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# PLYMOUTH Observer

THURSDAY  
December 7, 2006

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## Cops nab two, ticket five in drug sweep

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
STAFF WRITER

Canton Township police arrested two Plymouth-Canton high school students and ticketed five others on various drug charges after conducting a sweep of the parking lots Wednesday morning at Plymouth-Canton Schools Educational Park.

The drug sweep at the 5,800-student high school park at Joy and Canton Center roads — which is home to Canton, Salem and Plymouth high schools — is the first after a task force consisting of Canton police, school district officials and the Growth Works Youth Assistance program identified less than 10 high school students for every 1,000 was involved in a drug, alcohol or tobacco incident last year.

Canton Police Deputy Chief Laura Golles said the search for drugs was conducted with the help of six canine officers and their drug-identifying dogs.

"The dogs walked up and down each parking aisle, and as they hit on a car it would be searched," Golles said. "The search was conducted only in the parking lots."

"What was found today (Wednesday) is in keeping with the statistics we recently reviewed," Golles said. "The effort is, and will continue to focus on, deterrence of drug use by our teens and parental awareness of what is out there."

Canton police report 38 cars were searched after positive responses from the drug-sniffing dogs. Charges ranged from possession of a controlled substance, a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and/or a \$2,000 fine, to possession with intent to deliver, a felony which could result in up to four years in prison. Juveniles, those 16 years old and younger, will be referred to the juvenile court system.

Golles said students can expect additional drug searches at the park.

"There is no set schedule, just randomly throughout the school year," Golles said. "I would anticipate two or three sweeps."

Golles added there are no searches planned for inside the three high schools.

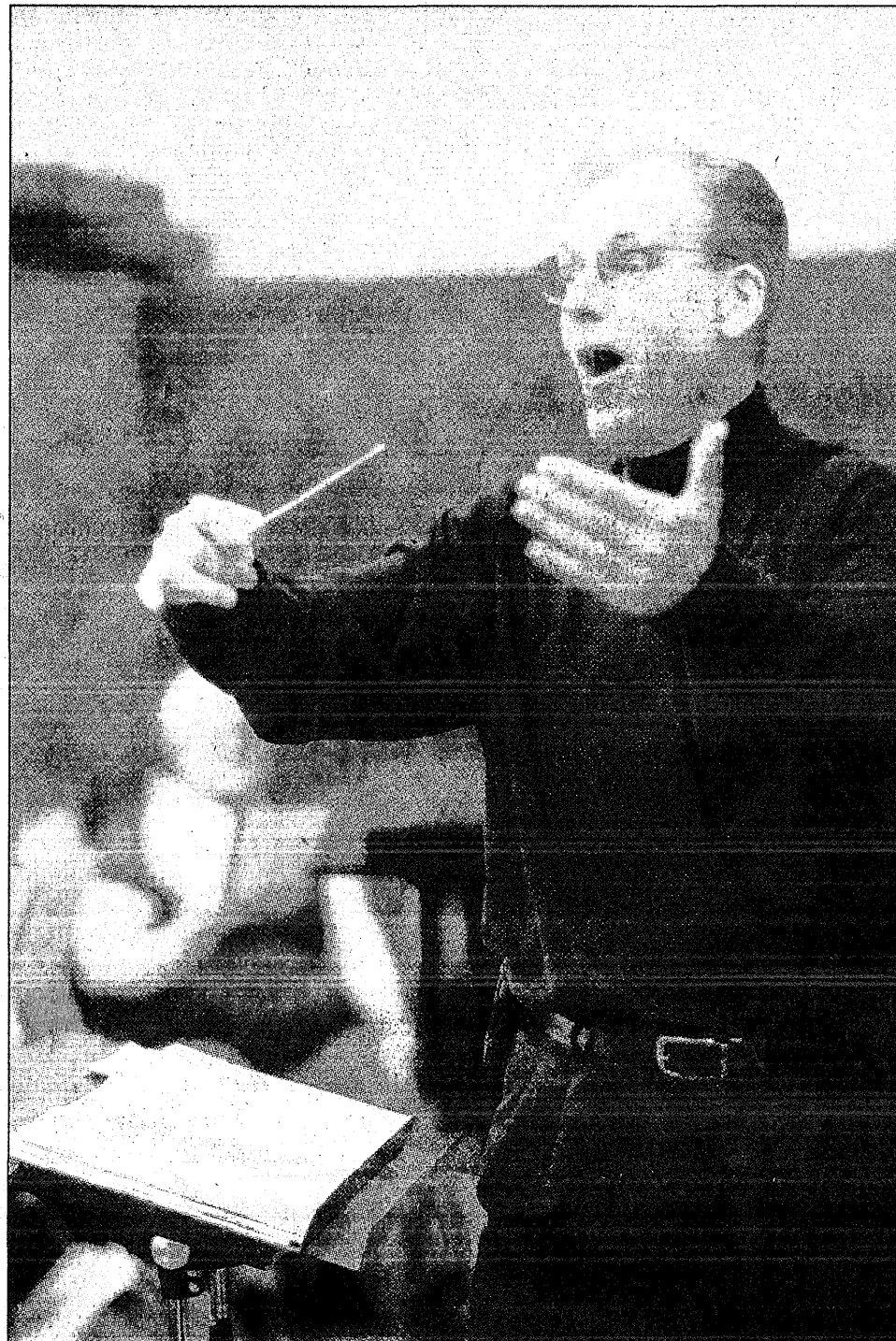
"At this point, no, but we wouldn't rule it out in the future," she said.

Theresa Newton of Canton Township, who has graduated two children from the park and currently has a daughter who is a freshman, said she's OK with police searching the high school parking lots for drugs.

"I don't think they should just randomly check students, but if the dogs smell something and it's illegal, I don't see why they shouldn't," Newton said. "It's probably a good idea for kids to know it's not tolerated at school."

Allison Fuller of Canton has two students attending P-CEP, and said as long as police aren't randomly searching students, she doesn't have a

PLEASE SEE SWEEP, A5



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Michael Gross conducts the BeckRidge Chorale, which changed its name from Plymouth Community Chorus to reflect the regional nature of its makeup.

## New name, same sweet sound Chorale ready for holiday, spring season

BY BRAD KADRICH  
STAFF WRITER

Complete schedule for upcoming season, A6.

Music lovers who attend the BeckRidge Chorale's "Tis the Season" holiday concert this weekend at Northville High School might not recognize the group's names.

But everything will come back into focus when the music starts and the voices ring.

The BeckRidge Chorale, formerly the Plymouth Community Chorus, hits the stage 8 p.m. Saturday and 4 p.m. Sunday

for its annual holiday concert.

While the chorale still has about two-thirds of its members from Plymouth, Canton and Northville, the new name reflects the wide reach of the 130-member chorus, which draws members from as far away as Warren and Howell.

"The truth is, we're a regional ensemble," said Michael Gross, the group's

PLEASE SEE CHORALE, A6

## City urges regional fire plan

Township board members unlikely to support it

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
STAFF WRITER

Now that Plymouth and Plymouth Township officials have come to terms on a police and fire dispatch contract, Plymouth city commissioners want to focus on the fire department.

However, commissioners voted unanimously Monday night to steer away from contract talks with Plymouth Township and look at regionalization of the fire department with Plymouth Township, Northville and Northville Township in an effort to save costs. Mayor Dan Dwyer admitted the resolution was mainly symbolic, but said he wants to pursue discussions with whomever will come to the bargaining table.

"We want to evaluate it and see if we can't get the same service or better service," Dwyer said. "The resolution doesn't say we're going to do it, but says the city of Plymouth believes it's a good idea to look at it, look at it hard and with an open mind."

"We want to let our residents know where we're headed," Dwyer added, "and to let potential partners know this is a unanimous vote by the City Commission, it's the right direction to explore and will show we want to have a serious discussion about it."

Dwyer said "at this point" the city will hold off on negotiations for a new fire contract with Plymouth Township and "explore regional fire" alternatives. Currently, the city pays about \$1 million a year to contract fire services from Plymouth Township. The contract regenerates itself each year if neither party cancels it by Dec. 31.

Mayor Pro Tem Phil Pursell said the process of regionalization won't be an easy one.

"It's the wave of the future, at least in this state, because of the declining revenue sharing at the state level," Pursell said. "Municipalities and townships will have to band together and get past egos and personalities, and look at what's best for their residents."

Plymouth Township trustee Chuck Curmi said

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7  
06  
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E-mail your responses to [bkadrich@hometownlife.com](mailto:bkadrich@hometownlife.com).

PLEASE SEE REGIONAL, A6



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

City trucks hit the streets earlier this week, spreading salt as the snow fell.

## City plows ahead with snow removal plan

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth received just a small taste of Old Man Winter when about an inch of snow fell Monday, with — bet the house on it — plenty more headed this way before spring arrives.

However, Steve Faiman, assistant director of municipal services for the city of Plymouth, said his crew is ready for whatever amount of snow falls.

"We've got all our equipment checked out and ready to go," Faiman said. "We'll be ready to salt when it starts getting icy on the main streets. We start plowing when we get 4 inches or more, first the main streets, then the residential areas."

City officials have identified six priority routes for snow and ice control. Priority Route 1 includes Main, Penniman, Ann Arbor Trail and Starkweather. Priority Route 2 consists of secondary streets, including

Harvey, Farmer, Junction, Industrial Drive, Church and Union streets.

The city's fleet of snow equipment includes a back hoe, six dump trucks, two salt trucks and six pickup trucks with plows.

"It always makes it easier and more efficient when there are no cars parked on the streets," Faiman said. "Motorists should be cautious when they see a

PLEASE SEE SNOW, A5

### SNOWED UNDER

According to the National Weather Service, these are just some of the worst storms to hit the Metro area:

- April 6, 1886 — More than 24 inches
- Dec. 1-2, 1974 — 19.3 inches
- Jan. 30-31, 1982 — 11.8 inches
- Jan. 2-3, 1999 — 11.3 inches at Metro Airport; up to 15 inches in suburbs

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### Coming Sunday in Health



Eating healthy during the holidays can be a challenge, but with a little planning it can be done.



**Me and My Shadow**

New Morning School offers "Me & My Shadow" parent and young child classes, a fun, nurturing and educational introduction to preschool for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds and their parents.

Activities include music and finger-play, art and discovery projects, snack and story time, all centered around a learning theme. The class in January will explore the texture of your child's world. From slippery to scratchy, bumpy to smooth - in this class, we let our fingers delight in a hands-on tour of textures! Each class is packed with kid-powered learning and fun.

Parents can choose from two 10-week sessions 6-7:15 p.m. Mondays or 10-11:15 a.m. Saturdays. Classes begin Jan. 13. Cost is \$85 for the entire session.

To enroll, call (734) 420-3331, or download the registration form at [www.newmorningschool.com/shadow.htm](http://www.newmorningschool.com/shadow.htm).

**Sounds of the Season**

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Choirs will present their annual holiday concert "Sounds of the Season" 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19 in the Salem High School Auditorium located at 46181 Joy in Canton.

Tickets (\$4 pre-sale and \$5 at the door) are currently on sale and may be purchased in the PCEP Choir Office (Room 1603 at Salem High School) during school hours. For more information visit the choir

Web site at [www.pcepchoirs.org](http://www.pcepchoirs.org) or call (734) 416-7800.

"Sounds of the Season" will feature over 200 students who are members of the award-winning PCEP Choirs under the direction of Jennifer L. Kopp. Students are in grades 9-12 and attend either Plymouth, Canton or Salem High Schools. The PCEP Choirs will be performing a wide variety of Christmas and Hanukkah favorites including music from the film *The Polar Express*.

**Toy drive**

Mel Bobcean, owner of Mel's Golden Razor in downtown Plymouth, starts his 28th year collecting toys for children and families he helps during the Christmas holidays.

Bobcean's effort also includes collecting money for food boxes for needy families. The collection runs Nov. 24-Dec. 19.

Mel's Golden Razor is located at 595 Forest. For more information, call (734) 455-9057.

**Township calendar**

The new township facilities located on Haggerty Road are the focus of the 2007 Plymouth Township annual calendar, coming soon to township residents.

Many of the photos in the calendar feature township departments and employees, along with community attractions such as Hilltop Golf Course.

"We hope our residents see this as a working calendar to

list family appointments and special days, as well as a resource on the Plymouth Township government and community," said Supervisor Richard Reaume. The calendar should be in homes the week of Dec. 18.

Residents who do not receive a calendar in the mail by the end of the year should call the Supervisor's Office, (734) 354-3203. Calendars will also be available at the reception desk at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd.

**DAR meets**

Daughters of the American Revolution-DAR Northville/Plymouth meet 11 a.m. Dec. 18 at Greenmead, Alexander Blue House in Livonia.

The program features Christmas Music and a sing-along with the Michigan DARlings.

For more information, call (734) 459-4764.

**Gift of Reading**

The Plymouth District Library is again an official drop-off location for the Gift of Reading program.

New, unwrapped books are distributed to Michigan children, toddlers through second graders, who otherwise might not have a new book of their own. Please bring your donations to the Library gift box located near the staircase by Dec. 13.

**Elephant Man**

Barefoot Productions presents the second production of its premiere season when *The Elephant Man*, a play by Bernard Pomerance, hits the

stage at the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main in Plymouth, Dec. 8-10.

Performances are 8 p.m. Dec. 8-9, with a 2 p.m. matinee Dec. 10. Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$10 senior/student and will be available at the door 30 minutes prior to each performance. Advance tickets can be bought at The Book Cellar & Café, 840 W. Ann Arbor Trail.

For more information, visit the Barefoot Productions Web site at [www.justgobarefoot.com](http://www.justgobarefoot.com)

**'True Light' service**

The choir of First United Methodist Church present "True Light," a collage of music, readings and visual images celebrating the birth of Christ and our hope for salvation, 9 and 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 10.

Adult, high school and children's choirs, handbells, orchestra, organ and other instruments will offer music in a wide variety of styles, from Baroque to Gospel. These services will offer perspectives on the core message of Christmas and the promises it holds for those who believe. First United Methodist Church is located at 45201 North Territorial Road, a mile east of Beck Road, and offers ample parking and barrier-free entrance. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

For more information, e-mail Marcia Van Oyen at [marcia@pfumc.org](mailto:marcia@pfumc.org) or call (734) 453-5280.

**Trinity Christmas story**

Experience a modern-day interpretation of the well-known Christmas story as

Trinity Church presents "Word on the Street," a dinner theatre, 6:30 p.m. Dec. 8-9.

Enjoy a pasta buffet while listening to favorite songs of the season. Then, members of the Trinity drama and music teams will present the tale of two people who were charged with an amazing responsibility - to be the parents of a very special baby who would come to change the world.

Tickets are \$7 and can be reserved by calling the church, (734) 459-9550, between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Trinity is located at 10101 W. Ann Arbor Rd (corner of Ann Arbor Rd. and Gotfredson).

**Book signing**

Author Carol McCloud will sign copies of her book, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today? A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids* noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at the Book Cellar & Café on Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth.

McCloud began teaching the concept of bucket filling when she teamed up with Merrill Lundgren, "The Bucket Man" in 2005. He had been giving presentations since 1979 to 9,000 children and 15,000 adults throughout Michigan. McCloud is the co-founder and Vice President of Bucketfillers.com, Inc. She lives in Brighton, Michigan.

Her book has been the top seller in the store, outselling even books on *The New York Times* best-seller list and Oprah's picks, according to her publisher, Nelson Publishing of Northville, which printed 10,000 copies for the June delivery date and will reprint in January.

**Breakfast with Santa**

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce sponsors Breakfast with Santa 8:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at E.G. Nicks in downtown Plymouth.

Tickets are \$12.95 for adults and \$7.95 for children (includes tax and tip). They can be purchased at E.G. Nicks on Forest or the chamber office (850 W. Ann Arbor Trail). Credit card orders are accepted.

For credit card orders or more information, call (734) 453-1540.

**Senior party**

The Plymouth A.M. Rotary Club sponsors its annual Seniors Christmas Party Dec. 17 at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Doors open at 4 p.m., and dinner and entertainment start at 5 p.m. Tickets are free, but they are required and can be picked up at Tonquish Creek Manor, 1160 Sheridan in Plymouth, between Nov. 27-Dec. 8. The party is open to seniors 60 and older.

For more information, call Tonquish Creek, (734) 455-3670.

**Holiday open house**

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce sponsors its "Holiday Open House" in downtown Plymouth noon-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19.

The event provides an opportunity for pre-holiday shopping, celebrating the season of good will and cheer, with stores decked out in their "holiday best" and no mall crowds.

For more information, call the chamber, (734) 453-1540.

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**Physical Therapy UPDATE**  
 Hands On Center  
 Presented by Hands On Center For Physical Therapy  
**RISK OF ACHILLES RUPTURE**  
 There is research to suggest that the use of certain antibiotics called quinolones may increase the chances of rupturing the Achilles tendon, which is the strap-like tissue behind the ankle that works to extend the foot. This serious orthopedic injury requires surgical repair. Because pain can be mild at first, such ruptures are frequently misdiagnosed as a sprained ankle. One fairly reliable symptom, however, is the inability to stand on the toes of the affected foot. People who used quinolones were more than four times as likely as nonusers to sustain a tendon rupture. Past treatment with quinolones also made rupture more likely, but the effect is not nearly as strong as current use.  
 Physical therapy is a highly recommended course of treatment after Achilles tendon injuries. This method allows for a gradual return to your normal physical activities, utilizing a program specific to your needs. The physical therapist who provides these treatments will also educate you on prevention and support recovery. If you have been referred for physical therapy call the HANDS ON CENTER FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY at 455-8370, 650 South Main Street in downtown Plymouth. We have easy access and parking. New patients are gladly accepted.  
 P.S. Only about four percent of all Achilles tendon ruptures are related to quinolone use.  
 Johan Cornuth, PT  
 Mark Mijnsbergen, PT  
 Bob Schoemaker, PT

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# On the block

## Ford, French firm eye deal for Sheldon plant deal

BY BRAD KADRICH  
STAFF WRITER

The former Visteon plant on Sheldon Road, which employs some 1,250 people, is headed for another new owner.

Officials at Ford Motor Co. — which used to own the plant before selling it to Visteon and then buying it back as part of its Automotive Components Holdings — reached a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to sell the plant, as part of its climate control business, to French automotive supplier Valeo.

According to Robin Panacock, associate director of public affairs for ACH, the MOU of understanding sets the stage for the two parties to enter into final negotiations and come to a closing of the sale.

"It's a non-binding agreement, one step in the sale process," Panacock said. "From here we move into final negotiations. It signifies a general understanding on the part of both companies on the major terms of the transaction, and the intention of both parties to work in good faith toward a closing."

The Sheldon Road Plant produces automotive climate control systems and components for a number of Ford vehicles. The 1,250 employees there include salaried employees leased

from Visteon and UAW hourly employees leased from Ford.

The Sheldon Road plant is one of 14 plants, 11 in the United States and three in Mexico, Ford put into the holding company for the purpose of selling them when it formed ACH in October 2005.

Panacock wouldn't speculate on the future of the plant's employees.

"Jobs will be part of the negotiations," she said. "(Valeo) will make a determination. We recognize the people who are there have the expertise to operate the plant, and we believe (Valeo) will be interested in most, if not all, of the people at the plant."

Ford officials said the final agreement will be contingent on negotiations with the United Auto Workers. Ed Hunsinger, president of UAW Local 845, did not return a call seeking comment.

In a release posted on the company's Web site, ACH CEO and Ford vice president Al Ver called the sale the result of a team effort.

"This MOU follows a lot of hard work by this plant and the entire ACH team," Ver said. "We have focused on preparing our businesses for sale to buyers who can grow and invest in them."

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# Safari expert educates students on wildlife

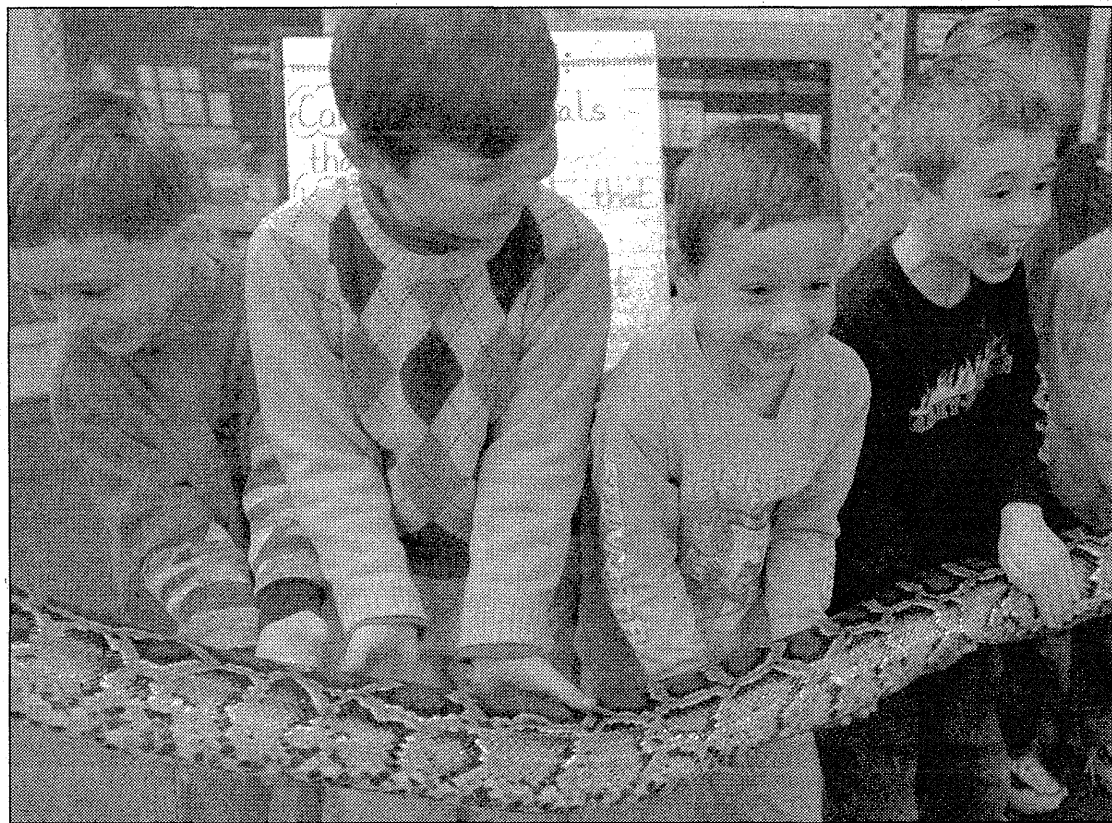
BY TONY BRUSCATO  
STAFF WRITER

It was off to the hottest and most dangerous parts of Africa for students at Field Elementary this week for an up-close-and-personal look at some of the most dangerous animals in the world.

"First, you need a passport, your ticket to the world," Nelson Pearson of Wildlife Safari Adventures in Canton told travelers in Lauren Snell's first-grade class. "First, we're going to Namibia, which they say is the hottest place in the world."

That's where the springhaas, a rabbit-like animal that eats dry grass and doesn't need water to exist, resides. Then it was off to the Sahara Desert, home to a 50-pound African land tortoise; the lush, green Congo River area to see a nine-foot python; with a quick trip to Kenya to view the cheetah. Student took a quick side trip to Australia to get a glimpse of the cuckabura bird.

"My goal is to submerge the kids in an African safari ven-



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Michael Abuhannam (from left), Nick Carey, Michael Mullenax and Jake Kendall helped pick up a real python Tuesday at Field Elementary.

ture," said Pearson, also known as The Animal Guy. "It's education and entertainment, education, trying to make sure they have an experience without going there."

"If you don't experience it, you won't have a broader view of the world, and you won't care about them," he added.

"I liked the snake because it was scaly and cool and dangerous," said Taylor Cvangros,

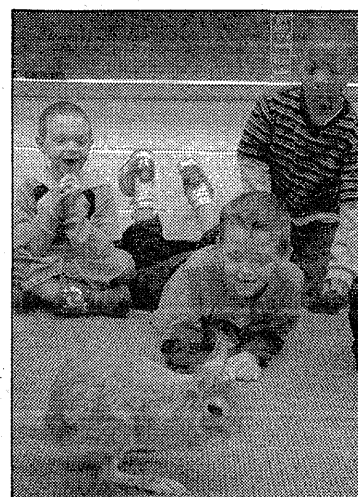
7, in Donna Pahl's class. "I also liked the (springhaas) because it was nice and soft and fuzzy."

"I learned that some animals kill and some are nice," added Nicholas Carey, 6, of the animals he saw during the presentation in Snell's room.

"It's a chance for them to see animals up close," Snell said, "and learn different information and facts about animals in Africa."

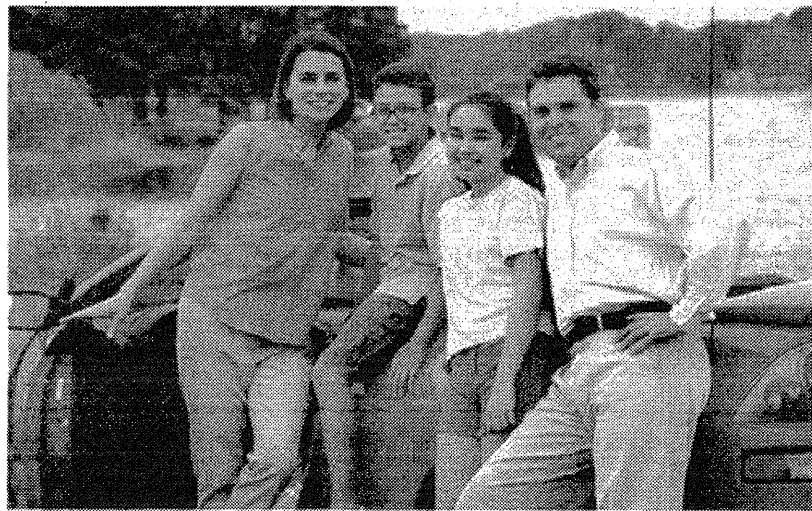
**'It's education and entertainment, education, trying to make sure they have an experience without going there.'**

Nelson Pearson  
The Animal Guy



Field students Ryan Durham (from left), Riley Doyle and Jamarion Brown get a close look at a springhaas.

## It's Not About the Car ...



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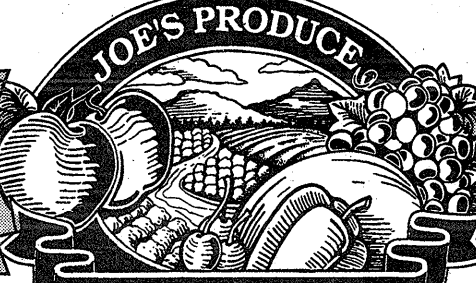


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# LaJoy happy with billboard legislation

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS  
STAFF WRITER

After months of battle, two bills capping the number of billboards on Michigan highways are a step closer to becoming law.

"This has been a longtime

feud between the state and the billboard industry," said State Rep. Phil LaJoy, R-Canton. "But I'm happy with the way it's come to a conclusion."

Under legislation passed by the state House last week, the number of billboards allowed on state trunk highways,

including interstate highways, has been capped at 16,000. Also companies won't be granted permits for new signs unless they give up previously-owned permits. According to LaJoy, there is currently between 14,000-16,000 billboards along Michigan highways.



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**Many Wreaths & Roping**




David and Samantha McGrath stopped by the Observer office Monday to bring kids' gifts for the Cheer Club. The Salvation Army will pick them up later in December for distribution to kids who might otherwise have a meager Christmas.

## Observer, Salvation Army team up for 'Cheer Club'

The Plymouth and Canton Observers and the Plymouth Salvation Army will once again team up for their "Cheer Club," the collection of toys and non-perishable foods the two have run for years.

The Salvation Army headquarters, located on Main Street just south of Ann Arbor Road, will be the primary collection point. Dropping them off there gets them more quickly into the hands of those who need them. Donations can also be dropped off at the Observer office, 794 S. Main. The drive will run through

Monday, Dec. 11.

The idea is to provide non-perishable food and other household necessities, along with new, unwrapped toys, for the Salvation Army's pantry and Christmas adoption program. That program has helped provide a Christmas for hundreds of needy people over the years who might not otherwise have been able to provide one.

The program is simple: Drop off new, unwrapped toys; non-perishable foods including canned goods; and household items such as paper goods and toiletries. The Salvation Army,


which serves Plymouth, Canton, Northville and Belleville, is located at 9451 S. Main in Plymouth. The Salvation Army is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Items dropped off at the Observer office will also go to the Salvation Army.

A list of donors will be maintained so that donors who provide a name and community can be recognized in the paper at the end of the campaign.

For more information, e-mail Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com or call (734) 459-2700.


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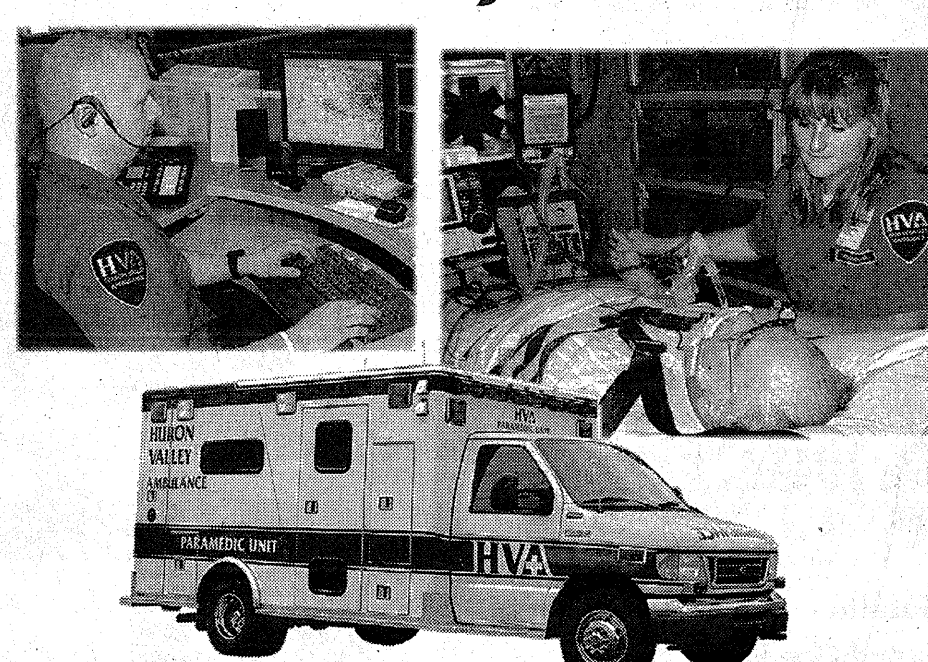
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**SWEEP**  
FROM PAGE A1

problem with police searching the parking lot.

"I don't have a problem with that at all, as long as nobody's civil rights are being violated," Fuller said.

Fuller's daughter, Olivia, 15, said at least one car had its doors pried open during the search.

"There must be a problem if kids are bringing drugs to school," Olivia Fuller said. "I don't mind (searches) because kids shouldn't be bringing drugs to school."

Sixteen-year-old Alea Applegate of Canton, a Salem sophomore, said she saw a half-dozen police cars around the campus during fourth hour.

"It's none of their business what's in their cars," Applegate said. "If it's not on them, then I don't think they should get in trouble."

"It's not fair to the people who drive, it could have been their friends' (drugs) and they

could get in trouble for it," she added. "Obviously, they (police) have too much time on their hands."

Frank Ruggirello, the school district's director of community relations, said while the number of incidents reported by the task force is minimal, the drug sweeps are meant to be preventative.

"We think our numbers are low, but we don't have our head in the sand," Ruggirello said. "Kids will experiment with drugs, but it won't happen in our schools. The best deterrent is for us to stay on top of it, and kids will see we're serious about this."

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**SNOW**  
FROM PAGE A1

salt truck or plow, and stay far enough behind it. The heavier the truck the further distance it needs to stop."

The salt dome at the MSD yard on Goldsmith holds 300 tons of road salt, but Faiman said "depending on the winter, we will use between 3,000-4,000 tons in a winter."

Residential homeowners and commercial business owners are required by city ordinance to plow sidewalks within 24 hours of a snow-fall.

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"Failure to clear the sidewalks will cause the city, or a city contractor, to clear the sidewalks," City Manager Paul Sincock said. "The policy establishes a minimum billing of \$100 for the service. Failure to pay the bill will result in it being placed on the tax roll as a lien against the property."

Sincock said dumping or pushing snow onto city streets also results in a minimum charge of \$100 to clear it.

"Violators may be subject to violations of various traffic laws, which could result in a ticket," Sincock said.

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**SNOW PRIORITIES**

According to the City of Plymouth snow policy, these routes get the priority when it snows:

- Priority Route 1 - Major streets including Penniman, Main, Ann Arbor Trail and Starkweather.
- Priority Route 2 - Secondary streets including Harvey, Farmer, Junction, Industrial Drive, Church and Union.
- Priority Route 3 - School routes, including Smith School, OLCG, St. Peters and Central Middle School areas.
- Priority Route 4 - City parking lots and contracted service parking lots, including East Central, Tonquish Manor, Cultural Center, Library, Harvey and Wing lot.
- Priority Route 5 - Hills, including Amelia, Rose, Holbrook, Evergreen and Pacific.
- Priority Route 6 - Spot salt all other streets in the city system.

**DEATHS**

**A**

Randolph A. "Scotty" Adam  
Adam, 87, of Warren, died Nov. 29.

Frederick D. "Fred" Atiyeh  
Atiyeh, 84, died Dec. 3.

**B**

Cheryl A. Baker  
Baker, 61, died Nov. 30.

Tivadar "Tiv" Balogh  
Balogh, 79, died Dec. 1.

**C**

Virginia Catherine Clohset  
Clohset, of Birmingham, died Dec. 2.

**D**

Stanley J. Dobis  
Dobis, 76, died Dec. 2.

**G**

Margaret Rockwell Gregory  
Gregory, 96, died Dec. 2.

**K**

Paul R. Kuebler Sr.  
Kuebler, 89, formerly of Birmingham, died Dec. 4.

**M**

Caroline Ford Mason  
Mason, 91, formerly of Birmingham, died Oct. 27.

**S**

Mary I. Siddall  
Siddall, 85, of Bloomfield Hills, died Dec. 2.

Doloris Sinkovich  
Sinkovich, 89, of Westland, died Oct. 2.

**T**

Nancy Rothfuss Theurer  
Theurer, 79, of Bloomfield Hills, died Dec. 2.

**V**

Kalliope Varon  
Varon, 92, formerly of Bloomfield Hills, died Dec. 3.

**W**

Harold R. "Butch" Watton  
Watton, 65, of Canton, died Dec. 1.

Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in Passages on page A16.

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 <p><b>119.99</b> YOUR CHOICE of diamond jewelry. Choose from 1.0 ct. t.w. diamond S bracelet or three-circle pendant necklace. Orig. 250.00-275.00. IN ACCESSORIES.</p>	 <p><b>40% OFF</b> KIDS' HOLIDAY DRESSWEAR in girls' sizes 2-16, boys' sizes 2-20 and infant/newborn sizes. Orig. 120.00-120.00, sale 7.20-72.00. IN CHILDREN'S.</p>	 <p><b>30% OFF</b> SOCIAL DRESSES &amp; SEPARATES. Choose from a large selection in ladies', petite and Parisian Woman sizes. Orig. 88.00-328.00, sale 61.60-229.60. IN THE PARISIAN ROOM. SELECTION VARIES BY STORE. SPECIAL PRICING ENDS DECEMBER 13.</p>	 <p><b>50% OFF</b> ENTIRE STOCK of ladies' fall outerwear. Choose from jackets, walkers and long coats. Orig. 120.00-650.00, sale 60.00-325.00. IN COATS. SELECTION VARIES BY STORE.</p>

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**REGIONAL**

FROM PAGE A1

he'd be willing to sit down with interested parties and discuss regionalization of the fire department.

"Voters are telling me they want efficiencies," Curmi said. "I don't think the Michigan tax model and the size of our government - whether state, local or county - will be sustainable and keep us competitive to attract business."

"It's gong to take everybody going to the table working faster than in the past, and take some creative thinking," he added. "Political leaders have not shown vision in that area."

Plymouth Township Treasurer Ron Edwards disagrees, noting having the four communities involved in what he termed "intergovernmental agreements" is not the answer.

"I'm against it," Edwards said. "It won't improve service and won't decrease costs. I don't see a reduction in manpower, i.e. costs, and Northville Township isn't ALS (advanced life support) trained, so show me where the benefits. I'm tired of the rhetoric from the city."

Edwards said "real cost savings" would come if the communities discussed developing a public safety department, where police officers are also trained as firefighters.

In a recent memo to

Plymouth officials, Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume indicated the "the early consensus from the Plymouth Township board is not to enter into discussion at this time regarding public safety as the vote appears to be 4-3 against discussions."

Northville Township Manager Chip Snider said his Board of Trustees earlier this year gave him direction to discuss regionalization with any community that wants to enter talks.

"The (Northville) township board is acquainted with the benefits of regionalization and the complexity of the issue," Snider said. "There is no reason in the world, geographically, you can't erase those invisible boundaries and consider it one for purposes of deployment."

Both Snider and Dwyer agreed getting the city of Northville involved could be a challenge because it has a low-cost volunteer fire department.

Edwards said talk of regionalization is once again delaying negotiations on a new fire contract with Plymouth.

"We've been trying to negotiate a contract with them for two years, and here's another delay," Edwards said. "I am going to propose on (Dec.) 19th that we go ahead and hire firemen to bring the department up to full staff, with or without them. We can't keep going at this mode."

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**CHORALE**

FROM PAGE A1

director since 1979. "But we get the most of our members from the communities of Plymouth, Canton and Northville. Beck and Ridge are two roads that run through all three communities."

The self-supporting group generally performs two major concerts a year, one at Christmas and the other in the spring. They also perform with the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra and make appearances at events like the Plymouth Fall Festival.

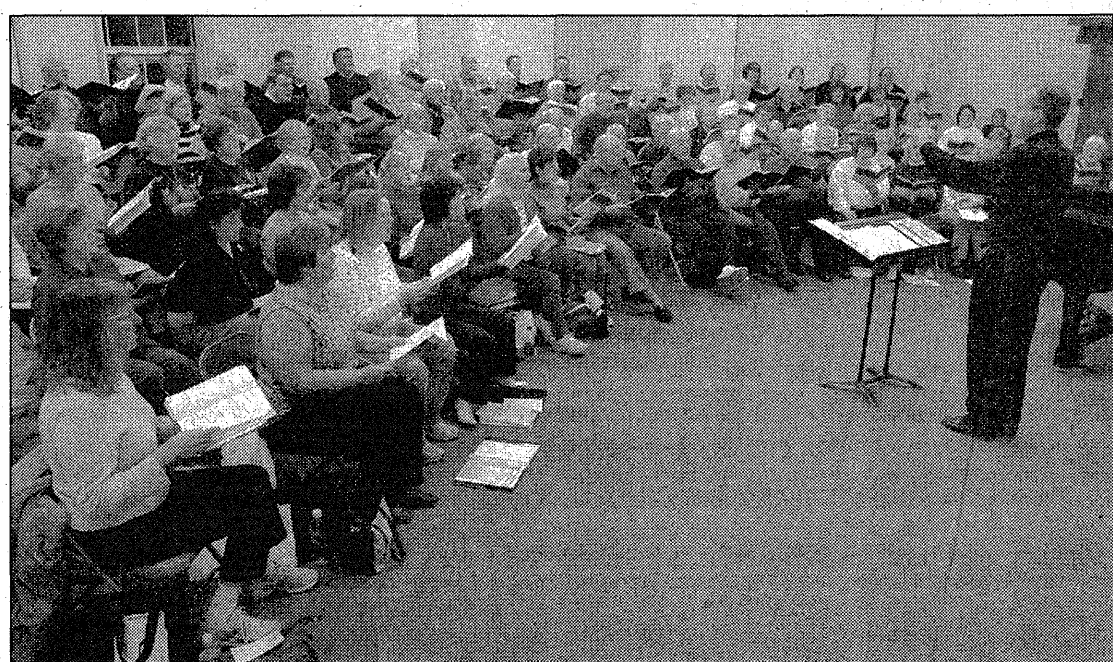
They've added another performance this year. The chorale's Village Voices ensemble will pay tribute to Fred Waring who, with his group the Pennsylvanians, sold millions of records and won the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor the government can bestow on a civilian.

Gross worked with Waring at Penn State University and regarded him as "the world's finest interpreter of popular choral music." That concert takes place 8 p.m. Jan. 19 at the Village Theater in Canton.

The group, which gets together for 16 rehearsals every year, then gets ready for its spring concert, "Sing for the Cure," May 5-6 performances that will benefit the Barbara Ann Karmanos Institute for Cancer Research.

"We'll be performing music based on the stories of breast cancer survivors and their families," Gross said. Open auditions for that performance are 7 p.m. Jan. 16, 23 and 30 at First United Methodist Church of Plymouth.

Meanwhile, chorus members have embraced the new same and the same sound as they prepare for this weekend's holiday performances.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The BeckRidge Chorale, with nearly 130 members, hits the stage at Northville High School Saturday and Sunday for its annual holiday concert.

"You can't just call it Plymouth-Canton anymore, because it's changed over the years," said Jane West, who has been a member for more than 20 years. "We like to sing, and (Gross) is very good. It's perfect."

The group isn't just there for the music. The chorus also funds a scholarship program, established in May 1984 to help students pursue studies in the field of vocal music, an applied vocational career in the field of vocal music, academic study of voice or the study of voice for the purpose of organized recreational or community singing. Some recipients have chosen The Academy of Popular Vocal Arts, Interlochen and The Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp.

The group's funding comes from two primary sources: ticket sales and patron donations. They also make smaller amounts of money with efforts such as a refreshment booth at University of Michigan football games.

**CONCERT SEASON**

BeckRidge Chorale begins its concert season Saturday. Here's a look at upcoming Chorale events:

- Christmas concert, "Tis the Season," 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10. Northville High School auditorium, 45700 Six Mile between Sheldon and Beck in Northville. Tickets \$12 and \$15, assigned seating.
- Tribute to Fred Waring, 8 p.m. Jan. 19, Village Theatre at Cherry Hill in Canton. It's a tribute to Waring, a choral music legend who won the Congressional Gold Medal.
- Open auditions for the Spring concert, "Sing for the Cure," take place Jan. 16, 23 and 30, at First United Methodist Church, on N. Territorial a quarter-mile west of Sheldon in Plymouth.
- Spring concert, "Sing for the Cure," May 5-6, to benefit the Barbara Ann Karmanos Institute for Cancer Research.

For more information and ticket order forms, visit the chorale's Web site at [www.plycommunitychorus.org](http://www.plycommunitychorus.org) or call the ticket hotline, (734) 340-4807.

Operating on a budget that hovers just over the \$80,000 mark, the chorus only has two paid positions - director and accompanist. And the director's salary hasn't changed since 1984, when the chorus closed down the office it rented in downtown Plymouth and redirected that money to the director's salary. That's OK with Gross,

though, because he isn't in it for the money. Gross, the vice president of operations for a sales and marketing firm in Troy, is in it - as are the unpaid singers - for the love of music.

"I've always loved choral music," Gross said. "When I pick music, I pick music I think will touch someone. It's reactionary."

