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THURSDAY
December 14, 2006

CANTON Observer

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Canton mother charged with not reporting signs of abuse

Father faces 30 years
after 5-week-old son
suffers injuries

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

Canton Police arrested Jayme Beth Stratton Tuesday for allegedly ignoring the signs of abuse of her five-week-old baby boy. Stratton's husband, Steven Michael Szyszkowski, 26, was arraigned Saturday on two charges of first degree child abuse, each charge punishable by up to 15 years in prison. Canton police say he seriously injured the infant, who doctors determined had nine broken bones, among other injuries.



Stratton

Although police investigators don't believe Stratton, 36, had anything to do with the actual injuries, they arrested her for maintaining an environment in which the infant was physically abused. She was charged with second degree child abuse, a four-year felony. She was arraigned Tuesday in 35th District Court. Magistrate Eric Colthurst issued a \$5,000 cash bond and set her preliminary exam date for Dec. 22, at 35th District Court in Plymouth.

The family lives in a mobile home in the 51000 block of Mott Road.

Szyszkowski, who will also have his preliminary examination Dec. 22 in 35th District Court, pleaded not guilty at his arraignment, and was given a \$30,000 cash bond. He is currently being held in Wayne County Jail.

According to Canton Detective Rick Pomorski, the decision to charge Stratton

PLEASE SEE CHARGE, A5



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A holiday classic

Donn McIntosh took the stage as Herr Drosselmeyer as the Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company and the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra presented their 16th-annual performance of the holiday classic "Nutcracker" last weekend at the Salem High School auditorium. The group, featuring some 80 children, did three shows, including a sold-out Sunday performance. "The sets were phenomenal, and the kids did such a wonderful job," said PSO director Jennifer Philpot-Munson. "It's just a lot of fun to watch." The performances featured Twin Cities Metropolitan Ballet guest artists Erik J. Sanborn and Laura Goodman.

Canton boy takes music on the road to spread holiday spirit

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

Erik Partin could've been at home playing video games Tuesday afternoon, but instead the 12-year-old decided he wanted to spread some holiday cheer.

With his violin and viola in tow, Erik visited residents at The Canton Place senior apartments on Ford Road and entertained them for half an hour. In addition to playing Christmas standards such as *Joy to the World*, the Canton Charter Academy seventh grader performed the theme from

the James Bond movies. "The fact that it's his idea to come and do this for us is incredible," said Dianne Bodell, Canton Place service coordinator.

Standing in the middle of a room filled with holiday decorations, including a large candy cane propped on a wall, Erik tucked his viola between his left shoulder and his chin and began playing *Deck the Halls*.

Some Canton Place residents hummed along with the music, others nodded their heads and a few tapped their fingers.

"We love having him

here," said Bodell, adding that Erik's age gives some residents a good perspective on today's youth. "One of our residents had been receiving prank calls from some kids so this gives her a nice opposite view."

Having performed at Canton Place last year, Erik was also scheduled to play outside of the Canton Walmart Wednesday evening, hoping the holiday spirit would rub off on shoppers.

"I'm just trying to promote compassion," he said. "And I hope to get other people to use their talents to help others."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Erik Partin, 12, entertains the residents of Canton Place Tuesday. He wants others to use their talents to spread compassion.

Erik, who's a member of two orchestras, began playing the viola two years ago.

In addition to playing *Silent Night* two times by request, Erik played *Jingle Bells*, the *Star Spangled Banner*, *Happy Birthday* and a few fiddling tunes for

the seniors. "I'm always happy to make you happy," he told the audience, as people asked him to come again next year. "I really appreciate you watching me play."

tlparks@hometownlife.com

Township residents brace for water rate increase

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

Canton residents still grappling with this year's water rate increases are in line to face another hike in 2007.

The township, which introduced new quarterly charges in May that averaged a 7.75-percent increase, is looking at another 7-percent raise next year, based on a proposal by the Detroit Water and Sewer Department.

"This is crazy," said Canton resident Kristen Rielly. "I really feel for the people on fixed incomes."

George Ellenwood, Detroit Water and Sewer Department spokesman, said next year's rate boost is based on a formula comprised of 11 basic computations, with the primary drivers being distance, elevation and the community's peaking factor.

The peaking factor, he explained, is "determined by the maximum usage of a community on a given hour of a given day against the department's maximum usage."

Rielly, who lives in Sunflower Village and is the president of its homeowner's

association, said residents are still reeling from this year's rate jumps.

"It seems really excessive," she said, adding that the subdivision is hit twice because residents maintain two large pools and two clubhouses within the complex.

Residents with sump pumps pay about \$13 in quarterly fees while those without sump pumps pay nearly \$20. The fees are slated to topple more than \$50 by 2010.

The charges, which remain a main topic during public comment at Township Board

meetings, were created after a three-year study determined the township was charging too little for water service.

Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said the township hadn't raised water rates in three years and thought it was best to phase in the increases over the next several years.

"We know it's hard on our residents but we're not allowed to lose money," he said. "That's not good business."

Rielly, who didn't initially notice the new quarterly

charge, said the fees could be overlooked by a lot of people until they get higher.

"I hadn't paid any attention to it until a (neighbor) called me," she said. "I'm figuring a lot of people may not notice it yet."

By next year, the quarterly charges are expected to hit \$18 for homes with sump pumps and \$25 for homes without them. Those numbers will rise to \$26 and \$32 in 2008. In 2009, the fees will increase to \$36 and \$43.

By 2010, homes with sump pumps will pay about \$51 per quarter while residences

without them will fork over nearly \$60.

"Our bills are pretty high in the first place so I think this is ridiculous," said Canton resident George Kruczek. "I don't understand why it's changing so much so soon."

Kruczek, who also lives in Sunflower Village, said he's hoping the water rate changes won't spell higher dues or service cuts for the subdivision.

"On the surface, this just doesn't seem right," he said.

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Coming Sunday in Health



New vaccine
prevents
cervical
cancer

Rotary Santa event

The Canton Rotary Club will host Pizza with Santa 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Dec. 16 at the Roman Forum Restaurant on Ford Road, just west of I-275. Santa will be arriving by helicopter. There will be all you can eat pizza, salad, and beverage. The cost of the event is \$8 for adults, \$6 for children (children 3 and younger are free). All children will receive a photo with Santa, and there will also be a craft table to make crafts.

Tigers ticket winner

Bill Wasko of Canton was one of 10 to win four tickets each to a 2007 Tigers game in the recent Comerica sweepstakes drawing for Detroit Tigers season tickets at Comerica Park. Dearborn resident Cliff Barnes was the grand prize winner in the contest, earning four 2007 Detroit Tigers season tickets. Nearly 9,000 fans of the American League Champion Detroit Tigers entered the sweepstakes drawing by visiting a Michigan Comerica banking center and completing an entry form.

Tri-City Christmas musical

The children of Tri-City Christian Center will present

the musical drama "The Perfect Neighborhood" at 7 p.m., Dec. 22 at Tri-City Christian Center, 3855 Sheldon Road in Canton. The children will perform carols, and take a musical journey through what appears to be a perfect neighborhood in this topsy-turvy modern production that explores the real meaning of Christmas.

Admission is free. For more information, contact Sandy Bazner at (734) 397-1777.

'Jesus in Islam'

The Muslim Community of Western Suburbs (MCWS) is hosting a lecture titled "Jesus in Islam" at 7 p.m. on Dec. 14 at the Canton Public Library (1200 S. Canton Center Road). The speaker, Harry Bassel, will discuss Jesus, and how he is viewed from an Islamic perspective. Our non-Muslim friends and neighbors are cordially invited. Admission is free and refreshment will be served. For more information call (734) 467-7704 or e-mail info@mcws.org.

Head start openings

Plymouth Canton Head Start, which is a free preschool program, is now enrolling children that are 3 and 4 year olds. There are openings at all three locations, including on Sheldon

Road at Michigan Avenue, the Full Gospel location on Palmer in Canton and one site in Plymouth. Children will be placed at the location that is closest to their home.

To enroll a child or for more information, call (734) 326-6271.

Coping with grief

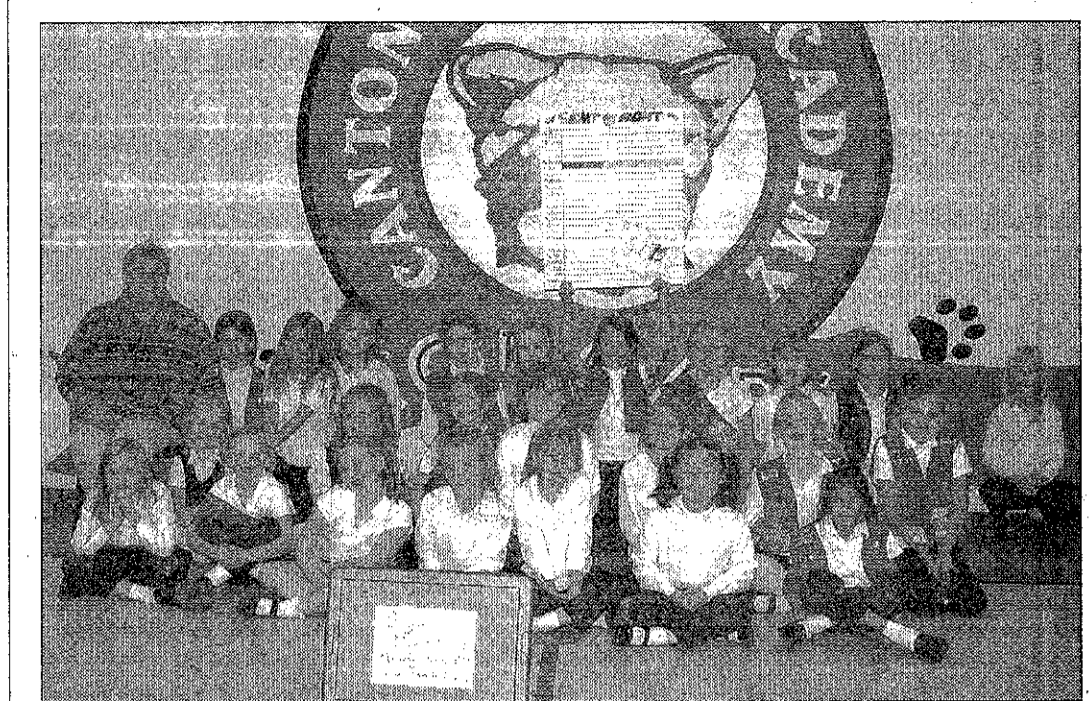
Heartland Hospice announces a new support group for widows and widowers. The Sharing & Caring Coffee Hour is held from 10-11 a.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Heartland Healthcare Center, 7025 N. Lilley in Canton. The focus of the group will be on the later stages of grief, with an emphasis on learning to live with the loss. The group is open to anyone grieving the loss of a spouse. There is no charge to attend. For additional information, contact Ann Christensen, Heartland Hospice Bereavement coordinator, toll free at (888) 973-1145.

Sounds of the Season

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Choirs will present their annual holiday concert "Sounds of the Season" 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19 in the Salem High School Auditorium located at 46181 Joy in Canton.

Tickets (\$4 pre-sale and \$5 at the door) are currently on sale and may be purchased in the PCEP Choir Office (Room 1603 at Salem High School) during school hours. For more information visit the choir Web site at www.pcepchoirs.org or call (734) 416-7800.

"Sounds of the Season" will



A visionary troop

Members of Brownie Troop 1385 (based out of Canton Charter Academy) surpassed all expectations by collecting 442 pair of used eye glasses, which they donated to the Canton Lions Club. Lions member Aldona Chew (back row) visited the troop to accept the glasses. The glasses are recycled and sent to third world countries, according to Lions member Charlie Mott. "It took the girls about a week to collect the glasses. It usually takes us about 3-4 months to collect that many. It was quite an accomplishment," Mott said.

feature more than 200 students who are members of the award-winning PCEP Choirs under the direction of Jennifer L. Kopp. Students are in grades 9-12 and attend either Plymouth, Canton or Salem High Schools. The PCEP Choirs will be performing a wide variety of Christmas and Hanukkah favorites including music from the film *The Polar Express*.

Home Expo applications available

Applications to participate in Canton's 2007 Home Improvement Expo and Parade of Homes are now available on the township Web site at www.canton-mi.org. The Expo, scheduled to be held next year on March 3-4, is an opportunity for home improvement businesses and builders to promote their products by hosting a display booth or participating in the Parade of Homes.

All vendor applications must be sent to 1150 Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48188 by Jan. 15, 2007. For questions regarding the 2007 Home Improvement Expo please call (734) 394-5200.

Holiday art workshops

D & M Studios, in cooperation with Canton Leisure Services, is now taking registrations for all holiday workshops.

They are offering several workshops, including preschool Christmas workshops (ages 3-6) on Dec. 12 and Dec. 15 (\$18); ceramic Christmas workshop on Dec. 13 (\$15); student and teen Christmas workshops (Ages 6 and up) on Dec. 9 and Dec. 16 (\$24), Dec. 15 with pizza party and Dec. 23 (\$24).

To register for workshops or for more information on additional "All-Day Paints" and "2-Hour Workshops," as well as all classes, please call D & M

Studios at (734) 453-3710 or visit its Web site at www.dmart-studio.com.

Chamber computer course

The Canton Chamber of Commerce is offering a MS Excel Part I course 6-9 p.m., Jan. 31 at Canton Computers, which is located at the southwest corner of Canton Center and Ford Road. This is one of many computer training courses that the chamber has scheduled in 2007. The classes are open to chamber members and to the public.

Cost for the seminar is \$25 for chamber members and \$40 for non-members. Class size is limited. Registration will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. To register, contact the Canton Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-4040. Registration deadline is Jan. 26.

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CORRECTION

A photograph accompanying an article on not drinking and driving in Sunday's *Observer* had an incorrect caption. The woman who was representing the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance was Tamara Norrix and not Theresa Webster.

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Physical Therapy UPDATE
Hands On Center
Presented by Hands On Center For Physical Therapy
BEARING SOUR FRUIT
As people continue to embrace modern technology, we are no doubt going to encounter some physical problems that we never before faced. One such malady is called "BlackBerry Thumb." This increasingly common repetitive-stress injury stems from the use of the popular electronic devices known as PDAs (personal digital assistants). No longer limited to use during the eight-hour workday, people are increasingly using PDAs such as the BlackBerry to communicate with friends and family before and after work as well as on weekends. BlackBerry Thumb overtakes the least dexterous part of the hand, which is used to type on a very small keyboard. At the very least, users of P.S. Many people with BlackBerry Thumb are middle-aged PDA users whose overuse of the handheld devices can aggravate underlying arthritis.
PDAs should use their fingers to type instead of their thumbs.
Performing the same action over and over can cause pain and swelling in the muscles, tendons and physical therapy is often used for several types of repetitive motion injuries. Whether it is from prolonged keyboard use, manual labor or even sending text messages, a physical therapist can help with your condition. If you have been referred for physical therapy, call the HANDS ON CENTER FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY at 455-8370. 650 South Main Street in downtown Plymouth. We have easy access and parking. New patients are gladly accepted.
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Candles put glow on memories

Vigil allows parents to remember children

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Jamie DeWitt was dating Andy Imielowski of Romulus when Andy died earlier this year.

So when Andy's hearing-impaired parents, Monica and Roman Imielowski, learned about The Compassionate Friends' candlelight vigil to remember children who have died, DeWitt, a sign language expert, knew she had to be there, too.

DeWitt, and more than 500 others, were in Kellogg Park Sunday night for the annual vigil, which brings together The Compassionate Friends chapters from around the world to form a ring of candles around the globe to honor children lost too soon.

DeWitt stood onstage, fighting back the emotion and interpreting everything from the poems that were performed to the reading of nearly 300 names of children.

"To be here ... it's hard to explain," DeWitt said. "To be a part of something I wish I didn't have to be a part of, and to be able to bring some special emotion (for Andy's parents) is



PHOTOS BY HEATHER ROUSSEAU

Tara Rotthoff of Canton (front right) looks for an ornament that has the name of her niece, Mackenzie Rae Whitney, while Mary Ann Kropinak and Pat Hatchinson of Plymouth, look for Kropinak's son, Marty Kropinak, on the Christmas tree in Kellogg Park.

wonderful. This is very personal for me."

It was personal to a lot of people. According to Gail Lafferty, the Canton woman

who is the group's co-leader, The Compassionate Friends bought some 500 candles to be used in the vigil, but that wasn't enough.

The program included poems read by parents who have lost children, along with the songs *Who You'd Be Today* by Kenny Chesney and *To Where You Are* by Josh Groban. In addition, Lafferty and Pat O'Donnell of Westland read nearly 300 names of children who have died.

All of it was designed to help parents, families and friends remember the children they've lost.

"People are struggling so much through the holidays," Lafferty said. "This just helps." Judith Gangnier of Farmington lost her son, Beau,

earlier this year. She heard about The Compassionate Friends from a woman whose son is buried in the same cemetery, and she decided she had to go.

"I love my son, I miss my son, and it helps to be able to talk to people about that," Gangnier said. "Most people feel uncomfortable talking about it. The Compassionate Friends don't. This is real important to me."

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Stolen Menorah turns up on resident's lawn

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

Does the grinch have a soft side or is he just afraid of getting nabbed?

The 7-foot menorah recently stolen from the township has been recovered.

"You have to wonder about the people who took it," said Township Supervisor Tom Yack. "Whether it was a prank or otherwise, it's still stealing."

A Jewish symbol associated with Hanukkah, the menorah was taken from the front lawn of Summit on the Park just hours after the township's annual tree lighting celebration.

Canton Police Sgt. Rick Pomorski said a homeowner

called police this past weekend to say the \$750 item had shown up on her property.

Since it appears the menorah was dropped off on the woman's lawn, police are still unsure of who took it.

"If we find out who did it, we can press charges," Pomorski said. Yack, who had been optimistic the prominent, seven-branch candelabrum would be found, said it's likely the item will be placed outdoors again.

"It's very rare that we run into this," he said. "I'm assuming it will be placed in the same spot."

The township bought the menorah a few years ago at the request of a resident.

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@ THE CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Looking for the perfect holiday book suggestion? Visit the Canton Public Library's Internet branch's Books and Reading Subject Page for best-seller lists, librarian recommendations, other patrons' favorites and more at www.cantonpl.org/subjects/books_reading/. Then stop in Secondhand Prose, the Friends of the Library's used bookshop, for bargain prices on books, CDs, DVDs and more. They'll even gift wrap it for you for a small donation. Pick up a few things for yourself while you're there.

NOW @ YOUR LIBRARY

■ MS Word II: Dec. 14, at

9:30 a.m. Learn to add tables, header and footer, insert special characters and more. Registration required.

