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Shoppers won't get tickets

THURSDAY

December 6, 2007

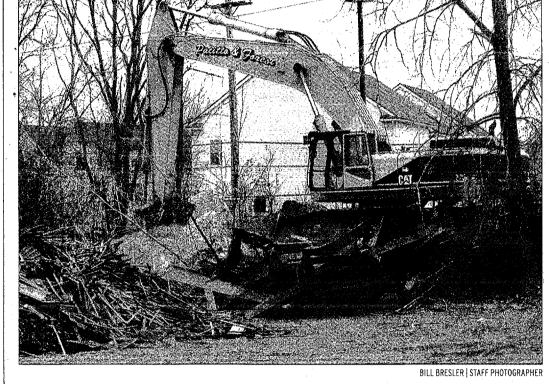
BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth City Commission voted unanimously Monday to suspend issuing parking tickets to violators in the downtown business district and Old Village through Dec. 31 to help promote holiday shopping in the city.

Instead of a ticket, violators of the parking ordinance will find notes on their vehicles indicating that while they've exceeded the time limit, they won't be ticketed. "It's a good idea,"

said Sharon Watch, 45, of Livonia, who frequently shops downtown Plymouth. "Many times we're having lunch and are surprised at how much time has gone by. So far I've maneuvered around it, haven't gotten a ticket, yet."

Scott Smith, owner of Penniman Gallery, said he believes the nearly monthlong moratorium on parking tickets will only bring back the problem for which the parking ordinance was developed in the first place - employees parking in the most favorable spots in front of business establishments. "I think that it's essential to have enforcement because of employee parking abuse," Smith said. "Sales will hurt because of a lack of parking." City Manager Paul Sincock admitted he's received calls from merchants both for and against the moratorium on parking tickets. Sincock said the note to violators will indicate a "gesture of hospitality during the holiday season" and give information on long-term parking options.



Cleaning up Bathey

Demolition and cleanup finally began last week at the 16-acre Bathey site, which is back on the City of Plymouth tax rolls after nearly 30 years. The property was purchased by Connektiv Communities of Royal Oak for some \$2.27 million. As part of the deal, Connektiv agreed to tear down the old factory and clean up the site. The site is expected to be cleared by January.

District meets most AYP standards

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

While the Plymouth-Canton school district as a whole met Bender, director of secondary education for PCCS. "But, we still have work to do, no question about that.

the course work that would prepare them to do well on the Merit Exam," Bender said. "Having fallen short more than one year, certainly that leads us to stepping up our efforts to fully implement our school improvement plan. A big part of that is to strengthen student skills." Schools that miss targets over a period of several years could be required to provide mandatory tutoring, hire staff or overhaul curriculum. "Starkweather has become our fourth high school, and we have the same high expectations as any other high school in the state," Superintendent Jim Ryan said. "In special education, we're doing a lot more inclusion and a lot more

Granholm lauds Comcast job growth

THE LION KING ROARS

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

In the current Michigan economy where more jobs are leaving the state than are being created, Gov. Jennifer Granholm Monday toured Comcast's broadband services and call center facility in Plymouth Township, where new technology and jobs are on the rise.

Dave Buhl, Comcast's regional senior vice president for Michigan, announced the company is hiring about 250 technicians and call-center employees for its facilities in Plymouth Township, Ann Arbor and Sterling Heights, each which already have about 800 workers.

"We're building jobs in Michigan and hiring in Michigan, and we wanted her to see some companies are growing in this economy," said Buhl. "We brought jobs from Canada to close down an outsourcing arrangement, and long-term we think there is a very strong message: Michigan people understand they need to support Michigan companies that hire Michigan people. You want to know that who you are calling is from here, and the guy who comes to your door lives down the street."

After touring the 103,000square-foot Plymouth Township center built in 2004 — visiting for about an hour with call center employees, technicians and administrative staff — Granholm praised Comcast's efforts to bring more jobs to Michigan.

"We know there has been a massive global shift in manufacturing jobs, and that means we have had to focus, as a state, on the new economy, on diversifying our economic portfolio," Granholm told employees. "At a time when people are investing in call centers in India and elsewhere, it's a statement about the company and workforce here that the decision has been made to invest and grow in Michigan. Other than your products that are on-demand, you haven't demanded anvthing (tax breaks) but access to our workforce. We want to use this as an example for other businesses as to how we can grow and succeed in Michigan."

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

Steve Alexandrowski, vice chairman of the Downtown Development Authority, doesn't expect the interim policy to cause any parking problems.

"It's better to risk not offending customers coming to downtown Plymouth to shop for the holidays than it is to risk having a few employees park on the street for a couple of weeks," Alexandrowski said. "The parking policy has been successful, and I just don't see people used to parking in longterm lots totally changing their habits for the month of December."

Adequate Yearly Progress standards set by the federal government, three of the district's four high schools failed in one subgroup.

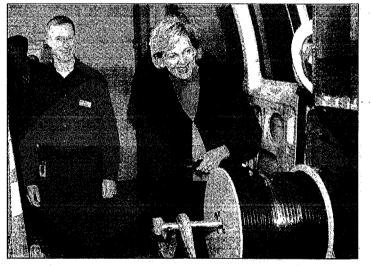
While Salem High School met the federal academic benchmarks of the No Child Left Behind law, Plymouth and Canton high schools failed to meet the requirement in the sub-group, students with disabilities. Starkweather Education Center, the district's alternative high school, failed to have enough students pass math and English tests. "As a group, our high schools

together, we made district high school AYP," said Mike "We're very concerned about providing students with disabilities with the necessary support they need to make that standard," he said. "We're not way behind, but whether you fall short by one point or more, it's still falling short."

It's the second year in a row Starkweather students failed to meet academic targets, including the more rigorous course work that is tested on the ACT-based Michigan Merit Exam given to juniors, which replaced the MEAP test.

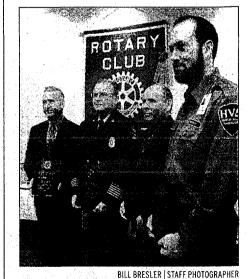
"As students arrive in that program, they have varying levels of academic preparation, and may not have had

Please see AYP, A8



Gov. Jennifer Granholm takes a look at Comcast's Plymouth Township facility with Jeffrey Wack, Comcast's senior director of technical operations.

Law enforcement veterans earn annual Rotary honors



David Hayes, Randy Maycock (accepting for Daniel Atkins), Joe Kahanec and Todd Zolkosky accept their awards at the Plymouth Rotary meeting.

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BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

For a period of several weeks earlier this year, a single suspect terrorized banks throughout southeast Michigan, seemingly robbing them at will. That is, until Plymouth Township

Detective Dave Hayes began stalking the suspect. "Through various investigative

"Through various investigative methods, the suspect was identified by Detective Hayes," Police Chief Tom Tiderington said. "We knew who he was, but we couldn't locate him.

"Detective Hayes coordinated the investigation with several police agencies, including the FBI and Wayne County Prosecutor's office," Tiderington added, "and eventually he was able to coordinate the arrest of the suspect before he was able to rob any additional banks." For his efforts in that case, as well as "his involvement in one of the most horrific crimes that has occurred in our western Wayne County community" — the alleged murder of a River Rouge man by two teenagers, including one from Plymouth Township — Hayes was awarded the honor of Plymouth Township Officer of the Year by the Rotary Club of Plymouth.

"I really enjoy the people I work with and it's something different every day," said Hayes, a 23-year member of the township police department. "Every morning when I get up and get ready to go to work, I wonder what I'm going to deal with today. That's a big driving force for me enjoying going to work every day."

Sgt. Joe Kahanec was honored as the Plymouth Police Officer of the Year for his efforts in subduing a man diagnosed as a bipolar schizophrenic. "He was harming himself with various acts of self-mutilation, which resulted in numerous wounds that began to bleed feverishly," said Police Chief Wayne Carroll, who said the man cooperated with Kahanec and other officers before resisting. "After several moments of extreme resistance, Sergeant Kahanec and other officers were able to subdue and restrain the subject. All ended well."

In another incident, a man walked into City Hall, placed a bag on the counter and said he wanted to turn it in for police to dispose. When Kahanec looked into the bag, he found a hand grenade.

"Sergeant Kahanec gingerly picked up the device and walked it out of the building, thus minimizing the danger to employees and citizens inside,"

Please see ROTARY, A8



LOCAL NEWS

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 6, 2007

Music academies working with Toys for Tots

Axis Music Academy of Southfield is working with the U.S. Marines and Toys for Tots to collect as many toys as possible.

Their goal is to "Stuff A Room" - filling a music practice room full of toys by Dec. 19.

Working with the students, families, friends. co-workers, and schoolmates and the public, the local academy, as well as academies in Canton and Macomb Township, academies will be filling a practice room, top to bottom, wall to wall with new toys.

Drop offs are being accepted 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7

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Sunday Dec. 16th

Happ

p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday at the following locations:

Southfield - 29555 Northwestern, second floor above Guitar Center. Canton - 42114 Ford

Road. ■ Macomb - 21501 21 Mile, Macomb Township. Andy Strang, Academy Director in the Macomb Township Academy said: "from the time I was a young kid, it was a big deal in my family to make sure that my neighbors, friends, etc, had something to open during the Holiday season. The ability to make that impression upon and share that with our community is what the holidays and all about."

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BY BRAD KADRICH STAFF WRITER

Members of the **Compassionate Friends know** the holidays are tough times for people who've lost loved ones, especially children. . In an effort to help with the grief, The Compassionate Friends, Western Wayne County (Livonia) Chapter, sponsor a candle-lighting ceremony in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth Sunday, Dec. 9, in conjunction with Children's Memorial Day.

"The holidays are especially difficult for parents who have lost children," said committee member Gail Lafferty. "This candle-lighting ceremony honoring them helps their memory live on."

The ceremony will include the dedication of a tree decorated with ornaments with the children's names, a candle-light vigil, a reading of the children's names, poetry and songs.

The local ceremony includes the candle-lighting at 7 p.m.

Skin Cancer

Moles

• Acne

Psoriasis

in conjunction with the worldwide candle-lighting. The idea is that, as candles burn down in one time zone, they're lit in another, creating a 24-hour memorial.

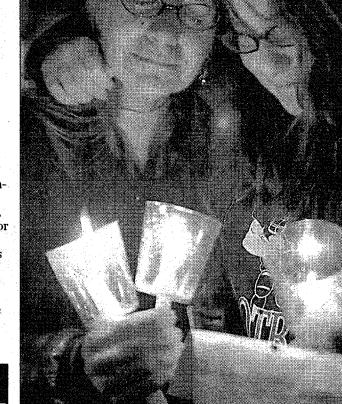
Recognized in communities around the world, International Children's Memorial Day is already officially sanctioned by the U.S. Congress.

"Hundreds of families will gather near a tree specially decorated with the names of children who have died too soon," Lafferty said.

For more information or to register a child, call or e-mail candle-lighting committee members Gail Lafferty, tcfcandlelight@yahoo.com or (734) 981-4528 or Virginia Herrick, herrick@millercanfield.com or (248) 449-7598.

The Compassionate Friends is an international, nonprofit, nondenominational, self-help organization offering friendship, understanding and hope to bereaved families with the loss of their children.

GREAT LAKES DERMATOLOGY



Laura (left) and daughter Megan Sokana of Livonia comforted each other during last year's Compassionate Friends Candlelight Vigil in Kellogg Park.

MICHAEL R. COHEN, D.O. **Board Certified Dermatologist** HEATHER ROUSSEAL Specializing in Diseases of the Skin, Hair & Nails Invites you to visit and receive This year's event is Dec. 9. the care you deserve. Eczema PURE ENTERTAINMENT Succey Thransday Warts • Hair Loss Botox • Much More Accepting New Patients • All Ages Call for Appointment 248-324-2222 Evening appts. available Observer Lewis Medical Office Centre, 39475 Lewis Drive, WHERE HOMETOWN STORIES UNFOLD Suite 150, Novi, Michigan 48377 c) GANNETT HOMETOWNLIFE.COM areatlakesderm@uahoo.com **HOW TO REACH US** Memorial & Honor Dept. 501 St. Jude Place Home Delivery/Customer Service . .1-866-88-PAPER (866-887-2737) Memphis, TN 38105 Newsroom (734) 459-2700 Fax (734) 459-4224 1.800.873.6983 www.stjude.org/tribute Classified Advertising1-800-579-SELL (7355) POSTAL PERIODICAL REQUIREMENTS The Plymouth Observer - Publication NO. USPS 436-360 Published every Thursday and Sumpu Sunday, Periodical postage is paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150 St. Jude Children's Research Hospital 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

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A2

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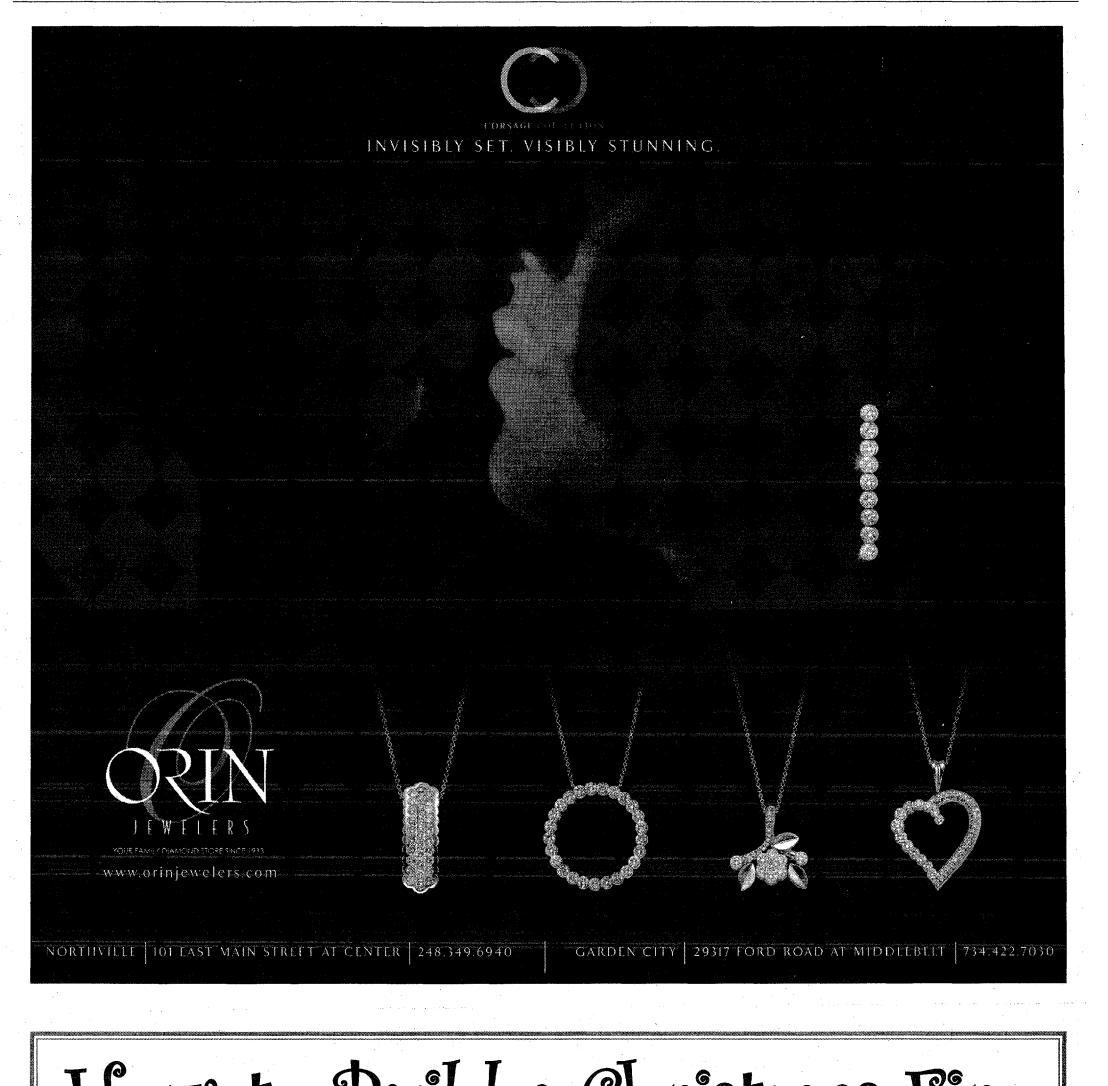


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How to Build a Christmas Fire



Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 6, 2007

PLYMOUTH PIPELINE

A4

Toy drives

Mel's Golden Razor barber shop in downtown Plymouth conducts its 26th annual toy collection drive for needy children at Christmas, as well as donations for food baskets.

Donors can drop off their donations of food or toys to Mel's Golden Razor, 595 Forest in downtown Plymouth, through Dec. 18.

For more information, call (734) 455-9057.

Metro Dance will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages through Dec. 19 for the Toys for Tots of Southeast Michigan. Donations can be dropped off Monday-Thursday 4-8 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Metro Dance is located in Plymouth on the corner of Mill and Ann Arbor Trail at 541 S. Mill. For more information,

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Publish 12/06/2007

call (734) 207-8970 or e-mail info@MetroDanceCompany. com

Post office open

The Plymouth Post Office at Beck and Clipper will be open for all postal needs Sunday, Dec. 9, and again Sunday, Dec. 16.

The post office will be open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., for all normal business transactions, mail pick-up, Express and passports. For more information, call

Jaycee meeting

(734) 453-6111.

The Plymouth Jaycees conduct an informational meeting 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11, at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road. The meeting is open to young men and women aged 21-40 who would like to help their community through leadership training and com-

munity services. For information, call 734-765-9691.

'Nutcracker' tickets

The Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company presents three performances of The Nutcracker Ballet this year.

Performances are 1 and 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, in the Salem High School Auditorium, 46181 Joy in Canton.

The performances feature guest dancers Rebecca Link and Cory Goei, and a special reading of The Night Before Christmas by 35th District Court Judge Ron Lowe.

Tickets can be purchased at the Plymouth Canton Ballet Company (734-676-7233), the Plymouth Symphony office (734-451-2112), Joanne's Dance Extension (734-455-4330). Summit on the Park (734-394-5460), P&P Dance Center

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(734-697-6110), Dancewear Gallery (734-207-7730); and the Children's Dance Theater (734 - 207 - 3377).For more information, call

the Plymouth Canton Dance Company, (734) 676-7233.

Bowling with Santa

Kids get a chance to hit the lanes with Santa when Westland Celebration Foundation. Inc., hosts "Bowling with Santa," noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, at Plaza Lanes, 42000 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth.

The cost is \$8, which includes one game of bowling, a slice of pizza and pop, plus a visit with Santa. Santa will also have a gift for each registered child. Souvenir photos will be available for \$2 each. For more information, call

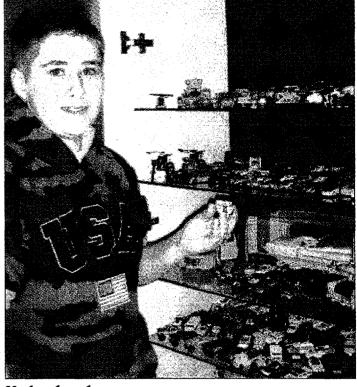
(734) 722-6478.

DAR meets

The Daughters of the American Revolution Northville/Plymouth chapter meets 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 17, at Greenmead, Alexander Blue House in Livonia

The program will feature Christmas music and a Singalong.

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



www.hometownlife.com

Hot wheels

Seventh-grader Austin Danis from Central Middle School recently brought his Hot Wheels collection to the Plymouth District Library for display. The display on the library's lower level includes just a portion of Austin's collection - nearly 200 cars, trucks, motorcycles and other vehicles. Having collected the cars for as long as he can remember, his favorite is a 1969 red and black Chevrolet Camaro. The Hot Wheels collection can be viewed at the library until Dec. 14. The library is always looking for unusual displays for the locked lower level display case. For more information contact Susan Stoney at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 242.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, December 20, 2007 for the following:

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

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Canton Downtown Development Authority, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, December 20, 2007 for the following:

DDA LIGHT POLES AND LUMINAIRES FOR THE FORD ROAD STREET LIGHTING EXTENSION PROJECT -WEST DISTRICT

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



CSC ROOFTOP HVAC UNIT REPLACEMENT

Bids may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department, on

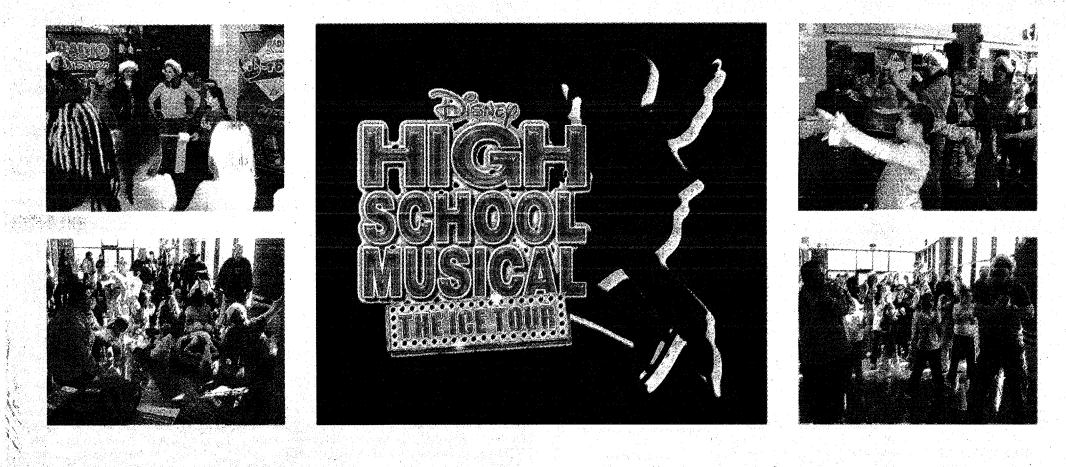
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7 MILE & FARMINGTON SHOPPING CENTER SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2007 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Join **AM 910 Radio Disney** for the Radio Disney D-Tour, including holiday fun, games, and more! Win exciting prizes, enjoy cool music, face painting and a chance to win a family four-pack of tickets to "**Disney's High School Musical - The Ice Tour**" at The Palace of Auburn Hills, February 29, 2008 through March 2, 2008!





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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. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

DECEMBER

Dysfunctional families seminar Motivational speaker Susan McKenna and therapist, Arnold Keller, Director of Psychotherapy and Counseling Services in Northville will explain how to determine if you came from a dysfunctional family, what it is doing to your life now and most importantly, what you can do to change it or at least how you can change how it affects you, year after year 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, at Ward Church in Northville, No charge, To pre-register for the class or other class dates, call (248) 348-1100.

Cookie walk

A6

(*)

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, at St. Michael's Orthodox Church, 26455 W. Chicago, between Beech Daly and Inkster roads, Redford. Christmas cookies of all kind will be available for sale by the pound. For more information, call (313) 937-2120.

A Jingling Christmas

The Handbell Choirs of St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia invite the public to a special handbell Christmas concert, A Jingling Christmas, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, in the church, 11441 Hubbard Rd., south of Plymouth Rd., Livonia. The concert also features the St. Michael's Women's Acappella Choir as well as the St. Michael's Teen Choir, all under the direction of Music Minister, Cindy Stempin. There is no charge. All are welcome. For more information, call (734) 261-1455, ext. 200.

Nativity displays

More than 200 Nativity displays from around the world in a Celebration of the Christmas Creche 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 8-9 (\$7 per person at the door, \$5 per person for groups of 10 or more; Preview party

RELIGION CALENDAR

and lecture by Bengt Swenson 6:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7 (tickets start at \$50 and benefits the Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology, RSVP required by calling (313) 824-4710) at their building, 15415 E. Jefferson at Somerset, Grosse Pointe Park. The nativity displays are from the private collection of Bengt and Elaine Swenson.

Christmas concert

Christmas Joy concerts take place 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, and 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. No charge. Childcare provided through age 4. Ward Church welcomes The Chamber

Choir of The First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16. For more information, call (248) 374-7400.

Course in Miracles

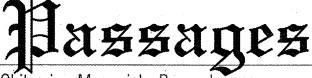
Introduction seminars based on A Course in Miracles spiritual self-study book 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8; 6-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12, 28660 Five

BARBARA ANN PEEVER

Age 65, November 29, 2007. Beloved wife of George. Daughter of Helene Warson. Grandmother to Fallon. Also survived by several aunts, uncles and cousins. Visitation Saturday Dec. 8, 4-9pm and Sunday Dec. 9, 2-9pm with a 3pm Rosary at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster (between Ford and Cherry Hill). In state Monday Dec. 10, 9:00am until 10:00am Mass at Sts. Simon and Jude Catholic Church, 32500 Palmer (south of Cherry Hill, east of Venoy).

DONALD V. GREENACRE

Age 83 of Orion Twp. formerly of Rochester died December 2, 2007. Beloved husband of the late Helen N. Greenacre. Loving father of Carole McSwain of Lapeer and Jon Greenacre of Australia. Dear grandfather of Jolieanne Post, Roxanne (Michael) Martin and Melanie Greenacre. Greatgrandfather of Dana and Alexandrea Thiel, Lauren, Cailee, William and Dallas Martin. Loving brother of Nancy Zmyslony of Colorado. Dear friend of Audrey Brewer of Waterford. Also survived by a host of friends and relatives. Donald was a past member of the Waterford Aerie Éagles and a former Chaplin at the Rochester Eagles. Funeral from Lynch & Sons hapel 39 Directors B West Burdick, Oxford Thursday 1 P.M. Interment Christian Memorial Cultural Cemetery. Friends may visit Thursday from 11am until time of service. Memorials to the Humane Society of Genesee County appreciated.



Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 fax: 734-953-2232 e-mail: oeobits@hometownlife.com

JOHN GOTTIS, JR.

Age 80, formerly of Farmington, MI. Passed Nov. 30, 2007. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI





KATHERINE LYNNE MESTER

Formerly of Royal Oak, born October 10, 1970, died in a fatal car accident in Rhinebeck, NY. Her daughter, Isabel Katherine, was born following the auto accident. Katherine is survived by her loving husband, Professor Joseph Luzzi of Bard College, Annandale, NY; her parents, the Honorable Fred Lynne M. Mester of M. and Bloomfield Hills; her siblings, David & Jeneth Mester and Karen Mester of Bloomfield Hills. Kathy taught Pilates in the Hudson Valley, NY area. She received her A.A. in Liberal Arts from Dutchess Community College and was completing her B.A. at SUNY New Paltz. She worked for many years in the performing arts in New York City. After graduating from Cranbrook-Kingswood Academy, she completed studies in acting from the Neighborhood Playhouse, New York. She was a member of Actor's Equity and performed for Williamstown Summer Theater Stock in Williamstown, MA. Her many stage credits included "Bee-luther-hatchee," "The Boy Friend," "Marat/Sade," "Of Mice and Men," and "The Visit." She was especially glad to return to Michigan to perform in "Bee-lutherhatchee" at Meadowbrook Theater at Oakland University. Visitation Thursday 2-8 p.m. at the Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 705 W 11 Mile Rd. (4 blks. E of Woodward), Royal Oak. In state Friday 10:00 a.m. until time of service 11:00 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Katherine and Isabel Mester Educational Foundation. Share your memories at:



MARIE (Massolia) CHYTRY Nov. 24, 1934-Nov. 26, 2007

Beloved wife for 31 years of the late Donald J. Chytry. Loving mother of Laura M. (Robert) Beck. Dearest grandmother of Christopher J. Chytry and Holly M. Beck. Dear sister o Margaret McWade of Ft. Lauderdale FL; John (Eulalia) Massolia of Melvindale; and P. James (Nancy) Massolia of Fenton. Loving aunt to many nieces and nephews Predeceased by loving parents, Pete and Marie Massolia. For Marie, family always came first throughout her life, and we, her family, will miss her smiles, hugs and laughter. Arrangements by Griffin Funeral Home, Westland. Interment St. Hedwig Cemetery, Dearborn

Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt, Understanding A Course in miracles takes place 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24, and Dec. 15. For more information, contact Jim White at (734) 259-0207 or send email to love.comm@hotmail.com. New schedule

9 a.m. Sunday school for all ages and Faith Forum, 10 a.m. Worship Service with Communion and nursery, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Sic Mile, Livonia. All visitors welcome. For more information, call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Getting through the holidays

A workshop for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, sponsored by St. Michael the Archangel Parish 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, in St. Michael's School, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Rd., Livonia. The guest speaker is Dr. Kelly Rhoades, Chair and Professor of Hospice Education at Madonna University. The program is open to all. Annual Christmas concert

3 p.m. Śunday. Dec. 9. features choirs and instrumentalists at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96 service drive (Schoolcraft), Livonia, For more

information, call (734) 522-6830. Christmas concert

St. Aidan Adult Choir and friends perform a concert 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, at the church on Farmington road, north of Six Mile in Livonia. Proceeds from this event help provide assistance to our Christian Service Commission in the preparation of Christmas Baskets for those in need. Admission is \$5 and 2 non-perishable food items.

Advent/Christmas hymn festival

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church presents Savior of the Nations, Come, a hymn festival 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, at the church located on Five Mile, west of I-275, Livonia. The public is invited. A freewill offering will be received and refreshments follow the performance. The Advent season begins on the first Sunday in December and continues for the four Sundays before Christmas. It is a traditional Christian liturgical season of waiting and preparation for the coming of the Savior, Jesus Christ, in the manger in Bethlehem.

Composed by Lutheran composer Michael Burkhardt, the work includes 10 hymns and anthems in special arrangements for Chancel Choir, brass quartet, woodwind duo, the Trinity Bells handbell ensemble, organ, piano and congregation. Organist Ann Buland and pianist Susan Harrison lead the festival. **Reformed Protestant services**

The doctrines and teachings of Reformed Protestantism will be preached 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, at a worship service of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing) at the Cherry Hill School, 50440 Cherry Hill, corner of Ridge, Canton. Rev. Sean Hur will preach. For more information, call Margaret Waldecker at (313) 530-6170 or Humby at (937) 252-1156, or visit www. westminsterconfession.org. Weekly Sunday services will begin on Jan. 6. Cookie walk and bake sale

Dec. 16, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-6722.

Choir cantata

Mt. Vernon Baptist Church presents a Christmas choir cantata, One Small Child, 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, at the church, 8828 Wormer, Redford. Everyone is welcome. Call (313) 537-7480.

A Christmas flourish

A celebration of the season featuring a concert by the Birmingham Concert band and the choir of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, in the sanctuary of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1800 W. Maple, Birmingham. No charge but donations to the Band's Music Scholarship Fund are appreciated.

Christmas Eve service

7, p.m. Monday, Dec. 24, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-6722. Christmas Eve worship

5 p.m. Children/Family service, 7 p.m. Lessons & Carols and Candlelight, and 11 p.m. Festival Worship and Candlelight Monday, Dec. 24, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Call (734) 422-0149. Worship service

10:45 a.m. Sundays, Adult Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship, Youth Group 5-7 p.m. and Catechism for Grownups 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Trinity Church of Livonia, 34500 Six Mile. For information, call (734) 425-2800.

UPCOMING

ENDOW 6

Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women sessions 7-9 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 17 to March 6, (explores Pope John Paul II's Mulieris Dignitatem-On the Dignity and Vocation of Women), in Bixmal Hall church building at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Second session begins 7-9 p.m. Mondays, Jan. 14, to March 3, (explores Pope John Paul II's Letter to Women), in conference room in parish office. Registration required for both sessions. \$60 for materials for each session. Contact Michele Schmidt at (734) 367-0353 or send e-mail to mtschmidt@ sbcglobal.net.

ONGOING

Upper Room Ministries

Meets 6 p.m. Sundays, in Room 111 in Our Lady of Loretto School on Beech Daly and Six Mile in Redford. Upper Room Ministries is a spirit filled, charismatic ministry sponsored by Living Water Church in Livonia. All faiths welcome to attend. For information, call Pastor Luke Willis at (734) 425-6360, or Bishop Dan Strength at (734) 812-1099.

E.I.R.E. ministries

With theme scripture, He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire

Preschoolers (MOPS) group began meeting this fall at a new time at the Lutheran church, 9600 Leverne, Redford. Meetings continue the first and third Thursdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. Join in for teaching, discussion, creative projects and presentations. For more information, call (248) 470-5202 or send e-mail to nikki.tiernan@gmail.com.

Bible studies

Regular Bible Study program continues at 7 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month, focus is on St. Paul's Letters to the Romans, at St. Michael's Catholic Church on the corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads, Livonia. To register, call (734) 261-1445, Ext. 200.

MOPS groups

Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the first and third Friday mornings or first and third Wednesday evenings at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton, For information, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4, or send e-mail to cbcwomensministries@hotmail.com.

LOGOS Youth Club

Calling all youth grades 4-12 to join the LOGOS Youth Club at Northville First United Methodist Church. Recreation, dinner, Bible study and music Wednesdays, 5:15-8:15 p.m. began Wednesday, Sept. 26. For information or registration, visit www.fumcnorthville. org or call (248) 349-1144.

HeartCry

The support group provides hope and help for mothers of prodigals at 7 p.m. on the second, fourth and fifth Wednesdays of each month, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. The group is using the book, The Hope of a Homecoming, by O'Rourke and Sauer (\$12). For information or to register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4.

Worship change

The early service for the Anglican Church of Livonia is at 7:45 a.m. at Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, west of Farmington Road and next to Stevenson High School, Livonia. The 10 a.m. service (with Sunday School) will continue to be at the Livonia YMCA at 14255 Stark Road, between Lyndon and the I-96 service drive.

Women of the word

Bible study meets 9:15 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. Tuesdays, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. Choose from Covenant, a Precept Upon Precept class, or The Truth Project (new from Focus on the Family). To register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4 or visit www. vchurches.com/cbcwomen.

