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Events canceled at contaminated park

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A small group of children, who used a popular Wayne County-owned park in Westland, tested positive for exposure to lead, officials said Tuesday.

However, preliminary results indicated that only a couple of youngsters who used Central City Park may have been exposed to potentially harmful levels of lead, according to county officials and residents.

In another development, the controversy has scuttled plans to use the park next summer for events that draw hundreds of people, including Little League baseball, the Western Wayne County Senior Olympics and the cancer-fighting fund-raiser Relay for Life.

Moreover, city leaders will work with organizers of the Westland Summer Festival to determine what to do about the Fourth of July fireworks display, which typically is set off in Central City Park.

Alan Helmkamp, assistant Wayne County executive, confirmed Tuesday that a "small group" of children tested positive for lead exposure based on blood samples taken Dec. 6 at the Westland Bailey Recreation Center. Results from a second round of tests Dec. 13 weren't yet available.

Helmkamp knew of only one child whose blood work showed lead levels above the 10 micrograms per deciliter that officials say could place a child at risk. Helmkamp said previous tests on that youngster had yielded similar results even before Dec. 6.

Officials can't say with certainty whether the exposure occurred in the park, located south of Westland City Hall on Ford Road east of Newburgh. Health experts have said that lead paint also can pose a threat, particularly for children 6 years old and younger. Lead can cause problems such as learning disabilities in children.

Westland resident Georgia Becker said her 12-year-old Garden City grandson — tested for lead for the first time Dec. 6 — showed levels of 16 micrograms per deciliter, above what's considered possibly harmful.

"This just sickens me," she said Tuesday. "I was hoping this wouldn't happen to anybody. He played baseball (on a league) in that park,



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Megan Buford, 7, and her brother, Jason, 5, of Westland stand in line with their grandmother Kathy Dobbstein for the lead testing done earlier this month at the Bailey Center.

PLEASE SEE PARK, A4

Many happy returns

Sale shoppers want gifts for themselves

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

A sweater that was too small had Westland resident Pamela Wood standing in the "returns" line that wound around the Westland Kohl's on Tuesday. But she planned to make her trip worthwhile.

"We're going to get socks and the essentials now that we have everything else," said Wood, who had a coupon for an extra 15 percent savings. "Now is the time, when you can get something for 50 percent off, as long as you can find the size."

Wood called her 13-year-old son, Alex, from another part of the store to hold her spot in line while she shopped for more deals. He came to Westland mall to exchange a duplicate GameBoy cartridge.

Christmas cast a new calm on local

PLEASE SEE SHOPPERS, A5



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Michelle Carrico of Canton wrestles with a large return at Toys R Us in Westland. The Blue Thunder Monster Truck for daughters Monique and Alexis was supposed to be a Barbie Hawaiian Jeep. Shoppers headed for local stores on the day after Christmas for returns and sweet deals.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lillian Easterly of Livonia, care ministries pastor for NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township, is driven by her own life experiences with addiction to help others in support groups at the church.

A ministry of caring grows out of misery

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Even at the height of her despair, it was tough to tell Lillian Easterly was in trouble.

Easterly dealt with issues created by growing up in a dysfunctional family where her father was an alcoholic — "One of my primary sources of pain," Easterly says now — by following his example and getting involved with drugs and alcohol.

As a high functioning alcoholic, Easterly could handle work, appeared to be handling her relationships and hid fairly well her addiction.

As is the case with many alcoholics, that was all a facade. The realization she was going in the wrong direction and change was need-

ed all came crashing in on Easterly during a suicide attempt 21 years ago.

After swallowing who knows how much alcohol, the revelation came suddenly for Easterly.

"I started using when I was about 14, and continued down that path for many years," Easterly said. "After that suicide attempt, God got my attention."

"What came to my heart, which I now know was God, told me, 'You don't want to die, you just don't want to hurt anymore.'"

The hurt came from the way she dealt with her issues, getting into the same problems her father had. Not long after the suicide attempt, she said, she found her way to a Christ-cen-

PLEASE SEE MINISTRY, A5

Warming center needs volunteers

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Lighthouse Home Mission is looking for volunteers to help work at its warming center beginning Jan. 1.

Housed at the Full Gospel Temple on Palmer east of Wayne Road in Westland, the warming center will provide overnight accommodations for the homeless through March 31.

"This is our fourth year of reaching out, not only to provide a cot to sleep on, showers and food, but to help them start a better life," said Thelma Ivey, a volunteer with Lighthouse Home Mission. "The most important thing is to let them know we care for them."

Seven churches in Westland, Garden City, Wayne and Canton, support the shelter which can sleep up to 50 individuals between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m. seven days a week. Volunteers are needed to work 7-11 p.m. or 11 p.m. to 8 a.m. on the days of their choice.

Help also is needed 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday to help sort clothing, work in the mission's food pantry and serve food at its soup kitchen.

"There's no state funding for the shelter, so we go to the people for help," said Ivey, a Garden City resident.

The shelter became embroiled in controversy in 2004 after the Westland Zoning Board of Appeals failed to grant a zoning variance. The decision closed the shelter, but also forced the Full Gospel to close the soup kitchen which had been in operation for many years.

Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, however, ordered the kitchen to reopen and late last year let the warming center open with a change in hours and a promise to move people out of the area during the day.

The closing stemmed from concerns expressed by residents in the area about children heading to Adams Middle School about a half mile east at the same time people were leaving the facility.

"We don't want have anyone leaving until the children are in school," said Ivey. "We want to open and have no complaints. We'll make sure to instruct them to go west toward Wayne Road, not toward the school."

The soup kitchen serves meals to the needy in the area 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

But the mission's work doesn't end there. It also handles referrals for assistance 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and opens the clothing and food bank by appointment 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays. Referrals can be faxed to Ivey's attention at (734) 721-2423.

"The Lord never ceases to amaze me," said Ivey. "We take people from all over, and on nights when we say we're full, we make room for more."

The Lighthouse Warming Center is based at the Full Gospel Temple, 34033 Palmer, Westland. People interested in volunteering at the warming center can call (734) 326-3885.

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10 DOLLARS

Fast-thinking kids help their diabetic mom

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

If mommy ever acts goofy, bring her a juice box. That's the advice Marcy Janes gave to her kids. On Dec. 11, she was glad she did.

Janes has Type 1 diabetes. That Monday morning, she didn't wake up to get her sons, Brendan and Jake, ready for school. The boys knew something was wrong.

"Mom was having a diabetic emergency," said Tom Kiurski, training coordinator for the Livonia Fire Department. Her blood sugar level dropped to a dangerous level.

Brendan and Jake knew what to do. "I gave her a juice box," said Jake, a first-grader at Randolph Elementary in Livonia.

"She needed sugar," said Brendan, 9. But they couldn't get her to take a sip.

"She was too far gone to even drink the juice box," Kiurski said.

The kids tried to give her a candy cane instead. They also called their aunts.

Aunt Jane Slipek of Westland came over immediately and called 9-1-1. Paramedics delivered glucose.

"(Patients with this condition) generally come back pretty quickly after that," Kiurski said. "She didn't even go to the hospital."

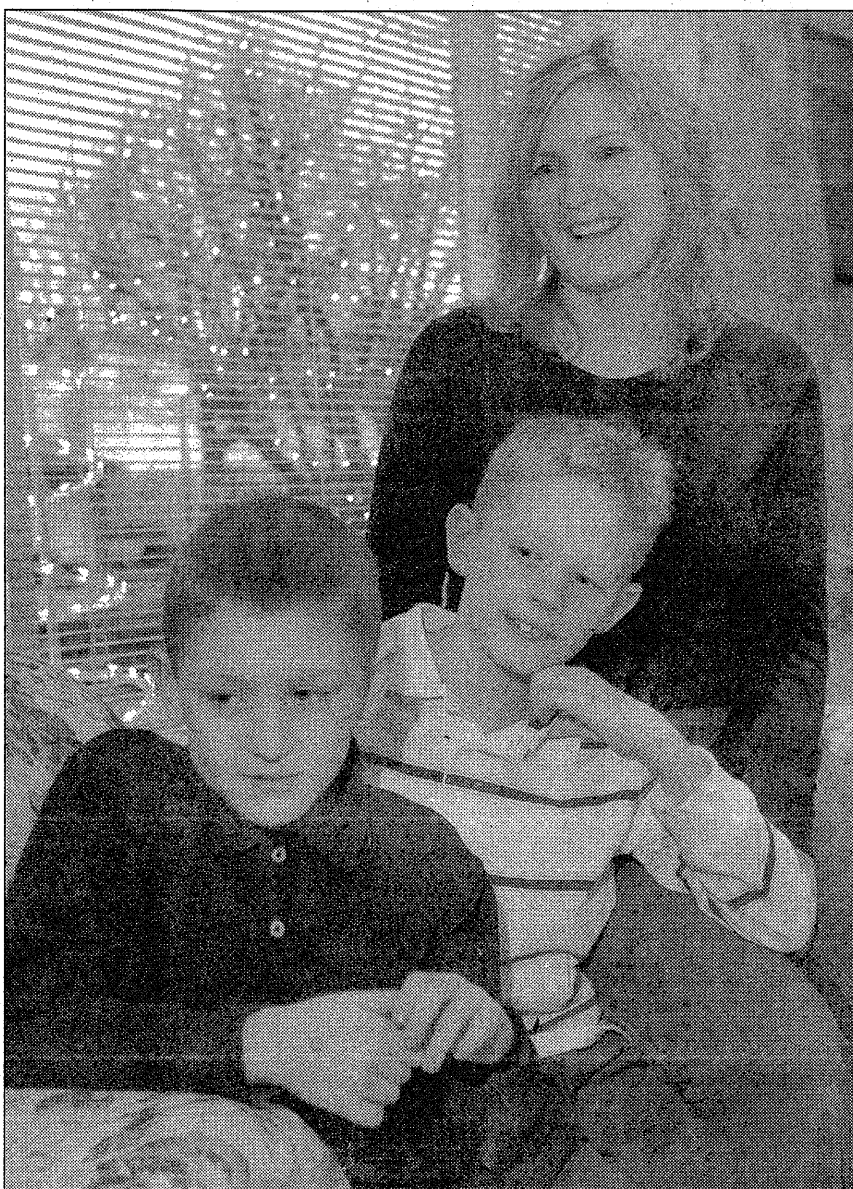
"And then we fixed her a peanut butter and jelly sandwich," Brendan said.

Marcy Janes, a nurse at St. Mary's Hospital, hasn't had a diabetic emergency like that in many years, but she trained her sons what to do just in case.

On Dec. 21, Kiurski, the fire chief, and three paramedics from Station 6 who responded to the medical call, visited the Janes family to congratulate Brendan and Jake.

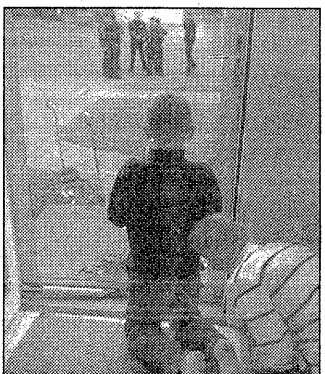
"You guys did the right thing when you were supposed to," Kiurski said. The boys got certificates, stuffed animals, firemen's helmets and stickers.

"I'm very proud. They did exactly what they've been told to do," Janes said. She also commended the fire department for the way they praised her sons.



Marcy Janes and sons Jake and Brendan.

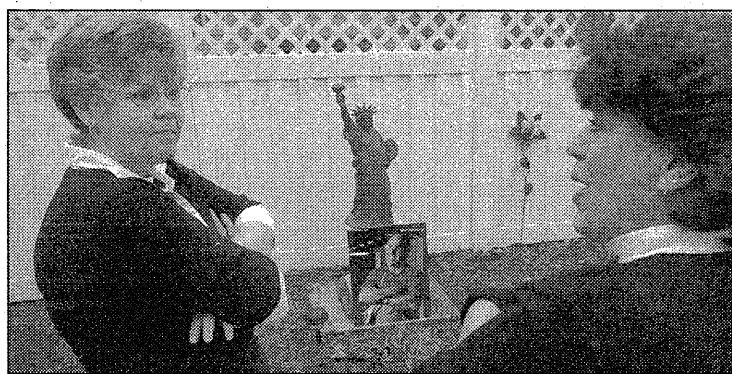
PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Jake and Brendan Janes watch the firefighters gathering for their visit to the Janes family.



Brendan and Jake Janes got to meet with John McKee, Matt Niemczewski, and David Bostater. Jerry Eizen, who is also on the crew, is not pictured.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton resident Maureen Hassien, here with niece Sheri Barber of Westland, is happy that her late husband Bud's Statue of Liberty was returned.

Return of 'Lady Liberty' brightens widow's Christmas

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

She left with a thief in the night and was returned by an angel in the morning.

The cherished Statue of Liberty replica stolen from a Canton woman's garden in late November was returned during the early hours of Christmas.

"That just made my day," said Maureen Hassien, whose plea to get the statue back was highlighted in the Dec. 21 *Canton Observer*. "In less than a week, all the (media attention) brought her home."

The 30-inch tall replica was a gift to Hassien's deceased husband, Assim "Bud" Hassien.

"This was our first Christmas without him so it had been a very hard week for me," said Maureen, who was married to Bud for 32 years. "It seems like him and God brought her back on what they knew would be our worst day."

Known for his longtime fondness of Lady Liberty, Bud Hassien planned to visit the national monument in October, but died of a heart attack just weeks before the scheduled trip.

The statue's theft only worsened the family's grieving process.

"I was so angry that someone had taken her but when she came back, I couldn't stop crying tears of joy," said Hassien's niece, Sheri

Barber of Westland. "This changed the whole spirit of our Christmas."

The 50-pound statue, affectionately referred to as "The Lady," was placed on Maureen's doorstep between 2-7 a.m.

"I could see something out there and when I opened the door, my legs just started shaking," Maureen said. "I just picked her up and brought her in the house. I couldn't believe she had come home."

Besides a small nick at the hemline of her robe and another near her seven-point crown, the cement replica is in good condition. The family plans to permanently attach it to the pedestal still standing in Hassien's garden.

"If someone tries to take it again, they're going to get a major backache," Maureen chuckled, glancing at the statue sitting near her fireplace.

Barber, who attended midnight Mass with Hassien, said she asked God to give her aunt strength to make it through her first Christmas as a widow.

"I said a prayer and I had hope," she said. "There's no excuse for stealing, but I'm glad whoever took it had a change of heart."

Maureen said she has no hard feelings toward the statue's thief.

"Thank you for bringing her back but please don't do it again — to anyone," she said.

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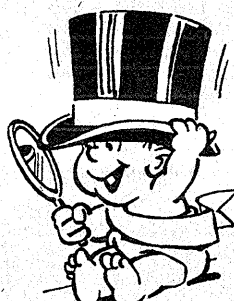
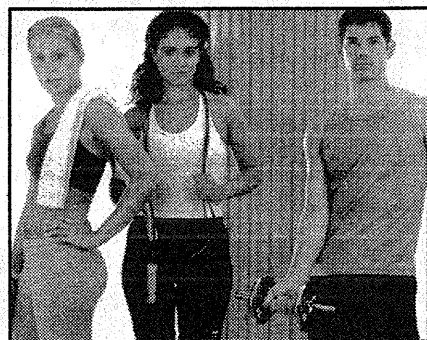


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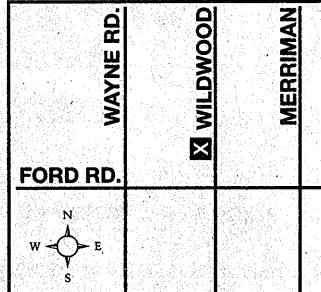


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Late President Ford remembered fondly

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Bill Broomfield has a lot of good memories of President Gerald Ford from their years representing Michigan in Congress together.

"I served with him all through his congressional career," said the retired congressman, reached Wednesday morning at his suburban Washington, D.C., home. Ford, who died Tuesday night in Rancho Mirage, Calif., at age 93, came to Congress in 1948.

"He was a very decent and honorable man," said Broomfield, a Republican. "He was just a great person. Everybody liked him."

Broomfield believes Ford's legacy will be restoring decency and honesty to the presidency following the Watergate scandal. "Our country needed that kind of leadership," said Broomfield, who approved of the pardoning of President Richard Nixon. "It was a healing process and I think most people understood that."

Broomfield advocated for Ford to be



Former President Gerald Ford at an appearance at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

House minority leader and later vice president when Spiro Agnew resigned. He and his wife, Jane, just got their annual Christmas card from the Fords.

"Betty Ford and my wife are very close." "I think he did an awful lot for Michigan, too," Broomfield added.

"Michigan really benefited a great deal." He recalled being with Ford, Jimmy Carter and Henry Kissinger on a delegation to represent the U.S. when Egypt's Anwar Sadat was assassinated.

"I was deeply saddened by his passing,"

Broomfield said of Ford. "I feel I've lost a great friend."

Democratic Congressman John Dingell said in a statement, "Gerald Ford and I came from different sides of the aisle, but we forged a wonderful friendship as we served Michigan together in the House of Representatives. When his nation called on him to serve this country in the most difficult of times, he rose up and held the country together. It will certainly be his legacy."

"I will remember him fondly and I will miss him dearly," Dingell concluded.

Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm has directed all U.S. flags to fly at half staff to comply with federal law, and encourages residents and nongovernmental entities to follow suit.

"The nation has lost a president, but Michigan has lost a native son who honored us with his service to our state and nation," she said in a statement. Granholm praised Ford's leadership and decency from his days at the University of Michigan on to Congress and the presidency.

PARK

FROM PAGE A1

and we've always had birthday parties in the park."

Becker said her grandson, along with other family members, also helped build a children's playscape and attended some Relay for Life activities in Central City Park.

Becker said her grandson, who spent his early years growing up in a mobile home built in 1985, has no other known exposure to lead, such as lead-based paint. She said the boy has an appointment Friday with his pediatrician for further examination.

On Tuesday, Helmkamp said it is his understanding that the Dec. 6 blood tests found no elevated levels of lead in any adults. Most Wayne County officials weren't available for comment this holiday week.

In all, nearly 100 children and adults showed up Dec. 6 for the free blood tests. A much smaller number got tested a week later.

In yet another development, Helmkamp confirmed Tuesday that water samples taken from Friendship Lake in the park showed no problem with lead.

The controversy over Central City Park erupted in early November as Mayor Sandra Cicirelli moved to close the park until cleanup efforts can be approved by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Only a paved walking path around the perimeter has remained open.

Park users became angry after learning that city, county and MDEQ officials had known about elevated levels of lead for several years, based on soil samples from several

years ago.

Soil tests also found other contaminants, including arsenic, cyanide, mercury, PCBs and pesticides, but officials said those weren't in elevated levels considered potentially harmful.

Officials have said they didn't believe the lead contamination posed a serious health threat. They have said most of the elevated levels of over 400 parts per million were found on the western ball diamonds and, to a lesser extent, the soccer fields.

Officials have said the park was used as a former dump site by county road workers from the 1930s to the 1970s.

Meanwhile, Westland's plans to host the 2007 Western Wayne County Senior Olympics have been postponed a year. Instead, Canton, which was supposed to host the 2008 Olympics, will switch with Westland.

"We've already arranged to switch with Canton," said Cicirelli, who will leave her mayoral job Jan. 1 to become a Westland district judge.

The 2007 Relay for Life event is expected to be moved from Central City Park to Jaycee Park in Westland. Local and county officials will try to find alternate sites for Little League baseball.

"My gut feeling is that we're not going to get this (park remediation) wrapped up in time for the baseball season," Westland City Council President William Wild said.

Helmkamp pledged that county officials will help the city in the event that cleanup efforts can move forward quickly.

"We're hoping for the best but planning for the worst," he said.


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Physical Therapy UPDATE


Hands On Center
Presented by
Hands On Center For Physical Therapy
HITTING YOUR STRIDE

Runners who experience injuries such as a patello-femoral pain syndrome ("runner's knee") may want to avail themselves of a method of rehabilitation that seeks to correct flaws in their stride. Abnormal running mechanics are factors in many running injuries, and in most cases, these flaws can be corrected. The failure to correct form flaws in response to injuries may only invite the same problem to return after the original injury heals. While many physical therapists try to correct stride flaws indirectly by prescribing strengthening and stretching exercises that are designed to correct muscle imbalances, proponents of gait retraining believe that is just the first step. Modifying running mechanics helps reduce stresses that lead to injury. As a runner, there may be times when common injuries occur even when good running habits are practiced. When you are faced with such problems, a visit to a physical therapist for treatment and rehabilitation may be in order. For physical therapy care, call the **HANDS ON CENTER FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY** at 455-8370. We are located at 650 South Main Street in downtown Plymouth. We have easy access and parking. New patients gladly accepted.


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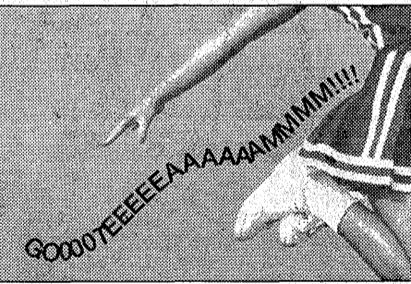
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MINISTRY

FROM PAGE A1

tered 12-step program at a church that taught her to be completely honest about everything.

"I'm so grateful for that," she said. "That's what drives me today, getting more people to realize that kind of honesty is the only way to have joy. You have to stop being fake."

DOESN'T HURT

She doesn't hurt anymore, at least not that way, and now she dedicates her life to helping others escape the same kinds of pain. Easterly, a Livonia resident, found her way to NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township after attending one of its "Glory of Christmas" productions and hearing senior pastor Brad Powell speak.

"It was clearly a God thing," she said. "He spoke to me very clearly about making that change."

She left the church she'd been attending for 10 years and is now happily ensconced at NorthRidge. Starting as a volunteer, she began the "Life Share" ministry and attending Bible college. When she graduated, she said, she sought advice from Powell about a life direction and pitched him the idea about her ministry.

Now she's been on staff for six years and serves as the care ministries pastor, coordinating the activities of some 67 support groups for everything from divorce to addiction. "Out of your misery comes your ministry," Easterly said, smiling.

Easterly's honesty and openness is one of the things that attracted Beth (the Observer is withholding her last name at her request), a Canton woman who leads the ministry's Women of Serenity addictions support group.

Beth, who acknowledges "I was a mess" before being saved, said Easterly's attitude was "refreshing."

"When I first went there, Lillian was real open about it," Beth said. "It wasn't church-ish. It wasn't, 'here's what you did wrong,' it was more 'I know what you're feeling, and I know a way out.'"

'AWESOME PROGRAM'

Like Beth, Mike Smith of Westland is a recovering alcoholic. Smith, a musician who plays at the church, is a member of the church's Celebrate Recovery group for people with alcohol addictions.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lillian Easterly of Livonia, the care ministries pastor at NorthRidge Church in Plymouth Township, helps coordinate the activities of some 67 support groups at the church, which draws membership from all over Wayne County.

"It's really an awesome program," Smith said. "It's a place you can go where you don't have to be afraid of who you are, you don't have to put on any masks. You're not judged; there's just a lot of help."

Smith attributes much of that to Easterly, who he said has "tremendous compassion for people."

"Lillian has taken that program to unbelievable levels; in my opinion, it's the most important part of the church," he said. "She has caring and compassion for those who are in need. God works through her really well, and she really has a passion for that ministry."

Easterly shrugs off the praise with the air of someone who's simply doing what she loves. The church is getting ready for an increase in need after the first of the year, when people start taking stock of their lives and vowing changes.

"There's a contemplation that always comes after New Year, people start looking at their lives," Easterly said. "If people coming through our doors aren't in a state of crisis now, they will be. It's inevitable, it's just reality. Our doors are open to anyone."

Helping people sort out their problems is something Easterly, who got so much help with her own, loves to do.

"I have the privilege of entering into people's pain with them and then seeing God show up and do a miracle," she said. "I think I get more out of it than they do, and I wouldn't trade it for anything."

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SHOPPERS

FROM PAGE A1

stores. Shelves that had been picked over and in disarray days earlier were in neat order with new sale signs Dec. 26.

At Westland mall, shoppers could find sweaters for \$15, leather coats for \$85 and half off everything from the toy store to the calendar kiosk.

Macy's and J.C. Penney both offered extra savings until noon, which helped draw shoppers.

"I'm going to have lunch and see what the after Christmas sales are like — for as long as my

energy lasts," said Detroit resident Molly Thiry, who entertained on Christmas. "It's fun for a while."

"So far, so good. No returns," said Susan Mullen of Westland, who came to the mall empty-handed and planned to leave with Boxing Day gifts for her in-laws in Windsor.

The parking lot at Target on Ford Road in Canton was full, but there was no waiting at the returns counter.

Everyone shuffled through the aisles at the back of the store where Christmas decorations had been marked down by at least half.

Cyndy Masciulli of Canton and her two eager children filled their cart in the toy department.

"They just got money for Christmas so we figured we'd shop," said Masciulli. Her son, who gave his age as 4.2 years old, found good deals, like a Spider-Man Adventure Zone tent marked down to \$7.48, from \$30.

Outside, Shannon Larson rearranged the contents of her Jeep Laredo, trying to make room for three cartfuls of merchandise — including stocking stuffers for next year.

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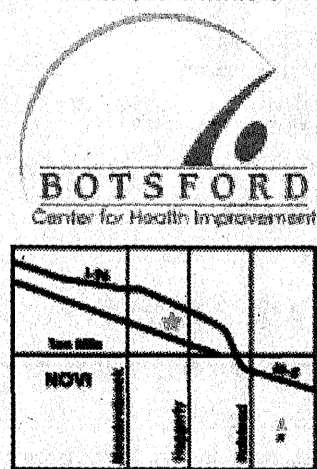
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Making China's economic rise work for Michigan's future

Quick, name three things that Michigan has that China does not. No, the correct answer is not the "trinity" of Oakland County Executive Brooks Patterson, Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano and the larger than life Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick. Nor is it the lousy Detroit Lions, potted roads or the almost-World Champion Detroit Tigers.

It is clean air, clean water and a pristine environment.

Those who have lived in Michigan for a number of years know that this was not always the case. The early days of our industrial strength witnessed the pollution of our air, our rivers, streams and lakes. Yet, as kids will say, "that was then and this is now." Certainly, we have yet to reach any "environmental nirvana," as any Michigan environmental group will be quick to point out. However, by nearly any measure, we have come a long way.

If you have traveled in China recently, your burning eyes will testify that along with their economic boom over the past quarter of a century, with double-digit economic increases on an annual basis, has come with a stiff environmental price — polluted air, rivers, streams and lakes.

China's environmental problems are not just limited to their political borders. Air and water pollution do not stop at the artificial boundaries marked on world maps. When we talk about "China's rise," it is more than just their economic mass, it is also pollution that is rising as well.

Clearly China's economic rise has come with a heavy and choking toll on the environment. The factories that are producing much of what will lay under your Christmas tree this year are fueled by dirty coal spewing out soot and fouling the air and water. Further complicating the problem is growing auto pollution. It is predicted that there will be seven times the number of cars on China roadways in 2020 than there were in 2004, and the Chinese auto market is expected to surpass the U.S. market in 10 years.

China's energy needs are as great or greater than their environmental needs as they continue to emerge from the horrors of the Cultural Revolution and other ill-forgotten national policies that held the sleeping dragon back for much of the 20th century. The Chinese will need to invest in energy production in an environmentally sensible way.

According to the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, the Chinese need to invest nearly \$2 trillion in new power plants and transmission by 2030. Will the energy be clean? Can Michigan clean up by helping the Chinese meet these two mounting demands?

Many reports coming out of China point to

Clearly China's economic rise has come with a heavy and choking toll on the environment. The factories that are producing much of what will lay under your Christmas tree this year are fueled by dirty coal spewing out soot and fouling the air and water.

the fact that Chinese leaders are recognizing the huge problem of pollution and are encouraging new green technology to address these issues lest they choke off the economic dragon that is lifting many Chinese out of poverty and providing the stability the Chinese Communist Party will pay any price to maintain.

America remains number one in two categories today: economic output and the world's leading emitter of greenhouse gases. However, according to the International Monetary Fund, by 2040 or sooner, China could surpass us in both categories.

There is an economic doom and gloom hanging in the Michigan air like a smoggy day in Beijing. With the daily barrage of bad news from the auto industry and the continued loss of manufacturing jobs polluting our minds, it is easy to lose the forest for the trees.

Yet, China's problems could and should be seen by Michigan's leaders and entrepreneurs as our opportunities. China is sitting on an escalating energy and environmental crisis in addition to as much as \$1 trillion of foreign currency, much of that U.S. currency, seeking investment opportunities. Can Michigan help build environmentally friendly power plants in China, clean the air, help purify the water and put our people to work doing so?

Our state has a recent rich history of protecting our drinking water, reclaiming our rivers, streams and lakes while fueling our industrial needs. Through our creativity, innovation and can-do spirit we have the ability to take Michigan off economic life support and export our knowledge and products on the global stage.

Michigan must have the goal of becoming the brain bank of the world when it comes to auto technology, alternative energy and environmental entrepreneurship. As the state that protects our streams, air and rivers and stands tall as the protector of the Great Lakes, Michigan must seek ways to export this knowledge, technology and products to China.

How is that for clearing the air with China?

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant. He served as state superintendent of schools from 2001-05 and as president and CEO of the Economic Council of Palm Beach County, Fla., 1996-2001. He has a long-standing interest in China and has traveled there many times. He can be reached at tdwatkins@aol.com.



Tom Watkins

Change Michigan headlines to employment, economic growth

Jobs. Disposable income. People. What do all these things have in common? The answer is simple — out of Michigan. For many years, our state has suffered significantly due to job losses, particularly in the automotive sector, thus making our state No. 1 in unemployment in the entire nation. As unfortunate as it may seem, the realism is there and we must do something as soon as possible to restore our great state to the economy glory and boom that we once cherished.

Jobs are continuing to pour out of our great state to our neighboring states, as well as those states in warmer climates. Why is this? It's because we here in Michigan have an unfriendly business environment.

For example, we have the Single Business Tax that has been the talk of being revamped. We have school districts across the country that are luring our teachers away because of bonuses and repayments of their educational loans, and states that are pitching big tax breaks for companies that want to do business in those states. The list goes on and on and on while Michigan's economy moves out as fast as a click of a switch.

Disposable income is such a significant economic boost to any location. For example, when Michigan was in the running for Boeing Corp. to locate the assembly plant for its new Boeing 7E7 Dreamliner in north-east lower Michigan, other states had better packages in place, therefore we lost an opportunity for thousands of jobs directly related to Boeing, as well as spinoff jobs being located here in southeast Michigan.

The infusion of disposable income in the local and state economy would have been vital in that more businesses would have flourished near the plant, more homes would have been built, more office space, etc.

Michigan didn't win the contract! This says a lot. It says to Boeing and other companies that Michigan is not a great place to do business. However, I believe we are a great place to do business, but this greatness must be met with the support of our lawmakers in Lansing and Washington. We offered Boeing \$300 million in tax incentives over a 20-year period, whereas Washington state offered it \$3 billion over 20 years. Washington's proposal was more aggressive than Michigan's. Hopefully, we will land a Boeing contract in Michigan in the next 10-12 years, the next time that Boeing will develop a new aircraft.

Our great state of Michigan has such a skilled and talented work force. Our strong aerospace industry would have served a log-

ical fit for Boeing to locate a plant here. Boeing has failed to land in Michigan and has landed elsewhere and billions of dollars to Michigan went with it.

People are leaving Michigan at a rate as fast as those people moving into states that offer better weather, a better business climate and jobs. That's plain and simple. We need to reverse this trend as fast as we can, and not be complacent in sustaining our job losses here. It seems like that's the direction we are headed.

