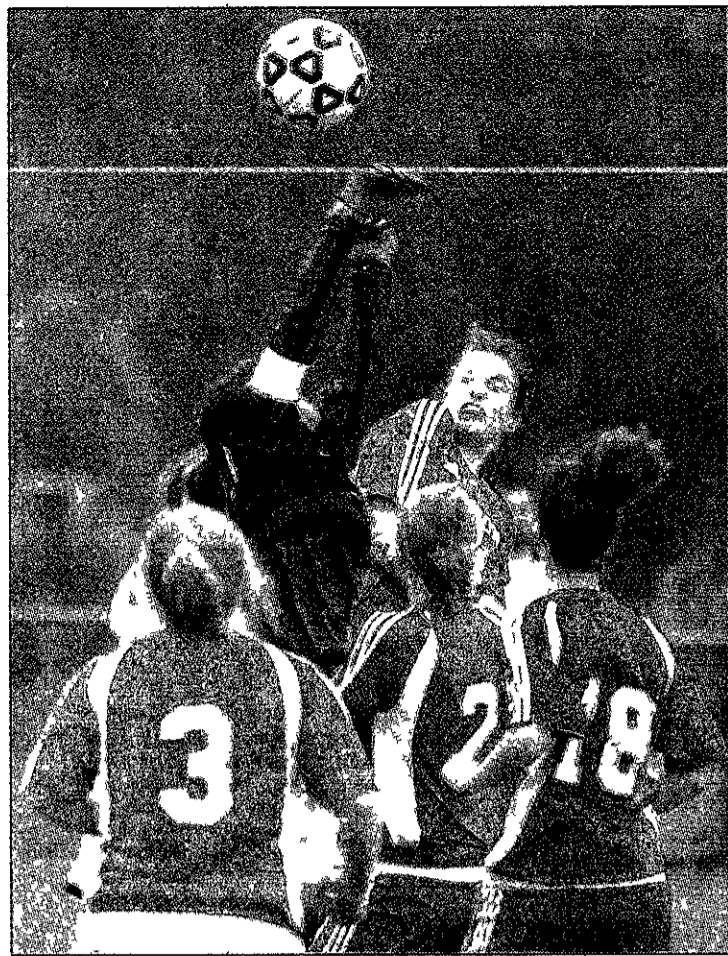
There will be a meeting for players who are interested in playing for the 2005 Salem High School football team, and their parents, on Wednesday, May 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Salem High School library (second floor, room 2300). This is a mandatory parent-player meeting for all current players, incoming freshmen and anyone else interested in playing football during the upcoming season.

For more information, contact Bob Kilgore at (734) 459-6393.

Salem golf outing

The Salem Football Golf Outing will be held Saturday, June 11, at 11 a.m., at Canton's Hickory Creek Golf Course, which is located at Ford and Napier roads.

A four-person scramble format will be used. The cost is \$100 per player, which includes 18 holes of golf, a cart, lunch and dinner. For more information, contact John Crabb at (734) 459-9805.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth goalie Brittany Warner (black shirt) manages to make a save during Monday's game against Canton despite the close proximity of a quartet of Chiefs. Warner made 12 saves, but Canton won 2-0.

SOCCER

FROM PAGE C1

Canton. However, the Chiefs added an insurance marker at the 8:29 mark when Bailey Fagen scored off a corner kick from Houdek.

Both teams' sweepers — Canton's Andrea Johnson and Plymouth's Courtney Pickard — had outstanding games for their respective teams.

SALEM 2, NORTHVILLE 2: The Rocks roared back from a 2-0 deficit to tie the No. 2-ranked team in the state. The draw left Salem with a 5-6-3 overall mark and 5-0-3 record in the WLAA.

"Northville has an extremely dangerous team, but our girls played hard and put forth a lot of effort," said Salem coach Joe Nora. "Even though we trailed 1-0 at the half, I still felt OK because we were playing solid soccer. We opened things up a little bit in the second half.

When Northville scored to go up 2-0, I think the girls got a little upset and they played extremely hard the rest of the game."

Northville's Danielle Toney scored the lone first-half goal. The Mustangs struck again 10 minutes after the intermission to give the visitors what appeared to be an insurmountable advantage.

But Salem proved to be resilient, scoring twice in the game's final 15 minutes.

The first goal came off the foot of Andrea Gasparatto, who received a pass from Tara Duncan.

With five minutes remaining, Salem knotted the score at 2-2 when Duncan scored from 25 yards out after taking a pass from Amy Gizicki.

"It was a great shot, maybe the best goal I've seen us score all year," Nora said. "Their goalie didn't have a chance."

Northville staged a couple of serious threats during the game's waning moments, Nora said, but Salem goalie Alyssa Guerin was up to the task, stuffing all of the Mustangs' potential game-winning attempts.

Nora praised the play of Guerin, Kathryn Wheatley, Megan McCarthy and Kristin Marc

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

SOLSTICE RUN

The Fifth Third Bank Solstice Run will include a new 10-kilometer (6.2-mile) event along with the 5K run/walk and the kids fun run, Saturday, June 25, in Northville.

Packet pickup will be from 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 24 at the Water Wheel Health Club in Northville, and also starting at 6:30 a.m. Saturday, June 25 at Ford Field in Northville.

Entry fees are \$25 (10K run), \$20 (5K walk/run) and \$9 (kids run).

Shirts will go to all entrants (if registered by June 20). Free entertainment with a live band will be provided at the finish line, along with music on the course.

Medals will go to the top three finisher in each age division (along with medals to the top 300). There is a total of \$5,000 in prize money and gift awards for the 10K and 5K races. The Foresters will provide medals to all kids participants.

You can register online at www.SolsticeRun.org.

SOCCER CAMPS

For the 13th consecutive year, Bryan "Goose" Finnerty will be hosting Goose's All-Star Soccer Camps in the metropolitan Detroit area. Joining Finnerty are former Detroit Rocker teammates Droc Callahan, the camp's director, Rodrigo Gonzalez, Marty Caves, Jim Lemley, Amy Knechtly, Emily Jackson, Gary Bell, Billy Joker and Brian Vanderziel. All the coaches are licensed and serve as trainers for local soccer clubs year-round. The instructor-to-camper ratio is 1-to-10.

"My staff and I look forward to another exciting camp season," said Finnerty. "Being able to give back to our local communities is a highlight and an honor. The friendships we've built with the kids over the years make it like a mini-reunion every week. It's great to catch up on how they did in school and what new achievements were conquered both on and off the soccer field."

The camps include two options: a regular camp for beginner to intermediate players; and advanced camps for striker/goalkeepers. The advanced strike camp is an all-offensive camp that moves at an accelerated pace and focuses on finishing (scoring).

The fee for the regular camp is \$139 per player, while the advanced striker/goalkeeper camp runs \$179. Interested players can register at www.goose22.com by May 1, and receive \$20 off the registration fee. For more information on Goose's All-Star Soccer Camps, visit www.goose22.com; or call (734) GOOSE-22.

There will be camps in Canton June 20-24 and July 18-22, both at Independence Park.

T-BALL LEAGUE

The City of Plymouth is accepting registrations for its Summer 2005 T-Ball league. All games will be held on Wednesday or Thursday evenings at Central Middle School. Practice days will be determined by each team's coach.

Games begin the week of June 20 and will run through

Aug. 5. The fee for Plymouth residents is \$55; the non-resident fee is \$75. Registration forms can be filled out at the Parks & Recreation Dept., located in the Plymouth Cultural Center at 525 Farmer St. Weekday office hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, call (734) 455-6620.

JUNIOR GOLF TOUR

Scholarship opportunities are available for local students

between the ages of 12 and 18 who participate in the third season of the Top 50 Jr. Tour, which is presented by the Professional Golfers' Association Michigan Section. The program is a regional golf tour offering players tournament experience plus the opportunity to earn college scholarships.

Boys and girls are eligible for tour membership. Players do not have to be members of their school teams to partici-

pate. The tour consists of 10 qualifying rounds and 10 tournament rounds, and is held on local private and public courses.

"The top 40 qualifiers at each qualifying round play in the tournament round for free," said tour director Dan Thomas. "The qualifying field for each tournament is limited to 150 players. Additionally, the top 10 finishers in each week's tournament are exempt into the following week's tour-

name and will play for free. So a total of 50 players per week are playing free golf."

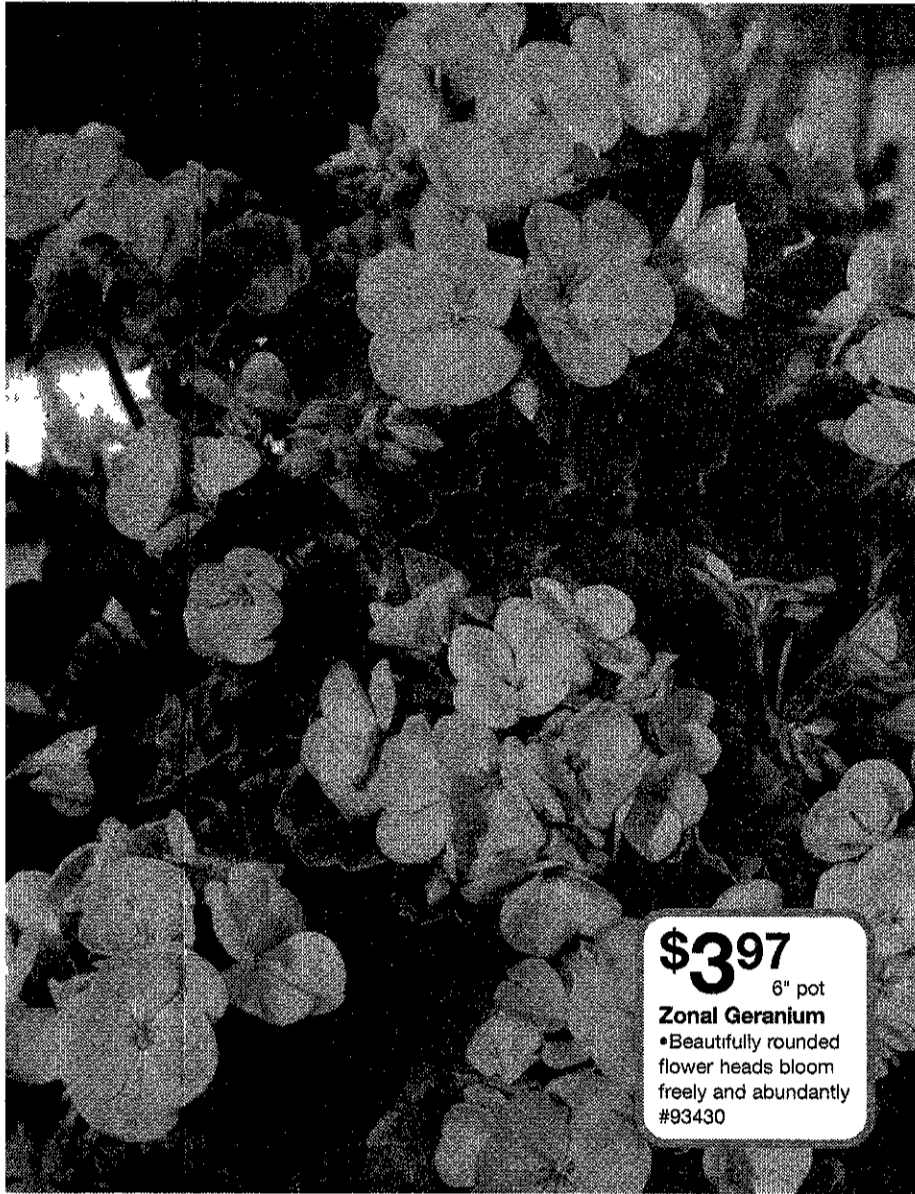
Scholarship awards are offered based on rules of golf exams, topical essays, sportsmanship and community service. Scholarship awards can be increased as a student's grade-point average increases.