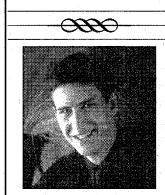
Bible study

Get a new life, study Scripture 9-10:30 a.m. Saturdays at Blessed Sacrament Monastery on the northwest corner of 13 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. Focus of study is Romans. Come once or more often. Call (248) 626 for more information.

www.lynchfuneraldirectors.com

DOYLE FRED TODD

Age 61, passed.away December 2 from cancer. Avid golfer and hunter. He leaves behind his loving wife Emilie, along with numerous children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He will be remembered for his astounding wit and humor and will never be forgotten. No visitation, there will be a celebration of his life on December 6th at the American Legion Post No. 32, 9318 Newburgh Road, Livonia. from 5-10 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations to the family will be received.



JOHN KELLY PIERCE, JR.

Suddenly December 2, 2007. Age 22 in Kalamazoo. Senior at Western Michigan University and member of the Rugby Club Team. Beloved son of Diane S. Marshall (Pete) and John K. Pierce, Sr. Dear brother of Sarah Marshall, Sean Marshall and Brett Marshall. Grandson of JoAnn and the late Milton Strong and the late Charles "Bud" and Jean Pierce. Also survived by many loving relatives and friends. Family will receive friends at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward (btwn 13-14 Mile) Friday 2-8pm and Saturday 11am until funeral service 2pm. Memorial tributes to or the American Red Cross, P.O. 4002018, Des Moines, IA 50340-2018. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

MIKE VOELKER

Ypsilanti, MI. Age 55, died December , 2007. He was born October 30, 1952 in Detroit, the son of the late Weldon & Ruth (Wiemeri) Voelker & was raised in Farmington. Survived by his loving wife Susan, of 32 yrs; daughter, Angela (Chad Ward) Jane (Dieter) Voelker; sisters, Stefankovic, Marilyn (Vlada) Savovich & Donna (Kevin) Thrift & brothers, David (Pam) Voelker & Eddie Voelker. Funeral was held December 6, 2007 at Stark Funeral Service. Please sign his guest book at: www.starkfuneral.com

www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

LUCY KATE CASSIDY

Age 72, of Fairfield Glade, TN, passed away Nov. 29. 2007 at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville. A memorial service will be held at a later date. She was born April 3, 1935 in Inman, SC, the daughter of Brice Daniel and Ola Denton Eppley. Lucy was a Registered Nurse and enjoyed reading, sewing, bowling and being a homemaker. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Donald James Cassidy; son, Ronald James Cassidy of Euless, TX; daughter, Melinda Sue Hersback of Troy, MI; grandchildren, Harold James Hersback, Mya Leigh Hersback, Ryan Gilchrist, Jessica Cassidy; sisters, Christie Whitfield of Greenville, SC and Inez Young of Clinton, TN. She was preceded in death by her parents and son, Michael Jay Cassidy. Crossville Memorial Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc. was in charge of the arrangements.

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SERGE GRATCH, PhD

December 4, 2007 Age 86. Beloved husband of Rosemary. Dear father of Susan (Pat Gleason), Mary, Lucia, Karen, Elizabeth (Matt Waldsmith), Ann, Barbara Cohen (Warren), Amy, Ellen (Andras Komaromy) and Thomas (Lisa Kumar). Grandfather of Zak, Julian, Ellen, Michael, Charley, Laura, Mina, Chloe, Preston and Maya. Private memorial service will be held in the spring. Memorial tributes to Beaumont Hospice, 3601 W. Thirteen Mile Rd., Royal Oak, MI 48073 or Paws With A Cause, 4646 S. Division, Wayland, Michigan 49348. A.J. Desmond & Sons (248) 549-0500. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



Heights, MI.

ROBERT J. WILSON

Age 72, of Novi, December 2, 2007. Beloved husband of Stephanie (nee Kobe). Loving father of Susan and Joseph. Dear brother of Joseph Dolan Also survived by many relatives and friends. Funeral service Thursday Dec. 6th at 10:00 a.m. at Heeney Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd., (btwn 9 & 10) Farmington, MI. (248-474-5200). Visitation Wednesday, 2-8pm, with a 7pm scripture service. Memorials may be made in Robert's name to Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center c/o of St. Mary Mercy Hospital 36475 5 Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48154.





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 4:15 PM for Sunday Wednesday 9:45 AM 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 OE08518962

10 a.m. till sold out Saturday, Dec. 15, at Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Rd., south of Ann Arbor trail, Livonia. Christmas cookies of all varieties will be available for sale by the pound along

with various bake sale items Boar's Head Festival of Music

Ancient processional celebrating Epiphany presented by Cherry Hills Presbyterian Church with the Livonia Symphony Orchestra and Dearborn High School's Choral Group 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15, and 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, at the church, 24110 Cherry Hill at Telegraph, Dearborn. Tickets are free but a free will offering will be accepted. Advance tickets are recommended. Call (313) 563-4800. The interdenominational experience features the Christmas story, the Yule procession and trimming of the hall.

Stranger in the Manger

The Jesus Jammers Choir performs a Dr. Seuss style musical about the birth of Jesus 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-6722. Messiah

A special presentation of Messiah

by G.F. Handel under the direction of Tim Schoenherr, 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, at Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Rd., Farmington Hills. Concert features The Orchard United Methodist Church Chancel Choir accompanied by local musicians in a full Baroque orchestra and solo vocalists from the University of Michigan School of Music, Theater, and Dance. The presentation includes favorite choruses from the Christmas portion, such as "And the Glory of the Lord" and "For Unto Us A Child Is Born", and concludes with "Hallelujah," a gospel version of the Hallelujah Chorus. For more information, call (248) 626-3620. Everyone is invited to join in this celebration.

Christmas concert

Sing Out is scheduled for 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, on Warren Rd. in Canton. The concert features selections by two parish chorales as well as skits performed by St. John Neumann volunteers (the SJN Players). There will also be singalongs for the audience.

Mystery of the Manger Victory Voices Choir performs

Christmas musical 6:30 p.m. Sunday,

(Luke 3:16), is organizing in Livonia at Living Water Church, 11663 Arcola in the Inkster and Plymouth roads area at 7 p.m. Fridays under the leadership of Luke Willis. F.I.R.E. Ministries. For more information, call (734) 425-6360.

New worship schedule

Regular church service 10 a.m. Sundays with Communion and Nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages and Faith Forum, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414. All visitors welcome. Visit www.holycrosslivonia. org.

Sunday worship

11 a.m. Sunday worship service, 9:30 a.m. Sunday school, 7 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Rd. at Hunter, Westland. For information, call (734) 721-0800.

Worship services

10 a.m. Sundays Divine Liturgy followed by a fellowship/coffee time, at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 W. Seven Mile, between Newburgh and Wayne roads, Livonia. Church school for children and adults begins at 9 a.m. Sunday. Vespers are celebrated 5 p.m. Saturdays. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, call (248) 476-3432 (church), (248) 477-4712 (rectory) or Web site at www. orthodoxlivonia.org.

Singers wanted

Riverside Park Church of God is looking for voices to join their choir. If you like to sing and love God (or just want to get to know God) join in. For more information, call (734) 464-0990.

Pancake breakfasts

The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continue their 30-year tradition of all-you-caneat pancake breakfasts on the third Sunday of each month from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The breakfasts are served in the school cafeteria at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road. Adults, \$5; children ages 4-11, \$3; children under age 3, free; and family (2 adults and all children), \$15. Everyone is welcome.

Men's breakfast

Ham & eggs, hash browns, pancakes, and more when you come to the Men's Breakfast at 8 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month at The Senate Restaurant, located off Haggerty Road between Five Mile and Six Mile in Northville. All men are invited for fellowship and food. Sponsored by Riverside Park Church of God. 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990.

MOPS meetings

The Hosanna-Tabor Mothers of

Fellowship Dinners

6 p.m. Thursdays. Dinner catered by The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro. \$6. At St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile. Redford. Call (313)534-7730.

Thrift Shop

9:30-11:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford, Registration

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Early Childhood Center is now taking registrations for the fall program at 14175 Farmington Road, north of 1-96, Livonia. It is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday. Loving and caring programs are offered for toddler, preschool, pre-K, and child care. Call (734) 513-8413.

Morning pravers

7:30 a.m. Tuesday-Friday, at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware, corner of Puritan, Redford. Please join in as participants start day with prayer. Call (313) 255-6330.

J.O.Y. meeting

The J.O.Y. Builders (Just Older Youth, ages 50 plus) meet 11:30 a.m. the third Thursday of the month for lunch, fellowship and fun, at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth roads, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990. All are welcome to join in. There is no charge, although organizers ask that you bring a luncheon dish to share. Higher Rock Cafe

Second and fourth Friday of the month, doors open at 7:30 p.m., live bands begin at 8 p.m. presented by Salvation Army of Wayne/Westland, 2300 S. Venoy, between Michigan Avenue and Palmer. For information, call (734) 722-3660 or visit www.tsa. higherrockcafe.4t.com.

Uplifting church services

Want a unique church experience? Join in Sunday mornings at 10:45 a.m. for a service that will lift your entire family, but be prepared for what will happen after just one service. An open discussion 7 p.m. Wednesdays. Classes available for all ages, child to adult. Riverside Park Church of God is at 11771 Newburgh (corner of Plymouth Road), Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990.

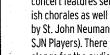
Worship service

10 a.m. Sundays, at The Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, 29425 Annapolis, Westland. Sunday School for children. For information, call (734) 728-3440.

Youth wanted

Tweens and teens age 12 and up are invited to join in various youth activi-

Please see RELIGION, A7







ties held at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh Road (corner of Plymouth), Livonia. Come to one of the regular classes on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. or Wednesdays at 7 p.m. For details, call (734) 464-0990.

A healthy you

Join with others as you discover ways to keep minds and bodies healthy through a four-week class that is open to the public and free of charge at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh Road (corner of Plymouth), Livonia. Day and night classes available. To register, call (734) 464-0990.

Sunday worship

10 a.m. at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, 29425 Annapolis, Westland. For information, call (734) 728-3440.

Sunday services

Pastor Dan Strength leads services at Living Water Church (Pentecostal Church of God), 11663 Arcola, one block west of Inkster Road on Plymouth

Road. Sunday School is 10 a.m. followed **C** by worship at 11 a.m. Bible study 7 p.m. Wednesdays. Call (734) 425-6360. **Farmington Women Aglow** Meets the second Monday of each

month 7-9:30 p.m. at the Longacre House on Farmington road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Call Vikki for more information at (248) 497-7755. Farmington Aglow is a Christian women's groups.

Worship services

Sunday worship services are at 8 a.m. (traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (contemporary), at Grace Lutheran Church, 46001 Warren, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton. For more information, cail (734) 637-8160. Sunday school and Adult Bible Study at 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study series: Heaven Can't Wait.

Worship services

Praise and worship 10 a.m. Sunday, at Westwood Community Church, 6500 Wayne Road and Hunter, Westland. Contemporary music and casual dress. Children church and nursery. Call (734) 254-0093. Doughnuts and coffee served.

BELIEFS AND VALUES

Celebrate Recovery

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville launches Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program helping men and women find freedom from their hurts, habits and hang-ups (addictive and compulsive behaviors), meets every Friday evening for 6 p.m. dinner (optional), 7 p.m. praise and worship, 8 p.m. small group discussion, 9 p.m. Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee and desserts). Child care during Celebrate Recovery is free and available by calling (248) 374-7400. For information, visit www.celebraterecovery.com and www.wardchurch. org/celebrate.

Sunday service

All are welcome to attend worship service at 10 a.m. Sunday in the sanctuary at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, one block west of Inkster, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 422-1470.

Worship service

At 10:30 a.m. Sundays at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford. Congregation is hearing lessons from 1

Peter. Call (313) 255-6330. Adult literacy classes

Adult and English as a Second Language literacy classes are available for those wishing to improve reading, writing and English conversational skills. Open to adults age 18 and over. Trained tutors available for day or evening. For information, call Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City at (734) 421-0472. Leave your name and phone number

and someone will contact you. Personal ministry

Due Season Christian Church is a nondenominational, 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.

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, 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 and keep it off. Call Margaret at (734) 838-0322.

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 for information.

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 7 p.m. followed by Benediction service. For information,

call (734) 261-1455. Senior activities

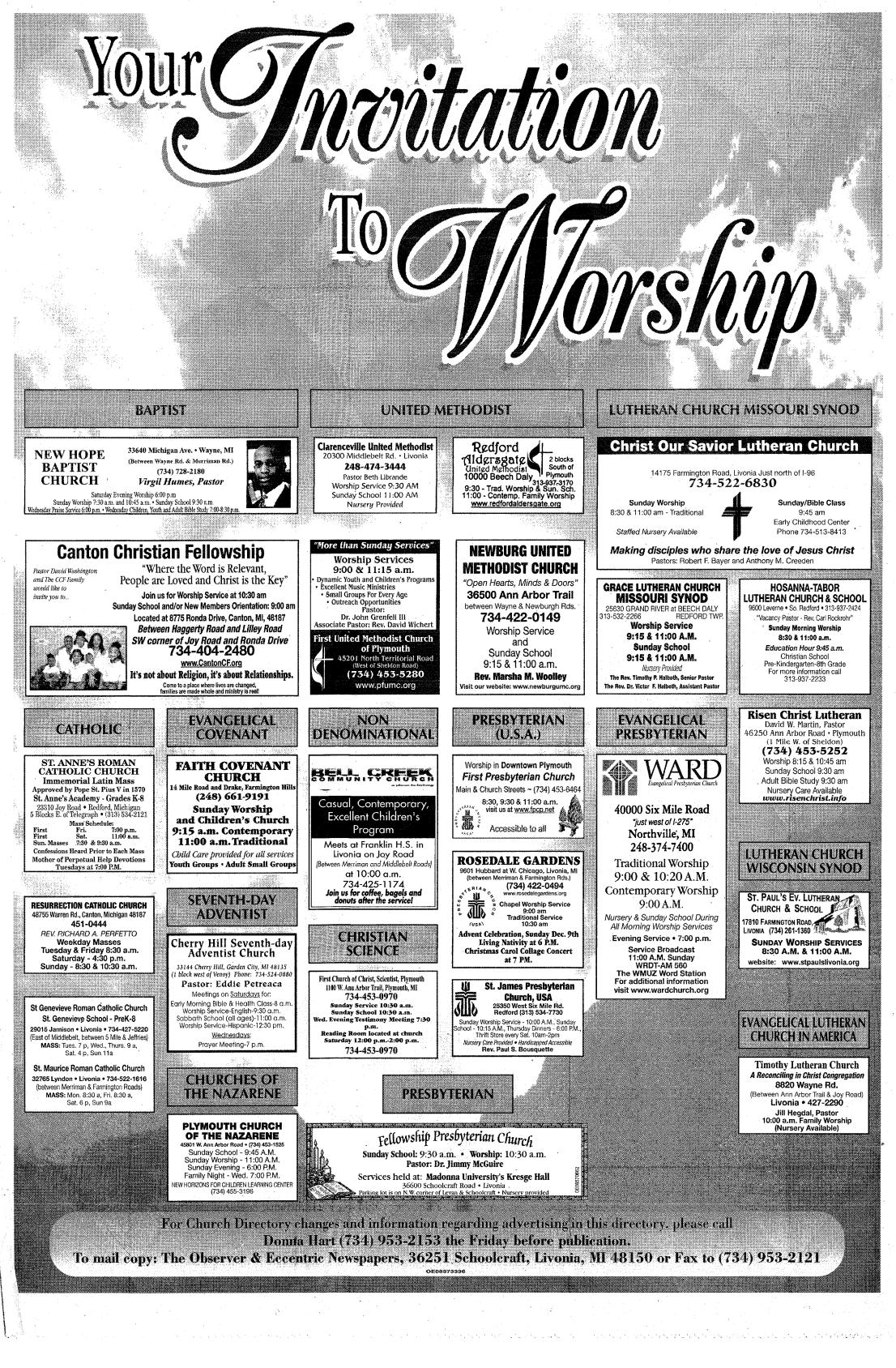
Senior activities

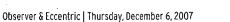
Gathering for seniors 50 years and older at 11:30 a.m. on the third Friday of every month at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 464-0990. Put together a salad dish and come out and meet other seniors. Lunch is served followed by fellowship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

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.

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.





FROM PAGE A1

Attack attack attack

teacher training and I feel we're on the right path.'

Gov. Jennifer Granholm, in Plymouth Township to tour the Comcast regional facility, said she's not surprised that more high schools in Michigan failed to make AYP this year, noting many of the juniors who took the Michigan Merit Exam last spring hadn't been taught under the state's revamped and more rigorous curriculum.

"We knew this was going to happen, it was not unexpected," Granholm said. "These are tough tests, tough standards, and this is the first year we see it coming through the system. We'll see, as we did in the K-8 system when we had new, higher standards and new testing, those results continue to get better. Soon we'll start to see the meeting of AYP and the higher standards result in better preparation for college, which is what it's all about."

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FROM PAGE A1

Carroll said. "The area was secured, the bomb squad was called and upon arrival they determined the device was, in fact, a live grenade. The bomb squad blew up the device."

Like Hayes, Kahanec said it's the unknown which has made his job enjoyable the past three decades.

"After 32 years, you think you've seen it all, but there's always something that

happens that's new," said Kahanec, 56, of Canton Township. "We've always had a great rapport with the community, and they've supported us. That's not the case in a lot of communities, which makes it one of the reasons Plymouth is a special place."

Plymouth resident Todd Zolkosky received the Rotary Paramedic of the Year award for 2007.

"Todd has great skills, excellent bedside manner and always puts the needs of the patient before his own, understanding that making the patient feel comfortable is one of the keys to a positive outcome," said Paul Hood, Huron Valley Ambulance vice president for eastern operations. "Todd also takes into account the needs of the patient's family, keeping them in the loop and turning the focus on healing the patient instead of worrying about their loved one."

During his seven years as a paramedic, Zolkosky has encountered every kind of emergency, including delivering babies.

"I like helping people who really need help, it's really fulfilling," said Zolkosky, 35. "I like being there when somebody really needs you, especially when they are upset or distraught."

Plymouth Community Fire Chief Randy Maycock named Dan Atkins, a 15-year member of the department, as the Rotary Fireman of the Year.

"His positive attitude and outgoing nature truly helps to motivate his fellow employees and makes the Plymouth community a better place to live," Maycock said. Atkins, who is president of

the firefighters union, also chairs the Local 1496 Charity Foundation, which raises money for the University of Michigan Burn Center, Great Lakes Burn Camp and Hazard House, a learning tool for youngsters.

"Dan helped organize the fishing derby held at the township park this past spring," said Maycock. "He even went as far as driving to Brooklyn. Mich., to buy fish to stock the pond so the kids would be sure to catch something during the contest."

After the award presentations, Plymouth Rotary President John Folino announced that a \$1,000 contribution in each of the recipients' names would be donated to Rotary International Foundation.

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oleman's Holmes Farm Markets Corner of Holmes & Ridge Rd. (1 blk. West of E. Michigan Ave.) (734) 483-1783 **10 VARIETIES OF PREMIUM CHRISTMAS TREES** up to 15 FT, TALL from \$ 1 5 00 A little better tree...

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Magazine lauds P-CEP band director

Bands, Marc Whitlock, has Who Make a Difference" in the December issue of School Band and Orchestra magazine.

SBO magazine selects one band director from every state. SBO magazine is published for grade school through high school band and orchestra directors. Whitlock is the director of bands at the Park, which is comprised of more than 300 band students from Canton, Plymouth, and Salem High Schools.



Plymouth-Canton Marching Band. He joined the staff at Plymouth-Canton in

Whitlock is

director for the award-winning

also the band

2003. Previously, Whitlock was a band director at Marian Catholic High School in Illinois and Hebron High School in Texas.

Earlier this year, Whitlock was also named to the staff of the inaugural U.S. Army All-American Marching Band, an honor celebrating the values

and strengths these standouts share with Army Strong Soldiers. Whitlock will join the staff of 10 instructors to lead the 91-member marching musicians selected to perform in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl Halftime show Saturday, Jan. 5, at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas. Three of Whitlock's students at the **Plymouth-Canton Educational** Park were selected to march in the All-American Marching Band.

"We are so incredibly blessed to have Marc Whitlock lead our band program at the Park," said Julie Kaminski, assistant principal at Plymouth High School.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

calling the follo	wing:			
Charter T	ownship of C Ca	edley, ADA Coord Canton, 1150 S. C inton, MI 48188 (734) 394-5260	anton Center Ro	ad
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Publish: December 6	3, 2007	ng sing sing set to be set a		OE08573450
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CHAR	TER TO	WNSHIP OF	PLYMOUTH	Ŧ



Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Director of been selected as the Michigan representative for the annual feature of "50 Band Directors



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON **PROPOSED USE OF THE** 2008 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT **BLOCK GRANT FUNDS DECEMBER 11, 2007**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM WILL BE HELD BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE MEETING ROOM OF THE TOWNSHIP HALL WHICH IS LOCATED AT 9955 N. HAGGERTY RD. ON **DECEMBER 11, 2007.**

THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE TO AFFORD THE PUBLIC THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLACE BEFORE THE BOARD ANY PROPOSED USE OF THE 2008 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS.

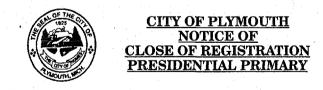
PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS FROM THE WAYNE COUNTY OFFICE OF BLOCK GRANT, WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM, ARE THAT THE ESTIMATED 2008 FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR THE TOWNSHIP WILL BE APPROXIMATELY \$107,000.00.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH, UPON COMPLETION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING. WILL DETERMINE THE USE OF THE 2008 FUNDS.

ANY WRITTEN COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED USE OF THE 2008 FUNDS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO SUSAN VIGNOE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COORDINATOR, CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH, 9955 N. HAGGERTY RD., PLYMOUTH, MI 48170 AND MUST BE **RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2007**

MARILYN MASSENGILL, CMC CLERK, CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

Publish: December 6, 2007



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the voter registration of Qualified Electors for the PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION to be held on Tuesday, January 15, 2008 will be taken at the Office of the City Clerk during the office hours as enumerated below:

MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Registration will close on MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2007, and no further voter registrations will be accepted for said election. Any interested person may also register at any Secretary of State Branch Office during their regular business hours. Qualifications of an elector for registration are as follows:

- 1. Citizen of the United States
- 2. At least 18 years of age
- 3. Resident of the State of Michigan for thirty (30) days
- 4. Resident of the City of Plymouth on or before thirty (30)
- days prior to the date of the election

Qualified electors who are currently registered with the City Clerk will not have to re-register. If you have a physical problem and cannot come into City Hall, please call and make other arrangements. The telephone number is 734-453-1234, ext. 234 or 225.

> Linda Langmesser, CMC City Clerk

Publish: December 6, 2007

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 6, 2007

COUNTY NEWS

Caution: Set the proper foundation for your investment club

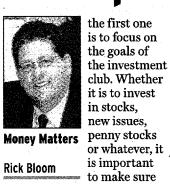
*he other day on my radio show, I was asked about investment clubs. The caller and a group of friends were thinking about forming one and wanted my thoughts. On the whole, I am very favorable to investment clubs. If run successfully, they can be profitable, educational and a lot of fun. In too many cases. though, when not run properly, they have disappointing results.

One caveat - never invest your entire portfolio through an investment club. You are going to have to make compromises to other members and that is not something you should do with an individual portfolio. Prior to participating in an investment club, it is important to make sure that you have your own independent portfolio geared for your goals and objectives. The investment club portfolio should be a supplement to your own portfolio.

There are a number of issues that need to be resolved, and

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all the club members are on the same page. Nothing will break up an investment club faster than disputes over how to invest. Another issue is how the club will be run. What is the responsibility of each member and how will the legal aspects be handled? After all, one of the goals of an investment club is to make money and whenever vou make money vou know there are tax issues.

Investment clubs typically* require regular contributions and meetings. Those issues should be decided up front to avoid problems. Another

a member wants out? What formula will determine how a member's interest is valued and how will payouts be administered?

In order to prevent adverse tax consequences or undue losses, there may be a provision that a departing member is paid off over time as opposed to a lump sum.

What happens if a member does not meet their responsibility by not paying dues or doing research? There has to be some sort of methodology to handle these situations. The National Association

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of Investors Corp. (NAIC) in Madison Heights can provide a wealth of information for investment clubs. The national organization publishes Better Investing magazine, which is dedicated to helping educate and inform investors. Anyone who has an investment club or is thinking of forming one should contact the NAIC at

(877) 275-6242 or www.better-investing.org. Another resource is the *Dummy* series of books – Investment Club for Dummies is excellent.

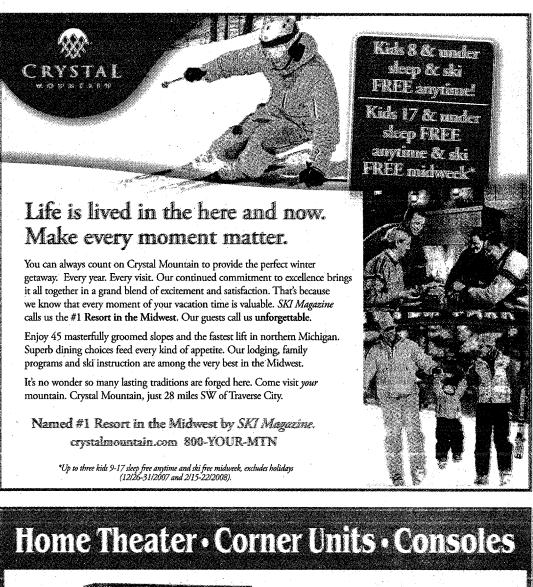
Investment clubs are great because they encourage people to be involved with their money. However, all the successful ones set the foundation before they begin investing

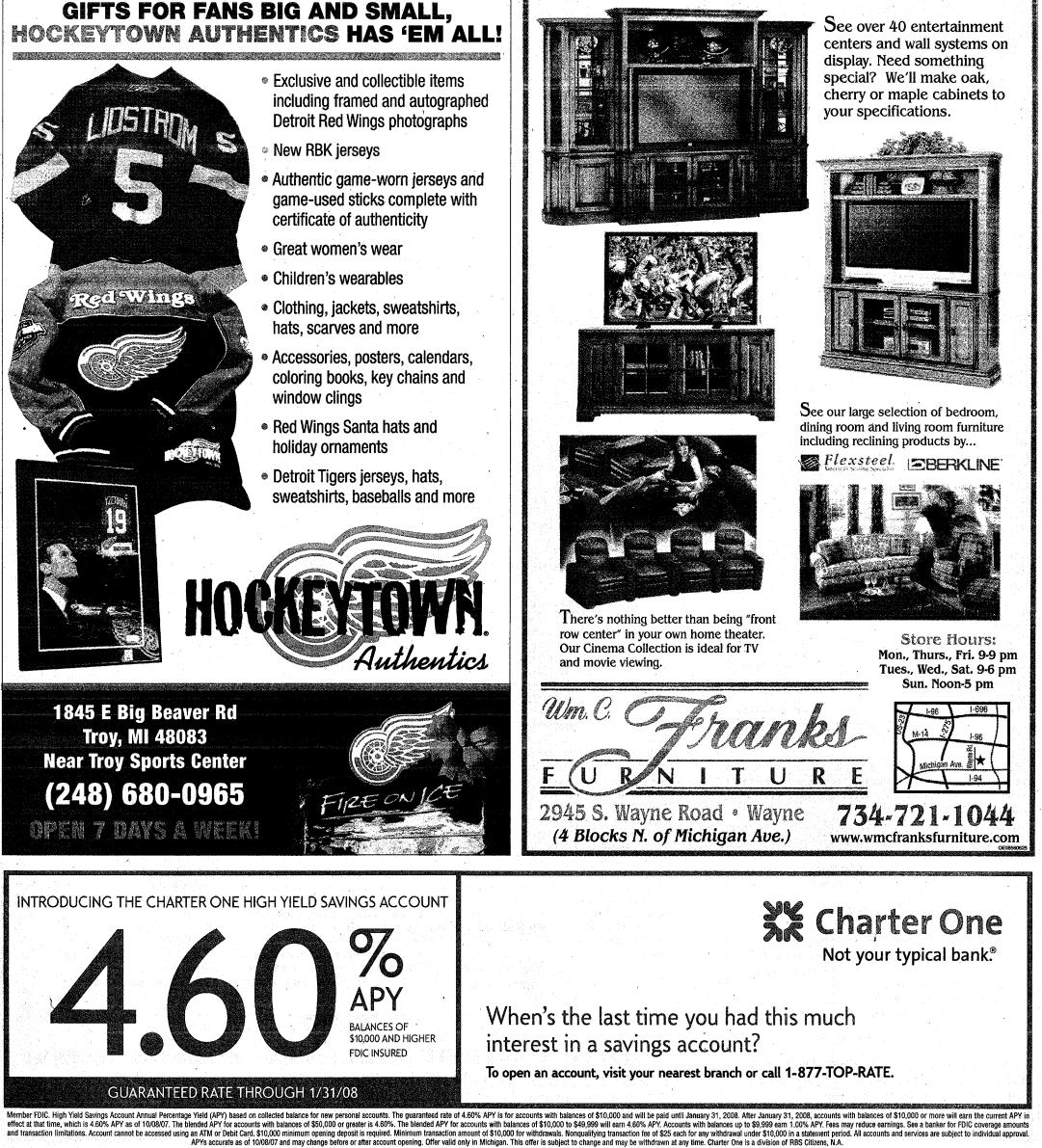
and that includes legal agreements, bylaws, rules and regulations.

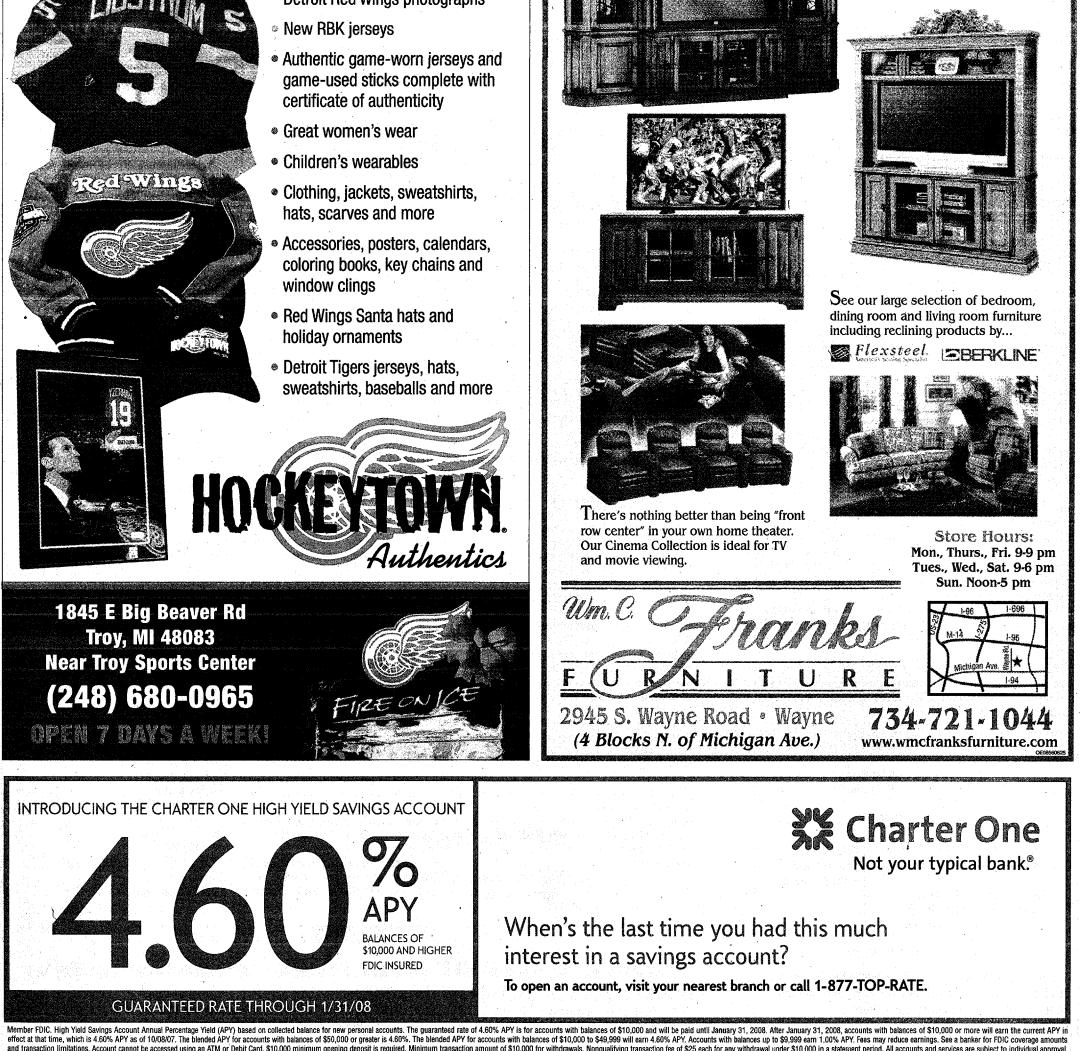
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Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).









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Thursday, December 6, 2007 The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

PCAC faces tough task

Farewell, Paula, we hardly knew ye.

After fewer than 18 months as director of the Plymouth Community Arts Council, Paula Gangopadhyay has accepted the newly created position of director of education for The Henry Ford in Dearborn.

She leaves having at least gotten started on the mantra the center's Board of Directors gave her when she got here: Raise the profile of the PCAC.

When the board hired Gangopadhyay to replace Stella Greene, they wanted her to expand an already solid program. She's done what they asked her to do.

Primary among her goals — and responsibilities — was to augment the PCAC's budget, particularly with grants. Arts funding has been cut and, in a continually struggling Michigan economy, finding cash became a high priority.

Gangopadhyay was able to do that. For instance, she secured a \$15,000 grant from the DTE Foundation to fund a new Diversity Through the Arts program, an exhibition on multicultural diversity.

Another \$15,000 grant — this one from the Michigan Humanities Council — is funding another educational exhibition, The Changing Face of Michigan's Workforce, the Plymouth, Michigan, story (focused on the local economy and career exploration) which opens in February.