Our state must invest in its people, invest in its businesses, invest in education system, invest in health care. I just cannot stress how important it is to invest in Michigan. All this can take place with the strike of a pen in Lansing, where our lawmakers have been tasked with the responsibility to look out for the best interests of our state. We have such a talented and skilled workforce here that we can diversify our economy all across the board.

The automotive industry was certainly a driving force of Michigan's economy and has contributed to thousands of jobs, as well as job losses. Why the job loss? Because of fierce competition, particularly amongst Asian automakers. There are so many reasons why we have suffered here in Michigan. Our state is a center for education, medicine, manufacturing, technology, aerospace, financial services, etc. We must capitalize on these sectors by supporting them.

Our great state laid the foundation that put the world on wheels, however, we must grow beyond the automotive sector, in not only supporting them, but supporting Michigan farmers who help feed America and the world, help the scientific community as they are looking to find cures to the leading diseases of the day, support industries such as alternative energy in helping to deliver new energy alternatives to our citizens rather than depending on foreign oil, help boost our tourism industry to help fill in those hotel rooms in Michigan's landmark sites such as Traverse City and Mackinac Island, etc.

I urge our top policy makers in Lansing to pass legislation that would pay dividends for job creation, family finances, small government and low taxes. We must enact tax cuts to relieve Michigan citizens and business as they are suffering. Let's cut all this government spending in Lansing and invest in Michigan people. Let's reverse the statistic as being No. 1 in unemployment and be No. 1 in job growth. And let the headlines read: "Jobs are moving into Michigan," and "Michigan is America's No. 1 economy."

Mike Rogers of Farmington Hills is an Oakland County commissioner for the 14th District, Farmington Hills.



Mike Rogers

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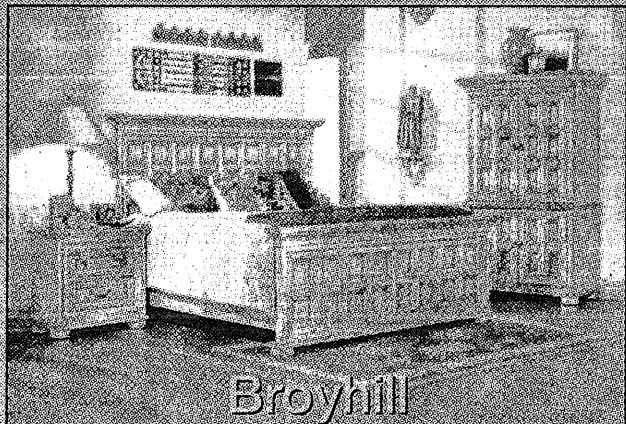
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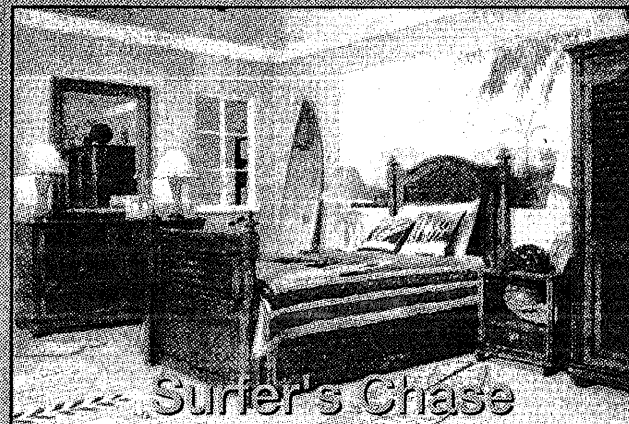
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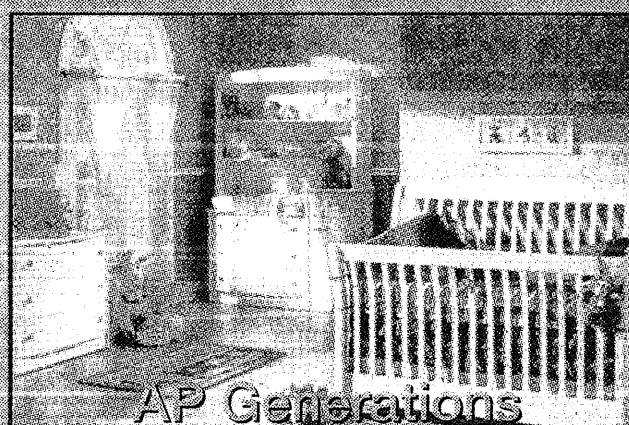
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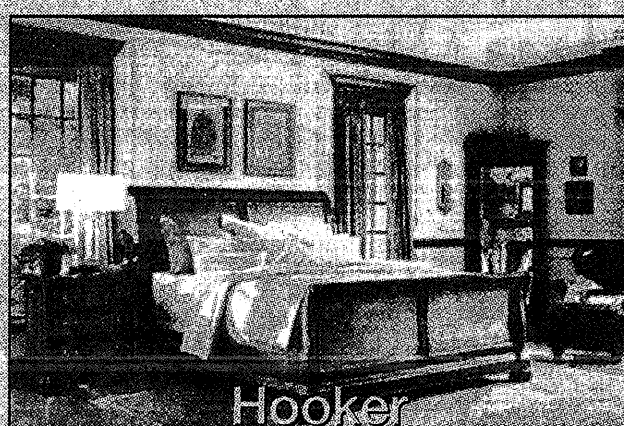
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Veteran reporter gives inside look at governor's race

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

The title of Tim Skubick's entertaining, behind-the-scenes book on the just-completed governor's race is *See Dick and Jen Run*. Over the last year Skubick has been doing a lot of running himself in pursuit of the two candidates, Dick DeVos and Jennifer Granholm.

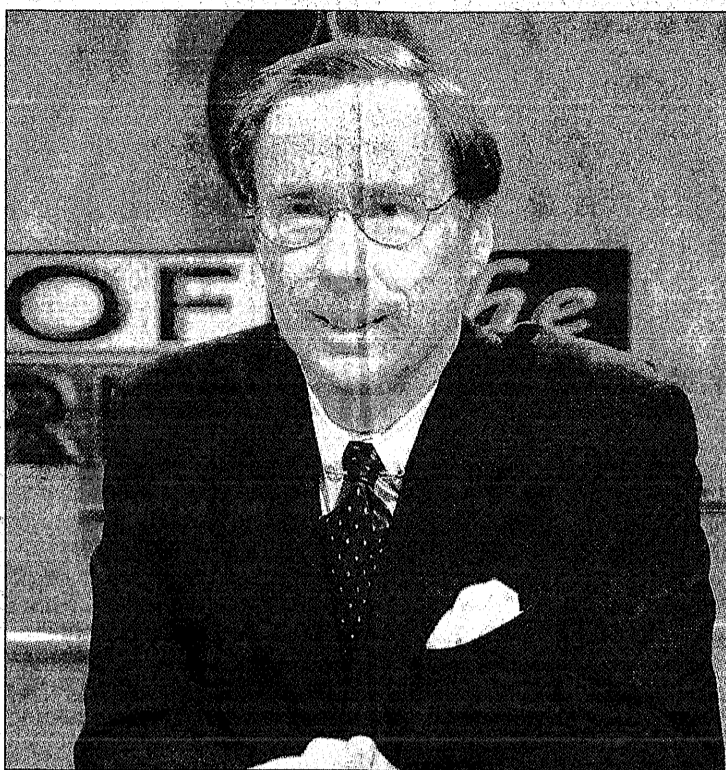
In fact he's still running. Last week he was late for an interview to promote his book because the successful candidate, Gov. Granholm, was holding a four press conference on Michigan's uncertain economic future.

Skubick is the dean of the Lansing press corps who seems to be everywhere at once — as a reporter for several television and radio stations, a syndicated columnist and host of Michigan Public Television's *Off The Record*, a must-see for state political junkies. He has covered Lansing for more than 30 years, dating back to Gov. Bill Milliken.

It's that full menu and special access to the candidates that gives his book its special appeal and immediacy.

The book itself was written on the run, in real time, as Skubick and other reporters tracked the most expensive and one of the most interesting gubernatorial campaigns in Michigan history. The format allowed Skubick to turn the book around quickly for his publishers The University of Michigan Press and The Petoskey Publishing Company. "It may sound crass, but the book had to get out soon after the election," Skubick said. "If I had written it after the election, it would have been March or April until I finished. I finished it the day after the election. I quote Dan Mulhern (Jennifer Granholm's husband) 'brilliant marketing' end quote."

Brilliant marketing was also key to Granholm's spectacular



Veteran capital reporter Tim Skubick gives an insider's view of the recent gubernatorial campaign in *'See Dick and Jen Run.'*

turnaround. Early in the campaign DeVos, a wealthy Grand Rapids businessman, began a media blitz of commercials while Granholm held back.

"We were wondering, 'When are you going to start your ads and erase his 20 point lead.' But she made the right call, preserved her stash of cash until the end. I missed that," Skubick said.

The book's real-time format allows Skubick to brag about his scoops but it also honestly portrays those times when he and other reporters "missed it."

CONTRASTING CANDIDATES

Skubick clearly likes DeVos and Granholm.

"I like them both, personally. Professionally, I could give a hoot," he said.

But to the public, DeVos seemed awkward.

"In private he was personable. People I met universally said, 'He's not what I thought

he would be,'" Skubick said. "There is a stereotype about billionaires being aloof and above everyone."

Skubick said he tells a story about DeVos visiting a nursing home and spending time talking individually with the residents.

On the other hand, Granholm was made for the media.

"I call it the Granholm magic," he said. "Her staff call her a rock star, I'm not ready to go there. But she lights up a room."

He said she has a way of making everyone she meets feel important.

"She uses it in a positive way, but it didn't carry her as far this time as last time, a little of the bloom was off the rose," he said.

A weak economy, an ongoing struggle with a Republican legislature and a crisis in some government services made Granholm vulnerable. But the



first debate clearly showed the differences in the candidates.

THE FIRST DEBATE

Skubick was at the center of that pivotal event. He was originally set to be the sole moderator. But as negotiations went along, the DeVos camp was leery of Skubick's aggressive questioning style. A compromise had Skubick teamed with Detroit News political reporter Charlie Cain.

"I always prefer a single moderator, but this worked out wonderfully," he said.

Skubick said even DeVos' handlers admit that they didn't prepare him well for the debate. He was awkward, unsure of where to look and kept repeating pat phrases. Skubick said he had been ill advised to not go after Granholm.

Skubick said there were

issues on which she was vulnerable and DeVos could have scored points on content but didn't.

The debate had a no rules format.

"I've always felt the no rules format is the most telling for voters, to give them a better idea of what a candidate is all about," he said.

Not just for the debate but in general, Granholm had a better campaign team, Skubick said.

"She had people all around her who understood the state," he said. "The people around DeVos didn't know about Michigan except for (campaign manager Greg) McNeilly and (John) Truscott and DeVos' wife Betsy, who was very important to the campaign although rarely seen."

Another factor in the campaign that Skubick followed through the summer was the incredible turnaround of the Detroit Tigers. As the Tigers prospered, so did Granholm. Early in the campaign DeVos was hauled into an interview at a Tiger game and showed he really wasn't a fan. Granholm, on the other hand, knew the players and understood the game. Skubick writes that, unfairly or not, it suggested that "DeVos wasn't one of us."

THE TURNAROUND

Skubick said that by the time of Google announced that they were bringing a facility to Ann Arbor, he felt that Granholm was going to win.

"He was getting no traction at all. They overplayed the businessman advantage.

Businessmen really haven't been all that successful. They should have brought out Dick DeVos the man first, the businessman second," he said.

In the end, Skubick said, the DeVos campaign spent \$35 million and voters still didn't trust him. They did trust Jennifer Granholm.

Skubick says he thinks Granholm has had a hard time as governor because the economic slump never let up. He said she's done a good job of balancing the budget but it waits to be seen what she'll do in the future.

"Today she said being a lame-duck is liberating," Skubick said.

And what do the subjects think about the book?

"I've not heard a word from Dick DeVos and he's had the book for two weeks," Skubick said. "The governor and I had a privileged conversation and I can't tell you what was said. She finished the book in a day. I will say this, she said it could have been a lot worse."

Skubick said he hopes the book gives people a realistic look at what goes on in a political campaign and that what they see in political ads is not a true portrait of the candidates.

See Dick and Jen Run (The University of Michigan Press and The Petoskey Publishing Co., \$29.95) is available at major book stores.



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Chrysler sponsors grants for science teachers

BY FRANK WASHINGTON

Snazzy science projects are being honored by the Chrysler Group's *Closing the Technology Gap* program, which has been called a critical investment in Michigan's public schools.

In only its second year, U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow has endorsed the Chrysler Group's effort to increase Michigan student's interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

In its second year, the *Closing the Technology Gap* program will bestow \$87,000 in grants to public school teachers who excel in creating innovative and motivating curricula and projects in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The awards will be used to further advance creative projects in the winning schools.

"Education and innovation are the building blocks of a strong economy and good paying jobs for Michigan," said Stabenow. "Across our state, dedicated (STEM) teachers help our children build essential skills for the 21st century workforce. Chrysler Group's *Closing the Technology Gap* awards program is a critical investment in Michigan's future."

Research from the National Science Foundation found that fewer people are pursuing science, mathematics and engineering careers while employment opportunities in these fields will increase three times faster than in all

other occupations. "Because of this, *Closing the Technology Gap* aims to increase student interest and participation in the sciences and ultimately provide companies such as ours with a viable, technology-savvy workforce in the future," said Frank Fountain, Chrysler Group Senior Vice President-External Affairs and Public Policy and President of the DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund, which provides the monetary gifts.

Michigan teachers at the high school, middle school and elementary school levels have been invited to submit their applications to the New Detroit Science Center. The submissions will be judged on creativity and the uniqueness of the teaching process while also bringing passion and excitement for STEM curriculums into the classroom.

Schools that finish first through third at each academic level and in each category will receive \$15,000, \$7,500 and \$3,000, respectively. Fourth through 10th place finishers will receive \$500. An independent panel of judges from the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields will select the 30 winners.

"The children of Michigan need passionate and innovative teachers who can make science, technology, engineering and math come alive," said Kevin F. Prihod, president and CEO of the New Detroit Science Center. "That what may have been seen as boring with no relevance becomes the door to exciting and

profitable careers."

Noble is the word that Harry Istok used to describe Chrysler Group's *Closing the Technology Gap* Program. "Chrysler stepped up to the plate on this," he said. "I think they hit a home run."

Istok, a 35-year teaching veteran, was a first-place finisher at the junior-high level for what he called *Integration 2000*.

Integration 2000, created in 1994, merges classroom projects with the real world. Another of last year's winning submissions involved transforming an old VCR player into a model boat. Students had to be creative and inventive. They had to learn about - among other things - electric motors, wiring, electricity and structural design.

All of last year's winning submissions are posted on www.chryslerteacherawards.com.

Applications should be mailed to: 2007 Closing the Technology Gap in Education Awards, c/o New Detroit Science Center, 5020 John R Street, Detroit, MI 48202. They also can be emailed to: teacherawards@sciencedetroit.org.

Applications can be downloaded from www.chryslerteacherawards.com. Submissions should include the objective, the approach, the relevance, the measurement, the challenge and any support material. The deadline is Dec. 31, 2006, and winners will be announced in May 2007.

Livonia 'cold case' murder featured on television show

The long and tragic tale of a 17-year search for the killer of a Livonia man at his Seven Mile Road home will be featured at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 31, on an episode of *Cold Case Files* on the A&E cable network.

Earlier this year, a video production crew began documenting the story of the 1989 murder of businessman Exavor Giller that finally ended in April of this year when former employee Richard Lawson was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison.

The turning point in the case was a telephone call from a woman who had an affair with a witness to the murder, though there were many twists to the tale.

A church volunteer, who met with inmates at a California prison, had an affair with prisoner Richard Mutica, who said he had been with Lawson and saw him shoot Giller. The woman took Mutica's information and called Giller's daughter, Bonnie Swoboda, in December 2004.

A month later, Lawson was arrested in his San Diego apartment.

The crew spent a week recording footage at the Giller home and Livonia Police Department and interviewing members of the Giller family, witnesses and police investigators who worked on the case through the years.

Those included retired Sgt. Don Vandersloot, who was the first LPD detective on the case and Sgt. Cory Williams, one of the officers who arrested Giller.

The cross-country investigation by Livonia police included trips to several states in search of evidence, including documents in Pennsylvania, key receipts in Florida and the recovery of weapons stolen from the Giller home in a New Jersey pond.

Williams said it was tough for the Giller family to talk about the ordeal again in front of a TV camera, but they hoped their story will give other grieving families hope.

For the filming, the production team also flew out to interview the dive team that recovered the weapons in Atlantic City and flew in the witness from California for an interview, Williams said.

Participants weren't paid to appear in the filming but got a *Cold Case* hat and T-shirt, plus a DVD of the show. "It's pretty cool," Williams said, adding that for one segment they put a camera on the floorboard of his car while he was driving.

"I think it would be a great memento for my kids to have of the work their dad did," he said.

- By Dave Varga

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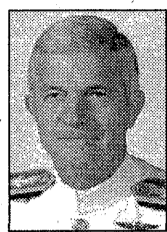
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Admiral Kirksey, Kitty Hawk captain, dies

Vice Admiral Robert E. Kirksey passed away on Dec. 16 in Ft. Myers, Fla., as a result of complications from Alzheimer's Disease. He was the brother of former Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey.

Admiral Kirksey was 76 years old. Admiral Kirksey spent his years prior to his flight training in 1951 in Detroit and Grosse Pointe Woods. His permanent military address was his brother, Jack's, home in Livonia. In 1982, Admiral Kirksey served as the grand marshal of the Livonia Memorial Day Parade.

Jack Kirksey said he was proud of his brother. "He was a great guy. Everyone loved him," he said. When Admiral Kirksey served as grand marshal, Jack Kirksey said, "If I could put a billboard on Woodward Avenue in Detroit or on I-96 reading 'My brother is Bob Kirksey and he's the admiral,' I would do it because I am that proud of him."



Robert E. Kirksey

Admiral Kirksey was a naval aviator. He received his Navy Wings in 1953 and was promoted to a vice admiral in 1984.

During his 31 years of Naval service he achieved many accomplishments:

Though Admiral Kirksey did not attend the Naval Academy, he rose to a three-star ranking, an unusual accomplishment without Academy credentials.

His first command of a ship was the mine sweeper, USS Cleveland, in 1972. His second command was the aircraft carrier the USS Kitty Hawk from 1973 to 1975.

Over the years he was in command of various carrier groups including the Seventh Fleet 35-Ship Battle Force in the Indian Ocean (The Iranian Hostage Crisis). He was a veteran of more than 240 combat

Over the years he was in command of various carrier groups including the Seventh Fleet 35-Ship Battle Force in the Indian Ocean (The Iranian Hostage Crisis). He was a veteran of more than 240 combat missions over North Vietnam.

Admiral Kirksey received his Silver Star medal over Hanoi, Vietnam, when he stayed with his Naval bomber after it was hit with a SAM missile. Even though his plane was badly damaged and on fire, he fought to stay in the air and complete his bombing mission at great risk to his own life. As wing commander he led the other pilots in his heavily damaged plane. The aircraft fire eventu-

ally burned out, and as he attempted a carrier landing, he discovered that the entire front of the plane had been blown away. He had to crash-land at a U.S. base in Vietnam.

Admiral Kirksey is survived by his wife, Vi, and their children, Jennifer Kirksey, Robert Kirksey Jr., Gregg Kirksey and Andrew Kirksey.

Admiral Kirksey was especially appreciative of his wife, Vi, who raised the family in his absence. She also had a leadership role with the military families in the Admiral's command while he was at sea.

He is also survived by his brother, Jack Kirksey and wife, Patt Kirksey, his sister, Anne Oliver, children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

A military funeral is planned at Arlington National Cemetery on Jan. 29, 2007.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to the Naval Aviation Museum, P.O. Box 33104, NAS Pensacola, FL 32508.

Maureen McGee, pilot and Livonia native, dies in crash

Maureen McGee, a native of Livonia and a graduate of Bentley High School, was killed Dec. 26 when the medical flight she was piloting crashed during an emergency landing attempt near Johnstown, Pa., around 3:55 p.m.

A female nurse onboard also died in the crash.

The flight originated in Morgantown, W.Va., and was on its way to pick up a patient in Teterboro, N.J., according to press reports.

According to the *Tribune-Democrat* of Johnstown, Pa., McGee, the pilot, declared an emergency and planned to land the twin-engine Cessna 414 at the John Murtha Johnstown-Cambria County Airport, the closest airport.

An FAA spokeswoman said icing may have played a factor in the crash.

McGee, 47, is survived by her husband, Gary Grosso and their 10-year-old daughter, Ammelin of Morgantown, and stepsons Brian Grosso, 17, and Joseph Grosso, 19, of Ann Arbor.

Other survivors include brothers, Michael of Livonia, Timothy of Grand Rapids, Patrick of Detroit and Kevin of San Francisco, and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, Billand Marie McGee, long-time Livonia residents. Marie McGee worked at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers as a reporter, copy editor and special editor until her death in May 1990.

Both Maureen McGee and her nurse passenger were employed by Flight Source LLC, a fixed-base operator at Morgantown Municipal Airport that offers flight school, medical and charter services.

McGee and her family moved to Morgantown last year from Ann Arbor.

"Maureen enjoyed her job and they were enjoying the area," Michael McGee said.

"She was the Amelia Earhart of our family," he added. "She even bore some resemblance to her."

Flying was a lifetime love and achievement for his sister, Michael McGee said.

"She told Tim that she wanted to be a pilot since she was 9



Maureen McGee

years old," said Michael McGee, who last talked to his sister on Thanksgiving Day.

McGee graduated with honors from Michigan State University in 1983 with a bachelor's of science degree. After graduation she worked as an au pair in France and in London.

She received her pilot's license in 1998 and had dual certifications in flight and ground instruction. She obtained a Master Instructor designation from the National Association of Flight Instructors in May 2005, which allowed her to teach.

The designation applies to approximately 500 of the national's 85,000 certified flight instructors. She was a flight instructor in Ann Arbor, Jackson, and Plymouth, and took a very active interest in her students. She also served as an Aviation Safety Counselor for the Detroit Flight Standards District Office.

Michael McGee said his sister had logged more than 3,500 flight hours and over 1,250 hours in multi-engine aircraft.

Until leaving for the job in Morgantown, McGee flew small planes out of airports in Livingston, Washtenaw and western Wayne counties.

She was an avid bicyclist and traveled to Montreal and back one summer. She made many cycling trips throughout Michigan.

McGee also enjoyed acting and was active in the Performance Network based in Ann Arbor. She was a Motor Meals volunteer in the Ann Arbor area. She was a lay reader and served on the social ministry committee at Trinity Lutheran Church in Charleston, W.Va.

She was a member of Women in Aviation, Detroit Aviation Safety Counselors and National Association of Flight Instructors.

A memorial service is set for 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2, at King of Kings Lutheran Church, 2685 Packard Road, Ann Arbor.

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Baseball cap wigs put lid on hair loss

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Battling cancer is one thing; dealing with the hair loss that can happen with chemotherapy is another.

Susie Lucas can't do anything about the former, but she has an answer for the latter — her baseball cap wigs.

"There's such a need for them," said Lucas, the owner of Unique Hair Designs. "It's designed for everyone and anyone who has a need. It's not just patients, but for people who are having a bad hair day."

A licensed cosmetologist, Lucas recognized the need for people with hair loss to have access to a comfortable, stylish and simple hairpiece. In the late 1980s, she came up with the idea of attaching a partial hairpiece around the rim of a baseball cap. The caps are an alternative to traditional wigs, which can be irritating to the

scalp and uncomfortable to wear.

It took her six months to figure out how to assemble the caps and especially to get the hair to fit just right. Lucas buys the hats and strips of hair separately. She uses fitted caps and custom makes the bands of hair. The finished product, she said, "looks like real hair."

Long hair, short hair, straight hair or synthetic braids, baseball caps, slouch hats, sweater caps or dressy hats — Lucas has developed a variety of looks that are stylish and comfortable, especially for cancer patients, priced at less than \$100.

"People who have talked to me about them are surprised they're so reasonably priced," she said. "I want it so that everyone will be able to afford one. I truly believe people buy them and will want to sell them."

So committed was she to her

product, Lucas obtained a patent in 1996. It was a process that reaffirmed her belief that they're needed and gave her confidence to go forward with her project.

"A friend told me about a patent attorney and when I told him what I had he told me to come in," Lucas said. "I remember him saying that he had called his wife to look at the caps and she had said she wished she had had one during the time she was going through chemo."

But even having a patent, the road to getting the caps into the hands of people who could use them has been a slow go.

Trained as a cosmetologist, Lucas at one point had her own shop, but closed it in 1996 because of health problems. She's been operating as a home-based business and had manufactured about 75 caps. She has them on display at

Belleville Beauty Supply at 317 Industrial off Sumpter Road in Belleville and has even visited cancer support groups to demonstrate the caps. This summer, she donated 20 caps for cancer patients at Garden City Hospital.

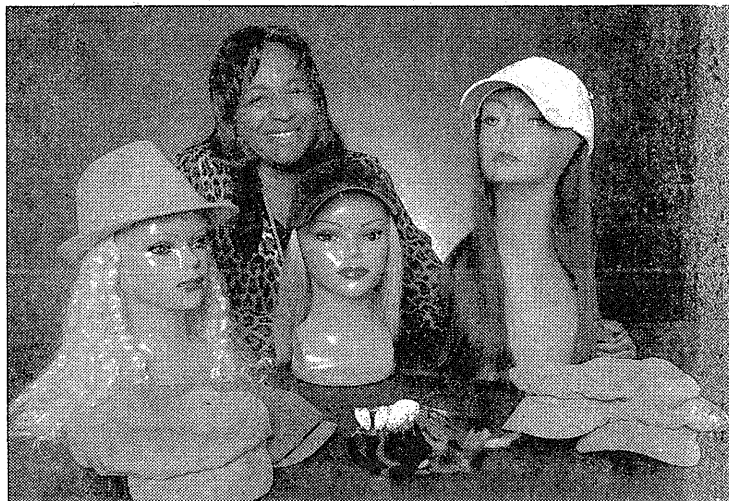
Those caps are being given to women experiencing hair loss as a result of chemotherapy and conditions, such as alopecia areata, an autoimmune disease in which the immune system mistakenly attacks hair follicles.

"The caps improve self-esteem of patients," said Amy Hotycki, clinical coordinator at Garden City Hospital.

The effects were evident with Sandy Reinhardt, a patient at the hospital who received one of the first caps.

"It's great, really comfortable," Reinhardt said. "It's lifted my spirits 120 percent."

Lucas' dream is to open a shop where she is able to man-



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Using real hair and hats, Susie Lucas has come up with a patented design that gives people who lose their hair to chemotherapy or alopecia areata something to wear other than a full wig.

ufacture the caps and get them to market, and she has her husband and five grown children telling her to go for it. "My husband tells me to go on, don't stop," she said. "I've put everything into these hats because I feel there's such a need for them. I wish I had the words to express how impor-

tant they are to me." For now, she takes orders and fills them as she receives them. People interested in more information can call her at (734) 334-3491 or visit her Web site at www.uniquehairdesign.net.

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SPORTS

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The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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Sidelines

Plymouth hoop tournament

The second annual Plymouth High School Holiday Basketball Tournament will be held today and Friday in the school's gymnasium.

Today's opening game, which is set to tip off at 5:30 p.m., will pit Riverside (Ont.) High School against Southfield. The nightcap, which will begin at approximately 7:30 p.m., will feature the host Wildcats against Madison Heights Bishop Foley.

The two winners will battle for the championship at 7:30 p.m. Friday. The consolation game will begin at 5:30 p.m.

PCS lacrosse registration

Girls interested in playing lacrosse for the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Lady Warriors are encouraged to attend a registration meeting Thursday, Jan. 4, at 6:30 p.m. in the Waldorf Room of the Plymouth Library.

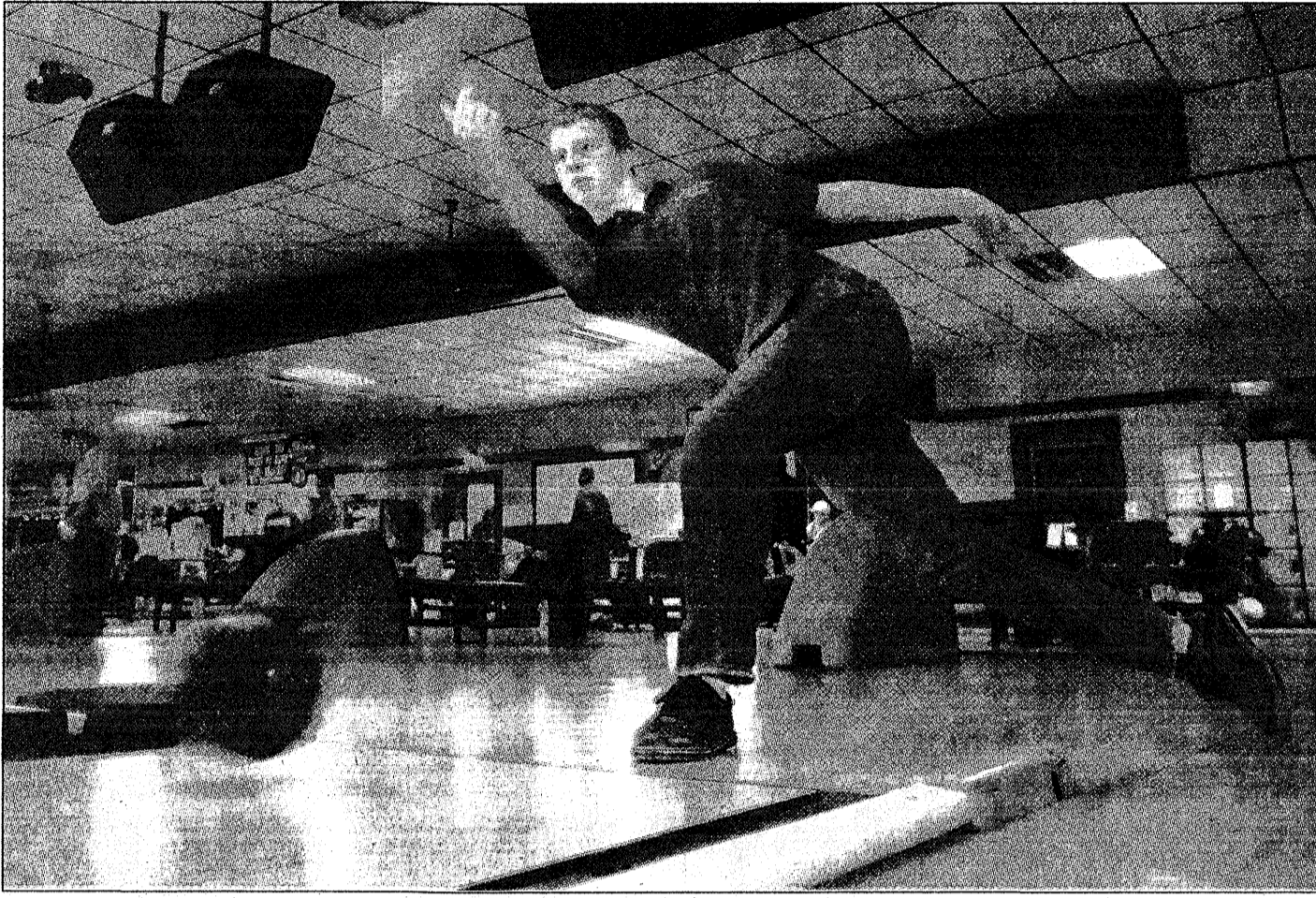
For more information, send e-mail to rrrabe@comcast.net.

