

A love for toy trains

OBSERVER LIFE - SECTION C



Play it safe this holiday season - Health, C8

SUNDAY

December 4, 2005

Observer

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Officials look for answers on the security front

BY CAROL MARSHALL STAFF WRITER

A change in how federal Homeland Security money is distributed and spent brought together some 40 representatives of local police and fire departments, as well as Wayne County Homeland Security Director James Buford, when Canton hosted a homeland security summit Tuesday.

"Basically what we wanted to know from the county is how much money the county receives in homeland security funding, how the money is being spent, and how decisions are made when it comes to spending that money," said Canton Public Safety Director John Santomauro.

Until 2005, Canton was one of seven Wayne County communities that were considered independent, and were granted homeland security funding to spind for the poly(s) Since 2001 Conton h

received \$373,000 and has used the federal money to purchase items such as a \$125,000 generator for Public Safety, a \$94,000 distributed only to a regional entity - in this case, Wayne County Homeland Security - and the local first responders want to be sure they'll be heard when the county's list of priorities is established. The federal money for 2005 will make it to the county's coffers next year.

"We have to find a way to use this money to help everyone," Buford said.

Buford, like Santomauro, said the top priority is a cohesive communications plan.

"We need to be able to have every community in Wayne County be able to pick up a radio and communicate with any other community in Wayne County. That's difficult because we have maybe 10 different communications systems," Buford said.

Another priority, according to Santomauro, is to be sure that every first responder has personal protective equipment

such a purchase will be at the top of the list when the department considers expenditures.

ment considers expenditures. Each suit costs some \$300, Buford said, and while the county has already ordered 400, it's possible that another 1,000 or 2,000 are needed. The radios cost millions of dollars, he added. "That upgrade, if we upgrade every system in Wayne County, would cost at least 15 to 20 million dollars," Buford said.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Robin Fraser (left) and Heather Spillane, both of Canton, visit with a few of the cast members of 'Christmas on the Farm,' an outdoor reenactment of the first Christmas with live animals.

Christmas on the farm

Animals to be part of play for hurricane victims

BY CAROL MARSHALL STAFF WRITER about hurricane survivors and how they wished they could help out when suddenly Spillane suggested an event at

cana, incide scane os a all and for the past two months, they ve been working on pulling together details of their plan.

"We have no idea how much money we'll be able to raise, but we printed 50 tickets for each of the three nights, and we hope to sell out every night," Fraser said. In addition to ticket sales, the pair hopes to collect cash donations to help out families who are temporarily staying in Romulus until they can go back to their Gulf Coast homes. There will be three performances, and after each night there will be time to enjoy refreshments – coffee, hot chocolate, and

REOPERATE OLCE FORM

"If you adopt a family, you get their names and then go out and buy gifts and bring them back before Christmas," said Real Life preschool teacher Sara

signal light battery, and \$20,000 worth of first-responder protective gear.

"The reality is that Canton is not in a position to do much in the area of prevention, when it comes to things like terrorism or even disasters," Santomauro said. "We are best off to focus our resources on reaction."

But starting in 2005, federal homeland security funding is

cmarshall@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700

It was an idea that came together one afternoon on a ride home from classes in Livonia, and next weekend, the idea will culminate in a live re-enactment of the Christmas story, complete with farm animals.

Robin Fraser, a student at Madonna University, and lifelong friend Heather Spillane, a student at Schoolcraft College, were carpooling one afternoon a few months ago. They were talking

The performance will feature 10 actors, mostly students from the local high schools. There will also be two horses, a donkey and two sheep. Maldonado.

The performances will be 6-8 p.m. Dec. 9, 10 and 11 at the Real Life Farm, located on Geddes Road between Beck and Denton Roads. For more information, email hurricanechristmas@yahoo.com. Tickets are \$3 for children age 3-13, \$5 for adults. Grandparents and children age 2 and younger can enjoy the program for free.

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Hunter at odds with some in neighboring sub

BY KURT KUBAN STAFF WRITER

Ever since he was a boy, David Blendea has always looked forward to deer hunting season. It's something he's done with his father since the age of 14, and he's continued to do it pretty much every year since.

Unfortunately, this year has been different. A journeyman bricklayer by trade, Blendea of Canton broke his foot in a construction accident just days before the Oct. 1 archery season opener, when he typically hunts his 10-acre wooded property that fronts the Rouge River not far from Beck and Geddes roads. He also has access to his neighbor's adjoining 10 acres, which is also wooded.

As a result of his accident, Blendea wasn't able to hunt with his bow at all this year. Instead, he decided to wait until the Nov. 15 firearms opener, and hunt his property with a muzzleloader, which he is legally able to use. He also let a friend

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Should all hunting be banned in Canton? Or should some hunting still be legal? Let us know what you think by sending an e-mail to kkuban@hometownlife.com, or a letter to: Canton Observer, 794 S. Main St., Plymouth 48170.

hunt on the property, as a favor because the friend helped him do some construction work on his home. On Nov. 17, his friend shot a six-point buck when Blendea was up at the house.

That's when the problems started. Soon after, Blendea says four Canton police officers, responding to a complaint, showed up at his home and confronted

PLEASE SEE DISPUTE, A5



David Blendea and his dog look out onto his 10-acre wooded property on Newton off of Beck Road. Although he has been hunting deer on the property since he bought it five years ago, he has had problems with neighbors this year.

Family moved after fire destroys home

BY CAROL MARSHALL STAFF WRITER

It was bad wiring that caused a Tuesday morning fire that destroyed a Canton mobile home and damaged another, according to Canton Fire Chief Mike Rorabacher.

"The wiring to the clothes dryer had not been done in accordance with code," Rorabacher said.

On Monday, just after 11 p.m., the Canton Fire Department had been called to the older mobile home (it was a 1979 model) in the College Park mobile home park on Mott Road. As fire crews were leaving the station to answer the call, they were informed that the fire had been put out by the owner of the home. Firefighters went to the scene to investigate, and found that there had been a small fire behind the dryer in the bathroom. They pulled the dryer away from the wall, and saw that there was charred wood paneling there, so they took the dryer outside, Rorabacher said. They removed the paneling until they got to clean, unburned wood. They looked under the trailer and determined that there was no fire there. They cut the power supply to the dryer and shook out the appli-

ance. "They took every reasonable precaution to determine that the fire was out and there was no

PLEASE SEE FIRE, A5

Coming Thursday © The Observer INDEX Test Drive Today! & Eccentric D8 Apartments For Home Newspapers in Filter F2 AUTOMOTIVE **Delivery call:** COMMUNITY LIFE C1 Volume 31 (866) 887-2737 Aerosmith brings its 'Rockin' The CROSSWORD D6 Number 45 **C8** Joint' tour to The Palace on Dec. 15. HEALTH D1 JOBS Ç4 OBITUARIES PERSPECTIVES A9 PINK C10 www.sesimotors.com E4 NEW HOMES SERVICE GUIDE D5 michigan ave. Upsilanti 734.482.7133 SA SPORTS

Santa letters

(C)

Attention, all Canton children. Now is your opportunity to send letters directly to Santa Claus via the township's North Pole Express. To mail your letter, drop it in the North Pole Express Mailbox in the Summit on the Park lobby before 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9.

Santa asks that you print your name and address clearly some may reply to your letter. All children will receive a return letter, and Santa's helpers will take care of the postage. Ages 10 and under only please.

LaJoy office hours

State Rep. Phil LaJoy, R-Canton, will hold district office hours from 3:30-5 p.m. on Dec. 12 at McCov's Restaurant and Ice Cream Parlor, 333 Industrial Park Drive in Belleville.

Local residents can meet with LaJoy to discuss state government concerns or issues. Ng appointment is necessary.

Holiday Luncheon

On Wednesday, Dec. 7, the Canton Chamber of Commerce will host its annual holiday luncheon at Summit on the Park. Buffet begins at 11:30 a.m.

The event will feature the Madrigal Singers and Chamber Choir from the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. Luncheon guests will also enjoy a special unveiling of the Chamber's new Web site, which is being touted as more user friendly.

The Chamber is also collecting gifts once again for the Canton Goodfellows, and guests are being asked to bring an unwrapped gift to the event. Cost of the luncheon is \$15

C)GANNETI

Newsroom (734) 459-2700

per person, and reservations, are necessary. Please RSVP to the Chamber office at (734) 453-4040 by Friday, Dec. 2. **Breakfast with Bruce**

All seniors are invited for a complimentary breakfast. Here's your opportunity to spend a little time with State Sen. Bruce Patterson. No **RSVP** required.

This free breakfast will be offered at the Central City Diner, 6600 N Canton Center Rd (between Ford and Warren roads), in Canton, on Monday, Dec. 5, 2005. It will run from 9 -10 a.m.

The restaurant's phone number is (734) 354-9100. Call Sue Trussell, Sen.

Patterson's District Director, at (734) 783-1642 with any questions

On Dec. 7 at 9:30 a.m., Patterson will also be co-hosting, with U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, a program designed to provide insight in the new Medicare prescription drug program. Ron Lieberman of Senior Alliance will provide details of the program and answer questions. The event will be held at the Plymouth District Library is located in downtown Plymouth at 223 S. Main Street.

Student achievement

Rabab Qamar, a student at Crescent Academy International in Canton, has demonstrated not only his artistic skills but also his knowledge of healthy lifestyles by winning an award in the M-CARE Healthy Kids, Healthy Families art contest. He won second place in the fourthgrade category.

The creative challenge was



Helping hometown heroes

The Canton Wal-Mart store last week donated grant money to Canton's Public Safety Department. Wal-Mart Assistant Manager Sue Walker presented Director of Public Safety John Santomauro with a check for \$1,000, and Fire Chief Michael Rorabacher with a check for \$2,000. The money was donated as part of Wal-Mart's Hometown Hero's program. Canton Community Foundation President Joan Noricks also received a \$1,000 check from Wal-Mart, which the foundation used to purchase 24 bicycles, to be donated to the Canton Goodfellows annual Christmas project, "No Canton Child Without a Christmas." Pictured are, from left, Noricks, Rorabacher, Walker, Santomauro, and John Spencer of the Canton Goodfellows.

open to all 4th through 8th grade students in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties to design a poster demonstrating what physical activities, eating habits, and general life patterns (such as adequate sleep) students and their families can do to live healthier, more rewarding lives. M-CARE sponsored the contest, and first, second, and third place winners were chosen from each grade from more than 850 total entries. Holidays with the

Newcomers

The Canton Newcomers, a

social, civic, and charitable organization designed to acquaint area residents with others in the Canton area, are looking for new members. The group will be hosting its annual Holiday Dinner Meeting at 7 p.m. on Dec. 7 at the Sunflower Clubhouse, located at 45800 Hanford Road (west of Canton Center, between Woodmare and Weathersfield - set back off the road) in the Sunflower subdivision in Canton. For more information about the club, call Karen at (734) 737-0755 or visit their ers.angelcities.com. Holiday concert

The Canton Concert Band will hold its second-annual holiday concert, "Gather Round the Tree: A Family Christmas," 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8.

The stage of the Village Theater at Cherry Hill will be transformed with trees, sleighs and all the sights of the holidays. The band will play traditional and holiday favorite music. Sing along as the sounds of familiar carols bring back your favorite Christmas memories.

Tickets are \$8, and are available at the Summit, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton, (734) 394-5460.

For more information about the concert or the band, call director Jim Blough at (734) 495-1608, or go to www.cantonband.com

Youth orchestra

The Celebration Youth Orchestra (CYO) will be presenting a concert at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 6, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton. Tickets are \$5.

The CYO is the youth orchestra sup-

ported by the

Orchestra and

is conducted

Plymouth

Symphony

by Ariel

Toews, the

Plymouth

Symphony's



Toews

assistant conductor. The orchestra is comprised of two ensembles the Celebration Strings and the Celebration Sinfonia. The group debuted in fall 2003 for orchestral musicians ages 9 and up. The

Memory Impaired, Frail/Recovering and Alzheimer's residents.

CYO is dedicated to challenging and inspiring students through high level. ensemble training and the performance of standard and new repertoire.

The Celebration Youth Orchestra is presented with support from the Westland Community Foundation, and the Canton Community Foundation. It is part of the Plymouth Symphony's Youth Outreach Education Program, which will impact. more than 5,000 students this year. Donations to the Symphony's No Kid without a Koncert Education Campaign help fund the CYO as well as many other programs for students throughout southeast Michigan.

Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased by phone or in person at Summit on the Park, (734) 394-5460, by phone or in person at the Plymouth Symphony Office, (734) 451-2112, or at the Village Theater box office one hour before the performance.

For more information please contact the Plymouth Symphony office at (734) 451-2112 or by e-mail at info@plymouthsymphony.or

Holiday fair

Tri-City Christian Center in Canton is holding a Holiday Craft Fair on Dec. 10, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tri-City Christian Center is located at 3855 Sheldon Road (Just north of Michigan Avenue). More than 75 crafters will be selling their wares. There is a \$1 admission. There will also be refreshments available and a bake sale. For more information, contact Cindy at (734) 495-3363.



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Observer

WHERE HOMETOWN STORIES UNFOLD



Give <u>Vourself</u> the Gift of Art Sign up in December for winter art classes or workshops starting in January. Day-time and evening classes available. Professional Teaches • All Media • All Levels Visual Arts Association of Livonia New location in the Livonia Mall 29518 Seven shir Road Sente C-11 Serivonia

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PHOTO BY HEATHER ROUSSEAU

Greg Blackwood (front left) was surrounded by family and friends gathered around a tree with a photo of his daughter Amy Blackwood on it, during the Compassionate Friends Candlelight Vigil in Plymouth's Kellogg Park last year. This year's event is scheduled for Dec. 11.

Candlelight vigil honors children lost too soon

Members of the Compassionate Friends know the holidays are tough times for people who've lost loved ones, especially children.

In an effort to help with the grief, The Compassionate Friends, Western Wayne County (Livonia) Chapter, sponsor a candle-lighting ceremony in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth Dec. 11 in conjunction with Children's Memorial Day.

"The holidays are especially difficult for parents who have lost children," said committee member Gail Lafferty. "This candle-lighting ceremony honoring them helps their memory live on." The ceremony will include the dedication of a tree decorated with ornaments with the children's names, a candlelight vigil, a reading of the children's names, poetry and

songs. The local ceremony includes the candle-lighting at 7 p.m. in conjunction with the worldwide candle-lighting. The idea. is that, as candles burn down in one time zone, they're lit in another, creating a 24-hour memorial.

Recognized in communities around the world, International Children's Memorial Day is already officially sanctioned by the U.S. Congress. "Hundreds of families will gather near a tree specially decorated with the names of children who have died too soon," Lafferty said.

For more information or to register a child, call or e-mail candle-lighting committee members Gail Lafferty, angel4gail@aol.com or (734) 981-4528 or Virginia Herrick, herrick@millercanfield.com or (248) 449-7598.

The Compassionate Friends is an international, nonprofit, nondenominational, self-help organization offering friendship, understanding and hope to bereaved families with the loss of their children.

Work at Canton intersection completed

Construction at the intersection of Denton, Saltz, and North Ridge roads was completed Nov. 28, and the intersection is now open to through traffic. Construction of the intersection was a large scale improvement project, and was completed in two phases.

Phase one was completed in the fall of 2004 and consisted of paving Denton Road from Cherry Hill to approximately 700 feet north of the newly constructed Fire Station Three. Phase two of the project con-

sisted of extending Denton Road north of Cherry Hill to Saltz and Ridge roads. Realignment of both Saltz Road and North Ridge Road were then done to create a cross street intersection with stop signs posted for east and westbound traffic along Saltz Road and North Ridge Road.

Northbound and southbound traffic traveling along the Denton Road extension



Construction of the intersection at Denton, Saltz and North Ridge roads (above) on Canton's west side was completed as of Nov, 28. Both Saltz and for North Ridge were realigned to create a cross street.

will continue without stopping. Denton Road will now serve as a bypass through Cherry Hill Village for traffic heading north and as the thoroughfare to Ford Road. A warning flasher will be installed at the intersection by Wayne County at a_{2} later date.

For more information on this or any other road construction (1997) project happening in Canton, (1997) please call Canton's Public Work's Division at (734) 394-5150.



Scouts helping Scouts

As part of their ongoing dedication to public service efforts, Pioneer Middle School Junior Girl Scout Troop 864 held a pop can drive on Saturday, Nov. 5, to raise money to assist fellow Junior Girl Scouts affected by Hurricane Katrina. The troop raised more than \$250 to purchase Girl Scout-related items which, will be sent to the Bayou Girl Scout Council in Lafayette, La. The Bayou Council has requested donations of badges, insignias, vests, pins, handbooks and other Girl Scout-related items. The local Scouts will also include letters of encouragement and support for the girls so that they know people from everywhere in the country care about them. Serving as scout leader for Troop 864 is Sue Emens. Scouts pictured are, from left, Emily Gibson, Tessa Warner Megan Brewer, Jamie Emens, Laura Seely, Kathryn Ramey and Stacey Jedele.

BRICHT, EAGER, AND STILL A POOR STUDENT

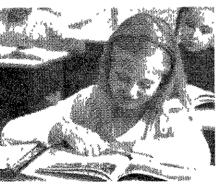


Your child may have 20/20 eyesight but 0/0 vision-the difference is critical. Eyesight is merely the basic ability to see; vision is the ability to identify, interpret, comprehend and act on what is seen.

Routine vision tests performed by school personnel or by most eye care professional measure eyesight. They do not include the kinds of testing that can find visually related learning problems.

COULD YOUR CHILD BE AT RISK?

- · Has trouble comprehending
- Avoids reading or other up close tasks
- · Omit, turn around, or confuse letters/words
- Easily distracted
- Short attention span
- Squint, frown, or rub eyes
- Frustrated when doing homework
- Poor handwriting



Perhaps you know a very bright child who never works up to their potential. Different methods have been tried, even extra tutoring, but they still fall behind. Meanwhile, that bright child is becoming more frustrated, losing self esteem and may already be feeling a sense of FAILURE. Chances are they may have a vision related learning difficulty.

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LIKE NUMBERS? there are a pile of them in today's SPORTS section



In your paper wery Thursday!

Looking for holiday gifts? Check out Secondhand Prose,

the used bookshop at the Canton Public Library. It's operated by the Friends of the Library and has some great holiday bargains with proceeds benefitting the library. Many books are just \$1 so you can afford to treat everyone on your gift list.

NOW @ YOUR CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

TEEN PROGRAMS

Teen Tuesday: 3 p.m. Join teens for fun, games, crafts and snacks. Create your own cards on Dec. 6.

Chess Club: Thursdays at 4 p.m. No advanced registration required.

📕 2/4 Open Mic: Saturday, Dec. 10 from 2-6 p.m. with host Mike Anton.

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Comfort Food: Rachael Ray Top 30 30-Minute Meals by Rachael Ray

DVD

Harris

.■A Christmas Carol ■ The Christmas Wife starring Jason Robards and Julie ■ Madagascar

Children's Non-Fiction Nutty Names: A Book of Name Jokes by Mark Ziegler Gutsy Girls: Young Women Who Dare by Tina Schwager

Hanukkah Lights: Holiday Poetry published by HarperCollins

@ The Library is compiled by Laurie Golden, marketing and communications manager of the Canton Public Library, which is located at 1200 S. Canton Center. For more information about library programs and services, call (734) 397-0999 or visit www.cantonpl.org.

YWCA's wish list is for people it serves Many programs need art and or organizations can sponsor

craft supplies, computers,

sports equipment, bus services

for field trips, and new books.

New or like-new women's busi-

ness clothes are needed for the

the workforce with clothing for

Corporate Women's Program,

which helps women re-enter

interviews and resume help.

Volunteers are needed to

Mentors are especially needed

enrolled in YWCA programs.

lies in need of extra assistance

help out with all programs.

to help the boys and girls

The YWCA of Western Wayne County is making a list and checking it twice. It's its Holiday Wish List to help the many people it serves throughout the year.

"This Holiday Wish List will give members of the communities the YWCA serves a chance to help their less fortunate neighbors this holiday season," said Karen Murphy, YWCA chief executive officer.

Donations can be designated to send a child to camp for the summer, for the after school programs, or for any of the other programs offered by the YWCA.

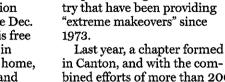
this holiday season. Individuals Christmas in Action seeking applicants

chapters throughout the coun-

The YWCA already has fami-

Applications to receive a 2006 Christmas in Action home makeover are due Dec. 31. To participate in this free program you must live in Canton, own your own home, be elderly or disabled, and unable to afford repairs to your home.

Christmas in Action is a non-profit organization with



in Canton, and with the combined efforts of more than 200 community volunteers, free repairs were done on seven homes. The repairs ranged from simple, but critical, plumbing and painting, to putting on a new roof, siding, windows, and pouring a new concrete driveway. All repair costs were sponsored entirely through donations from community businesses, churches, schools, civic groups and indiThe YWCA through its preschool, youth and family programs serves more than 700 families living in Westland, Garden City, Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Belleville, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Inkster, Northville, Romulus, Taylor, Wayne and Van Buren Township. For more ideas on how you

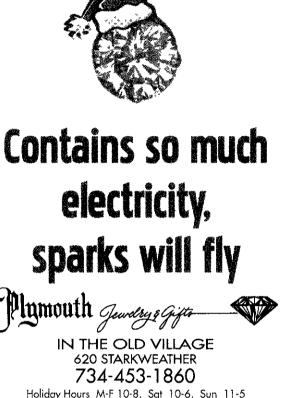
them and help their children.

or your organization can help the families and children the YWCA serves this holiday season, call the YWCA at (313) 561-4110.

the first floor of Canton's Administration Building, located at 1150 Canton Center Road. Once you've completed the application please send it to: Christmas in Action, P.O. Box 1781, Canton, MI 48187.

Christmas in Action's event day is always the last Saturday in April and next years event will be held on April 29.

Canton's CIA Chapter is composed of an eight member board headed by Jim Cisek and is endorsed by the Canton Board of Trustees. For more information on CIA please call (734) 844-8900 or log onto christmasinactionwayne@com cast.net. To volunteer for the April 29 action day please contact Pat VanDusen at pvandusen@canton-mi.org.



Saturday. December 10th Just when you thought our prices couldn't get any better...we will be kicking off our Winter Clearance on Saturday, December 10th. Almost No other discounts/coupons apply to this sale.

Some large items may not be on sale. 5804 N. Sheidon Canton 734-459-6669 (Ford & Sheldon)

> Store Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-8pm Sunday Noon-5pm Be early for best deals!

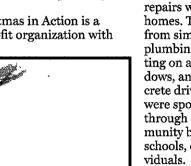
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IOLLERS

sparks will fly Mymouth Jewelry & Gifts Holiday Hours M-F 10-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5 www.plymouthjewelry.com



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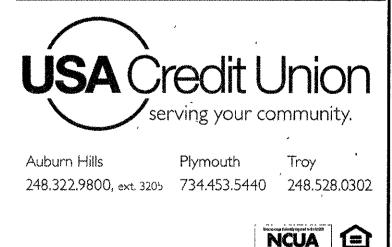
- Once during the 12-month term you can increase the rate to the current rate without changing the maturity date.
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- Make as many deposits as you like, with a minimum of \$10 and a maximum of \$25,000 per day.

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Club USA Boom For older Members, ages 13-17.

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DISPUTE

FROM PAGE A1

his friend, who was still out in the woods looking for the dead deer. After a short investigation, the police determined nobody was breaking the law and left. After they left, Blendea decided to hobble his way out to his elevated stand and hunt himself. Soon another buck came walking by; and Blendea shot it.

Blendea, 44, said it was only a matter of minutes before two more police officers confronted him in the woods. After what he says was somewhat of a heated exchange, the police officers left. Blendea said they apologized for bothering him as they were leaving. After the incident, Blendea said he didn't hunt again during the season, which ended on Dec. 1.

To make matters worse, when Blendea was eating his Thanksgiving dinner a week later, he picked up the Canton Observer and read a story that ran with the headline, "Woman irate after home hit with hunter's bullet." As he read the story, which detailed Patricia Pellerito's complaints about a "bunch of yahoos" who have been hunting in the woods behind her home in the River Meadows subdivision, it didn't take him long to figure out Pellerito was his neighbor and she was talking about his property.

Blendea said he was just "blown away" when he read the story, and he disputes much of what Pellerito said, especially that someone on his property shot her home.

"I can guarantee that no bullet has come off this property. I admit the area around me has become a residential area, but I know where I am hunting. I have a small shooting lane back there, and that's the only place I will shoot," he said.

When Pellerito was contacted Thursday, she wanted to make it perfectly clear she was not saying Blendea shot her home, and isn't even sure when it happened

"I'm not saving he did i Heck, for all 5 know my neighbors got into an argument and one pulled out a gun and shot the house. We never said he did it, and

taught me from an early age, is 'safety, safety, safety.' You always have to be aware where your bullet is going," he said. "I take her charges

very seriously." He's considering not using his muzzleloader anymore, and just sticking to archery hunting in the future, because he realizes the conflict could add more fuel to the anti-hunting fires.

"I don't want to be the one who ends up eliminating hunting in Canton. I don't want an ordinance that says I can't hunt on my property," he said.

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FIRE

FROM PAGE A1

fürther danger," Rorabacher said. "What we couldn't have possibly known is that there was a second start." And an hour later, just

after midnight, another fire broke out and this time, it destroyed the entire residence.

"What really got my attention was we were there for a little fire, then had to go back for a big fire," Rorabacher said. "I thought, 'What's going on here?' We scrutinized the hell out of this."

Their preliminary investi-

gation indicates that the fire was caused by a short circuit in the electrical service to the clothes dryer. This 240-volt 30-amp dryer service was installed without regard to code by running the line through the heating duct into the bathroom. The dryer wall outlet was not secured to the wall and the dryer plug had been modified to work in the wall outlet. It is the Fire Investigation Team's determination that the insulation from the dryer service wire was worn away by the sharp edges of the hole created in the heat duct causing a short circuit that resulted in

two points of origin for this fire.

The faulty wiring was likely installed by the mobile home's previous owner, Rorabacher said.

"Apparently this gentleman had acquired the home through a program the park has for selling off abandoned mobile homes," he said.

Older mobile homes are vulnerable to fire, because they contain so much wood paneling, Rorabacher said. Newer mobile homes, on the other hand, are somewhat more fire resistant because they contain more drywall and are constructed in a more safety-conscious manner, he added.

Though the mobile home and its contents were not pricey - \$5,000 for the home and \$3,000 for the contents, according to Rorabacher - the loss is still difficult for the owner of the home, his girlfriend and the two children who also lived there.

"Any loss is terrible," Rorabacher said.

However, the residents have been placed in another mobile; home in the park.

"So that's good news," Rorabacher said.

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Sec. 2 4

we're not blaming anybody," she said. "All I know is hunting is taking place back there, which raises questions.'

However, Pellerito does question if Blendea was hunting too close to her home. State law says you cannot hunt within 150 yards of an occupied building or home.

"The question still remains where he made his kill," she said.

Canton Police Detective Sgt. Rick Pomorski says he's satisfied that Blendea was hunting legally. He said the officers reported that Blendea was in an elevated stand not within 1,500 yards of the nearest home or dwelling. As far as he is concerned, the case is closed, because Blendea hasn't broken the law.

"There is no investigation, because there is no violation of the law. She (Pellerito) may not be happy, and I can understand that, but the guy did nothing wrong," Pomorski said. "If there was a violation of law, we would have taken care of it right there and then, but the officer determined there was no violation."

Blendea admits the whole episode has soured him, because he wants to get along with his neighbors. But he also maintains his right to hunt, which the Michigan Department of Resources says is legal, despite the township's recent efforts to ban hunting. He says he takes his hunting seriously, and doesn't want to be seen as a "yahoo."

"My dad's rule, which he



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YOU'RE SOMEBODY SPECIA

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 4, 2005

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Getting it right

Doctor helps treat misunderstood disease

BY BRAD KADRICH STAFF WRITER

Randee Berson spent nearly 20 years with discomfort, chronic fatigue, even a heart attack, going from doctor to doctor looking for a diagnosis that would ease her pain.

Finally, she ended up in the Plymouth waiting room of Dr. Irene Metro, a leading specialist in treating fibromyalgia, a disease symptomized by widespread musculoskeletal pain and fatigue for which, according to the fibromyalgia Web site www.fmnetnews.com, the cause is still unknown.

Berson, who lives in Chicago, said the pain had gotten so bad, and so continuous, she had decided Metro would be her final doctor.

"I was in very bad shape, in pain and fatigued all the time," Berson recalled. "This was going to be my last doctor. Either I see her and do as she tells me, or I don't want to live."

Metro has had her clinic in Plymouth for five years, and she has become more and more specialized in the treatment of fibromyalgia, a disease she says many doctors don't know how to diagnose. She also said Berson's experience isn't atypical.

