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Special holiday shopping section

The Magic of the Holidays

Observer

THURSDAY
November 27, 2008

CANTON Observer

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Canton man charged with trying to murder wife

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Canton man has been charged with assault with intent to commit murder after allegedly pulling his wife into oncoming traffic last week.



Jaber

Ahmed Kalile Jaber, 22, has also been charged with assault with the intent to commit great bodily harm less than murder and domestic violence stemming from the incident Thursday afternoon on Haggerty Road, south of Ford Road.

Jaber's wife, who married him through an arranged marriage in Jerusalem, Israel, in July, told officers she had only been in the U.S. for about a week and had got into a dispute with her husband and began walking on Haggerty. She said Jaber began following her and then pulled her into oncoming traffic.

The two were struck by a vehicle traveling southbound. The couple was transferred to an area hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

While hospitalized, the woman, with the help of an interpreter, told officers about the domestic dispute.

"They had been staying at a local hotel waiting for their apartment to get ready when she said they got into a dispute," said Canton Sgt. Deb Newsome. "She said he was belittling her and she left on foot and he followed her out."

Jaber, who is being held on \$50,000 bond, has denied his wife's allegations.

"He says she's lying," Newsome said. "That's all he will say."

The driver of the vehicle that struck the couple was not injured in the collision and is not expected to face charges.

Jaber is scheduled for a preliminary examination Dec. 1 in 35th District Court.

tlparks@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2170

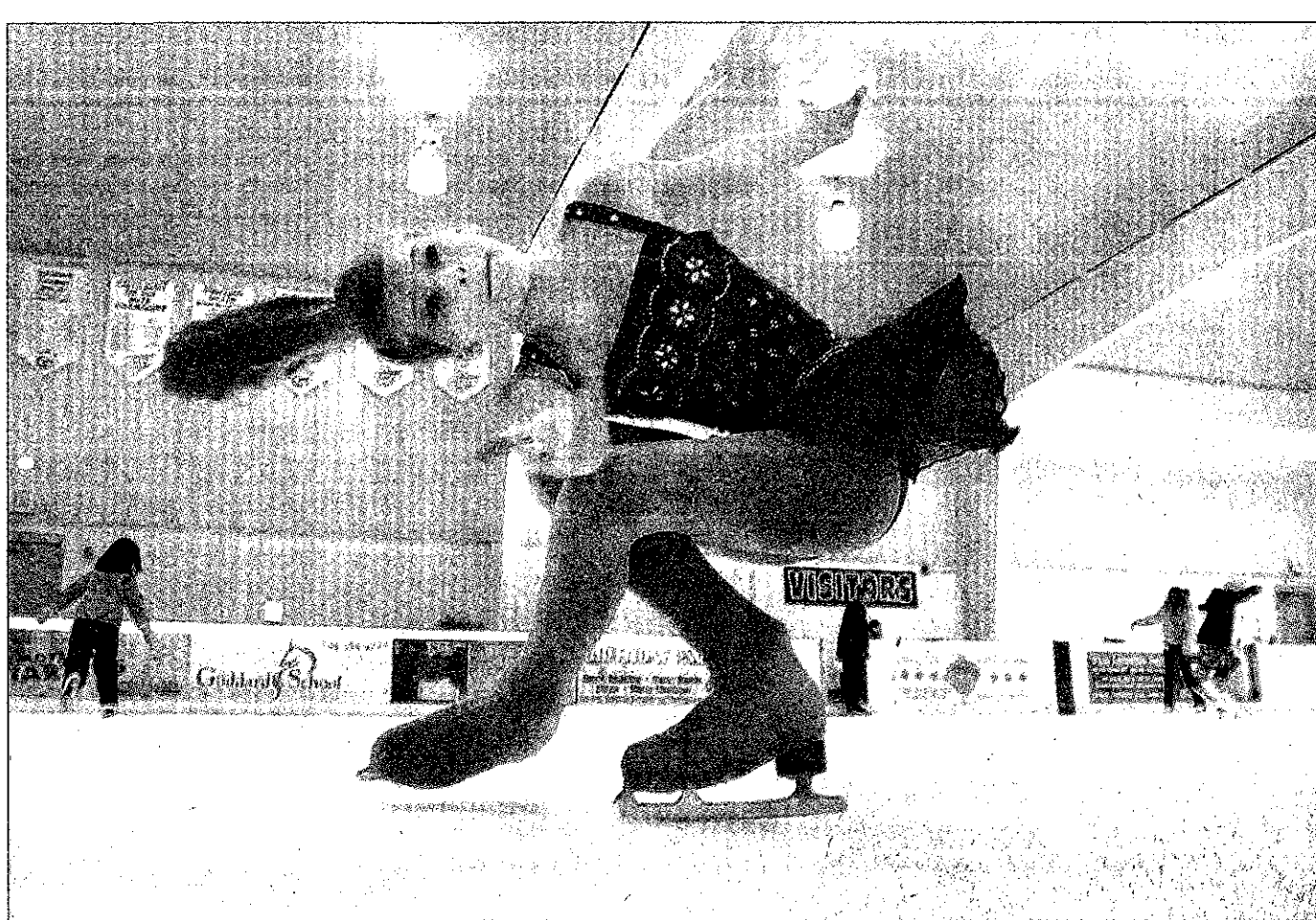
Observer rolls out Strictly Business page

Small business is the economic engine of our local area. It's important to support local business — and in a down economy, it's even more crucial to be informed about the local business scene.

That's why the Canton Observer is starting a new page, called Strictly Business, which will run each Thursday, starting Dec. 11.

Strictly Business will include a roundup of local business

Please see **BUSINESS, A2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Twirling into the nationals

Delaney Hoberecht, an 11 year old sixth-grader at Discovery Middle School, performs a twist during practice at Arctic Edge in Canton. Delaney, who skates for the Arctic Figure Skating Club out of Arctic Edge, has qualified for the U.S. Junior Figure Skating Championships set for Dec. 8-13 in Lake Placid, N.Y. For a story and more photos, please see B1 of our sports section.

Looking for some help

Economy hampering group's efforts to provide Christmas to disadvantaged children

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

One way or the other, the Canton Goodfellows are determined to provide Christmas to 625 township children.

"God always provides so we will handle it, but it would be a great help if we get more children adopted," said Nancy Spencer, Canton Goodfellows president, of the group's annual "No Canton Child Without a

Christmas" project.

Hampered by a rough economy, this year's number of children in need has spiked from 569 kids last Christmas.

"Please help," Spencer encouraged township residents. "There are so many needy kids and it breaks my heart. All of these children live in Canton and we have to tell them that we care."

Those interested in sponsoring a child can contact

Spencer by Dec. 5 stating their age and gender preference. In return, they will be provided with a first name and any gift requests that child has made.

"It's that easy," Spencer said, adding that sponsors are limited to spending \$50 per child. "The good memories that you can help create for a child will last throughout their lives."

In addition to needing sponsors, the Goodfellows are in need of volunteers for the annual paper sale on Dec. 6.

"It's a cold job, but one that will warm your heart to know that you have been a part of giving Canton's children a happy holiday," Spencer said. "We serve all children in our

community."

As the economy continues to dip, the need for the Goodfellows continues to rise.

The group selects its children through the school district's free and reduced lunch program and had 550 children in 2006 and 400 kids in 2005.

"If we all pitch in, we can know there is not a child that we could have helped in Canton that won't have Christmas," Spencer said.

For more information on adopting a child, the paper sale or any of the Goodfellows efforts, call Spencer at (734) 397-8975.

tlparks@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2170

Canton's tree lighting to kick off holidays

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton's official holiday tree will be lit for the 30th time Wednesday evening.

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

"This is our 30th anniversary so we are all really excited about the milestone," said Jennifer Provenzano, Leisure Services recreation specialist.

In celebration of three decades, a pearl-themed tree will be on display inside the Summit and there will be a craft presentation on 30 crafts

30TH ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

When: 6-9 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 3

Where: Summit on the Park and Heritage Park

Activities: Holiday tree lighting (7 p.m.); carriage rides with hot chocolate; entertainment; ice sculpting and a visit from Santa

for \$30.

In addition to anniversary-centered activities, the event will include the traditional carriage rides with hot chocolate,

entertainment and the popular ice sculpting.

"The ice sculpting is a hit because it's always a surprise," Provenzano said. "We never know what will be made."

In past years, the event, which features a visit from Santa, has been attended by more than 6,000 families.

"Santa, of course, is a big hit, but people definitely come for the main event," Provenzano said. "They like to be there when we officially hit the big switch at 7 p.m."

This year, both outgoing Supervisor Tom Yack and incoming Supervisor Phil LaJoy will have the duty of

lighting the tree.

Those wishing to have their own tree on display during the event can participate in the Adopt-A-Tree-To-Decorate program for \$30.

"This is a way for people to be a part of the fun, which is cool," Provenzano said, adding that the program works by having families, businesses, churches or schools sponsor a tree and decorate it in any family-friendly manner they choose. "We have gotten a couple calls already so we are looking forward to this."

For more information about the tree program, call Provenzano at (734) 394-5460.



OBSERVER FILE PHOTO

Santa will once again be the star of the show when Canton holds its annual tree lighting ceremony on Wednesday evening at Heritage Park and Summit on the Park.

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USA WEEKEND
Holiday City Guide
Coming Sunday:
Find the perfect holiday gift

'Stop, thief!'

Demonstrations show ways to stay safe shopping

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

"Hey, someone stop that guy, he just stole my purse," shouted Kenya Davis as Ray Johnson ran through the parking lot of Westland Shopping Center with her purse in his hand.

Cameras were rolling to catch the crime, but it was neither the first time Davis hollered that nor a fleet-footed escape for Johnson. The duo were Wayne County Sheriff officers, who were acting out purse snatchings several times to show how to thwart the crime during the holiday season.

It was a lesson Maureen Brown took to heart. Looking at her purse, dangling from her shoulder, she had to admit, "This is bad."

Brown and her husband Peter had come to the shopping center to watch the demonstration put on for members of the media in advance of the start of the holiday shopping season.

"Boy, if I can pick up one little tip... any little thing can help," said the Plymouth resident.

"This is the worst economy ever and when the economy is poor, you're going to have more people looking for an oppor-

tunity to steal," said Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans. "You have to be aware of your environment."

Davis played the victim for the demonstration, making several walks to a car, parked several hundred feet from the Kohl's Wayne Road entrance. Each time Johnson darted out from in front of a white panel van, grabbing her purse from her shoulder as she talked on her cell phone and loaded her packages in the car.

He also waited until she had placed the bags in the backseat and was well on her way back to the store, when he broke the window with a hammer to gain access.

According to Evans, the different scenarios showed what shoppers need to do to stay safe. In the case of the cell phone, he said to make the call in the mall "and get it out of the way." He also advised women to place their purses across their body or "better yet across their bodies and under a jacket."

He also told shoppers to park beside smaller vehicles, taking away a hiding place from would-be thieves and to move the car every time they make a trip to the car to drop off purchases.



Wayne County Sheriff Officer Ray Johnson steals the purse from fellow officer Kenya Davis as she talks on a cell phone while walking to a car in the parking lot of Westland Shopping Center during a shopping safety demonstration.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"They're not going to follow you," Evans said. "These are not violent people. The louder you scream, the less likely they'll continue."

Joining Evans for the presentation was Westland Police James Ridener, whose department began a beefed-up presence at the mall Friday with the official start of the holiday shopping season.

"We'll have stepped-up enforcement at the mall through Christmas Eve," he said. "We'll have patrols inside and outside."

The mall has its own security detail, but works with Westland Police with added patrols.

The Canton Police Department will also be

increasing its patrols at local shopping centers and stores beginning Friday, Nov. 28 through Christmas.

In addition to regular patrols, police officers will utilize bicycles and semi-marked patrol cars to maintain high-visibility in parking lots and store fronts in an attempt to deter criminal activity.

Shoppers are reminded to stay alert while in stores and parking lots.

"It's easy to get distracted while shopping during the holidays," says Deputy Chief Patrick Nemecek. "To decrease your odds of becoming a victim, you should be aware of your surroundings and your belongings at all times."

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BUSINESS
FROM PAGE A1

of local business newsmakers and items from the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

"It's a local business blitz every Thursday in your Canton Observer," said Editor Kurt Kuban. "We encourage our business owners to e-mail information to us, so we can include them on this page."

E-mail information about events, grand openings, staff

changes with photos, and requests to receive a Q&A form to fill out for the business profile piece. All information should be e-mailed to Kurt Kuban at kkuban@hometownlife.com.

This page will also be posted on our Web site (www.hometownlife.com) where you can read daily news updates and information.

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On the job

Canton Township Clerk Terry Bennett (center) swore in the trustees of the Canton Library Board at a ceremony during the library board's monthly meeting on Nov. 19. The new board consists of Don Turner (from left), Colleen Van Auken, James Gillig, Michael Siegrist, George Snow and James G. Fausone. The Library Board of Trustees is made up of community members who are elected every four years on a nonpartisan ballot. They meet the third Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Yard waste collection ends this week

Curbside pick-up of residential yard waste ends this week for Canton residents and will not resume until April. There will be no pickup on Thursday, Nov. 27. Residents whose collection date falls on the 27th will have their yard-waste collected on Friday, Nov. 28.

After Nov. 28, items such as grass clippings, leaves, yard and garden waste, pruning debris, wood debris, and brush will no longer be accepted at the curb. However, Canton Waste Recycling (CWR), located at 42020 Van Born Road, will have a yard waste truck available at their facility

on Friday, Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 13 from 8-11 a.m. for any resident who missed the last pickup. Residents are required to place all yard waste inside the truck

themselves. For more information on yard waste, recycling or refuse collection, please refer to your Canton Resource Guide or call CWR at (734) 397-5801.

