

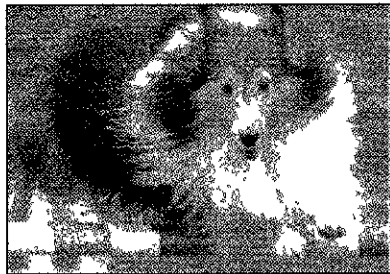
Peter's Principles
Fitness expert answers readers' questions
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Going to the dogs

Dogs are king at Detroit Kennel Club show

OBSERVER LIFE, SECTION C



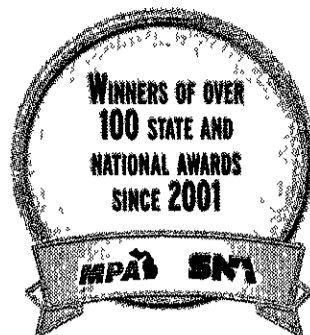
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SUNDAY

March 13, 2005

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IKEA settles dispute; back on board

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

Many people in Canton took a deep sigh of relief Friday after IKEA announced it settled a property dispute that threatened to derail plans for a 300,000-square-foot super store at Ford and Haggerty roads.

The announcement came a little more than a month after officials with the Swedish furniture retail giant said they were walking away from a deal to buy the former Super Kmart site because they couldn't work out a deal for shared parking with an adjacent property owner.

According to IKEA spokesman Joseph Roth, the company completed a deal on Friday to purchase the four-acre property owned by LBS Partners, a West Bloomfield-based development company.

"We are pleased this is behind us, and excited we can move forward with IKEA Canton, which should open in April 2006," Roth said. LBS principal partner Daniel Stern also acknowledged the sale on Friday, though he admitted selling the property, which is just west of the IKEA property, wasn't what he intended.

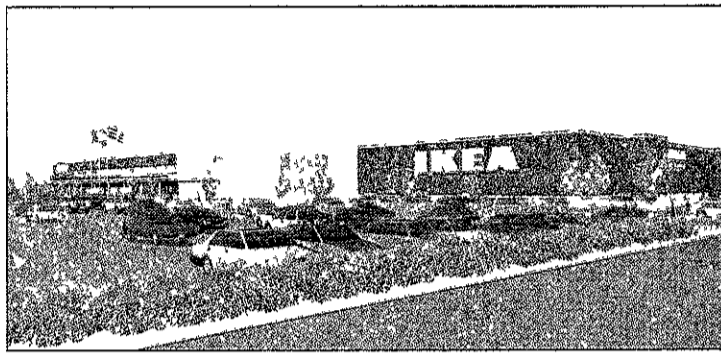
"Given our solid relationship and future in Canton Township, and the benefits IKEA will bring to the community as a whole, we have been committed to moving forward. It was never our intention to sell this property; however, it became clear that selling the property was the only way to allow the IKEA development to proceed," Stern said in a statement released late Friday afternoon.

"We are pleased this is behind us, and excited we can move forward with IKEA Canton, which should open in April 2006," Roth said.

"Given our solid relationship and future in Canton Township, and the benefits IKEA will bring to the community as a whole, we have been committed to moving forward. It was never our intention to sell this property; however, it became clear that selling the property was the only way to allow the IKEA development to proceed," Stern said in a statement released late Friday afternoon.

"We are pleased this is behind us, and excited we can move forward with IKEA Canton, which should open in April 2006," Roth said.

PLEASE SEE IKEA, A7



An artist's rendering depicts what IKEA officials hope the new store will look like when it is built at Ford and Haggerty.

One-stop canine cleanup

Couple opens self-serve dog wash in Canton

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

Owning a dog can be a rewarding experience, but there are a couple of downsides, such as cleaning up the doggie-do in the backyard, or trying to wash Fido after he has rolled around in the mud for an hour.

Mike and Carolyn Toomey can't do much about the doggie-do problem, but they can certainly help you get your dog clean. The Ypsilanti couple recently opened a self-serve dog wash called ShamPooch, located at 442700 Warren Road in Canton.

According to Mike Toomey, who has been training dogs for 10 years, there was a need in the area for a self-serve dog wash, because there are lots of families that own dogs, especially in Canton. Plus, he has been hearing for years from his clients that they just hate to wash their dogs, because it can be such a messy, awkward endeavor.

"By coming to ShamPooch, you don't have to bend over in your own house, or mess up your bathroom. And we do all the cleanup for you," he said. "Plus it's a lot cheaper than having the dog professionally



Cooper, a black lab, endures a bath at ShamPooch, a new self-serve dog wash in Canton.

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

groomed, which can cost between \$50 and \$100."

The cost at ShamPooch, which depends on the size of the dog, ranges from \$15 for small dogs to \$22 for the larger breeds.

The store features four tubs, which were specially made for washing dogs. They are elevated, so customers don't have to bend over as they wash their dogs. And there is no lifting, because dogs can walk up ramps to get into the tubs.

ShamPooch offers all the amenities one would need to

PLEASE SEE DOG WASH, A4



Mike and Carolyn Toomey, here with their dog, Thor, own ShamPooch.

District extends superintendent contract one year

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth-Canton Schools Superintendent Jim Ryan has been given a one-year contract extension by the Board of Education.

Ryan, who was handed the interim superintendent title in July 2002 and a three-year contract for the permanent position six months later, had his contract extended until July 2007.

"It gives me more time to address issues in the district," said Ryan. "I don't know if we're talking about one more bond issue, but it gives me time to manage through the financial rocky road."

"The board is also trying to be more strategic, and we want to talk about leadership transition," he added.

Ryan said he's not certain how long he'll remain as Plymouth-Canton Schools superintendent.

"This is my 34th year in education, and the contract takes me to my 36th, when I will be 59 years old," said Ryan. "Two things will determine how long I stay: My own personal health and the financial situation of the state."

"It's hard to run a premier district when there's no funding," he said. "It takes a toll on all of us. When we have to cut away, it hurts my heart."

Ryan will not get an increase in his \$143,600 annual salary. However, the superintendent said it has nothing to do with the fact there are nine union contracts he'll be negotiating this spring, including a deal with the 1,000-member Plymouth-Canton Education Association.

"It's not a heroic move, it's in respect for the board and the district's financial situation that I decided to handle it this way," Ryan said. "If I received a pay raise before we rewarded the people who really do the work, that would send a bad message."

"Next year I've asked for a pay freeze and a performance clause," he said. "After that, they can take a look at my performance and the financial situation, and have the option of rewarding me."

The Board of Education unanimously approved Ryan's extension.

"I appreciate the talents and goodwill and good feelings he's brought to this district," said Treasurer Judy Mardigian. "I look forward to working with him for another two years."

"It's a pleasure to have someone who is proud to be superintendent of this district, and has a wonderful face in the public," said trustee Carol Saunders. "The public has a great deal of confidence in him."



Jim Ryan
superintendent

'If I received a pay raise before we rewarded the people who really do the work, that would send a bad message.'



Willa Chen scored a perfect 1600 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) college entrance exam in January.

2nd time the charm for local student on SAT

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Willa Chen is like most other 13-year-olds. The East Middle School eighth-grader likes to chat online with her friends and watch *American Idol* on television.

Chorus is her favorite subject at school because "there's no homework and you can just sing all day." And, she takes dance classes for enjoyment and participates in

Chinese language classes to embrace her heritage.

However, the similarities with other teenagers just may end there.

Chen, who lives in Canton Township, scored a perfect 1600 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) college entrance exam in January, as part of the Midwest Academic Talent Search sponsored by Northwestern University.

"I thought I probably got

something wrong," said Willa of the two-part test consisting of math and verbal skills. "There were a few problems that confused me at first, but I solved them. I really surprised myself because I don't feel smart or anything."

That may seem like a peculiar statement from a student who last year took the SAT and scored 1550, and achieved a 35 out of 36

PLEASE SEE STUDENT, A4

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Comedy show

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools will present a student production, *Fancy Schmancy*, on 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 15, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. The original sketch comedy show features Jon Sandberg, Tim Majzlik, Joe Hingelberg, Travis Peltó, and Collin Howder, who have all worked extensively in the PCEP Improv Club and have been featured in the club's performance troupe, *Sketchy at Best*. They wrote and created *Fancy Schmancy*. Tickets for the performance, which are \$5, can be purchased at Summit on the Park, by phone at (734) 394-5460, or at the Village Theater box office.

sellers like *The Da Vinci Code*, *Girl in Hyacinth Blue* and *The Girl With a Pearl Earring* have sparked a renewed interest in art appreciation and inspired the Canton Public Library to invite art expert Dr. Deborah Kawsy. On Thursday, March 17 at 7 p.m. Kawsy presents an intriguing discussion of the works mentioned in *The Girl With a Pearl Earring*. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Canton Public Library and is part of the Friends, Authors & Others programming series. To register for this event call (734) 397-0999 or register in person at the library. The library is located at 1200 S. Canton Center Road.

Scholarship deadline

The Exchange Club of Canton has extended the deadline for its ACE (Accepting the Challenge of Excellence) scholarship.

This award recognized high school students who have overcome great physical, emotional or social obstacles and gone on to achieve success.

The award is open to all students who reside in Canton or Plymouth.

Students can get an entry form by calling (734) 207-8943, or by going online to www.nationalexchangeclub.org. Mail entry forms to Exchange Club of Canton, 7514 Green Meadow Lane, Canton, MI 48187.

Artful affair

The Plymouth Community Arts Council is holding its annual dinner-auction fundraiser, *Artful Affair: Year of Pearls and Black Satin*, on 5:30 p.m. to midnight Saturday, March 19.

The event will be held at the Schoolcraft VisTaTech Center located at 18600 Haggerty Road in Livonia. Tickets are



Miss Junior Greater Canton

Salem High student Megan Tooley, 16, was crowned Miss Junior Greater Canton last month and earned the opportunity to compete for the title of Miss Junior Michigan. At Salem, Tooley is active in student council, gymnastics, the National Honors Society, and piano. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Tooley of Canton.

\$85 per person. For reservations, please contact Tia Barbero at (734) 416-4278 or tbarbero@plymoutharts.com. Proceeds benefit the Plymouth Community Arts Council, a nonprofit organization.

Patterson office hours

Sen. Bruce Patterson's District Director will hold the first official office hours of 2005 for all Northville community residents, and any

other interested constituents of state Senate District 7, on Monday, March 21, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Northville Community Library, 212 W. Cady Street.

Please contact his Lansing office at (517) 373-7350, if you believe you will be stopping by.

Trainer workshop

The Blitz and NETA, a nonprofit fitness professional

association, are co-sponsoring a nationally-recognized workshop for personal trainers April 2-3 at the Blitz, which is located at 8577 N. Lilley Road in Canton.

This 2-day workshop includes: Demonstrations and practical application of one-on-one training. NETA's expert trainer will cover exercise science review, communication skills, exercise programming, health assessments and more. Workshop registration includes, written exam, 2-year certificate and membership.

For more information call Paul Seymour at (734) 459-1405.

Call for artists

The Cherry Hill Invitational Fine Art Fair, presented by Canton Township Leisure Services and Beechwood Inc., will be held on Saturday, Sept. 10 and Sunday, Sept. 11. This is an outdoor art fair held around the historic schoolhouse at Cherry Hill Village at the northwest corner of Cherry Hill and Ridge roads.

It is a juried show that has an opportunity for a limited number of qualified fine artists. Booth spaces are assigned. Friday setup permitted, easy site access for set-up, artist parking very close to site, and security is provided both nights.

Accepted categories are: Clay; oils/acrylics; glass; photography; drawings; jewelry; etching; mixed media; graphics; ceramics; watercolor; wood; sculpture; and textile. Awards will be presented.

Application fee is \$150. Submitting deadline is April 29. For an application contact Joyce Murphy at (734) 394-5174, or e-mail kris2clay@juno.com.

Radio benefit

WSDP 88.1 The Escape, the student-run radio station serving Plymouth Canton schools, presents the second-annual King of Spring benefit concert at 6 p.m. Friday, March 18, at the Summit on the Park in Canton.

Six area bands will be performing on two stages. The concert benefits WSDP, with

tickets priced at \$6. Station officials also announced that Forever Inside Records recording artist Ettison Clio will headline the show.

The East Lansing-based indie rock band has made quite a name for themselves over the past five years, station officials said, and are "on the verge of much bigger things" with the release of their new CD, "This is for the Blue Collars."

Three of the band's members graduated from Plymouth-Canton schools. Ettison Clio performs early in the evening due to another concert later that evening. Other bands performing include The Rising Tide (formerly Sandbox Heroes), the Transfer, Which Way is Home, Common Misconception and Great Basement Crusade.

The concert is sponsored by Canton Computer and Simplicity Board Sports. WSDP has been serving the Plymouth-Canton community for more than 33 years.

Call (734) 416-7732.

Fish Fridays return

The Mayflower/Lt. Gamble VFW Post 6695 is once again hosting its fish fry Fridays, from 5-7 p.m. now through Good Friday.

Members meet 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.

All veterans who have been in a war zone or any member of the armed services that has been in harms way while on active duty are eligible to join.

The post is located at 1426 S. Mill St. in Plymouth.

In addition, the Vietnam Veterans of America Plymouth/Canton Chapter, which is based at Post 6695, is currently selling raffle tickets to raise proceeds for hospitalized veterans, and other community projects. Grand prize is a Lowe Sea Nymph fishing boat. Tickets are \$10, and can be bought at the Post, or ordered by mail by sending check payable to VVA Chapter 528 to: 2005 Fishing Boat Raffle, VVA Chapter 528, P.O. Box 6319, Plymouth, MI 48170-0473. The drawing is July 11 at Post 6695.

Identity theft seminar

The Canton Police Department is hosting an identity theft and fraud prevention seminar April 23 at Summit on the Park. Sgt. Scott Hilden will be on hand to discuss how residents can prevent identity theft from occurring.

The seminar is being offered at no cost to Canton residents and businesses. To make a reservation, contact the community relations office at (734) 394-5325, or e-mail shilden@canton-mi.org.

Fingerprinting

The Michigan Association of Police will be at Michaels (41904 Ford Road in Canton) 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 19, to offer free fingerprinting for its Build a Buddy program. Canton police cars and fire trucks will also be on hand. There will also be prize drawings, Chuck E Cheese coupons for every child fingerprinted, and refreshments.

Discuss art in novels

Art references in recent best-

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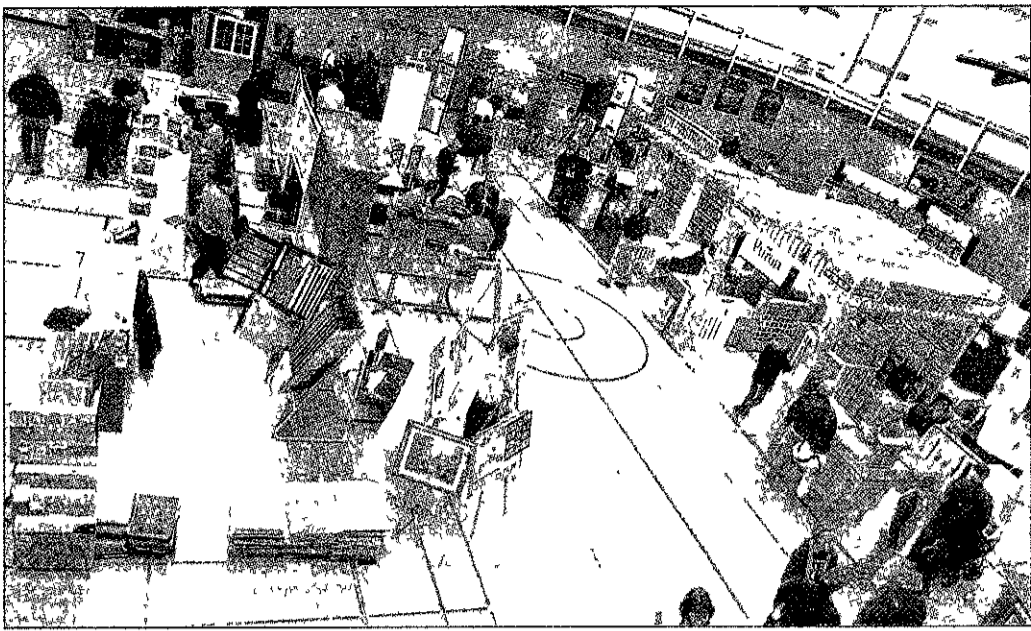
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PHOTOS BY DONALD J. ALLEY

There were more than 100 local vendors displaying their wares and services at the Home Improvement Expo at Summit on the Park last weekend. The event used to take up just the front conference rooms, has now spilled over to the entire Summit facility, including the cafeteria, the upstairs hallways, and the gymnasium (above).

Home Expo attracts big crowd of do-it-yourselfers

The annual Canton Home Improvement Expo, which took place last weekend at Summit on the Park, drew the largest crowd since the event's inception four years ago.

Co-sponsored by the Canton Township Building Services Department, as well as the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers and Canton Chamber of Commerce, the expo drew between 6,500-7,000 people, according to Canton building official John Weyer.

"We had a great turnout. We were right where we targeted it," he said.

The expo also attracted more than 120 exhibitors, who ended up filling most of the rooms at the Summit, including the cafeteria and gymnasium, and even some hallways.

"It's good to be here. It's great exposure for us. From this show, we get a lot of people to come in for estimates," said Dana Rudnicki, who works for the Westland-based Champion Sprinkler



Nancy Newman of Canton (right) discusses landscaping options and ideas with designer Sarah Dehning and general manager Tim Parker of Plymouth Nursery at the Home Improvement Expo last weekend.

and Landscaping, who won first place for landscaping displays.

Canton resident Bee Lee Yee was the winner of a Garland Golf Package, provided by the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers. The package, which Yee won in a drawing, includes an overnight stay and 18-holes of golf and cart for two at the Lewiston, Michigan resort

Yee is a subscriber to the Canton Observer.

The expo attracted many do-it-yourselfers, who came to see the wide variety of services offered in the community.

"I think this is great show. It helps you find local businesses and services," said Holly Barrows, a Canton resident, who attended the event for the first time.

National study: St. Mary Mercy's an 'elite hospital'

BY DAN WEST
STAFF WRITER

Two national honors, increasing patient numbers and constant equipment upgrades are the latest feats for St. Mary Mercy Hospital as it continues its evolution from community facility into top-notch regional hospital.

"St. Mary Mercy cares for patients everyday with serious complications," said Julie Sproul, vice president of marketing and public relations. "Now, to have a third-party, independent, national organization rate our care as one of the best, compared to hospitals across the country, speaks to the quality of the care our patients receive right here, close to home."

The 304-bed Livonia facility received the Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence and Distinguished Award for Patient Safety, according to the HealthGrades, a Denver medical analysis and consulting company which examines years of data from 4,890 hospitals across the U.S.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital was one of 30 U.S. hospitals to collect both honors, and one of two in Michigan, along with Dearborn's Oakwood Hospital.

The hospital staff and community leaders will gather today, March 10, to celebrate the national accolades.

"St. Mary is truly an elite hospital in terms of clinical outcomes," said Todd Van Fossen, a consultant at HealthGrades. "Hospitals on this list have a distinguishable higher rate of patient survival when it comes to those hospitals not on the list."

HealthGrades analyzed treatment of 28 medical procedures and diagnoses, including stroke, heart attack and pneumonia. St. Mary Mercy was among the top 5 percent in the nation based on low rates of complications and mortality, earning the award for clinical excellence.

The hospital was among the top 2 percent in the nation in patient safety and low rates of medical errors, garnering the award for patient safety.

"We're looking for hospitals who perform at a high level," Van Fossen said. "We use their examples to consult other hospitals to help them improve their care and services."

The recent honors are a culmination of numerous management- and care-improvement initiatives at St. Mary Mercy, said hospital president

and CEO David Spivey. Those initiatives were fueled by analysis of each step of a patient's treatment at the hospital.

For example, he noted the hospital's effort to improve care for stroke patients in 2001. To diagnose such patients and direct them to treatment as soon as possible, St. Mary's engaged in a comprehensive program that coordinated numerous hospital departments - from the emergency room, to the radiology staff, to the pharmacy.

"That was a great example of how we all came together to improve care for our patients," Spivey said. "We're all engaged in working together as a team, and that teamwork mentality is improving our patient care."

Recently, the hospital enhanced treatment for cardiac and cancer patients and added magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) equipment.

In 2004, the hospital treated 42,126 emergency room patients, conducted 9,088 surgeries, tended to 151,554 outpatient treatments and 13,306 were admitted for inpatient care. Most patients come from Livonia, Westland, Northville, Novi, Plymouth, Canton, Redford, Farmington and Farmington Hills.

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Rich's job is to make township emergency-ready

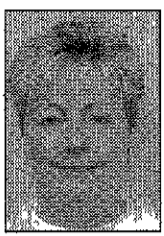
BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER

New Canton Emergency Management Planner Kathleen Rich's mission is to land state and federal homeland security grants to boost emergency preparedness in the township.

One of her main responsibilities will be teaching citizens how to prepare for emergencies.

"It's basically keeping up to date with different technologies that can make emergency responders do their job better," said the Eastern Michigan University grad and former Ann Arbor Emergency Management Coordinator.

Rich will seek grants to pay for equipment for a mobile emergency operations center, and for upgrades to the township's aged siren system, to broaden coverage and to allow messages to be spoken over sirens.



Rich

She'll also be making the rounds of community centers to detail emergency preparedness in the home.

She is compiling a Family Preparedness Handbook, with information on what residents can do during power outages, chemical spills, tornados, ice storms and other events. She is also upgrading emergency preparedness information on the township's Web site, www.canton-mi.org.

In addition, Rich is helping organize Canton's participation in a joint community emergency preparedness exercise May 11, in preparation for the 2006 Super Bowl in Detroit.

The exercise involves a mass exodus from Detroit and various types of traffic control along routes including I-275 through Canton.

While Rich's work also addresses homeland security issues, those who seek to report suspicious activity should still call the public safety department, not Rich.

STUDENT

FROM PAGE A1

on the ACT test.

According to The College Board, which administers the SAT, last year only 939 high school graduates received a top score among the more than 1.4 million students who took the test. That translates to only .066 percent.

Will's dad, Kevin, was the first to see the perfect score when he checked the SAT Web site. He immediately called his wife, Ling.

"He asked if I was sitting down, and then told me," said Ling Chen. "It took me a while to realize it. I always thought she was smart, but not a perfect score."

To some, Will's success on the SAT isn't a total surprise. She began reading when she was 3 years old, is a straight-A student - except for one B in an elementary school gym class - and has won several distinguished awards in statewide math competitions.

Her science teacher at East, Jan Coratti, said Willa is an all-around student.

"Willa is very serious about her studies and is very focused," said Coratti. "She asks questions to make sure it's clear in her mind, and the product she produces is always way beyond expectation. She has an outstanding sense of humor, and when she takes on a task gives 100 percent."

Willa said she's not sure which college she wants to attend, and isn't even certain

about a career, yet.

"When I was little I wanted to write for the *Observer*," said Willa, who enjoys reading and writing. "But, I can't decide, anymore."

At 10, without her parents' knowledge, Willa wrote a Mother's Day poem that was published in the *Observer*. "It was the best Mother's Day gift I ever had," said Ling Chen.

Unfortunately for Willa, the perfect SAT score doesn't count and she'll have to re-take the test again in her junior year of high school for college admissions applications.

In anticipating the astronomical odds of getting another perfect score, Willa said, "I guess I'll just have to say I did worse."

tbruscato@oe.hometownlife.com
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FOR THE RECORD

DEATHS

B
William John Barlow, of Livonia, died March 5.

C
William "Bill" E. Chickering, 82, died March 11.
Daniel Clifford, of Canton, died March 5.

James J. Crowe, 77, died March 7.

E
Donald Howard Ellis, 71, of Summerfield, Fla., died March 9.

H
George Mooris Haley, of Westland, died March 4.

Charles R. Hanson, 73, of Royal Oak, died March 7.

Virginia M. Hymes, of Livonia, died March 8.

K
Carol Ann Kwasky, of Livonia, died March 1.

L
Dale Richard Logan, 54, of Marysville, Ohio, formerly of Livonia, died March 10.

M
Alma Aleata Marsack, 76, of Livonia, died March 10.

Agnes (Hart) Marsalese, of Redford Township, died March 4.

Elizabeth B. McNamara, 89, died March 7.

John A. Mehock, 59, died March 5.

Daniel G. Myers, 73, of Westland, died March 7.

Jeanne Lynn Milligan (nee Art), 50, of Plymouth, died March 8.

Kathleen Marie Phelps, 49, of Rochester Hills, died March 10.

P
A. Patricia Quiery, 85, of Farmington, died March 3.

S
Carol Ann Savage, of Canton Township, died March 4.

Sister Mary Patrice Sinnott, RSM, 87, died March 8.

Mike Smart, 56, died March 7.

Lillian E. Symons, 82, of Plymouth Township, died March 10.

T
Dorothy A. Thorne, 69, of Barryton, died March 5.

V
Peter A. Ventura, 95, of Livonia, died Feb. 26.

Robert P. Vollmer, 79, of Plymouth, died March 6.

POLICE CALLS

Felonious assault

A group of four men attacked an 18-year-old Garden City man at around 10 p.m. March 4 inside a home at Warren and Canton Center, and warned him not to testify in an upcoming court date, according to the victim's report filed with Canton police.

The man said he was punched and kicked by three assailants, in the ribs and the head. He said a fourth cut him above the right wrist with a box cutter knife as he was falling, and told him, "You're not showing up in court, are you?"
The victim walked to a nearby 7-



For the Record appears in every edition of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's Community Life in *Passages* on page C5.

Eleven where his girlfriend picked him up in her car.

Too drunk
A 37-year-old woman, who passed out drunk in a parked car, was transported March 6 to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, after police spotted her slumped in the front seat, glassy-eyed and unconscious between two men ages 36 and 54.

The incident happened at 9:20 p.m. Canton police found in the car a half-full fifth of vodka, an empty vodka pint, and a bottle of wine that was nearly empty. The men were ticketed for having open intoxicants in a vehicle.

Smashing spree
Windows of four cars and trucks were reported smashed late March 5 and early March 6, in an area around the Honey Tree apartments. The damage in each case totaled \$100-\$200. Nothing was reported stolen from the cars.

Trips, art, jewelry among arts council auction highlights

Anyone who's been looking for somewhere to wear their formals and pearls has a chance next weekend courtesy the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

The PCAC holds its annual auction, this year themed "Artful Affair: Year of Pearls and Black Satin," from 5:30 p.m. to midnight Saturday, March 19, at the Schoolcraft VistaTech Center in Livonia.

The event is the PCAC's annual dinner-auction fund-raiser and promises an evening full of entertainment, dancing, cuisine and company.

"It's going to be a lot of fun," said Leslie

Greeneisen, art education director for the PCAC.

"We've got six travel opportunities this year. Maybe the cold has settled in for everyone, and we're looking for somewhere to go to get in out of the cold."

PCAC officials hope to raise \$50,000 from the dinner-auction, traditionally the organization's biggest fund-raiser.

Tickets are \$85 per person, and tables of eight are available. For reservations, e-mail Tia Barbero at tbarbero@plymoutharts.com or call (734) 416-4278. The VistaTech Center is at 18600 Haggerty in Livonia.

