

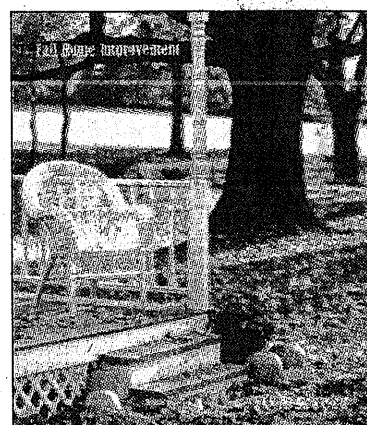
**Will new casino
put Detroit in
the big leagues?**

**State bloodied
but not down
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Our Opinions - A10

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THURSDAY
September 27, 2007

PLYMOUTH Observer

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Housekeeping and Laundry Supervisor Sharon Fike of Redford makes sure Howard and Edna Behrman have clean windows.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Giving away gas

Senior center event helps 'greatest generation'

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Staffers at Plymouth Independence Village simply wanted to show appreciation to what they call America's "Greatest Generation," and devised a gas giveaway to do the job.

Senior citizens born in 1937 or earlier were given \$20 gas vouchers as part of the event. On Tuesday, the senior citizens showed appreciation right back.

"I think this is great," said Theresa Cimino of Plymouth, who watched as volunteers filled her gas tank and washed her windows at the BP station at 5 Mile and Northville Road. "It's nice to be appreciated."

As of Tuesday morning, staffers had given out some 150 vouchers, and were expecting more Tuesday morning. All in all, officials said, some \$4,500 worth of gas was expected to be handed out.

Lauren Lucas, community representative for Independence Village of Plymouth, the senior assisted living center in Plymouth Township, said the

whole idea was to recognize seniors who were instrumental during the war years.

"(Gas) is such a big expense for a lot of them, many of whom are on very limited incomes," Lucas said. "They're the ones who went to war, and their wives stayed back and manned the country. We owe an awful lot to these people."

The gas was paid for by a variety of donors, including Armada Gas & Oil, which donated \$500, and station owner Al Bazy, who chipped in \$1,000 himself.

"It's a good thing to give back to your community, and to the senior citizens," Bazy said. "Giving a little to them is a great help to them. I was honored to be part of it."

It's the first time Independence Village has gotten involved in an event like this, and staffers thought it was well-received by the seniors.

"This is the first time we've done anything this spectacular," said Sharon Fike, housekeeping/laundry supervisor. "(Seniors) are very happy. They can't believe they're getting free gas."



Independence Village Chef Tim Bryant pumps gas into the tank of resident Louise Stenrose's car. Bryant is a resident of Farmington Hills.

Teachers, district agree on new pact

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Nearly 1,100 Plymouth-Canton teachers have agreed to a two-year contract that gives teachers raises, but saves the district money in both salary scale and health care costs.

According to Chuck Portelli, president of the Plymouth-Canton Education Association, the members ratified the contract with almost 90 percent of the vote.

In the first year, teachers get step increases plus a quarter-percent lump sum raise, which won't be added to the contract pay scale.

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education approved the contract Tuesday night.

The top scale of teachers, who don't receive a step increase, will receive a 1.5-percent lump-sum pay increase. The second year of the contract, in 2008-09, gives annual step increases to teachers, with those at the top of the scale — who don't get a step increase — getting a 2-percent raise.

Entry-level teachers with a bachelor's degree currently start at \$39,954, with the top end of the scale \$66,388 after 10 years. Teachers with master's degrees start at \$43,954 and after 11 years top out at

\$77,915.

"This is a market change for us," Portelli said. "We have not turned our backs on the district for the financial problems it has. Our members get a two-year agreement that freezes health care costs and saves them money. It's good for the district because it also saves them money over the two-year period, reducing their costs in health care."

Portelli and Supt. Jim Ryan said the district will receive bigger discounts in health care costs as all teachers will be enrolled in one Blue Cross Blue Shield plan, instead of the previous three choices of health care.

"We're going to save from \$400,000-\$500,000 in health insurance costs," Ryan said. "That says the teachers union was reasonable in their negotiations, and understood the economics of our situation."

Ryan said another detail of the contract includes closing schools for the November 2008 election. Teachers and parents had expressed concerns in the past because the school buildings are used for voting, but because of space there is sometimes no separation of those walking into the buildings and students.

tbruscato@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700

Cancer walk weaves through Plymouth

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

This weekend's 60-mile Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk — which will weave its way Saturday through Plymouth — has special meaning for many cancer survivors, including Angie Lipford of Canton Township, who will participate for the second time in three years.

Lipford, 45, was diagnosed in 2004 with breast cancer. After undergoing treatments and walking in the 60-mile fund-raiser in 2005, Lipford was told in November last year the cancer had spread to her bones and liver.

"Walking is a chance to let other women know this is a serious, wicked disease, and they really need to take care of themselves and be in tune with their bodies," Lipford said. "If women have the knowledge about breast cancer and getting mammograms and self breast exams, they can find things early on."

"I had inflammatory breast cancer, which doesn't show up on a mammogram and is often diagnosed as a breast infection," she added. "I noticed changes in my breast through self examinations."

WALKING FOR A CURE

- What: Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk
- Where: Through Plymouth
- When: Saturday
- Why: To benefit breast cancer research

Map of 3-Day Walk route through downtown Plymouth, A5.

Lipford said participating in the Breast Cancer 3-Day is a personal challenge.

"When you have cancer, you are angry, and this is a way you can fight back," said Lipford, a special education teacher at Discovery Middle School in Canton. "After the initial shock, you realize you have to fight this, and walking in the 3-Day is therapeutic."

"I'm scared to death, but you pray a lot and have to have hope," she added. "I want to live a lot longer."

The Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk — which begins Friday morning in Farmington Hills and ends Sunday evening in Dearborn — will arrive Saturday morning in Plymouth. A cheering station

Please see **WALK, A5**

Chili fest rides into Kellogg Park

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Sunday's Great Lakes Chili Cookoff in Kellogg Park has become a welcomed tradition in downtown Plymouth.

"It's a well-loved event, people from town like it as well as those in the surrounding area," said Annette Horn, organizer of the 12-year event. "We get phone calls after each year's event wanting to know the date for

the next year."

A dozen years ago, the Chili Cookoff wasn't such a welcome site in Plymouth. Police and residents wondered about the safety of their quiet, bedroom community as thousands of black-leather-wearing bikers with their sometimes loud hogs descended on Plymouth.

However, as times have changed, so has the stereotype of the bikers who make the trek to Plymouth for the

Chili Cookoff.

"We realized, at first, there were a lot of people who have this mystique of what a Harley rider is," said Mike Shelton, assistant general manager of Motor City Harley Davidson in Farmington Hills, a sponsor of the event since the beginning. "It's a whole different breed now, with a lot of businessmen and women. All the

Please see **CHILI, A5**



Richard 'Wolf' Nobert will be one of the hundreds of bikers in town for the Great Lakes Regional Chili Cookoff.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Board, consultant to meet to set search blueprint

Ryan eyes 'surreal' process

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

THE RYAN FILE

■ Who: James Ryan
 ■ What: Plymouth-Canton Schools superintendent
 ■ When: Interim superintendent July 2002; full-time job December 2002
 ■ Career: 4 years as superintendent in Reed City; seven years in Lansing



Jim Ryan usually sits quietly on the sidelines as the Board of Education discusses its plan to replace him as Plymouth-Canton Schools superintendent when he retires in February.

However, Ryan admits it's a bit surreal watching them pick his successor.

"I'm a little melancholy about it because I've enjoyed being the superintendent here," Ryan said shortly after trustees selected a search firm. "I was never selected through a search process, being deputy superintendent before (Superintendent) Kathleen Booher resigned."

Ryan said he never intended to become interim superintendent when Booher resigned in July 2002 because of the turmoil created during Booher's two years in Plymouth-Canton.

"I told them (trustees) 'no, have you seen what happened here lately?'" recalled Ryan. "I've had a decent career."

However, when trustees asked what it would take for Ryan to take the position, it wasn't money or perks he was after.

"You'd have to root like hell for me," Ryan said he told the

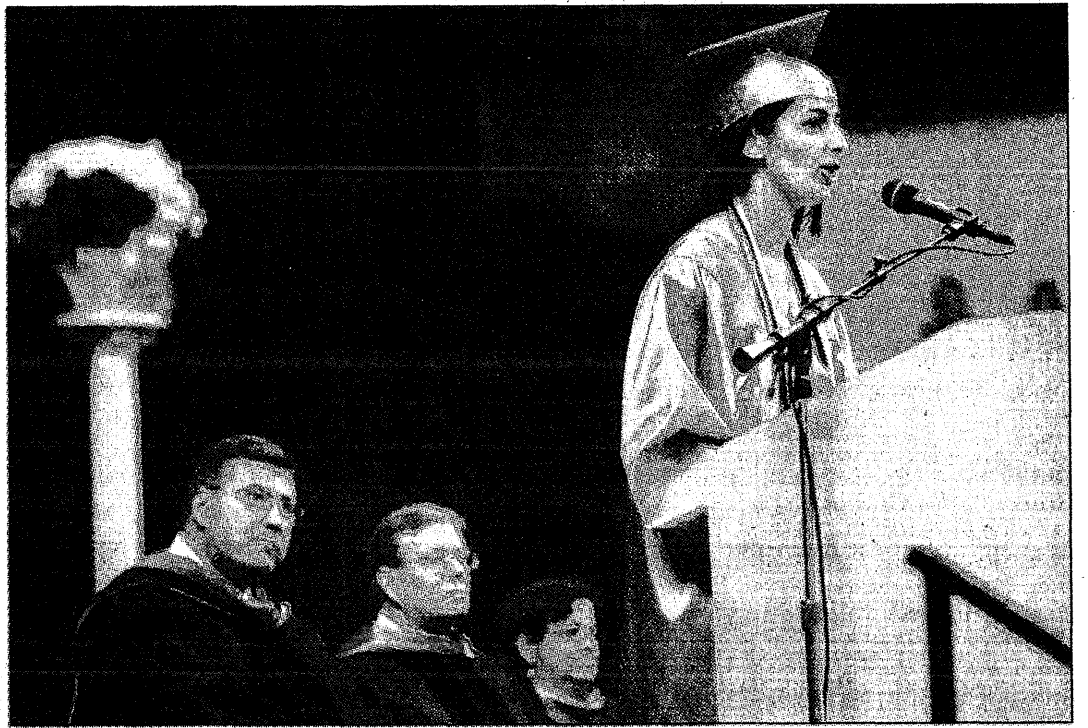
Plymouth-Canton Schools trustees have tentatively scheduled a Tuesday night workshop to set the agenda for a superintendent search with Roger Garvelink, a senior consultant for Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates of Glenview, Ill., the firm selected by the board Monday night on a 6-1 vote to conduct a national search to replace Jim Ryan, who will retire in February.

"This is one of the most difficult decisions I've had to make since I've been on the board," said board Secretary Steven Sneiderman. "I do believe we need a national search, and they'll do a better job. Hazard is one of the best at the national search, from what I can gain from all of this."

Trustees interviewed two search firms last week, including Michigan Leadership Institute of Old Mission, Mich., which was the choice of Barry Simescu, the lone vote in favor of MLI.

"I was on the fence until I talked to the president of the Utica Board of Education," Simescu said of his reference check concerning MLI. "They got two excellent candidates from out-of-state. As for dollars and cents, I think we would get just as good a job from the MLI proposal, and it's less money."

MLI's price for an all-inclusive search was \$17,500. HYA's bid was for \$20,000, with additional charges for advertising and plus consultant and can-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sharan Kaur Shokar was the Senior Class Speaker as Dr. James Ryan (left), former board member Mark Slavens and trustee Judy Mardigian listened during commencement exercises in June. It was Ryan's final graduation as superintendent before he retires in February.

didate expenses which could increase the cost to \$33,000.

"We owe it to the community to do it the right way, and not look at the dollars as much as putting together a quality process so we'll be able to attract someone," said board President Judy Mardigian. "I can't see us running all the aspects of a search as an elected board, which would include the community engagement pieces and really finding out what the community is looking for, and then doing all the logistical pieces to it. I think

it would send a message (to superintendent candidates) this board micro-manages."

Garvelink said one of the first steps in the search will be to determine what various groups are looking for in a new superintendent.

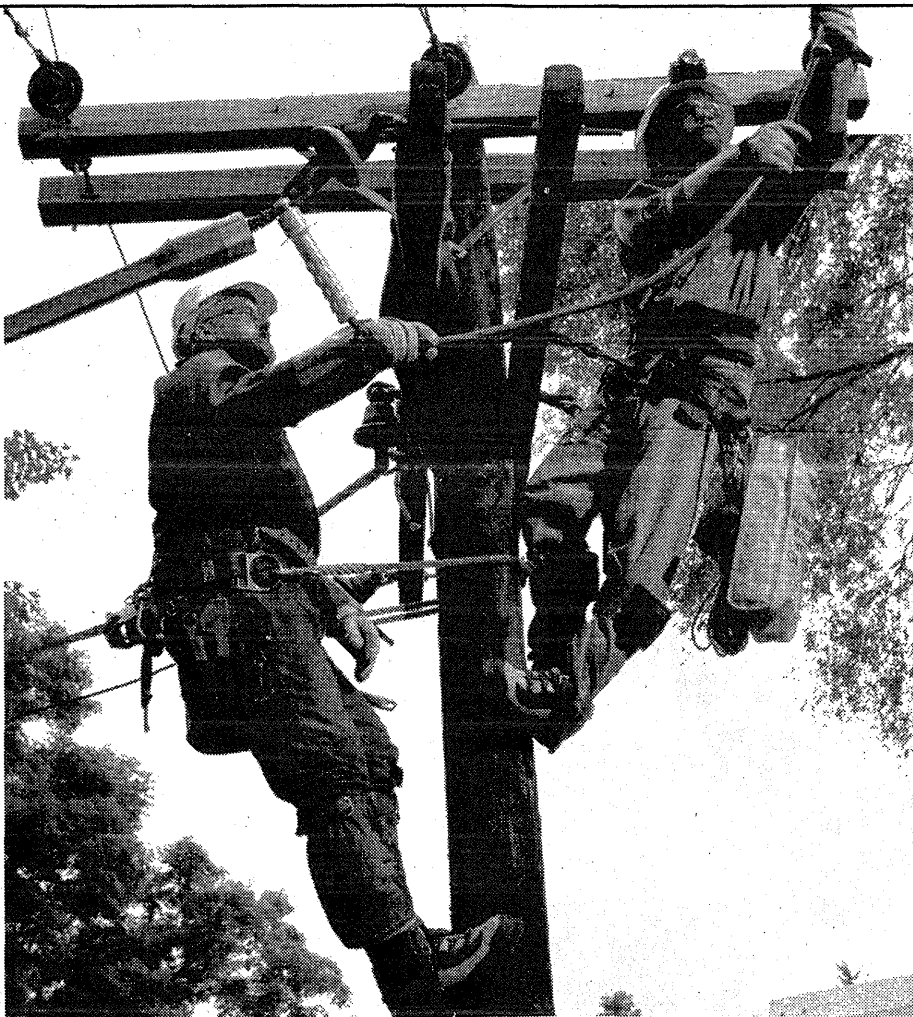
"We'll meet with board members, community groups, faculty and administrative staff to get input and ask questions about their attributes of the district, to help us sell the position and attract candidates we would like," Garvelink said. "It will also help us as consultants when we interview potential candidates as to what kind of challenges they will be facing."

Garvelink, who was Birmingham superinten-

dent from 1978-1990 and is consulting in the current Birmingham superintendent search, said his knowledge of Plymouth-Canton will help him in the search process.

"I can speak with real conviction, I've watched the Plymouth-Canton district grow over the years and I can hopefully give a genuine sales pitch," he said. "Because of the bad publicity Michigan has gotten the past couple of years because of our financial situation, we found in the search for Birmingham that was a deterrent in finding national candidates. But, I try to turn it into a positive, it's a wonderful time to come to Michigan and buy a home. Michigan still has a lot to offer."

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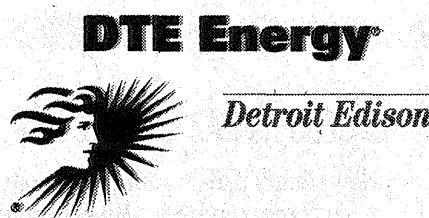
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 The Plymouth Observer - Publication No. USPS 436-360 Published every Thursday and Sunday. Periodical postage is paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150.
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Choir concert

The award-winning P-CEP Choirs, under the direction of Jennifer L. Kopp, will join with the P-CEP Orchestra and Symphony Strings, under the direction of Catherine DePentu, for a collaborative Fall Concert 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 9, in the Salem High School Auditorium.

The choirs will feature a medley of Motown classics, music from the film Dreamgirls, and the musical My Fair Lady, as well as works by Joseph M. Martin, Moses Hogan, John Rutter, and others.

The choirs will also debut a new choral arrangement of *This Is Halloween* from the film *A Nightmare Before Christmas*, arranged by P-CEP Choir sophomore, Matthew Dempsey. In addition, Mr. Tim Schoenherr, the Arts Coordinator for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, will pick up the baton and conclude the concert as the special guest conductor for an arrangement of the traditional Shaker tune Simple Gifts, featuring the combined talents of the over 300 students in the P-CEP Choirs and Orchestras.

Tickets are on sale now at a cost of \$4 each pre-sale and will be available at the door on the night of the concert for \$5.00 each. Tickets are available from P-CEP Choir and Orchestra students as well as from Room 1603 at Salem High School. For more information please contact the P-CEP Choir Office at (734) 416-7765 or visit www.pcep-choirs.org.

Folk society concert

The Baseline Folk Society begin its third season on the way it began its first: With a special concert 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29.

"BaseLine in Concert, a fund-raiser for the BaseLine Folk Society" takes place at the Joanne Winkelman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth. The concert features traditional, Folk and acoustic music featuring BaseLine performers Alex & Maggie Zakem, Pairadocs Trio, Rise Again and host Jeff Karoub, with a special sing along led by BaseLiners Scott Ludwig and Cathy Fitzpatrick and friends.

BaseLine will begin its open

mic series 7 p.m. Oct. 20, at The Art House, 215 Cady in downtown Northville. The group hosts an open mic on every third Saturday through June 2008, with the exception of November, which will be on the second Saturday (Nov. 10) due to a scheduling conflict at the Art House.

Anyone interested in performing should sign up at 6:15 p.m. There are about five open mic spots available on a first-to-sign-up basis. Admission is \$5 at the door.

OLGC fashion show

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church presents its "Falling into Fashion" dinner and fashion show featuring Ladies Fashions and Accessories Friday, Sept. 28.

The evening starts with a 5:30-6:30 p.m. preview of fashions and accessories to purchase (20 percent of any purchase is tax-deductible). The buffet dinner starts at 6 p.m., with the fashion show at 7 p.m.

The event takes place in OLCG's Social Hall, 47650 North Territorial (at Beck), and features door prizes, beverages and wine. Cost is \$30 (\$20 tax-deductible contribution to debt retirement). Contact one of the following participating boutiques for reservations: Bella Mia at (734) 656-0057, Gigi's Mode at (734) 254-8774, Maggie & Me at (734) 459-5340, or Van Dam's at (248) 449-4282.

Smith School spree

Smith Elementary School hosts its fifth-annual Shopping Spree fund-raiser 4-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 12.

The event features more than 25 home-based businesses that will have their product line available for purchase. Come check out the raffle, too! Proceeds from the \$1 admission and the raffle go directly to the Smith Elementary PFO. Smith Elementary is located at 1298 McKinley, a block west of Harvey. For more information, call (734) 454-4389.

Aging well

The Plymouth Community Council on Aging hosts Heartland Rehabilitation's "Balance & Posture and Grip Strength" health screening 10:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 1 at the Plymouth Cultural Center. Screenings are for both men



Band raffle

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band and boosters are hosting a "Music & Motion" fund-raising raffle, with the winner racing off on an exciting recreational vehicle of their choice from Plymouth Motorsports on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth, co-sponsors of the raffle. Sitting aboard three of the four vehicles offered are (from left) flutist Katie Hensel on the 2007 Yamaha V Star Silverado; flutist Kelcey Cross on the 2007 Yamaha VX Sport WaveRunner; and clarinetist Lindsey Johnson on the 2007 Yamaha Raptor 700R. Behind them are Rick Sanford, sales manager for Plymouth Motorsports, and sales associates Danielle Sarko and Mike Davis. Not pictured is the fourth choice of vehicles, a 2008 Yamaha Phazer snowmobile with trailer. Tickets are \$10 and are limited. The marching band is in particular need this year of a new 50-foot semi trailer to replace the aging one used to carry the 200-member band's large instruments to competitions and performances. Tickets can be purchased at Friday night varsity football games at Canton High School's varsity field and at Plymouth Motorsports, 110 W. Ann Arbor Road.

and women to insure safety while walking, climbing stairs or rising from a seated position. Grip strength for opening bottles and turning door-knobs. Call (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236 to sign up.

Miller Woods walk

The public is invited to enjoy the colors and smells of autumn on a walk through Miller Woods Sunday, Oct. 14. Walks will begin at 2, 2:30 and 3 p.m. and will highlight how animals, trees, and flowers prepare for winter. Miller Woods is located on Powell Road between Beck and Ridge Roads in Plymouth Township.

A 2008 Miller Woods calendar is planned and orders may be placed that day. Proceeds from the calendar sale will be used to further the goal of the Friends of Miller Woods which is to inspire responsible stewardship of this historic forest through education and community awareness.

New Morning concert

Looking for a unique opportunity for some rockin' family fun? On Saturday, Oct. 13, the D'Art Band will headline a live 7 p.m. concert at New Morning School in Plymouth.

The event is open to everyone in the local Plymouth-Canton community, with a suggested donation of \$4 per person to benefit New Morning School. Refreshments will be provided.

D'Art Band is a Plymouth-based group that includes current and alumni parents of New Morning School. Band members include lead guitarist Waldon Reed, Jr., who has been teaching aspiring guitar students for over twenty years. His wife, Celeste, a Dearborn music teacher, also performs with D'Art Band. The show will feature a very special guest appearance by former New Morning School music teacher and popular Detroit-area trombonist Bugs Beddow.

"The concert is a fitting way to help celebrate New Morning School's 35th year," explains D'Art drummer Jerry Teevens. "New Morning School is about family and community, and so is this concert." Teevens' son and daughter currently attend New Morning School. Vocalist Jane Renwick-Fry, keyboardist Craig Fry, and guitarist Pete Celano complete the six-piece ensemble.

For more information, visit the school's Web site at www.newmorningschool.com or call (734) 420-3331.

Make a Difference

The Plymouth Community United Way sponsors "Make a Difference Day," 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 28, meeting at the Plymouth Salvation Army headquarters, 9451 S. Main in Plymouth.

Volunteers are invited to help rake leaves, clean yards and provide light labor (replace light bulbs and smoke-alarm batteries, etc.) for senior citizens in the Plymouth-Canton community.

Morning refreshments, lawn bags and other supplies will be provided. Volunteers should bring rakes, garden tools and gloves. To register, call the Plymouth Community United Way, (734) 453-6879 before Oct. 18.

Blood drive

The Plymouth Post Office hosts a blood drive for the American Red Cross 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 3 at the main post office on Beck Road.

Appointments are available, but walk-ins are also welcome. To schedule an appointment, call Barb Mitchell, (734) 453-6111.

Scarecrows in the Park

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce is now taking reservations for the 2007 Scarecrows in the Park.

Groups, businesses and families are invited to decorate their very own scarecrow in Kellogg Park. The scarecrows will then be on display from Oct. 5 through Nov. 9. This is a popular activity for service clubs, girl/boy scout troops, families and businesses. Call the chamber office for more information at (734) 453-1540.

Grief workshop

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church sponsors an eight-week grief workshop, "From Grief to New Hope," beginning Oct. 8.

The free workshop is open to the community and will be presented by Karen Jimmet of the New Hope Center for Grief Support. Each session will begin with a talk about one aspect of grief followed by small group participation led by trained facilitators. Each person will be placed in a group with others who've suffered similar losses. The workshop meets eight

consecutive Mondays, 7-8:45 p.m., at OLCG, 47650 N. Territorial (at Beck) in Plymouth Township. For registration information, call (734) 453-0326, Ext. 221.

Junior Miss program

High school senior girls interested in participating in the Plymouth-Canton Junior Miss Scholarship Program should contact Marissa Sarnecky at jmsarnecky@aol.com or (313) 215-3512.

There will be an orientation 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7, at the Westland Friendship Center located on Newburgh in Westland.

Preschool auction

Academic Pathways, a cooperative preschool located in Livonia which draws students from all over western Wayne County, hosts its annual "The Read Carpet" dinner-auction 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 2, at the Livonia Marriott in Laurel Park Place Mall.

Auction-goers will enjoy cocktails and a strolling dinner while viewing the silent-auction tables. The evening also features live entertainment and dancing. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Michigan Dyslexia Institute.

For more information visit the school's Web site at www.academicpathwayspreschool.com or call (734) 261-9540.

Salvation Army craft show

The Salvation Army of Plymouth is in need of crafters for its Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair, to be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10.

Those who wish to sell their wares at this fair may do so by renting an eight-foot table for \$25. You must be available to stay the entire time. No more jewelry vendors, please.

For more information, call the Salvation Army, (734) 453-5464.

Artists needed

The Plymouth Community Council on Aging is looking for volunteer artists for a creative display project for The Plymouth Community Council on Aging.

Sports background or the simple love of baseball would be helpful. The project will be needed by Oct. 8.

Interested artists should call Bobbie at (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236 for more information.

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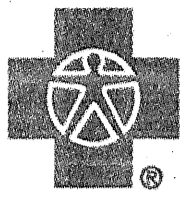
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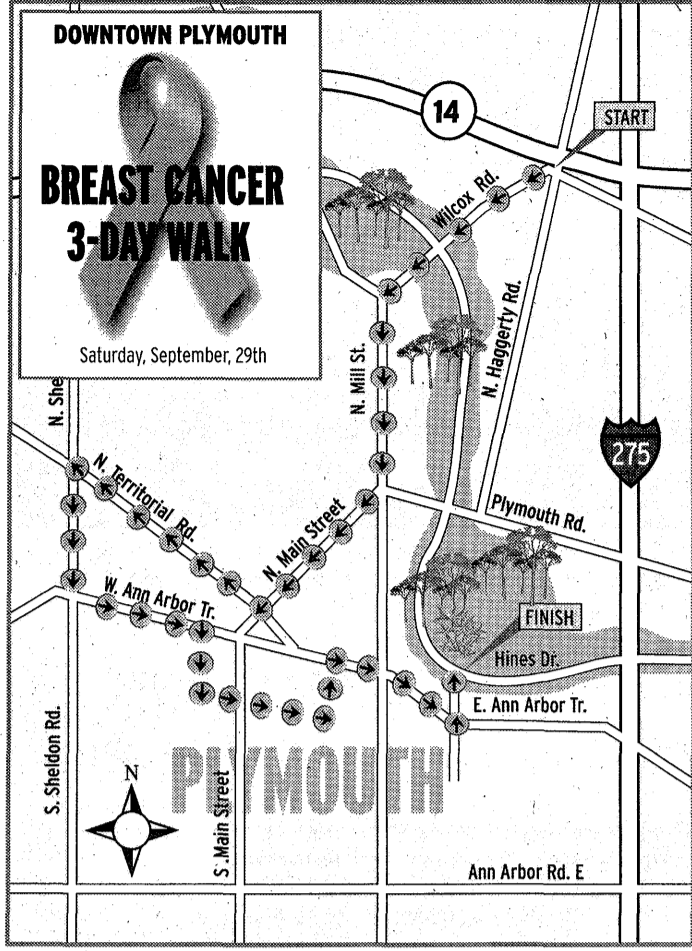


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Blue Care Network of Michigan is a nonprofit corporation and independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.



WALK
FROM PAGE A1

for family, friends and anyone who wants to boost the spirits of the walkers will be set up at Wilcox Lake Park, in the Wilcox Road and Hines Drive area. Residents along the route are also being encouraged to support walkers with a sign, cheers, treats and water. Sherrie Pryor, Plymouth Downtown Development Authority director, is walking

in her first 3-Day event. With no immediate family members having been affected by cancer, Pryor said she's "walking for the future of all women." Pryor said she's excited the event is walking through "her downtown." "When I found out they were coming to downtown Plymouth, I was so excited and told everyone they were coming to my downtown," Pryor said. "I want to be here to make sure everything is just right to welcome them, but I will be walking. I'm really excited for them to see Plymouth."

CHILI
FROM PAGE A1

riders are looking for is a place to ride for a day of events and fun." John Horner, owner of BMW Motorcycles of Southeast Michigan in Canton Township, said he decided to sponsor this year's Chili Cookoff because "it's a quality, family event." "As you look at our demographics, it's amazing how many people are the typical doctors, lawyers, nurses, all walks of life," Horner said. "Most of them are strong, upstanding family people." Dick "Wolf" Nobert, 68, of Livonia has been riding his Harley for 25 years. He's heard the sometimes not-so-soft whispers about bikers. However, the retired Garden City elementary school teacher believes the stereotype has turned the corner. "We're not bad people," Nobert said. "I think that notion is starting to diminish a bit." The Great Lakes Chili Cookoff runs from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

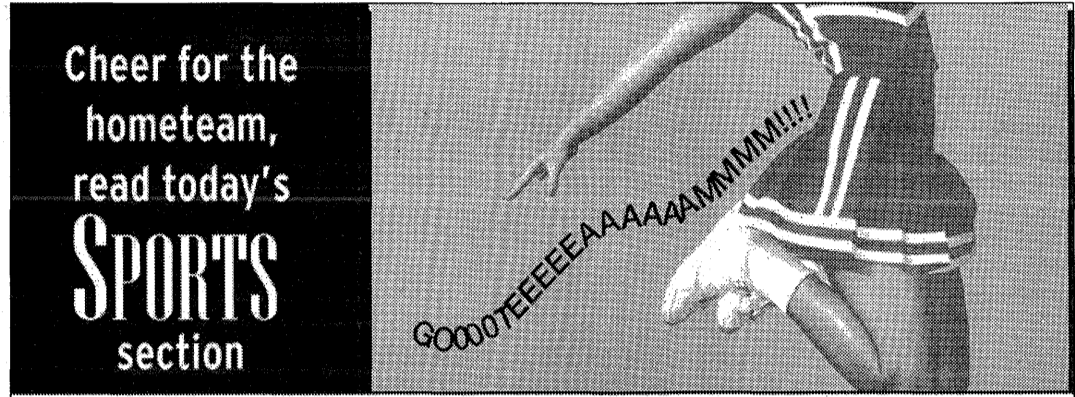
tbruscato@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700

Church offers class on life's calling

People looking for their life's calling are getting some help from the folks at St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth Township. Carol Dowdy, along with St. John's Pastor Dorian McGlannan, are offering a class entitled "Reinventing Your Life - God is Calling You to a New Song." The class, which started Wednesday night and runs through the end of October, will cover the practical and spiritual aspects of discovering where you are being called. "This class is for anyone who is finding themselves at a crossroads," McGlannan said.

