

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

# Observer

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## Need grows in midst of affluence

BY BRAD KADRICH  
STAFF WRITER

Many neighborhoods in western Wayne County have a reputation for being affluent, well-off communities where things like hopelessness, homelessness and need are abstract concepts, ills that afflict "other" places.

Bill Moritz knows better. Moritz, social services director for the Plymouth Salvation Army, which serves Plymouth, Canton, Northville and Belleville, knows the commu-

nity has its share of needy people, because he's one of the ones on the front-lines trying to help them.

"When you look around, (the need) surprises you a little," Moritz said. "A lot of the people that need help had a spouse making a good income last year who got laid off, and now they're working just to pay their mortgage."

Moritz points to an easy target - the economy - as the cause for the increase in need. The Plymouth-Canton area is replete with auto-related com-

panies, many of whom have had to cut the number of workers.

It's a recipe for need, according to Moritz.

### LAYOFFS COMMON

"Layoffs have been terrible," he said. "Half of these are auto-related. The auto industry struggles, and it trickles down."

The need has shown up largely in the Plymouth Salvation Army's Adopt A Family and toy shop programs. More than 180 families were adopted, compared to 128 last year.

A year ago, 80 families took advantage of the Toy Shop program, which allows those in need to come in and pick out toys for their children for Christmas. This year, that number more than doubled to some 170.

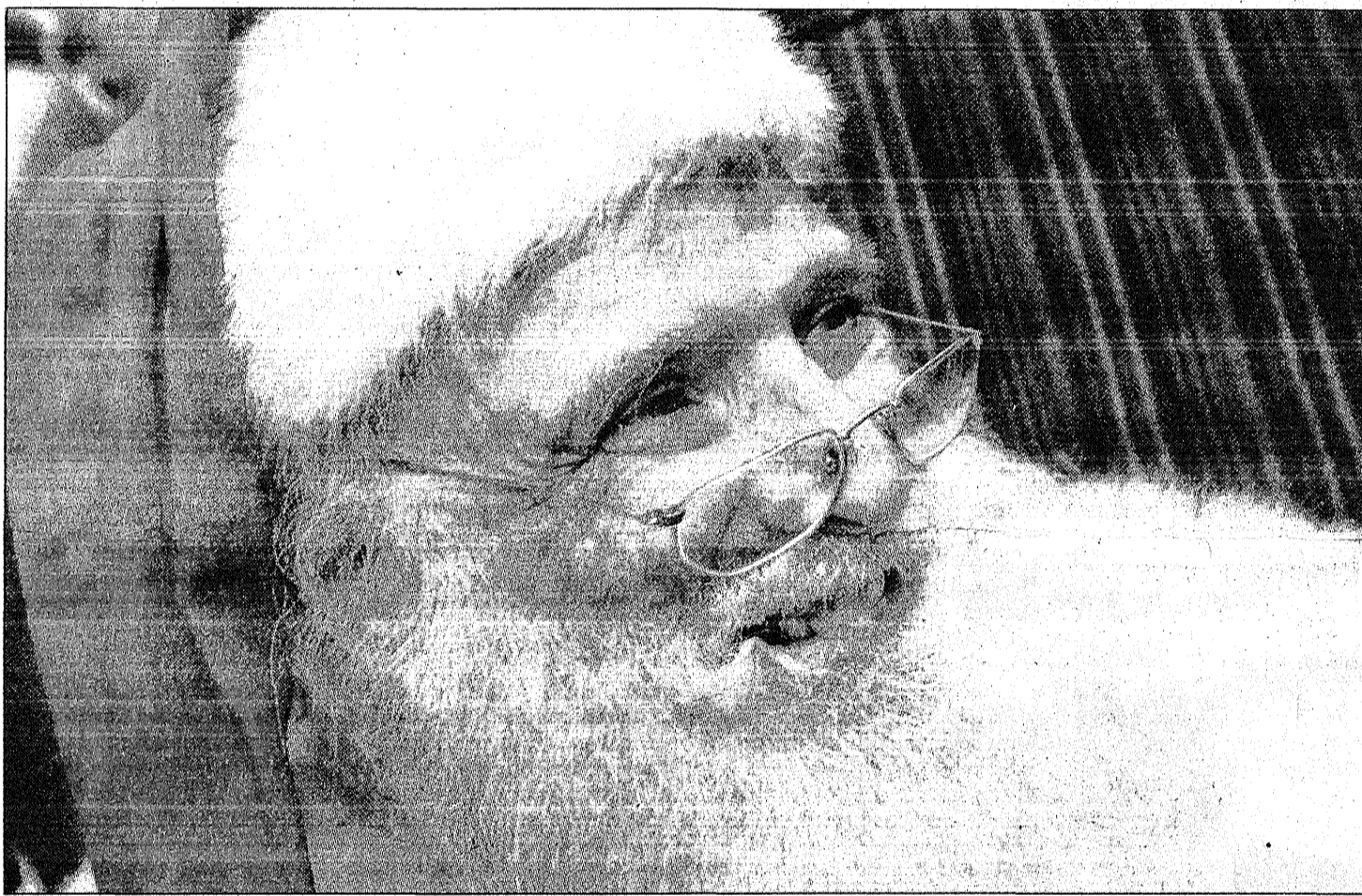
While it bothers parents to have to get help providing for their children, the Salvation Army programs are there for that express purpose.

"They hate it; I can see it on their faces," Moritz said of par-

PLEASE SEE IN NEED, A8



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Morgan Bartos and Lisa Hursin decide it's time to price the items in their cart. The kids were part of a group buying toys to donate to the Plymouth Salvation Army.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

There's no mistaking who it is when you see the fur-trimmed red hat and suit. It's Santa Claus, pure and simple.

## Santa Claus tells all

Jolly old elf shares secrets of his trade

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

Let's face it. He is the most sought after person in the world. An icon who has been immortalized in prose and poetry, splashed across the silver screen and had way too many songs written about him.

He doesn't mind the paparazzi who take photographs of him wherever he goes. He takes no offense to having a poet refer to his physique as a bowl full of jelly or call him a Jolly Old Elf.

He gives actor Tim Allen two thumbs up for his portrayal of him, but rejects Billy Bob Thornton's work as "outrageous."

That may be the harshest word heard from the man who captures the hearts of young and old alike a Christmas time. There's no room for naughty in Santa Claus's vocabulary.

That's good news for those kids who are wondering if they'll find a lump of coal under the tree on Christmas morning.

"Actually, there's no naughty kids, all children are good as far as I'm concerned," said Santa. "They all receive presents."

Happily ensconced in a sleigh at Westland Shopping Center last week, Santa took time to talk about his busy



PLEASE SEE SANTA, A8 Jack Kujawski, 4, of Canton has a request - and a smile - for Santa.

## A not so merry Christmas

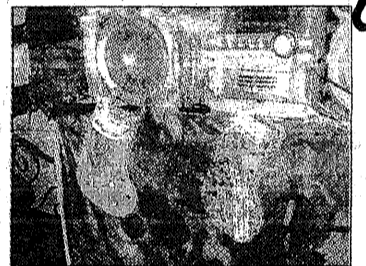
Military families have a difficult time finding joy

BY KURT KUBAN  
STAFF WRITER

Although Kay Caccamo will visit with family members this Christmas weekend, she won't be exchanging any gifts. She is putting that off a few months, postponing it until her husband, a U.S. Marine, returns home from his current tour fighting in Iraq.

She is married to Todd Caccamo, the Canton Township trustee who re-enlisted in the Marines earlier this year to help America's cause in Iraq. It will be the couple's first Christmas away from each other after four years of marriage. Once he returns home, she says she is going to throw him a delayed Christmas party. In fact, a party for all the holidays he missed.

"He will get some Halloween candy, some turkey for Thanksgiving and some presents for Christmas," said Caccamo, who is also going to deliver the couple's first child,



U.S. Marine Todd Caccamo of Canton says the troops in Iraq do what they can to conjure up the Christmas spirit. He has hung up some stockings in his barracks.

a boy she is scheduled to deliver at the end of February - about two months before her husband is due home.

Caccamo says this Christmas just hasn't been the same knowing her husband is risking his life for a cause he believes in. She has tried to keep herself busy, so she doesn't have to think about Christmas too much. But she admits there have been times she has been reminded.

PLEASE SEE MILITARY, A7

## Garden City police unravel national identity theft case

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
STAFF WRITER

About 80 identity theft victims and evidence of more than \$400,000 in fraudulent charges have been uncovered as the results of search warrants recently executed at two homes in Detroit by the Garden City police.

With victims being identified from across the country,

Garden City police have turned the case over to the Secret Service and U.S. Postal Service inspectors.

"Once we became aware of the depth and breadth of the investigation with victims all across the United States, we asked for assistance from the Secret Service," said Deputy Chief Robert Muery. "They

PLEASE SEE IDENTITY, A8

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# 18-year-old man slashed on arm as trio robs him

An 18-year-old Westland man told police he was slashed with a knife or box cutter after three men approached him and robbed him at 7:45 p.m. Wednesday in Westland.

The victim, who was treated at a hospital for a wound to his right forearm, told police the incident happened on Hazelwood near Linville.

According to police reports, the man was riding his bicycle when he noticed three men near a parked van, and one of them approached him on foot.

The suspect pushed the teenager off his bicycle, pulled a knife or box cutter and placed it to the victim's neck while two other men went through his pants pockets and took \$20, police said.

The victim told police he was slashed on the arm and robbed of his bicycle during the incident, and he ran from the scene. A passerby in a car gave him a ride to Oakwood Hospital-Annapolis in Wayne, where he was treated for his injury.

One suspect was described as a white male, 22-25 years old, 5-foot-10 to 6 feet tall, 200-225 pounds with a goatee and sideburns. He wore a black jacket and a black knit cap.

A second suspect was described as a white male, 18-20, 5-foot-8 to 5-foot-10, 150-170 pounds. He wore a black

## CRIME WATCH

jacket with a hood.

A third suspect was described merely as a white male 20-23 years old.

### Knife-point theft

A man who walked from the Westland Meijer store with a \$700 television threatened store personnel with a knife after they followed him out and tried to apprehend him, according to police reports.

The incident happened just before 10 p.m. Wednesday outside the Meijer store at Warren and Newburgh.

A loss prevention employee told police she followed the man from the store after she saw him leave with the television. She and another employee confronted the suspect, who warned them that he had a knife, police said.

The employees backed away and the man fled, but police responded quickly and caught the man nearby. He was arrested after the workers identified the 47-year-old Detroit man as the suspect.

### Vandals hit Churchill

Vandals got onto the roof and smashed out windows at Churchill High School over the weekend of Dec. 15-18, according to Livonia police reports.

Police found three sets of footprints on the moist surface of the roof. Some type of blunt force such as a kick broke out an upper window on the east side of the cafeteria. On the ground level, a large pane of glass was smashed near the southeast doors of the school, nearest the pool.

Total damage was estimated at \$800.

### Jewelry, coins swiped

A homeowner on Wadsworth Street reported having \$5,000 worth of jewelry and \$150 in coins stolen during a home break-in Wednesday.

The intruder pulled out a window screen and pushed up on a latched double-hung vinyl window until the latch broke. From there, the thief reached inside to unlock the door.

Stolen was a wooden jewelry box with rings, necklaces and charms. The plastic jar of coins had recently been counted, the homeowner told police.

The homeowner said a neighbor saw a man with a Pontiac Grand Am in the driveway about 2 p.m.

### Pop can swindle

Meijer security staff apprehended a man who was dumping out for-sale pop cans and putting the empty ones into the returnable machine Wednesday evening at the store on

Middlebelt in Livonia.

When he was caught, the Detroit man, 44, was found to have \$45 worth of store items - wine, candy, water and corn - concealed in his clothes. Police arrested the man.

### Indecent exposure

A 31-year-old Westland woman was arrested on an indecent exposure charge in Redford Township Monday after a Redford woman accused her of soliciting sex and flashing her breasts.

An officer responding to the area of Seven Mile and Woodworth Street about 6 p.m. found the suspect on Woodworth, a police report said. When he exited his car, the report said, the woman immediately said she was not a prostitute, but had had a fight with her boyfriend, who had put her out of their car.

But the complainant showed up and told the officer she had been driving when the woman pedestrian turned toward her and lifted her sweater. When she stopped to tell the flasher she was disgusted with the behavior, the flasher ran toward her car and asked if she wanted sex, then said, "Oh, you're a woman," the complainant said.

The complainant's 12-year-old son was in her car, the police report said. Police found the suspect was

wanted on three outstanding warrants.

### Burglary

A 26-year-old woman was startled by a burglary as she readied herself for work at her house on Worman Street in Redford Monday morning, she told police.

The victim was not hurt. Cash and a laptop computer were reported stolen.

She told police she was in the bathroom about 6:30 a.m. when she heard someone in the kitchen. She walked to the kitchen to see a male running out of through a rear doorwall, she said.

The cash and laptop had been left on the kitchen table, the victim said. She said she had left the doorwall slightly open.

### Drunken driving

Farmington Hills police arrested a 37-year-old Southfield man for drunken driving at about 12:45 a.m., Dec. 18 in the area of 12 Mile and Middlebelt. Police observed the man drive through a gas station parking lot at a high rate of speed and accelerate onto 12 Mile. The man was pulled over near the Madison Apartments and told police he was returning from a company holiday party. He refused to take a preliminary breath test.

## Police probe shooting death

The shooting death of Detroit man on Wednesday left police investigating the second Redford homicide within a month.

Officers were called to the Coach & Lantern Motel shortly before 2 p.m. Wednesday on a report of a man down, police said. The 46-year-old, who had been shot, was taken to Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills, where he died from his injuries a short time later, according to a police press release.

Capt. Craig Brueck, the department's chief of detectives, said details on the incident were being withheld, but that more information would be released later. The Coach & Lantern is on Grand River near Seven Mile.

Redford's last homicide occurred in November. Ricky Arquette, 32, of Garden City, died Nov. 28 as a result of injuries suffered during a beating in Redford eight days earlier. Five men have been charged in his death, four of them with first-degree murder.

- By Matt Jachman

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## Former student arrested at ITT after barricading himself in car

Canton police officers made the decision to forcibly remove a barricaded man they say was suicidal Wednesday evening at the ITT Institute located at Haggerty and Palmer roads in Canton.

Officers were dispatched to the location around 6:30 p.m. after receiving a call that a former student of the institute had driven his vehicle onto the steps leading into the Institute.

According to Canton Detective Rick Pomorski, when officers arrived and approached the man, who is an Ann Arbor resident, he displayed a knife and began to threaten harm to the officers. A perimeter was set up around the vehicle and telephone contact with the subject was established.

"When officers approached him, he pulled out the knife, took an unknown number of pills from a bottle, and pulled a blanket over his head, and then just sat in his car," Pomorski said.

The police department's tactical unit was called to the scene while efforts to have the subject exit his vehicle continued. Pomorski said the decision was made to remove the man from the car for his own safety.

At 8:54 p.m. the tactical unit, using diversionary tactics, entered the vehicle and took the subject into custody without further incident. The subject was transported to psychi-

atric evaluation center in Wayne, where Pomorski said he would be held for at least 72 hours.

As of Thursday, Pomorski said he was unsure if any criminal charges would be sought against the man.

Pomorski said the man had been a student at the ITT Institute and had applied for a job at the institute, which he didn't get. Canton Police took a complaint from the Institute director on Dec. 19 regarding telephone harassment from the subject. Officers at that time spoke with the subject by telephone at his residence in Ann Arbor and he agreed to stop calling the institute.

### Pistons tickets

Looking for a family-pleasing Christmas gift?

The Garden City High School Sports Boosters have the answer - tickets to see the Detroit Pistons take on the Boston Celtics at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

This is the third year that Judy Nichols and Sue Pichla have presented the Game Day fund-raiser. In the past, it benefited the sports and intramural programs at Garden City Middle School, but this year proceeds will go for high school athletics.

The last two years have been sellouts. This year, however, sales have been slow and with just two weeks left before the

Christmas break, Nichols is concerned. She still has 100 tickets available.

Regularly \$40, they're on sale for \$37. That includes the game as well as a free Pistons fleece blanket with every ticket purchased.

And there will be plenty of Kodak moments when ticket holders get to spend an hour on the Pistons' parquet, shooting hoops, after the game. Stand at the same free throw line as Rip Hamilton and try sinking a three-pointer like Mr. Big Shot, Chauncey Billups.

Sound like a good present? Then don't delay. Call Nichols at (734) 513-6760 or Pichla at (734) 421-2934 to order tickets.

### Blood drive

Contours Express is stepping in to help the American Red Cross by holding a blood drive 2-7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9, at its gym at 31509 Cherry Hill at Merriman, Westland.

The fitness gym is hoping to get a "generous showing" of people willing to roll up their sleeves and donate to the Red Cross.

This is the second time it has hosted a blood drive in connection with a holiday. One held in July, "exceeded The Red Cross' expectations for much needed blood," according to Mary Ellis, Contours owner/trainer.

Anyone who wants to schedule an appointment to donate blood is urged to call (734) 326-SLIM (7546).

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Christmas enthusiast Tina Sabbadin of Livonia calls her Durango a 'Dureindeer.'



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## New trend? Decorating vehicles for Christmas

BY REBECCA JONES  
STAFF WRITER

It's not just for Santa's sleigh anymore. Rudolph's red nose helps guide Tina Sabbadin's Dodge Durango around town too.

Antlers attach to the windows where a flag might go, and a poofy red ball, the nose, is wired to the grill. This time of year, Sabbadin calls her vehicle a Dureindeer.

The costume kit is new, but Sabbadin's Christmas spirit goes back a long way.

"My mom and grandma taught me to decorate. I guess I carry that to my vehicle too," Sabbadin said, surrounded by dozens of Santa Bears in her Livonia home.

A Christmas penguin dances atop the antenna of her Mercury Mountaineer.

"I've gotten a lot of looks" from fellow drivers, Sabbadin said. "This guy started cracking up. That made my day. I love Christmas."

Although still relatively new, Christmas car decorations could become the new trend, according to an expert in consumer behavior.

University of Detroit-Mercy professor Michael Bernacchi has also seen automobiles decorated with menorahs and others with Christmas lights.

"It brings kind of a smile to my face," he said.

"I think it has some chance of being a real viable trend," Bernacchi added. "Our vehicle is the most visible accouterment we have besides our being. ... It would seem to me

as time goes on that this will increase, the whole idea of expressing yourself through your vehicle."

Some drivers weave ever-green roping around vehicle luggage racks or string twinkling lights outside the vehicle, connected to a battery pack or the cigarette lighter.

The reindeer costume kit that Sabbadin bought was sold in stores for the first time this year.

"It's a novelty thing. It's something different," said Andy Marcus, one of the owners of Mystic Industries. The Wakefield, Mass., company also makes car costumes for Halloween and Easter.

"Either you love it or you hate it," Marcus said. "If you're into Christmas, that's great."

Marcus does not decorate his vehicle.

Shayna Fields-Clark, a junior at Detroit's Renaissance High School, made her own reindeer car costume, using magnets to attach antlers to her 2006 Malibu. She bought a red cushion at a crafts store for the nose.

Her mother drove the Malibu to Livonia Mall to do some Christmas shopping.

"This is my first car, and I decided to decorate it because it's Christmas," the 16-year-old said. "People are always trying to stop me. People are beeping their horns and waving, especially the little kids."

Fields-Clark was inspired by a friend who used lights to decorate his van. "I think I want to compete with him. He has a Christmas tree, with a stand, that keeps falling."

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
STAFF WRITER

There weren't any elves in sight, but Santa Claus had plenty of helpers last week at the annual Toy Shop sponsored by the Salvation Army Dearborn Heights Citadel.

Volunteers, mainly members of the citadel's congregation, were putting up displays of toys that would be available to financially strapped parents as Christmas gifts for their children. Over two days, the Toy Shop was expected to serve 600 families.

"It's pretty busy but it's fun. It's really a wonderful Christian community effort," Capt. Christine Merritt said. "We get a great response from everyone."

Set up in the church gym, the Toy Shop displays the toys by age and gender. Parents are escorted by volunteers - a large number of Ford Motor Co. workers were scheduled to help each day - as they select one toy for each child up to 14 years old, along with a stocking stuffer. Winter coats also are provided when available.