"It's most commonly misdiagnosed as arthritis, or they say it's psychosomatic," Metro said. "Traditionally, it's been treated with anti-depressants and analgesics. Some physicians put patients on nar-

*



cotics, which just gives them another problem."

Metro's approach is more of a whole-patient approach. The first appointment generally runs 2-3 hours, during which time the doctor gets to know just about everything she can learn about the patient.

According to Metro, between 6-10 million people have fibromyalgia in the United States, most of the shuttled from doctor to doctor, with some saying it's all in the patients' head.

"When they come here, I can put all the pieces togeth-er," she said. "It's a syndrome, it's not all one thing."

Metro has run the Plymouth clinic for five years after working in Chicago before that. She's board-certified in internal medicine, did her residency at Brown University and her master's of bio-physics at the State

University of New York. Metro and physical therapist Jeff Allen, owner of Allen Physical Therapy, work closely together to treat fibromyalgia patients, primarily using 'trigger-point injections" to isolate the source of pain and treat it.

"We take a detached approach and identify the exact spot to alleviate the symptoms," said Allen, who is also an acupuncturist and a psycho-therapist with a degree in physical therapy from Wayne State University. "We've seen some tremendous successes here."

Metro said the mental aspects are almost as imporclinic.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

tant as physical problems in treating a disease like fibromyalgia.

"Keeping your spirits up is a key," Metro said. "You have to have hope. That's why we set goals, and most of the patients make their goals." Whatever they're doing

seems to be working. Berson, a 20-year veteran medical assistant who lives in Chicago, felt so much gratitude to Metro that she now commutes back and forth to work three days a week in Metro's Plymouth clinic.

"I talked to Dr. Metro and really believed in what she did," Berson said. "I feel this is a safe place for me, because this is where I got well."

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Israeli consul meets with **Detroit media**

BY HUGH GALLAGHER STAFF WRITER

Before addressing a group of Detroit area journalist, Barukh Binah, consul general of Israel for the Midwest, said that for many American Jews news about Israel is "local news."

Binah was being introduced Tuesday to Detroit media by the Jewish Community Council based in Bloomfield Hills at a luncheon at Opus I in downtown Detroit. The news from Israel is that an early election is scheduled for March 28 that might have a big impact on relations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

"Israel has begun the polit-ical season," Binah said. "Of course in Israel, the political season is always broiling."

The current coalition government formed by the conservative Likud Party collapsed when Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, former Likkud leader, bolted the party to create a more centrist party, Kadima or Forward. Sharon disbanded the Knesset, Israel's parliament, and called for the March election, about eight months before the regularly scheduled election date. The other major party in the country is the center-left Labor Party, under new leader Amir

Peretz. Binah said Israel has about 10 active political parties, including two Arab parties.

"It is time to concentrate on social and economic issues," Binah said. He said the problem for Likud will be to present their "social and economic credentials."

On Wednesday former Prime Minister Shimon Perez resigned from the Labor Party to support Sharon's new party.

On the key issue of Palestine, Binah said all the major parties agree on a "two-state" solution, creating a separate Palestine in the Gaza and West Bank areas. He said they all agree on a strong defense of Israel's borders and they all agree on preserving a united Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

In recent months, Israel has moved Israeli settlers out of Gaza at gunpoint, which drew strong opposition from many Jews throughout the world.

"Disengagement from Gaza was a painful sight for every-one," Binah said. "They (the settlers) felt they were fulfilling the call of the country, which was correct but the call of the country has changed."

Binah the Israeli Army did a good job of handling the evacuation of settlers with "sensitivity.'

He said the problem for the future is develop a working relationship with Palestinians.

'We have to counter terror while maintaining dialogue," he said. "Your country has been exposed to terrorism, not because of what America has done but because of what Americo is."

He said Israel recognizes its special debt to the United States for help in protecting its security.

As counsel general for the Midwest, Binah said he was

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A6 (C)

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interested in building better trade relations with Michigan and other states in his region.

In response to a question, Binah touted Israel as a diverse tourist destination. As a center for several world religions, Israel draws pilgrims from throughout the world to religious sites.

But Binah said the country offers everything from the desert culture of the Negev to skiing in the Golan Heights to the Bauhaus architecture and nightlife of Tel Aviv.

"And Israelis are very welcoming people," he said. He said recent increased security measures make

Israel a safe destination for travelers.

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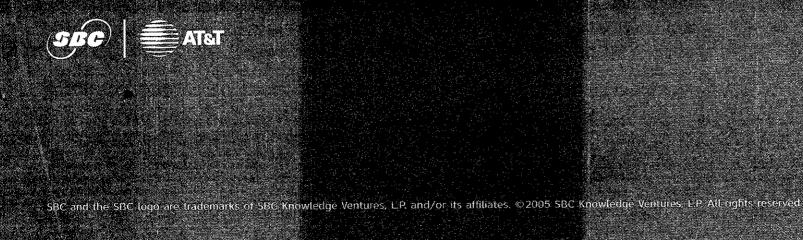


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Traveling across cultures

Program helps students learn about each other

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

A8

(C)

When 15 teenagers arrived from Germany last month to study for a couple of weeks at the Plymouth-Canton Schools' educational park, the most noticeable difference from going to high school in their homeland to one where there were three high schools on one campus was immediately apparent.

"In Germany, we stay in one class and we don't have to go to other classes during school," said 18-year-old Steffen Boettiger. "We stay in one class and the teacher comes to us."

And, so began the twoweek high school career at P-CEP for the German exchange students from Eduard-Spranger-Schule in Freudenstadt (Joy Town), Germany, about 50 miles from Stuttgart.

The German students were taking part in the German American Partnership Program, an exchange program that provides high school students the opportunity to learn more about German culture and study the German language.

Boettiger, who lived with Plymouth High School junior David Maycock and his family in Plymouth Township, said the entire educational program in Germany — K-12 as we know it — is much different that what he found in the U.S. For one, his German school has about 1,300 stu-

15-Month CD

dents, about a quarter of the nearly 5,500 students at Plymouth-Canton's high school park.

"After fourth grade, we can choose between three school paths, high level, medium and low level," said Boettiger. "We go to gymnasium, the highest level, one of the hardest schools. We study to go to the university."

In fact, gymnasium is almost equal to college in Germany and can take up to 13 years to complete, which is equivalent to a high school degree in the U.S.

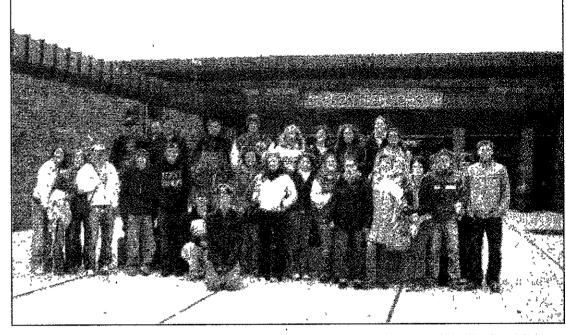
"In gymnasium, students study economics, technical and housekeeping, which is like science and biology," said Hans-Peter Hirsch, the group's liaison for the trip.

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American and German students taking part in the German American Partnership Program got together for a trip to Greenfield Village recently.

"I think it must be easier, here, for the Germans because in gymnasium they already choose hard classes." Eighteen-year-old Carmen Kreidler was able to travel with her Plymouth Township "sister," Jillian Miller, visiting Greenfield Village, Cedar Point amusement park, attending cheerleading practice with Miller and taking part in trick-or-treating.

"We have one amusement park in Germany, but it's not so good like Cedar Point," said Kreidler. "In Germany, we haven't got loops in our roller coasters."

Kreidler did help the U.S. economy while visiting, spending some of her time shopping.

"We went to an outlet store and I bought a lot," Kreidler said with a smile. "Everything here is cheaper.

"I go into a store and they ask you how you are, that's not normal in Germany," she said. "I will tell my friends to they should go to America because everything is so great."

For Miller, a Canton High School junior, the experience was better than she first imagined.

"At first I was scared I would get someone I didn't get along with," said Miller. "Even though they live across the ocean in Europe, there's not a big difference in any of us."

Maycock said he liked having a "brother" for a couple of weeks.

"It was good having someone to hang around with all the time," Maycock said.

Maycock will have to brush up on his German before he travels abroad to stay with Boettiger for a couple of weeks next summer.

"When they speak to each other in regular conversations, it's hard to understand," said Maycock. "When they speak to us in German, they speak more slowly so we can understand."

Canton High School German teacher Linda Hahn is looking forward to taking a dozen students to Germany next June to stay with the same students they hosted for a couple of weeks.

"It will be nice for them to be able to practice their German and know they haven't wasted their time in the classroom watching movies, reading textbooks and doing exercises on paper," said Hahn. "I told them they're going to panic, feel like they don't know anything.

"Let them see what they know, because I think they'll find out they really do know something," she said.

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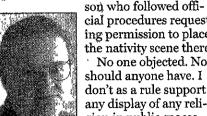
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It's time to call a truce in the war against Christmas

" 'm old enough to remember when cities placed nativity scenes in local parks for Christmas.

· Oops. I just committed two breaches of ethics. I referenced nativity scenes at public parks and used the word Christmas. That's not quite proper these days.

Yes, you will find a nativity scene at Shain Park. But it certainly isn't citysponsored. It was placed there by a per-



cial procedures requesting permission to place the nativity scene there. No one objected. Nor should anyone have. I don't as a rule support any display of any religion in public spaces. But neither do I think it's an earth-shattering

Greg Kowalski

. Not everyone feels that way. In case you haven't heard, there is a "War against Christmas" being waged in this nation. The Rev. Jerry Falwell and the right-wing pundits are outraged! - outraged, I say! over the fact that some communities have rechristened Christmas trees as "holiday trees." This is somehow an affront on the Christian values on which this country was founded and a further erosion of our morals. (Never mind that Christmas trees actually are pagan symbols.)

issue.

Or this might be a limp attempt to reenergize the Religious Right, which seems to be losing some power as President Bush and the Republicancontrolled Congress are beset with problems that are dividing its own ranks.

Whatever.

The fact is, both sides of this issue are right. There should be no official government sanctioning of religious displays of any sort. But let's face it, Christmas is Christ-mas. It celebrates,

or at least is supposed to, the birth of Jesus Christ.

Our government has gotten around some of the pesky religious issues, such as closing government offices on Christmas Day, by declaring Christmas as a secular holiday as well as a religious one.

There was a time when none of this seemed to matter. Christians celebrated Christmas and non-Christians enjoyed the day off. Few were affronted by nativity scenes placed in parks, even though they were symbolic of a particular religion. It was a non-issue.

Perhaps there were more important things to worry about in those days, when I was growing up, but I don't think so.

There was the Cold War, but that was a war in theory. No bombs exploded on our land and no missiles fell on us.

A war was raging in Vietnam — half a world away. At home, we were more preoccupied with our day-to-day lives.

These days, terrorism is a real threat to our lives in our homes. There is a new version of Vietnam under way half a world away again and many people here are facing an uncertain economic future.

Yet some of us still manage to find the energy to fret and fight over what amounts to nothing.

This so-called War against Christmas is a sham. A few incidents of dumb behavior are being manipulated by some self-serving ministers and media people into an attack on Christianity.

How about this for peace proposal: Call it a Christmas tree, let non-government-sponsored groups have access to public parks for nativity scenes, or menorahs, or Santas or whatever (just as Birmingham does) and everyone shut up and enjoy the holidays.

Greg Kowalski is editor of the Birmingham Eccentric. He can be reached at (248) 901-2570 or by e-mail at gkowalski@hometownlife.com

Ornaments ignore diversity

recent trip to Bronner's Christmas Wonderland revealed something ugly about this country manufacturers largely ignore people of color when it comes to Christmas Ornaments.

I went to Bronner's with my fiancée, Robin, to buy decorations for what will be our first Christmas tree. We needed just about everything for a tree but tops on the list was an ornament to honor Ndeye, 6, a little girl half a world away in Senegal, Africa. Robin and I sponsor Ndeye through the Christian Children's Fund. We've heard from her through a letter but don't know much about the life she lives in Senegal. That fact doesn't remove her from our thoughts and we wanted an ornament for Ndeye.

It seemed like a simple request.

Larry

Ruehlen

For those of you who haven't been to Bronner's, it's in Frankenmuth and claims to be the biggest Christmas decor store in the world. Company literature boasts 50,000 items for sale including decorations and gifts from 70 nations.

Our search began at the west entrance. First in our basket was fake icicles at \$6.99 a

dozen. Second was a tree skirt and third was a small nativity scene. The ornament we were after had yet to appear.

To be fair to Bronner's, the majority of its decorations don't depict people at all. Reindeer, snowflakes, jingle bells and lights of all kinds are for sale as well as ornaments of every shape and color. The biggest problem was that whenever an ornament had a per-

son on it, that person was invariably as white as all the fake snow decorating the more 90,000 square feet of retail space at Bronner's. After an hour we were half way through the store and couldn't find a dark face on a single ornament.

We then saw a black couple walking around Bronner's with an empty shopping basket. I didn't know what they were shopping for and didn't ask but the dearth of ornaments with people of color had my mind racing. Just what does a parent tell a child who asks where the black Santa ornaments are?

And what about the angels that top Christmas trees all around the land. If a minority child doesn't see black, Hispanic or Asian angels standing alongside the white cherubs, does the child think only whites go to heaven? That notion is silly to adults, but what do young children think?

I'm not politically correct and don't claim to have close friends of every ethnicity, yet I was still bothered. Questions lingered.

Isn't this America where everyone is supposed to be equal? Don't companies spend millions of dollars marketing Hip Hop culture to white youth? If it's hip for white kids to act black, why can't a black family buy an ornament with someone on it that looks familiar? I'm not talking about ornaments with African themes either, I'm talking about

depictions of everyday life including people of color. Think of it as Andy Warhol with a twist of Romare Beardon.

After seeing about 40,000 of the store's 50,000 items, we finally found a black angel tree topper on a table crowded with white angels. She was the cutest angel Bronner's had, but we felt uncomfortable buying her. What would our friends think? Shouldn't we get an angel that looks like us? With a touch of guilt, we bought a white angel and put the cute angel back on $\frac{1}{18}$ the shelf.

Our last hope was Bronner's section of Christmas decorations from around the world. After nearly two 'lly hours of looking, we fittingly found an ornament to 79 honor Ndeye in the section labeled Africa. According 32 to the U.S. Census, this country has 39 million blacks $_{10}$ and another 39 million Hispanics, yet the only orna- in ment we could find representing a person of color came from Africa - I was stunned.

We talked about the ornament search on the hour $\frac{1}{10}$ drive home, and I began to feel despair for our coun- $_{0,i}$ try. We have come so far in so many ways but in a very basic quality-of-life issue like offering representative Christmas decorations, we are making a pathetic effort.

With that initial thought in mind I dropped an email to Bronner's Merchandising Director Anne Koehler.

"Our buying team does try very hard to have all ethnic back grounds represented," she said. "We often request our vendors to come up with more and better product. We did find more in 2005. We carried a line of black children in various activities (playing sports, ballerinas, and the like). We also had a new Hispanic line of trims. We also found sources in Africa for some new ornaments and nativity scenes made there. We do have a nice selection of ethnic angels (treetops & trims) and also Santas. We really are trying! But to answer your question specifically, no, the product is not readily available "

Koehler said that perhaps the store had sold out of some of the ethnic items it once offered but that it would try to do better next year.

To put things in perspective, people of color represent nearly 32 percent of the U.S. population. That's a , whole bunch of customers the ornament industry is shamefully ignoring and diminishing.

I asked a black co-worker about the situation to see if I was angry over nothing. She smiled and said most black people don't get upset about such things because they were raised shopping in stores that only carried ornaments with whites on them. And no, black children don't believe Santa and all the angels in heaven are white, she said, You'd never know that shopping for Christmas orna-

ments.

Larry Ruehlen is the editor of the West Bloomfield Eccentric. He can be reached by phone at (248) 901-2556 or by e-mail at Iruehlen@hometownlife.com.



COUNTY NEWS

Kilpatrick tells journalists it's time to come together

BY ALEX LUNDBERG STAFF WRITER

Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick said residents of the entire region are going to have to shelve their differences and come together if southeast Michigan is going to thrive as a vibrant urban area in the coming decades.

Kilpatrick, fresh from what many considered a surprise victory in his bid for re-election last month, was the keynote speaker at the annual Observer & Eccentric Journalist of the Year breakfast.

In her introduction, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers' **Executive Editor Susan Rosiek** said Kilpatrick has had a farreaching career since leaving college, working as a teacher and being elected to the state House of Representatives before becoming the youngest mayor in Detroit's history.

"In that editorial endorsement of Aug. 10, 2001, the Detroit Free Press called Kwame Kilpatrick the candidate of potential," Rosiek said. "... a lot has happened since that editorial was written and once again as many believe we find ourselves, city and suburbs, at odds."

Kilpatrick said the city of Detroit stands at a crossroads. poised for a sea change in how it and the state has to look at what they do and who they are.

"We've been inextricably entwined in the manufacturing industry. All of us here have had relatives working in that indus-

The quality stacks up!



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick was the keynote speaker at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers' Journalist of the Year breakfast at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham.

ing."

try," he said. "But that's gone forever. Analysts have been saying for the past 50 years that we're in a cyclical downturn. We have to start talking about how we're going to live for the next 50 years."

One of the problems with moving ahead, Kilpatrick said, is that the region has been conning itself into believing there isn't a race problem ...

"Everybody wants everybody else to get along," Kilpatrick said.

1

HIDALGO

"We need a project, one that's during the 1990s - he said the problem masks itself. When more important than a good feelthings aren't going so well, the mask drops.

He said it's time for everyone on both sides of Eight Mile to "When the economy is going to hell the old emotions come out." acknowledge that race is an issue. When times are good - such as Kilpatrick said.

MEET THE MAYOR

Kwame M. Kilpatrick, 35 B.S.; political science, Florida A&M University Juris doctor, Detroit College of Law Former middle school teacher; member, Michigan House of Representatives Wife: Carlita, three sons.

Illustrating the point about how people don't have to like each other to work together, he referenced a trip he took to Israel a few years ago. The delegation met with Israelis and Palestinians during the visit and neither group bothered to hide their antipathy toward each other. But, Kilpatrick said, both realized that tourism was their No. 1 industry and resolved to work together.

O&E President and Publisher Richard Aginian advised the mayor to sell assets like the Detroit Zoo, Cobo Hall and the city lighting system to help the city's growing budget deficit.

Kilpatrick said it wasn't as easy as that.

"In order to sell something like lighting you need a buyer," he

said. "No one wants to buy that. It costs the city \$10 million a year for lighting but we're getting it at wholesale cost. If we sell it to someone we'll be paying retail."

While absolutely no one wants to purchase Cobo, he said the offers that have come in for the Detroit Zoo property so far are too low for the value of the land and, not surprisingly, include plans more lucrative than a public zoo.

The only echo of the contentious and sometimes bruising race for the mayor's office surfaced when the mayor was asked if he was willing to apologize for a statement he made during the first mayoral debate about the use rate of drugs like ecstasy and acid in the Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills school districts.

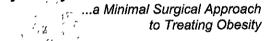
Kilpatrick said there was no reason to apologize since the statement was true. He explained his comment was the result of being incensed by his opponent's mention of character education and felt the need to respond.

"It was not my intent to dog, kids but to point out that all kids need help," he said. "In Detroit, kids do a lot of marijuana. Out here, they do a lot of 'X.' There are messed up kids in Detroit, but there are also messed up kids in Birmingham too."

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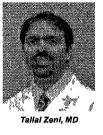
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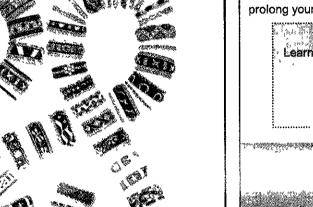
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Observer SPORTS Observer

ALL-AREA – Girls swim team is presented

D0G IT – Bowling center employs canine

Section B

Sunday, December 4, 2005

5

Ed Wright, editor (734) 953-2108 Fax (734) 591-7279 ewright@hometownlife.con www.hometownlife.com

Salem football coach Cummings resigns

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Citing a desire to spend more quality time with his family, Salem football coach Bob Cummings resigned Monday, less than two months after guiding the Rocks to a 3-6 record in his fifth season at the helm.

"Coaching high school/foot-

ball is a 360-days-a-year job now, which takes away from the time I've been able to spend with my two-and-a-half-yearold daughter and my wife," said Cummings, who compiled a 10-35 record since taking over from Salem coaching legend Tom Moshimer prior to the 2001 season. "Every time I would leave the house lately, my daughter would look up at me

and ask, 'Are you going back to football again, daddy?' It came down to the fact that I want to be around more as my daughter grows up.

"I've been thinking about this decision for a while and my wife and I sat down after Thanksgiving and decided this is what we need to do."

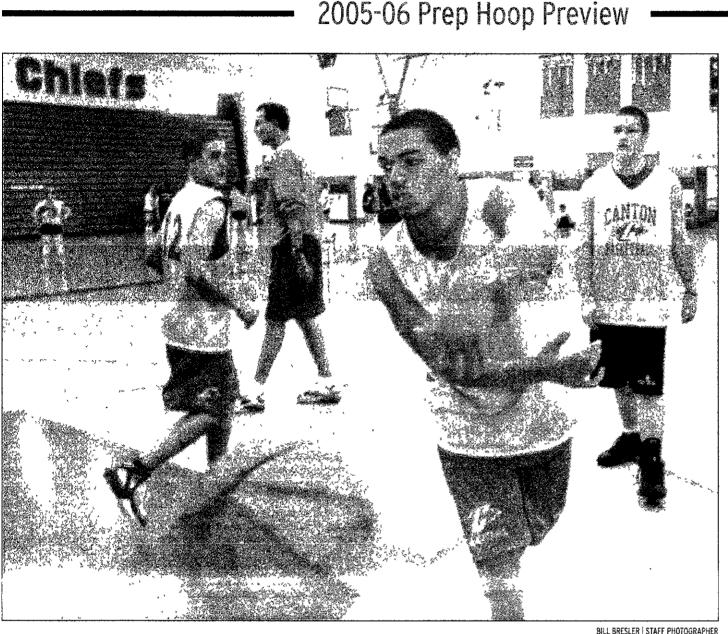
Salem athletic director Tom Willette had nothing but praise for Cummings and asserted that there was no pressure from him to step down.

"I thought Bob did very well during his five years as head coach," Willette said. "You can't always equate success with wins and losses. I know he wishes the program would have had more wins, but I felt he always handled things with class. "Coaching high school athlet-

ics takes up a lot of time and, obviously. Bob realized it was more important at this time in his life to spend more time with his family. I respect his decision."

Willette said the process of finding Cummings' successor will begin within the next few days.

PLEASE SEE CUMMINGS, B2



Senior Andre Bridges will provide Canton's basketball team with a potent combination of inside and outside scoring punch.

Big red Chiefs led by tall, talented front line

Please see Salem basketball preview on Page B6.

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Riddle: What's red, white and tall all over?

Answer: Canton starting low-post players Ryan Waidmann, Steve Paye and Andre Bridges, who stand 6-foot-7, 6-5 and 6-3, respectively.

The Chiefs' size around the basket will be no joke to their opponents, who may find rebounding and scoring down low against Canton a challenging task.

"All three of those players have good size and they're athletic, too," said Canton coach Charlie Paye, who guided the Chiefs to a 15-8 record last season. "Our practices have been really competitive so far. The defense has been ahead of the offense, which has been kind of frustrating, but that's the way it goes when the other team

PLEASE SEE CHIEFS, B3

Coaches: Please call in results

The area's prep athletic coaches are encouraged to call the results of their team's competitions into ¹ Observer Sports Editor Ed Wright so that the high school athletes receive the recognition 🖞 they deserve.

in to Wright at (734) 953-2108; they can be faxed to (734) 591-7279:18 or they can be e-mailed to ewright@hometownlife.com. If Wright is covering an⁵

event at the time of your call, please leave a message and he will return your call promptly. The deadline for Thursday's Observer is Tuesday at 11 p.m. The deadline for Sunday's issue is Friday at 11 p.m. 🖁

Hole-in-one

Plymouth resident Bob Brocious aced the 115yard 13th hole at Glenhurst Golf Course in Redford on Nov. 12. Brocious, 57, used a pitching wedge to record. the fifth hole-in-one in his 35-year golfing career.

Brocious finished with . an 18-hole round of 74.

Skating lessons

Registration for the Plymouth Recreation Department's 2006 Winter II Basic Skills Skating Lessons will be

Whalers tame **IceDogs** to move into 1st

A balanced combination of excellent goal-tending and penalty-killing with just enough offense spelled the difference as the Plymouth Whalers defeated the Mississauga IceDogs, 4-0, in an Ontario Hockey League game played Friday night at the Compuware Sports Arena.

The victory moved Plymouth into sole possession of first place in the OHL's West Division with a record of 14-8-1-3 (32 points). Plymouth is now two points ahead of Saginaw (15-9-0-0), which has two games in hand on the Whalers. Mississauga is now 8-17-1-2 and buried in the OHL Central Division's cellar.

Whalers' net-minder Ryan Nie stopped 45 shots and earned first-star recognition. The shutout was Nie's first of the season and the fifth of his stellar career. Plymouth penalty-killers - who are ranked third in the OHL with an 83.8 success ratio - were perfect, killing all 11 Mississauga power plays.

John Vigilante scored two goals for Plymouth and was named the game's second star. Vigilante has 13 goals and 31 assists for a team-high 44 points. Additionally, Vigilante's game-winning goal give him a franchise-best 25 for his illustrious career.

Defenseman Steve Ward added his fourth goal with an assist and James Neal lit the lamp for the ninth time this year. Center Evan Brophey contributed a pair of assists to the Whalers' cause.

Vigilante scored the only goal of the first period when he bested Mississauga goal-tender Michael Ouzas with a hard shot through traffic from the right circle. Before Vigilante's goal, the Whalers killed off two Mississauga power plays.

Vigilante made it 2-0 at 13:01 of the second period when he took a pass from Brophey in the Mississauga slot and threaded a shot by Ouzas.

Penguin skaters roll to 3-0 start

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

At some point this season, the Plymouth-Canton-Salem girls hockey may give up a goal.

And the Penguins might even lose a game.But the way they've played during their first three Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League games, those two things are going to happen later rather than sooner.

The Penguins improved to 3-0 Tuesday night with a dominating 5-0 victory over Ann Arbor Pioneer. On Saturday, PCS thrashed Livonia Ladywood, 6-0.

PREP HOCKEY

Coach Lori Callahan's skaters have now outscored their opponents 21-0 heading into Tuesday's 6:30 p.m. game against Walled Lake Combined at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena.

The only flaw in the Penguins' nearly flawless start has been their inability to score early. In their previous two wins, the Penguins didn't break the scoring ice until the second period.

"We've been starting slowly, kind of tentatively, this year," Callahan said. "It's almost like the girls get out there and say to themselves, 'Let's find out

how hard we have to skate tonight.' But it seems like once we score the first goal, we get another a short time later.

That was the pattern against the Pioneers Tuesday night. Adrienne Cercone opened the scoring at 13:16 of the second period on assists from Nichole Sensoli and Amy Coleman. Three minutes later, PCS doubled its lead when Kristin Callahan found the back of the .net thanks to assists from Ashley LaBlanc and Katie Zimmerman. Edra Burris padded the advantage to 3-0 less than a minute after Callahan's goal.

Cercone and Ealy sealed the deal with third-period mark-

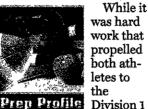
Special K's Salem's Kate Musson and Kim Heaney lead by example

Please see All-Observer girls swim team on Page B5.

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Swimming lap after energydraining lap night after night in the Salem High School swimming pool isn't as grueling when you're doing it a lane or two away from your best friends.

That was just one of the valuable lessons Salem senior captains Kim Heaney and Kate Musson learned the past four years while competing for the Rocks' ultrasuccessful swim team.



was hard work that propelled both athletes to Division 1 state meet

last month, it was their friendship that made the hard work more bearable.

"One of the best things about my high school swimming career at Salem was having some of my best friends on the team," said

PLEASE SEE SPECIAL, B2

Kristie Kowalski notched her third shutout of the season. Zimmerman was the story against Ladywood. The fresh-

ers. Sophomore goal-tender

man recorded a natural hattrick with three second-period goals. Kristin Schwan and Cercone (two) also lit the lamp for the Penguins. Stephanie Murray, LaBlanc, Keely Kowalski, Callahan, Kelli Bargowski, Coleman and Zimmerman were credited with assists.