Play begins on June 11 and runs through the season-ending championship tournament on Aug. 8. The full schedule is posted on the tour's Web site at

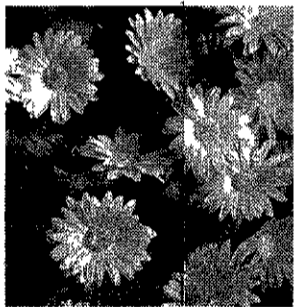
www.Top50JrTour.com. Interested parents and players should contact the tour at (248) 321-0000 or visit the tour Web site for a membership application.

The tour is presented by the PGA Michigan Section and the National Golf Scholarship Association (NGSA).

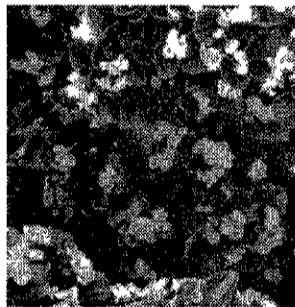
Items for the Sports Roundup may be faxed to (734) 591-7279 or mailed to The Observer, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI, 48150.



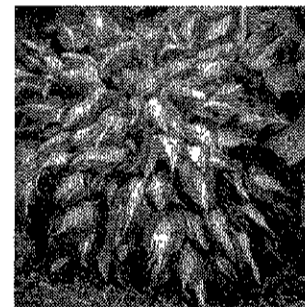
\$3.97 6" pot
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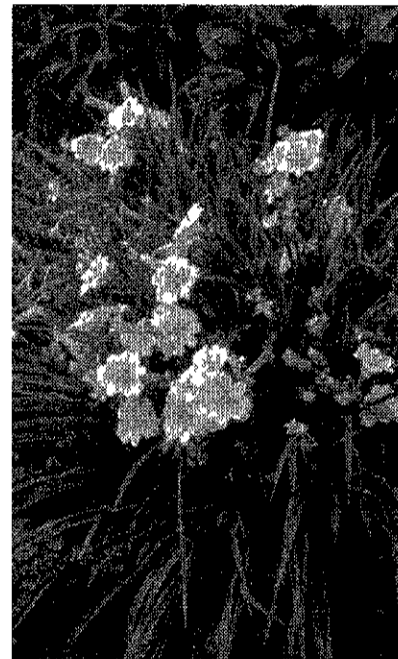
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•Begonia shown #93394



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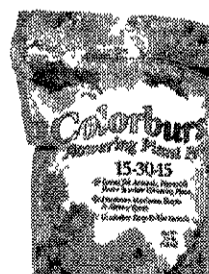
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Fast start leads Franklin over Canton

BY DAN WEST
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Franklin jumped out to an 8-0 lead in its division game against Canton on Monday, but Patriot manager Paul Newitt was still biting his finger nails in the late innings.

The Chiefs scored twice in the seventh inning, to cut the Patriot lead to 8-5. They had two men on base and the potential tying run at the plate. Newitt made the rare decision to put his starting pitcher David Wells back on the mound. Wells was originally pulled in the fifth inning after throwing 88 pitches.

"We just needed someone to come in, throw some strikes and get the last out," Newitt said. "I thought we'd go back to Wells."

Wells got Canton's Craig

Galarnau to ground into a force out to secure the 8-5 victory for Franklin and enabled Wells to earn a save of his own victory. He struck out nine batters and gave up one earned run to pick up his third victory of the year.

The victory keeps the Patriots atop the Western Division of the Western Lakes Athletics Association with a 5-1 divisional record, 14-5 overall.

The Patriots scored twice in the first inning with a solo homer by Wells and an RBI single by Jeff Moore. They sent 10 batters to the plate in the second inning and scored six runs on a two-run triple by Otis Young, an RBI double by Wells, another RBI single by Moore, an RBI double by Drew Thompson and a run-scoring error in the outfield. Franklin's

big inning chased Canton's starting pitcher Matt Hemmelgarn from the game.

Canton (10-11 overall, 3-3 division) had base runners in every inning of the game, but struggled to push those runners across the plate. In the fourth inning, the Chiefs had a runner on third with no out and the bases loaded with one out, but they could not score.

The finally broke through in the fifth inning when senior Brad Gallison hit a three-run homer.

The Chiefs got 4.1 innings of shutout relief from Kyle Muliolis, which kept his team within striking distance. A well-executed relay from Canton shortstop Justin Latin to catcher Tarik Khasawneh gunned down Wells at the plate to deny Franklin an insurance run in the fifth

inning. In the sixth inning, with two men on and one man out, Canton manager Scott Dickey saw a chance to chip away more at Franklin's 8-3 lead, but Khasawneh lined to Franklin second baseman Jon Leins for an unassisted double play.

"That really hurt us," Dickey said. "If we can get one or two runs there, we can go back to playing small ball. With the lead so big, we didn't have a chance to play our game."

"Franklin came out and hit the ball well and made some big plays on defense. They deserved to win the game."

Newitt saw his team's lead shrink in the seventh inning when the Chiefs got an RBI groundout by Eric Byrne and an RBI single by Scott Steffes. Byrne would have had a single, but Leins made a diving play to get a key out for Franklin.

"They got most of their runs on walks and we have to buckle down on giving away free bases," Newitt said. "It was nice to have the great start offensively, but we have a lot more games to play and we have to keep the number of walks down to win."

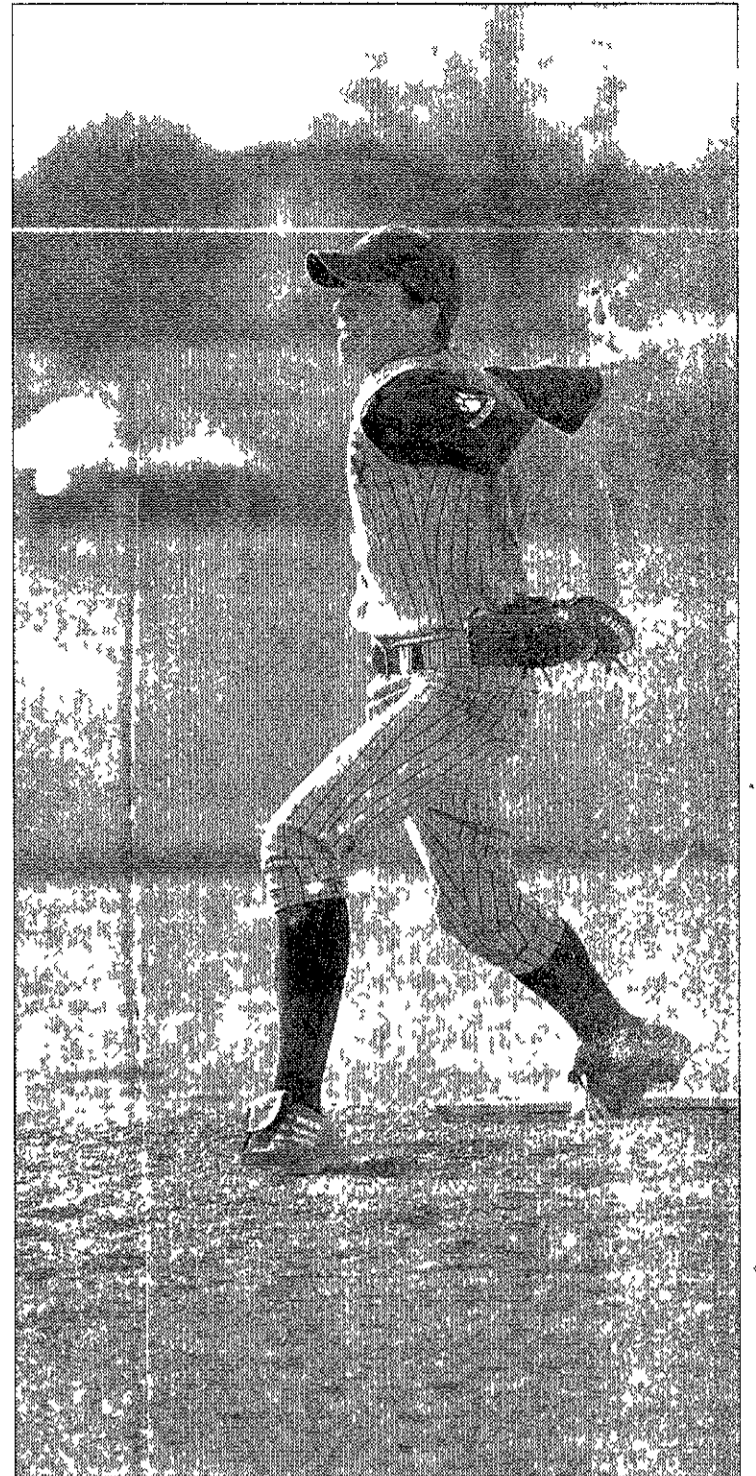
WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 4-4, SALEM 5-0: John Glenn's Shawn Dunford tossed a three-hit shutout as the Rockets grabbed the nightcap of Monday's doubleheader, 4-0.

Dunford (2-2) yielded only three hits and three walks and struck out four.

