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SUNDAY  
March 19, 2006

# CANTON Observer

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## Chamber, educators debate K-16 funding

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
STAFF WRITER

Michigan lawmakers and school administrators are anxiously waiting to see if a coalition seeking guaranteed state funding increases for schools will have enough petition signatures to force the issue onto the November general election ballot.

The K-16 Coalition for Michigan's Future turned in nearly 300,000 signatures last month, and if the Secretary of State's office finds at least 254,000 of them valid, the battle between state lawmakers and the Coalition will have just begun.

The K-16 proposal, which is backed by the Michigan Education Association and most of the school establishment, calls for annual state funding increases equal to the rate of inflation for public schools, as well as public universities.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth-Canton executive director of human resources Ray Bihun and school board members Barry Simescu and Carol Saunders listened recently to a presentation on the state of the district's finances.

With school districts facing annual increases in expenses greater than the increases in state foundation grants, more and more are using reserves in fund

balances to balance their budgets, with many projecting negative fund balances this year or next.

PLEASE SEE DEBATE, A3

### EDUCATION FUNDING IN CRISIS

Public school districts across Michigan are facing an unprecedented financial crisis. Programs have been slashed, staffs reduced and school buildings shuttered. Today the *Observer & Eccentric* reports on how this growing threat to public education is affecting our local districts.

More inside:

Proposal A has impacted more than school funding - A3  
Comparing local school district budgets - A3

## Nearby failures won't deter bond hopefuls

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
STAFF WRITER

When voters turned down bond proposals in Northville and Van Buren school districts Feb. 28, it could have put a damper on efforts by Plymouth-Canton Schools as it asks voters to approve a \$118 million bond proposal May 2.

However, those working on selling Plymouth-Canton's two-question bond issue believe the proposal doesn't come with the same baggage the other two school districts had to carry around.

"Van Buren has always had a history of turning things

down, so that wasn't a surprise," said Tom Wysocki, school board trustee. "Northville was more of a surprise because of the controversy with the elementary school (to be built near a landfill) and some mitigating things besides the economy."

Nancy Eggenberger, co-chair of the bond committee, said Plymouth-Canton's issue is really about growth and crowded classrooms. However, she said the committee won't be cocky in thinking voters will automatically say "yes."

"We're not sitting back and

PLEASE SEE BOND PROPOSAL, A3

## One man injured in mobile home fire

BY CAROL MARSHALL  
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday, the Canton Fire Department responded to a fire at a mobile home on Old Michigan Avenue. It was the fifth mobile home fire in Canton in the last 12 months.

Upon arrival, fire crews reported fire showing from the rear of the mobile home, where initial investigation points to the origin of the fire. Firefighters, using full turn out gear and air packs, entered the home and quickly extinguished the fire. The fire was contained to the back bedroom with heat and smoke damage throughout the home.

A neighbor who tried to get into the mobile home was the only person injured in the fire. When he tried to enter the house, smoke and heat pushed him backward and he was treated at the scene for smoke inhalation.

The fire investigation team was called in to determine origin and cause, but they have not yet been able to do so. The investigation is ongoing.

"We believe it to be accidental," said Fire Chief Mike Rorabacher. "The home was totaled for all intents and purposes."

No one was living at the home. The owners were out of state, Rorabacher said. Their daughter had permission to enter the home to pick up some belongings, he said, but she was not in the house at the time of the fire.

Of the five mobile home fires in the last year, two others resulted in significant damage, with one estimated at \$25,000 and the other at \$8,000.

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## Actress comes home with 'Grace'

### Drama teacher returns with 2-woman show

BY BRAD KADRICH  
STAFF WRITER

On stage, they've been each other's mother. Each has played the other's sister. Their characters have ranged from strippers to elderly southern women.

One likes to hit the stage running and worry about details later, the other prefers to prowl the theater before a performance, making sure there's a place for everything and everything is in its place.

On stage and off, there's a chemistry between them and, if the adage "opposites attract" bears any truth to it at all, it defines the friendship between Gloria Logan and Donna Adams Schulte. The ladies put their chemistry to work once again this week in their own production of *Grace & Glorie* at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

"We've been friends on and off the stage since 1989," said Logan, the former Plymouth-Canton drama teacher who retired with a theater named in her honor five years ago. "To do this play together is wonderful."

The pair met doing *Steel Magnolias* at the Tibbetts Theater in Coldwater, Mich. Schulte, the impromptu, let's-get-it-done Texan who now lives in Indiana, played Weezer, the role played by Shirley Maclaine in the movie. Logan, the strait-laced, make-sure-everything's-set veteran, played Miss Claire (the Olympia Dukakis role).

It's interesting the two would cross paths. Logan taught theater and drama at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park for 30 years, but



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Donna Schulte and former Plymouth-Canton drama teacher Gloria Logan are "Grace and Glorie," in a smart and funny look at the art of living. The performances benefit Arbor Hospice.

still found time to kick around getting acting gigs. Schulte is originally from Texas and got her degree in theater from Baylor University in 1971. She worked a lot in Dallas, and actually met her husband, Ed, while doing a gig in Cincinnati.

"I was in Kentucky last fall, and I had an offer to do *You Can't Take It With You* in Pennsylvania," Logan said. "You go where the work is."

The theater world is relatively small, as the two women continually find out. They've worked in some 15-17 plays together, and each has recommended the other for roles in other production. Schulte is talking to directors about doing *Steel* in Tennessee next year, and she's

already talked to them about Logan.

Logan tells the story of how she once was hired over the phone. There was another time the executive director hired her to do *Steel Magnolias*. When she showed up for rehearsal, it turned out the director was former student Charles Burr.

Logan got back into acting after teaching for some 15 years of teaching, figuring the industry had probably changed and wanting to get back in before it passed her by. She's never had trouble getting roles, and hasn't auditioned in some 20 years.

"We've outlasted the competition," Schulte said, laughing.

## Actors explore lighter side of death

BY CAROL MARSHALL  
STAFF WRITER

It was an idea that started with two women - two women who now call themselves "Duo Damas," the name of the theater production company they created to benefit local charities.

Plymouth resident Joanne Hulce has been involved in the arts in the Plymouth and Canton area her entire adult life. So when she saw a stage production of "Grace and Glorie," a play about two women who come together through hospice, she immediately wanted to bring the show to her hometown.

"I thought it was wonderful. I was impressed with the story and wanted to bring it here but we didn't have a venue until the theater in Canton was formed," she said.

After the Village Theater at Cherry Hill opened, Hulce approached her longtime friend Gloria Logan, who had retired from Plymouth-Canton Schools after having taught theater for 30 years. Her idea was to form a production company that would benefit nonprofit organizations.

It was a natural fit for Logan, who has been acting and directing for most of her life.

"It made perfect sense to me and

PLEASE SEE PLAY, A6

PLEASE SEE BENEFIT, A5

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Coming Thursday in Filter

Who's getting hit?

What's happening on the Sopranos this season? We want you to guess.

**Art fair deadline extended**

Applications to participate in the 2006 Cherry Hill Invitational Fine Art Fair have been extended to April 3. This year's fair will be held Sept. 16-17 around the Cherry Hill Schoolhouse located on the northwest corner of Cherry Hill and Ridge roads. To be accepted to the fair, artists must submit a completed application, three digital images, a non-refundable jury fee of \$20, a \$150 booth fee, and a resume, if available.

This juried show is an excellent opportunity for a limited number of qualified fine artists to showcase their work. The head judge at this year's fair is national and international acclaimed sculpture artist Mark Chatterley of Williamston. Accepted categories of fine art include: Ceramics, clay, drawing, etching, jewelry, glass, graphics, mixed media, oils, acrylics, photography, sculpture, weaving, watercolor and wood. Pre-manufactured or mass produced art is not permitted.

To obtain an application please call Kris Darby at (734)

560-6169 or Joyce Murphy at (734) 394-5174.

**Family social club**

The public is invited to hear Lori Logeway of Room to Change, who will discuss suggestions for achieving a comfortable and functional home with items you already own and cherish at the Canton Newcomers April 5 meeting. The Newcomers is a social club always looking for new members.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the Sunflower Clubhouse, located at 45800 Hanford (west of Canton Center). Refreshments will be served. For more information about the Newcomers, please visit [cantonnewcomers.org](http://cantonnewcomers.org) for more information or call (734) 737-0755.

**Christmas in Action**

Christmas in Action (CIA) is looking for volunteers to participate in their April 29 action day to provide free home repairs and maintenance for elderly and low-income homeowners in Canton. Volunteer teams are needed for general home repair jobs, painting, and yard work. Individuals with special skills, such as plumbing, roofing, and drywall are especially needed.

CIA is a non-profit organization with chapters throughout the country that have been providing free home repairs since 1973. Last year Canton formed their own CIA chapter 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



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**A hometown celebration**

Canton Township will be honoring Olympic silver medalists Ben Agosto and Tanith Belbin at a special reception from 4-6 p.m. on March 30 at Summit on the Park. Fellow Olympians Jamie Silverstein and Ryan O'Meara, as well as singles skater Ailissa Czisny and junior skaters Mery Davis, Charlie White, Kendra Moyle and Andy Seitz will also be honored. Canadian skaters Megan Wing, Aaron Lowe, Tess Virtue and Scott Moir are also expected to attend. The reception is free. However tickets are required for admittance as space is limited. Tickets may be picked up at the Arctic Edge on Michigan Avenue, or the Summit on the Park community center. There is a limit of four tickets per person. For more information, please call the Canton Supervisor's office at (734) 394-5185.

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 individuals. Christmas in Action's event day is always the last Saturday in April. To volunteer please contact Pat VanDusen at [pvan-dusen@canton-mi.org](mailto:pvan-dusen@canton-mi.org) or call

CIA at (734) 844-8900. For more information on CIA visit [christmasinactionwayne@comcast.net](mailto:christmasinactionwayne@comcast.net).

**Orchestra Canton**

Orchestra Canton will present "Toon Tunes: Cartoon Music Favorites" on Sunday, April 2 at 4 p.m. at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

The show features orchestral music that has been featured in popular cartoons. Classical gems like Rossini's Barber of Seville (from Bugs Bunny in "Rabbit of Seville"), Johann Strauss' Blue Danube Waltz (from in Daffy Duck "A Corny Concerto") and Edvard Grieg's "Morning Mood" from Peer Gynt (featured in countless cartoons) will be alongside theme music from cartoons like the Pink Panther, the Flintstones and the Jetsons.

The Central Middle School Youth Choir, under director Janine Grady-Creedon, will be joining Orchestra Canton on the stage performing songs from Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" and Steven Spielberg's "An American Tail." Plymouth Symphony Youth Artist Competition winner, Miranda Kalish, will also be joining the orchestra.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors, and \$11 for children and may be purchased in person at the Summit on the Park, 4600 Summit Parkway, by phone by calling the Summit at (734) 394-5460, or by calling the Orchestra Canton office at (734) 451-2112. Tickets may also be purchased at the Village Theater box office one hour before the performance. For more information on Orchestra Canton's second sea-

son please visit [www.orchestra-canton.org](http://www.orchestra-canton.org).

**Scholarship help**

Parents and students in the Plymouth-Canton school district no longer have to physically visit their high school's counseling office for one of the most time-intensive processes for high school seniors: Identifying and applying for scholarships to help fund their college education.

District officials have now put that information on the district's Web site. The site, which currently lists 65 scholarships, is at <http://web.pccs.k12.mi.us/peep/pages/scholarshipsSmartURL.htm>

**Breakfast help**

Organizers of the annual Staff Appreciation Breakfast at Salem, Canton and Plymouth high schools are looking for help for the breakfasts, scheduled at the respective schools 6 a.m. Thursday, March 30.

Officials are seeking assistance with donations of breakfast foods (egg casseroles, potato dishes, baked items, fruit bowls, etc.) and drinks (water, juice) or monetary donations to help purchase whatever the committee doesn't receive.

They're also looking for people to help set up the day before, after school and then the morning of the breakfast to help serve the food. Anyone willing to help in any of these areas can contact Suzanne Zabowski (Salem High School) at [sunique7@aol.com](mailto:sunique7@aol.com); Maryanne Turner (Canton High School), [mdt89@comcast.net](mailto:mdt89@comcast.net); or Mary Schultz (Plymouth High School), [trixi1971@hotmail.com](mailto:trixi1971@hotmail.com).

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**Savitskie says....**

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# EDUCATION FUNDING IN CRISIS

## SCHOOL BUS



# Proposal A's impact goes beyond school funding

BY ALEX LUNDBERG  
STAFF WRITER

Proposal A, the law that fundamentally changed how the state funds public schools, was created to keep people from being taxed out of their homes. But more than 10 years after its approval, real estate professionals are complaining the law is convincing people it's better to stay put than buy a new home.

Julie Herman, a Realtor with Max Broock in Birmingham, said the tax shifts resulting from the passage of Proposal A have definitely hurt the industry.

"It's put an enormous onus on the purchaser of any property," she said. "People are refraining from purchasing homes as little as six blocks away from their current homes."

The problem is in the taxable value of the home. Proposal A caps the taxable value of a property at the time of the purchase. This is a boon to homeowners because property taxes can't rise precipitously. It's a milestone for purchasers, though.

"Let's say a home hasn't sold since 1994 and the taxable value is \$200,000," Herman said. "If someone buys it, the next year the taxable value becomes \$400,000. That's huge, the taxes doubled."

Kelly Sweeney, president of Weir, Manuel, Snyder and Reinke in Birmingham, said

Proposal A has had unintended consequences that make taxation unfair.

"Property taxes are supposed to be equitable," he said. "If you buy a \$1 million house you should pay more than someone who owns a \$500,000 house. In reality, you can have two people in identical houses, next door to each other, who are paying considerably different amounts in taxes. That's clearly not fair."

The other consequence of Proposal A is the creation of a disincentive to buy a home and he said that is a drag on more than just the new home market. When someone buys a house a positive ripple effect goes through the economy. People buy appliances, furniture, carpets and other goods to go with their new houses. When there's a disincentive to buy that new house, there's a resultant effect on every business connected to the home.

Herman said she doesn't think the legislature considered the effect Proposal A would have on the real estate market, especially on properties that haven't sold in a long time. The effect is particularly pronounced in Birmingham.

"The business owners here but I've got customers who won't buy in Birmingham because of the rise in assessed values there," Herman said. "The millage rate here is higher than in Bloomfield Hills and Bloomfield Township. Property values here went up 5 percent

## UNDERSTANDING PROPOSAL A

Before Proposal A, property tax was based on the State Equalized Value — 50 percent of the property's fair market value. As a result, the taxes on a house went up every time the value of the property rose.

After Proposal A, property taxes were based on the Taxable Value of a property. The Taxable Value was set at the level of the SEV at the time of purchase and can only rise with the Consumer Price Index or 5 percent, whichever is lower.

Under the plan, the Taxable Value is only adjusted when the property sells. A new owner pays tax based on the new Taxable Value, based on the SEV at the time of purchase, and the process starts again.

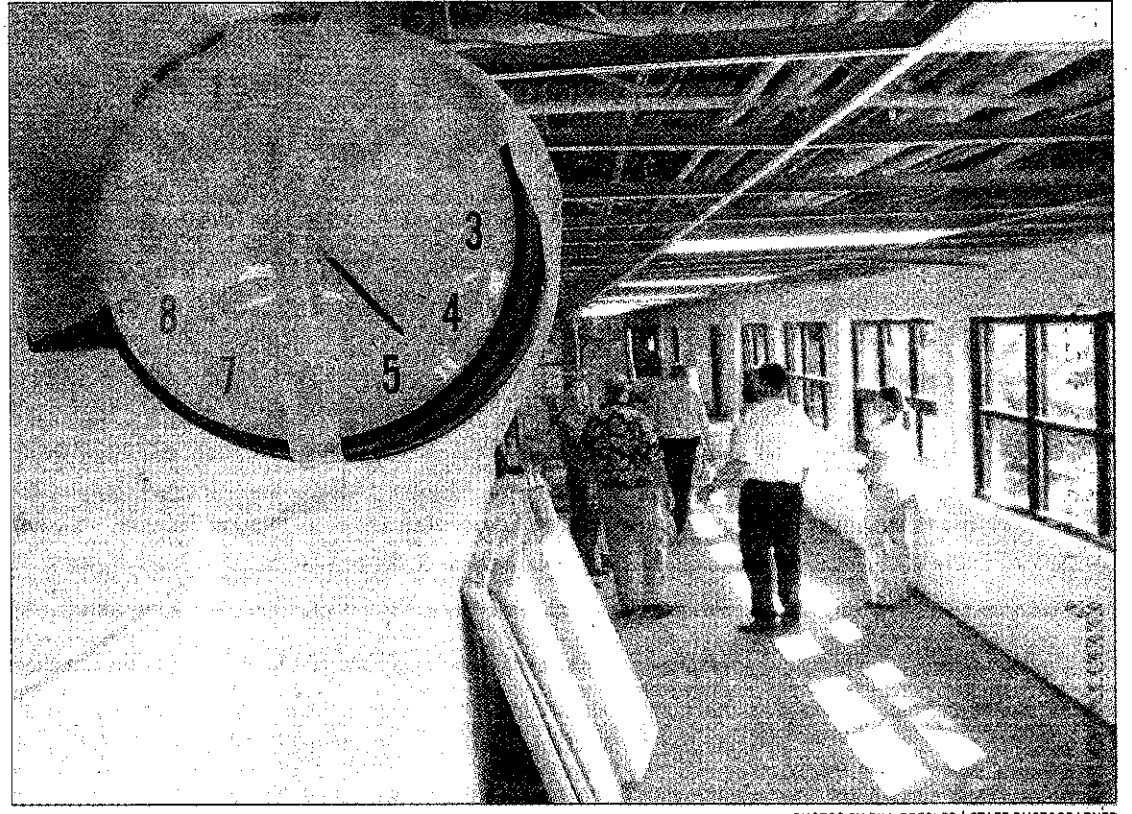
in 2005 where the state was only up 3.3 percent."

She said the legislature will have to do something about taxable value. But there's no going back.

"No way are they going to reverse this," she said.

"I don't know the solution, school funding is a complicated issue, but the current situation is bad for the state's economy."

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

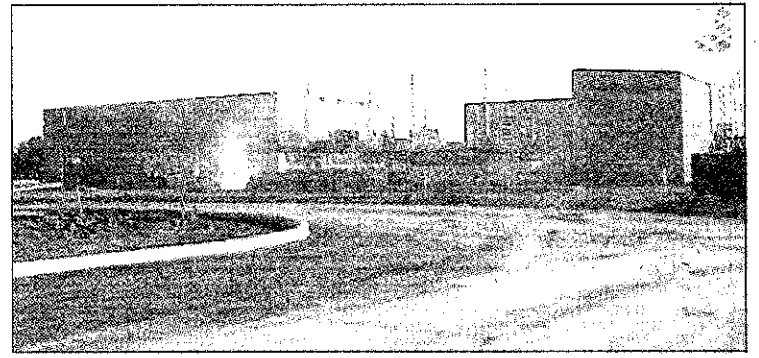
Bonds approved by Plymouth-Canton voters have been used to make repairs at most of the district's buildings.

## BOND PROPOSAL

FROM PAGE A1

thinking this is a walk in the park, we're working very hard," Eggenberger said. "I think people understand the kids are coming and we need to deal with the growth. The reality is the need isn't going away, and the cost of it will only get higher."

The first bond issue will ask voters to approve \$95.7 million for a \$24.3 million career and technical education center at the high school park; \$30.6 million for a new middle school to be constructed on a 22-acre site; the nearly 22 acres of land; a total of \$24 million for growth and equity improvements at elementary and middle school buildings; and \$12.9 million for renovation and repurposing of Central Middle School, among other



Plymouth-Canton voters last year approved a bond to build this new elementary school in Cherry Hill Village.

items.

The second ballot question for \$23.1 million includes \$12 million for a new theater and \$8.5 million for the pool at Plymouth High School; \$5 million for an auxiliary gymnasium at High School; and \$1.3 million for Canton High School athletic fields.

Trustee Richard Ham-Kucharski didn't vote in favor of the bond questions, claiming the economy wasn't right. While he's publicly supporting

them, Ham-Kucharski said he's heard from others who don't feel they can afford the higher taxes.

"They like the plan and all the components, but a lot of people feel they just can't afford to do it at this point," said Ham-Kucharski.

Residents must register to vote at their municipal clerk's office by April 3 to take part in the May 2 bond election.

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## DEBATE

FROM PAGE A1

### CONCERNS RAISED

Those against the measure, led by the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, believe mandatory funding for education will just mean fewer dollars for other state-supported services.

"One of the promises made to us when Proposal A was passed (in 1994) is that there would be stable revenue for schools over time," said Tom White, executive director of Michigan School Business Officials, and the chairman of the K-16 Coalition. "But, within five years after passage, the legislature engaged in a series of tax cuts that affected our revenue stream. The bottom line, by the year 2000 there was \$500 million less, and by 2002 it was up to \$550 million."

"That's \$3 billion we would have had if they had just left the system alone," added White. "If they would have left Proposal A intact, we wouldn't be here today. In part, this is generated by that frustration."

The Michigan Chamber of Commerce, which represents business, local governments and taxpayers, believes education has been treated very well the past few years, and the K-16 measure would be financially disastrous.

"This proposal really has serious consequences for funding other critical services, like police, fire and health care," said Tricia

Kinley, director of tax policy and economic development for the chamber. "We estimate it will cost state government \$1.1 billion a year more, ultimately resulting in tax increases. It's bad policy to let any one interest group circumvent the legislative process and have their funding put on auto pilot."

As chairman of higher education appropriations, state Rep. John Stewart, R-Plymouth Township, said the K-16 proposal is nothing more than a bargaining chip. "It's for bargaining purposes, a posturing tool," said Stewart. "I truly believe it's to protect the current level of pension and health care for teachers, who are 80-90 percent of all budgets." School administrators liken the foundation grant increases to a family checkbook. If expenses are higher than income, something has to give.

### SCHOOL PERSPECTIVE

"For the past 11 years in Plymouth-Canton, the average foundation allowance increase averages 2.29 percent, including this year's \$175 increase, while the CPI (Consumer Price Index) is at 2.51," said Patricia Brand, assistant superintendent for business services. "What that tells you, in a snapshot, is our expenses have increased in excess of the revenue we receive from foundation allowance increases."

Every district in the state, from the wealthiest to the poorest, has had to make changes.

Birmingham has cut 23 jobs and turned down the heat in its buildings. Plymouth-Canton is looking at an \$8 million budget deficit. Farmington Public Schools expects to trim \$7 million from its bottom line. Troy recently announced 54 layoffs, and expects to make more in the future.

"The state said, 'Let us worry about the funding.' But, we have not seen full funding. If it wasn't flat, we would not see deficits," said Michael Adamczyk, assistant superintendent for business services for the Troy district.

If the coalition gets enough signatures, the issue could be put on the November ballot to ultimately be determined by voters. However, once the signatures are certified, lawmakers have 40 session days to act on the proposal before it's placed as a ballot issue.

White expects to burn plenty of midnight oil before legislators let voters decide. Polls have shown the public is in favor of the coalition proposal. However, like the minimum wage issue, legislators will most likely want to develop a law that is more palatable to them, rather than having one mandated by voters.

### 'GREAT DEAL OF UNEASE'

"There's a great deal of unease with the proposal on both sides of the aisle," said White. "It's going to take cool heads and thoughtful people to get it done. If not, I'm confident we can make our case to the people of

Michigan and we'll win our case at the ballot box."

A compromise measure, or one determined by voters, may be the only way school districts receive more state foundation grant money. Lawmakers, with their inaction, have made it clear they won't touch it.

State School Superintendent Mike Flanagan, who is appointed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm, gives no indication the financial problems will improve in the near future.

"We're not going to have more money for awhile, that's just the way it is," said Flanagan. "But, we still have the number five finance system in the country, we spend \$1 billion a grade. We need to get over the denial that it's all about more money, and think about how you're going to deal with the money you have."

And, if they don't like the answers coming out of Lansing now, schools shouldn't look to Granholm's likely Republican opponent in November, Richard DeVos, for increased funding.

"We're 48th in the country in the amount of money that gets stuck in administration versus going into classroom delivery," said DeVos, a proponent of charter schools.

"A lot of them (public schools) have apparently made the decision to go into deficit spending ... but have they really done what they need to do to adjust their expenses to suit the reality?"

## A LOOK AT 2005-'06 SCHOOL FINANCES

City/Township	Population	Number of Schools	2005 State Foundation Grant	2005 Local Property Tax	2005 Total State and Local Funding
AVONDALE	3,816	8	\$36.35 million	\$10,365	\$3.2 million
BIRMINGHAM	8,037	14	\$100 million	\$11,930	\$6.4 million
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	5,858	14	\$103.2 million	\$12,130	none
CLARENCEVILLE	1,939	4	\$19.3 million	\$8,250	\$900,000
CLARKSTON	8,086	11	\$77.7 million	\$9,615	\$4.8 million
FARMINGTON	12,200	20	\$135.6 million	\$12,070	\$7 million
GARDEN CITY	5,343	8	\$43.8 million	\$7,359	none
LAKE ORION	7,856	11	\$64.1 million	\$8,165	none
LIVONIA	17,293	31	\$160 million	\$8,280	\$1.9 million
OXFORD	4,187	8	\$36.1 million	\$8,081	\$1.6 million
PLY./CANTON	18,000	25	\$147.8 million	\$7,200	\$8.1 million
REDFORD UNION	4,150	8	\$37 million	\$8,915	\$12.7 million
ROCHESTER	14,577	21	\$149.7 million	\$10,221	\$5.2 million
SOUTHFIELD	10,037	17	\$135.6 million	\$13,510	\$11 million
SOUTH REDFORD	3,403	6	\$29 million	\$7,801	\$480,000
TROY	12,005	18	\$135.4 million	\$11,285	\$5.6 million
WALLED LAKE	15,700	22	\$159 million	\$10,180	\$3 million
WAYNE-WESTLAND	13,654	23	\$116.9 million	\$7,571	\$4.4 million
W. BLOOMFIELD	6,957	10	\$73.2 million	\$10,525	\$1.8 million

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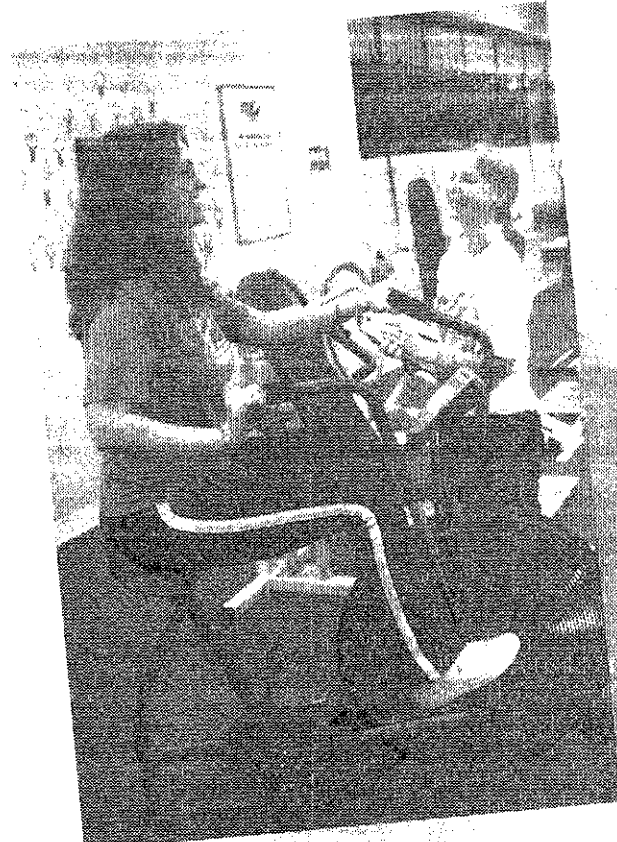
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 ■ Storytime Concert: March 22, at 7 p.m. Stories come alive with music and audience participation. Registration is required in advance by calling (734) 397-0999.