DOG WASH

FROM PAGE A1

wash a dog, including three different shampoos and a conditioner, towels and blow dryers, as well as eye, ear and dental cleaners. The store also supplies brushes and combs, and even specialty cologne.

"They have to smell good," Carolyn Toomey said.

ShamPooch also sells a variety of grooming supplies.

The Toomeys spend as much time as they can at the store, and they have two other employees. However, they stress most of the work is done by the customers themselves.

"We're here to help them out if they need it, but the place is designed for them to do it themselves," Carolyn Toomey said.

Michael Walding, who lives in Pinckney, often brings his black lab, Cooper, to ShamPooch. He said the biggest reason is the "cleanup

factor."
"We live in a ranch home, and don't have a basement, so there's really no place to clean him. But the best thing about a place like this is I don't have to worry about cleaning up after him," Walding said.

For more information about ShamPooch, call (734) 414-0331.

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1.04	Princess	G	VS ₂	GIA	\$5,299
.75	Princess	E	SI ₁	GIA	\$2,999
1.07	Pear	H	SI ₂	GIA	\$3,999
.77	Pear	F	SI ₁	GIA	\$2,999
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Helen Thomas still seeking the truth after many years

For more than a half century, Helen Thomas broke through every glass ceiling the establishment put in her way. Young women weren't supposed to take off to Washington for careers in journalism. She did anyway.

Certainly no woman could expect to cover the White House. Helen, who grew up in Detroit, the daughter of working-class Lebanese parents, said thank you very much, and did it anyway. She became White House bureau chief for UPI when United Press International was still a big deal.

She beat down too many "men only" barriers to count, and the beauty was that this was never her main goal. She wanted simply to be the best reporter she could be, and she was. Helen covered every president from John F. Kennedy to William J. Clinton, and both irritated and won the respect of all of them.

Today, she still covers the White House in a different way; she writes two syndicated columns a week. She stuck with UPI through thin and thinner until the Moonies bought it in 2000, and she drew the line at working for the Moonies.

Last week she came to Wayne State University, her alma mater, to speak to a scholarship dinner in her honor. She told a rapt audience of budding journalists, many of them minorities and women, just how important their profession is. "Democracy dies behind closed doors," she said.

"Though it may be true, as the Bible says, that where there is no vision the people perish," Helen is quick to tell you that where there are no watchdogs, the people get screwed over. If liberals and conservatives can agree on anything these days, it ought to be that any government that does its business in secret is a government to be feared.

Governments — any and all governments — ought to be subject to as much scrutiny as possible. Next week has been proclaimed "sunshine week" by a coalition of news organizations, a week in which we both celebrate openness in government and push for more of the same.

The idea is that the people's business ought to be done in the bright sunshine of the public arena, not behind closed doors. The opposite policy, the idea that our leaders know better than we do and that we can't be trusted with the facts, was directly responsible for Vietnam.

The closed-door approach also has been responsible for a million lesser horrors on every level of government, library boards to city councils. Things are better than they used to be. Every state now has some form of open meeting law, though some have more teeth than others.

Thanks to the Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, the vast majority of public documents are open to public inspection, and federal agencies even have to help people locate specific documents they may be looking for.

Yet this still isn't good enough. As Helen Thomas warned, governments like to promise openness — and cut off access as soon as trouble appears.

"States have not done a very good job of adopting policies that ensure access," said Bill Chamberlin, who studies sunshine laws at the University of Florida. He is echoed by Fred Cate, a professor of law at Indiana University, who added something most journalists know:

"States have almost never complied faithfully with their open records laws," Cate said. "You have a high degree of ignorance about the law, and a high degree of willingness to disobey the law."

That's another reason that journalists, those pesky creatures with their pointed questions, are so necessary to a free society. Thomas Jefferson once said that "eternal vigilance is the price of freedom."

Journalists are the ones whom serve as the border patrol. And the bad news is that governments at all levels have used the threat of terrorism as an excuse to pinch off the public's right to know. Some states are better than others; according to a new University of Florida study on open government, Michigan is one of the most open when it comes to information.

But while the study isn't complete, Ohio now ranks as one of the six worst states for openness in the nation. "It is clear that state officials are frequently not being responsive to requests for public records," Chamberlin noted.

What's needed is to be a nag. Perhaps a gentle squeaky wheel, perhaps an annoying one, but a noisy one. Helen Thomas, a columnist now, but still a reporter, is still a burr under the saddle of this administration. This president seems less willing to accept questioning than others she's covered.

That's all right; she isn't about to pull her punches; she isn't even 85 yet. Last week Ann Coulter, a particularly vicious columnist in the Joe McCarthy mode, called Helen "an old Arab" and implied she was a security risk.

That created a stir. Actually, I heard about that first from Helen, and I think Ann Coulter would be horrified; I think Helen thought it was sort of funny. She is in the business of asking questions, not name-calling. Besides, when you are from Detroit, and have gone toe-to-toe with Richard Nixon, you don't get overly worried about a would-be intellectual bully who poses in a slit skirt.

Jack Lessberry is editorial vice president of HomeTown Communications. He can be reached by phone at (248) 901-2561 or by e-mail at jlessberry@homecomm.net.



Jack Lessberry

Leisurely walks on the beach may become a criminal offense

For three summers, we had the privilege of renting a box on a Lake Michigan beach. It was a flat-roofed, one-bedroom cottage. It was clean but somewhat rustic. It nestled into a grove of trees so well that it merely suggested its intrusion on nature.

But it wasn't the building that mattered. The cottage looked out on the endless vista of Lake Michigan from behind two sandy dunes that led down to a beach of hard sand and tall grass. It was a spectacular view and a beach made for walking.

We could walk a long way, though not without difficulty. The hard-packed sand gave way to looser patches which gave way to rock fields. Occasionally, a rivulet would impede our progress and we'd have to take off our shoes and wade into the chilly water.

Most cottages along this stretch of beach in north Michigan were at a distance behind protected dunes and sheltered from view by a mixture of evergreens and hard wood trees, but others were almost at the edge of the beach. Some were massive, ugly intrusions on the real beauty of the land. Others were plain, simple, fitting quietly into the landscape.

The house next to the box was new, large but attractive. The owners had a giddy, friendly German shepherd named Tin. He often greeted us on our walks and engaged us in a spirited round of chase the stick. He was an enthusiastic beach walker. When he was with his owners, he would often have to race back to prod them along.

This was a quiet area, though a public park was about a mile down the beach. There was never a crowd of walkers, but the cottage owners and the public beach visitors did take the opportunity to stretch their legs and invigorate their spirits with a beach walk.

This week, the Michigan Supreme Court heard a case that might, technically, threaten that opportunity to walk the beach, unless walkers stay where the water covers their feet.

The case stems from a dispute between two neighbors in Alcona County, Joan Glass and Richard Goeckel, and has escalated into a test of where public and private land begin and end on our Great Lakes beaches. Glass sued Goeckel when he wouldn't allow her on his property to walk the beach.

One side takes the position that public land extends to the high water mark on the beach, the other side says private owner-

ship extends to the water's edge. Briefs by environmentalists and property rights groups have been filed supporting the different positions.

A state appeals court split the difference and ruled that the land was owned by the state but property owners had the right to keep others off the beach (and into the water).

The irony is that many beachside homeowners would be very unhappy to have their progress impeded by forcing them to wade in the water (especially in the fall and spring). In a news story, one person associated with a property rights group allowed as his wife was a great beach walker, but he still supported the position that "it's all about ownership, and we want it clear that property owners, not the state, own that land."

While it's unlikely that a court ruling in favor of the property rights groups would lead to barriers on the beaches, it would technically allow them. On Tuesday, news reports said that Justice Marilyn Kelly was concerned that ruling in favor of the property owners would make Michigan the only one of the eight Great Lakes states to compel beach walkers to stay in the water. On the other hand, Justice Clifford Taylor wondered if those with property close to the waterline might be in jeopardy of losing their property to state confiscation.

Another beach, another summer. We were walking along Lake Superior on the bed and breakfasts where we were staying. We came upon a barrier with a big sign declaring "RIPARIAN RIGHTS KEEP OUT" with a long explanation that the property owner had rights to the land down to the water and he was ready to protect them, so beat it.

We can hope for some well-reasoned, Solomon-like decision from the court that protects the rights of those lucky and rich enough to own property on our beautiful Great Lakes and also protects the rights of all of us (including those property owners) to enjoy a long walk on our treasured beaches (of which 70 percent front private property).

I suspect that even if the court rules that property rights extend to the water, that beach walkers will continue to walk the beach and technically break the law. And most property owners will welcome walkers and expect to be welcomed in return.

As Woody Guthrie once told us all, "This land was made for you and me."



Hugh Gallagher

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The Children's Library is sponsoring a bookmark contest for children in grades K-5 to celebrate National Library Week.

Pick up an entry form at the library and then drop off your creation by April 4.

Share your top-five picks for reading, watching and listening by creating a Fave Five list.

Submit your list and view other submissions at www.cantonpl.org/favefive. Be one of the first 25 people whose Fave Five list is used online and you'll receive a gift certificate to Secondhand Prose, the library's used bookstore!

WEB WATCH

www.cantonpl.org/ya/movies.html - links to movie and music sites for teens

www.cantonpl.org/kids/movies.html - links to movie and TV sites for kids

www.cantonpl.org/irs/artshum/music.html - links to music sites for adults

NEW MATERIALS LIST

To see a complete list of new materials added to the library's catalog this week, visit <http://catalog.cantonpl.org/flii.st>.

Adult Fiction
 ■ *Alternative Atlanta* - Marshall Boswell
 ■ *Gods & Kings* - Lynn Austin
 ■ *Til Morning Light* - Ann Moore

Adult Non-Fiction
 ■ *The Battle Against Polio* - Stephanie True Peters
 ■ *The Great Movies II* - Roger Ebert
 ■ *Real Men Work in the Pits: A Life in Nascar Racing* - Jeff Hammond

of both the township board and planning commission.

"We're really pleased. We've been holding our breath and crossing our fingers for the last couple weeks," she said. "We look forward to moving forward on this adventure called IKEA Canton."

McLaughlin said IKEA should come before the planning commission to submit final site plans sometime in April or early May at the latest.

In January, IKEA and the township agreed to create a planned development district for the former Super Kmart site. Plans for the massive store call for an interior showroom that will contain four interactive, full-size home displays, as well as specialty shops and a

restaurant featuring Swedish meatballs and other Swedish dishes.

Canton officials believe the store will be a destination location, attracting customers from not only metro Detroit, but also from other areas of Michigan, northern Ohio and even Ontario. Currently, the closest IKEA store is in Illinois. The retailer has a total of 22 stores in the United States, and did \$1.7 billion in sales from those locations last year.

The Canton store is expected to employ 300 workers and 500 union construction workers to build the store, which is supposed to generate about \$1 million in annual property taxes and about \$5 million in state sales taxes.

IKEA

FROM PAGE A1

Neither party disclosed the details of the agreement.

Roth said the ABC Warehouse located on the four-acre parcel will not be affected by the sale. A source close to the deal said ABC Warehouse has a lease through 2015, plus three five-year options after that.

Many Canton officials felt a deal between IKEA and Stern was imminent almost two weeks ago. In fact, Supervisor Tom Yack told people attending his March 2 State of the Township address that he was almost certain the deal would get worked out.

Nonetheless, most officials were very relieved with Friday's announcement, according to Melissa McLaughlin, who is a member

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Schoolcraft puts the focus on Latin America

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Spanish is America's other language. Latinos are the largest recognized minority in the United States. Latin music has been adding spice to popular music.

It's only natural that Schoolcraft College would follow a year of immersion in the volatile Middle East with Focus Latin America, a year-long look at the culture, language and people of Latin America.

Last year, Schoolcraft's International Institute took its cue from the headlines by sponsoring Focus Middle East, a year of activities, lectures, themed classes and a Cairo Coffeehouse finale.

Josselyn Moore, associate professor of sociology and anthropology and International Institute faculty chair, said Latin America was an obvious choice for the college's second yearlong plunge into a specific region.

"(We chose) Latin America because they're our neighbors and it's the largest minority group in the United States and because it has such economic importance," she said.

But Latin America isn't just one culture or lifestyle and Schoolcraft is planning programs that will try to encompass the broad range of Latin culture that ranges from the United States in Florida and the Southwest to Argentina and Chile.

"We're going to go into the culture, the music, the language," said Malasri Chaudhery, a part-time psychology instructor and member of the institute. "We'll get into specific areas that deal with the Spanish community, mestizo, defining what is Chicano, what is mestizo, what does it mean to be Latin American."

Public programs began in February and will continue through the calendar year, culminating in a Latin American style fiesta in November. February programs included the film *For Love of Country: The Arturo Sandoval Story* starring Andy Garcia as the Cuban trumpet player who struggled for personal and artistic freedom in Castro's Cuba. It is the first of several films with Latin American themes that will be presented, a new feature of the special focus program.

Other February public events included a lecture on Caribbean music by Ozzie Rivera and a discussion of Detroit's Freedom House, which helps immigrants to the

city. (See related story for a list of programs through the end of April.)

RIVERA FEATURED

In addition to public programs, Moore said faculty members are encouraged to incorporate the focus theme into their classes.

"One of the joys is trying to get all that in," she said. "It's a campuswide event and we are trying to get all faculty involved, make it part of their assignments for credit. It gives the faculty an enormous amount. It seems foolhardy to try to tackle all of Latin America, but this gives us that kind of flexibility."

Two world famous artists with ties to Detroit will be featured in upcoming lectures, Diego Rivera and his wife, Frida Kahlo. Rivera painted the famous assembly lines murals in the center court of the Detroit Institute of Arts.

"Rivera's importance comes in because he is someone who spoke for the people with his ideals and his art," said Chaudhery. "This is a good summary of everything we are trying to portray. We are trying to cover everything from all angles, but especially from the angle of the people. The mural we see in the DIA is very representative of people who work, who work hard. Latin Americans have really struggled to make it. That's why Diego Rivera is so important."

New this year is a school-sponsored tour to Mayan ruins in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. Diane O'Connell, associate professor of geography, will be leading the tour the second week of June.

"It's an educational class so we meet for a month beforehand, twice a week to try to get a little bit about Latin American culture, history, economics, concerns to give them context for the region of Latin America," O'Connell said. "Then we'll focus more on the specific area we're going to which is the Yucatan."

The class is for credit, but the public is also invited to sign up for the trip and audit the class. Students will be writing papers on the ruins, in

addition to soaking up some sun in Cancun.

AN EYE-OPENER

Moore said students have been enthusiastic about the focus program.

Dolly Randall-Kirkwood, who is studying early education and Spanish, said she is privileged to attend a college where students are exposed to so much information. She said the film on Sandoval was an eye-opener to her about the politics of the region.

Moore said the November fiesta will feature the music, food and arts of Latin America. She said last year local restaurants helped provide food for

the Cairo Coffeehouse and she's hoping to enlist some of the new restaurants in the area to help out this year. She said she is also working with Schoolcraft's culinary arts program about participation in the fiesta.

This emphasis of focusing on a particular culture is nothing new for O'Connell, who says it makes her proud to be a geography professor.

"In geography we think this is a time that come because it geography we have always thought systematically," she said. "We tend to focus on what issue is current, but there a lot more places than we have been focused on."



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Schoolcraft associate professor of anthropology and sociology Josselyn Moore (left) discusses some Latin American artifacts with part-time psychology instructor Malasri Chaudhery and associate professor of geography Diane O'Connell.

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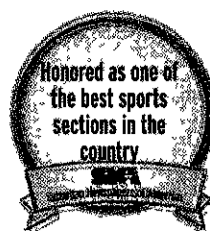
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Penguin skaters edged in state semis

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins freshman goalie Kristie Kowalski isn't yet old enough to drive a car, but she drove Cranbrook-Kingswood crazy with her net-minding skills for most of Friday night's Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League tournament semi-final clash at the Novi Ice Arena.

Despite Kowalski's stellar play between the pipes, the Cranes outlasted the Penguins, 3-2, in overtime to advance to Saturday night's final game against Grosse Pointe South.

Kowalski, who was voted the game's co-MVP along with Cranbrook goalie

Hilary Schreiber, stopped 29 shots.

South, which is unbeaten, and Cranbrook, which has lost just twice, finished 1-2 in the regular-season standings, just ahead of third-place PCS.

Crane freshman forward Carolyn Gard ended the game — and the Penguins' productive season — with 4:39 left in OT when she slid a power-play goal past Kowalski from directly in front of the crease.

Although PCS's season ended one game sooner than the Penguins would have liked, the two-year-old team built a solid foundation on which it can continue to build in the coming seasons.

"I told them to keep their heads up because they played a great game and

they had a great season," said Penguin coach Lori Callahan. "I was really proud of the entire team this season. We had quite a few new girls — some of whom had never played ice hockey before — and they all came together nicely.

"A lot of teams in this league have one really good player who they go to all the time. We had several players who we could turn to when we needed a big goal. And Kristie played phenomenal, both tonight and the entire season."

PCS nearly doubled last year's win total of eight.

For the first 25 minutes of Friday night's game, it looked like the Penguins were well on their way to win No. 16. Goals by Kristen Schwan with 1:42 left

in the opening period and a short-handed marker from Adrienne Cercone with 4:50 remaining in the second period gave the Penguins a seemingly comfortable 2-0 lead. PCS blasted 13 shots at Schreiber in the first period alone — four coming off the Cercone's stick.

Kowalski matched Schreiber's brilliant goal-tending in the opening 15 minutes as she turned away 12 Crane shots.

Cranbrook's Tarasai Karega, who skates like she was shot out of a cannon, ignited her team's comeback by finding the back of the net with a shot with 2:50 remaining in the second period to make it 2-1. The Cranes tied the game, 2-2, 30

PLEASE SEE PENGUINS, B7

High marks

Local gymnasts shine in finale

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Coach John Cunningham has had a Canton gymnastics team that finished higher in the state meet, but he has no doubt his 2005 team is the best.

"We set two school records this year," Cunningham said, adding the Chiefs had an all-time high score of 146.25 earlier this year.

"Even though, we've finished second and been third a number of times, it's the best team I've ever had."

Canton finished a very respectable fourth in this year's state meet Friday night at Plymouth High School with a 143.525 team total.

The Chiefs, who were state runners-up in 1995-96, did that without the benefit of having their best gymnast, Alyssa Kelley, available for the last two events, beam and floor.

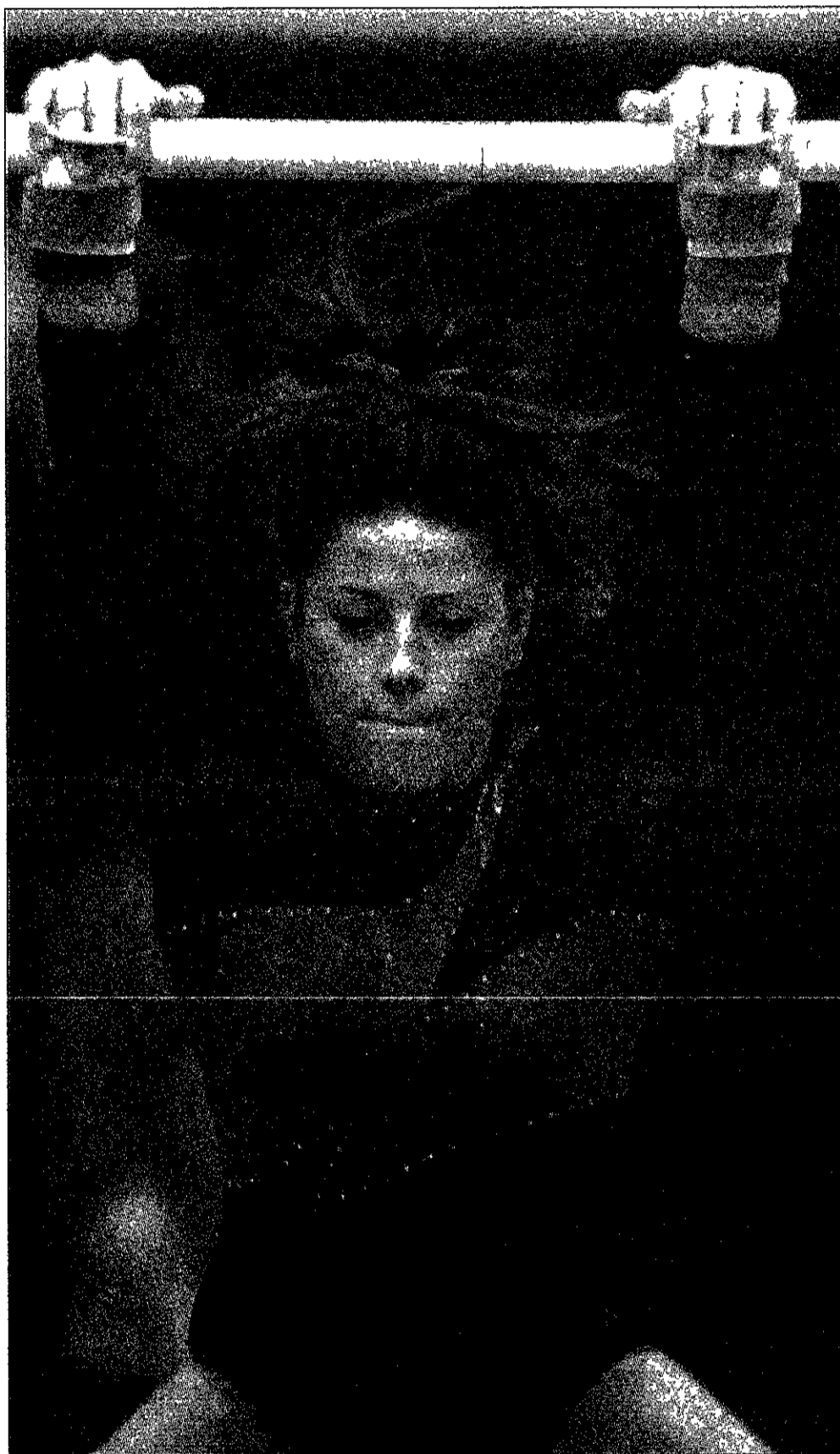
Kelley, who had 9.3 on vault and 9.225 on bars, hurt an ankle and had to withdraw from the competition.

That was a setback for Canton, "especially since one of her best events is floor," Cunningham said. "But other girls stepped up and took her place, and they did very well."

If Kelley had been able to compete in all events, Cunningham said he thought the Chiefs could have finished as high as third.

Tri-Farmington (147.55) won the state title for the second year in a row. Livonia Unified was second

PLEASE SEE GYMNASTS, B6



Canton gymnast Kara Ahern completes her routine on the uneven bars during Friday night's team state finals held at Plymouth High School. The Chiefs finished fourth in the 13-team field.

TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wrestlers' title hopes still alive

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Dreams of state wrestling title were still alive for Salem's Jeremy Henderson as of Friday night.

Of the four local wrestlers who advanced to this weekend's Division 1 state meet, Henderson was the only one to advance to yesterday's semi-finals (see final results in Thursday's *Observer*). The junior 189-pounder won his first two matches — 5-3 over West Bloomfield's Zoran Lazar and 3-1 over Birmingham Brother Rice's Manuel Suleiman — to move on to the semi-final round against Livonia Churchill's Joe Bargerstock. Henderson will match his 34-10 mark against Bargerstock's 45-8 record. Two Canton grapplers — Corey Phillips (130) and Ryan Webb (135) — and Henderson's teammate Ryan Stump (125) were still eligible to finish as high as third place in the state in their respective weight classes heading into Saturday's matches.

Phillips won his first match by default and then defeated Saginaw Heritage's Andy Sullivan, 6-4.

Phillips' title hopes were dashed when he lost a tough 6-3 decision to Davison's Kyle Kidder.

"Corey had three nearly had three takedowns, but they were just out of bounds," said Canton coach Casey Randolph. "Corey was definitely the aggressor. It's frustrating because Corey has beaten the kid he would have faced next twice."

Webb rolled over his first opponent, Utica Ford's Jack Abbate, winning with a technical fall, 17-1, at the 5:43 mark. However, he was upended in the quarterfinals by Jenison's David Johnson, 6-4.

For complete results of Saturday's matches, please see Thursday's *Observer*.

State games

Pride rule

The Plymouth-Canton Pride 18U fast-pitch softball team captured its winter league division indoor championship at the Baseball Academy of Mid-Michigan (BAMM) in Lansing recently by compiling an unbeaten record. The league included several Lansing-area high school teams that were preparing for the upcoming season.

The team consisted of: Shelby Anthony, Jill Brennan, Mary Cox, Abby Paritz, Emily Pitcole, Sam Podorsek, Miranda Rysdorp, Ali Taylor, Beth Heldmeyer, Sarah Anthony, Sam Kjelstrom, Hillary Payne, Kristen Warnick and Erin Rodes. The team is coached by Lyle Livingston.

Softball clinic

The Plymouth High School softball team will be hosting a softball clinic on Saturday, April 9, on the high school's softball field. The clinic will be divided into two parts: a beginners' session that will run from 9 a.m. to noon; and an advanced session that will run from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The beginners' session will consist of first-time participants who have up to three years of experience and the advanced session will include all athletes who have played more than three years.

The cost of the clinic is \$40, which includes a shirt. Contact Tom Bondy at (734) 455-5242 or tibondy@comcast.net.

Chiefs boosters

The next Canton Chiefs Football Booster Club meeting will be held April 5, at 7 p.m. at the Box Bar in downtown Plymouth. All parents of current and future Canton football players are encouraged to attend as plans for next season will be made.

For more information, contact Kathy Powers (734) 416-0664.

Baseball clinic

The annual Salem High School Baseball Clinic will be held on Saturday, March 26 and Saturday, April 9, in the high school gymnasium. There will be four sessions and players will be grouped from ages 7 to 10 years old and 11 to 15.

The cost of the clinic is \$25, which includes a souvenir T-shirt.

To sign up, contact Ron or Pat Myers at (734) 459-4026 or e-mail them at pccmyers@hotmail.com.

10-star hoop camp

Applications are currently being evaluated for the 10-Star All-Star Summer Basketball Camp, an invitation-only camp for boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 19 years old. Past participants of the camp include Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter, Jerry Stackhouse, Grant Hill and Antawn Jamison. The closest Observerland 10-Star camp will be held in Ypsilanti.

For a free a free brochure, call (704) 373-0873.

Double-duty

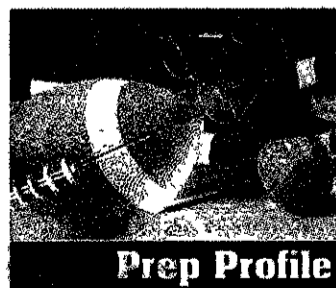
Versatile Price plays in and referees basketball games

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Salem basketball player Kyle Price didn't give referees any grief this past season — even if he thought the men and women blowing the whistles had made an obviously questionable call against him or his teammates.

Price can empathize with the guys wearing stripes because for the past four years he has worked as a whistle-blower himself for junior basketball leagues in the Plymouth-Canton community.

It's a thankless job that does-



Prep Profile

n't pay great, but the Rock senior can't think of a better way to make a few extra bucks.

"I love refereeing," Price said about his \$13-per-game gig. "I'm in the gym. I'm around

basketball. I get to work with and help young kids. It's a great job. It also puts me in a position to understand what the guys who refed my high school games were in. I would never go off on a ref when I play because I know what it's like to be in their shoes. Everybody makes mistakes."

