

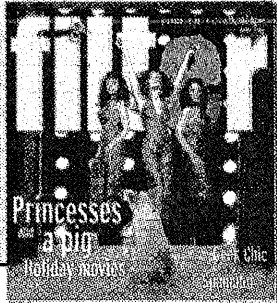
JOY
Readers sing praises
of classic cookbook



HOMETOWNLIFE.COM - PAGE D1

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Holiday film guide:
It's the best season of the year
for movies as potential Oscar
contenders are released
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PHOTOS BY HEATHER ROUSSEAU

The Compassionate Friends had some 500 candles available for their annual candlelight vigil in Kellogg Park Sunday, but it wasn't enough to accommodate the crowd that showed up.

Candles put glow on memories

Vigil allows parents to
remember children

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Jamie DeWitt was dating Andy Imielowski of Romulus when Andy died earlier this year. So when Andy's hearing-impaired parents, Monica and Roman Imielowski, learned about The Compassionate Friends' candlelight vigil to remember children who have died, DeWitt, a sign language expert, knew she had to be there, too. DeWitt, and more than 500 others, were in Kellogg Park Sunday night for the annual vigil, which brings together The Compassionate Friends chapters from around the world to form a ring of candles around the globe to honor children lost too soon.

PLEASE SEE VIGIL, A3



Tara Rotthoff of Canton (front right) looks for an ornament that has the name of her niece, Mackenzie Rae Whitney, while Mary Ann Kropinak and Pat Hatchinson of Plymouth, look for Kropinak's son, Marty Kropinak, on the Christmas tree in Kellogg Park.

Youth group spends wisely to help needy



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tyler Talbott, Jimmy Daniels, Morgan Bartos, Lisa Hursin and Lindsay Spaulding are on a mission at Target.

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Nearly two dozen Plymouth Youth Leadership teens gathered at Target in Canton Township Tuesday afternoon. The goal: Figuring out how to best spend \$1,200 for needy kids being served this Christmas by the Plymouth Salvation Army.

The five groups were each given \$240, with the task to spend it as wisely as possible. "You're going to be shopping for preschoolers through 15 years old," said Stella Greene of the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth - which donated the money for the shopping spree - as she handed out the Target sale flier. "Your goal is to get the most you can and make good purchases. Remember, no running, no yelling and nobody gets in carts."

The first stop for many of the groups was only several feet away: the dollar bins. "It's the cheapest and you can buy a lot of things," said Lisa Hursin, 13, of Canton.

PLEASE SEE YOUTH GROUP, A5

Township faces 30-percent water rate hike

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

When the Detroit Water and Sewer Department released its preliminary 2007 rate increase to its suburban customers earlier this week, three communities were slated for an increase of more than 20 percent.

At 29.1 percent, Plymouth Township topped the list.

That's a huge hike from the 3.8-percent increase the township got this year, and nearly five times as high as the 6.3-percent raise last year. Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume said the increase was likely caused by increased water usage by the state during the M-14 construction project.

"They loaded up a lot of water trucks during that period, to water down road beds and also make cement," Reaume said. "We're disappointed and shocked (the increase) would be that great. It's an anomaly."

Rates will increase some 4.7 percent to suburban customers, ranging from the 29.1 percent hike in Plymouth Township to a 33.4-percent decrease in Lenox Township. The city of Plymouth is in line for a 0.2-percent decrease.

Rates are based on a formula the department has followed since the early 1980s. According to George Ellenwood, the department's assistant director of public affairs, the formula is composed of 11 basic computations, with the primary drivers being distance, elevation and the community's peaking factor.

The peaking factor, he explained, is "determined by the maximum usage of a community on a given hour of a given day against the department's maximum usage."

PLEASE SEE WATER, A5

Search for drugs comes up empty

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Two Wayne County Sheriff's Department drug-sniffing canines failed to find any contraband in a sweep of the Starkweather Education Center parking lot Wednesday morning.

Starkweather, located on North Holbrook in Plymouth, is Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' alternative high school with an enrollment of about 300 students. The sweep of the nearly 50 cars began at 9:40 a.m., and took less than 15 minutes, according to Principal Irene Ras.

"We just want to be proactive, and not reacting to things that might be happening," Ras said. "We did it as a precautionary measure to make sure things are on the up-and-up around here."

The sweep at Starkweather occurred one week after a similar sweep at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park in Canton Township, which houses 5,800 Canton, Salem and Plymouth high school students. In that

sweep, Canton police reported 38 cars were searched, with two high school students arrested and five others ticketed on various drug charges.

Ras said she was unaware of the P-CEP plans when she scheduled the sweep at Starkweather.

"I didn't know the park scheduled one," Ras said. "I had one already scheduled."

Starkweather student Chris Ofiara, 18, of Novi, said he's not concerned about the sweeps, but said he's not surprised it happened.

"They've got to do what they've got to do, I guess, to keep drugs out of the school," said Ofiara, who said alternative students sometimes get a bad rap. "I think that's a big stereotype. Miss Ras, the principal, I think her main goal is to weed out the drug users and keep the kids who aren't on drugs in school. I don't think it's fair, but at the same time, I'm just here to graduate on time."

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Number 33



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Chanukah Party

The Novi-Northville Center for Jewish Life hosts a Chanukah party 5-7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at 42142 Loganberry Ridge N. in Novi. The event will feature the lighting of a seven-foot Menorah, a magic show, traditional latkes and Chanukah crafts. Admission is free.

For more information, call (248) 790-6075.

PCAC events

Looking for the perfect gift for Christmas? The Plymouth Community Arts Council is giving shoppers two opportunities to shop for a unique present this holiday season.

The Holiday Art Sale takes place 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, and features beautiful all-season framed art from the PCAC's Art Collection.

Shoppers also receive a 10-percent discount on anything from the Gift Shop.

The "Drop and Shop" activity takes place 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, for children ages 5-12 who can take part in activities, crafts, board games,

cookie decorating, Christmas movies and light refreshments.

Price is \$12 per child per session and \$10 for additional children. PCAC members get a \$2 discount.

Pre-registration is being requested. To register or for more information, e-mail Tammy Torzewski at tamara@plymoutharts.com or call (734) 416-4278, Ext. 11. Proceeds fund education programs at the PCAC.

Both events take place at the Plymouth Community Arts Council at 774 North Sheldon Road in Plymouth. Call (734) 416-4278 more more information.

Council on Aging

The Plymouth Council on Aging hosts an interactive session, "Fighting the Blues - Tools for a Happier You!" on depression education, prevention and recovery 10:45-11:45 a.m. Monday, Jan. 22, at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer in Plymouth.

Participants will receive tools and skills to help combat all levels of depression. The class is sponsored by Heartland Plymouth Court.



Supporting First Step

Barb Weir (left), president of the Elizabeth Fagan Division of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, hands a check to Theresa Bizoe, associate director of First Step, representing the \$4,000 donation LAOH raised at an October event at the Sheraton Detroit Novi. The second annual LAOH Chocolate Affair drew some 250 people who contributed \$20 to \$25 each to attend the benefit, which featured chocolate tasting and music by the Livonia Symphony. The contribution will be used to help First Step provide essential services such as shelter, assault response, 24-hour help line, counseling, children's programs, and other services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children. The First Step's 24-hour help line is 734-459-5900. Services provided by First Step are free to clients.

To register or for more information, call the Plymouth Community Council on Aging, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236 to register.

The Plymouth Community Council on Aging hosts "Life Line Screening, Tests That Can Help Save Your Life," Friday, Feb. 2, at the Plymouth Township Friendship Station.

Appointments will begin at 9 a.m. and will include tests for Stroke Screening, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening, Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening.

To register, call (800) 324-1851.

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.

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.

Chorale scholarships

In May 1984, the Plymouth Community Chorus initiated its Vocal Music Scholarship Program. The BeckRidge Chorale continues to honor this commitment to vocal music by offering six \$500 scholarships to college and high school students, age 16 and over, interested in vocal performance.

The scholarship winners must agree to participate as a member in good standing of the BeckRidge Chorale for the 2007 spring season, beginning in January.

The scholarship winners will be chosen based on vocal audition. After fulfilling the requirements of the Chorale, the scholarship money will be sent to the educational institution attended by the scholarship winners to be applied toward their tuition. In the case of a high school student, the money will be held in escrow to be applied to the tuition of the student's accredited college or educational institution of choice.

Scholarship auditions will be held 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at First United Methodist Church, located at 45201 N. Territorial in Plymouth Township.

For more information concerning the scholarships, or to schedule an audition, contact Sherrie Northway, BeckRidge Chorale Scholarship Chairperson, (313) 533-4796.

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 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*.

Head start openings

Plymouth Canton Head Start, which is a free preschool program, is now enrolling children that are 3 and 4 year olds. There are openings at all three locations, including on Sheldon Road at Michigan Avenue, the Full Gospel location on Palmer in Canton and one site in Plymouth. Children will be placed at the location that is closest to their home.

To enroll a child or for more information, call (734) 326-6271.

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-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at the Book Cellar & Cafe 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 has 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.

CORRECTION

A photograph accompanying an article on not drinking and driving in Sunday's *Observer* had an incorrect caption. The woman who was representing the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance was Tamara Norrix.

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BEARING SOUR FRUIT
As people continue to embrace modern technology, we are no doubt going to encounter some physical problems that we never before faced. One such malady is called "Blackberry Thumb." This increasingly common repetitive-stress injury stems from the use of the popular electronic devices known as PDAs (personal digital assistants). No longer limited to use during the eight-hour workday, people are increasingly using PDAs such as the Blackberry to communicate with friends and family before and after work as well as on weekends. Blackberry Thumb overtaxes the least dexterous part of the hand, which is used to type on a very small keyboard. At the very least, users of P.S. Many people with Blackberry Thumb are middle-aged PDA users whose overuse of the handheld devices can aggravate underlying arthritis.
PDAs should use their fingers to type instead of their thumbs.
Performing the same action over and over can cause pain and swelling in the muscles, tendons and physical therapy is often used for several types of repetitive motion injuries. Whether it is from prolonged keyboard use, manual labor or even sending text messages, a physical therapist can help with your condition. 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.
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Helping to find a home

Jewish center trying to extend its reach

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

When the Novi-Northville Center for Jewish Life's Women's Circle got together a couple of weeks ago for a latke tasting, the one thing organizers noticed was an increase in the number of women from Canton who took part.

It was noteworthy because folks at the center, currently located in Novi but which draws many of its participants from the western Wayne County area, are trying to increase their presence here, particularly in Plymouth and Canton.

The center, which opened two years ago under the direction of Rabbi Avrohom Susskind and his wife, Leah, is designed to give Jewish people a place to go for activities, events and worship. The Susskinds started it after hearing requests for such services from a number of Jewish families in the Novi-Northville area.

"A number of people started inquiring if there could be something local for them, as a Jewish center that provides Jewish activities for holidays and services throughout the year," Susskind said. "People really wanted something that can provide them the Jewish needs."

Susskind emphasizes the center is available for Jewish people regardless of their affiliation or background, their status or religious practice.

Even if only one person in a particular family is Jewish, being Jewish is enough, he said.

"We wanted to open a center that was non-judgmental," Susskind said. "People had felt rejected (in other similar



Novi-Northville Center for Jewish Life member Chuck Keys lights a seven-foot Menorah at last year's Chanukah party at the center. This year's party is set for Sunday.

centers). We're here for you at your comfort level, and making it available the way the people wanted it, rather than asking them to adapt to the way we wanted it. That got people interested and excited about it."

The center, which has a building at Novi Road and 10 Mile in Novi but also operates out of the Susskind's home, offers a variety of activities, holiday observances and services.

There are holiday programs for the entire family that include crafts and entertainment; social events; classes and study groups; and a variety of other services.

"Lunch and Learn" is one popular group, providing opportunities for people available during the day (stay-at-home moms, people who work out of the home, etc.) to get together and discuss Jewish topics, current events relating to anything

Jewish. The Women's Circle is a similar group Susskind said is "very popular."

"We're getting a lot of new faces in those groups," he said.

Those kinds of activities are responsible, Susskind said, for the success of the center.

"I think just experiencing people and having conversations with them, that was a very important aspect of our success so far," he said.

"People have constantly shied away from getting involved in any shape or form in something Jewish because they felt they had to adapt to a certain type of behavior.

"For us, there aren't any labels," Susskind added. "Labels are for wine bottles, not for people. It's just simply who you are. That really has resonated with people."

The Susskinds have grown the center the old-fashioned way: Bit by bit. They've met with Jewish families not only



Rabbi Avrohom and Leah Susskind, who established the Novi-Northville Center for Jewish Life a little more than two years ago, are working to expand membership into the Plymouth and Canton area.

from the Novi-Northville area, but they're spreading the center's presence even wider.

"We met these families and heard their needs and the things they wanted, and they've introduced us to other families, and the crowd began getting larger and larger," Susskind said. "We saw a need for it and how it would be beneficial to the community. We started spilling into Plymouth and Canton family by family finding there wasn't too much Jewish infrastructure."

It's one of the reasons the center hasn't built a permanent home. Susskind said he wants to wait until the center establishes its epicenter a little better before deciding exactly where to settle.

CHANUKAH PARTY

■ The Novi-Northville Center for Jewish Life hosts a Chanukah party 5-7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at 42142 Loganberry Ridge N. in Novi. The event will feature the lighting of a seven-foot Menorah, a magic show, traditional latkes and Chanukah crafts. Admission is free.

■ The center has a photo gallery and a variety of other information on its Web site, www.novijewishcenter.com

■ For more information, call (248) 790-6075.

"We didn't purchase a building because we knew we'd be growing ... then we'll choose a center locally for everyone," Susskind said. "As time progresses and people get involved from all these areas, our choice of station will be a spot within these communities that will accommodate and be accessible to everyone on a local level."

All of the center's activities are detailed on its Web site, www.novijewishcenter.com. The center also puts out a publication four times a year, Celebration Magazine, Susskind said is important in keeping people informed.

"Because the Jewish people in the area are spread out and scattered, it serves as a community connector," he said. "It makes its way around, and people enjoy it very much. We've gotten beautiful feedback on it."

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VIGIL

FROM PAGE A1

DeWitt stood onstage, fighting back the emotion and interpreting everything from the poems that were performed to the reading of nearly 300 names of children.

"To be here ... it's hard to explain," DeWitt said. "To be a part of something I wish I didn't have to be a part of, and to be able to bring some special emotion (for Andy's parents) is wonderful. This is very personal for me."

It was personal to a lot of people. According to Gail Lafferty, the Canton woman who is the group's co-leader, The Compassionate Friends bought some 500 candles to be used in the vigil, but that wasn't enough.

The program included poems read by parents who have lost children, along with the songs *Who You'd Be Today* by Kenny Chesney and *To Where You Are* by Josh Groban. In addition, Lafferty and Pat O'Donnell of Westland read nearly 300 names of children who have died.

All of it was designed to help parents, families and friends remember the children they've lost.

"People are struggling so much through the holidays," Lafferty said. "This just helps."

Judith Gangnier of Farmington lost her son, Beau, earlier this year. She heard about The Compassionate Friends from a woman whose son is buried in the same cemetery, and she decided she had to go.

"I love my son, I miss my son, and it helps to be able to talk to people about that," Gangnier said. "Most people feel uncomfortable talking about it. The Compassionate Friends don't. This is real important to me."



Joe's December Selections

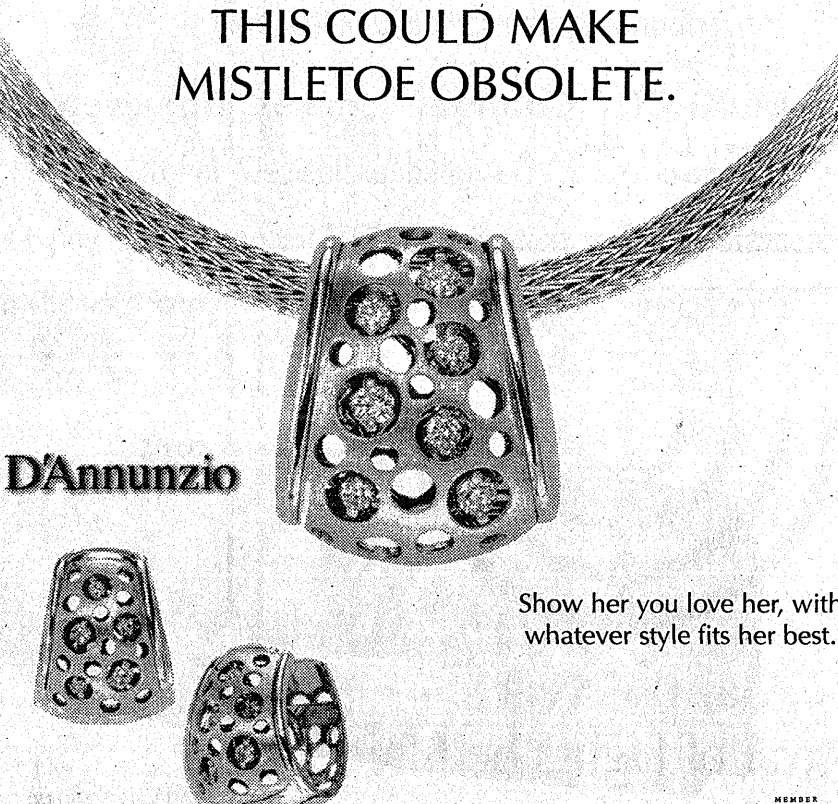
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WATER

FROM PAGE A1

Given that, Ellenwood said Reaume could well be correct when he blames the huge increase in Plymouth Township on the M-14 project.

"It may well be, because if you look at previous years, there certainly has not been an increase as large as the one they're facing now," Ellenwood said. "When you have a summertime demand of that magnitude, one of the results would be an increase in their peaking factor. Major construction would affect usage for the entire township and have this potential impact."

Reaume pointed out the increase, if it happens, would only apply to the line item for water on residents' water bills. Line items for sewer and trash pickup would not be affected. The average user in the township would probably see "an increase of \$5 or \$6," Reaume said.

However, Reaume will meet with DWSD officials Wednesday in an effort to stave off, or at least lessen, the increase.

"We've asked DWSD to come in to see if they can review their numbers, to see if we can adjust that increase," Reaume said. "If the average is 4.7 percent, and if only two communities are above 20 percent, something is not right statistically."

That's not a concern in the city of Plymouth, where resi-

dents have actually logged a slight decrease in water consumption, according to finance director Mark Christiansen. The city sees a slight decrease next year, as it did two years ago. Last year saw a slight increase, Christiansen said.

"Things have been pretty stable here for the last four or five years," Christiansen said. "We did have period of three or four years where we had consistently 8- to 12-percent increases each year. I can't imagine what is causing that."

Christiansen said DWSD needs to come up with a better way of determining peak usage and rate changes. Basing them on a one-day sampling, he said, makes "the variations from year to year very inconsistent."

For instance, if the sampling comes on a day when city water is shut off for the Sheldon Road underpass project, it will skew the usage numbers. "If they happen to take it this year when we shut down the water system for the Sheldon Road improvement, maybe we'll wind up with a huge increase," Christiansen said. "It seems with the kinds of swings that can occur from year to year, they would come up with something more sophisticated. It's hard to understand how one community in an area can have that kind of increase when other communities aren't experiencing that kind of change. It needs explanation."

Staff writer Tony Bruscatto contributed to this report.

YOUTH GROUP

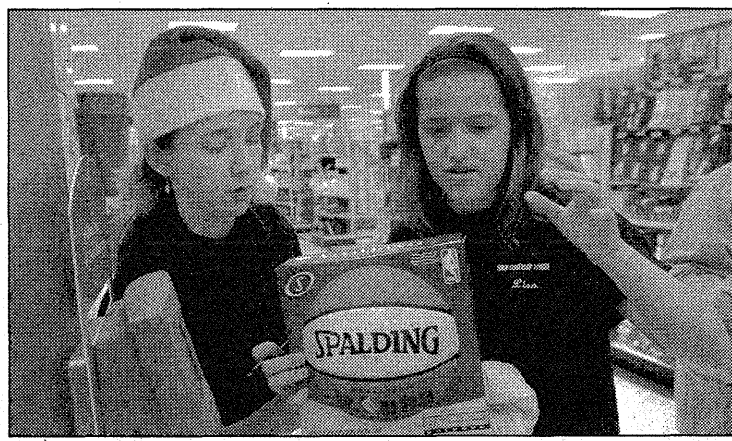
FROM PAGE A1

After a quick swing through the clothing department - in which a \$3 pair of gloves was tossed into the cart - the next destination was obvious - the toy department. An electronic dart board, a two-foot stuffed Batman doll and several games were added, as well as some personal favorites.

"Oh, a Nerf football, little kids like these," said Jimmy Daniels, 13, of Canton, as he put it into the basket.

"Apples to Apples, it's the greatest game in the world," added 13-year-old Tyler Talbott of Canton. "It makes everybody laugh when you play it."

After a sweep around the store, which included adding



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Morgan Bartos and Lisa Hursin decide it's time to price the items in their cart.

nail polish, lunch boxes and young adult books, it was time to head to the checkout line. That's where students were greeted by Capt. Jim Irvine, pastor and corps officer for the Plymouth Salvation Army, who

thanked the teens for their efforts.

"Whatever you've picked out here will be it for some families this Christmas," Irvine told the teens as they waited for their turn to check out. "We already

have a waiting list. "Some people think that those in Canton, Plymouth and Northville don't need help, but it's not true," Irvine said. "You could be walking outside and see neighbors you think are doing well, and they're really not because of the economy the way it is."

To many of those in Plymouth Youth Leadership, that came as a big surprise.

"I didn't think my neighbors would be needing this kind of service," said Talbott. "We think everybody is very well off."

"This not only helps the kids," added Morgan Bartos, 13, of Canton, "but parents who won't have to tell their kids they won't have a Christmas this year."

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Kettle drive struggling with two weeks left to donate

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

With just two weeks left in the Plymouth Salvation Army Corps Red Kettle drive, Capt. Jim Irvine said collections are significantly off from last year. "We're about 15 percent down," Irvine said. "The need is huge out there. Because of the downturn in the economy, we are seeing more families coming in."

Irvine said the Corps is in danger of not meeting this year's goal of \$155,000, the same as last year. The drive has netted \$27,821 since it began Nov. 24. Last year at this time, the drive had collected \$39,878.

Irvine said not only is the demand for services up, but with the many who have lost jobs, there are fewer people able to give. The Salvation Army doesn't

ring the bells on Sundays, so this year's campaign will end on Saturday, Dec. 23, one less day than most Red Kettle drives.

"Christmas Eve is usually a huge giving day for us," said Irvine. "Last year on Christmas Eve we raised \$6,000."

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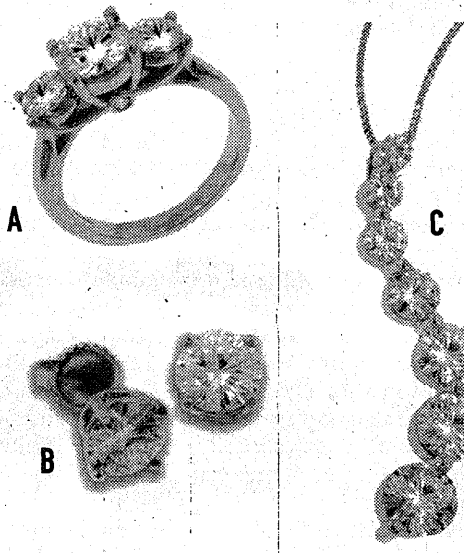
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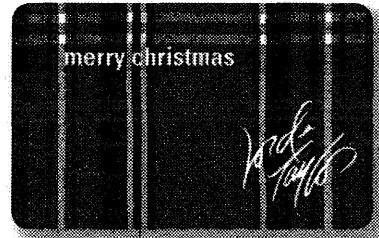
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OUR VIEWS

Drug sweep sends strong message

If the recently formed task force to study drug and alcohol use at the high school campus didn't grab students' attention, surely the drug sweep conducted by the Canton Police Department in the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park parking lot last week should have been a wake-up call.

The message is clear - if students are using drugs or alcohol, they better not be doing it on the high school campus. It won't be tolerated.

Seven students found out the hard way. Canton police officers arrested two high school students and ticketed five others on various drug charges, after drug-sniffing dogs walked up and down each parking aisle. The dogs "hit" on a total of 38 cars, which then were searched.

Schools and police officials said students can expect additional searches in the future, though none are planned within the three schools. In other words, there are no plans to search lockers.

Some students have questioned the tactics, saying police went too far by having the dogs randomly checking cars. But all students that obtained a permit to park on the campus entered into a pact that allows for such searches. They should've known better.

The district should be commended for being proactive, and doing all it can to prevent widespread drug use among the student population. There aren't many things that can derail a child's future or ability to learn like being high at school or strung out on drugs. Educators know this. Police officials know this. And drug counselors know this.

That's why the district has teamed up with the Canton Police Department and the Growth Works Youth Assistance program to form the task force that will examine drug, alcohol and tobacco use at the campus. Members of the task force aren't so naive to believe they will be able to stop all drug use by students, but they are providing a strong deterrent that will at least keep most of the drugs away from the campus.

The students also deserve some credit here. Only seven kids were arrested or ticketed. That is a drop in the bucket considering 5,800 students attend school at P-CEP. And those numbers are pretty consistent with the initial findings of the task force, which said fewer than 10 high school students for every 1,000 were involved in a drug, alcohol or tobacco incident last year.

That suggests students are heeding some of the warnings out there about how dangerous drugs and alcohol can be.

There's more than shopping this holiday

That holiday shopping is anything but jolly is part of the nature of the beast. Consider the predatory nature of shoppers trying to get an advertised item, which the store has maybe two of in stock. And then there is the 40-foot tail of shoppers waiting to check out that whips around corners in the store.

But what if you could see a really interesting 40-foot tail, and not be part of it? No, you wouldn't be shopping; you would be taking a much-needed break from the holiday madness.

The only thing predatory about the Cranbrook Institute of Science exhibit, "When Crocodiles Lived," is the nature of beasts that lived 60 million years ago.

Now what do you think will impress you kids more - the most expensive gift you can afford, or some green thing with a tail longer than your house?

Taking a break from the shopping frenzy has its own rewards, from venturing out to such regional attractions as Cranbrook (39221 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills) to a wacky museum of another sort in Farmington Hills.

Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum (www.marvin3m.com) is a one-of-a-kind venue for pinball and arcade memorabilia. From old movie posters to coin-operated oddities, kids can get an appreciation for your memories of a hometown summer fair. Admission is free. Call (248) 626-5020 for more.

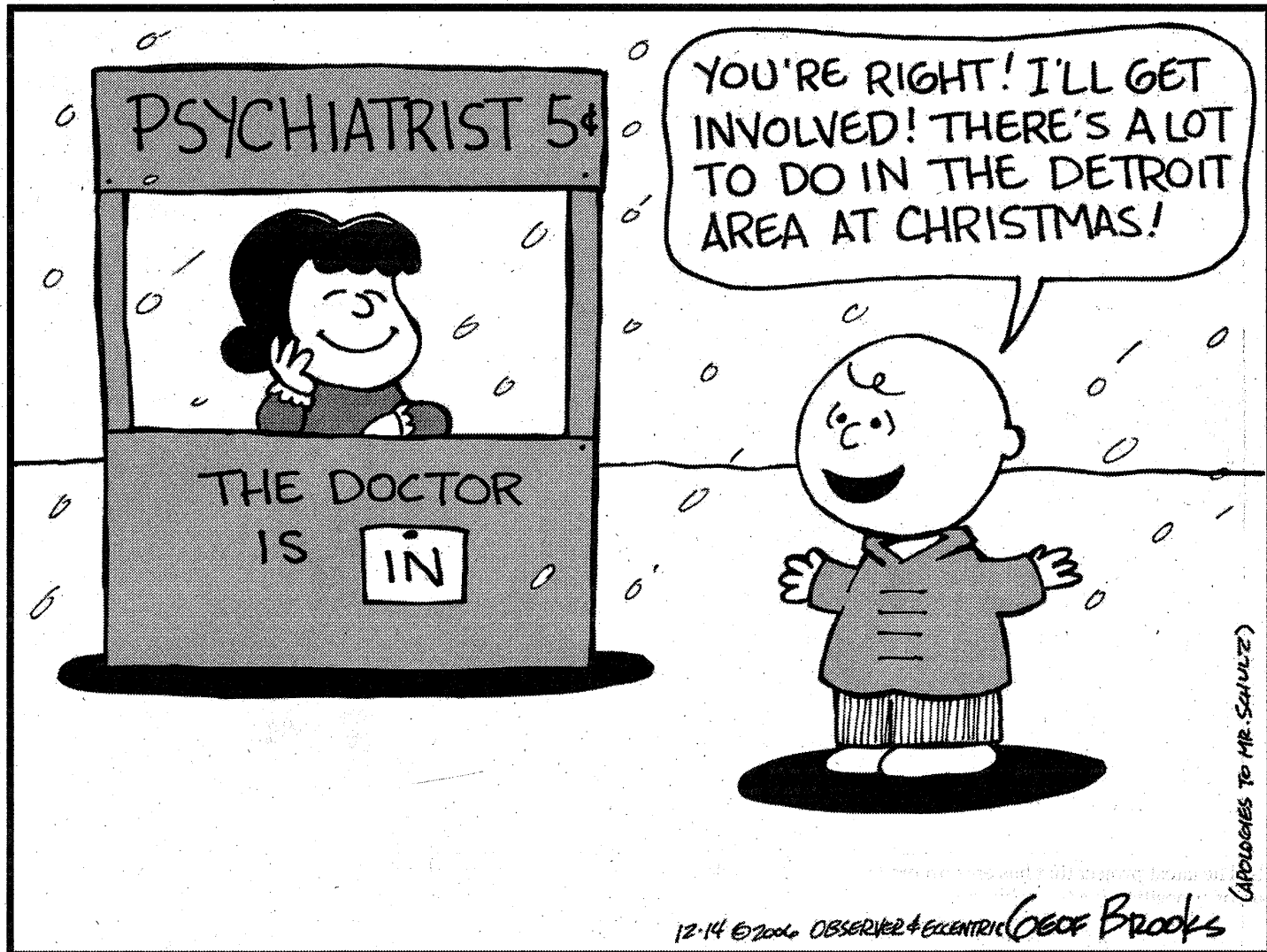
If that sounds like fun, but you're looking for some holiday entertainment, there are a variety of activities accessible to everyone in southeastern Michigan.