■ Book Buddies: Dec. 14, at 5 p.m. The book discussion group for 3rd and 4th graders.

■ Teen Chess Club: Dec. 14, at 4 p.m. No registration required.

■ ABC Activity: Dec. 15, at 10 a.m. Drop in sensory activities for children ages birth through 5 (with caregiver). Puzzles, matching games, LeapPad and more.

■ Gingerbread House: Dec. 16, Tweens at 1 p.m., Teens at 2 p.m. Create a traditional gingerbread house with your own special touch. Registration required.



The Compassionate Friends had some 500 candles available for their annual candlelight vigil in Kellogg Park Sunday, but it wasn't enough to accommodate the crowd that showed up.

Michigan's Finest

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CHARGE

FROM PAGE A1

was made after a statement she made to police, in which she allegedly said she thought her husband might have been abusing the child. "She saw signs of what she thought was abuse, and she

didn't do anything about it," Pomorski said.

Canton police officers arrested Szyzkowski, who is unemployed, last week after receiving a tip from an anonymous female caller, who told police she had heard a rumor that he was abusing his son.

"She heard from a friend that this guy might be abusing the baby," Pomorski said.

After receiving the call, two Canton officers were dispatched to the home. Pomorski said the officers arrested him on some minor outstanding warrants. When they checked the baby, they noticed minor injuries, according to Pomorski. As a matter of procedure, they called for a rescue unit to transport the newborn to the University of Michigan's

Mott Children's Hospital, where he was examined by doctors.

Doctors determined he had nine broken bones, including a tibia, fibula and some toes.

According to Pomorski, the baby is out of the hospital and has been placed in foster care by Child Protective Services.

kkuban@hometownlife.com

TRIAL

FROM PAGE A1

Circuit Court on all three charges Poole faces: felony murder, first-degree child abuse and involuntary manslaughter. Poole, the Canton woman charged in the toddler's Sept. 22 death, faces arraignment at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice Dec. 26. Satawa pinned his argument on the fact neither of the two medical experts called Monday by the prosecution - University of Michigan neurosurgeon Dr. Hugh Garton and Washtenaw County Medical Examiner Bader Cassin - could determine whether Newman's death was the result of an intentional act or an accident.

"I think the testimony as we heard it (Monday) showed there is no evidence of intent," said Satawa. "There never was, there never will be. This was a

tragic accident."

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Jerry Dorsey wasn't surprised by Satawa's motion to dismiss, saying that were he a defense attorney, he'd argue the same way.

"If I'm a defense attorney, that's what I'd argue," Dorsey admitted. "I, of course, feel there is some evidence the injuries Allison suffered were intentionally inflicted. (MacDonald) found probable cause the crimes were committed, and probable cause (Poole) committed them. That's what we were here for."

Dorsey played the tape recorded when Poole called 911 in the early hours of Sept. 22 to say Allison was unresponsive. Canton Police Detective Michael Wells testified Poole gave police four different accounts of how Allison suffered the injuries.

"We didn't really feel she was being truthful with us," Wells testified.

Dorsey introduced photos from inside the Poole's Canton home, showing the 12-foot drop from the second-floor balcony to the first floor. The fourth story Poole told Canton police - the one they now believe is the truth - involved Poole accidentally dropping Allison from that height.

After Poole called 911, EMS technicians from the Canton fire department transported Allison to Annapolis Hospital in Wayne, where her injuries were deemed severe enough to be airlifted to Mott Children's Hospital at the University of Michigan.

Garton, the U-M neurosurgeon, said a CT scan of Allison's head showed a skull fracture, bleeding over the surface of the brain and swelling of the brain. She already "showed no signs of brain activity" by the time Garton saw her, he testified.

He also testified, in his experience, a fall from 12 feet "isn't

likely to have caused the injuries Allison presented."

"There's nothing that allows you to conclude whether (the fall) was intentional or accidental?" Satawa asked. Garton said "No."

Cassin performed an autopsy on Allison Newman three days after the toddler's death, and ruled the death was of "indeterminate" manner "because the set of circumstances and injury pattern lends itself to more than one" interpretation.

Two of the stories police say Poole told them involved Allison falling in the bathroom, once during a shower in the bathtub, the other from a countertop at the bathroom sink. Cassin said neither of those explanations was likely.

"This was a very forceful impact," Cassin said. "This injury was too severe to have been caused (that way)."

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Kettle drive struggling with two weeks left to donate

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

With just two weeks left in the Plymouth Salvation Army Corps Red Kettle drive, Capt. Jim Irvine said collections are significantly off from last year.

"We're about 15 percent down," Irvine said. "The need is huge out there. Because of the downturn in the economy, we are seeing more families coming in."

Irvine said the Corps is in danger of not meeting this year's goal of \$155,000, the same as last year. The drive has netted \$27,821 since it began Nov. 24. Last year at this time, the drive had collected \$39,878.

Irvine said not only is the demand for services up, but with the many who have lost jobs, there are fewer people

able to give.

"The very people that were able to help us last year are needing us this year," Irvine said. "Those who supported us financially last year are coming to us for help for utility assistance, mortgage and rent payments. It's one thing when demand goes up, but when our own base is seeking help, it signifies how deep the need is out there."

The Salvation Army doesn't ring the bells on Sundays, so this year's campaign will end on Saturday, Dec. 23, one less day than most Red Kettle drives.

"Christmas Eve is usually a huge giving day for us," said Irvine. "Last year on Christmas Eve we raised \$6,000."

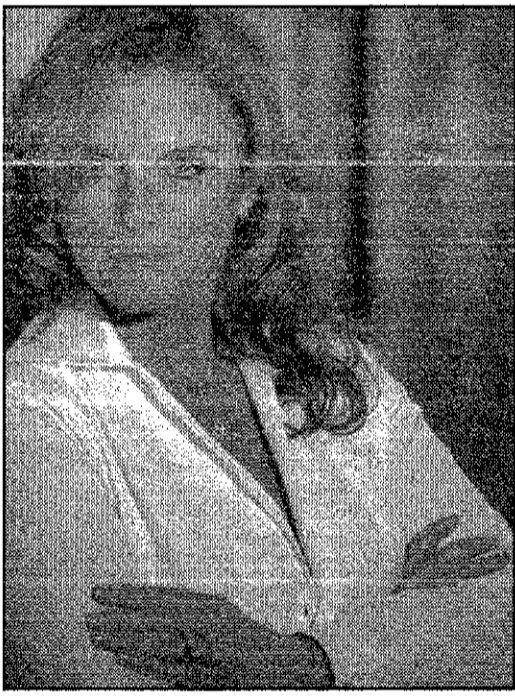
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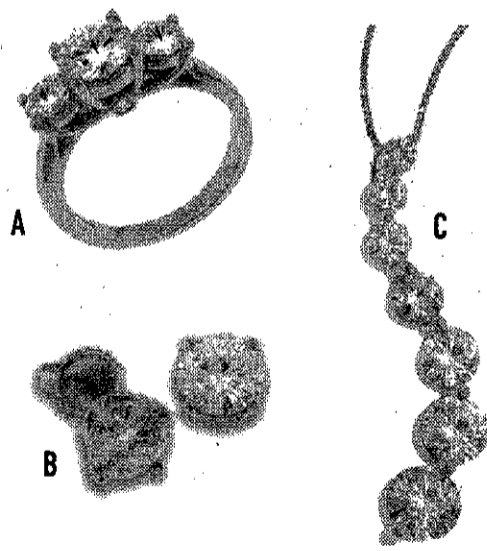
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OUR VIEWS

Drug sweep sends strong message

If the recently formed task force to study drug and alcohol use at the high school campus didn't grab students' attention, surely the drug sweep conducted by the Canton Police Department in the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park parking lot last week should have been a wake-up call.

The message is clear - if students are using drugs or alcohol, they better not be doing it on the high school campus. It won't be tolerated.

Seven students found out the hard way. Canton police officers arrested two high school students and ticketed five others on various drug charges, after drug-sniffing dogs walked up and down each parking aisle. The dogs "hit" on a total of 38 cars, which then were searched.

Schools and police officials said students can expect additional searches in the future, though none are planned within the three schools. In other words, there are no plans to search lockers.

Some students have questioned the tactics, saying police went too far by having the dogs randomly checking cars. But all students that obtained a permit to park on the campus entered into a pact that allows for such searches. They should've known better.

The district should be commended for being proactive, and doing all it can to prevent widespread drug use among the student population. There aren't many things that can derail a child's future or ability to learn like being high at school or strung out on drugs. Educators know this. Police officials know this. And drug counselors know this.

That's why the district has teamed up with the Canton Police Department and the Growth Works Youth Assistance program to form the task force that will examine drug, alcohol and tobacco use at the campus. Members of the task force aren't so naive to believe they will be able to stop all drug use by students, but they are providing a strong deterrent that will at least keep most of the drugs away from the campus.

The students also deserve some credit here. Only seven kids were arrested or ticketed. That is a drop in the bucket considering 5,800 students attend school at P-CEP. And those numbers are pretty consistent with the initial findings of the task force, which said fewer than 10 high school students for every 1,000 were involved in a drug, alcohol or tobacco incident last year.

That suggests students are heeding some of the warnings out there about how dangerous drugs and alcohol can be.

There's more than shopping this holiday

That holiday shopping is anything but jolly is part of the nature of the beast. Consider the predatory nature of shoppers trying to get an advertised item, which the store has maybe two of in stock. And then there is the 40-foot tail of shoppers waiting to check out that whips around corners in the store.

But what if you could see a really interesting 40-foot tail, and not be part of it? No, you wouldn't be shopping; you would be taking a much-needed break from the holiday madness.

The only thing predatory about the Cranbrook Institute of Science exhibit, "When Crocodiles Lived," is the nature of beasts that lived 60 million years ago.

Now what do you think will impress your kids more - the most expensive gift you can afford, or some green thing with a tail longer than your house?

Taking a break from the shopping frenzy has its own rewards, from venturing out to such regional attractions as Cranbrook (39221 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills) to a wacky museum of another sort in Farmington Hills.

Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum (www.marvin3m.com) is a one-of-a-kind venue for pinball and arcade memorabilia. From old movie posters to coin-operated oddities, kids can get an appreciation for your memories of a hometown summer fair. Admission is free. Call (248) 626-5020 for more.

If that sounds like fun, but you're looking for some holiday entertainment, there are a variety of activities accessible to everyone in southeastern Michigan.

For instance, Wayne County for the 10th year is again hosting its drive-through Lightfest. The five-mile route winds through Hines Park (enter at Hines Drive and Merriman Road) 7-10 p.m. daily through Jan. 1, except Christmas day. A holiday scene greets visitors at every turn in the road. There is a \$5 donation.

Reliving holidays of old is the charge of Greenfield Village (www.hfmgv.org) during its Holiday Nights, Dec. 15-17 and Dec. 19-23. The evenings start with carriage and Model T rides along paths lighted by lanterns, and end with fireworks in the bright winter sky.

In between are performances, such as a Fife and Drum Corps, food and a chance to visit with Santa.

With such a wealth of points of interest both locally and in the region, it would be a shame to spend all your time waiting in a 40-foot line.



LETTERS

Make season merry

Every December, my family and I spend a lot of time thinking about how we can honor all the teachers in our lives. When we list all the school teachers, aides, bus drivers, piano teachers, dance teachers and others, the list gets quite long. Just what kind of gift should we give these people?

My husband recently had an idea worth sharing. There is so much need in the Canton community this year, why not adopt a child or family in honor of the teachers? Pool all the money we would have spent on a trinket or small gift card and use it to make a local child's Christmas merry. Brilliant!

We had already adopted two children through the Canton Goodfellows. Last weekend, we called back and adopted two more. The teachers will all receive a letter from us with a photo of our own children wrapping the gifts we purchased for our "adopted" children.

The Canton Goodfellows still need a lot of help to make some little faces smile on Christmas morning. If you have not yet made plans to give to your community this season, this is one avenue worth considering.

Maria Kuechler
Canton

Keep up good work

Dear Canton Observer, I think your newspaper is really great. I love the articles you write, and think the kids are able to read and understand your newspaper.

I went to Hoben Elementary School last year and was in the class that went to Waltonwoods and thought that it was great you put us in the newspaper. Overall, I think your newspaper is really great.

I like the articles like "What's your favorite piece of art on Ford Road?" because it expresses Canton. I'm really glad we have a local newspaper for Canton. Keep up the good work!

Courtney Deska
sixth-grader, Discovery Middle School

Exhibition was enjoyable

I thoroughly enjoyed participating in the 14th annual Canton Fine Arts Exhibition this year. It was an awesome opportunity to showcase a piece of my art, and I appreciate the exposure that it received.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill was the perfect venue to host Canton's Fine Arts Exhibition. The theater personnel and volunteers helped to make this exhibit a resounding success!

Cheryl A. Martin
Canton

Thanks for tour

Boy Scout Troop 898 was the beneficiary of a tour of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* facility on Nov. 15 that was arranged by Michele Collins, whose son is a member of our troop. The tour was conducted by your customer service manager Michele Austin.

We are appreciative of having been allowed to visit your facility. It was interesting seeing firsthand the complexities of a modern day newspaper publisher.

We found the facility to be clean, bright

and well-organized. The employees were conscientious, polite, and helpful. Michele Austin did a great job of conducting the tour. This tour will help the attending Scouts earn their communications merit badge which is one of the merit badges required to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

Again, thank you very much for the opportunity to visit your facility.

Boy Scout Troop 898
Canton

At what cost?

I am writing in response to your story on the upcoming IRS investigation of the Plymouth Historical Museum ("IRS eyes museum campaign activity," Nov. 12). I am greatly saddened, but not surprised, to hear that the museum is now an IRS target.

During the legislative campaign, Carl Berry and his crew were not content to make the Stewart campaign's use of the museum an issue to hound Stewart. Berry filed the original complaint with the IRS in the Abbo campaign's attempt to not just defeat her, but to strangle the life out of her reputation. Berry's tactics were more effective than he may have realized.

Yes, his camp won the primary. But at what cost, Chief? I have no problem with Beth Stewart losing. After all, I was one of her opponents. However, isn't it sad that even at the legislative level we have to resort to destroying the lives and reputations of our opponents?

And isn't it heartbreaking to have one of our community jewels now the target of the IRS attack dogs? How is this going to affect the long-term health of the museum and its ability to fund-raise? Did you think of this before you took aim and fired off another one of your infamous political attacks?

Here is another consideration, on the political side of this. When analyzing the results of the 20th District race, look at the votes in Plymouth and Plymouth Township. Corriveau not only won the city decisively, but he came very close to winning the township, a Republican stronghold. Why? I have no doubt there was a serious political backlash against Berry and his gang for what they did, and are still doing, to the museum.

As a result, there is a Democrat from this district for the first time in many, many years. You wanted to have an impact on our politics, and you sure did. It seems that you are also having quite an impact on our community as well.

Now is the time for our entire community to rally to the side of the Plymouth Historical Museum and its many hard-working supporters and volunteers. I fear we may have a long road ahead with this investigation and with the impact it may have on the finances of the museum.

Jason Vorva
Plymouth

Letter writer wrong

While the great efforts by the *O&E Newspapers* to represent numerous people's opinions in columns and letters to the editor must be applauded, and realizing that not every piece of information can be checked prior to publication, I still felt it necessary to correct some items appearing

as facts in an extensive letter to the editor by a Dave Dobias from Canton ("Speak for yourself," Nov. 30).

Commenting on Terry Ahwal's column "There can be no winners from war and occupation," Mr. Dobias twists the words of Ms. Ahwal throughout the entire piece, but the most glaring mistakes were the following:

1. Citing Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands as "defensive" to suicide bombings and rocket attacks. The Israeli occupation started in June, 1967, well preceding the first Palestinian suicide bombing almost 27 years later on April 6, 1994. The rocket attacks didn't even start till years after 1994. Note: this first suicide bombing in 1994, was in response to the Hebron Massacre by Israeli settler Baruch Goldstein. For more info on this, see Human Rights Watch report, www.hrw.org/reports/2002/isrl-pa/ISRAELPA1002-05.htm.

2. Citing a Hamas and Hezbollah-supported insurgency in Iraq. Hamas is a Palestinian organization, Hezbollah is a Lebanese one. Neither one has any proven ties whatsoever to the Iraqi insurgency at all. Both were created in response to Israel's occupation of Palestinian and Lebanese lands and do not have a common ideology with Al-Qaeda as Dobias implies.

3. The Kurds in northern Iraq putting down an insurgency. There was never an insurgency in the Kurdish area of northern Iraq to begin with. This Kurdish area came under international protection after the first Gulf War in 1991.

4. The rhetorical question of Hamas and Hezbollah being both Shiite organizations. This indicates the lack of knowledge by Mr. Dobias of the situation; Hamas is a Sunni group, not a Shia one. There is actually no significant Shia population in Palestine.

5. Twisting Ms. Ahwal's words related to the soldiers serving in Iraq is really inexcusable. It is obvious that when she states our soldiers have given up their voices, it refers to the voices following the military chain of command and following their duties as good soldiers do. Therefore, it is absolutely our duty to speak out on behalf of our soldiers as Ms. Ahwal does, when the government sends them to combat based on lies.

Rifat Audeh
London, Ontario

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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QUOTABLE

'We think our numbers are low, but we don't have our head in the sand. Kids will experiment with drugs, but it won't happen in our schools. The best deterrent is for us to stay on top of it, and kids will see we're serious about this.'

- Plymouth-Canton Schools Director of Community Relations Frank Ruggirello, on the drug sweep last week.

CANTON
Observer
PUBLISHED THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

GANNETT

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

Quality of life must be weighed as trail proposal moves forward

In any town that has developed as quickly as Canton, there are going to be growing pains. That's just the way it is.

As development swallows up what once was, there are going to be people who are unhappy about the changes. But there are times when opposition to a project is so great that it can actually derail the project.

We have learned that lesson time and again this year, as several proposed projects have stirred up a hornet's nest of opposition. Remember earlier this year when Canton officials proposed selling off

Fellows Creek Golf Club? Resistance to the proposal was swift and overwhelming, particularly from residents living in the new condominium communities along the course. Township officials read the writing on the wall, and are now in the midst of making long-needed improvements to the course.

More recently, residents living in the Beck and Geddes area turned out in droves to stop a proposal by Oakwood Healthcare Systems to

build a medical facility, which some day could be a full-blown hospital complete with a helipad for helicopters. The residents pointed out that they wouldn't have bought their homes had they known they would be living next to a giant hospital, especially considering the area is currently zoned for residential development. Facing such opposition, Oakwood, which needs to get a zoning change, has gone back to the drawing board with its plans, though it appears the plan isn't likely to get approval from township officials. The latest project that has encountered its share of opposition is a township proposal to build a recreational trail along the Lower Rouge River just north of Michigan Avenue. Many of the residents living in the subdivisions along the river's wooded corridor have fought the proposal tooth and nail from the moment they learned about it.