The toys are donated through a variety of Dearborn Heights businesses, Toys for Tots, individuals and other sources or purchased using cash contributions. Applications are submitted in October, including proof of income and residency - participants must live in the area served by the Dearborn Heights citadel which includes Dearborn Heights, Dearborn, Garden City, Livonia and Redford.

"We have about the same number of requests as the prior year but the circumstances are different," said

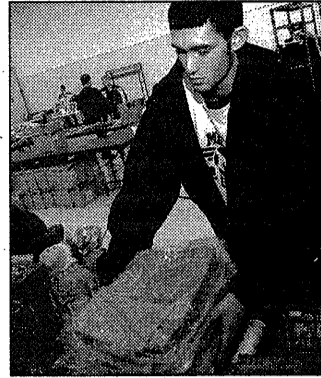
# Santa's helpers

## Salvation Army volunteers help provide toys for needy children



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Volunteer Don Hanton of Farmington wheels in a load of toy into the Dearborn Heights Salvation Army for their toy shop distribution.



Josh Hanink of Garden City helps out with setting up the toy shop.



Ruth Jolly of Livonia unpacks toys for the toy shop at the Dearborn Heights Salvation Army.

Merritt. "Both parents are unemployed, laid off or not being called back to work. It's not just single parent families."

Congregation and band member Pat Prouty of Taylor was lending a hand at the Toy Shop for about the fifth year.

"It's one thing I can do during the week. They don't always have a lot of help during the week. I'm nearly retired," said Prouty, who

works on-call as a music department librarian at Schoolcraft College. "We've got it pretty well down to a system that works."

Until she helped out with office work at the Salvation Army, Prouty said she had no idea how difficult a financial situation there is for some people.

"So many people would come in at the ends of their rope - if there was a choice between paying the utility

and buying the kids a toy (for Christmas)," she said. "I can't tell you how many people can't thank us enough. Christmas is really about the kids, so I feel this is worthwhile."

Prouty and her late husband came to the Salvationist Church through fellow volunteers Holly and Chuck McDougall of Garden City, also church and band members.

"I went to the Plymouth Corps with a friend - I think I was in first grade and went to Sunday school there," said Holly McDougall, whose father and four daughters are also active in the church. "I liked the people. There are so many activities and the Christian fellowship is just wonderful."

Agreeing, Prouty said the Salvationists try to get back to the original concept of Christian giving and charity.

"We try not to turn anyone away. A lot of people need a little boost - usually it's short term," said Prouty. "Jesus said to love your neighbor as you love yourself. We're just doing what Jesus said."

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# Words of wisdom: Graduating students need focused job search

BY JULIE BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

Some college seniors and graduate students are graduating this month, others in the spring. Those who work in university career services urge them to hit the ground running when it comes to a job search. In fact, that search should ideally begin before *Pomp and Circumstance* sounds and students receive their diplomas.

Chris Brant, career services director at Madonna

University in Livonia, urges job-seekers to maintain a positive attitude. It can be discouraging to look for work in a tough economy, she acknowledges, but you don't want to express your frustration in job interviews.

"They pick up on that real quickly and I think that hurts a lot of people," Brant said. "They hear all this bad news on the news, that the job market's bad. It really hurts them when they go to interview" if that shows.

Don't bad-mouth a former

employer, Brant said.

"It's hard for them to get past that. It's understandable, but it's not going to help you." Attitude has always mattered in job hunting, she said, but with so many looking it's even more important now.

Some people are job hunting who thought they wouldn't need to, she noted. For graduating students, there's a lot of competition and it's time to get your resume together "and start thinking about where you want to apply."

Bob Thomas, director of career services at Oakland University in Rochester Hills, says it's good for students to start looking for work now. "I tell them to plan a year ahead of time," he said. Thomas recommends that students use their career service department for such things as career fairs and on-campus recruiting.

Often, graduates will need to start at entry level, Brant said, but not stay there forever. "It's a steppingstone for them." Brant urges students and recent grads to go online to company Web sites to see what positions are posted and how they'd fit those positions.

Thomas said students and recent grads may need to diversify their employment objective in terms of type of employer and location. "And of course that is especially true of those who are having difficulty," such as teachers, who may need to move out of state to work.

It's vital to know who's hiring and what qualities they seek, Brant added. Some job-seekers approach the task "without them really thinking about what kind of job they would like and what they would be good at."

In addition to company Web sites with job listings, there are a number of good job posting Web sites and those offering advice on careers, Brant said. She said checking those for resume advice is good, as is having other people look at your resume. You can sort

through what they say to see what works for you.

Brant urges job-seekers of all ages to tell everyone they know they're looking. Those personal contacts are often the key to finding work. "People have a lot more contacts than they think," she said. "Networking is just making connections with other people."

Thomas agreed: "Networking is an important part of the process. Many of the jobs are filled through the networking process."

He encourages students to do an internship or co-op work which will make them more employable. "Based on their experience, they can do a much better interview," Thomas said.

The Michigan economy's not the strongest right now. "I do see people get hired," she said. "It really depends on what their field is." Nursing graduates do well, while those with business degrees find it tougher and may need to relocate. Education grads often start as substitute teachers and can become full time as they become known to school districts.

Thomas said 90 percent of OU graduates are working, mostly in their field, six months after graduation. The percentage varies by field. "The vast majority will be in their field at some level," he said.

Thomas noted that job applicants need a good portfolio of work with cover letters and resumes for each position. Liberal arts grads need to be able to define and discuss their background and skills, he added.

Troubles in the auto industry are a big factor in the local economy, especially for those in engineering, he said. Computer science is a little more flexible, as those staffers are needed in all industries.

Brant agreed it's fine to take a job at a store or restaurant if you need to support yourself, noting that shows a good work ethic. "You had some responsibilities and you took care of those."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ed Wright, Plymouth-Canton Observer sports editor, receives the Journalist of the Year award from General Manager Peter Neill.

## Sports editor Wright named Journalist of Year

Ed Wright was surprised to be chosen as Journalist of the Year for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*.

"It's such a nice honor, especially because there are so many outstanding journalists at the company," said Wright, sports editor for the *Plymouth and Canton Observers*. Wright was nominated for the annual award by Brad Kadrich, Plymouth community editor, and Kurt Kuban, Canton community editor.

"I feel fortunate to be able to make a living at a job I love, covering sports," Wright added.

Wright, 44, of Canton is a graduate of Central Michigan University where he earned a bachelor's degree in journalism. He joined the *O&E* in 2004 after freelancing for the newspapers.

Wright is married to Laura and they have three sons: Erik, 16, Brandon, 13, and Ben, 5.

"Ed is very much deserving of this award," said Kuban.

"There is no question that he has improved the Plymouth-Canton sports section, and made it more enjoyable for our readers. Ed is the kind of journalist that likes to dig deeper than the headlines, in an effort to tell the whole story. His feature stories about local athletes are a real joy to read, and are proof of his commitment to the local sports community. We are very lucky to have him."

Other *O&E* nominees for Journalist of the Year this year were Marty Budner, Mary Klemic and Ken Abramczyk. Wright was lauded during a Dec. 14 breakfast at the Townsend Hotel at which Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano spoke.

"It's definitely a team effort," Wright said of publishing the newspapers. "Although I got the award, there are a lot of people deserving of it."

- By Julie Brown

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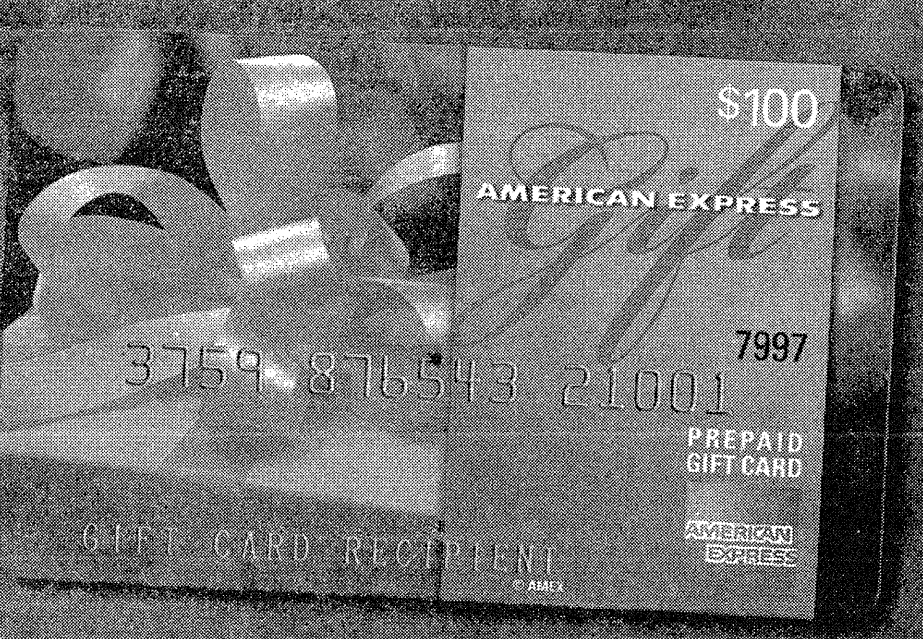
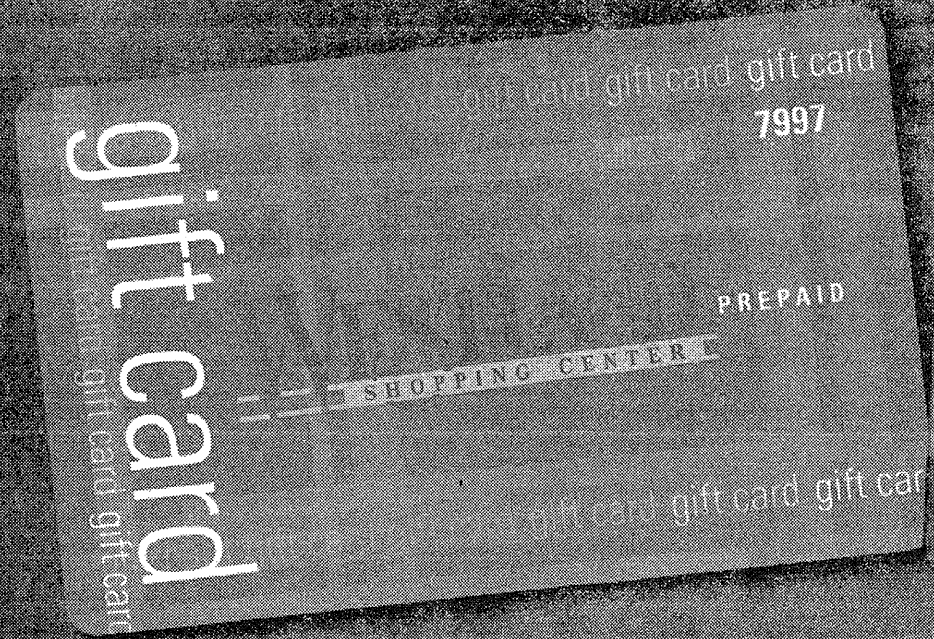
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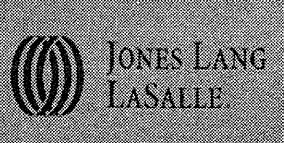
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# Fire victims will get to spend Christmas together after all

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS  
STAFF WRITER

A Canton couple may get to spend Christmas in a place of their own after all.

Matthew Trevarthen, 22, and his girlfriend, Deanna Manasco, 19, are residents of Canton Crossing apartments. Their unit was inside the building that caught fire last week.

The two, who said they were initially frustrated with how their landlord handled the situation, were recently offered a

different apartment in the complex.

"I'm happy we're getting a new place but I wish it would've been handled sooner," Trevarthen said. "I don't know if they were prepared for something like this."

After the fire, Trevarthen began staying at his parents' Canton home, while Manasco, along with their 8-month-old beagle, Chase, went to her parents' Northville residence.

"I just wanted us to be together for Christmas," Manasco said.

The two had recently bought a Christmas tree and decorated it with blue ornaments. Their ground-level unit, which has a bedroom and a den, wasn't affected by the flames but does have water and smoke damage.

The fire is believed to have started on a second-floor balcony. It caused \$1 million in damage.

Canton Fire Chief Michael Rorabacher said the blaze appeared to be an accident.

Trevarthen and Manasco had lived in their apartment since

August.

"They should've put us in a hotel," Trevarthen said, adding that the complex's first accommodation offer was unacceptable. "They said they could put us in a two-bedroom but would charge us more because it was a bigger unit. Deanna's a full-time student — we can't afford any more rent."

Representatives from the Dolben Co., a Massachusetts-based group that manages Canton Crossing, couldn't be reached for comment.

The complex, located off of Joy Road near I-275, has now offered the couple a two-bedroom apartment at their previous rent rate.

"I'm disturbed at how this has happened but I feel bad for the people who lost everything," Manasco said.

The two, who are hoping to salvage their futon mattresses, didn't have renter's insurance.

"It's crazy because we were just talking about it the week before (the fire)," Trevarthen said.

Apartment management hasn't decided whether to reimburse the couple a portion of December's rent.

"We want our money back," Trevarthen said. "Everyone thinks they are handling it marvelously, but the tenants that live in the building are having a horrible holiday season. None of the employees seem to know anything about what is being done so I think the problem goes higher up in the company."

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# Thousands sought to join hands along Woodward

BY GREG KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Imagine a line of people stretching hand-in-hand from the Detroit River to Pontiac.

That sight is planned to become reality on Sunday, Sept. 2, 2007, as the Hands Along Woodward event is held as part of the 200th birthday celebration for Woodward Avenue.

That day will open with a "Blessing of the Byway," with churches along the 27-mile route taking part in a joint blessing ceremony, just before an estimated 90,000 people hold hands to symbolically link all the communities along Woodward.

"The Hands Along Woodward is our signature event," said Heather Carmona,

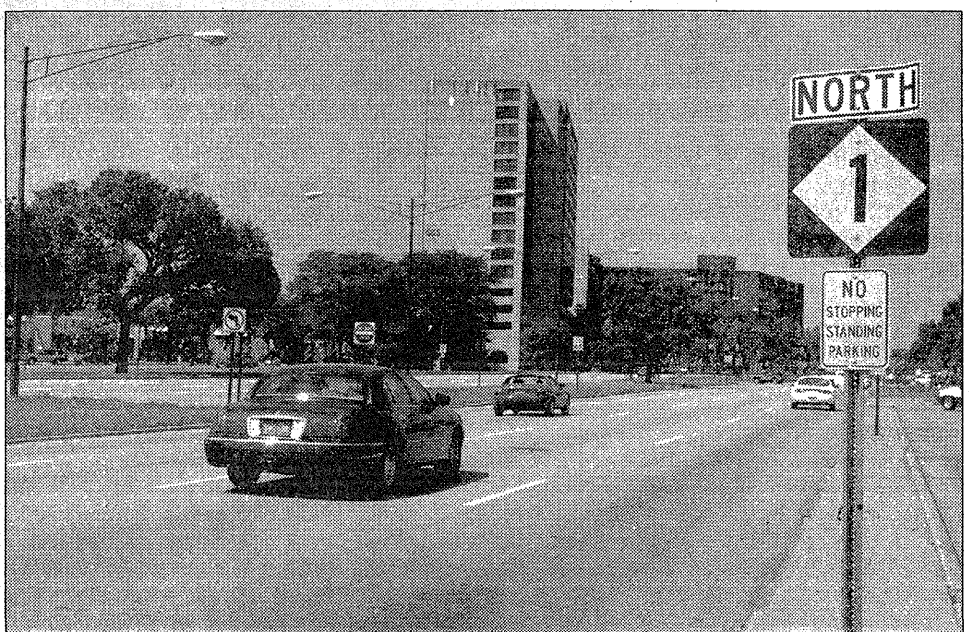
executive director of the Association, familiarly known as WA3.

WA3 is spearheading the big birthday bash being planned for Woodward.

Carmona led a discussion of about 30 community representatives Monday morning at the Huntington Woods recreation center. The meeting was held to plan events for the 200th birthday. Activities will be focused on the week of Aug. 27, using the Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise on Aug. 18 as a lead-in for the official celebration. An announcement of events is planned for mid-July, around the 200th day of the year.

Activities planned include creating a Business Birthday Kit, with a poster and anniversary logo among other items. Also planned is a "Traveling Birthday Party" featuring a character representing Augustus Woodward, the man who created Woodward Avenue.

"Woodward is a very historic street," said Ron Gillham, mayor of Huntington Woods. He said it should be promoted and recognized for its signifi-



Woodward in Birmingham facing north.

JERRY ZOLYNSKY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

cance.

Also being considered is a traveling exhibit that could be presented at various events throughout the year, ranging from the Winter Blast in downtown Detroit to the Dream Cruise, north of Eight Mile Road to Arts Beats and Eats in Pontiac.

"Every single community

should feel they have a role in this," Carmona said.

Organizing events will be a challenge as it is already December, and some events like the Hands Along Woodward will require great coordination. An estimated 150,000 people will be sought to participate, with an expected 90,000 to take part.

"It's a very good thing to recognize that anniversary," said John Heiney, executive director of the Birmingham Principal Shopping District. "Birmingham should participate."

Heiney said he will work with local businesses to see how they can become involved in the activities.

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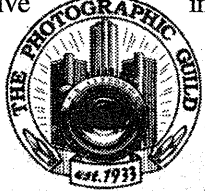
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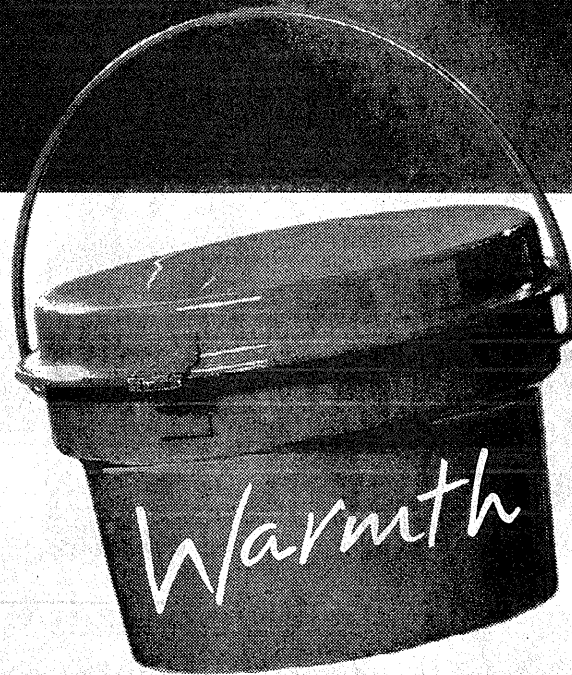
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MILITARY

FROM PAGE A1

"When I see couples shopping together, it is hard. It gets a little overwhelming," she said.

Kay Caccamo, like other people in the metro area with family members deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan, is learning the holidays aren't quite the same with a loved one far away in a war zone.

Pat and Penny Monti are in a slightly different situation, though no less trying. In their case it isn't a spouse fighting in the war, it is a son. Earlier this year, Justin Monti, 24, was called up for active duty with the Marines, just one semester before graduating from Cleary University. His battalion left for Iraq in late September. It will be the first time he won't be home for Christmas.

Making matters worse, according to Pat Monti, a commander with the Farmington Hills police, his son is currently in Fallujah, where the Marines have been taking some casualties. But he is consoled by the fact that when he has spoken to his son, his spirits are high. Plus, he says the soldiers have been receiving plenty of packages from back home, a reminder that they are not forgotten.

The Montis planned to have a Christmas gathering, just like they do every year. Their other two children will be there, as will extended family. They plan to make a big banner that reads "Merry Christmas, Justin" and send it to him. Still, it won't be the same, according to Penny Monti.

"There is a spot missing. This is a sad Christmas," she said.

Dan Shoemaker of Redford knows just how the Montis feel. His son, Scott Shoemaker, was part of the initial invasion of Iraq with the Army's 101st Airborne, which caused him to miss a couple Christmases back home. Fortunately, his son is now out of the service, but Shoemaker says those were the worst holidays.

"In our case, we just didn't

think about Christmas or the holidays. In some ways, they were sort of intrusive," said Shoemaker, a faculty member at the University of Detroit Mercy. "You sort of say to yourself this holiday really isn't a holiday, and put it off until the next year."

