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SUNDAY
December 25, 2005

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Cox looks beyond Fieger to re-election in '06

BY DAN WEST
STAFF WRITER

Attorney General Mike Cox is trying to rebound politically after a tumultuous two months stemming from his office's criminal investigation into Geoffrey Fieger.

Cox, a Livonia Republican who plans to run for re-election in 2006, is in the midst of a media firestorm from the situation that moved him to admit he had an extramarital affair. While he d-

rather talk about his efforts to collect \$20 million for children from their dead-beat parents and his price battles with Michigan's utility companies, Cox said he has no regrets about his handling of the Fieger situation because his actions protected his office's integrity.

"The bottom line is, if I didn't come forward and our office ended up not charging Geoffrey Fieger, it would have been out six, seven months ago what he tried to do," Cox said. Then, peo-

ple would say the office buckled under and did something underhanded, or some how, I put the integrity of the office over my own personal pride or embarrassment.

It's very important that this office maintain its integrity. According to Cox, Fieger planned to disclose the infidelity in an attempt to thwart the attorney general's investigation into charges Fieger illegally funneled \$457,000 into an unsuccessful bid to defeat a Michigan

Supreme Court candidate in 2004. Fieger was not charged in connection with the blackmail allegation.

The campaign finance investigation continues. In a bid to distance himself from the Fieger probe, Cox appointed an independent investigator, Patrick Shannon, a former prosecutor from Sault Ste. Marie to take over the case.

Fieger, a flamboyant, national-



Attorney General Mike Cox and his wife, Wayne County Commissioner Laura Cox, share a moment at a coffee shop near their home in Livonia.

PLEASE SEE COX, A5



Terry and Janet Blumberg talk about the loss of their son, Trevor, who is the only Canton soldier killed in action since the end of the Vietnam War.



Trevor Blumberg of Canton was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq in 2003.

Stay the course

Parents of slain soldier say America must finish job in Iraq

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

On Sept. 14, 2003, a roadside bomb in Iraq ripped apart the Humvee that U.S. Army Sgt. Trevor Blumberg was traveling in with three other soldiers. As a result of the explosion, the 22-year-old Blumberg, who had only arrived in the country three days

earlier with the rest of his battalion, became the first Canton soldier killed in action since the Vietnam War.

That roadside bomb also ripped from Terry and Janet Blumberg their only son. In the more than two years since that fateful day, the longtime Canton residents have tried to cope with the loss. They are tremendously proud of

the sacrifice their son made for his country, but worry it might be in vain if America doesn't complete its mission in Iraq - to create a flourishing democracy in the heart of the Middle East.

Terry, who is a Vietnam veteran, said the news of his son's death was difficult to accept, but some-

PLEASE SEE BLUMBERG, A4

Some charities report holiday shortfalls

BY MATT JACHMAN
STAFF WRITER

Charities are reportedly taking a toll on Christmastime philanthropy in the suburbs.

Reports from groups such as the Salvation Army and the Goodfellows show some campaigns are meeting fund-raising goals while others are taking in less than organizers had hoped.

"Judging from what we did last year at this time, it looks like we're going to be down quite a bit," said Dick Tupper, president of the Farmington Area Goodfellows.

Tupper's group, which provides needy families with food baskets, toys (through Toys for Tots) and necessities like clothing, raised about \$67,000 last year, but is on course to be about 30 percent below that this year, Tupper said.

"We get the feedback that because of what's been going on in the world the last eight or 10 months, we really should expect our collections to be down," Tupper added. But he was still surprised at the shortfall, he said.

Yet Marie Morrow, president of the Plymouth Community United Way, said the group should meet its fund-raising target of \$1.3 million this year.

Morrow said she sees growing needs in the community, but also more generosity. The United Way campaign began in late August and lasts through the end of the year. "Obviously there've been challenges out there with the economy and natural disasters," she said. "People have really kind of dug deeper in those times."

At the Plymouth Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign coordinator Kelly Boelter recently said donations were trending short of a \$155,000 goal.

Lower returns were also seen at the Canton Goodfellows, where president Nancy Spencer said newspaper sales brought in \$4,300, which is between \$500 and \$700 short of what's typical.

A mail solicitation, she said Thursday, has brought in

PLEASE SEE CHARITIES, A2

Livonia senior gives holiday bash

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Patty Ash donned a red hat and suit, complete with a snowy Santa beard, Thursday when she brought the spirit of Christmas to Livonia's Civic Park Senior Center.

Ash, a lifelong Livonia resident, is visually impaired. But a lack of

eyesight doesn't stop her from sewing festive Christmas costumes, creating a holiday skit, and building a sleigh complete with reindeer - all to entertain friends and staff at the senior center.

"I'm going to motivate the group," said Ash, 70.

For years she hosted Christmas parties for children - with up to

300 kids in attendance. Now, she's taken that idea to the senior center. After all, "Christmas is fun," she said.

Joan Gebhardt first met Ash this summer when she was calling bingo at the Senior Center. Gebhardt calls her simply amaz-

PLEASE SEE ASH, A7



Patty Ash, a visually impaired Livonia senior, saved her Bingo winnings this year to throw a holiday party at the Civic Park Senior Center. Behind her stand snowman Mary Jamison, reindeer Marie Sliwinski, Beverly Gust and Christmas tree Wanda Smith. Volunteer Nancy Klien (right) helped hand out the gifts Ash purchased for everyone.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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CHARITIES

FROM PAGE A1

about \$5,500 so far. "It's a few thousand short," Spencer said of the mail drive, adding, "It's still pretty good." Savings supplemented the groups No Child Without a Christmas program this year, she said. Boelter said the red kettle campaign was affected by her groups earlier hurricane relief work. The Plymouth Salvation Army she said, raised more than \$60,000 in a three-week span and sent it to the southern U.S. for hurricane relief.

HELP WANTED

Groups also report that fund-raising volunteers - bell-ringers for the red kettle drive, for example - are sometimes scarce.

"I am having difficulty getting and keeping bell-ringers this year," said Boelter. "It was extremely difficult."

The Plymouth Salvation Army had 23 kettle locations in its area (including Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton Township), but Boelter said a large percentage of sites went unmanned - meaning the kettles were unavailable to potential donors.

For example, out of a 30-day campaign, Boelter said recently, the kettle at the post office in Belleville was covered for just four hours. She called that "devastating."

"Nobody wants to stand out in the cold," Spencer said. The Canton Goodfellows, she said, had only eight people hawking its fund-raising papers this year, down from 22 last year.

The eight people who did sell papers did so remarkably well, she said.

BRIGHT SPOTS

Livonia Goodfellows president Bill Heaton said Thursday that fund raising was nearing 90 percent of the approximately \$100,000 the group has typically raised in each of the last few years. "I think things have gone very well, better than anticipated this year," Heaton said.

Heaton said he expects to reach the \$100,000 mark. Canned good donations were off a bit, he said, but the Goodfellows had an adequate number of toys (mostly from Toys for Lots and its own drive).

The Livonia Goodfellows assisted about 235 families this

To give ...

Here are the addresses of some Observer-area charities that conduct holiday-time fund drives.

■ Canton Goodfellows, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188
 ■ Redford Goodfellows, P.O. Box 40681 Redford, MI 48239

■ Farmington Area Goodfellows, 30903-B West 10 Mile, Farmington Hills, MI 48336

■ Plymouth Community United Way, P.O. Box 3653, Plymouth, MI 48170

■ Wayne Westland Corps, The Salvation Army, 2300 Venoy, Westland, MI 48186

■ Plymouth Salvation Army, 9451 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170

■ Livonia Goodfellows Inc., P.O. Box 51982, Livonia, MI 48151

year, with some 625 children among them. It relied heavily on a mailed plea, getting only about \$10,000 from its paper sale, Heaton said.

At the Salvation Army's Wayne-Westland Corps, Capt. Matt O'Neil was pleased with the Red Kettle drive's results. The goal was \$115,000, and with donations at about \$82,000 or \$83,000 as of Monday, O'Neil is optimistic, though he said it will be "pretty tight."

Our drive's going better than I imagined," he said. "I thought it would be a lot less."

In Redford, Goodfellows president John Buck said the group will be able to pay its bills. Its paper sale brought in about \$13,000, roughly \$1,000 less than last year, but the group also gets mailed donations.

The need in Redford rose significantly, with more than 200 families getting aid this year, compared to 185 last year.

For Spencer of the Canton Goodfellows, despite coming up short in fund raising, it was gratifying that some 500 needy children in the group's service area were adopted by donors who provided them with Christmas gifts. It was the first time in the group's history that all eligible children had been adopted, she said. As far as she is concerned, that's a miracle. She said

mjachman@oe.hometown.com (734) 953-2115

Snow problem leads to disorderly charge

A 29-year-old woman was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge during a dispute over snow removal on Woodworth Street north of Seven Mile in Redford on Dec. 15.

Neighbors were accusing each other of throwing snow on each other's driveway, a police report said.

Police were called when a man cleared his driveway with a snowblower that sent the snow onto a driveway across the street, police said.

The suspect, 49, admitted doing so, but said the neighbor had thrown salt on his lawn, killing the grass, something the complainant denied. The man agreed to remove the snow from the complainant's driveway, though he became argumentative and was warned to calm down, police said.

A woman from his house, however, persisted in yelling about the complainant, saying he always throws snow on their driveway, police said.

Several people were watching the incident, and the woman was arrested after yelling at police and being warned at least three times to calm down, police said.

Track leads to arrest

A 45-year-old man was arrested on two warrants related to drug offenses as police investigated a break-in at a house on Deborah Street in Redford Thursday evening.

The house's side door had been forced open, and a pry bar was found on a bed inside, a police report said.

Books of checks were reported stolen.

An officer noticed footprints in the snow in the back yard, and a tracking dog, Czar, took police to a side door of a neighboring house.

That's where police found the man with the outstanding warrants. He refused to let police search his bedroom, and a search warrant was sought.

Grinchy thief

Wrapped Christmas presents plus digital video discs and videotapes were reported stolen from a house on Wormer Street north of Five Mile in Redford after a burglary on Tuesday.

The complainant told police

CRIME WATCH

he came home to find a door open. He couldn't remember if it had been secured, police said. The man's bedroom had been ransacked.

Restaurant theft

An official for the Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant in Westland reported that someone broke into the business between 2 a.m. and 9 a.m. Tuesday.

The restaurant is located on Wayne Road north of Ford.

The break-in was discovered when an assistant manager and a representative for Red Bull - a company that sells energy drinks - came to the restaurant to open it Tuesday morning.

They found that a window of an exit door had been broken and that someone had gone into a restaurant safe to take an undisclosed amount of money, according to a police report.

The investigation was continuing.

The uninvited

A man who lives on Orange Street in the Westland Meadows mobile home park in Westland reported a home invasion that he said occurred between 4 p.m. Monday and 10:30 p.m. Tuesday.

The mobile home park is located near Merriman and Van Born roads on the city's southeast side.

The resident said he hadn't been home in two days and that the incident occurred as he was trying to move out of the mobile home park, according to a police report.

He reported some damage inside his house but said it didn't appear that anything had been stolen. He told police that it appeared his home was simply used for a party.

One witness told police that she saw three men she didn't recognize enter the house.

Sob story

Canton police weren't buying a 19-year-old man's sob story when they arrested him for shoplifting at the Canton Mejer store on Dec. 16.

According to a police report,

the man was shopping in the store at 9:15 p.m. He had two young boys with him. A loss prevention officer watched as the man stuffed packages of sports cards into his jacket.

He and the boys picked up a shovel and some de-icing pellets and paid for them, but store personnel stopped him near the exit to ask him about the cards.

When police arrived to question him, officers asked where the boys' mother was so they could call her to come pick up the children before he was taken to the police station.

He told police that the boys' mother had died eight months earlier, and that money was tight. "I just wanted to give the boys a good Christmas," he told the officers, the report said.

But when the twin 4-year-old boys were questioned separately, they told police that their mother had taken them to school the previous day.

Officers took all three to the police station. When questioned again about the whereabouts of the boys' mother, he insisted, "I swear on my kids' lives she's dead."

The man was able to make bail, and a friend was called to take him and the children home.

When the friend arrived, police asked about the mother, and the friend said not only is she alive, but she's not married to the man who had been arrested. He is a live-in boyfriend and is not the father of the children, the friend said.

Police were able to contact the mother, who picked up the children.

Officers also called Child Protective Services. The man was released after being charged with shoplifting and posting a \$300 bond.

Vandalism

Two residents of apartments in the 31000 block of Pardo in Garden City reported two tires punctured on each of their vehicles, resulting in \$250 damage apiece, on Tuesday. Both vehicles were parked on the street.

Also on Tuesday, a resident in the 30000 block of John Hauk reported one tire on a vehicle had been punctured while it was parked in the driveway. The damage was set at \$150.

Fraud

A resident in the 500 block of Helen in Garden City told police Tuesday that she'd received a collection notice for \$200 overdue on a DTE account she hadn't opened.

The account was listed at an address at a Wayne apartment building, where the woman said her brother's former girlfriend had lived.

Counterfeit bill

An employee at the Shell gas station at 120 Middlebelt in Garden City told police Tuesday that he was counting money from the cash register when he found a counterfeit \$20. The bill was turned over to police.

Retail fraud

A Garden City man was arrested Tuesday for shoplifting ham and a frozen apple pie valued at \$11 from Kroger, 5866 Middlebelt, in Garden City. An employee said the man was detained after he was spotted leaving with the items hidden under his clothing.

On Wednesday, an employee at CVS Pharmacy, 29901 Ford Road, reported that beer and two packages of diapers valued at \$50 were stolen by a man and woman. The employee said he followed the couple outside to their vehicle and saw the items on the back seat. He said he talked to the man but the suspect drove off.

Suspended license

Garden City police on Wednesday arrested a Detroit man for driving with three license suspensions and having an outstanding warrant, and cited him for having no proof of insurance.

An officer reported noticing the man sitting in a running vehicle near the entrance to an apartment building in the 30000 block of Krauter while checking the area in response to recent vandalism complaints.

On Thursday, a Detroit woman was arrested for driving with five license suspensions and possession of suspected marijuana. She was also held on two warrants. She had been stopped for driving with high beams on.

by Observer staff

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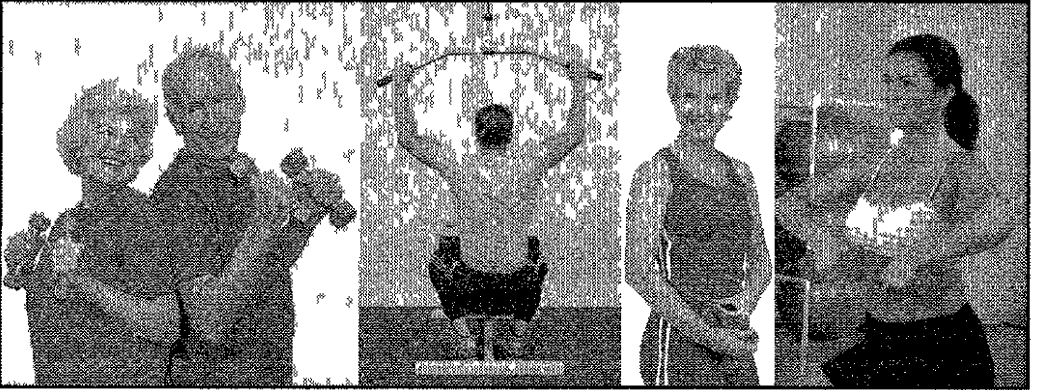
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Living it up

Three neighbors celebrate their 100th birthdays

BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

When these ladies were born, the average life expectancy was 47 years. The average wage was 22 cents per hour. Sugar and flour cost 4 cents per pound and a dozen eggs cost 14 cents. That was 100 years ago.

Louise Frid, Kay Langan and Hazel Farrell, all neighbors at the Grand Court senior citizen residence in Farmington Hills, reached the milestone this year. Louise turned 100 on July 23, Hazel celebrated 100 years on Nov. 19, and Kay had her 100th birthday on Dec. 17.

The neighbors gathered in the cozy lobby of Grand Court to receive a special recognition from state Rep. Aldo Vagnozzi, D-Farmington Hills, recently and they told their secrets to longevity.

"Working hard, keeping busy all the time and being glad the Lord lets you live every day," said Hazel, who has lived in Farmington Hills for 35 years.

Born in Canton, Ohio, she was one of seven children. Her family moved to Michigan when she was 8 years old and she grew up on Detroit's west side. She married Gerard E. "Ted" Farrell and they raised seven children.

Today, she fills her days with friends and family. She stays active at Grand Court.

"I go and do everything they have here," she said. "I have a purse I call my bingo purse."

Louise also gets around the Grand Court community. Even at 100, she still walks the hallways every morning. Staying healthy is her secret.

"I can't believe it myself," she said. "Day after day, not a pain. I still enjoy life and I enjoy the people around me."

Louise was born in Arizona and moved to Michigan when she was a child. Her parents traveled to the Midwest by horse and wagon. She grew up on a farm in Caro. She had three children.

Kay, who lived half of her life in Southfield, had a remarkable birthday present delivered to her in mid-December.

Sitting on a table in the lobby of Grand Court was a giant arrangement of 100 roses — 99 were brilliant red and one was a white rose, in memory of her husband, Tom.

Kay was born in Canada and came to Michigan in 1929. Her husband didn't like factory work, so the couple opened a gas station at the corner of 11 Mile and Northwestern Highway. The gas station was demolished when the highway was widened. The couple used the money they received from the buyout to

open Nor-West Lanes, which is still in the family. Kay's grandchildren run the bowling alley, located at 14 Mile and Northwestern.

Kay is thankful for her many blessings at 100 years of age.

"It's wonderful to live," she smiled. "I have a lot to be thankful for. I'm thankful for my health and that the Lord has left

me here." Healthy living and taking one day at a time is Kay's secret to living an active life, even when you're a century old. She's optimistic and sees the beauty in everyone she meets.

"I've met some beautiful people here," she said.

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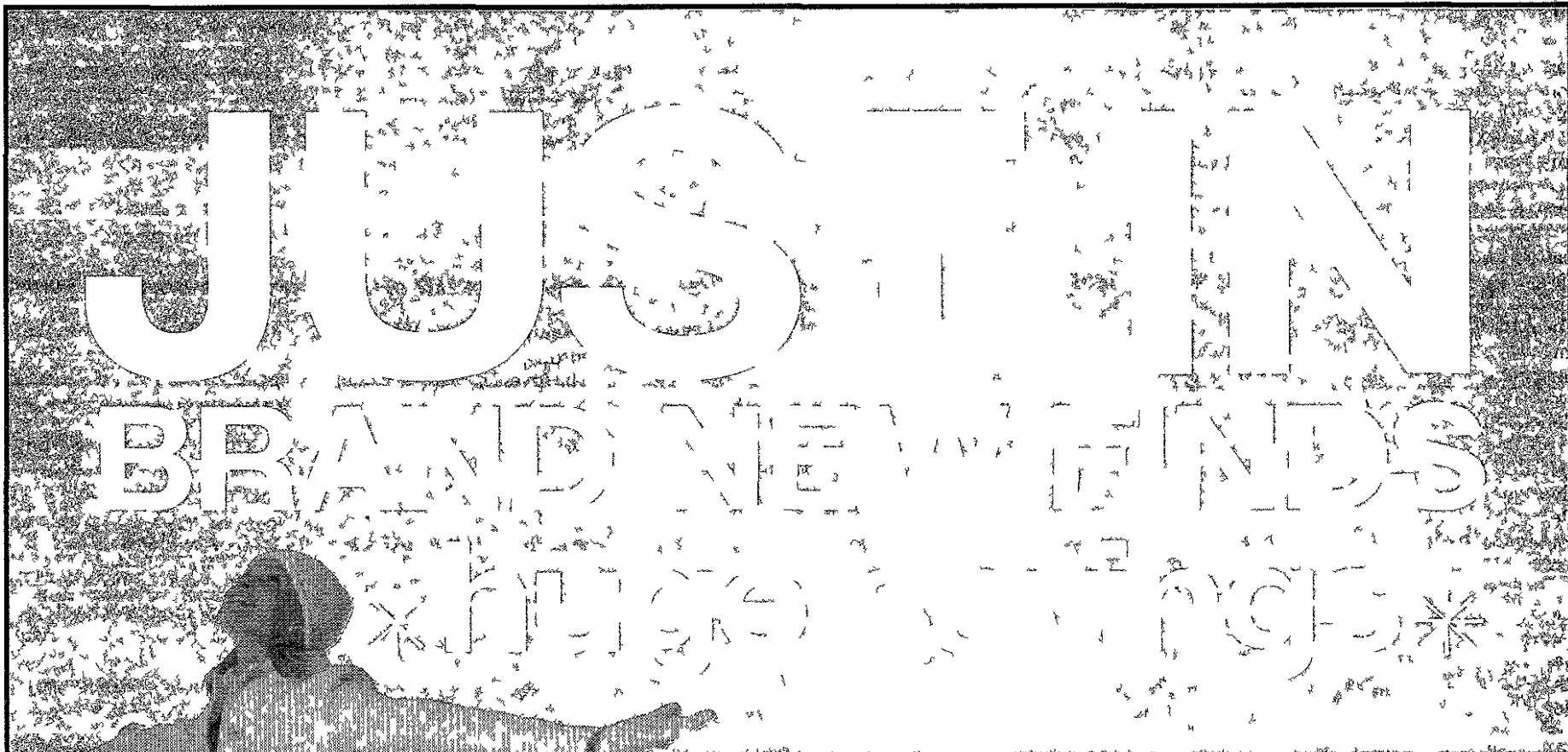
'I can't believe it myself. Day after day, not a pain. I still enjoy life and I enjoy the people around me.'

