She's thankful for new friend Yasha

By AMY HEIDEN
As assistir, 11-year-old Waterworth always had dogs and cats for companions. But she never imagined one day in the future, she would come to depend on a dog to help her keep her independence.

Waterworth, of Caseville has Friedrich's Ataxia, a form of muscular dystrophy that affects the nerves and muscles and makes using her hands and feet difficult. She slowly gets around her house by hanging onto the furniture and outside by using a motorized cart.

She is also hearing impaired, and when she's not wearing her hearing aids, she doesn't always hear the phone ringing or someone knocking on the door.

Now, though, she can rely on her hearing aid knowing that Yasha, her two-year-old black Labrador retriever, will alert her to the ringing of the phone or that knock on the door. He can help her get up if she falls.

And Yasha accompanies her to the supermarket or to the mall, opening doors and picking up items.

Please turn to Page 29

Old-Fashioned' weekend fun in Elkton

I'll wear an "Old-Fashioned Christmas" this weekend in Elkton, when the Elkton Chamber of Commerce and the Huron Youth Center put on their holiday hats for area families and youth.

Highlighting the events on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 10-11-12 will be activities at the Huron Youth Center, which will feature a fantasy land Town Square.

Visitors will enjoy seeing an old-fashioned toy shop where toys will actually be handcrafted, a doll shop, live Nativity, and other shops where bikes will be rebuilt and repaired.

All of these shop fronts are being constructed by volunteers from the Huron Youth Center Board.

HERE, Elkton Chamber President Phyllis Podbielkowski presents a $1,000 donation to Huron Youth Center President Dan McDonald.

FOR MORE ELKTON DETAILS, SEE PAGES A-11 INSIDE!

Blade & Progress

NEWS ROUND-UP

Confused by '93 tax bills?

As property owners receive their property tax bills this month, there is some confusion why taxes for schools are included in the statement, in the light of the new law which exempted property from schoolillage, according to Bobbi McKenney of the state Department of Treasury.

Here's the answer:

- Current tax bills are for the tax year 1993. Those taxes are due on or before Feb. 14, 1994.
- The property tax cut contained in the new law takes effect Jan. 1, 1994, and applies to tax year 1994 and beyond.
- Next year's summer and winter tax bills will reflect the lower property tax, McKenney explained. Anyone who has further questions is invited to contact McKenney at 573-3223.

AVERAGE SCHOOLS

Gov. John Engler recently issued his "Michigan School Report," which compares various school numbers. Here are state-wide averages in several categories:

School Tax in Milles ............................ 3.6
Average Enrollment (per district) ............... 3,044
Staffing Ratios (per 1,000 students) ............. 105.9
Expenditures per student ....................... $4,206
Average Drop-Out Rate (in past year) .......... 4%
Average Graduation Rate (4-year eve.) .......... 81.3%

Sen. Gougeon visits Thumb

Gathering input from parents on education reform, State Senator Joel Gougeon (R-Bay City) will hold office hours in Caro on Monday, Dec. 13, and in Caseville one week later, on Monday, Dec. 20.

"I want parents to attend those office hours to let me know where they stand on critical issues like charter schools, school choice and replacement revenue," Gougeon said, adding, "The special interest group has already voted on their position, I need to hear from the 'customers' of our public schools, too."

On Monday, Dec. 13, Gougeon will be in the Board of Commissioners Room, Courthouse Annex in Caro, from 9-11 a.m., and on Dec. 20 he will be at Caseville Village Hall.
Final M-24 route okayed; construction starts in October

By MARY DIER
After 13 years, the U.S. 23-270 highway between Unionville and Delphi is finally okayed for construction. The Federal Highways Administration has approved the final route of the M-24, which will provide a direct link from I-74 to I-69 near Delphi.

The project, scheduled to begin in 1999, will include the construction of a bridge over the White River near Delphi and the improvement of county roads in the area. The project is expected to be completed by 2002.

In other news, the Unionville School Board has approved a $1.2 million bond issue to replace the outdated school building with a new facility. The bond issue, which was approved by a 4-1 vote, will be used to construct a new high school and an addition to the existing elementary school.

From Heaven's Throne

You Are Cordially Invited to hear the Christmas Message

From the Angel's Point of View

Saturday, December 12
5:00 p.m. - Elton United Methodist Church

Senior Meal Site Menu

The Senior Meal Site, located at the Elton United Methodist Church, offers a variety of meals for seniors. The menu includes:

- Tuesdays: Chicken Fried Steak and Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, and Peach Jello
- Wednesdays: Turkey and Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, and Cranberry Pie
- Thursdays: Hamburger and Fries, Coleslaw, and Apple Pie
- Fridays: Spaghetti and Meatballs, Caesar Salad, and Brownies

Watercolor raffle to aid Sebewaing historians

Sebewaing Area Historical Society is offering a watercolor raffle to aid in the construction of a new building for the society. The raffle will take place on Saturday, December 12, at 1:00 p.m. at the Elton United Methodist Church.