For instance, Wayne County for the 10th year is again hosting its drive-through Lightfest. The five-mile route winds through Hines Park (enter at Hines Drive and Merriman Road) 7-10 p.m. daily through Jan. 1, except Christmas day. A holiday scene greets visitors at every turn in the road. There is a \$5 donation.

Reliving holidays of old is the charge of Greenfield Village (www.hfmgv.org) during its Holiday Nights, Dec. 15-17 and Dec. 19-23. The evenings start with carriage and Model T rides along paths lighted by lanterns, and end with fireworks in the bright winter sky.

In between are performances, such as a Fife and Drum Corps, food and a chance to visit with Santa.

With such a wealth of points of interest both locally and in the region, it would be a shame to spend all your time waiting in a 40-foot line.



LETTERS

Supports cable bill

I am writing in response to a Nov. 26 article regarding proposed video franchise legislation.

I have read House Bill 6456 and strongly support it as a much-needed step forward for Michigan. The article, however, misrepresents several important points in the proposed legislation.

A simple reading of the bill shows that, contrary to your portrayal, HB 6456 does not eliminate fees paid to local governments; it does not funnel fees through the Michigan Public Service Commission, and it does not eliminate public access television.

HB 6456 will bring investment, more high-tech service choices to our communities and jobs to our state. It recognizes the fact that advances in technology and the corresponding wishes of citizens for more innovative and less-expensive video choices require changes in how video/cable franchising is currently administered.

States such as Indiana and California among others, have recognized these facts and enacted forward-looking legislation. Entrenching our community in the video/cable franchise status quo is the wrong strategy for the community and Michigan.

We need to take advantage of opportunities to move forward, not stand still. I strongly encourage you to read and then support HB 6456.

Maryanne C. Zavagnin
Plymouth Township

Cable bill good

Passage of the pending video franchise legislation, House Bill 6456, is good for the City of Plymouth, Plymouth Township and the State of Michigan. This law will increase competition in cable television.

Unfortunately, local officials, including the City of Plymouth commissioners and Plymouth Township trustees, are opposing this favorable legislation. They should be supporting this law.

First, the law, by fostering additional competition, may result in lower cable rates to the residents of these communities. For too long, cable users have been at the mercy of cable companies increasing rates. Competition will also improve quality of service. If a customer is dissatisfied with one cable company, the customer can switch to another.

This is the essence of competition. Simply because our communities have two cable providers does not mean that we should not have three or more.

Second, companies providing video services will invest heavily in the state and local communities. This is good for everyone. New jobs will be created. Again, local community officials should be supporting such an infusion into the economy.

Third, local communities will not lose money. Companies who provide video services will still be required to pay local communities.

Now is the time to support House Bill 6456. It is good for the residents of our community because it will increase competition and provide investment and jobs.

Al Calille
Plymouth

Republican propaganda

The elections are over and there are opinions from the multitude of pundits for every possible explanation. Democrats won, Republicans didn't lose, Democrats didn't win, Republicans were turned back, ad nauseum.

Right wing pundits try to see one reason for every single event, i.e., election result. They continue to propose the country is more conservative since the Reagan administration. That may be true but it was brought upon this nation by fascist means and that may be the single contributor for the recent election results.

In the days of Hitler, the communications secretary had written an outline to overthrow a government from within. One of the most influential points was control of the media and the media becoming sympathetic to the fascist government. Control the spin, create hysteria within the people, keep the populace unsettled, and restrict freedom for patriotic reasons.

This nation is more conservative because of the rise in conservative talk radio and the creation of a Republican propaganda network.

The first, conservative talk radio, is neither. It has become a mouthpiece for the Republican Party, which is not conservative. The administration sends out talking points for conservative talk radio hosts to follow for the week to promote the Republican agenda.

I would suggest the next time you travel that you listen to local talk radio in various parts of the country.

The subjects are the same wherever you go.

Talk radio is done by an informed centrist host or moderator and enjoys discussions with the people from all perspectives, the only restrictions being that callers be civil. Today's conservative talk radio hosts are propagandists promoting an agenda, berating any caller with opposition or different perspective to their point of view.

The second is the creation of a propaganda network, Fox Broadcasting.

This is not a news network or media outlet, it is purely a propaganda network for this administration, and the close relationships show how responsive it is to the administration's needs.

Many White House personnel will not speak with any other media. This more than anything demonstrates the collusion of the Republican propaganda network with the administration.

The Republican propaganda network makes false claims continuously. One is that they are fair and balanced.

This was ruled as propaganda by a New York court and now the Fox network is not permitted to use the phrase.

Another is that the media is liberally biased. This is true in one sense only. Several studies have shown that the right wing is overly represented in the liberally biased media.

The means the right wing has more information representing their point of view than their opposition.

If the media were truly fair and balanced, I think George Bush and his corrupt and immoral administration would be removed from office. And when

American citizens are returned to the White House, I think the Republican propaganda network will be closed and shamed for what it truly is, a fascist propaganda network.

Frances Meese
Westland

Just an idea

A lot of people, working and otherwise, do not have health care. What can average persons, like myself, do to provide medical care for those without health care? Here is one idea.

I happen to be a single person who is covered by two separate health care plans that overlap. I would be more than happy to share or donate my excess health care coverage to someone who has none. There are probably many others like myself who have excess coverage. The problem would be in finding a workable formula of sharing.

For example, being a veteran, I have VA medical coverage. I use it mainly for prescription coverage. Being 73 and partly disabled, I take a variety of meds. Also, being a senior citizen, I have Parts A and B Medicare coverage. I can use any doctor or hospital that accepts Medicare, which is most. I also happen to have Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, which I purchase as a member of Michigan Farm Bureau, for which membership, not medical coverage, costs \$40 per year. The cost of BSBSM supplemental insurance costs \$269 quarterly and has no deductible.

Preferably, I would donate my VA medical coverage, but not for prescriptions. Just the medical coverage. The VA is a federal military agency with a lot of medical centers, primary care doctors and hospital services. Since the VA Medicare care system is pretty chaotic, to say the least, it would probably work best for the VA to share the costs of private medical care for civilian participants with no insurance, more so than VA facilities.

It is just an idea and one I have not heard expressed before. Perhaps our federal politicians could put their heads together and work it out?

Kenneth Kemp
Farmington Hills

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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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.

QUOTABLE

"I was geared for it, but now this is about the seventh delay ... I really think they should just scrap the project. When they started this, there were 25 trains a day going by, now there's five. It's no big deal."

- Bob Jeannotte, owner, Bob Jeannotte Buick and Pontiac, on yet another delay in the Sheldon Road underpass project

Quality of life must be weighed as trail proposal moves forward

In any town that has developed as quickly as Canton, there are going to be growing pains. That's just the way it is.

As development swallows up what once was, there are going to be people who are unhappy about the changes. But there are times when opposition to a project is so great that it can actually derail the project.

We have learned that lesson time and again this year, as several proposed projects have stirred up a hornet's nest of opposition. Remember earlier this year when Canton officials proposed selling off

Fellows Creek Golf Club? Resistance to the proposal was swift and overwhelming, particularly from residents living in the new condominium communities along the course. Township officials read the writing on the wall, and are now in the midst of making long-needed improvements to the course.

More recently, residents living in the Beck and Geddes area turned out in droves to stop a proposal by Oakwood Healthcare Systems to

build a medical facility, which some day could be a full-blown hospital complete with a helipad for helicopters. The residents pointed out that they wouldn't have bought their homes had they known they would be living next to a giant hospital, especially considering the area is currently zoned for residential development. Facing such opposition, Oakwood, which needs to get a zoning change, has gone back to the drawing board with its plans, though it appears the plan isn't likely to get approval from township officials. The latest project that has encountered its share of opposition is a township proposal to build a recreational trail along the Lower Rouge River just north of Michigan Avenue. Many of the residents living in the subdivisions along the river's wooded corridor have fought the proposal tooth and nail from the moment they learned about it.

You have to feel bad for them, especially the residents who have lived in those subdivisions for a long time. They have witnessed the building of the Sauk Hills landfill just south of Michigan Avenue, and many have complained about the noise coming from the Canton Police Department's gun range on Van Born Road. Now comes this trail proposal.

Unfortunately for these residents, however, they have something working against them here. This project just makes too much sense, especially in the eyes of township officials.

First of all, Canton has to put in a sanitary sewer to handle all of the additional sewage that will be produced by future homes in the southwest part of the township. Crews will be down there anyway, so it would make sense to kill two birds with one stone, so to speak.

Second, recreation is taken very seriously in Canton, and the one thing residents have said they want more of is trails. Canton has some great parks, but it does lack a trail system, and this could be the backbone of a future trail system that would connect neighborhoods and parks, which in my opinion would make Canton a more complete and attractive community. Another factor here is the fact that

Wayne County is providing a grant to pay for much of the trail work, something Canton officials don't want to walk away from.

Despite the way it has been treated in the past, the Lower Rouge River and its wooded corridor (part of the Lower Rouge Parkway) are probably the greatest natural resource within the township. It has been underused as a recreational asset. Although some residents do use the area to take hikes and walk dogs, this trail would make the area more accessible to residents who are less adventurous.

All of these factors, however, have not made the plan any more attractive to the residents living along river. Canton officials have had three informational meetings about the trail proposal, all of which have been well-attended. Last week, the township board had a study session, which drew an interesting cross-section of residents, some of whom are completely opposed to the plan, but also some residents who think it is a great idea.

Barring some unforeseen circumstances, like the county saying the money suddenly disappeared, it is my belief the trail is going in. But township officials must make a commitment to the residents who live in that area, because they have some very legitimate concerns.

There is no question that the trail is going to create access to these people's homes that does not really exist now. Crime is a concern, and nothing that was said at the meeting last week is going to quell those fears. Canton Police Officer Bob Kerr, who spoke at last week's meeting, said the department would be able to police the trail with motorcycle and mountain bike patrols, but even that won't completely eliminate the possibility of crime, which Kerr admitted.

"I don't think anybody will say there won't be any crime on this trail, because anywhere that is accessible is susceptible to criminal activity," he told residents.

Another thing the residents are worried about is the fact that the area is going to be torn up by heavy equipment. But township officials said they have made a serious commitment to restore the area along the path, which will only be 10 feet wide once it is done. When the path is ultimately completed, which may take as long as a decade, I think it could be one of the township's real recreational jewels, especially if it links up to other recreational trails township officials envision for the future. As it stands, the trail will already link up with the I-275 bike trail, which is also scheduled to be renovated by the state. Despite the fears by residents that this will bring their property values down, I believe it will actually improve the area and make it more attractive to future buyers. But I'm certainly no real estate expert, and my opinion won't mean a darn thing to these residents if they have trouble selling their homes in the future.

The township must do everything possible to protect those investments. But township officials must also invest in the community, and this trail could prove to be a wonderful investment.

Like I said, change is never easy.

Kurt Kuban is community editor of the *Canton Observer*. He welcomes your feedback. E-mail him at kkuban@hometownlife.com or call at (734) 459-2700.

Vigil a chance to ease pain, honor children lost too soon

I have five children and two grandchildren and, while all of them at one time or another have caused me some angst, all of them are vibrant young men (except Jennifer, who is vibrant but is not a young man).

And all of them are alive. Sadly, that's not the case for some 500 or more people who crowded into Kellogg Park Sunday night for The Compassionate Friends' annual candlelight vigil honoring children they've lost, for reasons ranging from accidents to illness, from drugs to disease.

Some 500 people huddled with each other and against the cold, saddened by loss, warmed by memories. As you find at most funerals, stories are recounted and there's a lot of laughter. Of course, there are also lots of tears.

Including my own. I've never lost a child, but I can empathize with them, because I can't imagine losing

Jennifer, Matthew, Marcus, Robert, Andrew, Sydney or Maycie. Maybe that's why the tears flow so easily at this event every year. It serves as a reminder how fleeting life really is.

Take Judith Gangnier of Farmington, who last year celebrated Christmas with her 28-year-old son, Beau. This year, she's getting ready for a Christmas without him after he died suddenly earlier this year.

In fact, the fleeting quality of life is a lesson Judith Gangnier has learned repeatedly over the last year or so. Beau's cousin Travis also died this year, six months after having been graduated from the University of Michigan law school with honors. Judith's mother died the same day as Travis, and her father suffered a stroke. As if that wasn't enough, Gangnier also recently lost her job.

That's an awful year, one made at least marginally better because Gangnier found solace with The Compassionate Friends. A woman whose own son is buried in the same Farmington cemetery as Beau told Gangnier about it.

Gangnier, as well as her sister in Indianapolis, made it a point to be at the candlelight vigil Sunday, during which candles are lit by chapters all over the world, essentially bringing together a ring of light that theoretically encircles the globe, casting a glow that honors all children lost too soon.

"This is real important to me," Gangnier said Sunday. "I love my son, and I miss my son. It helps to be able to talk to people about that. Most people feel uncomfortable talking about it. The Compassionate Friends don't."

Every year, new people find out about this group, and every year the crowd for this event grows. A Livonia man was a first-timer, huddled near the Christmas tree decorated with photos of the children being honored. Fighting back tears, he occasionally reached up, clearing the branches away so he could see his son's picture better.

The son was 16 and had been a good kid, never

in trouble, until he got caught up with the proverbial wrong crowd, older men the father blames for leading his son astray. The son wound up snorting a line of cocaine, which had been laced with fentanyl. He died in August.

"We miss him so much ... it helps to be with other people who are grieving, too," the father said. "Not a day goes by we don't cry over it. I don't know if we will ever get over it."

I'm not sure death is something you "get over." Maybe you just learn to cope with it, learn that life goes on and approaching it any other way is simply counterproductive. My mother died 20 years ago, and I can relate to the Livonia man because there's still not a day that goes by where I don't think of her. My memories now are all fond, the pain and agony of her life and her death replaced by happy thoughts of her ironing T-shirts and trying (mostly in vain) to cook something edible.

For some of the people at Sunday's vigil, the loss is too recent, the pain too real and deep, the shroud of grief too heavy to believe the memories will ever be good. Others have reached the point where death is a distant recollection, the pain not removed, but at least tempered by the passage of time. It gets easier to smile, easier to joke - easier to remember.

Gail Lafferty of Canton is a case in point. She lost her beloved son, Max, a few years ago. The pain was horrific at first, now dulled by the passing years, replaced by a smile when she thinks of him. Every year, the weather seems to be much better than Michigananders have a right to expect for mid-December, a fact Lafferty attributes to Max looking down, taking care of them. A couple of years ago, it snowed all day the day of the vigil, but stopped shortly before it was scheduled to start. Sunday, it was chilly, though not bone-shattering cold. It did, however, rain a little, and Lafferty noticed.

"We were talking about that, and we decided it was the kids being mischievous," said a smiling Lafferty, who believes so much in The Compassionate Friends she's now the group's co-leader.

The program is designed to remember the children, something the grieving parents, families and friends are determined to do. It's tough to leave Kellogg Park with dry eyes when you've heard some 300 names read out loud, listened to poetry and heard the emotion in songs such as Kenny Chesney's *Who You'd Be Today* and Josh Groban's *To Where You Are*.

Everyone leaves the vigil drained, emotionally and physically, having spent a precious hour huddled and hugging, laughing and crying. As the candles go out, there's time for one last tear, one final goodbye, and then they move on. Those for whom the pain is still simply too fresh will soon learn what the others have found out, the final lesson they'll learn from their children.

Life goes on.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the *Plymouth Observer*. He can be reached via e-mail at bkadrich@hometownlife.com or by phone at (734) 459-2700.

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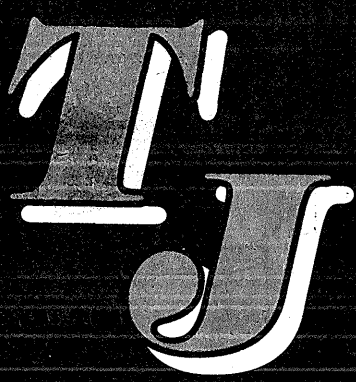
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RESA superintendent says it's time to retire

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER



Marlene Davis

Marlene Davis says there is still "a lot of juice in the tank," but the time has come to retire as superintendent of the Wayne County Regional Education Service Agency and let someone else take up the cause of improving student achievement.

"I decided to retire because I have been doing this a long time. This is my 39th year in education, and I've done a lot of different jobs, played all the parts pretty much," she said.

Davis will step down as RESA superintendent on June 30, 2007. She became RESA superintendent in 2001, leaving her position as superintendent of Southfield Public Schools. She also served as a school superintendent in southern California, principal at several schools and teacher.

"I'm ready to move on to something where I am not the boss," she said.

RESA is Wayne County's intermediate school district. The districts were created by the state legislature in 1962 as an intermediary service agency between the state Department of Education and local school districts. The state has 57 intermediate school districts. RESA serves the 34 school districts in Wayne County.

enterprise is different, because you don't have school boards and you don't have parents. You're much more anonymous."

The mission for intermediate districts varies from district to district. Outstate, a ISD may serve several counties. In the population centers, an ISD serves one county. Some ISD operate schools and directly handle special education programs.

RESA provides administrative technology for all county school districts except Livonia and Detroit. They handle software, payroll, finance and student database. They provide technology, including Internet access for all the school districts and 60 districts outside of Wayne County. They help provide purchasing economies of scale for the districts. They also monitor special education programs, do student enrollment audits and interpret state and federal education programs.

"People call asking what to do, like with No Child Left Behind," she said. "We read it, we interpret it, we pretty much translate for local districts. Here's what you need to do and not do."

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

At the heart of Davis' mission has been improving student achievement. RESA has a program with Detroit Public Schools to help troubled schools reach adequate yearly

progress.

She has mixed feelings about the federal No Child Left Behind law.

"The notion of No Child Left Behind is excellent," she said. "It has gotten the attention of the school districts. Where I disagree is in the excessive micromanagement of the details, and the failure to understand what real schools look like - schools that need help, schools where we do leave children behind. It's a challenging environment. There's no acknowledgment of that, it's just do it."

She also said the "penalties" prescribed to correct failing schools are unrealistic and haven't been imposed.

Davis is passionate about public schools. The Dearborn Fordson High School graduate said public school is often the one place where young people do feel a sense of accomplishment.

"In these schools, you see these kids, this is their oasis, this is where it's happening for

them," she said. "That is why public education is still at the heart of our country. We're the only ones who take everybody. That's what we have always done in public education, the great equalizer and homogenizer."

Davis said her biggest legacy at RESA has been to refocus the agency to better serve the needs of the school districts. She said one of the first things she did was send out a survey asking superintendents what they needed from RESA.

Davis still sees education as part of her new life in retirement.

"I'll work with gusto for Wayne RESA until June 30 and on July 1, I'll say now what," she said. "I suspect I'll be doing something, I'm not ready for the golf course. I suspect it will be in education, I love education and I'm good at it."

hgallagher@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2149

AIRPORT CHANGE

The Wayne County Airport Authority and off-airport commercial transportation providers have agreed to new procedures at Detroit Metropolitan Airport that allow authorized drivers of reserved/pre-arranged luxury sedans, limousines and other commercial vehicles to greet and assist arriving customers in the baggage claim areas of all terminals while continuing to prohibit the solicitation of arriving passengers.

The procedures include a designated area for authorized off-airport drivers greeting arriving customers. All authorized drivers will be able to assist their customers with their luggage and direct them to their vehicles.

All vehicle-for-hire drivers must park in the designated ground transportation areas and obtain specific credentials from the airport's ground transportation office prior to entering the terminals.

The new procedure applies to reserved/pre-arranged luxury sedans, limousines and other commercial vehicles.

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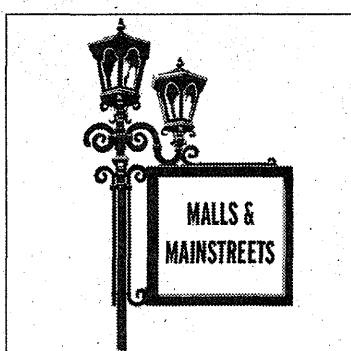
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New exhibit gives shoppers 'Happy Feet'

As you make your list and check it twice, don't miss these local holiday shopping events: 'Happy Feet'

Great Lakes Crossing, Fairlane Town Center and Twelve Oaks will feature free 'Happy Feet' exhibits that bring the new film to life. The exhibits include a 20-foot walk-through snow globe, where a cold Antarctic blast and falling snow welcome visitors to Mumble's home. Within the globe, guests can interact with life-sized sculptures of characters from the film and enjoy toe-tappin' music from the movie soundtrack. The exhibit also showcases three-dimensional, penguin-filled *Happy Feet* scenes displayed in three, six-foot snow globes with buttons to launch interactive elements; a walk-through 28-foot holiday tree where visitors can learn about key characters and a "green screen" experience where children can pose for holiday pictures that make them look like they're dancing with Mumble and other characters.



Holiday E-Greetings

Bright House Networks is offering shoppers at Laurel Park Place a tech-savvy way to send holiday greetings across the miles. Stop by the BHN kiosks outside Parisian through January to send free video e-mail and digital phone messages to your loved ones.

My Mall

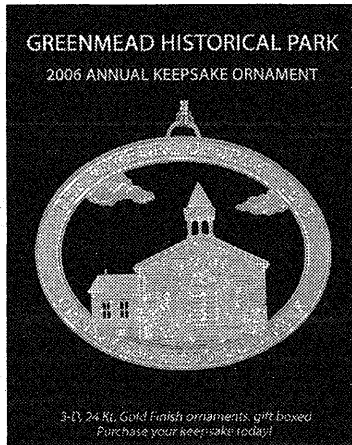
Make holiday shopping easier right from your desk with the new online service "My Mall." Detroit-area Taubman centers are offering the free Web site feature, which allows shoppers to create online shopping lists, sign up for e-buletins from stores and file

coupons, exclusive offers and more. Log onto www.shopfairlane.com, www.shopgreatlakescrossing.com or www.shoptwelveoaks.com, click "My Mall."

Shop Smart

Westland Shopping Center offers the following tips to make your to-do list easier.

- Avoid the rush and shop at off-peak hours.
 - To make the checkout process easier in any store, have your method of payment and proper identification ready before you get to the register.
 - Consider giving gift cards — the hottest gift of choice. A Westland Shopping Center gift card, \$20-\$300 value, is good at all of Westland Shopping Center's specialty stores.
- Westland will host extended holiday shopping hours through Christmas. Visit Santa and enjoy evening entertainment on select nights, including the Phil Gram All Stars, a five-piece band that play classic holiday tunes. For more information, visit www.westlandcenter.com.



A 'Green' Christmas

Visit Greenmead in Northville for a romantic Christmas past. The Livonia Historical Commission is hosting Christmas Candlelight Tours in the historic village Dec. 26-27. Tour Greenmead's Historic Village buildings in candlelight glow, then enjoy hot cocoa, tea and cookies in the Friend's Meeting House while listening to the Livonia Civic Chorus. Tours, at 6 and 8 p.m., are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. While you're at Greenmead, pick up the second annual Christmas collectible ornament from Historic

Greenmead, a replica of the Newburgh Church. The ornaments, finished in gold and gift-boxed, are \$15. Also available are Christmas cards featuring the Shaw House Door, 20 for \$16, and Hill House in the Snow, 10 for \$10. All proceeds benefit Historic Greenmead, 20501 Newburgh Road, Livonia. Call (248) 477-7375.

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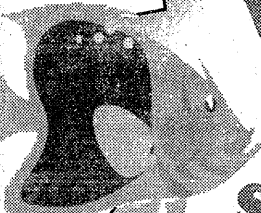
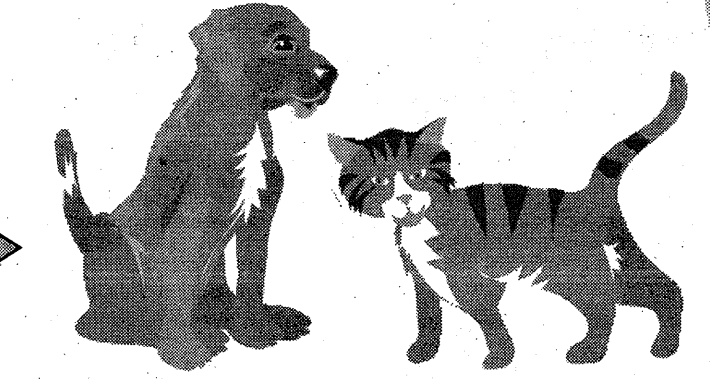
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Plymouth woman faces prison after pleading to tax evasion

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

A Plymouth Township woman faces the prospect of more than three years in prison after pleading guilty Tuesday in U.S. District Court to one count of income tax evasion.

Elfat El Aouar, 40, a former financial manager and the wife of La Shish owner Talal Chahine, entered the plea before United States District Judge John Corbett in the court in Ann Arbor, U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced.

According to Murphy, El Aouar admitted that from Jan. 1, 2003 to April 15, 2004, she aided and abetted Talal

Chahine in evading approximately \$1.5 million in federal income taxes. She is scheduled to be sentenced at 10 a.m. April 11 in Ann Arbor. Under terms of her plea agreement, El Aouar faces 30-37 months in prison.

"As in the past, our office will assiduously enforce our tax laws with full resort to civil and criminal processes as appropriate," Murphy said in a statement released Tuesday. "Anytime a business operates with two sets of books, or skims cash in the millions of dollars to send it overseas, and then fails to report the transactions on tax returns as required by law, that business should expect to be subject to vigorous prosecution."

Chahine, of Dearborn Heights, and El Aouar were indicted in May on charges they evaded paying taxes on an estimated \$16 million in alleged undisclosed income.

Authorities say Chahine and El Aouar, La Shish's financial manager, skimmed money from the restaurants during a

four-year period, 2000-03. The indictments alleged the couple maintained a double set of computerized books, records and balance reports, one actual and one altered.

According to authorities, the altered records artificially reduced the amount of cash actually received by the restaurants. The indictment charges Chahine and El Aouar "oversaw the maintenance of the double set of books, as well as the skimming and concealment of more than \$16 million in cash."

Authorities believe the cash was converted into cashier's checks, which were taken to Lebanon. They also say cash was skimmed by paying company employees all or partly in cash.

Chahine was out of the country when the indictments came down, and he is believed to be in Lebanon. A warrant has been issued, and he is considered a fugitive from U.S. authorities, the release said.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700

Murder trial set in death of foster child

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

After more than four hours of testimony in Carol Ann Poole's preliminary hearing in 35th District Court Monday, her lawyer, Mark Satawa, tried to convince Judge John MacDonald the prosecution had not shown evidence of intent on his client's part in the death of 2-year-old Allison Newman, Poole's foster daughter.

But MacDonald wasn't buying it. The chief judge bound Poole over for trial in Wayne County Circuit Court on all three charges Poole faces: felony murder, first-degree child abuse and involuntary manslaughter. Poole, the Canton woman charged in the toddler's Sept. 22 death, faces arraignment at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice Dec. 26.

Satawa pinned his argument on the fact neither of the two medical experts called Monday by the prosecution - University of Michigan neurosurgeon Dr. Hugh Garton and Washtenaw County Medical Examiner Bader Cassin - could determine whether Newman's death was the result of an intentional act or an accident.

"I think the testimony as we heard it (Monday) showed there is no evidence of intent," said Satawa. "There never was, there never will be. This was a tragic accident."

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Jerry Dorsey wasn't surprised by Satawa's motion to dismiss, saying



Poole

that were he a defense attorney, he'd argue the same way.

"If I'm a defense attorney, that's what I'd argue," Dorsey admitted. "I, of course, feel there is some evidence the injuries Allison suffered were intentionally inflicted. (MacDonald) found probable cause the crimes were committed, and probable cause (Poole) committed them. That's what we were here for."

Dorsey played the tape recorded when Poole called 911 in the early hours of Sept. 22 to say Allison was unresponsive. Canton Police Detective Michael Wells testified Poole gave police four different accounts of how Allison suffered the injuries. "We didn't really feel she was being truthful with us," Wells testified.

Dorsey introduced photos from inside the Poole's Canton home, showing the 12-foot drop from the second-floor balcony to the first floor. The fourth story Poole told Canton police - the one they now believe is the truth - involved Poole accidentally dropping Allison from that height.

After Poole called 911, EMS technicians from the Canton fire department transported Allison to Annapolis Hospital in Wayne, where her injuries were deemed severe enough to be airlifted to Mott Children's Hospital at the University of Michigan.

Garton, the U-M neurosurgeon, said a CT scan of Allison's head showed a skull fracture, bleeding over the surface of the brain and swelling of the brain. She already "showed no signs of brain activity" by the time Garton saw her, he testified.

He also testified, in his experience, a fall from 12 feet "isn't likely to have caused the injuries Allison presented."

"There's nothing that allows you to conclude whether (the fall) was intentional or accidental?" Satawa asked. Garton said "No."