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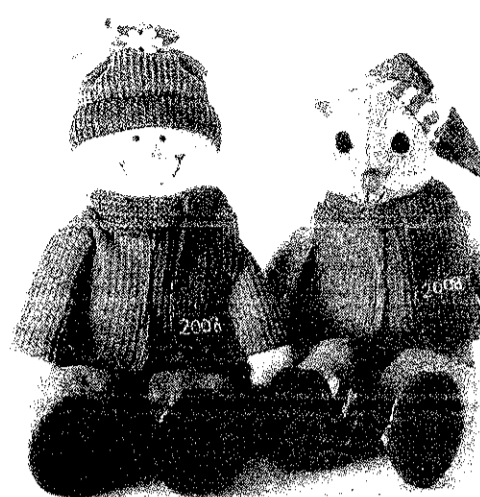
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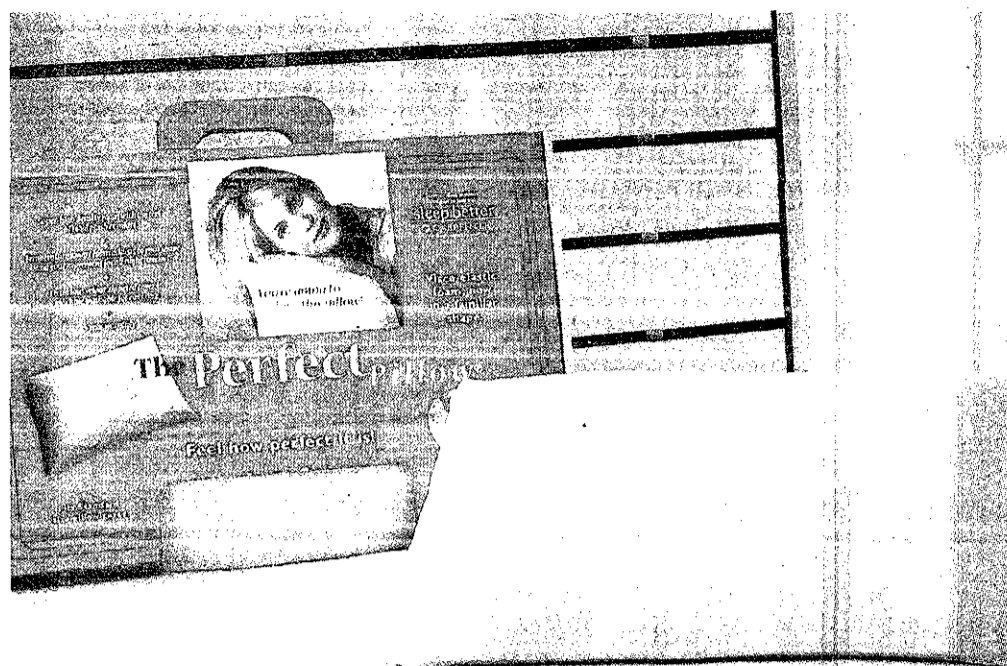
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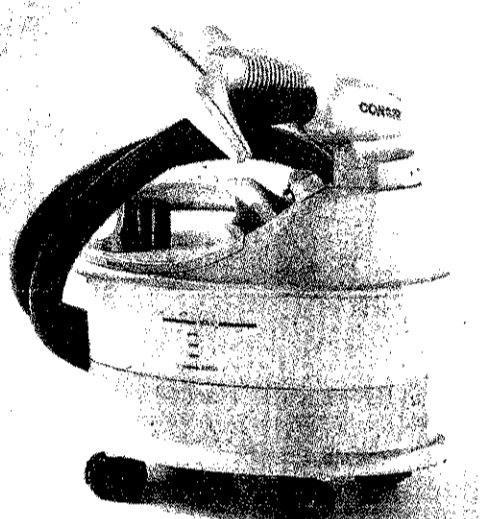
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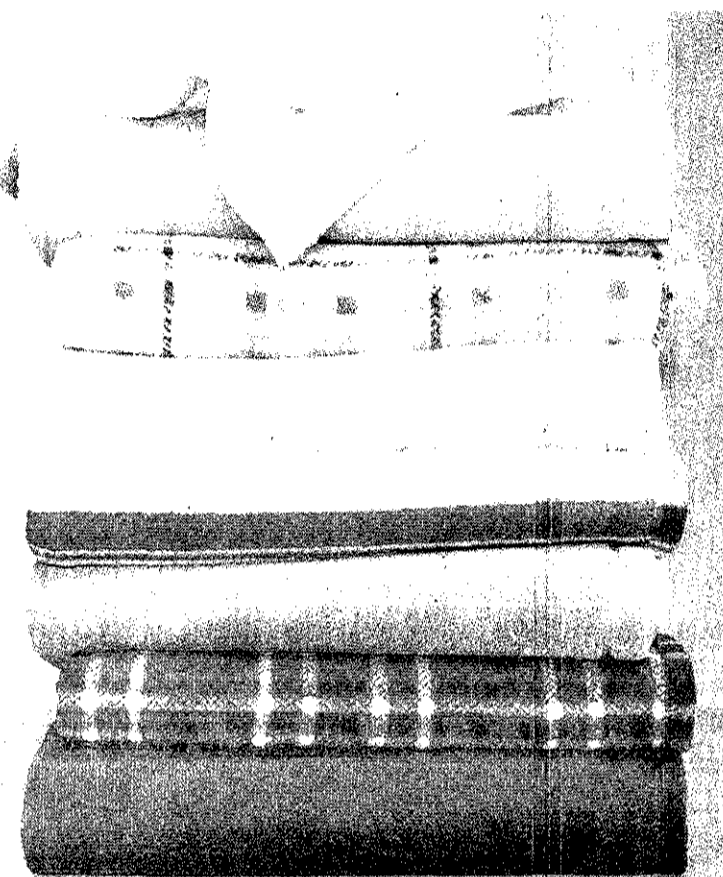


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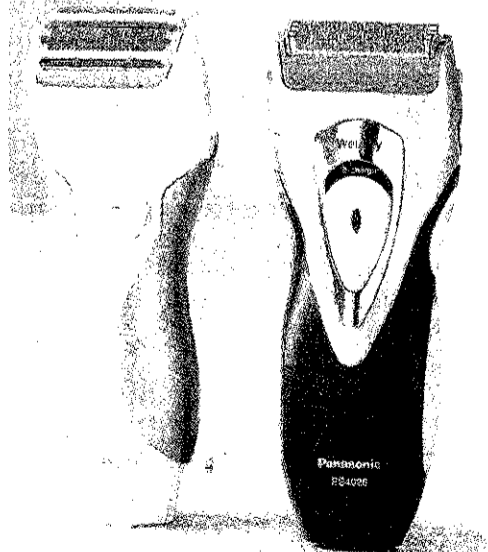
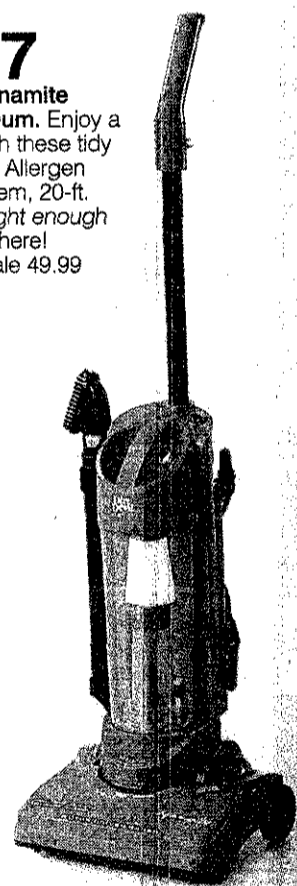
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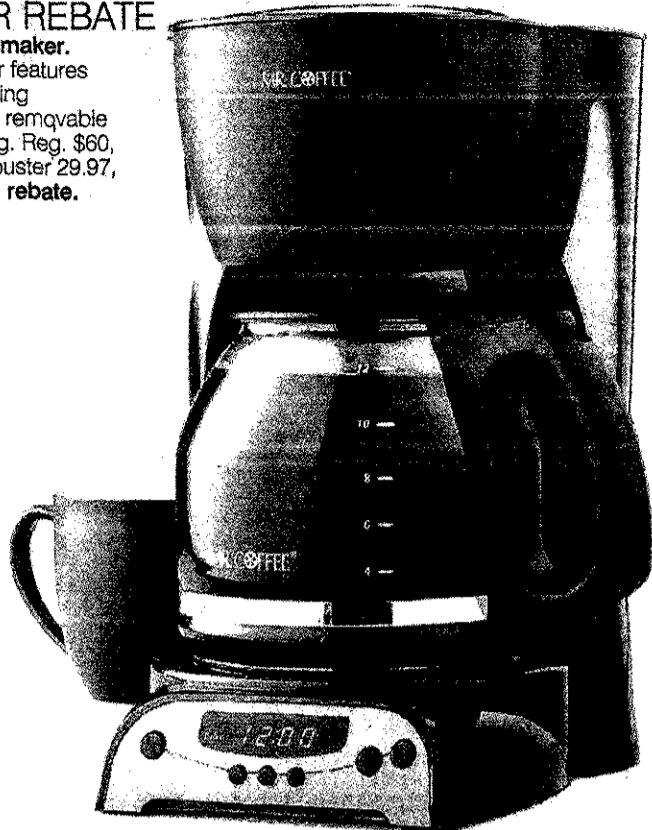


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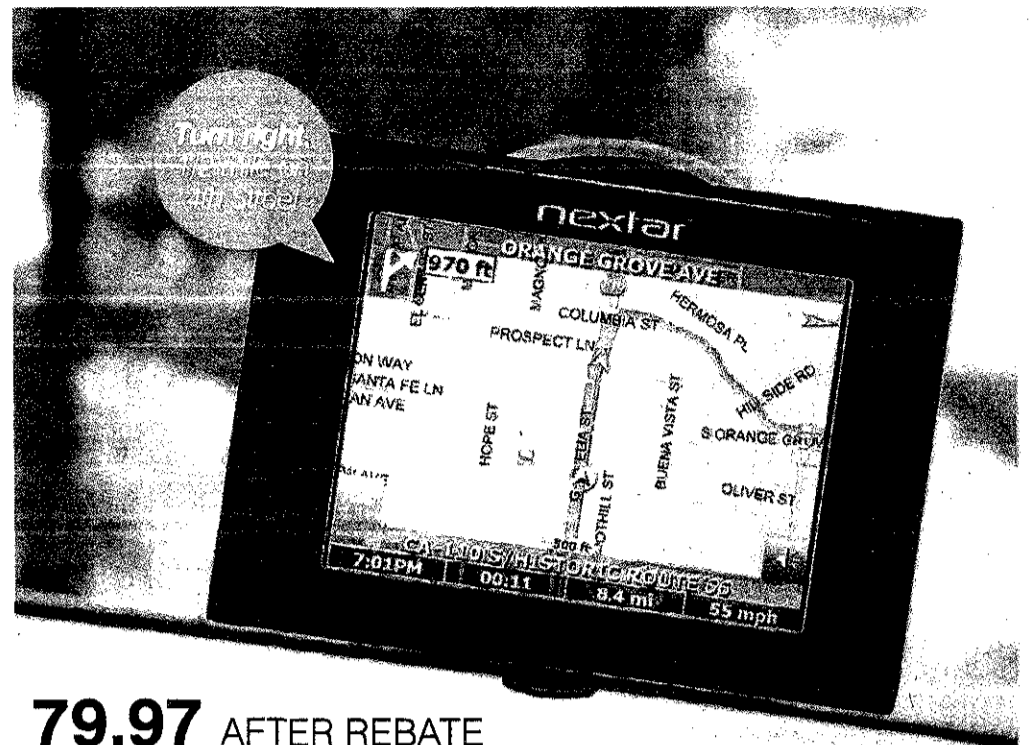
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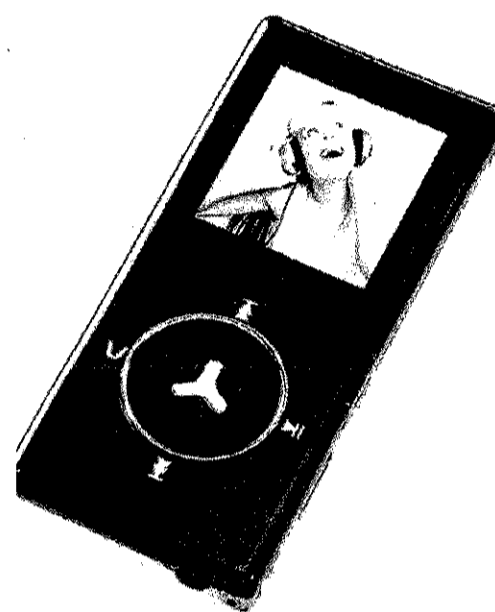
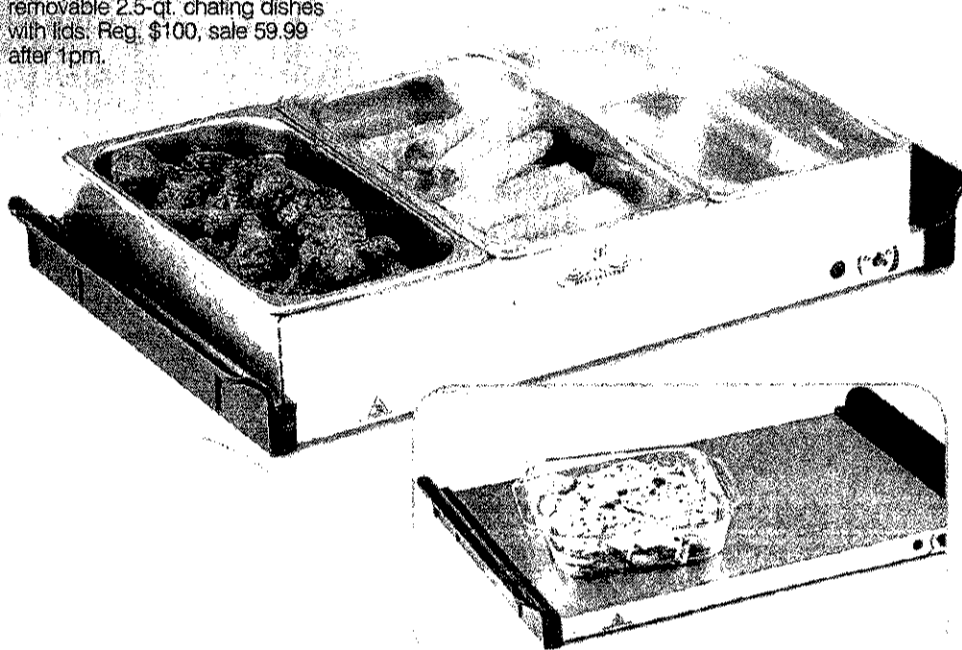