Pistons youth camp

A Detroit Pistons youth basketball clinic will be held at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville on Saturday, Jan. 27. Coach Steve Moreland will conduct the clinic for boys and girls in grades 1st through 3rd from noon to 2:30 p.m.; and for girls and boys in 4th through 6th grade from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Each participant will receive a "Pistons Basketball" T-shirt. Parents will be able to purchase Pistons tickets at a discount and they will be invited to attend a pre-game "shoot-around" with their children courtside. Refreshments will be provided.

The cost is \$15 per child. Pre-registration is necessary by calling (248) 374-5932.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton resident Ryan Sochocki, 14, displays the form that helped him roll a 300 game Dec. 19 in a Sunday morning youth league at Wayne Bowl. The Plymouth High School student carries a 194 average in one of his leagues.

X's mark the spot

14-year-old strikes perfection with 300 game

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

The bowling ball weighed just 15 pounds, but it must have seemed like the weight of the world as cradled in 14-year-old Ryan Sochocki's hands as he started his approach toward the Wayne Bowl pins on the night of Dec. 19.

With nine straight strikes already in the bag, the Plymouth High School freshman was just three pocket-finding deliveries away from a 300 game — a score many of the most-seasoned keglers never register.

"I was a little nervous, more than usual, but I just tried to focus on what I needed to do," said Sochocki (pronounced SO-hockey), recalling the moments before his epic achievement. "I had thrown nine straight strikes once before when I bowled a 278, but when I stepped up there for the 10th frame, I started to feel the pressure a little bit."

Like pieces of metal drawn to a magnet, scores of bowlers from throughout the facility dropped their own balls and hustled down to Sochocki's lanes to get a first-hand glimpse of history in the making.

"During the eighth and ninth frames, I started to notice more people were watching," he remembered. "By the 10th, there were quite a few people crowded around."

Sochocki didn't disappoint them as he nailed the pocket on all three 10th-frame strokes.

"I was so happy because I realized that all the hard work and practice I've been putting into the sport had paid off," said Sochocki, reflecting on his emotions immediately after the 300th pin had dropped.

"My heart was beating pretty fast the last couple of frames," said Sochocki's

PLEASE SEE BOWLER, B3

'300' FACTS AND FIGURES

■ The United States Bowling Congress estimates a 300 is bowled once every 11,500 games by its 4 million sanctioned bowlers. However, the odds are tougher for youths, making Ryan Sochocki's feat more amazing.

■ P.J. Haggerty of Weimar, Calif., holds the record for most 300 games bowled by someone before they reached their 19th birthday — 28.

■ Robert Mushtare of Fort Drum, N.Y., has bowled two 900 series, the latest on Dec. 5, 2005.

Statistics provided by www.bowl.com, the official Web site of the United States Bowling Congress.

Plymouth Whalers to host pair of games

The front-running Plymouth Whalers are ready to pick up where they left off before the holiday break with a pair of home games this afternoon and Saturday night.

The Whalers (22-10-1-1), who are tied for first with Saginaw in the Ontario Hockey League's West Division, host Windsor (12-19-1-1) today at 2 p.m. at the Compuware Sports Arena. The "Kids Day" matinee showdown will feature several youth-related activities, including face painting, the popular game "Whale of Fortune" and an autograph session with selected Whalers during the second intermission.

On Saturday, the Whalers will face off against Guelph (16-14-1-4) at 7:05 p.m. at Compuware. The Storm is coached by former Red Wing Dave Barr, who was named the OHL's "Coach of the Year" last season. Canton native Joey Underwood is a first-year defenseman for the Storm.

Plymouth's recent hot surge has been led by Evan Brophay, who is tied for the league lead in assists (46) and is fifth in scoring with 60 points in just 34 games.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia Churchill's Bradley Evans lays the ball over Garden City's Chris Conroy and into the basket during the Chargers' 53-48 overtime victory Dec. 21.

Late rally lifts Chargers in OT

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The inability to sink free throws down the stretch kept Garden City from putting away visiting Livonia Churchill in a non-league varsity boys basketball game last Thursday, Dec. 21.

As a result, Garden City fell 53-48 in overtime to Churchill. The Cougars (1-5) made just 10 of 26 free throws, and connected on six of 14 opportunities during the fourth quarter and overtime. "Our free throw shooting killed us," said Williamson, who was optimistic for a while Thursday that his team would earn a second consecutive victory.

Garden City led 14-10 after one quarter and 20-18 at halftime, but the Chargers took a 27-26 margin into the fourth quarter.

The teams traded leads in the fourth quarter.

With about three minutes to go, Livonia Churchill (2-2) trailed by five points, but the Cougars missed free throws that would have maintained that

comfortable margin. Instead, the Chargers made a couple key baskets, forced overtime and took over from there, with a 12-7 edge in overtime.

Another trouble spot for Garden City was rebounding, said Williamson, adding that the Chargers had about twice as many rebounds as the Cougars.

For Churchill, Ryan Rosenick and Brad Evans led the attack with 17 points and 12 points, respectively.

Brett Lackey added 15 points, seven rebounds and six assists for Garden City. Mark Brissette had 12 points and seven rebounds.

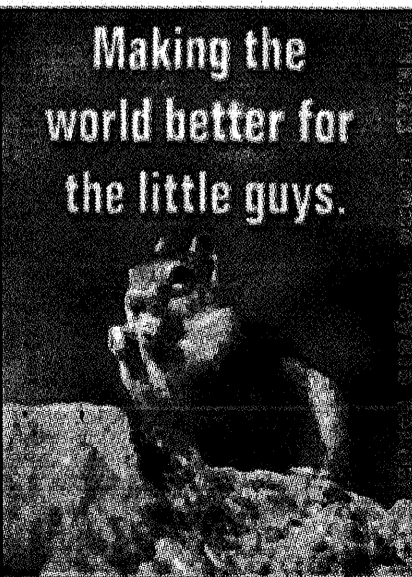
Covenant victorious

Durrell Summers scored 40 points and grabbed 15 rebounds Friday night as Redford Covenant defeated visiting Academy of Oak Park, 77-52.

Adding 12 points for the Spartans (5-1) was Jacory Morning. Stephen Chester added eight points and eight rebounds.

Scoring 16 points each for Academy of Oak Park were Troy Burns and Vincent Butts.

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Plymouth cagers nipped by last-minute basket

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth's basketball team was just one in-bounds give-and-go play from pulling off its second consecutive impressive road victory on Dec. 20.

The Wildcats (1-2) were tied with Novi, 35-35, when Novi's Mike Longo scored the eventual game-winner off a set in-bounds play with 20 seconds

left. Plymouth's Austin Barnett got off a potential game-tying shot with two seconds left, but it barely missed the mark.

Earlier in the season, the Wildcats recorded a huge victory at Walled Lake Central, which is expected to be one of the top teams in the Western Lakes Activities Association this season.

"We put our selves in a position to win again," said

Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner. "We were up three points in the fourth quarter, but our youth and inexperience showed when we gave up that last basket. It's frustrating, too, because we run that same play ourselves."

Novi (4-1) led, 10-4, after one quarter and 17-14 at the intermission. A huge third quarter vaulted Plymouth into the lead, 28-25, with eight minutes to

play. The fourth quarter proved to be a nip-and-tuck battle that the hosts eventually won.

Junior guard Myron Puryear made the best of his first varsity start as he poured in a team-high 12 points, half of which came from a pair of long three-point baskets. Junior point guard Brandon Roberts contributed eight points while junior center Jake Hager had five. Barnett, a senior forward, led

the Wildcats with four rebounds.

Kaleb Dean, Novi's 6-foot-8 center, led the winners with 13 points.

Plymouth hit 12-of-16 free throws (75 percent) while the hosts drained 11-of-18 (61.1 percent) from the charity stripe.

The Wildcats return to action Thursday when it hosts Madison Heights Bishop Foley, Riverside (Ont.) and Southfield

in The Wildcat Holiday tournament. Plymouth will open against Bishop Foley at 7:15 p.m. The night's first game will pit Riverside and Southfield at 5:30 p.m.

The winner of each game will tangle in Friday's 7:15 title game while the opening-round losers will square off at 5:30 p.m.

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Taller Parkway pulls away from Agape

The Canton Agape basketball team suffered its second loss of the season Dec. 21 when it fell 65-53 to Parkway Christian.

Senior guard Jack Anleitner turned in a stellar effort in the losing cause, pouring in a team-high 19 points. Mark Mullett contributed nine

points for the Wolverines while Jared Miller, Brandon Pierce and Michael Ruffin chipped in with seven points a piece.

Joel Williams led the winners with 20.

Parkway led 16-14 after one quarter, 35-27 at the half and 50-43 with eight minutes to

play. "Their length, height and speed were just too much for us," said Agape coach Keith Anleitner. "They go 6-4, 6-4 and 6-3 across the front line and they have two very quick guards. They have 12 players on their roster and they're all good."

RU cagers survive late scare, edge Pats

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Franklin seemingly handed a gift-wrapped victory to Redford Union three days before Christmas and the Panthers nearly handed it right back.

RU led by double digits virtually the entire game until the fourth, but something that has plagued the Panthers all season happened again. A big lead all but disappeared, with the Patriots' frantic half-court trap sparking a 17-4 run that sliced RU's lead to 46-44 with just 3:15 left in the Dec. 22 non-league varsity boys basketball game.

Franklin's Tyler Canyock (16 points) then missed a triple try that would have finally put the Pats ahead.

That seemed to give Redford Union the break it needed to wiggle off the hook and finish strong in a 58-48 triumph. In the final three minutes, Panthers junior point guard Terrell Beard and senior guard Remington Leverette (14 points) combined for nine points to hold off Franklin.

"Obviously, we have to figure out a way to get our kids to not be so tentative against pressure," said Panthers coach Brett Steele, whose team (3-2) has watched big leads evaporate in every game this season. "We've got to attack pressure."

About his team's Jekyll-and-Hyde impersonation, Patriots

coach Russ Keberly said it was a case of players needing time to figure things out — which they apparently did during halftime.

"We just took a half to settle down and figure out what was working for us," Keberly said. "It was that simple."

The first half didn't work out too well for Franklin, however, as the Panthers (1-3) tallied a mix of outside jumpers and strong moves to the hole.

A 9-0 run, featuring several putbacks, lifted RU to a 20-6 margin early in the second, and the lead grew to 28-13 when junior point guard Eric Mullen dropped in a layup.

Redford Union then closed out the half nicely, on a determined individual move by senior guard Justin Floyd (eight points) with 3.1 seconds to go. Floyd took a pass from Beard, dribbled along the baseline and hit a reverse layup as well as a subsequent foul shot.

Another reason for RU's early dominance was senior forward Tyrone Temple, who scored eight of his 10 points in the first half.

Then, after both teams scored 11 points in the third quarter, with Beard (all 13 points in the second half) and Mullen connecting on triples for the Panthers, RU carried a 42-27 lead into the final stanza.

TURNAROUND

That's when the Patriots suddenly gave the home team no

room to breathe — let alone move the basketball up the floor.

"Once they turned up the pressure," Steele said, "we lost all semblance of an offense."

Big reasons for that were the inspired play of Franklin 6-2 senior forward Alex Reid (10 points, 10 rebounds) and Canyock, who Keberly said might have snapped his early season slump in time for conference games next month.

"I was very happy for Tyler to have the kind of game he did," Keberly said. "He was in a slump, we talked about it. He certainly came to play and put on the kind of demonstration we knew he was capable of all year."

Other Patriots helping turn up the heat on RU included juniors Ryan Matthey (11 points) and Cole Kelly (nine points).


Although Franklin wasn't able to ride the late wave of momentum to a victory, Keberly said he was proud of the effort his team made to nearly come all the way back.

"I think their heart is something that is an intangible skill that may not make us successful every time on the court, but in life," he said. "These kids are good kids, they work hard."

The Panthers will host Redford Thurston at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5.

Franklin's first post-holiday action is also on Jan. 5, at Livonia Stevenson.

Rose Bowl Bound?

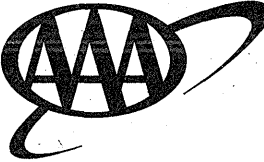


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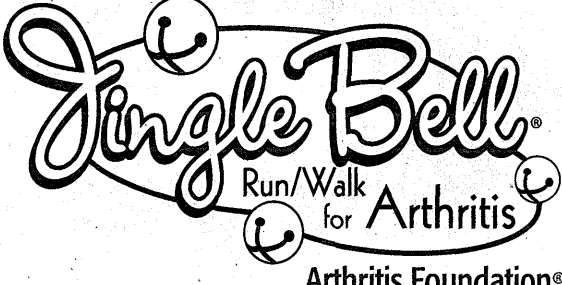
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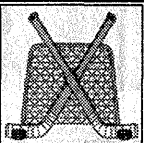


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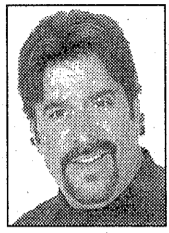
CE06495188

New Year's Eve in Texas will be

About eight hours before we turn the calendar to 2007, the Detroit Lions will be finished with a disastrous 2006. Forget the funny hats, noisemakers and bubbly. Win or lose, this season finale will end a season to forget.

No matter what happens, the Lions will wrap with a worse record than last year. It wasn't supposed to be that way. One of the reasons Steve Mariucci was fired and Dick Jauron was not retained as head coach is because they couldn't find a way to get players to respond to their tutoring. Rod Marinelli was fresh blood with a stricter approach and all he needed to do was "coach them up."

There was certainly no country club atmosphere this time around. From the get-go, Lions players knew what they were in for and it just



Mark Wilson

never resulted in victories. "I believe in our system and I know with hard work we can get this done," Marinelli said repeatedly during this campaign.

To Marinelli's credit, he never wavered on that thinking. As he heads into his final game of his first season, Marinelli feels that what he and his assistants tried to do was the right thing. Mike

Martz changed the offense, Donnie Henderson adjusted the defense and Marinelli took control of that defensive line. There were just too many injuries and not enough talent to accomplish their goals.

Bill Parcells has Dallas going to the playoffs.

Despite winning nine times in 2005, the Cowboys missed out on the postseason. Not this time. They clinched a playoff spot a couple of weeks ago. It's more amazing when you think they benched a potential Hall of Fame quarterback in Drew Bledsoe for an unproven Tony Romo. He ripped off a four-game winning streak in which he was among the best signal-callers in the NFL. Not bad for a guy who had never thrown a single pass before taking over the Cowboys' offense.

Romo is among the league leaders in quarterback rating and is piling up yards and touchdown passes in a big way. Last year, he was battling with former Michigan QB Drew Henson for the backup spot to Bledsoe. Romo won out and Henson was sent packing. The only thing the former Walter Payton Award winner did as a

Cowboys quarterback in 2005 was take a knee to end a game against Philadelphia in October. Other than that, he was the holder on kicks.

By the way, the Payton award is given to the best player in NCAA Division I-AA. That's small school stuff for a guy who spent his college career at Eastern Illinois University. Romo was ol' No. 17 with the Panthers down there in Charleston. If you don't know where Charleston, Ill., is, you are not alone.

"I don't think we can just do this and do that whenever we want," Parcells said when commenting on his Romo-led offense. "Teams are going to adjust to that pretty quick. I am happy we are in the tournament, however."

Parcells is old school and calls making the playoffs, "being in the tournament." Dallas hasn't been

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No champagne jam for Lions

"the tournament" since 2003. He was hired by Jerry Jones that season to do more than just make the playoffs. Parcells was hired to do what he did twice with the New York Giants and that is win Super Bowls.

This season, Parcells has had to put up with the league's biggest enigma, Terrell Owens. T.O. was fined 35-grand two weeks ago for spitting at Atlanta cornerback DeAngelo Hall. It was just another incident in a long line of incidents involving the Cowboys' All-Pro receiver. He is one of the most talented players in all of sports, but it's the off-field way from catching passes that irks Parcells. "I try to stay away from talking about him because it's all you guys want to talk about," said the man known as "The Tuna." "I just try to get the player to play to his potential on the field.

That's what I told you when the player came here."

Parcells, who was once a Lions draft pick out of Wichita State, does his best to not even say Owens' name. When grilled at his Monday press conference following the spitting incident, Parcells stayed away from addressing T.O. as a distraction during a playoff year.

"I know it's a story and I am trying to be polite and answer the questions you people ask," he said. "I just try to keep balance myself."

Never a dull moment out at Valley Ranch. What would Dallas Cowboys football be without a little controversy from week to week? Owens still remains a vital cog in Parcells' offense.

The Lions have lost all three games they have played against Parcells as Cowboys coach. This

will be the third straight year they have played at Texas Stadium in Irving. Last season, Bledsoe was awful in the 20-7 win over Detroit. Marion Barber scored two rushing touchdowns and the Dallas 'D' did the job.

That game came one week before Mariucci's Waterloo in the Thanksgiving contest against Atlanta. This time it ends the year, literally.

"We just want to play well and finish on a good note," Lions defensive back Dré Bly said.

It's another Roy Williams vs. Roy Williams game. Cowboys star safety Roy Williams against Lions receiver Roy Williams. Too bad University of North Carolina basketball coach Roy Williams is busy. Three Roy Williams in the same building might set a new Roy Williams record.

An anniversary of sorts is coming up. In two weeks, it will have been 15 years since the Lions' last playoff win. It came against the Cowboys at the Silverdome in blowout fashion. The final score was 38-6 that day. Dallas and Detroit were anointed by John Madden as "the teams of the '90s." Dallas went on to win three Super Bowls, while the Lions never sniffed another postseason victory. It remains their only playoff win in the last 49 years.

Season ends Sunday in Texas. Not a moment too soon.

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

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Table of events for Saturday, Jan. 6 and Saturday, Dec. 30, including Ontario Hockey League and Whalers vs. Windsor Spitfires.

Table of events for Saturday, Jan. 6, including Whalers vs. Saginaw Spirit and Major Indoor Soccer League.

SYNOPSIS OF THE MINUTES OF THE 1,574th LIVONIA CITY COUNCIL - DECEMBER 4, 2006

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. Present: Gerald Taylor, Don Knapp, Brian Meakin, Terry Godfroid-Marecki, Joe Laura, Thomas Robinson, and James McCann. Absent: None.

#582-06 Accepting the unit price bid of Allie Brothers, Inc., 20295 Middlebelt, for supplying the Division of Police with police uniforms for a total estimated price of \$76,747.61, unit prices to remain in effect through January 1, 2009.

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution with the following result: AYES: Taylor, Knapp, Meakin, Laura, Robinson, and McCann.

#583-06 Accepting the bid of ADS Environmental Services, Inc., 330 East Maple Road, Suite J, Troy, Michigan 48033, for installing Flow Monitors and Rain Gauges at various locations throughout the City and for providing maintenance and data processing services for a five year period beginning with the execution of the contract, at a total cost not to exceed \$209,896.00.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION: Taylor spoke about the passing of Stan Dobis, Cable Commission. He said that Mr. Dobis attended all the Council meetings, was very active with City Channel 8 and was a great friend to the City of Livonia.

#584-06 Approving Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of Wayne and the City of Livonia for the resurfacing of Six Mile Road from Haggerty Road to Farmington Road, with the City of Livonia's participation estimated at \$209,889.00, or 7.72%, with an initial deposit of \$104,944.50 to be made by the City and further expenditures being made upon receipt of invoices from Wayne County.

The appointment of Linda J. Trewin, 19984 Hubbard, Livonia, Michigan 48152, to the Board of Review.

#585-06 Approving an amendment to the agreement between the Michigan Department of Transportation and the City of Livonia for the reconstruction and resurfacing of Stark Road - Plymouth Road to Eastbound Schoolcraft Road and Eastbound Schoolcraft - Stark Road to Farmington Road, which acknowledges the grant received by the City under the State Local Jobs Today Program which reduced the City's share of the project from \$522,800.00 to \$348,800.00.

The appointment of Dan West, 33233 Five Mile Road, Livonia, Michigan 48154, to the Plymouth Road Development Authority as a representative of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce.

#586-06 Approving an amendment to the existing design and construction engineering contract with Orchard, Hiltz and McCliment, Inc., 34000 Plymouth Road, Livonia, Michigan 48150, in an amount not to exceed \$549,000.00 for the 2007 Concrete Paving Program.

Communication from the Department of Finance, dated November 20, 2006, re: forwarding various financial statements of the City of Livonia for the month ending October 30, 2006.

#587-06 Resolution by Taylor and Knapp, unanimously adopted, approving the renewal of the existing contract with Honeywell, Inc., 23978 Research Drive, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48335, for a one year preventative maintenance program for the Community Recreation Center in an amount not to exceed \$51,240.00.

Communication from the Public Service Division, dated October 12, 2006, re: status reports on services provided by Honeywell, Inc. to the Community Recreation Center for the periods April through June, 2006 and July through September, 2006.

#588-06 Resolution by Taylor and Godfroid-Marecki, unanimously adopted, approving the reduction of the staff support services by a Honeywell technician from one day per week to two days per month for the annual cost of \$18,618.00.

Communication from the Department of Management Information Systems, dated December 1, 2006, re: a listing of the major Information Systems expenditures over the past 24 months.

Taylor gave FIRST READING to the following Ordinance: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 21 OF THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF LIVONIA AND AMENDING ARTICLE III OF ORDINANCE NO. 543, AS AMENDED, KNOWN AND CITED AS "THE CITY OF LIVONIA ZONING ORDINANCE" BY ADDING SECTION 3. THERETO.

Communication from David H. Johns, Schostak Brothers & Company, dated December 4, 2006, re: information on the operating hours and forwarding a traffic generation report prepared by Michael R. Cool, P.E., Reid, Cool & Michalski, Inc. pertaining to Petition 2006-08-01-07 for the proposed Del Taco Restaurant at 17001 Newburgh Road.

#589-06 Resolution by Godfroid-Marecki and Taylor, approving an extension of the current lease between the City of Livonia and Solarcom, LLC (or its successors) for the IBM AS/400 (I-Series) computer for the City's New World Systems Financial Systems for a period of one year in the amount of \$4,873.00 per quarter.

Communication from the Laurel Park South Community Association, dated November 30, 2006, re: forwarding petitions signed by residents in the Laurel Park South and Laurel Park II Subdivisions opposing Petition 2006-08-01-07.

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution: AYES: Taylor, Knapp, Meakin, Godfroid-Marecki, Laura, and McCann.

E-mail from Greg and Mary Anne Ralko, 16232 Houghton Drive, received by the City Council on November 27, 2006, re: expressing opposition to Petition 2006-08-01-07 for a proposed Del Taco Restaurant.

#590-06 Resolution by Godfroid-Marecki and Laura, accepting a proposal submitted by BS&A Software, 14965 Abbey Lane, Bath, Michigan 48808, for the purchase of the Equalizer Miscellaneous Receivables, Tax, Special Assessment and Delinquent Property Software Systems with data conversions, training, necessary program customizations and the first year of maintenance for a total cost of \$57,580.00.

E-mail from Kimberly A. Kehres, received by the City Council on November 27, 2006, re: expressing opposition to Petition 2006-08-01-07 for a proposed Del Taco Restaurant.

#591-06 Resolution by Meakin and Knapp, referring to the Committee of the Whole for its report and recommendation Petition 2006-08-01-07 submitted by Schostak Brothers, on behalf of Agree Limited Partnership, requesting to rezone property located at 17001 Newburgh Road, on the west side of Newburgh Road, between Mallory Drive and Six Mile Road, in the Northeast 1/4 of Section 18, from C-1 to C-2 (Local Business to General Business).

E-mail from Mick and Rosanne Green, 15840 Marsha Avenue, received by the City Council on November 28, 2006, re: expressing opposition to Petition 2006-08-01-07 for a proposed Del Taco Restaurant.

A roll call vote was taken on the foregoing resolution: AYES: Taylor, Knapp, Meakin, Godfroid-Marecki, Robinson, and McCann.

E-mail from Mr. and Mrs. William Ferguson, 37612 Mallory Drive, received by the City Council on November 28, 2006, re: expressing opposition to Petition 2006-08-01-07 for a proposed Del Taco Restaurant.

#592-06 Resolution by Knapp and Taylor, unanimously adopted, accepting various gifts and cash donations, in the total amount of \$970.50, from Friends of the Barn and Merri-Bowl to be used by the Department of Parks and Recreation for the purposes as designated by the donors.

E-mail from Curt and Carolyn McNamara, received by the City Council on November 30, 2006, re: expressing opposition to Petition 2006-08-01-07 for a proposed Del Taco Restaurant.

#593-06 Resolution by Taylor and Laura, unanimously adopted, suspending the rules for procedure as outlined in Council Resolution 574-82 in order to permit consideration of items that do not appear on the agenda.

E-mail from Kevin C. Bush, received by the City Council on November 30, 2006, re: expressing opposition to Petition 2006-08-01-07 for a proposed Del Taco Restaurant.

#594-06 Resolution by Taylor and Knapp, unanimously adopted, confirming the appointment of Linda J. Trewin, 19984 Hubbard, Livonia, Michigan 48152, to the Board of Review to fill the unexpired term of office of Mark R. Thomas, which will expire on February 16, 2007, as well as a reappointment of Ms. Trewin for a new three year term expiring February 16, 2010.

E-mail from Craig Gauthier, 16124 Houghton, received by the City Council on December 1, 2006, re: expressing opposition to Petition 2006-08-01-07 for a proposed Del Taco Restaurant.

#595-06 Resolution by Laura and Robinson, unanimously adopted, confirming the appointment of Dan West, 33233 Five Mile Road, Livonia, Michigan 48154, to the Plymouth Road Development Authority as a representative of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce to fill the unexpired term of Wes Graff, which will expire on May 16, 2007, as well as a reappointment of Mr. West for a new four year term expiring May 16, 2011.

E-mail from Thomas Ambers, 38075 Mallory Drive, received by the City Council on December 4, 2006, re: expressing opposition to Petition 2006-08-01-07 for a proposed Del Taco Restaurant.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION: Mayor Jack Engebretson reflected on Stan Dobis' absence at the Council meeting tonight. The Mayor also spoke about his fond memories of Mr. Dobis including how both loved Hawaii.

E-mail from Patricia O'Brien, 16433 Marsha, received by the City Council on December 1, 2006, re: expressing opposition to Petition 2006-08-01-07 for a proposed Del Taco Restaurant.

By Robinson and Meakin, unanimously adopted, adjourning this 1,574th Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Livonia at 8:45 p.m., December 4, 2006.

Communication from the Department of Law, dated November 28, 2006, re: forwarding an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for accepting transfers by and between the Livonia Community Resources Department and the Detroit Department of Transportation in connection with the Livonia Community Transit Program.

VAL VANDERSLOOT, CITY CLERK

The following resolutions were offered by Meakin and Knapp: #581-06 Approving the request from Fleming's/Great Lakes-I, Limited Partnership (A Florida Limited Partnership) for the transfer of ownership of a 2006 Class C Licensed Business (in escrow) with official permit (food) from Han Dynasty International, LTD, and to transfer location from 23514 W. Seven Mile, Detroit, Michigan 48219, for the business located at 17400 Haggerty Road, Livonia, MI 48152; FURTHER, approving the request from Fleming's/Great Lakes-I, for a new outdoor service permit (and to cancel the dance-entertainment permit) to be held in conjunction for the business located at 17400 Haggerty Road.

*The foregoing is a summary of the Council's proceedings in synopsis form as authorized by CR 1158-68. The full text of the official minutes of this meeting is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and is available to the public upon request.



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS. The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting...

CITY OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE TO BIDDERS. Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth, Michigan will accept sealed bids until 2:00p.m., Tuesday January 2, 2007. The bid opening will take place at 2:00p.m., Tuesday January 2, 2007 at Plymouth City Hall 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth Michigan for the following: Concert Production Services...

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: A request from Jamal Beydoun to rezone the following from C-1 Local Business to C-2 General Commercial: Lots 639 to 650, NEW DETROIT SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT RECORDED IN LIBER 61 OF PLATS, PAGE 85 WAYNE COUNTY RECORDS. Property more commonly known as: 27131 Plymouth Rd.

Balanced scoring leads Charger icers to win

Four different players scored goals to lead Livonia Churchill to a 4-2 victory over Northville Dec. 20 in a Western Lakes Activities boys hockey game played at Eddie Edgar Arena.

The Chargers improved to 4-1-0 overall and 4-0-0 in the WLAA.

"It was a great WLAA game; it had a good pace," said Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni. "We are just trying to keep improving each week and continue to improve. We are getting different goal scorers each game. Northville is a very gritty team that competes real hard."

Churchill led 2-1 after one period thanks to goals from Steve Greco (from Kody Stong and Kyle Burke) and Bryon Niemczak (from Tony Ross

and Scott Sundberg). The Mustangs' lone first-period lamp-lighter came off the stick of Mike Garbarz, who picked up helpers from Anthony Deneau and Ian Jezak.

Garrett Miencier's goal three minutes into the third period (from Keith Yackley and Phil Wendecker) put the Chargers ahead 3-1. Northville's Kyle Ziomek and Churchill's Dustin Wischmeyer closed out the scoring late in the third.

Scott Lewan earned the victory in net for the Chargers, stopping 15 shots. Northville net-minder Ted Kiernan suffered the loss despite recording 23 saves.

Churchill outshot Northville, 27-17.

STEVENSON 8, FRANKLIN 0: On Friday, the Spartans improved

to 8-1-1 with a white-washing of the Patriots in a WLAA game played at Eddie Edgar Arena. The loss dropped Franklin to 2-4-2.

Stevenson led 2-0 after one period and 5-0 with 15 minutes to play.

Chris Rapp paced the winners' offensive effort with two goals and an assist. Six Spartans lit the lamp once, including T.J. Gosselin and Zach Roberts, who netted their first career goals.

Other goal-scorers were Marcus Voran, John Vella, Mike Gibbons and Mark Bekkala. Vella also contributed two assists.

Drew MacEachern starred in net for the Spartans, recording 16 saves for his first shutout of the season.

"Overall, the guys played good tonight," said Stevenson coach Mike Humitz. "We moved the puck well and created a lot of opportunities off the movement."

FRANKLIN 2, SALEM 1: On Dec. 20, the Patriots rode the solid goal-tending of Austin Mesler and goals from Alex Wypch and Ben Kubiak. Jordan Short and Rob Ringe assisted on Wypch's goals while Derek Cripe and Tyler Barnes.

The Rocks' lone goal came from Nathan Werda, who was assisted by Kris Brandt and Evan Meibers.

"We beat a very good hockey team," said Franklin coach Terry Jobbitt. "Our goal-tending was superior and we had a great effort from our entire team. We were very happy with

this victory as Salem played very good hockey and we continue to improve with each game."

Mesler stopped 26 shots while Salem net-minder Ralph Aspenwall re-directed 18.

CANTON 2, W.L. CENTRAL 2: On Friday in a game played at the Arctic Edge in Canton, the Chiefs (2-8-1) raced to a 2-0 lead before hanging on for the tie.

Senior captain Brad Barath opened the scoring with 3:36 left in the opening period when he scored off assists from J.P. LaFontaine and Alex Lajoie. LaFontaine doubled the hosts' advantage less than three minutes into the second period. He was assisted by Zach Nowak and Barath.

The Vikings rebounded with

two goals (Drew Sennhenn and Deano Nicholaidis) within a three-minute span of the third period to knot the contest.