Spending the holidays away from family is no more fun for the soldiers deployed overseas, according to Todd Caccamo. He says he and his fellow soldiers have tried to conjure up some Christmas spirit, despite where they are. They have put up a few decorations in their

barracks, and they play Christmas carols when they can.

Lance Cpl. Mark Varney, a Canton resident who is in Caccamo's unit, says he plans to watch the movie, *A Christmas Story*, which is a Christmas Day tradition for him. He will also be getting an unusual gift.

"Where I used to get clothes for Christmas presents, this year I'll be getting a new flak jacket. I am sure my mother never thought of buying me that before," Varney wrote in an e-mail.

Despite the fact he won't be with his family during holidays, Varney feels proud that what he is doing - the sacrifice he is paying - helps ensure that families all over America will be able to come together and celebrate Christmas.

"I know this sounds kind of corny, but I can take solace in the fact that we are fighting so that little kids back home can wake up on Christmas morning with smiles on their faces to see what Santa brought them," he wrote in the e-mail.

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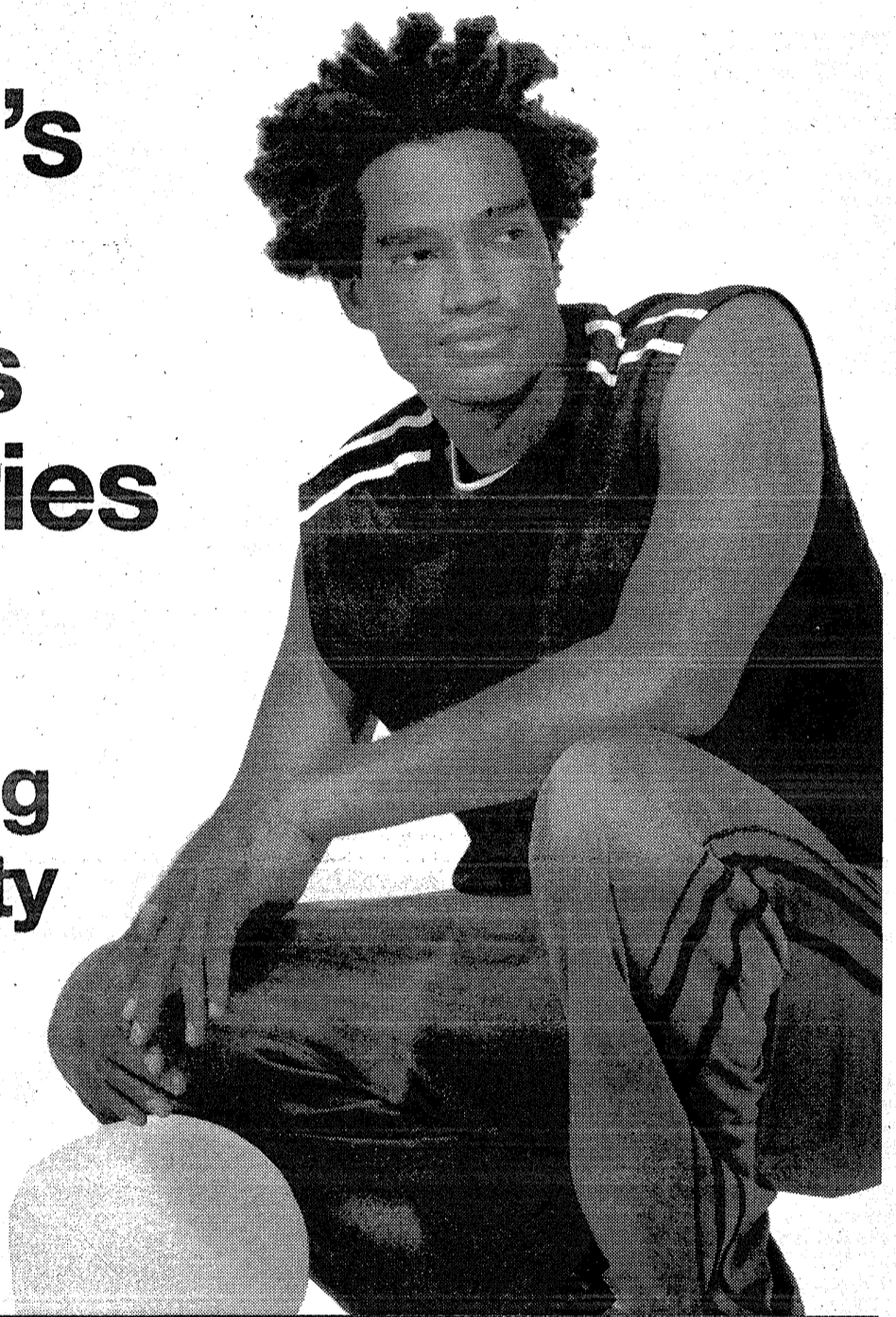
BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Kay Caccamo of Canton, who is seven months pregnant, isn't really in the Christmas spirit this year. Her husband is currently in Iraq with the Marines.

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- WE ARE MARSHALL (PG)**  
FRI/SAT 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00  
SUN 11:00, 1:45, 4:30  
MON 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
- NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG)**  
FRI/SAT 11:10, 1:35, 4:00, 7:05, 9:25  
FRI/SAT LS 11:45 SUN 11:10, 1:35, 4:00  
MON 4:00, 7:05, 9:25
- ROCKY BALBOA (PG)**  
FRI/SAT 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45  
FRI/SAT LS 12:00 SUN 12:45, 3:00, 5:15  
MON 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
- ERABON (PG)**  
FRI/SAT 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:30  
FRI/SAT LS 11:40 SUN 12:40, 2:50, 5:00  
MON 5:00, 7:10, 9:30
- CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G)**  
FRI/SAT 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:45  
FRI/SAT LS 11:50  
SUN 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30  
MON 5:30, 7:40, 9:45
- THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13)**  
FRI/SAT 11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20  
FRI/SAT LS 11:50 SUN 11:20, 1:50, 4:20  
MON 4:20, 6:50, 9:20
- APCALYPTO (R) FRI/SAT/MON 9:05**
- UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (PG)**  
FRI-SUN 11:30 AM  
HAPPY FEET (PG)  
FRI/SAT 2:00, 4:20, 6:40 SUN 2:00, 4:20  
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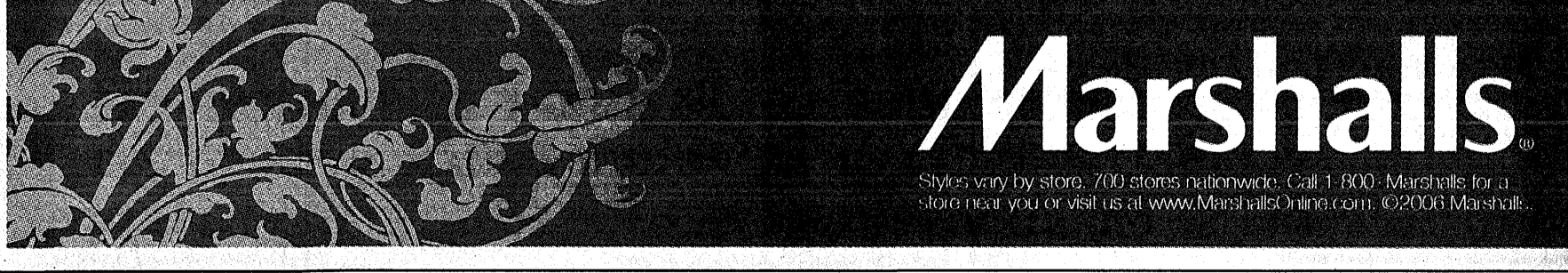
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SANTA

FROM PAGE A1

lifestyle, everything from his favorite cookie - chocolate chip - to what he does in the off-season - look for him wearing a red T-shirt, red shorts and red shoes, walking around with Mrs. Claus in Arizona and Florida.

LUMP OF COAL

According to Santa, the lump of coal started with St. Nicholas hundreds of years ago. Youngsters would put out their shoes for gifts; if they got coal, it meant they had been bad.

"It's still a tradition in old Germany, but it's not really what I do," said Santa. "I have a few lumps in my sack, but those are surprise presents."

For youngsters like 9-year-old Brad Keogh, the question is how Santa makes it around the world in one evening.

The answer is simple - a watch that can make time stop

so "I make it across the United States in two-ten-thousandths of a second," said Santa.

Of course, there's more magic involved. Fireplaces expand to let him get down into a house, and he carries a special set of brass keys to open doors of homes without them.

He's mum about how many glasses of milk and cookies he consumes along the way and asks children to leave him cheese, too, for extra energy. They "might even get a better present," if they do, he said.

But he also cautions parents about his snacks.

"They shouldn't eat my cookies and leave a trail of crumbs to the bedroom to make it look like I've been there," said Santa, sounding offended by the parental ruse.

SANTA'S DIGS

His North Pole complex includes Santa's Castle - a very comfy three-bedroom log home with a big kitchen, something Mrs. Claus needs for all the cookies and candy



Allison Quick, 3, and her sister Ashley, 1, wait to have their picture taken with Santa,

canes she makes.

The elves - there are 485, according to Santa - live in dormitories that they take care of themselves, although Mrs. Claus does make sure they eat well. Some are Mrs. Elves, some are little elves. There are inventive elves like Albert, "who's a genius with a computer and does the modern stage of technology," and ones named Curtis and Herbie.

They work eight-hour shifts

and have time to play, enjoying sledding, ice skating and tobogganing.

"I don't push them, I don't press them," Santa said. "I try to keep them very happy."

With good reason, when you consider Santa uses words like million and zillion when talking about a toy production schedule that goes on year-round.

Santa commutes between the North Pole and various locations where he sits down to



Jacob Bellinger, 7, of Westland gives Santa an idea of what he'd like to find under the tree on Christmas Day.



Not wanting to leave it to chance, Shane Delaney, 8, of Redford tells what he wants for Christmas while Santa was visiting at Westland Shopping Center.

listen to youngster's wishes. He has a mail box he takes each day to collect letters from his young admirers and takes it back to the North Pole each

night.

"I get zillions of letters," he said. "I have elves in the mail room who help, and I answer as many as I can. Mrs. Claus helps, too."

When he's not busy with the Christmas gig, he likes to kick back and read, especially authors who write about him. His favorites are Clement Moore, author of *A Visit from St. Nick*, and the writer who did *The New York Sun* editorial, *Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus*.

"If it wasn't for her question and his answer, I don't think people in the world would understand who Santa Claus is," he said.

But the world does know who he is and his busiest time just hours away. For all who will wonder if they will hear the jingle of his sleigh bells or look for reindeer footprints in the snow, he has a message:

"Have a joyous and merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year."

smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112

IDENTITY

FROM PAGE A1

will take the lead role in the investigation and seek the criminal charges."

The investigation began in September after a Garden City man filed a complaint that someone fraudulently used his personal information to get \$13,000 credit.

"The officers identified two locations in Detroit that

played an integral role in the identity theft - the addresses were serving as receiving points for the victim's hijacked credit accounts," said Muery. "We executed the search warrants simultaneously at the houses and found evidence of a large scale identity theft ring."

Two Detroit men were taken into custody - one was held on warrants from an unrelated identity fraud case and the other, a student at Michigan State University,

was released pending further investigation.

Police were able to identify two sources for personal data of about 80 people, Muery said - business records from a Dearborn cellular telephone distributor and a military roster.

"We have no idea how they got the information. The stories of the suspects didn't shed any light on that," said Muery.

It was also unclear if the two suspects were living at the homes, he said, although they apparently were periodically staying at the addresses.

Executing the search warrants, officers seized thousands of dollars worth of merchandise obtained using the fraudulently obtained credit.

"They had ordered a computer and a big screen television that were being used at the home," said Muery. "Other items were pawned and redistributed."

Part of the reason this case came to light, he said, was that airline tickets to Florida were charged on a fraudulent account. The suspects were going to Florida, he said, to pick up a 2000 Chevrolet

Malibu purchased over the Internet through PayPal.

"We seized four vehicles, including one that had just been reported stolen from a dealership in Monroe," said Muery. "We seized Xboxes, televisions, stereo equipment, computers and jewelry - so much merchandise that we haven't been able to put a value on it."

Reviewing the identities that had been stolen, police found that a Garden City woman was among the victims.

"We discovered as we called her that she didn't know she

had been victimized until she checked her credit report online," said Muery. "She found one account she hadn't opened and attempts to open other accounts."

That woman's case highlights the need for regular checks of your credit report, Muery said, who recommended using www.annualcreditreport.com. That site provides a free credit report annually, he said, adding consumers should be alert for similar sites that charge a fee for that service.

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City of Plymouth, Michigan Public Notice of Determined Uses of 2007 Community Development Block Grant Funds. Pursuant to Federal guidelines, the City of Plymouth, during the public hearing process on December 4, 2006 determined the following projects and respective funding levels for the 2007-08 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY. Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc. will sell at public auction by competitive bidding. Sales are cash only. Removal within 24 hrs., for sale and storage unit in which rent and fees are past due.

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION/POSTING AND NOTICE OF ACTION. STATE OF MICHIGAN JUDICIAL DISTRICT 3rd JUDICIAL CIRCUIT. CASE NO. 06-629697-CH. Ruby Wallace 15620 Normandy Detroit, MI 48228

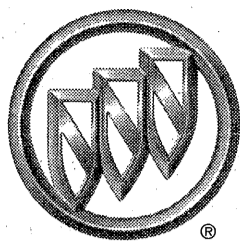
IN NEED FROM PAGE A1. ents using the system. "They hate to say 'I can't afford to buy my kids gifts.'" It's not just holiday help many of these families seek, though. For some, need exists year-round, and the Salvation Army is one way to get help.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING. The Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Redford has scheduled a public hearing for Thursday, January 4, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Redford Township Hall Board Room, 15145 Beech Daly Road, to consider the following:

PEOPLE IN NEED. "People are in need here 12 months out of the year," O'Neil said. "It's a low-income area, and come January and February people are going to have high energy bills, and many times they can't pay a \$300-\$400 gas bill every month."

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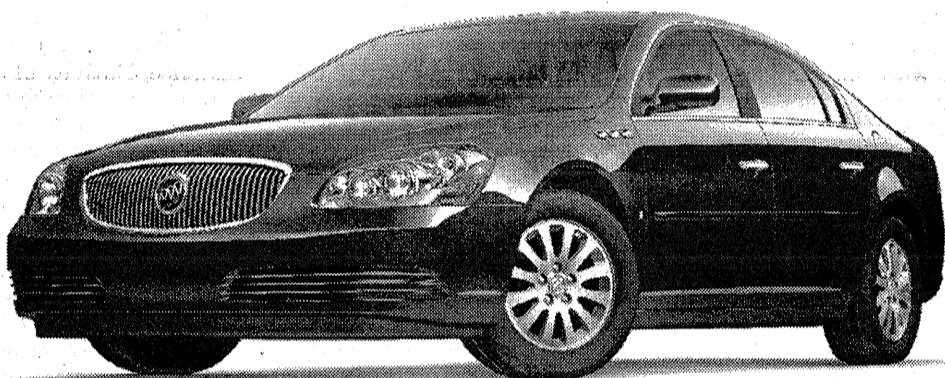
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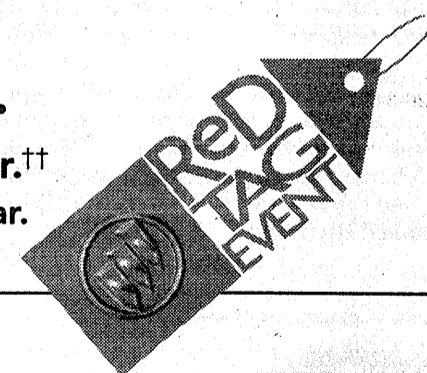


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\*\*2007 models. Whichever comes first. See dealer for limited warranty details.

† Turn-by-Turn not available in certain markets. Call 1-888-466-7827 for system limitations and details.

†† Tax, title and license are extra. Take delivery by 1/2/07. See dealer for details.

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# SPORTS

Tim Smith, editor (734) 953-2106 . tsmith@hometownlife.com

## Overtime verdict

Wayne earns 71-67 comeback win vs. Glenn

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK  
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The "Getting To Know You" phase of the high school basketball season is just about over.

From year to year teams in all the sports typically go through a time of adjusting to a new season with new teammates – and, occasionally, new coaches.

It takes time to learn who can do what to whom, what plays work at crunch time and just what the coach expects at each step of the game.

Coach Wayne Woodard felt his Wayne Memorial team "grew up" Thursday night in coming from a nine-point half-time deficit to grab a 71-67 overtime victory from host Westland John Glenn in a Western Lakes Activities Association crossover game.

New coach Dan Young of the Rockets, on the other hand, understandably feels there's some adjusting still going on for Glenn.

"It's December," he said. "We've been together less than a month. We'll get better."

"This was big for us," Woodard said after the Zebras won their second in a row in a 2-3 season. "We learned how to win Tuesday. Until you do it, it's a struggle."

A rebound basket with 28 seconds left in regulation by Earl Hardison off a missed shot tied the score at 63 and both teams missed a shot that could have avoided overtime.

The Rockets missed the first shot of the extra period and the Zebras missed three cracks on one possession before Martez Abney broke the tie off a steal and a short shot in the paint.

John Hill followed a second straight Glenn turnover with a free throw for a 66-63 lead, but both teams struggled to

score against high-intensity defense.

It was 68-65 with 1:46 left and it was still 68-65 with less than a minute to play.

Robert Woodson finally made it a two-possession game with a pair of free throws with 33 seconds to play and added another with one second left, two seconds after Rob Jones rebounded in a missed shot to make it 70-67.

"I'm proud of our guys and their effort," Young said. "They do what we ask. But we've got to get better defensively and we've got to get better taking care of the ball. We played very good defense the first half, but we allowed them to get in the lane more in the second and they were able to do some things."

"And in the second half we were dribbling a lot and not moving the ball as much. We were stagnant. They were able to get some run-outs and get back into the game."

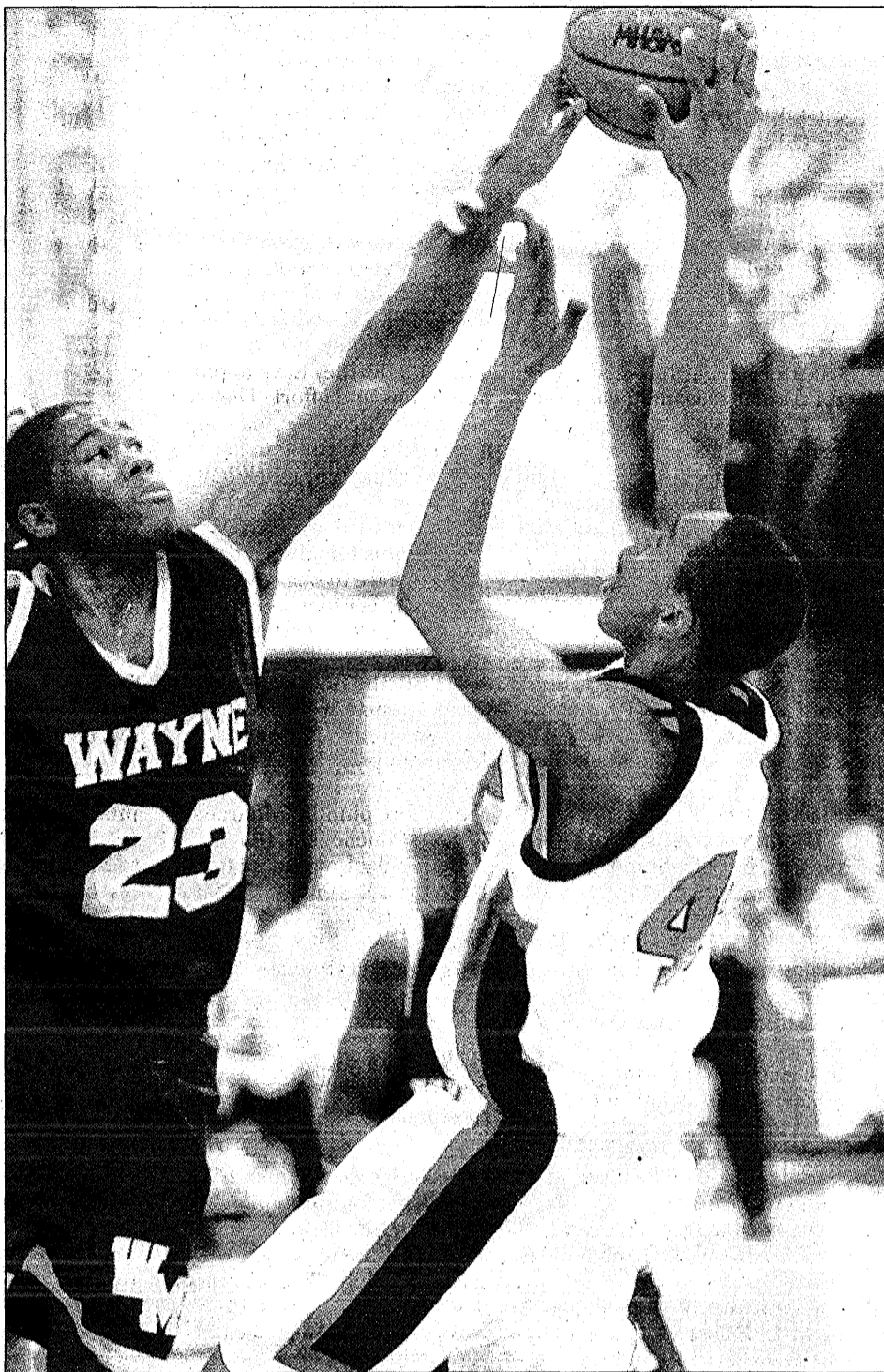
The Zebras shaved the deficit to 34-30 and were finally able to take their first lead since early in the game when Hill made a layup with 3:37 left in the third quarter to make it 40-39. The Rockets closed on a 12-5 run to take a 51-45 lead into the fourth quarter.