Louise Frid
100 years old

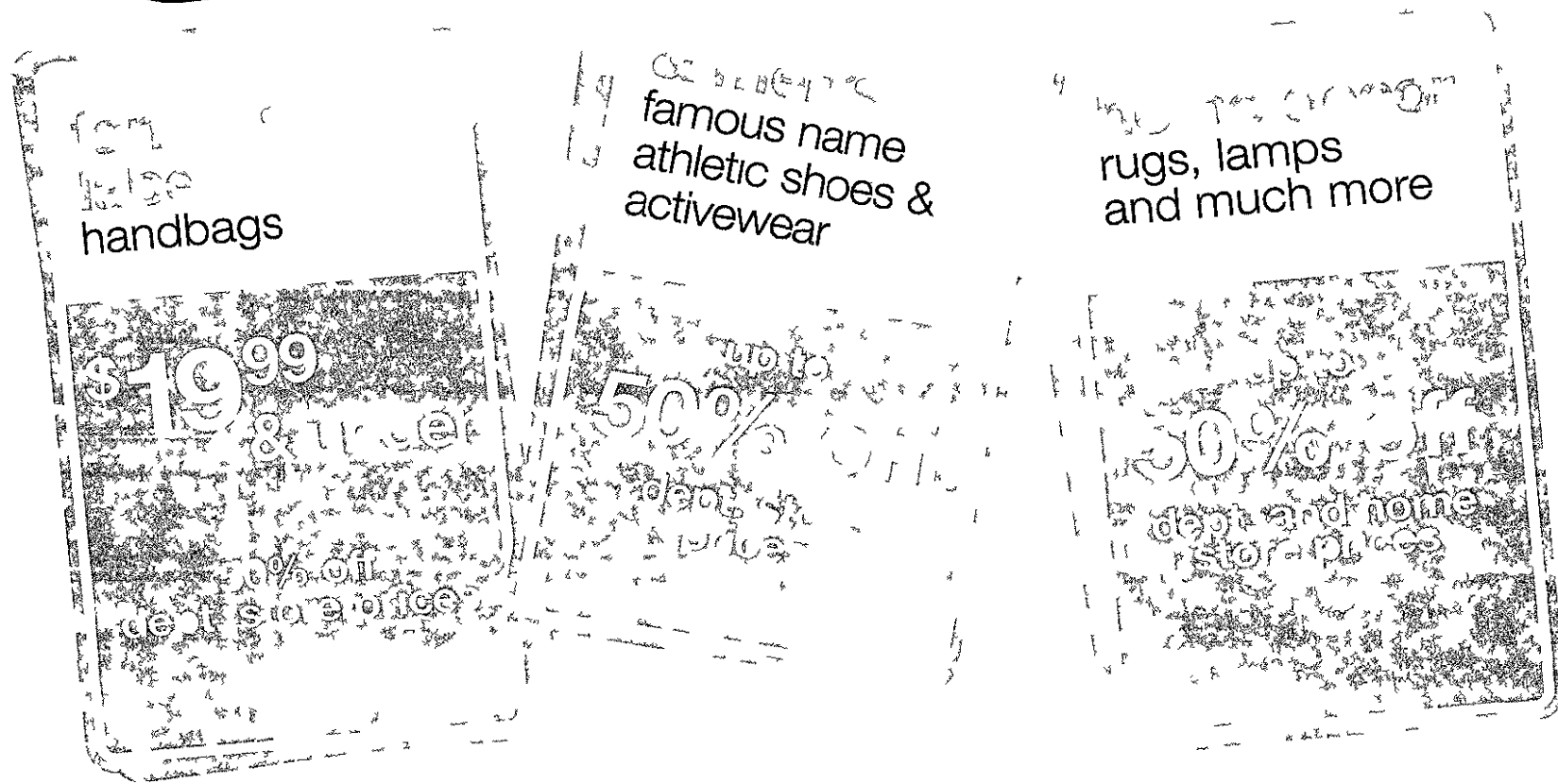


Hazel Farrell, Kay Langan, and Louise Frid are all 100 years old. They are neighbors at the Grand Court senior living community in Farmington Hills.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



LOOKS
coats

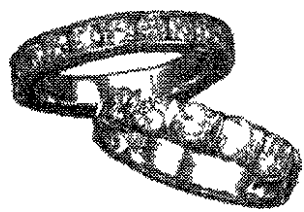


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Garden City Middle School's B.A.R.K. (Bull Dog Athletics Reaching Kids) is sponsoring a night at The Palace of Auburn Hills on Saturday, Jan. 7, when the Pistons take the floor against the Utah Jazz at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets sell for \$35 per person. Each ticket holder will receive a Detroit Pistons backpack and one hour of post-game court time on The Palace floor.

Tickets are by calling Judy Nichols at (734) 513-6760. Payment must be made in the form of cash or check made payable to Garden City Public Schools with a note of Piston Night in the memo section of the check.

Proceeds from the Pistons game benefits the intramural sports program at the middle school.

BLUMBERG

FROM PAGE A1

thing he prepared himself for since the day his son told him he had joined the Army back in 2001.

"The day he put on a uniform, I was prepared that this might happen," he said. "But it was still the hardest day of my life. And it was even harder on my wife."

For the Blumbergs, the news of Trevor's death was the beginning of a whirlwind couple weeks, during which time they not only had to come to grips with his death, but also had to make funeral arrangements and the like. Fortunately, the Blumbergs say the Army went all out to make sure they had everything they needed to get through a very difficult time.

Unfortunately, they were also bombarded by the media. They quickly learned that dying soldiers make good news stories. They say it became somewhat of a frenzy outside their home on Longfellow Street. At one point it became so bad, they say a local TV news reporter literally accosted Trevor's elderly grandmother as she tried to walk up to the house. Finally a couple Canton police officers blocked off the street to outside traffic, until interest in Trevor's death began to wane.

During the episode, the

Blumbergs say they developed a general mistrust of the media, something that continues to this day. In fact, Terry believes the media is much to blame for the American public's growing disillusionment with the war in Iraq.

"We have constant contact with the soldiers who are on the ground. Those guys are doing some great stuff over there, but you would never even know it with the way the war is being reported. The soldiers we talk to say the reporters never even leave the safety of the Green Zone, and have no idea of what's really happening," he said.

Terry is no stranger to the controversy that can surround a war. He served in Vietnam during the tumultuous years of 1967-68, and went through the Tet Offensive, an event many believe was the turning point of the war — when the American public began to question why we were there.

Despite the fact that recent polls suggest the majority of the American public believes it was a mistake going into Iraq, Terry says he doesn't see many similarities with the Vietnam era. Both he and Janet, who are both 60, said they have believed in this war from the beginning. The fact that it took their son makes them even more resolute. They just hope the country feels the same way. It all depends on our inter-



Amanda Marshall, Trevor Blumberg's only sibling, holds her 3-month-old son Logan, who is the first grandchild of Terry and Janet Blumberg (in background).

'The soldiers we talk to say the reporters never even leave the safety of the Green Zone, and have no idea of what's really happening.'

Terry Blumberg, father of slain soldier Trevor Blumberg.

tinal fortitude and the people in Washington. If they give up, then it's over, said Terry, who is a home inspector.

The Blumbergs have lived in the Embassy Squares subdivision since 1988, when Trevor

was just 5. He became a fixture in the neighborhood, graduating from Plymouth Salem in 1999. His sister and only sibling, Amanda Marshall, said Trevor didn't have a ton of friends, but to those he did have he was extremely loyal.

That's why she wasn't surprised when he first told her he was going to join the Army, something she knew before their parents.

"You could just tell that college wasn't for him. He was intelligent enough, but he wanted something more for his life," she said.

The Blumbergs say they have been honored the way the Canton community has supported them, from local veterans groups to township officials, but especially their neighbors, who really helped them get through the toughest times after Trevor's death.

Members of Trevor's platoon who affectionately called him Blum have also helped relieve some of the Blumbergs' pain. Terry says they hear from the soldiers on a weekly basis, and one of Trevor's soldier buddies has even become the godfather to Marshall's 3-month-old son, Logan, who is the Blumbergs' first grandchild.

I lost a son and gained 130, Terry said.

Janet Blumberg, who is the principal at Henry Ruff Elementary School in Garden City, said Trevor's death has given her more perspective of what other families are going through whose sons or daugh-

ters have died in Iraq or elsewhere in America's fight against terrorism. More than 2,100 soldiers have died in Iraq since the war began in March of 2003.

Every time you hear of a soldier dying, you just feel terrible. You don't know how it feels, unless you have lost yourself. So my heart goes out to them every time we lose another one, she said.

If nothing else, those losses should be reason enough for America to finish what it started in Iraq, she said.

The right thing to do is to support our president and see this through. I just don't want to cut the chase without completing our mission, she said.

The Blumbergs say that Trevor's death has left a tremendous hole in their lives, but they have done their best to move on. All the while feeling extremely proud that he was their son.

You have to go on with your life. If you let it, it will eat you up inside. You've got to go on or it will drive you nuts, Terry said.

Trevor Blumberg is buried in Michigan Memorial Cemetery in Flatrock. There is a brick dedicated to his memory at the Veterans Memorial in Canton's Heritage Park. The memorial was built in 1993 and also contains brick pavers honoring 21 Civil War casualties, three from World War II and four from the Vietnam War.

Happy New Year!

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COX

FROM PAGE A1

ly recognized attorney based in Southfield, lambasted Cox for this investigation. Freger said he couldn't believe that Cox was blaming him for his extramarital affair and called for Cox's resignation.

Cox said Freger's name-calling merely diverts the public's attention from the allegations.

"Never before has anyone spent \$457,000 anonymously through using a dummy name, a dummy address and a dummy group," Cox said. "That's of a caliber that's never been seen before in Michigan."

The new year, Ballenger added, will provide a series of hurdles for Cox. His office has to continue the Freger investigation in a fashion the public finds credible, which would maintain his party's loyalty and strengthen his re-election chances. If the Freger investigation turns into a circus, Ballenger said, then things could spiral downhill for Cox.

I think he will survive, but things have changed, he said.

FIRST TERM FEATS

As he tries to distance himself from the Freger probe, Cox said he is trying to turn the public focus on the accomplishments of his first three

years in office. He reports the office has collected \$20.4 million in child support payments thus far to benefit 2,106 children, according to federal reports. In less than three years, federal reports indicate the attorney general collected nearly \$8.4 million in legal settlements for Michigan consumers, which is more than the \$8.3 million collected during Jennifer Granholm's term as attorney general (1999-2002).

His office has pushed utility companies to lower their original price proposals, which need state approval. Cox said his efforts provided Michigan residents a combined total savings of \$1.5 billion. With 515

employees in his department, Cox said he has enticed some utility companies to spread out natural gas payments over 17 months to help customers on fixed incomes who may struggle to cover this winter's sharp increase in energy costs.

I like being able to solve problems and I get to do more in this job than I did when I was an assistant (Wayne County) prosecutor, Cox said. He's in the midst of initiating several new programs. He designed a program to educate senior citizens to protect them from identification theft.

He plans to intensify background checks for nursing home workers to better serve facility residents.

Cox, a 1980 graduate of Catholic Central, is seeking legislation that would provide whistleblower protection for health care workers who detect fraud while on duty, which he said will save the state money and provide the witness a reward while protecting his or her job. Also, Cox plans to follow suit with other state attorney generals and develop a Web site that requires all pharmacies to post their average prescription drug prices so consumers can compare.

I just don't want the job to have the title, Cox said. "I want to do a couple things and we're doing them."

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Mike Cox says his consumer protection efforts have been underrated.

POLITICAL FALLOUT

While Cox aims to maintain fiduciary integrity, his political career could be dogged by a prolonged public battle between the attorney general's office and Freger, said political analyst Bill Ballenger, editor of the Lansing-based publication *Inside Michigan Politics*.

The situation certainly doesn't help him, Ballenger said.

If we were just talking about an affair, I don't think that alone would be terminal. If Freger keeps going on and on, and the publicity about this keeps coming, that could make it worse for Mike Cox.

Ballenger said Cox has received a political boost from Michigan Republicans who have been unified in their support of the attorney general since Cox admitted his infidelity Nov. 9 during a press conference with his wife of 11 years, Laura.

Before that time, Cox was expected to have little trouble winning re-election next year. Cox, 44, was considered a front runner for the Republican nomination for governor in 2010.

"Things were going well for him," Ballenger said. He didn't have any problems with his own party and it was going to be tough for Democrats to find a good candidate to challenge him next year.

THE AG SPEAKS

Here are Attorney General Mike Cox's comments on various issues.

His endorsement of the Rev. Keith Butler (leader of a Southfield-based church) among three Republican candidates for U.S. Senate in 2006:

He has a better chance to beat (incumbent) Debbie Stabenow among the three because he's better on the issues. His campaign is better organized, he has a better vision and he's an inspiration figure.

His love for politics:

As a lawyer, the political arena is like the ultimate court room. It's a fascinating battle to make the better argument and come up with the better ideas. President George W. Bush's program to secretly wiretap American citizens calling people in foreign countries:

I'm uncomfortable with warrantless wiretapping of American citizens, but if they are involved conversations with people overseas who are possible terrorists, then that's within the president's powers as commander-in-chief.

Anticipating this week's scheduled leave for his Marine daughter, Lindsey (a 2001 Redford Thurston grad), who completed a 13-month assignment in Iraq earlier this year:

It's been like a roller coaster ride. She's a strong individual, but still I would constantly worry. We were fortunate to get e-mails or calls from her every few days or so.

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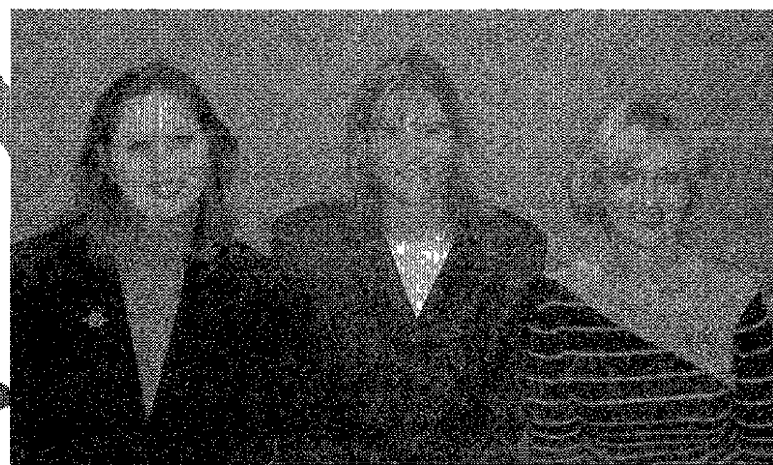
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ASH

FROM PAGE A1

ing”
Ash been known to play two or three cards at a time – and win. She memorizes the cards or uses Braille cards to participate. And when she wins, she saves that bingo money for this time of year, when she can purchase gifts and host a holiday party at the center. This year her winnings totaled \$271 and it went to a bevy of presents she handed out to everyone who came to the luncheon. Ash is already saving for next year's event. She's stashed about \$55 so far.

Gebhardt said the gifts were designated for women, men or staff members and each had a poem typed out and attached to the wrapping. Everything rhymes, said Gebhardt. She's just unbelievable. So talented.

Karl Peters, activity director for the center, said seniors look forward to the party every year. It's a holiday tradition, said Peters. She puts everyone in the spirit.

This year's event kicked off with a short skit including Ash's friends dressed as a Christmas tree, a snowman and two reindeer. Donning her Santa attire, Ash led the whole group in a rousing rendition of *Jingle Bells* and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*. Her homemade sleigh even had a working door. Senior Center Volunteer Nancy Klein announced. She went to Home Depot again.

Klein said she's known Ash for about two years and described her as a very giving person, tenderhearted.

She brings joy throughout the year, said Klein. It's not just a seasonal situation. Just to see her everyday is inspiring.

Ron Hendry works in the library at the senior center.

He said Ash adds humor and creativity wherever she goes. She's a joy, he said. She is so loved by so many.

Livonia residents Virginia Mann and Doris Moyer agreed. They said they appreciated the party and Ash. She's amazing. Very generous. Moyer said.

Mann said she misses it just by being here. She touches our hearts.



Reindeer Beverly Gustafson (from left) snowman Mary Jamison another reindeer Marie Siwinski and Christmas tree Wanda Smith act out their parts in a Christmas play created by Santa, Livonia's Patty Ash.



Patty Ash (left) helps Mary Jamison complete her snowman costume for a play Ash created to entertain Livonia seniors.



Patty Ash of Livonia puts on her Santa gear in time for the party.

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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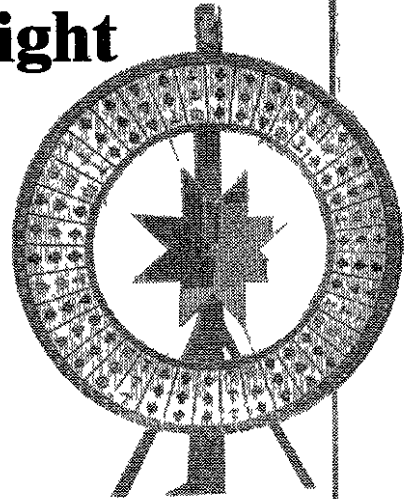
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Holidays can be lonely for those fighting addiction

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lillian Easterly is care ministries pastor at Northridge Church

From her first days in college at Central Michigan University, when she was 18, 19 years old, Tina loved her vodka.

At first, she simply loved going to the parties, where the vodka and the atmosphere combined to give her a high she wasn't getting anywhere else. Then, she became the life of the party, always willing to go, always eager for a good time.

Eventually, the party became her life, a need that had to be filled, a sort of thirst only the partying, and particularly the vodka (and sometimes rum) could quench.

I loved the feeling it gave me, the party atmosphere made me feel relaxed. It made me feel like I didn't have to worry about things," said Tina, now a 34-year-old Livonia resident. "There's a euphoria to it. Once I started, I wanted it more and more."

The problem was the degree to which the drinking had taken over her life. She didn't know it then, but she knows it now, after more than five years of sobriety. She figured, incorrectly, she knows now, since she'd never gotten into trouble — never been arrested, never been hurt — she didn't have a drinking problem.

She "bottomed out," she said, in March 2000, when she woke up one morning unable to recall how she'd gotten home, or how the dents got in the hood of her car or how the windshield got smashed.

Turns out, she'd hit an orange construction barrel, driving home during a blackout caused by her drinking. It turned out to be the watershed event of her life.

"I didn't think there was anything wrong with my drinking," Tina said. "I never got a trouble never went to jail, none of that. Now being in recovery, I can see how

unmanageable my life was. Driving in a blackout, I could have killed someone. I know people who have."

When you're drinking, you don't make good judgment calls, she said. I didn't want to have to be making up lies for things I did when I was drinking. I didn't want to be embarrassed and humiliated by what I was doing. My life was unmanageable.

Not any more. The morning after that event, more than five years ago now, Tina got some help, first from a friend she'd just met at her new church, then from a 12-step support group. She did 90 meetings in 90 days, called her sponsor every day and, most importantly, got involved in church.

As the holidays — with the party atmosphere that was such a huge part of Tina's life — approach, she spends her time now leading a support group of her own. The Women of Serenity part of the LifeShare Ministries at Northridge Church in

Plymouth Township. Getting support from groups like Tina's is a critical element to making it through party times such as the Christmas and New Year's holidays, according to Lillian Easterly, the Care Ministries pastor at Northridge.

It can be a dangerous time for recovering alcoholics and drug addicts.

"It's an extremely difficult time," said Easterly, herself a recovering alcoholic with 20 years of sobriety. They're in recovery, trying desperately to stay sober, and they have to be around people who are still using."

That's how it was the first five years for Easterly, who found that time to be very lonely, because, like most addicts, her friends, co-workers and others in her circle were part of her alcoholic world.

Easterly said the key to sobriety is finding a new world, at least at first.

When you have an addiction, everyone in your life has

roles," Tina said. They enable you. When I stopped, I had friends at church (instead).

A LONELY TIME

Experts agree on one thing: A support system is vital, especially during a heavy party time like these holidays.

Experts agree the holiday season is a challenge for people recovering from substance abuse. According to Linda Cunin, director of Oakwood Healthcare Systems Employee Assistance program, it's easy for addicts — even recovering ones — to let up during the holidays.

Absolutely, because a lot of people associate celebrating with alcohol," said Cunin, a licensed master social worker. Those in recovery can get caught up in the holidays, she said, and not see their therapist or go to meetings such as Alcoholics Anonymous or Women for Sobriety. You don't want to delude yourself into thinking, Oh, I can stop by with my old drinking buddies.

Easterly presides over a series of support groups at Northridge that encompass some 350 people in its various elements. That includes two women's groups, including the one Tina leads, and three men's groups that deal

with drug and alcohol abuse.

With a party atmosphere like New Year's Eve around the corner, Easterly said Northridge will provide a sober environment to help people get through it, including meetings throughout the holidays.

Tina, with more than five years of sobriety, knows she's one of the lucky ones. She said one in 10 alcoholics seek help, only about 10 percent of those actually stick with it long enough to get it.

There are a lot of people who go in and out and in and out (of support groups) because they don't do the steps, Tina said. A lot of it is you're not used to having to deal with your feelings. When you're in the throes of your addiction and you're drinking, it covers up the feelings. When you start working the steps, you find out a lot about yourself. A lot of people can't cope with that. "I had a huge, huge support system. I worked the program, had a sponsor, called the sponsor every day, went to the meetings," Tina said. "People don't stay sober because they think they can do it on their own. You can't do that."

Staff writer Julie Brown contributed to this story.