"He was hitting his spots and kept the ball down," John Glenn manager Matt Howton said. "Our defense played well behind him. We didn't commit any errors."

That wasn't the case for Salem. Three errors led to three John Glenn runs. Brett Schwartz led the offense for the Rockets with two hits and a run scored.

Salem won Monday's opener, 5-4, in eight innings. The game



Canton Agape's Jared Miller earned the win Tuesday afternoon in the Wolverines' 13-6 victory over Franklin Road.

was a continuation of a rain-delayed contest April 22.

The Rockets overcame a 4-1, fifth-inning deficit to tie the game. They scored twice in sixth on an RBI double by Nathan Lopez and a passed ball that scored Chris Kangas. In the seventh, John Glenn scored the equalizer when Ryan Sharp doubled and scored on Tim Bingham's RBI

single. A sacrifice fly gave Salem the lead in the eighth inning. John Glenn threatened with two base runners in the bottom of the eighth, but could not score.

CANTON AGAPE 13, FRANKLIN ROAD 6: The Wolverines improved their record to 3-10 overall and 2-4 in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference with the victory.

Freshman righthander Jared Miller worked the first 4.1 innings to earn the mound win. His brother, Kyle, picked up the save after yielding just two hits while striking out five over the final 2.2 frames.

Franklin Road led 3-1 when the Wolverines exploded for seven runs in the fourth to gain a lead they would never relinquish.

Agape outthit their visitors, 11-10.

Offensively, the Wolves were led by Jared Miller, Nick Seeley, Matt Holmes and Gabe Molnar, all of whom ripped two hits.

Agape returns to action this afternoon when it travels to Huron Valley for a doubleheader.

WAYNE MEMORIAL 11-12, PLYMOUTH 1-1: The Zebras outthit the Wildcats, 12-4, in the two games combined. Plymouth was hampered by six errors in both games.

The Zebras' Dave Clendenning earned the game-one victory, limiting Plymouth to two hits. Tyler Locklear suffered the loss.

Justin Collop outdueled Alex Harvey in the nightcap.



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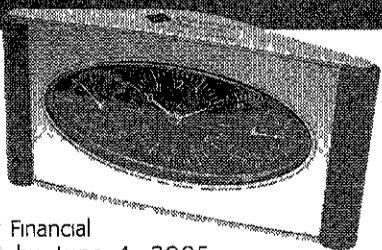
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MONSTER-LAW (PG 13)
(SAT/SUN 11:30) 1:40 3:40, 5:35 7:35
9:35 FRI/SAT 5 11:40

MINDHUNTERS (R)
(SAT/SUN 11:00) 1:15 3:20, 5:30 7:40
9:30 FRI/SAT 5 11:55

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (R)
2 PRINTS / 2 SCREENS (SAT/SUN 11:30) 1:00
2:20 3:55 5:27 7:00 8:00 9:55
THU/SAT 10 11:00

HOUSE OF VAX (R)
12:55 1:05 8:16 7:30 9:45
FRI/SAT 10 1:00

THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY (PG)
(SAT/SUN 11:25) 1:50 4:15 7:10 9:30
FRI/SAT 10 1:50

THE INTERPRETER (PG 13)
(SAT/SUN 11:25) 1:35 4:10 6:50, 9:20
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Wonderful Wolfpack

The Western Wayne Wolfpack, a local 10-and-under girls basketball team, qualified for the AAU national championship tournament in Orlando, Fla. by placing second in the recent state tournament held in Auburn Hills. The Wolfpack captured the state tourney's South bracket by going 4-0 before advancing to the championship game. The team's June 26-July 4 trip to Florida will be co-sponsored by Plymouth companies Remerica Corporate and Remerica Hometown II. Pictured (front row l-r) are Bri Berberet, Sarah Falvey, Brienne Miller, Anna Norman, (back row l-r) coach Rick Berberet, Jesse Lerner, Robyn Mack, Amanda Terranella, Isis Haywood and coach Ed Miller.

THE WEEK AHEAD

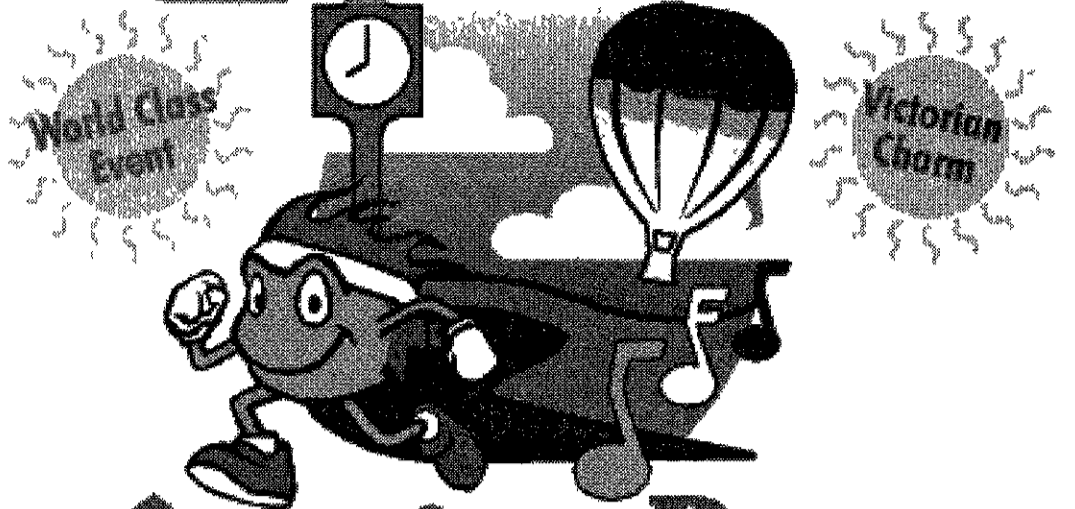
PREP BASEBALL
 Thursday, May 12
 Agape at Huron Valley, 4:30 p.m.
 Friday, May 13
 Lake Orion Baptist at Agape, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 14
 West Bloomfield at Plymouth (DH), 11 a.m.
 Inter-City Baptist at PCA (DH), 11 a.m.
Thursday, May 12
 Salem at Livonia Churchill, 4 p.m.
 Northville at Canton, 4 p.m.
GIRLS SOFTBALL
Thursday, May 12
 Livonia Church II at Salem, 4 p.m.
 Canton at Northville, 4 p.m.
 Agape at Huron Valley, 4:30 p.m.
Friday, May 13
 Livonia Franklin at Plymouth, 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 14
 Plymouth at Farmington Invite, TBD
 Lake Orion Baptist at Agape, 4:30 p.m.
 Inter-City Baptist at PCA (DH), 11 a.m.
BOYS TRACK
Thursday, May 12
 Livonia Churchill at Salem, 3:30 p.m.
 Canton at Plymouth, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 14
 Salem at Jackson NW Invite, 9 a.m.
 Canton at Troy Athens Relays, 9:30 a.m.
GIRLS TRACK
Thursday, May 12
 Salem at Livonia Churchill, 3:30 p.m.
 Plymouth at Canton, 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 14
 Salem at Jackson NW Invite, TBD
 Canton at Troy Athens Invite, 9:30 a.m.
 Plymouth at Mercy Invite, 10 a.m.
GIRLS SOCCER
Thursday, May 12
 Agape at Oakland Christa, 4:30 p.m.
 PCA at Zoe Christian, 4:00 p.m.
Friday, May 13
 Lake Orion Baptist at Agape, 4:30 p.m.
BOYS TENNIS
Saturday, May 14
 W.L.A.A. Conference meet at Livonia Stevenson, 9 a.m.
GIRLS GOLF
Friday, May 13
 W.L. Central at Plymouth at Hickory Creek G.C., p.m.

GIRLS GOLF

SALEM 193
WAYNE MEMORIAL 238
 May 5 at St. John's
Salem scorers: Ashley Smith, 40 (medalist); Jamie Siedlaczek, 44, Kate Rzetelny and Marissa Malcolm 54 each Anna Ross, 55, Melissa Grand, 85.
Wayne scorers: Danielle Elswick, 47, Ashley Laws, 48, Jenny Schmidt, 67, Kellee LaBean, 76.
Dual meet records: Salem, 6-1 W.L.A.A., Wayne, 1-5 W.L.A.A.
PLYMOUTH 215
WAYNE MEMORIAL 230
 May 4 at Woodlands of Van Buren
Plymouth scores: Liz Anderson and Patricia Burns, 52 each, Katy Ingraham 55, Elaine Lafayette, 56; Madeline Salvaggio, 60, Emily Libby, 74.
Wayne scorers: Ashley Laws, 46 (medalist), Danielle Elswick, 49, Jenny Schmidt, 65; Kellee LaBean, 70.
Wayne's dual meet record: 1-4 overall

Fifth Third Bank



Solstice Run

Saturday, June 25, 2005 at 7:30 am

Presented by Comcast

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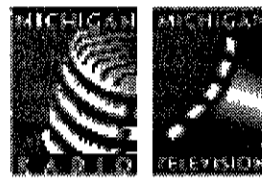
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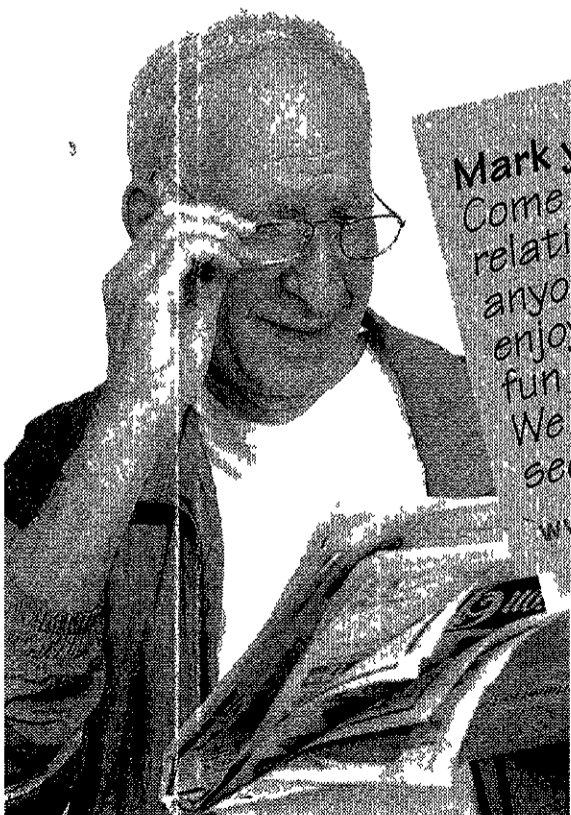
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WHERE HOMETOWN STORIES UNFOLD

Schoolcraft College

Chiefs cruise to Canton Classic softball title

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

How dedicated is this year's Canton softball team, which has reeled off a school record 22 wins to start the 2005 season?

