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STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LAMBERT

Magic tree: Ruth Trombley of Farmington decorates her tree with eggs for Easter. But, she calls her flowering crab apple tree her magic tree. She tells people to stand under it and make a wish (not just at Easter).

Easter from page 9A

one indoors.

Her outside tree is covered with colored plastic eggs hung by strings, and a white bunny garland. The garland is new this year, but she has been hanging eggs so long she started out by buying plastic eggs, "drilling" holes in them and hanging them by strings. Now, plastic eggs designed to be hung up are available.

"Nobody had them yet. I had to make my own." People comment all the time about her decorations, she said. But her kids, both 15, weren't as thrilled. When she brought home a plastic bunny for the porch, "my kids thought I had gone way overboard this year," she said.

Sally Kirsten of Barfield has three children, two of them grown, and they love that she decorates at Easter. She started decorating a tree with plastic eggs five or six years ago. Some of the eggs fall off and get lost each year, so she found she didn't have that many to work with this year. But she says they are about 99 cents a dozen at discount stores.

On Fink Avenue, Nina Ary is new to the neighborhood, but her house definitely has the Easter spirit. She has plastic eggs in her big frontyard tree, and on her two front bushes, as well as bunny and egg cardboard cutouts placed strategically around the house and walkway.

She decorates her house for her three kids. "I'd like to do a lot more," she said. She had seen trees done in plastic eggs and thought it was cute. "It brightens things up a bit," she said.

Her children put stickers in the windows, but she helps with the outside decorating. Her son was out all of one day to hang eggs on the trees. "We have a real good time with it."

Over on Pickett Street, Kathy Zimmer also thinks Easter decorations brighten things up after a dreary winter. She and her husband decorate their tree with plastic eggs and little baskets.



Eggs and baskets: Sandy McClaghry says she buys baskets at garage sales — that's how she can put up as many as she does, 33 this year.

She saw a tree with little baskets on it down south and decided to decorate hers that way.

Zimmer said she has noticed that decorating for Easter has gotten more popular in recent years. "About 10 years ago you never saw Easter decorations," she said.

Sandra McClaghry, who lives on 11 Mile Road, also decorates her tree with baskets — full-size ones.

Along with the plastic Easter eggs on strings, she also has 33 baskets hanging from her front-

yard trees. She has six children, four of them grown, and 13 grandchildren. When asked if she does it for her children, she makes it clear she does it for herself, too.

"I got into it. I enjoy watching all the kids when they get on the (school) buses," she said.

She goes to garage sales all year and buys baskets and adds on to her display each year. She doesn't think it's a big deal, but passers-by do. "I've had more people pull up in the driveway," she said.

Talk from page 9A

■ **Consensus** — Can't we just agree not to agree? No, you have to reach a consensus today.

■ **Proactive** — No one takes the ball and runs or has initiative. They're proactive as opposed to being reactive or inactive.

■ **In-service** — This is teacher training. Lo and behold, we can't have someone mistakenly think educators are not trained. So, in-service sounds nicer.

■ **Demonstrated ability** — We think this means skill.

■ **Stakeholder** — This conjures up the notion of someone grasping a USDA choice porthouse but merely says the someone is

affected by decisions of a larger governmental body, i.e., state board of education.

■ **Authentic assessment** — Supposedly, this is better than having a referee from the World Wrestling Federation grading a student.

■ **Collaborative team member** — If a person wasn't collaborative, he wouldn't be a team member very long, would he?

■ **High order thinking skills** — We think this means rational.

■ **Site-based management** — See empower.

We poke fun at the schools good-naturedly. Even among the brethren, they admit to speaking

educationese too much.

Often, it's at their own peril. Some perceive polysyllabic explanations as typical educators' aloofness, or worse, arrogance. From this, suspicions and acrimony can be born.

More so, using buzz phrases gets away from what people are there to do: educate.

We can't help but wonder if the back-to-basics cry has more to do with the way educational leaders express themselves than with what they're trying to express.

Say it loud, say it proud... but say it in a way we can understand.

Scholarship pageant taking applications

There's still time to be a contestant in the 1996 Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills Scholarship Pageant.

Young women, ages 17-23, are eligible to compete for scholarships and the opportunity to represent the community at the Miss Michigan Pageant.

Applications can be obtained at

the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce Office. The deadline for applications is April 20. For more information call 471-9042.

An orientation session for Miss Farmington/Farmington Hills contestants and their parents is scheduled for 8 p.m. May 7. The site is to be determined.

NEW VOICES

Emilie Ann Booker was born March 16, 1995, in Normal, Ill., to Michael and Ann Booker.

She weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces at birth and was 19½ inches long.

Her grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Norbert Zogman of Farmington Hills and Sharon Book of Westland.

Her great-grandparents are Lucy Zogman of Gresham, Wis., and Irene Hannis of Westland.



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