Public invited to Cityville School winter concerts

Cityville School will be hosting winter concerts featuring the Christmas spirit and holiday favorites. The concerts will be held on December 11 at 7:00 p.m., and December 12 at 10:00 a.m.

Sebewaing drawing winners

Two participants in the Sebewaing Chamber of Commerce's Christmas drawing event have been announced. The winners are:

- First prize: $100 gift certificate to the Chamber of Commerce
- Second prize: $50 gift certificate to the Chamber of Commerce

More Pigeon winners!

The Sebewaing Chamber of Commerce has announced the winners of the Chamber's Christmas drawing event. The winners are:

- First prize: $100 gift certificate to the Chamber of Commerce
- Second prize: $50 gift certificate to the Chamber of Commerce

Alternative schools near

The Michigan House on Monday opened the door for innovation in education by approving legislation aimed at expanding the options for students and families. The legislation would allow families to use public education funds to pay for private school tuition, home schooling, or other educational services. The measure was approved by a 60-49 vote.

Kerr is Equalization head

Huron County has a new equalization director. William Kerr was hired last week to manage the county's equalization department, which involves assessing properties and setting tax rates.

Thompson, Delphi

Thompson continues to work on the Delphi School Expansion Project. The project involves the construction of a new middle school and an addition to the existing elementary school. The construction is expected to be completed by 2003.

Sebewaing draws raffle money

Sebewaing Area Historical Society draws $10,000 from its raffle fund. The money will be used to aid in the construction of a new historical building for the society.
James and Shari Freeman, operators of the “Daisy Queen” in the Town of Glacier, have been honored at the annual Daisy Queen Service Award for the year 1980 from the Daisy Queen System. Special recognition included the Daisy Queen System of America award for outstanding service. The Dunlop Tire store in the United States, Canada, and 22 other countries.

Let Thumb Cellular Keep Your Family “A Little Closer to Home”

Introducing Our New Transportable Phone The Motorola Attaché Phone

With 3 Yr. Limited Warranty and Magnetic Wrist Armband Now On Special For Only $99.99

Thumbs cellular is now offering American Paper and Foiling Service

Piaget High School

Hobbies & Interesting Stuff

Just as much as the children love it, they find it fun to be along as the parents talk with each other.

Beau BN Franklin Christmas Coupon

Pitcher’s Ben Franklin Special Christmas Shopping Hours Monday, Dec. 27, 10-1; Tuesday, Dec. 28, 11-5; Wednesday, Dec. 29, 10-1; Thursday, Dec. 30, 11-7; Friday, Dec. 31, 11-9; Saturday, Jan. 1, 10-4. Sunday: Noon-5:00.

First 100 Customers SAVE 20% off your price immediately after your item has been purchased. No other items, offers or discounts apply.

Dast Pharmacy & Hallmark Gift Shop PIn Dast, Pharmacist Ask about your gift card sale

La Motella's Christmas Coupons

La Motella's Christmas Coupons

Millersville Christmas coupon

Hannah's Fashion Shops

Hannah's Fashion Shops

Hobbie's Christmas coupon

Hobbie's Christmas coupon

Pipitcher's Ben Franklin Special Christmas Shopping Hours Monday, Dec. 27, 10-1; Tuesday, Dec. 28, 11-5; Wednesday, Dec. 29, 10-1; Thursday, Dec. 30, 11-7; Friday, Dec. 31, 11-9; Saturday, Jan. 1, 10-4. Sunday: Noon-5:00.

First 100 Customers SAVE 20% off your price immediately after your item has been purchased. No other items, offers or discounts apply.

Dast Pharmacy & Hallmark Gift Shop PIn Dast, Pharmacist Ask about your gift card sale

La Motella's Christmas Coupons

La Motella's Christmas Coupons

Millersville Christmas coupon

Hannah's Fashion Shops

Hannah's Fashion Shops

Hobbie's Christmas coupon

Hobbie's Christmas coupon

Pipitcher's Ben Franklin Special Christmas Shopping Hours Monday, Dec. 27, 10-1; Tuesday, Dec. 28, 11-5; Wednesday, Dec. 29, 10-1; Thursday, Dec. 30, 11-7; Friday, Dec. 31, 11-9; Saturday, Jan. 1, 10-4. Sunday: Noon-5:00.

First 100 Customers SAVE 20% off your price immediately after your item has been purchased. No other items, offers or discounts apply.