"Overall, I thought we played well, but we had a couple of defensive breakdowns in the third period that cost us," said Canton coach Dan Abraham. "Hopefully, the kids learn from the mistakes and they don't repeat them in the future."

"Our goalie, Kevan Swanberg, was solid. Both goals he gave up were break-aways."

On Saturday, the Chiefs upended Ypsilanti Lincoln, 2-1, behind strong goal-tending from Swanberg. Details of the game were not available at presstime.

Panther wrestlers pin loss on Clarenceville

Redford Union's varsity wrestling team pounded Livonia Clarenceville, 60-12, in a Dec. 20 non-conference dual meet.

For the Panthers, Trevor Gorman earned a 9-3 decision over Spencer Haworth at 285 and Matt Kibner defeated

Jake Ruth 12-6 at 112.

RU also strung together several wins by fall. Sean Meixner pinned Scott Convery in 1:43 at 130, Keith Landen pinned Tony Brandt in 4:42 at 135 and Zac Goins pinned Tim Siecinski in 4:32 at 160.

Capturing their weights via void were Redford Union's Michael D'Arcangelo (103), Brandon Gutierrez (119) and Adam Kibner (152).

For the Trojans, Derek Robbins pinned Matt Birtch in 3:28 to win at 145 and Andrew Jasmer pinned

his opponent at 189 in just 59 seconds.



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Plymouth OPEN SAT. 1-4PM 356 BLUNK N of Pennington, E. of Sheldon. Gorgeous 1921 colonial 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath, beautiful cedar screened in porch. Finished lower level. Everything updated! a must see! \$375,000. Jill Adair Ginder 734-634-8104 GMAC/KEE GROUP 1365 S. Main St.

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TRY ME SF, 20, 5'9", long black hair, tattoos, big brown eyes, dimples, sweet smile, curvy enjoys Italian food, friends, keeping active, Looking for a nice, honest guy to get to know. #150312
LET'S TALK SOMETIME SBCF, 38, 5'6", 120lbs, smoker, loves jazz. Seeking BF, 30-45, smoker, for dining out and movies. for friendship, possible romance. #152399
U WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED Good-hearted SBF, 49, loves music, travel, togetherness. Looking for a sweet, sexy SBM, respectful and easygoing, to share nice dinners, good talks, romance and affection. #152214
ONE GOOD WOMAN BBW, SWF, attractive, compassionate, down-to-earth. Enjoys movies, comedies, long walks, romantic evenings and more. Seeking employed SM, 38-55, to do and share things together. Must like pets. #147175
ISO CHIVALROUS MAN SBCF, 35, attractive, plus-sized, Capricorn, single mom, marriage-minded, N/S, seeks man, 40-55, family-oriented, old-fashioned, possible romance. #112291
LOOKING FOR YOU Attractive SWF, Catholic, 59, N/S, 5' 8", good shape, seeks WM, 53-70, N/S, who enjoys golf, movies, theater, dining, long walks, church, and much more. #124235
SEEKING SOMETHING NEW Down to earth, attractive SBF, 36, N/S, 5' 7", professional, enjoys movies, dining out, shopping, traveling, seeks WM, 35-55, N/S, for friendship first, possibly more. #123659
TRUE FRIENDSHIP WIAF, 62, 5', 100lbs, enjoys gardening, dogs, cats, cooking, dining out, travel. Seeking kind, caring, honest, SW/AM, 55-70, slim, with understanding of asian culture, for friendship first, maybe more later. #139934
ARE YOU THE ONE? SBF, 56, BBW, loves jazz, concerts, movies, travel, walks, great conversation. Seeking commitment-minded, mature, loving man with similar interests for possible LTR. #140023
LOOKING FOR LIFE PARTNER Female, young 45, N/Kids, loves animals, nature, gardening, old cars, new music, and quiet nights. Seeking a man, 40-50 with a positive attitude and good SOH. Friends first, possible LTR. #113552
LOVES BOATING SWF, 65, 5'6", Aries, N/S, loves dancing and dining out. Seeking WM, 60-71, N/S, with sense of humor, for friendship, possible romance. #1890004
HI EVERYONE SF, 18, seeks nice, easygoing guy who knows how to have fun, and knows how to treat a lady. Friendship first. #142588
SOMEONE SPECIAL Fun-loving, attractive SWF, 70, 5'5", 135lbs, blonde, retired, N/S, seeks well-groomed WM, 65-72, N/S, to share life, romance, and possible relationship. #1891247
LOOKING FOR ME? Affectionate, sincere SWF, 63, 5'2", dark hair and eyes, employed part-time, enjoys travel, movies, dining out, more. ISO tall, active, open-minded, lovable man to share a little fun, possibly romance. #1599193
PETITE & SEXY... SBF, sensitive, affectionate, loving, 51, looks 35, 5'1", 105lbs, NS. Seeking healthy SBM, 5'10"-6'1", to work out with. #12553
ARE YOU THE ONE? SF, 25, 5'7", shoulder-length medium blonde hair, bright green eyes, outgoing, fun, loves fitness, outdoors, boating, cycling, camping, concerts, auto racing. Seeking active, fit, caring man who appreciates the same. #135364
LOOKING 4 GENTLEMAN Attractive, professional, educated WF, 55, 5'2", slim, N/S. Interests include movies, concerts, comedy clubs, jazz, dancing, dining out, family ties. Seeking WM, 48-55, HWP, for lasting, loving LTR. #1973365
POSSIBLE LTR SWPF, 57, 5'7", attractive, slender, athletic, Scorpio, N/S, enjoys sports, concerts, dining out, seeks WFM, 55-61, N/S, educated, healthy, humorous, possible LTR. #1493381
MADE TO ORDER SWF, 52, attractive, Pisces, N/S, nice, educated, secure, fun, enjoys sporting events, movies, camping, travel, theater, seeks WM, 45 to 56, N/S, possible romance. #193487
59 YEARS OLD ENTREPRENEUR SWPF, 57, 5'7", attractive, slender, athletic, Scorpio, N/S, enjoys sports, concerts, dining out, seeks WFM, 55-61, N/S, educated, healthy, humorous, possible LTR. #1493381
SEEKING A LADY? SBF, 56, 5'4", 110lbs, slim build, Sagittarius, smoker, honest, sincere, retired, enjoys movies, concerts, travel, park walks, seeks man, 45-70, similar, for friendship, possible romance. #118410
FAMILY-ORIENTED Beautiful, shapely SBF, 34, 5'4", likes reading, long walks, working out, movies, plays, concerts, spontaneous trips, traveling, seeks patient, understanding BM, 34-46, N/S, with similar interests. #123905
COULD YOU BE THE ONE? Loving, youthful SBF, 57, trim, shapely, very attractive, energetic, happy, enjoys dining, travel, amusement parks, the outdoors, festivals, nature, family-friends, theater, more. Seeking like-minded gentleman to share these. #121526
FRIENDS FIRST WIAWF, 68, 5'6", 145lbs, healthy, honest, happy, likes comedy films, country cooking. Looking for outdoorsy, active man affectionate and warm-hearted, to share the good things in life. #139719
ALL OF ME SWF, 50, 5'10", big beautiful woman, 300+ pounds, easygoing, N/S, light drinker, enjoys nights out or in. ISO loving, happy, commitment-minded man to share a happy, lasting, loving relationship. #1956929
SEEKING FRIENDSHIP SBF, young 60s, w/good morals, caring, nice-looking, 5'3", 156lbs, N/S, N/D, N/Drugs, clean, honest living, party retired, enjoys art, card playing, casinos, and movies. Seeking honest man 50-60, race open. #134425
I LISTEN WITH MY HEART Attractive DWF, late 40s, Cancer, N/S, seeks special, no games WM, 45+, N/S, for caring, quality committed relationship. Let's create sparks and watch them fly. #1639272
BBW SEEKING COMPANION SBF, 27, 5'5", BBW, N/D, N/S, enjoys movies, concerts, plays. Seeking SM 27-50, with similar interests for friendship, possible LTR. #153342
HUGGABLE TEDDY BEAR SWM, 6', medium build, independent, N/S, seeks SF, 22-50, N/S, slim-average built, d/d-free, must be trust-worthy, honest and mature, for companionship, romance and more. #148763

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- IVORY SEEKS EBONY Honest, independent, separated WF, 47, 5'7", voluptuous, N/S, N/D, D/D-free, enjoys coffee shops, reading, walks, dining, movie nights, etc. ISO stable, secure, sociable, sweet SBM to share special times. #147676
TAKE ME GOLFING Tidy SWF, 60, enjoys fine dining, traveling. Seeking golfer, best friend, confidante, 58-70, widower a plus. Honesty, trust, a must to make a relationship work. #1976914
JOIN ME Assertive, feminine, active SBF, 33, outgoing, classy, seeks same, someone not afraid to live life. No drama no games. Possible LTR. #147376
REFINED AND FULL OF LIFE Very attractive blonde, fit, energetic and happy, professionally employed, very youthful 60s, 5'3", trim and shapely, enjoys dining, travel, dancing, theater, family and friends. Seeking honest, handsome, fit, 55+, college grad, N/S, with youthful passion for life. Serious replies only. #1652360

UPSCALE, GRASS ROOTS

- Ebony woman, 43, emotionally available, 5'5", HW proportional, seeks strong, emotionally grounded, open and fun gentleman, to share deep romance. #147056
SEARCHING FOR YOU SBF, 36, attractive, trust-worthy, down to earth, likes walks, movies, dinners, park, music, seeks BM, 36-70, for friendship, possible romance. #1990369
LET'S TALK SOMETIME SWF, 38, mother, enjoys Harleys, rock-n-roll, good talks, classic cars, sports, amusement parks, casinos, meeting new people. Seeking outgoing, sweet, fun man w/spontaneous streak to share new adventures with. #1952910
MAYBE US? SF, 42, blonde/blue, leggy, loves all types of music, dancing, movies, nature road trips, dining and simple fun. ISO easygoing, loving guy to share talks, good times, friendship and more. #132593
WANTED: TALL, CLASSY MALE I am in my early 60s, 5'2", brown/brown, I enjoy dancing, outdoors, and travel. Seeking a companion, 60-70, and maybe a relationship. Please call. #1982305

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- Loving, lady, 77, seeks charming, healthy, happy gentleman, D/D-free, humorous with a kid disposition, years of wisdom and an interest in life. #145778
FRIENDS FIRST SBF, 37, 5'6", black/brown, easygoing, Aries, N/S, enjoys bike riding, long walks, travel, and cooking. Seeking WM, 30-50, N/S, for fun. #1933970
WHERE ARE YOU? Very attractive, sexy SBF, 35, 5'2", medium build, enjoys dining out, jazz, plays. ISO SBM, 40-52, commitment-minded and sincere, for LTR. #12950732
FIND ME Attractive SAF, 49, N/S, 5' 3", 110lbs, slim build, seeks WM, 45-56, N/S, for friendship, and more. #113901
FORMER MODEL SWF, 50, 5'6", slender, intelligence, creativity, passion for music and dancing. Seeks partner 38-50, who is attractive and fit, to share this interests and more. #1800106
SOULMATE SEARCH Slim, attractive, 57-yr-old JF looking for her soulmate, any sincere, successful JM, between the ages of 54-64, please respond. #158975

WOMEN SEEKING WOMEN

- HUGGABLE TEDDY BEAR SWM, 6', medium build, independent, N/S, seeks SF, 22-50, N/S, slim-average built, d/d-free, must be trust-worthy, honest and mature, for companionship, romance and more. #148763

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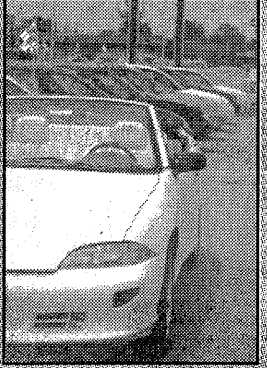
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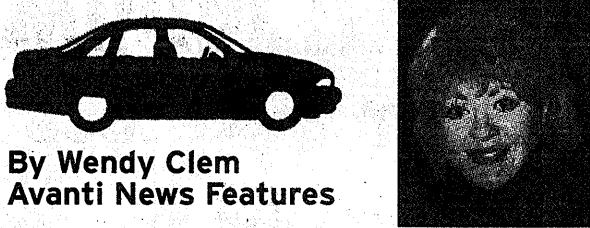
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Advertising Feature
CAReport



By Wendy Clem
Avanti News Features

Sporting new color or trim choices and changes in wheels for two 2007 models, the GMC Envoy is a great little SUV and consistent with Envoy quality in recent years.

It's pretty. It's comfy. It can take the tough roads and cruise along smooth pavement - in style. Don't overlook this Envoy if you need a value-packed sport-utility vehicle.

Reminiscent of its sister, the 2007 Chevy TrailBlazer, the 2007 Envoy has a new look. The arcs over the wheels have risen, and the belt line holds a new, higher position. Chrome trim is now an option, along with wheels designed with six spokes. New exterior colors are Silvermist Metallic, Midnight Blue Metallic and Graphite Metallic.

A bigger grille, complete with a protective sheath over the front end, has also made its debut.

With its standard suspension, control is similar to that of an auto, especially on smooth roads. But even traveling bumpy surfaces and back roads is comfortable, particularly when benefiting from the optional load-leveling suspension.

Acceleration in the Envoy gets considerable applause. It has a quiet drive. The is little engine and road noise in this truck.

Respectable passing ability is achieved with the V6, but the availability of two sizes of engine kicks up the power. Research.car.com <<http://research.car.com/>> favorably akins its power to pass, overall handling and comfort with that of the Ford Explorer and Mercury Mountaineer.

The Envoy Denali version is equipped with a 5.3-liter V8 and 300 horsepower, and utilizes Displacement on Demand and Variable Valve Timing mechanisms. That technology, under light load use, helps to save on fuel by turning off half of the engine's cylinders, and boosts power overall.



2007 GMC Envoy Vehicle class: Sport-utility vehicle. Power: 4.2-liter V6 engine. Mileage: 16 city / 22 highway. Where built: Moraine, Ohio. Base price: \$26,560. The 2007 GMC Envoy offers improved storage, better cargo area accessibility and a plusher interior -- all starting at \$27,000.

The Denali Envoy offers cosmetic upgrades: Nuance leather interior with heated front seats and stitching accents; special air improvements for the engine; aluminum wheels; and grilles shaped like honeycombs. The standard Envoy engine size is a 4.2-liter V6, with 291 horsepower and 277 foot pounds of torque, and like the Denali, it has a 4-speed automatic transmission. Each vehicle has either Autotrak 4-wheel drive or rear-wheel drive.

For greater safety, the Envoy comes with all-disc anti-lock brakes as well as StabiliTrak, a rapid and exact pressure that's applied through sensors to the appropriate brakes to assist in keeping the vehicle on course.

Also standard is a tire-pressure monitoring system. Side-curtain airbags are optional.

The 2007 Envoy has earned the highest possible National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration grade for side-impact crash tests, the 5-star rating. A Spacesaver steel rim helps to store the spare wheel securely. The front suspension is wishbone-shaped and independent with a stabilizer bar and coil springs, while the rear suspension is rigid with stabilizer bar and coil springs.

The multi-point injection fuel system gives up 22 miles to the gallon on the highway and 16 in the city, but

maintains only a 22-gallon tank - a distinct downside for travelers.

The Envoy's interior is decidedly more plush than some of the competition's, like Jeep. This can all be had for a \$27,000 price tag.

There is new respect for the design in the front seat - the dashboard, including the optional navigation system, will be far more accessible to most drivers. Also, the seats bear an upgrade in upholstery as well as include reclining front bucket seats and the ingenious split rear seat that folds down for added cargo space.

XM Satellite Radio, a DVD entertainment system, adjustable pedals for variable power, and an MP3-capable player are more options for the Envoy. Add-ons include head curtain side airbags, which are mounted in the roof; and a larger DVD screen for rear passengers. Trailering equipment is another notable extra.

Storage capacity has been improved on in the rear, and can be generally more easily reached, due in large part to the new power rear liftgate.

Wendy Clem covers the automotive beat for Avanti News Features. Write her at wendyclem@gmail.com.
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<p>2006 COBALT LS Stock #3661 REDUCED! Was \$15,480 \$12,389 \$12,239*</p> <p>Auto, air, cruise, p. wind, rear spoiler, mats, body molding & more.</p>	<p>2006 SILVERADO Stock #6T8645 REDUCED! Was \$34,962 \$25,792 \$24,442*</p> <p>Includes Plow</p>	<p>Employee Price For Everyone 2006 IMPALA SS Stock #P3332 REDUCED! Was \$30,600 \$25,764 \$25,014*</p>	<p>Employee Price For Everyone 2006 SILVERADO EXT. CAB LT 4x4 Stock #P8993 REDUCED! Was \$35,045 \$25,894 \$25,144*</p>	<p>2006 EXPRESS V-8, 4 speed auto, air, PS/PB, 10' KUV body by Knapheide w/ side compartments. Stock #8707 REDUCED! \$28,250 \$27,500*</p>

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Try these delectable appetizers

BACON-CHILE RELLENOS

- 4 jalapeno chilies (about 3 inches long)
- 1/2 cup Boursin cheese with garlic and herbs (from a 5.2-ounce container)
- 8 slices packaged precooked bacon (from 2.2-ounce package)
- 1 8-ounce can of refrigerated crescent dinner rolls, such as Pillsbury
- 1/2 cup salsa (Old El Paso Thick n' Chunky)

Heat oven to 375 degrees F. Carefully remove stems from chiles; cut each in half lengthwise and again horizontally to make 4 pieces. Remove and discard seeds. Spoon about 1 teaspoon cheese into each chile quarter. Wrap half slice of bacon around each.

On cutting board, unroll dough; separate dough into 8 triangles. From center of longest side to opposite point, cut each triangle in half, making 16 triangles. Place chile, cheese side down, on dough triangle. Fold one point of triangle over filling; fold two remaining points over first point. Place on ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake 12 to 15 minutes or until golden brown. Immediately remove from cookie sheet. Serve with salsa. Makes 16 servings.

Recipe courtesy of Pillsbury.

DOUBLE-CRUST PIZZA MELTS

- 2 8-ounce cans of refrigerated crescent dinner rolls
- 1/2 cup pizza sauce or 3 tablespoons tomato paste with basil, garlic and oregano
- 1 3.5-ounce package of sliced pepperoni
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano leaves
- 1 cup pizza sauce, if desired

Heat oven to 375 degrees F. Grease cookie sheet. On cookie sheet, unroll 1 can of dough into 1 large rectangle. With floured rolling pin or fingers, roll or press dough into 12-by-9-inch rectangle, firmly pressing perforations to seal.

Spread pizza sauce over dough to within 1/4 inch of edges. Top with pepperoni and mozzarella cheese.

On 14-inch length of parchment paper, unroll remaining can of dough. Press to make 12-by-9-inch rectangle, firmly pressing perforations to seal. While holding paper with dough, turn dough upside down to cover cheese. Remove paper. Brush with beaten egg. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese and oregano.

Bake 12 to 15 minutes or until golden brown. Let stand on cooling rack 5 to 10 minutes. Move to cutting board. Using pizza cutter, cut into 16 squares. Cut each square in half diagonally. Serve with pizza sauce, if desired. Makes 32 servings.

Recipe courtesy of Pillsbury.

SINFUL STUFFED POTATOES

- 12 small new potatoes
- 6 cups water
- 1 1/2 teaspoons of kosher salt
- 1/2 cup feta
- 1/4 cup pine nuts, toasted
- 2 tablespoons chopped green olives
- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon chopped lemon zest

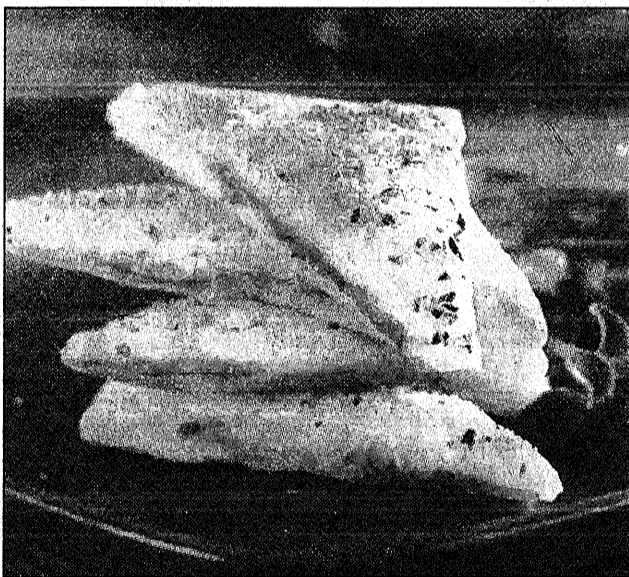
PLEASE SEE APPETIZERS, D3

Bacon-chile rellenos make a smoky treat for holiday appetizer trays.

PILLSBURY

Good things, small packages

Serve up bite-sized delights for a holiday bash



PILLSBURY

Get the party started with double crust pizza melts.

Holiday parties seem to lend themselves to a seasonal buffet full of bite-sized eats. And when it comes to friends and relatives, each appetizer tells a tale. There's the family member who insists on bringing homemade bruschetta to the annual Christmas party, and the friend who's bacon roll-up bites are always a hit. From the elaborate appetizer to the can't miss cut-out sugar cookie, small plates shine during the holiday season. Savory or sweet, they're the perfect addition to any potluck party. And bite-size can be just right for children who are too busy daydreaming about gifts to sit still at the table and eat a proper dinner. This season we've compiled some "can't-miss" recipes to add to your holiday menu.

Columnists to return: Tech Savvy by Rick Broida will return next week. Off the Air with Dick Purtan & Purtan's People will return Jan. 11.

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filter

PURE ENTERTAINMENT!

Thursday, December 28, 2006

Hot blues fest

Page 2

**Rock
the
mic**

Page 12

Spin into the new year

Page 6

Heat up winter chill with Anti-Freeze Blues Festival

Now that we've entered January, the chill of winter is upon us.

You can heat it up with the 13th Annual Anti-Freeze Blues Festival, a benefit for the Detroit Blues Society.

Headlining this year's event is James Cotton on Friday, Jan. 5, and Charlie Musselwhite, Saturday, Jan. 6, at The Magic Bag.

Tickets are \$25 for each night.

Cotton, one of the blues world's greatest treasures, won a 2002 Handy Award for Best Traditional Album of the Year for his last album *35th Anniversary Jam*.

With a storied career that dates back to the 1940s and includes stints with legends in both blues and rock, Cotton has himself assumed legendary status.

Born in Tunica, Miss., in 1935, Cotton fell under the spell of the legendary Sonny Boy Williamson after hearing the harpist's daily radio broadcast. His uncle took him to meet Williamson, who was so impressed by the youth that he immediately took him under his wing.

"How me and Sonny really got started is my uncle walked up and kind of took the conversation over," recalls Cotton. "This theme song he used to play when they came on the radio station, I walked up and played it for him. And I played it note

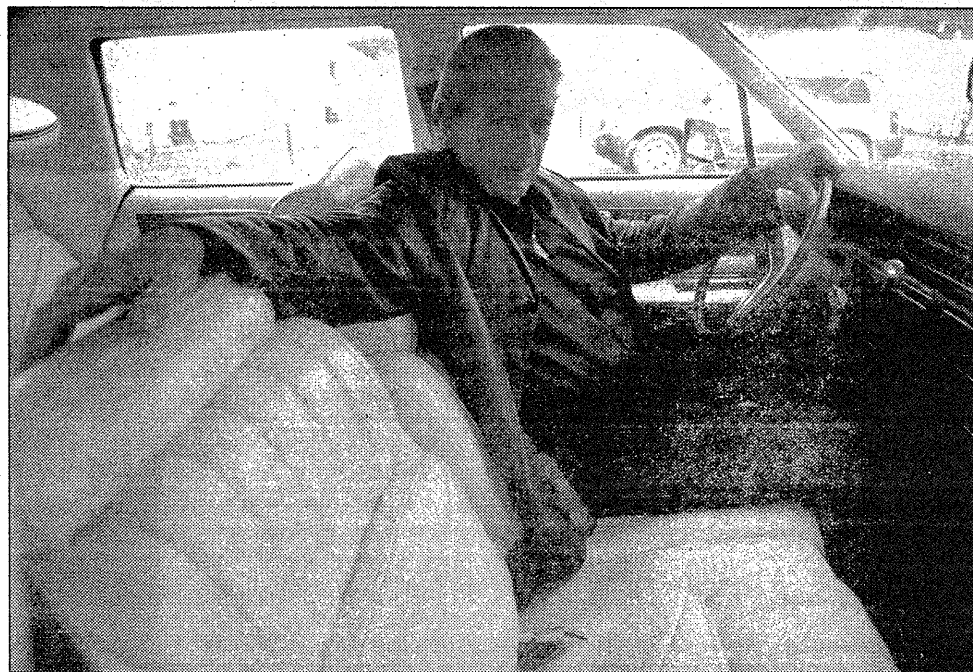


Blues great James Cotton headlines on Friday.

for note. And he looked at that. He had to pay attention."

At age 15, Cotton inherited the nomadic Williamson's band. Although Cotton was unable to keep the combo together for very long, the young harpist found plenty of other opportunities on the Memphis Blues circuit.

Cotton played and recorded with Howlin' Wolf and Willie Nix, and made his recording debut in 1953 as a drummer on *Straighten Up Baby*, released by Sam Phillip's Sun Records. In 1954, when Muddy Waters passed through town look-



Charlie Musselwhite headlines on Saturday.

ing for a harpist, Cotton landed the gig and his life would never be the same. Cotton worked with Muddy for the next 12 years — on the road and in the studio, including appearances on many of Muddy's seminal Chess sessions.

Cotton established himself with his explosive solo on Muddy's version of *Got My Mojo Working*, captured live at the 1960 Newport Jazz Festival. James had established himself as his own man from then on.

In 1966, he struck out on his own and formed The James Cotton Blues Band. "I loved Muddy very much, and I respected him very much," explains Cotton. "I did all I could do there. It was time to move on and do something else." He signed with Verve and released four critically acclaimed albums and was able to cross over into the burgeoning blues-rock market, performing at rock festivals and blues venues such as the Fillmores in San Francisco and New York. Cotton opened for acts like the Grateful Dead, The Paul Butterfield Blues Band and Janis Joplin.

In the '70s and '80s, Cotton continued to lead his own band, as well as work with Johnny Winter and Muddy Waters again. He signed with Alligator Records in 1984 and released *High Compression*, an album that featured a traditional blues band and included pianist Pinetop Perkins and guitarist Magic Slim. Cotton received a Grammy nomination for his 1986 recording, *Live from Chicago — Mr. Superharp Himself*. Another Grammy nomination followed for *James Cotton Live*, recorded at the popular Austin club Antones. He finally captured the award for his 1996 Verve release, *Deep in the Blues*.

In 2000, Cotton made his debut on the Telarc label with *Fire Down Under the Hill*. His latest effort on Telarc is a unique collaboration with some of today's top blues artists. The musicians arrived from

all corners of the music world to help James with his vision of American roots music.

Musselwhite appears Saturday, Jan. 6 with Doug Deming, Alberta Adams and RJ's Rhythm Rockers & The Alligators.

Musselwhite will be performing songs off of *Delta Hardware*. This mix of wild country abandon seasoned by years of playing urban electric blues in Chicago spurs the likes of Ben Harper, Tom Waits and Gov't Mule to welcome Musselwhite onto their stages and records. That same brash, blues/rock rebel vibe was Dan Aykroyd's inspiration for his Elwood Blues persona, and it's what has won Musselwhite many blues awards and earned the admiration and respect of his own heroes: Howlin' Wolf, John Lee Hooker and Muddy Waters. John Lee was even the best man at Charlie's wedding.

Pulled out of the storied Mississippi Delta and Hill Country, *Delta Hardware* is a mixture of songs written over the past few years and ideas fleshed out in the studio, and includes a new twist on the longtime live staple, Clarksdale Boogie.

True to the blues as an expression of a range of honest emotions and stories, *Delta Hardware* ranges from upbeat jewels like the party track *Church Is Out* to more socially conscious songs like *Black Water* and *The Invisible Ones*.

Backed by his touring band, Musselwhite, now based in Sonoma County, Calif., lends his guitar skills to one track on *Delta Hardware* and otherwise just goes stompin', blowin' and shouting his way through the album's 10 tracks.

The album walks the line between rock and electric country blues, sometimes playing it straight, sometimes taking new turns.

Join Us New Year's Eve 4-10 pm Reservations Now Being Taken

Tempting Your Tastebuds With a Special New Year's Eve Menu.

APPETIZERS

Crab Cakes • Crispy Calamari

SIDES

Chicken Lemon Rice • Twice Baked Potato
Normandy Vegetable • Iceberg & Romaine Salad

ENTREES

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Inside this week's

PURE ENTERTAINMENT!
filter
GANNETT

MUSIC - 2

Warm up with some hot blues at the Magic Bag's annual festival.

HOT TICKET - 3

Still looking for something to do at the stroke of midnight New Year's Eve? Look no further than these picks.

ON STAGE - 5

Catch the romantic comedy *Same Time Next Year* at Meadow Brook Theatre.

COVER - 6

The Music Box transforms into techno central on Sunday with performances by Carl Craig, Kevin Saunderson and Derrick May.

COMEDY - 7

Comedian Hal Sparks spouts off on politics and pop culture for a New Year's Eve show meant to keep you laughing into 2007.



TABLE HOPPING - 8

Nosh into the New Year with delicious holiday fare you can take home.

GET OUT! - 10

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

ARE YOU GAME? - 12

Rock the mic on karaoke nights as the sing-along trend heats up this winter.



ON THE COVER



Get ready to dance as Techno pioneers, including Carl Craig, take over The Max on New Year's Eve.

Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS

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Dance, laugh or dress up to ring it all in

Filter featured last week some of the hottest places to hang out on New Year's Eve. With so much happening in metro Detroit we can't possibly include them all.

But we're trying. Here's more to suit any nightclub craving from casual to classy.

POSH & PRETTY

Blue Martini, 201 Hamilton, Birmingham, (248) 258-3005, www.bluemartini.com.

A live band performs until 12:30 a.m. then DJs spinning until 4 a.m.

Wear semi-formal attire. The Blue Martini is a classy place with a mixed age group. Dress in your best tender clothing. And

there's an extensive martini and vodka menu.

JUST CHILL

Corradi's, 1090 Rochester Road, Troy, (248) 588-3471.

Live music with Changes & Windchill Factor, \$10 includes champagne toast and party favors. Food served with casual dress.

GET WILD

Clutch Cargo's, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac, (248) 333-2362, www.newclutchcargos.com.

Host Nick Craig, music by DJ Ryan Richards and DJ Drew & The Technician. In the lounge is music



Mephisto's in Hamtramck - the friendly alternative bar where goths, punks, artists, hipsters, rockers mingle together - is hosting a New Year's Eve party with some big names. Crud, Broadzilla, Choking Susan and Aisle 5 perform. Free Energy Drink is giving away a one-year supply of its energy drink to two lucky winners and Crud will deliver it. There are also Burlesque dancers all night long. Mephisto's is located at 2764 Florian Ave., Hamtramck, (313) 875-3627, visit myspace.com/cruddetroit.

by DJ Powdr Blu and Tortured Soul. Clutch Cargo's always throws a huge party with a younger, energetic crowd, trendy attire, and wild atmosphere. There's four floors, music, fireworks, confetti, balloon drops (yes, balloon drops are the rage at clubs this year), prizes to Acapulco, limo service, teeth whitenings and more. Tickets \$15 in advance, 18 and over. Open until 4 a.m. Valet parking available so you can wear your little black dress.