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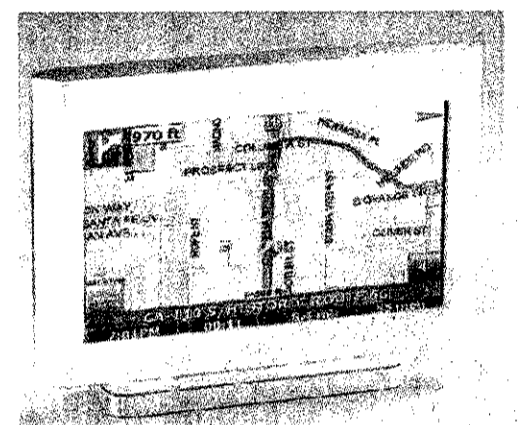
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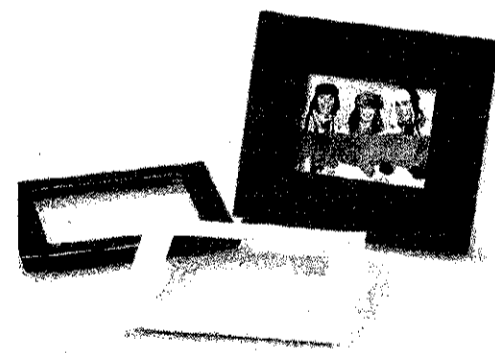
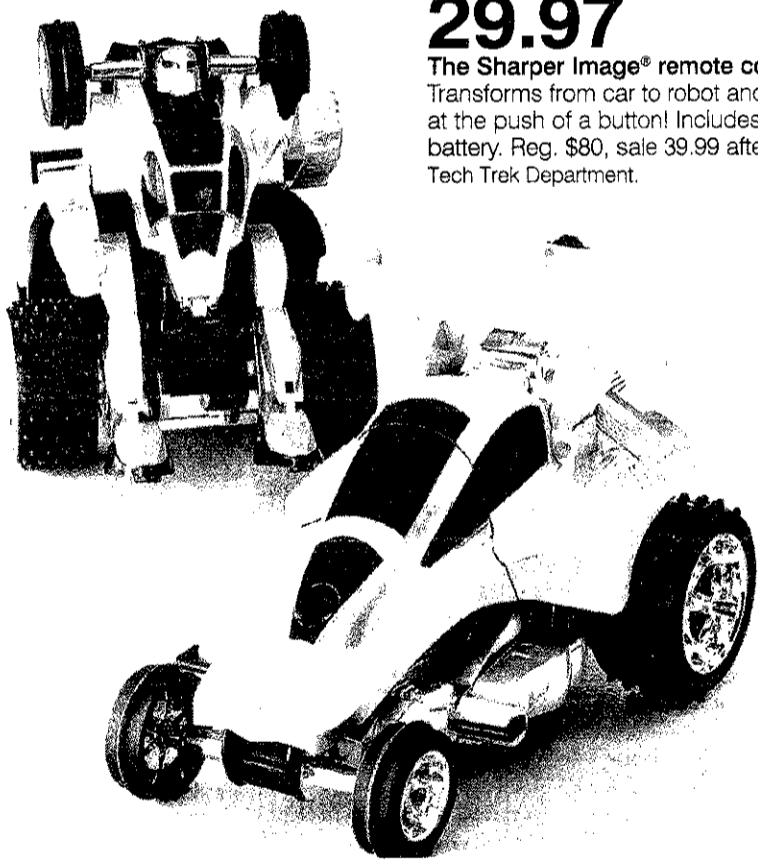


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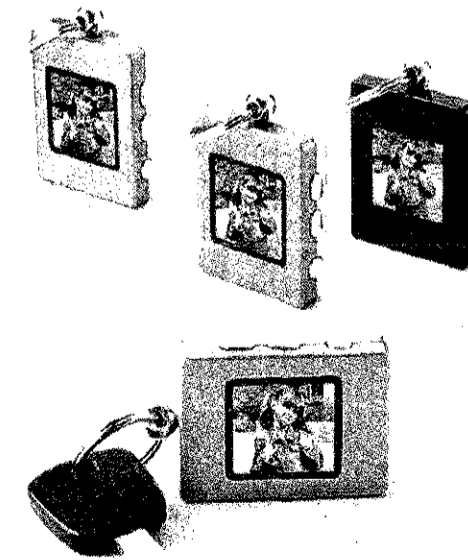


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The Sharper Image® digital photo keychain. Displays up to 60 photos on a full-color 1.4" high-resolution LCD screen. Rechargeable battery. Software included. Reg. \$50, sale 24.99 after 1pm. Picture simulated. Tech Trek Department.



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For the store nearest you or to shop online, visit us at bonton.com. Door Busters effective 4 a.m. - 1 p.m. Friday, November 28, 2008. Sale prices effective Friday, November 28 through Saturday, November 29, 2008. No price adjustments for previously purchased clearance merchandise. Entire Stock offers exclude Clearance and Incredible Value merchandise. Regular and original prices reflect offering prices in effect during the 90 days before or after this sale, but not necessarily during the past 30 days. Savings may not be based on actual sales. Intermediate markdowns may have been taken. Merchandise, style and color availability may vary by store and online. [19695A]

OUR VIEWS

Legislature should act on smoking ban

In political circles, the time between the November general election and the day the new state Legislature is seated in January is unflatteringly known as the lame-duck session.

This span of time is fraught with danger for residents and taxpayers because, for many legislators, there are no more restraints on what they can do. Those on the way out after losing the election have nothing more to lose in whatever action they take, and often much to gain for their post-elected office careers.

Some legislators say that valuable work is accomplished in lame-duck sessions and, indeed, some serious issues, such as budgets, are hammered out under the pressure of the dwindling days of a legislative session.

There is one significant issue the Legislature should address before it calls it a year: Approve a ban on smoking in public places.

Once again, partisan politics has overshadowed good governance when it comes to this issue. Democrats and Republicans seem to both favor dragging Michigan into the 21st century regarding this public health issue — and make no mistake, it is a public health issue — but they can't agree on what businesses, if any, should be exempt from the smoking ban.

For once, our political leaders need to turn their backs on the special interests who line campaign coffers and address the issue head on. If it can work in California and Canada and Great Britain without bankrupting the restaurant/bar/casino industry, then it can work here as well.

It's time to end the debate and approve the smoking ban.

Face up to reality of poverty in area

Poverty has a face, but there's no need to look at pictures of the homeless and the hungry in countries around the world to recognize it.

In Oakland and Wayne counties today, that is as likely to be the face of your neighbor's child as it is the faces of families in less affluent areas.

Layoffs, spiraling utility costs and higher grocery bills are all drawing new pictures of the face of poverty. Economists are projecting that the need will grow in 2009 as the unemployment rate is expected to jump to 10.5 percent by the end of the year.

Local agencies, however, are already reporting significant increases in requests for help. At Troy People Concerned, the staff reports that the size of the requests for help have grown, much as the utility bills we all pay have skyrocketed.

Fulfilling those requests for help offers hope that there is one month more a wage earner can keep her house or feed his family while looking for work.

Now more than ever, it's time to look those needs in the face. Here are a few ways.

The Salvation Army has gone high tech with a secure online donation site (www.onlineredkettle.org), but it still needs bell ringers for its annual Red Kettle campaign.

In Rochester Hills, the all-volunteer Holiday Helpers will again have a giving tree at city hall. Rochester Area Neighborhood House, like Troy People Concerned, is seeking donations of gas and grocery cards.

Just as someone in need is right around the corner, there is no need to drive far to help.

Century 21 Hartford, 35615 Grand River in Farmington, is a drop-off site for The Salvation Army's Toy Shop. The Toy Shop is an alternate Christmas program for every family that is not "adopted" for the holiday. New, unwrapped toys, stuffed animals, games and clothing for kids up to age 14, will be collected.

All items will be delivered to The Salvation Army location at 27500 Shiawassee Road in Farmington Hills. (Call (248) 478-6000.)

Keep your eyes peeled for other opportunities to help in your hometown. It might not be polite to stare, but we all must face up to the fact that poverty is looking right back at us.

Local agencies, however, are already reporting significant increases in requests for help. At Troy People Concerned, the staff reports that the size of the requests for help have grown, much as the utility bills we all pay have skyrocketed. Fulfilling those requests for help offers hope that there is one month more a wage earner can keep her house or feed his family while looking for work.



Seek compromise for school

Perhaps the question should be "Does Canton need a new charter school on this proposed site?" Canton was and is a bedroom community. The last few years it seems that the concerns of the homeowners near a proposed commercial area are totally ignored, dismissed, denigrated. I list: the Oakwood hospital debacle, the Indian temple addition.

This is too narrow a strip of land to construct a school. Why not build on Ford Road or Michigan Avenue? There won't be a negative impact on the home values and those interested in such a school will be happy.

Barbara Alcock
Canton

LaJoy deserves praise

I have known Phil LaJoy for several years and he has represented Canton and Van Buren townships in Lansing very well over that time. There are many critical issues facing Michigan that need to be dealt with during the lame-duck session of the State Legislature and Mr. LaJoy needs to be there to represent us. Mr. LaJoy has a history of selfless service to the community, the state and the country.

As Michigan moves through this very difficult time, we need to praise this selfless behavior that is so rare today. We need more community and business leaders like Phil LaJoy to get Michigan back on track as an economic powerhouse. Thank you Mr. LaJoy. Thank you for your personal sacrifices for the betterment of our community and thank you for public service in Lansing. Good luck finishing the missions you set out to complete so many years ago in this last session of your legislative career.

Steven Gravin
Canton

Glad LaJoy is staying

I am glad that Phil LaJoy is staying on in the State Legislature as long as he can. He feels there are issues that he wants to be a part of. I think that's great.

Chris Dail
Canton

Support Big 3

Hats off to Jim Drozdowski for his letter about saving the Big 3 (Nov. 3). I am a retired GM worker, who spent 31 years at Willow Run. I feel the same way he does about buying American. If the people who live in this country would support their own, like I see people from other countries supporting their own, we wouldn't have the mess we have today. Buying an American vehicle saves American jobs and keeps the money here. Now more than ever, the automobile companies need everyone to look at their products. Supporting your friends and neighbors is the right thing to do.

Robert Denstedt
Canton

Don't bail out Big 3

I have been purchasing and leasing Ford/Mercury products on an exclusive basis starting with my first car in the 1960s. I started with Ford because most of my family worked for Ford in some

capacity or another and I stayed with Ford because I liked the product they offered. Unlike Jim Drozdowski in his letter "Save the Big 3," I would never shame anyone into buying autos only from the Big 3 based on some specious sense of patriotism.

I would also go so far as to suggest that the Big 3, in their present business model, should not be saved because ultimately, they cannot be saved; it just makes bad economic sense to prop up companies that are no longer viable. To do so would be to reward gross mismanagement, incompetence and greed by both management and labor.

What would make sense is to allow the companies to reorganize under bankruptcy protection into viable, sustainable business models. Taxpayer money could be used to speed the process along.

Some critics are even saying that the management currently in place at the auto companies is incapable of performing the restructuring steps that are needed to make the companies viable again and are calling for an independent authority to step in. That may be another option to consider but pouring taxpayer money into firms burning through cash because they are not selling their products, is just plain irresponsible.

Janusz M Szyszko
Canton

Congress should look in mirror

I found it incredulous that Congress criticized the automakers for their private jets. Perhaps it was not good judgment to use the jets. But Congress needs to look into a mirror. Our country is trillions of dollars in debt, yet members of Congress receive large paychecks, work short hours, and have some of the best health care and retirement plans in the world, as well as untold benefits from lobbyists. In addition, when they wrote the \$700 billion check to the banksters, they didn't even put it in writing that the money should not be given out in unconscionable bonuses. It seems American manufacturing is the favored whipping boy.

This country spends billions of dollars a year for the care of illegal aliens (<http://indiana.blogspot.com/2008/02/cost-of-illegal-immigration.html> — this is a subsidy to various businesses that illegally employ illegal aliens). We shell out billions in foreign aid to other countries, even though we are hardly in a position to do so. Neither of these tax-sucking programs benefits citizens. Yet our own American companies go wanting.

I also worry about the defense of our nation. In the 1940s, it was our manufacturing base, specifically the automotive companies, who stepped up to the plate to manufacture the weapons of war that defeated both Germany and Japan. If one of the superpowers that we now grovel to for goods and money decides to invade our shores, I doubt we can count on Toyota or Honda to come to our aid, especially if we were again attacked by Japan. Without a strong manufacturing base, we are sitting ducks. It was FDR who said "Detroit is the Arsenal of Democracy." Outsourcing our military manufacturing is, in my opinion, quite insane. Destroying our manufacturing base is a close second.

The rescue of the American automotive industry is essential for our country's security. This includes not only the loans

necessary, it includes leveling the playing field with foreign competition. See <http://buchanan.org/blog/2008/11/pjb-who-killed-detroit>. We need Americans to support our citizens and our defense by buying American products, including cars, whenever possible. We must also work to bring back other industries that have been shipped out of our country in the name of globalization.

