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Land grab another snag in underpass plan

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

The long-awaited and long-overdue construction of the Sheldon Road underpass has apparently hit a \$2 million roadblock, one which could not only add to the already-inflated \$14 million project design, but cost precious time to complete the project which will shut down Sheldon Road for two years.

Wayne County Assistant County Executive Alan Helmkamp said Romel Casab of Commerce Township wants \$2 million for 23 acres of land within the underpass project area, which he purchased only weeks

before Sheldon Road was scheduled to be closed.

The Wayne County Register of Deeds Office confirmed for the *Plymouth Observer* that on Oct. 19 Casab paid \$40,000 for the former CSX Railroad property, which was auctioned for back taxes. The Register of Deeds office also confirmed the deed was registered Nov. 1, about six weeks before county officials had hoped to begin construction on the underpass.

Helmkamp said the county received an e-mail from Casab's attorney, Barry Steinway of Bingham Farms, "putting us on notice his client was claiming an interest in the property."

Helmkamp said a Wayne County attorney assigned to the case talked with Steinway, and "it was my understanding that was the number (\$2 million) conveyed."

"I characterize him as an opportunist," Helmkamp said of Casab. "We are studying the situation and will respond to the claim very quickly and appropriately."

"The lawyers will do their thing, and this property claim will play out on its separate track," Helmkamp added. "I'm confident the claim will not prevent the start of the project."

However, Steinway disputed his client has put a figure on the coveted property.

"I don't know where that figure came from, it's too premature to discuss figures," Steinway said. "We're in touch with the county, but nothing has come to pass, at this point."

Steinway indicated the lack of talks with Wayne County officials will most likely result in the issue being settled in court.

"We haven't been able to schedule a meeting, at this point," Steinway said. "We're preparing for litigation. I hope to have something by the end of this week. The complaint will set the facts and claim for release (of the property.)"

Helmkamp said while Wayne County attorneys are investigating the land sale to Casab, the project could not have

received approval from the state if all property issues weren't resolved.

"Before the project can start, we have to identify to the MDOT we have ownership of easements or rights of property," Helmkamp said. "I'm sure we felt everything was in order on that score."

Wayne County had announced Sheldon Road would close Dec. 12 to begin the project, which has been on the drawing board since 1999 with the help of a \$5.5 million federal grant. However, the timetable was pushed back until sometime this month because DTE Energy had yet to take down a utility pole that served one business customer in the construction area.

United Way tops target

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

In a year when many charities and nonprofit agencies experienced difficulties meeting fund-raising goals to provide services to the needy, the Plymouth Community United Way resisted the trend by announcing it surpassed its 2006 campaign goal expectations.

Campaign chairman Tom Salapatek of Canton Township said the PCUW drive netted \$1.32 million, beating the announced goal by more than \$200,000.

"We'd originally thought about reducing our goal, given the economic climate in the state," Salapatek said. "But we decided the people of Plymouth have been very good to us, and there's definitely a need. So we decided to stretch our resources and our donors, and we beat the goal."

"It happened because of the generosity of local companies, businesses and individuals, and the dedication of our United Way workers and volunteers," he added. "Everybody stepped up and made it happen. It shows they see a need for the local agencies we fund, and they wanted to support them."

The PCUW supports 14 local agencies, including Community Opportunity Center. The Livonia-based group assists 93 mentally challenged adults at 23 living facilities, in Plymouth, Livonia, Garden City, Westland and Redford.

Along with the \$80,000 it received last summer for helping with the PCUW's Tee Off for a Friend golf outing, COC annually receives about \$50,000 from the PCUW. Executive Director Denise King said knowing the PCUW met its campaign goal is good news for all the local agencies, which are facing cutbacks in from other funding sources.

"Without the Plymouth Community United Way, I don't know if we could stay in business,

PLEASE SEE UNITED WAY, A3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

U.S. Rep. Carl Pursell displays a photograph of himself and President Gerald Ford. It was taken during Pursell's first week in Congress, and Ford's last week as president.

Fond farewell to Ford

Scouts, lawmakers pay last respects to late president

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Eagle Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 1539 at Fiegel Elementary stood tall for one of their own — Eagle Scout and former President Gerald R. Ford — during ceremonies held Tuesday in Grand Rapids.

Three Eagle Scouts — Joe Jagadics, Colin Hessel and Jeff Movsesian — were among Boy Scouts from across the state who lined the motorcade route as the limousine carrying Ford's casket traveled from the Grand Rapids airport to the Gerald R. Ford Museum.

PLEASE SEE FORD, A4

Parties to talk about regional firefighting

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Representatives from Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Northville Township have agreed to meet and discuss regionalization of fire and EMS service involving the three communities.

"I look forward to beginning the talks," said Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer, who has openly discussed his desire to regionalize services while privately maneuvering to get the talks started. "It's going to be a long road, but it's the number one goal of the city commission (for 2007), and one we hope to attain. It's not just talk."

Regionalization of services is generally perceived as a way for communities to save money, especially in light of dwindling state revenue sharing funding for services such as fire, police and recreation.

"I'm not going into this with any preconceived ideas of what I want it to look like," Dwyer said. "It could be an authority or purchase of service. We should throw it all on the table and pick the model that works for everyone."

The city of Plymouth currently purchases fire and EMS services from Plymouth Township that costs about \$1 million a year. While the contract renews each year, and is currently in effect until Dec. 31, 2008, Dwyer said city officials have agreed to extend the fire contract to the end of 2009.

Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume said he's always been interested in regionalization of services, which is accentuated by his participation on the Conference of Western Wayne firefighter committee.

"I want to learn more about firefighting and how it's done in other communities, how we can do a better job of hiring better qualified individuals and looking at alternative ways to provide fire protection," Reaume said. "I've also

PLEASE SEE REGIONAL, A4

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Coming Sunday in Health



Nia workout combines dance, the martial arts and yoga.

Tree winners

Officials from the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce have announced the winners of the 2006 Walk of Trees in Kellogg Park.

Winners included Michigan Humane Society Volunteers (first place); Salem Girls Tennis (second place); Compassionate Friends Western Wayne County Chapter (third place); and An Arbor Country Preschool (fourth place).

Judges included Lori Morrison of Ribar Floral, Dave Sanctorem of Community Financial and Capt. Jim Irvine of the Plymouth Salvation Army.

Chorale auditions

The BeckRidge Chorale is inviting the public to open auditions for the Chorale's Spring concert, "Sing for the Cure."

All proceeds from this concert will go to the Barbara Karmanos Cancer Institute, the local affiliate for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

Auditions will be held 7 p.m. Jan. 16, Jan. 23 and Jan. 30, at

First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial in Plymouth, west of Sheldon. For more information call (734) 416-9885.

American Legion meets

The Plymouth American Legion Passage-Gayde Post #391 conducts its monthly meeting the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Knights of Columbus Hall on Mill (next to the railroad tracks) in Plymouth Township.

All interested military veterans should contact Commander Mike O'Malley, (734) 459-7890, for more information.

Book signing

Award winning poet and photographer Cheryl A. Martin, M.A. will be signing copies of her book of poetry, "Woman Reclining," 2-5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6 at The Coffee Beanery, 1498 Sheldon in Plymouth. Her book contains many Haiku pieces, narrative, and epic poems. She illustrates it with a few of her photographs which she also has for sale in framed color copies.

Her Haiku workbook for

children will be available as well. This short chapbook teaches a child the fine art of crafting Haiku. The front and back cover are illustrated with her art. Inside, she has additional art to inspire young readers to read and write.

In addition she'll have two other chapbooks for sale, and framed poetry to purchase.

For an advanced copy, e-mail her at Peroinc5@comcast.net, or http://outsirkpress.com/womanreclining, or via phone, 734-397-1626.

Literacy tutors

The Community Literacy Council is looking for volunteer tutors in Plymouth and Canton to help adults improve their reading, writing and speaking skills.

The CLC will provide free training and materials to interested volunteers. Previous experience or a bachelor's degree is not required. Volunteers will be matched with students in their area.

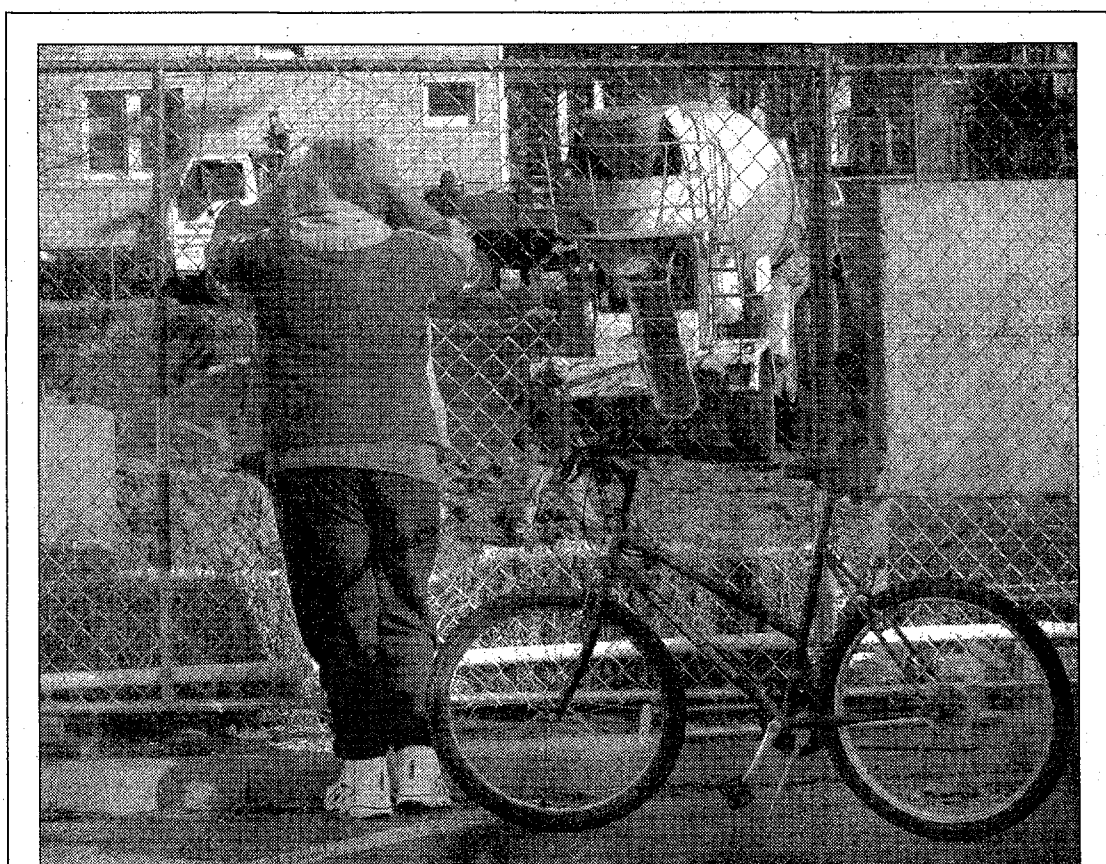
The next CLC five-part training begins 6-9 p.m. Jan. 16 at the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

Exhibit extended

The Plymouth Community Arts Council's current exhibit by Margarete Nagarkar entitled *Looking In, Looking Out* has been extended to Jan. 11.

The pieces are done in mixed media, from charcoal to computer wires, which gives Nagarkar the freedom to successfully develop her images.

Nagarkar named her exhibit *Looking In, Looking Out* because she uses this work to examine the wider culture we live in and how it affects our innermost selves. "My paintings are deeply personal responses to the wider issues affecting us," she explained.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Building blocks

Tom Fullerton of Plymouth stops during his Tuesday morning bike ride to watch new construction at the former site of the Plymouth Masonic Temple. The temple was razed a couple of months ago and will be replaced by a commercial/residential development.

"They are comments on both the state of the world and the state of our souls."

PCAC and exhibit hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The PCAC is located at 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 416-4278.

Barefoot auditions

Barefoot Productions of Plymouth is staging auditions for its presentation of "Later Life," by A.R. Gurney.

Producers are looking to cast two males and two females, aged mid-30s to mid-50s. Actors should bring head shots and prepared monologue/cold reading.

Auditions take place 1-3 p.m.

Jan. 6-7 and 7-9 p.m. Jan. 8 at the Book Cellar & Café, 840 W. Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth. Performance dates are Feb. 22-25.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.justgobarefoot.com or call (734) 582-9688.

Council on Aging

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

Participants will receive tools and skills to help combat

all levels of depression. The class is sponsored by Heartland Plymouth Court.

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

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

Appointments will begin at 9 a.m. and will include tests for Stroke Screening, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening, Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening. To register, call (800) 324-1851.

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Kid's favorite Caillou to visit Village Theater

Caillou, the star of the popular animated PBS series, is considered a best friend by millions of preschoolers nationwide. On Feb. 3, the Village Theater at Cherry Hill's little patrons will get to see him live. Caillou will be spending the day inside, but luckily he has a very inventive friend, Julie, who helps open up his world by introducing him and

the audience to the joys of reading books. Along with learning that reading is fun, everyone in the audience gets to sing, dance and participate in every aspect of this 60-minute production.

There are two shows scheduled for Feb. 3, at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Tickets, which go on sale on Jan. 2, are \$17 each for seniors and children 12 and under.

Adult tickets are \$20. Groups of 15 or more are \$15 each. This show is not recommended for children under 2. Tickets can be purchased at Summit on the Park by phone at (734) 394-5460 or in person or at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill box office. The Summit's box office hours are: Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Village Theater box office hours are Monday-Friday, 10

a.m.-2 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 7-9 p.m.; and Sunday, 5:30-7:30 p.m. The Village Theater ticket office is also open one hour prior to each performance. Tickets can also be purchased online by visiting www.cantonmi.org/village theater.

All purchasers who buy their tickets before Jan. 20 will be entered to win the chance to attend a very special meet-and-greet with Caillou and friends after the show.

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- NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG)**
(11:55) 2:15, 4:35, 6:55, 9:15
FRI/SAT LS 11:35
- ROCKY BALBOA (PG)**
12:35, 2:55, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35
FRI/SAT LS 11:50
- CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G)**
12:35, 2:45, 4:55, 7:05, 9:15
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- THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS (PG-13)**
(11:00) 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
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Baseball's been very good to Paciorek

Former major leaguer entertains crowd with stories

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Tom Paciorek may never get into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., but the game's been good to the former Major League outfielder.

Paciorek, who has also had a lengthy career as a sportscaster, came to Plymouth Thursday, Dec. 28, to speak as part of the "Hot Stove League" series sponsored by the Friends of the Plymouth District Library.

"So this is what a library looks like," he joked about his less than stellar grades at St. Ladislaus School in Hamtramck. He joked that his daughter married an Italian and worried about the mixing of Italian and Polish genes in his grandson.

"I'm afraid someday someone's going to make him an offer he can't understand," he told the packed room.

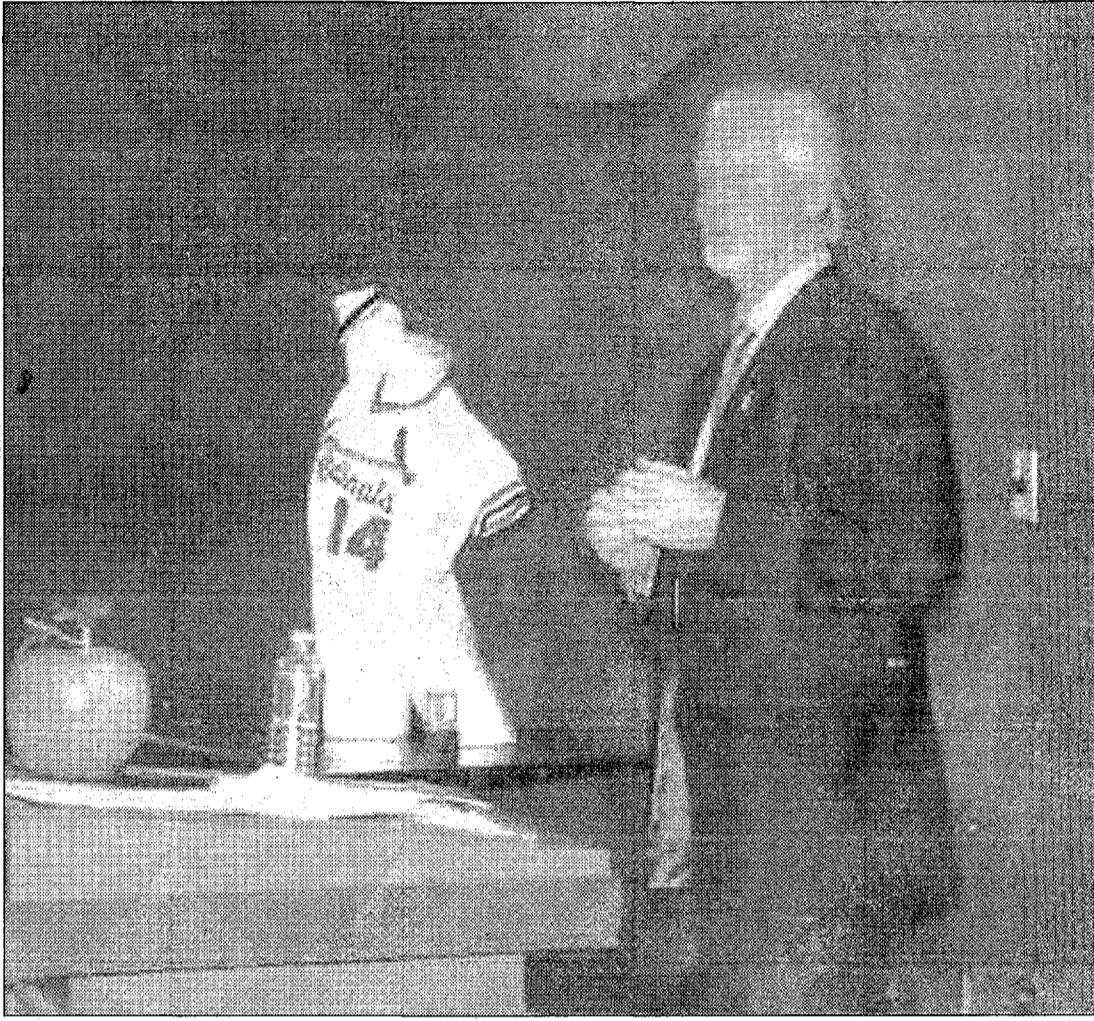
Paciorek had 20 years playing, including in the minors, and 19 in broadcasting, most recently for the Washington Nationals. His Plymouth visit drew an eager crowd of baseball fans who peppered him with questions about the toughest pitcher he ever faced, Tom Seaver, and the banter that goes back and forth when players are on base.

Paciorek didn't want to follow his dad onto the assembly line, and recalled how he started in the late 1960s as a rookie with the Los Angeles Dodgers organization. Manager Tommy Lasorda had team members write a letter to their Major League counterpart saying they'd take over that position soon.

"We came to spring training the next year and everybody hated our guts," he said with a smile.

Paciorek noted the great players like Ted Williams and Bob Feller who served in the military in World War II, and what their statistics would have been if they'd played for the duration. He joked about Yogi Berra's misuse of the English language, and recalled one Berra quote in which a reporter's question about Ty Cobb's poor batting average in modern days was, "If he were playing today, he'd be 95 years old."

Paciorek's proud to be in the Polish-American Hall of Fame in Orchard Lake, where he was inducted in 1992. He remem-



Former major leaguer Tom Paciorek, a Hamtramck native, told jokes and stories from his long baseball and broadcasting career during an appearance Thursday at the Plymouth District Library.

bered one scorer who favored players of Polish ancestry.

"If you were Polish and you got on base it was a hit. If I'd played for Detroit, I'd be in Cooperstown."

He spent 12 years announcing White Sox games, and also did some Tigers games. The outfielder's playing days were with the Dodgers, Atlanta Braves, Seattle Mariners, White Sox and Texas Rangers. He won an Emmy for his TV work with the White Sox.

Other tidbits:

■ Paciorek got his "Wimpy" nickname in 1968 for ordering cheeseburgers and not steak.

■ "The softer they threw the easier they got me out," he said of pitchers. "Couldn't hit a curve ball."

■ He hit well over .300 in 1981, made an All-Star team and played in a World Series. "I did have a couple good years," he said.

■ He told of Jim Leyland, then White Sox third base coach, wearing a yellow tux, singing and carrying the nickname "Humperdinck."

■ "Tigers have always had the best uniforms, haven't

they? Tigers and Yankees."

■ "If you were playing on the field, you would hear what Vin (Scully) was saying" from crowd radios.

■ The first *Major League* is his favorite baseball movie.

■ George Brett and Robin Yount, both Hall of Famers, were great players in Paciorek's estimation and he believes Alan Trammell belongs there, too. He turned thumbs down on Pete Rose, baseball's all-time hits leader banned from the game, and the Hall of Fame, for gambling.

Audience members lingered in the library to hear and tell more stories. Bill Zepp of Plymouth Township, a pitcher, played with the 1969-70 Minnesota Twins and 1971 Tigers.

"Very enjoyable," Zepp said of the evening, adding he played amateur ball with Paciorek's older brother. "Only scratched the surface of things you could tell."

Fred Bowen of Rochester Hills also spoke at the library that evening, telling of being American Legion Player of the Year in 1959.

"I think it was wonderful," Bowen said of the evening. "There was a lot of interest. Tom's stories are always wonderful."

A silent auction was held for the Joseph K. Piasecki Scholarship Fund of the Chelsea schools foundation. Piasecki was a former Paciorek teammate.

"You've got to keep playing until they rip the uniform off you," concluded Paciorek, who has sons in Atlanta who wish they'd stuck with the game.

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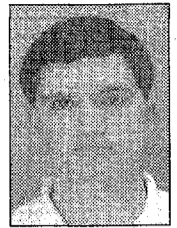
Hearing delayed in case of accused former coach

A Livonia man who faces three felony charges for soliciting a minor and using a computer to send lewd pictures and messages to a minor will wait another month for his day in court.

A preliminary hearing to determine if there is enough evidence for a trial against Ryan Thomas Fawkes, a 31-year-old teacher and hockey coach, had been scheduled for Dec. 15 in Livonia's 16th District Court. However, it was delayed until 8:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 19, before Judge Robert Brzezinski. Defense attorney Mark Satawa, of Kirsch & Satawa in Southfield, said the delay was based on a personal issue involving the prosecutor in the case.

Fawkes remained free on \$5,000 bond and with the promise that he would not use the Internet or have unsupervised contact with minors.

Fawkes had worked as a seventh-grade teacher at Detroit's Columbus Middle School and served as head coach of a midget-level (ages 15-16) travel hockey team affiliated with the Plymouth-Canton Hockey



Fawkes

Association.

The charges — one count of using a computer to accost and solicit a minor, and two counts of using a computer to disseminate sexually explicit matter to a minor — were the result of an investigation by Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox.

According to an attorney general's office press release, an undercover agent posing as a 13-year-old boy had several online communications with Fawkes from Oct. 3-26. In those communications, investigators said Fawkes solicited the undercover agent for online sexual activity. He is also accused of sending lewd Webcam video images of himself and other adult pornographic images to the agent.

After he was charged, Plymouth-Canton Hockey Association officials suspended Fawkes, who officials noted had been highly respected and regarded as a coach.

Cheer for the hometown, read today's SPORTS section



UNITED WAY

FROM PAGE A1

especially at Plymouth House," King said of the Deer Street home, which houses 16 clients. "The (annual) grant from the United Way and what we get from the golf outing help us meet a large portion of our fund-raising expectations each year. It's critical those funds keep coming."

PCUW President Marie

Morrow said top givers included some \$800,000 from Johnson Controls in Plymouth Township, who collected from both corporate and employees. Other major contributors included DTE Energy, Automotive Components Holdings, Visteon, General Motors, Unisys Corp. and Metaldyne.

Morrow, who has been involved with the nonprofit organization since 1983 — and its president since 1987 — has never failed to meet an annual

fund-raising goal. However, she said the 2006 campaign started out as a real mystery.

"This was one year we really had no idea how the campaign was going to end because of the economic problems, the layoffs and cutbacks at companies," Morrow said. "However, even when times are tough, people have a tendency to reach deeper into their pockets because they know there are people in need."

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Hogue Gewürztraminer '05 \$11.99 750 ml. <i>A delicious wine showing sweetness, spiciness, and vibrant fruit.</i>	Hot Price! Ows Nest Cheese Spread \$3.59 each <i>Great with Crackers!</i>	Red Diamond Merlot '03 \$8.99 750 ml. <i>This gem shows just how good Washington wine is!</i>
Joe's Lowfat Tuna Salad \$5.49 lb. <i>Start the New Year Out Right!</i>	Henri Mutin Valfrais Herb or Horseradish French Cream Cheese Spread \$2.99 ea. <i>Great for Football Parties</i>	Joe's Lowfat BBQ Chicken Salad \$5.49 lb. <i>Great Anytime! Really Delicious</i>
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REGIONAL

FROM PAGE A1

met with the Downriver Community Conference, which has a grant that's paying for a consultant to evaluate a regional fire authority downriver."

Reaume said he's interested in discussing both short- and long-term agreements with the city of Plymouth.

"It's a good idea to go on a parallel path — and do them simultaneously — to try to extend the current pact for the next three, five or seven years," Reaume said. "We see the synergy and value of being in a joint Plymouth community fire department."

"We'll sit down and talk about regionalization, but everywhere they're attempting to get regional fire departments, it's taking multiple years," he added.

Dwyer and Northville

Township Manager Chip Snider agree it's imperative regionalization discussions include the firefighter unions.

"From the first meeting forward, all parties need to be represented at the table, and that includes the union," Dwyer said. "We want everyone's point of view."

Snider agreed, noting if a regional fire department comes to fruition there will need to be discussions on combining union contracts.

"We agree, emphatically, the union should have a seat at the table," Snider said. "In my mind, that's critical to the success of any analysis or feasibility study."

That's good news to Dan Atkins, president of the Plymouth Community Firefighters Local 1496.

"The union should have a seat and know what's going on," Atkins said. "There are a lot of issues, and we don't have the answers for all of them. But the more people involved,

the better.

"I'm willing to look at regionalization if it can improve service without anyone taking big hits," he added. "You've got to look at your options. It's about what's good for the communities and citizens."

Dwyer said it's doubtful the city of Northville will be at the table because it has a low-cost volunteer fire department.

"No matter how efficient we make a regional fire department, it would cost them more than they're currently paying out," he said.

Dwyer, who is hopeful discussions will begin in the first quarter of this year, said he knows there are skeptics when it comes to regionalization of the fire department.

"Some people haven't totally bought into it, but that's good," Dwyer said. "If you can't answer the hard and tough questions, and think from the skeptics' point of view, we probably shouldn't be doing it."



Former state Rep. John Stewart (left) met former President Gerald R. Ford at the rededication of the Gerald R. Ford Museum in Grand Rapids in 1997.

FORD

FROM PAGE A1

"We took off our coats, stood at attention and saluted as they went by," said Hessel, 17, of Plymouth Township. "After the casket went by, we thought we saw Mr. (Vice President Dick) Cheney and his wife in one of the cars."

Afterward, the Canton Township Boy Scout Troop went to the museum, waiting nearly three hours to get a glimpse of Ford's American flag-draped casket.

"At first, we were debating if it was worth the wait," Hessel said. "But as soon as we got there, it was well worth it. As a group, we were able to stop in front of it for 10-15 seconds, enough time to salute the casket."

Hessel said the experience is one he'll never forget.

"Just looking back on it, thinking how he was a president, and former Eagle Scout," Hessel said. "You know what they've been through to be an Eagle Scout ... the dedication,

ideals, values they uphold ... who rose to the highest position in the country."

Former Michigan Congressman Carl Pursell of Plymouth Township began his 16-year career at the U.S. Capitol in 1977, the same year Ford was leaving office after being defeated by Jimmy Carter the previous November.

"As a minority leader, he attended a (Republican) fundraiser for the region at the Mayflower Hotel," remembered Pursell, 74. "I didn't know him very well up 'til then, but got better acquainted when he came in when I ran in 1976."

Pursell said he was surprised that after taking office in 1977, Ford — on his last day as president — called him to the Oval Office.

"He spent some time with me as a freshman congressman, which I thought was classy," Pursell said. "He welcomed me to Washington and wished me all the best, and said if I ever needed anything to just call him."

"He was well-respected by everybody, just a very open person," he added. "Friendly,

thoughtful ... I was impressed."

Former state Rep. John Stewart of Plymouth Township and his wife, Beth, met Ford during the rededication of the Ford museum in 1997, eating lunch at the table next to Ford's.

John Stewart, also an Eagle Scout, said he had a few moments with Ford to discuss politics, scouting and Michigan football. However, one moment stands out in Stewart's mind.

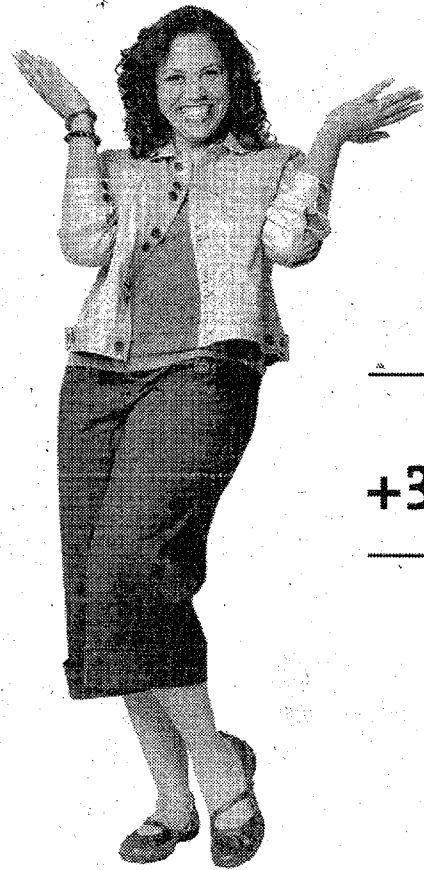
"During lunch, he leaned over and helped cut the salad and meat of a frail Lady Bird Johnson," Stewart recalled. "It was impromptu and vintage Jerry Ford."

Beth Stewart said she worked on Ford's presidential campaign while a college student in North Carolina.

"Ford was on the ballot in my first chance to vote in a presidential election," she said. "He was a moderate Republican and pro-ERA (Equal rights Amendment). We felt like Gerald Ford belonged to all of us."

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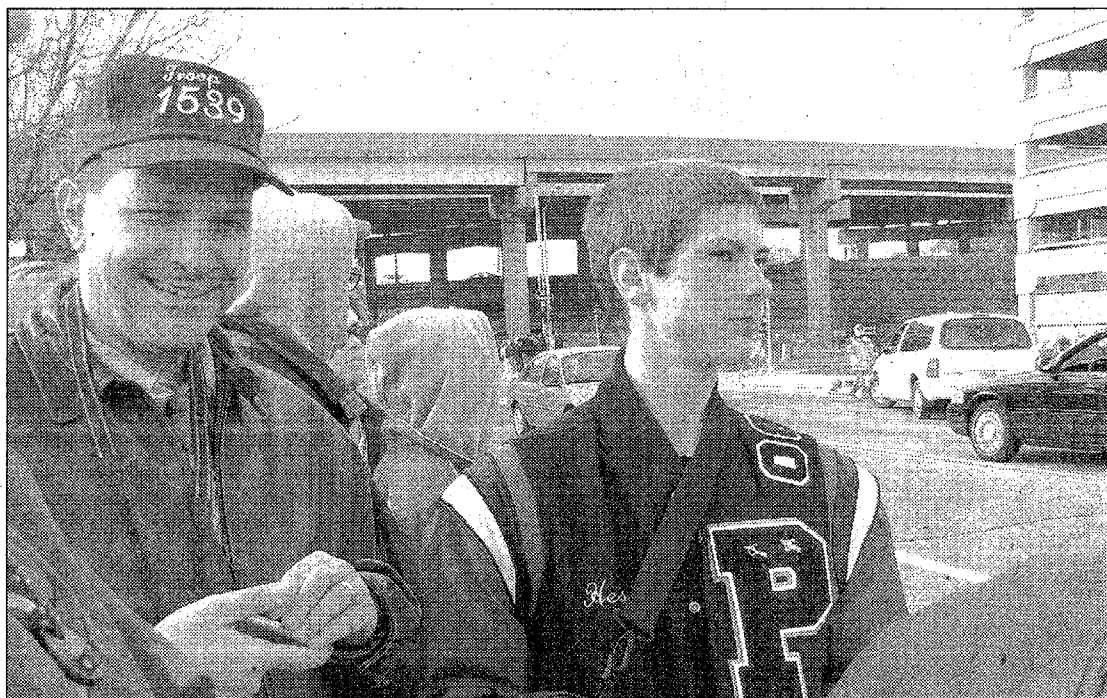
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Eagle Scout Colin Hessel of Plymouth Township, a junior at Plymouth High School, and Greg Movsesian of Troop 1539 were in Grand Rapids Tuesday to view the casket of former President Gerald Ford.

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Plymouth student named a Collegiate All-American Scholar

John Dowling of Plymouth has been named a Collegiate All-American Scholar by the United States Achievement Academy.

The USAA has established the Collegiate All-American Scholar Award Program to offer deserved recognition to superior students who excel in the academic disciplines. The Collegiate All-American Scholars must earn a 3.3 or higher grade point average. Only scholars selected by a school official or other qualified sponsor are accepted. This award is a prestigious honor very few students can ever hope to attain. In fact, the Academy recognizes fewer than 10% of all college students.

Dowling, who attends Schoolcraft College, was nominated for this national award by Dr. Jajuan Taylor. He will appear in the Collegiate All-American Yearbook which is published nationally.

"Recognizing and supporting our youth is more important than ever before in America's history. Certainly,

Orchestra Canton will bring Tchaikovsky and friends to life

Orchestra Canton will present the third concert of the 2006-2007 "Classical Canton" season with "Tchaikovsky & Friends" at 8 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 20, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

This concert, which will be conducted by Plymouth Canton Symphony Society Director

Nan Washburn, will feature the lyrical sounds of Tchaikovsky's Andante Cantabile, along with his only large-

scaled work for string orchestra, the Serenade in C Major. A new work performed by a quartet of Orchestra Canton musicians: Libby Larsen's Four on the Floor, inspired by both "boogie-woogie" and the composer's love of driving fast, is a hilarious parody of contemporary American life.

Also, in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, prominent African American composer William Grant Still will be featured in his lively Danzas de Panama. A captivating arrangement of Bartok's Rumanian Folk Dances rounds out the program.

Tickets for this concert, which is being sponsored by Huntington Bank, the Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, and Xerographic Solutions Inc., are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors, and \$10 for children. Tickets may be purchased in person at the Summit on the Park, 4600 Summit Parkway in Canton or by phone by calling the Summit at (734) 394-5460 x 6 x 0.

Tickets may also be purchased at the Village Theater box office one hour before each performance, though patrons are advised to order tickets early as Orchestra Canton's January concert has sold out the past two seasons. For more information on Orchestra Canton's "Classical Canton" season please visit www.orchestra-canton.org.



Tchaikovsky

NEWS BRIEFS

winners of the Collegiate All-American Scholar Award should be congratulated and appreciated for their dedication to excellence and achievement," said Dr. George Stevens, Founder of the United States Achievement Academy.

HandyPro expands

HandyPro, a franchised handyman service company for homes with headquarters in Plymouth, has launched a new business division, HandyPro

Facilities Services, expanding its handyman services to include commercial and corporate building repairs and renovations to meet the market demand for these services in the Metro-Detroit area.

HandyPro Facilities Services will offer handyman services, including electrical work, dry-wall repair, painting, lighting, and tiling, to commercial business owners, small businesses, restaurants, retail outlets, and corporate offices at its' franchised locations in Ann Arbor, Dallas and Minneapolis.

"We have recently received

many requests from property managers and building owners who are interested in our handyman services for their buildings and stores and, therefore, we have decided to expand into this area of commercial repair and renovation by launching this new business division," said Keith Paul, founder and president of HandyPro. "By maintaining your commercial property, you can extend the life of your property asset."

HandyPro has been providing residential handyman services in the Metro-Detroit area

since 1996. For more information about HandyPro Facilities Services, contact HandyPro at 800-942-6394 or visit www.handypro.com.

PSI promotion

PSI has announced the promotion of Mahmoud El-Gamal, PhD, PE, to Chief Engineer and Geotechnical Services Manager, with primary oversight of the Vibration Monitoring service line, for the entire company.

Mahmoud earned a Bachelor of Science in Structural Engineering from Elmansoura

University in Egypt, a Master of Science and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Geotechnical Engineering and Earthquake Engineering from the University of Nevada-Reno.

He is located in the Plymouth office.

PSI is a leading independent engineering testing firm and one of the largest consulting engineering firms in North America, with approximately \$200 million in annual revenues. Michigan locations include Auburn Hills, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Plymouth and Saginaw.

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OUR VIEWS

State must deal with tax problem

Gov. Jennifer Granholm sounded positive notes Monday in her second inaugural address.

