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Our Views, A11

SUNDAY  
December 16, 2007

# PLYMOUTH Observer

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## City unlikely to cap liquor licenses

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
STAFF WRITER

It appears a cross-section of Plymouth residents prefer the market determine how many liquor licenses should be allowed in downtown Plymouth.

And, armed with that information, Mayor Phil Pursell said it appears likely there won't be any limitations set when the 90-day moratorium on new and transferred liquor licenses in the downtown business district ends in mid-January.

Of the nearly three dozen city residents who attended a Wednesday night forum at the Cultural Center, no one was interested in limiting the number of restaurants selling liquor.

"If you create an opportunity for businesses to come here, you're going to create an opportunity for the city to continue to grow and generate revenue," said Scott Milligan, 35, who moved to Plymouth from Northville because of the night-life options. "If you're going to build condos and want more people to move to Plymouth, you're going to have to have more restaurants, more bars, more places that serve alcohol and food. Retail is only going to come to downtown if there are places to eat."

With the rise in the number of drinking establishments in downtown Plymouth, city commissioners became concerned about the number of drunken driving arrests and subsequent paperwork that takes officers off the street for hours, as well as potential parking problems. However, with the input from residents, and similar responses from the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce Property Owners group and the Downtown Development Authority, it appears the fate of new liquor licenses will be determined by free-market competition.

"When the moratorium is up, my guess is there probably won't be a limit set on the licenses," said Pursell, who had been leaning toward limiting the number of liquor licenses. "What we heard is people don't just want bars only, they want restaurants that sell liquor."

"It takes about three hours to book a drunk driver, which means time our officers off the street," he said. "If the trend continues where we have more liquor licenses, it stands to reason you'll have more drunk driving arrests. We may have to look at hiring additional officers in the future."

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



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

This Adams Street home is one of some dozen homes in Plymouth that are in foreclosure.

## Foreclosure phase

### Plymouth nicked by burgeoning real-estate ills

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
STAFF WRITER

As a 20-year former Realtor, Barbara McLean looks at the vacant tri-level house across from her Byron Street home and believes the mortgage-foreclosed property is doing some damage to home prices in her neighborhood.

"It probably does," said

McLean, who has lived in Plymouth for 20 years. "I've never seen it this bad in Michigan."

"I think Plymouth has a really good reputation, so I think people who can afford will still buy here," she said. "They do sell in the neighborhood."

It was reported last week that U.S. foreclosures have reached an all-time high. The Mortgage

Bankers Association has said the delinquency rate for all mortgages rose to 5.59 percent in the third quarter, up from 5.12 in the second quarter. It's the highest rate since 1986.

According to Michigan's banking data, foreclosures in the state have nearly doubled since 2006, burgeoning from

Please see **FORECLOSURE, A9**

## Board restores busing

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education has restored busing for about 645 K-5 students who were forced to walk to school this year after the district increased the elementary walking distance from a mile to 1 1/2 miles.

Since announcing the increase in walking distance last spring to save \$206,000 in busing costs, trustees have almost come full circle in restoring busing.

The restoration of the busing cut comes after parents voiced concerns about youngsters walking during the winter months and more frequent traffic jams at the schools, as well as a realization by the Board of Education that the original budget savings will really turn out to be only \$22,500 when busing is restored Jan. 28.

"When we had estimates of over \$100,000 in savings, it was worth thinking about because we had a lot of other cuts we were considering that would affect the classroom," said school board President Judy Mardigian. "As we achieved half the savings and caused a lot of pain for the lower elementary ... a mile and a half is too far, and I would never have my child walk that far."

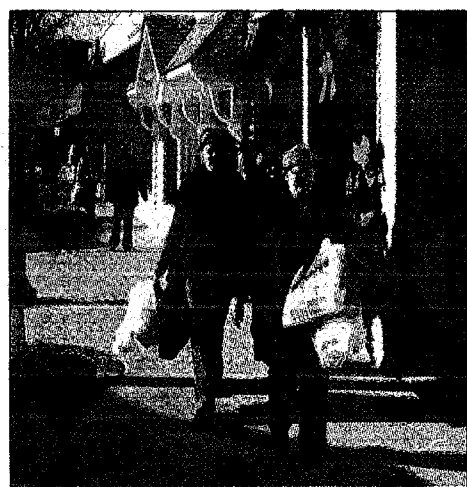
The board voted 5-2 to restore busing, with Trustees Dianne Gonzalez and Nancy Eggenberger the two dissenting votes.

"It's a cut I'm not happy with and causes a lot of hardship for parents, but we don't have the money," Eggenberger said. "I know on the next cuts list we're going to have more and more things that directly affect the academic experience of the children in our schools, and this does not affect that."

Bruce Christenson of Canton Township, who has a second- and fourth-grader walking to Dodson Elementary, is pleased the board reinstated busing.

"It's a good thing for the kids in the district, and I hope they keep that in mind as they go into the next budget year," Christenson said. "It's a long walk, and on bad weather days the parents have to get together to make sure the rides are there both ways."

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Retailers say Plymouth offers the kind of old-fashioned shopping that draws people even from out of town, as Bobbie Bone of Beverly Hills, Michelle Smith of Birmingham and Kathleen Biggs of South Lyon found out recently.

## Plymouth offers old-fashioned shopping

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI  
CORRESPONDENT

Tara Eastin and Jim Strand looked like they could have been stepping out of a Thomas Kincaid picture as they walked around downtown Plymouth recently.

They were driving through town and couldn't resist the charm of the city that radiates an old-fashioned Christmas. Plymouth offers "smaller, fun stores, which is unusually nice, because we live in Sterling Heights where we have strip malls and box stores," Eastin said.

Sales were a little slower at the beginning of the year, "but now

after Thanksgiving it's definitely picked up," said Alicia Norton, a buyer for Gigi's Mode.

Joel Bienefeld of Royal Oak brought his 5-year-old daughter, Samantha, to Kids Play Café. As they left the Book Cellar & Café they planned to walk around town before going home.

"I hate the mall, it's crowded and the parking is bad," said Alleana Meltzer, owner of Eclectic Home, which is celebrating its first Christmas in Plymouth. She enjoys Kellogg Park and the lights on the streets.

"It's more Christmassy here," Meltzer added.

### PERSONAL SERVICE

Sherrie Pryor, City of Plymouth Downtown Development Authority operations director, says one of the perks of shopping in Plymouth is that often the person assisting you owns the store.