Woodard told his team to sharpen up its defense and finish its plays better and more aggressively.

"We got down early in the first quarter but came back. Then they made another run and we just looked down," he said. "I said, 'Why are you down? It's just the first half. And this is the city championship.'"

The Zebras responded with far more confidence attacking the basket in the second half.

"Last year we couldn't get by it when the other teams made a run on us," Woodard said. "This was big for us."



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne Memorial's John Hill (left) blocks John Glenn's Earl Hardison shot during first-half action Thursday night.

PLEASE SEE OT VERDICT, A11

## Sidelines

### Salem wrestling team get-together

Former Salem wrestlers, their family and friends are invited to a get-together 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, at the Plymouth Elks Club, which is located on Ann Arbor Road, just east of Lilley.

The Rocks will be hosting a varsity team tournament earlier in the day in the Salem gymnasium. The first matches are set to begin at 9 a.m.

### Five for WSU Hall

Canton resident and former Garden City East football star Keith Anleitner leads a class of five to be welcomed into Wayne State University's Athletic Hall of Fame in early February.

Anleitner went on after high school to excel with Wayne State's football team during the 1970s, at that time called the Tartars. Other 2007 inductees include baseball players Naif Baidoon and Michael Newsted and softball player Jennifer (Smith) DenDooven while former WSU basketball player and announcer Cliff Russell will receive the Hall of Fame Honor Award.

The official induction ceremony is Saturday, Feb. 3, at historic St. Andrew's on the Wayne State campus in Detroit. A reception is slated for 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch and the program.

### GC alumni hoops

The annual Garden City varsity boys basketball Alumni Game is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 27, at the high school.

Players from the 1980s will compete in a 6:30 p.m. game with more recent Cougars (1990s to the present) invited for a 7:30 p.m. contest.

Those who would like to play are asked to call Cougars head coach Greg Williamson at (734) 762-8350.

### Holiday shootout

Suburban Ice-Farmington Hills will be the site of the Mission Hockey Holiday 3-on-3 Shootout for "B" level mini mite, mite, squirt and pee wee teams 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 30.

The tournament features a three-game guarantee, with games consisting of two 10-minute running time periods. Teams will play one game per hour and the top two teams in each division will play for the championship.

## U-M Club soccer team best in nation

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

Even though the Michigan football team missed out on a berth in the BCS title game, the U-M Club men's soccer team recently returned home with a national championship.

After losing its Group match opener to the University of North Carolina, 3-0, U-M reeled off five straight victories to earn the 2006 NIRSA Men's College Club National Championship in Tucson, Ariz. capped by a 1-0 triumph Nov. 18 in the final over Illinois.

"Things finally came together this

season at the end because of the work we put into starting at tryouts," said sixth-year U-M coach Jeff Shuk, who lives in Redford. "Having a complete staff of three coaches for the first time was huge."

Shuk, former varsity boys coach at Redford Union and Birmingham Seaholm, was assisted this season by Livonia Churchill girls varsity coach Dave Hebestreit, a recent heart transplant recipient, and former Churchill standout Eric Scott.

"Instead of picking our 24 best players at tryouts, we picked the 24 players that made the best team, players who

filled roles, big or small, which paid off in Arizona," said Shuk, who played with Hebestreit at Schoolcraft College before going on to Aquinas College.

A total of 240 teams competed throughout the year to go to the nationals. Michigan went 1-1 in the regional, losing 1-0 to Ohio University, but the Wolverines had already locked up a berth in the 24-team field by finishing the regular season at 10-1-1.

After starting out with a loss to UNC, the U-M Club team regrouped in the tournament with victories over

PLEASE SEE U-M CLUB, A11

## Spartan cagers roll

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

Durrell Summers keeps on scoring bundles of points and Redford Covenant keeps on winning games.

With senior wing guard Summers pouring in 28 points (along with 10 rebounds), the Spartans rolled to a 62-38 victory Tuesday night over host Allen Park Inter-City Baptist.

The win improved Covenant's record to 4-1 while Inter-City Baptist dropped to 3-2.

The Spartans stormed out to a 21-6 lead after one quarter and outscored the Chargers 13-5 in the second to build an insurmountable 34-11 halftime margin.

Also playing an excellent game for Covenant was senior center Stephen Chester, who tallied a double-double with 13 points and 12 rebounds. Contributing six points was sophomore Jamonne Chester.

Nick Packwood scored 11 points for Inter-City Baptist.

Covenant's next action is 7:30 p.m. Friday at home, against Oak Park Academy.

Next week, the Spartans will participate in a couple of holiday tournaments. They will square off against Detroit Country Day at 7:20 p.m. Wednesday at the "Roundball Classic," slated for Oakland University in Rochester Hills.

Then, Covenant is scheduled to compete 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 29, at the Meijer Holiday Hoops Invitational, at Michigan State University's Breslin Center.

Covenant will meet Cedar Springs in that contest.

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## Canton matmen take 13-1 record into holiday break

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

Several members of Canton's wrestling team passed out pins for the holidays Wednesday night.

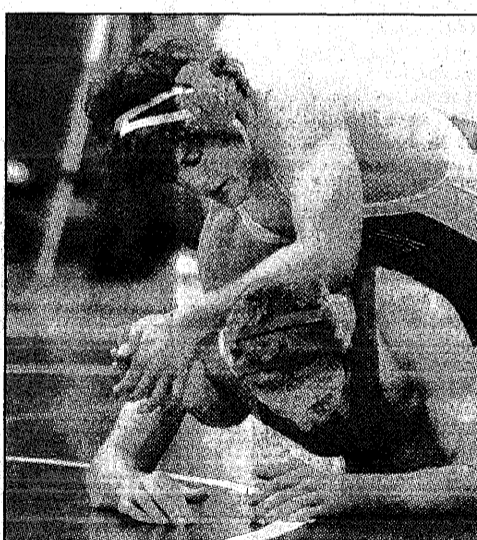
The recipients no doubt would have preferred gift certificates.

The state-ranked Chiefs pinned nine foes in their decisive victories over Monroe (45-27) and Belleville (40-22) at a quad meet held in the Salem gymnasium. The double-header sweep improved coach Casey Randolph's No. 9-ranked Division 1 team to 13-1.

"The biggest thing tonight was that I saw a lot of improvement since our tournament on Saturday," said Randolph. "On Saturday, I was a little frustrated with how we wrestled overall, but tonight we were much better. We attacked better on our feet and we were more aggressive."

Leading the pin parade for the Chiefs was senior heavyweight Donnie Laramie who dropped Monroe's Chris Bomia in 30 seconds before taking down Belleville's Jacob Sweeney in 2:18.

PLEASE SEE WRESTLING, A11



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's 160-pounder Kiel Price gets the upper-hand against Monroe's Matt Pitcher Wednesday night in a quad meet at Salem. Price won handily, 17-0.





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U-M CLUB

FROM PAGE A10

Colorado State (1-0), Missouri (3-0), Indiana (2-0) and host Arizona (1-0) before capturing the title on a goal by junior Brent Medema of Portage.

"It's a fitting way for our seniors to leave after years of hard work," Medema said. "We talked for a long time about how good we were that that we should win the nationals. We finally decided to show everyone else, too."

U-M goalkeeper Alex Lubjanski posted 11 shutouts this year while giving up only eight goals in 15 goals, including three in a regular season loss.

The Ukraine native is expected to receive a tryout next month with the well-known Dynamo Kiev professional European club team.

"I couldn't have scripted a better storybook ending to my career at Michigan," Lubjanski said. "To win this championship under the Arizona lights, with all my best friends, against our biggest of rivals, is the greatest memory I take with me from Michigan."

Other members of the U-M Club team included:

Seniors - Aaron Swick, Westerville, Ohio; Scott Cottrell, Kalamazoo; Akin Oni-Orisan, Ypsilanti; Jeremy Schwartz, Greenrae, Conn.;

Juniors - Ben Beatty, Madison, Wis.; Gari Martinovski, Dearborn Heights; Jon Tshimala, East Lansing; Cyrus Shabrang, Midland; Jon LaCross, East Lansing; Jeff Jackson, Portage; Hugh Churchill, Troy; Ben Crotte, Portage; Jason Riley, Ann Arbor; Justin Aramaki, Ann Arbor; Brad Murphy, Brighton; Tom Huls, Plymouth; Sophomores - Tom McCurdy, Portage; Joey Perosky, Sterling Heights;

Freshmen - Kegan Lovelace, Plainwell; Ike Odum, Ann Arbor; Miles Jackson, Washington, D.C.; Matt Staton, Ann Arbor.

"After having such a successful regular season, it was a bit of a downer to lose at the regionals," Hebestreit said. "After the shocking, last-second loss, the team came together, refocused, and did exactly what they talked about ... win a national championship."

"It was great to see the men focus on something and accomplish it. This team, although a club team, has the ability to compete with any varsity team in the state."

Rocks fall in double-dual meet

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Class was in session for the young and improving Salem wrestling team during a quad meet held in the Rocks' gymnasium Wednesday night.

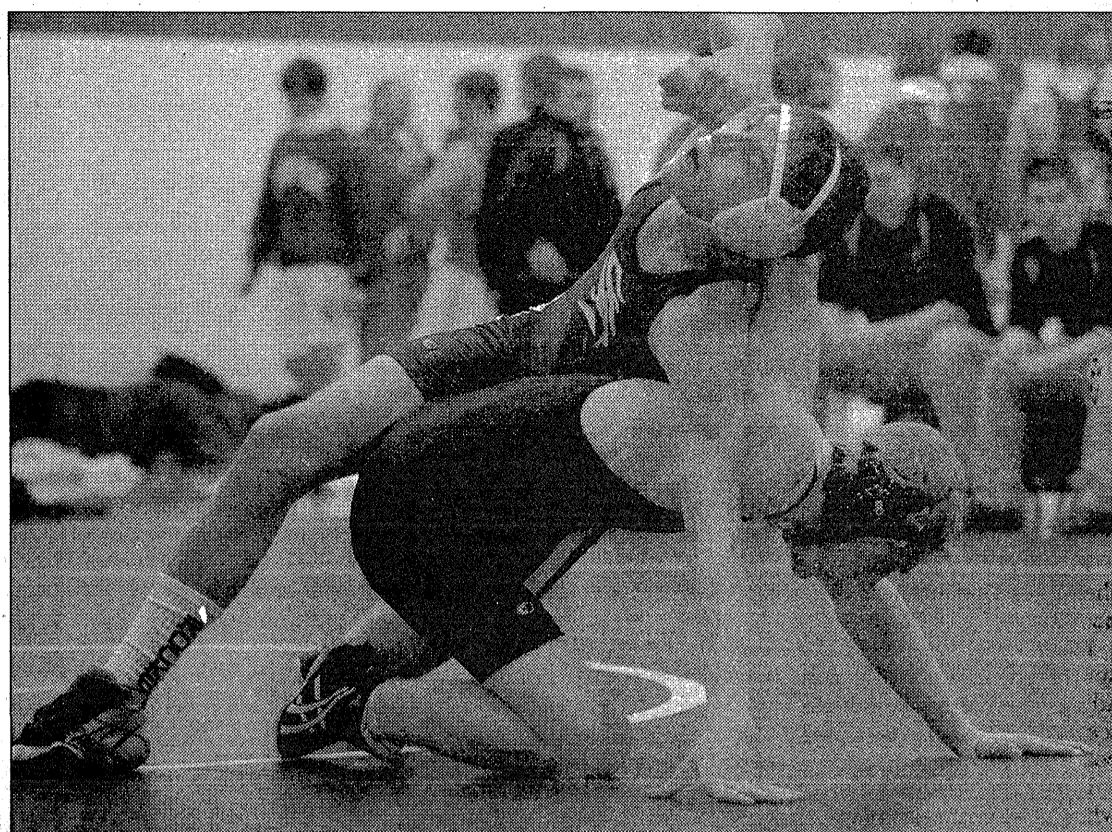
The Rocks learned some tough lessons with losses to Belleville (47-21) and Monroe (56-21), but their lessons coach Greg Woochuk is confident will help them when final exam time comes in February and March.

"Our first-year sophomores are starting to realize what it takes to become winners," said Woochuk. "They have the talent, but now they have to put in the time and effort. They're just a step or two behind right now, so they're going to have to start working that much harder."

"We wrestled against two tough teams tonight. But we're going to have to beat teams like this to get to where we want to be at the end of the season."

Among the Rocks who were teaching their opponents lessons was junior 152-pounder Jeremy Epley, who defeated Belleville's Brandon Chapple, 6-2, before pinning Monroe's Aaron Maluche in 3:48.

Woochuk also pointed to 112-pound Kevin Bennett's pin over Monroe's Josh Lewis and Greg Taylor's victory over Monroe's Matt Pitchers as the



Salem's Jeremy Epley registered a hard-fought 6-2 victory over Belleville's Brandon Chapple to improve his record to 12-2 at 152 pounds.

night's highlights. "Jeremy's wrestling well," said Woochuk, referring to his junior captain's 12-2 record. "He's doing what he's supposed to be doing. Kevin Bennett really stepped up at 112; he really went after the guy. And Greg Taylor kept himself in the match by going after the guy."

Nick Steiger registered an impressive 13-8 over Monroe's Sean Turner at 125 to give the Rocks an early 3-0 lead. The Trojans took command, however, by winning the next four matches to secure a 21-3 edge.

Joining Epley in the victory circle against Belleville were

Steiger, a 5-0 winner over Tommy Kozak; 140-pound Kevin Hayter, who earned a thrilling 13-12 win over Brian Augsbarger; and Hussein Ajami, who pinned Karre Cigan in 3:17 in the 215-pound battle.

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OT VERDICT

FROM PAGE A10

Glenn came out crisp and decisive, moving the ball on offense and playing strong man-to-man defense that didn't give Wayne many good looks at the basket.

The Rockets rolled to an 8-2 lead before the Zebras whittled it down to 12-11 at the end of the quarter. A 12-8 surge gave Glenn a 24-19 lead 3:38 from halftime and Young's team padded it out to 34-25 at the half.

Six players scored for Wayne but four were in double figures and Antonio Jones had nine. Hill led all scorers with 18 points, Woodson added 17, Mike Lee scored 15 and Abney

reached 10.

Glenn got points from nine players, five of whom reached double figures. Stefan Marken hit 13, Jones scored 12, Keshawn Martin and Hardison reached 11 each and Jackie Wilson got 10.

"The game means everything," Young said, "but as far as the league standings are concerned, it means nothing."

"It means a great deal going into Christmas break," Woodard said. "The loser has to regroup."

The two teams don't return to action until after the holiday break.

Glenn and Wayne will play again on Tuesday, Jan. 9 with the Rockets at defending WLAA champ Northville, while the Zebras host Livonia Stevenson.

WRESTLING

FROM PAGE A10

"Donnie's second match was frustrating for him because the kid was kind of running and just trying not to get pinned," said Randolph. "The way I look at it is when you go out there, you wrestle. If you get beat, you get beat."

Senior captain Corey Phillips also had a strong night for Canton as he pinned Monroe's

Dave Taylor in 4:42 before disposing of Belleville's Steve Coak, 18-9.

Phillips is ranked fifth in the state at 140 pounds in the latest rankings distributed by the Michigan Wrestling Association.

"Corey looked good," said Randolph. "The Belleville kid is one of the best wrestlers he'll face. Corey started a little slow (he trailed 4-2 at one point), but he began to dominate about halfway through. He did whatever he wanted late in the

match." Randolph also praised the efforts of Steve Cox, who pinned Monroe's Sean Turner in 1:16, and Brent Winekoff, who took down Belleville's Robert Chapman at the 3:12 mark.

"Monroe and Belleville are both good teams and they're both good matches," said Randolph. "Any time you can beat a team like Belleville by 18 points, that's a good win because they have a very, very good program."

Also notching pins for the Chiefs were Brian Brubaker (171), Adam Powers (189), Donnie Watkins (103) and Carl Lucke (112).

The Monroe match was tied at 27-all before the Chiefs won the final three showdowns at heavyweight, 103 and 112 with falls. Belleville trailed just 22-19 after nine matches before the Chiefs pulled away by winning four of the final five duals.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

A grid listing sports events for the week of Dec 27 to Jan 6, including basketball, hockey, swimming, gymnastics, and bowling.

Advertisement for the 42nd Annual Great Lakes Invitational. Features a logo with 'Est. 1965' and '2006 GLI'. Promotes games on Friday, Dec 29 and Saturday, Dec 30 at the Joe Louis Arena. Lists matchups like Michigan State vs Harvard and Michigan vs Michigan Tech. Includes ticket information and a 'Win a Car' contest.

Advertisement for MotorCity Bowl's 10th Annual event. Promotes a 'Treat Yourself to an Early Holiday Gift' on Tuesday, December 26, 7:30 P.M. at Ford Field. Features matchups between Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders and Central Michigan University Chippewas. Includes ticket prices and event details.

Advertisement for the movie 'Filter'. Shows a woman's face and includes the text 'Get us onscreen NOW! Every Thursday'. Features logos for AMC and Pure Entertainment.



## New movie 'The Nativity Story' presents true image of times

The power of Mary was alive two thousand years ago and is still alive today. The Nativity Story, starring Keisha Castle-Hughes, opened in movie theaters throughout the United States recently.

Prior to the opening, I hosted a small conference with leaders from the Evangelical, Catholic and Orthodox Churches along with Imam Mardini and David Crumm, religious writer for the Detroit Free Press where we all presented the traditions of our faith.

The movie itself was a strikingly true image of 1st century Palestine which was occupied by the Romans and controlled by the religious authority of the Herodian family in which Herod the Great and his son, Herod Antypas were the ruling king and heir to the throne.

The content of the movie was very close to church tradition which is expressed in the Gospel of St. Luke. Mary was young and her relationship with her cousin Elizabeth was a living symbol of what a loving relative should be; helping a family member going through a hard time, a family member with important questions but finding no simple answer.

The portrayal of the journey of Mary and Joseph invites the audience to join them on their most difficult and dangerous trip as they made their way through mountains and rivers, enduring weather, lacking food, security, and safety. In comparison, this same trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem, today, would be impossible due to the huge wall erected by the government of Israel.

However, it is against this background that the message of God has reached man. Through this virginal birth, we are challenged to call out to all mankind that peace is at hand. Peace comes to all those whom the angels call, to those of good will, and to all mankind regardless of religious background.