We must protect and defend our fragile republic by supporting American manufacturing. We are counting on Congress to do the right thing.

Peg Robichaud
Canton

Proud of band

Plymouth-Canton, you have much to be proud of. Your marching band competed this past week at the Bands of America Grand Nationals held at the new Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, against over 90 of the nation's top high school marching bands.

From these bands, 34 advanced to the semifinals, and your band was there. From these bands, 12 advanced to vie for the National Championship, and your band was there. And when the competition was over, your Plymouth-Canton Marching Band placed 11th in the nation!

Martin Montoya and his staff are to be commended for their perseverance, dedication, and work ethic preparing these 170 students to believe in themselves and execute their best performances of the year.

Graduating band members, recall your past years with fond memories of band camp, regionals, GLL, states and nationals. Your years with the band now become part of the continuing legacy of PCMB.

Returning members relish your accomplishments! Upon you, the band now rests! Welcome the challenge to succeed and surpass in 2009.

Incoming freshmen and prospective students thinking about joining the band? Talk to a band member and they will tell you that the years fly by, the satisfaction is intense and the friendships are forever.

Thomas Edison once wrote: "The object of all work is production or accomplishment and to either of these ends there must be forethought, system, planning, intelligence, and honest purpose as well as perspiration."

Congratulations to all on a job well done.

Carl Kafafias
Canton

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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Livonia, MI 48150

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(734) 591-7279

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kkuban@hometownlife.com

QUOTABLE

"We will work to preserve what we have in Canton. The next four years will be some of the most difficult in our lifetime and, without question, we will face challenges but we are well positioned."

— Canton Township Trustee Todd Caccamo, who was sworn in for a new four-year term last week

CANTON
Observer

GANNETT

Kurt Kuban Community Editor	Susan Rosiek Executive Editor	Peter Neill Vice President General Manager
Hugh Gallagher Managing Editor	Jeannie Parent Senior Director of Sales & Marketing	

Richard Agninan - Publisher Emeritus

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

AROUND CANTON

Library blood drive

The Red Cross Blood Mobile will be at the Canton Public Library on Friday, Nov. 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Appointments are available by calling the library at (734) 397-0999. Walk-ins are welcome.

According to the Red Cross, every two seconds someone in America needs blood. The need does not decrease during the holiday season but donations often do. Blood is needed for emergencies and for people who have cancer, blood disorders, sickle cell, anemia and other illnesses. Some people need regular blood transfusions to live.

Chamber luncheon

The Canton Chamber of Commerce will host its annual holiday luncheon at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 3 at Summit on the Park. The Plymouth-Canton Madrigal Choir will be performing. Each person is asked to please bring an unwrapped toy or gift for the Canton Goodfellows. Cost of the lunch is \$20.

Reservations are required. Call the Chamber office at (734) 453-4040. Deadline for reservations is Monday, Dec. 1. The luncheon is sponsored by Saint Joseph Mercy Canton Health Center.

Trails group seeks volunteers

Canton residents interested in helping to support, maintain, and champion the Lower Rouge River Recreation Trail should plan to attend an open meeting on Thursday, Dec. 4 from 7-9 p.m. in the Lower Level Room A of the Canton administration building, located at 1150 S. Canton Center Road. Canton Leisure Services is hosting the meeting in an effort to receive citizen input for planning special trail events, ranger recruitment and design of interpretive trail signage.

Whether you're interested in volunteering as a ranger, helping to organize a special event, or creating interpretive sign designs, Leisure Services has an opportunity for everyone. We are also looking for citizen input regarding the promotion of canoeing, kayaking and fishing in the Lower Rouge River. The meeting is open to all



Celebrating diversity

Canton resident Nimisha Shah recently participated in a celebration of diversity at DTE Energy headquarters in Detroit. The event featured food and music from a variety of cultures, as well as a presentation by company employees representing countries around the world through language and traditional costumes. As part of the program, Shah spoke in Gujarati, a language spoken in the Indian state of Gujarat. Shah is a project manager in the company's information technology organization.

Canton residents. For more information on the Lower Rouge River Recreation Trail, please call Canton Park Office at (734) 394-5310.

Spotlight Players scholarships

Local theater group Spotlight Players is encouraging local middle and high school students to apply for a \$250 scholarship that can be used for a theater-related training program. Applications are due no later than Feb. 15, 2009 and can be downloaded from www.spotlightplayers.net.

Students must be attending middle school or high school to be considered for the scholarship. Recipients will be selected by Spotlight Players board of governors. Selection criteria includes the scholarship application which requests applicants to list on and off stage theater experience, theater related training, and how they plan to use the scholarship. Affiliation with Spotlight Players is not necessary but will be taken into consideration.

Spotlight Players is the resident adult theater group for the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, located at Ridge and Cherry Hill Roads in Canton Township. Formerly the Plymouth Theater Guild, Spotlight Players is a non-profit organization and has been in existence for 62 years.

Spotlight Players will have six performances of "You Can't Take It With You" between Nov. 28-Dec. 6 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

For more information on Spotlight Players, scholarship applications and current shows visit www.spotlightplayers.net or call (734) 480-4945.

Canton Toastmasters

The Canton Communicators Toastmasters Club, a non-profit group where members learn both communication and leadership skills, meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Canton Coney Island at 8533 Lilley Road, just south of Joy Road, in the Golden Gate Plaza. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, please contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237.

Christmas craft show

St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley Road, Canton (southeast corner of Cherry Hill and Lilley), will host its Christmas craft show from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday Dec. 6. The event will feature more than 85 crafters, a bake sale, and lunch will be available. Admission is \$2. Children under 12 will be admitted free. For more information, contact the church at (734) 981-1333.

Shop Canton Holiday Fest

The Shop Canton Holiday



65th class reunion

Members of the Ypsilanti High School Class of 1943 held a reunion last month at Waltonwood in Canton. According to Canton resident Mary Kathryn Skinner, "We had a lovely lunch and enjoyed much talk. It was a fun time for all." Pictured are (on couch) Lottie Webster and Donna Flowry. Standing (from left) are Phil Stokes, Donald Gill, Skinner, June Johnson, Mae Alice and Joe Butcko, Audree Benswanger, Betty Katz, Trudy Bohms, and Elaine Brite.

Fest will take place from noon to 4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Willow Creek Shopping Center (north side of Ford Road between Lilley and Haggerty). As part of ShopCanton for the Holiday Campaign, the Canton Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the DDA and Canton Leisure Services, will host the 2008 Holiday Fest. The guest of honor will be Santa. In addition, there will be Christmas carolers, lots of family activities, a coloring contest, hot chocolate, coffee, cookies and much more. If you would like to volunteer for this event, call the Chamber office at (734) 4530-4040.

Canton Newcomers

The Canton Newcomers will host their next monthly meeting at 7:15 p.m., Dec. 3 at the Sunflower Clubhouse (45800 Hanford, west of Canton Center). The evening will include socializing, neighbor introductions, sign ups for more than 20 interest group activities (playgroups, Bunco, Scrapbooking, Book Club, Men's Poker Night, Couples Social, and more), and a raffle that will benefit the Canton Goodfellows.

There will also be a dinner hosted by Palermo's Restaurant as well as dessert by Back Home

Bakery. For more information or to receive a complimentary copy of the group's newsletter, please visit www.cantonnewcomers.org or call Melanie at (734) 207-3341.

Canton business women

The Canton Business & Professional Women will meet from 6-8:30 p.m., Monday, Dec. 8 at Rose's Restaurant, 201 N. Canton Center Road (west side of Canton Center Road just north of Cherry Hill). The guest speaker will be Judy Ellis of First Step. The group will be presenting First Step with donations for its 'wish list.' Attendees are asked to bring a gift. You must RSVP for this meeting by Friday, Dec. 5 to Irene Psilis by e-mailing Irene.Psilis@ncmc.com or calling (734) 981-7810.

Goodfellows help

Several local merchants are hosting fund-raisers for the Canton Goodfellows. Showroom of Elegance Fine Jewelry, 6018 Canton Center Road, is continuing its annual "Goodfellows No child without a Christmas" drive through Dec. 5. The store will be collecting canned goods and non perishable items and offering a chance to win a \$600 Visa card for bringing in your canned

goods. "This is our way to help those children in the Plymouth-Canton school district that are in need and wouldn't otherwise have a Christmas or food while out of school on the holiday break. Our need is great this year with over 600 children to provide for. We need so much help. Please join us in this mission," said Linda Robin, owner of the jewelry store. For more information, contact the store at (734) 207-1906 or e-mail linda-robin1@ameritech.net.

Also, Indigo Salon and Day Spa, located in Canton's Cherry Hill Village, will be holding a Canton Goodfellow's Gifts For Kids Charity Day on Sunday Dec. 7, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Indigo will be open for business with a full service menu (reservations requested) and 100 percent of the money from services rendered will go towards the Goodfellows goal of providing Christmas gifts to 600 less fortunate children in the Canton area. In addition, Indigo will be matching 50 percent of the total retail sales for the day.

To make a reservation, visit www.indigosalonanddayspa.com to view the full service menu and price lists. Contact Indigo at (734) 961-3245.

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RON KRUEGER: 1942-2008

Legendary coach remembered as tough, caring man

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Teaching wrestling moves was secondary to teaching life lessons for Ron Krueger during his incredibly successful 29-year tenure as wrestling coach at Salem High School.

That was the overwhelming sentiment of many of Krueger's former student-athletes and colleagues in the wake of the legendary coach's death on Saturday

at the age of 66.

"He taught us to accept nothing less than the best from ourselves — both in wrestling and in life," said Ronnie Thompson, who wrestled for Krueger from 1996 to 2000. "If you didn't give him your best, he'd be disappointed."

"He was a big part of a lot of people's lives — he was like a second father to a lot of his wrestlers — and he'll be missed more than words can say."

Krueger passed away in his Brighton

home after battling a series of recent health ailments.

Armed with the resilience and determination he drilled into his wrestlers from 1971 to 2000, Krueger pinned colon cancer into remission earlier this year after being diagnosed in 2007.

However, the tough but highly respected mentor eventually succumbed to the effects of an inoperable blood clot.

The funeral was held Wednesday morning at Our Lady of Good Counsel

Catholic Church in Plymouth Township.

"That is going to be one big funeral because every kid that wrestled for Ron Krueger stayed in touch with Ron Krueger," said Carl Schultz, a Salem wrestler from 1972-76. "Once you were one of his wrestlers, you were *always* one of his wrestlers."

"I'm a better man for having known Ron Krueger. He pushed you beyond

Please see **KRUEGER, B2**

Singles



Charity hockey

The 4th Annual Canton Fire Fighters vs. Canton Coaches charity hockey game will be held Saturday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m. at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton Township.

Proceeds from the game will benefit the Canton Firefighters Association's "No Child Without A Christmas" program.

The admission charge will be \$2 or an unwrapped gift.

The Canton Fire Department will have fire engines on display before the game and the Canton Youth Hockey mini-mites will scrimmage during the first intermission.

There will also be raffle gift baskets, a 50/50 raffle and chuck-a-puck available.

Ignition signs trio

The Detroit Ignition has agreed to terms with forward Leo Gibson and defenders Josh Rife and Zach Wilkes, the club announced Monday.

Rife, a native of Honolulu, ranked second on the team last year with 28 in 29 games.

Wilkes enters his second professional season after graduating from Madonna University. He registered his first Major Indoor Soccer League goal on April 5 against Baltimore.

Gibson tallied four goals in four regular-season games last season.

Bridges shines

Canton alum Andre Bridges, a junior swingman for the Albion College men's basketball team, record 11 points in the Briton's 82-65 season-opening victory over Defiance College of Ohio on Nov. 21. He also grabbed three rebounds and dished out two assists in 21 minutes of action.

Salem frosh shines at state swim meet

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

One word describes Salem freshman swimmer Lauren Seroka's performance at this past weekend's Division 1 state meet: Wow!

The ninth-grader eclipsed a pair of school records that were originally set in the 1970s on her way to finishing second in the 500-yard freestyle and third in the 200 freestyle.

Seroka's incredible performance lifted the Rocks to a 14th-place finish with 59.5 points.

Plymouth placed 29th with 11 points and Canton tied for 35th with 2 points.

Ann Arbor Pioneer pulled away with the D1 state title after amassing 349.5 points.

Seroka's 5:03.57 clocking in the 500 free fell just short of Milford's Rachel Johnson, who touched in 5:02.06.

Pioneer's Hanna Cowley won the 200 in 1:50.32, just over four seconds faster than Seroka's 1:54.67.

"I thought I'd probably drop a little time (off her previous personal bests), but I didn't think I'd drop as much time as I did," said Seroka. "I've competed in a lot of big club meets before, so I'm used to the largeness of meets like this, but I was still nervous. I always get nervous before I race."

It didn't show.

Seroka shattered the Rocks' previous low times in the events that were set by Marion Stanwood three decades earlier.

"Lauren is an amazing young lady," Salem coach Chuck Olson said of Seroka. "For a ninth-grader to do what Lauren did is really something."

"She listens well and makes corrections

Please see **SEROKA, B2**



Lauren Seroka, pictured during a club meet last year, earned a pair of top-three finishes at Saturday's Division 1 state meet.



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY PHOTO

Josh LeDuc sprints down the sidelines during his 63-yard reception against Michigan State University on Sept. 6. The former Plymouth gridiron star established himself as one of the Eagles' top receivers this fall.

Soaring Eagle

LeDuc making most of his opportunities at EMU

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Eastern Michigan University tight end Josh LeDuc saw a glorious sight before him on the afternoon of Sept. 6 after he grabbed a short hitch pass from Eagle quarterback Andy Schmitt.

Unfolding before LeDuc's eyes was a wide-open lane of green, Spartan Stadium turf.