In the election, Granholm was challenged by a well-financed campaign by businessman Dick DeVos. The state's continuing economic problems made her vulnerable, but voters were willing to give her another chance.

In her address, Granholm said that Michigan is uniquely challenged, but "will rise to meet the challenge because it's who we are and it's who we will be."

Those are fine sentiments, but Granholm and the state Legislature need a strong political will to do what needs to be done to both stimulate the state's lagging, auto-dominated economy while preserving the state's necessary public services.

At the top of the agenda immediately is finding a way to replace most, if not all, of the revenue that will be lost when the Single Business Tax expires late this year. But the state has a more fundamental problem. The state's budget is structurally unbalanced. The state doesn't take in enough revenue to meet its obligations.

The governor and the state Legislature need to move boldly to address the broader issues of the state's tax structure, beyond finding an appropriate business tax to replace the \$1.9 billion of revenue from the SBT.

This will include some more trimming of state government, but here the options are limited. The state has commitments to K-12 education, higher education, environmental protection, land management, public safety, roads, health care and many other services that are vital to providing an attractive environment for economic growth. Inefficiencies exist in state government as they do in private business, but in some areas cutbacks have already hurt services at the state and local levels of government.

Granholm has said that being a "lame-duck" governor will be liberating. The question is whether it will liberating enough for her to push through a tax plan that will include tax increases for some segments and may include taxes that will have an impact on everyone.

No one likes to pay taxes and no one likes to have state services cut. That's the problem.

Any change in the tax structure also has to balance the state's revenue needs with providing a tax environment that is attractive to businesses, especially the new, cutting-edge technology businesses that the state is trying to lure from other states.

But studies show that low taxes are only one of many factors that businesses look at when choosing to locate facilities. Good state and local government services, good roads and other transportation, a healthy environment, top universities and recreational opportunities are also high on the list.

This is a challenge and an opportunity to set the state on a solid footing for the future.

Nation owes debt to our own Gerald Ford

Michigan's only president returned home Wednesday to be buried in his boyhood hometown of Grand Rapids. The private ceremony for former President Gerald R. Ford capped a week of remembrances and tributes for the nation's 38th commander in chief.

While Ford's brief, two-year presidency was anything but normal, it appears certain that his legacy finally will focus on how he helped heal a troubled nation instead of how he pardoned a disgraced president.

Ford oftentimes was referred to as the "accidental president," who aspired politically to be Speaker of the House, but instead was thrust into the White House as a result of the Watergate scandal and subsequent resignation of then-President Richard Nixon.

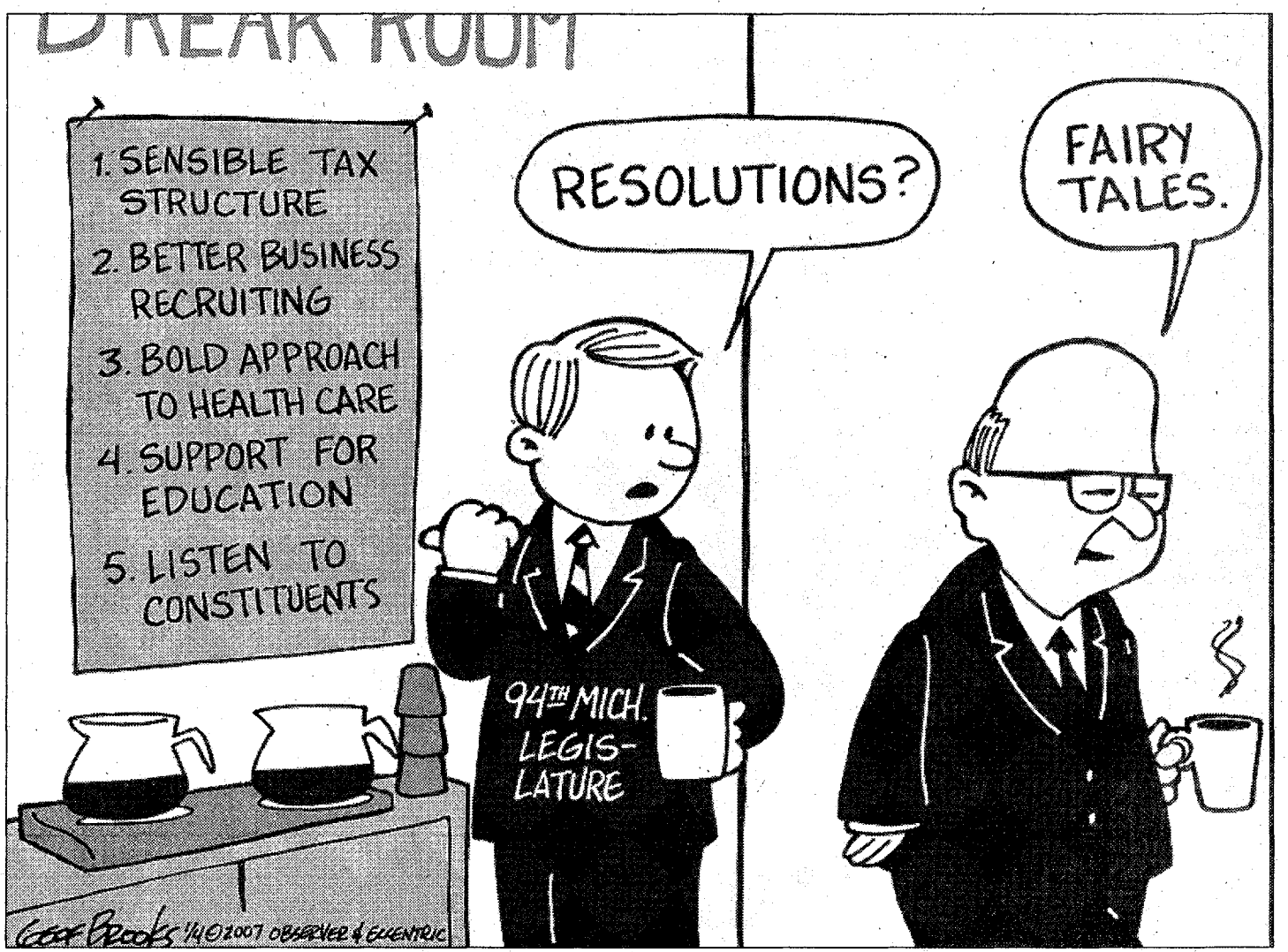
And while Ford was vilified by many for his pardon of Nixon, which likely ended his political career, even many of his staunchest critics at the time now admit that Ford was correct in ending the country's "long, national nightmare."

Politicians today could learn a lot from President Ford. He put the good of the country ahead of his own interests and served the state of Michigan well as both a member of Congress for more than 20 years and as president.

Words like honest, honorable, straightforward, warm and noble have been used over and over this past week to describe Gerald R. Ford. These are words not usually used to describe politicians today.

Although he moved to California many years ago, President Ford never forgot his roots, or his alma mater, the University of Michigan, where he starred on the football team. He returned to the state many times, and always spoke fondly of his years at the university. It seems fitting that the U-M marching band was scheduled to play *Hail to the Victors* at the final funeral service Wednesday in Grand Rapids.

President Ford was living testimony that nice guys can finish first, and that we can all benefit from a dose of humility from time to time.



LETTERS

Sad day

This goes out to all the people who feel the need to vandalize other people's property.

This is the second year our Christmas decorations have been damaged and this year they felt the need to egg our home. We only decorate our home for the enjoyment of our young grandchildren (ages 1-6), not for us. Needless to say, this will be our last year for any decorations at all!

It is a sad world that we live in when others feel the need to take away from other people's enjoyment and ruin the holidays for them. I hope that one day when these young people have a family of their own that they may experience the pain that I am now going through. It is awful to destroy someone's happiness!

I hope that you got some real enjoyment out of what you did, because it was a sad day for our family, especially for our grandchildren who happen to be in town for the holidays.

Carolyn Owens
Plymouth

outside so that my township water bill will not be affected by summertime watering. I will continue to reside in Plymouth Township because "the taxes are so low!"

Judith Washburn
Plymouth

Stuck with the bill

Pertaining to the article in the *Observer* about the 30-percent water rate hike, you mention that the increase is likely from the construction project on M-14 this past year, with all the water needed for watering down road beds, and making cement.

Here is a question: Shouldn't the cost of the water have been factored in when the job was bid? The same way you factor in the cost for the steel, machinery use, fuel, labor, etc. How do we allow a job such as this road construction to be accepted, but the citizens have to pay for the water?

Am I missing something here, but am I paying for that road repair, in such a direct hit, just like the water bill rate increase? I think the citizens of Plymouth need a little better explanation of what is going on here.

I can't wait to get the bill for the railroad crossing bypass that is being done on Sheldon road!

Rick Sikora
Plymouth

Course in ethics

We need to lend support to Mr. Vorva (recent letter to the editor) and to re-emphasize our disdain, disapproval and disgust of the actions we witnessed during the Republican primary campaign this fall.

It appears that a cancer has begun to grow upon our beloved local Republican party and organization. Now, the voices of the voters have spoken their opinion of the local party. I think it is time for a "house-cleaning party" for the party.

The local Republican party seems to have morphed into an organization that is self-centered and more interested in what is good for their secret coven than what is good for the constituents that they supposedly represent. I, for one, want a representative who represents me and my interests and values — not one who would vote "with the party" to support actions in which I have no vested interest, or which may be contrary to my wishes or principles, or which are not in the best interests of the 20th District.

I think the November election result for the 20th District State Representative speaks for itself. As Mr. Vorva pointed out, the defeat of Mark Abbo couldn't have happened to a more deserving person.

Donald Bain, Jr.
Plymouth

Support franchise bill

Times have changed in the last 50 years, and the world I was born into is almost unrecognizable from the world we live in today. I am sure that each generation can stake claim to this, but given the global nature of our economy, the fierce competition for jobs, it is imperative that we keep up the technological advances in order to stay "one step ahead."

Technology has made our world more accessible, and brought the far corners of the world into our living rooms. We have come to rely on instantaneous communications and we expect to have information at our fingertips.

Even my 95-year-old grandmother utilizes a computer to keep in touch with her family across the United States. Technology is no longer a luxury. It is a necessity.

However, all of this has come at a real cost to us. Where in the past we only had our telephone bill (even our television was free), we now have a cable bill, a phone bill, a cell phone bill and an Internet service provider, which charges us a fee for using the Internet.

While all of these services are valued, there must be some way to encourage healthy competition, open up the market and see if we can bring down the costs of these services for Michigan consumers. We need to encourage the growth of these industries so that we, as consumers, have choices. Once we have competition in these industries, we know that the costs of everything will surely come down.

I have two children in college, and I constantly try to envision what their future will be. They will have a tougher road to travel than I did, and it is my hope that they will have a wide array of opportunities before them.

One of my children is interested in the field of communications. I wonder if there will be opportunities for him. Will there be jobs for him once he graduates? And what is the impact of our shrinking Michigan economy upon our children? I can only hope

that there will be real opportunities available for him when he is looking for a job in the field.

It is my hope that if the video franchise legislation passes in Michigan, it will open doors for my child, as well as opportunities for our community.

Marcy Colton
Farmington Hills

Taxing unemployment?

Some are concerned that Michigan could be headed for a fiscal disaster because of the repeal of the Single Business Tax by the Republican-controlled Legislature without a replacement. They said that would be too hard. Doing the right thing usually is.

I am sure these apparently gutless cowards will find a relatively harmless way to replace it by their planned date in December, after the November elections, harmless for them and their campaign supporters, anyway.

One possible way could be to raise taxes on the unemployed, since Michigan currently has a high number of them and they no doubt do not contribute that much to political campaigns.

I'm sure a lot in the state might not have known that unemployment funds are taxable income. These funds are compensation for a job loss due to no fault of one's own, not for quitting a job or being fired.

It wasn't always this way. Unemployment became taxable in Michigan in the Republican John Engler years. Remember Gov. Engler, the great tax cutter, e.g., 50-percent increase in sales tax and an increase in the gasoline tax. It became taxable at the federal level during the Reagan administration, another famous "tax cutter."

There are those with the belief if you want less of something, then you tax it. That could be used as an excuse for raising taxes on the unemployed. The Republican-run Legislature might also consider an annual fee on anyone without a job, after all we don't want a lot of unproductive people in Michigan for any reason.

For me, however, it just does not seem right to take money from people without jobs, but what do I know? I'm just a previously unemployed person having extra taxes withheld from my paycheck to pay for my unemployment compensation. I'm sure no politician would embrace these ideas before the election and I challenge our current office holders to defend the current policy.

Chuck Tindall
Novi

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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QUOTABLE

'Southeast Michigan and, indeed, the entire state, is in crisis. But oftentimes it takes a crisis to shake us from our doldrums and provide opportunity for meaningful change. I believe this region is at that point right now.'

Doug Rothwell, president of Detroit Renaissance, an organization committed to restarting the engine that runs the area

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

Farmingtons' example should point way for consolidation

On Feb. 1, 1824, Arthur Power left his home in Farmington, a tiny community in north central New York. A devout Quaker and a widower, he was headed for the recently opened Michigan Territory, then way out on the frontier. We don't know whether he was searching for cheap land or wanting to build a legacy for his children, or both. But we do know he traveled by sleigh, crossing the Niagara River and heading west through Canada. He arrived Feb. 15 at Windsor.

After crossing the river (hardly an easy task back then) and picking up supplies, he headed north along the Saginaw Road toward what is now Royal Oak. A few miles later, he turned west into deep woods and stopped near what is now the intersection of 11 Mile and Power roads. Immediately, he and his party started cutting trees and clearing the land to start a settlement. In those early days, it was sometimes called Powerville and at other times Quakertown. Eventually, the community took its present name from his old home town of Farmington.

That story has special meaning for me ... because Arthur Power was my great-great-great-great-grandfather. The stories of his journey to Michigan and the founding of Farmington are from the diary kept by his son, Arthur Power.

And in an example of the odd serendipity life sometimes holds, early on in my career as a newspaperman, I wound up owning the Farmington Observer, the community newspaper serving both that city and the community next to it, at the time, Farmington Township.

There was a fair amount of bad blood between the neighbors, and in the summer of 1973 I stood in the township hall and watched as the trustees of the township created a new city by adopting the charter of Farmington Hills.

Fast forward to this past December, when around 70 people showed up to consider a consultant's study that looked at the possibility of merging both communities into one. There will be more meetings and a decision won't come for some time, but the idea deserves serious, common-sense consideration.

Farmington, with a population of around 11,000, is much smaller than Farmington Hills, which has 85,000 residents. But there is a lot to recommend this marriage: Both communities already share a library, district court and parks and recreation facilities.

Farmington Hills, now Oakland County's largest city, lacks a downtown, while Farmington's historic town center needs resources for redevelopment.

The consulting firm hired by Farmington Hills, Hooker/De Jong Architects-Engineers of Muskegon, found that a merged city would add \$4.5 million to the overall tax base. More impor-

tantly, combining the two communities would reduce costs by consolidating duplicated services and reducing redundant overhead costs.

Local communities throughout Michigan have been in the economic pressure cooker in recent years, as state revenue-sharing has been slashed, public employee health care and pension obligations have skyrocketed and restrictions on property tax increases have all taken their toll.

Many cities and townships are looking for ways to achieve economies of scale, leaner government, reduced costs.

Farmington and Farmington Hills are anything but alone in this. Once you start thinking about our entire cash-strapped state, paring costs out of local government units is hardly small beer.

Michigan has no less than 83 counties, 1,242 townships, 274 cities of less than 10,000 population, 259 villages, 553 local school districts, 230 charter schools and 57 intermediate school districts. How's that for overlapping governments? As a friend who provided me with these numbers wrote, "Give us a break!"

Districts can save lots of money without getting anywhere near the dreaded word, "consolidation," which might — gasp! — result in eliminating a high school football team mascot or school colors.

All they need to do is negotiate joint operating agreements to consolidate their business office functions together into intermediate school districts. They'd save pots of money that could be used to better educate kids.

And at least some of our too-many townships might do much the same thing with each other or with nearby communities, combining police or sheriff patrols, jail facilities, parks and recreation, environmental protection programs — the list of possible savings goes on and on.

So now is the time for some hard-nosed, unsentimental realism. Michigan is in the midst of a profound budget crisis that affects not only the state, but hits local communities with even more impact, now that revenue sharing is largely gone. The way our local government units are structured and function is a product of a past we can no longer afford to retain.

Communities and schools throughout Michigan ought to be following the far-seeing example of the Farmington communities that are considering a merger.

Everything we know about Arthur Power, who was willing to initiate a whole new order when he moved here in 1824, tells me he would have wholeheartedly approved. Matter of fact, this common-sense pioneer would have expected no less.

Phil Power is president and founder of The Center for Michigan, a moderate think-and-do tank based in Ann Arbor. The opinions expressed in his columns are his own and do not represent official policy positions of The Center for Michigan. Power welcomes reader comments at ppower@hcnnet.com.



Phil Power

LETTERS

On common ground

An illustration of the universality and commonality of the monotheistic faiths — namely, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, in the order of their creation — is the fact that as a high school girl in Israel I used to sing in our school choir the famous Hallelujah chorus from Handel's Messiah with no inkling on our part that this is not a Jewish song but a Christian song and a staple of the Christmas-New Year period. We sang it in our native Hebrew and the words were praise to God, the creator and king of the universe and I can easily hear it sung in Arabic as praise to the same God who is called Allah by an Islamic choir.

With all due respect to the individual traditions of each and every of the three Abrahamic religions, a close examination would reveal that the commonalities between them far exceed the differences, and there is nothing like the Christmas season of peace on earth and goodwill to mankind to implement these beautiful shared values.

Rachel Kapen
West Bloomfield

Impeach now

One word comes to mind: Accountability, plain and simple. The only way to stop a runaway train is to derail it. No one is above the law, including the president and vice president. Stand up and defend the Constitution. Public impeachment hearings are televised. I, as well as many Americans, implore you not to take impeachment off the table. You represent us; you are our voice, "We the people." Impeach Dick Cheney and George W. Bush now — for truth and justice, for love of country and all living things. This is not a partisan issue, it is in fact our patriotic duty.

Linda Frost
Farmington

Seems like a waste

NASA plans to build a permanent scientific research station on the moon, where temperatures in the sun are 250-F degrees, but drop to minus 280-F in the shade. Heating is unsolvable without fuel or air required to burn it. Research would focus on survival. Our ancestors from the Mayflower had it easier; they dis-

covered plentiful supplies of food and water. Volunteers will probably be hard to find. Environmentalists might like to study this land because it is unpolluted by mankind. Surely, we have better ways to spend tax money.

Hank Borgman
Farmington

Bring troops home

Don't forget that just one month ago, on Nov. 7, the American people rejected the war making in Iraq. For the first time in history, we voted to change a war policy during that very war.

Now an independent bipartisan panel will be calling for the U.S. to talk with Iraq's neighbors and to gradually withdraw American troops from Iraq.

It is time for Republicans and Democrats to call on President Bush to negotiate with Iraq's warring sectarian groups and Iraq's neighbors. It is time to restart the Palestinian-Israeli peace process and go on a road to energy independence.

Most significantly, let's call on our president to go to the United Nations and announce that he will begin reducing the number of U.S. troops in Iraq on New Year's Day.

The American troops and bases in Iraq only exacerbate the civil war there, so let's bring our troops home in time to celebrate the Fourth of July.

That would be the perfect holiday time to honor our warriors.

Rev. Richard A. Peacock
Troy

Require a paper ballot

I join the call for a paper ballot for every vote cast in America. It is time for Congress to finally pass an election reform bill in which the American people can have confidence.

Any such legislation must require a paper ballot — not a "paper trail" nor a "paper record" — for every vote cast.

Please make this a top priority in the upcoming legislative session.

Ronnie Sullivan
Westland

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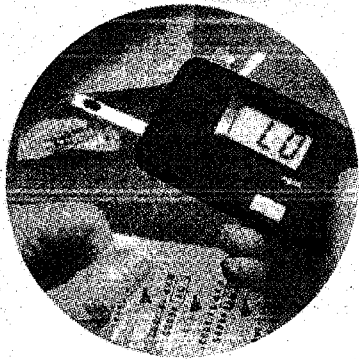


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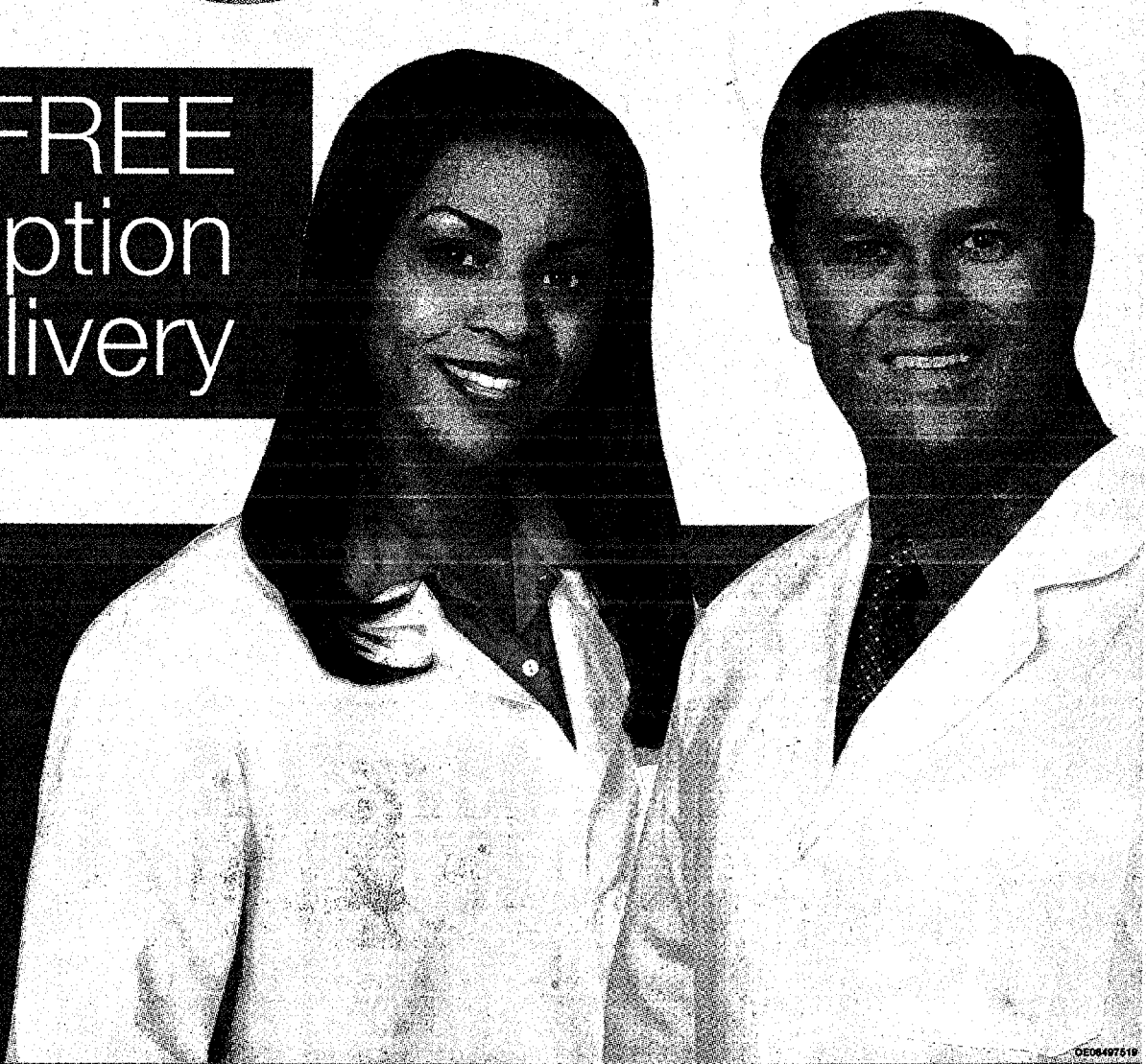
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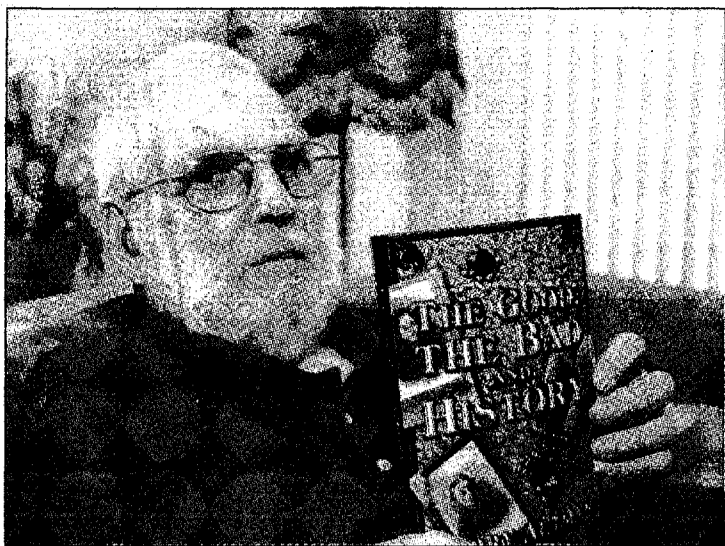
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JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rochester Hills resident Larry Altman's new book highlights 11 figures or events that helped shape American history.

Author highlights obscure pieces of our nation's past

BY GARY WINKELMAN
STAFF WRITER

Two of Larry Altman's favorite pastimes are history and writing.

So it's no surprise he's drawing on those dual interests and putting together books these days.

A retired newspaperman and Rochester Hills resident, Altman's most recent book is a collection of obscure true tales called *The Good, The Bad and History*.

And though it's not bound for any best-seller lists, the author hopes readers inclined toward little-known but unique facts and figures may find it worth searching out.

The 149-page book highlights 11 different stories that Altman, 79, says helped shape American history.

Included are accounts about individuals with notable experiences but who failed to capture widespread acclaim. For instance, Altman reveals the story of Deborah Sampson, a New England "schoolmarm" who disguised herself as a man and fought in several skirmishes during the Revolutionary War.

Then there's the story of William Walker, a Tennessee native whose toughness and tenacity helped him become the ruler of Nicaragua for a brief time in the mid-19th century.

Although the bulk of Altman's subjects probably fall far below the historical radar of most people, *The Good, The Bad and History* features at least one name local readers may recognize — William Beaumont.

The namesake of hospitals in Troy and Royal Oak, Altman recaps circumstances that led to Beaumont's pioneering peek into the human stomach.

Serving as a surgeon at Fort Mackinac in 1822, Beaumont was treating a young French-Canadian fur trapper who had accidentally been shot in the abdomen. Instead of succumbing, the victim's injury became Beaumont's window into a

world medical science had not yet understood.

"The wound had healed to a point where a little flap formed over the hole," Altman says. "(Beaumont) found out he could open the flap and actually observe digestion at work. How food was digested, how long it took.

"And he did experiments on it and he wrote a book (*Experiments and Observations on the Gastric Juice and Physiology of Digestion*). As far as I know, it's still the bible in medical schools."

INSPIRATION

The historical stories in Altman's book started out as freelance magazine articles he penned years ago. He stumbled across his subjects while reading an almanac during lunch breaks when he worked at the now-defunct *Detroit Times*.

He used his favorite research tool — the Internet — when preparing the long-dormant pieces for this year's compilation. "If you're ever going to write, whether fiction or non-fiction, and you need research, the Internet is the place to go," he says.

Next up for Altman, who retired as a *Detroit News* copy editor in 1991, is finding an agent who will champion his recently completed novel, *Coney Island, 1943*. It's a family saga that draws on the author's experiences growing up in Brooklyn, N.Y. Altman's first novel, a small-press spy thriller called *The Chocolate Formula*, came out in 2005.

Although finding widespread success or acclaim as a "new" author with an 80th birthday on the horizon is a long shot, Altman aims to continue telling his stories and searching for an audience. His motivation is simple and straightforward.

"I like to write," he says. "I enjoy writing."

Larry Altman's book, *The Good, The Bad and History* is available on Amazon.com for \$19.95.

Mercy plugs into paperless classroom

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Last fall, about 200 freshmen at Mercy High School put down their pens and pencils and picked up their styluses.

They are now all using the Hewlett Packard Tablet PC, a computer notebook, which was a requirement for all incoming freshmen.

Instead of using pen and paper to take notes, the students at the all-girls, Catholic school in Farmington Hills use the stylus connected to the computer to write on the screen.

They can convert their handwriting to text and even create electronic "sticky notes."

The wireless notebook also has built-in speech recognition capabilities.

The school views the wireless computer as a productivity tool and a way for students to problem-solve together.

"This is all part of the bigger picture at Mercy and its mission and what we are trying to accomplish," said Will Gervais, an associate principal. "Our motto is, 'Educating Women Who Make a Difference.'"

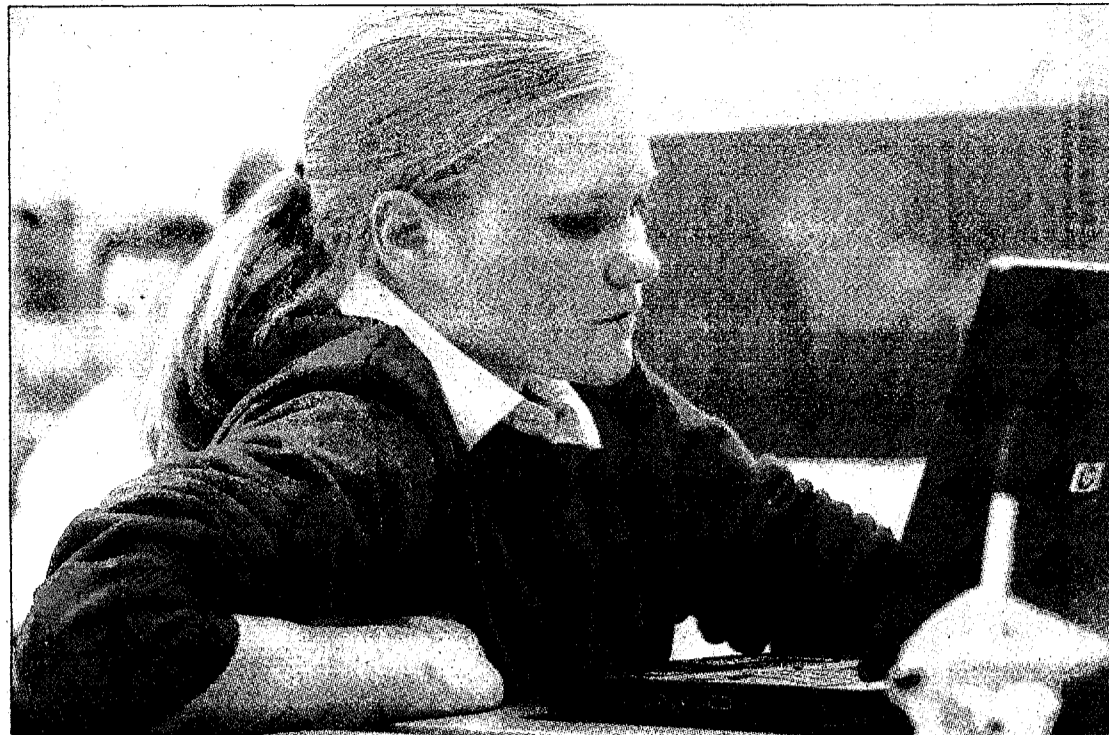
Gervais, who has worked at Mercy High School for 37 years, has seen many changes. He started as a science teacher before moving into administration.

Gervais, part of team, was instrumental in bringing the computer tablets to Mercy. The team wants to prepare the students for a global society by integrating technology into the curriculum.

Each freshman was required to purchase the \$2,100 computer which can be financed over four years. The school worked with Credit Union One so that parents could obtain low-interest loans, Gervais said.

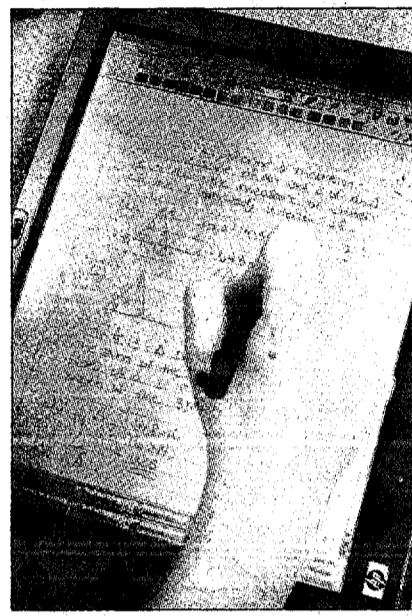
The computers are not included in the annual \$9,000 tuition.

The school has about 800 students and draws from 60



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mercy High School ninth grader Christina Lehman works on her tablet computer in class.



Mercy High School students use their tablet PCs for a variety of tasks, including taking notes and reading on-line textbooks.

communities in metro-Detroit.

Mercy has gone wireless and some textbooks are offered on-line.

"We wanted our students to be competitive in their related

fields when they go on to college," said Maureen Stirling, an Admissions Office coordinator.

Mercy is the only private school in the area using these type of tablets, Stirling said.

"Many colleges are moving to this as well," she said. "When you look at the careers out there right now, so many are computer related."

Students Rosie O'Malley, a Farmington Hills resident, Danielle Monette of Rochester, and Lauren Richards of Farmington Hills are enthusiastic about the computers.

They said that it didn't take them long to learn how to use them.

O'Malley said she can turn a written equation into a typed equation on the computer and copy and paste graphics.

"It goes right into your notebook," she said.

Monette said that she likes not having to carry a lot of binders and notebooks.

"It eliminates everything else you could have had in your backpack," she said.

With on-line textbooks, the tablet "lightens your load," Richards said.

"I have my Biology book on-line," she said.

All freshmen take a one-semester class called Technology Overview, which helps them learn more about technology.

They use their notebooks to read textbooks on-line, take paperless notes in class, make flash cards, transfer media and create valuable study aids.

"It's so 21st Century," said Nadine Maynard, director of development.

Taking care of their computers is simple. The students have to charge their batteries every night to make sure they are functioning for the day, Gervais said.

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Read Rick Bloom on money matters in the O&E beginning Jan. 7

Read about how to invest and safeguard your money along with planning for the future in Rick Bloom's column which debuts Sunday, Jan. 7 in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Look for Bloom's column every Sunday and Thursday. On Thursdays, Bloom will cover a variety of topics on investments, college planning, retirement and 401Ks. On Sundays, Bloom will answer questions from O&E readers.

Bloom is a founding partner in Bloom Asset Management, Inc., Farmington Hills, a Registered Investment Advisor firm that manages more than \$600 million in assets and is ranked No. 16 on Crain's Detroit Business' list of Largest Money Managers. He is also a



Bloom

partner in the law firm of Bloom, Bloom & Associates.

He hosts *The Rick Bloom Show* on 1400 WTDK-AM, and was also host of the popular *Money Talk* radio show on WXYT-AM 1270 for 16 years and *The Rick Bloom Show* on WXDX-1310 AM. His twice-daily Business Updates are also heard throughout the state on the Michigan Radio Network.

Bloom has been selected as one of the Top 250 Financial Planners by *Worth* magazine, and has been quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* and other national publications on financial planning and the stock market. He is

also a frequent spokesperson regarding financial matters on local TV news and radio shows.

Bloom gives numerous seminars and speeches on financial planning and investments at a number of local libraries as well as many professional, civic and business organizations.

An honors graduate of both Michigan State University and the University of Michigan

Law School, Bloom is a licensed attorney and Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Bloom will present a free seminar on "Investing 101" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3 in the Southfield Public Library, 26300 Evergreen Road. Call 248-932-5200 or e-mail him at seminars@bloomassetmanagement.com to register or for more information.