Cassin performed an autopsy on Allison Newman three days after the toddler's death, and ruled the death was of "indeterminate" manner "because the set of circumstances and injury pattern lends itself to more than one" interpretation.

Two of the stories police say Poole told them involved Allison falling in the bathroom, once during a shower in the bathtub, the other from a countertop at the bathroom sink. Cassin said neither of those explanations was likely.

"This was a very forceful impact," Cassin said. "This injury was too severe to have been caused (that way)."

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THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS (PG-13)
11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30

APOCALYPTO (R)
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (PG)
11:15, 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15
FRI/SAT LS 11:15

THE NATIVITY STORY (PG)
4:10, 9:10

DECK THE HALLS (PG)
12:00, 2:05, 6:30
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Workforce program

Emily Stover DeRocco, U.S. assistant secretary of labor for employment and training, was in Livonia Dec. 5 to discuss southeast Michigan's selection as one of 26 communities nationwide to participate in the U.S. Department of Labor's Workforce, Innovation and Regional Economic Development (WIRED) initiative. The WIRED designation connects regions with federal resources to support workforce development, with a focus on advanced technology jobs. DeRocco spoke at a meeting of the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce held at Schoolcraft College's VistaTech conference and training center.

Schoolcraft board to tap trustee

Eight applicants are seeking appointment to a vacancy on the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees.

The board will conduct applicant interviews at a special meeting beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday in the board room conference room (Administration Building) on campus, Six Mile and Haggerty roads in Livonia. The meeting is open to the public.

The eight have applied to fill the unexpired term of Kevin McNamara, who was elected in November to the Wayne County Board of Commissioners. McNamara, a Canton Township resident, had served as secretary of the Schoolcraft board.

The candidates and their expected interview times are:

■ James Fausone of Canton Township, an attorney with Fausone, Taylor and Bohn in

Northville (10:15 a.m.).

■ Joan Gephardt of Livonia, a retired elementary school principal and an adjunct professor at Madonna University (10:30 a.m.).

■ Joanne Lamar of Plymouth Township, a nurse manager with the Henry Ford Health Care System and a former member of the board of trustees of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools (10:45 a.m.).

■ Sandra Larson of Livonia, an attorney in private practice in the Law Offices of Margaret Barton and Sandra M. Larson in Livonia (11 a.m.).

■ Charles McIlhargey of Plymouth Township, a member and former president of the Schoolcraft College Foundation Board of Governors (11:15 a.m.).

■ Roy Puckett of Livonia, a former member of the Livonia

Civil Service Commission and Livonia Employee Pension Board (11:30 a.m.).

■ Ronald Randall of Livonia, former registrar at Schoolcraft College. Randall retired in 2002 (11:45 a.m.).

■ Dr. Louis Reibling, former vice president of instruction at Schoolcraft College. Reibling retired in 2004 and is a Northville resident (noon).

State guidelines require that the appointee stand for election to the seat in the next school election, which will occur in 2007.

The Schoolcraft College district includes the school districts of Plymouth-Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Northville and part of Novi. The board meets once a month and consists of seven members who are elected to six-year terms.

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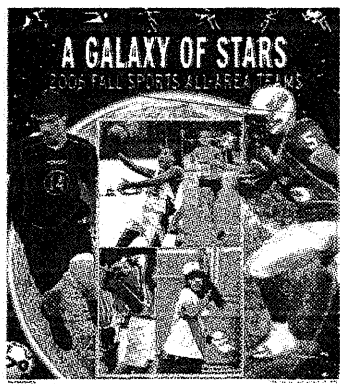
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Look for the new All-Area special section in Sunday's Observer

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SPORTS

B (CP)

Thursday, December 14, 2006

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

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League jockeying fails, but WLAA eyes Novi

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

A proposed marriage agreement between the Western Lakes Activities Association and the Kensington Valley Conference has been put on hold.

The two leagues, for now, remain separated.

Earlier this year, the eight-school KVC – soon to be 10 when two new high schools open during the next two years – courted WLAA members Northville, Walled Lake Central, Northern and Western about jumping leagues.

The WLAA, which currently consists of

12 schools, countered by asking the three Farmington schools – North, Harrison and Farmington High – to rejoin the WLAA after leaving five years ago to become members of the 27-school Oakland Activities Association.

But back in the fall, the Farmington schools, after much debate, decided to remain in the OAA.

Just recently, the *Observer* learned the WLAA has formally invited Novi of the KVC and West Bloomfield of the OAA to become members.

Another recent proposal, initiated unilaterally by athletic directors of the KVC, forwarded a plan to form a scheduling

partnership with the WLAA to help reduce spiraling transportation costs.

That proposal, however, was rejected in a meeting recently by KVC principals.

So where does a proposed merger or partnership stand between the two leagues?

One thing is for certain, the three Walled Lake schools and Northville are staying put.

“Walled Lake and Northville worked together on this, but each made its own decision,” said David Yarbrough, who oversees athletics at Central, Northern and

PLEASE SEE LEAGUE, B3

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CONFERENCE MEMBERS**
Novi, Brighton, Hartland, Howell, Pinckney, White Lake Lakeland, Milford, South Lyon, South Lyon East (joins in 2007-08), Howell Parker (joins in 2007-08).

Sidelines

Plymouth spikers open season

Plymouth's volleyball team advanced to the quarterfinals of the season-opening Madonna Invitational Saturday before falling to Lutheran Westland in three sets, 19-25, 25-18, 15-8.

The Wildcats notched victories over Dearborn Heights Crestwood and Madison Heights Bishop Foley.

Several Plymouth players turned in outstanding performances, including Clare Baptist (51 digs), Rachel Heaton (40 digs), Chelsea Quinlan (29 digs), Brittany Hengesh (27 kills and 13 solo blocks), Katie Salo (30 set assists) and Courtney Buttermore.

For a detailed look at the Wildcats' 2006-07 squad, please see Sunday's *Observer*.

Hoop tryouts

The Plymouth/Canton Crossfire girls AAU basketball team will stage tryouts for the upcoming season on Saturday from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Plymouth Christian Academy, which is at 43065 Joy Road in Canton (behind Calvary Baptist Church).

The tryout fee is \$20, which is due at the time of the tryout. Prospective players are encouraged to arrive a few minutes early to register.

For more information, contact Gary Wheeler at (734) 459-7574.

Men's roundball players needed

A men's basketball team that will be competing in a Northville recreation league is looking for players. If interested, contact Clarence Hucul at (734) 354-9771.

Baseball sign-ups

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, 1309 Penniman Ave. in Plymouth (a quarter-mile east of Sheldon).

The leagues offered will be: Minors (7-10 year-olds); Majors (11-12); and Juniors (13-14). 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.org; or send an e-mail to info@cantonlittleleague.net.

MU adds recruit

The Madonna University softball team has announced an early commitment from high school senior Tara LaMilza (Harper Woods Regina) for the 2008 season.

LaMilza is coming off a junior year where she batted .321 with a lofty .683 on base percentage and .482 slugging percentage. She was selected as an All-State performer at second base with a .965 fielding average.

Depth leads Red Hawks over Chiefs

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

It happened like clockwork Tuesday night in Canton's Phase III gymnasium: Five well-rested Troy Athens basketball players crowded in front of the scorer's table every three or four minutes, chomping at the bit to start their next shift against the Chiefs.

Neither of the two five-player platoons used by Red Hawks coach Bill Gerbe shined brighter than the other, but together they combined to subdue the Chiefs, 59-48, in Canton's 2006-07 home opener.

Athens improved to 2-1 while the Chiefs slipped to 0-2.

“I saw during the summer that we had a great group of kids who we could go 10 deep with,” said Gerbe, explaining his five-in, five-out substitution pattern. “If one group isn't getting it done, the other group can come in to spark us. It puts pressure on all of them to perform. It's the first time I've had the luxury to do something like this.”

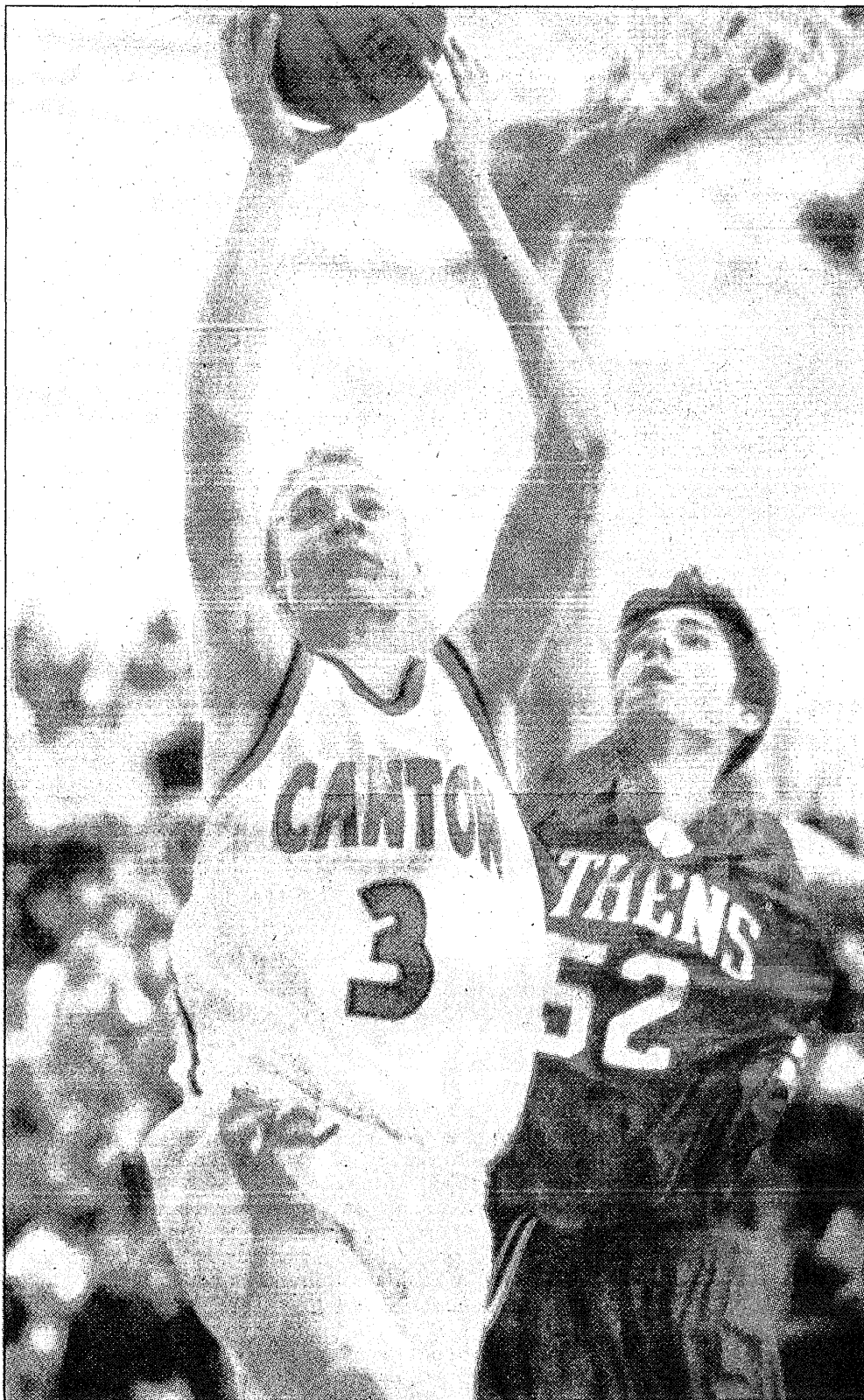
“We're able to do this not necessarily because we're that good, but because we're that equal.”

The teams appeared to match up well during the early going when Canton jumped to a 17-14 lead at the end of the opening quarter thanks to Josh Butler's buzzer-beating three-point bomb. However, the Red Hawks never trailed after seizing a 30-25 halftime advantage.

“They're a good team,” said Canton coach Charlie Paye. “The thing is, when they substituted, they didn't lose anything because both of those groups were pretty equal.”

“We just didn't take care of the ball. We had way too many turnovers (23) just like we did in the first game (a 49-44

PLEASE SEE HOOPS, B3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Eric Thornton (left) takes the ball strong to the basket past Troy Athens' Robert Rodgers during Tuesday night's non-conference game in the Chiefs' gym. The Red Hawks knocked off their hosts, 59-48, to improve to 2-1.

Maples too much for Wildcats

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

The scoreboard didn't lie – but it didn't tell the whole truth following Plymouth's season-opening 57-48 loss at Adrian Tuesday night.

“We played 10 kids and they all showed something,” said Wildcat coach Tom Van Wagoner, discussing the positives that came out of the nine-point setback to the Maples.

“Everybody contributed, so the depth is there. We just had too many turnovers and we missed too many turnovers.”

Adrian (1-2) jumped out to a 19-7 first-quarter lead thanks mainly to a trio of three-point baskets. The Wildcats chopped their deficit to 27-19 at the intermission but were swept under by a 16-7 Adrian run in the third quarter. Junior center Jake Hager led the Wildcats with 14 points. Junior point guard Brandon Roberts registered 10 while junior Navraj Sandhu chipped in with nine, including a pair of triples. Senior forward Austin Barnett flirted with a double-double, notching eight points and eight boards. Adrian's Brent Ohrman led all scorers with 17.

“They have a good, athletic team,” said Van Wagoner, of the Maples. “Probably the biggest key for them was that they hit six threes. It was pretty even on the boards. I think we suffered from a few opening-night jitters.” Neither team shot the lights out from the free-throw line: Plymouth hit 10-of-18 while the Maples connected on 7-of-11. Things won't get any easier for the Wildcats, who travel to Walled Lake Central Friday to battle the Vikings.

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Rock icers tie N'ville

Salem's hockey team battled back from a 2-0 deficit Friday to tie Northville, 3-3, in a Western Lakes Activities Association game played at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

The Mustangs jumped out to their early lead thanks to goals from Wes Gates (11:19 of the first period) and Brandon Wales (2:02 of the second). Gates was assisted by Ross Roehl and Wales while Wales was assisted by Kyle Ziomek.

The Rocks cut their deficit in half when Steve Heisler found the back of the net with just 22 seconds left in the second period to make it 2-1. He was assisted by Aaron Markwell.

Heisler knotted the game at 2-all less than three minutes into the third period with an unassisted goal. Gates struck again two minutes later to make it 3-2, however, Salem's Tony Garbarino lit the lamp with just 3:18 to go to earn his team a point. Garbarino was assisted by David Russell and Joel Cheesman.

Rock goal-tender Ralph Aspenwall was brilliant, turning away 38 shots. Northville net-minder Andy Flynn made 19 saves.

Brophey keys the Whalers' resurgence

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER



WALT DMOCH

Plymouth Whaler forward Evan Brophey unleashes a wrist shot in a game earlier this season against OHL West Division rival Saginaw. Brophey has been instrumental in the Whalers' recent hot streak.

When he needs an extra dose of inspiration, Plymouth Whaler veteran center Evan Brophey will sometimes look up at the photo collection of ex-Whalers/current NHL players that consumes one of the walls in the team's locker room.

“Ask anyone on this team and they'll all tell you that they look up there once in a while because the players whose pictures are on that wall have achieved the goal that we've all set for ourselves – playing in the NHL,” said the well-spoken Brophey, following a recent victory over Windsor.

If the 20-year-old native of Kitchener, Ontario, continues to produce at his current pace, it won't be long before he's on the wall instead of admiring it.

Brophey has been one of the Whalers' catalysts in a recent machine-like winning streak that has propelled the team into the thick of the Ontario Hockey League's West Division title race. After losing just once in their past 14 games, Plymouth (19-10-1-1) is just four points

PLEASE SEE BROPHEY, B2

LEAGUE

FROM PAGE B1.

Western high schools. "We decided that it would serve in our best interest to stay in the Western Lakes because we felt it was the best fit.

"I don't envision going to the KVC, but circumstances may change. We're as much in it for transportation costs more than anything else. We'd be trading going to Howell, Hartland and Pinckney for (Westland) John Glenn, Wayne (Memorial) and Plymouth. "If I don't cut transportation dollars, I may have to cut some programs and explore other possibilities. I want to keep freshman programs, and not have to cut them."

Novi athletic director Curt Ellis was out of town and unavailable for comment, but the WLAA feels the school of 1,906 students might be better suited to make a switch and start a new relationship.

"I think we owe it to ourselves, when opportunities arise, that you have to take care of your league the best you can," said Churchill AD Mark Hage, who also serves as the WLAA president. "You have to look at, and consider, geographic alignments and cost-effective measures without compromising the league."

Yarbrough also believes Novi is a good fit, but for expansion, the WLAA needs to bring in two schools to make it an even number - 14 (instead of 13).

"We felt Novi was interested," Yarbrough said. "If you bring Novi in, you have an outstanding program and they would certainly be an asset. And if you sit around and look, West Bloomfield would be a natural."

"But it's all driven by transportation (costs). You have to look at the amount of time you spend traveling on a bus. You're traveling three or four times per week and getting home at 10:30 (p.m.) and 11 on school nights. And with the graduation and curriculum requirements changing

(resulting in a longer school day), you could be spending even more time."

Yarbrough, however, believes the KVC had more to offer as far as programs than some of the schools in the Western Lakes.

"A lot of reasons we looked into it (the KVC) was because schools like Novi, Walled Lake and Northville all offer similar programs - equestrian, figure skating, girls ice hockey, bowling, lacrosse, inline hockey," he said.

Although Novi might be seriously entertaining joining the WLAA, West Bloomfield, it appears, is not.

"There's been talk of additional teams coming in or teams going out, or some kind of reconfiguration of sorts," West Bloomfield athletic director DeWayne Jones said. "But right now we're pretty solid as far as where we're going to be - we're going to be in the OAA. We have no intentions of changing at this point and I know we're going to be here at least the next two or three years - we're certain, but after that, we don't know."

The idea of a partnership between the two leagues might be the most appealing for all parties involved.

"With the 22 schools you're looking at something unique and different," White Lake Lakeland AD Greg Michaels said. "It's a partnership, not a mega conference. There could be some division aligning, but it's more for scheduling purposes and accommodating each others' needs."

"The addition of South Lyon (East) and (Howell) Parker pose problems for us. You can't blame Novi. They have to put themselves in the best position."

"We're going to continue to work with the principals. We may need to bring more facts - something they're interested in which would be in the best interest of both leagues as far as athletics. It's not done. I'm pretty adamant about it. It's still a work in progress."

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Expectations are high for Agape cagers

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

The bar has been set high for the Canton Agape basketball team this season - and for good reason.

The Wolverines return several key players from last year's 14-6 squad, giving head coach Keith Anleitner more than enough reason for optimism.

"Our focus is to win the (Michigan Independent Athletic Conference's) Red Division," said Anleitner, who lost just one starter - Derek Leathers - to graduation. "In fact, I'll be disappointed if we don't win it. It's not that the other teams aren't good. It's just that we have more experience on our team this year

than we've had since I've been here."

Running the show for the Wolverines will be Anleitner's son, Jack, a 6-foot-1 senior who already has three varsity seasons under his belt. Despite handling the point-guard duties, Anleitner is averaging a team-best 14 points per contest after the first three games.

"Jack is a very unselfish point guard who can pass and penetrate," said the elder Anleitner. "And he's probably the best defensive player I've ever coached at Agape. In one game last year he had 12 steals."

Joining Jack Anleitner in the starting back-court will be Mark Mullett (5-10), who's currently pouring in 10 points a

game.

"Mark is a scrappy, hard-nosed player," said Anleitner. "And for a little guy, he knows how to get to the boards."

The Wolverines' starting front-court will consist of juniors Ty Majeski, Terrell Pierce and Joel Ruffin, all of whom stand 6-1. Like Jack Anleitner, Majeski is filling the nets to the tune of 14 points a game thus far.

"Ty will be one of our top scorers all year," said Anleitner. "He's a very smart player and one of our best shooters."

"Terrell has primarily been a point guard up to this point, but we've moved him inside because we're short on post players. He's adapted very well thanks to his outstanding

jumping ability.

"Joel is a good defensive player and he can rebound." Following the holiday break, Agape will be energized by the addition of senior Showal Olojo, a transfer from Westland John Glenn.

"Sho is only 6-1, but he can dunk with just one step," said Anleitner. "He'll be a nice addition to our team."

Among those players providing depth for the Wolverines will be key reserves Jared Miller (6-3 forward), Kevin Reith (5-9 guard), Temi Olojo (5-11 guard), Brandon Pierson (6-1 forward) and Daniel Walker (6-1 forward).

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HOOPS

FROM PAGE B1

loss at Monroe). We didn't shoot well either. It seemed like we were getting a lot of layups, especially in the second half, but we couldn't finish. Maybe the kids were tired; I don't know.

"I thought we did a good job on defense and we got the ball into the low post on offense. But they double- and triple-teamed us a lot when we got the ball down low and we didn't kick the ball out quick enough."

Athens senior forward Peter Donato led all scorers with 15 points, nine via the triple route. Matthew Bauhof added 10 while Kevin Johnson and Kyle Dishaw both contributed eight to the Red Hawks' balanced attack. Dishaw also grabbed a team-high seven rebounds and a heap of praise from his coach.

"Kyle was a man out there tonight," said Gerbe. "When he went to the boards, the ball was his. Kyle did a lot of positive things for us tonight."

Butler and Waidmann led the Chiefs with 12 points each. Steve Paye chipped in with 10 on a night when the Chiefs shot just 43 percent from the floor (18-of-41) and 56 percent from the charity stripe (9-of-16).

The Chiefs' offense was hampered when the 6-foot-7 Waidmann - the

No. 1 option - was forced to sit out a big chunk of the second quarter and much of the third with foul troubles.

Athens took control of the game for good during a four-minute stretch of the second quarter when they outscored Canton 14-2. Fittingly, five different Red Hawks scored during the pivotal spurt, most notably Bauhof, who netted six.

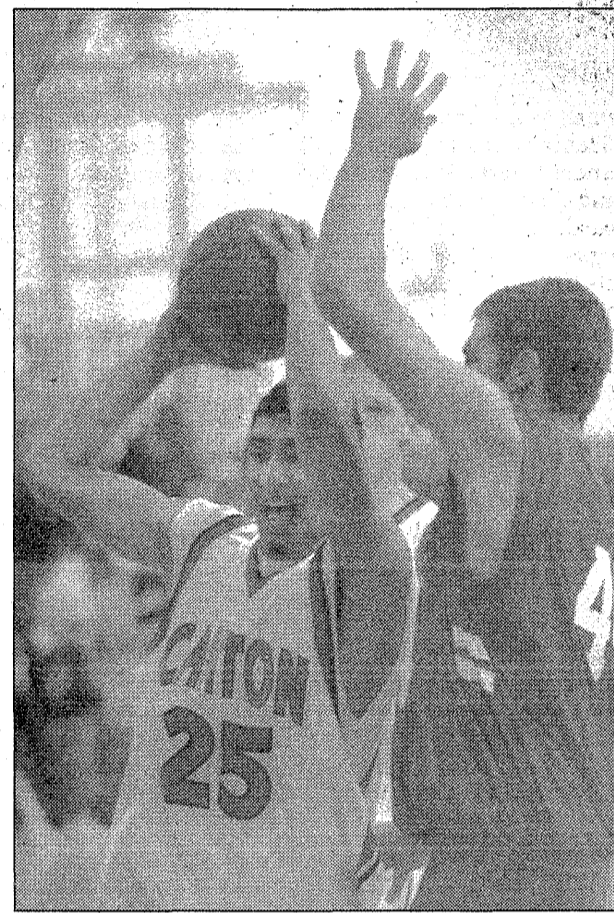
Senior forward Eric Thornton drained a long three-pointer just before the third-quarter horn sounded, cutting Canton's deficit from double-digits to 44-37. However, the Chiefs were unable to get any closer than six during the final eight minutes.

"We played Canton last year, so we knew they were tough, disciplined kids who could play," said Gerbe. "We knew we'd have to fight fire with fire. Our kids were able to put out the energy when they had to. If they didn't, it only took one benching for them to get the message."

The Red Hawks shot 46.5 percent from the field (20-of-43), but just 55 percent from the line (15-of-27).

Waidmann led the Chiefs with eight rebounds; Paye yanked down six.

"Now we only get one day to prepare for South Lyon," said Paye, looking ahead to his team's next foe. "They were 0-2 going into tonight, but we know they're a good team because we played them in the summer league."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Neil Sharma slices to the basket past Troy Athens' Peter Donato during Tuesday night's Red Hawks win.



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Another week, another streak as Lion

"Stop the streak" didn't work too well last week. The Minnesota Vikings made it 10 straight wins over the Lions with the 30-20 victory at Ford Field. Detroit helped out with six turnovers and a plethora of bungled plays.

This week's "stop the streak" moment takes us to Green Bay, Wis. The last time a Lions team won at Lambeau was 1991, ironically the same year as its last playoff success. It's been 15 years since Detroit won a game at that famed edifice. Brett Favre has never lost to the Lions in cheese land. It is also the last chance for the Lions to salvage one positive moment out of this disaster of a season.

"To put this thing together, you just got to keep putting it together," Lions coach Rod Marinelli said after his 11th loss of the season. It is painfully obvious that Marinelli is simply running out of things to say.



Mark Wilson

The Packers are having their own horrible year. Their win in San Francisco improved their record to 5-8. Favre had arguably his best game of 2006. He passed for 293 yards and two touchdowns with zero interceptions. Horrible all of a sudden becomes relative. The Lions would kill to have five wins and Favre thinks winning only five so far is pathetic. It is one more victory, however, than Green Bay had all last year.

"I used to take these games for granted," Favre said to reporters afterward. "These wins are much harder to come by now."

When it comes to playing the Honolulu blue and silver, Favre doesn't know what it's like to lose at

home. Since he became the starter in 1992, the Packers are a perfect 15-0 against the Lions. That includes the 1994 playoff win when Barry Sanders rushed for minus-1 yard.

Most of the losses haven't even been close. Eight of them were by margins of 10 points or more. Only the last two years have the Lions lost close. Back-to-back 16-13 failures have kept the streak alive. Last December, Dick Jauron was coaching when the Lions lost in overtime. That made it 15 straight over the Lions at home for Favre, who will start his 235th consecutive game at quarterback this Sunday.

Favre is headed to the Pro Football Hall of Fame; we all know that. Against the 49ers, he passed the 3,000-yard mark in a season for the 15th straight year. In Lions history, including Jon Kitna this season, only six times has a Lions QB gone over the

3,000-yard mark. Don't forget, that's in 76 years of mostly forgettable football. Favre is also just eight touchdowns away from breaking Dan Marino's all-time record of 420.

"Days like this make me think I could play 10 more years," Favre added after the win in San Francisco.

He has already beaten the Lions once in 2006. That came in Week 3 of the NFL campaign, back in September at Ford Field. It's not like No. 4 doesn't lose to the Lions. They have had his number nine times in Michigan. He is only 6-9 vs. Detroit when he comes here. That includes another playoff game back in 1994. It was the infamous "Sterling Sharpe" game, with Favre finding a wide-open Sharpe in the end zone for the victory.

No one really has a theory why the Lions have struggled in one venue like Lambeau. Obviously,

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Lions face the Packers at Lambeau Field

Packers have simply been the better team for most of those years. Other times, it's like the ghost Vince Lombardi looks down and wants retribution for certain Detroit victories in the '60s. Whatever it is, the Lions have been snake-bit when they head into the "snake pit" that is Lambeau Field. Dec. 15, 1991. That's the last time the Lions tasted victory in Wisconsin. Wayne Fontes beat the Packers that day in Green Bay 21-17 to secure the NFC Central title and the team's first playoff appearance since 1983. After that, nothing. The following three years, the Lions lost in Milwaukee. Once the Packers stopped playing select games at Century Stadium, they were content to beat up the Lions at Lambeau. Ninety-one, right? That's the last time we won there?" an inquisitive Dre Bly asked last week.

"We got to do something about that after we take care of Minnesota." Well, one out of two wouldn't be bad. The Vikings' streak continues into 2007. The Lions were just wretched in allowing the Vikes to go up 20-0 before some people even made it to their seats last Sunday. The six turnovers accounted for 23 Minnesota points and, like he has done so many times, Darren Sharper finished the game with an interception. Sharper, of course, once played for the Packers. "What fun is there in losing every week?" a dejected Jeff Backus said. Against the Patriots, it was Backus' old University of Michigan buddy Tom Brady. Against the Vikings, it was his old University of Michigan buddy Steve Hutchinson. "I'm jealous of those guys," Backus added.

"They've been able to have success and enjoy their careers." Bad news for Backus. This week he plays against yet another old Michigan buddy. Charles Woodson, who helped the Wolverines win a national championship in 1997 by winning the Heisman Trophy, starts at left corner for the Pack. He had a couple of passes defended and a 40-yard punt return in the win over the Niners. Backus needs to stop playing against former Michigan teammates. The Lions are 2-11 and going nowhere fast. There is only one home game left, against the Bears on Christmas Eve. Roy Williams even joked last Sunday that he could hear a guy ordering a hot dog at one of the Ford Field concession stands because it was so quiet in that building. Lions fans simply have nothing to cheer about. Again. "We have no excuses. There are no explanations

for it," Marinelli said. Yes, the coach is finding it hard to put what's gone on around here into words. He and his two coordinators, Mike Martz and Donnie Henderson, didn't foresee this when they signed on back in January. After Green Bay, it's Chicago and Dallas. That's all that's left on the schedule for 2006. In the six years that Matt Millen has run the show, the record is now 23-70 in that time. The Lions have now lost five in a row. They have scored only one offensive touchdown in each of those five games. A rare win at Lambeau could at least be one right thing in another lost season. 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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Livonia, MI - A Livonia dealer is selling 2006 vehicles for one-half of the original manufacturer's list price. And they're offering many other 2006 models far below normal market values. The low financing offered by GM, Ford, and Daimler-Chrysler mesmerized so many buyers that far fewer shoppers even bothered looking at pre-owned 2006 models.