RELAX

O'Toole's, 205 W. 5th St., Royal Oak, (248) 591-9226, open noon-4 a.m. \$5 cover, champagne toast and pizza. Also open New Year's Day for the games from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Who says you have to get all gussied up on New Year's Eve? Casual attire is welcome at O'Toole's in this laid-back, festive atmosphere. So stop in for a drink. Also O'Toole's Cass Lake, 4000 Cass

Lake, Keego Harbor (248) 683-3494, features New Year's Eve dinner packages available from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Watch the games on New Year's Day with its big screen televisions.

THE HOWLING DIABLOS

Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth Street, Royal Oak (248) 399-9260, www.howlingdiablos.com \$20 at the door or \$15 in advance.

Detroit's mighty popular Howling Diablos know how to host a party. Also performing is the Reeferman and DJ Linda Lexy. Midnight champagne toast.

DANCE

Elysium Lounge, 623 Shelby, Detroit (313) 962-2244, www.elysium-lounge.com.

DJs Mike Anthony, Phil Agosta

PLEASE SEE **EVE**, E13

Outdoor show geared toward whole family

Wild Weekend Family Adventures is an outdoor adventure show and travelog that features a wealth of activities that people of all ages can enjoy at destinations in Michigan and around the country.

The season premiere of *Wild Weekend Family Adventures* will be at 10:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, on Detroit Public TV.

For more information, visit www.wildweekendtv.com.

From kayaking the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore to sailing the Great Lakes in the world famous Port Huron-to-Mackinac race, from the thrill of charging around a NASCAR track at 160 mph to exploring sea caves and shallow-water wrecks in the wilds of Lake Superior, *Wild Weekend Family Adventures* is a fast-paced, 30-minute celebration of outdoor life that takes you to extraordinary places and has something for everyone in the family.

You'll spot wild, sometimes dangerous animals in their natural habitat, but you'll also learn where to go to explore



wildlife of all types and what it takes to enjoy all kinds of outdoor sports, including parachuting, wakeboarding, paintball, dog sledding and mountain biking.

While most outdoor programs focus on what kind of fishing lure to use, or what kind of gun will bring down a buck at 200 yards, *Wild Weekend* uncovers stories that encourage families who don't typically hunt, fish or participate in outdoor activities to try something new in the outdoor world.

It finds wild locations and activities that the average person may not have known were available, and presents them in a way that will make the whole

family want to get out of the house and into the wild outdoors.

Wild Weekend researches and finds the venues that specialize in beginner and intermediate activities, then features people of all ages participating in these outdoor activities.

Its treatment of the sport of rock climbing, for example, would feature a three-generation climb, with a 7-year-old son, a 35-year-old father and a 68-year-old grandfather. It would explain how safe it is, what tools you need, and where to go for your best first-time experience.

Hunting and fishing are presented in terms of how and why to get involved, but alternatives to the kill are provided, like catch-and-release, hunting with a camera or shooting competitions with clay pigeons.

In its first year on the air, *Wild Weekend Family Adventures* won four Emmys, for Best Magazine Program, Best Magazine Segment, Best Teen Feature and Best Photography.

Outdoor enthusiast and 10-time Emmy-winning writer/producer/photojournalist Byron Goggin is the host.

Raised in the rural Upper Peninsula of Michigan, he spent his childhood exploring the lakes, streams and woodlands there.

Goggin had a professional career in motorcycle racing, winning three National Championships. While racing, he toured France with stops in Paris, Lyon and Pont De Vaux.

Goggin worked for NBC, FOX, ESPN and CNN for 15 years.

Scheduled episodes include: ■ *The Gale That Stole Christmas* — an old-fashioned story of Great Lakes ship travel that ends in disaster for the crew of the Rouse Simmons, a schooner that carried Christmas trees from Michigan's Upper Peninsula to Chicago in the 1900s.

Recently the Rouse Simmons was found in the bottom of Lake Michigan. Goggin meets the author of *The Christmas Ship* and takes him 186 feet to

the bottom of Lake Michigan to see the ship's resting place for the first time.

■ *Exploring Michigan's Upper Peninsula* — featuring how to harness and drive a genuine Iditarod sled dog team; sea kayaking at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore; and snorkeling an 1800s ore boat.

■ *Challenge yourself!* — featuring water skiing in December (while wearing dry suits) to help raise money for the American Heart Association; a Polar Plunge with participants jumping through a hole in the ice at Houghton Lake Michigan (wearing nothing but a Batman costume or an occasional bikini); and hot air ballooning.

■ *Strap 'em On!* — featuring skiing, snow boarding and cross-country skiing.

■ *Ice Is Cool!* — featuring Michigan's ice volcanoes, and the annual Ice Climbing Festival at the Eben Ice Caves.

■ *Snowmobiling is for the Family!* — also featuring frozen waterfalls in Munising.

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Holiday hours set at Detroit Historical Museum

Holiday hours at the Detroit Historical Museum and Dossin Great Lakes Museum are:

■ Thursday-Friday, Dec. 28-29 — Detroit Historical Museum open for extended hours (9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

■ Saturday, Dec. 30 — Detroit Historical Museum and Dossin Great Lakes Museum open for normal Saturday hours.

This will be the last day the Dossin will be open before closing for a 12-week museum makeover.

■ Sunday, Dec. 31 — Detroit Historical Museum and Dossin Great Lakes Museum closed.

■ Monday-Tuesday, Jan. 1-2 — Detroit Historical Museum closed.

■ Wednesday, Jan. 3 — Regular Detroit Historical Museum hours resume.

Visitors to the Detroit Historical Museum can pick up a poster from the new 20th-Century Fox motion picture *Night at the Museum*. The posters,

available for free while supplies last, are courtesy of Allied Advertising.

Also, visitors have a final opportunity to view *Digital Dress: Women About Town*, the popular exhibit that closes at the museum Saturday, Dec. 30.

Digital Dress displays how women's clothes evolved during the 20th century, featuring pieces from the costume collections of Meadow Brook Hall, The Henry Ford,

Wayne State University and the Detroit Historical Museum.

It is the first exhibit in metro Detroit to feature Guide By Cell technology. Pick up a card at the entrance to the exhibit that explains how to use this technology — which allows visitors to use cell phones to access information about selected artifacts, people and themes in the exhibit.

For more information, call the Detroit Historical Society at (313) 833-1805 or visit www.detroithistorical.org.



Romantic comedy spans 25 years

Bernard Slade's romantic comedy, *Same Time, Next Year*, tells the story of two people who find enduring love with each other despite being married to other people.

On stage

Performances run Jan. 10 to Feb. 4 at Meadow Brook Theatre in Rochester.

Tickets range \$22-\$38 and may be bought by calling the Meadow Brook Theatre Box Office at (248) 377-3300, or (248) 370-3316 for group sales.

Tickets are also available at any Ticketmaster location or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

For more information on productions at Meadow Brook Theatre, visit www.mbtheatre.com.

After a chance meeting at a romantic California inn, the pair, George and Doris, begin a 25-year-long affair in which they meet for only one weekend every year.

Set against the changing cultural backdrop of the '50s, '60s and '70s, this Tony Award-winning play, directed by David Regal, The Theatre Ensemble's artistic director, is full of laughter and tears as a clandestine love affair becomes something much deeper.

John Lepard, Williamston Theatre's executive director and local theater favorite, plays George.

Lepard is a past winner of the Best Actor Award from both the *Detroit Free Press* and the *Between the Lines* Wilde Awards. He currently resides in Williamston.

SAME TIME, NEXT YEAR

When: Jan. 10 to Feb. 4.
Where: Meadow Brook Theatre.
Previews: 8 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, Jan. 10-12.
Opening night: 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13.
Director: David L. Regal.
Cast: John Lepard (George), Roxanne Wellington (Doris).
Tickets: \$22-\$38. Call the MBT box office, (248) 377-3300; call (248) 370-3316 for group sales; visit www.ticketmaster.com.
Dates and times: 8 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 10 and 17, Thursdays, Jan. 11, 18 and 25 and Feb. 1, Fridays, Jan. 12, 19 and 26 and Feb. 2, and Saturday, Jan. 13; 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sundays, Jan. 14, 21 and 28; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 20 and Feb. 3, and Wednesdays, Jan. 24 and 31; 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4.

Roxanne Wellington, last seen at Meadow Brook Theatre in her award-winning role as Anna in the Michigan premiere of Alan Knee's *Syncopation*, plays Doris.

She is originally of Walled Lake and now lives in Philadelphia.

"This is the genuinely funny and romantic story of two people very much in love with each other as well as their spouses," Regal said.

"They are perfect for each other but is it just because they spend only one weekend a year with each other? It's interesting to see how the lovers mirror the changing façade of the 25-year span of the show."

Law, Binoche bring depth to 'Breaking and Entering'

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Writer-director Anthony Minghella leaves viewers with their faces pressed to the glass, looking in on but not really involved with this dramatic study of a London couple and an immigrant mother and son whose lives cross over a series of burglaries.

Rich performances from past Minghella collaborators Jude Law, Juliette Binoche and Ray Winstone, along with Robin Wright Penn, bring more depth and soul to the film than the somewhat superficial

characters and overly contrived situations warrant. Law plays a landscape architect drawn together with a teenage

Bosnian thief and his mother. An emotional frostiness in much of Minghella's work, including *Cold Mountain* and best-picture Academy Award-winner *The English Patient*, is distinctly present here, hindering the audience's ability to connect with the people on screen. R for sexuality and language. 119 min.

Two and a half stars out of four.

David Germain, AP Movie Writer

At the movies

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 (no dinner reservation required)

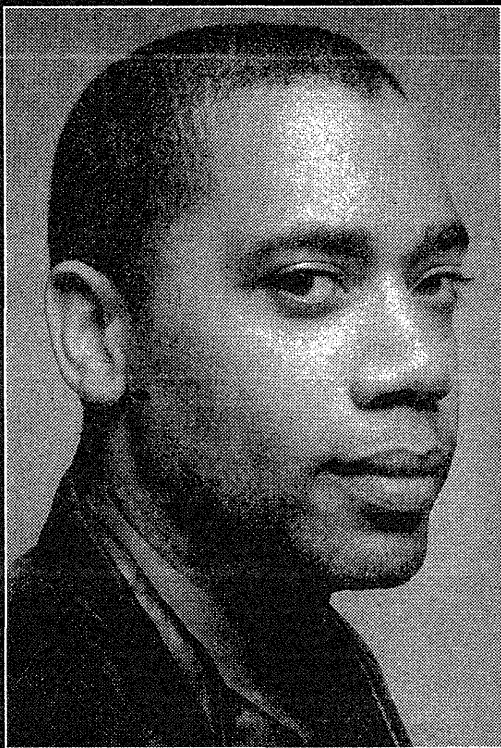
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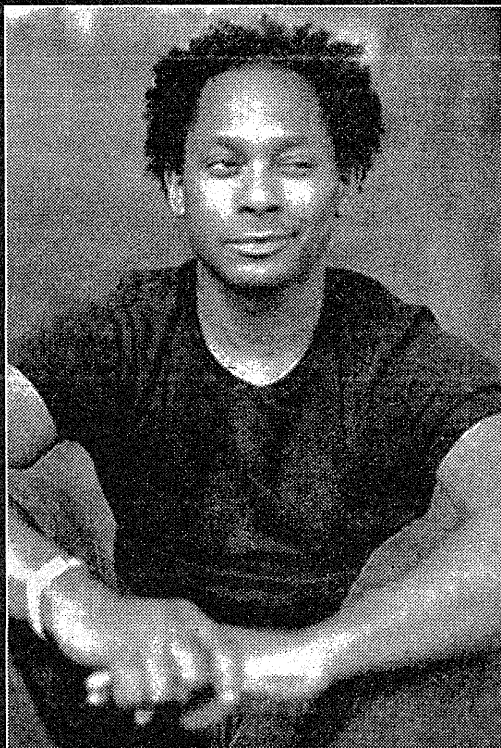
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NEW YEAR'S EVE GOES ELECTRONIC

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Whether you grew up on Detroit techno or have little connection to the electronic music scene, this New Year's Eve the party to end all 2006 parties will happen at The Max.

For the first time, the home of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra opens its doors to the city's own DJ royalty. Three techno pioneers — Derrick May, Kevin Saunderson and Carl Craig — will take to the decks, get the crowd moving, and make New Year's Eve a night to remember.

Planning began about a year ago when Craig started working on the idea of organizing a performance at The Max. Confirming a date on Dec. 31, he asked Saunderson and May to join him.

"We don't play at home on New Year's Eve (very often)," said Saunderson, in a recent interview. He's spent plenty of New Year's Eve celebrations spinning records for raucous crowds overseas. Craig said he often takes New Year's Eve off.

But not this year. This year they'll come home.

"We'll bring it back to the old days," Saunderson said. The Brooklyn-born and Detroit-raised DJ is perhaps best known as a founder of techno and a

member of the band Inner City.

Along with Saunderson and Juan Atkins, May pioneered the genre in the late '80s. He released the house classic *Strings of Life*. And Craig's take on techno has long been recognized for its jazz-inspired, soulful style.

"We're friends," Saunderson said. "It makes it easier to do what we do. We're all connected."

Craig added: "We're the 2007 Rat Pack."

Craig will begin the night, followed by Saunderson at the stroke of 12. May will finish the event.

"Kevin is the perfect person to be on the decks at 12 o'clock," said Craig of the lineup. "He makes this really great party music."

Craig said hearing a song like Inner City's *Good Life* at midnight will mark the pinnacle of the evening.

Saunderson agreed.

"I want to have fun," he said. "I think *Big Fun* and *Good Life* are timeless songs."

And asking May to headline was a no-brainer.

"When The Music Institute was going on, Derrick was the guy who always ended it up," said Craig, reminiscing about the early days of electronic music.

"I'm quite excited to see him at the end of the night. He'd play really big rooms all the time. This will be a great

party for him to do."

Joining in on the party will be Theo Parrish and Al Ester spinning in the Alessee Rehearsal Hall.

"You can hear a broad range of great music from Detroit," Craig said. Expect a mix of classic and new music — all with a Detroit-centric vibe. It's bound to be a celebration of the city as well as a reflection of 2006.

Craig said he'd like to see a mix of people come out to the party — those who are familiar with electronic music and DSO patrons who would come to any event at The Max and, this time, might "experience something they haven't experienced before."

That's one reason Craig pursued an event at The Max. He was seeking new places in which to share the music, and a new vantage point from which people might discover it.

In addition to performing, Craig, Saunderson and May all run their own record labels — Planet E, KMS and Transmat respectively.

They've released each other's music and launched, bolstered and inspired countless careers in electronic music.

"We have dream jobs," Craig said. "We travel. We play our music... It's part of our dream to be able to work back home and make beautiful music."

scasola@hometownlife.com
(248) 901-2567

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE MAX

See: Detroit Legends of Electronic Music: Derrick May, Kevin Saunderson and Carl Craig, with guests Theo Parrish and Al Ester.

When: 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 31.

Where: The Music Box at The Max M. Fisher Music Center.

VIP: Reserved cabana sections will include bottle service, access to the Paradise Café, light hors d'oeuvres, upscale hats, noisemakers and valet parking.

Tickets: \$55 to \$100.

Discounts: Purchase general admission tickets to either the Hal Sparks comedy or this music event to receive a 10 percent discount off the second event. Purchase VIP tickets to Detroit Legends of Electronic Music to receive a 25 percent discount off the comedy show.

For more information:

Call (313) 576-5111 or visit www.detroitssymphony.com.

Cover
story

Hal Sparks weaves truth into comedy on New Year's Eve

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Hal Sparks might be best known for his dramatic role as Michael on Showtime's *Queer as Folk*, or his quick-witted pop culture pundit appearances on shows like *Talk Soup* and VH1's *I Love ...* series.

But first and foremost, Sparks is a comedian.

"I've been doing standup since I was 17 years old," he said. "It's more my game than anything."

And he's set to prove that to Detroit audiences this New Year's Eve when he performs at Orchestra Hall on the biggest party night of the year.

"It's been an extraordinary year," said Sparks, on a recent phone interview from his Los Angeles home. "Let's put it in perspective and laugh at it a little bit."

Sparks' interest in comedy was evident early on, beginning during his childhood in Kentucky. He was raised on the antics of Richard Pryor, Woody Allen and Shelley Berman, but didn't realize then that it could become a career. "I thought these were magical people who made funnies," he said.

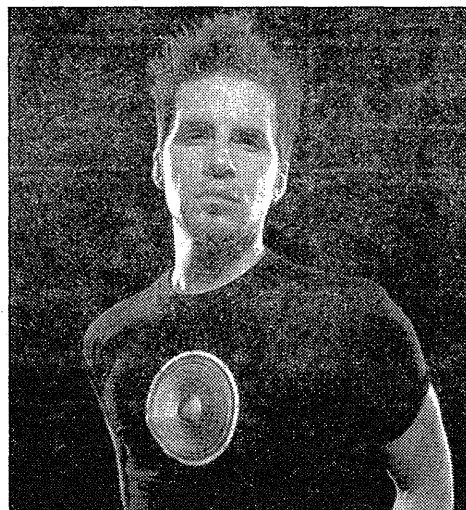
At age 14, Sparks moved to Chicago to live with his father. That's where he first encountered working comedians. "I thought 'This is what I'm going to do then.' I'm not really qualified to do anything else."

By age 15, Sparks recalled sneaking into clubs and sounding off with "political comedy when I was too young to vote." He's built his career as an actor, performer and musician. But his heart remains in standup comedy. "It's the one opportunity to truly be yourself," Sparks said.

Though he spends his days making people laugh, Sparks takes his career quite seriously.

"When you see *I Love the 80s* or *Talk Soup*, that's who I am," he said. "It makes sense to viewers. They might get a little confused when they see Michael on *Queer as Folk*. He's not funny."

Sparks can quip on pop culture with the best. He's spent 10-hour-days filming episodes of the VH1 *I Love* series, joking about the toys, music and fashion



Hal Sparks

of the '70s, '80s and '90s.

"I didn't go to college," said Sparks. "I was educated on Open Mic (nights) at standup clubs. My harsh professors were hecklers."

Sparks' more serious role on *Queer as Folk* came at a time when he the show's script was considered "radioactive" in Hollywood. Based on a British drama of the same name, *Queer as Folk* detailed the lives of five gay men living in Pittsburgh. Rather than shy away from the cable TV series, Sparks embraced it.

"You have the opportunity to play a member of a community you're not a part of - and make changes socially to help both sides."

Sparks also embraced the social and political issues dealt with on the show, such as gay marriage. "It's been difficult to watch the ignorance," he said, referring to the current conservative administration. "We've been jerking around with this issue for the last six years especially."

Since his time on the show, he's aimed to continue working on projects that will strike a chord with an audience.

Sparks is currently serving as the voice of Tak on a new Nickelodeon animated series *Tak and the Power of Jujitsu* which begins airing next fall. Sparks said he hopes to reach younger fans. "As an actor or performer, you have to have such a diverse visibility, it's hard to compete."

But compete he does. And Sparks encourages aspiring comedians to do the same.

"The world needs more funny people," he said. "I call forth the Hal Sparks Comedy Army."

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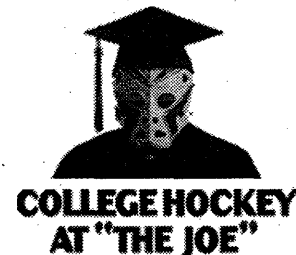
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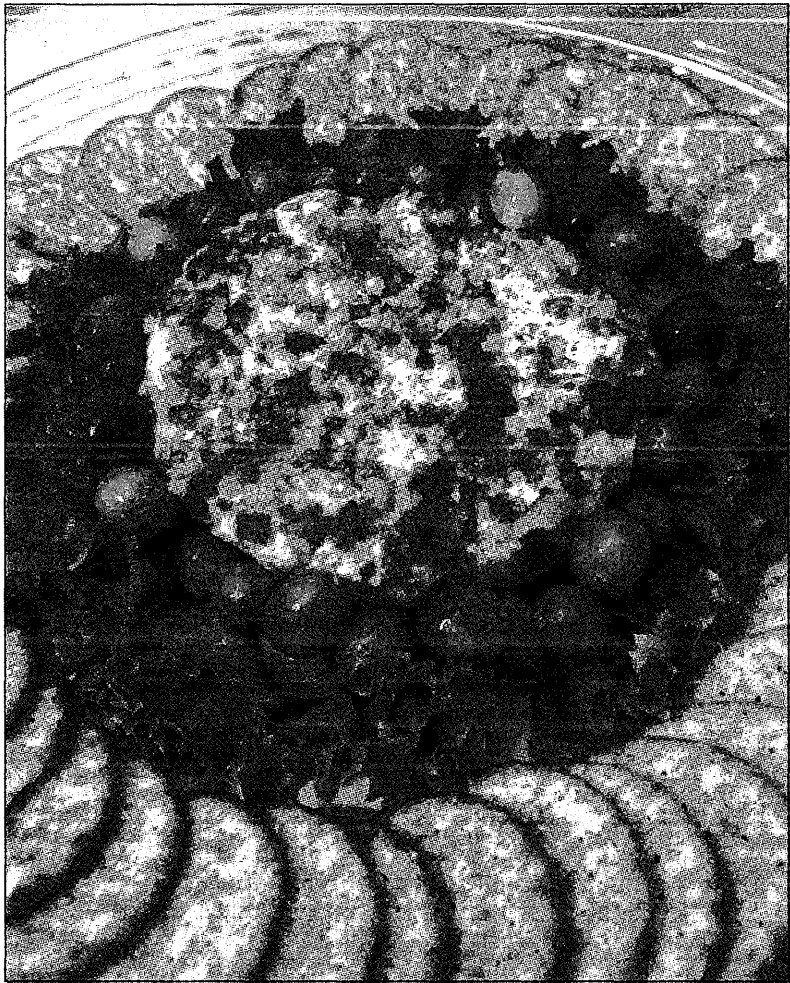


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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Leave the cooking to someone else on New Year's. This blue cheese, cranberry and walnut spread is a creative dish for your holiday bash from Busch's Market in Livonia.

Happy New Year

Relax and let someone else do the cooking

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Maybe you just want your New Year's party foods plain and simple. Shrimp cocktail. Chicken wings. Finger sandwiches. Chips and salsa. Chips and dip.

OK, maybe your tastes have graduated to something a little more elaborate and prefer small plates with tabbouleh, whole grain salads and small sandwiches. Chopped chicken breast in a pesto sauce. Little barbecue ribs. Italian and Polish sausages with hot mustard, onions on homemade breads.

Maybe you love those Chinese Pot Stickers or Crab Rangoon. Maybe it's Mexican with a big plate of nachos and your favorite toppings.

That evening might be a good time to enjoy an antipasto salad from Buddy's. Or you can try the local markets, as many of them employ talented chefs to create casseroles, salads and food trays for the masses.

Enjoy your New Year's Eve or New Year's Day with a sampling from your favorite takeout. Plenty of the local markets do cater to the take-out food customer, so check out their selections

created by the chefs in their kitchens.

The list below is designed to reflect different tastes. It isn't necessarily all takeout joints, but shows the variety that is out there, just in case you want something a little different.

By this time, you probably don't feel like cooking at all, so enjoy the long weekend and relax. (Just call these establishments first to check on business hours.)



RESTAURANTS/TAKE-OUTS

Aunt Olive's Good Food 2 Go, 525 N. Old Woodward, Birmingham (248) 593-0364.

Baja Fresh, several locations, visit www.bajafresh.com for nearest one.

Bon Vie Troy, Somerset Collection, 2810 W. Big Beaver, Troy (248) 458-2014.

Buddy's Pizza, 2612 N. Squirrel (near Walton), Auburn Hills (248) 276-9040; 31646 Northwestern Highway, (just west of Middlebelt), Farmington Hills (248) 855-4600; 33605 Plymouth (west of Farmington), Livonia (734) 261-3550; carry-out only at 3637 Maple (at Lahser), Bloomfield (248) 645-0300, and 32218 Woodward (north of 13 Mile Road),

PLEASE SEE **TABLE HOPPING, E9**

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TABLE HOPPING

FROM PAGE E8

Royal Oak (248) 549-8000.

California Pizza Kitchens, Hunters Square, 31005C Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills (248) 737-5912; Laurel Park Place, 37546 W. Six Mile, Livonia (734) 591-0476; Somerset Collection North, 2800 W. Big Beaver, Troy (248) 816-0900.

Chipotle, 2611 Rochester Road, Rochester Hills (248) 853-2850; 26147 Evergreen, Southfield (248) 553-3448; 3129 Crooks, Troy (248) 816-5103; 6753 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield (248) 539-3014.

Cosi, 101 N. Old Woodward, Birmingham (248) 203-9200; 37652 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills (248) 489-9126; 84 N. Adams, Rochester Hills (248) 375-5100; 28674 Telegraph, Southfield (248) 213-2700.

Gala, 33316 Grand River, Farmington (248) 478-2355.

Hong Hua, 27925 Orchard Lake, Farmington Hills (248) 489-2280.

P.F. Chang's China Bistro, 17905 Haggerty, Northville (248) 675-0066 2801 W. Big Beaver (The Somerset Collection), Troy (248) 816-8000.

Priya Indian Cuisine, 36600 Grand

River, Farmington (248) 615-7700; 72 W. Maple, Troy (248) 269-0100.

Sweet Lorraine's, 17100 N. Laurel Park Drive, Livonia (734) 953-7480 and 29101 Greenfield, Southfield (248) 559-5985.

The Deli, 20235 Middlebelt, Livonia (248) 442-SUBS.

Stage Deli, 6873 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield (248) 855-6622.

MARKETS

Busch's Market, 37083 Six Mile Road in Livonia (734) 779-6100; 24445 Drake, Farmington Hills (248) 427-7400; 15185 Sheldon, Plymouth (734) 414-5200; 3188 Walton, Rochester Hills (248) 375-0900.

Hiller's Market, 39550 Haggerty, Commerce Township (248) 960-1990; 15455 Haggerty, Plymouth (734) 420-5555; 425 N. Center, Northville (248) 344-4001; 6433 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield (248) 851-7100.

Holiday Market of Royal Oak, 1203 S. Main, Royal Oak (248) 541-1414.

Holiday Market of Canton, 520 S. Lilley, Canton (734) 844-2200.

Joe's Produce, 33152 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia (248) 477-4333.

Papa Joe's Gourmet Market, 34244 Woodward, Birmingham (248) 723-9400; 6900 Rochester Road, Rochester (248) 853-6263.

IHOP adds new menu items

IHOP is serving up a revamped menu just in time for the new year, including eight new items sure to satisfy any breakfast, lunch or dinner craving.

The new menu items can be enjoyed at any time of the day and include:

■ **Corn Cake Pancakes** — these fluffy, moist and savory pancakes are made with cornmeal, and topped with sweet butter.

■ **Spinach & Mushroom Omelette** — fresh spinach, mushrooms, onions and Swiss cheese rolled in a fluffy omelette, and topped with hollandaise and diced tomatoes.

There are Sweet & Savory Crepes, a new category of sweet and savory crepe choices, including:

■ **Chicken Florentine Crepes** — chicken breast strips sautéed with fresh spinach, mushrooms and onions in light seasonings, rolled inside two delicate crepes with Swiss cheese and topped with rich hollandaise.

■ **Garden Stuffed Crepes** — two crepes stuffed with Swiss cheese and eggs scrambled with fresh spinach, mushrooms and onions, and topped with rich hollandaise and diced tomatoes.

■ **Cheesy Ham & Egg Crepes** — two

crepes stuffed with grilled ham, American cheese and scrambled eggs, and topped with rich hollandaise.

■ **Ham & Egg Melt** — grilled sourdough bread stuffed with ham, scrambled eggs, Swiss and American cheeses.

■ **BBQ Bacon**

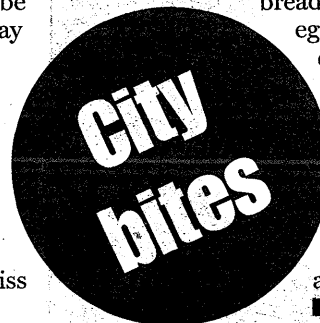
Cheeseburger — a juicy burger basted with sweet and tangy BBQ sauce and topped with cheddar cheese and bacon, served with lettuce, tomato and red onion on a Romano-Parmesan bun.

■ **Bacon & Egg Cheeseburger**

— a juicy burger topped with cheddar cheese, one egg cooked over-medium and crisp bacon on a Romano-Parmesan bun, served with lettuce, tomato, red onion and mayonnaise.

The IHOP family restaurant chain has been serving a wide variety of breakfast, lunch and dinner selections for more than 45 years. Offering 14 types of pancakes as well as omelettes, breakfast specialties, burgers, sandwiches, salads, chicken and steaks, IHOP's diverse menu appeals to people of all ages.

For more information, call the company's restaurant support center at (818) 240-6055 or visit www.ihop.com.



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Send, fax or e-mail items for consideration in Get Out! at least two weeks in advance to Ken Abramczyk, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009, fax (248) 644-1314 or e-mail kabramcz@hometownlife.com. Please include a short summary with details of the event, a phone number and/or Web site that members of the public can contact for more information.

ART EXHIBITS

Cranbrook Art Museum

Space is the Place, exhibition of installations, paintings, other works by contemporary artists, through Jan. 14, 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, \$6, (877) GO-CRANBrook (1-877-462-7262), www.cranbrookart.edu.

Detroit Institute of Arts

Annie Leibovitz: American Music, intimate portraits of those influenced by American roots music, through Jan. 7; 5200 Woodward Ave., (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org.

Flint Institute of Arts

Exhibit of *Excavating Egypt, Great Discoveries* from the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, University College, London, through Jan. 7, Graphics Gallery, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint, (810) 234-1695, www.flintarts.org.

ART GALLERIES

Ariana Gallery

119 S. Main, Royal Oak, (248) 546-8810.

Arnold Klein

32782 Woodward, Royal Oak, (248) 647-7709.

ArtCraft

Real and Imagined, oil paintings by Malo exhibit through Dec. 31, 32410 Woodward, Royal Oak, (248) 549-9000.

Center for the Visual Arts Gallery

Tom McGlauchlin of the American Studio Glass Movement will exhibit hand-blown sculptures through Dec. 29, 6200 Grove Place, Toledo, Ohio, (419) 530-8300.

David Klein Gallery

163 Townsend, Birmingham, (248) 433-3700, dkgallery.com.

Neal Davis Gallery

Holiday exhibit with East Coast and Midwest artists, through Jan. 19, 314 W. Fourth, Royal Oak, www.nealdavisgallery.com, (248) 298-0326.

Elaine Jacob Gallery

Unembedded: Four Independent Photographers on the War in Iraq, Old Main, 480 W. Hancock, Wayne State University, through Jan. 12, (313) 577-5980.

Ellen Kayrod Gallery

4750 Woodward (southeast corner of Woodward and Hancock), Detroit, (313) 833-1300, Ext. 18, www.hannan.org.

Flatlanders Art Galleries

Heavy Metal, sculptures fabricated in steel by Ken Thompson; Tidal Forces, new sculpture by Judith Greavu, through Feb. 4; 11993 E. U.S. 223, Blissfield, (517) 486-4591, www.flatlander-sculpture.com.

