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SUNDAY
November 25, 2007

CANTON Observer

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DTE probes cause of house explosion

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

Officials from DTE Energy have begun an investigation into why a Canton home exploded on Tuesday. The explosion rocked a large area of Canton, and hospitalized homeowners Jan and Dave Goble, who were both inside the home at the time of the incident about 8 a.m.

According to DTE spokesman Len Singer, the company already has a team investigating the cause of the blast that leveled the 3,500-square-foot home on Waterview Court in the Fairways West subdivision near Beck and Cherry Hill.

"We responded as we usually do in a situation like this. We had a team out there that

first shut off the gas supply to the house. We also had special investigators out on the scene," Singer said on Friday. "As far as the cause, we are still investigating, and that investigation includes not only checking out the gas supply to the home, but also all the appliances in the home, and the hook-ups for the appliances. We should know a lot more in about a week."

Canton fire officials have already closed their investigation, however. According to Chief Mike Rorabacher, it is clear that the blast was caused by an accidental natural gas leak. He said it is unclear of the origin of the leak, something he said would be figured out by DTE and the Gobles' insurance company.

"Looking at the type of

explosion it was, and the fact that Mr. Goble told us he had smelled an odor in the days prior to the explosion, we are pretty confident that this was caused by natural gas," he said. "Our investigation is over, but we'll assist the insurance company in any way we can."

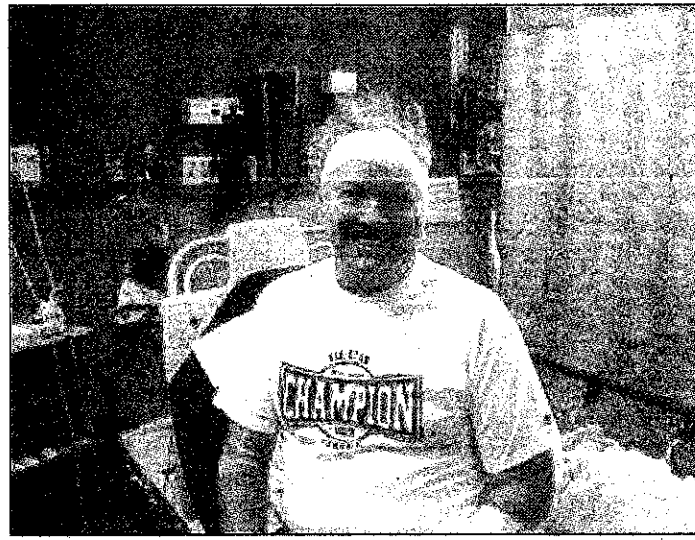
As of Friday, Jan was still in the intensive care unit at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti, where she underwent surgery for the injuries she sustained in the explosion, including bone fractures. Her injuries were described as non-life threatening, according to Canton Public Safety officials. Dave, who sustained minor injuries, was released from the hospital on Tuesday evening.

Pastor Scott Petersen of the Canton Friendship Church,

where the Gobles are members, has been to the hospital daily to meet with the family. He said their spirits are high, especially considering the outpouring of help that has come forward from the Canton community. He said people have been calling the church constantly since Tuesday offering everything from money, food, vehicles, and even homes for the Gobles to stay in.

"It's been a blessing," Petersen said. "Dave said he knew he lived in a good place but he didn't know how great a place Canton was until this happened."

Those who feel a need to make an immediate donation of clothing or household goods may do so through Growth Works at 50430 Schoolhouse



CANTON FRIENDSHIP CHURCH

The photo was taken of Dave Goble at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti on the night of the explosion. As of Friday, his wife, Jan, was still in the intensive care unit. She underwent surgery for the injuries she sustained in the explosion.

Road (located west off of Ridge, north of Cherry Hill). Donations will be accepted from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday

through Friday starting Monday, Nov. 26. The Growth Works organization may be reached at (734) 495-1722.

Canton getting ready to light up the community Christmas tree

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

It's almost time to light up the night.

The township's annual tree lighting ceremony will take place Nov. 28 from 6-9 p.m. at Summit on the Park.

The event is themed "A Merry Motor City Tree Lighting." Township Supervisor Tom Yack is scheduled to light the tree at 7 p.m.

"We are building on what happened last year," said recreation coordinator Jon LaFever. "We had about 5,000-6,000 families here." In addition to hitting the switch for the township's official holiday tree, the event will include visits with Santa and a live reindeer, performances by the Dancin' Feet dance company, cookie decorating and various craft activities.

Each room will be decorated to resemble famous downtown Detroit structures such as Cobo Hall, Woodward Avenue, the Detroit Cultural Center, the Fox Theatre and Astoria Bakery.

"We are geared toward family fun," LaFever said. "It's an informal, laid-back event. There's so much to do and it's a

Please see TREE, A3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

At the Canton Target, Jim DiMaria was on a mission. He bought three Extreme VRockers for his three daughters.

Getting a jump on Christmas

Shoppers find mixed bag on 'Black Friday'

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

Kim Rickrode showed up at Meijer on Ford Road at about 2 a.m. Friday in hopes of taking advantage of a television sale the store was offering for Black Friday, which is considered the busiest shopping day of the year. She came to buy a 20-inch flat screen television, which she said was \$100 less than a similar model she had on layaway at another store.

"When I got there at 2 a.m., there were 14 people in line ahead of me to get televisions. By the time the sale started at 5 a.m., there were probably 100-120 people

behind me," said Rickrode, a Wyandotte resident who is manager of the 7-11 store on Warren Road in Canton.

Things were also pretty busy for Canton resident Anne Dye, who was doing her shopping in Westland Friday morning. When she left the Westland Target about 7:40 a.m. all she was carrying was a cup of Starbucks coffee. She said it was the only line worth standing in.

"The (checkout) line was too long, it started as soon as you got in the door," Dye said. "It was around 7:20 when we got here and the line snaked all the around the store and may be up and down a few aisles."

Dye and two friends had made Target the second stop on their shopping spree. They had hit the Meijer store first, a decision they admit needed rethinking for next year.

"We'll have to start here first next year," Dye said of Target. "I can't spend my whole life in a line," she said.

By the late morning, things had calmed down at many of the stores along Ford Road in Canton, including Meijer and IKEA, where Oliver Korasiak ventured with his 2-year-old daughter Nellie. They weren't Christmas shopping, though.

"I just needed a few household items, including some toilet brushes," he said.

Korasiak said he had also been to The Home Depot on Ford Road in Canton and Lowe's in Westland, and neither store was particularly busy.

When asked if he was aware Friday was the busiest shopping day of the year, he said yes.

"I know, because my wife was out of the house at 5 a.m.," he said.

3rd teen still out of school

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

The third "person of interest" mentioned by police in the days immediately after the Nov. 7 murder of 26-year-old Daniel Sorensen — believed to be a Churchill High School student — was still being kept out of school as the Thanksgiving holiday came and went.

Livonia Public Schools spokesperson Donna McDowell said she didn't believe the student had returned to school, and couldn't say when he might.

"He is out of school for an investigation by school district officials," said McDowell, who declined to elaborate on the subject of the district's investigation. "We're certainly very cognizant of the needs of the prosecutor's office and law enforcement agencies, etc. We're having our own investigation of this individual."



DETROIT NEWS POOL PHOTO

Defendant Jean Pierre Orlewicz, 17, with attorney James Thomas, was in 35th District Court Monday.

Right now, we just don't have a lot of information."

It has been widely rumored the Churchill student may have been called to the Canton garage where Sorensen's murder took place after the killing had happened. Two teenagers, 17-year-old Jean Pierre Orlewicz of Plymouth Township and 18-year-old Alexander Letkemann of Westland, have been charged in the case. Police allege the pair stabbed Sorensen, sawed off his head and disposed of his body in a Northville Township field.

The pair faces a preliminary hearing in 35th District Court Nov. 30.

Please see TEEN, A3



DETROIT NEWS POOL PHOTO

Defendant Alexander Letkemann, 18 of Westland, appeared with attorney Raymond Cassar in 35th District Court in Plymouth Monday.

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Coming Thursday in filter

Holiday spirit abounds in classic, new shows

Newcomers meeting

This is an invitation to those in need of an adult night out before the busyness of the holiday season peaks...

LaJoy hours

State Rep. Phil LaJoy today announced constituents can meet with him in the district on Monday, Nov. 26...

"I would like to invite the residents of my district to meet with me and provide their input," said LaJoy...

Learn Spanish

Locally owned language company, Bilingual Fun, is offering an array of Spanish learning opportunities. The all new Adult Conversation Class will meet on Saturdays at 4 p.m. in the Borders Café...

Pioneer fund-raiser

Local residents are being asked to save returnable bottles and cans from the Thanksgiving holiday for the Pioneer Middle School can drive set for Dec. 2. Pioneer students are fund-raising for a trip to New York City in the spring...

December's luncheon will feature Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Madrigal Singers and Chamber Choir. The Chamber will be collecting toys and gifts for Canton Goodfellows "No Child without a Christmas program."

December's luncheon is hosted by the Canton Chamber of Commerce and is sponsored by National City Bank and Yazaki North America, Inc. Seating is limited and reservations are needed.

Railroadiana

The Ss. Simon and Jude Ushers Club will sponsor a buy-and swap toys and trains show noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, at the church hall, 32500 Palmer west of Merriman, Westland.

Celtic music in the Village

The popular Celtic band Blackthorn comes to the Village Theater on Thursday, Nov. 29 at 8 p.m.

Traditional songs of emigration, sea shanties, lively jigs and reels, and ancient music combine with some of Ireland's best contemporary songs for a musical experience that captures the legend of Ireland and its people.

Each member of the band plays multiple instruments, including wooden flute, accordion, tin whistle, five string banjo, cittern, bones and more. These instruments complement the lead vocal of Belfast native Richard McMullan and the band's tight blend of four part harmony.

Based in Detroit, Blackthorn has played throughout the Great Lakes region since 1984 and has grown quite a following of devoted fans over the years.

Tickets are only \$10 per person and available online at www.canton-mi.org/village-theater. The show is brought to you by The Partnership for the Arts and Humanities.

For more information call (734) 394-5460, or visit www.canton-mi.org/village-theater or www.blackthorn1.com.

Holiday craft show

St. Thomas a' Becket (southeast corner of Cherry Hill and Lilley roads in Canton) will host a holiday craft show from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dec. 1. More than 85 crafters are expected to participate, and there will be a bake sale. Lunch will also be available.

Admission is \$2. Children 12 and under get in free.

Spotlight auditions

Spotlight Players is holding auditions for "Rehearsal for Murder", Monday, Dec. 10, and Tuesday, Dec. 11 at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road (corner of Cherry Hill and Ridge -- use stage door at rear).

Registration is 6:30 p.m. Bring a non-returnable photo and resume. Specifics at www.spotlightplayers.net or (734) 480-4945.

Holiday craft show

Tri-City Christian Center will host its first Holiday Craft Fair from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dec. 1. Admission for the event is \$1. More than 70 crafters will be on hand and refreshments will be available.

Tri-City Christian Center is located at 3855 Sheldon Rd. Canton (just north of Michigan Avenue). For more information, contact Sharon Chefan at (734) 397-1777.

Grief support group

The Sharing & Caring Coffee Hour is an ongoing grief support group for widows and widowers hosted by Heartland Hospice.

The group is held 10-11 a.m. at Heartland Healthcare Center, 4701 N. Lilley Road.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Home for the holidays

Olympic silver medalists and hometown heroes Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto were at Canton's Arctic Edge Arena on Tuesday to announce an upcoming benefit they will host at the Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township...

This free pre-school program is available to four-year-old children. A teacher will come to your home on a weekly basis to teach your child. The program also includes center visits for field trips and group activities.

This group is held the first and third Wednesday of the month and is open to anyone grieving the loss of a spouse. There is no charge. For information, contact Ann Christensen, toll-free at (888) 973-1145.

American Legion meets

The Plymouth American Legion Passage-Gayde Post #391 conducts its monthly meeting the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Knights of Columbus Hall on Mill (next to the railroad tracks) in Plymouth Township.

All interested military veterans should contact Commander Mike O'Malley, (734) 459-7890, for more information.

YWCA accepting registration

The YWCA of Western Wayne County is accepting registration for the Michigan School Readiness Program!

This program helps children learn valuable skills needed for future socialization and educational growth. "We have a dedicated staff that encourages skill development and makes learning fun for the child and their families," said Karen Murphy, chief executive officer of the YWCA of Western Wayne County.

"This program is a wonderful opportunity for children to become excited to learn and foster their imaginations." For more information on this program, or to enroll your child, call the YWCA at (313) 561-4110, Ext. 17.

TAX PROBLEMS? Never Talk to The IRS. Talk to Tax Resolution Services of Michigan. Offer in Compromise, Penalty Abatement, File Old Returns, Installment Payments, Remove Liens/Levies, Audit Representation, Innocent Spouse Relief, Payroll/Sales Tax Relief. Call (248) 985-HELP (4357) for a FREE consultation. Tax Resolution Services of Michigan. Member of American Society of IRS Problem Solvers.

Over 85 Crafters! ST. THOMAS a' BECKET CRAFT SHOW Saturday, Dec. 1st 9 am - 4 pm SE corner of Lilley & Cherry Hill Canton LUNCH AVAILABLE • BAKE SALE Admission \$2.00 Under 12 Free stabcraftshow@yahoo.com

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS Plymouth District Library Notice is hereby given that the Plymouth District Library will accept sealed bids until 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 18, 2007 for the following: VIDEO CAMERA SECURITY SYSTEM Specifications, proposal forms and other Contract Documents are attached, or may be obtained at the Plymouth District Library during business hours. Examination and Site Visit: It is the responsibility of the bidder to examine the specifications and other Contract Documents, and to visit the work site to fully inform himself of all existing conditions and limitations. Bidders are required to attend a pre-bid meeting at the Plymouth District Library at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 4, 2007. Representatives will be available to review the specifications and to answer questions. The Plymouth District Library reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or part, and to waive any irregularities. Any bid package received after the scheduled opening time for the receipt of proposals will be returned to the bidder unopened. An original and one (1) copy of the bid should be mailed or delivered to: Barbara Kraft, Library Secretary Plymouth District Library 223 S. Main Street Plymouth, MI 48170 in a sealed envelope plainly marked: SEALED BID: VIDEO CAMERA SECURITY SYSTEM For opening: Tuesday, December 18, 2007 at 2:00 pm. Publish: November 25, 2007

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: November 25 and 29, 2007

PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2007 7:00 PM (734) 453-1234 A regular meeting of the Planning Commission will be held in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall to consider the following: PUBLIC HEARING FOR REQUEST TO AMEND SITE PLAN CONDITIONS: 1. SP 07-10 Happy Hounds - Dog Day Care 673 S. Main Zoned: B-1, Local Business Applicant: Nancy Janoch PUBLIC HEARING FOR SPECIAL USE AND SITE PLAN APPROVAL: 2. SP 07-12 Sunrise - Senior Assisted Living Facility 1600 N. Territorial Zoned: RM-1, Multiple-Family Residential Applicant: Sunrise Development All interested persons are invited to attend. In accordance with the Americans with disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following: Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator 201 S. Main Street Plymouth, MI 48170 (734) 453-1234, Ext. 206 Publish: November 25, 2007

Livonia man charged in Canton, Wayne bank robberies

Canton police officers arrested Daniel Girard Abbott, 51, of Livonia, Nov. 16 just hours after police say he robbed the Charter One Bank in Canton.

Abbott was arraigned Sunday in Romulus on one count of bank robbery, a felony punishable up to life in prison, and one count of habitual second offender, a felony punishable by up to one and one-half times his robbery penalty.

Abbott was given a \$5,000 cash bond. His preliminary exam is scheduled for Nov. 30 at 35th District Court in Plymouth.

After his arraignment, Abbott was turned over to the Wayne Police Department in connection with a Nov. 6 bank robbery at the LaSalle Bank on Michigan Avenue in Wayne. He was arraigned on similar charges Tuesday in 29th District Court in Wayne, and then transported to Wayne County Jail where he is being held. Abbott is due back in Wayne's court for a preliminary exam on Dec. 4.

Multiple police agencies

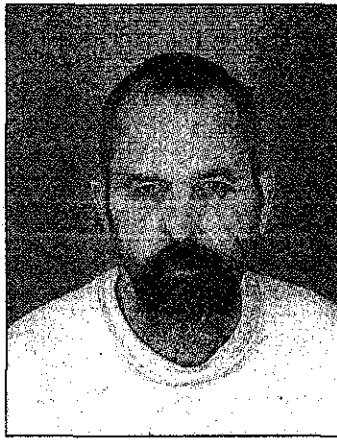
combined forces and arrested Abbott just hours after the armed robbery at the Charter One Bank at Ford and Haggerty.