How does 0% financing on a new model do in a heads-up comparison to a pre-owned 2006 model? In the instance of the Buick LaCrosse, financing \$21,960 plus tax vs. \$9995 plus tax, the payments on the new car at 0% interest would be \$392 monthly for 60 months, but only \$269 monthly at 3.9% for 60 months on the program model. With the prime at a record low, today's interest rates are very competitive. Many credit unions charge under 6% for auto loans if the applicant has a good credit rating. And when purchasing the used 2006, don't forget that you'll be saving about an additional \$1,000 in sales tax and licensing fees. (Taxes estimated at an average of 6%).

John Rogin Buick sold over 150 Buick LaCrosse & Pontiac Grand Prix's in the first 30 days of their sale.

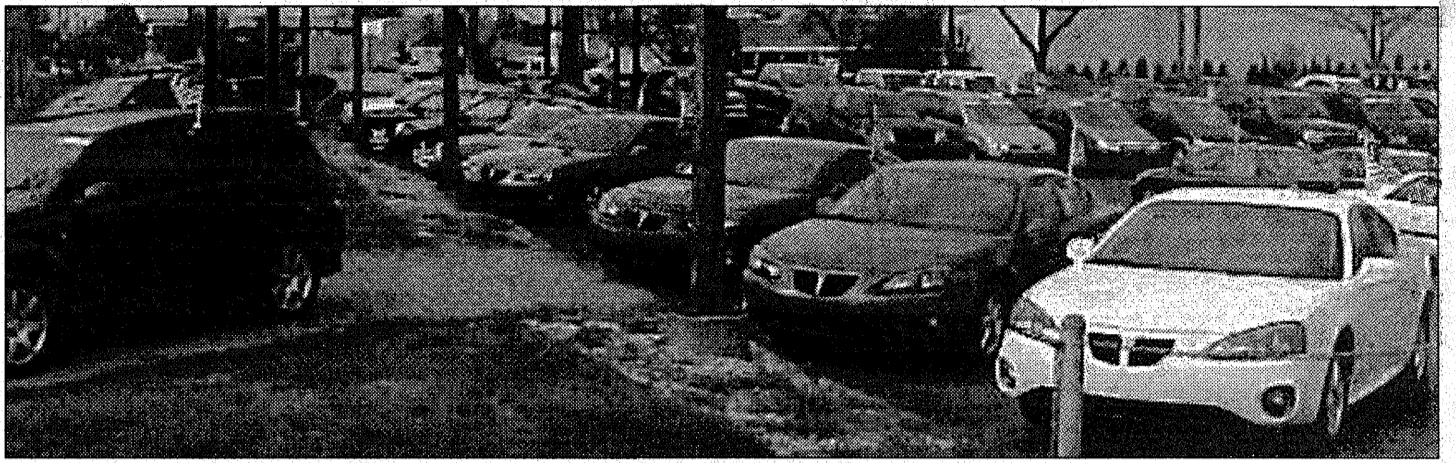
A "program" car is a vehicle that has been leased by a premium rental company through a special "program" from the manufacturer. Strict maintenance is required, and all vehicles are carefully inspected upon return. In many cases, these program units receive better maintenance than vehicles owned by private owners.

John Rogin Buick-Livonia has long been known as Michigan's "bargain hunting" dealer. Currently, they're selling more

2006 Pontiac Grand Prix's than any other dealer in the nation. (Over 150 Pontiacs & Buicks were sold during the first 30 days of their sale.) Last year, they sold the most pre-owned 2005 Impalas and Pontiac Grand AM's in the nation from their single location. And the year before they set the sales record selling the most off-lease GMC Yukons and pick-ups.

Today's real bargain can be found at John Rogin in the pre-owned 2006 vehicles. The low financing on new 2006's has left the used models unnoticed and overlooked. So, with far fewer dealers purchasing these units, the prices have dropped to record lows.

So, once again, John Rogin has gone shopping for the vehicles with a huge cart. They have just made a multi-million dollar purchase of these units from General Motors, bringing in



Bargains abound in pre-owned 2006 program vehicles

truckload after truckload from across the country. In addition to filling their giant used car facility to the brim, John Rogin had to lease additional storage lots to accommodate their massive acquisition of vehicles. And they

currently stock the largest inventory of 2006 program cars in Michigan.

The purpose of 0% financing is to clear out the remaining new 2006's. In another week or two, these vehicles will all be gone,

along with the incentives. In the meantime, the 2006 program vehicles are truly today's "sleeping" bargain... But they'll soon disappear as smart shoppers begin to "wake up" and recognize the real deals.

John Rogin Buick is located at 30500 Plymouth Road, between Middlebelt and Merriman in Livonia. Their used car superstore may be contacted directly at (734) 525-0900 Monday-Friday during normal business hours.

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See the 2006 Buick LaCrosse at John Rogin Buick in Livonia.

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 2000 Chandon Rosé \$20 (spent only one year on the yeast so it's not as depthful as those that have spent three or more; thus the price).

It sparkles: translating the language of bubbles

Champagne, the sparkling wine from the place known as Champagne in France is produced using a long, complicated and labor-intensive method known as methode champenoise. Understanding this method and its language helps to enhance the appreciation of champagne.

"The 2006 harvest of 85,000 acres of vineyards was completed in four weeks by 100,000 pickers during September," said Philippe Wibrotte, director of public relations for the Comité Interprofessionnel du Vin de Champagne. "The three grape varieties from which all champagne is made include chardonnay at 28 percent of the total, pinot noir at 38 percent and pinot meunier at 34 percent. This is the among most expensive fruit in the world at 5 euros/kilogram (\$5,900/ton) and grown under strict regulations of the CIVC."

RED GRAPES, WHITE WINE

If 72 percent of the grapes are red, how do the producers make a white wine?

Peel a red grape and notice the white flesh. Color is in the skin not the flesh. If red grapes are pressed cool and within a few hours of harvest, the juice obtained is white. If grapes are crushed and allowed to macerate with juice, it will be red.

Grapes are pressed in lots of 8,800 pounds, by varietal, from which only the first 544 gallons of juice (known as the cuvée) are used. Following fermentation, a blend of the three varietal still wines plus reserve wines from previous vintages is created by the chef de caves (cellar master) from as many as 70 different base wines.

Vintage wines may not use reserves since they must be 100 percent from a single vintage. This cuvée (second meaning) must be completely without flaws since any imperfection is magnified in the sparkling wine.

SECOND FERMENTATION

The cuvée is then placed in a



Focus on Wine

Ray and Eleanor Heald

bottle with a mixture of sugar and yeast to begin the second fermentation in the bottle. This process is known as tirage. During this second fermentation, carbon dioxide gas that forms cannot escape and dissolves in the wine. This is the source of bubbles that makes champagne sparkle.

The CIVC requires that a nonvintage (NV) wine ages on the yeast lees for a minimum of 15 months and a vintage champagne for three years. Most producers age their NV for three years and vintage for five to eight years. Complex aromas and flavors are imparted through extended aging.

Following aging, spent yeast must be removed from the bottle. By gradually turning the bottle upside down, yeast slides into the neck of the bottle in a process known as remuage or riddling. This process is completed in eight weeks by hand or eight days by a machine known as a gyropallete.

Once the yeast is in the neck of the bottle, it's frozen creating an ice plug. When the bot-

tle is opened, the frozen yeast escapes due to pressure in the bottle. This process is known as dégorgement or disgorging. Immediately following expulsion of the yeast plug, the dosage, a mix of wine and sugar, is added to adjust sweetness and refill the bottle before the final cork is inserted and a wire cage is added.

In increasing levels of sweetness, champagne is labeled brut, demi-sec and sec - dry, semi-sweet and sweet. A few producers do not add sugar in the dosage and name their wine ultra brut or brut nature.

THINKING PINK

Rosé champagne is increasing in popularity and is made by two different methods. Producers will always claim that their method is the best. The first method involves making a pink wine by macerating red grapes to achieve a pink color, adjusting the color by adding white wine and then undergoing the second fermentation in the bottle.

The second method involves adding still red wine to a still white wine to achieve a pink color and then letting it undergo the second fermentation in the bottle.

This column about champagne is the first in a series. Come back on Dec. 21 for Part II.

GIFT FOR WINE AFICIONADO WHO HAS EVERYTHING BUT

Master sommeliers Ron Edwards and Serafin Alvarado will offer, for the first time in the U.S., a daylong public course, similar to that offered the wine trade as the introductory course in the Court of Master Sommeliers program. The perfect gift for the wine geek who has everything, wants to learn more and prove his/her knowledge via a multiple choice quiz at the end of the day. The

course is scheduled for Feb. 2, 2007, at the Ritz Carlton, Chicago. The cost is \$125 per person with lunch included and is limited to 150 people. More information is available at www.fivestarsommelier.com.

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 efocuswine@aol.com.

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Thursday December 14, 2006

TITANIC



Princesses
and
a pig
Holiday movies

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Ugly Radio Rebellion celebrates Zappa's music

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Frank Zappa would have turned 66 on Dec. 21.

While Zappa may no longer be with us (he died in 1993 of

prostate cancer), his

music lives on in Ugly Radio Rebellion.

Guitarist and vocalist Scott Schroen, drummer Layla Hall and

keyboardist/bassist

John Garland perform

Ugly Radio Rebellion's Frank Zappa Birthday Freakout! on Dec. 21 at The Magic Stick.

Schroen started a project in 2002 consisting of musicians capable of playing Zappa's music. He formed Uncle Meat in July of that year. That band performed Zappa's music in the Detroit area until Dec. 21, 2003. After a few personnel changes, Schroen and bassist Preston Parish reformed the project in 2004 as Ugly Radio Rebellion.

Schroen did not follow Zappa closely growing up, but he likes performing the music because of "the challenge," he said.

"It's really the best chance to use all your tools and abilities," Schroen said.

Schroen's influences as a musician were Eddie Van Halen and Steve Vai. Vai had performed with Zappa, and when Schroen met Vai, Schroen learned more about Zappa. That eventually led to Schroen's idea for the project.

"It was really just (Zappa's) work ethic, he was a great musician and he had an open door policy," Schroen said. "I was hoping I someday could get an audition (with Zappa), but this is as close as I could get."

Schroen hopes the band someday can

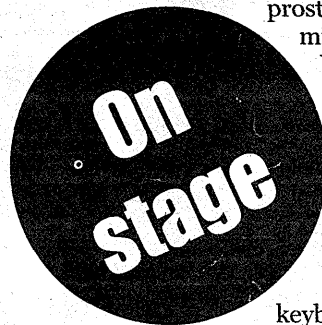
UGLY RADIO REBELLION

What: Ugly Radio Rebellion's Frank Zappa Birthday Freakout!

When: 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21 (show is open to those 18 and over).

Where: The Magic Stick, 4120-4140 Woodward, Detroit

Call: (313) 833-9700, Ext. 203, for ticket information.



perform all of Zappa's songs, but that's a tall order. Zappa has written than 3,800 songs and released 72 albums in the United States. The band performs about 150 songs on a regular basis, Schroen said.

Actually the biggest Zappa fan in the band is Hall, Schroen said. Hall, who recently placed second in an East Coast drummer competition, plays many of the songs "off the top of her head," Schroen said. Garland took two months to learn about 40 Zappa songs before joining the band, and is now prolific enough to play both keyboard and bass simultaneously on some selections, Schroen said.

Schroen said the appeal in Zappa's music is the variety of styles, "from basic blues to full orchestral" performances.

"It's fast and it's fairly difficult to play," Schroen said.

Schroen's favorite Zappa song is *Outside Now*, and favorite album is *Joe's Garage*. Schroen has developed a friendship with Ike Willis, Zappa vocalist for many years and "Joe" on *Joe's Garage*.

Ugly Radio Rebellion's show runs about 3½ hours and the band performs anywhere between 30 and 40 songs.

Schroen has discovered that Zappa still has legions of fans.

"A group of about 20 people drove from Chicago to one of our shows in Grand Rapids," Schroen said. "Zappa fans are a certain type of people. The music is really meaningful to them."

Beyonce, Akon, Fergie top chart

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekly charts for the best-selling recorded music in the United States as they appear in this week's issue of *Billboard* magazine. Reprinted with permission. Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan; radio playlists; and monitored radio by Broadcast Data Systems.

1. *Irreplaceable*, Beyonce. Columbia.

2. *I Wanna Love You*, Akon (feat. Snoop Dogg). SRC.

3. *Smack That*, Akon (feat. Eminem). SRC.

4. *Fergalicious*, Fergie. will.i.am.

5. *My Love*, Justin Timberlake. Jive.

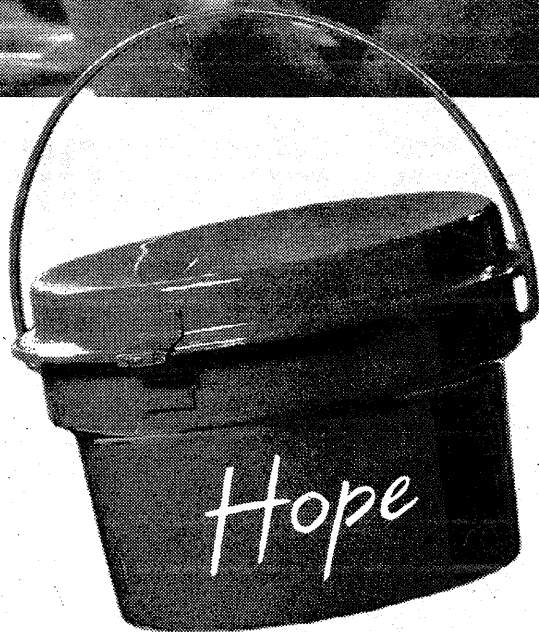
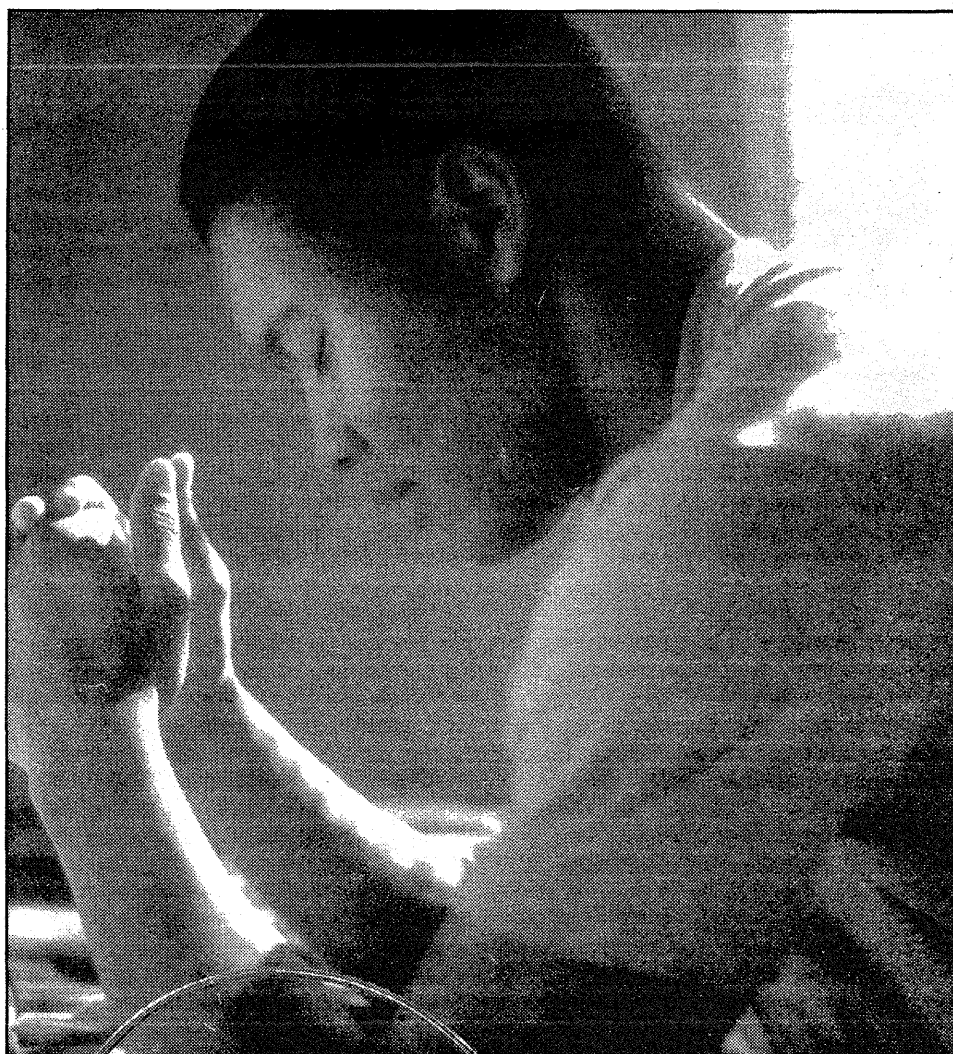
6. *Wind It Up*, Gwen Stefani. Interscope.

7. *How to Save a Life*, The Fray. Epic. (Gold — certified sales of more than 500,000)

8. *Lips of an Angel*, Hinder. Universal Republic.

9. *Shortie Like Mine*, Bow Wow (feat. Chris Brown & Johna Austin). Columbia.

10. *We Fly High*, Jim Jones. Diplomats.



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Inside this week's

PURE ENTERTAINMENT!
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The man who made *Geeks* chic ventures moves into big screen territory with *Unaccompanied Minors*.

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Celebrate Stirling's birthday this weekend.

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Jacuzzi 2.0 is featured in *Teens Who Rock*.

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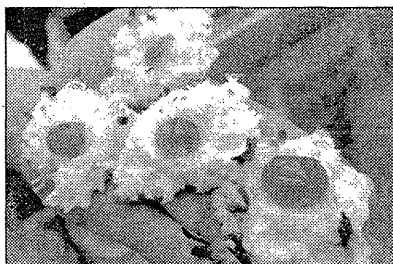
Movies, movies, we've got movies covered for the upcoming holidays.

TABLE HOPPING - 8

Check out your favorite local bakery for some great sweets, breads and desserts.

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Brave, brave Sir Robin and other cast members of Monty Python's movie characters at the Fisher in the zany *Spamalot*.



GET OUT! - 14

Got no plans? Make some after you check out our expanded entertainment calendar of events.

MORE LISTS - 16, 17

Make your holiday show and New Year's Eve plans now.

TV - 21

Progressive rockers Dendura will be filmed for an upcoming reality show.

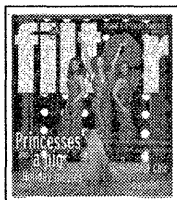
BEYOND BAD - 23

Greg Kowalski lists his favorite holiday horror movies.

Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS

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Lana Mini Staff Writer	Dan Dean Design Editor
Stephanie Casola Staff Writer	Susan Rosiek Executive Editor
	Peter Neill General Manager

ON THE COVER



'Dreamgirls' and 'Charlotte's Web' are expected to be holiday hits.

Editorial office: (248) 901-2587 / Advertising: (734) 953-2153.



Director and Michigan native Paul Feig observes a scene from *Unaccompanied Minors*, a comedy in theaters now.

'Unaccompanied Minors' director comes home with a holiday film

If the old adage "you can't go home again" rings true, Paul Feig seems to have found a way around it.

The actor, writer and director left his Mt. Clemens, Mich. home more than 20 years ago but has never completely severed his Midwestern ties. Feig is perhaps best-known as creator of NBC's cult television show *Freaks and Geeks*, which aired from 1999-2000. The short-lived effort chronicled the lives of teenagers at a fictional Michigan high school in the 1980s.

This holiday season the man who made *Geeks* chic has ventured back to big screen territory with *Unaccompanied Minors*. The movie details the antics of a new mismatched group of stranded kids, who are all



Noise Patrol

Stephanie
Angelyn Casola

snowed-in at an airport on Christmas Eve. It is playing now in area theaters.

When en route to his home state to promote the film's Dec. 8 release, Feig said art imitated life. On the way, he found himself snowed in at O'Hare Airport in Chicago.

Upon his safe return to Birmingham's posh Townsend Hotel, Feig noted that *Unaccompanied Minors* offered him an opportunity to create a comedic Christmas romp - and the potential to return each holiday season.



"I've always wanted to do a family movie," said Feig. "It's a holiday movie. It will be around. If you do it right, it will show up every year."

Centering the film around a group of kids seems to be a smart move. Feig has long been lauded for his ability to write young roles, to foster believable characters.

PLEASE SEE FEIG, E4

Winter

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and Big Band

Mitoni violin

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Bay Mo Dilo (Give Me Water)

Wynton Marsalis and
Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra

Gilberto Gil

Murray Perahia piano

Orchestre Philharmonique
de Radio France
Myung-whun Chung conductor

Rahim Alhaj and Souhail Kaspar

Canadian Brass

Pablo Ziegler Quintet
for New Tango
Claudia Acuña vocalist

David Krakauer's
Klezmer Madness

Measha Brueggergosman soprano
William Bolcom piano

John Williams and
John Etheridge guitars

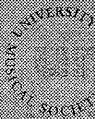
Jerusalem String Quartet

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Ford Honors Program:
Mstislav Rostropovich



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FEIG

FROM PAGE E3

He doesn't believe in the age-old warning to avoid working with children or animals. In fact, Feig said those people are simply "not doing it right."

"You can't expect kids to do exactly what you want them to do," Feig said. And sometimes the unexpected moments – the outtakes when an actor trips or has food in his teeth – make better material than a script could predict.

Much of the material for *Freaks and Geeks*, though, was drawn directly from Feig's own upbringing. The show has now reached a new audience, thanks to a DVD release. And Feig has remained in the limelight directing episodes of off-beat comedies like *The Office* and *Arrested Development*.

In addition to directing, he lists acting and writing among his accomplishments. Feig has published two humorous and relatable memoirs – *Kick Me: Adventures in Adolescence* and *Superstud: Or How I became a 24-Year-Old Virgin*. And he portrayed Mr. Eugene Pool for a season of *Sabrina, the Teenage Witch*.

Feig considers himself an actor's director.

When given the opportunity, he's altered scripts along the way to suit a character or to move in an unexpected direction.

"The last thing I want is an exact replica of the script I wrote," Feig said. "It's all about what happens in real life."

Much of that "real life" has been inspired by his Michigan roots. Feig said he believes Midwesterners maintain a politeness, a willingness "not to disrupt things," and an optimism he still holds dear.

"That always gets you in trouble," he added. "You think 'What could possibly go wrong?'"

Feig returns to the metro area about once a year to visit family, take a peek at the home where he grew up – near 16 Mile (Metropolitan Parkway) and Groesbeck – and wander up to his family's property on Lake Erie.

A few years after moving away, Feig returned to Chippewa Valley High School to peer in the windows for a sentimental moment.

He was greeted with the sirens and flashing lights of a police cruiser, that proceeded to follow him back to his car.

"I guess you can't go home again," Feig said with a shrug.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at scasola@hometownlife.com or (248) 901-2567.



Jacuzzi 2.0 blends electro and new wave elements.

Jacuzzi 2.0 creates post-Apocalyptic dance sounds

Teens
Who
Rock

The band name Jacuzzi 2.0 doesn't really have a significant meaning.

It was originally called Jacuzzi as a four-piece ensemble, but two members dropped out and the 2.0 was added to suit

the new duet.

The Livonia-based Jacuzzi 2.0, features vocalist/synthesizer, guitar and drum programming by Shawn Martin, 19, and guitar synthesizer and vocals by Alex Haber, also 19.

PLEASE SEE TEENS, E21

Stirling celebrates his birthday

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

You either know Stirling or you don't.

And whether you do speaks volumes on how well you know the Detroit music scene.

Stirling, a Detroit icon, is having a birthday party this weekend and you're invited.

Stirling is one of those hipster, artistic, in-the-scene, local rockers you would have expected to move to New York or Berlin years ago, but he's stayed in Detroit and is part of our decadent musical history.

He's the founder of one of Detroit's first gothic/new wave nightclubs, originally called Liedernach, in 1980 and what is now City Club. There he gave techno founder Derrick May his first DJ gig.

Stirling is an original punk who's hung with Iggy, Rod Stewart, Led Zeppelin, The Kinks, Lou Reed and all those guys back in their heyday.

He's been a music and arts promoter in the Motor City for decades and for the past 10 years has been doing so with Sue Static of Static Records at 313.jac/Jacoby's in Detroit — a bar where

Music

many young bands get their start.

Everyone's invited to his birthday bash (his age is irrelevant, Stirling is ageless) that begins there at 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, with bands Murder Mystery, Citizen Smile, The Prickly Stems, and Justin Case & Dooley Wilson.

313.jac is located upstairs from Jacoby's at 624 Brush St. in Detroit (313) 962-7067.

The party continues at 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at the Northern Lights Lounge, 660 W. Baltimore between Second and Third streets, in Detroit's New Center area (313) 873-1739.

That night featuring already established bands, respectively, including Youth of Rome, The Paybacks, The Sights, The Hard Lessons, and a new yet unnamed project featuring Marcie Bolan of the Von Bondies, Sean Lynch of 800 Beloved and Deleano Acevedo.

Admission is \$6 with a portion of the proceeds donated to WDET-FM, a National Public Radio station that continues to support local music and of which Stirling has been a strong advocate of for many years. For details, visit www.staticrecords.com or call (800) 700-2437.

Happy birthday, Stirling.

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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.

Mary J. Blige, New York City, 1999. Copyright © 1999 by Annie Leibovitz.

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It's all about good versus evil in *Eragon*.



Jaden and Will Smith are magical together in *The Pursuit of Happyness*.

ALL THE BEST

THEATERS RING IN HOLIDAY FILM SEASON

December is the best time of year for movie lovers, because many potential Oscar contenders aren't released until now. Combine that with some fun, even if you don't see an award-winning movie, and there are many choices worthy of an \$11 ticket price.

Charlotte's Web is expected to be huge, based of course on the book of the same name and the best-selling children's paperback of all time.

Dreamgirls should be a hit, especially in Detroit, as it's inspired by our own Supremes. *The Pursuit of Happyness* might inspire you to follow your American dream and

Volver is a good example of why we want ghosts to be real. Mix in a horror Christmas remake of *Black Christmas* and the love story *Curse of the Golden Flower* filmed beautifully among thousands of chrysanthemums and there's plenty of reasons to hit the theater.

Happy holidays and enjoy.

FRIDAY, DEC. 15

ERAGON: The holidays are a time to dream so *Eragon* is perfect for those who love fantasy. Based on the best-selling novel, this epic centers young Eragon whose destiny is revealed with the help of a dragon. He alone has the power to

save or destroy an empire. Edward Speleers, Jeremy Irons, Sienna Guillory, Robert Carlyle, Djimon Hounsou, Garrett Hedlund and John Malkovich, directed by Stefen Fangmeier. (Twentieth Century Fox) Rated PG. Fantasy.

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS: Will Smith is smashing as Chris Gardner, a salesman/father who endures painful life struggles with an unsupporting wife (Thandie Newton) and 5-year-old son (Jaden Smith).

Forced to live on the streets and in shelters, he goes through a no-pay internship with slim chances of becoming stockbroker, yet never

PLEASE SEE MOVIES, E18

Some of the best movies out right now are ...

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

The best major movies of the year are typically released during fall and winter. But last year, except for a few like *Brokeback Mountain* and *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest*, most were forgettable.

Crash, supposedly the best movie of 2005, offered no more insight about racism than a made-for-television after-school special. Philip Seymour Hoffman was wonderful in *Capote* but the film wasn't great.

2005 was OK, but 2006 was — and is — better, especially with these movies out right now:

■ *Apocalypto* — I didn't want to like Mel Gibson's *Apocalypto* but there's no denying that Gibson is a tremendous filmmaker. It's beautifully set in Mexico, in the Mayan civilization and spoken in the Mayan language. As with any film that tackles slavery and oppression, it can be very hard to watch. Still the story of one man (Rudy Youngblood) and his attempt to save his family, and his way of

life, is gripping. It should receive an Oscar nod, but because of Gibson's personal issues, it may be snubbed. Also starring Mauricio Amuy Tenorio, Dalia Hernandez, Mayra Serbulo and Gerardo Taracena.

■ *Blood Diamond* — Possible Oscar nominations including best actors Leonardo DiCaprio, Djimon Hounsou and Jennifer Connelly. A film about the blood diamond industry of Sierra Leone that will hopefully inspire us to learn more about the diamonds we wear. Directed by Edward Zwick, written by Charles Leavitt.

■ *The Illusionist* — There's only two movies this year that I actually had fun watching. One is *The Illusionist*, still at a few theaters. It has one of those "I didn't see that coming" endings. Edward Norton is an illusionist in turn-of-the-century Vienna who falls in love with a woman forbidden to him. Also featuring Paul Giamatti and Jessica Biel. (Director Neil Burger).

