# some humorous stories

Mend a lot of time trapping and relocating nuisance anipuls, such as reacons, opposium, skunks, rats, mice and expotes from property in the Parmington / Parmin

anima encounter. Over the years, I have accumulated story after story from experiences dealing with nuisance animals. The following is another one of those amusing stories, hope

the following is another one of those amusing stories, hope you like it.

While dating my wife, Kathy, many years ago, I was invited to spend the evening with her and her parents to watch a movie at their home. The evening was going well, we had our sodas and popeorn, and a warm blanket to snuggle up with and the lights turned low. I don't remember what we were watching, but I do remember the rest of the eventful evening. But I do remember the rest of the eventful evening. Rathy's parents had a den off of their living room with a door leading to their attached garge. While we were watching the movie, Kathy insisted something was in the garage, and the brave men of the house decided to investigate. A quick inspection revealed nothing, with the exception of small animal footprints on a dust covered shelving unit near the door into the den. After deciding that Kathy was hearing things, we continued with the movie. After a short while, she began to hear the scratching things, we continued with the movie. After a short while, she began to hear the scratching things, we continued with the movie. After a short while, she began to hear the scratching the foot of the sarage, or the screams of "Oh my, It's a huge rat."

Kathy slammed the door and, hearing her scream, I

Kathy slammed the door and, hearing her scream, I



jumped up to see what had

jumped up to see what had happened.

To my disbelief a very large oposum was holding itself upright against the screen door. It appeared to be looking into the house. At first glance, the opossum did look very similar to a rat.

Kathy's father, bless his beart, ran down the hall to a closet where he stored a shot gun. When he returned he attempted to load the gun, however his hands had a very nervous shake, and he found it difficult to load the chamber. The chaos and excitement in the house that night was subelieved. chais and extended the house that night was unbelievable, one minute we are watching a movie the next my future father-in-law had a shotgun in

father-in-law had a shotgun in his hands.

I suggested that he not shoot at the opossum since there were two very expensive cars parked in the garage. Chances were better than average the animal would be missed, and the bbs from the shotgun shell would riccohet around the garage. The cars most likely would get the worst of it.

After everyone calmed down.

cars most likely, would get the worst of it.

After everyone ealmed down, Kathy's father and I ventured into the gurage armed with a golf club. The animal was under some boxes in the far end of the gurage. I slowly approached the animal, not knowing how it would react. I could feel the hot breath of my father-in-law against the nape of my acek. I turned and asked him sarcastically the would rather take the lead. He got the hint and backed up a couple of feet.

Over the years, I have had many experiences, some funny, some very terrifying, all of which have helped me become the best professional trapper around.

We slowly continued to pproach until I was close approach until I was close enough the reach the oppos-sum with the golf club. I gently sum with the golf club. I gently poled at its rear end hoping it would move; instead, it hissed at me and showed its teeth while staring at me with deviliah red glowing eyes. After gaining a little more confidence, I gave it a couple more pokes and it finally it decided to retreat. The opposum slowly waddled out of the now open main garage door never to be seen again.

seen again.
Looking back, I always had a knack for dealing with animals, I just didn't realize it at the time. Over the years, I have had many experiences, some funny, some very terrifying, all of which have helped me

of which have helped me become the best professional trapper around. As always, anytime you decide to have a professional come out and review your situation, make sure they are insured and licensed with the Department of Natural Resources. Do your homework and make sure you know the costs associated with the services and if there are any guarantees.

Ron Baker is a professional trapper and owner of Trapper Ron's Animal Removal & Relocation Services. He can be reached at (248) 478-7649.

# Trapper's experiences include Couple wins a treasure trove of wedding gifts

It was a dream come true when Deanna Ideh and Shawn Busse won \$10,000 in gifts during the "Biggest, Best, Bridal Show Ever!," recently sponsored by Brides-to-Be Inc and the Observer & Eccentric

ewspapers. The funny thing, Ideh said,

The funny thing, Ideh said, is that they weren't even engaged when they attended the show.

Since then, the 23-year-old Livonia resident has a ring on her finger and has set the date for Oct. 12, 2003. It was Busse's idea to attend the show featuring 100 bridatehibits at the Northfield Hilton in Troy last month.

I didn't expect it," according to Ideh, who works as a namy and for Novi Public Schools. Busse, 24, lives in Livonia and works at IKON Office Solutions.

worst at IKON Office
Solutions.

"I never won anything before,
so I wasn't thinking I would
win, said Ideh, a 1938
Stevenson High School graduate. It was overwhelmed and
excited. I didn't know who to
call to thank, but everyone was
very nice and very helpful!
Ideh and Busse are planning
ably wedding, with between
150 and 300 people, and winning the \$10,000 in gifts will
cover a lot of their expenses.
It's 'overwhelming,' Ideh
said, to think about all they
won.

won.