You have to feel bad for them, especially the residents who have lived in those subdivisions for a long time. They have witnessed the building of the Sauk Hills landfill just south of Michigan Avenue, and many have complained about the noise coming from the Canton Police Department's gun range on Van Born Road. Now comes this trail proposal.

Unfortunately for these residents, however, they have something working against them here. This project just makes too much sense, especially in the eyes of township officials.

First of all, Canton has to put in a sanitary sewer to handle all of the additional sewage that will be produced by future homes in the southwest part of the township. Crews will be down there anyway, so it would make sense to kill two birds with one stone, so to speak.

Second, recreation is taken very seriously in Canton, and the one thing residents have said they want more of is trails. Canton has some great parks, but it does lack a trail system, and this could be the backbone of a future trail system that would connect neighborhoods and parks, which in my opinion would make Canton a more complete and attractive community. Another factor here is the fact that

Wayne County is providing a grant to pay for much of the trail work, something Canton officials don't want to walk away from.

Despite the way it has been treated in the past, the Lower Rouge River and its wooded corridor (part of the Lower Rouge Parkway) are probably the greatest natural resource within the township. It has been underused as a recreational asset. Although some residents do use the area to take hikes and walk dogs, this trail would make the area more accessible to residents who are less adventurous.

All of these factors, however, have not made the plan any more attractive to the residents living along river. Canton officials have had three informational meetings about the trail proposal, all of which have been well-attended. Last week, the township board had a study session, which drew an interesting cross-section of residents, some of whom are completely opposed to the plan, but also some residents who think it is a great idea.

Barring some unforeseen circumstances, like the county saying the money suddenly disappeared, it is my belief the trail is going in. But township officials must make a commitment to the residents who live in that area, because they have some very legitimate concerns.

There is no question that the trail is going to create access to these people's homes that does not really exist now. Crime is a concern, and nothing that was said at the meeting last week is going to quell those fears. Canton Police Officer Bob Kerr, who spoke at last week's meeting, said the department would be able to police the trail with motorcycle and mountain bike patrols, but even that won't completely eliminate the possibility of crime, which Kerr admitted.

"I don't think anybody will say there won't be any crime on this trail, because anywhere that is accessible is susceptible to criminal activity," he told residents.

Another thing the residents are worried about is the fact that the area is going to be torn up by heavy equipment. But township officials said they have made a serious commitment to restore the area along the path, which will only be 10 feet wide once it is done. When the path is ultimately completed, which may take as long as a decade, I think it could be one of the township's real recreational jewels, especially if it links up to other recreational trails township officials envision for the future. As it stands, the trail will already link up with the I-275 bike trail, which is also scheduled to be renovated by the state. Despite the fears by residents that this will bring their property values down, I believe it will actually improve the area and make it more attractive to future buyers. But I'm certainly no real estate expert, and my opinion won't mean a darn thing to these residents if they have trouble selling their homes in the future.

The township must do everything possible to protect those investments. But township officials must also invest in the community, and this trail could prove to be a wonderful investment.

Like I said, change is never easy.

Kurt Kuban is community editor of the *Canton Observer*. He welcomes your feedback. E-mail him at kkuban@hometownlife.com or call at (734) 459-2700.



Kurt Kuban

Vigil a chance to ease pain, honor children lost too soon

I have five children and two grandchildren and, while all of them at one time or another have caused me some angst, all of them are vibrant young men (except Jennifer, who is vibrant but is not a young man).

And all of them are alive. Sadly, that's not the case for some 500 or more people who crowded into Kellogg Park Sunday night for The Compassionate Friends' annual candlelight vigil honoring children they've lost, for reasons ranging from accidents to illness, from drugs to disease.

Some 500 people huddled with each other and against the cold, saddened by loss, warmed by memories. As you find at most funerals, stories are recounted and there's a lot of laughter. Of course, there are also lots of tears.

Brad Kadrich

Including my own. I've never lost a child, but I can empathize with them, because I can't imagine losing Jennifer, Matthew, Marcus, Robert, Andrew, Sydney or Maycie. Maybe that's why the tears flow so easily at this event every year. It serves as a reminder how fleeting life really is.

Take Judith Gangnier of Farmington, who last year celebrated Christmas with her 28-year-old son, Beau. This year, she's getting ready for a Christmas without him after he died suddenly earlier this year.

In fact, the fleeting quality of life is a lesson Judith Gangnier has learned repeatedly over the last year or so. Beau's cousin Travis also died this year, six months after having been graduated from the University of Michigan law school with honors. Judith's mother died the same day as Travis, and her father suffered a stroke. As if that wasn't enough, Gangnier also recently lost her job.

That's an awful year, one made at least marginally better because Gangnier found solace with The Compassionate Friends. A woman whose own son is buried in the same Farmington cemetery as Beau told Gangnier about it.

Gangnier, as well as her sister in Indianapolis, made it a point to be at the candlelight vigil Sunday, during which candles are lit by chapters all over the world, essentially bringing together a ring of light that theoretically encircles the globe, casting a glow that honors all children lost too soon.

"This is real important to me," Gangnier said Sunday. "I love my son, and I miss my son. It helps to be able to talk to people about that. Most people feel uncomfortable talking about it. The Compassionate Friends don't."

Every year, new people find out about this group, and every year the crowd for this event grows. A Livonia man was a first-timer, huddled near the Christmas tree decorated with photos of the children being honored. Fighting back tears, he occasionally reached up, clearing the branches away so he could see his son's picture better.

The son was 16 and had been a good kid, never

in trouble, until he got caught up with the proverbial wrong crowd, older men the father blames for leading his son astray. The son wound up snorting a line of cocaine, which had been laced with fentanyl. He died in August.

"We miss him so much ... it helps to be with other people who are grieving, too," the father said. "Not a day goes by we don't cry over it. I don't know if we will ever get over it."

I'm not sure death is something you "get over." Maybe you just learn to cope with it, learn that life goes on and approaching it any other way is simply counterproductive. My mother died 20 years ago, and I can relate to the Livonia man because there's still not a day that goes by where I don't think of her. My memories now are all fond, the pain and agony of her life and her death replaced by happy thoughts of her ironing T-shirts and trying (mostly in vain) to cook something edible.

For some of the people at Sunday's vigil, the loss is too recent, the pain too real and deep, the shroud of grief too heavy to believe the memories will ever be good. Others have reached the point where death is a distant recollection, the pain not removed, but at least tempered by the passage of time. It gets easier to smile, easier to joke - easier to remember.

Gail Lafferty of Canton is a case in point. She lost her beloved son, Max, a few years ago. The pain was horrific at first, now dulled by the passing years, replaced by a smile when she thinks of him. Every year, the weather seems to be much better than Michiganders have a right to expect for mid-December, a fact Lafferty attributes to Max looking down, taking care of them. A couple of years ago, it snowed all day the day of the vigil, but stopped shortly before it was scheduled to start. Sunday, it was chilly, though not bone-shattering cold. It did, however, rain a little, and Lafferty noticed.

"We were talking about that, and we decided it was the kids being mischievous," said a smiling Lafferty, who believes so much in The Compassionate Friends she's now the group's co-leader.

The program is designed to remember the children, something the grieving parents, families and friends are determined to do. It's tough to leave Kellogg Park with dry eyes when you've heard some 300 names read out loud, listened to poetry and heard the emotion in songs such as Kenny Chesney's *Who You'd Be Today* and Josh Groban's *To Where You Are*.

Everyone leaves the vigil drained, emotionally and physically, having spent a precious hour huddled and hugging, laughing and crying. As the candles go out, there's time for one last tear, one final goodbye, and then they move on. Those for whom the pain is still simply too fresh will soon learn what the others have found out, the final lesson they'll learn from their children.

Life goes on.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the *Plymouth Observer*. He can be reached via e-mail at bkadrich@hometownlife.com or by phone at (734) 459-2700.

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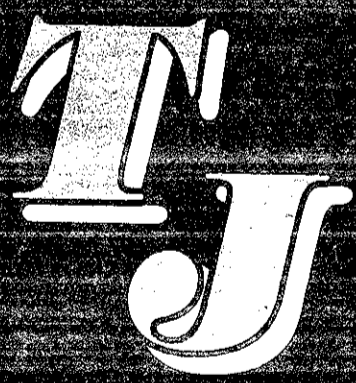
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RESA superintendent says it's time to retire

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER



Marlene Davis

Marlene Davis says there is still "a lot of juice in the tank," but the time has come to retire as superintendent of the Wayne County Regional Education Service Agency and let someone else take up the cause of improving student achievement.

"I decided to retire because I have been doing this a long time. This is my 39th year in education, and I've done a lot of different jobs, played all the parts pretty much," she said.

Davis will step down as RESA superintendent on June 30, 2007. She became RESA superintendent in 2001, leaving her position as superintendent of Southfield Public Schools. She also served as a school superintendent in southern California, principal at several schools and teacher.

"I'm ready to move on to something where I am not the boss," she said.

RESA is Wayne County's intermediate school district. The districts were created by the state legislature in 1962 as an intermediary service agency between the state Department of Education and local school districts. The state has 57 intermediate school districts. RESA serves the 34 school districts in Wayne County.

enterprise is different, because you don't have school boards and you don't have parents. You're much more anonymous."

The mission for intermediate districts varies from district to district. Outstate, a ISD may serve several counties. In the population centers, an ISD serves one county. Some ISD operate schools and directly handle special education programs.

RESA provides administrative technology for all county school districts except Livonia and Detroit. They handle software, payroll, finance and student database. They provide technology, including Internet access for all the school districts and 60 districts outside of Wayne County. They help provide purchasing economies of scale for the districts. They also monitor special education programs, do student enrollment audits and interpret state and federal education programs.

"People call asking what to do, like with No Child Left Behind," she said. "We read it, we interpret it, we pretty much translate for local districts. Here's what you need to do and not do."

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

At the heart of Davis' mission has been improving student achievement. RESA has a program with Detroit Public Schools to help troubled schools reach adequate yearly

AN ADJUSTMENT

For Davis, moving from superintendent of the Southfield district to RESA was an adjustment.

"The job is different in that you aren't in charge of anyone except the people at RESA. But people say you're the county superintendent," she said. "Everyone of those 34 school districts is an autonomous district headed up by its own board and superintendent. My job is to advise, influence and support, mostly. It's not to tell anyone what to do."

Davis said the work of the agency isn't as clearly defined as a K-12 school program and it's important that what RESA does is relevant to the 34 school districts.

"There are similar aspects to the job," she said comparing the "superintendent" positions. "You're leading, creating empowered environments and working off a mission, but the

AIRPORT CHANGE

The Wayne County Airport Authority and off-airport commercial transportation providers have agreed to new procedures at Detroit Metropolitan Airport that allow authorized drivers of reserved/pre-arranged luxury sedans, limousines and other commercial vehicles to greet and assist arriving customers in the baggage claim areas of all terminals while continuing to prohibit the solicitation of arriving passengers.

The procedures include a designated area for authorized off-airport drivers greeting arriving customers. All authorized drivers will be able to assist their customers with their luggage and direct them to their vehicles.

All vehicle-for-hire drivers must park in the designated ground transportation areas and obtain specific credentials from the airport's ground transportation office prior to entering the terminals.

The new procedure applies to reserved/pre-arranged luxury sedans, limousines and other commercial vehicles.

progress. She has mixed feelings about the federal No Child Left Behind law.

"The notion of No Child Left Behind is excellent," she said. "It has gotten the attention of the school districts. Where I disagree is in the excessive micromanagement of the details, and the failure to understand what real schools look like - schools that need help, schools where we do leave children behind. It's a challenging environment. There's no acknowledgment of that, it's just do it."

She also said the "penalties" prescribed to correct failing schools are unrealistic and haven't been imposed.

Davis is passionate about public schools. The Dearborn Fordson High School graduate said public school is often the one place where young people do feel a sense of accomplishment.

"In these schools, you see these kids, this is their oasis, this is where it's happening for

them," she said. "That is why public education is still at the heart of our country. We're the only ones who take everybody. That's what we have always done in public education, the great equalizer and homogenizer."

Davis said her biggest legacy at RESA has been to refocus the agency to better serve the needs of the school districts. She said one of the first things she did was send out a survey asking superintendents what they needed from RESA.

Davis still sees education as part of her new life in retirement.

"I'll work with gusto for Wayne RESA until June 30 and on July 1, I'll say now what," she said. "I suspect I'll be doing something, I'm not ready for the golf course. I suspect it will be in education, I love education and I'm good at it."

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New exhibit gives shoppers 'Happy Feet'

As you make your list and check it twice, don't miss these local holiday shopping events: 'Happy Feet'

Great Lakes Crossing, Fairlane Town Center and Twelve Oaks will feature free *Happy Feet* exhibits that bring the new film to life. The exhibits include a 20-foot walk-through snow globe, where a cold Antarctic blast and falling snow welcome visitors to Mumble's home. Within the globe, guests can interact with life-sized sculptures of characters from the film and enjoy toe-tappin' music from the movie soundtrack. The exhibit also showcases three-dimensional, penguin-filled *Happy Feet* scenes displayed in three, six-foot snow globes with buttons to launch interactive elements; a walk-through 28-foot holiday tree where visitors can learn about key characters and a "green screen" experience where children can pose for holiday pictures that make them look like they're dancing with Mumble and other characters.



Holiday E-Greetings

Bright House Networks is offering shoppers at Laurel Park Place a tech-savvy way to send holiday greetings across the miles. Stop by the BHN kiosks outside Parisian through January to send free video e-mail and digital phone messages to your loved ones.

My Mall

Make holiday shopping easier right from your desk with the new online service "My Mall." Detroit-area Taubman centers are offering the free Web site feature, which allows shoppers to create online shopping lists, sign up for e-bulletins from stores and file

coupons, exclusive offers and more. Log onto www.shopfairlane.com, www.shopgreatlakescrossing.com or www.shoptwelveoaks.com, click "My Mall."

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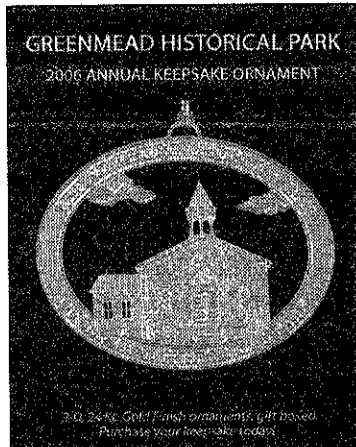
Westland Shopping Center offers the following tips to make your to-do list easier.

- Avoid the rush and shop at off-peak hours.

- To make the checkout process easier in any store, have your method of payment and proper identification ready before you get to the register.

- Consider giving gift cards — the hottest gift of choice. A Westland Shopping Center gift card, \$20-\$300 value, is good at all of Westland Shopping Center's specialty stores.

Westland will host extended holiday shopping hours through Christmas. Visit Santa and enjoy evening entertainment on select nights, including the Phil Gram All Stars, a five-piece band that play classic holiday tunes. For more information, visit www.westlandcenter.com.



A 'Green' Christmas

Visit Greenmead in Northville for a romantic Christmas past. The Livonia Historical Commission is hosting Christmas Candlelight Tours in the historic village Dec. 26-27. Tour Greenmead's Historic Village buildings in candlelight glow, then enjoy hot cocoa, tea and cookies in the Friend's Meeting House while listening to the Livonia Civic Chorus. Tours, at 6 and 8 p.m., are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. While you're at Greenmead, pick up the second annual Christmas collectible ornament from Historic

Greenmead, a replica of the Newburgh Church. The ornaments, finished in gold and gift-boxed, are \$15. Also available are Christmas cards featuring the Shaw House Door, 20 for \$16, and Hill House in the Snow, 10 for \$10. All proceeds benefit Historic Greenmead, 20501 Newburgh Road, Livonia. Call (248) 477-7375.

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The Salvation Army and Target have joined forces for charity. Visit www.target.com and purchase a virtual ornament for the Angel Giving Tree. Personalize the color, wing shape and wing pattern of your online ornament knowing your donation will provide new clothing, toys or food to families in need. Target will also donate 100 percent of profits from the sales of a limited edition Harvey Lewis angel ornament accented with red Swarovski crystals. The ornaments (\$9.99) are available in Target stores and online at Target.com. For more information, visit www.salvationarmyusa.org.

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Ann Arbor's downtown businesses are stoking up seasonal spirit with a shopping event from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Conor O'Neill's Celtic Room, 318 S. Main Street. Participating shops include 16 Hands, Adorn Me, Hoi Polloi, Red Shoes and more, will present an edited collection of gift items. Watch the game, grab a pint and relax while your purchases are wrapped and tied with a bow. Choose from European yarns for mom, hand-rolled cigars for dad, diamond earrings for her. Call (734) 222-8460 or email us at annarbor@hoipolloboutique.com

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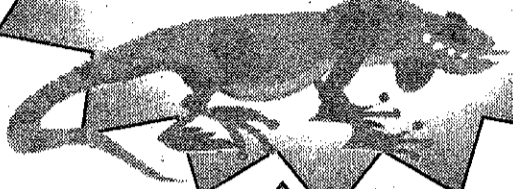
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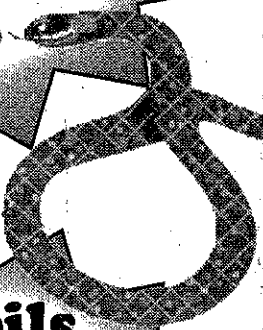
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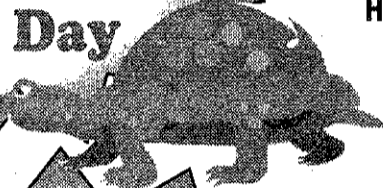
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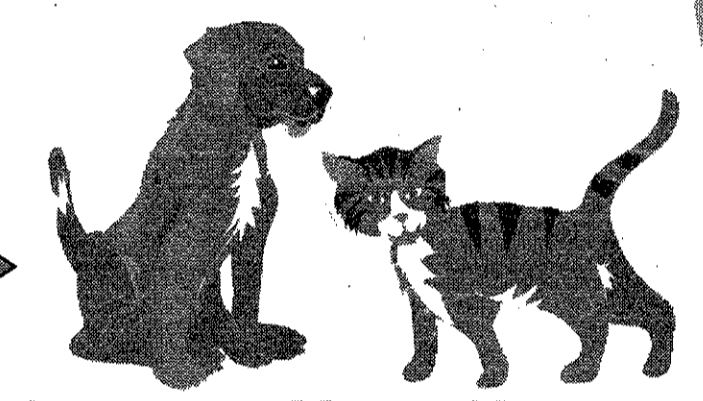
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Helping to find a home

Jewish center trying to extend its reach

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

When the Novi-Northville Center for Jewish Life's Women's Circle got together a couple of weeks ago for a latka tasting, the one thing organizers noticed was an increase in the number of women from Canton who took part.