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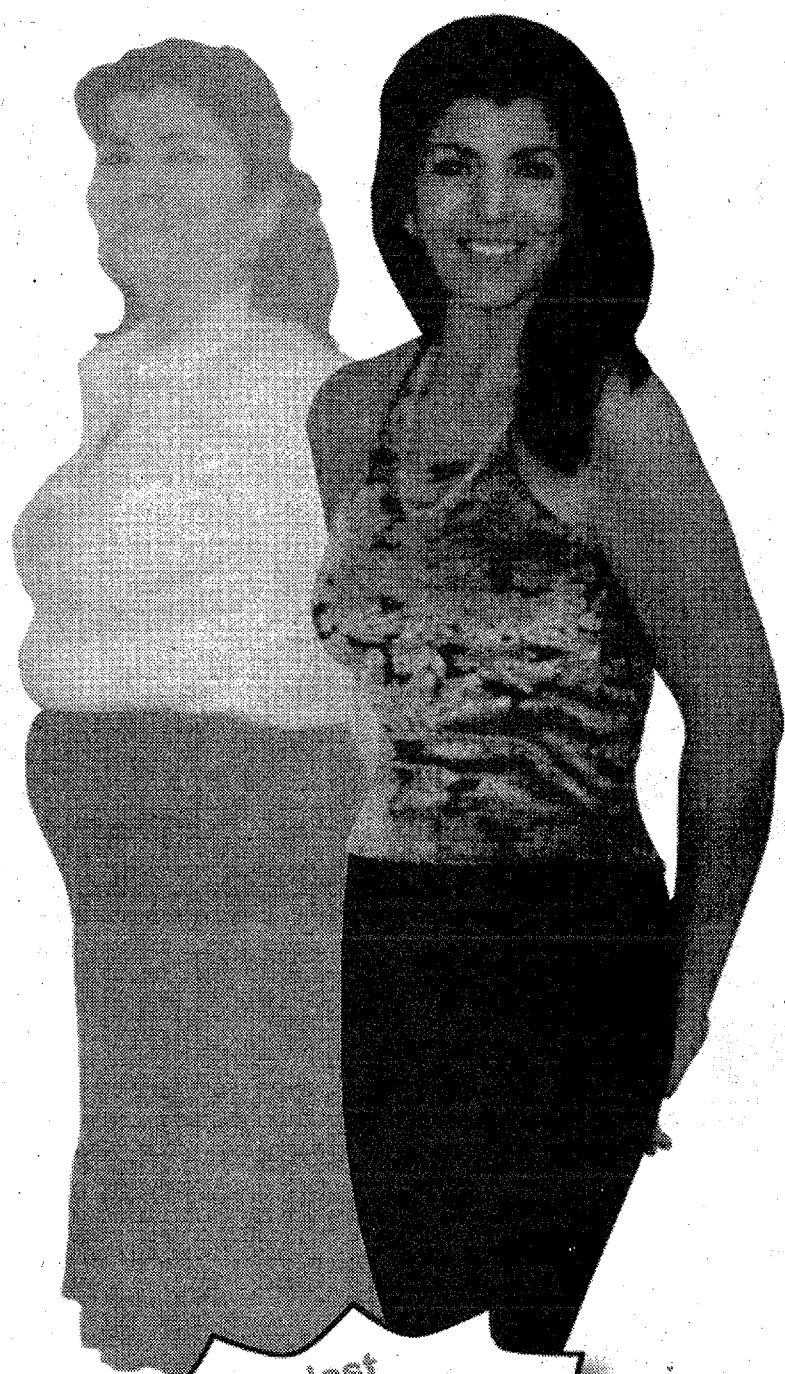
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The Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in downtown Plymouth, offers the following programs during the month of January:

■ **LIBRARY CLOSING** — The library will be closed Sunday, January 21 for the Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular.

■ **CONSTRUCTION UPDATES** — The Youth area renovation on the lower level is moving along. Check out the latest developments on the Library's renovation project by going to plymouthlibrary.org and clicking on the Building Blog. Current project updates and photos will take you behind the scenes.

■ **WRITING MY LIFE STORY: A SENIOR WRITING GROUP**, Tuesday, Jan. 16, 4 p.m. — Seniors can share and preserve their life stories with the guidance of Plymouth author, Jane Saylor. No previous writing experience or advance registration is required.

■ **LOW VISION SUPPORT GROUP**, Thursday, Jan. 4, 1-3 p.m. — This group is for individuals for whom glasses are no longer sufficient. It is facilitated by a professional and is intended to be social as well as informative. Guest speakers cover a variety of topics — caregivers or friends are invited to attend. No advance registration is required. For more information contact Ellen Stross at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 232.

■ **WORLD WAR II PERSPECTIVES**, Monday, Jan. 8, 6:30 p.m. — "When Plymouth Answered the Call: Our Community and the Decision to enter World War II," Stephen Mucher, EMU Assistant Professor of History will lead an exploration of Plymouth's response to the rise of Nazi Germany in 1938-1941. Register for this free program by phone, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4 or on-line at plymouthlibrary.org

■ **CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP**, Monday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m. — Social worker Chris Goldberg of Adult Well-Being Services will answer a wide variety of concerns for individuals caring for ill or aging family members. No registration required.

■ **GREAT BOOKS**, Monday, Jan. 8 and 22, 7 p.m. — The discussion group is open to anyone who is curious and willing to work with others in developing an understanding and appreciation of great literature. For further information, contact group facilitator Karen Berrie at (734) 453-2454. To learn more about The Great Books Foundation, go to <http://www.greatbooks.org/>

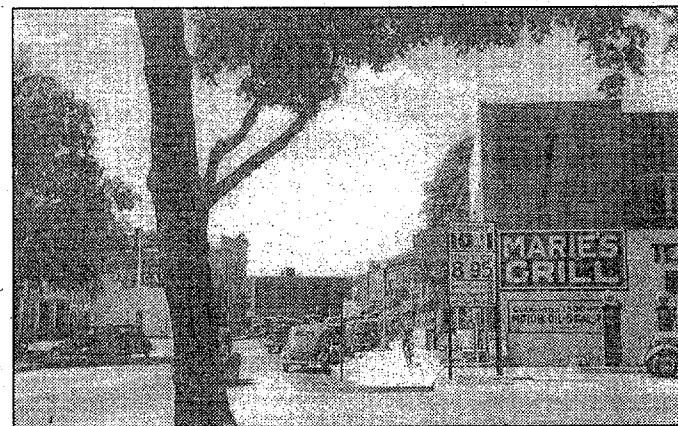
■ **YOUR POETRY GROUP**, Sunday, Jan. 14, 1:30-3:30 p.m. — Round table readings of poems, your own or by others, are held on the second Sunday of the month. Reader's discretion of language is asked in the works read. For more information, contact Don Hewlett, (313) 272-3548, or donthewlett@aol.com

■ **STARS, MOONS AND PLANETS**, Monday, Jan. 15, 7 p.m. — He loves the skies and after this informal gathering, you will too. Plymouth resident Mike Best leads a lively discussion each month for adults and children over the age of 6. No registration is required. For more information contact (734) 459-BEST or starmikebest@comcast.net

■ **CONTEMPORARY BOOKS DISCUSSION**, Wednesday, Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m. — Members of this book discussion group are invited to read *On Beauty* by Zadie Smith. Copies of this book are available at the circulation desk. New members are welcome at any time. For further information, please call Sue Patterson at the Library, (734) 453-0750, or e-mail spatterson@plymouthlibrary.org

■ **LIBRARY GARDEN GROUP**, Thursday, Jan. 18, 7 p.m. — This popular group meets monthly to discuss common garden concerns and new ideas. The topic for the January meeting will be indoor gardening. Gardeners at all skill levels are invited — no registration is required.

■ **BASEBALL ISN'T JUST BASEBALL - IT'S A METAPHOR FOR LIFE**, An evening with authors Robert Samaras and Raymond Rolak, Monday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m. — The Library continues this special baseball series, "Hot Stove League: Professors of Baseball share their love of America's pastime" with these Detroiters. Robert Samaras, EDD, former coach of the Wayne State University baseball team, will talk about such varied topics as



World War II program

The Plymouth District Library presents the World War II program, "When Plymouth Answered the Call: Our community and the decision to enter World War II," 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8. The popular series continues as Stephen Mucher, Assistant Professor of History at Eastern Michigan University, leads an exploration of Plymouth's response to the rise of Nazi Germany in 1938-1941. Register for this free program by phone, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4 or on-line at plymouthlibrary.org. The photo, provided by the Plymouth Historical Society and Museum, shows Main Street looking south as it thrived in 1940.

"The one-run game: pathway to pennant" and humanistic psychology in baseball coaching. Raymond Rolak, former director of the City of Detroit 3,000-member PaR Baseball School, will present "Different Universes: A comparative look at competitive and recreational baseball." He will also share "The Mystery of the Black Bat Trophy." Register for this free program by calling the Reader's Advisory Desk at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4 or on-line at plymouthlibrary.org. This program is made possible with the generous support of the Friends of the Plymouth District Library.

■ **NEEDLECRAFTERS MEETING**, Monday, Jan. 22, 7-9 p.m. — Knitters, quilters, needlepointers are all invited to attend this informal group gathering. Lessons are not provided, but ideas exchanged among attendees. No registration required. Bring your latest project!

■ **BROWN BAG BOOK DISCUSSION**, Wednesday, Jan. 24, noon — This month's discussion invites members to read Saturday by Ian McEwan. Copies of this book are available at the circulation desk. Bring a lunch; beverages are provided. For more information about Brown Bag Books, ask at the Reader's Advisory Desk, call Linda Pride at the Library, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 206, or e-mail lpride@plymouthlibrary.org

Youth programs

■ **JOHNSON MARI-ONETTES: "The Magic Sword"**, Thursday, Jan. 4, 2 p.m. — Children are invited to enjoy this enchanting story starring "Applesauce." After the show, Greg Johnson will provide a glimpse behind the scenes. This program is intended for children ages 5-12 and their families. Registration is required, please call (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

■ **LAP SIT STORYTIME**, Monday, Jan. 8, 10 a.m. 11 a.m. and Saturday, Jan. 13, 10 a.m. — This 15-minute program is designed for the very young, babies ages 6-24 months and their caregivers. No older siblings please. Registration is required, call Reader's Advisory Desk, at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

■ **PRESCHOOL/FAMILY EVENING STORYTIMES**, Session one: Tuesdays, Jan. 9-30, 7 p.m.; Session two: Wednesdays, January 10-31, 7:00p.m.

This evening storytime can be enjoyed by family members and children ages 2-5. Registration can be made by phone starting Jan. 2, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

■ **PRESCHOOL STORYTIMES**, Tuesdays, Jan. 9-30, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. — Parents must remain in the library during these storytime sessions for children ages 3-1/2 to 5 years. Registration is required and may be made by calling (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

■ **TODDLER/PARENT STORYTIMES**, Thursdays through Feb. 1 — The 10 a.m. session is for children ages 2 to 3-1/2 years. This one-on-one session welcomes toddlers and adults participating together. Please make other arrangements for siblings. The 11 a.m. session welcomes siblings and other family members as well. Registration is required and may be made by calling (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

■ **FAMILY SCIENCE AND READING PROGRAM**, Curious about climate? Why weather works, Saturday, Jan. 20, 11 a.m. — In conjunction with the University of Michigan Exhibit Museum, this is the first of three programs in this popu-

lar program. It is designed specifically for children 6-12 and their parents — a parent or caregiver must accompany each participant. Registration is limited to 30 children. Call (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

■ **BABY PLAY**, Monday, Jan. 22, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 27, 10 a.m. — This fun program is for babies ages 6-24 months. Baby Play is a less formal companion to our Lapsit program. Babies and caregivers listen to a story, followed by play with developmentally appropriate toys and interaction with other children. Registration is not required for Baby Play.

Teen program

■ **TEEN VOLUNTEER TRAINING**, Saturday, Jan. 6, 1 p.m. and Monday, Jan. 18, 7 p.m. — There are many volunteer opportunities available for Plymouth teens — attend one of these training sessions and learn more.

■ **TEEN ADVISORY BOARD**, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 3 p.m. — Are you looking for ways to make your voice heard in the community? Come and help make the Plymouth District Library what you want it to be. Join the Teen Advisory Board and suggest new programs and materials, write book reviews for the Web site and just have fun. Free refreshments.

■ **BOOKS & BAGELS**, Tuesday, Jan. 9, 4 p.m. — Read *Ghost Boy* by Iain Lawrence. A 14-year-old albino boy feels unloved and unhappy. Searching for a sense of who he really is, he runs away and joins the circus. Register at Reader's Advisory, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

■ **KNITTING KNIT WITS**, Wednesdays, Jan. 10 and 24, 7 p.m. — Join other teens and volunteer Judy Gwozdek in making squares for blankets for a charity to be selected or just bring your own knitting and have fun.

■ **GET CRAFTY @ YOUR LIBRARY**, Saturday, Jan. 16, 4 p.m. — Help out the Humane Society as you make a kitty fort. Register for this free program by calling the Reader's Advisory Desk, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

You need to know this

■ All Teen Zone programs are FREE — it costs you nothing to participate.

■ The Friends of the Plymouth District Library provide FREE refreshments for every teen program.

■ All the info you need about our teen programs can be found at plymouthlibrary.org/ya.htm

Computer training

■ **COMPUTER BASICS**, Saturday, Jan. 6, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. — This course is designed to teach Microsoft Windows and basic mousing skills to Plymouth residents. The class provides one session of mousing practice and hands-on work with the keyboard and Windows. Participants are urged to return during the drop-in tutoring session on Saturdays for additional practice.

■ **E-MAIL BASICS**, Monday, Jan. 8, 2 p.m. — Learn how to create a free e-mail account using Yahoo or Hotmail in this one-session class. You will also learn how to compose, send and delete e-mail messages on that account.

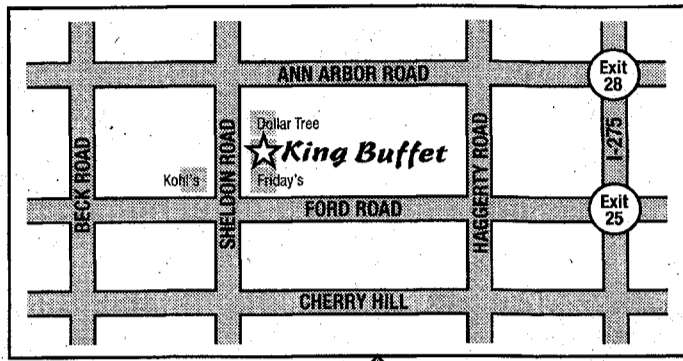
■ **CREATE A BLOG**, Thursday, Jan. 11, 7 p.m. — Create and customize your own personal blog in this class using Blogger software. All class participants must have good keyboarding skills and be comfortable searching the Internet.

New King Buffet

New Year...

New Management...

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Children 5 and under
Eat FREE!

Lunch Specials:

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These lunch specials served with Fried Rice or Steamed Rice and choice of Egg Roll or Crab Rangoon

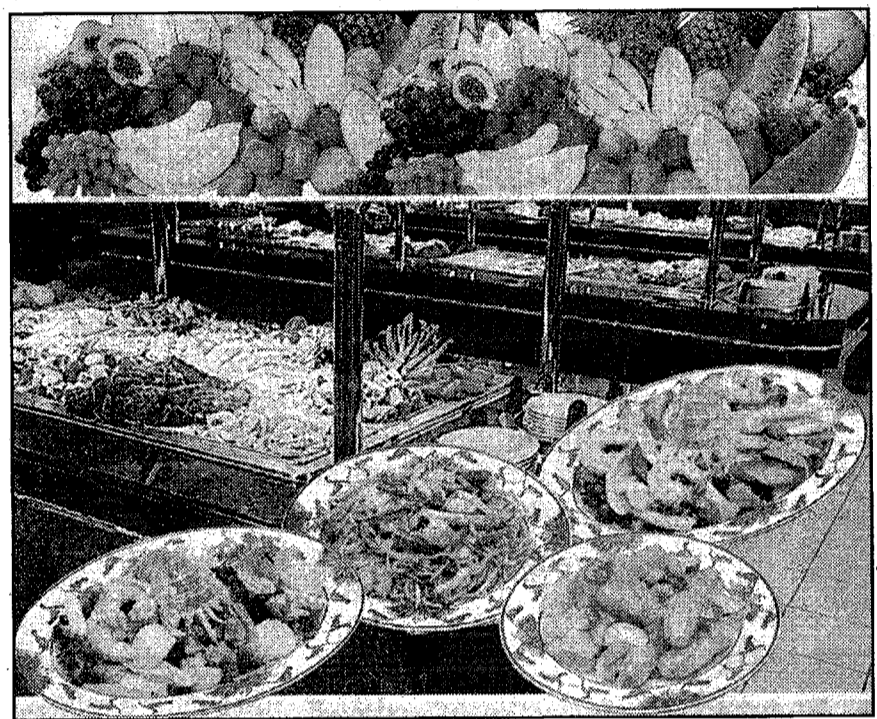
1. Sweet & Sour Chicken.....4.50
2. Chicken with Broccoli.....4.50
3. Moo Goo Gai Pan.....4.50
4. Yu-Hsiang Chicken*.....4.50
5. Cashew Chicken.....4.50
6. Kung Pao Chicken*.....4.50
7. Chicken with Vegetables.....4.50
8. Garlic Chicken.....4.50
9. Chicken Chow Mein.....4.50
10. Curry Chicken*.....4.50
11. Beef with Broccoli.....4.50
12. Pepper Steak with Onion.....4.50
13. Yu-Hsiang Beef*.....4.50
14. Beef Chow Mein.....4.50
15. Beef with Vegetables.....4.50
16. Kung Pao Beef*.....4.50
17. Yu-Hsiang Pork*.....4.50
18. Twice Cooked Pork*.....4.50
19. Sweet & Sour Pork.....4.50
20. Garlic Pork.....4.50
21. Pork Chow Mein.....4.50
22. Vegetables Delight.....4.50
23. Yu-Hsiang Broccoli*.....4.50
24. Shrimp with Broccoli.....4.95
25. Yu-Hsiang Shrimp*.....4.95
26. Cashew Shrimp.....4.95
27. Kung Pao Shrimp*.....4.95
28. Shrimp with Vegetables.....4.95
29. Shrimp with Lobster Sauce.....4.95
30. Curry Shrimp*.....4.95
31. Shrimp Chow Mein.....4.95
32. Garlic Shrimp.....4.95
33. Sweet & Sour Shrimp.....4.95
34. General Tso's Chicken*.....4.95
35. Sesame Chicken.....4.95
36. Shrimp & Chicken Hunan Style*.....4.95
37. Triple Delight.....4.95

- #### Fried Rice
38. Chicken Fried Rice.....4.50
 39. Vegetable Fried Rice.....4.50
 40. Beef Fried Rice.....4.50
 41. Pork Fried Rice.....4.50
 42. Shrimp Fried Rice.....4.50
 43. Combo Fried Rice.....4.50

- #### Lo Mein
44. Chicken Lo Mein.....4.50
 45. Vegetable Lo Mein.....4.50
 46. Beef Lo Mein.....4.50
 47. Pork Lo Mein.....4.50
 48. Shrimp Lo Mein.....4.50
 48. Combo Lo Mein.....4.50

- #### Appetizers
50. Egg Roll(1).....1.00
 51. Fried Wonton(8).....2.25
 52. Fried Chicken Wings(4).....2.95
 53. Fried Shrimp(3).....3.00
 54. Bar-B-Q Chicken (4).....3.95
 55. Crab Rangoon.....(3) 2.00...(6) 3.95
 56. Steamed or Fried Dumplings(6).....4.25
 57. Pu Pu Tray (for 2).....7.25
(includes: egg roll, fried shrimp, bar-b-q chicken, crab rangoon and fried chicken wing)

- #### Soups
58. Egg Drop Soup.....1.50
 59. Wonton Soup.....1.50
 60. Hot & Sour Soup*.....1.50
 61. House Special Soup (for 2).....4.95
(chicken, shrimp, scallops)
 62. House Noodle Soup.....5.95
(chicken, shrimp, beef)
- * Denotes HOT & SPICY



Saturday Dinner & Sunday All Day Buffet... \$10.99

(Including Lobster)

Dinner Dishes:

All dinners served with Steamed Rice

- #### Poultry
63. Sweet & Sour Chicken.....7.50
 64. Chicken with Broccoli.....7.50
 65. Moo Goo Gai Pan.....7.50
 66. Cashew Chicken.....7.50
 67. Kung Pao Chicken*.....7.50
 68. Almond Chicken.....7.50
 69. Lemon Chicken.....7.50
 70. Moo Shu Chicken.....7.50
 71. Yu-Hsiang Chicken*.....7.50
 72. Szechuan Chicken*.....7.50
 73. Hunan Chicken*.....7.50
 74. Chicken with Snow Peas.....7.50
 75. Curry Chicken*.....7.50
 76. Empress Chicken*.....7.50
 77. Chicken with Vegetables.....7.50
- #### Beef
78. Mongolian Beef.....7.50
 79. Beef with Broccoli.....7.50
 80. Yu-Hsiang Beef*.....7.50
 81. Szechuan Beef*.....7.50
 82. Hunan Beef*.....7.50
 83. Beef with Vegetables.....7.50
 84. Kung Pao Beef*.....7.50
 85. Moo Shu Beef.....7.50
 86. Pepper Steak with Onion.....7.50
 87. Beef with Snow Peas.....7.50
 88. Sha Cha Beef*.....7.50
- #### Seafood
89. Sweet & Sour Shrimp.....8.50
 90. Shrimp with Snow Peas.....8.50
 91. Cashew Shrimp.....8.50
 92. Kung Pao Shrimp*.....8.50
 93. Shrimp with Broccoli.....8.50
 94. Moo Shu Shrimp.....8.50
 95. Yu-Hsiang Shrimp*.....8.50
 96. Szechuan Shrimp*.....8.50
 97. Hunan Shrimp*.....8.50
 98. Curry Shrimp*.....8.50
 99. Shrimp with Lobster Sauce.....8.50
 100. Shrimp with Vegetables.....8.50
 101. Yu-Hsiang Scallops*.....8.50
- #### Pork
102. Sweet & Sour Pork.....7.50
 103. Moo Shu Pork.....7.50
 104. Yu-Hsiang Pork*.....7.50
 105. Twice Cooked Pork*.....7.50
 106. Hunan Pork*.....7.50
 107. Pork with Vegetables.....7.50
- #### Vegetables
108. Vegetarian's Delight.....6.50
 109. Moo Shu Vegetables.....6.50
 110. Yu-Hsiang Broccoli*.....6.50
 111. Family Style Bean Curd*.....6.50
 112. Bean Curd Szechuan Style*.....6.50
- #### Chow Mein
- (Crispy Noodle)
113. Chicken Chow Mein.....6.50
 114. Beef Chow Mein.....6.50
 115. Pork Chow Mein.....6.50
 116. Shrimp Chow Mein.....7.50
 117. Combo Chow Mein.....7.50
- #### Lo Mein
- (Soft Noodle)
118. Chicken Lo Mein.....6.50
 119. Beef Lo Mein.....6.50
 120. Pork Lo Mein.....6.50
 121. Vegetable Lo Mein.....6.50
 122. Shrimp Lo Mein.....7.50
 123. Combo Lo Mein.....7.50
- #### Fried Rice
124. Chicken Fried Rice.....5.95
 125. Beef Fried Rice.....5.95
 126. Pork Fried Rice.....5.95
 127. Vegetable Fried Rice.....5.95
 128. Shrimp Fried Rice.....6.95
 129. Combo Fried Rice.....6.95
- #### Side Orders
130. Steamed Rice.....0.50
 131. Fried Rice.....1.25
 132. Crispy Noodle.....0.50
 133. Fortune Cookie.....0.10
 134. Soft Drink.....1.25
- #### Chef's Specialty:
- Served with Steamed Rice
- C1. General Tso's Chicken*.....8.95
(Chunks of chicken quickly deep fried with red pepper, garlic & ginger in a red, hot & sweet sauce)
 - C2. Sesame Chicken.....8.95
(Crispy chicken with sesame in spicy, sweet brown sauce)
 - C3. Peking Chicken*.....8.95
(Crispy chicken with peppers, carrots, mushrooms & celery in a Peking style special sauce)
 - C4. Orange Flavor Chicken*.....8.95
(Crispy chicken in our orange flavor hot & spicy sauce)
 - C5. Orange Flavor Beef*.....8.95
(Chunk slices of beef, sauteed in our orange flavor hot & spicy sauce)
 - C6. Orange Flavor Shrimp*.....9.95
(Jumbo shrimp deep fried in our orange flavor hot & spicy sauce)
 - C7. Hunan Double Delight*.....9.95
(Jumbo shrimp & chicken with green pepper, broccoli, carrots, mushrooms & water chestnuts in our special garlic sauce)
 - C8. Yu-Hsiang Delight*.....9.95
(Beef, shrimp & chicken with select vegetables in spicy garlic sauce)
 - C9. Scallop Beef.....9.95
(Fresh scallops with slices of beef in light brown sauce)
 - C10. Happy Family.....9.95
(A combination of chicken, shrimp, beef, pork & scallops sauteed with assorted vegetables in chef's special sauce)
 - C11. Seafood Combination.....9.95
(King crab, shrimp & scallops stir-fried with vegetables)
- * Denotes HOT & SPICY

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ONE BILL**
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**King Buffet
15% off
10 Or More People**
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Limit 1 coupon per table • Expires 2-28-07

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

JANUARY

Monthly dance
Presented by Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support for the divorced and separated of all faiths, 8 p.m. to midnight (doors open at 7:30 p.m.) Saturday, Jan. 6, at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago at Inkster. Cost is \$10, includes refreshments. For details, call (734) 261-5716.

Grief support

Widowed friends, a peer group, is offering a six week series covering phases of grief, dealing with loneliness and coping with the loss of a spouse beginning 2-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, at Prince of Peace Parish, 4300 Walnut Lake Road, west of Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. A \$20 fee is payable at the first meeting and covers all materials. Call (248) 681-9424 to register by Jan. 4.

Bible study series
St. Theodore Catholic Church presents the Catholic Interpretation of the Book of Revelation beginning 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11 and continuing for eight weeks, at the church, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland. For more information, call (734) 425-7310.

Nativity ball
Sponsored by St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church of Ann Arbor, the ball

takes place 7 p.m. to midnight Friday, Jan. 12, at Weber's Inn in Ann Arbor. The evening includes cocktails, dinner with champagne toast, dancing, music, entertainment, contests, cash bar, theme is Feast in the Time of Ivan the Terrible. Historical costumes/details welcome. Tickets are \$60. For information, visit www.stvladimirami.org or call (734) 761-7311, (734) 222-9812, or (734) 669-8712.

Chili cook-off
Presented by Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support for the divorced and separated of all faiths, if you have a good recipe bring a pot full to be judged and shared along with the recipe 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, at St. Linus Activity Center, 6466 Evangeline, Dearborn Heights. For details, call (734) 513-9479.

Israel Wayne, author of Home School from a Biblical Worldview, will speak at a free seminar on Christian home schooling, Biblical Worldview training and family transformation, 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, west of I-275 and Haggerty roads, Northville. Wayne will cover basics, address common misconceptions about such understandable concerns as child socialization, and what a Biblical Worldview looks like. There will also be information about area home school support groups. The meeting is free and open to everyone from teenagers on up. Sorry, no child care. Pre-registration is suggested. For more information, call (734) 427-3302.

Concert
Amahl and the Night Visitors, a concert presentation of Gian Carlo Menotti's delightful one-act opera featuring boy treble Jonah Yousif in the title role, and the rest of the cast and chorus comprised of members of the Kirk Chancel, Boys and Girls Choirs 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14, at Kirk in the Hills, 1340 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. Tickets are \$18, \$15 for senior citizens, \$12 for students, \$30 for families of four or more. For details, call (248) 626-2515. This program is of particular appeal to families.

A beautiful day
In the Neighborhood features the music of Mister Rogers 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 19-20, at First Presbyterian Church, 1669 West Maple, Birmingham. Mr. McFeeley (David Newell) is joined by local vocalists Judie Cochill, Marc Meyers and Tom Trenney and the Neighborhood Jazz Combo. No tickets required, no admission, but a freewill offering will be collected. Proceeds benefit Variety FAR Conservator, a nonprofit that provides creative arts therapy and recreation services for children with autism and other disabilities. Audience members are also encouraged to bring new or gently-used sweaters to contribute to the Mister Rogers' Sweater Drive for families who need extra warmth this winter. A meet the artists reception follow the concert. For more information, call (248) 540-9124.

Monthly breakfast meeting
For Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support for the divorced and separated of all faiths, 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, at Leon's Family Dining, 30149 Ford Road, Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For more information, call (734) 513-9479.

Bethany Together Dance
Presented by Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support for the divorced and separated of all faiths, 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Jan. 20, at Don Hubert V.F.W. Hall, 27345 Schoolcraft (I-96 service drive near Inkster Road), Redford. Limited to first 450 paid admissions only. Proper attire. Admission is \$12. For details, call (586) 264-0284.

Volunteer night
Presented by Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization providing peer support for the divorced and separated of all faiths, Monday, Jan. 29. For details, call (313) 996-8644.

UPCOMING

Education pilgrimage
The third annual education pilgrimage of faith and hope to El Salvador is being organized by Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Plymouth, assisted by CRISPAC (Christians for Peace in El Salvador). The pilgrimage will take place from Feb. 11-18, 2007. This is an intensive learning experience with a special emphasis given to the voice and experience of the poor and marginalized. You will visit martyr sites, grassroots organizations, a rural community, and hear speakers on the history, politics, and economy of El Salvador. For details, call coordinator Richard Dahlke at (734) 455-6474.

ONGOING

Worship service
All are welcome to attend 11 a.m. worship service Sundays, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne at Hunter, Westland. Join us at 7 p.m. Tuesdays in November and December as Pastor Louise Monacelli introduces The Jesus Experience, a series of videos offering insight into the people and situations God used to expand the church around the world. For more information, call (734) 721-0800.

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

Worship service
At 10:30 a.m. Sundays at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford. Congregation is hearing lessons from I Peter. For more information, call (313) 255-6330.

Adult literacy classes
Available for those wishing to improve their reading and writing skills. Open to adults age 18 and over. Trained

tutors available for day and evening hours. Call (734) 421-0472. Leave your name and phone number and someone will be in contact with you.

Ladies Bible studies
Began Tuesday, Sept. 12, at Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, Northville. Call (248) 348-7600.

Women of the Word offer the Life Change Study of the book of Genesis by NavPress from 9:30-11:15 a.m. (\$15 registration fee includes interdenominational materials and free child care for ages through 5, and a study of the Patriarchs by Beth Moor from 6:45-8:15 p.m. (\$20 fee and no child care).

Personal ministry
Due Season Christian Church is a non-denominational, multicultural, full gospel church that offers Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. and Tuesday night Bible study at 7:15 p.m. Services are currently held at Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of Farmington Road, Livonia. All are welcome. For information, call (248) 960-8063 or visit www.DueSeason.org.

Farmington Women Aglow
Meets from 5-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at the Farmington Community Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile. For more information, call Linda Boone at (248) 476-1053.

Scripture studies
From 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the lower level of Our Lady of Loretto Church, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford. Call (313) 534-9000.

TOPS
Stands for Take Off Pounds Sensibly, the group meets at 7 p.m. every Thursday evening at St. Thomas a Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton. Weigh-in is from 6:15-6:55 p.m. It is a weight support group that encourages members to lose weight sensibly and keep it off. For more information, call Mary at (734) 394-1328.

Learner's Bible study
At 7 p.m. Mondays, in Room A101, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920.

Church service
Loving God by loving people, meets at 10 a.m. Sunday at Westwood Community Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland. Doughnuts and coffee served. Call (734) 254-0093.

Senior activities
Gathering for seniors 50 years and older at 11:30 a.m. on the third Friday of every month at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 464-0990. Put together a salad dish and come out and meet other seniors. Lunch is served followed by fellowship with some games and stories.

Church activities
St. James Presbyterian Church offers a Thursday dinner at 6 p.m. for \$5 prepared by Susan Navarro, The Cookie Lady, followed by Bible study at 7 p.m. and Chancel Choir rehearsal at 8 p.m.; Thrift store is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday; 10 a.m. women's study group second Saturday of the month, and Sunday worship at 10 a.m. (nursery available) and children's class at 10:15 a.m. at 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

Eucharistic adoration
The monthly program of Parish Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration continues the third Wednesday of each month at St. Michael's Church of Livonia, corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads. The church will be open for worship from 10 a.m. until the 7 p.m. Benediction service. For information, call (734) 261-5331.

Worship services
All are welcome to attend worship service at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Five Mile and Inkster roads, Livonia. Service is held at 10 a.m. every Sunday with an education hour all for ages at 9 a.m. Call (734) 422-1470.

Unity of Livonia
Services at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays at 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. Call (734) 421-1760.

Shabbat services
The doors of Congregation Beit Kodesh, a Conservative synagogue at 31840 W. Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, are open to the Jewish community of southeastern Michigan. Call (248) 477-8974.

Bet Chaverim
Services are open to all living in the western counties including Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, and Northville. The congregation follows traditions of Reform Judaism. Interfaith families welcome to attend services at 321 S. Ridge, south of Cherry Hill, Canton. Call (734) 646-3864 for information or visit www.betchaverim.com.

Detroit World Outreach
A non-denominational church with cutting edge drama productions, energized contemporary music, high-tech video and lighting, programs for kids and teens, for college students, singles, married adults and seniors. Services are at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday (6:30 p.m. the first Sunday of the month), Sunday school for all ages at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Call (313) 255-2222.

Trinity Episcopal Church
Sunday Services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Wednesday service at 6:15 p.m., Bible Studies and Worship Center for all ages, at 11575 Belleville Road, (four miles south of Michigan Avenue),

Belleville. Parents with Young Children Bible Study at 6 p.m. Sundays, includes dinner and child care. Call (734) 699-3361.

Shabbat Rocks
A musical celebration precedes traditional Shabbat service once a month at Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 851-5100 or visit www.adatshalom.org.

English classes
Conversational English as a Second Language classes are being offered for adults of all ages and backgrounds at 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia. Tutors will work on a one-to-one ratio to help students better understand and speak the English language. No charge. To register, call (734) 525-0191 or (734) 522-6830.

Sunday school
Congregation Beit Kodesh, at 31840 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, is registering children, age 4 and up, for Sunday school. Financial assistance available. Special discounts for new members. For more information, call (248) 477-8974.

Services
St. John Lutheran Church (23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills) invites the community to a new worship service at 5:30 p.m. Saturdays. Also, Sunday traditional worship services are at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; contemporary service is at 9:50 a.m.; and Sunday school hour for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. Call (248) 474-0584 for more information.

Single Point Ministries
For ages 30 and older, join more than 350 single adults at 11:30 a.m. Sundays for fellowship and related topics in Knox Hall at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Coffee, doughnuts, conversations are present. Call (248) 374-5920. Tennis continues from 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, and 4-7 p.m. weekdays any time the weather is above 45 degrees, at Rotary Park, Six Mile and Hubbard, Livonia.

Bible talks
4 p.m. Sundays at the Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh, Westland. Call (734) 728-9157.

Worship services
All are welcome to attend worship services 10 a.m. Sundays at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Five Mile and Inkster roads, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 422-1470.

The Gap
A new youth Sunday School (God Always Present) at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, south of Ford Road. Lessons are taught using various media, computers, storytelling, games, cooking, music and art, and a small theater complete with popcorn-making machine. Adult Bible study at 8:30 a.m. with a traditional service and The Gap at 10 a.m. Child care available. Mustard Seed contemporary service at 6 p.m. with refreshments served afterword. Call (734) 421-7620.

Qigong
The ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine. A safe and effective way to rid the body of toxic pathogens and years of painful emotions. Learn the art of natural movement and breath to cultivate vital life energy. Classes at Livonia Unity, 28660 Five Mile. Monday - movement Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday - Qigong meditation, 10-11:15 a.m.; and Friday - Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m. Call (810) 813-4073 for more information or send e-mail to gary@energeticarts.org.

Worship services
At 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays with an education hour from 9:30-10:40 a.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, Westland. Social hour follows each service. Call (734) 722-1735.

Community Bible study
Studying the Book of Proverbs, breakfast at 7 a.m. or Bible study from 8-9 a.m. at the American Table, Eight Mile, Farmington. Come when you can, leave when you must. For more information, call (248) 924-2779.

Contemporary service
New informal service in a casual environment 6 p.m. Sunday at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, south of Ford. Fellowship hour after services including 10 a.m. traditional. Call (734) 421-7620.

Trinity Episcopal Church
Sunday worship 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Bible studies Sundays at 8:50 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m., at the church 11575 Belleville Road, four miles south of Michigan Avenue, Belleville. Call (734) 699-3361.

New contemporary service
9 a.m. on the last Sunday of the month, at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia. A group of church members present a short drama on a theme relevant to the season, a church event, or current newsworthy situation. For more information, call (734) 422-0494.

Prayer group
Join in 7 p.m. Thursdays for music, singing, prayer and friendship at St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Come to the back of the church, enter entrance No. 2. For more information, call Grace at (734) 464-1896, Shirley at (734) 464-3656, or Geri at (734) 464-8906.

Passages
Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances
1-800-579-7355 ♦ fax: 734-953-2232
e-mail: oeobits@hometownlife.com

LAWRENCE J. VONBUSKIRK
Age 63 on December 31, 2006. Loving husband of Dora. Caring father of Renee Tobin, Scott, and Donald. Dear grandfather of eight and great-grandfather of one. Lawrence was a 30-year veteran of the Livonia Police Department. Visitation will be 2-9pm Wednesday at The Livonia Chapel of The Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Road. Funeral services 7pm, Wednesday at the funeral home.

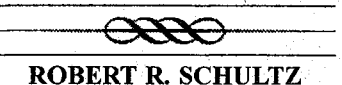
VIRGINIA HASCALL
Beloved wife of the late Richard C. Hascall. Dear mother of Richard Thomas "Tom" (Mary) Hascall & Kent (Patty) Hascall. Loving grandmother of Kimberly, Traci & Grayson Hascall. Sister-in-law of Allan P. (Virginia) Hascall Jr. Also survived by her caregiver & friend Kiesa Jackson. PRIVATE FAMILY SERVICE WAS HELD. INTERMENT: WOODLAWN CEMETERY. ARRANGEMENTS BY THE IRA KAUFMAN CHAPEL 248-549-0020.