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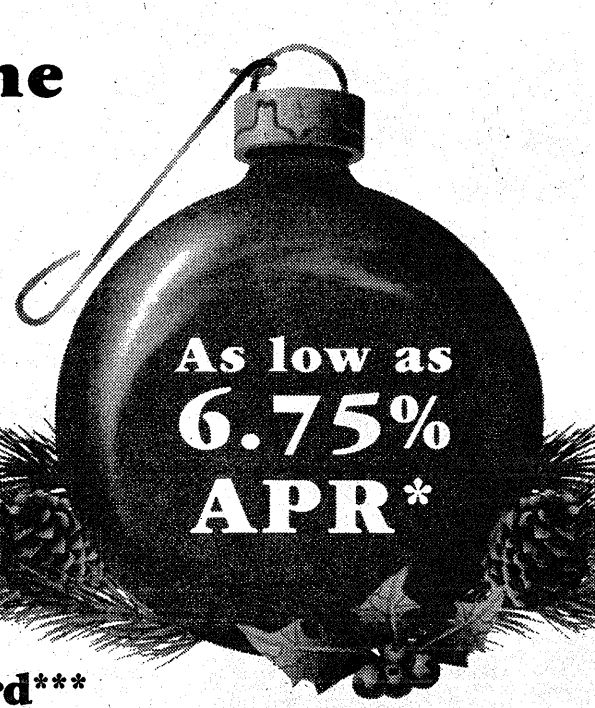
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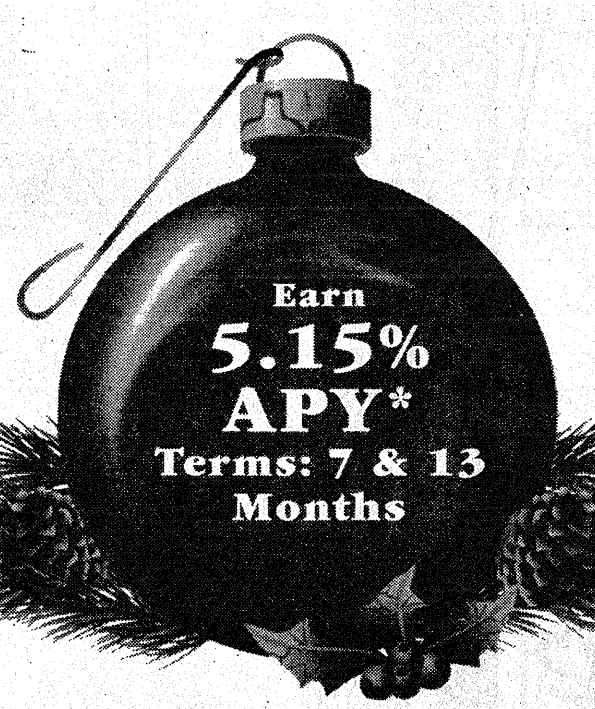
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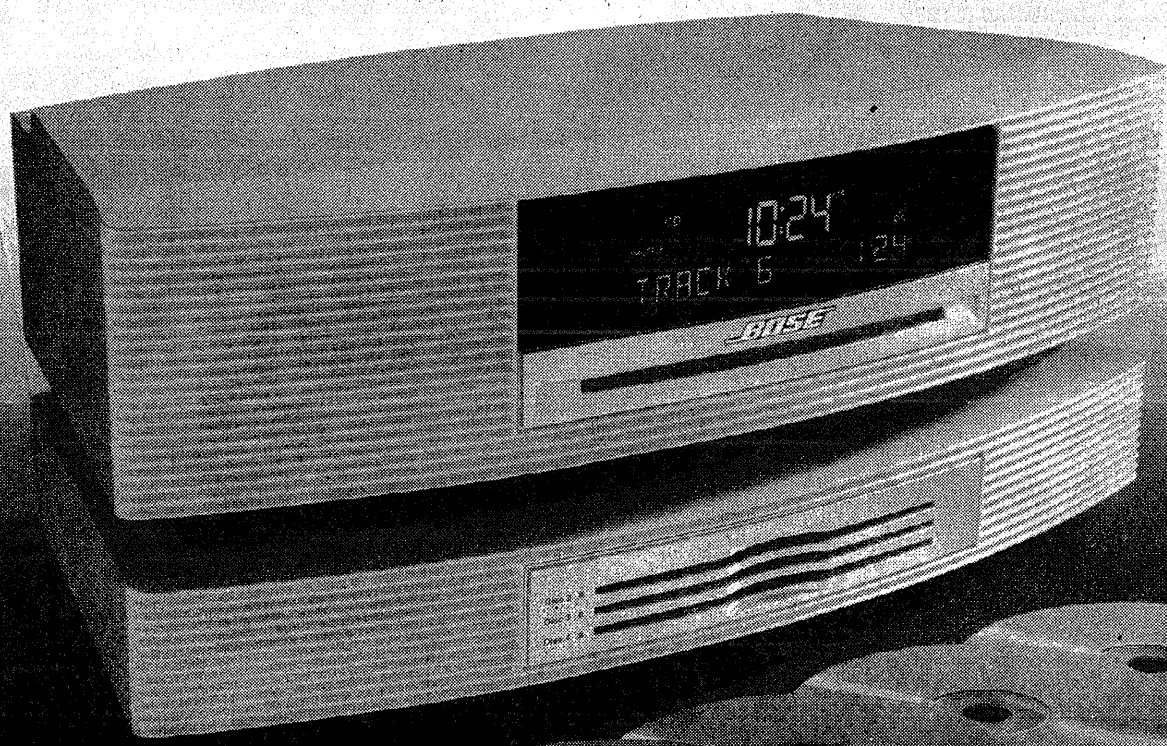
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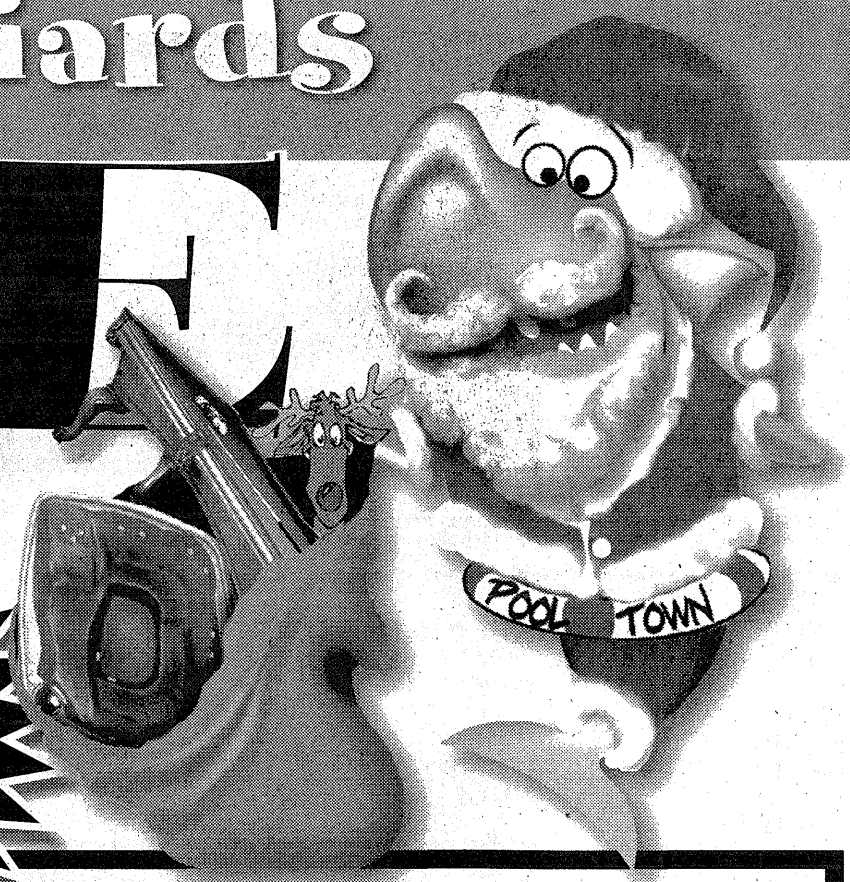




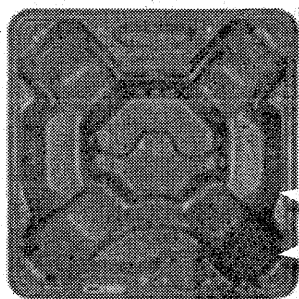
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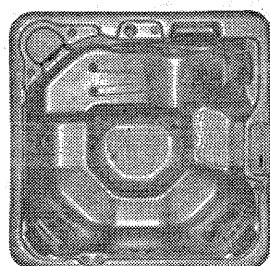


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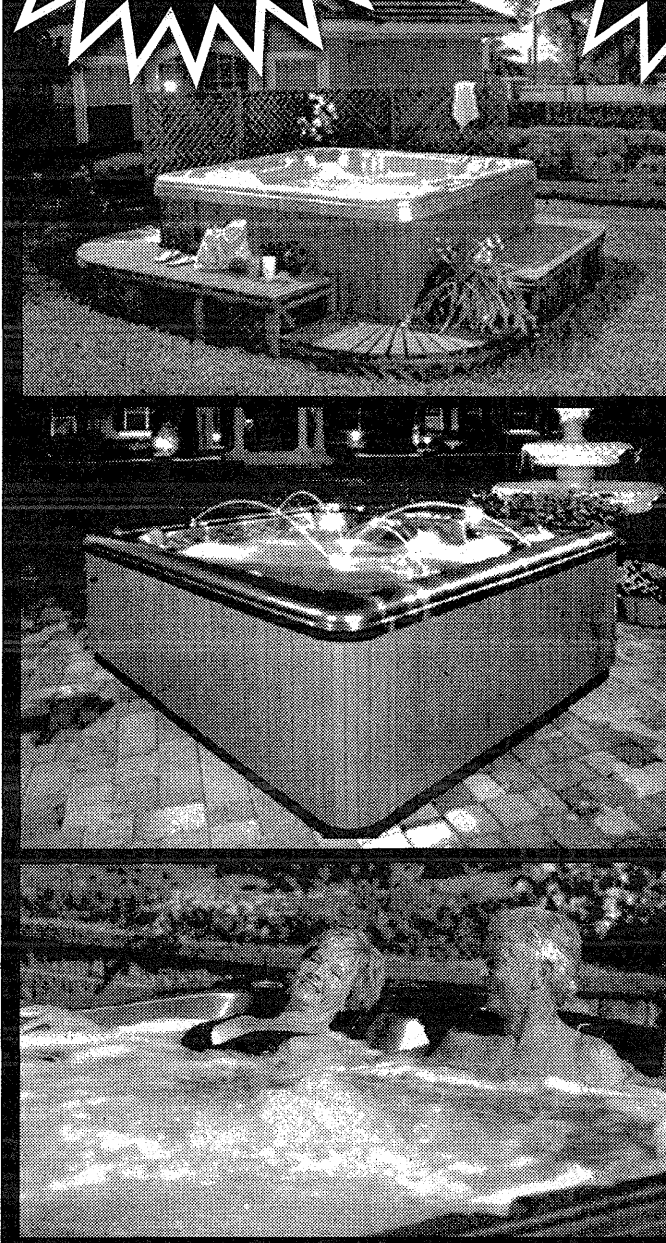
"Mediterranean"



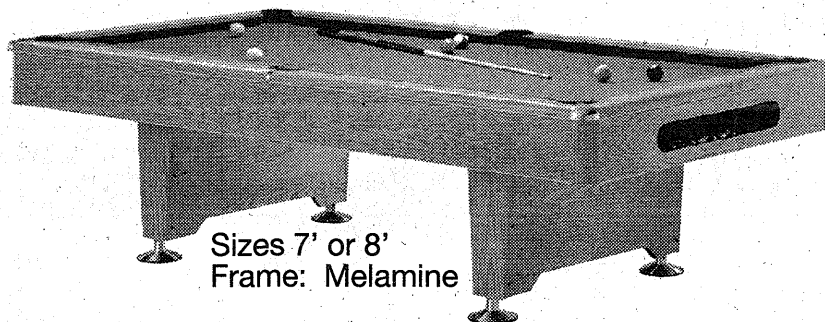
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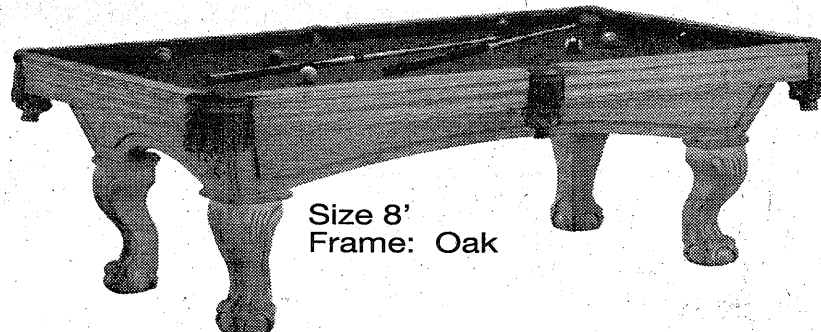


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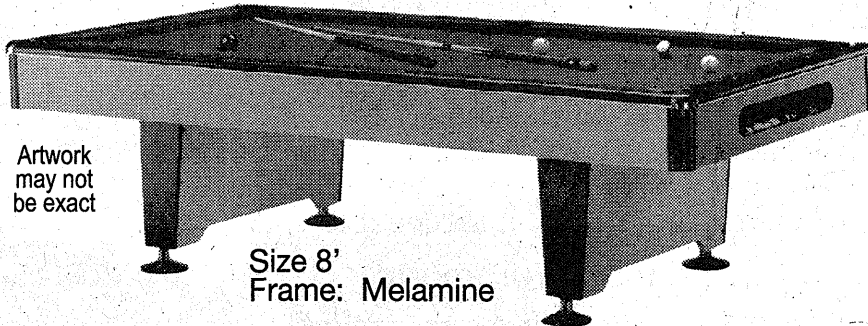
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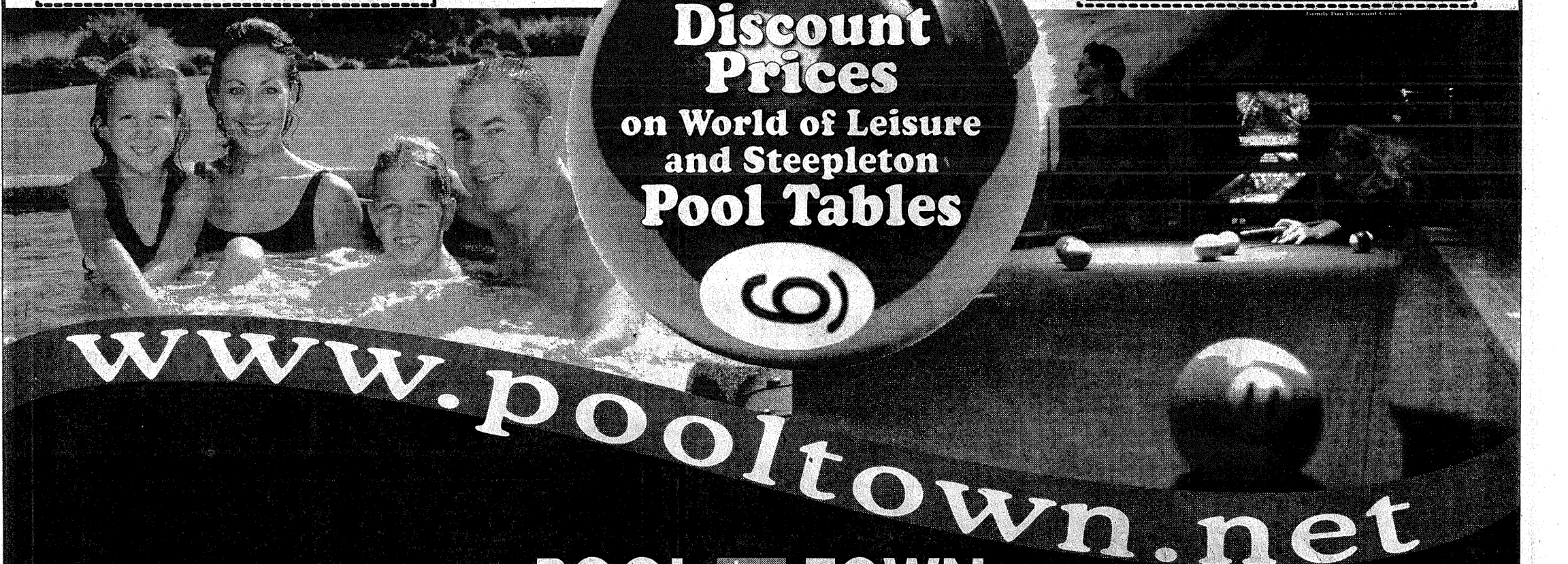
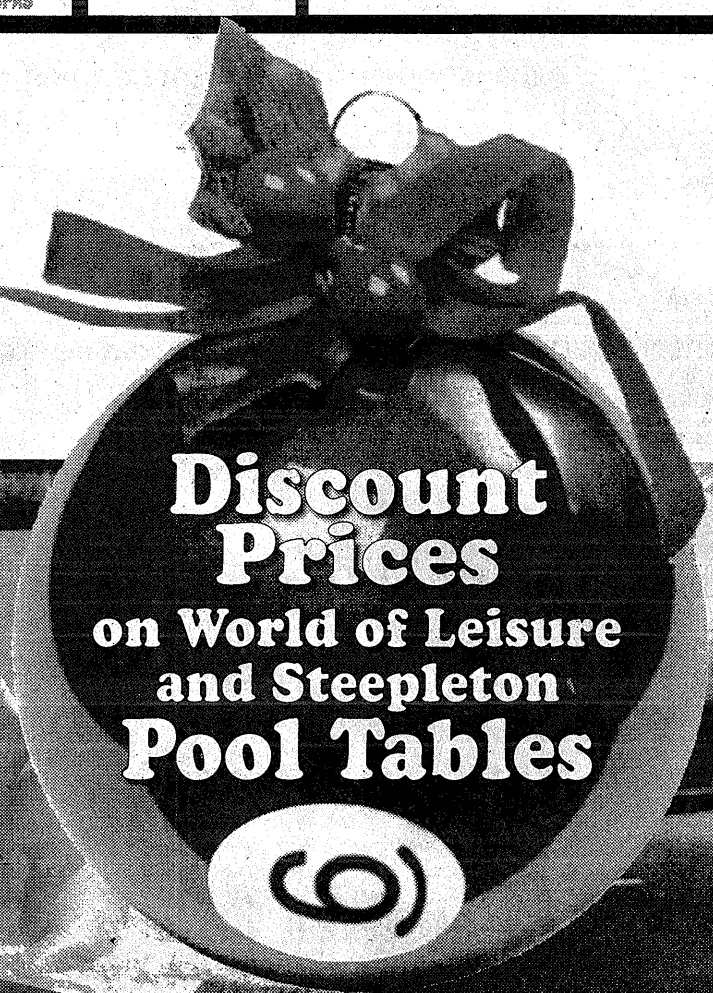
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# Illegal immigration called a threat to nation's identity

BY ALEX LUNDBERG  
STAFF WRITER

More than jobs, the United States stands to lose its identity as a nation if it does not start cracking down on the tide of illegal immigrants coursing into the country.

That was the message of Colorado U.S. Rep. Tom Tancredo when he addressed a crowd of about 75 people at a private residence in West Bloomfield Friday night.

Tancredo said the recent midterm election was not a referendum on illegal immigration. If anything, the returns in the districts that mattered said Americans are concerned about the state of their borders.

Democrats who think they can turn against that are flirting with disaster. "Anywhere people were voting on immigration they voted with us," he said. "If they come out with an amnesty plan they'll see their razor-thin majority disappear."

He also said it's a mistake to think the people who want to strengthen borders are racists. It's not about race, it's not about creed or religion, he said. It's about who the people of the United States are as a group.

"All we are saying is 'become an American,'" Tancredo said. "Diversity is a wonderful thing until it becomes the only thing. We cannot have diversity be the glue that holds us together."

The problem, he said, is that a lot of people come to this country and do not assimilate. The languages of the old country do not disappear in favor of English and, in the particular case of immigrants from south of the border, a mentality of not having moved at all persists.

"They say they've always lived in America, which is true if you're talking about the conti-



U.S. Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colorado, tells listeners that immigration reform is not just about jobs, it's about the identity of the nation itself.

ment," Tancredo said. "But what purpose is there in citizenship if America is just a place on the map?"

The congressman's visit went from a plan to a reality just a few months ago and the hosts' West Bloomfield home was packed with guests to hear his comments. The event was not a debate and there was no one there to be converted. The guests were already familiar with the program and murmured their approval whenever familiar catchphrases or terms floated over the conversation.

Linda Roth, the host of the event and incoming president of the Bloomfield Republican Women's Club, said she met the representative in Washington, D.C., and offered the invitation for him to come to Michigan and speak on the topic. She said it's time for the nation to start enforcing its laws and the wall, while not a total solution, could stop millions from entering the country illegally.

Her husband agreed, saying the debate was already causing changes.

"Apple growers in Washington

(state) are already seeing a change," said David Roth. "If we have to pay extra for American-picked fruits, we'll pay extra."

Bloomfield Township resident Elaine Bernia said there are definite dangers to letting the borders go soft.

"A country that does not defend its borders is not a country," she said. "We have to secure our borders, we have to know who's coming in. We already know terrorists to get into the country and it's irresponsible not to know who people are and where they live."

While the crowd was appreciative, he acknowledged there are significant hurdles standing between his views and the way the country does business.

Namely: Until there's something done to stop people from hiring illegals there's no way to keep them from coming to America to take those jobs.

"There's one thing we can do and that's to enforce the laws, if we did that we'd go a long way toward solving this problem," Tancredo said. "The national chamber of commerce has lobbied heavily against that."

## Radio show exceeds its Toys for Tots goal

Jim Harper & The Magic Morning show have not only met, but exceeded their goal in raising 25,000 toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves' Toys For Tots Campaign!

The annual Toys For Tots Campaign toured Twelve Oaks Mall, Laurel Park Place, Northland Mall, Macomb Mall and Oakland Mall, collecting new, unwrapped toys for the U.S. Marine Corps program.

This year's grand totals were 25,591 toys collected and \$13,954 collected.

On-air sponsors of the 2006 Toys For Tots collection program are Rock Financial and Holiday Automotive. Toys can still be donated at Art Van, Chicken Shack or Farmer Jack until Dec. 14. Participating toy drop off locations are listed at [www.DetroitMagic.com](http://www.DetroitMagic.com).

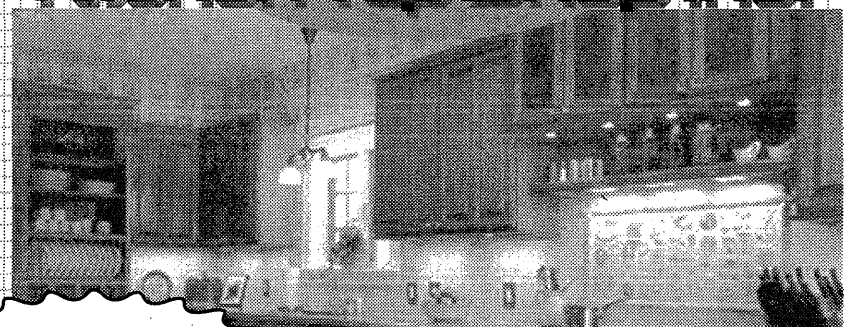


Gordon Chevrolet's Susan Ianni and WMGC's Jim Harper talk about the Toys program and her involvement with the WMGC cookbook project that benefits the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.



Ron Blauet of the Michigan Humane Society and Jim Harper of WMGC talk about pets and holidays during the Toys for Tots program.

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OUR VIEWS

## District must use survey wisely

There's been some buzz about whether the Plymouth-Canton school district should have spent \$27,000 on two surveys relating to the district's desire to get a bond passed for improvements throughout the district.

The first survey, done in August, cost \$18,000 and told district officials why the two-question, \$120 million bond proposal failed so miserably in May. In a nutshell, that survey pointed out most voters thought the district was asking for too many luxuries and too much money.

District officials subsequently decided to go back to the public with a \$62.1 million proposal put in a single question. If passed, the bond, set to go before voters Feb. 27, would include a new middle school in Canton to replace an aging Central Middle School; the refurbishment of Central for alternative education, community education and a curriculum center; various replacements and upgrades around the district and \$2.3 million to reimburse the general fund for the purchase of the middle school property on Chery Hill.

While the May proposals fell by wide margins, the second survey, which cost the district another \$9,000, indicates some 58 percent of voters are either already in favor or leaning toward passing the February bond. Only 39 percent are against or leaning toward voting against it.

Those are good numbers if you're a fan of the bond proposals, and district officials, spurned by voters last spring, must have felt good seeing them. The district added the second proposal in May at the last minute, including things like a pool, a new theater and athletic improvements in what was basically the 11th-hour, a move many observers think cost them the election.

No such mistake was made this time, as the Board of Education trimmed the wish list to those things school board members feel are definite "needs" and not "wants."

According to the first survey, district officials failed to convince voters everything in the May proposal, particularly those things in the second question, was vital to the operation of the district. It shouldn't be as difficult this time, since the list has basically been pared in half. That doesn't mean Superintendent Jim Ryan and others don't have to get out and sell it. Town-hall style meetings, appearances at civic groups and homeowners' associations will be necessary steps in convincing the public the district needs another \$62.1 million.

It would be easy, given the numbers suggested by the second survey, to think the February election is going to sail. But all they need do is look back a couple of years, where complacency forced Plymouth Township to go out twice for something as basic as police and fire services.

Did the district spend too much money for surveys that answered seemingly obvious questions? It doesn't seem like that much to us; perhaps had they spent it before the May election, it would have saved them the \$90,000 cost of an election. Once the district has gone out and educated the public this time, it will be for voters to judge whether it was too much money on surveys.

How they vote in February will answer that question soon enough.

## Governor's tax plan offers a solid start

Gov. Jennifer Granholm has thrown out a challenge to the Republican majority in the Legislature to act now on a bold new business tax plan to replace the Single Business Tax.

It is unlikely that the GOP will take the governor's bait. Instead, it will leave any action on a new tax to the next Legislature, with a Republican-controlled Senate and a Democratic-controlled House.

But after much debate, complaining and posturing, the governor's proposal has a lot of merit and offers an excellent starting point for discussing the state's troubled tax system.

The governor began with some key goals. First, she wants to create a revenue-neutral tax. The SBT accounted for almost \$2 billion, about 22 percent of state revenues. Granholm has been adamant that all or most of that revenue needs to be replaced to pay for government services.

She also wanted a tax with the broadest base and the lowest tax rate possible, a substantial reduction in personal property tax, an elimination of tax on payroll, benefits and health care (a major problem with the SBT) and to preserve economic development. Granholm's proposal firmly addresses these goals and, according to her office's calculations, 77 percent of businesses will actually see a tax reduction.

She also argues that her proposal will make Michigan highly competitive with other states. In the state's efforts to attract new high-tech businesses, while holding on to our manufacturing base, the proposal includes more than \$125 million in tax credits for high-tech businesses. The state needs to balance establishing a competitive tax environment with providing needed state and local government services. We can not and should not sacrifice one for the other.

Any proposal by a governor must work its way through the legislative process. The governor has done her part by offering a viable alternative to the SBT.



LETTERS

A tax plan

I tried to write a long article explaining how Michigan ought to deal with its budget woes, but like most budget talk, it was a pitiful failure. So, I've reduced that article to simple math and simpler language that everyone — even folks in Lansing — can easily understand:

State budget deficit — \$1 billion. Bad. Funding cuts in education, police, fire, social services and criminal justice. More criminals on the street, less cops, dumber kids. Bad for Michigan.

Single Business Tax — generates \$1.9 billion for Michigan. Good for Lansing, bad for business owners. Replacement tax coming which will cut business taxes \$500 million more. \$500 million more deficit. Total deficit now — \$1 billion + \$500 million = \$1.5 billion. More cuts in education, police, fire, social services and criminal justice. Even more criminals on the street, even less cops, and even dumber kids. Very bad for Michigan.

Idea: Extend sales tax to services! Extending sales tax to services will raise somewhere between \$2.7 billion and \$7.3 billion for Michigan. \$2.7 billion and \$7.3 billion are both more than deficit of \$1.5 billion. Hmmm, enough to plug deficit and keep criminals off the street, but also enough to buy everyone a Hummer. Too much money for government. Hmmm.

Idea: Tax cut for everyone, not just business! How? Take low estimate of service sales tax revenue for Michigan — \$2.7 billion. \$2.7 billion — \$1.5 billion = \$1.2 billion. \$1.2 billion is surplus. \$1.2 billion not needed by government. \$1.2 billion could be refunded to you! But how?

Idea: Cut rising property taxes! And, make Michigan one of the lowest business tax states!

It's nice to have \$1.2 billion surplus to help people with high property taxes. It's nice to have low business taxes to encourage investment from all corners of the globe. It's nice to adequately fund education, police, fire, social services and criminal justice.

It's not nice to have \$1.5 billion deficit, more criminals, fires and dumb kids. It's not nice to have everyone fighting over crumbs left by old industry.

Sales tax on services combined with property tax cut and low tax business climate in Michigan, good for future. Very good.

Joe Hawver  
Plymouth Township

Veterans give thanks

Plymouth/Canton Chapter 528 Vietnam Veterans of America would like to thank all of the people that attended the CRUZIN 528 at the Plymouth VFW Post 6695 in 2006. I know that all those that brought their cars or just came to see them had a good time from May until September. CRUZIN 528 with Darell Bazman and Bob Paul as co-chairman (with an excellent crew) raised more than \$2,600.

That money was all put to good use as it went to the veterans at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor in the form of personal needs items that the patients require and

would otherwise have to pay for themselves. Darell went to Kohl's in Canton where the store manager, Lisa Grasso, worked with him and got the best deal on items from slacks to bathrobes. I was in charge of the personal care items that were obtained from Meijer of Canton.

More than 1,000 items were purchased. Items, which included tooth-paste to seven-day pill holders, will make the patients' lives a little easier. Special thanks go to the store director Taryn Barnes, manager Jenny White, everyone in the pharmacy, and the cashier Coleen Bonior for helping me get it all together. Thanks to Tim for helping me load it in my truck. Also thanks to the wonderful person that donated to me when they heard about our project.

At this time of giving, it was meaningful to make our delivery on Monday, Nov. 20. When we got to the VA Hospital, besides myself, Darell Bazman, Mike Ramsey, Bob Paul, Vaughn Hull, and Dale Lubke were there to unload the vehicles. I would like to thank Beverly Lenesi for being our contact at the hospital.

CRUZIN 528 will be in its fourth year in 2007 and we hope to see a lot of great vehicles. Starting in May till September, all are welcome to come just to take a look around.

Gary Kubik  
Canton  
Chapter 528 VVA Plymouth /Canton

Lost jobs

The Michigan Municipal League doesn't want AT&T to join the cable television competition. In 1984 AT&T was broken-up in the name of competition.

We, as AT&T employees, didn't lose any money due to franchising fees, but a lot of our friends and co-workers did lose their job.

Dick Ford  
AT&T retiree  
Plymouth

Don't ask for more

I suspect that the 300 or so people interviewed were the working ones not the ones who are affected by or worrying about how they are going to pay the high utility bills or how to put gas in their vehicles.

In this group I wonder if it included the ones who were waiting at the unemployment line? Did it include the people whose unemployment benefits have run out? Did it include any of the Ford retirees who are paying more for their health benefits?

All these have to exist on what they have, no asking for more!

Mark Middleton  
Plymouth

Chamber thanks

I am writing on behalf of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce membership. We would like to personally thank everyone who supported and/or attended our 17th annual Meeting and Gala Auction.

All of the proceeds will go to support the chamber's Community activities and

programs throughout the year. Some of the chamber events that are the most visible that your support makes possible include the weekly Farmer's Market (May-October); Great Pumpkin Caper and costume contest; Youth Leadership Plymouth (eighth-graders); Adult Leadership Plymouth; Plymouth Hall of Fame; Plymouth After Dark, When the Stars Come Out; Scarecrows in the Park; Walk of Christmas Trees in Kellogg Park; Santa Claus' arrival the day after Thanksgiving; Santa Claus in his house visiting each weekend during the holidays; Ann Arbor Road Giveaway Days; Community Shred Day; Old Village and Downtown Plymouth Restaurant Crawls; Showcase Plymouth; Business Beautification Awards; State of the Community Breakfast.

Our appreciation and gratitude goes out to our community for all your continued support through out the year. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you this upcoming year at these wonderful events.

Commerce means "trade," so remember the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce is a local volunteer business organization. We have over 650 business members from Barber Shops to Manufacturing. Your Chamber is totally supported by membership dues and donations. Members of the business community (the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce) give back in so many ways — such as financing the programs listed above.

We sincerely thank you.  
Fran Toney  
executive director

Change way we vote

Every voter in America should want their vote to count and to be recounted, if necessary with a paper ballot. I support any initiative to change the way we vote in order to protect the vote.

What we have witnessed in the past several elections is how electronic voting machines are subject to great error. They are also subject to possible tampering of which we have never known before.

Americans need to believe their efforts to vote results in fair election results.

Patricia Linna  
Westland

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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QUOTABLE

"I was hoping the project was dead ... I work out at Curves (at Five Mile and Sheldon) every morning and I'll have to leave earlier to go there ... I work in Novi, and I'll have to find an alternate way to work and leave earlier. I'm not real happy."

- Linda Roushkolb, Cassady Place resident opposed to the underpass project on Sheldon Road

**PLYMOUTH Observer**  
PUBLISHED THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

**GANNETT**

<b>Brad Kadrich</b> Community Editor	<b>Susan Rosiek</b> Executive Editor	<b>Peter Neill</b> Vice President General Manager
<b>Hugh Gallagher</b> Managing Editor	<b>Marty Carry</b> Advertising Director	

Richard Aginian - Publisher Emeritus

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.



# Great Lakes facing disaster unless Congress acts - now

Anyone who cares about fish, take note: Sport and commercial fishing throughout the entire Great Lakes is at total risk because of politics and gridlock in Washington. This is an industry worth more than \$7 billion annually — and involves four million recreational boats.

The main culprits are carp — and Congress. Specifically, Asian silver carp, originally imported from China to eat the muck from fish farm ponds. These fish are now working their way up the Mississippi River toward Lake Michigan. They consume as much as 20 percent of their weight in plankton per day, and grow to more than 100 pounds. Every fishery expert agrees that if they ever get into the Great Lakes, they could completely wipe out the ecosystem that supports trout, salmon and virtually everything else living in the largest body of pure fresh water on the globe.

Phil Power

The only thing standing between the carp and the Great Lakes is an experimental electric barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, about 25 miles downstream from Lake Michigan.

Installed four years ago, it repels fish by firing pulses of electricity through cables strung along the bottom. But the original barrier is failing and prone to blackouts. A new one was supposed to be in place last year. But engineers are worried that so much electricity pumped into the canal might set off explosions in the heavy barge and shipping traffic. While they struggled with the problem, money to finish the new electronic barrier ran out. The price tag to complete the project is now estimated at around \$10 million.

That's all it would cost to save the Great Lakes. To put it in perspective — \$10 million is 1 percent of what the government spends in Iraq per day! And everybody — the U.S. government; the Senate and the House; Great Lakes governors; and countless environmentalists and fishermen — has known about this for years!

"This is our Katrina," says Andy Buchsbaum, the director of the Great Lakes office of the National Wildlife Federation. "We can see it coming. And we can actually stop it. It would be absolute folly to do nothing."

But, alas, nothing is what's been going on in a bizarre and outrageous tangle of science, engineering, money, politics and Washington gridlock. Nothing could happen 'til the Army Corps of Engineers figured out how to solve the electricity problem.

Nothing now can be done, when the old barrier is failing and the new, more effective barrier can't be turned on. Nothing can be done until the \$10 million to pay for design, construction and operation of barriers against the carp can be authorized and appropriated by the U.S. Congress.

The legislative vehicle for the money is the gigantic, pork-laden Water Resources Development Bill (WRDA), which has been sitting around for years, untouched by any prospect of passage.

Meanwhile, the bill is under the jurisdiction of the House Transportation Committee, which is chaired by Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, the author of the "bridge to nowhere" appropriation.

He's the man who fought to build a \$315 million bridge to an Alaskan island with fewer than 50 people, while Congress stalls on \$10 million to save the Great Lakes. I don't know whether to laugh or cry.

The congressional Great Lakes Task Force, made up of members from the states around the lakes, has been urging the committee for four years to authorize money to fix the old barrier, design and build the new one and operate both.

Nothing has happened. How come? Because language authorizing the money is part of the WRDA bill, which in turn is stalled because of a disagreement between the House and the Senate.

I'm told there is no chance whatsoever that this bill will be passed by the lame-duck Congress this year.

U.S. Rep. John Dingell, D-Deerborn, himself an avid fisherman, is furious. "I am outraged that the permanent Asian carp barrier has been held hostage for the past few years," Dingell told me. "We simply cannot afford to have this creature get into our precious Great Lakes and create havoc. We must see that the barrier becomes a reality just as soon as possible."

So what to do? His fellow Democrat, U.S. Rep. Bart Stupak, who represents the Upper Peninsula and much of northern lower Michigan, is drafting a bill that would gain the authorization to spend the \$10 million needed to put the barrier in place.

Maybe it passes, maybe it doesn't. The National Wildlife Federation's Buchsbaum says the current thought is to separate the carp barrier from the stalled bill by introducing next year a bill authorizing \$10 million to upgrade the temporary barrier, build the new barrier and operate both.

There may be renewed hope. Democrats will control Congress next year, giving Dingell and Stupak more clout. And the new chairman of the Transportation Committee will be Minnesota Democrat Jim Oberstar, whose district borders Lake Superior. He understands the implications of doing nothing.

Here's hoping. But there is a deeper meaning in messes like this, where an obvious problem could be fixed by an equally obvious solution. This story demonstrates that we have created a political system in this country that is simply unable to work effectively. And that leaves us all very much in peril.

Phil Power is president and founder of The Center for Michigan, a moderate think-and-do tank. The opinions and others expressed here are his own and do not represent official policy positions of The Center for Michigan. Readers can contact Power at ppower@hcnnet.com.

# Anonymous mailings cowardly way to deal with resentment

After years of poring through police reports as part of the job, I got a chance Monday to do something I'd never done. Make a police report.

I sat with Plymouth Police Officer Christopher Lahtinen for about 30 minutes, describing in as much detail as there was the third dog-feces-filled letter I'd gotten in three months. It came Nov. 28, this time in a cardboard U.S. Post Office envelope, rather than the paper/bubble-wrap envelopes that carried the first two.



Brad Kadrich

They'd been arriving about once a month, childish responses to something either the paper had printed (the first one contained a photocopy of a letter to the editor) or something I'd written (the last two contained photocopies of columns I'd written). All three had handwritten, derogatory statements challenging my integrity.

And all three contained old, stinky dog poop, just sprinkled in the bottom of the envelope.

The first had four stamps on it, but it hadn't been mailed, simply dropped in our mailbox. The second and third were postmarked from Detroit, apparently to disguise the mailer's true origin. Of course, had the sender been a bit smarter, he'd have realized that was more trouble than it was worth, since there's very little chance anyone is ever going to catch him.

Officer Lahtinen, a very professional young man, dutifully took all the pertinent information, let me know they'd be sending the envelope to the Michigan State Police crime lab. I'd already talked to postmaster Dennis Wiczorek and Plymouth Police Chief Wayne Carroll, both of whom expressed a willingness to do what is necessary and a belief it won't really do much good.

Wiczorek pointed out it isn't actually against the law to send dog poop through the mail, although the sender is probably violating some health code. Carroll suggested I file a harassment complaint, although he noted the sender was probably smart enough to wear gloves, thus eliminating the chance for finding fingerprints.

I'm not so sure. If you're stupid enough to send dog poop through the mail over something a columnist wrote, I'm not sure you're smart enough, or careful enough, to worry about fingerprints. But I digress.

The last thing Lahtinen said to me was, "If you get any other letters let us know and we'll add it to the file. From the looks of things, you're due for one in a couple of weeks."

It came early. When I got back to the office Monday, the letter sat in our pile of mail. Postmarked again

The first had four stamps on it, but it hadn't been mailed, simply dropped in our mailbox. The second and third were postmarked from Detroit, apparently to disguise the mailer's true origin.

from Detroit, this one was a "thank you" card, ostensibly signed by state Rep. John Stewart. The first poop letter was also "signed" by Stewart. In fact, the third note also invoked Stewart's name, calling me a "Stewart lover jerk."

Stewart vehemently denied sending the first note; I didn't bother asking him about the subsequent notes because I don't believe he had anything to do with it.

Since all of the notes included photocopies of things we'd either printed or written about the race to replace Stewart in the House, it's not hard to draw the conclusion the sender hasn't appreciated our coverage. Our editorial voice — including columns I've written and local editorial comments — has been hard on those who waged war in the Republican primary in that race. It got plenty ugly, and we didn't hesitate pointing it out.

Clearly, though, whoever is being this churlish doesn't care much for Stewart; he also doesn't know me very well. Stewart and I have had our moments, and he's not a big fan of this newspaper lately.

I suggested to the police they start looking at folks who bear animus toward Stewart. Of course, that could be just about anyone these days, particularly in the leadership of the Republican party.

I have an idea who is sending these notes, though I expect we'll never know for sure. One possibility: The screwball used an ordinary, lick-to-seal envelope this time, so it's possible DNA could be extracted.

People have a First Amendment right to freedom of speech. They have a right to their opinion. They have a right to disagree with me; heck, sometimes it seems like the national pastime. But surely there's a better way to do it than sending dog feces through the mail. That's something anyone older than 3 would know better than to do.

People have used words like "crazy," "nuts," "disturbed" and "disgusting" to describe the situation and the sender. I'd like to add another. Coward.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the Plymouth Observer. He would prefer you contact him by e-mail, since dog poop can't be sent that way. E-mail him at bkadrich@hometownlife.com or call at (734) 459-2700.

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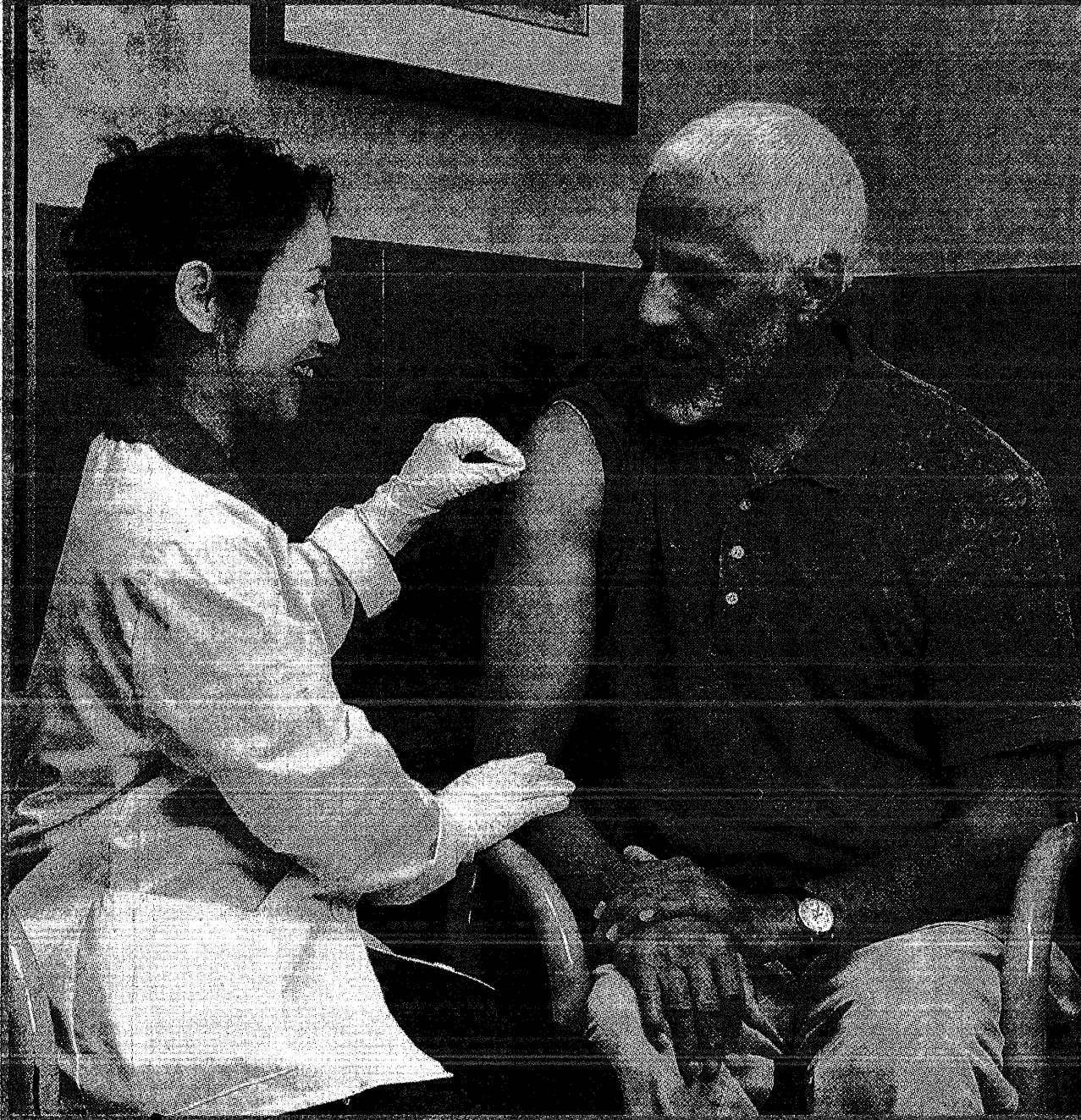
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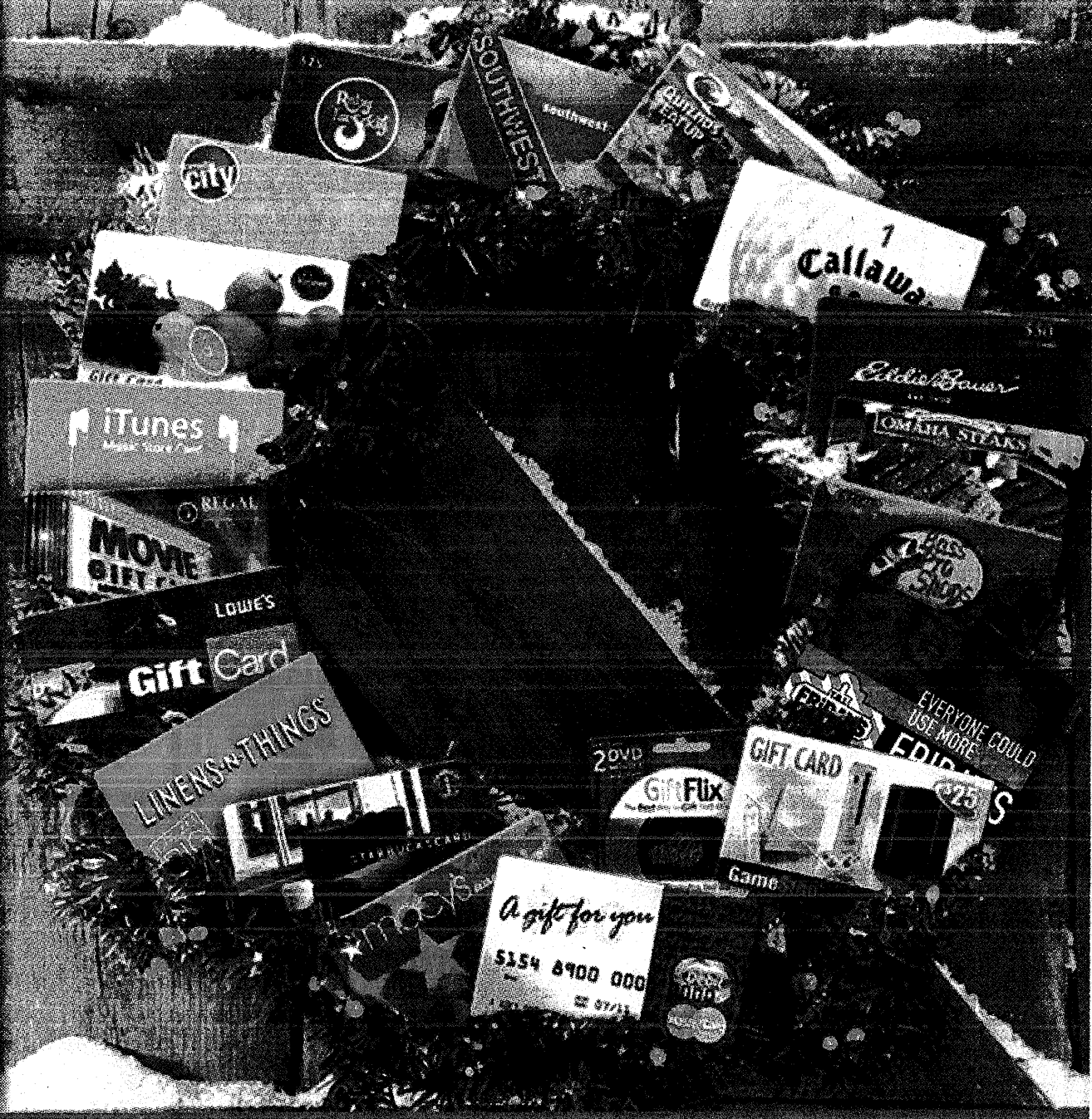


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# Ficano proposes major renovation for Cobo Hall

BY ALEX LUNDBERG  
STAFF WRITER

Citing an increasingly competitive environment for conventions and the possibility of losing a major event, Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano is proposing a new plan to put a new face on Detroit's Cobo Center.

Ficano is putting forward a plan to renovate Cobo and reorganize its operations to draw business into the region and keep existing business where it is.

"Cobo generates \$800 million a year in economic activity," Ficano said. "If a business came in offering to do that we'd all be turning backflips."

Part of that activity, the North American International Auto Show, is on shaky ground. For years, participants have complained the Cobo venue isn't large enough anymore and competing shows, in Los Angeles, Beijing and other cities, could be poised to eclipse



Ficano

said. "We have to look like it." The new Cobo plan would expand the floor space, reorganize the layout around the center to make it easier to navigate and place the building in private hands.

The building would be operated by Walbridge Aldinger and Hines Interests with representatives from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan serving as an advisory board. The plan also creates a \$180 million endowment for operating funds.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson has long been an opponent of suburban funding of a new Cobo Arena. The new plan has some brighter

the Detroit event.

"We're competing with the world, not just other American cities," he said.

points, but he still finds it unacceptable.

"The good news is that Ficano and his team dropped the price from \$650 million to \$450 million," he said. "The bad news is there are a lot of stakeholders who aren't at the table."

The first of those stakeholders is the state. He said the DeVos Arena got a \$60 million bump from Lansing and there should be something similar, even if not so large, for the state's marquee city. He also said the new Cobo plan only affects Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties when other counties, like Washtenaw, should be part of the plan.

Similarly, the two largest beneficiaries of a new Cobo should be somewhere in the mix.

"The effort to retain the North American International Auto Show is one of the biggest reasons to have a new Cobo and the Big Three aren't involved?" Patterson asked.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The North American International Auto Show is a major event each year at Cobo Hall. Keeping the auto show competitive with other shows in other cities is a major reason for a proposal to expand and rebuild the hall in downtown Detroit.

"What about the three casinos, who will benefit more than them from more convention traffic?"

The upshot, he said, would be that more players at the table would make the continuation of the existing hotel tax more palatable for suburban voters. It would certainly sweeten the deal for him.

"Over the past two years,

county judges have released inmates from jail because of overcrowding," he said. "I'm looking at \$90 million for a new jail and he wants \$200 million for a new Cobo? That's what I'm dealing with."

The new Cobo plan offers a carrot to counties in the form of cash payments (\$233 million in all) to allow the liquor/hotel tax to go on for another 35

years to pay for the reconstruction.

Of course, this is not the end of negotiations.

"We're going to have ongoing meetings, this is not an end-all plan, it's a framework that works," Ficano said. "This is a very viable plan."

alundberg@oe.homecomm.net  
(248) 901-2536

## OCC to host bird flu forum Dec. 11

Oakland Community College's Student Life Committee will present a forum on a possible bird flu epidemic, Monday, Dec. 11, at the Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills.

The two-hour program begins at 10 a.m. in the campus' Smith Theatre. Admission is free and the public is invited. Light refreshments will be served.

Speakers include Dr. James

Averill, deputy pandemic influenza coordinator of the Michigan Department of Health. Dr. Averill will describe the nature of influenza and cover the state's plan for dealing with an outbreak.

Public Health Nurse Elaine Houser of the Oakland County Health Department's Emergency Preparedness Office will make a PowerPoint presentation on the

county plan.

Finally, OCC Environmental Health & Safety Manager Michael Schmidt will speak on the college's plan for coping with a pandemic.

For further information call Dusty Rhodes at (248) 522-3595.

The Orchard Ridge Campus is located at 27055 Orchard Lake Road, just south of I-696. Free parking is available in nearby campus lots.

## What's your favorite holiday tradition?

Everyone knows about leaving cookies and milk for Santa.

Or making latkes at Hanukkah. And lighting candles during Kwanzaa.

Even the festive pole has become a seasonal icon thanks to *Seinfeld*.

But we'd like to know how you personalize the holidays.

Maybe you've created a totally new tradition or you've put a unique spin on an old one. What makes the season special for you and your family? Tell us in 200 words or

less about your favorite holiday tradition and we'll publish responses in an upcoming issue. Also, share your Christmas photos with our readers.

Send replies by Friday, Dec. 15, to Hugh Gallagher, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or e-mail hgallagher@hometownlife.com.