It was noteworthy because folks at the center, currently located in Novi but which draws many of its participants from the western Wayne County area, are trying to increase their presence here, particularly in Plymouth and Canton.

The center, which opened

CHANUKAH PARTY

■ The Novi-Northville Center for Jewish Life hosts a Chanuka party 5-7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at 42142 Logenberry Ridge N. in Novi. The event will feature the lighting of a seven-foot Menorah, a magic show, traditional latkes and Chanukah crafts. Admission is free.
■ The center has a photo gallery and a variety of other information on its Web site, www.novijewishcenter.com
■ For more information, call (248) 790-6075.

two years ago under the direction of Rabbi Avrohom Susskind and his wife, Leah, is designed to give Jewish people a place to go for activities, events and worship. The Susskinds started it after hearing requests for such services from a number of Jewish families in the Novi-Northville area. "A number of people started inquiring if there could be something local for them, as a Jewish center that provides Jewish activities for holidays and services throughout the year," Susskind said. "People really wanted something that can provide them the Jewish

needs." Susskind emphasizes the center is available for Jewish people regardless of their affiliation or background, their status or religious practice. Even if only one person in a particular family is Jewish, being Jewish is enough, he said. "We wanted to open a center that was non-judgmental," Susskind said. "People had felt rejected (in other similar centers). We're here for you at your comfort level, and making it available the way the people wanted it, rather than asking them to adapt to the way we

wanted it. That got people interested and excited about it."

The center, which has a building at Novi Road and 10 Mile in Novi but also operates out of the Susskind's home, offers a variety of activities, holiday observances and services.

There are holiday programs for the entire family that include crafts and entertainment; social events; classes and study groups; and a variety of other services.

"Lunch and Learn" is one popular group, providing opportunities for people available during the day (stay-at-home moms, people who work out of the home, etc.) to get together and discuss Jewish topics, current events relating to anything Jewish. The Women's Circle is a similar group Susskind said is "very popular."

"We're getting a lot of new faces in those groups," he said. Those kinds of activities are responsible, Susskind said, for



Novi-Northville Center for Jewish Life member Chuck Keys lights a seven-foot Menorah at last year's Chanukah party at the center. This year's party is set for Sunday.

the success of the center. "I think just experiencing people and having conversations with them, that was a very important aspect of our success so far," he said. "People have constantly shied away from getting involved in any shape or form in something Jewish because they felt they had to adapt to a certain type of behavior."

"For us, there aren't any labels," Susskind added. "Labels are for wine bottles, not for people. It's just simply who you are. That really has resonated with people."

The Susskinds have grown the center the old-fashioned way: Bit by bit. They've met with Jewish families not only from the Novi-Northville area, but they're spreading the center's presence even wider.

All of the center's activities are detailed on its Web site, www.novijewishcenter.com. The center also puts out a publication four times a year, Celebration Magazine, Susskind said is important in keeping people informed.

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APCALYPTO (R)
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (PG)
11:15, 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15
FRI/SAT LS 11:15

THE NATIVITY STORY (PG)
4:10, 9:10

DECK THE HALLS (PG)
12:00, 2:05, 6:30

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Drug search comes up empty

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Two Wayne County Sheriff's Department drug-sniffing canines failed to find any contraband in a sweep of the Starkweather Education Center parking lot Wednesday morning.

Starkweather, located on North Holbrook in Plymouth, is Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' alternative high school with an enrollment of about 300 students. The sweep of the nearly 50 cars began at 9:40 a.m., and took less than 15 minutes, according to Principal Irene Ras.

"We just want to be proactive,

and not reacting to things that might be happening," Ras said. "We did it as a precautionary measure to make sure things are on the up-and-up around here."

The sweep at Starkweather occurred one week after a similar sweep at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park in Canton Township, which houses 5,800 Canton, Salem and Plymouth high school students. In that sweep, Canton police reported 38 cars were searched, with two high school students arrested and five others ticketed on various drug charges.

Ras said she was unaware of the P-CEP plans when she scheduled the sweep at

Starkweather.

"I didn't know the park scheduled one," Ras said. "I had one already scheduled."

Starkweather student Chris Ofiara, 18, of Novi, said he's not concerned about the sweeps, but said he's not surprised it happened. "They've got to do what they've got to do, I guess, to keep drugs out of the school," said Ofiara, who said alternative students sometimes get a bad rap. "I think that's a big stereotype. Miss Ras, the principal, I think her main goal is to weed out the drug users and keep the kids who aren't on drugs in school. I don't think it's fair, but at the same time, I'm just here to graduate on time."

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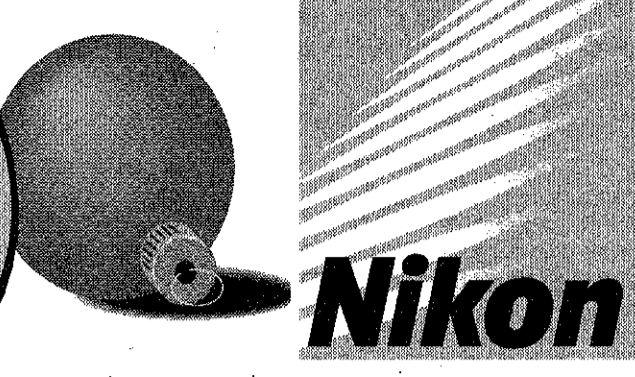
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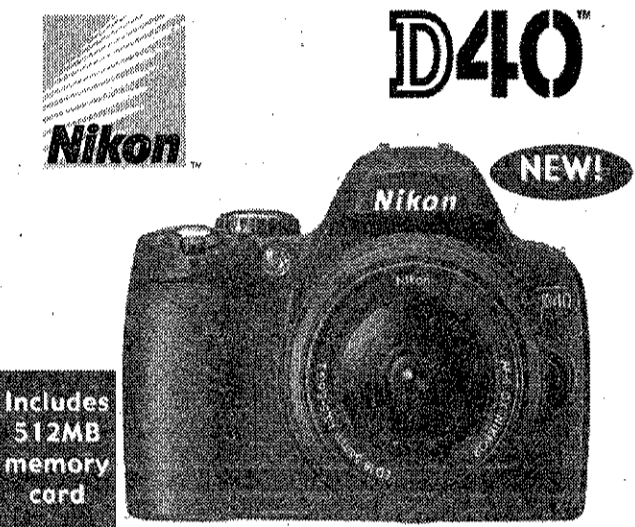
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Workforce program

Emily Stover DeRocco, U.S. assistant secretary of labor for employment and training, was in Livonia Dec. 5 to discuss southeast Michigan's selection as one of 26 communities nationwide to participate in the U.S. Department of Labor's Workforce, Innovation and Regional Economic Development (WIRED) initiative. The WIRED designation connects regions with federal resources to support workforce development, with a focus on advanced technology jobs. DeRocco spoke at a meeting of the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce held at Schoolcraft College's VistaTech conference and training center.

Schoolcraft board to tap trustee

Eight applicants are seeking appointment to a vacancy on the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees.

The board will conduct applicant interviews at a special meeting beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday in the board room conference room (Administration Building) on campus, Six Mile and Haggerty roads in Livonia. The meeting is open to the public.

The eight have applied to fill the unexpired term of Kevin McNamara, who was elected in November to the Wayne County Board of Commissioners. McNamara, a Canton Township resident, had served as secretary of the Schoolcraft board.

The candidates and their expected interview times are:

- James Fausone of Canton Township, an attorney with Fausone, Taylor and Bohn in Northville (10:15 a.m.).
- Joan Gephardt of Livonia, a retired elementary school principal and an adjunct professor at Madonna University (10:30 a.m.).
- Joanne Lamar of Plymouth Township, a nurse manager with the Henry Ford Health Care System and a former member of the board of trustees of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools (10:45 a.m.).
- Sandra Larson of Livonia, an attorney in private practice in the Law Offices of Margaret Barton and Sandra M. Larson in Livonia (11 a.m.).
- Charles McIlhargey of Plymouth Township, a member and former president of the Schoolcraft College Foundation Board of Governors (11:15 a.m.).
- Roy Puckett of Livonia, a former member of the Livonia Civil Service Commission and Livonia Employee Pension Board (11:30 a.m.).
- Ronald Randall of Livonia, former registrar at Schoolcraft College. Randall retired in 2002 (11:45 a.m.).
- Dr. Louis Reibling, former vice president of instruction at Schoolcraft College. Reibling retired in 2004 and is a Northville resident (noon).

State guidelines require that the appointee stand for election to the seat in the next school election, which will occur in 2007.

The Schoolcraft College district includes the school districts of Plymouth-Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Northville and part of Novi. The board meets once a month and consists of seven members who are elected to six-year terms.

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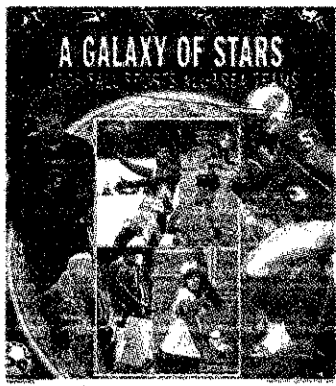
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Look for the new All-Area special section in Sunday's Observer

PICK THE PROS! PAGES B4-5

SPORTS

B (CP)

Thursday, December 14, 2006

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

League jockeying fails, but WLAA eyes Novi

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

A proposed marriage agreement between the Western Lakes Activities Association and the Kensington Valley Conference has been put on hold. The two leagues, for now, remain separated.

Earlier this year, the eight-school KVC soon to be 10 when two new high schools open during the next two years - courted WLAA members Northville, Walled Lake Central, Northern and Western about jumping leagues.

The WLAA, which currently consists of

12 schools, countered by asking the three Farmington schools - North, Harrison and Farmington High - to rejoin the WLAA after leaving five years ago to become members of the 27-school Oakland Activities Association.

But back in the fall, the Farmington schools, after much debate, decided to remain in the OAA.

Just recently, the *Observer* learned the WLAA has formally invited Novi of the KVC and West Bloomfield of the OAA to become members.

Another recent proposal, initiated unanimously by athletic directors of the KVC, forwarded a plan to form a scheduling

partnership with the WLAA to help reduce spiraling transportation costs.

That proposal, however, was rejected in a meeting recently by KVC principals.

So where does a proposed merger or partnership stand between the two leagues?

One thing is for certain, the three Walled Lake schools and Northville are staying put.

"Walled Lake and Northville worked together on this, but each made its own decision," said David Yarbrough, who oversees athletics at Central, Northern and

WESTERN LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION MEMBERS
Lakes Division: Livonia Churchill, Livonia Stevenson, Salem, Walled Lake Central, Walled Lake Northern, Westland John Glenn.
Western Division: Canton, Plymouth, Livonia Franklin, Wayne Memorial, Walled Lake Western, Northville.

KENSINGTON VALLEY CONFERENCE MEMBERS
Novi, Brighton, Hartland, Howell, Pinckney, White Lake Lakeland, Milford, South Lyon, South Lyon East (joins in 2007-08), Howell Parker (joins in 2007-08).

PLEASE SEE LEAGUE, B3

Sidelines

Plymouth spikers open season

Plymouth's volleyball team advanced to the quarterfinals of the season-opening Madonna Invitational Saturday before falling to Lutheran Westland in three sets, 19-25, 25-18, 15-8.

The Wildcats notched victories over Dearborn Heights Crestwood and Madison Heights Bishop Foley.

Several Plymouth players turned in outstanding performances, including Clare Baptist (51 digs), Rachel Heaton (40 digs), Chelsea Quinlan (29 digs), Brittany Hengesh (27 kills and 13 solo blocks), Katie Salo (30 set assists) and Courtney Buttermore.

For a detailed look at the Wildcats' 2006-07 squad, please see Sunday's *Observer*.

Hoop tryouts

The Plymouth/Canton Crossfire girls AAU basketball team will stage tryouts for the upcoming season on Saturday from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Plymouth Christian Academy, which is at 43065 Joy Road in Canton (behind Calvary Baptist Church).

The tryout fee is \$20, which is due at the time of the tryout. Prospective players are encouraged to arrive a few minutes early to register.

For more information, contact Gary Wheeler at (734) 459-7574.

Men's roundball players needed

A men's basketball team that will be competing in a Northville recreation league is looking for players. If interested, contact Clarence Hucul at (734) 354-9771.

Baseball sign-ups

Registration for the 2007 Canton Little League will be held Jan. 20 and Feb. 17, 2007, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran School, 1309 Penniman Ave. in Plymouth (a quarter-mile east of Sheldon).

The leagues offered will be: Minors (7-10 year-olds); Majors (11-12); and Juniors (13-14). The league is open to all Plymouth and Canton residents.

Proof of residency and a birth certificate are necessary at the time of registration.

For more information, visit www.cantonlittleleague.org; or send an e-mail to info@cantonlittleleague.net.

MU adds recruit

The Madonna University softball team has announced an early commitment from high school senior Tara LaMilza (Harper Woods Regina) for the 2008 season.

LaMilza is coming off a junior year where she batted .321 with a lofty .683 on base percentage and .482 slugging percentage. She was selected as an All-State performer at second base with a .965 fielding average.

Depth leads Red Hawks over Chiefs

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

It happened like clockwork Tuesday night in Canton's Phase III gymnasium: Five well-rested Troy Athens basketball players crowded in front of the scorer's table every three or four minutes, chomping at the bit to start their next shift against the Chiefs.

Neither of the two five-player platoons used by Red Hawks coach Bill Gerbe shined brighter than the other, but together they combined to subdue the Chiefs, 59-48, in Canton's 2006-07 home opener.

Athens improved to 2-1 while the Chiefs slipped to 0-2.

"I saw during the summer that we had a great group of kids who we could go 10 deep with," said Gerbe, explaining his five-in, five-out substitution pattern. "If one group isn't getting it done, the other group can come in to spark us. It puts pressure on all of them to perform. It's the first time I've had the luxury to do something like this."

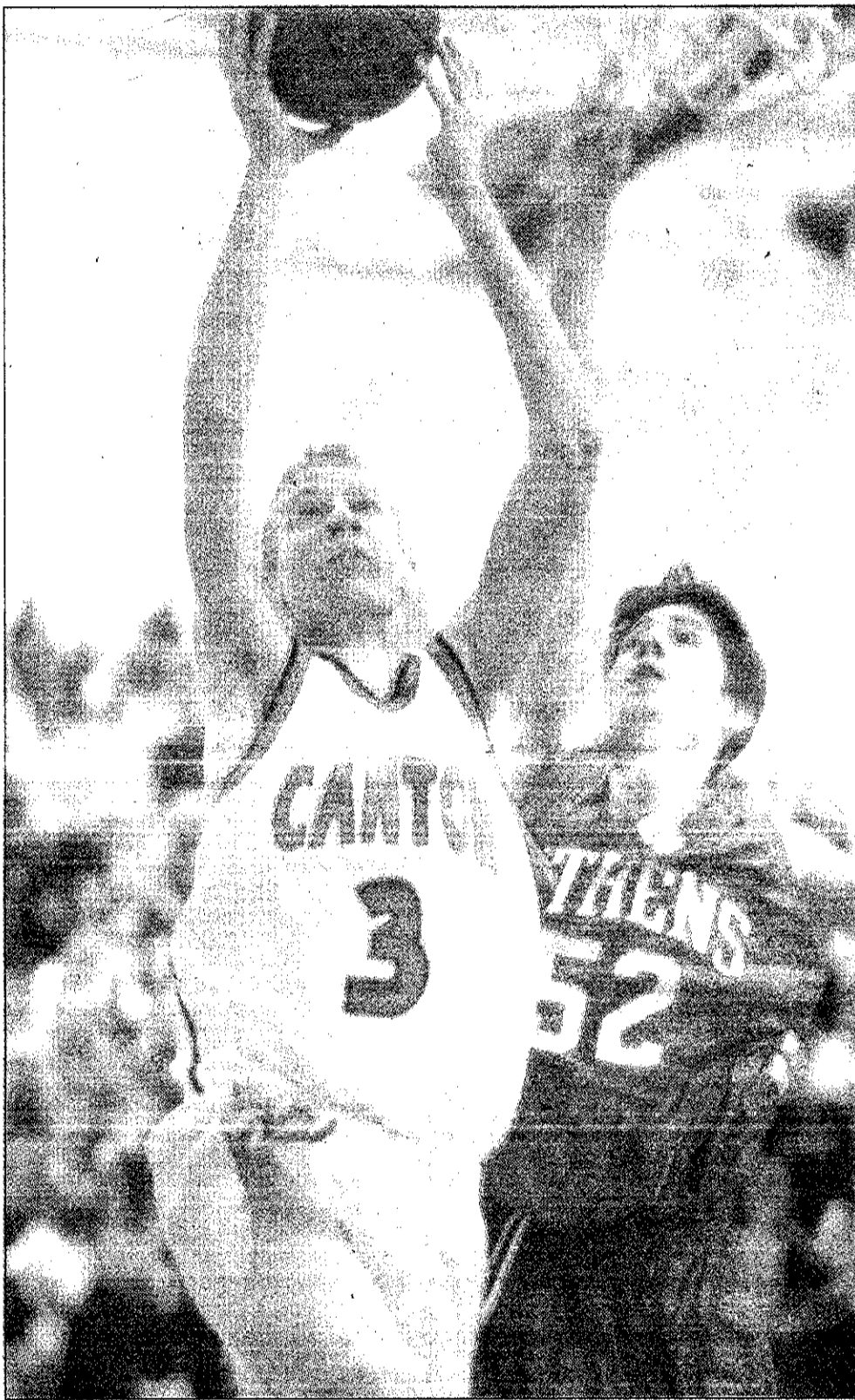
"We're able to do this not necessarily because we're that good, but because we're that equal."

The teams appeared to match up well during the early going when Canton jumped to a 17-14 lead at the end of the opening quarter thanks to Josh Butler's buzzer-beating three-point bomb.

However, the Red Hawks never trailed after seizing a 30-25 halftime advantage. "They're a good team," said Canton coach Charlie Paye. "The thing is, when they substituted, they didn't lose anything because both of those groups were pretty equal."

"We just didn't take care of the ball. We had way too many turnovers (23) just like we did in the first game (a 49-44

PLEASE SEE HOOPS, B3



Canton's Eric Thornton (left) takes the ball strong to the basket past Troy Athens' Robert Rodgers during Tuesday night's non-conference game in the Chiefs' gym. The Red Hawks knocked off their hosts, 59-48, to improve to 2-1.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Maples too much for Wildcats

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

The scoreboard didn't lie - but it didn't tell the whole truth following Plymouth's season-opening 57-48 loss at Adrian Tuesday night.