SARA VILLARREAL
Age 81, died December 29, 2006. Loving sister to Louis (Obdulia) Romano, Matthew (Lilly) Villarreal and the late Connie Leos and Isadore Castro. Survived by many nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews. Memorial Service at 6:00 pm, January 5, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 38301 Middlebelt Road, (north of 12 Mile) Farmington Hills, MI 48334. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Farmington Hills Baptist Church Missionary Fund at the address above.

BRIGID A. KENNEY
Age 59, December 30, 2006. Beloved daughter of the late Gerald and Anna Mae; loving sister of Gerald F. (Stephanie); Aunt of Brittany, Ryan, Kelsey and Moira. Visitation at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi, 248-348-1800, Thursday, 2-4pm & 6-9pm. In state at Our Lady of Good Council Church, 47650 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth, Friday, 10:00am until the funeral, liturgy at 10:30. Donations to Angela Hospice Home Care, 14100 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, MI 48154. Online sympathy at: www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com



ROBERT HARMON SMITH
Memorial Service, January 6, 2007, 2 p.m. Redwood Terrace-Dittus Hall, 710 W. 13th Ave., Esccondido, CA. Memory Book, call Pat 817-370-2985



ROBERT R. SCHULTZ
Age 79, of Plymouth, died December 28, 2006. He was born March 28, 1927, in Detroit. He was the retired owner of Vico Products in Plymouth. He is survived by his children, Caryn Leah (Timothy) Williams and Curt Randall (Laurie) Schultz; and his grandchildren, Carly Anne Williams, Rachael Faye Schultz, Lindsay Nicole Schultz, Sarah Francis Schultz, and Bryan Scott Williams. He is preceded in death by his wife, Myrlene F., and his son, Craig Robert Schultz. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 30, at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

ROBERT WARREN HAMILTON II
Age 57, passed away on Wednesday, December 27, 2006, in Las Vegas, Nevada, of complications following surgery. Robert graduated from Groves High School, attended the Naval Academy and Wayne State University. He worked for the United States Post Office as a letter carrier in Rochester, Michigan and later served as a supervisor in the Colorado Springs, Colorado Mail Distribution Center. Robert retired from the Postal Service in 2004. He is survived by his mother, Mable Guthrie Hamilton Schuster of Southfield, Michigan and a sister, Susan Hamilton Schaub of Frisco, Texas.

JOSEPH CARLTON
January 1, 2007. Age 78. Beloved husband of Edith for 57 years. Loving father of Joe (Sharon), Martha, Pat (John) Dombrowski, Marianne (Jim) Wahlers and Janice (James) George. Dear grandfather of 17 and great-grandfather of 4. Joe served in the U.S. Navy during WWII, and was a proud Police Officer on the Redford Township Police Department for 26 years. After retirement, he served as Court Administrator for the 17th District Court for 11 years. Funeral Service Friday, 10:00am at the Neely-Turovski Funeral Home, 30200 Five Mile (between Middlebelt and Merriman Roads), Livonia. Visitation Wednesday 5-9pm with an American Legion Honor/Color Guard Ceremony at 7pm, and Thursday visitation from 1-9pm. Donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association or The Salvation Army. Please share your memories or condolences with the family, by signing their online guest book, at www.neely-turovski.com

DOUGLAS STEINHOFF
Age 56, passed away on December 24, 2006 at Riverside Nursing Home in Grand Haven, Michigan following a two-year battle with the complications of diabetes. Born in Northville, Michigan to Karle and Caroline Steinhoff, he was the youngest of four children. He attended Stevenson High School and Schoolcraft College in Livonia. Doug was preceded in death by his father Karle in 2004 and a sister Jean in 2005. He is survived by his sisters: Joan Steinhoff of Holland, Michigan, Janelle Clemente of Rossford, Ohio, Several nephews and nieces. Doug led a talented and colorful life with many jobs. He loved the outdoors, his friends, and animals; especially cats and horses. A wonderful and vital spirit will be missed by his family and those who loved him. Arrangements are by Lakeshore Memorial Services. No services are scheduled at this time. Memorial contributions may be given to Hospice. An on-line registry book is available at www.lakeshorememorial.com

DAVID QUINLAN MOUNT
Age 48 died suddenly December 16, 2006. He was a resident of Teaneck, New Jersey, former resident of Bingham Farms, Michigan. David graduated from Christian Brothers Academy, Syracuse, New York. He attended Villanova University and graduated from Madonna College in Livonia, Michigan in 1984. David worked in collections for Ford Motor Credit and Volkswagen while in Detroit and did the same work with a law firm in New Jersey for three years. He is survived by his daughter, Rachael Mount; parents, Joan and Bert Mount; sisters, Corinne Foster, Jennifer Bombardi and Jody Vorenberg; nieces and nephews, Matthew, Robin, Molly, Melissa, Madeline, Abby, Clay, Quinn, and Claire. Family will receive friends at the Bingham Woods Clubhouse, Friday, January 5, 2007, 2-6pm. Memorials appreciated to The American Heart Association or The Sierra Club.

Obituary and condolences at: lynchfuneraldirectors.com



ELLEN L. TRUESDELL
Age 70, of Plymouth, died December 28, 2006. She was born May 3, 1936, in Detroit. She came to the Plymouth community in 1970, from Grosse Pointe. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority at U of M. She graduated from U of M with a Masters Degree in Education. She was a retired teacher from the Grosse Pointe School District. She loved gardening, baking, and entertaining. She is survived by her husband, Louis; her children, James (Denise), David (Mary Anne), and Lynn Truesdell; and her grandchildren, Kathryn, Melaney, and John "J.P." Funeral from First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church Street, Plymouth, was held on Tuesday, January 2, 2007, Interment Riverside Cemetery, Plymouth. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth. Share memories at: www.schrader-howell.com

ORVEY J. RYDIN
Date of Birth April 19, 1924
Died December 29, 2006

WILLIAM P. MAUCK
Age 87 of Grand Rapids, formerly of Bloomfield Township, MI, passed away Tuesday, January 2, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Jeannette and his children, Kathy Mauck Farkas of Chicago, Karen Kellogg of Grand Rapids, Kristi iDewey of Bellaire, MI, Kimberly Moore of Mountain View, MO and William Mauck of Denver, CO and seven grandchildren. Visitation will be at Metcalf & Jonkhoff of Thursday from 6:00 to 8:00pm and Friday from 1:00 to 2:00pm followed by a private family service. Memorial contributions to the Alzheimer's Association Greater Michigan Chapter, 213 Sheldon Blvd., S.E. Grand Rapids, MI would be appreciated. The family is being served by Metcalf & Jonkhoff Funeral Service, 4291 Cascade Rd., S.E. of Kenmore, East of I-96 metcalfandjonkhoff.com



HELEN JOSEPHINE PARRISH
Brooklyn met Helen Josephine Parrish on April 4, 1921 and it hasn't been the same since. Born into a difficult neighborhood under challenging circumstances, Helen was called upon by her ailing parents, mother Mary Zilincer and father Edwin Ferguson, to care for her younger siblings, Edwin and Dorothy, and succeeded with a determination that would ultimately serve countless others throughout her lifetime. Helen discovered her acting talent during high school and was offered a drama scholarship which she declined in order to take care of her family. When her country called, Helen joined the Army as a WAC and met her future husband, artist Douglas Parrish, in Paris at the end of the war. They moved to the Birmingham area to raise their family, sons Douglas and Donald, and Helen became the Activities Coordinator for the Birmingham Community House. Countless brides and grooms entrusted Helen with their most important day and Helen never failed to deliver. Fortune smiled when Helen realized her acting dream and joined the Birmingham Village Players, acting, directing, and producing numerous plays to critical acclaim. After the death of her husband in 2001, Helen moved to Seattle and made her final curtain call 12/30/06. She will be missed by sons Douglas (Debbie), Don (Janice), grandchildren Matthew, Mark, Michael, and Marisa, and sister Dorothy, as well as a cast of thousands. Donations graciously accepted by the Birmingham Village Players.

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

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

e-mail your obit to: oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Charolette Wilson 734-953-2232 For more information call: Charolette Wilson 734-953-2070 or Liz Keiser 734-953-2067 or toll free 866-818-7653 ask for Char or Liz

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Virgil Humes, Pastor

Saturday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
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Clarenceville United Methodist
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 9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sun. Sch.
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Sunday Worship 8:15 & 11:00 am - Traditional
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(734) 453-5280
www.pfumc.org

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 First Sat. 11:00 a.m.
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 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI
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www.rosedalegardens.org
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 Traditional Service 10:30 am

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 Reading Room located at church
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734-453-0190

Spoken service at 7:45 a.m.
 Contemporary service at 9:00 a.m.
 Traditional service with choir at 11:00 a.m.
 Education for All at 10:00 a.m.
www.stjohnsplymouth.org

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

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

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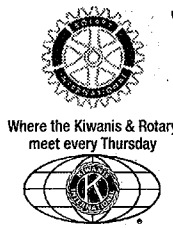
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With mushrooms or meatballs
With mushrooms & meatballs

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Delicious & Homemade. Prepared in our kitchen.

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Includes egg noodles with garlic, spices, romano cheese and cheese sauce

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Antipasto Salad for 1, 2, 4 or 6

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Dressings made with raw egg. Served with bread sticks or crackers. With anchovies upon request

Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad
Small Caesar Salad

Large Caesar Salad

Substitute Small Caesar Salad for dinner salad with dinner only

VEAL SPECIALTIES

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Petite Veal Parmigiana

Veal Scallopine

Lean & tender veal sauteed with green peppers, mushrooms & onions in a special wine & tomato sauce.

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We serve only fresh cut prime beef. We are not responsible for steaks ordered medium well or well done.

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Tips of tenderloin sauteed in mushrooms, green peppers, onions & a very special wine & tomato sauce.

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Jim Brandsatter BBQ Ribs

Fest First Place Winner:

Long End BBQ Ribs.....12.25

Short End BBQ Ribs.....14.10

1st Place BBQ Ribs!

Ribs & Shrimp Combo

Slab of Ribs for Two

With sauteed mushrooms extra

POULTRY

Broasted Chicken

All white meat extra

BBQ Chicken

Ribs & Chicken Combo

Breast of Chicken Parmigiana

Chicken Cacciatore.....12.90

Boneless breast of chicken simmered in a savory wine and tomato sauce with green peppers, onions and mushrooms. Served on bow-tie pasta with one side dish.

Half orders on request less.....1.00

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Hot garlic bread Parmigiana



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FULL PANS (serve approx. 30 people)...\$40.00

HALF PANS (serve approx. 15 people)...\$28.00

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- SLAB OF RIBS ALA CARTE...\$13.95
- MEATBALL...70¢ • COCKTAIL SHRIMP \$1.75 ea.

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ENGLISH STYLE \$8.95
FISH 'N' CHIPS.....**



SLAB of RIBS for TWO
\$17.95

COMPLETE DINNER Includes:
2 Salads or Slaws, and Choice of Spaghetti, Potatoes or Vegetable

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PASTA DAYS
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Two Dinners/\$11.95

MIX or MATCH:
Spaghetti, Mostaccioli or Gnocchi

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SPORTS

B

(CP)

Thursday, January 4, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton resident and former Wayne State University football standout Keith Anleitner is pictured with one of his old college football helmets. Anleitner, an elementary school principal in Garden City, will be inducted into the WSU Hall of Fame in February.

From walk-on to Hall of Fame

Canton resident set for enshrinement at Wayne State

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

As a football player at Garden City East and Wayne State University, nothing got in the way of linebacker Keith Anleitner.

Without a scholarship, he persevered and made the 1973 Tartars as a walk-on despite weighing just 165 pounds. Over four seasons, he went on to knock over running backs with confidence and style — even leading the '75 team to the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

championship.

"For me it was the most important thing I was doing at the time," said the 51-year-old Canton resident about playing WSU football. "I felt it was an expression of who I was, a statement. And I just wanted to do something significant, make a mark."

There is no denying he succeeded. On Saturday, Feb. 3, Anleitner will be inducted into the Wayne State University Athletic Hall of Fame.

"I've been kind of almost embarrassed to talk about it," said Anleitner, a mild-

mannered elementary school principal and church elder who can still crank up his competitive juices as boys basketball coach at Canton Agape Christian. "By the same token, I'm proud of the accomplishment and leaving my name for my kids at the (WSU) Hall of Fame."

MOTIVATIONAL MANTRA

His photograph and name will be part of a plaque to soon adorn the halls of Wayne State's Matthaei Athletic

PLEASE SEE ANLEITNER, B2

Guards lead 'Cats to split

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth basketball team's back court stepped to the forefront during its two-game split in the four-team Plymouth Holiday Tournament held Dec. 28 and 29 in the Wildcats' gym.

Junior guard Myron Puryear poured in 29 points in Friday's 61-40 consolation-game victory over Ontario Riverside. Plymouth junior guard Brandon Roberts led the way with 19 in the Wildcats' 50-48 setback to Madison Heights Bishop Foley one night earlier.

PREP HOOP

The Wildcats will take a 2-3 record into their Jan. 9 Western Lakes Activities Association opener at home against Salem.

Puryear's 29-point explosion, which included a 5-for-7 performance from beyond the 3-point arc, fell just one point short of the school record for single-game scoring.

"We're establishing a good back court with Brandon and Myron back there," said Plymouth co-coach Jason Maschke. "They play well together at both ends of the court."

Southfield (2-2) captured the tournament title by roughing up Bishop Foley, 78-55, in Friday's title game. The Bluejays advanced to the championship showdown by ousting Riverside, 67-47, on Thursday.

The Wildcats nearly pulled off a stunning comeback in Thursday's opener. Trailing 48-36 with 2:01 left, they outscored Bishop Foley,

PLEASE SEE 'CATS, B2

Sidelines

PCS lacrosse registration

■ A mandatory player/parent meeting for the 2007 Plymouth-Canton-Salem boys lacrosse team will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, in the Canton High School library.

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

All prospective players should be accompanied by a parent and must bring a doctor's physical form along with a \$400 registration fee.

For additional information on the team, send an e-mail to rraabe@comcast.net.

Szczechowski lauded

Stefani Szczechowski, a Plymouth resident and 2003 graduate of Livonia Ladywood, recently received several honors after completing her senior season as a goalkeeper for the University of Wisconsin's women's soccer team.

At the team's year-end banquet, the senior captain received the "Coaches Award," which was voted on by her teammates and coaches based on work ethic, leadership and attitude. Additionally, she received the Big 10's All-Academic Award for the third consecutive year.

Szczechowski was a three-time, All-State goalkeeper at Ladywood and a key member of the Michigan Hawks club team for seven seasons. She's majoring in Consumer Science at Wisconsin.

GCYBSA sign-ups

Registration for the Greater Canton Youth Baseball & Softball Association will begin Jan. 15. The GCYBSA offers baseball and softball programs — T-ball through 18U — for residents of Plymouth and Canton, or any child who attends school in Plymouth or Canton.

Registrants may register online at GCYBSA.com; drop off their forms at the Canton Sports Center or the Summit on the Park; or mail them in to the Canton Sports Center. Forms will be available online, at the Canton Sports Center or at the Summit.

There will also be a mass registration at the Summit on the Park on Feb. 11 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, see gcybsa.com or call (734) 394-5489.

McKee excels

Former Canton High School soccer player Erik McKee earned the "Freshman Award" and made the All-Mid-South Conference team following his first season at Georgetown (Ky.) College. A defender, McKee helped the NAIA team to an 8-9-1 record.

New year, same results: Whalers win, 5-0

The Plymouth Whalers welcomed 2007 in high style with a 5-0 triumph over Owen Sound on New Year's Day.

Michal Neuvirth recorded a 27-save shutout for the Whalers, who received two goals from Evan Brophrey and singles from Dan Collins, Joe McCann and Kaine Geldart.

The win moved Plymouth back into first place in the OHL West Division with a record of 24-10-1-2, one point ahead of Saginaw (24-12-0-2) with a game in hand.

Brophrey opened the scoring with seven seconds left in the first period when he worked with Chris Terry behind the Owen Sound net to pick the puck clean from an Attack defender and score on a wrap-around from the right wing side.

McCann scored a shorthanded goal early in the second period when A.J. Jenks picked off a loose pass along the boards in neutral territory and found McCann skating hard in the Owen Sound zone. McCann's quick shot from the left hash mark beat Anthony Guadagnolo.

Plymouth made it 3-0 when Wes Cunningham found Andrew Fournier with a quick hand-manning pass out of the Plymouth zone.

Brophrey scored his second lamp-lighter of the afternoon when he intercepted a bad Owen Sound clearing pass at the mid-point of the Attack blue line and ripped a shot by Guadagnolo.

"We definitely have talent and depth," McCann said. "If the first line

isn't scoring, the second line is chipping in. If the third line doesn't score, than some other line is scoring. The coaches tell us now all the time to win our battles and good things will happen."

The Whalers are proof of that.

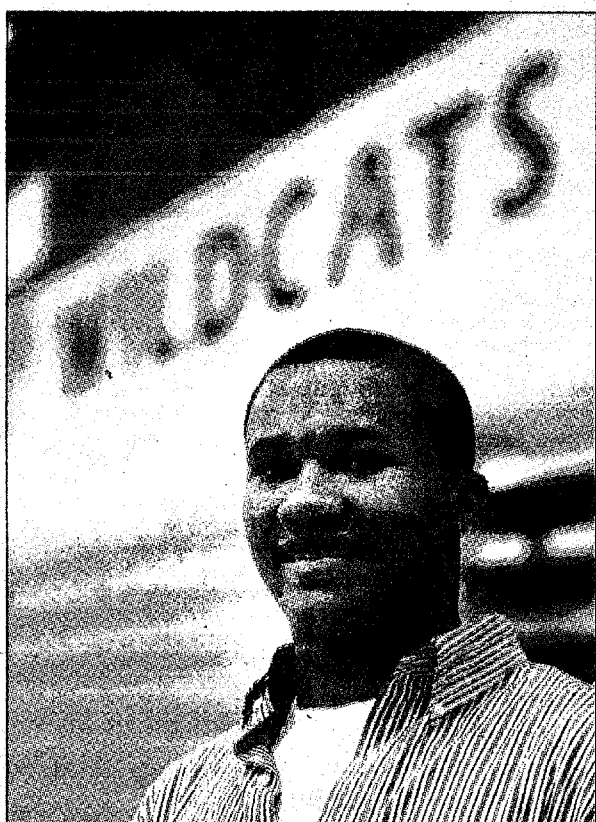
Plymouth plays in London on Friday before returning home Saturday night at 7:05 p.m. to host Saginaw. The Whalers complete a busy weekend Sunday afternoon in Windsor.

On Saturday, the Guelph Storm received shootout goals from rookies Tyler Melancon and Anthony Nigro to come all the way back from a 2-0 deficit to defeat the Plymouth Whalers, 3-2, in an OHL game played Saturday night before 2,727 at the Compuware Sports Arena.



WALT DMOCH

Forward Evan Brophrey has been a key component in the Plymouth Whalers' recent victory surge.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth two-sport athlete Nate Gholston has found incredible success in athletics and academics during the past three-plus years.

Fasci-Nate-ing feats

Gholston shines on the field and in the classroom

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

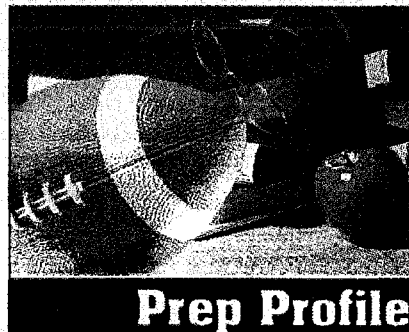
You'll never guess how Nate Gholston scored his first career touchdown as a 9-year-old playing for the Inkster Raiders Pop Warner football team.

Before you guess, you have to take into consideration that Gholston was one of the smallest players on the field that autumn day in 1998.

He was probably one of the fastest players on the gridiron, too, but the then-fourth-grader's sprinter's speed wasn't even a factor on that groundbreaking, end zone-finding play.

"I wasn't real big, but my coach had me playing D-line for some reason," remembered Gholston, chuckling. "Our defensive end smacked the other team's quarterback and the ball went straight up in the air.

When the ball came down, I caught it and ran about 10 yards to the end zone. Once I crossed the goal line, I



Prep Profile

just stood there. I didn't know what to do. My teammates came up to me and screamed, 'You just scored, man!'

"Later that season, my coach figured I was too fast to be playing D-line, so he moved me to running back."

It turned out to be a brilliant move for Gholston, who has been running fast and hard ever since.

In 2005, the explosive tailback was one of Plymouth's primary

weapons in its successful run to the Division 1 state playoffs. This past season, despite a nagging ankle injury, he rushed for close to 1,000 yards and scored a team-high eight TD's.

While the senior's on-the-field feats are impressive, they pale in comparison to the in-the-classroom accomplishments he's piled up at Plymouth.

With a zest to learn that rivals his desire to run over linebackers, Gholston has compiled a 3.48 grade-point average. And thanks in part to a sterling score in a PSAT test he nearly aced last year, Gholston is a semifinalist in the prestigious National Achievement Scholarship competition, which could earn him a \$2,500 college scholarship.

"I take a lot of pride in my sports and my grades," he said. "But I realize my grades are more important

PLEASE SEE GHOLSTON, B2

GHOLSTON

FROM PAGE B1

because — like my mom has told me over and over — I can't play football forever."

Gholston's self-proclaimed favorite subject would appear on many of his peers' list of "Most Feared Classes."

"I love physics," he said, reeling off a three-word sentence that rarely comes out of the mouth of a high-school student. "With physics, you get to take all of the skills you've learned in math classes and put them to use to actually solve something."

"For example, during the first week of school this year, my physics teacher asked the class, 'If a man was standing on a 20-meter cliff looking out on the horizon, how far could he see?' We were all sitting there puzzled. But then he explained how we could figure it out. It's fun seeing the laws of physics at work."

As of late December, Gholston was uncertain which college he would be attending in the fall. This much is clear, though: His next stop on the educational ladder will be at a distinguished institution.

"I've already been accepted to Purdue's College of Engineering, so that's definitely an option," said Gholston, who has also drawn interest — both from an academic and athletic standpoint — from Ivy League giant Harvard.

"We sent one of my football tapes to Harvard and their offensive coordinator called my grandfather (Venus Vesey) and said they were impressed. If Harvard wants me, that's where I'm going. You don't say no to Harvard. That would be a once-in-a-lifetime opportuni-

ty."

Gholston's track-and-field skills — he missed qualifying for the Division 1 state meet in the hurdles last year by less than 1/10th-of-a-second — have attracted attention from Michigan State University.

"Wherever I go — whether it's Harvard or Purdue or some place else — I'm going to at least try to walk on to the football team," he said. "I'm at least going to give it a shot."

Vesey has been much more than a grandparent to Gholston. Despite living almost a half-hour's drive away in Dearborn Heights, Vesey has attended nearly every one of Gholston's high school athletic events and he's always been there to lend a hand to his high-achieving grandson.

"My grandfather never misses my games or meets," said Gholston. "He even comes to some of my practices."

"And I can ask him anything and he'll find the answer. Once I was having trouble with a calculus problem so I asked him if he could help me. He didn't know much about calculus, but he did some research and helped me find the answer. He's definitely one of my role models."

In October, during halftime of a football game in which he scored twice and rushed for over 100 yards — Gholston was crowned Plymouth's Homecoming king.

"That meant a lot to me," he said. "It let me know that I was liked at school — and that a lot of my friends voted for me."

It was a shining night in the life of Nate Gholston.

But not nearly as bright as his future promises to be.

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ANLEITNER

FROM PAGE B1

Complex.

But three decades after making his last tackle for the Tartars (WSU later changed its nickname to Warriors), Anleitner would rather steer attention away from him and remain true to the blue-collar roots that took hold while growing up in Garden City.

With such, he remains the best kind of role model for today's Garden City children who attend his school, Farmington Elementary.

"My dad (Paul, a factory worker) always told me if you work hard and try hard you can accomplish a lot," he said. "That's what I like to get across to kids in Garden City."

"Just because you come from a middle-class community doesn't mean you can't achieve much and have an impact."

It's a platform he uses when trying to motivate his students.

"The first time I left Garden City was to go to a Detroit Tigers game when I was 10," he noted. "I didn't get on a plane until I was in college. So, you can start off with a small beginning and make the most with what you've been given."

Anleitner's upbringing by parents Paul and (now-deceased) Patricia taught him the importance of keeping his nose to the proverbial grindstone. That lesson would help him considerably during his transition from high school to college.

MAKING A SPLASH

At now-defunct Garden City East, the lanky student athlete started to hone his linebacker skills while also competing in baseball and on boys basketball teams coached by the late Billy Joe Young.

During the 1972 football season, Anleitner helped the No. 3-ranked Panthers finish 9-0 and capture the Northwest Suburban League Championship.

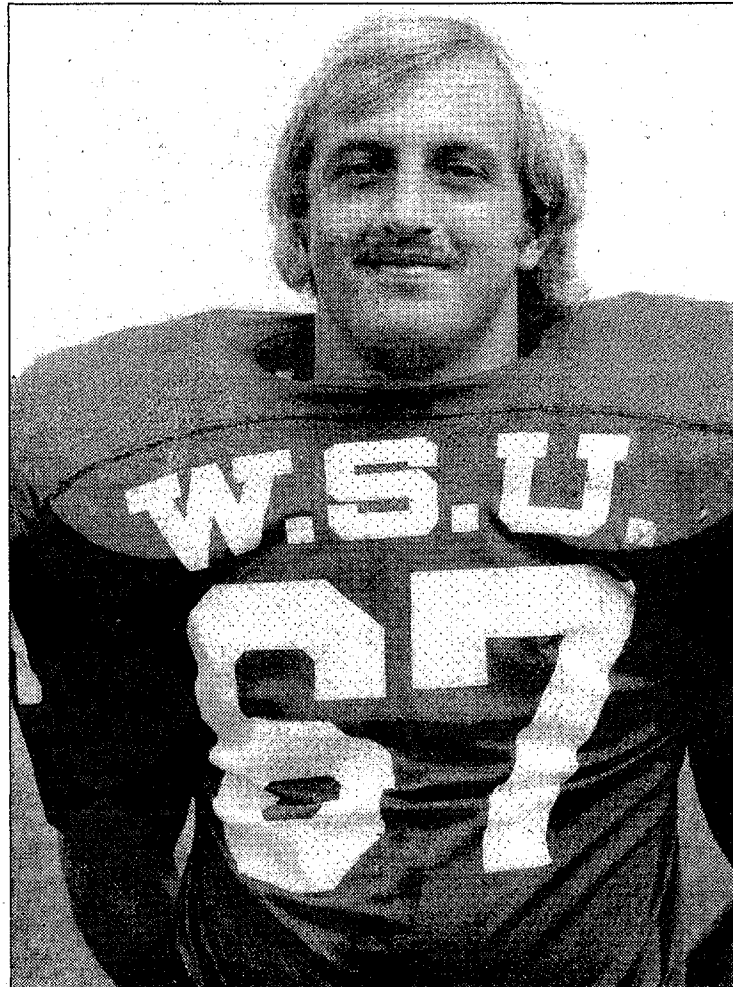
Despite those lofty accomplishments, he was unable to nab a college scholarship, even at Division 2 Wayne State.

Undaunted, he walked onto Wayne State's plush gridiron for preseason workouts and played so well that head coach Dick Lowry couldn't ignore him.

"By mid-season they offered me a tuition scholarship and by the end of the year tuition and books," said Anleitner, who took the Warren Avenue bus to campus from his parents' house.

Beginning with the '73 season and continuing through his 1976 senior year, Anleitner was a defensive stud for the Tartars (amassing college records with 505 tackles and 250 assists).

In 1974 and 1975, he was the team's most valuable defensive back and then won the 1976 Ron Solack No. 35 Award. Other honors included being selected twice to the All-GLIAC First Team.



This 1976 photo of Keith Anleitner is the one that will be included in his Hall of Fame plaque at WSU's Matthaei Athletics Center.

Such personal awards were never what mattered to Anleitner, only the success of the squad.

WSU PRIDE

In fact, the gold and forest green colors worn during his Tartar days still flow through his veins.

Displayed on his Farmington Elementary desk was a tattered helmet, affixed with star-shaped decals representing game-day accomplishments such as fumble recoveries or interceptions.

"It's like Notre Dame," he said with a laugh.

The recent championship by D2 Grand Valley State and the media buzz following the Lakers is something Anleitner would love to see replicated at WSU.

"If Wayne State could increase their winning percentage I think they'd begin to see a little bit more of a return of the alumni," Anleitner emphasized. "It's difficult to get on a bandwagon, they haven't had a winning season in I don't know how long."

Anleitner said he is still finding out details about the Feb. 3 induction ceremonies, which will take place both at the historic, on-campus St. Andrews Church and Matthaei.

But the induction program and reception undoubtedly will give Anleitner and others a chance to reconnect and talk about their 1970s heyday — and about what hopefully might be around the corner at Wayne State.

"When you have something of common interest like a football game, or a basketball game, I think it makes the school more of a community,"

he noted. "That's what Wayne State has really missed."

FULL PLATE

The spotlight is about to shine on Anleitner's college football life. But he is far from a one-trick pony.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education at WSU and later received a master's degree in that field. Before taking over the helm at Farmington Elementary, he was principal at the former Garden City Junior High and spent two years as an assistant principal at Garden City High School.

Agape Christian is the latest of many coaching stops over the past 20 years. Previously, he coached basketball and football at Garden City East, Southgate Aquinas and Marine City Holy Cross, among other schools.

Keith and his wife, Gerry, have four children (Paul, Heather, Jack and Mary) and the couple is active at Agape Family Worship Center in Canton. He also is an Elder at the church.

"We have a strong faith in God," Anleitner said. "You've got single parents in the church, the needs of individuals who are ill, older folks who are ill, children who need instruction in Sunday school."

There also is time to swing by the Summit in Canton.

"I just go up and shoot hoop for half an hour," Anleitner said. "I have to be careful, though. It's 25 minutes playing basketball, 10 minutes in the sauna and 20 minutes lifting."

Even Hall-of-Famers need to stay sharp and show they've still got plenty of game.

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'CATS

FROM PAGE B1

12-2 down the stretch, thanks to a pair of triples — one by junior guard Andy Price and the other from Puryear — in the final 11.7 seconds.

The Ventures sealed the win by converting a length-of-the-court pass following Puryear's three with 1.4 seconds left. Roberts contributed five points in Wildcats' late charge.

Bishop Foley, which was paced by Clifton Powell's 18 points, led 13-7 after one quarter, 22-17 at the half and 35-24 with eight minutes to play.

Plymouth outrebounded Bishop Foley, 35-22, but was hampered by 21 turnovers. Puryear chipped in with nine points and four rebounds. Junior center Jake Hager chalked up six points and a game-high 10 rebounds while senior forward Austin Barnett had six and five, respectively.

The Wildcats used the long ball to jump to an early lead against Riverside. Puryear drained three first-quarter triples and junior forward Mike Hanchett buried one to spark the 'Cats' 16-15 first-quarter lead. Puryear, Price and Roberts all hit shots from beyond on the arc in the second quarter, which ended with Plymouth comfortably in front, 33-22.

Plymouth cushioned its lead to 46-31 after three quarters and was never threatened in the fourth.

Roberts and Hager complemented Puryear on the offensive end with 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Hanchett pulled down a game-high eight rebounds; Puryear and senior forward Wes Shelton both notched six boards.

Six-foot-seven junior Jason Gander led the Rebels with 15 points. Senior guard Ryan Robinet added 13.

"We got a lot of solid minutes from a lot of players against Riverside," said Plymouth co-coach Tom Van Wagoner. "We did a better job of taking care of the ball, too, than we did the night before."

"We did a nice job of creating the pace tonight," added Maschke, following his team's 21-point triumph. "We pushed the ball up the court a little more than we have been doing. We're not the biggest team in the world, so to be successful we're going to have to be an up-and-down-the-court team. We're going to have to use our athleticism and speed to create the tempo we want."

Plymouth connected on 24-of-58 field goals (41.3 percent) while holding its Canadian visitors to just 34.7 percent shooting (16-of-46). Both teams struggled from the free-throw line, canning just 3-of-8 attempts (37.5).

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Wildcat spikers 2nd in 'Silver'

Plymouth's volleyball team advanced to the finals in the Silver Division of last week's University of Michigan-Dearborn Tournament before getting upended by Carlton Airport in two sets. The Wildcats advanced to the Silver title match by knocking off Riverview Gabriel Richard (23-25, 25-23, 15-7) and Royal Oak

Shrine (25-11, 23-25, 15-9) in the single-elimination portion of the tournament. The Wildcats received strong efforts from several players, including Chelsey Quinlan (45 digs), Clare Baptist (53 assists), Rachel Heaton (42 digs), Brittany Hengesh (20 blocks, 27 kills) and Courtney Buttermore (37 digs).

Upcoming Home Games

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MONDAY - 1/15 VS. MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES • 3:30 PM
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WEDNESDAY - 1/17 VS. UTAH JAZZ • 7:30 PM
PISTONS PLAYER SCHEDULE CARD TO FIRST 10,000 FANS COURTESY OF *TV*

SATURDAY - 1/20 VS. SACRAMENTO KINGS • 7:30 PM
PISTONS BASEBALL STYLE HAT TO FIRST 5,000 FANS **SOLD OUT** COURTESY OF *National City*

THE WEEK AHEAD

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>BOYS BASKETBALL
Friday, Jan. 5
Canton at Salem, 7 p.m.
M.H. Madison at Clarencville, 7 p.m.
Thurston at Redford Union, 7 p.m.
Northville at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 4
Ply. Christian at Clarencville, 6:30 p.m.
Light & Life at Luth. Westland, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6
Macomb CC Tournament, 8 a.m.
Clawson Tournament, 8 a.m.
Grand Valley Invitational, 8 a.m.
W.L. Central Invitational, 9 a.m.</p> <p>PREP HOCKEY
Thursday, Jan. 4
Royal Oak vs. Redford Unified at Redford Arena, 7:15 p.m.
Ladywood vs. G.P. South at Detroit City Arena, 7:30 p.m.
(Pioneer Tourney at A.A. Ice Cube)
Churchill vs. Milford, 5 p.m.
Birm. Unified vs. A.A. Pioneer, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 5
Pioneer Tourney at Ice Cube, 5 & 7:30 p.m.
Franklin vs. Farmington at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Plymouth at Woodhaven Tourney at the Icebox, TBA
Saturday, Jan. 6
Plymouth at Woodhaven Tourney at the Icebox, TBA
Detroit Country Day at Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m.
Stevenson vs. W.L. Central at Lakeland Ice Arena, 3:30 p.m.
Redford Unified at Troy, 6:15 p.m.
Ladywood vs. G.P. North at Arctic Pond, 6:30 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Thursday, Jan. 4
Churchill at Salem, 6:30 p.m.
Wayne at Franklin, 6:30 p.m.
Stevenson at John Glenn, 6:30 p.m.</p> | <p>Canton at Plymouth, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6
Fordson Invitational, 8:45 a.m.
Wyandotte Invitational, 9:30 a.m.
South Lyon Invitational, 10 a.m.
Troy Invitational, 10 a.m.
Richmond Invitational, 9 a.m.</p> <p>BOYS SWIMMING
Thursday, Jan. 4
U-D Jesuit, Saline at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Woodhaven at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6
W. Bloomfield Invitational, 9 a.m.
W.L. Northern Invitational, 1 p.m.</p> <p>GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Thursday, Jan. 4
Canton at Brighton, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6
Canton at Rockford Invitational, 10 a.m.</p> <p>MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Thursday, Jan. 4
S'craft at Scottsdale CC (Ariz.), TBA.
Saturday, Jan. 6
Indiana Tech at Madonna, 3 p.m.
Schoolcraft at Henry Ford CC, 3 p.m.</p> <p>WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Jan. 6
Madonna at Indiana Tech, 1 p.m.
Schoolcraft at Henry Ford CC, 1 p.m.</p> <p>ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Friday, Jan. 5
Whalers at London Knights, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6
Whalers vs. Saginaw Spirit at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 7
Whalers at Windsor Spitfires, 2 p.m.</p> <p>MAJOR INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE
Friday, Jan. 5
Det. Ignition vs. Chicago Storm at Compuware Arena, 7:35 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6
Ignition at Baltimore Blast, 7:35 p.m.</p> <p>TBA - time to be announced.</p> |
|--|--|

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MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Part time for orthopedic office in Bloomfield Hills. Exp. preferred. 248-334-4535

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Wanted. 30-36 hours per week. Physical Therapy & insurance knowledge helpful. Willing to train. Bingham Farms area. Benefits available. Fax resume: 248-647-1472

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Upbeat, hardworking part time for fast paced 2 doctor internal medicine office in Southfield. EKG, PF, venipuncture etc. Resume & ref's req. Competitive salary. Call Leslie 248-559-6585

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Busy wellness center needs front desk, dynamic, multi-task, good PR & computer skills. Insurance exp. helpful. Fax: 734-453-9992

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Help Wanted-Medical 5060

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Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080

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Must be able to coordinate the production, sales & distribution of bakery products. A knowledge of variety & quantity of bakery & pastries for production. 2 yrs exp preferred. Fulltime position w/ benefits. Send resume to Joe's Produce 33152 7 Mile Rd., Livonia, MI 48152 Attn: Chef Keith

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Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080

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Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080

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Help Wanted-Sales 5120

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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

REFINED AND FULL OF LIFE

Very attractive blonde, fit, energetic and happy, professionally employed, very youthful 60s, 5'3", trim and shapely, enjoys dining, travel, dancing, theater, family and friends. Seeking honest, handsome, fit, 55+, college grad, N/S, with youthful passion for life. Serious replies only. ☎652360

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. ☎947175

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 his interests and more. ☎600106

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

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

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

SOULMATE SEARCH

Slim, attractive, 57-yr-old JF looking for her soulmate, any sincere, successful JM, between the ages of 54-64, please respond. ☎589875

IS IT YOU?