"I sat the girls down last week and told them I wanted to reward them for their hard work by giving them a day off from practice," explained Canton coach Jim Arnold. "But they didn't like that idea, so they all came in for an hour of hitting."

The 22-0 Chiefs, who have earned just an "honorable mention" listing in the latest rankings released by the Michigan Softball Coaches' Association, have outscored their opponents 161-11 heading into this afternoon's 4 p.m. double-header at Northville.

Four of their wins came Saturday at the Canton Classic. The biggest of the four was a 1-0 triumph over the Mustangs in the championship game. Senior pitcher/first baseman Molly Conlon tossed her third

no-hitter of the season and knocked in the game's only run with a first-inning sacrifice fly.

"Our pitching and defense were outstanding against Northville," Arnold said. "They have some good hitters, too."

Canton advanced to the finale by shutting out Belleville (12-0) and Novi (6-0) before rallying to upend Summerfield, 6-2. The two runs the Chiefs yielded to Summerfield were the most they've given up in a single game this season.

"We played them a couple of years ago and they beat us with their speed and by bunting and slapping the ball around," said Arnold. "I warned the girls about it Saturday, but Summerfield scored twice in the first inning. I think it woke us up and we played well the rest of the game."

Sarah Anthony worked the first four innings to earn the win over the Bulldogs. Conlon pitched the final three frames to pick up the save.

Rachel Wade (3-for-4), Cieniuch (2-for-3) and Rachel

Beaudoin (2-for-2) paced the winners at the plate.

In the one-sided win over Belleville, the Chiefs received potent offensive efforts from Katie Osburn (2-for-2, three RBI), Conlon (2-for-3, two RBI) and Melissa Cieniuch (2-for-3, double). Conlon struck out 12 for the Chiefs, who scored four runs in the first and seven in the fourth.

Osburn sparkled on the mound against Novi, whiffing 12 while yielding just two hits. Lauren Delapaz went 3-for-4 while Osburn contributed a pair of hits.

CANTON 5, FRANKLIN 0: Molly Conlon struck out seven and allowed just one hit to the Patriots. Lauren Delapaz, Melissa Cieniuch and Erika Perkovich all contributed two hits a piece to the Chiefs' attack.

SALEM 2-1 AT INVITE

The Rocks finished 2-1 at the eight-team Salem Invitational, which was won Flat Rock.

Salem dropped a 4-2 decision to Farmington in the

opening game despite out-hitting the Falcons, 11-7. Salem put the tying runs on base in the seventh, but failed to bring them around.

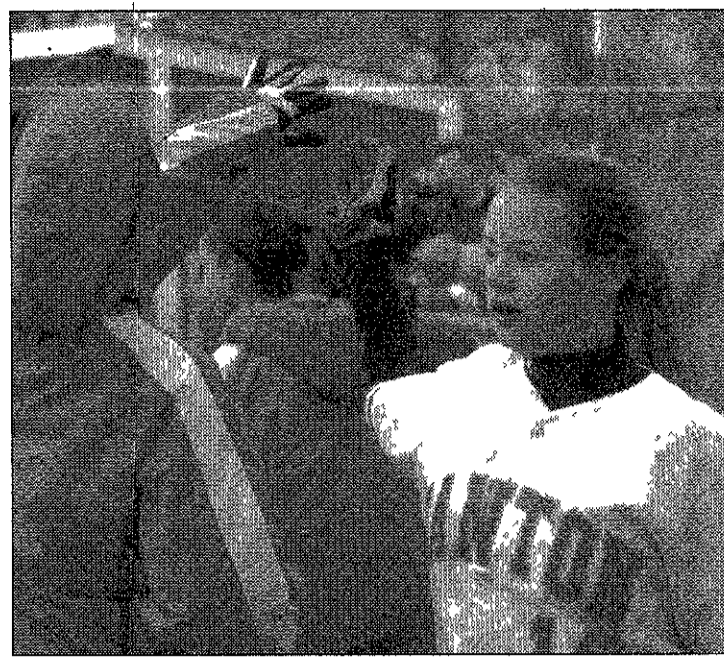
Ali Proodian paced the Rocks with three hits. Tina Sniogowski, Kelli Behr and Maureen Bohr all went 2-for-2 for the Rocks.

Courtney Davis suffered the hard-luck loss after giving up just six hits.

Salem's bats came to life in the second game, an 11-0 white-washing of Redford Union. The game was called after five innings due to the mercy rule.

Melissa Leach was the winning pitcher, giving up three hits and walking no RU batters in four innings of work. Kait McKinley carried a hot bat for Salem, rocking three hits, including a two-run double. Behr, Katie Downey and Amy Caves also contributed key hits for the winners.

Crystal Rohn threw a one-hit gem in the Rocks' 7-0 pasting of Ann Arbor Pioneer. She struck out four without walking a batter over five innings. Abby Pairitz blanked the Pioneers over the final two frames.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Britany Scero has played a key role in the team's school-record 22-game, season-starting winning streak.

Sniogowski went 3-for-4 to lead Salem at the plate. Bohr, Caves and Proodian contributed two hits a piece.

SALEM 10, JOHN GLENN 0: Melissa Leach stifled the Rocket bats by allowing just one hit. Kai McKinley starred at the plate or the winners,

ripping three hits, including a triple. Ali Proodian also had a big afternoon, going 2-for-4 with three runs scored.

Amy Caves chipped in with a pair of doubles as did Katie Downey.

Salem is now 13-8 overall, 5-6 in the WLAA and 3-4 in the Lakes Division.

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Whalers select 15-year-old phenom

The Plymouth Whalers selected 15-year-old defenseman Nick Petrecki with their first pick (ninth overall) in Saturday's Ontario Hockey League Priority Draft.

The 6-foot-2, 190-pound Petrecki tallied seven goals and 12 assists in 45 games for the Capital District Selects College Development Juniors last season.

Whalers' Director of Scouting Jim Debenham said Petrecki compared favorably to Ed Jovanovski, a one-time first-round draft pick of the Windsor Spitfires in 1993.

"He might be better," Debenham said. "He's not as tough as Jovanovski was, but he'll definitely lay the body on people and he's very, very strong offensively."

The big question is: Will Petrecki play in the OHL, or go the U.S. college route?

"It's a big gamble on our part," said Plymouth president, general manager and coach Mike Vellucci. "He has said he's not going to report in the first year and will consider reporting the second year. He's the best player in the draft, no doubt about it. He was the top player on every draft list you saw. He's 6-foot-2, a great skater, physical — a sure-fire NHL pick. My thinking is I have two second-rounders who will play right away if Petrecki doesn't report this year and with a young team, there won't be a lot of holes to fill in the future."

"I believe he's coming into the league and I believe it will be this year," said Debenham.

"He's the best player in the draft, head and shoulders above everyone else and is going to be a pro."

The Whalers went for offense and grit with their second-round selection, picking (29th overall) Chris Terry from the Markham Islanders minor midgets. Terry scored 47 goals with 57 assists in 68 games for the Islanders in 2004-05.

"He plays a lot like Cory Tanaka," said Debenham. "He competes, hard. He's got good hands and (in time) he'll be hated by the rest of the league."

"He's a really offensive player who can score," said Vellucci. "But what I like about him is he had 115 penalty minutes last year. They say he's a Ken Linseman-type with skill. He can get under your skin and score."

With its next pick, Plymouth selected left

wing Joe Gaynor from Stratford Jr. B in the second round, 37th overall. Gaynor scored three goals with 10 assists for 13 points and 49 penalty minutes in 44 games.

"He's a big kid — 6-foot-3 — and he skates really well," said Vellucci. "He only had three goals as a 15-year-old, but he's a great open-ice hitter and he works the board really well. We feel he'll develop in time at this level."

The Whalers took center Chad Beal with their third-round pick (49th overall) from the Wexford Raiders minor midgets. Beal scored 23 goals with 35 assists, and 172 penalty minutes in 49 games last season.

"Beal's a big centerman," said Vellucci. "He gives us some size and makes it easier to go into tough buildings like Windsor and Sault Ste. Marie."

Plymouth selected local goaltender Jeremy Smith with its fourth-round pick (64th overall). Smith posted a 2.44 goals against average and three shutouts in 39 games last season for the Belle Tire minor midgets.

"We think Smith's the best goalie in the draft," said Vellucci. "We're happy to take him where we did."

"He's one of the best goaltenders in the United States," said Debenham. "Every time we watched him, he was outstanding. There was a game at the OHL Cup Tournament he allowed eight goals in the game and was named the star of the game. He must have stopped 50 shots."

"I'm real excited about being drafted by Plymouth," Smith said. "I'm a butterfly style goaltender and I used my size to cover up the net."

Late in the draft, the Whalers took center Trevor Nill (14th round, 269th overall) from the Detroit Compuware 89's. Nill is the son of Detroit Red Wings assistant general manager Jim Nill.

Plymouth fans will get a chance to see many of the newest Whalers at the team's 2005 Rookie Camp, which is set for May 21-22 at the Compuware Sports Arena.

Although the weekend is used primarily for first-year players and their parents to get acquainted with the city Plymouth, schools and the surrounding area, the public is invited to attend scrimmages at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 21, and 9 a.m., Sunday, May 22.

Warriors snap 6-game skid with win

The Plymouth-Canton-Salem boys lacrosse team put the skids on a six-game losing streak Friday when it knocked off Saline, 8-6, in a match played at Saline High School.

The Warriors trailed 2-0 after one quarter before rebounding to take a 3-2 halftime lead on goals from Jeff Rork and Jared Ruark (two). John Groat fed Ruark with the pass that led to the third goal with just eight seconds remaining in the opening half.

PCS upped its lead to 7-4 after three quarters before hanging on for the win, which improved the Warriors' record to 5-7. The loss dropped the Hornets to 6-2.

Mitch French was the winners' offensive star in the second half, netting three goals. Brad Obuchowski and Groat also found the back of the net for the Warriors.

Groat, Nick Cote and Ruark each recorded a pair of assists for PCS, which was outshot 30-25 by Saline.

PCS goalie Chris Sorenson was solid in front of the net, notching 10 saves.