Lawrence Street Gallery

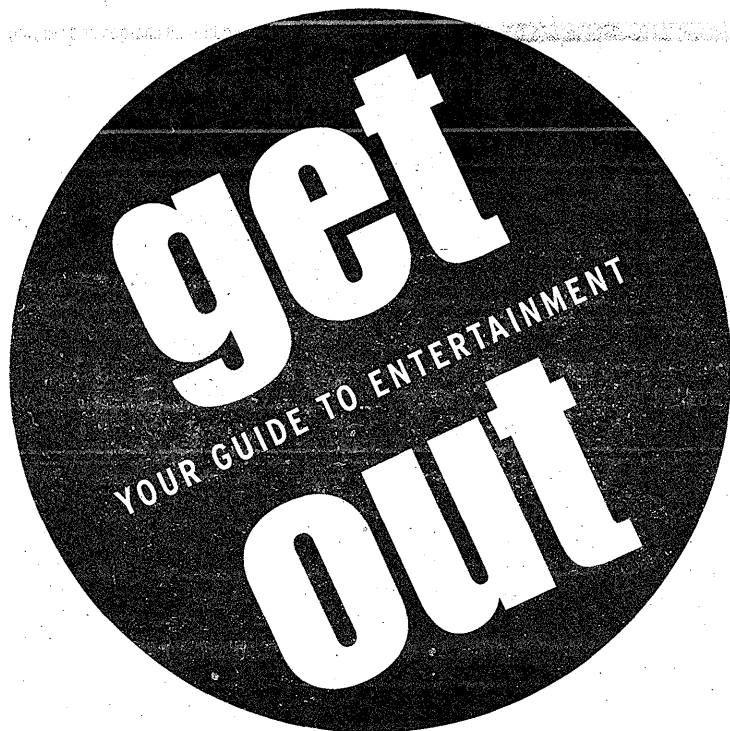
22620 Woodward, Suite A, Ferndale www.lawrencestreetgallery.com, (248) 544-0394.

Michigan State University

Department of Art & Art History's celebration of its 75th anniversary, exhibition includes 21 studio artists who teach and create art, the first floor of the Kresge Art Museum; Yousuf Karsh photographs, Jan. 8-March 18; The Worker's Landscape, Jan. 8-March 18, Kresge Art Museum, at Auditorium and Physics roads, East Lansing, (517) 355-7631, visit www.artmuseum.msu.edu.

Oakland University Art Gallery

Telegraph, featuring Harmut Austen, Haley Renee Bates, Fabio Fernandez, Shannon Goff,



Tom Lauerman, Brent Sommerhauser and Christian Tedeschi, opening reception 6-8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, runs through Feb. 25, 208 Wilson Hall, Oakland University, Rochester, (248) 370-3005 or www.oakland.edu/ouag.

Danielle Peleg Gallery

Crosswinds Mall, 4301 Orchard Lake Rd., West Bloomfield, (248) 626-5810.

Paint Creek Center for the Arts

The Tick Tock auction of artful clocks, displayed through Dec. 29, at 407 Pine St., Rochester, (248) 651-4110 or www.pccart.org.

Pewabic Pottery

Earthly Treasures Holiday Invitational, features 100 ceramic artists' work, now through Dec. 31; Caulkins & Perry the Early Years, now through Jan. 19; Vessels produced from 1901-1967, Feb. 3-May 18, all at 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit, (313) 822-0954 or www.pewabic.org.

Plymouth Community Arts Council

Call for weekend hours. (734) 416-4278. Located at 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth.

Posner Gallery

2253 Cole, Birmingham, info@posnergallery.net, (248) 258-9977.

The Print Gallery

Detroit's Top Ten, lithographs of Esteban Chavez, through Dec. 30, 29173 Northwestern Highway, Southfield, (248) 356-5454, www.EverythingArt.com, www.MonalisaMania.com.

River's Edge Gallery

3024 Biddle, Wyandotte, (734) 246-9880, www.artattheedge.com.

Sherrus Gallery

Tiny Treasures, smaller works of acrylic, pastel, glass and metal artists, through month of December; A Painter's Play - Act II, exhibit and sale, opening reception 6-9 p.m. Jan. 5, through Jan. 31; 109 N. Center, Northville, www.sherrusgallery.com.

Susanne Hilberry Gallery

John O'Reilly, Tadzio series and other montages, through Jan. 19, 700 Livernois, Ferndale, (248) 541-4700

University Art Gallery

EMU Faculty Art Exhibition Jan. 19-March 9, 210 Student Center, 900 Oakwood, Ypsilanti, (734) 487-0465.

University of Michigan Museum of Art

The Rouge, photographs by Michael Kenna through Jan. 14; Embracing Etonville contemporary photography runs Jan. 20-March 18, free, guided tours available, UMMA Off/Site Exhibition Space, 1301 S. University Ave., Ann Arbor, (734) 763-UMMA.

Washington Street Gallery

120 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, (734) 761-2287, or www.wsg-art.com.

ART, ETC.

Cranbrook Academy of Art

Wayne State University graduate student exhibition, through Jan. 12, Forum Gallery, Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 645-3300, www.cranbrookart.edu.

Detroit Institute of Arts

5200 Woodward Ave., (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org.

Eastern Michigan University

Ford Gallery, 114 Ford Hall, Ypsilanti (734) 487-0465.

Sisson Gallery

Henry Ford Community College, MacKenzie Fine Arts Center, 5101 Evergreen, Dearborn, (313) 845-6485.

Wayne State University

Cranbrook Academy of Art grad student exhibition, through Jan. 12, Community Arts Gallery, 450 Reuther Hall (at Cass between West Kirby and Palmer), (313) 577-2423.

BALLET

Ford Community & Performing Arts Center

The Sleeping Beauty, presented by the Moscow Festival Ballet, set to Tchaikovsky score, 8 p.m. Jan. 6, 15801 Michigan; Dearborn, \$30-\$40, tickets at box office or (313) 943-2354, or www.dearbornfordcenter.com

CLASSICAL

Detroit Symphony Orchestra

Dvorak's Pastorale, Jan. 4-6; Demaine's Dvorak, Jan. 26-27; All Beethoven, Feb. 2-3; Chinese New Year Celebration, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111, www.detroitssymphony.com.

University Musical Society

Takacs Quartet, 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington, Ann Arbor, \$20-\$44; Bright Sheng's Silver River, 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor, \$18-\$40; Sekou Sundiata, 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor, \$14-\$34, (734) 764-6833.

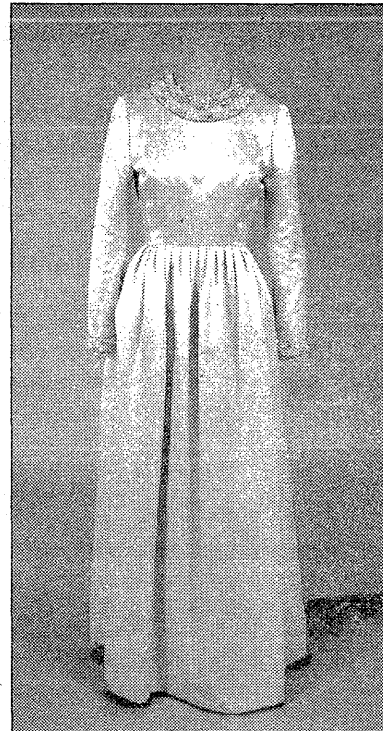


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

ART

This creamy white satin ball gown was worn by Helen Milliken at the 1970 and 1974 Inaugural Balls of her husband, Gov. William Milliken. It's part of the "Digital Dress: Women About Town" exhibit at the Detroit Historical Museum through Saturday, Dec. 30. For holiday hours at the museum, call The Detroit Historical Society at (313) 833-1805 or visit www.detroithistorical.org.

CLUBS

220 Merrill Street & Lounge

Extensive drink menu, live music, dancing, eclectic and American nouveau cuisine, 220 E. Merrill, Birmingham, (248) 645-2150.

313.Jac's

Located upstairs at Jacoby's, 624 Brush in Bricktown, (313) 962-7067, 21 and over, doors open 10 p.m., cover \$5, www.staticrecords.com/shows.htm.

Bachelor's One

1967 Cass Lake Road, Keego Harbor, (248) 682-2295.

Blue Martini

Live music from 8-11:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, and Saturdays and Sundays, 201 Hamilton, between Woodward and Old Woodward, one block north of Maple, (248) 258-3005.

Blind Pig

208 S. First St., Ann Arbor, (734) 996-8555

Bosco

Enjoy noWax nights at 7 p.m. every Wednesday, download music into your MP3 Player, take a number and wait your turn to be DJ and spin three songs, no cover, 21 and over only, 22930 Woodward in Ferndale, www.thebosco.com, (248) 541-8818.

O-Zen Lounge

Formerly The Buddha Lounge; Hot 'N Ready with DJ U.N.I. hip hop soul, Thursday; Insomnia Music, hip hop, soul, old school, Friday; Super Sonic Smooth Music with DJ Shug, Saturday; karaoke with Chez, Sunday; 80s and Rock N Roll; bring your CDs, Tuesday; and Energetic House with DJ Tony Bell, Wednesday; www.ozenlounge.com, 21633 W. Eight Mile, Detroit (313) 535-4664.

The Buzz Bar

546 E. Larned, Detroit, (313) 962-1800, www.buzzdetroit.com

Club 2000

Fat Twosdays with DJ Carl the Invisible Man 9

p.m. Tuesdays, hip-hop, 18 and over, 299 E. Woodbridge, Detroit, (313) 235-2233.

Crazy Moe's Cafe

Food, dancing, music, 2 N. Saginaw St., Pontiac, (248) 322-5550.

Danny's Irish Pub

Laid-back, small, friendly, 22824 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 546-8331.

Dino's Lounge

Live bands on weekends, hip, laid back, friendly, 22740 Woodward, just south of Nine Mile in Ferndale, (248) 591-DINO.

Edison's

Robert Penn, Dec. 28; The Blue Kings, Dec. 29-30; The Snakes, Dec. 31; Larry Lee, Jan. 4; Bazooka Charlie, Jan. 5-6; Mystery Train featuring Jim McCarty, Jan. 11; The Snakes, Jan. 12-13; Larry Lee, Jan. 18; Aaron Vaughn, Jan. 19-20; The Blue Kings, Jan. 25; Rick Stel Project, Jan. 26-27; 220 Merrill, Birmingham, (248) 645-2150.

Elysium

Lounge, dance and happy hour from 3-9 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays, nightclub hours Fridays and Saturdays, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m., (313) 962-2244, 625 Shelby, Detroit. www.elysium-lounge.com.

Fiamma Grille

Roy Scoutz, 7-10 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, George "The Kat" plays saxophone, 7-10 p.m. Thursdays, 380 Main, Plymouth, (734) 416-0100.

Gala

33316 Grand River, Farmington, (248) 478-2355

Gator Jake's

Retro 80s Thursdays, DJ Tony Fridays and Saturdays, 36863 Van Dyke, Sterling Heights, (586) 983-3700. www.gatorjakes.com

Ginopolis on the Grill

Don Swindell and Shuffle Play, with Swindell, Sheila Brown, Mike Lorenz and Jake Reichhart, 7:30-11:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 27851 Middlebelt at 12 Mile in Farmington Hills, no cover, (248) 851-8222.

Leland City Club

Avant garde, open until 4 a.m., access through unmarked door on the First Street side of the Ramada Hotel building, 400 Bagley, Detroit, www.lelandcityclub.com.

The Locker Room Saloon

Wild Wednesdays with DJ Oz, Trivia Night and Ladies Night Thursdays, Funky Fridays with DJ Paul, Insane Saturdays with DJ Oz, 7790 Auburn, Utica, (586) 731-3323, www.locker-roomsaloon.com, www.ckpep.com.

Madison's Mount Clemens

Dance parties Thursday, Friday and Saturdays, 15 N. Walnut, Mount Clemens, (586) 468-7777, www.madisonsmountclemens.com.

The Magic Bag

22920 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-1991, event hotline (248) 544-3030, www.themagicbag.com.

X/S

High-energy dance club, 1500 Woodward, northeast corner at John R, Detroit, (313) 963-9797.

Seldom Blues

Big Band Wednesdays with Johnny Trudell and his 18-piece band, 7-11 p.m., playing a mix of jazz favorites, located in Tower 400, Level 1 of the GM Renaissance Center next to the Marriott, call (313) 567-7301.

Sky Club

Tango, salsa, and Latin dancing every Wednesday beginning at 8 p.m., located above Sangria's Restaurant, 401 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, (248) 543-1964.

Wild Woody's

DJ Adam Douglas, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays; Corona Bikini Beach Bash with DJ Mike Scroggs and Gny, Sundays, 32500 Gratiot, Roseville (586) 294-5331, www.wild-woodys.com, www.ckpep.com.

COMEDY

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase

Open Mic/Comedy Jamm, Dec. 27; Jeff Brannan, Dec. 28-30, 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, (734) 996-9080.

JD's House of Comedy

Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday; 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield, (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com.

Historic Holly Hotel Comedy Club

Steve Bills with Jeff Dwoskin, Dec. 22-23; The Desperate Houseguys (Mike Malec, Mike Bobbit, Russ Brown and Steve Lind), Dec. 28-31; PJ Butland with Kate Brindle, Jan. 5-6; Billy Ray Bauer with Scott Loftis, Jan. 12-13; Nelson Addison with Dick Canty, Jan. 19-20; Dennis Ross with Simply Shanell, Jan. 26-27, 110 Battle Alley, Holly, (248) 634-5208

Improv Inferno

Citizen Improv, 8 p.m. Wednesdays; Super Fun Karaoke, 10 p.m. Wednesdays; The Catfight, 8 p.m. Thursdays; High Octane, 10 p.m. Thursdays; Biff! Bang! Pow!, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; The Damnation Game, 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; The X Show, midnight, Fridays and Saturdays; The Corner, 7 p.m. Sundays, Get Up! Stand Up!, 8:30 p.m. Sundays; The Weekend Wild Card, 10 p.m. Sundays, The Sweet Spot with Eye Candy, 11 p.m. Sundays, 309 S. Main, Ann Arbor, (734) 214-7080, www.improvinferno.com.

Joey's Comedy Club

36071 Plymouth, Livonia, (734) 261-0555, also has comedy at second location, 5070 Schaefer, Dearborn, (313) 584-8885; www.joeyscscomedy.com.

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle

John Caponera, Dec. 28-31; Derek Richards, Jan. 4-6; Melvin Bender, Jan. 11-13; Greg Giraldo, Jan. 18-20; Jackie Flynn, Jan. 25-26; John Bizarre, Feb. 1-3; Ted Alexandro, Feb. 8-10; Tom Wilson, Feb. 15-17; Dan Cummins, Feb. 22-24; at 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak, call (248) 542-9900.

Second City

Second City's Dysfunctional Holiday Revue, through Dec. 31, \$15-\$20, 42705 Grand River, Novi, call (248) 348-4448.

Wise Guys Comedy Club

Bryan McCree with Dave Landau and Connie Ettinger, Dec. 29-31; Kevin Zeoli with Keith Lenart and Marv Anderson, Jan. 5-6; P.J. Butland with Manny Shields and Matt McClowry, Jan. 12-13; Bill Bushart with Mike Stanley and Bob Stackhouse, Jan. 19-20; Billy Ray Bauer with Crystal P and Sal Demilio, Jan. 26-27; Steve Iott with Jeff Dwoskin and Sal Demilio, Feb. 2-3; 40380 Grand River, Novi (248) 919-3216.

Wise Guys at Portofino

Bryan McCree with Connie Ettinger, Dec. 29-31; 3455 Biddle, Wyandotte, (734) 752-1015.

DANCE

Ballet Hispanico

Contemporary dance, Feb. 16-17, Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit, \$19.50-\$55, (313) 887-8501 or www.musichall.org

Eisenhower Dance Ensemble

The Soldier's Tale, 8 p.m. Saturday, March 17, Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township, \$18-\$30, (586) 286-2222; New Dance Fest V, 7 p.m. Friday, April 20, Troy High School Auditorium, 4777 Northfield Pkwy, Troy, \$6-\$12, (248) 823-2700.

Savion Glover: Unmasked

Tap dancing 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11 and 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, Orchestra Hall, Detroit, (313) 576-5111 or detroitrsymphony.com.

FAMILY

Detroit Science Center

Exhibits include *As Time Goes By*, new exhibit



ON STAGE

U-M composer and 2001 MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Award-winner Bright Sheng conducts his opera-theater work "The Silver River" at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Jan. 12-13, at the Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. The production is presented by the University Musical Society. Performed in English, the 75-minute work is a re-telling of a 4,000-year-old Chinese creation myth about perfect love struggling to survive in an imperfect world. It integrates Western opera, drama, and contemporary dance with Chinese opera. Call (734) 764-2538 or -visit www.ums.org.

about the aging process, and *A Journey to Our Future*, now open to accompany center's new permanent Space Laboratory exhibit, 5020 John R, Detroit, \$6-\$7, (313) 577-8400, www.detroitsciencecenter.org.

Plowshares Theatre Co.

Dark Cowgirls & Prairie Queens, a Young Company production, through Dec. 31, 2870 E. Grand Blvd., Suite 600, Detroit, \$10-\$21, (313) 872-0279.

Metro Mid-Winter Dog Show

Obstacle and relay competitions (guests should not bring pets to the show), 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Jan. 19-21, Rock Financial Showcase, \$10, \$5 parking, (269) 343-9020, www.ukcdogs.com

FILM

Detroit Film Theatre

inside the Detroit Institute of Arts, for tickets, call (313) 833-3237, www.dia.org/dftr.

JAZZ

Nikola's

25225 Telegraph, Southfield, (248) 355-4695.

Windsor/Detroit Jazz Club

Ongoing gigs, 1-4 p.m. first and third Saturday of every month, Shield's Pizza, 25101 Telegraph (northwest corner of 10 Mile and Telegraph), Southfield, \$8 cover, (248) 478-0172.

Jazz and dinner

"Kind of Blue Tuesdays," at Lola's, Harmonie Park. Led by the Gerard Evans Quartet, the shows help musicians play with the core group at 9 p.m. every Tuesday, 1427 Randolph St. in Detroit's Harmonie Park, (313) 962-0483.

Jazz at Lincoln Center's Afro-Latin Orchestra

Feb. 16, Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit, \$19.50-\$55, (313) 887-8501 or www.musichall.org

One for All

Jan. 19-20, Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit, \$25, (313) 887-8501 or www.musichall.org

MORE MUSIC

The Ark

Crossroads Ceili with Barbara MacDonald

Magone; Brian Conway, master Irish fiddler; and dance master Nick Gareiss; Dec. 29 and 30; tickets \$15; also workshops noon-4 p.m. Dec. 29 and 30, \$20-\$30; 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor, (734) 761-1451 or www.theark.org, contact Mick Gavin about workshops at (313) 537-3489.

Cadieux Cafe

4300 Cadieux, Detroit, (313) 882-8560, www.tracykash.com

Carrick House Concerts

5418 Boyne Highland Trail, Clarkston, by calling (248) 394-0113 or e-mail carrickhome1@netscape.net.

First Presbyterian Church

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood: The Music of Mister Rogers, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 19-20; 1669 W. Maple, Birmingham, free admission, offering will be collected to benefit Variety FAR Conservatory, bring new sweaters for sweater drive, (248) 540-9124.

Hill Auditorium

The 30th Annual Ann Arbor Folk Festival to benefit The Ark, featuring headliners Rufus Wainwright and John Prine, Jan. 26-27, \$30-\$250 patron tickets, (734) 763-TKTS.

Station 885

Tony Ruda and Pat Smith play jazz from 7-10 p.m. every Thursday (bass and piano), 885 Starkweather, Plymouth, (734) 459-0885.

Trinity House

At 38840 W. Six Mile (just west of I-275), Livonia, \$10-\$12, (734) 464-6302; www.trinity-house.org.

MUSEUMS

Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum

See everything from ice cream making to cold-blooded reptiles in The Big Freeze exhibit to Dec. 31, at 220 E. Ann Street, Ann Arbor: (734) 995-5439 or www.aahom.org

Birmingham Historical Museum and Park

The Public Realm, Public Buildings & Spaces, through Feb. 24, 556 W. Maple, Birmingham, \$1-\$2, (248) 642-2817.

Henry Ford Museum

20900 Oakwood Blvd., west of the Southfield Freeway and south of Michigan Avenue.

Dearborn. Additional charges and varying hours for entry to Greenfield Village, Ford Rouge Factory Tour and IMAX Theatre. Call (313) 982-6001 or visit www.hfmgv.org.

Cranbrook Science Museum

Featured exhibit is It's a Nano World. Permanent exhibits include planetarium, nature center and Bat Zone Conservatory, 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, general admission \$5-\$7, planetarium, \$1-\$3, (248) 645-3200 or www.cranbrook.edu.

Detroit Science Center

Premiere of *Magnificent Desolation: Walking on the Moon* narrated by Tom Hanks and new planetarium show, *Journey to the Edge of Space and Time*, \$6, shows run indefinitely, 5020 John R, Detroit, \$6-\$7, (313) 577-8400, www.detroitsciencecenter.org.

Michigan Historical Museum

Inside Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing, www.michigan.gov/museum, (517) 373-3559.

Museum of Contemporary Art -Detroit

Meditations on an Emergency runs through April 29; Artrageous 2007 including an artist's market, fashion shows, wine tasting, 7-30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, \$100-\$125, all at 4454 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 832-6622

Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm

1927 Dairy Barn, 1850 and 1840 furnished farmhouses with permanent and temporary exhibits about regional history. General admission \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students, (248) 656-4663, www.rochesterhills.org.

REHEARSALS

Plymouth Oratorio Society

7:15 p.m. Jan. 8, First United Methodist Church of Plymouth, N. Territorial west of Sheldon, F. Schubert's Mass in Eb major and Robert Ray's Gospel Mass will be performed, (734) 455-8353.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Al Jarreau Valentine's Day Benefit

Feb. 14, Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit, \$38.50-\$98.50, (313) 887-8501 or www.musichall.org

Birmingham Historical Museum & Park

Allen House kitchen, restored to reflect 1920s decor, complete with vintage stove, work table, porcelain sink and monitor top refrigerator, also exhibits on artifacts and history of schools in Birmingham, \$2 admission, museum open from 1-4 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, 556 W. Maple (at Southfield Road), (248) 642-2817.

Michigan Camper and RV Show

Jan. 25-28, Ford Field, 2000 Brush Street, Detroit \$3-\$7.50 (800) 328-6550.

Michigan's Family Album

Special historical photography exhibit of 1,200 photographs from David Tinder collection, runs through Jan. 14, Michigan Historical Museum, inside Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, for more information, visit www.michigan.gov/museum or call (517) 373-3559.

North American International Auto Show

Open to the public Jan. 13-21, Cobo Center, 1 Washington Boulevard, Detroit. Visit www.naias.com.

School of Rock All-Stars

Free concert with "best and brightest" students of the acclaimed Paul Green School of Rock, 8 p.m. Dec. 29, tickets can be obtained in person at the Royal Oak Music Theatre box office, show is all ages, call 248-399-2980 Ext. 13 for show information, for more information on the School of Rock All-Stars, please visit www.SchoolOfRock.com

Shows at the Redford Theatre

17360 Lahser, Detroit, visit www.redfordtheatre.com or call (313) 537-2560.

White Rose Ball 2007

The Hungarian Arts Club of Detroit sponsors this event with music from Europe, Saturday,

Feb. 3, Dearborn Inn; Dearborn, (248) 352-0927

THEATER -- COMMUNITY

Avon Players

Over the River and Through the Woods, Jan. 12-14, 19-21 and 26-27, \$14, 1185 Washington (one mile east of Tienken and Rochester roads), Rochester Hills, (248) 608-9077.

Community Theatre of Howell

Heywood Banks comedy night fund-raiser, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26, Howell High School, 1200 W. Grand River, Howell, \$15-\$25, (517) 545-1290.

Eastern Michigan University

The Tempest, Jan. 25-27, Sponberg Theatre, 103 Quirk, Ypsilanti, \$6-\$15, (734) 487-1221.

Ford Community & Performing Arts Center

The Sleeping Beauty - By the Moscow Festival Ballet, 8 p.m. Jan. 6, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, \$30-\$40, (313) 943-2354 r www.dearbornfordcenter.com.

Marquis Theatre

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, through Jan. 21, 2:30 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and Dec. 26-29, \$8, 135 E. Main, Northville, 222.northville-marquistheatre.com, (248) 349-8110.

Dinner Theater

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change! Jan. 5-14, The Club Venetian, 29310 John R., Madison Heights, (248) 399-6788.

Village Players of Birmingham

Pal Joey, 8 p.m. Jan. 12-13, 19-20, 26-27, 2 p.m. Jan. 21 and 28, pre-performance cash bar and complimentary hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 13 only, 34660 Woodward, Birmingham (2 blocks south of Maple), \$15, 248-644-2075 or www.birminghamvillageplayers.com.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill

Numerous musicals, movies, concerts, magic, dinner theater, bands, kids' shows, orchestra and comedy. Open for free tours, art exhibition and tickets: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday, 7-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sunday. Charge tickets by phone: (734) 394-5460. Visit www.canton-mi.org/village-theater, 50400 Cherry Hill Road (corner of Ridge), Canton.

THEATER -- PROFESSIONAL

Detroit Repertory Theatre

Millan Theatre Company, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit, call (313) 868-1347. See *Arbophilia (Tree Love)*, a sappy satire by Jacob M. Appel. Showtimes are 8:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday; 3 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Saturday; and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, through Dec. 30. Beginning Jan. 11 to March 18, see *Between Men and Cattle* by Richard Kalinowski.

Purple Rose Theater

137 Park, Chelsea, call (734) 433-7673 or visit www.purplerosetheatre.org.

Fisher Theatre

Monty Python's *Spamalot*, through Jan. 7; 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, call (248) 645-6666 or visit www.NederlanderDetroit.com or www.ticketmaster.com.

Breathe Art Theatre

Call (519) 980-0607 in Windsor or (313) 965-1515 in Detroit.

Gem Theatre

2111 Woodward Ave. Detroit, (313) 963-9800, (248) 645-6666, or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

Masonic Temple Theatre

Rent, March 6-11, 500 Temple Avenue, Detroit, \$29-\$56, (313) 871-1132 or visit www.ticketmaster.com

Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts

Tyler Perry's What's Done in the Dark, Jan. 9-14; *Tea at Five - The Story of Katharine Hepburn*, Feb. 2-4, all at 350 Madison Ave., Detroit, \$19.50-\$55, (313) 887-8501 or www.musichall.org

Performance Network Theatre

The Fantasticks, through Dec. 31, 120 E. Huron, Ann Arbor, (734) 663-0681, www.performance-network.org.

Karaoke makes a comeback

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Matt Welz traces his karaoke roots to the tender age of 8.

"My sisters are older than me," he said. "They would bring friends over and make me rap."

He didn't mind transforming the fireplace into a stage.

"I would walk around the house and sing all those songs anyway," Welz said.

And he's still singing.

Known under the lengthy moniker "The World Heavyweight Champion of Karaoke The Millionaire Matt Welz," he's adopted that entertainment aesthetic and taken on weekly hosting duties for karaoke nights at two local bars — Gracie's Underground in Ferndale and Detroit's Northern Lights Lounge.

"Other hosts think singing is what's most important," Welz said. "For me, I believe it's entertaining."

Hitting the right notes isn't all that important to Welz.

"I'm about putting on a good show and getting the crowd going," he said.

Judging by the growing number of karaoke nights at area bars, the crowds are coming in and they're ready to sing.

The Blind Pig in Ann Arbor just ousted its own Monday Night Karaoke, despite a few years of success. Jason Berry, the club's booking agent, said the trend has been too spreading quickly around town. Karaoke nights can be found at places like Circus Bar & Billiards, The Millennium Club and The Club Above at The Heidelberg.

"It's just getting ridiculous," Berry said.

His only explanation for the resurgence of recreational crooning to pre-recorded music?

"Everyone feels like it's no big deal to be a rock star," Berry said.

At first he considered it unusual to host karaoke in a live music venue. Still, Berry said, "it caught fire."

On the town

SING YOUR HEART OUT -

WHERE TO KARAOKE?

Dino's: Wednesdays, 22736 Woodward Ave., Ferndale, (248) 591-DINO

Fifth Avenue Ballroom: Wednesdays, 25750 Novi Road, Novi, (248) 735-4011

Gracie's Underground: Tuesdays, 22757 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 298-0330

Rosie O'Grady's: Tuesdays and Sundays, 175 W. Troy, Ferndale, (248) 591-9163

Kicker's: Wednesdays, 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia, (734) 261-5500

Northern Lights Lounge: Sundays, 660 W. Baltimore, Detroit, (313) 873-1739

That fire is spreading throughout the metro Detroit area, too.

Dean Bach, owner of Dino's in Ferndale, designated Wednesday as a karaoke night two years ago. It's still going strong. He said the stage, lighting and easy-to-operate karaoke system draw in the crowds. Like it or not, Bach said, karaoke "will always be popular."

That's one reason his bar also hosts a Dino's Idol Contest, where the best crooner is awarded \$500.

"I believe the *American Idol* thing made it more in vogue to go out and sing," Bach said. "And it's always fun to watch people crash and burn."

Phil Childers is no stranger to the karaoke stage. He's recently promoted karaoke nights around Detroit for Welz.

"It takes shower singing to a whole new level," Childers said.

He would like to see the pastime elevated to a level where karaoke singers can perform alongside a live band.

Welz agreed. For now, though, he's focused on coercing would-be performers to get on stage.

"They're there to have fun," he said. "It's about getting up there and rocking out."



Matt "The Millionaire" Welz hosts karaoke twice a week in the metro Detroit area.

You have the mic and everyone has to listen."

Welz is known for his comical stage antics — and for singing everything from Metallica to Styx to Run DMC.

"It's like a karaoke carnival and he's the ringleader," Childers said. "He doesn't try to sing the songs like they're supposed to be sung."

Unlike the crowd at Dino's, The Millionaire's audience leans toward songs that are at least a decade old. His set lists

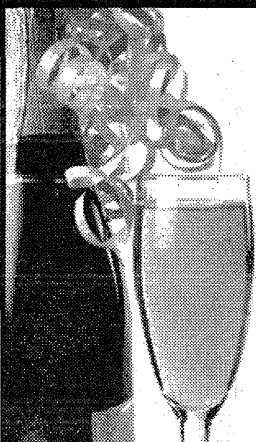
are filled with music from the '70s and '80s, Welz said, with a recent resurgence of '80s big-hair metal.

Regardless of the genre, Welz said karaoke is about "releasing your inner rock star." He called it therapeutic for people who might otherwise be shy.

"The more you do it, the less prone you are to shyness," Welz said.

scasola@hometownlife.com
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Garden City, MI 48135
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EVE

FROM PAGE E3

and special guest DJ Vince playing trance, club, dance, house, hip hop and R&B. Call for advance tickets. Trendy attire. This is the club to dance all night long with a crowd from the suburbs and Detroit.

LAUGH

Second City, 42705 Grand River, Novi, (248) 348-3838.

Prefer to laugh? There's three New Year's packages: Dinner/Show: dinner at 5 and showtime 7 p.m., \$59.95; or dinner/show and admittance to the Dirty Martini bar, \$149.95 includes dinner at 7 p.m. and showtime 9 p.m. and champagne toast at midnight; or try the Dinner and Dancing package for \$99.95 includes dinner and dancing in the Andiamo dining room.

IT'S FREE

Fishbone's, 400 Monroe Street at Brush, Detroit, (313) 965-4600, www.fishbone-susa.com.

Bloom performs at this longtime Detroit hotspot for music lovers and there's a champagne toast at midnight. No cover.

NO ATTITUDE

Tiki Bob's Cantina, 25 S. Saginaw, Pontiac (248) 335-6100, www.tikibobsponiac.com.

It's a wild, college crowd and the New Year's Eve party includes a complimentary buffet 7-9 p.m., champagne at midnight then late night breakfast buffet. Tickets \$10 for 21 and older and \$15 for 18 and over.