Dast Pharmacy & Hallmark Gift Shop PIn Dast, Pharmacist Ask about your gift card sale

La Motella's Christmas Coupons

La Motella's Christmas Coupons

Millersville Christmas coupon

Hannah's Fashion Shops

Hannah's Fashion Shops

Hobbie's Christmas coupon

Hobbie's Christmas coupon

Pipitcher's Ben Franklin Special Christmas Shopping Hours Monday, Dec. 27, 10-1; Tuesday, Dec. 28, 11-5; Wednesday, Dec. 29, 10-1; Thursday, Dec. 30, 11-7; Friday, Dec. 31, 11-9; Saturday, Jan. 1, 10-4. Sunday: Noon-5:00.
In Honor Of Our
25th Anniversary

We Offer You Tremendous Savings
Just In Time For Christmas

ZENITH
The quality goes in before the name goes on.

REGISTER TO WIN...
10 - 25th Gift Certificates
1 - Grand Prize
$250 Gift Certificate
Do Not Need To Be Present To Win
Gift Certificate to be Redeemed In Store.

25% off
Special Markdown Items

THUMB HARDWARE & APPLIANCE CENTER
23 N. MAIN ST. • ELKTON • 375-2530

THUMB HARDWARE & APPLIANCE CENTER
Celebrates 25 Years of Service to the Community.

Take advantage of tremendous sales that can only be offered once every 25 years!

Wednesday thru Sunday
December 8 - 12

Whirlpool

Whirlpool Refrigerator Model STCMK

Whirlpool Washer Model LPX5759K

Whirlpool Dryer Model LEC669XK

Whirlpool Electric Range

Everything Priced To Sell On Such Items As...
• TVs • Stereos • Appliances
• Housewares • And Much More!

Register to Win Our
25th Anniversary Grand Prize
$250 Gift Certificate

25% off
Every Item Special

THUMB HARDWARE & APPLIANCE CENTER
23 N. MAIN ST. • ELKTON • 375-2530
Elkton's Old Fashioned Christmas Weekend

Visit "Town Square" Toy Store
Youth Center welcomes kids!

Keeping it kid-friendly Elkton's Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration will be a highlight of the winter season. Visit "Town Square" Toy Store at the Youth Center at 57 North Main Street. The store will be open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will have a variety of toys and gift ideas for children of all ages.

Keep Your Vehicle Clean For Holiday Travel
At the ELKTON POWER WASH
Open Daily
Happy Holidays From All Of Us In Elkton!
(We're Located Next To Arnie's Petroleum)

Come To Elkton This Weekend!
Christmas Weekend

Keep your vehicle clean for holiday travel.

Happy Holidays
We cordially invite you to join your friends at Elkton's Old Fashioned Christmas at the Huron Youth Center on SUNDAY, DEC. 12
Enjoy the convenient Sunday shopping hours, don't miss the townwide sales and old-fashioned friendly atmosphere. You can shop locally and wrap up your holiday giving. To you and yours; we wish you many blessings this holiday season.

VILLAGE OF ELKTON
57 North Main Street • 375-2270

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Enjoy an Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration in Elkton at the Huron Youth Center. Many activities have been organized for your enjoyment this holiday season. Shop locally as many stores have lots of Christmas bargains. From the staff and management at Active Industries, we wish our employees and friends the very merriest of holidays this year.

Laker FFA youth winners recognized for efforts

The Laker FFA had an excellent year. At the regional competition, the Laker FFA placed 1st and 3rd in the Breese & Kirtz Farm in Collins Township to 1st. In the crop management, 179 students participated. The scores were calculated by the total of the top three students' scores from each school.