The Warriors ousted the Hornets, 11-3, in the 2004 Division 4 playoffs.

PCS was bolstered by the return of John Maurer, who returned from a broken nose after missing several games.



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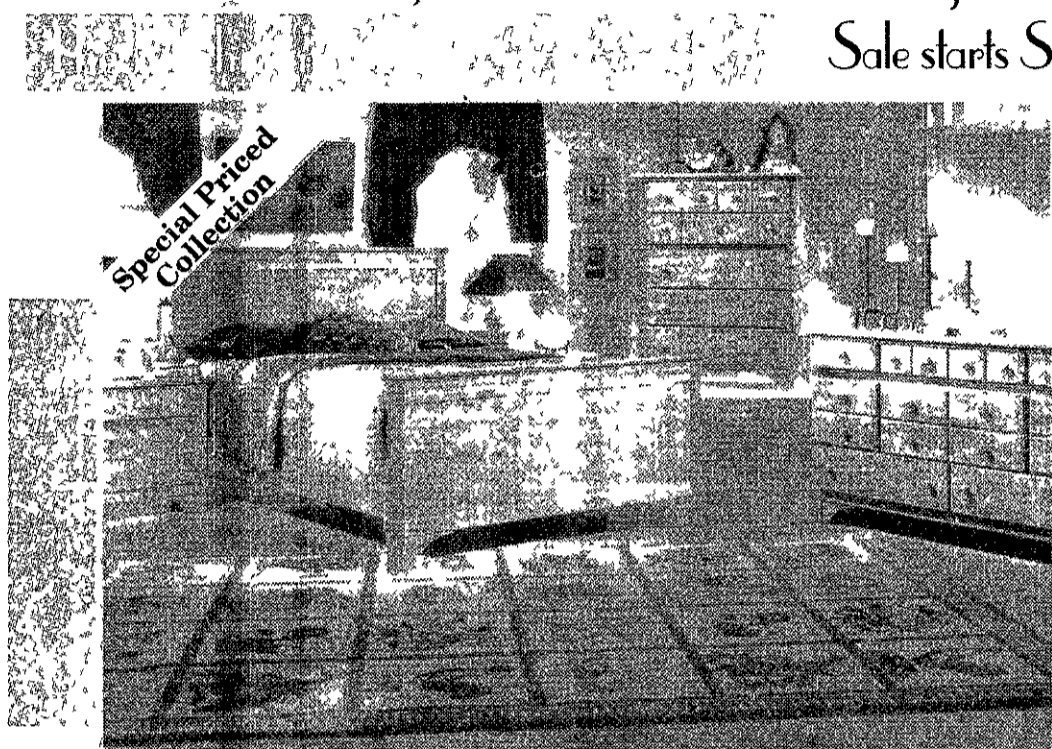
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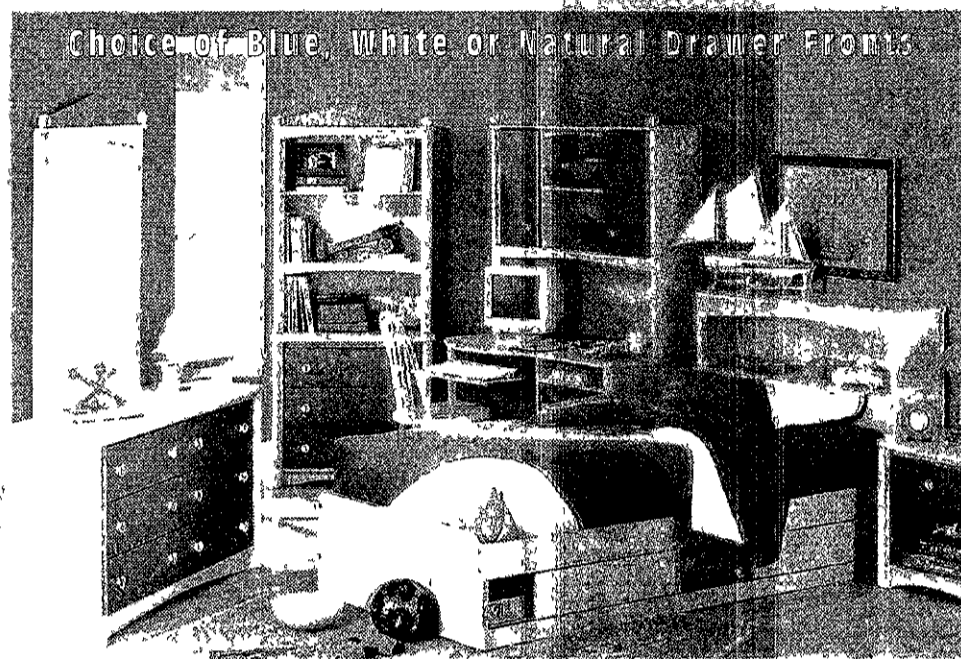
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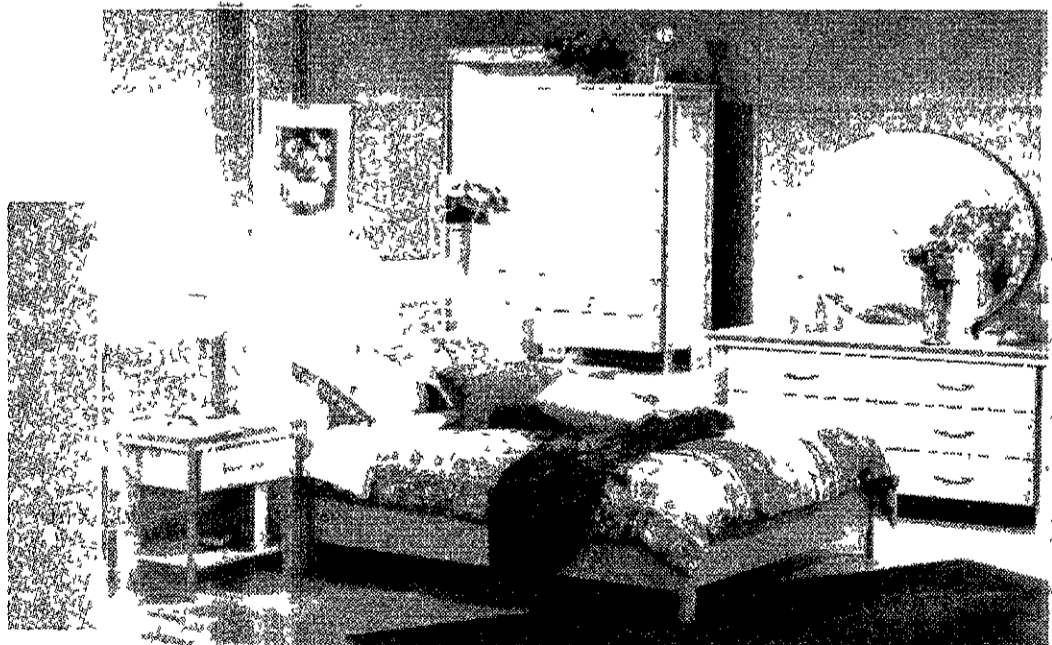
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 8:00, 10:15, 11:30 A.M.
 Contemporary Worship
 9:05 A.M.
 Nursery Provided During All Morning Worship Services
 Evening Service • 7:00 P.M.
 Services Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday
 WMUZ 560 AM

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

Power of the Word Worship Center
 Church of God in Christ



Detroit - 4801 Oakman Blvd.
 Sunday Services: 8:30 am & 10:30 am
 Canton - 39932 Michigan Ave.
 Sunday Services: 1:00 pm & 2:30 pm
 Southfield - 24222 W. 9 Mile
 Sunday Services: 3:00 pm & 4:30 pm
 Dr. Alfred D. Knight, Jr., Senior Pastor
 24 Hour Prayer Line 313-935-7729
 www.powerofthewordcogic.org

Having a Vacation Bible School?
 Let us help you with your attendance! Place an ad in our Vacation Bible School Church Directory that runs every Thursday May through August.
 For more information, please contact: Susan Massolia 734-953-2091 • Fax: 734-953-2232
 Email: smassolia@oe.homecomm.net



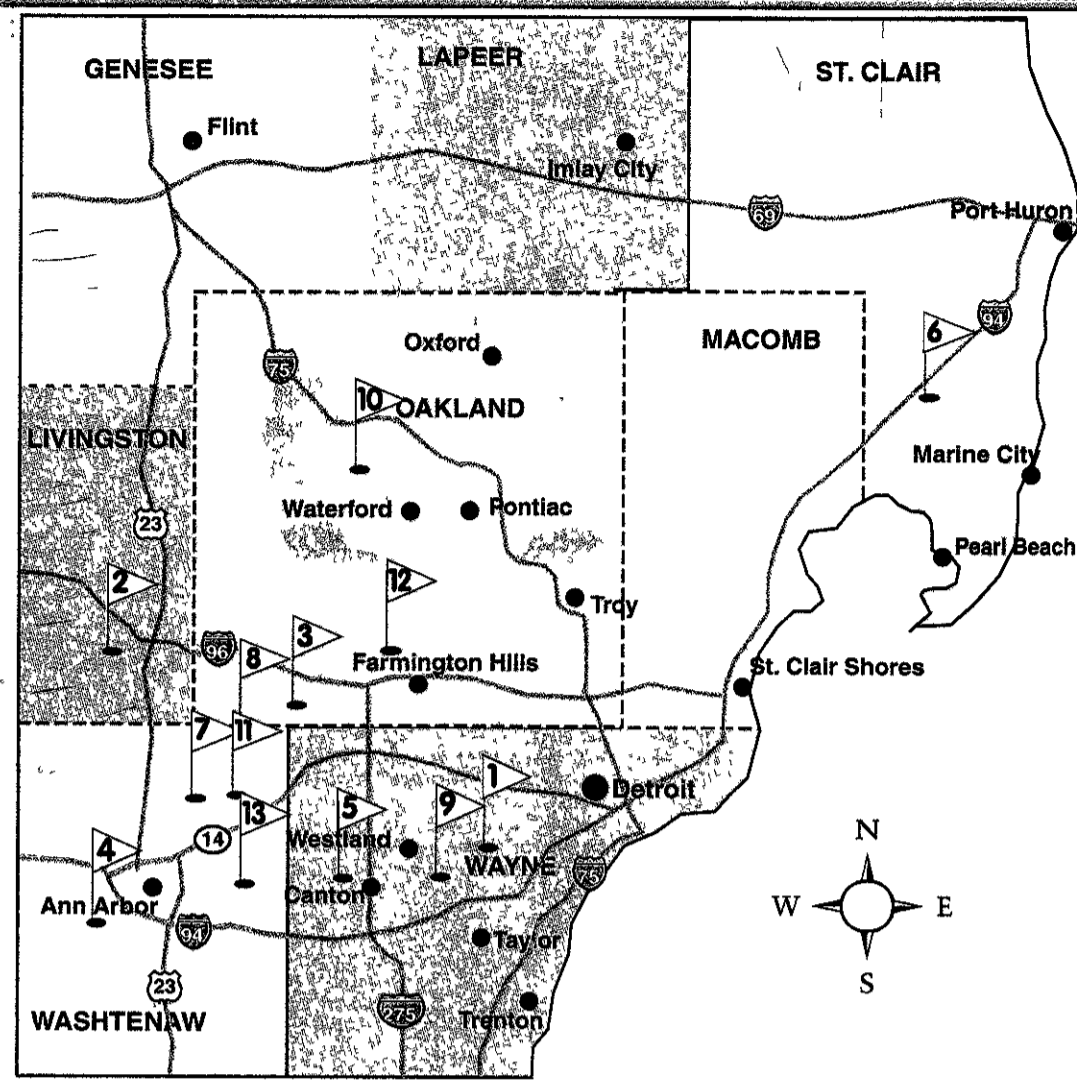
For Church Directory changes and information regarding advertising in this directory, please call **Donna Hart (734) 953-2153 the Friday before publication.**
 To mail copy: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or Fax to (734) 953-2121