Were there any volatile junior-league coaches who made Price earn every penny of his \$13 salary.

"Oh yeah, there are a couple out there," he said, without hesitation. "I've had to give out some T's (technical fouls) over the years."

ROCK-Y SEASON

The recently concluded high school basketball season was a character-builder for Price and his Salem teammates, who

PLEASE SEE PRICE, B2



HEATHER ROUSSEAU

Senior Kyle Price has been a two-sport athlete at Salem since his freshman season. An outstanding student, Price will be attending Michigan State University in the fall.

PRICE

FROM PAGE B1
struggled through a 1-20 campaign. Even though the dismal record was far from what he had envisioned for his final year of competitive basketball, Price said he takes pride in how the team battled right to the final seconds of last week's final game against Novi in the first round of the Class A district tournament.

"We kept our heads up and we played hard right to the end, which is all you can ask of a team," Price said. "I don't think there was one game or one practice where we just gave up."

Price said his fellow classmates and his teachers at Salem were supportive as he and the other players endured the success-starved season.

"Everyone was pretty cool about it at school," he said. "A few kids would joke about our record, but that was about it. For the most part, everyone was encouraging."

The most-prominent highlights of Price's season were the lone victory over Livonia Churchill and a 12-point, eight-rebound effort he turned in against Monroe during the season's early stages.

ATHLETIC GENES

Sports have been an instrumental part of Price's life as far back as he can remember, and he admits he wouldn't have had it any other way. Price started playing organized basketball in the second grade and the first swing he took with a baseball bat came a few years before that.

"Sports are very big in our household," Price said. "Both of my parents played sports in college — my dad played one year of baseball at Henry Ford Community College and my mom played two years of volleyball at Northern Michigan — so they've always encouraged me, my brothers (Devin,

The most-prominent highlights of Price's season were the lone victory over Livonia Churchill and a 12-point, eight-rebound effort he turned in against Monroe during the season's early stages.

12, and Alex, 9,) and my sister (Lauren, 16) to play. My dad coached me a lot growing up, so that was great.

"It seems like somebody in my family has a game just about every night. I try to make as many of my brothers' and sister's games as possible, but it's tough sometimes with my own schedule."

YOUNG SLUGGER

Price put his baseball skills to use for the Michigan Indians travel team growing up. He and Dave Cardenas, also a senior at Salem, helped lead the team to a berth in the national championship tournament in Tulsa, Okla., when they were in the seventh grade.

"I played mostly outfield until the eighth grade; then I started catching," he said. "We'd play anywhere from 50 to 70 games a summer for the Indians. I like baseball a lot, but basketball is still my favorite sport."

Price, who has compiled a 3.4 grade point average at Salem, will attend Michigan State University in the fall.

"I always wanted to go to a big school," he said. "I liked the campus a lot and I want to get into either business or law, so that's a good school for those careers."

Plymouth Whalers outskate Otters, 3-1

Dan Collins scored a goal and added two assists to lead the Plymouth Whalers to a 3-1 win over the Erie Otters in an Ontario Hockey League game played Friday night in front of 4,271 at the Tullio Arena in Erie, Pa.

John Mitchell and Tim Sestito also scored for the Whalers, who improved to 28-28-6-3 with the win and

moved to within four points of the Otters for fifth in the OHL's Western Conference playoff race.

Andrew Shennan tallied the lone Otter goal. Erie lost for the second straight time on home ice to sink to 29-23-6-5. The loss marked only the second time this season the Otters have lost back-to-back games on home ice.

The Whalers led 1-0 after one.

The two teams were tied at one heading into the third.

Erie outshot Plymouth 26-19 in the game as Josh Disher took the loss.

The Whalers dropped a 5-2 decision at Windsor on Thursday night.

Windsor's Ryan Garlock scored a pair of goals 1:54

apart in the second period to snap a 2-2 tie and lead the Spitfires to the victory.

Steve Downie led the Windsor attack with two goals and three assists.

Paul Giallonardo scored the other Windsor goal.

Plymouth received goals from Mike Knight (eighth of the year) and John Vigilante (22nd), both in the first period.

SCI fund-raiser aids young outdoorsmen

ED BY WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Giving a teenager with a life-threatening medical condition an opportunity to hunt for the first time is just one of the noble accomplishments on the annual docket of the Southeast Michigan Bowhunters Chapter of Safari Club International.

SCI, which also organizes programs to ensure the future of North America's wildlife-management system, will be hosting its 14th annual fund-raiser banquet and outfitters party Saturday, March 19, at the Laurel Manor, located at

39000 Schoolcraft in Livonia.

The banquet will commence at 3:30 p.m. with cocktails, exhibits, a silent auction and raffle drawings, followed by a 6:30 p.m. dinner and a post-meal live auction.

"There are children out there who have life-threatening illnesses or severe disabilities who want to hunt, but Make-A-Wish doesn't want anything to do with it because they're anti-hunting and pro-life," said SCI board member Rick Williams, a resident of Belleville. "We give them the chance to shoot a deer for the first time, as long as they're

over the legal hunting age of 12.

"It's probably one of the best things we do. For some of these kids who have cancer, you don't know if they're going to make it, but when they get out there and hunt, it gives them positive energy."

Along with their charitable efforts, members of SCI also work towards trying to keep the heritage of hunting alive throughout North America, Williams emphasized.

"We have about 930 members throughout southeast Michigan, which makes us the largest chapter around,"

Williams said. "We do a lot for kids, including organize camps in which they learn how to hunt and fish. We also work on conservation issues and monitor legislation that deals with hunting and fishing."

Non-members are encouraged to attend the banquet, Williams said. Tickets cost \$60 per person.

For ticket-purchasing information, contact Williams at (734) 697-3959.

To learn more about SCI, visit its Web site at www.sci-bowhunters.com.

ewright@oe homecomm.net | (734) 953-2100

1,200 runners are set to run in 'Martian'

MARATHON

chair of the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, recently completed the Detroit Free Press Marathon.

Registration for both the marathon and half-marathons, along with the marathon training run, is still open.

Running Fit, the store for walkers and runners, puts on the Martian Marathon and

Half-Marathon each year to benefit The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, along with the Schoolcraft College women's cross country team.

Those who want to volunteer and get involved in the race day festivities should contact tami@runningfit.com.

A volunteer meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 15, at the Northville Running Fit store, located off Haggerty Road just north of

More than 1,200 runners, including First Gentleman Dan Mulhern, are expected for the fifth annual Martian Marathon, which will be Saturday, March 19, with the start at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

The 26.2-mile course winds through Hines Park through Northville, Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Westland.

Mulhern, honorary vice-

Six Mile Road. The Martian Marathon Health and Fitness Expo will be from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Schoolcraft College.

Vendors scheduled to have booths include Bally's Total Fitness, Running Fit, Mizuno, Fitness Things, Whole Foods Market, Team in Training, and more.

For more information, visit www.martianmarathon.com.

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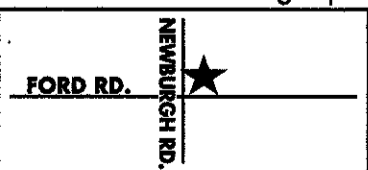
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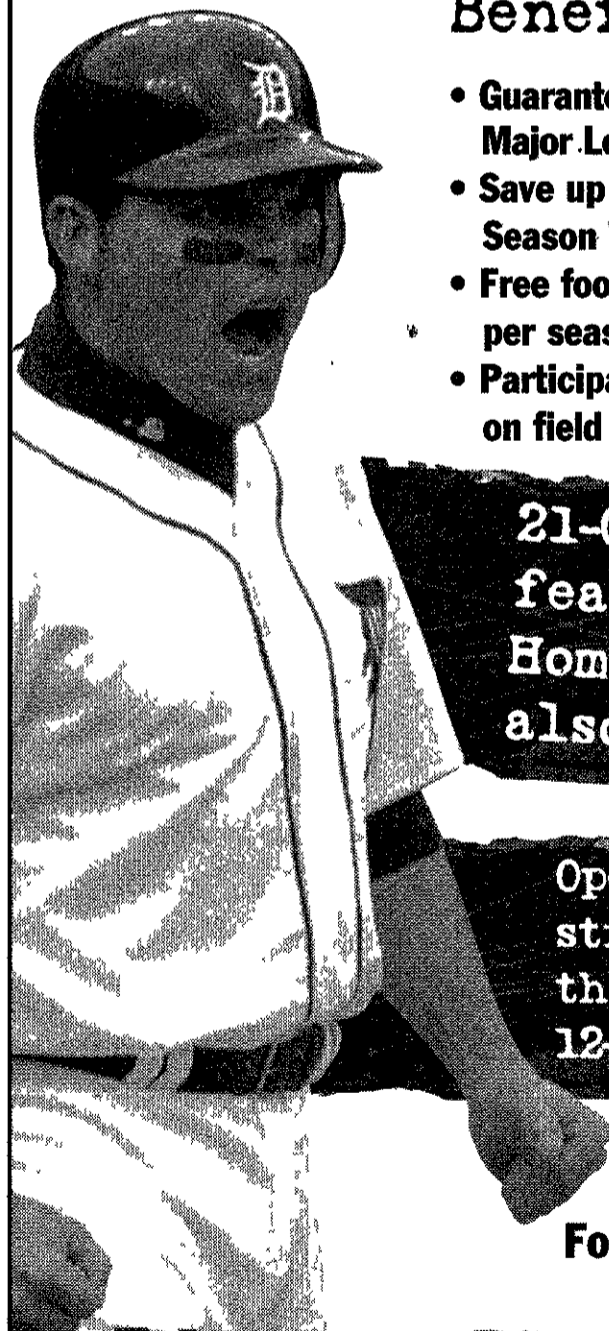
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CC icers one win from state title

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Adversity usually needs to be hurdled on the way to a championship and that is holding true for Redford Catholic Central's varsity hockey team.

The Shamrocks overcame the loss of a key defenseman early in Friday's Division 1 state semifinal game against formidable Clarkston at Compuware Sports Arena to grind out a 3-1 victory.

With the win, CC (23-3-3) needed just one more win — Saturday night against East Kentwood (22-6-1) — to claim its sixth championship in seven years.

"We talk to our guys all the time that you can score a lot of goals and win some games," said Shamrocks head coach Todd Johnson. "But that's not going to win you a championship. You need to play defense and sacrifice."

In order to defeat pesky Clarkston (17-7-5), that's exactly what CC had to do. Making the job even more difficult for the Shamrocks was the loss of 6-3 senior defenseman Colin Ronayne at the 1:43 mark of the game.

A Clarkston player rode Ronayne into the boards behind CC sophomore netminder Bryan Hogan (17 saves) and the Shamrock fell hard to the ice. After a lengthy delay, he was helped to the dressing room and did not return. Johnson said Ronayne sustained a dislocated left elbow and was taken to a hospital for observation. He will not play against East Kentwood.

"It (Ronayne's injury) put a big-time work load on Kevin Horal and Tim Buttery, our two all-state nominees on defense," Johnson said. "Their ice time went way up in a pressure situation."

Johnson estimated that Buttery played about 25-30 minutes of the 45-minute game while Horal played between 24-28 minutes.

Horal, who had Ronayne as a defense partner much of the season, displayed his versatility in all facets of the game.

During a Clarkston power play during the second, when CC was nursing a 1-0 lead,

Horal blocked several shots or passing attempts to keep the Wolves from gaining a quality scoring chance against Hogan.

He subsequently made a perfect pass up the middle that sparked his team's second goal, scored by senior forward Jason Lewarne.

Then, in the third, Horal forced a Clarkston turnover at the Wolves' blueline that led to a third period insurance marker by senior forward Harrison Niemann. That tally opened up a 3-1 lead with 11:20 left.

After the game, Horal and several teammates said gutting out the victory for Ronayne was somewhat of a rallying cry.

"For him (Ronayne) not to be able see that game and be part of it, I knew it's tough for him," Horal said. "We wanted to come out and play hard just for him."

FAST, PHYSICAL

The Ronayne injury quieted the crowd at Compuware, the Shamrocks' home arena. But the fast, physical play displayed by both teams after that got everybody on their feet again.

CC opened the scoring on a disputed power-play goal at the 7:23 mark of the first. Senior forward Mike Oakleaf (after a feed from junior forward Dan Barczuk) jammed a rebound past Clarkston senior netminder Michael Brach, who kept his team in the game with 20 stops.

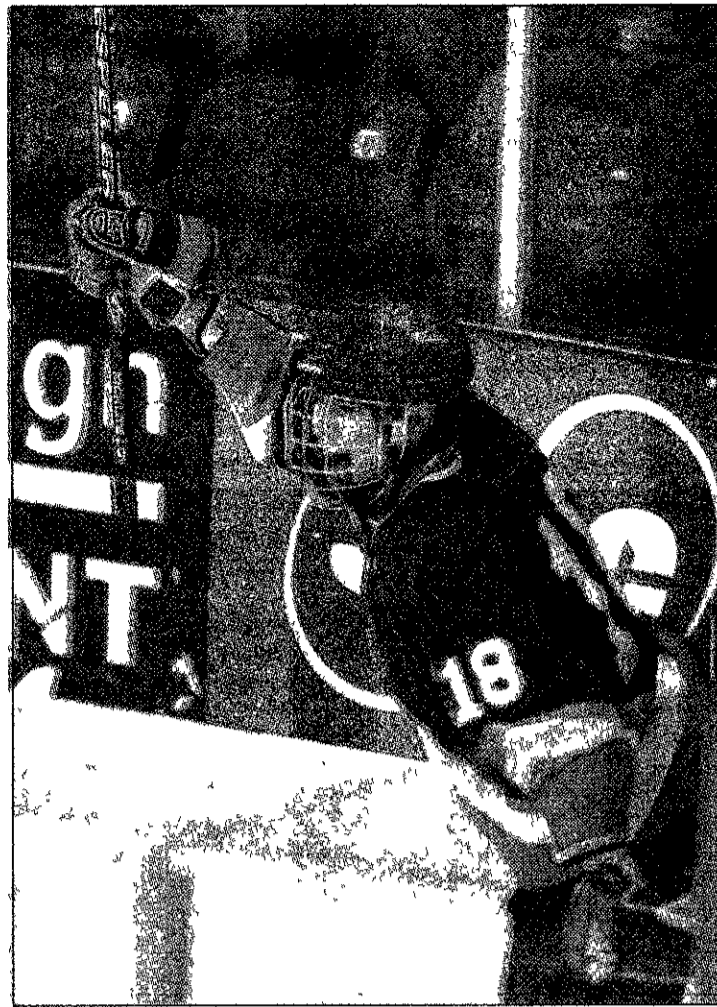
The puck crawled over the line, although Clarkston head coach Bryan Krygier said he didn't think it did.

Lewarne then made it 2-0 with less than three minutes left in the second, also on the power play. He received Horal's crisp pass, stepped between Clarkston's defensemen and ripped a shot five-hole through Brach.

Before the end of the period, however, the Wolves scored a power-play goal of their own.

Clarkston junior forward Kyle Cummings sent a wrist from the left point past Hogan with 21 seconds left in the second — which Krygier said put the Wolves in good position entering the final period.

"That was the perfect position for us to be in, a one-goal deficit going to the third period,"



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Redford Catholic Central's Harrison Niemann reacts to his goal in the Shamrocks' 3-1 semi-final victory over Clarkston Friday night.

Krygier said. "That's exactly what you want."

But the Wolves were unable to sustain their rally and Niemann's clutch goal enabled the Shamrocks to breathe a little easier. He picked up the puck along the left boards in the Clarkston zone and skated in on Brach, eventually deking him out of position and depositing the puck into the goal.

"I knew I was going to fake a shot and go around him (Brach)," Niemann said. "That's my favorite move."

According to Johnson, he still wasn't able to relax until the final buzzer.

"Clarkston is an awesome team, one of the top five teams we've played," Johnson said. "Their foot speed up front is difficult to handle and they are very physical on defense."

"Our two power-play goals may have been the difference in the game."

Krygier complimented the Shamrocks, who ended Clarkston's season for the second time in three years. CC defeated the Wolves in the 2003 semifinals.

"The seniors played well and (senior goaltender) Michael Brach played exceptionally well," Krygier said.

Young goalie leads CC to win in quarters

BY RYAN DOHERTY
CORRESPONDENT

Sophomore goalie Bryan Hogan made 21 saves, and backstopped Redford Catholic Central to a 5-0 shutout victory over Brighton in a Division 1 state quarterfinal hockey matchup Wednesday night at a sold-out Ann Arbor Ice Cube.

CC, now 22-3-3 overall, meets Clarkston, 17-6-5, in the semifinals at 8:30 p.m. Friday at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

The No. 1-ranked Shamrocks scored on their fourth shot of the game at the 3:43 mark when junior forward Drew Kahle took a pass from junior defenseman Mike Maviglia at center ice and walked in all alone. Kahle beat Bulldog goalie Jason Spada with a backhand to the stick side, giving CC an early 1-0 lead.

CC continued to pressure Brighton (18-7-3) and just three minutes later appeared to go up 2-0. Shamrock senior forward Mike Oakleaf snapped a wrist shot past Spada with seven minutes left, but the net had come dislodged before the puck went in and the goal was disallowed.

Later in the period, junior forward Steve Jankowski beat Spada to the short side with a low snapshot putting CC up 2-0. Assists went to Kahle and junior forward Wade Lafever.

Meanwhile, Brighton's best scoring chance came while they were down a man with seven seconds left in the first. Bulldog junior forward Eric Swiatek picked off a CC pass at his own blue line and skated in uncontested on Hogan, who made a

tremendous glove save to keep the Bulldogs scoreless.

"He (Hogan) covered up for a lot of defensive breakdowns we had tonight, and just played outstanding," CC head coach Todd Johnson said.

The Shamrocks then scored early in the second period when junior forward Dan Barczuk gave his team a three-goal advantage with a power play tally just 1:20 into the period. Barczuk tapped in a beautiful cross-ice pass from senior forward Harrison Niemann. Senior forward Jason Lewarne also assisted on the goal.

The most controversial play of the middle period occurred with 55 seconds left to play. Brighton sophomore forward Zach Hitch slid the puck between the pads of Hogan with a nice forehand deke on a breakaway.

The goal was subsequently disallowed because the referee told Brighton head coach Paul Moggach that a Bulldog player had pushed Hogan and the puck into the net.

"We needed to finish our scoring chances tonight and we did not do that," Moggach said.

The Bulldogs had another breakaway scoring chance with one second remaining in the second, but Swiatek fired a wrist shot that sailed over the net.

In the final period, senior forward Chris New scored on yet another CC breakaway at the 4:07 mark. Senior defenseman Kevin Horal and Jankowski assisted on the goal. Oakleaf added a late goal for the Shamrocks, with the assists being given to Barczuk and Niemann (his second of the night).

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MHSAA needs to deal with several controversial topics

Parochial schools certainly flexed their muscles at state hockey finals this weekend at Plymouth Township's Compuware Arena.

The Detroit Catholic League, which doesn't sponsor hockey, had five reach the Final Four including perennial power Redford Catholic Central, along with University of Detroit-Jesuit in Division I; Birmingham Brother Rice, Division II; Dearborn Divine Child and Orchard Lake St. Mary's, Division III.



Brad Emons

some area public schools that openly accept promising stu-

Add Flint Powers to the mix and that's half of the Final Four field.

But before you start crying undo influence and recruiting, another phenomenon is occurring in

dent-athletes from other districts.

Schools of choice have enabled talented players to come-and-go this year between such districts as Belleville, Romulus, Ypsilanti, Willow Run and the Wayne-Westland Schools, John Glenn and Wayne, just to name a few.

It's just another can of worms that the Michigan High School Athletic Association is going to have to address in the future.

If a kid takes his ball and heads for another basketball program, all he has to do is transfer and sit out a semester. But if the MHSAA makes it a year to sit out, traffic between public schools will ultimately grind to a halt.

But nothing compares with high schools who are members of the same public school district who camouflage special (academic) programs to attract promising middle schoolers for

the benefit of their athletic programs. That is also a problem that needs to be addressed internally, in-district, by principals and administrators.

And speaking of the MHSAA, the gender equity case of aligning girls and boys seasons is coming down to the wire.

Area leagues have already begun establishing contingency plans as far as winter season scheduling for boys and girls basketball games.

Both the Western Lakes Activities Association and Metro Conference have adopted a plan to play on same days at opposite sites, while the Detroit Catholic League has decided to let the girls play on Mondays, the boys on Tuesdays, while alternating between the two genders on Fridays and Saturdays. Thursdays will also be available if conflicts arise with other sports.

With boys and girls playing on the same nights, media coverage will definitely suffer. If there's a conflict, my decision on what games to cover will be based strictly on the "best game," out there, regardless of gender.

Administrators don't want to monitor games on Saturday and that also conflicts with invitational or tournament events scheduled that day in other winter sports.

But playing the same day at opposite sites is a terrible idea, mainly because it cuts down on the gates, forces families (and fans) to split allegiances and puts a strain on an already low pool of available and qualified officials. When the Western Lakes Athletic Association was formed in 1983, I wasn't wild about the new league and called it: "What a Lousy Athletic Arrangement."

One of the founding fathers of the WLAA, the late Paul

Cummings of Plymouth Salem High, who was one of the kindest, nicest and most respected athletic directors I ever dealt with, took umbrage with my comment.

Despite the exodus of the three Farmington Public Schools to the Oakland Activities Association in 2002, the 12-school WLAA has survived and thrived for the most part.

Mr. Cummings deserves plenty of kudos for his work, but now the league finds itself at another crossroad because of the gender equity issue.

Let's hope they reconsider and rethink their approach for 2005-06 so I won't have to call it ever again: "What a Lousy Athletic Arrangement."

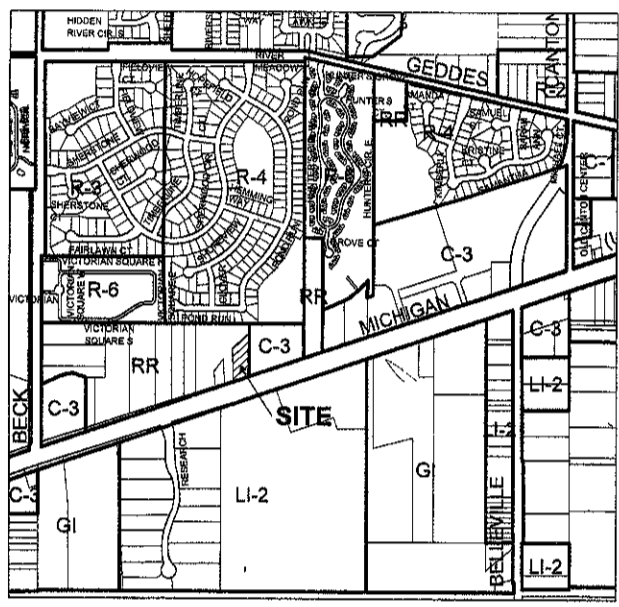
Of course, the only thing that may save us from all of this if that the U.S. Supreme Court decides to hear the case. Brad Emons is the Livonia/Westland Observer sports editor.

PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1943 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 4, 2005 in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:

BEYDOUN REZONING - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NO. 131 99 0011 000 FROM RR, RURAL RESIDENTIAL TO C-3, REGIONAL COMMERCIAL. Property is located north of Michigan Avenue and west of Canton Center Road.



SECTION 33

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, March 31, 2005, in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

Vic Gustafson, Chairman

Publish: March 13 & 31, 2005

OE0303630



Gems on Ice skaters

The Gems on Ice Juvenile Synchronized skating team took fourth place at the USFSA Synchronized Team Skating National Championships in Lowell, Mass. The juvenile team received the Pewter Medal after performing to the Addam's Family theme song Feb. 24. The team skates out of the Plymouth Figuring Skating Club at Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth. The Gems on Ice also won the gold medal at the USFSA Synchronized Team Midwestern Sectional Championships Jan. 29 in Plano, Texas, and the silver medal at the Mid-America Championships Jan. 15 in Fraser. The team is made up of 19 skaters ranging in age from 8-12 years from Ann Arbor, Commerce Township, Canton, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Plymouth, Sterling Heights and South Lyon. The juvenile skaters are Marilyn Ainsworth, Melanie Blaszkowski, Julia Beydoun, Chandler Carroll, Madison Elkow, Mackenzie Elkow, Erin Frawley, Ellen Gablemann, Elizabeth Goldstein, Julia Leffler, Suzannah Lydon, Sera Petrillo, Katy Rapson, Alyssa Shomsky, Erin Spencer, Regan Tang, Delanie Thurlow, Jacquelyne Zolynsky and Josephine Zolynsky. The coaches are Carrie Brown and Jamie Perry; the managers are Jill Goldstein and Beth Spencer.

MAT RESULTS

MHSAA LOWER PENINSULA DIVISION I INDIVIDUAL FINALS at PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS (Results through March 10-11 275 POUNDS)

- Pat Draheim, Sr., Livonia Churchill (record 48-3): pinned by Liam Knapp (Battle Creek Central), 5:44, p. Brandon Cummings (Saginaw Arthur Hill), 1:22, decisioned Kevin Austin (Davison), 5-4
- Nick Turco, Sr., Livonia Franklin (final record 42-10): pinned by Terrance Taylor (Muskegon), 1:02 dec. Mark Ruggies (Walled Lake Northern), 4-2; pinned by Liam Knapp (B.C. Central), 4:59
- John Morasso, Sr., Redford Catholic Central (record 39-8): dec. Andy Thorton (Portage Central), 8-3, pinned by Steven Thatcher (Rochester Adams), 4:51; dec. Brian Kloubucar (Hudsonville), 6:2
- Andrew Nadhir, Jr., Redford CC (final record 38-9): dec. by Joel Trombley (New Baltimore Anchor Bay), 13-4, pinned David Johnson (Milford), 4:43, dec. by Tim Davis (Belleville), 13-0
- Ryan Stump, Sr., Salem (record 40-3): dec. Brent Hair (Bay City Central), 14-0; dec. by Jeremy Larkin (Lansing Eastern), 7-6; dec. Josh Noble (Roseville), 10-2
- Justin Smith, Sr., Churchill (record 45-6): dec. by Pat Topolski (East Kentwood), 3-2; dec. Jon Kozak (Utica Ford), 4-0, dec. Andy Sullivan (Saginaw Arthur Hill), 4-3
- Corey Phillips, Soph., Canton (record 49-5): won by default, dec. Andy Sullivan (Saginaw Arthur Hill), 4-0
- Sean Dong, Jr., Redford CC (record 45-3): dec. Michael Morfitt (Walled Lake Western), 14-2; won by technical fall over Josh Ball (Flushing), 15-0
- Rece Cox, Sr., Westland John Glenn (record 51-0): dec. Jon Bearden (New Baltimore Anchor Bay), 12-4, pinned Aaron Beers (Grand Ledge), 1:39
- Jim Moore, Sr., Redford Union (record 46-5): won by default over Justin Hyde (Holly); dec. by Ben Bennett (Rockford), 4-2; dec. Jon Bearden (New Baltimore Anchor Bay), 9-3
- David Watkins, Sr., Franklin (record 46-6): dec. Diego Rodriguez (E. Kentwood), 5-0; pinned by Braden L'Amoreaux (Clarkston), 2:52; dec. Rolando Mireles (Grand Rapids Union), 10-9 (two overtimes)
- Josh Kelly, Jr., Churchill (final record 37-19): pinned by Brandon Johnson (Grand Ledge), 1:32; pinned by Kyle Whited (Monroe), 2:34
- Blake Karkoska, Jr., Franklin (record 44-13): pinned Blake Mesyn (Fraser), 1:14; dec. by Mike Miron (Howell), 7-3; dec. C.J. Lynn (Southgate), 3-1
- Trevor Stewart, Sr., Redford CC (record 51-0): won by tech fall over Quinn Boyce (Davison), 19-4; pinned David Meyers (E. Kentwood), 1:46
- Kyle Lis, Sr., Livonia Stevenson (record 35-12): pinned by Tony Doan (Port Huron), 3:23; dec. by Tony Tronti (Warren Cousino), 11-9
- Brad Bartram, Sr., Redford CC (record 47-2): dec. Andrzej Kupraszewicz (Jenison), 15-3; dec. John Aikens (Holly), 6-1
- Manuel Schubert, Sr., Churchill (record 47-5): pinned by Josh Bond (Grand Ledge), 5:54; dec. Glenn Evans (White Lake Lakeland), 15-6; dec. John Aikens (Holly), 7-5
- Jeremy Henderson, Jr., Salem (record 34-10): dec. by Zoran Lazar (West Bloomfield), 5-3; dec. Paul Hutchins (Lansing Eastern), 6-4, dec. Manuel Suleiman (Birmingham Brother Rice), 3-1
- Joe Bargerstock, Sr., Churchill (record 45-8): dec. Will Stevens (Hartland), 8-7; pinned by Trevor Perry (Davison), 1:25; dec. Emir Adanalic (Utica Ford), 3-2
- Hafeez Qureshi, Sr., Churchill (record 48-1): pinned Aaron Shelton (Holly), 1:58; pinned Dan Chase (Utica Ford), 2-41
- Eric Vojtkofsky, Sr., Redford CC (record 43-3): dec. Baheer Falk (Rochester Adams), 3-1; dec. Josh Dahlman (Grand Haven), 3-2

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

To all residents and other interested parties: the agenda's and minutes for the Township of Plymouth Board of Trustee Meetings are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township website www.plymouthtwp.org.