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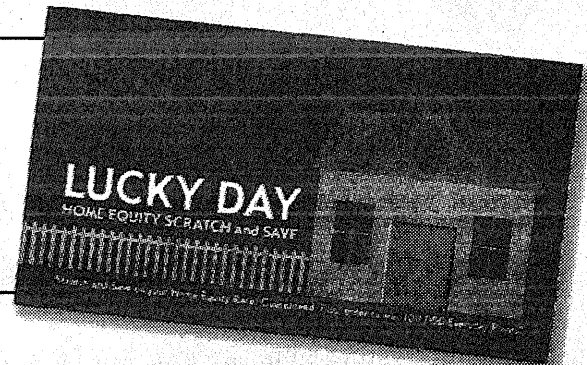


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**AROUND TOWN**

**Olivet scholarship**  
Olivet College is offering every high school in Michigan the ability to nominate two graduating seniors to receive the new Olivet College High School Guidance Counselor Scholarship. The scholarship is worth \$2,000 a year for four years equaling a total of \$8,000 for each qualified student. Enrollment availability is based on a first come, first served basis. The scholarship program empowers the guidance counselor or staff to those two responsible seniors who have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA and 19 or higher on the ACT. One of the selected students must also demonstrate a greater need for financial assistance. For more information on the Olivet College High School Guidance Counselor Scholarship program, contact the Office of Enrollment Management at (800) 456-7189 or e-mail admissions@olivetcollege.edu

**New Year's Eve party**  
Urban Singles presents "Ring in the New Year," with live entertainment from Jimmy Howard and Company Sunday, Dec. 31. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; the party goes until 1 a.m. The party takes place at the Livonia Elks, 31117 Plymouth Road in Livonia (between Merriman and Middlebelt). Tickets are \$50 per person until Dec. 8; \$60 after Dec. 8, and cover dinner and beverage. Dinner is served from 7:30 p.m. Overnight accommodations will be available. Deadline for tickets is Friday, Dec. 22. For more information, call Linda, (734) 507-9173, or Mary Ann, (734) 654-0115.

**MARSP meeting**  
All public school retirees are invited to attend the next luncheon of the Northwest Wayne County Chapter of the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel Wednesday, Dec. 13. MARSP meets at 11:30 a.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 19801 Farmington Road in Livonia. The Churchill High School Choir will provide holiday music. Make reservations by Dec. 13 by calling (248) 477-9764. The cost is \$10.

**Shopping expo**  
RKE presents "Unique Treasures Gift Shopping Expo," featuring gift items, demos, prizes, refreshments; and cash-and-carry/special orders. The event takes place 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Mettetal Airport at Joy and Lilley in Canton. For more information, call (248) 355-9552.

**Student development conference**  
Wayne State University's James S. Measell Public Relations Student Society of America chapter and Eastern Michigan University's Eleanor Wright PRSSA chapter have partnered to hold the 10th-annual student development conference. The conference will be held at the Four Points Sheraton in Ann Arbor Dec. 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The conference will be followed by an informal social held in the hotel's Street Side Bar and Grill. The event is open to all students who wish to network and learn from professionals in the many areas of public relations. The conference is open to all students in all majors. To attend the conference, contact Michael Munie, Conference Coordinator at mmunie@emich.edu or you can register at the door the day of the event. Registration is \$35 for PRSSA members, \$40 for nonmembers if done before December 1st. After December 1st, registration is \$40 for PRSSA members, \$45 for nonmembers. Included in the registration fee is a light breakfast and lunch.

**Career development scholarship**  
The Wayne Business and Professional Women's Club is now accepting applications for a "Career Development Scholarship" to recognize and support women entering or re-entering the work force or seeking to advance their careers. Candidates seeking application forms should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Wayne Business and Professional Women's Club, Career Development Scholarship Committee, 34030 Fountain Blvd., Westland, MI 48185. Completed applications are due post-marked by Jan. 31. For more information, call Amy Allen, (734) 522-1603.

**Card party/luncheon**  
Victoria Chapter #290, OES, Livonia Masonic Temple hosts a card party/luncheon noon-3 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month. Admission is \$6; event features table prizes and door prizes. The temple is located at 27705 W. Seven Mile in Livonia. For more information, call (734) 459-6063.

**Holiday nights**  
This December, step into a Christmas card of the past during Holiday Nights in Greenfield Village, Dec. 8-9, 15-17 and 19-23. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased by calling (313) 982-6001 or visiting The Henry Ford's Web site at www.thehenryford.org.

**Genealogical Society**  
The next meeting of the Livingston County Genealogical Society takes place 7 p.m. Dec. 7 at the First United Methodist Church, 1230 Bower Road in Howell. The meeting will be a social evening sharing holiday stories and mementoes, and will feature a "White



**A giving hand**

Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle members Joan Noricks (from left), Loren Wadington and Nancy Richter recently presented a \$655 check to Steve Darr, director of Canton's Open Door Food Bank, to purchase personal hygiene products for women receiving assistance from the Food Bank. The money was donated by attendees of the recent kick-off event for the newly established Giving Circle. The Food Bank, affiliated with the Tri-City Christian Center, has had a shortage of products such as shampoo, combs and brushes, lotions, and make up because of an increase in the number of families needing assistance. "Full bellies are more important than clean hair, but there is a need for hygiene products. The women in our program will be very grateful," Darr said. Giving Hope is a pooled fund through which members make grants on issues related to women and their families in the greater Canton and Plymouth area. A fund of the Canton Community Foundation, Giving Hope currently has 33 founding members. Any woman interested in the Giving Circle can visit the group's Web site at www.cantonfoundation.org or call (734) 495-1200.

Elephant" sale. The public is invited. For more information, call Margaret Bowland, (810) 227-7745.

**Hospice training**  
Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw, western Wayne, Monroe and Livingston counties. Volunteers provide a variety of services including companionship, light housekeeping, errand running, grief support and clerical services. For more information, contact volunteer coordinator Candice Jones, (888) 973-1145.

**Literacy Council tutors**  
The Community Literacy Council (CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors in Western Wayne County to help adults improve their reading, writing and communication skills. The CLC will provide training to interested volunteers. Previous experience or a bachelor's degree is not required. The council will provide free training and materials, and then match you with an adult student in your area. Call (734) 416-4906 for more information.

**Toastmasters meet**  
Do you have a fear of public speaking? Do you need to do presentations at work and don't know where to start? Or are you terrified of the thought of standing in front of a group of people to present that report? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then Toastmasters is for you! Canton Communicators Club meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Canton Coney Island on Lilley, just south of Joy, in the Golden Gate Plaza. For additional information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237.

**Grief support**  
New Hope Center for Grief Support is a Christian-based bereavement outreach and resource center located in Northville. Age appropriate groups for widows and widowers are provided in various locations in southeastern Michigan including groups for young widows and widowers and their children between the ages of 4 through the teen years. Groups for parents who have lost a child, adults who have lost a parent, pet loss, and other specialized groups are offered at various times of the year. All services for

adults and children are offered at no cost to the participants. If you are grieving or know someone who is, please call the office at (248) 348-0115 for further information about services provided by New Hope Center for Grief Support, or visit www.newhope-center.net.

**CLUBS**

**Rotary A.M.**  
The Plymouth Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. meets at 7 a.m. every Tuesday at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer. New members are always welcome. Contact Mark Hammar, president, Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., by calling (734) 455-6620.

**Plymouth Newcomers**  
Plymouth Newcomers & Neighbors playgroups for children ages 0-5 meet several times during the week at member homes and occasional special events. Come meet new parents while your kids meet their own new friends! For details, contact Janet Keller at (734) 451-1840 or robertplus-janet@aol.com

The Great Lakes Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Association will meet 1-3 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at Merriman Road Baptist Church on Merriman south of Ford. There will be a guest speaker at each meeting and a variety of topics will be covered. There is no membership fee but a small donation will be accepted. For information call Lucy Rowley 734-462-1768

**MOPS meet**  
MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) meets twice monthly from September-May, for moms and their children, newborn-kindergarten, at Lakepointe Bible Church in Plymouth. For more information, call Crystal Johnson, (734) 459-1861.

**Mosaic**  
MOSAIC is a group where Moms come together to be refreshed and equipped for the important task of mothering. It presents speakers on child and family issues, has small-group discussion time, crafts and brunch. Child care is provided. It meets at Plymouth Baptist Church, 42021 Ann Arbor Trail, on the first and third Tuesday mornings of each month, September to May. Contact Resha at (734) 207-0658 or resha@juno.com

**Moms Club**  
Moms Club of Livonia-S/Plymouth, Canton and Westland offers a variety of activities for stay-at-home moms and their children. For more details, call Birthe at (734) 458-8143 or Kimberly at (248) 231-6120.

**DAR**  
The Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter-Daughters of the American Revolution meets the third Monday of each month except January, July and August. A group with ancestors who fought in American Revolution. Members participate in community work involving veterans' hospitals, schools and community service. Call (734) 420-2775 for further information.

**German/American Club of Plymouth**  
Meets on the third Thursday of the month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located at 39100 Schoolcraft Road, Plymouth. Call Mary Ann at (734) 420-0857 for further information.

**American Legion**  
Beasley-Zalesny Post 112 meets at the I.O.O.F. Hall on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. All veterans that served during any of the wars are eligible. Contact (734) 459-7324 for further information.

**Women's Farm and Garden Club-Plymouth**  
Meets every second Monday of each month from September through June. Persons interested in joining may contact club president Linda Coughlin at (734) 459-7478.

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**APCALYPTO (R)** 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00  
**UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (PG)** 14:15, 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15  
**THE NATIVITY STORY (PG)** 12:20, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20 FRI/SAT LS 11:30  
**VAN WILDER 2: THE RISE OF TAJ (R)** 7:20, 9:30 FRI/SAT LS 11:40  
**DECK THE HALLS (PG)** 11:05, 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30 FRI/SAT LS 11:35  
**HAPPY FEET (PG)** 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00 FRI/SAT LS 11:20  
**CASINO ROYALE (PG-13)** 12:40, 3:35, 6:30, 9:25  
**SANTA CLAUSE 3: THE ESCAPE CLAUSE (G)** 11:00, 1:05, 3:10, 5:15

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Sunday, Dec. 17 ..... Noon-5:00 p.m.  
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# Birds chart their own courses in the sky

"At any time of the year and in any part of the world, a bird student can always find pleasure in his hobby, where unseeing, unhearing people find little of interest."

- Samuel Scoville Jr.

**E**normous pleasures are to be found in expected activity at cold weather bird feeders: A chickadee industriously works the meaty kernel out of a sunflower seed on a frosty morning, a downy woodpecker tears voraciously into a suet slab, a flock of doves settles in to peck seed, and the occasional Cooper's hawk dives to snag a slow-to-respond dove. But for me, the best pleasures of observing the avian world are the unexpected. And those notable birding moments are almost always away from the feeder.



**Oakland Naturally**

Jonathan Schechter

are almost always away from the feeder.

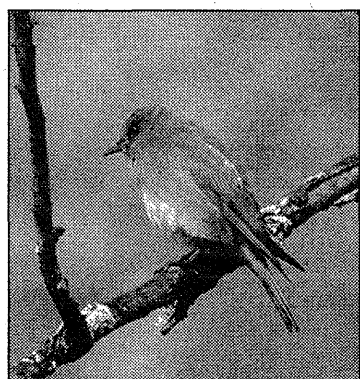
It's a tale of adaptation, birds independent of flock behavior, birds exploring their ways and blending their natural behavior to the opportunities of the ways of nature and the acts of mankind.

Birds do not always follow conventional printed wisdom. "They do not range north of Ohio" may be very wrong. "By November they have departed for warmer climates." Tell that to a species and they would flap their feathers in amusement at the assumption.

Grant you, I am not an avid "birder" with a "life list" of birds. And I classify almost all small birds, especially warblers, as LBJs: Little Biddy Jobbers. And my favorite species is usually the one that draws my attention at the moment, be it a crumb-snatching house sparrow on a cold Birmingham sidewalk or a great horned owl sinking talons into rabbit flesh.

You can't go out looking for such moments. But when we see them, it reminds us that birds have been adapting to changing ways and weather — without the bonus of feeders — ever since the last great glacial retreat set the stage for an influx of avian explorers.

One such moment presented



Eastern bluebirds sometimes overwinter in Oakland County.

itself a few mornings ago, shortly after dawn at the very moment sunlight dealt streamside frost a lethal blow. The location: An urban area of the Clinton River Watershed not far from downtown Rochester, at the confluence of the Paint Creek and Clinton River and the Clinton River Trail. The actor: A great blue heron.

Conventional wisdom has these colonial nesters already way south for winter. But this majestic loiterer knew that confluence still held treats to eat. I witnessed one lightning fast stab into water: a gullet filling moment.

And as gusts of cold wind sent dry leaves swirling over my meadow, I noticed motion high in a black walnut, a crow perched precariously near the end of a branch. He had discovered tasty remnants of caterpillar carcasses inside a weathered fall webworm nest. After 10 minutes of tearing the web was gone, and I suspect a crow belly full of protein.

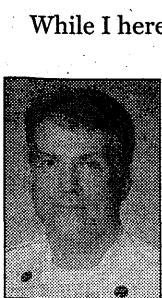
Henry David Thoreau, perhaps the finest observer to ever write on nature, civil disobedience and the ways of man, saluted the eastern bluebird as the harbinger of spring. "If the warble of the first bluebird of spring does not thrill you, know that the meaning and spring of your life is past."

Fact: Many eastern bluebirds over-winter in Michigan among the sheltered valleys and rural lowlands rich with shrubs and dried berries. One such bluebird perched on my crab apple on the dawn of December. A reminder to me — a reminder to all — that as the darkest days of the season approach, the natural world is full of light and life and surprise.

Jonathan Schechter writes on nature's way in Oakland County. E-mail him at oaknature@aol.com.

# Ensure you have fire-safe holiday season

**M**ichigan is a great place to live during the holiday season.



Tom Kiurski

While I hereby reserve the right to change my mind in January, doesn't almost every holiday classic movie show some type of "White Christmas"? Visiting family and friends, the warmth of a fire in the fireplace and the beautiful decorations of the season are great memories for most of us. I will ask us all to take fire safety into consideration as we prepare for the holidays, and I will give you some simple steps to take along the way to help ensure that "fire-safe holiday."

Let's start by looking at the centerpiece of the holiday season, the Christmas tree. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has found that, in a four-year study period, Christmas trees were the item first ignited in 310 cases in the average year. These fires caused an average of 14 civilian fire deaths, 40 injuries and over \$16 million in direct property dam-

age, and the statistics include both real and artificial trees.

If you choose a real tree and cut it down yourself, keep it outside until you are ready to bring it in to decorate. If you choose a real tree bought from a lot, then make a fresh cut at the base of the tree before bringing it in to decorate. This makes it easier for the tree to absorb water, making it less likely to catch fire. Choose a sturdy stand for the tree, with a large reservoir for holding water. A real tree that is six-feet tall can take up to one gallon of water every two days.

If artificial is the type of tree you choose, then pick one that is labeled as fire-retardant. This does not mean that the tree won't catch fire; it only means that it is less likely to catch fire, and will spread the fire more slowly than other trees. If you are going to get a metal tree, then do not use electric lights on it (bad combination).

Regardless of which type of tree you choose, keep the tree away from heaters, fireplaces, radiators, space heaters or any other heat source. As you take out your light sets for the tree, inspect them for signs of cracks or fraying. Discard the damaged ones and replace with newer

ones. Lights should be listed by an independent testing agency, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Use indoor-rated lights indoors and outdoor-rated lights outdoors. Unplug or turn off your tree lights when leaving the house or going to bed at night.

Although I never was a part of the tradition of using real candles on Christmas trees, many people have fond memories of doing that. The risk is not worth it, and I never recall seeing candles on a tree. In the recent study period cited earlier, an average of 8 percent of the Christmas tree fires during the holiday season were ignited by candles. Candles need adult supervision, sturdy holders and need to be kept away from open flames and heat sources.

As you decorate your home for the holidays, make sure you check smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors and review your family escape plan with your family. Make sure everyone knows how to open windows, call 911 and tell the dispatcher what type of help they need, and know the family meeting place.

From all of your Livonia firefighters, have a safe and happy holiday season!

Tom Kiurski is a Livonia firefighter.

## Rabbi Wine offers forums on Jewish history

Rabbi Sherwin Wine presents a series of three forums about the Jewish migration to America, in honor of the 100th anniversary of his father's arrival in the U.S.

Topics include: "The Voyage: The Incredible Journey from Suffering to Freedom," on Dec. 11 and "Arriving in America: The Greatest Success Story in Jewish History," on Dec. 18.

All three forums will be held at 8 p.m. at The Birmingham Temple, 28611 West 12 Mile

Road in Farmington Hills.

There is an \$8 charge for individuals who are not Temple members. Advance registration is not required.

For additional information, visit [www.birminghamtemple.org](http://www.birminghamtemple.org) or call (248) 477-1410. The Birmingham Temple, a Humanistic Jewish congregation, welcomes all who seek to identify with the history, culture and future of the Jewish people.

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**Suburban Detroit** - A new free report has recently been released that reveals an amazing new medical breakthrough that has proven 86% successful treating debilitating back pain. Even with multiple herniated discs. Find out how space travel solved astronauts back pain and how this accidental discovery has let to the most promising back pain treatment today. For your free report entitled, "How Space Age Technology Is Solving Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery!" call 1-800-469-3618 and listen to the toll-free 24 hr. recorded message for all the details. If phone lines are busy, visit: [www.midischerniation.com](http://www.midischerniation.com)

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## Family Favorite Recipes

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Through **December 8th**, send in your Family Favorite Recipe complete with cooking time and temperature (and maybe a bit of history or origin) to: [classified@hometownlife.com](mailto:classified@hometownlife.com) and maybe yours will be picked to print!

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- 1 can mushroom pieces (4 oz.)
- 1 envelope Onion soup mix
- 4 split chicken breasts

Heat oven to 350 F. Mix mushroom soup, milk and add rice, mushrooms and onion soup mix. Pour into ungreased baking dish, lay chicken breasts on top of mixture and bake 1 hour. Uncover and bake an additional 15 minutes.

Submitted by: Kim Schmidt

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# Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

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## CAROLINE FORD MASON

Sept 13, 1915 - Oct 27, 2006. Passed away from the complications of Alzheimer's disease in Sequim, WA at age 91. She was a 50 year resident of Birmingham and taught third grade at Pembroke Elementary School in Troy. She was born to George A. and Marie (Chalmers) Ford in Toledo, OH. She married James M. Mason in Toledo on October 3, 1942. Jim preceded her in death in 2004. Caroline and Jim lived for 50 years at 964 Kennesaw before moving in 2001 to Potosky, MI with a final move to Sequim, WA in 2002. She was an avid sailor on Lake St Clair and member of Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. Survivors include her son, Dr. Stephen and DeeDee (Carlson) Mason of Allouez, MI, daughters and sons-in-law, Diane and Ed Sherman of Mill Valley, CA and Marilyn and Don Thomas of Sequim, WA; six grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren. Services for Mrs. Mason were held on November 1st in WA.

## CHERYL A. BAKER

Age 61, November 30, 2006. Dear mother of Greg (Debbie) and Kristin Baker. Grandmother of Julia Baker and Mark Baker. Sister of Patricia Guido. Daughter of Bertha Rowden. Memorials suggested to Make a Wish Foundation.

## DOLORIS SINKOVICH

Age 89, Oct. 2, 2006. of Westland, Michigan passed away under the loving care of friends, Mary Christoff, George and Virginia Cross, Gene and Jan Suchy, Peggy Ellenwood, the Bialowicz family, Dan and Karen Stachow, Lois Mach and Alfred Elias. Preceded in death by her husband George Sinkovich and son, James W. Frank. Also survived by several grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted on Oct. 6, 2006 from St. Theodores Catholic Church. Resting at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

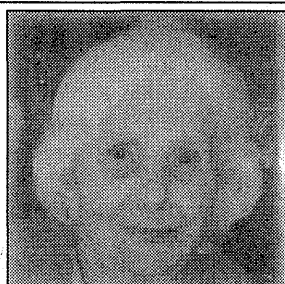
## FREDERICK D. "Fred" ATIYEH

Age 84, December 3, 2006. Beloved husband of the late Nicolena. Dear father of J.R. (Diane) and David (Susan). Loving Grandfather of Brandon, Chelsea, Darren, Dominic, Tony and Alicia. Dear brother of Rebecca Barragato. Visitation at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River Ave., Novi, 248-348-1800, Wednesday 2-4 & 6-9 PM. Instate Thursday at Holy Family Church, 24505 Meadowbrook, Novi, 9:30 AM until the funeral service at 10:00 AM. Entombment at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield, MI. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Michigan Chapter, 20300 Civic Center Dr., #100, Southfield, MI. Online condolences: www.obrien-sullivanfuneralhome.com



## HAROLD R. "BUTCH" WATTON

Age 65, of Canton, passed away December 1, 2006. Devoted husband of Joyce. Loving father of Pam (Mark) MacLennan, Jill (Kevin) McAndrew, Jeffrey Watton. Step-father of Nick Mancini, Gina (Matt) Meares, and Paula (Scott) Staebler. Beloved grandfather of Chelsea, Tori, Rory, Morgan, Ashleigh, Dj. Aj, Alyssa, Lyndsey, Tristin, Martin. Dear brother of Carol (Edward) Valente, Elaine (Jim) Crawford, David (Kathy) Watton. Also survived by his friends at Station 885 Restaurant in Plymouth, where both Butch and Joyce enjoyed. Preceded in death by parents Leslie and Charlotte and by brother Ronald. Butch worked for the local 247 Teamsters Union as a cement truck driver. He enjoyed car restoration and especially the Woodward Dream Cruise. Funeral services were held on Monday at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main, Plymouth. Share memories at www.schrader-howell.com



## KALLIOPE VARON

Age 92, of Middletown, Ohio, died on Sunday, December 3, 2006, at her residence. She was born in Constantinople, Turkey, on January 1, 1914, to parents Constantine and Fanni (Raizopoulos) Papadopoulos. She has resided in Middletown for the past eight years. She was a member of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Bloomfield Hills, MI, from 1937 to 2000, and a member of the Philoptochos Society for 40 years where her duties included visiting nursing homes. Mrs. Varon is survived by a daughter, Mary (David) Habig, Middletown, OH; three sons, Michael G. (Stacy) Varon, Joliet, IL, Gus W. (Sherry) Varon, Rochester Hills, MI, Dan G. (Elaine) Varon, Bloomfield Hills, MI; 13 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, George Varon. Services will be Saturday, December 9, 2006, at 1:30 pm, at the Ottawa Park Cemetery Chapel, Clarkston, MI. Visitation will be prior to the service from 1:00 - 1:30 pm at the chapel. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 2500 Grand Ave. Middletown, OH 45044. Arrangements by Wilson-Schramm-Spaulling Funeral Home, Middletown, OH.



## PATRICIA K. MCGLONE

Age 85 of Plymouth, December 3, 2006. Beloved wife of the late Frederick. Loving mother of Bruce (Diane), Scott (Catherine), and Janis (Kelly). Dear grandmother of Lisa (Nick) Chambers and the late Kristen. Dear great-grandmother of Jack and Luke Chambers. Her love of visitors, family and friends alike deeply touched all who knew Mumsey. Her laughter and enthusiasm brought a sense of joy to anyone who spoke with her. Memorial service Sunday 1PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd, (btwn Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. Visitation Saturday 3-6 PM. Memorial contributions may be made to the University of Michigan-College of Pharmacy (Kristen McGlone Memorial) 428 Church Street, Ann Arbor MI 48109. To leave a message of condolence, log on to www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com.



## PAUL R. KUEBLER, SR.

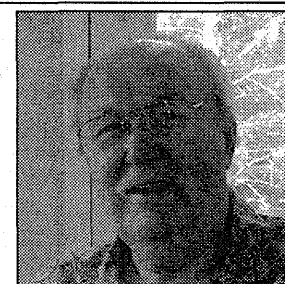
December 4, 2006, age 89, of Westlake, Ohio, formerly of Birmingham, Michigan. Beloved husband of Catherine M. (nee: Pelletier) for 62 years. Dear father of Paul, Jr. (Maureen), Robin O'Callaghan (Liam) and Walter. Loving grandfather of 16 and great-grandfather of 13. Brother of Kathryn Kuebler. Preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Olivia Kuebler, his brother, John Kuebler, his sister Mary Byrnes (John) and his grandson, Padraic Kuebler. Memorial Mass Saturday, December 16, 2006 at 11 AM at Holy Name Church, 630 Harmon at Woodland, Birmingham. Visitation at church begins at 10:30 AM. Memorial Tributes to Holy Name Church or The Capuchins. A. J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

## RANDOLPH A. "Scotty" ADAM

Age 87, November 29, 2006, of Warren, formerly of Madison Heights. Born October 24, 1919, in Dundee, Scotland. Husband of Grace Adam (deceased 1972). Father of Randy Adam, step-father of Bert Mason, Harold Mason, Art Mason, and Bob Mason. Also survived by one granddaughter, Angelina (David) Misener, and one great-granddaughter, Madelyn Grace. Predeceased by four brothers and two sisters. Mr. Adam loved to watch sports, especially stock cars and racing; he was a great Tiger fan. He served in the British Army for six years during World War II, and retired from Culligan where he was employed as a Water Softener. Visitation Thursday, 5-8pm, and Friday, 6-9pm; services Friday, 7pm, at the funeral home, E. J. Mandziuk & Son (Warren Chapel). Inurnment White Chapel Memorial, Troy. Funeral luncheon will be held Sunday at Royal Canadian Legion in Royal Oak, 1005 East 11 Mile Rd.

## SCOTT E. BIDDLE

Age 54, died of a heart attack September 24, 2006. Scott is the loving son of Melvin Ralph & Patricia Biddle. Brother of Ralph Jr. Father of Justin and Lindsey Biddle & Grandfather of Austin. A graduate of Redford Union & served in the Navy on the U.S.S. Peidmont. He is preceded in death by his father, who is dearly missed as is Scott.



## STANLEY J. DOBIS

Age 76, died suddenly on December 2, 2006. Husband of Carmen. Dear father of David (Amy), Carole (Michael) Dominick, Linda (Brad) Judy. Grandfather of Jessica Mary, Stanley and the late Katherine Dobis and Hannah, Madelyn and Mia Judy. Brother of Mildred (Don) Freeman, Lillian (Jack) Schenden and Margaret (Dick) Fusco. Uncle to many nieces and nephews. U. S. Army Veteran of the Korean Conflict. Active member of St. Colette Church, Livonia Post VFW #3941, Monaghan Council of Knights of Columbus, Livonia Cable Commission, founding member of the Livonia Amateur Radio Club, and volunteer cameraman at various Livonia City events. Visitation Tuesday 5-9pm with a K of C Rosary at 7:30pm at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Road, Livonia. Wednesday, Prayers 9:30am at the funeral home, to St. Colette Catholic Church from 10:00am Mass. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

## TIVADAR "TIV" BALOGH

December 1, 2006; age 79. He was born December 16, 1926 in Detroit. Retired architect and professor of architecture at University of Michigan. Beloved husband of Dorothy "Dot" (Nee: Bleimeister). Loving father of Melissa (Tim) Waidley and Margaret Balogh. Grandfather of Clara and Hope Waidley and Gwendolyn and Zoltan Seger. Memorial visitation Thursday 2 PM until the celebration of his life at 4 PM at the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, 42600 Ford Road (W. of Lilley Rd.) Canton (734-981-1700). In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Michigan Parkinson's Foundation.

## VIRGINIA CATHERINE CLOHSET

widow of Clarence, mother of Phillip, Kaye Nightengale, Caron Trese and John (deceased) died December 2, 2006 of complications from pneumonia. She lived in the Birmingham area since 1949. She had a Masters in Social Work and a Masters of Library Science with Cognates in Archives from Wayne State University. She was a member of the American Library Association and Michigan Archival Association. She has served as the Archivist for the Birmingham Historical Society, Manuscript Chairman for the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society; Historian of the Friends of the Baldwin Public Library; Lineage Research Chairman of the Piety Hill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and National Vice Chairman of the Genealogical Records of the NSDAR. In 1971, she received the Heritage Award of the Birmingham Historical Society. She documented much of the history of Birmingham and co-authored "The Book of Birmingham". Besides her children, she is survived by two grandsons, Three step-grandsons and six great-grandchildren. She was a complex and intellectually curious great lady who will be sadly missed by all Birmingham has lost a true friend. Visitation at the Wm. R. Hamilton Co. of Birmingham, 820 E. Maple will be from 2 to 4 pm and 6 to 8 pm on Tuesday. A private funeral service will be Wednesday in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to ROPARD, P. O. Box 250425, Franklin, Michigan, 48025 in honor of her son-in-law, Dr. Michael Trese or the Michigan Kidney Foundation, 1900 E. Jefferson, Suite 222, Detroit, Michigan, 48207 in honor of her longtime physician and friend, Dr. Jerry Danckik of Beaumont Hospital.

## OBITUARY POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

**Deadlines:**  
Friday 4:30 PM for Sunday  
Wednesday Noon for Thursday  
*Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.*

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or fax to:  
Attn: Obits c/o Charlotte Wilson  
734-953-2232  
For more information call:  
Charlotte Wilson  
734-953-2070  
or Liz Keiser  
734-953-2067  
or toll free  
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ask for Char or Liz

## RELIGION CALENDAR

If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. The deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

## DECEMBER

### Traditions of Christmas

Multi-event open house with carols, stories, musical performances, model train layouts, cookie decorating, crafts, displays, film, and The Best Christmas Pageant Ever 3-8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 7-8, and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at First Presbyterian Church, 1669 West Maple, Birmingham. A gift to the community. No tickets, donations or reservations necessary. Call (248) 644-2040.

### Glory of Christmas

7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 7-8, and Sunday, Dec. 10; 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2 and 9, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3 and 10, at NorthRidge Church, 49555 North Territorial, Plymouth. Tickets are \$13.75 and \$15.75, and available by calling (800) 585-3737. Call (734) 414-7777 for information.

### Sock party/potluck

Admission is a pair of new socks, scarf or mittens and a dish to pass (real food please) 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at St. Linus Activity Center, 6466 Evangeline, Dearborn Heights. Presented by Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support for the divorced and separated of all faiths. For details, call (313) 996-8644.

### Men of Grace

A special night of worship featuring Christmas songs, spirituals, hymns, traditional and contemporary, original music, and arrangements performed by Men of Grace from Grace Centers of Hope (Pontiac) 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 46250 Ann Arbor Road, one block east of Beck, Plymouth. Free will offering will be taken to benefit seminary study Scott Eberlein. Call (734) 453-5252.

### Crosstalk

A lively discussion for singles on a topic of current interest 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Learn how the Bible approaches modern day events. Free childcare provided. For details, call (248) 374-5920.

### Cookie walk

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church's 13th Annual Cookie Walk takes place Saturday, Dec. 9, at 36075 W. Seven Mile, 3/4 mile east of Newburgh on south side of street, Livonia. Doors open at 8 a.m., sale starts at 9 a.m. and lasts until we are sold out. Pierogi, stuffed cabbage, bread, nut and poppyseed rolls, and over 50 different varieties of ethnic (kiefle, kolachy, rugela, koulorakia, biscotti, linzer) and traditional cookies and candy will be for sale.

### Christmas cookie walk

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at St. Michael's Orthodox Church, 26355 W. Chicago, between Beech Daly and Inkster, Redford. Cookies are sold by the pound.

### Cookie walk

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 9, at First United Methodist Church of Wayne, 3 Towne Square. Homemade cookies, pies, breads, and candies. Special orders taken for pumpkin rolls. For information, call (734) 721-4801.

### Live Nativity

During open house noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Please join us for cookies, juice and coffee in Knox Hall as the Live Nativity is displayed. Be sure to bring your camera to capture the live nativity scene featuring real animals and actors. For more information, call (248) 374-5932.

### Fine arts festival

An afternoon of Christian youth entertainment and holiday shopping 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Westside Christian Academy, 9540 Bramell, one mile east of Telegraph, between Plymouth and Chicago, Detroit. Program promptly begins at 3 p.m. Vendors and crafters interested in obtaining table space or for more information, call (313) 533-1956.

### Christmas play

Journey to Bethlehem returns for a sixth year, a walk-through play of the birth of Jesus 4 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, and 2 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 4 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Unity of Birmingham, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt. For more information, call (734) 421-1760.

### Advent mass

9 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at the Felician Sisters Chapel at Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft, Livonia. Use the Newburgh entrance. Breakfast to follow mass. An activity of Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support for the divorced and separated of all faiths. For information, call (734) 513-9479.

### Praise worship concert

Randy and Maril Brown perform 11

a.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Faith Bible Church, 34541 Five Mile, west of Farmington Road, Livonia. No admission but a love offering will be received. Nursery provided. For information, call (734) 464-7990.

### Advent tea party

12:30-3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at The Retreat Center at St. John's, 44011 Five Mile, Plymouth. Reflect on Advent scripture readings, four Sundays of Advent and the essence of Emmanuel - Christ with us. Tickets \$10, includes tea and lunch, benefits Catholic Social Services of Wayne County Pregnancy Counseling Department. Please bring an item for a newborn to donate. For reservations, call (734) 414-1104 or visit www.TheRetreatCenter.org.

### Youth Christmas program

Garden City Presbyterian Church will present the annual youth Sunday school Christmas program, a play with singing entitled "You Can't Cancel Christmas" 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at the church, 1841 Middlebelt, one block south of Ford Road. Come and share the joy of Christmas in a warm and friendly environment. Refreshments immediately after program in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome. Handicap accessible. For more information, call (734) 421-7620.

### Christmas concert

3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, in the sanctuary at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96 (Schoolcraft), Livonia. The sounds of Christmas will be enhanced by the Christ Our Savior Festival Choir, Jubellation Handbell Choir, Laudate Choir (grades 1-8), Confirmation Choir (grades 7-8), a Brass Ensemble, and various instrumentalists.

The concert is free and open to the public. A free will offering will be taken. Mark Lohmeyer, Minister of Music and organist, will be leading the concert. For more information, call (734) 522-6830 or visit the Web site at www.christsavior.org.

### Christmas music

Christmas Jazz Vespers Service 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. For information, call (248) 374-7400. Jazz in the Spirit, from First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, will present a musical, poetic and prayer filled worship experience. Childcare provided to age 4. No charge.

### 25th annual concert

St. Aidan Catholic Church presents its 25th annual Christmas Concert 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at the parish, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Admission is \$5 plus TWO non-perishable food items. Proceeds go to Christmas Baskets prepared by St. Aidan Christian Service Commission.

### A Christmas Prayer

A musical drama, a prodigal son's journey featuring musicians and liturgical dancers 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Hope Lutheran Church, 39200 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 553-7170.

### Hanukkah gift shoppe

Congregation Beit Kodesh Sisterhood Hanukkah/Judaic gift shop opens from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sundays through Dec. 10. Selection includes holiday gift wrap, chocolate coins, dreidels, candles, electric and traditional menorahs and many Judaic gift items. Congregation Beit Kodesh is located at 31840 W. Seven Mile, Livonia.

### Choral festival

Concert of Advent and Christmas carol festival featuring Kirk in the Hills Young Children's, and Junior and Senior Boys' and Girls' Choirs, 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Kirk in the Hills, 1340 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. No charge. For details, call (248) 626, 2515, ext. 109.

### Bible-based ESL classes

Mondays 7-8:30 p.m. Registration: Dec. 11 and 18 (classes closed after that), at First Baptist Church of Farmington, 33400 Shiawassee. Call (248) 474-0350 ext. 222. Open to adults 18 and over. Book fee only.

### One, the movie

A contemporary journey toward a timeless destiny 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt. Love offering accepted at the door. Presented by Citizens for Peace. Call (734) 421-1760.

### Advent services

7:30 p.m. Wednesdays Dec. 13 and 20, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman, Livonia. Begins with a simple soup and bread supper at 6:30 p.m. followed by Holden Evening Prayer accompanied by our handbell choir. A pick your favorite Advent hymn sing precedes the service. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend.

### Advent worship

Services 7 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 13 and 20, at Grace Lutheran Church, 46001 Warren, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton. For information, call (734) 637-8160. Sunday Worship services are 8 a.m. (traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (contemporary). Sunday School & Adult Bible Study at 9:15 a.m. Sunday.

May peace  
be with  
you in this  
time of  
sorrow.

Let  
others  
know...

When you've lost  
a loved one, place  
your notice on our  
website and in  
"Passages"...a  
directory located  
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newspaper.

Observer & Eccentric

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(Between Wayne Rd. & Merriman Rd.)  
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*Virgil Humes, Pastor*



Saturday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday Worship 7:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. • Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Praise Service 6:00 p.m. • Wednesday Children, Youth and Adult Bible Study 7:00-8:30 p.m.

**Clarenceville United Methodist**  
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**248-474-3444**  
Pastor Beth Librande  
Worship Service 9:30 AM  
Sunday School 11:00 AM  
Nursery Provided

**Redford Aldersgate**  
United Methodist  
10000 Beech Dale  
313-937-3170  
9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sun. Sch.  
11:00 - Contemp. Family Worship  
[www.redfordaldersgate.org](http://www.redfordaldersgate.org)

### Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96  
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Sunday Worship  
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9:45 - Modern  
Staffed Nursery Available



Sunday School  
9:45 & 11 am  
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9:15 & 11:00 A.M.

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### HOSANNA-TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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Rev. Jonathan Manor, Sr. Pastor

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Education Hour 9:45 a.m.

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Pre-Kindergarten-8th Grade  
For more information call  
313-937-2233

## CATHOLIC

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

## JEWISH

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Minister  
John Nattaw  
[www.churchofchrist-west.org](http://www.churchofchrist-west.org)

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[www.beitkodesh.org](http://www.beitkodesh.org)

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Main & Church Streets - (734) 453-6464

8:30, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
visit us at [www.fcpc.net](http://www.fcpc.net)

Accessible to all

### Risen Christ Lutheran LC-MS

David W. Martin, Pastor  
46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth  
(1 Mile West of Sheldon) (734) 453-5252

Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am  
Sunday School (Children & Adults) 9:30 am  
All are Welcome Come as you are!  
[www.risenchrist.info](http://www.risenchrist.info)

## CATHOLIC

### RESURRECTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

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451-0444

REV. RICHARD A. PERFETTO  
Weekday Masses  
Tuesday & Friday 8:30 a.m.  
Saturday - 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

## EPISCOPAL

## NON DENOMINATIONAL

### St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church

St. Genevieve School - Pre-K-8  
29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220  
(East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries)

MASS: Tues. 7 p, Wed., Thurs. 9 a,  
Sat. 4 p, Sun 11a

### St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church

32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616  
(between Merriman & Farmington Roads)

MASS: Mon. 8:30 a, Fri. 8:30 a,  
Sat. 6 p, Sun 9a

### ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

16360 Hubbard Road  
Livonia, Michigan 48154  
734-421-8451

Wednesday 9:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist  
Saturday 5:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist  
Sunday 7:45 & 10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist  
Office Hours 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.  
[www.standrewschurch.net](http://www.standrewschurch.net)

The Rev. John W. Henry II Rector

### ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

574 S. Sheldon Road  
Plymouth, Mich. 48170  
734-453-0190

Spoken service at 7:45 a.m.  
Contemporary service at 9:00 a.m.  
Traditional service with choir at 11:00 a.m.  
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[www.stjohnsplymouth.org](http://www.stjohnsplymouth.org)

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(734) 422-0494  
[www.rosedalegardens.org](http://www.rosedalegardens.org)

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9:00 am  
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10:30 am

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10:00 a.m. Family Worship  
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11:00 a.m. Traditional

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Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.  
Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.  
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## CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

### First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth

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734-453-0970

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.  
Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30  
p.m.

Reading Room located at church  
Saturday 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.  
734-453-0970

## EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

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"just west of I-275"  
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## THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS

WHERE HOMETOWN STORIES UNFOLD

In addition to our weekly Worship Directory, the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers publishes a traditional holiday directory before Christmas. If you are interested, please call 734-953-2153 for more information.

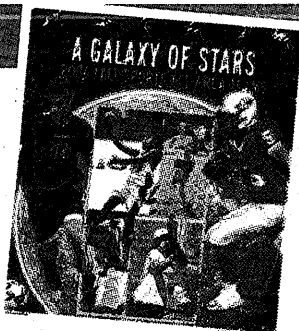
For Church Directory changes and information regarding advertising in this directory, please call  
Donna Hart (734) 953-2153 the Friday before publication.

To mail copy: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or Fax to (734) 953-2121









# SPORTS

# B

(CP)

Thursday, December 7, 2006

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Ed Wright, editor . (734) 953-2108 . ewright@hometownlife.com

www.hometownlife.com

## Jump-start

### Dixon's late-game jumper, scrappy defense pace Salem to 49-48 victory

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

Gritty "D" helped Salem's basketball team overcome a 12-point fourth-quarter deficit Tuesday night.

But it was a gutsy "J" that sealed the Rocks' most satisfying victory in recent memory.

Senior guard Jierah Dixon buried a clutch, left-handed, 12-foot jumper with 13 seconds left to give Salem a thrilling 49-48 victory over visiting Redford Union in the season opener for both teams.

Following a time-out, RU's Terrell Baird launched a potential game-winning baseline jump shot from 16 feet out, but it was swatted off course and high into the air by Salem's Ross Davis. The ball squirted loose underneath the basket as the horn sounded.

Dixon could barely remember the last time before Tuesday night that he'd hit a game-winning bucket.

"I think I made one in elementary school once," he said, smiling. "Our point guard, Mike Marek, gave me the opportunity for a back-door cut, I pulled up for the



Jierah Dixon reacts to his game-winning shot with 13 seconds left in Tuesday night's 49-48 victory over Redford Union.

jumper and it was nothing but net from there. I spent a lot of time in the summer — a lot of hours in the gym — working on my shot, and tonight it paid off.

"It feels good to win this one, especially because it was our first game. Hopefully, it sets the momentum for sever-

al games to come."

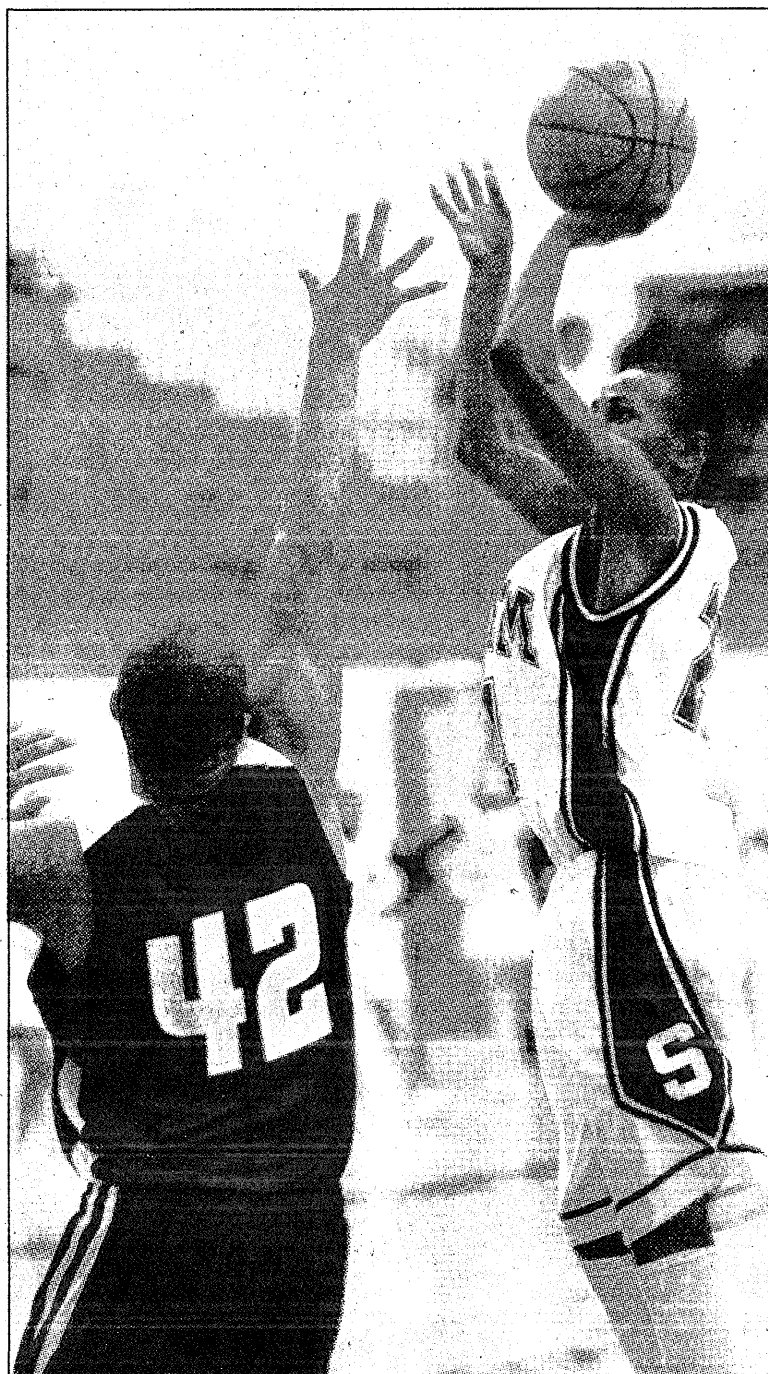
When the Panthers' Remington Leverette converted a baseline drive 20 seconds into the fourth quarter, RU led 42-30 and appeared well on the way to an impressive road win. However, the Rocks clawed back into it thanks to a relentless trapping defense that rattled the Panthers' guards into six fourth-quarter turnovers.

"We stepped up the tempo with our defense in the second half after they controlled the tempo the entire first half," said Salem coach Bob Brodie. "We decided to trap them every time down the court in the second half and the guys stepped up and played well."

"In the first half, it seemed like we were snakebit. It was like, here we go again. But a lot of our seniors have been on the varsity since they were sophomores and tonight that experience they've gained kicked in. I'm very proud of the way they hung in there and got the win."

A pair of juniors — Davis and Grant Stone — led the Rocks with 15 points a piece.

PLEASE SEE SALEM, B3



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Jierah Dixon prepares to unleash the game-winning shot Tuesday night against Redford Union.

## Sidelines

### Baseball tryouts

Registration for the 2007 Canton Little League will be held Jan. 20 and Feb. 17, 2007, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran School, which is at 1309 Penniman Ave. in Plymouth (quarter-mile east of Sheldon).

The leagues offered will be: Minors (7- to 10-year-olds); Majors (11- and 12-year-olds) and Juniors (13- and 14-year-olds).

The league is open to all Plymouth and Canton residents.

Proof of residency and a birth certificate are necessary at the time of registration.

For more information, visit [www.cantonlittleleague.net](http://www.cantonlittleleague.net); or send an e-mail to [info@cantonlittleleague.net](mailto:info@cantonlittleleague.net).

### Hoop tryouts

Tryouts for the Salem/Plymouth/Canton girls basketball club will be held Saturday, Dec. 9, in the Canton High School gymnasium, which is located in the Canton North building. Following are the respective teams' tryouts times:

- U14-U17 — noon to 1:30 p.m.;
- U9 and U10 — 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.;
- U11 and U12 — 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and
- U13 — 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information contact Brian Samulski at (734) 414-0425 or Fred Thomann at (734) 484-7746.

### Ignition food drive

The Detroit Ignition (3-3) teams up with Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan for the Kick it Forward Food Drive to be held on Sunday, Dec. 10, at Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth.

All Ignition fans who bring a non-perishable food item to the 4:35 p.m. game on Dec. 10 against the Milwaukee Wave will receive a \$22 ticket to the Dec. 16 game against the Baltimore Blast for just \$15.

Since 1977, Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan has been turning surplus food into millions of meals for hungry people in southeastern Michigan.

## The 'reel' deal

### It's official: Canton angler's mammoth walleye earns 'world record' status

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

Patience is more than a virtue for successful fishermen — it's a necessity.

It also comes in handy for anglers who have to wait for their potential world-record catches to become certified.

Canton resident Chris Merbler, 14, can attest to both of those facts.

Last April, the Plymouth Christian Academy eighth grader reeled in a whopping 9-pound, 13-ounce walleye while fishing with his dad in Lake

Erie. The Merblers immediately weighed the fish then sent the required paperwork to the International Game Fish Association, which is based in Florida.

Over four months later, the Merblers were informed that their suspicions were correct — Chris's catch was a world record for kids between the ages of 10 and 16.

"The IGFA is pretty strict when it comes to certifying world-record fish," said Ron Merbler. "They look things

PLEASE SEE RECORD, B2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fourteen-year-old Canton resident Chris Merbler (seated) and his dad, Ron, received good news recently when the 9-pound, 4-ounce walleye Chris caught in Lake Erie was certified as a world record.

## Turnovers costly in Chiefs' loss

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

Canton's basketball team was done in by Monroe and a ton of turnovers Tuesday night — but not necessarily in that order.

### PREP HOOP

The host Trojans prevailed, 49-44, in the season opener for both teams. While Monroe's pressure defense was tough, it didn't hurt the Chiefs as much as the 23 turnovers that short-circuited their offensive efforts.

"You're not going to win many games when you turn the ball over that many times," said Canton coach Charlie Paye. "We were leading 17-12 at the half, but we came out and committed way too many turnovers. Monroe's defense gets after it. They're very athletic and very aggressive."