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Become a Member of the Golf Association of Michigan
Find out what over 63,000 Michigan Golfers already know at
www.GAM.org



Course Profile

THE JACKAL GOLF CLUB AT MT. BRIGHTON

4141 Bower Road • Brighton, MI 48116
734.913.8140

The Jackal, designed by Bruce Matthews, offers a unique golfing experience. The course has more elevation changes than any other course in Southeastern Michigan, making for memorable rounds, leagues or golf outings. There are 4 sets of tees ranging in yardage from 6,655 to 4,826. The Jackal features panoramic views from over 150 high, towering oaks, wetlands and even a waterfall!

Signature Hole: #1, 351 yard par 4. This very elevated par 4 is a great opening hole- make sure to check your yardage to bunkers!

Pro Tip #1: Position off most of the front 9 is more important than distance. There are more than one option on many of the holes.

Pro Tip #2: Club selections on Par 3's is very important. Elevation does matter, but make sure to pay attention to wind direction.

For more information check out the Directory below and visit www.jackalgolfclub.com

IT'S A HOLE IN ONE!

Look here in the upcoming weeks for a list of Golfer's in the area who have hit a Hole In One... Maybe it will be you!!

Directory

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>1 DEARBORN HILLS GOLF COURSE
1300 S. Telegraph Rd
Dearborn, MI 48124
313.563.4658
<i>A unique, challenging & beautiful par 3 and par 4 course!</i>
No. of Holes: 18 Par: 60 Yards: 4495
Directions: North of Michigan Ave. entrance on west side of Telegraph</p> | <p>2 THE JACKAL GOLF CLUB
4141 Bauer Rd
Brighton, MI 48116
810.229.9581
www.jackalgolfclub.com
No. of Holes: 18 Par: 71 Yards: 6700
Manager: Rob Bruhn
Directions: I-96 to Exit 145 Go east on Grand River to Challis Rd (right)</p> | <p>3 LINKS OF NOVI
50395 W. 10 Mile Rd.
Novi, MI 48374
248.380.9595
<i>The Golf Outing Professionals</i>
A 27 Hole Jerry Matthews Design located on Ten Mile Road, a 1/4 mile west of Wixom Rd.</p> |
| <p>4 HICKORY STICKS GOLF COURSE
8753 Pleasant Lake Rd
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
734.913.8140
15 minutes SW of downtown Ann Arbor
<i>Looks like Up North - feels like vacation</i>
Visit our website for more info & directions at www.hsgolfclub.com</p> | <p>5 PHEASANT RUN
46500 Summit Pkwy
Canton, MI 48108
734.897.6460
No. of Holes: 27 Par: 72 Yards: 7050
Manager: Sean Fletcher
<i>Scenic & challenging course designed by Arthur Hills</i>
Directions: I-275 W. on Ford to Canton Center (south) to Summit Pkwy (west)</p> | <p>6 RATTLE RUN GOLF COURSE
7163 Saint Clair Hwy
East China, MI 48054
810.329.2070
www.rattlerun.com
No. of Holes: 18 Par: 72 Yards: 6865
Manager: Gerry Behaylo
Directions: I-94 exit 157 south to Palms Rd., left to St Clair Hwy, left 2 mi</p> |
| <p>7 ROLLING MEADOWS
6484 Sutton Rd.
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189
734.662.5144
<i>Sr. / Weekday / Family Specials</i>
<i>Outings & Fund Raisers</i>
<i>League Openings</i>
No. of Holes: 18 Par: 71 Yards: 6476
Directions: Sutton near North Territorial Rd., 2 Miles east of US 23, 1/2 miles west of Pontiac trail</p> | <p>8 TANGLEWOOD GOLF COURSE
53503 W. 10 Mile
South Lyon, MI 48178
248.486.3355
www.tanglewoodhelion.com
No. of Holes: 27 Par: 36 Yards: 3636
Manager: Ann Lewis
Directions: 10 Mile Road between Wixom and Milford</p> | <p>9 INKSTER VALLEY GOLF COURSE
2150 Middlebell
Inkster, MI 48141
734.722.8020
No. of Holes: 18 Par: 72 Yards: 6709
<i>"Up north" setting without the long drive!</i>
Directions: 1/4 mile north of Michigan Ave. west side of Middlebell</p> |
| <p>10 SPRINGFIELD OAKS COUNTY GOLF COURSE
12450 Andersonville Rd
Davisburg, MI 48350
248.625.2540
www.golfoakland.us
No. of Holes: 18 Par: 71 Yards: 6033
Front nine is open & hilly; back nine is tighter with more trees and water
Dir. Andersonville Rd near Hall Rd.</p> | <p>11 CATTAILS GOLF CLUB
57737 9 Mile Rd.
South Lyon, MI 48178
248.486.8777
www.cattailsgolfclub.com
No. of Holes: 18 Par: 72 Yards: 6436
<i>Course sculpted through woods, wetlands and rolling hills</i>
Directions: 1/2 Mile East Griswold</p> | <p>12 INDEPENDENCE GREEN GOLF COURSE
24360 Washington Court
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
248.477.7092
No. of Holes: 18 Par: 56 Yards: 5200
Manager: Jim Magurk
<i>Daily Senior Specials</i>
Directions: Grand River & Halstead in Farmington Hills</p> |
| <p>13 HICKORY CREEK GOLF COURSE
3625 Napier
Canton, MI 48188
734.454.1850
No. of Holes: 18 Par: 72 Yards: 6292
<i>"Northern Michigan in Your Own Backyard"</i>
Directions: Corner of Napier and Ford Roads, 5 Miles west of I-275</p> | <p>To Advertise Here Please Call Your Advertising Representative or 734-953-2177</p> | |

This Weeks Values

- CATTAILS GOLF CLUB**
South Lyon
2005 LEAGUES NOW FORMING
Full Season or Alternate Week
League Seasons Available
OUTING DATES STILL AVAILABLE
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TEE TIMES ONLINE 24/7 & COURSE INFO AT:
www.cattailsgolfclub.com
Sign Up Online for a 2005 Season
Pass Raffle!
(248) 486-8777
- Westland Municipal Golf Course**
2 Players with Cart
9 Holes \$30⁰⁰ Save \$14!
Valid Mon - Fri 7am - 3pm
Sat & Sun after 4 pm
Exp. May 20, 2005
500 S. Merriman - 1/4 mile S of Cherry Hill
734-721-6660
- OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS**
\$5 OFF a Round
Springfield Oaks Golf Course
www.golfoakland.us
Limit one per person. Must have tee time. Valid in 2005 only. Not valid for league play, outings, tournaments or with other discount offers. No cash value
- Hickory Creek Golf Course**
Northern Michigan in your own backyard
MON.-FRI. \$22 18 holes with cart
7AM - Noon Coupon Only
SAT. MAY 14 \$35 18 holes with cart
Until 1 PM Coupon Only
3625 Napier - corner of Napier and Ford Rds.
5 miles West of I-275
- The Links of Novi Spring Senior Special**
18 Holes with Cart Mon - Fri
\$20⁰⁰ per person
Must be 50 years old, Monday - Friday.
Call for tee times
248-380-9595
- Buy 1 pair Ladies Shorts and Get 1 Ladies Golf Shirt... FREE**
Expires 5-19-05 (or while supplies last)

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The more you know, the better we look!



Joe Bauman, editor
(248) 901-2563
Fax: (248) 644-1314
jbaum@oe.hometownlife.com
www.hometownlife.com

New technology has many homeowners looking up

(NAPSI) Things are looking up in many homes these days because people are looking up at such architectural wonders as ornamental domes, vaulted and tray ceilings, curved archways and soffits.

These elements have long been popular in commercial buildings, replacing traditional flat walls and ceilings. Now, advanced technology lets homeowners enjoy the same three-dimensional designs.

Key to this is a new ceiling suspension technology. The system uses pre-engineered, integrated components that eliminate guesswork and reduce installation time by up to half. As a result, homeowners can request more dramatic add-ons to a new residence or remodeling project.

The technology, known as the USG Drywall Suspension System, was developed by the same company that invented Sheetrock® brand gypsum panels and later introduced the first acoustical ceiling panels. It can be installed easily by just about any remodeling contractor or carpenter in a variety of ways:

- Soffits are typically used to fill in the open spaces between the ceiling and the tops of kitchen wall cabinets. They can also add dramatic flair and define specific spaces. You can have a curved, boxed or stepped soffit to create a variety of different looks.

- Create ornate ceiling treatments in the master bedroom with tray or coffer ceilings and even domes or vaulted ceilings.

- An arched hallway, vaulted ceiling in an entryway or living room, or a barrel ceiling over a sunken tub in a master bath, paired with unique lighting, can add a distinctive look to your home.

- When it comes to finishing off a basement, the drywall suspension system can be wrapped easily around offending pipes and ducts to provide an economical way to hide mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems during renovations. It also creates a smooth ceiling surface for maximum height with minimum clearance.