"After her first goal, Katie was on fire," Callahan said, referring to Zimmerman's three-goal night. "It seemed like whenever she got the puck, she dominated. '



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kim Heaney (left) and Kate Musson enjoyed four successful seasons together on the Salem swim team. The best friends also served as captains along with fellow senior Kelsey Lincoln. begin Dec. 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Interested individuals can also register at the Cultural Center during normal business hours. The classes will run

from Jan. 9 through March 11 and offer participants an opportunity to learn to skate at every level – from beginning to advanced freestyle.

Each class will be 25 minutes in length with an additional 35 minutes of practice time included either before or after the session.

All classes will be held at the Plymouth Cultural Center Ice Arena, located at 525 Farmer in downtown Plymouth.

Fees for Plymouth residents are \$70. The fees for non-residents are \$90.

For additional information on class times and days, contact the City of Plymouth Recreation Department office at (734) 455-6620 (ext. 304); or visit the department's Web site at www.ci.plymouth.mi.us.

Let us know

Have you or someone you know accomplished an athletic feat recently that is noteworthy? Or do you have an interesting sports-related hobby or job?

If so, contact Observer Sports Editor Ed Wright so he can let the community know about it in a 🔔 future feature article. To contact Wright, call

him at (734) 953-2108 or e-mail him at ewright@hometownlife.co

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 4, 2005

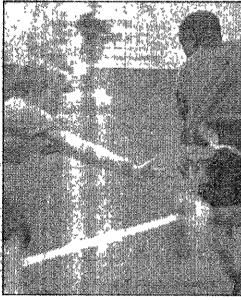
B2

(CP)











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Rockets' Ferguson top girls swimming coach

See All-Observer Girls Swimming on Page B5.

BY BRAD EMONS STAFF WRITER

Randy Ferguson just keeps plugging along as Westland John Glenn's girls swim coach. The 41-year-old Ferguson admits he hasn't had a breakthrough season with the Rockets just yet, but it's getting close.

After going 6-5 in 2003 as head coach and 5-5 last year, Ferguson guided the Rockets to a 7-3 dual-meet record this fall

Glenn also recorded its highest finish (sixth) in a Western Lakes Activities Association meet since 1986. The Rockets captured the Wayne Memorial Invitational for the first time in over two decades and recorded dual

SPECIAL FROM PAGE B1

Heaney, a two-time state meet qualifier. "We're together so much at practices and meets that it's almost like a big fami-

ly." "I consider myself lucky that a lot of my best friends are members of the team," Musson added. "Practices last three hours sometimes, but it's like hanging out with friends for three hours."

LEADERS BY EXAMPLE

Both Heaney and Musson made a lasting mark in the pool and with their leadership qualities at Salem, said Rock coach Chuck Olson.

"Both Kim and Kate have been important parts of our team the past four years," said Olson. "Both of them experienced a lot of success and they grew into important leadership roles. They're good people who the younger swimmers really look up to and respect."

Heaney's swimming career took off at West Middle School, where she swam competitively for the first time. She soon

meet wins over Canton (first in school history) and Livonia Churchill. And under the guidance of Ferguson,

Glenn's 200yard medley **Randy Ferguson** and 400 freestyle relay

teams both qualified for the Division I state meet, another first in girls swimming for the school.

"We had two individual state qualifiers (Jill Peterson and

we're going to get better and we'll keep setting our goals higher.

Our 200 medley relay team could be top eight (in the state) next year."

Ferguson was an assistant at Glenn for three seasons under Ron Staples before taking over the head position. He also coached seven seasons at Livonia Ladywood and was the boys and girls coach at his alma mater, Wayne, starting in 1988-89. Ferguson, a 1982 Wayne grad, swam for the Zebras under coach Jim McPartlin. He is currently the Aquatic Supervisor at Canton Township's Summit at the Park.

"I'm lucky to do have a job like this outside of teaching and be able to coach," Ferguson said. "And I'm fortunate to be able to work it out with my work schedule, which is nice?

premiere club that swims in meets year-round.

"My parents tell me that I always wanted to go in the water for as long as they can remember," Musson said. "Our season just ended, but I already miss it and I'm looking forward to when I can start swimming again for the Cruisers in January."

Distance events were Musson's specialty during her early days in the pool, but she quickly evolved into one of the Rocks' best sprinters. This past season, she made the biggest waves for Salem in the 100 freestyle and as a member of the Rocks' 200 and 400 freestyle relays teams.

Like Heaney, Musson gave Olson credit for the success she achieved at the high school level.

"He was my coach for the past six years," said Musson, who mentioned that Olson also coached her middle school team. "He's almost like a second dad to his swimmers. He's a great couch and a great listener."

There's a chance both Heaney and Musson will further their competitive swimming careers at Hillsdale

Coach of Year

Ashley Sells), which obviously helps, but the team overall swam really well and I'm pretty happy where we finished, both place and point-wise," said Ferguson, who was named Coach of the Year by the Observer Sports Staff. "We lose some good seniors and some depth, but next year

She placed fourth in the 100

breaststroke at the WLAA con-

ference meet and qualified for

the state meet in the event in

work ethic was reflected in the

fact that she chopped 12 sec-

onds off her 100 breaststroke

time since her freshman sea-

"One of the biggest reasons

for the success I've had is coach

never worried about us making

states. He'd put pressure on us,

but not by scaring us. He'd let

us know what we had to do in a

Being voted captain of the

2005 team was one of the most

memorable aspects of Heaney's

"I loved being a captain," she

Even though they didn't get

home from practice until after

8:30 p.m. most nights during

the high school swim season

point averages. Heaney has a

crafted outstanding grade-

both Heaney and Musson have

3.7 with just over one semester

said. "It was a lot of responsi-

bility, but a lot of fun, too."

Olson," Heaney said. "He

always believed in us and he

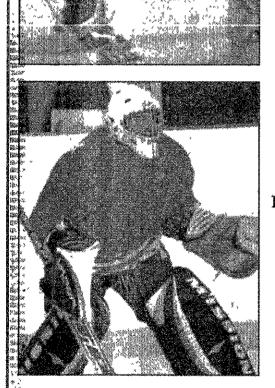
THANKS, COACH

positive way."

career, she said.

son.

2004. Heaney's exemplary





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developed a talent for the breaststroke, the event she spe-

cialized in at Salem. Heaney handled the breaststroke quarter for the Rocks' state-qualifying 200-yard medley relay team that finished 24th at the D1 meet in November and fourth at the Western Lakes Activities Association conference meet.

CUMMINGS FROM PAGE BI

"The job will be posted Monday and then we'll begin a thorough search for a new coach," Willette said. "Ideally, our timetable for hiring someone will be late January or early February because we want the new coach to have time to implement his conditioning program, but we won't rush things through too quick-

Willette said the new coach will have the option of retaining members of Cummings' coaching staff or bringing in an entirely new staff.

Cummings has been a fixture in the Salem football program for the past 25 years. After playing four seasons as an offensive lineman for the Rocks, he joined Moshimer's coaching staff in 1985.

PREP BASKETBALL

Tuesday, Dec. 6

left in her high school career while Musson has a spotless 4.0.

EARLY START

Musson's passion for swimming started at the age of 5 when she competed at the Colony Swim Club. Following her freshman year at Salem, she joined Heaney on the Plymouth-Canton Cruisers, a

Cummings served as an assistant coach until 2001 when he was hired to replace the Hall of Fame-bound Moshimer.

"I love the sport and I'm definitely going to miss it," Cummings said. "I've had an opportunity to work with so many great people: players. parents, booster club officers and everyone else involved with the football program. It was a great honor to be able to coach at the high school where I played.

"The most fulfilling part of this experience for me has been getting calls from my former players and hearing how they're doing. It's been every-thing I could have dreamed of and I'm going to miss it, but my family comes first."

During the early part of the 2004 season, it appeared as if Cummings' program had turned the corner. After winning just four games in his first three seasons, the Rocks bolted

THE WEEK AHEAD

Plymouth Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9 Livonia Franklin at Salem, 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10 Pinckney at Plymouth at Compuware Sports Arena, 2:40 p.m. VOLLEYBALL Saturday, Dec. 10 Canton at South Lyon Invitational, 9 a.m. Plymouth at Madonna Invitational at Plymouth H.S. gym, 8:30 a.m. MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL . Wednesday, Dec. 7 Madonna at Rochester College, 7:30 p.m. Concordia JV at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9 (Holland Sentinel Tourney at Hope) Marygrove vs. Aquinas, 6 p.m. Madonna vs. Hope College, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10

College next fall. Heaney also has her sights set on Albion College while an alternative for Musson is the University of Notre Dame.

"It was be great to go to the same college," Musson said. "But even if we don't, we'll be friends for life."

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-

to a 3-0 start last season. However, Salem lost its final six contests to finish 3-6.

The Rocks won their opener this season, 7-0, over Pinckney, but dropped their next three games by a combined score of 112-28.

In October, a group of Salem players' parents circulated letters to Plymouth-Canton Schools administrators, demanding the firing of Cummings.

The parents' mission to get him fired was not a factor in his resignation, Cummings stressed.

"That was never an issue in my decision," Cummings said. "Tom (Willette) backed me all the way as did my principal, Jerry Ostoin."

Cummings has been a physical education instructor at Salem for the past nine years.

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Hope College Tourney, 1 & 3 p.m. Lorain (Ohio) at Schoolcraft, 3 WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Wednesday, Dec. 7 Grand Rapids at Schoolcraft, 5:30 p.m. Madonna at Concordia, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9 (Kalamazoo Valley Holiday Classic) Schoolcraft vs. Edison State (Ohio), 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10 Taylor (Ind.) at Madonna, 3 p.m. (Kalamazoo Valley Holiday Classic) Schoolcraft vs. Kalamazoo Valley, 7:30 p.m. **ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE** Sunday, Dec. 4 Whalers at Brampton, 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8 Whalers at Sarnia, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10 Whalers vs. Oshawa (Compuware), 7:30 p.m.

Monroe at Canton, 7 p.m. D.H. Robichaud at Plymouth, 7 p.m. Salem at Redford Union, 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9 Plymouth at Lincoln Park, 7 p.m. Salem at Monroe, 7 p.m. WRESTLING Wednesday, Dec. 7 **Canton at Southgate Anderson**

Quad Meet, 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10 Canton at Davison Invitational, 9 a.m. Plymouth at Armada Invitational, 9 a.m. Salem "10 Team" Invitational, 9 a.m. HOCKEY Tuesday, Dec. 6 W.L. Combined at PCS Penguins at Arctic Edge, 6:30 p.m. Waterford Mott at Salem at

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CHIEFS

FROM PAGE B1

knows all your plays. "Probably the best thing about our team this year is that we have the ability to score inside and outside, which will make us tough to defend."

Canton is coming off a season of near-misses. The Chiefs fell in the Western Lakes Activities Association title game to Walled Lake Central in overtime, and they missed out on a district championship when South Lyon converted a short jumper with one second showing on the clock to win by a point.

Gone from that talented team are Dave Calille, Andy Cortellini, Jason Houdek. Kevin Thornton and Julian Smith. Thornton has worked his way into the rotation at Saginaw Valley State University.

Bridges, a senior, has earned the right to be the Chiefs' go-to guy. He epitomizes Canton's offensive balance with an ability to singe the net from the perimeter and inside the paint.

"Andre is a good spot-up three-point shooter and he can also score inside, so he gives us a multi-dimensional threat," Paye said. "If he has a smaller

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MEET THE CHIEFS Following are a few facts about Canton's 2005-06 basketball 🖬 Head coach: Charlie Pave 🖬 2004 05 Fecord: 15-6 (fost to South Lyon in district final) Players lost to graduation: Kevin Thornton, Andy. Cortellini, Jason Houdek, Julian Smith and Dave Calille Key returners: Andre Bridges (6-3 sr. forward), Rob Eppler (6-0 sr. guard), Ryan Waidmann (6-7 jr. center), Steve Pave (6-5 jr. forward) Season-opener: Tuesday at home against Monroe Paye's outlook: "Probably the best thing about our team." this year is that we have the ability to score inside and outside, which will make us tough to defend."

guy on him, he can post up; if he has a bigger guy on him, he can take him outside and either drive or shoot the three."

Waidmann and Paye will team up with Bridges to give the Chiefs' one of the WLAA's deepest front-court trios.

"Ryan has gotten a lot stronger the past year," Paye said. "He's another athletic player who can take bigger guys off the dribble. He's also improved his 8- to 10-foot jump shot.

"Steve is probably our strongest player. He can post up and hit the 12- to 15-foot

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shot. He'll either play the '3' or '4' for us.'

Filling the shoes of All-League point guard Cortellini will be senior Rob Eppler (6-0), who saw considerable playing time as a junior. Rob plays really good

defense and, offensively, he's a good three-point shooter," Paye said. "He'll run the show on offense and guard the other team's best guard on defense."

The Chiefs' fifth starter will likely be senior swingman Andy Larsen (6-4), who filled a reserve role last season. "Andy is athletic, he's a good

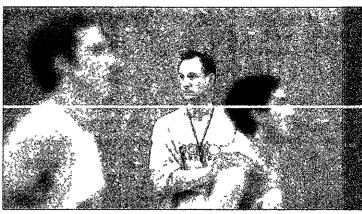
perimeter shooter and he goes to the basket well," Paye said. "We'll be looking for him to score for us."

Providing depth for Canton will be eight juniors and a sophomore, all of whom played key roles on the Chiefs' highly successful junior-varsity squad last season. Serving as backcourt reserves will be Ryan Langdon (6-0), Josh Butler (5-10), Nick Bucevicz and Pete Boucher (5-9). The starting low-post players will be backed-up by juniors Caleb Larner (6-1), Eric Thornton (6-5), Eric Zech (6-1), Devy Jackson (6-0), and sophomore

Neal Sharma (6-4). "Our goals this year will be to win the division, conference and district tournament," Paye said. "It's been a while since Canton has done any of those things. We're in a very competitive division this year. Plymouth has everybody back, so it will be very good, and I

expect Livonia Franklin and Northville to be right there, too.' Canton opens the 2005-06 campaign Tuesday night at home against Monroe. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m. in the Phase III gymnasium.

ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2108



B3

(CP)

Canton basketball coach Charlie Paye observes practice Monday afternoon. The Chiefs open their 2005-06 season Tuesday at home against Monroe.



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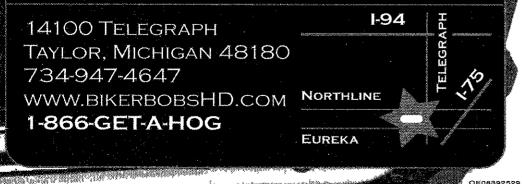
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Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS WHERE HOMETOWN STORIES UNFOLD

ALL-AREA GIRLS SWIM TEAM

Laura Timson

Marisa Gordon

Stevenson

Lisa Koch

Stevenson

Stevenson

Jill Peterson

John Glenn

Brynn Marecki

Chelsea Selden

Canton

Stevenson

Ashlev Sells

John Glenn

85. (*)

Allison Schmitt

Canton

Girls set fast pace for All-Area swim team

FINAL GIRLS SWIM BESTS

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY

Livonia Stevenson 1:50.64 Salem 1:55.9

Westland John Glenn 1:55.99

Canton 1:57.31

FIRST-TEAM INDIVIDUALS

Mary Shereda, Sr., Liv. Churchill, 200-yard freestyle: The senior swam 1:58.3 in the 200 freestyle to finish runner-up in the Western Lakes Activities Association finals, breaking the school record held since 1977 by R. Cox.

Shereda also wound up 12th in the state meet in the 100 backstroke after posting a season best of 1:01.21 in the WLAA prelims (where she wound up fourth overall)

Other top times for Shereda included 500 freestyle (5:26.17), 100 freestyle (57.65), 100 breaststroke (1:15.24), 100 butterfly (1:04.9) and 200 IM (2:16.32).

"Mary's leadership and dedication was essential to the success of Churchill swimming," coach Aaron Rieder said. "She was relentless in workouts and had the tenacity in competition that coaches dream about. Watching her in the water was a treat while watching her compete actually gave me chills."

Shereda has signed an NCAA letter-of-intent with Oakland University

Timson, Soph., Liv. Laura Stevenson, 200 IM: The sophomore placed ninth in the Division I state meet with a time of 2:10.35 after placing runner-up in the WLAA meet behind Northville's state champion Ava Ohlgren.

Timson also added a seventh in the 100 breaststroke at the Division I meet (1:07.96) along with a third in the WLAA.

"Laura is a very good big-meet swimmer and always comes through at the end when it counts," Stevenson coach Greg Phill said.

Jill Peterson, Jr., Westland Glenn, 50 freestyle: The junior finished third in the Western Lakes meet with a season-best time of 25.43.

Peterson qualified for the Division I meet in seven events, earning a 10th in the 100 breaststroke with a school-record time of 1:07.66.

She also swam a school-record 54.37 in the state prelims (19th overall). Peterson was also a member of Glenn's school-record 200 medley relay team (1:55.99) which placed third.

Peterson, who carries a 3.66 grade-point average, has been first-team All-Observer three straight seasons and owns school records in six different events.

"Jill had a fine season, swim ming two lucture best in the state meet and setunas school records this w Glenn coach Randy Feiguson said. "Jill's leadership will become very important as the team elected her captain of next year's

Livonia Churchill 1:59.57 200 FREESTYLE Allison Schmidt (Canton) 1:54.82 Mary Shereda (Churchill) 1:58.3 Laura Timson (Stevenson) 1:58.92 Brynn Marecki (Stevenson) 1:59.07 Marisa Gordon (Stevenson) 1:59.77 Jill Peterson (John Glenn) 2:00.26 Monica Blaesser (Canton) 2:03.04 Becky Hurn (Stevenson) 2:03.24 Katie Gorman (Salem) 2:04.23 Laura Landis (Canton) 2:06.0 200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY Laura Timson (Stevenson) 2:10.35 Allison Schmidt (Canton) 2:10.41 Kelsey Lincoln (Salem) 2:14.95 Brynn Marecki (Stevenson) 2:15.49 Marisa Gordon (Stevenson) 2:15.78 Mary Shereda (Churchill) 2:16.32 Jill Peterson (John Glenn) 2:16.41 Ashley Sells (John Glenn) 2:17.03 Lisa Koch (Stevenson) 2:19.08 Stephanie Buckley (Stevenson) 2:20.37 50 FREESTYLE Allison Schmidt (Canton) 23.93 Jill Peterson (John Glenn) 25.43 Marisa Gordon (Stevenson) 25.43 Anna Polkowski (Stevenson) 25.8 L'aura Timson (Stevenson) 26.01 Stephanie Buckley (Stevenson) 26.15 Brynn Marecki (Stevenson) 26.4 Blake Holtz (Stevenson) 26.52 Brittany Eilers (Stevenson) 26.52 Allie Stencel (Salem) 26.68 DIVING Chelsea Selden (Canton) 296.80 Katie Koetting (Salem) 279.45 Andrea Fleming (Plymouth) 256.35 Megan Powers (Franklin) 240.10 Mandi Keedle (Stevenson) 227.50 Mikayla Armbruster (Ladywood) 228.50 Tammy Roumayah (Franklin) 200.10 Mina Pirzadeh (Canton) 181.40 Heather Ennis (John Glenn) 190.35 Janell Hudak (Canton) 151.35 100 BUTTERFLY Allison Schmidt (Canton) 58.64 Ashley Sells (John Glenn) 1:00.56 Anna Polkowski (Stevenson) 1:01.35 Marisa Gordon (Stevenson) 1:02.77 Megan Holycross (Stevenson) 1:03.41 Laura Timson (Stevenson) 1:03.78 Mary Shereda (Ladywood) 1:04.9 Jill Peterson (John Glenn) 1:05.11 Katie Gorman (Salem) 1:05.28 Katie Kress (Stevenson) 1:05.73 100 FREESTYLE Allison Schmidt (Canton) 51.27 Brynn Marecki (Stevenson) 53.59 Marisa Gordon (Stevenson) 53.78 Jill Peterson (John Glenn) 54.37 Laura Timson (Stevenson) 54.99 Anna Polkowski (John Glenn) 55.89 Brittany Eilers (Stevenson) 56.83 Laura Landis (Canton) 57.49 Mary Shereda (Churchili) 57.65 Allie Stencel (Salem) 57.87 **500 FREESTYLE** Ailison Schmidt (Canton) 5:04.04 Laura Timson (Stevenson) 5:18.61 Marisa Gordon (Stevenson) 5:19.26 Porte, Harn (Stover son) 5 2015 - a e -i う k vk ii su - u x i 37 - 5 8 k u - k C - C - C - 5 z 37 15 2652 1 6 101 Mary Speredal Churchill) 5 26 17 Jill Peterson (John Glenn) 5:27.49 Amanda Timson (Churchill) 5:30.85 Whitney Aumiller (Salem) 5:35.7 **200 FREESTYLE RELAY** Steven Canton 1:43.21 Salem 1:44.25 Westland John Glenn 1:47.52 Plymouth 1:48.15 100 BACKSTROKE Marisa Gordon (Stevenson) 1:00.77 Mary Shereda (Churchill) 1:01.21 Kelsev Lincoln (Salem) 1:01.29 Allison Schmidt (Canton) 1:02.73 Alyssa Johnson (Canton) 1:03.21 Jill Peterson (John Glenn) 1:03.79 Megan Holycross (Stevenson) 1:04.23 Ashley Sells (John Glenn) 1:04.52 Kristin Hartwig (Salem) 1:05.2 Laura Timson (Stevenson) 1:05.93 100 BREASTSTROKE Brynn Marecki (Stevenson) 1:06.4 Jill Peterson (John Glenn) 1:07.66 Laura Timson (Stevenson) 1:07.96 Kim Heany (Salem) 1:11.74 Kelsey Lincoln (Salem) 1:11.8 Marisa Gordon (Stevenson) 1:12.03 Lisa Koch (Stevenson) 1-12 23 Amanda Foulds (Churchill) 1:12.31 Stephanie Buckley (Stevenson) 1:12.62 Mary Shereda (Churchill) 1:15.24 400 FREESTYLE RELAY Livonia Stevenson 3:37.82 Canton 3:42.97



Mary Shereda Churchill





Becky Hurn Stevenson



Katie Gorman Salem



Kim Heaney Salem

Ally Stencel Salem

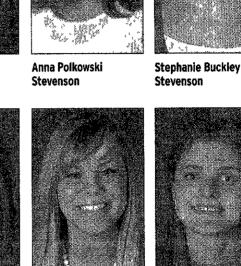
Izabela Paszkowska Canton



Alyssa Johnson Canton

Laura Landis Canton

> as a key member of the Rocks', 24th-place 200 medley relay unit and 23rd-place 400 freestyle? relay team. Her skills rose to the



Katie Koetting

Salem

Brittany Eilers Stevenson







Salem

Blake Holtz

Stevenson



Katie Koetting, Fr., Salem, diving: It didn't take long for the ninthgrader to make a favorable splash for the Rocks. Her 26th-place showing at the Div ,ion 1 state meet was the best fr i a freshman. She also shined at the regionalqualifying competition (10th) and in the WLAA conference meet (sixth).

"Katie began the season as a very talented athlete, but she had no diving experience," said Salem coach Chuck Olsol "She proved to be a hard worker at practice and was our No. 1 diver in duel meets. Katie was the only freshman in the state to qualify for the Division 1 state finals. The next three years look very promising for Katie.'

Ashley Sells, Fr., Westland Glenn, 100 butterfly: The ninth-grader made quite an impact as she clocked a season-best 1:00.56 in the butterfly at the Michigan Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association meet. She placed 23rd overall in Division I and third in the WLAA.

Sells also qualified for the state meet in the 200 IM where she placed 27 in the prelims with a time of 2:17.03. She also added a fifth in the WLAA.

Her 27.2 split for the 50 butterfly helped Glenn's medley relay team tie the school record.

"Ashley had a great freshman season and helped our team achieve new levels this year, Ferguson said. "Now that she has experienced a full high school season, her goals need to be set higher. She has the ability to place in the top eight next year at the state meet in the 100 butterfly and help our medley relay to a top 16 finish.'

Allison Schmitt, Soph., Canton, 100 freestyle: Only a sophomore, Schmitt is one of the top swimmers in the state. She solidified her standing at the D1 state meet with second-place finishes in the 50 and 100 freestyle events. Schmitt also anchored the Chiefs' 12th-place 400 freestyle relay squad and 19th-place 200 freestyle relay foursome.

Schmitt's name is already etched in the school's record book seven times and she earned All-American status for her freestyle accomplishments at the state meet.

Becky Hurn, Sr., Liv. Stevenson, 500 freestyle: The senior captain

took 15th in the Division I state meet with a time of 5:21.14 after going 5:20.15 in the prelims.

Salem 3:48.11

Westland John Glenn 3:51.36

Livonia Churchill 3:58.26

In the Western Lakes meet. Hurn took sixth in the 200 freestyle (2:03.23 in the prelims) and added a third in the 500 freestyle.

"Becky worked very hard to get what she wanted," Phill said. "She finished her last season at Stevenson with an outstanding performance at the state meet."

Marisa Gordon, Sr., Liv. Stevenson, 100 backstroke: The senior capped a decorated career by finishing eighth in the Division I state meet with a time of 1:00.77.

Gordon also earned a runnerup finish at the WLAA meet in the 100 backstroke.

In the 100 freestyle, the Stevenson standout also took third at the WLAA meet and 12th at the state finals. Her season best was 53.78. "Marisa is a four-year senior and one of the captains who brings a great work ethic and a sense of competitiveness that was needed to be the great competitor and leader that she was." Phill said.

Brynn Marecki, Soph., Liv. Stevenson, 100 breaststroke: The sophomore earned two conference titles in the WLAA by winning the 100 breaststroke

200 medley relay: 1. Livonia Stevenson (Marisa Gordon, Sr.; Anna Polkowski, Jr.; Brynn Marecki, Soph.; Laura Timson, Soph.); 2. Salem (Kelsey Lincoln, Sr.; Kim Heaney, Sr.; Katie Gorman, Soph.: Allie Stencel, Jr.). 200 freestyle: 1. Mary Shereda, Sr., Livonia Churchill; 2. Katie Gorman, Soph., Salem.

2005 ALL-OBSERVER

GIRLS SWIM TEAMS

200 IM: 1. Laura Timson. Soph., Stevenson: 2. Lisa Koch, Sr., Stevenson 50 freestyle: 1. Jill Peterson, Jr., Westland John Glenn; 2. Stephanie Buckley, Jr., Stevenson Diving: 1. Katie Koetting, Fr., Salem; Chelsea Selden, Jr., Canton. 100 butterfly: 1. Ashley Sells, Fr., John Glenn; 2. Anna Polkowski, Jr., Stevenson. 100 freestyle: 1. Allison Schmitt, Soph., Canton; 2. Brittany Eilers, Soph., Stevenson. 500 freestyle: 1. Becky Hurn, Sr., Stevenson; 2. Monica Blaesser, Soph., Canton. 200 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Anna Polkowski, Jr.; Stephanie Buckley, Jr.; Blake Holtz, Soph.; Becky Hurn, Sr.); 2. Canton (Izabela Paszkowska, Sr.; Alvssa Johnson, Jr.;

Monica Blaesser, Soph.; Allison Schmitt, Soph.). 100 backstroke: 1. Marisa Gordon, Sr., Stevenson; 2. Kelsey Lincoln, Sr., Salem. 100 breaststroke: 1. Brynn Marecki, Soph., Stevenson; 2. Kim Heaney, Sr., Salem. 400 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Marisa Gordon, Sr.; Laura Timson, Soph.; Anna Polkowski, Jr.; Brynn Marecki, Soph.); 2. Canton (Laura Landis, Jr.; Alyssa Johnson, Jr.; Monica Blaesser, Soph.; Allison Schmitt, Soph.).

COACH OF THE YEAR

Randy Ferguson, Westland John Glenn

(1:07.17) and 100 freestyle (54.4). At Division I state finals, Marecki finished runner-up to Ann Arbor Pioneer's Carlve Ellis in the 100 breaststroke (1:06.4) and added an 11th in the 100 freestyle (53.59).

Marecki was named Stevenson's MVP for the 2005 season. "Brvnn is a verv strongwilled competitor with a desire to be the best," Phill said. "She's very strong in a lot of events."

FIRST-TEAM RELAYS

Stevenson, 200 medley (Marisa Gordon, Sr.; Anna Polkowski, Jr.; Brynn Marecki, Soph.; Laura Timson, Soph.): This quartet earned a runner-up finish in the WLAA meet (1:51.06) and earned All-American consideration with a third in the Division I state meet (1:050.64).

"These four girls have been together all season and they came together strong at the end of the year," Phill said

Stevenson, 200 freestyle (Anna Polkowski, Jr.; Stephanie Buckley, Jr.; Blake Holtz, Soph.; Becky Hurn, Sr.): This foursome wound up 14th in the Division I state meet (1:42.75).

"We didn't put these four girls together until the finals of the conference meet after just qualifying for state," Phill said. "They dropped two seconds and finished 15. A great effort by all."