"It was our first game, so we were going in blind. But that's no excuse because they were too."

The Trojans led 9-6 after one quarter before Canton stormed back to seize a five-point advantage at the break. Monroe grabbed a 28-24 lead with eight minutes to play, however, the Chiefs rebounded to knot the game at 42-all with about three minutes to play.

"We just didn't do a good job against their pressure," said Paye. "They dropped back into a 2-2-1 zone and we couldn't hit any shots."

Senior center Ryan Waidmann and junior forward Neil Sharma both scored 13 points to lead the Chiefs. Senior forward Steve Paye netted five points.

The winners were paced by Mike Wallace, who canned 13. Audie Cole and Ramad Brown both contributed 11.

The silver lining to the Chiefs' cloudy night was their performance at the free-throw line. Canton hit 20-of-28 attempts from the charity stripe (71.4 percent). Sharma was perfect, nailing 6-of-6 while Waidmann swished 7-of-9.

Canton will return to action Tuesday when it hosts Troy Athens. The opening tip is set for 7 p.m.



DETROIT IGNITION PHOTO

Jamar Beasley (left) is congratulated by teammates after registering a goal that was part of a 14-point night in the Ignition's 25-15 victory over California Sunday afternoon at Compuware Sports Arena.

## Beasley's 14 pace Ignition

The Detroit Ignition (3-3) defeated the California Cougars, 25-15, in front of 3,121 at Compuware Sports Arena Sunday.

Midfielder Kyt Selaidopoulos registered the game-winning goal, a two-pointer, 2:02 into the fourth quarter of play to give the Cougars their fifth consecutive loss. The Ignition's offensive spark was led by forward Jamar Beasley who tallied a franchise-record 14 points with one three-point goal, four two-point goals, and three assists.

The Cougars took the lead early off an unassisted three-point goal from forward Aaron Susi at 1:24 of the opening frame of play to give California the 3-0 advantage. Detroit

PLEASE SEE IGNITION, B4

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**RECORD**

FROM PAGE B1

over very closely. A lot of techniques that people use when they fish for walleye don't qualify under the IGFA rules. For instance, you can't use certain kinds of hooks or live bait, and if it's a junior angler, the only assistance he or she can receive from someone is to net the fish once it's reeled in."

Chris Merbler said that he sensed the fish was bigger than most as he reeled it in.

"It put up a fight," he said. "We fished a little longer after I brought it in then we took it right to the post office to get it weighed. You have to get it weighed right away in order for it to be official. Then we filled out a bunch of forms and sent them, a picture of the fish and a sample of the line to the IGFA. I was a little nervous until I heard back from them because you never know if somebody else caught a bigger one while you were waiting for your fish to be certified."

The Merblers have steered their love for fishing into their own Web site:

www.walleyekid.com.

"It's up and running now, but it's not totally done," said Chris. "There's a lot of stuff on there, like information for kids on how to get started fishing, informational videos that you can watch right on the site, the best tackle shops and boat launches in the area and my dad and I put updates on there about where we fished and what we caught with what kind of bait."

One thing Merbler is not ready to do is rest on his laurels — or world records.

He has bigger fish to fry. "Next on Chris's list," said Ron Merbler, "is to catch a world-record perch."

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**How to you spell undefeated? E-A-S-T!**

The East Middle School A and B girls basketball teams recently completed the school's first undefeated seasons in 17 years when they went 16-0. Pictured (front row from left) are Lindsay Krug, Lucy Wildman, Kristin Klavon, Kayla Bridges, Mariah Tesarz, Robyn Mack, Melissa Pronovost, Jackie Godin, (second row from left) Kinari Shah, Ashley Cade, Besa Cera, Alex Roberts, Taylor Birman, coach David Schmittou, Abby Livingston, Kaitlyn Mattson, Alaina Turner, Jasmine Knowles and Kellie Connelly.

**PCS icers battle to 5-5 tie with Blazers**

Despite losing a 3-0 first-period lead, Livonia Ladywood hockey coach Bruce Peck had a lot to be happy about in Tuesday's 5-5 deadlock with host Plymouth-Canton-Salem at the Arctic Edge.

"This was a test for us, I consider it a passing grade," said Peck, whose team lost to state runner-up P-C-S twice last season. "This was only our second game and it was their fourth. We haven't had time to jell. We've had a lot of practices, but not many games."

Ladywood is 1-0-1 in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League, while the Penguins are 3-0-1.

**PREP HOCKEY**

After the Blazers got up by three goals, P-C-S stormed back with four unanswered goals in the second period for a 4-3 advantage.

The Penguins enjoyed a 5-4 lead late in the third period when Ladywood's Abby Kienbaum knotted the count with only 1:20 left on assists from Prenella Semma and Maria Rotondo.

"We dominated the first period and they dominated the second period," Peck said. "We don't have a lot of depth and we got tired."

"But the third period we did not give up. We kept fighting."

Katie Zimmerman paced P-C-S with three goals and one assist. Nikki Songer added one goal and one assist, while Adrienne Cercone scored the other goal.

Laura Szwed led Ladywood with two goals and one assist. Angie Iafano, Semma and Kienbaum each added one goal and one assist. Heather Sartorius and Rotondo each contributed two assists.

Ladywood goalie Michelle Wyniemko made a total of 26 saves, while the Penguins' Kristie Kowalski stopped 20 shots.

**Red-hot Whalers ice Guelph, 4-0**

On a bitterly cold Sunday afternoon, the Plymouth Whalers kept up their red-hot pace in the Ontario Hockey League with a 4-0 shutout of the Guelph Storm in a game played before 3,608 at the Guelph Sports and Entertainment Centre.

Plymouth won all three games played this weekend 4-2 over Saginaw on Friday and 5-3 over Guelph on Saturday (both at the Compuware Sports Arena) to go with Sunday's victory.

The Whalers have won four in a row to move into sole possession of third place in the Ontario Hockey League's West Division with a record of 17-10-1-0 (35 points), five points behind the first-place Spirit (19-9-0-2) and one point behind second-place Sarnia (16-9-2-2).

Although the Whalers received contributions from just about everyone on their roster in the victory in Guelph, center Evan Brophrey — who was celebrating his 20th birthday — emerged as the game's first star, figuring in on all four Whaler goals with a goal of his own and three assists. In three games last weekend, Brophrey figured in on nine of Plymouth's 13 goals with three goals and six assists.

Brophrey was also the first star in the Whalers' 5-3 over Guelph on Saturday. Brophrey — a Chicago Blackhawks draftee — leads Plymouth in scoring with 11 goals and 35 assists for 46 points in 28 games.

Besides Brophrey, Tom Sestito (14th), Steve Ward (seventh) and James Neal (team-leading 17th) also scored for the Whalers. Plymouth goaltender Michal Neuvirth posted his first-ever OHL shutout in stopping 28

Guelph shots.

After a scoreless first period, Plymouth opened the scoring at 8:03 of the second period on the power play when Sestito ripped home a rebound off a Ward point shot past Guelph goaltender Tom McCollum.

Brophrey made it 2-0 at 10:33 of the period when he wired a shot on the left wing top shelf past McCollum. Ward capped a Plymouth rush to increase the lead to 3-0 when Brophrey — stationed at the top of the right circle in the Guelph zone — found Ward at the high slot and the Plymouth captain made no mistake.

Neal finished the scoring on another power play at 12:50 of the third period when Brophrey found Chris Terry on the right wing in the Guelph zone and Terry threaded a pass through traffic to Neal on the left wing, who beat McCollum with a well-placed shot.

Although Plymouth scored 13 goals over the weekend in the three victories, the Whalers remain one of the top defensive teams in the OHL. Plymouth is second in the OHL with just 84 goals allowed, trailing Kitchener (81) for the top spot in the OHL. In addition, the Whalers went 16-for-17 on the penalty kill this weekend.

Plymouth plays in London on Thursday before returning home Friday to host Sudbury and Barrie on Saturday at the Compuware Sports Arena. Both games will start at 7:05 p.m. Tickets are available by calling the Compuware Sports Arena at (734) 453-8400 at by going to Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com.

**'Cup' headed to Compuware**

After a successful visit to Compuware Sports Arena earlier this year, details for the Stanley Cup's return to the Compuware Sports Arena are starting to take shape.

The Stanley Cup will be back in Plymouth on Friday. After a 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. visit and public viewing at one of the 18-Detroit Area Plymouth Whalers Customer Reward program partner Meijer stores (Meijer of Canton, 45001 Ford Road) the Cup will be on display at the Compuware Sports Arena from 7:15-11 p.m. in the Main NHL Arena. Plymouth Whalers season ticket holders and hockey fans of all ages will be able to view and enjoy the Stanley Cup while taking in the Plymouth Whalers vs. Sudbury Wolves game, which begins at 7:05 p.m.

"We're grateful that (Compuware CEO) Peter Karmanos has decided to bring the Cup back to Plymouth again this year," said Plymouth Whalers President, General Manager and Head Coach Mike Vellucci. "Hockey fans love to be with the Cup, so we're excited to give them the opportunity to see the Stanley

Cup one more time this season."

Like last July 17, the Compuware Sports Arena will provide a professional photographer for fans who want a picture with the Stanley Cup or folks can bring their own 35-millimeter cameras and snap a photo. The arena is requesting a \$10 donation for professional photographers with proceeds being donated to the Karmanos Cancer Institute.

Hockey fans who don't already have tickets to the Friday, Dec. 8 game can purchase tickets at any Ticketmaster location, the Compuware Sports Arena box-office (Open 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday to Friday) or by calling (734) 453-8400 and charging by phone.

After hosting Sudbury and the Stanley Cup on Dec. 8, the Whalers host Barrie on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 7:05 p.m. The game features the Whalers' Annual Teddy Bear Toss. Fans attending the game are requested to bring a new Teddy Bear to the game and throw it on the ice the first time the Whalers score in the game. The new bruins will be picked up and donated to charity, courtesy of Plymouth United Way.



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**SALEM**

FROM PAGE B1

Davis scored Salem's first seven points, but was forced to the bench for the rest of the first half after committing his second personal foul with 2:43 left in the first quarter. Despite the reduced minutes, the junior enjoyed a stellar varsity debut as he also contributed seven rebounds and four steals.

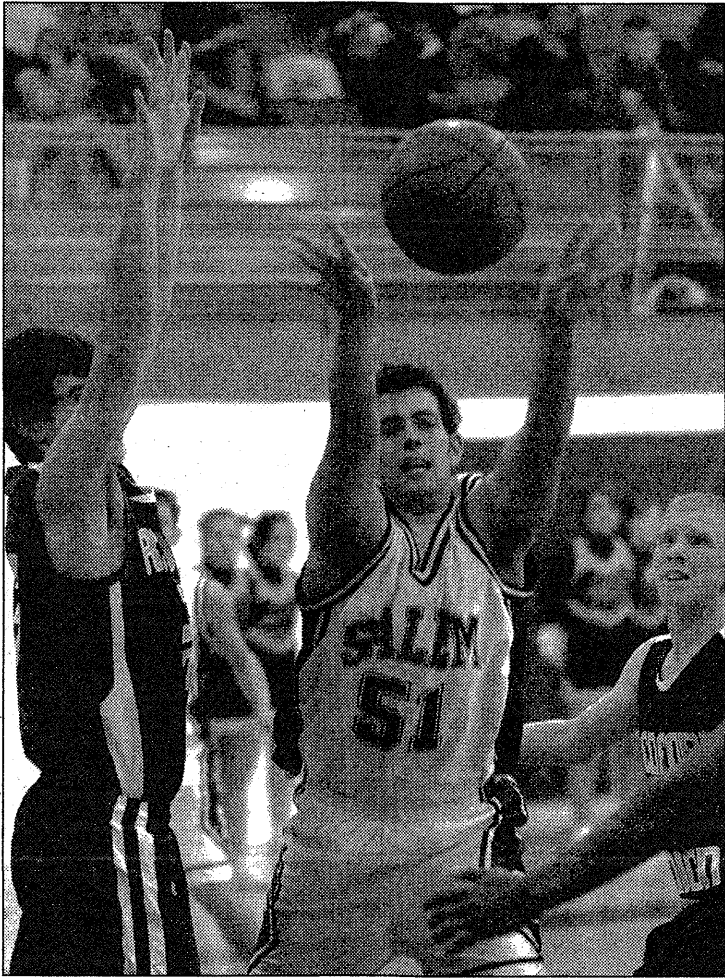
Senior J.P. Truesdell and Dixon both finished with seven points for the winners.

Leverette paced the Panthers with 18 points and six rebounds. Guard Justin Floyd added 11 points and Baird netted nine. Just six players scored for each team.

The calendar said "December," but the game's final three minutes had "March Madness" written all over them. With RU leading 46-41, the Rocks reeled off a 6-0 run thanks to a put-back by Truesdell (3:10 left), a mini-hook from Davis (2:00) and a fade-away jumper from Stone with 1:01 remaining.

Leverette canned a 17-foot jump shot with 35 seconds left to put the Panthers up, 48-47, but it only set the stage for Dixon's heroics.

"I feel good about this team," said Dixon, who was first promoted to the varsity during the winter of 2004. "We're probably not going to be great, but we're not going to be horrible either. If we keep working hard I think we can win a lot more games than we did last year."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's J.P. Truesdell delivers a pass during Tuesday night's 49-48 victory over Redford Union. Truesdell finished with seven points and six rebounds.

Both teams shot well from the floor: Salem hit 20-of-41 shots (48.7 percent) while the Panthers connected on 20-of-39 (51.2).

The Rocks made 5-of-8 free throws (62.5); the Panthers drained 3-of-7 shots (42.8) from the charity stripe.

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**Ramthun's 20 lead LW over PCA**

Senior guard Kyle Ramthun scored 20 points Tuesday as Lutheran High Westland earned a season-opening 50-39 victory at Plymouth Christian Academy.

"We missed a lot of free throws and we missed a lot of layups," said first-year PCA coach David Yost. "On the bright side, the boys didn't get frustrated; their court presence was very good."

"It's tough playing in the first game with a new coach and a new system. I'm a man-to-man kind of coach and they're used to playing more zone. I'm encouraged by how hard the boys work."

Sophomore forward Sam Ahlersmeyer added seven points for the winners, while senior center Alex Edwards and junior forward Josh Haller

combined for 18 rebounds.

The Warriors controlled play from start to finish, building an 18-point fourth-quarter advantage.

"We shot poorly the first half," said Lutheran Westland coach Dan Ramthun, whose team led 25-17. "Maybe we were pressing a little bit. We missed some easy ones."

"We did not shoot well, but we played well enough defensively."

Senior forward Matt Saagman led the Eagles with 14 points. Trevor Zinn added seven for PCA, which hosts Franklin Road Christian on Friday night.

The Warriors were 13-of-22 from the foul line, while PCA was 6-of-15.

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

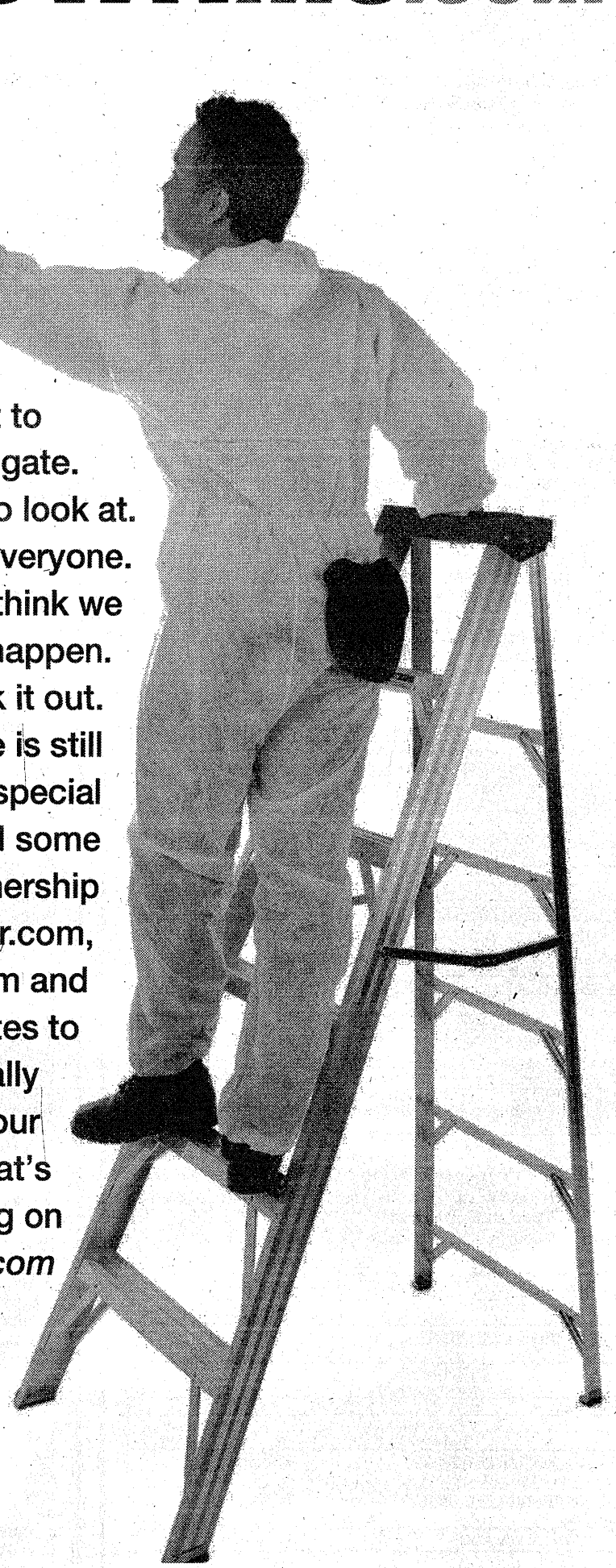
**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
Thursday, Dec. 7  
Lutheran South at Canton Agape at United Christian Church, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Dec. 8  
Monroe at Salem, 7 p.m.  
Canton Agape at Deerfield, 7 p.m.  
Franklin Road at PCA, 7 p.m.  
**PREP HOCKEY**  
Friday, Dec. 8  
Northville at Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m.  
Plymouth at Livonia Churchill at Eddie Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.  
Saturday, Dec. 9  
Canton at Dearborn at Detroit Skate Club, 7:20 p.m.

**PREP WRESTLING**  
Saturday, Dec. 9  
Canton at Davison Invitational, 10 a.m.  
Salem 10-Team Invitational, 9 a.m.  
Plymouth at Temperance-Bedford Invitational, 10 a.m.  
**PREP VOLLEYBALL**  
Saturday, Dec. 9  
Canton at South Lyon Invite, 8 a.m.  
Plymouth at Madonna Tournament at Plymouth, 8:30 a.m.  
**MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**  
Friday, Dec. 8  
(Holland Sentinel Comm. Tourney)  
Madonna vs. Goshen (Ind.), 6 p.m.  
Hope College vs. Grace Bible, 8 p.m.  
Saturday, Dec. 9

Holland Sentinel Tourney, 1 & 3 p.m.  
**WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**  
Saturday, Dec. 9  
Goshen (Ind.) at Madonna, noon.  
**ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE**  
Thursday, Dec. 7  
Whalers at London Knights, 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, Dec. 8  
Whalers vs. Sudbury Wolves at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m.  
Saturday, Dec. 9  
Whalers vs. Barrie Colts at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m.  
**MAJOR INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE**  
Saturday, Dec. 9  
Det. Ignition at Milwaukee Wave, 4:35 p.m.

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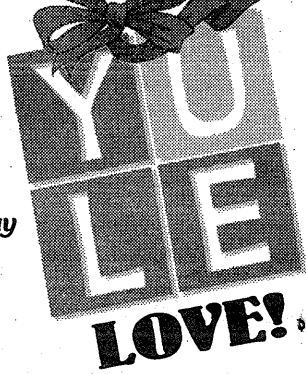
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**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth, Michigan will accept sealed bids until 10:00 am, Tuesday December 19, 2006. The bid opening will take place at 10:00 am, Tuesday December 19, 2006 at Plymouth City Hall 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth Michigan for the following:

DDA Landscape Maintenance 2007

Specifications and bid documents are available in the City Manager's Office, at City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, 48170 during normal business hours. You may also download a copy of the documentation from the City's web site at: <http://www.ci.plymouth.mi.us>.

Questions regarding this bid should be directed to the Downtown Development Authority at [dda@ci.plymouth.mi.us](mailto:dda@ci.plymouth.mi.us) or (734) 455-1453.

The City of Plymouth reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, and to waive any irregularities.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC  
City Clerk  
City of Plymouth

Publish: December 7 & 10, 2006

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1993 Chevrolet	Suburban Cheyen	1GNEC16K1PJ352981
1991 Pontiac	Grand Am LE (White)	1G2NE14A7MC566956
1992 Cadillac	Seville Touring (Black)	1G6KY5B2NU819798
1992 Mercury	Mystique (Red)	1MELM6538SK601184
1991 Pontiac	Sunbird (Blue)	1G2JB14T2M7624716
1995 Mercury	Cougar (Black)	1MELM6243RH620827
1998 Ford	Escort (White)	1FAPP10P1WW234460
1989 Ford	Thunderbird (Silver)	1FAPP624XKH146025
1996 Oldsmobile	88 LSS (Green)	1G3HY52K9T4843683
1990 Ford	F150 Custom/Special	1FTDF15Y1LLA36481
1997 Ford	Taurus (Burgundy)	1FALP52U7VG262480
1995 Toyota	Tercel	JT2EL55D650063637
1989 Toyota	Camry LE (Burgundy)	JT2VV22E5K0072559
1990 Pontiac	Sunbird (White)	1G2JB34K5L7637090
1991 Mazda	Protege (Black)	JM1BG2264M0293179
1996 Pontiac	Grand Am (Tan)	1G2NE52TXXM541747
1996 Chevrolet	Impala (Purple)	1G1BL52P3TR108239
1992 Pontiac	Grand Prix (White)	1G2WH54T4NF235532
1991 Buick	Century (Burgundy)	1G4CW53L6M1682957
1989 Pontiac	Sunbird (Blue)	1G2JB11K0K7601167
1995 Mercury	Cougar (Green)	1MELM62W6SH601728
1999 Honda	Civic (Red)	1HGEJ6671XL034727
1988 Ford	Ranger SXT/XL/XT	1FTCR10A5JUE10837

Publish: December 7, 2006

0E08492985

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED USE OF THE 2007 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS**  
DECEMBER 19, 2006

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM WILL BE HELD BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE MEETING ROOM OF THE TOWNSHIP HALL WHICH IS LOCATED AT 9955 N. HAGGERTY RD. ON DECEMBER 19, 2006.

THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE TO AFFORD THE PUBLIC THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLACE BEFORE THE BOARD ANY PROPOSED USE OF THE 2007 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS.

PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS FROM THE WAYNE COUNTY OFFICE OF BLOCK GRANT, WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM, ARE THAT THE ESTIMATED 2007 FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR THE TOWNSHIP WILL BE APPROXIMATELY \$106,000.00. WAYNE COUNTY REQUIRES FOR 2007 THAT OUR REQUEST FOR PUBLIC SERVICE PROJECTS NOT EXCEED 19 % OF THE TOTAL ALLOCATION. BASED ON THAT SPECIAL REQUIREMENT THE PROJECTS ARE PROPOSED AS FOLLOWS:

PROJECT	BREAKDOWN OF ALLOCATION BASED ON 19% PUBLIC SERVICE
<b>PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$20,140.00</b>
Senior Services	\$ 5,495.00
Council on Aging	\$3,520.00
Senior Alliance	\$1,975.00
Transportation	\$14,645.00
Disabled Van	\$4,845.00
Senior Transportation	\$9,800.00
<b>BRICKS &amp; MORTAR PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$ 75,260.00</b>
Multi-Year Friendship Station	\$75,260.00
<b>ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$10,600.00</b>
Administration	\$10,600.00
<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION</b>	<b>\$106,000.00</b>

IF WAYNE COUNTY DETERMINES AFTER ALL APPLICATIONS ARE RECEIVED THAT ADDITIONAL FUNDS SHALL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE PROJECTS THE PROPOSED ALLOCATIONS SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS:

PROJECT	PREFERRED BREAKDOWN OF ALLOCATION SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAM
<b>PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$1,445.00</b>
Senior Services	\$14,030.00
Council on Aging	\$9,030.00
Senior Alliance	\$5,000.00
Transportation	\$37,415.00
Disabled Van	\$12,380.00
Senior Transportation	\$25,035.00
<b>BRICKS &amp; MORTAR PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$43,955.00</b>
Multi-Year Friendship Station	\$43,955.00
<b>ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$10,600.00</b>
Administration	\$10,600.00
<b>TOTAL ALLOCATION</b>	<b>\$106,000.00</b>

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH, UPON COMPLETION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING, WILL DETERMINE THE USE OF THE 2007 FUNDS.

ANY WRITTEN COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED USE OF THE 2007 FUNDS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO SUSAN VIGNOE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COORDINATOR, CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH 9955 N. HAGGERTY RD, PLYMOUTH, MI, 48170 AND MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2006.

MARILYN MASSENGILL, CMC  
CLERK, CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

Publish: December 7, 2006

0E08493013

**IGNITION**

FROM PAGE B1

responded quickly as rookie forward Worth Sampson put a two-pointer into the back of the net at 3:07 and cut the Cougars lead down to 3-2.

Beasley put Detroit up 4-3 at 10:13 of the first quarter with an unassisted two-pointer. Sampson registered his second goal of the game — a two-pointer — at 11:48 to extend the Ignition lead to 6-3.

The Ignition kept its momentum going with a two-point goal from Ricardinho at 12:56 putting Detroit up 8-3. Detroit forward Mike Apple put the Ignition up 10-3 on a two-point goal, his first of the season, at 13:49 off a pass from Jonathan Greenfield.

The Cougars came back with a two-pointer at 14:08 from Enrique Tovar cutting the Ignition lead to 10-5 at the end of the first quarter.

Cougars defenseman Antonio Sutton beat Ignition goalkeeper Danny Waltman with a two-point goal at the 4:33 of the third quarter cutting the Detroit lead to just 12-9. Midfielder Jorge Martinez edged the Cougars

to within 12-11 with a goal at the 8:49 mark.

The Cougars' offense struck again with another two-point goal from Sutton at 9:28, giving them a 13-12 advantage and their first lead of the game. The Ignition regained the advantage with a two-point power-play goal from Apple.

Selaidopoulos buried one into the back of the net, his first two-point goal of the season, off a pass from Hewerton at 2:02 of the fourth quarter to put the Ignition up 16-13. California responded quickly with a two-point, unassisted goal from Eduardo Velez at 2:26 as the Ignition held on to their 16-15 advantage.

Beasley registered another two-point goal, his third of the night, at 3:28 off a pass from Carlos Farias to extend Detroit's lead to 18-15.

The two connected again as Beasley tallied his fourth two-point goal of the night at 5:52 to extend Detroit's lead to 20-15. Again Beasley found the net with a three-point, sixth attacker goal at 14:12 extending the Detroit lead to 23-15. Beasley rounded off the night with another two-point goal, his fifth score of the night, at 14:34 to give the Ignition the 25-15 win over the California Cougars.

**SPORTS BRIEF**

**HVS WINTER PROGRAMS**

High Velocity Sports in Canton will be offering its "Winter 2" round of sports programs beginning Jan. 2 through Feb. 28.

The registration deadline for indoor soccer, flag football and dodge ball is Dec. 15. Leagues traditionally sell out during "Winter 2", so teams are encouraged to sign up early.

The team fee for indoor soccer (under-9 through over-30) is \$925 and the free agent fee (for players who need to sign up without a team) is \$95. The fee for U5-U8 is \$550 and the free agent fee is \$65. All indoor soccer leagues include eight games and free agent fees include a free T-shirt.

The team fee for flag football is \$925. Elementary, middle, high school and adult leagues will be offered.

The team fee for dodge ball is \$400 for six games, plus an end-of-the-season tournament. Teams consist of at least 10 players. Instructional clinics for soccer, basketball and volleyball are also available. Check [www.hvsports.com](http://www.hvsports.com) for information on drop-in soccer and basketball; or call (734) HV-SPORT.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON**

**ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS**

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Canton. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing or calling the following:

David Medley, ADA Coordinator  
Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road  
Canton, MI 48188  
(734) 394-5260

Publish: December 7, 2006

0E08492779

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON**

**FY 2007 CDBG PROGRAM**

Between December 7, 2006 and January 7, 2007, the Canton CDBG Advisory Council will accept project proposals for the FY 2007 Community Development Block Grant Program. All projects must benefit low and moderate income Canton residents and must comply with HUD regulations. The FY 2007 CDBG allocation is estimated to be \$336,000.00. Project proposals may be submitted through the Community Services Division, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188-1699. The Advisory Council will consider all project proposals at a duly noticed public hearing to be held in March, 2007. Requests for information and the project proposal form should be directed to: Gerald Martin, Community Services Division, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48188, (734) 394-5194.

TERRY BENNETT, Clerk

Publish: December 7 & 14, 2006

0E08492779

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH**

To all residents and other interested parties: Agenda's and Minutes for the Township of Plymouth Board of Trustee Meetings are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township Web site: [www.plymouthtwp.org](http://www.plymouthtwp.org).

Minutes and agenda's are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, for public perusal.

Marilyn Massengill, CMC  
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: October 5, 19, November 9 & December 7, 2006

0E08448545

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON**

**INVITATION TO BID**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, December 21, 2006 for the following:

**PURCHASE OF GOLF CARS & SALE OF USED CLUB CAR GOLF CARS**

Bid forms may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department, from our website at [www.canton-mi.org](http://www.canton-mi.org) or you may contact Mike Sheppard at (734) 394-5225. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the bid title, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

Publish: December 7, 2006

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

0E08492785

**Charter Township of Canton Board Proceedings-**

November 28, 2006

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held Tuesday, November 28, 2006, at 1150 Canton Center S. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. **Roll Call** Members Present: Bennett, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Members Absent: Caccamo (on Military leave) Staff Present: Director Eva, Executive Director Santomauro, Director Conklin, Director Faas **Adoption of Agenda** Motion by Yack, supported by Zarbo to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by all members present. **Approval of Minutes** Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the Board Minutes of November 14, 2006. Motion carried by all members present. **Citizens Non Agenda Item Comments:** George Kruczek, 6618 Carlton, stated at the Sunflower Subdivision Homeowners Association meeting in November, residents had some concern regarding the quarterly fixed charge on their water bills. Payment of Bills Motion by Kirchgatter, supported by Bennett to approve payment of the bills as presented. Motion carried by all members present. **Expenditure Recap for November 28, 2006**

General Fund	101	\$ 287,320.11
Fire Fund	206	48,722.26
Police Fund	207	73,793.32
Summit Operating	208	19,320.48
Cable TV Fund	230	1,729.79
Public Improvement	245	6,600.00
Twp Improvement	246	139,354.00
E-911 Utility	261	855.60
Auto Forfeiture(wwa)	267	9,813.44
Federal Grants Fund	274	2,172.00
Auto Theft Grant	289	18,014.75
Downtown Dev Authority	294	83,200.86
Cap Proj-Road Paving	403	72,410.42
Bldg Auth Construction	469	2,250.00
Golf Fund	584	32,484.21
Water & Sewer Fund	592	43,310.47
Construction Escrows	702	165,760.12
Post Employ. Benefits	736	31,662.71

**Total - All Funds 1,138,774.44**

**PRESENTATION: PRESENTATION OF FIRE PROMOTION BADGES.** Trustee Zarbo presented Captain badge's to Thomas Davison and John Hunter and Lieutenant badge's to Robert Glenn, and Tom Krueger. **GENERAL CALENDAR:** Item 1. CONSIDER SITE PLAN FOR COMMUNITY FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution for site plan for Community Financial Credit Union. Motion carried by all members present.

**RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON Site Plan for Community Financial Credit Union**

WHEREAS, the Project Sponsor, Mr. Randy Penner, has requested site plan approval for Community Financial Credit Union to be located at the southeast corner of Michigan Avenue and Beck Road, identified as tax EDP # 128-99-0007-002; and, WHEREAS, the Planning Commission reviewed the site plan and made a recommendation to approve the request to grant site plan approval, as summarized in the attached written analysis and recommendation. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton, Michigan does hereby approve the request of the petitioner, Mr. Randy Penner, to approve the site plan for the proposed Community Financial Credit Union subject to any and all state and local development regulations and further subject to any conditions recommended by the Planning Commission and staff, as described in the analysis and recommendation attached hereto and made a part hereof. Item 2. CONSIDER THE INTERSECTION AUDIT COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2007 INTERSECTION SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to accept the Intersection Audit Committee's recommendation for the 2007 Intersection Safety Improvement Program as noted below: Capital Projects Road Paving Fund, Account Number 403-506-969-0000 Construction, Saltz @ Canton Center: \$150,000, Palmer @ Haggerty: \$200,000, Joy @ Canton Center: \$100,000, Joy @ Haggerty: \$200,000, Cherry Hill @ Beck: \$140,600 ( plus \$50,000 from Biltmore), Engineering & Land for 2008 Program: \$334,400

Total: \$1,125,000 Motion carried by all members present. Item 3. CONSIDER AGREEMENT WITH WAYNE COUNTY TO PROVIDE WINTER MAINTENANCE ON 17.11 MILES OF COUNTY ROADS. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to approve the agreement with Wayne County to provide additional winter maintenance for 17.11 miles of local roads and authorize the

payment of \$46,021.52 from account No. 101-441-950-0000 (Wayne County Road Maintenance). Motion carried by all members present. Item 4.

**CONSIDER AUTHORIZING BODY AND PAINT REPAIRS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE PATROL UNIT #2416. (MSD)**

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to authorize payment to Jack Demmer Ford for performing necessary body and paint repairs to Public Safety Police Patrol unit #2416 at a cost of \$5,332.64, with a possibility of added costs after tear-down. The Fleet Supervisor has generated a purchase order in the amount of \$5332.64 from the 592-000-110-1500 account and once repairs have been performed a repair order back-charging the Police Department 207-301-932-0000 account. Motion carried by all members present. Item 5. **AWARD CONTRACT FOR SEPTIC FIELD INSTALLATION. (FBD)** Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to award the contract for emergency septic field construction and septic tank replacement at a residence on North Canton Center Road to Al Pearson & Son Septic Tank Cleaning Co., Inc. in the amount of \$22,970 plus a 10 percent contingency of \$2,297 for a purchase order total of \$25,267 (CDBG Program). Motion carried by all members present. Item 6. **INCREASE TWO HOUSING REHABILITATION PURCHASE ORDERS. (FBD)** Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to increase P.O. #60540 for Winter Drive Rehab by \$359.00 and increase P.O. #62053 for Canton Center Rehab by \$2,755.00 equaling \$3,114.00 (CDBG Affordable Housing Contingency, Account #274-666-972-2006). Motion carried by all members present. Item 7. **CONSIDER A FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRELIMINARY BREATH TESTS AND HARDWARE/SOFTWARE ASSOCIATED WITH TRACKING THOSE FEES. (PSD)** Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to establish the following fee schedule to charge walk-in customers at the police department front desk for the service of administering preliminary breath tests: • Canton residents: \$10 per test (a visit to the department is considered a test) • Non-residents: \$20 per test \*\* Collection of fees to begin January 1, 2007. Further, I move to extend the capital purchasing deadline and approve hardware/software purchases associated with tracking these fees from Online Solutions, Inc. 2762 Woodmont West, Canton, MI 48188 in the amount of \$2065—FY2006 Police Account # 207 301 977 2580. Motion carried by all members present. Item 8. **EXTENSION OF GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTANT SERVICE CONTRACT. (SUPERVISOR)** Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter that the Canton Township Board of Trustees extend the contract of Governmental Consultant Services, Inc. for issue lobbying for a 2-year term beginning January 1, 2007 and continuing thereafter on a month-to-month basis until written notice of termination has been served with 90 days prior notice by either party. Motion carried by all members present. Item 9. **GENERAL FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT - CLERK'S OFFICE AND ELECTIONS DIVISION. (CLERK)** Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the following budget in the General Fund to increase the Elections Division budget: Decrease Expenditures:

Appropriation from Maintenance and Repair	#101-215-932-0000	\$ 2,015
Appropriation from Postage-Elections Dept.	#101-191-729-0000	\$10,000
Total		\$12,015
Increase Appropriations:		
Overtime-Elections	#101-191-708-0000	\$10,000
Overtime-Clerk's Office	101-215-718-0000	1,400
Office Supplies-Clerk's Office	101-215-727-0000	615
Total		\$12,015

This budget amendment does not affect the Elections Division budget - \$257,100 or the Clerk's Office Budget - \$485,308. Motion carried by all members present. OTHER: Supervisor Yack stated the next regular Board Study Session will be December 5, 2006 at 7:00, with the topics of Sewer Project - Rouge River Flood Plain and the Path System, held at the Administration Building, First Floor, Board Room, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, MI 48188. Supervisor Yack stated the Board participated in the Fire Prevention Poster Contest Awards at 6:30 p.m. this evening. Private and Public schools participated and Trustee LaJoy was the judge. Supervisor Yack stated at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 29, 2006 there will be a Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Summit. **ADJOURN:** Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to adjourn at 7:54 p.m. Motion carried by all members present. - Thomas J. Yack, Supervisor - Terry G. Bennett, Clerk -

Copies of the complete text of the Board Minutes are available at the office of the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd, Canton, MI 48188, during regular business hours and can also be accessed through our web site [www.canton-mi.org](http://www.canton-mi.org) after Board Approval.

Publish: December 7, 2006

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# Local wrestlers anticipate victory-filled campaigns

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

Corey Phillips tips the scales at 140 pounds, but his worth to the Canton wrestling team is immeasurable.

As the three-time state-qualifying grappler prepares to embark on his fourth and final high school season, he does so with an incredible 158 victories already under his belt.

Considering the Chiefs have lost half of last year's "Elite Eight" squad to graduation, Phillips will be counted on more than ever this year for victories and leadership, according to fifth-year head coach Casey Randolph.

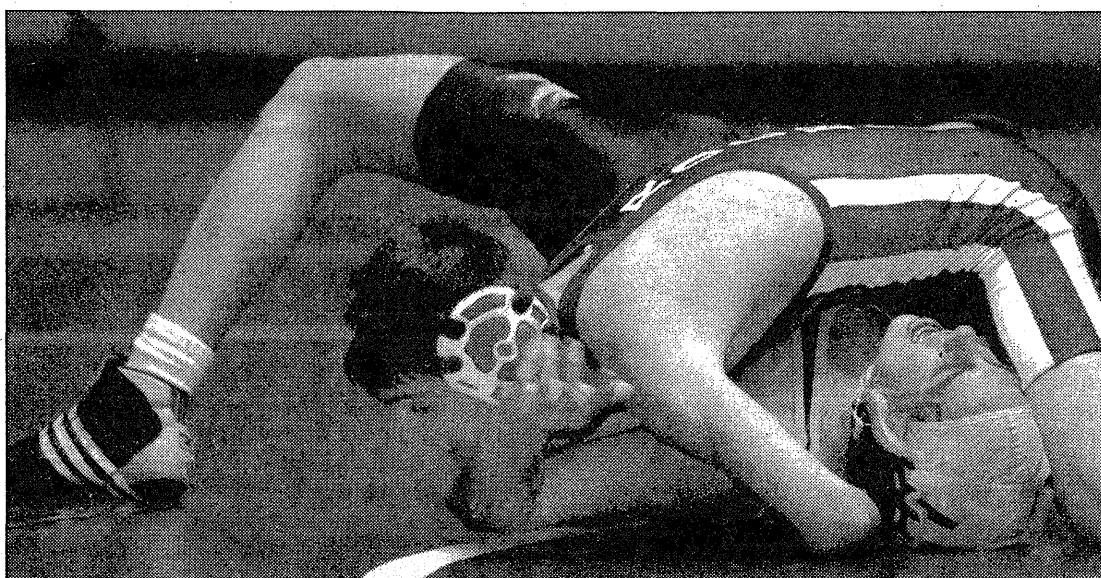
"Corey leads by example," said Randolph. "The other guys have to work hard in practice to match his work ethic. He always wrestles at a high level, but what makes him as good as he is that he's always focused on what he's trying to do. And while he's accomplished a lot so far in his high school career, there are still things that he hasn't accomplished that he wants to get done this year."

The biggest holes in the Chiefs' line-up were left at 145 and 160 pounds — the slots held down last year by Konrad Konsitzke and Marwan Faraj, both of whom have moved on to compete at the college level.

"We're awfully young and inexperienced this year," said Randolph. "We should get better as the season goes on, but only time will tell. If I had to predict who will be tough in the Western Lakes this year, I'd have to say Livonia Franklin is the favorite with John Glenn right behind them."

Serving as captains for the Chiefs this season will be seniors Kiel Price (160) and Donnie Laramie (heavyweight); and junior Adam Powers (189).

"The kids look up to Donnie because of the success he's had in wrestling (two-time state qualifier) and football (All-State defensive lineman)," said Randolph. "He's much more focused and mature than he was last year, so this should be a big year for him. Kiel is in better shape than he's ever been in," said Randolph. "Last year he wrestled up at 171 because we had Marwan at 160,



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Alex Kemp (top) will give the Rocks a strong presence in the lower weight classes this season.

so he's where he should be now. He had a great football season and it looks like that's going to carry over to wrestling.

"Adam just has a great presence. He's a natural leader. It says a lot that the kids voted him captain even though this is his first varsity season."

Other returning key contributors from last year's 28-4 squad include sophomore Carl Lucke (112), senior Adam Fleischmann (119), junior Steve Cox (125) and senior Joe Sanders (152).

Top newcomers who are expected to rack up their share of pins for the Chiefs include Connor Johnson (103), Donnie Watkins (103), Mitch Walski (112), Jeremy Filippelli (119), Phil Rollinger (125), Josh Hurst (130), Fawzi Zeidan (130), Brent Winekoff (135), Andy Rothwell (135), Rodger Kropp (145), Pat Durocher (145), Brian Brubaker (160), Nick McDiarmid (171), Jon Webster (189) and Dan Wanshon (215).

## SALEM

The Rocks will be looking to overcome the loss of eight starters to graduation, including 189-pound state champion Jeremy Henderson. It won't be easy, but veteran coach Greg Woochuk is looking forward to the challenge.

"We have a good group of freshmen in who are wrestling for the first time," said Woochuk.



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Corey Phillips is pictured during a Regional match last season. The three-time state qualifier has accumulated 158 wins heading into his senior season.

"We'll give them a couple of years and if they work hard, they'll be going to states before they graduate."

Salem will debut its 2006-07 contingent Saturday when it hosts a 10-team invitational that will kick off at 9 a.m. The finals are slated to start at approximately 7 p.m.

"It's an individual round-robin tournament, so the kids will get in a lot of matches," said Woochuk. "We always get some good teams in for this one, including Belleville and Adrian."

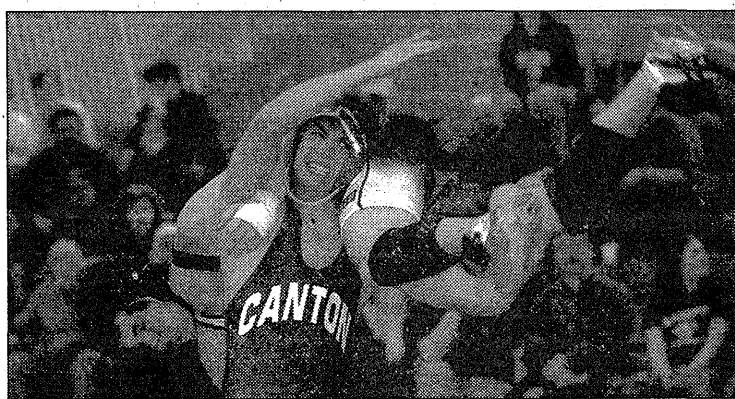
Among the top returners this season will be captains Nick Steiger, a 125-pound senior and Jeremy Epley, a 152-pound junior.

"Nick is a very hard worker who is closing in on 100 career wins," said Woochuk. "He's a four-year varsity wrestler and a good team leader."

"Jeremy is everything you want in a leader. He's a great competitor, a great student and the other kids look up to him."

Other key returners include junior Kevin Bennett (103), junior Alex Kemp (130), Justin Kane (140) and Hussein Ajami (heavyweight). Ajami chalked up over 30 victories last year in his inaugural campaign.

Woochuk is also expecting big things from relative newcomers Ben DeWitt (112 and 119), Grant Heidenreich (112 and 119), Kevin Hayter (130), Greg Taylor (152



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Ben Kosmalski (top) has already racked up a 6-1 record for the Wildcats during the opening week of the 2006-07 wrestling season.

and 160) and Sam Lepper (189). Playing key roles in developing the up-and-coming Rocks will be assistant coaches Tony Kennard, Jason Krueger and Pete Israel.

## PLYMOUTH

The Wildcats have gotten off to a fast — and early — start under the guidance of first-year coach Jay Helm, who has led his team to a 4-3 dual-meet record. The Wildcats defeated Milford Lakeland, 39-37, and Fenton, 51-20, at a quad meet last week before placing fourth in the eight-team L'Anse Creuse Dual Tournament this past weekend.

Leading the way for the Wildcats have been senior Ben Kosmalski, who has racked up a 6-1 record at 119 pounds, Vince Darolfi, who has gone 5-0 with four falls at 189 and Dean Hubbard, who is 3-0 as a heavyweight. Junior Chris Favot is also off to a red-hot start after winning six of his first seven matches.

"We had a number of would-be seniors who opted not to get on board this year because of the coaching change or for whatever other reasons," said Helm. "But we have over 30 kids who are here every day, working hard and doing what is asked of them."

"Leading the way so far has been Ben. He has a team-high 34 takedowns already and he's been a great leader for us. He only has one loss and that was to a kid from New Boston Huron who finished fifth in the state last year."

"Vince has been a great leader for us, too, so far. This past weekend he had a badly sprained ankle and we told him it was up

to him whether he wanted to wrestle or not. In fact, we kind of hinted to him that he may want to sit out the tournament. But he decided to wrestle and he got three pins in three matches. He's a very tough kid who leads by example.

"Dean is a fine young man who offers good senior leadership. We're counting on him to be our guy at heavyweight the entire year."

Helm said he will rotate his captains on a week-to-week basis, depending upon who is setting the best example in practice and in matches.

"Since this is our first year, the coaches decided to leave the captains positions open so that everyone would have the opportunity to be a leader throughout the course of the season," said Helm. "Last week it was Ben and Vince."

Other Wildcats who are expected to make key contributions this season include Soham Parikh (103), Anthony Favot (103 and 112), Zach Neville (112), Vince Rizzo (145), Eddie Saras (171) and Anthony Pomerson (215). Rizzo has already accumulated five victories in the early going. First-year grapplers who will be counted on for points include Brandon Crowther, Rob Barackman, Justin Wagoner and Dylan Spicher.

"One of the reasons we've had so much success early on has been our assistant coach, Ben Hitchcock," said Helm. "He's very energetic and he's a great communicator."

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# Lions, at 2-10, need to stop the Mini

There really is no reason why the Lions haven't beaten the Minnesota Vikings since 2001. It's not like the Vikes have been one of the NFL's elite teams in that time. As bad as the Lions have played for the last six years, no squad has dominated them like the good party ship Minnesota.

Nine straight times the Vikings have gone away victorious against Detroit. Since Scott Mitchell found Herman Moore in the end zone with just two seconds to play at the Metrodome back in 1997, the Lions' record against the purple people eaters is a robust 2-15. Two wins over their NFC North rivals in the last 17 meetings. How many times has Minnesota gone to the Super Bowl in that span? Zero.

Daunte Culpepper never lost to the Lions. Sure, he was an All-Pro quarterback, but that kind of domination is usually saved for the Montanas or



Mark Wilson

Always of the football world. Mike Tice got fired in Minnesota after last season. Like Culpepper, he was on the winning end of football games vs. Detroit every time he played it. Mystifying.

"We just seem to have their number," Vikings cornerback Fred Smoot said when asked this past October why his team has owned the Lions over the last decade. "It's just one of those things."

The Vikings beat the Lions Oct. 8 in one of the strangest contests of the year. It was 17-3 Lions in the fourth quarter in Minneapolis when the Vikes ripped off 23 unanswered points, fueled by two huge Jon Kitna turnovers. Ben Leber returned a Kitna fumble 1 yard for a score and, later, E.J.

Henderson took one out of midair for a 45-yard interception return. Minnesota, 26-17. Baffling.

"We're a beat up team, but nobody gives a darn. We have to find a way to win," Kitna said dazed and confused after the Lions lost that one to fall to 0-5 at the time.

Minnesota is coming into Ford Field this Sunday with a chance to do it again. The Vikings are fresh off an awful effort against the Bears in Chicago. Brad Johnson was intercepted four times in the loss. The Vikes are just 2-5 since that comeback win in October.