SWF, 56, tall, trim, seeks hard-working or retired, conservative SWM, 5'11"+, 58-65, with good values, educated, no tattoos, drugs, or games please. ☎138981

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

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

LOVES BOATING

SWF, 65, 5'6", Aries, N/S, loves dancing and dining out. Seeking WM, 60-71, N/S, with sense of humor, for friendship, possible romance. ☎890004

LOOKING FOR YOU

Attractive SWF, Catholic, 59, N/S, 5'6", good shape, seeks WM, 53-70, N/S, who enjoys golf, movies, theater, dining, long walks, church, and much more. ☎124235

SEEKING SPECIAL GENT

DWF, 63, attractive, well-dressed, sincere, loving, optimistic, likes theater, travel, dining, fitness. Wishing to meet a non-smoking WM, 58-70, for possible romance. ☎630808

PETITE & SEXY...

SBF, sensitive, affectionate, loving, 51, looks 35, 5'1", 105lbs, NS. Seeking healthy SBM, 5'10"-6'1", to work out with. ☎912553

LOOKING 4 GENTLEMAN

Attractive, professional, educated WF, 55, 5'2", slim, N/S. Interest include movies, concerts, comedy clubs, jazz, dancing, dining out, family ties. Seeking WM, 48-55, HWP, for lasting, loving LTR. ☎973905

POSSIBLE LTR

SWPF, 57, 5'7", attractive, slender, athletic, Scorpio, N/S, enjoys sports, concerts, dining out, seeks WPM, 55-61, N/S, educated, healthy, humorous, possible LTR. ☎993381

MADE TO ORDER

SWF, 52, attractive, Pisces, N/S, nice, educated, secure, fun, enjoys sporting events, movies, camping, travel, theater, seeks WM, 45-56, N/S, possible romance. ☎93487

59 YEARS OLD ENTREPRENEUR

Pretty, charming SWF, successful, kind, compassionate, lots of fun, looking for her knight in shining armor. Any sincere, caucasian gentleman, 55-80, please respond. Hopefully we'll be each others soul mates. ☎592074

FAMILY-ORIENTED

Beautiful, shapely SBF, 34, 5'4", likes reading, long walks, working out, movies, plays, concerts, spontaneous trips, travelling, 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

WIFW, 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

HI EVERYONE

SF, 18, seeks nice, easygoing guy who knows how to have fun, and knows how to treat a lady. Friendship first. ☎142588

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. ☎958929

SOMEONE SPECIAL

Fun-loving, attractive SWF, 70, 5'5", 135lbs, blonde, retired, N/S, seeks well-groomed WM, 65-72, N/S, to share life, romance, and possible relationship. ☎891247

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. ☎990369

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

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

NEW TO AREA

SWM, 36, 6'5", athletic build, dark blond/blue, enjoys sports, outdoors, music, movies, cooking and more. Seeking creative, fun lady with an open mind and heart to share friendship and fun. ☎140890

WAITING FOR YOU

SBM, 5'11", cute dimples, mustache, independent. Seeking honest, slender, attractive SBF, 18-20, for friendship, romance and more. ☎149897

CALL ME

Cool, fun guy, 18, dark complexion, dark brown eyes, looking for cool, sweet chick to chill with and get to know. call me. ☎155548

MAYBE YOU'RE THE ONE

SWM, 26, enjoy road trips with friends, movies, sports, sightseeing, dinners out, drinks, good company, good talks, Looking for a nice lady to share these. ☎155622

A GOOD MAN STILL EXISTS

WIFW, 68, retired, honest, independent, 5'8", 198lbs, enjoys golf, dining, home life, quiet times. Seeking like-minded lady, 55-68, for friendship/LTR. St. Heights. ☎115273

HUGGABLE TEDDY BEAR

SWM, 6', medium built, 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

HI LADIES

Sweet, genuine SBM, 38, 6', 320lbs, good-looking, warm smile, enjoys writing, reading, drawing, music and much more. Seeking real, fun, open-minded lady to share the good times. ☎152105

WORTH IT

Sweet, real SBM, 49, fit, 6'3", 245lbs active simple and honest likes jogging, playing basketball, R&B, cooking, home life. Seeking good-hearted, compassionate woman beautiful inside/out, to share a little happiness. ☎154783

LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN

SBM, 35, 6'2", N/S, independent, enjoys bowling and comedy shows. Seeks SBF, 26-36, for dinner dates, recreational activities on the weekends, good conversation and much more. ☎155319

LET'S BE FREE TOGETHER

SBM, 6', 220lbs, physically fit, retired, well-educated. I would like to meet a single female 52-62, who is understanding, loving and caring, for a LTR. ☎869189

A SPECIAL GUY

DWM, 56, 5'10", handsome and secure, seeks honest S/DWF, w/sense of humor, who enjoys travel, candlelight dinners, plays, dancing, concerts, boating, and movies. Friendship, possible LTR. ☎269646

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU

SBM, 44, 5'9", 150lbs, father, enjoys gourmet cooking, beach walks, sunshine, soft rock, much more. Seeking a loving, happy lady to share the special times in life. ☎151943

SHARP

Easygoing SBM, 39, enjoys movies, music, long drives, gourmet tea, live music, much more. Seeking spontaneous SWF, 37-50, for friendship good times, good talks and maybe more. ☎152047

GOT TIME?

SBM, 46, 6'3", average build, seeks down-to-earth, gentle, honest SF, 35-55, for dinner dates, good conversation, walks in the park, or just hanging out watching a good movie. ☎154257

TALL, MUSCULAR SWM

47, 6'2", 205lbs, athletic, part time personal trainer, brown/blue, degreed, outgoing personality, enjoys outdoors, working out, new activities, seeking friendly SF, age/location open. ☎531308

YOU INTERESTED IN ME?

SBM, 50, 5'8", medium-build, N/S, fun-loving personality, likes dancing, movies, dining out. Seeking passionate, sexy SF, 28-50, small-to-medium build, race open, kids ok, for friendship, possible LTR. ☎946417

LET'S BE FRIENDS

SBM, 5'10, 205lbs, N/S, enjoys riding bikes, walking in the park, rap music, sports and working-out. Seeking SW/ AF, 36-42, for companionship, romance and more. ☎149349

IT COULD BE YOU

SWM, 42, 5'11", 185lbs, looking for fun-loving, easygoing SF to enjoys talks, casual times and then who knows. Let's talk. ☎150204

JUST A CALL AWAY

SBM, 36, 6'1", medium build dark complexion, shaved head, almond shape eyes, down-to-earth. Looking to meet similar lady to share a little love and romance. ☎151282

LOOKING FOR A SINGLE LADY

Looking for a SF, 20-30, to get know and possibly lead to marriage. One who is helpful and down-to-earth, who can accept a man who may have a learning disability. ☎152775

READ THIS AD!

Handsome SBM, 29, seeks SW/ BF, 21-40, must be energetic, mature and kind-hearted, for dinner dates, outdoor activities, conversation, or watching a good movie. ☎152773

IT TAKES TWO

SBM, 36, enjoys movies, reading and socializing, seeks spontaneous, articulate, attractive, open-minded SF, 45+, who know how to enjoy life, for friendship, romance and more. ☎152776

THE BEGINNING

SWM, 54, 5'9", N/S, d/d-free, open-minded, seeks active SF, for sharing of conversations, dates, fun and more. ☎154318

READ THIS AD!

Handsome 5'10", BM, 23, seeks SB/ WF, who knows how to treat a good man and knows how to have fun, looking for friendship first, maybe more. ☎154423

KING LOOKING FOR QUEEN

SBM, 20s, 5'11", medium build, N/S, good sense of humor and personality. Seeks SBF, 18-24, for friendship, romance and more. ☎154524

LOOKING FOR LOVE

Attractive, kind, romantic SBM, 50, 5'9", 190lbs, level-headed, sincere, loving, respectful and God-fearing, seeks one down-to-earth, faithful lady. ☎154790

GOOD LOOKING...

SBM, 21, 5'8", 175lbs, masculine build, likes dancing, skating and music. Seeks SF, 19-28, N/S, out-going, honest, with similar interests, for companionship, romance and more. ☎155283

LOVE COMFORT, LAUGHTER

SWM, 49, 5'9", 195lbs, is nuts about nature, enjoys the outdoors, fishing, etc. Seeks compatible SWF, to have and hold. ☎114846

LOVE COMFORT LAUGHTER

SWM, 49, 5'9", 195lbs, is nuts about nature, enjoys the outdoors, fishing, etc. Seeks compatible SWF, to have and hold. ☎992943

SERIOUS WOMAN WANTED

SBM, 46, looking for that special persona for LTR, someone who enjoys walks, movies, sporting events, cuddling at home. Please be shapely, independent and know what you want in life. ☎692418

ROMANTIC & ATTRACTIVE

DWM, 60, 5'11", 190lbs, seeks nice-looking lady to help share each others heart, and lives daily adventures. ☎146279

WORTH A CALL

SWM, 48, 6', 175lbs, N/S, homeowner, hard-working, easygoing, honest, secure, enjoys motorcycling, hunting, the outdoors. Seeking honest, secure, attractive slim/fit woman, 25-50, N/S, D/D-free. ☎956910

A GOOD CATCH

SWM, 30, athletic, shaved/blue. Seeking SW/ HF, 21+, with good personality, kind-hearted, who likes dining out, cocktails and more. ☎154141

WAITING FOR LOVE

SWM, 28, 5'11", brown/hazel, honest, romantic, trust-worthy and mature, seeks SF, 18-40, with same qualities, for friendship, possible LTR. ☎149422

HERE COME LOVE

SWM, 53, cheerful, loving, enjoys scenic rides, cooking, movie theaters and long walks. Seeking a loving, caring, honest SF, for companionship, romance and more. ☎149842

ANSWER THIS AD!

SBM, 33, athletic build, likes being indoors watching movies, listening to music and cuddling on the couch. Seeking SW/ HF, 20+, for sharing of conversations, dates, fun and more. ☎152913

PRINCE CHARMING

Educated SBM, enjoys dining out, jazz music, reading and cooking. Seeking SF, 27-49, N/S, for dinner dates, recreational activities on the weekends, good conversation and much more, possible LTR. ☎153040

LET'S GET TOGETHER

SM, 5'8", professional body builder, N/S, N/D, enjoys bowling, playing billiard and is adventurous. In search of a mature, confident, vibrant woman, to fill the missing piece in my heart. ☎150885

TAKE A CHANCE

SWM, 33, hard-worker, family-oriented, seeking SH/ WF, 24-44, for dinner dates, good conversation, walks in the park, or just hanging out watching a good movie. ☎152977

LONELY & READY

SWM, 49, average build, Italian, heart of gold, Virgo, N/S, seeks WF, 45-55, with a nice build, ready for LTR. Serious replies only. Redford Area. ☎860305

SEARCHING FOR LADY LOVE

SM, 51, 5'11", 185lbs, enjoys the outdoors, boating, dining out, music, long walks, etc. Seeking honest, caring SF, who enjoys same activities, for companionship, friendship and romance. ☎146012

TRUE GENTLEMAN

SBM, 52, 5'8", 185lbs, looking for a medium to full-figured SBF, 46-54. Someone who is worldly, nice, loves to laugh and just enjoying life to the fullest. ☎912726

NICE GUY

SWM, 66, 5'6", 150lbs, manufacturers' representative, Libra, N/S, works out, enjoys movies, restaurants, and summer festivals. Seeking SWF, 50-65, N/S. Shirley, please call back. ☎708126

CUTTO THE CHASE

SBCM, 51, 6'3", 250lbs, N/S, enjoys plays, concerts, country drives, ISO SWF, for friendship and much, much more. Age open. ☎121414

LET'S TALK

Laid-back SWM, 52, smoker, brown/brown, likes riding Harley's, the country, seeks open, honest WF, 35-54, for possible LTR. ☎124193

SERIOUS

SWM, 71, N/S, widowed, 5' 8", 150lbs, young at heart, enjoys outdoors, cooking, dining out, traveling, seeks slim, petite female, 62-70, N/S. ☎118483

FRIEND AND CONFIDANT

SWM, 74, active, educated, financially-secure, seeking a nice woman. Join me for dining, dancing, and classical music. I'm a good listener, and would love to hear from you! ☎139382

THAT'S ALL

SWM, 66, tall, thin, Scorpio, N/S, seeks WF, 60-68, N/S, old-fashioned, slim, fit, humorous, possible romance. ☎116761

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Sale by **LILLY M. & CO.**

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FORD'S FREESTAR A HARD-WORKING FAMILY MINIVAN

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Wendy Clem
Avanti News Features



Ford Motor Co.'s slogan is: "We want everything about your Ford to work as hard as you do." Well, the 2007 Freestar minivan keeps that promise, and at \$24,000, comes at a price even frugal people will appreciate.

Available in three models - SE, SEL, and Limited - the Freestar offers three-row seating to carry seven passengers as well as 15 cubic feet in cargo space, even with the third seat in use.

This provides consumers 70 percent more room than Ford's nearest competitor, and the third seat will also stow in the load floor for maximum cargo space.

Without passengers, that cargo zone is ample enough to transport a full-sized kayak in its 91.7 cubic feet of open area.

The minivan's second- and third-row seats are theater-style, and the innovative third-row Tailgate Bench Seat allows it to be reversed for group gatherings and lift-gate picnics.

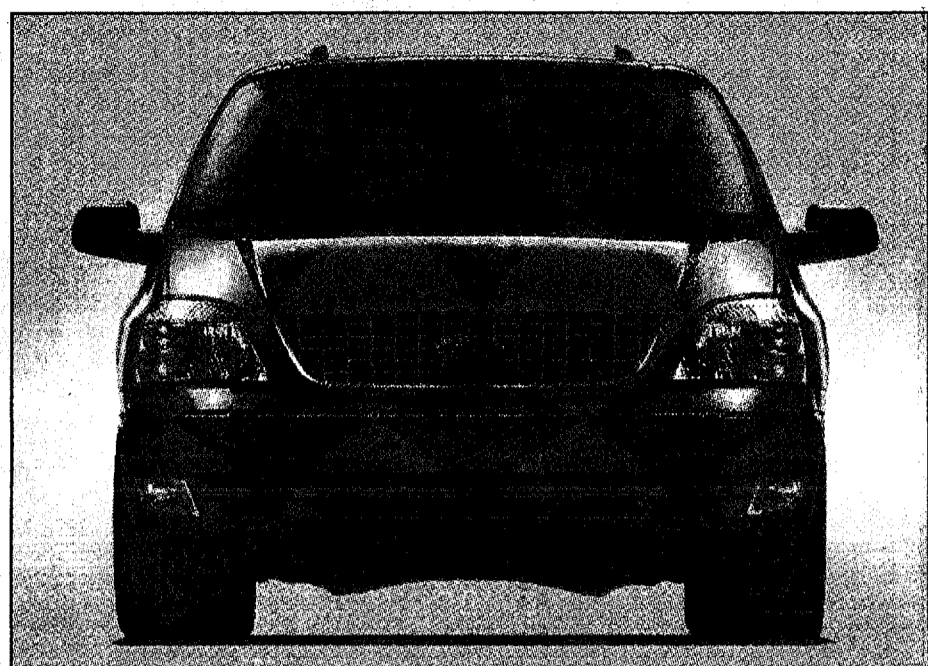
Renamed in 2004, the Windstar became the Freestar with Ford's plan to create only cars beginning with the letter "F." But a vehicle by any name with the Freestar's safety features earns major kudos, as is obvious in its awards.

The Freestar received the top five-star frontal crash test rating from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration from 2004 through 2006, and was named a Best Pick by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, IIHS.

It also got the institute's nod for a top rating for preventing neck injuries during rear crashes - the only minivan to have done so.

The Freestar's optional Safety Canopy with Rollover Sensor protects all three rows by deploying side curtain airbags during certain side crashes or rollovers. Other safety options include an anti-skid system with brake assist and traction control, Advance Trac. Reverse Sensing System is another warning device and is an add-

2007 Ford Freestar. Vehicle class: Minivan. Power: 4.2-liter V6 engine. Mileage: 17 city / 23 highway. Where built: Oakville, Ontario. Base price: \$23,705.



on feature. The anti-lock braking system is standard. As part of a commitment to dispense more standard safety features, value and advanced technology, Ford went the extra mile by offering the longer five-year/60,000-mile powertrain limited warranty.

The warranty - fully and complementarily transferable to any future vehicle owners - covers the transmission, engine, and more, with no deductibles for repairs. Consumers benefit by free roadside assistance for the entire warranty period, including towing, lock-out services and emergency fuel.

The industrious Freestar has power to spare on climbs in hilly terrain, and easily cools the interior for the hottest climate. The 4.2-liter V6 engine in the SE model has a 4-speed transmission with 201 horsepower and 263 foot pounds of torque.

Two possible V6 engines are Freestar choices. The 3.9-liter brings a maximum of 193 horsepower with 240 foot pounds of torque, along with the greater power of the 4.2-liter. The smaller is on base models in the U.S. and the latter standard on all Canadian models.

The front features independent suspension, with semi-independent suspension powering up the rear.

Leg and head room and passenger volume are pluses, and the Freestar earned a 5.2 consumer rating at

edmunds.com <http://www.edmunds.com/>.

The instrument panel is outfitted with the popular faux wood accents of high-end autos as well as highly visible in-dash gauges.

Optional navigational help is available with the Freestar's global positioning system, which also furnishes a 6.5-inch color DVD screen and voice directions as well as DVD mapping. A DVD entertainment extra is also offered.

The Freestar shares a design with its twin, the Mercury Monterey. The second passenger row comes with standard captain's chairs or can be ordered with bench seating for three.

Choosing a trim level means picking from five possibilities: Freestar (base), SE, Sport, SEL and Limited.

Whatever the trim and options you choose, the basic Freestar credo shows that it's working hard for you.

Wendy Clem covers the automotive beat for Avanti NewsFeatures. Write her at wendyclem@gmail.com. Mail to: wendyclem@gmail.com @2006, Fracassa Communications.

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Lou LaRiche Chevrolet 888-372-9836

Chevrolet 8420

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Chevrolet 8440

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Pontiac 8680

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Pontiac 8700

AZTEK 2002, gold, save, air, auto, only \$5,995.
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Pontiac 8720

GRAND PRIX GT 2004, white, auto, air, \$12,495.
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GRAND PRIX GT2 2004, leather, moonroof, 29K, black, \$13,495.
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GRAND PRIX GT 2004, loaded, silver, \$11,995.
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FORD F-150 SUPER CAB XLT 2001 Fireside red, low miles, 1 owner, tonneau, chrome, \$10,950.
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CHEVY SILVERADO 2006 Reg cab 4x4, blue, only 11,000 miles, loaded, \$17,950.
JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

CHEVY SILVERADO LS 2004 Reg cab 4x4, blue, only 11,000 miles, loaded, \$17,950.
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GMC SIERRA 2002 Crew Cab 4x4, leather, only \$15,995.
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CHEVY CORVETTE 1994 Convertible, black, auto, Winter year end special, \$13,995.
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Bob Jeannotte Pontiac (734) 453-2500

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AZTEK 2002, gold, save, air, auto, only \$

Mary Klemic, editor . (248) 901.2569 . mklemic@hometownlife.com

www.hometownlife.com

From russet to clay, modern colors look natural and comforting, particularly when compared to the jewel-toned burgundy or navy blue hues made popular in the 1990s.



Debra Volanski, of Debra Designs in Canton, combines warm earthtones in a playful way to create this artistic living room.

DEBRA VOLANSKI



BETH SINGER

Margaret Skinner, owner of Margeaux Interiors Inc., painted the ceiling of this foyer two shades darker than the walls, a current trend in home interiors.

Let's examine intelligence of smartphones

Can a smartphone make you smarter? Probably not, but it can help you work smarter, and that's a goal worth pursuing.

I recently got the chance to try three of the latest and greatest models: the BlackBerry 8703e, the LG enV VX9900 and the Motorola Q.

All three came from Verizon Wireless, though the BlackBerry is also available from Cingular (as the 8700c) and T-Mobile (8700g), and Sprint is expected to offer the Q in the near future.

I tend to be a harsh critic when it comes to phones, mostly because I dislike their unintuitive, overcomplicated menu systems.

That's why I've always been partial to Palm's Treo line: the friendly, familiar Palm Operating System offers tap-and-go simplicity.

Not so the BlackBerry, enV and Q, which rely on scroll-wheel or number-pad navigation.

Still, despite their somewhat steep learning curves, these smartphones pack considerable power. Let's take a look at the pros and cons of each model.

RIM BLACKBERRY 8703E

Not too different from the original e-mail-only BlackBerry, the 8703e combines savvy phone features with RIM's unsurpassed e-mail capabilities.

Put simply, new messages get "pushed" to the device as they arrive, meaning you don't have to manually retrieve your mail. For anyone whose life revolves around their inbox, it's easy to see how the nickname "Crackberry" came to be.

The 8703e's thumb keyboard features relatively large, rectangular keys, and though they seemed a bit cramped, I found I could type quite accurately.

I also liked the BlackBerry's bright, colorful screen, fast start-up and reasonably uncluttered interface. Once you learn the intricacies of scroll-wheel/back-button navigation, you should be able to zip along.

Unfortunately, the 8703e suffers from a somewhat weak Web browser (due in part to its small screen) and, surprisingly, a lack of instant-messaging software. For a device that so excels at e-mail, you'd think IM would be second nature.

LG ENV VX9900

At first glance, the LG enV looks like a traditional candy-bar phone.

Open it up, however, and you're treated to a roomy screen and even roomier keyboard, by far the best of the bunch for composing messages.

The enV also boasts a two-megapixel camera that actually takes decent snapshots (provided you turn off the autofocus, which adds interminable shutter lag). It even has stereo speakers for listening to music without headphones.

I really wanted to like this phone. The design is just about perfect: comfortably curvy and narrow, but with that great QWERTY keyboard inside the clamshell. And I found voice quality and volume to be quite good.

Unfortunately, Verizon's costly, clumsy implementations of e-mail and instant messaging make this phone unworthy of envy.

To get mail, for instance, you have to download a special program and pay an extra \$20 per month, or install Verizon's Wireless Sync software on your PC, which forwards mail to the phone (and requires your PC to remain on at all times).

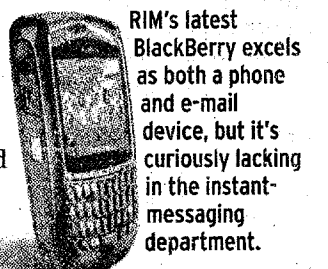
As for instant messaging, you can connect with AIM, MSN and Yahoo networks, but each message you send or receive is treated as a text message — and billed accordingly.

Much as I like the enV hardware, Verizon's service charges will quickly put me in the poorhouse. Thanks, but no thanks.

MOTOROLA Q

Thin, sexy and more multimedia-savvy than either the BlackBerry or the enV, the Motorola Q turns heads like few other smartphones.

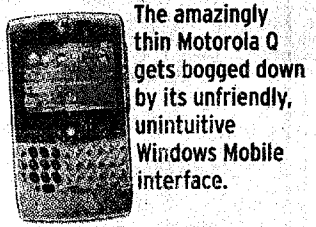
It includes a 1.3-



RIM's latest BlackBerry excels as both a phone and e-mail device, but it's curiously lacking in the instant-messaging department.



Verizon's impressively designed enV features a two-megapixel camera and comfortable QWERTY keyboard, but it doesn't play well with e-mail and IM.



The amazingly thin Motorola Q gets bogged down by its unfriendly, unintuitive Windows Mobile interface.

PLEASE SEE BROIDA, D2

Think warm colors,

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to predicting the future, local interior designers say rich warm tones and clean-lined elegance will rule home decor in the new year.

Margaret Skinner, owner of Birmingham-based Margeaux Interiors Inc., focuses solely on residential interior design. She's been doing so for eight years.

Skinner said she's noticed that her clients tend to lean toward more environmentally-friendly materials these days, when renovating their living spaces. From bamboo to eucalyptus, flooring options are more interesting than ever.

"These are much more renewable," said Skinner. "I'm finding people are using more recyclable items. They are re-using items in a new way — salvaging tile or brick, recycling glass for mosaic tile."

Skinner attributed this trend to two things — the state of Michigan's sluggish economy and clients who are more environmentally aware. "I'm trying to promote that, too," she said, "more awareness of our own resources."

And Skinner said you don't have to sacrifice high-style to do so.

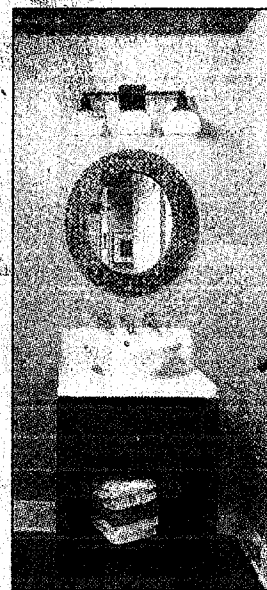
"People do want to hold onto what they have," said Debra Volanski, owner of Debra Designs in Canton. She too is seeing a trend toward re-using and re-mix-

simple decor for 2007



BETH SINGER

Wainscoting, molding, and a window seat add detail in this living room, designed by Margaret Skinner.



BETH SINGER

Margaret Skinner enhanced this small powder room with tin ceiling.

PLEASE SEE DECOR, D2

Full steam ahead for a tasty and healthy New Year

The festivities are officially over. Most of us will have to pay for the sins of holiday overindulgence — too many second helpings of rich, fatty foods, too many pastries and chocolate.

Enough! The good news is that mending your ways doesn't have to mean cutting out flavor. In fact, steaming food is a good way to retain not only flavor, but color and

nutrients as well, creating a festive-looking as well as healthful, diet-conscious entrée.

Steaming is one of the gentlest ways to cook. The even, moist heat of the steam envelops the food, allowing it to retain its natural juices and nutrients.

There are many different varieties of steamers in many sizes, shapes and price levels. If you don't

own one, you can easily fashion a steamer at home.

Start with a deep pot, deep enough to hold two to three inches of boiling water, a stand of some kind to hold a plate, and the plate of food to be steamed. The pot should be wide enough to allow about an inch of space between the plate and the pot, to allow steam to circulate evenly. A tight-fitting lid is also nec-

essary.

The plate that holds the food should be heatproof, with a little depth to it so it can hold any juices that might be produced as the food steams.

The plate of food can be set on any kind of heat-proof stand or rack that will keep it stable and high

PLEASE SEE HEALTHY, D3

Purtan column to return

Off the Air with Dick Purtan & Purtan's People will return next week.

This remedy usually fixes disposer

Mrs. Barringer writes: "I have a garbage disposer that didn't run when I turned it on. I heard a humming sound for 10 seconds or so and now when I turn it on, nothing happens. Do you think I should call a plumber, or go and purchase a new one?"

Thanks for writing. Before you go out shopping, let me have you try to do a little service on the one you have.

The humming sound you heard is normal whenever the cutter blade inside becomes jammed.

You may have dropped something like a little wire twist off a loaf of bread inside the disposer. Even a tab from a can of pop is enough to jam the disposer.

First you need a hand small enough to get into the thing, then start feeling around the edge of the base plate. Once you find the obstruction, use a flashlight and a pair of needle-nose pliers and pull it out.

Take note: You should always have the power in the off position whenever you work on something electrical.

Next, you should have a large Allen wrench, which came with the disposer, that inserts into a fitting on the very bottom of the dis-

poser. Turn it back and forth several times to see if it turns freely. When you heard the humming sound, you popped the circuit breaker on the bottom of the disposer.

If you press it inwards with your finger, it will stay in and you are now ready to turn on the power switch to check it out.

In most cases, the disposer is repaired with this remedy. Please let me know.

Jason writes: "Our 8-year-old gas stove was not working properly the other day. The oven light was flashing and the heat was not on. When you looked inside, there was no light on, like it was not heating. If you turned it off and turned it back on in a minute or so it would work. Could the oven need a good cleaning?"

Thanks for the note, Jason. I think you have an igniter that is going bad on you.

There will come a time soon when it won't work at all, and you can replace this part yourself rather than call for a service technician.

It's mounted to a railing and located under the floor of the oven. It's in a wire cage.

Make sure you use the correct size screwdriver when removing the screws, or you will strip the screw heads.

Two wires come off the back of the igniter and need to be disconnected from the terminals they lead to.

Use extreme care with the new igniter, as they are very fragile

and rather expensive.

Igniters in a gas range are very common to fail. An oven that is dirty won't normally be the cause.

You will have to be the judge on whether your oven needs a good cleaning. Warm white vinegar is a good solution to loosen up the heavily soiled spots with a little elbow grease.

Ms. Carol wrote me and asked if I had come to a final conclusion on the Maytag Neptune front load washer we bought seven months ago.

Well, my darling Valorie still loves it, there are no odor or mold or water problems around the front door tub boot, and it hasn't needed any sort of service call.

I trusted the store when they told me that all past problems with the washer have been resolved, and so far it's running like a champ.

Keep in mind that the washer we had before this new one was something like 35 years old. I guess I'll come to a final conclusion on this new one if it should last anything close to 35 years. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard on Talk Radio WAAM 1600 at 8 a.m. Saturdays. He is a board member of Spectrum Human Services and the Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals (SOCAP). His phone number is (734) 971-1600, Ext. 28. Do you have a question about an appliance or a problem you have with an appliance? E-mail your question to mklemic@hometownlife.com and it will be forwarded to Joe Gagnon.

DECOR

FROM PAGE D1

ing furniture and accents.

SPLASH OF COLOR

Designers agree the easiest and least expensive way to transform a room, any time of year, is by adding or changing paint.

"If people are willing to do the labor themselves, it's one of the most high-impact ways to transform a room," said Volanski.

She suggests going bold and warm when adding color to a home. "It's nice to have a sense of place to go back to," said Volanski.

That's where the warm tones can make a difference. From russet to clay, modern colors look natural and comforting, particularly when compared to the jewel-toned burgundy or navy blue hues made popular in the 1990s.

Skinner agreed warm tones are tops. Instead of boring beige or off-white walls, Skinner said chocolate browns and earthy greens or blues can give a room a new feel.

"They tend to be a good route to go," she said. And color can set-off a room's natural appeal from its crown molding or columns.

When painting smaller private rooms, Skinner may opt to paint the ceiling or crown molding in a deep color like gray or brown, leaving the walls shades lighter. "It gives the illusion of a larger space," she said.

Volanski said another current color option is icy blue or seafoam green, complemented by those ever-present chocolate browns. The pairings offer a "sense of crispness" to any room, she said.

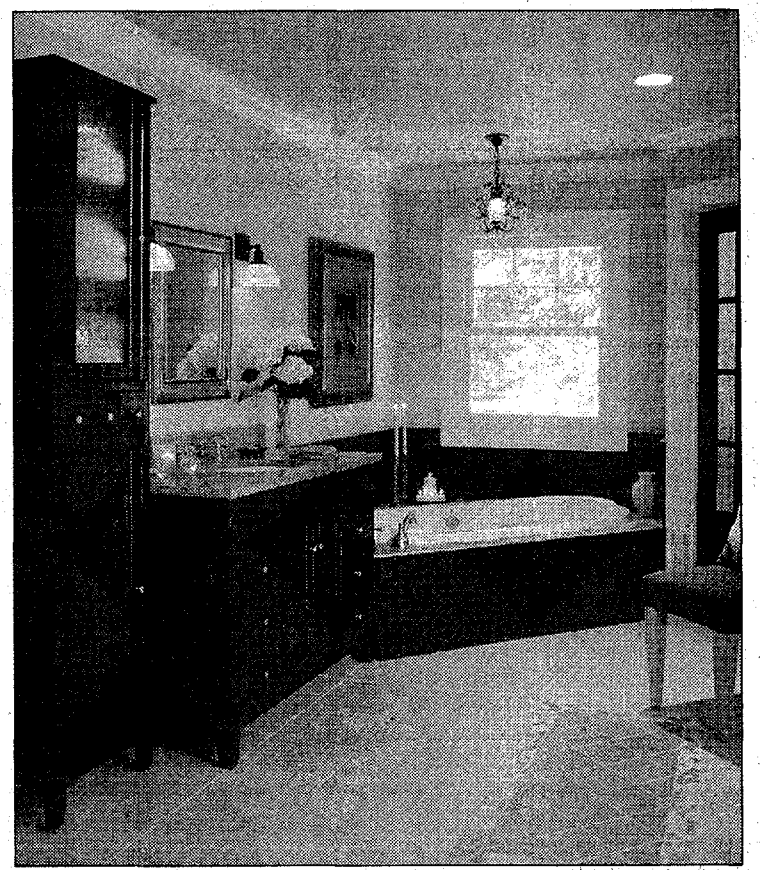
"These colors are so delicious, it's like describing food," she added.

While some people tend to steer away from pastels, a pale peach or strawberry pink pairs well with chocolate browns. And earthy greens are quite prevalent — though hunter green is "a no-no," according to Volanski.

BEYOND THE WALLS

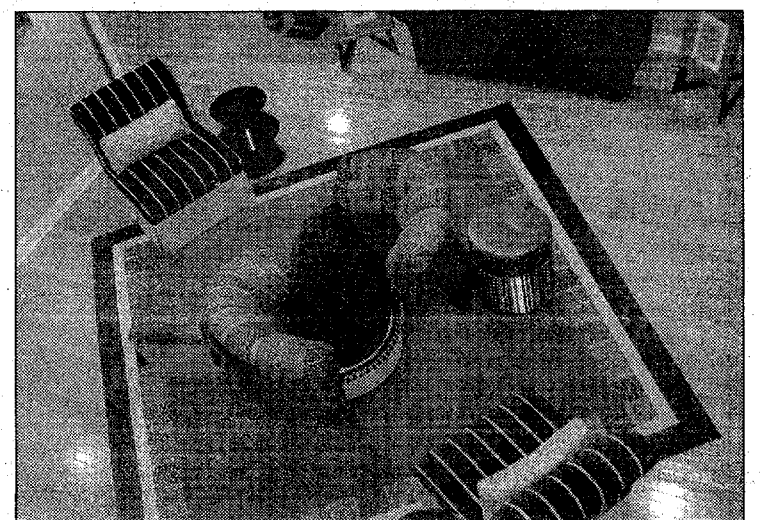
Updating a room can be as easy as changing small accessories like pillows or window treatments. Volanski said an affordable way to do so involves a quick visit to Lowe's for weighted Roman shades to update a window.

Volanski predicted a mix of retro and modern styles for 2007. She envisions a 1960s influence in furniture, and the boldness to combine several



BETH SINGER

This master bath, designed by Margaret Skinner, exhibits style with an espresso-stained wood tub surrounded by matching cabinetry and a French door.



DEBRA VOLANSKI

This bird's-eye view shows designer Debra Volanski's flair for warm tones and creative textures in home design.

types of fabrics.

When it comes to metal accents, on kitchen cabinetry for example, Volanski said brushed silver or copper will bring a modern feel. Gone are the days of shiny chrome and brass, she added.

The most-renovated of rooms, according to Skinner, might well be the kitchen, followed by the family room and the master bedroom suite.

In 2007, Skinner expects to see a lot of art deco influence in design.

"Clean lines are a must," she said. And, currently, it's daring and fresh to mix styles of furniture, rather than sticking to one look throughout an entire room.

This eclectic approach "is not so matchy-matchy," she explained. "And it looks fresh and original."

Try combining traditional furnishings with something hailing from the 1920s. Skinner works with clients across the metro area — from Bloomfield Hills to Milford, Rochester to Ann Arbor. As a result, she seen a bevy of challenges when designing in a variety of living spaces.

Newer homes lack detail, she noted. And a lot of design choices can depend on a homeowner's budget and style.

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HOME CALENDAR

Home decor

The Community House, 380 S. Bates in Birmingham, presents home decor classes. The schedule includes Faux Finish Techniques (7:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10; cost is \$24) and Wildflower Painting (7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16; \$24, plus \$15 materials fee payable to the instructors in class).