Stevenson, 400 freestyle (Marisa Gordon, Sr.; Laura Timson, Soph.; Anna Polkowski, Jr.; Brynn Marecki, Soph.): The Spartans finished runner-up to Northville in the WLAA meet with a season-best time of 3:37.37.

In the Division I state finals, Stevenson placed sixth in 3:38.1.

"Just like our medley relay, these four girls were together for most of the year," Phill said. "They get along well together and out the best in each other. br' And when it counted the most, they were at their best. Maybe their best swim for us came at the state meet.'

SECOND-TEAM INDIVIDUALS Katle Gorman, Soph., Salem, 200

freestyle: Gorman is a two-time state qualifier, having earned a berth in the 200 freestyle relay and 400 freestyle relay in 2004, and a spot in the 200 medley, 200 freestyle and 400 freestyle relay this season. Gorman enjoyed an outstanding WLAA meet, placing fourth in the 200 medley and 400 freestyle relays, and eighth in the 100 butterfly.

"Katie Gorman has been an important member of the Salem success the last two years," Olson said. "Katie's versatility and willingness to swim the events that the team needs her to compete make her an excellent teammate. She works hard and is a big meet competitor. She's an outstanding student-athlete.

Lisa Koch, Sr., Liv. Stevenson, 200 **IM:** The senior took a sixth in the WLAA meet (2:19.08 in the prelims) and a fifth in the'100 breaststroke (1:12.23 in the prelims) also at the Western Lakes.

"Lisa is a fourth-vear senior and was also one of our captains," Phill said. "She's been very important all four years to Stevenson in many ways.

Stephanie Buckley, Jr., Liv. Stevenson, 50 freestyle: The junior posted a personal-best of 26.15 in the 50 freestyle and added a sixth in the 100 breaststroke (1:12.62)

do whatever it takes to help the team." Phill said.

Stephanie has come to us with a

"A second-year swimmer,

work ethic and a desire to

at the Western Lakes meet.

Cheisea Seiden, Jr., Canton, diving: Seiden enjoyed an outstanding junior season, winning all but one duel meet, placing first in the junior class division of the Livonia Stevenson Invitational, second at the Salem Rock Maurer Invitational and third at the WLAA conference meet. Selden, who was 14th at the Division 1 regional, was voted to serve as a co-captain for Canton's 2006 squad.

"Chelsea had an outstanding year thanks to all the hard work she put in," said Canton diving coach Kari Jackson. "She was so dedicated, she'd start working on her dives before I'd even get to the pool. Chelsea should have a good chance of winning the conference meet next year.

Anna Polkowski, Jr., Liv. Stevenson, 100 butterfly: The junior earned a fifth-place finish at the WLAA meet in the 100 butterfly and made it to the Division I state meet where she wound up 25th in the prelims (1:01.35).

Polkowski also added a fourth in the 50 freestyle at the WLAA meet (26.12).

"Despite a nagging year-long injury, Anna fought through to give us everything she had," Phill said. "She did her best when we needed her the most."

Brittany Eilers, Soph., Liv. Stevenson, 100 freestyle: The junior earned a sixth-place finish in the WLAA meet with a time of 56.83 and also placed fourth in the 50 freestyle (26.52 in the prelims).

"Brittany came into her own this year and came through for us when it meant the most," Phill said. She also placed sixth in the Western Lakes in the

Monica Blaesser, Soph., Canton, 500 freestyle: Blaesser recorded the sixth-best time in all of Observerland in the 500 freestyle when she posted a clocking of 5:23.71. The 10th-grader also sparkled in the 200 freestyle, turning in a seventh-best time of 2:03.04

Keisey Lincoln, Sr., Salem, 100 backstroke: Lincoln capped one of the most successful swimming careers in Salem history. The four-year state qualifier competed in four events in this year's D1 meet, finishing ninth in the 100 backstroke, 17th in the 200 individual medley, as well as serving

surface at the 2005 WLAA conference meet, where she racked up three fourth-place finishes (200 free relay, 200 individual medley and 400 free relay) and a third in the 100 backstroke.

"Kelsey Lincoln has been an outstanding student-athlete and leader," Olson said. "She was a great competitor in practice and all the competitions. As a coach, I could not have asked for more; than what Kelsey did for the team. She was selected as the team's most valuable swimmer! three times and was a captain this year. She was All-Conference 16 times and All-Observer all four years.'

Kim Heaney, Sr., Salem, 100 breaststroke: Heaney qualified for the 2004 and 2005 Division 1 state meets in the 200 medlev relav (breaststroke) and the 100) breaststroke. She had an outstanding 2005 WLAA meet, earning fourth in both the 200 medley relay (1:56.75) and the 100 breaststroke (1:11.74).

"Kim Heaney has a very suc cessful four years at Salem, Olson said. "Kim was liked and respected by her teammates and coaches. She has a great attitude in every situation. She was a captain this year who led by example in the meets, practice and in the classroom."

SECOND-TEAM RELAYS Salem, 200 medley (Kelsey) Lincoln, Sr.; Kim Heaney, Sr.; Katie Gorman, Soph.; Allie Stencel, Jr.): The foursome fin ished 24th at the Division 1 state meet (1:55.90) and fourth in the WLAA conference meet (1:56.75)

"This relay team always got the Salem team motivated at the beginning of the meets," said Olson. "Their competitiveness and desire was very evident from the early dual meets to the state Division 1 championships."

Canton, 200 freestyle (Izabela) Paszkowska, Sr.; Alyssa Johnson, Jr.; Monica Blaesser, Soph.; Allison Schmitt. Soph.): The Chief quartet's time of 1:43.21 was second only to Livonia Stevenson's 1:42.75 in Observerland this past season. $-\frac{1}{2}$

Canton, 400 freestyle (Laura Landis, Jr.; Alyssa Johnson, Jr.; Monica Blaesser, Soph.; Allison Schmitt, Soph.): The Canton foursome's 3:42.97 clocking was seeond only to Livonia Stevenson's 3:37.82 in Observerland this sead son.

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2005-06 Prep Basketball Preview

Moving forward

Salem hoop team looks to dunk last season with successful 05-06 campaign

BY ED WRIGHT

STAFF WRITER

There are some traits Salem's basketball team would like to inherit from the 2004-05 squad: the intensity, scrappiness and baseline-to-baseline hustle\it exhibited on a nightly basis.

There is, however, one glaring thing the Rocks want to put in the rear-view mirror as quickly as possible: the 1-20 record that was compiled last season.

"I try not to mention last year's record too much," said Salem coach Bob Brodie. "But this year's team can learn from what went wrong last year. I know everybody who's back doesn't want to repeat what happened and they're working hard to make sure that it doesn't happen again.

"One thing about last year's team was that it battled every game. The teams we played knew they were in a game."

The silver lining from last year's rocky season is that several young players garnered valuable experience. The Rocks have eight returners and lost just four players — Kyle Price, Brad Zonca, Jeff Lake and Dave Cardenas — to graduation.

"We have a young team again this year, but a lot of the



Salem basketball coach Bob Brodie guides his team through a play during a pre-season practice earlier this week.

juniors got experience last season, which will help," Brodie said. "We have good team speed this year. Our average height is okay, but we don't have a lot of big guys. We're versatile as far as scoring goes, too. We have more players who can score this year."

Salem's 2005-06 roster includes just three seniors: Billy Leddy, a 6-foot-3 forward; Joe Halewicz, a 6-0 guard/forward; and Jon Pomorski, a 6-0 guard. Leddy, who averaged six points a game last season, is the leading scorer of the eight returning players. "Billy has good shooting range for a player his size," Brodie said. "He's been a perimeter player for the most part during the first three years here, but we're going to ask him to go inside more this year.

"Joe is a scrappy, aggressive player who is tough inside. He'll provide us with a lot of valuable senior leadership this year.

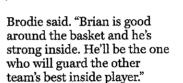
"Jon is a good ball-handler who can play the point and offguard."

The Rocks' point-guard duties will be shared by a trio of lightning-quick juniors: Jierah Dixon (5-8), Kevin Burleigh (5-8) and Mike Marek (5-7), all of whom played regular minutes last season.

"All three of them will see a lot of time," Brodie said. "Whichever one is getting the job done will get the most minutes."

Juniors Jon Gibson (6-0) and Brian Baumgart (6-7) and sophomore Grant Stone (6-3) are in the running for starting berths, Brodie said. Gibson will probably begin the year as the Rocks' starting off-guard while Stone and Baumgart will give the Rocks a strong presence in the post.

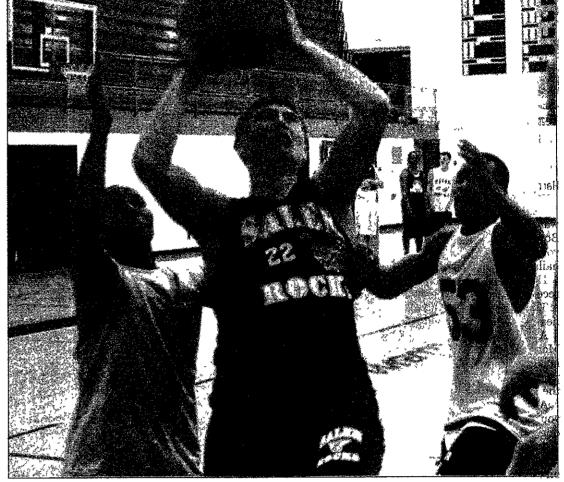
"Jon, Grant and Brian have all been impressive so far,"



Starting the season as key reserves for Salem are juniors J.P. Truesdell (6-2), Andrew Semenok (6-5), Dan Cassidy (6-1) and John Johnson (5-10).

The Rocks' fans will need to utilize Mapquest on a regular basis during the first month of the season. Salem is home just once — Dec. 16 against Warren Cousino — before Jan. 16.

"We re definitely going to be read wornion of the beambing of the year," Brodie said. We have some tough opponents



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem junior guard Jon Gibson (middle) slices between teammates Jierah Dixon (left) and John Johnson during a practice earlier this week. The Rocks open the 2005-06 season Tuesday at Redford Union.

ON THE REBOUND

Following are a few facts about Salem's 2005-06 basketball team:

- Head coach: Bob Brodie
- **2004-05 record:** 1-20

🖬 Players lost to graduation: Kyle Price, Brad Zonča, Jeff

- Lake and Dan Cardenas
- Returning letter-winners: 8

Key returners: Billy Leddy (6-3 sr. forward), Joe Halewicz (6-0 sr. guard/forward), Jon Pomorski (6-0 guard), Brian Baumgart (6-7 jr. center)

🗱 Season-opener: Tuesday at Redford Union

Brodie's outlook: "We have a young team again this year, but a lot of the juniors got experience last season, which will help. We have good team speed this year. Our average height is okay, but we don't have a lot of big guys. We're versatile as



NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN DOG LICENSE

OTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that current dog licenses will

expire on December 31, 2005.

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License fee \$5.00 per dog

A copy of Ordinance #99-9 is available in the Clerk's office.

Teresa Cischke, CPFA City Treasurer

Publish December 4, 2005

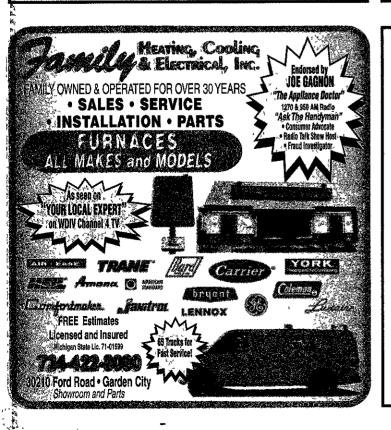
Publish December 4 & 8, 2005

NOTICE

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FURNISHINGS FOP NEW PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP HALL & POLICE FACILITY AND FIRE STATION

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the Charter Township of Plymouth, 42350 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 for: FURNISHINGS for the new Plymouth Township Hall and Police Facility and Fire Station. Proposals are to be submitted in accordance with contract documents prepared by A3C, 210 East Huron Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 dated December 8, 2005. Bid documents will be available for examination and distribution on or after December 8, 2005 at Plymouth Township Hall, Clerk's Office, 42350 Ann Arbor Road, Bldg. #3, Plymouth Township. Bid proposals must be received in the Clerk's Office by Thursday, December 22, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.

> Marilyn Massengill, Clerk Charter Township of Plymouth





The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction December 06, 2005 at 10:00 AM. The auction will be held at Westland Car Care Towing, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI 48185. The vehicles will be sold as is, starting bid is for towing and storage.

YEAR & MAKE	MODEL	BODY	VIN#
1998 FORD	F-150	P/U	2FTZX18WXWCA14216
1991 OLDS		4-DR	2G3AL54N4M2346667
1980 BUICK	RIVERIA	$2\text{-}\mathrm{DR}$	4Z57RAE429476
1992 CHRYSLER	VAN	VAN	1C4GH54R9NX193776
1991 CHEVY	CAVALIER	$2\text{-}\mathrm{DR}$	1G1FP23E6ML160339
1986 DODGE	RAM	VAN	2B6HB23T0GK543456
1993 FORD	AEROSTAR	VAN	1FMCA11U3PZB999967
2004 FORD	F-150	P/U	1FTPX14584NB98356
1995 CHEVY	VAN	VAN	1GBEG25K5SF196464
1989 TOYOTA	CAMRY	4-DR	JT2SV21WXK0294091
1996 PONTLAC	GRAND PRIX	4-DR	1G2NE52T2TC703957
1993 TOYOTA	COROLLA	4-DR	JT2SK12E7P0129843
1990 GEO	PRISM	4-DR	1Y1SK5464LZ104291
1995 DODGE	INTREPID	4-DR	1B3HD46T0SF530163
1990 HONDA	ACCORD	4-DR	1HGCB7657LA143143
1993 FORD	ESCORT	S/W	1FAPP15J8PW210781
Publish: December 1 & 4	2005		

Publish: December 1 & 4, 2005

far as scoring goes, too. We have more players who can score this year."

early on. Hopefully, the kids come together and our tough pre-conference schedule gets us ready for the league." Brodie predicted the Western Lakes Activities Association race will be wide open. He mentioned Canton

and Northville as teams to watch.

"John Glenn and Wayne Memorial are always tough, too," he said.

ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2108 a

NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN WINTER TAXES - 2005

Winter taxes are due December 1, 2005 and payable through February 28, 2006 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. MAKE ALL CHECKS **PAYABLE TO: CITY OF PLYMOUTH.** Payments can be made at City Hall during regular working hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's office. After hours, payments can be placed in the drop box located in the City Hall lobby (Church Street entrance) or in the payment drop box next to the book returns behind the Library.

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED during the Christmas Holidays from Friday, December 23, 2005 through Monday, January 2, 2006. The Treasurer's office will be OPEN TO ACCEPT TAX PAYMENTS AND OTHER PAYMENTS on Wednesday, December 28th and Thursday, December 29th.

> Teresa Cischke, CPFA City Treasurer

> > OE08393258

Publish: December 1 & 4, 2005

CITY OF LIVONIA PUBLIC NOTICE VEHICLE AUCTION

Under Provisions of Sections 2.32.070 and 3.05.1006 of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, The Police Department will be conducting an Auction of Forfeited vehicles.

Friday, December 9, 2005 Inspections begin at 9:30 a.m. Auction begins at 10: 00 a.m.

Midwest Auto Auction & Services, Inc. 14666 Telegraph Redford, MI 48239

ALL VEHICLES TO BE AUCTIONED MAY BE VIEWED BETWEEN 9:30 A.M. AND 10:00 A.M., ON THE MORNING OF THE AUCTION. VEHICLES ARE SOLD 'AS IS' AND ALL SALES ARE FINAL.

ALL SALES MUST BE IN CASH AND ARE DUE IN FULL THE MOMENT THE BID IS ACCEPTED.

VAL VANDERSLOOT, City Clerk

Publish: December 1, 4 & 8, 2005

OE0839

OE08393311

LOCAL SPORTS

Bowling center in Florida employs canine

ou can train a dog to do lots of things. No, you cannot train them to bowl, but there is a real live canine employed by a bowling center in Homosassas Springs, Fla. that can run down and fetch the loose pins in the gutters, and return them straight to the counter.

www.hometownlife.com

You may not believe me and I don't blame you, but I witnessed it with my own eyes (on a video).

The dog's name is

Labrador Retriever owned

http://www.bowlingart-

Bosco, a chocolate



by pro bowler Steve Neff, who now competes on the Senior Tour and owns Neffer's Bowling Lanes. If you are on the internet, find the Bosco video by going to the following

website:

Harrison

Alley

Ten Pin

works.com/bosco/ (and enjoy seeing bowling going to the dogs.) 📕 If you have been watching the opening series of the Pro Bowlers Tour 1 p.m. Sundays on ESPN,

you might have seen Mike Machuga, who hails from Erie, Pa. He is a relatively new pro where he

fecently won the Greater Omaha Classic. This young man shows a lot of talent, 4

heart and expression. After winning, he displayed his Machuga Flop, diving headlong onto the lane and landing out by the arrows in a perfect belly-flop, while still hanging on to the ball.

A bit of advice: Don't try this your self, you could get hurt. It may be called "hotdogging," but it's all about entertainment. s far as this state, there appears to be a ole new crop of talented young bowlers on tour this season including Bill O'Neill, who came up through the Saginaw Valley State University program, which made it

After winning, he displayed his Machuga Flop, diving headlong onto the lane and landing out by the arrows in a perfect belly-flop, while still hanging on to the ball.

all the way to the collegiate national championships last year O'Neill defeated Wes' Malott in Omaha,

then lost in a tight and exciting match to Machuga, who was in the TV finals for the fourth straight week.

Last week it was Art Brown, a talented young pro bowler from Lansing who put on a great show as he finished third behind veterans Mike Scroggins and Norm Duke.

The nice thing about watching good pro bowlers on TV is that we can all learn a little about this game by watching and applying some of their techniques to help improve our own game.

It's like getting a free lesson.

Nov. 26 marked the historic 75th running of the Old Timers Tournament at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park.

During the opening ceremonies, a letter was read; "Dear friends, I am pleased to welcome you to the 75th anniversary of the Greater Detroit Old Timers Bowling Association Tournament and Banquet.

"From the first strike of the pins to the crowning of champions, I am confident this will be a memorable event for all. "For 75 years the Old Timers Bowling Association has brought together bowlers

of all ages from around the greater Detroit area for their annual tournament, "With this year's event expected to draw

nearly 700 participants, I wish to all the bowlers in the tournament the best of luck; and to everyone who worked to ensure the success of this event, thank you.

"Congratulations on your 75th anniversary and best wishes to everyone for a great tournament.

"Sincerely yours,

"Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor." n Last Sunday the Greater Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame held its induction ceremonies and banquet at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren.

The inductees this year include: Altramese Webb, who was presented by Myrtha Cooper; Douglas Spicer, presented by Lee Snow; Nicholas Wissinger, IV, presented by Lew Ansara: Richard Lang presented by Jay Lang; Janet Dimmer presented by Leona Obuchowski; and Larry Crake, Sr., presented by Chuck Sunseri.

The Bowling Centers Industry Award was presented to Jim Strobl by Michael Capaldi, while the Judge John D. Watts Award presented to Joe Guotana by Judge David Schmanske.

Meanwhile, the Thomas McKay Award went to Lew Ansara and Rick Strobl (by Thomas McKay).

The Hall of Fame began in 1957-58 with the induction of six members.

Joe Paulus of West Bloomfield was in attendance and is the oldest of the early inductees still living, as he was enshrined in 1964-65.

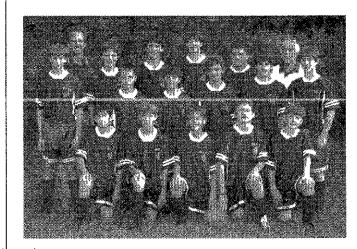
This membership roll includes some of the most illustrious names of this area.

Roy Biggs of Canton rolled another 300 game in the Mayflower Seniors Wednesday Classic last week. Apparently he likes his new Ebonite One because it was his third perfect game in a month.

Jim Reed of Canton also shot a 300 game the same day as Biggs during the Re/Max 100 Invitational League at Plaza Lanes in Plymouth.

It was Reed who came up with the pinchasing dog tale on the Internet.

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



CYO division champs

The Our Lady of Good Counsel varsity boys soccer team captured a CYO division title this season by compiling a record of 8-1-1. OLGC, which won the St. Alfred Invitational, was defeated by Everest Academy in the CYO final match, Pictured (front row from left) Justin Rosinski, Jon Selfert, Ryan Sartorious, Alex Sasyk, Pete Reidy, (second row from left) Dan Vukcevich, Matt Zmuda, Steve Werner, Tony Ruggerillo, Pat Killian, Pat Reidy (third row from left) Coach Matt Seifert, Matt Keast, Brad Hartland, Andrew Killian, Nic Bil and Coach Gary Werner.

Madonna downs Alma College, 68-65

Madonna University defeated Alma College 68-65 Thursday night in a non-conference men's basketball game at the MU Activities Center.

The Crusaders trailed 38-35 at halftime, but outscored Alma 33-27 in the second half; sparked by a nine-for-13 performance from the free-throw line.

Guard Joe Calhoun led Madonna (3-4) with 15 points, with forwards Doug Creighton and Derrick Mudri each tallying 11 points and forward D.J. Bridges chipping in with 10. Creighton also led the

Crusaders with six rebounds, all on the defensive end.

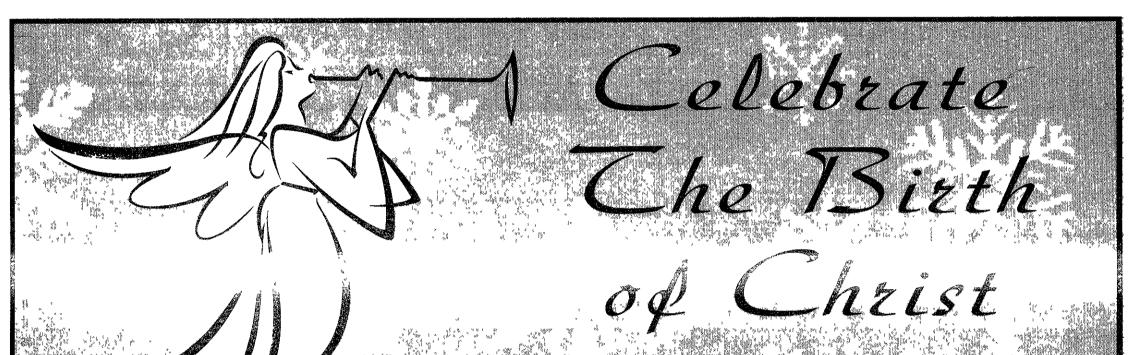
B7

(CP)

For Alma (1-3), forward Mark Barnes scored 20 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. Guard Mike Murphy tallied a dozen points and eight boards. SCHOOLCRAFT 120,

MARYGROVE JV 61: Wallace, Hall scored a game-high 27 points Thursday as host Schoolcraft College (7-1) romped to a victory over the Marygrove College JV squad.

Jarred Axon and Ryan Williams each added 22 points. for the Ocelots, who led 54-36 at halftime.





Lathrup survives overtime

B8

(*)

BY MARTY BUDNER STAFF WRITER

Look who's standing tall now. Jareica Hughes, all 5-foot-3 of her, helped her Southfield-Lathrup teammates to new heights Friday afternoon with a 62-58 overtime triumph over Grandville in the Class A girls basketball semifinals at the Breslin Center in East Lansing.

Hughes, a senior, knocked down a game-tying three in the waning seconds of regulation, then came back with a basket and two free throws in the final 19 seconds of the extra session to send the Chargers to their first state championship game. Lathrup was scheduled to play Detroit King for the Class A title Saturday.

"It was a lot of fun," Hughes said of the final 12 minutes of play, which saw the Chargers finally draw even after trailing throughout the first three quarters. "It was beautiful. I really enjoyed it."

As did the Lathrup faithful who witnessed their beloved Chargers in a unique tussle, taking on a once-beaten Bulldogs squad led by 6-foot-8 senior and Miss Basketball Award winner Allyssa DeHaan.

DeHaan, who has signed with Michigan State, controlled matters on both ends of the court in the first half, scoring 13 of her team's 27 points as the Bulldogs took a five-point lead into halftime.

the break seemed to lift the Chargers' play as they outscored the Bulldogs 17-13 and trailed 40-39 heading into the final eight minutes of play.

'We didn't play our game. We played their game at their pace," Hughes said of the differences in each half. "But we came out in the second half and buckled down and played our style of defense."

The fourth quarter proved nail-biting throughout as the

was quickly erased when Lathrup's Briana Whitehead drained a three and Hughes followed with a layup.

take."

11.



Softball runner-up

The over-50, Livonia-based Pinnacle Planning/AES finished 6-2 en route to a second-place finish in the 26-team Senior Softball USA World Tournament, Oct. 19-23, in Phoenix, Ariz. The only losses came against a team from Boise, Idaho. Pinnacle Planning/AES also finished fourth in the ISSA Senior Worlds, second in the SSUSA Eastern Regionals and second in the Port Hope Senior Tournament. Team members include (front row): Charlie LaPointe, St. Clair Shores; John Decicio, Westland; Mike Velerio, Livonia; Mike McLellan, Allen Park; Jim Lolli, Novi; (back row) Larry Wanilack, Sterling Heights; Brian Crawley, Flat Rock; Dave Jacek, Canton; Chuck Uhlinger, Livonia; Gene Riddlebach, Ohio; Al Leszczynski, Livonia. McLellan, LaPointe and Lolli also earned all-tournament honors.



Detroit-Wayne Community Mental Health Agency Annual Meeting of the full Board. Public is invited. December 7, 2005, 11:00 a.m., 640 Temple, 6th Floor, Detroit 48201.For special accommodations, contact Karen at (313) 833-2405 Publish December 4, 2005

OE08395257

Rebate Rules and Regulations: Offer good only in U.S.A., except where prohibited by law. DaimlerChrysler Motors Company, LLC and its fulfillment company are not responsible for late, lost, mutilated, misdirected, or postage-due requests. Multiple, illegible, or incomplete requests will not behanared. Requests from groups, post office baxes, or organizations willnot be hanared. Fraudulent submission of multiple requests could resultin federal prosecution under U.S. Mail. Fraud Statute (19 USC, Sections 1341 and 1342). Offer good at participating dealer locations. \$5.00 mail-in rebate on the retail purchase and dealer installation of a Mopar Power Pro 5,6,7, NASCAR® or Jeep® Xtreme battery. (Not valid for Universal battery.) \$2.50 mail-in rebate on the retail purchase and dealer installation of each Mopar Value Line Wiper Blade. \$2.50 mail-in rebate on the retail purchase and dealer installation of each Mopar Winter Wiper Blade. \$5.00 mailin rebate on the retail purchase and dealer installation of set of two Mopor Flat Wiper Blades. Maximum \$7.50 total wiper blade rebate per vehicle. Winter Service Rebate offers and February 26, 2006. Rebates valid on purchases from November 28, and received by March 31, 2006. Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery of check. You may call Program Headquarters at 1-800-477-7753 with inquiries about your rebate(s). See your Service Advisor for details. Rebate offers valid only for retail repair orders.

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Dogs have a lot to teach us

ur hearts were broken when she came into our lives. My sister Gwen and I had just gone through the pain of watching Shamrock, our beloved Irish Wolfhound, die on Tuesday evening. By Friday, our tears were still flowing, but our hearts were open to helping the old black dog that showed up in the woods behind the Observer & *Eccentric* newsroom in Livonia. We eventually looked to Sweetie as a blessing - or at least a distraction from our pain.

Co-worker Roger Owens and I had pulled together to bring the black lab mix into the building, then everyone did their job. Westland/Garden City editor

Sue Mason wrote copy. Photographer Bill Bresler snapped her picture for Sunday's paper. I took her home and she slept for 16 hours.

It was obvious by the long gash, which ran from her forehead to the tip of her nose, that she had been injured, but we didn't know how badly until taking her to Dr. Heidi Mier at Roose Animal Hospital in Plymouth on Saturday morning. We'll never know for sure but we think she was hit by a car or suffered some type of trauma. By Sunday morning, her tail was wagging each time we walked by her bowl. Sweetie had been well-loved and well-fed, but we still had no idea who she belonged to because she didn't have a collar or ID tags.

