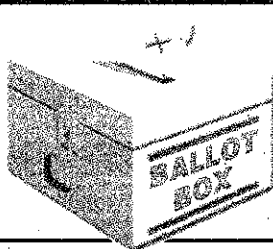




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How To Guide

Inside today's Observer



THURSDAY
October 26, 2006

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Irate residents put brakes on new Oakwood facility

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

Hundreds of Canton residents showed up at the Canton Planning Commission meeting Monday to protest a proposal by Dearborn-based Oakwood Healthcare Systems to build a major medical facility at the northwest corner of Beck and Geddes roads.

Oakwood has requested that the township alter a planned development district (PDD) agreement on 55 acres owned by Singh Development to allow it to build a medical facility that could be expanded to a full hospital in the future. Oakwood wants to purchase the property from Singh, which has an agreement with the

township to build single-family homes and apartments on the parcel of land.

The property is currently zoned for residential, and would have to be rezoned to medical office and hospital use for Oakwood to proceed with its plans.

By some estimates, about 500 people showed up Monday to protest the plan, saying the project would hurt property values and quality of life in an area of new homes.

The planning commission did not take action on the request, but rather tabled the issue to give Oakwood representatives a chance to answer some of the questions that were raised by residents at the meeting.

Canton Township Supervisor Tom

Yack said it may not matter, because he has requested that Singh officials withdraw the request to have the PDD altered, which would end the issue. Yack was not at the meeting Monday, but has watched the tape, and said the response from residents was enough to tell him the facility is not compatible with the area.

"Sometimes institutional uses such as schools or medical facilities are acceptable projects in these PDD areas. In this case, it's not an acceptable project," he said.

Still, Oakwood attorney Stephen Estey said Oakwood has every intention of coming back before the planning commission, probably in late November or early December. Right now, he said Oakwood is only plan-

ning a 55,000 square foot medical facility, similar to Oakwood's facility at Canton Center and Warren roads. He did acknowledge, however, if growth dictates it, there could be a hospital at the site, but it could be as much as a 12 year process. Even if that happens, though, he said 20 of the 55 acres would remain a preserved wetland with walking trails.

He said the residents should be happier with that proposal than Singh's plan to build multifamily apartments.

"This project would enhance the overall area," he said. "We believe a \$60-70 million medical facility is much more attractive than apartments for the homeowners in the area. We think it would be more ben-

eficial to their property values."

Resident Kiki Glenski, who lives on Wall Street directly next to the proposed facility, completely disagrees. She was one of many people who spoke up at Monday's meeting.

Glenski said Oakwood's plans are too vague, and she has no doubt that the goal is to build a massive hospital that could be as large as 800,000 square feet and include towers that could be six stories high. She said the township's master plan and current zoning are for residential and that should not change.

"Those of us who live here don't want this in our backyards," she said. "We have no problem with Oakwood

PLEASE SEE MEDICAL FACILITY, A4

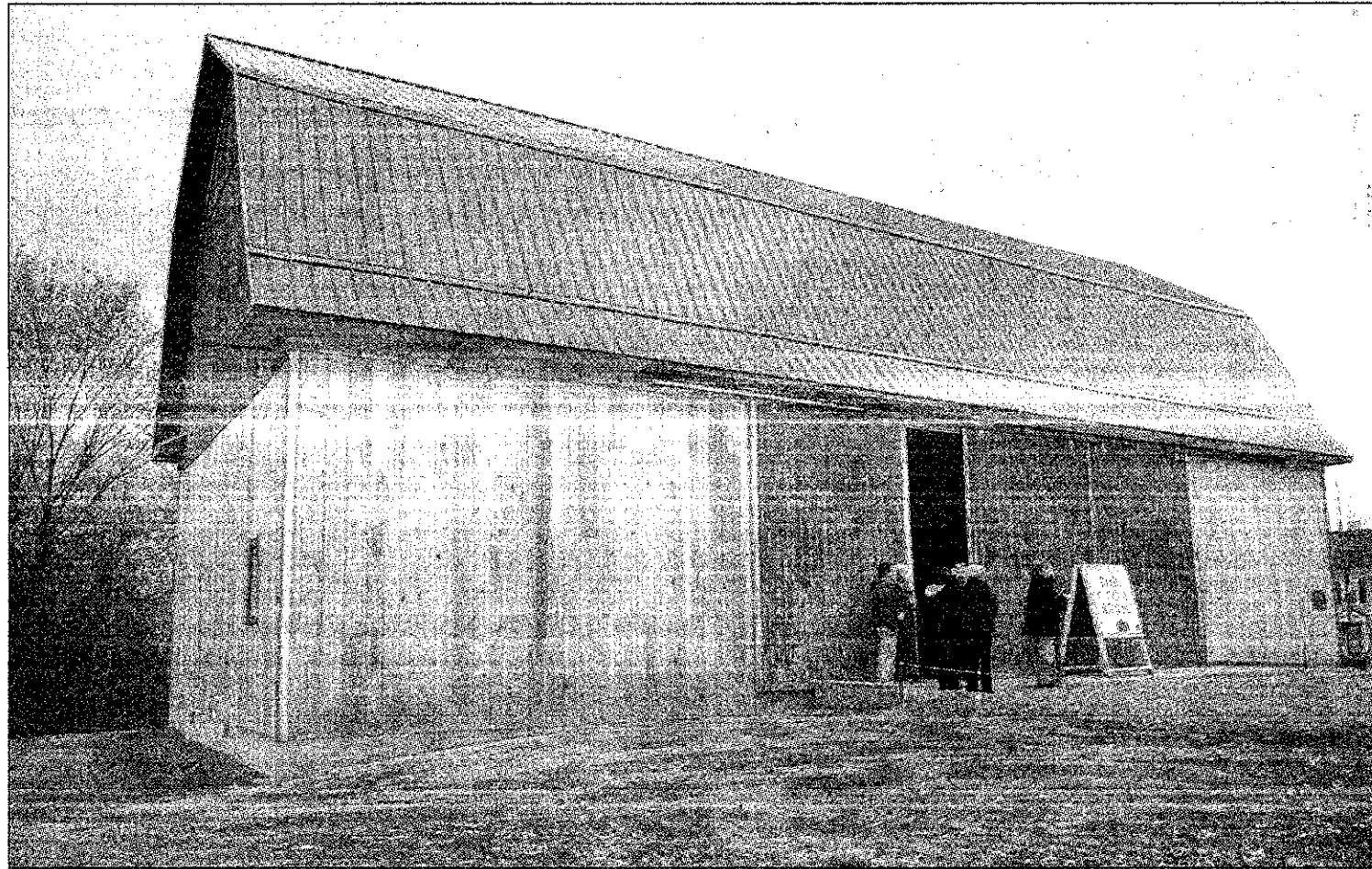
Police to conduct added patrols on Ford Road

The Canton Police Department will continue to conduct special traffic safety enforcements at various intersections along Ford Road in an effort to reduce the number of accidents occurring at high traffic crash areas.

The department has studied accident data to determine the worst areas, as well as the most frequent cause(s) of the accidents occurring there. Patrol officers will be working these problem intersections to make sure motorists are complying with local and state traffic laws, with a focus on the violations determined to be a frequent cause of accidents at the location.

Traffic safety enforcements will be held at various intersections on Ford Road, between Haggerty and Canton Center roads, beginning today from 3-6 p.m.; and then on Nov. 4 from 12:30-3:30 p.m. and Nov. 9 from 3-6 p.m. Signs will be posted at the intersection during the enforcement time, advising the motoring public of the activity. While working the intersections, officers will evaluate the traffic signals and signs in the area, notifying Wayne County Road Commission and/or the Michigan Department of Transportation of any problems or recommended changes.

The goal of this high visibility enforcement is to ensure compliance with state and local traffic laws, and bring public awareness to intersection safety.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Cady-Boyer Barn was rededicated Tuesday evening at its new location in Cherry Hill Village.

A new beginning Cady/Boyer Barn to remind future generations of Canton's farming past

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

For an old hay barn that came within a whisker of being demolished, there sure was a lot of interest in the rededication of the Cady Barn on Tuesday in Cherry Hill Village.

The old barn will now forever be known as the Cady/Boyer Barn. The name change was to recognize both the Cady family, which built the barn near Joy and McClumpha roads, and especially Bob Boyer, the longtime Canton resident who largely paid to have it moved to Cherry Hill Village.

More than a hundred people showed up for the rededication ceremony. So many people in fact, the old barn, which dates back to the Civil War, could barely hold everyone. For most

people, it was standing room only and fairly cold in the drafty barn. But nobody seemed to mind. They were there to honor Boyer for preserving an important piece of Canton's history.

Canton trustee Melissa McLaughlin, also a member of the Historic District Commission, has wanted for years to have a barn moved next to the historic Bartlett-Travis House in Cherry Hill Village. She said there are only a couple of barns left in Canton, which is why she had such praise for Boyer.

"I am so pleased this piece of American history will be here to be enjoyed for generations to come," said McLaughlin, who gave a brief presentation about the township's farming history.

PLEASE SEE BARN, A4



Longtime Canton resident Bob Boyer cuts the rope for the re-dedication of the Cady-Boyer Barn, watched by Joan Noricks, president of the Canton Community Foundation.



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Getting into the spirit

Cathy Fisher of Canton displays her Tiger pride as she and her husband Allan wait for the gates to open at Comerica Park Saturday before the start of game one of the World Series. The couple was celebrating their first wedding anniversary by attending the big game. For more World Series photos, please visit our Web site at www.hometownlife.com.

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Coming Sunday in Health

Health experts answer the question, How young is too young to go trick or treating?



Make a difference day

The Canton Goodfellows will be collecting any non-perishable food items, new warm clothing in all sizes from infant to adult, and new books and toys, to be distributed to the 500 children we will serve this year at Christmas. The group will have volunteers in the Pine Room at the Summit on Oct. 28. Santa Claus will be on hand from 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. to take photos with children, pets or adults for \$5. All proceeds go towards the program for the children.

Author visit

The Canton Historical Society will host author Rand Bitter, who penned *Minty and His Cavalry. A History of the Saber Brigade and its Commander*, on Wednesday, Nov. 8, at 7 p.m. at the Cherry Hill School, located at the corner of Ridge and Cherry Hill roads.

His book is a biography of General R.H.G. Minty, who was a commander of cavalry from Michigan during the Civil War. Originally with the 2nd, then 3rd, and finally 4th Michigan Cavalry regiments, he was assigned command of a Brigade composed of the 4th and several other units early in the war. This was the equivalent position of George Armstrong Custer (from Monroe), who commanded the "Michigan Brigade" of cavalry. Minty's men fought in the western theater (Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama), and were the ones who captured Confederate President Jefferson Davis as he was fleeing after Lincoln's assas-

ination. Minty also opened and closed the battle of Chickamauga in another memorable episode.

The book consists of his pre-war background, and the writings from his own hand (as well as those of his several closest officers) about their experiences in the war, and concludes with the "soap-opera story" of his post-war years. Unlike Custer, his fame was not perpetuated by a massacre and a promoting widow.

Several men from Plymouth and Canton served with Minty. Harvey Heywood was on his staff as a topographical engineer. Ephraim Truesdale was a private who built the house on Haggerty between Cherry Hill and Palmer.

For more information about the event, please call the museum at (734) 397-0088.

Cemetery cleanup

The Make a Difference Day Kinyon Cemetery Cleanup, sponsored by the Canton Civitans, will be 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 28. Many volunteers are needed to help clean up the historic Kinyon Cemetery (located at Gyde/Ridge roads). Bring your rakes, garden gloves and dress according to the weather. The cleanup will be held rain or shine.

To pre-register yourself or your group, contact Pat VanDusen at (734) 394-5193 or e-mail at pvandusen@canton-mi.org.

A toast to Canton

A wine and food tasting event to benefit the Canton Historical Society, Canton Christmas in Action and the Leadership

Canton Alumni Scholarship Fund is scheduled for 7-9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27, at Waltonwood at Cherry Hill.

There will be approximately 20 wine tables with a wide variety of red and white wines. There will also be beer and non-alcoholic beverages available for tasting. A variety of hors d'oeuvres provided by Holiday Market is also included in the ticket price. Space is limited to 300 guests.

Tickets are \$35 in advance, and, if available, \$40 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at Holiday Market and the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

The event is sponsored by Holiday Market, Waltonwood at Cherry Hill and the Leadership Canton Alumni Association in cooperation with the Canton Chamber of Commerce and Charter Township of Canton. For more information, call the Canton Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-4040.

Newcomers special event

The Canton Newcomers, a social, civic and charitable organization, whose motto is "where neighbors become friends," will be hosting their 3rd Annual Home Based Business Showcase & Silent Auction 6-8 p.m. on Nov. 1 at the Sunflower Clubhouse at 45800 Hanford (west of Canton Center). The Home-Based Business Showcase will feature 12 Newcomer consultants. The silent auction will have items donated from more than 30 local businesses. A portion of the proceeds from the Business Showcase and all of the proceeds from the silent auction



Manager of the year

Great Clips Inc. has selected Pat Cantrell (right), a salon manager in Canton, to receive the company's annual Manager of the Year Award, which recognizes excellence in customer service, salon management and sales. The honor was announced last month at the Great Clips convention in Minneapolis, where the company is headquartered. Cantrell, shown here accepting the award from Great Clips CEO Ray Barton and President Rhoda Olsen, has managed the Canton Premier Center Great Clips salon since 2003. "Receiving this award is a great honor," Cantrell said. "We're consistent and helpful. Our team is awesome. Field staff send franchisees to our salon for training because we're a well-run salon."

will benefit Starfish Family Services.

The Newcomers will also have sign-ups for all of our interest group activities including Bunko, Playgroups, Euchre, Couples Social, Men's Poker, Game Night, Scrapbooking and more. For more information, including a complimentary Newcomer newsletter, please visit CantonNewcomers.org, or call (734) 981-1715. Remember, you don't have to be "new" to be a Newcomer.

Destination Theatre

Destination Theatre's musical "Little Shop of Horrors" will

arrive just in time for Halloween. The theater group will be presenting the cult favorite at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill during the next two weekends, beginning Friday, Oct. 27 at 8 p.m. Performances are also scheduled for 8 p.m. on Oct. 28, and Nov. 3-4. Tickets are \$19 for adults and \$16 for students and seniors.

There will also be special-priced matinee performance at 2 p.m. on Oct. 28, at which all seats will cost \$15 (the Nov. 2 performance will also be just \$15).

To reserve tickets, call (734) 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460. Please visit the Web site www.destinationtheatre.org

more information.

Holiday Extravaganza

The Plymouth/Canton Direct Selling Women's Alliance (PCDSWA) invites shoppers to a day of shopping the easy way, where Arbonne, Creative Memories, Daisy Blue Naturals, Lia Sophia, Romance 101, Southern Living at Home and Warm Spirit will be available.

The event takes place 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at the Canton Chamber of Commerce, 45525 Hanford.

The DSWA promotes a spirit of cooperation, mutual support and respect for each individual's desire for success in a no cross recruitment atmosphere. For more information, go to www.dswa.org or contact the PCDSWA at pcdswa@yahoo.com or call (734) 667-2930.

Rummage sale

Grace Lutheran Church is having its annual Rummage & Bake Sale 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, at 46001 Warren (between Canton Center and Beck) in Canton.

All proceeds will be used to benefit the local community in outreach activities.

Bentley Fall Fun Fest

From 5:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27, Bentley Elementary School at 1100 S. Sheldon Road is having its Fall Fun Fest. There will be games, food, and a haunted house. To kick off the event there will be a costume parade at 5:30 p.m. Tickets, which are three for a \$1, will be sold at the door. The event is being sponsored by the Bentley P.T.O.

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Physical Therapy UPDATE
Hands On Center
Presented by Hands On Center For Physical Therapy

PREGNANCIES THAT GO SWIMMINGLY

More than one-third of pregnant women report experiencing back pain, which places them at increased risk of experiencing this type of pain later in life. While some may engage in weight-bearing aerobic activity as a means of strengthening supporting muscles and relieving back pain, research shows that they may be better served by water aerobics. According to a recent study by Swedish researchers, healthy pregnant women who engaged in water-aerobics once weekly reported less back pain. In addition, the

weekly water-aerobics sessions helped them miss less work than women who participated in weekly land-based exercise. This study suggests that the buoyancy of the water helped the pregnant women exercise to greater benefit.

For further information about today's column, call the HANDS ON CENTER FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY at 455-8370 to schedule an appointment. We are located at 650 South Main Street in downtown Plymouth. We have easy access and parking. New patients are gladly accepted.

P.S. Water therapy may also be helpful for overweight individuals or those with arthritis.

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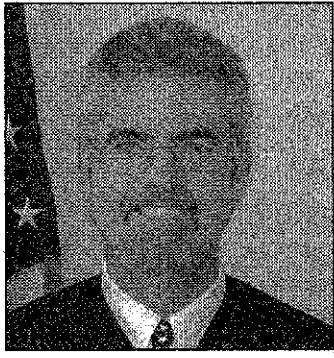
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Incumbent, challenger vie for seat on 35th District bench

Judge calls experience key in vote

Challenger emphasizes consistency

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER



Ron Lowe

Citing his 12 years of experience sitting on the bench and doling out justice, 35th District Court Judge Ron Lowe believes that's the key why voters in the Plymouths, Northvilles and Canton Township should return him to the bench for another six years in the Nov. 7 election.

"With 12 years of doing the job and trying to do it well, you can't help but learn something and the right way of doing it," Lowe said. "If you have someone with 12 years of experience and someone with zero, voters at least know they have a known quantity and some experience."

Lowe said he not only hands out rulings in his courtroom, but also takes the opportunity to educate those who stand before him.

"If I'm sitting in the courtroom and I have a chance to educate them, I will do that," Lowe said. "If you were ever to spend time in my courtroom, I probably give an inordinate amount of time in formal hearings, bench trials and jury trials educating people."

"There are lawyers who have told me the reason they're supporting me is because they've watch me sit on the bench and struggle with a decision," he said. "They tell me 'I realized you heard me, you understood me, did the homework, and I've never been disappointed by your decision. It's not always what I wanted, but I'm not disappointed.'"

Lowe, who was Plymouth

city attorney for a dozen years before winning a seat on the 35th District Court bench, said he lives by the philosophy handed down by his father, also an attorney.

"My father taught me to find out the facts, apply the law to the facts and let the cards lay where they may," Lowe said. "The law will always be the top priority."

As with all entities in Michigan, 35th District Court is facing a budget crunch, and Lowe said it's time to put everything on the table to curb expenses, including the third judgeship which was awarded by the state legislature four years ago.

"The salary is paid for by the state, but you have to figure out how much it costs to pay for the court officer, the court reporter and other incidental expenses, like health insurance," Lowe said.

"That's \$200,000 in expenditures out of a \$4 million budget. You have to look at it."

"The magistrate's position. You've got to ask yourself, could the three judges do it without a magistrate?"

questioned Lowe. "Of course we could. That would mean each judge would have to work in the afternoon one week out of a three-week rotation, saving money."

Lowe also said while he isn't advocating cutting programs like the juvenile and sobriety courts, "If you're in a budget crunch, can you justify spending money on programs district courts aren't even supposed to run?"

Lowe recently took a major hit from Chief Judge John MacDonald, when the latter criticized Lowe and endorsed challenger Jim Plakas. Lowe admitted he and MacDonald have had their differences, but said they haven't affected justice handed out by the court.

"You don't see John and I argue about how we dole out justice," Lowe said. "The disagreements John and I have are about management of the court."

"I've honestly voiced my opinion, and it's not always gone along with the way John wanted it," added Lowe. "But, John is the chief judge, and I've always toed the corporate line after the decision was made."

Lowe has been criticized by Plakas for being inconsistent in his rulings, to which Lowe takes exception.

"In the 12 years I've been here, no one has told me that I'm not performing," Lowe said.

"I have an open door ... come in and tell me what you think. I strive for feedback."

tbruscato@hometownlife.com
(734) 459-2700

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER



Jim Plakas

When Jim Plakas talks about his campaign for 35th District Court judge, he chuckles at the tag some have put on him in what is a non-partisan election.

"Opponents love to label me a liberal Democrat," said Plakas, 38, of Northville Township. "Am I really a liberal or a Democrat? Maybe I'm really just a fair person who will do the job effectively."

Plakas, an 11-year attorney with the Westland law firm of Angelo Plakas & Associates, said his experience includes representing plaintiffs, as well as prosecuting cases as an assistant city attorney for Westland. Plakas said it's that experience that gives him a good understanding of what it will take to become a district court judge representing the Plymouths, Northvilles and Canton Township the next six years.

"Other attorneys know I know the law, they know I'm well-prepared, they know I don't make knee-jerk decisions on things," Plakas said. "I have a willingness to help people better themselves."

"It's always been my nature to want to help and bring out the best in people," he said.

"In my job as a prosecutor, I can do that to a certain extent, but at some point I pass that file on to a judge and then it's

out of my hands. Every once in awhile you get someone who thanks you for helping to change their life for the better, and it's a good feeling."

Chief 35th District Judge John MacDonald made waves recently when he criticized incumbent Ron Lowe and announced he would support Plakas in the Nov. 7 election. Plakas said he's heard the same criticisms of Lowe, and is quick to point them out.

"It's a lack of respect, a lack of courtesy, making knee-jerk decisions and a lack of being consistent," Plakas said of Lowe. "I'm not going to say he's not fair, but I don't think he has the temperament for the job."

"District Court should be a place where the judge brings finality to disputes between people as quickly and efficiently as possible, and that's not happening," added Plakas.

"You have to be a decision-maker and a mediator. You have to resolve disputes between people, and for them, in a way that's really going to solve it."

Plakas shrugs off the whispers that he moved into Northville Township four years ago to run against Lowe because he couldn't get elected to a judgeship in Westland, where he practices.

"Judge (C. Charles) Bokos in Westland retires in two years, and I could walk into that seat if I wanted to," said Plakas, who noted he lived in Plymouth for nearly eight years beforehand. "I love where I am, I love this community. I have a 3- and a 5-year-old and I'm raising them here. They're not going anywhere, this is where I'm staying."

Plakas said as a judge the best way to connect with residents in the five communities is to meet face-to-face.

"People aren't educated about what's going on in the courts or how the courts work," Plakas said.

"A judge can educate people at the local library, one day a month in each community, where they can come and ask you about what's going on in the courts or the cases they may have read about."

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WHAT HAS THIS WAR GAINED For Our Country?

- ENDANGERED OUR SECURITY:** Sixteen U.S. government intelligence agencies agree that our nation's continued occupation of Iraq has endangered our security. The April National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) stated "The Iraq conflict has become the 'cause celebre' for jihadists ... breeding a deep resentment of US involvement in the Muslim world and cultivating supporters for the global jihadist movement." Clearly, the movement that threatens our sense of security is spreading far and wide, and every day—our presence in Iraq makes the situation more dangerous.
- OVER 2,750 U.S. MEN AND WOMEN HAVE BEEN KILLED IN IRAQ—** an unknown (and hidden) number of service connected injuries have scarred the physical and mental lives of veterans of the war. The uncounted Iraqi civilian casualties number in the hundreds of thousands—as their country teeters on the edge of total chaos.
- ENDLESS WAR AND ENORMOUS DEBT:** The present "stay the course" policy means endless war. And, to pay for this war, while giving the richest one percent huge tax breaks, will mean that our children, our grandchildren, and even their children will be saddled with an enormous debt—owed to foreign creditors. Is this the legacy we want to leave future generations?

HOW DO WE BRING A HALT to this escalating catastrophe?

- VOTE:** Our Constitution provides for three separate branches of government. On November 7, 2006, we the voters will have the opportunity—and the responsibility—to vote for members of Congress. Congress is the institution that is supposed to provide a check and balance to any President when that President's policies have endangered our security and when that President has sought to extend his authority beyond the Constitutional limits.
- MAKE CONGRESS ACCOUNTABLE:** We have had a Congress that has mostly been a rubber stamp for this Administration. Here are the percentages of how often Southeast Michigan's incumbent Congressional Representatives supported the Bush agenda in 2005. We can make our votes count for an accountable Congress.

Kildee	Rogers	Knoffenberg	Miller	McCotter	Levin	Kilpatrick	Conyers	Dingell
22%	87%	89%	85%	78%	20%	17%	15%	26%

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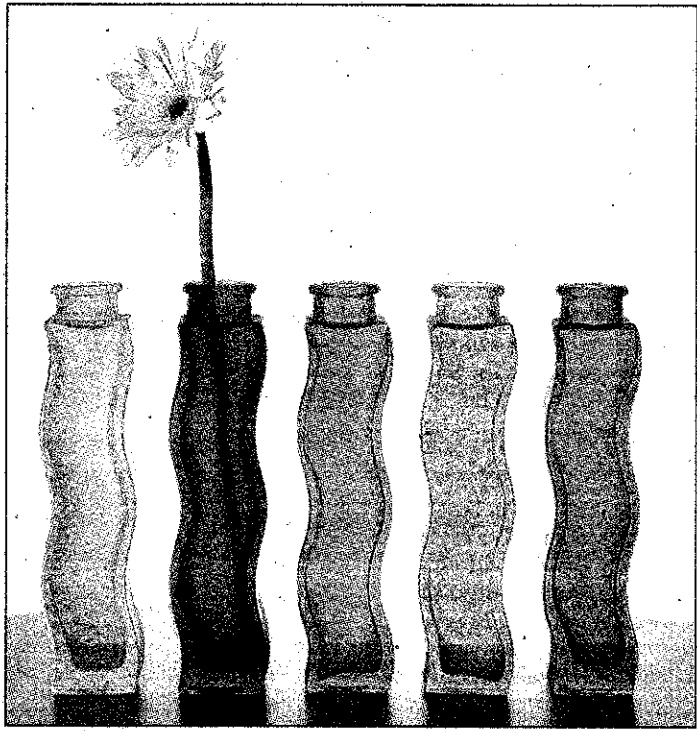
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Curt Swanson, a local photographer from Canton and owner of Curt Swanson Photography, recently was awarded first place in the Challenge 24 photography contest, sponsored by Canton Leisure Services and the Canton Cultural Commission's Public Art Committee. The contest consisted of 24 photographers and their 'challenge' was to each take 24 pictures in 24 hours within 24 miles of Canton. 'I am honored and humbled to receive this award. There were so many excellent pictures - the competition was definitely tough,' noted Swanson after receiving his award at a ceremony at the Summit on Oct. 3.



BARN

FROM PAGE A1

Boyer, who owns Boyer's Meat Processing, spent more than \$75,000 of his own money to move the barn. He said he decided to do it after reading a story about a group of Salem High School students, who did a class project on the barn and even offered a public tour to publicize the fact that Plymouth-Canton Schools was going to demolish it so tennis courts could be built on the high school campus.

Instead of a traditional ribbon cutting, Boyer cut through a rope with an ax. He told everyone he would like to see the barn used for all kinds of community events, everything from wedding ceremonies to exhibitions featuring the history of farming.

"This ain't my barn. It's the community's," said Boyer, who received a well-deserved standing ovation at the ceremony.

The rededication ceremony was a joyous moment for many members of the Canton Historical Society, who had a fund-raiser earlier this year, but failed to get enough money to move it themselves.

Tom Barker, a member of the Historical Society, attended with his wife and daughter. He spent his whole life in Canton until recently moving to



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bob Boyer gets a hug from his sister, Alice Mae Beekman, during the ceremony.

Plymouth Township. Barker, who said his family's time in Canton goes back to original plat maps, fondly remembers rolling around in the haylofts of local barns when he was a child.

Yet, he knows the township has changed much since it was the Sweet Corn Capital of Michigan. He thinks the Canton of his youth will be somewhat salvaged in the Cady/Boyer Barn.

"This is a dream come true,"

Barker said. "To be able to pass this part of our farming history onto future generations is really special."

Canton Clerk Terry Bennett said there is still a need to raise funds so the barn can be brought up to code, before it can be used for certain public uses. Anyone interested in donating to the fund-raiser should contact the Canton Historical Society at (734) 397-0088.

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MEDICAL FACILITY

FROM PAGE A1

building a medical facility somewhere in Canton - it would be great for the community. But this is a huge monstrosity that will be in a residential area within 10 years."

Planning Commissioner Melissa McLaughlin said Monday's meeting was very emotional, which is why the commission tabled the issue.

She said residents brought up legitimate questions, but Oakwood should have some time to come up with answers.

"I'm trying to stay as open minded as possible, and be fair to both sides. I think a hospital would be a great asset to the community," she said. "These people are obviously very passionate. We, as commissioners, need to look at what's in the best interest for the community as a whole."

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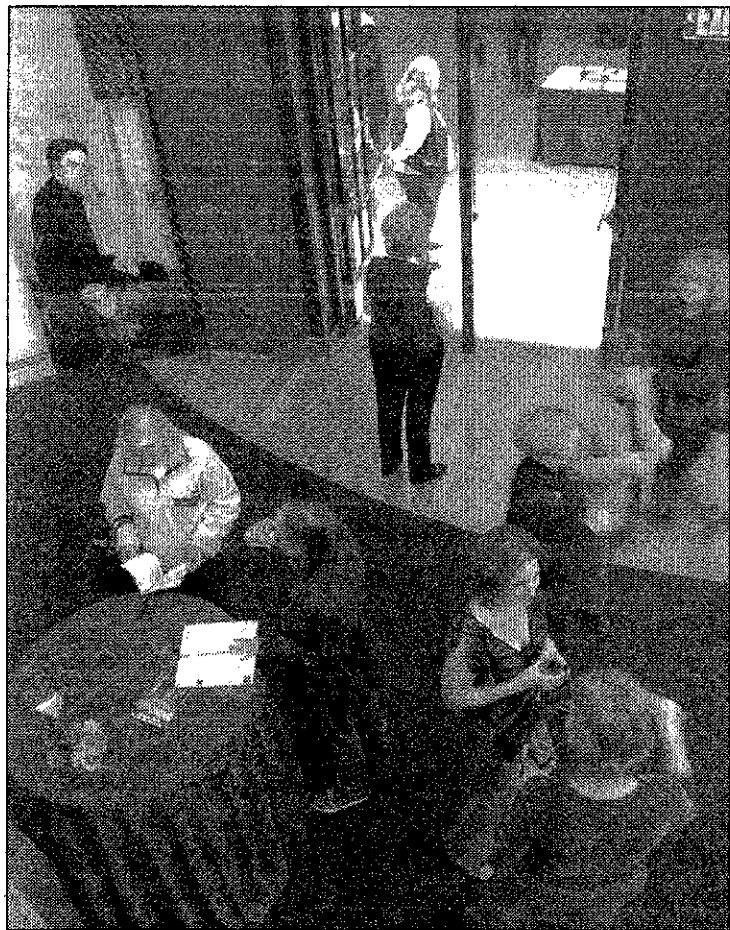
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Orchestra patrons enjoy a beverage and conversation before the concert begins.