Abbott was identified by three people, and was arrested at a motel in the Ann Arbor area.

Canton police were joined by Wayne and Westland officers.

According to Canton Sgt. Rick Pomorski, Abbott has a history of bank robberies, including a conviction in Westland, which is how they were able to track him down. Pomorski said they used photos from the Westland robbery and matched them with the surveillance footage from the Canton robbery. When Canton officers showed Abbott's sister and other family members the surveillance photos, they identified him.

Abbott also called a taxi after the robbery in Westland. On a hunch, Canton officers contacted local taxi companies and one of them said they had picked up Abbott and took him near I-94 and State Street in the Ann Arbor area,



Abbott

where police officers found him.

In the Canton robbery, Pomorski said Abbott handed the teller a note stating that he was robbing the bank.

He requested \$50 and \$100 bills. Pomorski said the Abbott's hand was in his pocket and he implied he had a gun. He left the bank on foot with an undisclosed amount of money.

Pomorski said Abbott didn't have a weapon at the time of his arrest.

TEEN

FROM PAGE A1

The Canton garage where the murder took place belongs to Orlewicz's grandfather. Police aren't talking because of a gag order imposed by 35th District Court Judge Michael Gerou, but sources say Orlewicz may have called the third student for help after discovering Sorensen's body was too heavy for the two teens to move.

The third student is not expected to be charged in the case.

Meanwhile, Letkemann's friends and family have been vociferous in their defense of the teen, who dropped out of Churchill High School in 2006, then completed his high school education through the school's adult education program.

Lisa Housholder said she considers herself Letkemann's "second mother," and said Alexander and her son were "best friends." She doesn't believe, despite the charges, that Letkemann was involved in Sorensen's death. She thinks Letkemann was brought into the situation under false pretenses.

"I'm shocked, I'm in disbelief, because Alex wouldn't hurt a spider," Housholder said. "I think he was (brought there) under the misunderstanding that he was going to do something very different. He would never go along with something like this."

Jessika Adam, a junior at Churchill, said she believes if Letkemann was involved, he got involved out of fear.

"I think he was frozen with fear," Adam said. "People don't know what they're going to do in a situation like that."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
(734) 459-2700

Got Game?
Yep, got scores, too.

TREE

FROM PAGE A1

lot of fun."

Carriage rides through Heritage Park will also be available. The cost is \$5 for a group of four or \$2 per person and includes a donut and a

cup of hot chocolate.

While mentioning the popularity of the ice sculpting, LaFever said the tree lighting is in its 29th year.

"We have activities that kids will never forget," he said. "We are making family memories here."

For more information on the event, call (734) 394-5460 or visit www.canton-mi.org.

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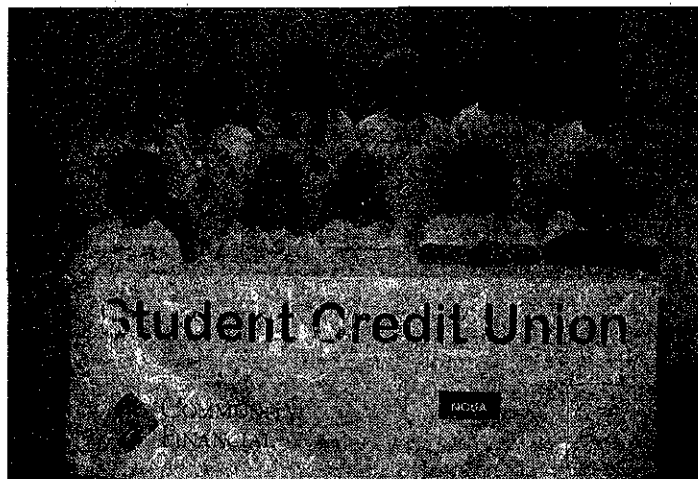
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TUE 8	AVALANCHE	7:30 PM
THU 10	WILD	7:30 PM
TUE 15	THRASHERS	7:30 PM
THU 17	CANUCKS	7:30 PM
WED 30	COYOTES	7:30 PM
FEBRUARY		
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THU 7	KINGS	7:30 PM
SUN 10	DUCKS	1:00 PM
FRI 15	BLUE JACKETS	7:30 PM
FRI 29	SHARKS	7:30 PM
MARCH		
WED 5	BLUES	7:30 PM
SUN 9	PREDATORS	3:00 PM
TUE 11	BLACKHAWKS	7:30 PM
THU 13	STARS	7:30 PM
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TICKETS ON SALE NOVEMBER 28 AT 10 AM FOR ALL REMAINING HOME GAMES

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Joe Louis Arena Box Office
ticketmaster
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FIRE ON ICE

\$9 tickets on sale for all December home games November 28 at 10 am
Limit 2 per person



Bentley branch

Students from teacher Jeff Fordell's fifth-grade class at Bentley Elementary in Canton prepare to work as volunteers at the school's student-run credit union, operated in partnership with Community Financial of Plymouth. Bentley is one of eight elementary schools in Plymouth-Canton Community Schools to partner with Community Financial. The credit union operates 26 school partnerships as part of its financial literacy program. "The entire Bentley community is very excited about the student-run credit union opening," said Jerry Meier, principal of Bentley Elementary. "We hope to have this opportunity available at our school for many years to come." The student-run credit union program extends into middle school and high school, including classroom presentations on financial topics such as building credit and investing basics.

@ THE CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Canton Public Library's community blog has been active for several months now at www.cantonpl.org/blog. Check in for posts on great books, movie suggestions, how to go green, events happening around Canton and more. Create your own post and share your thoughts. It's a fun way to stay in touch with current topics in the Canton community.

NOW @ YOUR LIBRARY

- Teen Book Discussion: Nov. 24, at 4 p.m. Discuss the book *Freaks* by Annette Klause. Registration required.
- Graphics and Greeting Card Creation: Nov. 26, at 6:30 p.m. Use Microsoft Word to create holiday greeting cards. Learn to insert clip art and graphics, manipulate text and more. Registration required.
- Tai Chi for Teens: Nov. 28, at 4:30 p.m. The fourth class of this series for teens, lead by Julie Burt. Registration required.
- Excel I: Nov. 28, at 6:30 p.m. Get instruction in the basics of Microsoft Excel and learn how to create a spreadsheet. Registration required.
- MS Word Mailing Tricks: Nov. 29, at 9:30 a.m.

Save time when you learn to create a mailing list to print for mailing labels. Also learn how to format envelopes for quick printing. Registration required.

- Teen CD Clock: Nov. 29, at 6 p.m. Recycle an old CD into a funky homemade clock. Great gift idea. Registration required.
- ABC Activity Time: Nov. 30, at 10 a.m. - noon. Drop in play for kids up to age five. Explore puzzles, matching games and other learning activities.
- Teen Belly Dance: Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. This teen-appropriate program features a belly dance performance and instruction. Registration required.
- Knit Nights with Anne: Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. Share holiday knitting projects in this drop-in group. All levels of knitting experience welcome.

NEW @ YOUR LIBRARY

- **Adult Books on CD**
- *Something Wicked This Way Comes* by Ray Bradbury
- *The Life Before Her Eyes* by Laura Kasischke
- *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*



And the winner is ...

Plymouth resident Erin Wheeler (left) was the winner of the inaugural Plymouth-Canton Junior Miss Scholarship Program on Nov. 10. The Ladywood High School senior is the daughter of Richard and Patricia Wheeler, and sister of Kevin and Sean Wheeler. Erin was the over-all winner in Interview, Talent and Fitness, she received a total of \$1,650 in scholarship money. With the title of Plymouth-Canton's Junior Miss 2008 Erin will travel to Ann Arbor in March to compete for Michigan's Junior Miss and the chance to earn additional scholarship money. Plymouth High senior Whitney Askew of Canton (right), the daughter of William and Freida Askew and sister of William and Wesley Askew, was 1st runner up and tied for the spirit award, Whitney earned the title of Canton's Junior Miss 2008 and will also travel to Ann Arbor to compete in Michigan's Junior Miss.



The 10 senior girls who competed in the first Plymouth-Canton Junior Miss Scholarship Program, included (from left) Erica Straub (Ladywood High School), Megan Vish - Poise winner and tied for Spirit Award (Divine Child High School), Amanda Schimm (Canton High School), Alyssa Collgado - Peoples Choice winner (Ladywood High School), Lauracindy Plague - tied for the Spirit Award (John Glen High School), Whitney Askew - 1st Runner-up and tied for the Spirit Award (Plymouth High School), Erin Wheeler - Plymouth-Canton's Junior Miss 2008, and Interview, Talent and Fitness winner (Ladywood High School), Melissa Klusek (Salem High School), Meaghan Priebe (Plymouth High School) and Katherine Lu, Scholastic winner (Canton High School).



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Sat, December 1 at 1p (SOLD OUT)	Sat, December 8 at 1p (SOLD OUT)
Sun, December 2 at 3p and 7:30p (3pm SOLD OUT)	Sun, December 9 at 3p and 7:30p (3pm SOLD OUT)

Pricing: Ticket prices are \$15 and \$17 per seat depending on location. There are no refunds or exchanges.

Tickets: On sale NOW and can be purchased by calling 866.295.9333 or at NorthRidgeChurch.com

Due to the length of the program (2.5 hrs), children under 4 are not admitted.

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CDs and annuities good for conservative investors

Dear Rick: I read your column and I understand what you say about the market and how investors should not panic during these times. Even though I agree with everything you say, I am still nervous and have decided to sell my stock investments. I have a little over \$100,000 that I want to invest in a safe and secure area. I don't need the money now but probably will in five to 10 years. Any suggestions?



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

don't have to consider just local banks, you can also shop CDs around the country.

You can go to one of the brokerage houses and they can shop CD rates for you or you can do it yourself at www.bankrate.com. The key in purchasing a CD is to make sure you understand the terms and conditions.

Another alternative is an equity-index annuity which allows you to invest money that will grow tax deferred until it is withdrawn. Unlike a CD that gives you a fixed rate of return, an equity-index annuity return will adjust on a year-by-year basis based upon a formula. An equity-index annuity is a fixed investment and you cannot lose principal.

Unfortunately, the majority of equity-index annuities are stuffed with fees thus, hindering the return to an investor. However, there are many annuities in the market that have very low fees. The key is to purchase one of those annuities through a firm such as Hutton Financial that deals exclusively in no-load annuities, (800) 874-4444.

Since you don't need the income for a number of years, I would lean towards the equity-index annuity as the better investment in your situation.

Dear Rick: I lost my job and have run into problems with my finances. I am maxed out on my charge cards and I've had to draw from my 401(k) just to cover bills. I went

to a credit counselor who came up with a program. I am fearful that by following the program I'll never be out of debt. A friend recommended bankruptcy. The credit counselor said there are too many negatives to bankruptcy and I should go with the work-out plan. Is bankruptcy something I should consider? I am 28 years old.

We live in a great country that believes when people get into financial difficulty — because of bad luck or bad choices — there should be a way to wipe the slate clean and start over.

Bankruptcy laws are well established in our country and for people who are having financial difficulty it is something to explore. Unfortunately, there is a stigma around bankruptcy which I'm not sure is fair. After all, many corporations declare bankruptcy and continue to stay in business and, in many cases, retain the public's confidence.

Bankruptcy laws don't exist in a vacuum. They are part of the safeguards in our system and no one should be stigmatized using the law for their benefit.

In your situation, if there is no reasonable expectation the work-out plan will be successful, then bankruptcy is a viable alternative. Because a bankruptcy remains on someone's record for a period of time, it is not something to use without proper consideration.

My recommendation is sit down with a bankruptcy attorney and discuss your options. Depending upon your situation there will be different ways to proceed with different consequences.

In many cases, someone's financial situation is not caused by bad choices but rather bad luck. Whether it is a health emergency, a lost job, things happen and when they do, bankruptcy is something people should consider.

I recognize there is a guilt feeling associated with bankruptcy, however, keep in mind when you were paying 18.5 percent interest on your charge cards, that amount was substantially more than the going rate of interest. In effect, the company was charging a premium to offset any losses they would incur in case of things such as bankruptcy. Therefore, because you paid higher interest in effect you were buying an insurance policy and now you are just collecting on that policy.

Bankruptcy should not be someone's first alternative, however, it is something that deserves consideration. The key is to understand the consequences of what is involved and to make a decision based on what's good for your future financial health.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

'Lion King' prize winners selected

Robin Spivey of Southfield is grand prize winner in the Observer & Eccentric/Mirror Newspapers "Lion King" contest. Spivey receives four tickets to the Saturday, Dec. 1, performance at the Detroit Opera House.

Other winners of "Lion King" gift packs are: Kelly Brang of Garden City, the Gaffke family of Livonia, Charlene Diehl of Farmington Hills, Gloria Miller of Westland, Shelly Stallworth of Southfield, Karen Morawski of Rochester, Norbert Ostrowski of Royal Oak, Janice Kanka of Troy, Nadine Martens of Bloomfield Hills, Betty Cespino of Canton Township, Jerry Powers of Redford Township and Cheryl Kuzmanovich of Ferndale.

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LABORATORY TESTS IN ARTHRITIS

Laboratory tests often are important in uncovering medical problems not otherwise apparent. Your doctor discovers if you have diabetes from blood work. Thyroid conditions and the presence of toxic chemicals like lead and mercury are also found through examination of the blood.

However, laboratory tests are not as useful in arthritis. You should not be told that a "blood test showed you have rheumatoid arthritis." Nor is it true that a laboratory test will tell if you have lupus or not.

The reason is because abnormal findings in the arthritic conditions are tied to inflammation or disturbances to your immune system. A variety of reactions can cause these laboratory findings. No one can say if the laboratory results present now represent past reactions to medications, viral infections, or responses to pollutants or dust.

Blood testing results may be in keeping with a physician's impression that your medical history and physical examination indicate rheumatoid arthritis or a similar condition. In arthritis, your experience of joint pain and its pattern of impairment provide the best way to diagnose your condition.

The one exception is gout. For that diagnosis, the only way your physician is sure you have gout is to see the crystals of gout in a sample of fluid drawn from the involved toe or knee. Blood results no matter how high the levels, can only lend support to the diagnosis.

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National 2006



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nan Washburn will again be conducting Orchestra Canton at its holiday concert.

Orchestra to mark holidays with 'Christmas in Canton'

Orchestra Canton will perform a family holiday concert, "Christmas in Canton" on Dec. 2, at 4 p.m. at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

The concert is geared for all ages with an array of seasonal favorites including Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," "Winter Wonderland," "Jingle bells," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "The Christmas Song," and the "Polar Express Suite." On the more classical side, the group will also be performing several dances from the "Nutcracker" by Tchaikovsky, the March of the Toys from "Babes in Toyland" by Victor Herbert and the first movement of Beethoven's Symphony No. 1 showcasing a special "side by side" performance with the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society's own youth orchestra, the Celebration Youth Symphony.

Tickets for the show are \$20



Orchestra Canton will be performing many holiday classics on Dec. 2.

for adults, \$18 for seniors, and \$10 for children. Tickets may be purchased in person at the Summit on the Park, or by phone by calling the Summit at (734) 394-5460 Ext. 0. Tickets may also be purchased using the Village Theater's secure online box office at www.canton-mi.org, or at the Village Theater box office one hour

before each performance.

For more information on Orchestra Canton's fourth season please visit www.orchestra-canton.org.

To learn more about other ensembles and programs within the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society, please visit www.plymouthcantonsymphony.org.



Merit scholars

Eleven students from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park - Julie Zhao, Steve Su, Katherine Lu, Siyang Yu, Emily Movsesian, Jessica Liu, Wenxin Zhu, Theodore Wakar, George Wasylshyn, Aaron Goodman and Ryan Hoffman - were named National Merit Scholarship Program semifinalists. The students rank in the top one percent of their peers across the nation. The National Merit Scholarship Program has named approximately 16,000 academically talented high school seniors as semifinalists. These seniors now have an opportunity to advance in the competition for 8,200 Merit Scholarship awards (about \$34 million) to be offered in the spring of 2008.

ON THE AGENDA

Canton Township Board of Trustees

The township board will hold a regular meeting at 7 p.m. at the Canton Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road. Agenda items include:

- Merit commission recommendation for non-union classified employees' 2008 compensation.
- Elected officials' compensation.

- Proposal for township telephone carrier service.
- Bid for printing the 2008 service directory and calendar.

- Preservation project for 425 N. Ridge Road.
- Consideration of the purchase of an integrated financial management system.
- Consider purchase of computer hardware and server software for implementation of new financial software system.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AROUND TOWN

Railroadiana

The Ss. Simon and Jude Ushers Club will sponsor a buy-and swap toys and trains show noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, at the church hall, 32500 Palmer west of Merriman, Westland. Admission is \$2 per person, \$4 per family. Food is available and parking is free. There will be operating train layouts of various gauges and more 150 dealer tables. Tables are \$10 per table. Reserve tables by calling (734) 595-8327. Dealer setup is at 9 a.m. the day of the show.