"We played 10 kids and they all showed something," said Wildcat coach Tom Van Wagoner, discussing the positives that came out of the nine-point setback to the Maples.

"Everybody contributed, so the depth is there. We just had too many turnovers and we missed too many turnovers."

Adrian (1-2) jumped out to a 19-7 first-quarter lead thanks mainly to a trio of three-point baskets. The Wildcats chopped their deficit to 27-19 at the intermission but were swept under by a 16-7 Adrian run in the third quarter. Junior center Jake Hager led the Wildcats with 14 points. Junior point guard Brandon Roberts registered 10 while junior Navraj Sandhu chipped in with nine, including a pair of triples. Senior forward Austin Barnett flirted with a double-double, notching eight points and eight boards. Adrian's Brent Ohrman led all scorers with 17.

"They have a good, athletic team," said Van Wagoner, of the Maples. "Probably the biggest key for them was that they hit six threes. It was pretty even on the boards. I think we suffered from a few opening-night jitters." Neither team shot the lights out from the free-throw line: Plymouth hit 10-of-18 while the Maples connected on 7-of-11. Things won't get any easier for the Wildcats, who travel to Walled Lake Central Friday to battle the Vikings.

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Rock icers tie N'ville

Salem's hockey team battled back from a 2-0 deficit Friday to tie Northville, 3-3, in a Western Lakes Activities Association game played at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

The Mustangs jumped out to their early lead thanks to goals from Wes Gates (11:19 of the first period) and Brandon Wales (2:02 of the second). Gates was assisted by Ross Roehl and Wales while Wales was assisted by Kyle Ziomek.

The Rocks cut their deficit in half when Steve Heisler found the back of the net with just 22 seconds left in the second period to make it 2-1. He was assisted by Aaron Markwell.

Heisler knotted the game at 2-2 less than three minutes into the third period with an unassisted goal. Gates struck again two minutes later to make it 3-2, however, Salem's Tony Garbarino lit the lamp with just 3:18 to go to earn his team a point. Garbarino was assisted by David Russell and Joel Cheesman.

Rock goal-tender Ralph Aspenwall was brilliant, turning away 38 shots. Northville net-minder Andy Flynn made 19 saves.

Brophey keys the Whalers' resurgence

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER



Plymouth Whaler forward Evan Brophey unleashes a wrist shot in a game earlier this season against OHL West Division rival Saginaw. Brophey has been instrumental in the Whalers' recent hot streak.

WALT DMOCH

When he needs an extra dose of inspiration, Plymouth Whaler veteran center Evan Brophey will sometimes look up at the photo collection of ex-Whalers/current NHL players that consumes one of the walls in the team's locker room.

"Ask anyone on this team and they'll all tell you that they look up there once in a while because the players whose pictures are on that wall have achieved the goal that we've all set for ourselves - playing in the NHL," said the well-spoken Brophey, following a recent victory over Windsor.

If the 20-year-old native of Kitchener, Ontario, continues to produce at his current pace, it won't be long before he's on the wall instead of admiring it.

Brophey has been one of the Whalers' catalysts in a recent machine-like winning streak that has propelled the team into the thick of the Ontario Hockey League's West Division title race. After losing just once in their past 14 games, Plymouth (19-10-1) is just four points

PLEASE SEE BROPHEY, B2

Barrie sinks red-hot Whalers

Rookie goaltender Michael Hutchinson stopped 42 of 43 shots and all three shots in a shootout to lead the Barrie Colts to a 2-1 victory over the Plymouth Whalers in an Ontario Hockey League game played Saturday night at the Compuware Sports Arena.

Hutchinson came into the game having played in just three games this season for Barrie as a backup to Andrew Perugini. But Hutchinson was the difference in the hockey game.

Plymouth gains a point in the shootout and is now 19-10-1-1, good for 40 points and second place in the OHL West Division, two points behind the first place Saginaw Spirit

(20-9-0-2). The Whalers remain one of the hottest teams in the OHL over the last month with a record of 11-1-1-1 over its last 14 games.

Barrie (now 23-7-0-1, good for 47 points) remains tied with London (22-6-1-2) as the two top teams overall in the OHL.

It was Teddy Bear Night at the Compuware Sports Arena and when A.J. Jenks scored his fourth goal of the season to give Plymouth a 1-0 lead at 1:51 of the first period, the Bruins rained down from the stands.

Tomas Marchinko tied the game for Barrie at 1-1 when he snapped a shot from the slot by Plymouth goaltender Michal

Neuvirth at 12:17 of the second period.

After a scoreless third period and overtime, Barrie's Kris Sparre scored the only goal of the shootout and the first goal that Neuvirth has given up this season in a shootout. On the shot, Sparre came in to the hash marks, faked a back-hand shot and stuffed the puck on the forehand by Neuvirth.

Hutchinson stopped James Neal with the first Plymouth shot in the shootout and then Chris Terry mishandled his attempt. Neuvirth stopped Barrie's Hunter Tremblay and Vladimir Nikiforov and the game came down to Plymouth's Evan Brophrey against Hutchinson. Brophrey

— Plymouth's leading scorer with 12 goals and 40 assists for 52 points in 31 games — tried to stuff a backhand by Hutchinson, who got a piece of the shot to give Barrie the victory. Plymouth is on the road next week, playing in Peterborough tonight, Oshawa on Friday and in Brampton on Sunday.

Plymouth's next home game is Thursday, Dec. 28 at 2 p.m. at the Compuware Sports Arena against the Windsor Spitfires. Tickets for all Plymouth Whalers home games are available by calling the Compuware Sports Arena box office at (734) 453-8400 or by going to Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com.

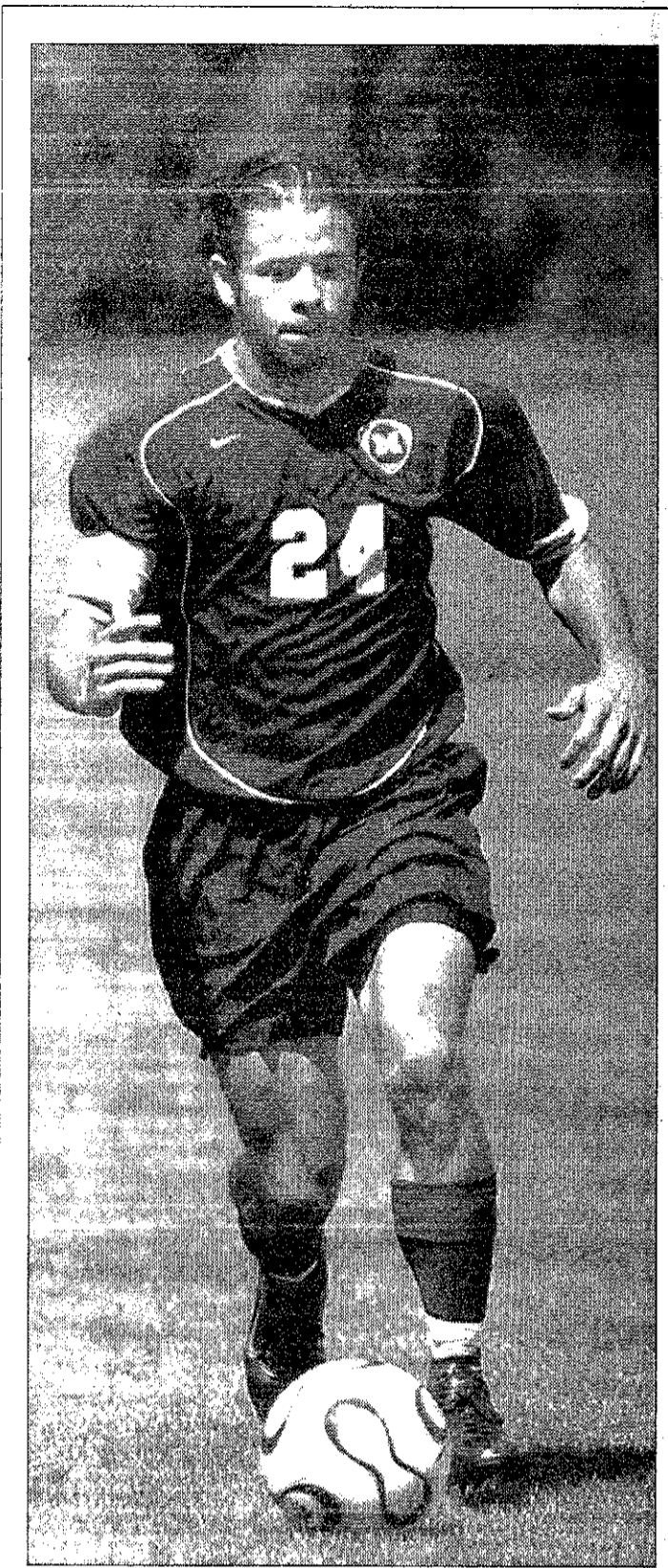


PHOTO BY ALAN NEWTON

BROPHEY

FROM PAGE B1

behind front-runner Saginaw.

Heading into this evening's game at Peterborough, the left-hand-shooting Chicago Blackhawks draftee has tallied 12 goals and 40 assists, which puts him ninth on the OHL points leaders' board.

"Evan's been a huge part of our recent success," said Whalers President, General Manager and head coach Mike Vellucci. "During one three-game stretch, he was the first star in two of the three games. He's a big part of this team, both on the ice and off it with his leadership qualities."

"The younger kids on the

team really look up to Evan because he does the extra things on the ice that it takes to be good. He's playing this year for a contract with Chicago and the way he's playing, he has a great shot."

An atlas — or at least a map of Ontario — would come in handy to chart Brophrey's early days in the OHL. After he was drafted by Barrie in the second round (37th pick overall) of the OHL draft in 2002, Brophrey played two years for the Colts before getting traded to Belleville in 2004. After less than one full season there, he was shipped to Plymouth in the fall of 2005.

All the moves would leave many teenagers' heads spinning, but not Brophrey, who has learned valuable lessons with

each change of address.

"Obviously, the first time I got traded it took some time to get used to the new surroundings and my new team," he said. "Any time you're in a new environment with new people, there's going to be an adjustment period."

"But the second time I got traded, I had already been through it once, so I knew what to expect. The hardest part is moving away from the family you've been living with and moving in with a new one. All the families I've lived with have been great, which has made the trades easier to deal with."

Brophrey said he doesn't talk directly with representatives of the Blackhawks, but he finds out indirectly what they're

looking for from him.

"My agent talks to them and he'll give me feedback on things I need to improve on," he said. "I never know when someone from the Blackhawks is at one of my games, but in my mind I expect them to be there every game which pushes me to play hard every shift."

Brophrey, who idolized NHL stars Pavel Bure, Joe Thornton and Mike Modano as a youngster, didn't hesitate when asked what OHL highlight tops his personal list.

"Last year, I scored an overtime winner in the game that clinched the West Division title for us," he said. "That's one I'll always remember."

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THE WEEK AHEAD

- | | | | |
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| <p>BOYS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Dec. 14
Canton at South Lyon, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 15
Plymouth at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Friday, Dec. 15
Canton at Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 16
Plymouth at W.L. Western at Lakeland Ice Arena, 3:20 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Thursday, Dec. 14
Plymouth at N.B. Huron, 5 p.m.</p> | <p>Saturday, Dec. 16
Salem at Crestwood Invite at D.H. Crestwood, 8:30 a.m.
Canton Varsity Invitational, 9 a.m.
Plymouth at Crestwood Tourney, 8:30 a.m.
PREP VOLLEYBALL
Thursday, Dec. 14
Calvary Christian at Canton Agape at G.C. United Christian, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 16
Plymouth and Salem at Madonna Invitational at Plymouth H.S., 8:30 a.m.
Canton at D'Ham Groves Invite, 8 a.m.
PREP GYMNASTICS</p> | <p>Saturday, Dec. 16
Canton at Vassar, noon
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Friday, Dec. 15
(Madonna Univ. Classic)
St. Francis (Ill.) vs. Concordia, 6 p.m.
Madonna vs. St. Xavier (Ill.), 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 16
Kirtland CC at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.
(Madonna University Classic)
Concordia vs. St. Xavier (Ill.), noon.
Madonna vs. St. Francis (Ill.), 2 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Dec. 16
Kirtland CC at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.</p> | <p>Madonna at Taylor Univ. (Ind.), 3 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Thursday, Dec. 14
Whalers at Peterborough Petes, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 15
Whalers at Oshawa Generals, 7:35 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 17
Whalers at Brampton Battalion, 2 p.m.
MAJOR INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE
Saturday, Dec. 16
Det. Ignition vs. Baltimore Blast at Compuware Arena, 7:35 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 17
Det. Ignition at Chicago Storm, 7:30 p.m.</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Savitskie honored

University of Michigan soccer player and Salem grad Kevin Savitskie was named to the Academic All-Big Ten team, an honor awarded to student-athletes who maintain a 3.0 grade-point average or better throughout their college career. Savitskie, a four-year letterwinner and co-captain of the Michigan squad, is majoring in Actuarial Mathematics and Mathematics of Finance. He graduated from Salem in 2002.

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Wave subdues Ignition at Compuware

The Detroit Ignition (3-5) was defeated by the Milwaukee Wave (4-4), 16-10, in front of 2,730 at Compuware Sports Arena Sunday afternoon.

Defender Chad Dombrowski tallied the game winning goal for Milwaukee at the 12:10 mark of the third quarter.

Jamar Beasley put the Ignition on the board first with a two-point goal at 8:15 of the opening frame, giving Detroit the 2-0 advantage. Milwaukee's Giuliano Oliviero tied things up at 2-all seven minutes later.

The Wave struck first in the second quarter with a goal from Greg Howes at 2:40 to make it 4-2. The Ignition responded quickly with a two-pointer from Madonna University graduate Worth Sampson at 4:30 to even the game at 4-4.

Oliviero tallied his second goal of the night for the Wave at 8:13, giving Milwaukee the 6-4 lead. Detroit defender Bill Sedgewick responded quickly for the Ignition with a three-pointer off a pass from Hewerton to put Detroit up 7-6 at 9:34.

The Wave bounced back quickly at 9:47 off a two-point goal from Howes, his second on the night, to put Milwaukee back in control, 8-7.

The offensive pressure for the Wave continued as midfielder Marcio Leite put a two-point past Ignition goalkeeper Sanaldo and extended the Milwaukee advantage to 10-7.

Chad Dombrowski added another two-point goal to increase the Milwaukee lead to 12-7 at the 11:17 mark.

Carlos Farias buried a three-point, power-play goal into the back of the net at 13:19 to put the Wave advantage at 12-10 going into half-time.

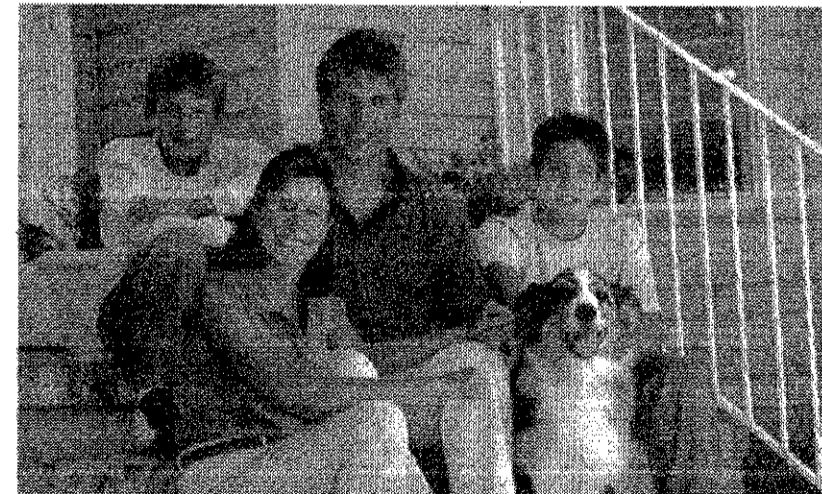
After a scoreless third quarter, Wave forward Todd Dusosky scored to make it 14-10 with a power-play goal at 5:03 of the fourth quarter. Wave midfielder Marcio Leite closed out the scoring for the winners.

Ignition head coach Mark Pulisic did not coach the game due to illness. His coaching duties were assumed by assistant coach Matt Johnson.

The game's leading scorers for the Ignition were defender Bill Sedgewick and forward Farias, who each tallied three points.

The Ignition host the Baltimore Blast on Saturday at the Compuware Sports Arena. The opening kick is set for 7:35 p.m.

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Happy Thanksgiving

The Michigan Nationals U15 girls soccer team captured the 20th Annual Plantation Thanksgiving Classic Soccer Tournament last month by breezing through the brackets with a 5-0 record. The team, which is made up of 17 players from 12 different communities, outscored its foes 13-2. Pictured (front row from left) are Kayla Lewis, Caroline Robb, (second row from left) Tracy Rymph (Plymouth), Kara Weber, Lindsey Spencer, Heidi Haller, Alexandra Junn, Taylor Burgoon (Canton), Abbie Haelewyn, (third row from left) Kelsey Martin, Chelsea Olson, Haley Burtraw, Lindsey Newton (Canton), Megan Staub (Canton), Julie Dale, Lauren Booth (Canton), Elizabeth Doman and coach Dan Raben.

LEAGUE

FROM PAGE B1.

Western high schools. "We decided that it would serve in our best interest to stay in the Western Lakes because we felt it was the best fit."

"I don't envision going to the KVC, but circumstances may change. We're as much in it for transportation costs more than anything else. We'd be trading going to Howell, Hartland and Pinckney for (Westland) John Glenn, Wayne (Memorial) and Plymouth. "If I don't cut transportation dollars, I may have to cut some programs and explore other possibilities. I want to keep freshman programs, and not have to cut them."

Novi athletic director Curt Ellis was out of town and unavailable for comment, but the WLAA feels the school of 1,906 students might be better suited to make a switch and start a new relationship.

"I think we owe it to ourselves, when opportunities arise, that you have to take care of your league the best you can," said Churchill AD Mark Hage, who also serves as the WLAA president. "You have to look at, and consider, geographic alignments and cost-effective measures without compromising the league."

Yarbrough also believes Novi is a good fit, but for expansion, the WLAA needs to bring in two schools to make it an even number - 14 (instead of 13).

"We felt Novi was interested," Yarbrough said. "If you bring Novi in, you have an outstanding program and they would certainly be an asset. And if you sit around and look, West Bloomfield would be a natural."

"But it's all driven by transportation (costs). You have to look at the amount of time you spend traveling on a bus. You're traveling three or four times per week and getting home at 10:30 (p.m.) and 11 on school nights. And with the graduation and curriculum requirements changing

(resulting in a longer school day), you could be spending even more time."

