

Around Charlotte

News of note

•Crisis Assistance Ministry will offer an alternative to traditional gift giving with its Crisis Angel holiday gift card. Make a donation to the organization in the name of a loved one or friend and CAM will send that individual one of its 20th anniversary angel greeting cards. Proceeds will be used to benefit families in need. A minimum of \$10 is requested. For more information, call 371-3001, ext. 126.

•The Christmas Bureau, which serves families in need during the holidays, is looking for volunteers. For information or orientation times, call Nicole or Angie at 333-6635.

•The Grier Heights Economic Foundation will offer a six-week workshop for parents that discusses problems of child rearing. Sessions will be held every Tuesday at the Grier Heights Community Center. For more information, call 375-9566.

•The National Forum for Black Public Administrators seeks donations for its Toys for Tots campaign. For more information, call Carmelita Coleman at 336-2643. All toys will be donated to Crisis Assistance Ministry.

•The Uptown Shelter is soliciting individuals and groups to collect and donate winter clothing, especially coats and jeans. For more information, call 334-1337.

•Historic Rosedale, 3427 North Tryon St., will host an 1840s Christmas Sunday at 2 p.m. For more information or to order tickets, call 335-0325.

•Habitat For Humanity is looking for local artists for its annual art contest. Winning designs will be featured on Habitat's Alternative Gift/Holiday Card Program and Memorial/Honorarium cards

sent to its contributors. Prizes include \$500 to adult winners, and a \$500 savings bond and two season tickets to Carowinds for the winner of the children's division. Entries should be mailed to Jeanne Tatar, Habitat for Humanity, PO Box 34997, Charlotte, N.C., 28234.

Saturday

•Concord will host its annual ChristmasTown Express Parade Saturday at 3 p.m. Marchers will line up at the intersection of Church and Lake Concord roads and end in front of the Cabarrus County Courthouse. For more information, call 782-4111.

Sunday

•The Carolina Panthers Women's Association will host a canned food drive at Sunday's Panthers-Tampa Bay Buccaneers game. All fans are asked to bring canned goods or non-perishable food items to Ericsson Stadium. Volunteers will be at each gate to collect the items. The Salvation Army will set up red kettles for those who wish to make monetary donations.

Tuesday

•The Caregiver Support Group of Adult Care and Share will meet at 7 p.m. at 6709 Idlewild Road.

Upcoming events

•The Singing Christmas Tree Dec. 6 at 8 p.m., Dec. 7 at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Dec. 8 at 3 p.m. at Ovens Auditorium. Tickets are \$10-\$18. For more information, call 372-3600 or 374-1564.

•The Nature Museum will host its annual Christmas Party, Dec. 7 at 10 a.m. Cost is \$7 per child for non-members, \$5 for members. Reservations are required. For more information,

call 372-6261, extension 354.

•The Marion Diehl Center will host a Christmas craft session for children 7-12 years old Dec. 7 from 5-7 p.m. For more information, call 527-0237. Cost is \$5.

•Lights of Love, a holiday celebration featuring 7,000 luminaries, will be held Dec. 8 at Sharon Memorial Park, corner of Monroe and Sharon Amity Road. For more information, call 843-0244.

•The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Republican Women's Club will feature Gary Aldrich Dec. 9 at 4:30 p.m. Aldrich is author of

"Unlimited Access: An FBI Agent Inside the Clinton White House." For more information, or to make reservations, call 847-5764.

•The Charlotte Chapter of the Society of Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters will meet Dec. 10 at Charlotte Marriott Executive Park at 7:30 a.m. The keynote speaker will be David W. Banks of Royal Insurance. For more information, contact Rich Abraham, 536-6230, extension 210. Registration is \$16 and includes breakfast.

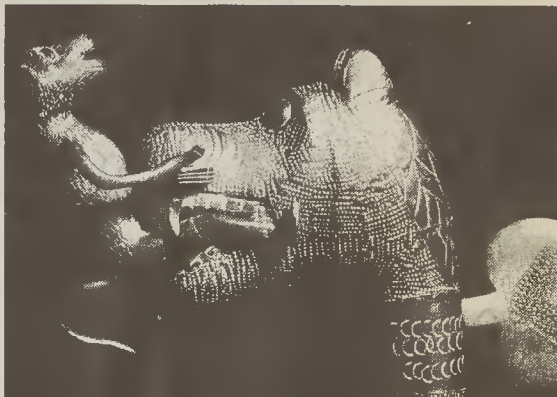
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Go on a scavenger hunt with our *Children's Animal Tracking Guide*. Bring drawing paper and try to capture a pangolin. Just don't monkey with the lion! Kids 12 and under are always admitted free. Bring a stuffed animal to be donated to the Salvation Army's Christmas Bureau and your family gets in free. Sponsored by Land Rover Charlotte and The Leader.

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Hairpiece screws on

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"You can't pull it. You've got to get under it," he says.

While the idea of bald men going through life with snaps in their heads might seem a little strange, or even silly, Pignataro believes his procedure is a legitimate solution for the estimated 40 million men who suffer from male pattern baldness.

"Baldness, for the man who is bothered by it, can be a very emotional, psychological and traumatic issue," said Pignataro.

Tom Cash is a professor of psychology at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., and the author of a book on self-image called "What Do You See When You Look in the Mirror?" He says hair loss is commonly seen by men as a loss of virility and power.

"They believe their hair loss diminishes their attractiveness," Cash said.

But men who suffer from baldness should look at the risks and benefits of any procedure like Pignataro's.

"Buyers should beware," Cash

said.

About 50 percent of all men have noticeable hair loss by age 50, said Mark Avram, director of cosmetic surgery at New York Hospital. Between 10 and 20 percent of women also experience hair loss.

Genes for male pattern baldness can be inherited from either the mother or the father, and their effects can be seen in men as young as their 20s.

One 30-year-old man from Buffalo, who wished to remain anonymous, said he started losing his hair when he was about 20 and started wearing a hairpiece soon after.

He heard about Pignataro's procedure from his hair stylist, did some research, and now owns two of the snap-on hairpieces.

"I'd do it again even if the cost was 10 times what it was," he said. "I like to date younger women. A lot of times it feels like they like guys with a full head of hair."

Besides hairpieces, hair can be transplanted from other areas of the scalp and scalp-reduction surgery can be performed.

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