Minutes and agenda's are also posted in the Clerk's Office, at Plymouth Township Hall, 42350 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, for public perusal.

Marilyn Messengill, CMC
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: February 13, 20, 27 & March 6, 13, 20 & 27, & April 3, 2005

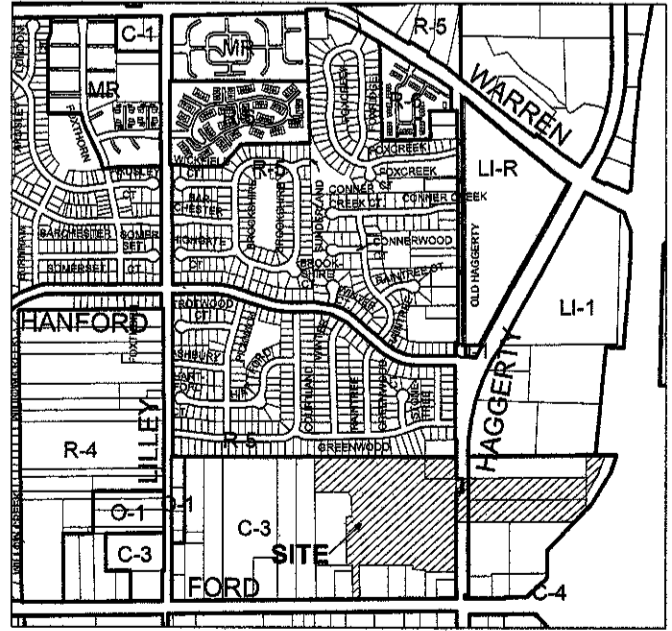
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PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

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IKEA-CANTON PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (PDD) - (FINAL PLAN) - CONSIDER REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A PDD AS PERMITTED IN SECTION 27.04 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE INCLUSIVE OF PARCEL NO(S). 044 99 0017 706,044 99 0022 001,047 99 001 0 000 047 99 001 2 000 AND 047 99 0014 003. Property is located north of Ford and east and west of Haggerty Road. (Second Public Hearing.)



Part of Sections 11 & 12

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, March 31, 2005 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

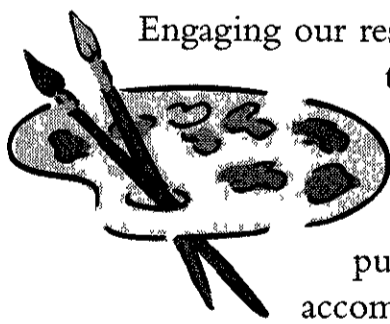
Publish: March 13 and 27, 2005

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



GYMNASTS

FROM PAGE B1
 (145.025) and Brighton third (144.275).
 "I said going in, 'Third was first (for Canton),' Cunningham said. 'Nobody could've beaten Farmington whether Alyse Quinn was hurt or not.'
 "We were in gunning range of Livonia, and Brighton passed us

without Alyssa. I'm not disappointed at all with fourth place.
 "Farmington has just a terrific team. They have depth and a lot of quality gymnasts."
 Canton's Jessie Murray "had a terrific meet," according to her coach, scoring 9.2 on vault, 8.8 on bars, 8.825 on beam and 9.075 on floor.
 "She's only a freshman," Cunningham said. "She handled the pressure well and per-

formed well with 9s on almost everything.
 "(Kaitlyn) Burns had a nice routine on floor. She scored a 9.225, which we needed. (Kara) Ahern had an excellent routine on floor (9.425) and the same on beam (9.15).
 "We lose one senior, Megan Chappo. She had a nice meet, particularly on beam (9.025) and bars (8.725)."
 Mina Pirzadeh scored 8.25 on

beam, Kate Staley 8.95 on vault and 8.75 on bars, Hillary Bracht 8.85 on floor and Burns 8.75 on vault.

Salem girls are 8th

In its second straight state-meet appearance, Salem moved up one place and finished eighth in the team competition Friday with a 139.95 score.
 "It could've been better," Salem coach Dana Driscoll said, adding the Rocks scored as high as 142.7 a couple weeks ago.
 "When you get to the state meet, the scores tend to be a little stricter, and nerves are a factor for the girls who've never competed here."
 Ashley Aquinto scored 8.85, Sarah Bugosh 8.65, Elena Gueorguiev 8.875 and Brittany Young 8.125 on vault; Aquinto had 8.9, Bugosh 8.8, Gueorguiev 9.1 and Young 8.5 on bars.
 Aquinto received a 9.1, Bugosh 8.725, Gueorguiev 8.275 and Katerina Kariotis 8.3 on beam; Aquinto had 9.025, Bugosh 9.075, Gueorguiev 9.175



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem gymnast Sarah Bugosh completes her floor routine at Friday's team state finals held at Plymouth High School. She earned a score of 9.075, which helped the Rocks to an eighth-place finish.

and Young 8.475 on floor.
 "We could've done a little better," Driscoll said. "They tried their best. I think they had fun. That's what we stressed after all their hard work."
 "When I started working with (former coach) Melissa Hopson, we were rebuilding, and it took a couple years to get back to the state level. We've gone up every year, and that's all we can ask."

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 MAN OF THE HOUSE (PG-13)
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 CURSED (PG-13)
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 DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN
 (PG 13) (SAT/SUN 11 20) 1 50, 4 25,
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<p>Enhance your child's mathematical thinking... Mathematics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • patterns, relationships and functions • geometry and measurement • data analysis and statistics • number sense and numeration • numerical and analytical thinking • probability and discrete mathematics 	<p>Support the development of good citizenship... Social Studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students learn about the physical and social environments of their classroom. Basic social skills are introduced. The children explore basic economic concepts involving wants and needs and making choices. 	

Questions? You are welcome to contact your neighborhood elementary school or the Department of Instruction at (734) 416-4842. Please call the Community Relations Department (734) 416-2757 for a complete listing of the Elementary Curriculum Overview.

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<http://www.pccs.k12.mi.us/district/registration/K-8Registration.pdf>

MU sluggers keep winning in Florida

The Madonna University baseball team may never want to leave Florida.

It was Midnight at the Oasis in Port Charlotte as the Crusaders ran their school-record winning streak to 11 games with a 15-0 win over Grace (Ind.) College after beating Malone (Ohio) earlier in the day, 4-1.

Both of MU's games on Wednesday were cancelled because of rain.

MU, 11-1 overall, pounded out 17 hits as junior first baseman Todd Kalmbach went 4-for-4 with an RBI. Shortstop Kyle Fedorka, catcher Dave Herrick (Livonia Churchill), Dan Gendron and third baseman Gary Van Allen each contributed two RBI in the victory.

Herrick, center fielder Mike Cauzillo and designated hitter John McCracken each collected two hits.

Pitcher Derek Dufrane (2-1), went four scoreless innings, while holding Grace hitless to pick up his second win of the spring. Dufrane struck out seven and did not walk a batter before giving way to reliever Mike Jacques, who gave up a fifth-inning single to Josh Wood.

Madonna jumped on Grace starter Jeff Hamstra for eight runs in the first inning and three more in the second. Hamstra gave up 12 runs on 11 hits.

In MU's win over Malone (2-5), senior right-hander Adam Kline recorded a career-high 10 strikeouts in going the distance.

In seven innings, Kline (2-0) gave up just three hits and one run while facing just 24 batters.

Malone took a 1-0 lead in the first on Zach Winkhart's RBI

single, but MU came back with a unearned run when Kalmbach scored on an error.

In the fourth, MU took the lead for good on back-to-back doubles by Tony Kern and McCracken, followed by Fedorka's RBI sacrifice fly. The Crusaders padded their lead in the sixth on RBI single by Fedorka.

McCracken went 2-for-3 to lead the offensive attack.

Including two exhibition games against Sinclair Community College (Ohio), top individual batting averages for the Crusaders include Gendron (.667), Cauzillo (.524) and Kalmbach (.520).

Joe Greene and Kern each have a team-high 12 RBI, while McCracken has 11. Kern leads with 15 runs scored, while Gendron and Cauzillo are next best with 12 and 11, respectively.

The team earned run average is 1.53 with Mike Hand, Fedorka and Kline all at 2-0 each. Kline has 28 strikeouts in 18.1 innings, while Dufrane has fanned 19 in 15.2 innings.

Softball rained out

Weather-wise, it's been a disaster this spring for the Madonna University women's softball team, which stands 5-4 overall.

After getting wiped out by rain on an earlier trip to California, the Crusaders lost games on Monday and Wednesday on their Florida swing, including their final matchup against Geneva (Pa.).

A weekend trip to Shawnee State (Ohio) was all cancelled due to expected low temperatures and the threat of snow. No makeup date has been announced.

PENGUINS

FROM PAGE B1
seconds into the third period on Karega's second goal.

PCS nearly won the game in regulation, but Schreiber managed to snuff solid chances by Schwan and Cercone in the closing moments of the third period.

The game-winning power-play goal was set up by a questionable penalty call against the Penguins 22 seconds before Gard's heroics.

There is no checking allowed in the league, but you would have had a hard time convinc-

ing Penguin captain Stephanie Murray of that rule just over five minutes into the final period. While skating down the right side with 9:47 to go, Murray was slammed into the boards and remained on the ice for just over 10 minutes. No penalty was called.

After getting helped off the ice, she eventually returned to the game a short time later.

"She kind of got twisted the wrong way as she hit the boards," Callahan said. "She was sore, but was able to get back in there."

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Schoolcraft's Samarco wins 'Bradford'

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Belleville's Martin Samarco became the fourth player in Schoolcraft College men's basketball history to win the Allen Bradford Award given to the top player in the NJCAA-Region 12.

The 6-foot-4 guard, who averaged 20.9 points per game, joins Schoolcraft coach Carlos Briggs (Baylor), Sam Hoskins (DePaul) and Mike Williams (Western Michigan) to win the award.

Samarco, who is being recruited by Arkansas State, Duquesne, Bowling Green and Ball State, is a transfer from

Kirtland Community College. He also made first-team All-Michigan Community College Athletic Association.

Schoolcraft's Courtney Williams, a 6-9 transfer from Oakland University who averaged 15.7 points and 12.2 points per game, earned honorable mention All-MCCAA honors, along with second-year guard Ty Scott, who averaged 15.5 points per game.

Samarco, Williams and Scott will be playing in Sunday's MCCAA All-Star Game at Lansing Community College. Game time is 4 p.m.

Williams, who will also play in the National Junior College Athletic Association All-Star

Game during the Final Four weekend in St. Louis, recently returned from a visit to the University of Oregon.

He is also being recruited by Minnesota, Alabama-Birmingham and several other mid-majors.

Kevin Massiah, a 6-4 swingman who transferred from Western Kentucky, is being recruited by Wisconsin, Southern Illinois and Creighton.

The Toronto, Ontario native averaged 14 points per game and eight rebounds.

Scott, meanwhile, is being courted by Wright State, Ball State, Marshall and Tulsa.

New USC coach Tim Floyd and Minnesota head coach

Dan Monson made visits recently to watch the Schoolcraft players work out.

Despite finishing with the second-best winning percentage in school history (27-3), Schoolcraft was banned from post-season play and vying for the MCCAA's Eastern Conference championship because of an off-season rules violation which the school failed to appeal.

"Our guys learned to fight through adversity and never quit and that will help them later in life," Briggs said. "The most important thing is to graduate, move on and go to a four-year school."

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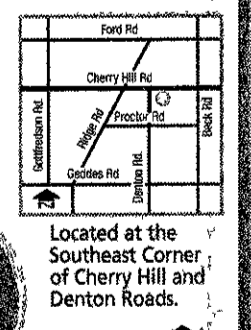
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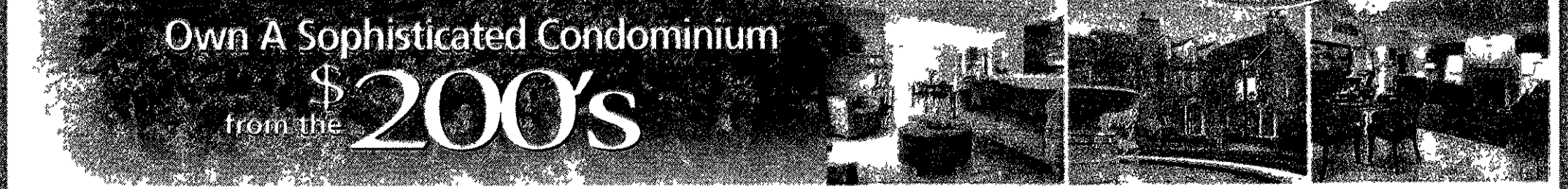
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Deb Madonna

Reading the fine print

The Plymouth Historical Museum may be smaller than the Smithsonian, but you would never learn as much about Plymouth-Canton at the Smithsonian as you will at our own little museum.

You don't have to be a history buff to realize that the museum is a cornerstone to our community, with thousands of artifacts, ongoing and new exhibits, speakers and special programs.

Even the gift shop has surprises: children's books, old-fashioned toys, paper dolls, Victorian Items, Lincoln memorabilia, and a curio cabinet stocked and replenished often with donated collectibles. Managers Ruth Jacobs and Jeanette Sullivan want everyone to know they welcome your old treasures.

Wednesday volunteers, Ruth, has been at the museum for 24 years, Jeanette for two years. Along with several hundred dedicated volunteers and a small staff, great things happen in every corner of the museum.

It's hard to decide what to look at first.

Ask AnnMarie Hasner, who recently moved to Canton from Westland, what happened the first time she ventured into the museum. She was driving around Plymouth, looking for the post office, saw the "Underground Railroad Quilt Exhibit" advertised on the marquee and decided to stop in and take a look.

Before she made it to the quilts, she wandered into the Lincoln room. There was so much to see, she'll have to return in order to see the Quilt exhibit and everything else. (The Museum is home to "Michigan's largest Abraham Lincoln exhibit," donated by Dr. Weldon Petz.)

Children can go on a Scavenger Hunt, discovering items, which introduces them to Abraham Lincoln, as a boy, as a father, a lawyer, a politician, the president, and an emancipator.

A sign posted in the Lincoln room: "Learning to read and write, possessing a memory that allowed him to repeat, almost word for word the sermons and speeches that he would hear. He was a wonderful storyteller."

Lincoln has a lot in common with Dave Crockett, who volunteers as a docent in the Lincoln room on Wednesdays. Dave has been with the museum for over a year. A retired, social worker and part-time probation officer, Dave is very interested in Lincoln. "Lincoln is intriguing and there's so much to learn. Every time I come to the museum, I always find something new."

Most people see the old newspapers displayed in the Lincoln exhibit and glance at the headlines. Dave reads the fine print. People may know who won the presidential election of 1860, but Dave knows how many votes Lincoln and Douglas received.

According to the *Detroit Daily Advertiser*, Nov. 7, 1860, Wednesday morning edition, Austin Blair was elected Michigan's 13th governor. Other election results: "Michigan goes for Lincoln." "Wayne County goes for Lincoln." Plymouth 231 votes for Lincoln. Canton's 65 votes went to Douglas.

Don't wait for Lincoln's birthday or a special exhibit. Stop in the museum often and stroll down "Main Street." Adults are welcome to go on scavenger Hunts, too. And if you're in the museum on a Wednesday, ask Dave Crockett to tell you about Lincoln or ask Ruth and Jeanette what's "new" in the gift shop.

Deb Madonna is a Plymouth Township resident and regular contributor to the *Observer*. She can be reached via e-mail at clanton@storytelledesign.com.

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Going to the dogs

Handlers prepare for agility trials at Kennel Club show

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Cobo Center is going to the dogs on March 19-20, and handlers from Livonia, Canton and Redford couldn't be happier. For two days, they'll strut their stuff in agility trials, and obedience and conformation competitions at the 94th/95th Detroit Kennel Club Dog Shows featuring more than 2,000 dogs from more than 150 breeds.

It turns wild when Kim O'Neill brings Drew, her 4-year old Portuguese water dog, to demonstrate flyball with Sportsmen's/Positive Attitudes Flyball Team 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. on both days. Flyball is a team sport where dogs race against each other. O'Neill's 14-year old Wheaten terrier Toby recently retired from flyball competitions she'd been in since 1993. O'Neill calls flyball a "pretty wild sport where dogs get to bark and love it." The Redford resident, like the dogs, does it for fun. She'll be the first to tell you she's not a professional handler but an accountant who works in Birmingham.

'GOOD SHOW TO LEARN'

"DKC is a benched show which makes it a great show to learn about different dogs," said O'Neill. "Some shows they compete and leave, here they stay. If you're looking for a particular breed it's a good show to learn about dogs."

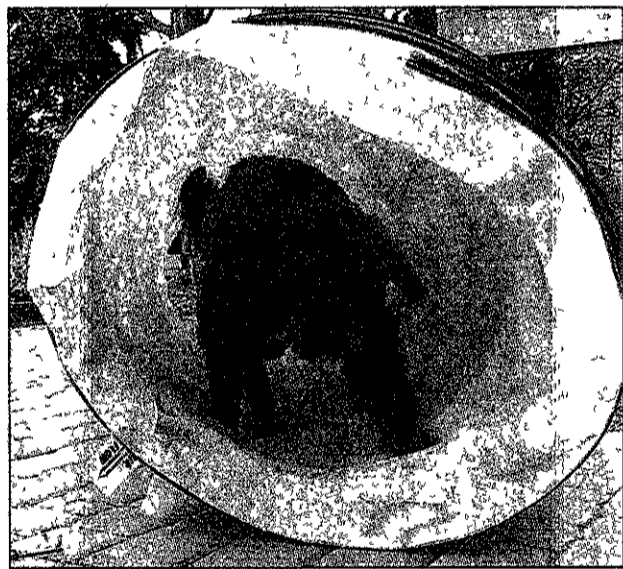
In between flyball demonstrations and competing in agility trials with Drew, O'Neill will talk about how Portuguese water dogs originally were trained to deliver messages between boats, retrieve objects that fell into the water, and herd fish into nets.

"A lot of people say they look like poodles," said O'Neill. "They're a lot like Wheaten terriers, don't shed. They're stubborn. I like a challenge to train."

Training is what made Lance, the Shetland sheepdog, a champion. Marilyn Runde prides herself on teaching even the youngest dogs to run through tunnels or weave poles. Lance, 5, and Millie, her 4-year-old Doberman, consistently rank high in agility competitions where dogs jump over hurdles, climb teeter totters and run up A-frames. Lance currently is working on his Master Agility Champion for which he needs 750 points to earn the highest of titles. Recently, he zipped through 20 obstacles stretched out over 160 yards in 61 seconds.

"Whether it's in water, snow or wind, Lance will

PLEASE SEE DOG SHOW, C5



Drew, the Portuguese water dog, races through a tunnel in his Redford yard.



CATHI WINKLES

Lance, the Shetland sheepdog, will compete in agility trials at Cobo Center. He's currently working on accumulating 750 points to attain the highest level, a Master Agility Champion.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Above, Mick, the Rhodesian Ridgeback, crosses a narrow board on the dog walk in his Livonia backyard. At left, Mick races toward the A-frame with owner Ann Rudd by his side.

Magic Moments winners from Canton enjoy night on the town

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Cheryl and Tim Phillips still have \$20 left from a gift certificate they won in the *Observer's* Magic Moments contest, so they'll be returning soon to Antonio's Italian Cucina in Dearborn Heights for dinner.

Even though Valentine's Day was over, Cheryl wore red for their special evening on the town Wednesday, March 2, her ears sparkled from the earrings she received with a \$200 gift certificate from Murray's Jewelry in Redford.

In addition to certificates for dinner (\$60) and jewelry, the Canton couple won two tickets to *Phantom of the Opera* at Masonic Temple and a singing valentine courtesy of The Four Decades quartet from the Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

"We really had a good time," said Cheryl Phillips. "Antonio's was wonderful. They put a tablecloth on our table. The food was great. The quartet sang and was fun. People all around were



HEATHER ROUSSEAU

Magic Moments winners Tim and Cheryl Phillips from Canton enjoy dinner at Antonio's Cucina Italiana in Dearborn Heights as The Four Decades barbershop chorus sings a Valentine to them. Pictured from right to left are Gary Simon, baritone; Hal Reid, bass; Gary Francis, lead; and Bob Wolf, tenor.

listening when they were singing and clapped afterward. From there we went to the Phantom which was magnifi-

cent, a great show."

Tim and Cheryl were married last September, not too long after he

brought her guppies on their first date instead of flowers.

"We sang two songs - Let Me Call You Sweetheart and Heart of My Heart," said Gary Simon, a Canton resident and president of the Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society which rehearses 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Kirk of our Savior Presbyterian Church in Westland. "The great feeling you have to be able to deliver a love song from their sweetheart is most special."

Simon's quartet and two others delivered 31 singing valentines to sweethearts in Livonia, Westland, Canton, Ann Arbor, Detroit, and Farmington Hills this Valentine's Day.

"It helps us make money for the chapter to pay for music, rehearsal hall rental fees and wardrobe," said Simon now in his fifth year of delivering singing valentines.

For more information about the Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, call Bob Wolf at (734) 421-1652.

lchomin@oe.hptmcomm.net | (734) 953-2145

Crisis hotlines offer runaways a safe place

Spring is coming to Michigan — we hope. Soon the hellebores and daffodils will be blooming. Soon more teens than ever will be on the run.

The 2004 statistics from the National Runaway Switchboard (NRS) reveal that out of 111,000 calls handled by the national nonprofit organization, 42 percent were from youth in crisis or youth contemplating running from home. Of this demographic, 58 percent identified themselves as being on the street as a runaway, throwaway, or homeless young person.

"Our focus as the oldest hotline in the world is to ensure that every youth who calls our crisis hotline is in a safe place and has a positive plan of action at the end of the call," said Maureen Blaha, NRS executive director. "Our professional staff and volunteers do this by providing youth with education and solution-focused interventions, and non-sectarian and non-judgmental support. The numbers (of runaways) are staggering and they demonstrate the continuous need to keep American youth safe and off the street."

Family dynamics such as divorce, remarriage, problems with siblings and extended family members were issues and concerns identified by 36 percent of the youth who called. Peer/social concerns such as peer pressure, gang issues, dating and relationships were identified by 13 percent. Difficulties with their social worker and state social service systems made up 10 percent of the calls. Reported

It is hard to imagine the parental agony and stress that comes from a teen running away. The period before the actual run is often filled with anguish and torment.

age of callers was 16 (22 percent); 17 (22 percent); 15 (14 percent); and 18 (11 percent).

Other important facts:
 ■ National Runaway Switchboard has a national database containing more than 17,000 resources and a referral library with 20,000 references.

■ The number of youth who were returned home in 2004 through NRS' Home Free Program, a partnership with Greyhound Lines, Inc., was 989.

■ Seventy-seven percent of incoming calls were with females and 35 percent came from the parents or guardian.

■ At the time of the call, 58 percent of the young people were on the street as a runaway, throw away, or homeless young person.

■ Additional information and statistics are found at www.1800RUNAWAY.org.

The National Runaway Switchboard, established in 1971, serves as the federally designated national communications system for homeless and runaway youth.

Recognized as the oldest hotline in the world, NRS, with the support of more than 150 volunteers, has handled more than 3 million calls in its 34-year history and handled over 111,000 calls last year. NRS

provides crisis intervention, referrals to local resources, and education and prevention services to youth, families, and community members throughout the country 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The NRS crisis hotline is (800) RUNAWAY.

It is hard to imagine the parental agony and stress that comes from a teen running away. The period before the actual run is often filled with anguish and torment, or running can be the result of a simple family disagreement. In any case, running to a friend's home or to the street can bring about unintended consequences such as injury, prostitution and rape.

Next week, this column will discuss the importance of your communication with your adolescent. This skill may help keep your child home and safe. In the meantime, say to your son or daughter, "I'm giving you this column. If you ever hear a friend talking about running away from home, be sure they know the National Runaway Switchboard number, (800) 621-4000. Be sure they also know the crisis telephone line of Common Ground, (800) 231-1127."

Common Ground, where I worked in fund-raising and public relations 30 years ago,



Teens in 2005

Alice McCarthy

has programs for young people ages 16-23 that house those who leave their home and family. These are residential transition programs — in other words, they provide safe havens. Ours is a very fortunate area to have a resource like Common Ground.

We are not showing sloppy sentimentality when we care about others. Your adolescent may save the life of a friend, or their own, with the information in this column. Please clip this article and give it to your teen. Be sure your child's counselor at school knows the numbers, too.

If you missed previous columns, you can access them at www.hometownlife.com/Livonia/News.asp. Type "Alice R. McCarthy" under "Keyword Search" for a list of her most recent columns.

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



Star Struck

(March 13-17)
By Dennis Fairchild

ARIES

(March 21-April 20th)

Knowledge is power and so are words, Ram. This week, you'll use what you know to persuade others to go along with your plans.

Whether they're good plans or bad plans remains to be seen, but self-doubt won't be an issue. The word failure isn't in your vocabulary.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

The tide is turning to your favor, and by the end of the month it will be a flood, so stop moaning that you don't get the breaks and start looking forward to a much brighter future, kid! Events are important, but not nearly as important as your attitude. Right?