For more information, visit www.usg.com or call (800) USG-4-YOU.



The old-fashioned way of achieving dramatic architectural looks was time-consuming and expensive, but a drywall suspension system can add incredible architectural detail to your home without breaking your budget.

Homefront: Keep financing alternatives at an ARM's length

Over the decades mortgage lenders have formulated creative loan programs for millions of homebuyers including no-document loans, down payment assistance programs, variable-term adjustable rate loans, negatively amortized mortgages, and cash-out equity loans, to name a few.

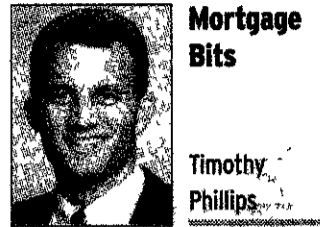
Adjustable-rate mortgages, or ARMs, are among the more popular to borrowers because the first part of the mortgage is discounted thus offering the borrower better cash flow during the early part of their loan.

The unfortunate downside to ARMs, however, is that they are each linked to indices that could rise in the future. Accordingly, these products make great sense for buyers who want a better interest rate for a relatively short-term.

Though not available through all lenders, some mortgage brokers offer the best of both worlds, a discounted introductory rate and long-term security with a program called the Up-Front Advantage.

Unlike most hybrid ARMs that start with a fixed interest rate, then later begin to adjust on a regular basis, sometimes up to 2 percent annually, the Up-Front Advantage mortgage normally adjusts up only 1 percent once then remains fixed thereafter. Some products include even a deeper initial discount for a two-year period.

If on a given day a 30-year fixed rate mortgage went for



Mortgage Bits

Timothy Phillips

6 percent, a borrower may expect a one-year Up-Front Advantage program to get them a starting interest rate as low as 5-1/4 percent instead. Their long-term interest rate would be only 1 percent higher than that for the remaining 29 years. In this scenario, the borrowers would be ahead for about 8 years by taking the discounted rate without the risks associated with traditional ARMs.

The cost of having your starting interest rate so discounted comes in the form of a slightly higher interest rate for the latter fixed-rate portion of the mortgage. However, the low introductory interest rate makes the loan's effective interest rate feel good for several years.

Today's TIMBIT! A well-fit mortgage will not only make you feel like a million bucks, but it may likely save you thousands. Make sure to select a talented tailor.

Timothy Phillips is a mortgage banker and newspaper columnist. Visit USWealthAcademy.com for free information online or call him toll-free at (866) 369-4516. Homebuyers should always consult a professional for guidance specific to their situation.

FEATURED HOMES OF THE WEEK

Sites now being reserved for
The Villas at Maple Creek
Experience the Carefree Lifestyle



Beck & Geddes in Canton
2 & 3 Bedroom "TRUE" Ranch Condos

- Vaulted Ceilings
- Gas Fireplace
- Sunroom
- 2 Car Attached Garage
- Pre-Construction Pricing

734-641-7161

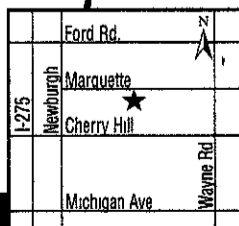
SALES CENTER LOCATED IN WESTLAND
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Across from John Glenn High School
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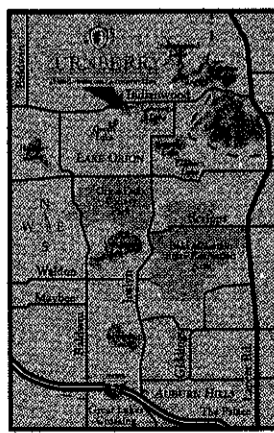
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For information please call 248-693-0495
Sales Office Hours:
Saturday & Sunday 12 - 6 pm
Monday, Tuesday & Friday 2 - 6 pm



CUSTOM BUILT FRANKLIN VILLAGE

This beautiful 10 year old custom built home in a most desirable section of Franklin. Sitting on 1 1/4 acre lot. The circular drive leading to the full width front porch has great curb appeal. Enter into a 2-story foyer and winding staircase, open floor plan and outstanding 1st floor master, living room, dining room,, gourmet kitchen and separate eating area all lead to a year round porch/sunroom overlooking wooded park like setting. Private office off kitchen, library with custom built cabinets and 3 large upstairs bedrooms complete this outstanding home.

— Offered by —

Eliot and Liz Bank
for appointment call
(248) 901-1251 or
(248) 320-1913



REALTORS TO ADVERTISE ON THIS PAGE CALL 734-953-2176

BRIEFS

Real Estate Seminar

RE/MAX Alliance will hold a free real estate seminar at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 11, at their office, 37569 Five Mile. Seating is limited, please call for reservations Steve Strobel, (734) 462-3600

Basement Remodeling

An eight-hour seminar on basement remodeling is being offered through the Oakland Builders Institute in conjunction with Livonia Community Education. The seminar will be held from 6-10 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, May 23 and 25, Holmes School, 16200 Newburgh, Livonia. Instruction includes all facets of the process, including planning, meeting building codes, estimating materials, and the basics of home construction and finishing techniques. Course fee is \$99 plus \$12 for the book. Pre-registration is required by Thursday, May 19, (734) 744-2602

Top Professional

Susan Tadesco of RE/MAX Showcase Homes in Birmingham has been named an Elite member and will be featured in the current issue of Unique Homes ELITE. The Unique Homes ELITE is published annually and offers information on top residential specialists as well as their most exclusive listings

New Agent at RE/MAX 100

Nick Kulka Jr. has joined the real estate office of RE/MAX 100. Kulka has been in real estate for 19 years. He comes from Remerica. Kulka is an active member of his community and believes that as a Realtor he should give back to the community he represents

Builder's Pre-License Class

A 16-hour comprehensive seminar on Michigan State builder's license examination is being offered through the Oakland Builders Institute in conjunction with Farmington Community Education. The seminar will be held from 6-10 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays May 24, 26, 31 and June 2, at The Community School, 30415 Shawwassee Farmington. This seminar teaches math as well as blueprint reading. The cost is \$190 plus \$20 for the course textbook and sample questions. Pre-registration is required by Friday, May 20, (248) 489-3333.

Career Seminars

Keller Williams Realty, Plymouth, is holding the following career seminars at 6:30 p.m. May 17, May 26 and June 9. For more information, call (248) 433-5478

National Marketing and Promotions Contest

Weir Manuel Realtors has been named the winner in the National Marketing and Promotions Contest, for the second consecutive year in the RELO@ Marketing and Promotions Contest held in conjunction with the RELO@ Conference 2005 in Scottsdale, Ariz., April 14-16, 2005. The Web site www.weirmanuel.com was the award-winning site in both the Internet Marketing and Web Page categories. The criteria were "creativity, integration of RELO@ material and/or graphics, and overall presentation." Weir Manuel Realtors is a leading real estate company in southeast Michigan, with more than 150 employees in four Michigan offices: Birmingham, West Bloomfield, Rochester and Plymouth

Kelly Sweeney addresses conference

Kelly Sweeney, president and owner of Weir Manuel Realtors, Birmingham, was a presenter at the 2005 RELO@ Conference held in Scottsdale, Ariz., April 14-16. The annual meeting attracted over 850 brokers and relocation professionals from leading real estate companies. Sweeney presented information on recruiting, training and retaining quality sales associates, a topic of vital interest to real estate and relocation professionals.

Spring Seminars

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will sponsor the following seminars during the month of May at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, Farmington Hills. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033. "Controlling Profits: Quickbooks Pro - 8:30-10:30 a.m. Thursday, May 12, registration fees, including continental breakfast, are \$20 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$40 for non-members and guests. Lien Law Seminar - 8:30 a.m. to noon Tuesday, May 31, registration fees including continental breakfast are \$50 for BIA members and \$75 for guests

Three is not always better than one

Our condo association continuously decides to levy special and additional assessments as opposed to raising the annual assessment. They say that keeping the assessments low will enhance market ability. What do you think?



Real Estate Inquires

Robert M. Meisner

Unfortunately, that is a frequent excuse given by condo associations to not adequately fund reserves or establish reserves for the future. However, the association does maintain a fair amount of discretion in determining whether a special assessment or an increase in the annual assessment will be levied. In my experience of over 30 years, I believe that additional assessments should only be used where absolutely necessary

and that the association should build up adequate reserves to meet its expected needs.

I live in a condo development which is one of three different developments constructed continuous to one another although there are three associations. We had a problem with the developer, of the three condos, and our association, along with the others, brought a lawsuit represented by one attorney. We reached a

settlement which was on a pro rata basis and we were short changed, in my opinion. Do you have any comments?

I am surprised that the board of directors of your association would join with the other associations to bring claims against the developer unless the claims were identical in each project and there were the identical number of units and defects, etc., which is highly unlikely.

I am also surprised that the attorney would agree to represent all three associations in the same lawsuit because of a potential conflict of interest among other things. I believe that each association should have been separately

represented and pursued their own individual claims against the developer and you being short changed, in my judgment, may be a breach of fiduciary duty by the board of directors and perhaps malpractice by the attorney. You should consult with an attorney of your own choosing as to the facts and circumstances to determine whether you have a cause of action.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$2 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

Table titled 'THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR' with columns for lender, phone, 30 Yr, Pts, 15 Yr, Pts, and Other. Lists various mortgage lenders and their rates.

Above information available as of 5/10/05 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on \$150,000 loan with 20% down. Jumbo rates, ARM rates, specific payment calculations and most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com. All participating lenders are Equal Housing Lenders.

Real estate advertisement for Coldwell Banker Preferred Realtors. Includes 'DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE' headline, 'View Thousands of available homes in your area', and a grid of 24 property photos with descriptions and prices.

Summary of contact information for different areas: NORTHVILLE/NOVI (248) 305-6090, CANTON (734) 392-6000, FARMINGTON (248) 478-6022, WESTLAND/GARDEN CITY (734) 392-6000, PLYMOUTH (734) 459-6000, LIVONIA (734) 425-6060.