The Lions are 2-10. Their sixth consecutive 10-loss season ranks second all-time in the history of NFL futility. The gold standard was set by Tampa Bay from 1983-94, when they ripped off 12 straight 10-loss seasons. The Lions are now halfway there. They only play 16 games. To lose 10 or more in a

season six straight times in a league that prides itself on parity is beyond amazing. It's downright mind-blowing.

"I feel like every guy in this locker room played winning football and the quarterback let them down today," Kitna said after New England's come-from-behind victory last Sunday in Foxboro.

"The only thing left we have to learn is to be on top of the details in crunch time," Lions coach Rod Marinelli said. "We weren't able to do that."

To the casual observer, what Patriots QB Tom Brady did to the Lions in the fourth quarter was a thing of beauty. Completing 14-of-15 passes down the stretch was vintage Brady. He showed the Lions what it's like to have a Super Bowl-winning leader do his thing when it counted most.

"Winning time," is what former Los Angeles Lakers and Michigan State basketball star Magic

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- Atlanta at Tampa Bay
- Baltimore at Kansas City
- Indianapolis at Jacksonville
- New England at Miami
- New York Giants at Carolina
- Philadelphia at Washington
- Green Bay at San Francisco
- Seattle at Arizona
- Denver at San Diego
- Buffalo at New York Jets
- New Orleans at Dallas

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# Minnesota Vikings' ridiculous win streak

Johnson used to call it. The Lions haven't mastered "winning time" in ages. Their record now in the Matt Millen era is 23-69. Ninety-two games available to win and Detroit has been on the positive side just 23 times. Unbearable.

"Embarrassing and frustrating." Those two words came from a guy on the winning side last Sunday. That was Patriots fullback Heath Evans. New England was embarrassed and frustrated to even be "trailing" the Lions at Gillette Stadium.

"A win is a win," Evans added. Let's face it, New England acted as if the Lions were nothing more than a nuisance. Despite losing three times at home this season, Bill Belichick's team firmly believes it has no business allowing a team like Detroit to even lead in a game. New England is all about "winning time." When it was all said and done, the Pats got their

win and the Lions went home with another 'L.'

Forget this moral victory thing. That's long over. It was cute in 2001 when Marty Mornhinweg would talk about "close losses" as the Lions were rolling to 2-14. The harsh reality is most NFL games are decided by a touchdown or less. Funny how coaches never seem to bring up the "close wins."

"Look, we're 2-10. It's a good 2-10," Roy Williams said to reporters, "but we always figure out a way to lose."

Breaking news to Roy Williams: there is no good 2-10. Never, ever is 2-10 looking good no matter how a team has played. That is not "winning time."

"They went out and played tough, but that's what we're supposed to do," Marinelli said. "That's what we signed up for."

So this Sunday, it's another chance to beat the Vikings. Stop what has become an awful losing streak against a division rival. Cliché time. The Lions really are only playing for pride now. Mike Martz is pulling out all the stops as the season winds down. Backup quarterback Josh McCown made two catches at wide receiver last Sunday. That's one more than high-priced Mike Williams has made all season. McCown would have had a third against the Pats, but one was nullified by his own offensive pass interference penalty.

"It was an opportunity to play and I tried to make the most of it," McCown said, adding, "We just have to keep chopping wood and getting better."

Chop all the wood you like, watching McCown catch balls was not in the Lions' original game plan. It's doubtful the former Arizona Cardinals

starting quarterback is embarking on a Hall of Fame receiving career.

There are two streaks the Lions need to work on the next two weeks. Beating Minnesota for the first time since '01 is up first and then going to Green Bay and winning is second. Detroit hasn't won at Lambeau Field since 1991. The Lions have never beaten Brett Favre in Wisconsin.

If the Lions can do those two things, they will finally get a taste of "winning time." Problem is, they haven't won two in a row since the first two of 2004. Make that three streaks that have to come to an end. No one said "winning time" would be easy.

Mark Wilson is host of the Lions pre- and postgame shows on WKRK-FM (97.1). He's a former Associated Press and Michigan Association of Broadcasters Michigan SportsCaster of the Year. He lives in West Bloomfield.

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# Thursday

## PUZZLE CORNER

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### CROSSWORD PUZZLER

**ACROSS**

- 1 Dandelion, to many
- 5 Foul-smelling
- 9 Build, stangily
- 12 Uncommon
- 13 Not fully enclosed
- 14 I, to Claudius
- 15 Mongol dwelling
- 16 Locale
- 17 Before
- 18 Midnight teller
- 20 Serpent
- 22 Dodge
- 23 Zipped along
- 27 Hayseed humor
- 28 Thurman of the movies
- 29 Comet rival
- 33 Hard water?
- 34 Radiator part
- 35 Quebec
- 36 Mr. Arnaz
- 38 Homer-hitter

- 39 Spinks of the ring
- 40 Blackjack
- 42 Terra
- 43 Tough fabric
- 46 As being
- 47 Lyric poem
- 48 Technical sch.
- 51 Apache weapons
- 55 Brown of renown
- 56 Hatcher or Garr
- 57 Maui cookout
- 58 Amatel ingredient
- 59 Barter
- 60 Flying piscivore

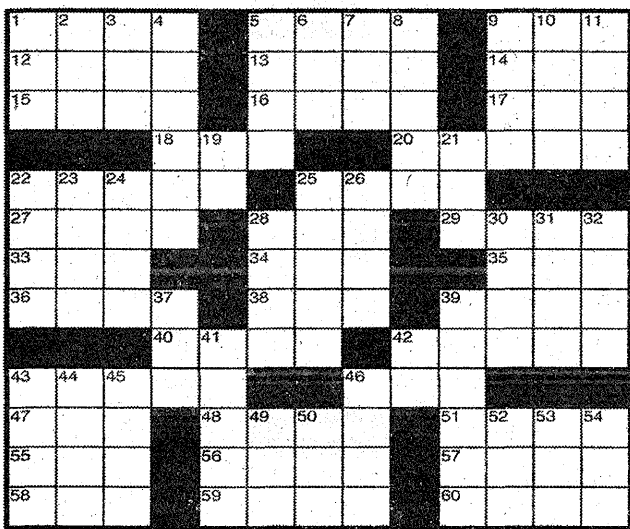
**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

NOON KALE ERS  
 OBIE EWES EEO  
 SOLE NETSURFS  
 HEYDAYS AK  
 I RA BYE BYE  
 RIPEN CBS LAO  
 USER BOB MOWN  
 FLA EEL FOWLS  
 FAKING JON  
 AD AERIALS  
 EVENODDS KLEE  
 BOA WRIT EASE  
 BLT SETS RISK

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- DOWN**
- 1 Dryly humorous
  - 2 Perfume label word
  - 3 Make a wrong move
  - 4 Buttonhole
  - 5 Traipse
  - 6 Calendar abbr.

- 7 Born as
- 8 Rascal
- 9 Traffic sound
- 10 Hideous giant
- 11 Active sort
- 19 NFL score
- 21 Snake River loc.
- 22 Like limes
- 23 Sot
- 24 Assayers' samples
- 25 Farrier
- 26 Gasp
- 28 Tabloid topics
- 30 Catcall
- 31 Bohr's study
- 32 Lucy Lawless role
- 37 Here, in Le Havre
- 39 Prone
- 41 Skips past
- 42 Dr. — Manchu
- 43 Simpleton
- 44 Jeannie portrayer
- 45 Oriole abode
- 46 Ear cleaner (hyph.)
- 49 Experimental
- 50 Tijuana "Mrs."
- 52 Not just my
- 53 Lacking color
- 54 Take legal action



## SUDOKU

	4	2	5						
1	9		7	4					
	7		1	8					2
	8	7	2	9		5	1	3	
	1		3		5		2	4	
			4		8			7	
7		8							5
						9			
	5		8	3	1				7

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## SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

- |           |         |        |
|-----------|---------|--------|
| CHEETAH   | GIRAFFE | RHINO  |
| CROCODILE | HIPPO   | SAFARI |
| ELEPHANT  | LEOPARD | TIGER  |
| GAZELLE   | LION    | ZEBRA  |

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

R E C H E E T A H W  
 C A G S D H I P P O  
 R F A G N M G Z V B  
 O M Z L P O E I Y S  
 C L E O P A R D W A  
 O Q L W S Z H X A F  
 D R L T O E I P U A  
 I B E K J B N F M R  
 L I O N W R O C W I  
 E L E P H A N T A E  
 C K G I R A F F E L

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

**SUDOKU**

7	6	2	3	8	5	4	9	1
8	4	7	5	9	1	3	2	6
3	1	4	2	6	8	9	7	5
6	7	9	8	1	4	3	5	2
4	2	8	5	7	3	6	1	9
3	1	9	6	2	7	8	4	5
2	9	4	6	8	1	9	7	3
9	8	3	2	4	7	5	1	6
1	7	6	3	9	5	4	2	8

**SEEK AND FIND**

C	K	G	I	R	A	F	F	E	L	
E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T	A	E	
L	I	O	N	W	R	O	C	W	I	
I	B	E	K	J	B	N	F	M	R	
D	O	R	L	T	O	E	I	P	U	A
O	Q	L	W	S	Z	H	X	A	F	
C	L	E	O	P	A	R	D	W	A	
O	M	Z	L	P	O	E	I	Y	S	
R	F	A	G	N	M	G	Z	V	B	
C	A	G	S	D	H	I	P	P	O	
R	E	C	H	E	E	T	A	H	W	

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- 3340...Plymouth Ridge
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- 3360...Rochester
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- 3515...Lapeer County
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 Prestigious Beacon Hill 3,054 sq. ft., 2 1/2 baths, finished bsmt. Gazebo in park like yard. Priced \$33K below tax appraisal. \$399,888  
 RE/MAX ALLIANCE  
 thomasgoebel@remax.net  
 734-453-7000

**Redford 3350**

**CUTE AS A BUTTON!**  
 2 bdrm ranch, kitchen w/ newer appliances, newer roof, windows, furnace, large lot, 3 season front porch, one year home warranty, \$93,500.  
**CENTURY 21 PREMIER**  
 (734) 453-4300  
 www.premiersoldit.com

**IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY!**  
 3 bdrm, 2 bath ranch. Spacious living room w/ fireplace. Finished bsmt w/ family room, office, 2nd bath. Updated furnace, C/A, windows, 2 car garage, \$110,000.  
**CENTURY 21 PREMIER**  
 (734) 453-4300  
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**Southfield/Lathrup 3390**

**By Owner**

**LAND CONTRACT TERMS AVAILABLE**  
 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath. Newly remodeled. Approx. 1 acre lot. Good schools. \$179,200. Call (248) 722-5577

**SOUTHFIELD 3 bdrm, bsmt., garage \$154,900. \$395 cash to close. \$1037/mo. Good-Poor-No Credit. 810-955-9549**

**Waterford 3423**

**WATERFORD AUCTION**  
 Breathing lake house. At a steal. Seller to pay all costs, 0% down financing. Private showings by appointment only. Visit our website to view property and other details.  
 www.2730dxie.com

**Wayne 3424**

**GREAT BRICK**  
 Front Ranch on quiet street. Updated Bathroom. Hardwood floors. Eat-in kitchen. New furnace. New roof. Newer windows & patio door in Dining room. Florida room. Fenced yard with new vinyl shed. Home warranty. \$89,900  
**Century 21 Hartford North**  
 (734) 525-9600

**Westland 3445**

**FINISHED BASEMENT**  
 3 bdrm., 2 bath brick ranch, garage, updated kitchen, dining room. \$139,900.  
**UPDATES GALORE**  
 Family Room, fireplace, 2.5 baths, beautiful kitchen, part finished bsmt., attached 2 car garage. \$184,900  
**Century 21 Castelli**  
 734-525-7900

**Livingston County 3520**

**GREEN OAK TWP**  
 Open House Sun 1-4pm  
 9901 Calla Drive  
 1/2 mi. E. of Rushton Rd. N/ off 10 mi. Reduced pricing, seller is motivated, will help with closing cost. Pre qualified for the house and receive a \$25 gift certificate. 4 bdrms, 2.5 baths. Call for private showing.  
 Reggie Carveth  
 810-533-2570  
 Michigan Group  
 6870 W. Grand River

**Real Estate Services 3640**

**BANK FORECLOSURES!**  
 Homes from \$10,000! 1-3 bdrm available! Repos, REOs, FDIC, FSBO, FHA, etc. These homes must sell! For listings call 1-800-425-1620 ext 3421.

**New Home Builders 3700**

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 New Construction in Oakland, Wayne & Macomb Counties. Low 100's to mid 400's Selling Fast 888-403-6783.

**Westland 3445**

**CADILLAC MEMORIAL**  
 Westland, Garden of Hope. 3 adjacent lots. \$2500/best or \$900/each. 313-359-3483.

**Condos 3720**

**By Owner**

**BLOOMFIELD HILLS**  
 Four Seasons, 2300 sq. ft. corner townhouse. 3 bdrm., 2.5 bath, open floor plan. Lg. living rm. w/ private porch. Dining rm. overlooking tennis court. Family rm. to walk-out patio w/private garden. Kitchen open to family rm., master bdrm, lg walk-in closet, 2 under-ground parking spots. Clubhouse, pool, lovely private grounds. Call Barry 248-760-5400.

**CANTON**  
 Pristine condo, 1500 + sq. ft., 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2 car garage. NW of Michigan Ave & 275. Master has private bath & French doors to loft area. Skylights. \$172,900. #2615680

**Tammi Ebenhoeh**  
 734-276-4663 734-669-5910  
 Charles Reinhart Co. Realtors

**CANTON**  
 Sharp 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse style condo with attached garage, built in 1997. Full basement, great location, close to shopping and express ways. \$155,000. #2601486

**Kim Peoples**  
 734-646-4012 734-669-5883  
 Charles Reinhart Co. Realtors

**By Owner**

**FARMINGTON HILLS**  
 Lower level end unit, tree lined, private entry, 1 bdrm, 1 bath, carpet, in-unit laundry, all appliances incl, newer wood floors, newly painted. \$78,500 & 6 mo. assoc. fee or lease \$725/mo. 248-231-0259

**LIVONIA CONDO**  
 Wonderful location in Livonia. Large master bedroom with walk-in closet. Newer carpet, paint and appliances make this condo stand out! Doorwalk to balcony. Heat & water included making this a bargain.  
**Century 21 Hartford North**  
 734-525-9600

**ROCHESTER**  
 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath Ranch, attached garage, \$198,500. ShareNet Realty 248-642-1620

**ROCHESTER HILLS**  
 4 bdrm, 3.5 bath colonial, attached garage, \$360,000. ShareNet Realty 248-642-1620

**By Owner**

**WEST BLOOMFIELD**  
 Fantastic Investment Opportunity 2500 sq. ft. 3 story all brick. New carpet. Walk to shopping, fine dining. Immed. occup. Price slashed! \$249,000 Carol 248-681-0262.

**Commercial/Retail For Sale 3755**

**CANTON**  
 Busy Michigan Ave. corridor in Canton. New 5100 sq. ft. building with one tenant. 4.5 acre site has room for another 15,000 sq. ft. building. \$1,400,000. #2615853  
 BELA SIPOS  
 734-669-5813, 734-747-7888  
 Reinhart Commercial

**Mobile Homes 3750**

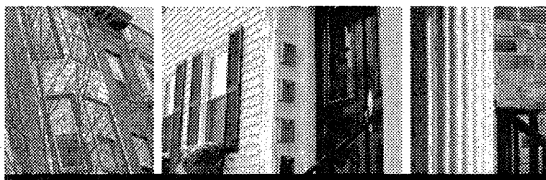
**CANTON**  
 Owner financed. 3 & 2 bdrm., mobile homes as low as \$100/mo. plus lot rent.  
 Call Jim (313) 277-1907

**PARKWOOD 1968**  
 Flamingo Trailer Park. 3 bdrm, large enclosed porch w/ shed. A/C. Great condition! \$500/best. Land contract option. (734) 421-8491

**Resort & Vacation Property 3800**

**Spectacular Virginia Waterfront CORBIN HALL**  
 Gated, private community on Atlantic side of Virginia's Eastern Shore. 3+ acre lots available from \$130K to \$650K with immediate, deep water access to Chincoteague Bay. Amenities include community pier, boat launch & beautiful community center w/guest suites, pool, spa & fitness room. Features spectacular view, mild climate, low taxes, abundant wildlife. Ask about other waterfront properties near the Chesapeake Bay. 7





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All feature central air, 1 cat OK with fee. Appointments available daily. EHO. The Beneicke Group 248-736-1635

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**PLYMOUTH A** Downtown Plymouth apartment above dental office, with separate entrance, is available immediately. \$550/mo. includes all utilities and air cond. Call 734-459-2400

**PLYMOUTH BROUGHAM MANOR** 1 Bdrm. \$570, 2 Bdrm., \$660 (734) 455-1215

**PLYMOUTH** - Clean, large 1 bdrm \$550 & up. 2 bdrm \$675 & up. Incl. heat/water, Laundry on-site. 248-446-2021

**PLYMOUTH** Cute, 1 bdrm w/deck, walking distance to downtown, washer/dryer avail. Plenty of storage, \$590/mo, utilities/\$40. 248-767-0089.

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**Affordable! Great Location!** What more could you ask for? Enjoy the comfort and convenience you deserve in our spacious one bedroom homes. Just one minute from I-696, I-96, M-10 (The Lodge) and Southfield Freeway, you will enjoy all the wonderful things that Metro Detroit has to offer. Come visit your new home today! Features:  
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**BIRMINGHAM TOWNHOUSE** 2 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, full bsmt, hardwood, all amenities, no pets. \$1100. 248-901-0425

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<p><b>Duplexes</b> 4030</p> <p><b>Westland</b> - 2 bdrm. Full bsmt. Clean, neat. Quiet neighborhood. Immediate occupancy. From \$645/mo. Credit check. Call Jamie: 734-721-8111</p> <p><b>hometownlife.com</b></p>								<p><b>Rooms For Rent</b> 4140</p> <p><b>FARMINGTON HILLS</b> Kitchen, Washer/dryer. NO PETS \$295+utilities. Call 248-835-9895</p>

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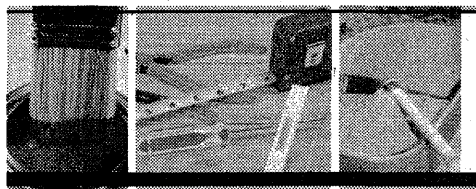
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# DECEMBER HIRING TRENDS FAVOR YOU



**WORKWISE**  
by Mildred L. Culp

Are you ending the year squeezed for cash or squeezed for a job? Don't give up. This may be one of the best months

ever for finding work, whether temporary or permanent.

Mel Katz, executive officer at Manpower Inc., of San Diego, doesn't view job opportunities this December through a holiday prism. His operation places about 375,000 temps annually -- averaging about 4,000 on the job every day. "Over the last year," he says, "we've also been doing a lot of direct-hire employees because of the tight labor market and low unemployment." Seasonal trends aren't making the difference this year. "There are some very in-demand occupations, especially engineering, IT and finance," he reports. He cites defense and telecommunications in particular as busy and short-staffed, with 250 full-time openings to extend for six months to a year, just waiting to be filled in his company. Other openings span light industrial to clerical to high-tech, with lots of assignments in retail, hospitality and contact centers.

Joanne Cretella, vice president of Staffing Services for the Southeast Region of Spherion Corporation in Alpharetta, Ga., says, "There is a great variety of positions -- some management and supervisory -- in call centers and retail, and some industrywide in accounting as company close books." The southeast region places more temps in

December because of the holidays.

## OPTIMISM

Employment prospects have been improving all year long, but several factors are converging to make this an excellent season for job hunting. First of all, many employers get new budgets in January. This motivates them to search more intensely for good people -- and to make decisions. Katz states that 48 percent of people who want permanent work and go to a temporary service will find themselves hired on a permanent basis. "This is not just the holidays," he remarks, "not just Manpower. It's the industry."

"Many temporaries become temp-to-hire," Cretella remarks. "Some companies actually hire temporaries with the precise idea of looking for employees to hire into positions. We also have those (temps) who show up on time, with good work habits and attitudes, and they get hired. This may not be the intent, but it happens many times."

Katz agrees. "If you're looking for direct hire work," he states, "being hired for the holidays is a great way to get hired on a full-time basis, because:

-- "the employer gets to see the kind of work you do;  
-- "you get to see the kind of company it is; and

-- "companies want to convert their temporary or holiday-only employees to full-time employees after the holiday season."

## 'EMPLOYEE'S MARKET'

Not all of these opportunities are slated for young people. Cretella states that Spherion recruits not just younger workers, but has invested considerable effort in workers over



Joanne Cretella, vice president of the Southeast Region of Spherion, speaks about holiday staffing with Gary Belanck, branch manager in Alpharetta, Ga.

30, including mature workers, as part of "a very wide range" of people filling these jobs. "We recruit from various age groups and backgrounds," she says. "Some people may have other professions, like teaching, and may just do this over the holidays. Others, like outdoor laborers, may have seasonal jobs. Some may be not employed and just want some extra money." Katz concurs with the attractiveness of experienced workers. He cites a shortage of seasoned executive/administrative assistants.

But get moving. There is a window. Katz recommends hunting early this month. Cretella says that mid-month is "too late,"

that "holiday hiring isn't just for holiday hiring, because it definitely leads to being hired. It's a great opportunity."

"It's definitely an employee's market," Katz adds. "Check the type of company you're going to. Give it your all." If it doesn't work out, don't panic, he says: "It's going to be the same in January, February and March -- low unemployment combined with the need for experience and good, skilled workers." In other words, don't let age or anything else stand in the way of developing opportunities for yourself.

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp is an award-winning journalist. Copyright 2006 Passage Media.)

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Mon thru Fri, 8:30-4:30 for life insurance office. Proficient in Word, Excel, Outlook. Fax resume to Mr. Schafer 248-647-6523.

**CAR BILLER**  
Exc. pay and benefits. Exp. required. Send resume to Varsity Lincoln Mercury Inc., P.O. Box 633, Novi, MI 48376-0633 Attn: Kevin

**LEGAL SECRETARY**  
Oakland Cty. law firm seeks part time secretary. 2-3 days p/wk. Send resume incl. salary reqs to: Reference Box #1459 oeresume@hometownlife.com

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**  
Immediate opening full time **Real Estate Assistant**  
You should be an organizer, a positive person, a good communicator-both written and verbal, have excellent computer skills, have a good sense of humor, be a fast learner with a quick mind and be willing to work hard and smart. You'll work in a fast paced real estate office in Northville. We offer exciting atmosphere in a people-oriented business. This is NOT an entry level position. No health benefits offered. Please indicate salary desired. E-mail resume to: job-info@sbcglobal.net

**EXP'D RECEPTIONIST**  
Fulltime. Multi phone lines. Good computer/people skills. Fax resume to: 248-644-0331

**LEGAL ASSISTANT/ PARALEGAL**  
Part-Time for real estate related work in Bingham Farms. Please fax resume: (248) 642-9001 E.O.E.

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020

**CERICAL FULL TIME**  
Cash balancing, billing, and reception work. Includes benefits. Novi location. Phone 586-843-2303

**LEGAL SECRETARY-PT**  
Word Perfect. General practice, probate exp. Livonia area. Fax resume: 734-762-0707

**OFFICE HELP-PT**  
Diamond Tool Co in Livonia seeking qualified individual for Part-time Office Help. M-F 12-5p. Call 734-591-1044 M-F, 8-12

**OFFICE MANAGER / BOOKKEEPER**  
40 hrs. Small business. Great phone skills. Accounting. Quickbooks a must. A/P, A/R, MS Word/Excel. Fax resume: 248-358-5678 or Email: arthinc@aol.com

**RECEPTIONIST-FullTime**  
For small professional office in W. Bloomfield. Basic computer skills req. Light Bookkeeping preferred. Fax resume to Richard Green 248-851-8949

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020

**RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY**  
Busy psychiatrists office in Livonia. PT 30-33 hrs p/week. Fax 734-422-5075

**RECEPTIONIST:** For audiology office with general office exp in Bloomfield Hills. Mon-Fri, 8:3a-5p. Fax resume to: 248-723-2938

**SECRETARY/OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR**  
Part-Time, permanent, contractual for psychological consulting firm. Flexible hrs. Excellent working environment. Bloomfield Hills. Mature individual with excellent skills in Windows XP, Word, Quicken & Transcription. (248) 334-9000

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The best local classifieds!  
**1-800-579-7355**

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020

**TIER 1 / TIER 2 MANUFACTURING SUPPLIER IN PLYMOUTH**  
Is currently seeking candidates for...

**ACCOUNTING CLERK/ RECEPTIONIST**  
Responsibilities for this position include:  
Basic accounting duties (matching receivers to receiving report, matching invoices with shippers and purchase order receipts and miscellaneous accounting duties as instructed). General clerical assistance for staff. Distributing mail. Answering multi-line phone system promptly and professionally. Must have excellent phone skills, typing and data entry skills and the ability to multi-task. Must be very detail-oriented and a fast learner. Must have at least 3 years experience in basic accounting. Please forward salary requirements with resume.  
Email: oeresume@hometownlife.com Reference Code #1456

Help Wanted-Engineering 5030

**SOFTWARE ENGINEER**  
LOLA Application Development for Livonia, MI to assist in solving technical issues; understand requirements; implement designs; provide tools/documentation; participate in unit testing & design/code reviews; follow/enhance development processes; measure/verify code has acceptable performance/scalability. Includes on-call duties. Requires Bachelor's in Electrical or Mechanical Engineering; 1 yr experience in programming or software development in the Progress programming language/with Progress databases in connection with loan origination system applications; Progress Software Certificates in Developing Character Applications, Developing WebSpeed Applications 3.1 & Advanced Programming in Progress. Send resume, copies of diploma & certificates, experience letters, and salary requirements to Nicole Carl, Quicken Loans Inc., 20555 Victor Parkway, Livonia, MI 48152. No phone calls.

Help Wanted-Dental 5040

**DENTAL ASSISTANT**  
Full time, experienced assistant needed for busy, friendly Farmington Hills office. Exc. compensation. 248-553-4680.

**CLASSIFIEDS WORK!**  
**1-800-579-7355**

**DENTAL ASSISTANT**  
Needed for family practice in W. Dearborn. FT position with benefits. Call 313-563-2400 or fax 313-563-4608.

**DENTAL ASSISTANT**  
Exp. Full-Time. Plymouth/Canton area. Email resume: lilley45@hotmail.com

**DENTAL FRONT DESK**  
Plymouth area. Exp. in patient scheduling, billing & insurance processing. 734-453-9473

**DENTAL HYGIENIST**  
Maternity sub. Jan. thru March. Mon, Tues & Fri. (flexible) w/possible permanent position Weds. and/or Fri. Farmington Hills. Fax resume 248-855-5373 Or call 248-855-4850

# CAREER MARKETPLACE

**CREDIT SPECIALIST**

- The award-winning Observer & Eccentric Newspapers has a full-time opening for a Credit Specialist in its Livonia office. The Credit Specialist is responsible for contacting and collecting on delinquent accounts, researching customer payments and invoicing, and other related tasks.
- Our Credit Specialist will need two years of previous commercial collection experience; should be able to reconcile advertiser account balances; will exhibit top-notch written and organizational skills; and be proficient in a Microsoft Office environment. The successful candidate will also have a general understanding of collections and credit principles, and will possess an excellent phone manner. This is a multi-tasking position that requires the ability to work independently and will interface with all levels of management.
- Previous experience working with PBS accounting databases and a bachelor's degree in business or a related field are preferred, but not required.
- Interested applicants may submit their resume and salary requirements (referencing Job Code CS) by:

E-mail (preferred): **employment@hometownlife.com**  
Mail: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers  
Human Resources Department  
36251 Schoolcraft Road  
Livonia, Michigan 48150  
Fax: 734.953.2057

**American Laser Centers**  
Hair Removal & Skin Rejuvenation.

**STAFF ACCOUNTANT**  
for service business in Farmington Hills

Looking for a detailed, oriented, reliable Staff Accountant for full time position with rapidly growing business. Experience with General Ledger and accounting software (Great Plains software - a plus). Qualifications: 4 years related experience, Bachelor Degree in Accounting, strong organizational skills; PC skills, excellent written and verbal communication skills. Compensation commensurate with experience.

**Fax resume to: 248.426.0129**  
**or email: careers@alcpartner.com**

**TIER 1 / TIER 2 MANUFACTURING SUPPLIER IN PLYMOUTH**  
Is currently seeking candidates for ...

**Accounting Clerk / Receptionist**

Responsibilities for this position include:  
Basic accounting duties (matching receivers to receiving report, matching invoices with shippers and purchase order receipts and miscellaneous accounting duties as instructed). General clerical assistance for staff. Distributing mail. Answering multi-line phone system promptly and professionally. Must have excellent phone skills, typing and data entry skills and the ability to multi-task. Must be very detail-oriented and a fast learner. Must have at least 3 years experience in basic accounting. Please forward salary requirements with resume.  
Email: oeresume@hometownlife.com Reference Code #1456



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**Help Wanted-Medical 5060**

**AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST**  
Ophthalmologic ASC seeks part-time Medical Receptionist to work limited hours.  
Phone: (248) 584-4602  
Fax: (248) 584-4630

**BILLING MANAGER**  
Medical office seeks experienced Biller. Full-time with exc. pay & benefits.  
Fax resume: 734-996-8767

**CONTINGENT X-RAY TECH**  
Livonia Orthopedic practice. Must have exp. Email to oeresume@hometownlife.com Ref# Box 1457

**MASSAGE THERAPIST**  
Experienced & Certified for Chiropractic office in Commerce Twp. Please fax resume to: 248-960-7229 Attn. Cindy

**Help Wanted-Medical 5060**

**MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST**  
Full-Time for OB/GYN office in Farmington Hills. Experience Absolutely Necessary! Call Elaine: (248) 489-1070

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT**  
Experienced, full time w/x-ray exp. Busy medical practice in Farmington. Email resume to: Medexcel@sbcglobal.net

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT**  
With experience in both front & back office. Part time for busy pro-choice physicians office. (248) 443-0239

**SURGICAL BOARDER**  
Livonia Orthopedic practice. Must be an experienced surgical boarder. Email to: oeresume@hometownlife.com Ref Box #1457

**Help Wanted-Medical 5060**

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT**  
Southfield busy G.I. office, exp. required. Please email: ammatis@comcast.net or Fax 248-746-9588 Attn: Ana

**PHELEBOTOMY EDUCATION**  
Classes begin in Jan. 1 day a week. 5 weeks. Cost \$850 at local hospital. (313) 382-3857

**PHYSICAL THERAPY TECH**  
Part time leading to fulltime. Exp preferred. Call 313-541-2886 Ask for Julie

**RECEPTIONIST**  
Westland Urologists Well Established/Expanding practice FT w/Benefits. 2 yrs Medical Office Exp. Req'd Fax Resume 248-788-0011

Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL(7355)

**Help Wanted-Medical 5060**

**RECEPTIONIST**  
Part-Time, 4-7pm, Mon-Fri. Alternating Saturday's 7:30-11:30am. Plymouth. Please fax resume to: (734) 416-3903

**RECEPTIONIST**  
Experienced. Needed for doctors office in Livonia. Please email resume to: dmc18@comcast.net

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT**  
for pulmonary office. MA/Front office duties. Exp. preferred. Part time, 32 hr./wk. Fax resume to 734-542-4475.

**X-RAY TECH, Registered**  
Full-Time for Doctor's office in Farmington Hills. Interested fax resume: 734-261-0775 for questions call 734-261-3290, 586-504-6681

Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL(7355)

**Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080**

**COOK-PART TIME**  
Available Immediately Apply in person at: Wynwood of Northville, an assisted living community, 40405 Six Mile Road or fax resume 734-420-6173

**RESTAURANT POSITIONS**  
Seeking professional line cooks, waitresses, hostesses, bussers, dishwashers & bartenders. Competitive pay. Southfield, 12 Mile & Northwestern Highway. Please inquire at: 248-358-3355.

**WAITSTAFF**  
Priya Indian Restaurant is looking for friendly Waitstaff for lunch & Dinner shifts. Call Manager 248-615-7700; 36900 Grand River, Farmington Hills, 48335

**Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080**

**WAITRESS'S & HOSTESSES OLGA'S KITCHEN**  
NOW HIRING in West Bloomfield. Apply in person at 6655 Orchard Lake Rd or Call 248-855-3630

**Sell it all with Observer & Eccentric 1-800-579-SELL**

**SHORT ORDER COOK, WAITSTAFF & DISHWASHER**  
Apply in person: Koney Island Inn, Livonia Mall, 7 Mile & Middlebelt. (248) 476-7870

**Help Wanted-Sales 5120**

**A CAREER IN REAL ESTATE! All Real Estate COMPANIES ARE NOT THE SAME**  
If you are serious about entering the business and profession of Real Estate Sales, you owe it to yourself to investigate why we are #1 in the market place and best suited to insure your success. Call ALISSA NEAD @ (734) 459-6000 OR LILLIAN SANDERSON @ (734) 392-6000 **COLDWELL BANKER** PREFERRED REALTORS

**Help Wanted-Sales 5120**

**SALES PROFESSIONAL**  
No exp. necessary. Must be mature, responsible & motivated. Top compensation. Good professional work environment. For used car lot in Garden City. Apply to Jim Daniel 734-427-1550 or Fax 734-427-7006

**AVON NEEDS**  
Representatives Now! Call 734-425-1947

**Job Opportunities 5310**

**ANNOUNCEMENT\*\* 2006 POSTAL JOBS!** \$14.80 to \$59.00 hour. PLUS full federal benefits. NOW HIRING!! No experience required. Green Card OK. Call today! 1-866-297-7126 ext 42. Closed Sundays.

**ASSEMBLE MAGNETS & CRAFTS FROM HOME!** Year-round work! Excellent pay! No experience! Top US company! Glue gun, painting, jewelry & more! Toll free 1-866-398-1113 code 2.

**CLEANERS (OFFICES-APTS-HOTELS)** Start today. Part-time/full-time possible. No exp. necessary. Day or night flex hrs. \$17.00 per call. 1-900-835-9300

**Cool Travel Job!** One month paid training! \$500 sign on bonus, must be free to travel & start today! 1-888-297-4445

**DATA ENTRY!** Work from anywhere. Flexible hours. Personal computer required. Excellent career opportunity. Serious inquiries only. 1-800-344-9636 Ext 224

**FREE CASH GRANTS! 2006!** \$700-\$800.00. Personal bills, school, business/housing. Approx. \$49 billion unclaimed 2005! Almost everyone qualified! Live operators. Listing 1-800-592-0362 ext. 238.

**GOVERNMENT JOBS \$12-\$48/hr.** Full benefits/Paid Training. Work available in areas like Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Wildlife and more! 1-800-320-9353 x. 2002

**Help wanted** earn extra income, assembling CD cases from home. Start immediately, no experience necessary. 1-800-341-6573 ext 1395. www.easywork-greatpay.com

**MOVIE EXTRAS** Make up to \$250/day. All looks and ages. 1-800-714-7341

**Post office now hiring.** Average pay \$20/hour or \$57K annually including federal benefits and OT. Paid training, vacations, PT/FT. 1-800-584-1775 USWA Reference #P3801

**SECRET SHOPPERS NEEDED** for store evaluations. Get paid to shop. Local stores, restaurants & theaters. Training provided, flexible hours. Email required. 1-800-585-9024 ext 6600.

**Position Wanted 5340**

**NEED A PERSONAL ASSISTANT?**  
Shopping, errands, house-sitting, cooking, baking, etc... Anne 734-626-0356

**Childcare Needed 5380**

**CHILD CARE POSITION**  
For exp & honest caregiver. Min. 15+ hrs., afternoon/even. Commerce Area. Non smoker. Call 248-444-4494

**NANNIES NEEDED**  
Downtown River area. \$400 per week. Call 313-583-0353

**CLASSIFIEDS WORK! 1-800-579-7355**

**NANNY**  
Fulltime. Permanent nanny needed in Plymouth for 2 kids ages 4 & 2. References req. Please email for details: nannynini@yahoo.com

**Education/Instruction 5600**

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**Financial Services 5640**

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**Bad credit? Stop suffering!** Remove all negative accounts off your credit report! Everything from charge-offs, collections to bankruptcies and repossessions. 150% GUARANTEED! Fast results! 1-877-568-1400

**FREE CASH GRANTS! \$25,000+ \*2006\* NEVER REPAY!** Personal, medical bills, business, school/home. Almost everyone qualified! Live operators. Avoid deadlines! Listings 1-800-785-9615 ext 239

**Business Opportunities 5740**

**Advertise your business** opportunity nationally to approximately 11 million households in North America's best suburbs by placing our classified ad in over 800 suburban newspapers just like this one. Call the Suburban Classified Advertising Network at 888-486-2466 www.suburban-news.org/scan

**ALL CASH CANDY ROUTE.** Do you earn up to \$800/day? Your own local candy route. Includes 30 machines and Candy. All for \$9,995. Call 1-800-893-1185

**DO YOU BELIEVE** making a million dollars is possible for you? Visit my sight www.thehealththeory.com/flr/flight

**Business Opportunities 5740**

**EARN \$1,000 WEEKLY! \$\$** Processing customer returns from home! Earn \$15.00 per return guaranteed. Extremely easy. No experience needed. Everyone qualified! Amazing business opportunity. www.PaidRefunds.com

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**NEW YEAR, NEW YOU!** Start the new year off right with a fresh, new opportunity to grow. What if you could work from home, be your own boss and set your own schedule where would today take you? Contact me at 207-748-3140, betty-desisto@hotmail.com or check out www.yourhealthychoices.myarbonne.com and I'll introduce you to the Arbonne Opportunity and so much more!

**PARTNER WANTED FOR AN ESTABLISHED ACCOUNTING & TAX SERVICE** located in Livonia. Great growth opportunity - merger considered. (734) 522-2882

**TIMING IS EVERYTHING!!!** Market the #1 Super Health Food in America. F/T marketing reps average comm. \$64,000 annually; P/T reps average \$18,000. Top producers into the mid six figures. As seen on NBC Today Show and in TIME Magazine. International expansion. Work with top producers. Complete training and support. 866-236-6926 recorded message.

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**DONATE YOUR CAR TO THE ORIGINAL** 1-800-CharityCars! Full retail value deduction if we provide your car to a struggling family. Call 1-800-CHARITY (1-800-242-7489) www.800CharityCars.org

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**ALL CASH CANDY ROUTE.** Do you earn up to \$800/day? Your own local candy route. Includes 30 machines and Candy. All for \$9,995. Call 1-888-744-4651.

**EMPLOYMENT**

**AIRLINES ARE HIRING** - Train for high paying Aviation Maintenance Career. FAA approved program. Financial aid if qualified - Job placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute Maintenance (888) 349-5387.

**DETENTION OFFICER:** Phoenix, Arizona. Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. \$14.99/hr. Excellent benefits. No experience necessary. Contact 602-307-5245, 1-877-352-6276, or www.mcso.org. 400 vacancies, including civilian positions.

**DRIVER - ASAP** 36-43cpm/ \$1.20pm + Sign On Bonus, \$0 Lease NEW Trucks. CDL-A + 3 mos OTR 800-635-8669.

**DRIVER: DON'T JUST START YOUR CAREER,** start it right! Company Sponsored CDL training in 3 weeks. Must be 21. Have CDL? Tuition reimbursement! CRST. 800-553-2778.

**DRIVER - REGIONAL RUNS,** Home Weekly or Temp Control, Team Xpedited (5K sign-on bonus), Solos, Teams, CDL-A Grads, L/P, O/Os. Covenant Transport (866) 684-2519. EOE.

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**OTR DRIVERS DESERVE MORE** pay and more home-time! \$.41/mi. - 1 year experience. More experience makes more! Home most weekends! Run close to home! Heartland Express 1-800-441-4953 www.heartlandexpress.com

**POST OFFICE NOW HIRING!** Avg. Pay \$20/hour or \$57K annually including Federal Benefits and OT. Paid Training, Vacations. PT/FT. 1-800-584-1775 USWA Ref #P8901

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**PIONEER POLE BLDGS.** 30'x40'x10', \$8590.00. 12'x10' All Metal Slider, 36" Entrance, 12 Colors, 2x6 Trusses, Material And Labor, Free Quotes, #1 Company In Michigan 1-800-292-0679

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**VIEW WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA,** North Georgia, Eastern TN Real Estate. Excellent retirement area. Very affordable homes, cabins, land. Low taxes. Good paying jobs available. www.buymountains.com

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**PLACE YOUR STATEWIDE AD HERE!** \$299 buys a 25-word classified ad offering over 1.6 million circulation and 3.6 million readers. Plus your ad will be placed on Michigan Press Association's website. Contact this newspaper for details.

**REACH 3.1 MILLION** Michigan readers with a 2 x 2 display ad for only \$999 - Contact this newspaper for details.

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They logged on to our website, **hometownlife.com** and then clicked on HOMES in the menu bar at the top of our home page. They selected a Realtor® and looked at a whole lot of listings and—bingo!—they found their next home. As easy as that. They never left the house. They discovered that **hometownlife.com's** HOME site is user-friendly, interactive and has tens of thousands of local listings from area Realtors. Are you looking for a home? Log on to hometownlife.com and get ready to have a "That's it!" moment.

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**Announcements**  
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**7000-7780**  
**Merchandise**

**Absolutely Free** **7000**

Desk light gray laminate w/4 drawers. U-haul. (734) 464-6533

TV Magnavox 50 inch projection TV. Needs work. Has sound, no picture. (734) 595-8160

TV big screen. Rear projection 45" about 10-12 years old. Works fine. (248) 464-1180

**Antiques/Collectibles** **7020**

**Annual Antique Holiday Sale**  
15-30% off  
Nov. 16 thru Dec. 31st  
\$100 Gift Certificate Drawing Town & Country Antiques Mall 31630 Plymouth Rd, Livonia (behind East Side Mario's) 734-425-4344

**TRAIN COLLECTION FOR SALE** - Post-war & modern accessories & sets. Call Alex for further info: 248-464-1712

**AUCTION: REAL ESTATE & PERSONAL PROPERTY**  
Estate of David Sawyer, Dec. 9, 2006. Real Estate at 1pm. Personal Property at 10am. 2139 Metzner Rd. Walled Lake/Commerce Township. For Open House & more info (517) 202-6792

**MIDWEST MERCHANDISING**  
Huge Estate Tag Sale, then click estates  
Thurs & Fri, Dec. 7th & 8th Doors open 9am until 5pm (Numbers at 8:00am)  
Estate is located in Detroit The Boston-Edison District For photos & location go to midwesttauction.com, then click estates  
OR call 734-462-5938 after 5pm Dec. 6th for location

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**  
of an Auction of contents held at Sale Keeping Storage LLC, 26400 W. Eight Mile Rd. Southfield, MI 48034 at the following storage areas. Sat., Dec. 16, 2006 at 9:30 AM. Items: Household & Misc.

**Public Auction**  
Undercover Self Storage, 13995 North Hagerty Rd, Plymouth, MI, 734-354-9855 Wed., Dec. 13th, 10:10am. Cash only. Units to be auctioned A-40, B-8, B-19, D-1E-15, F-4, F-60, G-5, G-23

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**TO PLACE YOUR AD CALL...**  
**1-800-579-SELL(7355)**  
Observer & Eccentric

**ESTATE FURNITURE LIQUIDATION SALE!**  
By: Everything Goes  
Fri., Sat., Dec. 8-9, 10-4  
Moving - selling to the walls, no offer refused!  
Antiques, custom dining & bdrm sets, sofas, tables, chairs, artwork, china, silver, crystal, jewelry, electronics, displays, & shelving. All must go now! 973 Orchard Lake Rd. Orchard Lake & Telegraph, across from Pontiac Home Depo. OFFICE: 248-855-0053

**ESTATE SALE**  
7670 W. Maple, Apt. 7219, Maple & Drake behind JOC Building. Dec. 7-8, 10-4. Leather living rm dining, bdrm, & misc. (734) 753-5083

**EDMUND FRANK & ASSOC. LIQUIDATORS & APPRAISERS**  
313-854-6000

**CHERYL & CO. ESTATE SALE**  
6770 W. Maple, Apt. 7219, Maple & Drake behind JOC Building. Dec. 7-8, 10-4. Leather living rm dining, bdrm, & misc. (734) 753-5083

**ESTATE SALE BY NANCY**  
20029 Stamford town 7 & 8 Mile W. of Farmington Rd. enter on Norfolk. Fri-Sun. Dec. 8-10th, 10-4pm. Home & contents: furniture, collectible glassware, Precious Moments, jewelry, household, misc. 734-525-4603

**PRESTIGE ESTATE SALE**  
Fri. & Sat., Dec. 8-9, 10-4  
The Heathers, 545 Newburne, Bloomfield, off of Square Lake Rd., btwn Opdyke & Adams, left at entrance on Newburne. Traditional furniture, exc cond. Living room, dining set, bdrms sets, H. Miller grandfather clock, pictures, silk plants, clothes, exercise equip. More! 248-338-3123

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**ESTATE AUCTION**  
Sat. - Dec 9th - 7pm  
Cultural Center  
525 Farmer  
Plymouth, MI

**Furnishings & Accessories**  
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Pottery  
Pocket Watches/Coins  
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Collectible Clothing

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AmEx/Discover  
Bank Debit Cards  
No Checks  
Doors Open 6 pm  
**J.C. Auction Services**  
734-451-7444  
jcauctionservices.com

**Rummage Sale/ Flea Market** **7080**

**COLLECTOR'S FLEA MARKET**  
Every Sat.-Sun., 10-6pm.  
100's of tables: Antiques, guns, old toys. Lots of treasures. 22525 Ecorse Road, Taylor, MI, 48180, just E. of Telegraph, S. of Hwy 94. Tables \$35 each or 3 tables for \$50. Info: 313-295-8901

**7100 Estate Sales** **7100**

**ANOTHER GOOD ESTATE SALE!**  
Fri.-Sat., Dec 8-9  
10-4PM

**6580 WHYALL MEADOW LAKE FARMS BLOOMFIELD TWP**  
S. off Maple, E. of Inlander. 45 Years Continuous Residence!  
Traditional furniture, antiques & collectibles  
CHICKERING CONSOLE PIANO. BAKER, DAVIS, HENREDON, small scale French dining room, crewl chairs & draperies. Empire desk, mahogany server, Bateek, Lenox china, Waterford, Grand, Royal Copenhagen, Jewish literature, grandfather clock, oriental rugs, doll house, china sets, loads of silver, linens, clothing, fur coat, Maytag washer/dryer, plus lots of good small things for the holiday gifts. See you there!

**INDIAN VILLAGE** artist's home. 3481 Seminole, 48214 Sat. 9-4, Sun 12-5. Mon/Tues by appt. Primitive to modern furniture. Fine pottery, African art, paintings, carpets, books, records, kiln, Mason & Hamlin grand piano... Great prices, clearing house. 313-220-3457 www.greenwayproperties.googlepages.net

**PLYMOUTH (SUPERIOR TWP.)**  
Estate/Moving Sale of local glass artist. 9885 W. Ann Arbor Rd., across from Plymouth Nursery, adjacent to Geer School, btwn Gottfriedson & Curtis. House, pole barn, & storage container. Art, antiques, glass, neon signs, photographic equip, tools, books, records, fishing. Sat. Dec. 9, 10-6; Sun, Dec. 10, 12-5.

**REDFORD** Sun. 12/3 12-5 & Thurs. 12/7 12-8. 24476 Schoolcraft. Violin, power tools, 10spd Ross, r/c airplanes/model railroad, fishing & camping gear, chemical glassware, kitchenware, etc.

**HOUSEHOLD GOODS** **7160**

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**BED - 1 Absolute all brand new blue PILLOW TOP QUEEN MATTRESS SET.**  
In pkg. \$100. 734-891-8481

**HOUSEHOLD GOODS** **7160**

**WEST BLOOMFIELD** Plants, ceramic pots, wicker bdrm set, Sub Zero refrigerator & freezer, clothes. 248 855-1772

**HOUSEHOLD GOODS** **7160**

**APPLIANCES** - Kenmore fridge 18 cubic, 31" x 63" \$150. Kenmore washer, heavy-duty 90 series, \$100. Whirlpool dryer, 1 yr old, quiet dry, super capacity, \$200. 734-459-0406

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**BLOOMFIELD HILLS ESTATE SALE**  
Thurs.-Fri.-Sat.  
Dec. 7, 8, 9, 10-5PM

**Living Room:** Antique 2 Chinese hall chairs, tilt-top table & Chinese screen. 2 Quatrine chairs.  
**Dining Room:** Antique dining table, 6 chairs & inlaid sideboard.  
**Sitting Room:** Leather camel-back sofa, wing chair, antique clock.  
**Sunroom:** Antique wicker chaise, wicker furniture incl: glass table & 4 chairs, 2 lovesets, rocker, ottoman, table, lamps.  
**Family Room:** Leather sleigh sofa, chair, ottoman, Country French chairs, ottoman.  
**Bedroom:** Wicker chest, night stand, blanket chest, mirror, chair, entertainment unit, 50" TV.