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Speak your mind by all means, especially where important financial matters are concerned, twin. But make sure your assumptions are backed up by facts or you run the risk of alienating others. Those who are wedded to their opinions are likely to experience a messy divorce.

CANCER (June 22-July 23)

There are times when it's possible to notice a pattern behind the seemingly random events of your existence, and what takes place over the next few days will convince you that life is not all chaos and confusion. If you try, you can make sense of it. Try, MoonKid.

LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)

You may feel a bit tied down and restricted this week, but what you can't do physically, you can at least prepare for mentally. Be ready to hit the ground running when the Sun moves in your elemental favor on the 20th. The time spent in preparation will not be time wasted.

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

Having staked your claim for better things, now it's simply a matter of keeping up the pressure and making sure others are aware of your talents. Self-confidence breeds success, so act as if you are in total control of events, even though you may not have a clue what is going on.

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

Balancer, there are many things you can do successfully this week, but there is one thing you can't do: Argue with others about money. Even if you honestly believe that you have been shortchanged, you're advised not to make an issue of it. Keep your head and be grand.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

What happens over the coming days could be reviewed as a setback, but once the Sun changes signs on the 20th, you'll see it in a more positive light. You've been under lots of pressure since '05 began, but soon you'll realize that it has made you stronger, Scorp.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

Although you may have every reason to feel dejected because of others' lack of sympathy and support, in fact, what you are currently experiencing really is simply the final chapter in a long drawn-out, roller coaster personal or professional saga. Straighten up, Archer!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 21)

According to the planets, you've lost yourself in details and need to step back from what you're doing to see the overall picture. If you fail to do it willingly, something or someone will force you to make adjustments. Don't be impatient or full of yourself at this time, Cap.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 22-Feb. 19)

You have an astro-reputation for being a law unto yourself, WaterBearer. However, in the days to come, loved ones are going to see how conservative you can be — having realized that there are advantages to be gained by changing your tactics. Be true to yourself and kind to others.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

Because pressures are high, you appear to be caught up in a vicious kind of cycle regarding a joint decision or monetary arrangement. However, the Sun still hanging in your sign for another week should enable you to turn the situation to your advantage. Resist the desire to take revenge.

Dennis Fairchild is the Birmingham astrologer-author of several books on divination. For information about a live personal intuitive-astrological consultation and classes, call (248) 546-6912.

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*Early booking prices applies to C-seating for performances from May 12 - May 28, booked 61 days in advance of performance date (P.0000449)

Author recalls the glory days of Ebbets Field and the Dodgers

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

In 1955 the Brooklyn Dodgers won the World Series. Jackie Robinson, Pee Wee Reese, Duke Snider, Roy Campanella and the other "Boys of Summer" finally brought joy to Ebbets Field, a storied ballpark in New York's most baseball mad borough.

Two years later, Dodgers owner Walter O'Malley took the beloved Dodgers of Ebbets Field like thieves in the night to a sunnier and more prosperous home in Los Angeles.

On the 50th anniversary of the Dodgers' first World Series victory, Northville writer Joseph McCauley has written and self-published an entertaining history of the famous ballpark and its quirky baseball team, *Ebbets Field: Brooklyn's Baseball Shrine* (authorhouse, \$19.50).

McCauley has brought together the memories of players, executives, broadcasters, vendors, groundskeepers and, most memorably, fans to tell a story of baseball in the neighborhood. He has also assembled an impressive collection of photos that are placed throughout the large format book, dating from the park's opening day in 1913 to its demise in the late '50s.

McCauley has worked at the U.S. Postal Service office in Royal Oak for 26 years, but he originally studied journalism at Wayne State University and interned with the *Observer & Eccentric* in the late 1970s. He said he's always wanted to write a book.

"I've collected a lot of books on ballparks," McCauley said. "There have been a ton of them done on Tiger Stadium, Yankee Stadium, Wrigley Field, Fenway Park, but there has never been one on Ebbets Field."

McCauley began his quest at Cooperstown's Baseball Hall of Fame, in search of a photo of Ebbets' elaborate rotunda of Italian marble and a chandelier with baseball bat arms and light globes shaped like baseballs.

He finally tracked a picture down through the Los Angeles Dodgers archives.

"That was my Holy Grail for doing the book. I accomplished that and other things worked out well," McCauley said.

Another thing that "worked out well" was his first celebrity interview, and he didn't have to go far to do it.

"The most exciting thing right off the bat was when I wrote to Ernie Harwell," McCauley said. Harwell, the longtime voice of the Detroit Tigers, began his major league broadcasting career in 1948 as a fill-in for an ailing Red Barber. "Ernie called me up. I wasn't home, but my wife got the call and she was all thrilled. I called him up and he said come over to the house."

McCauley interviewed Harwell for 40 minutes at his home in Farmington Hills. He said getting that interview gave him the confidence to go ahead with his book.

FANS REMEMBER

Some of his best interviews are with ordinary fans, for whom Dodgers baseball was a near religious experience. An early photo shows a trolley pulling up alongside the brick-faced Ebbets Field, suggesting just how much the ballpark was part of the neighborhood. The

team acquired its name because its fans had to "dodge" the trolleys to get to the park.

"They all lived right around there," McCauley said of the fans. "It would be like having a ballpark around here where the George Burns Theatre used to be (Farmington and Plymouth roads). They had a feeling that this was their thing. The players were their buddies and lived in the neighborhood during the season. They'd meet them when they were out shopping. It was a community thing."

McCauley quotes a fan, Stan Field, on the Ebbets experience: "Ebbets Field was very warm and cozy. We spent most of our time in the bleachers, but were treated just as well as the box seat patrons. One really felt at home there and you could go with the guys or even feel comfortable with a date there. ... The thing that sticks out in my mind most about Ebbets Field was the friendly atmosphere between fans and other fans and fans and the players."

McCauley said the park was also a kind of community center. High school football games, circuses, concerts and even outdoor movies were presented in the off-season.

The Dodgers had been a fan favorite even when they struggled to put a decent team on the field and were nicknamed Da Bums. But Dodger fortunes began to change after World War II. In 1947, Ebbets Field made history. Dodgers president Branch Rickey brought Jackie Robinson up from the Montreal minor league team to become major league baseball's first black player.

"Jackie Robinson was a great player," McCauley said. "If he wasn't a great player, things might have turned out much differently. Rickey wanted to get not only the best player, but the best person who could deal with what was going to happen, the scorn and name calling. He had to get the best person and a real love bond happened there."

Robinson's solid bat, speedy base running and dogged deter-

mination became the catalyst for a dynamite team that would compete for the pennant every year. They won pennants and lost World Series to the New York Yankees. In 1951 they lost the pennant in an historic play-off game with their archrivals, the New York Giants, when Bobby Thompson hit a home run off Ralph Branca at the Polo Grounds.

DODGERS GO HOLLYWOOD

By 1955 it all game together and the Dodgers defeated the Yankees in a seven-game sub-way series. But the end for Ebbets was at hand. O'Malley was already trying to get public support to build a new stadium. The neighborhood park didn't have enough seats or enough parking.

The Braves had moved from Boston to Milwaukee and O'Malley, seeing their success, was eager to make his own move. Meanwhile, the rival Giants were looking to move to Minnesota when O'Malley convinced Giants owner Horace Stoneham to move to San Francisco instead and keep their rivalry alive.

The Dodgers' last hurrah was a 1956 pennant. They lost the seven-game series in a rematch with the Yankees. In January 1957, Jackie Robinson retired and by fall O'Malley was ready to move to Los Angeles.

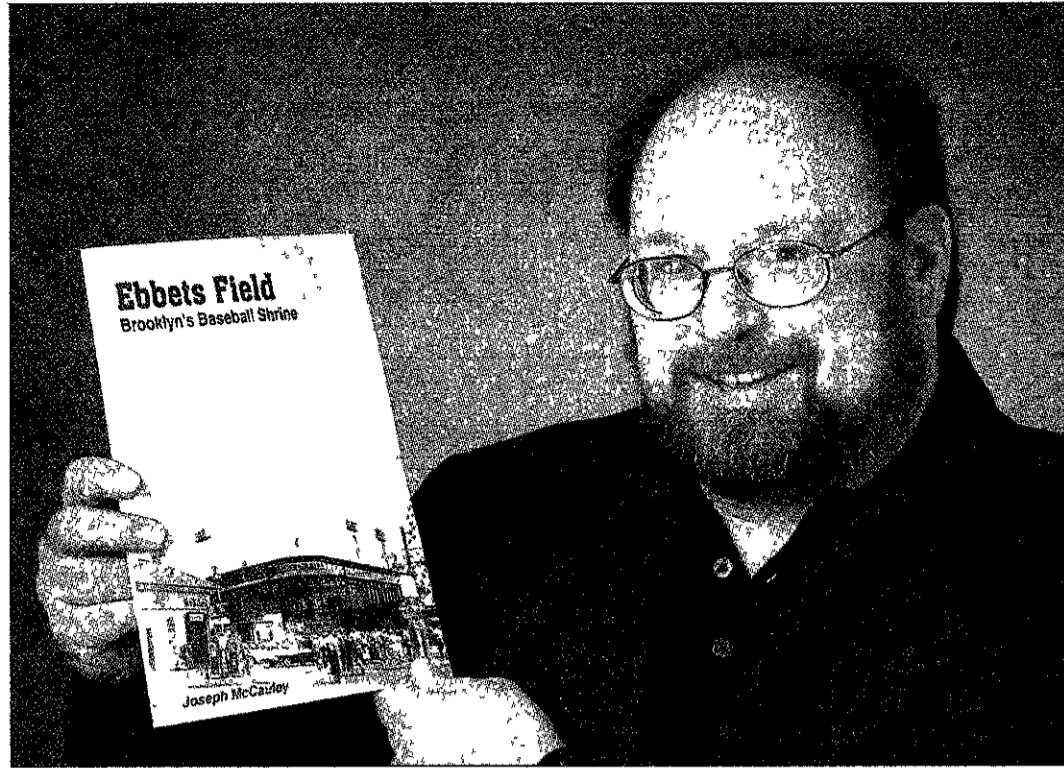
Ebbets Field was demolished in 1960 and replaced by a housing project.

"There's a small sign recognizing Ebbets Field and near it a sign saying 'No Ball Playing.' On a site that once had the best baseball in the world, they don't allow baseball," McCauley said.

McCauley has been invited to Cooperstown June 28 to give a talk on his book at the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Ebbets Field: Brooklyn's Baseball Shrine is available online at Barnes & Noble, Amazon.com and authorhouse.com.

hgallagher@oehomecomm.net | (734) 853-2149



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Joseph McCauley has written a history of Ebbets Field, storied home of the Brooklyn Dodgers.

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ENGAGEMENT

Lesko-Downs

John Lesko and Suzanne Schluederberg of Ann Arbor, and Donald and Alicia Van Pelt of Plymouth, announce the engagement of their daughter, Marisa Christine Lesko, to Chad David Downs, son of David and Ruth Downs of Kalamazoo.

Chad and Marisa met while students at Eastern Michigan University. They both earned their Bachelor's Degree in Science from EMU's College of Education. Marisa teaches kindergarten in Monroe and Chad teaches third and fourth grade in Ann Arbor.

Chad and Marisa are planning a July wedding at St. Andrew's Church in Ann Arbor.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jessie Chapman (left counterclockwise), Kelsey Lutz, Mick Gavin, Colleen Shanks, Holland Raper, and Sean and Michael Gavin perform at the St. Patrick's Day Irish Fest in Westland.

This St. Patrick's Day Fest is a family affair

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

The first time Michael Gavin played fiddle at the Irish Fest 16 years ago it was a glorious day not only because he was allowed to skip school, but the crowd cheered at the end of the song.

Gavin returns to play the 20th annual event with his father, Mick and brother Sean 3 p.m. to midnight at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy in Westland. Tickets are \$10 for adults, free for children because this really is a family affair both on and off stage. Dancers, some as young as age 4, from the O'Hare School/Irish Dance Center in Plymouth and Heinzman School of Irish Dance will kick up their heels.

"The Fest is fun. I love this kind of music," said Michael Gavin, a 28-year-old student in the doctoral program in the philosophy department at Wayne State University.

It's only natural Gavin loves the music. The Farmington Hills resident grew up in an Irish household in Redford where his father continues to teach fiddle to students from ages 5 to 25. All three of the Gavins also teach at the Finnish Club in Farmington Hills.

"I'm excited about all the young people in the Irish Fest. A lot of my students will perform," said Mick Gavin who came to the U.S. from Ireland in 1974. "Irish music has never been as strong as it is now. People are beginning to realize the true folk music with all of the new CDs and the music you can get on the Web."

Like his father, Sean Gavin sees more and more young people coming to him to learn to play penny whistle and flute because of events like the Irish Fest.

"Sometimes a lot of people think about St. Patrick's Day as a day of drunkenness. The Irish Fest is more of a family thing. Kids like to get up and dance. It's a different tone than any St. Patrick's Day event," said Sean Gavin, a student at Farmington Community High School.

For Megan Sanders, St. Patrick's Day has always meant dancing. Her mother's grandparents came from Ireland so the family would start the morning by going to the Gaelic League and dancing. Then they'd pack up their shoes and move on to the next stop.

This year Sanders, a teacher at O'Hare School of Dance in Plymouth, continues the tradition, ending up at the Irish Fest with dancers ranging in age from 4 to older students who've qualified for world championships in Ireland.

"We're going to be dancing all around the city doing a lot of local shows, the new Claddagh Bar in Livonia, Connor O'Neill's in Ann Arbor," said Sanders. "It's going to be a full day of dancing."

lchomin@oe.hometown.net | (734) 953-2145

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(734) 453-3869

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that on March 18, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at Mayflower Auto Transport, 1179 Starkweather Road, Plymouth, Michigan, a public auction of the following:
1989 Toyota Camry 4T1SV24E6KU098969
Dated: March 9, 2005
Publish March 13, 2005

CE0804139

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 Asbestos Abatement at Allen, Bird, & Smith Elementary Schools. The project will be completed in June-July 2005 prior to building renovation activities and will include the removal and disposal of asbestos flooring materials, asbestos thermal system insulation, asbestos transite materials, and windows with asbestos window caulk. Bid documents will be available for pickup on or after March 14, 2005 at HealthAir, Inc., 23491 Research Drive, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48335 or by phoning (248) 426-0165. All bids should include 3 copies (1 original, 2 duplicates) and are due to the PCCS E-J McClendon Educational Center, RE: School Abatement Bids, 454 South Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170, on or before 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 30, 2005 where they will be read publicly. For additional information, phone Dan Phillips, Assistant Director of Finance & Purchasing at (734) 416-2746. 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
JOANNE LAMAR, Secretary

Publish March 6 & 13, 2005

CE08032228

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

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

Publish March 13, 2005

CE08030598

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 and Installation of Playground Equipment for Tonda Elementary School. Specifications, bid forms, and additional information are available by contacting Dan Phillips of the PCCS Purchasing Department at (734) 416-2746. Sealed bids are due on or before 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 23rd, 2005. 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
JOANNE LAMAR, Secretary

Publish March 13 & 20, 2005

CE08090618

ORDINANCE #2005-01

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND
THE PLYMOUTH CITY CODE
BY AMENDING CHAPTER 54-72,
ARTICLE III, OFFENSES
AGAINST PUBLIC PEACE

THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. An Ordinance to amend Chapter 54, Article III, Section 54-72 of the Code of the City of Plymouth by adding the following language:

54-72. Fighting

No person shall engage in any physical fight in any public place. This section shall not apply to a physical fight between two participants in a sanctioned sporting event during the actual sanctioned sporting event. However, this section shall apply to any physical fight between spectators and/or any other non-participants at a sanctioned sporting event, as well as any physical fight between a participant in the sanctioned sporting event and a spectator and/or any other non-participant at a sanctioned sporting event.

SECTION 2. Effective Date: This ordinance shall become effective on the 27th Day of March, 2005.

Made, passed and adopted by the City Commission of the City of Plymouth, Michigan this 7th day of March, 2005.

STELLA GREENE
MAYOR

LINDA J. LANGMESSER, CMC
CITY CLERK

Publish: March 13, 2005

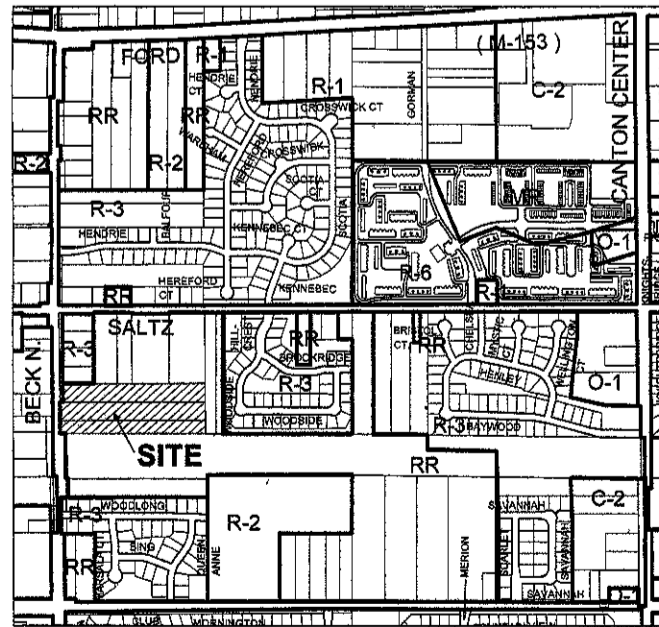
CE08030661

PLANNING COMMISSION
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1943 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 4, 2005 in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:

RIVIERA REZONING - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NOS. 063 99 0006 701, 063 99 0007 000 AND 063 99 0008 000 FROM RURAL RESIDENTIAL TO R-3, SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL. Property is located east of Beck between Cherry Hill and Saltz Roads.



SECTION 16

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, March 31, 2005, in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

Publish: March 13 and 31, 2005

CE08030645



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CE08030618

LIBRARY PICKS

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

FICTION

1. "Honeymoon," James Patterson
2. "The Broker," John Grisham
3. "The DaVinci Code," Dan Brown
4. "Survivor in Death," J.D. Robb
5. "State of Fear," Michael Crichton

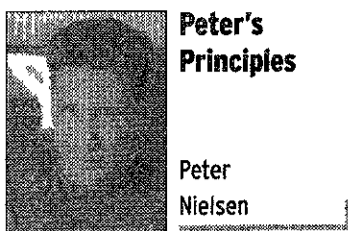
NON-FICTION

1. "Juiced," Jose Canseco
2. "Blink," Malcolm Gladwell
3. "Men in Black," Mark Levin
4. "Collapse," Jared Diamond
5. "God's Politics," Jim Wallis

PARENTS' CHOICE

NEW CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS

1. "Rickie and Henri," Jane Goodall
2. "Poodlena," E.B. McHenry
3. "Where is Bear?" Leslea Newman
4. "The Useful Moose," Fiona Robinson
5. "Into the Forest," Anthony Browne



Peter's Principles

Peter Nielsen

Exercise reduces bone loss

Question: Pat from Walled Lake is concerned about the onset of osteoporosis and is looking for tips on avoiding the bone loss disease.

Answer: Pat, you picked the right time to ask that question. A new study finds that just three 60 minute workouts a week along with calcium supplements can dramatically reduce your chances for osteoporosis. During this study, researchers examined 300 postmenopausal women. Half of the test subjects were assigned to a strict workout regimen. The routine consisted of both aerobic and resistance training. Everyone taking part in the study also consumed 800 milligrams of calcium nitrate everyday. After one year, bone mineral density was dramatically increased. Talk to your doctor for more information on this important study.

Question: Sarah from Allen Park wants to know when she should be concerned about working out in the cold.

Answer: There is no clear-cut answer to your chilly question. The key is the right clothing, so that your body temperature does not drop. It is vital that what you wear traps body heat without interfering with perspiration from the body. The best rule of thumb is to dress in three layers. An under layer that does not absorb water is best. Look for something made with synthetic materials. Next, find an insulating middle layer of wool or fleece. Your top layer should be resistant to water. Before heading out into the brutal cold, be sure to check the wind chill factor. That's especially important to parts of the body that remain exposed to the cold like the cheeks, ears, and nose. The risk of frostbite skyrockets when wind chill factors reach 20 degrees below zero.

If you have a health or fitness question you would like answered in the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, e-mail Peter at www.peternielsen.com. Catch Peter daily on WDIV-NBC 4 & WWJ News Radio 950. Contact him at Peter Nielsen's Personal Training Club in West Bloomfield or Nielsen's Town Center Health Club in Southfield.

Observer & Eccentric HEALTH

www.hometownlife.com

Dispelling myths

Breast cancer experts to talk about lowering risks

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Nutrition and exercise became priorities for Maryl Tull Balgenorth when she was diagnosed with breast cancer nine years ago. That's not to say the Birmingham woman doesn't eat chocolate, but only after making sure she meets the requirements for fiber, fruits and cancer-fighting foods such as broccoli and cruciferous vegetables.

Choosing an exercise routine wasn't as easy. When Balgenorth started lifting weights she knew it was a controversial decision for a breast cancer survivor to make. In her mind, the risk of osteoporosis outweighed the risk of a cancer reoccurrence.

Women are bombarded almost daily with information on the latest research which can conflict with previous findings. Balgenorth believes women feel as confused as she does so she's coordinating a breast cancer symposium on modifiable risk factors Saturday, March 19, at The Community House in Birmingham. The guest speaker is Dr. Victor Vogel, director of Magee-Women's Hospital at the University of Pittsburgh and a nationally recognized expert in breast cancer risk assessment and prevention.

Each year as executive director of Sharing & Caring, a breast cancer education and support group at William Beaumont Hospital, Balgenorth tries to focus on different ways to help women fight breast cancer.



Maryl Balgenorth, executive director of Caring and Sharing, talks with Dr. William Keye Jr., who will be speaking at the breast cancer symposium at The Community House in Birmingham.

TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

RISK FACTORS

"All of us who are women have this amazing network of exchanging information," said Balgenorth, 55. "Someone will say, 'Why are you wearing that underwire bra? Don't you know it can cause breast cancer?' We want to dispel the myths because everyone's in a panic. I want an authority to tell me if this is a risk, how much of a risk. It's important to know where to focus your efforts and reduce your stress over your decisions."

How do women sort through advice to avoid excessive weight gain and alcohol consumption, and inappropriate use of antibiotics? Does

folic acid lower the risk?

Every time Sue Keye hears a report on breast cancer, Dr. William Keye Jr. knows he and his wife will be having a long talk that night about the implications for her. Keye, who will speak about hormonal risk factors, bio-identical hormones, and preservation of fertility in premenopausal women with breast cancer, recommends maintaining a healthy weight and avoiding alcohol and antibiotics unless absolutely necessary to treat an infection.

Bio-identical hormones are another matter. These natural hormones are becoming a popular choice for women who don't want to take synthetic because of the increased risk

for breast cancer, heart disease and stroke. Keye says there is no proof natural hormones are safer than synthetics, but women who took neither did lower their risk of breast cancer.

"I'm not giving advice but informing women of the research so they can make their own choices," said Keye, chief of the division of reproductive endocrinology and infertility and director of the in vitro fertilization program at Beaumont Hospital. "For instance, based on the studies of the last two to three years, we recommend postmenopausal women limit the length of time they use hormones and for women to have their first child before 25 or 30. Another

PLEASE SEE EXPERTS, C7

Group provides help with mental health issues

Recovery, a self-help mental health organization meets 2:30 p.m. Sunday, at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 7:30 p.m. Monday, at St. Matthew's Methodist Church, and 1:15 p.m. Tuesday, at Mt. Hope Congregational Church. All locations are in Livonia.

Recovery helps people who suffer from depression, tension, anger, low self esteem and other feelings and sensations that interfere with daily living. There is no charge. For more information, call (313) 561-2521 or visit www.recovery-inc.org.

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MEDICAL DATEBOOK

MARCH

Scleroderma Foundation
Presents two speakers: hypnotherapist Nichol Merline will provide information and techniques on using hypnosis to reduce stress and manage pain, social worker Sandy Lopez meets with family members and loved ones to explore ways to with the challenges faced by caregivers of patients with a chronic illness 1 p.m. Sunday, March 13, at 30301 Northwestern, Farmington Hills. No charge but advance registration is required. Call (248) 865-7259 or (800) 716-6554.

Diet As Disease Prevention
7 p.m. Tuesday, March 15, Dr. Kerrie Saunders, discusses her book, Diet As Disease Prevention, in the Southfield Public Library Auditorium, 26300 Evergreen. Kerrie looks at cancer, osteoporosis, blood sugar disorders, heart attack, stroke and obesity from a whole new angle and gives practical advice on how to make the switch to a health promoting food and fitness plan. No charge. For more information, call the Guest Services Desk at (248) 796-4224

Let's Talk
The presentation answers the questions What Do I say? What Do I Do? when a loved one has been diagnosed with cancer or a terminal illness 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, in the St. Mary Mercy Hospital Auditorium, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. Speaker is Cheryl Fairbrother, an RN and coordinator of cancer services and the Peaceful Journey hospice program at the hospital. No charge, but registration is required. Call (734) 655-8950.

Classes
Vitamins & Minerals to the Rescue 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, March 16 and 23, at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. What mineral helps you sleep better and what vitamins reduce irritability? Learn from health educator Sandy Baumann the research findings about common vitamins and minerals, food sources for each, and the role that vitamins and minerals can play in healing insomnia, heart disease, anxiety, arthritis, diabetes, and depression. Bring your own supplements to evaluate, using reference guides and body responses. Cost is \$79, seniors \$63.20, includes workbook. Register by calling (734) 762-4448 by March 10.

Natural hormone replacement
Dr. Jerrold Weinberg, Mimi Kuykendall and University Compounding Pharmacy conduct a seminar on bio-identical natural hormone replacement 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, at MSU Management Educational Center, 811 West Square Lake, Troy. To reserve a seat or for information, call (248) 267-5002. The discussion includes hormone replacement therapy, alternative treatments, osteoporosis, and other topics related to menopause.

Osteoarthritis seminar
With Dr. Nicole Whitehead 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer. To register, call (248) 426-0201.

Fibromyalgia workshop
Dr. Kramer will give a free workshop on fibromyalgia 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, at the Carl Sandburg Library in Livonia. To register, call (248) 426-0201. Seating is limited.

Nursing job fair
Includes on the spot interviews and hiring 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 19, in the South Lobby at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. A free continuing education unit presentation is offered 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. called Acute Coronary Syndrome: No Time for Woulda-Coulda-Shoulda. Speaker is Michelle Moccia, RN. For more information, call (734) 655-2933.

Caregiver symposium
Hosted by Gilda's Club of Metro Detroit 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 19, at 3517 Rochester Road, Royal Oak. The symposium is designed to help caregivers bring the best care to their loved ones with cancer by learning the best ways to care for themselves. Topics include Caregivers Emotions, spirituality, relaxation self-hypnosis, and many others. Speakers include an oncologist, nutritionist, life coach, and representative from Hospice of Michigan. Call (248) 577-0800.

Hospice volunteer training
Offered by Community Hospice 6:30-9 p.m. Thursday April 7 to April 28, at the Community Hospice offices, 32932 Warren, Suite 100, Westland. Volunteers can choose from a variety of opportunities including providing companionship to patients, working in the office and helping out on special projects. Call Penny Thomas at (734) 522-4244 to register.