She's strengthened an already strong link with the local schools that was present under her predecessor, Greene. She's started new programs; for instance, ArtSplash, a comprehensive arts enrichment program calendar which offers "something for everyone," targeting a wide-ranging audience that includes preschoolers, home-schoolers, younger audience, teens and adults. There are new vocal music programs,

It hasn't been easy. Gangopadhyay has ruffled a few feathers with her hard-charging style, a stark contrast to the much more mellow, lighter touch Greene preferred. Apparently, though, it's what the board wanted, because board president Ted Williamson paid her high praise when it was announced she was leaving.

The board has its work cut out as it turns its attention to replacing Gangopadhyay. Perhaps they should be looking for someone who can combine the gentle good spirit of Greene with the driving nature of Gangopadhyay. If so, the board should hire that person.

And then convince that person to stay longer than 18 months.

It's time to expand term limits

A proposal to extend term limits will not be on the Jan. 15 ballot; if it were on the ballot, it is likely that it would go down to defeat.

Proponents of term limits have done a good job of convincing a majority of potential voters, against all evidence, that term limits have been a boon to good government.

Term limits were approved as a constitutional amendment in 1992. The amendment limited the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general and state senators to two four-year terms. It limited state representatives to three two-year terms. The amendment was passed in the midst of a national movement that began in Oklahoma, based on the idea that office holders who remain in office too long are too vulnerable to lobbyists and develop power centers that are detrimental to democracy. But during the recent partisan battles over the state budget, term limits have been cited as a major factor in legislative inaction. While in theory term limits seem to hearken back to the ideal of citizen legislators, the reality is that term limits have robbed the Legislature of historical perspective, left legislators with little expertise in particular areas of state government and public policy, fostered an ability to see beyond narrow partisan positions for the greater good and robbed most of experience in crafting compromises that work. Term limits have shifted institutional memory, and power, to hired aides rather than elected legislators. Professional politician needn't be a pejorative. The state needs some professionals in Lansing. Many legislators have admitted that their lack of experience has been a significant part of the problem. We have had a series of House speakers who have come to the position after a single term in office. It is unlikely that voters would totally abandon term limits. The Michigan Chamber of Commerce has thrown its support behind a proposal that would allow legislators to serve a total of 12 years in either the House or Senate or a combination of 12 years in both chambers. Under the current law, legislators can serve up to 14 years in both chambers, but are limited to six years in the House, eight years in the Senate. Ironically, this proposal did not make it to the ballot because of partisan wrangling over attempts by Democrats to append other reforms that the Chamber did not support.



No more liquor licenses

I live within three blocks of downtown Plymouth and oppose the issuance of any further liquor or beer licenses.

This town has enough problems without the additional increase in alcohol and or drug-induced behavior. Why do we want these problems? It is detrimental to our community and an overload for our already busy police department.

John Dellinger Plymouth

Too many problems

No, I don't think Plymouth should allow more liquor licenses. There are plenty of places in the city already at which to get a drink. Adding any more establishments is asking for trouble. Let the police spend their time protecting the citizens, not chasing down people who overindulge. Drunk driving leads to a

LETTERS Don't start war in Iran

Vice President Dick Cheney is now manipulating information to start a war in Iran so we can take over its oil, too. The American people don't need another war subverting our taxes to oil companies and government contractors. We need to focus on the issues at home. Creation of jobs, housing, better education and health care and new infrastructure in the U.S. are far more important. Impeachment proceedings are long overdue.

Denise Berthiaume

Canton

Don't fund mercenaries

Blackwater (owned and led by a secretive, super-rich fundamentalist Christian Republican named Erik Prince, who is originally from Michigan) is a prite military company whi accused of numerous crimes in Iraq. I will not accept my tax dollars being spent on mercenaries receiving several times the salaries of U.S. soldiers -and with no legal accountability. That is just asking for violations of our Constitution. I will not be party to it, and I insist that you help us end this dangerous, inordinately expensive practice ASAP. (See: www.etherzone. com/2007/cron010807.shtml Blackwater USA Onward Christian Soldiers, by Al Cronkite.)

agement team at Quicken Loans made to move their headquarters to Detroit. We know that feeling because we've felt it many times in Detroit as companies quietly shut their doors here and reopened them in suburbs all around the city.

www.hometownlife.com

A few of us even recall 30 years ago when General Motors moved a transmission plant from Detroit to Livonia. They earned valuable state tax credits in the process that Mayor Coleman Young didn't oppose, because he knew it was better to have a factory in Livonia than Indianapolis.

Granholm and the State of Michigan were involved to keep Quicken Loans from moving to Ohio. Or Arizona. Or any other state. Period. And don't think that Ohio and Arizona weren't pitching feverishly. They were. And they have an impressive set of incentives that they likely offered, including low interest loans, grants for utility ments, tax exemptions, tax credits and tax abatements. They probably could have matched whatever Michigan offered. So we were very fortunate to even stay in the game by offering Gilbert key intangibles – such as the chance to take on a major role in developing a revitalized, re-energized and exciting downtown. Sure, when a business is deciding among Livonia, Southfield, Ann Arbor or Detroit we are all going to be pitching against each other, and the governor shouldn't be taking sides. But that wasn't the game we were in with Quicken Loans. If it were football it wasn't Michigan vs. Michigan State, it was Michigan vs. Ohio State. In the last year, 13 economic development organizations in southeastern Michigan agreed that when the region is competing in a global arena it makes more sense for us to work together than separately. And in the first six months of this year the group has been responsible for 65 projects representing almost \$2.3 billion in investment and 4,800 retained or new jobs. In our next report the region will be counting another 4,000 retained jobs from Quicken Loans. That's something we should all be cheering.

We believe legislators need more time in office and urge the Legislature, the Chamber and others to continue making the case for extending term limits and bring it to the ballot for next November.

Observer

Brad Kadrich Community Editor	Susan Rosiek Executive Editor	Peter Neill Vice President General Manager
Hugh Gallagher Managing Editor	Marty Carry Director of Advertising	
Richar	d Aginian – Publisher En	neritus

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.

whole lot of problems.

Corrine Kert Plymouth

Too much liquor

We believe that there are too many establishments now that are serving liquor in the town, we do not need any more.

We have been residents of the Plymouth community for over 60 years and we would like to see restaurants that cater to the "whole family" and not to those who have to drink liquor with their meals.

You said that nearly 115 people will get a questionnaire on this subject. It is not fair that 115 people should make the decision for a town the size of Plymouth.

We need our police force to keep crime down in Plymouth and not chase drunks down who put others in harm's way when they get behind the wheel of a car.

James and Lila Skaggs Plymouth

Licenses provide variety

Who do they think is going to buy all the condominiums they are building downtown — people who want a variety of unique (i.e., not chain) places to dine, including a glass of wine or cocktail, a micobrewery, etc. — not people looking for another boutique or art gallery.

Look at the successful establishments downtown (including Old Village) well-run restaurants that feature a fullservice menu. Just walk by Comparis, 336 S. Main, Hermanns, etc., on a summer night — the places are alive with activity.

As a 25-year resident of Plymouth Township and an empty nester, I like to go to a good restaurant close to home. If there are so many drunk drivers around town that are overwhelming the police department, use the incremental tax and court revenue to hire another officer. And if people are being "overserved" at a particular establishment, hold it responsible for the actions of its patrons.

> Randy Jost Plymouth Township

Ray Hrycko Redford

Dissenting views needed

A free press (or media) is the hallmark of a free society. Media monopolized by a few large corporations severely curtails free speech and the information needed for a democracy to make choices, as evidenced by the lack of any serious balancing viewpoints permitted in the media, during the runup to the Iraq war. We are again dangerously close to starting another war with Iran, with the same major media outlets (i.e., Fox News) playing their crucial role of not-so-subtle cheerleaders for war. The proposed rule changes by chairman of the FCC (loyal Bushie Kevin Martin) are apparently their reward for loyalty, and yet another insurance policy to ensure continued major media complicity.

When only money gets to talk, real democracy can no longer exist, because an informed electorate is no longer possible. I fear only manufactured consent will soon exist in what used to be the most free country in the world.

> Dale Adcock Redford

Quicken move a regional win

Gov. Jennifer Granholm and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation have nothing to be ashamed of in their role to keep Quicken Loans and Rock Financial in the state of Michigan.

I can understand that some people in Livonia will be disappointed by the decision that Dan Gilbert and his man-

QUOTABLE

George W. Jackson

CEO of Detroit Economic Growth Corporation

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.

Mail: Letters to the editor Plymouth Observer 1100 South Main Plymouth, MI 48170

Fax: (734) 459-4224

"For some students, they may be OK with it today when it's not in the news, but tomorrow it might be upsetting for a lot of students ... This isn't going to be a short-term fix."

- Erin Demarest, Canton High School counselor, on the reasons for offering counseling to students in the wake of tragedies such as the recent murder and house explosion in Canton

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

OTHER OPINIONS

'Millennials' saying goodbye to state

e was laid off from his job as a research assistant at the University of Michigan when the professor lost his grant. She had a teaching degree from Eastern



Hugh Gallagher

www.hometownlife.com

Michigan but couldn't find a teaching job in a time when schools were laving off teachers

They now live in Chicago. The story of my son and daughter-in-law has been repeated hundreds of times in this state. It has become a Michigan cliche. Young people are leaving the state for jobs, a better urban envi-

ronment, a more stable economy. SEMscope, the quarterly publication of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, spotlights the situation with a special report on "keeping them here."

The stories focus on the millennials, a name given to those young people between the ages of 22 and 30. They are just emerging from college with degrees and college loan debts, looking for a future. More and more that future does not include the state of Michigan. It most especially does not include southeast Michigan.

But without those young people, the state will face ever more crushing economic problems. It will lose the tax revenue from those young professional incomes. An aging population will put stress on an already overstressed health system.

The magazine asks some young people who have abandoned the state why they chose to live in other cities. The obvious first answer is that there were jobs in those cities. Though some actually moved to another city before having a job, trusting that conditions there would make it easier to find a job than conditions in metro Detroit.

The other reasons are telling. Those other cities have viable, exciting urban centers, not just big event venues where suburbanites drive in and then drive out as quickly as their cars can negotiate the freeways. In fact, the young urbanites don't need cars in these other cities, because Washington, Boston, Chicago and even Phoenix have intelligent mass transit systems. Those other cities meld the old and the new, they transform the existing into something new and vital. They are places where people walk their neighborhoods, drink coffee at the local java joint, pick up a book or magazine at the local bookstore, buy groceries at the local market, go running or biking through the local park.

The magazine looks at some cities that are prospering - Atlanta, Raleigh-Durham, Denver. The young are flocking to these

The other reasons are telling. Those other cities have viable, exciting urban centers, not just big event venues where suburbanites drive in and then drive out as guickly as their cars can negotiate the freeways. In fact, the young urbanites don't need cars in these other cities, because Washington, Boston, Chicago and even Phoenix have intelligent mass transit systems. Those other cities meld the old and the new, they transform the existing into something new and vital.

places because the new jobs are there, but so, too, is the new (old) lifestyle. In Denver, the magazine also notes a strong commitment to protecting the area's parks and open land. Time and again, young people say they want urban places that are close to recreation areas or incorporate parks into their planning. Young people run, bike, hike, kayak, etc.

As Lou Glazer, president of Michigan Future Inc., notes in the magazine it is not just sunbelt cities. Chicago, Toronto and Minneapolis have all been able to attract young professionals.

Chicago is a place of real neighborhoods, where people live, work, dine, shop. My son, his wife and their new daughter take full advantage of the Lakeview neighborhood on Chicago's northside. They live a block from Lincoln Park, part of Chicago's Lake Michigan waterfront, that the city leaders long ago recognized as a vital component to a healthy urban life. Every day, people jog, bicycle and walk baby strollers. They dine in local restaurants of every conceivable ethnic variety. The neighborhood has great locally owned businesses and national chain stores.

Of course, Chicago is not a perfect city. It has, like Detroit, a racial divide. It has its share of crime. But it also has a rich mix of people, constantly busy streets, booming local businesses and a general sense of optimism about the future.

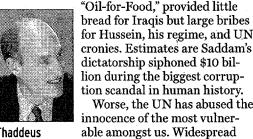
Here in metro Detroit we're apparently happier grumbling, doing nothing and saying goodbye to our children, except when they come to visit on the holidays (if they can tear themselves away from their more vibrant cities).

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the Observer Newspapers. He can be reached by e-mail a hgallagher@hometownlife.com or by phone at (734) 953-2149.

Liberty Alliance proposed to champion liberty and dignity

erelict in its original mission, today's United Nations (UN) is a global Tammany Hall lethal to the liberty and dignity of our human family.

The UN's waste, fraud and malfeasance have turned tawdry graft into a global art. For example, the UN's "humanitarian" aid program,



Thaddeus **McCotter**

of Congolese women, girls, and boys were leveled against the UN personnel sent to protect them. The particulars of this barbaric sexual abuse are unfit for this forum.

Worse, the UN has abused the

instances and allegations of the

sexual exploitation and abuse

These are not the acts of the UN envisioned by President Franklin Roosevelt in his March 1, 1945, Address before Congress on the Yalta Conference:

"(A common ground for peace) ought to spell the end of the system of unilateral action, the exclusive alliances, the spheres of influence, the balances of power, and all other expedients that have been tried for centuries - and have always failed. We propose to substitute for all these a universal organization in which all peace-loving nations will finally have a chance to join."

Weighed against Roosevelt's words, the UN is deemed wanting, and the reason is revealed -a"universal organization" will include "peace-loving nations" and tyrannical regimes.

Today, the UN's membership is stacked against free people. According to Freedom House, of 192 UN member states, 89 are "fully free" and 103 are not. Thus, a majority (54 percent) of member states oppose the expansion of human liberty and dignity because it directly threatens their regimes.

Nevertheless, since 1945, the U.S. has been the UN's largest annual contributor. In 2006, American taxpayers forked over \$423.5 million in dues (or 22 percent of the UN's regular budget) and over \$5.3 billion in total to the UN. Still, we and all free people remain UN tyrants' favorite targets.

Two statistics gauge this dysfunction: Only 46 percent of the UN's members are free nations; but the UN's top 10 financial contributors are all free nations.

This must end.

We must create a Liberty Alliance.

The Liberty Alliance must be founded upon the self-evident truth all human beings are possessed of dignity and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The Liberty Alliance's members shall be free nations. Member nations diminishing their people's liberty must be demoted to observer status and, when necessary, expelled from the Alliance.

The governing structure and rules of the Liberty Alliance shall maximize transparency, equity, and democracy in the pursuit of expanding human liberty and dignity. Moreover, the Alliance will help people seize their own destinies in their own way through diplomatic, political, economic, and cultural initiatives. The Alliance must not have a military component; and must never infringe upon a member nation's rights.

Finally, the Liberty Alliance's headquarters shall be sited on the free soil where liberty triumphed over colonialism, communism, fascism, world wars, and the Holocaust - Central or Eastern Europe.

Crucially, the Liberty Alliance will not demand its member nations exit the UN. All free nations should remain in the UN to keep an eye on our enemies. But we must stop paying through the nose to get kicked in our assets. Instead, we and other free nations will donate to the UN the same amount as its cheapest tyrants, like North Korea. Free nations' monies and personnel spared from the UN shall be dedicated to the Liberty Alliance or returned to taxpayers.

Some will decry the Liberty Alliance. They are wrong. Within the Alliance, Americans and all free peoples will remain cemented and steeled by the harmonic bonds of liberty, dignity, comity and duty; and, like our greatest generation, we will not bend, we will not break in our reasoned faith in a future graced by free nations.

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus G. McCotter, R-Livonia, represents Michigan's 11th Congressional District. He is chair of the **Republican House Policy Committee.**



(P) A11

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Sounds of the Season

Free Concerts at

Schoolcraft College

December 9—Wind Ensemble

Sunday, 7:30 p.m.

Schoolcraft College Radcliff Center

1751 Radcliff Street, Garden City

Featuring the works of John P. Sousa, Dimitri Shostakovich, Hector Villa-Lobos, Elliott Del Borgo, LeRoy Anderson and the holiday favorite Christmas Song by Mel Torme and Robert Wells.

December 10-Jazz Band and Synthesizer Ensemble

Monday, 7:30 p.m.

DiPonio Room inside the VisTaTech Center

Schoolcraft College main campus

18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia

The Jazz Band performs holiday favorites by Chick Corea, Dave Brubeck, and Stevie Wonder. The Synthesizer Ensemble's selections range from the traditional to the modern, including Lacrymosa from Mozart's Requiem Mass, a dramatic rendition of the 1980s hit Africa by the pop group Toto, and a special arrangement featuring vocalist Josh Marois, whose voice is electronically transformed to sound like a full choir.

December 16—Choral Union

Sunday, 3 p.m.

Recital Hall inside the Forum Building

Schoolcraft College main campus

18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia

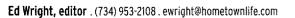
A choral concert entitled A Winter's Tale featuring choral music and poetry readings that capture the spirit of the holiday season. A suggested, but not required, admission donation of one canned or boxed nonperishable food item, which will be donated to the Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan, would be appreciated.

734-462-4400



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A12 (*) Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 6, 2007 vww.hometownlife JOE'S PRODUCE It's gift giving season! Send a beautiful gourmet fruit basket filled with Joe's high quality fruit, Be sure to place your orders gourmet cheese, crackers, jam & for all your holiday candy ! Available in a variety of gatherings from our wide sizes and many different kinds of selection of fruit, vegetable, baskets. Call or check the baskets cheese, meat, croissant & on line at www.joesproduce.com sandwich party trays! Call or order on line! Michigan's Finest Joe's December Organic California Romaine Broccoli Hearts California California Crowns **2/**\$5°° Navel Head Organic Oranges **99**¢ \$2.50/pkg \$3.998 lb bag Lettuce Carrots lb 2/\$300 69¢ 2 lb. bag Fresh Squeezed Florida each Wolfgang Puck Florida Hand Picked Organic Soups **Orange Juice** Fresh Squeezed Florida \$**2.99** Green Beans \$4.99 1/2 gallon Grapefruit Juice Crofter's all varieties Organic Jellies **99**[¢]_{1b} and Spreads \$3.99 1/2 gallon \$2.99each Dietz & Watson Hard Salami Oldtyme Swiss Cheese \$5.69 lb. all flavors Dearborn Brown Sugar Ham \$5.99 lb. Boarshead \$4.99 lb. Muenster or Provolone Cheese ^{\$4.99} lb. Sweet Sliced Ham \$5.99 lb. Horseradish Cheese Ovengold Turkey Breast \$5.99 lb. Thuringer \$5.69 lb. Hot Pepper \$4.49 lb. San Danielle Sweet & Hot Soppressata \$5.99 lb. London Broil Roast Beef or Corned Beef Jarlsberg Cheese \$8.99 lb. Veal Bologna \$4.99 lb. *7.99 lb. *7.99 lb. Mortedella Classica, ic Mortedella with Pistachio Oven Roasted Chicken \$5.99 lb. Classic Beemster Cheese '12.99 lb. ^{\$7.99} Ib. Sahlens Smokehouse Ham or Lemon Pepper Chicken Breast **5.99** lb. Muenster Cheese \$4.99 lb. \$4.99 lb. , Old Tyme Old Fashioned Hard Salami Albert Oven Roasted Turkey \$7.59 lb. **Perfect** wines Bichot 2007 3.99 lb. Michigan Brewing Company George Duboeuf 2007 for celebration; >Beaujolais Nouveau Screamin Pumpkin Beaujolais Nouveau soft, light (France) Spiced Beer "Like fruity red \$6.99 ⁶ pack plus deposit \$9.99 Save \$2.00 a bottle (France) Jumping ***10.99** Into a Bowl Joe's Pineapple of Fruit!" Save \$2,00 a bottle! Great Cajun Chicken Joe's Dinner Joe's **Shepards** Pie ^{\$7.99} lb. leriyaki Salmon, Idea! ^{\$}4.99 each Really ^{\$16.99} Ib. Delicious Lofthouse Housemade fudge trays, Christmas Cookies assorted sizes and flavors...Great Individual Joe's Egg Nog Creme Brulee gift idea! Also be sure to check out Joe's new ^{\$2.99} pkg. Muffins bulk chocolate displayk 51 99 Churros Great for holiday baking. \$3.99 Cinnamon & each Delicious Sugar Dusted Tasty! 4 pack **Gourmet Flavored Assorted Varieties** 99_{each}^{e} Peanut Butters from Briannas Baked Fresh Joe's Holiday The Peanut Butter Co. Dressings **Breyers Tortilla Chips 2/**\$6°° 3/\$12.00 Ice Cream Breakstone **All Varieties** 9/\$1 **Delicious Assorted Varieties** Sour Cream **Great for Your Parties!** 1.59 each All Flavors 1.75 qt 248-478-8680 16 oz. - All Varieties **Byrds Choice Meats** 33066 W. Seven Mile Holiday Favorites Choice Standing Rib-Roast or Boneless, Lean Crown Pork Roast 8lbs & up, Racks or Leg of Lamb Our Homemade Fresh or Smoked Sausage BYRDS ONLY COUPON Bell & Evans Fresh Turkeys **10%** off your Purchase **Fresh Seafood** with coupon expires December 15th, 2007 Come into Joe's for your holiday Byrds Regular Hours: Mon-Sat 9-7 Sun 9-5 decorating needs. We have a wide Prices Good Through 12/12/07 selection of wreaths, centerpieces, **JOE'S PRODUCE** poinsettias, decorated mini trees 33152 W. Seven Mile • Livonia & door swags. (248) 477-4333 Joe's Hours: www.joesproduce.com Mon-Sat 9-8 Sun 9-6



The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers www.hometownlife.com

Thursday, December 6, 2007

3's vs. trees

Titans' inside power offsets 'Cats' triple barrage, 53-48

Chiefs fall to Pioneer. See Page B2.

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Once Plymouth's boys basketball team started raining threes on Southgate Anderson Tuesday night, the Titans decided to go inside. Inside the paint.

Led by a trio of large-bodied post players, the visiting Titans survived a flood of Wildcat triples to earn a thrilling 53-48 decision in the season opener for both teams.

Anderson's starting frontcourt trio of 6-foot-6 senior forward Phil Carr, 6-1 forward Terry Butler and 6-1 center Mike Kozar accounted for 41 of the team's 53 points.

The slashing, spring-loaded Carr did the most damage, posting 22 points and seven rebounds against the Wildcats' smaller frontcourt.

"We got beat by a very good team tonight," said Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner. "They put the ball in the right kids' hands at the right times.

'They have three main players who dominated the game for them. We knew what they were going to try to do and we did some things to try to hedge against it, but they were just a little bit better than us tonight.

The Wildcats received a strong effort from senior guard Brandon Roberts, who scored 15 points and pulled down a team-high five rebounds Plymouth connected on almost one-third of the 22 triples it launched — a respectable percentage, especially con- half, yet walked into its locker sidering it was the first game of the season.



2007-08 boys hoop season tips off

Plymouth senior guard Chris Daniels drives hard to the hole during Tuesday's season-opening game against Southgate Anderson. The Titans won, 53-48.

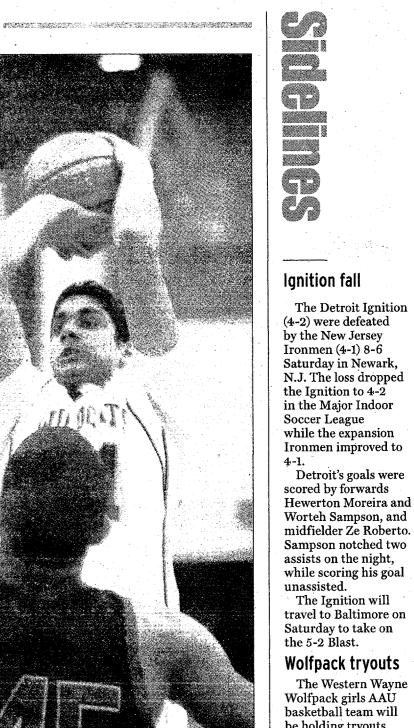
Three 'Cats drained a pair from beyond the arc: senior guard Navraj Sandhu (nine points), junior guard Brad Lineberry (six) and senior guard Andy Price (six). Senior forward Mike Hanchett added five points for Plymouth before fouling out late in the fourth quarter.

Anderson surged to a 14-6 lead after one quarter led by Kozar, who scored all seven of his points in the opening eight minutes.

The Wildcats jumped back into the game in the second quarter when they visited Three-Land – a destination they're sure to return to often this season. Plymouth nailed five of their seven triples in the second quarter alone, including a long-range bomb from Price at the buzzer to knot the score at 25-all. Amazingly, Plymouth was outrebounded 17-5 in the first



Turnovers doom Canton ladv cagers, B2



basketball team will be holding tryouts on Sunday, Jan. 6, at High Velocity in Canton. Following are the

tryout times for the five teams:

■9-and-under — 9-10:30 a.m.;

■10U - 10:30 a.m. to noon;

■11U — noon to 1:30 p.m.; ■12U ---

■13U - 3-4:30

There will be a \$15

tryout fee to cover the

Samulski at (734) 306-

cost of an AAU card

and insurance. For more information, contact Scott

p.m.; and

p.m.

Please see 'CATS, B2



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Warriors clip Eagles' wings

Lutheran Westland's Allyson Yankee drives to the hoop past Plymouth Christian's Sara Ross in Tuesday's non-conference encounter. Yankee scored 19 points in a 37-25 LW victory. See details of the game on page B2.

Plymouth senior forward Navraj Sandhu focuses on the front of the rim as he launches a fade-away jumper during Tuesday's 53-48 loss to visiting Southgate Anderson. Sandhu finished with nine points.

3081 or sjsamulski@ yahoo.com. **Coaches: Please** call Local high school

varsity athletic coaches are encouraged to report all of their teams' results to Observer Sports Editor Ed Wright so that the area's prep athletes receive the recognition they deserve.

Wright can be reached at (734) 953-2108 after 5:30 p.m. on weekdays. Results can also be e-mailed to ewright@hometownlife.com or faxed to (734) 591-7279.

The deadline for Thursday editions is Tuesday at 11 p.m.; the deadline for Sunday editions is Friday at 11 p.m.

Plymouth swim team claims first place at Wildcat Challenge

For complete results on the meet, please see page B2.

The Plymouth boys swimming and diving team will be riding a wave of momentum into the 2007-08 season thanks to its first-place showing in Saturday's seasonopening Wildcat Relay Challenge, which was held at the Canton High School pool.

The Wildcats outpointed five other teams, including runner-up Holly and third-place Woodhaven. The field also included Dundee, Dearborn Edsel Ford and Redford Union.

Plymouth touched first in four of the 11 relays and placed second in another.

The hosts' initial first-place finish came in the second event of the day - the 200-yard backstroke relay, which Mike Conger, Chris Wilson, Jack Distel and Adam Wing won with a time of 1:54.93.

The Wildcats took gold in the next event, too - the 200 breaststroke relay - thanks to strong efforts from Kyle Dull, Ben Ambrose; Tony McLaughlin and Dan Stoscup



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LOCAL SPORTS

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 6, 2007

Turnovers doom Canton lady cagers in 10-point setback

BY ED WRIGHT **°STAFF WRITER**

B2

(CP)

Canton girls basketball coach Brian Samulski has repeatedly delivered the same five-word directive to his team during timeouts, halftime intermissions and postgame meetings during the first three games of the 2007-08 season: Take care of the ball.

Unfortunately for the Chiefs, they've yet to heed their coach's plea on a consistent basis.

As a result, they're 0-3 following Monday night's 40-30 home setback to Howell. Trailing by just two heading into the final eight minutes, Canton committed seven fourth-quarter turnovers and managed to launch just four shots because of the shaky ball security.

The Highlanders took advantage of their hosts' miscues by

GIRLS PREP HOOP

outscoring Canton 12-4 in the fourth quarter to sew up a convincing road win.

"Obviously, I'm not doing a very good job teaching these kids how to handle the ball and how to pass-and-catch because it continues to be a problem for us," Samulski said. "I have to come in and do a better job of teaching them how to pass to the open player, how to call for the ball, how to call names out when they pass the ball and how to look down court when we're bringing

"You can't turn the ball over seven times in the fourth quarter when you're down two and expect to win a game — it's just not going to happen."

Canton wasted a phenomenal

performance by senior forward Baylee Hollowell, who defied game-long double teams to register 17 points and 15 rebounds. Defensively, she blocked five shots and altered a few others.

The next most productive Chief first eight points of the fourth was freshman Kayla Bridges, who netted five points. Four other players scored two.

"Baylee is a great worker who deserves all the success she's having right now," said Samulski. "Every team we've played has went all out to stop her, but they haven't been able to. If she keeps working hard like this, she's going to have a great season."

The Highlanders' scoring ledger was as balanced as a tightrope walker as seven players scored, none more than Alysa Asher's nine. Nikki Gunning contributed eight, including a pair of early triples, while Charlie French and

Megan Hatter both chipped in with six.

Howell led 12-11 after one quarter, 20-18 at the half and 28-26 with eight minutes to play.

The Highlanders scored the quarter to put the game on ice. Canton didn't net its first fourthquarter points until Bridges nailed a running jumper in the lane with 1:35 left.

The Chiefs actually outshot the Highlanders from the field, canning 14-of-36 shots (38.8 percent) compared to Howell's 17-of-50 (34 percent) accuracy rating.

Neither team sparkled from the free-throw line: Canton hits 2-of-6 freebies while the Highlanders buried 3-of-5 from the charity stripe.

Howell turned the ball over just 10 times while Canton racked up 22 give-aways.

SOUTHGATE ANDERSON 51, PLYMOUTH 36: On Tuesday in Southgate, the Titans prevailed thanks to senior guard Lindsev Potter's 16 points.

The loss dropped the Wildcats' record to 0-3 while the Titans improved to 2-0. Junior guard Kelsi Robinson paced Plymouth with 11 points, nine of which came on a trio of threes.

Junior forward Shaakira Haywood and sophomore forward Stacey Klonowski both contributed nine points. Hawyood led all rebounders with 12 caromes.

"We're still working on developing the team chemistry we need to win," said Plymouth coach Richelle Reilly. "Our inexperience is showing through in December. We need to just keep getting better, both as a team and as individuals.'

LUTHERAN WESTLAND 37, PCA 25: Junior

BOYS PREP HOOP

opening night performance, "but

The Chiefs return to action

Monroe. The opening tip is set for

LUTHERAN WESTLAND 59. PCA 45: Brandon

Bekius won in his debut as coach

Tuesday as host Lutheran High

Westland (1-0) got untracked in

the second half to beat Plymouth

Senior forward Robert Seltz

who outscored PCA 30-21 in the

second half, with 13 points. Sam

Ahlersmeyer, a junior forward,

added 11. Senior forward Nate

Bachert contributed eight points.

Trevor Zinn led the Eagles with

10 points. The Warriors were 7-of-

13 from the foul line, while PCA

"It was a tough game, we

matched up well because both

teams are small," Bekius said. "We

played better the second half. The

first half we were kind of sloppy.

We ran our offense and created a

few more turnovers."

was 11-of-15.

paced the victorious Warriors,

Christian Academy (0-1).

Friday night when they host

we'll get there.'

7 p.m.

guard Allyson Yankee had 19 points, four assists and four steals to propel Lutheran High Westland (1-1) to a non-conference win Tuesday over visiting Plymouth Christian Academy (1-1).

Becca Refenes, a 6-2 junior center, contributed 12 points, 20 rebounds and three assists. Rachel Storck also grabbed 10 rebounds and had three assists.

"We got off to a slow start tonight, but we were able to apply some pressure, get some turnovers and pick the tempo up more to our liking," Lutheran Westland coach Kevin Wade. "We're still learning. We still make silly mistakes and we don't see the whole floor yet, but it will come."

Megan Greve scored seven for PCA, who trailed by only one at halftime, 16-15.

ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2108

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON Board Proceedings-November 27, 2007

6:30 P.M. - CLOSED SESSION - PENDING LITIGATION Adjourn: Motion by Zarbo, supported by Bennett to move from closed session to open session at 7:03 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held Tuesday, November 27, 2007, at 1150 Canton Center S. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Roll Call Members Present: Bennett, Caccamo, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin Yack Zarbo

Staff Present: Director Eva, Executive Director Santomauro, Director Conklin Adoption of Agenda Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the amended agenda adding C-3 Special Event Status and Installation of Signs for Canton Goodfellows Annual Paper Sale and G-10 Consider Accepting Proposal Submitted by Northwest Consultants Incorporated for Design Survey on Van Born Road from Haggerty to Lilley. Motion carried unanimously. Approval of Minutes Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the Board Minutes of November 13, 2007. Motion carried unanimously. Payment of Bills Motion by Kirchgatter, supported by Bennett to approve payment of the bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously. CONSENT CALENDAR: Item 1. AUTHORIZE PLACEMENT OF SPECIAL EVENT SIGNAGE FOR 2007 SHOP CANTON HOLIDAY FEST. (SUPERVISOR) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to authorize the placement of signs for the 2007 ShopCanton Holiday Fest event in accordance with the Canton Township Sign Ordinance. Motion carried unanimously. Item 2. APPROVE APPOINTMENTS TO THE SENIOR ADVISORY COUNCIL. (CLS) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the following appointments to the Senior Advisory Council for a three year term beginning January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2010, and the Alternates to a one year term, January 1 - December 31, 2008. One nominee would be appointed to fill the remainder of an existing term that would expire in December, 2008.* Pioneer Club: Lynn Walgenbach (current member whose term expires 12/07) Alice Underwood-Alternate Royals Club: Elmer Kulp (current member whose term expires 12/07) Carol Evans - Alternate (current member whose term expires 12/07) Zester Club:

Theresa Krolicki, Nancy Horace - Alternate *Katie Maglocci - for a term to expire in December, 2008. Motion carried unanimously

Item 3. SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENT STATUS AND THE INSTALLATION OF SIGNS FOR THE CANTON GOODFELLOWS ANNUAL PAPER SALE. (SUPERVISOR) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve special event status for the Canton Goodfellows annual paper sale and grant approval to install signs advertising the event. Motion carried unanimously. GENERAL CALENDAR: Item 1. CONSIDER RECORDING EQUIPMENT FOR MOBILE COMMAND -

2005 UASI GRANT. (PSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the purchase of a EARS - 2000 JPS - ACU 1000 8 Channel Recording Module and accessories for the Mobile Command through ComSource Inc, 3130 Austin Dr, Rochester Hills, MI 48309 in the amount of \$11,957.00. Funding to come from account #101 860 977 1600 and will be reimbursed through the 2005 UASI grant. Motion carried unanimously. Item 2. MERIT COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION FOR NON-UNION CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES' 2008 COMPENSATION. (PSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to approve the recommendation of the Merit Commission to increase the salaries of the non-union classified employees by 3.0% across-the-board and to increase the salary grade ranges for the non-union classified employees by 3.0%. These increases shall be effective 1/1/2008. Motion carried unanimously. Item 3. CONSIDER ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMPENSATION. (FBD) Adopt the following resolutions: Resolution #1 WHEREAS, according to MCL 41.95(3) in a township that does not hold an annual meeting, the salary of officers composing the township board shall be determined by the township board, WHEREAS, the township board deems that an adjustment in the salary of the office of Supervisor is warranted in consideration of the increase of the cost of living since township board members' salaries were last adjusted, now BE IT RESOLVED, that as of January 1, 2008, the salary of the office of Supervisor shall be as follows: Supervisor \$127,073 salary (not directly performing assessing) The foregoing resolution offered by board member Clerk Bennett Supported by board member Kirchgatter Upon a roll call vote, the following voted: Aye: Bennett, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Nay: accamo The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted. Terry G. Bennett, Clerk Resolution #2 WHEREAS, according to MCL 41.95(3) in a township that does not hold an annual meeting, the salary of officers composing the township board shall be determined by the township board, WHEREAS, the township board deems that an adjustment in the salary of the office of Clerk is warranted in consideration of the increase of the cost of living since township board members' salaries were last adjusted, now BE IT RESOLVED, that as of January 1, 2008, the salary of the office of Clerk shall be as follows: Clerk \$103,730 salary The foregoing resolution offered by board member Clerk Bennett Supported by board member Trustee Zarbo Upon a roll call vote, the following voted: Aye: Bennett, Caccamo, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Nays: None The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted. Terry G. Bennett, Clerk Resolution #3 WHEREAS, according to MCL 41.95(3) in a township that does not hold an annual meeting, the salary of officers composing the township board shall be determined by the township board, WHEREAS, the township board deems that an adjustment in the salary of the office of Treasurer is warranted in consideration of the increase of the cost of living since township board members' salaries were last adjusted, now BE IT RESOLVED, that as of January 1, 2008, the salary of the office of Treasurer shall be as follows: Treasurer \$103,730 salary The foregoing resolution offered by board member Clerk Bennett Supported by board member Trustee McLaughlin Upon a roll call vote, the following voted: Aye: Bennett, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Nay: Caccamo The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted. Terry G. Bennett, Clerk Resolution #4 WHEREAS, according to MCL 41.95(3) in a township that does not hold an annual meeting, the salary of officers composing the township board shall be determined by the township board, WHEREAS, the township board deems that an adjustment in the salary of the office of Trustee is warranted in consideration of the increase of the cost of living since township board members' salaries were last adjusted, now BE IT RESOLVED, that as of January 1, 2008, the salary of the office of Trustee shall be as follows: Trustee \$12,537 salary The foregoing resolution offered by board member Clerk Bennett Supported by board member Kirchgatter Upon a roll call vote, the following voted: Aye: Bennett, Kirchgatter, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Nay: Caccamo, LaJoy The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted. Terry G. Bennett, Clerk Motions carried unanimously. Item 4. APPROVE PROPOSAL FOR TOWNSHIP TELEPHONE CARRIER SERVICES (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the bid proposal from AT&T through the State of Michigan MI-Deal Program for telephone carrier services for a three year period from the date of contract signing, and further; that the MI-Deal proposal for long distance telephone services be approved for a two year period from the date of signing. Motion carried unanimously. Item 5. APPROVE BID FOR PRINTING THE 2008 SERVICE DIRECTORY AND CALENDAR. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to approve the bid submitted by National Wholesale Printing Corporation in the amount of \$11,782 (Communications Account #101-240-900-0000 Printing and Publishing) for printing of the 2008 Service Directory and Calendar. Motion carried unanimously Item 6. APPROVAL OF PRESERVATION PROJECT FOR 425 NORTH RIDGE ROAD. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to accept a donation for the historical house at 425 North Ridge Road from Uptown Ridge Investors, LLC to be moved to the Bartlett-Travis House site and further; To accept a donation to be made by December 15, 2007 by Uptowns Ridge Investors, LLC of \$29,000 to be used to move the house and further; To approve the agreement between the Township and Uptown Ridge Investors, LLC regarding 425 North Ridge Road and further; To approve the following budget amendment in the 2008 Historic Commission Capital Budget to reprogram \$46,000 of funds to complete the project scope and to budget the \$29,000 donation from Uptown Investors, LLC for the project. Increase Revenues: Historic District Commission Donations #101-000-675-8030 \$29,000 Increase (Decrease) Appropriations: Capital Projects-Travis House #101-803-976-0000 (\$(42,000) Capital Projects – Historical 101-803-976-1000 \$71,000 Total \$29,000 This budget amendment increases the 2008 Historic District Commission budget from \$122,691 to \$151,691, and the 2008 General Fund budget from \$27,752,963 to \$27,781,963. Motion carried unanimously. Item 8. CONSIDER PURCHASE OF COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SERVER SOFTWARE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW FINANCIAL SOFTWARE SYSTEM. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to approve the purchase of computer hardware and software required for the installation of the new financial software system in the amount of \$54,811.01, (General Fund, General Government Department, Capital Outlay - Equipment account #101-200-977-0000) with purchase orders issued to Hewlett Packard for \$38,847.01 and Micro Source, Inc. for \$15,964.00. Motion carried unanimously. Item. 9. CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF HP PRO-LIANT SERVER AND RELATED SOFTWARE TO SUPPORT CityView VERSION 9 THROUGH THE STATE OF MICHIGAN CONTRACT. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to authorize the purchase of the Hewlett-Packard ProLiant Server and related software from Hewlett-Packard and Micro Source, Inc. through the State of Michigan Contract: MI -REMC (WSCAII) (HP-WSCA-04). for a total cost not-to-exceed of \$15,500, with funds from Planning Services Capital Outlay - Computer Equipment account #592-853-977-2580. I further move to approve the following budget amendment for this purchase: Increase (Decrease) Appropriations: Capital Outlay – Computers #101-853-977-2580 \$15,500 Contracted Services #101-853-818-0000 (15,500) Total \$ -0- This budget amendment does not change the Planning Services budget total or the General Fund budget total. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bennett, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Nays: Caccamo Motion carried. Item 10. CONSIDER ACCEPTING PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY NORTHWEST CONSULTANTS INCORPORATED FOR DESIGN SURVEY ON VAN BORN ROAD FROM HAGGERTY TO LILLEY. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to authorize Northwest Consultants Incorporated to complete the design survey for the Van Born Road Improvements for an amount not to exceed \$8,500. Motion carried unanimously. OTHER: Supervisor Yack stated the study session for December 4, 2007 has been cancelled. The next regular Board meeting will be December 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Administration Building, First Floor, Board Room, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan 48188. ADJOURN: Motion by Zarbo, supported by Bennett to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. - Thomas J. Yack, Supervisor - Terry G. Bennett. Clerk -Copies of the complete text of the Board Minutes are available at the office of the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd, Canton, MI 48188, during regular business hours and can also be accessed through our web site <u>www.canton-mi.org</u> after Borad Approval. Publish: December 6, 2007 ·OE08573895-3x16.5

Pioneers too much for Chiefs Ann Arbor Pioneer's boys basketball team is one of the most highly regarded Class A squads "We're not quite there yet," Colligan said, assessing his team's in the state early in the 2007-08

season. On Tuesday night at Pioneer,

Canton found out why. The Pioneers built a 30-24 halftime lead before cruising to a 56-38 decision in the season-opener for both teams.

"We just had a hard time scoring," said Canton Dan Colligan, a short time after his varsity coaching debut had ended. "Pioneer is very good defensively and they forced us to turn the ball over 17 times, which hurt. We saw some high-pressure defense tonight."

The winners padded their lead to 43-33 at the end of the third quarter before outscoring their visitors 13-5 over the final eight minutes. Senior forward Neil Sharma paced the Chiefs with 19 points and eight rebounds. Junior guard Sherif Hassanien had a strong varsity debut, scoring nine points.

Senior forward Will Courtney led a balanced Pioneer attack with 11 points.

Canton canned 8-of-12 free throws while the Pioneers were 4of-10 from the charity stripe.

Publish 12/6/2007

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, December 20, 2007 for the following:

room even-steven.

FROM PAGE B1

"That's what the threeball can do for you," said Van Wagoner. "It has its advantages, especially when you have a bunch of kids like we do who can make them. That's going to have to be our forte this year."

The lead changed hands six times over the final frenetic 10 minutes as neither team managed to capitalize on a boatload of trips to the foul line.

Anderson took the lead for $\mathrm{good}-39\text{-}38-\mathrm{when}\,\mathrm{Carr}$ converted a fast-break layup with just over five minutes left.

The Titans padded their lead to 43-38 before Roberts answered with a pair of driving layups 20 seconds apart to cut the 'Cats' deficit to 43-42.

He nearly handed his team the lead with four minutes to play, however, a referee ruled that Anderson coach Dave Fast had called time out before Roberts stole a pass and headed toward his rim uncontested.

Leading 50-48 with 14.2 seconds to go, Southgate iced the game when Butler hit the first of two free throws. It then secured the rebound off the second-shot miss when Carr tipped a long rebound out to Jon Jaciuk, who was stationed near the top of the key.

Jaciuk was fouled immediately before sinking both free throws to make it 53-48. Anderson hit just 12-of-26 free throws (46 percent) while the Wildcats hit the mark on 8-of-14 from the stripe (57 percent).

www.hometownlife.com

DISASSEMBLE, MOVE, AND REASSEMBLE THE HISTORIC HUGH-CLYDE HOUSE

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

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

CE08573951 2x

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SWIM RESULTS

2007 WILDCAT CHALLENGE SATURDAY AT CANTON H.S.

OVERALL STANDINGS: 1. Plymouth; 2. Holly; 3. Woodhaven; 4. Dundee; 5. Dearborn Edsel Ford; 6. Redford Union.

400-yard freestyle relay: 1. Edsel Ford (Cory Collet, Artur Ludscher Ley, I. Losen Brassell, Michael Sorice), 3:40.10; 2. Holly, 3:44.38; 3. Plymouth (Jack Gruszczynski, Peter Nolan, Ethan Weiner, Jason Oldani), 3:50.64; 4. Woodhaven, 3:51.96; 5. Dundee, 4:28.86. Woodnaven, 3:31.96; 5. Dundee, 4:28.86.
200 backstroke relay: 1. Plymouth (Mike Conger, Chris Wilson, Jack Distel, Adam Wing), 1:54.93; 2. Dundee, 1:55.98; 3.
Woodhaven, 1:59.24; 4. Holly, 2:03.58; 5. Edsel Ford, 2:10.28.
200 breaststroke relay: 1. Plymouth (Kyle DVR) Book dorbrood Dam McLawkin, Dam

Dull, Ben Ambrose, Tony McLaughlin, Dan Stoscup), 2:09.01; 2: Dundee, 2:12:15; 3: Redford Union, 2:16.41; 4: Holly, 2:19.69; 5: Woodhaven, 2:23.76.

400 medley relay: 1. Woodhaven (Thomas Laurell, Mark Truskowski, Adam Hunt, Patrick Murphy), 4:11.03; 2. Holly, 4:17.79; 3. Plymouth (Chris Wilson, Justin Scaparo, Peter Nolan, Adam Wing), 4:41.29; 4. Edsel Ford, 5:10.85; 5 Dundee, 5:33.44.

200 butterfly relay: 1. Dundee (Zách Labardee, Marty Smith, Andy Meyer, Tim Imber), 1:45.98; 2. Plymouth (Paul Snyder, Jack Distel, Ben Ambrose, Mike Conger), 140.002 Weathard Styr (Fick Labert) 1:49.08; 3. Woodhaven, 1:56.52; 4. Edsel Ford, 1:56.88; 5. Holly, 2:10.50.

400 medley relay: 1. Plymouth (Dan Stoscup, Tony McLaughlin, Justin Scaparo, Jack Gruszczynski), 4:36.52; 2. Woodhaven, 4:38.78; 3. Holly, 4:39.47; 4. Edsel Ford, 4:44,34; 5. Redford Union, 4:47.96. 200 medley relay: 1. Dundee (Darrell Tarry

Andy Meyer, Tim Imber, Marty Smith), 1:48.01; 2. Edsel Ford, 1:51.00; 3. Woodhaven, 1:55.45; 4. Plymouth (Adam Wing, Kyle Dull, Ethan Weiner, Jason Oldani), 1:57.38; 5. Holly, 2:03.45

500 freestyle relay: 1. Holly (Mike O'Connor, Nick Keller, Jake Quinnan, Matt Konopitski), 5:03.86; 2. Woodhaven, 5:07.29; 3. Plymouth

5.05.80, 2. Woodnaven, 5.07.29, 3. Pythoun (Ben Ambrose, Jack Distel, Paul Snyder, Tony McLaughlin), 5:15.52; 4. Edsel Ford, 5:57.66. **600 freestyle relay:** 1. Plymouth (Chris Wilson, Jason Oldani, Mike Conger), 6:05.16; 2. Edsel Ford, 6:39.01; 3. Holly, 6:46.53; 4. Woodhaven, 6:56.89; 5. Dundee, 8:12.58. **200 freestyle relay:** 1. Holly, 1:37.79; 2. Pundee, 1:39, 24: 3. Edeal Ford, 1:39, 56: 4.

Dundee, 138.34; 3. Edsel Ford, 138.58; 4. Plymouth (Ethan Weiner, Dan Stoscup, Kyle Dull, Peter Nolan), 1:41.34; 5. Woodhaven, 1:46.14: 6. Redford Union. 1:58.36.

1.46.14, 6. Return Union, 1.36.36. I-meter diving: 1. Dan O'Connor (Holly), 141.50; 2. Chris Ballue (Dundee), 123.75; 3. Josh Gray (Woodhaven), 119.40; 4. Bryan Mann (Plymouth), 117.25; 5. Nick Lyscas (Edsel Ford), 0.6 Ford), 96,45,

KNOW THE SCORE check out the numbers in today's SPORTS section

NOTICE **CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN** WINTER TAXES - 2007

Winter taxes are due December 1, 2007 and payable through February 28, 2008 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CITY OF PLYMOUTH. Payments can be made at City Hall during regular working hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's office. After hours, payments can be placed in the drop box located in the City Hall lobby (Church Street entrance) or in the payment drop box next to the book returns behind the Library.

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED during the Christmas Holidays from Friday, December 21, 2007 through Tuesday, January 1, 2008. The Treasurer's office will be OPEN TO ACCEPT TAX PAYMENTS AND OTHER PAYMENTS on Thursday, December 27th, and Friday, December 28th.

> Teresa Cischke, CPFA **City Treasurer**

> > DE08573017 - 2x3.5

Publish: December 2 & 6, 2007

Charter Township of Canton Board Proceedings-November 20, 2007

A regular study meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton held Tuesday, November 20, 2007 at 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the pledge of allegiance. Roll Call Members Present: Caccamo, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Members Absent: Bennett Staff Present: Director Eva, Karen Fox, Jessica Pietka, Bruce Malinczak, John Spencer, Joe Kocinski, Mike Sheppard. Others Present: Bob Lewis, Mark Dvorak, Jason Mavel and Ron Vedder: New World Systems Adoption of Agenda Motion by Kirchgatter, seconded by McLaughlin to approve the agenda. Motion carried by all members present. STUDY SESSION TOPIC Item 1. Financial Software System This presentation informed the Board of Trustees of the results of the selection process for an integrated Financial Software System and answered questions the Board may have had and to provide a demonstration of the system. Adjourn Motion by McLaughlin, supported by Zarbo at 9:05 p.m. to adjourn. Motion carried by all members present.

Thomas J. Yack, Supervisor Terry G. Bennett, Clerk

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

Publish: 12-6-07



ALL-AREA SOCCER

Stevenson kickers lead All-Observer field

FIRST TEAM

www.hometownlife.com

GK - SASA MISKOVIC, SOPH., SALEM: Only a sophomore, the Novi Catholic Central transfer made a sudden impact on the Rocks and the WLAA as he recorded nine shutouts and was voted to the WLAA's All-Lakes Division team.

"Even though he's only a sophomore, Sasa was one of the top goal-keepers in the state this year," said Salem coach Ed McCarthy. "He has great size for a goalie, he's good at coming out to get the ball and he has tremendous quickness.

F · COLIN ROLFE, SR., PLYMOUTH: Rolfe was in the running for the state's "Mr. Soccer" award after completing a sensational season in which he netted 28 goals and 22 assists. The four-year varsity player finished his career with a school-record 65 goals and earned an athletic scholarship to the University of Louisville. "Colin is such a dynamic

player," said Plymouth coach Jeff Neschich. "He was very good as a freshman, but he improved year after year due to his strong dedication to the sport and our program. He played forward and mid-field - wherever we needed him.

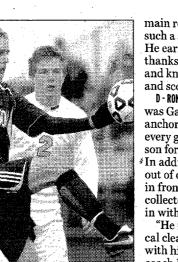
MF - BRIAN KLEMCZAK, JR., STEVENSON: The Spartans co-captain capped off three excellent seasons as a starter, leading the team with eight assists and totaling seven goals and 22 points (third best in both categories).

Klemczak did all that in addition to his strong commitment to defense.

"Brian's high level of fitness allows him to cover a lot of ground and to excel at both ends of the soccer field," said Stevenson head coach Lars Richters. "He is an outstanding student-athlete (4.3 GPA) and a tremendous person away from the field."

Klemczak earned All-Western Lakes, All-District, All-Region and All-State (second team) honors. Meanwhile, he captained last summer's Michigan Wolves team to a second-place finish at nationals.

D-SCOTT ZECH, JR., CANTON: With a stunning combination of speed, skill and instinct, Zech was one of the state's premier defenders in 2007 and one of the mainstays in Canton's drive to capturing the WLAA championship. Zech is a two-year All-State honoree and is well on his way to a third



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Livonia Stevenson's Brian Klemczak (left) continued to be a major factor in the Spartans' success again this season.

next season

D - KEVIN COPE, JR., SALEM: Primarily a defender, Cope was called upon on several occasions to spearhead the Rocks' offense off set pieces. Three of the third-team All-State performer's four goals were game-winners, including one against cross-campus rival Canton. Cope was voted on to the WLAA's first-team All-Conference contingent.

"Kevin is one of the top one-vone defenders in the state," said McCarthy. "He's great in the air and he's a very flexible player who we can bring up into our attack.

D - DYLAN GREEN, SR., STEVENSON: Green, a co-captain and second-year starter, earned team MVP honors for Stevenson while netting five goals and five assists from the back line.

For his efforts, he received selection to the All-Conference. All-District, All-Region and All-State (honorable mention).

"Dylan has the ability to be a talented forward," noted Richters. "But he has always placed the team's needs first. As a result, he has developed into a solid, intelligent and skillful back player."

MF - PAT NOLAN, SR., CANTON: A senior captain, Nolan was one of the

main reasons the Chiefs enjoyed such a stellar 2007 campaign. He earned All-WLAA honors thanks to his all-out-effort style and knack for making big plays and scoring timely goals.

D - RON BERGER, SR. GARDEN CITY: Berger was Garden City's defensive anchor for two seasons, starting every game and being a big reason for the team's 9-8-1 record. In addition to clearing the ball out of danger numerous times in front of the Cougars' goal (he collected three saves), he chipped in with a goal and three assists.

"He is 6-1 with good vertical clearing and (passes) well with his head," said Garden City coach Bill Torni. "The other teams' set plays were hindered by this ability.'

He was player of the game seven times and was named the Cougars' MVP, as well as being selected to the all-Mega White and all-district 6 teams. The Livonia Meteors club player intends on continuing with soccer in college. MF- JEREMY STOYCHOFF, JR., SALEM: The

Rocks' junior mid-fielder earned All-Lakes and All-District honors thanks to his hustling, unselfish play. While he didn't rack up flashy stats, his skillful passing ability generated plentiful scoring opportunities for his teammates.

"Jeremy has outstanding vision and a tremendous ability to find the open player with passes," said McCarthy. "He's a very good defender, too.'

F - BRYSON MACHONGA, SR., PLY. CHRISTIAN: Machonga has been an assist machine for the Eagles the past four years, having racked up 54 helpers the past two seasons alone, including 28 with 13 goals in 2007. The captain earned Division 4 All-State honorable mention status.

"Bryson has been a consistent player throughout his career at Plymouth Christian, but he saved his best for last in his senior year," said PCA coach Larry Machonga. "Bryson plays with a lot of confidence and he and Ross (Gerulis) helped lead us to the championship this season."

MF - JOEY D'AGOSTINO, JR., STEVENSON: The second-year starter played virtually every minute of every match for Stevenson, finishing second on the team in assists and sixth in points. His contributions earned him All-Lakes Division honors, as well as All-District selection.

"Joey is a very smart player

ALL-AREA BOYS SOCCER

2007 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS SOCCER FIRST TEAM GK - Sasa Miskovic, Soph., Salem F - Colin Rolfe, Sr., Plymouth MF - Brian Klemczak, Jr., Stevenson D - Socit Zoch Jr. Contra D - Scott Zech, Jr., Canton D - Kevin Cope, Jr., Salem D - Dylan Green, Sr., Stevenson MF - Pat Nolan, Sr., Canton & D - Dylan Green, Sr., Canton & D - Ron Berger, Sr. Garden City MF- Jeremy Stoychoff, Jr., Salem F - Bryson Machonga, Sr., Ply.

Salem

Scott Zech

Canton

Christian MF - Joev D'Agostino, Jr., Stevenson D - Brady Thom, Sr., Stevenson SECOND TEAM

F - Nick Chastine, Sr., Red. Thurston D - Adam Bedell, Soph., Churchill D - Adam Zehel, Sr., Lutheran Westland

MF - Brian Chambers, Sr., Garden City MF - Ryan Matthey, Sr., Franklin MF - Adrian Fylonenko, Jr., Stevenson D - Vinny Carozza, Sr., Churchill F - Tyler Floyd, Sr., Plymouth MF - Ryan Baglow, Sr., Lutheran Westland

- Sherif Hassanien, Jr., Canton D - David Kalvelage, Sr., John Glenn MF - Tim Maher, Sr., Red. Thurston D-MF - Matt Parent, Sr., Clarencevill enceville COACH OF THE YEAR

HONORABLE MENTION Churchill: Max Washko, lan Guerin, Ben Zukowski, Matt Regan. Franklin: Zain Oureshi, Steve Trapp, Travis Matthey, Joel Boettcher, Stevenson: Nate Sergison, Kendal Snow, Conner Burton, Justin Collins. John Glenn: Khalid Suleiman, Jacob Gates, Sergio Pavan, Jeff Thompson, Nelson Kenne. Wayne: Stephen Maynor, Tim Hubbard,

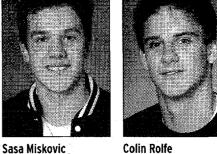
Alex Balli, Stefan Harrison, Eric Schmitt Plymouth: Trevor Floyd, Mike Korona, Evan Yoder, Austin Kaczanowsky. Canton: Logan McGraw, Mark Edwards, Tim Belcher, Joel Langdon, Kyle Breitmeyer, Brandon Burt, Phil Rollings. Salem: Josh Pascarella, Dan Radosevich

Scott Dreaver, Jace Bearden, Matt Garden City: Joe Clor, Chad Hallam,

Tyler Arban. Thurston: Chris Clay, Luke Toppa, Doug Weldon, Jake Cravens. Redford Union: Jon Kappler, Chris Gibbs, Dorian Bradford, Josh Thompson Liv. Clarenceville: Phil Strachan, Matt Garant, Daniel Pepaj. Lutheran Westland: Josh Kruger, Micah Hausch, Aaron Derminer. Huron Valley Lutheran: Aaron Howell. Plymouth Christian: Jordan Machonga Ross Gerulis, Spencer Wiard, Brent Zinn, Trevor 7inn Canton Agape: Brandon Pierson, Donald Mullett, Mark Mullett, Joel Ruffin, Jared

with good skill level and the ability to keep possession of the ball," Richters said. "He has a knack for positioning himself in just the right places. When he wasn't on the field, we simply were not the same team."

D'Agostino, meanwhile, was captain of the Michigan Wolves 15U team that won the national championship in summer 2007. D - BRADY THOM, SR., STEVENSON: Thom,



Plymouth

B3

(*)

Brian Klemczak Stevenson

Kevin Cope



Ron Berger **Garden City**



Brady Thom

Stevenson

Salem

Joey D'Agostino Stevenson

a co-captain and second-year starter for the Spartans, was a major factor why Stevenson gave up just six goals in 20 games this season, said Richters. That perhaps was why teammates honored him with the team's "Unsung Hero Award."

"Brady is one of the nicest young men to go through our program," the coach continued.





Bryson Machonga Plymouth Christian



George Tomasso Canton coach

"He had the respect of everyone on the team for his willingness to do whatever the team needed without looking to take any of the credit."

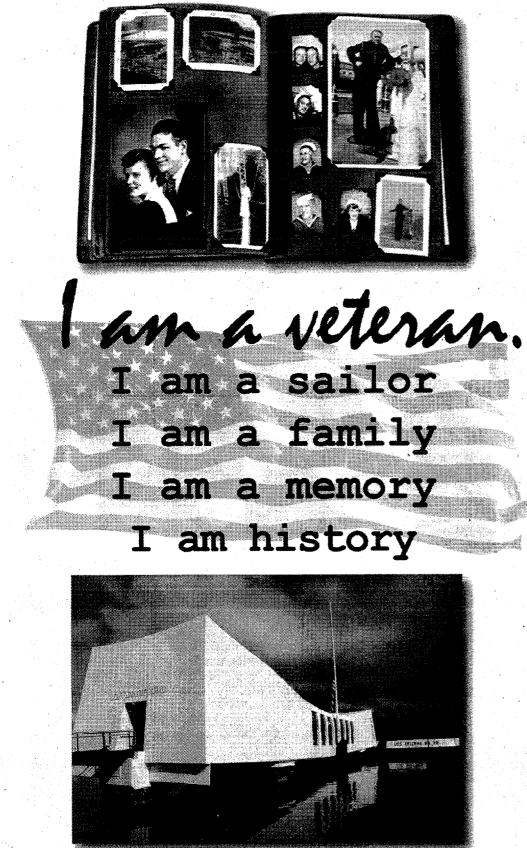
COACH OF THE YEAR

GEORGE TOMASSO, CANTON: Tomasso led the Chiefs to the Western Lakes Activities Association championship in 2007.

OE08574307



Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 6, 2007



The USS Arizona Memorial

Pearl Harbor Memorial Museum & Visitor Center.

The Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund needs your help to preserve the memories of the greatest generation.

The current USS Arizona Memorial museum and visitor center, built in 1980, is not only over-crowded, it is sinking into its Pearl Harbor landfill.

Many of the artifacts donated by veterans and their families, like the Paxton Carter scrapbook, can not be exhibited due to these deteriorating conditions.

You can have a direct impact on the preservation and protection of American history.

REMEMBER, UNDERSTAND, HONOR & Give from the Heart

Please contact us for more information or mail your donations to:

or visit www.pearlharbormemorial.com or Call toll-free 866-DEC-1941

The Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund is a 501(C)3, non-profit organization. Your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Federal Tax 1D # 99-0194501.

Be part of history, for a donation to the Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund, you can memorialize a veteran in our Memorial Registry for all to see and honor. Visit www.pearlharbormemorial.com

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 6, 2007

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Thursday, December 6, 2007

www.hometownlife.com

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Julie Brown, editor . (734) 953-2111 . jcbrown@hometownlife.com

Vet in need of home loan? Shop around

BY JULIE BROWN STAFF WRITER

Stephen Piazza, vice president at Livonia-based Quicken Loans, is familiar with government-backed loans for military veterans.

"My parents did it," as did many others of the post-World War II era seeking homes, he noted.

These days, VA loans carry a surcharge/funding fee of 2 percent of the loan amount. Livonia-based Quicken doesn't handle VA loans, but does have other options returning veterans can consider. #

There's the Community 100 loan, with zero down for a home and no VA funding fee. There's a maximum \$68,000 annual income, Piazza said, although one spouse could qualify for the loan alone with both names on the home title.

"It's there to encourage homeownership just like the VA is," he said. The VA can be fussier on affordability. Loans similar to Community 100 are offered by other lend-

ers under different names.

"It's not a big part of the market," Piazza said of returning vets. In the wake of problems with subprime loans, the VA route has become more popular.

People leaving military service get a packet of information when discharged, Piazza said. "Most of the marketing comes through the lenders."

He's asked often what is a good loan, and emphasizes a good loan as compared to what. "You have to pay a premium for a VA loan." He and his colleagues have recommended VA loans for some people.

"I think you'll see more lenders offer VA loans." Some do now, and he anticipates more will make them available.

Piazza urges veterans, and borrowers in general, to negotiate a purchase price to keep closing costs down with seller's assistance.

"It's a worthwhile benefit," he said of the VA, adding the government doesn't give the loan but insures it. "It's a worthwhile option compared to what it was a year ago."



Some loans for vets guaranteed by government

Here is a Q&A from the Department of Veterans Affairs

Q: What is a VA Guaranteed Home Loan?

A: VA guaranteed loans are made by. private lenders, such as banks, savings & loans, or mortgage companies to eligible veterans for the purchase of a home which must be for their own personal occupancy. The guaranty means the lender is protected against loss if you or a later owner fail to repay the loan. The quaranty replaces the protection the lender normally receives by requiring a down payment allowing you to obtain favorable financing terms.

Q: What is pre-purchase counseling and why is it helpful?

A: Pre-purchase counseling gives a person information on (1) the process of buying a home, (2) the key players in the home buying process, and (3) debt management. The goal is to create a more well informed homebuyer. While VA does not require such counseling, we strongly recommend it. There is usually no charge for the housing counseling. An excellent online source of information for first time homebuyers is provided by Ginnie Mae To locate a housing counseling office; call (800) 569-4287. or visit HUD's Web site. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) maintains both the phone number and Web site. **Q:** Does my entitlement quarantee that I will get a home loan?

A: No, VA cannot compel a lender to make a loan that would violate their lender policies. Lenders must also comply with VA income and credit standards. If a lender is unwilling to make a loan to you, we can only suggest that you try other lenders.

Q: How much is my entitlement?

A: Your basic entitlement is \$36,000. For. loans in excess of \$144,000 to purchase or construct a home, additional entitlement up to an amount equal to 25 percent of the Freddie Mac conforming loan limit for a single family home may be available. This loan limit changes yearly. This means that qualified veterans could get a no down payment purchase loan of up to \$417,000 through December 31, 2006 effective January 1, 2006. Q: Is there a maximum loan limit?

A: There is no maximum VA loan. Lenders will generally lend up to four times the amount of a veteran's entitlement without requiring a down records. However, veterans are encouraged to ask their lenders about this method of obtaining a certificate. You can apply for a Certificate of Eligibility by submitting a completed VA Form 26-1880, Request For A Certificate of Eligibility, to the Winston-Salem Eligibility Center, along with proof of military service. In some cases it may be possible for VA to establish eligibility without your proof of service. However, to avoid any possible delays, it's best to provide such evidence.

Q: How do I obtain a VA Home Loan? A: Here are the steps:

Select a home and discuss the purchase with the seller or selling agent. Sign a purchase contract conditioned on approval of your VA home loan. Select a lender, present them with your Certificate of Eligibility and complete a loan application. The lender will develop all credit and income information. They will also request VA to assign a licensed

explain the loan terms and requirements as well as where and how to make the monthly payments. Sign the note, mortgage, and other related papers. The loan is sent to VA for guaranty. Your Certificate of Eligibility is annotated to reflect the use of entitlement and returned to you. Q: What are the benefits of a VA

home loan? A: There are many benefits of a VA Home

loan: Equal opportunity.

No down payment (unless required by the lender or the purchase price is more than the reasonable value of the property). Buyer informed of reasonable value. Negotiable interest rate. Ability to finance the VA funding fee (plus reduced funding fees with a down payment of at least 5 percent and exemption for veterans receiving VA

compensation).

A: Guarantee that a home is free of defects. VA guarantees only the loan. It is your responsibility to assure that you are satisfied with the property being purchased. The VA appraisal is not intended to be an "inspection" of the property. You should seek expert advice (a qualified residential inspection service), as necessary, BEFORE legally committing to a purchase agreement. If you have a home built, VA cannot compel the builder to correct construction defects although VA does have the authority to suspend a builder from further participation in the home loan program. VA cannot guarantee that you are

making a good investment. VA cannot provide you with legal services. Q: Is a guaranteed loan a gift? A: No, it must be repaid, just as you must

repay any money you borrow. If you fail to make the payments you agreed to make, you may lose your home through Q: Can I get a loan for a home outside of the United States?

Placing lien won't do job alone

Q. Our homeowners association is experiencing a number of foreclosures by the mortgage companies and the board is finally deciding to put liens on the homes for nonpayment of assessments. However, the board doesn't want to take any further action. They are thinking that they will get their money when the home is sold. What are your thoughts?

A. The association has a responsibility to collect

assessments in a timely fashion.

> While it is necessary and appropriate

to put a



lien on the home to **Robert Meisner** indicate the

delinquent assessment, it is also imperative that the # association, in most cases, take affirmative action to foreclose on the lien or otherwise pursue collection efforts. Merely placing a lien on a home does not result in the money being paid and if you think you're going to get the money when the home is sold, particularly in Michigan's economy at the present time, you may be waiting a couple of years. You should consult a knowledgeable community association lawyer who can give you good advice as to

Davment. Q: How do I get a Certificate of Eligibility?