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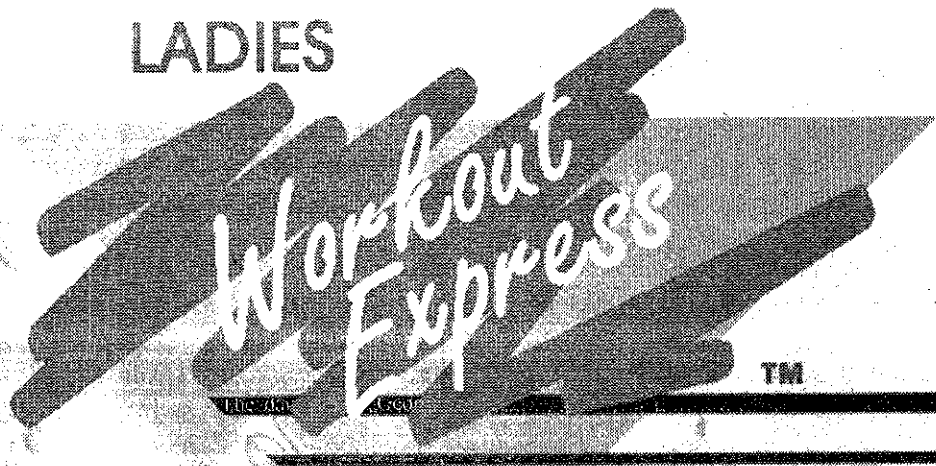


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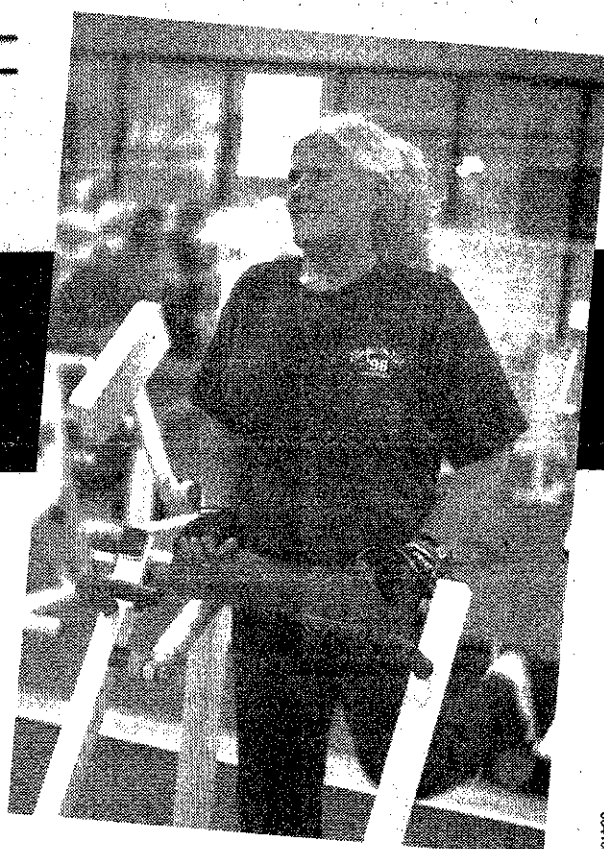


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**BENEFIT**

FROM PAGE A1

I wanted to be involved," Logan said. "Life is comfortable. It's been good to me, and it's the theater and the opportunities afforded to me by the theater that have made my life the way it is now. I don't need to work for rent money or to sustain myself. So it just makes sense to give back to that system which gave me so much."

Logan had been in the production of *Grace and Glorie*, so she and Hulce agreed on the play which would mark their premier production. And choosing a charity was a natural choice.

The play is about hospice, and as unlikely as it may sound, is funny, according to Logan.

Logan's friend, Indiana-based actress Donna Adams Schulte, plays Grace, an 80-year old woman with inoperable cancer who returns to her tiny cabin in the Blue Ridge mountains, where she will die.

Logan's character, Glorie, is a sophisticated urbanite with a Harvard MBA who volunteers with hospice and barges into Grace's life.

"It's a Velveeta meets brie relationship," Hulce said. "But it's not a tale of a younger woman helping an older woman to die; it's a tale of an old woman teaching a young woman how to live."

The story, though sometimes sad, is mainly funny. "It really is a hysterical play.

**'It's a Velveeta meets brie relationship ... It's a tale of an old woman teaching a young woman how to live.'**

Joanne Hulce  
producer

Of course it's poignant, and it can be sad. But at its core it's funny," Logan said.

Logan and Hulce called Arbor Hospice to make arrangements for the proceeds to benefit the organization's programs. Arbor Hospice's facility in Ann Arbor is a 30-bed residence. Its programs serve residents throughout southeast Michigan.

While most programs are covered by insurance, grief support programs are not, according to Glenda Gordon Kime of Arbor Hospice.

"We follow a family for 13 months after the loved one has passed away," she said. "It's an important program, and it's the kind of program that this donation would be very likely to support."

The play premieres at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill March 24, with the opening gala at 6:30 p.m., and the performance at 8.

Tickets for the gala and play are \$75. Performances are also set for 8 p.m. March 25 and 2 p.m. March 26. Tickets for Saturday and Sunday performances are \$40.

The day before the gala, the



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

'Grace and Glorie' played by Donna Schulte and Glorie Logan, is a comic look at the art of living. Schulte and Logan have been friends since 1989.

play will be presented, free of charge, to invited high school students and senior citizens, with a question-and-answer period to follow.

Tickets may be purchased at the Village Theater by calling (734) 394-5460.

For information, e-mail [specialevents@arborhospice.org](mailto:specialevents@arborhospice.org) or call Glenda Gordon Kime at Arbor Hospice at (734) 662-5999.

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# Translators needed for egg hunt

BY CAROL MARSHALL  
STAFF WRITER

Canton needs a little help getting over a communication barrier.

To be more specific, the township is looking for volunteers to help out during a popular springtime event.

"What we need help with is in translating," said Canton Recreation Supervisor Bob Dates.

Over the past couple of years, he said, there have been more and more Japanese

families enjoying the annual Easter egg hunt, which this year will be on April 15.

"What I had noticed is that there was a lot of confusion over the announcements made on the PA system," Dates said.

"We want to be inclusive and make sure that everyone is having fun, so we try to accommodate as best we can."

In order to do so, the township is looking for a volunteer translator who can help out during the event, and assist with making some of the

announcements over the loud-speaker.

So far, Dates has contacted Yazaki North America and the high schools, searching for volunteers, but so far he hasn't found anyone who can help.

Anyone interested in lending a hand may volunteer by calling Dates at (734) 394-5460. The Easter egg hunt will be 9:30 - 11 a.m. April 15, but the volunteer should be available at 8:30 a.m.

cmarshall@hometownlife.com  
(734) 459-2700

## PLAY

FROM PAGE A1

Schulte, whom Logan said is "the funniest woman ... I love playing straight man to her because you know you're going to get laughs," was happy to rejoin Logan for *Grace & Glorie* because the role is one of her favorites.

"She's 90 years old, she's lived through the deaths of all five of her children and she still has her faith," Schulte said of her character. "Most of my characters don't have that much substance. She's just a complete woman."

Logan is happy not only to be doing *Grace & Glorie* again, but is ecstatic about the chance to bring it home. Still, the idea frightens her a bit, leaving her emotions jumbled in a strange tangle of joy and terror.

"To do the play, and to do it together (with Schulte) is wonderful," Logan admitted.

"But to do it on my home turf, so to speak, is terrifying. These are people I'm going to



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Two of Gloria Logan's former students at Plymouth Salem High School, stage manager Shannon Riley (2001) and actor Scott LaRiche (1977) return to help out with the production.

see at Wal-Mart a couple of weeks later.

"It's exciting to be able to play your hometown, but it's frightening, too. It's extra important to you and that

makes you a little more nervous," she added. "I would like to do a job that's well-thought of."

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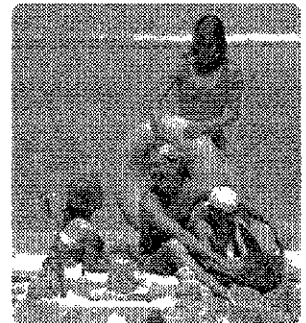
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# Reports on school employees must be available to public

This is the conclusion of Sunshine Week, seven days to focus on the critical need to protect public access to government.

But this is America, you say. We have the First Amendment. We have freedom of the press. We have the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meetings Act. We have journalists who report on everything the government is doing. Why the need for Sunshine Week?

From my perspective as president of the Michigan Press Association, the need has never been greater. In many ways, these are dark and threatening days indeed for the public's right to know.

A cloud came over Sunshine Week just recently in Michigan, when our state Senate gutted HB 5675, an initiative sponsored by Rep. Rick Baxter (R-Hanover) which would have made available to the public the list of all people with criminal convictions employed by Michigan's school systems.

The *Detroit News* started this off early in the year by filing a Freedom of Information Act request for release of that list, which was met with a court injunction on behalf of the Michigan Education Association. This action barred release of the list of 4,600 offenses, including 2,200 felonies, 100 sex crimes, 23 homicides, 355 drug felonies, etc., according to *The Detroit News* accounts.

House leaders jumped in with the Michigan Press Association to develop a bill which would allow the release of the list — on a delayed basis with time for cleaning up inaccuracies (vetting) — and fast-tracked it through to the Senate. The sun was shining and the forecast looked promising.

In the meantime, though, there were many articles pub-

lished around the state repeating accounts of falsely accused school employees included in the list; focusing on potential inaccuracies in the list rather than the larger issue, openness in the interest of the safety of Michigan's school children and the parents' right to know if people with a criminal past are taking care of their children five days each week.

Even though many newspapers took the stance that access to this list was the most important aspect of the issue because it potentially affected hundreds of thousands of children, those stories of some falsely accused school employees led the Senate to send back an eviscerated version of the bill to the House. Our only hope is the House prevails and stops the bloodletting, restoring full access to the list after a brief review period to vet it.

The real crime here is that school workers are being held above the law. Granted, the public would still have access to felonies and misdemeanors involving criminal sexual conduct and assault in the wake of the Senate's plundering of the bill, but other misdemeanors will not be subject to access.

What about shoplifters or those who have plea-bargained theft down to a misdemeanor? Do we want those people entrusted with our children's purses or wallets left in the locker room? What about drunk drivers who have pleaded down to misdemeanor level? Should they be driving students on a field trip?

One after another, groups are pointing to themselves as being worthy of exclusion from what our forefathers designed to be transparency in government. Our free press is in place not to snoop around for our own curiosity, but to stand in the gap for the citizenry, seeking out and reporting information they have a right to know.

An initiative passed late last year in Michigan to do background checks on workers in nursing homes and adult foster care homes. Hurray! A monumental step in the safeguarding of our vulnerable senior citizens

and mentally impaired people, many of whom are helpless in nursing home beds or unable to make decisions. But wait, embedded in that legislation is a FOIA exemption keeping that background information from the public. Now brewing is an omnibus bill, HB 5762, to roll together several statutes regarding nursing homes and adult foster care, including this one — a good thing, but also an opportunity to remove that FOIA exemption. Why? These are licensed by the state of Michigan and receive state and federal funds through Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. This information thus meets the criteria of what should be subject to FOIA.

What is the point of background checks of school employees or potential nursing home or adult foster care workers? Do we just do this for the edification and information of administrators in nursing or adult foster care homes, schools, law-enforcement agencies, or for the supervisors of some other group of government employees or workers whose paychecks are paid with public funds?

While it is crucial for these officials to have this information for hiring and firing purposes, we believe it is even more critical for a parent to have this information to be able to choose whether to leave their child in a school where someone who committed a crime has direct care of their child. Placing a family member in a nursing home or adult foster care facility is wrenching. Wouldn't you feel more confident being able to review the backgrounds of the people taking care of your family member?

An open and transparent government was one of the top objectives of the framers of this democracy. They guaranteed it — or so they thought — in the First Amendment. And it has worked pretty well through all the years we have been a nation.

Marcia Loader is president of the Michigan Press Association and owner/publisher of *The Advance* a weekly newspaper in Blissfield.



Marcia Loader

# Suburban, city 'dance' stalls regional growth

What happened? It seems like only yesterday we were holding hands and singing *Kumbyah*.

Where's the love? Where's that Super Bowl afterglow that was supposed to transform metro Detroit?



Hugh Gallagher

In the immortal words of Rodney King, "Can't we all just get along?"

It was Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick who cobbled a good deal to turn management of the Detroit Zoo over to the zoological society and eventually extricate the city from its financial obligations, while still maintaining ownership.

The Detroit City Council didn't see it that way. Some complained about receiving the contract at the last minute (as the mayor was packing to go on a trip to Africa with his mother, U.S. Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick). Others complained that some of the details of the contract were contrary to the city charter. But, clearly, race was also an issue.

Council member Barbara-Rose Collins opined that Detroit was not a plantation and that "white people don't own black people anymore." That was followed by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson commenting that he'd rather own at 1947 Buick than Barbara-Rose Collins and that the Detroit City Council belongs in the zoo.

Outrageous, bitter and all too common. *The Detroit Free*

Finally, the details got ironed out and the Detroit City Council approved a deal to transfer management, but not ownership (of the Detroit Zoo), to the society by a 6-3 vote.

Press reported that Detroit council members received racist e-mails from suburbanites.

Finally, the details got ironed out and the Detroit City Council approved a deal to transfer management, but not ownership, to the society by a 6-3 vote.

On to the water and sewer battle.

State Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, has been pushing for a long time to create a new advisory board to provide oversight for the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department. The board would be responsible for reviewing rates and reporting "whether the rates were just and reasonable." The board would also review contacts more than \$50,000.

A couple of years ago, Gov. Jennifer Granholm rejected a Toy-sponsored bill as "divisive." Toy reintroduced a revised bill last month and the Detroit City Council did its best to get it through the state Legislature.

Toy's bill would create a new authority that would take all but one appointment away from the mayor of Detroit and give the suburbs a majority vote.

On March 8, the pugnacious city council approved a 5.7-percent rate increase for suburban water and sewer customers and delayed any increase for city users, pending a plan from Kilpatrick to protect low-income users from having their water shut off.

The next day the state House moved swiftly to approve a version of Toy's bill that had already won Senate approval. Speaker Craig DeRoche, R-

Novi, is quoted as saying, "This is just like the Boston Tea Party; what the council did is taxation without representation."

The council did a reverse again and passed a 5.7-percent rate hike for suburban customers and a 5.4-percent hike for city users. Kilpatrick is still working on the plan to protect low-income users.

On Tuesday, the Senate took final action on the water board bill and Granholm's office quickly announced that she would once again veto.

Toy, a popular and conscientious state senator, insists that her bill is not racially motivated. She says her constituents have concerns about the operation of the DWSD and about increasing rates.

But it's clear that what plays well in the suburbs, raises hackles in the city and vice versa. Many in the city see actions by suburban leaders to "take control" of city operations such as the zoo and DWSD as coming only after the city has a black majority. For them, "regional cooperation" is seen as capitulation to white rule.

It's a sad dance we're doing at a time when regional cooperation is exactly what we need — on water, transportation, parks, cultural institutions. But it has to be inclusive, respectful, measured.

It's hard to see how we'll get from here to there.

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

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# Wayne County makes gains in hiring survey

BY HUGH GALLAGHER  
STAFF WRITER

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano was crowing Friday about a report by Manpower Inc. that found 38 percent of companies in the county plan to hire in the second quarter compared to 25 percent for all companies in southeast Michigan.



Ficano

Manpower Inc., a national temporary employment firm based in Milwaukee, reported that Oakland and Macomb counties would have 10 percent job growth for the quarter.

Manpower is reporting strong job growth nationally. Of the 16,000 U.S. employers surveyed, 30 percent foresee an increase in hiring activity in the second quarter, while only 6 percent expect a reduction in payrolls. The Manpower survey is conducted quarterly to measure employers' intentions to increase or decrease the number of employees in their workforce during the next quarter. "Usually we find Oakland County employers very optimistic, this time they're more cautious," said Denise DeSantis, local spokesman for Manpower.

She said Wayne County was even above the national rate, which shows 30 percent of employers expecting to hire in the next quarter. She said, however, that Wayne County is also ahead of the national average for companies reporting that they will reduce employment, 15 percent compared in 6 percent nationally.

DeSantis said Wayne County is also an exception for the Midwest, which generally shows little change in hiring expectations from the last quarter. She said the South and West are reporting strong hiring expectations for spring.

"We've been doing hard work, planning and businesses and other groups are taking notice," Ficano said.

Ficano said he's seeing job growth in the technical and research and development areas.

"I've had several companies talk to us about the airport and the airport city," Ficano said.

Ficano also cited the plan to go ahead with design of a rail line connecting Ann Arbor with Detroit as a positive development for employers.

"We're close to two research universities (the University of Michigan and Wayne State University) and we have a partnership with Michigan State to develop ethanol," he said.

Ficano said he was happy that the state House Thursday approved a fuels package bill that would create

incentives for gas station owners to install equipment for ethanol and biodiesel, require that the state purchase vehicles that can run on alternative fuels, establish the new renaissance zones for renewable energy facilities and create a Fuels of the Future Commission.

"We think it's a good start," Ficano said. "... I met today with the governor about not taxing ethanol fuel."

Ficano said there are already six million automobiles on the road that could run on the E85 fuel developed by Michigan State University. E85 is a mixture of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline.

DeSantis said excitement generated by the baseball All-Star Game and the Super Bowl may have helped boost employer confidence.

"It was wonderful. We saw the potential when a community comes together," she said. "We had leaders working together."

The positive report on prospective hiring comes on the heels of a report by the U.S. Census that Wayne County's population has fallen below 2 million for the first time since 1940. The Census reports that since the 2000 census report, Wayne County has lost 162,000 people, a 3 percent decrease to 1,998,217 people.

"Obviously Detroit and Wayne County have been losing population," Ficano said. "But we have the tools to slow it down and turn it around."

# Detroit leads in new construction units

Development of new construction units in Detroit in 2005 totaled 1,039, the highest among Southeast Michigan communities, according to building permit data collected by SEMCOG. While Detroit has been among the top communities in residential construction over the past few years, this marks the first time Detroit has been first since 1982.

A total of 1,039 residential housing units were permitted in Detroit in 2005, an 11 percent increase over 2004. Since 2003, new housing starts in Detroit have averaged about 1,000 units annually. This infill development has kept pace with development occurring in Macomb Township and Canton Township; those communities recorded 814 and 805 new residential housing units respectively in 2005.

"How sustainable is the feel-good success of the Super Bowl in Detroit?" asked SEMCOG Executive Director Paul Tait. "Along with the revitalization of the commercial aspects of Downtown Detroit, these numbers show promise for the revitalization of both downtown and the neighborhoods. This is a clear demonstration that even in these tough economic times, housing in Detroit is at least com-

petitive with housing in the suburbs. While the suburbs continue to grow, this shows that Detroit is attractive, too."

Added Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick: "The data compiled by SEMCOG serve as a strong indication of our successful efforts to grow Detroit. We will continue building on our progress as a part of our efforts to revitalize Detroit, neighborhood by neighborhood."

Final numbers from every community in the region are still being collected and SEMCOG will release its annual residential construction report in April. It is expected that the total number of new units permitted in the region will be about 20 percent below 2004's total of 25,350 units. The 11 percent increase in Detroit is welcome news in the fact of an overall decline in residential construction regionwide.

Building permit data collected from every community in Southeast Michigan are available on SEMCOG's Web site — www.sem-cog.org.

Link to Building Permits from the Data drop-down menu. The database allows users to create a report for the region, for each of the seven counties, and for all communities. Data go back to 1969.

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## Class A Basketball Regional Final



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton senior forward Andy Larsen drives past Orchard Lake St. Mary's Jon Tassin during Thursday night's Class A Regional final game at Troy Athens High School. The Eaglets advanced with a 61-52 victory.

## Dynamic duel

### Lucas-led Eaglets knock off Chiefs despite Bridges' incredible night

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

Facing a swarming, in-your-face Orchard Lake St. Mary's defense that made it difficult to breathe, let alone shoot, Canton senior guard Andre Bridges willed his team to the summit of a Class A Regional basketball title Thursday night.

But just before the Chiefs could reach the peak, St. Mary's junior guard Kalin Lucas came to the Eaglets' rescue with some fourth-quarter heroics of his own.

Bridges' career-high 37 points — 14 of which came in the final intensity-filled seven minutes — weren't enough as the Eaglets prevailed, 61-52, at Troy Athens High School.

Lucas, who will take his substantial hardwood skills to Michigan State University beginning in the fall of 2007, tallied six points and three steals over the game's final three minutes to secure his team's ticket to the quarterfinals. Lucas finished with a team-high 26.

Canton trailed 51-36 30 seconds into the fourth quarter after St. Mary's Dionte Allen converted a short bank-shot following an offensive rebound. However, the resilient Chiefs reeled off a dazzling 16-2 run to close the gap to 53-52 with 3:18 left.

The comeback was capped when Bridges nailed a high-arching three-point shot three feet beyond the top of the key while getting fouled by Lucas. He drained the ensuing free throw to finalize a rare four-point play that seemed to inject the Chiefs with an extra dose of down-the-stretch adrenaline.

But the Lucas-led Eaglets

pulled away with an 8-0 run over the final three minutes to send the Chiefs to the sidelines with an 18-7 record.

"Dre carried us on his back tonight," said Canton coach Charlie Paye, describing Bridges' memorable effort. "He's been our go-to guy all season and he stepped up again tonight, even though he was getting double- and triple-teamed. They're lucky to have a player like Kalin Lucas. He just stepped up and took over at the end of the game when they needed somebody to lead them."

"This was a dream season for us. Our No. 1 goal before the season was to win a District title, and we exceeded that goal. These kids can hold their heads high. It was a great team to be around. I never had one discipline problem and they came to work hard every day."

Seconds after accepting his team's Regional title trophy, St. Mary's coach George Porritt raced over to Bridges, who was walking slowly toward the Chiefs' locker room.

"I just wanted to congratulate him on a courageous effort," Porritt said. "What he did tonight was what this time of year is all about. That kid is a big-time shooter, a big-time player."

Porritt also had high praise for Lucas, who was arguably the quickest player Canton has faced all season.

"We didn't have any seniors out there at the end of the game, but Kalin makes up for it with his leadership," Porritt said. "When the game got close in the final three minutes, he just locked down on defense. He gave us a

PLEASE SEE HOOPS, B5

## 1st-place Whalers edge Sting

James Neal and Andrew Fournier scored goals six seconds apart in the third period Friday to snap a 2-2 tie, and the Plymouth Whalers went on to defeat the Sarnia Sting in an Ontario Hockey League game, 4-2.

Plymouth's victory — coupled with Saginaw's 4-3 victory Friday over Sault Ste. Marie — set up a winner-take-all, one-game showdown for first place in the OHL's West Division when the Whalers (34-28-1-4 for 73 points) played host to Saginaw (36-30-1-0, also with 73 points) on Saturday night.

Saturday's game was the last game of the OHL regular season for Plymouth and Saginaw. The winner of that game won the OHL West Division and finished second in the OHL Western Conference playoff seedings.

The loser finished second in the division and will be either the fifth or sixth seed in the conference playoffs.

Neal scored his first-ever hat trick to lead the Plymouth attack and has 21 goals on the season, while Fournier scored the other Whaler goal and now has 22.

Richard Clune (19) and Brandon Mashinter (six) scored first-period goals for Sarnia, which led 2-1 after one period.

Neal scored his second goal of the game at 12:40 of the second period to tie the score at 2-2 when he finished off a 2-on-0 breakaway with Plymouth captain John Vigilante.

Neal then scored what proved to be the winning goal at 2:41 of the third period when he picked off Clune's clearing pass in the high slot in the Sarnia zone and beat Sting goaltender Ryan Nie, a former Whalers goalie.

Plymouth outshot Sarnia, 32-16.

## Major decision: Randolph named top coach

See All-Observer Wrestling team on Page B2, 3.

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

Transforming Canton's wrestling program from a lightweight to a heavyweight was anything but an easy pin for fourth-year coach Casey Randolph.

"I'd get so frustrated after a loss that I felt like banging my head against the wall," Randolph said, remembering the early days of his coaching tenure with the Chiefs. "That first year made me question everything I believed in as far as my coaching philosophy. I wasn't sure if I could turn this thing around."

"But my wife (Laurie) and Tim Baechler kept telling me to be patient, that it would take time. Looking back, I'm glad I listened to them."

Under Randolph's guidance, Canton



Randolph

with Lutheran Westland's Dennis Tuomi.

"It was difficult in the beginning because we didn't have a support system — there was no middle school wrestling and there wasn't a youth wrestling program like I have now," Randolph said.

"The only support I had was from (Canton Athletic Director) Sue Heinzman, my coaching staff and my family. I've been fortunate to have the same coaching staff together for three of the four years. We all have the same vision, which has helped tremendously."

has made huge strides, improving from 8-21 in 2002-03 to 28-5 this past season, which was capped with a trip to the Division 1 state quarterfinals.

Randolph's efforts this season earned him the Observerland Coach of the Year award along

The first-year frustrations Randolph endured were soon wiped out by the optimism that resulted from the progression he saw in his second season at the helm.

"Our record didn't improve a lot from the first year to the second (8-21 to 11-13), but we were making up a lot of points on teams," he said. "For instance, Dearborn Fordson beat us 66-6 my first year, but we only lost by four the next year."

The Randolph-inspired Chiefs finally tasted the fruits of their labor during the 2004-05 campaign when they earned the school's first Division 1 district title and a 23-10 dual-meet record. The success proved to be just an appetizer for this year's trip to Battle Creek.