**Accesories Include:**  
Berning Hair Oil  
Painting & Engravings  
Posters & Folk Art  
Mexican Mask  
Apache Blossom Basket  
Old Chandellers, Books  
Estate Jewelry

**CRYSTAL, CHINA, SILVER**  
Women's clothes/access.  
Mirrors, Lamps, Tables  
1989 BMW 325 1X  
Woodard Patio Tables  
Christmas Decorations  
Washer & Dryer  
Exercise Equipment  
Lots & lots of misc.

**5165 LONGMEADOW**  
Off Woodward, just N. of Big Beaver (Quartern), turn E. on Charring Cross, 1 blk to Longmeadow.  
Sale by **LILLY M. & CO.**

**ESTATE SALE**  
No reasonable offer refused!  
Jacuzzi, King size solid cherry bdrm set, antique entertainment center, custom Rattan sunroom furniture, Echo water system softener, Exotic ceiling, light & fan fixtures, Bath vanities & granite tops, all appliances, leaded glass kitchen cabinets & granite counter tops & island with appliances, washer/dryer. Much more! Fri., Sat., Sun., Dec. 8, 9, 10, 9am-5pm. 49525 7 Mile Road, W. of Ridge, Or call 248-974-5960 MC & Visa Accepted!

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**BLOOMFIELD**  
Complete household. Must go! A real treasure hunt. 40+ yrs. Lots of books, pottery, furniture, household misc., dishes, rugs, pictures. 582 Spinning Wheel, take Fox River at 19 1/2 Mile E. off Opdyke Rd. Friday, 12-6pm. Sat. 9-4pm.

**COMMERCE TWP.** Fantastic garage sale! Sat. & Sun. only. 1080 Welch Rd., Kitchen & bath cabinetry, displays, plumbing fixtures, countertops and appliances at unbelievable prices. We are moving locations and all items must go! 248-668-5180

**PLYMOUTH INSIDE WAREHOUSE!**  
Sat., Dec. 9, 9am. 14975 Cheat, btwn Sheldon & Beck, off 5 Mile. NEW ITEMS from store closing - ornaments, snowmen, toys. Also misc. garage sale items.

**BLOOMFIELD TWP Sat. & Sun., 10am-3pm, 800 Covington Rd., Maple & Cranbrook. Furniture, snowblower, much more!**

**CANTON** 250 S. Lotz, S/ Cherryhill. Fri. & Sat. 12/8 & 9, 9-5. Antiques, furniture, sewing machines, books, etc.

**LIVONIA** - Furniture, etc. Dec 9-10, 10-4pm. 18221 University Park Dr., off N. Laurel Park Dr., behind the Mall.

**NOVI ESTATE SALE** - Whole Home Filled! Dec. 7, 8, 9, 10 (9am-6pm). 26893 Roric, Novi, off Hagerty, between 12 Mile and Grand River.

**NOVI 41651 Mitchell** - 13/Meadowbrook, brook, furn., accessories, antiques, home, treadmill, Weber, Dec. 9th, 9-4pm.

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Brought to you by **Mirror** and **The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers**



Ready to meet great new people?

## HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

### Answer an ad:

1. Note the number listed in the ad
2. Call 1-900-950-3785  
It's only \$2.19/minute. Must be 18+, or:  
Call 1-800-510-4786, and use a major credit or debit card
3. Follow the instructions to listen to the advertiser's voicemail greeting
4. Leave a personal message for the advertiser

### Place your own ad:

1. Call 1-800-506-5115
2. Answer some simple questions to create your ad
3. Record a voicemail greeting
4. Learn how to pick up your messages - we'll let you know when new ones have arrived!

### Get more:

- ❖ Chat with local singles right now.  
Call 248-397-0123 to learn more
- ❖ Need help? Some Tips?  
Call 1-617-450-8773

**Meet People Right Now!**

**248.397.0123**

**Call and chat with local singles**

**Free Ads:** Free ads placed in this section are not guaranteed to run every week. Be sure to renew your ad frequently to keep it fresh.

**Guidelines:** Personals are for adults 18 or over seeking monogamous relationships. To ensure your safety, carefully screen all responses and have first meetings occur in a public place. This publication reserves the right to edit, revise, or reject any advertisement at any time at its sole discretion and assumes no responsibility for the content of or replies to any ad. Not all ads have corresponding voice messages. To review our complete guidelines, call (617) 425-2636

a service of people

### WOMEN SEEKING MEN

**LET'S TALK SOMETIME**  
SWF, 38, mother, enjoys Harleys, rock-n-roll, good talks, classic cars, sports, amusement parks, casinos, meeting new people. Seeking outgoing, sweet, fun man w/spontaneous streak to share new adventures with. **1962910**

**FIND ME**  
Attractive SAF, 49, N/S, 5' 3", 110lbs, slim build, seeks WM, 45-56, N/S, for friendship, and more. **113901**

**UPSCALE, GRASS ROOTS**  
Ebony woman, 43, emotionally available, 5'5", H/W proportionate, seeks strong, emotionally grounded, open and fun gentleman, to share deep romance. **147056**

**TAKE ME GOLFING**  
Tidy SWF, 60, enjoys fine dining, traveling. Seeking golfer, best friend, confidante, 58-70, widower a plus. Honesty, trust, a must to make a relationship work. **976914**

**HI**  
Honest, independent, separated WF, 47, 5'7", mother, voluptuous, N/S, N/D, D/D-free, enjoys coffee shops, reading, walks, dining, movie nights, etc. ISO stable, secure, sociable, sweet man to share special times. **147676**

**LOOKING FOR YOU**  
Attractive SWF, Catholic, 59, N/S, 5' 6", good shape, seeks WM, 53-70, N/S, who enjoys golf, movies, theater, dining, long walks, church, and much more. **124235**

**IS IT YOU?**  
SWF, 56, tall, trim, seeks hard-working or retired, conservative SWM, 5'11"+, 58-65, with good values, educated, no tattoos, drugs, or games please. **139961**

**JOIN ME**  
Assertive, feminine, active SWF, 33, outgoing, classy, seeks same, someone not afraid to live life. No drama no games. Possible LTR. **147376**

**IN SEARCH OF**  
Optimistic, healthy WWF, 68, sense of humor, healthy, honest, N/S, great listener, loves to travel. Seeking special man, healthy, N/S, N/D, with a sense of humor. **765933**

**SINGLE PROFESSIONAL WOMAN**  
SWPF, 45, 5'9", average build, educated, Capricorn, N/S, loves golf, reading, gardening, dining out, movies, seeks SWM, 38-55, N/S, similar interests, for LTR. **983176**

**SOMEONE SPECIAL**  
Fun-loving, attractive SWF, 70, 5'5", 135lbs, blonde, retired, N/S, seeks well-groomed WM, 65-72, N/S, to share life, romance, and possible relationship. **891247**

**MAYBE US?**  
SF, 42, blonde/blue, leggy, loves all types of music, dancing, movies, nature road trips, dining and simple fun. ISO easygoing, loving guy to share talks, good times, friendship and more. **132593**

**SEEKING MR. RIGHT**  
Classy SWF, hoping to meet mature SBM, 45-60. I'm a very passionate, affectionate, loving person, who enjoys a variety of activities. If you're seeking your soulmate, why not try me? **985794**

**LOOKING FOR ME?**  
Hard-working, affectionate SAF, 47, 5'11", 95lbs, very clean, N/S, N/D, loving and fun, seeks independent, responsible, respectful, secure man, 45-50, to share the special times in life. **113534**

**CHRISTIAN LOVER**  
SWF, 48, Christian, enjoys traveling, movies and dining out. Seeking a N/D, N/S, independent, outgoing, considerate, respectful, no head games, Christian a+. **142751**

**AWAITING YOUR CALL**  
Caring, considerate WWF, 55, blonde/blue, wears glasses, enjoys reading, music, movies, travel, museums, animals, quiet evenings home. Seeking animal-friendly, good-hearted, affectionate guy to share special times. **137067**

**GIVE ME A CALL**  
SBF, 39, 5' 3", average build, marriage-minded, smoker, seeks WF, for friendship, maybe more. **140681**

**FRIENDS FIRST**  
SBF, 37, 5'6", black/brown, easygoing, Aries, N/S, enjoys bike riding, long walks, travel, and cooking. Seeking WM, 30-50, N/S, for fun. **935970**

**WHERE ARE YOU?**  
Very attractive, sexy SWF, 35, 5'2", medium build, N/S, jazz, plays, ISO SBM, 40-52, commitment-minded and sincere, for LTR. **950732**

**LOVES BOATING**  
SWF, 65, 5'6", Aries, N/S, loves dancing and dining out. Seeking WM, 60-71, N/S, with sense of humor, for friendship, possible romance. **890004**

**ISO CHIVALROUS MAN**  
SBCF, 35, attractive, plus-sized, Capricorn, single mom, marriage-minded, N/S, seeks man, 40-55, family-oriented, old-fashioned, possible romance. **112291**

**MR. RIGHT, ARE YOU THERE?**  
SWF, 55, 5'11", HWP, easygoing, dependable, reliable, Taurus, N/S, social drinker, likes computers, nascar, casinos, sports, seeks WM, 46-56, for friendship, and more. **112612**

**SEEKING SOMETHING NEW**  
Down to earth, attractive SBF, 36, N/S, 5'7", professional, enjoys movies, dining out, shopping, traveling, seeks WM, 35-55, N/S, for friendship first, possibly more. **123659**

**ARE YOU THE ONE?**  
SBF, 56, BBW, loves jazz, concerts, movies, travel, walks, great conversation. Seeking commitment-minded, mature, loving man with similar interests for possible LTR. **140023**

**HI EVERYONE**  
SF, 18, seeks nice, easygoing guy who knows how to have fun, and knows how to treat a lady. Friendship first. **142588**

**VERY CUTE**  
SBF, 56, 5'3", 122lbs, interested in fit, good-looking, confident male, 45-58, N/S, intelligent, sincere, down-to-earth, who wants to commit to someone special. **113198**

**SOMEONE SPECIAL**  
SBF, N/S, 18, 5'7" thick, seeks sweet, outgoing, honest, respectful, open-minded man, 18-28, for friendship, and more. **140694**

**WAITING FOR YOU**  
SBF, 19, 5'11", full figured, beautiful smile. Enjoys comedy and horror films, jokes and enjoying life. Seeking someone with same interest. **142407**

**SEARCHING FOR FRIENDS**  
SF, 24, outgoing, student. In search of a respectful SM, who knows how to treat a real woman, if this is you call me. **146309**

**ALL OF ME**  
SWF, 50, 5'10", big beautiful woman, 300+ pounds, easygoing, N/S, light drinker, enjoys nights out or in. ISO loving, happy, commitment-minded man to share a happy, lasting, loving relationship. **956929**

**MADE TO ORDER**  
SWF, 52, attractive, Pisces, N/S, nice, educated, secure, fun, enjoys sporting events, movies, camping, travel, theater, seeks WM, 45-56, N/S, possible romance. **983487**

**FORMER MODEL**  
SWF, 50, 5'8", slender, intelligence, creativity, passion for music and dancing. Seeks partner 38-50, who is attractive and fit, to share this interests and more. **600106**

**TRUE FRIENDSHIP**  
WIAF, 62, 5', 100lbs, enjoys gardening, dogs, cats, cooking, dining out, travel. Seeking kind, caring, honest, SW/AM, 55-70, slim, with understanding of asian culture, for friendship first, maybe more later. **139334**

**FRIENDS FIRST**  
WIAF, 68, 5'8", 145lbs, healthy, honest, happy, likes comedy films, country cooking. Looking for outdoorsy, active man affectionate and warm-hearted, to share the good things in life. **139719**

**ARE YOU THE ONE 4 ME?**  
SF, 29, loves family, the outdoors, cooking, people, more. Looking for bright, level-headed, goal-oriented, family-oriented man who hears and open mind to share life and all it's little adventures. **139414**

**BIG GIRLS NEED LUV**  
SBF, 31, marriage-minded, N/S, romantic, seeks man, 25-58, likes children, having fun, for friendship, maybe more. **140252**

**REFINED AND FULL OF LIFE**  
Very attractive blonde, fit, energetic and happy, professionally employed, very youthful 60s, 5'3", trim and shapely, enjoys dining, travel, dancing, theater, family and friends. Seeking honest, handsome, fit, 55+, college grad, N/S, with youthful passion for life. Serious replies only. **652360**

**PETITE & SEXY...**  
SBF, sensitive, affectionate, loving, 51, looks 35, 5'11", 105lbs, N/S. Seeking healthy SBM, 5'10"-6'1", to work out with. **912553**

**ARE YOU THE ONE?**  
SF, 25, 5'7", shoulder-length medium blonde hair, bright green eyes, outgoing, fun, loves fitness, outdoors, boating, cycling, camping, concerts, auto racing. Seeking active, fit, caring man who appreciates the same. **935369**

**LOOKING 4 GENTLEMAN**  
Attractive, professional, educated WF, 55, 5'2", slim, N/S. Interest include movies, concerts, comedy clubs, jazz, dancing, dining out, family ties. Seeking WM, 48-55, HWP, for lasting, loving LTR. **973365**

**POSSIBLE LTR**  
SWPF, 57, 5'7", attractive, slender, athletic, Scorpio, N/S, enjoys sports, concerts, dining out, seeks WPM, 55-61, N/S, educated, healthy, humorous, possible LTR. **993981**

**50 YEARS OLD ENTREPRENEUR**  
Pretty, youthful SWF, successful, kind, compassionate, lots of fun, looking for her knight in shining armor. Any sincere, caucasian gentlemen, 55-80, please respond. Hopefully we'll be each others soul mates. **592074**

**SEEKING A LADY?**  
SBF, 56, 5'4", 110lbs, slim build, Sagittarius, smoker, honest, sincere, retired, enjoys movies, concerts, travel, park walks, seeks man, 45-70, similar, for friendship, possible romance. **118410**

**FAMILY-ORIENTED**  
Beautiful, shapely SBF, 34, 5'4", likes reading, long walks, working out, movies, plays, concerts, spontaneous trips, traveling, seeks patient, understanding BM, 34-46, N/S, with similar interests. **123905**

**HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU**  
Easygoing SWF, 57, CNA, N/S, N/D, enjoys talks, togetherness, day trips, soft rock. ISO loving Christian man, N/S, N/D, w/children ok, to share talks, dates, simple times, then who knows? **126925**

**COULD YOU BE THE ONE?**  
Loving, youthful SBF, 57, trim, shapely, very attractive, energetic, happy, enjoys dining, travel, amusement parks, the outdoors, festivals, nature, family-friends, theater, more. Seeking like-minded gentleman to share these. **121526**

**SOULMATE SEARCH**  
Slim, attractive, 57-yr-old JF looking for her soulmate, any sincere, successful JM, between the ages of 54-64, please respond. **98975**

**LOVELY AND LOVING**  
Attractive 52-year-old, blonde/green, 5'5", nice figure, romantic, wanting to meet a very romantic, affectionate SM, 42-52, who will treat her like a queen. **617628**

**SEEKS SILVER FOX**  
Loving, lady, 77, seeks charming, healthy, happy gentleman, D/D-free, humorous with a kid disposition, years of wisdom and an interest in life. **145778**

**SEEKING FRIENDSHIP**  
SBF, young 60s, w/good morals, caring, nice-looking, 5'3", 155lbs, N/S, N/D, N/Drugs, clean, honest living, partly retired, enjoys art, card playing, casinos, and movies. Seeking honest man 50-60, race open. **134425**

**LISTEN WITH MY HEART**  
Attractive DWF, late 40s, Cancer, N/S, seeks special, no games WM, 45+, N/S, for caring, quality committed relationship. Let's create sparks and watch them fly. **639272**

**MEN SEEKING WOMEN**

**NEW TO AREA**  
SWM, 36, 6'5", athletic build, dark blond/blue, enjoys sports, outdoors, music, movies, cooking and more. Seeking creative, fun lady with an open mind and heart to share friendship and fun. **140690**

**WHAT R U WAITING 4?**  
Very good-looking SBM, 42, 6'4", medium brown complexion, enjoys sports watching/playing, togetherness, nice dinners, good talks, romance and affection. Seeking special lady to share the good things in life. **144729**

**A SPECIAL GUY**  
DWM, 56, 5'10", handsome and secure, seeks honest S/DWF, w/sense of humor, who enjoys travel, candlelight dinners, plays, dancing, concerts, boating, and movies. Friendship, possible LTR. **269646**

**GOT WIT?**  
DBM, late 40s, homeowner, N/S, loves traveling, taking part in community events, jazz and comedy clubs. Seeking WF, 42-52, smoker, responsible drinker ok, not afraid to take a chance. **143658**

**HEY LADIES**  
SM, 22, brown/green, 185lbs, student, employed, looking to meet a nice, fun-loving SF for friendship, dates, talks, and then who knows? **147388**

**CALL ME SOMETIME**  
Self-employed SM, 51, 5'11", 177lbs, blue eyes, loves enjoys motorcycles, the outdoors, travel, cooking, music from modern rock to motown, and much more. ISO, affectionate, honest SF, slim-medium build. Friendship/LTR? **146467**

**TALL, DARK AND HANDSOME**  
Sexy SBM, 6'1", 198lbs, enjoys soul food, R&B/rap music. Seeking attractive, mature SF, who is goal-oriented, D/D-free, for friendship maybe more. No head games. **146128**

**ROMANTIC & ATTRACTIVE**  
DWM, 60, 5'11", 190lbs, seeks nice-looking lady to help share each others heart, and lives daily adventures. **146279**

**TRUE GENTLEMAN**  
SBM, 52, 5'8", 185lbs, looking for a medium to full-figured SBF, 46-54. Someone who is worldly, nice, loves to laugh and just enjoying life to the fullest. **912726**

**SWEET GUY**  
Good-looking SWM, 52, 6'1", 197lbs, college graduate, financially secure, homeowner, bodybuilder, seeks petite SWF, 35-50, sexy, attractive, to enjoy dining out, movies, for serious relationship, maybe marriage. **255073**

**GOOD CATCH**  
SM, 36 enjoys shopping, traveling. Seeking someone who likes to have fun for friendship and LTR. **142878**

**A GOOD CATCH**  
SBM, 35, 5'8", 220lbs, dark complexion, shaved head, mustache, correction officer, father, looking for a loving, good-hearted, child-friendly lady with whom to share life and all it offers. **144595**

**ARE U THE ONE?**  
SM, 6'1", red/blue, independent, enjoys the outdoors, gardening. Seeks SF, 18-65, for dinner dates possibly LTR. **145379**

**DO YOU LIKE ROMANCE?**  
DWPM, 60's, N/S, D/D-free, honest, caring, humorous and romantic, in search of SF, 50-70, with same qualities, for conversation, friendship or romance. **146036**

**CALL ME**  
SHM, 23, 5'7", 190lbs, black/brown, looking to meet a cool, easygoing, real lady to get to know, share good times. **147347**

**HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU**  
Affectionate DWM, 64, brown hair, N/S, D/D-free, enjoys craft shows, flea markets, movies, dining, camping, The Red Wings. ISO a special lady, 48-59, to share friendship, dates, possible LTR. **920969**

**WHY WAIT?**  
SM, 54, 5'8", 155lbs, outgoing, spontaneous, enjoys car shows, motorcycles, fishing, time with someone special. Looking for a good-hearted, active, happy lady to share talks, dates, friendship, more. **147906**

**TALL, MUSCULAR SWM**  
47, 6'2", 205lbs, athletic, part time personal trainer, brown/blue, degreed, outgoing personality, enjoys outdoors, working out, new activities, seeking friendly SF, age/location open. **531308**

**SERIOUS**  
SWM, 71, N/S, widowed, 5' 8", 150lbs, young at heart, enjoys outdoors, cooking, dining out, traveling, seeks slim, petite female, 62-70, N/S. **118483**

**LOVE COMFORT LAUGHTER**  
SWM, 49, 5'9", 195lbs, is nuts about nature, enjoys the outdoors, fishing, etc. Seeks compatible SWF, to have and hold. **14846**

**SERIOUS WOMAN WANTED**  
SBM, 46, looking for that special persona for LTR, someone who enjoys walks, movies, sporting events, cuddling at home. Please be shapely, independent and know what you want in life. **692416**

**LOVE COMFORT LAUGHTER**  
SWM, 49, 5'9", 195lbs, is nuts about nature, enjoys the outdoors, fishing, etc. Seeks compatible SWF, to have and hold. **992943**

**SEARCHING FOR LADY LOVE**  
SM, 51, 5'11", 185lbs, enjoys the outdoors, boating, dining out, music long walks, etc. Seeking honest, caring SF, who enjoys same activities, for companionship, friendship and romance. **146012**

**NICE GUY**  
SWM, 66, 5'6", 150lbs, manufacturers' representative, Libra, N/S, works out, enjoys movies, restaurants, and summer festivals. Seeking SWF, 50-65, N/S, Shirley, please call back. **708126**

**WORTH A CALL**  
SWM, 48, 6', 175lbs, N/S, homeowner, hard-working, easygoing, honest, secure, enjoys motorcycling, hunting, the outdoors. Seeking honest, secure, attractive slim/fit woman, 25-50, N/S, D/D-free. **956910**

**WILL IT BE YOU?**  
SBM, 48, light complexion, 5'7", 192lbs, likes sports, shows, cycling, music, etc. Seeking loving, sweet lady to be my special someone. **128421**

**THE FINER THINGS**  
SBM, 40, 5' 11", average build, likes sports, theater, movies, parks, seeks energetic, open-minded, sincere woman, 25-65, for friendship, possible romance. **141614**

**HANDSOME MALE**  
SBM, 33, 5'8", 165lbs, handsome, independent. Seeking full figured female with good conversation for friendship possibly LTR. **143029**

**COME OUT WITH ME**  
SM, 60', 197lbs, brown complexion, enjoys shopping, going out dancing and having fun. Seeking female companion who likes same. **142274**

**UNUSUAL REQUEST**  
Nice-looking, extremely busy, Grosse Pt. SWPM, 6'3", 228lbs, N/S, N/Drugs, ISO over 45 also extremely busy SWPF, pretty lady, for great friendship and special times. I know how to treat a lady and practice the golden rule. **143494**

**SOUND LIKE YOU?**  
SBM, 27, 185lbs, dark complexion, handsome, carpenter by trade, enjoys sports, good company, good talks. Seeking a sweet lady to share a little happiness and romance. **143607**

**HANDSOME PRINCE**  
SM, 5'5", 135lbs, brown complexion, independent, easy-going, seeks independent, easy-going SF, for friendship first and maybe more. **144436**

**HERE IS PRINCE CHARMING**  
SPM, athletic fit, humorous, enjoys meeting new people, brunch, wine tasting and being romantic. Seeking intelligent, active, honest SF, for companionship, casual fun or LTR. **145078**

**FRIEND AND CONFIDANT**  
SWM, 74, active, educated, financially-secure, seeking a nice woman. Join me for dining, dancing, and classical music. I'm a good listener, and would love to hear from you! **139382**

**A NICE GUY**  
SM, 24, black/blue, 5'7", 120lbs, looking for a nice, non-judgmental SF, loving and fun, to share the good times in life. Friendship first, possibly more later on. **127134**

**LET'S TALK**  
Laid-back SWM, 52, smoker, brown/brown, likes riding Harleys, the country, seeks open, honest WF, 35-54, for possible LTR. **124193**

**LONELY & READY**  
SWM, 49, average build, Italian, heart of gold, Virgo, N/S, seeks WF, 45-55, with a nice build, ready for LTR. Serious replies only. Redford Area. **860305**

**LET'S BE FREE TOGETHER**  
SBM, 67, 220lbs, physically fit, retired, well-educated. I would like to meet a single female 52-62, who is understanding, loving and caring, for a LTR. **869189**

**ECONOMICALLY VIABLE**  
SWPM, 54, 5'11", 170lbs, trim, Aquarius, N/S, likes music, art, golf, landscapes, architecture seeks WPF, 44-60, attractive, fit, active, financially secure, intelligent, possible LTR. **984220**

**THAT'S ALL**  
SWM, 66, tall, thin, Scorpio, N/S, seeks WF, 60-68, N/S, old-fashioned, slim, fit, humorous, possible romance. **116761**

**SOUND LIKE YOU?**  
SBM, 25, 5'8", 190lbs, dark complexion, long hair, no kids, looking for fun, energetic lady affectionate and real, who knows how to have fun in life. **122364**

**CUT TO THE CHASE**  
SBCM, 51, 6'3", 250lbs, N/S, enjoys plays, concerts, country drives. ISO SWF, for friendship and much, much more. Age open. **121414**

**VANILLA SEEKING CHOCOLATE**  
Call me if you desire a nice shape, SWM, blue-eyed blonde, 50-year-old, 180lbs, desires SBF for friendship and definitely romance. **672855**

**SHARE GOOD TIMES**  
SBM, 27, 6', 173lbs, N/D, N/Kids, slim build, brown complexion, glasses, likes movies, long walks, Jesus, cooking, music, bowling, mexican food, shyness, seeks SB/HF, 25-28, N/S, for friendship, possible romance. **980453**

**WHY WAIT CALL FOR A DATE**  
SWM, 55, happy, healthy, Cancer, N/S, enjoys reading, cooking, home life, rodeo trips, seeks WF, 40-60, for companionship, maybe more. **992956**

**TIRED OF THE BAR SCENE**  
SWM, 34, active, healthy, 5'11", dark/green, 175lbs, clean-cut, dog owner, animal lover, enjoys biking, rollerblading, fitness, running, martial arts, nature. Seeking athletic, like-minded SF, 18-35, to share friendship, maybe more. **145703**

**LET'S GET TOGETHER**  
SWM 22, 5'11", 255lbs, w/liger eyes, outgoing, romantic, very active and athletic. Looking for outgoing, independent, and open-minded SF who prefer African-Americans/minorities, for dating and possibly more. **142270**

**IVORY SEEKS EBONY**  
Italian male, 47, 5'6", 165lbs, fit seeks petite, pretty black female, with slender build, to share time with. Let's get to know each other. **142383**

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Chrysler-Plymouth 8420

CHRYSLER 300M 1999, black, black leather, chrome wheels, \$6,995. COLLINS MOTOR SALES WAYNE (734) 721-1616

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## Saab 97X SUV poised for takeoff

Advertising Feature

### CAReport



By Wendy Clem  
Avanti News Features

It's jet fast. It's eye-catching on the freeway. And this truck will be the talk of any town.

It's the 2007 Saab 97X SUV, billed under the General Motors Corp. umbrella as "born from jets," and it's zooming into showrooms now.

Proffering a 5.3-liter V8 engine as standard in its 5.3i model, the 97X has a 4-speed transmission with 300 horsepower and 330 foot pounds of torque - a definite assist for towing and hauling.

Designed by a company founded by 16 aircraft engineers whose spirits continue in automotive composition 60 years after joining the industry, the 2007 97X appears poised for takeoff while it sports the unmistakable classic lines of a Saab, with an impressive base price of \$41,000.

And, for an even more attractive price, you can opt to pick up your vehicle in Saab's home city of Trollhattan, Sweden, or one of 15 other European cities. By rolling your vacation and car purchase into one adventure, Saab will throw in \$2,000 for your travel expenses.

Credited with sumptuous materials, ample cargo space and versatility in weather conditions, the 97X is an in-demand truck because it offers luxury and perks like an unlimited rust warranty. Plus, there are not a lot of these SUVs on the road yet, so there is that rarity factor.

Besides comfort and well-appointed detail, safety is a key function of the 97X. Competent automatic 97X all-wheel drive traction combines with the StabiliTrac system and an automatic braking system for road steadiness and quick reaction during slippery conditions. Rear suspension is live, with the front offering independent suspension.

This will ensure its rightful place among steadier SUVs in inclement weather conditions. The Saab drive train moves with little effort, and at no time are you not aware of the power beneath your feet and seat.

A large wheelbase and long vehicle length add to the 97X's essence, as well as roomy head space in both the front and rear, and more shoulder and leg room in each the front and back areas.

Nicely rounded curves on both vehicle ends extend to functional lines along the body, into which the door handles have been neatly folded.

Headlight washers are standard. The grill resembles a cheery smile accented with large eyes.

The front end has a Scandinavian influence, although



2007 Saab 97X. Vehicle class: Sport utility vehicle. Power: 5.3-liter V8 engine. Mileage: 15 city 21 highway. Where built: Moraine, Ohio. Base price: \$40,990.

the overall design reminds us of the Chevrolet TrailBlazer - only better.

The powertrain warranty is GM's applaudable 100,000 miles or five years. The OnStar navigation system provides peace of mind, with stolen vehicle tracking, roadside assistance and hands-free/voice-activated phone use.

Dual-stage airbags in the front have the Passenger Sensing System, a set-up with side-curtain airbags that kicks into gear during a rollover. In the event of airbag deployment, the OnStar system can notify emergency contacts to send them to an accident quickly.

Being able to corner well for an SUV, as well as receiving recognition for unobstructed view with its higher driver's vantage point, add to the pluses. This 97X seems like a pretty good family vehicle, with equal painstaking attention paid by Saab to its interior and exterior quality.

Classy leather seats provide exceptional comfort and then extend to other interior surfaces, in a luxurious immersion in natural substance. Faux wood accents appear demurely throughout the dash and console.

One unique feature is the placement of the ignition between the seats, accompanied by front vents that can be efficiently directed to deliver refreshing environment with a simple move of a middle lever.

The dual-zone climate control and radio mechanisms are easily accessible and clearly visible, while the steering

wheel allows enough flexibility to be duly comfortable for the long haul. The pedals can be modified, as can the two front seats, which allow for eight-way positioning of varying sized people cargo simultaneously.

A bonus is the heated driver's seat and its positional memory. Lumbar support is standard on this vehicle, as opposed to the competition, which either doesn't offer it or charges extra for it.

Additions like a Bose sound system with a six-disc CD player or entertainment packages with DVD player round out the elegance for 97X travelers. There are numerous extras included with the standard 97X, many of which are either not offered or charged more for in comparable SUVs.

The challenges faced by the 97X include lackluster fuel economy and ordinary acceleration. It's more American than Euro but continues to impress consumers everywhere.

Mileage is debatable, but here is where the 97X may benefit: Official numbers place it at 15 miles per gallon in the city and 21 mpg on the highway. But some test drives report improved results for both numbers.

Of course, there's still no getting past the fact that this IS a truck, but it is a fancy one at that.

Wendy Clem covers the automotive beat for Avanti NewsFeatures. Write her at [wendyclem@gmail.com](mailto:wendyclem@gmail.com). <<mailto:wendyclem@gmail.com>> @2006, Fracassa Communications.

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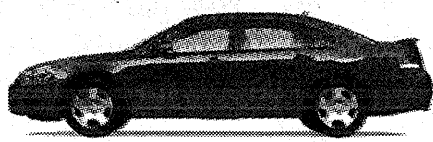
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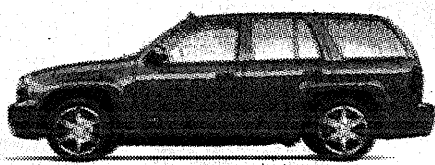


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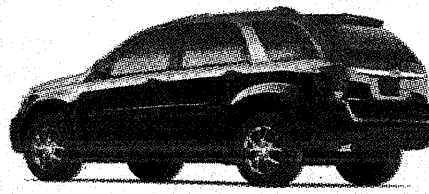
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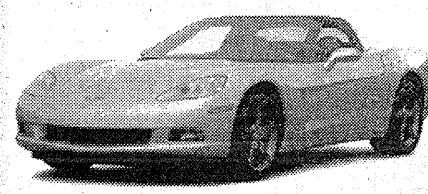
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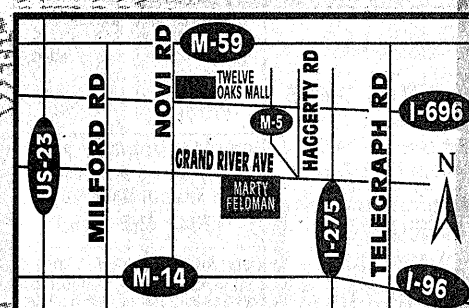


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# Check these lists

## Gift ideas for the chef

It can be a challenge to holiday gift shop for the chef in your life, especially if you aren't handy in the kitchen.

From bigger gifts to stocking stuffers, here are some items:

**The Roasted Garlic Express** roasts garlic and vegetables in less than 30 minutes – one-third less time than in the oven or other type of roaster.

The express comes in three trendy colors: black, white and terra-cotta.

It retails for \$30 and is available at major stores or at [www.roastedgarlicexpress.com](http://www.roastedgarlicexpress.com).

This is one of those items that actually can change the way a person cooks because it really does save time.

The **Spin'nStor** is more handy than it is pretty, but it will make life easier in the kitchen.

It's the alternative to the bulky salad spinner.

The Spin'nStor Reusable Salad Spinning Bag removes extra water from freshly washed veggies and also serves as a storage container.

Wash the greens, place them in the bag, hold the top closed and spin the bag in a circular motion. The water collects in the bag's "reservoir" and is poured out. After that, the bag becomes a produce container.

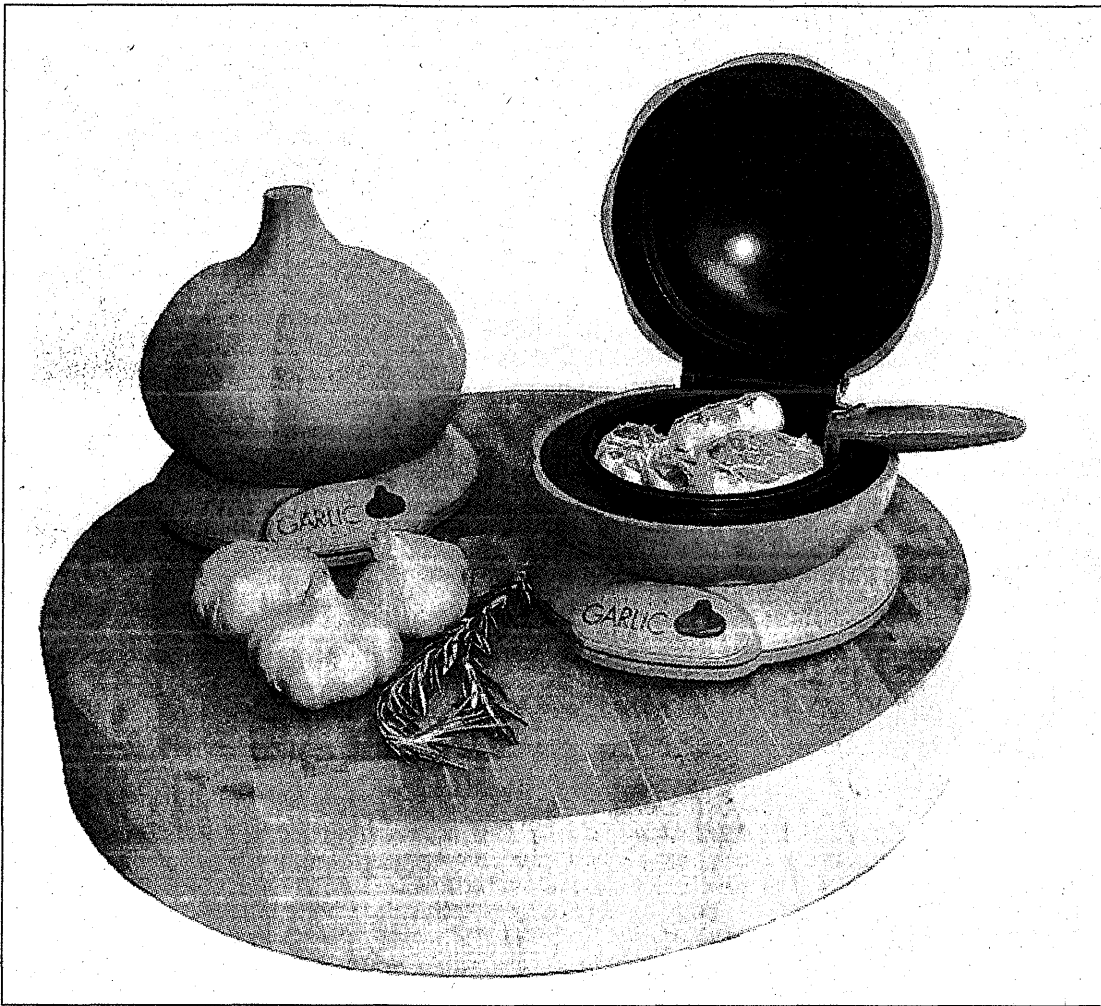
Check out the video: <http://www.argecorp.com/HTML/spinnstor.htm>.

Cost is \$11.75 for 12 bags online at [www.argecorp.com](http://www.argecorp.com).

An **edible snow globe** is a new spin on the traditional gingerbread house.

It's a gift and activity in one. The whole family can make an edible snow globe featuring snowmen, Santa's helpers, reindeer, Christmas gifts and more. Snow Globe kits are cookie

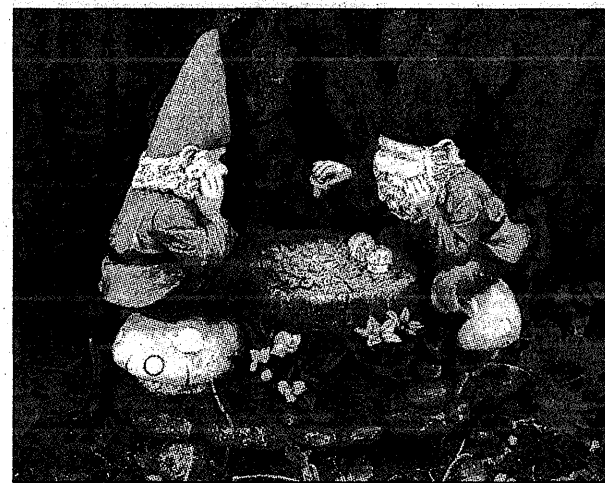
PLEASE SEE CHEF GIFTS, D2



The Roasted Garlic Express roasts garlic and vegetables in less than 30 minutes.



The Bella Cabosse chocolate bar will delight food connoisseurs.



Checker-playing gnomes are among solar-powered garden decor items at English Gardens. Other gift ideas for the gardener abound.

COURTESY OF ENGLISH GARDENS

## 10 gifts for the gardener

The weather outside may be frightful, but planning next year's garden is always delightful.

Here are some gift ideas for the gardener, whether novice or supreme green thumb.

The Practical Gardening Institute has a wide range of

gifts at its online Gardeners' Market. Visit [practicalgardeninginstitute.com](http://practicalgardeninginstitute.com).

For example, check out the boxed set of **note cards** that feature beautiful photos of plants by professional horticultural

PLEASE SEE GARDEN GIFTS, D2

## 10 gifts for the tech-savvy

**For sound to share**, grab a set of Sony SRS P11Q personal speakers. The circular 1/4-inch set fits as easily in a backpack as on a bookshelf and accommodates any MP3 player. For \$29 it's a steal on [Apple.com](http://Apple.com).

**Apple's MagSafe Airline adapter** keeps your laptop fully charged in flight. At \$59 it's a great gift for the tech-dependent traveler. Available on [Apple.com](http://Apple.com).

**Hit the road safely** while chatting away on your cell phone. Motorola H500 wireless headset for Bluetooth-enabled cell phones makes it possible to have a hands-free conversation anytime. Costs \$72.99 at [Bestbuy.com](http://Bestbuy.com).

**Cell phone style** and technology combine in Motorola's KRZR

PLEASE SEE TECH GIFTS, D2

## Tools for the do-it-yourselfer

Maybe you know someone who likes to tackle a building repair or remodeling project.

With help from licensed builder and building trades instructor Harry Jachym, who also writes Ask Dad for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, staff writer Ken Abramczyk has compiled a list of suggested tools for the DIY-er:

**Impact drivers:** They work similar to cordless drivers but automatically switch to impact driving mode when the driver meets resistance, like the

DeWalt 36-volt cordless impact wrench.

**Cordless finish nailers:** Such as the XRP 18-volt model, also by DeWalt, which applies 1-1/4-inch to 2-1/2-inch 16 gauge nails for any project.

**Laser measuring tools:** They come in handy for installing a drop ceiling, lining up cabinets or wall art. Some models even measure and others combine Laser level and stud finder.

**Halogen flood lights or work lights:** These powerful lights are often used by contractors on drywall or tile projects in

basements. They come in handy in dark areas that need a lot of light.

**LED flashlights:** These look like conventional flashlights, but use white LEDs rather than bulbs. The lights are very bright and battery consumption is far less than conventional flashlights.

**Pink tool kits for women.**

Check out [www.pinktoolbelts.com](http://www.pinktoolbelts.com). **The Be Jane Tips and Tricks CD.** Be Jane ([www.bejane.com](http://www.bejane.com))

PLEASE SEE DIY GIFTS, D2

# Hanukkah settings celebrate holiday

BY MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER

At Hanukkah, the table itself is a celebration, as suggested by elegant and cheery objects for the holiday offered at area businesses.

Handpainted ceramic serving pieces, hostess gifts and other items feature rich, warm colors and festive designs.

"When I was growing up in Israel, the candle was the only light (for Hanukkah). Now there's all this," said Coby Goutkovitch, owner of Esthers Judaica Giftworld in West Bloomfield, gesturing in a corner of the store.

Included here is an electric menorah, and a string of dreidel-shaped lights.

This year, Hanukkah begins at sundown Friday, Dec. 15.

Hanukkah, or the Festival of Lights, commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in the second century B.C.E.

Only one jar of oil could be found to light the menorah for the rededication and purification of the temple.



Hand-painted ceramic serving pieces, such as these at Spitzer's Hebrew Book and Gift Center in Southfield, enhance the Hanukkah celebration.

Miraculously, the oil burned for eight days.

Today, menorahs are available in a wide variety of styles, including "create your own" kits. Such crafts are popular at Spitzer's Hebrew Book and Gift Center Inc. in Southfield, said Avrohom Plotnik, owner.

"They're doing very well," he said.

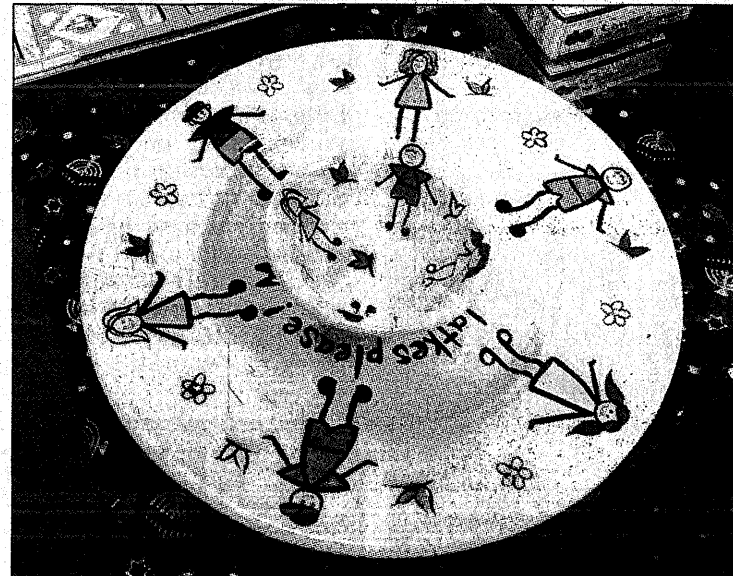
All Things Jewish, based in Southfield, offers menorahs

made by artists working in glass, said owner Alicia Nelson.

Among its other selections – and a new turn on tradition – is a menorah with vials of oil, the tops of which can be easily broken off for lighting.

Menorahs at Esthers include those made of stone and marble from Jerusalem.

Menorah candles are works of art. Some selections are



This latke plate comes with a dish for applesauce or sour cream. The combination is at Spitzer's in Southfield.

multicolored; designed to resemble the flag of Israel; and in sets of silver, blue and white.

A Hanukkah tradition is the game involving a dreidel, a four-sided spinning top. Dreidels are popular pieces, Nelson said.

"There are people collecting them," she said.

A Chagall dreidel, and a Zavurov octagonal dreidel, are among those offered by All Things Jewish.

Hand towels bearing a Hanukkah design were another favorite item at Spitzer's, Plotnik said.

Holiday patterns also adorn hostess gift sets of oven mitts

and towels, and serving platters and dishes.

Because of the significance of oil in the Hanukkah celebration, the use of oil is a theme in cooking dishes for the holiday, such as latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiyots (doughnuts).

Some divided dishes at Spitzer's contain arrangements of candy, dried fruit and nuts by Got Nosh?.

Other items in the area include a latke plate that comes with a dish for applesauce or sour cream, and spreaders standing in a dreidel-shaped holder.

Salt and pepper shakers, and chip and dip sets, also have the dreidel form.

Cookie cutters and confetti have Hanukkah-themed shapes.

Esthers Judaica Giftworld: 6245 Orchard Lake Road, (248) 932-3377

Spitzer's Hebrew Book and Gift Center Inc.: 21790 W. 11 Mile, (248) 356-6080

All Things Jewish: (877) 613-5454, (800) 579-6340, [allthingsjewish.com](http://allthingsjewish.com)

mklemic@hometownlife.com | (248) 901-2569

## Put your best Web forward by switching browsers

With the amount of time most of us spend on the Web these days, it stands to reason we should use the best available Web browser.

That means Mozilla Firefox 2.0. It's free, easy, and light years ahead of the browser most people use: Internet Explorer.

Let me qualify that. Internet Explorer 7, which was recently "pushed out" by Microsoft to Windows XP users (and is available for download if you didn't receive it automatically), offers some improvements over its predecessor.

However, I'm not a fan of IE7 because it changes many fundamental aspects of the inter-

face for no good reason.

Like the pull-down menus: They're gone. And the Refresh button: It has been relocated to the right of the address bar, far from where I'm accustomed to it being.

I don't want to waste time learning to use a new browser. I just want it to work better, faster and smarter. That's Firefox in a nutshell.

Before I explain what makes it so great, let me address a few common concerns.

For starters, Firefox is just a program, and

PLEASE SEE BROIDA, D2

## OFF THE AIR WITH DICK PURTAN & PURTAN'S PEOPLE

### Shoppers shove their way to savings



Dick Purtan

Did I miss a memo? When did shopping become a full-contact sport?

I was amazed by the stories I heard and read about this year's post-Thanksgiving shopping competition.

A mall in Utah actually opened its doors at midnight on Thanksgiving. Literally, thousands of Utahans were lined up for the door opening.

I don't know about you, but by midnight on Thanksgiving

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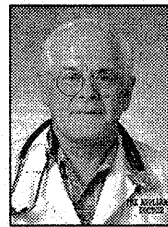
Tech Savvy

Rick Broida



# It's time to get to winter checklist of appliance maintenance

Never mind what the calendar says. It's winter. Everything outside says so, and so do your appliances.



**Appliance Doctor**

Joe Gagnon

Go and stick your hand inside your clothes dryer and feel how much colder it is in there compared to the room temperature. If the flapper on the outside vent isn't closing tight, the cold outside air is being drawn into the dryer. As a result, the dryer is taking much longer to dry a load of clothes and you definitely are

spending more on energy. While on the subject of dryers, how about taking a few minutes to take off the vent line and clean it?

Remember, it is against the State Codes Construction law to use plastic or tinfoil vent line on your clothes dryer.

If you are using these products and your vent line is plugged up, expect a house fire at any time.

Most homeowners use the warm water setting on their clothes washer. This means that on the warm water setting, you should have 100-degree temperature wash water once it fills up to the desired level.

If you set the water inlet valves that the hoses connect to last spring or summer, you must

do it again. The outside water coming from the main water supply is now much colder and will get colder as the winter temperatures keep dipping.

You may find the warm wash selection on the washer will give you temperatures of only 80 degrees. This won't give you the clean wash that you desire.

I suggest that you close off the cold water faucet and reopen it just enough to get a mixture of 100-degree water coming into the washing machine.

Speaking of water, my friends in the plumbing industry asked me to tell you an important plumbing tip: Make sure you shut off the water valves inside the house that lead to the faucets on the outside where

you hook up your garden hoses. These are a big source of income for plumbers who must come out to a home after a real cold winter snap.

These frozen broken copper lines are also a big expense to insurance companies that must pay out millions in claims for serious damage to a home's interior. How about the gutters around the house? Did you get those all cleaned out after the trees lost all their leaves? Water that turns to ice dams causes roof damage and water flowing down the inside walls of a house.

Now let's go to the product that creates a ton of questions during the winter months: the garage refrigerator. When the temperature in the

garage drops to less than 55 degrees, either the refrigerator out there isn't going to work at all or its freezer items will begin to defrost.