Orchestra Canton bassoonist Ari Allal warms up backstage before the performance.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Orchestra Canton strikes up chord on third season

Although Orchestra Canton had to compete with Game One of the World Series, the group had a successful first night of its third season Saturday at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

About 150 people showed up to see the group perform "Diamonds, Denim & Dvorak," which featured the music of Dvorak, Ravel and Mozart, as well as a piece by Alice Gomez, a San Antonio-

based composer who attended the show.

Gomez introduced her piece, *Los Voladores*, which was inspired by the "Flying Indians of Mexico," who dress in colorful traditional costumes, climb up a 150-foot pole, tie their ankles to ropes wrapped around the pole and then jump off, spinning their way to the ground in a wonderful ceremony.

"Alice's piece was so much

fun. It was just great to have her there," said Orchestra Canton Executive Director Jennifer Philpot-Munson, who noted that they would like to bring in more guest composers in the future.

Canton Township Trustee Karl Zarbo also attended the event and read a proclamation declaring October as Arts and Humanities Month in Canton.

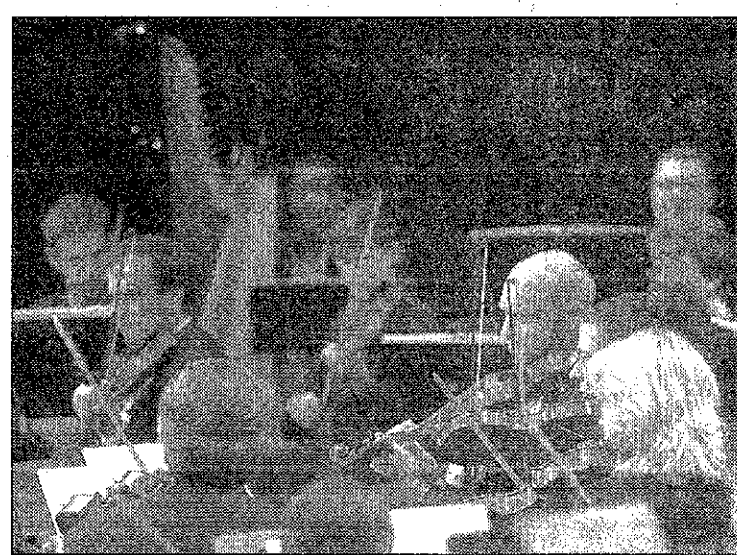
Philpot-Munson said the

attendance was far less than a sell-out (the theater holds 400), which she said was understandable considering the Tigers were playing in their first World Series in 22 years. But all in all, she said it was a good turnout.

"I saw a lot of people there who I have never seen at our shows before, which is a good," she said.

Orchestra Canton will play three more shows this season. The next scheduled concert is Dec. 3, when the group presents its annual holiday concert, "Peter & The Wolf."

On Saturday, Jan. 20, Orchestra Canton will present "Tchaikovsky & Friends," and then round out the season on April 1 with "Sunday Serenade," which will feature the work of



Orchestra Canton members perform during the group's opening night Saturday at the Village Theater.

Schubert and Gershwin, among others.

For more information on

Orchestra Canton's "Classical Canton" season please visit www.orchestracanton.org.

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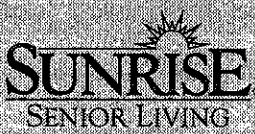
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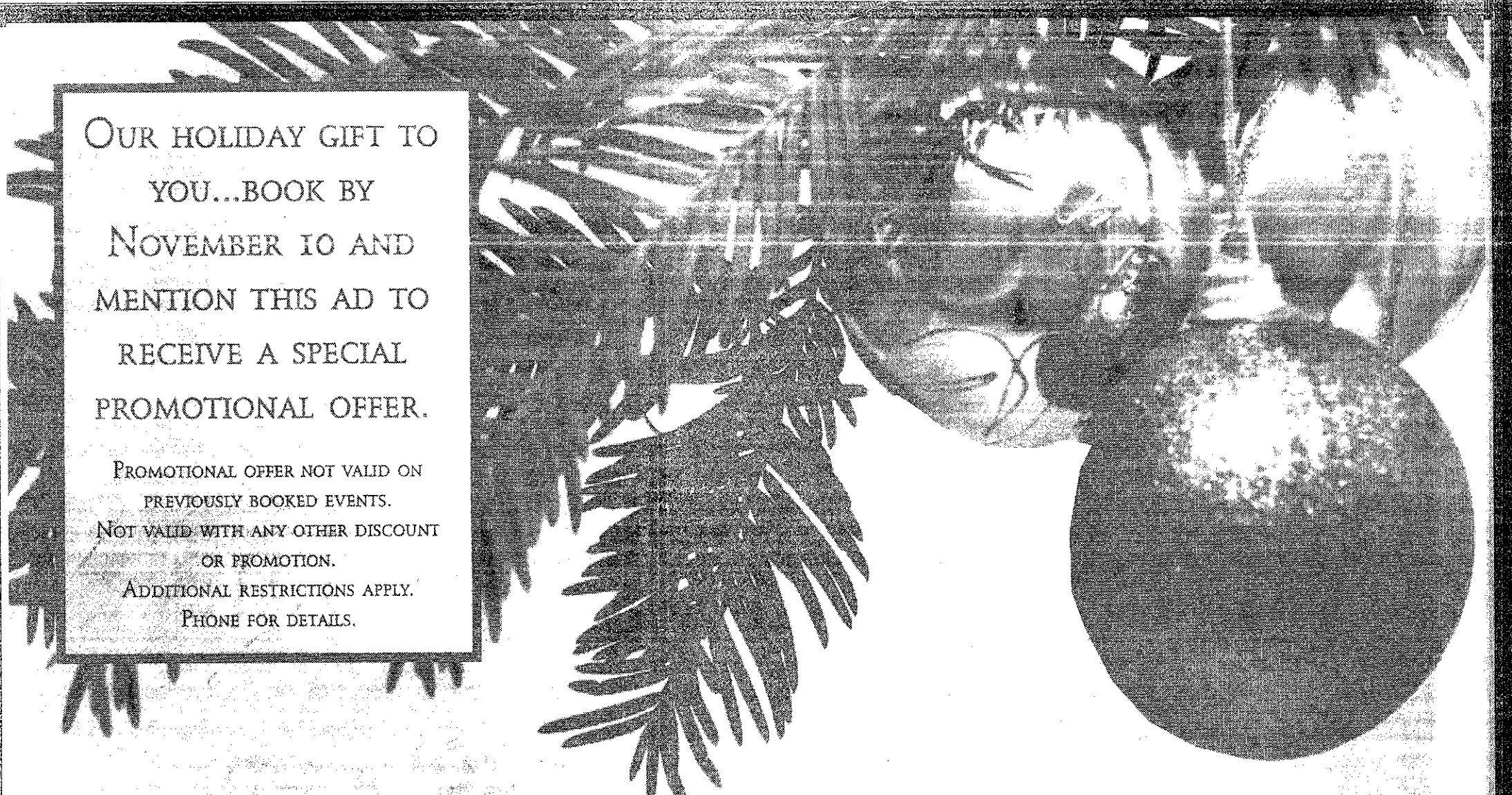
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Experts weigh business tax replacement issue

BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

The state's Single Business Tax has been an issue this political season, but few solutions have been offered on how to replace the estimated \$2 billion the tax generates annually and how much of it should be replaced.

The SBT was established in 1975 and contains a variety of taxes rolled into one formula. Many say it is far too complicated and prohibitive for companies that do business in Michigan.

A petition drive, led by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson earlier this year, should have landed the SBT issue on the ballot this November, but a loophole in state law allowed the Legislature to vote on it once again as a veto-proof bill. The first attempt by the Legislature to get rid of the SBT was vetoed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm because there was no plan to replace the revenue.

Now, the tax will expire at the end of next year and there still is no firm replacement plan. The SBT revenue is about 22 percent of the state's general fund.

A panel of experts weighed in on the issue at a recent forum in Farmington Hills, sponsored by state Rep. Aldo Vagnozzi and state Sen. Gilda Jacobs.

Tom Clay, director of state affairs for the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, said there are a few options — replace the tax with a new tax on businesses; add new tax on individuals, e.g., services; or implement a net tax cut.

Clay said a replacement tax should be broad-based, at a low rate and easy for taxpayers to understand and calculate. He said businesses that are "selling into our state" should be taxed and in-state businesses should be favored.

Currently, about 150,000 businesses pay the SBT, while 41,000 do not pay it and another 25,000 pay less than \$1,000 per year in SBT taxes, according to the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization founded in 1919 to promote "sound policy" for state and local governments through research. The SBT is largely paid by 3,000 businesses in Michigan, which contribute 59 percent of the total SBT revenue.

Charles Ballard, from the Department of Economics at Michigan State University, said not replacing the tax should not be an option. He said four or five years ago, he would have thought the state's budget could handle a \$1 billion cut — which is being proposed by some people. The current budget would not be able to sustain such a cut without a dollar-for-dollar affect on services.

He and Clay note Michigan is not a high-tax state, like many people believe. National taxes have gone down in recent years and now Michigan is slightly below the national average in taxation.

"There is a huge body of research that shows Michigan is average or below average," said Clay, noting 35 other states have higher business taxes.

Ballard said Michigan was slightly above the national average in taxation in the 1970s and 1980s, but continual tax cuts have occurred since

then.

"We've gone far enough, and probably too far," he said.

Replacement options could include a variety of sectors, Ballard said. Business taxes equate to taxes on people, via lower wages and higher prices, for example.

"From an economic perspective, there is no reason to replace the SBT with a business tax," he said.

Ballard said the income tax could be adjusted to increase with higher income. Michigan is one of six states with a flat-rate income tax, while 37 states and Washington, D.C., have graduated rates. This change would require a state constitutional amendment, which isn't politically likely, he said.

David Wright, a CPA, said tax policy is a result of the political process, but he hopes

the SBT replacement is simple and easy to understand.

"Complexity is the worst waste of money," he said. Clay said there are a lot of consumer taxes that ought to be considered, noting we pay tax on gasoline, clothing and other necessities, but not on movie tickets, golf fees and other leisure activities.

Cory Jacobson, owner of Phoenix Theatres in

Farmington Hills, a movie complex in Detroit and a screening room in Southfield, said he has been creative in making ends meet. He said national box office sales are up 7 percent, but not in Michigan, because people are not spending their money at the movies when they're worried about keeping their jobs.

There's only so much he can do.

"We're at the glass ceiling with ticket prices and concessions," he said.

Jacobson said he wants to see some stability in the next tax policy.

For more information on the Citizens Research Council of Michigan and its research findings, visit www.crcmich.org.

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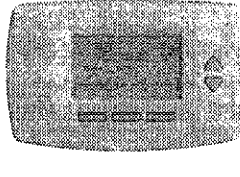
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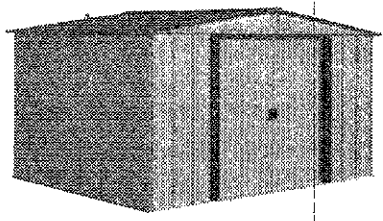
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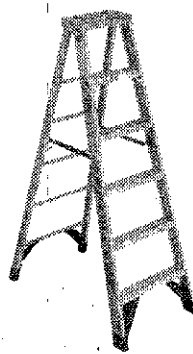
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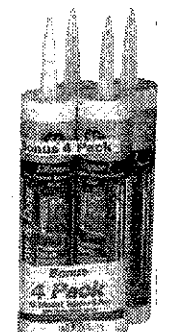
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OUR VIEWS

McCotter has edge in 11th District race for Congress

The Democratic Party believes it has a legitimate chance to retake control of one and possibly both houses of Congress in the November election.

According to national polls, voters are angry with Republicans over an unpopular war in Iraq, a series of lobbying scandals, a scandal over protecting a sexual predator in Congress, a ballooning deficit and an economy that doesn't seem as solid for most people as statistics suggest.

For many voters, this will be a parliamentary election, a vote for the party out of power because of dissatisfaction with a party that effectively controls all three branches of the federal government and that some believe has become arrogant with power.

But as former Democratic Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill once said, "all politics is local." Many voters will go to the polls Nov. 7 and repeat that old saying, "I hate Congress, but I like my congressman," and vote accordingly.

In Michigan's 11th Congressional District, former talk show host Tony Trupiano is giving incumbent Republican Thaddeus McCotter his most spirited opposition to date. Trupiano presents himself as a moderate Democrat, fiscally conservative, opposed to gun control and leery of federal interference in education. But he is strongly opposed to the war in Iraq, believes the war on terror has been mishandled, favors a single-payer health insurance program and decries the corruption in Washington. Many voters could feel comfortable making a parliamentary vote for Trupiano.

However, McCotter is not the one-dimensional conservative his opponent portrays. He is a conscientious conservative, steeped in the Ronald Reagan tradition. He has a long history in this community as a county commissioner, state senator and two-term member of Congress.

While he has been a reliable vote on party initiatives, he has also taken strong positions that run against the grain. He supported the bipartisan vote that took the country into the war in Iraq, but he has been a steady critic of the administration's mishandling of the war after the fall of Baghdad. He has argued that the Bush top-down approach has been disastrous and contributed to the ongoing factional disputes. He has been to Iraq on several occasions and speaks with authority on the issue.

McCotter has also been a vocal opponent of free trade agreements that don't require reciprocity from our trading partners and have hurt the Michigan economy.

As a seasoned legislator, McCotter also understands the importance of constituent service. Contrary to what his opponents say, McCotter is a visible presence in the community and his office has done a good job of serving the 11th District. McCotter also understands which issues are most pertinent to his local constituency.

Finally, we don't believe that McCotter's integrity has been compromised by taking funding from now disgraced Republican House members. It's a common practice in both parties to receive funding from party PACs. We have no reason to believe that McCotter is anything but an honest member of Congress who votes his conscience and the best interests of his constituents.

The Republican Party has become arrogant in its power. It has failed to confront President George Bush on the Iraq war, failed to investigate the scandals involving its members and failed to address such crucial social issues as health care and Social Security.

However, despite our reservations about the direction of the Republican Party, we support Republican **Thaddeus McCotter** for a third term in Congress on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

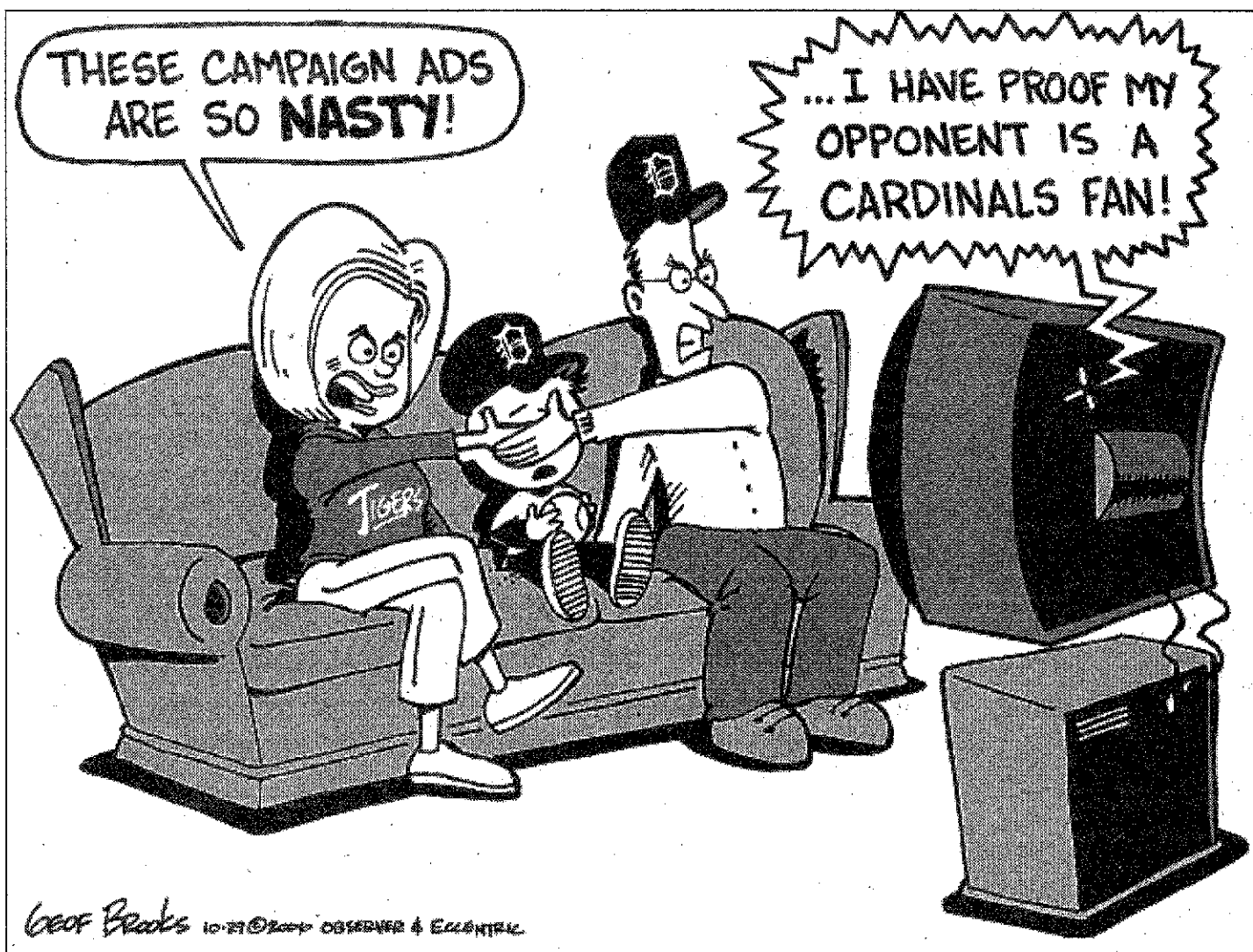
Letters a great way to air political debate

As we come down to the wire in the 2006 political season — the general election is less than two weeks away — supporters on both sides will be doing what they can to push their candidates' agendas and denigrate the capabilities of their opponents.

The letters to the editor columns of local newspapers are traditionally a popular way to do that. But the *Observer* has a long-standing policy of not allowing that to happen at the 11th hour.

Letters are certainly welcome, right up through election day. Standard rules apply: They should be 400 words or fewer, contain no libelous claims and include the name, address and phone number of the author (only the name and hometown will appear in print; the street address and phone number are included for verification purposes only). Letters are subject to some editing to ensure compliance with company policy.

In Sunday's *Observer*, look for our local endorsements in the Wayne County Commission 11th District and the 21st District of the Michigan House of Representatives.



LETTERS

What is diversity?

I don't see Mary Sue Coleman, Lee Bollinger, or any of the other pompous, politically-correct white elites who support preferential treatment based on skin color regardless of the impact on lesser folks like myself, offering to give up their own lucrative jobs to a minority candidate. Funny how those who have the power to set the rules don't care to live by them.

And by the way, you can talk about "diversity" till the cows come home, but (a) I still don't know what the word means and (b) I have yet to see a scientific, evidence-based study that shows there is any net social value whatsoever to minority- and gender-based preferences.

That's why I'm voting for Proposition 2.
Rachel McCormack
Canton

Supports Lowe

As a former employee of the 35th District Court, I support the *Observer & Eccentric* endorsement of Judge Ronald Lowe. I worked at the court when Judge Lowe was first elected and was proud to work under his guidance.

At the time, I had two teenage sons and was well aware of how fast they were growing and how much they really knew about life. This is where Judge Lowe excels. He not only gives sentences to the defendants who appear in front of him, but he also has a unique capability of teaching what consequences really mean.

Maybe his ways in the courtroom are more contemporary and not with the status quo. Isn't this what we need for the young people who appear before him every day? He has an uncanny wisdom that separates defendants who "get it" and those that "don't." There is not a one-size-fits-all punishment.

The world is moving fast ... sometimes too fast. We need a judge who can keep the pace, stay in tune with the kids and continue to initiate breakthrough programs for community service, probation and the high schools.

I have worshipped with Judge Lowe, I have been present at his wonderful storytelling and feel he is more in touch with the community than anyone else at the 35th District Court.

Sandy Fercho
Canton

Fed up with status quo

Tom Yack has endorsed his pet Jim Plakas as the next judge for the local court for the second time, but omits meaningful reasons. It is true the average citizen does not have a solid understanding of court operation. If Mr. Yack is on the Judicial Advisory Council, it should be one of his responsibilities to get specific with his knowledge and his strategic plans for the court. If he can't, he should resign his position.

The public should thank Judge MacDonald and Mr. Yack for exposing some dirty laundry that may be their own. Haphazardly slamming the integrity and wholeness of Judge Lowe is morally unjust.

Judge Lowe made several interesting comments that a responsible elector

should heed as top priorities. "I'm not saying we should generate revenue for the communities," he said. "It's a situation where the offenders should be paying for the operation of the court, not the taxpayers. He's (MacDonald) more reactive. I'm more proactive. He's more hands off. I'm more hands on. He wants to preserve the status quo, I like to explore new ideas," he said. "But, in the end, he's the chief judge, and I've abided by all his decisions."

Judge Lowe has attempted to exercise the virtues of improved businesslike methods, frugality and jurist fair-mindedness. I place emphasis on these qualities as the best profile of a person we need to fix political "habits" of the past. Judge MacDonald and Tom Yack seem to resist change, and it appears that this defiance as a status quo method seems to be "our ways are excellent."

Court employees and dissident lawyers may scream or complain all they want, but everyone needs to understand some of the thought processes of the electorate seeking useful knowledge. Many of us are fed up with government waste — shell games called subsidies, funds transfers, and other accounting tricks. We are fed up with those wanting special treatment and playing every game in the book to deceive the public to get what they want. We are fed up with extravagant words, flattery and rhetoricians.

Charlie Page
Canton

Vote for Plakas

I am supporting for Jim Plakas for judge of the 35th District Court and here's why:

I was recently a victim of a crime. After going through the court process, I can honestly say that I feel more victimized by Judge Lowe than I was by the original crime. He was so arrogant and unfair, I left the courthouse feeling like I was the criminal. I have forgiven my trespasser for what he did, but I will never forgive Judge Lowe for how he treated me in court. I'm a professional and live in a beautiful house in Canton. But Judge Lowe made me feel like "trailer trash."

I hope I never have to go to court again. But if I do, I certainly hope someone like Jim Plakas is there instead of Judge Lowe.

Jeanne Pruett
Canton

Patterson is out of control

So Bruce Patterson was speaking profanely and trying to intimidate someone. What's new? Mr. Patterson's re-election effort would be better served if he was actually knocking on doors and speaking to his constituency. Instead he's spending his time removing Mark Slavens signs. How pathetic.

Patterson is an embarrassment to his office and to our community. With his being the common denominator in so many of these ridiculous stories — it's clear who the problem is. Patterson is out of control and needs to be voted out of office Nov. 7.

Matthew E. Haran
Canton

Water bill blues

I am writing to express my disillusionment in the lack of communication regarding the October water bill. All of a sudden, we are billed with three extra charges. First, we are being billed \$6.54 for not having a sump pump, then we are billed extra for water/sewer fixed quarterly charges which amount to \$13.05.

We receive a monthly newsletter "Focus" every month and I wonder why someone did not think of mentioning these extra fees in this newsletter. I think it is worthy of the news. The Board of Trustees has been negligent in informing the Canton community. Nothing was said. It was so insensitive, especially since the October water bill is the biggest one at most households after the summer season.

I am keeping your names in my computer because when it comes time for re-election, I will elect someone else. I am sure there are people among us who could do a better job of keeping us informed.

Dolores J. and Thomas W. Musson
Canton

Corriveau cares

As a senior citizen who lives in Plymouth Township, I heartedly agree with the *Observer's* Oct. 5 endorsement of Marc Corriveau. You said that Mr. Corriveau was the best choice in the state representative race in the 20th District. Mr. Corriveau is the correct choice to me because he understands the problems affecting me and my family along with sensible solutions. Reduced prescription drugs and health insurance are priorities that make Corriveau the choice for state representative. As I have listened and talked with Marc, he has shown me the compassion and empathy for those facing tough economic situations. Corriveau said that Michigan is now ready to move to a comprehensive coverage for our seniors and our children. He promised us seniors that he would fight every single day to reduce our health insurance costs. I couldn't ask any more of my state representative than to represent me and my problems in Lansing.

Good luck to Marc Corriveau!
Walter A. Kargus III
Plymouth Township

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

Mail:
Letters to the editor
Canton Observer
794 South Main
Plymouth, MI 48170

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CANTON Observer
PUBLISHED THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

GANNETT

Kurt Kuban Community Editor	Susan Rosiek Executive Editor	Peter Neill Vice President General Manager
Hugh Gallagher Managing Editor	Marty Carry Advertising Director	

Richard Aginian - Publisher Emeritus

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

QUOTABLE

"What this will do is help keep us from having to ever discharge (sewage) into the Rouge River, and it will also keep the sewer overflow from discharging into people's basements."

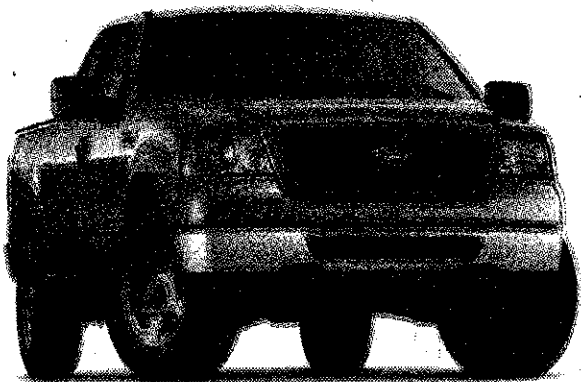
— Canton Township environmental engineer Bob Belair, discussing the reason the township is building a new sewer line and bike path along the Lower Rouge River

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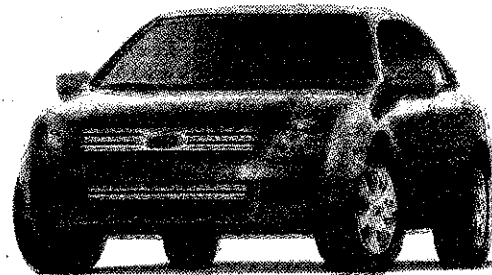
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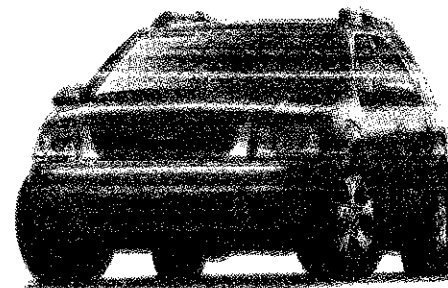
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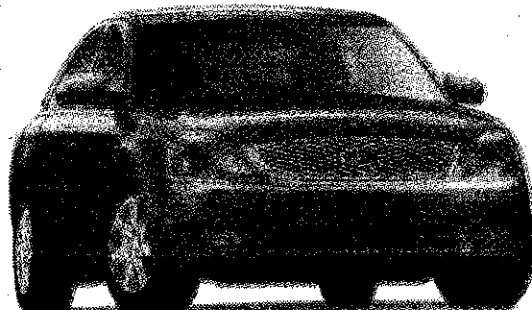
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Face lift

Grow zones popping up in Hines Park to provide wildlife habitat, help prevent flooding

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

Users of Wayne County's Hines Park have probably noticed that some parts of the park don't quite look like they used to. That's because the park has had a facelift of sorts. Areas that the parks department used to mow are now growing wild with tall native grasses and wildflowers - just like they did before man's machines and mowers took over.

These "grow zones" are a coordinated effort to restore parts of the park for a less intense recreational use. By planting native plants like big bluestem and other grasses and wildflowers, the county hopes to provide important wildlife habitat for birds and animals that live in the park. Also, these native plants have root systems that go deep into the soil, as much as 10 feet in some cases. That means they soak up much more rain



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Unlike mown grass, wildflowers attract bees.

water that traditional sod, which has a root system of just a couple inches, and less water makes it into the Rouge River. Flooding has been a constant problem in Hines Park for years, and officials hope these grow zones will help.

The county, which received a Clean Michigan Initiative grant to pay for the project,

has constructed three major grow zones along the parkway covering more than 15 acres, with more planned for next year. There have also been a couple of rain gardens installed, which trap and retain rain water. Next year, one will be built at Newburgh Pointe, where stormwater has caused some erosion along the parking lot.

One of the best examples of these new grow zones is at the Bennett Arboretum in Northville. It covers 2.3 acres and is an important component of a new master plan for the area, which ultimately will include a self-guided trail system and informational kiosks. The grow zone was planted in May, and is really starting to take off with some grasses already four feet tall.

Kurt Heise, director of the Wayne County Department of Environment, stresses the grow zones are in places that don't normally get any use by patrons and were just being mowed for the sake of being mowed.

"We're not taking away any ballfields. Hines Park doesn't have to look like a golf course," he said.

"These grow zones are an environmental asset, and I think they add an amenity to the Hines Park experience. For people hiking and jogging, it's nice to see these natural areas."

However, Heise admits that some people have called the parks department to complain about the lack of mowing.

"It's more of a case of people wondering what is going on. Once they understand what we're doing, and the benefit these sites provide, they are OK with it," he said. "This is kind of a culture clash from what people are used to."



High school cross country teams run along the edge of the arboretum.

Noel Mullett, the project coordinator for the Department of Environment, said the biggest roadblock to the program's success will be managing the grow zones. In the past, it was simple - just mow it. However, the big challenge now is to keep the areas free of invasive plants that can take over and negate some of the benefits these grow zones provide.

"It just takes a different kind of maintenance," he said.

So the county is trying to recruit groups of volunteers that can help maintain the sites, which could include pulling invasive plants once or twice a year.

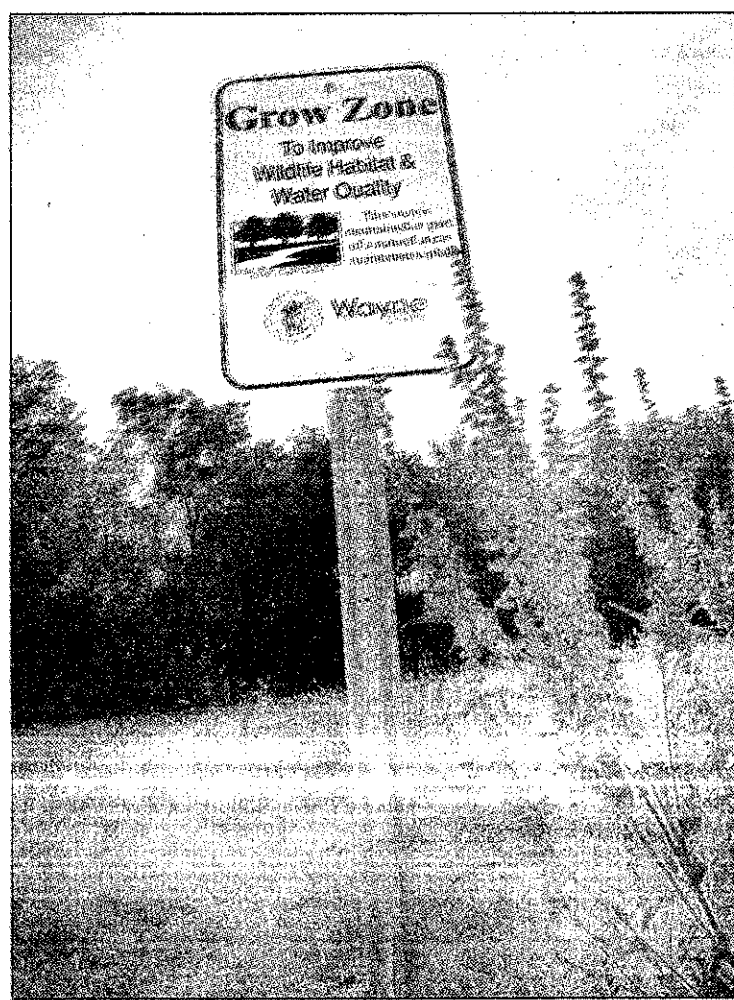
Mullett said groups of master gardeners are a perfect target, as are local school children, who could use the grow zones to learn valuable lessons about the state's native flora and fauna.