"They're personally interested in helping you find your needs," Pryor said. "The owner greets you, they know you. It's very personal and there's a community feel. It's just the experience of walking up and down the street and passing someone and they say, 'Hello.' It's a nice, comfortable, hometown community."

Fran Toney, Plymouth

Community Chamber of Commerce executive director, describes a community that makes you think of Christmases past.

"There's a warm friendly atmosphere in the stores and they'll help you find what you're looking for," Toney said. "It's not the same as going to the malls and the box stores."

The chamber offers gift certificates to 40 Plymouth stores and 25 restaurants for gift buyers who don't want to leave the comfort of their homes.

"You can call and charge over the

Please see **SHOPPING, A6**

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### Coming Thursday in filter

Heartfelt 'Juno' hits theaters







Residents of the Country Club Village Condominiums pose with Plymouth Township Police Chief Tom Tiderington and Community Resource Officer Jamie Senkbeil following this week's graduation from the Citizens' Police Academy.

# Neighborhood watch

## Condo residents use academy as learning tool

BY BRAD KADRICH  
STAFF WRITER

When Plymouth Township Police put out the call for students for its annual Citizens Police Academy as a way of learning more about the police department, few neighborhoods heeded the call as seriously as those who live in the Country Club Village Condominiums.

In the last four years, more than a dozen CCVC residents count themselves among the graduates, including those who recently finished the Class of 2007, which graduated 29 new members at a ceremony before Tuesday's Plymouth Township Board of Trustees meeting.

Graduates include residents who have lived in Plymouth a long time, and those who are relative newcomers, like Jerry and Sandy Wood, who've lived in the township just two years.

"It was lovely," Sandy Wood said. "Every week was unique and always taught something that really gave us a lot of insight into the job police officers have and how they approach it."

The class, which just finished its sixth year, has graduated more than 200 members.

The course provides students a hands-on look at aspects of law enforcement and fire-fighting, with tours of the 35th District Court and the Plymouth Community Fire Department.

There are also self-defense demonstrations, a variety of lectures and a chance to fire on the fire-arms simulator.

In Police Chief Tom Tiderington's view, the CPA is one of the department's most important offerings.

"It's become a very popular course," Tiderington said. "It gives good insight into the complexity of the job. But it also gives officers a different kind of interaction with the citizens."

Township clerk Marilyn Massengill is a 2007 graduate, the first municipal official to take the course.

"Everybody should take the class," Massengill said. "It's a great way to learn more about what they do."

That's why the folks in Country Club Village Condominiums like about it. Nine condo residents took the course this year alone.

"Our neighborhood is committed to learning as much as possible about the police department, its

services and its opportunities for us to give back to our community through volunteering when needed for public events," resident Karen Ross said. "We want as many of our neighbors as possible to participate so we can develop individual relationships with the police department and can be better informed."

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# Grad, 76, realizes nursing degree dream

BY HUGH GALLAGHER  
STAFF WRITER

It's never too late to pursue a dream. Just ask Lillian Anderson.

The 76-year-old Coldwater resident joined 47 other Madonna University nursing graduates Thursday at a pinning ceremony at Laurel Manor. Anderson delivered the keynote/inspirational speech and was honored with the writing award and the O'Neill Award for Humanistic Nursing for her compassion and caring.

"She was an inspiration to her fellow students," said Karen Sanborn, Madonna's

marketing director. "There wasn't a dry eye in the room after she told her story."

It hasn't come easily. "Ever since I was a kid I wanted to be a nurse, but life got in the way," she said Friday. "When I turned 70, I needed a new direction and some friends sat me down and asked what had I always wanted to do and I said I wanted to be a nurse."

Anderson worked 48 years as a secretary, 20 years at Ford Motor Co., retiring in 1995. She already had a degree from Madonna.

"I had graduated from Madonna with a bachelor's degree in business manage-

ment. I decided to take business because it tied into my work at Ford Motor Co.," she said. "I thought I was too old to be a nurse, but I guess I'm not."

She actually began her business degree studies in the 1960s but had to put them on hold when her son, Kevin Giedre, was diagnosed with bone cancer. She cared for him until his death at 18 in 1973. She finally earned that first bachelor's degree in 1989.

She registered for Madonna's hospice program in 1991 but never attended classes because her second husband became ill and she cared for him until he died in 2000. She began the nursing program in 2002 but her daugh-

ter, Judy Zammit, had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She died earlier this year at age 54.

"She was a 10-year survivor," Anderson said. "She was a fantastic example for so many of us."

Next week, Anderson will be making the long drive from Coldwater to Troy to take Kaplan classes to prepare for the state board exam.

"It's like taking the bar exam, you want to get it right the first time," she said.

Anderson admits she might be too old to become hospital floor nurse but she is interested in working in hospice care.

"For my emergence, I worked at Angela Hospice, a wonderful place," she said.



Lillian Anderson (left) with Madonna University Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Teresa Thompson.

At Madonna an "emergence" is a real workplace experience allowing students to emerge into the real work world. "I worked with a preceptor, Paula Bending, who is the epitome of what a nurse should be," Anderson said. She is looking into doing some home hospice care when

she passes her boards. "What an inspiration, she is," said Teresa Thompson, dean of the College of Nursing and Health. "It's been a pleasure to watch her grow, and care, and give to so many. She's become part of who we are at Madonna."

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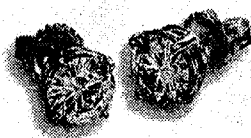
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**AROUND TOWN**

**Nutty Nutcracker**  
Center Stage Dance Co. presents their holiday production of 'The Nutty Nutcracker.' Loosely following the story of The Nutcracker, the show will present a wide variety of music including songs from Dreamgirls, some Sammy Davis Jr., a little Bing Crosby and the soundtrack from Pirates of The Caribbean. Dance styles will include ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, and hip hop. The show starts at 6:45 on Wednesday, Dec. 19, at Hillside Middle School Auditorium. Admission is free. For more information call (248) 380-1666.

**Christmas dinner**  
St. Dunstan Catholic Church is hosting their annual Christmas Day Dinner for anyone who would

otherwise be alone on the holiday. The doors open at 1 p.m. and dinner is served at 1:30 p.m. The dinner is free but advance reservations are required by calling (734) 595-3049.