"It's for people who have lost jobs, people who are bored with their jobs and want to explore new territory, people who are empty nesters, people who have just know that something else is out there but they aren't quite sure what that 'something' is." The class is divided into five weeks: ■ Week 1, started Sept. 26, 7:30-9 p.m. - Discussion of business and the current economy, exploring personal empowerment and happiness. ■ Week 2, Oct. 3, 7:30-9 p.m. - Predictive Index training, gaining a better under-

standing of yourself and others, exploring strengths and weaknesses. ■ Week 3, Oct. 10, 7:30-9 p.m. - Characteristics and behaviors of a personally empowered person. ■ Week 4, Oct. 17, 7:30-9 p.m. - Staying motivated in this business climate; how our fears hold us back. ■ Week 5, Oct. 24, 7:30-9 p.m. - Finding your passion; goal setting; Concrete steps to take to move in a new direction. For more information on the workshop, call St. John's Episcopal Church, (734) 453-0190, Ext. 10.



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AUBURN HILLS
Great Lakes Crossing Mall
248-253-1799

BRIGHTON
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(off Grand River, in front of Target)
810-225-4789

CANTON
42447 Ford Rd.
(corner of Ford & Lilley Rds., Canton Corners)
734-844-0481

DEARBORN
24417 Ford Rd.
(just west of Telegraph)
313-278-4491

Fairlane Mall
(3rd floor next to Sears)
313-441-0168

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(Model T Plaza)
313-869-7392

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810-629-2733

FT. GRATIOT
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810-385-1231

LAKE ORION
2531 S. Lapeer Rd.
(Orion Mall 2 miles north of the Palace)
248-393-6800

MONROE
2161 Mall Rd.
(in front of Kohl's)
734-241-4099

NORTHVILLE
Three Generations Plaza
20580 Haggerty Rd.
734-779-0148

NOVI
43025 12 Mile Rd.
(Twelve Oaks Service Dr., north of Sears)
248-305-6600

Twelve Oaks Mall
(lower level play area)
PONTIAC/WATERFORD
454 Telegraph Rd.
(across from Summit Place Mall)
248-335-9900

ROCHESTER HILLS
3035 S. Rochester Rd.
(at Auburn Rd.)
248-853-0550

ROYAL OAK
31921 Woodward Ave.
(at Normandy)
248-549-4177

ST. CLAIR SHORES
26401 Harper Ave.
(at 10 1/2 Mile)
586-777-4010

SOUTHFIELD
28117 Telegraph Rd.
(south of 12 Mile Rd.)
248-358-3700

STERLING HEIGHTS
45111 Park Ave.
(M-59 & M-53, Utica Park Plaza)
586-997-6500

Lakeside Mall
(lower level, Sears Ct.)
TAYLOR
23495 Eureka Rd.
(across from Southland Mall)
734-287-1770

Southland Mall
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(in the JCPenney wing)
TROY
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(Troy Sports Center)
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Oakland Mall
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Communications USA
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Cellular Cellulations
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Though she fought to the end, young skater loses battle to cancer

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

Natalie Salazar was the Arctic Figure Skating Club's star, the Ritz-Carlton's prom queen and her mother's spirit.

Natalie, a pretty, petite 13-year-old Canton girl with a charming smile and an infectious giggle, died early Thursday morning after a year-long battle with cancer.

"She caught the hearts of so many people," said Nancy Fees of the AFSC. "Her spirit made everyone want to rally behind her."

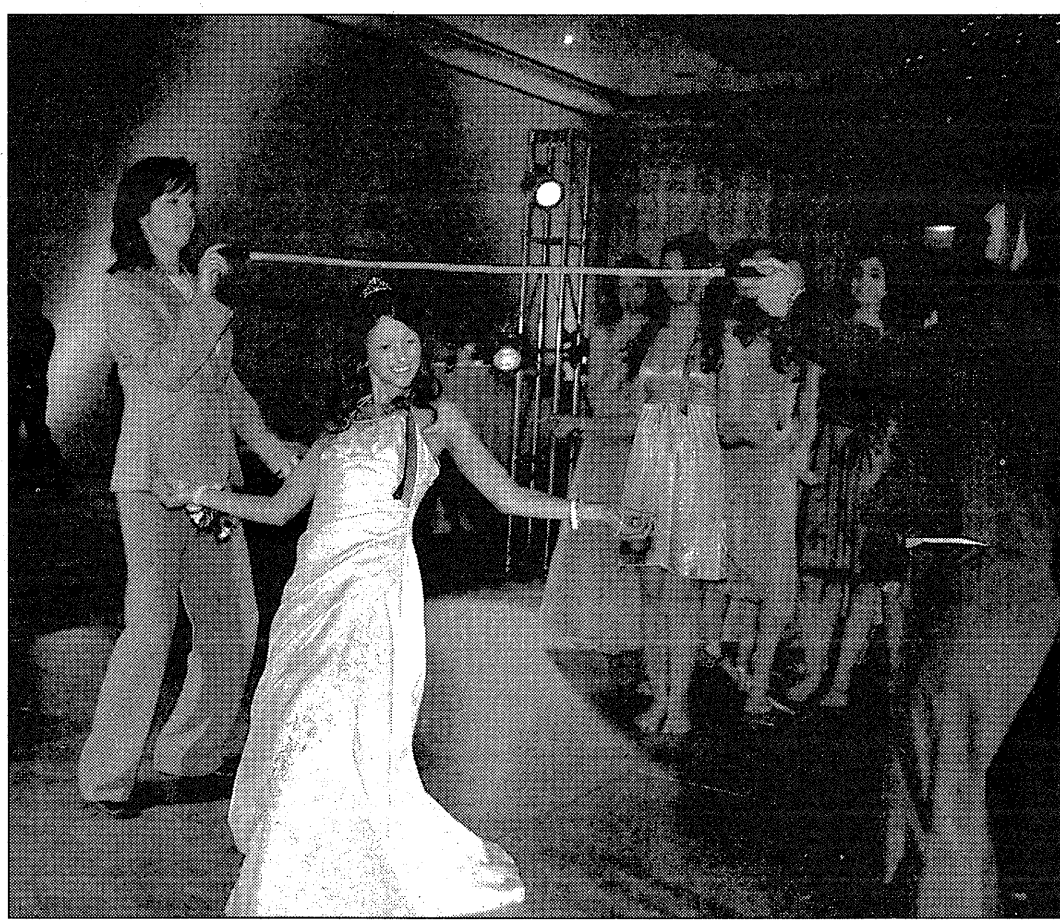
Natalie, an award-winning ice skater who began the sport at age 3, was diagnosed with neuroblastoma in September 2006 and had been hospitalized since early summer.

After several rounds of treatment proved fruitless, the teen's doctors gave her a month to live.

"Her parents revolved their lives around their little girl," Fees said. "They have been through the fire and now there's an empty spot in their lives."

The youngest child of Maria and Sumorfin Salazar, Natalie did constant research on neuroblastoma and believed she would be able to live out her dream to attend high school and juggle successful careers as a veterinarian, lawyer and part-time fashion designer.

Earlier this year, Natalie was the focus of a skating fund-raiser that pulled in



Natalie Salazar enjoyed doing the limbo June 6 at a special eighth-grade prom from the Ritz-Carlton held for her.

more than \$20,000 in donations.

"Natalie was like the Energizer bunny," Fees said. "She never gave up and she fought until the end."

Upon graduating from the eighth grade in June, the St. Anselm Parish student was treated to a prom at The Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn that was organized in her honor. The hotel sponsored the

"Sweet Escape"-themed bash.

"We do a lot of projects but with this one, everyone adopted Natalie," said Laura Gutierrez, Ritz-Carlton director of human resources. "She was our little prom girl — that's how we'll remember her."

At the prom, Natalie had long, auburn hair and wore a ball gown in her favorite color, pink.

"From the time she walked in the door until the time she left she was smiling," Gutierrez said.

Natalie, who worshipped God and loved ice cream, French manicures and her plump chin-chilla, Mr. Chubbykins, had told friends that one of her greatest wishes was to live to be 16 years old. She would've turned 14 on Oct. 22.

tlparks@hometownlife.com



Light Up a Life volunteers Lee Zalewski of Livonia and Connie Sarasin of Redford take a seat in the classic 1969 Buick Electra 225 Convertible that will be raffled at this year's benefit.

Hospice benefit goes Groovin' and Cruisin' with '60s-style party

Get those go-go boots ready! Angela Hospice is planning a 1960s party for its 20th annual Light Up a Life Benefit, which will be Saturday, Oct. 13, at Rock Financial Showplace — Diamond Center, in Novi.

The Livonia-based Angela Hospice invites the community to join them for this gala, which raises money to fund programs for terminally ill patients and their families. "Groovin' and Cruisin' through the '60s" is the event's theme. "This event is an opportunity for a lot of people to come together to celebrate the good work of Angela Hospice, have a great night of entertainment, and raise funds for this worthy cause," said Barbara Paul, events coordinator.

The night will begin at 6 p.m. with a performance by The Stubbs Girls. Guests will be treated to hors d'oeuvres and an open bar while the silent auction and fishbowl raffles take place. A plated dinner will follow, then The Reflections will take the stage and the dance floor will come alive. Dessert, classic automobiles, and a "Best Dressed

1960s" contest will round out the evening.

"The committee is really looking forward to this event, and encouraging all of their friends to buy a table," said volunteer Ramona Keatts of Plymouth. "Between the music, the dancing, and the excitement of the raffles and auction, it's going to be a great time."

This year, in addition to its popular \$1 Raffle offering the chance to win up to \$1,000 in cash, Angela Hospice is holding a Classic Car Raffle as well. A limited number of \$100 tickets are being sold for the chance to win a 1969 Buick Electra 225 Convertible worth more than \$25,000.

This benefit follows last year's 1950s event, which was popular with those who attended.

For more information about the event and to make reservations, call Barbara Paul at 734-953-6014, or visit www.angelahospice.org. Tickets to attend are \$100, though sponsorships, advertisements and donations at various levels are also available.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, October 18, 2007 for the following:

HOUSING REHABILITATION: 8 HOUSES (NOTE: EACH TO BE BID SEPARATELY)

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

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

Publish: September 27, 2007

OE0658576-2/3

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, October 11, 2007 for the following:

COMMUNITY CENTER DOOR OPERATOR INSTALLATION

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

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

Publish: September 27, 2007

OE0658608-2/3

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

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Publish: 23 & 27, 2007

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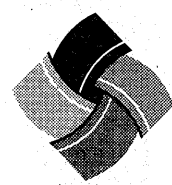
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Charter Township of Canton Board Proceedings- September 18, 2007

A regular study meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton held Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm and led the pledge of allegiance. **Roll Call** Members Present: Bennett, Caccamo, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Staff Present: Director Faas, Director Eva, Director Conklin, Executive Director Santomauro, John Spencer, Mike Ager, Greg Hohenberger, Karen Fox, Abe Vinitzki, Brad Sharpe, Debbie Bilberry-Honsowetz, Sean Fletcher, Mike Rorabacher, Anna Stump, Laura Golles, Robert Kerr, Dave Medley, Jeff Goulet, Tom Casari, John Weyer **Adoption of Agenda** Motion by Bennett, seconded by McLaughlin to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously. **STUDY SESSION TOPIC Item 1. 2008 TOWNSHIP BUDGET** Items for Discussion: 1. Overview of Proposed 2008 Budget 2. Administration a. Clerk's Office b. Treasurer's Office c. Supervisor's Office 3. Finance & Budget 4. Municipal Services 5. Public Safety 6. Leisure Services 7. Wrap-Up 8. Other Items Trustee Caccamo requested additional 2007 revenues and expenditures and proposed 2008 revenues and expenditures. Treasurer Kirchgatter stated information on bond for Fellow's Creek Payment Schedule for 2009-2012. **Adjourn** Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo at 10:17 p.m. to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. - Thomas J. Yack, Supervisor - Terry G. Bennett, Clerk -

Copies of the complete text of the Board Minutes are available at the office of the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd, Canton, MI, 48188, during regular business hours and can also be accessed through our web site www.canton-mi.org after Board Approval.

Publish: September 27, 2007

OE0658562-2/4

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON

NOTICE OF CLOSE OF REGISTRATION

NOVEMBER 6, 2007 ELECTION

FOR THE

WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that **OCTOBER 9, 2007**, is the last day registrations can be accepted in order to be eligible to vote in the Wayne County Community College District Millage Reauthorization Proposal Special Election to be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2007.

Only those voters residing in Canton precincts 2, 15, 20, 28, 33 are eligible to vote in this election.

Registrations will be accepted at the office of the Canton Township Clerk, 1150 South Canton Center Road, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Registration can also be made at any Secretary of State Office or State Designated Agency. Persons with special needs who are unable to register in the above mentioned manner are urged to contact the Clerks' Office at 734-394-5120. Mail-in registration will be accepted if postmarked by **October 9, 2007**.

Terry G. Bennett
Clerk

Publish: September 27, 2007

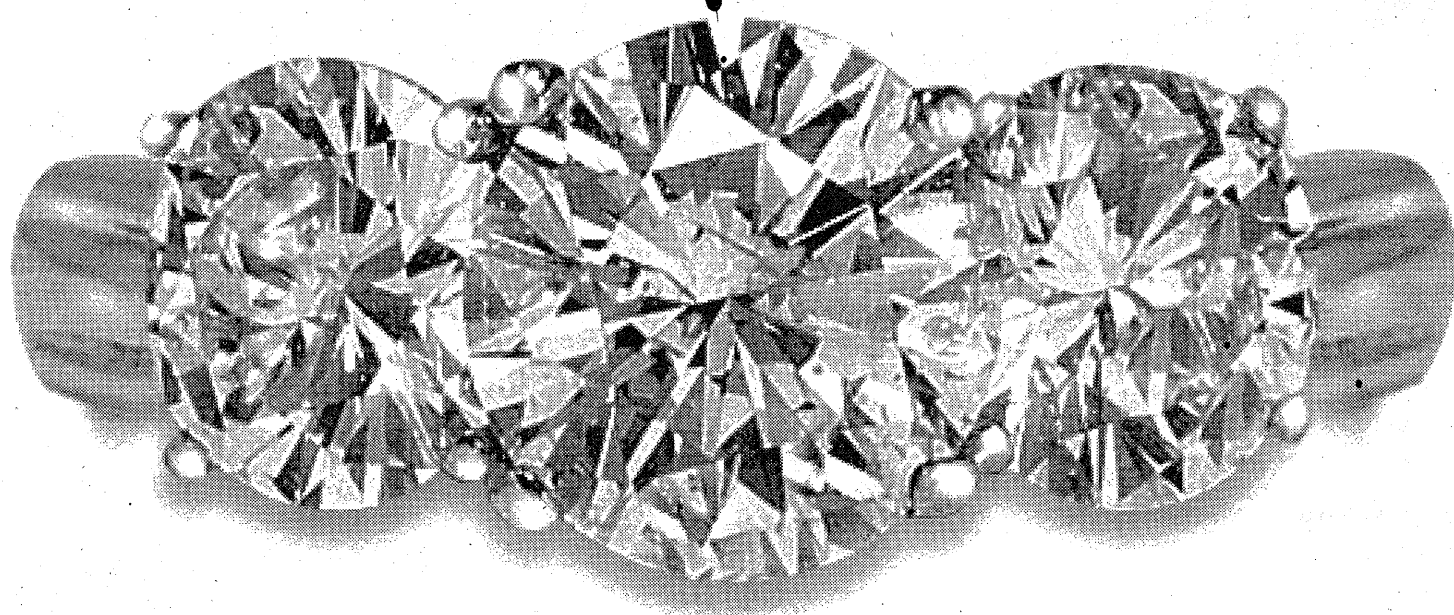
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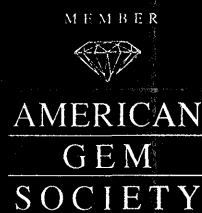
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Fear and greed can lead to bad investment decisions

Greed and fear are harmful to investors. Fear leads to bad decisions which can cost investors substantial amounts of money.

One example is what has happened over the last few months. Back in mid-July the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the S&P 500 Index reached record highs. The Dow Jones Industrial Average broke through the 14,000 mark for the first time and almost immediately thereafter the market began to retreat. Just a month after breaking through the 14,000 mark, the Dow fell below the 13,000 mark.

At that time, the topic du jour was the subprime crisis along with the slowing U.S. economy and, unfortunately, many investors began to bail out of the market. Too many of them let fear dictate their decision as they focused on the day-to-day volatilities of the market as opposed to long-term goals and objectives.

A little over a month from



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

the low point and since that time the market has rallied. In fact, the Dow is up 1,000 points. Investors who rushed out of the market missed the recovery and a substantial amount of money.

No one, including me, likes to see their investments go down. However, that's the reality of the stock market. Successful investors recognize that volatility is part of the process. A well-balanced, diversified portfolio can somewhat reduce the impact of short-term volatility. Don't focus on the day-to-day volatilities of the stock market, but rather on the

overall portfolio strategy. Make sure your investments match your goals and objectives and that your portfolio is diversified and balanced.

As we are entering the last quarter of the year, there are some strategies that investors may wish to consider. The first is whether to convert a traditional IRA or a portion of it into a Roth IRA.

The transaction must be completed before Dec. 31. Many brokerage houses and mutual fund companies require at least a few weeks to complete the transaction. If you are considering conversion, don't wait.

I am a fan of converting to Roth IRAs because it allows the individual investor to turn tax-deferred money into tax-free money.

The longer you have until

you need your money from your IRA, the greater the benefit of converting.

In order to convert, you must have an adjustable gross income of \$100,000 or less. If you meet this criterion you are eligible. If you are over 70½, you cannot convert your required minimum distribution, however, you can convert anything above and beyond that amount.

My general rules are: 1) you have the money to pay the tax created by the conversion, without touching the money converted; 2) converting the money will not throw you into a higher tax bracket; 3) you can let the money grow within the Roth IRA for generally at least five to seven years.

Yes, you are incurring a tax liability by converting. However, the long-term ben-

efits of a Roth IRA are substantial. The money you are converting would always have been subject to tax. By converting, you're just paying that tax earlier.

It's also time for year-end tax planning. Whether it's selling investments to recognize tax losses or accelerating deductions into 2007, the goal is to focus on your increasing net worth. Don't do anything for tax reasons alone. Do tax planning that will result in you having more money in your pocket — exactly where it belongs.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK 1400 AM.

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SHOWTIMES 9/28 - 10/4 No passes

- THE KINGDOM (R) 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
- GAME PLAN (PG) 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:25, 9:55
- GOOD LUCK CHUCK (R) 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
- FRISAT LS 11:45
- SYDNEY WHITE (PG-13) 11:30, 1:55, 4:20, 6:45, 9:10
- FRISAT LS 11:35
- MR. WOODCOCK (PG-13) 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40
- THE BRAVE ONE (R) 11:00, 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45
- 3:10 TO YUMA (R) 11:00, 1:35, 4:10, 6:50, 9:35
- HALLOWEEN (R) 9:55

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Rep. McCotter gets airtime on BBC broadcast

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

As a congressman, Thaddeus McCotter is accustomed to answering reporters' questions. Things were a bit different this past week, however, when the Republican from Livonia was interviewed by the British Broadcasting Corp. on Fred Thompson's run for the presidency and other GOP hopefuls.

The BBC story, heard by local listeners on satellite radio, focused on the presidential hopefuls who were in Michigan for the Republican Mackinac Leadership Conference. McCotter introduced Thompson, a former U.S. senator. "I'm supporting Fred Thompson," the congressman said Tuesday. "I think he's a proven, common sense conservative. When you've got all the

presidential candidates hanging around, you never know who's going to pop up," he added of the BBC reporter. McCotter has been interviewed by the BBC in the past on the Iraq situation. He noted his Irish grandfather would have laughed "the BBC talking to me." The congressman listens to radio broadcasts on his iPod, but hasn't heard a lot about the BBC story. "I don't know

what people listen to. There are so many options out there. You can find out anything you want if you look hard enough." McCotter noted of the BBC: "It's government-run. It's like the CBC." Questions have been raised in the United Kingdom about the BBC's objectivity, he said, but "not being British, I don't have an opinion on it." He was approached by the BBC after introducing Thompson, who also has an

acting background. "I don't think I was their first choice," McCotter said. He's interested in how British people view our politics and vice versa, noting our government is based on Britain's going all the way back to the Magna Carta in 1215. "We're traditional allies," he said. "We like to keep an eye on the British. The War of 1812 isn't that far away."



McCotter

Archer will speak at WSU

Dickinson Wright Chairman Dennis W. Archer will be a keynote speaker at E2detroit, an entrepreneurial and excellence symposium at Wayne State University Oct. 1 and 2. E2detroit provides resources to entrepreneurs and small business owners by bringing together the southeast Michigan regional leaders and business community to share ideas about the tools and relationships necessary to launch and grow a successful business. E2detroit also assists entrepreneurs in locating funding sources, qualified management and facilities for company operations. Dickinson Wright is a sponsor of the event.

Archer will speak on small business growth, public office, law firms, and bringing the economy in Michigan and Detroit to great heights.

Archer was Mayor of Detroit from 1994 - 2001. He was the first African American attorney to be elected to the position of president of the American Bar Association and was an associate justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. Recognitions in the past several years include being named among the "100 Most Influential Black Americans," by *Ebony* magazine; one of the "25 Most Dynamic Mayors in America" by *Newsweek* magazine; the "Most Respected Judge in Michigan" by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*, among the "100 Most Powerful Attorneys in the United States" by the *National Law Journal*, and "Public Official of the Year" by *Governing* magazine.

E2detroit is hosted by the Wayne State University Venture Development Office, which works with faculty, staff, students, and alumni to leverage Wayne State innovations and create early-stage technology companies. Its objective is to provide tools and foster relationships necessary for entrepreneurs to launch successful businesses.

Registration for E2detroit is \$195 for business professionals and \$25 for students. For more information, visit www.e2detroit.com or call (248) 275-1130.

County gets grant to control pollution

The Wayne County Department of Environment's Water Quality Division has been awarded more than \$200,000 from Michigan's Clean Water Fund grant to control polluted water discharges into the Rouge River.

When leveraged with existing federal grants, the total amount to be spent by Wayne County on this effort will be more than \$405,000.

"These funds will allow us to expand our ongoing mission to identify and stop illegal discharges into the Rouge River," said County Executive Robert A. Ficano. "These discharges can come from sewage pipes improperly connected to the river, building drains that empty into the river, and runoff from failed septic systems."

"The Department of Environment has done a great job in securing a substantial grant in difficult economic times," said Ficano, "and by leveraging these grants with existing federal dollars, we are providing added value for our residents."

For more information on the program, call (313) 224-3631

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OUR VIEWS

It's a weekend of generosity

One of the things we like best about people in the Plymouth community is their demonstrated ability — determination, really — to help others even in the face of their own struggles.

The problems of the auto industry, indeed the faltering economy of the entire state, have hit this area hard. The community relies heavily on auto-related jobs, and those jobs are going away in great numbers.

The struggle manifests itself in many ways; for instance, the Plymouth Salvation Army is having a hard time keeping food on the shelves of its pantry right now because families are in need.

Despite the economic crisis, people in this community stand ready and more than willing to help. When news got out about the pantry shelves, food came in a steady stream. The Salvation Army also tops its Red Kettle Campaign goal every year, and the Plymouth Community United Way routinely reaches its target.

We're about to witness two more great examples of people helping people. The first comes Saturday, when walkers completing the Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk make Plymouth part of their route.

These folks are all walking 60 miles in three days through, among other communities, Livonia, Farmington Hills and Dearborn, supported by the generous donations and buoyed by their own desire to see breast cancer wiped out.

For example, Plymouth Downtown Development Director Sherrie Pryor, who is walking the 3-Day, was pleasantly surprised Tuesday morning to find out she's exceeded her \$2,200 fund-raising goal by more than \$500, an "incredibly generous" outpouring of support, she said.

If that's not enough for one weekend, the 12th annual Great Lakes Regional Chili Cookoff is set for Sunday. Thousands of chili-eaters will descend on Kellogg Park to taste chili and salsa, and to see the hundreds of motorcycles that are part of the show.

Proceeds from that event will be used to benefit Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County, headquartered in Plymouth but building homes for needy families all over the area.

It's destined to be a great weekend, especially if you're someone in need, a hopeful weekend for those wishing to see the eradication of breast cancer or the end of homelessness. Obviously, that isn't going to happen overnight.

But when it does happen, it'll be because of efforts like you'll see this weekend in Plymouth.

Short jobs help state in economic slugfest

Michigan's been hit with a one-two punch with the pullout of area corporate headquarters, like Volkswagen of America in Auburn Hills and Comerica. The state may be bloodied; however, it's not down for the count.

In fact, what is less known are the many success stories in the area of economic development in southeastern Michigan. That's an important story that not only needs telling but promoting.

Success, as the saying goes, breeds success. Just as some out of state companies may be reluctant to locate here, hearing about the growing number of firms making a move to Michigan ought to tell CEOs that Michigan has a lot going for it.

How the state's economic image is portrayed needs to be revised to target a new audience. Forget the corporate office buildings; what's happening here is the growth of smaller, sometimes high tech businesses.

And the Michigan Economic Development Corporation has played a key role in this upswing.

Recently, the MEDC announced nine new projects that received state help to create nearly 3,000 jobs. There's more. Also included in the projects is roughly \$52.3 million in new capital investment in communities, including three tech companies in the Ann Arbor.

Clearly the emphasis is on technology here, with firms planning to develop portable fuel cells and clinical diagnostic testing products.

In a separate announcement, a British company has said it is establishing three firms in Troy to deal with different segments of the amphibious vehicle market. One of the firms is expected to bring 1,500 jobs to the area.

As good as all this is, what may be equally important is the determination seen at Oakland County's Automation Alley, also in Troy, to fight back.

Six companies are joining Automation Alley's trade mission to India Oct. 10-20. While many companies are outsourcing work to India and elsewhere, those on the trade mission expect that country's growth to produce a demand for products and services that Michigan can supply.

The important message here is that the state hasn't suffered a knock-out punch. It's ready for the next round.



"He says small businesses are going to save the state's economy. I just wish he weren't our CEO."

LETTERS

Media control elections

Reforming presidential primaries according to two plans, as suggested in your editorial ("Parties need to reform primaries," *Observer*, Sept. 13), or moving primaries to some earlier date will most likely be nothing more than exercising in futility.

It will do nothing worthwhile for the furtherance of election of more representative candidates. It seems that we, the public, have little say as to who the winners will be. This is decided for us backstage by big money and power wielders, but above all by those few individuals who own and otherwise control mainstream news media.

Preferred by them, candidates, no matter how mediocre and undeserving, are given continuous, favorable exposure in the mainstream media, and otherwise support.

The media seem to condition us to vote only for the candidates of their choice, but no other. Just watching TV can be seen how it is done. Most of us just go and vote for them, knowing little about who else is running for the office.

Those other candidates, no matter how worthy some of them may be — deserving, patriotic and truly dedicated to doing what is right for the country, but if not otherwise liked by these news media moguls, are hardly mentioned in their media, or if ever mentioned it is usually unfavorably, or at best are simply ignored.

It is therefore important, before going to vote, if we intend to do so, to be well-informed from independent, truthful, objective sources. Only then we hopefully can make a difference for the better.

There is another, recently introduced undesirable aspect of our electoral system — the unverifiable electronic voting. We can never be sure whether our votes are directed where intended by us. We cannot be sure whether those announced winners are truly elected by us voters.

Some states, including California, in order to dispel such doubts, require their votes be verifiable, subject to recounting, thus minimizing the possibility of being manipulated, which can easily be done electronically. Such should be the requirement in all other states, including Michigan.

Unless at least the above-pointed-out electoral deficiencies are satisfactorily and honestly addressed, going to vote may be a waste of time, energy and money, especially in presidential and congressional elections. Perhaps that is why only about half of the entitled go to the polls on election day.

Joseph Wira
Plymouth Township

Thanking Corriveau

I'd like to thank state Rep. Marc Corriveau for looking out for our Michigan workers.

This is not a union or a non-union issue, times are really tough in Michigan right now. Jobs are scarce and families are suffering because of it. Rep. Corriveau was in the news recently talking about the "Hire Michigan First" plan, which will help our neighbors,

family and friends find jobs. Requiring companies that contract with Michigan to hire Michigan workers is the right thing to do. If companies benefit from economic breaks, our workers should benefit, as well. I applaud Rep. Corriveau for this commitment to Michigan's workers, and I thank him for the work he is doing.

Also, on a second note to my fellow residents, please before you buy another car, toy or appliance, think about your children and grandchildren, look inside the door, look on the box and see where the product is made.

I've seen your kids and they're not all engineers and Nobel Prize winners. So, if one day you want your kids to leave home and your neighbors to have a good life, buy American. It's your future.

Carlo Castiglione
Northville

Ethical, not political

The issue of universal health care is not a political issue or an economic issue, it's an ethical issue. It is patently unethical to profit from the treatment of the sick. Period. And ethics should be a completely nonpartisan issue. As a U.S. and Michigan taxpayer, I would gladly agree to a tax increase in order to fund universal health coverage. By the way, if we weren't paying for a war thousands of miles away, it might be a less taxing proposition. Let's really make this the greatest country in the world and take care of all of our citizens, not just those who can afford it. Please pass H.R. 676. Thank you.

Rachel Kain
Farmington

Letter writer off-base

This letter is in response to the absolute garbage kind of letter to the editor titled "Unions are the problem."

That was one of the most totally false, misleading and mean-spirited attacks upon organized labor I have witnessed in a long time from the pages of the *Observer & Eccentric*. Freedom of the press, indeed. That writer is, simply put, totally ignorant of the truth about workers and their unions, the epitome of arch-conservative, right-wing, unpatriotic nonsense and possibly an outright danger to the forces of democracy, common decency and the American middle class ideals that portray and completely justify the growth and strength of the American labor movement.

I knew Walter Phillip Reuther. More than any other single person in the 20th century, Reuther created the middle class. I know. I was there.

From 1940 until 1985 — and beyond — I was active in the UAW. I remember starting work in a GM plant before World War II at 55 cents per hour, including a newly UAW-won 5-cent, third-shift premium, to more than \$20 per hour less than 20 years later.

I remember Walter, who fought against and defeated communism and did more to create the greatest most effective union bargainers in the world — the UAW — than any single person in America in the 20th century. Hey there, character from Troy,

what did you ever do to help create our middle class? What kind of positive contribution did you ever make to ever help anyone who works in America? America is only as strong as its middle class. The middle class is only as strong as its labor unions. Destroy America's labor movement and the destruction of America cannot be far behind. No democratic nation can exist without a strong, growing labor movement. The UAW and its officers and members are numbered among the finest of citizens, workers and patriotic Americans in our nation today. I know this to be true. I worked with them side by side for more than 45 years.

Troy letter writer, can you say the same? I don't think so. If you did, you would not have written such a venomous letter about the splendid life of Walter Reuther and the UAW and its great membership. Shame on you!

L.B. Kingery
Rochester Hills

Open for business

Brazil is open for business. Workers there are willing to try anything, much like Michigan in earlier times.

Automobiles were created in Detroit area garages by few employees performing multiple tasks. Henry Ford developed a standard Model T suitable for mass production and cheap enough for the average household. He was so successful he added a steel plant, railroad, steamship line and even gasoline (Benzol). When costs per automobile went down, so did the price. Factory workers became scarce, so he offered \$5 per day (very high in those days). The rich got richer, and so did everyone else.