The FFA members will receive plaques and receive scholarships from the Huron County youth center. The following students received scholarships:
- Gracie Duerer: Joel Tate and Matt Lassen, Duerer will be receiving a $50 cash prize for her top performance.
- Pictured from left: Matt Lassen, Gracie Duerer and Joel Tate.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grocery Values</th>
<th>Frozen Values</th>
<th>Dairy Values</th>
<th>Bakery Values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prego</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spartan Pineapple</strong></td>
<td><strong>Jeno's Pizza Rolls</strong></td>
<td><strong>Butters Supermarket</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/20</td>
<td>2/20</td>
<td>2/20</td>
<td><strong>Wax</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spaghetti Sauce</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spartan Krunchers</strong></td>
<td><strong>Country Lane Ice</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tissue</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/5.00</td>
<td>2/20</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>12/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spartan Fruit Sale</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spartan Noodle Roni</strong></td>
<td><strong>Homogenized or Low</strong></td>
<td><strong>Regular</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/20</td>
<td>79c</td>
<td>Fat Chocolate Milk**</td>
<td>51/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular or with Lemon</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spartan Sugar</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spartan Sugar</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cracked Wheat Bread</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3.39</td>
<td>2/20</td>
<td>2/20</td>
<td>1.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spartan</strong></td>
<td><strong>Powdered &amp; Dark &amp;</strong></td>
<td><strong>Minute Maid Orange</strong></td>
<td><strong>Coconut</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular or with Lemon</strong></td>
<td><strong>Light Brown</strong></td>
<td><strong>Juice</strong></td>
<td>95/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/3.39</td>
<td>1.79</td>
<td>2/20</td>
<td><strong>Pound cake</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Freezer or Storage</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ocean Spray Drinks</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spartan Biscuits</strong></td>
<td>1.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bag</strong></td>
<td>2/20</td>
<td><strong>Spartan Orange Juice</strong></td>
<td>1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ziploc</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spartan Mushrooms</strong></td>
<td>88c</td>
<td><strong>Glazed Cinnamon</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.79</td>
<td>2.89</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Freezer or Storage</strong></td>
<td><strong>All Varieties</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bag</strong></td>
<td><strong>24 Pack</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Apple, Apple/Cherry</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pepsi Cola Products</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.79</td>
<td>2.99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gerber Juices</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pepsi Cola</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.79</td>
<td>5.99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spartan</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lime Juice</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oatmeal or Rice Cereal</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lime Juice</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.79</td>
<td>2.99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spartan</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lime Juice</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oatmeal or Rice Cereal</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lime Juice</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.79</td>
<td>2.99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips**

- **89c**
- **Cottonelle Toilet Tissue**
- **2/5.00**
- **Wisk Liquid Laundry Detergent**
- **2/5.00**
- **Hills Bros. Coffee**
- **2/5.00**
Tips, Ideas & Money-Saving Help for The Tax Season

Tax-Cutter News & Information

Financial New Year Resolution

Some tax questions and answers you should know, from state CPAs...

Some tax questions and answers you should know, from state CPAs...

To help taxpayers better understand how to cut taxes, Michigan Association of CPAs provided answers to a variety of tax questions by CPA experts. If you're looking for answers to some of the most common tax questions, this article is for you. The answers are intended to help you prepare your tax return and avoid potential pitfalls.

1. How do I determine if I can use the standard deduction or itemize my deductions?

a. You can use the standard deduction if your total itemized deductions are less than your standard deduction.

b. You can itemize deductions if your total itemized deductions exceed your standard deduction.

2. What is the difference between itemizing and claiming the standard deduction?

a. Itemizing deductions allows you to deduct specific expenses, such as mortgage interest, charitable contributions, and state and local taxes.

b. Claiming the standard deduction means you will not be able to deduct these expenses.

3. How do I calculate my tax liability?

a. Your tax liability is the amount of tax you owe after deductions, credits, and exemptions have been applied.

b. To calculate your tax liability, you will need to know your adjusted gross income, the tax brackets for the year, and the amount of deductions, credits, and exemptions you are eligible for.

4. What are the benefits of setting up a 401(k) or similar retirement plan?

a. Setting up a 401(k) or similar retirement plan can help reduce your tax liability and provide tax-deferred savings for retirement.

b. Contributions to a 401(k) are made on a pre-tax basis, reducing your adjusted gross income and thus lowering your tax liability.

5. How do I calculate my Social Security benefits?

a. To calculate your Social Security benefits, you will need to know your earnings history and the Social Security formula.

b. The Social Security formula takes into account your earnings history and adjusts your benefits accordingly.

6. What are the tax implications of selling a home?

a. Selling a home can result in capital gains tax, which is calculated based on the difference between your cost basis and the selling price.

b. You may be able to exclude up to $250,000 of capital gains if you are single or $500,000 if you are married and meet certain requirements.

7. How do I determine if I am eligible for the earned income tax credit (EITC)?

a. The EITC is a federal tax credit for working individuals and families.

b. To be eligible for the EITC, you must meet certain income and work requirements.

8. How do I calculate my estimated tax payments?

a. Estimated tax payments are required if you expect to owe taxes at the end of the year.

b. To calculate your estimated tax payments, you will need to estimate your income and tax liability for the current year.

9. What are the tax implications of starting a new business?

a. Starting a new business can result in both tax savings and tax liabilities.

b. Tax savings may be available if you are able to deduct business expenses, while tax liabilities may occur if your new business generates income.

10. How do I ensure that I am maximizing my charitable contributions?

a. Maximizing charitable contributions requires careful planning and understanding of the tax laws.

b. To maximize your charitable contributions, you should consider your income tax situation and consult with a tax professional.

Sources: Michigan Association of CPAs, IRS.