**Youth Philharmonic**  
The Livonia Youth Philharmonic of Michigan, a regional orchestra, has openings for interested student musicians in our intermediate and advanced orchestras and also the sax choir. Rehearsals are on Saturday mornings at Churchill High School. For more information contact Kathy Bilger at (734) 464-8704 or e-mail auditions@LYPM.org

**New Year's Eve parties**  
Ring in the New Year with Jimmy Howard & Company at a New Year's Party at the Livonia Elks, 3117 Plymouth Road in Livonia Monday,

Dec. 30. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; party goes until 1 a.m. Dinner (oven-baked chicken and port tenderloin) served at 7:15 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per person. Due to the Christmas holiday, tickets must be purchased by Dec. 19. For more information, call Linda at (734) 507-9173 or Mary Ann at (734) 654-0115, or e-mail parties.2go2@yahoo.com

You can also ring in the New Year at a party, 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Monday, Dec. 31, at the Wayne Ford Civic League, 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland. The festivities include live performances by Neil Diamond, Rod Stewart and Blues Brothers impersonators. Tickets are \$50 per person, \$85 per couple, or reserve a table of eight for just \$320. The ticket package includes an all-you-can-eat buffet dinner, open bar with a champagne toast at midnight while watch the ball drop at Times Square in New York City. Designated Drivers will be available to ensure a

safe beginning to the New Year. For tickets or more information, contact Laurie at (734) 637-5553 or by e-mail at lbarra@comcast.net or the hall staff at by calling (734) 728-5010 or by e-mail to vbarra@comcast.net.

A New Year's Eve party will be held Monday, Dec. 31, at AMVETS Post 171 Hall, 1217 Merriman, Westland. Tickets are \$25 each and include dinner, open bar and dancing. For tickets, call (734) 721-9440.

**Genealogical society**  
The Livingston County Genealogical Society meets 7 p.m. Jan. 3 to hear David Bridgens of the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing talk about "Treasures Located in Farmers Outhouses-the Last Place to Look for Genealogical Information." There's a help session at 6 p.m. The meeting takes place at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1041 W. Grand River, in Howell. For more information, call (810) 227-7745.

SHOPPING

FROM PAGE A1

phone and we'll mail them out," she added.

This year, the chamber is also hosting a challenge among the Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions Club. Every time club members make a purchase at one of the 105 businesses involved they ask the store keeper to credit their club. Nonmembers can have them credit the club of their choice. The winning club gets "bragging rights," Toney said.

Many merchants are also participating in the Gingerbread Houses on Parade, which involves 56 locations displaying different gingerbread creations. Customers are invited to vote for their favorite gingerbread house, which makes them eligible to win gift certificates to shops, restaurants and the Penn Theater.

"This is the first time we've ever done this and there could be a gingerbread man walking around town," said Sandy Marulis, who owns Michigan Made & More.

Shoppers who need breaks can stroll through Kellogg Park where, on weekends, Santa awaits in a portable house. He's also collecting canned goods and nonperishable items that will be given to the Salvation Army for distribution.

In a town where tradition rules, strollers and shoppers can also enjoy the decorated holiday trees in Kellogg Park that are sponsored by scout troops, families and businesses.

Marulis says Plymouth offers something to shoppers that the malls can't.

"When you shop in a little town like Plymouth there are a lot more specialty shops and you'll find things that you won't find in the malls," said Marulis, Plymouth chamber retail chair. "You can get some unique gifts that you won't find anywhere else."

**MERCHANTS UPBEAT**  
The sour economy has affected sales, but merchants always look forward to the

holidays.

"We are in the auto industry economy and that trickles down," Marulis said. "We have a good place to shop and we encourage people to shop where they live. Plymouth has a lot of good restaurants too so you can have a shopping experience and go and have a good meal."

Cornwell Pool & Patio, a Christmas shop mainstay in Plymouth for more than a quarter of a century, is a mini Frankennuth offering everything from decorating essentials and gift items to centerpieces, table pieces, lights and collectibles. The store is transformed into a Christmas wonderland in the winter and a patio furniture shop in the summer.

"We try to buy the best quality we can for the best value," said owner Gerry Visel. "Most of our business comes from residents. When they shop locally we can deliver it and take care of problems. If they order it online there's no one there to take care of that."

Less than one mile away in Old Village shoppers will find everything from vintage clothing for women; antique and jewelry shops; a massage therapy facility; delis and restaurants; and specialty shops offering everything from haircuts to facials and music supplies.

Lori Jouppi, a book seller at Old Village Book Shop, says shoppers come from all over Michigan to browse their shelves.

"With the vintage clothing store and antique stores, (Old Village) is different than downtown," Jouppi said. "You're down here for different things than you would be looking for in most areas."

You'd never know there was a downturn in the economy when you talk to Jeff Crawford, who opened Crawford's Kitchen in Old Village in the summer of 2006. The original restaurant is in Northville. Crawford serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, sells pies and other bakery goods and provides catering.

"Our business is growing everyday," Crawford said. "We've had inquiries about when we are going to expand."

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a Bid for Site-work at Starkweather, Canton, and Salem High Schools. Bidding documents prepared by TMP Associates, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI, 48335 or (248) 427-8400; FW Dodge Plan Room, Southfield; Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; Daily Construction Reports Plan Room, Detroit; and the Builders Exchange, Lansing.

There will be a pre-bid meeting at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at the site office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc., located at Salem High School, 46181 Joy Road, Canton, MI 48187. The site trailer is located behind the school. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the bidding requirements, schedule, project scopes of work, and to answer any question that bidders may have. Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend. This Bid Package will consist of separate sealed bids for the following Bid Divisions:

- 102: Asphalt Paving / Exterior Concrete
- 107: Steel Rails
- 143: Electrical
- 148: Landscaping

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to the Plymouth Canton Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract. Bid securities may be in the form of a Bid Bond or Certified Check.

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc. with the corresponding bid division identified on the outside of the envelope. All submissions should include 1 original and 1 copy and the Proposal Execution Form provides a space for the bidder to disclose any familial relationship as required by the State of Michigan and this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted. Bids are due to the PCCS E.J McClendon Educational Center on or before 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 19, 2007 where they will be opened and read publicly. These projects are to be bid and the work performed at the Prevailing Wage Rates. For additional information, phone Dan Phillips, Assistant Director of Finance & Purchasing at (734) 416-2746. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education  
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools  
Steven Sneedman, Secretary

Publish: December 9 & 16, 2007



ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN (734) 453-1234

A special meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, January 3, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following item:

1. Z 08 -01 260 W. Ann Arbor Rd Non-Use Variance Requested Front Yard Parking Zoned: ARC, Ann Arbor Road Corridor Applicant: Greko Print & Imaging, Inc.
2. Z 08 -02 763 Burroughs Non-Use Variance Requested Front Yard Setback (Dewey Street) Zoned: R1, Single-Family Residential Applicant: Jim Offer & Amy Vollick
3. Z 08 -03 1600 N. Territorial Non-Use Variance Requested Height Variance Zoned: RM-1, Multiple Family Residential Applicant: Sunrise Development, Inc.