"This year was so much fun; it was such a great ride," Randolph said. "The kids know what it takes to get to the state tournament now and we all want to go back on a regular basis."

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## Local gymnasts earn All-State honors

Complete state meet results on page B7.

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

Canton's Alyssa Kelley vaulted over the elite high school gymnasts in the state March 11 at the Division 1 individual state meet at Troy Athens High School.

Kelley, a junior, placed first in the vault with a score of 9.750, a quarter-of-a-point ahead of Grand Ledge's Meaghan McWhorter. She also earned All-State honors in the all-around (sixth with 36.775 points) and just missed in the uneven bars (11th) and floor exercise (12th).

The top 10 finishers in each event earn All-State accolades.

Salem freshman Katie Koetting sparked at her first prep state competition, finishing 10th in the all-around with 36.450 points.



Kelley

turned in by Canton's Kara Ahern, who finished eighth in the balance beam. Ahern was also the recipient of the "Senior Gymnast of the Year" award, which was voted on by the state's gymnastics coaches.

Along with Kelley, three other Chiefs competed in the all-around: Kate Staley (tie for 21st), Jessie Murray (23rd) and Ahern (29th). Joining Koetting were Salem's Sarah Bugosh (tie for 21st) and Autumn Collins (31st).

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Koetting's best event was the floor exercise, in which she placed third, less than a point behind state champ Jessica Nieman of Freeland.

The other P-CEP All-State effort was



Canton gymnast Kara Ahern's floor exercise routine earned her a 15th-place finish at the Division 1 state individual gymnastics meet March 11 at Troy Athens High School. Ahern was voted the "Gymnast of the Year" by the Division 1 coaches.

ANDREW RUBENSTEIN

## Sidelines

### Adult softball

The Canton Softball Center is now accepting registrations for its Session 1 adult softball leagues. Over 25 competitive and recreational men's and co-ed softball leagues will be offered this spring.

Registration started March 1 and is based on a first-come, first-served basis.

Leagues are offered Sundays through Fridays and will begin in early- or mid-April and conclude in early-July, depending on the day the league is held.

All leagues will have a doubleheader schedule format. Friday leagues will have a 12-game schedule; Monday through Thursday leagues will play 18 games; and Sunday night leagues will play 16 games.

Registration for Session II will begin June 1.

For more information, contact the Canton Sports Center at (734) 483-5600; or visit [csc.canton-mi.org](http://csc.canton-mi.org).

### Learn-to-skate

The Arctic Edge Ice Arena will begin offering eight weeks of learn-to-skate sessions Saturday, March 25, and Monday, April 3. Each session will include 30 minutes of instruction and 15 minutes of free time. Classes are grouped by age and ability.

"Tot Time" starts Tuesday or Thursday. The sessions, for kids between the ages of 3½ and 6 years old, will run eight weeks.

Registration forms can be picked up at the Summit on the Park or at the Arctic Edge, 46615 Michigan Ave.

For more information, including levels of instruction, private lessons, teams and competitive opportunities, call (734) 487-7777.

### Velocity training

The Velocity Sports Performance Training Center located inside the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton will be holding a Spring Break Speed Camp for athletes of all sports, ages and skill levels April 17-21. Athletes will train one hour daily and are separated by age groups: 7-11, 12-14 and 15-18.

The cost is \$65 and includes a T-shirt. The camp will focus on the fundamentals of speed and agility in a fast-paced and fun program. Athletes will develop explosive starting and acceleration techniques, increased maximum speed through proper running mechanics and correct body positioning for lateral speed and change of direction.

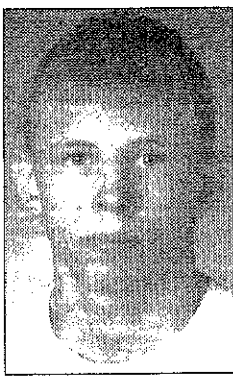
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### Gems on Ice

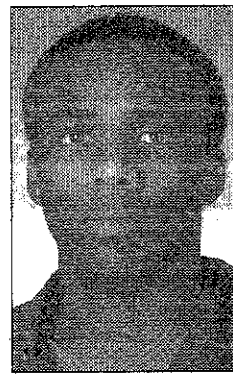
Area skating enthusiasts are invited to skate with the "Gems on Ice" synchronized ice-skating team this afternoon from 4:40 p.m. to 5:40 p.m. at the Compaware Sports Arena.



Ken Nelson  
Redford Union



Alex Fowler  
Churchill



Jared Stephens  
John Glenn



Mike Warren  
Franklin



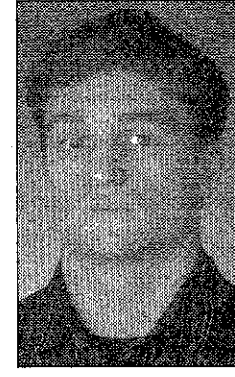
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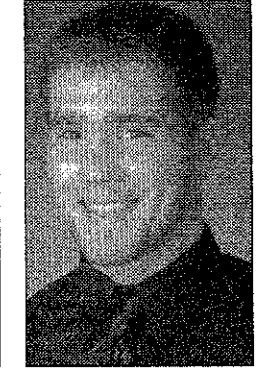
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Canton



James Jones  
Franklin



Robert Bytner  
Lutheran Westland



Jake Bennett  
Salem

## All-Area grapplers reach pin-nacle during 2005-06 campaign

### FIRST TEAM

**Ken Nelson, 103, Redford Union:** The senior capped off an excellent four-year high school career for the Panthers, finishing 49-7 this year to wind up with 118 total wins - third in RU history. His 32 pins also is a new school record.

Nelson, a two-time all-conference selection, finished third at the individual state finals, after claiming victories at the South Lyon, Sterling Heights, Observerland, Mega White, district and regional tournaments.

"Ken has been a pleasure to coach over the past four years," said Panthers head coach Russ Swinson, adding that Nelson willingly moved up and down in the lineup "to wrestle the best kid from the other team."

**Alex Fowler, 112, Liv. Churchill:** The sen-

ior won the Observerland Invitational and earned a spot in the Division I state finals where he captured one of three matches.

Fowler finished the year with an 19-7 overall record.

At the regional, Fowler finished third after winning the individual district.

**Jared Stephens, 112, John Glenn:** The freshman posted a 29-22 record this season while becoming the first ninth-grader in school history to qualify for the individual state finals.

Stephens, who placed in every varsity tourney except one, had the second-most takedowns on the team.

"Jared has tremendous athletic ability," Glenn coach Bill Polk said. "He is always ready for a challenge and shows 'no fear' of anyone on the mat. As long

as he works hard, we believe he can be a champion. As the season progressed, he wrestled better each week. We look forward to coaching him the next three years."

**Mike Warren, 125, Liv. Franklin:** The state qualifier and Livonia City champion finished 43-13 this season while ending his career with a 129-54 mark.

The two-time Observerland champ, a state qualifier as a sophomore, holds the Franklin record for victories.

"Mike was a leader even when he was a freshman," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. "His work ethic and dedication are one of the reasons for the team's rise."

"Mike was one of the hardest workers in the wrestling room. Throughout his four years he gained the respect of his coach, his teammates and his opponents."

**Cory Mervyn, 125, Salem:** The senior wrapped up a stellar high school career with a 33-11 record and seventh-place finish at the Division I individual state tournament. He placed in every tournament he competed in this year.

"Cory has come a long way from his

freshman year when he was an inch shorter and weighed 160 pounds," said Salem coach Greg Woodchuk. "I hope we haven't seen the end of Cory wrestling because he still has a lot more to give to the sport."

**Corey Phillips, 130, Canton:** Phillips, a junior, has the school record for victories in just three seasons, having racked up 156 wins, including a 58-4 mark this season. Among his 58 triumphs this season were wins over state champions Jeff Steal (Plainwell) and Kevin Julien (Fraser). Phillips placed third at 130 in the D1 individual state meet and captured the title in five tournaments. He's placed in the state meet all three years of his high school career.

"Corey is a fun wrestler to coach," said Canton coach Casey Randolph. "His passion for the sport drives his training and it has been great to see his development."

**James Jones, 135, Franklin:** The senior state qualifier finished 35-13 this season and was 103-47 for his career.

Jones took first in the Franklin Tournament. He was also a regional qualifier as a sophomore.

"James' intensity in the wrestling room is one of the main reasons that our lightweighters are so successful," Chiola said. "His aggressiveness in matches was exciting and a great example to the younger wrestlers."

"James always practiced at a high pace that would rub off on the other kids in the room."

**Robert Bytner, 135, Luth. Westland:** The senior finished 48-7 overall en route to a sixth-place finish in the Division IV meet after taking second at the regional and first at the district.

He also finished first in the Metro Conference, Dearborn Fordson, Garden City and Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest tournaments.

Bytner's career record is 156-54, winning the Metro, Northwest and regional tourneys three times each. He also took the district twice.

"Robert was a tireless worker," Lutheran Westland coach Dennis Tuomi said. "He wrestled well against a very talented group of opponents."

**Jacob Bennett, 140, Salem:** The senior placed first in the regional and state tournaments and second in three others. He capped the year with a first-place effort at the District tournament and a runner-up finish at the Regional meet. A quick-learner, Bennett earned a spot on the Salem "Wrestling Wall" despite competing in the sport for just over two years.

"Jake is a true athlete, possessing great agility, strength, endurance and coachability," said Woodchuk. "Jake's style of wrestling always pleased the fans."

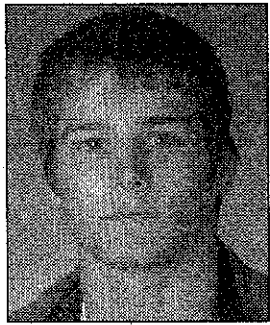
"Jake's work ethic will be missed by his coaches and teammates."

**Konrad Konsitzke, 145, Canton:** Konsitzke enjoyed a brilliant career, compiling a 131-45 record (53-6 this season). Konsitzke placed third in the Division I individual state meet and won five tournaments. He was also a key component in the Chiefs' run to the Division I team

quarterfinals.

"Konrad was our emotional leader this year and developed into a great captain for our team," said Canton coach Casey Randolph. "His love for the sport has been amazing for our program."

**Adam Kokenakes, 152, Liv. Stevenson:** The senior captain finished 41-5 this season as he captured the coveted Western

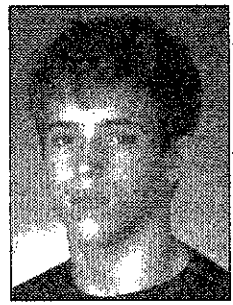


Konrad Konsitzke  
Canton

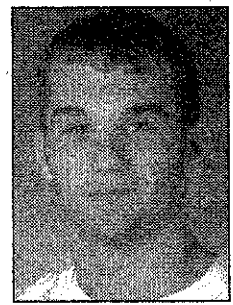
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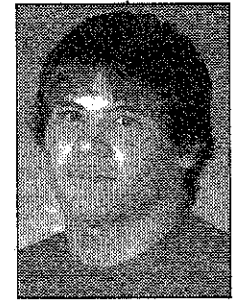
Adam Kokenakes  
Stevenson



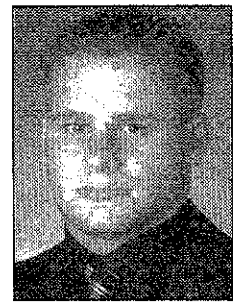
Steve Kemp  
Lutheran Westland



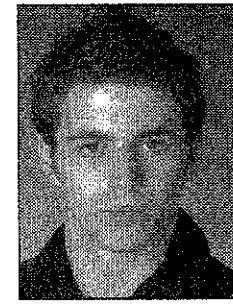
Blake Karkoska  
Franklin



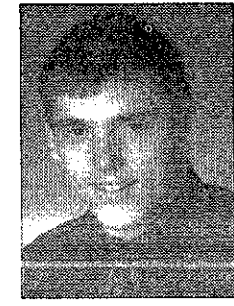
Marwan Faraj  
Canton



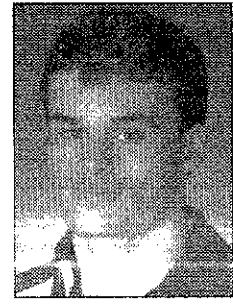
Cody Rize  
Stevenson



Josh Kelly  
Churchill



Jeremy Henderson  
Salem



Chris Van Camp  
Franklin



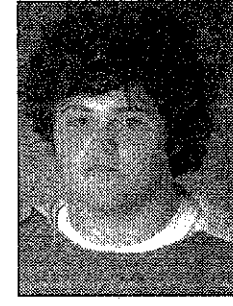
Shamir Garcia  
John Glenn



Greg Schuyler



Matt Shileikis



Donnie Laramie  
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## ALL-AREA

FROM PAGE B2

Lakes Activities Association and Observerland titles.

He also won the Stevenson Duals, Novi-Detroit Catholic Central Invitational and Romulus Summit Academy Invitational.

"A dedicated student-athlete, Adam had to overcome a severe ACL injury at the end of his junior year," Stevenson coach Dan Vaughan said of the two-year captain and three-year varsity member. "He worked hard on rehab and had a great season. He was our only conference champion."

**Steve Kemp, 152, Luth. Westland:** The ninth-grader earned a seventh-place finish at the Division IV state meet after placing first at the regional and second at the district.

Kemp, 42-9 this season, also captured titles in the Metro Conference, Fordson and Northwest tournaments. He added at second at Franklin and fifth at Garden City.

"Stephen has a bulldog-like tenacity, which enabled him to gain many come-from-behind victories," Tuomi said.

**Blake Karkoska, 160, Liv. Franklin:** The senior, a regional qualifier and WLAA champion, finished 42-6 this season. He added titles in the Livonia City meet and Fordson tournament.

As a junior, Karkoska placed eighth in Division I and holds the school record for most wins as a junior.

"Blake was one of the smartest wrestlers I've ever coached," Chiola said. "He would win many of his matches by outsmarting his opponent. He was a great example to the younger wrestlers and had great mat sense."

**Marwan Faraj, 160, Canton:** Faraj enjoyed a breakout season, going 45-10 while winning a WLAA title and earning a regional qualifying berth. The senior defeated several state qualifiers during the season. He also broke the school record for takedowns with 142.

"Marwan exploded on the scene as a junior and has never looked back," said Canton coach Casey Randolph. "He was one of our captains and he took pride in his role. Marwan improved every time he hit the mat. He was one of the hardest workers we have had."

**Cody Rize, 171, Liv. Stevenson:** The senior state qualifier finished 47-6 overall including wins at the district, regional, Observerland (co-MVP), Stevenson Duals (MVP), Novi-Detroit CC, Summit Academy (MVP) and Flushing.

Rize, a three-year varsity member and two-time captain, led the Spartans this season in wins, takedowns, decisions, major decision, reversals and points.

"A true leader, Cody would wrestle at any weight class that would benefit the team the most," Vaughan said. "He always wanted to wrestle the toughest match, which helped prepare him for close overtime matches."

"He would use extra workout sessions following normal practices to improve his technique and conditioning."

**Josh Kelly, 171, Liv. Churchill:** The senior placed first in the 171-pound class at the state tournament after placing runner-up at 160 pounds at the Observerland Invitational.

At the Division I state meet, Kelly won his opening-round match, only to lose close decisions in the next two rounds to finish the year 31-10 overall.

At the regional, Kelly reached the finals before losing to Rize.

Kelly was also runner-up at the Livonia City Meet at 171.

**Jeremy Henderson, 189, Salem:** The two-time state placer captured a state title this season in the Division I individual state meet. Henderson, a four-year varsity wrestler, also placed first in six tournaments this season and was the MVP at the Lake Orion and Salem "Elks" Tournament.

"Jeremy has matured into an outstanding young man, one that brings out a positive feeling in everybody he meets — except for those in competition," said Woodchuk. "His opponents always leave confused as to what just happened after they wrestle against Jeremy. I'll really miss Jeremy. You always miss good people."

**Chris Van Camp, 189, Liv. Franklin:** The senior ended his high school career by finishing 45-11 overall with a sixth-place finish in the Division I state meet.

The Livonia City champion also holds the school record for reversals.

Van Camp's career mark was 110-50.

"Chris' style of wrestling is so unique we actually call the moves he hits part of the 'V-Series,'" Chiola said. "Other wrestlers usually find themselves in a position where they are not comfortable. His tenacity was always evident in his matches. He has won some very big meets for the team and he used that tenacity to have a very good state meet."

**Shamir Garcia, 215, John Glenn:** The regional qualifier finished in the top four of every varsity tournament this season with an overall record of 31-17.

"Shamir is a great example for our entire team," Polk said. "He is a hard worker and is determined to win. Shamir battled through injuries the entire year and still came one takedown away from making it to the state finals."

**Greg Schuyler, 215, Liv. Franklin:** The senior posted a 34-15 mark this season with victories at the Livonia City Tournament and Berkley Invitational. He is also a two-time regional qualifier.

"Greg was a four-year starter at 25 and each year got better and better," Chiola said. "He has been the rock of the upper weights throughout his career."

"Greg became more vocal his senior year and the younger wrestlers responded. He will be hard to replace."

**Matt Shileikis, 275, Redford Union:** A late-season injury might have kept him from making a bid for a state championship, but he still enjoyed a strong season. Shileikis finished 37-8 with 30 pins, giving him a career total of 89 wins for the Panthers.

Individual achievements included winning the Oxford, South Lyon and Observerland invitationals (the latter where he was Upper-Weight co-MVP). He was an all-league selection for the second time and qualified for the state

regional.

"Matt has been the anchor of our upper weights for the past four years," Swinson said. "Matt is a leader on and off the mat, and he will be most difficult to replace."

**Donnie Laramie, 275, Canton:** A junior, Laramie was a DI state qualifier after compiling an impressive 48-10 record. He was one of the Chiefs' front-runners in their trip to the quarterfinals, taking first at both the WLAA tournament and the Novi Catholic Central tourney. He broke two school records this season: fastest pin (10 seconds) and most pins in a season (47).

"Donnie was a big, physical force for us at heavyweight this year," said Randolph. "He matured throughout the season and showed his athletic ability."

**103 pounds:** 1. Ken Nelson, Sr., Redford Union; 2. Jamie Preiss, Jr., Wayne Memorial; 3. Tommy Myshock, Soph., Livonia Stevenson.

**112:** 1. Alex Fowler, Sr., Livonia Churchill; 2. Steve D'Annunzio, Soph., Plymouth; 3. Ryan Schnettler, Sr., Canton.

**119:** 1. Jared Stephens, Fr., Westland John Glenn; 2. Nick Steiger, Jr., Salem; 3. Tim Hecksel, Jr., Churchill.

**125:** 1. (tie) Mike Warren, Sr., Livonia Franklin; Cory Mervyn, Sr., Salem; 2. Greg Roberts, Jr., Churchill; 3. Jon Roos, Jr., Franklin.

**130:** 1. Corey Phillips, Jr., Canton; 2. Josh Billiau, Franklin; 3. Steve Korpus, Sr., Plymouth.

**135:** 1. (tie) James Jones, Sr., Franklin; Robert Bytner, Sr., Lutheran Westland; 2. Rowdy Glasgow, Sr., John Glenn; 3. Austin Phillips, Sr., Franklin.

**140:** 1. Jacob Bennett, Sr., Salem; 2. Jim Wood, Jr., John Glenn; 3. Jacob White, Sr., Livonia Clarenceville.

**145:** 1. Konrad Konsitzke, Sr., Canton; 2. Ali Youssef, Sr., Plymouth; 3. Jon Hagar, Sr., Plymouth.

## 2005-06 ALL-OBSERVER WRESTLING TEAM

**152:** 1. (tie) Adam Kokenakes, Sr., Stevenson; Steve Kemp, Fr., Lutheran Westland; 2. Nate Turco, Jr., Franklin; 3. David Wood, Sr., John Glenn.

**160:** 1. (tie) Blake Karkoska, Sr., Franklin; Marwan Faraj, Sr., Canton; 2. Billy McNally, Sr., Stevenson; 3. Jeff Elswick, Jr., Wayne.

**171:** 1. (tie) Cody Rize, Sr., Stevenson; Josh Kelly, Sr., Churchill; 2. Brent Robbins, Sr., Clarenceville; 3. Kyle Price, Jr., Canton.

**189:** 1. (tie) Jeremy Henderson, Sr., Salem; Chris Van Camp, Sr., Franklin; 2. Alex Amberg, Sr., Canton; 3. Jacob Tuomi-Galindez, Sr., Lutheran Westland.

**215:** 1. (tie) Shamir Garcia, Jr., John Glenn; Greg Schuyler, Sr., Franklin; 2. James Refenes, Sr., Lutheran Westland; 3. (tie) Danny Jammoul, Sr., Plymouth; 3. Alex Smith, Sr., Salem.

**275:** 1. (tie) Matt Shileikis, Sr., RU; Donnie Laramie, Jr., Canton; 2. Kyle Brown, Jr., Franklin; 3. Shaun Bailey, Sr., Plymouth.

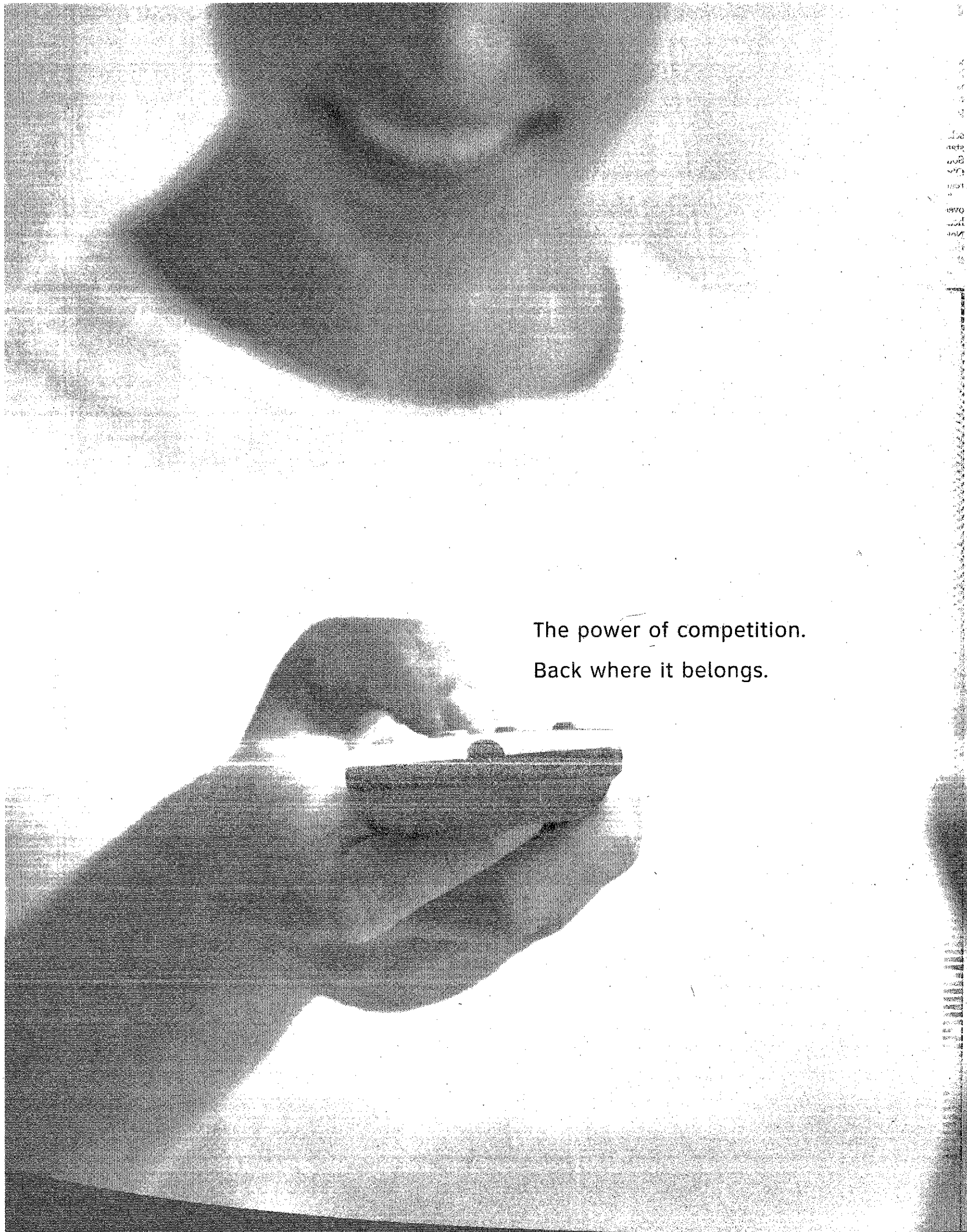
## CO-COACHES OF YEAR

Casey Randolph, Canton

Dennis Tuomi, Lutheran Westland

## HONORABLE MENTION

**Churchill:** Gramos Pallaska, J.P. Gaffke, Brian Ziemba, Devin Moynihan, Matt Hecksel; **Franklin:** Jared Plekniek, Brandon Billiau, Dennis Tullio; **Stevenson:** Jon Reale, Alex York; **John Glenn:** Brandon Nikula, Dan McCahill, Ed Manier, Matt Hensley, Andrew Hein, Kevin Hanka, James Zerobiny; **Wayne:** Chad Dunn, Stedman Frye; **Clarenceville:** Derek Robbins, Saifullah Khan; **Lutheran Westland:** Dan Pniewski, Adam Kibner, Sean Meixner, Odell Johnson, Isaac Burris; **Garden City:** Steve Ludke, Evan Parker, Kyle Karas, Jesus Lopez; **Plymouth:** Ben Kosmalski, Andrew Saunders, Vince Daroff; **Canton:** Mike Haar, Carl Lucke, Sam Santilli, Joe Wilson, Steve Cox, Tom Bonnell; **Salem:** Hussein Ajami, Kevin Bennett, Jerald Bonkowski, Jeremy Epley, Val Gul, Kevin Hayter, Alex Kemp, Andrew Ross, Matthew Stott.