■ *Deja Vu* — The second film that was fun to watch. Most action films bore me, but not

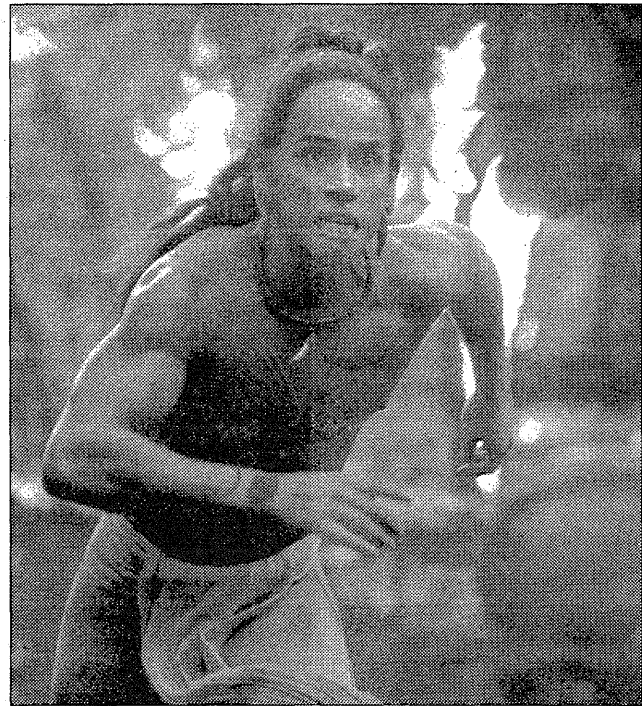
director Tony Scott's *Deja Vu*. Denzel Washington, Val Kilmer and Paula Patton are a great combination. Some viewers complained it was too far-fetched to be believable, which is silly because action/sci-fi films aren't supposed to be reality-based. Plan for a drink with your friends after seeing it, because there's plenty to talk about.

■ *Babel* — Set in Morocco, California, Japan and Mexico. Six families around the globe are connected through one common item — a gun. Many have wrongfully compared *Babel*'s style to *Traffic* when in fact, they're nothing alike.

It's been called pretentious, but there's no cliché here. Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett are the biggest names.

Directed by Alejandro González Iñárritu. Don't worry, the bizarre chicken-killing scene isn't real and the intense film isn't predictable.

■ *The Pursuit of Happyness* — Will Smith, who can do no wrong, should be an Oscar contender in the true story of stockbroker Chris Gardner. What I



Rudy Youngblood runs for his life in Mel Gibson's *Apocalypto*.

liked best is how much I cared and worried about the characters throughout the movie. Smith's real-life son, Jaden, plays Gardner's son Jaden. The father-son acting team is a great marketing idea, but

what's even better is how well it works. The movie is a story about love and the American dream. I loved it. Directed by Gabriele Muccino and written by Steve Conrad; also starring Thandie Newton.

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By Eric Blau & Mort Schuman

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Roll out holiday treats from local bakeries, sweet shops

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

As the holidays roll in, area bakeries can contribute that special, fresh-out-of-the-oven touch for entertaining. Stop by a local pastry shop to purchase sweets with a European flare or preorder cakes that taste just like Mom used to bake.

It's a time-saving option that easily adds variety to the holiday menu. From family-owned sweet spots like Greektown's Astoria Pastry Shop to area chains that keep the bakery well-stocked, like Panera Bread — the options are plenty.

Cannella Patisserie & Creperie in Birmingham offers delicate French pastries and sweets like Foret Noire, a chocolate cake with pineapple, strawberry and chocolate mousse, or an Opera cake made with chocolate, coffee and rum. The traditional Buche de Noel comes in chocolate, coffee or raspberry varieties. Flaky

croissants are baked plain, with chocolate or with almond cream.

At Ackroyd's Scotch Bakery and Sausage in Redford Township, owner Allan Ackroyd matches Old World tradition with bold flavors.

"We're a Scotch bakery," Ackroyd said. "We're one of a kind, really. There are maybe five to 10 in the country that do what we do. We're the only one in the Great Lakes region."

Ackroyd's is known for its selection of traditional tarts, short-breads, and meat-filled pastries including meat pies and sausage rolls. Ackroyd describes it as "ethnic soul food" courtesy of the Scotch, English and Irish.

"It's very traditional," he said, "for holidays to whenever the family gets together. It serves as a main meal for Christmas."

He suggests customers get those holiday orders in as soon as possible. The bakery is taking requests through Dec. 21. Festive

STOP IN FOR HOLIDAY SWEETS

OAKLAND

Cannella Patisserie & Creperie, 300 Hamilton Row, Birmingham, (248) 203-9704. French bakery and creperie. The Crouquant Chocolat combines macaroon, almonds, hazelnuts and dark chocolate mousse. The Prince Noir is dark chocolate with whole toasted hazelnut.

The Cupcake Station, 136 N. Old Woodward, Birmingham, (248) 593-1903.

The Give Thanks Bakery, 225 S. Main, Rochester, (248) 601-1542.

Mrs. Maddox's Cake Shop, 24071 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington, (248) 427-9422.

Panera Bread: With locations from Ann Arbor to Rochester Hills, Westland to Southfield, buy fresh-baked breads, bagels and sweets daily. For specific

locations, visit www.panera-bread.com.

Sugar Kisses, 1025 S. Washington Blvd., Royal Oak, (248) 542-5622. Try the chocolate cayenne spicy brownies or the oatmeal cookies with natural ingredients. Gluten-free products, and many vegan items. The bakery is accommodating to those with food allergies and will special order at your desire. Natural ingredients, yet decadent desserts.

The Townsend Bakery, 100 Townsend St., Birmingham, (248) 642-7900. Rich tortes, and award-winning wedding cakes prepared in the European tradition.

WAYNE

Ackroyd's Scotch Bakery, 25566 Five Mile in Redford, (313) 532-1181.

Astoria Pastry Shop, with locations at 541 Monroe in

Detroit, (313) 963-9603, and 320 S. Main in Royal Oak, (248) 582-9220. Visit astoriapastryshop.com.

Avalon Bakery, 422 W. Willis St., Detroit, (313) 832-0008.

Back Home Bakery, 42807 Ford Road, Canton, (734) 927-1160.

Breads & More, 880 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, (734) 354-6980.

Burghardt's Bakery, 33309 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia, (248) 477-7153, germanryebread.com.

Livonia Italian Bakery, 33615 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia, (248) 474-0444.

Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, 8036 N. Wayne Road, Westland, (734) 261-3680 or (888) 715-4479, www.marydenning.com

New Palace Bakery, 9833 Jos. Campau, Hamtramck, (313) 875-1334.

treats include macaroons topped with red or green cherries and a holiday-themed Fern Cake made

with a shortbread tart shell, jam, almond yellow cake and icing. The bakery also sells imported

groceries and English candies.

At Back Home Bakery in Canton, Yule logs are all the rage.



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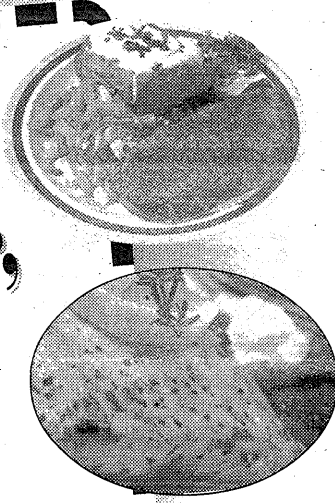
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Because they're hard to find elsewhere, the chocolate or yellow cake treats are a popular choice for customers craving tradition, manager Michelle Butler said. The bakery offers an array of other holiday options, including a Snowball Cake complete with white icing, cookie trays, peppermint bark, Russian tea cakes, and chic sweets, mini designer desserts served in 2-ounce glasses.

"We do everything from scratch," Butler said. "It's good to have homemade cookies at the holidays. Nothing beats it."

From elegant to simple pleasures — like chocolate marshmallow snowmen — the bakery offers an array of options and will remain open for Christmas Eve pick-ups from 9 a.m. to noon.

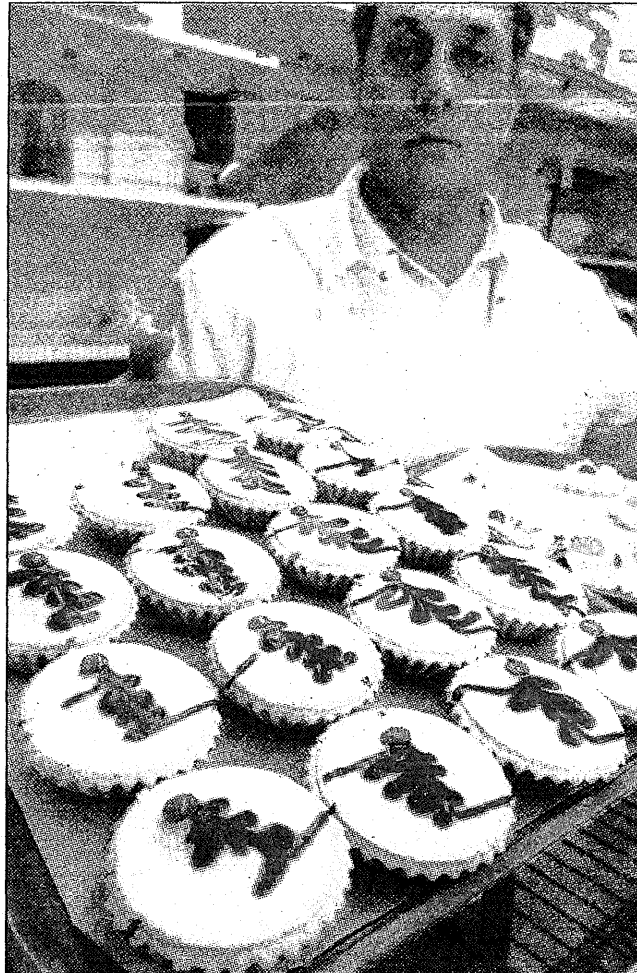
Mrs. Maddox's Cake Shop also serves those with a holiday sweet tooth. The bakery offers an array of petit fours with Christmas designs. Choose from white cake with fondant or chocolate cake with poured chocolate fudge.

Jennifer Grover, a clerk at the cake shop, said cut-out cookies are always popular this time of year. Perhaps the most unique offering at the Farmington Hills bakery, she said, is the Poinsettia Cake.

"The whole top looks like a big flower," she said. "Mrs. Maddox is known for that."

Grover suggested that customers call four days in advance to ensure a holiday order is available on time.

scasola@hometownlife.com | (248) 901-2567



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Allan Ackroyd of Ackroyd's Scotch Bakery in Redford finishes a platter of holiday Fern Cakes.

Panera Bread helps with Toys for Tots

Quantum Events USA is helping the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation take holiday collection efforts to the next level by partnering with **Panera Bread** to set up drop-off locations throughout Michigan.

Community members can stop by Toys for Tots tables at local Panera Bread locations to help bring holiday joy to the more than 13 million children living below the federal poverty level in the United States today.

Stop by any of the Panera Bread locations listed below to purchase or drop off a toy:

Dec. 13-14: Troy Commons Plaza, 823 E. Big Beaver, Troy, and Oakland Plaza, 268 John R, Troy;

Dec. 15-16: 12 Oaks Mall, 27734 Novi Road, Novi, and 27651 Southfield Road, Lathrup Village;

Dec. 18-19: Orchard Mall, 6399 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield; Midtown Plaza, 1325 N. Coolidge, Troy, and Willow Creek Plaza, 41950 Ford, Canton;

Dec. 20-21: 37611 Twelve Mile

Road, Farmington Hills; 34635 Grand River, Farmington;

City Center Plaza, 23719

Greenfield Road,

Southfield, and 25875

Novi Road, Novi;

Dec. 22-23: The

Heights Plaza, 26580

Ford Road, Dearborn

Heights; Westland Mall,

35300 Warren, Westland;

Newburgh Plaza, 37091 Six Mile

Road, Livonia, and 400 S. Main,

Plymouth.

Baskin Robbins has teamed up this holiday season with Amy Goodman to introduce holiday treats for all — be they naughty or nice.

Those who are on the naughty list can indulge in a Lump of Coal Sundae, featuring world class chocolate and chocolate ice creams heaped over brownie pieces and hot fudge, topped with Heath bar pieces, whipped cream and a chocolate drizzle.

Other "naughty" treats include the Winter Fudge Chocolate Cake, the Pecan Pie Shake and the Eggnog Ice Cream.

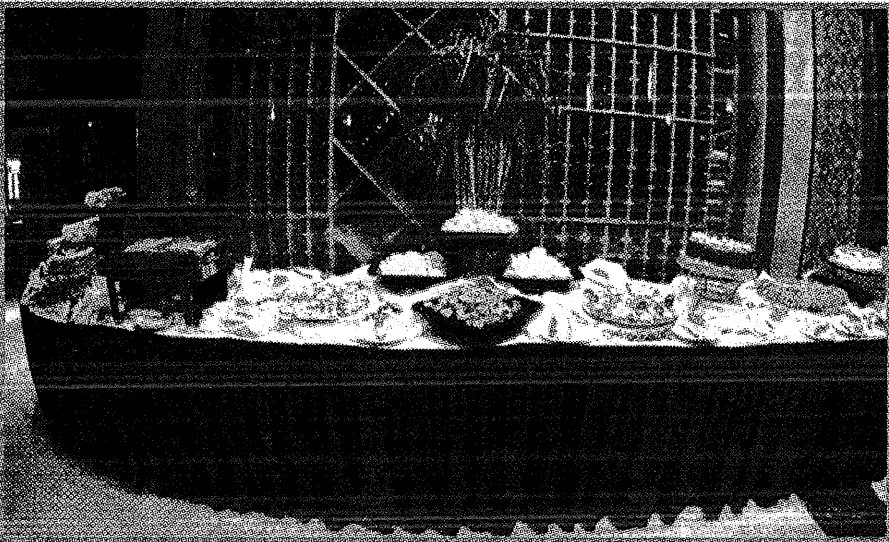
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Hollywood 2007

New writer-actor team attracts attention

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

It's likely that in the 165,000 years humans have existed, every one of us with seeing eyes has looked up and enjoyed the splendor of the moon.

She may shine down upon us all, but the moon has made partners with two specific souls; singling them out and separating them from the crowd.

The crowd, in this case, refers to the bottomless pool of talent vying for Hollywood success.

While Hollywood is always in search of a fresh face, the need for it now is seemingly fierce. The film industry is battling mammoth financial challenges: piracy resulting in an estimated loss of \$6 billion annually; skyrocketing film production budgets, increased marketing costs, and intensified entertainment competition from video games and the Internet.

But perhaps it's the moon that can shed some light upon on the industry.

Enter two fresh faces, the two who are partnered with the moon.

Johnny LaRusso and James Bird, are a Hollywood-based writing/acting team, who recently completed a screenplay titled *The Collections Of...*

An edgier Damon and Affleck, perhaps.

LaRusso and Bird, both of Native American descent, stand out from the crowd because, for starters, they don't look or seem like "typical" writers. Young, smart, eccentric and astoundingly good-looking, the stylish team is somehow both hip and spiritual; and out of that combination has come some groundbreaking writing.

Their script, with a second already in the works, is quickly generating interest in the film world.

The Collections Of... is a drama about a tormented young man on a

'It's charisma. It's rare. You either have it naturally or you don't. They do.'

Will Smith
actor

quest to find peace within himself and the tragic soul of his beloved. Along his haunting journey of redemption, he attempts to convert the intertwining lives of three troubled young women, and in the end, unmasks an astonishing epic revelation.

It's a story with a soul.

Johnny Depp is looking at it. Dennis Hopper has shown interest. New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson hopes LaRusso and Bird may shoot on location there.

They've eyed Detroit as a possible location for segments of it.

So why are LaRusso and Bird, and *The Collections Of...*, a script that's not yet even funded, attracting quality attention?

Actor Will Smith said, simply, because LaRusso and Bird "got it."

"It's charisma," Smith said.

"It's rare. You either have it naturally or you don't. They do."

LaRusso and Bird have been blessed with charisma. Perhaps, Smith said, in the same way Clooney, Depp and Denzel have it.

Combine LaRusso's and Bird's sex appeal with a modern screenplay that's boldly intelligent, grippingly unique, magically touching, and the combination, of course, generates interest.

WRITERS AND ACTORS

Johnny LaRusso is an actor/writer whom *Melt* magazine named on its top 10 list of Hollywood's most gorgeous men, an honor he doesn't mention during one of many interviews. Along with his passion for playing the guitar, LaRusso is more interested in discussing film or his affinity for the moon.

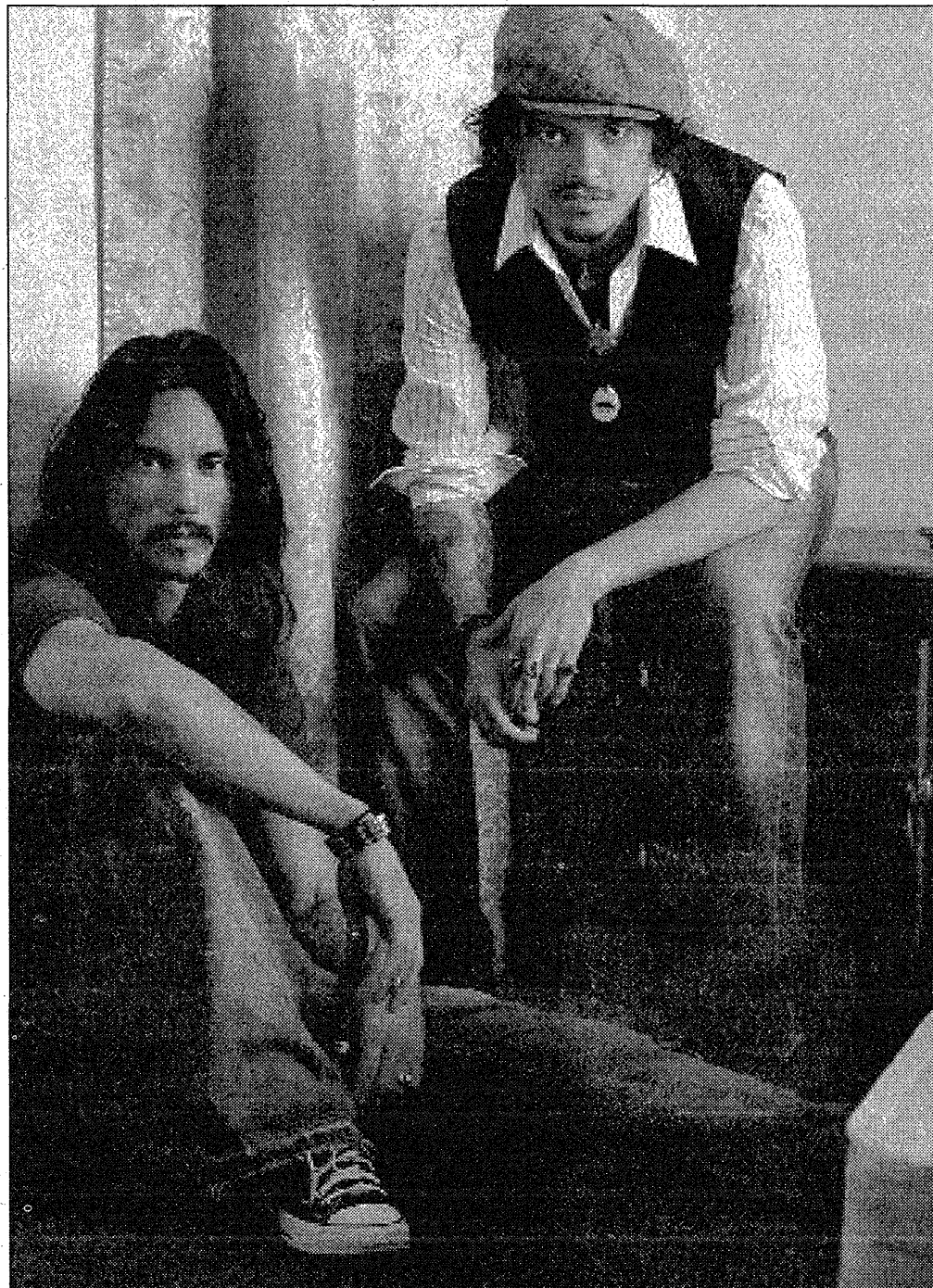


PHOTO COURTESY OF PCA PHOTOGRAPHY

The next probable faces of film: Johnny LaRusso and James Bird.

"She's the sun's sister, who lights the way," he said. "Protects from darkness every time she visits us. The reason she's only around for us to see periodically is because, well, the world is a big place. We all share her."

Bird, also an actor/writer, shares the same love for the moon with nature being an inspiration. The two also share in common that both studied theater, both have an eclectic taste for music, both love acting perhaps even more than writing, and both were raised in southern California, moving from place to

place, by single mothers.

"My mom had to raise me in a car," said Bird, a middle child of three siblings. "We would live in the car, or in some roach-infested apartment, and still she raised us well."

And allowed dreams to thrive.

Through their mothers' struggles, both men realized the strength of women — an element throughout *The Collections Of...*

Bird, whose work in photography

PLEASE SEE TEAM, E20

On
screen

The Bond drink: shaken, not stirred

Some movie buffs are praising *Casino Royale* as possibly the best James Bond film made to date.

That's a pretty strong statement, but it's all over the Internet, stated by critics and fans.

Everyone loves Daniel Craig as Bond and that might very well lead to increased popularity of his drink of choice.

Ian Fleming, the author who created Bond, loved gin from Plymouth, England, which is why the dry martini is Bond's choice drink.

So if you want to be a bit Bond-ish this season, try The Vesper.

THE VESPER

3 ounces Plymouth Gin
1 ounce Absolut Vodka



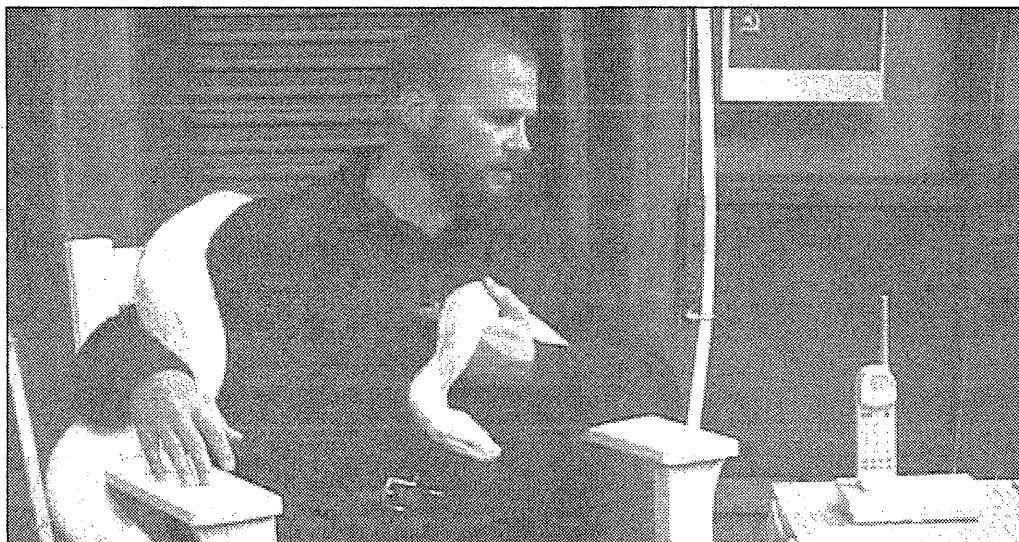
The Vesper

1/2 ounce Lillet vermouth

Stir until ice cold and serve in a chilled martini glass, garnished with a large thin slice of lemon peel.

And of course, shaken, not stirred.

Lana Mini



Boris Badkita (played by Jeff Wilson) is just one of the characters in *P.I. Blues*, shot entirely in metro Detroit by an all-Michigan cast and crew.

Local film available on DVD

If you have indie film lovers in your life, but have no idea which movies they have seen this year, we can help.

There's probably a good chance they haven't yet heard of the locally made film *P.I. Blues*, a comedy-adventure, which means the DVD may be a great holiday gift.

P.I. Blues is written, directed and produced by Berkley resident Jim Dudek, and features

Michiganders John Demerell and Dolores Ryes. In it, an exotic pet store manager — who masquerades as a private detective — is hired to help a pin-up beauty find her missing brother.

There, funny business ensues as incompetent bad guys and rogue Russian spies begin to intertwine. It's a funny spin on old detective movies.

The entire movie was shot in metro Detroit, by an all-

Michigan cast and crew.

P.I. Blues was released by Ark Distribution — purchase it at www.arkdistribution.com. Also on the site, check out the DVD, *Open Mic*, which is by Dudek's son, comedian Jason Dudek.

Open Mic, a is comedy piece and features Dudek, Dave Chappelle, Bobcat Goldthwait, Richard Jeni, Jim Breuer and others.

P.I. Blues is \$9.95. View the trailer at www.piblues.com.

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Spamalot's Detroit debut features absurd humor, cow-tossing

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Michael Siberry might as well be comedic royalty.

On stage

The actor portrays King Arthur in *Monty Python's Spamalot*, showing at

Detroit's Fisher

Theatre through January. While the 2005 Tony-award winning musical production continues to keep sold-out crowds laughing on Broadway, it's now reaching a wider audience thanks to a national tour.

"I was working in London and auditioned for the London production, which just opened about a year ago," said Siberry on a recent phone interview. "They realized I had a Green Card and asked me if I'd like to do the tour.

MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT

When: 8 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, also 2 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, through Jan. 6; other performances are at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20, 27, Jan 3; no evening performance Dec. 24.

Where: Fisher Theater, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., in Detroit

Tickets: \$30-\$85, call (248) 645-6666. Groups of 20 or more call (313) 871-1132.

More information: See www.MontyPythonsSpamalot.com

"It's been an incredible way of getting to know America."

Siberry grew up watching the British comedy troupe's antics on shows like *Monty Python's Flying Circus* and the subsequent film on which *Spamalot* was based — *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. As a fan of both original Python member Eric Idle and the show's acclaimed Director Mike Nichols, he joined



JOAN MARCUS

Jeff Dumas as Patsy (on floor) and Michael Siberry as King Arthur star in the national tour of *Monty Python's Spamalot*, showing at The Fisher Theater.

PLEASE SEE SPAMALOT, E13

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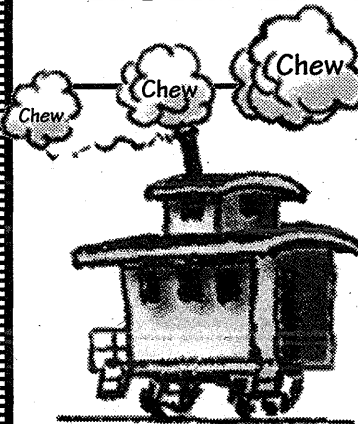
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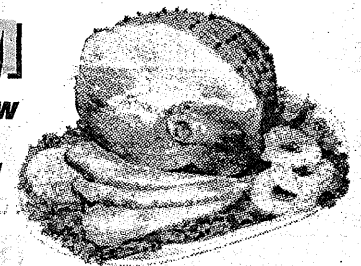
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SPAMALOT

FROM PAGE E12

Spamalot's touring cast and took on the royal role in March when it opened in Boston.

"I drive the plot, as King Arthur, King of the Britons," he said. As his character works to collect Knights for his famous Round Table at Camelot, and pursues a quest for the Holy Grail, he's also asked to put on a Broadway musical.

The stage production is "pretty true" to the 1975 cult comedy, Siberry said. "You'll recognize the characters. We go on a journey and keep meeting people in different situations. My character is the only one that doesn't really change."

Siberry's King Arthur moves steadily throughout the story while other actors take on multiple roles and costume changes - courtesy of Tim Hatley. Siberry sticks to his chain mail costume made of glitter and string, and said he's happy to do so.

"I think the movie was just held together with bits of string," Siberry said, referring to its notoriously low-budget nature. The film cost \$400,000 to make and relied on radio tactics such as clamping coconuts together to simulate the sound of horses stomping. Monty Python fans - have no fear - the coconuts are ever-present in the stage show.

"It's a bit of an iconic image," said



David Turner as Sir Robin (from left), Rick Holmes as Sir Lancelot, Bradley Dean as Sir Dennis Galahad, Christopher Gurr as Sir Bedevere, and Michael Siberry as King Arthur make up much of the hilarious cast of *Monty Python's Spamalot*, based on the film *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

Siberry. Those images, including a catapulted cow and a killer rabbit, are matched by familiar music composed by the Grammy-award winning team of Idle and John Du Prez. The score includes *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life*.

Siberry noted that the show is completely safe for audiences. The cow-tossing never lands beyond the stage, he said - though it "almost made it to the orchestra pit once."

Spamalot broadens the boundaries beyond just a Monty Python audience. "You don't have to be a Monty Python fan to enjoy it," said Siberry. "It's a lot of fun, a great Christmas show."

The production is drawing a range of people, some who normally don't go to theater, or don't see musicals, he said. And Monty Python's take on King Arthur's legendary quest continues to be an enduring comedy.

"It's a sense of humor I think everyone gets," said Siberry. "It's pretty absurd."

The appeal of *Spamalot*, Siberry said, is the way the story "doesn't take anything in life seriously. It pokes fun at pretension. You recognize that crazy things happen to you in life. You try to lead a normal life but weird and stupid things happen to you."

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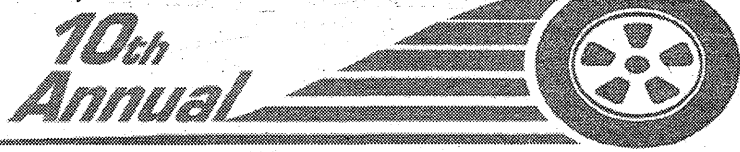
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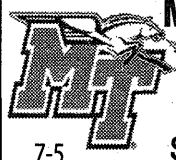
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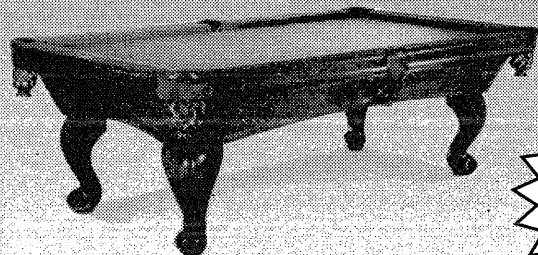
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Meadow Brook Theatre

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Starlight Theatre

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, through Dec. 17, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, \$10-\$14, inside Summit Place Mall, 315 N. Telegraph Road, Waterford, order tickets at www.starlighttheater.net, (248) 335-1788.