Some schools have already begun to participate, including Redford's St. Valentine School, which helped plant one of the first grow zones in 2004 at Nankin Mills.

"These are outdoor classrooms. That's how we're trying to pitch them to local schools," Mullett said.



Kurt Heise is the director for the Wayne County Department of Environment. Noel Mullett Jr. is the project technical coordinator. The yellow flowers are black-eyed Susans. The purple are asters.



The grow zones are marked.

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Officer joins police ranks

The Canton Police Department has hired Alex McVicar as a new police officer to the department. He was hired to fill one of several vacancies created this year by retirement.

McVicar, 33, completed his associate's degree at Henry Ford Community College in 1996 and received his MCOLES certification from Wayne County Regional Police Academy in 1998. McVicar was a Washtenaw

County sheriff's deputy for eight years prior to hiring on with Canton.

Candidates for the Canton Police Department go through a vigorous testing process that includes written and physical agility tests, oral board, medical and psychological examinations and an extensive background check. To find out more about opportunities at the department, visit www.canton-mi.org.



McVicar

Officer promoted to lieutenant

The Canton Police Department promoted Sgt. Scott Hilden to the rank of lieutenant recently, after an exhaustive testing process in which he beat out seven other candidates for the position.

The department hired Hilden as a patrol officer in 1992.

During his 14 years of service, Hilden has worked as a department instructor, field training officer and school resource officer. His most recent assignment was as the community relations officer, responsible for crime prevention, community relations and data analysis for the department.

According to Public Safety Director John Santomauro, the

eight candidates participated in one of the most extensive, challenging testing processes he has seen in 36 years of law enforcement. The components of the test provided an in-depth evaluation of the candidates' communication and leadership skills. Hilden is the second of three sergeants being promoted to lieutenant this year to fill vacancies created by retirement.

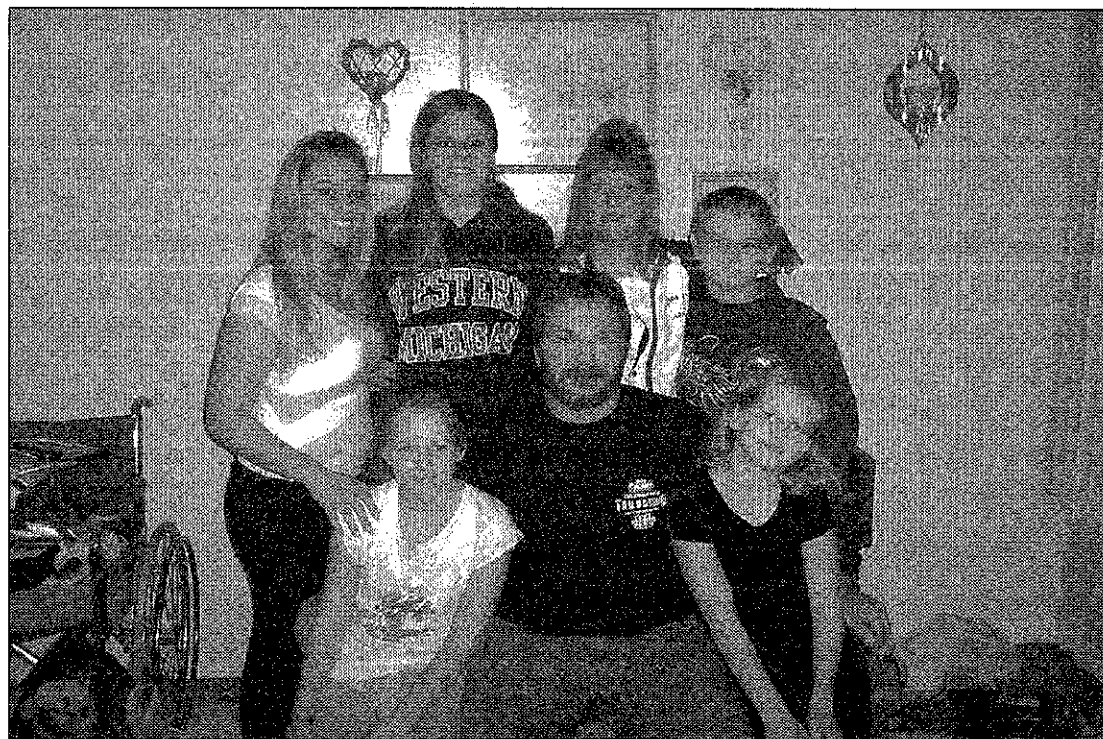
Hilden has a bachelor of arts degree from Michigan State University and a master's degree in Liberal Studies from Eastern Michigan University. Hilden also graduated from Police Staff and Command School at Eastern Michigan University.

Hilden has been married 16



Hilden

years to his wife, Anna. They have three children, Trevor, 13, Spencer, 11, and Celia, 6.



The Parrent family of Livonia is working to make ends meet following Barry Parrent's dirt biking accident last April.

Benefit to help pay bills for family after man's injury, surgeries

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

In a split second, Barry Parrent's life changed.

On April 29, Parrent was seriously injured in an accident while preparing for a dirt bike race with his son, Barry Jr.

Parrent's right femur bone was shattered. He was transported from Bay City to University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor to repair the break, which was dangerously close to a major artery.

"He's lucky he didn't bleed to death," said Cristie Parrent, his wife. Parrent had two major surgeries within days of one another — one to stabilize the bone and another to position a steel plate from his knee to his hip.

Twenty days following the second procedure, a vein in his leg burst causing internal bleeding and a canteloupe-sized blood clot to form in his thigh. Parrent again underwent emergency surgery, nearly losing his leg — and his life.

"He is now home recovering

slowly," said Patricia Holcomb, a neighbor and friend in Livonia. "However, because of the severity of his injuries and his occupation as a diesel mechanic for Plymouth Concrete, he will not be able to return to work for six to 12 months."

Though his bone has nearly healed, Parrent continues to battle blood clots caused by the trauma of his injury and the surgeries that followed. Cristie Parrent said the healing has been "a slow process" and they have relied on friends and family to help them through this trying time.

The medical bills are mounting and the Parrents will soon be cut off from their disability payments — which have been \$230 a week. Parrent is unable to work, and the couple has five children: Franklin graduates Kim, 21, and Lindsey, 20; Emerson student Barry Jr., 12; and Cooper students MacKenzie and Megan, twins who are age 10. Cristie Parrent said she may have to take on a part-time job, while also caring for her family.

"Barry was the sole provider for his family," Holcomb said. "His wife is staying home to care for him."

Cristie Parrent said they may have already lost their home, if it weren't for family members helping with payments.

"We've had such an outpouring of support," she said.

Cristie Parrent said they aren't used to being on the receiving end of help — they've always been a giving family. But now the family is "starting to get behind on our bills," she said. "It's frustrating."

All are welcome to attend a spaghetti dinner fund-raiser to assist the family.

The event is set for 4:30-6:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, at Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road between Ann Arbor Trail and Joy roads in Livonia. Cost is \$5 per plate. Those who are unable to attend may send donations to the family at 12065 Cavell, Livonia, MI 48150.

scasola@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2054

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ELECTION NOTICE

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON:
You are hereby notified that a **General Election** will be held in the Charter Township of Canton on **Tuesday, November 07, 2006 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**, at which time, candidates for the following offices will be voted on in the Charter Township of Canton.

- Governor and Lieutenant Governor
- Secretary of State
- Attorney General
- United States Senator
- United States Representative in Congress: 11th District
- State Senator: 7th District
- Representative in the State Legislature: 20th or 21st District
- Two Members of the State Board of Education
- Two Regents of the University of Michigan
- Two Trustees of Michigan State University
- Two Governors of Wayne State University
- County Executive
- County Commissioner: 11th District
- Justices of the Supreme Court-Vote 2
- Judges of the Court of Appeals-1st District-Vote 2
- Judges of the Circuit Court-3rd Judicial Circuit-Incumbent Position-Vote 19
- Judge of the Circuit Court, 3rd Judicial Circuit, Non-Incumbent Position-Vote 1
- Judges of the Circuit Court, 3rd Judicial Circuit, Partial Terms, Incumbent Positions-Vote 4
- Judge of Probate Court-Vote 2
- Judge of the Probate Court, Non-Incumbent Position-Vote 1
- Judge of the Probate Court, Incumbent Position Partial Term-Vote 1
- Judge of the District Court, 35th District-Vote 1

and vote on the following proposals:

PROPOSAL 06-1

A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REQUIRE THAT MONEY HELD IN CONSERVATION AND RECREATION FUNDS CAN ONLY BE USED FOR THEIR INTENDED PURPOSES

PROPOSAL 06-2

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO BAN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS THAT GIVE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS BASED ON THEIR RACE, GENDER, COLOR, ETHNICITY OR NATIONAL ORIGIN FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION OR CONTRACTING PURPOSES

PROPOSAL 06-3

A REFERENDUM ON PUBLIC ACT 160 OF 2004 - AN ACT TO ALLOW THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HUNTING SEASON FOR MOURNING DOVES

PROPOSAL 06-4

A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROHIBIT GOVERNMENT FROM TAKING PRIVATE PROPERTY BY EMINENT DOMAIN FOR CERTAIN PRIVATE PURPOSES

PROPOSAL 6-5

A LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE TO ESTABLISH MANDATORY SCHOOL FUNDING LEVELS

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON PRECINCT NUMBERS AND LOCATIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a **General Election** will be held on **Tuesday, November 7, 2006 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at the following polling locations:

Precinct No.	Name of Facility	Address
1 & 23	First Baptist Church	44500 Cherry Hill Road
2	Tri-City Christian Center	3855 Sheldon S. Road
3, 10, 21	St. John Neumann Church	44800 Warren Road
4 & 13	Discovery Middle School	45083 Hanford Road
5 & 31	Crescent Academy	40440 Palmer Road
6	Royal Holiday Clubhouse	39500 Warren Road
7	Salem High School	46181 Joy Road
8	Resurrection Parish Church	48755 Warren Road
9 & 34	Eriksson School	1275 N. Haggerty Road
11 & 19	Tonda Elementary School	46501 Warren Road
12 & 14	Hulsing Elementary School	8055 Fleet Street
15	Walker School	39932 Michigan Avenue
16 & 17	Bentley Elementary School	1100 Sheldon S. Road
18 & 29	Field Elementary School	1000 S. Haggerty Road
20	Township Fire Station No. 1	1100 Canton Center South
22	Hoben Elementary School	44680 Saltz Road
24 & 25	Canton High School	8415 Canton Center N.
26, 27 & 36	Summit on the Park	46000 Summit Parkway
28	Agape Christian Center	45081 Geddes
30	Mettetal Airport	8550 N. Lilley Road
32	Main Street Baptist Church	8500 Morton Taylor N.
33 & 37	Dodson School	205 Beck N.
35	Canton Human Services Center	50430 School House
38	Cherry Hill School	50440 Cherry Hill
39	Plymouth High School	8400 N. Beck Road

The Office of the Township Clerk, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, will be opened from **9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 4, 2006** for absentee ballots. Qualified voters must appear in person to receive a ballot.

On **Monday, November 6, 2006**, those requesting an absentee ballot must appear in person at the Clerk's Office no later than **4:00 p.m.** Emergency absentee ballots **ONLY** will be issued on Election Day, November 7, 2006.

If you are unsure of your voting location, please contact the Clerk's office at 734-394-5120. Online registration look-up is available by going to the Canton Township website at: www.canton-mi.org clicking on voting; then click on "Voter Information Center."

Terry G. Bennett, Clerk

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Band performance thanks foundation

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band, recently named Bands of America Regional Champions for 2006, performed its award winning show *The Passion Within* Saturday for the Canton Community Foundation and several hundred guests.

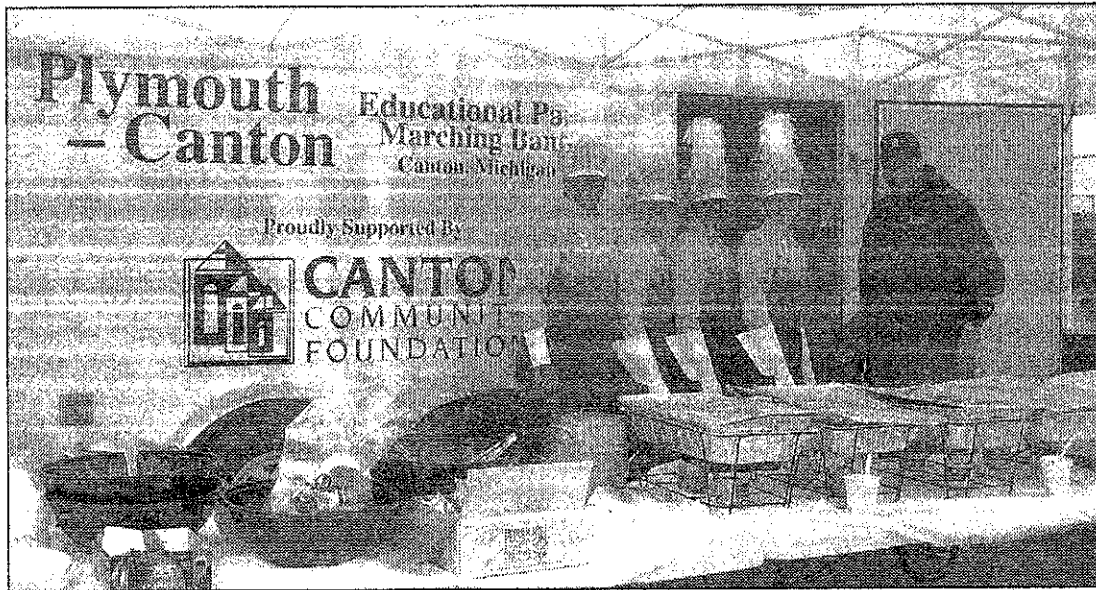
Prior to the show, the Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters hosted a dedication luncheon and christening of the new "PCMB Chuckwagon," a travel-trailer built to be a mobile kitchen, donated with funds from the Canton Community Foundation for use to feed the students while traveling.

In attendance as guests were Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board Members Judy Mardigian, Dianne Gonzalez

and Tom Wysocki. Also joining in on the commemorative luncheon was P-CCS Superintendent Dr. Jim Ryan, Salem High School Athletic Director Tom Willette, and Plymouth High School Assistant Principal Julie Kaminski.

The luncheon was hosted by the Boosters to thank the Canton Community Foundation for the donation of the 'PCMB Chuckwagon.' Using funds donated by the CCF, volunteers from the Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters constructed the 'Chuckwagon' to house supplies, grills, and food products. The trailer contains a refrigerator, storage cabinets, and a working sink.

The new 'Chuckwagon' will



Marching band members pose with Dr. James Ryan, school superintendent, at Saturday's thank-you performance for the Canton Community Foundation.

be used when the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band competes at the 2006 Bands of America Grand Nationals Championship in Indianapolis Nov. 9-12.

The trailer will also serve the community as a disaster relief kitchen and be available for use at the request of other Canton Community non-profit

groups when needed.

The audience was treated to a special performance of this year's award-winning show *The Passion Within* by the 187-member band, which includes *The Dancer*, a moderate ballad and main theme from *Finding Neverland*; *The Painter*, from the movie *Prospero's Books*; and *The Musician*, the

triumphant song *Ode to Joy*.

The Canton Community Foundation, founded in 1989, is a 501(c)3 nonprofit community organization to support the charitable, cultural, educational, recreational, and scientific needs of the community in Western Wayne County. For more info, visit www.canton-foundation.org.

Awards laud community excellence in design

Canton's Council for Community Excellence held its annual appreciation ceremony on Oct. 12 to recognize winners of the 2006 Design Excellence Awards. At the event, more than 35 awards were given out to Canton residents and business owners for Landscape Design, Architectural Design and Environmental Design.

Landscape Design Awards were based on quality of design, use of plant materials, year-round appeal, and creativity. Winners in this category included; the entryways at Cherry Hill Gardens and

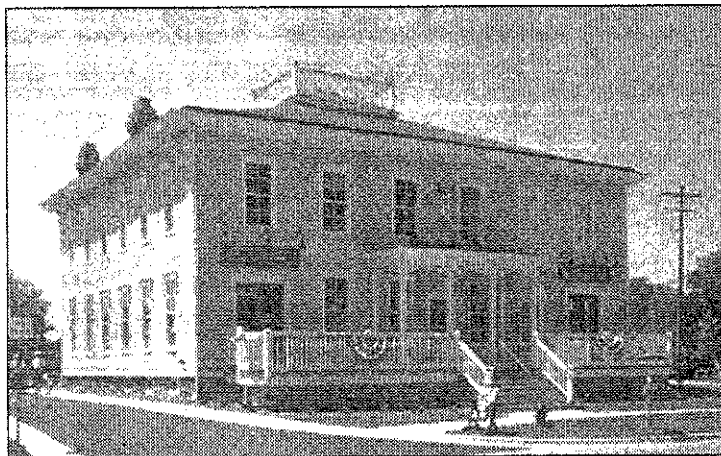
Royal Pointe Subdivisions, the single-family homes of 31 Canton residents, and the commercial building of McCabe Funeral Home.

The Environmental Excellence award was based on a project which preserved or enhanced natural features, used native vegetation, and created natural habitats. This year's award went to the Cherry Pointe Condo Homeowner's Association for the landscape design of their detention pond.

Architectural Design Awards were based on building design, quality of building materials and quality of site

design including landscaping, lighting and other site design amenities. Awards in this category went to the Traditions Club House, and Sweetwater Farms Village.

The top honor of the night went to Scott Colf for his renovation of The Cherry Hill Village Store when he was presented the Medallion Award by Board of Trustees member Karl Zarbo. The Medallion Award recognizes a development for excellence from the planning stage through construction and completion of the project, and is voted on by Canton's Board of Trustees.



The top honor of the night went to Scott Colf for his renovation of The Cherry Hill Village Store when he was presented the Medallion Award.

This year marked the fourth year the Council for Community Excellence has held the awards program to promote a pleasant, aesthetic environment of the Canton community by creating, participating, and supporting activities that foster a sense of community pride.

Canton Community

Television will air the awards program on Comcast Channel 12 or Wide Open West Channel 10 at 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. having started Monday, Oct. 16.

For more information about the Design Excellence Awards or the Council for Community Excellence, visit www.canton-mi.org.

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SAW III (R) 12:00, 12:50, 2:20, 3:05, 4:40, 5:20, 7:00, 7:40, 9:20, 10:00
FRUSAT LS 11:40

THE PRESTIGE (PG-13)
(11:00) 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
FRUSAT LS 11:10

FLICKA (PG)
12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00
FRUSAT LS 11:10

MAN OF THE YEAR (PG-13)
(11:30) 1:55, 4:20, 6:45, 9:10
FRUSAT LS 11:35

THE DEPARTED (R)
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

OPEN SEASON (PG)
(11:05) 1:05, 3:05, 5:05, 7:05, 9:05
FRUSAT LS 11:05 PDF 0608483724
FRUSAT LS 11:05

Miller
PURE ENTERTAINMENT

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: October 26, 2006

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed proposals at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, November 9, 2006 for the following:

COMMUNITY WETLAND DEVELOPMENT

Proposals may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department, on our website at www.canton-mi.org or you may contact Mike Sheppard at (734) 394-5225. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

Publish: October 26, 2006

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, November 9, 2006 for the following:

HOUSING REHABILITATION - SEPTIC FIELD CONSTRUCTION/INSTALLATION

Bid forms may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department, from our website at www.canton-mi.org or you may contact Mike Sheppard at (734) 394-5225. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the bid title, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

Publish: October 26, 2006

Charter Township of Canton Notice of Public Accuracy Test

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Clerk's Office will conduct a Public Accuracy Test of the M-100 Optical Scan tabulating equipment and the AutoMARK System to be used for the General Election on Tuesday, November 7, 2006. The test will take place on **Wednesday November 1, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Clerk's Office, Township Administration Building, 1150 South Canton Center Road. This test is open to all interested parties. For further information contact the Clerk's Office at 734-394-5120.

Terry G. Bennett, Clerk

Publish: October 26, 2006

Charter Township of Canton Board Proceedings - October 17, 2006

A regular study meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton held Tuesday, October 17, 2006 at 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan. Clerk Bennett made a motion to appoint Treasurer Kirchgatter chair in the absence of Supervisor Yack. Motion carried by all members present. **PRESENTATION:** Growth Works - Western Wayne Care Management Organization, Dale Yeigala and Mayor Fielder, Mayor of Belleville, Juvenile Justice Committee, Chair Mayor Fielder stated Growth Works provides this program better and for less money than was offered by the State. Impact on Juvenile Delinquency: Canton Township 2000-2006 (August) was the topic of discussion. Treasurer Kirchgatter called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm and led the pledge of allegiance. **Roll Call Members Present:** Bennett, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Zarbo. **Members Absent:** Caccamo (on Military leave), Yack. **Staff Present:** Director Tim Faas, Tom Casari. **Adoption of Agenda** Motion by Bennett, seconded by McLaughlin to approve the agenda. Motion carried by all members present. **GENERAL CALENDAR: Item 1. CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP CLERK TO SIGN THE DWSD EASEMENT ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo, to authorize the Township Clerk to execute the Easement Encroachment Permit allowing the Township Public Works Department to cross the DWSD 60-inch main with two (2) water service leads. Motion carried by all members present. **STUDY SESSION TOPIC Item 1. Western Wayne County Transportation Improvement Study (MSD) Kim Avery, Project Leader MDOT, Ken Kusell, Wayne County Representative, Barbara Arens, Parsons-Brinckerhoff, Brad Strader, LSL Planning, Phil LaJoy, State Representative, were key players in this project. On September 6, 2005 and then again on February 21, 2006 staff presented an update on the progress made to date on the Regional Transportation Study that Canton is funding together with MDOT. The \$458,000 agency study had nine (9) tasks to be completed over a nine (9) to twelve (12) month timeframe based on our self-imposed deadlines. As of August 2006, the Western Wayne Transportation Task Force (WWTTF) had completed the study and the consultant has been refining the final work-product since then in preparation for a presentation to the Township Board. Dan McCausland, 328 N. Haggerty Road, stated this agenda was not posted on the Canton website. Mr. McCausland stated, in his opinion, poor planning on Ford Road has caused this problem. Mr. McCausland is opposed to 5 lanes on main County roads. **Item 2. 2006 Household Hazardous Waste Round-up Report. (MSD)** Since 2000, Canton has provided residents with an annual Household Hazardous Waste Round-up. Held the first Saturday in September, residents are able to rid their homes of hazardous material free of charge. Items collected at the event include, but are not limited to; mercury, motor oil, flammable liquids, aerosols, pesticides, corrosives, lead acid batteries, propane, bio-medical sharps, latex paint, and electronic waste. **Other:** Treasure Kirchgatter stated on October 24, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. the re-dedication of the Cady-Boyer Barn at the Bartlett-Traverse House will take place. Following the re-dedication the next Canton Board of Trustee's meeting will be held on October 24, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Administration Building, First Floor, Board Room, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan. **Adjourn:** Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo at 8:35 p.m. to adjourn. Motion carried by all members present. - Thomas J. Yack, Supervisor - Terry G. Bennett, Clerk - Copies of the complete text of the Board Minutes are available at the office of the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd, Canton, MI 48188, during regular business hours and can also be accessed through our web-site www.canton-mi.org after Board Approval.****

Publish: October 26, 2006

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Democratic candidate gets his priorities in order

Editor's note: This is the first of two stories on the campaign trail with the two major party candidates for the 11th District Congressional seat. A story on incumbent Rep. Thaddeus McCotter will run Thursday, Nov. 1.

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

It was the day after the first gubernatorial debate. That previous weekend the scandal broke involving now former Florida congressman Mark Foley.

Tony Trupiano, Democratic candidate for the 11th Congressional seat, was standing outside 11th District campaign headquarters at I-96 and Merriman at 9 a.m. waiting for his staff to arrive.

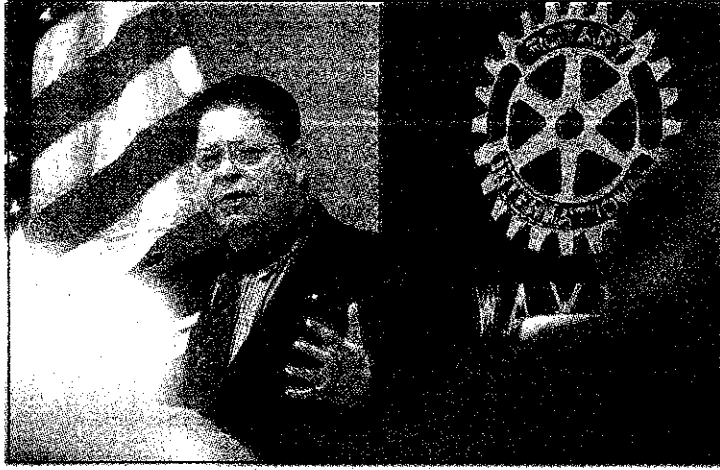
The ongoing and unpopular war in Iraq, the Abramhoff lobbying scandal and now the Foley sex scandal have given Democrats a serious chance to retake one or both houses of Congress. But Trupiano knows he has an uphill fight to unseat incumbent Republican Thaddeus McCotter, running for his third term in Congress.

For the past year, Trupiano has been running hard — soliciting for contributions, making phone calls, knocking on doors, sending out campaign fliers and maintaining a campaign Web site. But the former radio talk show host, business consultant and motivational speaker got a jolt in July on a family outing.

"We were in a serious auto accident," he said. "We were rear-ended. My wife was seriously hurt, still is having some problems though she's all right."

The accident forced the candidate to take a few days off.

"The accident was what I needed to give me pause in the middle of this insanity," he said.



Tony Trupiano, congressional candidate for the 11th District, talks as the guest speaker at the Wayne Rotary Tuesday afternoon.

He said the brief respite from campaigning brought his already close family closer and put the campaign into perspective.

He said he promised his 16-year-old son that win or lose, the family would gather at the Mongolian Grill to celebrate the son's birthday, on Nov. 8, the day after the election.

The 11th District Democratic headquarters is a gathering place for candidates and volunteers. On this morning Westland City Council member Cheryl Graunstadt was there to stuff envelopes. State senate candidate and current state Rep. Glenn Anderson and state senate candidate Mark Slavens would drop in that morning. Sen. Debbie Stabenow and Gov. Jennifer Granholm have their district representatives there.

STAFF MEETING

In one of the offices, Trupiano's campaign manager, Amy McCusker, gathers the staff for the day's marching orders. McCusker, finance director Andalynn Burgess and field directors Anuj Patel, Justin

Lindsay and Nan Melke form a circle with the candidate.

The idea is to get everyone on point.

"We have to be careful this isn't just Republican bashing," Trupiano tells his staff.

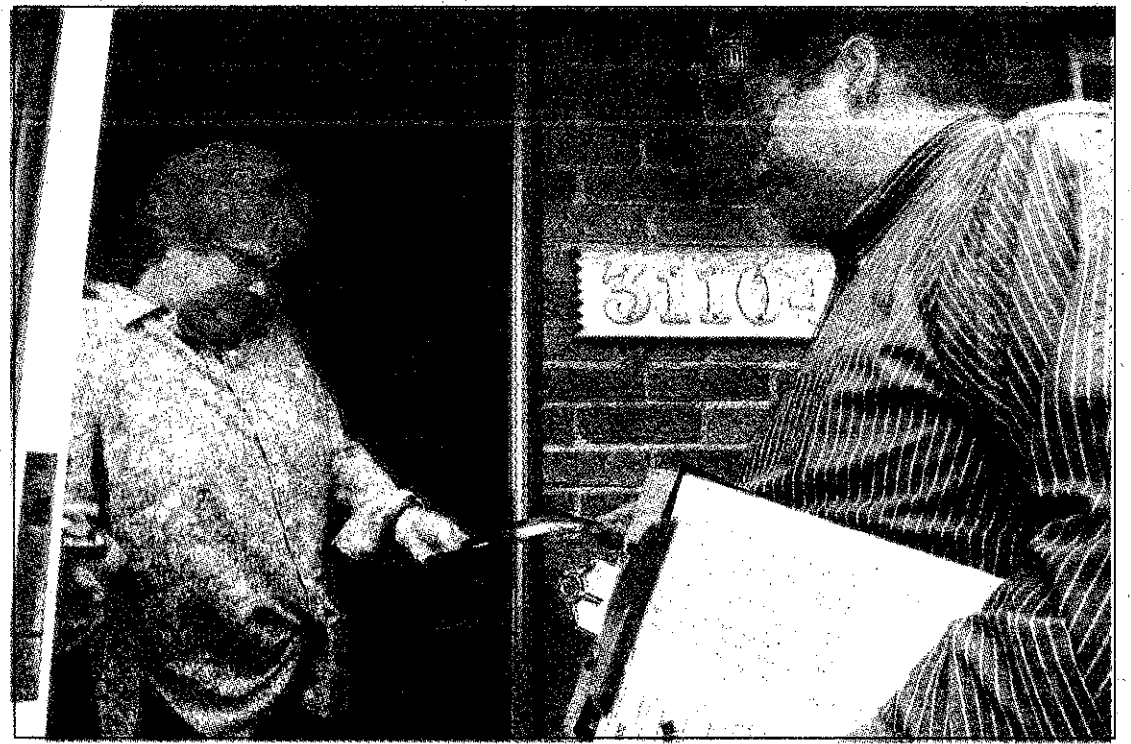
"For McCotter the No. 1 issue is accountability, with Republicans and Democrats," McCusker adds. "Don't go off on McCotter personally, but his record."

They also emphasize that Trupiano is a moderate, though he will be portrayed as a "liberal" by Republicans.

Trupiano mentions a mass mailing from the National Rifle Association asking him to pledge his support for gun rights. Trupiano said he is a supporter of the Second Amendment and would use the cards as a chance to make his case with gun owners.

McCusker said that everyone who goes out to knock on doors should know Trupiano's views on the issues.

Burgess has good news, more contributions have been coming in than expected and there may be a donation from the



Eleventh district congressional candidate Tony Trupiano talks to Cheryl Caughey as he campaigns door to door in Westland.