Sit-down strikes and picket lines ended Henry's dream. Government mandates would require steps backward, perhaps so others could keep up. Union members prospered and manufacturers raised prices to absorb increased costs (not Ford's preference).

International markets seek willing workers and cooperative governments. Brazil enjoys prosperity like Michigan did 100 years ago while we cling to policies that failed. It need not be that way if we were "open for business"!

Hank Borgman
Farmington.

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

"At this point, they are looking real good ... It's a good thing when I can walk into a fleet and they have long-standing, qualified technicians. They're aware of some of the critical issues, and have a proactive approach to maintenance problems. It's not reactive, wait 'til it's broke and then fix it."

- Larry Doty, Michigan State Police civilian inspector, on the quality of the Plymouth-Canton school bus fleet

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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.

Prison reform, worker benefits key parts of budget woes

After another week of watching the same endless shenanigans going on in Lansing, I can only repeat: "Michigan's political, policy and finance systems are broken. Ten million Michigan citizens have been held hostage to the partisan agendas of both political parties and their members who now hold office, not to mention the interest groups that fund their campaigns."



Phil Power

We are in trouble. We're facing the greatest crisis since the Great Depression, and desperately need leaders with a vision for Michigan that will get us through our present turmoil and lay the foundation for a radical transformation of our state.

We're not going to get that by habitual partisan finger pointing or by absurd, face-saving compromises that claim to "solve" the \$1.8 billion state budget deficit. Without a new vision, no matter what they do, a similar deficit will be staring us in the face next year.

Even if we buy into that vision, it won't become reality unless we have state government that is effective, efficient and accountable.

Republican lawmakers say the way to do that is by cutting something like \$1 billion from state spending. But you when asked exactly what they'd cut, mostly what you get back is mumbles about "government waste, inefficiency and bloat." That's not a responsible recipe for crafting a budget. Especially when they've known the dimensions of the problem we're facing for a year.

But if they are serious about cutting spending, here are two big, obvious, long-overdue ways to cut nearly \$800 million, as suggested in The Center for Michigan's most recent newsletter:

■ First, enact \$500 million worth of prison reforms. Michigan's incarceration rate is 40 percent higher than our neighboring states, while our crime rate is just about the same. One-third of our enormous state prison population is there for drug-related or nonviolent crimes. Nearly another third are being held beyond their earliest possible release date. And our prisons cost Michigan taxpayers around \$5,000 more per inmate each year more than neighboring states pay to keep theirs locked up.

Ending expensive jail time for nonviolent offenders and releasing inmates unlikely to be dangerous to society will save hundreds of millions. Gradually bringing pay for Michigan prison guards in line with neighboring states would help. Privatizing some operations like food service could save even more.

People from all over the political spectrum — business conservatives, social liberals, academics and the state's financial advisers — have for years urged cost-conscious prison reform.

Any concrete results? Nah. In part, Republicans fear being accused of being "soft on crime."

■ Second: Bring Michigan state worker benefit costs in line with the national average. How big? Around \$275 million. Both the Small Business Association and The Center for Michigan reached that conclusion in separate studies earlier this year.

Republicans are going to have a harder time swallowing the first of these two suggestions; Democrats, the second — but both are vitally necessary. For a while earlier this summer, both Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Democratic lawmakers talked a good game about reforms in pay and benefits for state employees earlier. But not recently. The story in Lansing is that public

employee labor leaders are holding court in the capital, holding the line against reforms among the troops who want labor campaign contributions later on.

Detroit News columnist Daniel Howes, in a stinging column last Saturday, asked of labor leaders: "Tell us how you explain to recently retired autoworkers fearing for their pension and health benefits that they have to pay higher taxes so their pals in the public sector won't be asked to do the same? Answer: You can't, and sooner or later they'll wake up to the rank hypocrisy and fight back."

And although much of the debate on the revenue side of the budget argument has had to do with the income tax, here's a quick, simple and fair way to bring in an added \$300 million each year:

Tax beverages. States like Texas and California raise more than \$100 million each year by taxing unhealthy, sugar-saturated soft drinks; they're classified as "food" in Michigan and therefore not taxed.

Our tax on beer was last adjusted 41 years ago ... when it was cut to just under two cents per beer. Two cents in 1966, adjusted for inflation, would be about 14 cents a bottle today.

All lawmakers would have to do to raise \$225 million would be to raise beer taxes to keep up with inflation. But they haven't. Why not? Because the beer and wine lobby is among the most powerful in Lansing. And lots of legislators are scared they'd anger off blue collar beer drinkers. So, instead, they're arguing about an income tax increase that would cost a \$50,000-a-year blue collar worker another \$275. That would buy an awful lot of beer.

There you have it; three simple ideas to make our government more efficient and less costly. There are lots of others: Benchmarking public employee pension and health care benefits against public employees elsewhere or (gasp!) private sector workers. Find ways vastly to increase collaboration and service sharing among Michigan's thousands of local government units and school districts.

And if government is indeed to be more accountable and effective, we need more experienced, strategic, competent and decisive leaders — leaders who are willing to set aside traditional party politics to find common ground strategies to move Michigan forward.

Why has this been so hard? Mainly for two reasons: First, the law we passed setting strict and short term limits makes sure that we will be ruled by lawmakers who are relatively inexperienced. Second, the way we redraw legislative district boundaries assures that candidates at each political extreme are mostly the ones elected.

The ideas I'm proposing here are neither new nor particularly complicated. They're common sense ways of finding common ground that most of Michigan's 10 million citizens can agree on.

So how do we get people talking about making common sense the centerpiece of our political discussions? That will be the subject of community conversations taking place throughout Michigan next month as part of the Michigan's Defining Moment campaign.

To learn more or reserve a seat at a conversation near you, go to www.thecenterformichigan.net.

Phil Power is founder and president of The Center for Michigan, a centrist think tank based in Ann Arbor. The opinions expressed here are his own and do not represent the official views of The Center. Power welcomes comments at ppower@thecenterformichigan.net.

Welcome back to wonderful world of reading real books

The kids at Birmingham Berkshire Middle School are engaged in a novel — and I do mean novel — program. They're reading. They are reading things they can hold in their hands, and I don't mean iPods.

For 15 minutes a day, the kids just sit and read. They can read novels, magazines or anything they want except textbooks.

This is a fabulous idea. I don't think reading is a dying art. Just go to any library or book store like Borders or Barnes & Noble and you will find people sitting and reading. I went to the used book store on Woodward just south of 12 Mile in Royal Oak a few weeks ago. It was packed with people. And while the prices were substantially lower for the used books, they still carry a hefty price tag. But that didn't seem to stop the steady stream of customers who came by. I go to John King Books in Detroit fairly regularly. This is true heaven for a book lover and, judging by the people I see in there, there are many book lovers.

People are reading. Unfortunately for us in the newspaper business, they don't seem to be reading newspapers as much as they used to. But that's another story.

I used to read novels at a voracious rate, and for the longest time I confined myself only to the great classics. But I've exhausted almost all of them and what's left doesn't really appeal to me. I just don't think I have the stamina anymore to wade through Trollop's *Barchester Towers*, and I refuse to have anything more to do with the vastly over-rated Jane Austen. On the other hand, I think a moratorium should be put on Stephen King — one book every five years. No more.

For the past few years, I have been concentrating on local history books, which is a fascinating area in itself. Everybody should at least thumb through Silas Farmer's mammoth *History of Detroit and Michigan*. What makes this book really amazing is that it is probably still is the best history ever written in Detroit — and it came out in 1884.

Farmer did some other local history books, as did Clarence Burton, who is probably best known for founding the Burton Historical Collection at the Detroit Public Library. Friend Palmer also did some 19th century contemporary history books that are worth a look. But the number of local history books isn't endless and I'm back to poking around the shelves of the new novels.

I just finished J.M. Coetzee's *Foe*, which was fairly dumb, Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist*, which was OK, and am into *See*, by Jose Saramago, which — 100 pages in so far — is enticing, although a bit of a challenge considering there are no paragraphs or quote marks and the sentences tend to run on and on — which, while it can be an effective style, makes for some disjointed reading despite being fairly and surprisingly comprehensible when you finally get to the end and reflect back on what you have just read like a rider on a charging steed. Get the idea?

At any rate, it's good to be back into the world of novels. Reading them has been an experience of a lifetime — literally. I hope the kids at Berkshire pick up the habit. There is a whole world of great, and some not so great, books waiting for them.

Greg Kowalski is editor of the Birmingham Eccentric. He can be reached at (248) 901-2570 or by e-mail at gkowsk1@hometownlife.com.



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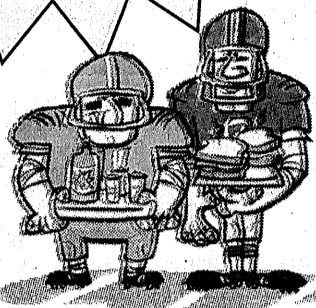
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Sheriff Warren C. Evans (right) is joined by rider Burt Farbman, a supporter of the Wayne County Sheriff's Mounted Unit.

Sheriff hosts Mounted Unit benefit

Sheriff Warren C. Evans is planning a benefit. On Saturday, Oct. 6, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Evans will host his third annual Mounted Unit benefit fund-raiser at Nankin Mills in Hines Park. Tickets are \$25 for horse owners

who wish to participate in a trail ride with the sheriff's team and \$10 for members of the general public. Children ages 12 and younger can attend for free. Refreshments and various displays and activities will be provided. For ticket information, please call (313) 967-6300.

Metroparks plan autumn hayrides for young and old alike

Autumn's reds, yellows and golds will soon be coloring the trees at the Metroparks. A schedule of hayrides is being planned at the parks. Pick Your Pumpkin Hayrides will be held October weekends from noon to 4 p.m. Kensington Metropark Farm Learning Center, near Milford/Brighton. Visitors will take a horse-drawn hayride to and from the farm's pumpkin patch where they can pick their favorite Jack-O-Lantern pumpkin. Hayride fees are adults \$3, children and seniors \$2, children 2 and under are free. Pumpkins are priced according to size. Registration is not required. For more information, contact the park office at (800)477-3178 or locally (248)685-1561.

Group hayrides are Wednesdays and Thursdays in October from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Kensington Metropark Farm Learning Center. The cost is \$35 per group for a half hour hayride. Tractor-drawn hayrides are available weekends and other selected days after 4 p.m. at \$100 per hour. Hayrides are for groups up to 25 persons per ride. Groups must register at least 10 days in advance for these daytime hayrides by calling the park office at (800)477-3178. Cider & Doughnut Wagon Rides will be held Sundays, Sept. 23 and 30 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Farm Learning Center at Wolcott Mill Metropark in Ray Township. Fee is \$4 per person. For additional information, call the

Farm at (586) 752-5932. Pumpkin & Wagon Rides are Saturdays and Sundays, Oct. 6, 7, 13, 14 and 21 from noon to 3 p.m. at Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm Learning Center in Ray Township. Fee is \$4 per person. Pumpkins are priced according to size. For more information, call Wolcott Mill Farm Learning Center at (586)752-5932. Moonlight and Hayrides are Fridays, Oct. 5, 12 and 19, 7:30-9 p.m. at Stony Creek Metropark Nature Center near Rochester. Fee is \$6 per person by appointment. Call the Nature Center at (586)781-9113 to reserve a time. A Metropark vehicle entry permit is required.

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Schoolcraft hosts College Night Wednesday on Livonia campus

Area high school students and their families can investigate the programs of more than 80 colleges and universities during Schoolcraft College's annual College Night on Wednesday, Oct. 3. The event is free and open to the community.

The schools, primarily from Michigan and the Midwest, will be on hand to answer questions and provide information on degrees, fields of study, admission requirements, cost and extracurricular activities.

A sample of in-state schools attending include Michigan State University, University of Michigan, Grand Valley

State University, Wayne State University, University of Detroit Mercy, Michigan Technological University, Eastern, Central and Northern Michigan universities, College of Creative Studies, Adrian College and Hillsdale College. Out-of-state institutions attending include Bowling Green State University, Penn State University, Ohio State University, Syracuse University, University of Notre Dame and Valparaiso University, to name a few.

College Night will be held in the Physical Education Building of Schoolcraft College's Livonia Campus

on Haggerty Road between Six and Seven Mile Roads. Typically College Night draws about 3,500 people. The program begins at 6:30 p.m. and continues until 8:30 p.m. The colleges are arranged fair-style and in alphabetical order in both gyms so guests can visit as many tables and in the order they wish.

For more information, call the Schoolcraft College Office of Admissions at (734) 462-4426. Schoolcraft College is a public two-year college, offering classes at the Livonia campus, the Radcliff Center in Garden City and online at schoolcraft.edu.

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Wayne County Senior Day Oct. 12

The 13th annual Western Wayne County Senior Celebration Day will be held Friday, Oct. 12, announced state Rep. John R. Pastor, R-Livonia.

"Our area is home to a great number of seniors, and this fun-filled event is just one way to give back to them and to our community," said Pastor, R-Livonia. The event takes place

at St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia, and runs from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tickets went on sale Sept. 4 and can be purchased at the Livonia senior center.

The event is organized by Pastor and Senior Citizen Achievement Needs, a local nonprofit organization for seniors. This year its major sponsor is Angela Hospice

of Livonia. Tickets are \$5 and include a hot meal, door prizes, games, health screenings, exhibitor booths featuring samples, novelties and other information, and a free cloth bag to carry away all the goodies. The event is limited to 600 people and has sold out in the past. For information, call Pastor's office at (517) 373-3920.

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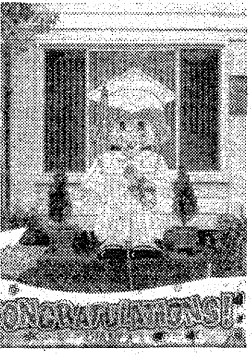
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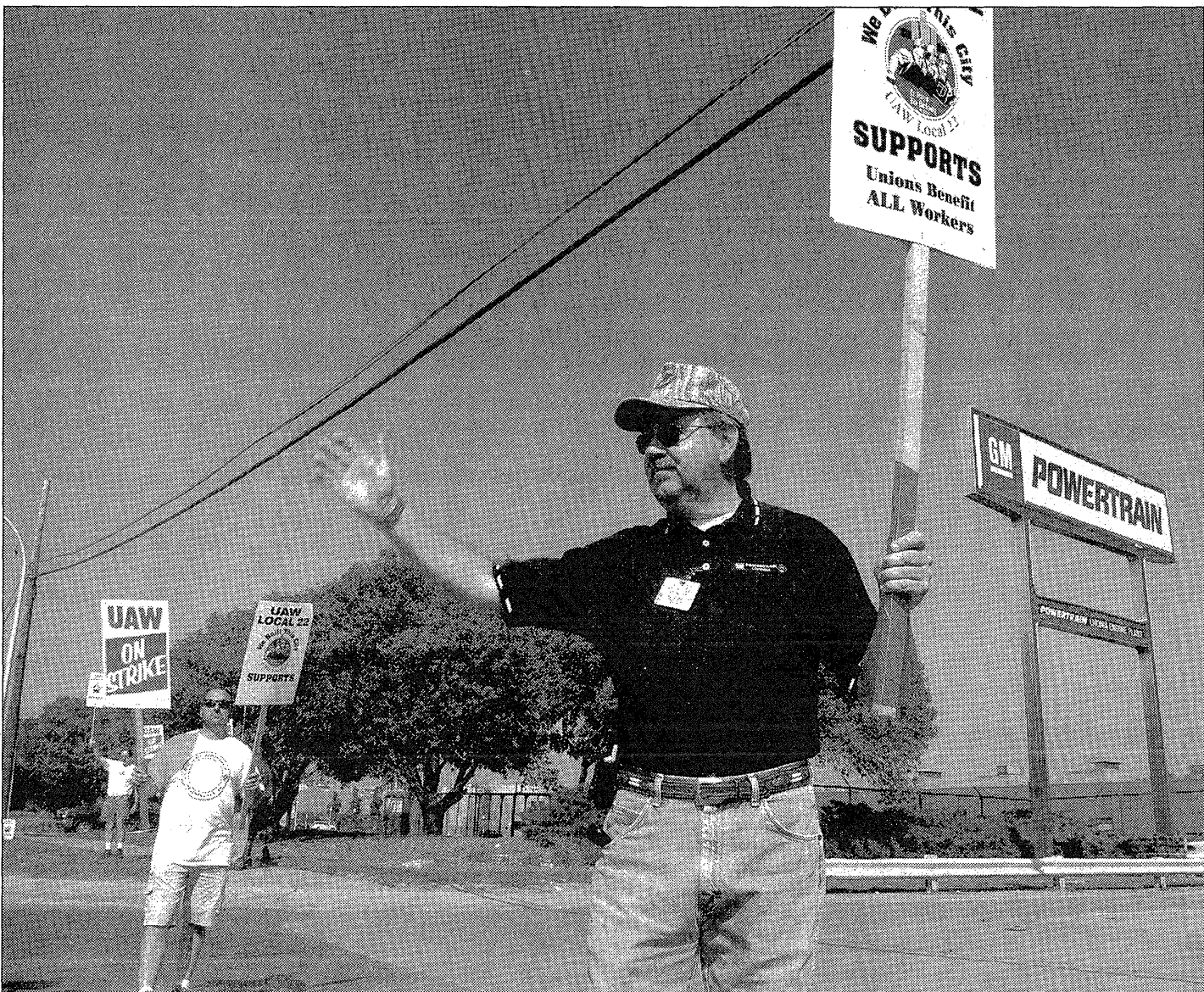
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UAW member Terry Baber waves to people honking their horns as they drive by the Livonia G.M. Powertrain plant on Middlebelt north of Plymouth Road Monday afternoon. At left is Ron Marz, carrying two picket signs. The union called the national strike Monday at 11 a.m., it wrapped early Wednesday morning.

Festival focuses on Michigan films

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

The Lake County Film Festival at Schoolcraft College's VisTaTech Center Saturday will showcase student and independent film and video work from across the state.

"We're presenting work of all genres and disciplines (experimental, fictional narrative, documentary and animation), and are also premiering the latest work from Academy Award nominee Jeff Bloomer, who is from Michigan," said Alex Holowicki of Plymouth, who is organizing the event. "The show is an excellent opportunity for members of the community to watch films and videos that pertain directly to Michigan

locations, including a few shot in Plymouth."

Holowicki, 20, is a film and video major at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids. The college junior is hoping to improve upon last year's inaugural event.

"It's not only for people from Schoolcraft, but for anyone who wanted to have their work shown, but didn't have the medium to do it," Holowicki said. "There will be 16 short films, ranging from 3-15 minutes each." Holowicki said the films will be shown from 7-10 p.m., with the films to be shown the first two hours, plus an hour to network and socialize with film and video makers.

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Strikers got mostly positive reaction from motorists

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

The strike between General Motors and the United Auto Workers is over, allowing the corporation, its workers and the thousands of smaller businesses who depend on the smooth operation between the two to breathe easy again.

But for two days, the men and women who carried the signs in front of GM facilities around the country were prepared to work the picket line as solidly as they worked the production line.

At the Livonia GM Powertrain plant, 12200 Middlebelt, a group of 20 autoworkers were trudging up and down the street Tuesday morning, carrying signs and

waving to passing motorists as the strike was still going on.

Herb Nettles, the safety representative for the plant, has worked there for 39 years. The Oak Park resident said this was his third strike.

"We'll go on until we get an agreement," he said. "We'll be out here until the union president calls us and tells us to go back."

Paul Holdinski, a 34-year employee, was driving to work from his home in Hartland Monday when he got the call to break out the strike signs and inform the union brothers and sisters. It was about four hours notice but also no real surprise.

"We knew it was going to be a rough contract year," he said. "We're all up for helping

the corporation but it's got to go both ways. We could be out here for months."

He said he's been socking a little money away here and there in anticipation of lean times during the strike. The people who are single and GM is their only form of income would have it worst, he said.

Michael Crouch of Detroit has 37 years at the Livonia plant and has maintained a lifestyle that insulates him against strikes. People driving past the line on Middlebelt were supportive.

"It's been very positive, more from the senior citizens driving by because their health care could be directly affected," he said. "There have been a couple of people giving the finger, yelling insults."



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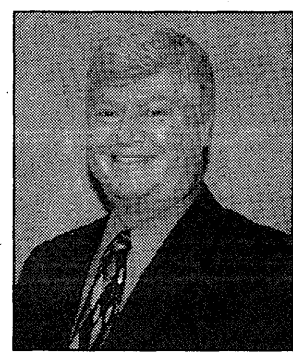
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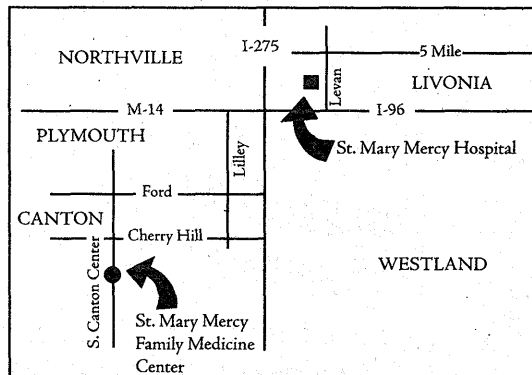
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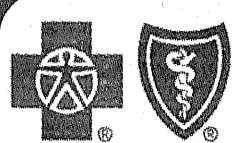
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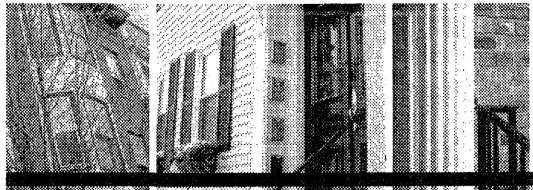
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BRIEFS

FROM PAGE B4 registration information, call (248) 862-1003.

gram emphasizing recruiting, training and career development, systems installation and business planning, followed by a tour of the Corporate

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mula of systems and support." WEICHERT, REALTORS - Cass Realty can be reached at (313) 357-3800.

Association of Michigan's (AAM) Property Management Council (PMC) will sponsor a "How To Conduct Outreach" course on Friday, Oct. 12, from 9 a.m. to noon at AAM headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills.

Registration fees are \$69 for PMC members, \$79 for AAM or Building Industry Association (BIA) of Southeastern Michigan members and \$99 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1004.

Apartment Association of Michigan's (AAM) Property Management Council (PMC) will sponsor an "HVAC Heater Trouble Shooting" course on Tuesday, Oct. 23, from 8 a.m. to noon at Wilmar Offices, 23975 Research Drive in Farmington Hills.

Registration fees are \$40 per person. For registration information, call (248) 862-1004.

Condominium operation

Attorney Robert Meisner will offer a course on "Condominium Operation: Introduction to the Essentials for Success," 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 16 through Nov. 6, at the Bingham III Office, 30200 Telegraph, Suite 467, Bingham Farms. Price is \$110 for an attendee. The course is offered through the Oakland Community College Business Technology Center. Continuing education credit available, advance registration needed. For registration details, call (248) 522-3618.

Training/tour

Broker/owner Ronald LaCasse Jr. and Marcy Novak recently franchised WEICHERT, REALTORS - Cass Realty in Dearborn, have completed an in-depth training/tour of the inner workings of a thriving real estate business—the four-day WEICHERT Management Academy.

Held at Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. corporate headquarters in New Jersey, the Academy is focused on building world-class real estate offices. "This is an important step," said Vice President of Business Development Kirk Miller, who conducts the program. "The Academy provides the tools that give new Weichert franchisees a solid foundation and the confidence to manage their businesses as never before. Some of what we cover is not new to established brokers and managers, but most of it is quite an eye-opener."

LaCasse and Novak participated in a concentrated, accelerated pro-

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Advertisement for 'Southern Properties' featuring a sun graphic and information on advertising on the page, including a phone number 1-800-579-7333.

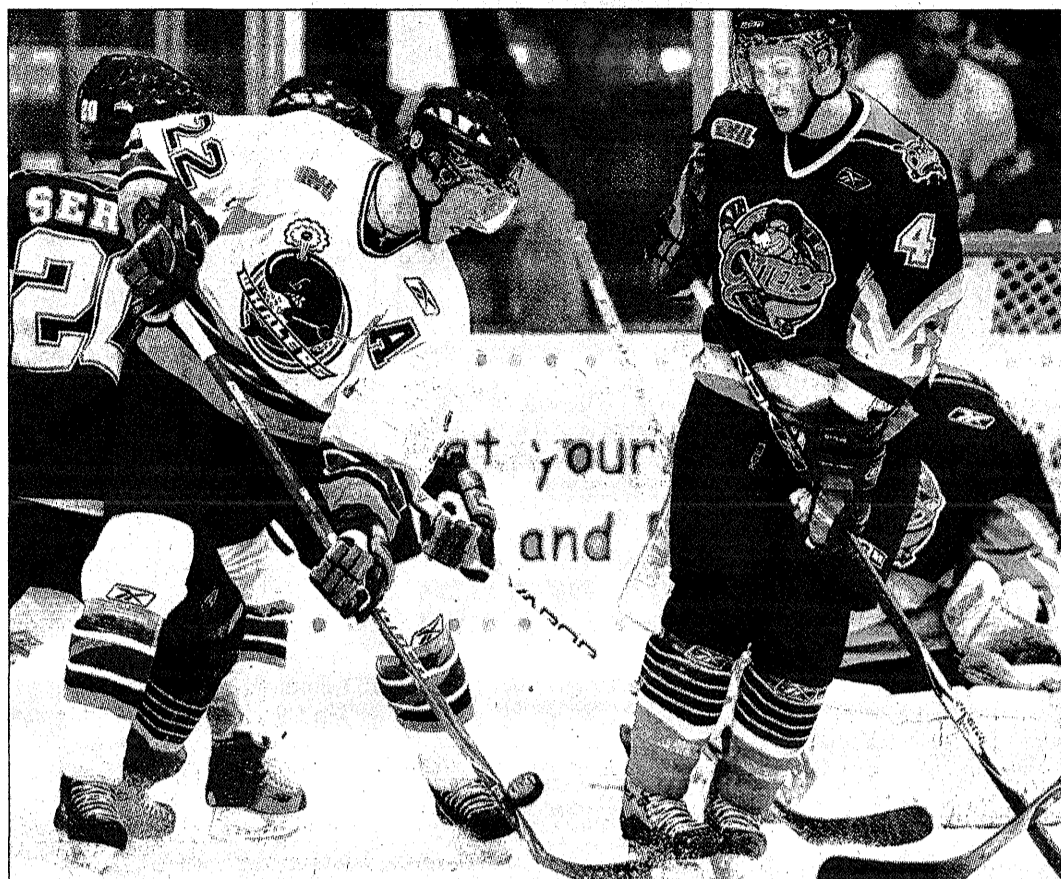
Northern Properties advertisement with the slogan 'Look Here First!' and images of properties.

Oscoda Senior Condominiums HELPING VETERANS advertisement offering 2 years free maintenance & utilities, with prices from only \$54,000.

GLADWIN COUNTY HUNTING PROPERTY advertisement listing 40 wooded acres for sale at \$159,900 and other properties.

Manistique Shores advertisement for Lake Michigan waterfront property, offering a chance to own a piece of Michigan's water wonderland.

Opening weekend in the OHL



WALT DMOCH

Plymouth Whalers left wing A. J. Jenks (No. 22) battles for position in front of the Erie goal during Saturday's season opener at Compuware Arena. Challenging Jenks for the puck are Erie's Robyn Sertic (No. 20) and Mitch Gaulton (No. 4).

Plymouth's Chris Terry converts a penalty shot during the Whalers' season-opening 6-4 loss to Erie Saturday night. The Otters' goalie is ex-Whaler Justin Garay.



RENA LAVERTY

BANNERS RISE; WHALERS FALL

Defending champs' late rally falls just short

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

On a near-perfect Saturday night for hockey at Compuware Arena — 70 degrees, full house, just enough air conditioning-generated breeze to sway the freshly hung Ontario Hockey League championship banners — the Plymouth Whalers nearly pulled off the perfect comeback.

After falling into a 5-1 abyss two minutes into the third period, the defending OHL titlists fought back to narrow their deficit to 5-4 — and create a man-advantage situation — before falling to Erie, 6-4, in Plymouth's season opener. The Otters evened their ledger at 1-1.

The outcome of the contest wasn't decided until the Otters' Justin Hodgman tallied a short-handed goal with 1:08 left.

With 3,613 vocal fans on hand to witness the pregame raising of the 2006-07 OHL championship banner to the Compuware Arena rafters, the stage was set for a memorable night for the hosts.

However, Luke Gazdic put a damper on the festivities 5:20 in when he lofted a rebound shot past Whaler net-minder Jeremy

Smith. The short-handed power-play goal came just over a minute after Plymouth's Chris Terry was whistled for goaltender interference when he barreled into Erie goalie (and ex-Whaler) Justin Garay on a net-charging rush.

The Whalers tied the game at 1-all three minutes later when Joe McCann knocked in his own rebound past a sprawling Garay, but it was their final goal until early in the third period.

In the meantime, the Otters built a 5-1 lead on goals from Hodgman, Anthony Peluso (two), Jordan Skellett and Detroit Red Wing draftee Zack Torquato.

Plymouth's improbable rally was ignited by Terry, who put a penalty shot top shelf past Garay with 15:55 left to make it 5-2.

Three minutes later, McCann tucked his second goal of the night into the back of the net to cut the Whalers' deficit to 5-3. Christian Stinegraber and Josh Bemis assisted on the goal.

Things really got interesting with 5:24 left when A.J. Jenks beat Garay from up close to make it 5-4.

Please see **WHALERS, C2**

Singles

Fall softball

It's not too late to join a fall softball league thanks to the Canton Sports Center's Adult Softball Fall Mini-League, which is sponsored by Diamonds Bar & Grill. The deadline to register for the abbreviated league is Sept. 30.

The adult softball offerings include: Men's D on Tuesdays; co-ed on Wednesdays; and Men's D on Thursdays. The season is tentatively scheduled to begin Oct. 2-4 and will last for 10 games with no play-offs. Teams typically play double-header games one night a week at the Canton Sports Center, which is located at 46555 W. Michigan Ave.

Space is limited to eight teams per league.

The fee is \$330 per team, plus an additional umpire charge of \$12 per game.

For more information, visit <http://csc.canton-mi.org> or contact the Canton Sports Center at (734) 483-5600.

Baseball camp

The Plymouth Wildcats baseball coaches will be conducting a fall-ball camp on Oct. 4-5, 11-12 (Thursdays and Fridays) from 4-6 p.m.

The camp is designed for baseball players who want to continue to improve their skills before the 2007 outdoor season concludes.

The cost for all four sessions is \$70, which includes a T-shirt for each camper.

For more information, contact Plymouth assistant varsity coach Beau Adams at adamsb@pcsc.k12.mi.us.

PCS girls hockey

The defending state champion Plymouth-Canton-Salem girls hockey team is looking for players for the upcoming season, which will begin soon with conditioning sessions.

For more information, contact head coach Eric Mink at emink12@yahoo.com.

Chiefs push Mustangs to brink before falling in 5

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

PREP VOLLEYBALL

The tension was so thick in the Northville High School gymnasium Monday night you could have cut it with an ace.

Playing in their WLAA Western Division opener, the Canton and Northville volleyball teams exchanged high-drama serves, digs, blocks and kills for over two-and-a-half hours before the Mustangs survived with a five-game triumph: 25-19, 24-26, 26-

24, 19-25, 16-14.