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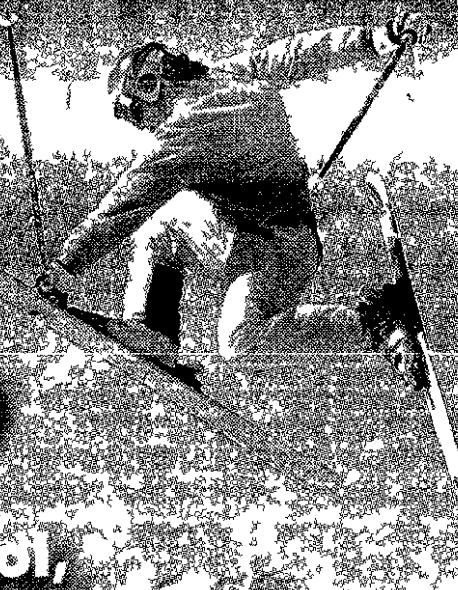
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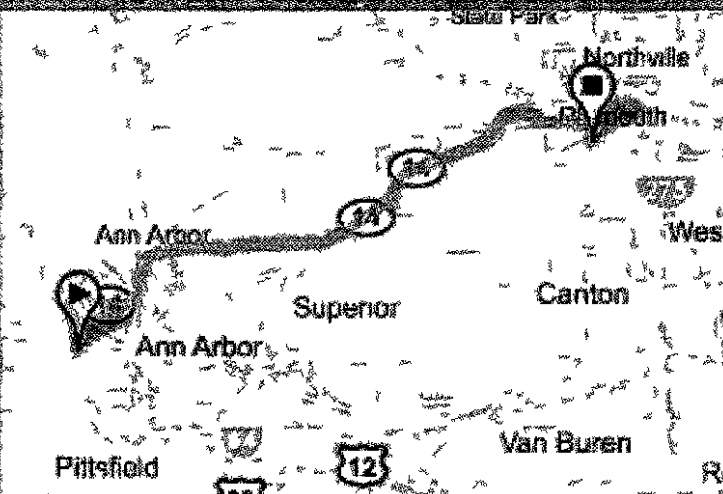
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Judge's ruling takes a stand for science and Constitution

On Tuesday, a Republican judge, appointed by President George W. Bush, took a stand for science, honesty and the Constitution by ruling that 'intelligent design' could not be taught in biology classes in Dover, Pa.

Federal Judge John E. Jones III issued a detailed, fact-filled 139-page decision that included a strongly worded rebuke of the former Dover school board and those who championed their attempt to undermine science instruction in the Dover schools.

Jones said the school board members lied about their religious motives and made a decision of 'breath-taking inanity' that dragged their community into this legal maelstrom with its resulting utter waste of monetary and personal resources.

The Dover board, which was not re-elected by the voters of Dover after its bad decision, ordered that a statement be read at the start of the evolution portion of the biology curriculum saying in part, 'Because Darwin's Theory is a theory, it continues to be tested as new evidence is discovered. The Theory is not a fact. Gaps in the Theory exist for which there is no evidence.' The statement went on to propose intelligent design as an equally legitimate scientific alternative and even endorsed a book on the subject. It concluded with a statement that implied evolution was only being taught to meet state standards.

Former Oakland County Prosecutor Richard Thompson, now president and chief counsel for the Thomas More Law Center in Ann Arbor, was the lead defense lawyer. He seemed particularly agitated by the depth, seriousness and vigor of Jones' decision. He took issue with the judgment involving a one-minute statement being read to students.

Clearly, the intent of that statement was to demigrate science research, distort the scientific meaning of the word theory and direct students to a religious-based idea in a public school program. So parents took the board to court.

Jones had some tough words for Thompson and his associates, who might wish to portray him as anti-religion or an 'activist' jurist. 'Those who disagree with our holding will likely mark it as a product of an activist judge. If so, they will have erred as this is manifestly not an activist court,' Jones wrote. 'Rather, this case came to us as the result of the activism of an ill-informed faction on a school board, aided by a national public interest law firm eager to find a constitutional test case on intelligent design, who in combination drove the board to adopt an imprudent and ultimately unconstitutional policy.'

To be clear, scientific theory as understood by scientists is, from the American Heritage Dictionary definition 'a set of statements or principles devised to explain a group of facts or phenomena, especially one that has been repeatedly tested or is widely accepted and can be used to make predictions about natural phenomena.'

Theories arise from tested hypotheses and are always open to challenge and new understanding based on testable observations.

Intelligent design and creationism have no such scientific foundation and are rooted in a belief in a creator, understood by its proponents as the 'creator' of the Judeo-Christian heritage. This is not something open to scientific inquiry, but a matter of faith.

In 2001, state Rep. Robert Gosselein (R-Troy) offered his own bill to inflict this quasi-science on Michigan students, following similar actions in Kansas. His proposal would have read into the state standards, all references to evolution and how species change through time shall be modified to indicate that this is an unproven theory, by adding the phrase 'all students will

explain the competing theories of evolution and natural selection based on random mutation and the theory that life is the result of the purposeful, intelligent design of a Creator.'

Gosselein has also proposed posting the Ten Commandments, which in addition to good advice about not killing, stealing, coveting or cheating, also promote the worship of God and keeping sacred the sabbath. These are good things and, as recently interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court, fine to display in a limited, historical, cultural context, but not as a statement of the states' views.

The ruling by Jones is not 'anti-religion.' It is pro-science. It is a statement that a public school biology classroom is not the place for advocating a particular religious point of view.

In a column in Wednesday's New York Times, Bruce Feiler argues that the decision might be helpful in returning the Bible to where it belongs, not in science classes, but in elective, nonsectarian high school Bible classes. Feiler, who spoke at the Livonia Prayer Breakfast last year and is the author of several perceptive and entertaining books on the Bible, argues that the Bible is a great work of literature and religious philosophy and holds a significant place in our shared cultural history.

The Supreme Court has always upheld this approach to teaching about the Bible and about the importance of religion in our country's history.

As Feiler says, the Bible is too important to the history of Western civilization — and too vital to its future — to be ceded to one side in the debate over values.

And it's time that a small minority within the Christian community stops trying to find devious ways to impose its religion on others through government sanction.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the Observer Newspapers. He can be reached by e-mail at hgallagher@oe.hometownlife.com or by phone at (734) 953-2149 or fax at (734) 59-7279.

Fun, safe: Friends don't let friends drive drunk

The response came as a surprise. I'd called Nechole McClendon, executive director at Wayne County's Mothers Against Drunk Driving, about the annual New Year's Eve program. For 20 years, the MADD chapters in the metro area have joined forces to offer free New Year's rides home to revelers who've had too much. I thought this year's story would be much like last year's.

Project LifeRide is continuing this year, McClendon told me, but in a reduced form. Coupons for \$2 off rides home are being passed out to bars and nightclubs, unlike the volunteer-manned bank of past years which coordinated free rides home.

She said it wasn't the economy to blame but rather that revelers had become too dependent. The public had become dependent on MADD.

We wanted to make sure the public respected our volunteers. We just want people to be responsible.

Law enforcement folks I talked to were circumspect in reaction, but I can't imagine they're happy about their New Year's workload becoming that much heavier. I decided to call Dale Yagiela, executive director of Growth Works Inc., which among other things works with young people who are chemically dependent.

I doubt that many people took them up on their offer to start with, said Yagiela, who's seen a number of other efforts to make people, including those who work in bars and restaurants, aware of their responsibilities. 'I think all these things are really important. There's a tremendous amount of effort that's put into this.'

He's found that those who cause drunken driving crashes aren't necessarily in tune with such things as getting rides home.

They may be alcoholics and often don't hold valid driver's licenses.

Yagiela has found young people now abuse more prescription drugs, especially opiates, as revealed by ongoing University of Michigan research. That to me is a bigger concern, said Yagiela, who noted continued marijuana use and abuse of over-the-counter medications

among teens. It's been more than 30 years since I got my driver's license — and certainly my generation had its share of substance abuse problems — but I hope New Year's revelers of all ages get the message this year. The MADD rides were a big help and it's a shame to see them go, hopefully, they'll be back in time for next year's New Year's Eve celebration.

Preventing even one drunken driving tragedy is worth it. The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning is coordinating the 'You Drink & Drive You Lose' crackdown, Dec. 19 to Jan. 1, to combat drunken driving and prevent traffic deaths. Twenty-eight counties across the state are receiving federal traffic safety funding for overtime drunken driving patrols, and hundreds of other agencies are pledging to make enforcement a priority.

In Livingston, Macomb, St. Clair and Wayne counties, 22 law enforcement agencies will receive grant funds to patrol on Dec. 19-23 and Dec. 29-Jan. 1.

During the 2004 Christmas weekend, there were four traffic fatalities, one of which involved alcohol, according to the Michigan Department of State Police, Criminal Justice Information Center. Six people died in traffic crashes over the New Year's weekend, and four of the deaths were alcohol-related.

There's a lot you can do if you're hosting a party. Serve plenty of food to reduce the likelihood of guests becoming intoxicated. Offer plenty of nonalcoholic drinks too, and be sure no guest leaves your party intoxicated and intending to drive. You can put them up for the night if necessary.

If you're out at a bar or restaurant Dec. 31, a designated driver's the way to go. When you do head home, pay extra attention while on the road to guarantee that everyone gets home safely. That's particularly the case if the weather's bad, a distinct possibility with our Michigan winters.

Few would advocate a return to Prohibition, which brought problems of its own, but drunken driving is an easier call. Have a good time this New Year's but don't let your celebrating turn into a tragedy for you, your family or anyone else.

Julie Brown of Plymouth Township is presentation editor for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at (734) 953-2111 or jcbrown@hometownlife.com.



Hugh Gallagher



Julie Brown

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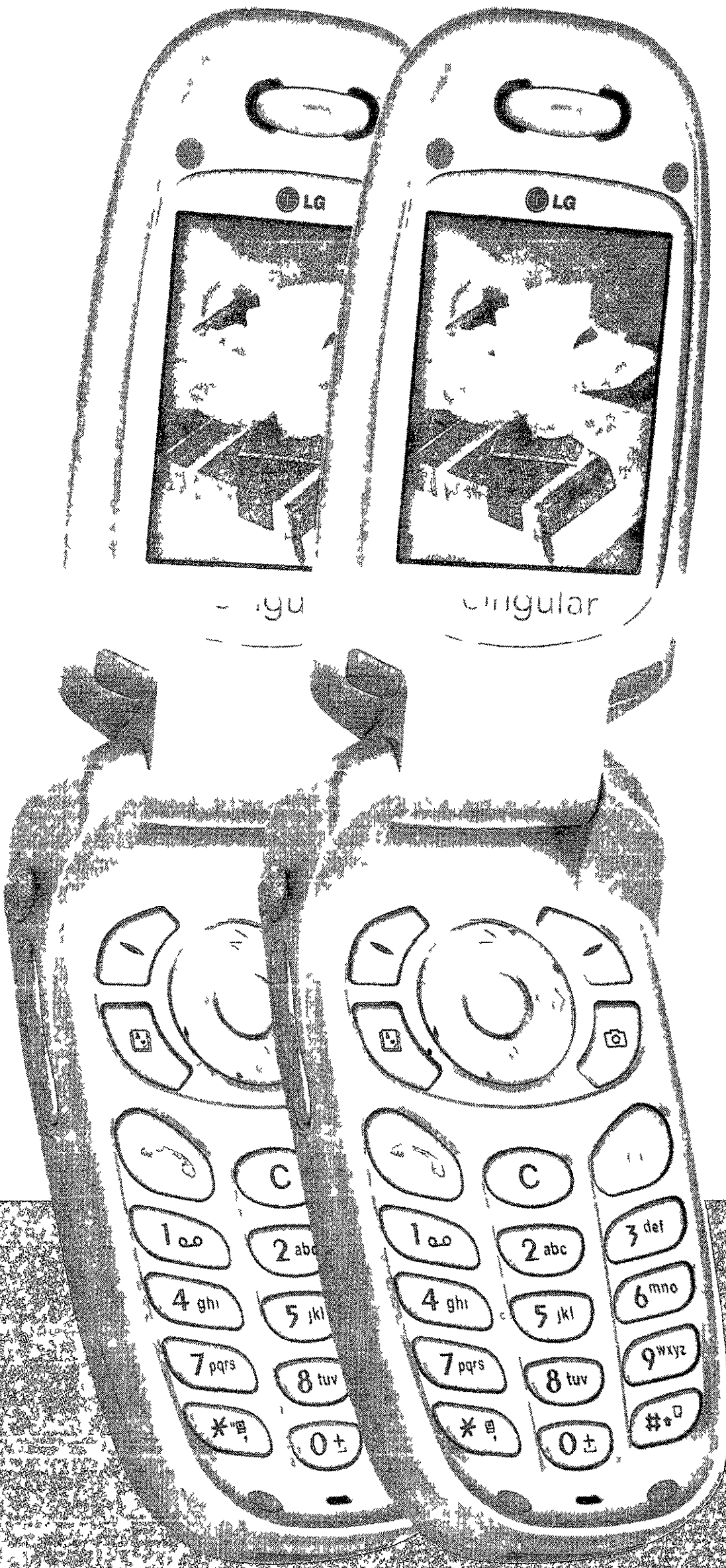
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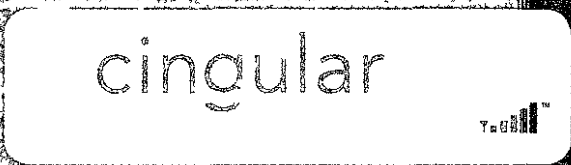
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Schools should build minds.
ALICE MCCARTHY B2

Winter Carnival full of fun.
FEATURE B6



Susan Tish

Observer LIFE

2-1-1 service a health boon.
HEALTH B8

Count your blessings

News Flash Today is Big with Blessings!
Now there's a headline I'd like to see in the paper. Instead, each day it seems the news from Detroit and the metropolitan area becomes bleaker. We've been hearing for months about the weak financial situation in the city of Detroit.

For even longer we've been concerned about the high unemployment rate in Michigan at 6.7 percent. Now with the announced bankruptcy of Delphi, there is a growing concern for the future of the Detroit-based auto industry - an industry that seems to touch the lives of almost everyone in the metropolitan area. But each one of us can do something about it. While hoping for an economic turnaround, we can start by turning around our thinking.

When the news of the Delphi bankruptcy hit, I found myself engrossed in the situation. I read every article in the paper about it, I watched every report on the television. It was like driving by a bad car accident - it was really hard to turn myself away from the gruesome sight.

But from past experience I've learned that this keeps you in the position of being part of the problem instead of being part of the solution. To turn my thinking away from any negative situation, I start by turning my thoughts to God or in other words, to good and acknowledging something that is going right, rather than asserting that everything is going wrong!

But what if there isn't any good news to focus on? What if my life is a mess of uncertainty or despair? Where do I begin? We begin, oddly enough, by being grateful. No matter how bad the day began or ended, there has to be at least one thing that went right and we can be grateful for that. A wise theologian and religious leader, Mary Baker Eddy, once wrote, "Are we grateful for the good already received? Then we shall avail ourselves of the blessings we have and thus be fitted to receive more."

We need to be able to recognize good in order to experience it. We can be grateful for health, for the love of a family member, for a sunny day or the smile of a kind cashier at the grocery store. And as our gratitude enlarges, so do the blessings.

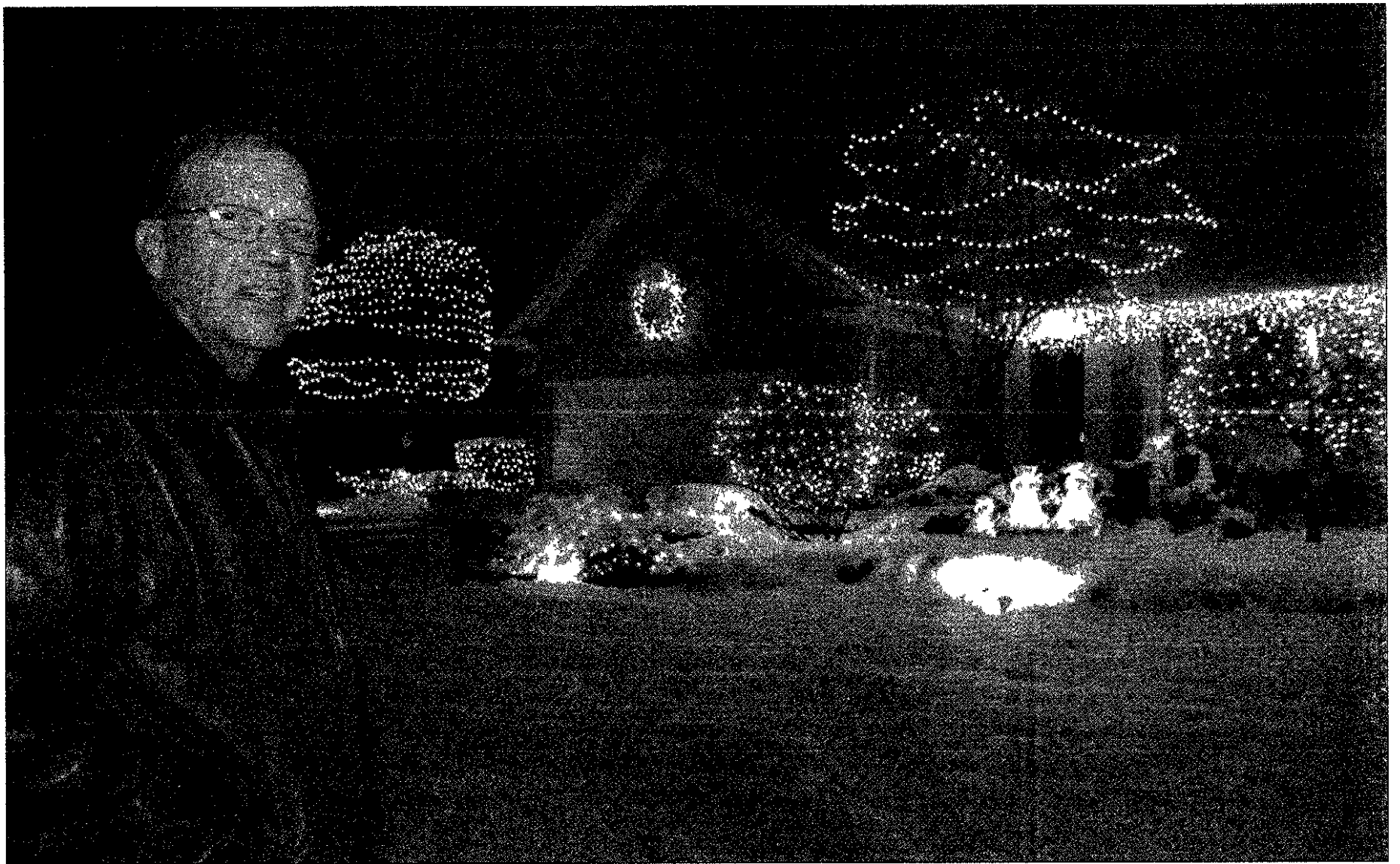
Some would call being grateful for good a form of prayer, or an acknowledgment that there is an eternal source of good that stretches beyond the day-to-day experiences in our lives. I would call that source of good, God. To those leaning on the sustaining infinite (God), today is big with blessings!

Another quote from Mary Baker Eddy, these words were written from experience: "She was a woman who at different points of her life struggled with unemployment, financial ruin, homelessness and chronic illness. She struggled with feelings of hopelessness."

She turned to the Bible and she found inspiration in the stories of others who had experienced grave circumstances but through continually turning to God, found a way out of these trials again and again. As she learned more, her life began to turn around.

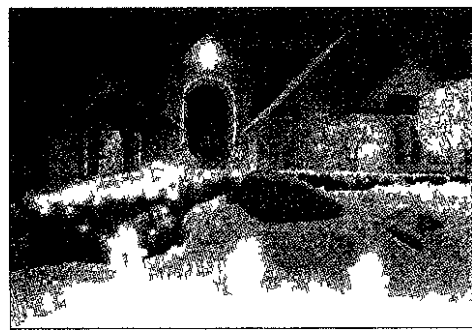
One of the greatest thinkers of our time, Albert Einstein, also turned his thoughts to God, or to what he felt was Divine Intelligence for guidance in explaining life and its challenges. He wrote, "I try to be still and know God's thoughts. The rest is just details."

Susan Tish lives in Plymouth



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Nagy of Livonia stands outside his house on Ellen Drive where it has become a yearly tradition for the houses on his street to decorate for the holidays.



One of the homes decorated for the holidays along Ellen Drive in Livonia.

Holiday lightshow

Ellen Drive residents bask in glow of the Christmas season

The lights usually go up the day after Thanksgiving and come down shortly after New Year's. But for that brief time, the lights are much brighter on Ellen Drive.



A happy holiday display on Ellen Drive.

The lights on Broadway and the glitter of Vegas have nothing on the glow from Livonia's Ellen Drive.

Every year the neighbors on the street off Six Mile try to outdo each other with colorful holiday light displays.

Many times I've gone to the bank or something and they'll see Ellen Drive on the check and say, "You're not on the Christmas street are you?" said John Nagy.

Nagy and his wife Mary were among the first families in the new subdivision in 1988.

Nagy kids his neighbor Tony Naurato that he and his wife Gina started the whole thing.

"It seems that every year it goes on and on and everybody gets involved," Naurato said. "Everybody takes pride in it and everybody tries to do better every year."

At first it was just colorful lights, but as the years have gone by new wrinkles have been added - an illuminated basketball pole with a glowing orange light ball, Santa on a teeter-totter with an elf and riding a bicycle, trees ablaze with red and green.

"We get a lot of reaction," said Tony. "We used to have a choo-choo train come around and school buses come around."

Nagy said church vans and carpools drive through the Christmas Street.

Nagy estimates that from late November to early January his electric bill runs about \$100 to \$120 more than usual.