The prizes include a baguette heart containing a cluster of diamonds (.75 carat) from Elegant Jewelers, in Clinton Township; an all-inclusive four-day, three-night Jamaican honeymoon from Couples Resort; \$1,000 in tuxedos for the wed-ding party by President Tuxedo,

'i was overwhelmed and excited. I didn't know who to call to thank, but everyone was very nice and very help-

in Livonia, West Bloomfield, as well as other area locations; Starshowx DJ Entertainment in Auburn Hills; a session by A Pair of Photographers in West Bloomfield and Ann Arbor; and hairstyle, nails and tanning by Studio 58 Hair and Nail Salon in Mount Clemens. The gifts also include com-

in Mount Clemens.
The gifts also include complete makeovers for the entire wedding party and a \$50 certificate for the bride by Mary Kay sponsor, Sheri Stang, free bridd well, shoes and purse from Bridd Vells & Shoes Unlimited & More, in Sterling Heights, valued at \$375; a wedding cake by Mrs. Maddox Cake Shop in Farmington Hills; custom invitations and ceremony programs by Archaecpetery? Printing in Detroit; a \$500 gift package by Christian Dior; gift package by Christian Dior; gift package by Christian Dior; and the Manhattan Collection. Every bride needs to relax and there's nothing better than a therapeture massage for the

and there's nothing better than a therapeutic massage for the bride and groom by N.E.A.R. Perfect in Clinton Township. The couple also received a free arch or candedabar arental from Norma's Enchanted Garden in Aubum Hills; flower girl dress from Always and Forever Bridal in Shelby Township; double heart fee Sculpture by Ice Dreams in Phymouth; a \$300 gift certificate from Pajama

Parties and a bachelorette party at Wild Woody's in Roseville. Brides who are working on last-minute planning can visit woo bridestobeshows net and go to the 'One Stop Shopper'. We give the bride everything and anything they will need,' said Cyd LaChiusa, president of Brides to-Be in Clintun Township.

Township.
The bridal shows are packed with representatives from businesses providing formal to casual dining; various photographic options; bakery goods; flowers; music ranging from disc jockery to orchestras; toe seculptures from a wear; dovers; ice sculptures and just about anything a couple might want at their wedding, onsulting at the shows, as well as all year long at the Clinton Township store free of charge to couples.

The shows are nopportunity for brides; goods and mother-of-brides to see what available, said Cathy Young, O& E promotion manager.

My daughter is getting married and to win \$10,000 for the wedding is lung. Young said.
We're also happy to see some nor from our circulation area win.

The next bridal show will be ownship. The bridal shows are packed

win.\*

The next bridal show will be at noon Sunday, Sept. 7, at the Mac & Rays Banquet Center in Harrison Township. The last show of the season will be at noon Sunday, March 7, 2004, at the Hotel Barunette in Novi where the next Observer & Eccentric \$10,000 Dream Wedding of 2004 will be given away. way. Show tickets can be pur-

chased at www.bridestobeshows.net or by calling Brides-to-Be at (586) 228-2700.

### Schoolcraft graduates 1,300 on May 3

Summer Electricity Bills

Phus, save a bundle on record-setting energy

More than 1,300 ctudents are eligible to receive diplomas at Schoolcraft Colleges 38th com-mencement, Saturday, May 3. Graduates will hear Thomas D. Wakkin 31., state superin-tendent of public instruction, deliver the commencement address.

Guests must have tickets to attend the ceremony, which

attend the ceremony, which begins at 6 p.m.
The college will confer hon-orary degrees on Watkins; Orin Mazzoni Jr., president of Orin Jewelers Inc., and a longtime Schoolcraft Foundation sup-college. Lucy Toy, state of Schoolcraft Foundation sup-pointer; Laura Toy, state of Michigan senator for the 6th Ditrict, whose support was cricial in the college's receipt of state funding for the new VIFINTech Center; and Dr. E.J. McClendon, an educational legiter in the Plymouth commu-

for Priday, May 2, 114 public andry graduates will convene for their ceremony, where they will hear Michigan Court of Appeals Justice Michael Talbot

Likely to Soar

ast winter, heating tills awared. Hundreds of customers demanded "high efficiency" systems and pocketed 40-40% savings as a result.

But now, the demand is creasing for summer. In fact out recently, U.S. Energy ceretary Spencer Abraham said,

"The problem will get worse, and blackouts (in some U.S. areas) appear inevitable." Ouch.

This summer, you can count on sky-high bills to cool your home and price increases for efficient equipment. We've effected had one increase with more to come!

That's when I had this really bright iden (to me anyway.)

The Unity Truth

deliver the commencement speech.

Commencement speaker

Watkins took over as superin-tendent in the state's educational office April 2001, Among his tendent in the states educational office April 2001. Among his former public and private positions are deputy chief of staff for Gov. James Blanchard, director of the Department of Mental Health, special assistant to the president for public school initiatives at Wayne State University where he played a key role in creating Michigan's first charter school, and president and CEO of the Economic Council of Palm Beach County, Fla.
Waldins earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Michigan State University and a master's degree in criminal justice from Michigan State University of a master's degree in criminal justice from Michigan State University. Currently he is completing requirements for a doctorate in education administration from Wayne State University.

doctorate in enteration auminis-tration at Wayne State.
Justice Hilbot, who will speak at the public safety graduation, served as a visiting judge in the Wayne County Circuit Court.

techs?' If we can't use it, we'll donate it. Everybody wins.

Plus, your summer energy bills should drop like a rock (we're predicting 25-30%). Use those savings for a vacation.

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show you how much you can
save, plus energy-saving tips.

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