Nutty Nutcracker

Center Stage Dance Co. presents their holiday production of "The Nutty Nutcracker." Loosely following the story of The Nutcracker, the show will present a wide variety of music including songs from Dreamgirls.

some Sammy Davis Jr., a little Bing Crosby and the soundtrack from Pirates of The Caribbean. Dance styles will include ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, and hip hop. The show starts at 6:45 on Wednesday, Dec. 19 at Hillside Middle School Auditorium. Admission is free. For more information call (248) 380-1666.

Youth Philharmonic

The Livonia Youth Philharmonic of Michigan, a regional orchestra, has openings for interested student musicians in our intermediate and advanced orchestras and also the sax choir. Rehearsals are on Saturday mornings at Churchill High School. For more information contact Kathy Bilger at (734) 464-8704 or e-mail auditions@LYPM.org

New Year's Eve party

Ring in the New Year with Jimmy

Howard & Company at a New Year's Party at the Livonia Elks, 31117 Plymouth Road in Livonia Monday, Dec. 30. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; party goes until 1 a.m. Dinner (oven-baked chicken and port tenderloin) served at 7:15 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per person. Due to the Christmas holiday, tickets must be purchased by Dec. 19.

For more information, call Linda at (734) 507-9173 or Mary Ann at (734) 654-0115, or e-mail parties.2go2@yahoo.com

Genealogical society

■ The Livingston County Genealogical Society meets 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, to hear speaker Marlene Lipon discuss "Christmas Traditions." The meeting takes place at the First United Methodist Church, 1230 Bower, in Howell.

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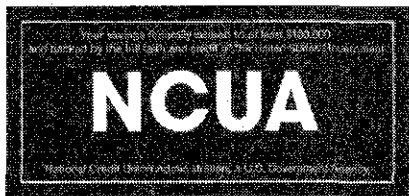
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***Loans that are paid off or closed within twelve months of origination will reimburse this cost to the credit union.

Students' feast helps feed families

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Chef Tony Paquette was looking for a different way to do the annual Thanksgiving buffet served by his culinary arts students at the Café Marquette, so he decided to invite a few friends to come and eat.

Little did they know that when they arrived for the recent lavish feast they would be helping provide Thanksgiving dinners to needy families living in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools district.

"The whole thing was spur of the moment," said Paquette. "We usually do a Thanksgiving buffet, but this year, I wanted to take it up a couple of notches."

Paquette's guests included city and school officials as well as people who are regulars at the student restaurant housed in the William D. Ford Career Technical Center. In exchange for a sumptuous meal, they dropped cash and checks into a fish bowl destined for the district's Family Resource Center.

The center is working with the Westland Meijer to provide the fully cooked meals. Each meal serves a family of four and costs \$35.

"Not a lot of agencies help families at Thanksgiving, they tend to think more about Christmas," said center director Maria Mitter. "Last year we provided for 45 families, and helped 34 families before this event."

Paquette's students spent the better part of the week preparing food for the meal. There was a buffet table loaded with everything Thanksgiving and food stations where students served Bananas Foster, salads, potatoes, omelets and waffles. In the center of the room, were an hors d'oeuvres table filled with fresh fruit, sushi and cold shrimp and one filled with French pastries.

"I think it's good what



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne Memorial High School senior Nova Connolly carves and serves turkey. Behind is Johnathan Kelsey, a senior at John Glenn High School.

they're doing with the proceeds to help the Resource Center," said Kathy Makino. "I'm definitely making a donation, I brought a check along."

Housed in Lincoln Elementary School, the Resource Center provides referrals for services. Demand for assistance is up, said Mitter, who receives "five to 10 calls a day" from people in need of food. She has forwarded individuals to the Bolde Food Depot at St. Mary's Church in Wayne and to area churches and the Salvation Army to get help.

"I'm at my max for families," said Mitter. "The need far exceeds what we're able to provide."

The culinary arts students for the past two years have made apple pies for the Thanksgiving dinners, but Paquette decided to bring them out of the kitchen and put them out in front of guests.



Guests like school board Trustee Ed Turner (right) select from sushi, shrimp, fresh fruit and cheese on the appetizer table.

"I always try to do something on the edge," said Paquette. "I think I'll do more of these, people really like them."

Deborah Coleman of Livonia agrees.

"It's very well done," she said. "It's something the kids can be proud of."

smason@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2112



Joe Hawrylak (left) and Deborah Coleman of Livonia fill their plate with turkey and the trimmings at the main buffet table at the culinary arts program's Thanksgiving buffet.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN (734) 453-1234

A special meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, December 6, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following item:

Z 07-19 149/157 W. Liberty Non-Use Variance Requested
Front Yard Setback & Off-Site
Dual Use of Parking
Zoned: B-1, Local Business
Applicant: Dominic Maltese

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

MAUREEN BRODIE, ADA Coordinator
201 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170. (734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

Publish: November 25, 2007

0608072830 - 2x4

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AGENDA DECEMBER 13, 2007

Notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2007 at 7:00 P.M.** The meeting will be held in the Board Room at the Township Administration Building located at 1150 S. CANTON CENTER ROAD, CANTON, MI 48188. The following agenda will be discussed:

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag

Roll Call: Randy Blaylock, Jim Cisek, Cathy Johnson, Vicki Welty, Steven Johnson and Dawn Zuber

Acceptance of Agenda

1. Jeff Packer and Alex Rahill, 42219 Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170, for industrial property located at 7001 N. Haggerty Rd., west side of Haggerty Rd. between Warren and Joy Roads, appealing Zoning Ordinance Article 6.00, Section 6.02U, variance of 10 ft from the 50 ft front setback from Warren Rd. and a variance of 31 ft from the 50 ft front setback from Haggerty Rd. for religious institutions.
Zone Industrial
Parcel 046 99 0003 715
(Planning)

2. Taleb & Abdallah Holdings, 15111 W. Warren Ave., Dearborn, MI 48126, for commercial property located at 46495 Michigan Ave. (Amoco), south side of Michigan Ave. between Belleville and Dewitt Roads, appealing Sign Ordinances Article 6A.00, Section 6A.06; Article 6A.00, Section 6A.15; Article 6A.00, Section 6A.25, sign variance.
Zone C-3
Parcel 132 99 0010 712
(Building)

3. Henry Ford Health System, One Ford Place, Detroit, MI 48202, for commercial medical property located at 6100 Haggerty Rd., east side of Haggerty Rd. between Ford and Warren Roads, appealing Sign Ordinances Article 6A.00, Section 6A.15; Article 6A.00, Section 6A.25, sign variance.
Zone LI-1 Light Industrial
Parcel 047 01 0005 000
(Building)

4. Michael A. Boggio, 30100 Telegraph #216, Bingham Farms, MI 48025, for vacant property located on Canton Center Rd., northeast side of Canton Center Rd. between Michigan and Canton Center Roads, appealing Sign Ordinances Article 6A.00, Section 6A.15; Article 6A.00, Section 6A.21, to allow a directional sign to be placed at an entrance drive which is not located on the premises of the business and to allow a 2 ft variance above the maximum 4 ft maximum height to allow for an architectural element on the proposed sign.
Zone C-3
Parcel 129 99 0002 710
(Building)

5. Fairmont Sign Company, 3750 E. Outer Drive, Detroit, MI 48234, for commercial property (Borders) located on the south side of Ford Rd. between Morton-Taylor and Oakview Roads, appealing Sign Ordinance Article 6A.00, Section 6A.22, master signage plan for shops at Morton-Taylor.
Zone C-2
Parcel 057 99 0001 710
(Building)

Election of officers for 2008

Discussion- Setting January training date

Approval of the October 25, 2007 Minutes

All written comments need to be submitted to the Charter Township of Canton Clerk's Office, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188, prior to 5:00 PM on the date of the hearing.

Publish: November 25, 2007

0608072422 - 2x3.5

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ENCHANTED (PG)
11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:55, 9:15
FRISAT LS 11:05
 THE MIST (R)
11:00, 1:40, 4:35, 7:20, 10:00
 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER
EMPORIUM (G)
12:20, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:20
FRISAT LS 11:40
 BEOWULF (PG-13)
11:25, 1:55, 4:25, 7:00, 9:30
FRISAT LS 12:00
 FRED CLAUS (PG)
11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40
 BEE MOVIE (PG)
11:15, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:05
FRISAT LS 11:15
 AMERICAN GANGSTER (R)
11:45, 3:00, 6:20, 9:35

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The strange saga of 9th U.S. House race

BY GREG KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

The dramatic turns of the 9th U.S. House race have taken on the surreal elements of a soap opera. And there still is nearly a year to go to the election.

Brother has turned against brother and the incumbent's chief of staff took a leave of absence after being diagnosed with bipolar disorder, which he claimed was responsible for the "really weird" e-mails he was sending out in the wee hours of the morning.

The stage is the 9th House District, a sprawling area that stretches from Waterford to Royal Oak and from Farmington Hills to Oakland Township.

The cast includes principal characters Joe Knollenberg, a Republican from Bloomfield Township who has held the seat since being elected in 1992; and Democrats Gary Peters and Nancy Skinner. Peters is a former state senator and lottery commissioner, and Skinner is a radio talk show host and political activist who came close to beating Knollenberg last year.

Bit players are Trent Wisecup, Knollenberg's chief of staff, and Bruce Fealk, a Rochester Hills resident who has been leading a sometimes raucous attack against Knollenberg.

And as with some great shows, it's the supporting cast that carries the story.

First Fealk. He has been trailing Knollenberg with a video camera challenging him on various issues. At a recent confrontation with Wisecup in a store, Wisecup responded so strongly that the tape ended up on Keith Olbermann's cable TV show *Countdown*.

Shortly thereafter Wisecup took a leave of absence from Knollenberg's office and sent out a blanket e-mail stating, in part: "I haven't been sleeping well of late ... as you all will know from all the late e-mails I have been sending over the past few months. Some of the e-mails have been really weird and flat-out kooky. I recently checked myself into Beaumont... to



Knollenberg



Fealk

see what was up. I was diagnosed with bipolar disorder. This is a form of depression that fortunately is treatable with medication ..."

Fealk has had his own problems. On Oct. 18, his brother, Steven, sent out a fax to Knollenberg with a second line stating: "I would like to say that I am so embarrassed by my brother's action."

And that was about the kindest thing said in the body of the message. Steven Fealk went on to accuse his brother of misusing his name on a Republican-looking Internet site set up — he said — to collect e-mail addresses of Knollenberg supporters interested in attending the Republican debate that was held in Dearborn so he could "start harassing their e-mail boxes."

"I am furious," Steven Fealk wrote. "Obviously we have differences," Bruce Fealk said. "Lots of families have differences."

Bruce said that his brother's name was unintentionally linked to the Internet site, which showed Steven Fealk's name as host of the site.

"I'm sorry it happened, but it was not intentional," Bruce said. "I love my brother."

Steven said he sent the fax to Knollenberg because of the "embarrassment my family is experiencing due to Bruce's continued harassment to Mr. Knollenberg, his staff and family."

Steven said he is an independent voter not aligned with any party. Bruce said the family squabble should not detract from the issues.

And what are the issues? The Iraq war and SCHIP, the embattled health program for children, are hot right now, according to Peters.

He and Skinner have stayed out of the Knollenberg-Fealk(s) saga and are running campaigns that are tame compared to the Knollenberg-Fealk war, but are perhaps more

in keeping with a campaign a year ahead of the election.

"What are the campaigns about?" Peters posed. "They are about priorities."

The Iraq war and SCHIP are priorities, Peter said. Knollenberg continually supports the multibillion-dollar Iraq war yet is opposed health care coverage for children through the SCHIP program.

Skinner's campaign to a large extent is based on personal appearances and through her Web site, SkinnerForCongress.com. In it she identifies three key issues — the Iraq war, the economy and climate change.

The Internet has proven to be a winning avenue for Skinner. In her last race against Knollenberg she raised \$118,000 through the Internet.

"It's intense," Skinner said Tuesday of the early campaigning, just days after taking part a major fund-raiser that was attended by about 300 people. "I'm a hard campaigner," Skinner said.

Peters isn't doing so bad himself on the fund-raising front. He has raised more than \$200,000.

Peters recently announced that the entire Michigan Democratic congressional delegation will hold a fund-raiser for him and state Sen. Mark Schauer, D-Battle Creek, at the Burton Manor in Livonia on Dec. 2.

"I am extremely honored that Michigan's entire Democratic congressional delegation has come together for this event," Peters said.

And as for Knollenberg, he is campaigning perhaps harder than he ever has.

A Democratic poll showed that his approval rating has fallen to 33 percent. But Knollenberg has a solid base of support, at least in parts of the district and a proven record of winning.

To broaden his message he has taken up the cause of the American auto industry and distanced himself from President George Bush to emphasize that he is an independent thinker. He's also raised more than \$700,000 for his campaign.

Will that be enough? We'll know next November.



Special visit

Channel 7's Carolyn Clifford recently visited teacher Angie Lipford's class at Discovery Middle School. She was one of several special guests that came in to read to the class on National Young Reader's Day. She was invited because student Elijah Edwards (left) wrote in an autobiography assignment that Carolyn Clifford is his favorite entertainer. Clifford read to the students, gave out pictures and pencils, and visited with all the students. Other students in the class include Catherine Thornburg, Sonia Werda, Elijah Edwards, Alex Parker, Ian Carolan, Kyle Albert, Hailee Hatfield, Geordi Berlingieri, Shay Gunn and Peter Merenda. According to Ms. Lipford, everyone had a great time.

Recall effort needs appeal

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth Township resident John Hett, thwarted by the Wayne County Elections Commission in an effort to begin circulating recall petitions against 20th House District Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville, has filed an appeal.

Corriveau came under fire for his vote in favor of an income tax increase from 3.9 percent to 4.35 percent on Oct. 1 to balance the state's deficit budget.

The county Elections Commission voted 2-0 to reject the recall petitions, claiming the wording wasn't clear enough for voters to understand.

The three-member panel, which is chosen by statute, included Wayne County Treasurer Raymond Wojtowicz, a Democrat, and Probate Chief Judge Milton Mack, Jr., a non-partisan. The third member, Wayne County Clerk Cathy Garrett, also a Democrat, was not present to vote.

"Wayne County is a Democratic stronghold and we expected partisan politics," said Hett, 44, who said he has no party affiliation. "What they are saying is the people of the 20th District are not smart

enough to know Corriveau raised our taxes and we want to recall him."

Corriveau said he expected the appeal, which for him will mean more time taken away from his work in Lansing.

"It continues to be a distraction for me," said Corriveau. "Any time devoted toward defending this concept is taking me away from me working for my constituents."

Corriveau confirmed Mack is a resident of Wayne, a portion of the 20th House District, and was a contributor to his campaign. However, the first-year lawmaker said he believed that didn't come into play, as Mack's reputation is "impeccable."

Hett said he's received some criticism for wanting to recall Corriveau, for which a vote could take place only months before Corriveau's attempt at re-election.

"The recall process is a citizen's recourse to put pressure on their representative to vote the correct way," said Hett.

"Rep. Corriveau could have been the difference between a tax increase and no tax increase. That increase was more expensive than holding him accountable with a local recall election."

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OUR VIEWS

No shortage of need in this 'season of giving'

It is no secret the state of Michigan is in the midst of a prolonged economic slump. And while there are always the less fortunate who rely on the generosity of others to make it through the day, the number of people needing a helping hand this holiday season surely has increased.

And that is putting extra pressure on area food banks, soup kitchens and emergency shelters to keep up with the additional demand. Organizations like Gleaners Food Bank and the Goodfellows need more help than ever if they are going to succeed in ensuring no child goes without a Christmas, and every family will enjoy a holiday meal.

A great way to get into the "holiday spirit" is by supporting the various charities whose volunteers work tirelessly to help those in need. There is no shortage of ways to help, either offering one's time, talent or treasure to a worthy cause.

The Salvation Army is in need of volunteer bell ringers to help with its annual red kettle campaign. If enough volunteers are not found, the organization either has to pay people to man the kettles or reduce the number of locations, both of which cut into its resources. Visit the Salvation Army's Web site at www.salvationarmymemich.org to learn how to help.

Similarly, Gleaners Community Food Bank is seeking both food donations and volunteers to help pack food boxes for the needy.

The organization, which serves both Oakland and Wayne counties, experienced record demand for assistance last month, distributing more than 2.2 million pounds of food.