"After I caught the ball, I turned upfield and there was *nobody* in front of me, so I ran," the former Plymouth High School gridiron

standout recalled.

With 70,000-plus fans looking on, LeDuc ran, and ran, and ran — 63 yards, to be exact, until he was eventually dragged down by a Spartan defensive back inside the MSU 5-yard line.

Although LeDuc didn't score in what turned out to be a 42-10 EMU setback, the fourth-quarter play opened the eyes of the Eagles' coaching staff.

"After that play, it was like the coaches said, 'Hey, maybe we should get this guy the ball more.'"

Expanding LeDuc's opportunities

proved to be a smart move for the Eagles as the 6-foot-3, 242-pound target evolved into one of the team's most dependable receivers.

After getting red-shirted his freshman season (2006), and playing sparingly last fall, LeDuc has snared 24 passes — including two touchdowns — for 365 yards heading into Friday's season finale against Central Michigan University.

The two dozen receptions rank him third on the team in that category.

Please see **LEDUC, B3**

Arctic skaters advance to Nationals

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

What Motown Records was for aspiring singers, the Arctic Figure Skating Club is turning out to be for young figure skaters: a hit machine.

The Canton-based skating club's latest "four tops" feature a quartet of up-and-coming athletes who recently qualified for the U.S. Junior National Figure Skating Championships: Canton resident Delaney Hoberecht, Livonia's Madison DeLuca, Ann Arbor's Katia Shpilband and Matthew Ko, of Bowling Green, Ohio.

The foursome defied incredible odds

by finishing in the top five of their respective age divisions at last month's qualifying competition in Midland.

"There are a lot of dedicated, talented skaters who work hard, but it's the ones who have the mental toughness it takes to perform under extreme pressure who qualify for Nationals," said Lisa Kirby, who coaches DeLuca on the Arctic Edge Ice Arena rinks. "It's the kids like Madison, who come in extra to work on one move here and one move there, and who can keep their composure under pressure that do well."

Many of the club's most-decorated skaters laced up their first pair of skates during the most-basic classes.

"A lot of people don't realize that a lot of these kids started out like this," said AFSC coach Theresa McKendry, as she gestured toward a learn-to-skate class being held on an Arctic Edge rink a few feet away. "In fact, Delaney was one of my very first students in Basic 1 five years ago."

What separates the national-qualifiers from the others in McKendry's opinion?


"For one thing, they skate a lot — probably two to three hours a day, six days a week," she said. "Plus, they do a lot of off-ice conditioning. They also have a lot of drive."

Please see **SKATERS, B9**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Arctic Edge-based figure skaters Madison DeLuca, Katia Shpilband, Matthew Ko and Delaney Hoberecht all qualified for the United States Junior Nationals scheduled for next month in Lake Placid, N.Y.



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SEROKA

FROM PAGE B1

accordingly — not that there are many corrections to be made.”

Seroka's effort overshadowed a stellar effort by Whitney Numiller, her senior teammate who placed ninth in the 100 backstroke (1:00.18) and tied for 12th in

the 200 freestyle (1:58.29). Canton's Maggie Carlson, a junior, was also a two-time placer, touching 16th in the both the 200 individual medley (2:18.72) and the 100 breaststroke (1:10.72). Plymouth's points were earned by senior Ellen Palczynski, who placed eighth in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:09.16. A pair of Salem relay teams placed. The Rocks' 200 medley quartet notched 12th in 1:54.00 while their 400 freestyle foursome earned 15th-place points with a time of 3:43.03.

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KRUEGER

FROM PAGE B1

what you knew you could do. He taught us to fear no one.” Former Salem athletic administrator and coach Gary Balconi knew Krueger as well as anybody. The two grew up together in Sandusky, Ohio. After going different ways after high school, the longtime buddies reunited in 1971 when Krueger was hired as a physical education teacher and wrestling coach at Salem. “Ron was a 100-percent,” said Balconi. “If you were his friend, it was 100 percent. If

he was your coach, it was 100 percent and nothing shy of that.” “There used to be a sign in the Salem wrestling room that Ron put up. It said, ‘Those who stay will be champions.’ That's how he lived his life. He was a great coach, a great husband, a great parent. Ron was a great man.” Schultz, who was a member of Krueger's second team at Salem, said his former coach worked wonders during the early days of Salem's wrestling program. “He took a bunch of people who knew nothing — I mean zero — about the sport and made us something,” Schultz

said. “He was a very tough man coaching a very tough sport. We used to say if you could survive that sport with that coach, you could survive anything.” Krueger was known for his “Krueger-isms” — phrases that would often be recounted by his former grapplers at golf outings and other Salem get-togethers. “His big saying was, ‘If you always do what you've always done, you're always going to get what you've always got,’” remembered Thompson. “It was his way of saying you're only going to get out of life what you put into it.” Krueger's sometimes intimidating persona could be deceiving for those who never met him, said Greg Wochuk, who wrestled for Krueger and served as his assistant coach before succeeding him as head coach at Salem in 2001. “Ron had a rough exterior, but if you really knew him, you loved him,” said Wochuk. “As a friend, he was always there when you needed him.”

times he helped out his former wrestlers. One time, he had me drive to a college and drop off \$400 to a kid who was struggling financially.” Balconi chuckled while recalling one humorous Krueger anecdote that unfolded during a Salem-related golf outing. “It was a beautiful day, the sun was shining, the sky was blue, not a cloud in the sky,” Balconi said. “When Ron walked up to the tee for his first drive, one guy joked to another, ‘How much do you want to bet Ron finds something wrong with this day.’” “The next thing you know, Ron turned back toward us and said, ‘Can you believe how loud those birds are chirping?’ There were 23 guys doubled over, laughing.” Krueger is survived by his wife, Dolores; his children, Lee (Dawn), Kristen (Jim), Jason (Chrissy) and six grandchildren. Another son, Danny, was killed in an automobile accident in 1995.

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We regret to inform our customers that a printing error has occurred in our After Thanksgiving Sale circular, valid Friday, November 28 & Saturday, November 29, 2008. On page 18, the Accent, area & kitchen rugs and doormats should have a sale price range of \$4.49-\$159.99, not \$4.49-\$59.99 as printed. We are sorry for any inconvenience that may have been caused.

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LEDUC

FROM PAGE A1

"My red-shirt year was no fun at all," LeDuc said. "In all my years of playing football, I had never sat before. I didn't know how to deal with it because I thought I could make a difference."

"But once the season was over, I was fine with it. A few of my teammates who weren't red-shirted wish they had been now. They wish they had two more years of eligibility like I do."

LeDuc's big catch against MSU proved to be a springboard to a stellar season.

On Sept. 20, he hauled in a 13-yard TD pass from Kyle McMahon in a 51-24 loss to Maryland.

On Oct. 18, LeDuc was a force in the Eagles' heart-breaking 42-35 loss to Akron. With 3:49 left, he snatched a 6-yard TD pass from Schmitt to give EMU a 35-34 lead. Akron then moved swiftly down the field before lining up for a potential game-winning 44-yard field, which was blocked by LeDuc, in what he initially figured was a game-saving effort.

The play turned out to be a microcosm of the Eagles' disappointing season.

"After I jumped up and blocked the kick, I knew the ball went backwards, but I wasn't sure where," LeDuc

recalled. "I'm thinking, 'Yeah, we won!'"

Unfortunately for the Eagles, the ball bounced directly into the hands of the Akron holder, who carried it for a first down inside the EMU 10-yard line.

The Zips scored on the next play, adding misery to what had already been a rough season for EMU, which has won just two of eight games.

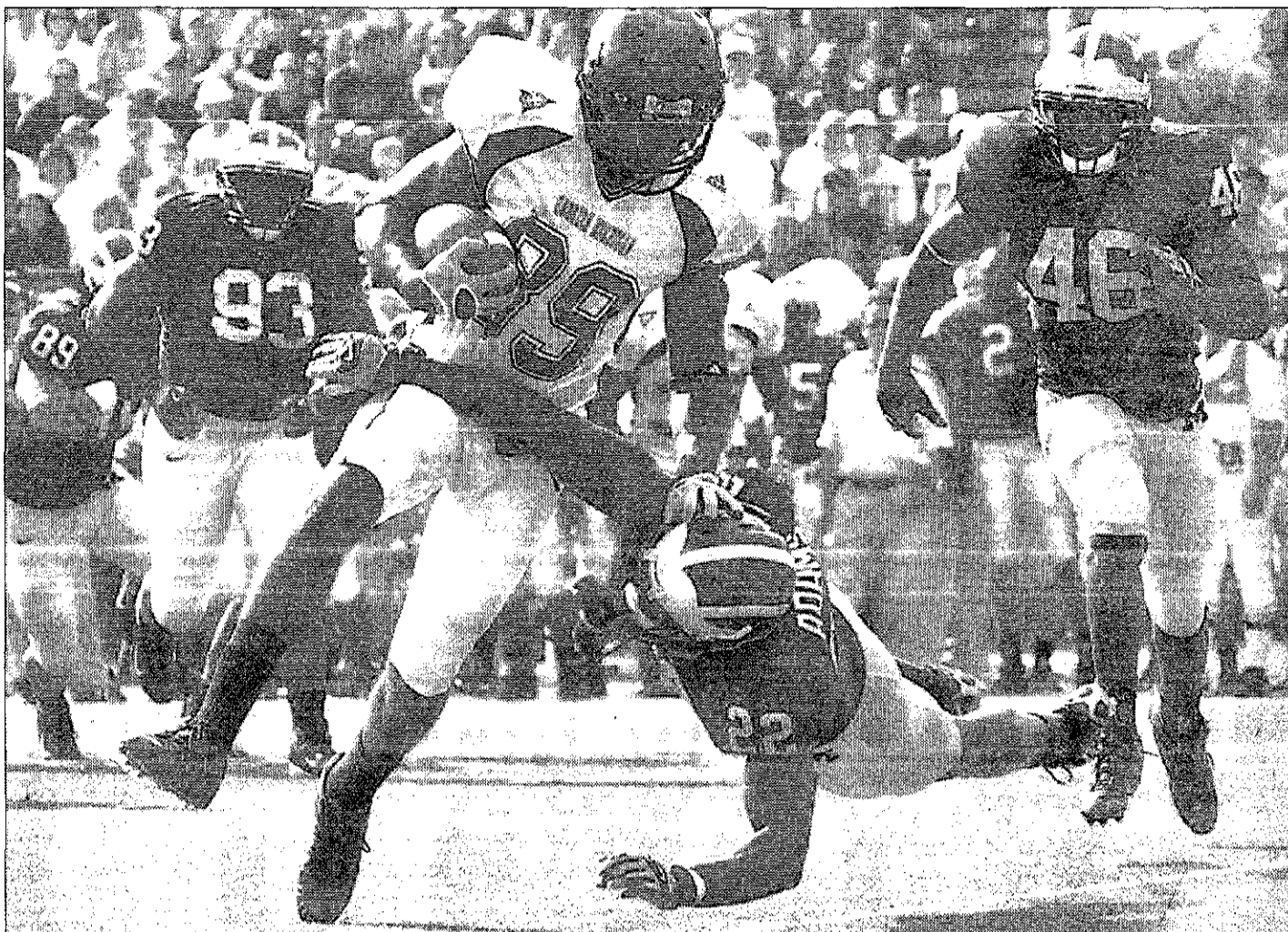
"Coming from a winning program at Plymouth, it hasn't been easy losing as much as we have," said LeDuc. "It's almost like when something negative happens in a game, it's like, 'Oh, no, here we go again.'"

LeDuc has relished the opportunity to play in several big-time venues. This year, he's played before large crowds at Maryland, MSU and at Lincoln Financial Field, the home of Temple University and the home turf of the Philadelphia Eagles.

Last year, he played at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh and at the "Big House" — Michigan Stadium.

"That was fun playing at Michigan," he said. "Before the game, when we were warming up, the place was so quiet. But then, before you know it, the place is packed and there are 111,000 people watching you. That was a great experience."

LeDuc's escalating skills have not gone unnoticed by National Football League scouts. Several NFL-related Web sites list him on their tight end watch list for the



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY PHOTO

Josh LeDuc stiff-arms a University of Michigan defensive back during a 2007 game at Michigan Stadium.

2011 draft. "My coach has told me that a couple of teams have called (Eastern) and asked if they thought I could maintain my speed if I added 10 more

pounds," LeDuc said. "He said they didn't realize that I still have two years left in college."

LeDuc said of all the current NFL tight ends, he emulates San Diego's Antonio Gates and

San Francisco's Vernon Davis.

"I was watching a game last week and Vernon Davis caught a ball and ran about 60 yards vertically down-field," he said. "There aren't many tight ends

who can do that."

LeDuc, who is majoring in business, would like to run his own company some day.

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CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT 1150 S. CANTON CENTER RD. CANTON, MI 48188

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction, December 2, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. The auction will be held at Westland Car Care Towing, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI 48185. The vehicles will be sold as is, starting bid is for towing and storage.

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1996	Nissan	Altima	4 Dr	1M4B03107T2171188
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1997	Dodge	Intrepid	4 Dr	2B3HD46T6VH763712
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2000	Pontiac	Sunfire	2 Dr	1G2JD12T5Y7282388
2000	Olds	Alero	4 Dr	1G3NF12E9YC394613

Publish: November 27 & 30, 2008

063982978-2x3

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan will accept sealed proposals at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, January 8, 2009 for the following:

PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT OF FOOD SERVICE FOR DIAMONDS RESTAURANT AT CANTON SPORTS CENTER

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

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

Publish: November 27, 2008

060853420-2x3

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for the purchase of *One Grand Piano for the Salem High School Auditorium*. Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting Dan Phillips in the PCCS Purchasing Department at (734) 416-2746 or for additional information contact Visual & Performing Arts Coordinator, Tim Schoenherr at (734) 416-3005. Sealed bids are due to the E.J. McClendon Educational Center, RE: "Piano Bid", 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 on or before 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 3, 2008. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
THOMAS WYSOCKI, Secretary

Bid Opening: Wednesday, December 3, 2008 @ 1:30 p.m.