To register and for more information, call The Community House at (248) 644-5832, or visit www.communityhouse.com. In the faux finish class, learn creative and inexpensive decorating techniques and complete sample boards to take home. Wear old clothes and bring plastic gloves. Interior decorating professionals Bob and Esther Kerr will conduct the

wildflower painting workshop. Learn techniques of painting foliage, stir roses, backgrounds and petals that can be used on craft projects as well as furniture, and complete a wood plaque.

Dog show

The Michigan Midwinter Classic Dog Show will take place Friday-Sunday, Jan. 19-21, at the Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River, one mile west of Novi Road in Novi. Show times are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Admission is \$10, \$7 for seniors (over 65) and ages 6-12, \$25 for family day passes. Download a discount coupon at www.ukcdogs.com/DEMetroClassic.htm. Parking is \$5.

Spectators may meet the dogs and ask owners about characteristics and care of

the different breeds. Don't bring dogs or pets; dogs not participating won't be allowed into the event area.

The show will feature dog and owner teams from across the country, representing many popular and rare breeds. The Novi-based Rock-N-Roll K-9s team will perform high-energy relay and obstacle competitions.

The show is licensed by the United Kennel Club. For information about UKC registration and events, call (269) 343-9020 or visit www.ukcdogs.com.

Send calendar items at least two weeks ahead of the event to Mary Klemic, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, e-mail mklemic@hometownlife.com, fax (734) 591-7279 or (248) 644-1314.

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BROIDA

FROM PAGE D1

megapixel camera, music and video players, and all the voice features you could want. And did I mention its deliciously svelte design?

Now for the bad news: the atrocious Windows Mobile interface.

Because the Q lacks a touchscreen, navigation requires a BlackBerry-like scroll wheel. That wouldn't be such a big deal if Microsoft made the interface usable by ordinary people.

For example, you'll find half a dozen program icons spread across the top of the screen, but they're all unlabeled.

Thankfully, programs are more clearly identified when you venture into the Start menu — but they're not alphabetized, so finding what you want is a chore.

Meanwhile, I tried to run the Pocket MSN instant-messaging applet but couldn't get past the setup screen. That's because my username includes a number, and for whatever reason, numbers are disabled in the username field. Sheesh!

These aren't insurmountable problems, but they sure are annoying. Same goes for Verizon's steep service plans.

WHAT TO BUY

Needless to say, these three smartphones have middling intelligence at best.

If you're heavy into e-mail,

the BlackBerry doesn't disappoint, though I can't believe it lacks instant messaging capabilities.

I like the designs of both the enV and Motorola Q, but I can't abide the crippled e-mail capabilities of the former and the irksome interface of the latter.

Although I didn't review it here, the Palm Treo 700p earns my vote as the top smartphone available today. It's on the bulky side, but it's also the easiest phone to use and the most expandable.

Rick Broida writes about computers and technology for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Broida, of Commerce Township, is the co-author of numerous books. He welcomes questions sent to rick.broida@gmail.com.

GARDEN CALENDAR

Royal Oak Garden Club

The Royal Oak Garden Club will go on a field trip to Telly's Greenhouse, 3301 John R in Troy, 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 8. Attendees will learn what's new for 2007.

Tropical plants

English Gardens will host free gardening seminars 1 p.m. Saturdays this month at all six locations, including stores in West Bloomfield, (248) 851-7506; Royal Oak/Troy, (248) 280-9500; Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; and Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900.

Caring for Tropical Plants will be the topic Jan. 13. House plants provide beauty and health benefits by cleaning the air. Learn how to care for plants that will thrive indoors.

English Gardens experts will give information on how to select a plant, tips to encourage flowering and suggestions on using plants to enhance a home's decor.

Winter interest

Michael Saint of Good Earth Landscape Institute of Clarkston (formerly Good

Earth Landscape & Interior Design) will present Creating Your Garden for Winter Interest, a slide show to benefit the Oakland County Master Gardener Program.

The presentation will take place 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, at the Independence Township Library, 6495 Clarkston Road in Clarkston.

Tickets are \$10. All of the money will go to the master gardener program. Call Saint at (248) 620-7188 or visit www.goodearthlandscapelc.com. Learn some fun ways to incorporate sculpture, yard art, summer perennials and ornaments into a wonderful winter perspective.

Pests, design

The Michigan School of Gardening offers a variety of classes for different levels. Register early. Seating is limited. For more information, call (248) 4-GARDEN or visit www.michigangardening.com. The schedule includes: Solving Common Pest and Disease Problems, four ses-

sions beginning 6:30-9:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 15, or 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, at Michigan School of Gardening in Livonia, 29429 Six Mile, just west of Middlebelt (cost is \$137); and Landscape Design, seven Wednesdays beginning 6:30-9:30 p.m. Jan. 17, in Troy through Troy Continuing Education (\$232; register at www.troyceonline.com).

Hardy perennials

Gardening classes at The Community House in Birmingham include What are Hardy Perennials?, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16. Cost is \$29, plus \$5 materials fee payable to instructor in class.

To register, call The Community House at (248) 644-5832, or visit www.communityhouse.com. The Community House is at 380 S. Bates. Students will learn to mimic nature and make invasive plants garden-friendly. Breathtaking slides of tried and true perennials will be shown. Important design principles will be featured.

This year get ready for Bordeaux 2005

Last year, all the Bordeaux wine buzz was about the excellence of the 2005 vintage. Top chateaux offered their wines at astronomical futures prices and many wine lovers got wine sticker shock.

This year, the less-hyped and heralded 2005 Bordeaux wines will begin to show up on wine retail shelves. You should consider buying. "From Bordeaux, 40 producers are extremely well known and command high prices, yet there's no excuse for rustic 2005 Bordeaux from any producer," said Alain Moueix, fourth-generation director of Château Fonroque in Saint-Emilion.

Our trip to Bordeaux last year and a tasting of more than 300 wines from the 2005 vintage more than proved this.

BORDEAUX FACTS AND FIGURES

In the broader French region known as Bordeaux, there are 12,000 wine chateaux and more than a quarter million vineyard acres, producing 800 million bottles annually. Due to overproduction, there were endless reports last year of a wine crisis in France, including Bordeaux. *Sacrebleu!* Incentives via the EU may now make available monetary motivation for the least competitive producers to grub up their vineyards.

Through all this, however, Bordeaux remains California's biggest competitor for high-end wines. From the 2005 vintage, we discovered stellar values, because it has long been said, that in a great Bordeaux vintage, real value lies in seeking out the best from lesser-known chateaux. Especially true if you are not fond of the current style trend for many New World red wines — overtly jammy, overly extracted, over-ripe fruit characters, heavy-handed oak and alcohols soaring to 16 percent and higher, resulting in elegant wines, lacking terroir characteristics.

Sylvie Courselle of Chateau Thieuley, a producer of Bordeaux and Bordeaux Superior wines, adds a caution: "Red Bordeaux wines are best with food. They are not sipping wines."

Within the Bordeaux region, there are 57 appellations in the Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée (AOC) system. To simplify location and characteristics of wines produced, it's easiest to categorize them into six larger,



Focus on Wine

Ray and Eleanor Heald

roughly geographical areas. On the right bank of the Dordogne River, all producing principally plush Merlot-based wines, Saint-Emilion (where limestone soils significantly impact the wines' character) can be grouped with Pomerol and Fronsac. Most Saint-Emilion and Pomerol wines will be priced well above \$50. What delighted us most was the superiority of wines from Fronsac at prices well below \$50.

Premières Cotes de Blaye, Cotes de Bourg, Cotes de Castillon, Premières Cotes de Bordeaux and Cotes de Francs are also right bank and frequently dubbed Les Cinq Cotes de Bordeaux, deriving its name from the right banks of the Gironde, Dordogne and Garonne Rivers. On the left bank of the Garonne River and the Gironde estuary, Cabernet Sauvignon prospers in gravelly soils in the Médoc, Pessac-Léognan, Graves and Haut-Médoc. The largest category is labeled Bordeaux and Bordeaux Supérieur and can originate from throughout the region. In 2005, weather conditions benefited cabernet franc, so Medoc and Haut-Medoc producers have potential to surpass plaudits given to only a few vintages in the last 100 years. "However, 2005 was an unusual vintage," cautioned Damien Berlureau of the Syndicat Cotes de Bordeaux. "Although ripe fruits are evident, tannins are also. These will tame with bottle age and the wines will be long-lived."

Read *Focus on Wine* next week (Jan. 11) to learn more about Bordeaux wines and what to buy from the 2005 Bordeaux vintage.

Eleanor and Ray Heald are contributing editors for the internationally respected *Quarterly Review of Wines* and Troy residents who write about wine, spirits, and restaurants for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@aol.com.

WINE PICKS

Disposable income for wine running a little short after the holidays? Try these values, all \$12 or less:

RED WINES

- 2005 McManis Cabernet Sauvignon \$10
- 2004 Meridian California Cabernet Sauvignon \$10
- 2004 TwoTone Farm California Cabernet Sauvignon \$10
- 2005 McManis Merlot \$10
- 2004 Canyon Road Merlot \$10
- 2005 McManis Petite Sirah \$11
- 2005 McManis Syrah \$10
- 2005 Bulletin Place Shiraz \$8
- 2005 McManis Zinfandel \$11
- 2005 Beauzeaux (bo-zo) \$10
- 2005 Goats do Roam RED (So. Africa) \$10

WHITE WINES

- 2006 MAN Chenin Blanc \$10
- 2006 Goats do Roam WHITE \$10
- 2006 Simonsig South Africa Chenin Blanc \$11
- 2005 A by Acacia California Chardonnay \$11
- 2005 Estancia Pinnacles Ranches Chardonnay \$12
- 2005 Estancia Pinot Grigio \$12
- 2005 Gallo Family Twin Valley Moscato \$5 — sweet dessert pour

If a retailer does not stock a specific wine we recommend, ask that it be ordered from the distributor or order it direct from the winery.

HEALTHY

FROM PAGE D1

enough to prevent boiling water from splashing onto the food. You can improvise a stand by removing the ends of a large can that once held sweet potatoes, for example, or pumpkin.

This dish is as pleasing to the eye as it is to the palette.

STEAMED CHICKEN WITH RED AND YELLOW BELL PEPPER

- 1/2 tablespoon sesame seed oil
- 1 teaspoon grated garlic
- 1 teaspoon grated, peeled fresh ginger
- 1/2 cup sliced spring onions
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1/2 pound (8 ounces) skinned, boneless chicken breasts
- 1 large red bell pepper, seeded and cut into thin strips
- 1 large yellow bell pepper, seeded and cut into thin strips
- 1/2 cup sliced canned bamboo shoots (drained and rinsed)
- Salt and freshly ground black pep-

per
3 cups hot steamed rice, preferably brown

In a small cup, combine oil, garlic, ginger, spring onions and soy sauce. Pour marinade over chicken breasts and rub into meat. Set aside while completing other preparations or marinate for up to 2 hours in the refrigerator. Bring to room temperature before steaming.

Steam until chicken is almost tender. Add bell peppers and bamboo shoots. Sprinkle any remaining marinade over vegetables. Continue steaming until chicken and peppers are tender.

Cut chicken into thin bite-sized slices, then combine with vegetables. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve with rice.

Makes 4 servings. Per serving: 252 calories, 4 g. total fat (less than 1 g. saturated fat), 36 g. carbohydrate, 18 g. protein, 3 g. dietary fiber, 349 mg. sodium.

Recipe courtesy American Institute of Cancer Research. AICR's Web address is www.aicr.org.

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Thanks to the miracles of modern medicine, you've overcome a life-threatening disease. You're not alone when it comes to dealing with erectile dysfunction associated with prostate cancer surgery and other threats to a healthy sex life. If you have tried Viagra® and that doesn't work, alternative treatments are available.

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Let's face it...erectile dysfunction is not the easiest subject in the world to talk about. With Straight Talk About E.D., you can talk one-on-one with another regular guy who has already gone through what you are experiencing.

Seminar Location:
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Board Certified Urologist

Jeffrey Greski, D.O. & John Addington, P.A.
4000 Highland Suite #109
Waterford, MI 4832

Thursday, January 18, 2007
Patient Seminar begins at 9:00 a.m.

This is a FREE seminar sponsored by Coloplast Corp., but reservations are requested. Please call (248) 650-0096

Coloplast
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www.StraightTalk.coloplast.com

FOOD CALENDAR

If you have an item for the food calendar, please submit it at least two weeks prior to your event to Ken Abramczyk, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, e-mail kabramcz@hometownlife.com, or fax (734) 591-7279.

Wine Exploration Series

The Community House offers a variety of classes to learn more about wine, all seven sessions cost \$162, including An Introduction to Wine, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 17; California and the Pacific Northwest, 7:30

p.m. Jan. 24; Wines of France (two sessions), Jan. 31 and Feb. 7; Italian Wines, Feb. 14; South of the Equator, Australia, Chile, Argentina, South Africa and New Zealand, Feb. 28; Fortified Wine: Ports, Sherries and Madeiras, March 7; to register for classes, contact The Community House, 380 South Bates Street, Birmingham, (248) 644-5832, or online at www.communityhouse.com.

Native Italian Cooking

Discover how to make paccheri al prosciutto e piselli (pasta with ham and

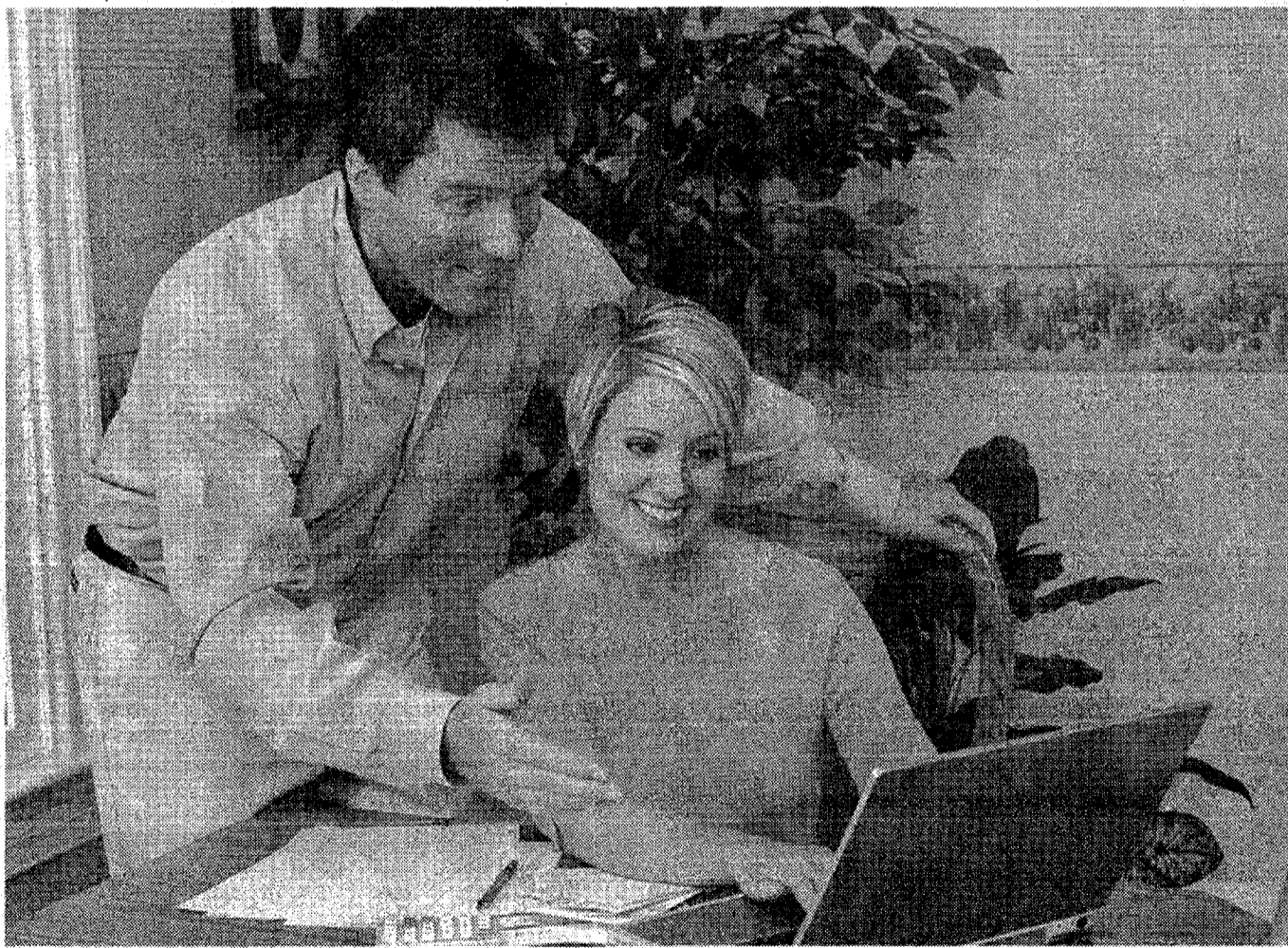
peas), spaghetti alla carbonara (spaghetti with eggs and pancetta) and bucatini alle zucchini. A \$6 materials fee is payable to the instructor in class. Instructor Giovanna Cappi was born and raised in Italy. Class is 6:30-8:30 p.m. Jan. 23, \$26 for class, to register for classes, contact The Community House, 380 South Bates Street, Birmingham, (248) 644-5832, or online at www.communityhouse.com.

Sauces 101

Simple sauces can be made from things

you already have at home. Learn the keys to building your flavors for that rich taste in your food. Taste samples and take home recipes. A \$6 materials fee is payable to the instructor in class. Chef Christopher Jones brings with him a vast skill set from such places as The Hotel Pontchartrain, Marriott, Hilton, and Radisson. Class is 7:30 p.m. Jan. 22, cost is \$26, to register for classes, contact The Community House, 380 South Bates Street, Birmingham, (248) 644-5832, or online at www.communityhouse.com.

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Threads and Treads

Auto Show Fashion Through the Decades

By Maureen McDonald
Special Correspondent

At the annual North American International Auto Show in Detroit, motor heads want to know how fast the Nissan Z will zoom from zero to 60, but fashionistas want to see the styles that show models wear.

If Margery Krevsky, CEO of Bingham Farms based Productions Plus calculates it right, the talented models will deliver fluent talks on Nissan's assets while sporting the latest outfits on the New York runway scene.

Krevsky oversees training, wardrobe and placement of 300 individuals working the bright lights of Cobo Center from Jan. 13-21.

"These individuals are far more than models," Krevsky said. "They are the eyes and ears of the vehicle brand whose wardrobe matches the spirit and style of the manufacturers they represent."

Clothing addresses the attitude of a contemporary home, an urban disco or the deep woods, much as it embodies a Toyota Avalon, a Lexus ES or a Nissan Pathfinder.

Coordinating wardrobe is more daunting than finding bridesmaid dresses, according to Krevsky, who started her career in fashion merchandising for Hudson's. All product specialists assigned to a car line must look good in the same outfit, proportions and colors.

Clothing must be comfortable enough for models to empty boxes of product literature, stock information booths, move on and off turntables and demonstrate car features. And it has to last — models wear the same outfit 10 days in a row for up to 30 events in a regional circuit. At one time models referred to their outfits as "pain management," because they included chandelier earrings, waist cinchures, push-up bras and stilettos. Today's garments are made from breathable, beautiful fabrics that accent figures.

Krevsky maintains a full-time wardrobe department at Productions Plus to research historical styles and invent new outfits. She is currently working on a book about auto show fashion through the ages called *Sirens of Chrome*, due out this year.

Last May, Krevsky presented a runway show of auto show fashions to members of Women in Communications at the Players Club in Detroit. Here's a look at outfits from the Roaring 20s to the 21st century:



Flapper Time: With the advent of closed coupe automobiles in the 1920s, motorists could dress as they pleased without mud and dirt splashing all over them — including beaded flapper gowns and feather boas.



Sirens of Chrome: As every fashion show includes a bride, PP brings forth the chrome bride, helping trumpet the publication of Krevsky's book on the history of auto show models, *Sirens of Chrome*.



Age of Elegance: By the mid-1930s GM had its own design studio led by Harley Earl, and fashions reflected the elegance of styling and fine upholstery.



Dawning of Aquarius: The muscle car era of the 1960s brought young people into the purchasing arena, and models wore outfits that looked racy and captivating.



Living Hood Ornaments: Evoking images of ancient goddesses with gold boots, tiaras and tunics, models blessed their four wheeled chariots, often standing on car hoods to draw extra attention.

NURTURING LOCAL TALENT

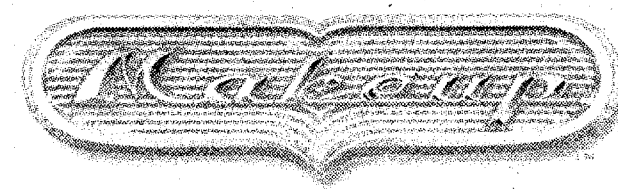
Productions Plus is partnering with PINK to take 10 emerging fashion designers on a fashion-focused tour of the North American International Auto Show Jan. 17. The local designers will learn what it takes to wardrobe auto show talent, and may be invited to join the Productions Plus team in creating clothing lines to present to top automakers. Stay tuned to PINK for more, or visit www.productions-plus.com.

Best of 2006 pink picks

- Wore It!**
Skinny jeans and leggings
- Toted It!**
Oversized handbags — big was in!
- Kicked It!**
Wedges
- Clicked It!**
www.myspace.com and www.youtube.com
- Accessorized It!**
Belts — skinny or wide, they made fashion a cinch!
- Jeweled It!**
Skulls
- Faced It!**
Mineral makeup
- Mared It!**
The bob — everyone from Madonna to Britney rocked this timeless style
- Drank It!**
Pom-tinis
- Smelled It!**
Badgley Mischka Fragrance
- Saw It!**
The Devil Wears Prada
- DVDD It!**
Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest
- TIV'd It!**
Grey's Anatomy
- Read It!**
New mags: OK and Blueprint by Martha Stewart (national) & Ambassador (local)
- Heard It!**
The Raconteurs — Jack White's new band hit it big
- Shopped It!**
IKEA, Barney's Co-Op and H&M, finally arriving in Michigan!
- Ate at It!**
Nomi sushi in Northville, Crush in Southfield, Tavern 1999 in Plymouth and Bentley's in WB
- Experienced It!**
The Super Bowl in Detroit, and the Tigers in the World Series!



MOTOR CITY



DETROIT

Motor City Makeup Giveaway!

Want to rev up your look? In honor of the North American International Auto Show, Motor City Makeup has donated 25 tubes of 'Auto Show Model' lip gloss to PINK for a glamorous giveaway!

The Milford-based company produces adorable lip glosses and balms with Detroit-inspired monikers like 'Woodward Dream Angel,' 'She's a Tiger,' 'D-Town Diva,' 'Livin' Lodge' and '313 Knockout.'

Motor City Makeup was founded by Natalie Hagopian, a registered nurse who ensures that the formulas are chock full of healthy ingredients, and Cindy Lehrer, a licensed esthetician who expertly picks the color palette.

Hagopian said Auto Show Model was inspired by all the lovely ladies who add a dash of panache to NAIAS every year. "We think today's auto show model is more than just a pretty face. These ladies really know their stuff, and they're actually a really important part of selling the cars," Hagopian said. "We wanted to pay homage to the models in a fun way. We picked a shimmering sheer ice pink color because it's an international show, and we wanted it to look good on all 'makes and models' of women."

Now, 24 lucky PINK readers can win a glamorous gloss of their own (we couldn't resist cracking open one tube for ourselves, and found it looks great alone or layered over lipstick.)

To enter, simply send an e-mail to pink@hometownlife.com with your name, address, age and phone number. And, in the spirit of NAIAS and the Motor City, tell us in 25 words or less about something you always carry in your car, and why you can't live without it. Get your entry in by 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12. We will announce winners in an upcoming edition of PINK!

Meanwhile, check out Motor City Makeup at High Wire Girls in Novi, Shoe-La-La in Birmingham, the Henry Ford Museum Gift Store or online at www.motorcitymakeup.com.

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PURE ENTERTAINMENT!

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Entertainer

Fave eats

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Our Body

Page 3

CELEBRATING

1907

2007

100 Years

Countdown to the Auto Show

- PAGE 6

Takács Quartet

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 8 PM
Rackham Auditorium

This awesome foursome returns for their ninth-annual UMS performance, this time with a more traditional program of Brahms, Mozart and Beethoven.

PROGRAM

Brahms Quartet in a minor, Op. 51, No. 2 (1873)
Mozart Quartet in d minor, K. 421 (1783)
Beethoven Quartet No. 15 in a minor, Op. 132 (1825)

Sponsored by **EDWARD SUROVELL REALTORS**

Media Partners **WGTE 91.3 FM** and **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.**

This is a **CLASSICAL KIDS CLUB** concert.

A Opera-Theater Work in One Act The Silver River

Music by **Bright Sheng**
Libretto by **David Henry Hwang**
Directed by **Ong Keng Sen**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 8 PM
SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 8 PM
Power Center

MacArthur "Genius" Grant winner Bright Sheng and Tony Award-winning playwright David Henry Hwang (*M. Butterfly*) created *The Silver River* in 1997. A masterful integration of Western and Chinese cultures, the opera-theater work is a magical retelling of an ancient myth about perfect love struggling to survive in an imperfect world.

Presented in partnership with the **U-M Office of the Provost, U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance,** and **Columbia Artists Management Inc.**

Supported by the **Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation** and the **U-M Office of the President.**

Additional support provided by the **U-M Center for Chinese Studies, Ingrid and William Ginsberg, International Institute** and the **U-M Office of the President.**

the 51st (dream) state Sekou Sundiata

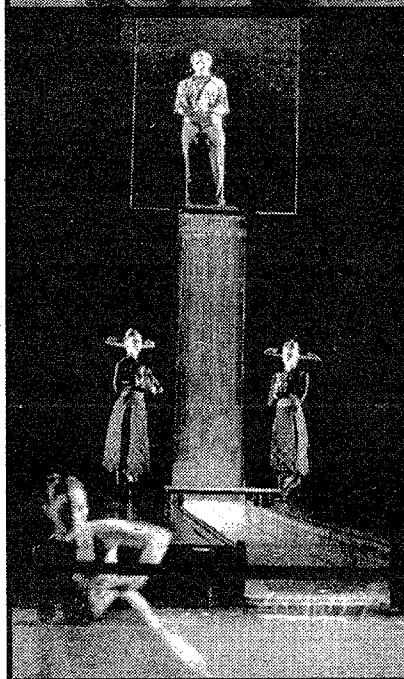
SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 8 PM
Power Center

Through this entertaining and thought-provoking interrogation of contemporary America, vanguard poet Sekou Sundiata powerfully and provocatively presents his new multi-media work that contemplates America's national identity in a post-9/11 world.

Co-presented with the **U-M Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives.**

Media Partners **Michigan Chronicle/Front Page** and **WEMU 89.1 FM.**

This is a **NETWORK** event.



FREE EDUCATION EVENTS

Lecture: Crossing The Silver River

Bright Sheng, composer,
U-M School of Music
David Henry Hwang, librettist
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 12 NOON
Institute for the Humanities
202 S Thayer St

The Silver River
Post-performance Q&A
with Bright Sheng and members of
the company
FRIDAY, JANUARY 12
Power Center Stage

All education events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. For more information, visit www.ums.org.



CANDACE MEYER

Singer Emily Haines takes the stage at the Magic Bag Theatre on Jan. 11.

Emily Haines reveals her softer side

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Emily Haines made a name for herself as the sassy voice of Canadian rock band Metric, and a contributor to indie supergroup Broken Social Scene.

With the September release of *Knives Don't Have Your Back*, the Toronto songstress began to branch out on her own and explore different musical soundscapes. The hauntingly beautiful record places her voice and a piano front-and-center. And that's where she'll be this month — on stage at Ferndale's Magic Bag Theatre.

Haines' earliest musical influences came by way of English cult favorite, Robert Wyatt, a member of the psych-pop band Soft Machine.

"He was friends with my dad (poet and musician Paul Haines)," said Haines, during a phone interview from her Toronto home. "At the time I was growing up, (Wyatt) made a lot of solo records. There's a really strong social awareness in his songwriting. It has an ethereal quality."

Haines discovered early that she too had an affinity for songwriting. She and Wyatt soon began writing letters and struck a lasting friendship. He's even credited with writing the liner notes on *Knives*.

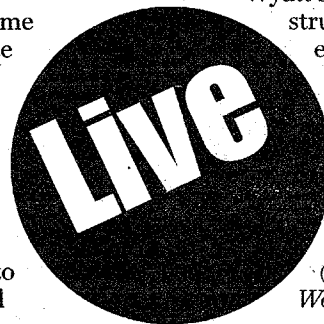
"It was nice to have a mentor," Haines said.

On stage, these very intimate songs are mirrored by projected images provided by filmmaker Guy Maddin (*The Saddest Music in the World*). Haines said his work struck her as the visual equivalent to "what I wanted to accomplish with this record."

Still, creating *Knives Don't Have Your Back* was "more about the process than the end result," she said. Haines said she's reminded of that more now that the record is complete and she's heading out on tour.

When working on the songs that would essentially become this album, she noted: "I really needed to withdraw from the action for a while. I felt like I needed to stop."

Instead of withdrawing from music, she did the opposite and found herself



EMILY HAINES & THE SOFT SKELETON

When: 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11

Where: The Magic Bag Theatre, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale.

Tickets: \$15

More information: Call (248) 544-3030 or visit www.themagicbag.com

PLEASE SEE **HAINES, E5**

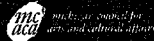
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Emily Haines brings her beautiful music to the Magic Bag.

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Get ready for the North American International Auto Show 2007.

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

Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS

Ken Abramczyk Editor	Marty Carry Advertising Director
Lana Mini Staff Writer	Dan Dean Design Editor
Stephanie Angelyn Casola Staff Writer	Susan Rosiek Executive Editor
	Peter Neill General Manager

ON THE COVER



It's auto show time again!

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

www.hometownlife.com

Anatomy lesson



See detailed displays of actual human bodies at an upcoming exhibit, *Our Body: The Universe Within*, at the Detroit Science Center.

Detroit Science Center exhibit shows 'Our Body'

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

When the Detroit Science Center's newest exhibit opens next week, visitors will have the unusual opportunity to examine actual human bodies up-close.

Saturday, Jan. 13 marks the Midwest debut of *Our Body: The Universe Within*. It's expected to draw in 375,000 visitors — which exceeds the center's usual annual attendance, according to Todd Slisher, vice president of science programs at the center. He had a chance to view the exhibit in Orlando and called it "incredible."

"It's a different type of exhibit than we usually have," Slisher said.

Patrons of the Detroit Science Center are usually encouraged to touch, poke or push buttons in interactive exhibits. But this time, Slisher

said, "there is a reverent feeling with the exhibit."

Our Body includes 20 human body specimens and 135 anatomical displays. It will span nearly 14,000 square feet in the museum.

"There are three different touring versions of the body exhibit,"

explained Kelly Fulford, director of public relations for the Detroit Science Center.

"The first (in the United States) opened in 2004 at the California Science Center. It was called *Body Worlds*. It drew a phenomenal number of visitors to the museum.

"It caught our interest.

We've been trying for a couple of years to bring one here."

And in 2007, the Detroit Science Center succeeded.

Split between the fourth floor Science Hall and Level Two, the show is comparable in size to the Science Center's previous Space exhibit, according to Fulford.

OUR BODY: THE UNIVERSE WITHIN

What: Exhibit that literally goes under the skin, featuring actual human bodies and organs.

When: Jan. 13 through May 28.

Where: Detroit Science Center, 5020 John R, Detroit

IMAX: Featuring the film *The Human Body*

Tickets: Museum admission is \$24.95 adults, \$22.95 seniors, \$19.95 for children. IMAX admission costs an additional \$3 adult, \$2 children and seniors.

More information: Children ages 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Call (313) 577-8400 or visit www.detroitssciencecenter.org.

Our Body is organized by different organs and body systems. See firsthand how the digestive system works, or trace the veins and arteries that make up the circulatory system.

Slisher said when he saw the

PLEASE SEE **BODY, E5**

Takács Quartet celebrates 10 years at UMS

The eclectic Takács Quartet, whose programs include everything from Hungarian folk to poets, returns to the University Musical Society but with a more traditional program.

This year's includes selections by Brahms, Mozart and Beethoven.

UMS presents the Takács Quartet at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, in Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington Street.

The program will include Brahms Quartet in A minor, Op. 51, No. 2 (1873); Mozart Quartet in D minor, K. 421 (1783) and Beethoven Quartet No. 15 in A minor, Op. 132 (1825).

The quartet has performed annually as part of the UMS Chamber Arts series since 1999, and the January concert marks the 10th UMS performance by the ensemble.

Recognized as one of the world's most outstanding string quartets, the Takács Quartet plays with a virtuosic technique, intense immediacy and consistently burnished tone.

Based in Boulder, Colorado, the foursome is in its 32nd season. It formed at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest by Gabor Takács-Nagy, Károly Schranz,

Gabor Ormai and András Fejér, while all four were students. Three years later, they received international attention winning first place awards at the International

String Quartet Competition in Evian, France. The Quartet also won a gold at the 1978 Portsmouth and Bordeaux Competitions.

In 2001, The Takács Quartet was awarded the Order of Merit of the Knight's Cross of the Republic of Hungary. Violinist Edward

Dusinberre joined the Quartet in 1993 and violist Roger Tapping in 1995. Violist Geraldine Walther replaced Tapping two summers ago. Of the original ensemble, violinist Károly Schranz and cellist András Fejér remain.

Dusinberre (first violin) was born in 1968 in Leamington Spa, England. He studied at The Juilliard School with Dorothy DeLay where he quickly became concertmaster of The Juilliard Orchestra.

Born in 1952 in Budapest, Hungary, Schranz began playing the violin when he was 4 years old. In 1980, he received his music diploma from the Franz Liszt Academy of Music. He was one of the founding members of the Quartet in 1975. Schranz received the Franz Liszt Prize in

1983.

Walther (viola) was principal viola in the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra. She was also assistant principal of the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Miami Philharmonic, and the Baltimore Symphony. In 1995, Walther was selected by Sir Georg Solti as a member of his Musicians of the World, an orchestra composed of leading musicians from around the globe, for concerts in Geneva to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

Fejér (cello) was born in 1955 into a musical family. His father was a cellist and conductor, and his mother was a pianist. He began playing the cello at the age of 7, because, as legend has it, his father was unwilling to listen to a violin upstart practicing.

After attending a music high school, Fejér was admitted to the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in 1975, where he founded the Takács Quartet with three fellow classmates. Although the quartet has been his sole professional focus since then, he does perform as a soloist occasionally as well.

Tickets are \$20-\$44. Visit www.takacsquartet.com, (734) 764-2538 and www.ums.org.

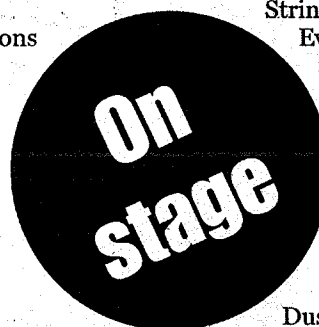
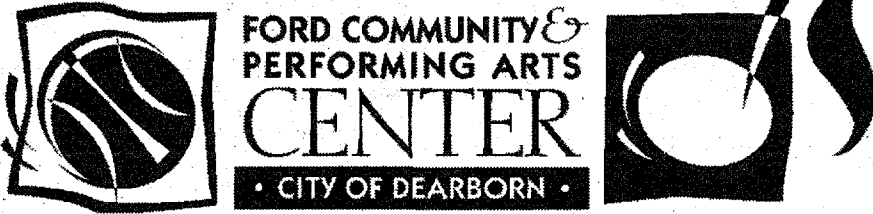


PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER SMITH

Lana Mini The Takács Quartet performs at UMS on Jan. 12.



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2006-2007 Professional Show Season

Dates	Time	Show	Ticket Prices
Saturday, January 6, 2007	8:00 pm	The Sleeping Beauty	\$ 30 - \$ 40
Saturday, February 3, 2007	2:00 pm	"Super Hero Search" & Spider-Man Movie	\$ 14
Sunday, February 11, 2007	4:00 pm	In The Mood: A 1940's Musical Revue	\$ 29 - \$ 35
Saturday, February 24, 2007	8:00 pm	The Pirates of Penzance	\$ 37 - \$ 45
Saturday, March 3, 2007	8:00 pm	The Irish Rovers	\$ 30 - \$ 33
Saturday, March 31, 2007	8:00 pm	Kathy Griffin	\$ 37 - \$ 45
Sunday, April 1, 2007	2:00 pm	Clifford The Big Red Dog Live!	\$ 15 - \$ 25
Saturday, April 28, 2007	8:00 pm	Jigu! Thunder Drums of China	\$ 30 - \$ 37

Tickets are available at The Center's box office in person Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., and Saturday, 10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., or by calling 313-943-2354. Tickets can also be purchased at <http://www.dearbornfordcenter.com>. Visa, Mastercard and American Express are accepted.