Progressive Democrats organization that is targeting 13 congressional races.

On a lighter note, the campaign will take a break on the following Saturday to gather at Champps to watch the Michigan-Michigan State football game. McCusker went to U-M, Lindsay went to MSU. Trupiano said the campaign "break" is just an excuse so they can watch the game.

BOTH SIDES

McCusker has worked both sides, volunteered for Democrats and Republicans.

"I still vote for the best candidate," she said.

The Wixom mother of two, 7 and 3, was pregnant with her second child when she went to

work for Jennifer Granholm.

"I liked her and Dan (Mulhern), I thought they were real," she said. "I worked on the transition, went to work for John Kerry."

She went to high school in Wixom with Craig DeRoche, the Republican state Speaker of the House. They're still friends.

She met Trupiano last summer and he invited her to be his campaign manager.

Following the staff meeting, Trupiano drives to Farmington to tape a short campaign piece for cable television.

Lunch is a Rotary meeting in Wayne, where Trupiano sits between District Judge Laura Mack and former state Rep. Tom Kelly eating chicken tetrazini. The candidate says

he's lost count of how many luncheons and dinners he's participated in during the yearlong course of the campaign.

He tells the Rotary that it's time "to put politics aside and work in our communities." He offers to help them reach their membership goal of 50 by joining.

The day will continue with door-to-door campaigning in Westland and Novi and numerous calls to potential donors.

Trupiano hopes enough donors and enough voters will lead to an upset on Nov. 7. But he knows win or lose, where he'll be for dinner on Nov. 8, and he says he'll be fine with that.

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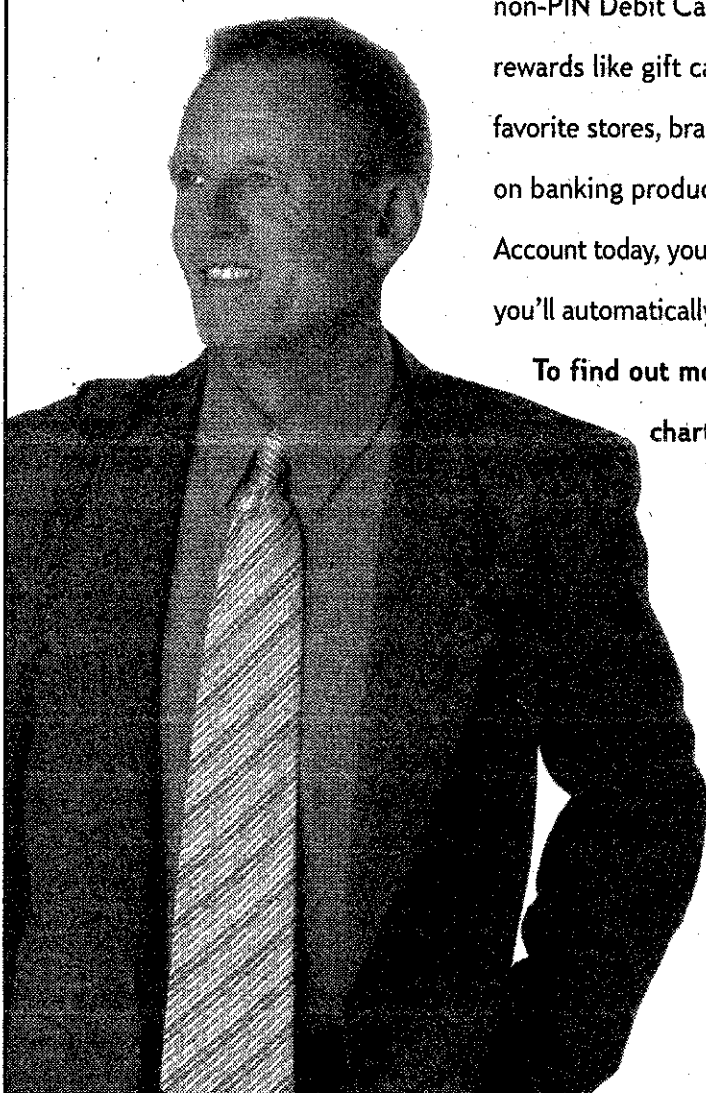
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Schoolcraft hosts Tulsa race riot expert

For 16 hours on May 31, 1921, mobs of white rioters threatened and then set fire to a 34-block black neighborhood of businesses and houses in Tulsa, Okla. The Tulsa Race Riot of 1921 was one of the worst civil disorders in U.S. history, leaving an estimated 10,000 homeless, 800 hospitalized and 300 or more dead.

On Thursday, Nov. 9, Schoolcraft College will host Scott Ellsworth, a leading historian on the riot and author of *Death in a Promised Land: The Tulsa Race Riot of 1921*. Ellsworth began his research into the riot as an undergraduate student at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. He continued his research at Duke University, interviewing eye witnesses, and researching old photos and newspapers, and ultimately published his book.

The event was largely ignored in the history books until the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City when Bryant Gumbel of the Today show was handed a copy of Ellsworth's book. In 1997, the Tulsa Race Riot Commission was created to examine the riots and the possibility of reparations.

Ellsworth served on the Commission as a consultant and the primary investigator.

At Schoolcraft, Ellsworth will make a keynote presentation, *Heartland Tragedy: Uncovering the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921*, at 10:30 a.m. in the Presentation Room of the VisTaTech Center.

At 11:30, Ellsworth will join a panel of Schoolcraft faculty for a discussion on *Facing the Past: Where do we go from here*. A documentary film on the riots will begin at 12:30 p.m. in room 200 of the Liberal Arts Building, featuring Ellsworth, who then will talk informally with students from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

The Ellsworth visit will conclude with a discussion on oral history research techniques from 3 to 4 p.m. in room 200 of the Liberal Arts Building.

All the day's events are free and open to the public. You can see pictures of the riot at file:///U:\International\Scott_Ellsworth_11.9.2006. The event is sponsored by the Schoolcraft International Institute. For information, contact Sam Hays at (248) 559-8264 or Josselyn Moore at (734) 462-4400, Ext. 5271.

HOLIDAY RECRUITMENT

Do you hire extra help for the holidays?

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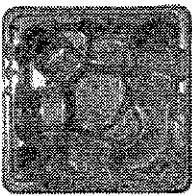
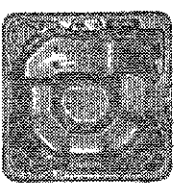
Spas & Billiards

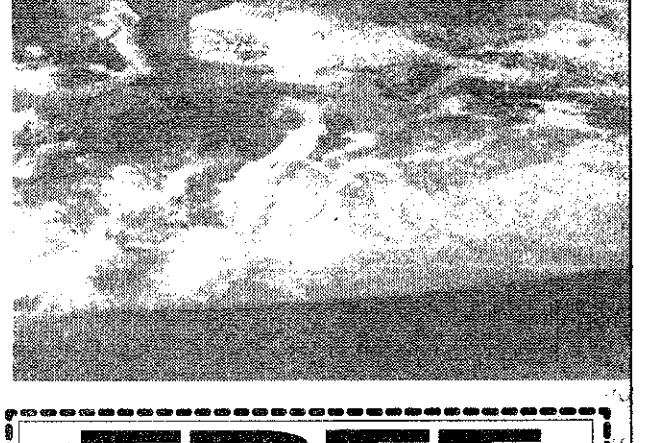
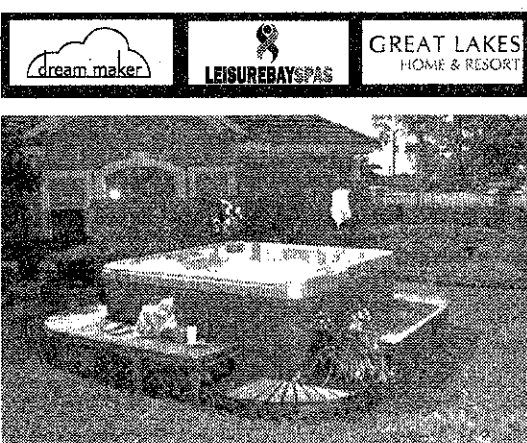


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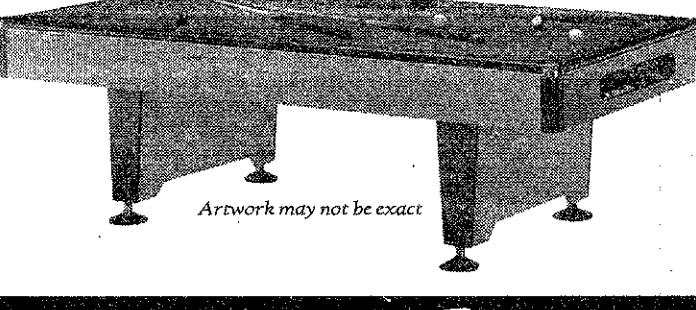
Size 8'
Frame: Oak



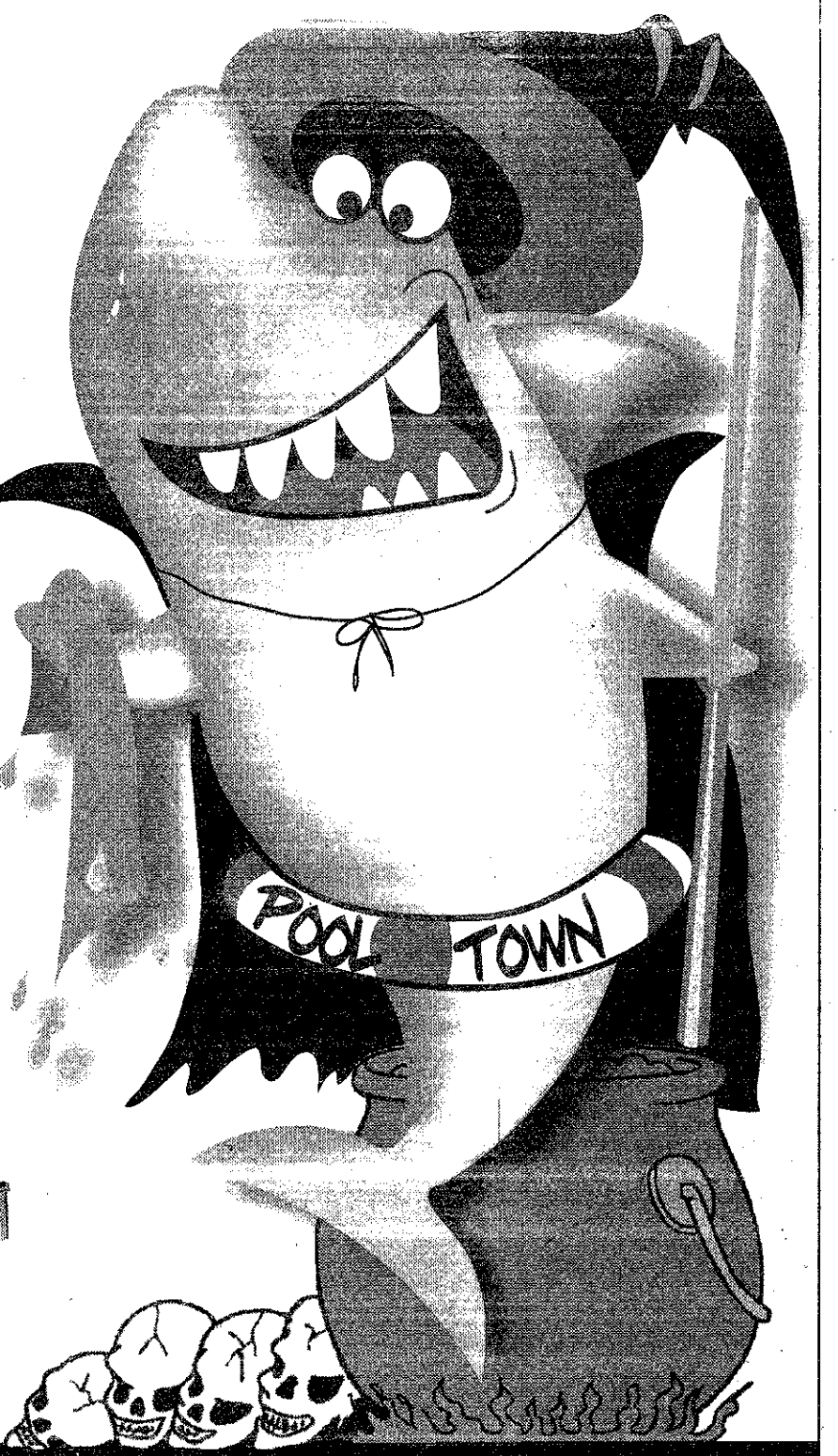
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Find your Fall style

By Jameela Harris

As Fall blows in full-force, it's time to reinvent your wardrobe. Being a fabulous gal, it's important to make sure you're always well put together, whether you're going to a business affair, out on the town, or just to the grocery store! Take this quick PINK quiz to pinpoint your style for the season.

1. When I go to a sporting event I wear:

- A) A pair of skinny jeans with layers on top.
B) Cropped cuffed trousers with a tuxedo-style shirt and low, pointed-toe shoes.
C) Leggings with a tunic top and cowboy boots.
D) My favorite team colors and logo.

2. When I go to a play or social gathering I wear:

- A) A short bubble skirt with a peasant shirt and bangles.
B) A flared skirt with a form-fitting button-up shirt.
C) A long jean skirt with a belted knit sweater.
D) All black from head to toe.

3. If I have a business function to attend I usually wear:

- A) A one-button blazer with an A-line skirt.
B) A classy, polished skirt suit with high heels.
C) Khaki pants and a shirt with a Peter Pan collar.
D) A traditional black skirt with a white blouse.

4. For a night on the town for dinner and fun with friends I wear:

- A) A nice pair of gaucho pants with a beaded T-shirt and tall boots.
B) Black linen ankle pants with a trench coat and ballerina flats.
C) A sweatsuit with tennis shoes.
D) A matching blue jean jacket and pants.

5. Going out to celebrate with my significant other I usually look good for him by wearing:

- A) A skin-tight, low-cut belted knit dress.
B) A bold printed silk chiffon dress with strappy stilettos.
C) A loose-fitting cotton dress with flats.
D) A red silk jumpsuit cinched at the waist, accessorized with gold jewelry and leather pumps.

6. When I'm going to a prestigious gala I wear:

- A) A sequined sheath dress.
B) A calf-length, embroidered, empire-waist gown.
C) A red silk dress.
D) A ballroom dress, sweeping the floor, with a cowl neckline.

7. If I'm going to a job interview I wear:

- A) A knee-length skirt with high heels.
B) Black slacks and a comfortable blazer accented with pearls.
C) A black, calf-length skirt with a small split in the

- back, with pumps and a cream colored rayon blouse.
D) A tailored pantsuit tapered at the ankle with granny boots.

8. For a family picnic at the park I wear:

- A) A wrap skirt, flip-flops and a fitted T-shirt.
B) Capri jeans with a tank top and cardigan sweater.
C) A velveteen cotton jumpsuit with hood.
D) A logo hat and T-shirt, with cotton stretch leggings.

9. On a cold and chilly night out to get ice cream I would cover up with:

- A) A military cropped jacket.
B) A trench styled with buckles and buttons.
C) A tweed, double-breasted peacoat.
D) A fur-trimmed leather.

10. If I'm going to a masquerade ball I would dress up as:

- A) A she-devil with horns and pitch fork.
B) A queen with a crown, and a long beautiful robe and gown.
C) A school teacher with my hair pinned up in a bun and glasses.
D) A diva with long curvy nails and every garment the same color.

Results:

If you chose mostly A's: You love to look stylish and keep up with trends. Having the latest in fashion is a must – you wouldn't have it any other way. You are also an innovator, and people look to you for fashion ideas.

If you chose mostly B's: You are satisfied with classic style, and love that polished, professional and conservative look. You might add a new flair or twist to what has already been established as chic, but with you, everything must be decent and in order, with every piece of fabric in the right place.

If you chose mostly C's: You are a woman who loves to be comfortable. Comfort is the most important factor as you shop for clothes and shoes. You would settle for penny loafers over stilettos any day!

If you chose mostly D's: You love to coordinate. Everything must match from head to toe. As you put your ensemble together, nothing goes missing – even down to your nails and accessories. Everything must be the same color, and the same emblem or logo must be present. You love to look good!

If you have an even number of A's, B's, C's and D's: You are equally fabulous but can't be pinned down to one style. Keep your open mind and remember, image is everything! You only get one chance to make that first impression.

Jameela Harris is a freelance writer and fashion student at the International Academy of Design & Technology in Troy.

pink picks

By Wendy



Hang It!

Halloween Tiles at Dancing Eye Gallery

Wear It!

A Halloween costume — get in the spirit

DON'T Wear It!

A plastic mask — icky!

Tote It!

A pillowcase for trick-or-treating

Kick It!

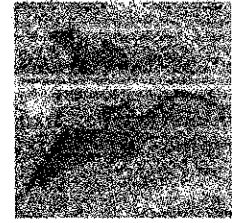
Warm tights

DVD It!

An American Haunting

Tivo It!

Six Feet Under on Bravo



Read It!

The Alienist by Caleb Carr

Do It!

Maybury State Park Corn Maze

Experience It!

Eyez Wide Shut Masquerade Ball

Face It!

SK-II Facial Treatment Mask

Smell It!

Demeter Devil's Food room spray

Pumpkin Spice costume from Target

pinklist

Freaky Fridays at Girly Daze

Inspired by the namesake book and movie, Girly Daze in Northville will host "Freaky Fridays" through the holidays. Moms shop during the day for 15 percent off every item, and teens shop after school for 15 percent off. Shop together on Fridays, and get 20 percent off. Girly Daze (formerly Girly Girl) opened just over a year ago, and carries affordable and fun items for girls who have everything, including Halloween favors, glam gifts, survival kits for brides and grads, pampering products and unique handbags, clothing and jewelry. Call owner Kelly Ragatzki at (248) 449-8890.

Color Trend Workshop

Join Fashion Group Detroit for "The Age of Meaning: Emerging Color Trends," 6:30-8:30 p.m. Oct. 26 at Andiamo Italia West in Bloomfield Hills. Josette Buisson of Pittsburgh Paints International will discuss global and societal color trends that impact all design markets, and how to translate emotions and thoughts into color and design. Donation, \$20, benefits the FGI scholarship fund. RSVP to mmoenssen@ameritech.net. For more information, visit www.voiceofcolor.com.

The Ultraglam Party

Grab your girls and get ready for a night of pampering at Ultraglam Promotions' "Ladies Night Out," 7-9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27 at Papi O' Nightclub in Ypsilanti. The evening of mini-manicures, massages, makeovers and martinis will benefit Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit, which provides sleep

education and bedtime essentials to at-risk children. The ladies-only event is \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. For tickets or information, call (248) 478-3242 or visit www.ultraglamparty.com.

Go Retro at Annual Sale

Whether you're looking for trends reflecting 1940s Hollywood glamour, 1960s mod or 1980s punk rock, you'll find them at the Bloomfield Hills Antique and Vintage Apparel Show, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28. More than 30 vendors will sell jewelry dating back to the 1800s, and clothing representing all eras at the Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward in Bloomfield Hills. Tickets are \$5 adults, kids 12 and under free. Call Larry Barnett at (248) 988-0924.

Macy's Seeks Designers

Aspiring fashion designers from around the greater Detroit area are invited to present their sketches and/or samples to Macy's buyers and trend managers noon-2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27 at Macy's Somerset. A panel of judges will provide relevant feedback and direction during this annual competition. The designer awarded with best-of-show will receive a \$1,000 cash prize. No reservations required.

Sephora's Tricks and Treats

Boo! Is your skin scary? Celebrate Halloween noon-5 p.m. Oct. 27 at Sephora Somerset, by trying on magical masks designed to transform your skin. Or, concoct a "Witches Brew" at the store's fragrance mixology event, noon-5 p.m. Oct. 28. Mix scents to make a potion completely unique to you. Appointments are recommended. Call (248) 458-0100.

pinklist

Under the Stars at the DIA

Celebrate in grand fashion as the Detroit Institute of Arts hosts "Under the Stars: The Final Hard Hat Party That Rocks!" 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11. The glam gala marks the last "under construction" edition of the DIA's annual fall party, before the museum unveils its new look next year. Patrons will be treated to fine art, fabulous food and live entertainment, as well as sneak peeks of some of the DIA's newly renovated galleries. Party-goers also can tour the special exhibit "Annie Leibovitz: American Music," featuring portraits of some of music's most iconic performers shot by the legendary photographer — including Detroit's own White Stripes and Eminem. This year's gala also includes an afterglow "drinks and dessert" party. At 9:30 p.m. the DIA's Rivera Court will be transformed into a swanky, metropolitan club, with beats spun by New York DJ Frank Delour. Afterglow tickets are \$50. Under the Stars tickets are \$400, which benefits the DIA. Call (313) 578-1063 or visit www.dia.org.

Doll Show and Sale

The Michigan Doll Makers Guild will host its annual Doll Show and Sale 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29 at The Centerpoint Marriott, 3600 Centerpoint Parkway, Pontiac. The event features everything for collector and doll maker, including displays of competition dolls, antique and one-of-a-kind dolls for sale, clothing, furniture, dollmaking supplies and prizes. Admission is \$4 with children under 5 free. Call (248) 474-2446 or (248) 357-2090.

The Bluest Eye

Don't miss your chance to see Toni Morrison's Nobel Prize-winning novel "The Bluest Eye," now playing at the City Theater stage. The story about the tragic life of an 11-year-old African-American girl growing up in Ohio in the 1940's, has been transformed into a stage play and will be performed by the Plowshares Theater Company through Nov. 19. For ticket information and show times, please call the box office at (313) 872-0279. City Theater, formerly Second City, is located on 2301 Woodward Ave. in Detroit.

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SPORTS

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Thursday, October 26, 2006

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Ed Wright, editor (734) 953-2108 ewright@hometownlife.com

www.hometownlife.com

Gerulis earns All-State golf honors

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

For a while Saturday afternoon, Plymouth Christian Academy's Ross Gerulis sat atop the Division 4 boys golf world.

Through eight holes of Saturday's second round of the 36-hole Division 4 state finals at The Meadows Golf Course near Grand Rapids, Gerulis led the entire 90-player field thanks to the blistering one-under par round he had working in windy, bone-chilling conditions.

The junior eventually dropped back in the pack, but his overall score of 79-83 still earned him a 10th-place finish and All-State honors.

"Considering how bad the conditions were, I figured since I was one-under that I was probably leading," said Gerulis, a Canton resident. "I just tried to stay focused on what I was doing and not pay attention to the scorecard. But anyone who plays golf knows that's impossible."

"I ended up getting a couple of bad bounces and hitting a couple of bad shots. The bad shots led to some big mistakes."

Gerulis's effort on the challenging layout placed him nine shots behind eventual Division 4 champion Jackson Koert of Grand Rapids North Pointe Christian, who fired a nine-over 36-hole total of 153.

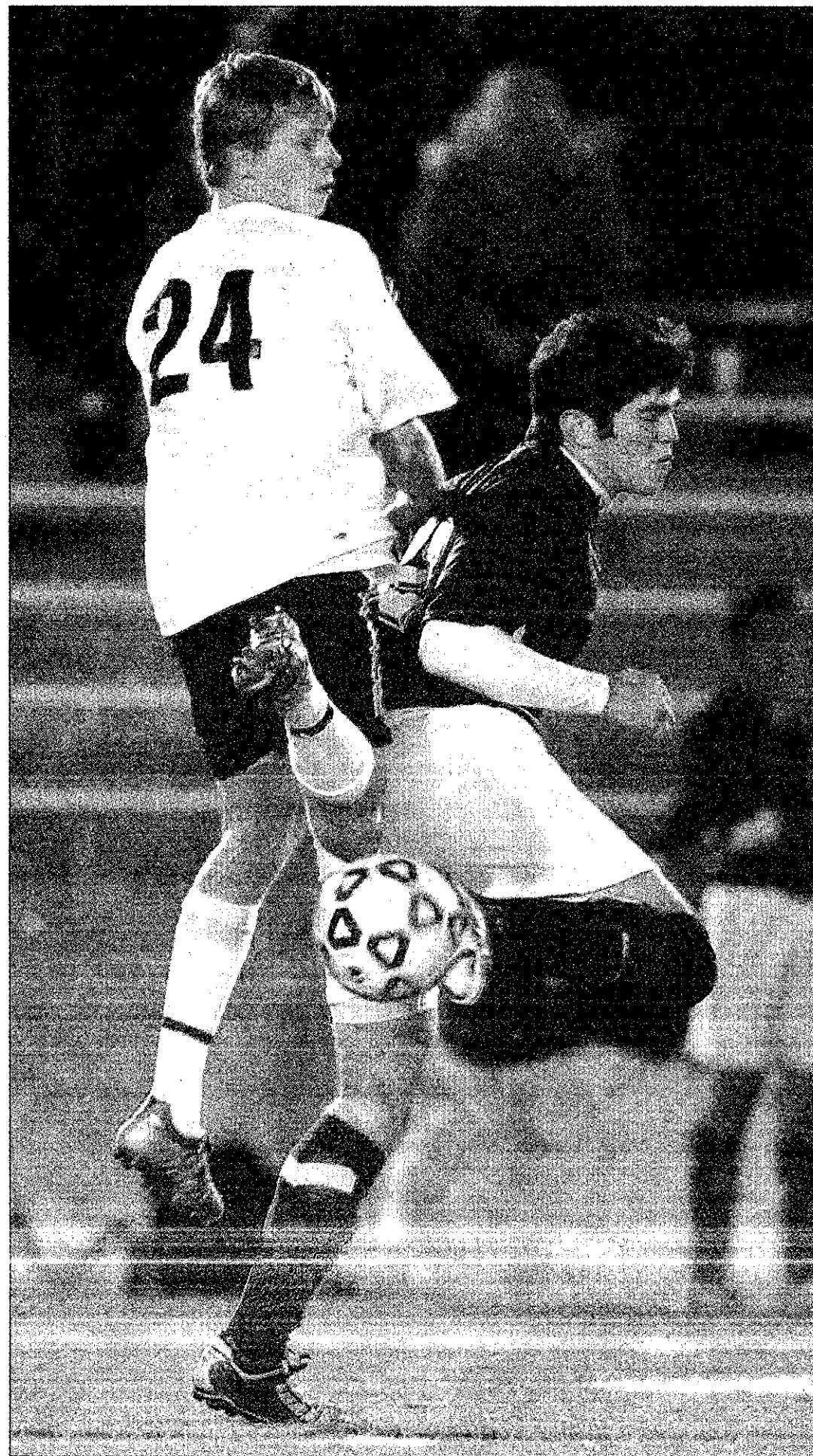
"It's a great accomplishment for Ross, especially because the weather was so bad and the course was very difficult," PCA coach Kurt Johnston said. "Any time you can say you were leading at the state meet, it's something special."

Gerulis was the leader of the Eagles' golf squad throughout the season, leading them to an unprecedented title in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference and a berth in the Division 4 Regional event earlier in the month.

"I didn't really have any numbers in mind to shoot before the tournament," Gerulis said. "My goal was to win it, and if I didn't to that, I wanted to finish in the top 10."

Mission accomplished.

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TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Jace Bearden (left) goes airborne to take the ball from Woodhaven's Dimitri Golematis during Tuesday's Regional semifinal game at Saline. Bearden scored the first goal in the Rocks' 2-0 victory.

Winning formula

Tight defense, timely goals lead Salem to D1 regional title game

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Woodhaven routinely packed the 18-yard box with as many as seven defenders during Tuesday night's Division 1 Regional semifinal soccer match against Salem.

As it turned out, the Warriors could have deployed a small army in front of the net and it still wouldn't have been enough to derail the rolling Rocks.

Following a scoreless first half, Salem solved the sardine can-like defensive alignment to post a 2-0 victory on a brutally cold, windy night in Saline. The triumph pushed the Rocks (17-7-4) into Saturday's 7 p.m. final against longtime nemesis Livonia Stevenson, which throttled Dearborn, 4-0, in the other semifinal matchup.

Woodhaven finished with a 16-5-1 mark.

"I've never seen a team put that many guys in the box against us," said Salem senior forward Brooks Belhart, who assisted on Jace Bearden's ice-breaking goal before scoring an insurance marker of his own with 5:42 left. "When teams do that, getting a good shot off can be very

PLEASE SEE SOCCER, B2

ROCKS-SPARTANS III

What: Division 1 Regional final soccer match;

Who: Salem (17-7-4) vs. Livonia Stevenson (16-2-4);

When: Saturday, 7 p.m.

Where: Saline High School, 1300 Campus Parkway, Saline 48176;

How they made it: The Rocks upended Woodhaven, 2-0, in Tuesday's semi-final; the Spartans knocked off Dearborn, 4-0, on Tuesday;

History: Salem is 1-0-1 against Stevenson this season having tied the Spartans, 1-1, at home on Aug. 30, before defeating them, 2-0, on Sept. 18, at Stevenson.

Players to watch: Salem's key players are senior GK Brian Field, senior F's Brooks Belhart and Tom Bennett; and senior mid-fielders Bobby Towne and Jon Gibson; the Spartans rely heavily on senior GK Mitch Hildebrandt and senior forward Luke Knochel.

DIVISION 1 PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS: ROUND 1

Size matters

So do speed, mobility and strength for Chiefs' imposing D-line

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Preview of Canton-Stevenson playoff game, B3.

Canton football coach Tim Baechler doesn't recall the game or the opponent, but he won't soon forget the path of destruction senior defensive tackle Wardell Fuqua carved through an overmatched foe's offensive line earlier this season.

"As soon as the ball was snapped, Wardell threw down the offensive tackle, then he threw down the center," Baechler said. "It was like he was playing against seventh-graders. The most impressive thing about it was how quick it happened. And after Wardell got through the line, he pursued the running back and got him, too."

The 5-foot-10, 285-pound Fuqua makes up one-third of one of the most feared and most respected defensive lines in Michigan high school football. Combine his size, speed and skill with 6-3, 290-pound Donnie Laramie and 6-1, 280-pound Jay Bailey and you get what Canton defensive line coach Jeff Powers refers to as the Chiefs' "900-pound pain box."

"Since there is no middle school football in Plymouth and Canton, it's rare to get three big football players like this with their kind of skill at the same time," Baechler said. "The most impressive thing about these guys isn't their size — it's the fact that

they're big and they have great hands, they can move and they have outstanding technique."

Salem football coach Parker Salowich got his first glimpse of Canton's version of "Mount Rushmore" when he watched a film of the Chiefs' 20-14 victory over Walled Lake Central.

If he were Siskel or Ebert, the Rocks' coach would have had both thumbs up when the flick ended.

"When you see them on film, they look big and quick and strong," said Salowich. "But then when you see them play in person (which he did the week after he viewed the film) they're a lot bigger and faster than they

PLEASE SEE CHIEFS, B3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Wardell Fuqua (kneeling), Jay Bailey (standing at left) and Donnie Laramie make up one of the most dominating defensive lines in Michigan high school football.