With area food pantries experiencing critical shortages, cash donations are the best way to help restock empty shelves.

Visit the Gleaners Web site at www.gcfb.org to learn more.

South Oakland Shelter is another area organization experiencing record demand, coupled with dwindling resources. The Oakland County-based shelter not only provides temporary housing and meals to area homeless people, but also helps with case management, job counseling and transportation to help break the cycle of poverty and homelessness. To learn how to help, visit the S.O.S. Web site at www.sos1985.org.

In this season of giving, it is more important than ever to do as much as we can to help those in need this holiday season.

Stop media consolidation

Media consolidation means we hear a less diverse and broad spectrum of issues and allows free rein of the airwaves by huge companies pushing their own agenda. Women and minorities are already misrepresented in the media and ownership and it shows in how they are portrayed in the media. Now Kevin Martin and the rest of the FCC want even more consolidation. This means the brainwashing will get even worse. The U.S. is a melting pot and our media should reflect our society, which is broad and diverse.

Denise Berthiaume
Canton

Nice job, 'Candy Man'

Thanks to the *Observer* for doing the story about the "Candy Man" dentist. My sister, brother and I donated six and a half pounds of candies that we collected on Halloween. We earned \$7 and two toothbrushes, and we wrote letters to the troops.

I'm surprised 500 pounds total of candies were collected in just one day. I hope all soldiers in Iraq enjoy the candies and don't forget to brush their teeth.

I am glad to hear that the dentist office will continue this event next year because I will definitely contribute again.

Tia Felice
Canton

Catholics criticize McCotter

Please notice what U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter is saying about groups that slam him for his vote against children's health care. It is another reason we should not re-elect him next November.

In October, Catholics United, "a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to promoting the message of justice and the common good found at the heart of the Catholic Social Tradition," launched an ad campaign targeting "pro-life Christian" politicians who voted against expanding the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The ads criticized the members of Congress for saying that they're "pro-life," but then voting "against health care for poor children."

"That's not pro-life. That's not pro-family," concluded the ads.

One of the targets of the ads, McCotter, R-Livonia, the chairman of the House Republican Policy Committee, responded by accusing Catholics United of being the "devil" and acting in "sin."

Now Catholics United is taking to the Christian radio airwaves again. They're still hitting McCotter but are also adding four more members of Congress to their target list: Rep. Jim Marshall, D-Georgia, Rep. Virgil Goode, R-Virginia, Rep. Todd Tiahrt, R-Kansas, and Rep. Kenny Hulshof, R-Missouri.

LETTERS

Hats off to teen writers

Read the article relating to the Student Voices section. Great, it provides the school children a means of freely expressing their views to all who will listen. The benefits are manifold. The children will improve their ability to organize thoughts, knowing that there will be feedback. Helps them to recognize that all issues in life have many facets.

The power of words will become ingrained in them for the rest of their life. Learning effective communication is, as always, what makes mankind superior to the other animals on the planet. Also helps those of older generations to better understand how the world is changing for the better. After all, these are the ones that will be the leaders of tomorrow.

Perhaps they can end a practice that we have not been able to end — being misled by many glib politicians and other self-serving individuals. They treat us as dumb gullible people who will believe any lie, if it is repeated enough. Just think how much we would all benefit if we could lose the Nation of Sheep characterization.

Hats off to all the *Observer* people who created this most worthwhile program.

Ralph E. Williams
Livonia

Time to 'go green'

The time has come to protect our environment by reducing the carbon emissions that cause global warming.

Recently, Brother Rice High School took part in a global debate competition meant to raise community awareness to the dangers of carbon emissions. In the debate, the students squared off over the issue of using market solutions or government regulations to combat the problem of carbon emissions.

I went to the debate and heard the exchange. After hearing both sides, I have come to the conclusion that everybody has a role to play in this situation. The government must establish strong standards for business concerning their carbon emissions. Only through legislation can we guarantee that every business will be compelled to reduce their emissions in the future.

The public must speak with their wallets by demanding products be produced with fewer carbon emissions. Businesses should "go green" to create future profits, as many traditional fuel supplies are becoming scarce and more unstable. In the debate, the Brother Rice students brought proposed a Green Alliance Plan: a coalition of business, government, and public groups coordinating their efforts to battle global warming. I say that it's time for this to be a reality. Go GAP!

Justin Cherocci
Rochester Hills

GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm
Send correspondence to P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909, or call Constituent Services at (517) 335-7858. The fax number is (517) 335-6863.

State Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton
Contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI, 48909; by phone at (517) 373-7350; toll-free at (866) 262-7307; or by e-mail at senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov.

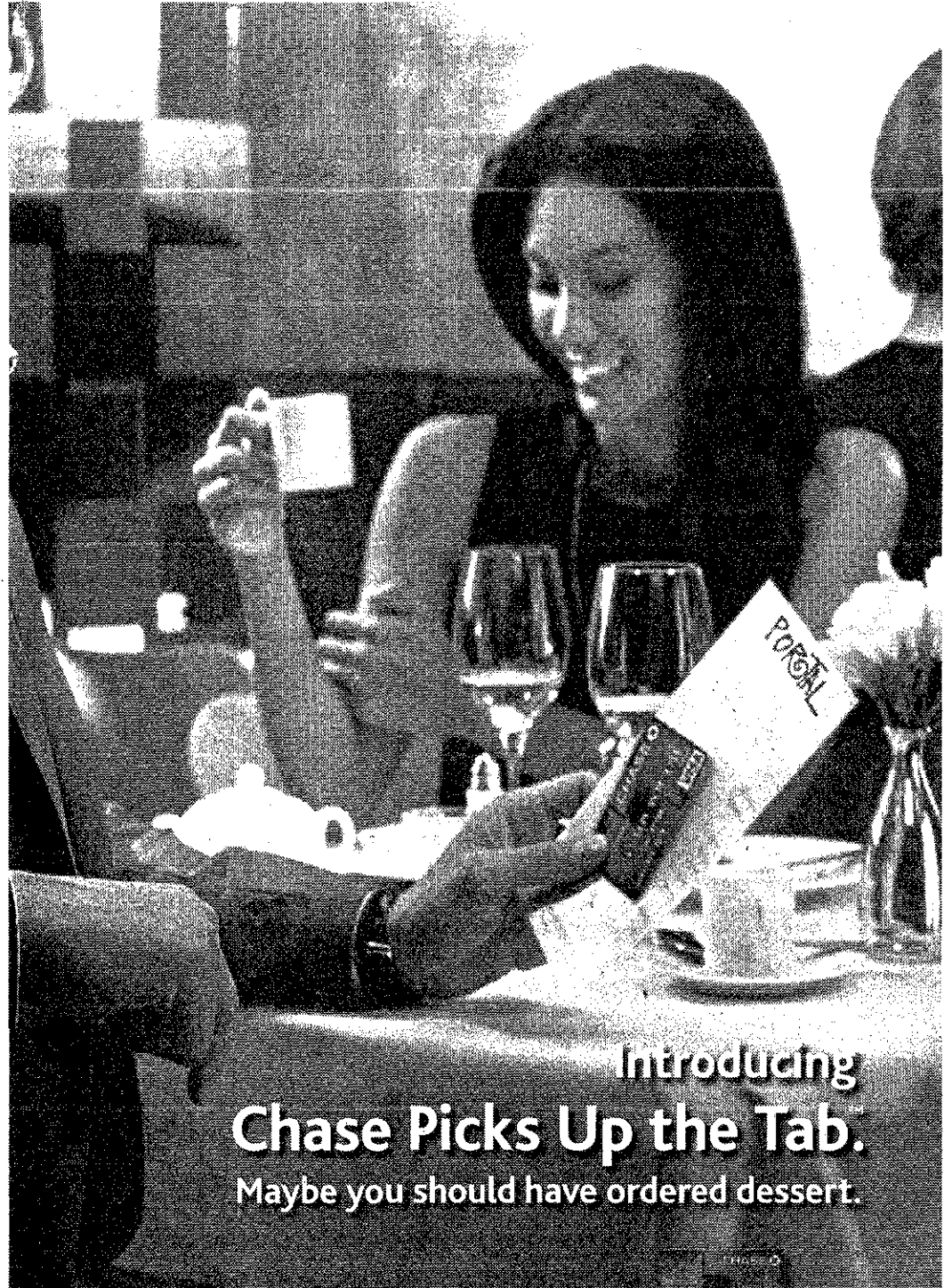
State Rep. Phil LaJoy, R-Canton
Contact him by mail at S-785 House Office Building,

P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48933; by phone at (517) 373-2575 or toll free at (866) LAJOY21; or by e-mail at phillajoy@house.mi.gov.

State Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville
Contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514; by phone at (517) 373-3816; or by e-mail at MarcCorriveau@house.mi.gov.

Canton Township Supervisor Tom Yack
Contact him by mail at 1150 S. Canton Center, Canton, MI 48188; by phone at (734) 394-5185; or by e-mail at tyack@canton-mi.org.

U.S. Sen. Carl Levin
His Washington, D.C. mailing address is 269 Russell Office Building, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-2202. Call him at (202) 224-6221. The fax number is (202) 224-1388. He also has offices in Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building, 477 Michigan Ave., Room 1860, in Detroit. The local phone number is (313) 226-6020, TTY (800) 851-0030 and fax at (313) 226-6948. He also has a Web site - levin.senate.gov.



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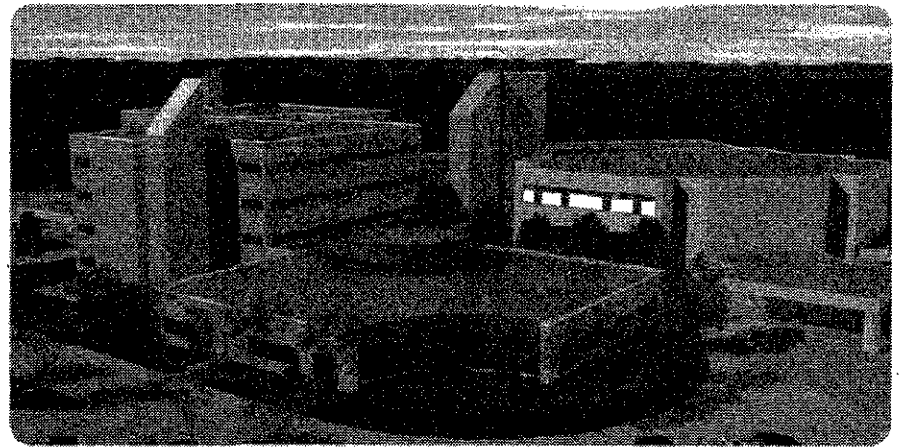
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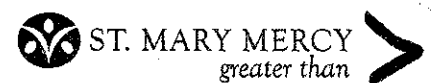
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Adam Turner and Matt Kelly enjoy dinner.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Janet Steiner carries Thanksgiving dinner out of the kitchen. The meals were plated by Allison Kight (in background).



Organizer Bob Boyer gets a hug from Canton Township Clerk Terry Bennett.

A first feast

Bob Boyer treats Canton to Thanksgiving dinner with all the fixin's

Canton's all-around good guy Bob Boyer said he just wanted to do something special for the community this Thanksgiving. And the Canton Community Thanksgiving Dinner was born. At his own expense, Boyer, who owns Boyer's Meat Processing in Canton, paid for the inaugural event Wednesday at the Fellows

Creek Golf Club. The turnout wasn't what he had anticipated, but Boyer and other volunteers still cooked up and served more than 100 turkeys, which he purchased from his meat supplier. The meal also included mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, stuffing and all the fixin's. Although the event was intended for seniors and some of the Canton's low-income families, he said the event was open to anyone

in the community. "Over the years I've done other things for Thanksgiving, but this year I wanted to do something a little different," said Boyer, who is also the one who paid to have the historic Cady Barn moved to Cherry Hill Village. "I was trying to feed anyone that wanted a free turkey dinner." Despite the lower-than-expected turnout, Boyer said the event will definitely be held next year.

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Michigan Eye Doctor Helps Legally Blind

Dr. Sheldon Smith fits special glasses to help those with macular degeneration and other eye conditions keep reading and driving.

By Elena Lombardi

Most of us take things like reading, watching TV or playing cards for granted. But poor vision from conditions like macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetes or cataracts makes these tasks difficult or even impossible. When people have insufficient vision to do the things they want to do, they have low vision.

Today Michigan Optometrist Dr. Sheldon Smith has the answers many of these people have been seeking. Dr. Smith, a Low Vision Specialist, helps people with these types of eye diseases see better. A Fellow of the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists, Dr. Smith is one of a select group of doctors serving the visually impaired.

"People don't know that there are experienced doctors who can help them with specialized low vision care," says Dr. Smith. "Many people are told by their own doctors that nothing more can be done for their eye condition, but there are ways to improve vision" says Dr. Smith. "We fit special devices to help patients meet their various visual goals."

Patients often end up using weak, clumsy handheld magnifiers trying to help themselves see better. Conversely, Dr. Smith prescribes hands free devices that are easier to use. "We use the same

telescopic devices surgeons use during operations," says Dr. Smith. "That's how powerful and convenient they are.

Special prismatic reading glasses and microscopes help make reading a little easier. Telescopic glasses primarily focus on distance objects like TV, passing neighbors or scenery. Telescopes can also be adapted to closer tasks like playing cards or computers. "Telescopes can even help people meet the vision requirement for driving" Dr. Smith explained. Michigan is one of the 46 states that allow bioptic telescopic glasses for driving.

Mr. Charles Willim, age 81, of Taylor came to get his driver license restored after macular degeneration reduced his vision to 20/70. Dr. Smith fit him with special driving telescopes that improved his vision to 20/40. A few weeks later Charles passed his road test and is now a licensed driver again. "Those telescopic glasses are pretty darn good" he said.

Buddy Standafer, age 70, of Westland had diabetic eye problems. He came to reinstate his driver license and read better. His regular vision as 20/200 but with special driving telescopes he saw 20/50. Prismatic reading glasses got him reading newsprint. Two months later his license was restored. "Now I see the traffic lights much better. I am happy to be on the road again. I tell a lot of people about Dr. Smith" Buddy said.



Buddy Standafer wearing driving telescopes

Dr. Smith also advises patients on using sun filters and nutritional supplements to prevent further vision loss. Special glasses and telescopes range in price from \$600 to \$2,500. "Every patient is unique, with different amounts of vision and individual goals," says Dr. Smith. "I strive to help patients resume doing what matters most to them. Meeting patient goals with suitable solutions ultimately improves independence and quality of life."

If you or someone you know is struggling with their vision, call Dr. Smith to find out how low vision care can help. There is help available. You just need to know where to find it. You can reach Dr. Smith and Suburban Low Vision of Michigan at

1-877-677-2020

Dr. Smith has offices in Livonia, Warren, Shelby Township and the Lansing area.

Visit Suburban Low Vision of Michigan at suburbaneyecare.com or find out more about the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists at ialvs.com.

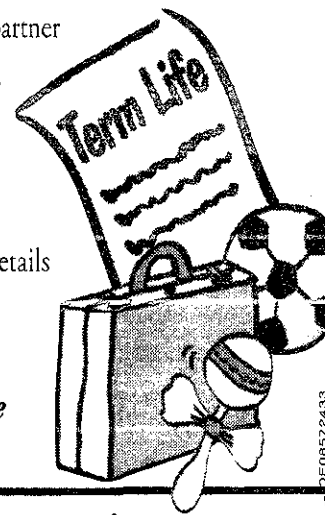
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Sidelines

Hoop opens

The 2007-08 high school girls basketball season opens Tuesday night for the three P-CEP squads. Both Salem and Plymouth will open with 7 p.m. home games against Ann Arbor Huron and Detroit Community, respectively, while Canton will kick off its campaign at Saline.

The boys season begins for all three "Park" teams on Tuesday, Dec. 4.

Ex-Chiefs succeed

A pair of former Canton wrestlers are excelling at the next level.

Konrad Konsitzke, who graduated in 2005 from Canton, recently won his first collegiate tournament at Muskegon Community College. Konsitzke, who transferred this year to Muskegon CC from Iowa Central Community College, went 4-0 while competing at 157 pounds.

Corey Phillips, a 2007 graduate and state champion, placed sixth for Eastern Michigan University at the Ashland Open Wrestling Tournament after compiling a 4-2 record at 149 pounds.

Canton Wrestling Club sign-ups

A registration opportunity will be held for the 2007-08 Canton Wrestling Club on Monday in Room 305 of the Canton North Building (Phase III) from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The per-child cost of \$75 includes a T-shirt, shorts and a MYWAY membership.

Practices will be held Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the Canton wrestling room.

Beginner practices (for those with two years of experience or less) will be held 6:15-7:15 p.m. while advanced practices (for those with three years or more of experience) will be held from 7:15-8:30 p.m.