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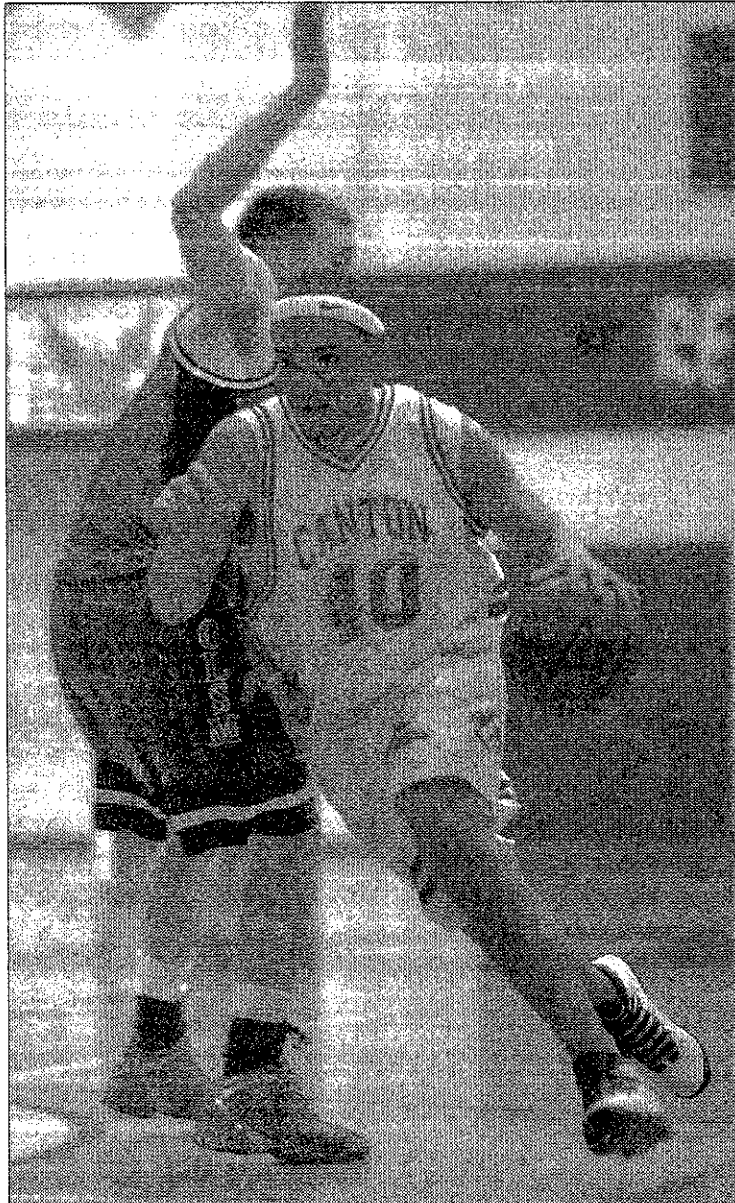


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Canton's Ryan Waidmann drives to the basket past Orchard Lake St. Mary's Dionte Allen during Thursday night's Class A Regional final won by the Eaglets, 61-52.



Canton senior guard Andre Bridges dribbles past Orchard Lake St. Mary's forward Jake Shockey Thursday night. Bridges finished with 37 points in the Chiefs' 61-52 setback.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**HOOPS**

FROM PAGE B1

terrific effort tonight."

Canton entered the game on a torrid shooting tear after making more than 50 percent of its field goal attempts in all four preceding post-season contests. However, due in large part to the quick, long-armed Eaglets' defense, the Chiefs managed to sink just 4-of-17 first-quarter shots and trailed 14-9.

Taurian Washington's jumper with 1:35 left in the first half boosted St. Mary's lead to 29-17, but Canton cut its halftime deficit to 31-23 thanks to a pair of Bridges treys.

It appeared as if the Eaglets

had secured a firm grip on the Regional trophy at the end of the third quarter when Lucas drained a buzzer-beating shot from beyond half court to give his team a 49-36 lead.

However, Bridges took over the game in the opening moments of the fourth quarter when he tallied 14 points in just over four minutes to bring the Chiefs to within 53-52.

Following a timeout, Lucas grabbed the spotlight — both on the offensive and defensive ends of the court — to lead the Eaglets' charge into the quarterfinals.

While Lucas and Bridges were their respective teams' main men, they were far from the only contributors.

Complementing Lucas were Washington, who finished with 10 points, and Allen who

twined nine, all in the first half. Junior forward Justin Siller also played well, tallying five points and 12 rebounds.

Junior center Ryan Waidmann was the Chiefs' primary inside threat, netting eight points and nine boards.

The only other Chiefs to score were Andy Larsen (four

points) and Steve Paye (two).

St. Mary's canned 42.5 percent of their field goals while Canton connected on 37 percent of its shots. Both teams shot 71 percent from the free-throw line.

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**LW wrestling coach Tuomi earns Observerland honor**

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER



Tuomi

(29 years).

And Five times, Lutheran Westland has gone to the state team tournament in Battle Creek under Tuomi's

Lutheran High Westland's wrestling team provided a lot of satisfaction this season for longtime coach Dennis Tuomi.

"They set their goals and they met them," said Tuomi, who shares Observerland Coach of the Year honors with Canton's Casey Randolph "We also had great parental and administrative support."

Tuomi has been on the Cowan Road campus since 1986 when the school opened.

"One reason I came out here was to start a program," said Tuomi, who also served stints as the school's athletic director and varsity football coach. "And this sport really does a lot for kids."

Tuomi began coaching wrestling at Detroit Lutheran High (four years) before moving to Detroit Lutheran West

guidance, including this season when the Warriors finished 25-4 overall.

After winning both the district and regional tournaments, the Metro Conference champions ran into a buzzsaw in the Division IV quarterfinals, losing to Rogers City, 56-12.

This season, six Warriors qualified for the individual state finals at the Palace of Auburn Hills with senior Robert Bytner (135 pounds) placing sixth and freshman Stephen Kemp (152) adding a seventh.

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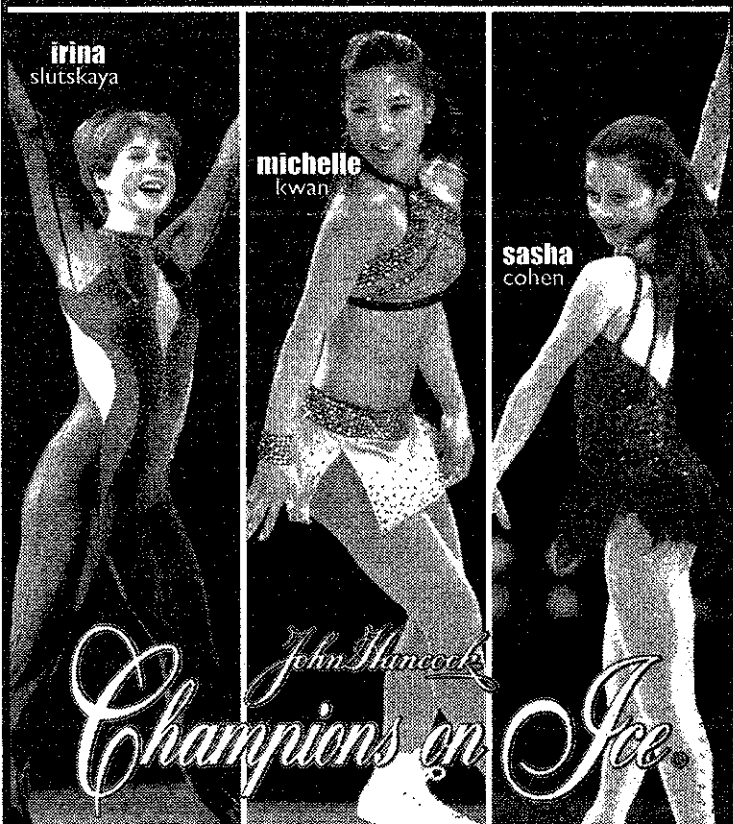
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**SPORTS ROUNDUP**

**P-C LACROSSE NEWS**

Uniform pick-up for all PCS lacrosse team members will be Thursday, March 23, at 7 p.m. in the Canton High School library. Participation and fundraiser fees must be paid before uniforms will be issued.

There will also be a mandatory parents meeting on March 27 at 7 p.m. in the Canton High School library.

**DETROIT LIONS CAMP**

The Detroit Lions Youth Football Camp is returning to Plymouth this summer following a successful stop in the area last year.

The camp will be held July 5-8 at Central Middle School in downtown Plymouth. The camp, which is open to boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 14, will run daily from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Participants' skill levels can range from beginning to advanced.

The camp is limited to the first 100 applicants.

The \$159 registration fee includes:

- four days of non-contact, fundamental football instruction;
- a Lions camp T-shirt;
- guest appearances from current and former Lion players;
- chalk talk and video sessions;
- skills contests and scrimmages; and
- the opportunity to earn week-long awards, including the Detroit Lions Leadership Award, Attitude Award, Extra Effort Award, Future Star Award and Consistency Award.

To register or for more information, visit [www.DetroitLions.com](http://www.DetroitLions.com).

**BASEBALL CLINIC**

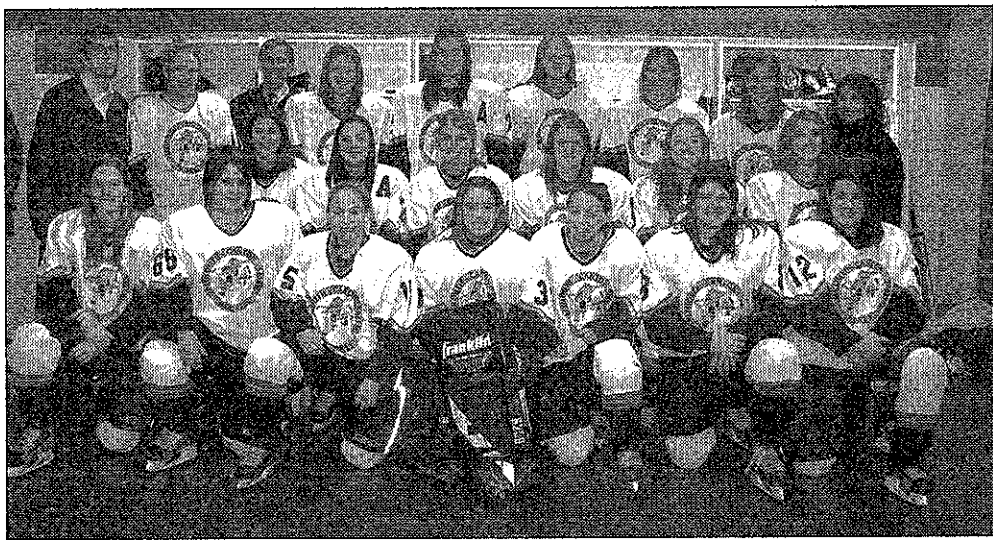
The annual Salem Varsity Baseball Skills Clinic for players between the ages of 7 and 14 will be held March 25 and April 1 at Salem High School.

The clinic, which costs \$25 and has four sessions to choose from, includes three hours of instruction, snacks and a T-shirt. For more information, contact Ron or Pat Myers at (734) 459-4026; or at [pemmyers@hotmail.com](mailto:pemmyers@hotmail.com).

**ANN ARBOR RUN**

Online registration is open for the 33rd annual Dexter-Ann Arbor Run, presented by Comerica Sunday, June 4.

Honorary chair Tyrone Wheatley will walk the 5K in support of the fund. Complete information is available at [www.dexterannarborryun.com](http://www.dexterannarborryun.com).



**High-flying Penguins**

The Plymouth-Canton-Salem girls hockey team concluded an ultra-successful 2005-06 campaign March 11 with a 5-1 loss to Grosse Pointe South in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League championship game. The Penguins finished 19-3. Pictured (bottom row from left) are Keely Kowalski, Annie McTurner, Edra Burris, Kristie Kowalski, Katie Zimmerman, Adrienne Cercone, Nicole Sensoli, (middle row from left) Samantha Weidendorf, Kristen Schwan, Sarah Skonieczny, Stephanie Murray, Kelli Bargowski, Emily Patton, (back row from left) assistant coach Eric Mink, Kelsey Nikkila, assistant coach Shawn Rowley, Stephanie Matusiak, Lisa Ealy, Amy Coleman, Ashley LeBlanc, Kristin Callahan and head coach Lori Callahan.

**GYMNASTICS RESULTS**

**MHSAA 2006 STATE INDIVIDUAL GYMNASTICS MEET**

**March 11 at Troy Athens H.S.**

**ALL-AROUND:** 1. Karen Verbrugge (Forest Hills); 2. Meaghan McWhorter (Grand Ledge); 3. Elizabeth Sierminski (Holt); 4. Kelly Patrick (Tri-Farmington); 5. Leslie Mayville (Rochester); 6. Alyssa Kelley (Canton); 7. Andrea Pisani (Livonia Unified); 8. Heather Brandenburg (Holt); 9. Jessic Nieman (Freeland); 10. Katie Koetting (Salem).

**VAULT:** 1. Alyssa Kelley (Canton), 9.750; 2. Meaghan McWhorter (Grand Ledge), 9.725; 3. Danielle Inman (Freeland), 9.550; 4. Karen Verbrugge (Forest Hills), 9.550; 5. Paula Guzik (Livonia Unified), 9.525; 6. (tie) Shannon Jodoin (Tri-Farmington) and Heather Brandenburg (Holt), 9.500; 8. Nicole Drouillard (Brighton), 9.475; 9. (tie) Jessica Nieman (Freeland) and Heather Smith (Mona Shores), 9.300.

**BALANCE BEAM:** 1. Karen Verbrugge (Forest Hills), 9.475; 2. Kelly Patrick (Tri-Farmington), 9.125; 3. (tie) Heather Brandenburg (Holt) and Meaghan McWhorter (Grand Ledge), 9.100; 5. Shannon Jodoin (Tri-Farmington), 9.075; 6. (tie) Chelsea DeKuiper (Ludington) and Elizabeth Sierminski (Holt), 9.050; 8. Kara Ahern (Canton), 9.025; 9. Andrea Pisani (Livonia Unified), 9.000; 10. Meghan Powers (Livonia Unified), 8.900.

**UNEVEN BARS:** 1. Leslie Mayville (Rochester), 9.625; 2. Hannah Saarinen (Walled Lake), 9.575; 3. Meaghan McWhorter (Grand Ledge), 9.525; 4. Lauren Dilullo (Brighton), 9.500; 5. (tie) Kelly Patrick (Tri-Farmington) and Elizabeth Sierminski (Holt), 9.425; 7. Nicole Drouillard (Brighton), 9.325; 10. (tie) Karen Verbrugge (Forest Hills) and Heather Smith (Mona Shores), 9.325; 10. Meghan Powers (Livonia Unified), 9.300.

**FLOOR EXERCISE:** 1. Jessica Nieman (Freeland), 9.450; 2. Elizabeth Sierminski (Holt), 9.400; 3. Katie Koetting (Salem), 9.375; 4. Andrea Pisani (Livonia Unified), 9.350; 5. (tie) Kelly Patrick (Tri-Farmington), 9.350; 6. (tie) Kelly Patrick (Tri-Farmington), 9.350; 7. (tie) Kelly Patrick (Tri-Farmington), 9.350; 8. (tie) Kelly Patrick (Tri-Farmington), 9.350; 9. (tie) Kelly Patrick (Tri-Farmington), 9.350; 10. (tie) Kelly Patrick (Tri-Farmington), 9.350.

Karen Verbrugge (Forest Hills) and Leslie Mayville (Rochester), 9.300; 8. Meaghan McWhorter (Grand Ledge), 9.250; 9. (tie) Lauren Dilullo (Brighton) and Rachael Page (Brighton), 9.075.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH CLOSE OF REGISTRATION NOTICE FOR THE TUESDAY, MAY 02, 2005, REGULAR ELECTION**

Notice is hereby given that an election will be held in the Charter Township of Plymouth, on Tuesday, May 02, 2006, from 7:00 a.m., until 8:00 p.m., at which time the following will be voted on:

**PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

There will be elected two (2) members to the Board of Education to four (4) year terms ending June 30, 2010; and

**TWO (2) PROPOSITIONS**

School Improvement Bond Proposition 1

School Improvement Bond Proposition 2

PLEASE NOTE that April 03, 2006, is the last date to register for the Regular School Election to be held on Tuesday, May 02, 2006. Registration for electors within the Charter Township of Plymouth will be taken at the Office of the Township Clerk, 42350 Ann Arbor Road, Building 3, or at any Secretary of State Office or state designated agency. The office of the Clerk is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. If a resident is unable to register during those hours, a call to the Clerk's Office can set up a convenient time for the resident. Phone 734-354-3224.

Marilyn Massengill, CMC  
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: March 19 & 26, 2006

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS**

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Canton. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing or calling the following:

David Medley, ADA Coordinator  
Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road  
Canton, MI 48188  
(734) 394-5260

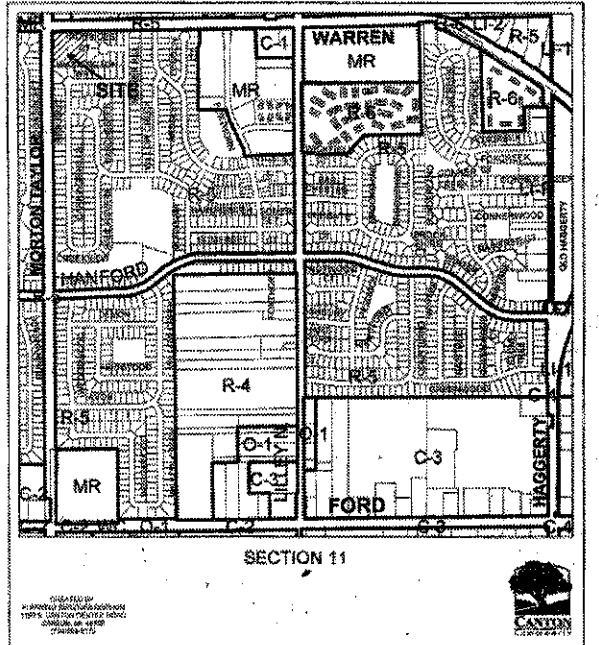
Publish: March 19 & April 2, 2006

CE0419882

**PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Public Act 263 of 2001 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Comprehensive Plan of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 17, 2006 in the **First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m.** on the following proposed amendment to the Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan:



**FLORA FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT - CONSIDER REQUEST TO AMEND THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP FROM MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL TO LOCAL SHOPPING FOR PARCEL NO. 042 99 0004 000 (43425 WARREN RD).** Property is located south of Warren and east of Morton Taylor Road.

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, April 13, 2006 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

Vic Gustafson, Chairman

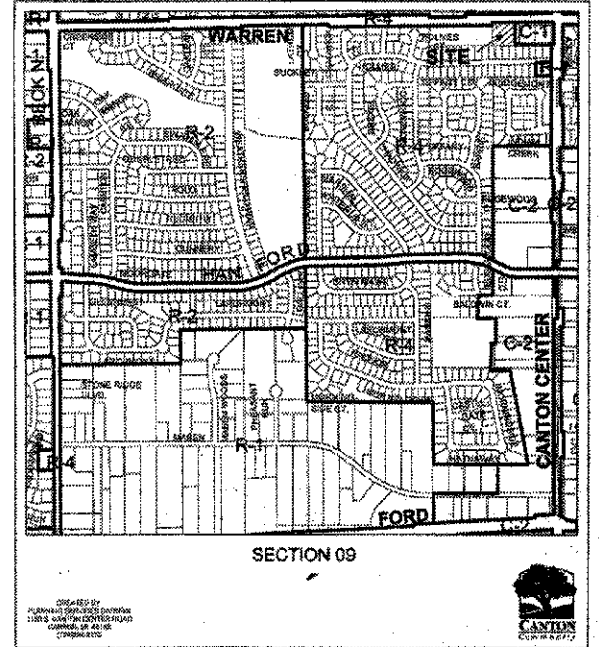
Publish: March 19, 2006 & April 2, 2006

CE0419886

**PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Public Act 263 of 2001 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Comprehensive Plan of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 17, 2006 in the **First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m.** on the following proposed amendment to the Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan:



**PANKO FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT - CONSIDER REQUEST TO AMEND THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP FROM MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL TO LOCAL SHOPPING (OFFICE USE RECOMMENDED) FOR PARCEL NO. 033 99 0002 000 (45511 WARREN RD).** Property is located south of Warren and west of Canton Center Road.

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, April 13, 2006 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

Vic Gustafson, Chairman

Publish: March 19, 2006 & April 2, 2006

CE0419886

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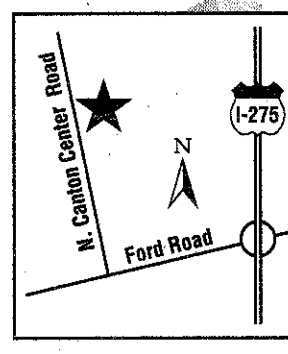
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**BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN (R)**  
1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15  
FRISAT LS 11:45

**HOODWINKED (PG)** 12:15, 2:15, 4:15

**AQUAMARINE (PG)**  
12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:05, 9:25  
FRISAT LS 11:45

**DAVE CHAPPELLE'S BLOCK PARTY (R)** 6:45, 9:00  
FRISAT LS 11:15

**THE THREE BURIALS OF MELQUIADES ESTRADA (R)**  
1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20  
FRISAT LS 11:50

**EIGHT BELOW (PG)**  
12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40

**CAPOTE (R)**  
12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30  
FRISAT LS 11:40

**THE WORLD'S FASTEST INDIAN (PG-13)** 6:40, 9:20

**NANNY MCPHEE (PG)**  
12:10, 2:20, 4:30

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# Perfect game caps amazing month for Redford bowler

Every bowler has a real good day now and then, but for Harold Rodgers of Redford, February was a very good month.



Ten Pin Alley

Al Harrison

he followed a 158 game with back-to-back 300s, including 28 strikes in a row for the series.

After 20 years of competition,

the 46-year-old rolled his first perfect game last year. He also hit his high series this season with a 775.

No, this is not a fluke because Harold carries a fine 219 average bowling in the mixed league.

The ball he was using was a 16-pound Brunswick Ultimate Inferno. (Although some of his friends expect him to use a meatball, as he is a sales rep for Alexander & Hornung, the meat producers in our area.)

This is a real bowling family. His daughter, Christine, and son Scott are active league competitors as well.

The recent trials and tribulations with the Detroit Zoo have prompted an idea to hold a bowling fund-raiser to help preserve the financial stability of this wonderful Detroit area institution.

Our area needs this for our

kids and future grandchildren to enjoy and learn from.

It would be possible to organize a large group of local bowling centers to run an event at the end of the regular season for the purpose of raising money for the Zoological Society, and help keep this entity going strong.

We also need to keep the zoo around as a tourist attraction if we want to have people come to Michigan on their vacations.

Tourism is Michigan's second largest industry, let's not let them take away our great zoo.

A new future bowler has arrived in Grand Rapids.

She is the month-old granddaughter of this writer and looks like she will become a terrific bowler once she is big enough to roll a ball.

Her name is Rebecca Steenhagen, but she weighs much less than my bowling ball.

Please remember you first read it here when you see her name in the sports headlines a few years from now.

■ "Have ball, will travel."

As you are reading my words of bowling wisdom, I am fulfilling a mission at Phoenix, Ariz.

This trip is the result of some family activities and I can't think of a better place to be in the month of March.

Fortunately, there are several bowling centers in the vicinity and there will be some time available to get in a bit of practice so I can help my teams during the final stretch of the regular season.

■ This last bit is straight

from the heart to the unknown character who called and left an anonymous message.

This must be a very bitter and unhappy sort who hides under the rug without any identity.

He was upset about the acclaim I gave Super Bowl Lanes in Canton a few weeks ago for curtailing smoking in the facility.

I say to you, sir: "Stand up like a man and state your name, rank and serial number."

I will be happy to discuss the problem you perceive, that as long as Super Bowl is making money from a particular league in the bar, they can do anything they want.

I say to you: "This is America, we are the greatest country in the history of mankind," and as the man once said, "It ain't a sin to make a profit."

It's called the free enterprise system and if Super Bowl can make money, that is a blessing, not a sin.

I welcome your letters and calls, but please back up your own words with your name unless you are too ashamed of yourself.

Al Harrison is a resident of Livonia and a director of the Greater Detroit Bowling Association. He can be reached at (248) 477-1839; or by e-mail at [tenpinalley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tenpinalley@sbcglobal.net).



## Midget BB champs

Tournament MVP Matt Sgriccia notched a hat trick, including the game-winner in overtime to lead the Livonia Sharks to a 3-2 victory over the Belle Tire Wolves in the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association championship final recently in Nagaunee. The Sharks also defeated Lansing Capital Center (8-2), the Alpena Boosters (4-1) and Port Huron Flags (7-3) en route to the title. Their only loss came against the Detroit Dragons, 5-4, as Sgriccia and Mike Baaso had two goals each. Goalie Matt Parran stopped three breakaway attempts in the loss. In the win over the Flags, Lantto had two goals and three assists. Baaso added two goals, while Jamie Deane also assisted three times. In the 4-1 win over Alpena in Marquette, Joe Swenders, Matt Kelley, Sgriccia and Lantto scored. Against Lansing, Lantto's hat trick led the way with Sgriccia scoring twice. Parran and Jeff Ballard shared the goaltending duties. Other members of the team include defensemen Mike Van Aartsen, Steve Roell, Alex Nunez and David Haine, while offensive lines also consisted of John Gizowski, Joe Bermudez, Andy Rochon, Mike Galvan, Kevin Kehoe, Joe Kraemer and Nic Barker. The Sharks are coached by Bill Ostlund, assisted by Bill Parran, Dave Eberling, Greg Roell and John Kraemer. The team manager is Jan Lantto.

## five months ... five percent

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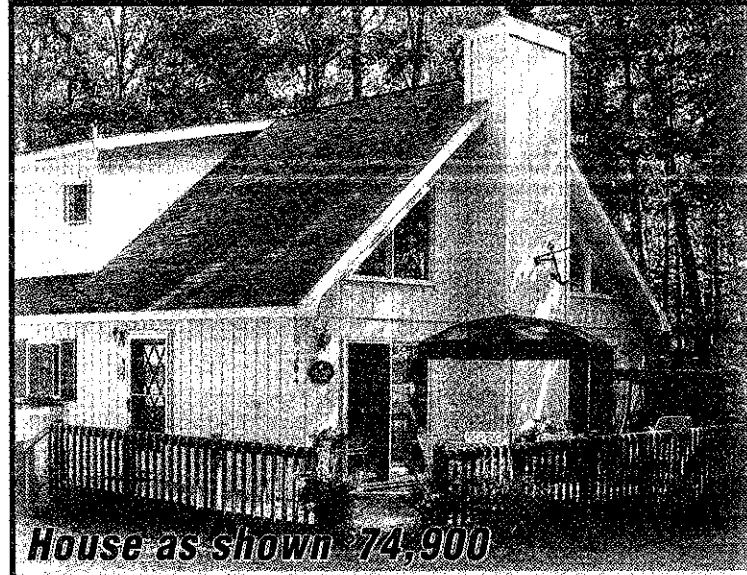
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Bobbie Jones

## Flying historic skies

There was a time in our nation's history when it was believed that women could only perform certain kinds of work, and that was deemed "Women's Work."

Well, I am sure that when Amy Johnson shared the fact that she wanted to fly with her family, it's more than likely she heard the statement, "That's not women's work."