The cold control will sense this temperature, think that it is cold enough inside the refrigerator and shut off the compressor.

During these longer periods of shutdown, the oil in the compressor will congeal and it is possible to cause damage to the inside valves of the compressor.

This is very true when it comes to the newer refrigerators made in the past 10 years. My old 1948 Philco refrigerator has no problems during the winter months because the compressor can take the brunt of cold weather.

Next time I will repeat a column on the subject of your dishwasher.

Until then, here is something for you to think about: Is the back of your dishwasher placed along an outside wall? Does this make any difference on how well it washes dishes? Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard on Talk Radio WAAM 1600 at 8 a.m. Saturdays. He is a board member of Spectrum Human Services and the Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals (SOCAP). His phone number is (734) 971-1600, Ext. 28. Do you have a question about an appliance or a problem you have with an appliance? E-mail your question to [mklemic@hometownlife.com](mailto:mklemic@hometownlife.com) and it will be forwarded to Joe Gagnon.

## CHEF GIFTS

FROM PAGE D1

gingerbread houses, inside a waterless globe, that you assemble. It comes with pre-baked cookies and icing. You do the fun part.

Cost is \$19.99. Visit [www.cookieconstructionco.com](http://www.cookieconstructionco.com). Here is another interesting gift idea: a day at the Chop Shop in Birmingham.

The Chop Shop is a gourmet kitchen that you can use to

make a lot of freezable meals, instead of making a mess in your own kitchen.

Visit the Chop Shop and they will help you prepare meals that you can freeze. You bring the cooler. Average price is about \$150 and up.

Guests can choose from a choice of meals to prepare, such as pasta ricotta pie or a huge batch of homemade minestrone.

During the holidays, go there to make cookies, crab cakes or an array of party appetizers.

Gift certificates also can go toward ready-made entrees.

The newly expanded Chop Shop is at 2219 Cole in Birmingham's Rail District. For details, call (248) 594-2210. See the menu choices at [www.chopshopkitchens.com](http://www.chopshopkitchens.com).

Remember in the Johnny Depp film *Chocolat* when his lover created special spicy chocolates to help stimulate her customers?

Well, here's a real peppery chocolate bar that will tickle food connoisseurs. The *Bella Cabosse choco-*

late bar features exotic masala (Indian) spices. It's called Dolfin Chocolat Au Lait Hot Masala - a milk chocolate bar with a mixture including cardamom, cloves, ginger, cinnamon and black pepper.

Among other flavors are Earl Grey Tea and Pink Peppercorn - all in chocolate and new in the United States.

Cost is \$3.89. The chocolate bar can be found at [www.BellaCabosse.com](http://www.BellaCabosse.com).

- Compiled by Lana Mini

## BROIDA

FROM PAGE D1

installing it won't mess up, remove or prevent you from using Internet Explorer.

In fact, the two can co-exist without a problem, which is a good thing: Firefox does have trouble with a handful of Web sites (mostly when there's streaming video involved), so you'll occasionally have cause to return to IE.

OK, so why bother with the 5.6-megabyte download ([mozilla.com](http://mozilla.com)) that is Firefox? Short answer: features, security and expandability.

In the features department, Firefox offers such amenities as tabbed browsing (multiple Web pages appear as tabs rather than separate windows), numerous built-in search engines (including Amazon, eBay and Google), a spell-checker and a pop-up blocker.

Admittedly, Internet Explorer 7, resulting from a flurry of recent catch-up development by Microsoft, offers many of these same features. But as noted previously, you have to tackle the newly awkward interface to get at them.

Next, there's the matter of security. Without delving into the technical details, Firefox offers better resistance to spyware - the kind that can invade your PC just from visiting certain Web sites.

Again, IE7 is more secure than its predecessor, but because it's still so new, no one knows

exactly how secure. I'm hedging my bets and sticking with Firefox.

Security is a huge selling point, but I have a different reason for adoring Firefox: add-ons. These tiny programs add all kinds of cool capabilities to the browser, some of which quickly prove indispensable.

For instance, there's Foxmarks Bookmark Synchronizer, which automatically keeps your Firefox bookmarks in sync on multiple PCs - great for users who work on a desktop at home and a notebook on the road.

I'm also partial to Auto Copy, which automatically copies selected text to the clipboard for easy pasting. It's a small time-saver, but one that I've quickly grown accustomed to.

Then there's Book Burro, which quickly looks up prices at other online stores when you're shopping for books at Amazon.

Another gem, Cooliris Previews, pops up a preview of a Web link or image when you mouse over it - no clicking required.

All these are just the tip of the Firefox add-on iceberg. And they're a key reason why I think once you make the move from Internet Explorer, you'll never look back.

Rick Broida writes about computers and technology for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Broida, of Commerce Township, is the co-author of numerous books, including *How to Do Everything with Your Palm Powered Device*, Sixth Edition. He welcomes questions sent to [rick.broida@gmail.com](mailto:rick.broida@gmail.com).

## DIY GIFTS

FROM PAGE D1

is a Web site dedicated to the female DIY-er. (Visit [http://www.bejane.com/products\\_tips\\_n\\_tricks\\_cd](http://www.bejane.com/products_tips_n_tricks_cd) for the CD.)

Construction calculators: Calculated Industries has several specialty calculators available. Many are related to the construction field, but they also have some available for home

and kitchen use. See <http://www.calculated.com/default.asp>. Enroll the DIY-er in (or let him or her choose) a class on home repair or remodeling offered through community education programs at high

schools or community colleges. Try a magazine subscription.

*Fine Homebuilding*, *Family Handyman* and *This Old House* offer great tips for homeowners, and for woodworkers, *Wood* magazine makes a great read.

ed, mouth-blown glass items

shaped like a pair of gardening boots (\$28) and a watering can (\$18). At Smith & Hawken.

Smith & Hawken stores are in Birmingham (phone (248) 593-6010) and Rochester Hills (phone (248) 375-1976). Among authorized retailers are Plymouth Nursery in Plymouth (phone (734) 453-0155) and English Gardens. Visit [www.smithandhawken.com](http://www.smithandhawken.com).

English Gardens' six locations include West Bloomfield (phone (248) 851-7506), Dearborn Heights (phone (313) 278-4433), Royal Oak/Troy (phone (248) 280-9500) and Ann Arbor (phone (734) 332-7900). Call (800) 335-GROW. Visit [www.englishgardens.com](http://www.englishgardens.com).

- Compiled by Mary Klemic

## GARDEN GIFTS

FROM PAGE D1

photographer Steven Nikkila. The special holiday price is \$18, with free shipping in the United States. Quantities are limited.

Working outdoors is helped by garden grips from the Gardeners' Market, sturdy shoes that easily slip on and off. Cost is \$79.95.

The hip holster and belt by Woman's Work, also from the Gardeners' Market, holds tools in a handy place. Cost is \$22.50.

A gift certificate for classes by the Michigan School of Gardening is a terrific idea.

The practical classes, taught by professionals at locations in

Livonia, Ann Arbor and Royal Oak, are for everyone.

Certificates are available in denominations of \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100, \$150 and \$250, and can be used for any class. Call (248) 4-GARDEN.

Gardeners can reap a rich harvest of information - and get discounts on books, merchandise and events - through the online Practical Gardening Institute.

For the holidays, one-year gift memberships for the Practical Gardening Institute (a \$50 value) are \$35. Visit [practicalgardeninginstitute.com](http://practicalgardeninginstitute.com).

You don't have to wait until spring if you have bulb kits from Smith & Hawken and English Gardens.

The kits feature bulbs primed for forcing, soil and instructions,

and are attractively packaged in silk boxes or plaid bags. Selections include amaryllis and paperwhites. Prices range from around \$6.99 to \$26.

A 2007 wall calendar featuring vintage seed catalog illustrations from 1896 to 1929 is a beautiful way to keep track of the days. Cost is \$15.95 at Smith & Hawken.

Wood plaques by Danielson Designs express pleasant thoughts. Cost is \$26 at English Gardens.

Garden decor items from English Gardens include solar-powered statuary. Among the designs are sleeping or kissing fairies (\$39.99), and gnomes playing checkers (\$39.99).

Ornaments make nice keepsakes as well as decoration. Examples are the handpaint-

ed, mouth-blown glass items

shaped like a pair of gardening boots (\$28) and a watering can (\$18). At Smith & Hawken.

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- Compiled by Mary Klemic

## TECH GIFTS

FROM PAGE D1

K1. Its sleek design includes a 1.3 Megapixel camera, media and music streaming, and GPS support for turn-by-turn directions. Costs \$99.99 at Wirefly.com.

The special edition iPod Nano, in red of course, comes in two capacities. Store 1,000 songs in the 4 GB model for \$199, or 2,000 songs in the 8 GB model for \$249 on Apple.com.

Sony's latest digital camera, the Cyber-shot DSC-T50 in red, silver or black, boasts a large LCD display and touch-screen

operation for capturing those fleeting holiday moments. Costs \$449.95 on Sonystyle.com.

The LaCie Carte Orange USB flash drive allows you to store thousands of files - including photos, music and video - or transfer files from one computer to another. The sleek 8 GB design is comparable in size to a credit card and costs \$149.96 at radioshack.com.

Put a personal entertainment center in your pocket, with Sony's PlayStation Portable. For gaming, movies and music, the

PSP CORE costs \$199 is ready to travel. Visit Sonystyle.com.

The Sirius Stiletto 100 gives you satellite radio-to-go. Listen to a live program, record it or play MP3s in the car, office or home. Costs \$349.99 at radioshack.com.

Have the power to stop TV time with the new TiVo Series 2 dual tuner digital video recorder. Record up to 300 hours of digital programming, even record two live channels at a time. Costs \$799.99 at Bestbuy.com.

- Compiled by Stephanie A. Casola

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## PURTAN

FROM PAGE D1

I had so overdosed on turkey that I could barely move.

Aw, who am I kidding? I was sound asleep dreaming of sugar plum fairies and Peppid AC. (That is the last time I load up on yams and stuffing before bedtime!)

Anyway, I wasn't dreaming of hot bargains like they must have been in Utah. When the doors opened, the mall resembled the running of the bulls at Pamplona.

The video was amazing. I've seen less contact under the boards at a Pistons game. I think the term Black Friday needs to be updated to Black-and-blue Friday.

This phenomenon was repeated over and over across the country.

It was so bad (*How bad was it?*) that ESPN and QVC merged their coverage for the day. It was so bad that Vegas had an over/under line for shopping injuries. It was so bad FEMA considered doing something about it - but showed up four hours too late.

Locally, I had a friend who actually braved these lines early on that Friday morning.

Figuring she could get a jump on the savings, she showed up at a Best Buy at about 5:30 a.m. She was number 300 in line. That is where she learned the true meaning of the fine print statement "limited quantities."

True, some of the bargains were quite amazing. Computers

for less than \$200, digital cameras for a song and other bargains designed to surprise, tantalize and otherwise boost the profits of the retail world.

And nothing quite excites the senses as a too-good-to-be-true bargain. I understand, the opportunity to save big bucks is worth giving up a good night's sleep and a possible broken bone or two.

But I have to be honest. I'm a man. To me shopping isn't an event, it's a mission - something to be accomplished as quickly and cleanly as possible with a minimum of collateral damage.

Most of us guys have a clear agenda when it comes to shopping. We get in, we get out. We know what we need and we don't waste time looking at stuff we don't.

Wait. I think I'm on to something here. We have approached this whole Iraq conflict all wrong. Instead of trying to contain the insurgents and police the area, we should build one giant mall in Baghdad and have an unbelievable sale! Even enemy combatants can't resist a good bargain.

Then, we bring in an elite team of American shoppers and have them go at it in the electronics department.

When the dust has settled we will have neutralized the opposition, secured the country - and saved a few bucks to boot.

Can't resist shopping? Tune in to win a \$1,000 shopping spree Friday morning and all next week when you listen to **Dick Purtan & Purtan's People** on your FM radio, from 5-10 every morning, on The Motor City's 104.3 WOMC.

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# Finding value among Napa Valley cabernets

Although the price for Napa Valley cabernet sauvignon grapes reported a decline in the 2006 harvest, a winemaker told us recently that the going price for top Napa Valley cabernet sauvignon is \$6,000 per ton.

To estimate a suggested retail price for a bottle of cabernet made from such costly grapes, the winemaker said to move the decimal point two places to the left. Thus, \$60 per bottle.

If you've shopped for Napa Valley cabernet sauvignon, you know that there are many cabs selling for much more than that.

Thus it was with great pleasure and palate delight that we tasted the 2003 Burgess Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon \$30. It's marked by a mix of red and black fruit aromas. Similar fruit flavors fill the palate from front to back, creating a seamless, layered impression, spiked with anise spice notes lasting long into the finish.

This wine is a blend of 79 percent cabernet sauvignon, 8 percent merlot, 7 percent cabernet franc, 4 percent petit verdot and 2 percent malbec — all five Bordeaux varieties. It was crafted by veteran winemaker Bill Sorenson, who has been making Burgess wines from day one.

Napa Valley is touted worldwide as the best place on the planet to grow cabernet sauvignon, so what gives with discrepant pricing?

## ALL THE VINEYARDS ARE ESTATE

"Our first vineyards, with a history to the 1880s, were purchased and planted in the 1970s," said 34-year-old Steve Burgess, whose father Tom is Burgess Cellars founder. "All our vineyards are estate and we're not subject to soaring grape prices."

That's the key. Owing vineyards for a long time. Yet we know other Napa Valley wineries that also own vineyards and the price for their cabernets is three and four times that of Burgess. But when did they buy their vineyards and what did they pay?

Burgess asked: "When, over the last several years, did the cost of making wine determine the bottle cost? It hasn't, but it does for Burgess."

The more he talked, the more we realized that Steve has the values of his father. It's easy to see why in 2005, Tom persuaded his son, who has wine marketing experience, to join the family winery to spread the word about how Burgess is different in today's competitive wine market.

## MOUNTAIN GRAPEGROWING

Not only do the Burgess' estate hillside vineyards on Howell Mountain afford a splendid view of Napa Valley, but they produce cabernet grapes that make wine of

exceptional character, body and length.

Western exposure and scarcity of ground water stress the vines so that they produce smaller berries with intense color, aroma and flavors.

Until a few years ago, Burgess also produced zinfandel from this vineyard. "So much of today's zinfandel tastes like blueberry syrup with vodka," Burgess said. "That's not a style we wished to follow, so we've changed our focus. We've dropped zinfandel and chardonnay and now our production is 60 percent cabernet sauvignon, 20 percent merlot and 20 percent syrah — only red wines."

The latter two wines are made from grapes grown in the Burgess Triere Estate Vineyard, located south of the town of Yountville, on the western side of Napa Valley.

## BURGESS CABERNET AND FOOD

"What do you like to eat with Burgess Cabernet Sauvignon?" we asked Burgess. "On the way to meet you, I spotted a Penzeys spice outlet," he said. "I use Penzeys Barbecue of the Americas seasoning for grilling."

"I don't know what it is about this spice blend but it's phenomenal with beef, lamb or ribs and Burgess Cabernet Sauvignon." (Penzeys is located at 17712 W. 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills, (248) 647-6177. Spices can be ordered at [www.penzeys.com](http://www.penzeys.com).)

In marketing efforts, Burgess has sought ways to dif-

## WINE PICKS

If you're looking for a holiday gift for a wine aficionado, here's a grand selection of Cabernet Sauvignon wines that received high marks in our recent tasting. Don't believe what you may have read elsewhere about the 2003 vintage being only average throughout California for cabernet. The 2003s below are far from average.

### PICK OF THE PACK

2002 Ferrari-Carano Trésor, Alexander Valley \$48. At 73 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, here's a cab-based red that matches as well with halibut, salmon, and tuna as lamb, beef and veal dishes. It's also great with blue cheese.

### NEW AND NOTABLE

2002 Ridgeline Alexander Valley \$40 is the first wine from a new boutique producer of ultra-premium cabernet. It's owned by Codorniu of Spain and made by winemaker Dave Dobson, who also makes Artesa wines.  
2003 Prevail West Face \$50 (22 months in French oak)  
2003 Prevail Back Forty \$80 (22 months in French oak) — big, chocolaty and almost Port like.  
2004 Parallel \$49 — on the second vin-

tage of this outstanding wine.

### PEERLESS

2003 Beaulieu Georges de Latour Private Reserve \$95 — one of the most collectible wines in America.  
2003 Joseph Phelps Insignia, Napa Valley \$165 (30th Anniversary Vintage). Bottled unfiltered and will benefit from decanting before serving.

### OUTSTANDING

2003 Robert Mondavi Napa Valley \$125 (75 percent new French oak for 17.5 months)  
2003 Pine Ridge Howell Mountain \$80 — cellar it!  
2002 Oakville Ranch Napa Valley Robert's Blend \$80 (78 percent Cabernet Franc)  
2003 Pine Ridge Oakville \$70  
2003 Chimney Rock Stags Leap District Napa Valley \$52  
2002 Trinchero Napa Reserve Lewelling Vineyard \$50  
2003 Raymond Napa Valley Reserve \$35  
2003 Frei Brothers Reserve Alexander Valley \$24 — extraordinary value for an under \$25 cab.

### EXCELLENT

2002 St. Supery Elu \$69  
2003 Swanson Alexis \$64  
2003 Oakville Ranch Napa Valley (100 percent cabernet) \$60  
2003 Eponymous, Napa Valley, \$58  
2003 Beaulieu Vineyard Tapestry Reserve \$50  
2002 Trinchero Napa Reserve Main Street Vineyard \$45  
2003 Franciscan Magnificat \$45  
2002 Benziger Sonoma County Reserve \$45  
2003 Pine Ridge Rutherford \$40  
2003 Louis Martini Alexander Valley \$35  
2003 Ferrari-Carano Alexander Valley \$30  
2004 Kendall Jackson Grand Reserve \$26  
2004 Alexander Valley Vineyards \$20.

### WALLET FRIENDLY

2005 MAN Cabernet Sauvignon (South Africa) \$10

If a retailer does not stock a specific wine we recommend, ask that it be ordered from the distributor or order it direct from the winery.

ferentiate Burgess cabernet sauvignon from others in Napa Valley. Price is one way when the wine is excellent as the 2003 Burgess Cabernet

Sauvignon at \$30 illustrates.

Eleanor & Ray Heald are contributing editors for the internationally respected *Quarterly Review of Wines*

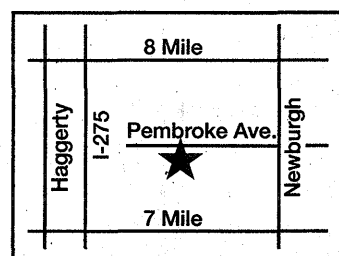
and Troy residents who write about wine, spirits, and restaurants for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Contact them by e-mail at [focusonwine@aol.com](mailto:focusonwine@aol.com).

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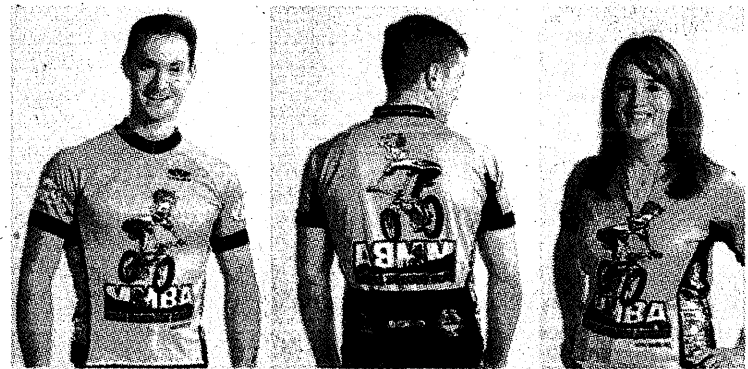
# pink

Happy Holidays from PINK & all the Observer & Eccentric newspapers.

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## pink picks



- Wear It!**  
Frazz Michigan Mountain Bike Association jerseys (mmba.org)
- DON'T Wear It!**  
Fanny packs — duh!
- Kick It!**  
Land's End Weatherfield boots
- Click It!**  
www.anonymouse.org
- Face It!**  
Fresh-faced beauty
- Mane It!**  
Organic colour systems at Farrell Reese in Birmingham
- Accessorize It!**  
Luckyness Karmology Beads
- See It!**  
*The Holiday Tote It!*  
Passchal recycled handbags
- DVD It!**  
*Little Miss Sunshine*
- Hear It!**  
"Too Hot to Handel" at the Detroit Opera House on Dec. 9
- Read It!**  
*Schott's Almanac*
- Eat It!**  
Dinner at Lot 1210 in Detroit, opening Dec. 10
- Drink It!**  
Hennessy VSOP



PHOTOS BY STEVE CURRY / ASHKA SALON

Makeup Artist Adrea Orzel of Ashka Salon beautifies Teri Zeches after she donated her hair. The Canton salon gave Zeches a complimentary haircut and makeover.

# A Giving Spirit

Local woman makes donation of beauty

BY WENDY PIERMAN MITZEL

On November 1, Teri Zeches took it all off. Well, most of it, anyway. Her hair that is.

Thanks to Ashka salon in Canton, the Livonia resident received the works while donating her hair to Locks of Love, a charity organization which provides real-hair wigs for children.

Steve Curry, co-owner of Ashka salon with wife Lisa, says he sees a few people a month coming in for a cut to donate hair for a good cause. And he's all for it.

"Philosophically... (the salon) is committed to the betterment of our community," Curry says. "And Locks of Love means a lot personally for my wife and I. We have relatives who are cancer survivors."

Teri lopped off 10 inches and received a trendy new cut and style from Katie Lewanowski, semi permanent color (so she can donate again!), and make-up from Adrea Orzel (because she's worth it.) PINK caught up with Teri while she was in the chair:

**How many times have you donated your hair?**

This will be the third time. Six years ago, two years ago and now.

**What is your motivation?**

The first time a salon asked me if I wanted to donate it and I said yes. I wanted to because God forbid if I ever needed a wig myself, I would want someone to do that for me.

**How long does it take to grow out again to donate?**

About two years. Many people can't stand to wait that long to get a haircut. What's your secret?

There's not enough time in my day to get it done anyway. That, and a ponytail!

**Now that it's cut off, how do you feel?**

Light!

**Will you miss it?**

Especially now because it's wintertime!

**What do you think your boys Nick and Nathan will say?**

Nathan's a comedian. He'll say "Did you pay for that?" My friend Linda will say it looks good.

**So what do you think?**

I was nervous. But the end result I like and the people here were great. Thank you.



Teri Zeches before she donates her hair.



Zeches after her haircut and Ashka Salon makeover.

### SPA PARTIES WITH PURPOSE

Ashka Salon & Spa is offering an innovative approach to fund raising — the Spa Party. What better way to raise money for an organization or favorite cause than to get together with friends and enjoy relaxing spa services? Hosts simply designate a charity, then sell tickets for decadent spa packages.

The Plymouth High School Wildcats Sports League recently hosted a fund raiser where donors received five mini-spa services, a healthy spa meal and special discounts.

For more information, visit Ashka Salon & Spa, 6529 Canton Center Road; call (734) 414-9980 or click on www.ashkasalon.com.

## The Mane Details: How to Donate

Want to donate your mane? Here are two organizations that accept hair for charity:

### Beautiful Lengths

Celebrities and Pantene have recently teamed up to create Pantene Beautiful Lengths, a campaign that creates wigs for women who've lost their hair to cancer. Donated hair must meet these requirements:

- Hair must be a minimum of 8 inches long (measured from just above the elastic band of the ponytail to the ends).
- Hair must be unprocessed: it cannot have been bleached, permanently colored, relaxed, permed or otherwise chemically treated.
- Hair can be colored with vegetable dyes, rinses and semi-permanent dyes and still be eligible.
- Hair cannot have more than a few strands of gray.
- Send hair donations in a plastic bag to:

Pantene Beautiful Lengths  
511 Wisconsin Drive,  
New Richmond, WI 54017-2613

A real hair wig requires at least four ponytails and three to four months to create. For more information, call 1-877-227-1596; or visit www.beautifullengths.com or www.cancer.org.



PHOTOS BY STEVE CURRY / ASHKA SALON  
Stylist Katie Lewanowski of Ashka Salon combs Teri Zeches' hair after trimming off 10 inches for a donation to Locks of Love.

### Locks of Love

Locks of Love provides hair prosthetics to children under 18 who suffer from long-term medical hair loss. While some of the wigs go to children who've lost their hair to cancer, most are provided to children with alopecia areata, an autoimmune disease in which the body mistakenly treats hair as foreign tissue and suppresses or stops its growth.

Donated hair is evaluated according to the following guidelines:

- Hair must be at least 10 inches (preferably 12") in length
- It must be bundled in a ponytail or braid
- It must be free of damage from chemical processing
- The hair must be clean and dry, placed in a plastic bag, and mailed in a padded envelope to:

Locks of Love  
2925 10th Avenue N., Suite 102  
Lake Worth, FL 33461

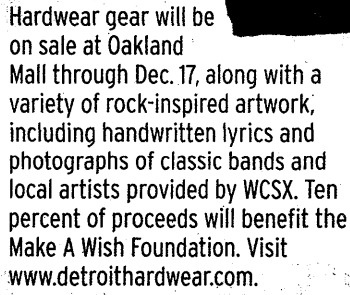
Monetary donations to Locks of Love are tax deductible. Donated hair less than 10 inches is accepted and is sold at fair market value to offset the cost of manufacturing. For more information go to www.locksoflove.org

— Wendy Pierman Mitzel

### pink list

#### Rock Out with Detroit Hardwear

Celebrate the launch of Detroit Hardwear, a new clothing and accessory line, as WCSX hosts a free rock art and fashion show 7-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8 at Oakland Mall in Troy. Local Detroit musicians will model the clothing, which highlights the blue-collar ethic of a city built on creativity and hard-work. Detroit Hardwear gear will be on sale at Oakland Mall through Dec. 17, along with a variety of rock-inspired artwork, including handwritten lyrics and photographs of classic bands and local artists provided by WCSX. Ten percent of proceeds will benefit the Make A Wish Foundation. Visit www.detroithardwear.com.



#### Blankets with Heart

Just Because Originals will introduce the Angel Blanket Collection during the holiday Shop 'n' Hop at The Fuchsia Frog in Birmingham, 6-9 p.m. Dec. 7. Get 20 percent off during the Shop 'n' Hop. A portion of proceeds from every sale will be donated to Compassionate Passages, Inc., which provides pediatric resources for dying children and their families. Visit The Fuchsia Frog, 320 E. Maple, or click on justbecauseoriginals.com.

#### Saks Jewelry

Looking for a sparkler for that special someone? Indulge them with some fine jewelry from Saks Fifth Avenue. The store will host several trunk shows to help generous givers find the perfect gift: Shail Diamond Jewelry Trunk Show with special representative, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Dec. 8; Bosco Designs jewelry trunk show with representative, 1-7 p.m. Dec. 9 and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Dec. 19; Sharon Meyer personal appearance with her jewelry trunk show collection, Dec. 14-16. Call (248) 614-3317.

#### Botox with a Bow

Sunset Cosmetic Surgery announces the holiday gift for this season: Botox with a bow and other cosmetic treatments. From Botox to Restylane, plastic surgery gift certificates available during the holidays cover procedures performed by plastic surgeons Dr. Daniel Yamini and Dr. Steven Svehlak. Visit www.sunsetcosmeticsurgery.com.

#### Stay Body Beautiful

Body Beautiful Boot Camp is celebrating its first anniversary with new classes and locations. Since starting her fitness camps in January Jennifer Gray has trained about 1,000 women and helped them trim some 10,000 pounds. Stay fit through the holidays with 4-week "Buckle Down" sessions starting Dec. 11, or visit www.bodybyjenn.com for more sessions.

#### Orlane GWP

While supplies last, Neiman Marcus is offering a great Orlane GWP. With a purchase of \$300, you will receive a fabulous pewter handbag with five travel size Orlane skin care products. With a purchase of \$500 or more, you'll receive the bag, along with an eyeshadow and lip gloss kit with everything a gal needs to put her best face forward. Call (248) 643-3300.

#### A Westland Holiday

Westland Shopping Center will host extended holiday shopping hours through Christmas. Visit Santa and enjoy evening entertainment on select nights. Westland will host a Holiday Mocktail Mixer 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, where MADD, SEMCA and local dignitaries will present creative non-alcoholic drinks for the season. Visit www.westlandcenter.com for a complete listing of events.

#### BBAC Shop & Champagne

The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center will host its 26th annual Holiday Shop through Dec. 17 at its location, 1516 S. Cranbrook Road in Birmingham. The show features unique and inspired gift items from traditional to trendy, created by more than 150 artists. Call (248) 644-0866 or visit www.BBACenter.org.

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# A holiday toast — Birmingham style

Timeless Classic

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NEW YORK DOLL

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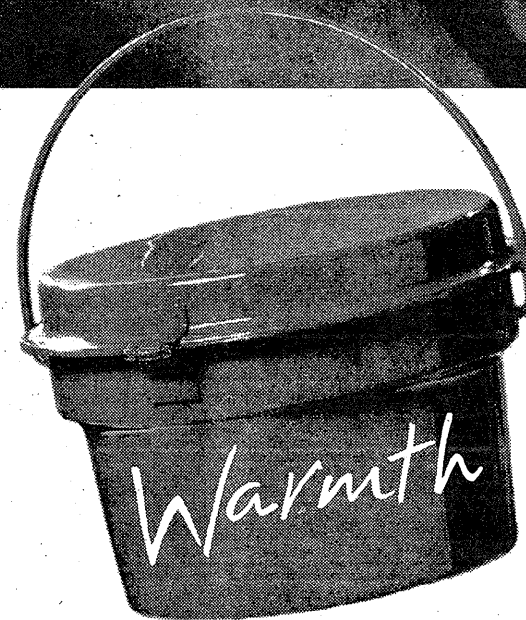
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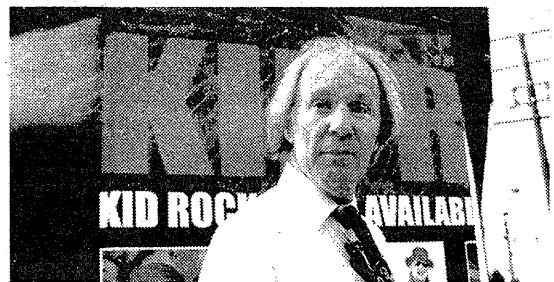
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PURE ENTERTAINMENT!  
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Kyle Howard hopes for great things in a new TBS romantic comedy.

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Worked up an appetite while you were out shopping? Try one of these restaurants near your favorite shopping locales.

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Got no plans? Make some after you check out our expanded entertainment calendar of events.

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Buy holiday cards at the Detroit Institute of Arts and support the museum.

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*Slither* might not be your choice for the "best alien slug movie ever made," but it is Greg Kowalski's.

**Observer & Eccentric**  
NEWSPAPERS

**ON THE COVER**

Ken Abramczyk Editor	Marty Carry Advertising Director
Lana Mini Staff Writer	Dan Dean Design Editor
Stephanie Casola Staff Writer	Susan Rosiek Executive Editor
	Peter Neill General Manager



Carol Cahalan and Loren Badish toast the holiday season at 220 in Birmingham.

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www.hometownlife.com



RICK SMITH OF RICK'S PHOTOGRAPHY

The Ensemble enjoys Tom Mahard (the fiddler) in 'A Christmas Carol.' Mahard has been in the show for all 25 years at Meadow Brook.

# A Christmas Carol

More than 1,000 performances later, Dickens classic is still popular at Meadow Brook

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK  
STAFF WRITER

Peter Thomson first performed in *A Christmas Carol* 24 years ago as Fred.

This year, and for the second year in a row, he helps Meadow Brook Theatre celebrate the 25th year of *A Christmas Carol* by playing Scrooge.

Even though Charles Dickens' story was first published more than 160 years ago (in 1843), the message of this timeless holiday classic has universal appeal.

"Scrooge's dilemma is the human dilemma," Thomson said. "He is fighting both the good and the bad sides of himself.

"The hurts, the disappointments that life has handed him have put him in a place that shuts him off from the rest of the world."

Thomson appears in the play with his wife, Jan Puffer, who plays Mrs. Cratchit. Bob Cratchit is played by Richard Marlatt, and Tiny Tim is played by Blake Fortune and Peyton Miller.

This year's anniversary also marks the return of Charles Nolte, the play's director. Both Nolte and Thomson reside in Minneapolis.

Thomson performed at Hilberry Theatre and graduated from Wayne State University with a master's degree in fine arts in 1982. He is a professional actor who has performed at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis and has performed in Los Angeles and New York City.

Nolte gave Thomson his first big role in *All My Sons* at Meadow Brook.

Scrooge allows insight into the human condition of isolation from disappointment and pain, Thomson said. "It is valuable to learn from our

pain and the love we have for each other, a sister or a mother, and for us to be put above that (pain)."

"I approach (Scrooge) as I approach any role, in an organic way and how it feels to me as I go," Thomson said. "Scrooge is hard. He's shut down, but he does feel these things."

Of course, Scrooge's dreams and nightmares with ghosts of Christmas past, present and what's to come speak about his character and the story's timelessness in the struggle with disappointment and ongoing isolation.

"It's all so pre-Freudian," Thomson said.

That universal appeal for a family story is indicated by the ticket sales. More

than 498,000 tickets have been sold for 1,017 public performances at Meadow Brook before this year's run. More than 750 actors have appeared in *A Christmas Carol*, and the first Tiny Tim is now 34 years old.

Members of the public can enjoy *A Christmas Carol* up close. Through a partnership with Ticketmaster, the Theatre Ensemble at Meadow Brook Theatre is offering a chance to bid and win a walk-on ensemble role in the Dec. 15 or Dec. 23 performances. Visit [www.mbtheatre.com](http://www.mbtheatre.com) or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) to place a bid.

*A Christmas Carol* is like any other wonderful holiday tradition, like putting on "an old sweater," Thomson said.

"The audience is really warm to the story," Thomson said. "It is exciting there (at Meadow Brook) and a joy to perform."

kabramcz@hometownlife.com | (248) 901-2591

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 7, 2006 • (\*\*\*) E3

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

Where: Meadow Brook Theatre, on campus of Oakland University, Rochester.

When: Dec. 7-10, 14-17 and 20-24

Tickets: \$25-\$40, Meadow Brook Theatre Box Office at (248) 370-3316, or for Group Sales, (248) 370-3316, online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

Santa: Child's photo with Elizabethan Santa following 2 p.m. matinee Dec. 13, 4:30-6:30 p.m., \$20.



RICK SMITH OF RICK'S PHOTOGRAPHY

Peter Thomson (Scrooge) performs in *A Christmas Carol* at Meadow Brook Theatre.



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# Mild-mannered rock star returns to glory in 'New York Doll'

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

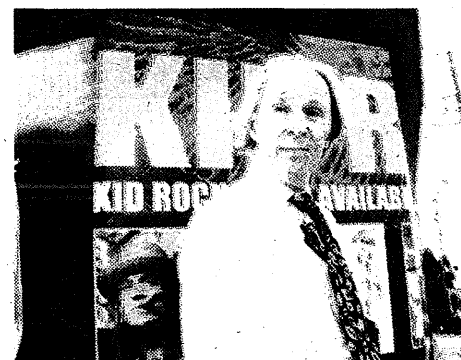
The First Independent Pictures release *New York Doll* introduces viewers to a lesser-known rock icon — Arthur "Killer" Kane — and follows his poignant journey to reunite one of the most influential American bands of the early 1970s.

The New York Dolls transformed the very look and sound of rock 'n' roll, pioneering glam rock and pairing it with punk attitude. The band called it quits in 1975, due to rampant alcohol and drug addictions, but its musical influence ran deep. More than a decade later, bands like Motley Crue and Poison would adopt their gender-bending style and rise to success.

Dolls' singer David Johansen re-emerged in the '80s as *Hot Hot Hot* party-crasher Buster Poindexter, while Johnny Thunders and Jimmy Nolan formed The Heartbreakers.

Despite attempts at other projects,

PLEASE SEE **DOCUMENTARY, E7**



Arthur 'Killer' Kane gets the band back together in the film *New York Doll*, playing Dec. 8-9 at the Detroit Film Theatre.

## 'NEW YORK DOLL'

**What:** A poignant 78-minute documentary detailing bassist Arthur Killer Kane's quest to reunite the New York Dolls in 2004.

**When:** Showing 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 8-9

**Where:** Detroit Film Theatre, behind the Detroit Institute of Arts, at John R and Farnsworth roads, north of Warren, Detroit.

**Cost:** \$6.50-\$7.50 at the box office, or call (313) 833-3237. Visit [www.dia.org/dft](http://www.dia.org/dft).

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The White Stripes, New York City, 2003. Copyright © 2003 by Annie Leibovitz.

ANNIE LEIBOVITZ: AMERICAN MUSIC is organized by Experience Music Project, Seattle and all works are courtesy of Annie Leibovitz. In Detroit, the exhibition has been made possible by a generous grant from LaSalle Bank. Additional support provided by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the City of Detroit.



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# 'My Boys' actor has high hopes for TBS comedy

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

Kyle Howard can't predict the future.

The 28-year-old actor portrays sports writer Bobby Newman on the new TBS sitcom *My Boys*. Though the entire season was shot before the show debuted, Howard said, only time will tell whether it is picked up for a second season.

The sitcom premiered Nov. 28 and runs at 10 p.m. Tuesdays on the cable network.

"I'm not used to being on a show that's promoted so much," the fluffy-dark-haired actor said. "This is the first year TBS is doing programming of their own."

Howard had his first taste of acting in junior high. He opted for the school play rather than running track and loved the experience. He moved onto commercials and by high school kick-started his career in Los Angeles. Howard has appeared on *The Drew Carey Show*, *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*, *The Amanda Show* and movies such as *Orange County*.

PLEASE SEE COMEDY, E13



PATRICK ECCLESINE

Kyle Howard (far left) appears with castmates (top, from left) Jamie Kaler, Michael Bunin, Jim Gaffigan, (seated from left) Kellee Stewart, Jordana Spiro and Reid Scott in the new TBS series *My Boys*, airing Tuesdays at 10 p.m.

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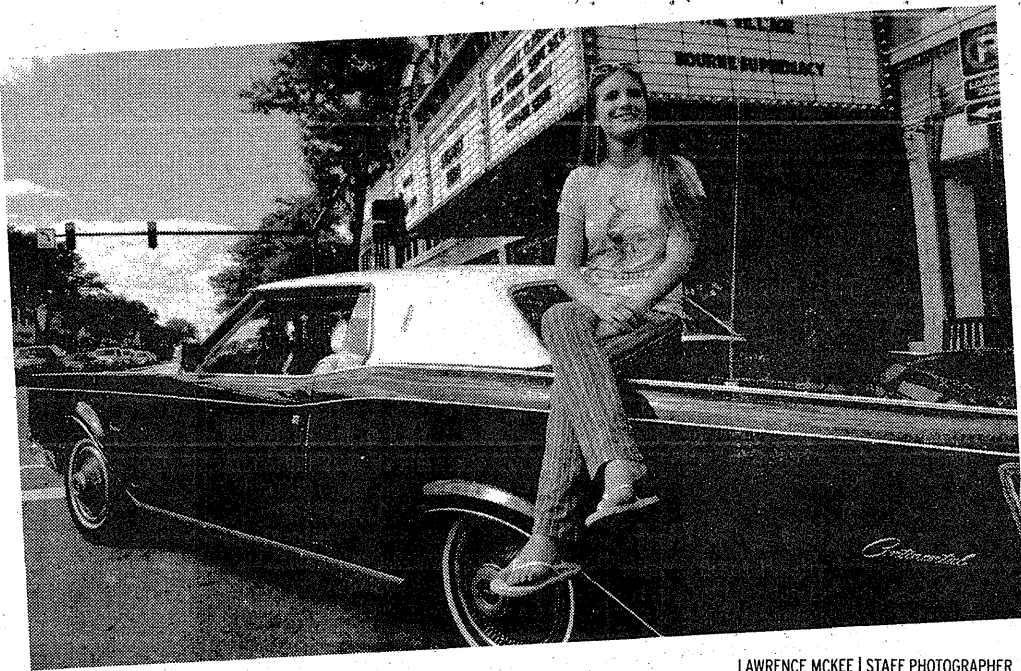
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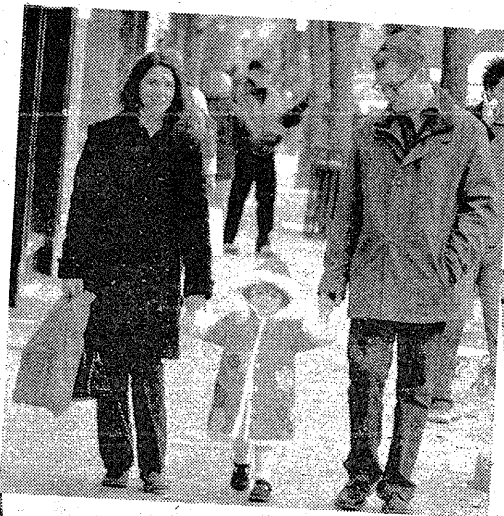
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LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jessica Hartwig sits on her 1960 Lincoln Continental outside of the iconic Birmingham Theater.



RICK SMITH

Shopping is a family affair in downtown Birmingham for Jennifer and Chad Pottenger, along with daughter Chloe.



RICK SMITH

Todd's Room draws window shopping attention in downtown Birmingham.

Cover story

# Day or night, Birmingham is booming

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to cosmopolitan dining, boutique shopping and altogether upscale atmosphere, downtown Birmingham draws in the crowds.

The city's destination status is hardly a secret for metro Detroiters. Shoppers wander the apex of Maple and Old Woodward streets daily on a mission to find one-of-a-kind gifts, head-turning fashions and an abundance of dining and entertainment options. To make the most of a quintessential Birmingham experience, know that the city can be something different to everyone.

The downtown shopping district offers something for all ages. Children become wide-eyed within steps of Adventures in Toys, while teens trek over to Caruso Caruso for the latest "it" brand of jeans or Oliver's Trendz for its whimsical accessories.

New parents easily fall prey to the adorable baby goods at Babyhood, while fashionistas spend quality time at Linda Dresner and Nicole Miller. While Birmingham boasts some of the most sought-after independent boutiques, shoppers will also find tried-and-true retailers like Anthropologie, Smith & Hawken and Ann Taylor Loft.

But shopping is just the start. To chart the course for a day in Birmingham, be sure to focus on the frills.

A girls' afternoon out might start with a decadent spa treatment at one of many spots to choose from in the city. Schedule a massage at Touch spa or stop into the makeup Mecca that is Todd's Room for a manicure. Then, satisfy a sweet tooth with an ice cream cone at Kilwin's or a buttercream creation from the Cupcake Station.

For a relaxing, elegant afternoon or a when celebrating a special occasion, reserve a table at the Townsend Hotel during high tea. Nosh on gourmet tea sandwiches, flaky fresh scones and preserves, and a sugary ending. The combination of a steaming pot of Earl Grey and the sweet sounds of the piano can warm any chilly winter day.

## ENDLESS OPTIONS

Dining options in Birmingham are virtually limitless. Grab a quick slice at Brooklyn Pizza or a light salad at

Cosi for those moments on-the-go, or fill a table with family members at Buca Di Beppo, Big Rock Chop & Brew House or Peabody's.

By night, Birmingham becomes an ideal dating destination. Start with an impressive meal at an elegant spot like Forté. Or cozy up in one of the half-moon booths at City Cellar and order from a menu filled with steak, seafood or sushi.

Then, take in a late show at one of Birmingham's two movie theaters. The Birmingham 8, with its historic marquee on Old Woodward, offers art house and independent flicks. It's conveniently located next to Java Hutt, a great place to recharge with a cappuccino before the movie starts. Or walk two blocks north and take in a new release at the multi-level Palladium. Sink right into its plush seats and enjoy the show.

The town comes alive during the holiday season. Children can share their wish lists with Santa Claus Friday-Sunday at Shain Park, or look for the Jolly Old Elf from 2-3 p.m. Fridays as he strolls among the shops spreading holiday cheer.

And the best way to experience Birmingham's holiday light displays may be from a carriage ride, offered Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 24 at Henrietta and Martin streets, near City Hall. For more information on holiday events, visit [www.enjoybirmingham.com](http://www.enjoybirmingham.com) or call (248) 433-3550.

## THE NIGHTLIFE

When looking for a great nightspot, options abound. See and be seen at the Blue Martini and order the signature drink. It's made with vodka, Cointreau, Blue Curacao, sour mix and orange juice. GotRocks Ultra Lounge also offers a posh atmosphere. On a more casual night out with friends, stop by Birmingham's stand-by Dick O'Dows Irish Pub and order a Guinness.

One of the metro area's most walkable cities, Shain Park is a perfect spot to stop and enjoy the weather.

Nearby, The Community House hosts classes and special events regularly. And culture-seekers can browse paintings, sculptures and installations at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center. When in town, take time and take it all in.

## BIRMINGHAM'S BEST BETS

### Do and see:

Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, 1516 S. Cranbrook (248) 644-0866  
Birmingham Theater, 211 S. Woodward (248) 644-3456  
Birmingham Historical Museum & Park, 556 W. Maple (248) 642-2817  
The Community House of Birmingham, 380 S. Bates (248) 644-5832

### Stop to shop:

Anthropologie, 214 W. Maple (248) 593-5653  
Astrein's Creative Jewelers, 120 W. Maple (248) 644-1651  
Babyhood, 141 W. Maple (248) 540-0105  
Caruso, Caruso, 166 W. Maple (248) 645-5151  
Chico's, 142 W. Maple (248) 593-6630  
Design Within Reach, 168 W. Maple (248) 593-9640  
Linda Dresner, 299 W. Maple (248) 642-4999  
miss kate, 336 E. Maple (248) 646-1695  
Nicole Miller, 268 W. Maple (248) 433-0393  
Oliver's Trendz, 138 W. Maple (248) 723-9833  
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### Where to eat:

Avant Garde, 126 S. Old Woodward (248) 594-4499  
Big Rock Chop & Brew House, 245 S. Eton (248) 647-7774  
Forte, 201 S. Old Woodward (248) 594-7300  
The Original Pancake House, 33703 Woodward (248) 642-5775  
Peabody's, 34965 Woodward (248) 644-5222  
Pita Cafe, 239 N. Old Woodward (248) 645-6999  
Rugby Grill, 100 Townsend (248) 642-7900  
Streetside Seafood, 273 Pierce (248) 645-9123  
Sy Thai Restaurant, 315 Hamilton (248) 258-9830  
Tokyo Sushi & Grille, 225 E. Maple (248) 258-6501  
For Nightlife:  
Blue Martini, 201 Hamilton (248) 258-3005  
City Cellar Wine Bar & Grill, 201 Hamilton Row (248) 642-2489  
Corner Lounge, 100 Townsend (248) 594-6272  
Dick O'Dow's Irish Pub, 160 W. Maple (248) 642-1135  
220 & Edison's, 220 Merrill (248) 645-2150

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## DOCUMENTARY

FROM PAGE E4

bassist Arthur "Killer" Kane faded into obscurity. His alcoholism escalated after the band's demise, costing him his marriage. "I had no money, no friends and I couldn't get off the booze," he said in the film.

As Kane began to piece his life back together in Los Angeles, he found religion. He adopted Mormonism in 1989 and took a job as a librarian at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints' Family History Center. Considering it a calling, Kane used genealogy to reconnect family members and reunite those with severed relationships. The work would mirror his own quest.

The film found Kane living in Los Angeles, lamenting the loss of the New York Dolls. "I'm spoiled from the past," he said, seemingly comfortable with the cameras following him. "It's hard to put them away. They're my fondest memories."

Shot in a fast-paced style, the documentary blends archival band footage, photographs and a purposefully-chosen soundtrack to tell the story of Kane's return to the stage and ultimately the resurrection of the New York Dolls. Songs like *In My Girlish Days*, *Lonely Planet Boy* and *Trash* are featured alongside storytelling music like The Clash's *London Calling* and The Smiths' *Please Please Let Me Get What I Want*.

The documentary juxtaposes two worlds — one of an alcohol-soaked rock god sporting lipstick and teased hair and another of a mild-mannered librarian steeped only in his faith.

Both sides of Kane are reconciled 30 years after the Dolls' demise. Thanks to Morrissey, 2004 curator of London's Meltdown Festival, Kane reunites with the only other living Dolls, Johansen and Sylvain Sylvain, for a long-anticipated performance at Royal Festival Hall.

Director Greg B. Whitely takes care to chronicle Kane's journey. From his daily bus ride to work to the retrieval of his bass guitars from a local pawn shop and his first steps into a rehearsal studio, the film leads to this historic rock moment. Kane, 55, appears more nervous when reunited with estranged bandmate Johansen than he does when he finally takes the stage.