LET PLAYOFFS BEGIN

What: Opening round of Division 1 football playoffs;

Who: Canton (9-0) vs. Livonia Stevenson (6-3);

When: Friday, 7 p.m.;

Where: P-CEP varsity football field;


Chiefs' numbers: Canton has outscored its opponents 342-99 (38.0-11.0) and has outrushed its foes 2,645 yards to 995. Nick Moores has paced the Chiefs' offense with a team-high 684 yards rushing and 14 touchdowns.

Spartans' numbers: Stevenson has outscored its opponents by an average score of 21-18. Coach Tim Gabel's offense is led by the White brothers: junior quarterback Mitchell and freshman running back Austin.

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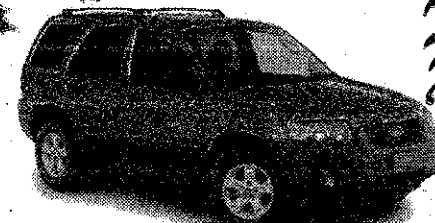


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Bennett keys Rocks' district title

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

game for us."

Bennett's heightened skills can deflate even defense-first teams like Saline, McCarthy said.

"I don't think (Saline) was expecting Tommy to make a run right before he scored," the veteran coach said. "The defense actually closed just as he was striking the ball, but he was able to get a good, clean hit and he really struck the ball well right into the corner of the net.

"That was one of the best goals I've seen all season."

When asked to put a finger on his team's most valuable commodity during its march to a championship, McCarthy spread the praise.

"We defend very well, plus we have a lot of good players in key positions," he said. "We're solid in every spot and — especially in the tournament so far — we've been getting a lot of timely goals.

"Led by Bobby Towne and Jon Gibson, our mid-field does a solid job, and the back line, which is anchored by our two sophomores (Jace Bearden and

Kevin Cope) has been dominating. In general, I think the reason we've been playing so well is that we're well-balanced."

McCarthy said he expected a low-scoring contest against the stingy Hornets.

"They're very defensive and they do a good job of slowing the game down," said McCarthy. "Saline is one of those teams that is able to turn an 80-minute game into a 40-minute game by the way they play.

"The weather conditions helped us tonight because it was calm with hardly any wind, which allowed us to keep the ball in play a lot."

Salem senior goal-keeper Brian Field was his usual stellar self, turning away all six shots he faced. His two best efforts came in the second half: With 29:10 left he batted away a high, bouncing shot in front of the net; and with 15:10 to go Field snared a high hopper just as a pair of Saline players were closing in for the potential game-tying goal.

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

Salem stars shine on 'Senior Night'

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Salem's girls basketball team couldn't have scripted Tuesday night's "Senior Night" any better than it unfolded.

Led by their three seniors — Teresa Coppelie, Tayler Langham and Lauren Kurtz — the state-ranked Rocks rocked visiting Westland John Glenn, 60-26, to improve to 14-2 overall and 9-0 in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Lakes Division. The Rockets slipped to 8-8 and 4-5, respectively.

All three upper-classmen

turned in spectacular efforts in their final regular-season home game. Coppelie netted 15 points, 12 rebounds and five assists; Langham recorded 13 points and four assists; and Kurtz notched nine points and nine boards.

"This senior class is every bit as good as any I've had here at Salem," said Fred Thomann. "That's why it was especially nice to get a win in their last regular-season home game."

Sophomores Chelsea Davis (seven points and 10 rebounds) and Jansan Falcusan (seven points) also shined for the winners.

Junior Alaya Mitchell added five points and four assists. John Glenn was paced by Brittany Holbrook's 11 and Chanel Payne's eight.

Salem led 13-9 after one quarter, 27-14 at the half and 45-25 with eight minutes to play.

"I thought our offense was very effective in the second, third and fourth quarters," Thomann said. "We started out a little too fast in the first quarter, but the girls did a nice job of settling down after that.

"We spread the ball around, too, which was nice to see. Eight of our nine players scored."

Chiefs edge Franklin behind Houdek's 3's

For the second time this girls basketball season, state-ranked Canton escaped with a one-point girls basketball victory Tuesday, this time at Livonia Franklin, 59-58.

Becci Houdek scored 17 points for the victorious Chiefs, now 14-2 overall and 9-0 in the Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association. Houdek's four 3-pointers in the opening quarter staked Canton to 16-14 advantage.

Ja'nee Morton and Baylee Hollowell added 10 points apiece for Canton, which defeated Franklin earlier this season, 39-38.

"The key stretch for us tonight was the second quarter when three starters — Lauren

PREP BASKETBALL

Delapaz, Ja'nee Morton and Baylee Hollowell — all had to sit with two fouls each," said Canton coach Brian Samulski. "Leslie Weisz, Kaylie Martina and Hilary Payne came in, stepped up and played huge minutes which allowed us to hold onto the lead."

The Patriots, who rallied to take the lead in the final quarter after trailing by as many as eight points, got a game-high 22 points from sophomore guard Brianna Taylor. Senior center Robyn Whalen added 13 points and 12 rebounds, while sophomore forward Brittany Taylor contributed eight points for the Patriots, now 11-4 over-

all and 5-4 in the division. Franklin was 9-of-16 from the foul line, while Canton was 9-of-18.

PLYMOUTH 61, WAYNE 34: Kelsi Robinson nailed five triples on her way to a game-high 18 points Tuesday as the Wildcats (7-9, 5-4) downed host Wayne Memorial (1-15, 0-9) in a WLA-Western Division game.

It was 13-all after one quarter before Plymouth outscored the Zebras 18-9 in the second period to take a 31-22 halftime lead. The Wildcats put the game away with a 15-4 third-quarter run.

Junior Trenia Barbee paced Wayne with 17 points.

Plymouth was 13-of-22 from the foul line, while Wayne was 1-for-2.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

Steelers clinch

On Saturday, the Plymouth-Canton Steelers freshmen football team defeated the Lake Area Hawks, 19-6, to win the WSJFL Division A championship. Lucas Callahan led the defense with rugged line play and multiple tackles with Andy Gregor and Nick Poet putting in strong efforts to shut down the Hawks' running game.

Nick Farmer and Bradley Deeg were offensive standouts on the winners' offensive line.

The Steelers' junior varsity squad dropped a hard-fought 13-6 decision. Brent Piligian, Alex Brown, Brandon LaBlanc and Alex Mason played well for the offense. The defense was paced by

Tyler Hoeman and Michael Kennedy's tough play.

The Steelers' playoffs-bound varsity team rebounded to upend the Hawks, 30-14. Turning in strong performances for the Steelers were Jack Ashton, Blake Leighton, Robert Perkins, Adam Randall, Phillip Schultz and Dylan Hatcher. Defensive standouts were Patrick Salo, Enrique Pardo, Christopher Merbler and Mark Wallath.

On Sunday, the Steelers will be hosting their 30th anniversary celebration game against the Canton Lions. The Steelers are inviting all former players, cheerleaders, coaches and administrators to be recognized. The games will be held at the P-CEP varsity football field beginning at 4 p.m.

Lions sweep

The Canton Lions varsity unit defeated Belleville, 32-13, Sunday afternoon thanks to touchdowns from Braden Price, Brad Trublowksi and Eric Haase. Luke Hager also turned in an outstanding performance on offense.

The Lions freshmen captured a division championship by knocking off Belleville, 7-0, Sunday afternoon. Both teams entered the contest unbeaten. The game's lone touchdown was Western Price's 40-yard run mid-way through the second quarter. The defense was led by Daniel Jipping, Kenneth Arnold, Sean Stanners, Alec Pantaleo, Forrest Hall and Chuckie Turfe.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Recreation offerings

Canton Leisure Services will be offering the following sports programs during the next few weeks:

Indoor volleyball leagues will begin Friday, Nov. 10, at the Summit on the Park. There are still openings in the recreational league. The cost is \$250 for residents and \$295 for non-residents.

The annual Elks Free Throw Shooting Contest will be held on Saturday, Nov. 18, at the Summit. The free contest is open to boys and girls from 8 to 13 years old. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

The bi-annual Family Bowling Bonanza will be held

Friday, Nov. 10, at the Super Bowl Lanes in Canton. The cost is \$40 per resident family/team, which includes 2.5 hours of bowling, shoes, pizza/pop and free giveaways. The event runs from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

For more information, call Canton Leisure Services at (734) 394-5355.

Kapadia lauded

Former Salem cross country and track standout Dan Kapadia was recently named the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference's "Freshman of the Year" for his accomplishments with the Wayne State University men's cross country team.

Lacrosse news

All girls interested in playing for the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Lady Warriors lacrosse team in 2007 should attend an informational/registration meeting on Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Waldorf Room of the Plymouth Library. Parents are also encouraged to attend the meeting.

For additional information, contact Rudi Rabe at rabe@comcast.net.

There will be a parent/player meeting for all everyone interested in playing for the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Warriors boys lacrosse team on Wednesday, Nov. 8, at 7 p.m. in the Plymouth High School library.

SOCCER

FROM PAGE B1

difficult, especially when they have big guys back there like Woodhaven did. The key is to just be patient."

Salem's patience was rewarded with 23:33 remaining when Bearden, a sophomore defender, settled Belhart's cornerkick eight yards in front of the net before rocketing a right-footed shot past Warrior goalkeeper Dustin Salliotte to make it 1-0.

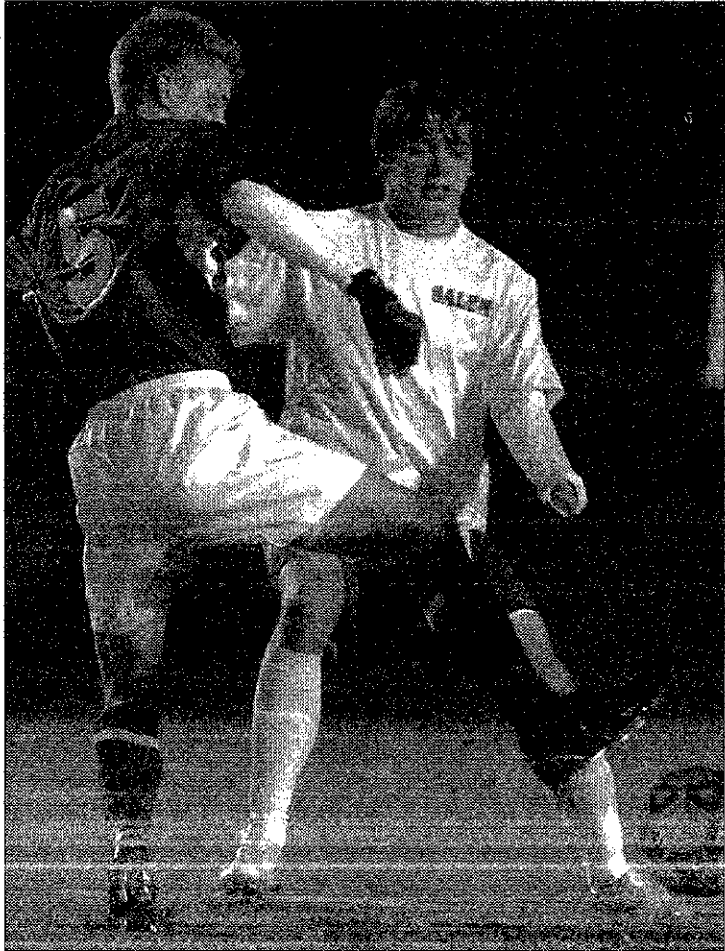
"That goal allowed us a sigh of relief," Salem coach Ed McCarthy said. "That was a big goal. Jace is very good in the air, but the pass was lower, so he was able to get a little more power on it.

Woodhaven defended very well tonight. They had a lot of numbers back, so early on we weren't successful on our counters. And every cross we tried didn't work because there were always three guys on the ball to clear it out. It's a far different style than we're used to seeing and I doubt we'll see it any more the rest of the tournament."

Belhart's game-clincher was a solo effort. It was also a work of art.

The senior received a pass on the right wing before juking a Woodhaven defender just inside the box. He then sidestepped another Warrior before drilling a left-footed missile into a gap between Salliotte's outstretched fingers and the right post.

"At first, I tried to take it to the corner to open things up as much as I could by bringing their defenders to me," said Belhart, the Rocks' leading scorer this season. "Then I made a move to the middle, saw I had a shot and took it." "Once we got Brooks the ball



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Baze Efremov squares off against Woodhaven's Derek Salliotte during Tuesday night's Division 1 Regional semifinal game.

on the flank, he patiently and methodically went to work," McCarthy said. "He beat one guy, then another before putting the ball in the net with a great left-footer. When Brooks is on, he shoots as well as anyone. We're going to need him to be on if we're going to be successful against Stevenson."

Thanks to a dominating defensive effort by the Rocks, Salem goalie Brian Field was as busy as the Maytag repairman. The senior stopped four

shots, the most challenging coming midway through the second half when he pounced on a shot from the doorstep of the foot of Dimitri Golematis.

Golematis nearly scored with 11:55 to go in the opening half, but his rebound shot from 15 yards out sailed five yards wide.

The Rocks' came close to lighting up the scoreboard a minute before Bearden's net-finder when Kyle Freeman's crossing pass eluded Aaron Brown's head by less than a foot.

Belhart was denied his second goal of the night with 3:45 left by a sprawling Salliotte.

Salem received stellar defensive efforts from Bearden, Kevin Cope and Dan McLaughlin.

"We're going to need a better performance than we got tonight to beat Stevenson," McCarthy said. "Stevenson is a much better team than the one we beat three weeks ago. They've been on a roll and haven't lost since we beat them. Plus, they've been beating outstanding teams.

"We're going to have to defend very well and Brian Field is going to have to continue to play outstanding in front of the net."

Advertisement for Plymouth Whalers hockey games: Catch the Wave vs St. Michael's Majors on Fri. Oct. 27th, 7:05PM; and Kitchener Rangers vs Whalers on Sat. Oct. 28th, 7:05PM. Includes ticket information and arena address.

Absolute Auction advertisement for 5 projects in Michigan on Nov. 4. Lists properties in Brighton, Howell, Walled Lake, Ferndale, and Hamburg with details on homes, units, and lots for sale.

Oh, say can she sing ... and dive, and ...

Canton's multi-talented Selden performs everything from 'National Anthem' to reverse pikes

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

On the nights Canton's Chelsea Selden has completed the most amazing of sports daily doubles — singing the "National Anthem" minutes before making harmony with the water on her dives — there is no doubt which endeavor generates the most butterflies in the 18-year-old's stomach.

"I definitely get more nervous before I dive than I do before I sing," Selden said, without hesitation. "After I sing, just about everybody tells me I did a good job no matter how well I actually did. But if I smack the water hard on a dive, nobody says a word."

Based on her diving statistics heading into tonight's regular-season finale against Northville, Selden rarely smacks the water hard. The senior captain, whose best effort of 208.10 is second only to Salem's Katie Koetting's 231.33 among Observerland divers, usually hits the water like she sings — smooth and easy.

"Chelsea is an exceptional and unique individual," said Canton assistant coach Ed Weber, who has coached Selden since her seventh grade year at East Middle School. "She dedicates herself to whatever she goes after and she does well at whatever she puts her mind to."

"She was voted captain this year, so she's obviously well-respected by her teammates. One reason for that is because she's a hard worker. When the swimmers worked out in early-August, she was at every workout. She's been a regular at all of our early-morning (5:30 a.m.) practices as well."

DIVING RIGHT IN

Already an accomplished gymnast, Selden decided to give diving a shot during her freshman year at Canton, figuring it would only improve her skills in her primary sport.

The strategy has paid off for both Selden and the Chiefs' swim team. While Selden's gymnastics career has continued to flourish in high school, her diving skills nearly qualified her for the Division 1 state



Canton's Chelsea Selden is a multi-faceted contributor to the Chiefs' athletics programs. The senior is a standout diver, gymnast and she also sings the "National Anthem" at various Canton sporting events.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

meet in 2005 as she missed making the cut by just a few points.

"The two sports — gymnastics and diving — are very similar in that they both require flexibility and an aerial awareness," she said. "Diving has definitely helped me in gymnastics and vice versa. I'm not the only one, either. I'd say half the divers in our league are gymnasts."

Speaking of gymnastics, Selden has made a splash in that sport as well. Since catching "gymnastics fever" during a "Tumble Bunnies" class in first grade, Selden has enhanced her skills so much that she qualified for the Division 1 state meet in the balance beam earlier this year.

SELDEN'S FAVORITE ...

- Class** — Choir;
- Teacher** — Mrs. Marshall (pre-calculus);
- TV show** — (tie) "Desperate Housewives" and "Grey's Anatomy";
- Actor/Actress** — Reece Witherspoon;
- Car** — "I drive a Mercury Cougar, but I don't really have a favorite ..."

"I love gymnastics because it's a very team-oriented sport and we have a very close team at Canton," she said.

SELF-TAUGHT CROONER

If you've heard Selden perform the "National Anthem" before a Canton football game,

made it and I was lucky enough to be picked. We perform at concerts, at competitions and we're hired for gigs around the community. It's a lot of fun and we make money for the choir department at school."

Like the teams she sings for, a strong start is essential for Selden when she's singing the "Star Spangled Banner."

"As long as my first few notes aren't too high I do fine," she said. "I get a little nervous before I sing, but I just try to have fun with it. I usually get good feedback."

GRADE-A STUDENT

As impressive as Selden's athletic achievements are,

they're not in the same league as her academic accomplishments. A 4.16 (grade-point average) student, she is vice president of her school's National Honor Society and bound for either the University of Michigan, Hope College or Michigan State University next fall.

"The toughest class I've ever had in high school is — without a doubt — advanced placement calculus," Selden revealed. "There are hours of homework every night. I'm glad I took it, though, because it made me a better student."

Make that student/athlete/singer.

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PREP STATE RANKINGS

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers will publish copies of state rankings when space permits and on its website at www.hometownlife.com. Send copies to dstickrad@oe.homecomm.net, or fax to (248) 651-9080.

Girls Basketball

(By the Associated Press)
NOTE — The top 10 teams in the Associated Press high school girls basketball poll with records in parentheses. Totals are based on 15 points for a first-place vote, 14 for second, etc. Class A — 1. Detroit Martin Luther King (4) (12-0); 2. Auburn Hills Avondale (1) (13-1); 3. Lansing Waverly (14-1) 65; 4. Grosse Pointe North (14-1) 58; 5. Saginaw Arthur Hill (12-2) 46; 6. Rochester (14-1) 44; 7. Detroit Pershing (12-1) 43; 8. Flushing (14-1) 39; 9. Midland Dow (12-2) 22; 10. Benton Harbor (12-2) 21.
Others receiving votes — Utica Ford 20, Clarkston 16, Brighton 12, Farmington Hills

Mercy 12, East Lansing 11, Livonia Ladywood 11, Plymouth Salem 9, Belleville 9, Detroit Northwestern 5, Monroe 5, Plymouth Canton 3, Howell 2, Holt 1, Dearborn Edsel Ford 1.
Class B — 1. St. Clair (3) (13-1) 73; 2. Birmingham-Detroit Country Day (1) (12-2) 69; 3. Hudsonville Unity Christian (1) (13-1) 67; 4. DeWitt (13-1) 58; 5. Detroit Renaissance (13-1) 52; 6. Grand Rapids South Christian (13-1) 48; 7. Ludington (13-1) 44; 8. Midland Bullock Creek (13-2) 42; 9. Portland (13-2) 39; 10. Warren Woods-Tower (12-2) 29.
Others receiving votes — Marshall 18, Flint Powers Catholic 13, Ida 10, Scottville Mason County Central 9, Wyoming Park 9, Corunna 8, Goodrich 5, Mount Clemens 5, Flint Northwestern Prep Academy 1, Standish-Sterling 1.
Class C — 1. Saginaw Nouvel Catholic (3) (15-0) 73; 2. Houghton (2) (14-0) 72; 3. Kent City (15-0) 64; 4. Detroit Community (12-1) 57; 5. Morley-Stanwood (13-1) 51; 6. Sandusky (14-0) 50; 7. Michigan Center (14-1) 48; 8. Flint

Hamady (14-1) 45; 9. Allen Park Cabrini (14-1) 30; 10. Marcellus (14-1) 28.
Others receiving votes — McBain 18, Memphis 17, Olivet 16, Pewamo-Westphalia 13, New Lothrop 9, Muskegon Catholic Central 5, Southfield Christian 3, Mariette 1.
Class D — 1. Portland St. Patrick (5) (14-0) 75; 2. Chassell (13-0) 67; 3. Muskegon Western Michigan Christian (15-0) 63; 4. Pickford (13-1) 56; 5. Beal City (15-1) 54; 6. Auburn Hills Oakland Christian (13-1) 54; 7. Lansing Christian (12-2) 48; 8. Frankfort (12-3) 33; 9. Crystal Falls-Forest Park (12-2) 30; 10. Climax-Scotts (13-2) 26.
Others receiving votes — Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart 25, St. Joseph Lake Michigan Catholic 19, Onaway 17, Gaylord St. Mary's Cathedral 8, Cedarville 7, Kingston 6, L'Anse 3, Carney-Nadeau 3, Felch-North Dickinson 2, Traverse City Christian 2, Wyoming Tri-Unity Christian 2.

Boys Soccer

(By the coaches association)
Division 1 — 1. East Kentwood; 2. Warren DeLaSalle; 3. Novi; 4. Rochester Stoney Creek; 5. Plymouth Canton; 6. Northville; 7. Clarkston; 8. Dearborn; 9. Ann Arbor Pioneer; 10. Plymouth.
Honorable Mention — Plymouth Salem, Rochester Adams, Livonia Stevenson, Utica Eisenhower.
Division 2 — 1. Mason; 2. East Lansing; 3. Auburn Hills Avondale; 4. Grand Rapids Christian; 5. Hudsonville Unity Christian; 6. Bloomfield Hills Andover; 7. Oxford; 8. Dexter; 9. St. Joseph; 10. Lapeer East.
Honorable Mention — Grosse Ile.
Division 3 — 1. Jackson Lumen Christi; 2. Richmond; 3. South Haven; 4. Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic; 5. Grand Rapids Forest Hills Eastern; 6. Goodrich; 7. Elk Rapids; 8. Macomb

Lutheran North; 9. Birmingham-Detroit Country Day; 10. Cheboygan.
Honorable Mention — Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port-Laker, Frankenmuth, Otsego.
Division 4 — Southfield Christian; 2. Royal Oak Shrine Catholic; 3. Auburn Hills Oakland Christian; 4. Muskegon Western Michigan Christian; 5. Westland Lutheran; 6. Adrian Lenawee Christian; 7. Traverse City Christian; 8. Allen Park Inter-City Baptist; 9. Muskegon Catholic Central; 10. (tie) Burton Genesee Christian, Birmingham Roeper.
Honorable Mention — Jackson Christian, Kalamazoo Heritage Christian, Ann Arbor Greenhills.

Boys Cross-Country

(By CCR)
Division 1 — 1. Pinckney; 2. Ann Arbor Pioneer; 3. Warren De La Salle; 4. Novi; 5. Rockford; 6. Saline; 7. Monroe; 8. Detroit U-D Jesuit; 9. Brighton; 10. Lake Orion.

Honorable Mention — Traverse City Central, Plymouth, Livonia Churchill, Howell, Utica Ford II, Grosse Pointe South, Macomb Dakota, Traverse City West, Milford, Temperance-Bedford, Troy Athens.
Division 2 — 1. Dexter; 2. Fremont; 3. Sparta; 4. Fenton; 5. Grand Rapids Forest Hills Eastern; 6. Bloomfield Hills Lahser; 7. Linden; 8. Three Rivers; 9. Richmond; 10. Petoskey.
Honorable Mention — St. Clair, Caledonia, Sturgis, Chelsea, Grand Rapids South Christian, Carleton-Airport, Mt. Pleasant, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern, Eaton Rapids, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood.
Division 3 — Williamston; 2. Erie-Mason 3. Jackson Lumen Christi; 4. Bangor; 5. Benzonia Benzie Central; 6. Flint Powers Catholic; 7. Elk Rapids; 8. Freeland; 9. Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic; 10. Kalkaska.
Honorable Mention — Napoleon, Grand Rapids West Catholic, Capac, Shepherd, Lansing Catholic Central, Cass City, Saginaw Swan Valley, Dundee, Parchment, Hanover-Horton.

Division 4 — 1. Hesperia; 2. Bear Lake; 3. Saugatuck; 4. Whitmore Lake; 5. Potterville; 6. St. Louis; 7. Saranac; 8. Jackson Vandercook Lake; 9. Morenci; 10. (tie) Fowler, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart.
Honorable Mention — Harbor Springs, Uby, Blanchard-Montabella, Ellsworth, Grand Rapids Covenant Christian, Eau Claire, Grand Rapids NorthPointe Christian, Mendon, McBain.

Girls Cross-Country

(By CCR)
Division 1 — 1. Rockford; 2. Livonia Churchill; 3. Okemos; 4. Saline; 5. Milford; 6. Brighton; 7. Rochester; 8. Rochester Adams; 9. Clarkston; 10. Grandville.
Honorable Mention — Grand Blanc, Ann Arbor Pioneer, Troy, Utica.
Division 2 — 1. Grand Rapids Christian; 2. East Grand Rapids; 3. Grand Rapids Forest Hills Eastern; 4. East Lansing; 5. Spring Lake; 6. Chelsea; 7. Dexter; 8. Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern; 9. Gaylord; 10. Petoskey.
Honorable Mention — Goodrich, Grand Rapids South Christian, Monroe Jefferson.
Division 3 — 1. LeRoy-Pine River; 2. Hillsdale; 3. Jackson Lumen Christi; 4. Allendale; 5. Macomb Lutheran North; 6. Benzonia Benzie Central; 7. Whitehall; 8. Lansing Catholic Central; 9. Elk Rapids; 10. Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central.
Honorable Mention — Freeland, Flint Powers Catholic, Schoolcraft.
Division 4 — 1. Potterville; 2. Grand Rapids NorthPointe Christian; 3. Battle Creek St. Phillip Catholic; 4. Uby; 5. Southfield Christian; 6. Hesperia; 7. Pewamo-Westphalia; 8. Hillsdale Academy; 9. Saginaw Valley Lutheran; 10. Concord.
Honorable Mention — Allen Park Cabrini, Traverse City St. Francis, New Lothrop, Big Rapids Crossroads Academy.

Boys Water Polo

(By the coaches association)
Open Class — 1. Rockford; 2. Ann Arbor Pioneer; 3. East Grand Rapids; 4. Ann Arbor Huron; 5. East Kentwood; 6. Zeeland; 7. Okemos; 8. Grandville; 9. Birmingham Seaholm; 10. Birmingham Groves.

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Whalers' Neal signs with Dallas

The National Hockey League's Dallas Stars have announced the signing of Plymouth Whalers left wing James Neal to a three-year contract. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

Neal, 19 and from Whitby, ON, has nine goals with six assists in 11 games this season for the Whalers. He leads the team with a plus-9 rating.

During the 2005-06 season, Neal scored 21 goals and 37 assists in 66 appearances. He was named the Ontario Hockey League's Player of the Week on Dec. 12, 2005, after recording six points in two games.

In 13 OHL playoff games a season ago, Neal recorded nine goals and seven assists, earning the Whalers' "Playoff Most Valuable Player" honors.

Neal was honored as Plymouth's Rookie of the Year in 2004-05 after notching 18 goals and 26 assists for 44 points. He also played in the 2005 Home Hardware CHL/NHL Top Prospects Game in Vancouver in his first full season at the OHL level.

The 6-foot-3, 205-pound left wing attended the 2007 Team Canada National Junior Team development camp in Calgary, and won a silver medal with Team Canada at the 2005 World Under-18 Championships in the Czech Republic.

THE WHALERS' WEEK AHEAD: Plymouth (7-4-0-0) is back in



Neal

action on Friday when it hosts the Toronto St. Michael's Majors (currently 7-6-0-0) at 7:05 p.m. and then

Kitchener (3-6-0-2) on Saturday at 7:05 p.m.

During Friday's game, Pepsi Corporation will be promoting its products and handing out free samples to fans throughout the night. During Saturday's game, the Whalers are encouraging Trick or Treaters of all ages to come out and have fun on Trick or Treat Night.

The Whalers and their corporate sponsors will hand out goodies to all kids in attendance during the intermissions and select Whalers players will sign autographs.

In addition, former Plymouth captain Jared Newman will be on hand to drop the ceremonial first puck on Saturday night as well as sign autographs. Newman was team captain of the Whalers from 2000 to 2002.

Tickets are available for all Plymouth Whalers games by calling the Compuware Sports Arena box office at (734) 453-8400 or by going to Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com. FLEX packages and pro-rated season tickets are also available.



Pride of Plymouth-Canton

The Plymouth-Canton Pride 14u Stars captured first place Oct. 7-8 at the Lady Irish Fall Harvest Tournament in Oregon, Ohio. The Stars were undefeated and outscored their opponents, 38-10. Pictured (front row from left) are Briana Lee, Kelli Janiczek, Lauren Roberts, Mariah Tesarz, Mary Johnson, (back row from left) coach Kevin Dunleavy, Amanda Burnard, Amy Dunleavy, Lyndsey Look, CarolAnn Sexauer, coach Mike Burnard, Marissa Blassic, Alyssa Gietl and coach Katie Gietl. Not pictured is Logan Lankford.