The Chiefs battled back from a 14-11 deficit in the decisive game five to knot the score at 14-all before Northville won it with a Megan Hofmeister kill followed by a Krysta Cicala ace.

The Mustangs improved to 12-9 overall and 1-0 in the division while Canton slipped to 11-7-1 and 0-1, respectively.

"I thought both teams started out

kind of slow, but we both picked it up and played to our level after a while," said Canton coach Jen Barnes. "We found some stuff that worked, but sometimes we'd go back and resort to the old stuff that wasn't working. We need to eliminate those errors and play more consistently, especially during the pressure points at the end."

Northville coach Laura Lesko said her team's amped-up level of play couldn't have come at a better time.

"We've been struggling a little, so it was nice to see the girls keep it togeth-

er toward the end of the match," said Lesko, who is in her first year as the Mustangs' head coach. "Our blockers really stepped up and made some big plays in the fifth game."

"Canton had some powerful hitters, which I expected. Our girls did a good job of covering so that they couldn't block it straight down. I was very impressed with how well we covered tonight."

The Chiefs were paced by senior mid-

Please see **VOLLEYBALL, C2**

Rollin' right along

Canton Agape soccer team wins 11 of 12 matches

See how PCEP teams fared on Page C2.

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

The Canton Agape Christian boys soccer team's unranked status in Division 4 won't last too much longer if the Wolverines continue their spirited play.

Agape improved its record to 11-1 overall and 6-0 in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference's Red Division with a pair of victories earlier this week: 7-0 over Westland Huron Valley Lutheran on

Tuesday, 24 hours after upending cross-town rival Plymouth Christian Academy, 1-0.

"Tuesday's win was a fun game and a lot of kids got to try positions that they don't normally get to play," said Agape coach Dan DeWitt, whose once-beaten team has yet to draw the attention of the pollsters. "Monday's match with PCA was an even match. We were lucky enough to put one in the back of the net and get a big win."

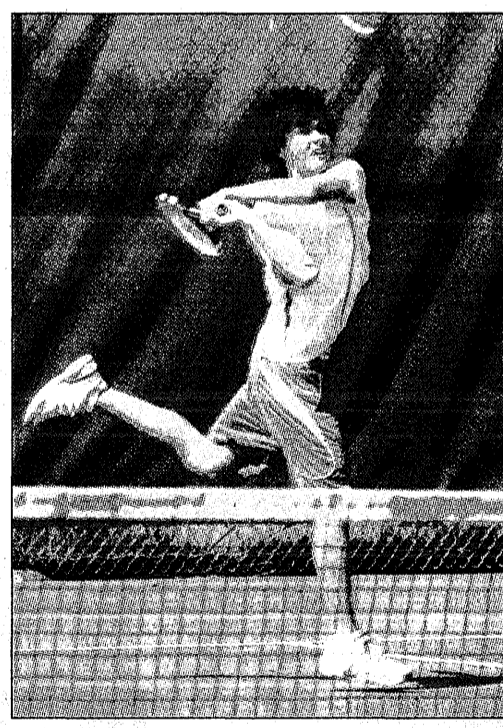
Seven different Wolverines scored in Tuesday's win: Daniel Mullett, Brandon Pierson,

Daniel Walker, Billy Martin, Donald Mullett, Robbie Knight and Kevin Reith. Mark Mullett didn't net a goal, but he did contribute two assists.

Joel Ruffin knocked away nine HVL shots in the first half before getting relieved by Walker, who turned away four shots in the second half.

Agape led 5-0 at the half. Monday's lone goal was scored by Ty Majeski off an assist from Donald Mullett. Ruffin earned the shutout, stopping five Eagle shots.

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DEBORAH EDWARDS-ONORO

'Cats on the prowl

Plymouth's No. 1 singles player Dan Jeong has played a key role in the Wildcats' outstanding 2007 season. Jeong won his flight to help lead the 'Cats to the championship in Saturday's Don Zielinski Memorial Tournament in Dearborn Heights. For more on the tourney, see story on page C2.

For more information, contact head coach Eric Mink at emink12@yahoo.com.

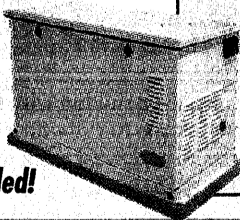
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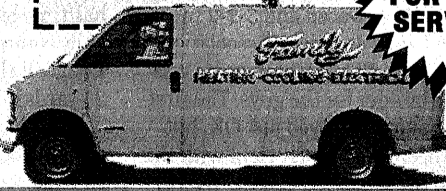
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There's a method to my 'Grid Picks' madness

Let me explain the method to my "grid picks" madness. Boy, did I take it in the gut for recently picking Garden City and Redford Union to win games two weeks ago against Mega Conference dynamos Highland Park and Dearborn Fordson. Even one of my colleagues, Livonia-Westland Sports Editor Brad Emons, couldn't resist chirping — in person and in print — about how ridiculous people said those picks were.



Tim Smith

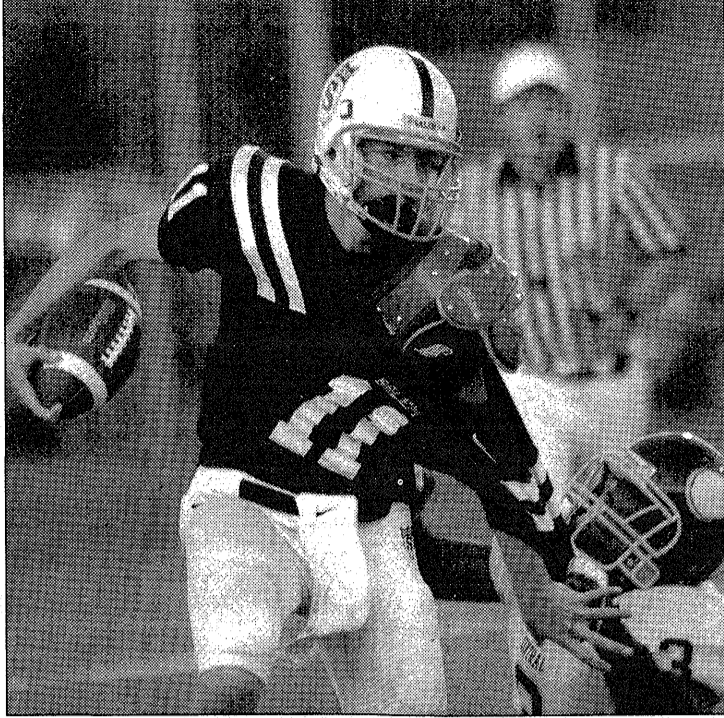
Apparently, the masses were ready with their white coats to come and get me. But to quote Jim Leyland, it is what it is. Yeah, I messed up with those picks, as both the Cougars and Panthers (two teams I cover as Redford-Garden City sports editor) were summarily trounced, tackled and torn to bits, 50-6 and 36-8, respectively. I dutifully swallowed my medicine.

By the way, I didn't follow up with a superior week, going 7-4 in Week 5 to drop in the Observer standings. Pass the medicine again, please.

But I have always had a soft spot for the underdog. My favorite Beatle is "dark horse" George Harrison. I like Canada and love hockey. Athletes who others give short shrift, generally ignored because they aren't the flavor of the week, are those I pull for to make it. And so I decided to fly in the face of conventional football wisdom and give Garden City and Redford Union a vote of confidence against teams a cut or more above.

That's because those programs do the best they can with they have, with whoever walks through their doors. Those are not school-of-choice destinations for hot-shot running backs and linebackers from outside district boundaries who are recruited by public high school coaches or booster groups. Garden City, RU and Redford Thurston simply are not in the business of turning prep athletics into an extension of pro and college, as seems to be the case elsewhere.

If that means they get pounded, so be it. If I get catcalls for making my picks, oh well. Sometimes



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem quarterback Heath Parling, pictured above trying to elude a tackle during last week's loss to Walled Lake Central, will lead the Rocks against Walled Lake Northern Saturday at 1 p.m. at the PCEP varsity football stadium.

sticking to principles is the right pick of the week for any sports writer.

Unfortunately, my principles have me looking up in the grid picks standings to Emons, entering this week's slate of games on a major roll. He went 11-0 last week to improve to 41-15 and take a commanding lead over Plymouth-Canton Sports Editor Ed Wright (9-2 last week) and yours truly, both tied at 36-20.

Now, here is a peek into the crystal ball for Week 6:

FRIDAY'S GAMES (ALL AT 7 P.M. UNLESS NOTED)
GARDEN CITY (1-4, 1-3) AT EDEL FORD (3-2, 2-2), 4 P.M.: I won't make a "sentimental" pick this week, however. The Cougars are struggling mightily and have managed just 26 points in five games. Their defense hasn't been holding up in recent weeks, and it will be tested by the steamrolling Thunderbirds' attack, which sparked a 44-18 triumph over Romulus last week. **PICKS:** Smith (Edsel Ford); Emons (Edsel Ford); Wright (Edsel Ford).
LIV. CLARENCEVILLE (0-5, 0-5) AT HAMTRAMCK (0-5, 0-4), 4:30 P.M.: If ever there was a chance for the Trojans to bust into the victory column, this is it. Clarenceville hung in there against Metro Conference co-leader Macomb Lutheran North last week, before losing 21-0 while the Cosmos were trounced 37-0 by Lutheran Westland. Hamtramck has managed just

12 points while giving up 200 this season. **PICKS:** Smith (Clarenceville); Emons (Clarenceville); Wright (Clarenceville).
LIV. STEVENSON (6-0, 3-0) AT LIV. CHURCHILL (5-0, 3-0): This has to be the Game of the Week in Observerland. Both WAAA teams enter this Lakes Division showdown looking to squeeze into the driver's seat. Both also are coming off lopsided victories and should be firing on all cylinders. It should be interesting who wins the battle of the trenches. Although the Spartans have scored more points this season than the Chargers, the home team is stingier overall on defense. This is almost too close to call. **PICKS:** Smith (Churchill); Emons (Stevenson); Wright (Stevenson).

CANTON (2-3, 1-2) AT LIV. FRANKLIN (2-3, 2-1): These WAAA-Western Division rivals will hook up in a game that features teams possibly headed in opposite directions. The 2006 Division 1 state semifinalist Chiefs lost a 24-23 heartbreaker to Walled Lake Western and must win out merely to qualify for the state playoffs. The Patriots defeated Plymouth last week, and would like to stay on the heels of the division-leading Warriors. **PICKS:** Smith (Canton); Emons (Franklin); Wright (Canton).
W.L. WESTERN (4-1, 3-0) AT WAYNE (3-2, 2-1): The Zebras will enter this WAAA-Western contest with some momentum following a 33-14 victory over winless Northville. But the first-place Warriors provide a much tougher test, as proven by last week's one-point triumph over Canton. **PICKS:** Smith (Western); Emons (Wayne); Wright (Western).
WESTLAND GLENN (2-3, 1-2) AT W.L. CENTRAL (2-3,

GRID PICKS

2): After losing Friday to unbeaten Livonia Churchill, all that lies ahead for the Rockets is a WAAA-Lakes matchup against a team that dismantled Plymouth Salem, 40-0. **PICKS:** Smith (Central); Emons (Central); Wright (Central).

TRENTON (2-3, 1-2) AT REDFORD UNION (2-3, 1-2): Could the Trojans spoil homecoming night for the Panthers and their fans? It's possible, given that both of these Mega White squads have scored and allowed virtually the same number of points. This game could go either way, but the energy of Kraft Field could provide enough of an edge for outstanding RU senior half-back Yourye Wilson, who scored four TDs and rushed for 179 yards last week. **PICKS:** Smith (RU); Emons (RU); Wright (Trenton).

RED. THURSTON (1-4, 1-2) AT YPSILANTI (4-1, 3-0): Eagles head coach Bob Snell correctly said his team has a "brutal schedule" and any good feelings gained by Friday's 21-0 win over Garden City should get wiped out by the Mega Blue rival Braves, a team that has it figured out in all areas. **PICKS:** Smith (Ypsilanti); Emons (Ypsilanti); Wright (Ypsilanti).

NORTHVILLE (0-5, 0-5) AT PLYMOUTH (3-2, 1-2): The Wildcats can garner steam toward a playoff spot with a victory. As long as the home team doesn't get too complacent, that should happen against the Mustangs, still without a win. **PICKS:** Smith (Plymouth); Emons (Plymouth); Wright (Plymouth).

SATURDAY'S GAMES (ALL AT 1 P.M. UNLESS NOTED)

RED. COVENANT (4-1, 3-0) VS. SFLD. CHRISTIAN (2-3, 1-2) AT BIRMINGHAM GROVES, NOON: The Spartans, who sit atop the Southern Michigan Football Conference standings with Parkway Christian, will look to keep building momentum toward what could be their first-ever playoff spot. If the chemistry between Covenant quarterback Tony Harrison and wide receiver Anthony Davis (three TD catches last week) stays strong, it could be a long day for the Eagles. **PICKS:** Smith (Covenant); Emons (Covenant); Wright (Covenant).

CLAWSON (2-3, 2-1) AT LUTHERAN WESTLAND (3-2, 2-1): These Metro Conference teams are looking to build on Week 5 victories, with the Warriors coming off a 37-0 blitzing of Hamtramck while the Trojans defeated Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest. **PICKS:** Smith (Lutheran Westland); Emons (Clawson); Wright (Lutheran Westland).

W.L. NORTHERN (0-5, 0-5) AT SALEM (0-5, 0-3): There will be some smiling faces, guaranteed, as one of these struggling teams will finally get into the win column. The Rocks are looking to score their first point in WAAA-Lakes play. **PICKS:** Smith (Salem); Emons (Northern); Wright (Salem).

P-C Steelers rout Rockets

JUNIOR FOOTBALL REPORT

The Plymouth-Canton Steelers varsity football team continued its winning ways Sunday afternoon by doubling up Farmington, 39-18. Nick Tata, Jack Vida and John Randle paced the winners' offense while Lowell Wade, Alex Brown and Cameron Dillard helped contain the Rockets' offense from their defensive positions.

The Steelers' junior-varsity contingent defused the Rockets, 31-0, thanks to strong play on both sides of the ball. Michael Saccone led the offense with several key plays, including a 70-yard touchdown run. Brian Schmid and Thomas Jones displayed toughness on both sides of the ball while Justin Broughman led the defense with a pair of quarterback sacks.

The Steelers' freshmen earned a hard-fought 32-12 victory thanks in large part to strong blocking from Adam McKee, Joseph Paz and Christian Mayberry, whose down-field block sprang a TD. Zachary Davenport and Drake Wanshon sparked the defense, while Dakota Lynn grabbed an interception to stymie a late Rockets' drive.

The Steelers' junior freshmen continued their excellent play behind the tough offensive efforts of Andrew Estey, Matthew Lessel and Ben Kandah. Defensively, Joey Ahearn and Matthew Danis, who recovered a fumble, shined for the winners.

Lions roar

The Canton Lions varsity football team earned its third victory of the season Sunday by knocking off Westland, 18-0.

Marcus Houston opened the scoring for the winners with a 41-yard TD sprint. D.J. McMillan doubled the Lions lead to 12-0 when he caught a pass, broke three tackles and raced into the

end zone. Clay Behrman capped the scoring with a 2-yard TD run early in the third quarter. William Askew, Zach Smilo, Blake Owens and Matthew Harris helped the Lions earn their first shutout of the season.

The Lions' junior varsity squad trampled the Comets, 45-0, to run its record to 3-0. Malcolm Hollingsworth got things going when he returned the opening kickoff for a TD. The offensive line play of Luke Denzer, Daniel Tidwell, Pat Stropes, Scott Gring and Daniel Jipping opened holes for Jamari Eiland (two TD's), Nathan Emminger (two) Kyle Durham and Kenneth Arnold. Defensively, Collin Hall, Tyler Searls, Westen Price, Nathan Emminger and Arnold excelled for the Lions.

The Lions freshmen ran their record to 3-0 by extinguishing the Comets, 26-6. The Lions led 19-0 after one quarter thanks to strong running from Antonio Dumas and Cordell Gibson, both of whom found the end zone. Strong blocking was provided by Alex Petrarca, Eric Daniels and Daniel Paulot while the defensive surge was led by Ty Jasman, Jakob Wickens, Daniel Kilgore, Allante' Wheeler and Luke Edwards.

The Lions' junior freshmen played in a high-scoring game against the Comets. The Lions' running game was fueled by strong blocking from Scotlar Chakarbarti, George Jablonski and Jack Underwood, who paved the way for excellent runs by Jason Arnold, Spencer Brown, Kyle Burnette and Ray Bunting. The defense outplayed a bigger Westland team led by Trevor LaPere and Devon Farmer, who forced a key fumble late in the game.

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THIS WEEK'S GAMES!
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Sunday, Sept. 30, 2007

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VOLVO HAS A 'HOT HATCH' IN NEW C30

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dale Buss

With high gasoline prices now firmly established as a fact of life, automakers are devoting more attention and resources to small cars. As a result, they're finally bringing some meaningful diversity to a category that was stuck in a bland homogeneity for many years.

Volvo's brand-new C30 sporty compact is in the very vanguard of this development. Aiming to appeal to young urbanites and compete with established lookers including the Volkswagen GTI and the Mini Cooper, Volvo has launched the C30 this year behind hot styling, peppy performance, and just enough amenities to make it a credible entry in the high-end small-car derby - what some wag has taken to calling the "hot hatch" segment.

Aiming the car mainly at the narrow streets and tight parking of the European market, Volvo also has graced the United States with the C30, a sporty hatchback that closely follows the design of a concept vehicle from a few years ago. Starting retail prices are around \$22,700, but fully loaded, C30 can set you back around \$30,000.

For that kind of lucre, you want something that impresses - and C30 delivers. Start with looks: C30 boasts a tongue-wagger of a design, both in the overall and in some intriguing details. Not known until lately for its design prowess, Volvo really has pulled out all the stops with the C30. Its dramatic wedge shape and short-clipped rear end suggests a vehicle back on its haunches, ready to rocket.

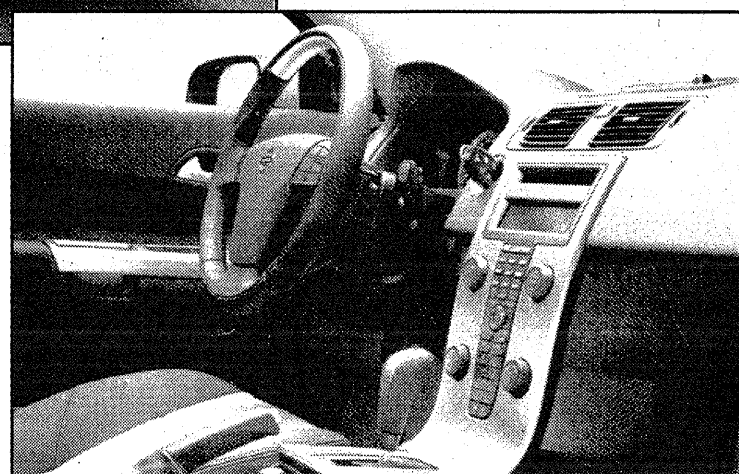
The chopped-off front grille is a blunt statement by this two-door coupe. So are the huge-looking 18-inch wheels on the Version 2.0 that I drove. Dramatic flares run along the bottom of the C30 from the front to the rear wheels. Parallel to them, the car's shoulders rise and its roof quickly descends to form smart-looking wedge shapes.

And yet, it isn't until you get to the rear end where Volvo really makes a design statement with the C30: The hatchback is nearly entirely comprised of a huge, squarish back window that extends well below where a traditional design would have it end, creating a dramatic effect. The chrome-tipped dual exhausts help as well.

In the case of the C30 I drove, Volvo also adds to the appeal with a dramatically fresh color scheme. The body color of the vehicle was an extremely light mossy green,



The hatch window of the Volvo C30 provides fantastic rear visibility.



Interior of the C30 features sensible climate control and a "waterfall" center console.

almost a bare tint of a hue, while the trim pieces along the bottom were a very deep mocha. Interesting combination with an esthetically pleasing result.

The only downside to this entire design picture is a strange pair of taillights, in which the brake-light strip extending vertically on the sides of the hatch - reminiscent of Volvo's design in other vehicles - are actually adjacent to the arc of the main taillights, producing weird effects. Of course, all of that is only annoying to the drivers behind you.

For the driver who's actually behind the seat of the C30, it's a big treat. Powered by a turbocharged, 2.5-liter five-cylinder engine, C30 generates 227 horsepower and 236 pound-feet of torque. As a result, toting around a vehicle this small, C30 is able to accomplish remarkable acceleration - about 6.5 seconds zero-to-60 - as well as determined quick moves whatever the driving demands.

Shifting up through the five-speed automatic I drove is extremely smooth as well. At an estimated 19 mpg in the city and 28 mpg on the highway, fuel economy is about where it must be to take advantage of the small dimensions of the car.

Inside, C30 is mostly a treat. The first thing you notice

is the extremely high visibility out the windshield, the front side windows and, especially, the huge hatch, all of which is a real treat. However, C30 displays the same blind-spot problems for the driver that are generic to many coupes. And if you're a rear passenger, the seats are so deep and the windows so shallow that the effect is a bit like sitting in a jail cell looking up at a scant chink of a space to the outside.

The interior design is sleek, highlighted by a signature, thin, "floating" or "waterfall" center console that Volvo first incorporated into the S40 and V50. Not only is the visual effect stunning, but there's a handy compartment behind the waterfall stack where you can stash keys, cell phones and other objects safely without having them clutter up the important space right next to the driver's seat.

And, of course, Volvo has used its uniquely sensible approach to climate controls in the C30 as in its other vehicles. An icon of a human shows you exactly where the air stream will be pointing, and all the necessary climate switches and dials are clustered within a few inches of each other.

And obviously, climate-switch design isn't the only thing that competitors could learn from the C30.

ADVERTISEMENT

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 2007 vehicles for about one-half of the original manufacturer's list price. And they're offering many other 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 2007 models.

How does 0% financing on a new model do in a heads-up comparison to a pre-owned 2007 model? In the instance of the Buick LaCrosse, financing \$21,960 plus tax vs. \$9995 plus tax, the payments on the new car at 0% interest would be \$392 monthly for 60 months, but only \$269 monthly at 5.9% 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 2007, 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 2007 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 2006 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 2007 vehicles. The low financing on new 2007'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 truckload after truckload from



Bargains abound in pre-owned 2007 program vehicles all with 100,000 mile warranty.

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 2007 program cars in Michigan with a 100,000 mile warranty.

The purpose of 0% financing is to clear out the remaining new 2007's. In another week or two, these vehicles will all be gone,

along with the incentives. In the meantime, the 2007 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 2001-2007 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.

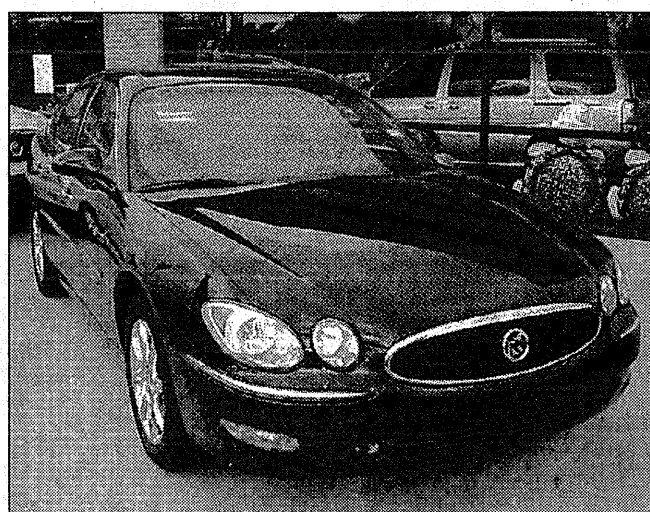
The standard features provide evidence that the Buick still remains just one step down from the Cadillac in GM's lineup. Dual (driver and passenger side) heat and air conditioning controls, six-

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 2007 Buick LaCrosse at John Rogin Buick in Livonia.

It's no wonder that John Rogin Buick-Livonia considers the pre-owned 2007 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 2007 LaCrosse from John Rogin for nearly half its original value of \$24,000 list price new. While they last.

© J.L. Sims - 2006

ACCENTS

Green Street Fair announced

PLYMOUTH — Next summer, metro Detroit will "go green" like never before. The Green Street Fair, presented by Whole Foods Market, will bring a host of eco-friendly foods, goods and services to downtown Plymouth May 3-4.

The fair is a joint venture between owners of Plymouth Art in the Park and Street Marketing in Northville.

Designed to educate people of all ages, and promote global interest and personal well-being, the fair will bring companies, artisans, entertainers, workshops and speakers together in a family-oriented outdoor environment. Highlights include The Whole Foods Market Village, exhibitor displays, film, live music, interactive displays, children's activity centers, fitness demonstrations, organic cuisine, a farmer's market, art installations and more.

Cities across the country, including Chicago and New York City, host annual green fairs, and now Green Street Fair will bring the concept to southeast Michigan.

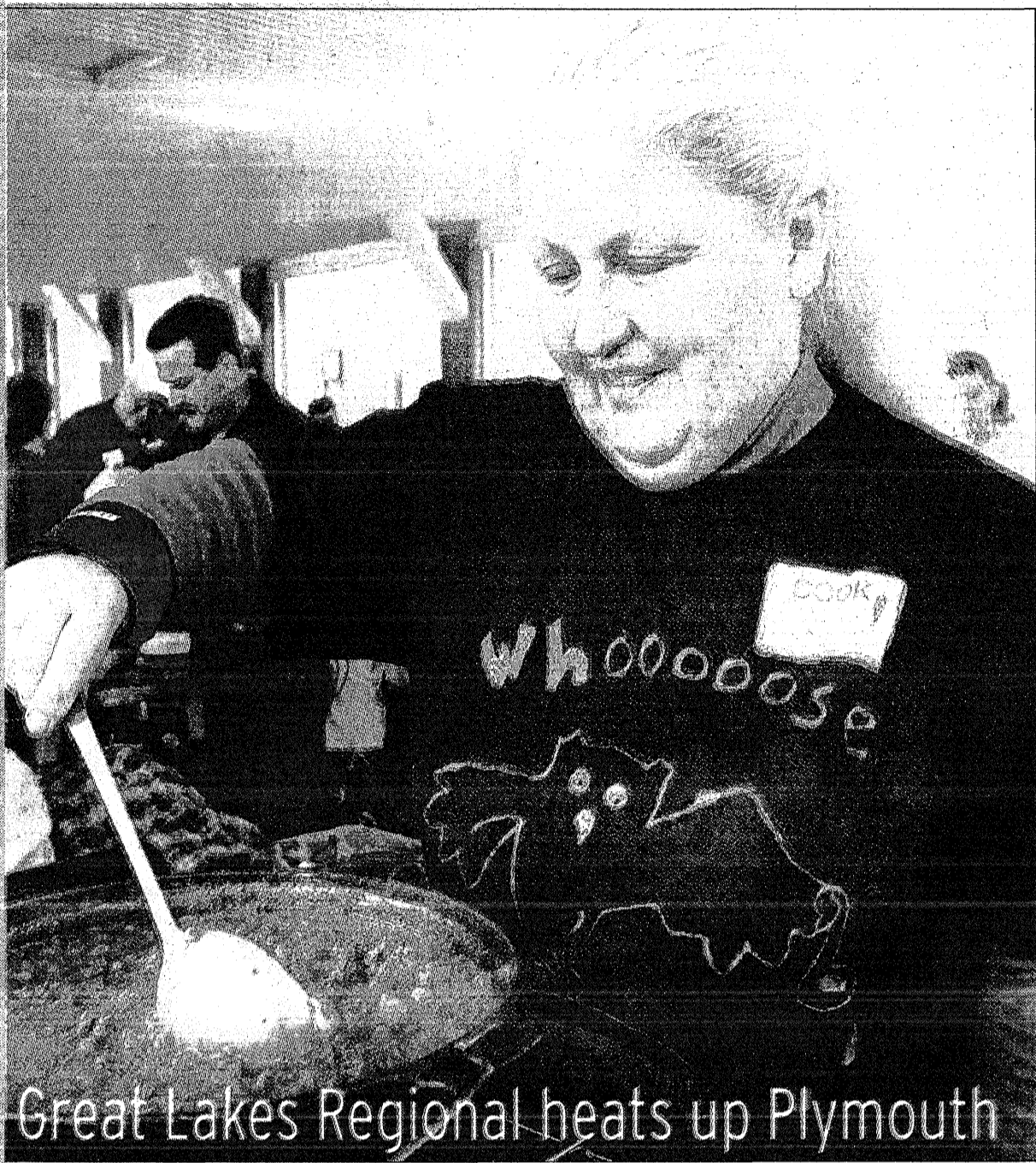
For Green Street Fair sponsorship opportunities, contact Terri O'Brien at (248) 347-4350 or terri@greenstreetfair.com. For information on becoming an exhibitor, contact Raychel Rork at (734) 259-2983 or raychel@greenstreetfair.com.



Janice Reichenbach (left) and Carol Woods, Meadow Brook Hall Garden Club members, price merchandise for Third Annual Colossal Indoor Garage Sale.

Indoor Garage Sale

ROCHESTER — The Meadow Brook Hall Garden Club will host its third annual Colossal Indoor Garage Sale in the 20,000-square-foot Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion on the campus of Oakland University Oct. 17-20. Bargains will include fine jewelry, collectibles, furniture, china, antiques, sporting goods, books, garden items and toys, as well as a bake sale of goodies made by garden club members. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the 15 gardens at Meadow Brook Hall. Those who would like to support the gardens by donating sale items (excluding clothing) may bring them to the Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Oct. 15-18. Hours for the sale are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Oct. 18-19; and 9 a.m.-noon Oct. 20. Admission is \$1. A preview sale with silent auction (\$10 admission) will be held 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 17. Call (248) 608-0485.



Great Lakes Regional heats up Plymouth

Sunday's forecast: Chili

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Chili cooks always think their chili is the best. Nothing beats a bowl of their concoction, a simmering stew of beef, chili spices and whatever sauce or broth they care to add.

So says Annette Horn, who organizes with husband Ken Horn the Great Lakes Regional Chili Cookoff in Plymouth, set for Sunday at Kellogg Park in Plymouth, along with a MotorCity Chili Ride and BMW Chili Ride, two motorcycle rides that end at the cookoff with a motorcycle bike show.

"We talk about the excitement of competing and in making the chili," Annette says about her conversations with her husband and other chili cooks about the competition. "(Chili competitors) make a pot every other weekend and have friends over to try it. You want to make chili that's going to win, and everybody thinks that they have a great pot of chili, and they tweak it a little bit."

"You enjoy competing and you like to show it off. Your heart beats a little faster and it's really exciting."

On Sunday, 60 cooks are expected to brown their favorite cuts of beef, then slowly simmer added chili

Please see **CHILI, D2**

JIM WELLER'S MACKTOWN CHILI

- 3 pounds tri-tip beef, cubed
- 1 1/4 ounces can beef broth
- 1 1/4 ounces can chicken broth
- 1 8 ounce can Hunt's tomato sauce
- 1 teaspoon tabasco sauce
- Water
- Spice Mix
- 8 tablespoons mild California chili powder
- 2 tablespoons hot California chili powder
- 3 tablespoons cumin
- 1 tablespoon garlic granules
- 1 tablespoon onion granules
- 1/2 tablespoon arrowroot

Brown meat. Drain and add to chili pot with broths and tomato sauce. Add 75 percent of spice mix, bring to boil and simmer for 2 hours. Add tabasco and remaining spices. Thin gravy with water, if necessary. Cook additional half hour or until meat is tender. Add salt to taste. This recipe makes approximately 3 quarts.