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0001-2450 Home & Service Guide

3000-3890 Real Estate For Sale

3890-3980 Commercial Industrial

4000-4980 Real Estate Rent/Lease

5000-5980 Employment Instruction Services

6000-6980 Announcements

7000-7780 Merchandise

7110-7130 Garage and Moving Sale

7800-7980 Animals Pets/Livestock

8000-8780 Automotive Recreational Vehicles

Place your ad toll free at 1-800-579-SELL



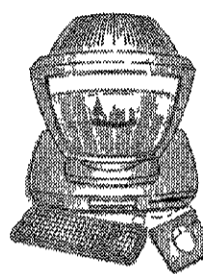
Walk-In Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Publication Day SUNDAY PAPER.....5:00PM Friday

Fax your ad: 734-953-2232

THURSDAY PAPER.....5:30PM Tuesday

Private Party Customers Place your ad ONLINE 24/7 at www.hometownlife.com



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On-line at www.hometownlife.com • E-Mail Us: oeads@oe.homecomm.net

3000's Real Estate. List of homes for sale with details like address, price, and features.

Real Estate For Sale. Real estate listings including property descriptions and contact information.

Open Houses. Multiple listings for homes currently open for viewing.

Open Houses. Additional listings for homes open for viewing.

Open Houses. Further listings for homes open for viewing.

Open Houses. Final listings for homes open for viewing.

3900-3980 Commercial/Industrial. Listings for commercial and industrial properties.

Real Estate For Sale. Real estate listings including property descriptions and contact information.

Open Houses. Multiple listings for homes currently open for viewing.

Open Houses. Additional listings for homes open for viewing.

Open Houses. Further listings for homes open for viewing.

Open Houses. Final listings for homes open for viewing.

REMERICA Liberty Real Estate logo and contact info.

(734) 432-2600. Address: 19254 NEWBURGH RD., LIVONIA, MI 48152

THE REAL ESTATE HOUSE Inc. Clark & Fron Realtors. Large advertisement for real estate services with contact information and property descriptions.

Century 21 Chalet. Real estate listings and services advertisement.

Garage Sales! Go Garage Sale-ing in Style on Saturday, June 18. Look in this issue for info and entry blank. www.hometownlife.com • 800-579-7355

Garage Sales 7110

BEVERLY HILLS 3 Antique iron beds, dinette set, Russian Samovar outdoor train set...

Garage Sales 7110

CANTON - 2 Community-wide Yard Sales WESTPOINT MANOR 41021 Old Michigan Ave...

Garage Sales 7110

DEARBORN - MOVING SALE Thurs-Sat, 9-5pm 3311 Chestnut Tools, toys, household items...

Garage Sales 7110

LIVONIA May 13th & 14th, 9am-5pm 35808 Richland, near Plymouth & Wayne Rds...

Garage Sales 7110

LIVONIA Garage Sale - 31125 Lyndon Furniture, toys, miscellaneous Thursday - Saturday...

Garage Sales 7110

OAK PARK Moving/Garage Sale May 14/15, 9am-3pm 24510 Pine Village Blvd...

Garage Sales 7110

REDFORD TWP. 1st Annual Jefferson Neighborhood Garage Sale Sat May 14 & Sun May 15...

Garage Sales 7110

SOUTH LYON-2 FAMILY SALE MAY 12-14, 9-5 Redecorating - Bird house collection...

Garage Sales 7110

WESTLAND 1958 N Carlson, across from Central City Park, Sat, May 14, 8:30-5...

CLASSIFIEDS THAT WORK FOR YOU! 1-800-579-SELL

When seeking out the best deal check out the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!

Garage Sales 7110

CANTON Brookside Village Sub-wide garage sale Thurs, May 12 thru Sun May 15...

Garage Sales 7110

FARMINGTON HILLS - 27161 Cass, off 9 Mile, just W of Farmington May 14-15, 9am-5pm...

Garage Sales 7110

LIVONIA - Grandma's big sale May 12, 13, 14, 9-5 pm at 30425 Lyndon...

Garage Sales 7110

LIVONIA - 3 Separate Houses Tons of fishing tackle, 800-lures, 40+ rods & reels...

Garage Sales 7110

PLYMOUTH - Thurs, May 12, 9-3pm, 13298 Foxboro Ct, off N Territorial...

Garage Sales 7110

ROCHESTER HILLS Georgetown Subdivision, Tienken/Brewster, May 12-14, 9am-3pm

Garage Sales 7110

TROY 277 Redwood, Take Lyons N/Off 14, W of Campbell Thurs-Sat 10-7

Garage Sales 7110

WESTLAND Huge Garage Sale Fri & Sat, 9-5, Sun, 10-3 Too much great stuff to list

Garage Sales 7110

BIRMINGHAM 1236 Bates W/Woodward, S of Lincoln Thurs-Fri May 12-13, 9-3pm

Garage Sales 7110

CANTON - Meadowbrook Subdivision Multiple homes Thurs, Fri, Sat, 9am-4pm

Garage Sales 7110

LIVONIA - Grandpa's big sale May 12, 13, 14, 9-5 pm at 30425 Lyndon

Garage Sales 7110

LIVONIA - 2 Family, Toys, furniture, kids clothes, etc

Garage Sales 7110

LIVONIA - 3 Separate Houses Tons of fishing tackle, 800-lures, 40+ rods & reels

Garage Sales 7110

PLYMOUTH - Thurs, May 12, 9-3pm, 13298 Foxboro Ct

Garage Sales 7110

ROCHESTER HILLS Georgetown Subdivision, Tienken/Brewster

Garage Sales 7110

TROY 277 Redwood, Take Lyons N/Off 14, W of Campbell

Garage Sales 7110

WESTLAND Huge Garage Sale Fri & Sat, 9-5, Sun, 10-3

Garage Sales 7110

BIRMINGHAM - Multi-Family Thurs-Fri, Sat, 9am Collectibles, John Deere, Elvis LPs...

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CANTON - Meadowbrook Subdivision Multiple homes Thurs, Fri, Sat

Garage Sales 7110

LIVONIA - 2 Family, Toys, furniture, kids clothes, etc

Garage Sales 7110

LIVONIA - 3 Separate Houses Tons of fishing tackle, 800-lures, 40+ rods & reels

Garage Sales 7110

PLYMOUTH - Thurs, May 12, 9-3pm, 13298 Foxboro Ct

Garage Sales 7110

ROCHESTER HILLS Georgetown Subdivision, Tienken/Brewster

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FURNITURE 3 piece brdm set, \$350 New Lazy Boy Love Seat

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SECTIONAL SOFA - 3 piece, Baker, beige in color, great condition

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THE 2005 ESCAPE AND ACCORD HYBRIDS

Advertising Feature

Thursday DriveTime



BY DALE BUSS

You know something has hit the cultural mainstream when it starts showing up on the covers of weekly news-magazines. And that's exactly what happened this month when hybrid automobiles were the featured subject of an issue of US News & World Report. The hybrid — a mere automotive curiosity just a few years ago — already has come of age, and some are touting the combination of battery and gasoline-engine power as the salvation of the automotive energy economy.

Already so far this year, hybrid sales have more than doubled compared with a year earlier, as gasoline prices have risen 23% compared with the same point in 2004. All told, nearly 25 hybrids from a dozen carmakers are due in showrooms by 2008. And hybrid sales should top 200,000 vehicles this year, according to J.D. Power & Associates. Toyota's top U.S. executive, Jim Press, has even been quoted as saying that virtually everything sold in the American market within 20 years will be a hybrid.

But how far hybrids really carry us into the automotive future — and at what point something like hydrogen fuel takes over — will clearly be worked out beginning in the next few years.

There are a number of issues that the hybrid "movement" needs to confront before it's anointed the industry's technological messiah. They include the fact that purchasing a hybrid over the conventionally powered version of the same vehicle still costs \$3,000 to \$5,000 more — a hefty upfront premium that, for now at least, will restrict consumer interest in hybrids to mostly upscale Americans who are very dedicated to the environment and to the nation's energy independence. Another speedbump consists of indications that in some models, hybrid-powered fuel economy may not be all that has been advertised.

But in the meantime, it's clear to see how quickly hybrid products have been advancing just by getting in them and driving them for awhile. One major advance that the industry seems to have made collectively, for example, is that designers now do everything possible to tone down the visual and operating differences between

The 2005 Ford Escape Hybrid SUV is a worthy entry into the hybrid derby, with more than 8,000 on the road already



2005 Honda Accord Hybrid gets up to 37 m.p.g.

hybrids and conventionally powered vehicles. Hybrids initially attracted attention because of their novelty, and buyers wanted to be acknowledged for their cutting-edge daring by friends and family. That's why early versions included a complicated readout on the dashboard that would inform the driver when energy was being consumed from the on-board battery pack and when, through braking and other means, the battery was being replenished.

Now, however, the idea is to make hybrids same as mainstream as possible by soft-pedaling the differences between hybrids and their conventional counterparts. Honda already has excelled at this. Its new 2005 Accord Hybrid is absolutely the best hybrid I have driven in terms of making you forget that you're driving a hybrid. You'll simply notice little, if any, difference between the Accord Hybrid and the regular Accord in terms of how they drive and otherwise function for you and your passengers. And that is a major accomplishment.

Chiefly, Honda accomplishes this by once again demonstrating its mastery of powertrains. It has such an easy familiarity in large part because it uses a conventional automatic transmission instead of the continuously variable transmission favored by other auto makers. What this means is that you get a gearbox in the Accord Hybrid that feels normal compared with other hybrids' seamless transmissions.

What's more, and perhaps even more significant, the Accord hybrid system — known as IMA, for integrated motor assist — always uses the gas engine, then kicks in the electric motor for more power when needed. Again, this virtually eliminates the differences in operation and "feel" from the conventional Accord. In fact, the Accord Hybrid's engine is more powerful than the gas-powered V-6 in the conventional Accord, at 255 horsepower to 240. And, of course, it gets outstanding mileage: 37 mpg on the highway and a whopping 29 even in the city.

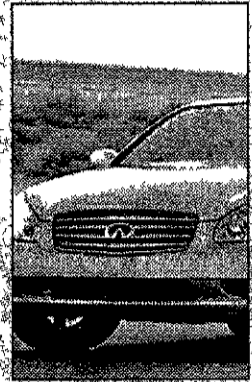
Ford's Escape Hybrid SUV is another worthy entry in the hybrid derby, with more than 8,000 of the vehicles already on the road. Overall, the Escape Hybrid demonstrates everything that there is to like about the Escape as a mid-sized SUV, and it seems to go forever on a single tank of gasoline.

However, the Ford propulsion system is inferior in practice to Accord's because of the loud and prolonged revving that the Escape Hybrid does as it rises above cruising speed. That comes because Escape kicks in the gasoline engine only after battery power has brought the vehicle somewhere around 25 mph. I much preferred Accord's basic architecture for handling this.

If you're ready to join the hybrid "revolution" of the future, however, Accord and Escape are two good choices that you can make now.

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