AREA GIRLS SWIM BESTS

(as of Oct. 23)

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

50 freestyle

Allison Schmitt (Canton) 24.32
Jill Peterson (John Glenn) 25.44
Brynn Marecki (Stevenson) 25.51
Laura Timson (Stevenson) 25.95
Ally Stencel (Salem) 26.09
Mandy Nameth (Ladywood) 26.26
Jordan Burgess (John Glenn) 26.54
Anna Polkowski (Stevenson) 26.56
Monica Blaesser (Canton) 26.71
Blake Holtz (Stevenson) 26.76

100 freestyle

Allison Schmitt (Canton) 52.01
Brynn Marecki (Stevenson) 54.11
Jill Peterson (John Glenn) 55.65
Laura Timson (Stevenson) 56.37
Natalie Gaurud (Salem) 56.77
Whitney Aumiller (Salem) 57.11
Blake Holtz (Stevenson) 57.70
Jordan Burgess (John Glenn) 58.02
Monica Blaesser (Canton) 58.14
Alyssa Johnson (Canton) 58.78

200 freestyle

Allison Schmitt (Canton) 1:52.24
Jill Peterson (John Glenn) 1:59.90
Brynn Marecki (Stevenson) 2:00.66
Laura Timson (Stevenson) 2:01.41
Whitney Aumiller (Salem) 2:01.90
Stephanie Buckley (Stevenson) 2:03.80
Ashley Gordon (Stevenson) 2:04.42
Monica Blaesser (Canton) 2:04.48
Jordan Burgess (John Glenn) 2:05.00
Casey Peterson (John Glenn) 2:06.57

500 freestyle

Allison Schmitt (Canton) 4:56.87
Brynn Marecki (Stevenson) 5:17.14
Laura Timson (Stevenson) 5:20.64
Jill Peterson (John Glenn) 5:21.13
Monica Blaesser (Canton) 5:24.33
Amanda Timson (Churchill) 5:29.5
Ashley Gordon (Stevenson) 5:30.77
Whitney Aumiller (Salem) 5:33.23
Jordan Burgess (John Glenn) 5:35.07
Stephanie Buckley (Stevenson) 5:36.02

100 backstroke

Allison Schmitt (Canton) 1:00.91
Whitney Aumiller (Salem) 1:03.30
Alyssa Johnson (Canton) 1:03.91
Laura Timson (Stevenson) 1:04.07
Ashley Sells (John Glenn) 1:04.25
Ashley Gordon (Stevenson) 1:04.30
Anna Polkowski (Stevenson) 1:05.42
Jordan Burgess (John Glenn) 1:06.50
Monica Blaesser (Canton) 1:07.50
Megan Holycross (Stevenson) 1:08.88

100 breaststroke

Brynn Marecki (Stevenson) 1:07.79
Jill Peterson (John Glenn) 1:09.01
Laura Timson (Stevenson) 1:10.86
Maggie Carlson (Canton) 1:12.67
Sijia Hao (Plymouth), 1:13.58

Allison Schmitt (Canton) 1:13.78

Mandy Nameth (Ladywood) 1:14.78
Amanda Foulds (Churchill) 1:15.16
Ellen Palczynski (Plymouth) 1:15.44
Stephanie Buckley (Stevenson) 1:15.89
Sarah Palczynski (Plymouth) 1:16.21

100 butterfly

Allison Schmitt (Canton) 57.13
Ashley Sells (John Glenn) 1:00.86
Anna Polkowski (Stevenson) 1:02.99
Megan Holycross (Stevenson) 1:04.61
Monica Blaesser (Canton) 1:05.52
Katie Kress (Stevenson) 1:05.93
Sijia Hao (Plymouth) 1:06.10
Emily Hiser (Churchill) 1:06.64
Katie Gorman (Salem) 1:06.91
Emily Bair (Salem) 1:07.36

200 IM

Allison Schmitt (Canton) 2:08.01
Brynn Marecki (Stevenson) 2:14.38
Laura Timson (Stevenson) 2:16.09
Jill Peterson (John Glenn) 2:17.10
Ashley Sells (John Glenn) 2:17.76
Ashley Gordon (Stevenson) 2:18.10
Monica Blaesser (Canton) 2:21.16
Maggie Carlson (Canton) 2:21.68
Sijia Hao (Plymouth) 2:23.10
Stephanie Buckley (Stevenson) 2:23.92

1-meter diving

Katie Koetting (Salem) 231.33
Chelsea Selden (Canton) 208.10
Carla McNamara (Stevenson) 197.63
Amanda Keeble (Stevenson) 172.57
Kailea Stancer (Canton) 158.98
Mallory Hudak (Canton) 152.55
Katy Harris (John Glenn) 147.90
Mikayla Armbruster (Ladywood) 145.60
Julie Kwasnik (Stevenson) 145.12
Catherine Musatics (Churchill) 138.50

RELAYS

200 medley

Salem 153.85

Livonia Stevenson 1:54.43

Westland John Glenn 1:57.25

Canton 2:00.39

Livonia Ladywood 2:01.80

Livonia Churchill 2:04.2

200 freestyle

Canton 1:44.22

Livonia Stevenson 1:46.88

Salem 1:47.54

Westland John Glenn 1:47.89

400 freestyle

Livonia Stevenson 3:44.43

Canton 3:47.53

Salem 3:53.03

John Glenn 3:54.23

Plymouth 3:58.94

Updates must be sent to Livonia Stevenson coach Greg Phill by 3 p.m. each Sunday at gregphill@sbcglobal.net



High-flying Hawks

The Michigan Hawks U-14 girls soccer team won the State Cup championship Oct. 14 at Founders Park in Farmington Hills. The Hawks blanked the Novi Jaguars, 2-0, in the final. Pictured (front row from left) are Mike Bussey, Mollie Krick, Gabby Gauruder, Kirsten Evans, Chelsea MacGriff, Lisa Vogel, Bronte Payne, (standing from left) coach Tim Ernst, Melanie Pickert (Canton), Taylore Peterson, Jordl Rakas, Katie Brown, T.J. Jahnke, Tayler Ward, Alyssa Haney, Melissa Seymour and Lindsey Roy (Canton).

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OE083937

Welcome to bye week ... and not a moment

There is no Lions game this Sunday. The annual bye week is upon us and that's a time for reflection, inspection and evaluation. Quite frankly, anything with a "tion" at the end is open for discussion during the bye.

It's kind of like mid-terms for the Lions. There will be no grading on a curve, however. Instead of a usual boring A, B, C, D or F grade given out, I have a new fun system. It honors former Lions coach Wayne Fontes. Captain Wayne-O is the Lions' all-time leader in coaching victories and coaching losses. It's only appropriate to hand out "Wayne-Os." On a scale of 1-to-5 Wayne-Os, we can evaluate the Lions' start in this 2006 campaign. One Wayne-O is brutally bad, with five Wayne-Os being outstanding. Let us start, shall we?

THE RECORD

The Lions won one game before the bye. It came

against Buffalo. They have six losses. This is easy. Zero Wayne-Os.



Mark Wilson

PASSING GAME

Jon Kitna is an upgrade from Joey Harrington. Right now, he is online to be just the second Lions quarterback to throw for more than 4,000 yards in a single season. At this rate, he would also fashion the fourth season in Lions' history of 20 touch-down passes. He has terrific leadership skills and guys seem to like him. Kitna still makes some critical mistakes at bad times and, on this team, that just can't happen.

Roy Williams was leading the league in receiving yards into Week 7 and Mike Furrey has been the surprise of the year. He might even be one of the biggest

surprises in the entire National Football League.

The Lions did cut Charles Rogers in camp and Corey Bradford in Week 3 and Mike Williams has been a total bust so far. Still, Roy and Furrey make up a little bit for that, so ... three Wayne-Os.

RUNNING GAME

Kevin Jones went 22 straight games without a 100-yard rushing day. He finally hit the century mark against Buffalo in the lone Lions victory. What a shocker! Get K.J. the ball more than 20 times and he gets 127 yards. The Lions win as a result. It could be a formula for the future.

Shawn Bryson is out for the year and Artose Pinner is now in Minnesota. Arlen Harris is back with the team while Corey Schlesinger recovers from injury. Rookie running back Brian Calhoun hasn't run enough to be effective. We need to see some more of the kid from Wisconsin. Two Wayne-Os.

OFFENSIVE LINE

This has just been a mess. The only two constants are Jeff Backus and Dominic Raiola. The Lions center just passed 70 straight starts in Honolulu blue, silver and black. Verba, Tucker, DeMulling, Saipaia, Stokes, Scott and Woody have all taken turns on the line. They need to open up more holes for Jones and give Kitna better pass protection. It's a must if the Lions' offense will ever really do what Mastermind Mike Martz is trying to pull off. One Wayne-O.

DEFENSIVE LINE

Again, we've got trouble here. Shaun Cody went out early and then Shaun Rogers, the All-Pro tackle, was suspended by the NFL for ingesting a weight-control product that had banned substances in it. He has three more games to serve without pay. James Hall was the NFC Defensive Player of the Week after three-plus sacks against the Bills. At

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Not too soon for struggling Lions

times, the former Michigan Wolverine can look dominant. Other times, Hall can look average.

Kalimba Edwards got a new contract for big money, but hasn't played to anywhere near his potential. Corey Redding gets an extra Wayne-O for moving over to tackle from his usual defensive end spot. They all simply need to be better and, yes, that means you Marcus Bell. He is Rogers' replacement for the next few weeks. Two Wayne-Os.

SECONDARY

Dré Bly said it best to me last week. "Man, I can't believe I have no interceptions. Jamar Fletcher and Terrence Holt got one before me this season. I'm a big-play guy. I need to make that happen," he said.

Fernando Bryant is getting back, which is good. The backups haven't been very good. Kenoy Kennedy has been out with injury. Daniel Bullocks is still mak-

ing rookie mistakes. Chalk up another marking as ... two Wayne-Os.

LINEBACKERS

Ernie Sims has led the team in tackles. He seems to be a solid first-round draft choice for Matt Millen. Everyone knows that Millen needed to do something in the draft. USC quarterback Matt Leinart was the popular choice, but the Lions went with Sims instead.

Paris Lenon has been serviceable and Boss Bailey seems to get more athletic all the time. They still don't have a true middle linebacker in the classic sense. Teddy Lehman is finally getting back on the practice field and Alex Lewis is coming back soon, as well. This position has given up some big plays, but ... three Wayne-Os.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Chuck Prierer is a very good coach. Eddie Drummond is still a threat to take one back for six each time he touches the football. Only problem is, Drummond hasn't taken one back since 2004. Az Hakim returned as a receiver and punt returner and has been less than adequate.

Coverage has been decent at times, but some big opposition returns have given teams terrific field position. They haven't been a major problem.

Nick Harris can't seem to pin teams deep anymore on his punts. Jason Hanson is still Mr. Reliable. This unit is kind of an enigma. Hanson gives it credibility. Three Wayne-Os.

COACHING

Rod Marinelli has all the coach-speak down pat. He seems to be doing the best job possible with the talent he has. Injuries are never an excuse for Marinelli. His team seems to like what he has to offer

in his first head coaching position.

Martz took the Rams to the Super Bowl as a head coach. As the Lions offensive coordinator, he is a cut above what's been here the past decade. Defensive coordinator Donnie Henderson still has a lot of work to do to make that defense viable on a weekly basis.

The 1-6 record takes this down a Wayne-O. Even a second victory before the bye week might have added an extra notch. Marinelli himself knows he has a long way to go. Two Wayne-Os.

There it is — the first-ever Wayne Fontes-meter to grade out the Lions. Have fun with your own system. Get your friends together for a Fontes party and let the Wayne-Os begin. After all, it's the bye week.

Mark Wilson is host of the Lions pre- and postgame shows on WKRK-FM (97.1). He's a former Associated Press and Michigan Association of Broadcasters Michigan Sportscaster of the Year. He lives in West Bloomfield.

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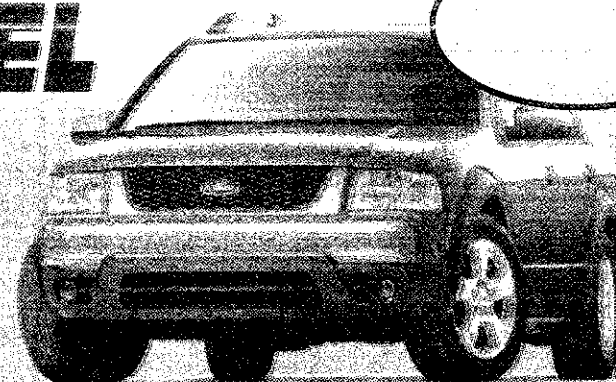


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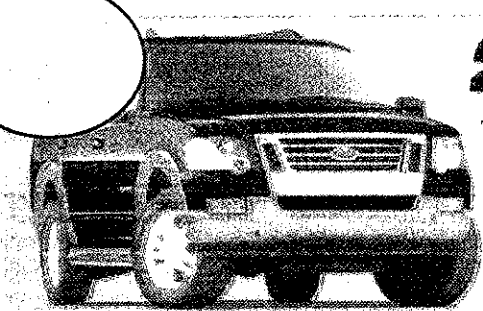
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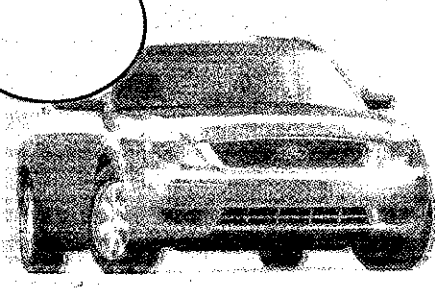
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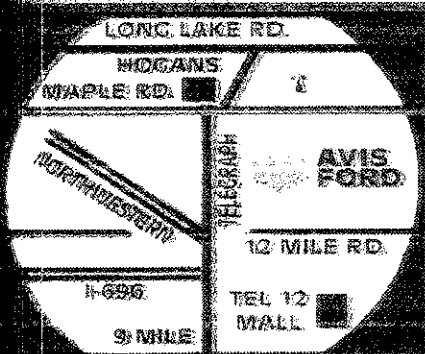
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Automotive

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Lexus GX 470: Just stay the way you are

Advertising Feature

CA Report



By Hawke Fracassa
Avanti NewsFeatures

The first thing I thought as I buckled my seat belt on the Lexus GX 470 was how comfortable the driver's seat felt.

I hopped up and down, rocked from side to side and stretched my legs before expelling a drawn-out ahhhhhhh to trumpet my approval. I said this to nobody else in particular, since I was alone in the truck.

To me, \$57,000 luxury trucks that are the caliber of the GX 470 are four-wheel works of art that are to be savored, pampered and appreciated.

If you want point A to point B transportation, buy an old Ford Pinto or a rickshaw. If you want high-class wheels, the GX 470 is an ideal place to start.

The GX 470's ride is as smooth as a tumbler of Glen Fiddich on a sun-scorched summer Sunday.

What about rocky roads? Well, this truck absorbs potholes and bumps as well as a Hovercraft gliding over a still lake.

Acceleration is amazing. While the GX 470 is no sports car by any means, it gives off a throaty purr to tell you whatever power you need can be had for the asking.

Its 4.7-liter V8 engine delivers up to 263 horsepower and that can come in handy when hauling your cabin cruiser or the Boblo Boat.

The GX 470 comes with snow and mud tires standard, but do we really want to drag something this beautiful through the mud?

This is no Ugly Betty, so if you want to go off-roading, get something uglier, like a Pontiac Aztec, or something sturdier, like a Jeep Wrangler.

We took our test GX 470 to northern Michigan and it took to the road with a vengeance. The engine responded ably, I was able to thread through tight traffic with pinpoint control and there was enough room in the truck to haul two kids, two dogs and stuff that included a power washer, two weed whackers and five loads of dirty clothes.

One of the coolest things about the GX 470 is its premium sound system. This thing is to die for.

It's a Mark Levinson 14-speaker 240-watt premium audio system. The sound is just incredible. It's an experience to be enjoyed.

As we have come to expect from Lexus, it has already



2006 Lexus GX 470 Vehicle class: Mid-luxury sport-utility vehicle. Power: V8 engine. Cool feature: Mark Levinson premium audio package with Bluetooth and 14-speaker sound system. Mileage: 15 city / 19 highway. Where built: Tahara, Japan. Base price: \$46,535. Price as tested: \$56,807.

outdone itself in creating an even better sound system. Just this week, Lexus came out with a 19-speaker premium sound system in the new LS 460. Wow!

We Americans buy about 450,000 mid-luxury SUVs a year and between 7 and 8 percent of these buyers typically have chosen the segment-leading GX 470 since it made its debut as a 2003 model in September 2002.

That means about 35,000 Americans a year choose this particular truck. Through September, Lexus had sold just under 19,000 GX 470s this calendar year.

This down sales year is a little confusing to me because it seems to me that Lexuses, which used to be rare, are now everywhere—in my neighborhood and in yours.

The luxury brand born in 1989 that was once upon a time only for the elite and seemingly unattainable for everyday Americans is now owned by more than just the Joneses.

Lexus is here, it's there, it's everywhere. It has survived the Buy American onslaught to gain acceptance from discerning Americans based purely on the quality of the workmanship.

Conversely, the Japanese have taken a cue from their American counterparts by incorporating services like General Motors OnStar juggernaut.

People who work for Lexus Link can remotely lock or unlock doors and activate their horns and lights. Something Lexus calls Directions Plan gives GX 470 owners route data and other important information.

My favorite service is the Lexus Link Concierge Advisor, who can make travel and hotel reservations for

me and buy tickets to games. Is it just me, or wouldn't you think that someone who could afford a Lexus would have someone already available who can do these things?

This concierge service, Lexus says in a news release, can even provide for personal needs. I am wondering how far Lexus will go in providing personal services.

Remember that five loads of dirty laundry?

Hmmmm I say this because such a promise seems to go well beyond servicing the Lexus itself. Maybe Lexus is taking a page from GM's Saturn playbook.

Saturn for years has had mediocre cars but awesome customer service. Saturn owners will tell you how much they like going to the dealership to get service because the salesman knows their names and is so friendly.

To be honest, I would rather just have a great car like a Lexus that never breaks down and never needs service. I do not care if the salesman knows my name because if I am seeing him, it means something bad has happened to my car. Because I am provided service with a smile doesn't make me smile.

Saturn, for its part, recognizes and acknowledges this gap and for 2007 has substantially stepped up the quality of its vehicles.

At Lexus, there is no need to step up the quality of the GX 470. It's already awesome.

Hawke Fracassa is editor of Avanti NewsFeatures. Write him at hawkefracassa@aol.com. ©2006, Fracassa Communications.

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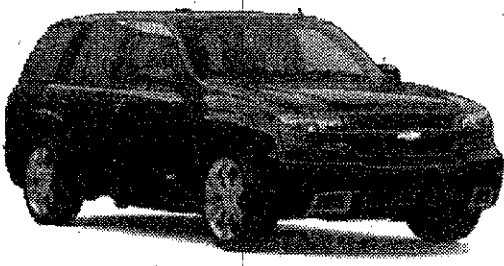
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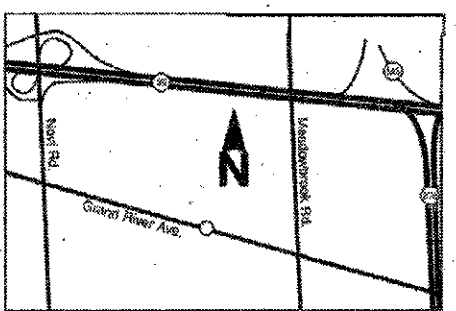
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Used car prices take hard tumble

New car incentives push used car marketplace to record low

by J.L. Sims Independent ad features

Livonia, MI - A Livonia dealer is selling 2006 vehicles for one-half of the original manufacturer's list price. And they're offering many other 2006 models far below normal market values. The low financing offered by GM, Ford, and Daimler-Chrysler mesmerized so many buyers that far fewer shoppers even bothered looking at pre-owned 2006 models.

How does 0% financing on a new model do in a heads-up comparison to a pre-owned 2006 model? In the instance of the Buick LaCrosse, financing \$21,960 plus tax vs. \$9995 plus tax, the payments on the new car at 0% interest would be \$392 monthly for 60 months, but only \$233 monthly at 3.9% for 60 months on the program model. With the prime at a record low, today's interest rates are very competitive. Many credit unions charge under 6% for auto loans if the applicant has a good credit rating. And when purchasing the used 2006, don't forget that you'll be saving about an additional \$1,000 in sales tax and licensing fees. (Taxes estimated at an average of 6%).

John Rogin Buick sold over 150 Buick LaCrosse & Pontiac Grand Prix's in the first 30 days of their sale.

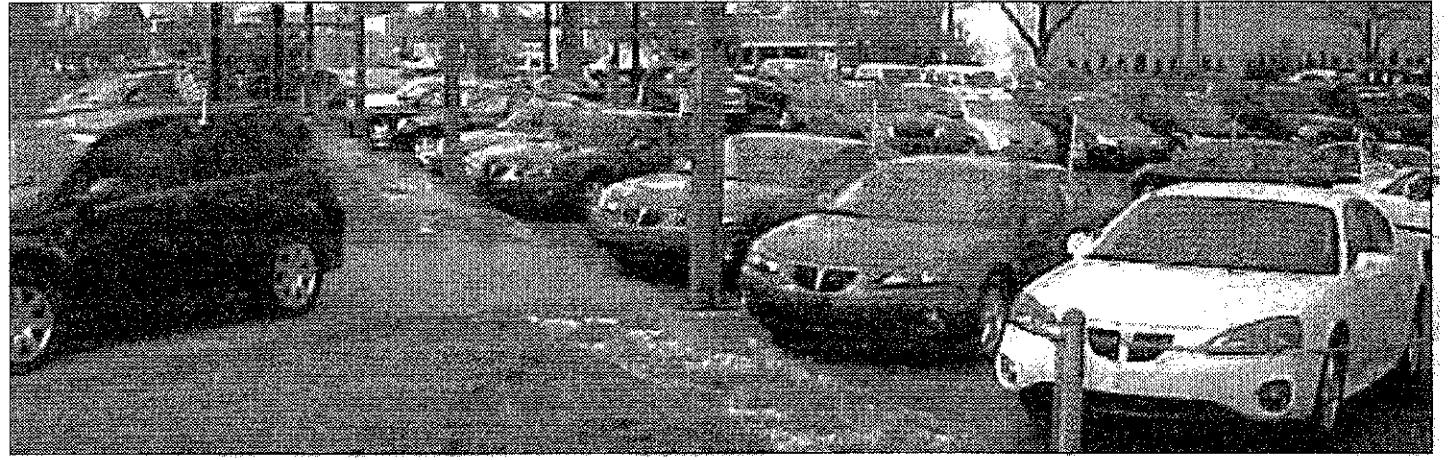
A "program" car is a vehicle that has been leased by a premium rental company through a special "program" from the manufacturer. Strict maintenance is required, and all vehicles are carefully inspected upon return. In many cases, these program units receive better maintenance than vehicles owned by private owners.

John Rogin Buick-Livonia has long been known as Michigan's "bargain hunting" dealer. Currently, they're selling more

2006 Pontiac Grand Prix than any other dealer in the nation. (Over 150 Pontiacs & Buicks were sold during the first 30 days of their sale.) Last year, they sold the most pre-owned 2005 Impalas and Pontiac Grand AMs in the nation from their single location. And the year before they set the sales record selling the most off-lease GMC Yukons and pick-ups.

Today's real bargain can be found at John Rogin in the pre-owned 2006 vehicles. The low financing on new 2006's has left the used models unnoticed and over-looked. So, with far fewer dealers purchasing these units, the prices have dropped to record lows.

So, once again, John Rogin has gone shopping for the vehicles with a huge cart. They have just made a multi-million dollar purchase of these units from General Motors, bringing in



Bargains abound in pre-owned 2006 program vehicles

truckload after truckload from across the country. In addition to filling their giant used car facility to the brim, John Rogin had to lease additional storage lots to accommodate their massive acquisition of vehicles. And they

currently stock the largest inventory of 2006 program cars in Michigan.

The purpose of 0% financing is to clear out the remaining new 2006's. In another week or two, these vehicles will all be gone,

along with the incentives. In the meantime, the 2006 program vehicles are truly today's "sleeping" bargain... But they'll soon disappear as smart shoppers begin to "wake up" and recognize the real deals.

John Rogin Buick is located at 30500 Plymouth Road, between Middlebelt and Merriman in Livonia. Their used car superstore may be contacted directly at (734) 525-0900 Monday-Friday during normal business hours.

A Beautiful Buick

The 2001-2006 Buicks were the highest ranked Premium Midsize Car in J.D. Powers and Associates Initial Quality Study. This study was based on a total of over 64,900 consumer responses indicating owner reported problems during the first 90 days of ownership. Of those surveyed, Buick owners reported the fewest problems - An outstanding mark of excellence for superb workmanship and a prelude to the satisfaction yet to be experienced during the coming years.

Equipped with a powerful 175-horsepower V-6 boasting 20mpg city and 29mpg highway fuel economy, the Buick LaCrosse will capture your heart from the moment you slip behind the wheel. There won't be any need

for a salesperson to explain how to operate "all the buttons," because this LaCrosse will greet you like an old friend, or a comfortable pair of slippers. The cabin is exceedingly driver friendly, with all controls neatly laid out before you like an elegant table setting. And everything just seems to "fit."

The Buick LaCrosse still retains all the traditional value you've come to expect from Buick. From its luxurious well-appointed interior to the clean, flowing exterior design, LaCrosse makes a stylish impression.

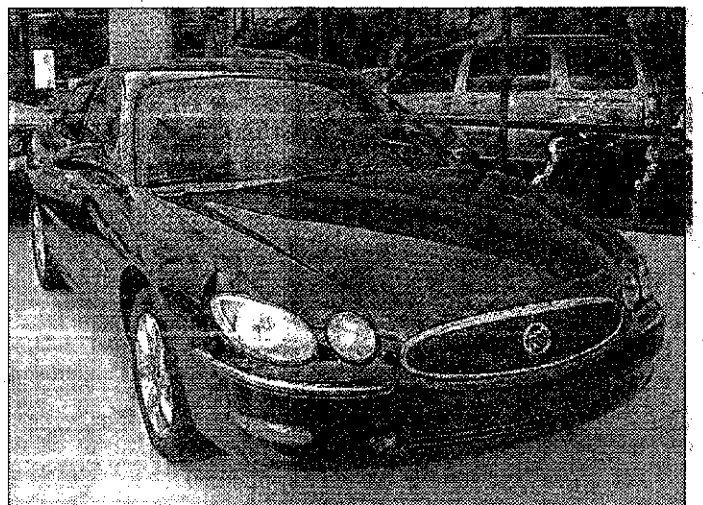
The standard features provide evidence that the Buick still remains just one step down from the Cadillac in GM's lineup. Dual (driver and passenger side) heat and air conditioning controls, six-

position tilt steering wheel, cruise control, power windows, locks, and seats, remote key fobs operating doors and trunk, rear window defroster, plus a stereo system that will blow you away.

Children aren't forgotten with the rear seat upper and lower latch system for compatible child safety seats and rear door child security locks.

Four-wheel independent suspension provides for solid handling and the ride of a magic carpet.

Best of all, the new LaCrosse requires just a little more maintenance than a rock garden. 100,000 miles between spark plug changes. 100,000 mile transmission service intervals under normal driving conditions. Wow.



See the 2006 Buick LaCrosse at John Rogin Buick in Livonia.

It's no wonder that John Rogin Buick-Livonia considers the pre-owned 2006 LaCrosse to be the most car they've ever been able to offer for the money. And for the past several weeks, they've silently amassed hundreds of these wonderful units from

throughout the country and brought them to Livonia. Best of all, today you can purchase a pre-owned 2006 LaCrosse from John Rogin for nearly half its engine value of \$24,000 list price new. While they last.

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2006 F-150 XLT 4x4
5.4 V8, 4 speed automatic, bed liner, trailer tow pkg., 7200 GVWR, Oxford White. Stock #616523
Was \$33,755 NOW \$22,003*

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4.0 V6, 5 speed automatic with OD, air, safety canopy, AM/FM CD. Stock #7T5106
Was \$25,085 NOW \$22,316^{75*}

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\$1000 Customer Cash	0 Down	Sign & Drive
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\$1597.00 DUE	\$581.60 DUE	0 DUE

\$1000 Customer Cash	0 Down	Sign & Drive
\$202^{**}	\$243^{80**}	\$267^{30**}
\$1591.00 DUE	\$575.40 DUE	0 DUE

2007 FOCUS ZX3 24 Month Lease Renewal
\$163^{20}** per month
\$1000 DOWN \$1400.00 due at signing
\$0 DOWN \$206.00** per month due at signing
SIGN & DRIVE \$222.30** per month due at signing
Was \$18,350 NOW \$14,580*

2007 FREESTYLE SEL 24 Month Lease Renewal
\$191^{81}** per month
\$1000 DOWN \$1475.00 due at signing
\$0 DOWN \$233.68** per month due at signing
SIGN & DRIVE \$253.25** per month due at signing
Was \$26,275 NOW \$21,307^{50*}

2007 500 HUNDRED SEL 24 Month Lease Renewal
\$235^{00}** per month
\$1000 DOWN \$1339.00 due at signing
\$0 DOWN \$277.80** per month due at signing
SIGN & DRIVE \$296.10** per month due at signing
Was \$24,725 NOW \$20,778*

2007 FUSION 24 Month Lease Renewal
\$184^{90}** per month
\$1000 DOWN \$1363.00 due at signing
\$0 DOWN \$227.60** per month due at signing
SIGN & DRIVE \$242.20** per month due at signing
Was \$19,705 NOW \$16,807^{25*}

ESCAPE XLT 24 Month Lease Renewal
\$210^{10}** per month
\$1000 DOWN \$1480.00 due at signing
\$0 DOWN \$251.80** per month due at signing
SIGN & DRIVE \$270.90** per month due at signing
Was \$24,250 NOW \$19,188^{70*}

MUSTANG PREMIUM COUPE 24 Month Lease Renewal
\$248^{60}** per month
\$1000 DOWN \$1431.00 due at signing
\$0 DOWN \$293.00** per month due at signing
SIGN & DRIVE \$311.30** per month due at signing
Was \$23,825 NOW \$19,746*

F-550 Classic Cab
Switch & Go Landscaper Body, 6.0 Diesel V6, 5 Speed auto, 19000 GVWR snow plow pkg. Stock # ST6491
NOW \$42,987*

2006 Explorer Eddie Bauer 4x4
4.0 V6, automatic, dual air, tow pkg., power fold 3rd seat, power moon, 6 CD DVD, Demo, Stock # 6T5041
Was \$38,910 NOW \$27,485*

2006 500 Limited AWD
3.0 24V V6, auto moon, AM/FM CD w/ NAV, leather. Stock# 6C7142
Was \$32,905 NOW \$26,186^{55*}

2006 E-250 Quality Coach Conversion
V-8, automatic front/rear dual air, captains chairs, CD, trailer tow pkg. running boards. Stock # ST1044
Was \$33,498 NOW \$24,998*

2006 Ranger Supercab XLT
3.0 V6, automatic, AM/FM CD, sliding rear window, air & more, Stock # 6T7002
Was \$21,660 NOW \$14,053*

*Plus tax, title. All rebates included in price. **24 mo. lease, 10,500 miles per year, with approved tier 0 or 1 credit. UAW Ford Retirees with lease renewal. Subject to program changes. Expires 10-31-06



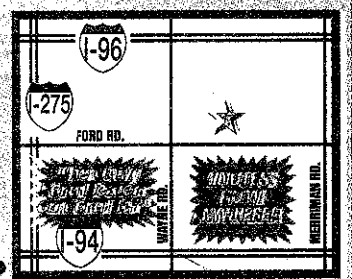
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Inviting fireplaces PAGE D8