The first phone call and visit came from a woman and her 19-year-old daughter, but it wasn't their Nicky, who'd wandered away one month ago. Then on Monday evening Matthew and Terri Jenks of Livonia walked through our door with sons Nathan, 7, Drew, 4 and 10year old Royie, then Sheltic Lus. The two dogs begin nuzzling and greeting each other. Sweetie, whose real name is Shadow, was going home. The 13-year-old dog had disappeared Thursday after slipping out the door as her family left for an outing. Terri had given Shadow a bath and forgot to put on her collar afterward. The Jenkses had posted fliers for her return but only on the north side of Schoolcraft (the I-96 service drive), never imagining she'd cross the freeway. They had already started to prepare their sons for the worst when Ray Jenks, Matthew's father, called at 7 p.m. Sunday to tell them Shadow's photograph was in the Livonia Observer. "She's recovering really well," said Terri Jenks. "We're really grateful. So many people saw the picture. Everyone's telling us how lucky we are that you found her. "I told my kids God answers prayers. This is proof. You saved her life. She probably would be dead by now. We can't thank you. enough." For each trial and tribulation, there is always a silver lining. Shadow is getting a new, embroidered collar from her happy family. My sister and I are grateful for her brief visit. Until Friday we hadn't been able to eat or even go out in the back yard where we spent so many happy hours with Shamrock. Shadow brought us back to the living. Shamrock would have wanted it that way. He was excited about each new day. It didn't matter if we were walking and running around Newburgh Lake in Hines Park or up at a cottage that we rent on Lake Huron. Shamrock's love of life came from just spending time with his family. We can learn a lot from dogs.





Teens can excel in science. ALICE MCCARTHY C6

FEATURE C2

Section C

Sunday, December 4, 2005

Brad Kadrich, editor (734) 459-2700 Fax (734) 459-4224 bkadrich@hometownlife.com www.hometownlife.com

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Paul Pittman of Livonia works with an locomotive at the engine terminal station.

toys safe.

HEALTH C8

Redford Model Railroad Club , keeps train hobby on track







BY HUGH GALLAGHER STAFF WRITER

👕 t's 8:06 p.m. Thursday. A Sand Hill and Western ore train is ready to pull out of the Michigan Yard on its way to a mining operation near Milt's Mooring. The yard will send a message to dispatch, where a central control is directing the operations of up to 10 trains.

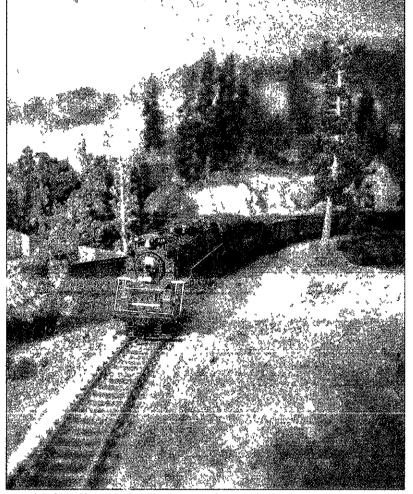
Along the route the train will pass several small towns, go through a forest and travel over a trestle above a cascading waterfall.

On a busy night the train that is supposed to return by 8:45 might get delayed and not pull back into the yard until 9 or 9:30.

The Sand Hill and Western Railroad carries on its operations inside a small pumpkin-colored building on Michigan Avenue in Inkster and through the rich imaginations of the members of the Redford Model Railroad Club

Pierre Willermer or Livonia sat above the awisced

PLEASE SEE RAILROAD, C3



Linda Chomin is the health and Community Life reporter for the **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.** She can be réached at (734) 953-2145 or send e-mail to Ichomin@hometownlife.com.



Grandparents pass along a love for toy trains

BY HUGH GALLAGHER STAFF WRITER

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, it was every young boy's dream to have a toy train. Toy trains were as much as part of Christmas as Santa Claus

Times have changed and trains are competing for attention with computer games and Ipods, but according to Ken Andreoni, owner of Merri-Seven Trains, Hobbies and Collectibles, one group is keeping an American tradition alive.

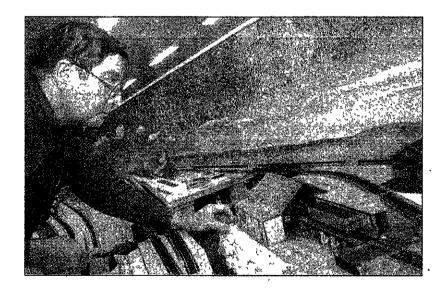
"Grandparents. They're trying to pass on what they grew up with to their grandchildren," Andreoni said. "Parents of young children today are pretty strapped trying to get by day to day."

Andreoni said the larger Lionel O-gauge and LGB trains are the most popular trains for children.

"It's larger to see, more nostalgic," he said. Trains come in a range of sizes from the LGB

PLEASE SEE TOY TRAINS, C2

A model of the 284 Berkshire Steam Locomotive built in the 1920s -1949 comes through the mountains.



Pierre Willermet of Livonia works on the rock wall of a train setting.

Nurse turns medical knowledge into mystery series

BY HUGH GALLAGHER STAFF WRITER

As a registered nurse Carla Gibson wants to educate the public about some important health issues, but as a aspiring mystery writer she also wants to keep her readers on the edge of their seats.

Gibson accomplishes both goals in her new series of Dr. Erin Tyler mysteries, set in the often complex and surprisingly dangerous world of modern medicine.

The Milford writer, who grew up in Garden City and lived in Westland while attending Eastern Michigan University's nursing school, has been a nurse since she was 22 but has also yearned to be a writer.

"I've always wanted to write, for more than 20 years," she said. "I was published in a national nursing publication in 1984 and I've written reader movie reviews for the Milford Times, always written



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Carla Gibson has written two books about Dr. Erin Tyler and is working on a third.

newsletters, little blurbs here and there."

department of an insurance company she writes a providers and members newsletter. But moving from newsletters to romantic mysteries has been a leap for the mother of two adult children.

"I had a few ideas going around and was hoping I could get some success out of it," she said. "I may have started too old, but I hope not."

The heroine of Gibson's novels is Dr. Erin Tyler, an attractive, intelligent and sensitive young doctor. In The Incentive she returns to her native southeast Michigan from California, a little at loose ends as she stays with her parents to attend her sister's wedding to a British rock star.

Tyler takes a temporary job\as a medical investiga-tor for an insurance company and uncovers insurance fraud, including unnecessary and dangerous

PLEASE SEE MYSTERY, C2

Tree of Life opens at Laurel Park Place

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 4, 2005

Angela Hospice's Tree of Life has returned to Laurel Park Place this holiday season for what has become a local tradition. The Tree of Life provides a chance for individuals to place angel ornaments bearing the names of their loved ones on the tree when they make a donation in the amount of their choice to Angela Hospice.

"We first started our Tree of Life fund-raiser in 1988, and it keeps growing with each passing year," said Sister Mary Giovanni, Angela Hospice's president and founder. "This year we are up to six trees and I'm sure by the time they close on Christmas Eve they will be packed with angels, each representing a loving tribute."

The season began with an opening ceremony at the Tree of Life display Nov. 19, inside Laurel Park Place, next to the Von Maur entrance. The ceremony featured a performance by the Angela Hospice choir. The organization's volunteers had already prepared for the opening by processing more than 1,000 requests for ornaments in just over a week and a half. That number will continue to multiply.

"For a lot of the people who stop by the tree, this is their first Christmas without their loved one," said Lucille Hoedl, an Angela Hospice volunteer from Northville who has worked at the Tree of Life.

Volunteers say many use the Tree of Life to remember those they've lost, while others use it to celebrate the special people in their life.

Hoedl has been especially touched over the years by the children who visit the tree.

Angela Hospice encourages community members to visit the Tree of Life while they are shopping this holiday season. Participation in the Tree of Life fund-raiser benefits Angela Hospice's programs serving terminally ill children and adults in southeast Michigan.

Angela Hospice will also be holding holiday grief support workshops for children and adults, to help individuals to cope with their loss.

To add an ornament honoring your loved one, visit the Tree of Life in person during mall hours or call Angela Hospice at (734) HOSPICE.

MYSTERY FROM PAGE C1

surgery. She also falls in love with another member of the

rock band. Gibson knew that romance would play a big part in her novels and that women would be her primary readers.

"I like reading books myself that have some romantic aspect to them. I don't just like reading a straight mystery," she said.

But, why a rock star? "In most books it's always the widower next door or the gardener or the lord of the manor in historical things. I decided I wanted him to be a celebrity and in your celebrities you have your sports figures, but I'm not a big sports fan, you have actors. I could have made him an actor but I don't know too much about that business," she said

But rock music is something the writer knows a lot about. She's been going to rock concerts since she was 14, has met several rock stars and is still a big fan. She lists the Black Crowes, Led Zeppelin, Def Leppard, Aerosmith and Audioslave among her favorite groups.

"I picked English rock musicians because I love traveling and I've been to England a number of times. And, I love English slang," she said. Tyler and her new boyfriend make a special trip to England that allows Gibson to write

about some of the places she's visited. At the center of The

Incentive and its follow up The Apothecary are currently hot health issues. In The Incentive it's insurance fraud and a doctor with a drug problem. In

The Apothecary it's date rape. "I'm a big believer in health education and how you can't just expect your doctor to be all knowing and all seeing about everything. You as a patient need to follow up on your medication, learn about your disease," she said.

The Apothecary takes Tyler and boyfriend Steve Robinson from Detroit to New York.

"Now that my son lives in New York, I've decided that I love Manhattan," she said.

Gibson's books were published by the small PageFree Publishing Inc. in Otsego. She is looking for a larger publisher. Meanwhile, she is working on the third Erin Tyler mystery, this one dealing with the disparity in health care caused by misunderstandings between patients and the health care system. The Erin Tyler mysteries are

available on Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble stores and online and can be ordered through Borders.

hgallagher@hometownlife.com (734) 953-2149

TOY TRAINS

FROM PAGE C1

G-scale down to the tiny n and z scales. The majority of trains sold are HO, about half the size of the Lionels. The HO trains come in a wide range of prices and are the preferred size on serious adult model railroad enthusiasts. The larger trains are usually recommended for children because they are easier to handle.

"It depends on the capability of the child," Andreoni said. "We have a father who comes in with a son who is 6 years old and they do n-gauge, which most adults find hard to handle. It's a matter of the child and their attention span."

Andreoni said working on a toy train develops a child's eyehand coordination and such diverse skills as carpentry, scenic design and working with electricity.

"There are so many factors of life you can incorporate into a train layout," he said. "But mostly it's the fun, father-son, father-grandfather. We have three grandsons, two fathers and a grandfather who are avid railroaders. They come on a regular basis. They construct layouts together. The father and grandfather each have layouts in their basements. That's their hobby. It brings the family together."

Andreoni suggested the Lionel New York Central Flyer set as a good beginning set, featuring an oval track; a

steam locomotive with headlights, whistle and tender; a couple freight cars; and a transformer. But that's just the starter set. Lionel and other manufacturers offer hundreds of different cars and scenic items to create a world around the train.

For very young children, Andreoni said the wooden train sets by Brio and those featuring the Thomas storybook-TV show trains are a good first choice.

"Thomas has a great story theme for each one of the shows. Children relive those stories with their wooden trains. There's a lot of hand and eye coordination with that, assembling and constructing layouts that interconnect," Andreoni said. "You start learning geometry and configuring the radius of a curve."

Andreoni has been operating the Merri-Seven store, at Merriman and Seven Mile in Livonia, for 16 years. The store was originally opened in 1967 as a Leo's Coin Shop. It was then expanded to include toys and sports cards. Today the emphasis is on toy trains.

Andreoni, 56, has been interested in trains since he was 4 or 5. He said he is interested in collecting antique trains, especially early European trains from the late 19th century.

"I have everything from z to g. I have them all, I'm sick," he said with a laugh.

Journey to Bethlehem

The biblical story of the birth of Jesus is presented in a walk

through play which takes about forty minutes. come and walk and sit with the towns people, shepherds, kings and angels!

Use this ad as Your reminder complements of Unity of Livonia

28660 Five Mile Road (between Middlebelt & Inkster) Friday, December 9th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, December 10th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 11th from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. Call 734-421-1760 for more information. Whenlebow accessible

Finnish-American Singers celebrate holiday season

The Finnish-American Singers will perform their annual holiday concert entitled "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year' at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, at the Finnish Cultural Center, 35200 W. Eight Mile Road, between Gill and Newburgh roads, Farmington Hills.

The 25-voice mixed chorus includes singers from throughout the metro Detroit area. Directed by Henry Naasko and

accompanied by Bill Gramzow, the Finnish-American Singers will perform a wide variety of entertaining musical selections including several Finnish carols and hymns. "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" will include full choral numbers, solos, and performances by small groups, showcasing holiday and seasonal music. Choral pieces include A Musical Christmas Card, Mistletoe, It's the Most

Wonderful Time of the Year and Joulun Kellot and Jouluhymni.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and can be purchased from a chorus member by calling (248) 478-6939. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$10. The cost of admission includes a Finnish coffee table of sandwiches and desserts.

For more show information, call Chorus President Ilene Yanke at (248) 887-3538.



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(CP)

RAILROAD

FROM PAGE C1

spaghetti" tracks in the dispatch booth, where switches and throttles control the trains that weave through the various sections of the layout that has been in the making for 14 years.

"The philosophy of this is that people have different interests in the trains," Willermet said. "Some people like to go round and round and look at the trains. Others like to simulate actual train operations, doing just what a freight train would do in a real railroad."

The 18 members of the club, ranging in age from 21 to a member in his 70s, usually began their love affair with trains when they were children.

John Pernicano, 65, a retired Ford worker from Allen Park, has been a club member for 22 years. He wears a hat that reads "Choo-Choo."

"T've been in railroading since I was a kid," he said. "My first train was an American Flyer. Then my dad bought me a passenger train, also an American Flyer, a Santa Fe. When I got married, my father bought my son a train for Christmas and Bob was only 4 years old. So I went downstairs and put it together. From there on in I've been going crazy with this. I've always liked trains."

For club president Fred Iwata of Livonia, it was a real train that stimulated his interest in model railroading.

"Originally I took a ride when I was 4 years old in '49 to Portland, Oregon, on the Union Pacific train and it always stuck with me," said the retired pharmaceutical representative. "When I saw another UP model, it all came back. That's how it was and I got into model trains about 10 years ago."

For Willermet, it was the trains of his youth in New Jersey.

"When I was young, I lived next to the Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Line running into south Jersey," he said. "For a couple of years in high school, I actually rode a passenger train a couple of mile up the line to school. I e 1,000 d it quite a bit."

VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES

The Redford Model Railroad Club began in 1938, making it the oldest model railroad club in Michigan. It operated in a building in Dearborn for more than 20 years before moving to its current location at 27316 Michigan Ave., Inkster, just east of Inkster Road. Iwata said the Sand Hill name is a reference to an early name for Redford Township. The model train layout runs 26 feet by 52 feet and includes several towns, mountains, forests and lakes. Each member is responsible for modeling a different section of the railroad. "I like it because there is such a large variety of things to do with it," said Mike Tranquilla, a Unisys retiree from Livonia. "You can tinker with mechanical things or electrical if you like or be creative and do scenery, build structures, operate trains. There are also a lot of people like me that I can enjoy the hobby with." Tranquilla has been enjoying model trains since his parents gave him a Lionel when he was 10. Today, he has an elaborate basement layout in his home that models the landscape of Illinois and Iowa that he remembers as a child. An article in Boys Life introduced Ron Wasielewski of Farmington Hills to model railroading when he was 14. Now the retired truck driver has time to indulge his interest. "As you age your ideas change, the scale changes. I was in HO and still have HO trains, but went to n-gauge last year, much smaller as we're in an apartment in Farmington Hills," he said. The club is looking for new members and holds exhibits and open houses to attract interest in its activities. The club's youngest member is Paul Pittman, 21, of Livonia, who has been a member for about a year. "When I was a kid I used to watch Shining Time Station on PBS with Thomas the Tank Engine. But for me, Thomas was real dinky," he said. "When I was older, my parents took



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of the Redford Model Railroad Club are, (from left), John Pernicano of Allen Park, Pierre Willermet of Livonia, Mike Tranquilla of Livonia, Mark Grumblatt of Dearborn Heights, Ronald Wasielewski of Farmington Hills, Paul Pittman of Livonia and Fred Iwata of Livonia.

me to Henry Ford Museum and I saw the steam engines there and I was hooked."

He said he has a layout in his basement that models the period just before World War II and has a military theme.

It was a club train show at the Livonia Community Recreation Center that introduced Mark Grumblatt of Dearborn Heights to the club. He's been a member for about a year.

"My father gave me his old Marx tinplate train and if I had it now it would be worth a fortune. So I started with Lionel and reduced it to HO scale," he said. "It's been a long time since I've been involved in a club of any kind." The club meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays (except for the last Thursday of the month). Operations begin in the Michigan Yard, in a front room apart from the main layout. All trains come out of the yard, based on a sche lule of operations. Every train follows the schedule (or as close as the operators can w ien several trains are opera ing at once).

The next Trainorama is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 19, at the Livonia Community Recreation Center. The event features a flea market with 280 dealers, "how to" clinics, operating modular railroad layouts, all scales of model trains and memorabilia. Admission is \$4 for adults; children under 12 are free when accompanied by an adult.

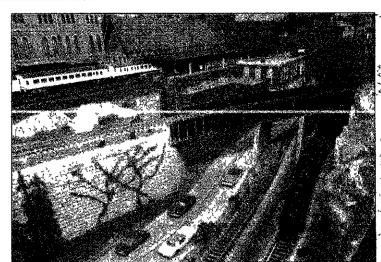
The club has also scheduled Saturday open houses for noon to 4 p.m. Feb. 4, Feb. 25 and March 25. Admission is free. For information, call (313) 565-3856 on Thursdays or (734) 464-3856 at other times.



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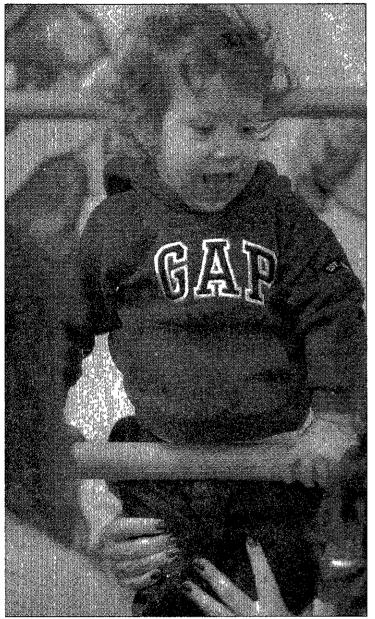
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Hop! Gym gets those little ones moving



Louie Lerman, 17 months, of West Bloomfield takes to the uneven bars at My Gym in Farmington Hills.

BY STACY JENKINS STAFF WRITER

There's a battle going on between the physical inactivity of the video game generation and those who know getting those youngsters moving is vital.

Christina Hughey, owner of My Gym in Farmington Hills, is winning that battle at her recently opened activity center for children as young as three months and as old as 13 years.

The bright, colorful gym is packed with equipment to get those bodies moving. From swings hanging from ceiling cables to padded floor mats and huge rolling exercise balls, My Gym is the headquarters for all things physical.

But there's a trick to enticing youngsters into a good workout.

"It has to be fun," said Hughey, who opened the franchise of the international business in September in the Orchard 12 shopping plaza on Orchard Lake Road and 12 Mile. "You can't tell a kid to 'drop and give me 20."

Music, sing-a-longs and games are included in the carefully crafted programs, which are all age-appropriate and designed to enhance body strength and coordination. There is a 5-1 student to teacher ratio at My Gym and the staff is trained in fitness and CPR.

Hughey, who grew up dancing and doing gymnastics, has been teaching and coaching since she was 14 years old. She

PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Aidan Warren, who is 1½ years old, of West Bloomfield rolls along on one of the exercise balls with a little help from his mother, Haley, as My Gym owner Christina Hughey, looks on.

heard of My Gym and decided to go to California for training. "I fell in love with it and

here we are," she said. She owns the business with

her fiancee, David Hamm, who handles the bookkeeping. The couple plans to open a second My Gym in Oakland County next year.

Hughey feels right at home at My Gym. "I just like the idea that

there are things for children to do instead of playing video games," she said. "I absolutely love the children, just to see them as they're coming in and they're smiling and they're happy."

One of those smiling faces was Mira Schoof, of Huntington Woods, on a recent morning. The 22-month-old enjoys

the "mom and tot" class. Her mom, Alycia, said My Gym is better than others they have tried. "There's more equipment, it's more physical," she said. "I think it's really important for my daughter, as a girl, to be physical."

Danielle Randel, of Walled Lake, and Tracy Weitzman, of Farmington Hills, like the variety of activities offered each week.

"The kids really like it," said Randel, whose daughter, Lindsay, is 18 months. "There are different activities every week."

Weitzman said she likes the staff at My Gym.

"Everyone is always in such a good mood," she said. "They're so good with the kids."

Each class for the little ones includes gymnastic elements such as balancing and tumbling. The staff jumps right in and helps the tots do each exercise.

"I love playing with the kids, that's my favorite part," said

ANNOUNCEMENTS

of Ronald and Debbie Bessner of Round Rock, Texas, and Dale Chaney and Lisa Lin of Las Vegas, Nev. He is a 1992 graduate of Round Rock High School, a 1996 graduate of Texas A & M University, and received his master's degree from University of Texas at Arlington in 2002. He will graduate in May 2006 from Ave Maria School of Law.

Mark and Julie are planning

My Gym offers a variety of classes.

Scott Hepner, director at My Gym. "I think I have more fun they do. They brighten up my life, that's for sure."

My Gym offers a variety of classes. Payment is per eightweek session and runs \$135 per session. Birthday parties and gift certificates are also available. For more information on My Gym in Farmington Hills, log onto the main Web site at www.mygym.com and click on location button. E-mail Christina Hughey with questions at mygymfhills@sbcglobal.net or call the gym at (248) 489-9420.

sjenkins@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2131



<u>Hazzagez</u>

Godfrey-Bessner

Bruce and Marilyn Godfrey of Northville, formerly of Plymouth, announce the engagement of their daughter, Julie, to Mark Bessner of Ypsilanti, formerly of Round Rock, Texas

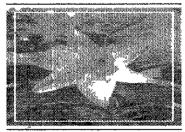
Julie 15 a 1999 graduate of Mercy High School and a 2003 graduate of Western Michigan University. She is currently attending Ave Maria School of





DANIEL RICHARD ANDREW

Of Livonia, MI, died Monday, November 28, 2005, age 78 Beloved husband of 56 years to Mary Louise. Dear father of Michele Andrew Lescoe (Paul) and Ann Andrew King (Stephen W.). Grandfather of Monica McDowell (Mark), and great-grandfa-ther of Carson Daniel McDowell. Mr. Andrew was the first industrial coordinator for the city of Livonia from 1963-1970. He served as the chairman of the Livonia Planning Commission from 1971-1984 and was a member of Livonia's Zoning Board Appeals from 1997-2004. He was a member of the Livonia Housing Commission from 2003-2005. He served on numerous civic boards and organizations in Livonia. In 1973 Mr. Andrew cofounded Damone-Andrew Inc., serving as senior vice-president and coowner of this commercial real estate company head quartered in Troy, MI. He retired in 1999. Visitation Fred Wood Funeral Home, 36100 Five Mile (one mile west of Farmington Road), Friday, 2-5pm and 7-9 pm, Saturday 5-9pm and Sunday 2-5 pm and 7-9 pm. Scripture Service Sunday 7 pm. Funeral Mass will be held Monday, December 5th, at 11 am, at St. Aldan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Donations to the National Kidney Foundation and American Heart Association.



HAROLD E. BREAR

Age 90. Born May 1, 1915, and died November 30, 2005. Mr. Brear was with The J.L. Hudson Company for forty years, retiring in 1980. He was Assistant Divisional Merchandise Manager. Husband of the late Lillian Ritter Brear. Stepfather of Dr. William A. (Kristine) Ritter and the late Gail Christner. Álso one niece, Barbara Brear Kırkpatrick. Step-grandfather of Julie (Jared) Hopkins, Trevor (Becky) Wilson, Tracy (Juli) Wilson, and the late William Ritter. Great step-grand-father of Lauren and Lindsay Wilson. Son of the late William and Kathleen Brear. Funeral Service at First United Methodist Church of Birmingham, 1589 W. Maple, Sunday, December 4, at 3pm, with visitation one hour before service. Memorial tributes may be made to First United Methodist Church. Arrangements by The William R. Hamilton Co. of Birmingham.

JACK H. CARR

Age 98, November 29, 2005. Husband of Ruth H. Carr. Cousin, Mrs. Barbara Livy of Bloomfield Hills. Member of Birmingham Senior Men's Club and active with Intergenerational Program of BASSC. Memorial Service at Canterbury on the Lake, Waterford Township at a later date. Tributes to Hospice of Michigan, Oakland Team. Further information, Wm. R. Hamilton Co., 1-248-644-6000



Age 50, passed away December 2 2005 from complications due to color cancer. Steve was ordained into the ministry of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in 1981. He served congregations in Shellsburg, IA Knøxville, IA; Cedar Falls, IA; Battle Creek, MI. and, most recently, Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church in Redford. Steve earned his bachelor's degree from Concordia University. Ann Arbor, MI; his Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO; his Master of Sacred Theology from Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque IA and his Ph.D. from Concordia Seminary in Ft. Wayne, IN. He also served as adjunct professor at Concordia University, Ann Arbor. Steve especially enjoyed helping youth and young adults, becoming a certified chaplain in the Boy Scouts of America and most recently, a chaplain with the rank of Major in the Civil Air Patrol. Northville Six Gate Composite Squadron. Steve is survived by his wife of 27 years, Sandie, and son Karl Visitation at Harry J. Will Funeral Home in Livonia Sunday 4-9 pm and Monday 1-9 pm. Service at 11:00 am on Tuesday, with a viewing half hour prior, at Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church 9600 Leverne, Redford with a luncheon following. In lieu of flowers, memorials addressed to the Lutheran Community Foundation for the Rev Dr. Steve M. Eggers Scholarship Fund Interment Glen Eden Memorial Park.

C. DUANE ROUSH

Age 83, December 1, 2005. Beloved husband of Jeanne (married 60 years). Loving father of William (Becky), Stephen (Deborah), and Dr. Randall (Kathy) Roush. Proud grandfather of 14 and great grandfather of two. Duane served in WWII as a Naval Aviator, and retired as Lt. Jr. Grade. He received The Distinguished Flying Cross and two Air Medals. Visitation Sunday, 2pm-9pm with Rosary at 7pm; funerai service Monday, 10am, at Neely-Turowski Funeral Home, 30200 Five Mile Rd. (between Merriman and Middlebelt). The six grandsons of Mr. Roush will act as pallbearers

PETER KOKENAKES Age 85, November 30, 2005. Beloved husband of Zoe. Loving father of Frank (Janet Esper) and Paul (Kimberly Carter). Grandfather of Joseph, Adam, Theodore, Henry, and Charles. Brother of Ethel (George) Lewis of St. Louis, and Theodore (Sharon) of Ann Arbor. Preceded in death by infant grandson, Matthew, and sister Mary (Charles) Manos of Flint. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Peter, a Navy aviator in WWII, was a long time teacher and coach in Livonia, and a member of several Masonic Orders. Funeral Service was held Saturday, December 3, at Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Westland. Memorial contributions may be sent to the church. Arrangements by the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Livonia.

HARRIET HAYNES ROBISON WEAVER

Age 80, of Harbor Springs, formerly of Detroit and Birmingham, passed away November 23, 2005 at northern Michigan Hospital, Harriet was born August 6, 1925 in Detroit and attended Northwestern University in Chicago where she joined Phi Beta Phi and majored in political science. she married Joseph Weaver of Irwin, Pennsylvania, on May 6, 1949. She was a life-long learner and volunteer, most recently a member of the Christ Child Society of Harbor Springs and the Harbor Springs Women's Club. She loved to watch the birds out the window, the poetry of Robert Burns and Emily Dickenson, the music of Frank Sinatra, a good conversation, a new acquaintance, the sapphire blue of Little Traverse Bay, and the company of friends and loved ones. She was a friend to all, a generous and curious spirit, a loving wife, a beloved mother and grandmother who will be missed by her family and by the many friends she held in her heart. She was preceded in death by her parents, Vivian and McKee, her sisters Helen and Eleanor, and her brother, Douglas. She will be missed by her husband of 56 years, Joseph Weaver of Harbor Springs; 4 children, Susan Schoenfeld of Royal Oak, Patricia Francisco and her husband Larry of Minneapolis, Bruce Weaver and his wife Rita of Royal Oak, and Julie Weaver of Petosky; a brother, Ralph of Bingham Farms; her loving family of grandchildren, Shawn, Lee, Julianna, Andre, and Jesse; her greatgrandchildren, Veronica and Levi; and her nieces and nephews. All will miss her deeply and every day. Funeral Services will be held on Saturday at 11:00am at the Stone Funeral Home in Petoskey, Michigan with visitation at the funeral home from 10:00am until the time of the service.

Law and will graduate in May 2006.