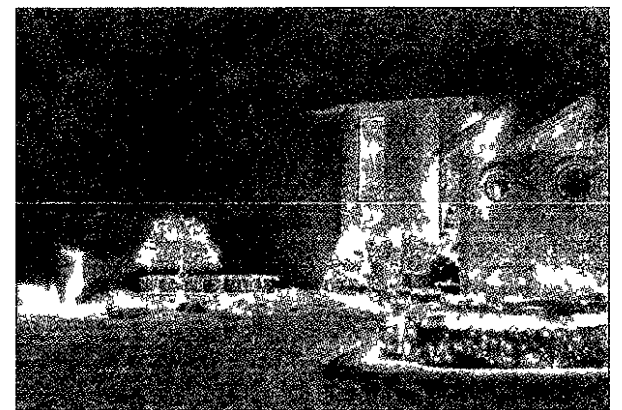
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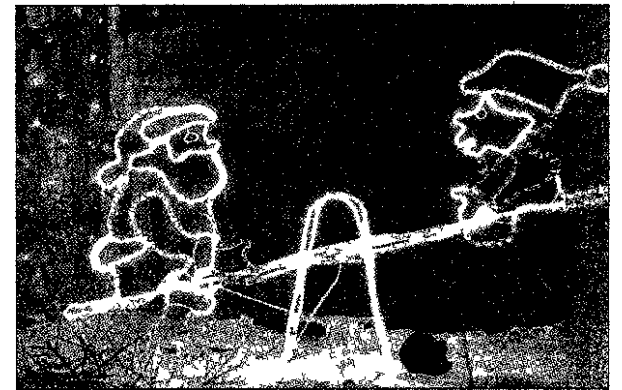
By Hugh Gallagher



Snowman greet visitors outside the Nagy home.



Reds and whites blend in this light display on Ellen Drive.



Santa and an Elf have spend some time on a teeter totter in one of the displays along Ellen Drive in Livonia.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salvation Army youth band members Lindsay McDougall (front left to right) and Melanie McDougall of Garden City, Brad Bamford of Livonia (behind left to right) Andy McDougall of Livonia, Brett Bamford II of Livonia, Ben Merritt of Livonia, Brian Dobney of Farmington Hills and Michael Hulett of Dearborn Heights are preparing to march in the parade before the Rose Bowl on Jan. 2.

Local musicians to march in Tournament of Roses Parade

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Melanie McDougall likes football but admits she doesn't even know who's playing in the Rose Bowl this year. The Garden City High School senior's reason for marching in the Tournament of Roses Parade beforehand is to spread the word about God. The alto horn player and her twin sister, Lindsay, were born into The Salvation Army church. They're proud of the fact that their music has meaning.

The McDougalls along with about a dozen area Salvationists in the Eastern Michigan Divisional Youth Band leave for California the day after Christmas to not only march in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena on Jan. 2 but to perform church concerts before returning to Michigan on Jan. 4. Of course they've scheduled a little

fun time at Disneyland between rehearsals and marching in the Holiday Bowl Parade in San Diego on Dec. 29.

LOCAL PRESENCE

Fifty Salvation Army divisions around the country are sending two band members each to march alongside this year's guest band - The Salvation Army Dearborn Heights Citadel under the leadership of Greg Payton. The McDougalls and several of the local students learned their first notes at the church where they are members. The Eastern Michigan Divisional Youth Band is composed of 53 young musicians from southeastern Michigan including Royal Oak, Flint and Port Huron.

"The music is to help people know about God," said Melanie McDougall, who began studying music at The

PLEASE SEE MUSICIANS, B2

MUSICIANS

FROM PAGE A1

Salvation Army about 10 years ago with Lindsay, a cornet player "Most of the music is written by Salvationists and centered around God"

Andy McDougall of Livonia is as excited as his cousins to be going to the Rose Bowl The 15-year-old Stevenson High School student has been playing with The Salvation Army band since third grade "Hopefully the music will make them want to go to church and learn about God," said Andy McDougall, a cornet player

If nothing else, Ben Merritt hopes appearances by the band help educate the public

"I'm excited to get to go to a place to represent The Salvation Army cause Most people just think it's a thrift store, but it's a church and we're preaching the gospel," said Merritt, a Churchill High School student who's played cornet for eight years His parents, Steve and Chris, are pastors at the church

Brian Dobney is looking forward to marching the 5 1/2 miles in addition to spreading God's word The 16-year-old Farmington High School student usually only strides long distances with his baritone horn at the annual band camp hosted by The Salvation Army in Leonard He's working out three days a week after school to stay in shape not only to march in the Rose Bowl but to play junior varsity football

"It's going to be nice to march and I've never been to California," said Dobney, whose 18-year-old brother Andrew, a student at Oakland Community College, will also be going Brian also plays with his school band I'm looking forward to Disneyland I've been to Disney World before, but not Disneyland

Brett Bamford II marched in the Roses' parade before, and he's anxious to do it again The temperature is certain to be a lot warmer than the minus 3 degrees with the wind chill at Detroit's Thanksgiving Day Parade this past November The 23 year

old Livonia resident expects he won't have any problem staying warm in 60 degrees

A music student at Eastern Michigan University, the Franklin High School graduate teaches trombone at Evola Music in Canton and The Salvation Army in Detroit

'GREAT EXPERIENCE'

"It was a great experience You get to meet people from all over the nation The Salvation Army has four territories, Eastern, Western, Central (Michigan), and Southern, and they also send people from Canada and the Caribbean," said Bamford, whose 13-year-old brother Brad is going for the first time The Riley Middle School student plays trombone like his brother "The hardest part is memorizing two pieces of music for the TV We play everything from classical to swing, pops"

Several of the selections the Eastern Michigan Youth Band is planning to play are from their new CD, Elevation Sales from the disc go toward defraying the cost of the trip The CD is \$15 and available by calling Ben Howard at (248) 443-5500, Ext 235 I'm excited for the kids who might never have the chance to go," said Ben Howard, the divisional music director who's coordinating the trip through Salvation Army offices in Southfield

It's a whole series of firsts for them Michael Hulett isn't sure about the content of the devotional he'll be giving during the trip, but it's sure to be a first The Dearborn Heights resident usually relates the band's playing to a verse from the Bible

I'm excited to be in a new environment but still do ministry," said Hulett, a 21-year-old trombonist and student at Eastern Michigan University Hulett has traveled to Ukraine and South Georgia in the former Soviet Union to do mission work for The Salvation Army, but he's never been to California Hulett's sister Sharayah 18 is also making the trip

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Education needs to build minds not test scores

There is no better day than Dec 25 to urge you to contemplate the characteristics you would like your children to possess as adults These adults will be training their children in the shadow of the legacy your family has provided



Teens in 2005
Alice McCarthy

When I recently gave my surgeon son a set of gold cufflinks from my grandfather, Louis A. Ross, my son said, "Wouldn't my great-grandfather be thrilled to know how many people have cherished these cufflinks so that now I have them and my son will have them too - that is four generations"

Yes, we hand down beautiful possessions, but more importantly the knowledge we have acquired and teachings from our character and our values

And we depend greatly on the institutions in society to help us develop the children

we will be proud to know as adults One of our institutions is our schools, and as an educator I think often about how well or how poorly the school system accomplished my particular goals for my children - and if I did my fair share in supporting that system It's an important contemplation because I know you will agree that no institution in a democratic society represents its citizens well without their support

Howard Gardener, one of my educational heroes, is the "father" of explaining how we learn He is the Hobbs professor of education and cognition at Harvard University's graduate school of education He believes that the current goal for this country to top international comparisons in science and math is a "fool's errand" In doing so, he indicates, we are ignoring the deeper and more important purposes of education

Writing in *Education Week* (Sept 14, 2005), Gardener explains that the decisive reason to avoid the herd mentality (meaning all countries rushing to be at the top of the academic

structure) is that improving performance on a particular test is a terrible goal for an educational system He says that, "A transient numerical result, due to a number of reasons, becomes the rationale for the whole educational process"

Gardner believes, as do I, that what we need to consider are the kinds of minds we want to cultivate in our educational system He suggests five kinds of minds for you to consider

■ A disciplined mind that can think well and appropriately in the major disciplines

■ A synthesized mind that can sift through a large amount of information, decide what is important, and put it together in ways that make sense for oneself and for others

■ A creative mind that can raise new questions, come up with novel solutions, think outside the box

■ An ethical mind that thinks beyond selfish interests,

about the kind of worker one aspires to be, and the kind of citizen that one should be"

Maybe bringing the points listed above to your beleaguered school board might be a good idea

Merry Christmas!

If you missed previous columns, you can access them at

www.hometownlife.com/Livonia/News.asp Type "Alice R. McCarthy" under "Keyword Search" for a list of her most recent columns Columns, written weekly, remain only a short time on this site All of her columns for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* are on www.bridge-comm.com

Alice R. McCarthy Ph.D. the mother of five professionals is a national consultant in the areas of parent involvement in schools curriculum writing in health and health publications

She is the author of a widely used text and parenting book *Healthy Teens Facing the Challenges of Young Lives* Write to her in care of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* 36251 Schoolcraft Livonia MI 48150 or at bridgecomm@aol.com

Christmas question has an easy answer

Feliz Navidad! That's how one friend signs his Christmas card each year, sidestepping the question of whether to go with the more generic Happy Holidays Aside from being a reminder of how

little Spanish I remember from school, the annual missive always makes me think of the Jose Feliciano song, one of my favorites although it gets played a lot

The mail brought a surprise the other day, a card from a childhood girlfriend now living in San Diego She's Jewish but sent a card with a Christian theme includ

ing a quote from the Gospel of Luke I'd read about efforts to put more of a focus on Christian aspects of Dec 25 this year, and this got me to thinking

A couple of weeks ago, we were bell ringing for the Salvation Army at Kmart in Westland I followed my practice of past years, expressing thanks for donations and adding Merry Christmas No one seemed to mind (I figured the Salvation Army's a Christian organization so the greeting was OK)

My California friend grew up here in southeastern Michigan and I remember well going with her to Hebrew school I also remember how much harder those students worked at their religious studies than we Protestants did I guess the Catholics were somewhere in the middle although my husband's years in parochial school (Precious Blood) clearly taught him a lot

My girlfriend came with me

to church, too, and learned from that just as I did from my time at Shaarey Zedek in Southfield

I'm not convinced we really need to call our national tree a Christmas one rather than holiday, if the larger concepts of peace on earth and goodwill to all can be conveyed, then what's in a name?

Religious tolerance should certainly extend to Christians, but I question the need to add Christmas to all appellations where holiday applied in the past If I weren't Christian, I'd probably feel a bit left out this time of year so "Happy Holidays" seems to cover all bases just fine

That said Merry Christmas doesn't have to be taken to refer to Christ's birth if the listener doesn't believe Jesus was the Messiah With a war in Iraq a turbulent economy and other woes surely we have more pressing matters to focus on than the question of what to call Christmas

We'll head to church again this weekend where a Merry Christmas greeting is a pretty safe bet Among family, too, the greeting works well although some hold stronger beliefs than others

I hope your holiday - whatever called and whenever celebrated - will be a joyful one That's what I like best about this time of year Even watching *It's a Wonderful Life* wasn't old hat this year, as the classic movie is a great reminder of the importance we all play in each other's lives

Getting together with family and friends is a wonderful part of the season as well and this week really puts it in focus Particularly for the ones we don't see all that often it means a lot to spend time together

Happy New Year!

Julie Brown of Plymouth Township is presentation editor for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* She can be reached at (734) 953-2111 or via e-mail at jcbrown@hometownlife.com

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30 to 75% OFF
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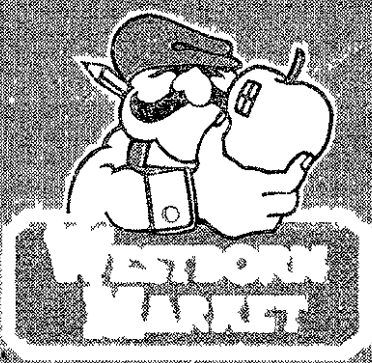
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Red Wax Cheddar

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Sabra Hummus **\$3.49 lb**
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Delallo 2 lb Pasta **2/\$3.00**
pkgs

CALIFORNIA

Sweet Seedless Navel Oranges

\$3.99

8 lb. bag

DOLE

Italian Salad

2/\$4.00
pkgs

FRESH

Organic Spring Mix

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Bareman's Egg Nog **2/\$4.00**
quarts

Freixenet Cordon Negro BRUT OR EXTRA DRY
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Cristalino Cava BRUT OR EXTRA DRY
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BUDWEISER

Bud & Bud Light

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BLACKSTONE

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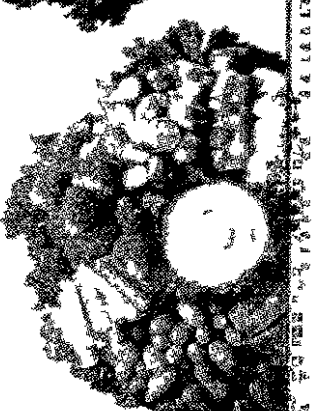
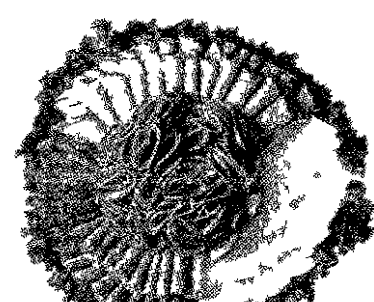
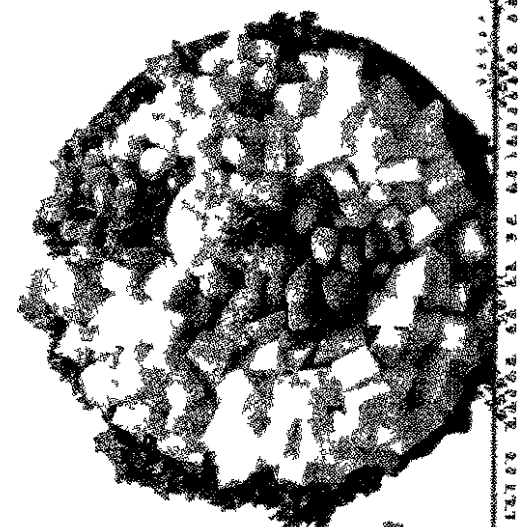
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WEDDINGS

Johnson-Helisek

Lauren Jeannine Helisek and Kenneth Johnson were married June 17, 2005, in a garden wedding at Glen Oaks Country Club. Officiating was the Rev. Dr. William Ritter. A reception was held at the country club. Lauren is the daughter of Alan and Cynthia Helisek of Farmington Hills. She is a graduate of Farmington High School and the University of Michigan. She is a teacher with South Redford Schools. Kenneth is the son of Ken Johnson of Livonia, and Lynn and James Cherundolo of Livonia. He is a graduate of Farmington High School. He is employed with Apex Roofing. The new Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Johnson spent their



hymoon in Europe and Greece. They are making their new home in Redford.

Lonier-Kerr

Amy E. Kerr, daughter of Bill and Janet Kerr of Livonia, was married to Matthew L. Lonier on May 7, 2005, outside Yosemite Valley Chapel in Yosemite National Park in Northern California. Amy's lifelong friend Amanda Ratke, and her husband Daniel Ratke, served as matron of honor and best man at the ceremony. A reception took place at the Ahwahnee Hotel following the ceremony. They also held a reception in Plymouth, Mich., at the Atlantis Restaurant on June 11 to celebrate with family and friends who couldn't make it to the ceremony. Amy is a 1997 graduate of Churchill High School and a 2001 graduate of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She is currently pursuing her Doctor of Pharmacy degree at Wayne State University and will graduate in



2007. Matthew is currently attending dental school at the University of Detroit Mercy. Amy and Matthew met at the University of Michigan in 1998 and have been together since then. They plan to move out west after graduation.



Kobielus-Hagopian

Donna Leslie Hagopian and Thomas Joseph Kobielus of Alexandria, Va., were married Oct. 8, 2005, at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Alexandria, Va. The Rev. Robert Ruskamp and Rev. Father Vertanes Kalayjian celebrated the wedding. Donna is the daughter of Zepher and the late Steven Hagopian of Cranston, R.I. She is a graduate of Philadelphia University and Rhode Island College. She is employed as a teacher with the Fairfax County

Public Schools in Fairfax, Va. Thomas is the son of the late Jean and Wilbur Kobielus of Livonia, Mich. He is a graduate of Michigan State University and is employed as a financial analyst with the U.S. Department of the Treasury-Financial Management Service in Washington, D.C. The couple met while volunteering at a street art fair in the Del Ray section of Alexandria, Va. They were helping children build scarecrows. She thought that he was in charge of the event and he liked her smile.



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Detroit Pistons fans will find tee shirts, collectibles, ornaments and more inside this new holiday shop at the Village of Rochester Hills.

Pistons Locker Room scores with fans

Alice Holcomb of Rochester Hills couldn't believe her eyes. "I just went to Parisian and looked over here and went 'No way!'" A bigger-than-life poster of Detroit Piston Rasheed Wallace beckoned to her from a nearby store window at the Village of Rochester Hills. And although it was just an image, it gave Holcomb a reason to celebrate. The Palace of Auburn Hills had opened a store of official merchandise for Detroit's hottest sports team practically in Holcomb's backyard.

When I saw the sign I just went 'yaaaa!' she said. I am thrilled they are here. I can just come down to the Village and I don't have to go out to the Palace. The new Detroit Pistons Locker Room holiday store opened shortly before Thanksgiving in the shopping center at Walton and Adams. Larry Morris, director of retail operations, said the Palace located its newest store a temporary outlet that will close a few weeks after the new year begins at a busy site in its target market. Permanent Locker Room stores operate at The Palace, in Great Lakes Crossing and at the Star Theatre complex in Southfield.

LOCAL FANS, SHOPPERS "We just think it's going to work out pretty well," Morris said, pointing out that local shoppers frequent the Village, while Great Lakes Crossing, more of a tourist destination, draws from a larger geographic area. The Great Lakes Crossing store carries merchandise for other professional and college teams, in addition to Detroit basketball shirts, jerseys and collectibles. The Village store, all 2,500 square feet, sells only Detroit Pistons items.

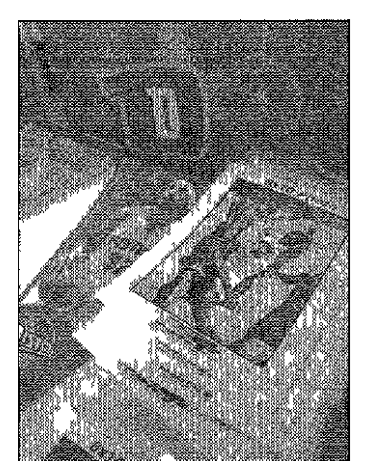
For the most part, every thing that's here is at the Palace or Great Lakes Crossing, Morris said. The women's clothing line has doubled in sales every year, prompting the retail store to reprint a series of popular men's T-shirts in pink this year. They sport photos of the Pistons starters and cost \$27. Cuddly soft pink, yellow and light blue fleece hoodies with a Pistons logo cost \$58. Twill hoodies in the same pastel colors are \$62.

Ladies' size 4-6, a huge category now that blue is tremendous. We've got the pullovers in fashion colors, not necessarily the team colors, but fashion colors for the ladies. He said the store planned to debut a jersey for women this month. The new red second road jersey is already in stock and sells for \$137 (authentic), \$69 (swingman with sewn lettering) and \$43 (replica) as do the royal blue road jerseys and white at-home championship versions.

POPULAR APPAREL The black and white jerseys are new. That was the first thing we sold when we opened the door, Morris noted. Jerseys are probably our most popular category. Youth and infant apparel is hot, too.



Put all state Detroit Pistons Ben... Morris' free... of Reta... Palace shows off the ornament.



Stuffing a Christmas stocking for your favorite Detroit Pistons fan? You can't go wrong with player photos.

Babies can scream for the team dressed in a Pistons shirt with snap-away pants. They're going like crazy.

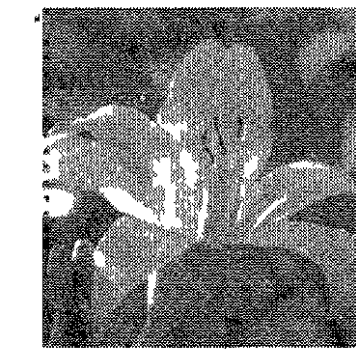
Palace box office, and its concession stands, stores and restaurants.

And for the Pistons fan who owns nearly everything? I have to have a piece of the floor for my husband, Holcomb said, holding a block of floor from the 1989-90 season that has been affixed to a plaque. It's a piece of the floor from the championship. Do you think Michael will like this? Saleswoman Kelly Phinney knows Holcomb as a loyal customer and gleefully noted, You have so much (Pistons) stuff it's not even funny.

How many team shirts does Holcomb own? Ask her, she said, with a laugh, deferring to Phinney. It's nice to walk into a store where everyone is so helpful. I like that part, Holcomb said.

The store also sells boxed gift sets and packs with three body suits each for infants. Also in stock: Game room clocks, backpack purses, rolling backpacks, team page a day and 12-month calendars, player Christmas tree ornaments, duffel bags, journals, pennants, pens, wrist bands. A good deal of what's purchased is for Christmas gifts. And if you don't know the size, we have the gift card, which is also a great way to satisfy someone's Pistons craving. The card is good at all Locker Room stores. The

The Locker Room store is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. Call (248) 609-2346.