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, through Dec. 20; on campus of Oakland University in Rochester, (248) 377-3300, www.mbtheatre.com.

Ford Community & Performing Arts Center

Marie's Osmond's The Magic of Christmas, 7 p.m. Dec. 14, 15801 Michigan, Dearborn, (313) 943-2354, www.dearborn-fordcenter.com.

Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings

Holiday Brass, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, First Presbyterian Church, 1669 W. Maple, Birmingham, \$10-\$35 advance, \$5 more at door, www.detroitchamberwinds.org, (248) 559-2095.

It's a Wonderful Life

Marty Bufalini's It's A Wonderful Life - The Radio Show, 6 p.m. Dec. 17 and 7 p.m. Dec. 23, Assumption Cultural Center Hall, 21800 Marter Road (near Vernier) in St. Clair Shores, (586) 779-6111.

Orchestra Hall

Home for the Holidays, Dec. 14-17; Clay Aiken, holiday concert with Detroit Symphony Orchestra, 8 p.m. Dec. 18, at Orchestra Hall at the Max M. Fisher Music Center, www.detroitssymphony.com, (313) 576-5111.

Aretha Franklin's Christmas Card

Franklin performs holiday concert with Ruben Studdard, former American Idol star, 8 p.m. Dec. 21, Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison, Detroit, \$45-\$75, (248) 645-6666 or (313) 887-8501.

The Colors of Christmas

Holiday 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, www.detroitssymphony.com.

Jim Brickman: A Holiday Concert

8 p.m. Dec. 23, Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111, www.detroitssymphony.com.

Ars Nova

20-voice 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, free, arsnova@arsnova-mi.org, (248) 541-4100, Ext. 1311.

Livonia Civic Chorus

Holiday concert, "Spirit of the Season," 3 p.m. Dec. 17, Livonia's Churchill High School Auditorium, 8900 Newburgh Road, \$10, www.livoniacivicchorus.org, (734) 525-6414.

Big, Bright Light Show

Downtown Rochester, display 6-10 p.m. every night through Dec. 31, (248) 656-0060, www.downtownrochester-mi.com.

2006 Holiday Walk

Children's performer Mary Jeva Dec. 17, holiday tea, visits with Santa, Meadow Brook Hall, through Dec. 22, many other holiday events, (248) 364-6200 or visit www.meadowbrookhall.org.

Caribbean Christmas

Your favorite holiday songs with a Caribbean twist as Mark Stone leads Southpaw Isle, Michigan's premier steel drum band. 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15 at First Presbyterian Church, 1669 W. Maple Road, Birmingham, (248) 644-2040, Ext. 136, or www.fpbcbirmingham.org.



'Dreamgirls,' 'Borat,' 'United 93' among AFI's top films

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The musical *Dreamgirls*, the Sept. 11 drama *United 93* and the outrageous comedy *Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan* were among the American Film Institute's picks Sunday for the top 10 films of 2006.

Also among the AFI's top 10: the ensemble story *Babel*, the fashion-world satire *The Devil Wears Prada*, the gritty classroom drama *Half Nelson*, the animated penguin romp *Happy Feet*, the bank-heist thriller *Inside Man*, the World War II saga *Letters From Iwo Jima*, and the road-trip tale *Little Miss Sunshine*.

The AFI does not rank its picks for best films of the year.

The list was chosen by a panel of 13 filmmakers, critics, scholars and AFI trustees. This year's panel included directors Michael Apted and James L. Brooks, writer-producer Diana Ossana and Los Angeles Times critic Kenneth Turan.

A separate AFI panel that included producers Steven Bochco and Kevin S. Bright picked the group's choices for top 10 television shows of the year: *Battlestar Galactica*, *Dexter*, *Elizabeth I*, *Friday Night Lights*, *Heroes*, *The Office*, *South Park*, *24*, *The West Wing* and *The Wire*.

The films and shows will be honored at an AFI luncheon in Los Angeles on Jan. 12.



Mel Gibson rules box office with \$14.2 million debut

BY DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Mel Gibson's bloody epic *Apocalypto* debuted as the No. 1 weekend movie, proving the filmmaker still can deliver a winner despite his drunken driving arrest and anti-Semitic rant last summer.

Apocalypto, a Disney release set in the Mayan civilization and told in an obscure Mayan language, opened with \$14.2 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

It was a modest haul compared to the \$83.8 million opening weekend of Gibson's last movie, the 2004 religious blockbuster *The Passion of the Christ*, which went on to do \$370 million domestically.

But *Apocalypto* overcame the baggage of Gibson's personal troubles as well as its difficult subject matter, which features a no-name cast in a hyper-violent tale that includes beheadings and images of hearts ripped from people's chests.

"The movie obviously succeeds on its own level. I think people probably are a bit on the surprised side around town that it's No. 1," said Chuck Viane, head of distribution for Disney. "Two months ago, nobody would have bet on that."

Sony's romance *The Holiday* debuted at No. 2 with \$13.5 million. Directed by Nancy Meyers, the movie stars Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet, Jack Black and Jude Law in the story of

American and British women who swap homes for the holidays and find love in the process.

The Warner Bros. thriller *Blood Diamond*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Connelly and Djimon Hounsou, opened at No. 5 with \$8.5 million. Set against Sierra Leone's civil war in the 1990s, the film follows a mercenary pursuing a rare diamond.

Also from Warner Bros., the holiday comedy *Unaccompanied Minors*, about a group of kids run amok while stranded at an airport Christmas Eve, premiered at No. 6 with \$6.2 million.

The Warner Bros. animated hit *Happy Feet* and Sony's James Bond adventure *Casino Royale*, which had been the top-two movies for three-straight weekends, slipped to Nos. 3 and 4, respectively.

Happy Feet took in \$12.7 million, raising its total to \$137.7 million. *Casino Royale* grossed \$8.8 million, lifting its total to \$128.9 million.

The overall box office fell sharply, with the top-12 movies grossing \$86.8 million, down 25 percent from the same weekend last year, when the blockbuster *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* opened with \$65.6 million.

Disney reported that Gibson's *Apocalypto* drew solid crowds across the board, with movie-goers equally split between men and women and the

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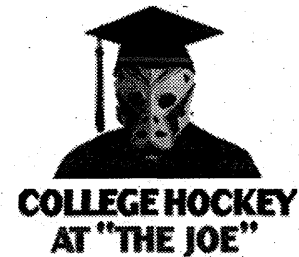
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MOVIES

FROM PAGE E6

gives up hope. Directed by Gabriele Muccino and written by Steve Conrad. (Columbia Pictures) Rated PG-13. Drama.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB: A spider decides she doesn't want her pig friend to be killed for his flesh for a holiday meal. The spider must somehow show humans that Wilbur the pig has the right to live. Starring Dakota Fanning and voices include Julia Roberts, Steve Buscemi, John Cleese, Oprah Winfrey, Cedric the Entertainer, André Benjamin, Thomas Haden Church, Robert Redford, Reba McEntire, Kathy Bates. Note: Charlotte's Web, written by E. B. White with illustrations by Garth Williams. (Paramount Pictures) Rated G. Animated.

FRIDAY, DEC. 22

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: Larry Daley (Ben Stiller) accepts what appears to be a menial job as a graveyard-shift security guard at a museum of natural history. However, extraordinary things begin to occur as the exhibits come to life at night — including the skeleton of a T-Rex. The only person Larry can turn to is a wax figure of President Teddy Roosevelt (Robin Williams). Also starring Carla Gugino, Dick Van Dyke, Mickey Rooney, Bill Cobbs, Ricky Gervais, and Kim Raver and



Dreamgirls moves from Broadway to the silver screen.

DAVID JAMES

directed by Sean Levey. (Twentieth Century Fox) Rated PG. Adventure/comedy.

VOLVER: Exclusively at the Main Art in Royal Oak. In writer/director Pedro Almodóvar's (Bad Education) new comedy, three generations of women survive wind, fire and even death. Abuela (Carmen Maura) may have died in a house fire, but that doesn't stop her from returning home to fix the problems. Her ghost becomes a comfort to her daughters Raimunda (Penélope Cruz) and Sole (Lola Dueñas), as well as her grandchild Paula (Yohana Cobo). Fully subtitled. (Sony Pictures Classics) Rated R. Comedy/drama.

THE HISTORY BOYS: Exclusively at Main Art, Royal Oak. An unruly class of bright students in pursuit of an undergraduate place at Oxford or Cambridge. A maverick English master (Richard Griffiths), a shrewd teacher (Stephen Campbell Moore), an outnumbered history teacher (France de la Tour) and headmaster obsessed with results (Clive Merrison)

make their lives interesting. Their journey becomes as much about how education works, as it is about where education leads. (Fox Searchlight) Rated R. Comedy/drama

THE GOOD SHEPHERD: Matt Damon plays Edward Wilson — an eager Yale student, recruited to join the secret society Skull and Bones, a brotherhood for future world leaders. Soon recruited to work for the OSS (the precursor to the CIA) during World War II. As his methods are adopted as standard operating procedure, Wilson combats his KGB counterpart. Yet his dedication to his country comes at a price. Also starring Robert De Niro, Angelina Jolie, Joe Pesci, Alec Baldwin, John Turturro and Patrick Wilson. Directed by De Niro. (Universal Pictures) Not yet rated. Drama.

PLEASE SEE MOVIES, E19

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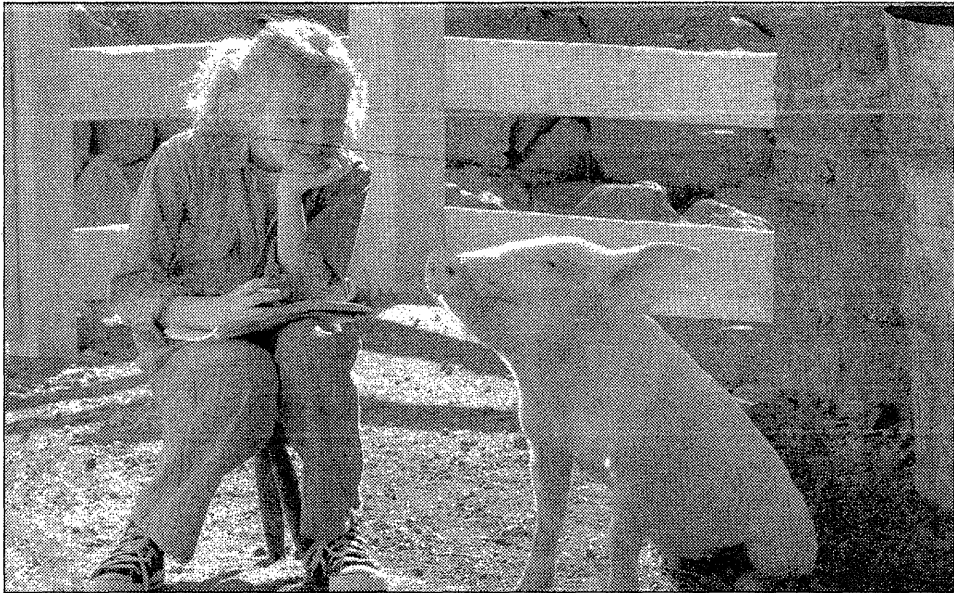
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SUZY WOOD

Dakota Fanning and Wilbur the pig in *Charlotte's Web*.

MOVIES

FROM PAGE E18

CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER: Set in China's Tang Dynasty, the movie follows an imperial bodyguard and Prince as a pair of star-crossed lovers who fall in love within the borders of a kingdom. Numerous forces try to keep them apart. It leads them on a dangerous journey where secrets of the royal family are uncovered. Starring Chow Yun-Fat, Gong Li, Liu Ye, Chen Jin and Jay Chou. Written and directed by Yimou Zhang. (Sony Pictures Classics) Not yet rated. Action/drama/romance.

MONDAY, DEC. 25

BLACK CHRISTMAS: A killer terrorizes a sorority house during Christmas break in the remake of the original from 1974. Directed by Glen Morgan and stars Michelle Trachtenberg, Oliver Hudson, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Katie Cassidy and Lacey Chabert. Written and directed by Glen Morgan. (Dimension) This film is not yet rated. Horror.

DREAMGIRLS: Inspired by The Supremes. Twenty-five years after first appearing on

Broadway, the Tony Award-winning musical sensation *Dreamgirls* comes to the big screen. Starring Jamie Foxx, Beyoncé Knowles, Danny Glover, newcomer Jennifer Hudson, Anika Noni Rose and Eddie Murphy. Set in the turbulent early 1960s to mid-70s, *Dreamgirls* follows the rise of a trio of women who have formed a promising girl group called The Dreamettes. Directed by Bill Condon from a screenplay he adapted from the stage musical's original book by Tom Eyan. Lyrics are by Tom Eyan, music by Henry Krieger. (Paramount Pictures) Rated PG-13. Drama/musical.

FRIDAY, DEC. 29

THE PAINTED VEIL: Exclusively at Landmark Maple Art, Birmingham. A love story set in the 1920s about a conservative doctor and a restless society girl who marry hastily and relocate to Hong Kong. There they find an unexpected chance at redemption and happiness while on a deadly journey into the heart of ancient China. Edward Norton and Naomi Watts star. Directed by John Curran. Based on the novel by Somerset Maugham, which was made into a film in 1934, and again in 1957. (Warner Independent Pictures) This film is rated PG-13. Drama/romance.

Ruben Studdard opens for Aretha

Pop, gospel and R&B singer Ruben Studdard, better known as the guy who won on the second season of *American Idol*, will perform as a special guest with Aretha Franklin on Thursday, Dec. 21, at Music Hall in Detroit.

The Aretha Franklin Christmas Card show will feature Studdard and Franklin both singing R&B, gospel and holiday favorites.

Showtime is 8 p.m.

There, Franklin will also debut music from her February 2007 CD *Woman Falling Out of Love*.

Studdard is a household name on many levels: He won the *American Idol* title in 2003 by less than 134,000 votes over popular singer Clay Aiken.

He's been nominated for a Grammy, has had hits on Billboard's Top 10, had a few minor roles in movies like *Scooby Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed* and had a surge in record sales when he became a weight loss poster boy after shedding more than 70 pounds on a vegetarian diet.

Franklin, of course, has earned 15 Grammy Awards, including a 1995 Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

She was also the first woman inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987.

Tickets are \$45-\$75. For ticket information, contact Ticketmaster at (248) 645-6666 or call the Music Hall at (313) 887-8501.



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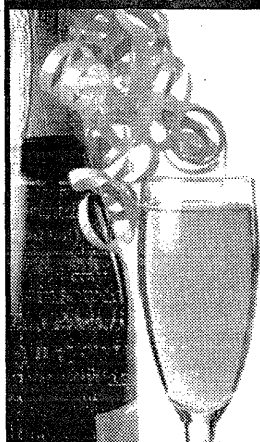
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Reality show features local rockers

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

Progressive rockers Dendura, who play throughout the metro Detroit area, have a chance at stardom on an upcoming episode of the locally based *I Too Want To Be A Star*, a new reality show airing in January.



And if you want to be on the show, you also have a chance.

Dendura's upcoming performance (Friday, Dec. 22) at TNT's in Clinton Township will be filmed for

the show.

Be an audience member and maybe you'll get some television time.

For *I Too Want to Be A Star*, 12 contestants were literally chosen off the streets and will compete for the opportunity to host their own upcoming show. To do so, they must prove that they are charismatic hosts and will take part in local challenges and host events throughout the area.

For the episode that features Dendura, contestants will go behind the scenes to interview the band and then warm up the crowds before the show.



Gothic rock meets Egyptian tales — that's Dendura.

The big question is:

Can they warm up a beer-drinking bunch of metal-heads in the land of long hair and leather jackets?

"I was excited when I got the call from Dendura," said show producer Tony Dee

of Antone Productions of Detroit. "I'm a fan of their music and know that they have some big projects coming up, so this is a great opportunity to showcase some of the tremendous talent we have here in Detroit."

I TOO WANT TO BE A STAR

What: The filming of a segment of *I Too Want To Be A Star*.

Where: TNT's, 35101 Harper, Clinton Township, (586) 792-1435, where the band Dendura will perform.

When: Begins 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22.

Details: The local reality show will begin airing in January on MYTV20 (Channel 20), formerly Detroit's WB20. Dendura will perform and if you happen to be in attendance, you just might be shown as one of the audience members.

For more information: Visit myspace.com/denduraband.com.

Dendura is causing a buzz in Egypt, Brazil, The Netherlands, Germany and Italy with *New Life*, their current release. Vocalist Aziza Poggi, who is of Egyptian and Lebanese descent, said the album contains elements of Egyptian/Middle Eastern music within the more progressive side of metal/hard rock.

Industrial music meets Middle Eastern rhythms.

"Our sound has progressed and we're challenging ourselves musically," Poggi said.

"We like to tie in Egyptian mythology into our music. One song in particular is inspired by *The Egyptian Book of The Dead*."

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TEAM

FROM PAGE E10

allows him to spend lengths of time in solitude in natural spaces nationwide, is already shaping ideas for the next screenplay, one with a fantasy theme. A year spent living on a Native American reservation in Minnesota, Bird, who is also part Irish, realized then that all of life is connected. And he tells that in his stories.

Writing is how both Bird and LaRusso spend most of their time these days.

On the occasion when they're not writing past the midnight hour, they might be found at L.A.'s hottest nightspots. Past the tight velvet ropes and even among the Hollywood elite, LaRusso and Bird shine different. It's the charisma that Will Smith talked about.

They sit back from the big parties, in the corners, watching.

"We've spent the past few years in these high profile places, not drinking the night away, but observing," LaRusso said.

"It's just interesting to see how some of these lonely souls react in certain situations night after night," Bird added.

Thus, applying some of those human responses to specific situations in *The Collections Of...*

"It's a story about choices," Bird said. "No one really is trapped in life, but we trap ourselves."

LaRusso understands that concept. It's one of many reasons he embraced the idea to write a screenplay when Bird first introduced the idea. Born in Saigon to a Vietnamese mother, by a Scandinavian-Native American father he never really knew; LaRusso was brought to the U.S. by his mother for all the reasons people immigrate here.

"I was a war baby and in the 70's, my mom knew that wouldn't have been so good for me (in Vietnam)," LaRusso said.

Choices and never being trapped helped both writer-actors in their lives.

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Celebrity lineup named for Auto Show event

GM Style is an exclusive event is planned for Saturday, Jan. 6.

In addition to a number of famous GM vehicles (some never before seen in North America), GM invited celebrities to join the auto runway at a special event planned to take place several days before the 2007 North American International Auto Show, scheduled for Jan. 13-21 at Cobo Center.

Attending *GM Style* are: Cheryl Hines, Emmy-nominated actress from HBO comedy *Curb Your Enthusiasm*; actress Vivica A. Fox; supermodel Petra Nemcova; and actor Danny Masterson from *That 70's Show*.

"This event is a tribute to style and a celebration of GM's design renaissance," said Ed Welburn, global vice president of GM Design. "GM Style will bring Detroit a unique intersection of the worlds of fashion, automotive design and entertainment."

"Like Paris to the fashion industry and Los Angeles to entertainment, Detroit is the epicenter of auto design. GM's vehicles will take their rightful place on the runway alongside some of today's top names in fashion and

entertainment."

GM will construct a pavilion just east of the Renaissance Center on the Detroit River. The pavilion will be longer than a football field, climate-controlled and able to accommodate a runway for cars and stars.

The first-ever *GM Style* will showcase 17 vehicles. More details on the event and a full list of vehicles will be unveiled at a later date.

Among those vehicles will be the 2006 Camaro Concept and the 1951 Buick LeSabre Concept, one of the most famous concept cars of all time with styling cues from jet fighter planes.

Some of those vehicles already confirmed are the 2006 Pontiac Solstice Weekend Club Racer Concept; the 2006 Saab Aero X Concept and the 2007 Saturn Sky Red Line that boasts one of the most powerful engines (260 hp/260 foot-pounds of torque) that GM has ever produced based on its size (2L). It's 0-to-60 mph time is just more than five seconds.

More details will be published in a future edition of *Filter*.

Winter Blast returns with a new name

It looks like The Super Bowl XL-inspired Motown Winter Blast will be an annual event in Detroit.

Festival producer Jonathan Witz and Detroit Mayor Kwame M. Kilpatrick announced last week that the Blast, which attracted more than 1.2 million visitors last year, will return to Campus Martius Park. Its new name is simply Detroit's Winter Blast.

The Blast, which is free to the public, will take place Feb. 9-11, 2007. It was originally created as the backdrop for Super Bowl XL.

"I am so excited that we continue to bring events like Detroit's Winter Blast to the heart of the city and send the message to the region that Michigan is a great destination for families," Kilpatrick said. "We are continuing to make improvements to our great city which is leading us in the direction of a new Detroit."

Chairman Roger Penske said it's an event that will help Michiganders rediscover the city during winter months.

The festival will span 11 city blocks and

include three outdoor entertainment "districts" including: Chrysler Jeep Dodge Taste of Detroit; General Motors Winter Experience; and the Greektown Casino Entertainment District.

Returning this year is the wildly popular 200-foot-long Michigan.org Snow Slide. The warming DTE Energy Comfort Zones will return.

Each district will feature winter-themed activities like ice skating, ice skating exhibitions, ice sculptures, dog sledding and snow shoeing, along with food from 25 restaurants, live music from 60 bands, and special family-oriented activities.

A new component for 2007 is the Pure Michigan exhibit featuring activities and talent from across the state.

The full entertainment lineup will be announced in January 2007.

For more information, visit www.winterblast.com or call (313) 963-8418.

Lana Mini



TEENS

FROM PAGE E5

The band's sound leans toward electro with new wave elements.

Perhaps the music is tight because the musicians have been close friends since fifth-grade. Similar personalities and interests have led to plans to major in artistic fields: Martin is working toward photography and graphic design and Haber toward English and creative writing.

Jacuzzi 2.0 began playing music together in 2003, just for fun, and realized that music is a calling.

"There's a big melting pot of influences in our music," Martin said. "Sometimes we'll make a song that's really synthesizer-heavy, dance-oriented and upbeat with

lots of electronic elements, like something you would hear at a club or rave joint.

"Other times we'll make another song that's slower, more harmony and melody-themed with guitars, pianos and organs — like something that sounds as if it should be being played on the jukebox at your grandparents' favorite malt shop circa, 1955."

They are also influenced by everything that's happened to them throughout the course of their friendship — the places they've been, the people they know, and their misadventures.

The band, which performs often around metro Detroit, just finished recording its new CD, *Modern Day Pirates*, which comes out next month.

Hear them at myspace.com/jacuzzi.

Lana Mini

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You better watch out for these Christmas classics

o-ho-ho, it's time to cuddle up in front of the fireplace by the glow of the Christmas tree lights and view a movie to get you into the holiday spirit. There's plenty to choose from. It's wasn't that long ago that Christmas was untouched territory when it came to truly memorable holiday fare. That all changed in the 1970s. Here are some favorites:

■ **Terror in Toyland (AKA You Better Watch Out, Christmas Evil):** This is my all-time favorite Christmas movie. Brandon Maggart (love that name) gives a fabulous performance as a psycho who works for the Jolly Dream Toy Company. Bearing the emotional scars of seeing Tommy kissing Santa Claus – and more as a child he sets out to deal with those who have been naughty, not nice. Heads indeed roll.

The film benefits by being shot in real interior settings, which give it an uncomfortable feeling. The ending is truly bizarre as our Santa flies off into space, and while it disappointed some fans of the genre, I thought it was somewhat alarming.

This is a dark, angst-ridden film with a wonderfully oppressive atmosphere. It's gem.

And Maggart is one of the best lunatics you'll ever see.

■ **Black Christmas:** I'm talking about the original, not the new remake, which I haven't seen yet.

Shot in 1974 in Canada, this is a landmark slasher film that is heavy on atmosphere.

A killer is hiding in a sorority house where almost all the students have gone home for the holidays. Margot Kidder is one of the threatened ones. Great



Beyond Bad

Greg Kowalski

atmosphere and a fairly literate plot.

■ **Santa's Slay:** A real sleeper that brims with energy, humor and an amazing cast including Robert Culp and Dave Thomas.

Professional wrestler Bill Goldberg plays Santa, who actually is a demon who had to spend the last 1,000 years doing good because he lost a bet with angel Culp. Now that the bet is expiring, Santa is bent on undoing all the good he has done. Thomas is wonderful as a crooked preacher who takes the church offerings to the strip club next door.

■ **Santa Claus Conquers the Martians.** We don't need to spend much time on this legendary masterwork.

If you haven't already seen it, shame on you. If you have, you should see it again. The acting is simply unbelievable.

■ **Don't Open Till Christmas:** The twist here is that Santa is not the killer. Rather, a psycho is out to slaughter all the store Santas. There's some nonsense about protesting against commercialism, but it's British and fairly well done.

■ **It's a Wonderful Life:** This monstrosity of a movie oozes sweetness and light. Yes, this is that Frank Capra "classic." Please. It's so sweet that watching this can make you physically ill. If that doesn't qualify as a horror movie, I don't know what does.

■ **Chopping Mall:** Well, this really isn't a Christmas movie, but it's set at a shopping mall, a place that takes on prominence at this time of the holiday shopping season. The mall is protected by security robots that run amok, taking aim with killer rays at a group of teens who hide in the mall overnight.

There are others, including a whole series of *Silent Night, Deadly Night* movies that feature Santa with an ax. The first one was released in 1984 and

stirred a controversy as some cringed at the thought of a killer Santa. In reality it and its clones are just mindless chop-fests.

They won't warm your hearts like the others listed here will. Enjoy.

Greg Kowalski writes about offbeat horror movie rentals for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Kowalski notes that there is a horror film for just about every holiday. He can be reached at (248) 901-2570 or by e-mail at gkowski@ameritech.net.

**This Christmas,
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BOX OFFICE

FROM PAGE E17

ore of the audience ranging from 18 to 5.

The publicity over Gibson's problems and his contriteness since last summer may have stoked interested in *Apocalypse*, said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Media by Numbers.

"Whenever I tell people I saw the movie, they'd be like, 'You saw it? How was it?' There was a huge curiosity factor," Dergarabedian said. "A movie about Mayan civilization was never desired to be a big hit, let alone a No. 1 movie. But through Disney's marketing,

which highlights Mel Gibson – I believe they associated him very closely with the movie – I think that strategy paid off."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media by Numbers LLC.

1. *Apocalypse*, \$14.2 million.
2. *The Holiday*, \$13.5 million.
3. *Happy Feet*, \$12.7 million.
4. *Casino Royale*, \$8.8 million.
5. *Blood Diamond*, \$8.5 million.
6. *Unaccompanied Minors*, \$6.2 million.
7. *Deja Vu*, \$6.1 million.
8. *The Nativity Story*, \$5.6 million.
9. *Deck the Halls*, \$3.9 million.
10. *The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause*, \$3.3 million.

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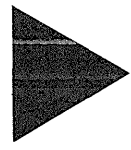
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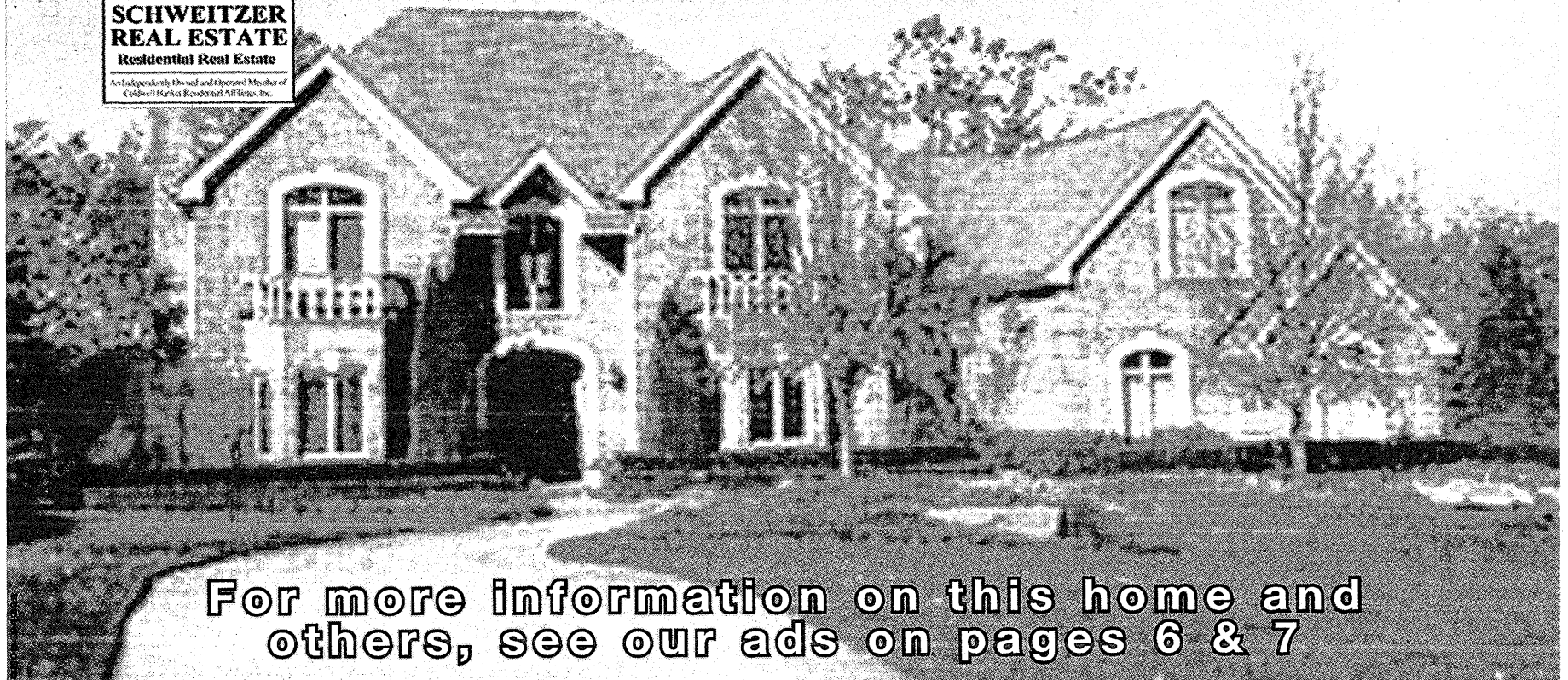
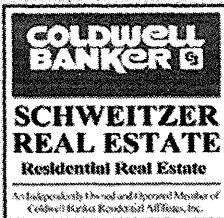
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Petoskey site of big development

Q. I understand that there is a major development of condos in the downtown Petoskey area and its surroundings. Do you have any information?