If you cannot attend Monday's registration, contact Casey Randolph at (734) 582-6885 or randolc@peccs.k12.mi.us.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Donny Barlow (22) played an instrumental role in the Chiefs' 6-2 victory over Salem Friday night in a semifinal game of the Rocks' annual Thanksgiving tournament. Barlow scored three goals and assisted on another to spearhead his team's offensive attack.

Unbeaten Canton icers skate past Salem

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

One day after feasting on turkey, mashed potatoes and stuffing, Canton's hockey team sunk its chops into something not as tasty, but probably more satisfying Friday night — power plays.

Playing arch-rival Salem in the semifinal round of the Rocks' annual Thanksgiving tournament, Canton jumped to a 3-1 lead after two periods thanks to a trio of man-advantage goals before adding three gravy-like net-finders over the final 15 minutes to carve out a 6-2 triumph over the Rocks at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

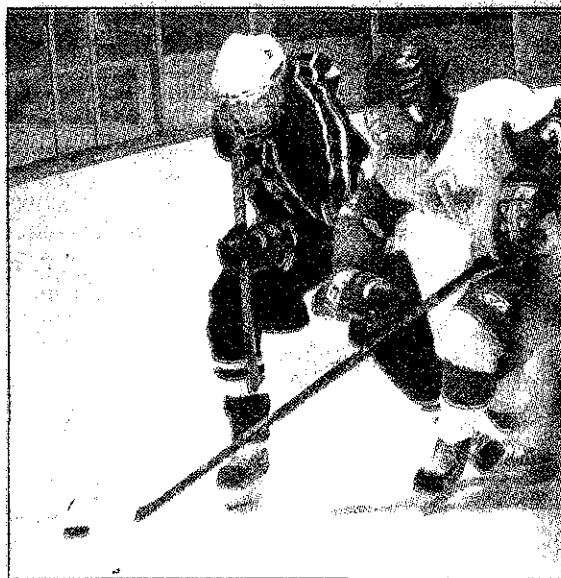
The victory improved the Chiefs'

record to 3-0 heading into Saturday night's tournament championship contest against Grand Rapids Forest Hills North.

Junior Donny Barlow was the offensive catalyst for the Chiefs as he notched a hat-trick and an assist. Kory Sosnowski, Ryan Lash and Nick Tomilenko scored single goals for the winners while Sam Ott and Eddie Mazorowicz lit the lamp for the Rocks.

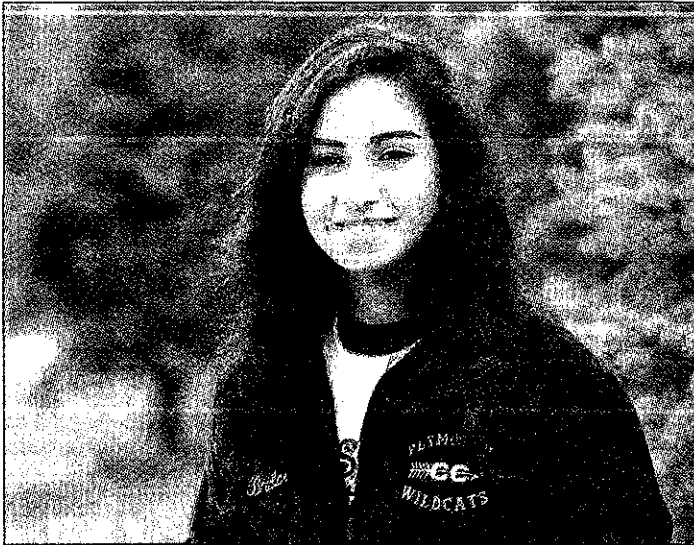
"It took us a while to get our game-plan down because of Salem's great team speed, but once we did, it created some scoring opportunities for us," said Canton coach Dan Abraham. "Eventually, the puck started finding

Please see **CANTON, B3**



Salem's Ryan Blakely (15) battles Canton's Ryan May for a loose puck during Friday's cross-campus showdown at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Senior Pam Bhullar has made a positive mark both in the classroom and on the running trails at Plymouth High School. A 4.5 student, she recently completed a stellar four-year career for the Wildcats' cross-country team.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bhullar's on fast track to success

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

It's difficult to say who's meant more to whom the past four years — Pam Bhullar to the Plymouth girls cross country program or the Plymouth girls cross country program to Pam Bhullar.

This much is crystal clear, though: Both have left positive, long-lasting impressions on the other.

Bhullar, one of the most accomplished students to ever step foot on the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park campus, was



Prep Profile

a solid performer for Plymouth cross country coach Mary Kerwin's squad since her freshman year.

She consistently posted times that hovered around the 20-minute mark thanks to a stellar work ethic and a positive attitude that rubbed off on her teammates from Day 1.

While Bhullar's senior season didn't unfold as well as she may have liked this fall, it

Please see **BHULLAR, B2**

Whalers carve out a pair of victories

Jeremy Smith pitched a 26-save shutout and Joe Gaynor's first goal of the season was all the Plymouth Whalers needed in a 1-0 victory over the Sault Ste. Greyhounds in an Ontario Hockey League game played Friday afternoon at Compuware Arena.

The Whalers improved to 15-7-1-1, good for 32 points and third place in the OHL West, four points behind the Soo, which slipped to 17-6-1-1. Plymouth is 8-1-0-1 in 10 games in November and has received points in 10 of its last 11 games.

Smith and Soo goaltender Kyle Gajewski battled all afternoon, with Smith tying Kitchener's Josh Unice for the league lead with his third shutout of the season. Gajewski stopped 35 of 36 shots.

Sault Ste. Marie's most dangerous scoring chance in the game came at 4:46 of the first period when Dustin Jeffrey was awarded a penalty shot. Smith pokechecked the puck away from Jeffrey just outside the crease area on the penalty-shot attempt.

Gaynor scored the only goal of the game at 2:56 of the second

period. Working with linemates Joe McCann and Brett Valliquette, the line dug the puck out from the left boards in the Soo zone and Gaynor snapped a shot from the hashmarks past Gajewski.

Sault Ste. Marie head coach Craig Hartsburg called a time out and pulled Gajewski with 1:03 left in regulation, but the Greyhounds couldn't find the equalizer.

Smith (a Nashville Predators draft choice from Brownstown Township) came into the game tied with Barrie's Andrew Perugini for the league lead with a .931 save percentage. Smith lowered his goals-against average to 2.46 while raising his save percentage with .934.

The last 1-0 game played at Compuware Arena happened on Jan. 31, 2001, when the Erie Otters defeated Plymouth, 1-0, on Joe Guenther's goal.

On Wednesday, Smith stopped 48 of 49 shots and Chris Terry, Andrew Fournier and Wes Cunningham contributed a goal and assist each as the

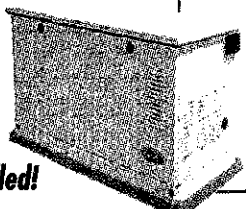
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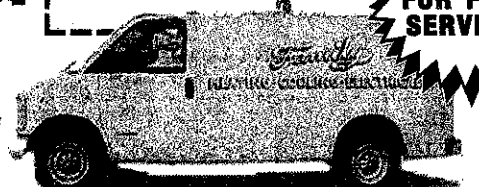
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Mitchell-led Rocks look for big things in 07-08

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Salem's girls basketball team has just one senior on its roster but, wow, what a senior it is.

One year after Teresa Coppellie, Lauren Kurtz and Tayler Langham provided the Rocks with one of the area's most-talented and versatile front-courts, senior Alaya Mitchell (5-foot-4) makes the Rocks' back-court one of the most-feared this season.

Mitchell, a three-year varsity standout, returns as one of the Western Lakes Activities Association's best ball-handlers, defensive stoppers and shooters.

Mitchell's finely honed skills have earned her the Rocks' leader an athletic scholarship at Marshall University.

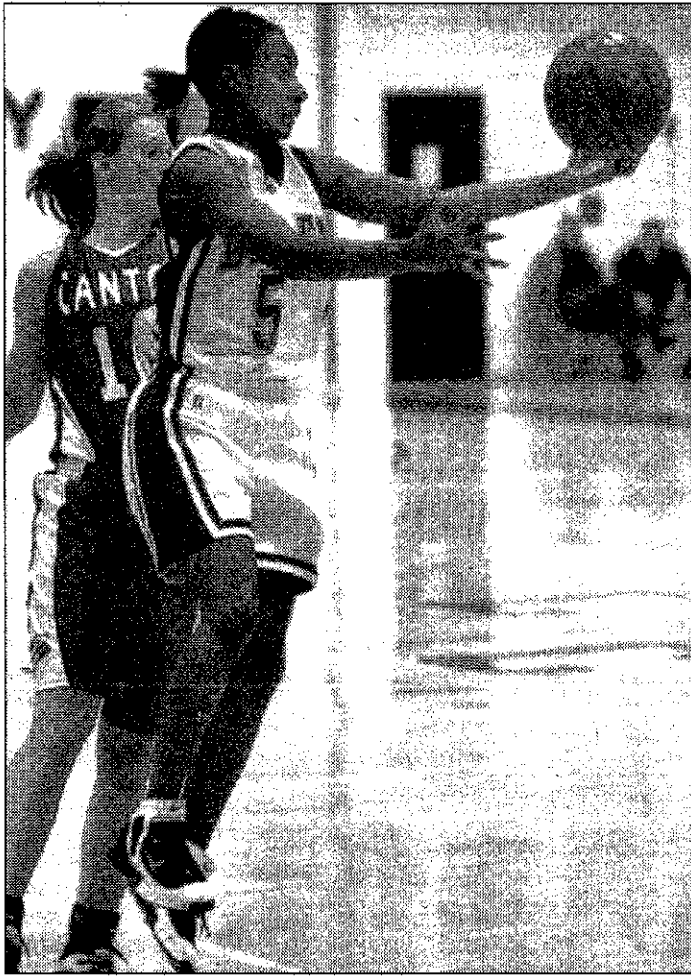
"Alaya is a very exciting player," said Salem coach Fred Thomann, talking about his returning All-Lakes Division standout. "She'll be a combo guard for us, playing a lot of shooting guard, but handling the ball against the press. She did a fabulous job getting ready for this season. Her conditioning is excellent and she's ready to go."

The Rocks' best returning post player is junior forward Chelsea Davis, who saw substantial minutes as a sophomore in 2006. The 5-foot-11 Davis gives Salem a strong inside presence while also serving as an outside threat.

"Chelsea has a very good perimeter shot along with a strong inside game," said Thomann.

Mitchell and Davis will be joined in the starting line-up by a pair of sophomore guards — Sara Stone, a 5-10 player who saw varsity action last year, and Brett deBear, a slick 5-9 ball-handler who had a superb season at the junior-varsity level last fall.

Junior Victoria Brotz (5-10) will combine with Davis to give the Rocks a solid 1-2 punch in the paint.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem senior guard Alaya Mitchell, pictured here in a game last season, is one of the premier all-around players in Observerland. She has been offered an athletic scholarship by Marshall University.

GIRLS PREP HOOP PREVIEW

"Victoria is a very good shooter," said Thomann.

The Rocks starters will be bolstered by a strong reserve unit led by 5-9 swing players Rachel Norman and Erin Classen.

Other key contributors off the bench include Alyssa Garbarino, a 5-8 sophomore; Tara Durocher, a 5-10 junior; Lauren Dworzani, a 5-9 sophomore; and DeAja Hopkins, a 5-9 junior.

"We have some very, very good skill on this team," said Thomann. "We've had a couple of injuries, so we've been a little limited with what we've been

able to do, but we've had some good pre-season scrimmages.

"I think this is going to be a very good all-around team."

As usual, the WLAA should be one of the most-competitive leagues around, Thomann said.

"Obviously, Canton has a couple of key players back and should be very strong," the veteran coach said, when asked what teams should contend for a title. "Livonia Franklin has the Taylor sisters back, so they'll be very good. There are quite a few teams who could step up and win it."

Salem opens Tuesday at home against Ann Arbor Huron. The opening tip is set for 7 p.m.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Baylee Hollowell, shown here shooting in a game last season, will combine with fellow senior Marie Martin to give the Chiefs a potent one-two low-post threat this season. She averaged 9.6 points and 9.4 rebounds as a junior.

Senior post players to lead Chiefs

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

GIRLS PREP HOOP PREVIEW

Canton's girls basketball team will have a "fresh" look to it this season.

One year after winning the Western Lakes Activities Association championship thanks largely to the play of three seniors, this year's Chiefs' roster has the same number of freshmen on it as seniors — three — and they are all expected to play crucial roles in coach Brian Samulski's rotation.

"We're very, very young this year," confirmed Canton coach Brian Samulski. "Our goal is to come in every day and get better and better."

"Our strengths should be our rebounding and our defense. Our post play should be pretty strong, too. We should be able to score points in the paint."

Paint points should be abundant for the Chiefs thanks to a pair of returning senior 6-footers — Marie Martin (6-foot-2) and Baylee Hollowell (6-1). Hollowell nearly averaged a double-double in her first varsity season last

year, posting 9.6 points and 9.4 rebounds per contest.

"Baylee worked very hard during the spring, summer and fall to get better," said Samulski. "She's improved quite a bit both defensively and athletically."

Martin, who is about to begin her fourth varsity season, does it all — from setting picks to hitting mid-range jumpers.

"Marie brings a lot of much-needed experience to the team this year," said Samulski. "She's already done a lot to help the ninth-graders along. She was our best screener last year and she will be again this year. She can hit the shot from 15 to 17 feet out and she good around the rim as well."

The Chiefs' starting backcourt will consist of 5-9 sophomore Kaylie Martin (the younger sister of Marie) and 5-7 junior Leslie Weisz, who was one of the first players off Canton's bench last season.

"Kaylie has really worked hard on her shot during the off-season

and we'll be looking for her to knock down the open 18- to 20-footers this year," said Samulski. "Leslie is very good defensively and we'll put her on the other team's best offensive player."

One of the freshmen — 5-8 forward Carolann Sexauer — will start at forward alongside Martin and Hollowell.

"Carolann has great hands and she can score around the rim," said Samulski.

The other two freshmen — 5-7 guard Melanie Pickert and 5-10 Kayla Bridges — will start the season as the Chiefs' first two players off the bench.

Other key reserves include junior Katelin Comstock, a 5-1 guard; junior Erin Quinn, a 5-1 guard; junior Molly Watson, a 5-7 guard; and Thea Spittle, a 5-9 senior forward.

"Our division should be very, very solid this year," said Samulski. "Every team in the division should be competitive."

The Chiefs open Tuesday at Saline before traveling to Birmingham Marian on Friday.

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JIM CALABRESE

Canton's Payne is Loyola-bound

Canton senior softball pitcher Hilary Payne signed a National Letter of Intent on Nov. 17 to play for Loyola University of Chicago. Payne, a lefty, has been one of the WLAA's most successful pitchers the past two years. Pictured standing behind Hilary Payne are (from left) Canton assistant softball coach Jean Calabrese, Canton head coach Jim Arnold, Payne's parents Nancy and Dave, and John Wocjik, Payne's stamina and mental-toughness coach.

BHULLAR

FROM PAGE B1

didn't diminish the contributions — both athletic and emotional — that she made to the Wildcats' program throughout her career.

"Pam's been the cornerstone of this team for the past four years," said Kerwin. "Even though she had a down year this year, it didn't get her down. She continued to inspire and support her teammates just like she did the first three years."

'The real deal'

Bhullar left a lasting first impression on Kerwin in the summer of 2004 when she appeared at the team's initial practice.

"The first time I met her when she was a freshman, Pam showed up at practice and I asked her how much she ran that summer," remembered Kerwin. "She said, 'Well, I ran a little bit on the treadmill in our basement.'"

"She then went out and ran three miles with the rest of the team and she stayed right with our top runners. It was right

then that I knew she was the real deal."

While Bhullar's infectious personality enhanced the atmosphere surrounding the Wildcats, she was equally affected by the qualities her teammates displayed on a daily basis.

"Being a member of this team has had such a positive influence on my life — from the seniors who were on the team when I was a freshman to the girls on this year's team," Bhullar said. "I've met so many great role models and I've met my best friends because of cross country."

"It's been such a harmonious atmosphere."

Fun to run

While running is a grueling necessity for some athletes, it's anything but for Bhullar, who logged 423 miles during the summer between her sophomore and junior year.

"I feel better when I'm running — it makes me happy," she said. "I started running in middle school and then I thought I'd try out for cross country in high school, and I'm so glad I did."

Bhullar's joy translated into

success on the trails for the Wildcats as she medaled in several meets throughout her sophomore and junior seasons.