Resolution Due to Board: Wednesday, December 3, 2008

Board Review: Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Publish: Thursday, November 20, 2008

060852433-2x3

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Breakfast blues: Warriors' title bid snapped at Kellogg

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Lutheran Westland proved it belonged in the Class D state volleyball finals, but found out first-hand why Battle Creek St. Philip is a perennial powerhouse.

The Tigers swept the Warriors 3-0 Saturday morning at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek to claim their 14th championship in school history and third in a row.

But St. Philip's 25-17, 25-21, 25-20 triumph didn't stop Lutheran Westland players from doing their own celebration, for being the school's first volleyball team to reach the finals.

"It was a really fun season and I'm kind of down

about losing, but I just have to realize that we made it this far," said Warriors senior outside hitter and co-captain Katey Ramthun (7 kills, 6 digs). "We're the first team in school history to make it this far, to even come out of regionals. So, state finals is pretty good."

Ramthun then smiled and acknowledged that Lutheran Westland's Class D runner-up trophy "is just as big as theirs."

After the Warriors lined up and received their individual medals, head coach Kevin Wade accepted the team trophy and handed it off to the other co-captain, senior middle hitter Becca Refenes.

She proudly held the prize over her head as her teammates crowded around her.

As for not winning the other trophy, the Warriors, who finished 46-6-5, had trouble with the Tigers' balanced lineup. Up front to bother Refenes were junior middle hitter Carly Dickerson (14 kills, 12 digs) and junior right-side hitter Megan Toth (9 kills, 16 digs).

Another pillar of strength for St. Philip (61-7-5) was sophomore setter Ryan Hubbard. Her 46 assists were the sixth most by a player for a finals match since 2005.

Dickerson sparked the Tigers' turnaround in Game 1. The Warriors started well, with a 4-2 lead. But St. Philip stormed ahead 9-4 after Dickerson strung together six service points and never trailed the rest of that game.

Game 2 went back-and-forth early on, with

the Warriors taking a 10-7 advantage thanks to an Allyson Yankee spike, set up perfectly by senior setter Lauren Gieschen. St. Philip grabbed momentum during a three-point run by junior defensive specialist Riley Buschke, frustrating Lutheran Westland by not letting balls drop during extended rallies.

Lutheran Westland battled to try and extend the match to a fourth set, but the Warriors couldn't sustain much after going up 10-6 in Game 3. St. Philip fought back to tie the score at 11-11 with spikes by junior middle hitter Amanda Bolles and senior outside hitter Katie Zull (9 kills) highlighting a four-point service run by junior libero Lena Oliver (16 digs). From that moment on, there was little doubt as to the final outcome.

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DUE TO EARLY HOLIDAY DEADLINES • LAST WEEK'S RECORD WAS NOT COMPLETE WHEN THIS PAGE WENT TO PRINT

83-45
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78-50
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81-47
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81-47
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Denver at New York Jets
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New Orleans at Tampa Bay
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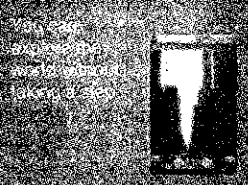
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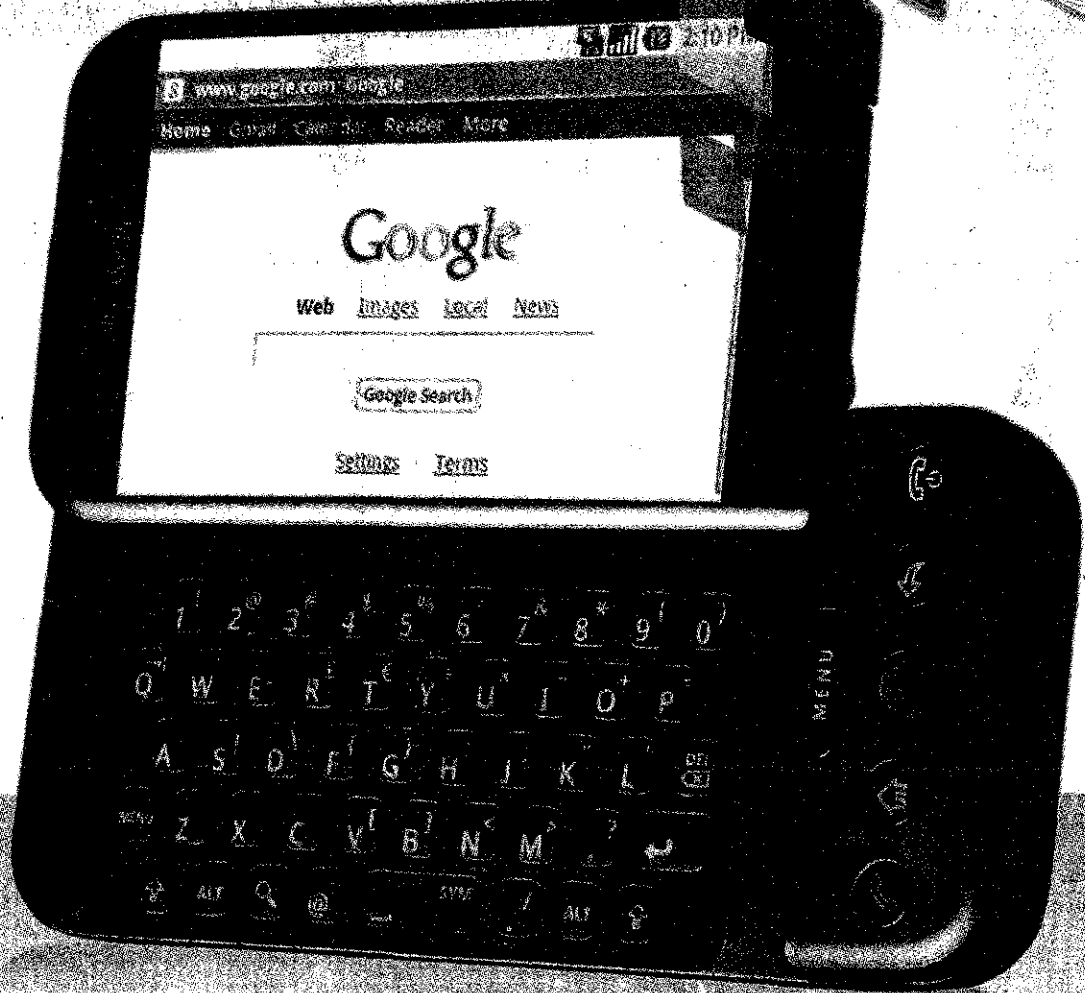
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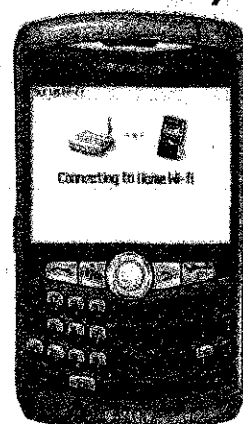
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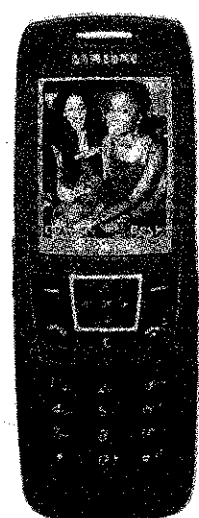
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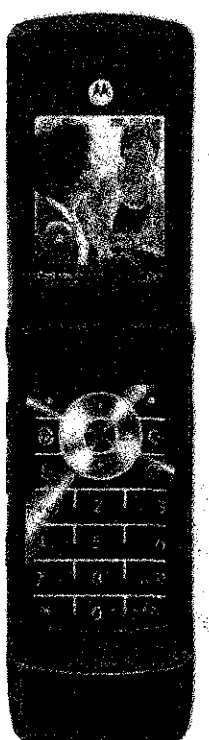
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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE B6

Day of service

A Day of Service and Spirituality is available by the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the Solanus Casey Center. The purpose of the day is to serve, meet and have one's faith grow. The day allows groups to help at the Capuchin Services Center and dine with guests at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. A tour of the Earth Works urban garden, which provides six tons of produce each season, will also be made available. The day concludes with a self-guided tour of the Solanus Casey Center, a spirituality center dedicated to the Capuchin friar who is credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. The minimum age is 7th grade and the maximum size of the group is 30. The day starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. There is no cost. Lunch included. For information, send e-mail to ccrane@thecapuchins.org. To learn more about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, visit www.cskdetroit.org.

Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Sunday, Adult Bible Class at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship at 10:30 a.m., at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights. For more information, call (313) 278-5755.

Worship

Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship Service with nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for tots through high school and Adult Faith Forum at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414

or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org. Visitors welcome.

Worship service

10:45 a.m. Sundays, Adult Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship, Youth Group 5-7 p.m. and Catechism for Grown-ups 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Trinity Church of Livonia, 34500 Six Mile. For information, call (734) 425-2800.

F.I.R.E. ministries

With theme scripture, He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire (Luke 3:16). Is organizing in Livonia at Living Water Church, 11663 Arcola in the Inkster and Plymouth roads area at 7 p.m. Fridays under the leadership of Luke Willis. F.I.R.E. Ministries. For more information, call (734) 425-6360.

New worship schedule

Regular church service 10 a.m. Sundays with Communion and Nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for all

ages and Faith Forum, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414. All visitors welcome. Visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Sunday worship

11 a.m. Sunday worship service, 9:30 a.m. Sunday school, 7 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland. For information, call (734) 721-0800.

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For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 734-582-8342 or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com

Stevenson gridders can't capitalize on breaks, fall to Rockford

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Stevenson received a couple of bridge loans, but in the end it couldn't bail out the Spartans from going bankrupt in Saturday's 27-13 Division 1 state football semifinal setback against Rockford.

The Spartans mustered only 100 yards total offense and scored their only points off a pair of first-half Rockford turnovers in their quest to return the state finals for the second straight year at Detroit's Ford Field. Stevenson was left literally out in the cold at Michigan State University's Spartan Stadium and finish the season with a 10-3 record.

Rockford, 12-1 overall, will be seeking its third state title in school history against Saturday night's other semifinal winner between Dearborn Fordson and Lake Orion.

The Rams were missing lead running back Aaron Kwekel, who was out with an injury suffered in the previous week, but it didn't matter.

"We had trouble controlling them up front - they're so quick and athletic," Stevenson coach Tim Gabel said. "They blocked the heck out of us and it's a tribute to them the way

they executed without their good back.

"We did not execute well offensively - we did not get off blocks and they did."

Rockford took the opening drive 68 yards in 12 plays with Ryan Cochran scoring off an inside trap from 9 yards out. Paul Mudgett's extra point with 7:09 left in the first quarter made it 7-0.

"The first drive was beautiful, it had me excited," Rockford coach Ralph Munger said. "We had a good mix of the run and pass - right down to the script. I only altered a couple of plays."

Drew Maroe's 59-yard punt return set up another Rockford first-quarter score - another inside 8-yard trap by Cochran for a touchdown with 5:31 left.

Stevenson's Kyle Hobbins and Wyatt Stahl then teamed up to block a Rockford punt, putting the ball on the Rams' 14 with 46 seconds left in the first period.

Three plays later and helped by a pass interference call, the Spartans got on the board with 11:50 in the first half when Wade Stahl scored on a 6-yard TD run.

But Jonny Myshock's extra point

attempt was blocked by Rockford's Josh Osburn, leaving the count at 14-6.

Stevenson then pulled to within one, 14-13, when senior Mark Grisa made the first of his two fumble recoveries after Rockford return man Cam Lawson fumbled the ensuing kickoff at his own 28.

Aided by another pass interference call against the Rams, Stevenson quarterback Jacob Gudeman scored from 1-yard out and Myshock converted the PAT to make it a one-point game.

Stevenson then forced another Rams turnover when Grisa pried the ball loose from Rockford receiver Pat Doss after a 19-yard gain and recovered it at his own 37.

But the Spartans went three-and-out and had to punt.

It was all Rams from that point on as Mudgett booted a 39-yard field goal and Alex Rojas scored on a 6-yard TD run (following a Gabe Speirs interception) to increase the lead to 24-13 at intermission.

Mudgett then connected on a 33-yard field goal with 6:30 remaining in the third quarter and the Spartans couldn't respond after venturing twice inside Rockford ter-

ritory. Rockford had a total of 14 first downs to Stevenson's eight.

"We had a lot of unfavorable downs and distance," Gabel said. "Our goal was to avoid that. We knew we couldn't have second-and-long, third-and-longs because then they would bring a man under and their safeties over the top. It made it hard on us."

"Our game plan was to be spread-oriented and try and run out of the I. Most of our success was on fourth-and-short when we ran out of the I (formation)."

The Rams held Stevenson's stand-out junior running back Austin White to 44 yards on 18 carries. Meanwhile, Gudeman's string of pinpoint passing games came to a halt as he was sacked three times in the final quarter and completed only 4-of-17 attempts overall for 20 yards.

Rockford had a total of 286 total yards, including 147 on 38 attempts on the ground. Quarterback Tim McGee was highly efficient, completing 9-of-14 for 121 yards.

"It comes down to schemes and the execution of the schemes," Munger said. "But it won't work

unless you play your tails off. Today we played from the soles of our feet to the top of the helmet. It was just awesome."

Last year, Stevenson won 13 straight before falling to Macomb Dakota in the Division 1 final, 41-21. Grisa was one of only four starters returning from that squad.

"We knew we had to go out and play with heart and we had to be tough - but it did not work out for us," said the 6-foot, 162-pound senior. "This year was a lot more challenging. Last year had a lot more seniors. We had some hard times, but we played through it and played our hearts out. We had a great run."

Despite the season-ending loss, Gabel could take solace in his team's development from the opening day of practice.