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator  
201 S. Main Street  
Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

Publish: December 16, 2007

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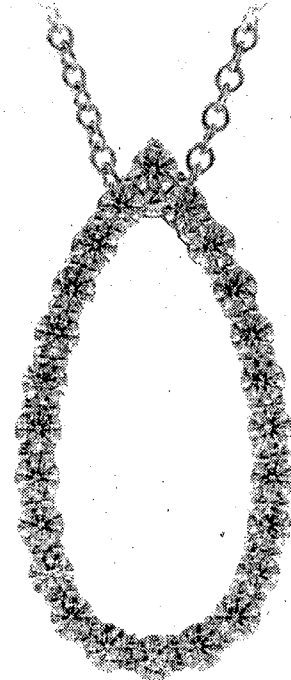


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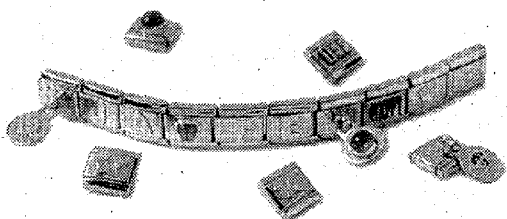
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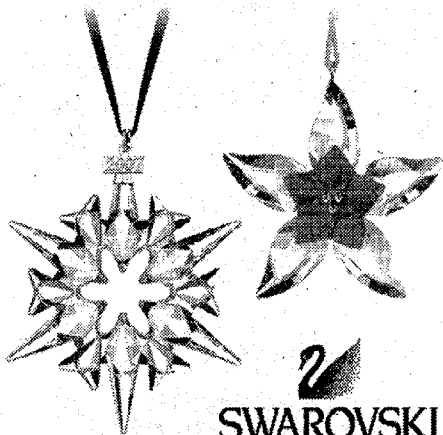
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# How to Build a Christmas Fire



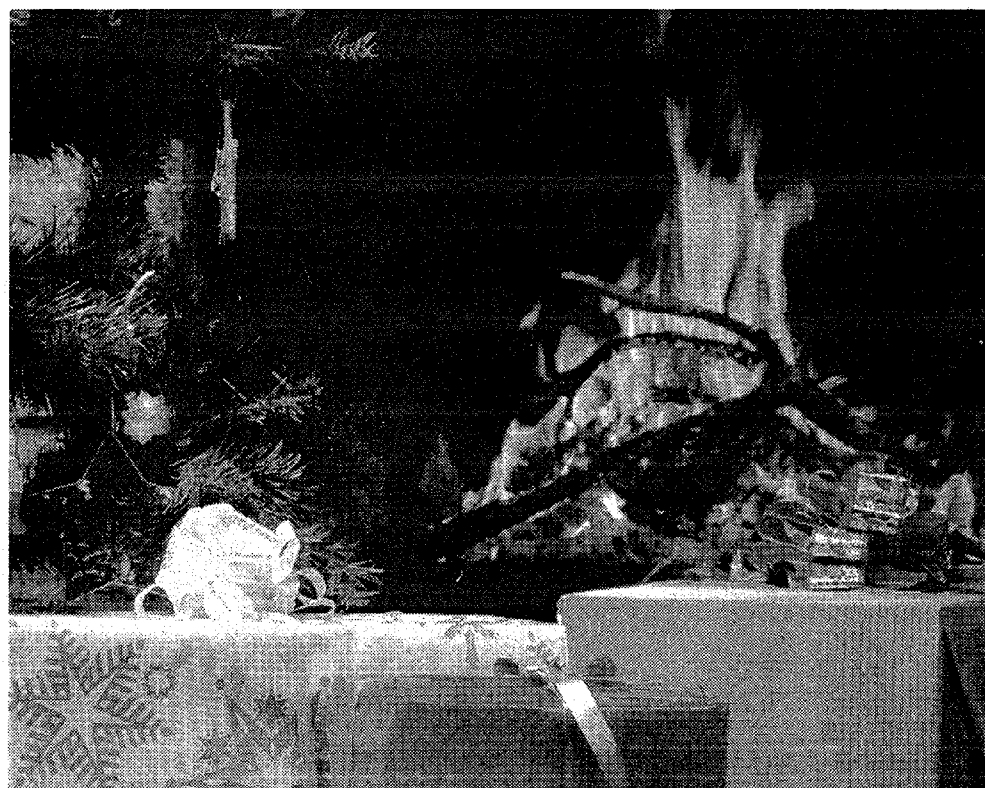
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# Chamber accepting Hall of Fame nominations

The Plymouth Evening Kiwanis Club and the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce are accepting nominations for the Plymouth Community Hall of Fame. More than 100 community support-

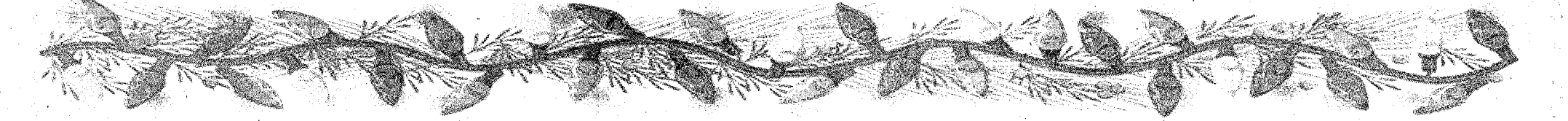
ers attended the April 2007 Hall of Fame Banquet inducting Don Massey, Margaret Slezak and Robert Thompson. The program was first started in 1980 and has elected 40 people. To be eligible, a candidate must have

been a resident of the Plymouth community for at least 10 years, be at least 30 years old and made a recognizable contribution to the community in terms of time and effort in the building or rebuilding

of the well-being of the community. The deadline for nominations is Dec. 31. Background information to support each nomination is helpful. Nominations are being accepted by the Plymouth Community Chamber

of Commerce, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 48170. The Plymouth Wall of Fame is presently located at the Cultural Center showing the 40 prominent Plymouth Hall of Famers.

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## FORECLOSURE

FROM PAGE A1

just over 42,000 to a projected 83,000 foreclosures by the end of 2007. The foreclosure rate in Detroit is the highest in the nation.