Volunteers needed
Sandcastles, a grief support program for children and teens, is seeking volunteers for its sites in Rochester,

Southfield, Livonia and other communities. The program is sponsored by Hospices of Henry Ford Health System. Meetings are held bi-weekly. To register for training or for more information, call (313) 874-6881.

Healthy for Today
A free health seminar on being healthy and sugar free 2-4 p.m. Sunday, March 20, at Cherry Hill Seventh Day Adventists Church, 33144 Cherry Hill, between Wayne and Venoy roads. Free samples of sugar free deserts will be provided. Because the first seminar was canceled due to bad weather, this session combines Digestion and Food Combining and Healthy Sugar Free Living. Call (734) 524-0880.

Divorce support
The Women's Resource Center at Schoolcraft College offers a free Divorce Support Group 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, in Room 225 of the McDowell Center on campus, 18600 Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia. The group provides a forum for discussion, receiving and sharing of information for those contemplating, in the process of or having difficulty adjusting to divorce. For more information call the WRC at (734) 462-4443.

Post-Polio support group
Support Group meets 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 26, at First Presbyterian Church of Troy, 4328 Livernois about a half mile north of Wattles (17 Mile). Please park in back enter through back door. For more information, call (313) 885-7855.

UPCOMING
Fit Fore Golf
7 p.m. Wednesday, April 6, seminar for golfers, emphasis is on posture, flexibility and strengthening exercises, and prevention of common golf injuries especially low back, at Oakland Physical Therapy, Providence Park Medical Center, 47601 Grand River, Suite B124, Novi, use northeast entrance. To register, call (248) 380-3550.

ONGOING
Grief support workshops
Angela Hospice offers ongoing grief support groups every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., at the Angela Hospice Care Center. All groups are free-of-charge and open to the community. For more information, call Joan Lee in the Bereavement Department at (734) 464-7810.

Grieving parents support group
The loss of a child can be especially devastating and complicated. Now parents who are struggling with the loss of a child can find support through the pediatric bereavement professionals at Angela Hospice. "Heartstrings" had its first meeting March 3, but individuals may join at any time. Meetings will be held at the Angela Hospice Care Center at Newburgh and I-96 in Livonia from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 6:30-8:00 p.m. For more information on Angela Hospice's community bereavement services or to register for the group,

call Feret at (734) 464-7810 or visit www.angelahospice.org.
Divorce Recovery Workshop
Bethany Rochester began a workshop series 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, for 11 weeks, at St. Irenaeus Catholic Church, 7710 Old Perch Road, Rochester Hills. For more information, call Mike at (248) 652-3860.

Don't Blame Your Age For Poor Hearing.

Chicago, Ill – A free offer of special interest to those who hear but do not understand words has been announced by Beltone. A non-operating model of the smallest hearing aid Beltone has ever developed will be given absolutely free to anyone requesting it. It's yours for the asking, so call for it now. It is not a real hearing aid, but it will show you how tiny hearing help can be. The actual aid weighs less than an eighth of an ounce, and it fits completely into the ear canal. These models are free, so we suggest you call for yours now. Again, there is no cost, and certainly no obligation. Although a hearing aid may not help everyone, more and more people with hearing losses are being helped. For your free sample call 1-800-906-7595 Ext. 33
Advertorial

EXPERTS

FROM PAGE C6
potential way to reduce risk is to breastfeed a baby for at least six months during one's lifetime. Some women don't have that option. These recommendations have a very small impact on the breast cancer but cumulatively may be significant. If a woman can't follow through on all of these I don't want her to feel she'll be setting herself up for breast cancer."

OBESITY
Dr. Jose Yanez doesn't think there's any doubt about the

role obesity plays as a risk factor. Formerly director of Beaumont's Weight Control Center, Yanez will speak about managing risk through diet and therapeutic lifestyle changes he calls TLC. "It's a combination of factors – eating too many calories and inactivity added to smoking and genetic disorders can cause not just breast, but colon and prostate cancer," said Yanez. "A woman with a 35-inch waist or greater is at risk of cancer. We're starting to focus on this as part of a physical exam because it leads to cardiovascular problems, diabetes and these types of cancer.

We're eating more starches and sweets. Everything is super-sized. At any time only 20 percent of Americans are active." Yanez starts his day on the right foot when the cat wakes him at 5:30 p.m. to work out on a stationary bike. He says driving golf balls for 30 uninterrupted minutes would be just as effective and probably more fun. "You don't have to become a jock or hockey player. I hand out pedometers to my patients and recommend 10,000 steps. If you have a sitting job 6,000, but that doesn't mean you can't go home and take a walk," said Yanez who frequently walks

around his home in Rochester. "Here in the Weight Control Center our director Dr. Peter McCullough calls it the hustle factor. If you're going to walk from here to your car, hustle." **CALM MIND**
Gail Evo cautions not to stress out while getting there. Beaumont Hospital has developed an integrative medicine program to teach cancer patients to calm their mind through meditation and use techniques such as guided imagery to boost the immune system. "I'm going to talk about the mind-body connection and the

effect of stress," said Evo, integrative medicine coordinator for oncology services. "We don't have to have illness to have stress in our lives and now we know how to reduce stress in our lives."
The Breast Cancer Symposium takes place 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 19, at The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham. Tickets are \$35, and available by calling (248) 551-8585.
lchomin@oh.homedcomm.net | (734) 953-2145

Fatigued, depressed, difficulty losing weight? It may be due to your hormones.

Since the endocrine system is devised of glands that produce and send hormones to all areas of our body to regulate the essential functions of our body like temperature, reproduction, growth, immunity, and aging, it stands to reason that this should be the hub of vitality, longevity and well being. Individuals often suffer for years being told that their thyroid, testosterone, estrogen, progesterone and adrenals are fine, but at the Fibromyalgia and Fatigue Center, we are finding that these levels are actually low and need to be supplemented, often with remarkable results. Standard blood tests only pick up the sickest 2-5% of the population.

Many of the common complaints that rarely get addressed by standard medicine can be remedied by hormone optimization. These include complaints such as, I can't lose weight like I use to. What happened to that feeling of well-being I feel depressed. My body aches. My skin is dry and rough. My joints hurt. I sure get tired easily. I feel cold all the time. My libido is shot. My hair is thinning. I don't feel right. My nails break so easily. I get sick easily. I get frequent headaches. My muscles are sore. I seem to retain water. I'm always constipated. I don't feel like I use to. I have PMS. I have lost my motivation. I'm not getting much relief from my treatment for chronic fatigue syndrome or fibromyalgia. I'm being treated for hypothyroidism, but I'm still tired.

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Win a chance for one lucky woman & one lucky man to receive a pair of VIP tickets for Wednesday, April 13th at 8 PM to see Disney's Beauty & the Beast at the Fox Theatre, a \$100 gift certificate to Oakland Mall, one dozen roses, and a his and hers haircut and style plus makeup application to enhance her beauty from Aura Spa Salon & Wellness in Farmington Hills!

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Please send entries to
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TAKING NSAIDS

The non-steroidal-anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are in the news again, following a Federal panel that made recommendations on their use. Specifically the panel approved returning Vioxx to the market place, and gave support to continued prescribing of Celebrex and Bextra. The panel cautioned that all three drugs should not be the initial NSAID of choice. The term NSAID refers to drugs that are not steroids, buy like steroids, act to decrease inflammation, pain, and fever. The old NSAIDs are drugs like aspirin, ibuprofen, and naprosyn. In 1999 a new type of NSAID appeared called a COX-2 inhibitor. Celebrex, Vioxx, and Bextra are the drugs in this category. These medications became popular because they caused less stomach distress and ulcers than the old NSAIDs. However, the new group in treating inflammation, pain, or fever. In 2004, studies on the use of the new group showed that they caused increased risk of heart attacks and strokes when compared to the old NSAID. This information led to the withdrawal of Vioxx by Merck who manufactured it, and created a debate over whether the other COX-2 drugs, Celebrex or Bextra should be used at all. At one time, the old group drug naprosyn was under scrutiny, but the majority of studies show no increased heart attacks following its use. The recommendation so the Federal panel mean that physicians will likely start group on a NSAIDs when indicated, using group two only in special circumstances. However, the last word has not been said.

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pink picks

pink page

Look for the expanded monthly issue of PINK next week!

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style

By k

profile: Gayle Halebian

General Sales Manager, 101 WRIF Radio

What does style mean to you?

Having a sense of who you are and presenting your dressed-self in a manner in which you want to be perceived. I tend to try and pull off chic, classy, funky and elegant without looking like I'm trying too hard. (That statement sounds as though I am trying too hard doesn't it?)

How would you describe your style?

My style tends to be a hybrid of many different styles but I lean toward the casual side. On winter weekends, it's usually jeans, boots and a chic T-shirt or sweater. Accessories are a must to glam it up! I am not much of a dress wearer.

Who is your style icon?

I try and take what I like best of from the mags, TV and on others. Most of the time it's quite subliminal rather than deliberate.

How does your business style reflect your business approach?

I dress according to where I am going and who I am seeing. I call it "strategic dressing." When going on appointments outside the office with new clients, I dress more conservatively — a pant suit or jacket and tailored pants. I have a scar on my neck from a tracheotomy operation when I was 3 years old, so sometimes you'll see me with a short scarf on when I'm feeling self-conscious. When meeting with familiar clients that are more on the casual side, I dress down a bit. I want people to be comfortable around me and vice versa.

How does your lifestyle reflect your personal style?

Our home is decorated very eclectically. We like to decorate with things that we love that are functional, cozy and give a vibe of who we are. It all seems to come together. We have a fabulous dining room table with red-antique painted chairs with cane bottoms. No decorators — no Stickely, but love the mission style.

Where are your fave places to shop in metro-Detroit?

Loehmann's — I am truly a discount queen and proud of it. But you really need to work it. BR (Banana Republic) — as long as I don't see duplicates of me all over town. Their Harrison pant style fits me like no other and I will pay the full price. Parisian has a fab shoe department and when you catch the sales — yikes what a blast! Speaking of shoes, Soul Sisters in Royal Oak and Northville rocks! They stock unique shoes from exotic places like Brazil. They also do after hour shoe parties with wine and cheese. I also love to shop at Excelsior on Woodward in Pleasant Ridge — they have unique jewelry and clothing.

Describe your ultimate shopping experience.

#1 Having an unlimited budget goes without saying. #2 Having to ask the salesperson for a smaller size in everything I try on. #3 Hitting a sale where the designer clothes are 50-70 percent off.

What one item can you never seem to resist when shopping?

Jackets, little sweaters, things that go over a teddy or top that tie a whole look together. What item are you dreaming of adding to your wardrobe now?

Spring clothes that aren't black! Also, tailored pants and skirts in colors and florals that are too 'fou-fou.'

What is your ultimate favourite piece in your closet that always comes through for you?

Black tailored pants from BR (boy am I ever hypocrite) and a pair of Hollywood jeans that I've had for over eight years. I also have picked up some great sequined tanks that look great peeking out from a great jacket or sweater.

What is your approach to beauty?

I bounce around when it comes to my skin regimen. I am currently using Aveda Hydrating Lotion and PreVentin-AT for lines and wrinkles as PINK recommended. I wash my face every night with some random kind of cleansing cream and Waterpik my teeth (very refreshing) after brushing. I use Bumble and Bumble Hair Thickening conditioner and Styling Cream — it adds great body to my fine hair. I used Revlon eye shadow that you can use dry or wet and Rimmel lipsticks. They have a great color assortment and they feel so good on my lips. And, of course I have an assortment of MAC lipsticks — who doesn't?

Do you have a style or beauty tip to share with PINK?

I really like the Stila Smudge Pot eyeliner that can be used with a brush for a line or smudge for that smoky look. I must also share with PINK that one of the best things I have found is treating myself to doing yoga at least twice a week. It is an overall beauty tip for your insides and out — for body, soul and mind.

Do you have a person that you count on to help keep you feeling and looking great?

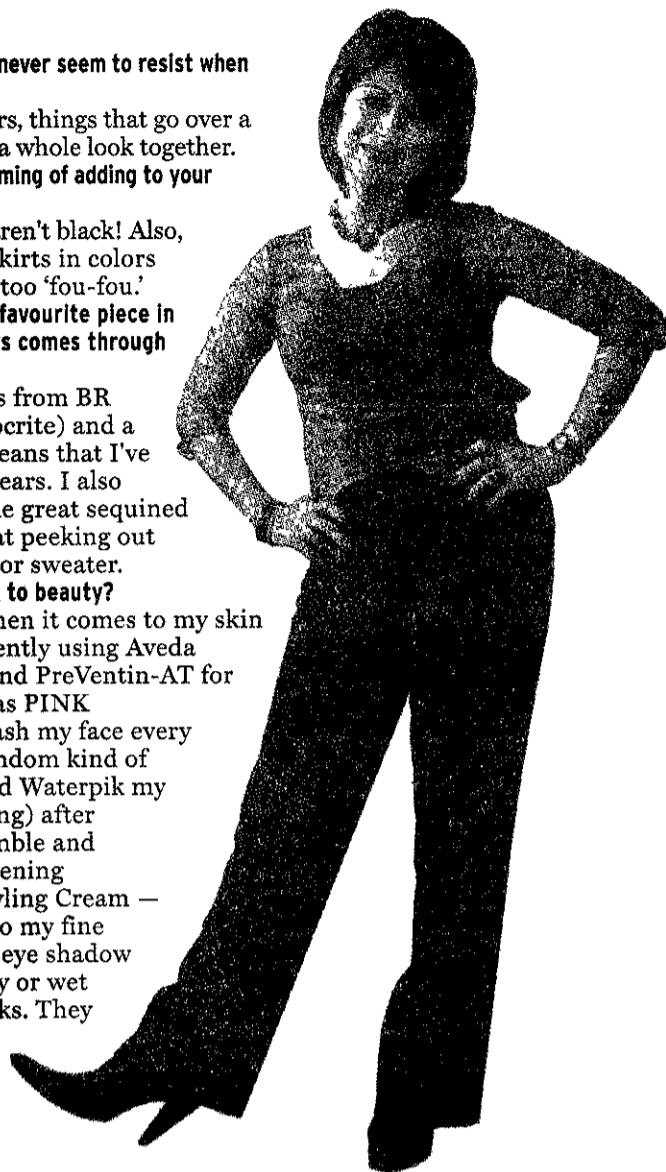
My hairdresser, Suzie, at Red. My husband-the Cappuccino Man. Alteration person extraordinaire — Elizabeth of Elizabeth Cleaners on Orchard Lake. My 16-year-old daughter, Sarah and 17-year-old son, Jacob are the most honest. Sometimes I have to think twice before asking "what do ya think?" I might not want to hear the answer.

Do you have a signature fragrance?

Issey Miyake

How do you like to pamper yourself?

Weekly manicures. Pedicures three to four times per year. Hair cut and color once a month. I can never get enough massages! And, at least one or two facials a year. What am I forgetting?



Dresses over jeans

Old Navy printed linen clutch

Sam Edelman Angelina wedge moc

See it! The Upside of Anger



J. Crew Midnight floral Lady jacket

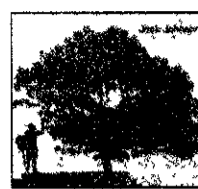
Send Bells of Ireland blooms for good luck



The Incredibles

PoweR Girls on MTV

Smashed by Koren Zailckas



In Between Dreams by Jack Johnson

Skip the green beer. Go for a sassier Blarney Stone Sour instead!

pink list

Stepping Out in Style

An evening of shopping, food, fashion and fun to benefit First Step, Project on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Indulge in private shopping at Livonia Parisian (with 20 percent discount on most items), entertainment, signature food from local restaurants and a raffle with a \$500 shopping spree and \$500 cash prize. All proceeds from ticket and raffle sales will be used to help victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault.

Sunday, March 13 6:30-9:30 pm. Call 734-414-0553 or 734-729-4491. www.zontafarmington-novi.org

BLISS! Bridal Fest

Plan an amazing wedding in one day! The Sunday, March 13 event includes strolling hors d'oeuvres, wine tasting, pampering, fashion shows, prizes, gifts and honeymoons given away every hour. Noon-4 p.m. at Canterbury Castle, 2369 Joslyn Court, Auburn Hills. \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door. Call 888-BLISS-11 or go to www.blissbridalfest.com

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ENHANCED IMAGE MEDSPA

Q I hate looking at my cellulite!

A There is hope! Cellulite is formed by a combination of hormonal influence, poor circulation, inadequate lymphatic drainage and excess fat. Exercise and diet can help but unfortunately are not curative. The most effective and longest lasting treatment comes from France and is called mesotherapy. French physician, Dr Alain Lejunie, taught me this technique of using tiny microinjections of medications and vitamins under the skin to shrink and smooth away lumpy, bumpy cellulite. The treatments are easy, painless and much less expensive than most enhancement procedures. Our medical spa offers free personal evaluations by a physician every Tuesday.

Scott C. Greib, MD
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BIRMINGHAM MENOPAUSE

Q I have been taking bi-identical hormones for three years. I am extremely happy that all of my symptoms are gone, but how will I know when I should stop the hormones?

A There are two schools of thought regarding the length of treatment of menopausal symptoms with bi-identical hormones. Some physicians feel that women should stop their hormones every year or two to see if their symptoms recur. Others suggest that because of substantial evidence that estrogens may delay or prevent cognitive disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease, women should continue the hormones indefinitely. We at the Birmingham Menopause Institute try to help each woman make the best decision for her.

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Mimi A. Kuykendall, PA-CMS

Call for an appointment
248.865.3750
www.birmingham-menopause.com
30055 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 250
(corner of Inkster Rd.)
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

ASK THE LASER EYE INSTITUTE

Q Why do some centers advertise Lasik at \$295.00 per eye, while most are over \$1000 per eye?

A Those "discount" centers know what their service is worth. In fact, there is no \$295 LASIK. That is a "bait and switch" technique that has been used by crafty salesmen for years. The \$295 fee is for minimal correction only (where you don't need Lasik) using obsolete lasers that no one would want used on their eyes. Once these native patients are in the door, they are upgraded to the "good laser" at \$899 per eye. Using "ala carte" pricing these Centers charge more for higher correction, astigmatism, touch ups, and even follow up care. Once all the "ala carte" fees are added on to their bill and multiplied by 2, the unsuspecting patient ends up with 10 x "\$295" advertised price, bringing their total cost to \$2950 for both eyes. Dr. Daniel Haddad, director of The Laser Eye Institute is currently one of the most experienced Custom Vue Lasik surgeons in Michigan and one of the first centers to offer this revolutionary technology.

Daniel S. Haddad, M.D.
248-689-2020
www.lasereyeinstitute.com

ASK THE BEVERLY HILLS PLASTIC SURGEON

Q Dear Dr. Youn: My husband Bob wants to look younger and less tired. Recommendations? -What about Bob?

A (Continued from last week) Removal of loose eyelid skin and bags under the eyes is very effective in helping men look younger and more refreshed. This is done using small incisions which heal almost imperceptibly. It is important not to overdo an upper eyelid lift, as it can create a feminine look, such as in Bruce Jenner and David Gest. A facelift can restore youth to the face and neck. It is important for the surgeon to avoid pulling too tight to create a "done" look. A combination of volume enhancement around the cheeks and mild skin tightening (The Volumetric Facelift) can give outstanding, natural, and masculine results.

So, although many of the cosmetic surgeries to restore youth are similar in men and women, in men they must be done with an eye to retain masculinity.

For additional information, visit Dr. Youn's website at www.beverlyhillsbeauty.com or call (248) 650-1900.

Dr. Youn's office is located in Rochester Hills, and he can be seen on selected episodes of "Dr. 90210" on E!

ASK THE STRAITH CLINIC

Cosmetic Surgery Since 1936

Q How do I determine which Facelift is the best for me?

A The goal of all facelift procedures is to make a person look younger by elevating the skin and possibly deeper soft tissue structures. Face lifts can be broadly divided into minimally invasive (S-lift, Style lift, weekend lift, mini face lift), and traditional facelifts. The minimally invasive lifts have the advantage of less surgery and generally faster recovery. The main disadvantage is that they are primarily limited to patients with minimal sagging and those who do not require correction of the neck. This means that minimally invasive facelifts are best suited for younger patients. The traditional facelift is an established procedure that gives a much better and longer lasting correction of facial aging for patients that have moderate or severe sagging or are in need of improvement of hanging skin under the chin. In order to decide which facelift is best for a particular patient, a consultation with a board certified plastic surgeon is recommended. Talk with your surgeon about the different techniques available and ask to see before and after comparisons of their results. None of these procedures should be considered a "lunch time" or "weekend" procedure. All are surgical procedures that require appropriate recovery for a safe return to normal activities.

For additional information or FREE appointment Call...248-647-5800
www.straithclinic.com

Let spring in with versatile windows and doors

(MS) - Spring is just around the corner, and people across the country will be opening up their homes to let spring breezes and warm weather in. This year, bringing the outdoors in could be faster, easier than ever with a variety of new products from the window and door industry.

Some of the hottest products in this market right now are retractable screen doors. "Builders and homeowners are really excited about our new retractable screen doors," says Jeff Williams, senior brand manager at Weather Shield Windows and Doors. "There's no need to hide a beautiful entry door beneath a screen. When your door is closed and you don't need a screen, our new screen rolls into a slender housing attached to the door-frame. You don't even know it's there. When you're ready to open your door and let the outside air in, the screen rolls smoothly across the doorway, forming a tight seal over the

opening to let the air in and keep everything else out." Another added benefit of the retractable screen doors is their ease of use and durability. Top and bottom guide rails smoothly guide the door when moving, and a heavy duty magnet secures the door closed. The Weather Shield fiberglass mesh screen is coated with non-glare PVC for enhanced durability. When the screen is not in use, the housing protects it from the elements, extending its life. "Ultimately, retractable screen doors allow homeowners to enjoy the convenience of a screen door when they need one and to forget it's there when they don't," says Williams.

Another increasingly popular way to open your home to the outdoors is with telescoping patio doors with up to six panels. These multi-panel sliding glass doors can open as little or as wide as you want, instantly transforming and expanding a room. "Homeowners like our telescoping patio doors both because of their aesthetic and

their versatility," says Williams. "When the telescoping patio doors are closed, they are beautiful and provide a stunning view of the outdoors. When the weather is nice and you want to bring the outdoors in, the panels of the door slide open, creating a large airy space." Even if you are simply looking to install or replace a sliding patio door this spring, the range and quality of products now on the market are quite impressive. Companies such as Weather Shield have redesigned their doors for improved durability, performance, energy efficiency and aesthetics. The new Weather Shield designs feature a sleek look with cleaner sight lines and architecturally proportioned stiles and rails. A new slider system has improved rollers and a new door channel design that effortlessly guide the moving panels. A rot-resistant pultruded fiberglass sill has an internal weep system that prevents side jams from absorbing moisture. Rubber gasket seals between the sill and stile create a durable bond



Weather Shield's new telescoping sliding glass door is the ultimate entertaining resource that can double, triple or more a room's capacity in a moment's notice. New weather-stripping systems and key design innovations improve thermal efficiency and aesthetics. In addition, doors feature a standard DP-35 design pressure rating, with a DP-50 upgrade available that complies with some of the country's strictest building codes. This means that homeowners living in high wind zones can enjoy the outdoors, without sacrificing safety or aesthetics. For more information call (800) 477-6808 or visit www.weathershield.com.

CLASSIFIED INDEX

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View the Observer & Eccentric Real Estate Classifieds on the Web:
www.hometownlife.com

Haggling over the commission you pay your Realtor

Should I try and bargain how much I pay my Realtor and chose the one who charges the least?



Ask a Realtor
Michael Aldouby

Selling real estate is certainly competitive. There are many Realtors who are interested in working for you. Different Realtors could charge less. Should you go with the one that charges the least?

The standard commission to sell residential real estate is 6 percent. Three percent goes to the buyer's agent and 3 percent goes to the seller's agent.

You don't want to mess with the 3 percent that goes to the buyer's agent. If you do, it's unlikely that your house will be shown. Realtors have the option of choosing what houses they present to the buyer. If they see that they would get less commission selling a particular

house, they have every temptation to just not show it. The real question is should you try to pay your selling agent less and should you sign up with the one that offers to sell your house for a discounted commission?

This is very risky for several reasons:
■ One of the chief jobs of your Realtor is to negotiate the best price for your home. If Realtors are ready to cut their own pay for selling your house, how hard will they work on your behalf to get you the most for your house? Also, what

value do they place on their work?
■ Selling houses is very costly. Realtors need to pay for the marketing involved. Mailings, signs, and advertisements are all very expensive. If you pay your Realtor less, he has less money to spend marketing your home, thereby exposing it to fewer potential buyers. And remember that the fewer buyers whom are exposed to your property the less chance of getting the money you want for your house.
■ You want Realtors to have incentive to sell your house. If you pay them less, they have less incentive to work hard to get your home sold.
■ Your home is probably your biggest asset. The Realtor who sells it for you is responsible for making sure that everything goes smoothly in a transaction that is very important to you. Is that really

someone you want to haggle with?
If you or a loved one needs heart surgery are you going to try and get the best heart surgeon to do the operation or are you going to pick the one who charges the least? True, that if the selling of your house goes sour it is unlikely that anyone will die, however, there are hundreds of thousands of your dollars involved in the process.
When you pick a Realtor try to find the one who is the most competent in getting the job done. You normally get what you pay for.
Michael Aldouby is a columnist and a Realtor with RE/MAX New Trend. He has a M.B.A. with a concentration in marketing. He is happy to answer any real estate questions you may have or to receive any comments about the column. Please feel free to call him at (248) 553-5050, Ext. 264, or e-mail him at michaelaldouby@remax.net.

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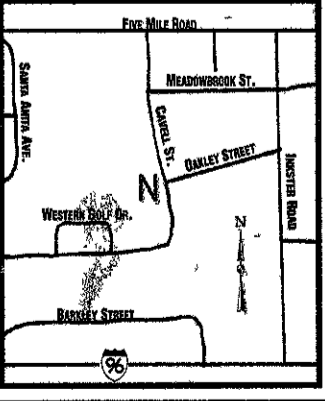
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SOAVE COMPANIES DEVELOPMENT



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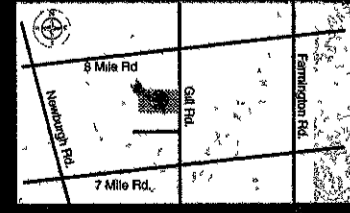
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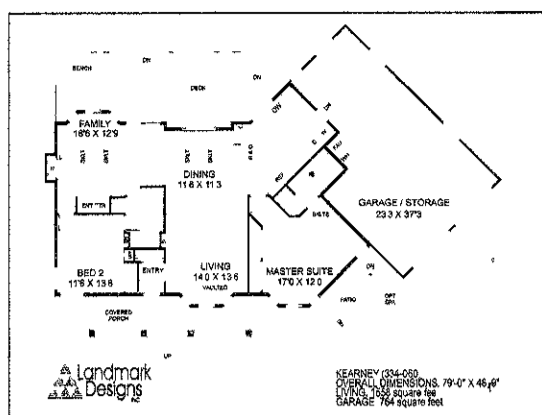
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Home ideal for empty nesters

If the privacy of a well-isolated master suite is important to you, consider the Kearney (334-060). The master suite and second bedroom could not be much farther apart. For the couple with an older child still



at home, or empty nesters who need a spare room for guests, this arrangement is beneficial. Luxuries in the master suite, where a large bay window brings the sunshine inside, include a skylit bathroom with separate toilet and twin basins, a large closet, and private access to a small back patio, where an optional spa can ease away the cares of the day. Dining room and family room flow together, with a wide hearth to take away the chill. A full bathroom, with dual access, separates the family room and second bedroom. The large, vaulted living

room has a big bay window looking out over the covered porch to the front yard. For the cook in the house, the spacious walk-in kitchen is sure to please. Conveniently located for easy serving, the kitchen has all the built-ins plus a pantry and room for a washer and dryer. Order or search through thousands of plans online at www.landmarkdesigns.com. Use the code CODE and save 15 percent on full set orders. Or call us at (800) 562-1151, making sure you have the discount code CODE and the plan name and number KEARNEY (334-060). Study plans for \$24.95 are available for all our plans

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Novi

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If you're seeking a prestigious Northville address and won't settle for anything short of the best, then your search has ended at Waterstone Estates by Pulte Homes. This charming neighborhood—located on Ridge Road, North of Six Mile—is one of the areas premier luxury home communities.