Whitely interviews legends like Chrissie Hynde of the Pretenders and Detroit's godfather of punk Iggy Pop and gives equal time to leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and Kane's co-workers. In his first foray into feature filmmaking, the director found people who were "ever willing to talk about the quiet and unassuming Arthur 'Killer' Kane," he wrote in a press release.

"Arthur was finally able to get to that place he'd been trying to get for so many years and we all feel extremely fortunate to have been able to witness it."

scasola@hometownlife.com | (248) 901-2567

## Breakfast with Santa

### MEADOW BROOK

9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 16 and Sunday, Dec. 17, Knole Cottage (the three-quarter scale playhouse of Frances Dodge), \$30 for adults, \$25 for children; special Supper with Santa at 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18; Holiday High Tea will be served 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19, \$50 per person, reservations are required, (248) 364-6200 or visit [www.meadowbrookhall.org](http://www.meadowbrookhall.org).


### IKEA CANTON

8:30-10:30 a.m., Dec. 2, 9, 16 and 23, breakfast 99 cents, parents welcome to

bring cameras, free small gift for children, [www.ikea.com](http://www.ikea.com)


### DETROIT ZOO

Dec. 9, 10, 16 and 17, a buffet-style waffle breakfast, 8:30-10 a.m., Dec. 9, 10, 16 and 17; souvenir photos \$5, costumed characters, arts and crafts, and holiday movies in the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery Theater, cost \$20-\$25 for Detroit Zoological Society members, \$30-\$35 for non-members. adults seating is limited, advance reservations are necessary, call (248) 541-5717, Ext. 3750.



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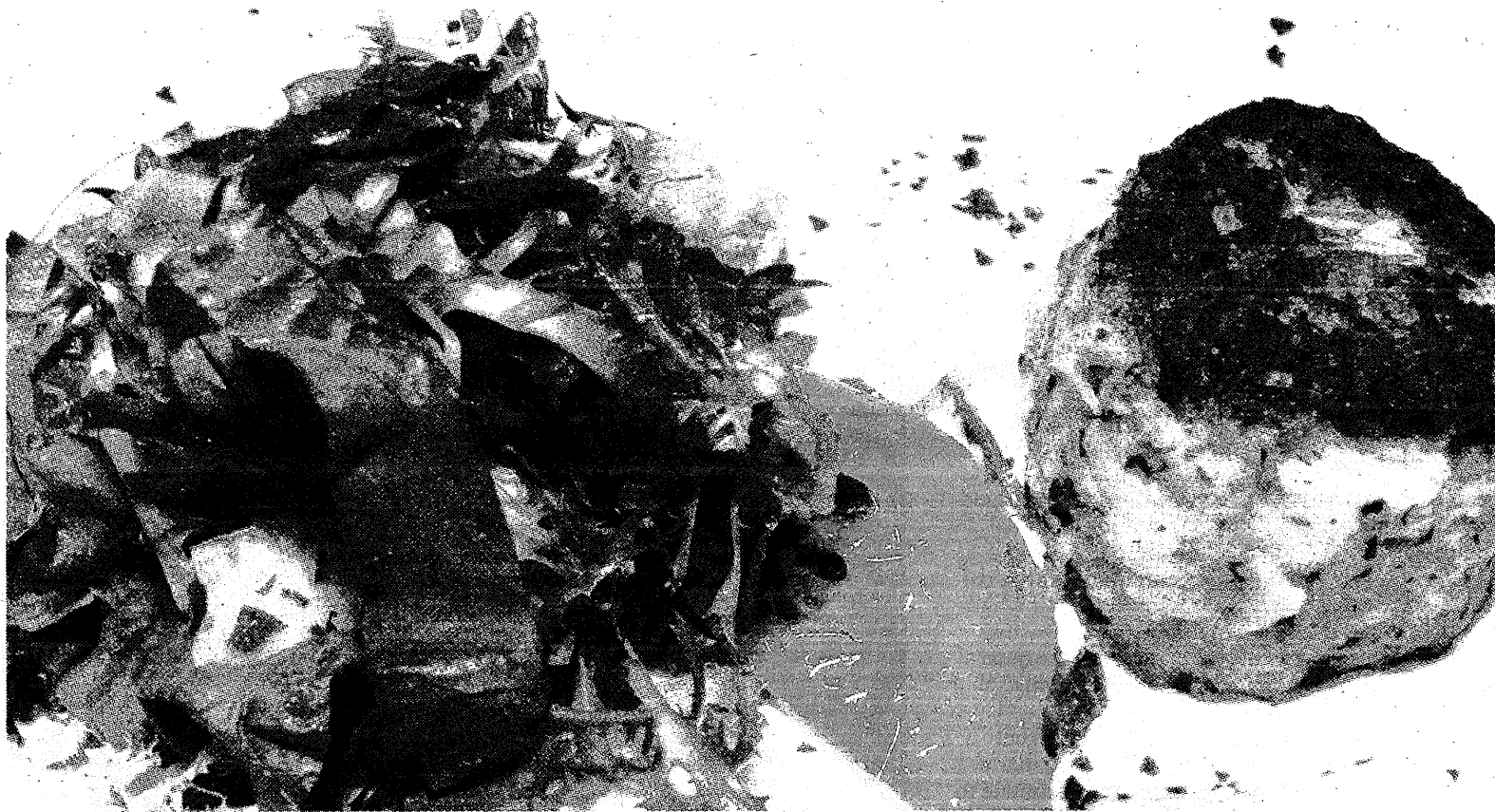
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# Hungry shoppers can opt for these eateries



Vying for parking spaces, finding the perfect gift and lugging heavy packages around the mall will surely work up an appetite. When looking for an alternative to the food court or a fast food joint, it's easy to find a quick bite or hearty meal close to coveted shopping spots.

**Table Hopping**

Here are a few recommendations for hungry shoppers this holiday season at or near your favorite shopping locations:

## SOMEWHERE NEAR SOMERSET COLLECTION, TROY

Maggiano's Little Italy offers family-style dining a stone's throw from the shopping mall. But you won't have to fight for a parking spot. Take advantage of complimentary valet service and

LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A jumbo meat crabcake towers over a bed of creamy horseradish sauce and tri-colored greens at Brio Tuscan Grill.

PLEASE SEE HOPPING, E9

**THE GREAT American Grill**

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# HOPPING

FROM PAGE E8

order up enough Eggplant Parmesan to share with friends. Located at 2089 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy. Call (248) 205-1060.

**P.F. Chang's China Bistro** is packed anytime of year. If you have a hankering for Lettuce Wraps and Wonton Soup be sure to give your name hours in advance. Then get some shopping in before heading in for a Mai Tai. Located at 2801 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy. Call (248) 816-8000.

**Brio Tuscan Grill** offers a relaxing atmosphere when its time to put the packages down and take in a hearty lunch. From fresh pasta to salad to steaks, the menu suits any hungry shopper. Located at 2801 West Big Beaver Road, Troy. Call (248) 643-6045.

## AROUND THE VILLAGE OF ROCHESTER HILLS

**Kruse & Muer's** intimate setting may require a reservation, but the menu is well-worth the wait. Take a break and break poppyseed bread - hot from the oven - while deciding what fresh fish, pasta or pizza to order. Located at 134 N. Adams Road, Rochester Hills. Call (248) 375-2503.

For a quick pit-stop in the shopping race, veer into **Cosi** for a crisp Signature Salad or inventive sandwich, all available with wood oven-baked bread. Located at 84 N. Adams Road, Rochester Hills. Call (248) 375-5100.

## LOOKING AT LAUREL PARK PLACE IN LIVONIA

Come early and leave your name at **California Pizza Kitchen** for a gourmet pie. Try a Thai-inspired salad or Pear and Gorgonzola pizza for a fresh twist on lunch. Located at 37546 6 Mile Road, Livonia. Call (734) 591-0476

In a hurry to make it to a sale? Keep it simple. Stop in to **Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches** for a sub "so fast you'll freak," as their motto promises. Pair a Turkey Tom with chips and a drink and you'll be back to filling that holiday list in no time. Located at 37671 6 Mile Road, Livonia. Call (734) 462-3700.

## WHEN AT WESTLAND SHOPPING CENTER:

**Casa Fiesta** offers traditional Mexican fare at a fair price. Snack on chips and salsa while deciding on a dish. Located at 7667 Wayne Road, Westland. Call (734) 261-9804. Go deep dish instead of deep into holiday shopping debt. Stop by **Uno Chicago Grill** for deep dish pizza of your choice. Located at 7525 Wayne Road, Westland. Call (734) 525-1667.

## TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS AT 12 OAKS

You have your own selection of soups and sandwiches at either the **Stage Deli** or **Panera** at 12 Oaks. The Stage Deli features triple decker toasted sandwiches and sandwiches named after Broadway shows.

Panera recently introduced a new personal pizza for the evening crowd. Want to get away from the mall itself? The **Library**, 42100 Grand River (between Novi and Meadowbrook roads), has good pizza and decent bar fare for reasonable prices.

Compiled by Stephanie A. Casola and Ken Abramczyk

**Melange Subterranean Bistro/Wine Bar** will launch dinner and a movie night, featuring *Sideways*, at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11.

Dinner consists of salad, entree and dessert for \$30 and continues every Monday night. Reservations are strongly recommended.

Melange is located at 314 S. Main St., Ann Arbor (below The Ark). Call (734) 222-0202 to make reservations.

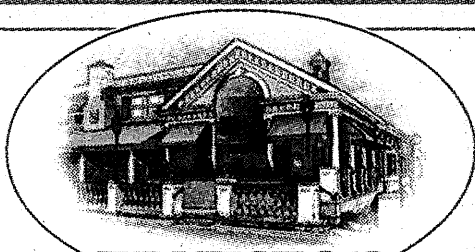
Classical oysters, Meyer lemon souffle and the aroma of Christmas goose will be in the air at the **Historic Holly Hotel** at its 26th annual Victorian Feast, Monday, Dec. 11 and 18, at \$39 per person. The meal also features English bangers, roasted parsnip and chestnut soup, red leaf salad with stilton, malt dressing and crispy onions. Guests will be served English bread pudding with brandy sauce.

Call (248) 634-5208 for details or to make reservations.

**Dunkin' Donuts** will honor bell ringers and donors at the Salvation Army Appreciation Days Saturday, Dec. 9, and Sunday, Dec. 10.

That weekend, all Salvation Army volunteers and people who give a minimum \$1 donation at participating kettle sites will receive: a coupon for a free medium, freshly brewed coffee or small hot chocolate (redeemable at any participating Dunkin' Donuts locations throughout Metro Detroit, while supplies last).

There will also be three random winners selected to receive a pound of Dunkin's fresh ground coffee as a gift for donating and a certificate from Dunkin' Donuts entitling them for one free medium coffee every week for one year.

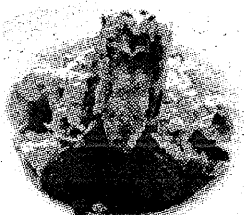


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## ART EXHIBITS

### Cranbrook Art Museum

Space is the Place, exhibition of installations, paintings, other works by contemporary artists, through Jan. 14, 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, \$6, (877) 60-CRANBrook (1-877-462-7262), www.cranbrookart.edu.

### Detroit Institute of Arts

Annie Leibovitz: American Music, intimate portraits of those influenced by American roots music, through Jan. 7; 5200 Woodward Ave., (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org.

### Flint Institute of Arts

Exhibit of *Excavating Egypt, Great Discoveries* from the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, University College, London, through Jan. 7, Graphics Gallery, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint, (810) 234-1695, www.flintarts.org.

## ART GALLERIES

### Arnold Klein

Robert Edwards, New Works on Panel and Paper, through Dec. 16; 32782 Woodward, Royal Oak, (248) 647-7709.

### ArtCraft

Real and Imagined, oil paintings by Malo, artist's reception, 6-9 p.m. Dec. 15, exhibit through Dec. 31, 32410 Woodward, Royal Oak, (248) 549-9000.

### David Klein Gallery

163 Townsend, Birmingham, (248) 433-3700, dkgallery.com.

### Elaine Jacob Gallery

Unembedded: Four Independent Photographers on the War in Iraq, Old Main, 480 W. Hancock, Wayne State University, through Jan. 12, (313) 577-5980.

### Ellen Kayrod Gallery

4750 Woodward (southeast corner of Woodward and Hancock), Detroit, (313) 833-1300, Ext. 18, www.hannan.org.

### Flatlanders Art Galleries

Heavy Metal, sculptures fabricated in steel by Ken Thompson; Tidal Forces, new sculpture by Judith Greavu, through Feb. 4; 11993 E. U.S. 223, Blissfield, (517) 486-4591, www.flatlander-sculpture.com.

### Michigan State University

Department of Art & Art History's celebration of its 75th anniversary, exhibition includes 21 studio artists who teach and create art, the first floor of the Kresge Art Center, (517) 355-7631, visit www.artmuseum.msu.edu.

### Paint Creek Center for the Arts

The Tick Tock fund-raiser, an auction of artful clocks, 7-10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, clocks not picked up will be displayed through Dec. 29, at 407 Pine St., Rochester, (248) 651-4110 or www.pccart.org.

### The Print Gallery

Detroit's Top Ten, lithographs of Esteban Chavez, through Dec. 30, 29173 Northwestern Highway, Southfield (248) 356-5454, www.EverythingArt.com, www.MonalisaMania.com.

### River's Edge Gallery

Detroit elite artists, including Mark Arminski, Johnny "Bee" Badanjek, Tim Burke, Gary Grimshaw, Carl Lundgren, Niagara and SLAW, 6-11 p.m. Dec. 15, also Patricia Izzo's Light Side of 20/20, opening 6-9 p.m. Dec. 15, 3024 Biddle, Wyandotte, (734) 246-9880, www.artattheedge.com.

### Sherrus Gallery

Tiny Treasures, smaller works of acrylic, pas-



tel, glass and metal artists, through month of December, 109 N. Center, Northville, www.sher-rusgallery.com.

### Susanne Hilberry Gallery

John O'Reilly, Tadzio series and other montages, through Jan. 19, 700 Livernois, Ferndale, (248) 541-4700.

### Woods Gallery

New paintings by Sylvia Clark, through Dec. 22, lower level of Huntington Woods Library, 26415 Scotia, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile roads, west of Woodward, (248) 581-2696, www.woods-gallery.org.

## ART, ETC.

### Cranbrook Academy of Art

Wayne State University grad student exhibition, Dec. 8-Jan. 12, opening reception 6-8 p.m. Dec. 8, Forum Gallery, Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 645-3300, www.cranbrookart.edu.

### Sisson Gallery

*Corridor Ramble, A Tribes of the Cass Corridor Exhibition*, through Dec. 11, Henry Ford Community College, MacKenzie Fine Arts Center, 5101 Evergreen, Dearborn, (313) 845-6485.

### Wayne State University

Cranbrook Academy of Art grad student exhibition, through Jan. 12, Community Arts Gallery, 450 Reuther Hall (at Cass between West Kirby and Palmer), (313) 577-2423.

## COUNTRY

### WYCD's Holiday Concert

Big & Rich with Cowboy Troy, 7-30 p.m. Dec. 16, The Palace, \$30-\$50, (248) 645-6666, palacenet.com, The Palace box office and all Ticketmaster locations.

## CLUBS

### 220 Merrill Street & Edison Lounge

Extensive drink menu, live music, dancing, eclectic and American nouveau cuisine, 220 E. Merrill, Birmingham, (248) 645-2150.

### 313.Jac's

Located upstairs at Jacoby's, 624 Brush in Bricktown, (313) 962-7067, 21 and over, doors open 10 p.m., cover \$5, www.staticrecords.com/shows.htm.

### Blue Martini

Live music from 8-11:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, and Saturdays and Sundays, 201 Hamilton, between Woodward and Old Woodward, one block north of Maple, (248) 258-3005.

### Bosco

Enjoy noWax nights-at 7 p.m. every

Wednesday, download music into your MP3 Player, take a number and wait your turn to be DJ and spin three songs, no cover, 21 and over only, 22930 Woodward in Ferndale, www.thebosco.com, (248) 541-8818.

### Buddha Lounge

Thursday, DJ Shug plays super sonic smooth music and beer pong tournament. Saturdays DJ Terrence Parker & Mo Reese; Sundays, Karaoke; Tuesdays, Deep House; Wednesdays Jamtramck jazz band, www.gobuddha.net, (313) 535-4664.

### The Buzz Bar

Larry Fratangelo's One Nation Under a Buzz P-Funk Jam Session, Dec. 7; 546 E. Larned, Detroit, (313) 962-1800, www.buzzdetroit.com.

### Club 2000

Fat Twosdays with DJ Carl the Invisible Man 9 p.m. Tuesdays, hip-hop, 18 and over, 299 E. Woodbridge, Detroit, (313) 235-2233.

### Dino's Lounge

Live bands on weekends, hip, laid back, friendly, 22740 Woodward, just south of Nine Mile in Ferndale, (248) 591-DINO.

### Edison's

Larry Lee, Dec. 7, Aaron Vaughan, Dec. 8-9; John D. Lamb, Dec. 14; Code Blue, Dec. 15-16; Mystery Train Featuring Jim McCarty, Dec. 21; The Randy Brock Group, Dec. 22-23; Robert Penn, Dec. 28; The Blue Kings, Dec. 29-30; The Snakes, Dec. 31, 220 Merrill, Birmingham, (248) 645-2150.

### Elysium

Lounge, dance and happy hour from 3-9 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays, nightclub hours Fridays and Saturdays, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m., (313) 962-2244, 625 Shelby, Detroit. www.elysium-lounge.com.

### Fiamma Grille

Roy Scoutz, 7-10 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, George "The Kat" plays saxophone, 7-10 p.m. Thursdays, 380 Main, Plymouth, (734) 416-0100.

### Gala

LTD (jazz), Dec. 15, 33316 Grand River, Farmington, (248) 478-2355.

### Ginopolis on the Grill

Don Swindell and Shuffle Play, with Swindell, Sheila Brown, Mike Lorenz and Jake Reichhart, 7:30-11:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 27851 Middlebelt at 12 Mile in Farmington Hills, no cover, (248) 851-8222.

### Leland City Club

Avant garde, open until 4 a.m., access through unmarked door on the First Street side of the Ramada Hotel building, 400 Bagley, Detroit, www.lelandcityclub.com.

### The Locker Room Saloon

Wild Wednesdays with DJ Oz, Trivia Night and Ladies Night Thursdays, Funky Fridays with DJ

Paul, Insane Saturdays with DJ Oz, 7790 Auburn, Utica, (586) 731-3323, www.locker-roomsaloon.com, www.ckpep.com.

### The Magic Bag

22920 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-1991, event hot line (248) 544-3030, www.themagic-bag.com.

### Seldom Blues

Big Band Wednesdays with Johnny Trudell and his 18-piece band, 7-11 p.m., playing a mix of jazz favorites, located in Tower 400, Level 1 of the GM Renaissance Center next to the Marriott, call (313) 567-7301.

### Sky Club

Tango, salsa, and Latin dancing every Wednesday beginning at 8 p.m., located above Sangria's Restaurant, 401 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, (248) 543-1964.

## COMEDY

### 336 1/2

Rico Bruce Wade and Russ Brown, Dec. 8-9; Steve Bills and Simply Shanell, Dec. 15-16; Connie Ettinger & Crystal P, Dec. 22 and 23, 336 S. Main St., Plymouth (734) 454-6500.

### Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase

Rob Little, Dec. 7-9; Open Mic/Comedy Jamm, Dec. 13, 20 and 27; John Heffron, Dec. 14-16; Chili Challis, Dec. 21-23; Jeff Brannan, Dec. 28-30, 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, (734) 996-9080.

### JD's House of Comedy

Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday; 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield, (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com.

### Historic Holly Hotel Comedy Club

Mike Dambra with Connie Ettinger, Dec. 8-9; David Luther Glover with Steve Lind, Dec. 15-16; Steve Bills with Jeff Dwooskin, Dec. 22-23; The Desperate Houseguys (Mike Malec, Mike Bobbit, Russ Brown and Steve Lind), Dec. 28-31, 110 Battle Alley, Holly, (248) 634-5208.

### Improv Inferno

Citizen Improv, 8 p.m. Wednesdays; Super Fun Karaoke, 10 p.m. Wednesdays; The Catfight, 8 p.m. Thursdays; High Octane, 10 p.m. Thursdays; Biff! Bang! Pow!, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; The Damnation Game, 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; The X Show, midnight, Fridays and Saturdays; The Corner, 7 p.m. Sundays, Get Up! Stand Up!, 8:30 p.m. Sundays; The Weekend Wild Card, 10 p.m. Sundays, The Sweet Spot with Eye Candy, 11 p.m. Sundays, 309 S. Main, Ann Arbor, (734) 214-7080, www.improvinferno.com.

### Joey's Comedy Club

36071 Plymouth, Livonia, (734) 261-0555, also has comedy at second location, 5070 Schaefer, Dearborn, (313) 584-8885; www.joeyscomey.com.

### Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle

Keif Skyving, Dec. 7-9; Ken Rogerson, Dec. 14-16; Tom McGillen, Dec. 21-23, John Caponera, Dec. 28-31, at 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak, call (248) 542-9900.

### Second City

Second City's Dysfunctional Holiday Revue, through Dec. 31, \$15-\$20, 42705 Grand River, Novi, call (248) 348-4448.

### Wise Guys Comedy Club

40380 Grand River, Novi (248) 919-3216.

### Wise Guys at Portofino

Chili Challis with Mike Kosta, Dec. 8-9; Warren B. Hall with Russ Brown, Dec. 15; Mike Green with Jason Benci, Dec. 22-23; Bryan McCree with Connie Ettinger, Dec. 29-31; 3455 Biddle, Wyandotte, (734) 752-1015.

## DANCE

### Detroit Dance Collective

December Dances, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, Marlene Boll Theater, YMCA, 1401 Broadway (between John R and Grand River), Detroit, \$12-\$20, reception follows Sunday concert, call (810) 444-4553 for tickets or information.

### Eisenhower Dance Ensemble

The Snow Queen and other dances, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, Lake Orion Performing Arts

Center, Lake Orion High School, \$10-15, (248) 559-2095.

### Ballroom Dancing

Special holiday ballroom dance, 8-11 p.m. Dec. 15, Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, \$10, (248) 473-1830.

## FAMILY

### Detroit Children's Museum

2nd Saturdays on 2nd, eighth annual Holiday Storytelling Fest, photos with Santa, make and take crafts, for age 3 and older, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Dec. 9, reservations required for programs, (313) 873-8100.

### Detroit Science Center

Exhibits include *As Time Goes By*, new exhibit about the aging process, and *A Journey to Our Future*, now open to accompany center's new permanent Space Laboratory exhibit, 5020 John R, Detroit, \$6-\$7, (313) 577-8400, www.detroitssciencecenter.org.

### Plowshares Theatre Co.

Dark Cowgirls & Prairie Queens, a Young Company production, through Dec. 31, 2870 E. Grand Blvd. Ste 600, Detroit, \$10-\$21, (313) 872-0279.

## FILM

### Detroit Film Theatre

Inside the Detroit Institute of Arts; for tickets, call (313) 833-3237, www.dia.org/dft.

### Main Art Theatre

Friday Night King, new movie premiere for Detroit-area filmmaker Matthew Peach, 7:45 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, 118 N. Main, Royal Oak, audience members encouraged to dress up in favorite alternative club gear with prizes to best dressed, tickets \$11 at www.fridaynightking.com or \$10 at box office, Dec. 13 and 14.

## FUND-RAISERS

Piper's Holiday Concert with jazz flutist Alexander Zonjic, Thornetta Davis and others, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 9 to benefit international children's charities, \$25, \$100 for preferred seating with afterglow with the artists, Dearborn Community and Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., (313) 943-2354 or buy tickets at www.dearbornfordcenter.com.

## HOLIDAY SHOWS

### The Shores Church

Christmas with David Phelps in concert with Anthem Avenue and comedian Daren Streblow, 7 p.m. Dec. 10, The Shores Church, 24985 Manhattan, St. Clair Shores, \$15-\$25 advance, \$20-\$30 day of show, (586) 772-9050, www.theshorechurch.org

### Fox Theatre

Irving Berlin's White Christmas, through Dec. 30, \$20-\$100, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, (248) 433-1515, OlympiaEntertainment.com, Ticketmaster.com.

### The Theatre Ensemble/Meadow Brook Theatre

A Christmas Carol, through Dec. 24; Every Christmas Story Ever Told, Dec. 11-20; on campus of Oakland University in Rochester, (248) 377-3300, www.mbttheatre.com

### The Palace

Trans-Siberian Orchestra, 8 p.m. Dec. 8, \$39.50-\$49.50, Tickets available at Palacenet.com, The Palace Box Office and all Ticketmaster locations, (248) 645-6666.

### Plymouth Symphony Orchestra

Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Ballet with Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company, Dec. 9-10, Salem High School Auditorium, 46181 Joy Road, Canton, \$10-\$20, (734) 451-2112 or visit www.plymouthsymphony.org for tickets.

### Royal Oak Symphony Orchestra

Winter concert, 7 p.m. Dec. 10, Royal Oak High School, 1500 Lexington (at Crooks), \$7-\$10, free admission for those under 18, (248) 988-6991, www.royaloakorchestra.org.

### World Music Series

Fiesta Navidad with Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano, Nati Cano and his band enter-



p.m. Dec. 12, Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111, detroitsymphony.com.

### Community & Performing Arts

Osmond's The Magic of Christmas, 7 p.m. Dec. 14, 15801 Michigan, Dearborn, (313) 54, www.dearbornfordcenter.com.

**Chamber Winds and Strings**  
Brass, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, First Presbyterian Church, 1669 W. Maple, Dearborn, \$10-\$35 advance, \$5 more at www.detroitchamberwinds.org, (248) 995-195.

### Wonderful Life

Bufalini's It's A Wonderful Life - The Show, 6 p.m. Dec. 17 and 7 p.m. Dec. 23, Dption Cultural Center Hall 21800 Marter near Vernier in St. Clair Shores, (586) 761-1111.

### Opera Hall

*Opera Holiday* featuring the works of Giuseppe Verdi, 10:45 a.m. and 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17; Home for the Holidays, Dec. 14-17; Clay holiday concert with Detroit Symphony Orchestra, 8 p.m. Dec. 18, at Orchestra Hall at Max M. Fisher Music Center, www.detroit-symphony.com, (313) 576-5111.

### Franklin's Christmas Card

Franklin performs holiday concert with Ruben Amaro, former American Idol star, 8 p.m. Dec. 11, Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison, Detroit, \$45-\$75, (248) 645-0301 or (313) 887-8501.

### Concerts of Christmas

Christmas celebration with Peabo Bryson, James Ingram, Stephanie Mills and Deniece Williams, 8 p.m. Dec. 22, Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111, detroitsymphony.com.

### Concertman: A Holiday Concert

Dec. 23, Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111, detroitsymphony.com.

## DAY CHORUS

### Edge Chorale

Season concert, 8 p.m. Dec. 9, 4 p.m. Dec. 10, Northville High School Auditorium, 10000 Six Mile, between Sheldon and Beck, Northville, 1-866-924-4276, www.plycommunity-arts.org.

**Artnova**  
Choral ensemble, The Many Moods of Christmas, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 16, First Baptist Church, 309 N. Main (north of 11 Mile), Royal Oak, 1-866-924-4276, www.arsnova-mi.org or call 541-4100 Ext. 1311.

**Civic Chorus**  
Holiday concert, "Spirit of the Season," 3 p.m. Dec. 17, Livonia's Churchill High School Auditorium, 8900 Newburgh Road, \$10, livoniacivicchorus.org, (734) 525-6414.

**St. Ignace Musicale of Greater Pontiac**  
Christmas concert, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 12, sanctuary of Central United Methodist Church, 3882 Grand River, Waterford, free and open to public.

## DAY LIGHTS

### Right Light Show

Downtown Rochester, display 6-10 p.m. every day through Dec. 31, (248) 656-0060, www.downtownrochestermi.com

## DAY WALK

### Holiday Walk

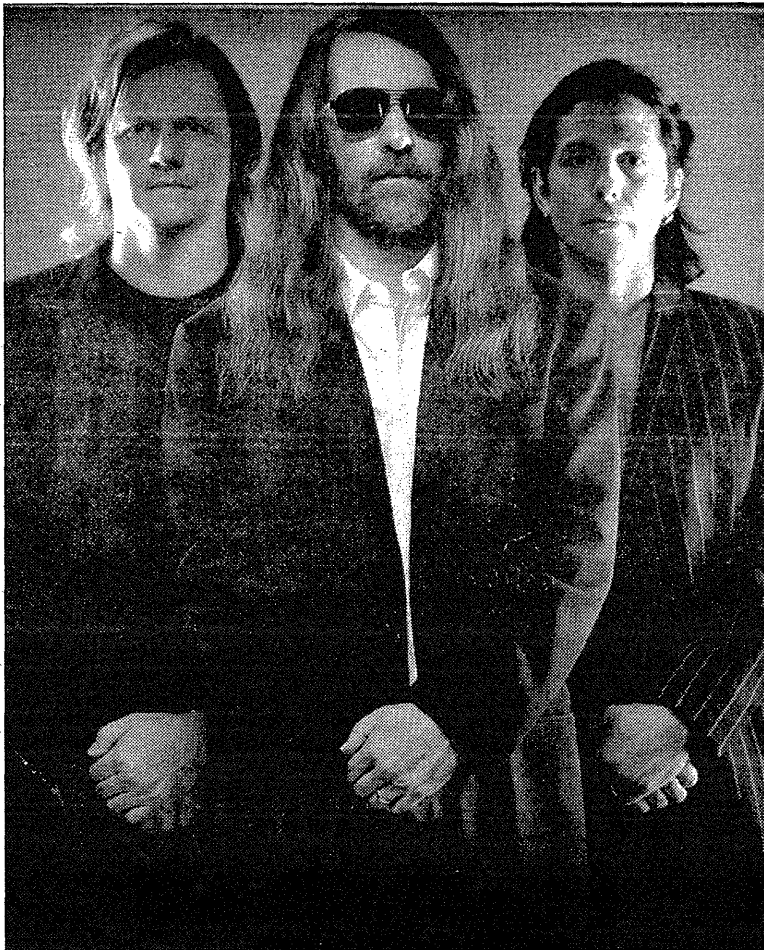
Concerts with pianist Vlad Kalmusky Dec. 17, children's performer Mary Jeva Dec. 17, holiday tea, visits with Santa, Meadow Brook through Dec. 22, many other holiday events, (248) 364-6200 or visit www.meadowbrookhall.org.

### It's

5 Telegraph, Southfield, (248) 355-4695.

### 's Holiday Concert

www.detroitlife.com



JAMES MINCHEN

**Bob Kinkel (from left), Paul O'Neill and Al Pitrelli are the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. See the spectacle at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at the Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets are \$39.50-\$49.50, (248) 645-6666.**

Alexander Zonjic & Friends, Thornetta Davis, the Barbara Ogar Flute Choir and concert pianist Margaret Kapasi perform 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, Dearborn Community and Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, \$25 to \$100, (313) 943-2354 or www.dearbornfordcenter.com.

### Windsor/Detroit Jazz Club

Ongoing gigs, 1-4 p.m. first and third Saturday of every month, Shield's Pizza, 25101 Telegraph (northwest corner of 10 Mile and Telegraph), Southfield, \$8 cover, (248) 478-0172.

### Vijay Iyer

8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, The Music Box, Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, \$25, (313) 576-5111, www.detroit-symphony.com.

### Jazz and dinner

"Kind of Blue Tuesdays," at Lola's, Harmonie Park. Led by the Gerard Evans Quartet, the shows help musicians play with the core group at 9 p.m. every Tuesday, 1427 Randolph St. in Detroit's Harmonie Park, (313) 962-0483.

### T.S. Monk

Jazz sextet performs 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111, www.detroit-symphony.com.

## MORE MUSIC

### The Ark

Finvarra's Wren, Irish and Celtic American folk music at Solstice show, 8 p.m. Dec. 15, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor, (734) 761-1451 for ticket information.

### Cadieux Cafe

Tracy Kash Thomas Band, 10 p.m., Dec. 14, \$3, 4300 Cadieux, Detroit, (313) 882-8560, www.tracykash.com.

### Joe Louis Arena

Scream Tour 5 featuring Omarion, Ne-Yo, Pretty Ricky, Mario and more, 7 p.m. Dec. 26, at 600 Civic Center Drive, \$35.75-\$49.75, (313) 462-6611.

471-6611.

### The Ark

316 S. Main, Ann Arbor, (734) 761-1800, www.theark.org.

### Station 885

Tony Ruda and Pat Smith play jazz from 7-10 p.m. every Thursday (bass and piano), 885 Starkweather, Plymouth, (734) 459-0885.

### Trinity House

At 38840 W. Six Mile (just west of I-275), Livonia, \$10-\$12, (734) 464-6302, www.trinity-house.org.

## MUSEUMS

### Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum

See everything from ice cream making to cold-blooded reptiles in The Big Freeze exhibit Dec. 26-31, at 220 E. Ann St., Ann Arbor, (734) 995-5439 or www.aahom.org.

### Birmingham Historical Museum and Park

The Public Realm, Public Buildings & Spaces, through Feb. 24, 556 W. Maple, Birmingham, \$1-\$2, (248) 642-2817.

### Henry Ford Museum

20900 Oakwood Blvd., west of the Southfield Freeway and south of Michigan Avenue, Dearborn. Additional charges and varying hours for entry to Greenfield Village, Ford Rouge Factory Tour and IMAX Theatre, (313) 982-6001, www.hfmgv.org.

### Cranbrook Science Museum

Featured exhibit is *It's a Nano World*. Permanent exhibits include planetarium, nature center and Bat Zone Conservatory, 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, general admission \$5-\$7, planetarium, \$1-\$3, (248) 645-3200, www.cranbrook.edu.

### Detroit Science Center

*Magnificent Desolation: Walking on the Moon* narrated by Tom Hanks and new planetarium show, *Journey to the Edge of Space and Time*, \$6, shows run indefinitely, 5020 John R, Detroit, \$6-\$7, (313) 577-8400, www.detroit-science-center.org.

www.detroit-science-center.org.

### Michigan Historical Museum

Inside Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing, www.michigan.gov/museum, (517) 373-3559.

### Museum of Contemporary Art - Detroit

Meditations on an Emergency runs through April 29, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit, free, (313) 832-6622.

### Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm

1927 Dairy Barn, 1850 and 1840 furnished farmhouses with permanent and temporary exhibits about regional history. General admission \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students, (248) 656-4663, www.rochesterhills.org.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE

### Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase

Tom Foss, Dec. 31, 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, (734) 996-9080.

### Fox Theatre

Mike Epps, 8 p.m. Dec. 31, \$53.50-\$78.50, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, (248) 433-1515, OlympiaEntertainment.com, Ticketmaster.com.

### Max M. Fisher Music Center

Hal Sparks, 8 p.m. Dec. 31, \$30-\$70; The Pioneers of Techno -Derrick May, Kevin Saunderson and Carl Craig, 10 p.m., Dec. 31, \$55-\$100, all at 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111, www.detroit-symphony.com.

## SOMETHING DIFFERENT

### Moscow Cats Theatre

Show runs Dec. 9, 22-23, at Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit, \$49.90 to \$54.90, (248) 645-6666 or (313) 887-8501.

### Detroit Historical Society

Behind the Scenes Saturdays tour will feature John K. King Used and Rare Books, 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9 and 16, \$20-\$25, (313) 833-1405, www.detroit-historical.org/thingstodo.

### Birmingham Historical Museum & Park

Allen House kitchen, restored to reflect 1920s decor, complete with vintage stove, work table, porcelain sink and monitor top refrigerator, also exhibits on artifacts and history of schools in Birmingham, \$2 admission, museum open from 1-4 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, 556 W. Maple (at Southfield Road), (248) 642-2817.

### Michigan's Family Album

Special historical photography exhibit of 1,200 photographs from David Tinder collection, runs through Jan. 14, 2007, Michigan Historical Museum, inside Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, www.michigan.gov/museum, (517) 373-3559.

## THEATER — COMMUNITY

### Baldwin Theatre

Pied Piper - The Musical, Dec. 7-10, 415 Lafayette, Royal Oak, 11 a.m. Saturday performance for the deaf, shows are 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday, 1 p.m. Sunday, (248) 541-6430.

### Community of Howell's Youth Theatre

A Year with Frog and Toad (the musical), Dec. 8-10, Howell High School freshman campus, 1400 Grand River, Howell, \$7, (517) 545-1290.

### Inspire Theatre

*It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 8; 2 and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 9, 3 p.m. Dec. 10, Underground Cafe in lower level of Dearborn Evangelical Covenant Church, 18575 Outer Drive, in Dearborn (between Ford and Cherry Hill Roads), \$5-\$30.

### Marquis Theatre

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, through Jan. 21, 2:30 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and Dec. 26-29, \$8, 135 E. Main, Northville, 222.northvillemarquistheatre.com, (248) 349-8110.

### Pontiac Theatre IV

Inspecting Carol, 8 p.m. Dec. 8, 9, 15 and 16, at Lincoln Junior High School, 131 Hillside Dr., Pontiac, \$10, www.pontiactheatreiv.org, (248) 681-6215.

681-6215.

### Starlight Theatre

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, through Dec. 17, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, \$10-\$14, inside Summit Place Mall, 315 N. Telegraph Road, Waterford, www.starlighttheater.net, (248) 335-1788.

### Dinner Theater

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change! Jan. 5-14, The Club Venetian, 29310 John R., Madison Heights, (248) 399-6788.

### The Village Theater at Cherry Hill

Numerous musicals, movies, concerts, magic, dinner theater, bands, kids' shows, orchestra and comedy. Open for free tours, art exhibition and tickets: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday, 7-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sunday, (734) 394-5460, www.canton-mi.org/villageheater, 50400 Cherry Hill Road (corner of Ridge), Canton.

## THEATER — COLLEGE

### Meadow Brook Theatre

Every Christmas Story Ever Told by Carleton, Alvarez and Fitzgerald, Dec. 11-20; Same Time Next Year, Jan. 10 to Feb. 4, single tickets are \$22-\$38, on the campus of Oakland University, (248) 377-3300 or (248) 370-3316 (group sales), www.mbttheatre.com.

## THEATER — PROFESSIONAL

### Detroit Repertory Theatre

Millan Theatre Company, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit, call (313) 868-1347. See *Arborphilia* (Tree Love), a sappy satire by Jacob M. Appel. Showtimes are 8:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday; 3 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Saturday; and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, through Dec. 30.

### Purple Rose Theater

137 Park, Chelsea, (734) 433-7673, www.purple-rose-theatre.org.

### Fisher Theatre

Monty Python's Spamalot, Dec. 12-Jan. 7, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, (248) 645-6666, www.NederlanderDetroit.com or www.ticketmaster.com.

### Breathe Art Theatre

Call (519) 980-0607 in Windsor or (313) 965-1515 in Detroit.

### Gem Theatre

*Menopause the Musical*, longest-running professional production in Detroit history, closes Dec. 17, \$39.50; 2111 Woodward Ave. Detroit, (313) 963-9800, (248) 645-6666, www.ticketmaster.com.

### Performance Network Theatre

The Fantasticks, through Dec. 31, 120 E. Huron, Ann Arbor, (734) 663-0681, www.performance-network.org.

## TICKETS ON SALE

### The Palace of Auburn Hills

Bob Seger, Dec. 20, 22 and 28, \$62.50; High School Musical, Jan. 16, \$38.50-\$58.50; Smucker's Stars on Ice, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 9; Josh Grobin, 8 p.m. Feb. 23, \$50-\$99; Justin Timberlake with Pink, March 11, \$56-\$87.50; Christina Aguilera, April 9, \$57.50-\$87.50, tickets available at Palacenet.com, the Palace box office and all Ticketmaster locations, (248) 645-6666.

### Fisher Theatre

Tickets for 2006-07 subscription series, five shows, \$199-\$346, call the Fisher Theatre at (313) 872-1000, Ext. 0, www.NederlanderDetroit.com.

### Royal Oak Music Theatre

Warren Miller Film Festival "Off The Grid," 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, \$19.50; Imogen Heap, 8 p.m., Monday, Dec. 18, \$25; An Evening With The School of Rock All-Stars, 8 p.m. Dec. 29, free admission; located 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak, (248) 399-2980, www.royaloakmusictheatre.com.



# DTE's attendance rises

They all say it – Detroit audiences are the best audiences in the world.

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In a time when the economy isn't at its best, the summer season for Palace Sports and Entertainment that includes The Palace, Meadow Brook Music Festival and DTE summer attendance of 2006 increased 15 percent from 2005.

The amphitheater set a mark in 2006 when it hosted its latest concert ever, a sold-out show with Aerosmith/Mötley Crüe on Oct. 11. The venue's other 2006 sellouts included Dave Matthews Band, Steve Miller

Band, Sammy Hagar & The Wabos, Ozzfest, Counting Crows/Goo Goo Dolls, Anita Baker, Def Leppard/Journey, Poison, Earth, Wind & Fire, Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers, Brooks & Dunn, Jimmy Buffett & The Coral Reefer Band and Godsmack/Rob Zombie.

Sold-out shows at the Palace included the Pistons' Eastern Conference Finals appearance and the Detroit Shock's WNBA Championship plus McGraw & Faith Hill; Kid Rock; Rascal Flatts; Roger Waters; Tool; Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young; Mariah Carey and The Who.

— Lana Mini

# Detroit Dance Collective performs

Detroit Dance Collective performs December Dances at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, and Sunday, Dec. 10, at the Marlene Boll Theater at the YMCA, 1401 Broadway, Detroit.

December Dances will feature choreography from DDC's eclectic repertory as well as choreography and performances by emerging artists.

Barbara Selinger, DDC's artistic director, will present Tessera, a multimedia work, with original video images created by Selinger that were inspired by the artwork of M.C. Escher, graphic artist. This work, originally performed in the round, will reveal a new existence at the Boll as DDC performs the dance on the traditional as well as intimate proscenium stage.

Kay Rediers, DDC's associate artistic director, will present One, a lively dance for three women celebrating common experiences as human beings and the need for everyone to find connections with one another.

Corinne Imberski, DDC dance artist and choreographer, has reconstructed Venus, a spirited dance for five women.

A special highlight is a sneak preview of the Michigan Trilogy II project, a dance and visual arts collaboration, which will be included in the performance along with an informative talk about the collaborative process. Visual artists include Jo Powers, painter and writer; Sergio DiGiusti, sculptor; and Mel Rosas, painter and musician. This

project is supported in part by the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Detroit Emerging Artists: True to DDC mission, vision and commitment to community outreach, December Dances includes performances by the talented Renaissance High School Dance Workshop, Detroit Public Schools, under the direction of Gir Ellis. Twelve dancers will perform Out of Time choreographed by Scott Bartell, guest artist and former Renaissance student. The beautifully crafted, seamless piece, danced to the music of John Powell, begins slowly and builds to a rapid speed with many entrances and exits.

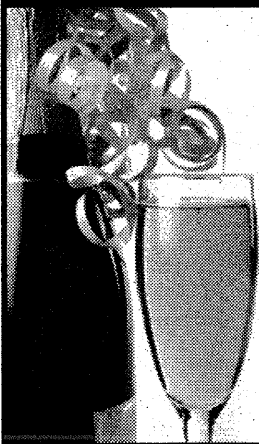
DDC dance artists include: Susan Clay Royal Oak; Collin Frazier, Detroit; David Guzman, Southgate; Marius Iliescu, Farmington Hills; Corinne Imberski, Ann Arbor; Lisa LaMarre, Royal Oak; Anastasia McGlothlin, Ann Arbor; Kay Rediers, Royal Oak; and Barbara Selinger, Farmington Hills.

Tickets for the concert are \$20 general admission; \$12 students, seniors and YMCA members. A reception follows the Sunday concert at the YMCA.

Call DDC at (810) 444-4553 or print an online form ([www.detroitdancecollective.org](http://www.detroitdancecollective.org)) and mail in your order.

Also call the Boll YMCA at (313) 309-YMCA or order <http://www.ymcadetroit.org/Downtown%20Family%20YMCA/default.asp>

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**MEDY**

PAGE E5

*Boys* aims to prove that the tried-and-romantic sitcom isn't dead. Reality tele-may rule the small screen, but show or Betsy Thomas, who is originally from lin, plans to put up a worthy fight with *Boys*.

Story centers around self-described girl PJ Franklin (Jordana Spiro), a writer for the *Chicago Sun-Times*. PJ is constantly surrounded by her brother Andy (Gaffigan) and a crew of beer-guzzling, -playing guy pals, PJ's dating game suf-

ward's character, a rival reporter and tial love interest, throws PJ into a fren- on auditioning for the role, he said he t convinced he could be Bobby nan, a leading man.

ically cast in "goofier" roles as a best l or brother, Howard said: "I don't if I'm this guy." The audition changed ind.

hen Jordana and I read together, we great chemistry," he said. "Everyone on ow has unbelievable chemistry. It's ll."

e other "boys" of the show's title include rother, her former college roommate, a -witted commitment-phobe and a shy s memorabilia store owner. Ultra-girly ephanie balances out the ensemble cast : only supporting female character.

ward said the strongest aspect of the is its relatability.

Set in the Windy City, *My Boys* may well fill the gap left by such successful sitcoms as *Friends* and *Sex & The City*. Rather than sipping coffee on the couch at Central Perk, PJ and the boys down pints of beer at Crowley's Tavern. Much like Carrie pecking away on her dating column in New York City, PJ compares the game of love and relationships to professional sports in Chicago.

The banter among PJ and friends is authentic and believable. When she sips wine with Stephanie and over-analyzes where she went wrong with Bobby, their words ring true.

The light-hearted show has a strong sense of place. Viewers can't escape references to Chicago sports teams. The first season wraps up at Wrigley Field. "There's nothing but love for the city of Chicago," Howard said.

Characters cover topics ranging from the emotionally charged "girl bootycall" to the Lemonade cleanse, from the confines of marriage to the roller coaster ups and downs of dating.

"The writing is incredible," Howard said. He admitted that PJ's character is a direct reflection of the show's creator, Betsy Thomas, and her friends.

And, Howard noted, working alongside comedians like Jim Gaffigan and Jamie Kaler, and Michael Bunin, who portrays a character based on himself, keeps the set light-hearted.

"It's a storm of comedy," he said.

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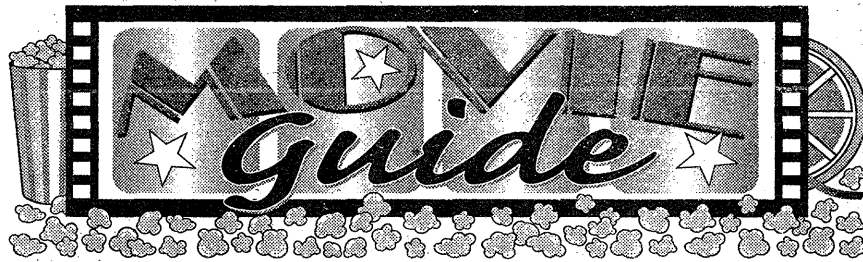
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# 'Slither' will slide into your heart



**Beyond Bad**

Greg Kowalski

**S**lither is the best alien slug movie ever made. High praise, if I say so myself. But it is well deserving of it. While it certainly draws from *Night of the Creeps*, and *Night of the Living Dead*, *Slither* stands on its own as a juicy tale of creepy-crawly things that go squish in the night.

It begins in the woods, where a frustrated husband who has been rejected by his cold wife goes for a late-night romp with the neighbor lady. But before anything can happen betwixt them, a meteor crashes nearby.

Take a bit of advice from me for I know something of these things: When a meteor crashes nearby, never, never go looking for it. Unfortunately, they do and

come across a slug-like creature crawling in the brush. Before you can say "Steve Irwin," the slug shoots a barb into the guy's chest implanting a tiny alien, and it's all down hill from there.

Although the guy seems to make a recovery, he actually begins a slow descent into slugdom. He gradually starts to degenerate into a gooey slithery creature. But there's much, much more. He soon kidnaps his night-romping neighbor and carts her off to a barn where she is converted into a raw meat-eating, gigantic brood mother for a mass of red slugs that burst out of her body and head into the countryside.

Pretty soon, just about everyone is infected by the

slugs, which slide into people's mouths and possess their minds. The zombified people shamble around the countryside like extras in *Night of the Living Dead*, et al.

Much of the ensuing action involves the local sheriff and the aforementioned cold wife, who, it turns out, isn't so cold after all. It all ends up in a big showdown at a house where we learn that this actually is a plot by an alien to feast on humans before heading off to the next planetary diner.

*Slither* boasts some great action, unusually sharp dialogue, ookie-gooey special effects, solid acting and directing.

It's an absolute winner. Don't miss it.

Greg Kowalski recommends that you do not try to eat pizza while watching *Slither*. He can be reached at (248) 901-2570 or by e-mail at gkowalski@ameritech.net.

Peter Travers, *Rolling Stone*

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