"In the past, we would come across a foreclosure here and there in some markets," said John McArdle, who is in his 20th year at Remerica Hometown One in Plymouth. "In the last 24 months there's been a significant increase in the number of homes that are in some sort of foreclosure process."

The four-bedroom home at 525 Byron is one of about a dozen listed in Plymouth as a mortgage-foreclosed property. There are about twice that many in Plymouth Township.

"This is the worst I've seen it," Plymouth Township Treasurer Ron Edwards said of the number of mortgage foreclosures. "Unofficially, we'll see about a 4-percent decline in property tax values, which will mean a decline in revenue for 2009 of about \$300,000."

Mark Christiansen, the finance director for Plymouth, said despite the foreclosures, he's not predicting much impact on the city's budget.

"I'm expecting there will be some decrease in property tax revenue, but I don't think it will be huge," Christiansen said.

The biggest impact of the mortgage foreclosure epidemic in Michigan is mainly the result of adjustable rate mortgages that are moving upward and increasing mortgage payments for homeowners who can't afford them.

When adjustable-rate mortgages were the talk-of-the-town, many homeowners were able to purchase high-priced homes with little - if any - down payment, many times securing a mortgage worth more than the property. With home values falling, many people find themselves owing

much more money than their homes will sell for, with no equity in the property to back them up.

"I believe that most good Realtors and brokers who were counseling their clients on the 100-percent mortgages and lowest starting interest rate possible expected a steady housing market," McArdle added. "Realtors didn't see this type of loss by the marketplace. If we saw it coming, we would have advised clients differently."

Marshall Mandell, of ReMax Classic in Farmington Hills, who specializes in foreclosed homes, including 717 McKinley Street in Plymouth, disagrees. Mandell said he saw the current housing problems coming years ago.

"I could see what was going with adjustable rate mortgages, with the people who were giving the loans and those who were getting them," Mandell said. "If they keep writing 100-percent loans, it's going to cause a problem eventually. People were banking on home prices going up, and that if you got into trouble you could always sell your home."

"I put a lot of blame on the mortgage companies," he said. "These were highly leveraged investments that went bad."

In response to the crisis, President Bush has proposed freezing the interest rates of some mortgages that fit certain criteria.

Last week the state House passed legislation that would allow qualified borrowers to refinance their homes into secure, fixed-rate loan products through the Michigan State Housing Finance Agency. The legislation is currently before the state Senate.

Following legislative approval, the "Save the Dream" initiative will help qualified borrowers refinance their homes into secure, fixed-rate loan products in order to avoid foreclosure.

McArdle said it's unlikely banks will go back to requir-

ing down payments of 10-20 percent to purchase a home; however, the days of no documentation, or "no doc," loans are probably over.

"What we will return to is looking at a person who is employed and has decent credit," McArdle said. "HUD and FHA will continue to promote home ownership for first-time buyers. The fixed-rate mortgage will rule the day for a while."

Karen Camilleri of Century 21 Row in Livonia, who is attempting to sell 525 Byron for a bank, said the 1,700-square-foot home with four bedrooms, a great room and lower-level family room with fireplace, is big competition for homeowners attempting to sell.

Camilleri said in a different market, the home would sell for about \$210,000. And, despite the fact the previous owners owed \$200,000, the out-of-town bank has it on the market for \$178,500.

"Oftentimes the bank accepts a price based on how long the previous owner lived there and how much money they've already made on the asset," said Camilleri, who is attempting to sell 40 foreclosed homes for the same bank. "Banks structure price adjustments to try and get rid of properties. They don't want inventory."

And, added Camilleri, many of the foreclosed homes are in move-in condition.

"Sellers are getting beat up trying to compete with the lower prices," she said. "It's tough to have a bank-owned property as your competitor."

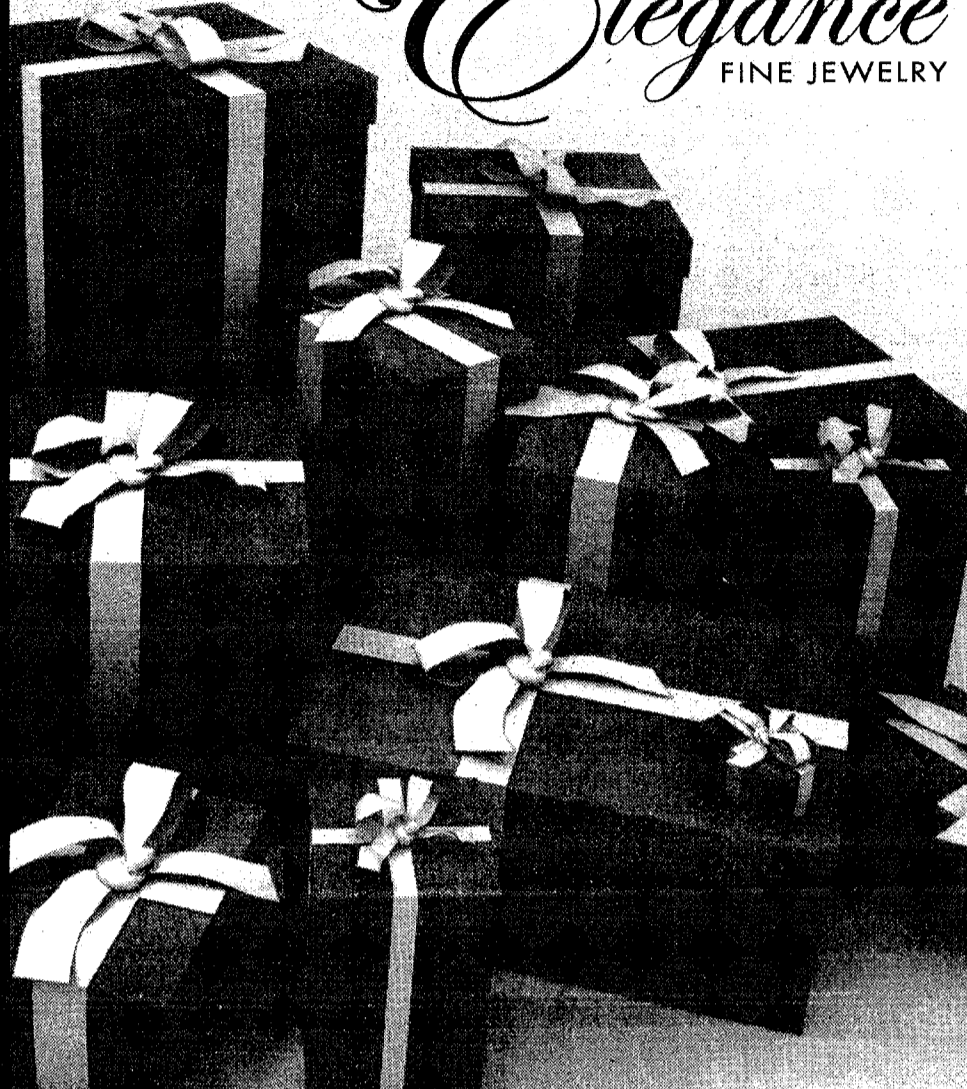
Meanwhile, Mike Stacey - who has lived a few doors down from the foreclosed property since 1980 - said he doesn't believe the vacant house is affecting the price of his home.