Passages Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances 1-800-579-7355 ♦ fax 734-953-2232 e-mail OEObits@oe.homecomm.net

ELLA MAE, BYRD Age 78 of Greenville formerly of Plymouth was promoted to glory on Monday Dec 19 2005. Loving wife of Gerald D. Byrd mother of Gloria Byrd Gerald (Laura) Byrd Judith (James) Adams Lila (Michael) Crigger and Shirley (William) Steele and grandmother of Michael Jerry Shannon and Jeffrey Memorial services at 11 a.m. Wednesday Dec 28th at Salvation Army Citadel 26700 W Warren Dearborn Heights (48127) with a luncheon to follow www.christiansen.fh.com

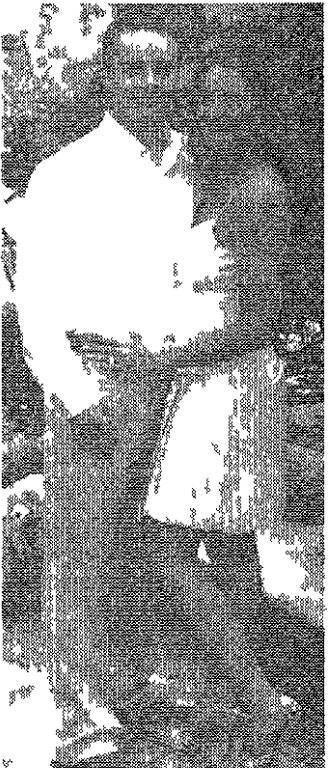
JOHN B. CALDWELL, Jr Age 62 December 11 2005 of complications of cancer Mr Caldwell formerly of Birmingham was a magazine publisher President/CEO of Caldwell Communications Advisors Boston MA Long distinguished career in magazine publishing Born in Detroit MI August 27 1943 John grew up in Birmingham and graduated from Wylie E. Groves School Son of John B. Caldwell Sr and Claire (Bishop) Caldwell both deceased Survived by daughter Ashley Caldwell of Wendell MA son Nicholas Caldwell of Marblehead MA and three grandchildren Also survived by three sisters Judith Ashley and Joan Caldwell of Vero Beach FL and Janice Wehmann of Chapel Hill NC Memorial service January 7 2006 2pm Church of St Andrew 135 Lafayette St Marblehead MA Donations in Mr Caldwell's memory to North Shore Medical Center Cancer Center 17 Centennial Dr Peabody MA 01960

Let others know... When you've lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages" a directory located in every edition of your hometown newspaper. Observer & Eccentric Call 1-800-579-7355

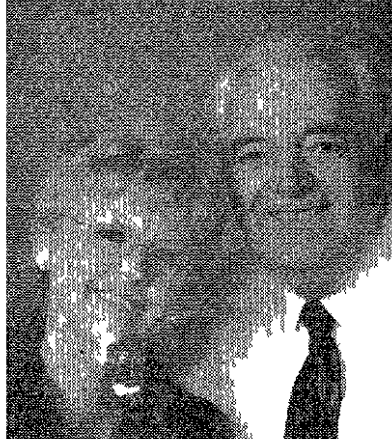


ENGAGEMENT

Mullen-Krause Tom and Mercedes Mullen of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Stephanie Ann to Kevin Robert Krause of Northville. Stephanie is a 2000 graduate of Mercy High School and a 2004 graduate of Western Michigan University. She is employed with TNT Edm. Her fiancé Kevin is the son of Edwin and Jean Krause of Plymouth. He is a 2000 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School and a 2004 graduate of Michigan State University. He is employed with GM Onstar Division. Kevin and Stephanie are planning a September 2006 wedding at St. John's Conference Center in Plymouth Township.



ANNIVERSARY



Broad David and Kathleen (nee McShane) Broad of Canton celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on Nov. 24, 2005, Thanksgiving Day. They were married Nov. 24, 1965, at Our Lady Gate of Heaven Catholic Church in Detroit. They have lived in Canton for the past 16 years. The couple celebrated the occasion with a trip to Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands. David and Kathleen have three children, Michelle (Bill) Proffitt, David (Kim) Broad and Karen (Chris) Wiza, five grandchildren, Anthony, Sara, Kaila, Madison and Dylan, and one great grandchild, Mackenzie.

Filter PURE ENTERTAINMENT! Every Thursday!

A recipe for joyous holiday

What do you want to dish up for the holidays? If you are like me, you want a feast of fun and memorable moments with your family and friends to cherish for years to come.



Parenting Corner

Marilyn Suttle

What you want and what you get can be far from the same. Instead of a stress-free holiday, you find yourself overwhelmed with shopping, cleaning, cooking, decorating, and dealing with everyone's conflicting needs. Tempers flare. Misunderstandings undermine good will. It's no surprise why

so many families feel a backwash of resentment and frustration towards the people they love the most during the holidays.

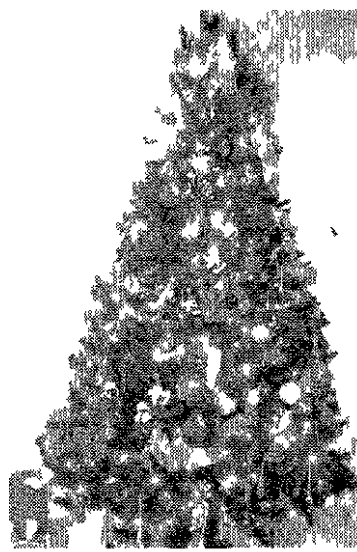
Follow this recipe to enjoy a happier holiday season this year.

Ingredients

- One package of patience with family members
- One cup, half full (not half empty) of gratitude
- One level headed choice to stay within your holiday spending budget
- A pinch more time taking care of yourself
- One bushel of respectful communication
- One juicy moment for reflecting on the meaning of the season
- One large focus on making happiness your top priority
- A dash of humor

■ Assorted Nuts (optional)

- 1 Chop chores into bite sized, easily digested pieces and distribute to family members, being careful not to mash their enthusiasm
- 2 Sift out and discard comparing yourself or your family to others
- 3 Trim away negative judgments
- 4 Generously sprinkle words of encouragement. Continue until hearts melt
- 5 Gently whisk away clutter. Do not beat yourself up by expecting everything to be perfect
- 6 Simmer your nerves. If your temperature runs hot, share your honest feelings in a way others can hear you. Take time out to cool down if needed
- 7 Combine family and friends together. Mix in smiles



- 8 Skim off your need to control
- 9 Blend in old and new family traditions
- 10 Decorate to taste

Marilyn Suttle gives tips for creating happier relationships at home and at work with esteem building communication and life balance strategies. Subscribe to her free monthly e-newsletter by visiting her Web site WWW.SuttleOnline.NET

Church Boxing Night focuses on homelessness

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Senior highs at Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton will again have their Boxing Night this year the day after Christmas. From 8 p.m. Dec. 26 to 8 a.m. the following morning, the teens will sleep outside the church in boxes to gain understanding of homelessness.

"It does do a great job of raising awareness and concern from the community," said the Rev. Bryan Smith, pastor. Participants gather clothing from the community for the needy, filling a 24-foot truck. Clothing goes to Fort Street Presbyterian Church in Detroit, and Smith has been told that the items collected last the better part of the year. You can bring donated clothing

to Geneva (on the west side of Sheldon north of Ford Road) on Dec. 26. Winter outerwear for men, women and children is needed, along with boots, socks, new underwear and even blankets.

The Geneva Boxing Night's been held for about 11 years on the day after Christmas, when those in such countries as the United Kingdom traditionally pack up their older clothing for the needy.

Smith has found the local effort has helped to raise awareness in the church community as well.

"There really are people who have no place to go." He is reminded of Jesus who also had no place to go to lay his head and was born in a stable.

"Our goal is to reflect our faith into outreach to people," Smith said.

Hazel Farrell celebrates her 100th birthday

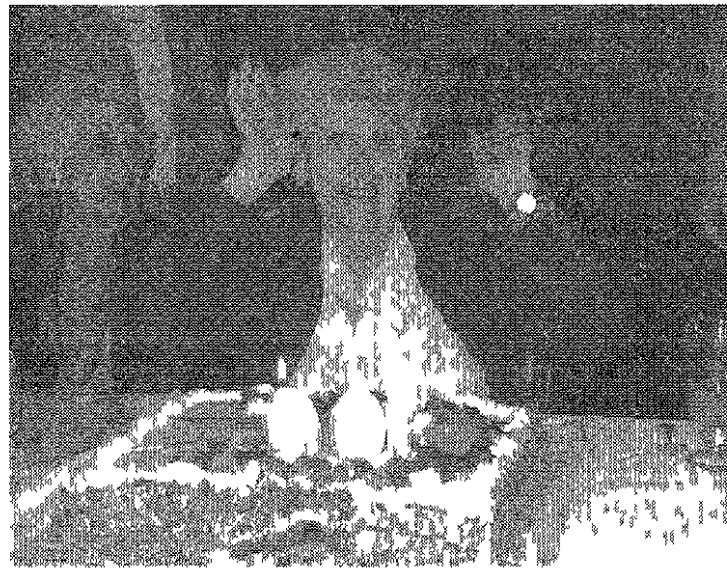
Hazel A. Farrell became the area's newest centenarian on Nov. 19, 2005.

Her 100th birthday was celebrated with a special dinner party at Maples of Novi attended by five generations of Farrells and Farrell cousins, and her physician and his wife - Drs. Muna.

Hazel was born in Canton, Ohio to Frank and Minnie Steintrager. She was one of seven children. She moved to Michigan when she was eight years old and her dad got a job in the Ford Rouge Plant. She graduated from Western High School in Detroit and became a legal secretary with Lucking Van Aucken Lucking in the Buhl Building, Detroit.

When she was 22, she married Gerard E. Ted Farrell they settled down in Detroit and raised seven children (Bill, Patty, David, Mary, Barbara, Judy, Michael). When her husband retired in Feb. 1971 they purchased a home in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. but Hazel had to give up their dream of retirement in Florida as Ted died shortly prior to their move.

The always resilient Hazel



Hazel A. Farrell celebrated her 100th birthday last month.

sold the home in Florida and moved to Drakeshire Apartments in Farmington Hills becoming very active at Our Lady of Sorrows church and with the Senior Group at Mercy Center.

Hazel's younger days were filled with cooking for her family, doing needlework, sewing, baking, canning and playing cards. There wasn't a card game Hazel didn't excel at - she was quite the shark. She

made all the daughters clothing including coats, mittens, scarves, etc.

Ask anyone about her famous cinnamon/nut buns. She served as Brownie and Girl Scout leader at Epiphany School in Detroit. The family always attended Ujidsen Thanksgiving Parade and Hazel froze an ice pond every year in the yard teaching the kids how to skate. She spends her days now at



Hazel A. Farrell on her wedding day in August 1928.

Grand Court Assisted Living in Farmington Hills. She walks to all her meals to Bingo and Activities. Ask Hazel how her day is going and her answer is always the same - my days are always good. God has me here for a purpose, and I'm very happy to be alive.

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A GIFT OF MOVIES
Gift cards from \$5

Last shows of Christmas Eve will start no later than 9pm. First shows on Christmas Day will start after 9pm.

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★ RUMOR HAS IT (PG-13)
SUN 3:30 4:15 6:00 6:45 8:30 9:15
MON TH 11:15 1:00 1:30 3:30 4:15 6:00 6:45 8:30 9:15
★ THE PRODUCERS (PG-13)
SUN 4:30 7:15 10:00
MON TH 11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

★ CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 (PG)
FR MON TH 11:30 12:00 2:00 2:30 4:30 5:00 7:00 7:30 9:30 10:00
FR LS 12:00
SAT 11:30 12:00 2:00 2:30 4:30 5:00
SUN 4:30 5:00 7:00 7:30 9:30 10:00

★ YOURS, MINE AND OURS (PG)
FR 1:20 1:20 3:20 5:20 7:20 9:20
FR LS 11:20
SAT 11:20 1:20 3:20 5:20
SUN 3:20 5:20 7:20 9:20
MON TH 11:20 1:20 3:25 5:25 7:25

★ PRIDE AND PREJUDICE (PG)
FR 11:00 1:40 4:20 7:00 9:40
SAT 11:00 4:00 4:20
SUN 4:30 7:00 9:40

★ JUST FRIENDS PG-3
FR 2:20 2:35 4:50 7:05 9:20 1:35
SAT 12:20 2:35 4:50
SUN 4:50 7:05 9:20
MON TH 9:25

★ CHICKEN LITTLE (G)
FRI SAT 11:10 1:00 3:10 5:10
SUN 3:10 5:10
MON TH 1:15 1:15 3:15 5:15
★ JARHEAD (R) ENDS FRI 8:55 9:30
★ SAW 2 (R) FRI 11:50 1:50 3:50 5:50
7:50 9:50 FR LS 11:50
ENDS SAT 11:50 1:50 3:50

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The City of Livonia reserves the right to reject or accept any or all proposals in whole or in part and waive any irregularities therein.

Jack Engebretson

Publish December 25 2005

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Readymix Concrete in 6 Sack Mixes (approximately 400 cubic yards) and in 7 S Sack and 9 Sack Mixes (approximately 200 cubic yards of each size)

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AGGREGATES ROAD GRAVEL SLAG AND STONE IN VARIOUS QUANTITIES

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Jack Engebretson

Publish December 25 2005

Baseball, hot dogs and Christmas

Burger's Winter Carnival celebrates the season on a global scale

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Jason Phelps decided to turn the tables on Nate Robertson. He gave the Detroit Tigers pitcher an autographed photo of himself. He also offered Robertson a few tips to improve his game.

He should use his slider more often and mix it up with his change-up and 100 mph fast ball," said Phelps with a big smile.

Phelps may have been talking baseball, but all around the Detroit resident it was Winter Carnival time at the Burger Center for Students with Autism in Garden City.

Borrowing from the Walt Disney theme of *It's a Small World*, classrooms around the building were decorated to represent different countries and cultures, while the hall ways were filled with every thing from a petting farm to Robertson who was signing cards.

"I did it last year and it was a hit, so I decided to do it again," said Robertson, showing off the photograph of Phelps.

"There's a lot of sports fans among these kids. What they do here, there's truly a need for it, and the kids respond well."

"It really brightens them up, added Smiggins the Clown, better known as Sherrie Chrysler. "When you see their faces, their smiles, it's great."

Smiggins, a member of Clowns Around Redford, and Lovely the Clown (Janice Scarlett-Priest) were manning



Ashley Mattia 8, of Redford, hugs one of the bears tight that were donated by the Family Christian Store of Canton to the Burger Center students for the Christmas Carnival.

the face painting table outside Phelps' classroom. It was Smiggins' award-winning island face design that was showcased on Robertson's autographed photo.

Palm trees and birds on his cheeks, the moon and stars on his forehead. Phelps picked the design because of "all the snow outside."

"It's too cold for me," he explained.

The Winter Carnival is one of two annual events provided by Jack Russo, his family and friend Larry Berman. The family is more like Santa Claus for the center, taking requests and answering them.

"This is absolutely beautiful, they never cease to amaze me how they create this," said Russo, a Farmington Hills resident. "We put in a bike path and they wanted some money

to rebuild their bikes. We said here, here's the money and 20 new bikes."

Russo heard about the center, which takes in students from throughout Wayne County, from his Barber who had a relative at Burger. He decided to find out more about the center and the rest, as they say, is history. Now he is preparing to turn it over to his son Paul and daughter Lisa.

"This is a natural for us, something we should do, so it's not hard at all," said Lisa, a Plymouth Township resident. "We totally enjoy being involved here over the years. You work and work and wonder what it's for and then come in here and know it's worth it."

The Russos were the guests of honor at a lunchtime program that included a performance by the Burger Choir, a video presentation of "all the smiling faces" at the center and the music of teacher Stan Bialach, who played his trumpet and did a Louis Armstrong rendition of *A Wonderful World*.

Burger teacher Colleen Polin chairs the carnival committee which comes up with the theme and activities, but credits the Russos for its success.

"We know the long hours and hard work put into make this special for kids, but we couldn't do this today without the Russos," she said. "We're thankful for them coming and giving of their time."

Also helping to make the daylong carnival a success was the Family Christian Store in Canton which donated 200 teddy bears to give to the children, and members of the Garden City High School Key Club which traded in their street clothes for costumes.

"This is the second year we've done this," said senior Crystal Fargo who was dressed



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jacob Bellanser 6, of Wayne (from left), and Michael Lomas, 8 Ian Stambersky, 10 and Shane Delaney, 8 all of Redford join in singing with the Burger Choir at the annual carnival.

as Snow White. "These are the best kids. They always remember us and when they see us, their faces just light up. Oh, Snow White. We volunteer during the week so they know us and they know us in costume."

And in keeping with the world theme, Burger students also were showing they could make a difference, collecting donations for an orphanage in Zimbabwe, for Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans and for U.S. soldiers serving in Iraq.

Outside it may be snowy and cold, but in here our hearts are a glow from the generosity of others," said Polin. "May they be kept warm and cozy throughout the year."

smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953 2112



Warren Cooper 11 shows off his new balloon hat that Smiggins the Clown made for him at the carnival.

Read Taste

Healthy Newsletters win national award

The Healthy Newsletters for parents of children ages 3 to 13 have won the MarCom Creative Awards 2005 competition. The newsletters are published since 1992 by Alice McCarthy, president of Bridge

Communications Inc of Birmingham and a columnist for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*.

The MarCom Creative Awards is an international awards competition that recog-

nizes outstanding achievement by marketing and communication practitioners. Entries are judged by industry professionals who look for companies and individuals whose talent exceeds a high standard of excellence and whose work serves as a benchmark for the industry. There are 4,613 entries throughout the United States and several foreign countries in the 2005 competition.

Bridge Communications Inc won a Gold Award, which is presented to those entries judged to exceed the high standards of the industry. Approximately 16 percent of the entries received this award. The Healthy Newsletters are distributed to parents through schools, social agencies and medical facilities. The three, four page illustrated Newsletters are written to help parents keep their children healthy and support the teaching of health in school.

CITY OF GARDEN CITY

To all residents and interested parties The Council minutes will be available for review on the internet at www.gardencitymi.org

You can access this information at the Garden City Library or City Hall during regular Business hours or in the Police Station Lobby 24 hours a day

ALLYSON M. BETTIS Treasurer/City Clerk

Publish December 11, 18 and 25 2005

LEGAL NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS / CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH SALE OF TOWNSHIP HALL PROPERTY

The Charter Township of Plymouth is currently accepting bid proposals for the sale of its existing township hall property, commonly known as 42350 Ann Arbor Road located on the northeast corner of Ann Arbor Road and Lilley Road. The request for proposals may be obtained in the Office of the Clerk, 42350 Ann Arbor Road Bldg #3 Plymouth Township MI 48170. Sealed bids must be delivered to the Office of the Clerk no later than 3:00 p.m. January 31, 2006.

Marilyn Massengill, CMC
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish December 22 & 25 2005 & January 5 2006

CITY OF GARDEN CITY

The City will be in Section 4 Ford Road to Cherryhill Inkster to Middlebelt to clean the Sanitary Main sewer lines.

You may experience gurgling noise in pipes and faint odor. To avoid any problems here are some tips:

- Keep the toilet lids down when not in use
- Keep taps filled with water
- Cover floor drains with a disposable rag

In order to avoid any additional inconvenience please keep this in mind as you scheduling your activities.

Publish December 22 & 25 2005

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD HOLIDAY HOURS TAX BILLS

During the week of December 26-30 2005 all Township offices will be closed EXCEPT for the Police/Fire Departments and the Court. All other offices will be closed for the holidays.

The 17th District Court will be closed Monday December 26 Tuesday December 27 Friday December 30 and Monday January 2 2006.

Residents that pay their property taxes during this time can drop their payment in a sealed envelope in the drop box on the northwest side of Townhall 15145 Beech. Daily Payment will be credited for the 2005 year. Water bills and homestead tax affidavits can also be placed there. The following Redford banks will also accept tax bills for their customers: Comerica Huntington LaSalle and National City.

Dial A Ride Senior Center Meals on Wheels and the lunch program will not be operating during this time.

In case of a water emergency please call the Police Department non-emergency number 313 387 2500.

ALL OFFICES EXCEPT THE COURT WILL RESUME NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS STARTING MONDAY JANUARY 2 2006

Publish December 22 25 & 29 2005

Charter Township of Redford Holiday Trash Pickup Schedule

Christmas: There will be no trash collection on Monday December 26 2005. Trash collection will be delayed one day for the entire week.

New Year's: There will be no trash collection on Monday January 2 2006. Trash collection will be delayed one day for the entire week.

Normal trash pickup will resume on Monday January 9 2006.

Please note: Township office will be closed Monday December 26 2005 through Friday December 30 2005. Normal township office hours will resume on Monday January 2 2006.

Publish December 25 2005

CITY OF GARDEN CITY FINAL PROPOSED PROJECT STATEMENT CDBG ALLOCATION PROGRAM YEAR 2006

Pursuant to federal guidelines on December 19 2005 subsequent to a Public Hearing the City Council of the City of Garden City resolved to propose the following projects for funding by the Community Development Block Grant Program (Program Year 2006):

OBJECTIVES

- To provide the benefits of using CDBG funding directly to persons of low to moderate income and/or areas where 51% of the residents are of low to moderate income
- To reduce negative environmental impacts
- To maintain a high level of performance in the management of CDBG and non federally funded programs while offsetting administrative costs to the General Fund
- To improve public facilities

ESTIMATED ALLOCATION	POTENTIAL PROJECTS
\$94,900	City wide Housing Rehabilitation
\$21,900	Public Service Activity (Funding for Senior Center Coordinator 15% of Total Allocation)
\$14,600	CDBG Administration (10% of Total Allocation)
\$14,600	Planning (10% of Total Allocation)
\$146,000	Total Proposed Allocation (Estimate)

10% of all Lien Repayments go toward administration costs of the housing rehab program and overall cost of administration of the CDBG program. 15% of all Lien Repayments will go toward the cost of the Public Service Activity Senior Center Coordinator's Salary.