"Those were the years I trained the hardest and it paid off for me," she said.

Grade -A student

Bhullar's to-be-envied study habits have resulted in an incredible 4.5 grade-point average, which has swelled above the formerly ultimate 4.0 GPA thanks to A-plus marks in advanced-placement courses.

She also earned an incredible score of 34 on the ACT exam — a number that would make her attractive to just about any university in the country, if not the world.

Hundreds of volunteer hours at the University of Michigan Hospital have led to lofty, but attainable, career aspirations.

"I want to be a neurosurgeon," she said. "Volunteering at the hospital, I've had the opportunity to visit with people who are very ill. I found that when I could bring a smile to their face, it made me feel better about myself."

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Penguins get clipped in opener

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth-Canton-Salem girls hockey team started its season of rebuilding Tuesday night against Northville, but it was the Mustangs who wielded the biggest hammer.

Led by Kyrsten Rzylo's hat-trick, Northville handed the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League's defending champions an 8-1 setback before an enthusiastic crowd at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton.

The Mustangs led 6-1 after one period before adding a pair of goals during the game's final 2:25.

Freshman Jennifer Fedon scored the lone Penguin goal off assists from Brooke Caccavelli and Kelsey Nikkila.

"I didn't think we played as well as we did in our second scrimmage against

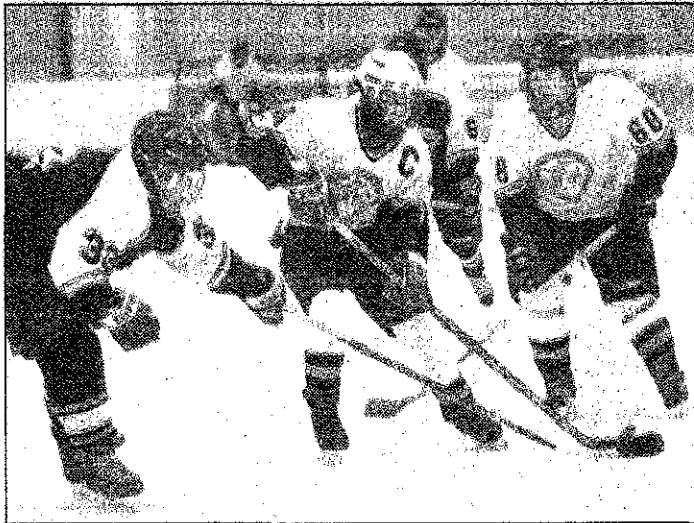
Ladywood," said PCS coach Lori Callahan. "There's a lot of room for improvement and we will be a much-improved team by the end of the season. We need to work on our passing, carrying the puck and getting it out of our zone."

The final score was indicative of a game that features one team that is returning a strong nucleus of players (Northville) against another (PCS) that features several first-year players.

The Penguins can take solace in the fact they shut out the Mustangs for a close-to-30-minute span that started at the end of the first period and stretched until the waning moments of the contest.

Michelle Shaffer played the entire game between the pipes for the Penguins, stopping 12 shots.

The Penguins return to action with a trio of road games on successive nights:



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth-Canton-Salem's Jennifer Grodus (24) steers the puck up ice with teammate Annie McTurner trailing the play during Tuesday night's Michigan Metro High School Girls Hockey League game against Northville. The Mustangs won, 8-1, in the season-opener for both teams.

Thursday at Grosse Pointe South, Friday at Bloomfield and Saturday at Ladywood. Their next home game is

Dec. 4 when they host Walled Lake at the Arctic Edge.

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WHALERS

FROM PAGE B1

Whalers defeated the Saginaw Spirit, 4-1.

Joe McCann scored the other Plymouth goal. Jack Combs scored the lone Saginaw goal, his 14th of the season.

But Smith was the difference, as Saginaw outshot Plymouth, 49-25. Smith lowered his goals against average to 2.65 and raised his save percentage to a league-best .931.

McCann gave Plymouth a 1-0 lead with his seventh goal of the season at 16:55 of the first period. Terry started the play with a cross-ice pass from the right goal line in the Saginaw zone to the left goal line to McCann, who made no mistake.

Terry gave the Whalers a 2-0 lead at 1:39 of the second

period with a fine individual effort, when he skated from behind the net unchecked through traffic out in front of Saginaw goaltender Ryan Daniels and went top shelf for his 16th goal of the season.

Fournier scored his team-leading 20th goal of the season on a power play at 4:45 of the third period when he took a pass from A.J. Jenks from behind the Saginaw goal and beat Daniels with a shot through traffic.

After Combs scored the only Saginaw goal at 9:02 of the third period when he deflected Tomas Zaborsky's shot from the point past Smith, Cunningham completed the scoring with his fourth goal of the season at 16:00 of the third period when his low shot from the left point beat a screened Daniels.

The Whalers' penalty-killers were excellent again, going 8-for-9.

CANTON

FROM PAGE B1

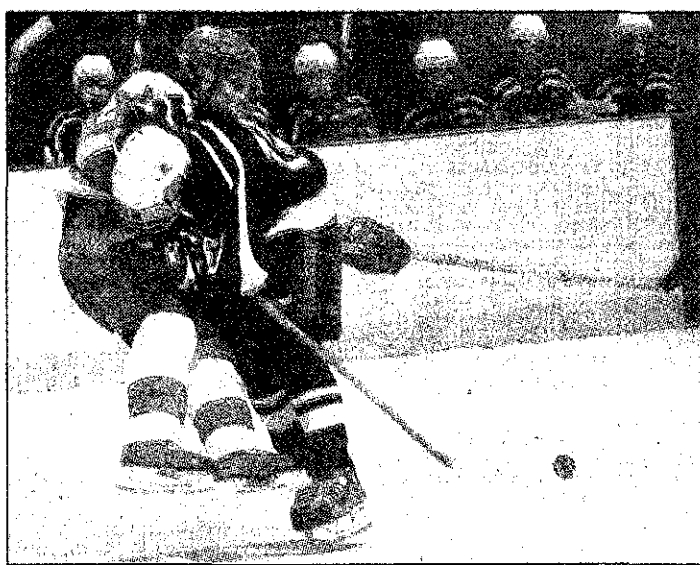
the net and we started feeling like we had a chance.

"Everybody is starting to settle in now. It's not where we want it yet — I don't know if it ever will be — however, when we play our game, we do well. That's when all 20 guys are going in the same direction with no individuals."

The Rocks displayed impressive team speed in their season opener against the Chiefs, but they had a difficult time finishing against Canton senior goalie Kevan Swanberg, who stopped 19 of the 21 shots he faced.

"I thought we played well in spurts — there were times we used our team speed to get the puck in deep and put some pressure on them — but in the first period we took quite a few penalties and ended up giving up a couple short-handed goals. That's tough to do in any game, but especially in a rivalry game like this.

"We're not quite in as good of shape as we probably should be, but it was our first game. There are some things to build



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem sophomore forward Ryan Blakey checks Canton's Kory Sosnowski during the first period of Friday night's cross-campus hockey clash. The Chiefs won, 6-2, to improve to 3-0.

on, for sure, but it's definitely disappointing. I think the results should have been a little better for us."

The first of Barlow's three goals came with 4:13 left in the first period when he ripped a low laser past Salem goalie Eric Fiorentino from just inside the blue line. Sosnowski and Lash assisted on the power-play score.

Barlow struck again exactly two minutes later when he deposited a one-timer from Alex Berlin into the back of the net.

Salem regained a measure of momentum just before the first intermission when Ott's rocket from the blue line beat Swanberg glove-side high to make it 2-1. Kurt Driscoll and Joel Cheesman picked up help-

ers on Ott's goal.

The game's pivotal goal came with 3:14 left in the second stanza when a hard shot off the stick of Canton's Bryan Davison deflected off Sosnowski's skate and past Fiorentino to make it 3-1.

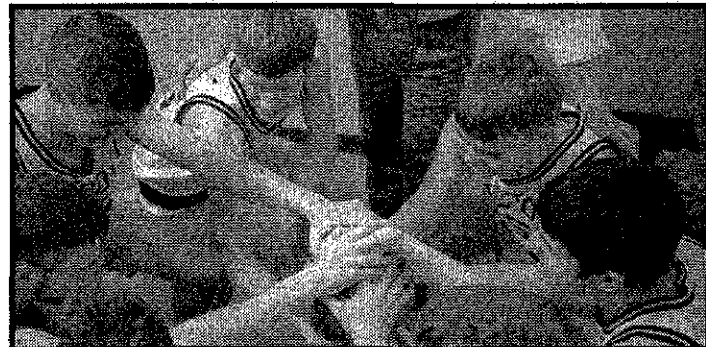
The Chiefs iced the win with goals from Barlow (from Berlin and Clark Albers) and Lash (from Berlin) in the first 6:16 of the third period to go up 5-1. Mazorowicz closed it to 5-2 with 3:06 to play before Tomilenko netted an empty-netter with 1.5 ticks left.

"I thought our defense and goaltender stood out tonight," said Abraham. "They played very well early on, which gave us an opportunity to put some goals in the net. If they hadn't of played as well as they did, this could have been a one-goal game either way."

Fiorentino stopped 24 of the 30 shots he faced. The sophomore also drew praise from his coach.

"I thought Eric played really well," Ossenmacher said. "Most of the goals he gave up were either deflections or tips, so you can't really fault him on those."

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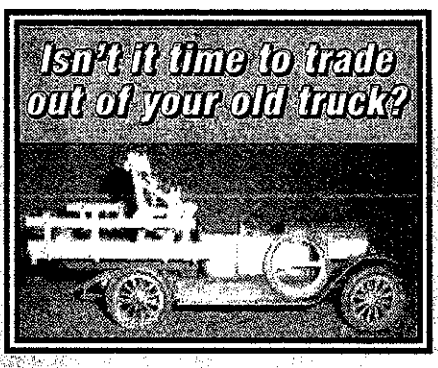


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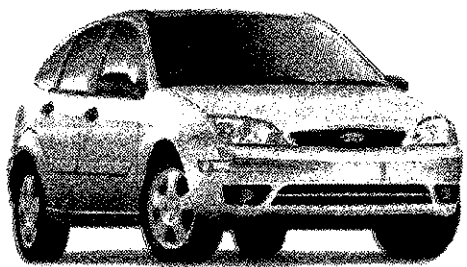
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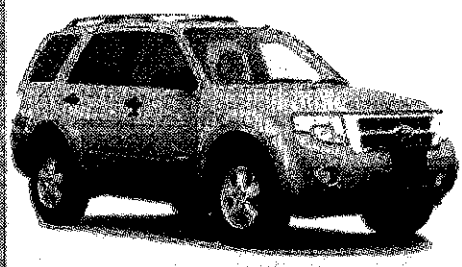


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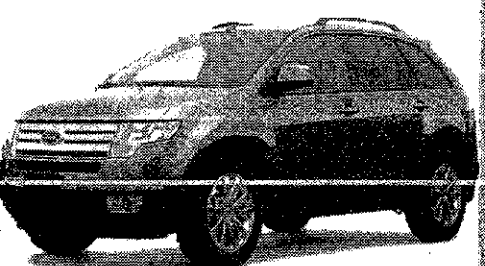


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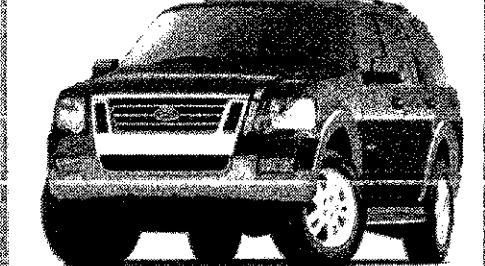


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Automatic overdrive transmission, 3.5 L V6 engine, 17" painted aluminum wheels, P235/65R17 BSW tires and more. Stock #8T3035 Was \$26,094

NOW \$22,589*

24 MONTH LEASE
\$210** PER MO.
\$2000 Down \$2546.32 DUE AT SIGNING

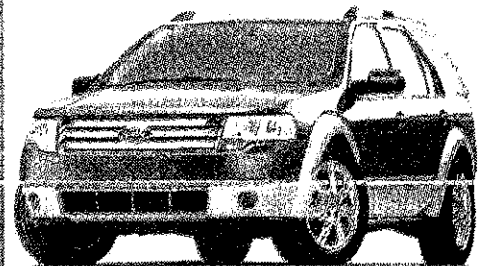


2008 EXPLORER XLT 4 DOOR 4X2

Air, illum. visors, 4.0L SOHC V6 engine, 5 speed auto trans with O/D, P245/65R17 A/S tires, 3.73 ratio reg axle, running boards, trailer tow, 17" cast alum whls, convenience group: electr. mirror, auto lamp headlights, keypad and more. Stock #8T5005 Was \$27,710

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24 MONTH LEASE
\$206** PER MO.
\$2000 Down \$2684.74 DUE AT SIGNING



2008 TAURUS X FWD LTD

3.5L V-6 Duratec engine, 6 speed automatic transmission, 60/40 2nd row 3-passenger bench seat Stock #8T0300 Was \$30,700

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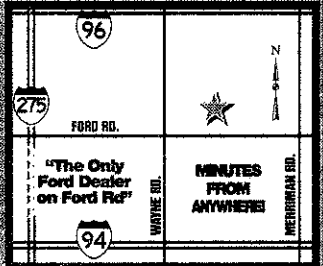


 Joe Bacer	2004 CHEVY COBALT LS Loaded, low miles \$9740	2005 TAURUS SE CERTIFIED APR As low as 4.9% \$10,150	2003 FORD EXPLORER 4X4 Snow Special \$11,460	2007 CHEVY HHR • LS Loaded, low miles \$12,600	2007 FORD FREESTAR 7 passenger, rear air! \$14,850	2001 MUSTANG COBRA CONVERT. Chromes, Spotless! \$14,970	 Marcus Shadedh
 Ed Osborne	2006 FORD FUSION SEL Loaded - let's deal! \$16,840	2005 FORD F150 SUPERCAB 4X4 6 Year/75K Warranty \$11,460	2006 FREESTLE LIMITED Leather, loaded. \$18,640	2008 ESCAPE XLT 4X4 New body style-why lease? \$21,650	2003 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR 4X4 DVD, quad seats, navi. \$24,840	2003 F350 4X4 • DRW Loaded! \$29,000	 Matt Davila

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Christmas Walk spotlights Livonia homes

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

A chorus of cuckoo clocks strike at noon, welcoming visitors to the Livonia home of Al and Marylou Larson. Al doesn't know the exact number of time keepers in the house, but there are at least 70 in the family room, more than a dozen in the living room.

The magical tick-tocking wonderland definitely won't be a quiet stop on the Livonia Christmas Walk Saturday, Dec. 1. It will be like stepping into a clock as well as antique shop.

This year, the walk includes six homes and the Hill House at Greenmead's Historic Village. Proceeds go to Friends of Greenmead for the restoration and preservation of the structures on the corner of Newburgh and Eight Mile.

Al says the couple's 54-year marriage got off to a rocky start on their honeymoon because of antiques. He wanted to visit an antique shop on Cape Cod and she referred to them as junk shops. Now Marylou loves antiques as much as he does.

"We both have collected and inherited many antiques from our family," said Marylou Larson, 78. "He's been collecting clocks forever. They are everywhere." "I've always loved clocks," said Al Larson, 82. "Since I was a kid I used to go to the clock shops."

FAMILY AFFAIR

Daughter Christine is the official winder of the clocks that come from as far away as the Black Forest and Switzerland.

LIVONIA CHRISTMAS WALK

What: A walk featuring seven houses including the 1840s Hill House at Greenmead Historical Village
When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1
Tickets: \$9 in advance, \$10 day of walk, and available in advance at all Livonia libraries, City Hall and Greenmead's office, and on the day of the walk at the Civic Center Library, Five Mile, east of Farmington Road, and Greenmead's Hill House (enter off Newburgh, south of Eight Mile). For more information, call (734) 425-4855.

While some chime in harmony, not all of them do. They're set at different times so some cuckoo is always going off.

"I tell them you have to figure out the right time," said Al. "With cuckoos the weather and humidity affects them."

All four of the Larsons' children return home this Thanksgiving including daughter Jane who's coming from Wisconsin with the antique ornaments Marylou gave her last year. The decorations will be placed on a tree in the couple's upstairs bedroom. Throughout the home an antique manger, Santas, family photos, a village made from paper, and a pitcher collection decorate the home the Larsons have lived in for nearly 40 years.

Like the Larsons, Jane and Mike Cuba's home is filled with furniture and objects holding special meaning. Jane's father hand-crafted nine of the tables and book case in the red-brick colonial built in 1938.

Please see HOMES, C3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marylou and Al Larson will open their home for the Livonia Christmas Walk to benefit Greenmead Historical Village.