A: ACE (automated certificate of eligibility): It may be possible to obtain a Certificate of Eligibility from your lender. Most lenders have access to the ACE system. This Internet-based application can establish eligibility and issue an online Certificate of Eligibility in a matter of seconds. Not all cases can be processed through ACE - only those for which VA has sufficient data in our

\$205,000

\$275,000

\$325,000

\$232,000

\$262,000

\$131,000

\$170,000

\$153,000

\$150,000

\$135,000

\$193,000 \$175,000

\$250.000

\$351,000

\$273,000

\$74,000

\$300,000

\$112,000

\$125,000

\$48,000

\$103,000

\$145,000

\$128,000

\$129.000

\$130,000

\$145,000

\$142,000

\$145.000

\$83,000

\$138,000

\$178.000

\$145,000

\$193.000

appraiser to determine the reasonable value for the property. A Certificate of Reasonable Value will be issued. Note: You may be required to pay for the credit report and appraisal unless the seller agrees to pay. The lender will let you know the decision on the loan. You should be approved if the established value and your credit and income are acceptable. You (and spouse) attend the loan closing. The lender or closing attorney will

HOMES SOLD

Liosing costs are comparable with othe financing types (and may be lower). No mortgage insurance premiums. An assumable mortgage. Right to prepay without penalty. For homes inspected by VA during construction, a warranty from builder and assistance from VA to obtain cooperation of builder. VA assistance to veteran borrowers in default due to temporary financial difficulty.

Q: What can VA not do?

305 Pacific St

A: Unfortunately, the law only allows VA to guarantee loans on property in the United States, its territories, or possessions.

Q: Can I get a VA loan if I have had a bankruptcy in the last few years? A: The fact you and/or your spouse have been adjudicated bankrupt does not in

Please see VA, C4

Redford

\$365.000

\$221,000

\$190.000

\$170,000

\$165,000

51075 Powell Rd

9121 Beech Daly Rd

101 S Union St

101 S Union St

743 York St

the alternatives you have available to collect the funds now.

Q. I'm thinking about redoing a building in downtown Montreal and am wondering if you have any comments? I have been successful in lofts in Detroit and am wondering what the going price is?

A. Based upon my research, we're talking about approximately \$400 a square foot for the purchase price of condominium lofts in downtown Montreal, depending upon the location. You are best advised to consult with a real estate agent, although there are a number of condominiums being converted and/or constructed in the river front area.

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.

Think TODAY.

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 6-10, 2007, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office, plus some from Oakland County. Listed below are cities, addresses and sales prices. Canton

46605 Aarons Way 212 Alexandria Ct 43002 Arlington Rd 41529 Bedford Dr 50627 Belmont Ct 6637 Brookshire Dr 43497 Cherrywood Ln 46797 Creeks Bnd 6776 Devonshire Di 44946 Dionne St 2033 E Franklin Di 7066 Festival Ct 47528 Glengarry Blvd 44202 Harsdale Dr 1900 Hawks Nest Ct 49546 Hollywood Dr 6513 Kings Mill Dr 2017 Knollwood Dr 44217 Leeann Ln 47083 Lyndon Ave 41860 North Dr 48101 Park Lane Ct 47835 Pavillon Rd 47854 Pavillon Rd 358 Pinehurst Dr 2131 Preserve Cir E

365 Princess Dr 47585 River Woods Dr 47669 River Woods Dr 3509 Shepherd Ln 47597 Vistas Circle Dr N Farminator 33494 Alta Loma St 35564 Heritage Ln Farmington Hills 32711 Balmoral Knls 23028 Cora Ave \$225.000 29237 Laurel Dr \$420,000 21382 Magnolia Ct 30075 Minglewood Lr \$180.000 \$98,000 32363 Nottingwood St 21543 Riverwalk Ct \$450,000 \$192,000 31561 Rocky Crst \$200.000 30715 Shiawassee Rd \$220,000 \$204,000 30681 Sunderland Dr Garden City \$349,000 6918 Burnly St 32505 Cambridge St \$98,000 \$354,000 \$385,000 28428 Donnelly St 28461 Donnelly St \$220,000 \$175,000 7016 Gilman St 28468 Kathryn St \$1,325,000 \$341,000 33171 Kathryn St 29545 Rosslyn Ave \$175,000 \$187,000 32638 Rosslyn Ave 6526 Sharon St \$340,000 \$240,000 28653 Warren Rd 29895 Windsor St \$323,000 29896 Windsor St \$333,000 Livonia \$417,000 9725 Adams St \$407,000 14327 Arden St \$179,000

28538 Broadmoor St \$165,000 34016 Burton Ln \$220,000 11498 Cardwell S \$145,000 11751 Cardwell St \$141,000 \$150,000 \$156,000 8877 Denne St 36642 Dowling St 9974 E Clements Cir \$155,000 \$185,000 14122 Edgewood St 30536 Fairfax St \$310.000 19507 Fitzgerald St \$158,000 31704 Haldane St \$175,000 14566 Harrison St \$280,000 11035 Ingram St \$185.000 9040 Iowa St \$160,000 31722 Joy Rd \$133.000 33119 Kentucky St \$153,000 27815 Long St 18945 Loveland St \$109.000 \$157,000 14123 Lyons St 18549 Milburn St \$147,000 \$129,000 29896 Orangelawn St \$168,000 35582 Orangelawn St \$170,000 33971 Plymouth Rd 14047 Sunset St \$550.000 \$169,000 17955 University Park Dr \$115,000 18720 Vanderhaven Ln \$170,000 30637 Westfield St \$173,000 Milford 1219 E Commerce St \$145.000 824 E Huron St \$146,000 3085 Exeter Dr \$383.000 876 Panorama Ct \$166,000 Northville 601 Ashley Ct \$428,000 44289 Deep Hollow Cir 17233 Lilly Pad Ct \$580.000 \$258,000 17800 Maple Hill Dr \$380,000

18600 Marble Head Dr	\$760,000
46637 Merion Cir	\$540,000
16009 Morningside	\$155,000
16010 Morningside	\$169,000
365 Orchard Dr	\$165,000
18853 Pinehollow Ln	\$440,000
'620 Potomac St	\$438,000
204 Randolph St	\$578,000
49133 Running Trout Ln	\$455,000
418 W Dunlap St	\$399,000
44415 White Pine Cir E	\$510,000
48430 Wicker Creel Dr	\$224,000
Novi	
45155 Bartlett Dr	\$115,000
41317 Beacon Rd	\$359,000
47495 Cheltenham Dr	\$550,000
47714 Cheltenham Dr	\$185,000
22654 Chestnut Tree	\$190,000
41416 Glyme St	\$215,000.
27859 Hopkins Dr	\$157,000
27869 Hopkins Dr	\$170,000
41325 Singh Blvd	\$237,000
27500 Sloan St	\$285,000
27194 Victoria Rd	\$334,000
Plymouth	4
800 Arthur St	\$85,000
1048 Beech St	\$245,000
15050 Bradner Ave	\$218,000
11415 Brownell Ave	\$157,000
45952 Concord Dr	\$325,000
12721 Essex Ct	\$425,000
14536 Farmbrook Dr	\$170,000
600 Irvin St	\$197,000
9170 Manton Ave	\$175,000
11886 N Canton Center Rd	\$299,000
9295 Northern Ave	\$160,000

Mizi beech bely nu	\$103,000				
9999 Berwyn	\$108,000				
25425 Glendale	\$320,000				
9209 Hemingway	\$145,000				
15540 Kinloch	\$90,000				
19982 Lennane	\$132,000				
20010 Lexington	\$85,000				
24848 Lyndon	\$120,000				
19480 Macarthur	\$94,000				
19444 Poinciana	\$62,000				
19799 Poinciana	\$130,000				
11379 Riverdale	\$105,000				
11652 Rockland	\$116,000				
9340 Salem	\$111,000				
18668 Seminole	\$128,000				
25432 Southwick	\$139,000				
17627 Wakenden	\$121,000				
25225 Westfield	\$124,000				
8834 Winston	\$95,000				
8846 Winston	\$129,000				
12835 Wormer	\$99,000				
South Lyon					
345 Ash Ct	\$261,000				
61110 Palamino Ct	\$335,000				
21011 Parkwoods Dr	\$339,000				
Westland					
1950 Alexander Dr	\$169,000				
35232 Bakewell St	\$65,000				
32618 Birchwood St	\$157,000				
7394 Central St	\$71,000				

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Kit,

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UPDATED COLONIAL OVER AN ACRE LOT! 3 bd bungalow situated Greenbrook Village offers this great home that backs to woods. Open iot w/trees. 2 car det Garage w/ office space, 2nd Garage, spacious 3rd building for garden equip/ Fover, Kit w/nook, Fam Bm w/frol oversized Master, finished bsmt storage, newer roof, windows, landscaped fenced yard, & upd roof,

i î

carpet. & elec.

\$150,000

urnace, & carpet. (P-988RO) \$175,000

spacious bedrooms, full bsmt, 2 car Garage, & seller is motivated! \$278,900 (P-245RU)

EXECUTIVE RETREAT MOVE IN CONDITION Check out this Belleville beaut

Acreage, privacy, walkout bsmt, wine cellar, maple & granite Kit, dramatic entrance, 2 story Great Rm custom tile, vaulted bonus room w/frpl, king size maple Kit w/nook. pool room, home theater, & situated on 4+ acres. (P-797SA) (C-015SA) \$499,900



GREAT LOCATION Located at the end of 11 Mile & within walking distance to golf course, this condo has all the charm & comforts you desire. Efficient Kit, Great Rm, Master w/bath & WIC, bsmt, & Garage. \$199,000 (C-176SA)



AFFORDABLE DREAM Enjoy the comfort of your own home w/this very affordable condo in Farm

Hills, You'll love the large Liv Bm. bsmt storage area, comm clubhouse w/pool & picnic area, & fabulous ocation \$59.500 (P-739SH)

walk-

\$249,900

PRIDE IN OWNERSHIP Freshly painted St. James on a quiet







)

(C-600UN)

GREAT OPPORTUNITY Well cared for brick home w/plaster walls, hwd firs, newer mechanicals, formal DR/LR, Fam Rm, & possible in-law/rental quarters on 2nd level. Easily convert to single family home. (P-862RU)



121 Denbar, S off Long Lake on Barden, E on Denbar, 3 bdrm ranch priced way below appraised value. Motivated seller! (EC18PE-27208047) Weir Manuel Realtors (248) 851-5500 Bring all offers! \$485,000. Pete Kirsh: 248-321-7330 79 Livonia Keller Williams Realty 30500 Northwester Hwy OPEN SUN. 12-4 32928 Summers E. of Farmington/6 mile ROYAL OAK 3 bdrm. brick ranch, family room, natural fireplace, 1.5 Open Dec 9, 1-4pm. 3180 Dearborn 3110 Parker, new construction, a bdrm, 2.5 bath, open floo bath, attach garage. \$175,900. 586-949-5008/734-522-6635 plan, hardwood, gas fire-place, 2nd floor laundry, granite counter tops, 2 car detached garage, \$259,900 or best. 248-361-6110 WEST DEARBORN-AUDETTE, Story and a half, mostly new inside, large lot, 3 bdrm, \$137,000. Call: 734-358-4334 Plymouth

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Dearborn Hgts

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plan,

Auburn Hills



3250

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By Owner

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fireplace between living & dining rooms. Loft area great for home office. \$159,900 (EC43B0-27211378) Weir Manuel Realtons (248) 851-5500 Custom Cape Cod, private cul-de-sac lot. Living & din Manufactured Homes

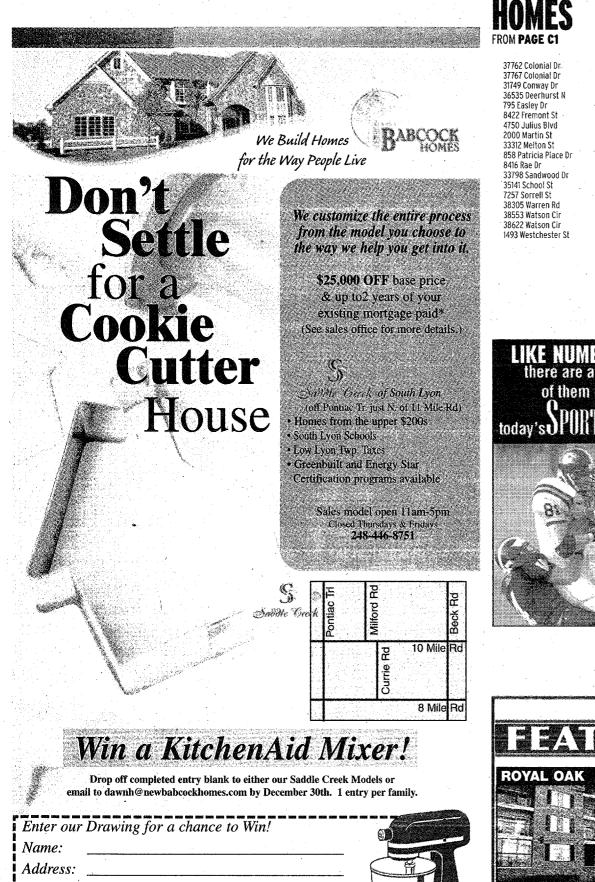
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(877) 327-8450 5.75 5.375 J/A/V/F Earth Mortgage J/A/V/F eREFI.com (248) 935-8720 5.75 5.8 D 5.87 5.5 J/V/F Filth Third Bank (800) 792-8830 0.375 0.5 First International Mortgage (866) 606-0911 5.87 5. J/A 5.75 First State Bank (248) 543-5622 J/A/V/F Gold Star Mortgage (800) 203-1546 5.625 J/A/V/F (800) 991-9922 5.5 2.25 Golden Rule Mortgage 2.2 J/A/V/F Group One Mortgage (248) 282-1602 5.62 J/A/V/F LaSalle Bank Midwest (800) 466-3800 5.75 5.375 J/A/V/F



Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 6, 2007

REAL ESTATE



VA FROM PAGE C1

\$100,000 \$116,000

\$141,000 \$152,000

\$129,000 \$108,000

\$107,000 \$199,000

\$98,000 \$293,000

\$139,000 \$215,000

\$145,000 \$210,000

\$228,000 \$181,000

\$183,000 \$56,000

itself disgualify you for a VA home loan. The following rules apply:

If the bankruptcy was discharged more than two years ago, it may be disregarded

If the bankruptcy was discharged within the last one to two years, it is probably not possible to determine that you and/or your spouse are a satisfactory credit risk unless both of the following requirements are met:

you and/or your spouse have reestablished satisfactory credit, and

the bankruptcy was caused by circumstances beyond your and/or your spouses control (such as unemployment, medical bills, etc.) If the bankruptcy was discharged within the past 12 months, it will not generally be possible to determine that you and/or your spouse are satisfactory credit risks.

Q: Why do I have to pay a fee for a VA home loan? Since I paid a fee for my first loan, why is there a larger fee for my second loan? A: The VA funding fee is required by law. The fee

is intended to enable the veteran who obtains a VA home loan to contribute toward the cost of this benefit, and thereby reduce the cost to taxpayers. The funding fee for second time users who do not make a down payment is slightly higher. The idea of a higher fee for second time use is based on the fact that these veterans have already had a chance to use the benefit once, and also that prior users have had time to accumulate equity or save money towards a down payment. Second-time users who make a down payment of at least 5 percent pay a reduced funding fee of 1.5 percent, the same as first-time users making the same down payment. For a 10 percent down payment, the fee drops to 1.25 percent. The effect of the funding fee on a veteran's financial situation is minimized since the fee may be financed in the Ioan. National Guard and Reservist veterans pay a slightly higher funding fee percentage. Q: I want to buy a house with a VA loan. Do I need to occupy the property? A: The law requires that you certify that you

intend to occupy the property as your home. This requirement is considered satisfied if you actually intend to occupy the property as your home and in fact so occupy it when the loan is closed or within a reasonable time afterward.

www.hometownlife.com

Q: I am a single veteran stationed overseas and want to buy a home in my hometown. My friends who are married can do this with their spouses occupying the property in their place, but VA says I can't do this with my parents or other relatives occupying on my behalf. Isn't this discrimination against single veterans?

A: The law specifically provides that occupancy by the veteran's spouse satisfies the personal occupancy requirement. The law makes no provision for occupancy by any other relatives as a substitute for personal occupancy by the veteran.

Q: May a veteran join with a nonveteran who is not his or her spouse in obtaining a VA loan?

A: Yes, but the guaranty is based only on the veteran's portion of the loan. The guaranty cannot cover the nonveteran's part of the loan. Consult lenders to determine whether they would be willing to accept applications for joint loans of this type. Lenders that are willing to make these types of loans will likely require a down payment to cover risk on the unguaranteed, nonveteran's portion of the loan. Unlike other loans, the lender must submit joint loans to VA for approval before they are made.

Both incomes can be used to qualify for the loan. However, the veteran's income must be sufficient to repay at least that portion of the loan related to the veteran's interest in (portion of) the property and the nonveteran's income must be adequate to cover the rest.

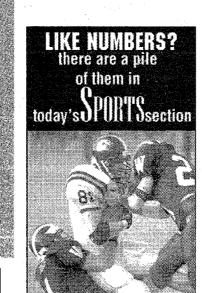
Q: If a veteran dies before the loan is paid off, will the VA guaranty pay off the balance of the loan?

A: No. The surviving spouse or other co-borrower must continue to make the payments. If there is no Co-borrower, the loan becomes the obligation of the veteran's estate. Mortgage life insurance is available but must be purchased from private insurance sources.



Phone:

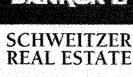
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MI S# 27188972



"Bellacio -Grmt kit w/hearth rm. 2-story FR. Lux mstr. All BRs have Bas. Impressive study. Sunny solarium. Fin 📖 w/rec rm, wet bar, sauna & more. MLS# 27181974 734-453-680



\$674,900 GREEN OAK Lake Frontage! Gr w/barrell clgs, kit w/42"cabs, SS appls, viking cooktop, fin w/o w/wet bar,fr, rec rm & 4th bd, ba & ex rm. 4 car gar & 1/2 court b'ball! MLS# 27193249 248-347-3050

\$310.000



Pantry. Sitting Area Leading Out To Deck. 1st Flr MB w/fp. Fin. LL w/Full Ba &Steam Shwr, Exercise Rm. MI S# 27209299 248-347-3050



rec rm,office,game rm& home theatre,3.5 car gar! MLS# 27208854 248-347-3050

Corner lot 4bed 2.5 bath custom Tudor on 1.3 acre

\$299,500

\$149.90

734-453-6800



CANTON \$435.000 Popular Cape Cod Model! Large 1st Fir Mstr Ste&

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248-347-305

Luxurious Ba. Lg Granite Island Kit, 3 Car Gar, Loft Area&GR w/Cathedral Ceilings. Sunroom Brkfst Nook. MLS# 27209141 248-347-3050



Lakefront home in Stonewater sub 4BB 4BA 4F/F Gourmet kit w/cherry cabs, 3 car par, Lux mstr ste Walkout L/L w/kit, bar, FP & bath. 734-453-6800 MLS# 27208856



MLS# 27193674 734-453-680







etached Cape Cod condo w/1st flr mstr, 3 bedroon 3.5 baths, W/O lower level, barrier-free, etc. MLS# 27100667

fir, plenty of bdnt & c-top sance & appls. FR w/brick

masonry FP. Brand new furn & CA (6/07).



\$249.9

734-453-6800

\$175,000

LIVONIA



Loaded w/upgrades, 1st fir mstr. gmt kit w/cust 42

cabs & gran, vaulted GR, fin w/o II w/FR, ba, \$50K bar

248-347-3050

& BR, covered veranda w/stone patio & 3 car gar!



Immaculate 4BR Quad. Newer roof, CA, undated BA's freshly painted. Lg backyard! Maint free, open & air best describes this home! Hurry MLS# 27188180 734-453-6800



Priced to Move! 2 Stry Foyer, Fml Living/Dining Rm,

NOV

MLS# 27202705

Simply irresistible 4 BR bungalow! Walk to downtown Plymouth from this spacious charmer. Updated thruout. 2 car garage. MLS# 27212651 734-453-6800



Immaculate cape cod on wooded lot! Updates inc: KIT BA, roof, furn, C/A, plumbing, fenced yard. Security alarm, 2 car det gar w/ac. All appls inc. MLS# 27182214 734-453-6800

1



BRIGHTON

HIGHLAND \$199,900 Spacious Brick Ranch On Almost 1/2 Acre! Harvey Lake Access. Custom Fireplace. Ceramic Kitchen Both Baths. Finished Base. Att 2 Car. All Appls. Hurry! MLS# 27191526 734-453-680

Clean brick ranch 3BR 1.1BA, full basement, nice size

backyard, neutral t/o, newer appliances. Immediate

occupancy. 2 car att garage.

MLS# 27140757



BEACON HILLS BEAUTY! Amenities include luxury master bath, hardwood floors, multi-tier decking & finished daylight basement. Backs to 8th fairway! MLS# 27209940 248-360-1425

NEW: Furnace, CA, Vinyl Siding, Anderson Windows

Kitchen, Wood Floors, Water Softener, Located nea

Brick ranch on corner lot. HDWD firs t/o. kit w/ oak

cab, ceramic firs, skylight , all appls inc. LR w/ FP &

Fronh drs to deck. Newer win, hwh. c/a.

Shopping, Dining & Entertainment, Finished LL.

WHITE LAKE

MLS# 27186361

STLAN

MLS# 27177040



Gran Cntrs, Lq DR W/drwl To Patio. Comfortable FR Part Fin Bsmt, Lister Related To Seilers. MLS# 27208550 248-347-3050

\$274.900

PLYMOUTH

MLS# 27175456

MOW

MLS# 27202665



hers baths! Guest retreat w/full bath

734-453-680 MLS# 27204517



248-347-3050

DETROIT

MAPLES OF NOVI! Perfect detached condo offers

updated kitchen w/breakfast nook, large living room

and 3 spacious bedrooms. Enjoy carefree condo life!

Extremely Clean & Well Kept 4 BR Bungalow. 2 Car Gar w/fenced yard. Hwd Flrs & Partially Fin Bsmnt w/ 2nd Kit For Extra Sq Footage. Buyer To Sign Acr. MLS# 27204662 248-347-3050



Estate Sale W/lots Of Updates! New Carpet t/o, Vinv

Wndws, Ca, Furn, Roof, Updated BAs &kit, Fenced

Bank owned bungalow. Updated furnace, a/c windows, roof, bsnt windows. Hardwood floors. 1 car garage. Fenced yard. Priced to sell!! MLS# 27198529 734-453-6800



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MLS# 27208933

734-453-680

\$199,900

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(*) Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 6, 2007

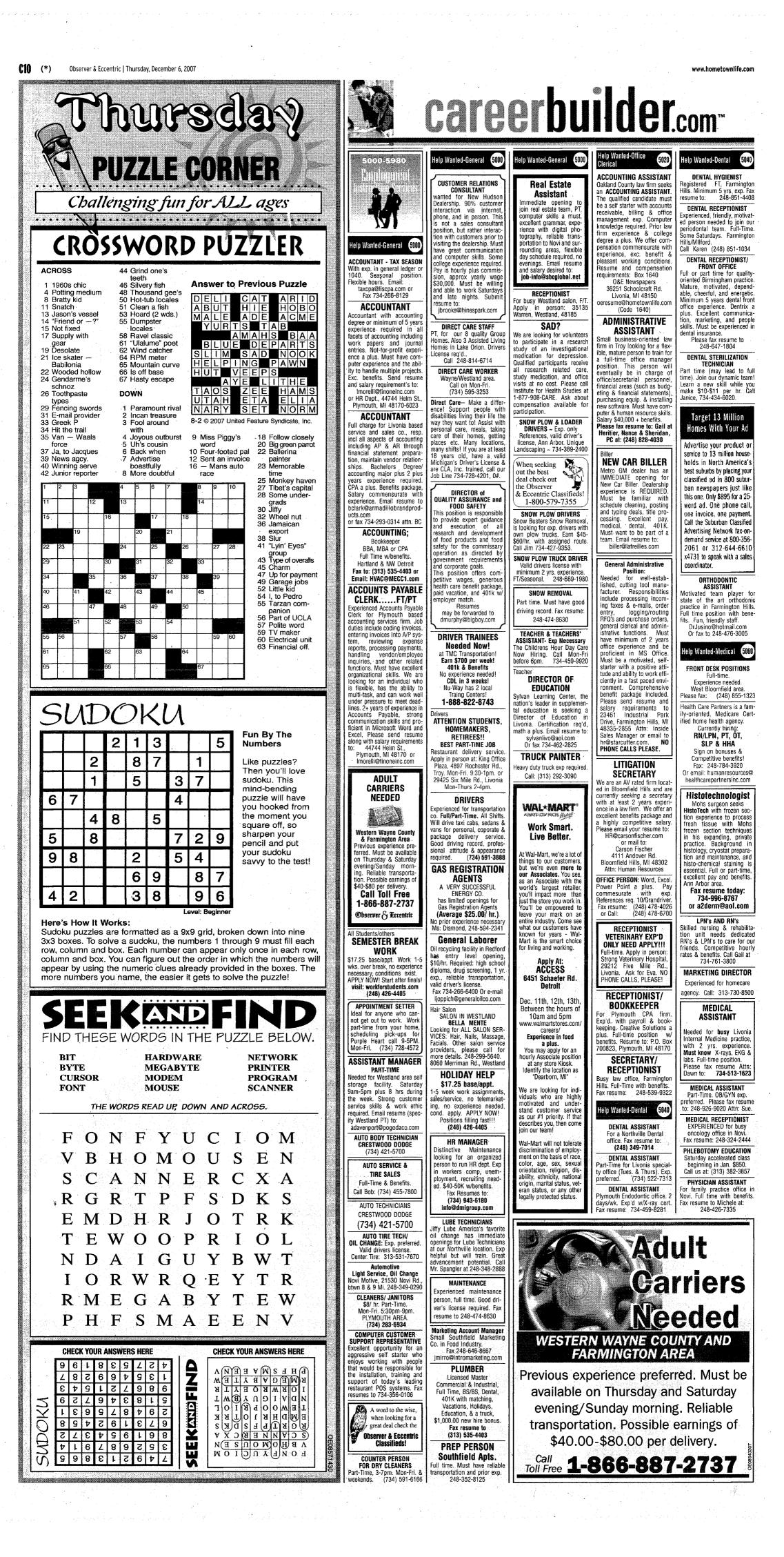


C8 (*) Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 6, 2007

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C11 www.hometownlife.com Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 6, 2007 (*) Careerbuilder.com Help Wanted-Part-Time elp Wanted-5310 5080 5060 5200 Business Opportunities (5740) Job Opportunities 5640 Business Opportunities (5740) Business Opportunities 5740 Help Wanted-Medical Financial Services Your Search Ends Here! Earn a Doctor's Income SALES \$593K Average income for top earners! MLM Leaders and Entrepreneurs -Biggest Health Discovery in 40 SALES \$593K WAITSTAFF AVON REP ACCESS LAWSUIT CASH ALL CASH CANDY ROUTE. NOW HIRING LOCALLY large NOW!!! As seen on TV. Injury Work w/dentists, vets & health pros. Fuel network expansion. RESEARCH CAREER OPPORTUNITIES! Full or Part Time Do you earn up to \$800/day' national organization avg pay \$20/hour or \$55K annually Needed now! Call Dist. Mgr. lawsuit dragging? Need \$500-\$500,000++ within 48/hours? Low rates. 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Flexible 10 hrs. or so per "It's All About Results!" 5340 in peer-reviewed journals. call 1-800-669-3537 Position Wanted **Real Estate One** Call: 734-578-091 Qualified candidates should 217 W. Ann Arbor Rd Plymouth apply through the WSU Online Hiring System for HOUSEHOLD MANAGER, Per-DRIVER: DON'T JUST START Job Opportunities 5310 onal Assistant, Companion FINANCIAL posting # 034839 at: 734-455-7000 ext. 105 your career, start it right! Com-Live-in or relocate. Exc ref https://jobs@wayne.edu 248-636-8438 15 yrs exp. SERVICES pany sponsored CDL training ASSEMBLE MAGNETS & Or send resume to Ms. Maria Cusenza, Human Earn ONE THOUSAND DOL-**CRAFTS FROM HOME!** Year in 3 weeks. Must be 21. Have LARS each day with tested proven, easily duplicitable Childcare/Baby-Sitting 5370 **Resource Generalist** round work! Excellent pay! No MORTGAGE ****ALL proven, easily duplicitable Three Step Success System that is creating MILLION-AIRES! 24 hour info line 800-887-1897. Change your life. CDL? 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Apply toda www.datahomeworker.com manufacturing industry today. **OPPORTUNITIES** helpful. Position includes phone communication with Assistance **DRIVER - OWNER OPERA**to do with the funds in your Plymouth area. Full-Time, 401(k)? Call for a free copy of excellent pay & benefits. EARN UP TO \$550.00 WEEK-TORS NEEDED. Late model customers as well as com-ALL CASH CANDY ROUTE. LICENSED NURSE LY Helping the government PT, no experience needed. Call puterized data entry of "Keep the IRS out of Your IRA" tractors for expedited division. Do you earn up to \$800/day? Email or Fax Resume to: Offers affordable home orders/estimates. (800) 741-3379 todav!! 1-800-488-2921 ask \$1.53 plus FSC - Also for trucka2derm@aol.com care to relieve you during Your own local candy route. (734) 996-8767 We offer a challenging work for department T-4 this holiday season, 4 hour load division, \$1.00 plus FSC. Includes 30 machines and environment, a competitive salary and full benefits minimum. \$20 per hour. 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HOMETOWN

Mary Klemic, editor . (248) 901-2569 . mklemic@hometownlife.com

CLASSIC GLAZE RECIPE

1 cup sugar ¼ teaspoon cinnamon ¼ teaspoon paprika ¼ teaspoon cloves Pinch nutmeg

Mix ingredients. Lay wax paper on a flat surface and pour some of the mixture onto the wax paper. Roll the outer surface of the ham in the mixture until it is well coated. Put the sugar mixture coated ham on a plate or lazy susan so you can spin it. Use a butane torch to caramelize the sugar. Wave it quickly so the sugar bubbles but does not burn. This process may take about 10 minutes if you are being slow and careful.

Savory glaze recipe: Mix 1 cup brown sugar and ½ cup brown mustard, then spread on the ham. Put the coated ham on a plate so you can spin it. Use the mini torch with lowest flame to caramelize the mixture. Wave it quickly so the mixture bubbles but does not burn. Courtesy of Pam Cole.

HAM RECIPES

Here are three different ways to serve pam's ham featuring a different meal during the week with limited prep time, according to Pam Cole, owner of pam's-hams.com.

HAMMY QUICHE

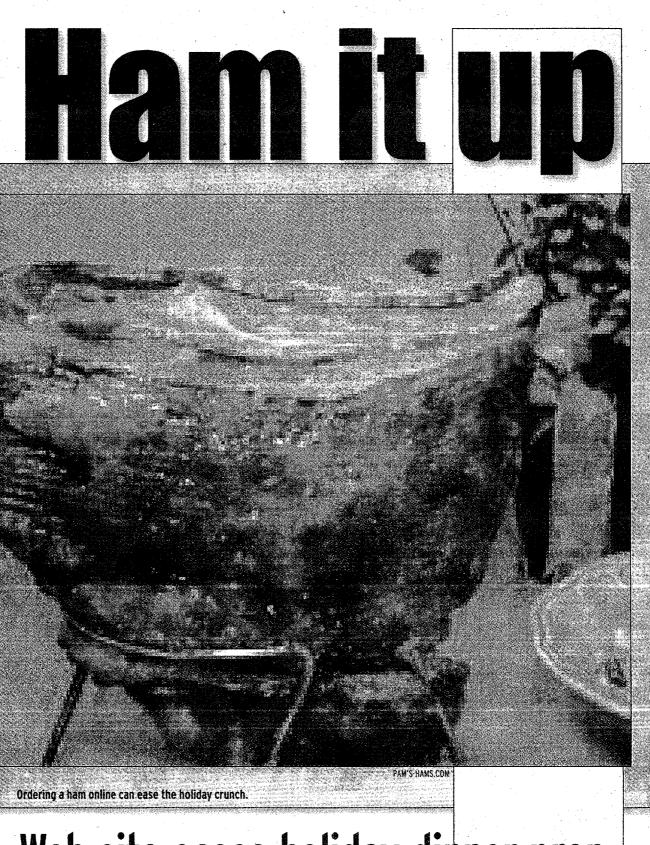
- Cook time: 45 minutes Prep Time: 10 Minutes
- 9-inch pie crust shell
- 3 eggs
- 1 ½ cups half and half
- 1 ½ cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup chopped cubed ham Salt and pepper to taste

Optional: chopped spinach, onions or mushrooms

Sprinkle half the cheese on the pie crust, whisk remaining ingredients and pour into pie crust. Bake at 375 dègrees F for 45 minutes or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Remove and let stand for 10 minutes before serving. Serves four. Note: If you don't have half and half handy,

use the milk in your refrigerator and add 1/3 stick melted butter

CHEF SALAD EXTRAORDINAIRE



Web site eases holiday dinner prep BY KEN ABRAMCZYK

Thursday, December 6, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

www.hometownlife.com

REAL TREES ARE EARTH FRIENDLY

According to the Michigan Christmas Tree Association, real trees are the right environmental choice.

"Unlike artificial trees which are made from plastic, real Christmas trees are renewable and recyclable," says Jill O'Donnell, a Christmas tree specialist with the MSU Extension Service. "However, many people still perceive cutting trees down as bad for the environment and that's not the case. Real Christmas trees no longer come from the forest. They are grown on farms throughout North America."

According to MCTA, for every Christmas tree harvested, up to three more are planted

the following spring.

Christmas trees typi-

Prep Time: 10 minutes I cup chopped ham 4 slices swiss cheese sliced 4 slices cheddar cheese sliced 2 hard boiled eggs chopped ½ cucumber sliced

One head of iceberg lettuce chopped.

Combine all ingredients and serve with a favorite dressing, or combine ¹/₃ cup each ranch and thousand island dressing, or combine ½ cup each Italian dressing (Pam Cole likes Newman's) and Caesar dressing (again, Cole prefers Newman's.) Serves 4.