A. Yes, there is a major development being constructed in downtown Petoskey, a condominium hotel, as well as a number of condominiums in the surrounding areas including Harbor Springs. Retail development in the area has increased in the downtown area of Petoskey including restaurants and boutique shops. I did note in a recent trip that there were many properties located for sale on the road leading out of Harbor Springs to Cross Village which appears to indicate that the market is softening and it may be a good opportunity to purchase property in that area.

Q. I understand that there have been various real estate frauds on the rise around the country and in Michigan. Do you have any additional information about it?

A. One type of fraud is home equity/identity fraud. A forged deed is recorded to give the appearance that the perpetrator has acquired owner-



Robert Meisner

Quit claim deeds and other documents are forged to give the appearance that a property is being sold in order to avoid foreclosure. Be on the look out for these types of fraudulent situations.

ship of the property. The perpetrator uses the equity in the property as collateral to borrow money. No payments are made on the new loan(s) and the true owner could face foreclosure. Another type of fraud involves home renovation and mort-

gage fraud. Contractors offer to do home improvement work or lenders offer a special "low interest financing" but do not deliver what was promised. Homeowners are left with partially completed substandard construction, or a mortgage payment that is higher than expected. Finally, real estate investment foreclosure fraud involves investors being lured into buying property that is supposedly facing foreclosure for pennies on the dollar. Quit claim deeds and other documents are forged to give the appearance that a property is being sold in order to avoid foreclosure. Be on the look out for these types of fraudulent situations.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of *Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track*, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote *Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium*, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

INVESTORS

The Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland County (REIA of Oakland) is a nonprofit organization that provides new and seasoned real estate investors a forum for networking, education, and socialization with local and nationally known real estate investment experts. It meets 7:30-9:30 p.m. the second Thursday of every month at the MSU Management Education Center 811 W. Square Lake Road, Troy, MI 48098. For more information, or to join REIA, visit www.reiaofaokland.com or call (248) 663-2350.

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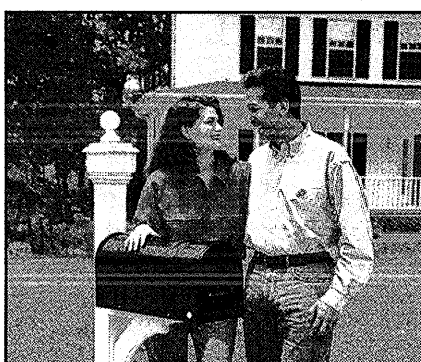
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Free workshop

A workshop for first-time homebuyers will be held 6-7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22, at 28544 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills (just north of 12 Mile on the east side of the road). It is sponsored by Century 21 Today Inc.

This free workshop will cover topics such as: how to effectively use the Internet for home searches; why to get preapproved; what paperwork will be required to buy a home; benefits of using a Realtor, and more.

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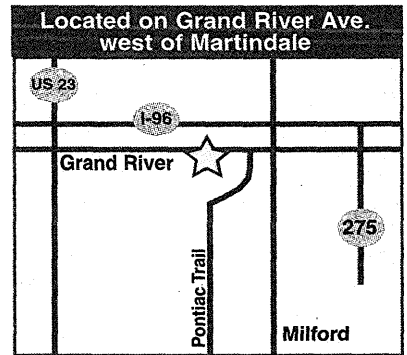
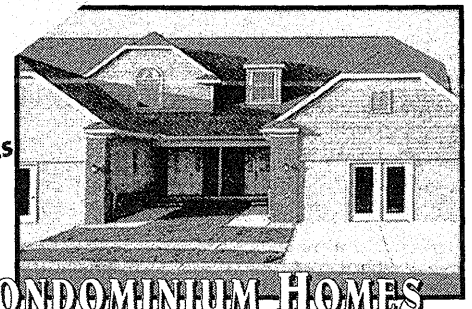
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Exceptional 2800 sq. ft. colonial!
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\$247,800 - Farmington Hills
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248-437-3800 26057970

\$179,900 - South Lyon
3 BR ranch-3% concessions
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\$175,000 - Waterford
Corner lot.
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\$259,000 - White Lake
Subdivision living on 1.33 acres
248-684-1065 26030651

\$299,900 - Highland
Make this new build your own!
248-684-1065 26194227

\$225,000 - Orchard Lake
A rare shady buildable lot.
248-684-1065 26136877

\$133,000 - Highland
Open floor plan & natural light!
248-684-1065 26207812

\$215,000 - Milford
Walkout basement.
248-684-1065 26200714

\$399,900 - Milford
Secluded 1.75 acre lot.
248-684-1065 26151535

\$154,900 - Milford
3.55 acres
248-684-1065 26113710

\$359,800 - Highland
5 country acres w/pond.
248-684-1065 26201177

\$329,900 - Milford
Main floor master
248-684-1065 26200730

\$249,900 - Orchard Lake
Located on corner lot.
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\$329,900 - Hartland
4 beds, 2.5 baths, bsmt, gar.
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\$299,900 - Hartland
New construction 4 br, 2.6 ba.
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\$349,900 - Highland
3 car gar w/storage above.
248-684-1065 26174130

\$80,000 - Redford
Commercial Building 4 Sale
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\$128,000 - Novi
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\$199,000 - Farmington Hills
Charming 3 Br Ranch
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\$159,900 - Brighton Twp.
7+ Splittable Acres
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\$575,000 - Northville
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Custom Built Contemp
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\$550,000 - Novi
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\$116,900 - Taylor
3 Br, 1.5 Ba Home
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HOMES SOLD

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 14-18, 2006, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office, plus some from Oakland County. Listed below are cities, addresses and sales prices.

Canton	
46688 Aarons Way	\$235,000
48852 Amelia Ct	\$383,000
5936 Beaufort Dr	\$199,000
50097 Black Horse Ln	\$154,000
7291 Burgundy St	\$248,000
7632 Charrington Dr	\$250,000
8096 Chatham Ct	\$655,000
8476 Chatham Dr	\$503,000
43638 Cherrywood Ln	\$301,000
43707 Cherrywood Ln	\$231,000
1411 Copeland Cir	\$206,000
39901 Coronation Rd	\$182,000
1630 E Lakeview Ln	\$214,000
41965 Echo Forest Dr	\$406,000
5824 Hathaway Rd	\$325,000
39924 Hillary Dr	\$164,000
7366 Hillsboro	\$228,000
4606 Hunters Cir	\$145,000
7369 Irongate Rd	\$225,000
2215 Marlowe St	\$115,000
847 Meadowlake Rd	\$188,000
44503 N Umland Cir	\$120,000
1545 Old Bridge Ct	\$197,000
1954 Paddock Ln	\$199,000
6891 Pittsford St	\$254,000
387 Princeton St	\$255,000
43443 Proctor Rd	\$200,000
7232 Provincial Ct	\$221,000
44975 Rector Dr	\$205,000

42417 Redfern St	\$189,000
505 Robert Ct	\$346,000
8302 Rolling Meadows Dr	\$826,000
300 S Sheldon Rd	\$430,000
44487 Savery Dr	\$97,000
45021 Seabrook Dr	\$335,000
4285 Sherwood Cir	\$285,000
4673 Timberline Dr	\$250,000
1856 Trinity Rd	\$181,000
Farmington	
33825 Hamlin Ct	\$285,000
23897 Pickett St	\$232,000
Farmington Hills	
27840 Berrywood Ln	\$98,000
34642 Bunker Hill Dr	\$252,000
22800 Clear Lake Dr	\$330,000
28092 Golf Pointe Blvd	\$358,000
28899 Hidden Trl	\$525,000
35302 Hillside Dr	\$170,000
33475 Leisure Ln	\$375,000
22489 Middlebelt Rd	\$84,000
24056 Middlebelt Rd	\$68,000
31828 N Marklawn St	\$210,000
21224 Ontaga St	\$71,000
21535 Orchard Lake Rd	\$160,000
24601 Orchard Lake Rd	\$195,000
29717 Pendleton Club Dr	\$129,000
38172 Saratoga Cir	\$199,000
30683 Tanglewood	\$280,000
24562 Toddy Ln	\$290,000
30078 W 12 Mile Rd	\$69,000
28426 W Eight Mile Rd	\$54,000
21650 Waldron St	\$170,000
Garden City	
32941 Barton St	\$115,000

29724 Beechwood St	\$227,000
28467 Birchlawn St	\$129,000
28806 Block St	\$107,000
29435 Brown Ct	\$141,000
33110 Brown St	\$134,000
30617 Krauter St	\$235,000
6719 Lathers St	\$141,000
32146 Rosslyn Ave	\$118,000
27811 Warren Rd	\$142,000
Livonia	
19467 Antago St	\$146,000
9909 Arden St	\$138,000
14430 Auburndale	\$229,000
14091 Bainbridge St	\$190,000
14286 Bainbridge St	\$165,000
20513 Beatrice St	\$210,000
29481 Bobrich St	\$69,000
29501 Bobrich St	\$69,000
15038 Ellen Dr	\$194,000
31736 Grennada St	\$238,000
16041 Harrison St	\$172,000
29648 Hillbrook St	\$179,000
15135 Hix St	\$200,000
39031 Jamison St	\$230,000
37737 Kingsbury St	\$225,000
18203 Melvin St	\$176,000
35533 Minton Ct	\$220,000
8927 Newburgh Rd	\$245,000
27635 Oakley St	\$100,000
33111 Oakley St	\$209,000
31300 Olson St	\$170,000
19675 Saint Francis St	\$122,000
10061 Seltzer St	\$162,000
9828 Shadyside St	\$153,000
37786 Southampton St	\$286,000

Milford	
1615 Balsam Way	\$670,000
1238 Timber Ridge Ct	\$440,000
1381 Timber Ridge Ct	\$380,000
Northville	
49633 Seven Mile Rd	\$835,000
16305 Aspen Valley Dr	\$780,000
19469 Cardene	\$234,000
44023 Cypress Point Dr	\$404,000
44043 Cypress Point Dr	\$160,000
221 Lake St	\$190,000
49200 Parkshore Ct	\$650,000
49082 Running Trout Ln	\$149,000
49115 Running Trout Ln	\$149,000
49133 Running Trout Ln	\$148,000
18992 Stonewater Blvd	\$770,000
17139 Victor Dr	\$343,000
16246 White Fir Ct	\$598,000
Novi	
30734 Ardmore Ct	\$40,000
47321 Autumn Park Ct	\$450,000
41831 Canterbury Dr	\$179,000
41883 Canterbury Dr	\$186,000
24503 Christina Ln	\$251,000
24653 Edgewood Dr	\$240,000
23005 Ennishore	\$263,000
23597 Highmeadow Dr	\$253,000
24336 Knollwood St	\$195,000
40668 Lenox Park Dr	\$362,000
23819 Nilan Dr	\$222,000
24457 Olde Orchard St	\$133,000
24463 Olde Orchard St	\$128,000

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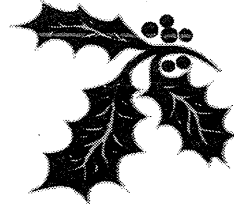
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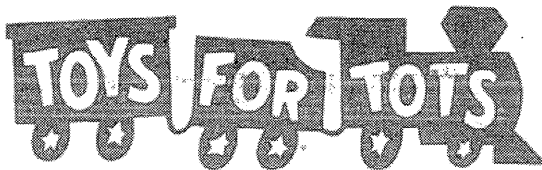
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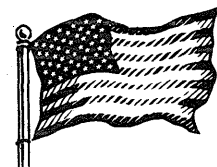
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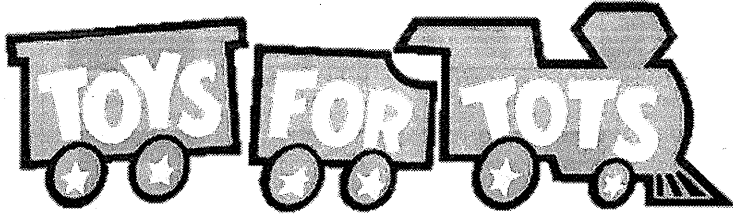


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Executive Lakefront Living, Granite Kit W/Cherry Cabs, Library W/fp, 2 Story GR W/fieldstone FP, Mstr Ste W/trey Ceiling, Fin W/o, Bath W/sauna.
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GREEN OAK \$625,000
Resort Living in Desirabe Hidden Lake. Kit W/42"cherry Cabs, HW Fir, Dble Oven, Island, GR W/FP, 1st Fir Mstr Ste W/glam Bath & priv. Beach & Marina!
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CANTON \$545,900
Lovely Home Looking For New Owners! Built in 2005 this 5 BR Home Features A Double Sided FP In LR/KIT, HW Firs. MB has Jetted Tub. Fin Walk-out.
MLS# 26203219 Brenda Stevenson 734-591-0333

FARMINGTON HILLS \$550,000
HW firs in foyer,hallway,lrd & study, Fin bsmt w/rec rm,office, full ba. granite & corian in kit,new cpt t/o, deck w/gazebo & hot tub(neg), 3 car gar
MLS# 26207341 248-347-3050

COMMERCE \$365,000
Open Floor Plan. GR W/vaulted Ceiling, FP, Kit W/island, Under & Over Cab Lighting, 4 Season Sunroom W/hw Fir, 1st Fir Mstr ste W/glam Bath, Fin LL
MLS# 26205617 248-347-3050

NORTHVILLE \$360,000
Paver Brick Patio W/gazebo & 2-tier Deck. Open Fir Plan. Gourmet Kit. GR W/stone Fp. Lrg Mstr Ste W/priv Bath. Fin W/o Bsmnt W/kit, FR, BR & Bath.
MLS# 26194598 248-347-3050

NORTHVILLE \$349,900
Over 3500 sq. ft. GR w/hw firs & gas FP. All new windows, Remodeled mstr ba & kit w/s.s. appl's. Fin. LL w/huge FR,rec rm,2nd kit,office & full bath.
MLS# 26191296 248-347-3050

GREEN OAK \$340,000
Lakefront Living! 2 Story On 3/4 Acre Lot, GR W/HW Fir, 2-way FP, Kit W/42" Cabs W/crwn Mldng, Mstr Ste W/dr To Private Deck, P. Fin LL, 2.5 Car Gar
MLS# 26198827 248-347-3050

WEST BLOOMFIELD \$339,900
Beautiful Ranch Condo. Kit Has Corian Like Counters, Ceramic Fir And Oak Cabinets. Gr Has Natural Fp. Mb Has Jacuzzi Tub. Basement Partially Finished.
MLS# 26198262 Terry Connolly 734-591-0333

FARMINGTON HILLS \$339,000
3 BR 3.5 Bath Each BR W/adjoining Full Ba. Kit W/ granite Countertops. GR W/Vaulted Ceiling Doorwall To Deck. Fin Bsmnt W/ Fp & 3rd BR, Att. 2 Car Gar.
MLS# 26183408 248-347-3050

SOUTH LYON \$329,900
Bank Owned,offers subj to bank approve. 4 BR, 2.2 BA Cape Cod w/prof fin bsmt. GR w/gas FP. Grmt kit. 1st fir master ste. Bit 2002. South Lyon School.
MLS# 26191599 734-453-6800

LIVONIA \$325,000
kit w/maple cabs&fir; FR w/gas FP; 9 ft.ceilings on 1st flr; 2nd flr Indry, fin LL w/full bath; 2.5car gar; 2 decks All appts incl.For lease @ 2,500.
MLS# 26208242 248-347-3050

NOVI \$320,000
Priv wooded backyard, deck, vinyl windows, 1st fl Indry, hw firs in foyer, kit open to FR w/natural FP, lrg mstr w/bath & 2WIC. Also for lease @ \$2,500.
MLS# 26175205 248-347-3050

VAN BUREN \$285,000
4 BR, 2 Bath, Brick Gas FP in Fam Rm, Mstr Bath W/ Jet Tub, Full Baths Have Long Granite Counters, Kit W/ Appl's, Fin Bsmnt, 2 Car Atchd Gar W/Opener.
MLS# 26199086 248-347-3050

CANTON \$279,900
Quaint covered porch. Sweeping LR w/FP. Grmt kit w/ appl's. 2 BR's up (Master w/FP) boasts WIC's & full BA's. Loft area could be study/3rd BR.
MLS# 26201133 734-453-6800

CANTON \$279,900
Ideal Location in the quite middle of Sunflower Subdivision. Incl oak cabinets, granite counters, recessed lighting & crown molding, gas fireplace.
MLS# 26200358 248-347-3050

LIVONIA \$265,000
Remodeled kit w/maple cab&corian cntrs. Ceramic tile, hw firs. Spacious fir plan. 1st fir in-law-quarters. Updates incl furnace, a/c, carpet, & windows.
MLS# 26179051 248-347-3050

NOVI \$265,000
2 Story Foyer, 1st Fl Indry, HW Firs T/o. Kit W/Maple Cabs & Ss Appl's. GR W/vaulted Ceiling,Unfin Bsmnt & Deck. Offering \$5,000 To Buyers closing Costs.
MLS# 26184783 248-347-3050

LIVONIA \$264,900
1st Fir Mstr BR W/ Jet Tub & Walk In Shower. 1st Fl Indry, Balcony Overlooks GR. Doorwall From DR Leads To brick Patio. Fully Fin Rec Rm In Full Bsmnt.
MLS# 26205227 248-347-3050

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NOVI **\$260,000**
 W/vaulted Ceilings, HW Flrs, Formal LR & DR, Mstr Ste W/Wic, New Mstr Bath, FR W/3 New Door Walls, New Windows, HWH, Carpet, Stove & Microwave, Fin LL. MLS# 26206174 248-347-3050

WESTLAND **\$245,000**
 Lovely clean & well maintained 1986 Colonial w/2078 sq ft, 4 BR, 2.1BA, bsmt & 2 car att gar. LR & DR w/Pergo flrs & bay wndw. FR w/gas FP. MBR w/BA. MLS# 26177458 734-453-6800

NORTHVILLE **\$225,000**
 Resort Living! 2 BR, 2.5 Bath Condo Open Fir Plan w/vaulted Ceilings. Mstr BR W/2 WIC, Massive Loft W/large Full Bath, WIC, Wet Bar, & FP. MLS# 26192416 248-347-3050

SALEM **\$225,000**
 Value Is In The Land 4.1 Acres W/ Northville Mailing & Schools & Washtenaw Taxes. Horses Allowed. Zoned Res/agricultural. MLS# 26196314 248-347-3050

CANTON **\$220,000**
 W/Mature Trees & Priv. Yard. Remodeled In 2004! Updates Inc; Kit Cabs, tub, bathrm Cabs, & Refin Hw Flrs T/O Kit & BRs. Hot tub In Bsmnt. Florida Rm. MLS# 26194517 248-347-3050

CANTON **\$200,000**
 Brick 3BR Ranch w/full finished basement. HDWD & tile flrs, newer windows, roof, & 6 panel doors. Master w/BA. Large yard. Plyouth Canton Schools. MLS# 26203953 734-453-6800 28738981

PLYMOUTH **\$199,800**
 Adorable one story home on a tree lined street close to downtown Plymouth. Upgrades T/O. 2BR, fin bsmt, kit, furn, air and wndws & more! Impeccable! MLS# 26196025 734-453-6800

CANTON **\$189,900**
 Charming Cherry Hill Gardens condo. Prem location. Main level has GR w/FP, Dr, Kit w/all appls, & 1st flr Indry with W/D. 2 BR,s up w/WICs & BA. MLS# 26177664 734-453-6800

CANTON **\$189,900**
 Updated Carpet, Kit Flrs, Lighting Fixtures, & Paint. Reshingled Roof, Extensive Landscaping W/deck & Paver Patio. Newer Appls, W&D Incl. Fin Bsmt. MLS# 26184496 248-347-3050

PLYMOUTH **\$174,900**
 Completely Rebuilt In '05. New Roof Windows, oak Flrs, Solid Maple Drs, New Bath, Gas FP Insert in Chimney. Huge Garage & Deck. Possible Lease Option. MLS# 26204145 248-347-3050

LIVONIA **\$165,000**
 4 BR, 1.5 Bath. Over 1700 Sq Ft, Gas FP In Lrg Fam Rm, 2 Car Garage W/Opener & A Shed, Lovely Deck Off The Back And More! Make Your Appointment Today! MLS# 26208532 248-347-3050

GARDEN CITY **\$145,000**
 3 Bed Ranch. Kit W/newer Cabinets, Counter & Ceramic Flooring. H/W Floors Shine Throughout. Newer Windows, Vinyl Siding Replaced (05), Furnace &c/a. MLS# 26200525 Cathy Elias 734-591-0333 ext 126

NOVI **\$142,000**
 New To Newer: Windows, Roof, Firing, Furnace, A/c, Hwh, Paint, Sinks & Faucets. Ca Closets. All Appl Stay. Lrg Unfin LL. Private Patio. End Unit. MLS# 26171563 248-347-3050

COMMERCE **\$140,000**
 Gr W/tp & Cathedral Ceiling, Upgraded Maple Cabs, Cathedral Ceiling In Mstr BR, 1st Flr Lndry, Priv Balcony & Priv Entrance W/attchd Gar, MLS# 26205225 248-347-3050

REDFORD **\$135,000**
 Beautiful 3 BR Brick Ranch w/exceptional finished bsmt & Garage! This home is clean & move in ready with a remodeled kitchen attractive decor, & more! MLS# 26209150 Laura Monley 248-675-1252

GARDEN CITY **\$134,900**
 3 BR 2 Bath, W/updates! Kit W/ Appls, & New Fir. Sep DR, Fin Bsmnt W/ rec Rm, 2 Car Gar W/Opener, Updated Main Fir Bath, Freshly Painted, & New Carpet. MLS# 26199087 248-347-3050

MELVINDALE **\$128,000**
 Spectacular Open FP, Cathedral Cell, Neutral Decor, Oak Kit, Covered Balcony, Same Fir Laundry, Master Suite W/jetted Tub, WIC, Attached Garage. MLS# 26192621 Linda Morace 248-737-9000

DETROIT **\$109,900**
 Great Location! Updated 2 Family Brick Tudor W/4 BRs Up, Kit & Full Bath. Lower Unit Has 2 BRs, Lr, Kit, Dr, HW Flrs, & Full Bsmnt. W/2 Car Garage. MLS# 26203146 248-347-3050

NORTHVILLE **\$300,000**
 End Unit W/priv Deck Off DR. Full Bsmnt, Oak HW Entry, Crmic Tile Bath, 2 Lrg WIC, Soaker Tub & Lrg Shower. Kit W/cherry Cabs, All Built-in Appls. MLS# 26208467 248-347-3050

REDFORD **\$135,000**
 Beautiful 3 BR Brick Ranch w/exceptional finished bsmt & Garage! This home is clean & move in ready with a remodeled kitchen, attractive decor & more! MLS# 26209150 248-347-3050



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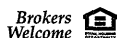
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39828 Village Wood Cir	\$108,000	9543 Winston	\$114,000
43115 Westchester Ct	\$475,000	South Lyon	
21935 Worcester Dr	\$335,000	13331 Nine Mile Rd	\$35,000
Plymouth		1035 Arabian Ct	\$299,000
44531 Anne Ct	\$228,000	54360 Meadow Ct	\$95,000
9484 Baywood Dr	\$230,000	862 Wood Run	\$325,000
11319 Brownell Ave	\$214,000	Westland	
14804 Farmbrook Dr	\$247,000	34208 Algonquin St	\$158,000
193 Riveroaks Dr	\$142,000	31608 Antrim Ct	\$56,000
11552 Russell Ave	\$230,000	6902 Apache Trl	\$165,000
Redford		30712 Avondale St	\$110,000
9175 Brady	\$168,000	32527 Avondale St	\$153,000
17433 Delaware Ave	\$122,000	35665 Castlewood Ct	\$128,000
26266 Dow	\$240,000	35808 Castlewood Ct	\$125,000
9034 Hazelton	\$183,000	37710 Colonial Dr	\$137,000
25363 Ivanhoe	\$102,000	8050 Coventry St	\$50,000
17730 Kinloch	\$110,000	32753 Cowan Rd	\$102,000
18686 Kinloch	\$98,000	7445 Gilman St	\$120,000
9052 Lenore	\$168,000	29830 Gladys Ave	\$151,000
15737 Leona Dr	\$114,000	32745 Glen St	\$136,000
12810 Leverne	\$163,000	32143 Harvard St	\$139,000
12890 Leverne	\$129,000	8266 Huntington St	\$57,000
16628 Lola Dr	\$155,000	1665 Leslie St	\$138,000
9959 Lucerne	\$145,000	35217 Marquette St	\$218,000
19771 Macarthur	\$144,000	7550 N Hawthorne St	\$168,000
26299 Margaretta	\$155,000	38176 N Miller Cir	\$187,000
17310 Olympia	\$135,000	5878 N Newburgh Rd	\$186,000
18665 Olympia	\$40,000	816 S Carlson St	\$128,000
		34139 Tawas Trl	\$146,000
		6205 W Morgan Cir	\$170,000
		33793 Warren Rd	\$153,000
		33194 Winchester St	\$150,000



Prudential Select Real Estate

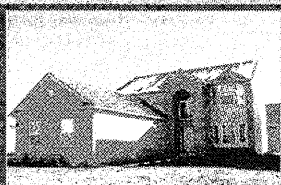
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995,000 — Northville Twp
4 Bdrms, 4.5 Baths - Lakefront Panoramic View, Fin walk out L/L, 1 Yr Home Warranty, Gourmet Kit. Mst. Suite w/balcony



309,900 — Van Buren
5 Bdrms, 3 Baths - Open floor plan and large kitchen with Island, 3 car garage.



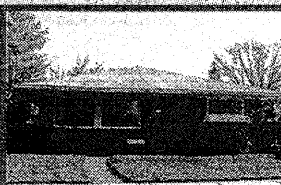
214,900 — Canton
3 Bdrms, 2.1 Baths - Detached condo in great location. Neutral décor, hwdw floors, 1 year home warranty.



209,900 — Canton
4 bdrms, 2 Baths - Cape Cod, Fin. Bsmt., 3 Level deck, C/A, Sprink System, Newer Windows and so much more.



199,000 — Plymouth
3 bdrms, 2 Baths - New Kit in '02 w/Maple Cabs, New Furn, Humidifier and C/A in '03, Beautiful Hwdw in living room.



139,000 — Westland
3 bdrms, 2 Baths - Livonia Schools, Part Fin Bsmt with Bar, lots of updates.