Yarbrough, however, believes the KVC had more to offer as far as programs than some of the schools in the Western Lakes.

"A lot of reasons we looked into it (the KVC) was because schools like Novi, Walled Lake and Northville all offer similar programs - equestrian, figure skating, girls ice hockey, bowling, lacrosse, inline hockey," he said.

Although Novi might be seriously entertaining joining the WLAA, West Bloomfield, it appears, is not.

"There's been talk of additional teams coming in or teams going out, or some kind of reconfiguration of sorts," West Bloomfield athletic director DeWayne Jones said. "But right now we're pretty solid as far as where we're going to be - we're going to be in the OAA. We have no intentions of changing at this point and I know we're going to be here at least the next two or three years - we're certain, but after that, we don't know."

The idea of a partnership between the two leagues might be the most appealing for all parties involved.

"With the 22 schools you're looking at something unique and different," White Lake Lakeland AD Greg Michaels said. "It's a partnership, not a mega conference. There could be some division aligning, but it's more for scheduling purposes and accommodating each others' needs."

"The addition of South Lyon (East) and (Howell) Parker pose problems for us. You can't blame Novi. They have to put themselves in the best position."

"We're going to continue to work with the principals. We may need to bring more facts - something they're interested in which would be in the best interest of both leagues as far as athletics. It's not done. I'm pretty adamant about it. It's still a work in progress."

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Expectations are high for Agape cagers

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

The bar has been set high for the Canton Agape basketball team this season - and for good reason.

The Wolverines return several key players from last year's 14-6 squad, giving head coach Keith Anleitner more than enough reason for optimism.

"Our focus is to win the (Michigan Independent Athletic Conference's) Red Division," said Anleitner, who lost just one starter - Derek Leathers - to graduation. "In fact, I'll be disappointed if we don't win it. It's not that the other teams aren't good. It's just that we have more experience on our team this year

than we've had since I've been here."

Running the show for the Wolverines will be Anleitner's son, Jack, a 6-foot-1 senior who already has three varsity seasons under his belt. Despite handling the point-guard duties, Anleitner is averaging a team-best 14 points per contest after the first three games.

"Jack is a very unselfish point guard who can pass and penetrate," said the elder Anleitner. "And he's probably the best defensive player I've ever coached at Agape. In one game last year he had 12 steals."

Joining Jack Anleitner in the starting back-court will be Mark Mullett (5-10), who's currently pouring in 10 points a

game.

"Mark is a scrappy, hard-nosed player," said Anleitner. "And for a little guy, he knows how to get to the boards."

The Wolverines' starting front-court will consist of juniors Ty Majeski, Terrell Pierce and Joel Ruffin, all of whom stand 6-1. Like Jack Anleitner, Majeski is filling the nets to the tune of 14 points a game thus far.

"Ty will be one of our top scorers all year," said Anleitner. "He's a very smart player and one of our best shooters."

"Terrell has primarily been a point guard up to this point, but we've moved him inside because we're short on post players. He's adapted very well thanks to his outstanding

jumping ability.

"Joel is a good defensive player and he can rebound."

Following the holiday break, Agape will be energized by the addition of senior Showal Olojo, a transfer from Westland John Glenn.

"Sho is only 6-1, but he can dunk with just one step," said Anleitner. "He'll be a nice addition to our team."

Among those players providing depth for the Wolverines will be key reserves Jared Miller (6-3 forward), Kevin Reith (5-9 guard), Temi Olojo (5-11 guard), Brandon Pierson (6-1 forward) and Daniel Walker (6-1 forward).

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HOOPS

FROM PAGE B1

loss at Monroe). We didn't shoot well either. It seemed like we were getting a lot of layups, especially in the second half, but we couldn't finish. Maybe the kids were tired; I don't know.

"I thought we did a good job on defense and we got the ball into the low post on offense. But they double- and triple-teamed us a lot when we got the ball down low and we didn't kick the ball out quick enough."

Athens senior forward Peter Donato led all scorers with 15 points, nine via the triple route. Matthew Bauhof added 10 while Kevin Johnson and Kyle Dishaw both contributed eight to the Red Hawks' balanced attack. Dishaw also grabbed a team-high seven rebounds and a heap of praise from his coach.

"Kyle was a man out there tonight," said Gerbe. "When he went to the boards, the ball was his. Kyle did a lot of positive things for us tonight."

Butler and Waidmann led the Chiefs with 12 points each. Steve Paye chipped in with 10 on a night when the Chiefs shot just 43 percent from the floor (18-of-41) and 56 percent from the charity stripe (9-of-16).

The Chiefs' offense was hampered when the 6-foot-7 Waidmann - the

No. 1 option - was forced to sit out a big chunk of the second quarter and much of the third with foul troubles.

Athens took control of the game for good during a four-minute stretch of the second quarter when they outscored Canton 14-2. Fittingly, five different Red Hawks scored during the pivotal spurt, most notably Bauhof, who netted six.

Senior forward Eric Thornton drained a long three-pointer just before the third-quarter horn sounded, cutting Canton's deficit from double-digits to 44-37. However, the Chiefs were unable to get any closer than six during the final eight minutes.

"We played Canton last year, so we knew they were tough, disciplined kids who could play," said Gerbe. "We knew we'd have to fight fire with fire. Our kids were able to put out the energy when they had to. If they didn't, it only took one benching for them to get the message."

The Red Hawks shot 46.5 percent from the field (20-of-43), but just 55 percent from the line (15-of-27).

Waidmann led the Chiefs with eight rebounds; Paye yanked down six.

"Now we only get one day to prepare for South Lyon," said Paye, looking ahead to his team's next foe. "They were 0-2 going into tonight, but we know they're a good team because we played them in the summer league."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Neil Sharma slices to the basket past Troy Athens' Peter Donato during Tuesday night's Red Hawks win.

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Another week, another streak as Lion

"Stop the streak" didn't work too well last week. The Minnesota Vikings made it 10 straight wins over the Lions with the 30-20 victory at Ford Field. Detroit helped out with six turnovers and a plethora of bungled plays.

This week's "stop the streak" moment takes us to Green Bay, Wis. The last time a Lions team won at Lambeau was 1991, ironically the same year as its last playoff success. It's been 15 years since Detroit won a game at that famed edifice. Brett Favre has never lost to the Lions in cheese land. It is also the last chance for the Lions to salvage one positive moment out of this disaster of a season.

"To put this thing together, you just got to keep putting it together," Lions coach Rod Marinelli said after his 11th loss of the season. It is painfully obvious that Marinelli is simply running out of things to say.



Mark Wilson

The Packers are having their own horrible year. Their win in San Francisco improved their record to 5-8. Favre had arguably his best game of 2006. He passed for 293 yards and two touchdowns with zero interceptions. Horrible all of a sudden becomes relative. The Lions would kill to have five wins and Favre thinks winning only five so far is pathetic. It is one more victory, however, than Green Bay had all last year.

"I used to take these games for granted," Favre said to reporters afterward. "These wins are much harder to come by now."

When it comes to playing the Honolulu blue and silver, Favre doesn't know what it's like to lose at

home. Since he became the starter in 1992, the Packers are a perfect 15-0 against the Lions. That includes the 1994 playoff win when Barry Sanders rushed for minus-1 yard.

Most of the losses haven't even been close. Eight of them were by margins of 10 points or more. Only the last two years have the Lions lost close. Back-to-back 16-13 failures have kept the streak alive. Last December, Dick Jauron was coaching when the Lions lost in overtime. That made it 15 straight over the Lions at home for Favre, who will start his 235th consecutive game at quarterback this Sunday.

Favre is headed to the Pro Football Hall of Fame; we all know that. Against the 49ers, he passed the 3,000-yard mark in a season for the 15th straight year. In Lions history, including Jon Kitna this season, only six times has a Lions QB gone over the

3,000-yard mark. Don't forget, that's in 76 years of mostly forgettable football. Favre is also just eight touchdowns away from breaking Dan Marino's all-time record of 420.

"Days like this make me think I could play 10 more years," Favre added after the win in San Francisco.

He has already beaten the Lions once in 2006. That came in Week 3 of the NFL campaign, back in September at Ford Field. It's not like No. 4 doesn't lose to the Lions. They have had his number nine times in Michigan. He is only 6-9 vs. Detroit when he comes here. That includes another playoff game back in 1994. It was the infamous "Sterling Sharpe" game, with Favre finding a wide-open Sharpe in the end zone for the victory.

No one really has a theory why the Lions have struggled in one venue like Lambeau. Obviously,

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Lions face the Packers at Lambeau Field

Packers have simply been the better team for most of those years. Other times, it's like the ghost Vince Lombardi looks down and wants retribution for certain Detroit victories in the '60s. Whatever it is, the Lions have been snake-bit when they head into the "snake pit" that is Lambeau Field.

Dec. 15, 1991. That's the last time the Lions tasted victory in Wisconsin. Wayne Fontes beat the Packers that day in Green Bay 21-17 to secure the NFC Central title and the team's first playoff appearance since 1983. After that, nothing. The following three years, the Lions lost in Milwaukee. Once the Packers stopped playing select games at Century Stadium, they were content to beat up the Lions at Lambeau.

"Ninety-one, right? That's the last time we won there?" an inquisitive Dre Bly asked last week.

"We got to do something about that after we take care of Minnesota."

Well, one out of two wouldn't be bad. The Vikings' streak continues into 2007. The Lions were just wretched in allowing the Vikes to go up 20-0 before some people even made it to their seats last Sunday. The six turnovers accounted for 23 Minnesota points and, like he has done so many times, Darren Sharper finished the game with an interception. Sharper, of course, once played for the Packers.

"What fun is there in losing every week?" a dejected Jeff Backus said.

Against the Patriots, it was Backus' old University of Michigan buddy Tom Brady. Against the Vikings, it was his old University of Michigan buddy Steve Hutchinson.

"I'm jealous of those guys," Backus added.

"They've been able to have success and enjoy their careers."

Bad news for Backus. This week he plays against yet another old Michigan buddy, Charles Woodson, who helped the Wolverines win a national championship in 1997 by winning the Heisman Trophy, starts at left corner for the Pack. He had a couple of passes defended and a 40-yard punt return in the win over the Niners. Backus needs to stop playing against former Michigan teammates.

The Lions are 2-11 and going nowhere fast. There is only one home game left, against the Bears on Christmas Eve. Roy Williams even joked last Sunday that he could hear a guy ordering a hot dog at one of the Ford Field concession stands because it was so quiet in that building. Lions fans simply have nothing to cheer about. Again.

"We have no excuses. There are no explanations

for it," Marinelli said.

Yes, the coach is finding it hard to put what's gone on around here into words. He and his two coordinators, Mike Martz and Donnie Henderson, didn't foresee this when they signed on back in January. After Green Bay, it's Chicago and Dallas. That's all that's left on the schedule for 2006. In the six years that Matt Millen has run the show, the record is now 23-70 in that time.

The Lions have now lost five in a row. They have scored only one offensive touchdown in each of those five games. A rare win at Lambeau could at least be one right thing in another lost season.

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

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Remotes are the theme of the Silverado: Enter and lock with a carefree sweep of the keyless remote and rev up the engine with the remote vehicle starter on those icy mornings before you even step out of your front door.

There are 12 settings on the front power seats, supple custom leather bucket seats for driver and passenger. Long drive ahead? Adjustable four-way power lumbar



2007 Chevrolet Silverado. Vehicle class: Pickup truck. Power: 5.3-liter V8. Mileage: 16 city / 22 highway. Where built: Fort Wayne, Ind.; Pontiac, Mich.; Oshawa, Ontario. Base price: \$37,185.

control joints with heated seat cushions and backs and will likely ease any resulting aches and pains.

Of course, the OnStar global tracking for one year comes with purchase, and includes amid its perks hands-free calling and remote horn and lights.

The Vortec 5.3-liter V8 automatic also brings Active Fuel Management to the party, with 315 horsepower and 338 foot pounds of torque. Look for 16 miles per gallon for city driving and 22 for highway.

A critical safety feature often overlooked in vehicles comes standard on the Silverado. The tire pressure system oversees the level of inflation for each of the four road tires, passing that information through the Driver Information Center, to indicate the readout of each tire.

The Silverado is built to include a safety cage that is enhanced with body and side structure to offer durable strength in the event of side or front crashes.

As continued protection, the underbody reinforcement system, which includes a diagonal support beneath the front foot-wells, reduces deformation and delivery of energy into the passenger compartment.

While you are wielding the heavy-duty Silverado along life's highways and byways, rest assured that you pose no threat to other, "mini" traffic. Its car compatibility bracket helps to control energy through its horseshoe-shaped bracket that adheres to the bottom of the front frame rail in the event of a head-on collision with smaller autos and crossover vehicles. The bracket grabs the front bumper of another vehicle at impact, helping to reduce the hazard of the truck riding up onto the smaller hood.

For moving extra-long cargo, the Silverado has a bed extender to create more space. Compatible with bedliners and truck tonneau covers, the extender expands over the open tailgate to provide additional length, and also compacts inward for divided cargo space.

The extender offers a quick release latch for smooth removal, with all cargo and load capacity limited by weight and distribution properties.

What's a truck without the unbridled ability to haul something? The Silverado has various trailering packages from which to choose. One competent choice is a heavy-duty trailering hitch platform and 17-wire harness with a seven-way sealed connector with the high-capacity air cleaner and external transmission oil cooler.

There is another exciting development for any General Motors-made V8 truck or sport utility vehicle that runs on gas and was manufactured between 1996

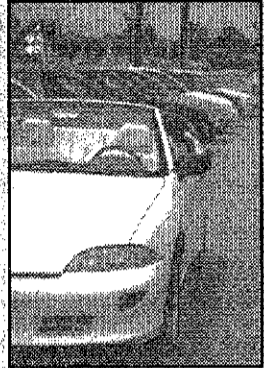
and 2007. It's the Superchips flashpaq tuner, the ultimate in upgradeable tuners for music lovers. It can even be used with a performance data acquisition package and records from 0 to 60 times, quarter-mile times, and more. It will accept tunes downloaded from flashpaq.com (<http://www.flashpaq.com/>), and in 2007 HP tunes will be attainable for the flashpaq.

Hit the highway and haul the fam -- and more -- in leather comfort. The Silverado is up to the task and you will be, too.

Wendy Clem covers the automotive beat for Avanti NewsFeatures. Write her at wendyclem@gmail.com. Mail to: [@2006, Fracassa Communications.](mailto:wendyclem@gmail.com)

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Used car prices take hard tumble

New car incentives push used car marketplace to record low

by J.L. Sims Independent ad features

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

How does 0% financing on a new model do in a heads-up comparison to a pre-owned 2006 model? In the instance of the Buick LaCrosse, financing \$21,980 plus tax vs. \$9995 plus tax, the payments on the new car at 0% interest would be \$392 monthly for 60 months, but only \$269 monthly at 3.9% for 60 months on the program model. With the prime at a record low, today's interest rates are very competitive. Many credit unions charge under 6% for auto loans if the applicant has a good credit rating. And when purchasing the used 2006, don't forget that you'll be saving about an additional \$1,000 in sales tax and licensing fees. (Taxes estimated at an average of 6%).

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

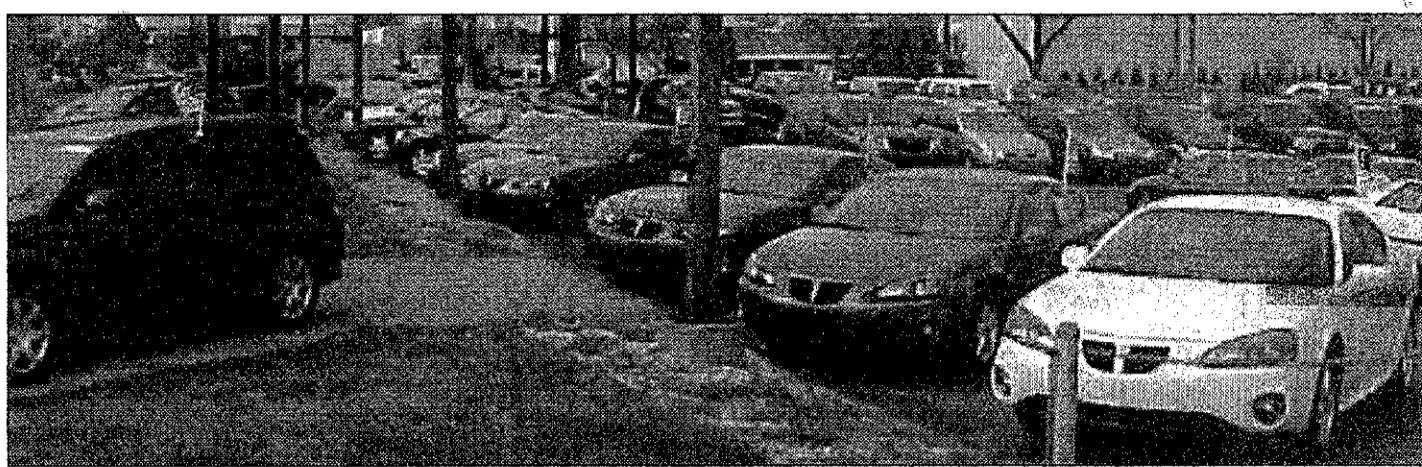
A "program" car is a vehicle that has been leased by a premium rental company through a special "program" from the manufacturer. Strict maintenance is required, and all vehicles are carefully inspected upon return. In many cases, these program units receive better maintenance than vehicles owned by private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

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

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

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

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



Bargains abound in pre-owned 2006 program vehicles

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

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

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

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

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

A Beautiful Buick

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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PAGE - D4



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Thursday, December 14, 2006

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nancy Brown of Redford Township relies on her favorite cookbook.

Redford baker relies on cookbook for classic pies

Nancy J. Brown counts *Joy of Cooking* as her very first cookbook. She received it as an engagement gift one Christmas morning from her neighbor.

Last June, the Browns celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary. Nancy said she still relies on the book.

"It's always one of the sources I go to when I have a problem," said Brown, a Redford resident. "My husband put a new back on it. It's pretty worn. I got a new version of the Betty Crocker cookbook but it's too clean (to use)."

Her *Joy of Cooking* cookbook has a copyright date of 1946. "Over the years the pages have become discolored, stained and dog-eared," she said.

Though Brown learned to bake beginning at age 10, her favorite pie crust recipe came from the classic cookbook.

"After I was married, when I baked my first pie - without Mother's help - I had a terrible time making the crust," Brown wrote in a letter to the *Observer & Eccentric*. "In discussing this with Mother, she suggested that I use the recipe from the *Joy of Cooking*, page 495, for Pie Crust Made with Flour Paste. I have used that recipe - and that recipe only - for my double crust pies ever since."