JAMBALAYA

Cook time: 30 minutes Prep Time: 15 minutes 1½ cups ham, diced 1 large onion, diced 1 can okra, drained ½ green pepper, chopped 2 cloves minced garlic 1 cup uncooked rice 1 can (14 oz.) diced tomatoes ½ cup chicken broth 2 tablespoons olive oil Hot pepper sauce (Tabasco or other)

Salt and pepper, to taste

In a large saucepan, brown onions, garlic, okra and green pepper in olive oil about 5 minutes. Add remaining ingredients. Cover and simmer until rice is cooked (about 25 minutes). Serves 4.

For other recipe suggestions, visit pam'shams.com. Recipes courtesy of Pam Cole.

Pam Cole remembers her job in high school at a local Dairy Queen.

STAFF WRITER

Ice cream always put the customers in a good mood.

'Everybody was happy," she remembers

Fast forward past a marketing job and that fun and "feel good" rationale also drew her into a new business which involved a food enjoyed over the Christmas holiday - Cole owns pam's-hams.com, an Internet site where visitors can order a fully-cooked spiral sliced ham glazed with sugar and honey.

"Customers like (ham), and it's something that makes the holidays easier." Cole said about her business. "I like the tradition and the memories, people are happy around it and it simplifies people's lives.'

The former marketing director for Honey Baked Ham started her **Commerce Township-based business** because "it's what I know," she said.

She left Honey Baked and worked at an ad agency for one year before starting pam's-hams.com. "I left because I needed more flexibility with my family," Cole said. "Working outside the home got to a point where there was no more leeway. (Honey Baked) was very accommodating," Cole worked there for 11 years, and for seven of those 11 years, she had children to take care of, she says. "(The company was) as good as they could be."

Cole said she has a 100 percent guarantee on her product. 'It is fabulously good," she said. (And she's right. It is good. The ham has a sweet, smoky flavor.) Hams aren't the only foods sold on the Web site. She also sells smoked turkey, side dishes and desserts for those



Pam Cole sits with her children, Parker and Paulina. Cole launched a Web site earlier this year where customers can order hams.

serving the ham as a dinner, and other gift items to send to friends and family.

She also promotes the hams' low carbs, which she says is only 1 gram of carbohydrates per serving compared to 9 grams in other brand hams. "Meat in and of itself is supposed to be low carb," she said. "We pump a cure into it and get a smoky taste. Others use sugars, but we use more of a smoky taste. It has only one gram of carbs. The high carbs (of the others) often catch people by surprise." You don't heat this ham, either. Cole

provided some cooking tips.

"If hams don't have extra water added, you don't heat it," Cole said. "If you add

Please see HAM, D3

cally take 7-10 years before harvest and as they grow, they help counteract possible greenhouse effects, produce oxygen and clean the air, and provide wildlife habitat. trees can be chipped into mulch for hiking animal stalls or landscaping. Many communities collect whole trees for river shoreline tion, marshland sedimentation, fish habi-Homeowners can use them for winter garden bird feeders, In addition, selecting a locallygrown tree supports three million trees to the national market every year, the third largest supplier of the

For more informa-MCTA Choose & Cut Guide, visit www.mcta. org.

Clearing off shelves reveals tasty 2007 leftovers



hroughout the year I accumulate gadgets, software and services that, individually, don't warrant an entire column. But they're still noteworthy, so allow me to share some tech love while I clean house.

Tech Savvy

Rick Broida

EXTEND YOUR NETWORK

In my folks' house, built in the early 70s, it is impossible to get a Wi-Fi signal to travel beyond one room. We've tried numerous routers, always with the same head-scratching result. And I know many others who've

encountered similar Wi-Fi Kryptonite issues. So how's a home user supposed to ferry their Internet connection from, say, the downstairs den to an upstairs bedroom?

Answer: a powerline networking kit. You plug one little box into an AC adapter near your router, then connect an Ethernet cable to an available port.

Next, you plug a second box into an AC adapter in the room where you want Internet access; its Ethernet cable connects to your PC's Ethernet jack.

The Internet travels through your home's

The ActionTec MegaPlug AV kit uses your home's electrical wires to carry Internet access from one room to another.

electrical wires. Sounds nutty, but it works and it's super-easy to set up.

I've been using the ActionTec MegaPlug

AV (actiontec.com) in my own home to serve Internet access to my Xbox 360, and it works like a champ. The two-adapter kit sells for \$169.99, though I've seen it for less online (try PriceGrabber.com).

EDIT YOUR VIDEO

For the past month I've been trying to use Adobe Premiere Elements 4.0 (adobe.com) to edit a family vacation video - but finally I

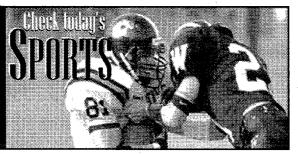
Please see TECH SAVVY, D2

After the holidays, trails, playgrounds, stabilization, sand dune erosion prevntat, even hazardous chemical clean-ups. decoration and wild the state's economy. Michigan supplies United States. tion, and to view a

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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 6, 2007

Got Game? Yep, got scores, too.



Profile of a Paw Print Inn Guest

NAME: Cody Favorite toy: Squeaky frog FAVORITE PASTIME: Chasing cats FAVORITE HOLIDAY DESTINATION: The Paw Print Inn



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TECH SAVY

gave up and went back to Pinnacle Studio 11. Not because Elements is lacking in features or difficult to use. In fact, it's quite powerful and fairly easy to pick up, though the interface does seem complicated compared with Studio's.

No, I abandoned Elements because I couldn't figure out how to do certain basic tasks, like edit titles and add a black overlay to the beginning of my video. In Studio, I learn by fiddling. Elements frequently sent me to the online help, where I didn't always find answers.

Still, for anyone interested in video editing, I highly recommend downloading the free trial version. If you're willing to face the learning curve, you'll find it offers impressive power for the price (\$99.99).

LISTEN TO BOOKS

If you love audiobooks as much as I do, you'll definitely want to check out Simply Audiobooks (simplyaudiobooks.com).

The site offers books for rent and download, all of them at very competitive prices. For example, the Download Club lets you download books to play on your PC, burn to CD, or copy to your MP3 player or phone. (Alas, getting books onto iPods requires a bit of hoop-jumping.)

Plans range from \$14.95 per month for one book to \$27.95 per month for three books, with discounts available if you prepay annually. You can also rent audiobook CDs, Netflix-style.

The \$17.98/month plan lets you check out one-



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Web service Simply Audiobooks lets you rent audiobook CDs just like you rent DVDs from Netflix. You can also download audiobooks directly to your PC.

selection at a time, with no late fees, due dates or shipping charges.

The service carries over 22,000 CDs and about 6,000 downloads. Long-time favorite Audible. com carries a lot more of the latter, but doesn't offer CDs. If you prefer the simplicity of popping a book into your car's CD player, give Simply Audiobooks a try.

Meanwhile, don't forget to visit your local library, where you can check out (and in some cases even download) audiobooks free of charge.

Rick Broida writes about computers and technology for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Broida, of Commerce Township, is the co-author of numerous books, including How to Do Everything with Your Palm Powered Device, Sixth Edition. He welcomes questions sent to rick.broida@gmail. com.





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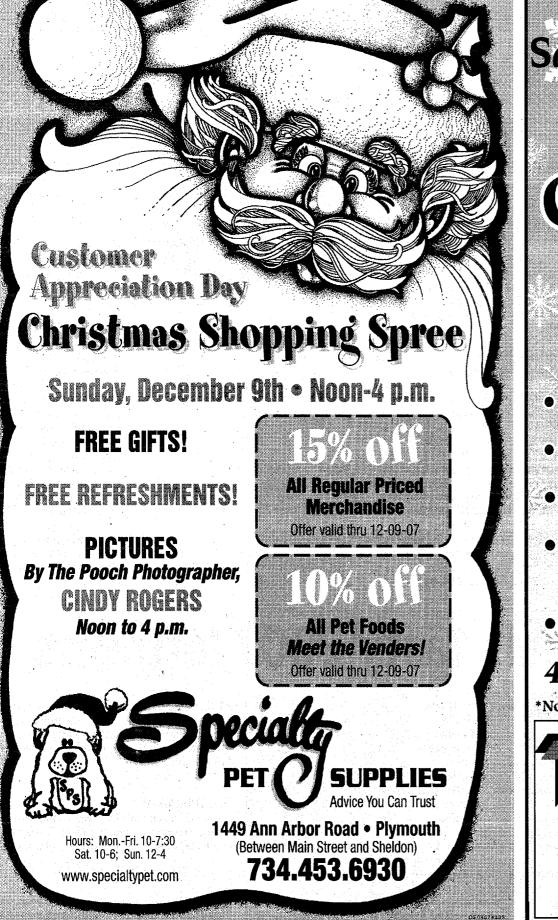
Dr. Gordon Is pleased to announce that after 20 years in the same location caring for his patients, he has relocated his offices to...

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*Dr. Gordon has moved from the Michigan Medical Associates Building on Main Street in Plymouth and is no longer affiliated with Dr. Nojam Syed or Michigan Medical Associates. 0050570845





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extra juices, you end up cooking it and giving it texture because you have the extra water in it. You get a lunch meat flavor and it's milder.

"But with my company's ham, just take it out of the refrigerator and serve it as it is."

The logo features a woman in a black dress, which symbolizes the simplicity and versatility of ham. "(The black dress) is a staple of the wardrobe," Cole said. "You get can get dressed up with it, or dress down for the occasion. You can serve the ham as a fancy dish or a casual gathering, and everyone really loves it."

You won't find these hams at the local grocers. The hams are usually shipped within one week, with no deliveries on weekends. Shipping usually costs \$15 with the exception of several Western states where it costs \$30 and \$5 for each additional item, according to her Web site. "I have no intentions of working them into stores. I want to keep the costs down with the Web site and service," Cole said. Customers should order by Dec. 15.

She shares her recipes on her Web site, such as macaroni salad, and tomato and bacon salad. She has holiday recipes for side dishes she "absolutely loves." "You can use ham for five different days, it is such a versatile meat, and it's as good on a club sandwich as it is on au gratin potatoes." She loves ham and eggs, frying the eggs in the same pan as the ham once the ham is cooked.

This Christmas is Cole's first with the new Web site and business. "I'm excited about the holidays," Cole said. "I'm not driving to the office every day. I hope to enjoy what the holidays are all about. I hope to take a little stress out of people's lives and make them 'DQ happy'."

For more information on the hams, other foods, shipping and ordering, visit www.pam's-hams.com or call 1-888-PAMS-002 (888-726-7002).

parkling wines made by the méthode traditionelle (Champagne method) are unique since they undergo two fermentations.

The first produces a still white wine from primarily chardonnay and pinot noir. The second occurs in the bottle, where carbon dioxide produced during fermentation cannot escape and dissolves in the wine. Carbon dioxide pressure in the bottle may reach 90 pounds per square inch or six times normal atmospheric pressure.

The second fermentation may occur in various bottle sizes, principally 750mL (standard size) and 1.5L (a magnum). We have had the opportunity to taste sparkling wines from these bottle sizes side by side and much prefer the taste quality of the wine from magnum.

MUMM NAPA

All that said, we recently tasted the wines of Mumm Napa in magnum, which confirmed our opinion. For purposes of planning, a magnum will serve 12 four-ounce pours. Mumm Napa was founded in 1983 by French Champagne winemaker Guy Devaux. The winery is located on the Silverado Trail in Napa Valley, overlooking the vineyards of Rutherford. If you are planning a trip to California wine country, include Mumm Napa. The winery has a full-service tasting patio, in-depth tours and an excellent collection of art photography.

Current winemaker Ludovic Dervin dubs the Mumm Napa Brut Prestige \$48/magnum "the quintessential Napa Valley sparkling wine." We say this wine defines the Mumm Napa house style.

Grapes for this bottling are harvested by hand at night and placed in small boxes so they. arrive cool and in perfect condition at the winery. Grapes are pressed immediately and gen-

tly to yield the juice for the first fermentation. In spring, the wines from 80 different vineyard lots are blended, sugar and yeast are added and placed in bottles for the second fermentation. The wines are aged for 18 months in the bottle on the yeasts lees.



Heald

in the bottle to marry the wine **Focus on Wine** with the light dosage.

Ray & Eleanor EFFORTS REWARDED

The result of this effort is a wine that features aromas of fresh flowers, a crisp mouthfeel with a steady stream of bubbles and flavors of citrus, melon and peach, followed by an extended finish. It is an excellent aperitif, but also a splendid wine to provide pleasure throughout a meal.

Mumm Napa Blanc de Noirs

LG Voyager: \$349.99 2-yr. price - 550 mail-in rebate.

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(white wine from black grapes) \$48/magnum is a blend of 85 percent pinot noir and 15 percent chardonnay. Still red wine is added to maintain the wine's lovely coral-pink color. It showcases pinot noir fruit characters of cherries, raspberries and strawberries and complements mild to spicy cuisine. When serving it as an aperitif, slightly salty appetizers like smoked salmon, parmesan cheese or even popcorn are best.

Celebrate the holidays with sparkling magnums

Mumm Napa Reserve Brut \$60/magnum exhibits the distinctive flavors that 36 months of aging on the lees provides. Toast, fresh bread, and spice aromas introduce a harmonious blend of red fruits, vanilla and cream. Small bubbles collect at the

surface to provide an elegant mousse. Balanced acidity keeps the flavors fresh and crisp, ending with a hint of hazelnuts. Try this wine with light meats like pork or veal and any type of seafood.

Mumm Napa 2000 DVX \$50/750mL (tasted in standard format) is the tête de cuvée that

honors founder Guy Devaux. This is Mumm Napa's best of the best. Winemakers barrel fermented 30 percent of this best lots wine, composed of equal quantities of pinot noir and chardonnay. It was aged on the lees during the second fermentation for five and one half years and another six months following disgorging.

This is a full-bodied sparkler that is generous and velvety on the palate.

Red raspberry, nectarine, toast and mocha flavors lead to a long silky finish.

Sparkling wines are featured prominently for holiday celebrations. Yet, they can be enjoyed anytime of the year and throughout a meal. If you're serving a large group, consider a magnum for its superior flavor development.

The Healds 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

Sparkling wines are perfect for holiday celebrations and enjoyment throughout the year.

From California:

Mirabelle Brut Non-Vintage \$19 Mirabelle Brut Rose Non-Vintage \$24 2000 Gloria Ferrer Royal Cuvee Brut

\$28 J Cuvee 20 Brut non-Vintage \$32 J Brut Rose \$35 2004 Schramsberg Blanc de Blancs

\$35 2004 Schramsberg Cremant Demi-sec

\$38 1999 J Vintage Brut \$50

2000 J. Schram \$90 1997 J Russian River Valley Vintage Brut Late Disgorged \$100

From Oregon: 2002 Argyle Brut \$26 -- incredible value

From Italy:

\$15

Lunetta Prosecco Non-Vintage \$13 Adami "Garbel" Prosecco Non-Vintage



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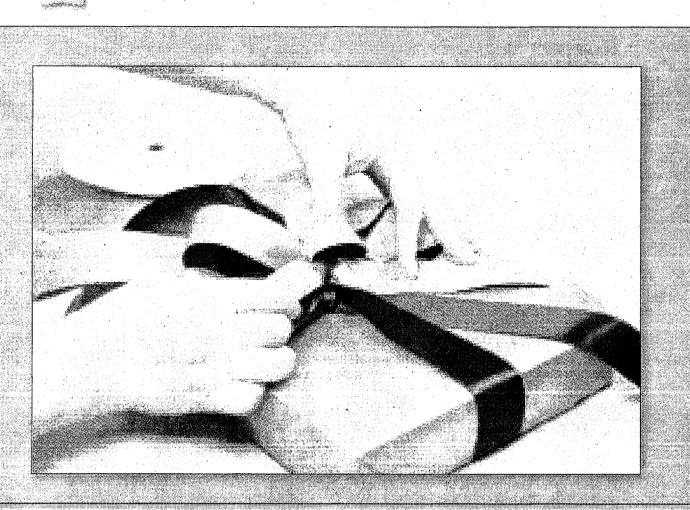
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Learn how to tie pretty ribbons and bows at www.readysetwrap.com.

Become a 'wrap artist' with this gift glorifying advice

PINK WRAPS FOR A CAUSE

What: PINK Editor Wensdy Von Buskirk will help wrap gifts at Lisa's Gift Wrappers to

bon from back to front and tie a bow. Easy and inexpensive, but certainly a pretty presentation.

Wear Itt Anna Sui

newspaper print dress at Nordstrom

1000 T Wear R Bare legs in winter take advantage of

this season's great selection of tights!

Tote it!

lunch box to fight hunger at thelunchboxauction.org

Kick fti

Land's End Suede Moccasin slippers

Cherk itt buymichigannow. com

Rezé Ri

Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, then see the movie!

See 10 Enchanted

Face ML MAC Curiositease metallic pigments

MAC artists call these versatile pigments, little pots of gold. This holiday set is part of Curiositease.





AYUSE NAMBO LUNCHEON

AND BOUTIQUE The National Association of Women **Business Owners Greater Detroit** Chapter will host its annual Holiday Luncheon and Boutique, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Thurs. Dec. 6 at Fairlane Club, Dearborn. Tickets are \$35 for NAWBO members; \$50 for nonmembers. Call (313) 961-4748 or visit www.nawbogdc.org.

LE FASHION NOLIDAT

Holiday Nights in Greenfield Village ck Christmas traditi

NING.M Textured waves

Griek He George DuBoeuf Beaujolais Nouveau 2007

Sat Rf

A meal prepared by culinary students at American Harvest Restaurant, Schoolcraft College

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Make a gingerbread house

TIVo Itl

Movies Rock Dec. 7 on CBS





(734) 462-1100 or laurelparkplace. com.

SARTA PARS AT TWELVE CARS

Bring your dog or cat for a visit with Santa Paws 9-10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 9 at Twelve Oaks Mall. Animal must be on leash or in a carrier and up-to-date on shots. A donation will be made to a local animal rescue group with each purchase of photo packages. RSVP at (248) 348-9438.

from Lisa's Gift Wrappers to pump up the volume of your 'wrap.'

Sure, it's what's inside that counts. But a

beautifully wrapped gift can be as much fun

to anticipate as to open. Here are some tips

PERSONALIZE IT

Plan a specific wrapping paper for each family member — as you bring the gift into the house, you can wrap it in the correct paper. Plan on setting aside a place to store the packages (make it a secrét) as they are wrapped while they wait for the bows.

Use a small, removable sticker to label the box either with initials or some other identification so that you can remember what is in the box (because all wrapped packages look the same - regardless of size).

BAG IT

Gift bags have their place in the world of gift wrapping - and even plain colored bags can work. Think lunch bags sponge painted as craft projects during a school party, that can double as goodie bags for gift items. Reusing a gift bag (sorry Miss Manners) just takes a little creativity.

Try taking the rope string out and substi-



tuting a beautiful ribbon for the handles. Or, use the pre-made holes and thread a ribbon from front to back, tying the bag shut with a single loop (think "Tiffany" style).

CUSHION IT

If you have an item where the cost of buying a box far exceeds the price of the gift - such as an ornament — fill a bag with a little colored shred for cushion, fold the top of the bag over, punch two holes, thread rib-

MAKE IT FUN

Remember Mary Poppins sang "With every job that must be done, there is an element of fun. You find the fun, and snap ... the job's a game!" Wrapping needs to be done, but think of why - gifts are to celebrate what people mean to us, so make the wrapping a celebration. Maybe a glass of wine, chocolate or a hands free headset while you're chatting with your BFF will help you deal with the monotony of wrapping and make the time fly by. By the way, Scotch brand has a wrist dispenser with pre-cut tape - it's fun and easy to use. They also have a new tool to cut paper - it saves your hands!

Lisa's Gift Wrappers recently launched www.readysetwrap.com to offer online shopping as well as step-by-step wrapping advice. Lisa's also offers Wrap & Rap Nights, where friends can get together in the store after hours for private wrapping parties. Call Lisa's Gift Wrappers at (248) 547-9094.



from the 19th and early 20th centuries Dec. 7-8, 14-16 and 19-23. Ride in a decorated Model T or horsedrawn carriage, ice skate, and meet Santa and live reindeer. Historic Eagle Tavern offers authentic holiday meals and live period music. Every night ends with a sing-along and fireworks. Tickets, \$12.75 for members, \$8.50 for children; \$15 for non-members, \$10 for children; four and under free. Call (313) 982-6001 or visit www.thehenrvford. org.

SHRINE GIFT BOUTIQUE

Avoid the malls and find more personal presents at Shrine's Holiday Gift Boutique, 6-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7 in Shrine Catholic Grade School. The show features handmade gifts from "Fairy Couture" and hand blown glass, to burp cloths and baby blankets. Admission is \$1. Call (248) 219-9604.

BRAS FOR A CAUSE

Support Gilda's Club Metro Detroit at the "Bras for a Cause Luncheon, Fashion Show & Holiday Boutique" Friday, Dec. 7 at Somerset Inn. **Cancer survivors will model Soma** Intimates, while vendors offer everything from jewelry and purses to cosmetics and holiday gifts. Boutique shopping, 10 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.; lunch and fashion show, noon. Tickets, \$75. Call (248) 577-0800, ext. 22.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

The Livonia Marriott will host Breakfast with Santa 9-11 a.m. Dec. 8, featuring a healthy meal along with special prizes and giveaways. The event is part of Laurel Park Place's "Salute our Troops" campaign in support of Selfridge Air National Guard Base/ Family **Readiness Wing. RSVP required,**

Tour six of Grosse Pointe's most beautiful homes, decked with holiday splendor, during the Mother's Club of Grosse Pointe South High School Holiday Walk, noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9. Tickets, \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Call (313) 300-7908.

HULEDAY HIGH TEA

Toast to opportunities for local youth by attending Holiday High Tea at the Townsend, 3-5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13. The tea benefits Alternatives For Girls. Bring 'white elephant' treasures for the silent auction. Make checks payable to Alternatives for Girls and mail to Maddalena Design, Ltd., Suite 300, 36801 Woodward Ave., Birmingham, Mich., 48009.

aanim holiday marketplace

The Arab American National Museum will host its 2nd annual International Holiday Marketplace & Fashion Show, 6-9 p.m. Dec. 13. The free event includes multicultural merchandise, complimentary refreshments, music and a live fashion show featuring vendors of culturally inspired apparel. Call (313) 582-AANM or visit www. arabamericanmuseum.org.

BBAC HOLIDAY SHOP

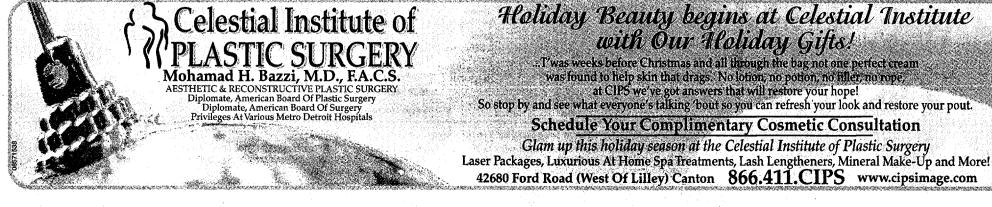
Shop for a cause the last weekend of BBAC Holiday Shop. On Dec. 13-14, 10 percent of sales proceeds will benefit Birmingham Public Schools arts programs and Lighthouse of **Oakland County. Holiday Shop offers** hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind pieces from a variety of artists. Holidav Shop is open through Dec. 16, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday to Saturday, noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Admission is free. The BBAC is located at 1516 S. Cranbrook. Call (248) 644-0866 or visit www.BBArtCenter.org.

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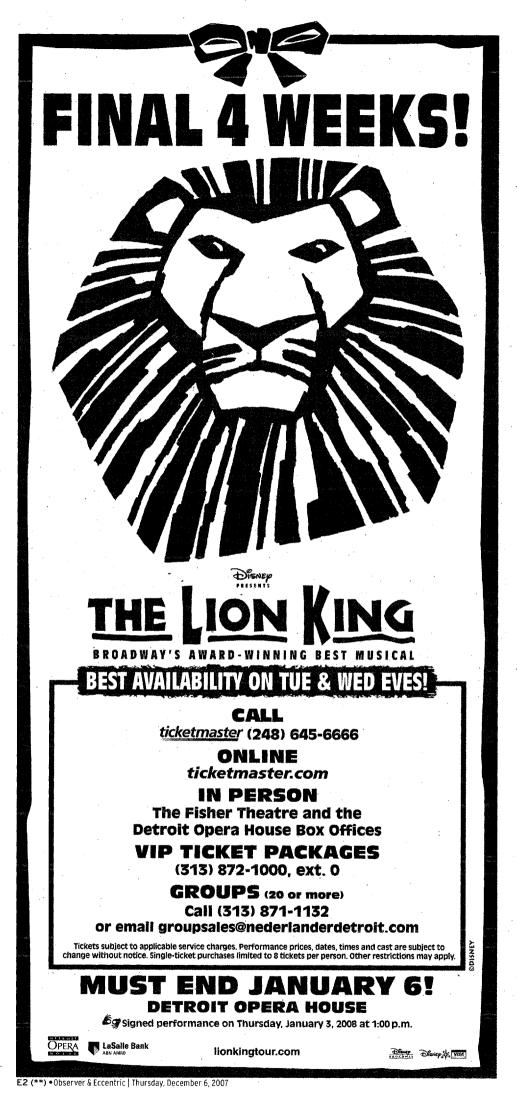
OBAG

SYSTEM





Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 6, 2007 • (**) E1





Motor City Casino's lobby invites hotel guests inside.

Take a short vacation without leaving the city

The economy is shaky. Holiday shopping puts many of us in the hole and traveling may seem like a financial impossibility.

So if you need a getaway, why not do it without filling up the gas tank or buying the plane ticket? One place to

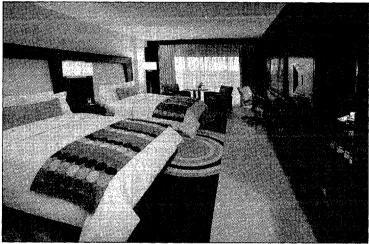
escape is an overnight stay at the new MotorCity Casino Hotel.

The 17-story, 400 room property including 41 suites and is the only "100 percent

and is the only "100 percent female owned" casino (owned by Marian Ilitch) in the United States. The theme there is comfort. The hotel's interior décor complements the post World War II "Future Retro" design theme of MotorCity's new casino space, partient to Datasite a d

paying tribute to Detroit and America's love affair with the automobile. Rooms include plush pillowtop mat-

tresses, 300 thread count bed linens, marble bathrooms with a separate water closet, soaking tub and shower, plus thick towels and bathrobes. The hotel's



Motor City Casino's suites are 1,450 to 2,500 square feet of living space with panoramic views.

Casinos

interesting pillow library allows guests to choose from more than 15 pillows of varying size, firmness and fill.

Each room has Internet access, nightly turn down service, and a state-of-the art business center.

The suites are 1,450 to 2,500 square feet of living space with panoramic views. In 2008, the gaming space will be expanded and a spa, conference and banquet space, a 1,200-seat theater, new

retail and dining options will open. For details call 1-866-STAY-MCC or

visit www.MotorCityCasino.com. Lana Mini

www.hometownlife.com

Inside this week's

HOMETOWN*life.com* **C**)GANNETT

MOVIES - 4

Holiday season is here, and that means movie lovers will get another bumper crop of great films.

COVER – 8

Disney's "The Lion King" continues its run at the Detroit Opera House.



TABLE HOPPING

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Pars Restaurant sets the table for Persian cuisine in Farmington Hills

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Lavendar Diamond performs with John Waters at the Crofoot in Pontiac.

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A familiar face takes the stage in "1.2.3...Dance" at Groves High School.

Observer & Eccentric

Marty Carl

General Manager

Ken Abramczyk Fditor Lana Mini Dan Dean Staff Writer **Design Editor Stephanie Angelyn** Casola Staff Writer **Peter Neill**

Advertising Director Susan Rosiek Executive Editor Phildile Mkhize is Rafiki in Disney's "The Lion Kind



Charismatic conductor Nicholas McGegan leads the DSO through Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons."

DSO goes for **Baroque** this holiday season

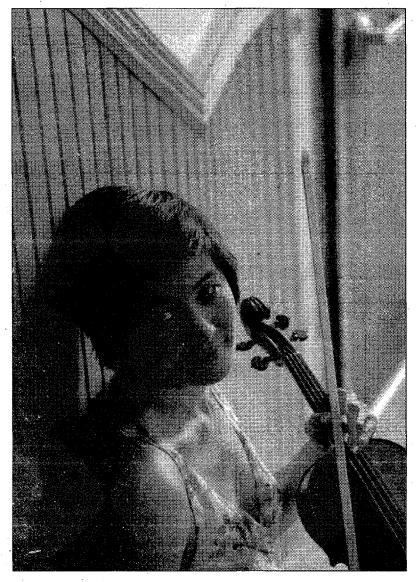
The Detroit Symphony Orchestra has a packed holiday schedule this year - including traditions like the sing-a-long inducing Home for the Holidays, a rendition of The Nutcracker and Handel's Magnificent Messiah. Baroque music is also part of the holiday tradition at the Max M. Fisher Music Center and

HOU

this year the symphony will perform one of the most recognizable and beloved works of that era - Antonio Vivaldi's The Four Seasons. "This is something associated

with the holidays and different seasons," said Scott Roush, public relations associate with the DSO. He called The Four Seasons a very popular concert, and one that is performed every few years by the symphony. Part of the Chrysler

Foundation's Signature Series, The Four Seasons is a set of four violin concertos - each representing one season of the year. Each



See violinist Jennifer Koh perform "The Four Seasons" by Vivaldi.

THE FOUR SEASONS

What: Vivaldi's baroque repertoire performed by the DSO When: 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Dec. 6-7, 10:45 a.m. Friday, Dec. 7 and 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8 Where: Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit Tickets: \$19-\$71, call (313) 576-5126.

season is then interpreted in three movements, one slower and two faster movements.

"I think it's really timeless music," said Roush. "It's a beautiful piece you can relax and listen to. It's so familiar. The music is so accessible."

Nicholas McGegan, an expert in baroque music, will provide insight and commentary into the performance. Roush called him an "inspiring conductor who likes to energize his audience." Sólo violinist Jennifer Koh will also be featured during these performances.

For those interested in learning more, the show will be included in the DSO's Unmasked series 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7. This is the second installment of the DSO series this season and CBC Radio's Tom Allen is set to host. He will share details about the history of the music in Vivaldi's The Four Seasons.

Stephanie A. Casola

www.hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 6, 2007 • (**) E3

Holiday heavies

Depp, Kidman star in upcoming movies

Movie lovers adore the holiday season because they know it's when many of the eventual Oscar contenders are released. This season, the film choices are inter-

MUE

esting with well-honed scripts and fresh ideas. From the story about human souls that turn into animals (Golden Compass) to a pregnant teenager who has perfectly understanding parents while she struggles to

find her way in life (Juno) and a singing barber shop killer (Sweeney Todd), the season is an interesting one. It's already been a good year with films such as 3:10 to Yuma, The Darjeeling Limited, and Into The Wild ... and it looks like it will end just as strong.

Here are the films opening through



Dec. 21. Come back to next week's Filter for more holiday movies.

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Dec. 7

THE GOLDEN COMPASS

Based on author Philip Pullman's novel. The Golden Compass tells the first story of Pullman's His Dark Materials trilogy. The fantasy adventure is set in an alternative world where people's souls manifest themselves as animals. Talking bears fight wars, and Gyptians and witches co-exist. Starring Dakota Blue Richards, Nicole Kidman, Daniel Craig, Sam Elliott, and Ian McShane. Directed by Chris Weitz. (New Line Cinema). Rated PG.

GRACE IS GONE

Stanley Phillips (John Cusack) works at a home supply store while his sergeant wife fights in Iraq. He raises his two daughters but is unable to be affectionate. But he changes when tragedy strikes. Ill prepared to deal with it himself, he is at a loss contemplating how to tell his children. So they embark on a spontaneous road trip. Grasping to give them their last moments of innocence, Stanley reveals a softer side as they travel. Written by James Strouse (Lonesome Jim) and is Strouse's directorial debut. (Weinstein Company). PG-13.

MARGOT AT THE WEDDING

Margot and her son Claude decide to visit Margot's sister, Pauline, after she announces that she is getting married to less-than-impressive Malcolm. Directed by Noah Baumback. Stars Nicole Kidman, Jennifer Jason Leigh, John Turturro and Jack Black. Exclusively at the Landmark Main Art. (Paramount Vantage) Rated R.

Dec. 12

THE PERFECT HOLIDAY

Stars Gabrielle Union, Morris Chestnut, Queen Latifah, Terrence Howard, Malik Hammond, Charlie Murphy, Faizon Love, Jeremy Gumbs, Jill Marie Jones, and Rachel True. An African American take on the classic and beloved Christmas family film, it tells the story of a divorced mother who is so busy raising her children that she's forgotten to take care of herself. She takes her kids to meet Santa Claus and magic begins when her kids ask him to make mommy happy.(Yari Film Group). PG.

DEC. 14

I AM LEGEND

Robert Neville (Will Smith) is a brilliant scientist, but even he could not contain the terrible virus that was incurable and manmade. Neville is the last human survivor of New York City, but he isn't alone.

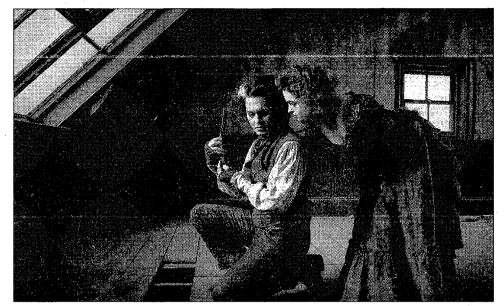
He is surrounded by victims of the plague who will devour or infect anyone. Directed by Francis Lawrence. Starring Smith, Salli Richardson, Alice Braga, Paradox Pollack and Charlie Tahan. (Warner Bros.) Not Yet Rated.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS

The global treasure that has delighted three generations of fans, comes to the big screen. The live action/CGI motion picture event brings together the celebrated history of its beloved characters - Dave

Please see MOVIES, E5

'The Golden Compass' (New Line Cinema) opens on Friday and is expected to be a hit of the season.