"In my mind it was not a good beginning of the year, but they came a long way and we found our identity in the playoffs," the 13th year coach said. "We feel like we improved a whole lot in all phases. And the credit goes to the kids who continued to work hard."

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Matthew Ko practices a flying sit-spin Monday night at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SKATERS
FROM PAGE B1

"But the bottom line is you have to skate really well during the qualifying competitions. There were 70 talented girls competing in Midland and only five qualified for the nationals. Katia (who placed first) and Delaney (who placed third) were able to perform well at that moment.

Hoberercht, a sixth-grader at Discovery Middle School in Canton, has been skating competitively for "four or five years," she said.

"I love competing," she said.

She trains six days a week, including many two-hour shifts that begin at 5:30 a.m.

What advice would she give to young skaters who would like to follow her path to national prominence some day?

"Work hard and always do your very best."

DeLuca, a seventh-grader at Holmes Middle School in Livonia, has been skating since she was 3.



Madison DeLuca warms up Monday night at the Arctic Edge.

She said she never gets tired of the rigorous, six-days-a-week training regimen.

"It's fun every day," said DeLuca, who calls the "double flip, double toe" maneuver her favorite.

Shpilband has skated since she was 3, but she's been around the sport since before she could walk. Her dad is highly renowned coach Igor Shpilband, who guided Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto to an Olympic silver medal in 2006.

"Skating gives me a good feeling," she said. "I love coming here every day."

As does Ko, despite the fact he has a two-and-a-half-hour round-trip drive from his home in north-central Ohio.

"I've been coming up here for five years because I really like my coach (Gary Clark)," said the 15-year-old Ko. "There's always something different to work on. No two days are the same."

The national championships are set for Dec. 8-13 in Lake Placid, N.Y. More than 300 skaters from across the country are expected to compete in the four-day event.



Katia Shpilband executes a haircutter maneuver.



Three cheers for the Lions

The Canton Lions freshmen cheerleaders captured a pair of medals – a gold in cheer and a silver in dance – at the 2008 WSJFL Cheery Rally, which was held Nov. 8 at Walled Lake Northern High School. Pictured are (front row from left) Kara Timko, Sophia Smock, Rosemarie Bowen, Maigan Byars, Shelby Parker, Taylor Burgos, (middle row from left) Kara Constantino, Alexia Barbosa, Lindsey Redmond, Rachel Auer, Ryan Fisher, (third row from left) Sarah Philyaw, Laura Miazga, Megan McKenzie, Taylor Tyszkiewicz, Jessica Krone, (back row from left) coaches Andrea, Jennifer, Michelle and Megan.

Plymouth icers take opener, 5-2

Plymouth's hockey team ignited its 2008-09 season Saturday with a 5-2 triumph over host Romeo. The Wildcats converted 3-of-5 power-play opportunities and outshot Romeo, 21-11.

Mike Justus earned the victory between the pipes for the winners.

Five different players scored goals for Plymouth: Ryan Renault, John Deal, Tyler Sanders, Zach Gambrell and Pat

PREP HOCKEY

Smiatacz. Renault, Sanders and Smiatacz (two) also contributed assists.

SALEM 3, BLOOMFIELD HILLS UNIFIED 3: On Saturday, the Rocks battled Bloomfield Hills to a draw in the season-opener for both teams.

Senior Adam Powers played well in net for Salem, stopping 22 shots.

The Rocks fired 42 pucks at the Bloomfield Hills goalie. David Russell (from Josh Jarvela and Steve Haburne), Kurt Driscoll (from Ryan Quigley and Haburne) and Shawn Lyons (from Driscoll and Eddie Mazorowicz) scored for the Rocks.

Bloomfield Hills Unified consists of players from Bloomfield Hills Lahser and Andover high schools.

- Advertisement -

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.



Don Liptak wearing driving telescopes

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.

driving and the computer. The doctor prescribed a system of three low vision aids that addressed all of Don's objectives.

"These are better for the computer than anything else I've tried," Don said. "Last week I went out in my '66 Mustang convertible and the glasses helped me see things far away. It's hard losing your independence but these glasses make my life easier."

"People don't know there are experienced doctors who can help them with specialized low vision care," says Dr. Smith. "Many people hear from their own doctors that nothing can be done for their eye disease, but there are ways to improve vision" says Dr. Smith. "I devise special glasses to help patients meet their various visual goals."

Many activities require their own unique device, such as reading and driving. The extent of each system varies as people have differing visual ability and range of interests. Special reading glasses start at \$600 and most custom telescopes cost from \$1800 to \$2500. Interest free financing is available.

Patients often end up using weak, clumsy hand-held magnifiers trying to see. 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."

"Each patient has a unique amount of vision and their own goals," says Smith, "so I help patients do what matters most to them. We train patients to use their remaining vision and their devices to meet the challenges of daily living. Also safeguarding present vision levels is crucial. Sun filters and nutritional supplements can improve vision and prevent further sight loss."

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 driver vision requirement," Dr. Smith explained. Michigan is one of 46 states that allow bioptic telescopic glasses for driving.

If you or someone you know is struggling with their vision, call Dr. Smith to find out how low vision care can help improve quality of life. There is help available. You just need to know where to find it.

Mr. Don Liptak, age 74 of Livonia, Michigan saw Dr. Smith last January. Don had macular degeneration and was on strong chemotherapy for leukemia. Don had 20/60 vision and sought help with reading,

You can reach Dr. Smith and Suburban Low Vision of Michigan at **1-877-677-2020**. Dr. Smith has offices in Livonia, Warren and Greater Lansing. 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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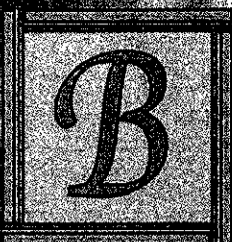
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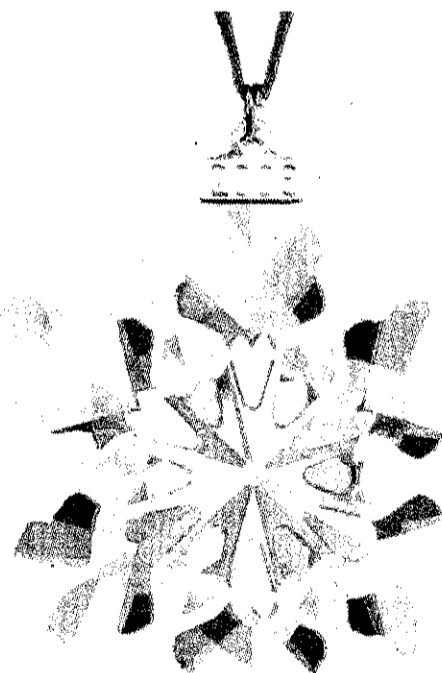
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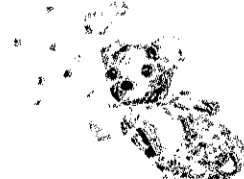
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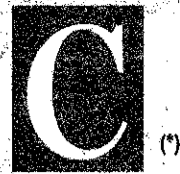


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Real Estate



Thursday, November 27, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

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Busy real estate pros embrace new technology

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Expanding technologies are helping Realtors grow their businesses and create stronger relationships with consumers and colleagues. Realtors attending the recent Business Technology and Information Systems Forum at the 2008 Realtors Conference & Expo in Orlando, Fla., gained insights into how real estate technologies are transforming the industry.

According to the 2008 Realtor Technology Survey – an annual survey conducted by the National Association of Realtors' Center for REALTOR Technology – Realtors invest heavily in technology, with almost half of respondents spending between \$500 and \$2,000 on technology last year. The most popular devices Realtors use include digital cameras, desktop and laptop computers and cell phones.

"I think Realtors have been very good at adopting," said Walt Baczkowski, CEO of the Troy/Clinton-Township-based Metropolitan Consolidated Association of Realtors, including Oakland and Wayne counties. He agreed with the national survey findings.

"Definitely, with the Internet taking off as much as it has," Baczkowski said.

Realtor Gordon McCann, president of the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors, based in Farmington, agreed.

"We use BlackBerry," he said. "You're using digital cameras." He and colleagues at Coldwell Banker Schweitzer-Bake in Plymouth can take up to 25 photos of one property.

"We can put it into our multiple listing service," McCann said. He's found as software catches up with hardware there's a "seamless integration."

"You have a visual component right there," McCann said of the digital photos, which can be incorporated into listing fliers and sent to other agents.

"Realtors are industry innovators and there is no doubt that technology has had an impact on the way we conduct the real estate business," said 2008 NAR President-elect Charles McMillan, who participated in the Orlando forum. "In a rapidly changing environment, keeping up with the latest business technology trends is no longer a nice-to-have, it's become an essential tool for success."

McMillan asked Joel Burslem, vice president of content at Inman News, a leading real estate news publication, to share his insights into emerging trends in real estate, changes in the way real estate news is covered, and the impor-



tance of technology in facilitating international real estate as markets expand globally.

Gary Kenline, 2008 chair of NAR's Business Technology and Information Systems Forum, headed a panel composed of Alex Chaparro of Century 21 S.G.R. Inc.; Katherine Kaghoz of Shorewood Realtors; and Shannon Williams King of TriBella Realty.

Chaparro employs technology tools in his real estate business for education, office retention and recruiting as well as social networking sites that foster strong relationships with consumers and help him recruit other agents.

According to the Realtor Technology Survey, 33 percent of Realtors participate in social networking sites or blogs for real estate. The most popular sites among Realtors include Facebook (10 percent), ActiveRain (8 percent) and their personal blog (7 percent).

"It's also the ability to utilize the programs," said MCAR's Baczkowski, noting buyers can now take virtual tours of homes. A Web site can be created for an individual home, and he stresses "knowing how to interpret the data that's coming back to me."

"It is a huge growth area," Baczkowski said of social networking sites and blogs. Customers, especially younger ones, are asking "How can I get a hold of you?" If there are difficulties answering, those customers may

hesitate, Baczkowski's found.

McCann and wife Sharon have their own site and use a site through Coldwell Banker. They use FaceBook, and he noted WWOCAR offers training on podcasts and other technology.

"Any time new technology comes out you have to learn to use it," McCann said. There's also a lot of text messaging in the industry now.

"Embrace the technology, find out what works best with your clients and then integrate into your way of doing business," McCann advised.

"Realtors have to be up to speed on what's happening and what's available," Baczkowski said. He's found there are early adapters, good at getting online and communicating with customers.

"The No. 1 issue we hear out there is lack of communication," he said. That's true in other fields like banking.

"If you look at some industries, response time is sometimes two days," Baczkowski said.

"You have to build trust and develop a relationship," McCann said. New technology can help with initial contact, with both sides "willing to invest the time. That makes for a better transaction."

King said technology has enabled her to run a full-service real estate office entirely over the Web. King's virtual real estate office allows her and her

tech-savvy agents to productively run their real estate businesses from their homes or on the road.

Kaghazi said her real estate office successfully selected, tested and implemented transaction management software to improve efficiency, manage transaction activities and better connect to homebuyers and sellers.

Baczkowski noted MCAR and other associations for Realtors offer training on technology. He recently wrote an article on the ongoing need for eye-to-eye contact.

Let's say you're a Realtor and are showing a home. "Don't walk in in front of them," he said. "Body language is very important." Hunched shoulders will tell a Realtor that customer's not reacting well to the property.

"Things are happening fast and furious out there," Baczkowski added. Real estate pros need to consider long-term viability of technologies, and what will make a difference.

"Learn the basic items that you need for your business," Baczkowski said.

According to the Realtor Technology Survey, use of automated forms and transaction management software continues to rise. Twenty-six percent use a transaction management system, which electronically tracks each step of the real estate process, up from 13 percent in 2005. Another 68 percent of those surveyed use an automated forms management program to help streamline the paperwork involved in a transaction.

"While technology has certainly helped improve the business of real estate, strong personal relationships will always be critical to a Realtor's success," said McMillan.

In fact, Realtor Technology Survey respondents have consistently cited referrals and repeat business as the top sources for generating the greatest number of leads. Forty-six percent of respondents said that more than half of their business comes from referral clients. The most popular ways to maintain relationships with current clients is through phone calls (50 percent), e-mail (43 percent) and in-person meetings (51 percent).

The 2008 Realtor Technology Survey was based on data from field research conducted in July 2008. CRT e-mailed the survey to 40,000 NAR members, including Realtor brokers and agents, and generated 942 usable responses. Full survey results are available at www.realtor.org/technology.

The NAR Web site contributed to this report.

Tree damage may prompt liability

Q: The root system of a large sweet gum tree located several feet from our border line damaged our retaining wall running along the boundary line and also damaged our patio, sewer, water pipes and the foundation of our townhouse. Do we have any basis to seek damages or other relief?



Robert Meisner

A: I believe you do and you should seek an injunction against your neighbor. In effect, you would

have a basis to pursue your neighbor under a nuisance liability whenever trees and plants can cause actual harm or pose an imminent danger of actual harm to adjoining property.

Q: We just got notice from our management company that we have to make our management payments to a governmental agency and I am concerned although the other board members don't think it is any big deal. What is your view on it?

A: I think it raises a red flag which you should review with your association's attorney, assuming the attorney is not beholden to the management company, and was not recommended by the management company, in which case there may be an unholy alliance. Simply stated, you should insure that the management company and its principals are properly bonded to the extent that they handle your funds, and you should keep a close look out for any discrepancies in the financial statements. Moreover, you may not wish the risk of having this management company represent your association given their apparent financial difficulties. You may want to consider another management company that has a sounder financial footing.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

BRIEFS

Real Estate Agents, Appraising & Staging

Thinking about a career in real estate? Is working in real estate your dream? Keller Williams Realty is seeking experienced or non-experienced people in the real estate field. The candidates must be hard working and have a passion for learning.

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For more details, contact Steve Leibhan, (248) 553-0400, Ext. 2500.