The Following Items are contingent upon the availability of funds and may vary depending upon:

- The availability of County-wide funds
- The repayment of previous housing rehabilitation loans through lien captures

\$50,000	Estimated Additional Housing Rehabilitation Funds from Wayne County
\$5,000	Program Income/Revolving Fund
\$201,000	Possible Total Allocation (Estimate)

Publish December 25 29 & January 1 2006

Notice is hereby given that the following units will be sold to the highest bidder by way of open auction on 01/06/06 at approximately 9:00 a.m. or thereafter at the following locations:

Shurgard Storage of Canton #2101 Haggerty Rd Canton #734 981 0300 4004 Sanders	Boxes Totes Bags Television Dining Set
Shurgard Storage of Canton #45228 Michigan Ave Canton #734 398 5416 2015 Hlavacek	Ford Probe GT bike 70lbs furn
1014 Willa	tv 50+ bxs totes desk
4213 Clements	Furn bxs vacuum
6004 Scott	W/D Furn
2022 W ndham	furn/sptg gds 12bxs
Shurgard Storage of Dearborn #24920 Trowbridge Dearborn 313 277 2000 1164 Jackson	lawn mower ladder bird house fire place screen door flower pot edger shop vac
1220 Fowler	safe love seat 3 bed sets toys lamp tree lawn chairs dresser pictures misc boxes
2290 Dodson	3 pc m crosetude l v ng room set end tables tools stereo equipment misc bags
2298 Jones	furniture small appliances bicycle office equipment misc boxes
Shurgard Storage of Livonia #30300 Plymouth Rd Livonia #734 622 7811 3020 Donaldson	Wood Hunting Supplies Arrows Hand Truck File Cab Tools
3080 Northington	Dresser Microwave Mattress chairs blankets clothes
3104 Mom	Weights Lamps Speakers Gr l Machine BB Gun clothes
3113 Smith	Mattress Bags Bed Room Furniture Boxes Chairs
2121 Taylor	Bikes Mattress Liv Rm Furniture Microwave Sofa
3004 Morse	Car Parts Shelves Car Seat Desk Tools Tables Lumber
4130 Flumerfelt	Antiques Chairs wall hangings tables ladder desk
Shurgard Storage of Taylor #9300 Pelham Rd Taylor #313 292 2950 2069 headax	jeep boxes dresser sm grill
3019 Crawley	dining & living room furn ture boxes
3038 Compeau	Tools Ladders boxes cleaning suppl es
3077 Martin	Furniture Toys Air conditioner dryer tools
3079 Franks Jr	Dining & bedroom set sm appliances 12 boxes
5015 Kopp	6 boxes/bins sporting goods desk
6016 Hart	Boxes Furniture appliances TV
6024 Brooks	Dodge Stratus
6070 Danville	Furniture bags and boxes
6109 Rogers	Stove hutch furniture lawn mower
7016 King	Furniture boxes fish tank
Shurgard Storage of Westland #36001 Warren Westland #734 326 6000 1034 RYLES	SAFE LG SCREEN TV BOXES EXERCISE EQUIP
1300 BROWN	LIVING RM FURNITURE WASHER & DRYER HAND TOOLS 12+ BOXES & BAGS
3014 HOCKENBERRY	35+ BOXES & BAGS ELECTRONICS OFFICE EQUIP TV TOOLS CAR PARTS TOYS MINI FRIDGE
4052 BAKER	FURNITURE 20+ BOXES SM APPLIANCES
4040 HARDNETT	FURNITURE (BDRM/DINING RM) 25 BOXES & BAGS
3150 VALIND	LIVING RM FURNITURE HAND TOOLS SATELLITE DISH 6 BOXES
4112 WAGONJACK	BEDS 26+ BOXES BINS & BAGS TOYS
4188 GRAVES	TV LEATHER OTTOMAN 10+ BOXES & BAGS DINING CHAIRS
5126 KENDRICK	SPEAKERS/STEREO SPORT EQUIP 50+ BOXES FURNITURE
5116 JACKSON	FURNITURE (LIV&DIN) KITCHEN STUFF 16+ BOXES TOOLS
5128 JACOBS	3 TVS STEREO VCR BDRM SET MICROWAVE LIV RM SET 2 BEDS COMPUTER TOYS ART BOXES
6030 JOHNSON	VACUUM 2 END TABLES MISC BAGS BOXES & TOTES KIDS STUFF DRESSORS TV STAND CARPET CLEANER LG TV SECTIONAL COUCH 2 BEDS 6+ CHAIRS
Shurgard Storage of Plymouth #41889 Joy Rd Canton 734-459 2200 1018 Kuhn	Equipent
2042 Hernandez	10 tubs 25 boxes and bags furniture toys small appliances
2070 Patrick	Chairs bags boxes 20 totes & furn
4011 Smith	Lamp Dodge auto cha 15 toys furn

Publish December 18 & 25 2005

PINE TREE LIGHTING

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Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

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Peter's Principles

Peter Nielsen

Chill out, stay young

Valerie from Canton e-mails for tips on natural ways to avoid the aging process

Valerie remember these words - stay away from stress at all costs! Just take a look at the presidents Most seem to age about 20 years during their terms in office! Stress damages the cells and can cause them to die early They can only re-produce so many times and when they start to die off, that's when the real problems can start A new study paints a clear picture of stress and aging It examines a group of stressed out test subjects and their non-stressed counterparts It found that stressed out men and women had body cells the equivalent of 10 times older than their calmer counterparts It's probably because cell damaging free radicals are reduced during the stress process

John from Romeo e-mails asking if his love for red meat might cause potential health pitfalls

The latest research shows that a high intake of red and processed meat drastically raises the risk of prostate cancer Diets high in fish and poultry actually seem to cut the risk! The study looks at a spectrum of test subjects over a nine year period It hammers home the importance of starting out with a well-balanced diet early in life The study also emphasizes the benefits of exercise and plenty of fruits and vegetables for living a long and healthy life I do not recommend eliminating red meat entirely from your diet because a steak or burger every now and then should be fine What the study does seem to show is that too much red meat can be a one way ticket to an increased cancer risk

If you have a question e-mail Peter at www.peternielsen.com

HEALTH

Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPER

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www.hometownlife.com

2-1-1

Number to call for non-emergency help

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Kim Davids barely had time to take a break from answering the phone in the 2-1-1 Call Center at United Way for Southeastern Michigan on Tuesday morning By 10:30 a.m. the information and referral specialist had provided a mother with several resources to find clothing for her children and another caller help to bury a relative who'd died from sickle cell anemia

Davids expected an increase in the number of people calling for help on Dec. 5 when 2-1-1 went into effect, but not 1,000 people In 2004, United Way received about 250 calls a day The service is available 24 hours a day from English, Spanish and Arabic speaking staff 2-1-1 is not a crisis line, however Davids quickly informs callers with life threatening situations to dial 9-1-1

The 2-1-1 Call Center supplies information and referrals for assistance with utilities, housing, food, clothing, elderly services, prescription drug coverage, and health care More than 5,000 programs on the database offer a wide range of help to those living in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties Davids receives several health calls a day from people in search of medical care for physical and mental illnesses

On any given day we had

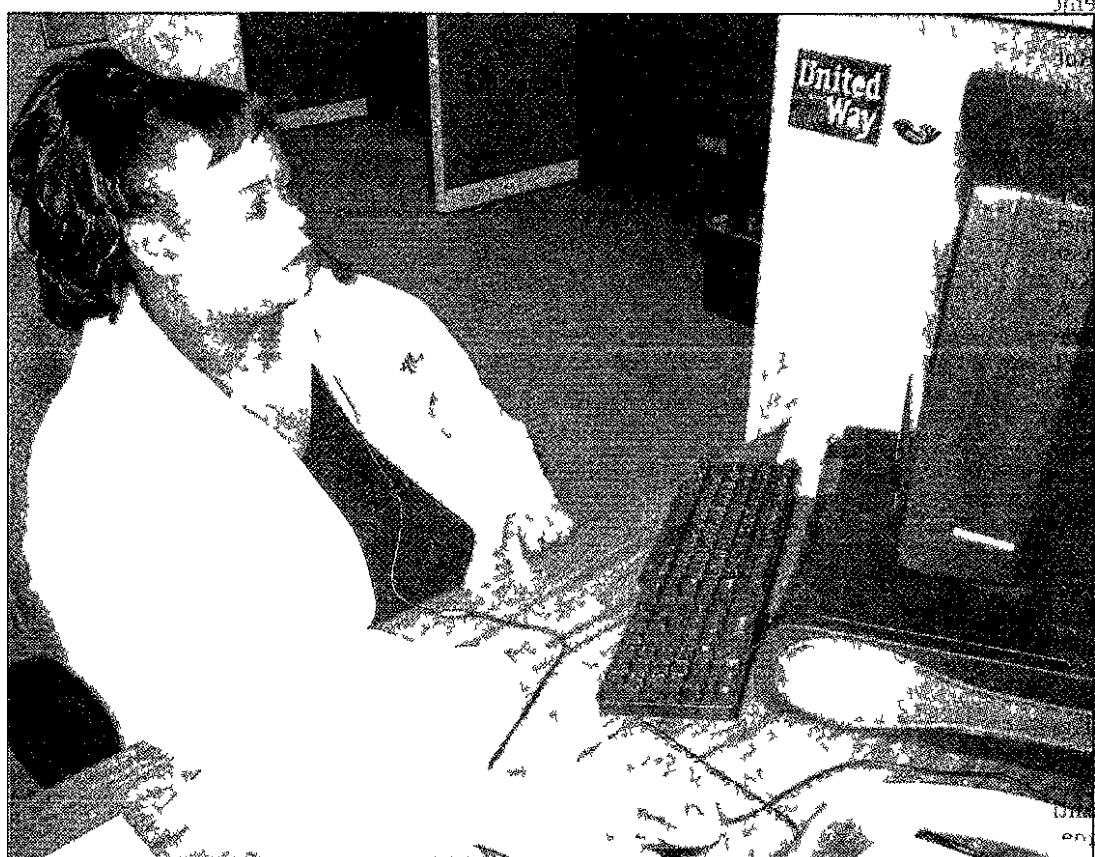
calls from all three counties, from all ages 22 to 75, said Davids who grew up in Southfield "Where there's a need there's usually an agency"

Davids uses the same United Way Help Book as when she was employed as a social worker for Henry Ford Health Systems hospice program It helps her locate more than 500 agencies that provide various services For information about the book, call (313) 226-9442

If they want help this is a wonderful place to start because we are going to find them a resource said Davids

One of Cynthia Miller's most memorable calls came from a homeless young mother seeking shelter Miller was a recipient of a United Way program, so she knows how it feels to be on both ends of the phone In January 2003 her son Phillip sustained a brain injury in a car accident After six months in the hospital he was able to come home, but once he did it was difficult to leave Miller had retired early from her job to become his caregiver and financially could not afford to build a ramp onto her home so Phillip could easily get to doctors' appointments United Way's Ray West Memorial Ramp Project stepped in to restore their freedom

She was 23 and asking if there was a place for a young mother with children under 5 She was telling me they're full



United Way 2-1-1 information and referral specialist Carol Smith helps callers by connecting them to more than 5,000 services in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties

I've called there said Miller Eventually we found a place We provide referrals for prescription drug assistance for all ages and even assist people with problems with their pets

El Cabrel Lee likes to think of the call center as more than just a community information referral service, but a social barometer to spot community needs The director of the Southeastern Michigan Call Center watched the help line evolve while he was vice president of 2-1-1/Heart of Florida United Way in Orlando and director of the nation's first call center in Atlanta Georgia which opened in 1999 Today 171 centers assist callers in the

U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico

One lady called for her son who was in need of medical assistance said Lee "There were several community clinics within one mile of them We saved them a trip to the emergency room Others call to ask 'Where I can volunteer and donate these items?' We're looking for volunteers to follow up on calls to see if callers have received the services we've referred them to

So far Oakland County callers have been dialing 2-1-1 for help to pay utilities and find housing clothing prescription assistance dental and medical care and more Western Wayne residents are

looking for food pantries, weatherization and home repair referrals, and legal aid, in addition to utility and rental assistance

We want to help save time and cost for people down the road, to provide greater awareness and education so people know about the My Child Program, a Michigan sponsored program to provide low-cost medical coverage for underinsured families, said Lee My goal is for people to utilize 2-1-1 as a single point of entry throughout the tri-county region and increase the number of individuals who vol-

PLEASE SEE NUMBER, B9

Everybody matters.

Helping People with Disabilities

Beyond their financial assistance, the Plymouth Community United Way helps secure grant funds, clothing, food and dental care for the people we support. The board and staff of the PCUW consistently go over and above to help those in need.

Denise King
Executive Director, Community Opportunity Center

Plymouth Community United Way Investing In Our Community

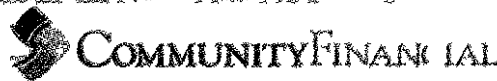
There is no one solution for the problems in our community. Plymouth Community United Way supports a network of agencies and programs that work together producing results that make a difference. When you give to Plymouth Community United Way, you invest in real solutions that make Plymouth/Canton a strong and healthy community to live and work.

When you give to Plymouth Community United Way, you invest in what matters - helping people with disabilities

Thank you Everybody matters



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7 P.M. - 1 A.M.
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pink page

WENDY WHITE, EDITOR (734) 953-2019 WWW.HOMECOMM.NET

PINK Picks the 'Best of 2005' next Sunday



Children's Books Light Up the Holidays

BY SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Start a holiday tradition by stashing some children's books with your holiday decorations. Next year when you take them out of storage, you'll have bedtime stories fit for the season. Here are the latest in children's book titles.

JOSIE'S GIFT
(Broadman & Holman, ages 4-8, \$16.99)
by Kathleen Long Bostrom and illustrated by Frank Ordaz

The story takes place during the Depression, when many families, including Josie's, couldn't afford fancy new blue sweaters. But that didn't stop Josie from asking for it.

ONE SPLENDID TREE
(Kids Can Press, ages 4-8, \$17.95)
by Maelyn Helme and illustrated by Dianne Eastmann
Hattie and Junior are forced to celebrate their first Christmas in the big city where Momma took a job in a factory while Daddy is away fighting in World War II.

A DOLL FOR NAVIDADES
(Scholastic, ages 4-8, \$16.99)
by Esmeralda Santiago and illustrated by Enrique O. Sanchez
Little Esmeralda eagerly

awaits the arrival of the Three Magi and the gifts they'll bring, although she enjoys the songs of the *parandas* (essentially carolers) in the meantime and she gobbles up the nuts her mother and father give her on Christmas morning.

AN ANGEL CAME TO NAZARETH
(Chronicle, ages 4-8, \$15.95)
by Maggie Kneen

An angel sees four travelers on a journey to Bethlehem. The same angel also spies four animals having breakfast in the hay. The angels give each animal the choice of who they'd like to carry. Each has a good reason for its pick, but the donkey chooses last and wisest.

CHRISTMAS MOUSELING
(Mendota, all ages, \$16.99)
by Werner Thusswaldner and illustrated by Robert Ingpen

A baby mouse is born on a cold December night, and he and his mother have nowhere to go. Many kind animals offer them their nests, but none can withstand the whipping wind. Eventually the mother and child make it to a small wooden hut. They are greeted by another mother... this one a human...

who says "What a wonderful night to be born."

MY FIRST MENORAH
(Little Simon, ages 3-7, \$7.99)
by Salina Yoon

For each glittery candle on the menorah is a page describing a Hanukkah tradition or ritual, including a definition of *shammash* and the words to the dreidel song. Young readers are instructed to turn the page to light the next candle.

BISCUIT'S HANUKKAH
(HarperCollins, ages 2-6, \$4.99)
by Alyssa Satin Capucci and illustrated by Pat Schories

Biscuit and his human caretaker make a new menorah for their friends. Biscuit is excited up in decorating the colorful candleholder.

DEAR SANTA: THE LETTERS OF JAMES B. DOBBINS
(HarperCollins, ages 4-8, \$15.99)
by Bill Harley, illustrated by R.W. Alley

James starts his first letter of the year to Santa Claus with a wish list that includes new

hockey skates, an aquarium with a piranha, and earplugs to block his sister's talking. Definitely no clothes! But by his 10th letter, he's explaining his way out of breaking the computer, phone, and garage door opener. It's hard to be good all the time, he tells Santa.

celebrity! pink picks

By Mrs. Santa Claus

Mrs. Claus blames paparazzi at the North Pole for creating the impression she wears her Christmas outfit all year round. I only break out that red dress with white fur trim once a year, but everyone must think I live in it, she says. Most days Mrs. Claus prefers warm but stylish cold weather gear for her rugged lifestyle in the Arctic. When she wants to dress up and get a taste of culture, she and Santa fly a couple reindeer to Reykjavik, the hip capital of Iceland. Mrs. Claus took time out of her busy holiday schedule to give PINK her top picks for Christmas Day and the start of Hanukkah.

Get It!
66 North Iceland Kjoler Coat



Wear It!
Fur
J Crew cashmere

Use It!
Snowshoes and ice skates

Ugg Ultra Mini Bowler



Diamonds - as mature women, we've earned them.

Are Men Necessary?
by Maureen Dowd

The Family Stone



Santa Baby
by Diana Krall

Dinner with your family

Cold weather with a positive attitude and the right clothes

Christmas Eve with my hubby!

Mannerisms

Tips for Many Happy Returns

A new survey shows that 49 percent of gift givers included receipts with their presents this year, as opposed to 47.6 percent in 2004. The trend is in keeping with modern etiquette. Gift receipts eliminate awkwardness and allow people to return things with ease, for a full refund. Here are some tips for many happy returns.

■ If you know when you open a gift that it's going right back to the store, leave the original packaging intact and tags on. ■ Make returns as soon as possible, but avoid shopping the day after Christmas when return lines will be long and tempers short. ■ If the gift came from an e-tailer, find out what their return policy is. Many online stores will pay return shipping if you ask. Others may have a physical store where you can make a return. ■ Don't exchange gifts for cash. Instead, select something else that will remind you of your loved one each time you use it. Source: PINK and The National Retail Federation's Returns Survey.

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A We are dealing with your EYES, your most precious sense. LASIK is a rapidly evolving, highly technological and very delicate procedure that requires careful and meticulous attention that can achieve excellent outcomes. It's unfortunate that this wonderful procedure has been commercialized and marketed like a commodity by business entities. Do not trust centers that advertise fees that end with 99* with multiple disclaimers designed to lure people in only to be then upgraded with layers of additional fees for higher corrections, astigmatism, touch up insurance, and in some cases even for the follow-ups! Some centers use older, obsolete laser technology or have a mobile laser brought in to cut costs. These are the same centers that delegate your care to other than the surgeon. In many cases, you meet the surgeon on the day of your procedure - a little nervous?

Dr. Daniel Haddad believes that when a patient trusts their eyes in his hands, they deserve his time and attention from the initial consult to the final follow-up visit, while utilizing the latest technology available at fair and reasonable fees.

Daniel S. Haddad, M.D.
248-689-2020

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National spotlight shines on Crusaders

CREAM OF THE CROP

Observer sports staffers deemed the Top Story of 2005 to be Madonna University's incredible women's volleyball season, which featured an undefeated regular season and trip to the national Final Four. The Crusaders (who finished 48-2) also boast the 2005 AVCA/NAIA National Volleyball Coach of the Year in Jerry Abraham and four players named to the AVCA/NAIA All-American squad. But there were several other top area sports stories in 2005: ■ Redford Catholic Central's hockey team won a state Division I championship for the sixth time in seven years. ■ Canton's football team made it all the way to the state D1 finals at Ford Field before losing a heartbreaker to Rockford. Just a cut below the top three were many other teams winning division championships and going on to earn victories in the postseason.

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The sting of coming so close to a national championship is subsiding. But those close to Madonna University's volleyball program will never forget the exhilarating ride the 2005 season brought.

It's been special, special in a lot of ways, said Crusaders head coach Jerry Abraham, who last week earned a major national award — the AVCA/NAIA Volleyball Coach of the Year. We had a cohesive group that worked as hard at the beginning of the season as it did at the end.

It was a 'possessed' type of team with one goal in mind and they did everything in their power to achieve that goal.

With four players named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association/National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics All America team, and with a 47-0 run that took the Crusaders all the way to the conference and regional championships Madonna nearly did just that.

Finally losing a meaningless game at the end of pool play at the national tournament in San Diego, Calif., the Crusaders bounced back to win a hard-fought quarterfinal match against Texas Wesleyan. But the next morning, the dream ended with a crushing loss in the semis to eventual national champion California Baptist, resulting in MU finishing with a 48-2 overall mark.

It was extremely disappointing, it's so tough to lose when you get that close, said MU senior setter Ashley Frost. "It hurts, but I'm proud of what we did. I'm now starting to move on (emotionally from the defeat), but we were seven points away from making the national finals."

Abraham said the semifinal played out as if it were the national championship tilt.

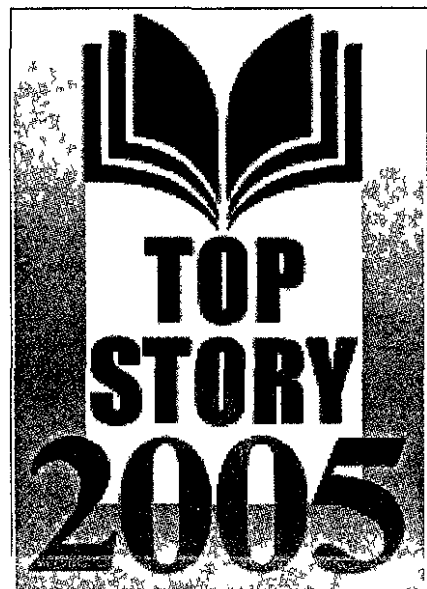


MU head coach Jerry Abraham celebrates a quarterfinal win at the recent national tournament in San Diego.



MU SPORTS INFORMATION

Madonna University seniors Laura Lesko (left) and Natalja Tinina celebrated a lot of team and individual success this season.



PLEASE SEE CRUSADERS, C3

Canton's full-court 'D' too much for Athens

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Driving through holiday traffic Thursday night was a walk in the park compared to dribbling through Canton's full-court press.

The Chiefs' baseline to baseball pressure forced Troy Athens into 21 turnovers and led Canton to a 46-41 victory over the host Red Hawks.

The pre-holiday victory improved Canton's record to 3-2, Athens slipped to 1-3.