BLACK-TIE OPTIONAL

Centaur Bar, 2233 Park Avenue behind the Fox, Detroit, (313) 963-4040, www.centaurbar.com.

The night includes light hors d'oeuvres, live entertainment, martini menu, champagne toast, black-tie optional, 4 p.m.-2 a.m. in an elegant, hip atmosphere.

MUSIC LOVERS

Fifth Avenue, 215 Fifth Avenue, Royal Oak (248) 542-9922.

Performing is Funkilinium that plays soul/R&B/dance music.

At Fifth Avenue Downtown, 2100 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 471-2555, The Muggs, The Hard Lessons and the Capitol Cities rock bands perform. Visit www.fifthavenuebilliards.com.

HIPSTERS KNOW

Small's, 10339 Conant, Hamtramck (313) 873-1117, www.smallsbardetroit.com.

This eternally laid-back, hip lounge features live music from Country Bob & The Bloodfarmers, Amino Acids, Widow Makers, The Bill Bondsmen, Scotty Karate, A.K. Ambus. Snacks and midnight champagne with an \$8 cover for 21 and over.

NEVER BEEN TO THE LEGENDARY PLACE?

Paychecks, 2932 Caniff, Hamtramck, (313) 874-0252, www.paycheckslounge.com.

Live music includes Annie Gunn, Sister Elsewhere plus a special guest.

Complimentary food. Paychecks is an institution in Hamtramck, where suburbanites of all ages mix with locals in an ultra-casual environment.

SEE AND BE SEEN

Congress Restaurant & Lounge, 211 W. Congress, Detroit, (313) 964-4500.

Three seatings at 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. and complimentary champagne toast. Congress is a swanky, beautiful lounge with an eclectic menu and beautiful people. Wear your Bebe.

IT'S HUGE

State Theatre, 211 S. Woodward, Detroit, (313) 961-5451,

www.statetheatredetroit.com. Hosted by Michelle Taylor with DJ Shortstop. 21 and over. It's just a great big party with good music, and any attire is welcome but mostly fashionable. Last year's party sold out. Tickets are \$15.

FESTIVE

JD's Key Club, 1 N. Saginaw, Pontiac (248) 338-7337, www.jdskeyclub.com.

Dueling pianos are cool and will fill the air all night long. Packages available with hotel and transportation for \$130 per person. JD's promises not to pack the place on New Year's so you can be comfy. Includes dinner, champagne, pizza at midnight, and more.

ELEGANCE

The Links at Pinewood, 8600 PGA Drive, Walled Lake, (248) 669-9800.

Pre-sale tickets \$40, or \$50 at the door (visit www.vital2u.com) music with DJs Captn20 and Mike Czech and includes dinner by Forte, complimentary late night brunch, complimentary champagne, Ice Bar, more. Discounted room rates at The Townsend Hotel. Cocktail and chic attire suggested.

GRAND OPENING

Volume, 205 W. Congress, Detroit, (313) 962-4768, www.volumedetroit.com.

A new club opening Dec. 28. Be one of the first to check it out. New Year's Eve is "Pump Up the Volume" and includes tag team DJ sets. DJ Sneak vs. Chuck Daniels, Shawn Michaels vs. Kenny Johnson, Matt C. vs. Number 9, Errol vs. Tim Nobody. Open until 4 a.m. Tickets \$20 before midnight. Advance tickets www.groovetickets.com.

GAMBLING AND CLUBBING

Viva Las Vegas, a New Year's Celebration in Detroit with tables, dealers, casino games at two clubs, four floors and one cover charge, 21 and over, 8 p.m.-4 a.m. Tickets are \$75 and includes admission to two clubs, champagne toast, hors d'oeuvres. Hotel rooms available for \$150 at the Hilton Garden Inn & Ponchatrain. Cost includes admission to the trendy, posh clubs of Envy at 234 W. Larned, Detroit and Centre Street Lounge, 311 E. Grand River, (313) 414-3689. Visit www.detroitnewyearseve.com

WRIF CROWDS

Wild Woody's Chill & Grill, 32500 Gratiot Avenue, Roseville, (586) 294-5331. A popular place for WRIF listeners. Two levels of party fun. Dinner (choice of

steak, chicken or fish, potato, pasta, vegetable, salad, roll, coffee and dessert), party favors, champagne toast, cash balloon drop, late night snack, live dj and dancing, reserved seating, and no line or wait for \$20.06 per person. Must be purchased in advance by calling the above number. Those who would rather nosh with their neighbors before heading out can purchase tickets for \$8.06 at the door.

DOUBLE-TIER

Dooleys Tavern, 12414 Hall Road, Sterling Heights, (586) 323-3501, www.dooleysirish.com.

A double tier ticket is available to patrons. For \$26.06 guests receive two

cocktails, dinner (steak, chicken, fish or pasta, potato, vegetable, soup or salad, and dessert), party favors, champagne toast and balloon drop at midnight, late night pizza snack, DJ reserved seating, no line wait with tickets purchased in advance. For \$8.06 guests receive all items listed above except the dinner. Tickets will be available in advance or at the door.

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The Locker Room Saloon, 7790 Auburn Road, Utica, (586) 731-3363, www.locker-roomsaloon.com.

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AMC STAR JOHN R 15 52289 John R 248.585.2070	AMC STAR ROCHESTER 10 200 Barclay Circle 248.853.2260	EMAGINE CANTON 39535 Ford Road 888.319.3456	PHOENIX AT BEL AIR CTR. 8 Mills & Van Dyke 313.438.3494	AMC STAR GREAT LAKES 25 4300 Baldwin Rd. 248.454.0366	AMC STAR TAYLOR 10 22265 Eureka Rd. 313.287.2200
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MJR MARKETPLACE 20 15 Mile Rd. & Van Dyke 586.264.1514	MJR SOUTHGATE 20 15651 Trenton Rd. 734.284.3456	MOBILE USERS: FOR SHOWTIMES - Text CharlottesWeb with your ZIP CODE to 43KIX (43549)!			
SHOWCASE WESTLAND 6800 N. Wayne Rd. 734.729.1060	UA COMMERCE 3033 Springvale Dr. 248.960.5801				

MOVIE guide

Where available by deadline,
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EVE

FROM PAGE E13

\$5 in advance or \$10 at the door and include a light dinner buffet, party favors, champagne toast, and balloon drop and demasking at midnight, a continental breakfast at 1 a.m., live DJ, interactive events throughout the night.

And a few others from last week:

IT'S JUST COOL

Bosco, 22930 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale, (248) 541-8818,

www.thebosco.com.

Packed with writers, advertising-creative-types and those who want anything but a heavy pickup-joint, the Bosco is as contemporary, swanky but laid-back and funky as any East Coast lounge. The long, narrow lounge is known for its drink menu of martinis and frozen concoctions. It's so cool the place has produces its own CDs of ground-breaking lounge grooves. Did we mention the mojitos? You don't have to over-dress, wear anything from a Royal Oak boutique like Rise or Pitaya and you'll fit right in.

DO YOU REMEMBER BLONDIES?

Token Lounge, 28949 Joy Road, Westland, (734) 513-5030.

If you liked to rock in Detroit during the '70s and '80s you remember that bar. The Token is hosting a Blondies reunion show hosted by Ruzvelt & John with Seduce, The Meanines, Abuse and Generation Zero. www.token-lounge.com. Big ratted hair and spandex is welcome.

SKINNY TIES FOR HIM, MADONNA HAIR FOR HER

The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-

3030, www.themagicbag.com.

New Year's Eve with the Mega '80's, performing 1980s music with a video show. Wear your favorite '80s clothing or come as you are. It's always a serious party with the Mega '80s.

FAMILY

Try the Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley, Downtown Ann Arbor, (734) 665-9090, www.fireflyclub.com.

Kids like New Year's Eve, they like music and they like food. Introduce them to jazz early in the evening. There's three shows -

from 4 to 7 p.m. families and seniors might like the buffet diner and pre-New Year's toast at 6 p.m. (\$20 for adults, \$10 for kids 12 and under and those under five admitted free.) Then for the 21 and over crowd from 8 p.m. to midnight is the "Cool Jazz Set" with the Steve Richko Trio featuring Susan Chastain.

Dinner and dessert buffets, champagne toast and midnight, dancing. \$75 per person. Then, from midnight to 4 a.m. is "Late Night Hot Blues" with Lady Sunshine and the X Band. Those who were there for the jazz can

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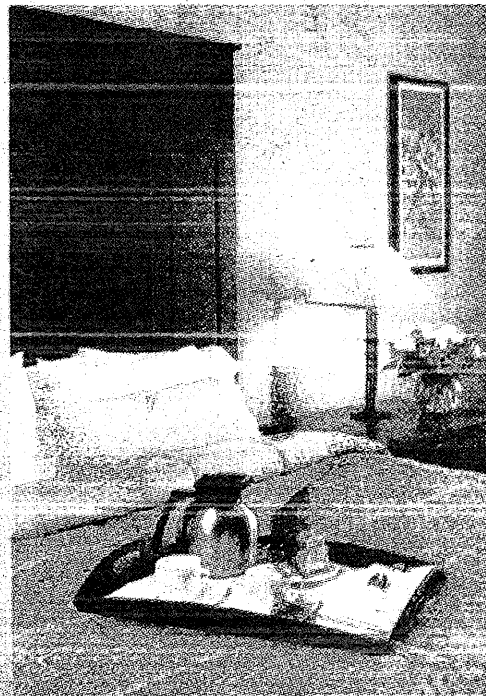
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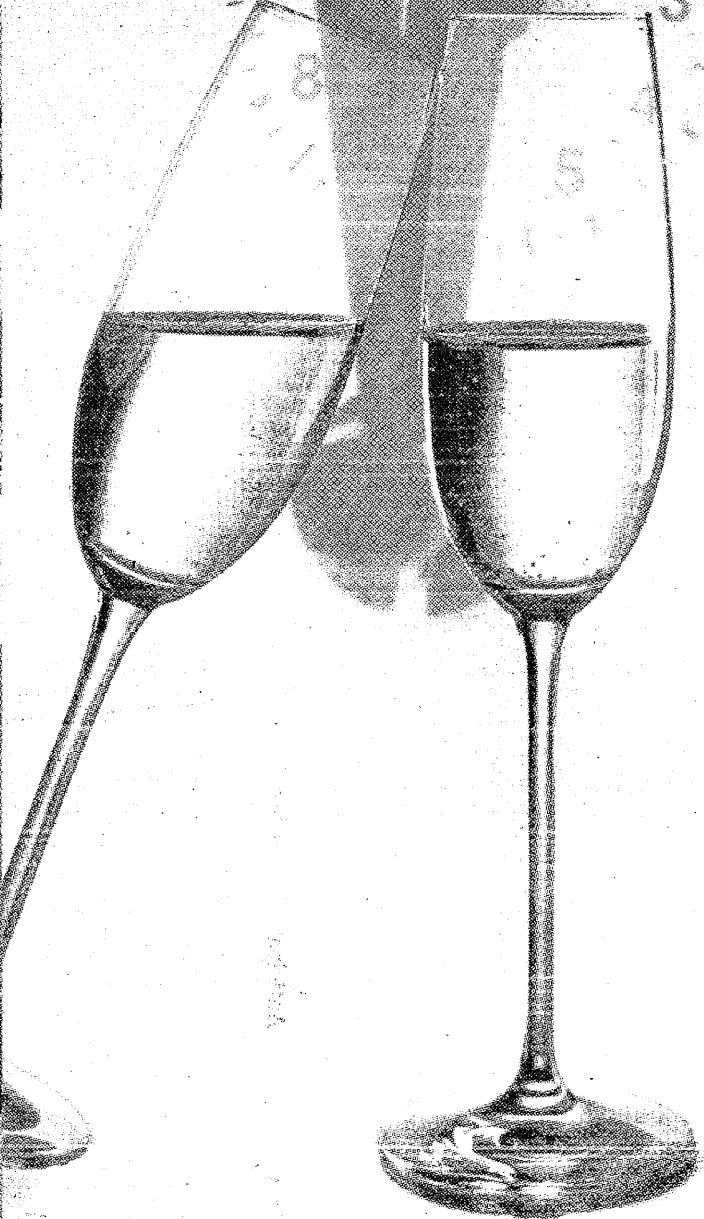
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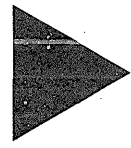
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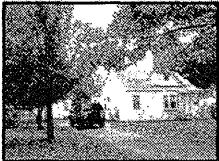
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STYLISH LIVING Enjoy the comforts of maintenance free living in this lovely Livonia condo. Upper ranch end unit, close to everything, 2 bd, 2 baths, Great Room w/frpl, Garage, & many upgrades.
\$173,000 (P-682FA)



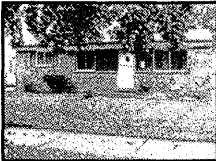
EXECUTIVE HIDE-A-WAY Privacy surrounds this 4 bd home on 2.18 acres of tree lined drive. Panoramic views of Belleville Lake, dock & boat fac, all sports lake, 1st floor laundry, & 4 car Garage.
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LIVONIA RANCH Beautiful, spacious ranch featuring 3 bd, 3 baths, Family Room w/frpl, Master w/bath, finished bsmt w/wetbar, 2nd Kitchen, & full bath. Lots of storage, great landscaping, & great location.
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LIVONIA SCHOOLS 3 Bd ranch featuring 2 car garage, 32x12 Deck, updated roof, updated Bath & electric. Large eat-in Kitchen with loads of oak cabinets, all appliances plus washer and dryer included. Fenced yard, immediate occupancy.
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GREAT STARTER This 3 bd ranch in Dearborn Heights is perfect for 1st timers. Basement, garage, updated windows, flooring, electrical, gutters, & more.
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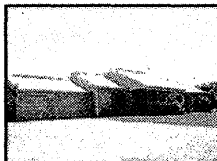
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GREAT COLONIAL 4 bd, 2.5 bath colonial w/Ann Arbor schools. Great layout, formal Dining, large Living Room, prof finished bsmt, & close to everything.
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GREAT LOCATION Beautiful 4 bd, 2.5 bath home in popular Canton sub. Open Kitchen w/hwd, all appl, formal LR & DR, luxury Master w/jetted tub, 2nd floor laundry, & more.
\$329,900 (C-904ST)



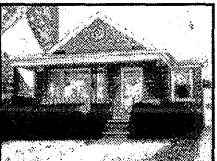
COUNTRY SETTING 4 bd, 2 bath ranch situated on 2 acres & features 2 Garages, finished bsmt, new roof shingles, new carpet, 4 doorwalls, gazebo off Master, & large island Kitchen.
\$309,900 (C-660TU)



FANTASTIC RANCH Wonderful updated ranch w/spacious floor plan, 5 bd, 2 baths, updated windows, entry doors, maple Kitchen, Nook, 1st floor laundry, new driveway, & more.
\$190,000 (P-660AR)



PICTURE PERFECT 4 BR, 2.5 bath colonial on almost 1/2 acre lot. Updates in 2001 include roof, windows, A/C, furnace, HWH, kitchen, baths, carpet & too much more to list. Oversized garage & balcony off master.
\$247,000 (P-759BA)



ORIGINAL OWNER GEM Well maintained outside, immaculate condition inside. Cozy Lr w/frpl, 3 bd, 1.5 baths, finished bsmt, close to everything, & more.
\$114,900 (P-102CY)



GREAT INVESTMENT Westland duplex offers 2 units. One unit has 3 bd, 1 bath, garage, family room, living room, & large kitchen. Second unit offers 3 bd, 1 bath, living room, & large Kitchen.
\$88,900 (P-160DE)



SUPER BRICK RANCH Charming home with updated Anderson windows, Kitchen, bath, furnace, roof, insulated 2.5 car Garage, FR w/frpl, great yard w/deck, patio, & BBQ. Finished bsmt w/drybar & hwd floors.
\$198,500 (P-061GA)



FARMINGTON HILLS 3 bd brick ranch in Kendallwood area. 2 car garage, updated eat-in Kitchen, large Family Room, Florida Room, finished bsmt, new furnace, & appliances stay. Also for lease.
\$229,000 (P-036GR)



EXECUTIVE CONDO LIVING Plymouth's prestigious Mallard Pond! Beautiful 2 bd, 2.5 bath condo w/1st floor master, gourmet island Kitchen, full bsmt, 2 car Garage, brick paver walkway, & large Patio.
\$374,900 (P-411HI)



PRIVATE SETTING Nicely decorated spacious home w/finished walkout bsmt. 2 story Deck w/beautiful views, Master Suite w/jetted tub, 2nd floor laundry, 2 fireplaces, great floor plan, & more.
\$294,900 (P-617LA)



WELL MAINTAINED COLONIAL Situated on a quiet court in Canton. Neutral t/o, new carpet t/o, 3 bd, 1.5 ba, LR w/bay window, FR w/frpl, updated oak Kitchen, Nook, & Master w/WIC & large yard w/mature landscaping for privacy.
\$179,900 (P-341ME)



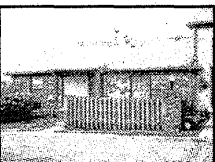
CHESTNUT HILL FARMS Beautiful brick colonial offers large Family Room w/frpl, Deck, open Kitchen, Formal Dining, Master w/WIC, pergo flooring, & sprinklers w/great landscaping.
\$279,900 (P-996MI)



WELCOME HOME Outstanding brick ranch offering 3 bd, 2 baths, phenomenal finished bsmt, updated Kitchen w/maple cabinets, & huge backyard. One year home warranty for Buyer.
\$194,900 (P-610OH)



FANTASTIC CAPE COD! 4 bd, 2.5 ba cape cod located in great sub. Extra large Kit, updated carpet, custom blinds, & central vacuum. 1st floor Master w/Jacuzzi, fantastic 4 season room, & a brick paver Patio.
\$299,900 (C-955SO)



CANTON RANCH CONDO Are you ready for this? Move right into this beautiful 2 bd condo featuring large Master, cathedral ceilings, bug bsmt, fresh paint & new carpet, close to everything.
\$125,900 (P-388SO)



FORGET ABOUT BUILDING! Cape Cod w/premium lot backing to protected woods. Walkout bsmt w/rec room, 5th bd, bath, & storage areas. Great potential for in-laws quarters. GR w/frpl, gourmet Kitchen, 1st floor laundry, & much more.
\$379,900 (C-143SU)



DOWNTOWN DEARBORN Sharp end unit condo in downtown Dearborn. 2 bd, 3 baths, Library, vaulted ceilings, skylights, fireplace, & close to shops & restaurants.
\$225,900 (P-123VI)



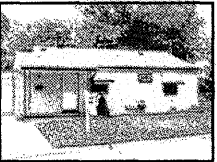
BEAUTIFUL COLONIAL A must see! Many unique features, low traffic location, in-ground pool, Florida Room, Family Room w/wetbar, 3 car Garage, oversized rooms, & anything else you can think of!!
\$379,000 (P-013WI)



2 YEARS NEW Builder upgrades t/o every room in this end unit condo. Open spacious layout w/cathedral ceilings, upgraded lighting, carpet, baths, kitchen, gas fireplace, & 3rd bd could be used as Den.
\$189,900 (P-033AR)



UPDATED RANCH Custom features everywhere! Impeccable craftsmanship, beautiful oak kitchen with ceramic, Master with ceramic bath, hardwood & crown molding, manicured yard, & good location.
\$180,000 (C-160BE)



BUY OF A LIFETIME Great starter home on a large lot. Move in condition, 2 bd, Dining Room, updated bath, C/A, covered porch, Deck, carport & 2.5 car Garage, immed occup, & home warranty.
\$81,900 (C-919CA)



LARGE WESTLAND RANCH Move your family into this 3 bd home with a large newer garage, family room, completely remodeled in 2006, & more.
\$137,900 (C-900CA)



CANTON RANCH Spacious ranch 1940 sq ft, 3 bd, 2 ba, Prestigious master suite w/tray ceiling, WIC & private bath. Large Deck, screened porch, bay windows, & skylight. Handicap accessible. A must see!
\$299,000 (C-878ED)



NEW CONSTRUCTION This home offers 4 bd, 3.5 baths, 3400 sq ft, & a walkout bsmt. Add to this an oversized 3 car garage, island kitchen w/cherry & granite, sitting room, study w/build-ins, & 3 fireplaces. Also for lease.
\$529,900 (C-056EM)



SPACIOUS COLONIAL Westland 3 bd home w/Family Room w/frpl, 1.5 baths, bsmt, 2 car attached Garage, great backyard, & large covered Patio.
\$189,500 (C-625FA)



GREAT AREA! Clean & neat condo in Villa Capri, minutes from I-696. Remodeled Kitchen, part finished bsmt, 1 car attached Garage, large Deck, & close to everything.
\$116,900 (C-920FO)

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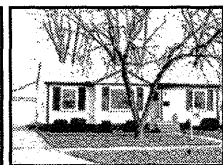
NEWER COLONIAL Bright & open floor plan w/spacious rooms. Beautiful oak trim t/o, ceramic entry, Nook w/doorwall to backyard, large Living Room w/bright windows, spacious Master, bsmt w/glass block, & more.
\$174,900 (C-460HI)



GREAT CONDO! Nice 2 bd, 1 bath, 1st floor condo features some new carpet, remodeled bath, new stove & fridge, fresh paint, newer windows, & nice open floor plan.
\$68,900 (C-720JO)



BEAUTIFUL RANCH Awesome 3 bd brick ranch w/all new Kitchen, carpet, paint, roof, windows, new Deck, super clean, & ready now!
\$154,900 (C-610LO)



BEST DEAL IN TOWN Like new inside & out! Kitchen, bath, furnace, A/C, windows, roof, appliances all updated. Truly turn key! Nice location, great yard w/ screened Patio & Deck.
\$109,900 (C-966LU)



HOME SWEET HOME 2 story, all brick home w/3 bd, living room w/frpl, updated Kitchen, hwd floors, full basement, & 2 car Garage. Lots of character, don't miss out on this one!
\$152,900 (C-515RO)



PERFECT CONDO Great for 1st timers! Crown moldings, decorator paint, Pergo, neutral carpet, all appliances stay, balcony, spacious bedrooms, & great location.
\$99,900 (C-419SA)



WESTLAND CONDO Nice detached 2 bd, 2 bath brick home in the heart of Westland. Oak Kitchen w/all appl, 1st floor laundry, Master w/bath & WIC, built in 95, full bsmt, & close to everything.
\$209,900 (C-296TW)



COURT LOCATION 3 bd, 2 bath home in popular area near parks & schools. Tranquil setting, Family Room w/raised hearth frpl, updated t/o, finished bsmt w/slate pool table included!
\$164,900 (C-443UP)



READY FOR YOU NOW! Elegant 2 story home w/4 bedroom, fresh paint, new carpet, open floor plan, island Kitchen, 1st floor laundry, vaulted Master Suite w/2 WIC's, upgraded windows, & oversized garage.
\$237,900 (C-437AA)



COUNTRY LIVING IN CANTON Absolute private setting on beautiful 1 acre lot. Extensively remodeled inside & out. 3 bd, 1st floor laundry, huge loft area, open floor plan, & in move in condition.
\$199,900 (P-600BE)



LOVELY CONDO 2 bd, 1.5 bath Canton condo. Remodeled Kitchen & bath, extremely clean, updated carpet, full bsmt, & attached garage.
\$144,900 (C-686BE)



TOP NOTCH 3 bd updated ranch featuring a new Kitchen, new bath, flooring, windows, doors, & siding. Great price, don't wait!
\$89,000 (C-998CA)



QUIET SENIOR'S COMMUNITY Superb layout for this 2 bd, 2 bath condo. 1400 sq ft, Great Room w/frpl, formal Dining, oak island Kitchen, 2 car Garage, Deck, & home warranty offered.
\$168,500 (C-596DE)



MOVE IN CONDITION Move right in to this cute bungalow in Dearborn! Featuring 3 bd, 2 baths, finished bsmt, updated furnace & C/A, hwd floors, & great location.
\$129,900 (C-520DE)



BEAUTIFUL VIEW Enjoy a view of the park & courtyard from this 2 bd, 1 bath condo featuring newer carpet, neutral décor, custom built cabinet w/lighting, new roof, glass block windows, Patio, & more.
\$159,900 (C-533ET)



STUNNING LIVONIA CONDO! This Livonia condo has an elegant, open floor plan w/hwd, cathedral ceilings, private covered balcony, appliances stay, & great location. Seller giving \$250 gas card at closing to buyer.
\$139,900 (C-860FI)



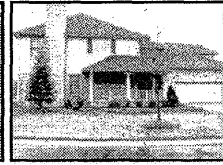
CHARMING BUNGALOW Great for 1st time buyers, this 1 story has many updates! Hrdwd floors thru-out, 3 bed, large private yard, maintenance free.
\$94,900 (C-508LE)



INVESTORS SPECIAL Roomy ranch in Westland featuring thermal windows & doors, Family Room, country Kitchen, appliances stay, generous Garage, fenced yard w/tall maple trees, & home warranty.
\$118,900 (C-621PA)



UPDATED HOME 4 bd, 2.5 bath Plymouth colonial. Beautiful new oak Kitchen, Family Room w/vaulted ceiling & fp, formal LR & DR, 1st floor laundry, updated bath, windows, furnace, & large Deck.
\$324,800 (C-002RO)



20. TANGLEWOOD CONDO Finally a condo in prestigious Tanglewood Sawgrass complex. This rare find offers wood floors, Kitchen w/double oven, fireplace, large Master, WIC's, 3 bd, 2.5 baths, & a 2.5 car Garage.
\$336,000 (C-526SA)



SALEM FARMS ESTATES Custom brick beauty sitting on 2.6 acres. Huge granite Kitchen, 3 fireplaces, 1st floor Master, finished lower level w/sauna & Jacuzzi tub, Media Room, 3 car Garage, & loaded w/extras!
\$629,900 (C-568SU)



WELCOME TO THE COUNTRY Well maintained colonial offering over 3000 sq ft, Living & Family Room w/frpl, walkout bsmt w/daylight windows, & spacious Deck.
\$524,999 (P-560AN)



BUILDABLE LOTS 2 lots still available in Superior Twp w/ Plymouth mailing address. Both lots nestled among mature trees & set off a private rd. Plenty of options. Lot sizes are 2.25 acres & 2.49 acres. Call for details.
\$175,000 & up (P-847AN)



CANTON COLONIAL Wonderfully updated 3 bd colonial in popular Winsor Sub. Hwd floors in Living, Dining, & Family Room, finished bsmt, private backyard, beautifully landscaped, & all appl stay.
\$222,000 (P-860AR)



CUTE BUNGALOW Well maintained home on quiet street. Large treed yard, 3 bd, 2 baths, part finished bsmt, updated windows, roof, A/C, & bathrooms.
\$120,000 (P-076BR)



TURN KEY CONDO Enjoy a rare 2 bd, 2 bath ranch condo w/ private entry, finished bsmt, updated 42" cabinets, all appliances included, & a 1 yr home warranty. Great location.
\$118,000 (C-284CA)



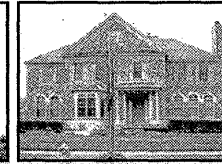
MOVE RIGHT IN This immaculate Canton condo can't be duplicated at this price! Great Room w/frpl & vaulted ceiling, abundant closet space, huge Kitchen, Master w/luxury bath, & closets galore.
\$219,900 (P-497CH)



WELL MAINTAINED DUPLEX Great opportunity! Each unit has 900 sq ft w/2 bds, 1 bath, large Kitchen w/quality cabinets, new roof, windows, & private lake access to Whitmore Lake.
\$175,000 (C-322FA)



TRENDY HOME Canton colonial features extensive hwd flooring, traditional floor plan, formal LR & DR, island Kitchen w/all appl, & finished lower level. Call today!
\$288,500 (P-980FI)



GREAT BUY! Job transfer forces the sale of this beautiful 2 yr old home. 4 bd, 3.5 baths, 3600 sq ft, 2 story Foyer, huge cherry Kitchen w/granite, butler's pantry, 1st floor laundry, 3 car Garage, & immediate Occupancy!
\$524,900 (P-222LE)



CHECK THIS OUT! Immaculate 6 yr old home in great area. 3 bd, 1.5 baths, 2 car attached Garage, beautiful landscaping, finished bsmt, & much more.
\$211,900 (C-289SA)



MOVE IN CONDITION Fantastic price on this 3 bd, 2.5 bath home w/open floor plan, formal LR & DR, island Kitchen w/nook, Family Room w/frpl, Master Suite w/bath & 2 closets, full bsmt, Deck w/hot tub, & great location.
\$189,900 (P-750SE)



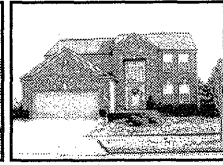
WELL MAINTAINED Roomy 4 bd colonial featuring a large Kitchen, open floor plan, Family Room w/frpl, 2 tier Deck, Master w/vaulted ceiling & bath, bsmt, & close to everything.
\$279,000 (P-974SH)



NO EXPENSE SPARED Graced w/exceptional landscaping & upscale amenities. Spacious island Kitchen w/nook, large Family Room w/frpl, prof finished bsmt w/wetbar, & recreation room.
\$249,900 (P-630WE)




GORGEOUS CONDO! 2 bd, 2.5 baths, 2 story condo located in a nice neighborhood. Lovely wooded view from large deck, Great Room w/cath ceiling, marble baths, custom Kitchen, 1st floor laundry, & large Master Suite.
\$204,900 (C-705AN)



THIS HOME HAS IT ALL! Awesome home features an open Foyer, large Kitchen, Family Room w/frpl, Flex Room, spacious Master w/bath & large WIC, neutral t/o, & beautiful pond views. A must see!
\$274,500 (P-183SH)

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NOVI **\$800,000**
 Great Lake Views; 2 Story Foyer, 42" Maple Cabs w/ gran cnters, Butler's Pantry, Dual Staircases, 2 Story FR w/stone FP, Beach, clubhouse, & pool In Sub. MLS# 26209217 248-347-3050

NORTHVILLE **\$749,900**
 4 BR, 3.1 BA in Pheasant Hills. Grmt kit w/HDWD, appls, granite, cust cnt. Open Sun. Rm. Mstr w/ skylite. Everything upgraded. Fin bsmt w/BA & guest ste. MLS# 26182535 734-453-6800

FARMINGTON HILLS **\$675,000**
 Stunning Oakwood Knolls 4 BR. HDWD T/O, 2 story GR. Grmt kit w/granite, master w/his/her WIC, glam BA w/ jetted tub. Professionally landscaped yard. MLS# 26208492 734-453-6800

WATERFORD **\$589,000**
 Best Kept Secret--boatdock to Cass Lk. Hrwd firs. Dual Stairs, Lg Mstr, fab Fin bsmt, rpl, Sauna, Bath, Media Rm. 3 Car. Too Much To Mention--A Must See. MLS# 26192013 Karen Phillips 248-388-1998

COMMERCE **\$575,000**
 Custom Beauty, Secluded lot, Gorgeous landscaping, Gourmet Kitchen w/ 42" Cabinets, granite, HW firs, 1st fir in-law Ste, Sunroom, Finished LL, 3+ Gar. MLS# 26189806 248-347-3050

NORTHVILLE **\$575,000**
 Hwd In 2 Story Foyer, 1/2 Bath, DR, Study, Hallways & Kit. Dual Staircases, Kit w/prem. WD pkg W/Cherry Cabs, Clubhouse & Common Pool in Golf Course. MLS# 26210278 248-347-3050

WEST BLOOMFIELD **\$550,000**
 Marble Foyer, 12' ceiling, Granite Kitchen w/42" Cabinets, hrwd flare, Am Rm. w/coiffered ceiling, rpl & Wet Bar, Vaulted Mstr w/glam bath & 3+ Garage. MLS# 26207730 248-347-3050