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HAINES

FROM PAGE E2

writing. The result? *Knives* evokes strong, poetic images of everything from seemingly impossible relationships to loneliness and love lost. Her richly layered lyrics in songs like *Crowd Surf Off a Cliff*, *Detective Daughter*, *Reading in Bed* and *Nothing and Nowhere* command attention and draw listeners closer time and again.

"It's definitely a different kind of challenge," said Haines of performing this material live. "I'm kind of addicted to setting up challenges for myself — and trying not to ruin everything."

What "saves her," she said, is the company she's chosen to surround herself with — both on the record and on stage. *Knives* features "a group of musicians who are my favorite in the world," Haines said.

Known as The Soft Skeleton, those contributors include Scott Minor (Sparklehorse), Jimmy Shaw (Broken Social Scene, Metric), Chris Seligman and Evan Cranley (Stars) and Justin Peroff (Broken Social Scene).

"Whenever I get nervous or feel more exposed, I focus on the fact that it is a collaboration between all of these people,"

Haines said.

At 5 feet 4 inches tall, Haines also loves the fact that those members touring as The Soft Skeleton all tower at 6-foot-tall. She compared it to being surrounded by bodyguards.

Collaboration must be comfortable for Haines, who's been fronting the band Metric since 1998. She's now handling the delicate balancing act between solo work and Metric — which just completed a world tour last fall.

"From the outside it looks like a lot to take on," she said.

"At the same time, I am a musician. This is the way I want to spend my time ... It requires a lot of you. But this is the life I chose. "It's something a lot of bands can relate to. You have a vision, an idea that gets you to a place that's so far from where you started."

Her solo work has returned her, in a way, to that place where she once rehearsed or played piano all day long.

Haines scoffs at how much has been made of her solo material being such a departure from Metric. On *Knives* she proves an artist can move seamlessly from one genre to another.

It's possible to like rock 'n' roll, and to be quiet, she said.

"Let's all be three-dimensional people."

scasola@hometownlife.com
(248) 901-2567

BODY

FROM PAGE E3

exhibit he noticed visitors examining the muscular skeleton and then touching their own arms to feel for the same muscle. "It's really enlightening," he said.

Advance tickets went on sale as early as Dec. 9 for the show and since then, Fulford said, she's received quite a response.

"There's a growing awareness of the exhibit," she said. "(People) know someone who's seen it. The buzz is out there."

The exhibit allows visitors to get a close-up look as bodies are displayed on pedestals and platforms.

The human bodies included in the exhibit have been preserved through a process called Plastination, which was discovered by German anatomist Gunther von Hagens at the University of Heidelberg in 1978.

In this process, all body fluids are replaced with plastics or polymers to prevent decay and decomposition. Once complete, the specimens reveal intricate internal detail. In some cases dye is used to show veins or muscles as they would appear in a living being.

The pliable nature of the Plastination process also allows the specimens to be posed. For example, one specimen is shown kicking a soccer ball. All of the muscles are extended and visible.

Visitors can investigate the forces that impact health and compare healthy and diseased samples of skin, organ and cell

samples.

"I think the exhibit is very appropriate," said Slisler. "It contains a lot of good science."

From the skeletal to reproductive systems, he said it is educational. *Our Body* also covers the history of anatomy dating back to Leonardo DaVinci, and the evolution of its research.

The donated bodies were provided by a non-profit institute in China, which has perfected the Plastination process, Slisler said.

"The touring company has investigated (to make sure) that all of the bodies were donated to science," he said. "People can tell they are of Asian origin."

Due to the sensitive nature of the exhibit, it is recommended for children 12 and older.

To add to the event, the Detroit Science Center is showing a related IMAX film titled *The Human Body*. It details the life of a family.

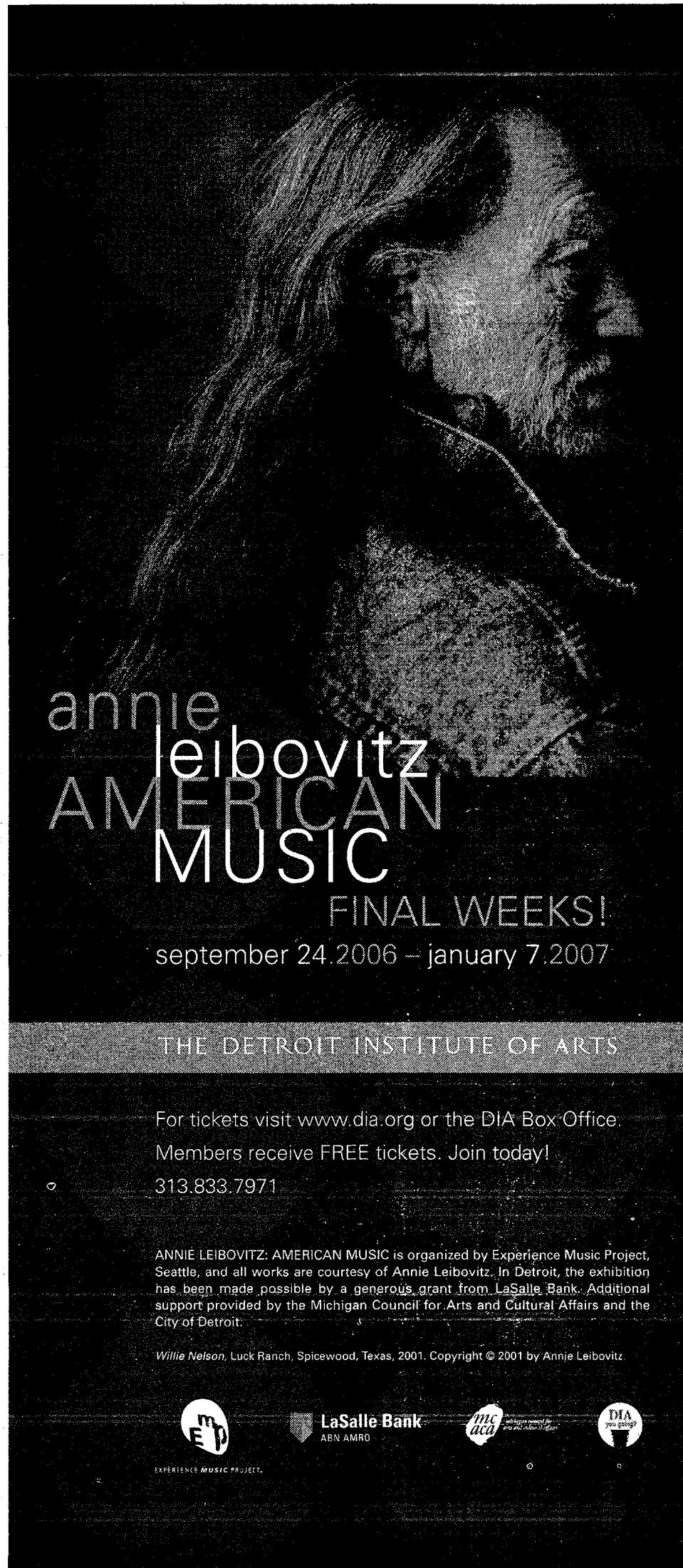
"People like to get the whole experience," said Fulford. "It's a great film."

Timed tickets will control the crowds attending the exhibit, but those tickets are going fast. It's recommended that visitors purchase tickets in advance, through the Web site.

The exhibit is presented in an artful, dignified way, giving visitors a chance to see the human body in a way only scientists or doctors may have done so.

"These are real people," said Fulford. "We treat it with reverence and respect."

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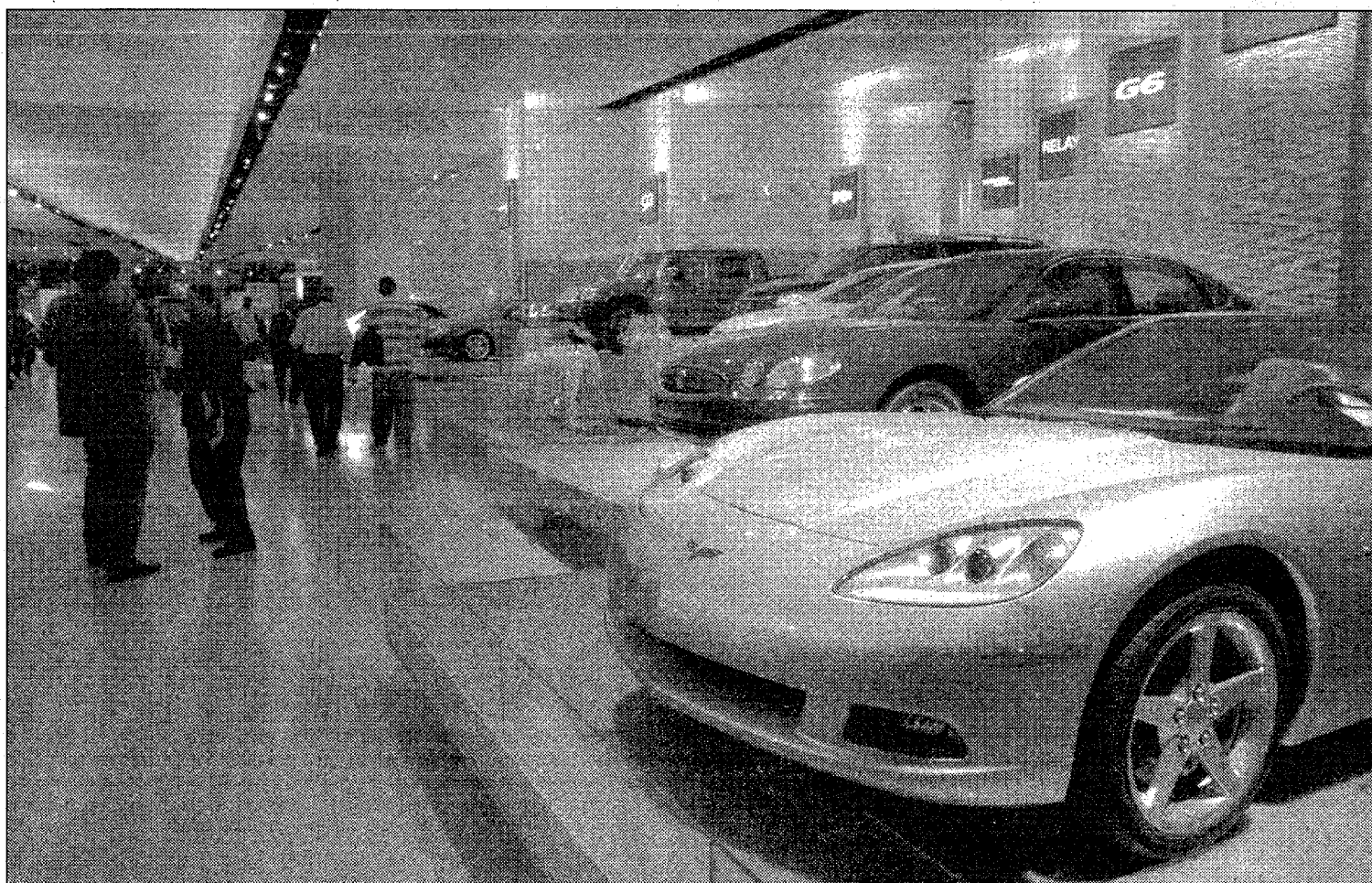
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ANNIE LEIBOVITZ: AMERICAN MUSIC is organized by Experience Music Project, Seattle, and all works are courtesy of Annie Leibovitz. In Detroit, the exhibition has been made possible by a generous grant from LaSalle Bank. Additional support provided by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the City of Detroit.

Willie Nelson, Luck Ranch, Spicewood, Texas, 2001. Copyright © 2001 by Annie Leibovitz.

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The North American International Auto Show attracted more than 700,000 visitors last year, and high numbers are expected again this month.

FAST LANE

COUNTDOWN BEGINS TO NEXT WEEK'S AUTO SHOW

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

This event is to the auto industry what the Sundance Film Festival is to the film world.

And, believe it or not, it's in its 100th year.

The North American International Auto Show opens to the public Saturday, Jan. 13, and runs through Sunday, Jan. 21, at Cobo Hall. And since Michigan's ski season is lame so far, the auto show is a nice entertainment choice.

At NAIAS, the auto industry will unveil more than 45 new models and 34 concept vehicles.

Here, you can see everything from a standard car to a vehicle of daydreaming luxury.

For example, the new Phantom Drophead Coupé will be unveiled by Rolls-Royce's Goodwood plant in the United Kingdom.

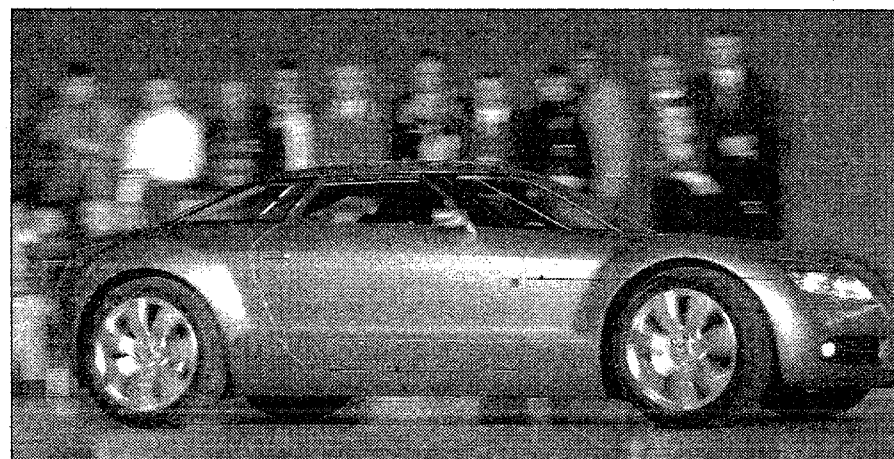
The \$407,000 vehicle is a two-door, four-seat, streamlined convertible and is lightweight yet has a rigid all-aluminum spaceframe chassis. Plus, it features the classic Rolls-Royce long hood. From the side, it's reminiscent of a 1960s sports car and is lined with cashmere.

It has the same 6.75-liter naturally aspirated V12 engine found in the Phantom sedan, 0-to-60 mph in 5.7 seconds.

Also anticipated is the fourth-generation BMW 3 Series four-seat convertible with its three-piece retractable hardtop that opens in 200 seconds.

And while cars are the stars, the economic impact of the entire show is hard to ignore — estimated at \$550 million, said David Sowerby, of Loomis Sayles & Co.

"The NAIAS covers two full weeks, plus the considerable assembly that begins in late

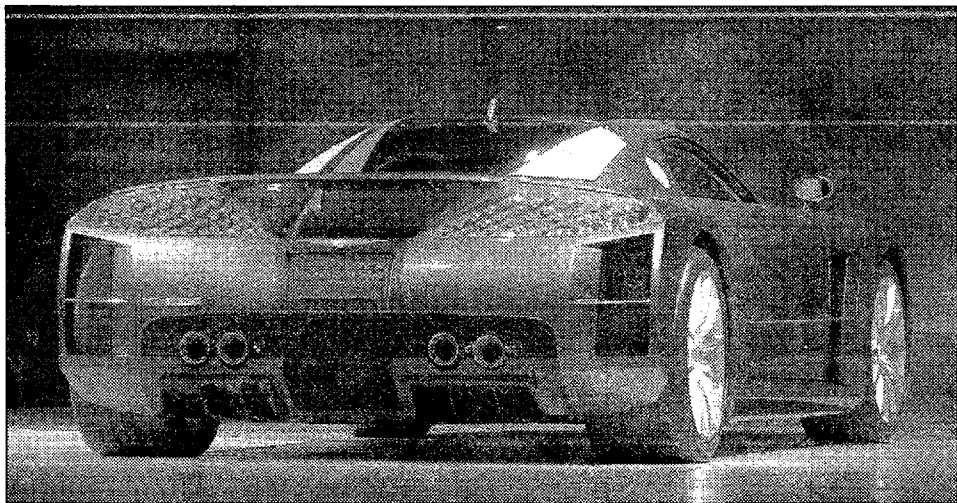


The Saturn Curve concept car was unveiled last year. More concept cars will be shown this year.

October each year and the dismantling of the individual exhibits afterward," Sowerby said.

"The NAIAS is consistently the

PLEASE SEE **AUTO, E7**



Last year, Chrysler introduced ME 412 concept vehicle.

Athletes, stars and cars

In the past, celebrities such as Kevin Bacon, Jay Leno, Celine Dion, Veronica Webb and Kid Rock have attended.

This year, expect more star power. The Charity Preview — to kick off the North American International Auto Show — will be held from 6-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12.

The black-tie event attracted 17,000 last year and raised \$6.8 million for 11 Detroit-area children's charities.

The \$400 tax-deductible ticket sells big because guests get a first glimpse at the stars of the show — the automobiles, including 90 exhibitors.

There's food, cars, stars and more.

Benefiting charities are:

- Barat Child and Family Services for abused and neglected teenage girls.

- Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan, which provides safe places for kids.

- Boys Hope/Girls Hope of Detroit, which provides children with long-term, value-centered, family-style homes and quality education.

- The Children's Center, which develops strong children and successful families and offers aid to children throughout metro Detroit.

- Judson Center, which helps abused,

neglected, developmentally disabled children and their families.

- Children's Services of Northeast Guidance Center Assistance League, which offers treatment and prevention for emotional disturbances in children.

- Detroit Auto Dealers Association Charitable Foundation Fund, which makes grants to programs and activities that assist children and youth in the seven-county region.

- The Detroit Institute for Children, which provides outpatient medical and rehabilitative care to children with disabilities.

- Easter Seal Society of Southeastern Michigan, which provides programs to children with disabilities.

- March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, which aims to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.

- Think Detroit PAL, in partnership with the Detroit Police Department, which builds character in young people through athletic, academic and leadership development programs.

Read more about the event in the next edition of Filter.

For advance tickets only, call (888) 838-7500.

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NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW 2007

When: Saturday, Jan. 13, through Sunday, Jan. 21.

Hours: 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day, except Jan. 21 (9 a.m. to 7 p.m.).

Where: Cobo Hall, One Washington Blvd., Detroit.

Tickets: \$12 for adults; \$6 for senior citizens 65 and up; \$6 for kids 7-12; and free for kids 6 and under. Available at the door and at all Ticketmaster outlets.

For more information: Visit www.naias.com.

Notes: Individuals with specific needs can enter at the Oakland Hall entrance beginning at 8 a.m. during the public show.

RELATED EVENTS:

From 6-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, get an early preview of the show. Tickets are \$400. Call (888) 838-7500. Proceeds benefit Detroit-area children's charities. The event is black tie. Self-parking is available at the Millennium Garage for the charity event. Fort Street to First, then south on First to the garage entrance. Use Congress entrance to Cobo.

AUTO

FROM PAGE E6

number one contributor to business activity in Detroit due to the amount of time spent on its extensive set-up and execution. Intense competition in the auto industry has also inspired new display designs for one-third of the exhibits this year."

The NAIAS is owned and operated by the Detroit Auto Dealers Association.

The North American International Auto Show 2006 attracted near-record attendance, with 759,310 attending the

public show.

"We are extremely proud of the annual economic impact the NAIAS brings to our region," said Robert Thibodeau, Jr., senior co-chairman for the NAIAS 2007.

"Ranging from hotels to restaurants to exhibit companies and retail, everywhere so many businesses and their families reap the benefit of this show year in and year out. Our goal is to keep that revenue stable and here in Michigan for the continued benefit to our economy."

And that's just the beginning.

Read more about the auto show in the next issue of Filter.

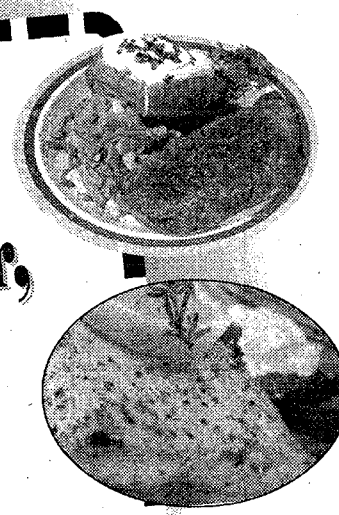
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Filter faves

Check out some of our favorite eateries

Filter staffers enjoy eating out at many of the local eateries. Read the list below, and you'll see we have something listed for just about any kind of taste.

Here are some of our favorites:

NICE DINNER

Five Lakes Grill in Milford, 424 N. Main, Milford, (248) 684-7455.

Owner and chef Brian Polcyn literally wrote the book on charcuterie and he incorporates much of his expertise of the topic onto his menu, a treasure of Great Lakes regional cooking. Try his Farmer's Plate of charcuterie selections or Fisherman's Plate of salted and smoked seafood, or roast smoked pork loin with pork confit and kielbasa. Awesome.

CHINESE

Huang Hua, 27925 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, (248) 489-



Ken Abramczyk

2280. Outstanding delicious cuisine and a great atmosphere. Partake in the crispy shrimp mousse on toast, steamed wontons, Phoenix Nest (chicken, shrimp and daily greens in a golden basket) or King of the Sea (lobster, scallops and grouper in a garlic sauce).

CHAIN RESTAURANT

PF Chang's: OK, it's a chain (with locations in Troy and Northville Township), but I love the menu changes featuring more Sichuan and seafood items. Beyond the lettuce wraps of chicken, there's the delicious shrimp with lobster sauce.

SANDWICH PLACE

Jimmy John's: Another chain, this

one with several locations, but love the sandwiches, piled high with lots of good stuff with great bread. Try the No. 10 (the Hunter's Club).

CHEAP EATS

Grape Leaves, 2850 W. Maple in Troy, (248) 816-2000.

Fresh, excellent Mediterranean food.

The tabbouleh and hummus sandwich and a bowl of crushed lentil soup fills you up without emptying your wallet.

Great lunch spot.

FAVORITE SPORTS BAR

There are plenty of great bars to eat in this town with great food, but my favorite is the **Library Sports Bar and Grill** at 15 Mile and Haggerty in West Bloomfield. A fun, friendly place to hang out.

Compiled by Ken Abramczyk



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Among the Filter picks for great restaurants P.F. Chang's in Northville and its Seared Ahi Tuna.

A walk down memory lane...



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Barbara Harris of the Toys

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Stephanie A. Casola

From family pizza night to impressing out-of-town guests, Kruse & Muer always earns high marks. The warm loaves of poppyseed bread are irresistible. And don't miss the Tortellini and Grilled Chicken a la Creme.

DATE RESTAURANT

Maria's Front Room, 215 W. Nine Mile, Ferndale, (248) 542-7379.

Maybe I'm a simple girl. But I'm easily impressed by a little family-owned restaurant where white tablecloths, fresh-baked bread and house-made wine accompany an authentic Italian menu. Try the Eggplant Parmesan. And, like a true Italian, save room for Tiramisu and coffee.

AL FRESCO DINING

La Dolce Vita, 17546 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (888) 836-7813.

Maybe it's the hide-away nature of LDV, but once you enter its lush patio, you've found the perfect spot for dinner on a warm summer evening.

BREAKFAST JOINT

The Fly Trap, A Finer Diner, 22950

Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Call (248) 399-5150 or visit theflytrapferndale.com.

I've fallen in love with the tiny details - kitchen towels parading as napkins, warm mini muffins and daily milkshakes flavors. Opt for a veggie scramble with garlic potatoes and coffee. Such simple, delicious choices draw in weekend crowds.

OFF-THE-BEATEN PATH

The Clarkston Union Bar & Kitchen, 54 S. Main, Clarkston, (248) 620-6100.

The restaurant is housed in a spacious converted church. Its diners generally go for its famous Mac 'n' Cheese. But the rustic sandwiches and vast selection of brews are also tops. Stop inside the adjacent Union General store for an interesting gift or cappuccino.

Compiled by Stephanie A. Casola

ATMOSPHERE



Mary Klemic

Sweet Lorraine's in Southfield and Livonia. The sophisticated yet friendly atmosphere, as well as the great food and service, make this a special place.

CHAIN RESTAURANT

Olga's, several locations. The Original Olga is still terrific, as are the Three-Cheese and other types of Olga sandwiches. And the warm brownie is a great dessert.

FAMILY FEEL

Anita's Kitchen, 110 W. Maple in Troy, (248) 362-0680. Great Mediterranean food, friendly service.

Compiled by Mary Klemic

BRUNCH

Inn Season, 500 E. Fourth, Royal Oak, (248) 547-7916.



Lana Mini

It doesn't matter if you're vegetarian, good food is good food.

The Budapest mushroom soup, nutty flavored tempeh maple patties, and the magical eggless crepes on the brunch menu are amazing.

FAVORITE ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Mario's, 4222 Second Ave., Detroit, (313) 832-1616.

Having grown up in a Sicilian household, I find that there's rarely a good reason to go out for Italian food because nothing beats the family's recipes.

But Mario's in Detroit is an experience with impeccable service, live entertainment and dancing on Friday nights. Hardy pasta dishes, complimentary relish, appetizers - this is one of Detroit's few surviving supper clubs from days gone by. Dress well.

FAVORITE ATMOSPHERE

The Blue Nile, 545 W. Nine Mile, Ferndale, (248) 547-6699.

I love the deep hardwood floors, big windows and warm flair at the Ferndale location. Food is eaten with the hands, the soft bread is your "utensil." The Vegetarian Feast features spicy red lentils, mild yellow lentils, tangy cold mustard lentils, mild cabbage, potatoes and carrots, and a fresh, palate-cleansing lemony green salad. I have dined at many Ethiopian restaurants throughout the U.S. None beats the Blue Nile.

Compiled by Lana Mini

STANDS THE TEST OF TIME



Wensdy Von Buskirk

Xochimilco Restaurant, 3409 Bagley, Detroit, (313) 843-0179.

When I was little, I sat in a high chair to dip tortillas in chili at this authentic Mexican restaurant. These days it's still a destination, but now I can order a famous Margarita with my meal!

BEST AL FRESCO DINING

Mon Jin Lau, 1515 E. Maple, Troy, (888) 833-8867.

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'Night at the Museum' tops box office again

BY JEFF WILSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ben Stiller's playful *Night at the Museum* was the top box office draw during the New Year's weekend with \$37.8 million, a 24 percent jump over its debut the previous week, according to studio estimates released Sunday.

Uplifting movies dominated the Top 10 for the holiday weekend, a busy period at turnstiles.

Will Smith's *The Pursuit of Happyness* took second place with \$19.3 million, up 30 percent, while the musical *Dreamgirls* finished third with \$15.5 million.

The Pursuit of Happyness was expected to cross the \$100 million threshold on New Year's Day.

No. 4 *Charlotte's Web* was up 59 percent with \$12 million in its third week. Rocky Balboa was in fifth place with \$11.4 million.

No new movies went into wide release.

Dreamgirls saw a major surge in business, averaging a whopping \$18,192 per screen as Paramount rolled it out slowly with word-of-mouth creating a buzz. It was showing on

just 852 screens, compared to 3,768 for *Night at the Museum*.

Dreamgirls, the first musical sensation since *Chicago* in 2002, will expand to

about 1,800 screens on Jan. 12.

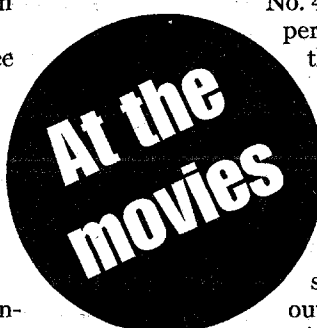
"We knew it was a movie that was a real crowd-pleaser," said Rob Moore, Paramount's president of marketing and distribution. "The amazing word-of-mouth is bringing it along. It's been a while since a musical really worked."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Wednesday.

1. *Night at the Museum*, \$37.8 million.
2. *The Pursuit of Happyness*, \$19.3 million.
3. *Dreamgirls*, \$15.5 million.
4. *Charlotte's Web*, \$12 million.
5. *Rocky Balboa*, \$11.4 million.
6. *The Good Shepherd*, \$11.2 million.
7. *Eragon*, \$8.5 million.
8. *We Are Marshall*, \$8 million.

9. *Happy Feet*, \$7.8 million.

10. *The Holiday*, \$6.7 million.
Universal Pictures and Focus Features are owned by NBC Universal, a joint venture of General Electric Co. and Vivendi Universal; Sony Pictures, Sony Screen Gems and Sony Pictures Classics are units of Sony Corp.; DreamWorks, Paramount and Paramount Vantage are divisions of Viacom Inc.; Disney's parent is The Walt Disney Co.; Miramax is a division of The Walt Disney Co.; 20th Century Fox, Fox Searchlight Pictures and Fox Atomic are owned by News Corp.; Warner Bros., New Line, Warner Independent and Picturehouse are units of Time Warner Inc.; MGM is owned by a consortium of Providence Equity Partners, Texas Pacific Group, Sony Corp., Comcast Corp., DLJ Merchant Banking Partners and Quadrangle Group; Lionsgate is owned by Lionsgate Entertainment Corp.; IFC Films is owned by Rainbow Media Holdings, a subsidiary of Cablevision Systems Corp.



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If you aren't into cars ...

The North American International Auto Show is an important event in Detroit, of course. But if cars and crowds just isn't your thing, here's other happenings going on during the auto show's first week.

Rockabilly legend singer **Robert Gordon** featuring guitarist **Christ Spedding** perform at the Magic Bag in Ferndale at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12.

Tickets are \$15.
If you love Elvis, you'll love Gordon. The singer heard *Heartbreak Hotel* when he was just 9 years old and the king's voice forever impacted him. From there he listened to Gene Vincent, Eddie Cochran and Carl Perkins.

In the 1970s, Gordon was a member of The Tuff Darts, a CBGB's/Max's Kansas City glam-punk band and then went back to his rockabilly love.

Gordon and legendary guitarist Chris Spedding (of Roxy Music, the Pretenders and Paul McCartney) have just recorded a new Elvis tribute CD that will be in stores this spring.

Get ready to swing at this show. Call (248) 544-3030 for details.

SIDEBURNS AND POMPADOURS NOT YOUR THING?

Head over to The Plymouth Community Arts Council where artist **Margarete Nagarkar's** exhibit has been held over until Sunday, Jan. 14.

Her exhibit *Looking In, Looking Out* includes works done in mixed media — from charcoal to computer wires.

"My paintings are deeply personal responses to the wider issues affecting us," Nagarkar said. "They are comments on both the state of the world and the

state of our souls."

Born and raised in Germany, the artist came to United States as a teenager. Art has been a lifelong love for her.

The PCAC is located at 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth. Call (734) 416-4278.



DREAMING...

The latest reinvention of theatrical circus from **Cirque Productions** is *Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy*. The colorful dream in an enchanted forest filled with imaginative theatrics and world-class acrobatics comes to the Fisher Theatre from Jan. 16 through Feb. 4.

Tickets are \$28-\$50 on sale at the Fisher Theatre box office or online at www.ticketmaster.com. To charge by phone call (248) 645-6666.

AND MORE DREAMS

Haven't seen *Dreamgirls* yet?

What are you waiting for?

The movie with a Motown theme made more than \$43 million in its first eight days, which is high for a musical.

In exit surveys, moviegoers nationwide have given it a 95 percent favorable rating.

"That's the highest I've ever seen," said Rob Moore, Paramount Pictures president and worldwide marketing and distribution. "Not only have audiences responded to surveys with spectacular scores, we've seen them respond to the movie in a remarkable way with ovations during the performance of the film."

Know of an interesting event? E-mail Lana Mini at imini@hometownlife.net

'See No Evil' is eye-catching but empty

This is the season to collect eyeballs in glass jars. At least that's the way it seems with the recent focus of that practice in films.

Recently, we noted the practice in the dreadful *Mr. Hell*. Now comes *Kane: See No Evil*. This is a substantially better movie although far from being memorable.

The biggest problem here is that the characters are so obnoxious that there isn't a hero in the bunch.

And what bunch they are. The story: A group of petty criminals (the usual 20-somethings, model quality) is sent to do community service at the crumbling skid row Blackwell hotel that is being restored into a homeless shelter.

This is a vast place, which is remarkably intact for an abandoned building. In my stretch of town, when a big building is abandoned, the scrappers are in it within days and pick it as clean as a caiman that riled up a school of piranha.

At any rate, the crew doesn't know that there is a 7-foot tall, 400 pound psycho (actually professional wrestler Kane) lurking about whose hobby is collecting



Beyond Bad

Greg Kowalski

eyeballs, which he deposits in a set of glass jars.

After a couple of the crew members are snagged by a giant hook tossed by the madman, the lawman overlooking the bunch realizes that this is the same lunatic he encountered four years before. The cop shot the nutzo in the head, which left him with a big maggot-filled hole in his melon and an even worse attitude. In return, the nutcase chopped off the cop's arm. And he soon dispatches him with the big hook, snagging him like a cop carp.

From there, the chase is on as the killer roams secret passages throughout the hotel with the crew fighting back and being picked off one by one.

We do come to learn that there is a

because huge, decadent portions mean you'll leave stuffed. Choose from gigantic, three-egg omelets or savory crepes smothered in gourmet sauces. The combos are so big they're brought out on two plates - and you will finish every bite.

FAMILY FRIENDLY LUNCH

Rebecca's Family Restaurant & Ice Cream Parlor, 134 N. Center, Northville, (248) 348-2660.

This kid-friendly restaurant offers plenty to keep tykes occupied, from trams and trains to toys and an aquarium complete with Nemo. The kids menu is extensive and healthy, and there's creative fare for adults, too. I assume it's all good, although I've never gotten past the crave-worthy Greek chicken wrap!

CAN'T FORGET

The Whitney, 4421 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (313) 832-5700.

Of course, no list of Detroit favorites would be complete without mention of The Whitney.

This impeccable mansion, built by the Whitney lumber barons, is a feast for the eyes as well as the palate. Nothing is too formal for this exquisite dining spot, so dress to impress and bring your American Express for a truly scrumptious experience.

Compiled by Wensdy Von Buskirk

Don't worry, we'll be listing some of your favorites, too. Look for our upcoming Best of ... entry form in late January.

meaning to this madness, as the killer actually is driven to doing the nasty deeds by his equally loony mom, who severely abused him as a child and keeps goading her son to pluck eyeballs because they are somehow pathways to evil, or something like that.

While this is a very well-produced film, it is lacking in one key area - Kane can't act. That's surprising since most professional wrestlers can.

But Kane doesn't do justice to World Wrestling Entertainment, which pro-

duced this film.

There's plenty of gore to go around, including the memorable ending of Kane, who falls through a skylight and is impaled on a spike, offering us an internal view of his pierced guts.

But the fright factor is pretty low - except for one scary note: A sequel is planned.

Greg Kowalski likes professional wrestling, too. He can be reached at (248) 901-2570 or by e-mail at gkowalski@hometownlife.com.

FAVORITES

FROM PAGE E9

My parents used to get sitters so they could go on weekly dates at Mon Jin Lau. The creative Chinese restaurant continues to draw a hip crowd with creative "Nu Asian" cuisine and events like Shanghai Wednesdays, when DJs enliven the patio vibe.

AUTHENTIC ETHNIC

Little Italy Ristorante, 227 Hutton, Northville, (248) 348-0575.

This family-owned Italian restaurant is tucked inside a Victorian house, and serves up every course with style - from spiedini to tiramisu. Reserve a table in the dining room, drop by the Bacchus Bar for a modified (and less expensive) menu, or pick up packaged portions at Little Italy's Hutton Street Market to take home.

DATE RESTAURANT

No. VI Chop House and Lobster Bar, 27790 Novi Road, Novi, (248) 305-5210.

This upscale Matt Prentice restaurant, located inside the Hotel Baronette, has been a special retreat for my hubby and me from courtship to parenthood. Succulent lobster - the best I've had in town - is worth the splurge.

BREAKFAST JOINT

Gest Omelets, 25906 Plymouth Road, Redford, (313) 937-3540.

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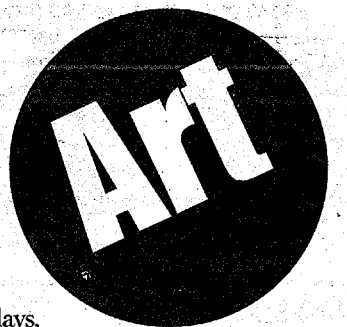
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Enjoy art class at the DIA



Beat the winter blues this month by taking a class at the Detroit Institute of Arts. With a range of creative opportunities for children, teens and adults, DIA instructors will remind students of all they enjoyed about art class. Here's a list of upcoming programs:

Mixed Media Wood Sculpture: Develop an animal or figure that can stand using wood pieces. During the second session students will add details and embellish sculptures with papier mâché and paint. Class is sched-

uled 10 a.m. to noon Jan. 13, 20, ages 13-17, \$40-\$48.

Model Magic Marionette: Create a simple puppet on strings with Model Magic, an air-drying clay. Class is scheduled 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, ages 5-8 with adult, \$20-\$24.

Clay Masks: Create a one-of-a-kind mask out of clay. Class is 10 a.m. to noon, Wednesday, Jan. 17, ages 5-8 with adult, \$20-\$24

Pulp It Up: Make colorful handmade paper and turn it into creative paper bowls. Class is scheduled 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 21, ages 9-12, \$20-\$24

Life Drawing: Draw both draped and undraped models, portrait and full figure, in various media including pastel, ink and conté crayon. Class is scheduled 5:30-8 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22; March 1, 8, ages 18 and over, \$150-\$175.