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Thursday, October 26, 2006

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

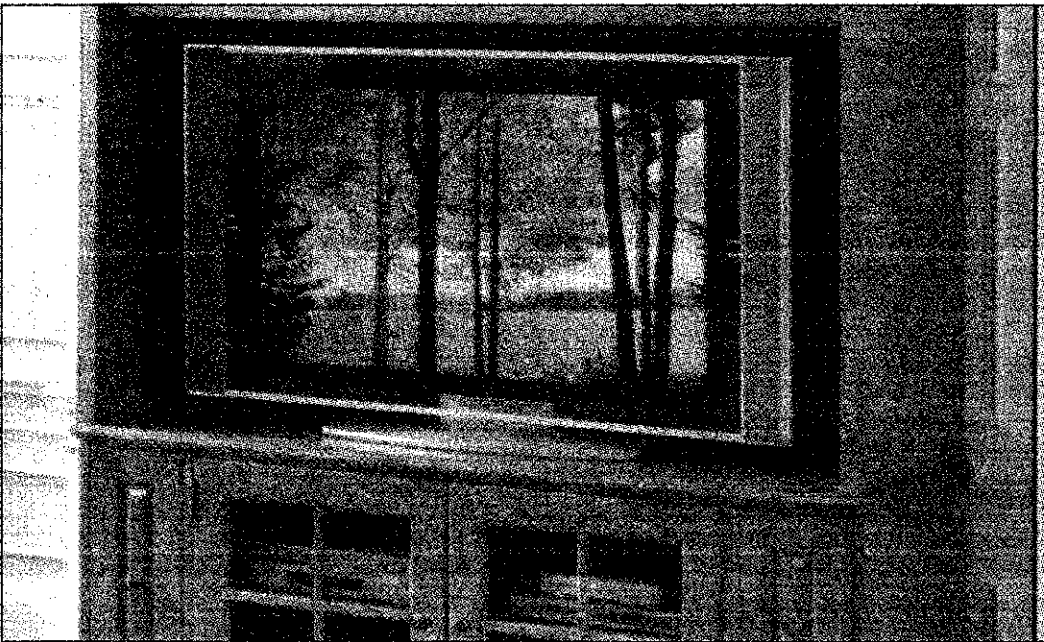
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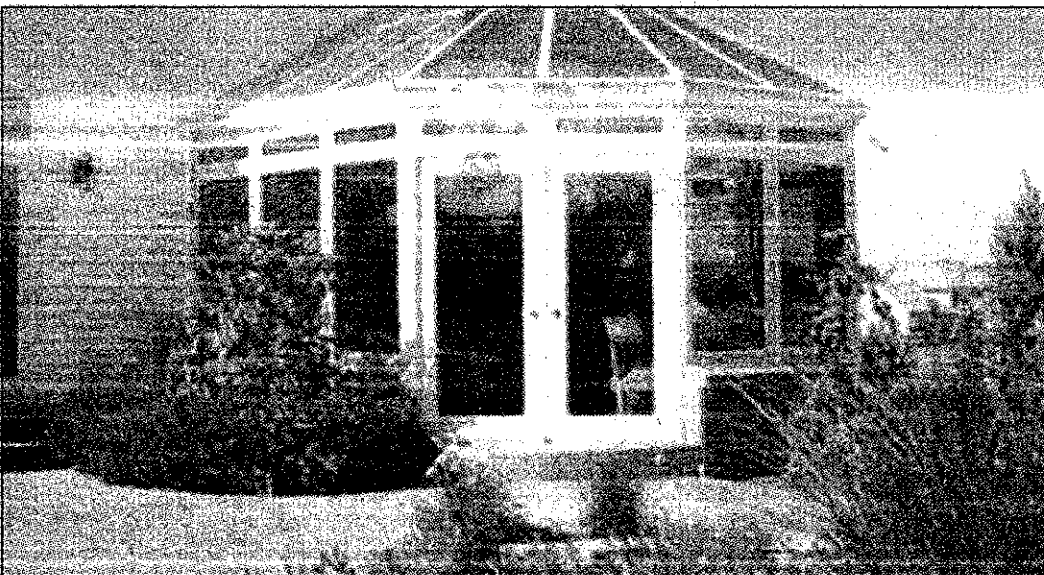
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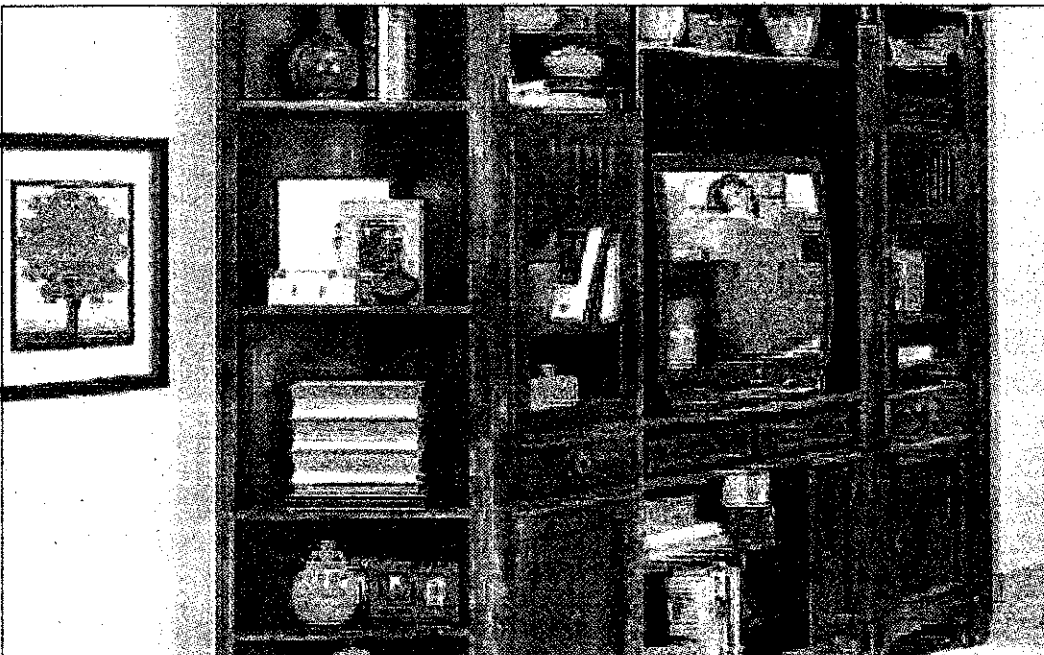


The Riverside Visions III Home Theatre, carried by Mason Family Furniture, accommodates today's three most popular TV styles. Available in four finishes, the system features either traditional or transitional styling, both with state of the art functionality.



FOUR SEASONS SUNROOMS OF ANN ARBOR

The Conservatory is Four Seasons Sunrooms' most popular style of sunroom chosen by customers these days.



Arts & Crafts TV/Stereo Entertainment Unit from Value City Furniture offers outstanding quality, superior craftsmanship, and it configures to fit any room.

GAME ROOMS 2006



ALLSTATE BILLIARDS & PATIO FURNITURE

This set is a complete game room collection by ProLine Billiards. It includes a solid maple pool table with ball and claw legs, matching bar and barstools, matching pub table and stools, and two-in-one poker table that flips to a dining table, with hand-rubbed Italian leather on the chairs.

Game rooms offer fun at home

BY SANDRA DALKA-PRYSBY
CORRESPONDENT

What is the best way to keep the children at home when they are in search of entertainment? "A game room!" according to James Hickling, manager, Allstate Billiards & Patio in Bloomfield Hills.

"A game room will not only keep the kids home, it will bring the family back together," he said. "Friends are also drawn to game rooms, making homes with this attraction the place to be."

Rose Rea of LaBaron's Billiards & Game Room Supply in Sterling Heights adds that another advantage of an at-home game room is that it is a safe place for the youngsters to be.

"When kids are having fun at home, their parents don't have to worry about where they are or with whom."

At-home entertainment for all members of the family is the top reason that game rooms have grown in popularity in American homes.

Hickling says that it used to be that a pool table was put in the basement to create a game room.

Now the game room has moved upstairs and often includes not only the billiards table, but a poker table, a home theater and/or a number of other game tables, such as foosball, air hockey

PLEASE SEE GAME ROOM, D7

Trick out your PC to enjoy games



Tech Savvy

Rick Broida

Love computer games? You can enjoy them even more by tweaking your PC with a few strategic upgrades and accessories.

Let's start with the video card, the single most important piece of game-related hardware in your PC. Unless you bought an expensive and/or custom-built machine, chances are you've got little graphics horsepower under the hood.

As a result, certain games might run slowly and at less-than-optimal reso-


lutions.

You can remedy that with a video card upgrade, by which I mean replacing the existing card with something that has a faster graphics processor.

This is for desktop PCs only; notebook users can't upgrade their video cards.



First, make sure your machine can accept a new card. Many budget PCs have built-in graphics chips and no

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FROM PAGE D1

slot to accommodate a stand-alone video card.

You may need to check the manual or call the manufacturer to see what upgrade options are available for your system.

As for what card to buy, let your wallet be your guide. Unless you're really, really serious about games, you don't need a high-falutin' video card that costs more than the whole computer.

No joke: The top-shelf cards sell for as much as \$600. But you can get a fast card that will improve the appearance and performance of your favorite games for as little as \$150.

That's the price, for example, of the BFG Technologies GeForce 7600 GS OC, which comes with 512MB of onboard memory (so it won't unnecessarily tax your computer's primary memory).

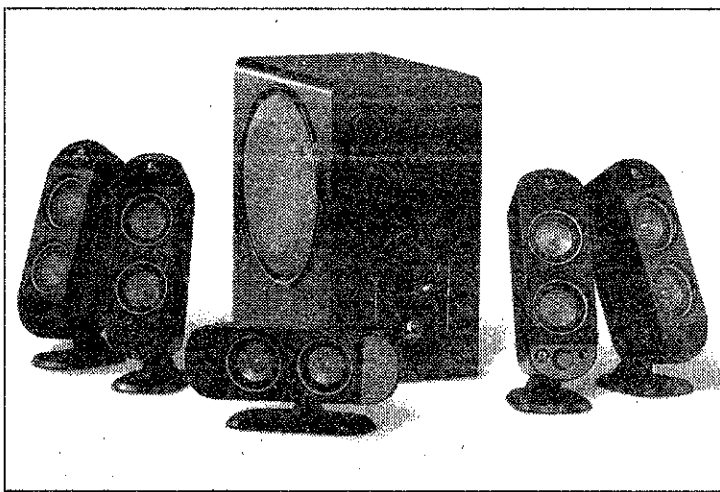
That's a good choice if your computer is a bit on the older side and has an "AGP" video card slot.

If your machine has a PCI Express slot instead, as most newer models do, look for something like the ATI Radeon X1600, which sells for around \$200.

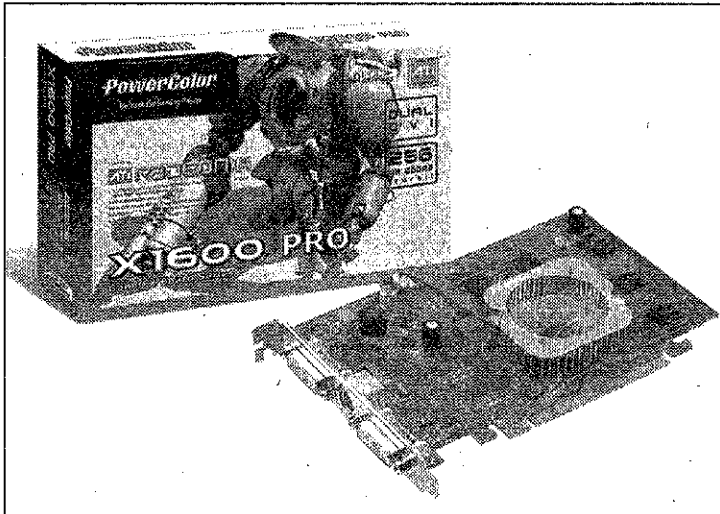
Installing a new video card isn't terribly complicated, but if you're not comfortable venturing inside your computer's case, the techs at stores like Best Buy and CompUSA will do the job for a small fee.

Once you've got the new card in place, consider a new monitor to go with it. Widescreen LCDs are the big trend these days, and just as widescreen TVs make movies look better, a broad monitor can really enhance your favorite games.

The Dell E207WFP and Samsung SyncMaster 205BW are 20-inch widescreen LCDs that sell for around \$300.



If your PC came with cheap, low-end speakers, consider replacing them with the Logitech X-530 system, which surrounds you with sound.



A new video card like the ATI Radeon X1600 can really put some pep in your game graphics.

Two added perks to using a widescreen monitor: You can enjoy letterboxed movies on your PC, and you can use the extra screen estate to keep more windows open.

SOUND JUDGMENT

Most computers come with cheap, anemic speakers. By investing \$100 or so in a good speaker system, you can really make games come to life.

At \$80, the Logitech X-530 5.1 Stereo Sound System is hard to beat. It comes with five satellites and a subwoofer, so

it's as good for movies as it is for games.

I'm not a big fan of wires snaking all over the place, though, which is what you get from a six-speaker setup.

I'd rather have two powerful satellites and a subwoofer, which is why I'm partial to the Klipsch ProMedia GMX A-2.1 System, which sells for \$150.

Of course, you can skip the speakers altogether and invest in a good pair of headphones, which many gamers would argue offers the most immersive sound experience. The Plantronics GameCom

Pro 1 Digital Stereo PC Gaming Headset plugs into a USB port (no messing around with complicated audio jacks) and includes a microphone for in-game communication. (You can also use it for voice-over-IP phone calls if you're a Skype user.)

Finally, get yourself a good controller, especially if you're into sports or platform games.

One of the best is Microsoft's Xbox 360 Controller for Windows. Though obviously designed for Xbox consoles, it works equally well with PC games. It sells for \$40.

WHAT TO PLAY

I can't let a gaming column go without throwing out a few recommendations.

Call of Duty 2 offers white-knuckled World War II combat action. And it was recently featured on the hit show *The Office*, so you know it's cool.

For a more strategic take on WWII, try *Company of Heroes*. It's quite possibly the best real-time strategy game since *Command & Conquer: Generals* (which is still a blast, by the way).

Players who like to go adventuring should try *Sam & Max Episode 1: Culture Shock*, a hilarious and thoroughly entertaining puzzle-solving mystery.

Budding pilots should be sure to pick up Microsoft's *Flight Simulator X*, the most realistic and beautiful-looking flight simulator I've seen yet. Just be sure your PC has a lot of horsepower, otherwise your flights will be choppier than a puddle-jumper to Aspen.

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

Win a fabulous shopping spree

The *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* and area merchants are teaming up to send six lucky winners on a home shopping spree.

You could be one of the winners who will receive a \$1,000 gift certificate to shop at **Pine Tree Lighting**, 1405 S. Lapeer Road, Lake Orion; **Mason Family Furniture**, 32104 Plymouth Road, Livonia; **World of Floors**, 43711 Ford, Canton and 29321 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills; **Value City Furniture** (Westland — 37001 Warren Road; Dearborn — 5701 Mercury Drive; Warren — 29134 Van Dyke Avenue; Novi — 43620 West Oaks Drive; Taylor — 23859 Eureka Road; and Utica — 45350 Utica Park Blvd.); **Four Seasons Sunrooms**, 5245 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor; and **Mattress & Futon Shoppe** (32767 Woodward, Birmingham; 42489 Ford, Canton; 31629 Plymouth

Road, Livonia; Novi Towne Center, Novi; and 33536 Rochester Road, Troy).

Each participating merchant has official Fabulous Living 2006 entry forms available. You may enter one time at each store so you'll want to visit each store (several merchants have multiple locations) and increase your chances of winning.

You must be at least 18 years old to enter. All entries have an equal chance of being drawn. Deadline to enter is 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31.

Look for the entry form in your Thursday and Sunday editions of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* or online at www.hometownlife.com.

When you visit participating merchants, be sure to look for the Fabulous Living 2006 in-store display and entry forms.

Complete contest rules are available at participating merchants.

ABOUT THIS SECTION

Fabulous Living 2006 is the last of a four-part series of special HometownLife.com sections produced by the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*.

Presentation desk: Dan Dean, Beth Jachman

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Editors: Ken Abramczyk, Mary Klemic

Retail advertising coordinator: Frank Cibor

About the cover: Furniture on the cover of this section was provided by the following:

Top: The Riverside Visions III Home Theatre is carried by Mason Family Furniture.

Second: The Conservatory is from Four Seasons Sunroom.

Third: Arts & Crafts TV/Stereo Entertainment Unit is available at Value City Furniture.

CORRECTION

The correct address for Pine Tree Lighting is 1405 S. Lapeer Road in Lake Orion.

Recycle this newspaper

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Fabulous LIVING 2006

Sunrooms can help improve energy efficiency

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Homeowners concerned about rising heating and cooling bills shouldn't rule out adding a sunroom onto their homes.

After all, with improved glass technology, insulation and flooring all contributing to the energy efficiency of sunrooms, they just might want that room for a little escape and relaxation, all year long.

The sunroom's predecessor, the three-season room, used to consist of little more than a screened-in sun porch.

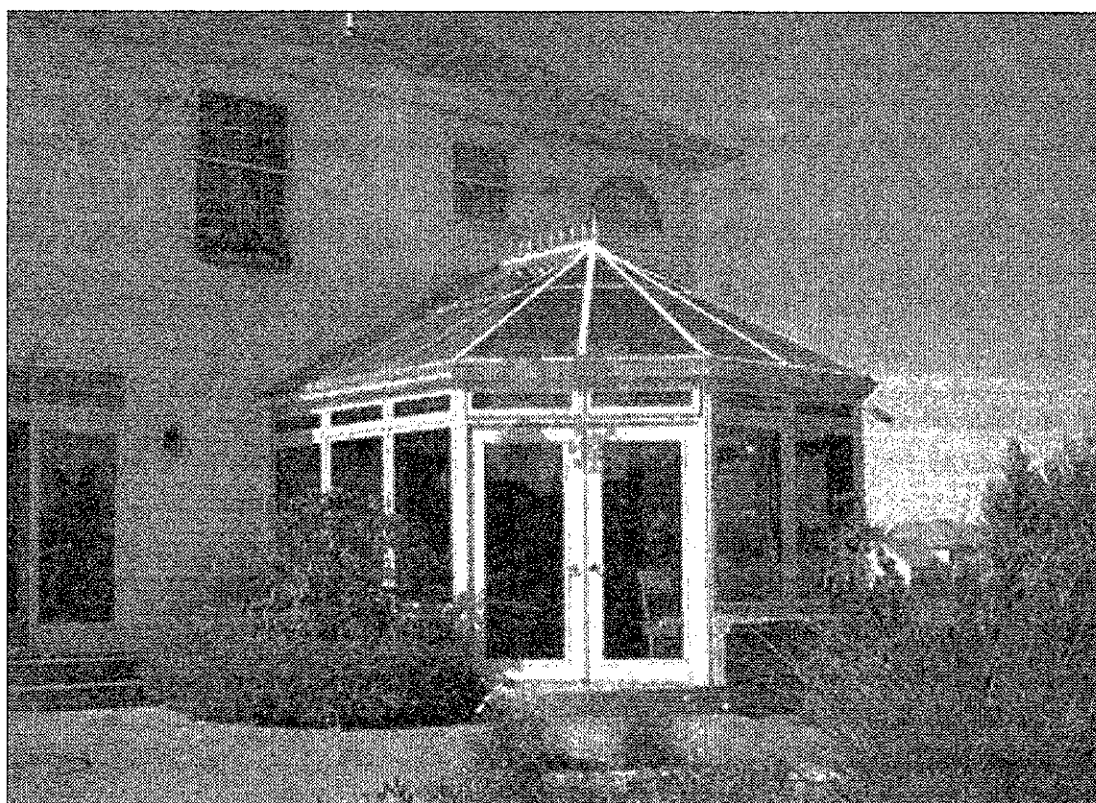
It appeared to be misnamed because it wasn't always used all three seasons. Cold weather often intrudes well into spring and fall, and those rooms often sat unused during that cold weather.

But that's all changing now with improved building materials. Often these rooms are built off kitchens, so it's important for many homeowners to keep the light coming into the kitchen area.

"What we've concentrated on is keeping the light coming into the house and not darkening these areas," said Bob Clark, owner of Four Seasons Sunrooms in Ann Arbor.

GLASS

The glass technology (Conservaglass) allows light to



The Conservatory is Four Seasons Sunrooms' most popular style of sunroom chosen by customers these days.

enter the room, yet it removes 93 percent of the ultraviolet rays.

According to the company's Web site, Conservaglass uses up to nine different microscopic coatings of silicon nitride, titanium nitride, zinc oxide and silver "to create a glass product that reduces the rela-

tive heat gain, glare and UV damage that competitors face with regular low-e glazing." "We maximize the view," Clark said. "The sunroom takes the outdoors and brings it indoors."

The Conservatory, the most popular unit sold by Four Seasons in Ann Arbor, brings

light in on three sides.

There are 16 different styles of sunrooms, and windows can be spaced from 3-1/2 to 5 inches. Interiors can consist of wood, aluminum or vinyl.

"Most of the time when you see a storm, you run into the house," Clark said. "But I had a customer who wanted to stand

in that room and watch the storm blow through, to look at it and watch the action."

The glass roof allows you to see the skies unobstructed. Clark estimates that 90 percent of his customers order the glass roofs.

The rooms average 12 by 16 feet, but Clark just installed a pool enclosure in Dearborn Heights that was 49 by 27.

VINYL

Tim Sass, branch manager for Patio Enclosures of Novi, said vinyl is the new trend.

"In the last five years, vinyl has come to its own place," Sass said.

Vinyl isn't a load-bearing component, so the structure still needs to be built with wood or steel, Sass said. The room's header system has eight separate components to help with expansion and contraction, he said.

"With the temperature change from the outside to the inside, you can't have any infiltration," Sass said.

Patio Enclosure's solarium is popular and so is the All-View room, Sass said. "We don't attempt to make a product fit you," Sass said. "We want it to fit you." The Super Spacer window stops the argon gas from seeping out of the window, Sass said. Super Spacer windows are made of structural

non-metallic foam with millions of tiny insulating air pockets.

FLOORING

Cork flooring is popular in sunrooms, Clark said.

Homeowners needn't be concerned about heating these floors either, because sunrooms also have Nuheat flooring - an in-floor electrical heating system.

Pre-built like an electric blanket, the Nuheat floor warming system is an electrical radiant floor warming system.

The Nuheat system provides warm floors and soothing comfort that keeps tile, stone, laminate and engineered wood surfaces at a just-right temperature.

Homeowners are showing variations in what they want for the sunroom floor.

"People put in everything (in sunrooms) from ceramic tile to hardwood, to Pergos to carpet," Clark said. "We have a couple that are going with the cork."

■ Four Seasons Sunrooms of Ann Arbor, 5245 Jackson Road, Suite F, Ann Arbor (734) 769-9700, <http://ann-arbor.mi.fourseasons-sunrooms.com/>
■ Patio Enclosures, 40480 Grand River, Novi (800) 366-6300, www.patioenc.com

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Many different arrangements can accommodate great rooms

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

Great rooms are great to arrange to your satisfaction.

"Sectionals are very, very popular. Theater seating is very, very popular," said Jim Draper, Value City Furniture district manager.

"People want the maximum amount of seating in the minimum amount of space."

And the spread of poker

games on TV has led to another favorite furnishing.

"We have a whole big boom" in poker tables, Draper said.

"We have tables with removable tops so the table can be like a regular table or a game table, then when you remove the top it becomes a full-blown poker table like on TV."

Pier cabinets are going strong, said Greg Mason of Mason Family Furniture in Livonia.

Plasma and other large TVs are placed on top of these consoles, which also provide storage space.

Sectional and modular pieces can accommodate any use of the room, whether it is a TV and entertainment center, a play area for children, or more of a place for conversation.

The size of the television and whether it is the focal point of the room is also something to

keep in mind.

Perhaps because of their large size, today's TVs are kept out more often than put away in armoires, Draper said.

"People want to show off the TV also," he said.

Larger "love-seat" chairs, and cocktail ottomans that can be used for storage, are other popular pieces in great rooms and entertainment rooms. Microfibers and leather are favorite materials.

"Great rooms are all getting to be like condos or apartments," in that the rooms are open and flow together, Mason said.

Because of this, many people choose furniture collections where pieces in one room, such as a sofa and loveseat, match pieces in another area, such as dining tables.

Great rooms don't have to be great in size.

"Theater seating (arranged

in a half-moon shape) will give you that... great room effect," Draper said.

A sectional can serve as a room divider, Mason said.

"It adds depth," he said.

■ Value City Furniture: 37001 Warren Road, Westland (734) 729-6666; 43620 W. Oaks Drive, Novi (248) 347-8100

■ Mason Family Furniture: 32104 Plymouth Road, Livonia (734) 525-1737

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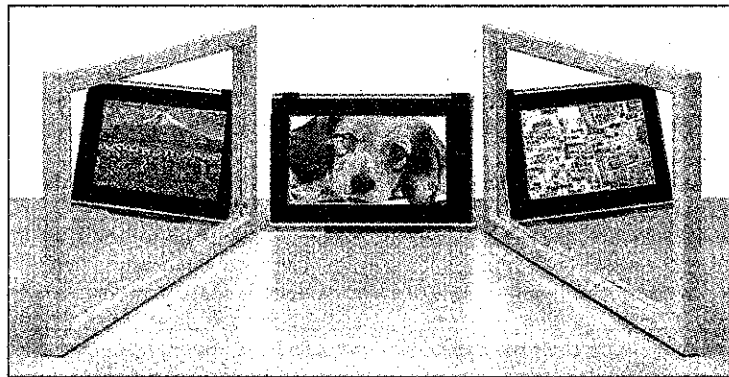
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Which television is best for you? Depends on the month



Sharp Triple Directional Viewing LCD is demonstrated using mirrors. Three things can be viewed at once by people seated in three different angles. The person seated in the center can watch the dog, the person on the left can watch the nature screen and the person seated on the right can browse the map, for example.

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

It's seemingly impossible to keep up with technology.

Sure, everyone wants the best and latest in quality. But no matter how much money is spent on, for example, a television, chances are that in a few months something new will come along.

So, when choosing a new television, the first rule of thumb is: Don't be upset if you buy the latest and greatest only to see something new six months later.

Just choose what you need,

and try to be happy with it. After all, you're going to have that TV for a few years.

What to choose from? Choices are endless but here are a few examples:

EXAMPLES

At Samsung, new technology has led to great improvement on plasma weaknesses. Clearer images on the screen can now be seen in bright artificial light, daylight and darkness.

Samsung achieved an improved picture with its FilterBright Plus technology that makes it possible to block external light without lowering

the brightness through maximizing the internal light.

"The most important factor that makes consumers buy large-screen digital TVs is the image quality," said Sang-heung Shin, senior vice president of Samsung Electronics Visual Display Division.

"We plan to maintain our status of being the leader in digital TVs by continually introducing new plasma TVs that possess sharp image quality and are suitable for multimedia, like watching sports or movies."

Samsung Electronics' new plasmas also contain the newly developed Smooth Motion Driver technology.

Sharp Corporation has developed a Triple Directional Viewing LCD, a screen that controls the viewing angle so the display can show different images from the left, right and center simultaneously.

You know how it is. One of the downsides of flatscreen TVs is that the viewing isn't always the same depending on the angle where you're seated.

Last year, Sharp developed two products for controlled viewing angle: the two-way viewing-angle LCD and the switchable viewing-angle LCD. They are already in use in products like car navigation systems and mobile phones.

The Sharp Triple Directional Viewing LCD takes controlled viewing-angle technology a step further. It's described as follows:

"Using a proprietary parallax barrier on a standard TFT LCD, the screen splits light in three directions - left, right and center - and displays three separate images on the same

screen at the same time."

It's one LCD playing three roles at once.

The example: People in a van. The driver uses a car navigation system screen, the person in the passenger seat views tourist sites and the person seated in the back seat watches a DVD, all in full-screen view, according to Sharp.

At Westinghouse, one of the top five LCD TV manufacturers in the U.S., new models were recently released including LCD HDTV/DVD combos, models LTV-32w4HDC and LTV-40w1HDC, the first front-loading TV/DVD combos.

Until recently, flat-panel TVs with built-in DVD players had trays that slid out from the side, top or back and were only available in smaller TV sizes, according to Westinghouse. It's described as follows:

"The Westinghouse LCD TV/DVD combos feature electronic front-loading 'auto wake' slot that detects when a disc (CD or DVD) is inserted and automatically powers the TV on, switches to DVD or CD source, and plays the movie or music.

If the TV is already on and a DVD is inserted into the slot, 'auto select' is activated and switches to the DVD, whether the viewer is watching TV, playing video games or using other sources."

"With these TVs consumers can watch the latest high-definition content as well as save space in their homes by eliminating an extra DVD component," said Rey Roque, vice president of marketing at Westinghouse Digital Electronics.

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• Birmingham - 32767 Woodward - 248-549-1951
• Canton - 42489 Ford Road - 734-844-0400
• Livonia - 31629 Plymouth Road - 734-425-1500
• Novi - Novi Town Center (South of I-96) - 248-348-5494
• Troy - 3536 Rochester Road - 248-743-1088

Pine Tree Lighting
• Lake Orion - 1405 S. Lapeer Rd.
248-693-6248

Value City Furniture (6 locations)
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313-271-0100
• Novi - 43620 West Oaks Drive
248-347-8100
• Taylor - 23859 Eureka Road Taylor
734-287-0401
• Utica - 45350 Utica Park Blvd.
586-997-0577
• Warren - 29134 Van Dyke Avenue
586-558-7880
• Westland - 37001 Warren Road
734-729-6666

World of Floors
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• Farmington Hills - 29321 Orchard Lake Rd
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Energy-efficient windows offer bonus savings

(MS) - If you've thought about replacing your older, worn-out windows, now is the ideal time to step up your plans.

Under the Energy Policy Act of 2005, homeowners can recoup 10 percent of the cost of replacing their windows (up to \$200) when installing energy-efficient replacement windows.

The Internal Revenue Service has determined that if the windows are ENERGY STAR® qualified for the region in which you live, you will qualify for the credit.

Here's even better news: You're likely to save on every energy bill you get in the future once you've had your windows replaced.

"Windows meeting ENERGY STAR guidelines are proven to save on heating and cooling bills for the home," said Bill Lazor of Simonton

Windows. "With the soaring costs of energy across the nation, now is the ideal time to make an investment in replacement windows."

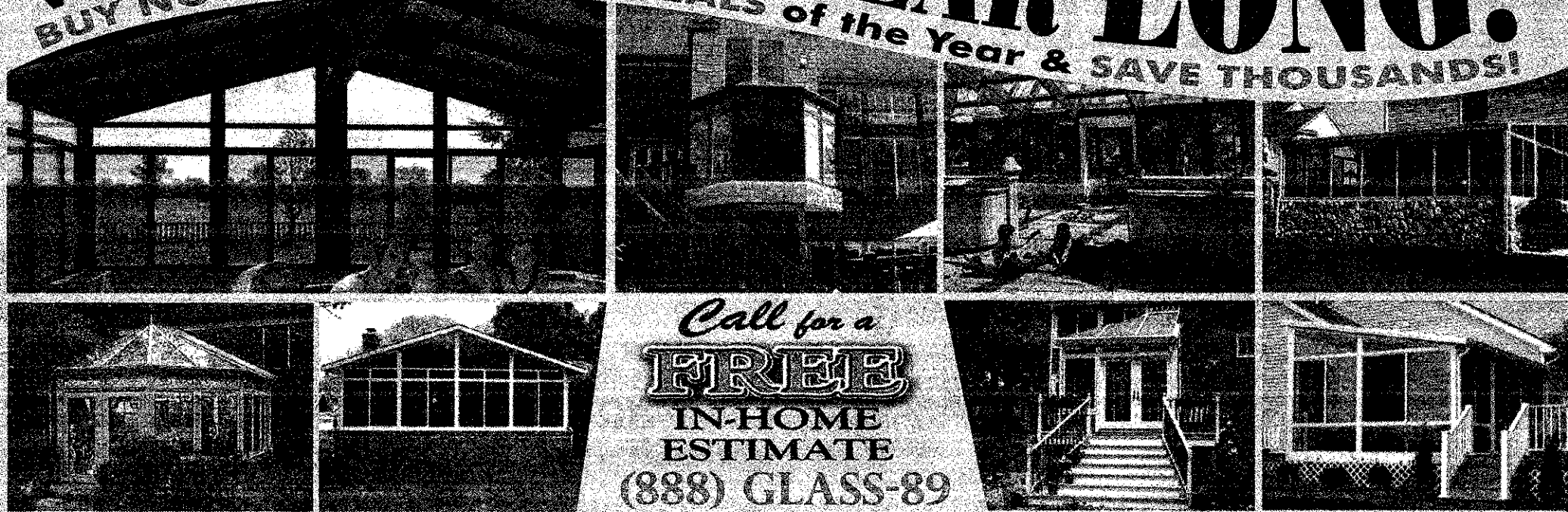
"When investigating replacement window options, homeowners should remember that vinyl-framed windows are extraordinarily energy-efficient and easy to maintain."