Jim Weller is the 2000 International Chili Society World Champion.

SOUTHERN CHILI GEORGIA STYLE

- 3 teaspoons Wesson oil
- 4 1/2 tablespoons California chili powder
- 4 tablespoons Gebhardt chili powder
- 1/2 tablespoons New Mexico hot chili powder
- 1/2 tablespoon chimayo
- 1/2 tablespoon pasilla
- 3/4 tablespoons cumin
- 1 tablespoon granulated garlic
- 4 teaspoons onion powder
- 1/2 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon tabasco
- 3 pounds beef chuck, cut in chunks
- 1 can beef broth
- 1 can chicken broth
- 1 8 ounce can Hunt's tomato sauce
- 1 can green chiles, chopped

Brown meat and add to chili pot along with chicken and beef broth, tomato sauce and green chiles. Add 7/8 of the spices. Cook for 2 hours. Add remaining spices. Cook an additional hour or until meat is tender. Add salt to taste. Serve with Nabisco original Premium Saltine crackers.

Georgia Weller is the 1996 ICS world champion. Recipes courtesy of the International Chili Society Web site at www.chilicookoff.com. For more recipes, visit www.chilicookoff.com.

Michigan-made gadget aims to improve your gas mileage

What if you could improve your fuel economy by 20 percent just by plopping a gadget on your dashboard?

That's the promise — or the potential, anyway — of the Digital Fuel Mizer (digitalfuelmizer.com).

Manufactured by GI Engineering Company of Grosse Ile, this little blue box could save you a bundle on gas.

Creator Dwayne Esterline devised the device after an EPA report revealed that drivers could achieve fuel savings of 20 percent or more just by changing their driving habits.

"After studying the situation, I decided that there would be a large market for a product that could help drivers to improve their fuel economy without substantial expense or modifying their vehicle," Esterline says. "In developing the technology, we looked for the largest contributors

to poor fuel economy, and the number-one contributor was harsh acceleration and braking. [That's how] the Digital Fuel Mizer was born."

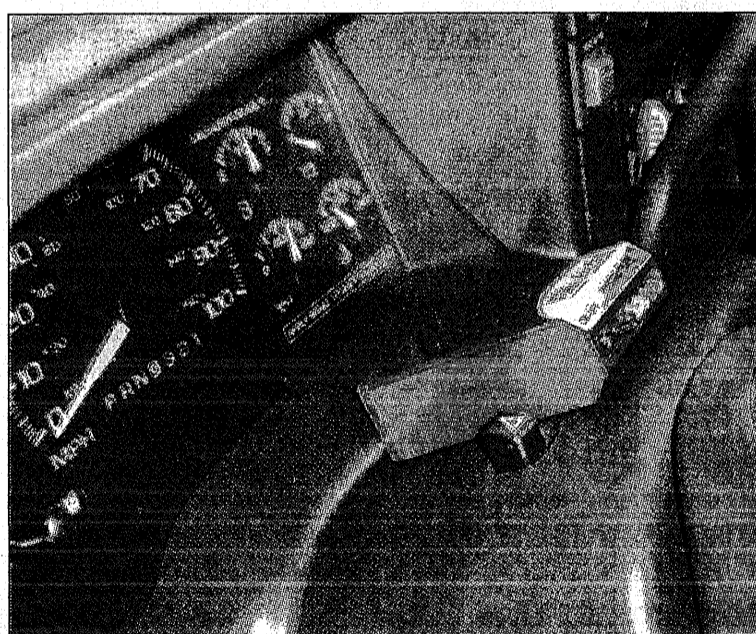
The DFM incorporates an accelerometer that's tied to a bank of LEDs on the front. When you accelerate or brake inefficiently, the LEDs light up and beep. The idea is to train you to accelerate more gradually and brake less frequently (meaning planning ahead so you can coast instead of brake).

The less the DFM flashes and beeps, the better your mileage should be. And better mileage, of course, means fewer trips to the pump.

I spent a few weeks with a DFM in the car. As much as I love the idea behind the product, I do have some quibbles with it.

For starters, it quickly gets annoying. There are times when you have no choice but to accelerate quickly (like when merging onto the freeway) or stomp the brakes (because traffic just came to sudden stand-

Please see **MIZER, D2**



The Digital Fuel Mizer alerts you when you accelerate or brake too harshly. If you can change your driving habits as a result, it might save you money.

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Some service calls should be free

I was fishing in Northern Canada a few weeks ago with a good friend from the States who has over 25 years of experience repairing major home appliances. While sitting one evening in an old cabin enjoying the supreme taste of freshly-caught fish, my friend looked at the refrigerator door and proclaimed, "wow, they even have these in Canada."

What he was referring to was a Frigidaire top mount refrigerator with a door gasket that didn't fully seal against the frame properly. He showed me how he has to repair the problem by adding a third bolt on the bottom door hinge and a shim in order to lift the door to its proper level. So from him to you — if you check the rubber door seal on the refrigerator door and it doesn't meet the frame all across the top of the door, you have a problem. Call your selling dealer and tell them you heard about it in this column.

This is the type of engineering performance at the factory level which never gets to be exposed. In all my years I

have never seen a lower door hinge on a modern refrigerator with only two bolts. They always have three bolts and in this particular case there was a hole already in the hinge to fit the third bolt. I believe somebody decided to try and save a penny, excluded the bolt in doing so and caused a field repair, which should be covered under warranty.

But is it? During the first year of ownership, your refrigerator is covered under the manufacturer's warranty so if you notice this problem it's a free repair. What about the person who doesn't discover this problem until after the first year warranty is over? Shouldn't that person be taken care of at no charge, after all the problem was caused at the factory and it was repaired at no cost for many other homeowners. Common sense dictates that should be the case, but don't expect a free repair to happen.

In the world of major home appliances, many things happen in production that are never told to the purchasing public. Service bulletins abound which describe what a service technician should do to solve a particular problem with a product. These don't come out in the form of a recall, or information that is given to a homeowner, but rather kept secret only for the eyes of some in the appliance repair industry. In the end, the public pays for

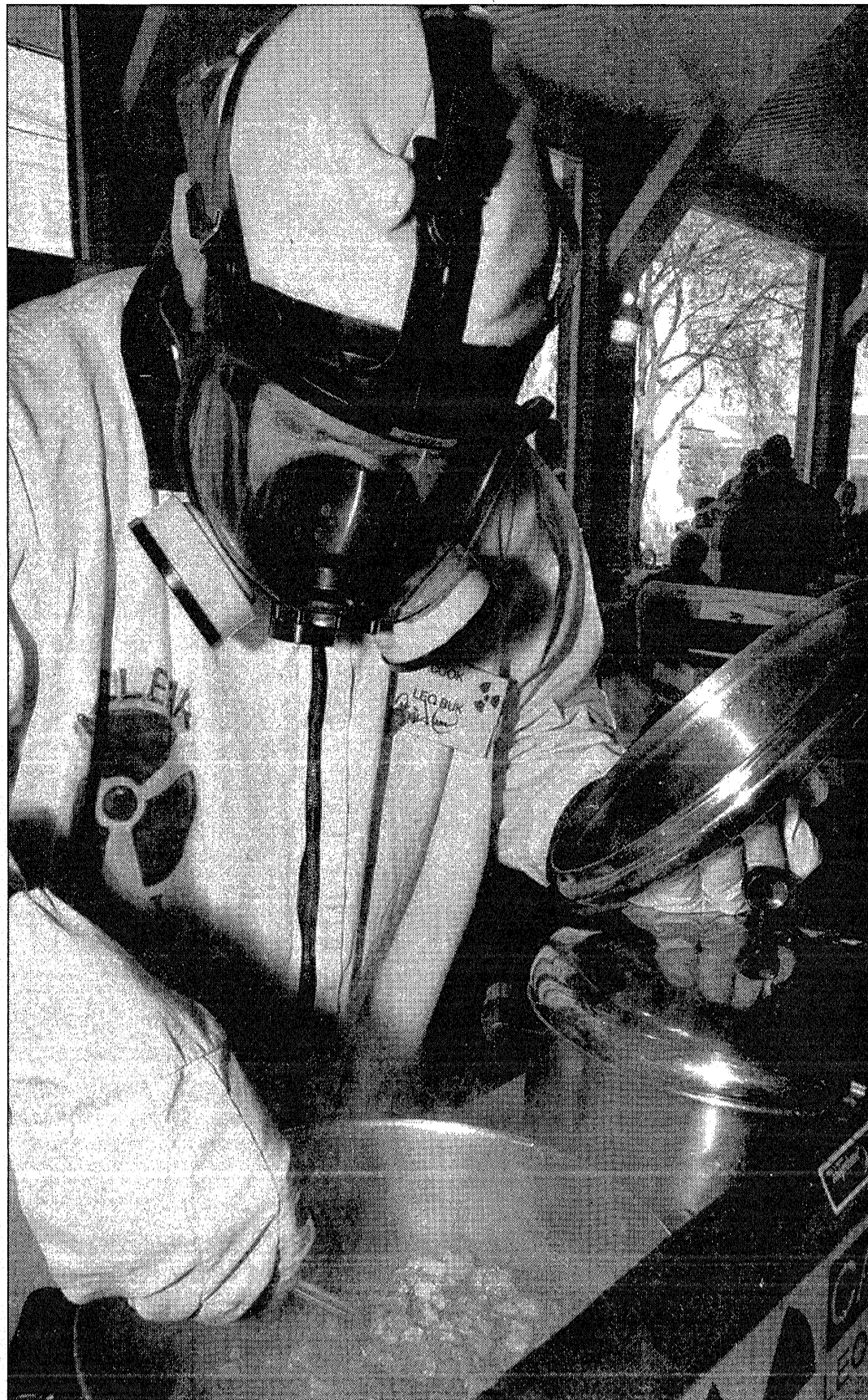
the mistakes created at the factory level.

This whole concept is wrong and unfair.

A gentleman wrote me recently about having to constantly replace a light bulb in his microwave oven. It is only six months old and even though it is under warranty the light bulbs are not covered and the manufacturer has been charging him \$15 for standard light bulbs. He discovered that the light bulbs he was receiving were the wrong voltage and that is why they failed prematurely. He went to the hardware store, purchased a light bulb for \$2.29, and the problem is solved.

There are many thousands of stories to tell about problems created by the manufacturers of major home appliances and there was a day and an era when the manufacturers paid for service calls of this caliber. Those days are gone. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard on Talk Radio WAAM 1600 at 8 a.m. Saturdays and on WDTW-AM 1310 at 6 a.m. Sundays. 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. Do you have a question about an appliance or a problem you have with an appliance? E-mail your question to mklemic@hometownlife.com and it will be forwarded to Joe Gagnon.



Leo Buk of Trenton is a regular at the Great Lakes Regional Chili Cookoff every year, creating his Nuclear Chili. Buk is expected to compete again this Sunday at Kellogg Park in Plymouth.

HOME CALENDAR

Get Treasures Appraised
Three professionals from the International Society of Appraisers will help residents discover how much family heirlooms, treasured antiques and collectibles are worth with a verbal appraisal of approximate value at the Second Annual Antiques & Collectibles Appraisal Fair 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 13. Bring jewelry (old & new), furniture, china, glassware, pottery, silver, dolls, toys, collectibles and memorabilia to Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, 24155 Griswold Rd., South Lyon. Entry fee, \$2 at the door; appraisal fee, \$6

per item/two items for \$10. Call (248) 437-8810.
Decor Seminar
Local author and realtor Kathi Jones-Cutler will host a Cashing in on Design seminar 2-4:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 13 at Century 21 Town & Country, 294 E. Brown St. in Birmingham. Jones-Cutler will offer tips on real estate and decorating. The seminar is free with purchase of her book, "Cashing in on Design" (\$19.95), which will be used as a guide. For information, call (313) 218-3956 or visit www.cashinginnondesign.com.
Update on Design

Steve Piersall, CEO of Huntington House, and Michael Kirby, director of merchandising for Huntington House, will visit Art Van Furniture locations to give an overview of how to update a single room or entire house. The seminars will take place at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 16 in the Novi store, and Wednesday, Oct. 17 in the Shelby Township store. Refreshments will be served at this complimentary event, and the Art Van's Kids Castle at each location will be open, offering a free supervised play area for children. Reservations are requested. Call (888) 619-2199.

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CHILI

FROM PAGE D1

spices with names ranging from Anaheim to New Mexico, habanero to serrano, jumping the Scoville scale with tsunami-like force.

OK, it's not quite THAT hot, but the chili bowls exude a pleasant burn that warms the palate in fall's early chill. (Since it is an official International Chili Society-sanctioned event, there are no beans allowed.)

And if the weather is hot that day, so what? It's still good stuff.

The competition also hosts salsa and green chili (chili verde) competitions. Chili and salsa samples will be available to the public after 1 p.m. for \$1 donation per sample.

Proceeds from the event will go to the Western Wayne Habitat for Humanity. Last year's event raised \$20,870 for the group.

Last year's winners (Chuck Hoff, Columbus, Ohio, red chili; James Richards, Whitmore Lake, green chili; and Julianna Schopper, Livonia, salsa) are expected to return to defend their titles. With victories in 2006, they are qualified to compete in this year's world competition the following weekend (Oct. 5-7) in Omaha. Whoever wins

this year's regional competition will advance to the 2008 national championship.

Many cooks will bring their whimsical booths to The Gathering, where the chili cooks compete. Leo Buk — complete with his Hazmat warnings and protective gear — will be in attendance, simulating his Nuclear Chili. Lauren and Gary Ray usually set up a booth of Old No. Seven Jack Daniels, and many other cooks set up with props of chili peppers, hot sauce and firefighting, all reflecting the heat or an occupation.

Of course, longtime competitors Jim and Georgia Weller, formerly of West Bloomfield, will be in attendance, fresh from a move to Illinois, Annette Horn said. Jim won the World Championship in 2000, while Georgia won in 1996, one of only two couples who have won world championships.

Ken and Annette Horn will be competing in the world championship after Ken won for red chili and Annette for salsa at the Snowflake Regional in Jackson and Annette for green chili at another competition at a UAW hall.

Restaurants will be competing too for People's Choice and Best Judged chili.

Last year's event was won by Omelet and Waffle Cafe (people's choice) and Station 885 (best judged chili). Other

restaurants in Plymouth competing this year include Compari's on the Park, Sean O'Callaghan's, Doyle Tavern, E.G.Nick's, Boulder's, The Penn Grill, 1999 Tavern, Hilton Garden Inn's Great American Restaurant, Don's Drive-In (Novi), and Rocky's Rotisserie, which just opened in Livonia.

Restaurant samples will be available 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Penniman Avenue in Kellogg Park. Bowls will be available for a \$4 donation, while 2-ounce samples will be available for \$1.

But it isn't all about chili, either. Motorcyclists can ride in either the Chili Ride at MotorCity Harley-Davidson in Farmington Hills, or a ride from the BMW dealership on Ford Road in Canton for BMW bikers. The motorcycle bike show is scheduled from noon-4 p.m.

Dog owners can dress up their dogs in a "hottest dog in the coolest city" contest at 2 p.m. at the park's fountain in "hot & spicy" and "biker" categories.

But the highlight of the day is who really makes the best chili. And someone will advance to the 2008 national championship, all in a friendly competition.

"The cooks really like this event," Annette Horn said. "It's really a fun event."

kabramc2@hometownlife.com

MIZER

FROM PAGE D1

still). The DFM doesn't discriminate: It beeps and flashes regardless of the situation.

I found it particularly difficult to placate the DFM when driving around town, where there's a lot of necessary starting and stopping. If a light turns red while I'm approaching it, hey, I gotta hit the brakes. Stop scolding me, DFM!

Indeed, it's the nagging nature of this device that will turn off most users. And I think that lead-footed drivers, the kind who are most likely to benefit from changing their driving habits, are the least likely to buy this product in the first place.

Consider the reaction of a friend I had in the car during my test period. When I explained the function of the curious-looking gizmo on my dash, he looked me square in the eye and said, "You've gotta be kidding."

This is not to say the Digital Fuel Mizer is without value. Quite the opposite: Anyone serious about saving money (and/or helping out the environment) will probably find that

the device does indeed change their driving habits for the better.

And if a fleet manager can get his drivers to use and learn from the DFM, the annual savings could be substantial. There's nothing to install and no training required. You just stick it on the dashboard and flip the on/off switch.

Would the savings be substantial enough to justify the DFM's \$249 price tag? I'm not sure, but I suspect few everyday drivers will be willing to invest that kind of money when they could just as easily train themselves.

Don't stomp the gas pedal. Brake as gradually as you can. Keep your tires inflated to the recommended PSI. Replace your air filter regularly. Ask your boss if you can telecommute.

There, if you have trouble remembering all that, write it on a Post-It note and stick it on your dashboard. You'll save money on gas and forego all the annoying beeping.

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.

PURE ENTERTAINMENT!

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Entertainment

Casino Crazy

**'Spelling Bee' preview
Genesis at The Palace**

www.hometownlife.com

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GREAT REGIONAL LAKES

Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, September 30th, 2007

11:00 am - 6:00 pm

Entertainment...

- Red & Green Chili Cookoff
- Salsa Competition
- Restaurant Chili Challenge
- Harley-Davidson Bike Show
- Country Singer *Rissi Palmer*
- Dance Show
- Hottest Dog in the Coolest City
- Kids Activities

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For further information, contact: Annette Horn @ 734.776.9669



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

CHILI COOKOFF!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	
Chili Verde Light Stoves	10:30 am
Red Chili Light Stoves	12:00 pm
Chili Samples to public \$1.00 donation per sample	1:00 pm
Announcements/Awards	5:00 pm
<i>(Winner of the Great Lakes Regional advances to the 2008 World Championships)</i>	
Restaurant Chili Challenge 11:00 am - 5:00 pm	
VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE!	
(Bowls of Chili \$4.00 donation) (Samples \$1.00 donation)	
"Chili" Ride Arrival 11:45 am	
Motor Cycle Bike Show	12:00 noon - 4:00 pm
Bike Show Awards (Main & Ann Arbor Trl Stage)	4:45 pm
Live Bands	12:00 noon - 5:00 pm
Hottest Dog in the Coolest City	2:00 pm

Dance Show at Main and Ann Arbor Trail	
- Tollgate Cloggers	12:15 noon - 1:15 pm
- Center State Dance Company	1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
- Children's Dance Theatre	2:45 pm - 3:45 pm
- Jimmy Barrios Salsa Dancers	4:00 pm - 4:45 pm

Children's Activities - Main St. & Penniman 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

BIKE SHOW... Noon - 4 pm

Rissi Palmer
4 pm - 5 pm

Featuring:
Yankeeville... 12 pm - 1:45 pm
Austin Scott... 2:15 pm - 3:45 pm

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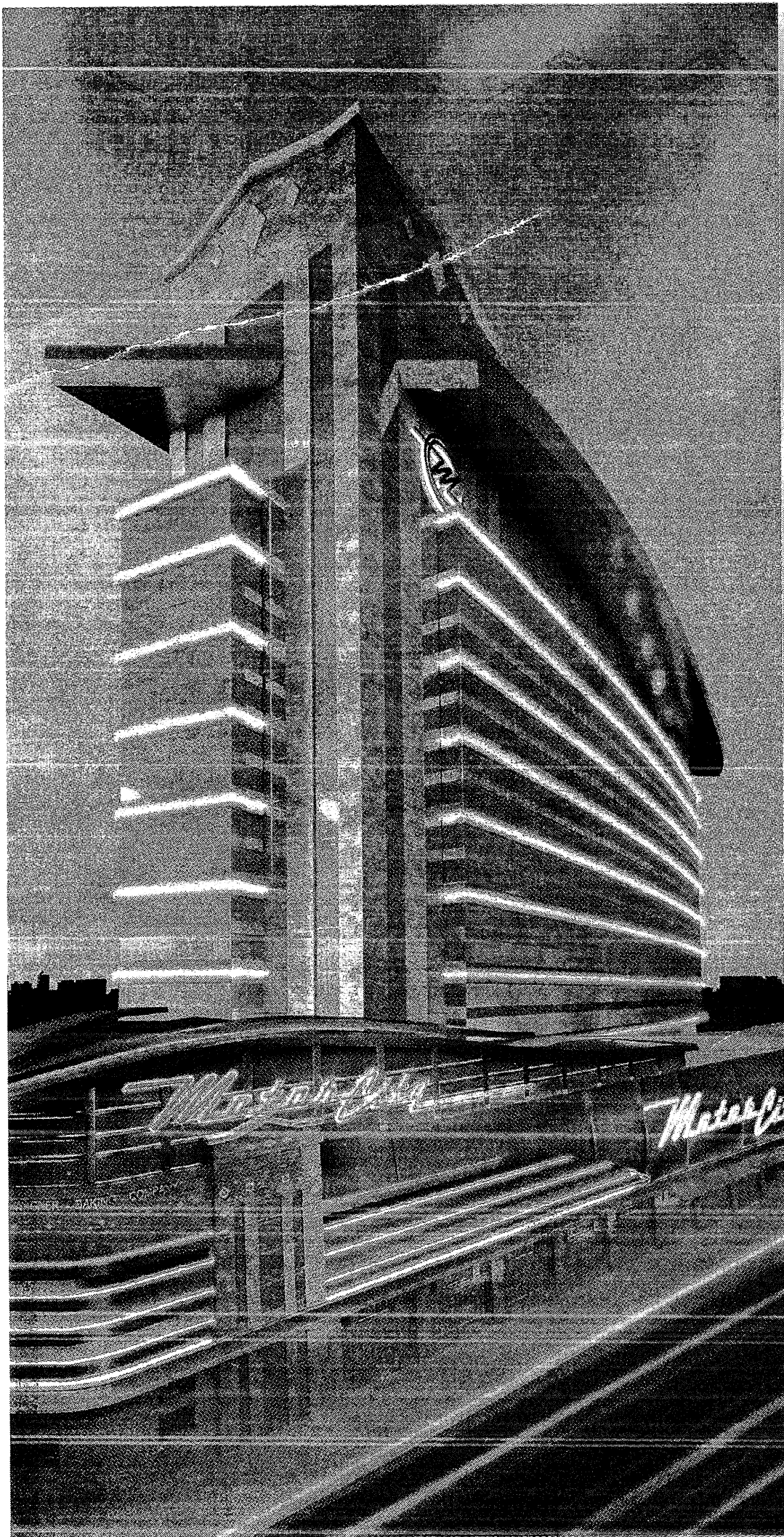
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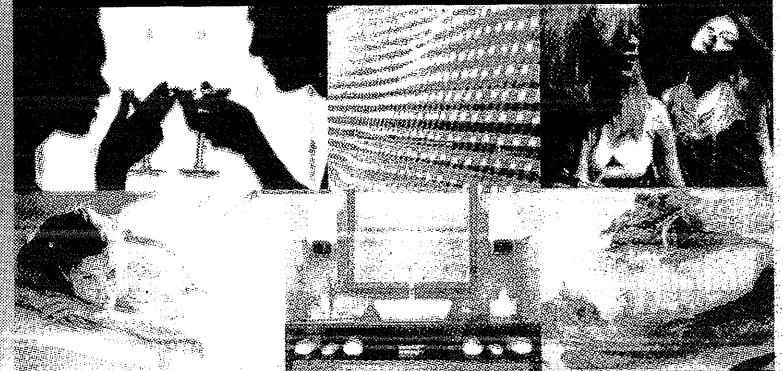
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Inside this week's

PURE ENTERTAINMENT
filter

HOMETOWNlife.com

GANNETT

COVER - 4

MGM Grand Detroit features a new hotel, spa, restaurants and convention area, and is expected to open on Tuesday.

LIVE - 5

"And Then There Were Three" again...the core members of Genesis (Phil Collins, Mike Rutherford and Tony Banks) return Sunday on the band's first tour in 15 years.



ON STAGE - 6

Dana Steingold, a West Bloomfield native, performs in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, opening at the Fisher Theatre Tuesday.

MUSIC - 8

Perpetual Groove takes the stage Sunday at the Magic Bag in Ferndale.

TABLE HOPPING - 10

MGM Grand Detroit features three restaurants owned by celebrity chefs Wolfgang Puck and Michael Mina.

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See what's happening in entertainment this week in the Detroit area.

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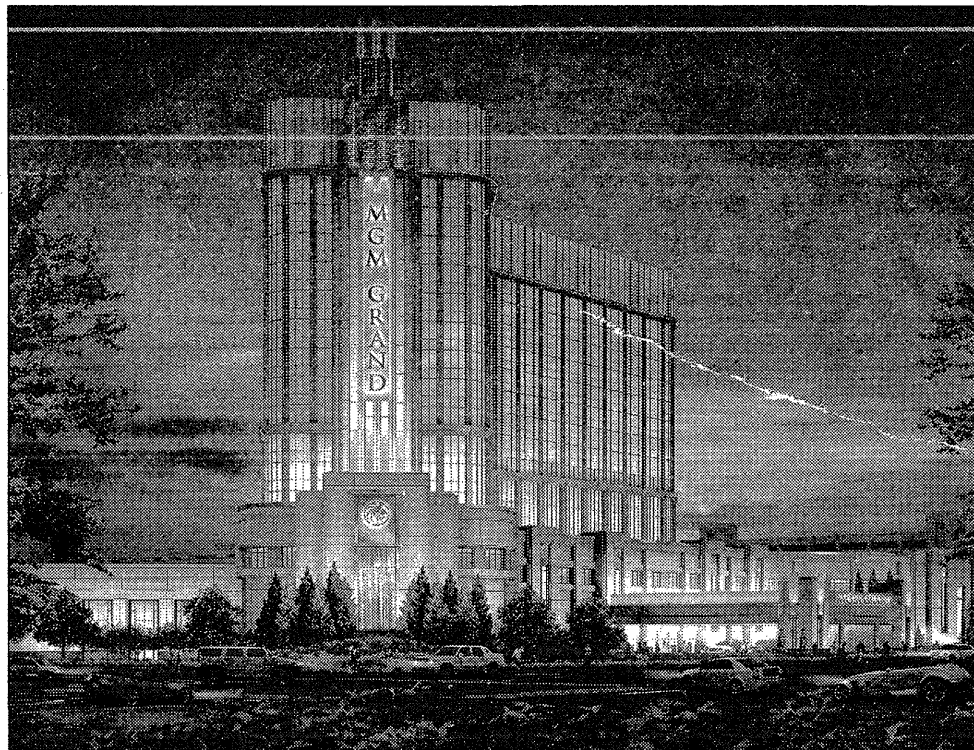
"Feast of Love" stars Morgan Freeman and opens Friday.

Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS

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Lana Mini Staff Writer
Stephanie Angelyn Casola Staff Writer
Marty Carry Advertising Director
Dan Dean Design Editor
Susan Rosiek Executive Editor
Peter Neill General Manager



Detroit casinos feature blackjack, slot machines and entertainment.



The new MGM Grand Detroit opens Oct. 3.

Grand Detroit

New MGM may raise Detroit entertainment to the big leagues

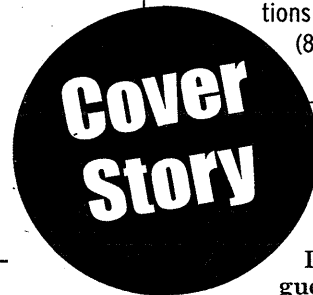
BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

MGM GRAND DETROIT

Opens: 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 3

What: New hotel, spa, restaurants, lounges and convention area.

Details: For more information about meeting spaces, call (877) 888-2121. For room reservations for Nov. 1 and later dates, call (888) 646-3387 or visit www.mgmgranddetroit.com.



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Laid-back yet highly stylized lounges all aimed to elevate the term "leisure and luxury" in Detroit.

On Wednesday, Oct. 3, the casino scene in Michigan changes as the doors to the new MGM Grand Detroit open to the public.

So, what does someone actually get in a \$3,000 per night room?

Luxury. For example, it includes a private kitchen where hotel chefs create private meals just for you.

"The opening will signal a new era for downtown Detroit with matchless amenities and accommodations never before available in the Midwest," said George Boyer, MGM Grand Detroit president and chief operating officer.

The MGM Grand Detroit will help put Detroit as an entertainment/gambling destination on the map, but the other

casinos in town aren't standing still, either.

The new MotorCity Casino Hotel is also scheduled to open in fall. Its hotel will include 400 guestrooms, 41 suites averaging 455 square feet; exclusive

Molton Brown bath amenities; marble bathrooms with separate soaking tub and shower; customized individual climate control based on guest history; plus several lounges with live music.

In November, Greektown's 10-story parking structure opens. And the gaming area expands this month.

Greektown's hotel and casino expansion opens in 2008 with 100,000 square feet of gaming space, an 1,100 seat live theatre, 400 rooms and two new restaurants.

And let's not forget Windsor. It will be renamed Caesars Windsor in 2008 with a \$400 million (Canadian) expansion with 400 rooms, a 5,000-seat entertainment center, new restaurants,

Please see **MGM, E18**

Michigan casinos

■ Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, 6800 E. Soaring Eagle Blvd, Mount Pleasant, (517) 775-5777, www.soraingeaglecasinocom

■ Turtle Creek Casino, 7741 M-72 East, Williamsburg, (231) 534-8888, www.casino2win.com

■ MotorCity Casino, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit, (313) 237-7711, www.motorcitycasinocom

■ Casino Windsor, 377 Riverside Drive East, Windsor, (519) 258-7878, www.casinowindsor.com

■ Greektown Casino, 555 E. Lafayette Blvd., Detroit, (313) 223-2999, www.greektowncasinocom

■ Bay Mills Resort & Casino, 11386 Lakeshore Dr., Brimley, (906) 248-3715, www.4baymills.com

■ Chip-In's Island Resort & Casino, PO Box 351, Harris, (906) 466-2941, www.chipncasino.com

■ Kewadin Casino-Christmas, N7761 Candy Cane Lane, Munising, (906) 387-5475, www.kewadin.com

■ Kewadin Casino-Manistique, U.S. 2 East, Rte. 1, Box 1533D, Manistique, (906) 341-5510, www.kewadin.com

■ Kewadin Casino Hotel-Sault Ste. Marie, 2186 Shunk Rd., Sault Ste. Marie, (906) 632-0503, www.kewadin.com

■ Kings Club Casino, 12140 W. Lakeshore Dr., Brimley, (906) 248-3700, www.4baymills.com

■ Kewadin Casino-St. Ignace, 3039 Mackinaw Trail, St. Ignace, (906) 643-7071, www.kewadin.com

■ Lac Vieux Desert Casino, N 5384 U.S. 45 North, Watersmeet, (906) 358-4226, www.lacvieuxdesert.com

■ Leelanau Sands Casino, 2521 N.W. Bayshore Drive, Sutton's

Please see **CASINOS, E9**

Genesis turns it on again

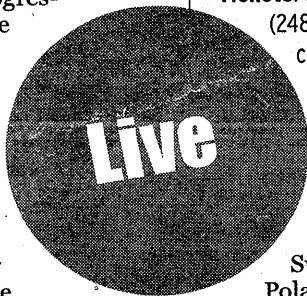
BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

If you're under 35, you may not know much about Genesis, the progressive rock/pop band that's one of the top 30 highest selling recording artists in history, selling more than 130 million albums.