Tips for buyers

Realtor Paul Schwartz of Prudential Cranbrook Realtors in Birmingham will review the things a buyer needs to know and accepting new buyer clients on a space available basis at a presentation Thursday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. at his office, 34122 Woodward Ave. in Birmingham. Reservations are needed. For reservations, e-mail: paul4realtor@yahoo.com (www.paul4realtor.com).

His phone numbers are — direct: (248) 539-7283, office: (248) 647-6400, fax: (248) 258-1024.

Investors

Learn about "The Art of House Foreclosure Short Sales" from Steve Dillon. Sponsored by the Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland on Thursday, Dec. 11, at 5:30-9:30 p.m. at MSU Management Education Center, 811 W. Square Lake Road, Troy. Seminar free to members. \$20 nonmembers. Call (800) 747-6742.

HOMES SOLD

These are the Observer & Eccentric-area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 4-8, 2008, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office, plus some from Oakland County. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

City	Address	Sale Price	City	Address	Sale Price			
Canton	50573 Black Horse Ln	\$165,000	Plymouth	41864 Yeats Dr	\$217,000			
	118 Country Club Ln	\$330,000		478 Arthur St	\$240,000			
	241 Country Club Ln	\$352,000		44854 Lynn Dr	\$162,000			
	50119 Monroe St	\$110,000		523 McKinley St	\$670,000			
	47195 Ormskirk Dr	\$135,000		48496 Meadow Ct	\$365,000			
	Farmington	35492 Heritage Ln		\$175,000	9232 Northern Ave	\$53,000		
		23294 Longacre Ct		\$240,000	193 Riveroaks Dr	\$120,000		
		33205 Meadowlark St		\$160,000	12232 Woodlands Ct	\$375,000		
		Farmington Hills		27096 Arden Park Cir	\$159,000	Redford	15870 Beech Daly Rd	\$68,000
				35151 Concord Ln	\$171,000		18266 Dalby	\$40,000
31208 Country Ridge Cir	\$240,000		15566 Fox	\$85,000				
34051 Edmonton St	\$169,000		13221 Hemingway	\$93,000				
32401 W 13 Mile Rd	\$140,000		17697 Norborne	\$70,000				
Garden City	28741 Bridge St	\$130,000	South Lyon	13571 Royal Grand	\$109,000			
	28247 Maplewood St	\$132,000		26779 Southwestern Hwy	\$108,000			
	Livonia	20030 Antago St		\$100,000	27253 W Seven Mile Rd	\$130,000		
		14318 Auburndale St		\$223,000	19168 Woodworth	\$90,000		
		Novi		20030 Antago St	\$100,000	Westland	36106 Abbey Dr	\$193,000
6913 Chirrewa St			\$134,000					
2031 E Butler Cir			\$158,000					
31701 Grandview Ave	\$45,000							
384 Marigold Cir	\$100,000							
Livonia	28741 Bridge St	\$130,000	Novi	42031 Aspen Dr	\$327,000			
	28247 Maplewood St	\$132,000		28389 Carlton Way Dr	\$166,000			
	20030 Antago St	\$100,000		43128 Emerson Way	\$270,000			
	14318 Auburndale St	\$223,000		3121 Kingswood Blvd	\$325,000			
				2710 Maxwell Ct	\$275,000			
		23577 Valley Starr	\$222,000					
		30678 Vine Ct	\$145,000					



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ACROSS

- 1 Dent
- 5 Honey wine
- 9 Lanka
- 12 Ph.D. exam
- 13 Dog-chow brand
- 14 Like jalapenos
- 15 French Legion headgear
- 16 Cracker brand
- 17 Pub pint
- 18 UK network
- 20 Far from indifferent
- 22 White mineral
- 25 Ceilings
- 27 Floating flower
- 28 Place a wager
- 29 Strategy
- 33 Vintage
- 34 "Norma —"
- 35 Mom's counterpart
- 36 Not sad
- 38 Belief
- 39 Slim down
- 40 Per capita

DOWN

- 1 — choy
- 2 Suffix for forfeit
- 3 Carpet pile
- 4 Insincerely
- 5 Antony the Roman
- 6 Cotton gin name
- 7 Pertinent

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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D I A N P I G I N E P T
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SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Beginner

			1	4	5	2	8	9	
5			9						
			2			7	1	5	
8	3	6		2					
	9		3						2
	4	2			9	6			8
			3		8	2	1		
2		3	8			4			6
4	1	8					7	3	

SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

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BUTTER	GRAVY	PUMPKIN PIE
CORN	GREEN BEANS	TURKEY
CRANBERRY	ICE CREAM	YAMS

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Here's How it Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

9	7	5	2	6	9	8	1	7	4
9	6	4	7	1	8	9	2		
1	8	2	1	4	6	9	7	7	9
8	9	6	9	7	2	7	1		
1	2	1	4	2	1	9	8	3	5
7	4	2	1	6	2	9	6	8	
2	7	8	9	2	2	1	5		
9	6	7	4	6	1	4	2	5	8
4	9	8	7	1	4	5	2	8	6

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Co-op Services Credit Union	(734) 466-6113	6.25	0	6	0	J
Cornerstone Community Financial	(800) 777-6728	6.125		5.375	1	J/A/F
Countrywide Home Loans	(800) 641-2384	6.375	1.875	5.875	1.875	J/A/V/F
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	(313) 565-3100	6.25	0	6	0	A
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Group One Mortgage	(248) 282-1602	6.25	0	6.5	0	J/A/V/F
Mortgages by Golden Rule	(800) 991-9922	5.75	0.25	5.6	0.25	J/A/V/F
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Medical office seeks experienced Receptionist. Must have strong computer & medical insurance knowledge. Full Time with exc. pay & benefits. Plymouth/Ann Arbor area. Fax resume to: 734-998-8767 or Email: azderm@aol.com

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Help Wanted-General 5000

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ELECTRICIAN-Licensed

Industrial door manufacturer. 2 yrs. industrial electrical exp. to repair & troubleshoot doors/control panels. Serious inquiries only. Apply at: 8001 Ronda Dr., Canton MI 48187

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Full-Time. Preter experience but willing to train. Canton. For appt: (734) 416-8941

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For busy medical office in Troy. Answering phones & greeting patients. PT/FT. Benefits possible. Fax resume: 248-649-5920

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The Christmas Tree Guide 2008

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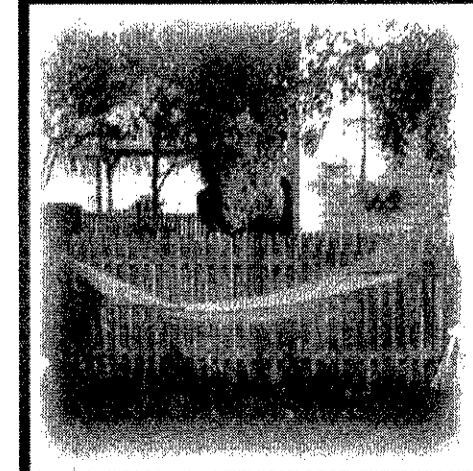
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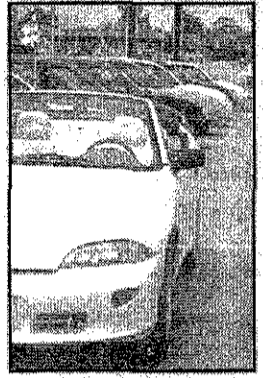
Automotive

Classifieds inside

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Mustang GT Offers Rumbling Respite In Tough Times

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dale Buss

The tide of political correctness coming in against a car like the 2009 Mustang GT Coupe could hardly be higher. There was the gas-price spike to more than \$4 a gallon. There's all that stuff about nasty greenhouse gases and "global warming."

And, of course, there's the continued drama of the financial and market crises faced by Detroit's Big Three, which renders it difficult to even think about having fun in an automobile these days.

But somehow, the Mustang manages to rise above all that and deliver a driving and riding experience that can make you forget - at least for a long while - all that may ail you and the country.

After some false starts over the years in trying to revive the wonder and awe that surrounded the Mustang over a generation ago, Ford finally seems to have gotten things write with recent resuscitations of the brand - culminating in the 2009 version.

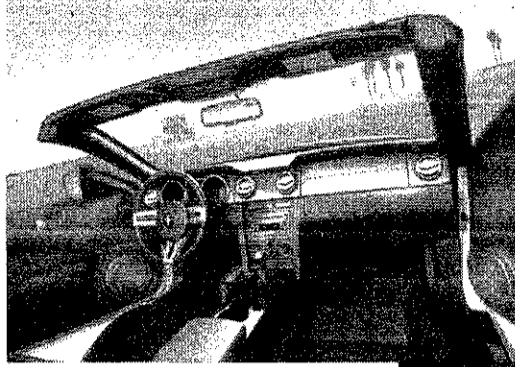
Its combination of well-executed retro styling and head-snapping punch means that the Mustang, finally, is back. Or, as Edmunds.com recently put it, "Having weathered oil crises, ugly styling crises, increasing emissions standards, corporate turmoil and unending penny-pinching over the years, the Mustang is a true survivor."

Of course, Ford already is having you look forward to the 2010 Mustang. The company has been unveiling the 2010 version at the Los Angeles Auto Show lately, touting the fact that it will offer a host of new available features including Ford's proprietary Sync system as well as next-generation navigation featuring the Sirius Travellink.

The 2010 Mustang will feature a variety of other refinements, including a brand new pony logo on the grille that Ford says will be "more muscular and faster-looking."

But wait just a darn minute before departing for the 2010 Mustang: The 2009 version offers basically the same package, in the here and now.

The GT Coupe Premium version that I drove retails for



The convertible version opens the Mustang's retro interior styling to view.



The GT Premium Coupe version of the 2009 Mustang provides a powerful look -- and feel.

a suggested price of nearly \$32,000, so in essence it qualifies as a moderately expensive toy. But what a package it offers, including 17-inch aluminum wheels and front fog lamps on the outside, and a Shaker 500 audio system and leather-wrapped steering wheel on the inside.

A number of other nice touches make the 2009 Mustang GT Coupe Premium a fine ride as well, including seating surfaces that lushly combined perforated and cowhide-grain leathers.

But let's be honest: Everything about the Mustang is looks and speed. And on those two crucial counts, the 2009 version comes through with flying colors.

One thing that Ford finally got right again about the Mustang, after several years of flailing around, is its exterior styling. In an execution that is very evocative of the model's classic Sixties muscle-car design, the 2009 version is a substantial and even intimidating presence even though its overall footprint isn't that large.

When it comes to the GT version, this impression is helped by an appearance package that includes chrome exhaust tips, a hood scoop and an engine cover with the Mustang emblem.

All Ford Mustangs are rear-wheel-drive and come standard with a five-speed manual transmission. There are V6 versions that are powered by a 4.0-liter engine that produces 210 horsepower and 240 pound-feet of torque, and yielding fuel economy of 16 mpg in the city and 24

mpg on the highway.

But fortunately, I was able to drive the GT version powered by a 4.6-liter, overhead-cam V8 engine that offers a blistering 300 horsepower and 320 pound-feet of torque, a copious storehouse that is worthy of the Mustang's muscle-car looks and heritage.

And boy, did it respond, going from zero to 60 mph for me in about six seconds (5.7 seconds is the official time) and clearing the quarter mile, officially, in 14.3 seconds. Its fuel economy is only 15 mpg in the city and 23 mpg on the highway, though those levels nearly approach the V6's mileage outputs.

Plus, driving the V8 GT provides some vintage moments, especially when you're idling to the phlegmatic rumble in the tailpipes - right before you slam the pedal to the floor and thrill to the tremendous burst of the Mustang in action. What a guilty pleasure!

Inside, too, Ford has well-executed its bow to the Mustang's heritage, with a brushed-nickel dashboard with slick horizontal lines - although it projects uncomfortably into the passenger cabin as dashboards often did before passenger safety became a paramount concern. Even the elongated, sans serif numerals on the car's dials are pleasantly nostalgic.

One more thing that's nostalgic: The Mustang still doesn't have a functional back seat. It looks nice back there, but only for little people and children.

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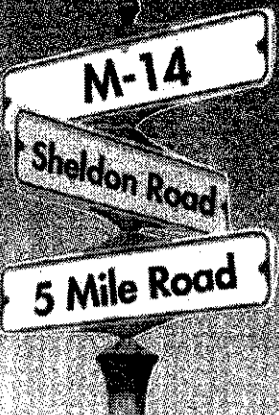
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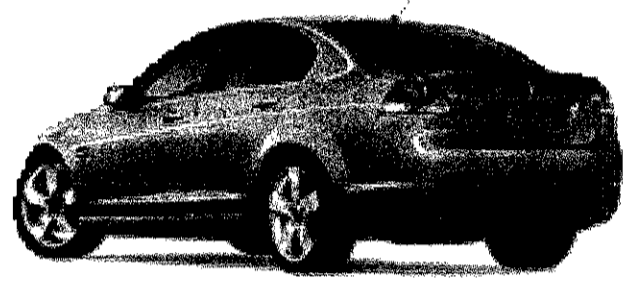


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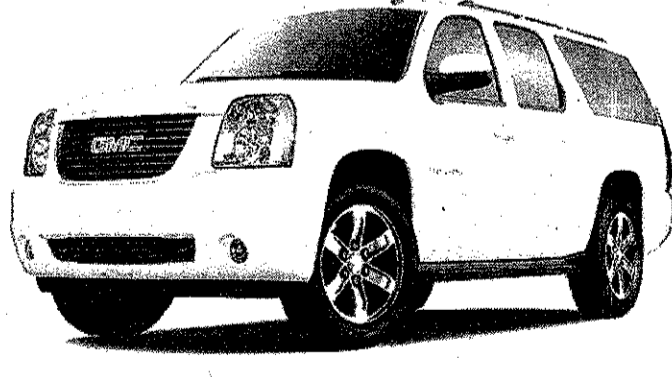


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