"Combined with a glass package that meets ENERGY STAR guidelines, these windows provide exceptional energy savings for the home."

The program, which also includes additional tax credits for homeowners installing efficient home heating and cooling equipment, insulation and solar energy systems, will be valid in 2006 and 2007.

For more information, visit www.energystar.gov.

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Fabulous LIVING 2006

Beds come in broad bevy of choices

(MS) - Ask a number of people what their favorite room in their apartment or house is and you're likely to get a variety of answers.

Some might enjoy the serenity of a den or reading room, while others might enjoy the isolation of a good basement.

Ask those same people where they'd prefer to be most comfortable in their home, and the answers could be more uniform: their bedroom.

A good bed is a welcome sight at the end of a long day for most people, affording them the chance to rest up in absolute comfort or sleep in late on rainy mornings.

Part of what makes a bed a good bed is the type you choose, since not all beds are made for all people or places.

PLATFORM BEDS

Platform beds are arguably the simplest choices, coming without a box spring and oftentimes without a head- or footboard. That makes them rather easy to assemble, something that appeals to people who are moving without the help of a professional service.

What's also appealing about platform beds is that, thanks to their lack of head- or footboards and box springs, they're easy to move around.

Platform beds are often the ideal choice for apartment dwellers whose quarters are more confined, as they leave more space for other amenities.

SLEIGH BEDS

Sleigh beds look exactly as their name would suggest: like an old-fashioned sleigh. Among the most aesthetically appealing types of beds, sleigh beds boast an upward curving

SIZING UP YOUR NEXT

MATTRESSES

Oftentimes what makes a bed most comfortable is the room it allots its occupant or occupants.

People generally find that the bigger the mattress, the more comfortable the bed.

The following rundown provides a quick glimpse of what size mattress you might want to consider for your next bed.

■ **Twin** - Generally only for children or smaller adults. At 39 inches by 75 inches, these aren't suited for grown men or women and don't provide much space even for smaller adults.

■ **Full size** - At 54 inches by 75 inches, the full size (or double, as it was once called) can prove sufficient for one or two smaller adults.

■ **Full XL size** - These mattresses are slightly bigger (at 54 inches by 80 inches) than full size, so taller adults will find them more comfortable.

■ **Queen size** - The most popular choice at 60 inches by 80 inches, these are both wide enough and long enough to comfortably accommodate two average-sized adults.

■ **King size** - Though roomy at 78 inches by 80 inches, king-size mattresses are typically only necessary for taller adults.

headboard and footboard, creating a sense of style and coziness.

Thanks to their headboards and footboards, however, sleigh beds might not be the best choice for apartment dwellers or those with loft-style bedrooms that don't boast an abundance of space.

UPHOLSTERED BEDS

These are ideal for anyone

who likes to read in bed before they go to sleep at night, as the headboards are upholstered with fabric that is both soft and supportive of the back.

When buying such a bed, be sure to bring along a picture or design of your bedroom, as the color scheme of your room can be incorporated into the headboards.

WATERBEDS

While they were more popular years ago, waterbeds still have their devotees.

Much of those devotees cite the back support their waterbed provides because waterbeds are known to distribute weight and avoid pressure spots. That makes for a comfortable sleep.

In addition, the vinyl mattress on waterbeds doesn't collect dust or mites, a significant benefit to those suffering from asthma or allergies.

Instantly, when many people hear of waterbeds thoughts of the bed bursting come into their mind. Those thoughts are often unwarranted, as puncturing a waterbed is very difficult, and even if that does happen, they come with safety liners to ensure you won't wake up atop a puddle and a shrunken mattress.

Waterbeds can be bulky and heavy, making them a less-than-ideal choice for anyone with a smaller apartment or bedroom.

Those with more ample sleeping quarters, however, might want to consider a waterbed.

FUTONS

Futons have become particularly popular choices over the years for apartment dwellers or as extra guest beds.

Resembling a sofa bed, futons typically come with a wooden frame and a thin mattress on top. The futon's owner determines how to best use it, whether as a sofa or a bed.

One thing to look for in a futon is not just price, but how comfortable the mattress is.

Whereas older futons were widely known to have paper-thin mattresses that weren't very comfortable, nowadays most still boast thin but more supportive mattresses.

CHEST BEDS

A chest bed is a particular type of platform bed that offers more aesthetic appeal as well as practicality.

Chest beds are so called because they have a chest of drawers or compartments built into them.

In lieu of nothing but space underneath the mattress, chest beds essentially provide users with a built-in dresser, particularly valuable for people with limited space.

BUNK BEDS

Certainly not the choice for adults, bunk beds can be ideal for young children who either have limited space or just want to sleep in the same bedroom.

Bunk beds can even be fun for youngsters, and they take up less space than having two beds in the same room.

Be careful to ask about weight or age specifications for certain bunk beds, as most are made with children of a certain age and size in mind.

Think 'eye level' when hanging pictures

October is National Art & Framing Month.

Founded in 1997, National Art & Framing Month was designed to promote the enjoyment of art as part of daily life.

The National Art & Framing Month Council offers the following tips for hanging pictures:

■ **Not too high!** This is the most common mistake when hanging pictures.

Think in terms of eye level, so that the eye of the average viewer falls about 1/3 of the way down from the top of the picture. This should be about 55 to 58 inches from the floor.

■ **Hanging a picture next to a lamp or low table** where the viewer will be seated? It's eye level again, except the level of the eye will be much lower. The picture should look connected to the grouping.

■ **Be sure to use hangers** that are strong enough to hold the weight of the picture.

Two hangers are better than one; the weight will be distributed and the picture will be less likely to shift. A custom frame shop will typically provide two hangers for the framed item.

■ **Is the wall strong enough?** You may need special hangers that won't pull out or droop down. There are hangers for all types of walls; be sure to use the right one.

■ **When hanging a pair or trio of pictures, group them together** so they relate to one another instead of appearing to float in a large space on the wall.

Keep the distance between pictures small - just a few inches apart.

■ **When hanging a picture wall, create alignments, so the viewer's eye has lines to follow.** These visual lines may be horizontal or vertical. Any two frames should have a common line, horizontally or vertically.

Keep the spaces between pictures nearly equal - 2 to 4 inches apart.

■ **All types of art can be hung together.** Drawings, paintings, collages; traditional or modern subjects; picture walls can be the gathering place for an interesting collection of art and photographs.

■ **Here are two ways to "audition" a picture wall:**

1. Arrange and rearrange the pictures on a floor until satisfied with the layout.

2. Make templates by tracing

around each frame on a piece of newspaper. Cut out and hang the newspaper samples (taped to the wall with small pieces of removable tape) until satisfied with the arrangement.

■ **Measure and mark with a pencil** the location of the nails on the wall. Remember to pull

picture wire taut when measuring the distance between the top of the frame and the wire.

■ **Avoid hanging valuable art in direct sunlight;** excess light can damage many types of artwork. Use ultraviolet-filtering framing glass to reduce harm from light exposure.

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Fabulous LIVING 2006

Save time with easy painting pointers

(MS) - The walls and ceilings throughout a home usually form the backdrop for room furnishings, drapes and other decorations.

Choosing a color can be hard enough, but choosing the right kind of paint can be just as important.

At a home center, it's easy to get overwhelmed by aisle after aisle of paints and equipment.

No matter how many different varieties there are, they all fit into a number of broad categories.

Flat latex paint is water-based and has a dull, matte finish. It remains one of the more

popular options because it's user-friendly - easy to work with and low odor.

Flat latex is suitable for all walls and ceilings, especially those freshly plastered, since it allows the plaster to dry out thoroughly.

Vinyl flat latex is water-based, but it's easier to clean than traditional flat latex paint; it dries to a wipeable-matte finish.

It's also more durable - suitable for all walls - since the paint's matte properties help to conceal many surface imperfections.

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Can you define an AVA? It's the acronym for American Viticultural Area.

For all practical purposes, appellation, the more frequently used term around the globe, and AVA are synonyms.

Currently, there are 172 AVAs throughout the 50 United States. More than half - 93 - are in California.

Michigan has four AVAs including Lake Michigan Shore, Fennville, Leelanau Peninsula and Old Mission Peninsula.

Across the United States, AVAs range in size from the minuscule 62-acre Cole Ranch in Mendocino, Calif., to the 26,000-square-mile Ohio River Valley AVA.

Since most North American wineries are appellation labeling their wines, understanding this has consumer significance.

For you as a consumer, "it's a matter of expanding consciousness about the meaningful geographical identity of North American wines," directors of AppellationAmerica.com say.

"Progressive North American winegrowers have joined the worldwide movement toward a more precise ecological and environmental definition of the place characteristics of their winegrowing."

The French call this terroir. We dub it site personality. It's the reason that award-winning Michigan Brys Estate 2005 Pinot Noir (\$25), grown in the Old Mission Peninsula AVA, tastes different from a California Sonoma Coast AVA Pinot Noir.

APPELLATION AMERICA

If you're a wine newbie or you simply buy wine by price, all the above may read as too complicated. AppellationAmerica.com to the rescue!

Appellation America defines itself as the wine information portal and internet publishing enterprise, offering more than 10,000 pages of information on North America's unique winegrowing regions, the varietals that are grown in them and the



Focus on Wine

Ray & Eleanor Heald

people who make the wines.

Its wine recommendations, wine store, feature stories from correspondents across the continent and information database make it the most comprehensive source of information on North American wine anywhere.

CONSUMER PRACTICALITY

Have you encountered a grape name that's new to you? Let's consider one as obscure as michurinetz.

On Appellation America's homepage, click on Grape Index. Scroll down through the alphabetical listing, noting the cartoon characters representing each variety as they roll by.

Once at michurinetz, a happy-go-lucky description of the grape is given, followed by more technical grape details in a break-out box. You'll also learn where michurinetz is grown.

Click on one of the growing regions (appellations) and learn more about the region.

Have you considered a trip somewhere in the U.S. and wondered if you could drop by a winery or two?

For this excursion, let's say you'd visit Au Bon Climat but you're not sure where in California the winery is located.

Click on wineries, scroll to Au Bon Climat, click on the winery name and you get every detail including a map. How fun is that?

Shopping for some unusual wines? You'll find many that can be shipped directly to you by clicking on Wine Store.

Who's doing all the Appellation America writing? A host of experienced wine journalists. If you click on Writers on the home page, you'll find them and us because we are Regional Correspondents for Michigan.

WINE PICKS

ZINFANDEL is America's heritage grape, yet two things have happened to it. Popularity is driving up the price and because winemakers believe consumers want their zin flavor loaded, it's harvested later and alcohols have risen. The following are some balanced favorites:

PICK OF THE PACK

2004 Rosenblum Rockpile \$35. At 16.3 percent alcohol this isn't a sipper. Serve it with a hearty pasta or grilled steak.

EXCELLENT

2004 Dutton Goldfield Morelli Lane Vineyard \$40
2004 Dutton Goldfield Russian River Valley \$40 (enjoy with BBQ ribs)

2003 St. Francis Pagani Vineyard Reserve \$37 (unique style aged in 100 percent American oak)
2004 Rancho Zabaco Stefani Vineyard \$28

2004 Girard Old Vine Napa Valley \$24
2003 Rodney Strong Knotty Vines Estate Vineyards \$19 (superb value)

VERY GOOD

2003 Paraduxx \$45 (64 percent zin with three Bordeaux varieties)

2004 Rancho Zabaco Russian River Valley \$28
2004 Kenwood Jack London Vineyard \$23
2004 Kenwood Jack London Vineyard \$23 (finesse with layered complexities)

2003 Napa Cellars Napa Valley \$20

WALLET FRIENDLY

2004 Dry Creek Vineyard Heritage \$15
2004 Sebastiani Sonoma County \$15
2004 Hess Artezin \$15 (jammy and a drink me now wine)

2004 Dancing Bull \$12
2004 Kendall-Jackson \$12
2004 Beringer Founders' Estate Old Vine \$11
2004 Bogle \$11
2004 Cellar No. 8 \$10

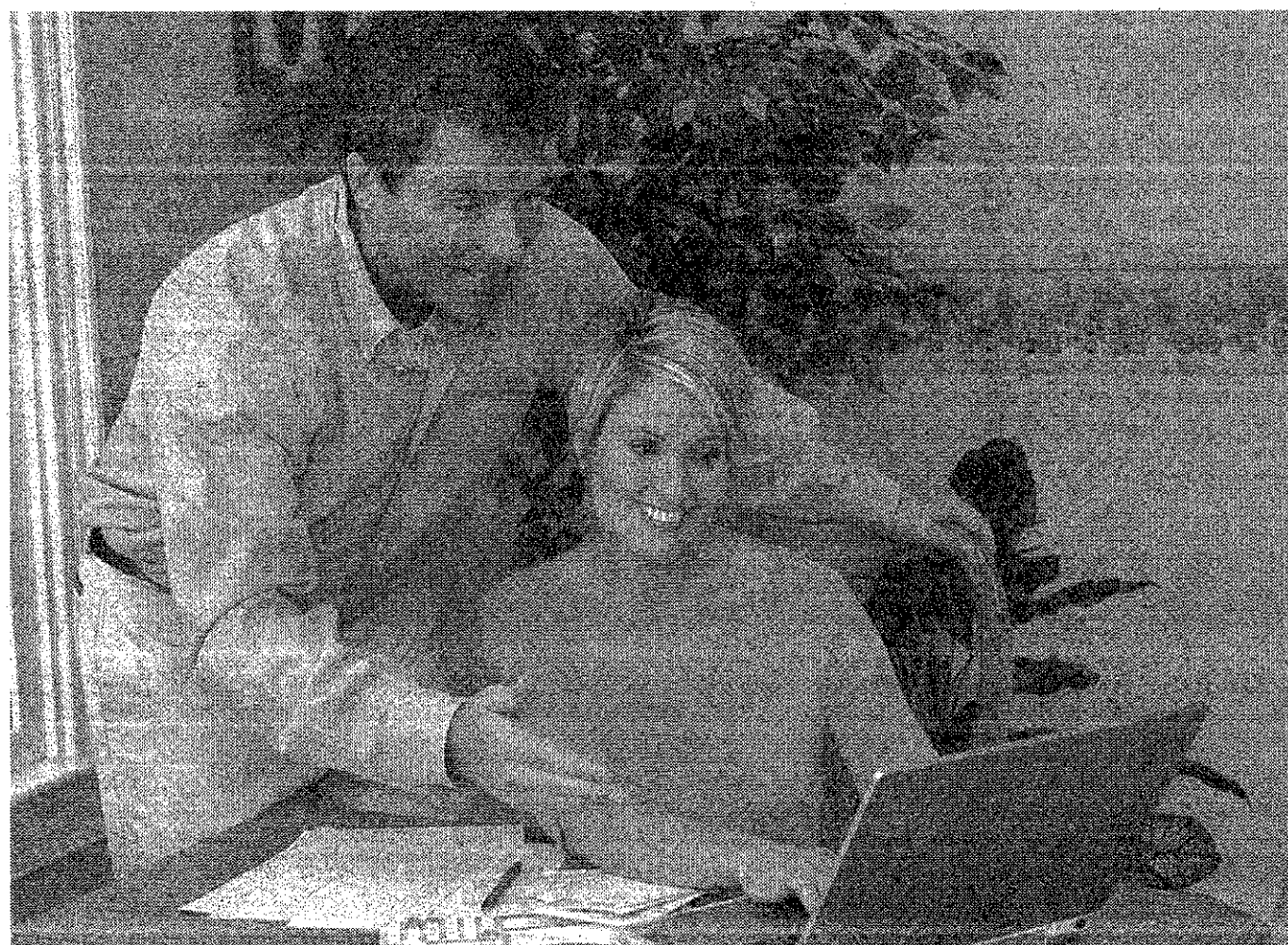
If a retailer doesn't stock a specific wine we recommend, ask that it be ordered from the distributor or order it direct from the winery.

You can e-mail us directly from the site and tell us how you enjoy it and what we're saying about Michigan's AVAs and wines from the four appellations.

The Healds are contributing editors

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

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GAME ROOM

FROM PAGE D1

and shuffleboard.

"Speaking of shuffleboard," said Rea, "this game is making a comeback and shuffleboard tables are in great demand."

She says that this game is popular with all generations.

"Youths can enjoy this game with their grandfathers just as much as they can with their friends."

Shuffleboard tables are available in lengths ranging from 9 to 22 feet and are available with electronic scoring.

"Also the tables are offered in a variety of furniture styles to suit taste and decor."

FEATURES

According to Hickling, what goes into the game room depends on the homeowner's needs, the size of the space available and the budget.

He adds that a game room with a billiards table, two spectator seats (high chair that allows a good view of the action on the playing space) and a poker table with four chairs can cost as low as just under \$4,000 to anywhere up to \$80,000.

"We carry an artistically carved billiards table that is reminiscent of the Louis XIV period that costs \$16,000."

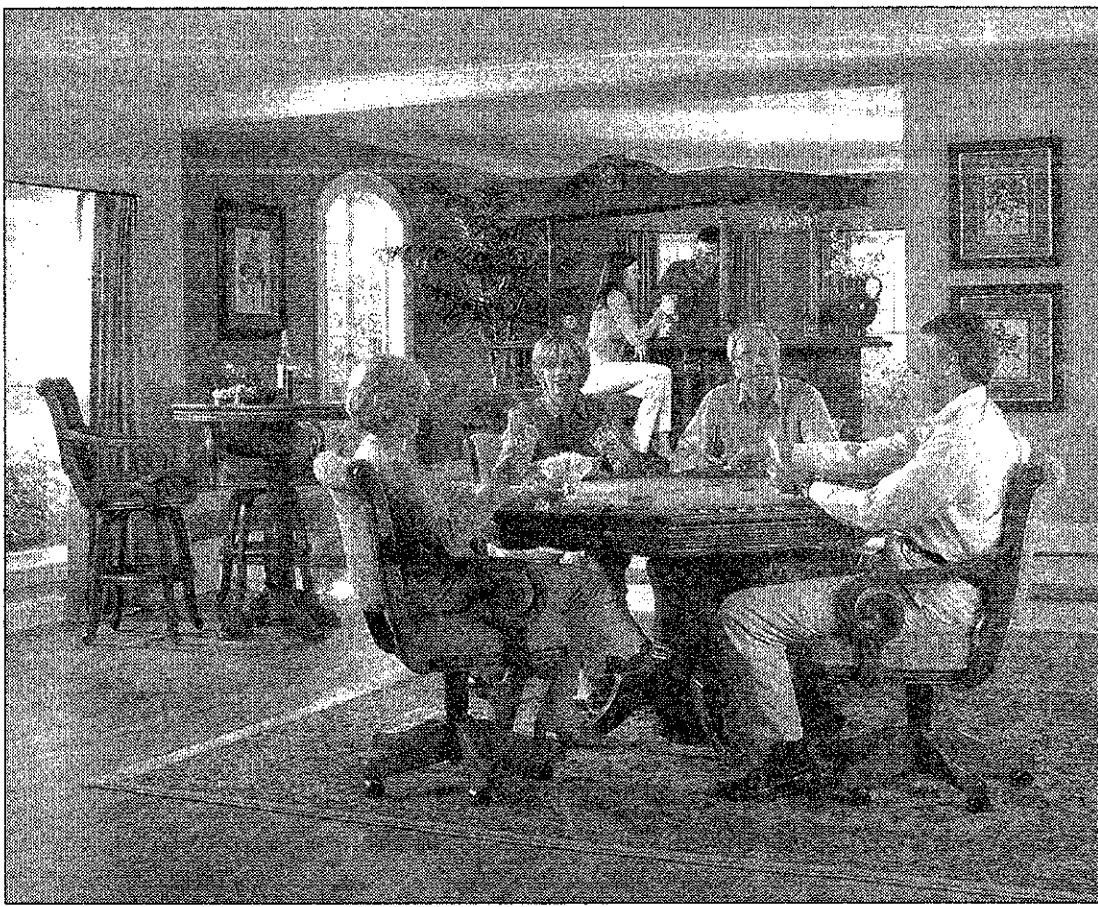
Decorations, such as lighting, carpeting and wall art are other considerations that add to the cost.

Currently one of the most popular spots being used as a game room is the dining room.

"In many homes, this space is rarely used for dining so it's being transformed with a billiards table taking the space that was once occupied by the dining room table," Hickling said.

Other spaces in the home, such as an extra bedroom, are also being used for the game room if the space is large enough.

While a billiards table traditionally has been a game



A bar and barstools, pub table and stools, and poker table and chairs, all by California House, furnish this game room. The two-in-one poker table has a top that flips to a dining table. The pieces are available in thousands of different fabrics, finishes and woods.

SOURCES

■ Allstate Billiards & Patio Furniture: 1605 S.

Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills (248) 239-2222; 14349

Telegraph, Redford (313)

531-1035; 26159 Novi Road,

Novi (248) 468-2400; 3336

Washtenaw Avenue, Ann

Arbor (734) 677-3278.

■ LaBaron's Billiards &

Game Room Supply: 37730

Van Dyke, Sterling Heights

(586) 268-3800.

room must, poker tables, available in a variety of furniture styles and wood finishes, have become popular during the past couple of years.

This, according to Hickling, mirrors the growth of this card game on reality

shows on television and in public bars and lounges.

Another popular feature in the game room is the home theater.

"Family movie nights have gained appeal," Hickling said.

This has led to the addition of a big screen TV and theater seating - comfortable chairs, some that recline and some providing a massage, that are placed next to each other in front of the screen - to the game room.

There are a multitude of chair styles and fabric choices with leather taking the lead. A bar with stools is, for many, a game room essential.

"To provide uniformity to the room, a bar that matches the other furniture in the room is often selected."

Two other popular game room additions, according to Rea, are a Ping-Pong table and a dart board.

"Since space often precludes having both billiards

and Ping-Pong in the game room, we have a conversion top (it costs \$159) that turns the billiards table into a Ping-Pong table."

She adds that dart games, which cost from \$50 to \$1,000, are especially popular with college-age and young adults.

TIPS

No matter what games and furniture are chosen for the game room, decorating experts say to paint the room in a bright and light color to raise the excitement level. Bright colors are identified with fun; dark colors, gloom.

Another decorating tip is to section off the room if space allows.

Make one area for cards, board games, chess and checkers and conversation; another area for the home theater; and the largest area for billiards, bar, electronic games and the jukebox.

Accessorize your home theater to draw applause

Elizabeth of Livonia writes: "My husband and I have just finished renovating our lower level. We've always wanted a home theater room, so we included one in our design.

"The large screen TV is great and the furniture is very comfortable, but it just seems like an empty box. How much accessorizing should I do in a home theater?"

I am glad you took the time to add a room in your renovation that you've always wanted.

Accessorizing a home theater space is very different from the rest of your home.

You will need to consider lighting and acoustics, and you don't want your accessories to compete with the main activity of the room, which is watching movies.

You didn't mention whether or not you have windows in your home theater room. Even the small, traditional basement windows need to be addressed.

Cover the windows with an operational drape or Roman shade. There may be times that you will want to let in some natural light, so I would make the window treatments operational and not stationary.

Choose heavy drapery fabric, and make sure you line it. If the fabric isn't heavy enough, you may need to use an inner lining, as well as an outer lining, to prevent light from filtering into your room.

Fabric draperies are a better option than blinds because of the sound absorption they provide.

During the construction phase of a home theater room, I usually recommend wall sconces placed higher on the wall and rope lighting along the floor's perimeter to prevent tripping in the dark.

The hard-wired lights should all be on dimmer switches to give you the most lighting flexibility.

If you haven't hard-wired these types of lights in your home theater, you will need to consider portable lighting. A single, ceiling fixture doesn't



Design Solutions

Terri Guastella

work well in a home theater. Portable lighting includes table lamps and floor lamps. You will need a light source somewhere near the equipment so you can clearly see the DVD player and the controls.

A couple of torchiere-style floor lamps could also work in the back corners of the room. Remember, having adjustable light intensity is very important here. Most torchiere lamps come with a dimmer option.

If your new home theater has acoustic ceiling tiles and the walls are finished with drywall, make sure you carpet this room for optimal sound quality.

Now let's take a closer look at adding those decorative accessories.

Since this a room to watch movies in, try not to fill every space on the walls with tons of pictures that will distract the viewer from the television.

Movie posters are wonderful in a home theater; just make sure you exercise a little restraint in the number of posters you use.

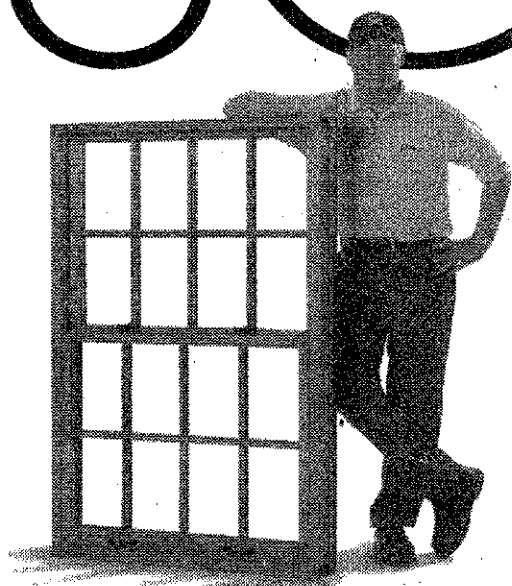
The color you choose for the walls in a home theater looks best when it leans to the darker, or more saturated, palette. This contributes to the total movie theater experience.

Last, but not least, is the popcorn machine. If you have an open corner in your home theater, an old-fashioned popcorn machine looks great and smells great, too.

Terri Guastella, an interior designer and a Canton resident, specializes in space planning, design and color consultation. Do you have a question about interior design or decorating your home? Contact Terri Guastella at www.exclusiveinteriordesign.com.

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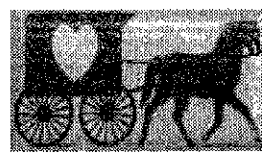
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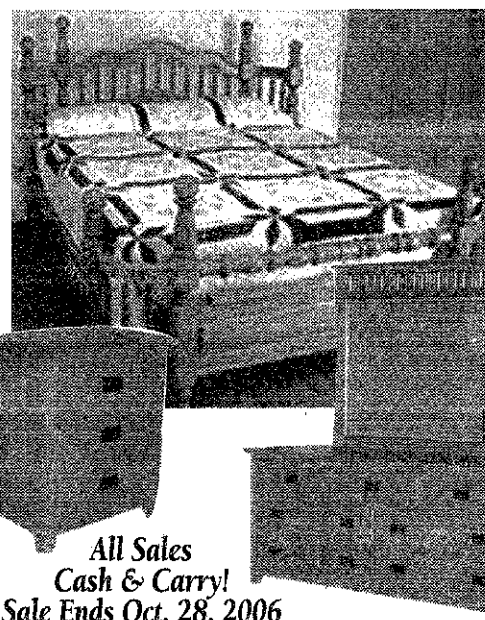
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Fireplaces: Efficient, inviting

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

As a feature for the home, a fireplace is "hot" – a popular element that, because of today's designs, can be placed in any room.

"Around the country... there is one fireplace in 60 percent of the homes," said Dave Whittingham, president, Fireside Hearth & Home, which has showrooms in Canton and Utica. "In Michigan that's probably around 80 percent."

Great rooms are "very popular" sites for fireplaces, he said. While fireplaces are desired for warmth and comfort, they can be customized to match the style and decor of a room, or to accommodate plasma TVs or other entertainment items above or around them.

"An awful lot of people have their plasma TV above the fireplace," said Mike Scott, store manager at AllSeasons Spas and Fireplaces in Livonia.

"That's real popular. It's nice looking at the TV and the fireplace at the same time."

New designs for fireplaces and other appliances help cut heating costs.

Fireplace units are efficient, some fueled by natural or propane gas, electricity and other sources, and easily turned on.

"Most people are looking for heat efficiency," Scott said.

"They don't want heat to escape through the chimney."

Wood-burning inserts, which can be placed in existing fireplaces, are popular, Scott said. One log can burn for eight hours in an insert and heat a 2,000-square foot area.

"The majority of the fireplaces we install are gas fireplaces," Whittingham said.

"People don't want to be tethered to gathering firewood and then building a fire."

There are other examples of efficient fireplaces from which to choose.

Heat-duct technology directs much of the heat away from the



FIRESIDE HEARTH & HOME BY WILLIAMS PANEL BRICK

The Mt. Vernon Advanced Energy System by Quadra-Fire has the latest state of the art technology, and burns more types of fuel (15). The system also has a fully computerized burn; a seven-day, programmable thermostat; a battery backup and a lifetime warranty.

SOURCES

- Fireside Hearth & Home by Williams Panel Brick: 42647 Ford, Canton (734) 981-4700; 45490 Utica Park Place, Utica (586) 726-7100; www.fireside.com, www.williamspanelbrick.com
- AllSeasons Spas and Fireplaces: 35043 Plymouth Road, Livonia (734) 367-6600; 4116 E. Grand River, Howell (517) 548-7727; www.all4seasons.com

fireplace and into the cold air return ducting for the furnace.

This reduces the heat output of the fireplace when homeowners don't want it, and it returns it through the furnace, improving its efficiency.

Direct-vent fireplaces bring fresh air into a sealed firebox,

then distribute heat. Exhaust is expelled outside.

Vent-free gas fireplaces draw in air, then heat it and re-circulate it.

Smaller areas, as well as great rooms with soaring ceilings, can accommodate a fireplace.

A growing trend is fireplaces that are small enough to fit in a wall pocket, Whittingham said.

"We have nice designs for kitchens, nice designs for bathrooms, nice designs for bedrooms," he said.

Wood mantels and marble, granite and stone surrounds are examples of the materials with which to finish fireplaces.

When visiting a showroom and having a consultation, customers are encouraged to bring photos from magazines that illustrate what they have in mind, along with the measurements of the room.

"From that we can get to work," Whittingham said.

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