Mary can be a uniting force, a reminder that the Child born of her; the Messiah, Jesus the Lord, has come, not only to certain Christians, but sent by God to all

**The audience must remember that this is a movie, made in Hollywood, with imperfect actors and directors. We need to be reminded that religious and moral values spring out from the hearts of every church community and not from television or the media.**

mankind. It is an invitation, not a coercing call. So, we must treasure the respect and love we hold for each other. But, we must also be careful within the boundary of our relationships to not discredit each other's point of view.

The Christian church has two schools of thought; one holds the church traditions and the other holds the Scripture only. You might be surprised that the Holy Quran, the Muslim Scriptures, speaks of the Virgin Mary more than the Christian Scriptures. My own church has volumes of books with descriptions of Mary, the Theotokos (Mother of God). She is known as "the mother of the Lamb", "the Shepherd", "the restoration of the fallen Adam", "the faith of those who pray in silence" and "the heavenly ladder".

This is what I hold and treasure, but this may not be the views of my neighbors. All points of view must be heard, but not imposed or violated.

The audience must remember that this is a movie, made in Hollywood, with imperfect actors and directors. We need to be reminded that religious and moral values spring out from the hearts of every church community and not from television or the media.

I hope and pray that those who see the movie will see in it a God who has struggled for thousands of years to call on His creation to reflect on the purpose of why they were created; to love God from their heart, soul, and mind. But this prayer is to no avail if you forget your neighbor.

The Rev. George H. Shalhoub is the pastor of St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Basilica in Livonia.



The Rev. George Shalhoub

## Memories of a 'small town' Christmas live on today

It was Christmas time, 1966. A little girl was dropped off in downtown Plymouth to shop by herself. "Town," to her little mind was a big deal; and she opened the shiny glass doors that led into the big store on Main Street — the S.S. Kresge Five and Dime. Across the creaky wooden floors she walked, wide-eyed with wonder at all the notions and goods for sale, looking for the perfect Christmas gift for her mom. Her pocket-book was filled with nearly four dollars!

She smelled a delicious scent as she meandered past the soda fountain lined with people sitting on shiny, chrome stools with red seats, drinking Coca-Cola and milkshakes and munching on freshly cooked fries and burgers. Through the activity and the crisp excitement of Christmas she saw it: a pretty little box containing bubble bath, housed in a champagne bottle with foil at the neck. The bottle was nestled between two champagne glasses, and each glass held two perfect plastic orchids, purple ones. "Beautiful," she mused, "The perfect gift for my mom."

To the checkout counter she went, and proudly paid a lady with a turquoise smock. She had 37 cents left, "Enough to buy candy for a whole month!" Then she went to meet her mom in the rear of the Kresge store. Through the shiny glass doors she went. Then she stopped. She eyed the huge, wide wooden stairway that led to the parking lot.

Cautiously, her small hand took hold of the big wooden handrail, and she began to make her way down the steps, placing each little foot carefully down, step by step. Then it happened, her worst fear. Down she tumbled, down, down, down, one hard step after another, until she landed at the bottom of the tall stairs. She heard the crash of broken glass and smelled the sweet scent of bubble bath.

With tears in her eyes, she lifted herself from the floor. She knew she had broken her precious cargo. Liquid seeped into paper as the contents filled the bag, and sadness filled her heart. Broken glass and bubbles sparkled and twinkled upon the floor. She had broken her mother's gift, and made an awful mess. Her heart sank as she heard the doors above her open. Then out came a lady in a turquoise smock. With a sweep of her hand, the Kresge lady scooped the little girl up and put the mess into a bag. She wiped away the tears, and said, "You wait here, I'll be right back."

The little girl heard the door open again, and the click of heels on the big wooden stairway. She looked way up to the top of the mountainous stairway. Down the stairway the lady came, carrying a box filled with sweet bubble bath in a champagne bottle with two champagne glasses, and two perfect plastic orchids, purple ones.

"Merry Christmas, honey," the lady said placing the precious cargo in a bag, and into the girl's

trembling little hands. And a Merry Christmas it was indeed, in a small town way.

This nostalgia isn't limited only to Plymouth — it's in the hearts and memories of those of us lucky enough to be raised in a small town. In towns like Farmington and other communities, there are still small businesses, operated by real people trying very hard to keep their doors open in Michigan's poor economy, threatened by mega-retailers with prices they can't even begin to compete with.

"For lease" is a sign too often seen. Many doors have closed because small businesses simply cannot afford to operate in today's world — unless local people make an effort to shop locally. If only people realized how important their individual purchases are to the small business owner. Sometimes these businesses are just one customer away from closing their doors, and ultimately limiting the overall selection we have as consumers.

Years ago, people didn't go to corporate-owned mega-malls to spend exorbitant amounts of money on Christmas gifts. In those days, we went into the hub of the community where we lived, and we made our purchases right there.

There is no better time than now to simplify our holidays, and to be grateful for our blessings. At a time when so many across the world have suffered war-torn lives and natural catastrophes, this holiday season is a particularly powerful time to appreciate our blessings and to be grateful for what we do have. It's a time when most people want to spend less time shopping and more time with family, friends and loved ones.

I walked down Main Street in Plymouth recently. Wiltse's is still there, and even Pete's Shoe Repair has survived the years. But the Mayflower is gone, and the Penn Theatre sits like a ghost overlooking Kellogg Park. The space that once was Kresge's is now filled with fancy Italian "eateries." The walkway between the stores remains, leading to the same parking lot, now multi-story. And, strangely enough, the stairway that led from Kresge's to the parking lot is still there, too.

I stood there looking at the stairway, the shiny glass doors and the wooden handrail. I walked inside and thought about Christmas, and the kindness of strangers that often comes at a time when you really need a hand. I thought about the joy of giving a special gift to someone you love. After all, that's what Christmas is really all about.

As I turned and began to walk away, sunlight from the west shone in through the window, and caught a tiny piece of glass on the floor. For a brief moment it sparkled and twinkled. I remembered the story of that little girl who fell down those stairs, and broke her mommy's Christmas present. How could I forget — that little girl was me.

Cindy Gray is a free-lance writer, handwriting analyst, and yoga teacher. She works in the clerk's office at the city of Farmington Hills.



Cindy Gray

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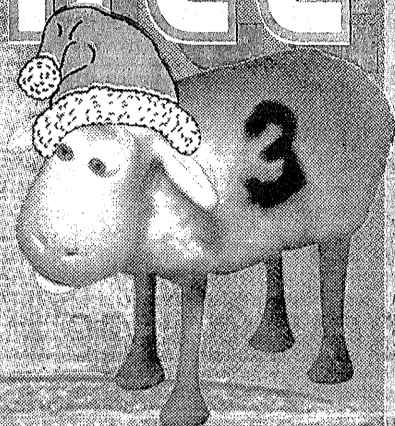
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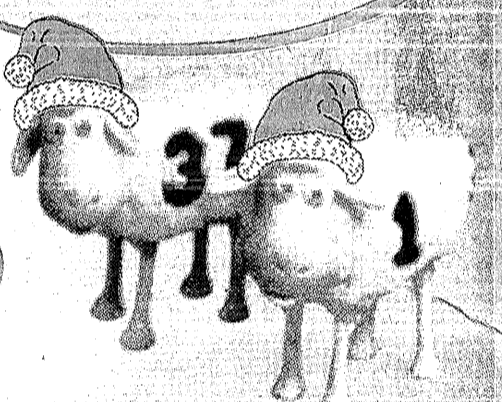
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**First Step gets support  
at chocolate gala – B3**

**Holidays a good time to gather  
critical health information - B6**

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Sunday, December 24, 2006  
The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Hugh Gallagher, editor . (734) 953-2149 . hgallagher@hometownlife.com

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## Talk to your friend about drugs

**How can I talk to my friend about not doing  
drugs without being mean?  
Concerned Friend**

If you're concerned about a friend's drug use, by all means, let her know! Telling a friend that you care about her and that using alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs is dangerous can never be "mean." If your friend likes the way she feels when she's using drugs, she might get angry that you want her to stop using them. That doesn't make you "mean." It means you care about her! Sometimes people use drugs to change the way they feel. Maybe they feel depressed or irritable every day and using drugs makes them feel happy, less angry, and maybe even "numb" for a short time. There are lots of reasons people start using drugs. But what most teens don't know is that it takes less time for a 15-year old to develop an addiction, than it does for an adult who starts abusing drugs or alcohol in their adult years. A teenager can develop a physical and emotional dependence on drugs or alcohol in the time it takes to complete the 10th grade. So, if your friend is using drugs or alcohol, tell her you care about her and don't want her to end up battling addiction for the rest of her life. Or worse, end up dead. Find fun, relaxing things you can do together that don't involve drugs or alcohol. And most of all, be there for her when she's ready to talk!



**Teen Talk**  
Monica  
Fulton

up battling addiction for the rest of her life. Or worse, end up dead. Find fun, relaxing things you can do together that don't involve drugs or alcohol. And most of all, be there for her when she's ready to talk!

**I've been talking to an ex-boyfriend and I think he's playing with my head. He talks to me and hugs me a lot, but around his friends it's like I don't exist. What do I do?  
Confused**

My best advice is this: Move on! It's not so important whether he's playing with your head or not. The important thing is that this situation is playing with your head! If you're uncomfortable with his hot-and-cold attitude, move on and don't look back! A part of you must really want to get back together with this ex. But if he's not willing to be in the kind of relationship you want, it's time to drop him for good. This type of "relationship" isn't fair to you. While you're trying to get with him, you might miss the opportunity to start a relationship with someone who really cares about you and is willing to be in a real relationship. Don't sell yourself short and don't settle for his scraps of attention!

**If I think I have feelings for another guy, even though I have been with my boyfriend for a year, should I break up with my boyfriend?  
Not A Cheater**

If you think you have feelings for another guy, you should spend some good alone time and figure out how you feel about your boyfriend. It's not fair to him to stay in the relationship if you don't feel the same way you once did. You should ask yourself if your boyfriend is the right one for you. Are you truly happy with him? Just because you've been together for a year doesn't mean you both haven't changed and grown apart. If you're finding yourself attracted to another guy, this might be a sign that you need to move on. Most importantly, cheating is never fair to anyone, including yourself. If you're afraid you might cheat on your boyfriend, it's always best to be honest before something happens that you'll regret later. Your boyfriend might be angry, but at least he'll know you respected him enough to talk about it before something happened. If you decide to break up with your boyfriend, make sure he understands that your feelings for him have changed, and you don't think it's fair to stay with him when you're attracted to someone else. By taking responsibility for the breakdown of the relationship, you and he will both be able to move on more easily and find true happiness.

Monica Fulton is the supervisor of the Family Resource Center in Garden City working on youth and family problems. She can be reached by e-mail at monicafulton@sbcglobal.net.

# Holiday traditions



**Cookies, coney,  
fresh cut trees and  
gift of charity all part  
of the season**

*We asked our readers  
to share their favorite  
holiday traditions.  
Whether it's a trip to  
a tree farm, special  
ornaments, secret  
recipes or a charitable  
way to say thank you,  
many families have  
developed some  
enduring traditions  
for this special season.*

My grandfather died at Christmas, Dec. 19, 1991. Every year on the anniversary of his death I stand at kettles in his honor for the Salvation Army. My grandfather loved the Salvation Army and he loved children. The thought of a little one going without broke his heart. My husband, Jerry, joined the tradition in 1994, and our son, Connor, joined in 2003. Our daughter, Sydney, will join us in 2007. It serves three purposes, it pays honor to my grandfather in a constructive way. The tradition keeps him a part of my family who never knew him, and it teaches my children that we are responsible to help those that need help.



Ringling the bell at a Salvation Army Red Kettle has been a family tradition for the Moore family to honor Jennifer Moore's grandfather. Jennifer, her husband Jerry and young Connor ring the bells.

Connor was featured in a mini-article in *Parents Magazine* in 2004. Fox2 News has also covered him on their news for the last two years and plans to come out again this year. I encourage all families to help out whatever cause they can at Christmas. It isn't too late to stand at a kettle and sing some carols with your family!

Jennifer Moore  
Canton

We've had a tradition in our family since my oldest daughter was born (she's 15).

On Christmas Eve day, we make a Baby Jesus birthday cake. We decorate it with a children's nativity set that we have. Our family (grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins) get together and go to Christmas Eve Mass and then go back to my parents' house. During the evening, we bring out the cake and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus. The kids all love this tradition.

Sharon Williams  
Livonia

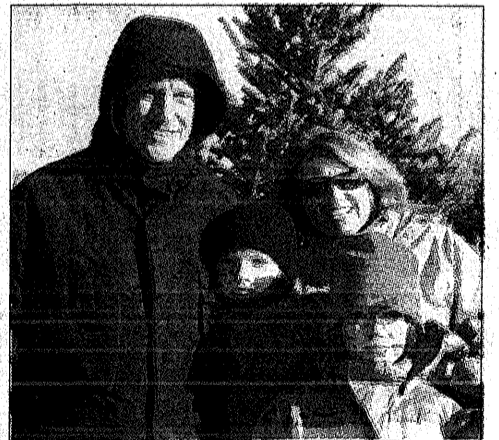
Some traditions have changed over the years but the one tradition that has not changed in 20 years is the addition of the new Christmas ornaments. Every year, each family member including the dogs,

gets a new ornament. They are the first ones to be hung when we are decorating the family tree. Every family member has their own box with their own ornaments collected over the years. They are responsible for hanging all of their own ornaments. Our family tree includes toilet paper rolls, tongue depressors and a variety of things made during the preschool and school years. Now that my three children are all in college, we go for the store-bought ornaments that relate to them specifically; a computer ornament for my son, a stiletto shoe for one daughter, a cell phone for the other daughter, a slot machine ornament for my husband and my ornament this year was a TV set. I suppose one day when my children leave the nest for good, I will gather up their ornaments to send with them ... then again, maybe I will keep them all for myself.

Donna Brandt  
Canton

One of our family's favorite traditions is chopping down our Christmas tree. Each year, we join forces with two other families and drive past Chelsea to Arrand's Tree Farm to search for the perfect tree. We all pile out of our minivans and start the hunt amongst a forest of hundreds of trees. Finding the right tree involves running back and forth between the top choices looking at each shape from all angles. We then take family photos in front of the winning tree, like it was a trophy.

Once the trees are secured to the roofs of our vehicles, we drive into Chelsea and have lunch at the Common Grill. The smell of garlic rolls hits our noses as soon as we enter the restaurant. It lingers on our clothing well into the day. We sit at one big table and laugh and warm up over lively conversation. The children are happy to be with friends and usually don't mind waiting for the adults to have dessert. After lunch, we gather up all of our winter things and walk along Main Street, stopping into shops that interest us.



Loren Schnell and Liz Schnell and their children, Ben, age 10, and Abby, age 9 in front of their 2006 top pick for the family Christmas tree.

Each year is different, yet the same. Some years it is so cold, we choose a tree quickly. Other years we have lots of snowball fights. Sometimes the weather is mild and we take our time roaming the rows of trees.

It's amazing to see the changes over the years. When we first started, there were only six children; now there are eight. Jennifer and Bradley are both out of college now; Christopher just turned 16; Alex, Ben and Abby are 11, 10, and 9; Sam is 7, and his new brother, John Paul, 1 year old, round out the crew.

It's the love and laughter among these families that makes our tradition memorable. It's the joy that is Christmas.

the Schnell family  
Livonia

PLEASE SEE TRADITIONS, C2

**TRADITIONS**

FROM PAGE B1

...where are you? It started when my children were young. I would hide a small elf and my kids would love looking for it. When they found it, I would wait another day and hide it again. Now my children are older and my son-in-law comes over and looks for it everytime and then hides it on me. Now the adults have fun with the game. I also started hiding a candy cane under the pillows on Christmas Eve night. When my children would wake up they would check under their pillows immediately, and know "SANTA'S BEEN HERE!" Then they would come running in our room saying "Come on, Santa's been here!"

"My daughter is carrying these traditions on with her children, but we have come up with one more tradition that we hope will follow her children. I have told my grandchildren Santa Claus sprinkles Santa Claus sparkles on children's faces Christmas Eve night who have been doing nice things. So don't forget to look on your faces to see if Santa Claus saw all the nice things you have been doing.

"OK, we do one more fun game, I Spy. We have to spy something on the tree. It's a good learning game for the kids to tell their colors and shapes.

Well, I hope you might want to use some of these ideas with your families, because we have a lot of fun with them in ours.

Merry Christmas to all.  
Mrs. P. Locke  
Livonia

I have five children and we have many Christmas traditions. We try to catch the annual tree lighting ceremony in Westland every year, the arrival of Santa at Westland Shopping Center. We bake many varieties of cookies and pass them out to neighbors and we even have an ornament making party. The tradition that just makes Christmas for us is when the kids and I volunteer at the Friendship

Center (and toys for the needy children in our area). We get lists of families with the first names and ages of the children and move from table to table picking out donated gifts for them. My children think of and pray for these kids. It takes the focus off of what they are going to receive at Christmas and helps them to think of others. We leave there feeling good and grateful for what we have. It just makes Christmas for us.

Jennifer Zur Westland

My favorite holiday tradition is the making of steamed carrot pudding. I was first introduced to this delicious dish when I met and married my husband Alan Smith some 53 years ago. His mother, Cora, was given the recipe by her sister, Irma. She made and served it every Christmas Eve with warm vanilla or rum sauce. When "ma" was no longer able to make the pudding, I took over. I hope some day one of my family members will continue the tradition when I can no longer do it.

Eleanor Smith Livonia

I have been a Canton resident since 1970, but our tradition started long before that (in Detroit). My oldest son was about 5 years old (he is now 59) when my husband and I decided to go to downtown Detroit to see all the Christmas lights. Hudson's was well-lit at that time, also Oakman Boulevard in Dearborn.

Before coming back we stopped at American Coney Island in Detroit and had our evening meal and the understanding was that we could eat all we wanted of Coneys and fries. As six more children came along we went every year. We planned ahead so as many as possible could attend. Now the furthest away is Dr. David O'Malley and his wife and two little girls from Columbus, Ohio.

This year it will be on Dec. 16 at about 6 p.m. again at American Coney Island. In the past we have gathered about 60 extended family members. Two years ago, our picture was put on their wall. We have



The Bob and Judy Burger family kicks off the holiday season with three generations gathering to chop down their Christmas trees.

never missed a year even after family tragedies.

Tillie La Fave Canton

When my two brothers and I were children, we lived in the north of Scotland near Aberdeen. We knew when the Northern Lights were visible that Father Christmas would soon be on his way. We had a tradition that went on for many years. About three weeks before Christmas day, the family members would gather at my great-grandmother's house and her housekeeper would prepare to make the plum pudding. We all waited for our turn to stir the pudding mixture and make a wish. Then she would take two shiny silver sixpenny pieces and add them to the mixture. When the pudding was served on Christmas day at the family gathering whoever found a silver sixpence was sure to have good luck for that year. When we moved to London, England, and later to Montreal, Canada, my mother kept up the tradition of making the plum pudding and we all stirred and made a wish. After I had my family and moved to Michigan I kept the tradition up until my children and grandchildren grew and diet consciousness became the way of life.

Helen Ermete Livonia

Livonia

With cookies come Christmas cookie walks. For over 10 years, our family has volunteered at St. Kenneth's Cookie Walk in Plymouth. We enjoy seeing (and buying and eating) other families favorite holiday cookies. We like knowing that our holiday tradition is one that is shared by many.

Joan Rayford Livonia

(Editor's note: Ms. Rayford shared samples of her holiday cookies. They were delicious.)

For the past several years we have held an annual Christmas party for family and friends. What makes this tradition unique is that each couple brings a gift, or in many cases, numerous gifts that are donated to Livonia Goodfellows. This idea was brought about because of the numerous hostess gifts we were receiving. Though these gifts were much appreciated, we both thought there had to be a better way to celebrate our annual party. That's when we both decided to ask our guests, on a voluntary basis, to bring a gift/gifts which we then give to Livonia Goodfellows.

On Dec. 9, we held our 18th annual party. Because of the generosity of 77 family members and friends, I am happy to report that Livonia Goodfellows received more than 150 new toys, seven new bicycles, and articles of new clothing. For the second year in a row we were honored to have Bill Heaton, Livonia Goodfellows president, and his wife, Helene, as guests at our party. Bill spoke to the group and explained the importance of their contributions. Hopefully, others within the community will adopt this idea and assist Goodfellows. We wish everyone peace and prosperity in the New Year.