Holiday greetings

Card sales to support nonprofits

There's no easier way to support charities than by buying holiday cards. Here's a list of some of the organizations offering greetings this season.

Forgotten Harvest

Three card selections available this year, priced at \$1 each or \$23 for pack of 25 cards and envelopes (add \$3 for shipping). Peas on Earth is a whimsical card featuring fresh peas. Inside reads *Wishing You a Peas-ful Holiday Season*. Orders can be placed by calling Forgotten Harvest at (248) 967-1500 or visiting www.forgottenharvest.org. Every year Forgotten Harvest collects more than 8.5 million pounds of surplus prepared and perishable food which would otherwise go to waste and delivers it to emergency food providers in the metro Detroit area.

Alzheimer's Association

Greater Michigan Chapter cards include eight designs: 25 cards are \$36 (plus shipping) with option to add imprinting. Order online at www.alzgmcc.org or call (888) 487-5567. For information, call (248) 996-1048. The nonprofit provides services and support for Alzheimer's patients and their families.

Michigan Humane Society

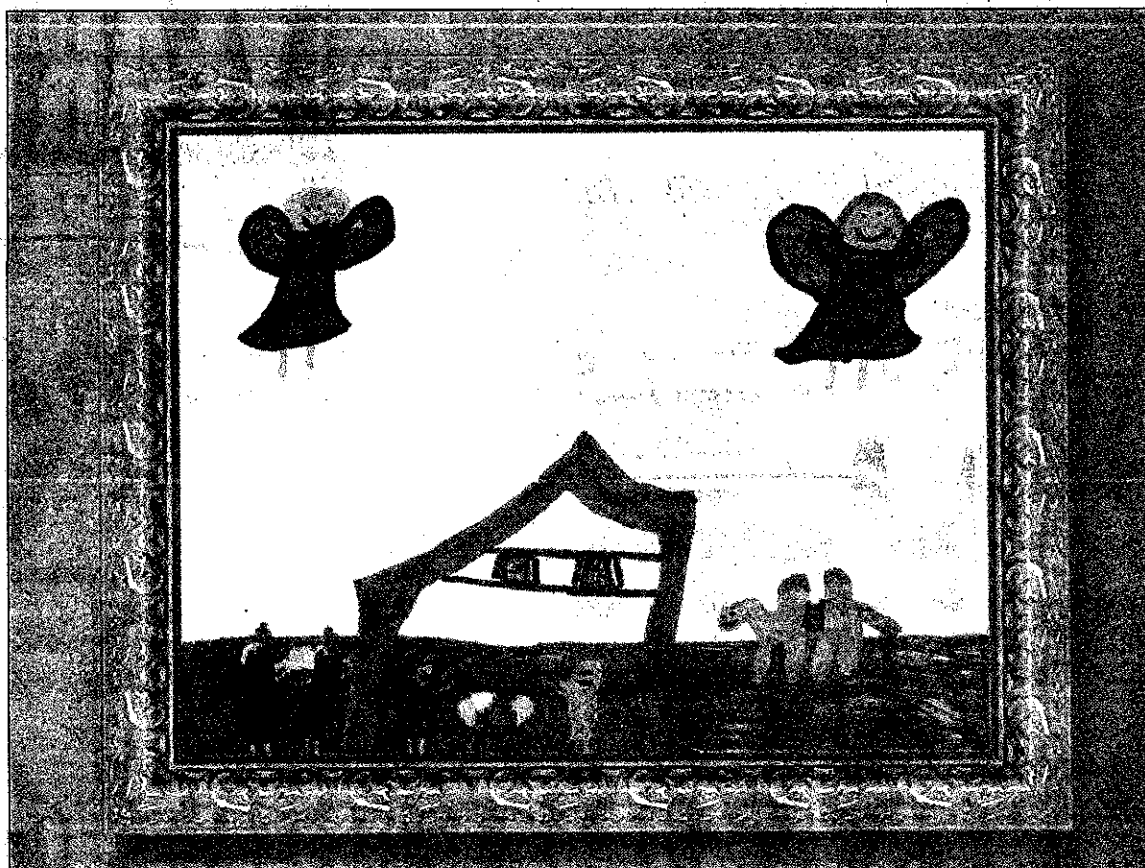
Holiday cards available in one style. Each box costs \$9.95 and contains 15 cards and 16 envelopes, and are available at MHS centers including 900 N. Newburgh, Westland, or by calling (866) MHUMANE or visiting www.michiganhumane.org. Proceeds benefit the Michigan Humane Society which cares for homeless animals at its three adoption centers.

Seedlings Braille Books for Children

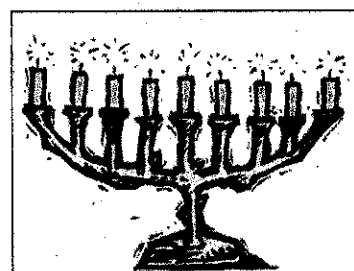
Fine art embossed cards are available in 10 designs by Pumpnickel Press. Cost is \$16 per box of 16 cards and 17 envelopes. Cards are printed on recycled paper with soy inks, made in the U.S., and packaged by occupational training workshop patrons. Cards can be purchased at the Seedlings office at 14151 Farmington Road, Livonia. For details, call (734) 427-8552. Seedlings produces children's books in Braille.



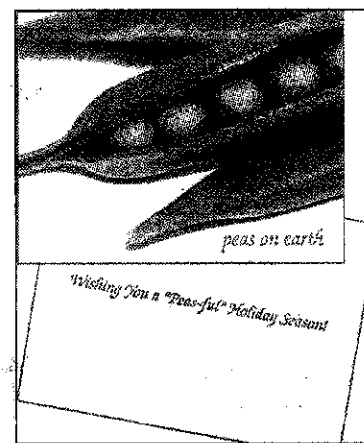
The Senior Alliance



New Hope Center for Grief Support



Dawn Farm



Forgotten Harvest

chased at the Seedlings office at 14151 Farmington Road, Livonia. For details, call (734) 427-8552. Seedlings produces children's books in Braille.

The Senior Alliance

Volunteers for the The Senior Alliance, Area Agency on Aging 1-C will be selling cards for \$5 each Friday, Dec. 7. The Senior Alliance is the agency that supports the Holiday Meals on Wheels program. The cards will be placed with meals delivered to homebound seniors on Christmas Day. For more information or to volunteer on Dec. 7, call Jaclyn Kochis at (734) 727-2060.

Right to Life-LIFESPAN

Christmas cards available in two designs — Adoration (\$16 per box of 20) and Jesus, Mary and Joseph (\$7 for 10). Call (248) 478-8878, send e-mail to mainoffice@rtl-lifespan.org, or visit the office at 29200 Vassar St., Suite 545, Livonia. The organization has been presenting the pro-life message in southeastern Michigan since 1970.

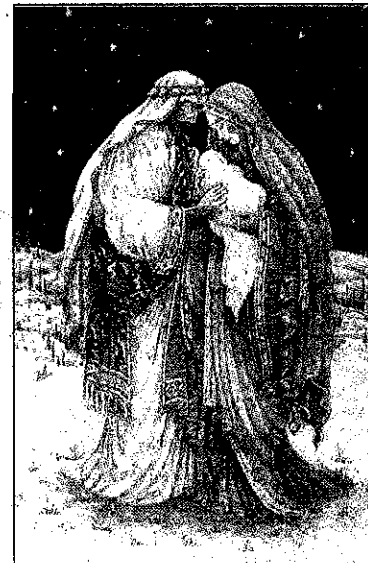


Alzheimer's Association Greater Michigan Chapter

Children's Hospital of Michigan Auxiliary

Box of 20 cards for \$20. To buy online, go to www.childrensdmc.org and click on About CHM and then Gift Shop and Shop Now. For more information, call (313) 745-0962. The CHM Auxiliary assists various departments and programs at the hospital. Recent projects include SNUG suits for children with neuromuscular disorders, a therapeutic summer day camp, and amplification equipment for newly identified deaf infants.

Please see CARD SALES, C2



Right to Life-LIFESPAN

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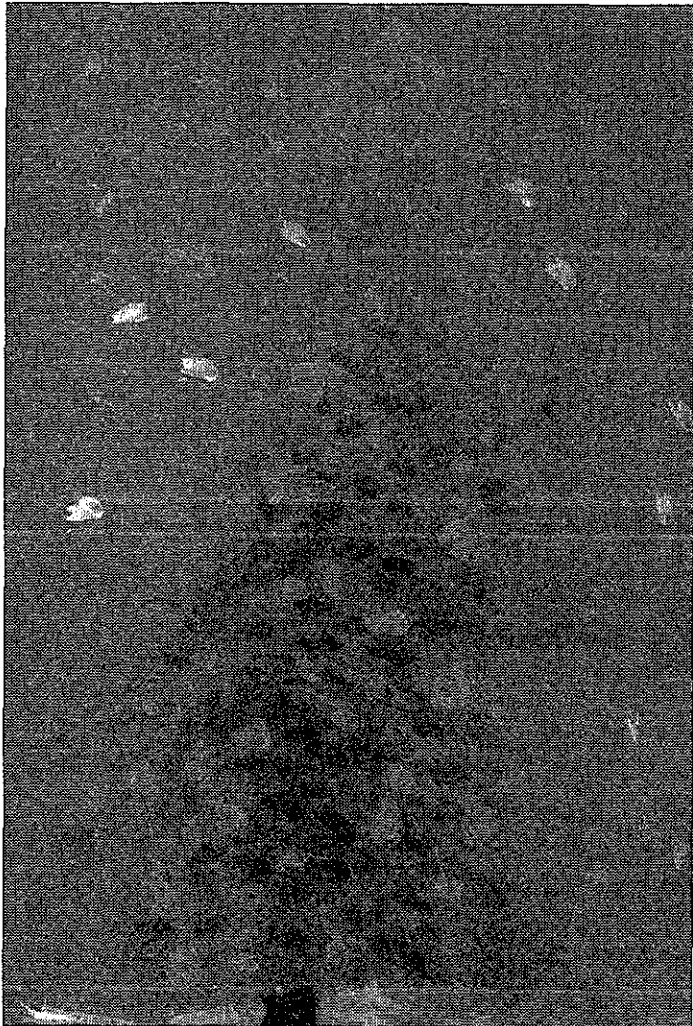
Livonia Urgent Care
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Saratoga Urgent Care
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313-527-4000

Southgate Urgent Care
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734-324-7800

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31700 Van Dyke Ave., Warren
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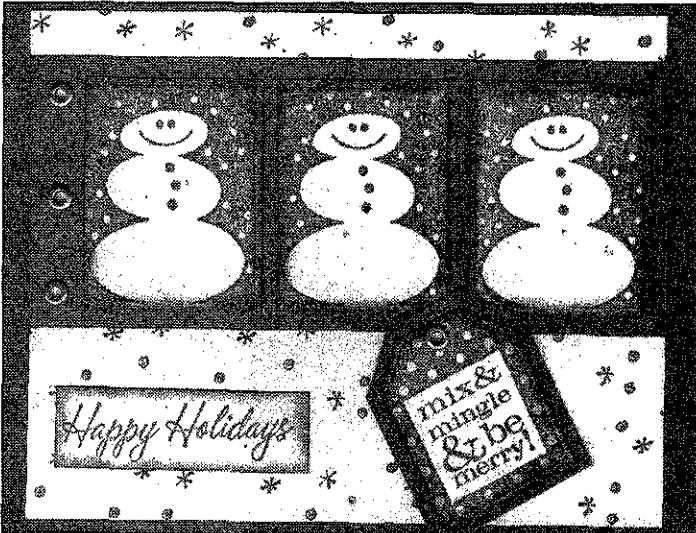
Woodland Urgent Care
22341 W. Eight Mile, Detroit
313-387-8700



Children's Hospital of Michigan Auxiliary



Michigan Humane Society



CARDS

FROM PAGE C1

New Hope Center for Grief Support

Cards are \$20 for 20 cards and available in two designs; \$15 of the price qualifies as a donation. To order, call (248) 348-0115. Proceeds to benefit grief support programs throughout southeast Michigan.

Dawn Farm

Cards available in packs

of 10 for \$12, in more than 20 designs mostly with a Victorian theme. Call (734) 485-8725. Dawn Farm assists addicts and alcoholics in achieving long-term recovery.

Youth Making a Difference

Handmade cards available at \$1.50 each. Proceeds go to a program at Randolph Elementary in Livonia for postage to send care packages to soldiers overseas. For more information, call (734) 464-6214.



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ARTS & CRAFT SHOW
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36251 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia, MI 48150
 One entry per person/ per household please.
All Entries MUST Be Received By Tuesday, November 27th • 5:00pm

HOMES

FROM PAGE C1

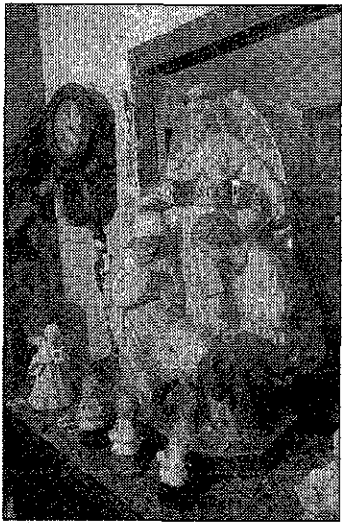
The couple doubled the space of the home in 2006 with a major addition and renovation project that lasted nine months. A plethora of windows and white enamel woodwork creates an airy atmosphere. The maple kitchen with granite counter tops provides plenty of work and storage space, especially the large pantry.

SIMPLE THEME

While the home looks like it's straight out of a magazine, holiday trimmings are kept simple.

"It was the Depression and it offends me to do designerly things," said Jane Cuba. "The greens came from the yard. We're trying to keep it how they would have decorated."

On the mantle are mementos from Jane's teaching days in Southfield. Her grandmoth-



This antique manger welcomes visitors to the Larsons' home.

er's sewing machine and a bookcase made by her father accent the dining room.

Mike hand-painted the clothespin ornaments hanging on a fern to remind them of their roles with the Spotlight Players community theater

group and the 15 years they marched in the Thanksgiving Day parade downtown.

He retired as a chemistry teacher three years ago after many years at Martin Luther King High School and Wayne State University.

"Everything's special to me," said Jane. "They're some things my students gave me. Most of the furniture is family pieces."

Jan Bennett especially likes the plate rail in the dream kitchen. Bennett is president of the Friends of Greenmead which presents the walk.

"It's a major addition and a lot of neighborhood people have been watching it from outside now they'll be able to see inside," said Janet Bennett. "We'll also have two homes in Rosedale Gardens. We'll have one on the north end of town, one of the newer homes, and one on the east side of town that's been on walk before, but the homeowner says she has surprises for us, and we're going to have hot chocolate and homemade cookies at Hill House."

At the Larsons' home, Al will play Christmas carols on his violin. A former member of the Plymouth Symphony, Al taught music in Livonia Public Schools for many years. This Christmas Eve, he'll provide the music for Midnight Mass at the Felician Sisters Motherhouse at Madonna University.

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145



Jane and Mike Cuba.

PURSUANT TO 15 USC §1692 YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED THAT THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND THAT ANY INFORMATION THAT YOU PROVIDE MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the condition of a mortgage made by Daryl Jones and Debra Lucas Jones aka Deborah Ann Jones, his wife to HOUSEHOLD FINANCE CORPORATION III by a mortgage dated August 13, 1998 and recorded on September 16, 1998 in Liber 29956 on Page 3418, WAYNE County Records Michigan on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Fifty-Four Thousand Three Hundred Ninety-Eight and 17/100 Dollars. (\$54,398.17) including interest at 11.98% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue, immediately inside the Southerly or Jefferson Avenue Entrance to the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center in the City of Detroit, Wayne County Michigan at 1:00 pm. on January 3, 2008. Said premises are situated in the City of Detroit, County of WAYNE State of Michigan, and are described as, North 28 feet of Lot 95 and the South 16 feet of Lot 96, Blanck's Mt. Elliott Subdivision, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 55 of Plats, Page 43 Wayne County Records The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL 600.3241 a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. Dated: November 14, 2007 Michael M. Grand, Esq. GRAND & GRAND PLLC 31731 Northwestern Hwy., #151 Farmington Hills, MI 48334 (248) 538-3737 71851 FOR POSTING ONLY DO NOT PUBLISH PROPERTY ADDRESS OF 19612 Dwyer, Detroit MI 48234 ASAP# 936281 11/25/2007, 12/02/2007, 12/09/2007, 12/16/2007

Publish: November 25, December 2, 9 & 16, 2007

CE0671323 - 2x2.5

CHARLES A. HAAS, 26085 Six Mile Rd., Redford Twp., MI 48240
STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF WAYNE, File No. 2006-709122-DE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
Estate of DOLORES J. HILLARD AKA DOLORES JEAN HILLARD, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
To all interested persons. Your interest in the estate may be barred or affected by the following.