Brown, a mother of seven, grandmother of 12 and great-grandmother of nine, said many of the recipes in the book have become "old stand-bys," but the pie crust instructions "saved my life."

By Stephanie A. Casola

Joy

to the world

Readers sing praises of classic cookbook

Joy of Cooking has been a kitchen staple for decades.

In 1931, Irma Rombauer published *The Joy of Cooking: A Compilation of Reliable Recipes with a Casual Culinary Chat*, featuring her personal collection of recipes and cooking techniques. She was looking for a way to support her family after her husband's death.

Her daughter, Marion, illustrated the early editions.

Since then, generations have turned to the pages of *Joy of Cooking* for the answers to such questions as "What's for dinner?" and "How do I make that?"

They include *Observer & Eccentric* readers who replied to our invitation to share their *Joy of Cooking* memories and experiences. We present some of them here.

The new cookbook is folksy and simple

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

The *Joy of Cooking* is a true original. And yet, the book is so simple in its approach, style and clarity.

The new *Joy of Cooking: 75th Anniversary Edition*, including information by original authors Irma Rombauer and her daughter, Marion Rombauer Becker, and now Ethan Becker (Marion's son), still lays the foundation for great cooking and great foods. It took protests and questions from readers after the 1997 edition was released for publishers Simon & Schuster to return to *Joy's* roots of a traditional, folksy context in the 2006 edition.

In 1997 readers wanted to know: Where's the section on preserves? What about bagels? And what about the original voices of Irma and Marion?

Back are the chapters on Canning, Salting, Smoking and Drying; Freezing; Jellies and Preserves, and Frozen Desserts and Sweet Sauces, along with Brunch, Lunch and Supper Dishes.

Joy also is an encyclopedia of sorts. Wondering about an ingredient and its origin? What does a particular seasoning or spice do for a dish? If you're into game and venison, it's explained. It's all here.

Celebrating the 75th anniversary of the 1931 original by Irma Rombauer and Marion Rombauer Becker, *Joy* remains a family tradition in households.

Just look at some of our e-mails. The new book gets back to its earlier mission - adding ease and comfort to cooking, yet treating artisanship with more respect than the 1997 edition.

BACK TO BASICS

I was first introduced to *Joy* with the 1981 edition. The most worn page contains three different pasta fillings. The cheese and meat fillings are great inside ravioli (I never cared for the chicken one). And trust me, there isn't anything like the freshness of homemade ravioli with a homemade marinara sauce.

For the new book, I'd thought I'd return to the basics - I tried two of the chicken recipes.

A simple sauteed chicken breast, sprinkled with salt and pepper and coated with flour. Simple enough, yet the next detail reminds the reader to melt 1/2 tablespoons of butter until it is "fragrant and nut brown," then add the same amount of olive oil. Saute chicken for exactly four minutes, use tongs to flip, then cook until firm for three to five minutes more.

Easy. If you can't follow those instructions, then get out of the kitchen. Now.

Joy expands beyond that chicken saute. Chicken piccata can be made by warming the cooked breasts in a 200° F oven, then sauteing 2-3 tablespoons of

PLEASE SEE REVIEW, D4

Cook relies on book from kitchen to farm

Sally Pinchock of Plymouth called the *Joy of Cooking* cookbook "a staple" in her life.

"What I like best about is the textbook side of it," she said. "It explains ingredients and how to prepare different foods. I still use it for that."

Pinchock received a copy of the kitchen classic in 1968 as a wedding gift. "It opened my eyes to a world of possibilities," she wrote in a letter to the *Observer & Eccentric*. "I had lived in town and came from a family that had a menu of about 10 main dishes - period."

One year after the Pinchocks were married, they moved to a farm, where Sally tended a garden and raised chickens. "I needed to figure out what to do," she wrote. "*Joy of Cooking* to the rescue. I learned every step of handling the produce from the point of harvest to preserving and even serving. There was also

an explanation of how to pluck and singe poultry."

From the suggested menus to tips on setting a proper table, she's relied on the book. Every Christmas she makes Bourbon Balls, an original *Joy of Cooking* recipe.

During a kitchen remodeling project years ago, Pinchock temporarily misplaced her original 1964 edition of the book. Her children bought her an updated 1997 copy and she often compares the versions and discovers interesting contrasts. For example, the older book references Opossum, an unheard of source of food today and rather repulsive



Plymouth resident Sally Pinchock compares her 1967 edition of the *Joy of Cooking* cookbook with a 1997 updated version.

PLEASE SEE FARM, D4

TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Learn the basics of video editing with free software



Tech Savvy

Rick Broida

Now that digital camcorders are selling for as low as \$200, it's a safe bet they'll appear under a lot of trees, menorahs and non-denominational holiday edifices this year.

Although the devices themselves aren't complicated to use, the tricky part for most new filmmakers is learning to edit video.

After all, no one wants to watch several hours of wedding, birthday party or soccer game footage. The goal is to separate the wheat from the chaff, to create a great little movie that captures the scene or event without boring the audience to tears.

Fortunately, you don't need to sign up

for film school to learn video editing. You just need to read this column.

In addition to the camcorder itself, you'll need the following: a relatively powerful PC (if yours has a Celeron processor, don't bother), several dozen gigabytes' worth of hard drive space (each one-hour MiniDV tape will occupy 13GB), and the proper interface to connect the camcorder.

The latter tends to trip people up. Most camcorders (even those with USB connectors) require a FireWire interface - something not every computer has. If your machine lacks one, you can install an adapter. Head to the local computer shop for help.

The final ingredient: video editing software. Mac users can take advantage of the bundled iMovie program, by all accounts a great tool.

PLEASE SEE BROIDA, D2

OFF THE AIR WITH DICK PURTAN & PURTAN'S PEOPLE

'Holiday' party line can be awkward



Dick Purtan

It is the season to be jolly and all that stuff. 'Tis also the season of office "holiday" parties - easily the most uncomfortable party setting of them all.

No matter how hard you try, office "holiday" parties are awkward affairs. We are supposed to "let our hair down" and celebrate the season with our co-workers.

It is a time for company bonding and team building. A time to put aside all our petty office political cliques and make like the Christmas spirit has filled our cup of human kindness to the brim.

Yeah, right.

The first issue is spouses. Anyone who claims they are the exact same person at work that they are at home is, well, full of eggnog.

We all play different characters in our life and nothing is more theatrical than the workplace.

Jockeying for position, looking for angles and working and playing well with others is a full-time job. It's a wonder any of us gets anything done.

When we bring our significant others to the "holiday" office party, the entire dynamic of the room changes.

They are uncomfortable meeting "Jim in accounting" because all they've heard about "Jim" is what a moron he is. It is very difficult smiling and shaking someone's hand

when your subconscious is screaming "MORON" over and over.

What makes the situation even more challenging is that the conversation has to be geared to the lowest common denominator.

In the normal work setting you're talking about the latest project, gossip and foibles of the boss.

When the spouses arrive you can't talk about the office because they'll end up standing there like a deer in the headlights.

The subjects have to be generic and noncontroversial. No politics. No religion. And absolutely no gossip (unless you want to mention the latest antics by Britney or Danny DeVito).

What usually ends up happening

PLEASE SEE PURTAN, D2

PURTAN

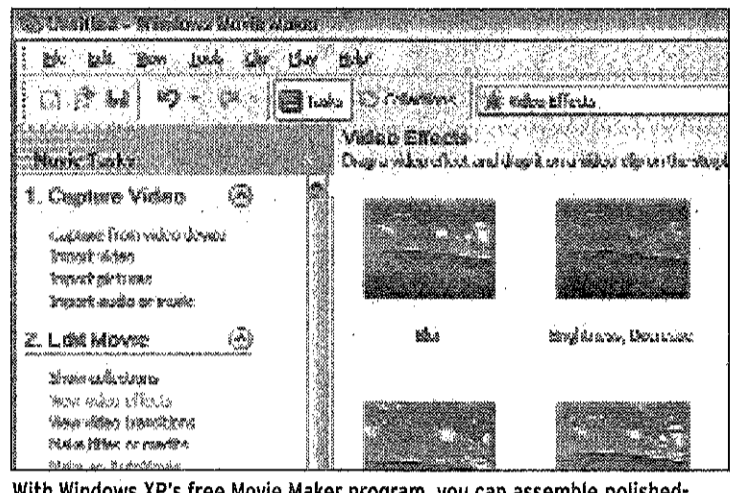
FROM PAGE D1 is everyone introduces every-one else, followed by a nervous moment of silence. As drinks are raised to lips someone gets the ball rolling with something witty like, "Boy, it sure was cold today." That is usually followed by knowing nods, more nervous silence and a few more gulps. (Are we having fun yet?) This is only one small part of the office "holiday" party experience. I won't bother delving into the various "greeting the boss" scenarios, or the "Do I really want to dance in front of my co-workers even though the four glasses of white wine tell me it's OK?" dynamic. Now, this is meant to be a

humorous column. The events and descriptions listed above are purely fictional and used for illustrative purposes only. Any relation to real or actual office "holiday" parties is purely unintentional. I say this because I love our WOMC office "holiday" party. I really, really do. What I described above was culled from stories I have heard about other office "holiday" parties. But, in case your party isn't quite as entertaining as ours, I leave you with an ice-breaking Christmas joke to cover those awkward introductory moments. Happy Holidays: Santa was very cross on Christmas Eve. Nothing was going right. Mrs. Claus had burned all the Christmas cookies. The elves were demanding overtime. And, the reindeer had

been hitting the punch all afternoon and were dead drunk. Santa was furious. "I can't believe this. I have millions of presents to deliver, the reindeer are too drunk to fly and - to make matters worse - I sent the angel out for our Christmas tree hours ago." Just then the door swung open and the angel walked in, dragging the Christmas tree. "Hey, Santa!" the angel cried. "Where do you want me to stick this tree?" And, thus, another Christmas tradition was born. Dick Purtan & Purtan's People are in the "holiday" party spirit from 5-10 every morning on The Motor City's 104.3 WOMC. Be sure to pick up our 2007 Purtan's People calendar at Kroger. It is merely \$12 and all proceeds go to Children's Hospital of Michigan.

BROIDA

FROM PAGE D1 However, for purposes of our discussion, I'm going to focus on Windows Movie Maker 2, a program that comes with Windows XP. You probably already have it on your system. Click Start > Run, type 'moviemk' (without the apostrophes), and hit Enter. If it doesn't run for some reason, you can download Movie Maker here: http://tinyurl.com/3fpo4. As you'll see, Movie Maker divides its core steps into three sections: Capture Video, Edit Movie, and Finish Movie. That's video editing in a nutshell. The capture part is easy: Put your camcorder in playback mode, turn it on, and plug it into your PC's FireWire port. After the PC recognizes it (it may take



With Windows XP's free Movie Maker program, you can assemble polished-looking movies just by dragging clips and transitions to a storyboard.

a minute), click "Capture from video device" in Movie Maker and follow the prompts. When you're done, you'll have a batch of video clips (which Movie Maker calls a Collection) represented as thumbnails in the

center of the screen. (Note that you can also import video clips, photos, and audio files from your hard drive to mix in with your camcorder video.) By default, Movie Maker will automatically detect individual scenes and create individual clips from them, but you can also split any scene into two using the preview window on the right. To get started editing, drag a clip down to the storyboard at the bottom of the screen. Then drag another one to the open square alongside the first one. Presto: You've just assembled two pieces of your movie. To add a transition between them, click "View video transitions" under the Edit Movie section, find a transition that looks cool, then drag it down to the small square between your two clips.

Here's where I let go of the bike and let you pedal on your own. Movie Maker couldn't be much easier to use, and you can learn most of its features just by experimenting. Once you get comfortable with Movie Maker, I recommend "graduating" to a program like Adobe Premiere Elements 3 or Pinnacle Studio 10. Great as Movie Maker is for learning the ropes, it doesn't let you output your finished movies to DVD.

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

Make stylish layout with window

Terri Guastella writes: "I live in the southeastern portion of Livonia. There are hundreds of small, brick ranch homes that are very similar to each other. My husband and I own one of them. With the large picture window in the living room, I find it not only difficult to arrange furniture in this room, but I just don't know what to do with this window. I don't want a fussy window treatment, but I would like to add some style to this room. Can you help me with this?"



Terri Guastella

FURNITURE LAYOUT. Next, think about your furniture layout. Consider a configuration that limits walking traffic right through the conversation or television viewing area. That means leaving the one, very large solid wall that is opposite the picture window, vacant of furniture. This wall is a great place to highlight art or family photos. If this is a TV room, try to place the television perpendicular to the picture window. The sofa can go under the window and you will still have space for a couple of chairs. Keep in mind that in smaller rooms, you need to scale your furniture accordingly. Two recliner chairs and a large, overstuffed sofa won't work with this layout. The chairs should be very comfortable, but smaller in scale. Open-arm chairs allow you to see through the furniture a bit and help create a feeling of spaciousness. The sofa, too, should be smaller in scale and proportion so it doesn't swallow up the entire room.

WINDOW TREATMENTS. If fussy window treatments aren't your style, you aren't stuck with vertical blinds or another plain Jane treatment. We can still come up with something functional and beautiful. Consider using large slat wood blinds with contrasting canvas fabric. It is a great look and the

canvas can add a splash of color to your living room. If wood blinds aren't your thing, open-weave roller shades have been making a mark on the design scene lately. This is a more contemporary look, and the shades offer a variety of light-filtering options, depending on the density of the weave. Both the blinds and the roller shades offer the flexibility of light control and privacy. An upholstered cornice looks great over the blinds or the roller shades and can be made in any fabric or style that you desire. In the photo of a similar house shown here, stained wood blinds with 2-inch slats were selected with a textural fabric used on the upholstered cornices. These window treatments were duplicated in the dining room. It can be difficult to look at your own home with objectivity. I encourage you to look at design magazines and visit your neighbors' homes that have similar floor plans. With a fresh look and some new ideas, you will be able to create that stylish home you are looking for. Terri Guastella, an interior designer and a Canton resident, specializes in space planning, design and color consultation. Do you have a question about interior design or decorating your home? Contact Terri Guastella at www.exclusiveinteriordesign.com.

Cleaner dishes mean healthier family

The typical dishwasher is installed near the sink under the countertop and the back of the dishwasher is against an outside wall. Why is that important? For a dishwasher to operate properly, it needs hot water. The hotter the better. Instruction booklets in previous models used to tell you that 120-degree water was best for washing dishes. Current instructional booklets are stating that 150 degrees is now the new threshold in your dishwasher. So important is hot



Appliance Doctor Joe Gagnon

water temperature that the commercial applications such as a restaurant must use water for their dishwashers that is 180 degrees or hotter. This change came about just a few years ago when the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services pointed out to the manufacturers that recent studies had proven that the number of food borne illness incidents increased in the United States. It is suspected that unsanitized dishes are a leading cause. As a result of the conversations between health experts and the makers of dishwashers, we have a new standard that was 50 years late in coming. Unless you have a dishwasher with a "heat" water setting on the control panel, the water coming into yours is the same temperature that is coming out of your faucet. Measure the temperature of that water with a candy thermometer and raise the temperature on your hot water tank to get it where it should be. Those families that have small infants in the house must use serious caution. Thousands of children are hospitalized each year because of scalding burns. For the many homeowners who don't make a habit of turning on the hot water faucet at the sink and letting the water run to its maximum hot water temperature, you can forget about trying to get the correct temperature water inside the dishwasher. If you don't do this before you turn on the dishwasher, the first load of water will be cold water. This dishwasher tip is the most common one that dishwasher operators do not follow. Try making it a habit and watch how much cleaner your dishes come out. The next factor for proper cleaning of dishes is detergent. Many consumers are taken in by advertising that is designed to sell products, which are not always the best. I don't like liquid detergent and I don't like the capsules that, I think are a ripoff. Many users aren't aware of the proper amount of powdered detergent to be used in the soap dispenser. If you have a water softener system in your home, use only 2 level teaspoons in the dispensers, if you are on city water use only 8 level teaspoons in the dispensers. If you take a clean glass out of your cupboard and hold it up to a light bulb, can you see all the scratches and markings on the glass? Too much detergent causes those. The box of detergent is usually placed in the most humid area of the home, and that is under the kitchen sink. The humidity migrates to the detergent and makes it very hard. As a result the detergent does not dissolve completely during the wash cycle and that's called poor wash ability. For many of you who don't know about the Tang Treatment, let me repeat it. The inside of your dishwasher may be coated with undissolved detergent, especially the motor impellers which you can't see. This really affects the water pressure that comes up through the spray arms. You need a jar of orange powdered Tang breakfast drink. Turn on the faucet and get the water hot. Turn on the dishwasher empty of dishes and let it run for five minutes. Shut it off and open the door and deposit the contents of the Tang jar directly into the water inside the bottom of the dishwasher. Close the door and let it continue through the rest of the cycle. You will discover a noticeable difference in the clean dishes you put away. You may also notice that your fingers will squeak when you grab a plate and the inside of your dishwasher has a much cleaner smell. The health of you and your family is critical. All these factors - especially the hot water one - are responsible for giving you dishes to eat on that are not covered with bacteria. The head of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services wasn't kidding when she said, "More people suffer food poisoning from their own homes than they do from the restaurant industry." Stay tuned. Joe Gagnon can be heard on Talk Radio WAAM 1600 at 8 a.m. Saturdays. He is a board member of Spectrum Human Services and the Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals (SOCAP). His phone number is (734) 971-1600. Ext. 28. E-mail your question to mklemic@hometownlife.com and it will be forwarded to Joe Gagnon.

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WINE PICKS

Recommended **CHAMPAGNES** by style:

NONVINTAGE
 Jacquesson Brut Cuvée 730 \$40
 Laurent-Perrier Ultra Brut \$55
 Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin Brut \$46
 Delamotte Brut Le Mesnil \$43
 Paul Roger Brut \$36

TETE DE CUVÉE AND VINTAGE CHAMPAGNES
 1996 Jacquesson Avize Grand Cru \$66
 Laurent-Perrier Grand Siècle \$90
 1998 Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin La Grande Dame \$140
 1996 Salon Le Mesnil Blanc de Blancs \$300
 1999 Chartogne Taillet Brut \$55

ROSE (VINTAGE AND NV)
 Laurent-Perrier Cuvée Rosé Brut \$65
 1998 Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin La Grande Dame Rosé \$214

DOMESTIC SPARKLING WINES
 2002 Schramsberg Blanc de Noirs \$33
 2002 Schramsberg Blanc de Blancs \$35
 2003 Schramsberg Brut Rosé \$40
 2000 Schramsberg Reserve \$80 (principally pinot noir)
 1999 Schramsberg J. Schram \$90 (principally chardonnay)
 1998 Schramsberg J. Schram Rosé \$120
 2000 Chandon Rosé \$20 (spent only one year on the yeast so it's not as depthful as those that have spent three or more; thus the price).