NOVI **\$525,000**
 INTERIOR FRESHLY PNT'D, GRANITE IN KIT & 1/2 BA, 9 FT CEILING ON 1ST FLR, DUAL STAIRCASES, UNFIN BSMT W/BATH ROUGH-INS, 3 SEASON RM, HW IN 2 STORY FOYER. MLS# 26198480 248-347-3050

WEST BLOOMFIELD **\$500,000**
 Lakefront Beauty w/Marble Foyer, 10' Ceilings, Great Rm., Wet Bar, hrwd fir, Gourmet Kit w/42" Cabinets, Walkout w/FP, Media Rm., 4th bdrm & Full Bath. MLS# 26209370 248-347-3050

COMMERCE **\$499,900**
 Sharp 1995 "Lakefront" Colonial, Ultra Sharp Home w/ Luxury Amenities, Finished Walkout Basement, 3 Full Baths, Also available for lease @1,700.00 mo. MLS# 26194000 Brian Carolan 248-879-3400

NOVI **\$475,000**
 New Dimroof-tearoff, Updated Landscaping, New Granite In Kit, New Carpet T/O, Fin bsmt W/BR, BA, rec Rm. & Great Rm. 3.5 Car Gar, FR w/fieldstone Fp. MLS# 26212833 248-347-3050

NOVI **\$471,900**
 Beautifully upgraded 4 BR home features 2-story entry, HDWD in kit & FR. Mstr w/ tray cng, WIC, tub. Lg library w/FR doors. 3-car gar. 3100 sq ft. MLS# 26213679 734-453-6800

CANTON **\$469,900**
 4 BRs, 4 full & 2 half bths, Granite Cherry Cabs, Stainless Steel appls, 2nd fir Laundry, Mstr w/glam Bath, Guest Ste, Sunroom, Fin Lower Level. MLS# 26212277 248-347-3050

TROY **\$439,900**
 Reduced \$35,000. One Of The Last 2.5 Acres. 4 Yrs new/remod. Custom Home. 2 rpls, Pool, 2 car Gar. Too Much To Mention. A Real Find & True Must See! MLS# 26201783 Karen Phillips 248-388-1998

NORTHVILLE **\$425,000**
 Gourmet Kitchen, Granite Stainless Steel appl, 2-way fpl, Brazilian Cherry hrwd fir Thru Out, 1st fir Mstr Ste, Guest Ste, Lower Level w/Theater Rm. MLS# 26214194 248-347-3050

NOVI **\$400,000**
 Improvements T/O, gourmet Kit W/Ss appls, Island & granite cntntrps, fin Daylight bsmnt w/bar/kitchenette, rec Rm., full Bath, workout Space. Paver Patio. MLS# 26191422 248-347-3050

NOVI **\$399,900**
 Exquisite Island Lakes 3 BR end unit. Lux master w/dbl doors, jetted tub, 2 closets. Granite & hwd in kit. View of woods & lg deck. A real beauty!! MLS# 26208306 734-453-6800

SOUTH LYON **\$350,000**
 Stunning! 4 BR, 2.1 BA filled w/ upgrades. Custom landscaping, KT w/ cherry cabinets, MBR suite w/ huge BA, walkout bsmt. Priced way below appraisal. MLS# 26209573 248-437-4500

CANTON **\$349,900**
 Beautifully decorated Cape Cod w/HDWD floors, vitd clngs & fin bsmt w/full kit. FR & Mstr BR w/FP. Heated gar, surround sound & water fall in yard. MLS# 26187508 734-453-6800

NORTHVILLE **\$349,900**
 "New Victorian" condo in Northville overlooks Main St. Built in 2002. MBR Suite, Granite KIT, Main fir ldry, Den w/ French Doors. MLS# 26208670 248-347-3050

CANTON **\$329,900**
 New construction-cust 4 BR 2.1 BA, GR w/gas FR lib w/ FR drs, DR & mstr w/tray clngs, 9' ceil on 1st flare w/ hwd. isl kit w/maple cabs. Center staircase. MLS# 26184299 734-453-6800

CANTON **\$329,900**
 Sharp, clean & spotless 3 BR, 2.1 BA. Lux 1st flare mstr w/WIC & BA. Spac kit-nk, all appls., 1st flare study w/ vitd clgs; new crpt. GR w/soar clgs & FP. MLS# 26183425 734-453-6800

WHITE LAKE **\$325,500**
 1 Acre Wooded, 3 bed, 2.1 bath, G/RM, 1 st. flare Indry, lg m/suite. Den, Dining, w/o bsmt part fin. WWW.3664AaronCT.COM ~ Mike Jurca 248-961-2194 MLS# 26207998 Michael Jurca CMMS, CMRS 248-360-1425

WIXOM **\$325,000**
 4 BR 2.5 Bath, On 1/2 Acre! LR w/vitd cng, FR w/built-in Shelving, Bay Win & Fp, HW flr, Lg Deck & prof landscp Lot. Mstr Ste W/2 WICS, Full bsmt. MLS# 26194805 248-347-3050

VAN BUREN **\$319,900**
 New construction! 4 BR, 2.1 BA Colonial. Mid-Level master w/swing rm. Cath clg in Master. Walkout bsmt w/rough-in plumbing, 3 car s/e garage. MLS# 26205931 734-453-6800

NORTHVILLE **\$300,000**
 3 BR Many Updates Including Roof, Exterior Paint. New Carpet in All Rms. Kit w/all appls & Looks Into FR W/ Brick FP. 2 Car att'd Gar & Tennis Court! MLS# 26199103 26543210 248-347-3050

NORTHVILLE **\$300,000**
 End Unit w/priv Deck Off DR. Full bsmt. Oak HW Entry, ceramic Tile bath & W/2 lrg WIC, Soaker Tub & lrg Shower. Kit W/cherry Cabs, All Built-in appls. MLS# 26208467 248-347-3050

VAN BUREN **\$299,900**
 W/C. Unique mid-level master w/mid-level laundry. Eat-in kit w/walk-in pantry open to GR w/FP. Swing rm can be LR, DR or study, 3 car gar. W/O bsmt. MLS# 26205965 734-453-6800

VAN BUREN **\$299,900**
 New construction! 4 BR, 2.1 BA Colonial, mid-level master w/swing rm. Cath clg in Master. Walkout bsmt w/rough-in plumbing, 3 car s/e garage. MLS# 26205863 734-453-6800

SUPERIOR **\$295,000**
 Sharp 4 BR 2.1 BA in Bromley Park. Vitd clngs & HDWD T/O, Mstr ste w/glam bath. Open airy family room w/gas fireplace. Home has 2 tier deck w/hot tub. MLS# 26187583 734-453-6800

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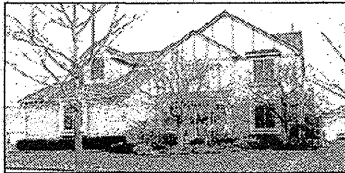
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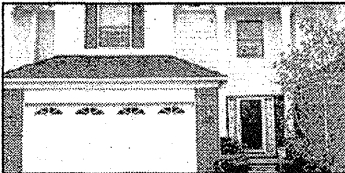
CANTON \$289,900 Sharp & clean 4 BR, 2.1 BA Col. Kit-Nook w/hdwd flrs. Open 2-story FR w/gas FP. Master w/cath clg & fash bath. Formal DR. Finished bsmt. New roof-06. MLS# 26206618 734-453-6800



LIVONIA \$280,000 New construction starting at \$280,000... Build your custom dream home or let our builder design an architectural masterpiece...call today! MLS# 26207405 734-453-6800



CANTON \$260,000 Stunning Cape Cod. Open flr plan w/hdwd. GR w/2-story wndws & gas FP. DR w/9 ft drvl leading to deck. Kit includes all appls. 1st flr Indry with W/D. MLS# 26183349 734-453-6800



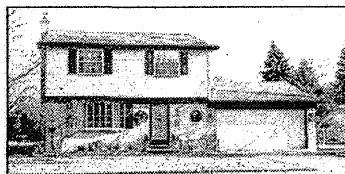
NOVI \$259,900 Over \$20,000 in Upgrades. Recessed lighting t/o Condo. HW Flrs t/o 1st flr. Kit w/Corian Counters. 1st Flr Lndry. 3BRs: Mstr Ste w/jet Tub & Shower. MLS# 26207720 248-347-3050



SUPERIOR \$259,900 Great flr plan, HDWD & vitd clgs t/o the 1st flr. FR w/gas FP. Master w/vaulted clgs & fash BA. 2 tier deck, 2 level bsmt w/daylite wndws. Com pool. MLS# 26182800 734-453-6800



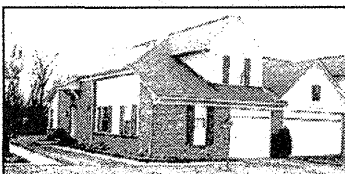
DETROIT \$229,000 Investors note! Solid 4 unit rental, 2 BR each, all freshly painted, new carpet, wndws, gutters, upd kit & BA. 1 Blk from schools. Motivated seller. MLS# 26203065 734-453-6800



PLYMOUTH \$214,900 Sharp, clean 4 BR, 1.1 BA Col. LR w/hdwd flrs & bay wndw. FR w/brick FP & drvl to deck & lg bkdy. Updated kitchen & bathrooms. BR's w/hdwd flrs. MLS# 26207079 734-453-6800



WEST BLOOMFIELD \$214,900 Condo w/fin w/o L.L. Great for entertaining; FP & wetbar. Priv Courtyard w/deck & SS nat. Gas Grill. Kit w/gas stove & trendy concrete countertops. MLS# 26210734 248-347-3050



DEARBORN HEIGHTS \$209,900 End unit condo w/HW floors in foyer, DR & hallways. 1st flr mstr & Indry, GR w/vaulted ceiling, gas FP, oak cabs & granite in kit, deck & p. fin. bsmt. MLS# 26209105 248-347-3050



FARMINGTON HILLS \$200,000 Remodeled 3 BR, 2.5 Bath HW Flrs t/o. Fin. Bsmt Great for entertaining w/wet bar, FR & Full Bath. Updates incl: Kit w/SS Appl., Furnace, a/c, driveway. MLS# 26197265 248-347-3050



PLYMOUTH \$200,000 3 BR. Main Flr office being 3rd BR. Kit has newer counters, Tile & Apps, Loft Upstairs B/W 2 BRs., Bsmnt, Updates: Roof, c/a, & garage dr. MLS# 26198481 248-347-3050



BLOOMFIELD \$184,000 Priced to sell! 2 BR 1.5 Bath. Great Flr Plan priv encl. atrium. Frpl, Mstr Cathedral ceiling, Full Bsmt 2 Att Gar. Enjoy, pool, tennis. Call Today. MLS# 26182016 248-388-1998



PLYMOUTH \$179,900 Beautiful 3BR Ranch in great family sub. Updated kit w/ new cbnts, cntropt & flr. FR w/FP & new French drs to lg yard. New furn, spr sys, roof & drs. MLS# 26213737 734-453-6800



LIVONIA \$175,000 Brick 3 BR Ranch w/lots of updates, full finished bsmt w/huge rec rm w/wet bar. Newer wndws, roof, furnace, freshly painted t/o, FR w/FP. MLS# 26206039 734-453-6800



PLYMOUTH \$169,900 Completely Rebuilt in '05. New roof windows, oak flrs, solid maple drs, new bath, gas FP insert in chimney. Huge garage & deck. Possible lease option. MLS# 26204145 248-347-3050



LIVONIA \$165,000 4 BR, 1.5 Bath. Over 1700 sq. ft. gas FP in lrg fam rm, 2 car garage w/opener & a shed, lovely deck off the back & more! Make your appointment today! MLS# 26208532 248-347-3050



SAINT CLAIR SHORES \$163,900 3 BR. full brick ranch. Newer ranch. Newer carpet, copper plumbing, hw flrs in Kit, freshly painted, Fin Bsmt w/1/2 Bath, 220 Electric in 2 car detached gar. MLS# 26110345 248-347-3050



WESTLAND \$149,900 3 BR, move in ready. Wonderful location in Westland w/ Livonia schools. New furnace, carpet & blinds '05, newer ceramic tile in kit. MLS# 26209840 248-347-3050



VAN BUREN \$145,000 Charming 3 BR in quiet family n'hd close to park! Updates: newer roof, wndws, furn, plumb. Spac kit, appl, appl stay. Enjoy the deck w/lg beautiful yard! MLS# 26209468 734-453-6800



REDFORD \$135,000 Beautiful 3 BR brick ranch w/exceptional finished bsmt & garage! This home is clean & move in ready with a remodeled kitchen attractive decor & more! MLS# 26209150 248-347-3050



NORTHVILLE \$119,900 Highland Lakes Condo w/court location. Fresh paint. Newer carpet. Great Price! 2 BD, 2 BA. Treed area backed to Greenbelt to Lake. Newer windows, fur. MLS# 26211828 248-437-4500



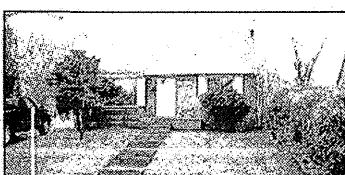
NOVI \$115,000 2 BR, 2 Bath Novi Condo. Mstr BR has Lrg Closet, all appls stay, attachd gar w/opener. Community Includes: Pool, Tennis Courts and Club House, MLS# 26192347 248-347-3050



WESTLAND \$110,000 Handyman's dream w/loads of potential; value in land, almost half acre. Updates: kit, BA, HWH, furn. Add to existing home, needs TLC. Great location. MLS# 26208337 734-453-6800



WAYNE \$109,900 First Time Buyers Delight. 3 BR Updated Ranch. Newer Kit, furnace, HWH, windows & vinyl siding. Property Sold As Is. MLS# 26179018 248-347-3050



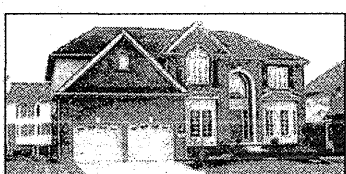
INKSTER \$105,000 Completely updated. New Kit: Maple Cabs, ceramic flr, counters, sinks, faucets. HW Flrs t/o have been refin. Fin bsmt. Mstr BR w/refin HW flrs. MLS#26201210 248-347-3050



DETROIT \$98,900 Great updated Bungalow! New wndws, roof '06, oak kit, remodeled bath, new electrical, new copper plumb, fresh paint, 1.5 car gar. Priced to sell! MLS# 26207058 734-453-6800



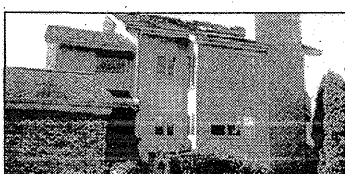
WESTLAND \$85,000 Unbelievable value...A great home rental property or 1st time home buyer opportunity! Motivated seller priced this one to sell...Don't miss this deal! MLS# 26207378 734-453-6800



NORTHVILLE \$2,400 4 BR, 3.5 Bath Colonial for lease. Maple Kit w/Island. 2 Story entrance. HW FLRS in Kit & Lndry Rm. Lrg Mstr Ste w/2 way FP, Mstr Bath w/jet Tub. MLS# 26209588 248-347-3050



PLYMOUTH \$679,900 Stunning waterfront home. 2story GR. Lrg Gourmet kit w/lrg eating area, FP, custom deck, w/beautiful views of the water and woods. Full walk out bsmt. MLS# 26211859 248-347-3050



NORTHVILLE \$225,000 2 Bed, 2.5 Bath Condo Open Floor Plan w/vaulted Ceilings. Mstr BR w/2 Lrg WCs, Loft w/large Full Bath. Stunning View Of Resort Like Ponds w/fountain. MLS# 26192416 248-347-3050

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www.hometownlife.com OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC • MIRROR • HOMETOWN WEEKLIES | Thursday, December 28, 2006 • (West) 5

Take action to rein in vicious animal

Q. I am concerned about one of our pets in our condominium being somewhat vicious and the board not willing to do anything about it. What can we do to insure our protection?

A. Write the board and insist that it enforce its condominium documents including insuring that the co-owner who has the pet has adequate home-owners insurance and is otherwise taking adequate measures to protect the residents and guests from the animal. Point out to the board that if the bylaws allow the board to seek the removal of the animal, if it is in fact dangerous,

that it has an obligation to do so and may be vulnerable not only to persons damaged or hurt by the pet, but from the co-owners who have a right to pursue the board for failing to enforce reasonable condominium restrictions.

Q. I have recently read about the problems with the "big dig" in Boston and the traffic problems it has created. I am interested in renting an office space in the downtown area for my business which is moving to Boston but I am wondering what your thoughts are in regard to that type of investment

opportunity.

A. Having just visited Boston, I can tell you that the traffic problems created by the closure of one of the big dig tunnels is horrible and I believe it will no doubt have a substantial effect on the retail and commercial areas surrounding the downtown district when word gets out about the traffic jams which now occur, particularly to and from the airport. The market in general in Boston is softening in terms of residential and commercial and if you are going to be conducting a retail or com-



Robert Meisner

mercial business, be mindful of the potential difficulty you may have in attracting customers in that area. You are best advised to consult with a local real estate agent before making any investment and/or perhaps consider an alternative location.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of *Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track*, second edition.

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1st Choice Mortgage Lending	(734) 459-0782	5.75	0	5.5	0	J/A
A Best Financial Corp.	(800) 839-8918	5.5	1	5	1.375	J/A
A Perfect Mortgage Co.	(248) 203-7726	5.75	0	5.5	0	J/A
AAXA Discount Mortgage	(877) 728-3569	5.75	0	5.5	0	J/A
AFI Financial	(877) 234-0600	5.5	1.125	5.25	0.625	J/A
American Home Mortgage	(877) 478-7289	5.5	2	5.125	2	J/A/V/F
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	(248) 740-2323	5.75	0	5.5	0.25	J/A
Benchmark Lending	(586) 463-2255	5.875	0	5.625	0	J/A
Brink's Goldstar Mortgage	(800) 785-4755	5.25	2.5	4.875	2.25	J/A/V/F
Charter One Bank	(800) 342-5336	6.25	0	6	0	J/A/V/F
Client Services by Golden Rule	(800) 569-5805	5.375	1.625	5	1.375	J/A/V/F
Co-op Services Credit Union	(734) 466-6113	6	1	5.625	1	J
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	(313) 565-3100	6	0	5.625	0	A
DFCU Financial	(800) 739-2770	5.875	2	5.375	2	J/A
Downriver Community FCU	(313) 386-2200	7	0	6.6	0	J/A
Earth Mortgage	(877) 327-8450	5.625	1	5.25	1	J/A/V/F
Fifth Third Bank	(800) 792-8830	6.125	0.125	5.875	0.25	J/V/F
First Alliance Mortgage Co.	(800) 292-7357	6	0	5.75	0	J/A/V/F
First International Mortgage	(248) 540-1065	5.75	0	5.5	0	J/A
GMAC Mortgage Corp.	(800) 888-4622	5.75	2	5.5	2	J/A/V/F
Gold Star Mortgage	(800) 203-1546	5.75	0	5.5	0	J/A/V/F
Golden Rule Mortgage	(800) 991-9922	5.25	2.375	4.875	2	J/A/V/F
Group One Mortgage	(734) 953-4000	6	0	5.875	0	J/A/V/F
LaSalle Bank Midwest	(800) 466-3800	5.75	2	5.625	2	J/A/V/F
Mainstreet Mortgage	(800) 900-1313	5.875	0	5.625	0	J/A/V/F
Manufacturers	(586) 777-1000	5.625	1	5.25	1	J/A
Michigan Schools & Gov. C/U	(586) 263-8800	6	0	5.75	0	J/A
Mortgages by Golden Rule	(800) 991-9922	5.875	0	5.625	0	J/A/V/F
Michigan United Mortgage	(810) 844-2222	5.5	1	5.125	1	J/A
National City Bank	(586) 825-0825	5.625	2.125	5.375	1.75	J/A
Northlawn Financial	(248) 988-8488	5.75	0	5.5	0	J/A/V/F
Pathway Financial LLC	(800) 726-2274	5.75	0	5.5	0	J/A/F
Premiere Mortgage Funding	(734) 453-8120	5.75	0	5.5	0	J/A
Shore Mortgage	(800) 678-6663	5.375	3	5	3	J/A/V/F
United Mortgage Group	(586) 286-9500	5.75	0	5.5	0	J/A
York Financial Inc.	(888) 839-9675	5.875	0	5.625	0	J/A

Above Information available as of 12/21/06 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculations & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com. Key to "Other" Column - J = Jumbo, A = Arms, V = VA, F = FHA & NR = Not Reported. All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders.

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NORTHVILLE

OWNER FINANCING Brand New 4 bdrm, 2 bath. Colonial home in the Reserves at Northville Ridge. 2455 sq.ft. Stunning 2-story entry way, hardwood floors. Spacious island kitchen, master ste w/ lg. walk-in closets. Family room w/ vaulted ceilings & fireplace. Amenities incl. jogging trail, swimming pool & private fitness center! Only \$399,900. Numerous creative financing programs avail.

Contact Chris Forte at 248-594-2160 The Forte Group, LLC

BRIEFS

Career Seminar

Keller Williams Realty will be hosting a Career Seminar 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, at the Plymouth office, located at 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. Find out all you need to know about costs, compensation, training, and prelicense requirements. RSVP: (734) 459-4700

Mortgage Seminar

If your credit score is holding you back from buying a home, you've been turned down for a mortgage or loan, can't pay off those collection accounts or want to improve your score but don't know how, this free seminar may be for

you. It is 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, at the Public Library of Westland, located at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. Call Diane Adamick at (734) 516-8043 to register.

Free workshop

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

On hand will be licensed Realtors and a mortgage broker. RSVP by calling (248) 855-2000, Ext. 219, or e-mailing Mppop@Century21Today.com

NORTHVILLE



OWNER FINANCING Brand New 4 bdrm, 2 bath. Colonial home in the Reserves at Northville Ridge. 2455 sq.ft. Stunning 2-story entry way, hardwood floors. Spacious island kitchen, master ste w/ lg. walk-in closets. Family room w/vaulted ceilings & fireplace. Amenities incl. jogging trail, swimming pool & private fitness center! Only \$399,900. Numerous creative financing programs avail. Contact Chris Forte at 248-594-2160 The Forte Group, LLC

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 355,000 - Plymouth Twp 4 Bdrms, 3.5 Baths, Many upgrades, Hdwd Firs, Crown Moldings in LR, FR, and DR, Mstr Suite w. Private Bath.	 309,900 - Plymouth Twp 4 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, Located on a wooded lot, wet bar in FR, Walk To Park, Oversized 2 Car Garage.	 199,900 - Plymouth Twp 3 Bdrms, 1.5 Baths, Charming Colonial, Corian Kitchen counters, Walk to Elementary and Downtown.	 140,000 - Wayne 3 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, Two Story Condo, First Flr Mstr Suite w/ WC and Private Bath, Loft overlooking Grt Rm.	 299,900 - Plymouth 3 Bdrms, 3.5 Baths, Built in 2004 w/open floor plan, Finished Basement, Walk to Downtown.	 128,500 - Center Line 3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1940'S Charming, Bathrooms Remodeled, newer windows and cement driveway, Finished Basement.
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674,900 Troy - 4 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, Proff. Fin Bsmt w/Kit and full bath, Sunroom, extra lrg lot, pool table Ext. Also for lease at \$4,500

674,900 Northville Twp - 4 Bdrms, 3.5 Bath Stunning Colonial, 29 x 13 Conservatory, Prof Fin LL w/ full bath, media or theatre, and rec rm w wet bar.

519,900 Northville Twp - 4 Bdrms, 3.5 Baths, Colonial Condo, 9 Ft Ceilings on 1st Floor, 2 Story Foyer, Home Warranty, Many upgrades.

455,000 Novi - 4 Bdrms, 3.5 Baths, Transfree Perfect, Like new but everything is done & upgraded! 3 car garage.

419,900 Novi - 4 Bdrms, 3.5 Bath Colonial w/ Dream Bsmt - Home Theatre, Wet Bar, Sauna, Cedar Closet.

389,900 Farmington Hills - 5 bdrms, 4 Baths, Inground pool, 1 Acre Lot, Double Deck

384,900 Canton - 4 Bdrms, 3.5 Baths, In Law Quarters, Premium Site.

379,900 Canton - 4 Bdrms, 3.5 Baths, Two way fireplace in Fam Rm and Study, Prof. finished Bsmt.

334,900 Farmington Hills - 4 Bdrms, 3.5 Baths, Great lot w/ huge deck, Prof. Fin. Lower level, w/wet bar.

334,900 Plymouth - 3 Bdrm, 2.5 Baths, Renovated Victorian, Fireplaces in LR and FR, walking dist. to Downtown.

339,900 Canton - 4 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 9 ft ceilings on 1st floor, Large Deck, beautifully landscaped.

305,900 Canton - 4 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, Fin Bsmt w/pool table, Gazebo & hot tub. Also for lease at \$2100

289,900 Canton - 4 Bdrms, 2 Baths - Stately Colonial w/ Master Ste w/ cathedral ceilings, prof. landscaped and drwl to brick paver patio.

289,900 Canton - 4 Bdrm, 2.5 Baths, Fin Rec Rm in Bsmt, 2 fireplaces

295,999 Canton - 4 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, 2 Story Foyer, Open Floor Plan, Large Deck, Southern Exposure, Master Suite w/ Private Bath.

274,900 Novi - 4 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths - Well Maintained. Large Fam Rm w/ Fireplace. Private Lot.

264,900 Farmington Hills - Updated 4BR, 2.5 Bath Brick Colonial located deep in the sub. Newer roof, windows & more

259,900 Novi - 4 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, Large private, tree lot, remodeled Kitchen and Bathrooms. New roof, Furn, and A/C. Won't last long!

229,900 Plymouth - 3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, Breezeway converted to cozy FR w/ Fireplace, Att. 2 car garage.

239,900 Flat Rock - 3 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, New Construction, large backyard, spacious Bdrms, Maser suite w/ full bath and wic.

237,899 West Bloomfield - 3 Bdrms, 2 Bath, Dimensional Roof, Jacuzzi Tub, Close to Schools, Seller is a Licensed Agent.

229,900 Farmington Hills - 4 Bdrms, 2.5 Bath Colonial located on a quiet St. Library, newer cement driveway.

219,900 Livonia - 3 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath, Huge Deck, Lrg Great Rm w/cathedral Ceilings.

219,999 Wayne - 4 Unit, 4 Bath Multi-Family, Separate Unit Entrances and private parking lot, close to shopping and restaurants.

214,900 Dearborn - 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath - Brick Cape Cod, prof. english gardens landscaping, walk to schools, parks, shopping, and restaurants.

209,900 Canton - 3 Bdrms, 1.5 Baths, Lots of updates, spacious Family rm w/frpl and wet bar, fin Basement.

209,900 Canton - 4 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, Natural fireplace in living room, lrg backyard w/privacy fence, all appl. Stay.

189,500 Dearborn - 3 Bdrms, 2 Bath, Totally remodeled Interior, FP, CA, Fin Bsmt, Lrg Deck, 2 Car Garage, Immed. Occ.

188,800 Canton - 4 Bdrms, 2 Baths, Charming Quad with Plymouth/Canton schools. Large Backyard backing to commons.

186,000 Westland - 3 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath. Basement, Lrg Fam Rm, Lrg fenced Backyard

164,900 Dearborn - 3 Bdrms - 2 Baths, One of a kind brick Ranch, backing to Snow Woods, nicely updated and ready to move in.

159,900 Livonia - 3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, Sauna Rm in Bsmt, lrg deck and yard, great location close to shopping, school, and expressway.

154,900 Dearborn - 3 Bdrms, 1 Bath, Oakwood Hosp Area, Hdwd Floors, Fin Bsmt, New Cherry and Corian Kitchen. 1 Yr Home Warranty

Condos
317,500 West Bloomfield - 2 Bdrms, 2.5 Bath Ranch Condo. Lrg Deck, Vaulted Ceilings, Full Bsmt, Fabulous Master Suite and 2 Car Att Garage.

299,900 Farmington Hills - 2 Bdrms, 3 baths, Fin Basement w/full Kitchen and Bath

255,000 Livonia - 2 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, Newer Construction, 2 Story Grt Rm w/fireplace and view of pond.

244,900 Flat Rock - 3 Bdrm, 2.5 Baths, New Construction! Unfinished loft above 2.5 car garage

214,900 Canton - 3 Bdrms, 2.1 Baths - Detached condo in great location. Neutral décor, hdwd floors, 1 year home warranty.

199,000 Plymouth - 3 bdrms, 2 Baths - New Kit in '02 w/Maple Cabs, New Furn, Humidifier and C/A in '03, Beautiful Hdwd in living room.

195,000 Canton - 3 Bdrm, 2.1 Baths - End Unit in Lovely Canton Forest. private setting w/ lrg deck, full fin. bsmt, immed occ.

189,900 West Bloomfield - 3 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, Townhouse Style Condo w/Garage and full Bsmt, Privt entry, All Appl, Immed. Occ.

164,900 Plymouth Twp. - 2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, Sky lights in kit and Master bdrm, Lots of upgrades. Grt Rm w/Cath ceilings.

134,900 Southfield - 2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, Sharp Ranch style condo, Common Pool, large basement storage.

129,900 Canton - 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath, Ground Level End Unit Condo. Backing to quiet commons area.

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 MLS#26201680 \$339,900 - Green Oak Beautiful 4 BR colonial on 1 Acre! 248-437-3800	 MLS#26118890 \$199,900 - Ann Arbor Charming well kept ranch! 248-437-3800	 MLS#26127401 \$309,900 - Green Oak Gorgeous 4 BR colonial! 248-437-3800	 OPEN SUN 2/5 MLS#26173104 \$209,900 - Marion Twp. 1540 Villa View 248-437-3800	 MLS#26170782 \$249,900 - Lyon Twp. Unique Home on Acreage! 248-437-3800
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 MLS#26215225 \$779,900 - Milford Twp 3000 sq ft. Ranch w/open fir. plant! 248-437-3800	 MLS#26134265 \$299,900 - Green Oak Spotless colonial in great neighbor! 248-437-3800	 MLS#26158700 \$219,900 - Milford 1.5 wooded acres. 248-684-1065	 MLS#26169573 \$269,000 - Highland 3.14 acres. 248-684-1065	 MLS#26169470 \$269,000 - Brighton Secluded, serene setting. 248-684-1065	 MLS#26030041 \$149,900 - Milford Five acres. 248-684-1065	 MLS#26145398 \$949,000 - Milford Full finished LL walkout. 248-684-1065	 MLS# 26207812 \$249,900 - Orchard Lake Located on corner lot. 248-684-1065	 MLS#26207024 \$399,900 - Davisburg On almost 8 acres. 248-684-1065
 MLS#26215735 \$219,900 - Wixom Beautiful 2 Br Condo 248-348-6430	 MLS#26215648 \$494,900 - Novi Elegant 4 Br Colonia 248-348-6430	 MLS#26215663 \$260,000 - Novi An Amazing Value 248-348-6430	 MLS#26214997 \$649,900 - Northville Beautiful In-Town Location 248-348-6430	 MLS#26204363 \$439,500 - Novi 2 Story Home 248-348-6430	 MLS#26096256 \$450,000 - Commerce Wide Open Spaces 248-348-6430	 MLS#26186338 \$119,800 - Garden City Updated To The Max 248-348-6430	 MLS#26188180 \$349,900 - Farmington Hills Quality Custom Bilt Col 248-348-6430	 MLS#26269,900 \$269,900 - Redford Charming 3 Colonial 248-348-6430

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