Ceramics: Class is scheduled 6-9 p.m.

Wednesdays, Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28; March 7, 14, 21, 28, ages: 14 and over, \$240-\$260
Students of all skill levels can explore hand-building and wheel-throwing methods of shaping clay.

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PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
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VIOLENT CONTENT, SOME THEMATIC MATERIAL & LANGUAGE

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BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR EDDIE MURPHY
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS JENNIFER HUDSON
BEST ACTING ENSEMBLE
BEST DIRECTOR BILL CONDON
BEST SONG "LISTEN"
BEST SOUNDTRACK

TIME - RICHARD COLLIS
"A FABULOUS MOVIE WITH PLENTY OF PIZAZZ!"

DREAMGIRLS

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13
LANGUAGE, SOME SEXUALITY AND DRUG CONTENT

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Text DREAM to 33287 for free mobile phone content. Standard messaging rates apply. May not be compatible on all carriers.

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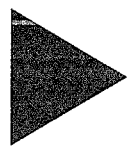
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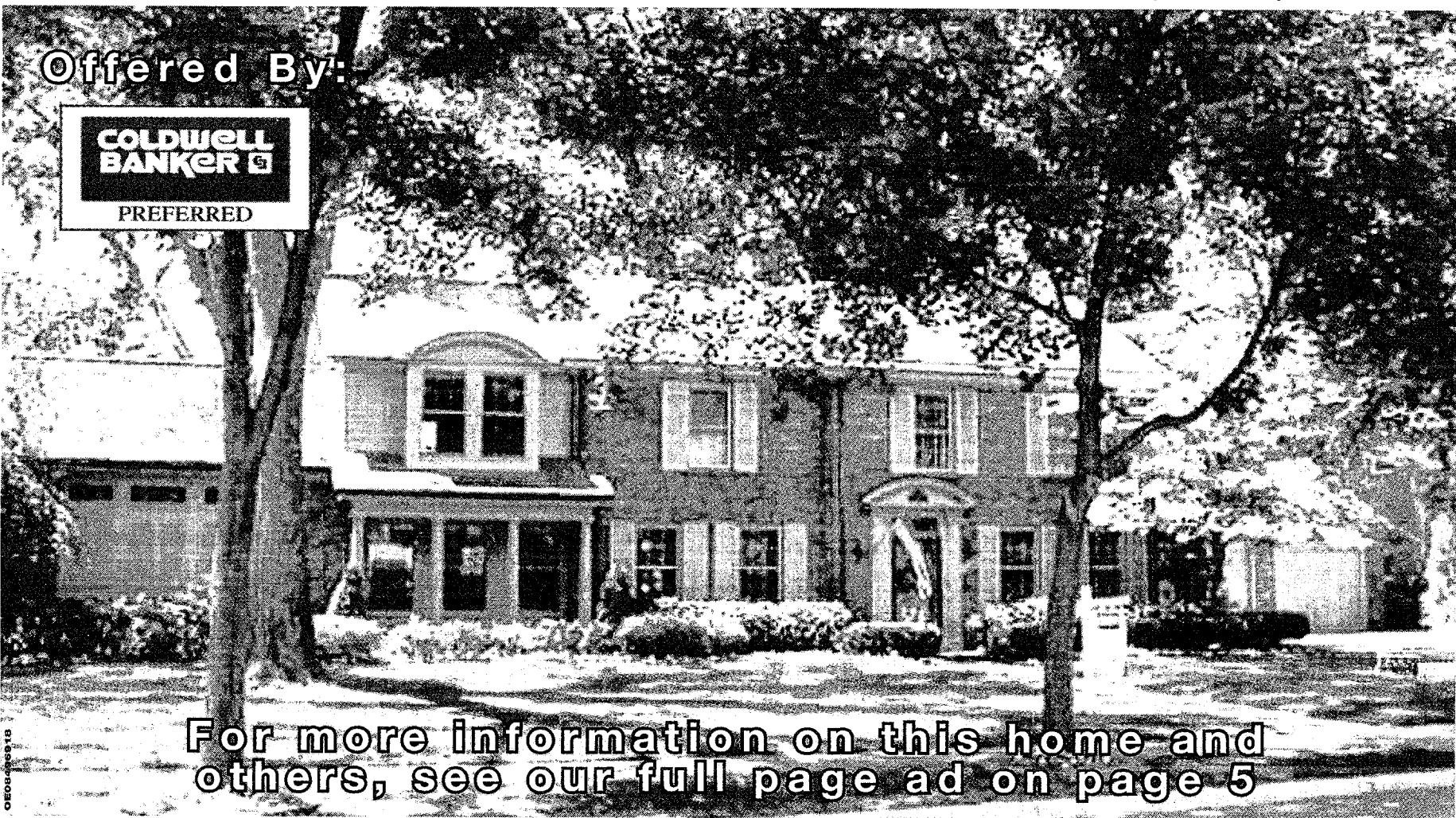
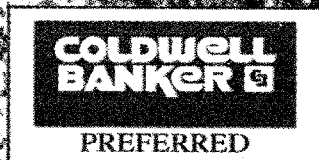
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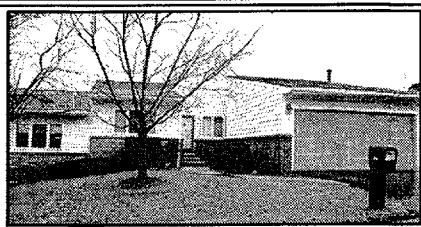
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Building Industry Association to kick off a new year for '07

The Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan is offering:

- Executive Image Seminar on "Selling at the 2007 BIA Builders and Remodelers Trade Show" 9-11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 12, at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100 in Farmington Hills. The seminar will be presented by the Executive Image Group and will cover how to qualify leads based on a conversation, how to motivate yourself after the show, understanding the life cycle of a lead and how to get the lead to contact you after the show. Fees are \$45 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members, \$65 for guests. To register, call (248) 862-1033.
- Annual economic forecast for 2007 noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17, at the Best Western Sterling Inn, 34911 Van Dyke in Sterling Heights. David F. Seiders, chief economist for the National Association of Home Builders in Washington, D.C., will provide an outlook for the residential construction industry for the U.S. and southeastern Michigan. Lunch is included. Fees are \$40 for BIA and Apartment Association of Michigan members, \$60 for guests. To register, call (248) 862-1033.

Visit www.hometownlife.com for news updates



FARMINGTON HILLS- Rare Find! Large end unit ranch condo offers 3 bedrms, 3 baths, great ktchn w/ oak cabs, formal liv rm & dining rm, master w/ walk-in-closet & full bath, 1st flr laundry, professionally fin'd walkout w/ lg great rm, 3rd bedrm & bath. \$239,900 (D22Mea)

LIVONIA - Fabulous 1694 sq ft 3 bedrm, 2 bath ranch offering attached 2.5 car garage + add'l mechanics dream heated garage, newer thermal windows, oak kitchen, new dimensional roof, huge liv rm w/ frpic, hardwd flrs, 13x13 breezeway + more! \$219,900 (L75Gra)

LIVONIA - Full 2 story dormer makes a fantastic master bedrm w/ 14 ft walk-in-closet! Wet plaster on 1st floor w/ cove ceiling & bay window in liv rm. Updated ktchn & bath, lg rec rm + office in fin'd lower level + more! \$154,900 (L98Car)

MILFORD - Terrific buy in Milford Twp - no Village taxes! Well maintained, clean ranch w/ 3 bdrms, 2 full baths, 1st floor laundry & fin'd walkout. Home sits on 1.5 gorgeous acres! Newer windows, boiler, softener, well + more! \$239,900 (L64Ann)



LIVONIA - Located on the service drive w/ blvd & no thru traffic plus a lrg fenced yard! Offers 4 bdrms, 2.5 baths, updated ktchn, baths, Anderson wndws, roof shingles, furn & C/A. Fin'd bsmt w/ lg rec rm & 5th bedrm, Florida rm + more! \$199,000 (D80Fiv)

LIVONIA - Beautiful 3 bedrm, 1.5 bath brick ranch offers updated ktchn, bath & more. Walk out from ktchn to a lrg deck overlooking extra large fenced yard. Part fin'd basement w/ separate laundry rm, bedrm or rec rm, lav & loads of storage. \$193,000 (L10Gii)

LIVONIA - Price reduced on this wonderful 4 bedrm, 2.5 bath colonial w/great court location. Newer vinyl siding, front windows, Anderson windows & door wall on back, new furnace & C/A, updated bath, hrdwd flrs, new 6 panel entry & closet doors, etc. \$259,900 (L08Lan)

FARMINGTON - Charming 2 bedrm starter home in Farmington! Everything's been done inc: new ceramic bath, ktchn w/ abundance of counters, cabinets & 7x3 walk-in-pantry, updated windows, roof, A/C, furn, siding, plumbing + award winning landscaping! \$148,900 (L09Vio)

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- Novi News
- Plymouth Observer
- Rochester Eccentric
- Royal Oak and Clawson Mirror
- Redford Observer
- Southfield Eccentric
- South Lyon Herald
- Troy Eccentric
- West Bloomfield Eccentric
- Westland Observer
- and on

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OE0816520

BRIEFS

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

On hand will be licensed Realtors and a mortgage broker to answer your questions.

RSVP by calling (248) 855-2000, Ext. 219, or e-mailing Mpopp@Century21Today.com.

Builders Institute

The Oakland Builders Institute will offer:

■ a 16-hour seminar to help students pass the Michigan state builder's license exam. It will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 20-21, at the Best Western ConCorde Inn of Rochester Hills, 1919 Star-Batt Drive. The course is for those who want to subcontract construction of their own homes as well as real estate investors, developers and building trades people. Cost is \$205 including manual, sample questions and text application. A \$25 deposit is needed by Jan. 18 to Oakland Builders Institute, 1277 Dutton Road, Rochester Hills 48306. To register, call (800) 940-2014 or (248) 651-2771 or online at www.buildersinstitute.com.

■ a seminar to help you pass the Michigan state builder's license exam offered by the institute in cooperation with Lake Orion Community Education. It will be 6-10 p.m. Monday/Wednesday, Jan. 22, 24, 29 and 31, at the Community Education

PLEASE SEE BRIEFS, 6



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 Over \$50K in upgrades in this 3 bedroom, 2.1 bath home, 42" maple cabinets, granite throughout, upgraded faucets, lighting, carpet, pad, tile & elevation, 1st floor laundry, huge master suite w/cathedral ceilings, great rm w/fireplace & extra windows, common pool, tennis & clubhouse, \$10,000 bonus to buyer with accept. Offer. \$260,000 (jgcut)



GREAT VALUE FOR THE SIZE! NOVI
 Hardwood floors in 2 story foyer, 1 1/2 bath, kitchen, dining rm & living rm, 4 bedrooms, 2.1 baths, over 3,400 sq. ft. dual staircases, newer carpet, master suite has cathedral ceiling, separate sitting area updated bath w/maple cabinets & granite counter, paver patio's, 2 1/2 car garage, side-walks in sub, \$460,000 (jgdev)



FIRST FLOOR MASTER PRICED TO MOVE FAST! NOVI
 Great room with gas fireplace, Hardwd flrs in 2 story foyer w/loft above, kitchen & half bath, first floor laundry, first floor master w/bath & vaulted ceiling & vic, dining room, study, Jack and Jill bath, kitchen with nook; 42" cherry cabinets, 2 car garage, commons area with gazebo. \$285,000 (jgemo)



BEAUTIFUL PARK LIKE SETTING ON 1 ACRE NORTHVILLE
 This 5 bedroom, 3.1 baths has all you need! Remodeled kitchen with maple cabinets and granite, master suite with Jacuzzi bath, large great room with fireplace, Pella windows throughout, newer roof, 2 garages attached & detached, deck, patio and covered porch & circular driveway. \$500,000 (jghoa)

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 \$372,000 - Green Oak Custom 4 Br Cape Cod! 248-437-3800	 \$529,900 - Brighton Ranch w/lake frontage & acreage! 248-437-3800	 \$94,900 - Green Oak Private cul-de-sac 248-684-1065	 \$159,900 - Waterford Large fenced backyard. 248-684-1065	 \$399,900 - Highland 1,000 sq ft fin W/O LL. 248-684-1065
 \$99,900 - Highland Be your own boss! 248-684-1065	 \$550,000 - Milford The Crossings of Milford 2+ acres 248-684-1065	 \$989,900 - Milford 5 acs w/ pond/lakefront. 248-684-1065	 \$379,000 - Milford Unfin bonus rm over garage. 248-684-1065	
 \$225,000 - Novi 3 Br Ranch 248-348-6430	 \$799,900 - Northville Beautiful 4 Br Home 248-348-6430	 \$2500/Mnth - Novi Upscale Condo For Lease 248-348-6430	 \$141,900 - Canton Rare 3 Br Condo 248-348-6430	 \$244,900 - Plymouth Move In And Enjoy 248-348-6430
 \$249,900 - Novi Spectacular Location 248-348-6430	 \$579,000 - Novi Sophisticated Living 248-348-6430	 \$285,000 - Novi Great Home, Super Price 248-348-6430	 \$999,000 - Northville Beautiful 4 Br Home 248-348-6430	

Milford (248) 684-1065 • Novi (248) 348-6430 • South Lyon (248) 437-3800

At home: SkyLofts living suits these young professionals

With Royal Oak restaurants and nightlife just up the street, SkyLofts MarketSquare is the perfect home for loft owner Mike Smith and his roommate, Kevin Birchler, both 24.

Transportation? No problem. Their vehicles of choice to get to a recent interview at the Royal Oak Brewery were their skateboards.

"I like the proximity to downtown. I never get in my car," Smith said. He said they and their friends are happy to go out on the town in Royal Oak without worrying about parking and driving.

The two, former classmates at Brother Rice High School, were among the earliest residents of SkyLofts MarketSquare. They moved in in early June of this year. Smith had been living in a Royal Oak apartment and "looking for houses forever" when he began considering a loft. The price compared favorably to other options and the 307-square-foot terrace attracted him.

"These other places just have a balcony stuck on," he said. He and his friends socialized outdoors all summer.

The SkyLofts fitness center meant that Smith could drop his health club membership and he said he'll be very happy when indoor parking saves him

For Smith and Birchler, the other major attraction is the location. Their mug club memberships at the Royal Oak Brewery earn them discounts on draft beer and a free meal on their birthdays. They visit 5th Avenue to shoot pool and dine at Café Habana and Comet Burgers. They play golf at Rackham Golf Course during the summer.

from having to scrape snow off his car on winter mornings.

"Morningside Group's research and experience with loft developments in Illinois and Michigan demonstrated that these were the most desirable amenities," said Skylofts Development Manager Nico Schultz. "We specialize in these kinds of developments, and can offer a high-value package of benefits at a very favorable price."

For Smith and Birchler, the other major attraction is the location. Their mug club memberships at the Royal Oak Brewery earn them discounts on draft beer and a free meal on their birthdays. They visit 5th Avenue to shoot pool and dine at Café Habana and Comet Burgers. They play golf at

Rackham Golf Course during the summer.

Smith shops at the Farmer's Market on Saturdays, while Birchler likes the Sunday flea market.

"That's where I'll get all my Christmas gifts," Birchler said.

Royal Oak's easy access to I-75 and I-696 make it easy for them to get to downtown Detroit, where the duo cheered on the Detroit Tigers last summer.

Smith, who attended Denison University, works in sales and quality control for Basic Rubber and Plastics, a Walled Lake company that provides Humvee and tank parts for the U.S. defense industry. Birchler, a University of Michigan biology grad, works at an

Alpaca farm in Goodrich, Mich.

SkyLofts MarketSquare will not refuse any reasonable offer in their builder's close-out sale, and lease options and custom financing are available. Finished lofts are ready for move-in.

Founded in 1993, Morningside Group is a boutique real estate development firm that specializes in creating premier residential and mixed-use developments on in-fill sites in downtown locations. Long recognized as a leader in the design and construction of highly acclaimed buildings, Morningside Group has built an enviable track record of successful public-private partnerships.

Morningside's work ensures that each new development will join a growing portfolio of prized buildings which includes, in Michigan, SkyLofts Royal Oak and SkyLofts MarketSquare in Royal Oak and, in Illinois, Arbor Court and Prairie Town Center in Oak Lawn, Crescent Court and Museum Square in Elmhurst, Morningside Square in Downers Grove, The Glen Astor in Glen Ellyn, and buildings in Evanston and Skokie.

HOMES SOLD

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Sept. 5-8, 2006, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office, plus some from Oakland County. Listed below are cities, addresses and sales prices.

City	Address	Sales Price	City	Address	Sales Price			
Canton	41535 Copper Creek Dr	\$178,000	Milford	620 East St	\$170,000			
	198 Country Club Ln	\$325,000		Northville	43560 Six Mile Rd	\$800,000		
	46655 Hanford Rd	\$260,000			16273 Aspen Valley Dr	\$710,000		
	43432 Proctor Rd	\$185,000			44883 Broadmoor Cir S	\$381,000		
	626 Sandalwood Ct	\$373,000			16212 Crystal Downs E	\$561,000		
	1993 Trinity Rd	\$143,000			17581 E Northville Trl	\$402,000		
	Farmington	33441 Alta Loma St			\$165,000	18153 Edenderry St	\$475,000	
		31005 Shiawassee Rd			\$133,000	48976 Freestone Dr	\$476,000	
		Farmington Hills			22367 Atlantic Pointe	\$133,000	16844 Lochmoor Cir	\$408,000
					27432 E Skye Dr	\$250,000	49401 N Glacier	\$286,000
37787 Eagle Trce			\$520,000		49026 Rainbow Ln	\$410,000		
35261 Glengary Cir			\$361,000	48490 Stoneridge Dr	\$240,000			
35967 Hardenburg Rd			\$240,000	16697 Yellowstone Dr	\$151,000			
21930 Heatheridge Ln			\$380,000	Novi	24513 Bashian Dr	\$133,000		
24690 Lakeland St			\$230,000		24762 Bashian Dr	\$140,000		
22187 Malden St			\$163,000		50819 Chesapeake Dr	\$688,000		
32412 Nottingwood St	\$250,000		24659 Edgewood Dr		\$263,000			
32080 Olde Franklin Dr	\$395,000		22476 Heatherbrae Way		\$222,000			
30964 Ridgeway Dr	\$275,000	24075 Heathergreene	\$235,000					
29194 Sunridge	\$395,000	24319 Homestead Ct	\$376,000					
24124 Tana Ct	\$170,000	44784 Huntington Dr	\$230,000					
31580 Trestain St	\$200,000	50540 Langley Dr	\$627,000					
25260 Westmoreland Dr	\$235,000	40638 Lenox Park Dr	\$350,000					
25419 Witherspoon St	\$341,000	40652 Lenox Park Dr	\$365,000					
Garden City	6040 Arcola St	\$128,000	Plymouth	1642 Gloucester St	\$250,000			
	29424 Barton St	\$130,000		15046 Robinwood Dr	\$234,000			
Livonia				Redford	18530 Indian	\$129,000		
					South Lyon	9450 Louis	\$158,000	
61285 Brookway Dr	\$355,000	26968 Plymouth Rd				\$175,000		
26268 Great Plains Dr	\$323,000	9015 Riverview				\$141,000		
61214 Greenwood Dr	\$111,000	11655 San Jose				\$122,000		
Westland	34540 Bayview St	\$167,000				25444 Southwick	\$155,000	
	308 Brookfield Dr	\$172,000				South Lyon	61285 Brookway Dr	\$355,000
	7412 Central St	\$95,000					26268 Great Plains Dr	\$323,000
	31176 Cooley Blvd	\$150,000	61214 Greenwood Dr				\$111,000	
	7786 Millwood Dr	\$238,000	Westland				34540 Bayview St	\$167,000
	36580 Newberry Estates Dr	\$338,000		308 Brookfield Dr			\$172,000	
	36600 Newberry Estates Dr	\$356,000		7412 Central St	\$95,000			
	28050 Powers St	\$210,000		31176 Cooley Blvd	\$150,000			
	1509 S Linville St	\$161,000		7786 Millwood Dr	\$238,000			
				36580 Newberry Estates Dr	\$338,000			
		36600 Newberry Estates Dr		\$356,000				
		28050 Powers St		\$210,000				
		1509 S Linville St		\$161,000				



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Weekly Real Estate

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"Front Cover"
HISTORIC COLONIAL Fabulous home built for Henry Ford's sister. Over 3000 sq ft, breathtaking private yard, gorgeous Kitchen, Great Room w/frpl & cith ceiling, Master Suite w/sitting area, full bath, & balcony overlooking landscaped yard.
\$649,900 (P-154RI)



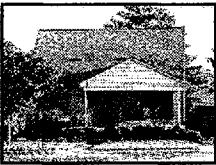
Vacant Land
BUILD IN SALEM TWP. This 22 acre estate like setting is the perfect location to build. 1 home per 10 acres w/complete privacy, wooded views, & walkout lots w/ serene views. Call for more details.
\$539,900 (P-000CU)



GREAT DEAL \$10,000 in closing costs for buyer w/full price offer! Beautiful home, huge addition, hwd, updated Kitchen, & much more.
\$229,900 (C-608BR)



PLYMOUTH CHARMER Don't wait on this 4 bd, 2.5 bath colonial in a great sub! Formal LR & DR, large Master w/double closets, newer windows, hwh, freshly painted, remod oak Kitchen & so much more.
\$247,800 (P-624OR)



REALLY SPECIAL! Stunning contemporary home offers outstanding curb appeal, custom details inside & out, huge FR w/doorwall & skylights, remodeled bath, part finished bsmt, & so much more.
\$159,900 (P-653WA)



REAT RANCH Plenty of room to roam in this 3 bd, 2 bath ranch. This home features a huge Master w/bath & WIC, large LR w/day window, bsmt, large lot, & maple Kitchen.
\$159,900 (C-019BI)



TREE LINED STREET Popular Plymouth location, 2 story colonial w/large Kitchen, Family Room w/frpl, full bsmt, attached Garage, & fenced yard. Close to downtown shopping & events.
\$200,000 (P-533PO)



PLYMOUTH CONDO Cute ranch condo w/large brick paver Patio, updated appliances & windows, pets allowed, good location, & clubhouse activities w/heated pool, good storage space, faces a lovely courtyard, & home warranty too!
\$109,900 (P-699NE)



DESIRABLE LOCATION Impressive Beacon Estates ranch w/4 bd, finished bsmt w/egress, 3.5 baths, updated roof, cedar closet, office, central vacuum, beautifully landscaped acre lot, & so much more.
\$424,900 (P-952CO)



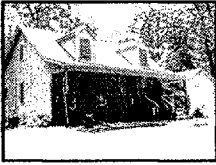
PLYMOUTH - 1.45 ACRES Country setting close to Plymouth & Livonia shopping, 4 bd, 2088 sq ft, clean & neutral t/o. Decks off Master & Dining Room, large Patio w/hot tub, & treehouse w/elec.
\$256,500 (P-949EC)



ALL THE WORK IS DONE! Beautiful 3 bd ranch is move in ready! Great floor plan, Pergo flooring, new windows, new doors, oak kitchen w/all appliances, huge 2.5 car Garage, & priced for quick sale.
\$139,900 (P-704FA)



PRICE, CONDITION, & LOCATION! This one has it all! Traditional floor plan, island Kitchen w/hwd, Family Room w/frpl, large Master w/sitting area, WIC, & bath, & finished lower level.
\$399,800 (P-528GL)



SERENE SURROUNDINGS Nestled on 1.25 wooded acres. 3 bd, 2.5 bath cape cod offers you a secluded location, fantastic front porch, Deck, hot tub, open floor plan, Master w/bath, & 1st floor laundry.
\$248,900 (C-090HA)



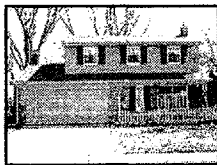
AWESOME WATERFRONT CONDO Spectacular end unit w/ gourmet maple Kitchen, spacious living room leading to the sunroom overlooking the lake. Finished walkout w/great room, exercise room & 2nd fireplace. A true beauty.
\$549,900 (P-786IS)



CUSTOM BUILT Full brick ranch on almost an acre in Livonia. Updates inc. furnace, hwh, elec, plumbing, Pella windows, oak floors, finished bsmt w/bath, large Garage w/floored attic & water.
\$295,000 (P-723NO)



DETACHED CONDO! Nestled among the pines is this lovely 3 bdrm, 3 bath condo near downtown Plymouth & Hines. Top of the line upgrades throughout, finished bsmt & a huge great room.
\$319,850 (C-811PI)



LOVELY COLONIAL 4 bd, 2.5 bath in the heart of Livonia's nicest sub. Updated Kitchen, private backyard, Family Room w/frpl, covered deck, & close to everything.
\$244,900 (C-407LA)



OPPORTUNITY AWAITS! Great chance on this home at a super price. New construction on the water w/access to 2 lakes. 3 stories, upper is a loft, 1st floor is a walkout to water & attached garage, 2nd floor Master, laundry, & large bedrooms. It's a steal!
\$350,000 (C-940MA)



UPDATED HOME Cute 3 bd home featuring updated windows, updated roof, 2 tiered elevated Deck, hwd floors, coved ceilings, extra deep 1.5 car Garage & a home warranty.
\$84,900 (C-435MO)



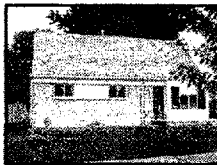
BRICK DUPLEX Lovely 2 bd duplex on a corner lot. Fenced yard, close to freeways & shopping. Seller will look at all offers.
\$50,000 (C-806MO)



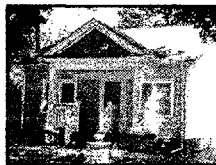
GREAT LOCATION Great home offers fresh paint, updated windows, roof, carpet, granite counters, Family Room w/frpl, huge yard w/pool & deck, & more.
\$221,900 (C-846CH)



HARP BUNGALOW 3 bd, oversized Master, country Kitchen w/appl, rec room in bsmt, updated baths, flooring, windows, hwh, furnace, vinyl siding, privacy fence, landscaping, & huge lot w/2 sheds.
\$92,900 (C-327GL)



WOW!! 4 bd, 3 full baths in this large home. Updated oak Kitchen, vinyl windows, extra wide driveway, 2.5 car garage, & basement.
\$149,900 (C-725HU)



LOVELY CAPE COD Wonderful Northville location. Great home offering a new front porch, newer carpet, hwh, C/A, roof, copper plumbing, remodeled bath w/Jacuzzi tub, & too much more to list.
\$263,900 (C-320LI)



CUSTOM BUILT CAPE Great home built by Walter Menard. Comfort & elegance abounds. Hwd floors, large closets, 1st floor laundry, 2 fireplaces, oversized Garage, Patio w/gas grill, huge finished bsmt, & updated galore.
\$375,000 (C-951NO)



STOP LOOKING! Here is the perfect home for you! This 3 bd, 1.5 bath home features new Pergo flooring in Kitchen & Family Room, 1200+ sq ft, convenient Westland location, & 1 yr home warranty.
\$152,000 (P-029BE)



ATTENTION RENTERS! Remodeled 2 unit duplex. Exclusive use of treed backyard, screened Patio, private entrance, Garage w/opener, & access to all sports. Horseshoe Lake.
\$799/mo (P-295FA)



MOVE RIGHT IN! Home warranty provided! 4 bd, 2.5 bath home w/large upstairs bedroom that could be used as an apartment w/appliances, 2 car Garage, fenced yard, & more.
\$85,900 (P-008CL)



GREAT CAPE COD 3 bd, 2 bath Cape Cod backing to 6 acre park w/walking path. New furnace, all newer appliances stay, new upstairs carpet, open floor plan, Anderson windows, 1st floor Master, & peaceful setting.
\$235,000 (P-656ST)



LOVELY HOME Great home on a large lot in an active neighborhood w/4 ponds. 3 bd, 2.5 baths, open floor plan, skylight, transom windows, designer paint & fixtures, & spacious yard w/Deck.
\$295,000 (P-948QU)



LOOKS LIKE A MODEL! Amazing remodeled brick ranch w/finished bsmt, 4 bd, spacious Kitchen, Family & Living rooms, 1.5 baths, paver Patio, hwd floors, 2 car det Garage, & many many updates.
\$219,000 (P-312ME)



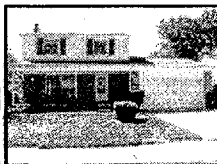
PRICED BELOW MARKET! Fabulous 4 bd, 2.5 bath colonial in popular sub on premium lot siding to woods. Numerous upgrades, expanded rooms, 3 car garage, stone fireplace, park-like setting, quiet cul de sac location, oversized bsmt, & more.
\$379,900 (C-885WA)



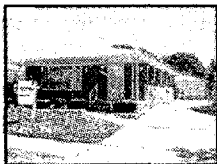
GREAT LOCATION Elegant colonial in Historic Northville. 5 bd, 3 baths, hwd, Great Room w/frpl, oak Kitchen w/snack bar, luxurious Master w/bath, Library, 2nd floor laundry, & mature landscaping.
\$365,000 (C-621OR)



GREAT COLONIAL Open & bright colonial. Great Room w/frpl, Library, formal DR, open island, oak Kitchen w/nook, Master w/ WIC, large Deck w/ great landscaping & sprinklers.
\$314,900 (C-950SP)



PRETTY & COMFORTABLE Great 4 bd colonial backing to commons area. Huge Kitchen & Family Room, attached Garage, neutral decor, light, bright, & airy. Don't wait too long!
\$229,900 (C-885FO)



WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY This full brick ranch is larger than most & ready to move in now! Maintenance free exterior, open floor plan w/3 bd, 1.5 baths, updated windows, entry doors, & 2.5 car Garage w/opener.
\$154,900 (C-747OS)

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BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 3

Resource Center, 455 E. Scripps Road, Lake Orion. The course is for those who want to subcontract construction of their own homes as well as real estate investors, developers and building trades people. Cost is \$199 plus \$20 for textbook and sample questions. Preregistration with payment is needed by Jan. 18 to Lake Orion Community Education. Call (248) 693-5436 to register.

■ a seminar to help you pass the Michigan state builder's license exam by

the institute in cooperation with Walled Lake Community Education. It will be 6-10 p.m. Monday/Wednesday, Jan. 22, 24, 29 and 31, at Walled Lake Middle School, 46720 W. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake. The course is for those who want to subcontract construction of their own homes as well as real estate investors, developers and building trades people. Cost is \$199 plus \$20 for textbook and sample questions. Preregistration with payment is needed by Jan. 18 to Walled Lake Community Education. Call (248) 956-5000 to register.

Investors

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

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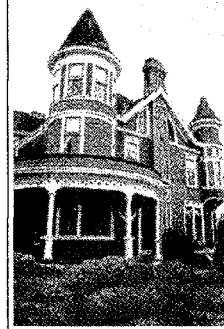
		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.	Other
1st Choice Mortgage Lending	(734) 459-0782	5.875	0	5.625	0	J/A
A Best Financial Corp.	(800) 839-8918	5.5	1.625	5	1.75	J/A
A Perfect Mortgage Co.	(248) 203-7726	5.875	0	5.625	0	J/A
AAXA Discount Mortgage	(877) 728-3569	5.75	0.5	5.5	0.25	J/A
AFI Financial	(877) 234-0600	5.625	1.125	5.375	0.875	J/A
American Home Mortgage	(877) 478-7289	5.875	1	5.375	2	J/A/V/F
Amenplus Mortgage Corp.	(248) 740-2323	5.875	0	5.625	0.25	J/A
Benchmark Lending	(586) 463-2255	5.875	0	5.625	0	J/A
Brink's Goldstar Mortgage	(800) 785-4755	5.375	2.375	5	2	J/A/V/F
Charter One Bank	(800) 342-5336	6.375	0	6.125	0	J/A/V/F
Client Services by Golden Rule	(800) 569-5805	5.375	2.25	5	1.875	J/A/V/F
Co-op Services Credit Union	(734) 466-6113	6.125	1	5.75	1	J
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	(313) 565-3100	6	0	5.625	0	A
DFCU Financial	(800) 739-2770	5.875	2	5.5	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	0.25	5.875	0.5	J/V/F
First Alliance Mortgage Co.	(800) 292-7357	6	0	5.875	0	J/A/V/F
First International Mortgage	(248) 540-1065	5.875	0	5.625	0	J/A
GMAC Mortgage Corp.	(800) 888-4622	NR	NR	NR	NR	J/A/V/F
Gold Star Mortgage	(800) 203-1546	5.75	0.5	5.5	0.25	J/A/V/F
Golden Rule Mortgage	(800) 991-9922	5.25	3	4.875	2.5	J/A/V/F
Group One Mortgage	(734) 953-4000	6.125	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) 300-1313	5.875	0	5.625	0	J/A/V/F
Manufacturers	(586) 777-1000	5.625	1.125	5.25	1.125	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	0.25	5.625	0	J/A/V/F
Michigan United Mortgage	(810) 844-2222	5.5	1.625	5.125	1.375	J/A
National City Bank	(586) 825-0825	5.625	2.125	5.375	1.875	J/A
Northlawn Financial	(248) 988-8488	5.875	0	5.625	0	J/A/V/F
Pathway Financial LLC	(800) 726-2274	5.875	0	5.625	0	J/A/F
Premiere Mortgage Funding	(734) 453-8120	5.875	0	5.625	0	J/A
Shore Mortgage	(800) 678-6663	5.375	3	5	3	J/A/V/F
United Mortgage Group	(586) 286-9500	5.875	0	5.625	0	J/A
York Financial Inc.	(888) 839-9675	6	0	5.75	0	J/A

Above information available as of 12/28/06 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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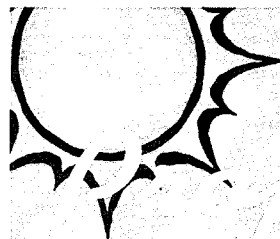
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Inspection's essential if mold is suspected

Q. We think we have a mold problem but I am wondering what is mold on a general basis?

A. Wide varieties of microbiological organisms are in the air such as bacteria, fungi, protozoa, viruses, rickettsiae and chlamydia. Molds are a type of fungus. Molds, like other microorganisms, are ubiquitous in nature. Microorganisms in indoor environments may cause adverse health effects that are either infective or allergic in nature. Some microorganisms may cause both infection and allergy depending upon the susceptibility of the host. Symptoms include sinus troubles, runny nose, eye irritation, upper respiratory tract irritation, fever, cough and muscle aches.

Because of the uncertainty associated with sampling and its results, the best approach with investigating an indoor environment for mold contamination is a visible inspection. Inspection should look for actual mold growth or for signs of water intrusion.

Q. Our association is considering letting members of the public pay to use our pool and our clubhouse. I, as a member of the board, think we should get a legal opinion as it may have some adverse consequences. What do you think?

A. Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 bans privately owned facilities that are open to the public from discriminating against people with disabilities and requires them to comply with accessibility

standards. Most associations focus their discrimination training, if any, on avoiding violations of the Fair Housing Act, a law that applies directly to them. But if you let your members rent your community clubhouse for events and let members of the public pay to use your pool, both your clubhouse and pool are places of public accommodation and so must comply with Title III. Your attorney should be in the position to confirm that for you.



Robert Meisner

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

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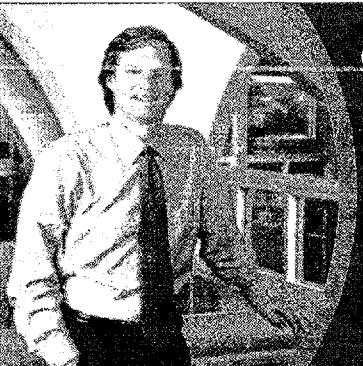
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BELLEVILLE 356 Oxford Ct.	4BR/2/1BA/2car/Ranch	\$224,900	734-591-9200	realestateone.com/26214705	NOVI 28500 Summit 28500 Summit 41465 Twain Pl 24509 Simmons 24382 Jamestowne 24685 Christina Lane 21138 Glen Haven Circle 20828 W. Glen Haven Circle 24524 Olde Orchard	3BR/3.5BA/2car/loft 3BR/3.5BA/2car/ctmp 3BR/3.1BA/3car/WIC 3BR/2.1BA/2car/bsmt 4BR/2.5BA/2car/bsmt 4BR/2.1BA/2car/col 3BR/2.1BA/1car/condo 3BR/2.5BA/1car/updtd 3BR/1.1BA/1car/condo	\$875,000 \$479,900 \$438,900 \$289,900 \$264,900 \$250,000 \$169,000 \$168,000 \$134,000	248-348-6430 248-348-6430 248-348-6430 248-348-6430 248-348-6430 248-348-6430 248-348-6430 248-348-6430	realestateone.com/26168714 realestateone.com/26168770 realestateone.com/26069920 realestateone.com/26120251 realestateone.com/26193651 realestateone.com/26193398 realestateone.com/26164408 realestateone.com/26136889 realestateone.com/26101365
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