"The whole state is like this, it's the ups and downs of the economy," Stacey said. "It's a part of life."

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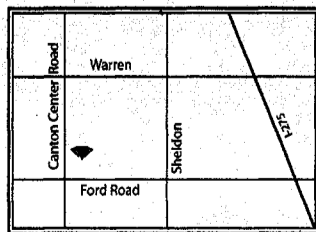
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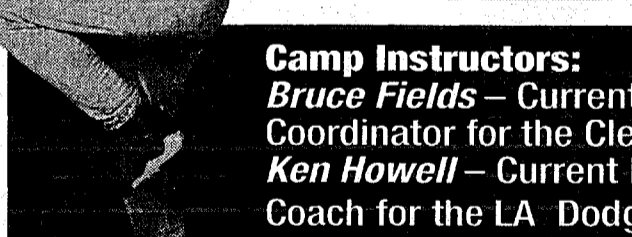
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# PUPs dazzle with winter production

Plymouth Uptown Players, the children's theatre group of the Plymouth Community Arts Council, presented its winter production at the Livonia Public Library auditorium.

Fifty-five children ranging in age from 5-13 entertained nearly 700 people over the weekend, each show with almost a full-house capacity. The production was themed "Magical Adventures" this season and combined three ever-popular yet entertaining adaptations of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, The Wizard of Oz and Peter Pan. The event was a culmination of an 11-week fall season program.

PCAC's PUPS program was completely re-structured and redesigned this. "Our offering was good in the past, but we wanted to grow the program and make it better, so that one day it can become the best in the area," said PCAC Executive Director Paula Gangopadhyay. "Three major changes were brought in strategically and by design."

Firstly, Gangopadhyay explained, the PCAC hired two associate theatre directors, who are college graduates with degrees in theatre, film, and fine arts. Jaclyn Morrow and Lisa Gibson were hired in September and bring in years of technical theatre experience. Morrow, apart from directing, also has a fine arts background and drew the basic design for the sets used in the plays. She is also a choreographer and dancer.

The PCAC forged a new partnership with Eastern Michigan University's Children's Theatre department and Professor Patricia Zimmer, along with noted actress Gillian Eaton, will be advising PCAC's theatre direc-



Plymouth Uptown Players, the children's theatre group of the Plymouth Community Arts Council, presented its winter production at a packed Livonia Public Library auditorium.

tors, Gangopadhyay said. Secondly, the performances were combined under an umbrella theme so that all 55 children performed in three casts but brought forth the dynamism of a single-themed production. In the past, Gangopadhyay explained, PUPS participants have performed separately in individual casts for smaller audiences.

"Lastly I took the major decision of having the performance at an off-site location this season that had a formal stage, lights, curtain as we wanted to give our children the best venue to showcase their potential," Gangopadhyay said. "We brought in high quality sound system and attempted to make the presentation professional."

"Our daughter has been performing for several years and this was simply the best by far," said Brian and Angela Hill, whose daughter was in the production. "The costumes, make-up, sets, sound, music, and the venue. It was just great. I hope this format continues."

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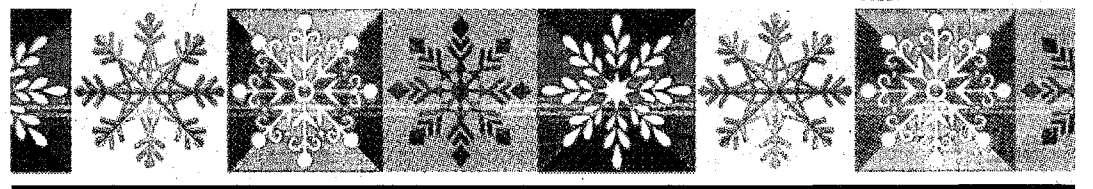
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## OUR VIEWS

# Board missed chance to bolster elections

It's good the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education decided to move its elections and saved themselves \$50,000 a year in election costs.

What's too bad is they had a chance to save twice that and passed on the opportunity.

The board voted this week to move their elections to an odd-year-May cycle, starting in November 2009. That will drop the cost of elections to \$25,000 per election, using Schoolcraft College as a partner.

Here's the rub: The district could have saved all election costs by moving to an even-year-November schedule, when other elections (state and national) are held, a move that would have saved the district \$100,000 most years.

The arguments against moving the elections to November don't seem strong to us. The idea that voters will be ballot-weary in years where there are many races and other issues seems to place little trust in voters being interested in doing what they come to the voting booth to do.

Likewise, the idea a November election opens the race to more influence by political parties seems naive. If political parties are going to get involved in a school board race, they can do it in May just as easily as they can in November.

In one respect, moving to odd-year-May elections makes it even easier for a particular faction to gain control of the school board. Under the current system, only two seats are up for grabs most years (every fourth year there's only one). Under the new system, four seats will be open in one election, three in the next, making it easier for a political party to run a "slate" of candidates in an attempt to control the board in one fell swoop.

Another effect of this move is the way it affects voter participation. Historically, far more voters turn out for November elections than they do for off-month elections. You could argue voters are just as welcome at the polls in May as they are in November, and therefore it isn't the cycle that causes voter apathy, it's the voters themselves.

But that's a weak argument. History shows more people turn out when more is at stake. The district shouldn't discount that fact in making this decision.

Board President Judy Mardigian is right when she says the district will have to revisit the issue. State officials are rethinking the options for elections. When they do, they'll have to figure out how to save the most money and get the most people involved.

We'd like to think they'll choose the option that gives them the best of both worlds.

## Reduced opportunities

The PCCS school board voted Tuesday to reduce the opportunity for citizens to participate in the board electoral process.