DREAMWORKS/LEAH GALLO

Sweeney Todd (Johnny Depp, left) earns the trust of Mrs. Lovett (Helena Bonham Carter) in "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street."

MOVIES FROM PAGE E4

Seville and singing chipmunks Alvin, Simon and Theodore. Starring Jason Lee, David Cross and Cameron Richardson. Directed by Tim Hill. (20th Century Fox).

THE WALKER

A drama set in Washington, D.C., Carter Page (Woody Harrelson), is a popular socialite who serves as confidant, companion, and card partner to some of the capitol's leading ladies.

These pampered women are married to the most powerful men in America, and when their husbands are too busy running the country to attend to their wives, they turn to their "gay best friend," Carter, for warmth.

His loyalty is tested when his dearest friend (Kristin Scott Thomas) finds herself on the brink of a scandal that could destroy her reputation and her husband's career. Offering to cover for her, Carter suppresses incriminating evidence, only to find himself the chief suspect in a criminal investigation. Also starring: Lily Tomlin, Lauren Bacall, Willem Dafoe, Ned Beatty, Moritz Bleibtreu, Mary Beth Hurt, and directed by Paul Schrader.(ThinkFilms). Rated R.

Dèc. 21

P. S. I LOVE YOU Holly Kennedy (Hilary Swank) is

smart and married to the love of her life: a passionate, funny and impetuous Irishman named Gerry.

When Gerry's dies, it takes the life out of Holly. But Gerry planned ahead and wrote Holly a series of letters to guide her in life.

Directed by Richard LaGravenese. Cast Hilary Swank, Gerard Butler, James

Marsters, Lisa Kudrow, Jeffery Dean Morgan, Gina Gershon, Kathy Bates and Harry Connick Jr. (Warner Bros.) PG-13.

JUNO

Ellen Page is a whip-smart teen confronting an unplanned pregnancy by her classmate Bleeker. With the help of her best friend, Juno finds her unborn child a "perfect" set of parents: an affluent suburban couple.

Luckily, Juno has the total support of her parents as she faces tough decisions, flirts with adulthood and ultimately figures out where she belongs. Directed by Jason Reitman. Starring Ellen Page, Michael Cera, Allison Janney, JK Simmons, Olivia Thirlby, Rainn Wilson with Jason Bateman and Jennifer Garner. (Fox Searchlight Pictures.) Exclusively at the Birmingham 8. PG-13.

THE KITE RUNNER

Two childhood friends, Amir and Hassan, are about to be torn apart forever. It's a glorious afternoon in Kabul and the skies are colorful with a kite-fighting tournament.

But in the aftermath of the day's victory, one boy's fearful act of betrayal will mark their lives forever and start an epic quest for redemption. Decades later and living in America, Amir returns to a perilous Afghanistan under the Taliban's iron-fisted rule to face the secrets that haunt him. Based on the acclaimed novel by Khaled Hosseini. Directed by Mark Forster. Exclusively at the Landmark Main Art.(Paramount Vantage). Rated PG-13.

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS

In this follow up to *National Treasure*, treasure hunter Ben Gates once again sets out on an action-packed quest to

Please see MOVIES, E6

Filmmaker Sam Raimi awarded

Michigan native Sam Raimi, was the honoree recently at the ArtServe Michigan's 22nd Annual Governor's Awards For Arts & Culture.

Raimi is the creator of *Evil Dead*, the recent *Spider-Man* trilogy and other films like *A Simple Plan* and *For the Love of the Game*.

He was awarded at the Detroit Institute of Arts last week.

"The Governor's awards are about rewarding the exceptional artistic talent and supporters of the arts in Michigan," said Neeta Delaney, president and CEO of ArtServe Michigan.

Over the past 22 years, the Governor's Awards for Arts and Culture have included Michiganders Tracy Reese and Anna Sui, fashion designers, 2006; Jerry Bruckheimer, filmmaker, 2005; Juan Atkins, Derrick May and Kevin Saunderson, techno musicians and festival founders, 2004; Regina Carter, jazz violinist, 2003; Smokey Robinson, singer/songwriter, 2002; Yusef Lateef, musician, 2001; and Arthur Miller, playwright, 2000. Other past awardees by the

group has also included Lawrence Kasdan, filmmaker, 1999; Elmore "Dutch" Leonard, author, 1998; Terry McMillan, author, 1996; Lloyd Richards, theater director, 1995; Harry Blackstone, magician, 1994; Marshall Fredericks, sculptor, 1993; The Four Tops, entertainers, 1990; James Earl Jones, actor, 1989; Lily Tomlin, actress, 1988; Kurt M. Luedtke, screenwriter, 1987; Aretha Franklin, singer, 1986, and Minoru Yamasaki, architect, 1985, along with many other distinguished individuals, businesses and organizations.

Established in 1985 by Concerned Citizens for the Arts of Michigan, The Governor's Awards for Arts & Culture is the longest running Michigan event recognizing statewide and international leaders in the arts. Today the Governor's Awards is an annual gala designed to honor distinguished achievement and meritorious work in arts and culture by individual artists, cultural and educational organizations, arts educators, businesses and individuals.

Read more at www.artservemichigan.org.

Lana Mini





unearth hidden history and treasures. When a missing page from the diary of John Wilkes Booth surfaces, Ben's great-great grandfather is suddenly implicated as a conspirator in Abraham Lincoln's death. Determined to prove his ancestor's innocence, Ben follows a chain of clues that takes him from Paris to London and back to America. Produced by Jerry Bruckheimer and Jon Turteltaub and directed by Turteltaub. Starring Diane Kruger, Justin Bartha,

Jon Voight, Ed Harris, Harvey Keitel, Nicholas Cage, Helen Mirren. (Walt Disney Pictures) This film is not yet rated.

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

Johnny Depp and Tim Burton join forces again in a big-screen adaptation of Stephen Sondheim's award-winning musical thriller Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street. Depp stars in the title role as a man unjustly sent to prison who vows revenge for cruel punishment and horrible things that hap-



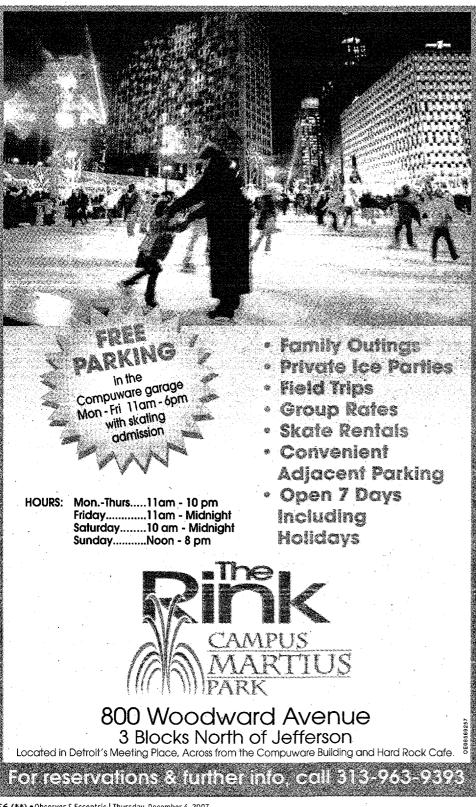
PHOTO COURTESY OF RHYTHM & HUES

Twentieth Century Fox presents "Alvin & The Chipmunks." Theodore gets ready to dive into his favorite food - waffles and whipped cream.

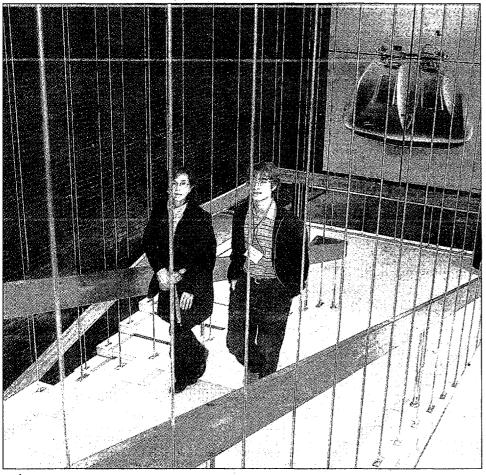
pened to his wife and daughter. When he returns to reopen his barber shop, Sweeney Todd becomes the Demon Barber of Fleet Street who "shaved the faces of gentlemen who never thereafter were heard again."

Also starring Helena Bonham Carter, Alan Rickman, Timothy Spall, Sacha Baron Cohen and Signor Adolfo Pirelli. Directed by Tim Burton. (Dreamworks Pictures). Rated R.





E6 (**) • Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 6, 2007



Deborah Goldstein and her son Theodore Dasher, a student at Cranbrook Academy, walk up the lobby staircase at the General Motors Technical Design Center in Warren. They attended the Nov. 17 International Symposium honoring architect Eero Saarinen.



Assorted Fruits and Pastries ~ Variety of Salads ~ Bacon and Sausage Omelet Station ~ Hash Browns O'Brien ~ Carving Station with Turkey Breast and Roast Beef ~ French Toast Casserole ~ Buttermilk Pancakes Smoked Salmon ~ Garlic Mashed Potatoes ~ Green Beans Almandine Macaroni & Cheese ~ Chicken Tenders ~ Mini Pizza Squares Assorted Breads, Rolls, and Muffins ~ A large selection of Homemade Desserts ... and much more!

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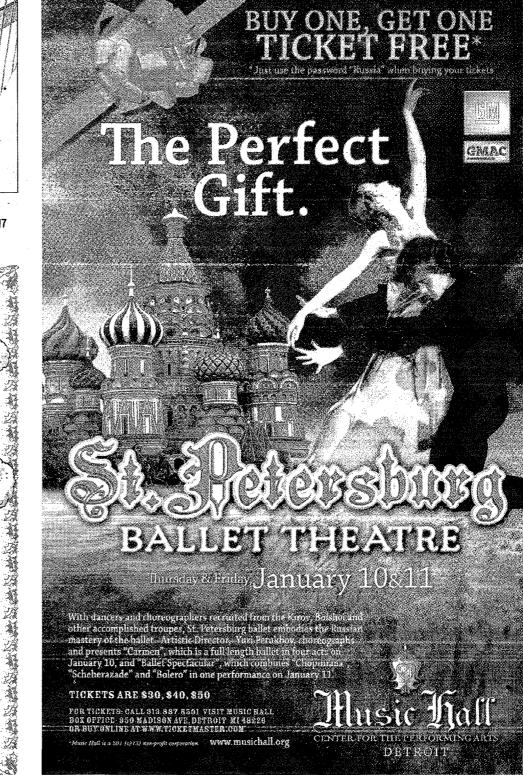
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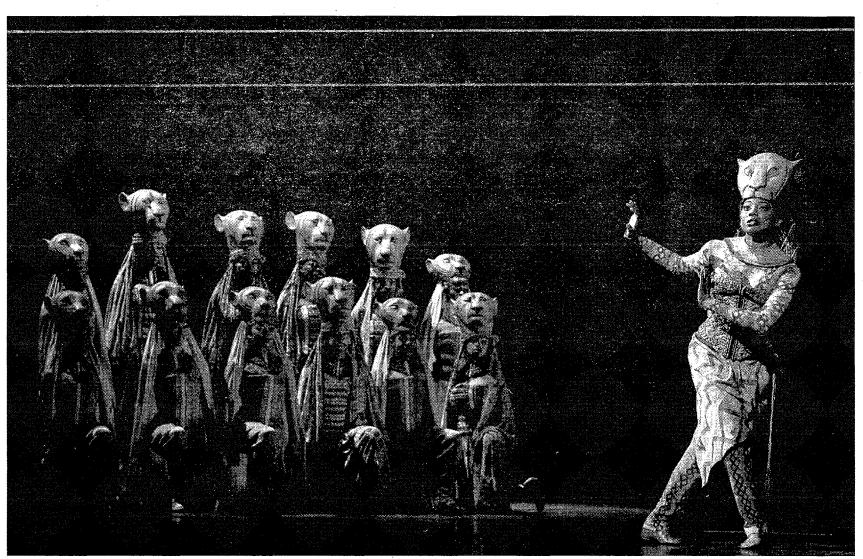
Discover the modernist perspective of Eero Saarinen

Architect Eero Saarinen might be best known as the designer of the 630-foot tall Gateway Arch of St. Louis. He was the creative force behind the concrete vaults of the TWA Terminal at New York's JFK Airport.

But his modernist approach hits much closer to home when you consider his work in the General Motors Tech Center in Warren. On Nov. 17, the Tech Center — along with the Cranbrook Art Museum - housed an international symposium honoring the work and influence

Please see EERO, E17





The Lionesses perform "Shadowland" in Disney's "The Lion King," playing through Jan. 6 at the Detroit Opera House.

JOAN MARCUS

The Lion King roars back to Detroit

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA STAFF WRITER

More than three years since its Detroit debut, Disney's musical theater masterpiece The Lion King returns for a six-week run. The HITH Tony award-winning show, now in its tenth sold-out year on Broadway, appeals to audiences of all ages with a familiar coming-of-age story, treasured score by Elton John and Tim Rice and majestic puppetry. Fred Klaisner

has served as a production stage manager with the show for the past four and a half years.

"It's certainly like nothing you've ever seen before, from the opening

THE LION KING

When: Shows run through Jan. 6. Where: The Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit

Tickets: \$17 to \$80, with VIP seats for \$130. Call (248) 645-6666 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

number alone," he said. "Like my mother said 'you don't know where to look."

The show's performers double as puppeteers. Actors don elabo-

rate costumes and masks and transform the stage into an African setting where birds fly and gazelles and giraffe roam freely. "It looks very simple on the outside," said Klaisner. "There's a lot going on."

For a veteran of the theater, Klaisner

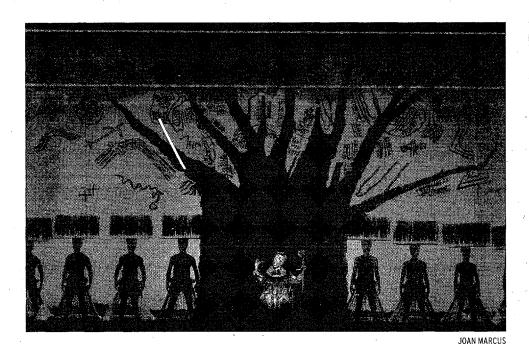


Phindile Mkhize is Rafiki, here performing the opening number to Disney's "The Lion King," titled "Circle of Life."

has worked on national productions like Show Boat and Ragtime, and regional shows like Six Degrees of Separation, he said The Lion King "is remarkably like the show you see on Broadway." The one major difference in the touring show involves the presentation of Pride Rock. On Broadway it rises up through the stage floor. Since that isn't feasible for a production that moves every six to nine weeks, Pride Rock is instead moved by

Please see LION KING, E9

E8 (**) • Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 6, 2007



The Tree of Life is featured in the national tour of Disney's "The Lion King."

LION KING

remote control from off-stage. "To this day no changes have been made to make it smaller," he said. "Disney holds true to its vision. I think that's one reason it's remained so popular."

Klaisner said the story resonates with audiences because it's basically a tale of a young boy growing up and dealing with the responsibilities that follow the loss of his father. In the case of *The Lion King*, that boy is a young lion cub.

The show draws fans of all ages, and Klaisner often notices tears in audience members' eyes.

Fans of Disney's animated film by the same name might recognize the story and its characters, but the stage production incorporates additional music and African influences. "Those who remember the movie very well have to remember it's musical theater," said Klaisner. "It is different."

The elaborate production travels with a puppet department. In each city they set up a puppet hospital, he said, where there is always work to be done. From fixing a piece of an antelope costume to a complex adjustment in the moveable mask of Scar - the antagonist - or a lion's head from which tears fall, it remains a busy place.

The movements of the actors themselves must be carefully handled, as well. Klaisner said when a new performer joins the cast he warns the actors not to practice for long periods, or they'll risk straining muscles.

"I've been involved with the tour for four and a half years," said Klaisner, "the longest I've been with a show in my career. It's been a nice touring experience. You get to stay in one city for six weeks or nine weeks. You can get an apartment. You get to know the cities a bit more. My Disney experience has been • pretty good so far."

This United States National Tour is currently one of eight productions running worldwide along with New York, a second United States National Tour, London, Hamburg, Tokyo, Seoul and Johannesburg, South Africa.

Klaisner said he can often be found in the back of the house on opening night. "It's pretty amazing to watch how you can really effect the lives of people," he said. "It's a responsibility and I take it very seriously."

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

PHOTOS BY JOAN MARCUS

King."

Dashaun Young is Simba, singing "He Lives In You" here with the ensemble, in Disney's "The Lion



Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 6, 2007 • (**) E9



Pars offers taste of Persia

BY WENSDY VON BUSKIRK STAFF WRITER

Hossein Rajaee has fond memories of his mother's cooking, though he left her kitchen 35 years ago.

"I assure you I will never forget it as long as I live," said Rajaee.

Rajaee said his mother is part of the inspiration behind Pars, a new Persian restaurant in Farmington Hills.

Rajaee and longtime friend Dr. Mohammad Ghaffarloo opened Pars in March. The restaurant hits the spot for those familiar with Persian fare, while giving others their first taste of the cuisine, known for being exotic, elaborate and time-consuming to prepare.

"Getting people to have a chance to try it and make sure the presentation and taste goes well with them is a challenge, but we are succeeding and it's getting better and better every day," said Rajaee, who goes by 'Sam.' New to Iranian food myself, the first

thing that struck me at Pars was the aroma - a strong, heady fragrance I couldn't quite place. According to Rajaee, that smell is saffron, an essential ingredient in Persian cuisine. Though it runs \$40-\$65 per ounce, Pars doesn't skimp on

the rare seasoning.

Saffron threads, derived from the flower of the saffron crocus, are used in recipes and sprinkled atop the basmati rice served with entrees.

"It is expensive but we just know it's a cost of doing business," Rajaee said. Pars serves well-known dishes like hum-

mus and kebabs, yet Persian fare departs from Middle Eastern cuisines through unexpected flavors like barberry cur-

rant, black sour cherry, Persian lime and raisins. Dried sumac shakers stand on every table Table Hopping alongside salt and pepper.

Our lunch started with a small dish of Torshi (pickled vegetables) served with a basket of crisp pita bread. For an appetizer we tried Aged Yoghurt and Eggplant Delight, a crave-worthy dip

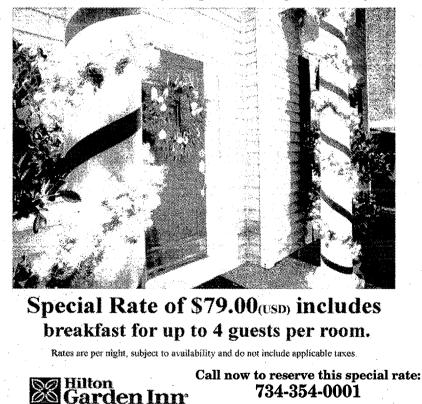
flavored with dill and dominated by garlic. Then came a choice of lentil or barley soup, or salad with a delicious house dressing blend of avocado, olive oil, lemon, tarragon and dried mint.

For an entrée, I ordered Shirin Polo with Boneless Chicken Kabab. The tender chicken was garnished with a grilled tomato and purple onion shavings meant

Please see PARS, E11

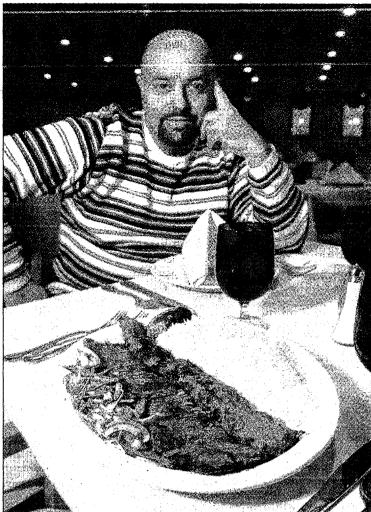
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E10 (**) • Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 6, 2007





BILL BRESLER STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

> Sam Sharkas manager-partner of Pars, presents grilled beef tenderloin and ground beef koubideh.



to balance the flavor. But the specialty rice took center stage, prepared with saffron and rose water syrup, shredded almonds, crushed pistachios, orange peels and carrot cubes. Jeff tried Barg, tenderloin kebab marinated and charred over an open fire.

For dessert, we sampled Persian pastry with a side of Persian ice cream.

The menu is overseen by Chef Saeid Lotfie, who learned to cook at his uncle's restaurant in Iran.

A favorite for vegetarians is a version of Fesenjon made with refined walnuts slow-cooked with pomegranate paste.

Meat lovers return for Ghormeh Sabzi, an herb stew incorporating chunks of tender beef, kidney beans, parsley, green onions, cilantro and fenugreek. Persian Tea (the restaurant doesn't serve coffee) is highly recommended.

Pars also has a full bar, which draws a crowd on weekend evenings despite the restaurant's nonsmoking policy.

Saturday nights feature world music by Vitor Ghannam.

While business continues to grow, Pars' owners don't intend to

PARS RESTAURANT 30005 Orchard Lake Blvd., Farmington Hills

(248) 851-8200, www.parsrestaurant. com

Hours: Monday-Thursday 11 a.m. 10 p.m.; Friday-Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Entertainment: Live world music and belly dancing on some Saturday nights

Menu: Dinner entrees, \$11.95 for skewered chicken kebabs to \$24.95 for rack of lamb. Lunch specials, 11 a.m.3 p.m., \$6.95-\$10.95. Full bar. No smoking. Carry-out available.

quit their day jobs.

Rajaee runs a home remodeling and floor covering business. Ghaffarloo is an endocrinologist at Henry Ford Hospital in Clinton Township.

Still, they remain committed to bringing the tastes of Iran to southeastern Michigan. Rajaee said he continues to emulate his mother's cooking, and she sends spices from Iran when she can, but her food is hard to match.

"When you're cooking at a commercial level some sense of beauty has to suffer," he said. "The cooking of our mothers will never be surpassed."

Larionov showcases wines

Former Detroit Red Wing Igor Larionov will showcase his portfolio of newly released Australian wines at a bottle signing event 6:30-8:30 p.m. Dec. 8 at WineStyles Livonia.

This event will be open to the general public for bottle signing and photographs (no sticks, jerseys or hockey RIU paraphernalia, please). Guests will have the opportunity to sample rites selections from Igor's Australian portfolio of fine wines. There is a one bottle minimum purchase of Larionov's wine required for entry. WineStyles of Livonia is a wine tasting shop, offering the combination of retail wine by the bottle, along with a tasting room and wine education classes. WineStyles Livonia is located at 17386 Haggerty Rd. in the College Park Plaza, next to Mitchell's Fish Market. Call (734) 464-9600 for more information.

CHINTIKI HOSTS PARTY

The historical ChinTiki restaurant located at 28205 Plymouth Rd. in Livonia is hosting a Tiki Holiday Party 1 p.m.-midnight Saturday, Dec. 8.

The restaurant will feature a Tiki art show and sale, a Tiki raffle, and vendors selling tiki items, t-shirts, books, gifts and holiday items.

Tropical Drinks will be served and the exotic sounds of DJ Del Villarreal will be featured. Chin Tiki Detroit Artifacts are on permanent display.

Call (734) 421-1627 for information.

DINE OUT AND HELP OUT

Diners can eat at a Matt Prentice restaurant and help a good cause by signing up for Dine Out for the Long Term Raffle.

Citizens for Better Care has started its first raffle, through Dec. 21. For \$20,

one ticket buyer has a chance to win 12 dinners for four at Matt Prentice Restaurant Group's restaurants, which includes Shiraz in Bingham Farms, Northern Lakes Seafood Company in Bloomfield Hills, No.VI Chophouse and Lobster Bar in Novi,

Milk & Honey in West Bloomfield and Coach Insignia in Detroit; and once each at Tavern on 13 in Beverly Hills and Deli Unique in West Bloomfield. Citizens for Better Care is an independent non-profit consumer advocacy and information agency for residents of long term care and their support persons. One hundred percent of the money raised is planned for CBC's ombudsman program. The organization's ombudsmen are often a senior's only monitor to ensure their dayto-day well-being. A growing population of longterm care residents combined with reduced state funds to pay for their services, CBC needs to raise funds to maintain services. The drawing for the Dine Out for the Long Term Raffle will be held at Coach Insignia restaurant at the GM Renaissance Center in Detroit, at 5 p.m. Dec. 21. To purchase raffle tickets and to find out more about Citizens for Better Care, call 1-800-833-9548 or log on to www.chemi.org.



ww.hometownlife.com

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

ART EXHIBITS

Cranbrook Art Museum: Eero Saarinen: Shaping the Future, North American premiere of Saarinen's work at Cranbrook, and collection of furniture, photographs, drawings and models, through March 30, \$10 adults; \$5 teens and full-time students with ID; children 12 and under are admitted free with adult admission, 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, call 1-877-GO-CRANBrook (1-877-462-7262) or visit www.cranbrook. edu

Flint Institute of Arts: "Art of Collecting" exhibition, through Dec. 30, more than 200 paintings, prints, drawings and sculptures on consignment from galleries in Detroit, Chicago and New York, live and silent auction, starting at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 7, \$35 tickets for auction, \$7 for regular museum admission, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint (810) 234-1695

MOCAD: Words Fail Me, exhibit with messag es in different forms, curated by Matthew Higgs; through Jan. 20, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (313) 832-6622, www.mocadetroit.org.

Oakland University: New Paintings by Dennis Michael Jones, exhibit through Dec. 23, 208 Wilson Hall, Rochester, www.oakland.

edu/ouag, (248) 370-3005. The Art Museum at Michigan State University: Iconic Images: New Photography Acquisitions in the Works on Paper Gallery. through Dec. 14, Kresge Art Center, at the intersection of Physics and Auditorium Roads between the Alumni Chanel and the MSU Auditorium on the campus of Michigan State University, (517) 355-7631, www.artmuseum.msu.edu.

ART GALLERIES

Ariana Gallery: "Steeped in Tradition, 20th Annual Teapot Exhibition," featuring over 30 artists, through Dec. 15, 119 S. Main, Royal Oak (248) 546-8810, www.arianagal lerv.com.

Cass Cafe: Notorious with Gwen Joy and Chris Turner, through Dec. 8, 4620 Cass, Detroit (313) 831-1400.

City Gallery: "The Tribute Series," a mixed media collection by Edee Joppich, through Dec. 7, Costick Center, 11 Mile Rd. between Middlebelt and Inkster roads in Farmington Hills (248) 473-1856.

©POP Gallery: "Six Artists in the Tradition of Art School of the Detroit Society of Arts and Crafts," exhibit through Dec. 31, 4160 Woodward Ave., Detroit, myspace.com/ cpopgallery.

Community Arts Gallery: Best of the Best, Wayne State University Arts Achievement Award Recipients, 1975-2007, through Dec. 7; 150 Community Arts Building, Detroit (313) 993-7813.

D& M Art Studios: "Surviving Deployment," portraits by Erin Dillenbeck, many of her fiance Ryan Keesey, is on active duty in Irag, Dec. 1-31, show runs through Dec. 31, reception 2-4 p.m. Dec. 9, 8691 N. Lilley, Canton (734) 453-3710.

Elaine Jacob Gallery: "Street Sense: Celebrating 20 years of the Heidelberg Project," through Dec. 14, 480 W. Hancock, Detroit (313) 993:7813 www.art.wayne.edu. Hilberry Gallery: "50/50 Paintings" by

Ivin Ballen, exhibit through Jan. 5, 700 Livernois, Ferndale (248) 541-4700. Hill Gallery: Dennis Oppenheim, through Jan. 12, 407 W. Brown, Birmingham, (248) 540-9288.

Kingswood Lower Gallery: Takafumi Yato's



Jump and Blue, through Dec. 18, Cranbrook Schools-Kingswood Campus, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. (248) 931-1219

Lawrence Street Gallery: "Little Things Mean a Lot," through Dec. 28, opening reception, Dec. 7: 22620 Woodward, Ferndale (248) 544-0394, www.lawrencestreetgallery.com. Lemberg Gallery: "Thinking in Color," through Jan. 5. 23241 Woodward, Ferndale (248) 591-6623, www.lemberggallery.com.

PaulKotulaProjects: Iris Eichenberg's Elizabeth, through Jan. 5, 23255 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-3020.

Paint Creek Center for the Arts: "Object, Inc.," group show with nine Michigan artists. 407 Pine, Rochester, (248) 651-4110, www

pccart.org. pittman-puckett gallery: 290 W. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale, 1-800 398-4297. The Print Gallery: Joyce Lieberman, oil paintings, through Jan, 18, 29173 Northwestern

Hwy., Southfield www.EverythingArt.com, (248) 356-5454 Sherry Washington Gallery: David Fludd, "New

Paintings and Drawings," through Dec. 31, www.sherrywashingtongallery.com, (313) 961-4500 Sherrus Gallery: 133 W. Main St., Suite 210,

Northville, (248) 380-0470, www.sherrusgallery.com.

ART FTC.

Touch of Light: Glassblowing demonstrations, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Dec. 15 and 22, part of Holiday Glass Show, through Dec. 29, 23426 Woodward (1/2 mile south of I-696), Ferndale (248) 543-1868.

Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center: Holiday Shop, gifts from 160 artists, through Dec. 16; 1516 S. Cranbrook (between 14 and 15 Mile roads), Birmingham, www.BBArtCenter.org, (248) 644-0866.

D&MArt Studie: 21st Annual "Kids Only Fine Art Workshops. Winter Break All Day Workshops and more, two ceramic workshops on Dec. 8 and 12, 8691 N. Lilley Rd., Canton www.dmartstudio.com, (734) 453-3710.

BALLET

Michigan Ballet Theatre: "The Nutcracker." Dec. 8-9, Avondale High School Performing Arts Center, 2800 Waukegan, Auburn Hills, (248) 652-3117.

BOOKS

Detroit Historical Society: Behind the Scenes Saturday tour, John K. King Used and Rare Books store in Detroit, 10 a.m. Dec. 8 and 15, \$20 for Society members and \$25 for guests, (313) 833-7935, or go to www. detroithistorical.org/thingstodo

CHORAL

Qakland Choral Society: Handel's Messiah, Dec. 9, Nativity Episcopal Church, 21220 W. 14 Mile Road, Bloomfield Township, \$15, (248) 391-0184

University Musical Society: The Tallis Scholars: Poetry in Music for the Virgin Mary, Dec. 6; Bach's St. Matthew Passion with Detroit Symphony Orchestra, UMS Choral Union, Michigan State University Children's Choir, March 21: call for brochure at (734) 764-2538 or visit www.ums.org.

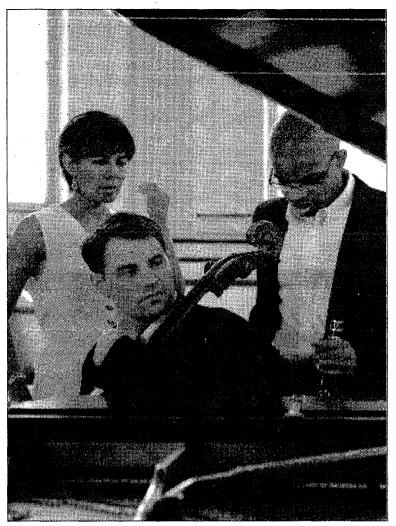
BeckRidge Chorale: Christmas Concert, 8 p.m. Dec. 8, 4 p.m. Dec. 9, Northville High School, 45700 Six Mile Rd., Northville, S12-\$15, (734) 416-9885, www.beckridgechorale.org.

Farmington Hills Youth Choir: Family and Friends Concert, 7 p.m. Dec. 12, Costick Center, on 11 Mile Road between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, Farmington Hills; also audi tions for choir, 5 p.m. Jan. 16, Longacre House, Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile roads, call (248) 473-1859 for information

Farmington Hills Youth Choir: with Farmington Community Chorus, Holiday Concert, 8 p.m. Dec. 14 and 15, \$15 at door, Mercy High School Auditorium, 11 Mile and Middlebelt, Farmington Hills.

CLASSICAL

Detroit Symphony Orchestra: Dec. 6-8; A Summer's Dream, Jan. 4-6; Ehnes Plays Barber, Jan. 10, 12-13; Fantastique Dutoit, Jan. 24-26, Max Fisher Music Center, Detroit. Visit www.detroitsymphony.com Cranbrook Educational Community: An Evening with the Eero Trip, Musical Structures from the Old and New World, featuring Omari Rush, clarinet, Nathan Jasinski cello, and Veena Kulkarni, piano, 7 p.m. Dec. 7, Kingswood School Auditorium at Cranbrook, 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, \$15 Artmembers, \$25 non members, \$10 fulltime students (248) 645-3314. Oakland Community College: The Merling Trio, chamber music ensemble, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 7, Smith Theatre, Orchard Ridge campus



The historic Kingswood School for Girls on the landmark Cranbrook Campus will host the Eero Trio featuring Omari Rush, clarinet, Dr. Nathan Jasinski, cello, and Dr. Veena Kulkarni, piano. The Trio was formed in 2003, while its members were pursuing graduate degrees at the University of Michigan School of Music, which was designed by Eero Saarinen. "Musical Structures from the Old and New World" begins at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, in the Kingswood School Auditorium at Cranbrook Educational Community, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Tickets are \$15 ArtMembers, \$25 non-members, and \$10 full-time students with ID. For reservations, call (248) 645-3314.