The deceased whose last known address was 35234 Atlas, Romulus, MI 48174, died February 6, 2006. Thomas Robert Hillard was appointed Personal Representative of the estate on November 13, 2006, as said will, of deceased.

Creditors of the deceased are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to the Personal Representative Thomas Robert Hillard, 421 Rustic Lane East, Belleville, MI 48111. Phone: (734) 461-0267 or to both the Personal Representative and the Wayne County Probate Court, 2 Woodward Ave., Room 1305, Detroit, MI 48226. Phone: (313) 224-5709 within 4 months of the date of publication of this notice. Notice is further given that the estate will be hereafter assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Personal Representative: Thomas Robert Hillard, 421 Rustic Lane East, Belleville, MI 48111. Phone: (734) 461-0267

Attorney: Charles A. Haas, P-14486, 26085 Six Mile Rd., Redford Twp. MI 48240. Telephone No. (313) 532-0770.

Publish: November 25, 2007

CE06872220 - 1x1



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Al Larson will entertain with Christmas carols.

Give Yourself The Gift Of Great Legs



Jeffrey H. Miller, M.D.

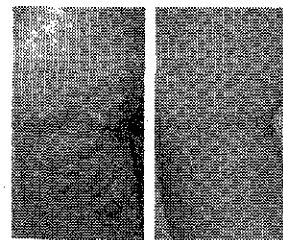
Dr. Miller has over 12 years experience in treating venous diseases and has received many honors and awards including being named one of "Detroit's Top Docs" by Hour Magazine.

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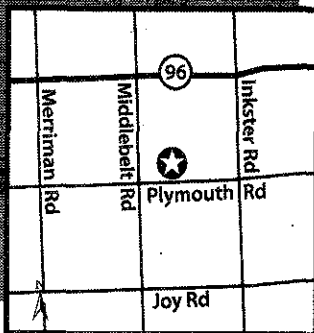
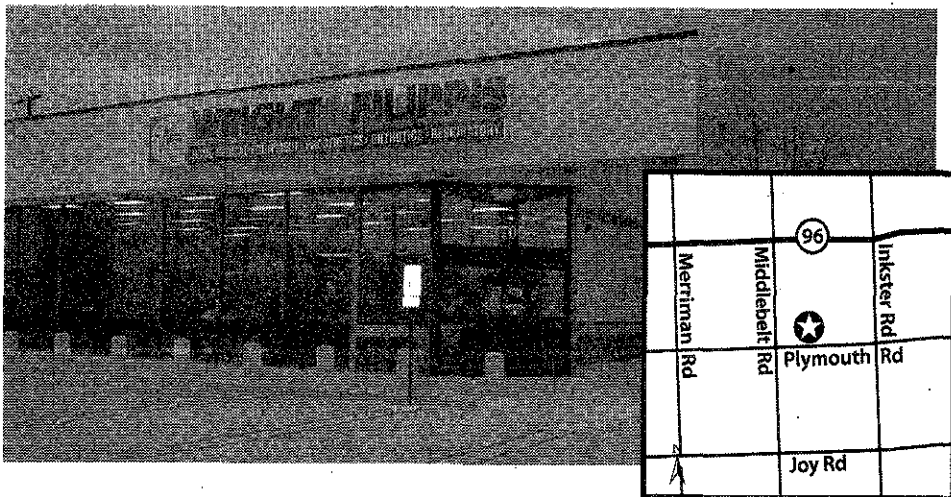
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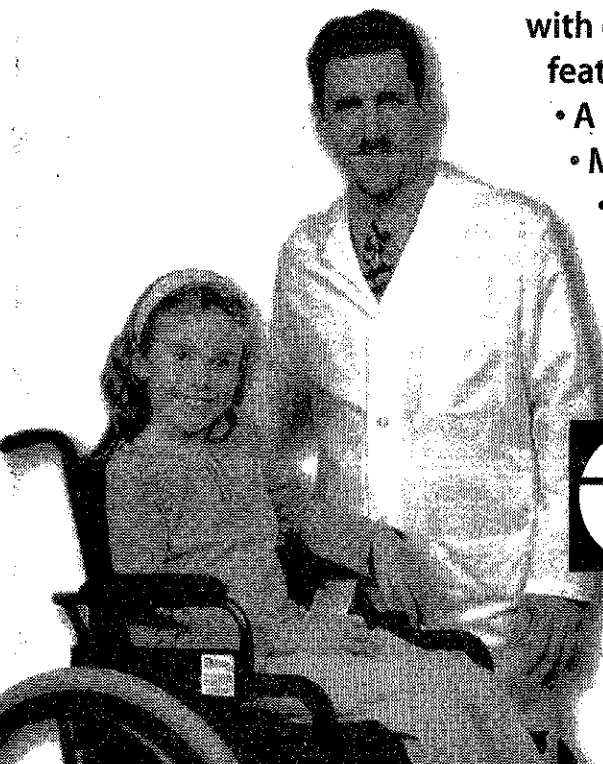


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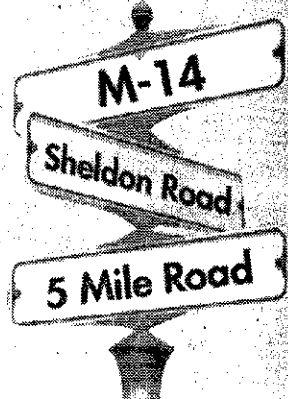
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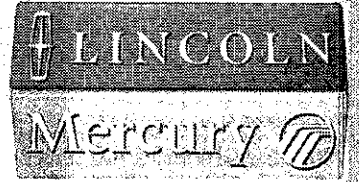
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NOW \$22,810*

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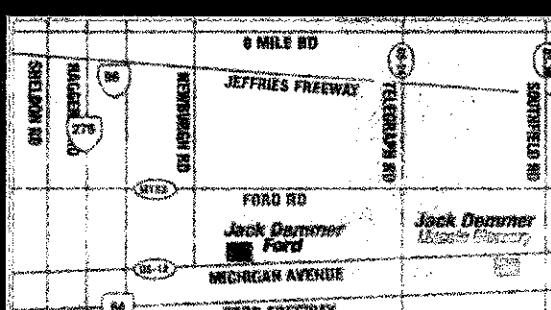
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\$199 Per Mo.
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NOW \$20,207*

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New Homes



Sunday, November 25, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Julie Brown, editor • (734) 953-2111 • jcbrown@hometownlife.com

www.hometownlife.com

This Law of the land is perfect for a corner lot

Some pieces of land require a specially designed home. The Law (405-13) has been created to be accessed from the side of the property. Containing 2,350 square feet, this would be ideal for a corner lot.

The front of the home has the ranch style covered porch that runs width of the home. The entry is a room that could contain an armoire for the coats. The door from this room

leads you directly into the living room.

The living room and the dining room are one large room with a number of windows. A wall in the middle of the area divides the living/dining rooms from the family room.

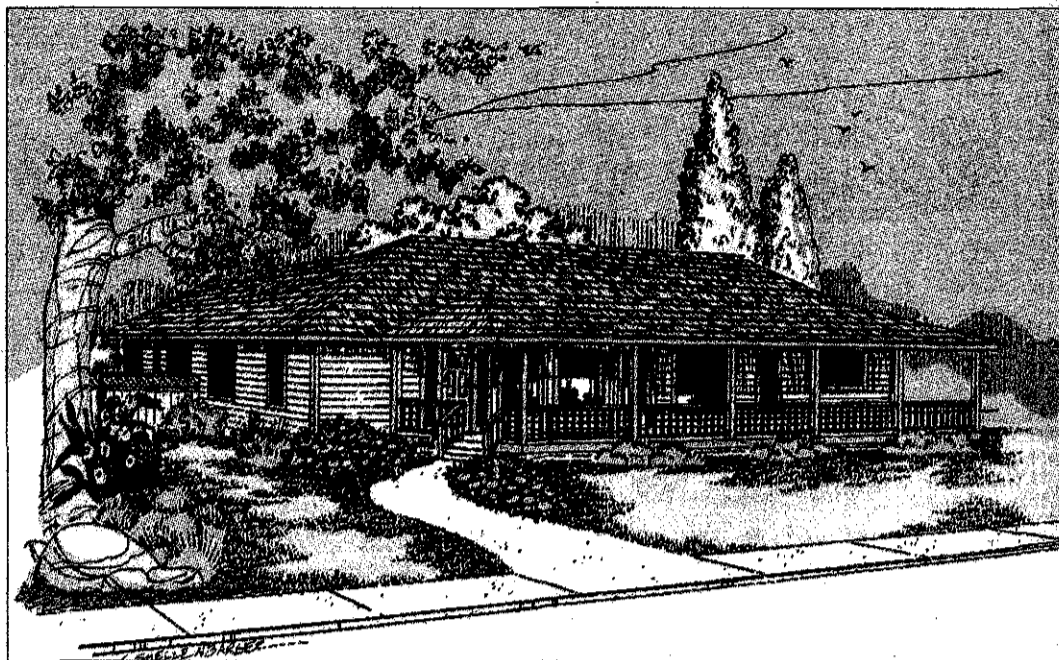
Off the dining area is the kitchen. The appliances are located around the wall, and there are a numerous windows to allow the sunlight to shine

in. Off the kitchen is a walk-in pantry, along with the utility room. There is a half bath in this area, containing a toilet and a sink. The utility has a full linen closet, washer/dryer, sink, and a large area to fold clothes. There is a door that opens out into the garage from this room.

The entire left side of the home is dedicated to bedrooms. Bedrooms two and three are separated by a large bathroom, with a tub, sink, and toilet. Bedroom two has the potential to be a guest suite, with a large corner walk-in closet and its own private linen/storage closet. Outside the bathroom is linen closet for bedroom three, which has been designed larger than a traditional bedroom.

The master suite has large walk-in closet that is shaped for easy access and excellent use of space. The bathroom has a storage/linen area, along with a sink, tub, and toilet. A vanity table has been included for the lady of the home.

Throughout the home are numerous windows that give the home plenty of sun-



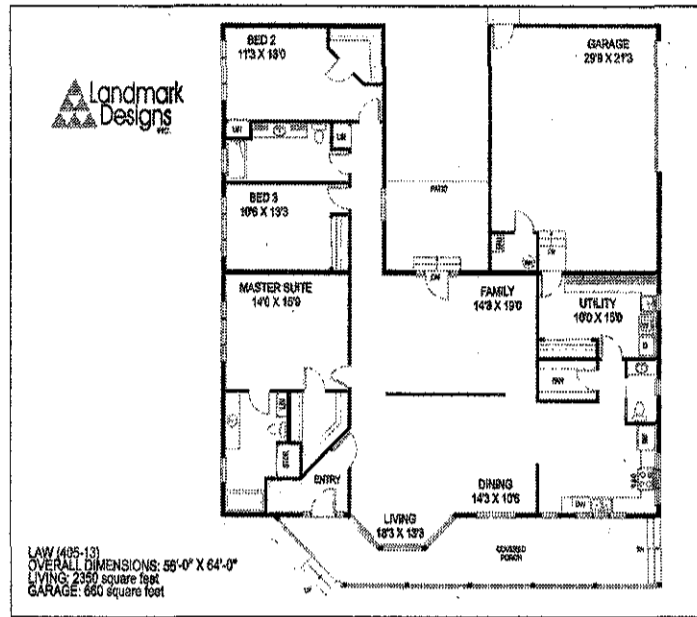
light. The rear of the home is shaped like a "U." The area between the two car garage and the bedrooms would be ideal for a patio, flower garden, deck, or play area for the kids. It could be covered or left open. It has numerous possibilities.

The garage is large enough to provide the handy man

with a shop area, the gardener with room for plants and tools, or storage for the person who enjoys sports or crafts.

For a study plan of the LAW (405-13), send \$15 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (800) 562-1151. Be sure to specify plan name and number.

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Holiday party

Commercial Real Estate Women Detroit's Wednesday, Dec. 5, holiday party will include network-

ing, holiday cheer and collection of donated holiday gift bags for children and young adults of Alternatives For Girls, a Detroit nonprofit organization.

The holiday party will be 3-6 p.m. Dec. 5 at The Inn at 97 Winder, 97 Winder St., Detroit, (313) 832-4348, www.theinnat97winder.com. Cost is \$55 for members and \$65 for nonmembers; \$10 fee added after

Nov. 30. That includes two drink tickets (wine and beer), heavy appetizers and holiday sweets. Cash bar available. Register online at www.crewdetroit.org or contact Megan Cottrell at (888) 866-CREW or crew-detroit@crewnetwork.org. Request an AFG recipient Project Giving Tree wish list from Linda Doolittle at (313) 962-8300.

Build a home

Oakland Builders Education Seminars will offer a 16-hour seminar, How To Build Your Own Home, on Saturday/Sunday, Dec. 1-2, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Best Western Concorde Inn, 1919 Star-Batt Drive, Rochester Hills. Designed for those who want to contract their own home construction as well as those who want to work

with a builder, the course details each stage of construction as well as your rights and responsibilities. The course covers home financing, the building process, builder's terms and contracts as well as building codes, insurance requirements and more. Many handouts and guidance from an instructor who is also a builder. The seminar costs \$220. The

textbooks are included. Spouse's discount is half of the tuition.

Pre-registration with payment is preferable no later than Thursday, Nov. 29, to Oakland Builders Education Seminars. Please call (800) 940-2014 to register Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On-site registrations with payment is acceptable (no credit cards, please).

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\$219 per mo

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BRAND NEW 2007 EDGE SEL

LEASE FROM

\$265 per mo

NEW 2008 F150 SC 4X4 XLT

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NEW 2008 TAURUS SEL

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\$199 per mo

NEW 2008 ESCAPE'S XLT

• Moonroof
• Satellite Radio

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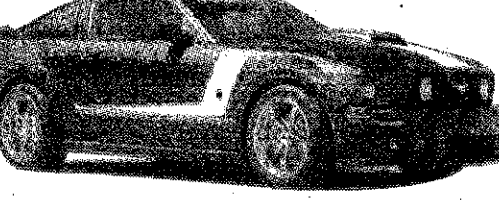
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Leather, moonroof, LOADED

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Leather, custom whls, moonroof, black on black!

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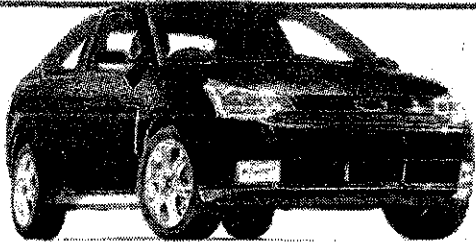
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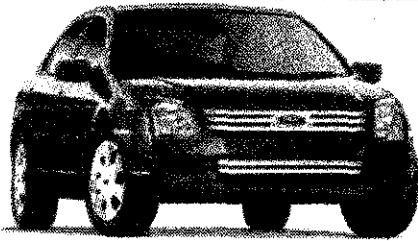
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\$171** **\$206****
36 MOS. 36 MOS.

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10 at this price - 24 Available



2008 Fusion SE

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36 MOS. 36 MOS.

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2008 Escape XLT

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\$240** **\$279****
36 MOS. 36 MOS.

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20 at this price - 161 Available



2008 Edge SE

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36 MOS. 36 MOS.

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\$244** **\$286****
36 MOS. 36 MOS.

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10 at this price - 155 Available



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Buy For **\$23,879+**

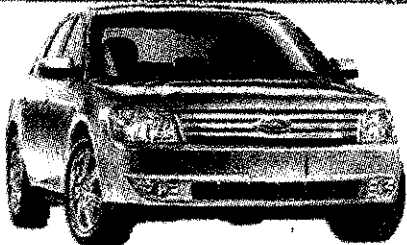
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\$259* **\$301***
36 MOS. 36 MOS.

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5 at this price - 211 Available



2008 Taurus

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\$265* **\$307***
36 MOS. 36 MOS.

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10 at this price - 100 Available

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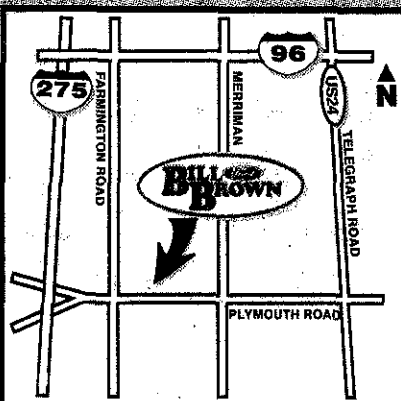
\$304* **\$347***
36 MOS. 36 MOS.

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