She didn't let that stop her. Johnson set out to prove that a woman could achieve just about anything and, in doing so, she took the world soaring to the great blue skies.

Amy Johnson was born July 1, 1903, in Hull, Yorkshire. Even as a child, her parents referred to her as a very determined youngster. Her self-determination would soon prove useful.

Johnson attended Sheffield University in 1923, where she received her bachelor of arts degree. After graduation she moved to London to seek work as a secretary, but a new endeavor would soon pique her interest.

Johnson became involved in the world of flying while in London. She began to fly at the London Aero plane Club in 1928. Once just a hobby, now flying consumed her every waking moment.

She was fed up with women being treated as if they could not comprehend or master the new great flying machines. Even though Europe was much further along than America when it came to women and work, it still had a ways to go.

Johnson had a couple of goals in mind when she started out. One was to fly solo, then once she had accomplished that she wanted to become the first British-trained woman ground engineer. Early in 1930 Johnson got her chance to fly solo and her destination was Australia. Her goal also with the first solo flight was to beat Bert Hinkler's record of 16 days.

On May 5, 1930, Johnson set off alone in a single-engine plane. She did not break Hinkler's record, but when she landed in Australia May 24 she did claim the coveted title of first woman to fly solo to Australia.

Johnson continued to set and break flying records throughout her career. In 1931, she set an England-to-Japan record with co-pilot Jack Humphrey. In July 1932, Johnson set a solo record when she flew from England to Cape Town. Her husband, Jim Mollison, also joined her on many of her non-stop record flights.

Johnson's flying career ended with the outbreak of World War II, but she then began a new phase in her life. She joined the Air Transport Auxiliary, a pool of experienced pilots designated to fly missions for the armed services. Some of her duties included ferrying cargo from factory airstrips to Royal Air Force bases.

Sadly, Johnson's plane crashed during one of her missions in 1941, which brought a tragic end to a life with such promise. Her legacy lives on in the minds and hearts of those who dream about taking to the skies. Bobbie Jones is a Belleville resident and regular contributor to the *Observer*. In March, she's profiling women in honor of National Women's History Month. She can be reached via e-mail at workhard36@aol.com.

# Observer LIFE

## Symposium focuses on breast cancer

HEALTH C6

Diners enjoy food, fellowship  
FEATURE C3

Class reunions  
INSIDE C4

Section C

Sunday, March 19, 2006

(CP)

Brad Kadrach, editor

(734) 459-2700

Fax (734) 459-4224

bkadrach@hometownlife.com  
www.hometownlife.com

Woof Woof Arf Arf Woof Woof Arf Arf Woof Woof Arf Arf Woof



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Michael Martin plans to come home with a win even though Magic (right) won't be by his side at this year's Detroit Kennel Club Show at Cobo Center. As partners, Martin and Magic have won hundreds of ribbons and certificates in the Junior Showmanship class.

# Ring magic

## Teen stacks up wins at dog show competitions



Michael Martin shows off one of Magic's puppies.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

At 6-foot-2, 280 pounds, Michael Martin looks more like a football player than a teen competing for Junior Showmanship wins at dog shows around the country.

The 15-year-old Redford handler actually does play varsity football with Catholic Central High School, but juggles his schedule to compete with Magic, his rottweiler, against the big dogs. Sometimes football takes priority. He was three wins short of qualifying for the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club Show in New York this year because CC games clashed with show dates.

At noon on Sunday, March 19, Martin enters Detroit Kennel Club ring 15 at Cobo Center without Magic, who gave birth to a litter of five puppies four weeks ago. Still, he's confident of winning with another dog. Theresa O'Hara, Martin's mother, will be cheering him on. She travels to shows across the country with him when she isn't working as a registered nurse at Harper Hospital.

The DKC dog show is one of only six benched American Kennel Club (AKC) shows left in the U.S.

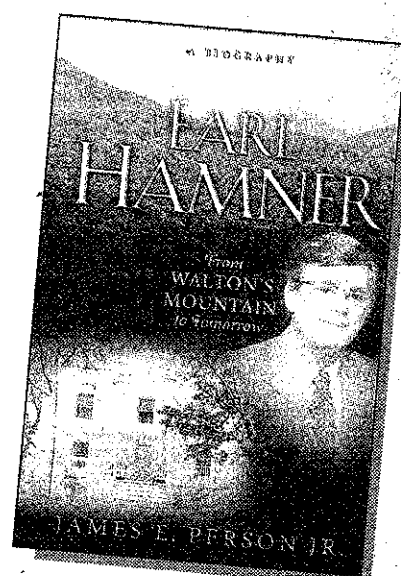
### IT'S MAGIC

"I like handling because I'm competitive," said Martin who works out by lifting weights every day all year round to stay in shape for the football and track and field teams at CC.

"It all started when I was 9 going on 10 and wanted a dog. We went to the DKC show and eventually purchased Zeus, but he wasn't show quality. Then we got Magic."

Martin works out with Magic an hour after school every day. Ch. Wildhaven's Magical Dragon could be a handful long before reaching her show weight of 105 pounds. One time Martin came home to find the garbage ripped up. Magic, then a puppy, knew she did something wrong and was waiting sheepishly.

PLEASE SEE TEEN, C3



James Person's book shows that Earl Hamner was more than just the creator of 'The Waltons.'

## Writer finds Hamner more than 'Mr. Walton'

BY HUGH GALLAGHER  
STAFF WRITER

Earl Hamner Jr. says he knew he liked Northville writer Jim Person the first moment he heard his voice over the phone.

That may be because the creator of TV's *The Waltons* heard the soft, hushed tones of his own Virginia accent and the same polite Southern manner.

Person said it was that Virginia connection that got him interested in Hamner's career. Person was born and spent his early years in the Norfolk area until his father was transferred by Ford Motor Co. and the family settled in Plymouth Township in 1966. Person graduated from Plymouth Salem High School.

"I had heard about him from a family friend back in the '70s and always intended to read *Spencer's Mountain*. I enjoyed listening to his voice as the narrator of *The Homecoming* and *The Waltons*," Person said.

Person wrote an essay comparing *Spencer's Mountain*, the inspiration for *The Waltons*, and Sherwood Anderson's *Winesburg, Ohio*. That led to an exchange of e-mails with Hamner and the idea to write a biography, *Earl Hamner: From Walton's Mountain to Tomorrow* (Cumberland House, \$22.95).

"He was like an old friend right from the get go. He laughs a lot and has a real self-deprecating sense of humor, he's a delight to speak to," Person said.

Hamner, 82, was skeptical of Person's project.

"I couldn't believe anyone would want to write or even read my biography," Hamner said in a phone interview from his California home. "I've lived a good life and accomplished quite a good bit. But once I read it, he

PLEASE SEE HAMNER, C2



GENE SHELTON

Earl Hamner Jr. (right) with Jim Person and his cousin, Angie Shelton, at a Barnes and Noble Bookstore in Costa Mesa, Calif.

Woof Woof Arf Arf Woof Woof Arf Arf Woof Woof Arf Arf Woof

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## HAMNER

FROM PAGE C1

convinced me. I've gotten quite a swelled head from the book."

Writing about Hamner was a departure for Person, an editor with Thompson Gale in Farmington Hills. He had previously written *Russell Kirk: A Critical Biography of a Conservative Mind*, on one of the founders of modern conservatism (and a Plymouth native) and edited a book of essays on Kirk.

The Hamner book is an unusual biography. Person covers the events of Hamner's life in a couple of chapters and then devotes the following chapters to exploring the many facets of Hamner's career and concludes with comments from those who know Hamner, from fellow southern writer Harper Lee to cast members of *The Waltons* and *Falcon Crest*.

"I thought the structure worked well considering what I wanted to do in this book was to emphasize that he was not just Mr. Walton, but had these

other areas in which he worked, the other TV shows, the novels and the screenwriting," Person said.

Hamner said his reputation at the creator of *The Waltons* would sometimes be a hindrance because he got labeled a "soft writer."

"But I can write other things and I did write them," Hamner said. "I'm very proud of *The Waltons*. They were what strong families are made of. I've reached so many different kinds of people. I met a woman who said it was just like her family and I asked her if she was from the South. She said she was brought up in the ghettos of Pittsburgh."

Hamner based the Walton family on his own large Virginia clan and his Depression-era youth. They first came to life in Hamner's novel *Spencer's Mountain*, which was made into a movie with Henry Fonda and Maureen O'Hara. Given a new name to avoid copyright problems, the Waltons came to life in a television special, *The*

*Homecoming* with Patricia Neal and the young Richard Thomas as Hamner alter-ego John-Boy Walton. Thomas and the rest of the children became members of the series cast with a new set of parents played by Ralph Waite and Michael Learned and grandparents Will Geer and Ellen Corby in 1972. The series was an unexpected hit that ran for nine years.

"We were a family that did love each other — strong, religious, decent, upstanding people," Hamner said.

But, he adds, they weren't saints and he "tempered" their portrayals in the television series. Hamner wrote some of the Walton scripts, but acted primarily as a script editor, working closely with other writers.

"They had a sense of the material. Even if they didn't know, I always had the final polish on the script," he said. "I went through every script to add color, phrases. I don't diminish my contributions in any way."

Hamner also did the nostalgic voiceovers that gave the program a distinctive sound.

Hamner remains close with the television cast. He said just a couple of weeks ago, he and cast members attended the wedding of Mary Beth McDonough (middle daughter Erin). Kami Cotler, who played the youngest Walton, Elizabeth, became so enthralled with Hamner's stories of Virginia that she taught school for five years in Hamner's native Nelson County.

But as Person makes clear in his book, *The Waltons* was only one side of Hamner's work. He also wrote eight scripts for *The Twilight Zone* and created and wrote for the very un-Waltonlike series *Falcon Crest*.

Hamner first met *Twilight Zone* creator Rod Serling in 1949 when the two college students from different parts of the country both sold scripts to the *Doctor Christian* radio show. Later, Serling replaced Hamner as a writer at Cincinnati's mega-watt station WLW-AM (700).

Person said Serling liked the qualities of myth and home values that Hamner brought to the bizarre world of *The Twilight Zone*. Hamner said his first script for the show, "The Hunt," is still a favorite.

*Falcon Crest* was big change. "In about 1980, Earl was interested in the wine industry

in California," Person said. "He had in mind an 8 o'clock (family friendly) show, he envisioned a show about a family experiencing life in northern California."

CBS had in mind a 10 o'clock show in the style of *Dallas*, *Dynasty* and *Knot's Landing*. Hamner went with the flow.

"It was such fun to do. It was outrageous," he said.

But Hamner is most proud about a screenplay he wrote for the Hanna-Barbera cartoon *Charlotte's Web*, based on E.B. White's classic children's book.

"I've done a lot of adaptations and take the doctor's pledge, do no harm, be faithful to the original material," he said. "It has many meaningful things to say — the power of friendship, the love of life. A humble spider saves a pig's life and that's important."

Hamner had fond words for Person, his wife Lista and their two children.

"I love Jim Person's family, they are typical of everything good in this country," he said.

Person has been doing some joint book signings with Hamner. On March 22, he will be a panelist at the Virginia Festival of the Book in Charlottesville, Va., discussing Appalachian literature. He said he hopes to bring Hamner to Michigan for book signings.

hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net  
(734) 953-2149

## 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](http://www.plymouthlibrary.org)

## FICTION

1. "The 5th Horseman," James Patterson
2. "Cell," Stephen King
3. "The Templar Legacy," Steve Berry
4. "Last Templar," Ray Khoury
5. "The Two Minute Rule," Robert Craie

## NON-FICTION

1. "Marley and Me," John Grogan
2. "Manhunt," James Swanson
3. "The Year of Magical Thinking," Joan Didion
4. "You're Wearing That?" Deborah Tannen
5. "Team of Rivals," Doris Kearns Goodwin

## PARENTS' CHOICE

## NEW CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS

1. "Alligator Alphabet," Stella Blackstone
2. "Stop This Birthday!" Rowan Cutler
3. "Hokey Pokey," Lisa Wheeler
4. "Dreamflight," Brigitta Garcia Lopez
5. "Dear Bunny," Michaela Morgan

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## TEEN

FROM PAGE C1

Martin looked at her and sternly said, no. The first rule of obedience training is never to hit a dog but to train by using positive reinforcements. Martin and Magic learned the basics together on Tuesday evenings at the Sportsmen's Dog Training Club in Ferndale.

"It's hard to be a champion," said Martin. "In the beginning, we went to the Sportsmen's Club to watch and so she could get used to people touching her. "She knows I'm the boss. At the shows, you have to open the mouth and make sure they don't move their feet. I wasn't winning until I figured out my head was in the way of the judge's view (when opening her mouth)."

Martin began showing Magic at the age of 10 months in 2002. He was 12 but junior handlers can be as young as 10. O'Hara says both of them have grown since first entering the ring. Martin's energy and quest for knowledge seem boundless. In addition to showing dogs and playing sports, Martin studies at the Music Conservatory in Livonia and plays alto saxophone in the school symphony all while keeping up his grades at Catholic Central in Novi. He also serves on the student council and is working on becoming an Eagle Scout with St. Robert Bellarmine Troop 499 in Redford. Martin likes Boy Scouts because it teaches him leadership and other skills.

## IT TAKES PRACTICE

"Showing keeps him out of trouble and builds self-esteem," said O'Hara. "In the ring the judge is watching you. The day before he has to wash and groom Magic, trim the nails. As a junior handler he's not judged on the dog but on how he handles the dog, if the dog's coat is taken care of. Michael and Magic are partners. They become good with practice."

On his 18th birthday, Martin will graduate from junior handler to the professional class. He plans to keep showing, but once again the ring may take a back seat to football. Ohio State and Eastern Michigan universities have already contacted him and he's hoping to get a scholarship.

Ring binders full of winning certificates lie in stacks on the table in front of the sofa. O'Hara is glad she bought her son that first rottweiler.

"He wanted a dog when he was little. I'm a single mom and thought it would teach him responsibility," said O'Hara. "We went to the DKC show in 2000. It's a benched show which is nice because you actually talk to the breeder. The rottweiler is easy care and fits our lifestyle. We like their personality. They're not hyper. They're a family dog."

DKC show visitors can learn about 167 different breeds of dogs when the show, which began on Saturday, continues today. Dogs will be on display to the public and demonstrations will be ongoing from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. AKC Agility Trials begin at 8 a.m. and run to 6 p.m. The show offers a variety of demonstrations and learning sessions including a program on pet therapy at Children's Hospital of Michigan. Michigan Veterinary Specialists present lectures on first aid and CPR, and arthritis in dogs.

Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$8 for children under age 12 and seniors age 60 and up, and \$35 for families of two adults and three children. For more information, call (248) 352-7469 (DKC-SHOW) or visit [www.detroitkennelclub.com](http://www.detroitkennelclub.com).

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## Fish, friendship keep diners coming in at eatery

BY JULIE BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

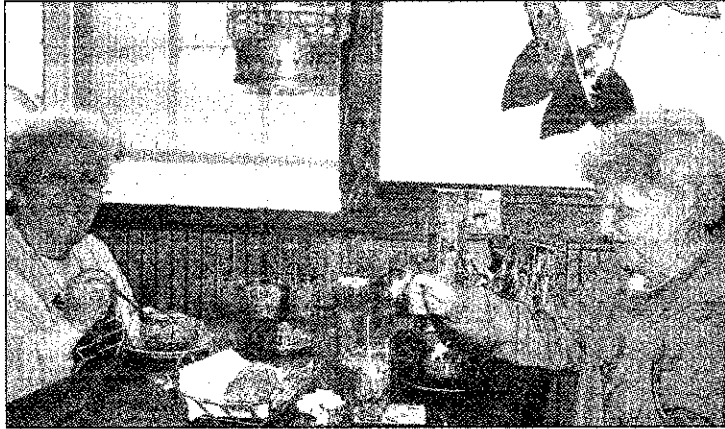
Joe Bauer wasn't upset when trendy restaurants began to move into the area near Westland Shopping Center.

"It's good, though," said Bauer, general manager of the Red Lobster restaurant on Wayne Road north of Ford, which will mark 31 years in business March 25. "Competition brings consumers out. I think it's a good thing."

It also gives him and his colleagues a reason to offer better fare and service at the 250-seat eatery, which is packed on Friday and Saturday nights. Bauer, a Canton resident who's been on the job in Westland since 1989, noted that Lent's good for business, with many Catholics choosing to dine out on Friday.

Spring in general, and the nationally advertised Lobsterfest, bring people out too. "Old Man Winter's behind us," he said with a smile. "It's just a good time to go out."

On a recent Tuesday, friends Mary Boron of Livonia and Gertie Beyer of Southfield met for lunch. They're part of a group of friends that meet weekly at the restaurant, which opened its first location in 1968 in Lakeland, Fla.



Friends Gertie Beyer of Southfield (left) and Mary Boron of Livonia enjoy their Tuesday get-together at Red Lobster.

"Oh, years and years," Boron said of their visits. "It's really funny if one of us doesn't show up on Tuesday," Beyer added.

Server Roxanne Grant of Livonia brought iced tea and cheesy biscuits as the women awaited their entrees. "We have the same waitress every time," Boron said. "We ask for her. We don't even have to order, she knows. The drinks are right on the table."

"I can't even remember when we started," added Beyer. "It's been years. It's a great place to eat. The folks here are very friendly."

Bauer, the GM, has found local diners are partial to salmon, trout, flounder and tilapia. The latter, with a deli-

cate flavor, is found in both fresh and saltwater.

The restaurant draws from Westland, Canton, Plymouth, Garden City, Inkster, Romulus and Livonia. This time of year, there's competition from the Lenten fish fry events common at churches and elsewhere.

"There's a built-in competition there," Bauer said.

He's got some good stories from his years in the business. Several years ago, a middle-aged couple came in; the man told the staff he was going to propose and wanted a photograph taken.

"They continue as regular guests," said Bauer of the now-married couple, who got their picture. "That was pretty



PHOTOS BY JULIE BROWN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

General manager Joe Bauer pauses in the bar area with utility worker Betty Nelson (left) and server Kimmie Hirsch.

meaningful." There are also stories of first dates and engagements.

The fish comes from all over the world, including the U.S., Canada and South America. "Our fresh fish is three days out of the water," he said. They receive two-three deliveries per week.

He's pleased with the staff, many of whom start in high school and continue working. Bauer points with pride to such professions as attorney,

pharmacist, engineer, teacher and others represented by former staffers. Out of 100 Red Lobsters in the Midwest, the Westland eatery was honored for having the lowest turnover.

"I think we represent an excellent value," Bauer said. Taking care of guests, serving quality food and offering value have made the difference.

"I think those three things have made us successful long-term," Bauer said.

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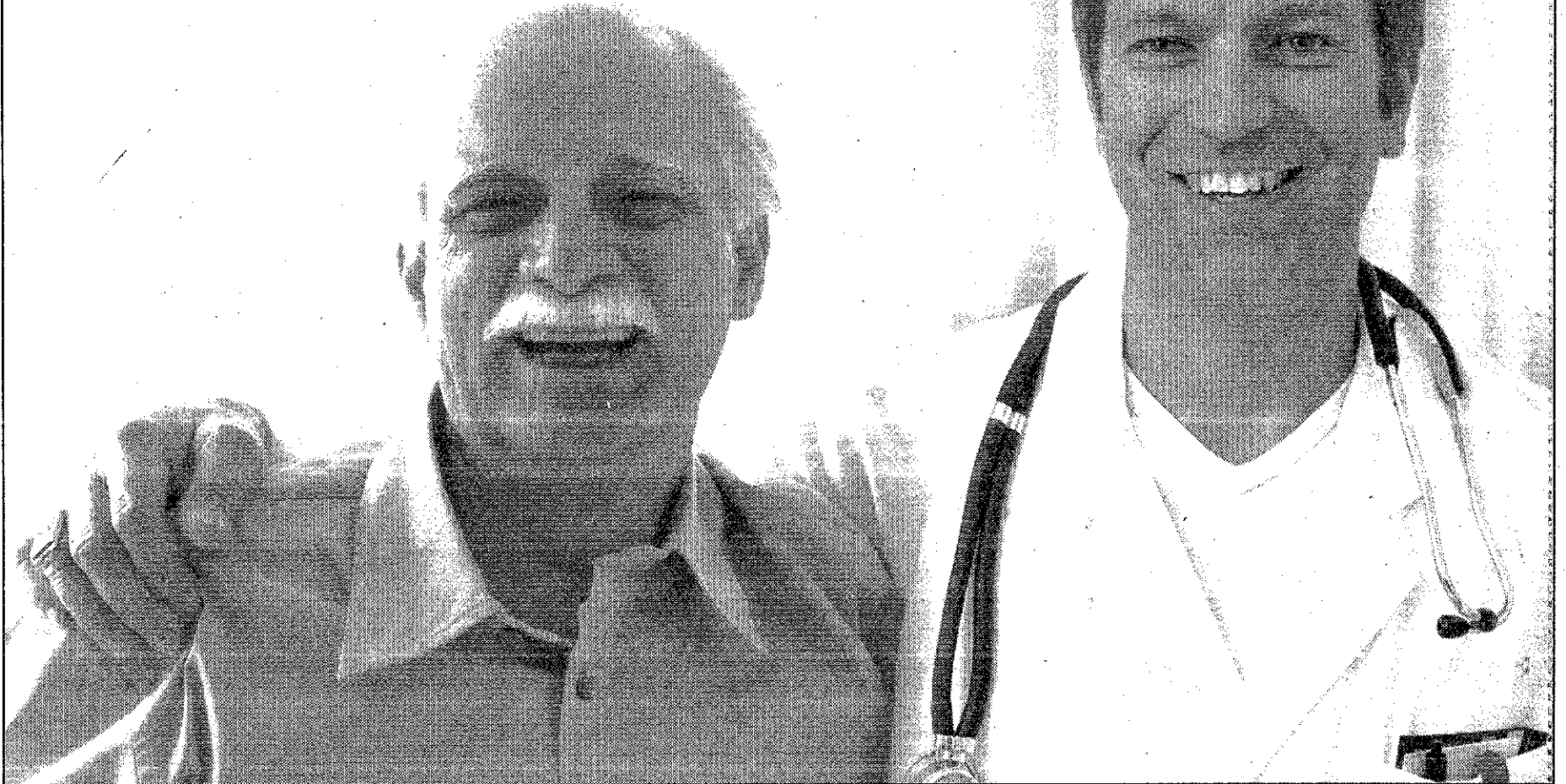
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Peter's Principles

Peter Nielsen

## Fiber aids in fight against fat

Kim from Utica e-mails asking about the nutritional benefits of fiber.

Kim, we've known for years about the disease-fighting properties of fiber, but now it has another important role - fat fighter. A 17-year study of 75,000 subjects found that those eating the most fiber gain the least weight. Whole grain consumption, however, was vital. In the study, the biggest weight gainers were those eating diets low in fiber and fat.

So, why does fiber work so well at helping to control body weight? It may be by delaying carbohydrate



consumption that suppresses insulin response to food intake. Fiber consumption seems to be a direct predictor of heart disease risk, weight gain, and overall higher insulin levels. But you don't need to intake large amounts: just a little added fiber everyday can help do the trick.

So next time you're looking to start your morning right, remember a bowl of high fiber cereal or some whole grain toast every day can work wonders.

Sharon from Southfield e-mails asking if hard or soft water is healthier for you.

Sharon, that's one I haven't heard before, so I did a little research. It turns out hard water is tough on pipes and laundry, but good for you. Studies show it's packed with minerals including calcium and magnesium, and that it may actually reduce the risk of heart disease. In fact, a regional study shows that areas with hard water have a lower overall rate of heart attacks.

But it may not just be the extra minerals that are causing the benefits. Initial studies indicate that fluoride in water may also help prevent cardiovascular problems. More on this important research when it becomes available.

If you have a health or fitness question you would like answered in the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, e-mail Peter at [www.peternielsen.com](http://www.peternielsen.com). Catch Peter daily on WDIV-NBC 4 and WWJ News Radio 950.

# HEALTH

Observer & Eccentric  
NEWSPAPERS

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## My symposium

### Breast cancer survivors learn about achieving optimal health

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

Maryl Balgenorth wants breast cancer survivors like herself to be the best they can be. Ten years after treatment, Balgenorth is excited about hearing the latest on achieving optimal health 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 25, at The Community House in Birmingham.

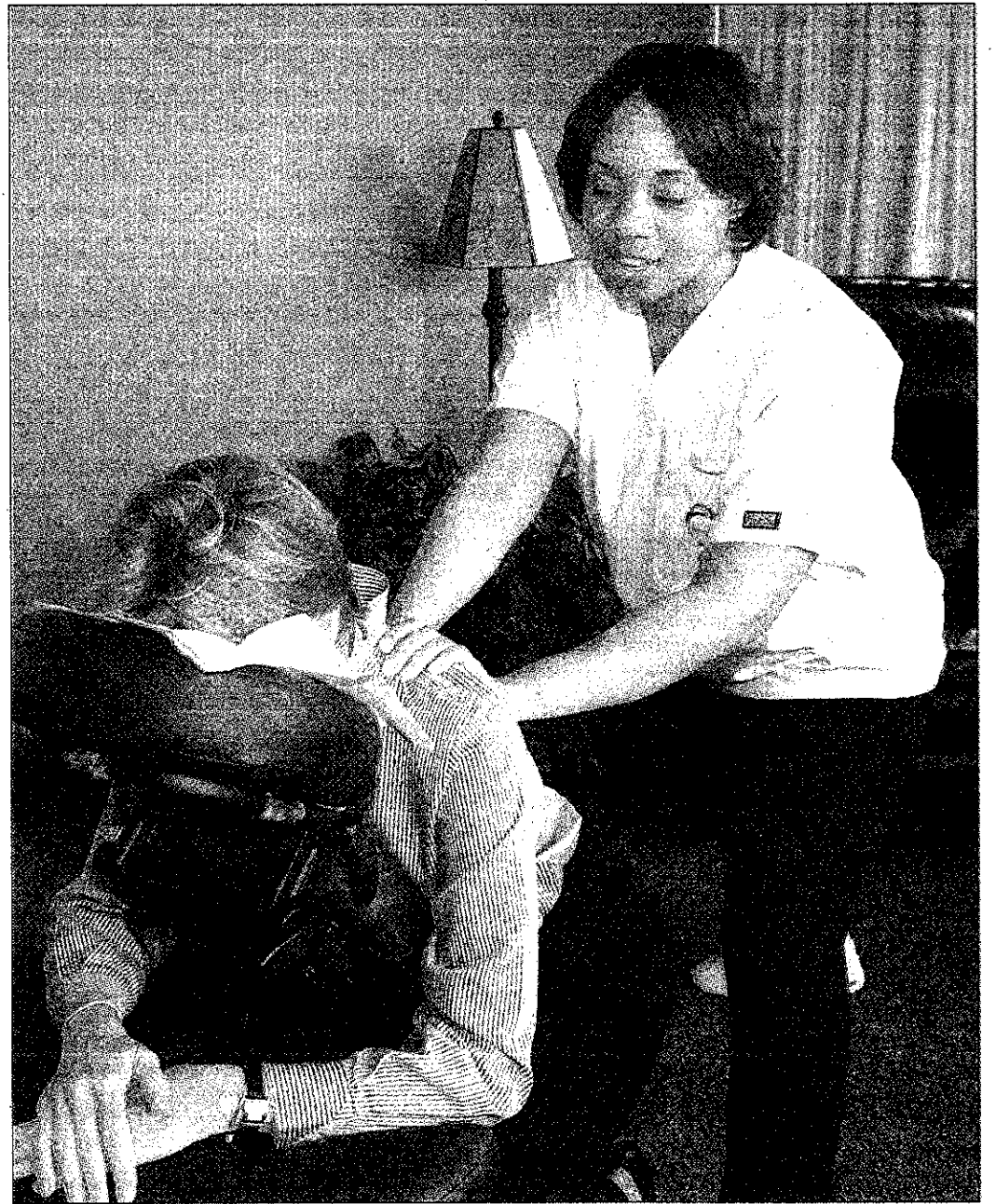
The daylong Breast Cancer Symposium features topics to help survivors look and feel good. In addition to listening as experts present lectures on reconstructive plastic surgery, lymphedema, bone loss, heart health and exercise, survivors

will receive complimentary consultations on diet, meditation, guided imagery, massage, Reiki therapy, and exercise during the mySymposium part of the program established this year.