Everything was legal and met the letter of the law Tuesday night, but how many citizens had any idea that there was going to be a vote this week on changing school board elections to odd years in May? Citizens' opportunities to effect change in this district have been cut in half. The annual 10 percent turnout will now move to biannual 10 percent turnout. How does this increase public participation in the schools?

The board orchestrated it well to get only one public comment regarding odd-year May elections. No press release was issued regarding the public hearing. No notice was posted on the Web site about the hearing and asking for input.

If it wasn't for one letter to the editor, there would have been no comments anywhere that the board was favoring odd-year elections in May. The local papers did not publish this aspect of the story. Commentary so far has been regarding the current annual May elections vs. a November election.

I'm sure the meeting notice was posted properly according to the Open Meetings Act. I have too much respect for Dr. Ryan to ever suggest otherwise. The usual practice of posting the agenda on the district Web site on Monday did not happen. It was posted after 6 p.m. Tuesday for the 7 p.m. meeting. This was ironic considering the agenda included an update on the Web site.

The board had the option to have the public hearing this week and come back before the end of the month for a vote; but instead rushed through adding an action item to the agenda and voting, making sure that public commentary would not slow them down.

Kudos to Tom Wysocki for being the lone dissenting vote against conducting the vote and changing to odd years in May.

Larry Martin  
Plymouth Township

## Smoking policy concern

I'm concerned about smoking policies in restaurants in Michigan. I do not believe that smoking should be permitted in restaurants at all. There are a few restaurants in our area that do not allow smoking anywhere in the facility, but most have smoking and non-smoking sections.

I think if you are in the nonsmoking section you still can smell and be affected by the smoke. Some restaurants barely even divide the two areas. Often the smoking section is

## LETTERS

placed around the bar and in some restaurants the bar is in the middle of the building, which just causes the smoke to blow around the entire restaurant.

Some people are severely allergic to smoke, and cannot go into restaurants that allow smoking. I believe that is completely unfair. People should not have to avoid a certain restaurant because it could cause them health problems.

Second-hand smoke increases adult death rates by 15 percent. No one should have to put their health at risk in order to go out to eat at their favorite restaurants. Second-hand smoke kills approximately 62,000 nonsmokers each year in the United States. By not allowing smoking in restaurants, America could lower the death rates of our citizens by the thousands.

Michigan is one of only seven states that do not have any restrictions on smoking in restaurants in place. Over half of the states in the U.S. have complete bans on smoking in restaurants; many more states have one or more cities that have passed city wide bans on smoking in restaurants and other public places. On Dec. 6 this year the Michigan House of Representatives passed a ban on smoking in the workplace including bars and restaurants, now this must be voted on in the Senate. I hope our senators will vote in favor of this legislation.

Casey Chamberlain

Plymouth  
sophomore, Salem High School

## A historic view

Ask your average citizen who this country's greatest president was and you're likely to get a variety of responses — George Washington, John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, Franklin Roosevelt. However, the name Abraham Lincoln will probably be quoted more than any other.

Fast-forward to the year 2007. "No president has carried the power of presidential edict and executive order independently of Congress so far as he did ... It would not be easy to state what (he) conceived to be the limit of his powers."

Yet hold on. This quote is from historian James G. Randall and is attributed to Abraham Lincoln, not George W. Bush. While Lincoln is regarded by most historians to be this nation's greatest president, you wouldn't have known it during his term in office. Lincoln was elected with only 39 percent of the popular vote (the lowest in U.S. history). Under Lincoln's leadership, he suspended the writ of habeas corpus throughout the nation establishing military tribunals

for terrorists; assumed the power to close newspapers (and in fact closed hundreds of them in the North which criticized his policies); and arrested elected officials, including former members of Congress, who opposed him.

It wasn't pretty. Over time, history has smoothed out the ugly wrinkles of Lincoln's decisions because the Union was ultimately saved and the issue of abolishing slavery came to the forefront. The real fact is that war is hell and it forces those in power to make unpopular decisions.

I am sure the decision to drop atomic bombs on civilian populations would be viewed differently by U.S. citizens had we been Japanese citizens. But then it helped end the war, did it not? Unpopular, arguably immoral and wretched, but someone had to step up and make that unpopular call.

So do we give everyone a free pass for their decisions during war? No, we don't. I am happy that we still have a free press (yet even that is debatable by both sides). This war, this fight, this conflict, whatever you choose to call it, is like nothing else history has ever seen. Have been mistakes been made? Yes. I guess history will ultimately tell how this all plays out, won't it?

Until then, no matter how much some decisions may irk me, I remind myself that we are not dealing with a benevolent enemy, but one who has the ability to kill more U.S. citizens in one deadly terrorist attack than all the lives lost over four years of bloody Civil War. Times have a changed indeed and now is no time for the meek of heart.

Brian Hill  
Plymouth

## Don't buy toys from China

In Linda Chomin's article about the toy recalls from China because of the lead content she discussed ways to protect kids from these toys. All of the suggestions were good, and she even included calling your senators, "... call their U.S. senators and representatives and tell them the Consumer Protection Product Safety Commission needs more funding and staff to protect our children better ..."

But what about calling them and asking them to stop buying toys from China? Even with more funding, people are capable of making mistakes. The best way is to get toys made in some other country that had not as many recalls as China toy companies have had. While it may not be cheap, can you really put a price on children's safety?

Katrina Czajkowski

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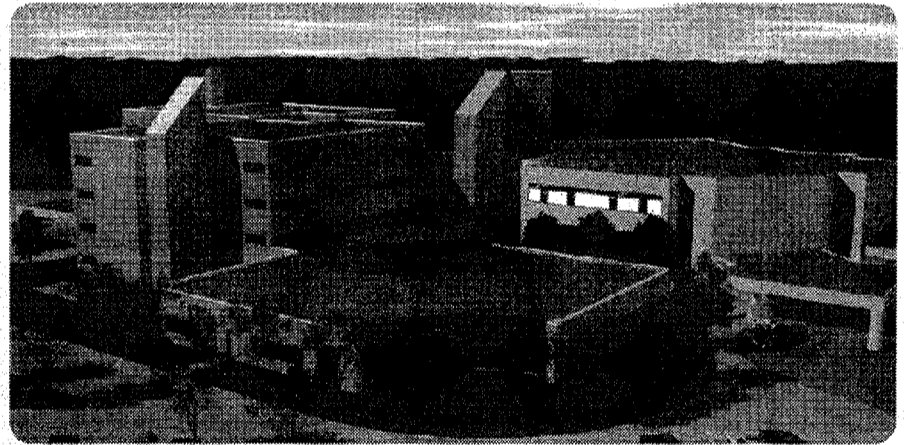
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# Fee-only financial advisers avoid conflicts of interest

**Dear Rick: I was approached by a financial adviser. He told me that I pay nothing for his services and that he is paid by the different mutual funds to help people like me. I am somewhat suspicious. Should I be?**

Your instincts are correct and you have every right to be suspicious. You were really dealing with a financial salesperson not a financial adviser.