Bruce and Debbie Modetz Livonia

Early October, I start going through magazines, cookbooks and surfing the Net for new cookie recipes. Yes, I might try a few new ones, but my family always wants the same cookies my mom used to make in the '50s. I can still see her in her housedress, crisp holiday apron wearing her blue slippers and shiny earrings. Coming home from school the aroma of pep-

Our favorite holiday tradition is cookies! There is one cookie in particular, pfefferneusse, that we always make on Thanksgiving weekend and then let it age in a cool place in cookie tins for the four weeks until Christmas. The longer these cookies age, the crispier and more flavorful they become. They are also a true Christmas cookie because the dough does not come out at all if you try and make them in the warmer months. I know, I've tried! My mom got this recipe from a Lithuanian neighbor back in the 1960s.

Another holiday cookie favorite is Calvin Coolidge Ice Box cookies. This recipe came from a 1976 American Bicentennial food article. This was President Coolidge's favorite cookie. Whenever I make the pfefferneusse, I also make this cookie. That way my family has something to nibble while the pfefferneusse is aging.

Bob and Judy Burger Livonia

permit, vanilla and almond-filled the senses as I begged her to let me help. "Can I help, mom, please?"

How we laughed when I became the "mom" and my daughters wanted to help bake. We would bake all kinds of cookies, but in the end it was still Grandma's old recipes that won their hearts. Although my mother is no longer with us, I still love to bake for my family, which now includes three grandchildren of my own. I have to laugh when their favorites are the same ones I loved as a child.

Christmas 2003 a new tradition was born. We started a neighborhood Cookie Exchange. Usually the second Sunday in December we gather together for an afternoon of sharing recipes, cookies, fun and laughter.

Donna Kenske Canton

I just can't decide between two of my most favorite things:

1. My husband and I started a tradition of having a special "Christmas Outing" when our girls were 10 and 11. We started going to our favorite restaurant, and then a special activity. We have gone to Pistons games, Fox Theatre, Opera House, Meadow Brook Christmas Walk, movies, etc. Our girls are now married and their husbands have embraced the family Christmas tradition.

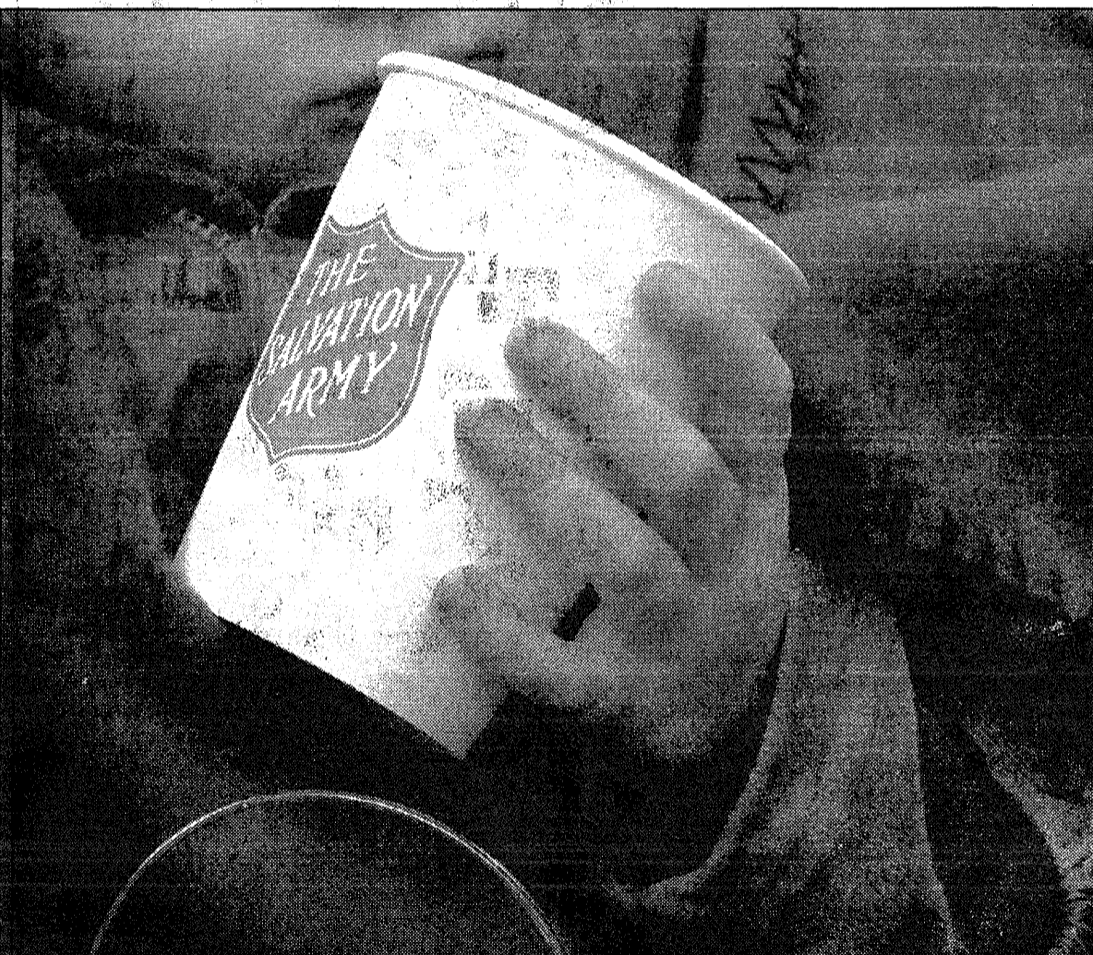
2. I have a large Italian family. My favorite tradition is Christmas Eve at the house we grew up in. We have a huge dinner and open some gifts, play games and sit around and talk. Our parents decided to sell this house 10 years ago to travel. My sister and her new husband bought it. My parents live up North now, but are here every year with us. I have been married for 27 years and never missed a Christmas Eve with my family at this house. None of us have missed it.

We have always joked that if my sister ever sells this house, the buyer must be aware that all of us are coming there for Christmas Eve dinner!!

Carol Boris Troy

There was a time when my children were little, that I was concerned that they might be too taken up with what they wanted or were going to receive for Christmas, rather than what the holiday was all about. In an attempt to make sure they didn't lose perspective of the reason and meaning of the holiday, I decided to make it a family tradition to bake a "HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS" cake every year. So on Christmas Eve and Christmas day, we have a Happy Birthday, Jesus cake where we all light candles on the cake, turn out the lights and sing - not Christmas carols - but Happy Birthday to Jesus. We have been practicing this little tradition for over 20 years now and last year after blowing out the candles on the cake, my little niece asked me why I never put Jesus' age on the cake like I do on everyone else's birthday cakes.

Linda Stockton Farmington Hills



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## Helping hands: First Step benefits from chocolate tasting event

First Step, western Wayne County's only agency providing comprehensive services to support victims of domestic and sexual violence, received a \$4,000 donation from the Elizabeth Fagan Division of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) raised at an Oct. 1 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 local chapter of LAOH, an Irish Catholic women's organization, sponsored the benefit with support from local businesses. Companies who provided chocolate desserts include Beaners Coffee, Bennigan's Grill and Tavern, Chocolate Celebrations, Cold Stone Creamery, Dearborn Inn, House of Fudge, Ideal Cakes, Jeff Zak Catering, LaBistecca Italian Grille, Plymouth Crossing, Schokolad, Sweet Essentials, Sweet Irina's, and Sweet Little Sheila's Creative Cakes.

"Our division of LAOH was established just last year," said Barb Weir, president of the Elizabeth Fagan order of



Barb Weir (left) delivers a check to Theresa Bizoe of First Step.

LAOH. "One of our first actions was to establish a fundraiser to help women. First Step is on the front lines of supporting women and children in need, as well as providing education programs to address a major social issue."

Theresa Bizoe, associate director, First Step, said, "We thank and recognize the Elizabeth Fagan LAOH division for raising this money for First Step. Our staff, volunteers, board members, and survivors loved sampling all the delicious desserts so graciously provided by local businesses. We all left with a good feeling of helping a good cause - and a bit of a sugar buzz!"

The contribution will be used to help First Step to pro-

vide 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 24-hour help line is (734) 459-5900. Services provided by First Step are free to clients.

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians fosters loyalty and perpetuates the history and traditions of the Irish people and their culture. The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians pledges itself to God, faith and country. More information about LAOH is available at [www.ladiesaoh.com](http://www.ladiesaoh.com). The Elizabeth Fagan order is the second Wayne County chapter of the organization.



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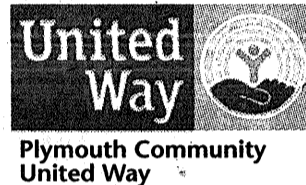
When the Plymouth YMCA needed a new minibus, the Plymouth Community United Way gave \$38,000 above its annual allocation to purchase it. When the "Y" moved its pre-school program, the PCUW bought furniture and supplies. The United Way is our main line of support in the community. Without them, a lot of our programs wouldn't be possible. **Cindy Morency, Business Manager, Plymouth YMCA**

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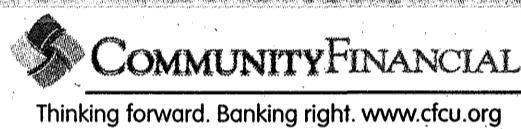
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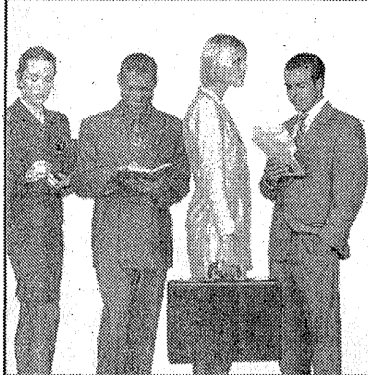
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# Family health history

## Holidays a good time to gather critical information

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

The holidays draw family members together and present a perfect time for not only catching up, but gathering medical information. Genetics counselors and the U.S. Surgeon General suggest taking a few moments at the dinner table or around the tree to discuss the illnesses of parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and siblings. The office of the U.S. Surgeon General is providing the tools necessary to create a family tree of cancer, diabetes, stroke, and heart disease at [www.hhs.gov/familyhistory](http://www.hhs.gov/familyhistory).

Gov. Jennifer Granholm is joining the national public health campaign to recognize risk factors by proclaiming January 2007 as Family Health History Month - and the Michigan Department of Community Health is asking residents to talk about it, write the medical history down and pass the information on. Identifying hereditary diseases could save lives if families follow screening recommendations to ensure an early diagnosis. "While two-thirds of

Michigan adults believe it's important, only 37 percent have gathered their history. It's nice to have the governor to back us up," said Nancie Petrucelli, a certified genetics counselor and coordinator for the Cancer Genetic Counseling Service at Karmanos Cancer Institute locations in Detroit and Farmington Hills. Karmanos also offers genetic counseling through affiliations with Crittenton Hospital in Rochester Hills and Mid Michigan Medical Center in Midland. For more information, call Karmanos at (313) 576-8748.

### ASKING QUESTIONS

Typically patients are either self-referred or referred by a physician to a genetics counselor who provides them with a family history questionnaire or risk assessment form. Petrucelli primarily sees women concerned about breast and ovarian cancers. The questionnaire helps determine if the risk is valid as only 5 to 10 percent of cancers such as breast, colon and skin are hereditary. "Family members share genes, environment, often



Nancie Petrucelli looks through a binder she uses to counsel patients at the Karmanos Cancer Institute.

habits, the combination of which all determine the risk for common diseases such as cancer," said Petrucelli. "Counseling is analyzing one's family history. We may recommend genetic testing but ultimately it is their decision. Our responsibility is to supply them with the facts to make an informed decision. Usually the perception of their risk of cancer is a lot greater than it is."

Identifying a pattern of relatives with the same type of cancer, or related cancers such as breast and ovarian or colon, endometrial or uterine should raise a red flag.

"The most important is early age of onset," said Petrucelli. "It's estimated one in three Americans will develop cancer in their lifetime because we're living longer and cancer is typically the disease of older age. Hereditary cancer is usually early onset, less than age 50."

"When we talk about hereditary breast cancer both men and women can carry mutations and pass them to their children so it will have implications not only for themselves, but other family members."

Genetics counselors at Oakwood Hospital & Medical Center originally began advising parents-to-be 10 years ago then gradually expanded the program to include patients of all ages. For more information, call (313) 593-8483.

### 'IMPORTANT TOOL'

"Medical history is an important tool to identify diseases," said Julie Zenger-Hain, Ph.D., a medical geneticist and director of the Cytogenetics department

at Oakwood Healthcare Systems in Dearborn. "We want to know about three generations of adults in the families, identify the diseases, causes of their deaths then determine what does it mean, what prevention options are available, what can we do for screening purposes, what does it really mean to me. If there is an increased risk for

breast cancer, this is what we need to do." Patients mainly come to Zenger-Hain with concerns about breast and colon cancers, but also stroke and clotting disorders.

"When we look at risks for heart disease, we look at how old they were when diagnosed, before the age of 55 and male, under age 65 for women, or under age 50 for adult chronic diseases," said Zenger-Hain, a Troy resident. "We can't change our genes but can change our behaviors which includes going to the doctors for screening and coming up with personalized health care. We might realize there's this great uncle who died at 35. Sudden death under age 40 is a flag for heart disease. Most of the time what we're looking at is prevention. It comes down to do you need to

lose weight, exercise, eat healthy and go to the doctor. Breast, colon and ovarian cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and stroke are the six disorders the Surgeon General and CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) have focused on. All have options for early diagnosis and prevention."

Tracy Pitlanish never realized her grandmother died of colon cancer until she was diagnosed with the disease at age 30 in 1999. Subsequent genetic testing revealed Pitlanish and her father carry a gene for colon cancer.

"Because we carry that gene we have a higher risk for other cancers. It's that whole concept of knowledge is power," said Pitlanish. "Now I go for a colonoscopy every year, a mammogram, an endometrial biopsy every year, every two years I get my stomach scoped. I try to eat better, take supplements, exercise a little bit more, but definitely the most important thing is the screening."

To raise awareness of cancer, Pitlanish, when she isn't working at Neiman Marcus in Troy, creates note cards with ribbons that represent various types of the disease - pink for breast cancer, red for heart disease, etc. A portion of the proceeds go to cancer research. For more information, call (248) 752-3115.

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Similar comparisons on savings occur when buying ibuprofen over Motrin or generic naprosyn over Naprosyn. In the case of naprosyn the generic costs eight cents for a 500 mg tablet while the brand name retails at nearly a dollar a tablet. My favorite is salsalate which is an excellent non inflammatory drug and costs \$15 a month.

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# Redford fiddler presents two nights of Irish music, dance

Mick Gavin, a Redford fiddler, is once again presenting his annual Irish song and dance fest, Crossroads Ceili, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 29-30, at The Ark, 316 Main, Ann Arbor. The Ceili provides one of the most complete Irish entertainment experiences around.

Tickets are \$30 adults, \$20 for ages under 14, and available by calling (313) 537-3489 or (734) 761-1451.

Gavin, who was recently inducted into the Irish Music Hall of Fame, performs along with his young fiddle students, his sons Michael and Sean, Colleen Shanks and several Irish musicians from the Detroit-Ann Arbor area.

Dancer Nick Gareiss, a 19-year old dance-master from Michigan, will be joined by Irish step dancers from the Detroit area.

Featured artists this year are Brian Conway and Barbara MacDonald MacGone with special guest Sean MacGabhann from Dublin.

MacGabhann, an accordionist, is a member of the Noamh Padraig Ceili Band which has swept the All Ireland champi-

**Pianist Barbara MaGone, who accompanies Conway at the Ceili, has two solo albums. She and Conway are offering fiddle workshops from noon to 4 p.m. both days. For more information, call Gavin at (313) 537-3489.**

onships since 2004.

Conway is recognized as the leading exponent of the highly ornamented Sligo-New York style of Irish fiddling and was a grand-student of Michael Coleman, the 1920s recording legend and an esteemed traditional fiddler. Conway was an All Ireland champion many times and his CD, First Through the Gate, was named CD of the Year by Irish Echo.

Pianist Barbara MaGone, who accompanies Conway at the Ceili, has two solo albums. She and Conway are offering fiddle workshops from noon to 4 p.m. both days. For more information, call Gavin at (313) 537-3489.



Jessie Chapman (left), Kelsey Lutz (back row), Colleen Shanks, Holland Rapier, and Michael and Sean Gavin (front) perform at the annual Crossroads Ceili, at The Ark Dec. 29-30.

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### PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton, that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 8, 2007, in the **First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m.** on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:

**WELLINGTON WILLOWS CONDOMINIUMS PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (PDD) - FINAL PLAN - CONSIDER REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A PDD AS PERMITTED IN SECTION 27.04 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE INCLUSIVE OF PARCEL NO(S). 049 99 0001 711 (PART OF - 39535 FORD), 049 99 0001 712, 049 99 0001 713 AND 049 99 0001 714.** Property is located south of Ford and east of Lotz Road. (Second Public Hearing.)

SECTION 13

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, January 4, 2007 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

Vic Gustafson, Chairman

Publish: December 24, 2006

Brian Jacobson, DDS, and  
Allyn Young, DDS, PC

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They ask patients on their website, [www.jacobson-young.com](http://www.jacobson-young.com), to talk about anxiety they may have about dental care. "Many times, identifying the source of your anxiety can help us alter your dental treatment," the website explains. Young and Jacobson also give important tips on that website about how to make a child's first dental visit the best it can be.

"We find that good communication about procedures, fees, you name it, is essential to providing the best dental care possible," she explains. "When patients feel comfortable discussing their concerns it relieves a lot of the stress and anxiety associated with visiting the dentist. Over the last 18 years, we've been grateful for the support of the Livonia community. We've watched patients grow up, marry and bring their own children to our practice. I think that helping such a wide range of patients has been the most satisfying aspect of our practice."

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Everything we do is trying to accommodate the patient by making things more comfortable and better looking for them. We have decreased the time of dentistry and also are giving them excellent value. He adds "it really isn't an obstacle for patients to have whatever they want and to get it in a comfortable and time efficient way." Dr. Thomas practices in Livonia and can be reached at (734) 464-2664 or at [www.timothythomasdds.com](http://www.timothythomasdds.com).

**DR. MASRI**

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Five years ago, Dr. Masri took over the Livonia practice from Dr. Raymond Fortson, who had been at the location 25 years. "We're family oriented and people come here, because they feel we're special," explains Masri.

While orthodontics is traditionally for children, more and more adults are opting to give themselves the same treatment. "We're seeing a tremendous amount of growth from moms and dads coming back feeling it's time for them to enjoy a healthier and more attractive smile," Masri says.

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"With the new technology it will give patients the shortest way, with the least amount of discomfort and in an affordable way," he explains. "Most of the adult patients say, 'I wish I had done this a long time ago.' In the past, it was time consuming and caused a lot of discomfort. It's not like it used to be with soreness and pain. It can be done very simply and conveniently."