Her fiancé, Mark, is the son

Space-Erwin

Nanci Space of Canton announces the forthcoming marriage of her daughter, Angela Evelyn, also daughter of the late Carl Space, to Christopher Lee Erwin. Angela received her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Michigan-

Dearborn in 2003. She is currently pursuing a law degree at Wayne State University School of Law. Her fiancé, Christopher, is

the son of William Erwin and the late Patrice Erwin of

NEW VOICES

Abigail Lauren

David and \cdot

Sarepta Feldman

of Houghton Lake

announce the birth

of their daughter,

Abigail Lauren, on

Nov. 19, 2005, at

Mercy Hospital in

Grayling. Abigail

weighed 8 pounds

12 ounces, and was

Abigail joins big

sisters, Brooke, 14,

and Madison, 6.

Her maternal

grandparents are

Curran, Mich., and

Terry Small of

the late Beverly

Dick of Warner

Her paternal

grandparents are

Keith Feldman of

and Judy Nagy of

Howell, and David

Westland, Alex

and Karin

Brighton.

Verseput of

Robins, Ga.

22 inches long.

Feldman

a September 2006 wedding at St. James Catholic Church.



Canton. He received his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Michigan-Dearborn in 2005. He currently works for Oakwood Healthcare System.

Christopher and Angela are planning a December wedding at St. John Center Chapel in Plymouth Township. A reception will follow at The Inn at St. John's.

After a honeymoon to the Dominican Republic, they will be making their new home in Allen Park.

Join a fitness program with a cause

The American Stroke Association, a division of the American Heart Association, is recruiting local residents to join Train To End Stroke – a team marathon training and fundraising program sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Participants can choose to walk or run a full marathon in San Diego June 4 or choose between a full or half marathon in Kona, Hawaii on June 11.

For the five-month period leading up to the event, participants will be matched with a prominent professional coach. Alice Ahearn, Anne Demko, John Hazen and Antonia Vivian will develop a training plan for each individual and make themselves available once a week for those who want to train together as a team.

While training, team members will also raise funds for local stroke research and educational efforts in the area. For those who reach the training and fundraising goals, the American Stroke Association will provide airfare, hotel accommodations, ground transportation, marathon entry fee and celebration dinners.

"Nearly every Train To End Stroke participant knows someone who has had a stroke," says Ryan Davis, director of the Train To End Stroke program. "It is that person, their 'stroke hero', who inspires them to reach the training, fund-raising and marathon goals. Even more inspiring are the 'stroke heroes' who participate in the marathon. "

Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United States and a leading cause of severe, long-term disability.

Several free information sessions will be held throughout December and January. For more, call (248) 827-4214 or visit the American Stroke Association Web site at www.strokeassociation.org/ttes. Information sessions will be held 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15 at the Plymouth District Library; noon Saturday, Dec. 17, Macomb County Library, Clinton Township; 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, Detroit Library, Fredrick Douglass Branch; 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 19, Northville District Library; 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 5, Providence Hospital, Fisher Auditorium, Southfield; 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, Mallets Branch Library, Ann Arbor; 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, Public Branch of Westland; 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, Baldwin District Library, Birmingham; 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, Redford Branch Library; 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, Farmington Hills YMCA; noon Saturday, Jan. 21, Plymouth District Library, and 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, Providence Hospital, Fisher Auditorium, Southfield.

LIBRARY PICKS

Every week, the Plymouth District Library staff provides the Observer with their list of Best Sellers based, on the number of requests for titles by library patrons. The books are available by placing a request with the library at (734) 453-0750 or online at www.plymouthlibrary.org

FICTION

1. "Mary, Mary," James Patterson

2. "Predator," Patricia Cornwell

3. "Light from Heaven," Jan Karon

4. "At First Sight," Nicholas Sparks

5. "The Camel Club," David Baldacci

NON-FICTION

1. "Teacher Man," Frank McCourt 2. "Team of Rivals," Doris Kearns Goodwin 3. "Our Endangered Values," Jimmy Carter 4. "The Year of Magical Thinking," Joan Didion 5. "The World is Flat." **Thomas Friedman**

PARENTS' CHOICE

NEW CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS

1. "ABC Animals," Darice Bailer 2. "A Good Night Walk," Elisha Cooper 3. "Pink Magic," Donna Napoli 4. "The Merry Chase," Clement Hurd 5. "Here Comes Grandma!" Janet Lord



AROUND TOWN

Entertainment books

Several Plymouth organizations are selling the 2006 Entertainment Books as fund-raisers:

■ The Plymouth Optimists are selling the 2006 Entertainment Books, with all proceeds helping children throughout southeastern Michigan. Price is \$25. Books are available at Saxton's Garden Center in Plymouth, or home delivery is available. Call (734) 453-8253 for details.

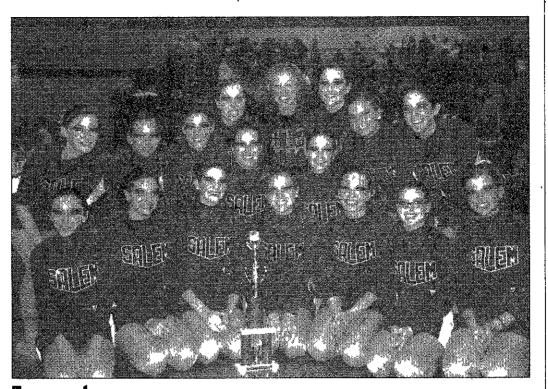
The Plymouth Community Chorus is selling the 2006 Entertainment Books to support its charitable and educational activities. The book offers 2-for-1 and 50-percent discounts on restaurants, travel, recreation, hotel stays, entertainment and sporting events. The book is being offered at a special fund-raising price of \$25, and can be delivered, if the purchaser desires. Order books by calling Stan Kovacheff at (734) 459-6829. Members of the Plymouth Symphony League are selling the 2006 entertainment book, offering 50 percent discount coupons at hundreds of restaurants and discounts

for many other services and events. The books is priced at \$25, with all proceeds to support the Plymouth Symphony, Books can be picked up at the symphony office, next to the Cozy Café in downtown Plymouth, or ordered by calling Mary Thomas, (734) 453-3016. For more information, call the symphony office, (734) 453-2112. Literacy Council tutors

The Community Literacy Council (CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors in Western Wayne County to help adults improve their reading, writing and communication skills The CLC will provide training to interested volunteers. Previous experience or a bachelor's degree is not required. The council will provide free training and materials, and then match you with an adult student in your area. The next CLC training sessions are from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 14 and Jan. 21 at the Canton Public Library. Call (734) 416-4906 for more information.

Diabetes support

The Diabetes Support Group at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia hosts a presentation, "Staying on Target with Healthy Eating," 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec 14, in the hospital's auditorium Guest speaker is Katie Dooely, RD, CDE. The Diabetes Support Group presents a new topic on the ond Write d information せん



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Top spot

The Salem JV Rockettes turned in solid performances while performing well at two recent competitions. At the UDA competition, the Rockettes took second in the dance competition and third in pom. The next day, at the Mid-American competition, the Rockettes took top honors in both dance and pom.

bers. There is no charge; pre-registration is not required. St. Mary Mercy Hospital is located at 36475 Five Mile (at Levan). For more information, call (734) 655-8961.

Youth theater

Northville Youth Theater presents "The Princess and the Pea" at 7 p.m Dec. 16 and 2:30 and 7 p.m. Dec. 17 at the Northville Senior Community Center, 303 W. Main in Northville. Tickets are \$5 and are on sale now at the Recreation Center at Hillside (700 W. Baseline). Call (248) 349-0203, Ext. 1411, for more information. The program is presented by Northville Parks and Recreation and Ever After Productions. Cookie walk

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church's 12th annual Cookie Walk is Dec. 10. Pierogi, stuffed cabbage, bread, nut and poppyseed rolls, and more than 50 different assortments of ethnic (kiefle, kolachy, rugela, koulourakia biscotti, linzer) and traditional cookies and candy will be for sale Doors open at 8 a m , and the

36075 W. Seven Mile Road (south side), 3/4 mile east of Newburgh Road in Livonia.

St. Mary's class

St. Mary Mercy sponsors a presentation, "Surviving the Season ... Coping With Holiday Stress," from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 19, at the Northville Senior Center, located at 303 W. Main St. in Northville. Speaker will be St. Mary Mercy Hospital's Darlene Doute, advanced practice nurse in psychiatric mental health nursing. Registration is required; call the Northville Senior Center, (248) 349-4140.

Handcrafters show

Handcrafters sponsors its 23rd annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Show Dec 9-11 at the Northville Hillside Recreation Center in Hillside Middle School, located at Eight Mile and Sheldon/Center. More than 90 juried artisans will dis-

play their talents with such works as florals, stained glass, seasonal items including Christmas decorations, jewelry, wood items and clothing. Show hours are 6-9 p.m. Dec. 9; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 10 and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 11. Admission is \$2; no baby strollers. For more information, call (734) 459-0050

Grief support

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

CLUBS

Rotary A.M.

The Plymouth Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. meets at 7 a.m. every 🐣 Tuesday at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer. New members are always welcome. Contact Tim Phillips, president, Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., via e-mail at tim@phillipshq.com or call (734) 451-8267.

MOPS meet

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) meets twice monthly from September-May, for moms and their children, newborn-kindergarten, at Lakepointe Biole Church in Plymouth. For more information, call Crystal Johnson, (734) 459-1861.

Mosaic

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

Moms Club

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

DAR

The Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter-Daughters of the American Revolutionmeets the third Monday of each month except January, July and August. A group with ancestors who fought in American Revolution. Members participate in community work involving veterans' hospitals, schools and community service. Call (734) 420-2775 for further information.



C5 (CP)



Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 4, 2005

COMMUNITY LIFE

CLASS REUNIONS

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

REUNIONS

Central High

C6

(*)

Class of 1946 A 60-year reunion is planned for June 4, , 2006, at Glen Oaks Country Club. Both January and June classmates will cele-¹ brate over dinner and dancing. January grads contact AI Weiss (248) 737-9313 or Esther Bornstein (248) 851-6625. June grads contact Barbara Keidan (248) 646-7199 or Saul Saulson (248) 932-5177. **Churchill High School**

Class of 1995

A 10-year reunion is planned for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 22, at 5th Avenue in Novi. For more information contact Fran Yee at fyee@sussmansikes.com. **Denby High School**

Class of 1956

A 50-year reunion is planned for Sept.

16. 2006, at the Club Venetian in Madison Heights. Contact Doreen (McClennan) Weber at dajweb@juno.com or Jerry Love at (586) 739-3840. **Detroit Mackenzie**

Classes Jan, June and Summer 1956 A 50-year reunion is planned for Sept. 16, 2006, at the Novi Sheraton. For more Information call Harold Kappen at (734) 261-0325 or okappen@earthlink.net. **Edsel Ford High School**

A 50th anniversary will be held over the next year with a series of special events. Final activity will be a "Black and White Ball" on Saturday, May 20, 2006. About the activities

www.geocities.com/edsel50th. To contact the committee email edsel50@gmail.com.

Epiphany Grade School

Class of 1966 A 40-year reunion is in the planning

stages for the summer of 2006. Contact Dorothy at (24) 477-9478 or dzsnyder@hotmail.com.

Franklin High School

Class of 1969 Is planning a reunion for 2007. Please contact Kathy Nisun (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kayninilu@aol.com or Kathy

Shoebridge @ Klivingston@nu-core com. Garden City West Class of 1970

A 35-year reunion is planned for April 1, 2006, at Mama Mia Restaurant on Plymouth Road in Livonia. Contact Gordon Adams at (586) 949-7462 for information and reservations. **Grosse Pointe North**

Class of 1991

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

Livonia Franklin

Class of 1969 A reunion is in the pre-planning stages for 2007. For more information contact Kathy Nisun (248) 363-5679. or Email: Kayninilu@aol.com.

St. Mary of Redford

High School class of 1956 Grade School class of 1952 Looking for graduates. Contact (734) 525-5888 or Email: kheenan@glis.net. Utica High School

Class of 1981 A 25th reunion is being planned for the

fall of 2006. Please send updated address information and inquires to: Todd Richter (trichter26@comcast.net)

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First Step

On Nov. 10, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians presented First Step with a check for \$4,000 which was raised at A Chocolate Affair, held Oct. 2. The presentation took place at the First Step offices in Plymouth.

First Step provides shelter and support for victims of domestic and sexual assault.

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians is an organization of Catholic women of Irish decent which promotes Irish history and culture while raising funds for charitable causes. The Fagan Division of LAOH was founded in January 2005 and this was its first major fund-raising event. Barbara Weir of Canton is the president of the Fagan Division.

Global science competition a challenge for teens

ince finishing my doctorate in 1986, I have subscribed to Education Week. I regret not reading this 50-page education weekly while my children were adolescents.

Today's column will give you a very brief preview of the important issues discussed in Education Week. I will quote, with permission, some of the articles parents of teens need

to consider. To provide an abbreviated setting for the reasons for concern, I draw on an October 2005 report from a panel of experts convened by the National Academies. This report called on an urgent and wide-ranging effort to strengthen scientific competitiveness, including creating scholarships to attract 10,000 top students a year to careers in math and science and 30,000 scholarships for college-level study of science, math, and engineering.

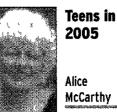
Increasingly, said the experts, "strides in Asia and Europe rival or exceed America's in critical areas of science and innovation, often with little public awareness of the trend or its implications for jobs, industry, national security, or the vigor of the nation's intellectual and cultural life."

The panel cited many examples:

Last year, more than 600,000 engineers graduated from institutions of higher education in China, compared to 350,000 in India and 70,000 in the United States.

Recently, American 12th graders performed below the international average for 21 countries on general knowledge in math and science.

Workers in virtually every sector must now face competitors who live just a mouse-click away in Ireland, Finland, China, India, or dozens of other nations whose economies are growing.



Writing in the Sept. 28, 2005, edition of Education Week, Rhea Borja says, "Concerned about increasing" competition in the global marketplace-particularly from China and India-leaders from business, education, government, and the nonprofit sector called last week for combining their K-12 education efforts to better prepare students for the workplace.

"They also cited data showing that only seven out of every 10 American 8th graders go on to earn high school diplomas, and that only three of those seven go on to get a college degree or other postsecondary credential." The article continued to explain, "The Ford Motor Company Fund's Partnership for Advanced Studies works with colleges and businesses to draw high school students into business, engineering and technology careers."

"The conference was a first step for many companies to work together," said Mike Schmidt, the director of education and community development for the Ford Motor Company Fund, the charitable arm of the Detroit-based carmaker and a major sponsor of the conference.

Kenneth Komoski in the July 13, 2005, Education Week, describes a Kaiser Family Report "Generation M: Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-Year-Olds."

"What promises to be the most important effect of this large time-attention investment by America's 8- to 18year-olds is the imbalance it demonstrates between a yearround, at-home investment of almost 6-1/2 hours a day in non-school-related media multi-tasking, and less than a half-year, in-school investment of under four hours a day in academic, on-task learning. Typically, that in-school investment is 3.8 hours a day (five 45-minute periods) of core academic classes, totaling barely 700 hours during a 180day school year."

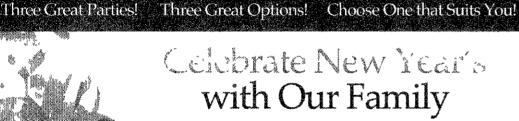
He says, "The challenge is to motivate 50 million tweenteen Generation M education consumers-young people who have learned the benefits of living in the world's pre-eminent consumer society - to become more discerning about what they are putting into their brains and bedroom media centers."

My questions to parents: Do we not have a responsibility for teen use of time? Resources

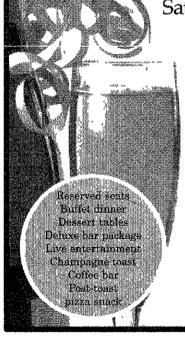
A subscription for Education Week is \$79.94 per year (P.O. Box 2083, Marion, OH. 43306, 800-728-2790, edwk@kable.com). It might just provide the most thoughtproducing material you will read all week.

If you missed previous columns, you can access them at www.hometownlife.com/Livonia/News.asp. Type "Alice R. McCarthy" under "Keyword Search" for a list of her most recent columns. Columns, written weekly, remain only a short time on this site. All of her columns for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers are on www.bridgecomm.com.

Alice R. McCarthy, Ph.D., the mother of five professionals, is a national consultant in the areas of parent involvement in schools, curriculum writing in health, and health publications. She is the author of a widely used text and parenting book Healthy Teens: Facing the Challenges of Young Lives. Write to her in care of the Observer/Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI, 48150, or at brigecomm@aol.com.



Women aid



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· Preview of the latest holiday and New Year's Eve dresses Enjoy a Godiva chocolate sampling and sparking juice. Register to win a gift basket.

Shown: JS Collection dress in black. Sizes 6-16, 288.00.

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COMMUNITY LIFE

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 4, 2005

(*) **C7**.

Church cookie walk is a festive sign of the season

BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER STAFF WRITER

When it comes to holiday cookies, there are many different tastes.

Having coordinated the annual cookie walk at West **Bloomfield United Methodist** Church's for several years, Bettye Maki knows that.

"People are always looking for the really special one that they think of as a holiday cookie," said Maki, of West Bloomfield.

No matter what kind of cookie they favor, she said, the church's 13th Annual Holiday Cookie and Basket Sale from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 10, should have it.

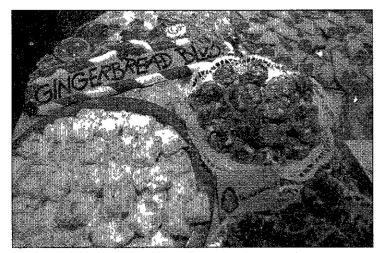
We have thousands of cookies. We have twelve 8foot tables loaded with cookies, candy, jams, pickles and baskets. When you walk in, it's just spectacular."

Members of the congregation make the cookies, she said. She herself is making Russian tea cakes, peanut butter blossoms, doubledipped chocolate cookies, Christmas cut- outs and sparkling toffee chip cookies.

"I started today,' she said Monday. "My husband just said he's eating all the mistakes," she added with a laugh. "It's definitely the holiday event at our church."

Maki said that cookies are available by container or holiday baskets. Baskets range from \$18 to \$50, and can be given for Hanukkah as well as Christmas.

"Even though we are a Methodist church, we have quite a few Jewish people that come by," she added, "so



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

St. Mark Orthodox Church offers a variety of treats, including Eastern European-style cookies, such as Russian tea cakes (foreground) and nut-filled horns.

we have baskets in blue too." Samples are available, and coffee and tea are served.

The cookie walk is so popular that numbers are given out to people waiting to get in, Maki said. The event only runs for two hours because they are sold out so quickly.

Proceeds benefit the church's mission and other programs. The church is at 4100 Walnut Lake Road, a quarter mile west of Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield.

Following are other area churches holding holiday cookie sales:

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in Livonia holds its 12th Annual Cookie Walk from 9 a.m. until the cookies are sold out, Saturday, Dec. 10. Doors open at 8 a.m. Pierogi, stuffed cabbage,

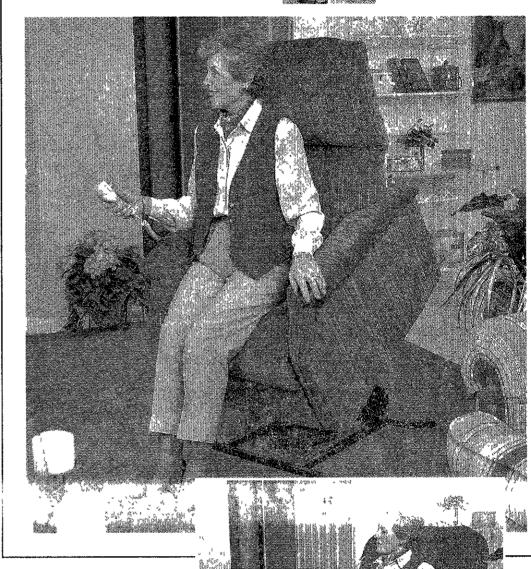
bread, nut and poppyseed rolls and over 50 different assortments of ethnic (kiefle, kolachy, rugela, koulourakia, biscotti, linzer) and traditional cookies and candy will be for sale.

Where: 36075 W. Seven Mile Road (south side), 3/4mile east of Newburgh Road in Livonia.

St. Mark Orthodox Church in Rochester Hills holds its 16th annual Christmas Cookie Walk from 10 a.m. until the cookies are sold out, Saturday, Dec. 10. Homemade holiday cookies and delicacies including truffles, fancy hand-painted cutouts, nut-filled roski horns and powdery Russian tea cakes, nut rolls and macaroons will be among the offerings. The church address is 400 Hamlin, west of Rochester Road. Cost: \$8 per pound

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Kids Count Survey focuses on suburban Wayne County

BY HUGH GALLAGHER STAFF WRITER

While young children in

'What this data suggests to me is that kids don't count.

on the percentage of children born with one or more of the negative indicators.

The Kids Count Data Book

Marlene Davis, superintendent of Wayne County Regional **Education Services Agency**, compared the threat to our community to terrorism and called the Kids Count data "a red alert."

"What this data suggests to me is that kids don't count," she said. "This is a red alert, this is the terrorism in our own backyard. Children in this county are being terrorized and we just can't afford it."

Davis participated Friday in a panel discussion as a part of a morning "2005 Children's Summit" to address the issues raised by the survey. The summit for educator and social and health care professionals was held at the University of Michigan-Dearborn' School of **Education and Management.**

"We're talking about the aftereffects of the dysfunction of our world," Davis said. "These children show up everyday in our public schools.

The panel also included Ismal Ahmed, executive director of ACCESS; Dr. Jeffrey M. Devries, director of pediatric education at Oakwood Hospital; state Rep. Hoon-Yung Hopgood (D-Taylor); Perry Jones, president and CEO of Wayne-Metro Community Action Agency; and Dr. Anahid Kulwicki, director of Wayne County Health Department.

Kids Count Michigan is part of a national effort to measure the well-being of children at the state and local levels and use that information to shape efforts to improve the lives of children. The Michigan League for Human Services and Michigan's Children are partners in the survey with funding from the Skillman Foundation. The national Kids Count is funded by the Anna E. Casey Foundation.

At Friday's conference Jane

This is a red alert, this is the terrorism in our own backvard. Children in this county are being terrorized and we just can't afford it. **Marlene Davis** superintendent, Wayne County

Regional Education Services Agency

Zender Merrell of Michigan's League for Human Services and Michele Corey of Michigan's Children presented the Kids Count findings, following a keynote address by Kristen McDonald, chief policy advisor for early childhood, Michigan Department of Human Services.

Corey said last year the survey focused on the problems in Detroit. This year's survey also includes data on Detroit but focuses instead on out-county communities in Western Wayne and Downriver communities.

Zender Merrell said gathering the data was only the first step. "Kids Count is about

improving the status of children. Too often I think the idea is that Kids Count is about compiling a lot of information and static statistics. The end game is to improve the status of children," Zender Merrell said.

RIGHT START

The "Right Start in Michigan" survey identifies eight measures, drawn from birth certificates, which are regarded as indicators for a child's future well-being: mothers under the age of 20, repeat births to teenage mothers, non-marital births, mothers without a high school education, late or no prenatal care, mothers smoking during pregnancy, low-birthweight babies and preterm babies. The survey covered 59 communities in Michigan (with population over 30,000) and ranks the communities, based

keeps track of 10 indicators from infant mortality to high school dropouts. The same data is collected uniformly across the country. Subjects covered include infant mortality, children born into poverty, employment status of parents, children born into one or two parent homes, children raised with or by grandparents, teen dropout rate, and children tested for lead poisoning. In many areas, Michigan does well when compared to national statistics, including high school dropout rate, percent of idle teens, teen birth rate and teen death rate. The percentage of children living in poverty has been going down despite the state's relatively high unemployment rate. But Michigan continues to do poorly on infant mortality rates, where it ranks 38th among the 50 states.

However, on the Right Start indicators, Michigan ranks in the bottom half of states for repeat teen births, late or no prenatal care, low-birthweight, unmarried mothers and smoked during pregnancy. In the survey in Wayne County communities outside

the city of Detroit:

On average, between 2001 and 2003, one quarter of all babies were born to an unmarried mother and 9 percent of all babies had no paternity established.

On average, between 2001-2003, one of every 15 births was to a young women in her teens (under age 20), falling from almost one in 10 births in the mid 1990s.

On average between 2001 and 2003 nearly 500 babies were born to mothers who had late or no prenatal care.

On average between 2001 and 2003, one in seven toddlers were tested for lead poisoning.

One of every 20 children lived in families who were investigated for abuse or neglect.

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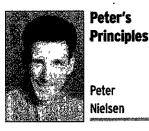
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Tea good for bones

Beth from Waterford e-mails asking about the latest research on the benefits of tea.

Research shows that people drinking tea regularly, for at least 20 years, had higher mineral bone density than those drinking less tea. And, it really didn't matter how much tea the subjects drank. It was the duration that counted! There's also a study in Taiwan that could add another benefit to the list, the ability to fight osteoporosis. It is important to note that most of the health benefit was found in drinking "green tea." Scientists believe the benefit comes from the fluoride found in green tea.

Jill from Farmington Hills has a friend who's a flight attendant. She recently heard about a study that links frequent flying to breast cancer and wants to know more. A recent study in California has found that instances of breast cancer are 30 percent higher in flight attendants than in the general population. They think the reason could be that planes flying at high altitudes are constantly being hit by high levels of solar radiation. It's estimated that a flight attendant, who's been on the job for 20 years, has been exposed to more radiation than a worker in a nuclear power plant!

That may not be the only cancer factor. Many flight aftendants also spend a lot of time in the sun during layovers. This just adds to their cancer risk. The whole subject is a growing concern and we will continue to pay close attention as new research develops.

If you have a question, e-mail Peter at www.peternielsen.com. Catch Peter daily on WDIV-NBC 4 & WWJ News Radio 950.

Observer & Eccentric

Page C8 Sunday, December 4, 2005

Hugh Gallagher, editor (734) 953-2149 Fax: (734) 591-7279 hgallagher@hometownlife.com www.hometownlife.com

Toy safety

ratory to test eight children's toys and childcare articles labeled "phthalate-Play it safe this free." Six of these eight products tested positive for phthalates so how is a parholiday season ent supposed to know which toys are safe.

Parents need to take precautions

and do their homework before pur-

the 20th annual toy safety survey by

Michigan. PIRGIM is a statewide

organization dedicated to environ-

is available at

with PIRGIM.

ventable."

mental protection, consumer rights,

and good government. The full report

http://www.toysafety.net. The short

brochure "Tips for Toy Safety" also is

While we can report substantial

progress after 20 years of advocacy on

behalf of America's littlest consumers,

we are still finding trouble in toyland."

"Even one toy-related death is too

many, because these deaths are pre-

The PIRGIM Trouble in Toyland

report offers safety guidelines for pur-

provides examples of toys currently on

store shelves that pose potential safety

hazards. PIRGIM's research focused on four categories of dangers: toys

that contain toxic chemicals, pose

choking hazards, are dangerously

loud, or could cause strangulation.

a class of chemicals used to soften

linked to a range of health effects

turers have started labeling their

plastic toys and teethers, have been

including reproductive defects and

early onset puberty. Some manufac-

products as "phthalate-free." PIRGIM

commissioned an independent labo-

Toxic chemicals such as phthalates,

chasing toys for small children and

said Jason Barbose, field associate

available for download in both

English and Spanish.

chasing toys this holiday season.

Avoid toys that could cause choking. Those with small parts, small balls and balloons remain a leading cause of toy-related deaths and injuries. Although most toys on store Hazardous toys continue to be sold in shelves are safe, PIRGIM researchers stores across the country, according to still found toys for children under age the Public Interest Research Group in 3 with small parts and toys with small parts for children under 6 without the nonprofit, nonpartisan public interest choke hazard warning required by the 1994 Child Safety Protection Act.

Avoid dangerously loud toys. In 2003, the American Society for Testing and Materials set voluntary acoustics standards for toys to protect children's hearing, advising that most toys should not produce a sound louder than 90 decibels when measured from a distance of about 10 inches. PIRGIM researchers found and tested several toys that exceed 90 decibels. Prolonged exposure to sounds at 85 decibels or higher can result in hearing damage.

Avoid strangulation hazards. In June 2005, Illinois became the first state to ban the water yo-yo because of incidents in which the toy wrapped tightly around children's necks or caused other injuries to the eyes, face and head. PIRGIM called on CPSC to follow Illinois' lead and ban sales of all water yo-yo ball products immediate-

The toy list in the PIRGIM report is only a sampling of the potential hazards on store shelves.

"Shoppers should examine all toys carefully for hidden dangers before they make a purchase this holiday season," said Barbose. "While most manufacturers comply with the law, parents should not assume that all toys on store shelves are safe or adequately labeled."



PIRGIM field organizer Jason Barbose explains the hearing dangers of these sound-emitting toy guns at a press conference at Beaumont Hospital, Roval Óak.