No matter what your age is, you probably know frontman Phil Collins from his scores of solo hits. His solo song *In the Air Tonight* was parodied on *The Family Guy*. And his voice can be heard singing in popular Disney hits like *Tarzan*.

Genesis visits the Palace of Auburn Hills on Sunday, Sept. 28 with Collins, Tony Banks, Mike Rutherford and long-time sidemen, Chester Thompson (drums) and Daryl Stuermer (guitar), the first tour of Collins and Genesis in 15 years.

Peter Gabriel, frontman for Genesis in the early 1970s, hasn't rejoined. (Gabriel's solo song *In Your Eyes* was the one that John Cusack played to woo his girlfriend back in the romantic comedy *Say Anything*, and who can forget Gabriel's *Sledgehammer* video?). Guitarist Steve Hackett also did not return.



GENESIS

When: 8 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 30

Where: The Palace of Auburn Hills

Tickets: \$60-\$204. Call Ticketmaster at (248) 645-6666 or visit www.palacenet.com or any Ticketmaster box office or at the Palace.

The *Turn It On Again* tour was a mega-hit throughout Europe this summer with most dates sold out in Finland, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Poland, Germany, France, Holland, United Kingdom, Monte Carlo and Italy. Loyal fans here are paying ticket prices of \$204, \$103, \$80 and \$60.

The band's most popular songs are: *Misunderstanding*; *Turn it On Again*; *Man on the Corner*; *No Reply at All*; *Taking It All Too Hard* and *Tonight, Tonight, Tonight*.

The band is impressing audiences with its live, progressive/subdued ambiance created with elaborate light shows and large video screen showing photos of the band throughout its history. Don't expect a silly Collins playing around goofily on stage like he does in his solo videos.

Genesis is a British band that has enjoyed success spanning several decades,



Tony Banks, Phil Collins and Mike Rutherford reunite as Genesis with a stop at the Palace of Auburn Hills Sunday.

but it took several years for the band's music to gain popularity.

Banks, Rutherford, Gabriel and Anthony Phillips created Genesis in 1966 when they were teens. Collins joined the band as a drummer in 1970, eventually taking over the lead vocals on *A Trick of the Tail* in 1975, the first album without Gabriel.

Over the years, Genesis has been a band that seems to be either loved or hated.

Die-hards - mostly middle class, educated fans - loved the progressive sound, resembling King Crimson and Yes, and later a

new legion of fans enjoyed the pop sounds with many albums containing shorter songs geared more toward Top 40 radio.

Former and current band members say they are all still friends. Gabriel isn't touring because he is still working on a current solo project. Hackett wishes the band well on his Web site.

The last studio album with Collins was in 1991 with *We Can't Dance*. Collins was replaced with singer Ray Wilson several years later.

The group wasn't as successful and broke up in 1997.

Filtered Top Five: The Pipettes

The latest wave of British exports, polka-dot clad beauties The Pipettes, already have the pop world aflutter thanks to their blend of polished songs that would make Phil Spector proud and The Supremes blush.

With their long-awaited North American full-length debut, cheekily titled *We Are The Pipettes*, the band harnesses sugar sweet swagger in songs like *Your Kisses Are Wasted on Me* and dares you not to dance to the gleaming *Pull Shapes*. Get on the bad girl's good side with *Judy*. It's all wrapped in a strikingly fashionable package as RiotBecki, Rosay and Gwenno are backed by their band The Cassettes. The Pipettes revamps the girl group ideal, giving a careful wink to 60s-style.

One third the pop princess trio, Gwenno, paused from all the pre-tour fervor just long enough to share these top faves with FILTER:



Rosay, RiotBecki and Gwenno are embarking on their first North American tour, and heading to Detroit Oct. 3.

RECORDS

1. *Best Of Claude Debussy* by Claude Debussy

"I knew Clair De Lune and wanted to hear more so I thought this would be a good place to start."

2. *Kala* by M.I.A

"I love her influences and how she's channelled them all into song, I really love Jimmy and the vid is great!"

Please see **TOP FIVE, E13**

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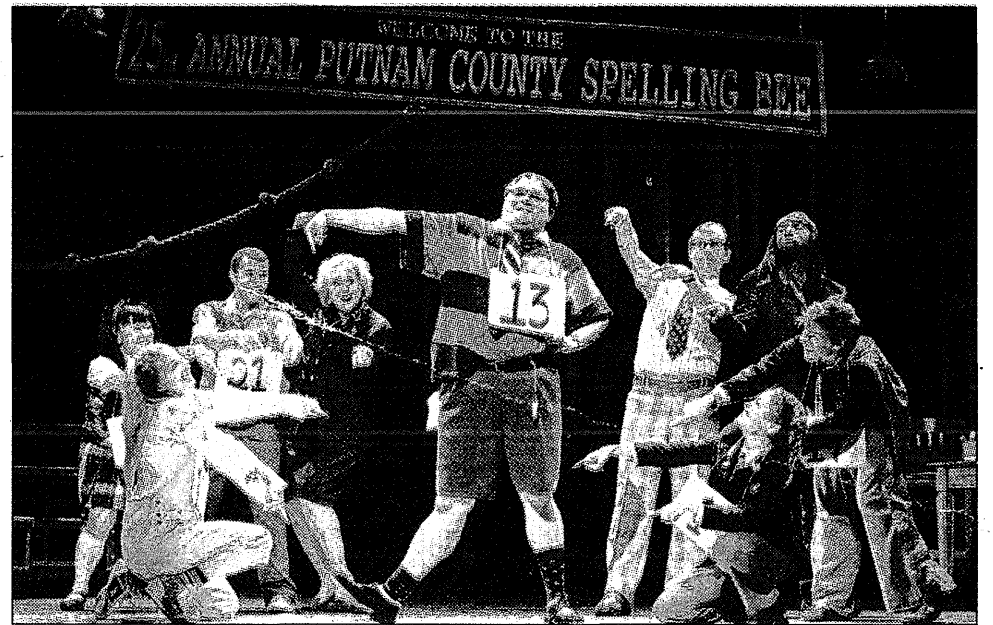
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JOAN MARCUS

The touring cast of Broadway's hit musical "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," is heading to Detroit's Fisher Theatre.

New musical sure to spell success

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

West Bloomfield-bred actress Dana Steingold only needed a taste of the stage lights to convince her that the theater was exactly where she wanted to be. Now a New Yorker, she returns in October

with the adult cast of the Broadway hit musical *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

"I was a very energetic kid," the actress said in a phone interview Sept. 20. "I always knew all the words to everything. I would watch a movie one time and know all the words. I was always singing and entertaining people."

On her sixth birthday she attended a casting call for community theater production of *The King and I* and she got the part. To this day she remembers how it felt to hear the audience clapping for her during the curtain call. "I was hooked," she said. "From there on, I never really stopped."

Steingold performed in community theater while growing up in metro Detroit. She attended Abbott Middle School, West Bloomfield High School and was accepted to New York University. "I really wanted to be in the city," she said.

Earning her bachelor's degree in musical theater at NYU last May, she auditioned for the touring cast of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* right away - and got a part. "It was one of my first audi-

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

When: Showtimes are 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday matinees; and 7:30 p.m. Sunday from Oct. 2-21.

Where: Fisher Theater, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit

Tickets: From \$25-\$70, call (248) 645-6666 or visit www.BroadwayInDetroit.com.

Spellers: Each night four spellers will be chosen from the crowd to join the competition. Volunteers are sought about an hour prior to the show and interviewed before joining the cast on stage.

More information: Call (313) 872-1000.

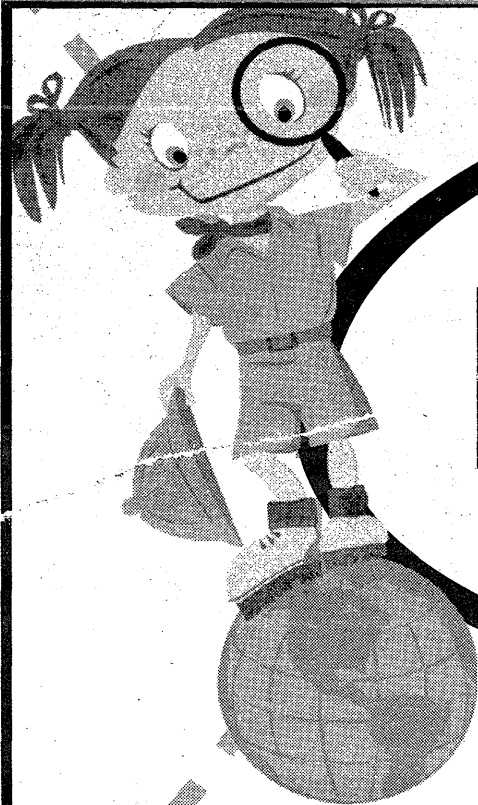
tions," she said.

Steingold was familiar with the show, and had seen it on Broadway. "I watched it and I thought, 'I could do that,'" she said.

Her character, the almost-unpronounceable Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre, is a 10-year-old politically-charged powerhouse who's out to win the bee. It's a challenging part, and the youngest competitor in the bee. Steingold called Logainne "fiery and intense," but described herself as more of a "quiet competitor."

"She's under a lot of pressure from her parents and she's out to prove herself that she's worthy of winning," said Steingold. "She's a very political child, very demo-

Please see **SPELLING, E14**



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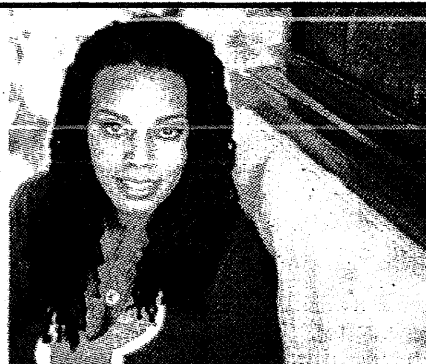
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Perpetual groove plays in Ferndale.


129th UMS Season 2007/2008 ANN ARBOR

Second Visit to the Empress Shen Wei Dance Arts

Shen Wei artistic director
FRI, SEP 28 | 8 PM
SAT, SEP 29 | 8 PM
SUN, SEP 30 | 4 PM
Power Center

Chinese choreographer Shen Wei's unmatched style threads together the traditions of Chinese opera with contemporary approaches to both dance and visual art in this stunning, iconoclastic 75-minute dance-theater work that tells of a power struggle in the 16th century after the death of Emperor Muzong.

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Funded in part by the **Wallace Endowment Fund**, the **National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts**, and the **Performing Arts Fund**.

Media Partners **Michigan Radio**, **Between the Lines** and **Metro Times**.

Beethoven Sonata Project Concerts 1 & 2

András Schiff piano
WED, OCT 3 | 8 PM
FRI, OCT 5 | 8 PM
Rackham Auditorium

The outstanding Hungarian pianist András Schiff launches a two-year, eight-concert cycle during which he will perform all 32 Beethoven piano sonatas.

ALL-BEETHOVEN PROGRAM (WED 10/3)
Piano Sonata No. 1 in f minor, Op. 2, No. 1
Piano Sonata No. 2 in A Major, Op. 2, No. 2
Piano Sonata No. 3 in C Major, Op. 2, No. 3
Piano Sonata No. 4 in E-flat Major, Op. 7

ALL-BEETHOVEN PROGRAM (FRI 10/5)
Piano Sonata No. 5 in c minor, Op. 10, No. 1
Piano Sonata No. 6 in F Major, Op. 10, No. 2
Piano Sonata No. 7 in D Major, Op. 10, No. 3
Piano Sonata No. 8 in c minor, Op. 13 ("Pathétique")

The Wednesday performance is supported by the **Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation in memory of Morris D. Baker**.

The Friday performance is supported by an anonymous donor.

Media Partners **WGTE 91.3 FM** and **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers**.

Filarmonica della Scala

Riccardo Chailly conducto
Ben Heppner tenor
SAT, OCT 6 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

Founded in 1982 by Claudio Abbado, the La Scala Philharmonic spends most of its time as the orchestra for Italy's most famous opera house. UMS is delighted to present the first concert on its inaugural US tour with the great dramatic tenor Ben Heppner.

PROGRAM
Wagner Prelude to Act III from *Lohengrin*
Wagner Wesendonk Lieder
Wagner Scene from *Die Walküre*
"Siegmond, heiß ich und Siegmund bin ich!"

Respighi Fountains of Rome
Respighi Pines of Rome

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Hosted by **Linda and Maurice Binkow Philanthropic Fund**.

Media Partners **WGTE 91.3 FM** and **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers**.

Krystian Zimerman

piano
FRI, OCT 12 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

"Zimerman's approach to playing the piano has greatness written all over it. It has intensity, majesty, intimacy, daring, and simplicity, and above all insight." (*The Times*, London) Program to be announced.

A *Prelude Dinner* precedes this performance.

Supported by **Donald L. Morelock**.

Media Partners **WGTE 91.3 FM**, **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers**, and **WRCJ 90.9 FM**.

Dianne Reeves with special guest

Romero Lubambo guitar
Billy Childs piano
Reuben Rogers bass
Greg Hutchinson drums
SAT, OCT 13 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

"Her three-plus octaves, diva-like delivery, and intimate sense of song have long made [Dianne Reeves] one of the most compelling vocalists in jazz." (*The Seattle Times*) For this return appearance, Reeves and her trio are joined by the great Brazilian guitarist, Romero Lubambo.

Media Partners **WEMU 89.1 FM**, **WDET 101.9 FM**, and **Michigan Chronicle/Front Page**.

Odalan Bali Çudamani

I Dewa Putu Berata artistic director
FRI, OCT 19 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

The Balinese music and dance ensemble Çudamani makes its UMS debut with a performance that captures the exhilarating splendor of the Balinese temple festival, featuring dazzling dancers, glittering costumes, and the shimmering polyrhythms of Bali.

Funded in part by the **Wallace Endowment Fund**.
Media Partner **Metro Times**.

Buy a ticket, plant a tree

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

If you buy a ticket to the Perpetual Groove show from the band's Web site, the band will plant a tree in your honor.

The rock band that recently released its eco-friendly album *LiveLoveDie* is on tour and coming to the Magic Bag on Sunday, Sept. 30.

The Serious Business Tour is powered by Green Mountain Energy - a group that works to make driving less harmful to the Earth.

The band says they are trying to offset emissions of the tour with renewable energy credits through a partnership with Sustainable Waves and Eco-Tunes.

Perpetual Groove describes its music is a mix of jazz-rock, neo-psychedelia, R&B, trance electronica, progressive rock and anthemic arena rock.

LiveLoveDie was produced by Grammy winner Robert Hannon (Outkast - Speakerboxxx/The Love Below). Online fans are asked, through the band's own online ticketing service PGroove Netix, to donate \$2 for a "renewable energy credit to offset emissions created by traveling to and from the show." And for every ticket purchased through the Web site, one tree will be planted.

All of Perpetual Groove's printed promotional materials (posters, flyers, postcards, handbills, etc) are created using 30 percent PCW (Post Consumer Waste) materials and are printed with soy-based and vegetable inks. *LiveLoveDie* was also produced. Tickets are printed on hemp and flax recycled paper.

The band is Brock Butler (guitar, vocals), Adam Perry (bass), Matt McDonald (keyboards) and Albert Suttle (drums).



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Feel the thrill of playing the slots

dropped two quarters in the slot and hit 7/double-7/double7.

It wasn't a big hit, about \$125, I but wasn't going to walk away from it.



Greg Kowalski

"That's great," said the woman behind me. "You really hit it my boyfriend says I'm scaring you but you don't mind if I talk to you I like to talk to people we came here last week and weren't going to come today but it's my birthday so we decided to come after all..." said without periods or commas.

She sat down at the machine next to me. "Now, don't lose that back," she said.

I pointed to the digital counter, which was at 480. "I set a limit," I said. "I'll play till I hit 400 and if I don't hit again, I'll move on."

She said, "That's what I do." And much more. That was OK with me. People who

play the slots generally don't talk to each other. I liked her enthusiasm. We talked for a while, but when the counter did hit 400, I decided it was time for me and this machine to part company.

"Happy birthday," I told my neighbor. "Good luck," she said. I never did get her name or see her boyfriend. But she became part of my casino experience.

Despite the generally solitary nature of the game, you can meet fascinating people playing the slots. I've have seen blind people playing. I have met hucksters straight out of a Damon Runyon story as well as homeless people. Yes, they do ask you for money right in the casino.

I've been playing the slots off and on for several years. Sometimes I win. Sometimes I lose. I have never won enough to retire but I've never had to miss a mortgage payment.

Play the slots right, and they can be a lot of fun, especially if you win. But don't count on it. I'm told real gamblers avoid

the slots. There is no way to get an edge though skill, like you can with blackjack or poker. A drunken monkey has as much chance of winning as you. But I have found ways of getting the most fun out of playing.

I favor the quarter slots. They have a decent payout and you won't run through your money in a heartbeat. I do like the nickel slots, but they are dangerous. You have to bet a minimum of five nickels a line and on five lines to get any kind of decent payout. That's \$1.25 a pull. And remember, you're really betting quarters to win nickels. The most I ever won on a nickel machine is \$1,000. But they are loads of fun because almost all have bonus games that take playing to a different level where you are assured of winning at least something.

But I do avoid the 1 cent and 2 cent slots. They are very deceptive. You will end up betting \$1 to \$2 a pull on these machines that really just pay back pen-

nies. Stay away unless you have a little money and time to kill and don't care much about winning.

But whatever you play, make the slots part of the whole casino experience. Stop and watch the entertainment. Do some people watching. Watch some of the table games even if you don't play. And be realistic. Go expecting to win but prepared to lose. Never, ever play if you can't afford to lose. Set a loss limit and if you hit it, leave. That night will not be your night. But one will come along when you will get that thrill of hitting triple-red-7/triple-red-7/triple-red-7. Jackpot.

I guarantee you will never enjoy sitting and waiting more as you will while the payout people gather a stack of \$100 bills to bring to you.

Greg Kowalski favors Greektown casino for the biggest variety of slots. He can be reached at (248) 901-2570 or by e-mail at gkowalski@hometownlife.com.

Soaring Eagle brings in big names

Casinos are popular Michigan tourist destinations, and the Soaring Eagle is one of them.

Based in Mount Pleasant, Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort is popular as it's one of the few Michigan casinos that brings in big name acts. Queen Latifah and Loretta Lynn perform there next month.

Recently the casino announced new table games including Mini-Baccarat and Single Deck Blackjack. Pai Gow will be added shortly.

The casino has 4,300 slot machines, the third highest amount in the state. (The new MGM will have 4,500 and Four Winds in New Buffalo has 6,000).

Right now Eagle's big promotion offers players a chance to win \$1 million by swiping a Players Club card into any of the promotional kiosks.

With every swipe players get an "easy-pick" ticket that predicts the total score of five pro football games. If you match these totals, you could win anything from a \$5 food voucher to the \$1 million.

The resort, decorated in a woodland Native American motif, features more than \$2 million in artwork and is also home Sinnikaung, a steakhouse and Three Fires Grill, a malt shoppe.

Owned by the Chippewa tribe, the casino also has an arcade for kids plus a daycare center.

CASINOS

FROM PAGE E4

Bay, (231) 271-4104, www.casino2win.com

Little River Casino, 2700 Orchard Drive, Manistee, (231) 723-1535, www.littlerivercasino.com

■ Ojibwa Casino Resort-Baraga, 797 Michigan Ave, Baraga, (906) 353-6333, www.ojibwacasino.com

■ Ojibwa Casino- Marquette, 105 Acre Trail, Marquette, (906) 249-4200, www.ojibwacasino.com

■ Victories Casino & Hotel, 1966 U.S. 131 South, Petoskey, (231) 439-9100, www.victories-casino.com



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Chefs Puck, Mina open MGM restaurants

The chefs and owners of MGM Grand Detroit's new restaurants are recognized nationally, but the talented chefs working for them have local ties.

Wolfgang Puck Grille, Bourbon Steak, and Saltwater, the latter two owned by Michael Mina, are set to open Wednesday.

Executive Chef Marc Djozlija will lead the kitchen at Wolfgang Puck Grille and also will oversee the celebrity chef's 24-hour in-room dining program.

Executive Chef Don Yamauchi, who made his culinary mark in Detroit at Tribute in Farmington Hills, will make his anticipated debut within Mina's Bourbon Steak and Saltwater restaurants.

"With the addition of these remarkable culinary talents to MGM Grand Detroit, we are laying a foundation for what is sure to be the most celebrated cuisine in the region," said Rich Schneider, vice president of Food and Beverage at MGM Grand Detroit.

Puck stops here

Detroit native Djozlija began his more than 15-year career with the Wolfgang Puck Fine Dining Group at Spago Las Vegas, a restaurant credited with spark-

ing the fine dining and "celebrity chef" revolution in Las Vegas. Djozlija also played an integral role as executive chef in the opening of the group's first two bar and grill concepts (Wolfgang Puck Bar & Grill at MGM Grand in Las Vegas and Wolfgang Puck

American Grille at Borgata in Atlantic City), making him uniquely qualified to debut Puck's celebrated California-style cuisine to his hometown with Wolfgang Puck Grille.

"After leaving Detroit 17 years ago, I'm elated to return home and work alongside chef Puck to share his incredible culinary gift with Detroit for the first time," said Djozlija. "Creating inventive, superior cuisine is my passion; Wolfgang Puck Grille will deliver on these objectives with an extensive menu to entice all palates at a variety of price points."

Wolfgang Puck Grille will present a contemporary twist on the traditional "bar and grill" concept and will be Puck's first venue offering 24-hour dining (Friday and Saturday only). Guests will find Puck's signature dishes using fresh, seasonal and organic ingredients. Lunch, dinner and late-night menus will offer creative salads, sandwiches and paninis, pizzas from the wood-burning oven, pas-

tas, steaks and seafood.

The restaurant will offer a spectacular setting crafted by esteemed hospitality designer Tony Chi reminiscent of Detroit's bustling Motor City culture, Midwestern wheat fields and expansive skies. Wolfgang Puck Grille will accommodate up to 190 guests and will be open from 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, 24 hours on Friday and Saturday.

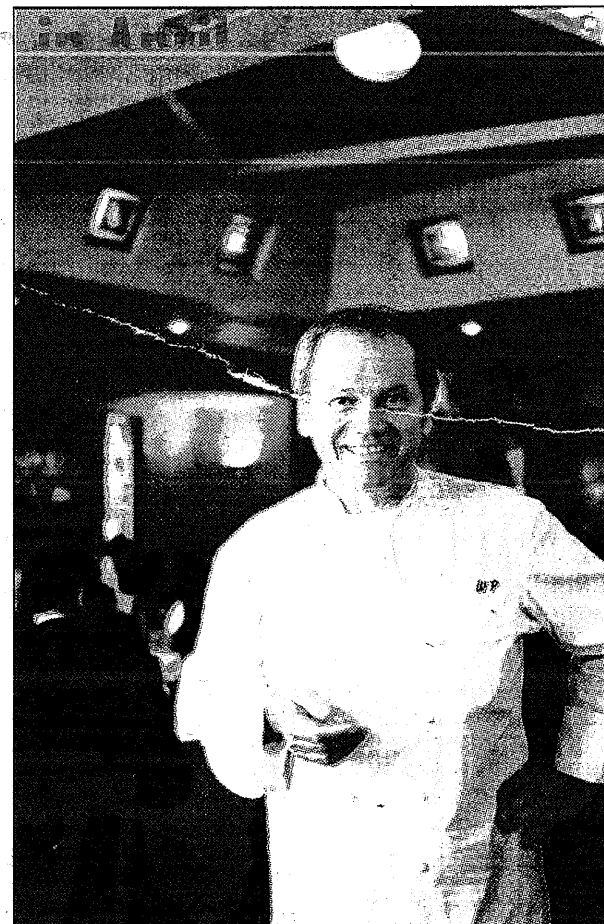
Chef causes sensation

Executive Chef Don Yamauchi will oversee the kitchens for both of Michael Mina's MGM Grand Detroit restaurants, Bourbon Steak and Saltwater.

A rising star chef, Yamauchi was named one of "America's Best New Chefs" by Food & Wine Magazine and also is a James Beard Foundation "Best Chef Midwest" nominee. Most recently, Yamauchi cultivated a culinary following as executive chef at Tribute in Farmington Hills. Yamauchi also has played an integral role in the success of some of the Midwest's finest restaurants, including Le Francais, and four-star restaurants Carlos and Gordon. Known for his intense attention to detail, Yamauchi strives for perfection in his cooking.

"With each new venture, creation and

Please see **RESTAURANTS, E11**



LISA ROMEREIN

Wolfgang Puck Grille, owned by the world famous chef seen here at one of his other restaurants, opens Wednesday at the MGM Grand Detroit.

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Here is an artist's rendering of Saltwater at MGM Grand Detroit.

Tapawingo to reopen in April

Before beginning his 25th year as chef/owner of Michigan's most celebrated "Up North" restaurant, Tapawingo in Ellsworth, Harlan "Pete" Peterson is taking time for a cold weather hiatus.

After leaf-peeping season, Peterson's time away will begin following dinner service, Saturday, Oct. 20 and pause until mid-April 2008.

Following the interval, Tapawingo will open with a new head toque, so that search is ongoing now.

"As he has in the past, my former partner and good friend Mickey Bakst (now restaurant director at Chef Bob Waggoner's Charleston Grill in Charleston, S.C.) is using his extensive restaurant connections to search for Tapawingo's new chef," Peterson said.

To broaden his horizons and test other culinary ports, Tapawingo's current executive chef Jeremy Kittelson has thought about leaving for some months. "He now has the opportunity to do this," Peterson added.

"Since this is the case, cooking classes at Tapawingo are also taking a hiatus."

And how will Peterson relax? "I've had continuing problems with my knees (an all too frequent chef's ailment)," Peterson noted. "I'm going to get this annoyance fixed once and for all.

Then, I'll be starting on my first, and I believe overdue, cookbook. I have friends and family in western states and I want to visit them once my knees are OK and I feel comfortable driving long distances again."

And if you've heard any rumors about Peterson and Tapawingo, such as he's sold the restaurant, he's quitting the restaurant business, etc., know that's all false. Tapawingo is an ongoing culinary legacy in Michigan and Peterson will have Tapawingo rebloom in 2008 with early spring flowers in its garden.

Tapawingo is located at 9502 Lake St., Ellsworth (231) 588-7971.

Eleanor Heald, Correspondent

RESTAURANTS

FROM PAGE E10

dish, I strive to create a remarkable experience for each guest. Every texture and flavor should be individually recognized within each bite before it flows into one incredible taste sensation," said Yamauchi.

Bourbon Steak, a classic steakhouse with a down-home feel, will deliver imaginative interpretations of traditional steakhouse favorites in a modern setting. Mina's unique kitchen design will include wood-burning grills to perfect his slow-poached all-natural Angus Beef, prime ribs, short ribs, short beef and short pork. Other Mina classics on the menu will include Duck Fat Fries, Spinach Soufflé and Truffle Mac & Cheese.

Bourbon Steak will seat approximately 200 guests

within its dining rooms, bar and lounge, and private dining area. It will open nightly at 5:30 p.m.; the lounge will open at 4 p.m.

Saltwater will serve up contemporary seafood and refined American cuisine in an elegant design that celebrates the richness of the sea. Saltwater will showcase Mina's classic dishes including Lobster Pot Pie, Caviar Parfait, Tartare of Ahi Tuna and Mussel Soufflé. Rich hues of blue, sparkling mosaic tiles, carved glass panels and romantic lighting will create an intimate dining room where guests are bathed in soft-focused light and surrounded by sumptuous fabrics.

Saltwater will seat 96 for dinner, 39 in the bar and lounge, and 22 in private dining rooms. It will open for dinner nightly at 5:30 p.m.; the lounge will open at 4 p.m.

Ken Abramczyk



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PURE PICKS: SEPT. 27-OCT. 1

27 Boy-girl harmonies straight from Auckland, New Zealand, The Brunettes perform tonight at The Shelter, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets \$10 for this all-ages show. Doors open early, at 6:30. Opener is Ferraby Lionheart. Call (248) 645-6666.



Jonathan Bree and Heather Mansfield are The Brunettes, twee pop from Auckland. See them Sept. 27 at The Shelter.

28 Running through Sunday, Sept. 30, St. John's Armenian Church of Southfield's Bazaar and Carnival, opens for its 76th year. It's a carnival of rides and midway outside an indoor food court with Armenian s, live music, dancing, arts and crafts and a fine art exhibit, at 22001 Northwestern Hwy., at the Southfield Freeway. Free admission, but carnival rides are \$15 per day. Bring canned food to benefit Forgotten Harvest.

29 Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra performs The Ring, 8 p.m. Sept. 29, a concert dedicated to Kyle Mills, French hornist with orchestra who died in plane crash in May, at Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor (734) 994-4801, www.a2so.com.

30 Taste of Clarkston: 30 restaurants, live music, kids zones, plus exhibitors in downtown Clarkston, noon-6 p.m. Sept. 30. Main Street is closed between Washington Street and Waldon Road.

Call (248) 625-8055 or visit www.clarkston.org.

1 A charity golf outing benefits University of Michigan Mott Child & Family Services, with guest speaker former University of Michigan and Detroit Lions football coach Gary Moeller, 10:30 a.m. registration, 11 a.m. barbecue lunch, noon golf, dinner and silent auction, tickets \$100-\$1,500, Meadowbrook Country Club, 40491 W. Eight Mile, Northville (248) 374-1100.

TOP FIVE

FROM PAGE E5

3. *In My Own Time* by Karen Dalton
"She has such a distinctive voice, very different from other female voices I've been listening to recently, which I really like."

4. *Morricone Aromatico* by Ennio Morricone
"I picked this up the other day, it's a collection of his music from various films."

5. *Amser* (single) by The Gentle Good
"A great, Welsh folk singer, he covers a lot of very old songs in his set, this is an original, and fits seamlessly alongside the traditional stuff he does, and shows that not only can cover folk songs but make new ones too."

Opt for pretty polka dots and hit up The Pipettes show, 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 3, the Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets \$12 for this all ages show, call (313) 833-9700 or visit www.majesticdetroit.com.

Compiled by Stephanie A. Casola

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SPELLING

FROM PAGE E6

cratic. She's very fun to play."

The drive to win is at the center of the *Spelling Bee* story. Steingold said the show deals with "winning and losing, what it means to lose and if losing makes you a loser." Because the characters are portraying adolescents, it becomes an emotional ride set during the day of the bee itself. "It brings together a bunch of quirky and lovable characters," Steingold added. "Everyone was one of these kids or went to school with one of them."

There's a girl whose parents all but ignore her, an athletic student, a home-

schooled student and a perfectionist in the bunch. *Spelling Bee* capitalizes on a media fascination with this very academic competition - one beautifully captured in the documentary *Spellbound*. Steingold said she thinks audiences are drawn to the adolescent time in life and that quest for a competitive edge to win - two aspects of the spelling bee tradition.

"No matter how great your childhood was, adolescence is rough and awkward," she said. "You're learning so much about yourself and everyone around you. Every day is the most important day of your life." Steingold said while she visits that world onstage each night, she's comforted to return to her adult life after the curtain closes.