It sparkles: translating the language of bubbles

Champagne, the sparkling wine from the place known as Champagne in France is produced using a long, complicated and labor-intensive method known as methode champenoise. Understanding this method and its language helps to enhance the appreciation of champagne.

"The 2006 harvest of 85,000 acres of vineyards was completed in four weeks by 100,000 pickers during September," said Philippe Wibrotte, director of public relations for the Comité Interprofessionnel du Vin de Champagne. "The three grape varieties from which all champagne is made include chardonnay at 28 percent of the total, pinot noir at 38 percent and pinot meunier at 34 percent. This is the among most expensive fruit in the world at 5 euros/kilogram (\$5,900/ton) and grown under strict regulations of the CIVC."

RED GRAPES, WHITE WINE

If 72 percent of the grapes are red, how do the producers make a white wine?

Peel a red grape and notice the white flesh. Color is in the skin not the flesh. If red grapes are pressed cool and within a few hours of harvest, the juice obtained is white. If grapes are crushed and allowed to macerate with juice, it will be red.

Grapes are pressed in lots of 8,800 pounds, by varietal, from which only the first 544 gallons of juice (known as the cuvée) are used. Following fermentation, a blend of the three varietal still wines plus reserve wines from previous vintages is created by the chef de caves (cellar master) from as many as 70 different base wines.

Vintage wines may not use reserves since they must be 100 percent from a single vintage. This cuvée (second meaning) must be completely without flaws since any imperfection is magnified in the sparkling wine.

SECOND FERMENTATION

The cuvée is then placed in a



Focus on Wine

Ray and Eleanor Heald

bottle with a mixture of sugar and yeast to begin the second fermentation in the bottle. This process is called tirage. During this second fermentation, carbon dioxide gas that forms cannot escape and dissolves in the wine. This is the source of bubbles that makes champagne sparkle.

The CIVC requires that a nonvintage (NV) wine ages on the yeast lees for a minimum of 15 months and a vintage champagne for three years. Most producers age their NV for three years and vintage for five to eight years. Complex aromas and flavors are imparted through extended aging.

Following aging, spent yeast must be removed from the bottle. By gradually turning the bottle upside down, yeast slides into the neck of the bottle in a process known as remuage or riddling. This process is completed in eight weeks by hand or eight days by a machine known as a gyropallete.

Once the yeast is in the neck of the bottle, it's frozen creating an ice plug. When the bot-

tle is opened, the frozen yeast escapes due to pressure in the bottle. This process is known as dégorgement or disgorging. Immediately following expulsion of the yeast plug, the dosage, a mix of wine and sugar, is added to adjust sweetness and refill the bottle before the final cork is inserted and a wire cage is added.

In increasing levels of sweetness, champagne is labeled brut, demi-sec and sec - dry, semi-sweet and sweet. A few producers do not add sugar in the dosage and name their wine ultra brut or brut nature.

THINKING PINK

Rosé champagne is increasing in popularity and is made by two different methods. Producers will always claim that their method is the best. The first method involves making a pink wine by macerating red grapes to achieve a pink color, adjusting the color by adding white wine and then undergoing the second fermentation in the bottle.

The second method involves adding still red wine to a still white wine to achieve a pink color and then letting it undergo the second fermentation in the bottle.

This column about champagne is the first in a series. Come back on Dec. 21 for Part II.

GIFT FOR WINE AFICIONADO WHO HAS EVERYTHING BUT

Master sommeliers Ron Edwards and Serafin Alvarado will offer, for the first time in the U.S., a daylong public course, similar to that offered the wine trade as the introductory course in the Court of Master Sommeliers program. The perfect gift for the wine geek who has everything, wants to learn more and prove his/her knowledge via a multiple choice quiz at the end of the day. The

course is scheduled for Feb. 2, 2007, at the Ritz Carlton, Chicago. The cost is \$125 per person with lunch included and is limited to 150 people. More information is available at www.fivestarsommelier.com.

Eleanor & Ray Heald are contributing editors for the internationally respected *Quarterly Review of Wines* and Troy residents who write about wine, spirits, and restaurants for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@aol.com.

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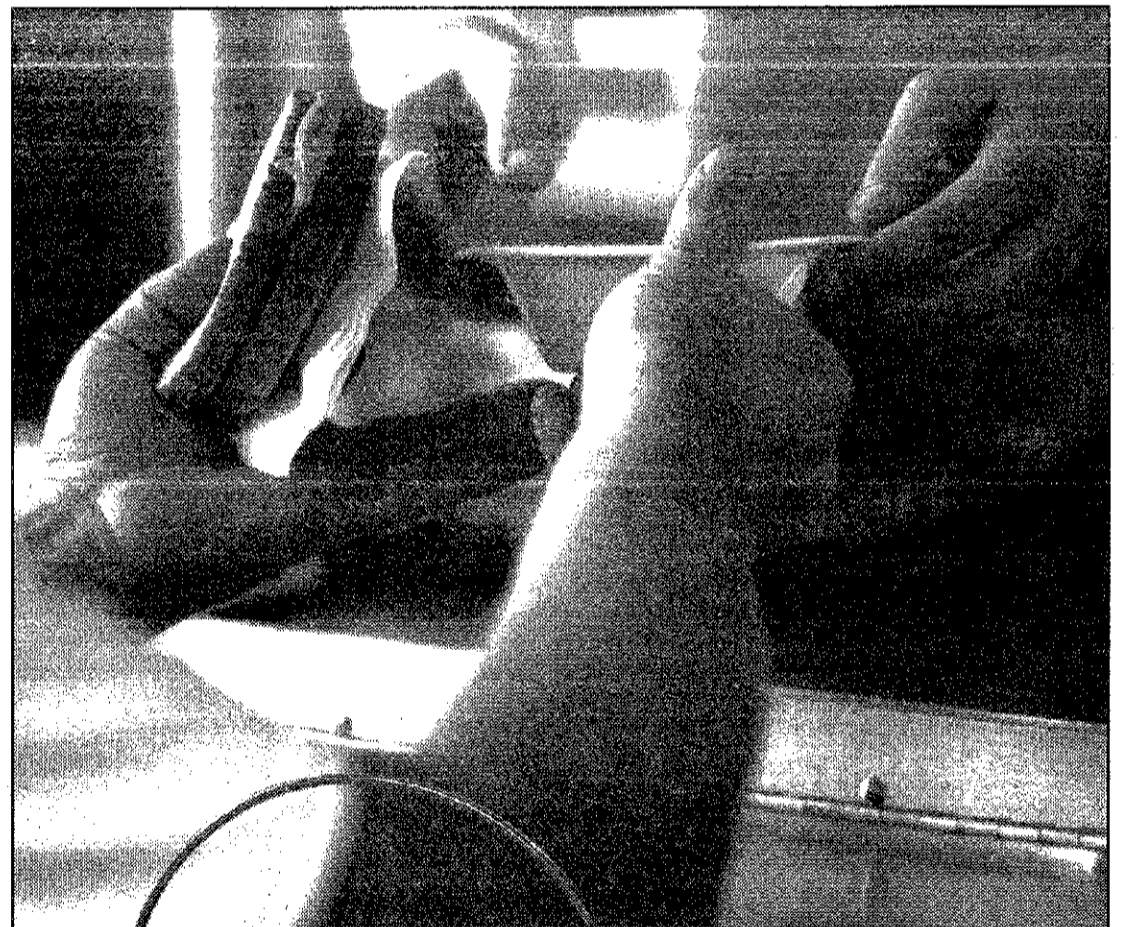
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Recipes from 'Joy of Cooking'

SAUTÉED BONELESS CHICKEN BREASTS

Have ready:
4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves (about 1-1/2 pounds)

Trim any fat around the edges. If you wish, remove the white tendon running through each tenderloin. Sprinkle on both sides with:
Salt and black pepper, to taste

Spread on a plate:
1/2 cup all-purpose flour

Coat the chicken on both sides with the flour; shake off the excess. Heat in a heavy 10- to 12-inch skillet over medium heat until fragrant and nut-brown:
1-1/2 tablespoons butter

Add:
1-1/2 tablespoons olive oil

Swirl the butter and oil together. Sauté for exactly 4 minutes. Using tongs, turn the chicken and cook until firm to the touch, 3 to 5 minutes more.

Makes 2 to 4 servings.

Recipe from *Joy of Cooking: 75th Anniversary Edition*, Simon and Schuster, 2006, \$30.

CHICKEN PICCATA

Prepare and keep warm Sautéed Boneless Chicken Breasts, above recipe, in 200° F oven. Remove all but 1 tablespoon of fat in the skillet. Heat the remaining fat over medium heat and add:
2 to 3 tablespoons minced shallots or scallions

Cook, stirring, until wilted, about 1 minute. Increase the heat to high and add:
1 cup chicken stock or broth

Bring to a boil, scraping the bottom of the skillet with a wooden spoon to loosen the browned bits. Add:
3 to 4 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
2 tablespoons drained small capers

Boil until sauce is reduced to 1/2 cup, 3 to 4 minutes. Add any accumulated chicken juices and reduce again to 1/2 cup. Remove from the heat and swirl in:
2 to 3 tablespoons butter, softened

Pour the sauce over the chicken and serve immediately.

Recipe from *Joy of Cooking: 75th Anniversary Edition*, Simon and Schuster, 2006, \$30.

CORN BREAD, MUFFINS OR STICKS

Have all ingredients at room temperature, about 70° F. Preheat the oven to 425° F. Grease the pan or pans with butter, oil or bacon drippings. Place in the oven until sizzling hot.

Whisk together in a large bowl:
1-1/4 cups yellow or white cornmeal, preferably stone-ground
3/4 cup all-purpose flour
2-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1 to 4 tablespoons sugar (by taste)
1/2 teaspoon salt

Add:
1 or 2 large eggs, beaten (2 eggs produce a richer bread)
2 to 3 tablespoons melted butter, bacon drippings or vegetable oil
1 cup milk

Combine with a few rapid strokes. Scrape the batter into the hot pan or pans. Bake sticks about 12 minutes, corn bread and muffins 15 to 18 minutes, until nicely browned. Serve immediately. Makes one 8-inch square bread, about 15 muffins or about 20 sticks.

Recipe from *Joy of Cooking: 75th Anniversary Edition*, Simon and Schuster, 2006, \$30.

PINK PICKS

Wear It!
Lace details
DON'T Wear It!
Too much bling
See It!
The Pursuit of Happiness
TIVO It!
Split Ends

Jewel It!
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Use It!
Avon Silicone Glove Hand Cream

Experience It!
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See It!
Downtown Rochester's holiday lights display

Tote It!
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www.planetchristmas.com

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Mini quiche from Costco — great for parties!

Drink It!
Eggnog Latte at Starbucks

Kick It!
DIY slides — make them at Haberman Fabrics in Royal Oak

DVD It!
The Devil Wears Prada

REVIEW

FROM PAGE D1

scallions (green onions) or shallots (those small onions) for one minute, turn heat to high on the pan, and add 1 cup chicken stock or broth. Bring mix to a boil and stir to mix browned bits on the pan with liquid.

Add 3-4 tablespoons lemon juice (use freshly squeezed lemon, not the reconstituted stuff) and 2 tablespoons drained capers. Boil down to 1/2 of a cup for three to four minutes, then add 2-3 tablespoons of butter and swirl into mix.

Pour that sauce over the chicken, serve with rice and you've got a fabulous, elegant flavored meal that is so incredibly simple.

You can use the same basic saute with a mushroom sauce or Parmigiana, or if you are adventurous, wander off to the section on sauces (tomato, pesto, etc.) and develop your own repertoire.

ROASTING MADE EASY

The roasted chicken, again, seemed simple enough. I cleaned a 6-pound bird thoroughly, removed the giblet packet (don't laugh: people do forget this step) and rinsed the chicken, then placed it on a roasting rack in a roasting pan. I clipped six sprigs of rosemary and lemon thyme and placed them inside the cavity. (The book recommended either rosemary or thyme, but again, I seldom follow straight recipes unless they are technical and complex in nature.)

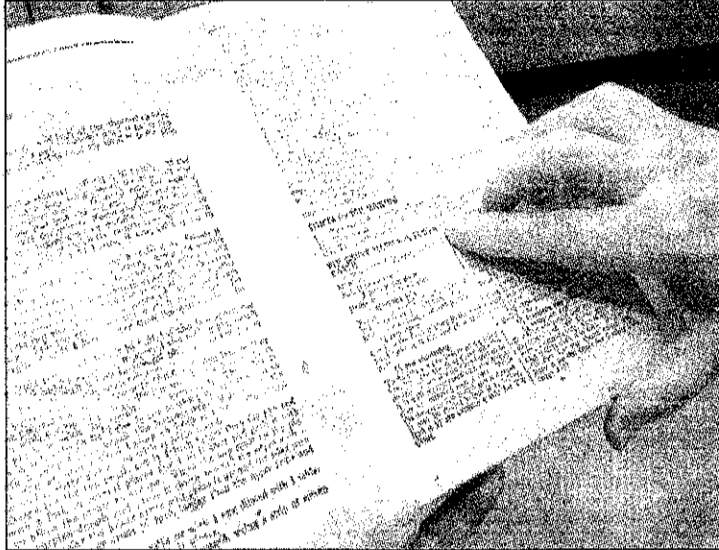
I added some fresh lemon thyme leaves to melted butter for basting. Like the book suggested, I seasoned the 6-pound bird with kosher salt, pepper and then basted with the butter mix. The oven had been pre-heated to 450° F, then once the bird was ready, I reduced the heat to 350° F, and placed the bird in the oven.

The book suggested a baste every 20 minutes, which I did. It eventually created a nice golden crust on the bird, but it took longer, actually closer to 25 minutes a pound. With that amount of time, the breasts were slightly dry, but had I followed the new book's suggestions to place cheesecloth on it in the shield-and-baste method or follow the turned roasting method, the chicken breast may have been juicier. Nonetheless, the seasonings were good and the chicken legs and thighs were done with good color.

With that chicken, the lentils and rice pilaf seemed like a good side dish. Again, a simple dish flavored with garlic, toasted cumin seed and chicken broth. With a simple tossed salad, it was a great Sunday meal without all the heaviness of a pot roast and mashed potatoes. Simple and flavorful.

One of the keys to a solid cookbook is whether or not it allows you to grow as a cook. Judging from our e-mails on the old books and working with the new book, the *Joy of Cooking* helps the home cook establish basic benchmarks and allows home chefs room to grow.

kabrancz@hometownlife.com | (248) 901-2591



Nancy Brown finds her favorite pie crust recipe in a tattered copy of the 'Joy of Cooking.'

FARM

FROM PAGE D1

to most people. In that same book there is no reference to what is a standard piece of equipment today in almost every kitchen — microwaving. Pinchock's preference for the

Joy of Cooking book goes beyond recipes and instructions. She said she appreciates the focus on food and family togetherness. She's made it a habit to give the book as a wedding shower gift whenever she receives an invitation.

"It's definitely made me a better cook," added Pinchock.

By Stephanie A. Casola

Readers share memories of Joy of Cooking

We asked our readers about their favorite *Joy of Cooking* memories. Here are some of the e-mails we received:

"The *Joy of Cooking* has been my favorite cookbook since I got the 1975 edition as a new bride. My sons bought me the 1997 edition when it came out, but more often than not I go back to the 1975, because it is the edition which taught me to cook. I'm a public librarian and have access to hundreds and hundreds of cookbooks so I own very few, but if I could only own one book it would be my old 1975 edition of the *Joy of Cooking*.

"My favorite recipes are the Caesar Salad dressing (page 80) and Cheese Custard Pie (p. 227). My book flops open to those two pages."

Christine Lind Hage
director of the Rochester Hills Public Library

"Ah, the memories — as a young girl, my mother was the queen of overcooked meals, but we relished her fabulous pies, all from the *Joy of Cooking*. Try the Banana Cream Pie on page 884, or the Coconut Cream Pie. Wading through the overdone pot roast was easy with desserts like that. However, our copy was haunted by a mystery. On more than one occasion when searching for a basic recipe, we'd get to the page and to our dismay, the page would be mysteriously blank. We weren't sure if it was a publishing error or a kitchen ghost acting up!

"I collect and read cookbooks like novels, but I go back to the *Joy of Cooking* everytime I want to make sure something makes sense. I will be giving my daughter, a new mother, a copy as she gets into the routine of home cooked family meals. Mom is no longer with us, but her memory lives on through the *Joy of Cooking*."

Laura Seriguchi
Bloomfield Hills

"I have had my *Joy of Cooking* book since my wedding shower which makes the book 27 years old. We use it a lot for reference especially when we are not sure how to work with meat or seasonings. It has always been there among my cookbooks."

Pat Zittkus
Troy

"I received two books when I was married. The book is so big as to be intimidating but there is wonderful advice in there, specifically on 'roasting chicken, capon, cornish hen or turkey.' If you follow the advice you will have the most beautiful bird possible; without any basting. Brown and crisp on the outside and moist on the inside.

"To all the women in my family who insisted on foil, basting or butter under the skin, I have to say that my turkey is the best!"

Donna Beaumont
Redford

Favorite cake keeps mom's memory alive

One look at Gerri McIntosh's copy of the *Joy of Cooking* cookbook gives a tell-tale sign to her favorite recipe.

"The recipe, and the dirtiest page in this 1943 Edition is page 566," she wrote in a letter to the *Observer & Eccentric*. "The Banana Cake recipe. The best banana cake ever! My mother would top it off with a butter cream frosting and it was out of this world."

McIntosh, a Livonia resident, said she does go back to the book for reference when cooking staples, like a basic soup stock. "You have to have a basic knowledge of how things work in the kitchen," she said. But she does count on it for certain recipes and tips.

"My mother received her *Joy of Cooking* for a wedding gift in 1948," McIntosh wrote. "In 1976, after much use, I took it and had it rebound with a new cover for her birthday.

"When she passed away in 1986, the book was given to me and I still use it today."

McIntosh said baking the banana cake — whenever the mood should strike — brings back fond memories of baking with her mother in the kitchen.

"I can eat it for breakfast," she said.

By Stephanie A. Casola

Cookbook is culinary 'bible'

The *Joy of Cooking* remains the "culinary bible" of Diane Montagano more than 40 years after she bought the book, the Plymouth resident wrote.

And Montagano has given many a new bride her own copy, she said.

"When I married in 1958, I could make chop suey and boiled icing — not exactly a well-rounded meal," Montagano wrote. She bought her *Joy of Cooking* in January 1964 from J.L. Hudson's.

"(The) recipes are clear and easy to follow with delicious results. Any questions? I can always find the answers there!"

Montagano's favorite recipes are Onion Pie and Tuna Noodle Casserole ("not the kind your mother made!").

By Mary Klemic

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