To contact Masri Orthodontics, please call (734) 261-8860 or stop by their office at 35200 Schoolcraft Road in Livonia. You can also check out their website at [www.masriortho.com](http://www.masriortho.com)

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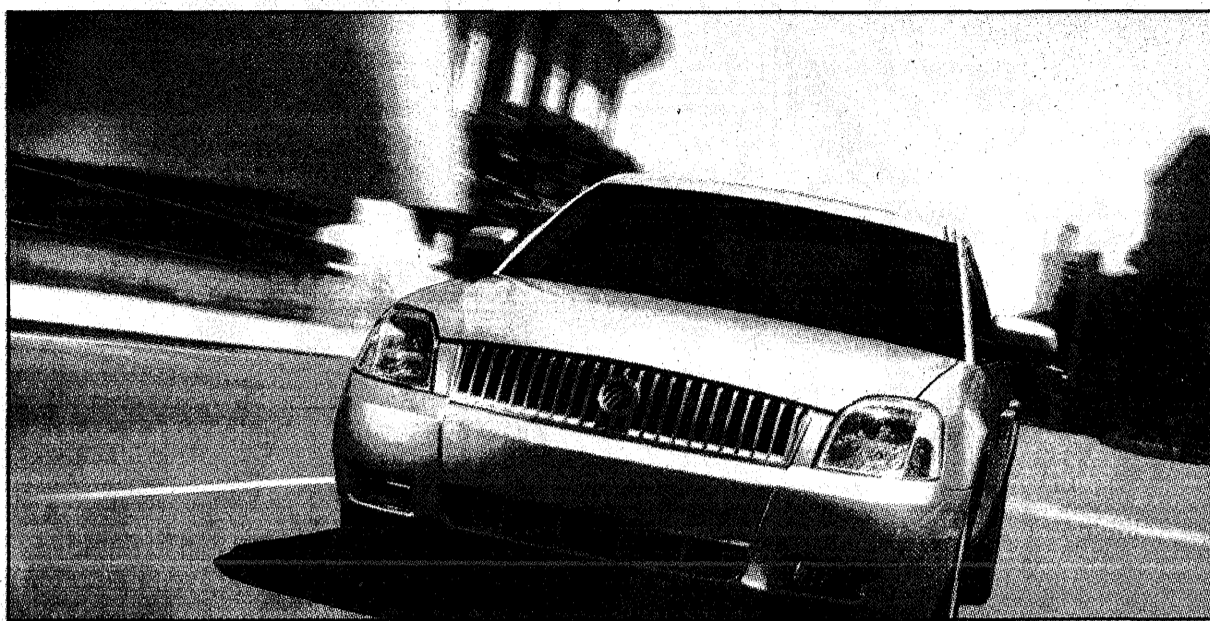
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2007 Mercury Montego Vehicle class: Luxury car. Power: V6 engine. Mileage: 21 city / 29 highway. Where built: Chicago. Base price: \$23,780.

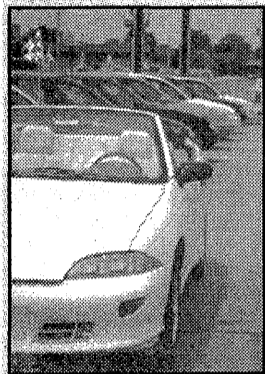
Mercury hopes to meet the expectations of its customers with the 2007 Montego by not changing it much at all. It's taking the tack: If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Last year, the luxurious Montego received AutoPacific's "Ideal Vehicle Award," which recognizes the 2006 passenger vehicle that most closely meets its customers' expectations. The award is based on a survey of customers who reported they wanted few or no changes at all made to their beloved Montego. So, Mercury saw no need to drastically change this proven winner. Instead, it upgraded in a few areas. Most notably the good folks at Mercury added some safety features, like standard anti-lock brakes; the front passenger seat can now fold flat, offering up to 9 feet of cargo-carrying length; and they added an all-wheel-drive model. Like always, this new \$24,000 Montego is geared for large people. It's the Lane Bryant of the car world. And to prove this, its spacious interior is one of the leaders in its class in almost every category, including best-in-class headroom and knee room in the second row. From interior design to cargo space, the inside of the Montego is as nice as its ride. An attractive feature of the Montego's interior design is its sophisticated, two-tone treatment. Mercury went all out, using a satin-aluminum finish on the door handles, and highlighted its dash-mounted analog clock and gauges with chrome trim rings. The steering wheel and shift knob are wrapped in leather, giving the Montego a high-end look. Some amenities include Sirius satellite radio (for Howard Stern fans); an aftermarket rear-seat DVD entertainment system; 18-inch, eight-spoke, chrome-clad wheels; a navigation system; plus a power moonroof for the Premier version. Whether hauling groceries or luggage on a cross country road trip, drivers will find the Montego's huge 21.2-cubic-foot trunk can accommodate almost any storage need. The trunk is 50 percent larger than most of the Montego's competitors. All-speed traction control and seat-mounted safety air bags now come standard on the Montego. The company took into account the safety of other drivers on the road, as well as its own. To make its Montegos safer, Mercury equipped as standard in its base and Premier models high-intensity discharge headlamps that present a clear view of the road at night, and light-emitting diode taillights that provide highly visible signals to other drivers. It is this dedication to safety that has earned the Montego five-star ratings for front- and side-impact performance in government testing by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Now while safety will attract a lot of customers to the Montego, so will its smooth ride. If the front-wheel-drive model isn't suited to your local roads, like the dreadful Michigan winter roads I've had to endure all my life, you can upgrade to the all-wheel-drive model for an easier ride. The Montego usually stays in front-wheel-drive

mode, but when needed, the all-wheel-drive version kicks in, using a continuously variable transmission. A transmission like this fully redistributes power from the front wheels to the back wheels as needed, depending on how fast the car is going. The Montego's all-wheel-drive system uses electronic controls to deliver precise handling, whether on dry, wet or snow-covered roads. The AWD and FWD both offer wide overall gear ratios for strong acceleration and they both are good on gas mileage. The front-wheel-drive Montego delivers 29 miles per gallon highway, while all-wheel-drive models come in a 26 highway -- not bad for 6 cylinder. Mercury kept versatility in mind to provide extra storage space when designing the '07 Montego by staying consistent to last year's model. For instance, with the split second-row seat folded, the trunk expands to 50 inches of total load floor length. If you already owned the '06 Montego, chances are you like it, and if you're looking to get the '07, you'll love the new safety features and extra space in this comfortable ride.

Kevin Koloian covers the auto beat for Avanti NewsFeatures. Write him at k\_koloian@yahoo.com. @2006, Fracassa Communications.

### CLASSIFIED INDEX

CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER
■ Employment	5000-5999
■ Announcements	6000-6900
■ Merchandise	7000-7540
■ Autos/RVs	8000-8780
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2006 COLORADO PICK-UP CAB  
Stock #8385  
Was \$19,575  
**SOLD \$14,371\***

Employee Price For Everyone  
2006 MALIBU LT  
Stock #3199  
Was \$20,165  
**REDUCED! \$16,421\***

Employee Price For Everyone  
2006 MONTE CARLO LS  
Stock #3699  
Was \$22,230  
**REDUCED! \$17,636\***

2006 EXPRESS 2500  
V-8, auto, air, locking diff., AM/FM stereo.  
Was \$25,210.  
Stock #9807  
**REDUCED! \$19,128\***

2006 EQUINOX LT  
All Wheel Drive  
Stock #8808  
Was \$24,625  
**REDUCED! \$19,082\***

2007 IMPALA LT  
27 Month Lease. Stock #1248  
Frontal Crash Test Rating  
**\$179\*\* Per Mo.**  
Total Due GM Employee \$1,774 Non-Employees \$2,679

0%  
72 Mos. Available

2007 TRAILBLAZER  
27 Month Lease For Everyone  
Sunroof, XM Radio Stock #T6385  
**\$249\*\* Per Mo.**  
Total Due GM Employee \$1,519 Non-Employees \$2,649

2006 COBALT LS  
Stock #3661  
Was \$15,480  
**REDUCED! \$12,239\***

2006 SILVERADO  
Stock #T8645  
Was \$34,962  
**REDUCED! \$24,442\***  
Includes Plow

Employee Price For Everyone  
2006 IMPALA SS  
Stock #P3332  
Was \$30,600  
**REDUCED! \$25,014\***

Employee Price For Everyone  
2006 SILVERADO EXT. CAB LT 4x4  
Stock #P8993  
Was \$35,045  
**REDUCED! \$25,144\***

2006 EXPRESS  
V-8, 4 speed auto air, PS/PB, 10" KUV body by Knapheide w/ side compartments.  
Stock #8707  
**REDUCED! \$27,500\***

## Winter Savings! 07 Corvettes - 20 in Stock!

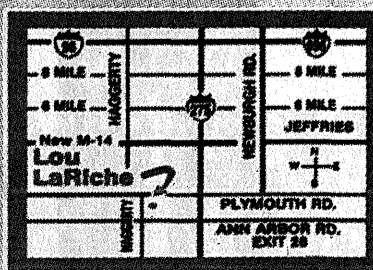
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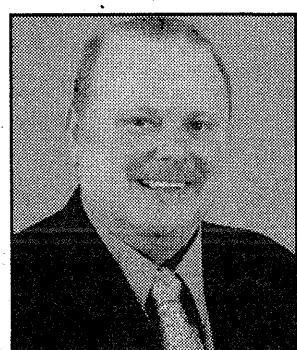
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REDFORD RAVINE SETTING Completely remodeled 3 BR bungalow, new kit top to bottom, new fir covering t/o, newer wndws, drwl overlooking prk like bckyrd, full bsmt, good terms only \$112,900.



BELLEVILLE LAKE FRONTAGE Move right into 2 lge BR Condo, 2.5 baths, fplc in FR, walkout doorwall on all levels overlooking Belleville Lake, attd 2 car gar, only \$209,900 best price in complex.



NOVI CONDO - Sharp 2 bedroom Townhouse, newer kitchen w/ dishwasher, newer windows, appls included, attached 1 car garage, pool, park area & clubhouse, move right in, E-Z Terms SUPER Price only \$99,900.



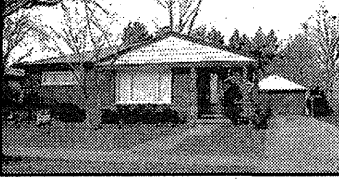
REDFORD COMMERCIAL BUILDING Must be sold 3600' sq. ft. Block building with add'l space for more room plus a parking lot on 80 ft. main road frontage, 5 mile & Beech area, MAKE your Terms Asking \$149,900.



LIVONIA BRICK BEAUTY - Real sharp updated 3 BR ranch, all new kit w/dishwasher, new bathroom, new floor covng, new windows, full bsmt, new driveway to 2.5 car gar, close to park. MAKE YOUR OFFER. Only \$174,900.



DETROIT ROUGE PARK VIEW Beautiful 3 BR Bungalow w/ completely updated kitchen, bath, new carpeting, shingles, patio, full bsmt, park view from large front porch. Joy Rd. & Telegraph, low down terms. Asking \$74,900



REDFORD \$145,000 ESTATE SALE Premium location, great opportunity on this sharp 3 BR, 2 BA brick ranch. Finished basement, 2 car garage. Call Dale to see how your closing costs can be paid for by the Seller at 313-506-0447



DETROIT 2 BEDROOM INVESTMENT - Lyndon & Stout Great Rental with full basement, needs work only \$22,900 make an offer, Call Dave 734-664-1884



SIX MILE & BEECH AREA - Investor wanted for this large 3 bedroom with formal dining room, huge kitchen, needs updating, basement, huge front porch, CASH price asking \$37,900.



REDFORD RENTAL 7 MILE & BEECH DALY - Sharp 3 bedroom brick ranch, all appliances, finished basement with bar, 2 car garage, 19213 Macarthur, \$900 Month, move right in.

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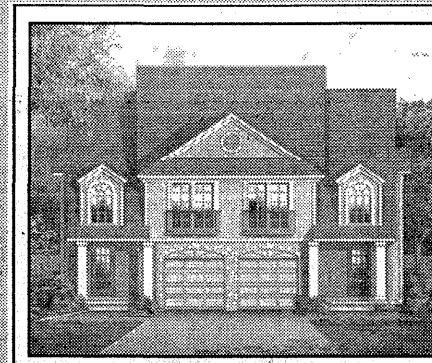
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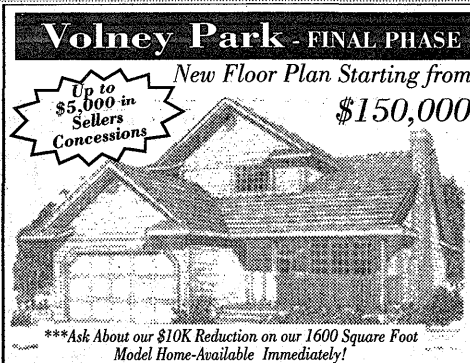
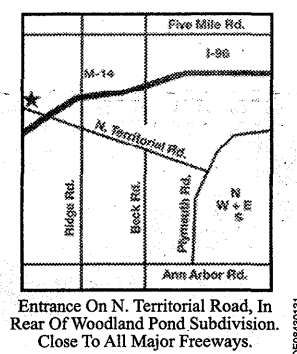


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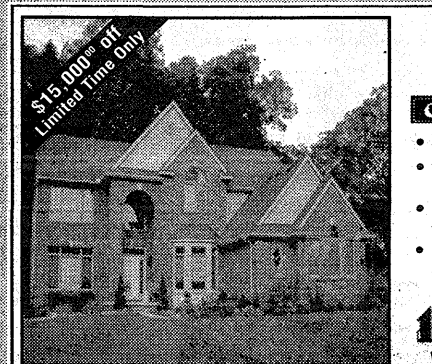


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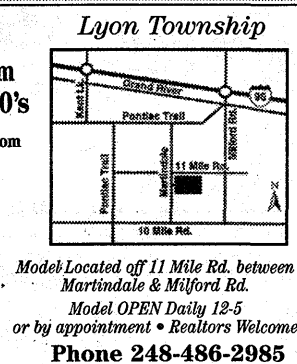


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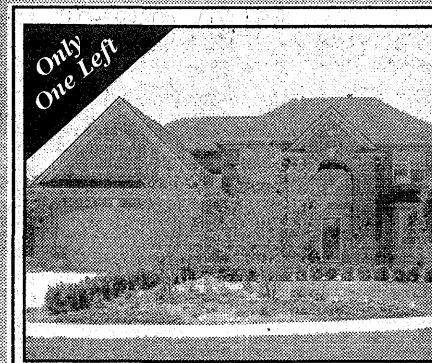
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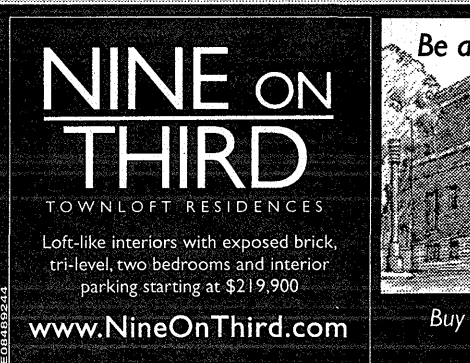
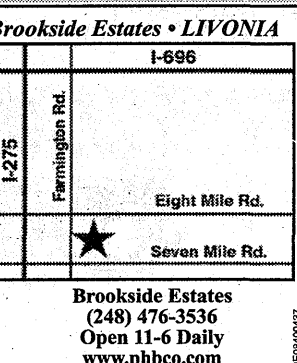
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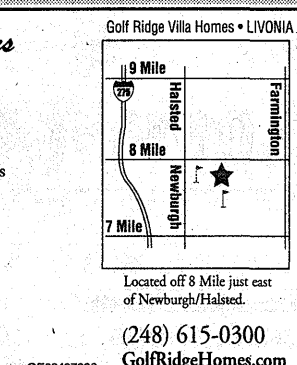
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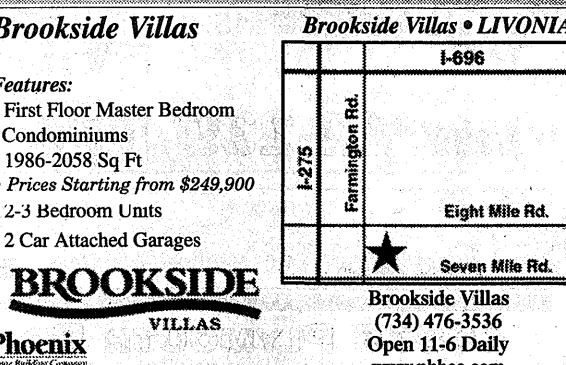
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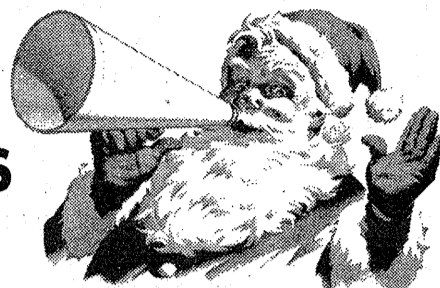
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**2007 FOCUS SE**  
2.0 engine, automatic, air, power windows & locks, tilt, cruise, r. defog. Stock #7C8075. Was \$16,625.  
WAS \$18,020

LEASE 24 MONTHS

\$1000 CUSTOMER CASH \$1883.97 DUE	\$176 <sup>39</sup> **	\$0 DOWN \$369.40 DUE	\$219 <sup>30</sup> **
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**2007 FUSION SE**  
2.3L engine, 5 speed automatic, cloth interior, air, power window and locks, AM/FM CD. Stock #7C8007  
WAS \$19,705

LEASE 24 MONTHS

\$1000 CUSTOMER CASH \$1408 DUE	\$188 <sup>30</sup> **	\$0 DOWN \$340.10 DUE	\$227 <sup>00</sup> **
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**2007 F-150 SC XLT 4x4**  
5.4 V8 FFV V8, automatic with OD bedliner, trailer tow pkg., deluxe interior pkg., rug bumps. Stock #7716160  
WAS \$31,980

LEASE 24 MONTHS

\$1000 CUSTOMER CASH \$1519.37 DUE	\$205 <sup>00</sup> **	\$0 DOWN \$569.70 DUE	\$246 <sup>80</sup> **
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**2007 EXPLORER XLT**  
4.0 V6, 5 speed automatic, aux. heat/air, Sirius sat., AM/FM CD, comfort group. Stock #7F5154  
WAS \$23,690

LEASE 24 MONTHS

\$1000 CUSTOMER CASH \$1594 DUE	\$205 <sup>00</sup> **	\$0 DOWN \$579.70 DUE	\$247 <sup>00</sup> **
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**2007 ESCAPE XLT**  
2.3L engine, automatic air sun & guard plus power moon & 6 CD AM/FM, audiophile sound system, 6 way power driver's seat. Stock #779084  
WAS \$23,690

LEASE 24 MONTHS

\$1000 CUSTOMER CASH \$1478 DUE	\$233 <sup>00</sup> **	\$0 DOWN \$469.20 DUE	\$275 <sup>70</sup> **
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**2007 SPORT TRAC XLT**  
4.0 V6, 5 speed automatic, AM/FM CD stereo, convenience group, premium buckets. Stock #7T5024  
WAS \$26,490

LEASE 39 MONTHS

\$1000 CUSTOMER CASH \$1491.79 DUE	\$249 <sup>80</sup> **	\$0 DOWN \$469.08 DUE	\$277 <sup>20</sup> **
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**2007 FREESTYLE SEL**  
3.0 24V V6, automatic, air, power moon roof, 3rd row split seat, AM/FM CD. Stock #770030  
WAS \$27,690

LEASE 24 MONTHS

\$1000 CUSTOMER CASH \$1496.38 DUE	\$282 <sup>43</sup> **	\$0 DOWN \$466.30 DUE	\$310 <sup>90</sup> **
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**2007 MUSTANG PREMIUM COUPE**  
4.0 V6, 5 speed automatic/trans, ABS, interior upgrade, air, traction control, shaker 500 audio system, pwr driver's seat. Stock #7C0000

LEASE 24 MONTHS

\$1000 CUSTOMER CASH \$1448.05 DUE	\$291 <sup>56</sup> **	\$0 DOWN \$433.13 DUE	\$336 <sup>00</sup> **
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**"MANAGERS SPECIAL"**  
2006 E-150 Quality Coach Conversion  
5.4 V8, 4 speed auto, dual air/heat drop down 15" TV DVD, power bi-fold soft leather, HD trailer-tow. Stock #672017  
Was \$41,525 NOW \$29,983\*\*  
0% FINANCING AVAILABLE

**"MANAGERS SPECIAL"**  
2006 Mustang GT Convertible Premium  
4.6 V8, 5 speed auto trans, air, shaker 1000 audio system, interior upgrade pkg., ABS, traction control. Stock #6C445  
Was \$34,200 NOW \$26,664\*\*

**"MANAGERS SPECIAL"**  
2006 500 Limited AWD  
3.0 24V V6, auto moon, AM/FM CD w/ NAV, leather. Stock #6C7142  
Was \$32,905 NOW \$26,186\*\*