"We were coming off a long bus ride out there, so I wanted to get the kids into the game physically right away," said Canton coach Charlie Paye. "So we put the press on them from the opening tip and it worked well. Our defense was solid all night. We made them work for their points."

Senior guard Andre Bridges sparked the Chiefs' offense, pouring in a season-high 17 points. Other

key offensive contributors were Ryan Waidmann (eight points), Neil Sharma (seven), Rob Eppler (seven), Steve Paye (five) and Ryan Langdon (three).

While Langdon's offensive output was modest, his defensive contributions were huge. The junior guard frustrated the Red Hawks' back-court players with seven steals.

Ryan is just so quick," Paye said. "It seemed like he was everywhere tonight."

Glen Alfieri paced the Athens' offensive attack with 11 points. Joshua Kendrick poured in eight and Rich Ortmann threw in seven.

The game was knotted at 9-9 after one quarter. The Chiefs forged a narrow 20-18 halftime advantage before the Red Hawks made it 29-29 with eight minutes to play.

Bridges was instrumental in the Chiefs' 17-point fourth quarter, tallying seven.

The keys to the win were our defensive effort

and our free-throw shooting," Paye said, referring to the Chiefs' 13-of-18 effort from the charity stripe. "We also rebounded better tonight than we were earlier in the year."

Now that the regular season is one-quarter of the way complete, how does Paye assess his team's performance?

"I'm a little disappointed that we're not 4-1, but overall, I think the kids are coming together well," Paye said. "We're getting our rotation down and we're playing good solid defense."

"When we come back after the break, we have Redford Union and then we play Salem to open the conference schedule. I think we're ready."

The Chiefs will host the Panthers on Tuesday, Jan. 10, before squaring off with the Rocks at home on Friday, Jan. 13. Both games are slated to tip off at 7 p.m.

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Westland boxing club swings for spotlight

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

The Dynamic Boxing Club of Westland could be making some noise at the 2006 Detroit-area Golden Gloves Tournament scheduled for April at the Gibraltar Trade Center in Taylor.

In a show Dec. 17 at the Davison VFW Hall, 17-year-old Justin McElrath of Dynamic ran his record to 6-0 with a unanimous decision in a 168-pound bout over previously unbeaten Aloys Griffin of Saginaw, and

GOLDEN GLOVES

open division fighter who had won 20 in a row.

McElrath, a senior at Detroit Martin Luther King High, has three knockouts.

In the 178-pound class, Dynamic's Dwayne Williams, 22, lost a split decision in a close bout against Daniel Miller of Crown Boxing Club of Lansing.

Both Williams and McElrath will represent Dynamic at the USA Boxing Senior Open Division state tourney, Jan. 14-15, at the Leelanau Sands Showroom.

"We expect some big things at this year's Golden Gloves," Dynamic trainer Paul Soucy said.

Dynamic will also send five representatives to the Silver Gloves Tournament, Jan. 7-8, at Saginaw UAW Local 699 Hall.

Among those scheduled include Westland's Dan Smith (220 pounds), Jessie Willis (176) and Jake Jacob (130), along with Dearborn's Abe Fakih (125) and Michael Wheatley (124).

CC enjoys return to Redford, throttles Panthers

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The Shamrocks made good on their return to Redford Township.

With a number of friends and family members in the stands Wednesday night at Redford Union, senior forward Aras Butkunas and his teammates on Novi Catholic Central's varsity boys basketball team routed the host Panthers 54-33 in a non-league contest.

Butkunas, a Livonia resident, scored 17 points and grabbed nine rebounds for Catholic Central (3-1), which moved from longtime home-base Redford this summer.

"It was a little bit of a motivating factor," said Butkunas about playing in the team's old back yard. "We just always want to come out hard and play our game. But we didn't want to embarrass ourselves in the place some of us spent our first three years."

Butkunas said a bigger motivator, however, was avenging a late 2004 loss to RU on a buzzer-beater by Anthony Smelley at Redford Catholic Central.

"It's always a big game when we play Redford Union," Butkunas said. "They got us in a close game last year, so it gave us some extra motivation to

come back and get them.

CC head coach Rick Coratti concurred about wanting to turn the tables. But he noted that it was important for the Shamrocks to come out with a lot of intensity because we know the way (RU head coach) Brett (Steele) coaches.

"They're so patient offensively, they just grind it out on you, so you have to be careful."

EARLY HOLE FOR RU

The way the game went, Steele might not be too anxious for the Shamrocks to come back anytime soon.

Back-to-back triples by senior guard and Farmington Hills native Rob Forte (eight points) helped CC build a 12-0 lead in the first. The Panthers (1-3) averted being blanked in the stanza when junior forward Tyrone Temple connected on a jumper with 45 seconds remaining.

"I thought we did well getting the ball inside early on," Coratti said. "That's what we wanted to do with Chris Harding and Aras."

Catholic Central struggled with their shots in the second quarter but still led 23-10 at halftime, with

PLEASE SEE SHAMROCKS, C5



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Redford Union's Steve Brown (left) and Rico Walker apply defensive pressure on Catholic Central's Aras Butkunas.

Ceremony sparks Redford Unified to big win

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Redford Unified put three banners in the rafters and six pucks in the net Thursday night

Head coach Larry Singer removed the covering from the blue-and-yellow banners following the first period of Unified's varsity hockey game with Flint Kearsley at Redford Ice Arena

With former and current players and former assistant coach Bill McSween Sr on hand, banners toasting the 1999-00, 2000-01 and 2004-05 Mega division winners were unveiled amid the sound of hockey sticks tapping the ice in applause

Shortly after the ceremony, the current squad - including 12 players from the 2005 Mega Red champions - came out on fire in the second stanza. Senior forwards and co-captains Bill Cetnar and Jason Hendrickson, both '05 champs, scored in the first 2:12 of the frame, breaking a 1-1 stalemate and sending Unified to a 6-1 non-league victory

Hendrickson (Redford Union) afterward said the ceremony served as a tension-breaking, confidence-boosting reminder

It brought us all back together, it unified us, Hendrickson said. It will

probably get us energized, knowing we can do it. We had a hard time putting pucks in the net and we were putting pucks in the net now.

Singer said he could sense a different team took the ice for the second period

"I think when they came off the ice after the banner raising they were a bit more focused and trying to get things done collectively," said Singer. "When you're out there and your banner's raised you remember that you were a team, a championship team."

Unified freshman forward Joey Catalano started the game off with an unassisted goal just 2:27 into the contest

Kearsley (4-5-2) tied the game five minutes later on a tally by senior forward Jeff Byres, the only shot to get past Unified sophomore goalkeeper Nick Smith (Thurston)

At the 52-second mark of the second frame, Cetnar broke the tie on assists from Catalano and freshman defender Scott LaMontagne

Hendrickson scored his first of two goals, on helpers from senior defenseman Conor Mahnske (Thurston) and senior defenseman Eric Valeri (RU)

Before the frame ended, Unified (2-4-1) made it 5-1 on tallies by Valeri and Hendrickson. Hendrickson and

senior forward Adam Eaves (RU) assisted on Valeri's goal while junior forward Joe Petriches (RU) and senior defenseman Justin Herbst set up Hendrickson's second marker with 7:13 left in the period

In the third, sophomore forward Larry Marlow (RU) finished the scoring. Cetnar rushed the puck up the left wing and dropped a pass back to Marlow, who flung a wrist shot cleanly past Kearsley junior goaltender Brett Adkins (who started the third period in place of starter Kevin Brackett, also a junior)

LEGACY AND TRADITION

Before the banners were uncovered, Redford Union athletic director Brett Steele announced those players present from the three championship teams as well as McSween, an assistant for the first two championship teams (coached by Pete Mazzoni in 1999-00 and the late Jack Gumbleton in 2000-01)

"It's more of a community thing, said McSween who still lives in Redford Township with his wife, Marge. "When you look up there you think of all these parents and kids. It's pretty nice. I guess that's a legacy. It's all part of a tradition and a lot of really, really good hockey play

ers came out of here

Among them was his son, Billy McSween, a 2001 Redford Thurston graduate who played defense for the first two Unified championship teams. McSween now plays at Davenport University along with ex-Unified teammates Kevin Moodie (2002 RU grad) and 1998 RU grad J.J. Price

As far as players from the first two teams were concerned, Moodie also was at Thursday's ceremony, along with 1999-00 team members Steven Elliott and Jason Moul. The two McSweens and Moodie were the lone representatives from the 2001 team

Moul, 22, a 2001 Thurston graduate and current Western Michigan University right winger, said the ceremony is meaningful and something he'll hold with pride

"It means a lot, we put in a lot of 5 a.m. mornings (for practices)," Moul said. "It's just a symbol of all our hard work when we were younger"

Moul thought of the players who were unable to travel to Redford for the big night, including 1999-00 team captain Dave Sellin, now living in California

He (Sellin) was a huge part of that team, Moul added

The younger McSween said his

mom called him about the ceremony and decided it would be a must-see event

They look great (in the rafters)," he said. It reminds me of all the people I played with. Playing hockey was the best time, it just brings back memories"

Although Singer would have liked to have seen a bigger reunion from the early teams, he said the banners will be there for whenever they do return

"I'm satisfied (with the turnout), I wish we could have gotten more of the older teams out," Singer said. "But I think if they ever come back, they'll see (the banners) hanging, and the guys who were here certainly appreciated the recognition"

Members of the 2004-05 team in attendance included current players Cetnar, Hendrickson, Petriches, Smith, Eaves, Valeri, Herbst, junior forward James Lehr (RU), sophomore defenseman Nick Bonadeo (RU), senior goalie Nick Kinney (Thurston), junior defenseman Collin Franti (RU), junior forward Ben Piskor (RU) and 2005 grads Bob Lappe, Eddie Brown, Mike Gervais, Brandon Barty, Jason Halliday, Jeremy Hayward, Justin Regets, Nick Fischback and Aaron Bigger

Rolling Stevenson icers wallop South Lyon, 8-3

There was no letdown Wednesday night for the Livonia Stevenson boys hockey team

The Spartans, coming off a big triumph last weekend over No. 1-ranked Bloomfield Hills Cynbrook (in Division III) at the Clarkston Tournament, took care of business Wednesday with an 8-3 non-league win over visiting South Lyon at Edgar Arena

The Spartans, winners of nine straight, are 9-1 overall

Eight different players scored for the Spartans, who led 4-2 after one period and 6-3 after 30 minutes

Among those scoring included Chris Rapp (first of the year), Corey Matson

Marcus Voran, Vince Byrne, Michael Voran, Jason Mifsud, Ryan Zucal and Sean Lerg (first career goals)

Stevenson had a power-play goal in each period

Shawn Anderson collected three assists, while Jeff Anderson, Marcus Voran and Matson contributed two each. Other assists went to Dan Darrow, Ryan Wrathell, Michael Voran, Mike Jahn, Jason Kraemer and Steve Soave

"We were able to spread our scoring around to a lot of different guys in this game, so that is a good sign that more guys are contributing offensively," Stevenson coach Mike Humtitz said. South Lyon is a

big, fast, skilled team, so it was encouraging to see that we could counter them

Marcus Voran was very effective for us tonight - very seldom does he not meet my expectations"

Garrett Colton and Kevin Burr scored in the opening period for South Lyon, while Bill Briggs scored a short-handed goal for the Lions in the second period

Stevenson netminder Jeff Pashnick made 16 saves, while Derek VanVleck and Tony Johnson combined for 15 for the Lions, who dropped to 7-2

W. L. CENTRAL 4, FRANKLIN 2: A total of 30 penalties were called. Includ

ing 16 in the final period as Walled Lake Central (6-1) downed host Livonia Franklin (2-4-1) in a WLAA crossover at the Edgar Arena

Central had 16 total while Franklin was whistled for 14. Each team received two misconducts. Ironically Franklin was 8-for-8 on penalty but went 0 for 8 on the power play

After a scoreless opening period in which Franklin fought off four straight Central power play chances, the Vikings scored three times in the second period on a pair of goals by Shane Barry and one by Brad Murphy

Franklin's Bryan Kozlowski scored at 7:55 of the second period to tie it at 1-1 on assists from Dan Kozlowski and Jason Wirgau

In the third period Central's Matt Johnson scored an unassisted short-handed goal at 3:43 to make it 4-1

Franklin's Steve South capped the scoring at 6:23 of the final period on assists from Steve Stahl and Dan Kozlowski

Patriot netminder Austin Mesler made a total of 30 saves. Central goaltender C.J. Pobur made 22 stops

LADYWOOD 4, NORTHVILLE 0: Goaltender Michelle Wynniemko made 12 saves Wednesday en route to her first shutout of the season as Livonia Ladywood (6-1-4-1) blanked the host Mustangs (5-5-3-3) in a Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League win at the Novi Ice Arena

Ladywood led 2-0 after one period on Brittney Holtz's goal at 6:59 from Ashley Ballarn and Heather Sartorius followed by Abby Kienbaums power play goal from Rachel Kilian with just 35 seconds left. Just 46 seconds into the second

period Brittany Andrews made it 3-0 for the Blazers from Kilian and Kienbaum

Sartorius completed the scoring at 2:28 from Laura Szwed and Danielle Foley. Ladywood had a total of 28 shots on goal and took nine penalties (to Northville 13)

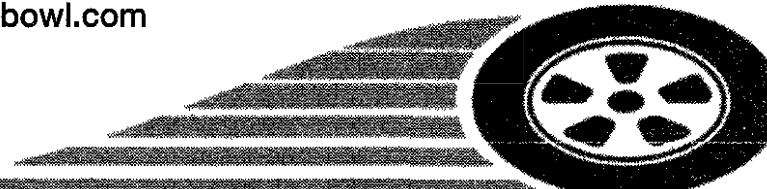
NORTHVILLE 8, SALEM 0: Brandon Wales scored two goals and assisted on another to lead the Mustangs to a convincing victory. Northville led 3-0 after one period and 6-0 after two

Derek Mohacsi, Kevin Uetz and Wales tallied first period goals while Wales, Mike Garbatz, Mohacsi and Kevin Ruzyllo were credited with assists

Mike Pottrowski, Garbarz and Anthony Deneau netted second period goals while Ryan Pyatenko and Wales lit the lamp in the final 15 minutes of action

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CRUSADERS

FROM PAGE C1

We played really well against a great team," he said. We just came off a big win over Texas Wesleyan, and (against Cal Baptist) it was like a national championship match in the semifinal.

ALL-AMERICANS

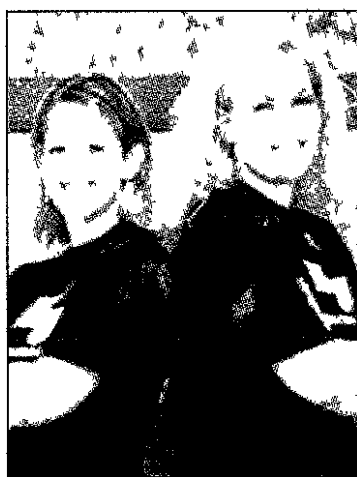
Exceptional individual performances, of course, had a lot to do with the phenomenal team success.

At the top of the charts were Frost and senior outside hitter Natalja Timna Frost - who in September shattered the Madonna career mark for assists with her 5,146th against Daemen (NY) - and Timna earlier this month were named First-Team All-Americans by AVCA/NAIA.

Two other Crusaders were part of the All-American team. Senior middle hitter Laura Lesko (571 kills) earned a spot on the second team while junior middle hitter Caryn Inman (472 kills, 192 blocks) received an honorable mention.

Frost (2,222 assists this season and 6,885 for her career) and Timna (886 kills to break the MU career record of 2,851) also snapped up best setter and best player kudos, respectively, from both the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference and NAIA Region VIII.

According to Frost, being an



PHOTOS BY MU SPORTS INFORMATION

Madonna University senior volleyball players Ashley Frost (left) and Natalja Timna were named All-Americans first-teamers for their outstanding seasons.

All-American first-teamer is "nice, because I've worked really hard the last four years."

She also said she is very proud of breaking the Madonna assists' mark. But, typical for a player from a team that had unmatched camaraderie, she deferred credit to players such as Timna, Lesko, Inman and others.

"I'm proud of it (the assists record), but I can't get assists without my hitters," Frost said. "I'm fortunate to play with some great athletes."

SIMPLY STELLAR

Concurring was Inman, also a first-team all-conference and

all-region selection.

For me, this is my first time ever getting it," Inman said.

The seniors on my team who got first team or second team are just amazing. I guess just to be put up on the same level as so many good girls around me is an honor.

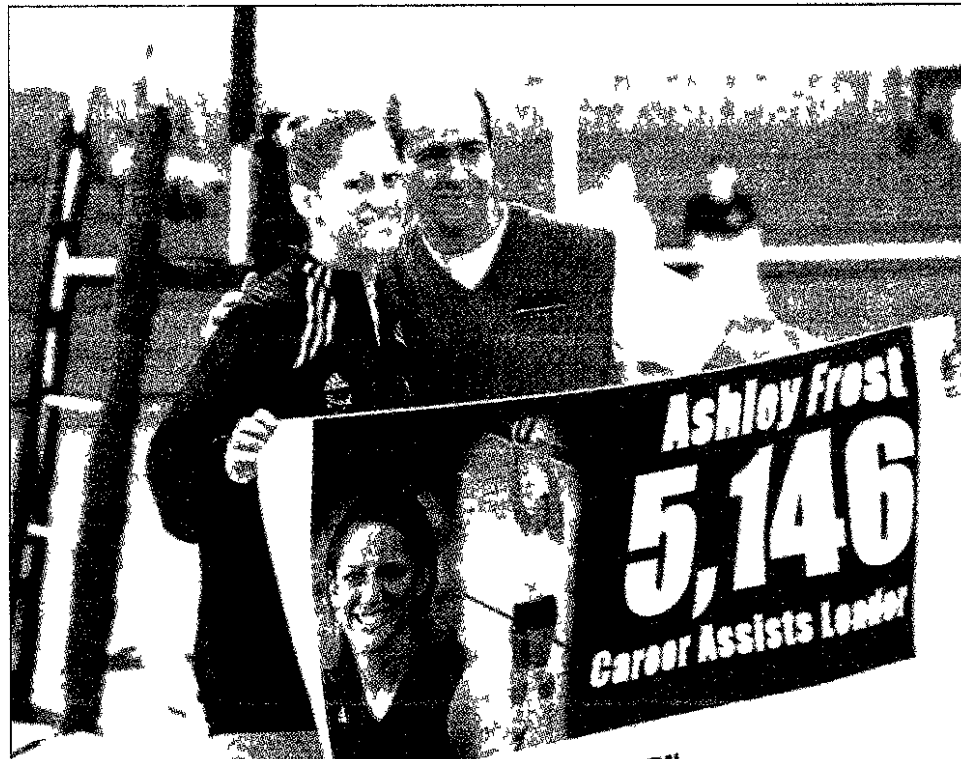
Abraham said stellar seniors Frost, Timna, Lesko and Libero Stefanie DeNardin comprised the team's core. But he made sure to mention Inman and several others who provided a strong supporting cast.

Caryn Inman was fantastic, Heather Spooner was very strong, Kelsey Mack is blossoming into a really great player, Jacqu Gatt is a fireplug for us, a great primary passer and defensive player," said Abraham, going down the list. Amy Szymanski (Redford Township) came in and did a nice job and so did Becci Crane. Defensively, they gave us big-time spark.

Abraham sounded most disappointed about not being able to coach such a unique, talented squad any longer.

This has been a dream season, like many in the past at Madonna," Abraham said. Each team is special in its own way. But this was just a season that blew by, because it was so enjoyable working with this group. They're a bunch of winners.

He would get no argument from Madonna athletics direc-



Madonna University senior Ashley Frost celebrates with Crusaders head volleyball coach Jerry Abraham, after she set a new career assists record in September.

tor Bryan Rizzo, who said he doesn't think the university will soon see anything like the volleyball team's season.

It's a shame when you get into a tournament like that at the nationals that there's only one winner, Rizzo said. What we accomplished through the regular season, not losing a game, that's something that may never be duplicated in any sport here.

Rizzo added that he doesn't know how you top it, short of winning the national title. tsm th@oe.hometownlife.com (734) 953-2106

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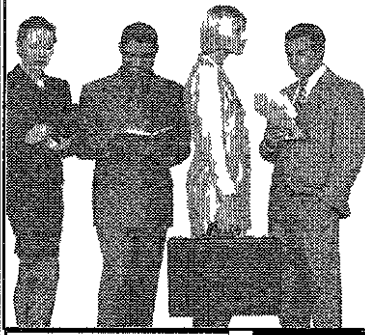
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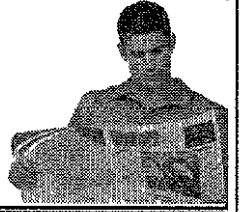
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NURSE
UNIVAL a medical services firm in Ann Arbor is seeking a Nurse to review medical records as well as work with a national group of field nurses to coordinate training/testing throughout the US. Experience with HEDIS a plus as well as knowledge of NCQA and JCAHO standards. Must have prior medical record review experience. Strong people and phone skills necessary. High comfort level with the internet and Microsoft Office programs. If interested please email cover letter and resume to service@univalmed.com Attn: HR Rep or Fax to 800 382 8611

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Howell nips 'Cats with triples

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth's basketball team will hit the holiday break on a two-game skid after dropping a thrilling 57-55 decision to Howell Wednesday night in the consolation game of the 8th Annual Chelsea Classic. The Wildcats, now 1-3, are idle until a three-games-in-one-week stretch once school resumes the second week of January. Plymouth will travel to Lincoln Park for a make-up game on Jan. 9, before hosting Adrian on Jan. 10. Coach Tom Van Wagoner's squad will open its Western Lakes Activities Association schedule Jan. 13 at Walled Lake Central. "It's frustrating being 1-3, but I think we've learned a lot in our first four games," said Van Wagoner, who didn't have the services of point guard

Brent Jones for both games of the Chelsea tournament. "You have to give Howell credit the way they played. They made six threes against us, just like Haslett did the other night." "We put a lot of pressure on them, but they got the ball to the right people. They hit a couple of huge threes down the stretch." The Wildcats' offensive production was spread evenly among five players. Senior forward Josh Le Duc led the way with 11 points and seven rebounds. Also putting up solid numbers were Alex Harvey and Jim Wilbur (nine points each), Brandon Roberts (eight) and LaBroderick Caldwell (six). Cody McKim paced Howell with 17 points. Brett Richards added 11 for the Highlanders, who improved to 2-2. Howell led 20-17 after one

quarter and 32-31 at the half before the Wildcats rebounded to grab a 43-41 advantage after three quarters. Plymouth's lead grew to as many as four points in the final stanza, but Howell hung on down the stretch. With 40 seconds left and the Highlanders leading 55-52, the Wildcats were whistled for a questionable intentional foul. The Howell shooter drained both shots to make it 57-52. Plymouth stole the ensuing inbounds pass and Roberts buried a triple at the buzzer. Both teams shot well from the charity stripe as Plymouth canned 9-of-13 freebies while the Highlanders found the bottom of the net on 11-of-14 attempts from the stripe. The tournament was won by Haslett, which edged Chelsea by one point in the title game.