Waterstone Estates features a variety of Pulte Homes' award-winning floor plans on 1/2 acre home sites, including the highly sought after Richmond, a 3650 sq. ft. floor plan that is the benchmark of luxury living! Beautiful estate size homes in Waterstone Estates start in the mid \$500's.

Waterstone Estates by Pulte Homes is surrounded by mature trees and offers a location that is second to none. Just two miles from charming downtown Northville, Waterstone Estates offers quaint country living with all the major conveniences close at hand.

Children at Waterstone Estates will reap the benefits of attending the highly acclaimed Northville schools—with all schools within two miles of the entrance.

Now has never been a better time to experience what Waterstone Estates has to offer. Owning the home of your dreams can be more affordable than you think. Stop in today—homes are selling fast. For more information call 248-348-9676.

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<p>2005 MERCURY MONTEREY 4.2L V6 automatic transmission, dual zone temperature control with auxiliary air conditioning, dual sliding doors, rear privacy glass, forward reverse sensing. Stock #50265</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$19,145 36 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL A-Plan \$249 Due at Signing</p>	<p>2005 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS 4.6 V8 electronic override transmission, illuminated entry, speed control, power mirrors, power locks. Stock #50813</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$15,608 24 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL A-Plan \$199 Due at Signing</p>	<p>2005 MERCURY MONTEGO 3.0 4V V6, six speed automatic transmission, dual zone automatic air conditioning, heated power mirrors, traction control, premium sound, remote perimeter lighting. Stock #50993</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$19,790 24 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL A-Plan \$199 Due at Signing</p>	
<p>2005 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER 4.0 V6 automatic transmission, tuning boards, advance trac, AM/FM stereo, CD, keyless entry, 5700 GWT, tire pressure monitor. Stock #50210</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$22,241 24 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL A-Plan \$89 Due at Signing</p>	<p>2005 LINCOLN TOWN CAR SIGNATURE 4.6 V8 engine, automatic transmission, premium AM/FM stereo, CD, dual zone climate control, power pull down trunk, ext. rear park assist. Stock #50433</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$29,140 36 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL A-Plan \$109 Due at Signing</p>	<p>2005 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR 4X4 5.4L 3V V8 six speed automatic transmission, air conditioning, advance trac, air suspension, third row seat, running boards, reverse sensing system. Stock #51081</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$49,659 36 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL A-Plan \$176 Due at Signing</p>	<p>2005 LINCOLN AVIATOR JET BLACK EDITION 4.6 V8 auto override trans, dual automatic temp control, steering wheel auto temp controls, power moonroof, AM/FM in-dash 6 CD changer, front heated/cooled seats. Stock #51058</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$38,023 36 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL A-Plan \$176 Due at Signing</p>
<p>2005 MERCURY MAVERICK 4X4 2.3 engine, four speed automatic transmission, air conditioning, AM/FM CD stereo with clock, power mirrors, fog lamps, roof rack, leather steering wheel. Stock #51097</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$17,100 24 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL A-Plan \$149 Due at Signing</p>	<p>2005 LINCOLN LS V8 3.9 V8 five speed automatic transmission, sport tuned suspension, dual zone temperature control, power moonroof, heated/cooled front seats, leather steering wheel. Stock #51153</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$31,420 36 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL A-Plan \$209 Due at Signing</p>	<p>2005 MERCURY SABLE 3.0 six cylinder automatic override transmission, air conditioning, dual power mirrors, 60/40 split folding rear seat. Stock #50067</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$11,307 24 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL A-Plan \$109 Due at Signing</p>	

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See Demmer for details

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2005 Taurus SE 4 Door Sedan

64 Available

Take a look at these features...
CFC-free air conditioning, OTC power restraint sys-pass air bag, dual pwr mirror, 3.0L 2V 6-cyl flex fuel eng, auto O/D trans, P215/60R16 all season tire, SE pref equip pkg, 5-spk painted aluminum wheels, rear spoiler, pwr driver seat w/lumbar, 60/40 splitfold rear seat, AM/FM stereo, cass [Stk #51397] **WAS \$22,530**

	A-PLAN	EVERYONE
	\$12,908^{25*}	\$13,586^{20*}
24 MO. LEASE RENEWAL	A-PLAN	EVERYONE
	ZERO DOWN	ZERO DOWN
	\$186.30 per mo.	\$200.19 per mo.
	<small>\$186.30 AMOUNT DUE</small>	<small>\$200.19 AMOUNT DUE</small>
	\$1000 DOWN	\$1000 DOWN
	\$144.44 per mo.	\$158.21 per mo.
	<small>\$144.44 AMOUNT DUE</small>	<small>\$158.21 AMOUNT DUE</small>

2005 F-150 STX Super Cab

\$170 PER MONTH 24-MONTH A/Z/D RENEWAL LEASE \$1,965 DUE AT SIGNING
See Demmer for details

GET POWER TOOLS AT NO CHARGE!

\$250 FREE GAS WITH PURCHASE OR LEASE OF ANY NEW VEHICLE (RETAIL BUYERS ONLY)

2005 Ford Five Hundred SEL

76 Available

Take a look at these features...
AM/FM/CD/8 MP3 radio, 17 x 7 5-spoke aluminum with lug nuts, fog lamps, message center, steering wheel audio controls, Optional Equip 3.0L 4V duratec engine, automatic transmission, 6-speed, P215/60R17 BSW tires, traction control [Stock #52779] **WAS \$25,045**

	A-PLAN	EVERYONE
	\$19,956^{25*}	\$21,833^{25*}
24 MO. LEASE RENEWAL	A-PLAN	EVERYONE
	ZERO DOWN	ZERO DOWN
	\$239.02 per mo.	\$354.78 per mo.
	<small>\$239.02 AMOUNT DUE</small>	<small>\$354.78 AMOUNT DUE</small>
	\$1000 DOWN	\$1000 DOWN
	\$196.28 per mo.	\$292.32 per mo.
	<small>\$196.28 AMOUNT DUE</small>	<small>\$292.32 AMOUNT DUE</small>

2005 Freestyle FWD SEL

63 Available

Take a look at these features...
AM/FM/CD/8 MP3 radio, anti-lock brakes, mess center, 17x7 5-spk bright alum wheel, string w/hi audio controls, fog lamps, Optional Equipment 3.0L 4V Duratec engine, contin variable trans, P215/65R17 BSW tires, 5.19 ratio regular axle, 50/50 split seat, trac control 60/40 split 3-passenger 2nd row [Stk #52558] **WAS \$27,185**

	A-PLAN	EVERYONE
	\$21,949^{65*}	\$23,765^{65*}
24 MO. LEASE RENEWAL	A-PLAN	EVERYONE
	ZERO DOWN	ZERO DOWN
	\$242.59 per mo.	\$343.29 per mo.
	<small>\$242.59 AMOUNT DUE</small>	<small>\$343.29 AMOUNT DUE</small>
	\$1000 DOWN	\$1000 DOWN
	\$200.83 per mo.	\$301.00 per mo.
	<small>\$200.83 AMOUNT DUE</small>	<small>\$301.00 AMOUNT DUE</small>

2005 Ford Escape Limited FWD

161 Available

Take a look at these features...
Leather comfort group, power driver's seat, speed control, air conditioning, Duratec 3.0L 4V V6 engine, four speed automatic transmission and more [Stock #51873] **WAS \$25,395**

	A-PLAN	EVERYONE
	\$18,658^{58*}	\$19,707^{58*}
24 MO. LEASE RENEWAL	A-PLAN	EVERYONE
	ZERO DOWN	ZERO DOWN
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This Week's Featured Pet



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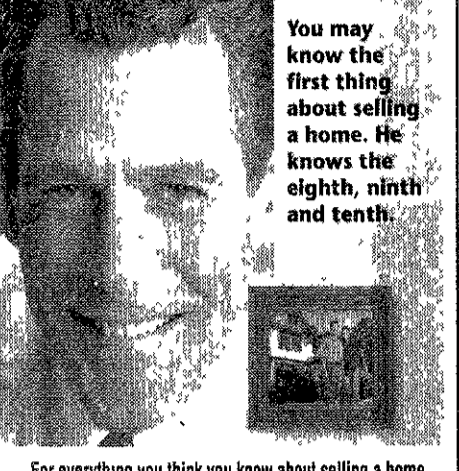
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 Cab 4x4, red & ready! Low
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 loaded, low miles, \$10,900
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 Eddie Bauer, 5.4 litre, v-8
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 19k miles, Eddie Bauer, white
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 25k miles Mom-to-be needs
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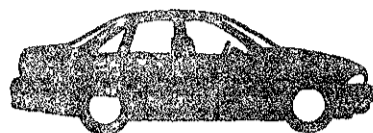
Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 13, 2005

2005 Jaguar XJ8L Vanden Plas: it's all luxury

Advertising Feature



Anne Fracassa



Avanti NewsFeatures

By Dave Menard
Avanti NewsFeatures

Observer & Eccentric auto critic Anne Fracassa is off this week. Avanti NewsFeatures columnist Dave Menard is writing the road test column in her place.

Usually when I get a car to test drive, I try to place myself in the shoes of a potential owner. Under what circumstances might I come to own this car? How would I drive it? How would it get used? Does the car (or truck or SUV, for that matter), perform in those circumstances like it should. In other words, my standards are different for a Saturn than they might be for a Dodge Ram or a Cadillac (basic transportation vs. working truck vs. luxury ride).

At a list price of over \$70,000, the 2005 Jaguar XJ8L Vanden Plas (VDP) puts me in a quandary; I know I will never spend that kind of dough on a car, so it's difficult to put myself in the shoes of an owner. On the other hand, it does everything it should, and if you've got that kind of money for something on four wheels, you should give it a spin, or two.

At more than 205 inches, the XJ8L VDP is the longest Jaguar ever built, but still weighs less than most other cars in its class. For the first time, the complete body structure of the XJ8 is manufactured from aluminum alloy. All the XJ8 models, including the VDP, get a new front grille treatment, and 18-inch alloy wheels to go along with the heated power mirrors, power moonroof and, of course, the distinctive Jaguar badging and hood ornament.

Inside, the VDP has all the room and luxury you'd expect from a car in this class. There's room to stretch out, not only up front, but in the rear seating areas, as well. The power leather seats are 12-way adjustable and are quite comfortable. The rear seating area comes with fold-down trays built



2005 Jaguar XJ8L Vanden Plas Vehicle class: Luxury. Where built: Coventry, England. EPA: 18/27. Base price: \$70,530. Price as tested: \$74,595

into the front seatbacks, and can support a laptop, making it easy for your rear seat passengers to get work done during your carpool. Automatic climate control is standard, and there are rear compartment controls mounted on the transmission tunnel that back seat riders can use to adjust their own comfort settings.

The trunk is roomy and seats fold down if you need them for more storage. A standard-size spare tire comes with the VDP (instead of those horrible small spares).

The VDP also comes with power-adjustable foot pedals, wood/leather steering wheel, cruise control, and lambswool footwell rugs. The standard audio system is a 320-watt system from Alpine that includes AM/FM/six-CD changer, and it's a beauty. The sound is clean and loud (when you want it to be). The system is controlled via touchscreen, as is the optional navigation system, which is my only criticism. I just don't like integrated touchscreen audio systems — they force your eyes off the road and make changing stations or audio sources more confusing than they need to be. There are built-in steering wheel controls, but you still end up taking your eyes off the road more than you should. Jaguar offers an optional "multimedia" entertainment system that allows you to plug an iPod or other MP3 player directly into the system.

Getting around in the VDP is a lot of fun. The

standard engine is a powerful 4.2-liter V8 rated at 294 hp. It's mated with a smooth-shifting six-speed automatic transmission, and the combination really works well. You get off the mark quickly and can feel the torque pull you forward. That is, if you choose. You don't have to jump off the line — you can ease your way ahead at the spotlight, but what fun is that? Acceleration is smooth and quiet, and the ride is comfortable. You'll need premium fuel, and EPA rates it at a respectable 18/27.

The VDP uses self-leveling air suspension, Jaguar's Computer Active Technology Suspension, double wishbone layouts and anti-roll bars front and rear. At high cruising speeds, ride height is automatically lowered by 0.6 inches to enhance stability and minimize drag. The turning circle is tight for a car of this length, and parking and maneuvering are no problem at all. ABS brakes are standard.

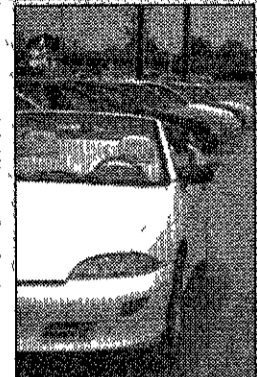
The 2005 Jaguar XJ8L VDP starts at a little over \$70,000. Add the navigation system and you're at about \$72,600. Now that's more than I would ever spend on a car, no matter who makes it. But that's just me — I know some of you have no problem with that kind of price tag, and that's why I drive the car and check it out for you. As the saying goes, it's a dirty job ...

Write us with comments at avanti1054@aol.com.

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PURCHASE \$16,418⁰⁰

24 MONTH LEASE \$181⁰⁰

4.0L V6, five speed automatic transmission, air cond, privacy glass, AM/FM stereo with 8 disc CD, speed control, tilt, chrome bumper, bedliner, chrome wheels Stk. #SC7005. WAS. \$23,605

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PURCHASE \$18,101⁰⁰

24 MONTH LEASE \$289⁰⁰

3.0 V6, six speed automatic transmission, AM/FM stereo CD, ABS brakes, air conditioning, premium sound, traction control Stk. #7041. WAS. \$22,795

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MARAUER 2003 black, leather low miles \$22,995 Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030

SABLE 2004, auto air, loaded, \$11,733 Livonia Chrysler Jeep (734) 525-5000

Mitsubishi (8610) GALANT 2003 auto, air, loaded, \$9,733 Livonia Chrysler Jeep (734) 525-5000

LANCER 2003, auto, air, loaded gas saver, \$8,733 Livonia Chrysler Jeep (734) 525-5000

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Saturn (8700) L300 2002 roof rack, traction, chrome wheels, CD, pw/pl, cruise, \$10,995 Saturn of Plymouth (734) 453-7890

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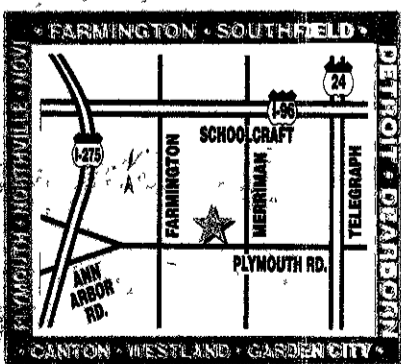
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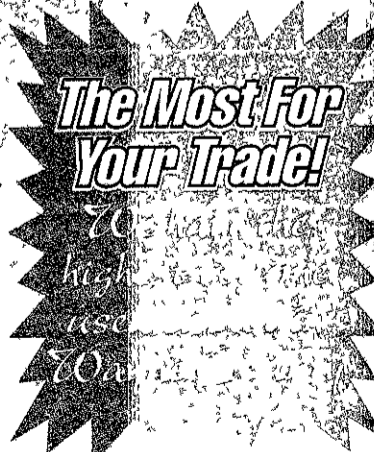
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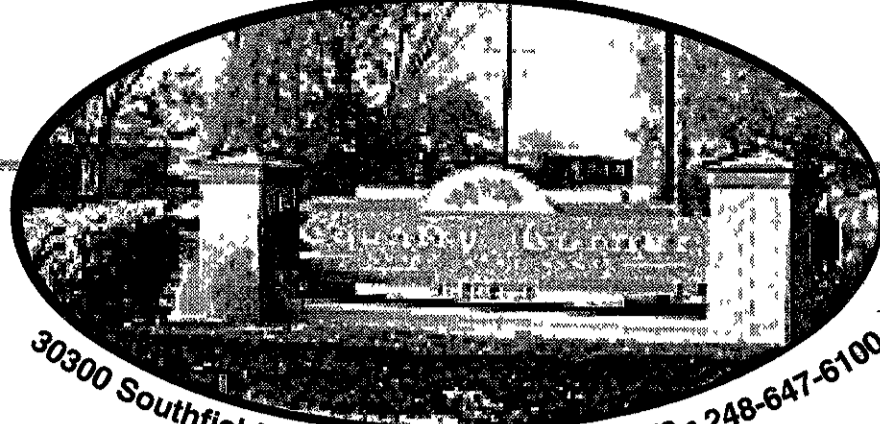
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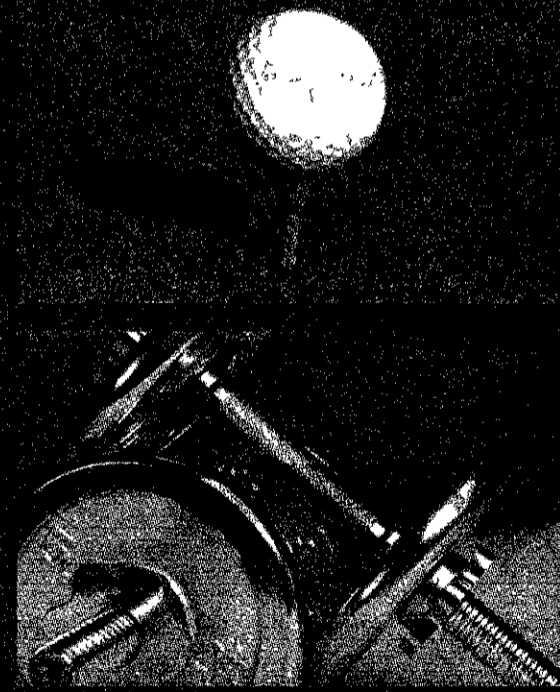
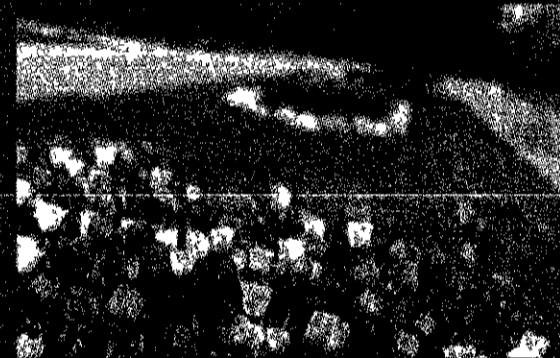


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Pets have place in apartments

By Diane Gale Andreassi • Special writer

Apartment dwellers who have pets pay a price, but that doesn't deter animal lovers who can't imagine being without their furry friends.

Especially at Princeton Court in Plymouth where 65 percent of the residents live with a pet.

"We allow all kinds of pets," explains Christina Taylor, property manager of Princeton Court with 92 units on Wilcox Road.

"Most people treat their pets like members of their family, now," she adds.

Princeton charges \$30 a month for each dog. The cost is usually the same for cats, but property managers are currently running a special promotion waiving the fee for residents with feline friends. Princeton also charges a \$150 pet deposit.

"Surprisingly, I get more renters with dogs than cats," Taylor says.

Princeton doesn't impose size limits on the pets they allow, but residents are required to keep their pets up to date with rabies shots, city licenses and follow pet waste removal laws.

Simply put, Taylor says, residents are expected to be "responsible pet owners." "And that's what we have," she adds.

It's becoming easier and easier to have pets who are well behaved, Taylor says pointing to numerous pet training facilities and even pet day care where animals go while their owners are away.

It's very rare, Taylor says, that residents will complain about bothersome pets.

Other apartment, condominium and town house properties restrict animals altogether or limit where they are allowed.

Country Corner Apartments and Town Houses in Southfield, for instance, prohibits dogs from the apartments, but allows them in the town houses.

Cats, however, are allowed in Country Corner town houses and apartments if they have been neutered and declawed, according to Sandra Zendell, Country Corner property manager. Country Corner has 196 apartment units and 15 town houses.

Pet owners pay \$30 monthly for each pet, as well as a \$150 non-refundable fee upfront. Residents are allowed up to two pets each.

In fact, 12 residents at Princeton Court have two pets each and they pay \$60 monthly to keep them in their apartments.

Sandra Clockedile tells apartment dwellers in "Your Guide to Apartment Living and Rental" not to try and sneak Fido or Felix onto properties where they are prohibited.

"If the ad says, 'no pets' and the manager or landlord says she won't make an exception, even for your impeccably well-behaved pet, you do yourself a disservice if you lie and try to sneak your pet in anyway," Clockedile says.

"If you are caught, you are very likely to be evicted and that will go on your rental record," she adds. "For your pet, living in seclusion and always being snuck-in and out for walks and vet visits can also be stressful."

Taylor also recommends that pet owners be prepared for the transition period after they move into apartments.

"That's especially important when they're coming from a home or private setting," Taylor adds. "A lot of dogs don't want to go potty when they're on a leash and the owners have to train them to do that. Always make sure they pick-up after their pets. When you live in close quarters that's an important thing."

Keep in mind that you must be patient about behavior problems your pets develop and call your trainer or veterinarian immediately with questions, Taylor says.

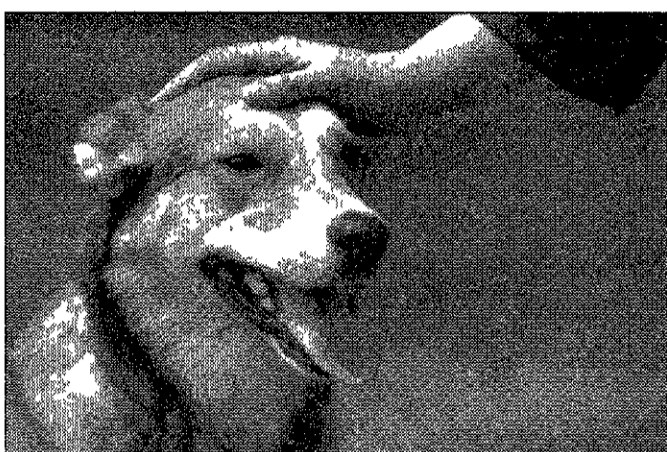
"They can usually walk you through it," she adds.

It's also important to maintain a good exercise routine for dogs who live in apartments, condominiums and townhouses, because most don't have fenced-in backyards where they can run freely.

"With a dog it's important that they have enough exercise for their muscles and their mental health," she says. "It keeps them from chewing and developing a lot of bad habits. You have to put them on the leash and walk them and play with them."



Some apartments that do not allow dogs will still allow cats.



In our culture today, many people treat their pets like members of the family



Many apartment communities allow residents to paint their apartments in neutral tones.

Apartment Improvements You Can Do

Living in an apartment presents distinct design and home improvement challenges for renters. Oftentimes, landlords restrict improvements by tenants, imposing rules against painting, structural changes and wallpaper application. Check your lease or consult with your landlord if you are unsure of what is and is not allowed.

For those who are looking to make changes to their apartment, there are ways to follow the rules while also adding a creative flair to your living space.

Overcome bland paint: Neutral wall tones make it easier for landlords to rent and maintain an apartment. Just think of the effort involved in priming and painting over a bold tone every time a tenant vacates the apartment. But what should you do if you are starving for some color as you stare at white walls? Accessories and wall hangings can add the splash of color you need. Seek artwork that is oversized and full of color and movement. Furnish the room with bright, bold-colored sofas, chairs and loveseats that can compensate for lack of color elsewhere. Colored light bulbs or shades can create lighting that casts a hue in the room.

Wallpaper drama: Wallpaper can be very difficult to remove, often making it forbidden in apartments. However, you may want to look into wallpaper borders. (Just be sure to consult with your landlord first). There are self-adhesive, removable varieties. This makes it easy to change your design scheme on a whim, or remove the border if you are moving out of the apartment. They can

add a fun mood to bathrooms or kitchens when coordinated with matching accessories.

Beneath your feet: Most landlords will allow a change in carpeting if it already exists in the apartment and has become dirty or grimy. Some don't want a permanent improvement like carpeting to be made, since it requires tacking or nailing into a subfloor. However, you have another option: Manufacturers offer carpeting kits that interlock together and are not attached to the floor. They work like puzzle pieces and can be removed and taken to your next residence. For permanent changes, like changing linoleum in the kitchen or stick-down tiles, ask your landlord before proceeding. He may be willing to offset the cost of this improvement since it could add value to the apartment.

Structural changes: Unhappy with the layout of the apartment? You can use items like curtains or screens to divide rooms. Or use large furniture items like bookcases that can act as "standing walls." Some buildings also allow you to put up "fake" walls that can convert one bedroom into two.

Window treatments: Some apartment complexes want to create a uniform appearance from the outside. This means neutral window treatments or sticking with whatever came with the apartment. Comply with the guidelines by doubling up on window treatments - hang neutral blinds that can be viewed from outdoors but, indoors, jazz up the windows with bold draperies and blinds.

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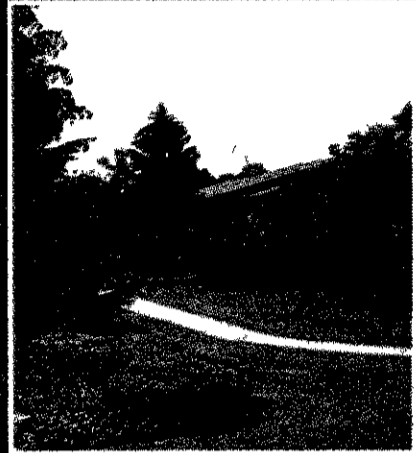
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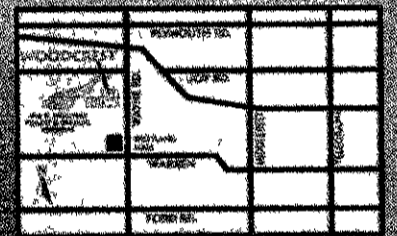
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Many apartment communities feature special safety features.

By Diane Gale Andreassi • Special writer

Apartments, condominiums and town houses have built-in safety features that just don't exist living in an average home in a subdivision.

For instance, Cranbrook Centre Apartments in Southfield, provides an intercom system that allows residents to refuse access to people they don't want in their apartments.

"There's a locked foyer and they have an intercom in their apartments and they can buzz in their guests in or not," explains Cheryl Dubai, Cranbrook Centre Apartments community manager.

Unfortunately, there is a chance that someone else in the building will inadvertently allow an unwanted guest through the doors. However, even in those cases, apartment dwellers know that the people who have arrived unannounced at their door were unwelcome and they have the option not to allow them in their apartments.