EYE INJURIES

Children sustained nearly 6,000 eyes injuries in toy-related accidents across the country in 2004, according to the Consumer Product Safety **Commission and Prevent Blind** America, the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization. Contusions and abrasions accounted for 64 percent of those injuries with the remainder being chemical burns, foreign bodies, lacerations, punctures, hemorrhages, dermatitis/conjunctivitis, and other diagnoses.

PBA has declared December as Safe Toys and Gifts Month and is offering free fact sheets and brochures on toy safety, and the "Play It Safe With Your Eyes!" DVD, which features Iris and Ira, two puppet characters that make learning about the importance of eye safety easy and fun for young viewers. It is available in English and Spanish

languages for \$19.95 plus shipping charges. For more information, visit www.preventblindness.org or call (800) 331-2020.

Toy injuries can happen because of poor construction or incorrect usage. Many times, injuries occur by simply tripping over toys or by younger siblings playing with toys that are not intended for them when their parents aren't looking. In fact, there were more injuries from the misuse of pens, pencils and art supplies than any other category. That is why it is so crucial to closely monitor children during all of their activities.

"During the busy holiday season it's important to take the time to make sure the gift you're giving is the best choice," said Daniel Garrett, senior vice president of Prevent Blindness

PLEASE SEE SAFETY, C9

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Arthritis Foundation Class

Thursday, Qigong meditation 10-11:15

a.m., and Friday Therapeutic Qigong 7-

8:30 p.m. Call (810) 813-4073 for infor-

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13 Mile, west of Woodward, use East

entrance, take central elevators to

10th floor classrooms A & B, and 7-

8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at Garden City

Hospital. 6245 Inkster, between Ford

and Warren, use main entrance, take

elevators down to the auditorium on

the right. Family and friends support

month, parent only support is on the

group listed above. For more informa-

Weekly meetings in Livonia 2:30 p.m.

Sundays, at Rosedale Gardens

Presbyterian Church, 7:30 p.m.

Mondays, at St. Matthew's United

is on second Wednesday of each

fourth Wednesday, same time and

place as the Monday night closed

tion, call (734) 324-3089.

Self-help mental health

Eating disorder support

exercise classes Tuesdays and

mation or send e-mail to gary@ener-

DECEMBER

G.E.M.S.

Group Exercise for Multiple Sclerosis meets 6-7 p.m. every Friday evening at the Livonia YMCA on Stark Road. It is a water exercise class for MS patients and their families. Support aroup meeting from 7:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. For information, call Karolyn Davis (734) 459-9715 or Mike Hickey (734) 522-0036.

Jingle Bell Run/Walk

For arthritis Sunday, Dec. 4 starting at Northville Downs, and Sunday, Dec. 11 at Pierce Elementary in Birmingham. Both races have a Snowman Shuffle at 8:30 a.m. for children age 10 and younger. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.) race at 9 a.m. Registration is \$30. Call (248) 649-2891, Ext. 232, or visit www.runmichigan.com or www.arthritis.org. This year the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports has endorsed the event. Because of this anyone age 18 or older who participates will be eligible to enter a lottery to be one of 300 people to participate in the Governor's Labor Day Run on Mackinac Bridge.

Caregiver support group

Meets Dec. 8 and regularly the second Thursday of the month, at The Village of Redford, 17383 Garfield, Respite services provided for free during the session. For more information, call Linda Peak at (313) 843-2550 or the Redford Senior Department at (313) 387-2788.

Recovery Inc.

The group meets Dec. 9, and every Friday, in the Southfield Parks & Recreation Building on Evergreen at 10 1/2 Mile. For more information, call (734) 464-0027.

Baby Signs workshops

Learn how you and your baby can communicate with each other before words develop by using simple and functional signs. The Parent Workshop is designed for parents-to-be and parents of babies from birth to 24 months. The workshop is offered 2-4 p.m. on one Sunday each month at the Kaufman Children's Center in West Bloomfield. The next sessions take place Dec. 11, and Jan. 22. The Sign, Say & Play class is a 6-week theme program for parents and babies ages 6-24 months to learn and practice simple signs in a fun, musical

and play environment. The series begins Friday, Jan. 20. Both programs are appropriate for special needs children and their parents. Pre-registration required. There is a materials and instructional fee. Call (248) 737-3430 or send e-mail to rhh4962@aol.com for information.

Divorce support

Group discussion 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, attorney Patricia Kasody-Covle will also be available to answer questions in a private setting on a first come- first served basis, at the Women's Resource Center in Room 225 of the McDowell Center at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile roads, Livonia. Call (734) 462-4443.

Parenting classes

St. Mary-Mercy Hospital presents parenting classes at the Marian Women Center, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. Registration required. Call Mary Jane Peck at (734) 655-1100 or send e-mail to peckm@trinity-health.org. Time Out for Parents: Time to Think, Rest and to Plan 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14 (\$10 per family). Individual consultations also available at St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

Depression lecture

Darlene Doute, an adult psychiatric mental health nursing and clinical nurse specialist at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, gives tips on coping with holiday stress 10:30-11:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 19, at the Northville Senior Center, Registration required, Call (248) 349-4140.

Eating disorders support

Groups meet 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays at William Beaumont Hospital, 3601 W. 13 Mile, west of Woodward, use east entrance and take central elevators to 10th floor classroom A & B; 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster, between Ford and Warren, use main entrance, take elevators after the gift shop down to the auditorium on the right. Family and friends support is on the second Wednesday of each month, parents only on fourth Wednesday of each month, at the same time and place as the Monday night closed group. For more information, call (734) 324-3089.

ONGOING

Group fitness classes

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Start thinking about your fall fitness plan. The Center Fitness Club at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield offers senior fitness, water exercise, yoga, Pilates, step, spinning, and back care classes at convenient times year-round. For more information, call Marni Stone at (248)/432-5427 or the membership office at (248) 432-5404.

Lite fitness classes

Senior Fitness Specialist Marni Stone and the Sports Club of West Bloomfield are starting a fitness program for beginners, mature adults and people struggling with illness or injury 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, at 6343 Farmington Road. Call (248) 626-9880, Ext. 4050. Arthritis classes

Began in September in Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Westland and other locations throughout Michigan. For more information about locations, schedules and fees, call the Arthritis Foundation, Michigan Chapter at (800) 968-3030 or visit www.arthritis.org. Classes include a warm-water exercise program, a land-based exercise program formerly, known as P.A.C.E. (People with Arthritis CAN Exercise), a graceful, flowing sequence of movements from Sun-style tai chi, and a six-week series that provides participants with the keys to successful arthritis self-management. Arthritis Foundation programs are suitable for adults of all ages with arthritis in its more than 100 different forms. The exercise programs also present a wonderful option for people who are seeking a gentle exercise alternative, and people who are new to exercise. Therapy choir

Of Broe Rehabilitation Services Inc. located in Farmington Hills is opening membership to volunteers from the community. The choir is comprised of

men and women recovering from traumatic brain injuries. Volunteers with or without disabilities are welcome as singers or helpers. Good singing ability not required. Call (248) 474-BROE for details.

Meningitis vaccinations University of Michigan Health

System's Michigan Visiting Nurses are offering meningitis vaccinations by appointment at the Ann Arbor office. Appointments can be scheduled by calling (734) 677-0020. Meningitis (Menactra®) immunizations cost \$115, payable by cash, check or charge (Visa or MasterCard). A proof of vaccination record and receipt of payment are provided at time of immunization. Students younger than 18 must attend the clinic with a parent or guardian and all patients must be older than 12. For more disease and vaccination information, visit www.umvn.org.

Meningitis shots

Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan is administering the life-saving meningitis vaccination. The shot costs \$105 and is available by appointment 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Friday, at VNA of Southeast Michigan at 25900 Greenfield Road. Suite 600, Oak Park. To learn about bacterial meningitis or schedule an appointment, visit www.vna.org or call (248) 967-8755.

Parkinson's support

back pain sufferers finally know exactly what to do. To get a

copy of the free "Back Pain Relief Report", call toll-free,

1-888-744-2225. (Toll-free, 24 hour recorded message)

A new group has formed at Crittenton Hospital in Rochester and meets 7 p.m. Wednesday. Call (248) 433-1011 or (800) 852-9781.

The Waterford /West Bloomfield group is moving to Canterbury on-the-Lake, 5601 Hatchery Road (between Airport and Crescent Lake roads), Waterford, MI 48239. They meet Monday at 7 p.m. Contact person is Warren Oberlee, (248) 887-8840. Qigong



FROM PAGE C8 America,

PBA suggests the following tips to help make this holiday season a safe one for children. Parents should inspect toys for 4 safe construction. Products given to young children should be made of durable plastic or wood with no sharp edges or 200 points. The toys should be ablend to withstand impact. Avoid э£ purchasing toys for young children with small parts, as they 131 tend to put items in their mouths increasing their risk of choking. ,97

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Check your children's toys ,et regularly for broken parts. 5 5 Throw broken toys out if they pr cannot be safely repaired. Oldert kids often alter their toys and misuse them, making them unsafe.

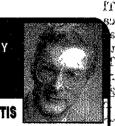
Read the instructions and suggested age level on packaging. Assess whether the item is, t appropriate for the child's abilight ty and age. Look for the symbol ASTM F963. This indicates the product meets the national 1574 safety standards set by the 33't American Society for Testing .nli and Materials. 摘り

Remain aware of recalled products. Large toy retailers post regular notices of recalled toys usually at the front of ,UT stores. Return'recalled prod-لار» بېرهيدېر ucts to the store where they Tur were purchased for a full v, l refund. For more information on on toy and product recalls, visit, the U.S. Product Safety 2.3 Commission at www.cpsc.gov. 133 loj.

Methodist Church, and 1:15 p.m. Tuesdays, at Mt. Hope Congregational Church. No charge. Call (313) 561-2521 or visit www.recovery-inc.org. **Back Pain?**

0E08393308

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY 18829 Farmington Road Livonia, Michigan 48152 Phone: (248) 478-7860 Westland, MI - According to a recently released back pain relief report, most back pain sufferers have no idea how to eliminate their pain. Some use heat, others ice. From THE HAZARDS OF WINTER IF YOU HAVE ARTHRITIS sleeping on the floor, to pillows underneath the legs, back pain relief techniques very. But thanks to a free report, local



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The storm at Thanksgiving brings attention to the hazards of winter. If you have arthritis special, problems arise from 1) the cold, 2) slippery conditions, and 3) unexpected delays

Arthritis Today

The problem with cold is its effect on your joints, particularly hands and feet No matter how sophisticated the glove material, it often isn't sufficient to keep the bite of winter completely at bay. Cold constricts blood vessels and deprives the joint of both the warmth and nutrition that an ample blood supply brings. In addition, the possibility of Raynaud's phenomenon increases with cold Baynaud's is an intense and prolonged constriction of the small blood vessels supplying the digits of your hands The condition can cause great pain and renders the fingers numb while construction remains

That slippery conditions come with winter hardly seem worth mentioning. However, with arthritis you are vulnerable to fall even if you have no arthritis in your legs. For if you fall, you sizerid on your a msite meak the impact. Arthmas of the shoulder, wrist, or hand will hamper that har irai response all possibiliticause alb uise to become a fracture.

Winter brings on delays if you have arthritis longer time on the road or waiting hours in the airport is not just wasted hours. It means you cannot move your joints with the frequency those joints need to stay limber

The best way to meet winter is to keep warm as possible, take no shortcuts with coats or gloves, use great care particularly on steps always have a hand rail near you, and accept that you will be stiff at times no matter how well you otherwise prepare.

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Dr. Patel - who grew up in

Canton – completed a combined Orthopedic and

special interest in cervical

spine disorders, minimally

invasive techniques and

Neurosurgical Spine Surgery fellowship at New England Baptist Hospital in Boston. He received his medical degree. with honors, from the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine. Dr. Patel's affiliations include an active membership in the North American Spine Society.

Dr. Patel also has a practice in Dearborn located in the Waterworks Building at 21031 Michigan Ave., and has privileges at all Oakwood hospitals.

To make an appointment, please visit www.oakwood.org or call 800.543.WELL.



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John Fredrick Harb, M.D.

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 4, 2005

D nk page

Don't miss your pullout issue of PINK next week!

WENSDY WHITE EDITOR (734) 953-2019 - WWHITE@HOMECOMM.NET

Make your holiday 'glam plan'

Beauty tips take you from office parties to black tie bashes

FROM THE EDITORS OF IN STYLE ON NEWSSTANDS NOW!

All parties aren't created equal, and you don't want to look the same for each. In Style's December issue offers beauty tips for office cocktails, Saturday night dates and New Year's Eve galas. Here, the editors share some advice with PINK from the edition on newsstands now:

Office Party/ Weeknight Cocktails

The Goal: To look polished and professional in very little time-and with no stopover at home. For a quick, seamless transition from office to evening, be sure to keep hair and makeup simple, tasteful and elegant.

Fake a Professional Manicure: Paint a coat of sheer, pink, glittery polish onto fingernails (try Estée

Lauder Pure Color Crystal nail lacquer, \$18; esteelauder.com). Pale, shimmery colors are mistake-proof, and glitter dresses up nails. If pressed for time, just massage cuticle oil on and around nails to give the appearance of fresh polish.

Get an Instant Facial: By the end of the day skin can look dull-and reapplying foundation isn't always an

option. So spritz on Evian spray and smooth a few drops of facial serum, a lightweight hydrator, on the cheekbones for a soft glow (try the Paul Scerri Toning program, \$56; bellevisage.com).

Saturday Night Date

The Goal: Full-throttle sexy—without looking as if you tried too hard. Keep

makeup soft, warm and irresistibly natural.

Your Body Needs Extra Attention. Start by turning an exfoliating session into a sensual ritual. Using slow circular motions, massage a scrub over your body in the shower (try H2O+ Almond body scrub, \$15; 800-242-2284). Be sure to focus on rough areas like the elbows and knees. And to rev up circulation in the legs, use more vigorous strokes.

Lips Should Look Kissable. Heavily lined lips can be offputting. Instead, apply a lip stain in a ripe color. You won't have to touch it up. For added hydration and a hint of shimmer, top it with a tinted balm such as MAC lip conditioner SPF 15 in Virtuous Violet,

\$14; maccosmetics.com).

Black-Tie Bash/ New Year's Eve Gala

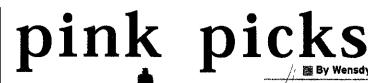
The Goal: Radiant, photoready glamour. The hair is up,

the makeup is dramatic, and the night is bound to be memorable. Plan in advance and leave as many details as possible to the salon pros.

Dirty Hair is a Good Thing. At the salon skip shampoo and simply wet hair before styling. Hair is easier to manipulate into an updo when it has more natural oils. For even more dimension, do a hair mask four days in advance.

Glitz Up a Faux Tan. Guerlain Meteorites Winter Radiance powder beads (\$46; Saks Fifth Avenue) add a subtle shimmer to skin but won't stain precious fabric. Dust them on the shoulders, on the collarbones, and if you're wearing a short dress, on the shins.

For Extra Dazzle Wear False Eyelashes. Vincent Longo La Dolce Vita lash tips (\$14; sephora.com) are tapered and not too long, so they look natural. And they can be applied with fingers, rather than tweezers.



Wear It!

Lulu Lamé dress from Rococo in Northville

DON'T Wear It! Pajama pants and slippers to school

Kick It!

Mossimo gold Pricilla croc pumps at Target

Accessorize It! Cummerbunds



Shop It!

Prevage anti-aging treatment at Parisian (get it here first!)

Rise in Royal Oak



pink list

Travel With One Bag Travel and fashion expert Lynn (1997) Portnov will demonstrate how to pack for stylish travel during a 😓 party 6-8 p.m. Dec. 6, at her > P: store, 29260 Franklin Rd. Southfield, \$20 admission and 10percent of sales during the party and Dec. 7 benefit West Bloomfield High's senior all night « party. Call (248) 353-2900.



Read It

Nursery Rhymes of

See It!

Shopgirl

UVU IL:

TiVo It!

The Polar Express

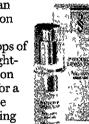
Victoria's Secret Fashion Show, 10 p.m.

Dec. 6 on CBS

Holiday Shop Get great gifts for everyone or your list at the Birmingham. Bloomfield Art Centers 25th Annual Holiday Shop Urough Dec 17. Call (248) 644-0866 ext. 108.

Juicy Couture Spa Event Give the great look of a Julcy Couture track suit this season and take a break with spa service during your hectic holiday shopping. Purchasing customers will be treated to pampering 2.4 p.m. Dec. 8 at Marshall Field's, Somerset.







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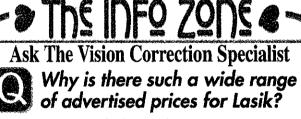
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attention from the initial consult to the final follow up visit, while utilizing the latest technology available at fair and reasonable fees.



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Section D

Sunday, December 4, 2005

(OF*) Joe Bauman, editor, (248) 901-2563 Fax: (248) 644-1314 jbauman@hometownlife.com www.hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric ENPLOYMEN

Partners in crisis, partners in health

(NAPSI) — Nurse prac-titioners (NPs) were among the first responders to hurricane-ravaged areas along the Gulf Coast. They tended to everyone from infants to the elderly, resetting broken bones, caring for open wounds, combating dehydration, administering medication and doing whatever they could to help.

CLASSIFIED

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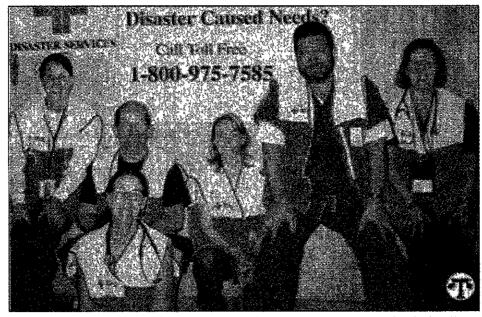
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Food/Severage

Among them was American Academy of **Nurse Practitioners** (AANP) board member Angela Golden, a nurse practitioner and nursing educator. She was deployed through the American Red Cross after applying through the Medical Reserve Corps. Golden and other volunteers treated over 1,000 survivors with acute to severe ailments - many acquired from overcrowd-

ing in shelters. "This experience reinforced how important it is for me to be a partner in someone's health care," Golden said.

Many members of the AANP are on the front lines of the American health care system and they, like all nurse practitioners, serve the health needs of communities, not



Angela Golden (far right), AANP board member from Arizona, takes a much-needed break with other health care responders treating hurricane evacuees in Louisiana.

just in times of crisis, but every day, all across the country.

A primary-care-physician shortage in the 1960s inspired the growth of the nurse practitioner's role, especially in areas of unserved or underserved populations. Now, this dedicated group of health care professionals, more than 106,000 strong in the United States alone, are expert providers of specialty care in areas such as acute care, adult, emergency, family, gerontology, neonatal, occupational health, oncology, psychiatric/mental health, school and college health and women's health.

For the past 20 years, AANP has provided leadership and support as the largest and only full-service national professional membership organization in the United States for NPs of all specialties. They treat a multitude of health problems and, unlike many other health care

providers, focus on the whole person when treating specific health problems, as well as educating patients on the effects those problems will have on them, their loved ones and their communities. That may be part of the reason NPs have the lowest rate of malpractice claims of any primary health care provider.

For more information about nurse practitioners, visit www.aanp.org or call (512) 442-4262.

Online information sessions for prospective teachers

(NAPSI) - America needs millions of new teachers over the next decade. If you are considering a career in the classroom, now is the time to learn more about becoming a teacher.

Individuals who want to change careers and enter the teaching profession can attend free online information sessions to learn how to earn their certification.

The sessions are offered by the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (www.abcte.org), a nonprofit organization that receives grant funding from the U.S. Department of Education.

The sessions are offered several times per month. Each seminar lasts one hour, featuring a short video and a moderated, real-time question and answer session. During the online presentations, information is provided about the American Board's Passport to Teaching certification program.

Passport to Teaching is recognized as a premier national route to teacher certification for career changers. To earn the certification, individuals must hold a bachelor's degree, demonstrate mastery on the American Board's rigorous subject area and professional teaching knowledge exams, and pass a federal background check. Additional college courses are not required unless the certification candidate chooses to participate in them for preparation purposes.

Candidates for certification work via the internet with an experienced advisor to develop an Individualized Learning Plan in preparation for certification exams. The application fee for the certification ranges from \$500-\$750.

Several U.S. states recognize Passport to Teaching as a route to state certification. The program is also recognized by many charter and private schools nationwide.

To register or receive more information, call (877) 669-2228 or visit www.abcte.org.





Due to business growth, Michigan CAT, the premier Midwest Caterpillar dealership, has the following openings at our store in Novi:

SHUTTLE DRIVER Position #2005-163 Part-time position to deliver, pickup and transfer equipment. A CDL Class A license with air brake endorsement, excellent driving record, and pre-employment physical and drug screen are required.

SERVICE TRAINEE Position #2005-164 Three positions available. Primary responsibilities for two include repair and maintenance of various types of heavy construction equipment, initial duties of third position include working in wash bay cleaning equipment during the 2nd shift. Candidates must be able to repair construction equipment one to two years of experience and/or related degree is preferred.

Our company offers a competitive wage and a great benefits package. Please email your resume including the position # to resume@michigancat.com, fax to (248) 348-3127 or mail to:

Michigan CAT Human Resources Dept. weishawara PO Box 918 Novi MI 48375 1 1 5 5 1 Awd + An EOE M/F/V/H

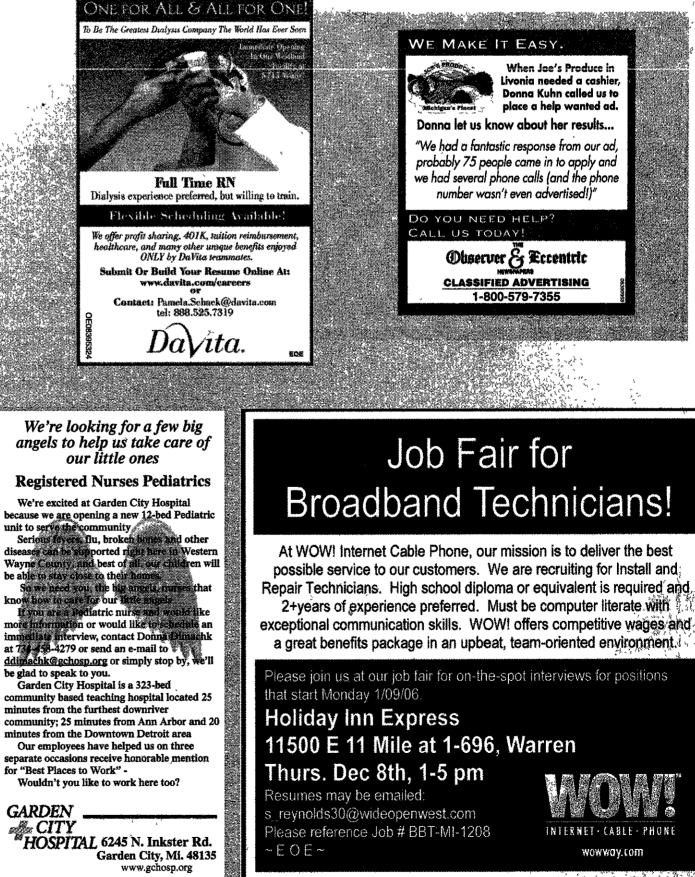
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D6 (*) Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, December 4, 2005

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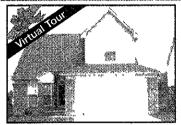


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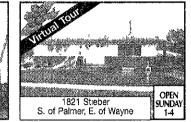


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WESTLAND - Why wait to build? Job transfer forces owner to sell this beauty completed 9/04. Brick, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2000 sq ft cape cod has 1st floor master with separate shower and tub, oak eat-in kitchen, 1st floor laundry and fireplace. Call Sylvia Florence Albert 734-216-4942 \$219,900 (L29745)



WESTLAND - Perfect for downsizer or 1st time buyer. 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Freshly painted with new furnace, central air, windows (except front), updated electric and comes with newer appliances. Updated eatin oak kitchen, bath and more Call Sylvia Florence Albert (S1821) \$69.900

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Go to HolidayBonusHomes.com for complete details.

CANTON - Just minutes from downtown Plymouth. New construction, 2 or 3 bedroom condo with 2 car attached garage. 2.5 baths, large deck for leisure living. For as little as \$219,900. Call Cheryl Krug,

734-216-4942 \$219,900 (ColmbSg) 734-276-3731



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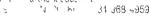
Judge

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Mike

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REDFORD - Affordable, updated Redford ranch. All new kitchen with ceramic floor, updated bath, with marble floor and nedestal sink. Refinished hardwood floors, all new paint and large fixtures. Clarenceville Schools Appliances tool Call Tom Reichard 01 VIS+V r allthe not sec net





REDFORD - Home overlooking Lola Valley Park 3 bedroom brick ranch with basement and 2 car heated garage. Updates include new roof on house and garage new windows, all appliances stay Landscaped and fenced vard Call Mike Judge



WESTLAND - New construction Many floor plans to choose from starting at \$235,900 Located east of John Hix and north of Glenwood Open daily 12-6



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bath ranch located in Green Brier Estates Sub .5 acre lot with mature trees Home also has a Florida room and a 2.5 car garage Call Larry Hatfield (HBH)



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REDFORD - Not your average bungalow Floor lan has been redesigned making it wonderfully unique and functional, new furnace, updated kitchen, windows, wiring, plumbing and carpet and much more. Master has natural fireplace and more. Call Bauer. Keilv Penfield.

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ft.! Amazing master, finished basement, hot tub, family room with fireplace and surround sound Photos, virtual tour, and dimensions with 220, heat, built in air lines and a second at www.doorstodreams.com. Call Derek story for finishing or storage. Call Jim

734-748-7775 \$324,900 (T9042)

\$253,900

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LIVONIA - All brick bungalow Livonia with

1467 sq. ft. 2 full bath, newer roof, electrical,

hot water heater and more 2.5 car garage



and out. 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, 1.5 story bungalow with many attractive features. Finished with glass block windows, bar, family room, laundry and work area and storage 2 car garage and fenced yard. Call Larry Hatfield.

\$90,900

(B15777) 313-820-9711



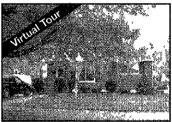
bedrooms, 1.5 baths, Livonia schools, walk to parks, schools and churches. clean and neat neighborhood. Finished basement with wet bar & pool table. Large deck with hot tub. Call Denise Tatman

\$164,900 (A8601) 734-377-6563 \$223,900

WAYNE - 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, Dutch

colonial historical home walking distance to parks. Hardwood floors throughout house. 2 fireplaces, old world charm. Call Denise Tatman

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LIVONIA - Lovely well maintained Livonia brick bungalow. 3 bedrooms, (3rd bedroom being finished). 1228 sq. ft. all major upgrades done-furnace, central air, glass block, copper plumbing, electric windows, vinyi trim, newer carpet and much more. Call Joan Landry. (19995) 248-790-7087

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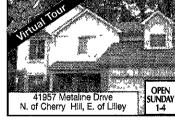
CANTON - instantly appealing ranch condo! 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, den, large great room, 2-way fireplace, deck Upgrades thruout! Call Carol Hussey



CANTON - Approachable luxury! Amazing views from this many windowed condo home in Central Park of Canton. High upgraded in every way. Tennis courts, pool and clubhouse. Call Carol Hussey

flowers. Call Mark Riegal \$310,000 (25163038) 734-751-9563 \$329,475 (25158593) 734-751-9563 \$459,900 (25139270) 734-718-6176 \$269,957 (25149937) 734-604-3814 \$115,000 (25142184) 734-678-4128 \$137,900 (25167665) 734-751-9563

CANTON - Master suite with bonus room, private balcony with deck, fashion bath, walk-in closet, living room with French doors. Large family room with fireplace. Large deck with hot tub off kitchen. Yard filled with trees, bushes and



CANTON - 4 bedroom colonial with Plymouth/Canton schools. Private backyard surrounded by trees. Great deck for entertaining. Well decorated and ready to move in. Call Cheryl Wilson.



CANTON - Investor-special! Vacant. Formerly rented for \$950 per month in area of \$200K homes. Call Doug Taylor



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GARDEN CITY - THIS IS A CHARMER! Newer furnace, central air, electrical, bath, flooring, carpeting and more. Formal dining room, eat-in kitchen, 15x13 laundry, 1/3 acre. Side deck. Call Carol Hussey



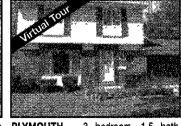
PLYMOUTH - 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths. Updates: oak kitchen cabinets, roof, furnace, vinvi windows, central air, Built-in pool. 2 car garage. Unfinished basement Call Mark Riegal



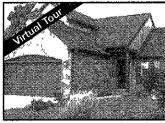
PLYMOUTH - PRICED TO SELL ... FAST! Holiday bonus of \$2,000 to buyer at closing. Walking distance to downtown Plymouth. Upper ranch style condo, vaulted ceiling, skylites, new furnace and fresh paint. Call Mark Riegal.