"Most of us go on to lead fairly normal lives. We want to show survivors how to maximize that," said Balgenorth, executive director of Sharing & Caring, the breast cancer education and support network affiliated with William Beaumont Hospital.

Sharing & Caring has organized the last eight symposiums.

PLEASE SEE SYMPOSIUM, C7



Nancy Ellis Count of West Bloomfield receives a massage from Danetta Jackson, a therapist in the Integrative Medicine Department at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. Mini-massages will be available to anyone attending the Breast Cancer Symposium at The Community House in Birmingham on March 25.

## Students wanted to walk for diabetes

More than 176,000 Americans younger than age 20 have diabetes. Another two million youths between ages 12 and 19 have pre-diabetes.

The American Diabetes Association's School Walk for Diabetes is an educational fund-raising program that promotes community service, school spirit and healthy living to students. The ADA is seeking individual schools and school districts across the state that would like to be part of School Walk for Diabetes.

Sponsored nationally by Splenda and Aramark, School Walk for Diabetes can be held indoors or outdoors, at any distance and any time during the year. Students learn about diabetes and how to make healthy choices through classroom lessons and activities. They also can earn thank you gifts for raising funds for diabetes research, advocacy and education initiatives. Schools that raise \$1,000 or more earn gift certificates for physical education and school medical supplies.

PLEASE SEE DIABETES, C7



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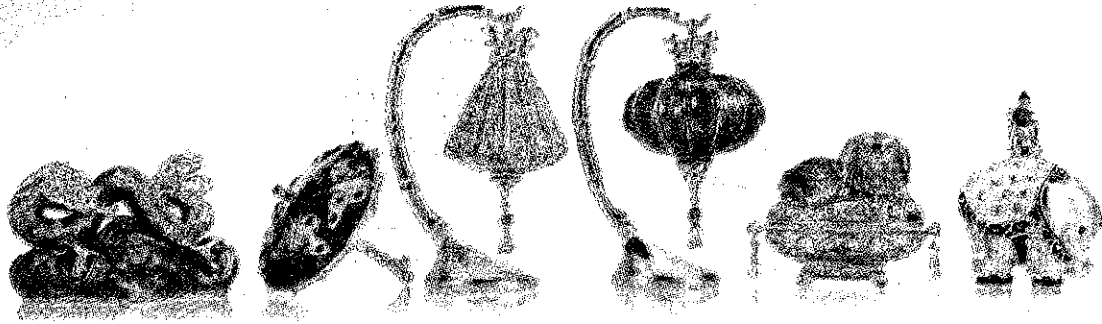
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# pink page

Watch for your pull-out issue of PINK next Sunday!

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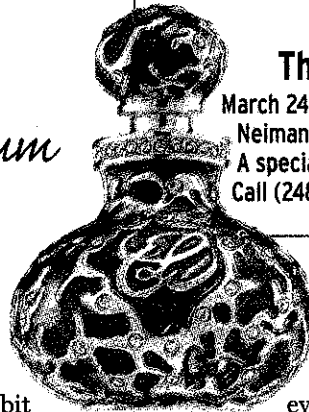


## BeDazzled!

Estée Lauder compact museum visits Neiman Marcus

By Wendy Pierman Mitzel

Estée Lauder's coveted jeweled compacts may be a nearly 40-year-old tradition, but it's a truly modern exhibit that will showcase them this month at Troy's Neiman Marcus. Estée Lauder invites collectors and new customers alike to take a seat, don a set of iPod headphones and learn to appreciate the company's highly-valued collection of bejeweled perfume compacts displayed March 24-April 2. Visitors will be taken through the compact history with a special story audio track featuring recorded messages from Mrs. Evelyn Lauder and Bob Conte, the craftsman for all Estée Lauder compacts. "As a fragrance innovator and artist, my grandmother loved each and every compact in the collection," said Aerin Lauder, Senior Vice President, Global Creative Directions. "It brings us great joy to share this wonderful collection with the world." Many of the top collectible Estée Lauder compacts dating back to 1967 are featured in the exhibition, like the glittering Cinderella's Coach, a golden pumpkin coach covered in orange crystals and enhanced with blue enamel filled with Estée Lauder Beautiful, and the Sparkling Mermaid, a golden pearl-diving sea creature with a pavé crystal tail filled with Estée Lauder Pleasures.



### Reflections of Beauty: The Estée Lauder Compact Exhibit

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Neiman Marcus, Somerset Collection, Troy  
A special preview party March 23 is by invite only.  
Call (248) 643-3300.

You could call them the crown jewels of Estée Lauder. With some pieces worth thousands of dollars, collectors race to scoop up the new designs almost as soon as they are introduced. "These ladies come in and purchase one of everything," explained Kimberly DePriest, an Estée Lauder Account Executive. "Some are so serious they won't take it out of the box. Some display them on their vanities. And the thing is, they are usable." To commemorate the launch of this traveling museum, Estée Lauder created the limited edition White Linen Bejeweled Bottle. Inspired by an antique perfume bottle, the blue enamel bottle with gold-toned accents is adorned with Austrian crystals and the Estée Lauder logo (see inset photo). The compact will be sold exclusively at Neiman Marcus locations hosting the Estée Lauder Compact Museum and suggested retail is \$200. Other pieces from the Fall 2005 collection and Spring 2006 collection will be available to purchase with prices ranging from \$95 to \$350. In addition, Judith Leiber, a renowned jeweled handbag designer, specially produced a dazzling powder compact for the celebration. It can be purchased for \$325. Troy's Neiman Marcus is one of three stores in the country, along with Dallas and Fort Worth Texas, to display the items.

## pink list

**Fashion in Film**  
Get a close-up of costumes straight from the movies at "Fashions in Film: Period Costumes for the Screen" at the Grand Rapids Art Museum through March 26. The exhibit of 35 costumes includes gowns worn by Nicole Kidman, Emma Thompson and Gwyneth Paltrow. Admission is \$3-\$8. Call (616) 831-1000 or visit [www.gramonline.com](http://www.gramonline.com).

**Euphoric Pampering Deal**  
Euphoria Pampering Lounge &

Day Spa invites you to indulge in preparation for spring. Receive 15 percent off any single service through March 31 at this newly expanded spa, located in the North Park Towers, 16500 North Park Drive in Southfield. Some restrictions apply. Call for details. (248) 559-5414.

**Couture Bridal Trunk Shows**  
Marshall Field's Bridal Salon at the Somerset Collection will host two couture bridal gown shows this month. Check out the Ines DiSanto's romantic collection March 24-26; and Amy Kuschel's contemporary looks March 31-April 2. Call (248) 816-4000.



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### Wear It!

Kara Janx kimono wrap dress



### DO NOT Wear It!

Panty lines

### Take It!

Laella skull heart print tote at Target



### See It!

V for Vendetta

### Kick It!

Lacoste Mary Janes



### Do It!

Walk the Line

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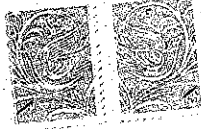


### Two It!

The premiere of *The Real Housewives of Orange County*, 10 p.m. March 21 on Bravo

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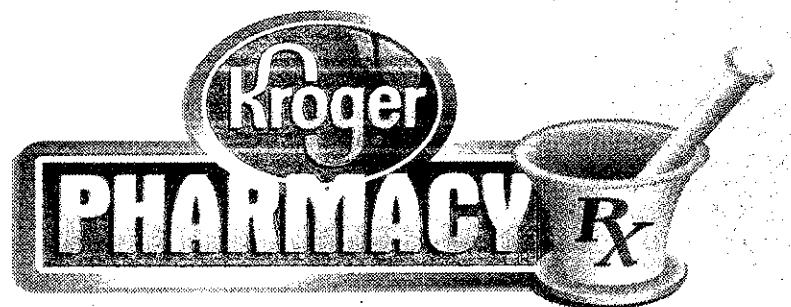
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## The opportunity to explore career paths

(NAPSI) — Parents, educators and legislators want to give students the highest-quality educational foundation possible and today's career and technical education programs can play a key role in assuring educational excellence for many students.

Career and technical courses give students the opportunity to explore different career paths, to find out if the jobs involved are appealing and to discover which opportunities are best suited to their individual talents.

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) wants to ensure that students and their parents are aware of the value of career and technical programs.

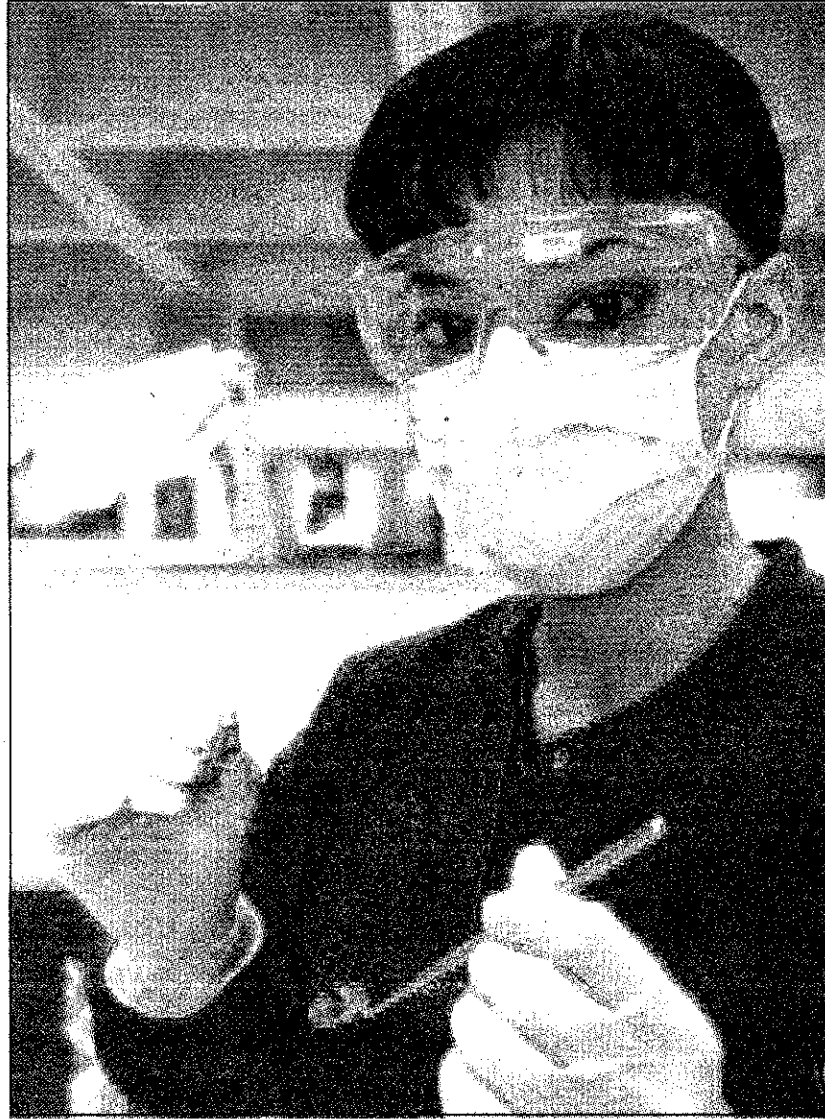
These programs can be a student's first exposure to the real-world aspects of a career field. They allow a student to build the strong skills that every employer considers essential: the ability to communicate well, an understanding of time management and promptness, problem-solving skills and the ability to function as part of a team.

Careers in hotel management, food service, engineering, biotechnology, agriscience, recreation, nursing and graphic design represent challenging, high-paying jobs, and the demand for skilled workers has never been greater.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that average annual salaries of technicians in some medical fields are more than \$44,000 a year, while dental hygienists can earn more than \$58,000. Annual incomes of chefs and bakers reach \$40,000. Motorcycle technicians earn more than \$29,000. Engineering technicians can earn more than \$40,000, while biological science technicians can earn more than \$38,000.

What's more, a number of career and technical programs include internships, apprenticeships or co-op employment, which combines work and classroom study as part of the curriculum. Thus, students can get hands-on experience, have a chance to earn while learning and, best of all, gain a foot in the door of a potential future employer.

Career and technical education is an essential aspect of high school education, one that enhances academic achievement and provides the skills needed for success beyond high school. These courses prepare students for college and the workplace. To learn more, visit [www.getcareerskills.com](http://www.getcareerskills.com).



Career and technical programs provide students with hands-on experience and reinforce the skills that an employer prizes.

## Aerospace hits a high

(NAPSI) — Good news for the economy, as well as job seekers, is that aerospace sales have hit record highs as the industry's three main sectors — civil aircraft, defense and space — all showed strength. The industry, which is vitally important to national security, not only adds jobs, it provides a positive foreign trade balance of \$37 billion.

According to the Aerospace Industries Association, the outlook for next year is solid, calling for 8.2-percent growth to \$184 billion. In fact, aerospace is one of the few manufacturing sectors of the economy that consistently shows a foreign trade surplus.

Civil aircraft sales — including commercial jets, general aviation aircraft, helicopters, engines and parts — led all sectors, increasing their sales by 20 percent.

Aerospace employment continued its climb, adding 30,900 jobs last year to reach 623,900. Since 2004, aerospace accounted for one of every three manufacturing jobs added nationwide. To learn more, visit [www.aia-aerospace.org](http://www.aia-aerospace.org).



### Advertising SALES REP

The award-winning Observer & Eccentric Newspapers is looking for an enthusiastic, result-oriented sales professional to sell classified real estate advertising. The ideal candidate will have a bachelor's degree or equivalent work experience with at least 2 years of outside sales experience (media experience preferred). Must have own transportation.

If you are a creative, highly motivated, self-starter who is also organized and persistent, you are the talented sales professional we're looking for. We offer a great work environment and excellent benefits.

Please submit resume to:  
(preferred) email [employment@hometownlife.com](mailto:employment@hometownlife.com)

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers  
36251 Schoolcraft Rd. Livonia, MI 48150  
fax: 734-953-2057  
Please reference job code: OSR

### DAYCO

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Mark IV Automotive is an industry-leading, high volume manufacturer and supplier of automotive aftermarket and industrial parts. We seek talented individuals who are self-driven, hands-on, and can excel in a fast-paced, progressive environment.

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### JOB FAIR

Over 40? Need a job?

Attend the "Ability is Ageless" Job Fair  
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The Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel  
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FREE - No Reservations Required  
Energize Your Job Search! Meet Employers!

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**6000-6980**  
**Announcements**

**LOOK HERE**

**Announcements & Notices** 6200

**MetroPCS**  
Proposes to expand a telecommunications compound to accommodate additional equipment, as well as collocate antenna upon an existing light-pole/monopole tower, located at 8900 Newburgh Road, Livonia, Wayne County, Michigan. MetroPCS invites comments from any interested party regarding the likelihood that the proposed construction would adversely affect historic properties. Comments may be sent to: G2 Consulting Group, LLC Attn: K Bouchard 1966 Woodilee Street Troy, MI 48063 Comments must be received by March 31, 2006

**Meetings & Seminars** 6240

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**Household Goods** 7160

**BDRM SET** Solid Cherry sleigh bed, dresser w/ mirror, chest & 2 nightstands. Dovetail drawers. Beautiful, never used. Cost \$6000; asking \$1999/best. Private sale. (517) 490-3484

**BED - Brand New super mattress set**, in plastic with warranty. \$125. Must sell! Can deliver. 734-231-6622

**BED - A QUEEN PILLOW TOP MATTRESS SET**, New in plastic, sell \$150. 734-891-8481, Can Deliver

**Household Goods** 7160

**FULL SIZE MATTRESS SET**, New still wrapped w/ warranty. Sacrifice, \$135. (734) 891-8481

**FUTON** Brand new, top of line mattress. \$500/best. California couch, with ottoman and chair, queen size sleeper bed. \$950/best. (248) 591-9438

**GARAGE FOR SALE** in Millford. 2 car, wood frame, vinyl siding. Asphalt shingles. Purchaser to remove. \$500. (248) 889-0911 ext. 4

**Appliances** 7180

**REFRIGERATOR** Norge, Almond, side by side, H2O/ice dispenser, water filter system. \$500. Lg. window A/C. \$75. Almond washer/dryer, \$100. (313) 282-2074 all neg.

**WASHER, Kenmore, white, 4 speed, DRYER - white, Frigidaire, heavy duty \$200/set. Commerce. (248) 615-4220 after 5pm**

**Hobbies-Coins, Stamps** 7450

**HO TRAIN EQUIP.** \$5-\$10,000 in HO equip., displays, train cars & accessories. 734-398-8971

**Hospital/Medical Equipment** 7480

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**Pet Services** 7900

**ARE YOU TIRED OF CLEANING UP AFTER YOUR DOGS?**  
Then call Fifi & Fido's at: (248) 435-6265  
Or visit us online at: [fifiandfidoonline.com](http://fifiandfidoonline.com)

**CLASSIFIEDS WORK!**  
1-800-579-7355

**Lost & Found-Pets** 7980

**LOST-LT. BROWN POODLE** Sunday March 12, belongs to Autistic adult, needs his dog to monitor seizure. Reward. (313) 622-4966

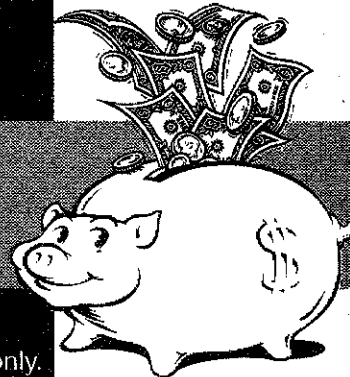
**STOLEN AWARD-WINNING Poodle/ Shih Tzu** from car in Walmart parking lot at Maple & Coolidge, Wed., Mar. 15, btwn 9-9:30pm. Blue jacket, no collar. 810-813-5531.

**IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS... Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!**

## Want to SELL those UNWANTED items?

If you're selling them for less than \$1000, call The Observer & Eccentric at **1-800-579-7355** and get 1/2 million readers who might be looking for what you have to sell AND 50% off the cost of your ad!

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Jennifer S. Peterson, P.C.

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For more information on how you can run your coupon ad here call: 1-800-579-7355

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Resumes And Report Writing Also Available  
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10% OFF any Siding or Roofing Job with coupon!

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Fact: 76% of job seekers use newspaper classifieds as their employment source.

Fact: We have 15 hometown newspapers in suburban Oakland and Wayne Counties.

Fact: We reach 477,000 readers each week, right where they live.



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WESTLAND Open Sun. 1-4pm

ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS! 3 Bdrm., 2.5 bath

Bloomfield Hills CONDO Open Sun. 2-4

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CANTON OPEN SUN. 1-4

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Farmington Hills Condo

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Farmington Hills Condo

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FARMINGTON HILLS

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GARDEN CITY

GARDEN CITY

GARDEN CITY

GARDEN CITY

GARDEN CITY

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LIVONIA- OPEN SUN. 1:30-4

LIVONIA OPEN SUNDAY 12-5

INVERNESS

GREENBRIAR

TURNBERRY

By Owner NOV

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LIVONIA

LIVONIA OPEN SUN. 1-4

LIVONIA OPEN SUN. 2-5

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LIVONIA PRESTIGIOUS

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Mystic Ridge Homes and Condos

Observer & Eccentric







## Creative: Dream your design then design your dream

(MS) — So, you've talked things over with your family and you want a beautiful new structure on your property. Maybe it's a shed, pool cabana, garage, playhouse, home studio, cabin, spa enclosure or gazebo.

What's important is, you want something unique, but original designs can be expensive. Now you've also talked things over with your banker and can't spend a bomb. Here's an idea.

The do-it-yourselfer's ultimate Web site makes designing your dream outdoor structure simple. Try the new Custom Design Center at Summerwood.com. If you can drag and drop with your mouse, you can be your own design architect. Really.

Let's say you're building a cabin. You select one from an array of styles then customize it with scores of design options — doors, windows, shutters, cupolas, etc.. There's an infinite amount of choice, so customize until you realize your vision. Then have your cabin delivered free in an easy-to-assemble kit. It's excellent value.

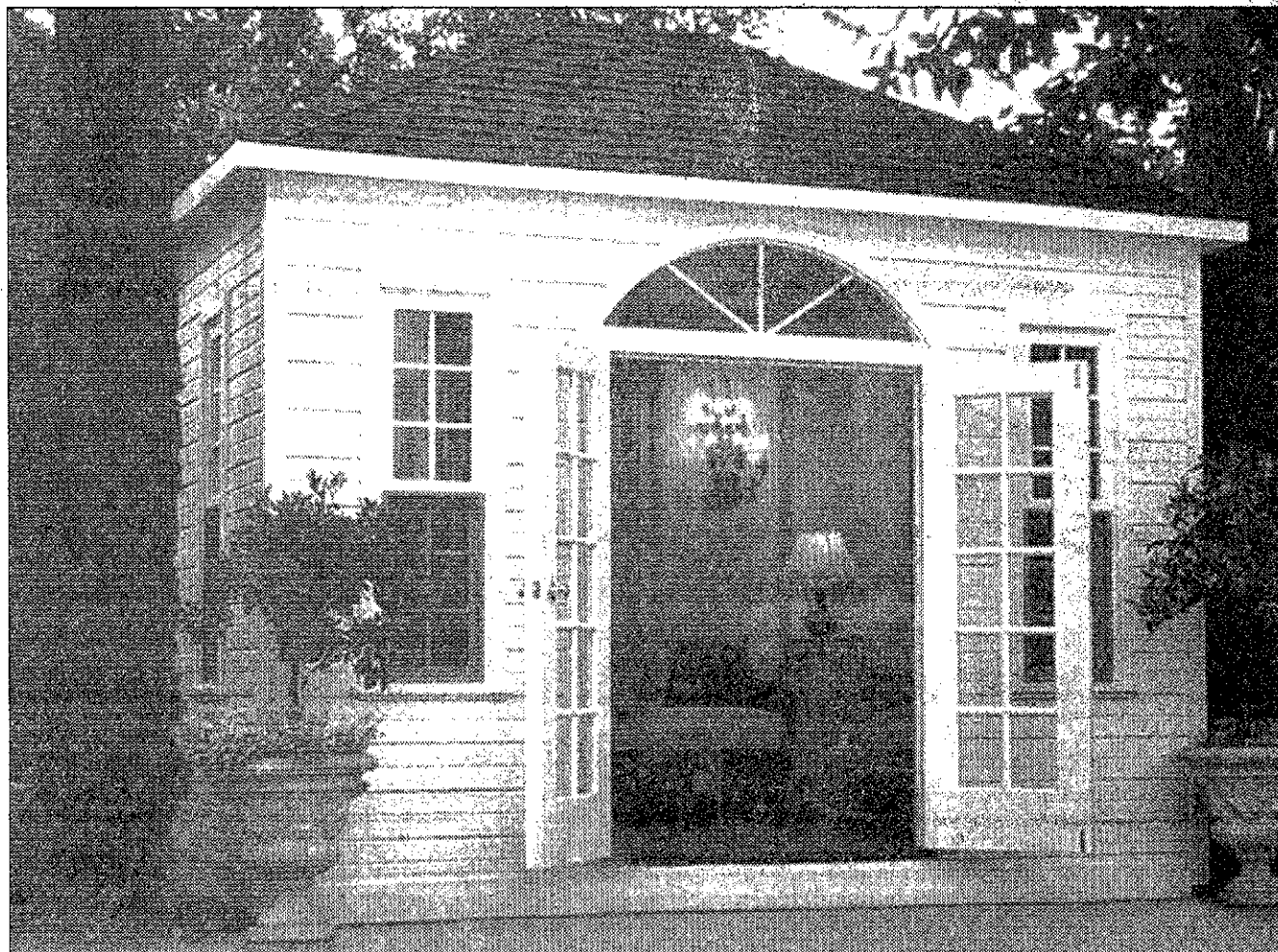
What if you think you know what you want but need inspiration? Take online 3D tours of sheds and pool houses and other Summerwood structures. They fea-

For more information on Summerwood structures, building kits and plans go to [www.summerwood.com/nc.html](http://www.summerwood.com/nc.html) or call (866) 519-4634.

ture decorating ideas and important interior structural details. Speaking of details, there's always help available — like the site's Ask an Expert Forum. It links you directly to Summerwood's key specialists in design, contracting, sales, etc..

Once you've designed your building, order your kit and be your own contractor. Get a few friends to help. Make it a family building party. Available pre-cut or pre-assembled, the kits even come with a breakdown of labor hours. The truly keen can even purchase the building plans alone for just \$49. And that's a lot of savings. These guys have thought of it all.

For more information on Summerwood structures, building kits and plans go to [www.summerwood.com/nc.html](http://www.summerwood.com/nc.html) or call (866) 519-4634.



## Go out of your way to get a great buy when shopping for home

I am looking to buy a house. How do I get the best deal?

Almost everyone is looking to get a great buy. Right now for buyers it is a perfect time to buy. It's a buyers' market. There are a lot of homes on the market, which means there is a lot of competition to sell.

Here are some tips to keep in mind when looking for a house in order to get a good buy:

■ The competition within a subdivision. If there are 12 houses for sale within a subdivision, you will have more negotiating power than if there



Ask the Realtor

Michael Aldouby

are two or maybe even one for sale. Where there is more competition within a given area, sellers will be more pressured to sell for a lower price than if there is little competition.