"We stress the importance of not opening the door to anyone that you don't know," Dubai says.

Cranbrook Centre also provides dowels for doorways and windows in the 132 apartment units, which are in place to prevent someone from easily breaking in through these entries.

Town houses also provide safety features by the mere proximity of residents who keep an eye out for their neighbors and any problems that could arise, explains Angela Midura, assistant resident manager of Hickory Hollow Cooperative Town Houses in the City of Wayne.

"You live so close you always have someone who is watching out," she says explaining that all of the 267 units at Hickory Hollow are connected within buildings.

"Generally if anything happens in your neighborhood someone will let you know," Midura says explaining that since there's more people in a smaller location, there's better opportunities for someone to spot unusual happenings and report them even before an incident occurs.

Also, children who play outside their town houses are contained within the town house community.

"We're off a main road (Van Born Road), but all the other streets on the property are contained within the property," Midura explains pointing to the availability of a mini park within Hickory Hollow property.

"Children have a lot of room to play and they're still inside the community," she says. "There are neighbors out and people can see them playing and I think they would be safer than on a lonely street."

An effort is also underway to begin a neighborhood network center at Hickory Hollow that would provide computers and learning programs for residents of all ages to use and that could also increase the residents' sense of community and need to look out for one another.

No matter where you live, Dubai says, the most important tool people can use to protect themselves is to be aware of their surroundings and to take immediate action if something doesn't seem right.



In many apartment communities children have a lot of room to play, yet they are still inside the community where people can see them.

"Safety is your business, because nobody can guarantee your safety other than yourself," Dubai says. "You should always be alert to everything."

"When you get out of your car you really should look around and make sure there is no one loitering around and if there is stay in your car or take off for a while and come back when the suspicious person is gone," she says. "If you don't know what's there you should never approach it by yourself."

She also recommends never leaving apartment windows or door walls opened or unlocked when you're away from home.

Smoke detectors are another safety tool that can be taken for granted, she adds. Sometimes residents get upset when the detectors are triggered unnecessarily and they take out the batteries, because they don't want to be bothered.

"That's the worse thing they can do," Dubai says. "If the smoke detector starts going off have the battery replaced."

She also stressed the importance of calling emergency professionals if something doesn't seem right. For instance, when residents smell gas they should alert other residents, get out of the building and call the gas company.

People often wait to call for emergency help thinking that they are imagining a problem, she says. Sometimes the concern turns out to be unfounded, but if there's a chance that something is amiss it's always better to take precautions, she adds.



Working out in the apartment's fitness center saves time and money.

Workout facilities lure residents

By Diane Gale Andreassi • Special writer

Some apartment, condo and town house property managers are luring healthy minded residents to their doors by adding free workout amenities to the other benefits.

So, instead of driving miles to workout, these residents have a chance to exercise close to home. Best of all there are no annual or lifetime fees for a health club atmosphere that would otherwise cost hundreds and sometimes thousands of dollars.

Twin Arbors, on Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth, has a fitness center on site and the best feature is that it's open 24 hours a day, which isn't the case at most health clubs.

Residents don't have to worry about losing time traveling to and from the gym. They can walk a few steps to the fitness center and return to their homes within minutes and the time saved can be added to the workout. For some, it's an irresistible offer.

"This allows flexibility for residents to work-out when it's the best time for them, which keeps them motivated to keep working out," explains Diane Rickard, community manager of Twin Arbors, which features 148 apartment units tucked away in a residential area.

Each Twin Arbor resident is given a card to swipe in the fitness center door for entry.

A treadmill, stair master, weight machine and stationery bike are surrounded by wall mounted mirrors to give residents a chance to view their posture while they exercise.

Televisions with cable access offer a great distraction and takes the monotony out of getting into shape. A microwave oven and even bottled water are also available in the Twin Arbor fitness center, which is only available to renters.

Residents also have free access to showers, which are the same showers that are available for patrons using the outdoor pool during the summer.

"That's perfect if they don't want to leave the work-out facility all sweaty," Rickard says. "I think they like the 24-hour access the best, because it's available for all the dif-

ferent work schedules."

A lot of residents like to workout past 9 p.m. or 10 p.m. and earlier than 5 a.m. or 6 p.m. when most facilities are closed, she adds.

The pool provides another exercise venue for residents during warm months.

A nearby bike trail that runs along I-275 next to the property lures a lot of residents outdoors and into a wonderful exercise routine, too.

"There's something about a bike trail that keeps you committed for miles and miles," Rickard says.

Some residents have walking partners and make up their own trails through the nearby residential areas.

"It's very comfortable walking," she adds. "I call this place a little hidden treasure. Sometimes when people come here they immediately say, 'Wow, I want to live here.' People love living here and we love having them."

The fitness conscious are also drawn to Country Corner Apartments and Town Houses in Southfield.

Residents who sign six month and one year leases are offered free health club memberships to the CMI Health and Swim Club, a full service health club across the street from the apartments and town houses near Southfield and 13 Mile.

"We purchase corporate memberships and it's been a big attraction," according to Sandra Zendell, Country Corner property manager.

"A lot of the newcomers and a lot of professional people who are moving in the property like this," Zendell says. "It's been a great perk. It's opened seven days a week and people are free to use it whenever they want."

Country Corner also has an outdoor heated swimming pool for residents to use during the summer.

Apartment, condo and town house dwellers who want to make their work-outs easy and enjoyable are looking for these kinds of free amenities.

Apartments offer great socializing venues

By Diane Gale Andreassi • Special writer

Everyone who has ever thrown a party, but realized their house was too small to accommodate all the people they wanted to invite would appreciate the clubhouses available at most apartment properties.

At Somerset Park Apartments in Troy residents have two club houses from which to choose. And they're only available to residents.

There are rental fees that also include the use of the kitchen facilities.

And if the weather is nice, there's a 16-acre park with picnic tables, barbeque pits and playground equipment providing an idyllic setting for just about any get together, big or small.

There is no fee to entertain in the park, explains Terri Blavatt, Somerset Park Apartments property manager.

"They use the club houses and park for baby showers, bridal showers, birthday parties, retirement parties and about anything you can think of, like children's first birthdays, graduations and bachelor parties," Blavatt says.

If you don't have your own plans to throw a party, but you still feel like socializing, Village Green properties will take care of that for you, too.

Once a month a big event is planned, like a Valentine's Party in February. Weekly gatherings are also offered at Village Green, which includes more than 100 apartment properties in nine mid-western states.

Residents at the properties volunteer to work as activity directors and in return they



Apartment communities have activities that give residents opportunities to mix and mingle.

"We have activities to mix and mingle, too," Kuta says. "We want to create more of a community feeling among residents and social activities help create that, because residents become more comfortable with each other. It's a good way to meet and get to know your neighbors."


Since there is a large number of younger, single residents at Village Green apartments, Kuta says, managers also invite dating services that host get-togethers for single residents.

"What we like to say is that we rent lifestyles," Kuta explains. "We try to have a lot of services and amenities that are unique and to run our communities like resort hotels. We're setting ourselves apart from our competition by catering to residents. There's a warm community feeling rather than living in a generic apartment."


Most Village Green properties also have recreation rooms with multiple televisions, bar areas and fully equipped kitchens for people who want to host their own parties. The amenities can be spectacular, like at the newly built Village Park of Rochester Hills in Shelby Township, which features a 6,000 square foot club house.

Professional fitness centers, indoor racquetball facilities and resort style swimming pools are also available in most Village Green properties.

"A lot of times for entertaining you don't have to leave the property," Kuta says. "That tends to be very popular with our residents."



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Grow Herbs All by Yourself

(MS) -- Parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme. You can grow your favorite herbs in a decorative planter for a delightful display and handy supply. Creating an herb planter is easy. You just need a strawberry pot, about 10 herb plants, peat-based potting mix, some small stones, and a cardboard wrapping-paper tube.

A strawberry pot is an ideal planter because its protruding pockets let an assortment of herbs cascade from all sides, providing versatility in the kitchen, as well as an attractive show on the deck.

Most herbs are sun-lovers, so choose a sunny site where they will be convenient for picking. For attractive results, position tall herbs, such as chives, parsley, and mint, at the center and shorter or trailing herbs toward edges and in the pockets.

For best results, use a top-quality, peat-based potting mix. An easy way to judge quality is to look at the ingredients listed on the potting-mix bag. If Canadian sphagnum peat moss is the first ingredient listed, it means there is more peat than any other ingredient, which assures you of good quality. The proper mix is particularly important for container plants to ensure adequate drainage. Yard soils tend to retain too much water, leading to rotting roots. Poor-quality potting mixes allow water to run through too quickly, leading to dried-out plants.

1. Add about 2 inches of peat moss to the bottom of the strawberry planter. Place the cardboard tube in the center



Strawberry containers make perfect planting places for an apartment dwellers herb garden

of the planter. Work it into the peat moss so that it remains upright.

2. Fill the pot with potting mixture to the first pockets. Now add plants, gently passing roots through the holes. Cover roots with potting mix, and repeat until planter is filled. Leave about 1 inch between the potting mixture and

the planter rim to allow for watering.

3. Fill the cardboard tube with small stones, and then carefully pull out the tube. The stones improve drainage, allowing water to seep evenly throughout the potting mix.

4. Plant herbs in the open soil at the top of the planter. Use herbs that require less water, like basil, thyme, and rosemary.

The herbs should be ready for picking within a few weeks. Water the planter frequently to keep the soil moist but not wet to the touch, and apply a water-soluble fertilizer every two weeks. Pick herbs often, never taking more than a third of the plant at one time. The best time to pick is in the morning. For best flavor and fragrance, harvest herbs before they bloom.

For more information on how to properly condition and prepare your soil or other ways to use peat moss, send an unstamped, self-addressed business-size envelope to Peat Moss, Box 385102, Minneapolis, MN, 55438. You can also visit www.peatmoss.com.

The Canadian peat industry is committed to making peat a sustainable resource. Only one acre in every 6,000 is harvested, and when harvesting stops, the bogs are restored to functioning peatlands. For more information on peat and the environment, visit the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association's Web site at www.peatmoss.com.

Tight Quarters Call for Container Gardening

(MS) - Spring is in the air and as a gardener, you can't wait to get out there and plant. What do you do if you don't have a yard? The answer is easy - container gardening.

With container gardening, you're bound only by your imagination. It's great for apartment dwellers, gardeners with small yards or gardeners who are currently renting a home. It's also ideal for people who want to experiment with different flowers and plants.

Another plus to container gardening is its versatility. If you don't like where you've put your "garden," just pick it up and move it. Potted plants look great in groups so try arranging them in a variety of ways and again, if you don't like the arrangement, change it.

To start, find some unique containers. Be creative - look beyond the basic flower-pot. Wooden barrels, old wheelbarrows or interesting antiques can house a garden. Don't forget about window boxes and hanging baskets. Be sure your containers have drainage holes in the bottom. If they don't, drill a few. Next, fill your container with a quality sterile potting soil within an inch of the rim. Now it is time to add your plants.

One of the greatest joys of container gardening is that you can try different plants and flowers without a lot of cost. Are there some bulbs or perennials you've always wanted to plant, but weren't too sure they'd do well where you live? With con-



Bring beautiful gardens to small spaces with container gardening.

tainer gardening, you can purchase a couple at a time and give them a try.

Place your newly planted containers in a location that provides proper lighting for your plants and don't forget to water them. This is where most mistakes are made in plant care - too much or too little water brings disaster. You should water plants when soil feels dry below the surface.

To keep containerized plants healthy, always fertilize them. Jobe's® Fertilizer Spikes are reliable because they feed the plants at the root, where they need it most. Gardeners have used these spikes for years because they consistently produce healthy and vigorous plants. Jobe's slow release formula provides the right amount of fertilizer without washing through when watering. Once they're inserted, your plants will be set for months.

Jobe's Spikes are easy to use. Push them into the soil and then water immediately after application. You don't have to worry about a mess, like you do when you use spray or granule fertilizers. The spikes come in a variety of formulas, several of which are perfect for containerized gardens, like Jobe's Spikes for Potted Plants and Hanging Baskets, Jobe's Spikes for Bulbs and Perennials, Jobe's Spikes for Houseplants, and Jobe's Spikes for Flowering Plants.

If you love plants and flowers but find your time and space limited, try a container garden. The possibilities are as endless as your imagination.

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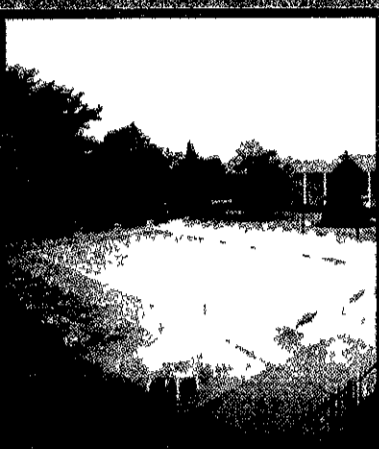
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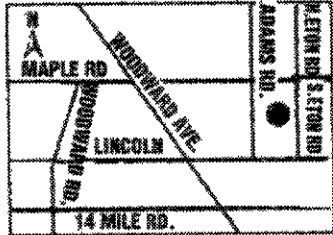
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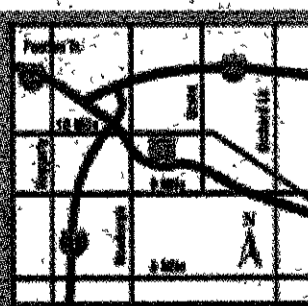


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What's so great about a home office tax deduction is that any kind of business deduction -- whether it's for your home-office or basic business expenses -- reduces your net business income. In turn, you have less self-employment tax to pay on your net business income.

The law applies to anyone working at home for the convenience of the employer or someone who is self-employed full- or part-time. "For the convenience of the employer" means that your employer doesn't have work space and expects you to work primarily from home.

If you use part of your home for business and you meet the requirements of the law, deductions are based on what percentage of your

home is used for the home office. You can deduct a percentage of the cost of home-related expenses such as utilities, rent, depreciation, mortgage interest and real estate taxes.

PROVING YOURSELF

"Home" is loosely defined by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a house, condo or apartment. It can be a mobile home or boat, as long as you can cook and sleep there. Whether you rent or own -- it doesn't matter.

You must meet two requirements:

1. You must regularly use part of your home exclusively for a trade or business on a continuing basis. A few hours a day might not be enough. And the area must only be used for business, not for business and personal purposes.

2. You must be able to show one of the following:

a. You use your home as your principal place of business

b. You meet patients, clients or customers at home.

c. You use a separate structure on your property exclusively for business purposes. It doesn't have to be a full room -- it can be part of a room

where you keep your business equipment and supplies. For example, it can be a studio or a converted garage or barn.

DOCUMENT YOUR DEDUCTIONS

You may be required to document your office deductions. Here's how to establish your right:

* Keep an appointment book of clients or customers and the date and time of all meetings. That way, you can document your work even if you are audited by the IRS.

* Have your business mail sent to your home.

* Use your home address on business cards, stationery and ads.

* Get a phone line for your business that is separate from your home one.

* Keep track of the time you spend working at home.

* Photograph the office. Draw a diagram showing the location in your home.

Remember: The rules explained above apply to home-related expenses, such as utilities



You can wear whatever you want and often dictate your own hours when you work at home. Best of all, it offers tax deductions.

and rent. Anyone operating a business can deduct expenses like postage, advertising, travel, equipment, and a separate telephone line.

Don't overlook home-business

tax-saving deductions. For more information, visit www.irs.gov, or consult your accountant or tax adviser.

Furniture Shopping on a Limited Budget

For first time apartment dwellers, buying furniture can be a financial challenge. Security deposits, moving expenses, utility deposits and household necessities add up quickly.

But don't despair. You don't need a designer's wallet to score beautiful furniture. All you need is a little ingenuity and some time to search for bargains. If you're handy, that is an added bonus, and it will make narrowing your choices even easier. Here are some frugal ways to decorate on a budget:

* Outlet and Clearance Bargains --

Head to your neighborhood warehouse store for well-priced items that are within reach for those with tight budgets. Or check out department store clearance centers, where discontinued or outdated furniture is reduced.

* **Model Home Mania** -- If there is a surge of home building happening in your area, check with the developer's sales office to see if they will be selling the furnishings when the models are closed to the public.



Don't be afraid to ask loved ones if they have furniture or home accessories that they can part with.

Keep in mind that some items may be faded or worn due to the number of people visiting the homes.

* **Consignment Shops** -- These stores as well as thrift stores often have wonderful treasures, if you have the time to sort through their inventory. Remember, since items move in and out of these stores frequently, be ready to make quick

purchases if you fall in love with something.

* **Scour the Neighborhood** -- Many people make it a hobby of searching for furnishings in their neighborhood on garbage pick-up day. As they say, "One man's junk is another man's treasure." Don't forget yard sales or moving sales for other low-price sources of furnishings.

* **Slightly Irregular Department** -- Some furniture stores have areas where they keep furniture that has slight imperfections such as scratches or dents. If you can live with the blemishes, you may be able to haggle a reasonable price on normally expensive finds.

* **Consult Friends and Family** -- Have your eye on Aunt Jane's chaise lounge or think that your best friend's armoire would look beautiful in your bedroom? Don't be afraid to ask loved ones if they have furniture they can part with. Some may have wonderful pieces hiding out in basements or attics, just waiting to be discovered.

* **Revamp Your Furnishings** -- If you're unhappy with the budget-friendly finds out there, consider reupholstering or improving your current furniture. A new slipcover, coat of paint or swatch of fabric can do wonders to tired furnishings.

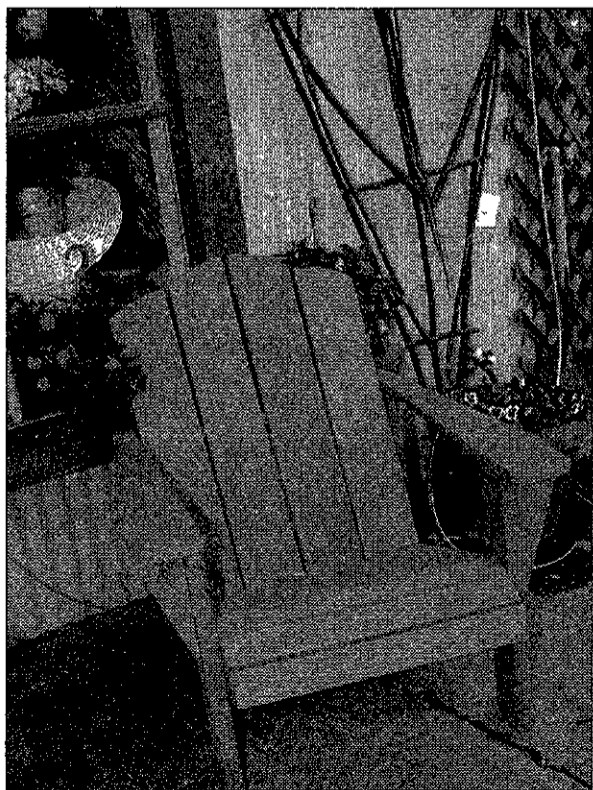
Revive Furniture With a Fresh Coat of Paint

(MS) - From grandma's kitchen table to your latest garage sale find, paint brings new life to many pieces of old or discarded furniture. Modern or traditional, paint can change furniture's destiny, from a piece of junk on the curb to the centerpiece of a room.

Although painting furniture doesn't require many tools or take much time, it is essential to properly prepare the surface before you paint.

"Many wood surfaces are coated with a glossy finish. Paint does not stick to the slick surface, and will chip and peel soon after you paint," said Chris Starkey, product manager for Masterchem Industries, makers of KILZ® primer. "Use a coat of primer first to bind the paint to the surface; otherwise you'll waste a lot of time and money painting and repainting."

There are many types of primers on the market today. If you have a few different pieces



Bring old furniture back to life by giving it a new coat of paint. Just be sure to properly prepare the surface.

to paint, look for a multi-purpose primer that offers stain-blocking and sealing capabilities.

One of the most versatile

primers, KILZ® Premium® primer will seal and block stains on indoor or outdoor surfaces, including smoke, water, grease or marker. It adheres to wood, masonry and even glossy surfaces, to ensure your topcoat of paint will have a smooth, professional finish.

When painting furniture with intricate detail, aerosol primer and paint makes application easier, especially between spindles, on the legs or on the trim.

KILZ makes aerosol stainblocking primers in an original and odorless formula. For your indoor painting projects, the odorless variety reduces lingering odors. Both can be top coated within an hour, so you can finish your project the same day you start.

For more information on KILZ primer, visit www.kilz.com.

Insurance Advice for First-Time Renters

(WMS) -- As summer comes to a close, thousands of college and graduate students are gearing up for a return to school, and many face the exciting prospect of renting their first apartments. But with this newfound independence comes new responsibilities, as students discover the ups and downs of apartment life -- and real life. College items like laptops, CD players, and cell phones unfortunately are also at the top of the list for would-be thieves.

To make matters worse, students may be shocked to discover that they're out in the cold when it comes to having their valuables protected. Renting an apartment is not like living in an on-campus dorm, where most student belongings are typically covered under a parent's homeowners policy. However, research shows that more than 80 percent of college renters do not purchase renter's insurance.

"For a few hundred dollars a year or less, you can purchase a solid policy that covers protection for your valuables -- up to \$75,000 -- as well as protection against

personal liability," said Michelle DeWine, vice president of marketing at MetLife Auto & Home. "Imagine experiencing a fire or other disaster in your apartment, and having to replace all your valuable clothing, CDs, DVDs, televisions, and stereo equipment not to mention all the furniture, pots, pans, dishes, and other necessities at your own expense. Hopefully, you won't have a theft or experience a fire. But, if you did, you'd know your valuables were protected."

For additional information about renter's insurance, MetLife Auto & Home offers a comprehensive brochure called "About...Renting an Apartment." MetLife Auto & Home also offers free Personal Property Inventory brochures to help people keep track of their valuables. Both are available by calling (800) MET-LIFE

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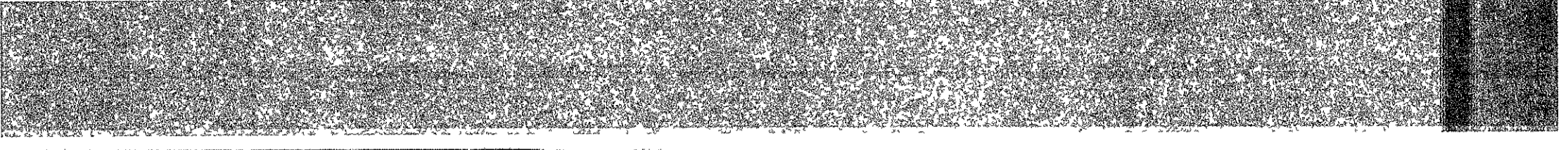
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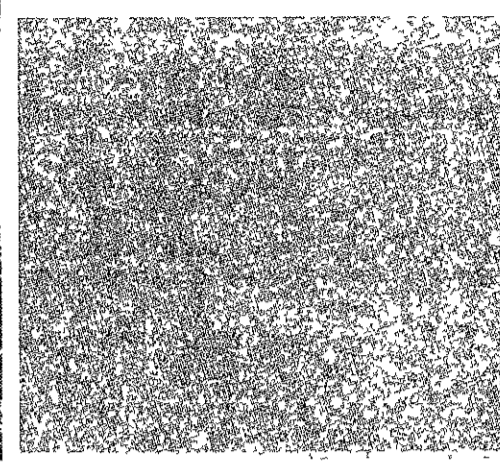
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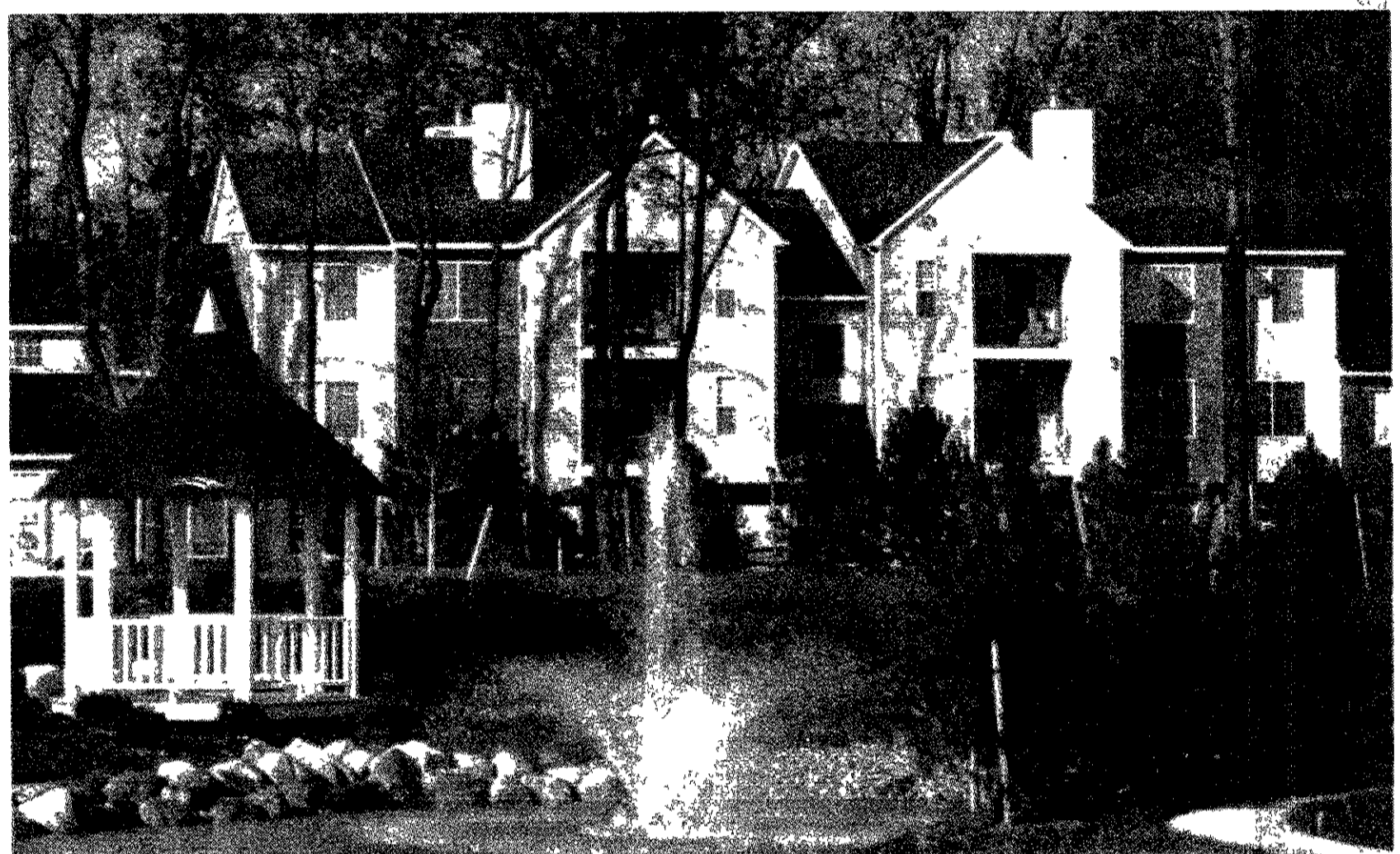
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