"You really get emotionally involved," she said. "You believe (the actors are) 10-11-12 years old. It's touching."

Each night Steingold gets a chance to improvise a bit during a monologue where her character rants about current events. At the time of this interview, she was talking about Britney Spears' lackluster MTV Video Music Awards performance.

Other cast members also have a chance to improvise when dealing with the volunteer spelling bee participants, four of whom are chosen from the audience nightly. Sometimes such good spellers are picked, it interrupts the flow of the production and the moderators have to give out impossible words in order to move the plot along with the cast alone. Steingold

said it keeps the show fresh and new.

She's excited for her homecoming appearance at Detroit's Fisher Theatre and recalled seeing touring shows there when she was a young girl. "I was mesmerized by it," she said, adding that she hopes to inspire young actors and actresses just as she was inspired as a child. Friends, family and former teachers are all expected to be in the audience.

"It was a dream to leave school and walk into a job like this," she said. "It's a great start."

Spelling Bee is "not your typical musical" Steingold said, calling it a show that appeals to everyone. "I encourage people to come, bring their friends and family."

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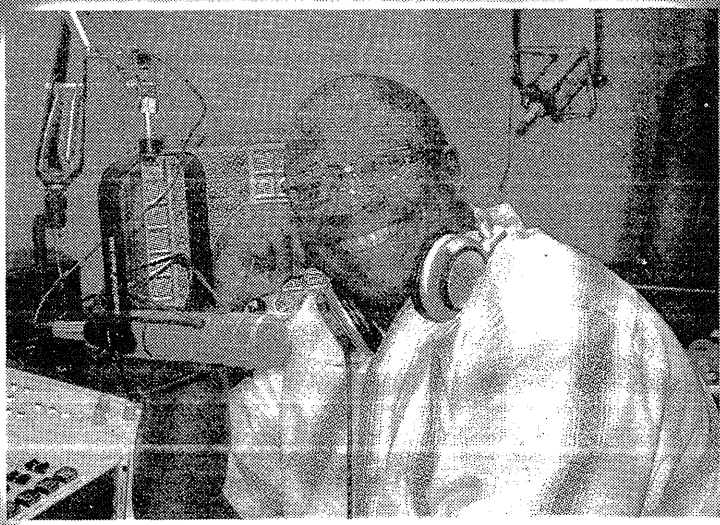
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THE
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Legendary director returns with 'Feast of Love'

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Director Robert Benton began his career as a writer, having penned scripts to legendary films from *Bonnie & Clyde* to *Superman*.

But as a director he was influenced early on by French New Wave founder Francois Truffaut, later taking cues from American master Howard Hawks.

Movies

It's no surprise then that Benton's easy going, straightforward directing style has won him accolades galore - most notably Best Picture for *Kramer vs. Kramer*.

During a recent press stop in Birmingham - promoting his latest film *Feast of Love* - Benton quoted Georgia O'Keefe's sentiment that if "painting is a management of color on a flat surface, movies are time management. It's that simple."

In the time allotted, he said, a screenwriter uses tools like point of view and voice to fill the time - and hopefully creates a good story.

Benton said *Feast of Love* truly belongs to his cast and to Charles Baxter, who penned the novel of the same name.

In theaters Sept. 28, *Feast of Love* weaves a story around the lives of five couples in a tightly-woven Portland community. It's an exploration of all kinds of love - romantic love, companionship, lust and parental love. "It's hot and heavy in the suburbs," said Benton, a Texas native. "I grew up in a small town, too."

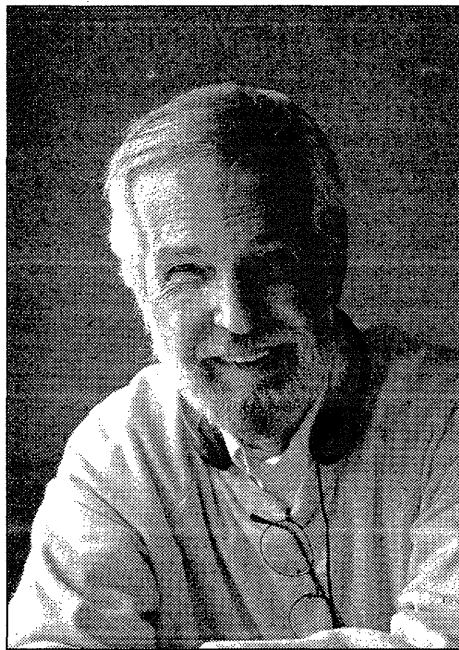
Benton read Baxter's book and saw it as "extremely cinematic." "It had that quality that *Kramer vs. Kramer*, *Places (In the Heart)* and *Nobody's Fool* had. It's about ordinary people ... It talks about love without talking about romance."

The film centers around this seemingly grounded man, played by the believable sage Morgan Freeman. Freeman had signed onto the project before Benton was involved, but the director noted that he possessed a morality and an ability to truly listen to his fellow actors, which made him a natural match for the part



PETER SOREL

Morgan Freeman stars as Harry Stevenson, a father figure to Alexa Davalos' Chloe in "Feast of Love," directed by Robert Benton.



Robert Benton is the director of the new romantic film "Feast of Love."

of Harry.

Because he's such a Hollywood heavyweight, Freeman was matched by actors like Jane Alexander and Greg Kinnear. But newcomer Alexa Davalos held her own onscreen beside Freeman, Benton said. In a wedding scene where Chloe reaches out to Harry in a daughter-parent gesture, the audience can't help but

focus on Davalos.

While Harry keeps his eyes wide open, observant of the life and loves around him, he proves to be a go-to friend to coffeeshop owner Bradley (Kinnear), a father figure to free spirit Chloe (Davalos) and her troubled love Oscar (Toby Hemingway), and a devoted husband to wife Esther (Alexander).

The movie opens with moonlight and then travels back 18 months to connect us with these characters. We find open, honest Bradley - quite a switch for the handsome rogues Kinnear usually plays - losing his wife to another woman. He's unlucky in love, to say the least. But there is hope. Chloe and Oscar meet at the coffee shop, a classic case of love at first sight - as long as intense Oscar's drunk and dangerous father stays out of the picture. Blonde bombshell Diana (Radha Mitchell) can't help but keep her steamy affair going with her otherwise very-married beau, David (Billy Burke).

Though Charles Baxter's book was set in Ann Arbor, cost concerns required the filming to take place elsewhere - in Portland. "We're an independent film," Benton said. "We don't have the funding that a major has. If Michigan had the tax rebates Oregon has, we would've shot it here."

Feast of Love possesses all the elements one might expect, straight from euphoria to pain, and quite literally weddings to funerals. It details how one half of a couple might be happier

than ever, while the other half already has one foot out the door. It shows just how much a love affair can endure, and exactly what it can't handle. For Bradley, love is everything. For Diana, it's a trick the universe plays on us.

"It's too easy to say it's about the redemption of love," said Benton. Because the movie shows love in all its forms - parental love, love-at-first-sight, love where people are behaving badly.

His favorite scene in the film is one where a cheating spouse, David, attempts to take the moral high ground questioning his lover Diana, who has announced she is marrying Bradley. Benton called it "sheer absurdity."

Benton is a fan of Clint Eastwood, calling him "the best living American director."

He shares Eastwood's plain-and-simple style and was trained by Robert Altman - who's known for making changes throughout filming. "The process is a life of its own," Benton said.

As for *Feast of Love*, the movie succeeds in tugging at one's heartstrings, even if it does manage to hand-hold a bit too much while driving home its final message. Some moments seem unnecessary, or simply over-the-top. But the film's characters remain more than believable. They're the people we all know or hope to meet.

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Photographs of the new hotel are being kept secret until opening day.

"We believe we will deliver downtown Detroit's first true luxury experience and have built our hotel and casino from the ground up to ensure our guests will be delighted and inspired at the turn of every corner," said John Hutar, MGM Grand Detroit, vice president of hotel operations.

Here's more of what the new MGM Grand will include:

- Three signature restaurants by two celebrity chefs: Wolfgang Puck and Michael Mina. The Wolfgang Puck Grille is California-style dining. Mina's include

the seafood themed Saltwater and steakhouse named Bourbon Steak.

- The hotel includes a private valet and entrance for hotel guests. Its lobby has 20-foot high ceilings; a "guest only" lounge called the "Living Room" that includes full-service concierge, a fireplace, backlit alabaster wall with cascading fountain; oversized ottomans and contemporary artwork by Detroit artists.

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■ Advanced technological features. Unlocking the door automatically will adjust the room's lighting to a soft glow.

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■ All rooms include 42-inch plasma television and IPOD docking station.

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■ Luxury corner suites feature their own half bath, giving privacy for guests when entertaining.

■ Panoramic views of the Detroit skyline.

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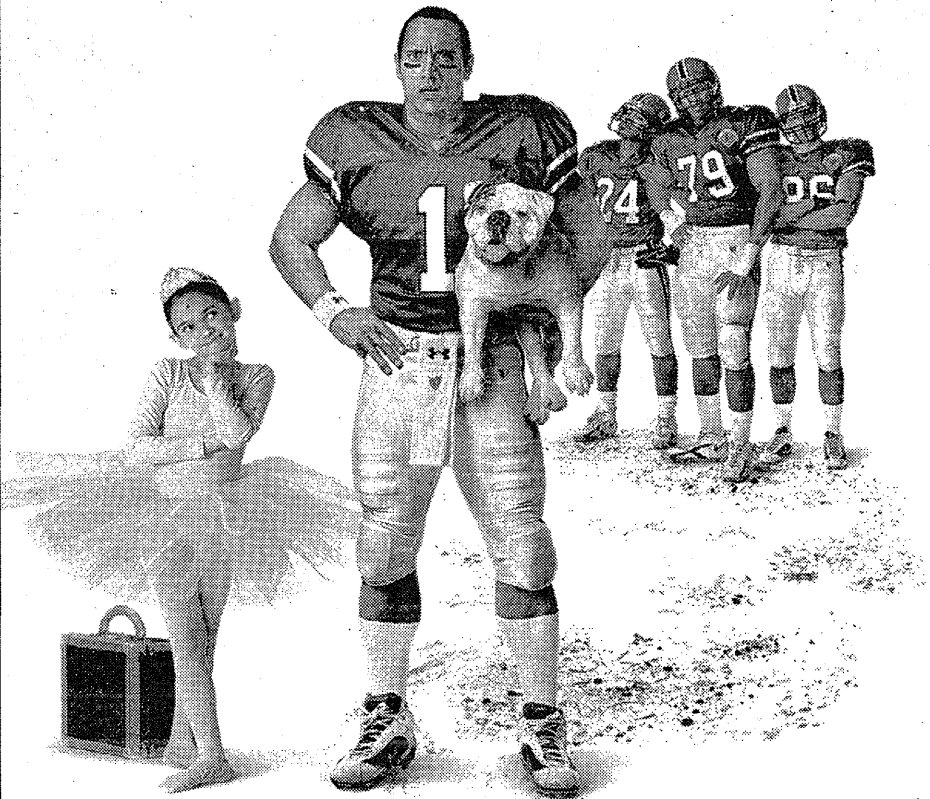
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A black and white photograph of a porch. In the foreground, a wicker chair with a high, rounded back sits on the porch. The porch has a decorative railing and a lattice skirt. To the right of the chair, a large tree trunk is visible. In the background, there are more trees and a house. The ground is covered with fallen leaves, and several pumpkins are scattered around the base of the porch steps.

Fall Home Improvement

THE
Observer
NEWSPAPERS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2007

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Going green

Eco-friendly ways to improve your home

(MS) — As the world continues to grow more aware of the environment and the ways to preserve it for future generations, many people wonder what they can contribute to ensure the planet's health for centuries to come. Among the many ways the environment can be given a helping hand is through eco-friendly home improvements that can both save money and the planet at the same time.

● **Flooring:** While oak flooring has long been a popular choice for homeowners, thanks to the nature of oak trees it's not always the most environmentally friendly choice. Oak trees take a long time to replace, and their absence isn't good for the environment. In lieu of oak, homeowners should consider more sustainable alternatives such as bamboo. Bamboo trees re-grow in less than three years, making them an ideal choice for flooring. If you'd prefer to go a different route, consider cork or recycled rubber as a source for flooring.

● **Cleaning Materials:** Cleaning your home can also be done in an environmentally friendly way. Bio-degradable cleaning products are available for just about every cleaning job you need to do around the house, from cleaning the toilets to removing stains to doing the laundry or even cleaning the carpets. These products are organically based and will do the job just as well as their more popular counterparts.

● **Paint:** Paint can be one of the biggest polluters when it comes to home improvements. Paint usually doesn't smell too good because it's loaded with chemicals that not only produce an odor but hurt the environment as well. Eco-friendly paints, however, typically smell better while drying and are safer for the environment. Getting their pigments from things such as charcoal or even foods, these paints are just as beautiful as regular paint and beneficial to the environment as well.

● **Previously Owned Materials:** You can head to the local salvage yard to see if you can purchase recycled cabinets and doors for your home. Some of the things you'll find at the salvage yard will be just like new, and you'll save a bundle of cash in the meantime while also being eco-friendly.



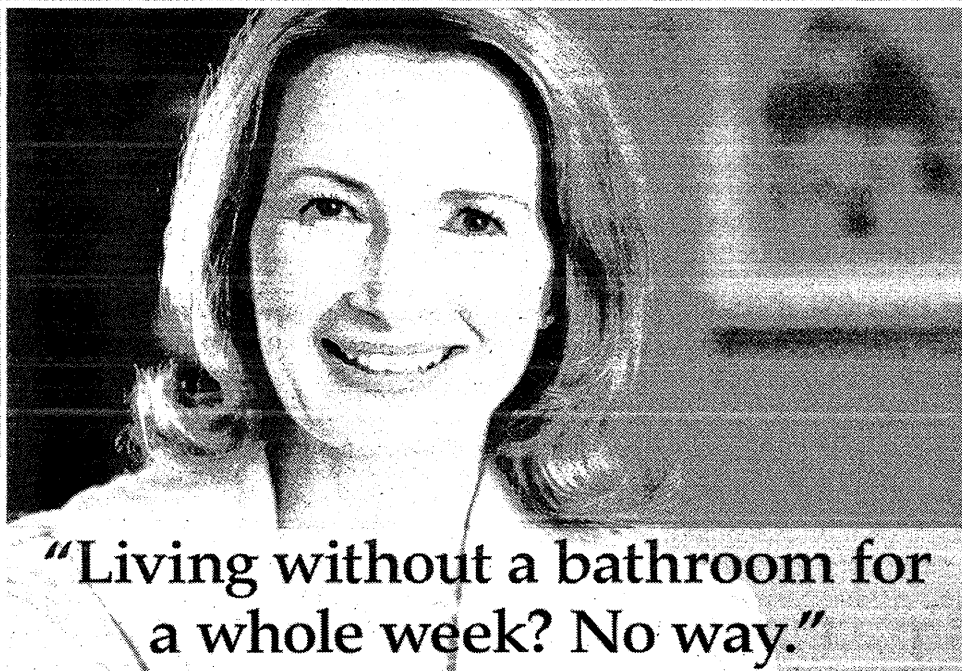
● **Waste:** It's not only the bottles and cans your family uses that can be recycled. Major home renovations where items such as cabinets and doors are replaced also provide a great chance to recycle your old items. Old toilets, sinks and countertops can be recycled as well, many times going to organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, meaning you're not only helping the environment, but the less fortunate as well.

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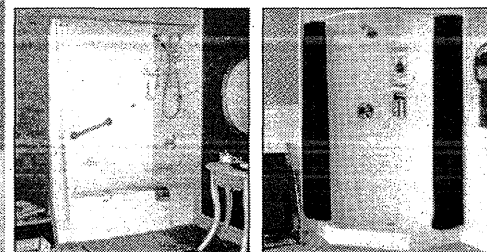
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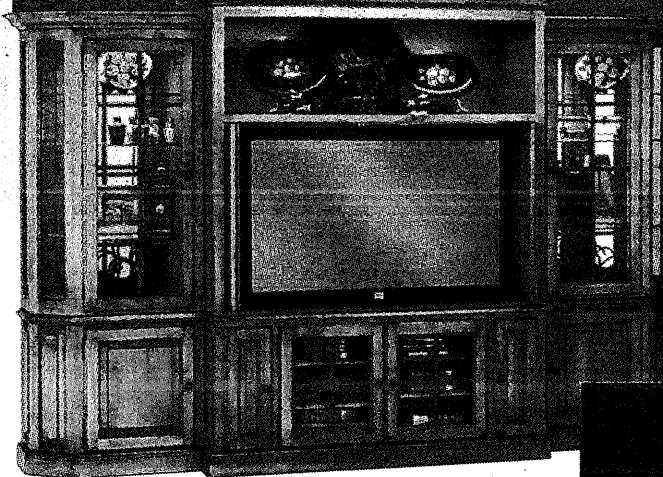
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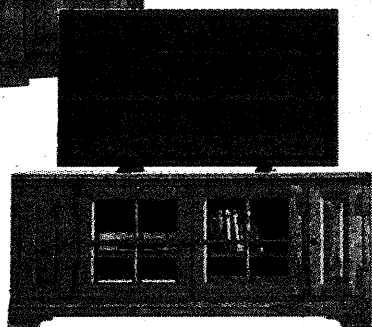
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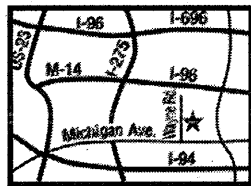
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Go solar

New designs, tax breaks offer style and savings

Solar heating systems are becoming more popular than ever before. Capturing the heat of the sun to warm pools, household water and provide electricity is certainly eco-friendly and cost-effective.

These days, it's also chic.

Today's solar panels are less obtrusive and more aesthetic than ever before. New technology means they also are more efficient.

Mechanical Energy Systems in Canton offers a wide range of solar products, from solar boilers that require no electricity at all, to solarwalls, which collect the sun's energy to heat the air.

According to Donna Napolitano, operations manager for Mechanical Energy Systems, one easy way to bring the benefits of solar energy to your home is to retrofit a solar space heating system to your roof.

If the sun shines on your house for most of the day in winter, it is a potential candidate for solar hot air panels, which do wonders to combat increasing energy costs.

"Many people are unaware of the viable use of solar thermal power in Michigan," Napolitano said. "Proven

technology in the solar field has resulted in the reduction of water heating, home heating and pool heating costs. Thermal solar systems offer longevity and reliability, short returns on investment and make a significant difference in energy expenses."

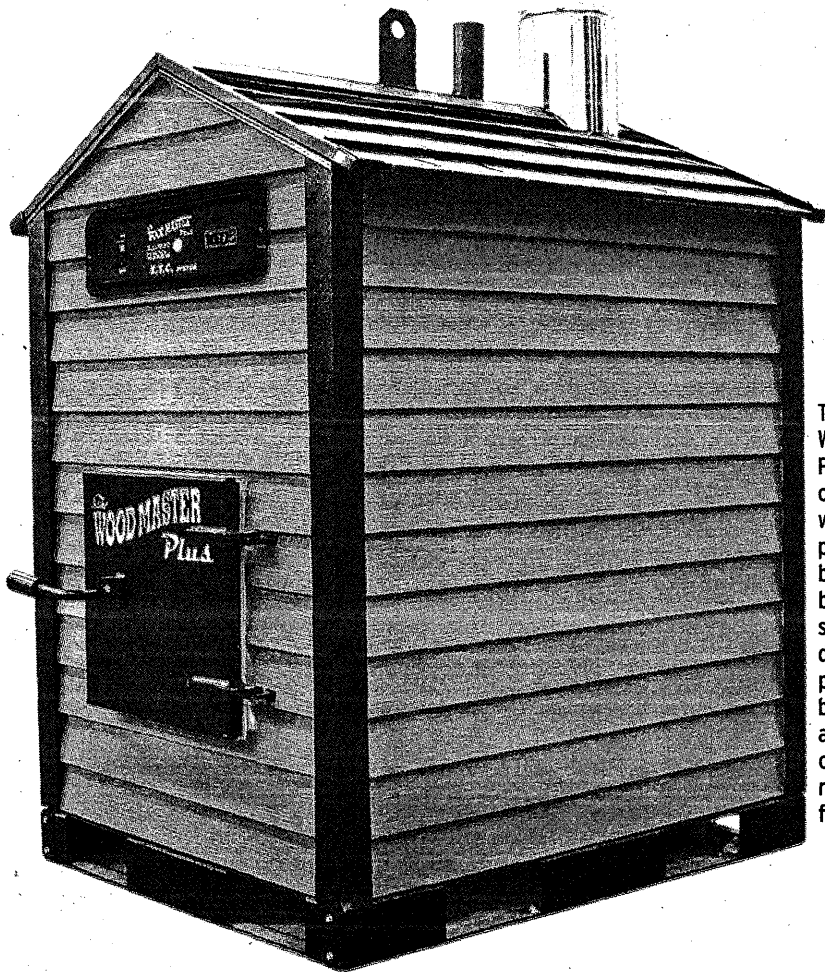
In addition to long-term cost savings, homeowners can write off some of the purchase price of their solar systems with new Federal Solar Tax Credits.

Under this program, residential homeowners can receive a 30 percent federal tax credit on solar hot water and electric systems installed during 2007 and 2008. This credit is a further encouragement to individuals considering solar applications for their home or business.

"Utilizing solar and renewable energy options will help to reduce our dependence on imported fuels, reduce our carbon footprint and make our earth a cleaner, greener environment for all of us," Napolitano said.

Mechanical Energy Systems is located at 8130 North Canton Center Road in Canton. Call (734) 453-6746 or visit www.mesi.com. To search for other solar energy businesses in Michigan, visit <http://energy.sourceguides.com>.

If the sun shines on your house for most of the day in winter, it is a potential candidate for solar hot air panels, which do wonders to combat increasing energy costs.



The WoodMaster PLUS furnace can burn corn, wood and paper pellets, barley, beat pulp, sunflowers, dried cherry pits, soy beans, and a variety of other renewable fuels.

Heat your home with renewable resources

(MS) — As the world climate crisis continues to be a “hot” topic and point of political debate, people are interested in how to make a difference toward helping the environment. Scientific research has established that the energy we use, both for our vehicles and our homes, is a major contributor to climate changes. Utility bills are also some of the largest homeowner expenses.

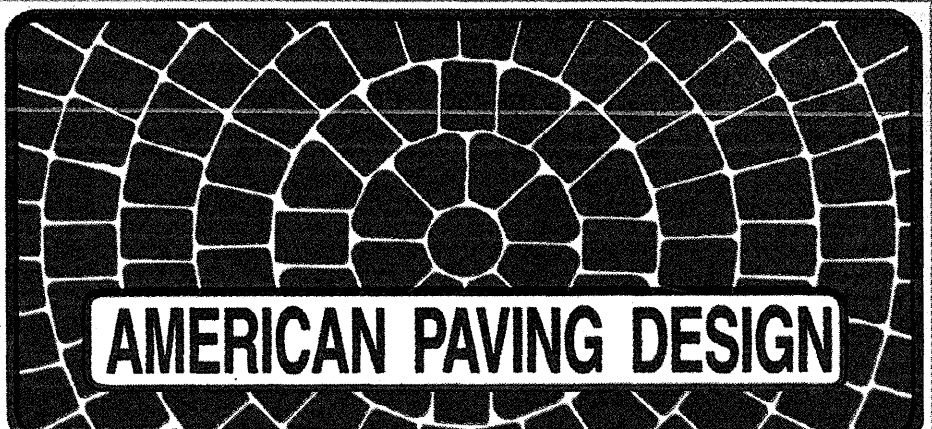
Finding a source of fuel that is both environmentally friendly and cost-effective is easier than one may imagine. In fact, it may be as simple as turning to something that has been used to heat homes for centuries: replenishable natural energy.

Northwest Manufacturing offers a line of popular WoodMaster PLUS natural energy furnaces that can reduce heating costs by as much as 75 percent. The units can efficiently burn corn, wood and paper pellets, barley, beat pulp, sunflowers, dried cherry pits, soy beans, and a variety of other renewable fuels. This reduces energy bills and a reliance on other less environmentally friendly energy sources.

“There are a number of fuel sources that can cut energy bills and help the environment, but many homeowners just don’t know where to start their research,” says Chuck Gagner, President of Northwest Manufacturing.

The versatile design of these furnaces make them compatible with most heating systems, including hot water, hydronic heat, forced air, radiant baseboard and others. The furnaces can be used as a home’s primary heating source or used in conjunction with an existing home’s system. Available in a range of sizes, the WoodMaster PLUS can heat average- to moderate-sized homes, in addition to apartments, garages, shops, pools and spas. They easily connect into the heating system, making the transition to natural energy seamless.

For more information, visit www.woodmasterplus.com, or call 1-800-932-3629. As a further means of helping the environment, Northwest has a sister Web site called www.buypellets.com, where retailers and manufacturers can post their products geared around natural fuel sources.



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Going 'green'? Start with the roof

(MS) — When a major financial institution announces that they are going to spend \$18 billion on commercial lending and investment banking for 'green' projects as well as an additional \$2 billion for consumer programs, you have to take notice. With today's heightened interest in and demand for ecologically sound building materials, metal roofing is an ideal choice.

Green building practices promote construction of buildings that are healthier for the occupants and healthier for the environment. The metal roofing industry's products are already environmentally friendly, and are contributing to the reduction of landfill waste and energy consumption.

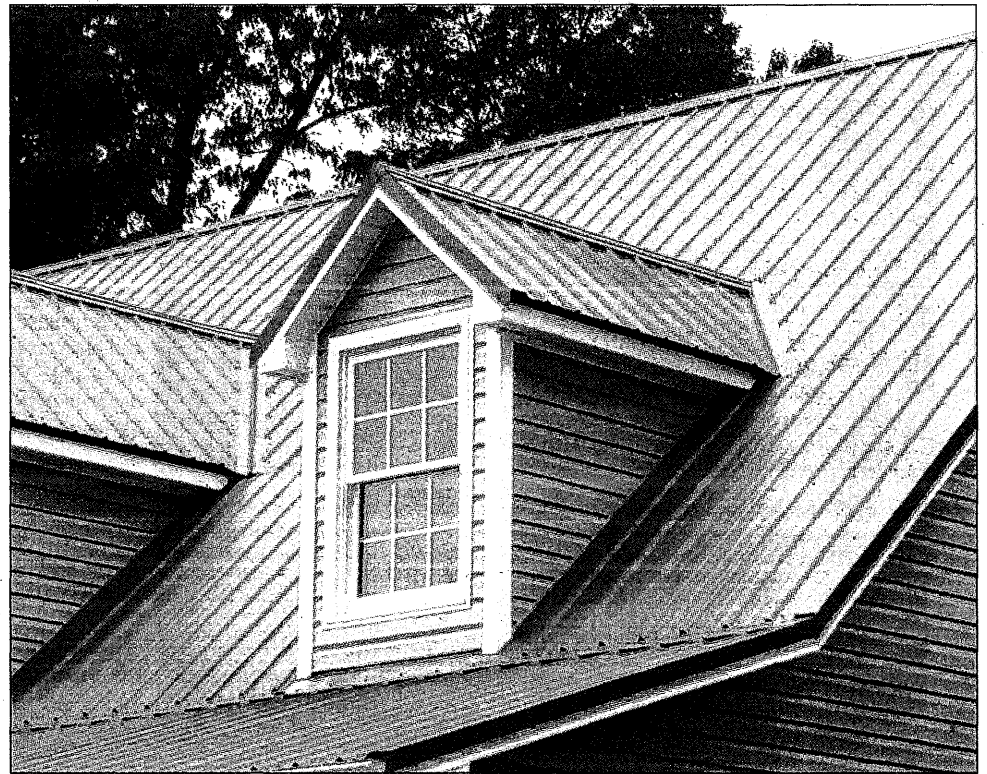
A study conducted by Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that the installation of reflective metal roofing can save homeowners up to 40 percent in summer cooling costs while highly emissive metal roofs can reduce urban air temperatures by as much as 12 degrees. A basic unpainted metal roof will reflect much of the solar radiation that would be absorbed by a traditional asphalt roof. However, for homes in warmer climates, pre-painted or granular coated metal roofing systems not only reflect solar energy but they also cool the home by re-emitting most of the solar energy that is absorbed.

The EPA reports that \$40 billion is spent annually in the United States to cool buildings. This accounts for one-sixth of all electricity generated in a year. Ninety percent of the energy in the United States is generated by burning fossil fuels, which create pollution.

In addition to being energy efficient, metal roofing is recognized as a sustainable building material for several environmental reasons. Many metal roofs typically have a minimum of 25 percent recycled content. This level of recycled content allows metal roofing to be routinely included on listings for 'green' and recycled content products. In addition, metal roofing is 100 percent recyclable where other roofing materials are routinely removed and disposed of by the ton in landfills.

Along with providing superior environmentally friendly protection, a metal roof also increases a home's resale value. The 2005 Residential Cost Handbook reports the appraised value of a home increases by \$1.35 per square foot when a metal roof is installed.

The Metal Roofing Alliance was formed to educate consumers on these and other benefits of metal roofing. Visit www.metalroofing.com to learn more about metal roofing and to find a metal roofing contractor in your area.



Metal roofs typically have a minimum of 25 percent of recycled content. Additionally, metal roofs reflect sunlight and can help save energy on heating/cooling costs.

Cozy up to the warmth

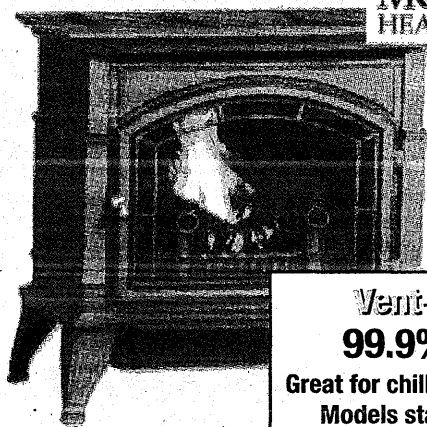
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Stoke up your furnace for season ahead

As cool weather sets in, it's time to get your furnace ready for working overtime. Experts recommend checking your furnace each fall to make sure it is running at optimum condition.

"Carbon monoxide leaks are always a concern. It's a safety issue," said Mike Bergstrom, owner of Thornton & Grooms Heating & Cooling in Birmingham. "With our economy in Michigan being a little slow, it's also important to check that they're running at peak efficiency, to make sure you're not spending too much on utility costs."

Bergstrom shared additional tips for getting ready for winter:

- Purchase a carbon monoxide detector for each floor of your home. Do not place them near the furnace or hot water heater, but in the living spaces.

- Make sure the filter on your furnace is clean. Standard disposable filters usually need to be replaced once a month.

- Make sure none of your vents are blocked by furniture.

- Install a programmable thermostat that you can set lower when you're out of the house, and at night when you're sleeping.

What is the ideal temperature setting?

"The government I think recommends 68, but it's all personal preference. I've had people who like it down in the 60s, and my grandpa liked his at 82," Bergstrom said. "Try setting it back five degrees from your comfort zone. For every degree, you're going to save about 10 percent in energy costs. Those are significant savings."

Thornton & Grooms, located at 1728 W. Maple in Birmingham, installs, services, maintains and replaces furnaces and air conditioning units in Oakland and northern Wayne counties. If you have a heating and cooling concern, call (248) 644-7810.