■ Examining things that look bad, but are easy to fix. Many times houses are cluttered or may have spots on the carpet. Obviously, after you buy the house, the clutter shouldn't be there. However, it's a big turnoff to buyers.

Look at the house logically and ask yourself whether what is disturbing to you about the house could be inexpensively dealt with. Sometimes that can mean a paint job or a good cleaning. Don't discount a house because it's dirty. Buying a house is usually an emotional experience, and many buyers will not buy a house because it looks dirty.

This is a mistake. ■ Examine foreclosures and corporate relocations. Often banks put houses' asking prices way below market value because they want to make a quick sale. There are sometimes more hurdles buying a foreclosed property, however, you can often save a lot of money. ■ Be flexible with closing dates. Sometimes sellers have a reason why they don't want to leave their property for a certain amount of time. They may be relocating in four to five

months. This could give you more negotiating power.

■ Look at vacant houses. Often houses are vacant because the sellers have already bought another house and they now have two mortgages. This means that they are more pressured to sell. That can translate to you getting the house for less money.

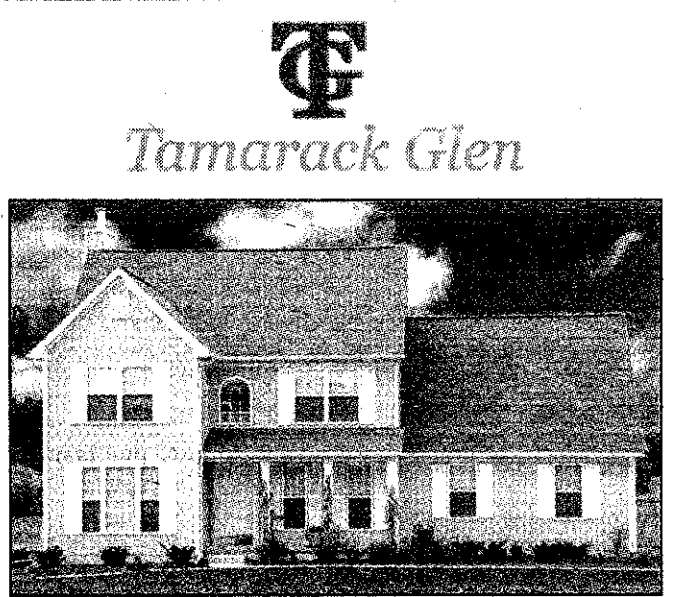
■ Go to houses that are difficult to show. Some houses are hard to see. Reasons for this could be that the house has a tenant or that

rather than there being a lock-box there, the seller is only allowing showings if the seller lets the buyer in.

If a house is difficult to show, there will be fewer buyers looking at it and this will increase your negotiating power, as well.

Michael Aldouby is a columnist and a Realtor with Real Estate One. He has an M.B.A. with a concentration in marketing. Please feel free to call him at (734) 748-9621 or e-mail him at [michael@sellhomes@realestateone.com](mailto:michael@sellhomes@realestateone.com).

## SUNDAY FEATURED HOMES

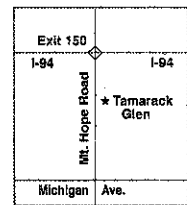


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Located off I-94, exit 150. 1.5 miles south on Mt. Hope Road  
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For more information, contact Tracey, Exclusive Sales Agent of **Norfolk Realty, Ltd.** at 517.522.6222 or 734.216-6170  
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[www.diamondedgehomes.com](http://www.diamondedgehomes.com)

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Starting at **\$189,900!**

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ISLAND LAKE RECREATION AREA OUT YOUR DOOR!!

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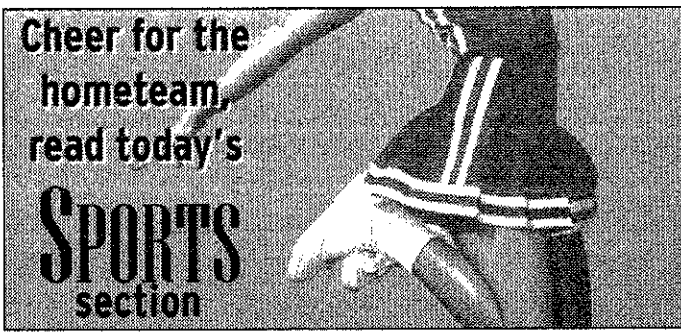
**Buy Today Move Tomorrow**

Seven New Homes in Livonia Available For **Immediate Move In.**

- TURNBERRY-85 \$367,000 (featured above)  
A beautiful home featuring a master bath with Kohler whirlpool tub. Open kitchen floorplan with stainless steel appliances and granite kitchen island. Window treatments included.
- QUICK DELIVERY HOMES AVAILABLE NOW:  
GREENBRIER-14 \$404,500    INVERNESS-84 \$375,500  
GREENBRIER-19 \$390,000    TURNBERRY-15 \$385,500  
INVERNESS-18 \$395,000    OAKMONT-21 \$409,900

**Golf Ridge Villa Homes**

248.615.0300 ■ [www.GolfRidgeHomes.com](http://www.GolfRidgeHomes.com)  
Located on the south side of 8 Mile. One mile east of I-275. OPEN DAILY 12-5



Please recycle this newspaper

# DOLLAR DAYS SALE!

**Buy A Home. Get Any Three Of These Offers For Just \$1.00!\***

- One room of hardwood flooring
- Granite kitchen countertop
- Stainless steel appliance package
- Cedar deck
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- \$3,000 off closing costs

Hurry in! This offer expires soon. Complete details are available at the sales center.

**Maple Park**  
CONDOMINIUMS

**Ranch And 1st Floor Master Condominiums From The \$180's To The \$230's**

Dir.: From I-275, exit Michigan Ave W. Turn right (N) on Haggerty Rd. Turn left (W) on Palmer, drive past Lilley Rd. Maple Park is on the left.

**(734) 397-2265**  
www.mapleparkcondo.com

Open 12-5pm daily, closed Thurs.

Brokers welcome.  
\*Limited time offer. See a sales representative for details.

JACOBSON BROTHERS & The JAR Group Communities

## To the good life: Homeowners will find this model simply 'Enchanting'

**Landmark Designs**

**ENCHANTING (335-043)**  
OVERALL DIMENSIONS: 92'-6" X 58'-3"  
LIVING: 3594 square feet  
WINE CELLAR: 136 square feet  
GARAGE: 737 square feet

SECOND FLOOR PLAN: 653 SQ FT  
REC ROOM 14'3" X 10'0"  
LOFT  
BALCONY  
GUEST 15'3" X 13'3"

FIRST FLOOR PLAN: 2941 SQ FT  
DECK  
DINING 15'6" X 13'6"  
BED 2 13'0" X 13'6"  
BED 3 10'9" X 13'6"  
FAMILY/THEATER 18'6" X 16'9"  
LIVING 17'0" X 17'6"  
MASTER SUITE 14'3" X 17'0"  
NOOK 9'0" X 13'0"  
OFFICE 10'0" X 11'9"  
GARAGE 28'9" X 23'3"

The two-story Enchanting (335-043) is definitely a design for the hard working family. This 3,594 square foot beauty has all the features that make this a home you will be proud to show your friends.

Elegant stone showcases an impressive exterior that is topped by an ornate tile roof. The vaulted entry boasts an overhead balcony and a semi-circular staircase to the second floor.

The entry leads directly into the vaulted living room. Dual skylights brighten the entire area, while a gas fireplace maintains an even temperature. An arched doorway ushers you into the dining area.

The master suite and home office are situated to the left of

the entry. The master suite is loaded with all the amenities you would like to enhance your comfort and convenience. They include his and her walk-in closets, a large sleeping area, personal access to the back deck, linen storage and a private bathroom with shower, vanity and oversized tub with a built-in planter.

The adjacent home office is sizable enough to run a small business from, and contains a walk-in closet. A half bath is across the hall.

The spacious walk-through kitchen features a walk-in pantry, island stove, trash compactor, garden window, eating bar and double ovens. A roomy breakfast nook is on one side of the kitchen and an arched

doorway leads to the dining room on the opposite side. Counter space is abundant.

A big family room-theater, with built-in entertainment center will provide hours of enjoyment for you and your guests. Two secondary bedrooms and another half bath are to the rear of the Enchanting.

A good-sized utility room, with built-in ironing board, completes the lower level. The two-car garage accommodates a handy shop/storage area with built-in workbench and a stairway to your own wine cellar.

The upper level of the Enchanting houses a sky lit guest suite that can serve overnight visitors or provide permanent quarters for an

older relative residing within the household. This floor is also fitted with a recreation room, full bathroom and a secluded loft. The railed balcony overlooks the living room below.

For a study plan of the ENCHANTING (335-043), send \$15 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (800) 562-1151. 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.

### Gateway of Plymouth CONDOMINIUMS

14720 Northville Rd.  
Plymouth Twp., MI 48170  
41 Luxury Condominiums

Located on Northville Rd. just south of Five Mile Rd. near the heart of Plymouth and scenic Hines Drive with nearby lakes, parks, walking trails and recreation areas to enjoy the wooded areas and nature preserves.

5 Mile Rd.	5 Mile Rd.
M 14	
Sheldon Rd.	Northville Rd.
	Haggerty Rd.

Stacked Ranches starting at \$229,000  
2 Bedrooms, 2 Full Baths, 1 Car Attached Garage, Basement

Town Homes starting at \$268,000  
2 & 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 2 Car Attached Garage, Full Basement

Model open daily from 12 to 5 pm  
**(734) 414-0161**

**ENCHANTING**  
335-043

# \$15,000 Reasons To Buy Here, Now!

**Buy A Fabulous New Condo In Canton And Get \$10,000 In Special Incentives\*\* - Plus \$5,000 In FREE Upgrades!\***

- Spacious 2 BR + den condos
- 2-Car attached garages
- Full basement with egress window
- Minutes from fantastic shopping, dining and parks
- Easy access to acclaimed Plymouth-Canton schools

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 <b>FARMINGTON HILLS</b> Spacious colonial. Foyer with circular staircase, carpet, hardwood & ceramic flooring thruout. Kit & brkfst nook overlook FR. Mstr suite w/ walk-in closet & private bath (jetted tub/ sep shower). Lib/den. Finished basement with wet bar. \$359,900 KIN97	 <b>CANTON</b> 5 BR colonial sought-after 1st floor laundry. Master suite has 2 walk-in closets. 5th bedroom could be office. All important systems are updated: roof, furnace, A/C, vinyl windows. Large backyard, UG sprinklers. \$279,900 GRE57	 <b>PLYMOUTH TWP</b> Updated 4 BR, 2 bath colonial with 1st floor master bedroom. Updates: furnace, air, hot WH 99, roof 97, (upper story & front gar 05) windows, electrical, vinyl side & trim, bath, kitchen. Features: gas fireplace, 1st floor laundry. \$239,900 SUZ71
 <b>CANTON</b> Gorgeous home, gourmet kitchen w/42" cabinets, hardwood floors, convection & standard oven; 2-story ceilings, 4 1/2 baths, 3 tone painting, 2 sided fireplace & dishwasher, central surround sound, fitness/play area. \$589,900 HAV85	 <b>PLYMOUTH TWP</b> Over 2800 sq. ft. of living space that included a complete finished walkout with a tropic design including tiki bar. Kitchen counters just installed, new wood floor, Wallside windows, roof w/tearoff, new front door, carpet & paint. \$335,500 BAR56	 <b>PLYMOUTH TWP</b> Updated colonial, hwd in foyer, kit & D/R. Fresh, neutral paint in foyer, hall & stairway. Updated kit w/nook. FR has corner fireplace & built-in bookcase. Newer main bath w/jetted tub. Newer windows & doorwall. Enjoy the spacious 80' yrd. \$264,900 MAP47

**PLYMOUTH TWP** 5 BR colonial sought-after 1st floor laundry. Master ste has 2 WICs. 5th BR could be office. All important systems are updated: roof, furnace, A/C, vinyl windows. Large backyard, UG sprinklers. \$279,900 GRE57

**WALLED LAKE** Beautiful 2 BR, 1.5 BA condo. Features include: C/A-2 patios, 1st flr laundry-fplc in LR, cath ceiling in LR, 1 car att gar, full basement. \$162,000 WIN03

**CANTON** Larger floor plan. Granite counter tops w/brkfst bar. Cath ceilings, loft/study overlooks GR. Prof fin bsmt. Anderson wood windows thruout, gas flr, surrounded by marble. FF Lau. \$203,900 HOR49

**DEARBORN** Large LR w/hardwood, fpl, beautiful kit w/gran, newer cabs, appls, brkfst/sun rm w/doorwall. Updates roof, furn, air cleaner, C/A, full bsmt w/ceramic tiled BA. Att garage. \$214,500 AMH5

**CANTON** Open living area incl GR, formal dining, kit & nook. Master ste w/WIC & BA w/dual sinks, soaking tub & sep shower. Den has French doors, but could be 3rd BR. 1st flr laundry. All appliances stay, att gar. \$178,500 MON67

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## Remerica Liberty kiosk

Remerica Liberty has opened a kiosk at Laurel Park Place mall, at Six Mile and Newburgh roads in Livonia. Remerica officials are pleased with the response to the kiosk, located in the central area of the mall between Von Maur and Parisian department stores.

## Free Homebuyer Seminar

Shore Mortgage and Red Carpet Keim Home Choice Inc. are presenting a free Homebuyer Seminar 5-7 p.m. Thursdays, March 23 and 30 and April 6, at Red Carpet Keim Home Choice, 21599 W.

11 Mile, one block east of Lahser, Southfield. Reservations are required. Call (248) 433-4370, Ext. 281.

## Education Seminars

The Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan is sponsoring the following:

- 8 a.m. to noon Tuesday, March 21, "Customer Service & Homeowner Relations" at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, Farmington Hills. Registration fees, are \$145 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members and guests. (248) 862-1033.
- 6-10 p.m. Thursday, March 23, "Wild Game Dinner and Texas Hold 'em Tournament" at St. John's Armenian Cultural Center,

22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. Registration fees, including dinner, are \$65 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$80 for guests and non-members. Table top sponsors are available for \$300. Bar sponsorships are available for \$500. (248) 862-1060.

■ 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, March 24, "Builder's License Preparation Course" at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, Farmington Hills. Registration fees are \$200 per class for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members, guests and nonmembers. (248) 862-1033.

■ 8:30-10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 28, "Workplace Spanish for Builders and Contractors" at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite

100, Farmington Hills. Registration fees, including one-hour audio CD, are \$50 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members, \$75 for guests and non-members. (248) 862-1033.

## Oakland Builders Institute

Oakland Builders Institute will offer the following classes:

- 6-10 p.m. Monday/Wednesday, March 27, 29, April 3 and 5, "How To Build Your Own Home," Tyndall Center, 14501 Talbot St., Oak Park, \$190 plus \$30 for two course textbooks. Pre-registration is required by Thursday, March 23, Berkley Community Education. (248) 837-8900.
- 6-10 p.m.

Monday/Wednesday, March 27, 29, April 3 & 5 "Michigan State Builder's License Examination," at Walled Lake Middle School, 46720 W. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake. \$199 plus \$20 for course textbook and sample questions. Pre-registration is required no later than Thursday, March 23, Walled Lake Community Education. (248) 837-8900.

■ 6-10 p.m. Tuesday/Thursday, April 4, 6, 11, 13 "Michigan State Builder's License Examination," at Tinkham Center, 450 S. Venoy, Westland. \$190 plus \$20 for course textbook and sample questions. Pre-registration is required no later than Friday, March 31, Wayne-Westland Community Education. (734) 419-2426.

■ 6-10 p.m.

Monday/Wednesday, April 3, 5, 10, 12 "How To Build Your Own Home," Henry Ford Community College - Dearborn Heights Campus, 22586 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights, \$189 plus \$30 for two course textbooks for residents and \$208 plus \$30 for nonresidents. Pre-registration is required by Thursday, March 30, Henry Ford Community College. (313) 317-1500.

■ 6-10 p.m. Tuesday/Thursday, April 4, 6, 11, 13, "How To Build Your Own Home," Holmes Middle School, 16200 Newburgh, Livonia, \$201 plus \$30 for two course textbooks. Pre-registration is required by Friday, March 31, Livonia Community Education. (734) 744-2602.

# Decorative concrete durable, versatile

BY THE MICHIGAN CONCRETE ASSOCIATION

**Q: We're planning on redoing our kitchen this spring and would like to know more about using decorative concrete for countertops. How does it compare with other materials like granite or marble?**

**A:** Decorative concrete is becoming a very popular alternative material for such interior home uses as countertops, sinks, floors, fireplace surrounds and bathtubs. Homeowners are drawn to

decorative concrete because it offers three major advantages over other materials:

- **Versatility** - Concrete can be shaped into any pattern and given almost any color and texture. With decorative concrete, you literally have an unlimited number of color choices to choose from, allowing you to coordinate a surface with other colors and materials in a room. In general performance and cost, concrete compares favorably with both solid-surface synthetics (such as

Corian and Avonite) and stone (granite, marble and limestone), but isn't as limited on color, thickness or natural patterning.

Synthetic surfaces are sold in sheet form, stone in slabs and tiles, and both are limited to standard thicknesses. But because concrete is cast in molds, it can include subtle texturing, decorative objects (such as pieces of metal, fossils, glass or even coins), changes of contour, and greater thickness; it can even form integrally cast sinks of almost unlimited shape.

■ **Durability** - Concrete is one of the oldest, strongest and most durable materials that humans have ever made. It can stand up to a variety of weather conditions and heavy usage, making it well suited for both exterior and interior uses.

■ **Cost** - For most applications, decorative concrete costs less than stone, marble or tile. Some contractors estimate that decorative concrete costs one-third less than the cost of other materials. This combination of features is making decorative concrete

increasingly popular among style-conscious homeowners looking for an alternative to more costly and less durable materials. For more information about decorative concrete, visit the Michigan Concrete Association

Web site at <http://www.miconcrete.org/page.cfm/75/>.

Prepared by the Michigan Concrete Association, a nonprofit organization serving the Michigan ready-mix concrete industry.

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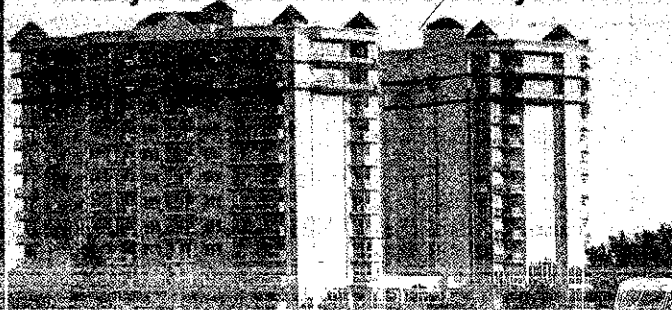
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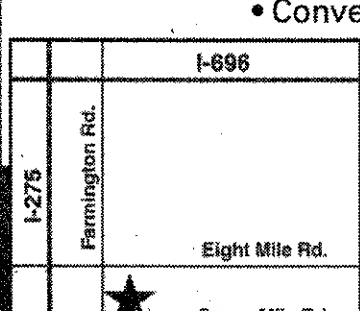
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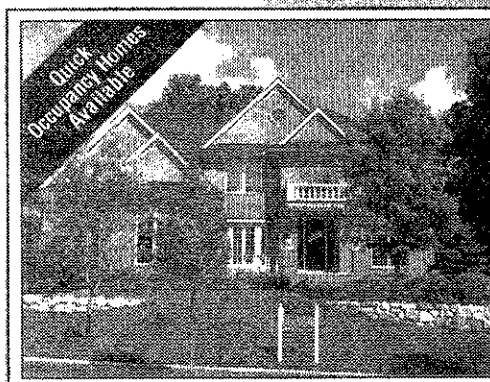


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Greenbriar is located in Southeastern Livonia, at the Northeast corner of Wixom Road and Loon Lake Road.

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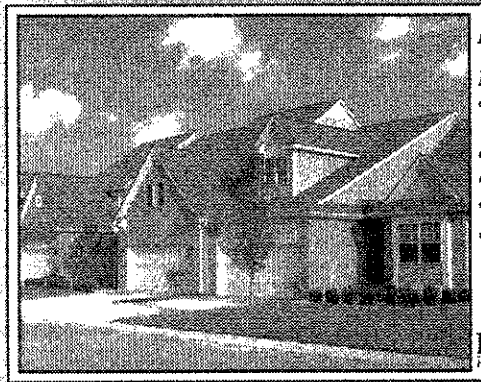
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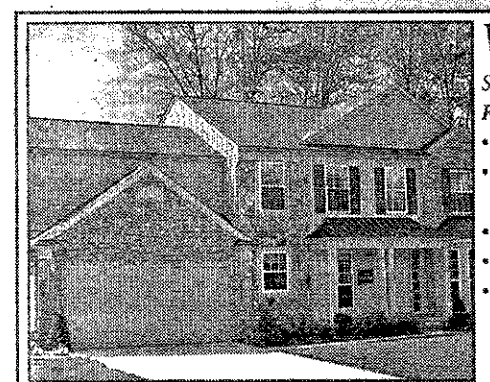
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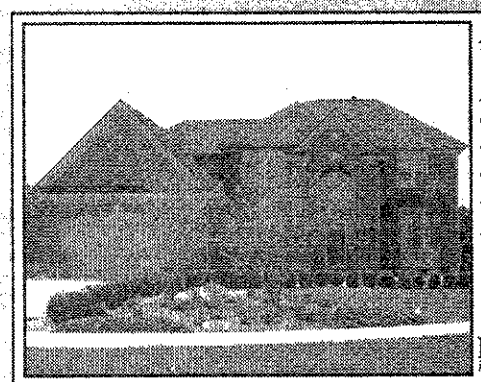
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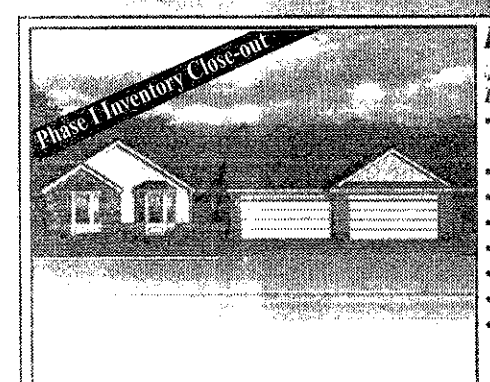
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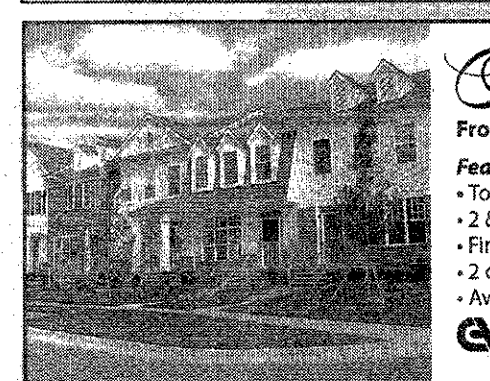
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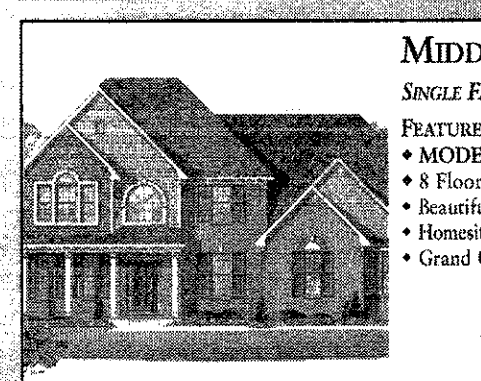
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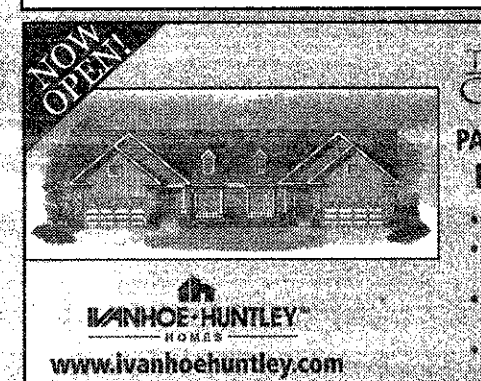
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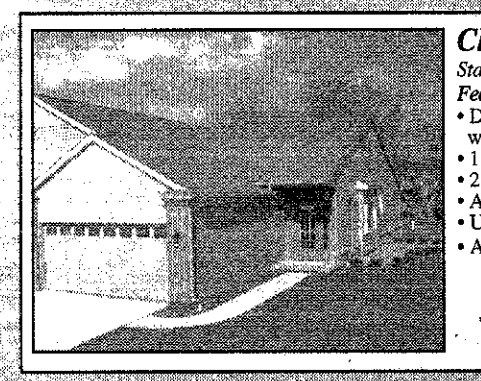
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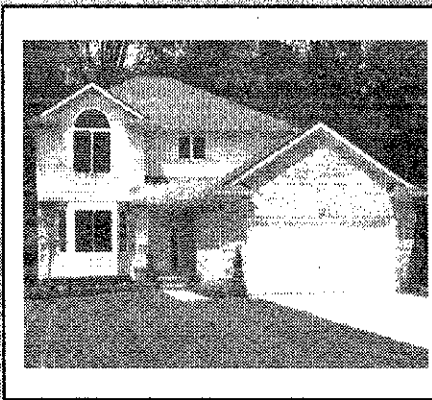
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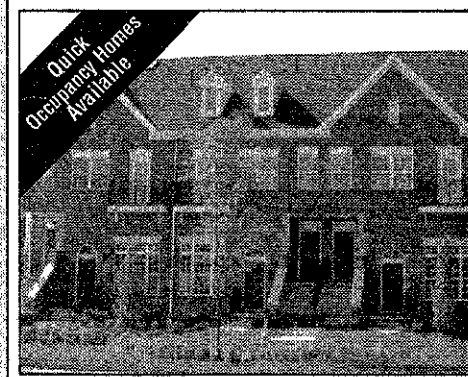


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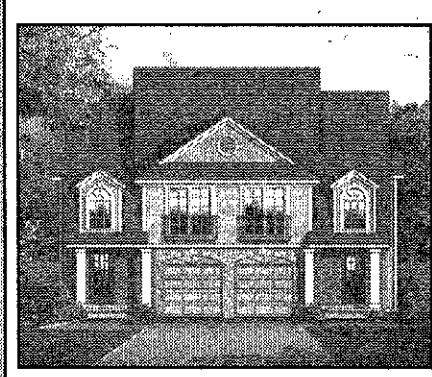