674,900 Troy - 4 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, Proff. Fin Bsmt w/Kit and full bath, Sunroom, extra lrg lot, pool table Exl. Also for lease at \$4,500
519,900 Northville Twp - 4 Bdrms, 3.5 Baths, Colonial Condo, 9 Ft Ceilings on 1st Floor, 2 Story Foyer, Home Warranty, Many upgrades.
485,000 Novi - 4 Bdrms, 3.5 Baths, Transteree Perfect, Like new but everything is done & upgraded! 3 car garage.
429,900 Novi - 4 Bdrms, 3.5 Bath Colonial w/ Dream Bsmt - Home Theatre, Wet Bar, Sauna, Cedar Closet.
389,900 Farmington Hills - 5 bdrms, 4 Baths, Inground pool, 1 Acre Lot, Double Deck
384,900 Canton - 4 Bdrms, 3.5 Baths, In Law Quarters, Premium Site.
379,900 Canton - 4 Bdrms, 3.5 Baths, Two way fireplace in Fam Rm, and Study, Prof. finished Bsmt.
344,900 Farmington Hills - 4 Bdrms, 3.5 Baths, Great lot w/ huge deck, Prof. Fin. Lower level, w/wet bar.
334,900 Plymouth - 3 Bdrm, 2.5 Baths, Renovated Victorian, Fireplaces in LR and FR, walking dist. to Downtown.
339,900 Canton - 4 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 9 ft ceilings on 1st floor, Large Deck, beautifully landscaped.
317,500 West Bloomfield - 2 Bdrms, 2.5 Bath Ranch Condo. Lrg Deck, Vaulted Ceilings, Full Bsmt, Fabulous Master Suite and 2

Car Att Garage.
305,900 Canton - 4 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, Fin Bsmt w/pool table, Gazebo & hot tub. Also for lease at \$2100
289,900 Canton - 4 Bdrms, 2 Baths - Stately Colonial w/ Master Ste w/ cathedral ceilings, prof. landscaped and drwl to brick paver patio.
289,900 Canton - 4 Bdrm, 2.5 Baths, Fin Rec Rm in Bsmt, 2 fireplaces
295,999 Canton - 4 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, 2 Story Foyer, Open Floor Plan, Large Deck, Southern Exposure, Master Suite w/ Private Bath.
264,900 Farmington Hills - Updated 4BR, 2.5 Bath Brick Colonial located deep in the sub. Newer roof, windows & more
259,900 Novi - 4 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, Large private, treed lot, remodeled Kitchen and Bathrooms. New roof, Furn, and A/C. Won't last long!
239,900 Plymouth - 3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, Breezeway converted to cozy FR w/fireplace, Att. 2 car garage.
239,900 Flat Rock - 3 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, New Construction, large backyard, spacious bdrms, Maser suite w/ full bath and wic.
237,899 West Bloomfield - 3 Bdrms, 2 Bath, Dimensional Roof, Jacuzzi Tub, Close to Schools, Seller is a Licensed Agent.
229,900 Farmington Hills - 4 Bdrms, 2.5 Bath Colonial located on a quiet St. Library, newer cement driveway.
219,900 Livonia - 3 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath, Huge Deck, Lrg Great Rm

w/cathedral Ceilings.
214,900 Dearborn - 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath - Brick Cape Cod, prof. english gardens landscaping, walk to schools, parks, shopping, and restaurants.
209,900 Canton - 3 Bdrms, 1.5 Baths, Lots of updates, spacious Family rm w/frpl and wet bar, fin Basement.
209,900 Canton - 4 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, Natural fireplace in living room, lrg backyard w/privacy fence, all appl. Stay.
195,000 Canton - 3 Bdrm, 2.1 Baths - End Unit in Lovely Canton Forest. private setting w/ lrg deck, full fin. bsmt, immed occ.
194,500 Canton - 3 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath, Fam Rm w/fireplace and Wet bar, Lots of updates
194,900 Canton - 3 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath, Lrg Patio, Fin Bsmt, Backs to open natural area
189,500 Dearborn - 3 Bdrms, 2 Bath, Totally remodeled Interior, FP, CA, Fin Bsmt, Lrg Deck, 2 Car Garage, Immed. Occ.
188,800 Canton - 4 Bdrms, 2 Baths, Charming Quad with Plymouth/Canton schools. Large Backyard backing to commons.
186,000 Westland - 3 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath. Basement, Lrg Fam Rm, Lrg fenced Backyard
174,900 Livonia - 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath, Private Patio, Lrg Backyard, Lots of Updates
164,900 Dearborn - 3 Bdrms - 2 Baths, One of a kind brick Ranch, backing to Snow Woods, nicely updated and ready to move in.

159,900 Livonia - 3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, Sauna Rm in Bsmt, lrg deck and yard, great location close to shopping, school, and expressway.
154,900 Dearborn - 3 Bdrms, 1 Bath, Oakwood Hosp Area, Hdwd Floors, Fin Bsmt, New Cherry and Corian Kitchen. 1 Yr Home Warranty
129,900 Canton - 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath, Ground Level End Unit Condo. Backing to quiet commons area.
Condos
299,900 Farmington Hills - 2 Bdrms, 3 baths, Fin Basement w/full Kitchen and Bath
255,000 Livonia - 2 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, Newer Construction, 2 Story Grt Rm w/fireplace and view of pond.
244,900 Flat Rock - 3 Bdrm, 2.5 Baths, New Construction! Unfinished loft above 2.5 car garage
189,900 West Bloomfield - 3 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, Townhouse Style Condo w/Garage and full Bsmt, Privt entry, All Appl, Immed. Occ.
164,900 Plymouth Twp. - 2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, Sky lights in kit and Master bdrm, Lots of upgrades. Grt Rm w/Cath ceilings.
134,900 Southfield - 2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, Sharp Ranch style condo, Common Pool, large basement storage.

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BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 3

ing in one of America's top cities – rated No. 39 by *Money Magazine* as one of the 'Best Places To Live.' Moreover, Avedian Properties' commitment to quality design and construction makes Condor Lofts an exceptional investment for today's buyers."

Details, including pricing, descriptions and contact information, are available at <http://www.weirmanuel.com>.

Weir Manuel Realtors is a leading real estate company in southeast Michigan, with more than 150 real estate professionals in four Michigan offices: Birmingham, Plymouth, Rochester and West Bloomfield. Its Web site is at www.weirmanuel.com.

BIA

The Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan is offering:

■ Apartment Association of Michigan's Property Management Council will sponsor a "Manager's Round Table" discussion 8-9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 15, at AAM headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100 in Farmington Hills. The discussion will cover current topics in apartment management. Fees are free for AAM, PMC or BIA members,

\$15 for guests. To register, call (248) 862-1004.

■ Another Field Superintendent course, "Planning and Scheduling," 8 a.m. to noon Monday, Dec. 18, at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100 in Farmington Hills. Chuck Breidenstein of Builder Professional Services Group Inc. is the instructor. Fee is \$150. To register, call (248) 862-1033.

■ Executive Image Seminar on "Selling at the 2007 BIA Builders and Remodelers Trade Show" 9-11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 12, at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100 in Farmington Hills. The seminar will be presented by the Executive Image Group. Fees are \$45 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members, \$65 for guests. To register, call (248) 862-1033.

■ Annual economic forecast for 2007 noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17, at the Best Western Sterling Inn, 34911 Van Dyke in Sterling Heights. David F. Seiders, chief economist for the National Association of Home Builders in Washington, D.C., will provide an outlook for the residential construction industry for the U.S. and southeastern Michigan. Lunch is included. Fees are \$40 for BIA and Apartment Association of Michigan members, \$60 for guests. To register, call (248) 862-1033.



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NOVI WALDEN WOODS COLONIAL DEEP IN SUB-BACKING TO WOODS!
Oversized family rm features a fieldstone fireplace, master suite w/glamour bath, 2 wic and tray ceiling, gourmet kitchen w/granite, ceramic tile, cook top and double ovens, new carpet t/o, beautiful finished lower level w/family room bedroom, bath and rec. rm, large deck and 3.5 car garage. \$475,000 (jgar)



THIS BEAUTIFUL HOME IS IMPECCABLE!
This freshly painted home t/o (06) features a family rm w/vaulted ceiling & natural fireplace w/gas logs, living rm & dining room w/bay windows, kitchen w/nook, granite & Corian, hardwood floors, master suite w/glamour bath, 9 foot ceilings on 1st floor, study, extra deep basement w/bath rough-ins, dual staircases & three seasons room. \$525,000 (jgar)



FANTASTIC CUSTOM ELEVATION BACKING TO COMMONS IN NOVI
This Maybury Park colonial also sides to woods and features over \$100,000 custom kitchen, 2 story foyer, dual staircases w/ ornamental railings, great room w/full wall of windows & bridge overlook, granite & custom lighting throughout, custom cabinetry throughout, master bedroom suite, limestone & stone flooring, sidewalks & 4.5 car garage. \$1,199,900 (jgmay)



ASTONISHING HOME PRICED BELOW VALUE! NORTHVILLE
2 story family room w/fireplace, garden rm w/skylight in nook, 9 ft ceilings on 1st floor, kitchen w/nook & premium kitchen package, dining rm & study, 2 story foyer, T-staircase, master bedroom w/walk-in closet & glamour bath, basement w/daylight windows & rough-ins. Upgraded elevation, paver walks & large deck. \$625,000 (jgriv)



IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY! GREAT LAKE VIEWS BACKING TO WOODS
This beautiful home w/premium stone elevation features 2 story foyer w/marble floor, kitchen w/42" maple cabinets & granite counters, butlers pantry, sunroom, bridge overlooking 2 story FR, Jack & Jill bath, awesome master suite! beach, clubhouse, tennis courts & pool in sub. \$800,000 (jgsh)



GREAT NORTHVILLE HILLS LOCATION BACKING TO WOODS!
2 Story foyer, cherry stained hardwood floors, conservatory (w/2 skylights), kitchen w/42" cherry cabinets w/premium wood package & granite counters, 2 story FR w/wall window, dual staircases, study, formal LR & DR, master suite w/sitting room, deck, community pool, tennis courts & clubhouse, 3.5 car garage. \$700,000 (jgrou)

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 - Plymouth Observer
 - Rochester Eccentric
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 - Redford Observer
 - Southfield Eccentric
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Funds support historic preservation efforts

The Michigan Architectural Foundation, along with the Clannad Foundation, is accepting applications for the Evans Memorial Grant for Historic Preservation. A \$5,000 grant will be awarded to a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that can demonstrate a creative solution to a preservation problem.

An application form and further information is available online at www.aiami.com or by calling MAF headquarters at (313) 965-4100. A Jan. 10 deadline has been set and the award will be made at the annual Celebration

The Perkins-Copland Log Cabin, originally located in Haslett but now in Okemos at the Meridian Historical Village, is the eighth historic structure to benefit from the grant.

of Architecture April 20 in Plymouth. The two foundations joined, in memory of preservation architect David Evans, to initiate the grant program in 1999. The Evans Memorial Grant is particularly interested in projects that demonstrate the creative reuse of a historic property. Evans saw building

restoration as a key element in successful downtown economic revivals.

Now in its ninth year, the Evans Grant seeks to be a catalyst for the continued use of Michigan's historic building stock. The first award went to the Shielding Tree Nature Center to restore the Lawr Farm, in Port Oneida, for adaptive reuse. The farm is one of several that are within the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Park.

The second award went to the Coopersville Area Historical Society for the restoration of Interurban Car No. 8. Coopersville was commended for saving an example from America's recent past.

No. 3 was the Pewabic House in Houghton in the Upper Peninsula. The house is the family home of Mary Chase Stratton, the founder of Pewabic Pottery. The pottery was a leader in the art pottery movement of the early 20th century, and is still in business in Detroit.

Back down state for No. 4, the Corktown Tenement House is one of

the few surviving examples of an Irish workers' cottage left in Detroit. The long-term goal is to restore the house for use as a Tenement Museum. For now, the Evans Grant provided funds to repair the roof.

For the fifth year, the grant went to the Upper Peninsula to Newberry to help restore the Turret of the 1894 Queen Ann Style Sheriff's Residence for the Luce County Historical Society.

In the sixth year, the award went to the Pettibone Creek Hydroelectric Station in Milford to replace the quarry tile floor in an Art Deco structure that was designed by Albert Kahn as a power plant for Henry Ford in 1939.

No. 7 went to the Phoenix of the Detroit Fire Department to assist in the restoration of Engine 11, an 1883 firehouse on Gratiot in Detroit. The firehouse was in service until 1989. The planned renovation includes an overhaul of the building's mechanical systems and improvements to the exterior.

The Perkins-Copland Log Cabin, originally located in Haslett but now in Okemos at the Meridian Historical Village, is the eighth historic structure to benefit from the grant. The cabin was first rescued from destruction by Robert Copland who used it to teach

PLEASE SEE PRESERVATION, 11

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1st Choice Mortgage Lending	(734) 459-0782	5.75	0	5.5	0	J/A
A Best Financial Corp.	(800) 839-8918	5.375	1.25	5	1.5	J/A
A Perfect Mortgage Co.	(248) 203-7726	5.75	0	5.5	0	J/A
AAXA Discount Mortgage	(877) 728-3569	5.625	0.125	5.375	0.375	J/A
AFI Financial	(877) 234-0600	5.5	0.75	5.25	0.75	J/A
American Home Mortgage	(877) 478-7289	5.375	2	5.125	2	J/A/V/F
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	(248) 740-2323	5.75	0	5.5	0	J/A
Benchmark Lending	(586) 463-2255	5.75	0	5.5	0	J/A
Brink's Goldstar Mortgage	(800) 785-4755	5.25	2.125	4.875	2.25	J/A/V/F
Charter One Bank	(800) 342-5336	6.25	0	5.875	0	J/A/V/F
Client Services by Golden Rule	(800) 569-5805	5.375	1.375	5	1.5	J/A/V/F
Co-op Services Credit Union	(734) 466-6113	6.25	0	5.875	0	J
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	(313) 565-3100	6.125	0	5.75	0	A
DFCU Financial	(800) 739-2770	5.75	2	5.375	2	J/A
Downriver Community FCU	(313) 386-2200	6.75	0	6.35	0	J/A
Earth Mortgage	(877) 327-8450	5.625	1	5.25	1	J/A/V/F
Fifth Third Bank	(800) 792-8830	6.125	0.125	5.875	0.125	J/V/F
First Alliance Mortgage Co.	(800) 292-7357	5.875	0	5.75	0	J/A/V/F
First International Mortgage	(248) 540-1065	5.625	0	5.5	0	J/A
GMAC Mortgage Corp.	(800) 888-4622	5.75	2	5.5	2	J/A/V/F
Gold Star Mortgage	(800) 203-1546	5.75	0	5.5	0	J/A/V/F
Golden Rule Mortgage	(800) 991-9922	5.25	2	4.875	2.125	J/A/V/F
Group One Mortgage	(734) 953-4000	5.875	0	5.75	0	J/A/V/F
LaSalle Bank Midwest	(800) 466-3800	5.625	2	5.5	2	J/A/V/F
Mainstreet Mortgage	(800) 900-1313	5.875	0	5.5	0	J/A/V/F
Manufacturers	(586) 777-1000	5.625	1	5.25	1	J/A
Michigan Schools & Gov. C/U	(586) 263-8800	5.875	0	5.625	0	J/A
Mortgages by Golden Rule	(800) 991-9922	5.75	0	5.5	0	J/A/V/F
Michigan United Mortgage	(810) 844-2222	5.5	0.875	5.125	1	J/A
National City Bank	(586) 825-0825	5.5	2	5.25	2	J/A
Northlawn Financial	(248) 988-8488	5.75	0	5.5	0	J/A/V/F
Pathway Financial LLC	(800) 726-2274	5.75	0	5.5	0	J/A/F
Premiere Mortgage Funding	(734) 453-8120	5.75	0	5.5	0	J/A
Shore Mortgage	(800) 678-6663	5.25	3	5	3	J/A/V/F
United Mortgage Group	(586) 286-9500	5.75	0	5.5	0	J/A
York Financial Inc.	(888) 839-9675	5.75	0	5.5	0	J/A

Above Information available as of 12/8/06 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculations & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com. Key to "Other" Column - J = Jumbo, A = Arms, V = VA, F = FHA & NR = Not Reported. All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders. © Copyright 2006 Residential Mortgage Consultants, Inc., All Rights Reserved



SOUTH LYON - Exquisite 4 bedrm, 4 1/2 bath colonial in Tanglewood! 1st flr library/in-law qtrs w/ full bath, custom ktchn w/ hickory cabs, granite counters, double-sized butlers pantry & stunning island, beautifully fin'd LL w/ all the amenities! \$499,900 (D60Gre)

CANTON - This 4 bedrm, 2.5 bath home offers updated ktchn, hardwood flrs in liv rm, dining rm, ktchn & hall, bay wndw in liv rm, stunning colonial frplc, Anderson wndws, crown molding, 6 panel doors, 3 level deck, etc. Walk to Miller Elm! \$209,900 (D66Wes)

LIVONIA - Beautiful country home tucked away in almost 2 acres of gorgeous rolling hills surrounded by trees. Very clean and well-maintained. Property may be divided into 3 separate buildable lots. Priced to sell, seller motivated! \$334,900 (L00W.Ch)

NORTHVILLE - Move right into this stunning, well cared for home offering 4 bedrms, 2.5 baths, French doors, crown moldings, 3 season porch, neutral Italian tile, freshly painted, + more. Premium lot! Great community & outstanding schools! \$365,000 (L00Vic)

LIVONIA - Spectacular 2004 built 3 bedrm, 2.5 bath condo offering 2019 sq ft of luxurious living. 1st floor mstr & bath, upgraded gourmet ktchn w/ cherry cabs, oak hardwood flrs, full bsmt, att'd garage, 1st flr laundry, decorated to perfection! \$279,900 (L69Bro)

NORTHVILLE - Lowest priced condo in Country Club Village! 2 bedrms, 3.5 baths, great rm w/ FP, ktchn w/ white bay cabs, hrdwd flrs, wainscoting, curved staircase, prof fin'd bsmt w/ full bath & all appliances stay. Great club house w/ pool & tennis cts. \$249,900 (L46Edg)

REDFORD - This beautiful, custom built ranch is a must see! Offers many updates including ktchn w/ oak cabinets. Hardwd flooring in dining rm & hallway. Gas frplc in living rm, coved ceilings. Very well maintained & landscaped to perfection! \$226,900 (L42W.Ch)

MILFORD - Charming 3 bedrm, 2 full bath ranch on beautiful hillside lot within walking distance to historic, quaint Milford. Spacious floor plan, warm oak ktchn, neutral liv rm, 2 lg decks, paver patio + more. Home Warranty included. \$159,900 (L18Mai)

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Listing service inks agreement for service

Virginia Bratt, CEO of MiRealSource, announced that it has finalized an agreement with Listingbook, an organization which provides online services that connect agents and clients through an integrated platform of client management, sales productivity and direct marketing tools.

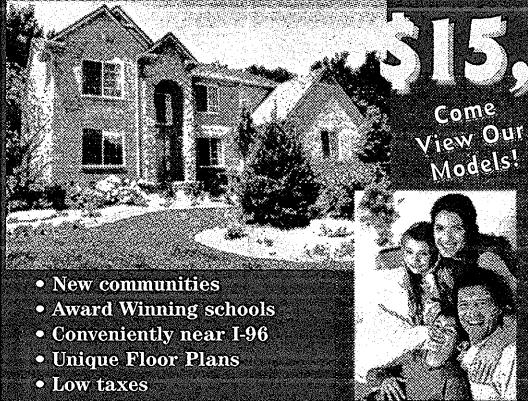
MiRealSource is a Michigan-based broker-owned multiple listing service. The agreement, which is exclusive to MiRealSource in the state of Michigan, gives all members free access to the Listingbook's basic services package. MiRealSource members will also receive a discount on the Premium Services package.

"MiRealSource is focused on providing members an outstanding value proposition," Bratt said. "With the addition of the exclusive Listingbook product, our members will be armed with the finest tools in the real estate industry."

Listingbook automates, tracks and analyzes client activities in an agent-managed, real time environment that encourages collaboration and communication.

MiRealSource provides MLS software training and dispute resolution services and access to a host of other real estate products and services. Headquartered in Oakland County with three regional offices in Macomb, Lapeer and St. Clair counties, information is available online at www.mirealsource.com.

Formed in 1966, MiRealSource provides MLS software training and dispute resolution services and access to a host of other real estate products and services. Headquartered in Oakland County with three regional offices in Macomb, Lapeer and St. Clair counties, information is available online at www.mirealsource.com.




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PRESERVATION

FROM PAGE 10

outdoor education and pioneer living to his Haslett Middle School students.

Budget cuts ended that program and the building fell into disrepair. The school district gave the building to the Friends of Historic Meridian in 2005 who moved it to Okemos where it will be restored and used to demonstrate local history. Although the foundation does not usually support the relocation of historic structures, vandalism, because of its remote location, threatened the survival of one of

the few pieces of primitive architecture left in Michigan and an exception was made.

Evans, of Ann Arbor, was a leading advocate for innovative historic preservation. He was a founding partner of Quinn/Evans Associates. Evans died in 1998.

The Clannad Foundation was founded in 1995 by Jeanne and Ralph Graham of Bloomfield Hills to support nonprofits in the fields of social action, hunger, environmental acquisition and advocacy, cultural education, emergency housing and education.

"Clannad" is a Gaelic word for "family."

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NORTHVILLE

Proudly Presents...

Our Outstanding Achievements Announcement

Sales Volume for the Month of November Over Two Million



John Goodman

Over One Million



Jim Wolfe



Larry Koppie



Marianne Prokop



Michele Safford

Over \$500,000

Jim Arminiak

Larry Monley

Michele Saward

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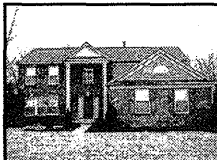
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Vacant Land

SOUTH LYON VACANT LOT On a private road with a wooded backdrop. Will require an engineered septic field. This area has golf courses and upscale homes. Survey and geological studies available. Over one acre. Privacy is perfect as is the price. **\$79,900 (P-000LA)**



ENJOY THE VIEW Immaculate 4 bd, 2.5 bath colonial on a peaceful lot. Formal living & dining, huge family room w/gas frpl, great island Kitchen w/all appl, 2.5 car Garage, C/A, sprinklers, & Deck. **\$305,000 (P-440EM)**



WHY PAY RENT? Great starter home featuring newer roof, windows, Kitchen, 2 full baths, finished bsmt, great fenced yard, & low maintenance. Great opportunity, don't wait. **\$110,000 (P-649FE)**



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY 2 bd, 1 bath home in popular Royal Oak area. 1 car Garage, Deck, huge front yard, & close to downtown. Could make great rental or starter home. **\$93,000 (P-719HA)**



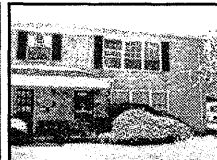
EASY LIVING 2 bd, 2 bath condo w/large Master Suite, newer windows, large balcony, updated Kitchen & baths, appliances stay, ample storage space, & carport. Assoc. dues include heat & water! **\$127,500 (P-240AN)**



GREAT STARTER HOME Bright & clean on an extra deep lot. Brick ranch w/updated Kitchen, bath, windows, roof, deck, garage, & a beautiful yard. All appliances stay! **\$121,900 (P-936GA)**



TURN KEY CONDO Lavishly updated condo complete w/all the upgrades. All appliances included, pond views from the Deck. Move right in. **\$159,000 (C-882HA)**



IT'S ALL HERE! Completely remodeled condo! New Kitchen cab's, new bath w/pedestal sink, vinyl windows, hwd floors, & awesome location close to everything. **\$75,000 (P-525TH)**



Vacant Land

BACKS TO THE WOODS On an extra deep lot w/a sunny family room, formal living room, new roof, vinyl windows, finished bsmt, updated bath, 2 car garage & a big open kitchen. 3 bds, 2 full baths. Nice. **\$188,900 (P-728AL)**



PRIME RESIDENTIAL LOTS Fabulous building sites in Washtenaw County - wooded walkouts with ravines and streams. Builders plans available or bring your own. Call today. **Starting at 160,000 (P-000VA)**



LOTS OF CURB APPEAL Gorgeous lot w/bridge, stream, & trees! Super clean 4 bd, 1.5 bath home w/open Kitchen, Family Room w/frpl, formal LR & DR, Deck, partly fin bsmt, 2 car garage, & walk to schools. **\$212,000 (P-002AR)**



ABSOLUTELY STUNNING Move right in & enjoy. 3 bd, 2 baths, remodeled Kitchen, all new mechanicals, pool, gazebo w/hot tub, & mechanics dream Garage. **\$159,900 (P-687BA)**



BETTER THAN NEW 3 bd, 1.5 bath colonial in a great neighborhood. This home features newer carpet, Pergo, remod Kitchen & baths, fireplace, finished bsmt, new windows, gutters, roof, & more. **\$224,900 (C-802BI)**



WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY Nice home feat. 3 bd, 1.5 baths, open floor plan, formal LR, oak Kitchen w/Nook, cath ceiling, Family Room, finished bsmt, updated hwh, sprinklers, & too much more to list. **\$159,900 (P-227FR)**



PARK LIKE SETTING Updated 3 bd all brick ranch w/bsmt, 2.5 car Garage, white Kitchen, peaceful yard w/Deck, Patio, & mature trees. **\$179,900 (C-888HE)**



BETTER THAN NEW Built in 2004, this home has it all! Front porch overlooks park, prof finished lower level, Master w/bath & vaulted ceiling, Living Room w/frpl, 3 bd, 2.5 baths, & appl stay. **\$195,000 (C-337LE)**



IMMACULATE You'll love this neutral home w/3 bd, 2 baths, spacious floor plan, Master w/bath, Great Room, brick paver Patio, fenced yard, & Livonia Schools. **\$189,900 (P-465LO)**



GREAT BUY! Own your own home for under 100k! Updated t/o, 2 bd, 1 bath, balcony overlooks pool, private laundry room, large Master w/WIC, newer carpet & fixtures. **\$84,900 (C-494MA)**



PREMIUM WOODED LOT 4 bd, 2.5 bath colonial in West Bloomfield on a secluded cul de sac lot. Cherry cab's, stunning Kitchen w/corrian, prof finished bsmt, crown molding, bay windows, 3 tiered Deck, & paver Patio. **\$345,900 (C-440PA)**



CHARMING HOME Updated interior, newer roof, electrical, 2 bd, 1 bath, oversized lots, 2 car Garage, super 1/3 acre, full bsmt, & much more to offer. **\$158,900 (C-461PI)**



LIVONIA CONDO Wonderful condo built in 2005. Offering 3 bd, 2.5 baths, 2 car Garage, overlooks pond w/fountain, huge Master w/2 WIC's, cath ceilings, hwd floors, & maple Kitchen. **\$191,990 (C-794FA)**



MOVE-IN CONDITION Decorated w/designer colors t/o. Hwd floors, attached Garage, open area upstairs could be library or study, Great Room wired for surround sound, & Patio area w/beautiful perennials. This will not last! **\$174,900 (C-110NE)**



PICTURE PERFECT CONDO Irreplaceable location! Gorgeous views overlooking interior treed commons area. Enhanced Charleston model w/cherry cabinets, 9 ft ceilings, Great Room w/frpl, & Garage. **\$164,000 (C-934NO)**



CURB APPEAL PLUS!! Wonderful Cape Cod w/1st floor Master, open floor plan, 1st floor laundry, Master w/whirlpool tub, beautifully landscaped private yard, 3 car heated Garage, & brick paver Patio. **\$324,900 (C-700SP)**



SPARKLING COLONIAL Beautifully updated oak Kitchen, bright living room w/pergo style floor, vaulted family room w/frpl & doorwall to patio overlooking a manicured yard. Really nice. **\$200,000 (C-371BE)**



EXQUISITE! Better than new! Decorated to the "nines". Upgraded carpet, light fixtures, gas frpl in Great Room, extraordinary WIC in Master Suite, open floor plan, 1st floor laundry, & excellent location. **\$171,900 (C-947CA)**



NEWER RANCH Large ranch featuring 4 bd, 3 baths, open floor plan, neutral décor, oak Kitchen, hwd, 2 way fireplace, prof finished bsmt, & one of Livonia's most desired subdivisions. **\$260,000 (C-546CA)**



OUTSTANDING! This 2674 sq ft quadlonial boasts a Master Suite w/bath & WIC, 2nd floor laundry, spacious Family Room w/frpl, finished bsmt, 2 car att garage, & 2 updated furnaces, A/C, windows, & siding. **\$269,900 (P-454CR)**



DON'T WAIT ON THIS ONE Newly remodeled home featuring updated bath, newer carpet, updated windows, freshly painted, appliances stay, & priced to sell! **\$86,600 (P-418ET)**



BRAND NEW CONDO Fantastic location overlooking woods & park. Top quality construction, cathedral ceilings, walkout bsmt, 3.5 baths, 2 car attached Garage, & more. Convenient Plymouth location. Hurry only 4 units left! **\$300,000 (C-955RI)**



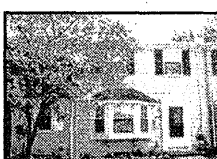
A DREAM COME TRUE! Exquisite 3 bd brick colonial w/an updated Kitchen, built in appliances, newer roof, windows, Florida Room w/8 person hot tub, & seller will help with closing costs. **\$205,000 (P-550GR)**



MOVE RIGHT IN 4 bd, 2.5 bath colonial built in 2002. Family Room w/frpl, wood floors t/o, walkout bsmt, & view of a pond. **\$339,900 (C-466GR)**



BRAND NEW CONDO Fantastic location overlooking woods & park. Top quality construction, cathedral ceilings, walkout bsmt, 3.5 baths, 2 car attached Garage, & more. Convenient Plymouth location. Only 4 units left! **\$289,900 (P-945RI)**



NORTHVILLE-ON THE LAKE! Live on Crystal Lake in this pristine condo that is beautifully updated & maintained. 2 bd, 1.5 baths, area pool, tennis, & clubhouse, & Northville Schools. **\$143,900 (C-830IR)**



MOVE IN & ENJOY Enjoy the comfort of this gorgeous condo featuring a finished lower level w/wetbar, Great Room w/frpl, updated windows, bathrooms, carpet, Deck, hwh, & beautiful wooded setting. **\$179,900 (P-057NO)**



TOP SHELF! This ultimate condo is waiting for you! Brand new vinyl windows, prof decorated, finished bsmt, vaulted ceilings, impressive Master Suite, & great location. **\$189,900 (C-409PL)**



GROUND FLOOR CONDO Ultra clean condo featuring 2 bd, 2 baths, oak Kitchen, huge Master w/WIC & bath, vinyl windows, covered Deck, & carport. Also for lease. **\$109,500 (C-879PU)**



ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS Great interior lot! Bright open floor plan, hwd floors, island Kitchen, Family Room w/frpl, skylights, soaring ceilings, formal LR & DR, Master w/bath & WIC, & finished lower level w/bath, sauna, & workshop. **\$325,000 (P-664RA)**



SPACIOUS END UNIT Livonia condo featuring soaring ceilings, Great Room w/frpl, Kitchen w/new Corian, 1st floor laundry, 1st floor Master w/bath, full bsmt, neutral décor, new carpet, & close to everything. **\$215,000 (C-323EA)**



GREAT RANCH Sharp 2 bd ranch sitting on a large lot in a great sub. Updated Kitchen, huge Great Room, nice sized bedrooms, 2.5 car Garage, freshly painted t/o, & more. **\$93,900 (P-745BE)**

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