**"MANAGERS SPECIAL"**  
2007 F-350 4x4 DUMP  
5.4L V8, 5 speed, auto, 40 gallon fuel tank, air, 13,000 GVWR, snow plow pkg. Stock #776203  
Was \$40,530 NOW \$31,632\*\*  
2.9% FINANCING AVAILABLE

**"MANAGERS SPECIAL"**  
2006 Ranger Supercab XLT  
3.0 V6, automatic, AM/FM CD, sliding rear window, air & more. Stock #6T7002  
Was \$21,660 NOW \$14,053\*\*

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<b>2004 MUSTANG GT</b> 5 speed, leather. Stock #619577A \$16,995	<b>2004 PONTIAC GTO</b> Loaded. Stock #GT15698 \$18,998	<b>2001 FORD CLUB WAGON</b> Great sleigh for the family like new! Stock #P19854A \$9,995	<b>2006 SE FUSION</b> 16K, full power. \$14,995	<b>CAMRY 2002</b> Moonroof, great car! \$11,995	<b>2004 SATURN VUE</b> AWD, leather, power moon. \$15,995	<b>2001 LS</b> V-8, premium. \$10,995	<b>2004 CHEVY CAVALIER</b> Auto, air. Stock #P19814 \$8,895

\*A-Plan pricing plus tax, title, all rebates included in price. \*\*24 month lease, 39 months on Sport Trac. A-Plan eligibility, 10,500 miles per year, w/approved tier 0 or 1 credit, with lease renewal cash. Subject to program changes. Expires 12-31-06

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## EVENING

**SALES OPEN SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> 9 AM - 3 PM**

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27 AT THIS PRICE**

24 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL		
SIGN & DRIVE	\$1000 DOWN	\$2000 DOWN
<b>\$279<sup>15**</sup></b> per mo.	<b>\$217<sup>13**</sup></b> per mo.	<b>\$175<sup>37**</sup></b> per mo.
\$0 DUE AT SIGNING	\$1508.16 DUE AT SIGNING	\$2523.89 DUE AT SIGNING

### 2007 FOCUS ZX5 SES

24 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL	
SIGN & DRIVE	
<b>\$205<sup>40**</sup></b> per mo	\$0 DUE AT SIGNING
\$1000 DOWN	
<b>\$149<sup>15**</sup></b> per mo	\$1331.10 DUE AT SIGNING
\$2000 DOWN	
<b>\$106<sup>28**</sup></b> per mo	\$2345.66 DUE AT SIGNING

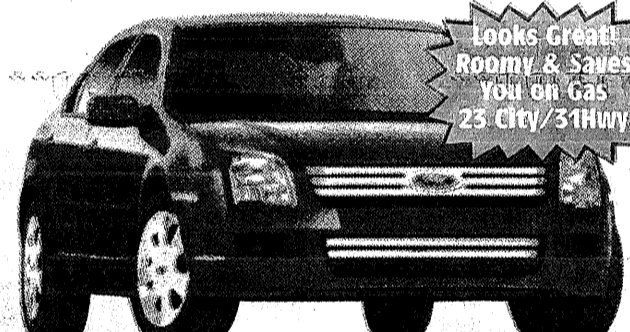


5195 Gas  
27 City  
34 Hwy

- Power side windows • Convenience group • Integrated fog lamps • Air • 16" alloy wheels • Power locks • Auto trans • Heated Mirror • ABS • Side impact air bags • Weather pkg. • Heated seats • Stock #71083

**Was \$18,475  
NOW \$13,261<sup>15\*</sup>**

### 2007 FUSION SE FWD



Looks Great!  
Roomy & Spacious  
You on Gas  
23 City/31 Hwy

- 2.3L 14 engine • 5-speed automatic transmission • P205/60R16 All Season Tires • Front license plate bracket • Stock #70906

**Was \$19,705  
NOW \$16,807<sup>25\*</sup>**

36 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL	
SIGN & DRIVE	
<b>\$223<sup>25**</sup></b> per mo	\$0 DUE AT SIGNING
\$1000 DOWN	
<b>\$185<sup>03**</sup></b> per mo	\$1339.77 DUE AT SIGNING
\$2000 DOWN	
<b>\$156<sup>72**</sup></b> per mo	\$2369.12 DUE AT SIGNING

### 2007 EXPLORER XLT

24 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL	
SIGN & DRIVE	
<b>\$250<sup>34**</sup></b> per mo	\$0 DUE AT SIGNING
\$1000 DOWN	
<b>\$186<sup>57**</sup></b> per mo	\$1550.76 DUE AT SIGNING
\$2000 DOWN	
<b>\$144<sup>81**</sup></b> per mo	\$2566.50 DUE AT SIGNING



5 Star  
Rated  
"2007"  
Model

- 4.0L SOHC V6 • 5-speed auto • O/D trans • XLT app. & comfort grp. • P245/65R17 A/S OWL tires • Run. boards • 17" cast alum. whis. • Conv. group • Electrochromatic mirror • Msg. center • Auto headlights • Keypad • LH/RH mirr. w/ approach • Illum. visors • Overhead console • Stock #71393

**Was \$27,235  
NOW \$21,089<sup>75\*</sup>**

### 2007 ESCAPE XLT



23 City  
26 Hwy

- FWD • 16" alum wheels • Floor mats-front & rear • Perimeter alarm • Priv glass • 4-spd auto O/D trans • Power moonroof • Rear cargo conv group • Audphi/6-CD in dash/sat cap. • Stock #71159

**Was \$24,275  
NOW \$17,774<sup>95\*</sup>**

36 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL	
SIGN & DRIVE	
<b>\$256<sup>58**</sup></b> per mo	\$0 DUE AT SIGNING
\$1000 DOWN	
<b>\$217<sup>22**</sup></b> per mo	\$1433.25 DUE AT SIGNING
\$2000 DOWN	
<b>\$188<sup>03**</sup></b> per mo	\$2463.27 DUE AT SIGNING

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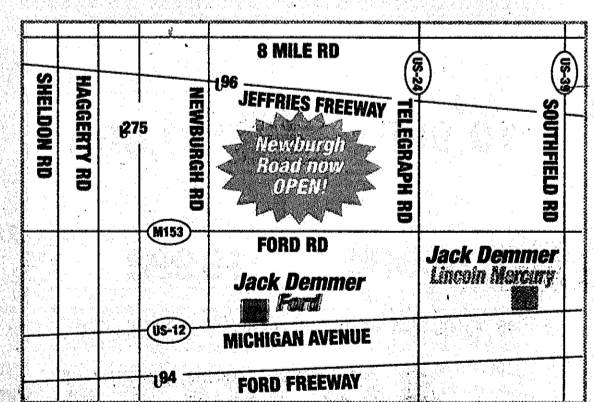
**\$500 Extra**

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Tues • Wed • Fri 8 am - 6 pm

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Real Estate For Sale

**Homes 3000**  
Farmington, Novi, Livonia, Northville, Southfield homes available under land contract. Call Audrey, 248-345-1268

**Canton 3080**  
NO BANKS NEEDED  
Brick ranch, 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, finished bsmt, A/C, deck, 2 car, great area! 248-921-2432

**Dearborn Hgts 3115**  
MOTIVATED SELLER!  
Updated 3 bdrm brick ranch with full bsmt. Open floor plan with vaulted ceiling, large beautiful new kitchen, glass door cabinets, new bath, pedestal sink, hardwood floors under carpet and much more!  
Century 21 Hartford North  
734-525-9600

**Livonia 3250**  
NO BANKS NEEDED  
3 bdrm ranch, 1.5 bath, fin. bsmt, sun room, 2 car garage. Terms flexible. 248-921-2432

Southfield/Lathrup 3380  
**By Owner**  
LAND CONTRACT TERMS AVAILABLE  
3 bdrm, 1.5 bath. Newly remodeled. Approx. 1 acre lot. Good schools. \$179,200. Call (248) 722-5577

**Waterford 3423**  
WATERFORD AUCTION  
Breathtaking lake house. At a steal. Seller to pay all costs. 0% down financing. Private showings by appointment only. Visit our website to view property and other details. www.2730dixie.com

**Lakefront/Waterfront Homes 3580**  
WEST BLOOMFIELD LAKEFRONT-  
Open house Jan. 7, 2-4pm  
1623 Cass Lake Rd.  
Wow views! Private beach & boat on Sylvan & Cass Lakes. Live like you're on vacation. Luxury condo, 2 bdrm, 1 bath, laundry, alarm. Get out of the house! \$115,900. Maple Realtors. 734-424-0707.

**Real Estate Services 3640**  
BANK FORECLOSURES!  
Homes from \$10,000! 1-3 bdrm available! Reps, REOs, FDIC, FSBO, FHA, etc. These homes must sell! For listings, call 1-800-425-1620 ext 3421.

**Real Estate Services 3640**  
Investment 1031 - vacation home - Blue Ridge Mountains in GA, TN and NC - Mountain/River/Lake/Golf/Large tracts-Harry Norman, Realtors of Blue Ridge (706) 632-7211, Gordon Waters (678) 779-2092, Chris Albrecht (678) 665-6844

**North Carolina!!** Log cabin \$89,900. New shell on 1 acre. 1-5 acre home sites w/dramatic views. Starting at \$29,900. E.Z. Financing! 1-828-247-9966

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Northville-Springwater Park  
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Mark DeMers, RE/MAX 100  
248-348-3000, ext 280

**Real Estate Services 3640**  
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**Resort & Vacation Property 3800**  
ASHEVILLE, NC New mountain community boasting spectacular view and privacy homesites. Clubhouse, exercise facility, paved roads, walking trails. Only 35 minutes to downtown. Call 1-877-689-2626

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**Florida/Properties 3805**  
MANASOTA KEY FL  
Golf coast, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 3025 sq.ft., ocean front, new condo, \$1,450,000 negotiable. Call Jack 248-229-1072.

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— Dan Elsea, President, Brokerage Services

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denotes virtual tour

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### 2007 FUSION SE

- Features on the Fusion SE include:
- Automatic
  - Air conditioning
  - Speed Control
  - Side Impact Air Bags-driver and front passenger
  - Side Impact 1st and 2nd Row Air Curtains
  - Power Windows & Locks

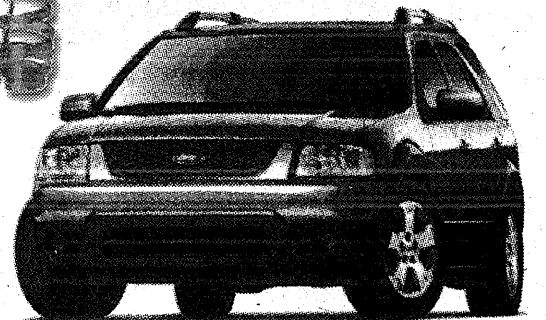
LEASE FOR ONLY  
**\$185** /24 MONTHS  
BUY FOR ONLY  
**\$15,105**



### 2007 FOCUS ZX5 SES

- Features on the Focus ZX5 SES include:
- Automatic
  - Air conditioning
  - Speed Control
  - Power Windows & locks
  - Heated Seats
  - Safety Package
  - Anti-Lock Brakes
  - Side Impact Air Bags

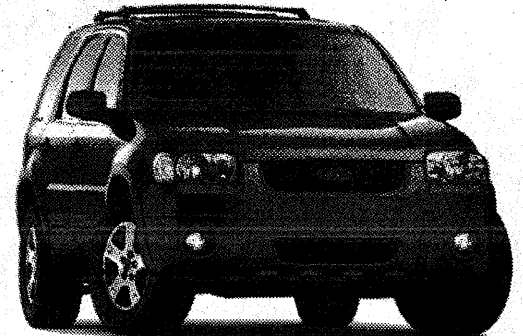
LEASE FOR ONLY  
**\$146** /24 MONTHS  
BUY FOR ONLY  
**\$12,571**



### 2007 FREESTYLE SEL

- Features on the Freestyle SEL include:
- Third Row Split Seat
  - CD
  - Power Windows
  - Power Locks
  - Tilt Steering
  - Speed Control

...with Sun & Sound!



### 2007 ESCAPE XLT

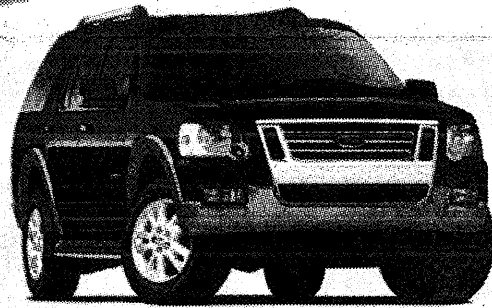
- Features on the Escape XLT include:
- Air conditioning
  - Power Moonroof
  - Power Windows & Locks
  - Audiophile In-Dash 6 CD
  - Satellite Capable
  - Cargo Cover
  - Speed Control

### 2007 SPORT TRAC

- Features on the Sport Trac include:
- Power Windows & Locks
  - Speed Control
  - Tilt
  - Hard Tonneau Cover



LEASE FOR ONLY  
**\$242** /24 MONTHS  
BUY FOR ONLY  
**\$20,364**



### 2007 EXPLORER

- Features on the Explorer include:
- Eddie Bauer
  - Leather
  - CD
  - Power Windows & locks
  - Speed Control
  - Tilt Steering Wheel
  - Power Seat

LEASE FOR ONLY  
**\$231** /24 MONTHS  
BUY FOR ONLY  
**\$17,049**

### 2007 FIVE HUNDRED SEL

- Features on the Five Hundred SEL include:
- Traction Control
  - Reverse Sensing
  - Power Seat
  - CD
  - Power Windows & Locks
  - Speed Control
  - Tilt Steering Wheel



LEASE FOR ONLY  
**\$201** /24 MONTHS  
BUY FOR ONLY  
**\$21,461**

### 2007 F-150 4x4 SUPERCAB

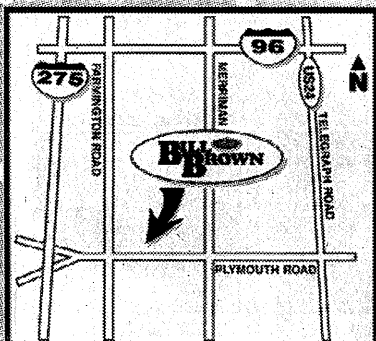
- Features on the F-150 4x4 Supercab include:
- XLT
  - Tow & Go
  - 5.4 V8
  - Automatic Transmission
  - Speed Control
  - Power Windows & locks
  - AM/FM-CD
  - Sliding Rear Window
  - Air Conditioning



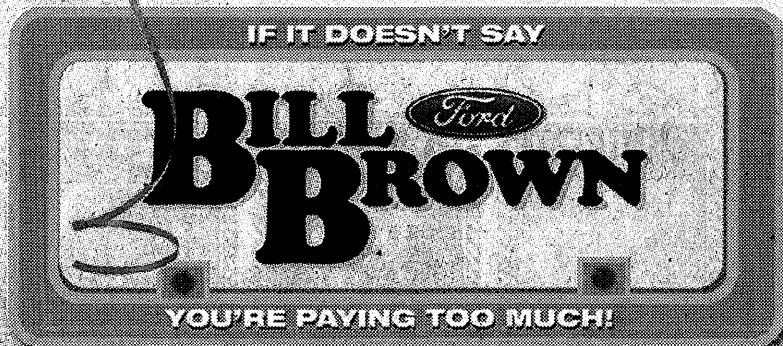
### 2007 EDGE!

- Air conditioning · Power Windows & Locks · Power Seat · Speed Control · Auto Lamps · Entry Keypad · Roof Rails · Cargo Management System

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BUY FOR ONLY  
**\$23,959**



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**2006 Ford Taurus SEL**  
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**\$12,480**  
AS LOW AS \$199/MO

  
**2006 Ford Taurus SE**  
Loaded, Low Miles, CERTIFIED Stk. #P39877  
**\$12,480**  
AS LOW AS \$199/MO

  
**2006 Ford Taurus SE**  
Loaded, Only 10,000 Miles, CERTIFIED Stk. #P3921  
**\$12,480**  
AS LOW AS \$199/MO

  
**2006 Ford Taurus SE**  
Loaded, Only 11K Miles, CERTIFIED Stk. #P3987  
**\$12,480**  
AS LOW AS \$199/MO

  
**2006 Ford Taurus SEL**  
Leather, MRoof, Loaded, Low Miles, CERTIFIED Stk. #P3906  
**\$13,480**  
AS LOW AS \$219/MO

**2006 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS**  
Stk. #P3976  
**\$17,981**

**2003 FORD FOCUS SVT**  
4K Miles, Like New. Stk. #71226A  
**\$13,999**

**2006 LINCOLN LS V8**  
Power Roof, Leather, 11,000 Miles. Stk. #P3984  
**\$24,880**

**2003 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA SEDAN GL**  
Stk. #10265  
**\$13,333**

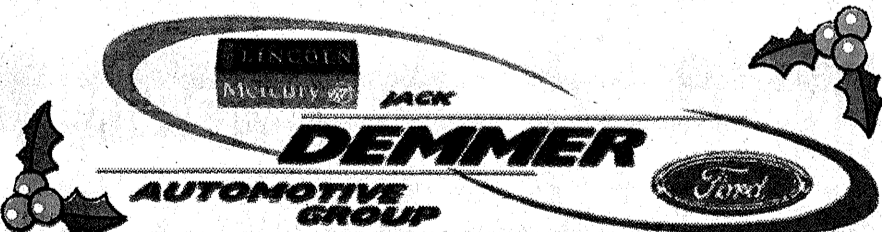
**2005 LINCOLN TOWN CAR SIGNATURE**  
Leather, Loaded With Luxury, 12,000 Miles. Stk. #P3988  
**\$24,880**

**2003 FORD THUNDERBIRD**  
Stk. #10251  
**\$25,891**

**2006 MERCURY MILAN PREMIUM**  
Auto, Leather, Loaded & Low Miles. Stk. #P3980  
**\$15,880**

**2006 FORD FUSION SE**  
7K Miles, Auto, Air, Loaded. Stk. #71587A  
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\*Disposal fees not included.

**Genuine Motorcraft® Premium Wear Indicator Wiper Blades**  
**\$19.95\*** OR LESS  
The innovative Wear Indicator signals the need for replacement.  
Motorcraft® Wiper Blades with Wear Indicator. Offer valid on most vehicles. Taxes extra. See participating Dealership for details through 12/30/06

**Genuine Motorcraft® Tested Tough PLUS Battery**  
**\$66.95\***  
With 84-month warranty that includes FREE towing.  
MSRP with exchange. Taxes and installation extra. Free towing valid only with dealer-installed replacement battery. See participating Dealership for vehicle applications and limited-warranty details through 12/30/06

**\$74.95\***  
**Four-Wheel Alignment**  
Check and adjust camber and toe. Additional parts and labor may be required on some vehicles. Taxes extra. See Service Advisor for details. Offer valid with coupon. Expires: 12/30/06

**\$79.95\*** **Holiday Travel Maintenance Package**  
4-Wheel additional \$25.00  
✓ Genuine Motorcraft® Premium Synthetic Blend Oil & filter change ✓ Rotate & inspect 4 tires ✓ Two-wheel alignment ✓ Multi-point inspection covering 27 key components ✓ Top off fluids. Up to 5 quarts of Motorcraft® oil. Taxes & diesel vehicles extra. Disposal fees not included in some locations. Hybrid high voltage battery test not included. Check & adjust camber & toe. Check tread depth & condition of all 4 tires. Additional parts & labor may be required on some vehicles. See Service Advisor for details. Offer valid with coupon. Expires: 12/30/06

**\$99.95\***  
**Cooling System Flush and Renew**  
Flush cooling system and replace with up to two gallons of Motorcraft® antifreeze. See Service Advisor for details. Offer valid with coupon. Expires: 12/30/06

**\$129.95\***  
**Automatic Transmission Fluid Flush**  
Flush transmission and replace automatic transmission transaxle fluid. Inspect and lubricate linkage and controls (where applicable). Road test. Offer valid on most vehicles. Taxes and diesel vehicles extra. See Service Advisor for details. Offer valid with coupon. Expires: 12/30/06

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**JACK DEMMER AUTOMOTIVE GROUP FREE BATTERY TEST WITH COUPON • EXPIRES 12/30/06**

**JACK DEMMER AUTOMOTIVE GROUP FREE FRONT END INSPECTION WITH COUPON • EXPIRES 12/30/06**

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