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

Upgrade your home before moving in

(NewsUSA) — You've found the perfect neighborhood, selected a home plan of your dreams and chosen a reputable builder.

But the decision-making doesn't stop there: There are literally thousands of innovative upgrades that you can incorporate into your new home as it is being built.

According to Angie Stevens, design coordinator with Kopf Builders and a member of the American Society of Interior Designers, there are several advantages to upgrading during the building process.

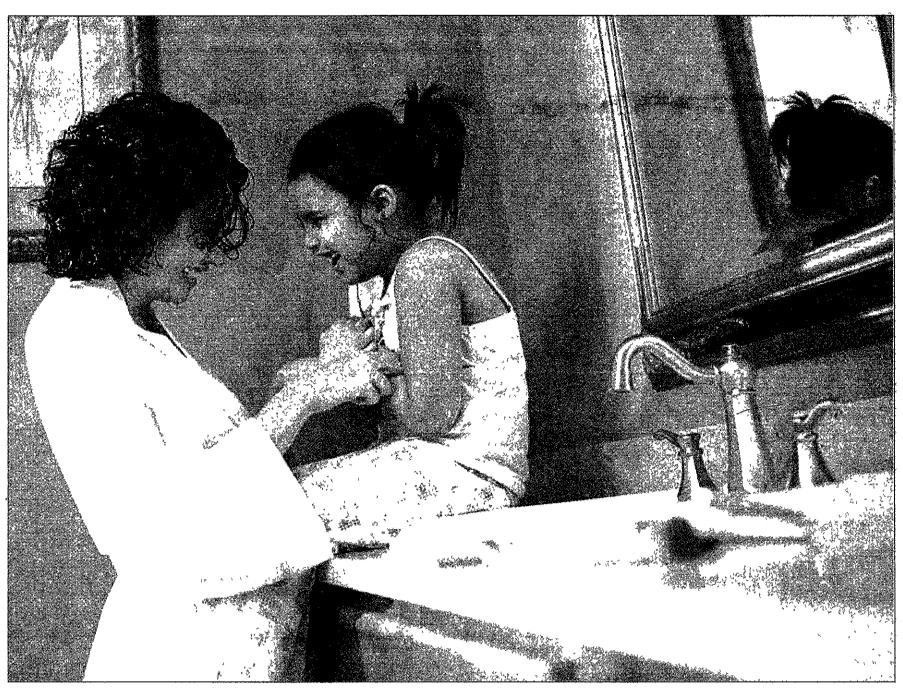
First, it usually is much more convenient to have the builder upgrade items during the construction process. Plus, you may be able to take advantage of financial incentives so that the upgrades don't break the bank.

Here are some tips from Stevens for choosing the best features and upgrades for your new home.

■ Make the house your home. One of the best reasons to upgrade your building plan is to infuse it with your own style. Whether you want a country look or a contemporary flair, the options you select will help convey your style throughout the house.

■ Do the math. One major benefit of upgrading during the building process is rolling the cost of the upgrades into your mortgage loan. Although you may pay slightly more in taxes initially, the upgrades will be paid off at a lower interest rate than if you later decided to upgrade and took out a home equity loan. In addition, most builders will include upgrades in your home warranty.

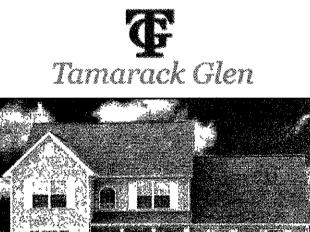
Think about resale. What you choose now can play a big role in determining the resale value of your home in the future. Name-brand appliances and popular custom upgrades will appeal to potential buyers. The smartest plan of action is to put money into the most-used areas of the home, particularly the kitchen and bathrooms. Some of the items to consider upgrading include



Upgrading your home during the building process can make it an even better place to live.

the faucets, flooring, appliances, countertops, cabinets and lighting. For example, consider a high-arc pull-down spout model in the kitchen. It has a classic look, a variety of finishes and a unique "pause" button that allows you to stop the water flow. In the bathroom, choose a faucet that offers elaborate traditional styling in a host of finishes to complement your bath accessories.





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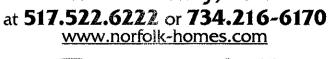
Tamarack Glen

Exit 160

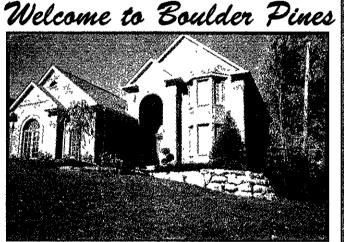
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Study the merits of hiring a Realtor to sell your house

I am going to sell my house, should I use a Realtor or sell it myself?

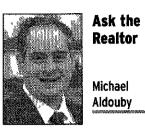
The reason some sellers try to sell their house themselves is to save the real estate fee. However, about 80 percent of sellers who try this end up getting frustrated and hiring a Realtor, and many end up paying more than if they hired a Realtor to sell it for them in the first place.

There are a few reasons why this happens:

Realtors have a lot more tools to expose your house to buyers than a non-Realtor does. The more exposure your house has, the more probability that you will find buyers who will pay you the price that you want for your house.

The longer it takes to sell your house the more money it can cost you. One major reason for this is that interest rates can go up. They are expected by many experts to significantly rise. If you sell your house and you buy a new one, and even after selling your house, you still owe approximately \$250,000 it could cost you big bucks if interest rates rise. For example, if interest rates go up by 1percent, that would be an additional \$2,500 per year, which over a 30 year mortgage could add up to \$75,000. Also, if you already bought a house you could have double mortgage payments for some time.

Buyers get a lot of services by Realtors that they don't need to pay for. Some of these services are information about all the houses on the market, doing the paper work, negotiating on their behalf, etc. Often the reason that buyers shop for sale by owners (FSBOs) and



chose not to have access to all these free services is to save the same commission that the sellers are trying to save. You then run into a situation where both the seller and the buyer want to save the same commission.

Many times FSBO buyers are looking for homes that are out of their price range. They are hoping to pay much less than the asking price and therefore may not even qualify to buy your house.

Another major reason to hire a Realtor to sell your house is the issue of security. The problem that could occur if you are selling your house is how do you know who is on the other end of the phone whom you are inviting into your house. Also, the for sale sign that is in front of your house is inviting perfect strangers to knock on your door.

In the slower real estate market that we are facing today, it's more important today than ever to hire a Realtor to sell your house for you.

Michael Aldouby is a columnist and a Realtor with Real Estate One. He has an M.B.A. with a concentration in marketing. He is happy to answer any real estate questions you may have or to receive any comments about the column. Please feel free to call him at (734) 748-9621 or e-mail him at michaelaldouby@hotmail.com.

BRIEFS

Education Seminars

The Building Association of Southeastern Michagamis sponsoring the fell zving searnars:

8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 1 — "Condominium Nuts and

will discuss setting performance expectations, a superintendent's responsibilities respiratos au sil a o videnties to entone code coar pliance on the job site. Registration fee is \$145. (248)

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Bolts: When To Consider Using a Condominium Format" at BIA Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, Farmington Hills. Registration fee is \$20 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$40 for guests. (248) 862-1033.

■ 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, "Builder's License Preparation Course" at BIA Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, Farmington Hills. Material covered will include topics on the exam, laws and rules, construction drawings, codes, procedures, sample test questions and test tips. Registration is \$200. (248) 862-1033.

8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 5, "Convention Strategies" at BIA Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, Farmington Hills. Registration fee is \$20 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$40 for guests. (248) 862-1033.

8:30-10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, "Extreme Success" seminar at Stagecrafters Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. A discussion on risks that yield better results, new ways to deal with fear and how to break free from the "Struggle Syndrome." Registration fee is \$59 for sales and marketing council members, \$89 for BLA or Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$109 for non-members and guests. (248) 862-1033.

8 a.m. to noon Thursday, Dec. 8, "Codes and Quality Control" at BIA Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, Farmington Hills. Chuck Breidenstein of Builders **Professional Services Group**

Read Taste

Monday, Dec. 12, "Managing a Business for the Long Term" seminar at BIA Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, Farmington Hills. Richard G. William, CPA, of Polk and Associates PLC will discuss strategic planning for the small to medium size business, exit strategies and business valuation. Registration is \$20 for BIA or AAM members and \$40 for guests. (248) 862-1033.

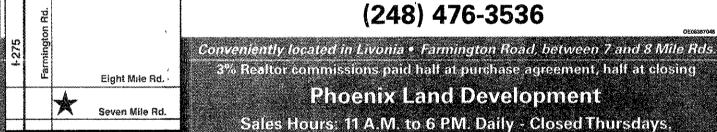
■ 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 16, "Managers Roundtable" discussion at AAM headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, Farmington Hills. The program is free for Property AAM, PMC and BIA members and \$15 for guests. Coffee and bagels will be provided. (248) 862-1033.

How To Classes

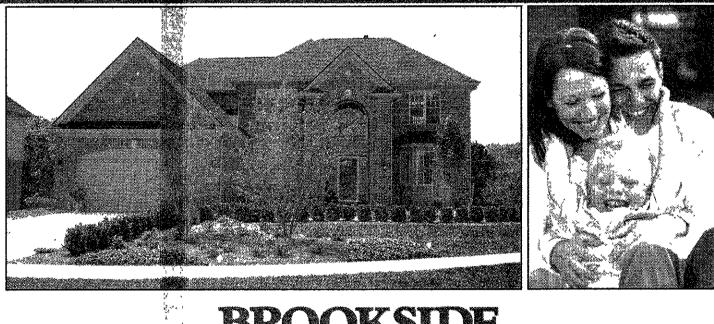
Oakland Builders Institute will offer the following classes. Builder's Pre-License Class

- This course will help those who want to subcontract the construction of their own home, real estate investors, developers and building trades people.

Classes will be held 6-10 p.m., Monday/Wednesday, Dec. 5, 7, 12 & 14, at Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn Heights Campus, 22586 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights, (313) 317-1500, \$189 for residents and \$208 for non-residents, plus a \$20 textbook and sample question fee; and 6-10 p.m., Tuesday/Thursday, Dec. 6, 8, 13 & 15, at Berkshire Middle School, 21707 W. 14 Mile, Beverly Hills, (248) 203-3800, \$190 plus \$20 for textbook and sample questions.



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Conservation measures can reduce home heating bills

(NAPSI)-Despite rising energy costs, only 28 percent of Americans say they plan to install measures to conserve energy at home this winter.

According to a survey by the National Oilheat Research Alliance (NORA), nearly three out of four Americans look to

their home-energy suppliers as sources of information in explaining how to reduce home-heating costs.

"Taking active conservation measures is their single best tactic in reducing their heating bills," said John Huber, NORA president. "The nation's oilheat

dealers also are being hit by higher fuel oil prices, and we stand ready to help our customers reduce their fuel oil usage and heating bills through tips for conservation, expertise on equipment and options for billing." The survey also found that

Americans ascribe most of the responsibility for higher gas and oil prices to multinational oil companies, Hurricane Katrina and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). And nearly three-fourths of Americans believe that their home energy suppliers are just passing along the higher energy prices the suppliers have to pay.

CONSERVATION MEASURES

Among survey respondents who said they plan to install conservation measures this winter, 69 percent said they plan to add insulation around doors and windows and another 7 percent would replace windows and doors. Approximately one third said they would add insulation to their attic, 32 percent said they would buy a programmable thermostat and 26 percent are considering replacing their furnaces with more efficient models.

HOME HEATING COSTS

Only 24 percent of respondents think they are likely to have trouble getting enough

fuel for home heating this winter, while 74 percent said they are unlikely to have trouble and 2 percent did not know. Of those with lower income, concern rose somewhat.

How much more money do people expect to pay for home heating this winter? Most (74 percent) said less than \$500, while 9 percent said they expect to pay about the same as last year.

"We urge American consumers to strongly evaluate measures they can take to reduce their energy consumption and therefore reduce their bills," Huber said. "For many homeowners, a conversation with their home-heating supplier would help them better cope with today's energy situation."

To learn more, visit the Web site at www.nora-oilheat.org.



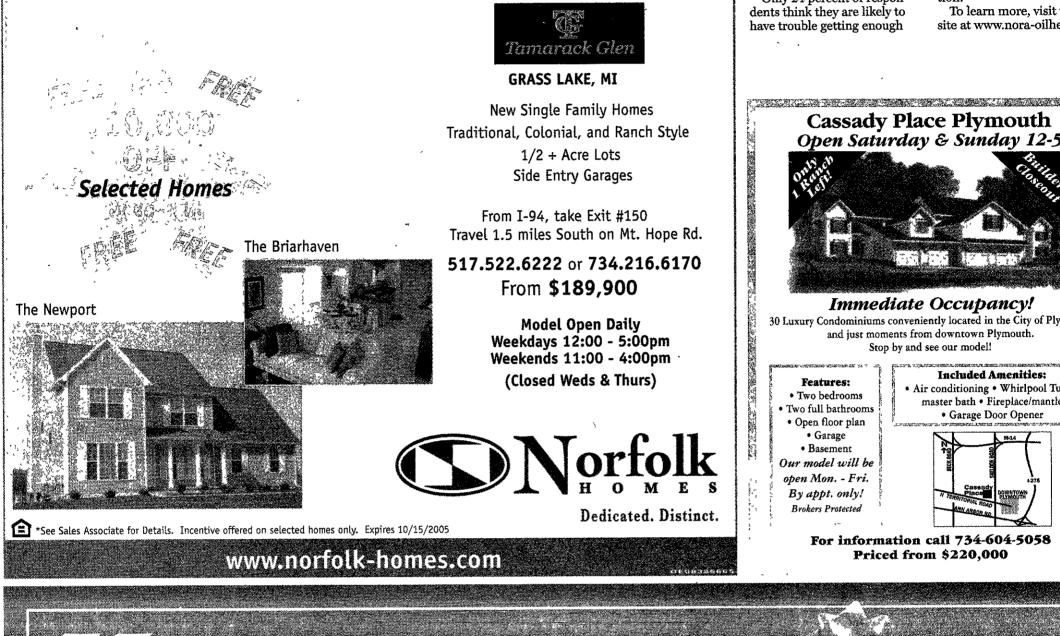
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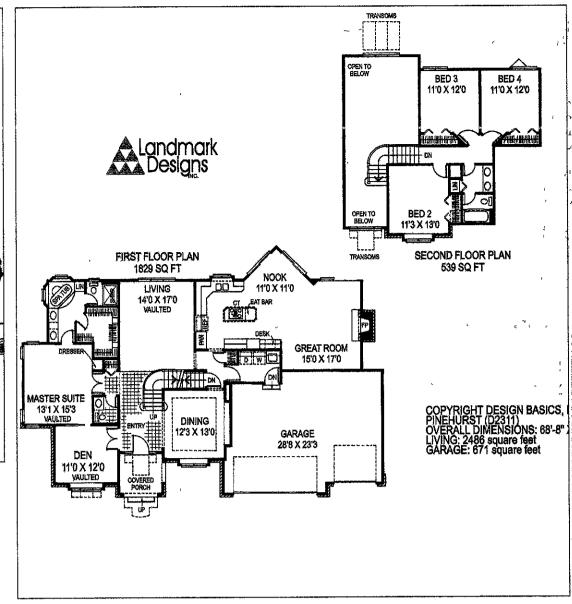












Pinehurst blends classic look with modern function

It is always exciting to find a home that has the classic lines . of the past with the functional necessities of the present. The Pinehurst (D2311) with its 2,486 square feet meets this criteria. The exterior has a high arched porch with a window that matches the décor. By splitting the garage doors with a brick corner, the home appears larger. The gorgeous façade of the entry is only the beginning of this luxurious home.

Facing the entry is a decorative curved staircase, with vaulted living room beyond. Huge windows pour light into all of the corners. Because of its separateness, it would be ideal for formally entertaining of friends.

The kitchen, nook, and great room are uniquely arranged together to be open. The

kitchen, with the central cooktop and eating bar, is open to the great room so conversations can flow with the family. Plentiful counterspace, a pantry for the spare canned goods and staples, and a builtin desk provides versatile workspace.

With a fireplace directly across from the kitchen, cooking becomes more enjoyable chore. The nook is V-shaped with windows on both sides. Its unique contours allow easy view of the kitchen and great room. For informal dining, this area would be ideal.

The formal dining area is to the front of the home beyond the utility room. It has a wonderful window seat in the front, display cabinets on one side and a coffer vault ceiling. The stateliness of this room matches the formal living

room and is ideal for entertaining. It has direct access from the entry.

The entire left side of this magnificent home is dedicated to the master suite and a den. The den can be accessed through French doors, or from the master suite through a pocket door. Wonderfully relaxing, this room filled with books even has a window seat to curl up on to read about the adventures of the world.

The master suite has been designed with imagination and usefulness. The main suite is vaulted, with French doors providing charm. It has a built-in dresser, tucked away by the doors.

The bath area is large and open, with double sinks, a corner spa tub, and a shower tucked away next to the enormous walk-in closet. Upstairs

has three large bedrooms. Bedrooms three and four have wall closets and doors that face direct toward the bathroom.

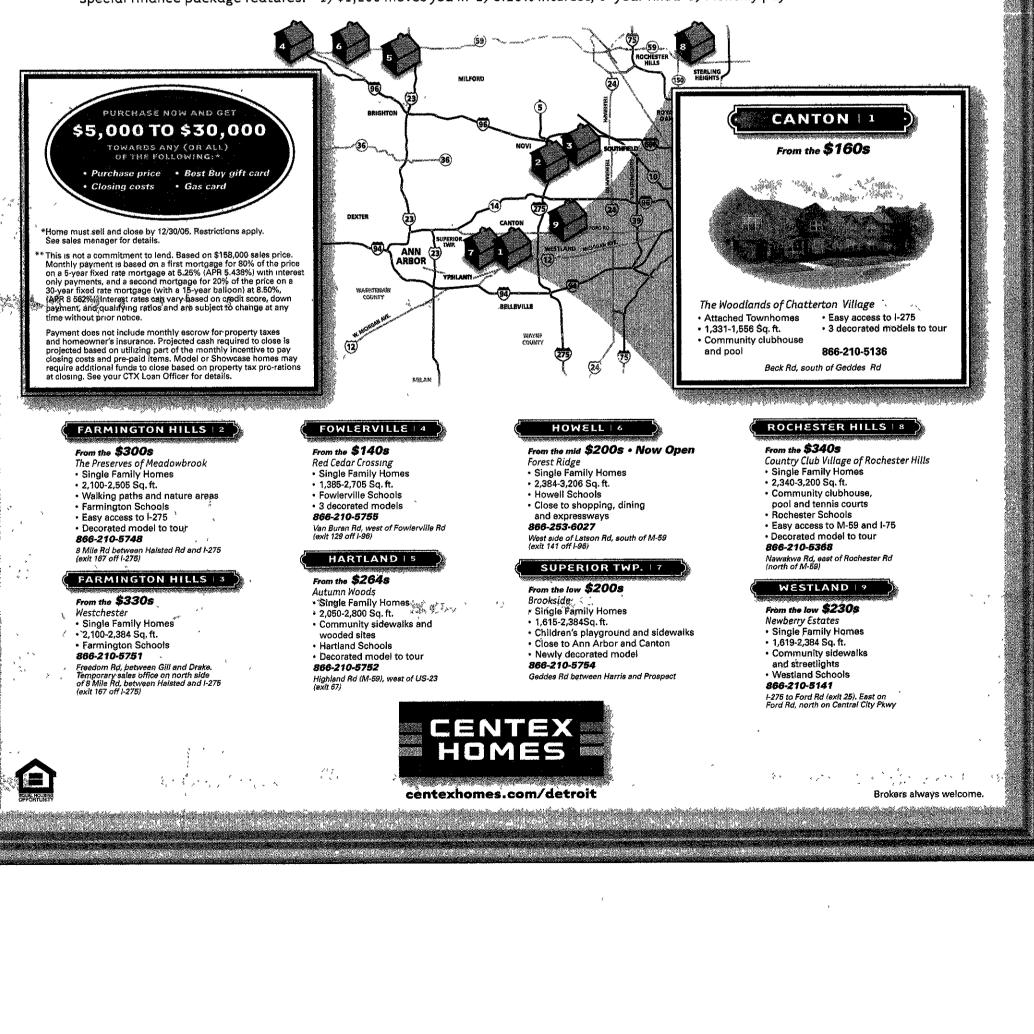
Bedroom two has a window seat for studying on those dreary winter days. The bath has double sinks, a tub and the every handy linen closet. The balance of the upstairs is open to the below, showing off the high ceilings of the living room and entry hall.

For a study plan of the PINEHURST (D2311), send \$15 to Landmark Designs, Inc., 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424. Compact disks, with search functions are free of charge, to help you search our portfolio for your dream home (\$5 shipping and handling will apply). Or you may order or search online at www.ldiplans.com.



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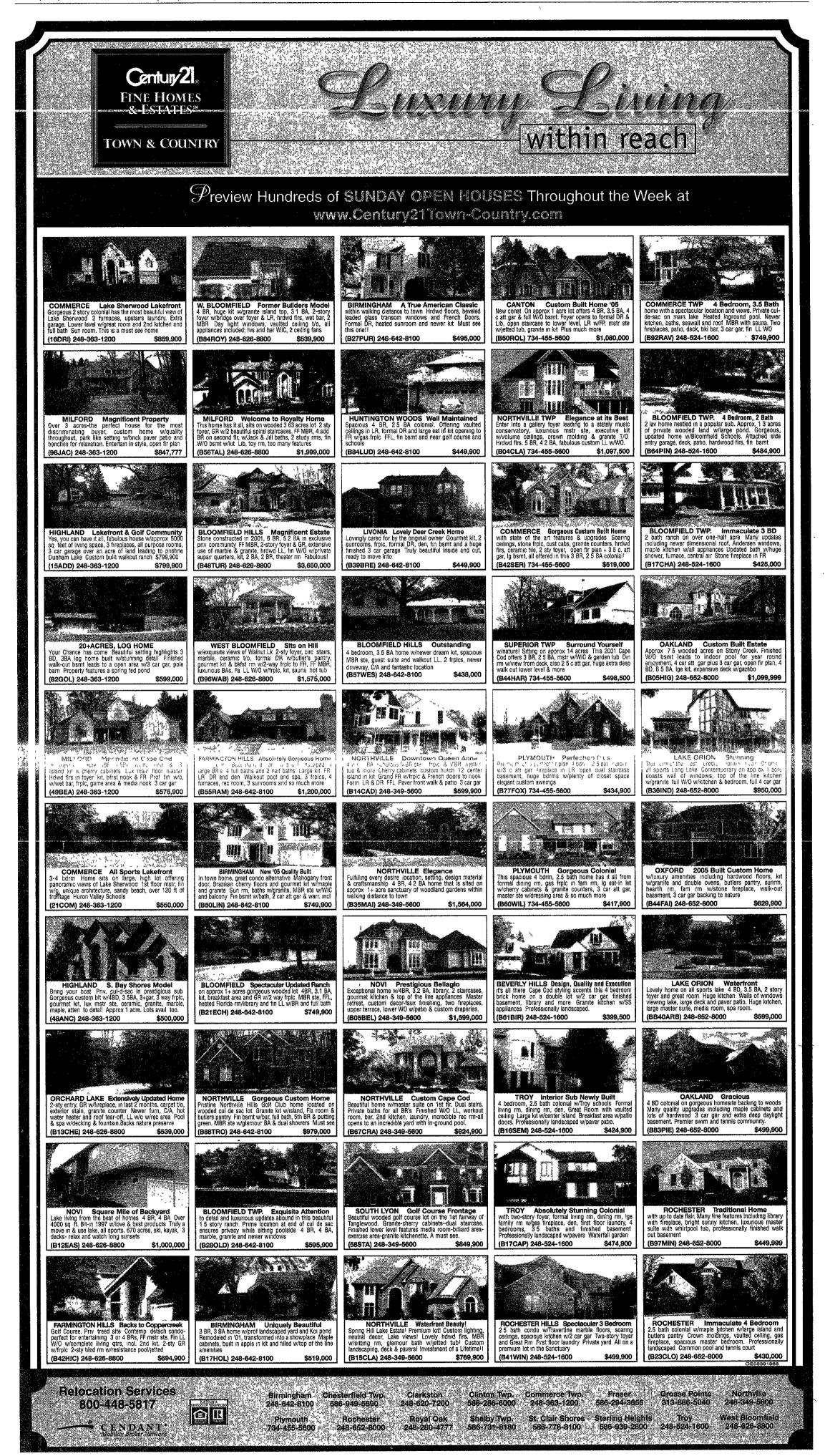


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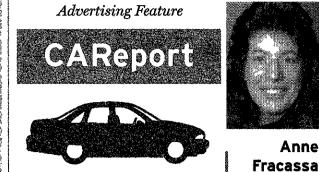
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New 2006 LX improves on the Sonata name



Observer & Eccentric

By Dave Menard Avanti NewsFeatures

It wasn't that long ago that buying a Hyundai was something you usually did only if you couldn't afford a Honda or a Toyota. The first generation offerings from the Korean carmaker featured bland styling and middling performance; in fact, the most exciting feature of those early Hyundai cars was the warranty they came with – 10 years/100,000 miles on the powertrain, the longest in the industry. But it takes more than a warranty to get customers to buy – it takes vehicles that people want to buy, and Hyundai is starting to make some real progress in that area.

Exhibit "A" could be the 2006 Sonata LX, the highest of the three trim lines for that model. Allnew for 2006, the Sonata is Hyundai's latest effort to compete in the mid-size segment with Toyota Camry and Honda Accord. In fact, the Sonata is longer, wider and has more interior room than both, and the U.S. government classifies the Sonata as a "large car", although it certainly doesn't look like one in your driveway. The new Sonata is a bit more stylish than previous versions. It has a dual headlight configuration that reminds me of a small Mercedes. The Sonata LX has a concave hood dome, body side moldings, 17" alloy wheels (the two other trim levels feature 16" wheels), and dual chrome-tipped exhaust. It's a nice package. Inside, the Sonata is comfortable, roomy and

has a nice set of included standard features. In fact, the only available options are a power sunroof and a six-disc CD changer. The standard eight-way power, leather seats give good support, and a very good driving position. The wider body of the Sonata allows for more interior room, and there is plenty of leg, hip and shoulder room. The Sonata is also a couple of inches longer than its



2006 Hyundai Sonata LX. Type: Large car. Where built: Montgomery, AL. EPA: 20/30. Base price: \$22,895. Price as tested: \$22,895

competition, and that allows more trunk room, too -16.3 cu. ft. Instrumentation is complete, with a tachometer, digital clock, trip computer, range-to-empty gauge and coolant temperature gauge all included. Power windows, heated mirrors, remote keyless entry, cruise control, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, and electric rear window defogger are all standard.

The Sonata LX comes with an AM/FM/CD/MP3 player with six speakers and steering wheel-mounted audio controls. It delivers good, though not exceptional, sound. As mentioned above, there is an option to add a six-disc Hyundai has given the Sonata LX a 3.3-liter V6. It'll give you 235 horses under the hood and still gets a decent 20/30 mpg. It represents of 65 horses and 45 lb.-ft. of torque over the engine it replaces, and a full 45 hp more than the Camry 3.0-liter V6 and more torque than the Accord V6. It's mated with a five-speed automatic transmission which features an overdrive lock-up torque converter. Acceleration is decent, but unremarkable, but the engine is fairly quiet at highway speeds.

The Sonata LX handles pretty well with its four-wheel independent suspension. The front suspension features double wishbone technology with coil springs, twin tube gas-filled hydraulic shocks, and anti-roll bar. The five-link rear suspension features a trailing link, two longitudinal links, coil springs, twin tube gas filled hydraulic shocks and anti-roll bar. It's a nice ride, particularly at highway speeds, where the cabin is quiet and comfortable. Power-assisted rack-and-pinion steering is standard, as are anti-lock brakes.

You'd expect a family-type sedan to have safety in mind, and the Sonata LX does. It comes with dual front airbags (like every car), seat mounted side-impact airbags, side curtain airbags and active head restrains for front seat occupant.

Where the Sonata LX really shines is the number of features you get for the money. The 2006 Hyundai Sonata LX starts at a little under \$23,000 and there isn't really much to add. Add the sunroof and the CD changer and you've got everything Hyundai offers on the LX version of the Sonata. There are two lower trim lines for the Sonata, but for the price, why not get the bigger engine and all the features of the LX?

The Sonata LX really deserves a look, if you're one of those Accord/Camry buyers. And yes, that 10 year/100,000 warranty is still a part of the package. It's nice to see Hyundai making some cars you might actually want to keep that long.

Write Dave Menard at avanti1054@aol.com.