27055 Orchard Lake Road, just south of I-696, (248) 341-2270. Macomb Symphony Orchestra: "Home for the Holidays," 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, \$24, \$20 students and seniors, (586) 286-2222,

www.macombsymphony.org. **Cranbrook Music Guild:** Robert deMaine, cello, and Pauline Martin, piano, 8 p.m. Dec. 11, Christ Church Cranbrook, \$20 students, \$30 single tickets, 470 Church Rd. (south west corner of Lone Pine and Cranbrook roads), Bloomfield Hills, (248) 644-6352, www.cranbrookmusicguild.org. Avon Players: "The Barons of Brass in Concert," 8 p.m. Dec. 14, \$20, 1185 Washington Rd., Rochester Hills. (248) 608-9077, for information on the quintet,

visit www.baronsofbrass.com. Chamber Music Society of Detroit: Kalichstein Laredo-Robinson Trio, with Kirsten Johnson, viola, Dec. 15, including premiere of Richard Danielpour's "The Book of Hours," 8 p.m. Dec. 15, Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile Rd. (at the corner Lahser and 13) Mile roads) on the campus of Detroit Country Day School in Beverly Hills, www. ComeHearCMSD.org, (248) 855-6070. Birmingham Concert Band: with the choir of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, "A Christmas Flourish," 3:30 p.m. Dec. 16, 1800 W. Maple Rd., Birmingham, www. birminghamconcertband.com. Plymouth Canton Symphony: Symphony Society's Youth Artist Competition, appli-

cation deadline Jan. 21 for Feb. 3 com-petition at Evola Music, 7170 Haggerty, Canton, three divisions of senior instrumental and senior piano (grades 10-12) and junior combined (grades 7-9), must reside in Clarenceville, Livonia, Northville, Novi, Plymouth-Canton or Wayne-Westland, winners get scholarships, for information, visit www.plym outhsymphony.org or call (734) 451-2112. Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra: Young Artists String Competition, audi-tions 4-9 p.m. Jan. 8-10, Wilson Violins, 725 S. Adams, Birmingham, application deadline is Dec. 31, download applications at www.bbso.org. Plymouth Symphony Orchestra: "Blissful

Baroque," Jan. 19, Village Theater at Cherry Hill, Canton. With this mid-winter program, favorite tunes from George Fredrick Handel will be in abundance. Motor City Brass Band: Sounds of the Season, with Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir, 3 p.m. Dec. 16, \$15, Ford Community and Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn (313) 943-2354.

CLUBS

Bosco: Enjoy noWax nights at 7 p.m. every Wednesday, no cover, 21 and over only, 22930 Woodward in Ferndale, www.thebosco.com, (248) 541-8818.

E12 (**) • Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 6, 2007

Bullfrog Bar Grill: The Industry is Sleeping, networking, party/show for producers, singers and songwriters put on by Matthew Trevarthen ("X") from VeRb, a Canton hiphop group, Dec. 6, www.verbhiphop.com. Celtic Door Lounge: 2nd Annual Evening of Stupid Christmas Songs, Dog Latin and Friends, 8 p.m. Dec. 14, 32905 Grand River, Farmington, (248) 462-1199. Crofoot: A John Waters Christmas, Dec. 13, 1

S. Saginaw, Pontiac, (248) 858-9333. Eden Nightclub & Ultralounge: Friday night party with DJ Ryan Richards, 10 p.m. guest celebrity hosts and DJs; DJ Urban Chris in the Garden Room, DJ Pannos in the Ultralounge accompanied by percussionist Jared Sykes, 10 p.m. Saturday, 22061 Woodward Ave, Ferndale (248) 541-7674. Fillmore-Detroit: Wu-Tang Clan, Dec. 14, \$40, (248) 645-6666.

Edisor's: The Push, Dec. 6; Robert Penn, Dec. 7-8; Larry Lee, Dec. 13; Close Call, Dec. 14-15; Aaron Vaughn, Dec. 20; Code Blue, Dec. 21-22; Rick Stel Project, Dec. 27; The Randy Brock Group, Dec. 28-29; The Snakes, Dec. 31; 220 Merrill, Birmingham (248) 645-2150. **Ginopolis on the Grill:** Don Swindell and Shuffle Play, with Swindell, Sheila Brown, Mike Lorenz and Jake Reichhart, 7:30-11:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 27851 Middlebelt at 12 Mile in Farmington Hills, no cover, (248) 851-8222. Magic Bag: Gary Hoey, Dec. 7; 22920

Woodward Ave., Ferndale (248) 544-3030, www.themagicbag.com. The Magic Stick: Fiery Furnaces, Dec. 13,

The Magic Stick: Fiery Furnaces, Dec. 13, Detroit, (313) 833-9700.

Main Street Billiards: 215 S. Main St., Rochester (248) 652-8441, www.mainstreetbilliards. net.

Majestic Theatre: 4140 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 833-9700.

Mario's of Troy: Expedition, 7:30-11:30 p.m. Dec. 8, 1477 John R (just south of Maple), Troy (248) 588-6600.

The Modern Exchange: Summerwake, alternative rock band from Livonia, performs with Taint, The Rubber Bullets, Short of the Kill, 8 p.m. Dec. 7, 12219 Dix-Toledo, Southpasto (734) 284-2847

Southgate, (734) 284-2547. **0-Zen Lounge:** Formerly the Buddha Lounge; Hot 'N Ready with DJ U.N.I. hip hop soul, Thursday; Insomnia Music, hip hop, soul, old school, Friday; Super Sonic Smooth Music with DJ Shug, Saturday; karaoke with Chez, Sunday; '80s and Rock 'N Roll; bring your CDs, Tuesday; and Energetic House with DJ Tony Bell, Wednesday; www.ozenlounge.com, 21633 W. Eight Mile, Detroit (313) 535-4664.

Pike Room: 1 S. Saginaw, Pontiac (248) 858-9333. Sky Club: Tango, salsa, and Latin dancing

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

COMEDY

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase: Finesse Mitchell, Dec.6-8; Lou Santini, Dec. 13-15; L.A. Hardy, Dec. 20-22; Jim Wiggins, Dec.27-29; Cash Levy, Dec. 31; 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor (734) 996-9080, www.aacomedy.com. Fox Theatre: Cedric the Entertainer, Dec. 31, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, \$65.50-\$99.50, Ticketmaster.com (248) 433-1515. Historic Holly Hotel Comedy Club: Mike Dambra, Dec. 7-8; Steve Bills, Dec. 14-15; Warren B. Hall, Dec. 21-22; Chrissy Burns, Dec. 28-31; 10 Battle Alley, Holly (248) 634-5208. D's House of Comedy: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday; 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, SouthField, (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com. Maxie's Sunday Wight Comedy Shoppe: Comedy Slam Down! Mike Dambra and Ben Creed,

Dec. 9; Rob Little, Dec. 16; Warren B. Hall, Dec. 23; Chrissy Burns, Dec. 30; 2500 Hill Rd., Flint (810) 232-2500. **City Theatre:** Kevin Hart (Dec. 13-16) and

City Theatre: Kevin Hart (Dec. 13-16) and Earthquake (Dec. 27-30), Ticketmaster.com,

www.hometownlife.com



Robert deMaine (above), cello, and Pauline Martin, piano, will perform for the Cranbrook Music Guild at 8 p.m. Dec. 11, at Christ Church Cranbrook.,470 Church Rd., Bloomfield Hills, on the southwest corner of Lone Pine and Cranbrook roads. Single tickets are \$30; student tickets are \$20; subscriptions are also available. For information or to reserve tickets, call (248) 644-6352 or visit www.cranbrookmusicguild.org.

(248) 433-1515.

The Second City: The Best of Second City-Detroit, on Sundays, (Mondays and Tuesdays for group booking); The Second City's Dysfunctional Holiday Revue, shows throughout November and December, 42705 Grand River Avenue in Novi, (248) 348-4448, www.secondcity.com. Second City Adult Winter Training: Registration open through Dec. 14 for comedy writing and improvisation, eight-week course, \$200, www.secondcity.com, (248) 348-

4448 **The Crofoot:** A John Waters Christmas, Dec. 13, \$30 standing room, 1 S. Saginaw, Pontiac, www.ticketweb.com, (866) 468-3401.

CONCERTS

The Fillmore-Detroit: Brian Setzer Christmas Extravaganza, Dec. 7; Omarion with Ja Rule and Trey Songz, Dec. 30; G Love and Special Sauce, Jan. 18, 2115 Woodward, Detroit. Call (248) 645-6666.

The Fox Theatre: B.B. King, Feb, 16, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com (248) 433-1515.

Jee Louis Arena: Up Close and Personal Holiday Exclusive Tour with Chris Brown and Bow Wow, Dec. 8; Ozzy Osbourne and Rob Zombie, Dec. 18; R. Kelly with Neyo, Keyshia Cole and J. Holiday, Dec. 22; Linkin Park with Coheed and Cambria, Feb. 16; Foo Fighters, Feb. 24, (248) 645-6666, www. ticketmaster.com, OlympiaEntertainment. com.

Siberian Orchestra, Dec. 26; Matchbox Twenty with Alanis Morissette and MUTEMATH, 6:30 p.m. Feb. 2; Bon Jovi with Daughtry, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20; Avril Lavigne with Boys Like Girls, March 22, (248) 645-6666 or Palacenet.com. Masonic Temple Theatre: 500 Temple Ave., Detroit. (248) 645-6666. MGM Grand Detroit: Earth, Wind & Fire, Dec. 13, call (248) 645-6666. Michigan Theatre: James Blunt, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 23, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. (248) 645-6666. Ford Community & Performing Arts Center: A Valentine's Rock 'N' Roll Spectacular with Sonny Turner (former lead singer of the Platters), The Vogues, The Diamonds, The Reflections, Jack Scott, Lou Christie, Bill Haley's Original Comets, Little Peggy March, The Marcels, 5 and 8 p.m. Feb. 16 \$27-\$67, 15801 Michigan, Dearborn (313)

The Palace: Barry Manilow, Dec. 15; Trans

943-2354 Ext. 1. **St. Andrews Hall:** The Verve Pipe, Dec. 21; Rusted Root, 8 p.m. Dec. 29; Necro with Psycho Realm and Danny Diablo, Jan. 11, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, (248) 645-6666

DANCE

Eisenhower Dance Ensemble: Other Side of Winter, 8 p.m. Dec. 8, Lake Orion Performing Arts Center, 495 E. Scripps, \$10-\$15, (248) 559-2095; also NewDanceFest VI, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 26; Bright Side of the Road, 8 p.m. April 5, various locations, call (248) 852-5850 or see www. ede-dance.org. Farmington Hills Balfroom Dance: 8-11 p.m. Dec. 21, Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, \$10. Joe Louis Arena: Dancing With the Stars Tour, Jan. 5, Detroit, \$52.50-\$168, (248) 645-6666.

FAMILY

Breakfast with Santa: Stagecrafters Youth Theatre hosts event 11 a.m. Dec. 9, breakfast foods, caroling, craft for each child, visit and photo with Santa, \$5 child, \$8 adult, Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak (248) 541-6430 Michigan Historical Museum: Winterfest, familyfriendly activities, including choirs, danc ers, arts and crafts, winter sports, music, Dec. 8 and 15; inside the Michigan Library and Historical Center at 702 W. Kalamazoo St., two blocks west of the State Capitol in downtown Lansing, www.michiganhistory. org, (517) 373-3559. Fox Theatre: Sesame Street Live presents Elmo Makes Music, Jan. 25-Feb. 10, Tickets \$12-\$32, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com (248) 433-1515. The Palace of Auburn Hills: Disney On Ice Presents: High School Musical The Ice Tour, Feb. 29-March 2, Palacenet.com, The Palace Box Office and all Ticketmaster centers, (248) 377-0100.

FILM

Detroit Historical Museum: Fall Film Series, "The Hudson's Building," 1 and 2 p.m. Dec. 9-10 5401 Woodward Ave (NW corner of Kirby) in Detroit's Cultural Center area, (313) 833-1805, www.detroithistorical.org. Michigan Theatre: Director John Sayles introduces his latest, "Honeydripper," and participates in a Q&A after the screening, set for 5:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, 603 East Liberty, Ann Arbor. The event aims to raise funds to support the Ann Arbor Film Festival. Tickets, \$15-\$20, visit http://www. brownpapertickets.com/event/24332. Northville District Library: Foreign Film series, "The Sea Inside," a Spanish film on ship mechanic left quadriplegic after a diving accident, Dec. 17; 212 W. Cady, Northville, free, call (248) 349-3020 for reservations

FUND-RAISERS

Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center: Annual Holiday Shop, 10 percent of proceeds on Dec. 13-14 benefit Lighthouse of Oakland -County and Birmingham Education Foundation arts programs in Birmingham schools, shop is open through Dec. 16, 1516 S. Cranbrook (between 14 and 15 Mile roads), Birmingham, www.BBArtCenter.org, (248) 644-0866. Power Center for the Performing Arts: Red Kettle Benefit Concert to help Salvation Army of

Washtenaw County's Red Kettle Campaign, with Plymouth-Canton Homeschool Band, Oakland County Homeschool Band and others, 7 p.m. Dec. 19, \$10 (advance), \$12 (door), tickets available at Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson Blvd., Ann Arbor, for information, call (734) 995-1205.

HOLIDAY SHOWS

Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings: Holiday Brass, 4:30 p.m. Dec. 9 at Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 16, Christ Church Cranbrook, 470 Church Rd., Bloomfield Hills. Tickets \$10-\$35, (248) 559-2095.

Greenfield Village: Holiday Nights, Dec. 7-8, 14-16 and 19-23, The Henry Ford, Dearborn, \$8.50-\$12.75, (313) 982-6001 or www.thehenryford.org. First Baptist Church: Detroit Hand Bell Ensemble, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 8, corner of Willits & Bates, Birmingham, \$10 suggested donation, (248) 644-0550, firstbaptistbirmingham.org. Bonstelle Theatre: Black Nativity, musical, Dec. 7-9, 14-16, \$15, (313) 577-2960, www. bonstelle.com

The Fox Theatre: Kenny Rogers Christmas & Hits, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 12; Cedric the Entertainer, 9 p.m. Dec. 31, OlympiaEntertainment.com, the Fox Theatre and Joe Louis Arena box offices, Hockeytown Authentics in Troy (without service charge) and at all Ticketmaster locations, including Macy's and Ticketmaster.com. To charge tickets by phone, call (248) 433-1515.

Orchard Lake Philharmonic Society: See the Community Orchestra's premiere per-formance 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, at the Shrine Chapel on the campus of St. Mary's Prep School, 3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake. Music by Holst, Grieg, Boyce, Faure and Mozart. Tickets \$10, \$7 for seniors (60 and over) and free for students. Visit www.OLPSmusic.org. Pointsettia Soiree: Join the Belle Isle Botanical Society 6-9 p.m. Dec. 9 with this holiday open house at the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory, Belle Isle. Donation \$55, (313) 331-7760. Or visit the conservatory for a free stroll, 5-8 p.m. Dec. 14. Cider and donuts provided. Fox Theatre: The Nutcracker, presented by Michigan Opera Theatre, Dec. 6-9, Ticketmaster.com, (248) 433-1515 Rochester: Big, Bright Light Show every night through Dec. 31, Main Street north of Avon Road, www. DowntownRochesterMLcom. Sounds of the Season: Motor City Brass Band presents annual holiday showcase 3 p.m.Sunday, Dec. 16, at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center's Michael A. Guido Theater, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, Tickets \$15 adults, \$12 seniors and students, and free for children 12 & under, call (313) 943-2354. Old Fashioned Christmas: Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm celebrates the past 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15 with a Christmas Pageant at the Stoney Creek Schoolhouse, tractor-pulled hayrides, chestnuts roasting on an open fire, games, old-time movies, music, readings of "Twas the Night Before Christmas,

and make-and-take holiday crafts. Admission \$3-8, call (248) 656-4663. **Plymouth Symphony Orchestra:** Home for the Holidays concert, 7 p.m. Dec. 20, Penn Theatre, \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, and \$10 for children, (734) 451-2112, www. plymouthsymphony.org, or in person at 470 Forest Avenue, Suite 18, Plymouth. **Fox Theatre:** Too Hot to Handel, featuring Rackham Symphony Choir, 2 and 8 p.m. Dec. 22, \$21-578, OlympiaEntertainment. com, the Fox Theatre and Joe Louis Arena box offices, Hockeytown Authentics in Troy (without service charge) and at all Ticketmaster locations, including Macy's and Ticketmaster.com. To charge tickets by phone, call (248) 433-1515.

JAZZ

Baker's Keyboard Lounge: Spencer Barfield & Friends with Don Mayberry (bass) and Djallo Djakate (drums), Wednesdays, 20510 Livernois (at Eight Mile), Detroit (313) 345-6300. Cliff Bells: Scott Gwinnell and his 16-

piece jazz orchestra, 9:30 p.m. every Wednesday, 2030 Park (near Comerica Park), Detroit (313) 961-2543. Jazz Cafe at Music Hall: 350 Madison Ave., Detroit, (313) 887-8532 or e-mail

Ave., Detroit, (313) 887-8532 or e-mail jazzcafe@musichall.org for additional information.

Kwanzaa Jazz Concert: Barry Harris Trio, 7 p.m. Dec. 29, First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4605 Cass (at Forest), Detroit, \$25 donation, \$5 child under 12, includes afterglow, (313) 833-9107.

Please see GET OUT, E15

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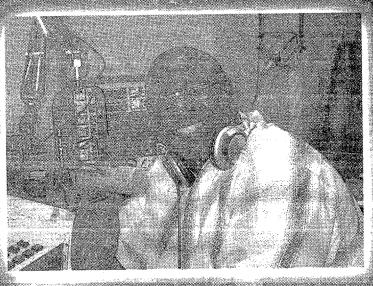
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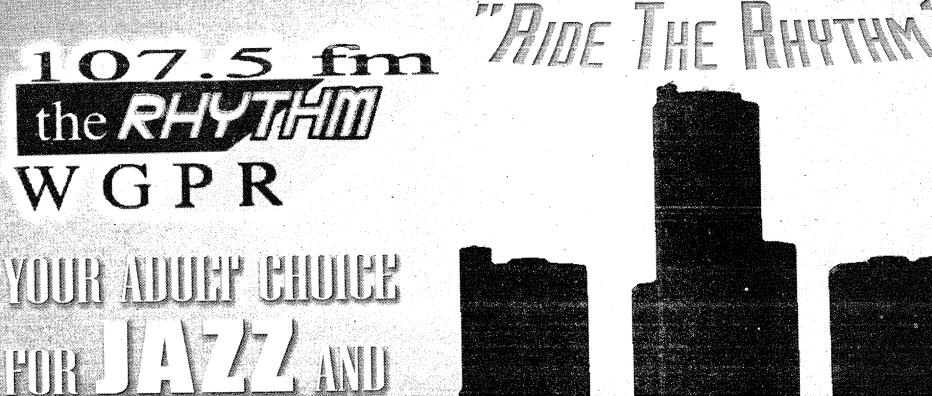
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Pi Restaurant: Duane Parham, Dec. 7; Koke McKessan, Dec. 8; Sandra Bomar, Dec. 14-15; D-Lee and Deb Alane, Dec. 21-22; Sheila Landis, Dec. 28-29; 28875 Franklin (southwest corner of 12 Mile and Northwestern Hwy), Southfield (248) 208-7500, www.piofsouthfield.com. **Detroit Windsor Jazz Club**: Saturdays at Shield's (1-4 p.m.), Paul Kellery Sextet, Dec. 15; Chuck Moss and the Paint Creek Jazz Band, Jan. 5; Ray Heitger and the Cakewalkin' Jazz Band, Jan. 19; Kerry Price and Friends, Feb. 2; Rick Bryant, Feb. 16; S10 cover, 25101 Telegraph, Southfield (248) 356-2720. Rackham Auditorium: Turtle Island Quartet performs A Solstice Celebration with Leo Kottke, 4 p.m. Dec. 9, S22-S46, 915 E. Washington, Ann Arbor (734) 764-2538, ums.org.

MORE MUSIC

MOCAD: A Weekend with Tony Conrad, Dec. 7 & 8, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (313) 832-6622, www.mocadetroit

Red Comma Cafe: Don White and Matt Watroba, 8 p.m. Dec. 8, \$15 concert, \$25 for dinner/concert package (reservation only), proceeds benefit the Congregational Church of Birmingham United Church of Christ's youth mission trips, (248) 646-4511, e-mail ccbchurch1000@sbcglocal.net for information, Congregational Church of Birmingham, United Church of Christ, 1000 Cranbrook Rd., Bloomfield Hills

University Musical Society: Youssou N'Dour and The Super Etoile, 8 p.m. Dec. 8, \$10-\$48, Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University, Ann Arbor (734) 764-2538.

Nardin Park Music Series: Christmas at Nardin Park Concert with Chapter 6, 2 p.m. Dec. 9; Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 W. 11 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills (248) 476-8860 for information.

The Museum of Contemporary Art-Detroit: RRIICCEE, a new musical project with Vincent Gallo and Eric Erlandson, 8 p.m. Dec. 14, 4454 Woodward, Detroit (313) 832-6622, www. mocad.org.

Hill Auditorium: Mos Def and the Mos Def Big Band (hip hop), 7:30 p.m. Jan. 21, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor \$25-\$45, (734) 764-2538, ums.org.

Oakland Community College's Performing Arts Program: Illird Tyme Out, Jan. 25, Williams and Clark Expedition, April 11; Rhonda Vincent and the Rage, May 2, performances at 7:30 p.m. Student Center Arena, Highland Lakes Campus in Waterford except for Vincent, which will be at the Orchard Ridge campus, \$20; (248) 341-2270.

First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak: Caberet with Sunny Wilkinson, Feb. 1; Detroit Dance Collective, 529 Hendrie Blvd., Royal Oak (248) 541-0108.

MUSEUMS

Detroit Historical Museum: Free admission to all U.S. mlitary veterans and active duty personnel throughout the month of November, museum is currently featuring two WWII exhibits, one of poster art, the other on Tuskegee Airmen, 5401 Woodward Ave. (NW corner of Kirby), (313) 833-1805 www.detroithistorical.org.

Exhibit Museum of Natural History: Space Day is Dec. 8, see the new digital planetarium, 1109 Geddes Ave., Ann Arbor, (734) 764-0478.

The Henry Ford: "Best of Friends: Buckminster Fuller and Isamu Noguchi," through Jan. 15, at 20900 Oakwood Blvd., west of the Southfield Freeway and south of Michigan Avenue, Dearborn. Additional charges and varying hours for entry to Greenfield Village, Ford Rouge Factory Tour and IMAX Theatre. Call (313) 982-6001 or visit www.hfmgv.org.

Plymouth Historical Museum: A Red Ryder Christmas Story, also Santa Claus appears Saturdays through Dec. 22, 1-4 p.m.

Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm: Adams Road Mastodon in special exhibit, one year after discovery by road crew at Adams and M-59, through January 2008, 1-4 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays, 1005 Van Hoosen Road (off of Tienken Road, one mile east of Rochester Road and one mile north of Downtown Rochester), (248) 565-4663, www.rochesterhills.org.

University of Michigan Museum of Art: Persian Visions: Photography from Iran, through Dec. 30, 1301 S. University Ave., Ann Arbor.

news.hometownlife.com

129th UMS Season 2007 2008 Youssou N'Dour and The Super Étoile de Dakar

SAT, DEC 8 | 8 PM Hill Auditorium • Ann Arbor

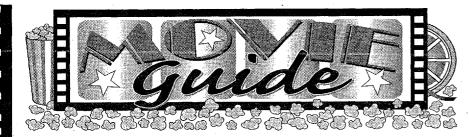
A longtime superstar in his native Senegal, Youssou N'Dour combines African musical traditions with Afro-Cuban and Western influences to create an enthralling worldpop fusion. Now this powerful cultural icon returns with Africa's hottest band, The Super Étoile de Dakar, made famous throughout the world during more than 20 years of touring and recording.

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Where available by deadline, features and times are listed. Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS

Call your local theatre for showings for this week. Please check listings below for phone numbers and websites.

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MARTIAN CHILD [PG] ***** **Please Call Theatre For Movies & Showtimes**

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PURE PICKS DEC. 7-14

Lawrence Street Gallery sets out to prove that *Little Things Mean a Lot* in this latest art exhibition. All artwork measures 12 inches or smaller. Catch the opening reception, 6-9 p.m. at 22620 Woodward, Ferndale. Call (248) 544-0394 or visit www.lawrencestreetgallery.com for more information.

B Join the Detroit Historical Society for a Behind the Scenes Saturday tour. This week you can peruse the shelves and many floors of John K. King Used and Rare Books store in Detroit. Tour starts at 10 a.m. and costs \$20-\$25. Call (313) 833-7935, or visit www. detroithistorical.org/thingstodo.

9 Don't miss the Michigan Ballet Theatre's rendition of a holiday classic. Sugar Plum Fairies are aplenty at *The Nutcracker*, tonight at Avondale High School Performing Arts Center, 2800 Waukegan, Auburn Hills. Call (248) 652-3117.

10 The Detroit Historical Museum continues its Fall Film Series with *The Hudson's Building* showing at 1 and 2 p.m. today at 5401 Woodward Ave. in Detroit's Cultural Center area. Call (313) 833-1805 for details.



This untitled work by Huntington Woods artist Linda Logan will be on display at Lawrence Street Gallery.

Plan ahead for this one - The Museum of Contemporary Art-Detroit hosts an anticipated improvisational performance by RRIICCEE, a new musical project featuring Vincent Gallo and Eric Erlandson. See it unfold at 8 p.m. at 4454 Woodward, Detroit. Call (313) 832-6622 or visit www.mocad.org.



Filmmaker Vincent Gallo has a new music project called RRIICCEE.

EERO FROM PAGE F7

of Saarinen. It was all part of "Eero Saarinen: Shaping the Future," an exhibit featuring projects he completed while at Cranbrook Academy, as well as furniture, photographs, drawings and models spanning his entire career.

The Yale graduate worked in Helsinki before returning to Cranbrook in the 1930s, where he formed a partnership with his father, architect and educator Eliel Saarinen. The GM Tech Center became his first major commission, a work that won him the cover of *Time* magazine and essentially launched his successful career.

Don't miss the national premiere of this exhibition, which runs through March 30 at Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., in Bloomfield Hills. The museum is open 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday, and 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. on the fourth Friday of each month. It is closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and selected holidays. Admission costs \$10 adults; \$5 teens and full-time students with ID. Children 12 and under are admitted free with adult admission. For more, call 1-877-GO-CRANBrook or visit www.cranbrook. edu.



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Becky Stark brings truth and beauty

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA STAFF WRITER

At first glance it seemed an unlikely pairing. Los Angeles-based folk band Lavender Diamond was chosen to tour with John Waters - the Baltimore-loving filmmaker and artist known as King of Filth - as he crosses the country with his funny, noholds-barred monologues this holiday season. But the two entities might have more in common than even they expect.

In a recent conversation ALLE with Lavender Diamond's voice and heart, Becky Stark said she tends to talk a lot to her audience between songs. And she's known to make a few costume changes. A Maryland native, she's nearly met Waters at least twice. Once she was asked to participate in a panel for the Maryland Film Festival - but a wrong turn on a canoe ride caused her to miss the event altogether.

And then there was the Egg Man.



LAVENDER DIAMOND

What: Opens for John Waters, performing prior to the filmmaker's monologue performance

When: Doors at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13. Where: The Crofoot Ballroom, 1 S. Saginaw, Pontiac.

Tickets: \$30 in advance, \$40 includes 6:30 p.m. Meet and Greet with Waters. Visit www.thecrofoot.com.

> Stark grew up in a small Maryland town just outside of Washington D.C., where her mother sold vinyl siding over the phone. That's how her mother befriended a Vietnam veteran with multiple sclerosis and took her daughters to visit

him around the holidays. And the last time Stark saw this man before he died, she recalled he was rather weak and kept repeating the same phrase: "I am the egg man." It wasn't until she and her sister were sitting in a movie theater in East Berlin



Lavender Diamond's lead vocalist Becky Stark is as shiny-happy as it gets. Her band is opening for John Waters at the Crofoot Dec. 13.

years later watching Waters' gross-out classic Pink Flamingoes that Stark realized what he meant. He was indeed The Egg Man, a character in the film.

Stark couldn't wait to start the tour and share the story with Waters himself despite the fact that her mother is convinced she and the filmmaker have "opposite world views.

"I don't know what's going to happen on this tour," said Stark, in her deliberate, thoughtful tone.

One thing is certain. Lavender Diamond's full-length Matador debut is earning heaps of praise. Imagine Our Love is coated in sweet, simple lyrics complemented by lush orchestration. Its all topped by Stark's unmatchable voice. She claims she's been listening to Loretta Lynn's Van Lear Rose lately. And there are echoes of inspiration. Lavender Diamond is easily associated with the Psych-folk scene. Having shared a producer, Thom Monahan, with the likes of Stark's longtime friend Devendra Banhartdoesn't hurt. But these hopeful torch songs deserve a place of their own.

As for Brown-educated Stark, well she grew up singing - whether it was in church or as a willing student of her mother's own "Church of Popular Culture." "My mom had this ritual she would do," said Stark. "She would make us come up and listen to her 45's collection and we would have to dance and listen to my mom talk about rock 'n' roll history. It was so amazing."

So Stark was schooled early on Motown, The Beatles, Prince and Top 40 music. She grew up listening to the radio and remembered being influenced by the D.C. punk scene. Now she laments how hard it is to find songs, real songs, with real lyrics you can hear. Her performance singing Christmas carols in a play led to classical training. Stark studied for five years. And at age 19 she had what she calls a "political awakening." She discovered that music could be powerful and healing - and she decided that's the kind of music she would make.



John Waters

Imagine Our Love exudes those intentions. It includes songs Stark wrote as far back as six years ago. "I had an idea for a country pop record," she said. "I felt like I wanted to hear more music that had a story." She convinced guitarist Jeff Rosenberg, pianist Steven Gregoropoulos and drummer Ron Rege Jr. to join her and soon enough her simple melodies were transformed. Rosenberg left the band shortly after the album was recorded and Devon Williams came into the fold.

"Songwriting was really easy and natural," she recalled. And a residency at an L.A. club drew more and more attention. Soon enough they were considering offers to record, touring with the likes of Deerhoof, and slowly Imagine Our Love came together. "People were just really responding," said Stark. "We had so many songs." With multiple shows at South By Southwest Music Conference the band secured its record deal with Matador and one with Rough Trade.

"For me, the record just really needed to be an expression of love," said Stark. And that it is.

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Ready, set, dance!

mstaue

TV spokeswoman performs at Groves

Many have seen Connie Aiken Moore in Wallside Window television ads, but few realize she's a leader in the dance community. The public will have a chance to see

her on stage during "123 ... Dance!" 8 p.m. Friday night at Groves High School's Little Theatre. Moore will perform with dancers Barbara Selinger and Anh Nguyen as part of the "Connie Moore Dances With Friends" Concert Series.

During the program, Moore will debut Unfettered," a work in progress set to live chanting. As Azar Alizadeh recites Hidden Words of Baha'u'llah in Persian, John Suggs will read an English translation.

"It also includes music by Ravi Shankar. He also was inspired by these poetic verses," Moore said.

During "123 ... Dance!" Moore will join Selinger in a humorous "electroTANGO" performed to an original score by Dan

Kolton. Selinger, artistic director of Detroit Dance Collective, will perform a solo choreographed for her by Paula Kramer of the DDC. In addition, Nguyen, Selinger and Moore will premier a trio set to original music composed by Nguyen. Moore started dancing when she was

six years old. After studying dance and choreography at Wayne State University and UCLA, she founded her own local dance company, Moore &

More Dances. The Franklin resident has served on the faculties of UCLA, WSU and Oakland University, and has been a dance adjudicator for ArtServe

Michigan.

She said she launched her performance series in May in hopes of exposing people to the art of dance. "It's just an exciting way to communicate and it can really touch and move a person on another level," Moore said. Meanwhile, she'll keep her day job with Wallside Windows.

"Yep, that's me. I am the 'We are the factory' girl."

Wylie E. Groves High School is located at 20500 W 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills: Tickets to "123 ... Dance!" are \$20 at the door; \$18 in advance; 12 and under. pay what you can. Call (248) 626-7004.

Stroke victim is focus in drama

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Capsule reviews of films currently playing:

THE DIVING BELL AND THE **BUTTERFLY**

Astonishingly beautiful and self-consciously so, this drama about the stroke that paralyzed French Elle Editor Jean-Dominique Bauby never ceases to remind you that it is a work of art. Painter-turneddirector Julian Schnabel's

imagery is so arresting, and yet so artificial, it calls to mind the kind of advertising spread you'd see in the late Bauby's fashion magazine.

But you do have to give him and screenwriter Ronald Harwood credit for interpreting on screen a subject matter and a state of mind that wouldn't seem inherently visual. Bauby (the resourceful Mathieu Amalric), or "Jean-Do" as he was known among his jet-setting friends, found himself in a hospital one day at age 43, having awakened from a coma in a

www.hometownlife.com

state known as "locked-in syndrome.' His brain functioned quickly (and Amalric provides an interior monologue that's by turns sarcastic, frustrated, remorseful and vulnerable), he just couldn't move or speak.

His only means of communication was his left eye, which he used to blink out his thoughts one painstaking letter at a time, and even-Reviews

tually compose an entire book. Schnabel and Janusz Kaminski, Steven

Spielberg's longtime cinematographer, take us inside Jean-Do's constricted perspec-

tive through a dreamlike mix of light, shadow and wisps of color. Emmanuelle Seigner, Marie-Josee Croze and Anne Consigny are among the strikingly good-looking cast, whom Schnabel is fond of shooting in extreme close-up. PG-13 for nudity, sexual content and some language. 112 min.

Three stars out of four.

- Christy Lemire, AP Movie Critic



Connie Aiken Moore, founder of MoreDances Contemporary Dance Company, will perform in 1,2,3 ... DANCE! 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7 at Wylie E. Groves High School.



Observer SEccentric

MÍTOP NEWSPAPER:





Oakland Community College Performing Arts Presents:

A Night of Classical Music featuring The Merling Trio

Friday, December 7, -7:30 p.m. at the Orchard Ridge Campus Smith Theatre 27055 Orchard Lake Road Farmington Hills, MI 48334

'The trio delivered a standard of playing that is on par with some of the best known violin - cello - piano teams, captivating the audience through the immediacy and extraordinary sensitivity of its playing." -Grand Rapids Press

The Merling Trio was founded in 1988 and quickly established itself as a premier ensemble. They are a truly international trio, bringing together musicians from Dutch, Japanese, and Polish backgrounds. The Trio has performed across the United States, Russia & London.

Fickets are available at all OCC Campus Bookstores or call 248-341-2270 or visit our website at www.oaklandcc.edu/entertainment



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