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SHAMROCKS

FROM PAGE C1

smooth-as-silk senior guard Antyrion Raimer (19 points) calmly draining a trey from beyond the top of the arc at the home. Triples by RU's Ryan Meyers and Chris Brown (11 points, five rebounds, five assists) briefly gave the Panthers some hope early in the third, slicing the margin to 28-16. But the Shamrocks answered with seven consecutive points, including a triple from the right side by Butkunas. It was 37-19 after three and the teams pretty much traded buckets in the fourth, although Raimer put an exclamation point on the proceedings with two identical rainbow three balls from the right wing. Also sparking CC to the victory was 6-7 senior center Harding (Livonia) with eight points and 11 rebounds. For Redford Union besides Brown junior guard Trevar Simmons and sophomore guard Terrell Beard each scored four points. Steele said his team just isn't all that confident when shoot-



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Antyrion Raimer of Novi Catholic Central sprints up the court next to Redford Union sophomore guard Terrell Beard during Wednesday's non-league varsity boys basketball contest. "We've been struggling shooting the basketball for four games, he said. It's a confidence thing that's carried over. But we have five days off here, which is good for us. The kids need time away to recharge themselves." The Panthers coach did credit how the Shamrocks came into their building and

ing the ball. "We've been struggling shooting the basketball for four games, he said. It's a confidence thing that's carried over. But we have five days off here, which is good for us. The kids need time away to recharge themselves." The Panthers coach did credit how the Shamrocks came into their building and

took control. They've got a nice basketball team. Steele said their top seven players are all seniors. They've been through a lot of battles with us. They've had some difficult losses, with our game last year, one of them. This is a year they've pointed to where things come together.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL Tuesday, Dec. 27 Red Covenant vs Det. Mackenzie at Country Day Roundball Classic 12:45 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28 Wayne vs Det. Osborn at Highland Park 1 p.m. (Roundball Classic at Country Day) Clarenceville vs Melvindale 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29 Wayne vs Det. Henry Ford at Highland Park 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30 Birm. Brother Rice at Redford Union 7 p.m.	GIRLS VOLLEYBALL Tuesday, Dec. 27 UM Dearborn Invitational 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 30 UM Dearborn Invitational 9 a.m. PREP HOCKEY Tuesday, Dec. 27 (Ladywood Tourney at Arctic Pond) Ladywood vs Victory Honda 1 p.m. Ply. Canton Salem vs Regina 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28 Ladywood Tourney at Arctic Pond 1 & 3 p.m. PREP WRESTLING Wednesday, Dec. 28 Salem B Invitational 9 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 29 Salem Varsity Invitational 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 30 Brother Rice Warrior Inv. 9 a.m. PREP BOWLING Friday, Dec. 30 Ladywood in B.C. John Glenn Tourney at Monitor Lanes 10 a.m.	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Wednesday, Dec. 28 Madonna at Savannah Art & Design 7 p.m. Lewis (III) at Schoolcraft 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29 Madonna vs Southern Poly Tech at Savannah Art & Design 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30 Milwaukee Tech at Schoolcraft 7:30 p.m. WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Tuesday, Dec. 27 (St. Xavier, III Holiday Classic) Madonna vs Calumet (Ind.) 1 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, Dec. 27-28 Madonna at St. Xavier Classic TBA ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE Wednesday, Dec. 28 Whalers vs Windsor Spitfires at Compuware Arena 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30 Whalers vs Erie Otters at Compuware Arena 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 1 Whalers at Windsor 2 p.m. TBA - time to be announced
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CITY OF LIVONIA

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 5 Chapter VII and Section 1 of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the City of Livonia, the Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 4.0447 mills of the taxable valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the next fiscal year commencing December 1 2005 and ending November 30 2006 and in addition to the above amount which is authorized to be levied for general purposes by the Charter of the City of Livonia

- The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 0.8080 mills of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above pursuant to Section 1 of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the City of Livonia, for the purpose of providing additional revenues for police protection and law enforcement personnel equipment supplies and facilities of the City of Livonia in addition to the amount authorized to be levied for general municipal purpose.
- The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 1.2134 mills of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above pursuant to Section 1 of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the City of Livonia for the purpose of providing additional revenues for fire police and snow removal personnel equipment supplies and facilities of the City of Livonia in addition to the amount authorized to be levied for general municipal purposes.
- The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 0.8088 mills of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above, pursuant to Section 1 of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the City of Livonia for the purpose of providing additional revenues for library services supplies and facilities in the City of Livonia in addition to the amount authorized to be levied for general municipal purposes.
- The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 0.0107 mills of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above pursuant to the provisions of Act 379 of the Public Acts of 1925 for the purpose of advertising exploiting and making known the industrial and commercial advantages of the City of Livonia and to establish projects for the purpose of encouraging immigration to and increasing the trade business and industries of the City of Livonia in addition to the amount which is authorized to be levied for general municipal purposes.
- The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 2.0767 mills of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above pursuant to the provisions of Act 298 of the Public Acts of 1917 for the purpose of establishing operating maintaining and administering the municipal garbage collection system and/or plant for the collection and disposal of garbage and refuse in the City of Livonia in addition to the amount authorized to be levied for general municipal purposes.
- The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 0.2507 mills of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above for the purpose of debt retirement on the 1990 Street Improvement Bond Series I Series II Series III and Series IV in addition to the amount which is authorized to be levied for general municipal purposes.
- The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 0.4979 mills of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above for the purpose of defraying City expenses and liabilities for the collection and disposal activities required for curbside recycling and yard waste composting programs in addition to the amount authorized to be levied for general municipal purposes.
- The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 0.7855 mills of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above for the purpose of providing additional revenues for a community recreation center recreation personnel equipment supplies facilities and operations in addition to the amount authorized to be levied for general municipal purposes.
- The Council does hereby establish a tax levy of 8893 mills of the Taxable Valuation of all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City of Livonia for the fiscal year set out above for the purpose of providing revenues for repairing or replacing public roads sidewalks and trees in the City of Livonia in addition to the amount to be levied for general municipal purposes.

AND PROVIDED FURTHER that the Wayne County Bureau of Taxation City Assessor City Treasurer and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary or incidental to the full performance of this resolution and the City Clerk is hereby requested to immediately transmit copies of this resolution to each of the above offices.

CITY OF LIVONIA ADOPTED BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006

GENERAL FUND (101)		REVENUES	EXPENDITURES
PROPERTY TAXES	402,446	\$28,588,137	2,623,479
LICENSES & PERMITS	470,519	2,188,600	463,846
GRANTS	528	122,684	2,534,361
STATE SHARED REVENUES	567,581	9,256,386	783,168
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	602,651	3,273,046	1,323,235
FINES & FORFEITS	656	3,886,000	20,510,650
INTEREST & RENTS	665,669	1,965,026	10,330,511
OTHER MISCELLANEOUS	680,698	1,633,945	1,235,983
TOTAL REVENUES		\$50,913,824	6,244
LEGISLATIVE			4,063,603
JUDICIAL			581,012
EXECUTIVE			1,511,331
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION			769,450
HUMAN RESOURCES			2,950,579
GENERAL GOVERNMENT			\$50,897,741
PUBLIC SAFETY - POLICE			
PUBLIC SAFETY - FIRE			
PROTECTIVE INSPECTION			
OTHER PROTECTIVE			
PUBLIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING			
PARKS & RECREATION			
CULTURAL			
PLANNING			
OTHER CITY FUNCTIONS			
TOTAL EXPENDITURES			\$42,707,040
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS		REVENUES	EXPENDITURES
MAJOR STREET FUND	202	\$4,587,000	\$5,311,602
LOCAL STREET FUND	203	3,444,727	3,714,153
ROAD SIDEWALK & TREE FUND	204	6,097,162	5,990,682
MUNICIPAL REFUSE FUND	205	12,299,268	12,277,032
COMMUNITY RECREATION FUND	208	7,748,813	7,635,347
COMMUNITY TRANSIT FUND	218	378,988	391,906
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION	261	505,000	603,000
PLYMOUTH ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	262	2,172,862	1,240,527
ADJUDICATED FORFEITURES FUND	265	310,000	544,800
LIBRARY FUND	271	4,614,995	4,602,718
CABLE TELEVISION FUND	297	548,200	638,261
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	566	25	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$42,707,040	\$42,949,928
DEBT SERVICE FUNDS			
MBA COM RECREATION	308	\$1,986,900	\$1,986,900
D/S/ POLICE COMPUTER	309	0	85,000
LIVONIA MBA BOND DEBT RETIREMENT	315	0	0
LIVONIA 16TH-DISTRICT COURT	322	72,000	72,000
1998 MVH BOND DEBT RETIREMENT	323	0	0
1999 MBA REFUNDING	324	494,915	494,915
2005 MBA REFUNDING	325	344,471	344,471
1990 STREET IMPROVEMENT	377	1,176,162	1,176,057
1998 PRDA STREETScape DEBT	394	572,895	572,895
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUNDS		\$4,647,343	\$4,732,238
ENTERPRISE FUNDS			
NEWBURGH VILLAGE SR CIT HOUSING	294	\$733,600	\$717,990
SILVER VILLAGE SR CIT HOUSING	296	561,170	484,392
GOLF COURSE	508	1,902,968	1,852,550
WATER AND SEWER	592	\$25,882,467	\$25,852,490
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUND		\$28,080,205	\$28,908,927

Published December 25 2005

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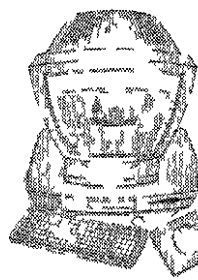
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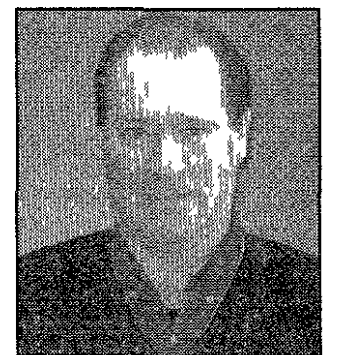
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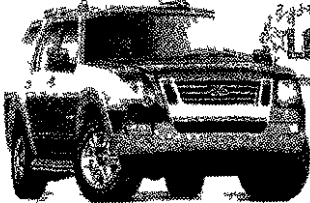
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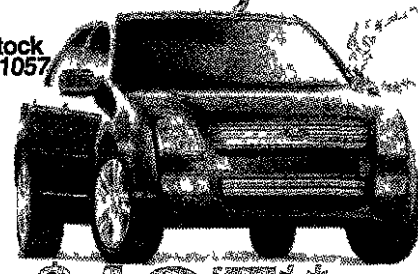
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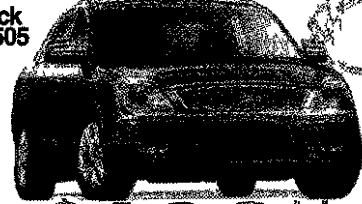
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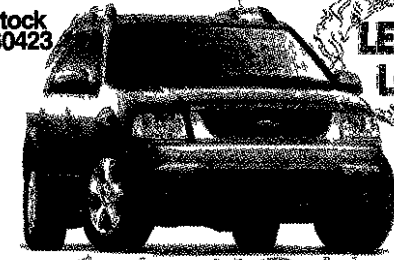
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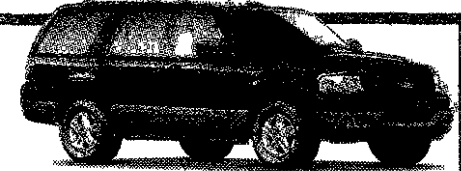
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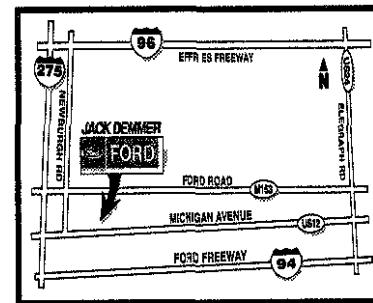
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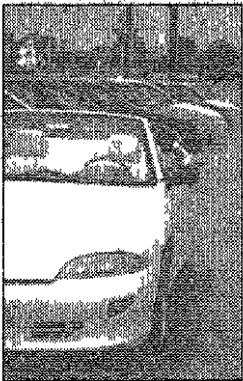
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By Dave Menard
Avanti NewsFeatures

Winnebago's new Adventurer is Class A motor home that took on a whole new look for me since the last time I drove one. My contact at Winnebago told me that we will be driving a 37-foot gasoline Coach. At first glance I thought they made a mistake.

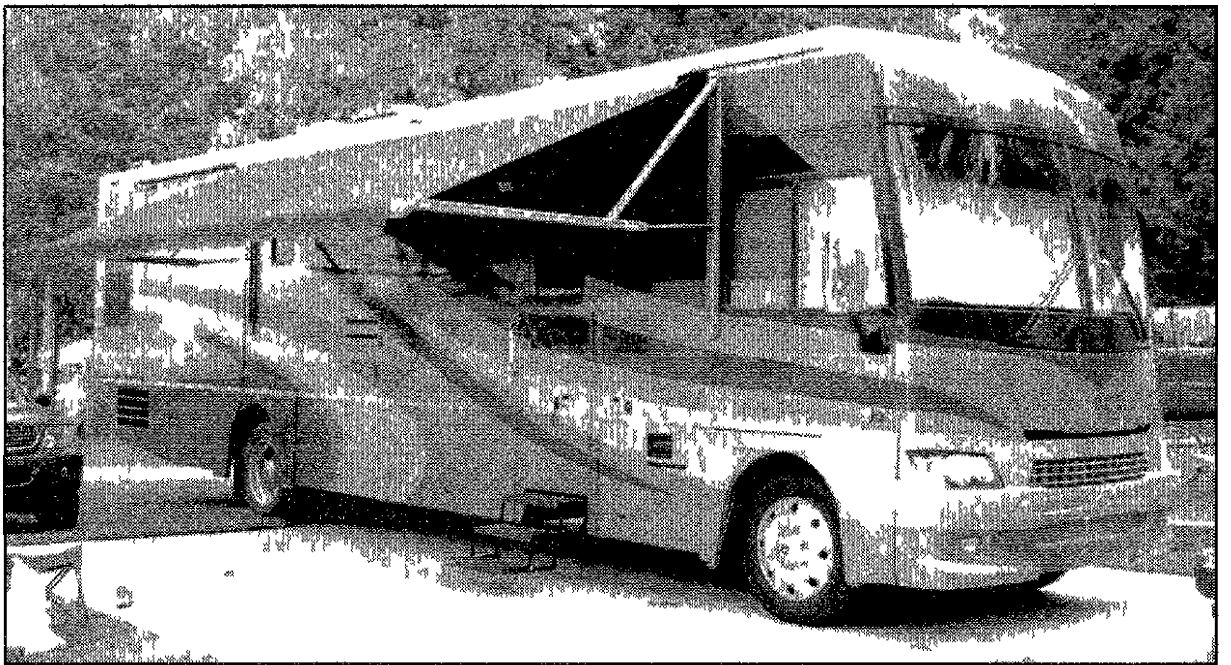
It's huge, I thought when I first saw it and at a 12 feet overall height it can only be one thing: a diesel. But I was wrong. It's a gas Coach with an 8.1 liter GM motor on a Workhorse Chassis. At that height it has to give you more head room on the inside.

The outside of this 2006 Winnebago was painted the color Salsa, which is a combination of three different colors and an optional color for this Coach. The closest way I can describe these colors are Burgundy, Pewter and a Gold that turned a lot of heads as we drove down the road. My wife Donna and I just loved not only the colors but as you will see everything about this motor home.

It has lots of basement storage and that is almost standard on all Winnebagos, it will store anything from barbecues to as many folding chairs you can pack. One of the first things I like to do is check out the basement storage because I like to bring everything we can think of.

Our trip to Walt Disney World from these Detroit suburbs was in first class as we drove in 37 feet of pure luxury. The inside took on the same color scheme as the Salsa color on the exterior. As you look at the back of the motor home from the entry door you can see the bedroom door that caught both mine and Donna's eye. The bedroom door was not the usual sliding door but a hinged door with a French door look (very nice). The ceiling has changed since I had seen it last. There is not only more headroom but also it is now made from padded vinyl instead of cloth. This makes it easier to keep clean.

The layout of the Coach is something that we could not stop talking about. We both agree that this is the motor home for us if we were spending our own money.



2006 Winnebago Adventurer Vehicle class: Class A motor home. Power, 8.1-liter fuel injected V8. Mileage: 7.5 mpg over 3,000 miles of mixed driving. Where built: Forest City, Iowa. Base price: \$149,241. As tested: \$172,492.

This chassis is built like a diesel and rides like one, too. Right out of the gate I cranked this Coach up to 70 miles per hour, turned on the GPS-navigation system, adjusted the seat and just relaxed.

The GPS by Alpine worked just great. When we missed our exit off the Florida turnpike, the unit recalculated our route, then told me what I needed to do. It comes with a two-disk set for east and west U.S. that also covers north and south.

After we checked in at Fort Wilderness Walt Disney World it was 97 degrees and humid. Pulling up to our camp site my son Jason said, "Boy Dad, how are you going to get this thing in there?" After stopping and looking it over I had to admit I had my doubts. Each campsite is cut into a field of trees so some of these sites can be pretty tight for 37 footer.

Jason and my older son Matthew got out of the motor home and guided me as I took a shot at getting this baby in there. Standing at the back of the Coach I could see them in the rear camera with the volume turned all the way up. I could hear every word they said.

The Adventurer handles like a dream. First try and I'm in. Then I plugged the 50 amp service, hit the automatic leveling jacks and got that air conditioning on. Then I went to the bedroom and slid out both the bed and the wardrobe area to make one big bedroom. When I moved back to the front and slid out the living room it was a most like I never left home.

At night when it is time to get ready for bed you can close the shade on the French door so everyone could take their turn in the shower, and I could watch the 24 inch Sony Trinitron. If that's not good enough you could move to the front and watch the 27-inch until its time to shower.

After 10 days of hot weather at Disney it was time to move on. The ride back to Michigan was just as good as the ride down as we averaged 7.5 miles per gallon at an average speed of 70 miles per hour.

After a one-night stay back at home it was off to Lake Leelanau RV Park just outside of Traverse City on Lake Leelanau. Find this on the Web and make it a point to stop by. These folks work hard to keep the park clean and make sure you have a good time.

As I drove through the park I noticed people staring at the motor home. I told Donna to look at one guy who looked like he was drooling all over himself.

After hooking up again we shocked the neighbor when I opened the awning by remote control. The awning also has a wind sensor so if it gets windy, and you're not there, it automatically rolls up and saves your awning for another day.

The only thing I did not have on this adventure was a boat, but I got a line on a 1998 Sea Ray with 30 hours on it and on the way home I bought it for my next trip to a lake. And I drove it home with this great Winnebago. Write Marty Majchrzak at avanti1054@aol.com. Anne Fracassa is on medical leave.

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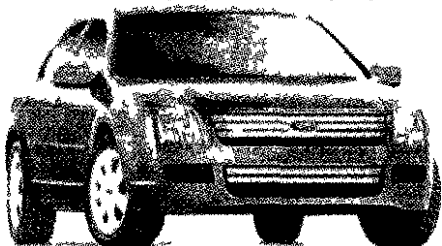


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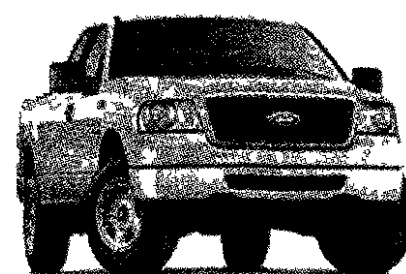


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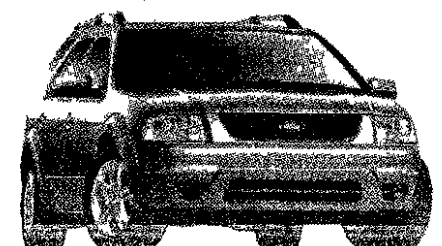


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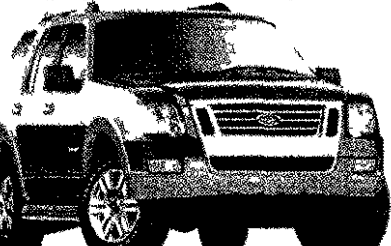


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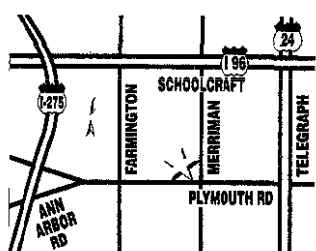
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