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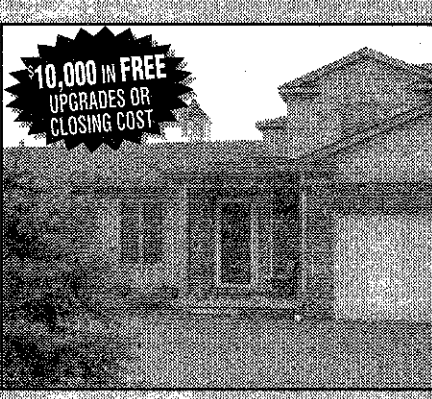
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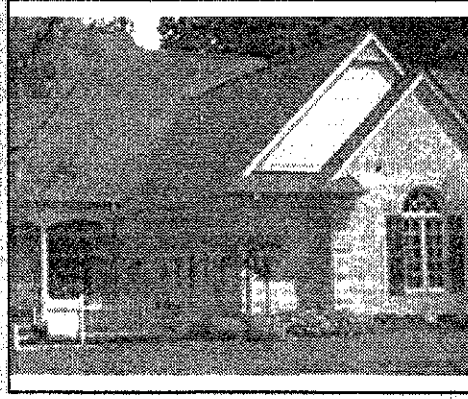
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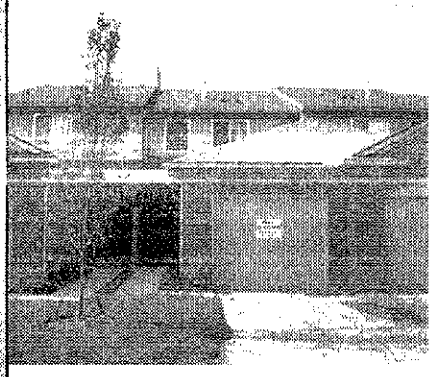
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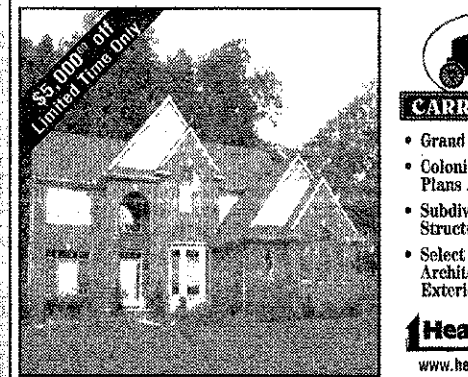
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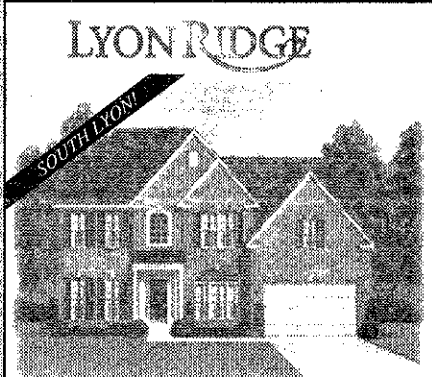


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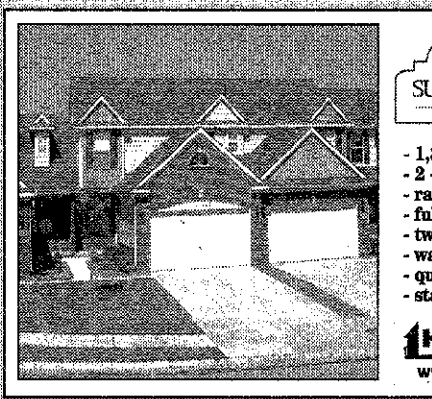
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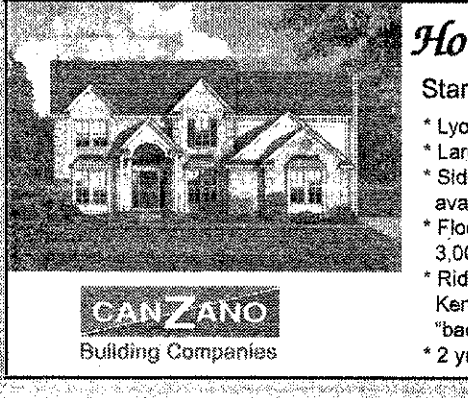


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- ranches and first-floor masters
- full basements
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- walkouts and daylights available
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Starting from the Low \$300's

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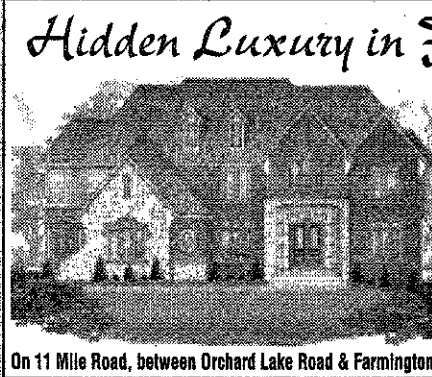
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# Toro professional has expert advice on lawn fertilization

## ASSESS YOUR NEEDS

The first step toward good lawn fertilization is to have your soil tested if you suspect problems. A soil test will let you know what types of nutrients your lawn needs to develop the green, lush turf every homeowner is after. Your local garden center or county extension service can supply you with directions for soil testing.

## A NUMBERS GAME

Once you know what your soil needs, choosing a fertilizer brings on another question. What exactly do those numbers on the bag mean? The three numbers represent the percentage of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in each bag. Talk with your local county extension agent to determine which fertilizers best match your lawn's needs.

For cool season grasses, fall is the best time to fertilize. In the fall, cool season grasses are busy storing energy to make it through the winter and to spur growth in the spring. This energy storing process can't take place if there aren't adequate nutrients available.

"During the fall your cool season grass is busy recovering from summer stress," said Dr. Van Cline, agronomist for The Toro Company. "It's important to reinvigorate turf following the high temperatures of summer by stimulating growth. By fertilizing in the fall you're sending your lawn into the

winter season in good shape. Once spring hits, it'll be ready to go."

Cline recommends applying one third of a lawn's total annual fertilizer in the spring and two thirds in the fall.

## THINK SPRING FOR WARM SEASON GRASSES

Warm season grasses grow most vigorously in the heat of the summer.

Fertilizing in late spring and during the summer months is your best bet. "Feed your lawn when it is most active," said Cline.

## TWICE AS MUCH IS NOT TWICE AS GOOD

One of the biggest mistakes homeowners make when fertilizing their lawn is to over fertilize. More is not better, in fact it can be worse. Over fertilizing can stimulate too much top growth at the expense of root growth. Over fertilizing in a single application can also burn leaf tissue.

"Read the label for your particular brand," suggested Cline. "One-half pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet is a good rule of thumb for a single application."

Cline also suggests more frequent, lighter applications.

"Many people decide to give their lawns a heavy dose of fertilizer in the spring. The process actually works better if you spread your applications out to three or four times per year in smaller doses."

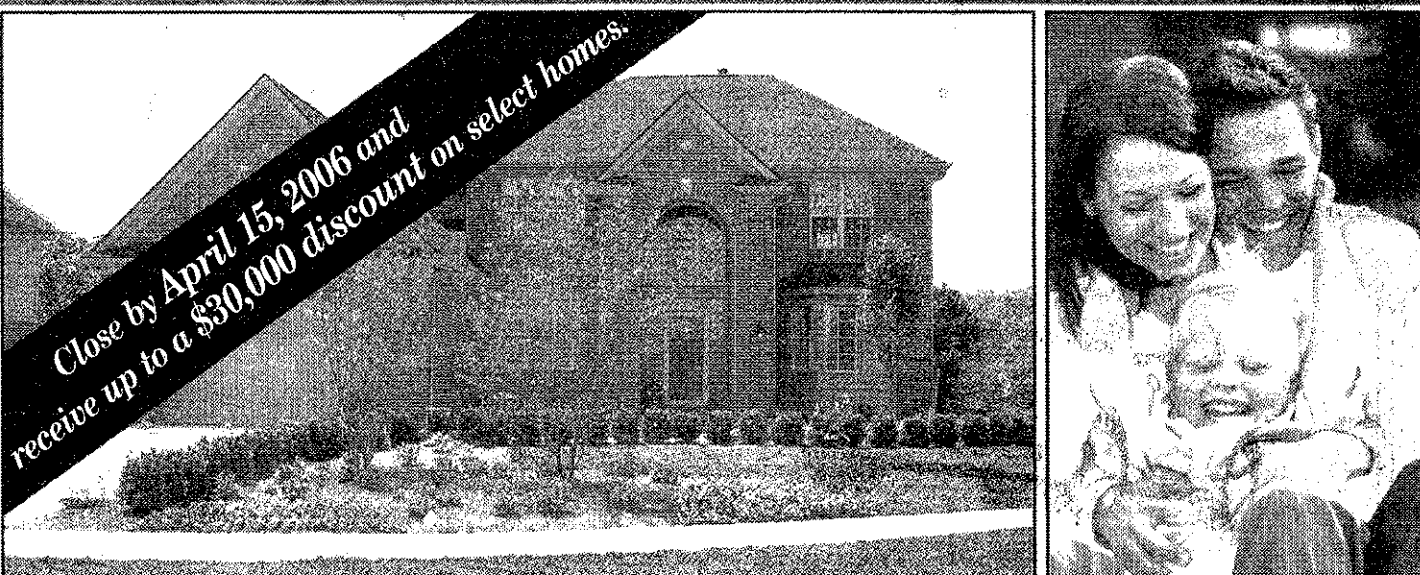
For more information on fertilizing your lawn check out

Reducing Lawn Maintenance on [www.yardcare.com](http://www.yardcare.com).

Yardcare.com is a combined effort of The Toro Company

and select experts in the fields of lawn care, gardening and landscape design.

## LUXURIOUS living at an AFFORDABLE price, in LIVONIA'S most DESIRABLE area.



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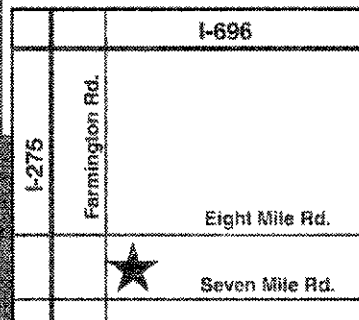
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408 Main Street • Frankfort, MI 49635  
**231-352-7123**  
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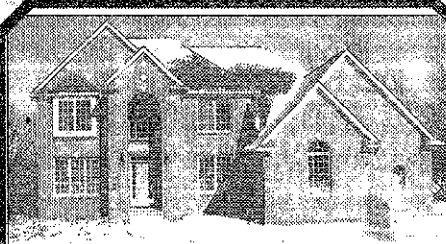


**FRANKFORT**  
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**NORTHERN MICHIGAN**  
150' of Lake Michigan Frontage

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Private association

Unique Ranch floor plan with full finished basement. Must see to appreciate. Special features include a custom masonry gas fireplace, extensive built-in cabinetry, security system, sprinkler system. Beautifully landscaped gardens, home is surrounded in a lovely setting of mature trees and perennial gardens. 2 car attached garage. 5 bedrooms, 3 baths. Private Guest quarters in lower level. Just minutes to downtown Charlevoix and next door to the Charlevoix Country Club. \$1,300,000.

**Jack VanTreese & Associates**  
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[jack@jackvantreese.com](mailto:jack@jackvantreese.com)




**Charming Brand New Cottage**  
With 500' of shared Lake Charlevoix access.

Quality craftsmanship is evident throughout this home from the hardwood, tile & slate floors to the large open kitchen with GE Profile stainless steel appliances. 2 bedrooms. 2 baths plus loft area. Very nice, private wood view setting just steps from quaint village of Horton Bay. Home is located at 04916 Boyne City Road, Boyne City, MI (Northern Michigan - Charlevoix County)

**\$310,000**

Offered by:  
**Jack VanTreese & Associates**  
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SPECTACULAR CUSTOM HOME

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at Bill Brown Ford



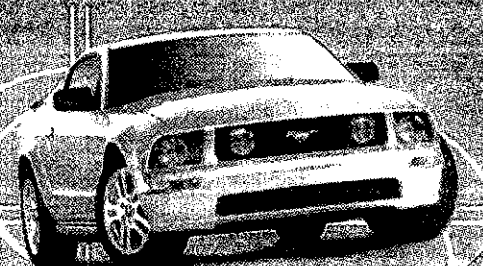
**FOCUS ZX5 SES**

\$1000 Down or ZERO Down with Z-Plan Voucher

**\$143\***  
PER MONTH/24 MO. LEASE

BUY FOR \$13,049 AT THIS PRICE \$150 AVAILABLE

*Wow!*



**MUSTANG PONY PACKAGE!**

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**FUSION SE SPORT!**

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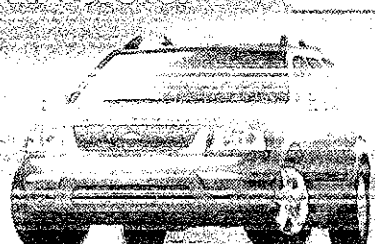
**EXPLORER XLT**

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**\$212\***  
PER MONTH/24 MO. LEASE

BUY FOR \$22,250 AT THIS PRICE \$200 AVAILABLE

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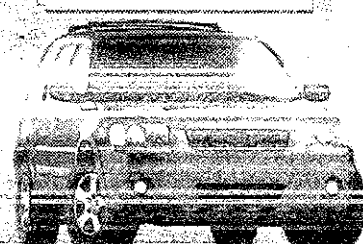
**FREESTYLE SE!**

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**\$228\***  
PER MONTH/24 MO. LEASE

BUY FOR \$16,000 AT THIS PRICE \$140 AVAILABLE

*Wow!*



**ESCAPE XLT WITH SUN & SOUND!**

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**FIVE HUNDRED SE!**

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**\$225\***  
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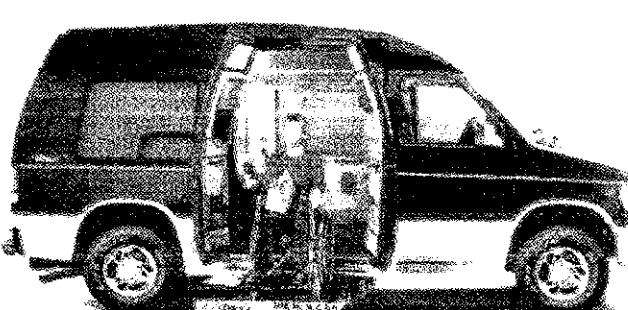
**F150 XLT SUPER CAB!**

\$1000 Down or ZERO Down with Z-Plan Voucher

**\$168\***  
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BUY FOR \$23,865 AT THIS PRICE \$210 AVAILABLE

*Wow!*



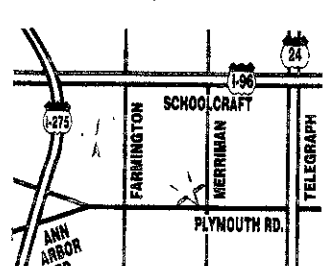
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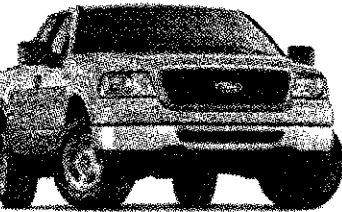




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3.0 24v V6, 6 speed auto, AM/FM 6 CD stereo, dual auto air, fog lamps, traction control, leather. Stock #GC7071  
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2.3L engine, automatic air, AM/FM, MP3, 6 disc CD, aluminum wheels, fog lamps, SE sport pkg, silver frost. Stock #6C8095

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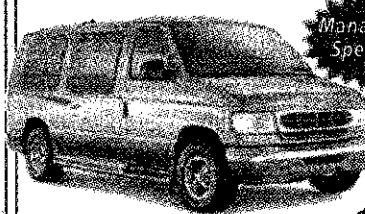
## 2006 FREESTYLE SEL



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\*Purchase price based on Ford A-Plan plus tax, title, license, destination. Includes all rebates and owner loyalty programs. Expires 3/31/06.  
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**SIGN & DRIVE AWAY!**

### 2006 MERCURY MARINER 4 WD



V6, luxury group, privacy glass, air, alum wheels, AM/FM CD stereo, 6 way power seat, auto, power moonroof. Stock #6T4058

**BUY \$20,956\* OR LEASE \$227\*<sup>36 mo</sup>**  
**SIGN & DRIVE AWAY!**

### 2006 MARK LT 4X4



5.4 V8, 4 speed automatic, air, 18" chrome wheels, leather, audiophile, 6 disc CD, chrome running boards, lim. slip axle, power moonroof & sliding rear window, trailer tow package.

**BUY \$35,195\* OR LEASE \$368\*<sup>24 mo</sup>**

### NEW 2006 MERCURY MONTEGO



Luxury, power moonroof, V-6, traction control, leather seating, audio controls. Stock #6C5087

**BUY \$20,636\* OR LEASE \$298\*\*<sup>36 mo</sup>**

### NEW 2006 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER PREMIER AWD



Adjustable pedals, V8, keyless entry, security group, heated leather seats, power adj w/ memory. Stock #6T3009

**BUY \$27,973\* OR LEASE \$359\*\*<sup>36 mo</sup>**

### USED CAR

**MANAGER'S SPECIAL PRICING**

**LINCOLN MERCURY CERTIFIED USED VEHICLES**

- 115 point inspection
- 6 year/75,000 mile Limited Warranty
- Roadside assistance
- New Wiper Blades
- Full Tank of Fuel
- Oil and Filter Change Preferred Interest Rates

### WHY BUY NORTH BROTHERS?

**NORTH BROTHERS OFFERS:**

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- Free Courtesy Shuttle • On-Site Credit Specialist
- Award Winning Service, Parts Departments and Collision Repair

**NORTH BROS**

ESTABLISHED 1936

### NORTH BROTHERS USED VEHICLES

- 115 point inspection
- 3 Month/4,000 mile Limited Warranty
- Extended Warranties Available
- Roadside assistance
- Full Tank of Fuel
- New Floor Mats
- Oil and Filter Change

### NORTH BROTHERS gives you an extra \$500<sup>00</sup> for your trade-in

Prior sales Excluded - EXPIRES 3/31/06

<b>2005 LACROSSE</b> 16,000 miles <b>\$19,588</b>	<b>2005 GRAND PRIX</b> GTP, 17,000 miles <b>\$19,988</b>	<b>2004 MARAUDER</b> Loaded <b>\$23,588</b>	<b>2004 SEBRING</b> 21,000 miles <b>\$11,688</b>	<b>2004 JAGUAR</b> 15,000 miles <b>\$29,988</b>	<b>2004 VOLVO</b> Loaded, moon <b>\$14,988</b>	<b>2003 GRAND MARQUIS</b> 7,000 miles <b>\$13,988</b>	<b>2002 MUSTANG GT</b> Convertible <b>\$17,388</b>
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\*Purchase price based on Ford A-Plan plus tax, title, license, destination. Includes all rebates and owner loyalty programs. Expires 3/31/06.  
\*\*Payment plus tax, inc. all rebates and loyalty programs. 10,500 miles/year. Additional charge for excess mileage & wear & tear. Must have approved credit thru Ford Credit. Tier 0. Mountaineer includes Sable Loyalty Exp. 3/31/06.

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Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday..... 9-6  
Saturday..... 9-3

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Serving You For Almost 50 Years

**FORD MATCHES YOUR DOWN PAYMENT!!!  
UP TO \$1000.00!!!+**

REBATES UP TO \$6000 or 0% APR up to 72 mos. On select models.



Come In & See The ALL NEW 2007 FORD SPORT TRAC!

Free Tank Of Gas With Every Purchase!

**2006 F-150 SUPERCAB 4x4 XLT**  
MATCH \$1000 DOWN PAYMENT!  
Stock #61941

Free SIRIUS Satellite Radio for 6 Months!

Pref Equipment Package 507A, XLT series, 5.4 L EFI V8 engine, electronic 4-speed automatic O/D transmission, P255/70R17 OWL all-terrain tires, 3.55 ratio limited slip axle, 7200# GVWR package, electronic shift-on-the-fly, sliding rear window, keyless entry key pad, 17" mach aluminum with paint accents, 35.7 gallon fuel tank

**TOW & GO**

Was \$34,970 **NOW \$23,872<sup>60</sup>**

24 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL	SIGN & DRIVE \$185 <sup>69</sup> **	ZERO DOWN \$167 <sup>56</sup> **	\$1000 DOWN \$125 <sup>69</sup> **
	\$0 DUE AT SIGNING	\$440.65 DUE AT SIGNING	\$1456.28 DUE AT SIGNING

**2006 EXPLORER 4x4 XLT**  
MATCH \$1000 DOWN PAYMENT!  
Stock #60388

LH/RH mirror with approach, air conditioning - CFC free, floor mats, C/K carpet, 4.0L SOHC V6 engine, 5-speed automatic O/C transmission, P235/70R16 A/S OWL tires, 3.73 ratio regular axle, trailer tow package, roof rail cross bars, convenience group, electrochromatic mirror, auto lamp headlights, key pad

**The Best Explorer Ever**

Was \$31,605 **NOW \$23,916<sup>55</sup>**

24 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL	SIGN & DRIVE \$271 <sup>02</sup> **	ZERO DOWN \$249 <sup>19</sup> **	\$1000 DOWN \$207 <sup>12</sup> **
	\$0 DUE AT SIGNING	\$527.64 DUE AT SIGNING	\$1542.55 DUE AT SIGNING

**2006 FUSION SE**  
Stock #62030

2.3L I4 engine, 5-speed automatic transmission, P205/60R16 all season tires, SE sport package, AM/FM/MP3 6 CDX player w/clock, aluminum wheels 16x6.5, fog lamps, anti-lock brakes

Was \$20,395 **NOW \$16,273<sup>60</sup>**

24 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL	SIGN & DRIVE \$232 <sup>73</sup> **	ZERO DOWN \$213 <sup>90</sup> **	\$1000 DOWN \$169 <sup>49</sup> **
	\$0 DUE AT SIGNING	\$429.73 DUE AT SIGNING	\$1442.66 DUE AT SIGNING

**2006 FOCUS 4DR ZX4 SES**  
Stock #61775

Rear spoiler, power side window, convenience group, integrated fog lamps CFC-free air conditioning, 16" alloy wheels, 2.0L DOHC engine, automatic transaxle, P205/50R16 BSW tire, safety package, anti-lock brakes, side impact air bags

Was \$17,885 **NOW \$13,322<sup>36</sup>**

24 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL	SIGN & DRIVE \$177 <sup>12</sup> **	ZERO DOWN \$162 <sup>75</sup> **	\$500 DOWN \$141 <sup>61</sup> **
	\$0 DUE AT SIGNING	\$345.52 DUE AT SIGNING	\$653.11 DUE AT SIGNING

**2006 ESCAPE XLT FWD**  
Stock #62020

Power 6-way driver seat, floor mats-front and rear, speed control, A/C, perimeter alarm, privacy glass, Duratec 2.3L I4 engine, 4 speed auto O/D trans, P235/70R16 A/S BSW tires, power moonroof w/shade, mini-oh console w/sunglass bin, cargo conv group, rear cargo storage bin, retractable cargo cover, audiophile/6-CD in dash/sat cap

Was \$24,480 **NOW \$18,623<sup>36</sup>**

24 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL	SIGN & DRIVE \$264 <sup>59</sup> **	ZERO DOWN \$244 <sup>85</sup> **	\$1000 DOWN \$201 <sup>57</sup> **
	\$0 DUE AT SIGNING	\$462.54 DUE AT SIGNING	\$1476.66 DUE AT SIGNING

**2006 MUSTANG COUPE**  
Stock #61320

Driver & pass air bags, AM/FM stereo/6-CD in dash/MP3, power driver's seat, manual A/C, rear wndw defrost, 4.0L SOHC V6 engine, 5-speed auto trans, V6 pony pkg, P235/55R17 A/S tire, frt floor mats Mustang logo, rear deck lid spoiler, tape strip delete, 17" alum mini spare whl/tire, anti-lock brakes, trac cntrl, 17" pntd cast alum, pony center cap, int upgrade pkg, satin alum panel, wheel locking kit

Was \$23,660 **NOW \$19,146<sup>20</sup>**

24 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL	SIGN & DRIVE \$276 <sup>57</sup> **	ZERO DOWN \$258 <sup>77</sup> **	\$500 DOWN \$237 <sup>14</sup> **
	\$0 DUE AT SIGNING	\$417.31 DUE AT SIGNING	\$1431.43 DUE AT SIGNING

**2006 FIVE HUNDRED FWD SEL**  
Stock #62075

No Charge Leather Seats  
Ford Release/Renewal Special Bonus

Dual auto air conditioning, 17 x 7 7-sp alum w/lug nuts, fog lamps, message center, steering wheel audio controls, 3.0L 4V V6 Duratec engine, auto 6-speed transmission, P215/60R17 BSW tires, storage compartment in arm rest, leather seating, adjustable pedals

Was \$25,980 **NOW \$19,495<sup>00</sup>**

24 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL	SIGN & DRIVE \$243 <sup>12</sup> **	ZERO DOWN \$225 <sup>12</sup> **	\$500 DOWN \$203 <sup>14</sup> **
	\$0 DUE AT SIGNING	\$441.63 DUE AT SIGNING	\$948.86 DUE AT SIGNING

**2006 FREESTYLE SEL FWD**  
Stock #60715

No Charge Leather Seats  
Ford Release/Renewal Special Bonus

AM/FM/CDX6 MP3 radio, anti-lock brakes, msge cntrl, 17x7 5-spk bright alum whl, string whl audio cntrls, fog lamps, 3.0L 4V V6 Duratec engine, cont var trans, P215/65R17 BSW tires, 5.19 ratio reg axle, 50/50 3rd row split seat, frt row cmfrt pkg, pwr drv seat recliner, pass man lumbar & pwr st recliner, dual auto A/C, 60/40 split 3-pass 2nd row

Was \$28,710 **NOW \$21,926<sup>35</sup>**

24 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL	SIGN & DRIVE \$245 <sup>40</sup> **	ZERO DOWN \$226 <sup>77</sup> **	\$500 DOWN \$205 <sup>40</sup> **
	\$0 DUE AT SIGNING	\$443.40 DUE AT SIGNING	\$950.79 DUE AT SIGNING

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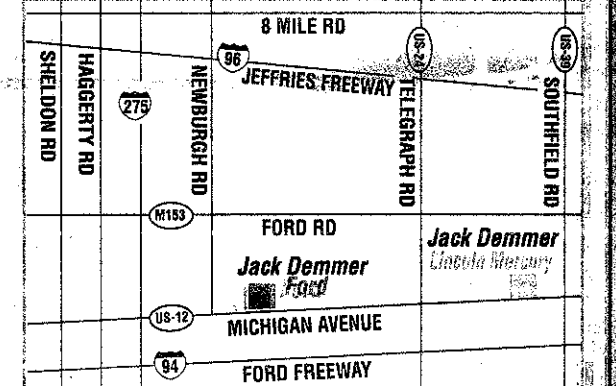
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