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There are so many pieces of beautiful furniture out there waiting to be rescued. Whether it's a family hand-me-down or a garage-sale find, a little vision is all it takes. An old bureau or chest of drawers can make a great kitchen island for extra work space. One-of-a-kind chairs can be terrific accents in hallways, bedrooms or even bathrooms. And a chair is an easy way to have fun with multiple stain colors. So look for that empty spot and consider adding a special piece of furniture with antique warmth and beauty.

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Fall cleaning

Lawn and landscape tips for the season

The days may be getting shorter, but there is still plenty to be done in the yard before winter sets in. Fall is a great time to add perennials and trees to the landscape and to prepare your lawn for the coming spring.

Mid-August to mid-October is generally the best planting time for most climate zones – the soil is warm and moist and the air is starting to cool. New or old, all perennials, trees, shrubs and grass need a thorough watering before the ground freezes to maintain healthy, growing roots through the winter. Here are a few other things you can do around the yard before the big growing season comes to an end.

REMOVE LEAVES

The best place to dispose of fallen leaves is right where they land. Mulching leaves into the grass offers an excellent source of added nutrients for the lawn before winter. If mulching is not an option, start a compost pile or donate your leaves to a neighbor or friend who already has one. You could also use the leaves to cover sensitive plants in colder climate zones.

ADD MULCH

Covering plants with mulch will give them a few extra weeks of root development before freezing. Compost, partially decomposed leaves, woodchips and bark can all be used to give plants an extra blanket of protection for the winter.

PREPARE THE LAWN

The best time to seed thin or bare areas in your lawn is mid-August

through September. Grass seed germinates quickly in the warm soil and the warm days and cooler nights are the best combination for rapid growth. New grass also has less competition from weeds for soil nutrients and water since most weeds germinate in the spring, not fall.

TRANSPLANT PERENNIALS

Most perennials need to be divided at least every three years to stay healthy and productive. Fall is the best time to transplant, divide or plant perennials. The nutrients gained during the summer months make the plants less likely to die during a move and the moist soil and cooler air provide the extra TLC the plant needs in its new location.

PLANT TREES

Deciduous trees (those that lose their leaves in the winter) can be planted from mid-August all the way through early November. Evergreens, however, should be planted before the end of September in order to establish a solid root system before the ground freezes.

One of the most important things you can do for a newly planted tree is to provide plenty of water. Water new trees every seven to ten days in dry weather and continue to do so until the ground freezes.

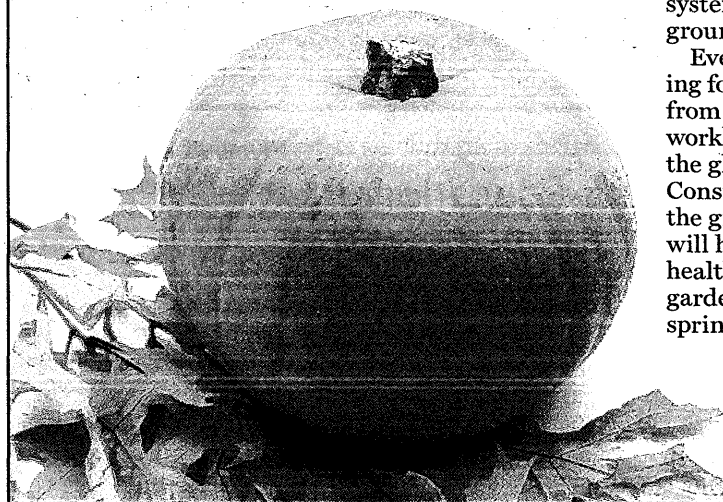
There are a few trees that prove exceptions to this rule.

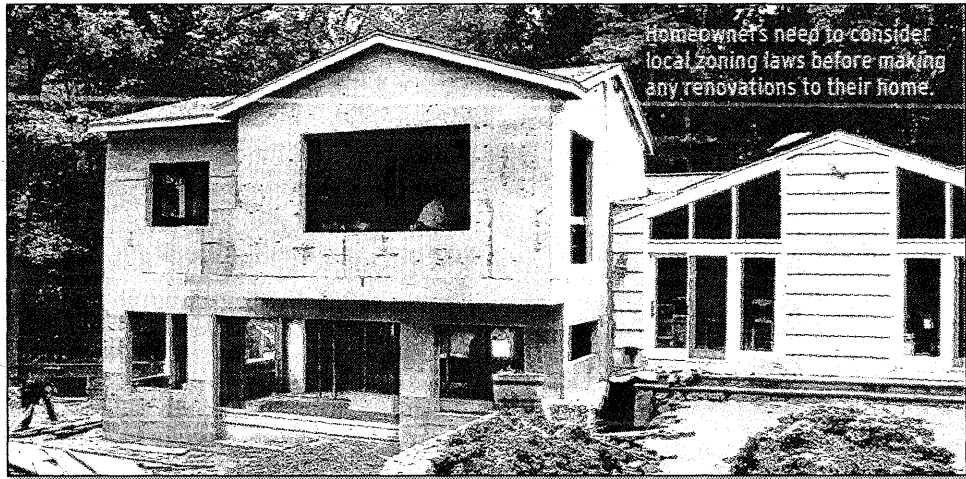
For example, birch, fir, oak and willow have slow-to-establish root systems.

They are better off going into the ground in the spring so that they have a few extra months to recover from transplant shock and can

establish their root systems before the ground freezes.

Even if you're looking forward to a break from summer yard work, don't hang up the gloves too quickly. Consistent care until the ground freezes will help ensure a healthy lawn and garden for the coming spring.





Homeowners need to consider local zoning laws before making any renovations to their home.

Keep renovations in line with law

(MS) — Each year, homeowners across the nation spend millions of dollars renovating their homes. Renovations can range from the small (planting a new flower bed) to the big (an upscale kitchen remodeling). Regardless of the size of the project, modifications are typically done to both improve a home for its inhabitants as well as increase its resale value down the road.

But are all home improvements projects worthy of your time and effort? From a purely financial standpoint, the answer to that question is almost always no, as home-improvement projects almost never recoup for the homeowner 100 percent of what is put in when it comes time to sell a home. Of course, where a home is and what the economy is like at the time play a big role as well.

In their annual "Cost vs. Value Report," Remodeling magazine compares construction costs with resale value, basing their findings on research conducted on the 25 most common home-improvement projects in 60 different markets spanning the country. For example, the 2006 report noted that the average major kitchen remodel cost just under \$108,000, but recouped less than 80 percent of that sum at resale.

While the overall cost versus what you can expect to earn on a resale should be considered, homeowners also need to take their local zoning laws into consideration before doing any renovating, adding on or remodeling. A set of regulations that limit what a homeowner can do with their property, zoning laws play a big role in home renovations. Even if you've adhered to zoning regulations with past renovations, that doesn't necessarily mean your new project will be in line with current guidelines. That's because zoning laws often undergo changes, essentially shifting and changing in accordance with how much the neighborhood itself is shifting and changing. Some zoning concerns

homeowners should definitely consider include:

■ **Usage issues:** Most homes are classified strictly as residential properties. This means they're solely for dwelling and not for conducting business. However, recent years have witnessed a boom in work-from-home situations, and many professionals have begun to turn their homes into offices. However, if you're planning to turn your home into a place of business, such as a law or medical office, you'll likely need to be granted a variance by your local zoning board.

■ **How you're renovating:** Zoning laws are in part designed to protect the value of the property throughout a given area. For example, if your home improvements will markedly decrease the value of your surrounding neighbors' property, there's no guarantee you'll legally be allowed to make those improvements. Zoning laws are divided into four groups: height, bulk, density, and use. If your home improvement is designed to build your house upwards, this could dwarf your neighbors' property, hence lowering the value of that property. Much like with usage, you'll likely need to get a variance from the zoning board, but such a variance isn't always easy to get.

■ **Privacy:** Part of the joy of buying a home is knowing it's all yours. After years of renting from apartment complexes or sharing apartments with roommates, most homeowners embrace the privacy that comes with home ownership. When buying a home, homeowners receive a survey plot, which includes something called the setback distance. Setback distances are established by the local zoning board and mandate the distance between a building and the property line. This both protects privacy of you and those around you while also keeping you safe, making your home accessible in the case of emergency.

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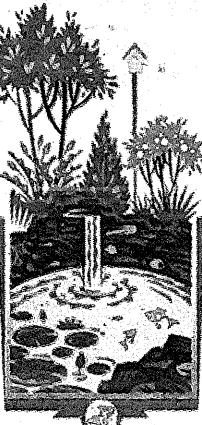
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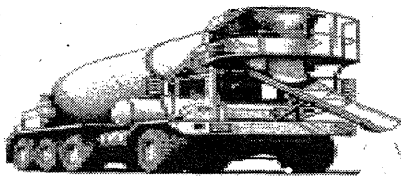
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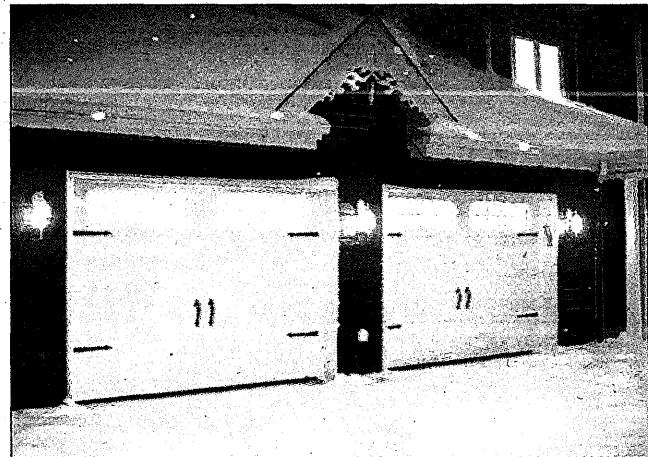
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Tips for choosing a garage door

(MS) — Usually, there are only two occasions when we buy a garage door in our lifetime - when we build a new house or when we renovate. So when the time comes to shop for a new garage door, there are key elements you should consider and analyze to make the right choice.

According to Vicky Leclerc, communication coordinator at Garaga Inc, Canada's leading garage door manufacturer, you should look for reliability, durability, style and appropriate insulation when choosing your garage door. Here are the key items Ms. Leclerc recommends you should consider:

INSULATION AND R-VALUE

An insulated door will keep the garage area and the rooms above and beside the garage warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer, resulting in energy savings. If you use the garage for a work shop or recreation area, having an insulated door will keep temperature more consistent. The higher the R-Value the better the insulation, for example R-16 is better than R-8 by 50 per cent.

INSULATION TYPE

The two types of insulation are polyurethane and polystyrene. Polyurethane provides twice the insulation value of polystyrene (white styrofoam).

PLACEMENT OF INSULATION

Insulation can be injected under pressure (polyurethane) or placed between the metal skins in the form of a sheet (polystyrene). Pressure injecting fills the complete cavity of the door and adheres to the metal skins. This adhesion greatly reduces the chance of the skin separating from the insulation causing the door to sound tinny.

METAL THICKNESS (GAUGE)

The lower the gauge the thicker the material, for example 14 gauge is thicker than 18 gauge. The thicker the material the stronger the door, a thicker gauged

metal skin combined with a pressure-injected insulation provides the best impact resistance.

HARDWARE

This is the track, hinges and reinforcement plates. The hardware is the back bone of the door system as it carries the weight of the door, provides the connection between the panels (hinges) and provides the anchor point for the fasteners which hold the hinges to the panels. Having a thicker gauged hardware system will ensure the door system will last longer.

THERMAL BREAK

A thermal break in the door system means that the front metal skin does not contact the back metal skin along the length and at the ends of the door panels. Without the thermal break, both heat and cool will be allowed to move from the outside of the door to inside the garage reducing the insulation value of the door.

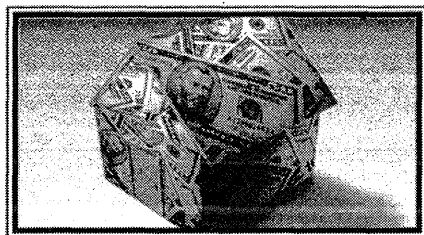
ROLLERS

Rollers which ride in the track and carry the weight of the door come in 3 styles: nylon, nylon with ball bearings and metal with ball bearings. Nylon rollers with ball bearings will last longer than nylon rollers without ball bearings and are quieter than the metal rollers with ball bearings.

WEATHER SEAL

The weather seal on the outside top and sides of the garage door as well as the weather seal on the bottom of the door is what prevent wind, rain and snow from entering the garage. The type of weather seal used should not be overlooked. A good weather seal is made up of two parts, the seal gasket and the holder. The seal gasket should be made of rubber and not vinyl so it will not split or crack. More information on how to select garage doors is available at: www.garaga.com.

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Make remodeling cleanup thorough

BY CYNTHIA INMAN
METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

If you are like most who get involved with home remodeling, you reach a point that you are praying that the contractors finish quickly and allow your family to get on with life.

Carpenters are not the same as a cleaning service. If you're lucky, your contract indicates that your remodeled rooms will be left "broom swept," and then, that's it.

If you've already begun your remodeling process, you may need cleaners in to get your place in livable condition, and if you haven't begun - be sure to put it in your plans and budget.

Many people don't make an initial after-remodeling cleaning plan. They often are shocked when they learn they must add the cost to an already taxing budget.

Effective planning and coordination is just as necessary between cleaning contractors and remodeling contractors as between different trades contractors (i.e., carpenters, plumbers and electricians). Failure to properly coordinate the cleaning task with the completion of the remodeling work only creates confusion, frustration and wasted time and money. You must schedule your cleaners after remodeling is finished.

The first thing to do, in connection with the plan, is for the cleaning contractor to conduct a complete walk-through of the home. Decide priorities and make sure that the contractor is thinking detailed cleaning. That means simply that the cleaning crew must go after that dust that has settled on everything and everywhere.

A list of equipment includes a backpack vacuum with nozzle or crevice tool attachment as well as the upholstery brush, to reach those hard-to-get-at corners, edges and ledges. You'll need lamb's wool high dusters to reach into electrical fixtures and recessed lights. Also needed are 8-foot ladder, wet-dry vac for heavy dirt and dust removal, filtration masks, and of course, buckets, brooms and mops.

Getting rid of dust is a multi-phase process.

After crews vacuum up as much dust as possible, have them go over dust-ridden surfaces at least three times (base clean/surface clean/finish clean).

Remember that dust travels to some of the most unlikely places. Some of the areas that I always recommend my customers target are attics and crawl spaces. One might say "why not let sleeping dogs lie?" The trouble with that reasoning is that dust in attics and crawl



After the construction contractors have finished work, make sure a cleaning contractor gets your home back into a livable condition.



Cynthia Inman

spaces never sleeps - it only takes short naps. What you'll find is that it will continue to resurface in your general living areas over and over, thereby shortening the time between house cleanings. You'll say to yourself, "Boy! We just had the cleaning team here, but it looks like they didn't do a good job."

All in all, you will find that if you coordinate your contractors well (including cleaning contractor) and if you use the right equipment and process in cleaning, you will have a true "new lease on life" when your last contractor leaves your premises. You guessed it - that last contractor needs to be the cleaning contractor.

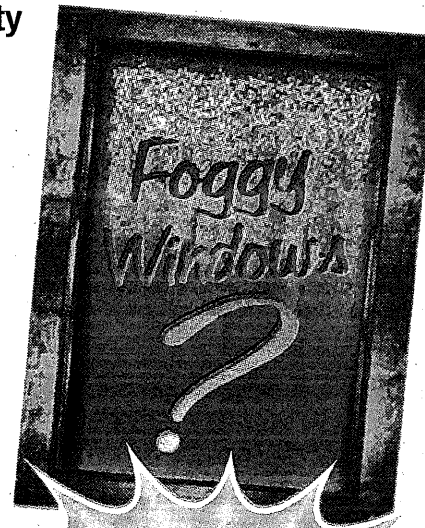
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Eye on décor: metallic looks evolve

METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

Glamour without the glitz and industrial-chic without the grit. That's the next evolution of metallic elegance, color experts say. Home décor trends point to the continued popularity of metallic finishes, with the rich shimmer of brushed metals emerging as a sought-after look.

"We've seen glitter and glamour return to the home in vintage Hollywood looks," says Peggy Van Allen, who selects colors for the popular Krylon® spray paint brand, "but on the cutting edge are

softer metallic shades offering a hint of color." These muted metallics are ideal for adding touches of glimmer and sheen to unexpected places, such as small furnishings, vases, and decorative accessories, or to coordinate unlike pieces.

The pleasing patina of brushed metals works in glamour bedrooms as well as today's contemporary kitchens and baths, where stainless steel's dominance is giving way to softer, warm-toned copper, pewter and bronze in hardware, plumbing and lighting fixtures as well as appliances.

"A great look can be achieved by collecting hand mirrors of various shapes and sizes," Van Allen says. "Hang the mirrors collage-style on the wall above a bed, dressing table or vanity. To unify the collection before hanging, spray paint the mirror handles and rims with Krylon Brushed Metallic Finish."

Available in four shades, Caramel Latte, Sesame Shimmer, Sparkling Canyon and Champagne Nouveau, the rich finish dries in 12 minutes or less. Wood, metal, wicker, wrought iron, ceramic and more are transformed with its smooth elegance. Use it to update chrome-framed, glass-topped furniture or worn-out picture frames, lamps, vases, and more. Krylon spray finishes can be found in leading hardware, home center and mass retail outlets nationwide.

Next, bedazzle your bed, sofa or chair with this year's popular metallic-look decorative pillows, available in a range of fabrics full of sheen and flair. If you feel inclined to turn up the glamour dial, consider fringed and jeweled lamp shades, faux-fur rugs and an arrangement of lavish feathers in a tall vase.

For inspiration and more home improvement hints, visit the Krylon Web site at www.krylon.com.



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Metallic accents in the home can be achieved easily with spray paint and dress up everything from picture frames to vases.

Building a better basement playroom - without a TV

(MS) — In this age of computer games, competitive soccer leagues and organized play dates for tots, it may surprise some parents to learn that the very best thing they could do for their youngsters' development is to send them down to the basement to play — by themselves — without a computer or a TV.

"Unstructured free play has been demonstrated to prepare children for school better than just about anything," observes Mara Kaplan, co-founder of the Center for Creative Play (www.cfcplay.org) in Pittsburgh.

"In a free play environment, children decide how they want to play," Kaplan says. "They are free to use their imaginations and their own thought processes about how they want to move the play along without an adult telling them what to do."

Kaplan offered these tips for creating a basement space that encourages the free play that is so important in developing essential cognitive, social, physical and emotional skills:

First, childproof the space so kids can play safely. "Little ones need to be able to crawl around, explore and reach for things that capture their attention," she says. "We don't want to contain their activities too much, so it's important that the space be comfortable and free of safety hazards."

Cover up electrical sockets and make sure there are no cords in which a youngster can become entangled. That's made easier by not having a TV or computer in the basement, Kaplan points out.

Cover up a bare concrete floor to create a warmer, more resilient surface. Some parents start with a modular subfloor system such as DRICore (www.dricore.com) that creates an air gap between the concrete and subfloor to block transmission of cold from the concrete. And, because it's a wood product, it is more forgiving of the inevitable childhood tumbles. Carpet or any floating floor such as laminate, vinyl or cork tiles can be installed on top.

With the basics attended to, unleash your own creativity to develop a space that will stimulate your child's imagination and encourage creative play. Some ideas:

- Set up a play kitchen.
- Make shelves for a pretend grocery store. "Stock" them with empty boxes and containers from the real kitchen upstairs.
- Paint one wall with chalkboard paint to give the kids a giant "canvas" on which to draw or scribble.
- Get the kids to help you design and paint a mural on one or more walls.
- If you've installed a modular subfloor, consider leaving part of it exposed without carpet. Kaplan suggested painting the squares in alternating black and white to

create a giant checkerboard, or outlining a hockey rink, a hopscotch board or a four-square court. Finish with multiple coats of polyurethane for protection and see how the kids incorporate it into their play.

■ Provide a small table and chairs for games, art projects and play with blocks and puzzles. Blocks are one of the best toys to stimulate a child's imagination, Kaplan says. She recommends basic, high quality wood blocks that can be arranged and rearranged infinitely, rather than the kind that come as a kit to build something specific.

"Playing with blocks can help to teach spatial awareness, balance, art, math, and a host of other lessons," she says.

■ Encourage dress-up play by going to your local thrift shop and buying all sorts of fun, used clothing. Then decorate a large box with fun designs to store the play wardrobe.

■ And, be sure to set aside a quiet space where your child can read or daydream. Furnish it with some comfy cushions, fuzzy throw pillows or beanbag chairs and set it off visually from the rest of the playroom.

One of the rewards of creating an inviting, fun play space is that "the battle to keep kids from spending too much time in front of the TV or computer will be easier," Kaplan says.



The floor of a basement playroom is warmer and more comfortable when a modular subfloor is installed under the carpet.

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Off-the-wall ideas

Changing paint or wallpaper is a quick fix with plenty of impact. Here are three creative ways to spruce up your home for the season:

● Dry Erase Paint.

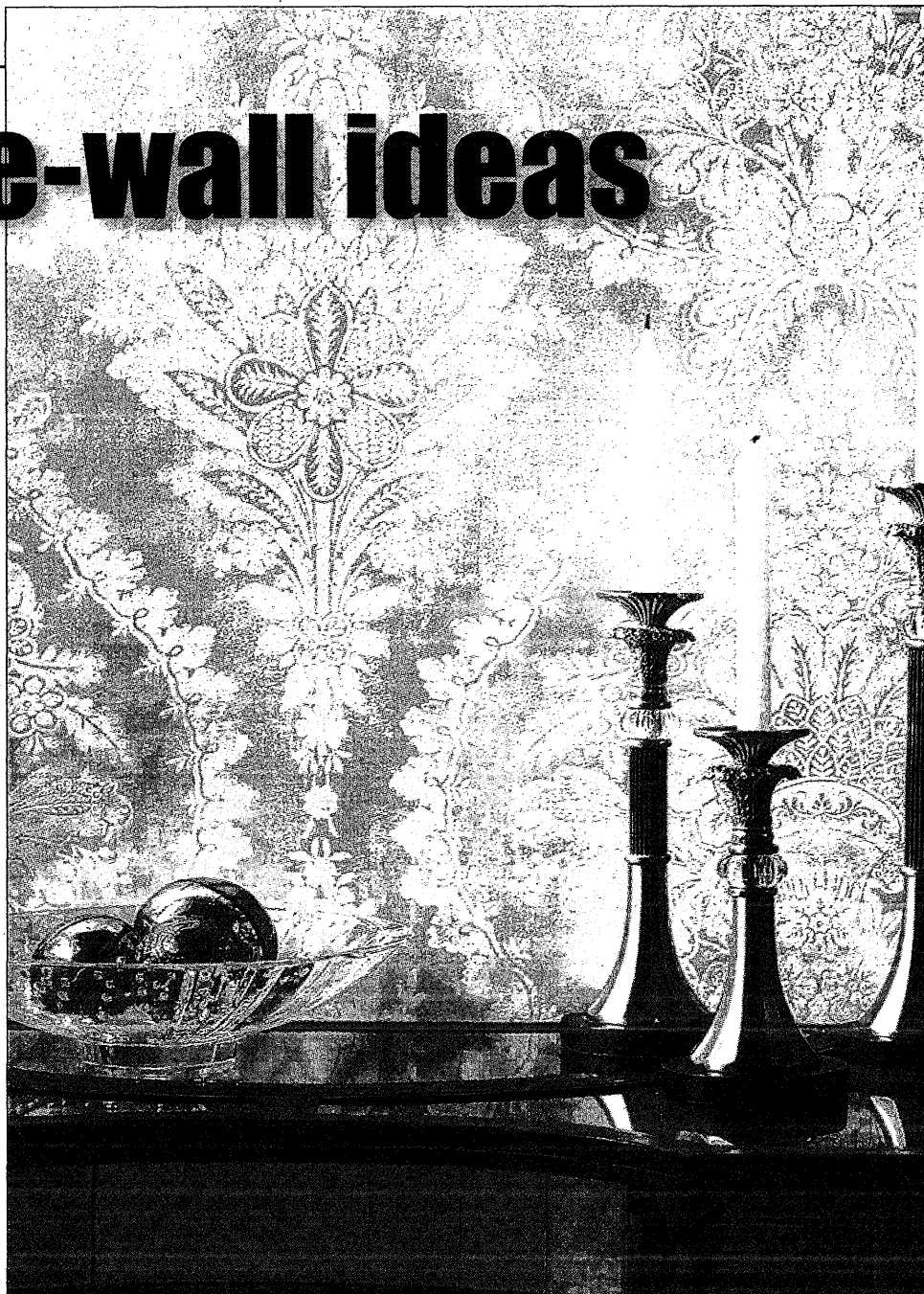
Instead of hanging up a dry erase board, turn an entire wall into a message center with Rust-Oleum Specialty Dry Erase Paint. The innovative product can be used over existing paint to create a family message center near the kitchen telephone, give children free reign to write on the walls of their room, or offer dad a way to track projects in the garage. Chalk board and magnetic paints also are available.

■ Shimmering Paints.

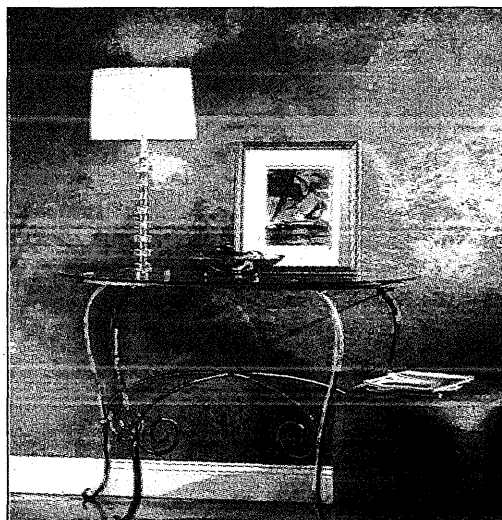
Decorative finishes are among the hottest trends in painting today. Stenciling, sponging, rag rolling or adding texture effects can enhance any décor. Versatile water-base coatings like Modern Masters ShimmerStone can create finishes like layered stone, dimensional lace, linen, raw silk and raised ornament without burnishing or sanding. Start with a small area such as an accent wall, entry way or hallway. If you like the look, you can add more later.

■ Wallpaper as Art.

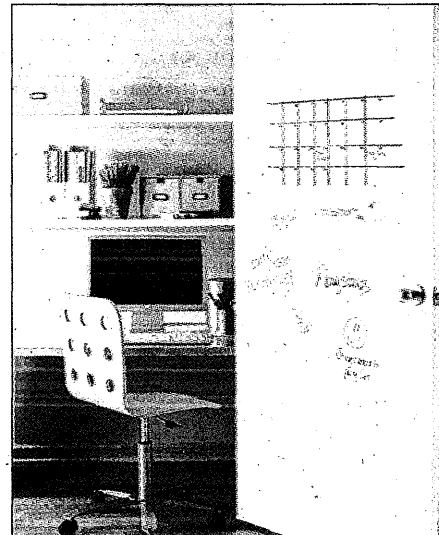
Today's wallpapers are a great way to create an elegant focus wall. Oversized designs add warmth and balance to large walls in newer homes and dimension to smaller rooms. Popular papers feature geometrics, botanicals, organic elements and raised inks that feel like suede. Traditional stripes, scrolls, damasks and harlequins are still popular, but larger in scale with richly-layered colors, subtle or bold metallics, and unique finishes such as fine sand, sisals, and glass beads. Distressed flocking, enlivened with new color palettes such as chocolate brown on spa blue or burgundy on bronze, adds richness and drama to any room.



Create a signature wall with elegant wallpaper, like this metallic damask with raised-ink texture from the Ronald Redding Silver Leaf collection by York Wallcoverings.



Give your walls a facelift with decorative painting techniques. This look is achieved with Modern Masters ShimmerStone.



Rust-Oleum Dry Erase Paint can turn an office or bedroom door into a message center.

10 tips on caring for windows

(MS) — Extending the life of your windows can mean long-term savings for your family. To maximize the lifespan of your home's windows, the experts at Simonton Windows recommend the following tips:

Tip #1: Never wash windows or doors with a high pressure spray. The extreme pressure could crack or destroy caulking around the units. Instead, take time to individually clean the windows. If you have vinyl-framed windows, a soft cloth or ordinary long-handled soft bristle brush and some mild detergent may be all that's necessary to maintain your windows. Do not use abrasive cleaners that may scratch the frame or glass.

Tip #2: To clean unexpected stains on vinyl windows and door frames (such as bubble gum, felt-tip pens, lipstick, motor oil or top soil), try using Fantastik cleaner. For tougher stains (such as tar, pencil or oil marks) use Soft Scrub.

Tip #3: Vacuum around the edges of weather stripping to remove any dirt build-up. Carefully vacuum window screens regularly instead of removing them and cleaning with soap and water.

Tip #4: Recycle old, white cotton hole-ridden socks and use them for cleaning window sills and frames. Slip the socks on your hands and you can "feel your way" toward a cleaner window.

Tip #5: Never insert nails or screws in the interior or exterior of a window frame to hold up holiday decorations or lights. Window frames should never be tampered with or they can lose their ability to function properly.

Tip #6: If the glass in a window gets broken, do not replace the glass yourself. Some windows have Insulated Glass Units, which contain harmless Argon gas that helps in the window's energy efficiency. A replacement unit should be ordered and installed that perfectly matches the original window.

Tip #7: If you have brass hardware on your windows, use a dry, clean, soft cotton cloth to remove dust and dirt from the protective lacquer coating on the hardware.

Tip #8: Thoroughly wash the exterior frames of your windows (including the sill that is exposed within your home closest to the screens) twice yearly. Remove any bugs or dirt that may have accumulated.

Tip #9: Use a light combination of vinegar and water to gain sparkling glass on your windows.

Tip #10: Over time, dirt may accumulate on window edges and corners. To remove the build-up, use Q-tips dipped in vinegar. Make sure to thoroughly rinse with water afterwards.

"Understanding your windows and accurately maintaining them can extend their lifespan," says Christopher Burk of Simonton Windows. "Just as with any major product or appliance in a house, windows will wear out over time. They lose their efficiency and their ability to operate properly."

When it comes time to replace your windows, Burk advises homeowners to invest in a low-maintenance frame, such as vinyl.

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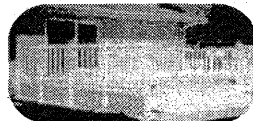
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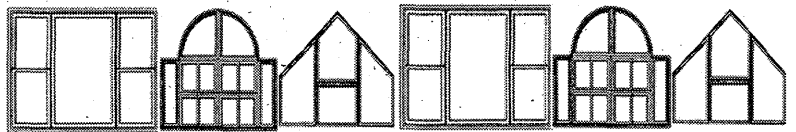
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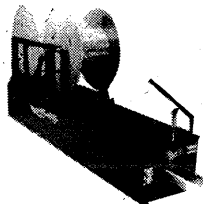
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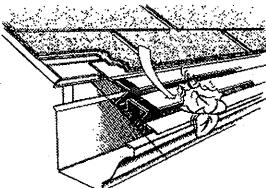
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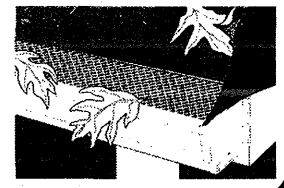
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