All too often, financial salespeople who work on commission do not want to disclose how they are compensated. Mutual funds and other investment companies make it easy for them to hide what the consumer is paying. It appears the person who you are dealing with is a commission-based salesperson. When you invest in one of the mutual funds that he/she is selling, the money comes off the top and goes directly to the salesperson.

When you purchase a commissioned mutual fund, there are two components of the investment, the commission and the amount actually going into the investment. For example, if you invest \$10,000 in a 7 percent commission (loaded) mutual fund, \$700 goes to the salesperson and only \$9,300 of your money is actually invested.

In addition, some mutual funds have 12b-1 fees, additional sales charges assessed on a year-by-year basis through higher management fees. Money comes out of your account in the form of higher management fees and goes directly to the salesperson as additional compensation.

My problem with commissions and 12b-1 fees is they are typically very difficult for the individual consumer to know what they are paying. The mutual fund companies and the financial salespeople do their best to hide these fees from you.

Anyone who has listened to my radio show or read my columns over the years knows I am not a fan of commissions. I believe commissions create a conflict of interest. After all, why do you think companies that work on commissions such as mutual fund companies and variable annuities offer their salespersons sales incentives such as free trips to sell their products? Obviously, they want the salesperson to concentrate on the sale not on proper planning for the individual.

As far as I am concerned, when someone deals with someone in the financial world, they shouldn't be dealing with a salesperson. They shouldn't be dealing with someone whose loyalty is to the investment company instead of to the client.

Over the years, I have seen many commissioned people in the financial world. Unfortunately, all too often



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

whether it is because of pressure from employers or a lack of understanding, they are only concerned about selling products.

On the other hand, there are commissioned salespeople

who are up front about commissions and have no problem informing the client how they are compensated. The best commissioned salespeople I know of never worry about commissions. They worry only about taking care of their clients.

Unfortunately, there are too few good commissioned financial advisers.

My firm employees and I recommend fee-only advisers who charge for their services and make no compensation from any product they recommend. When advisers are not burdened by conflicts of interest that commissions create, they can operate for the benefit of the most important person — the client.

**Rick Bloom** is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [moneymatters@hometownlife.com](mailto:moneymatters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit Rick's Web site at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). You can hear him noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK 1400 AM.

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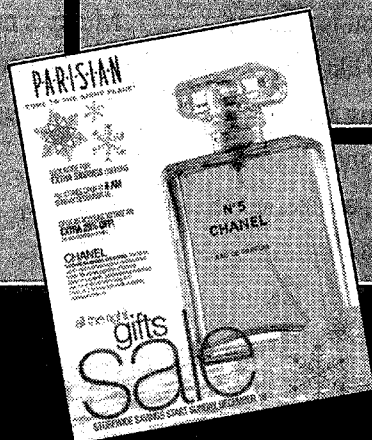
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# SPORTS

## Robinson's clutch shot sinks Rocks

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth junior guard Kelsi Robinson found herself between a Rock and a hard place in the closing seconds of Friday night's cross-campus showdown at Salem.

With her team trailing 56-55, the clock ticking dangerously close to 0:00 and the Rocks' Sara Stone playing textbook in-your-face defense against her, Robinson nailed an incredible 13-foot, up-and-under, falling-down jumper with seven seconds left to put the Wildcats up 57-56.

After Salem's desperation, length-of-the-court shot fell way short as the Wildcats celebrated one of the school's most memorable wins with a joyful group hug just in front of their bench.

The final result of the highly entertaining game left Plymouth with a 3-3 mark while the Rocks slipped to 4-1.

Glory and accolades were the last things on Robinson's mind as she watched the ball squeeze through the bottom of the net on her game-winning effort.

No, she had far more important things to think about.

"My first reaction was, 'I have to get up, get down the court and play some defense,'" a smiling Robinson said a few moments after her thrilling game-winner. "There was still some time left and I didn't want them to score on their last possession."

Robinson improvised slightly when she secured the pass that led to her late-game heroics.

"At first I was going to try to drive to the basket and try to get a layup, but (Stone) came too close to me so I had to go under her for a shot."

"It's so exciting to beat Salem. Our locker room was pretty loud just now. We beat them once last year, but this is a lot

more exciting because their record was way better than ours and everybody at school was expecting them to win."

Plymouth coach Richelle Reilly said the ball was in the right player's hands with the clock winding down.

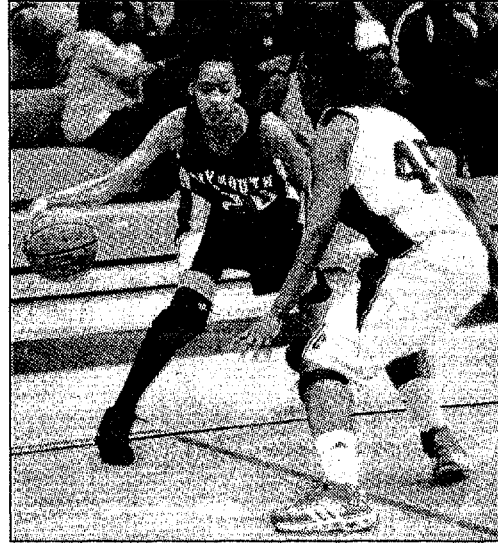
"Kelsi has a great understanding of the moment," said Reilly. "She's aggressive and she's one of those players who likes to take the big shot. She knew we needed a basket and she was going to do whatever it took to get one."

"I still don't know how she made it. She was falling down, the Salem player played great defense. It was unbelievable."

While Robinson sealed the victory, it was junior Shaakira Haywood who put the Wildcats in a position to win. The 6-foot-2 post player netted a career-best 24 points and grabbed 10 rebounds.

Salem junior forward Chelsea Davis

Please see **HOOPS, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Kelsi Robinson, pictured above with the ball during a game earlier this season, was the hero in the Wildcats' last-second win over Salem Friday night.

## Sidelines

### MU softball camp

Madonna University softball coach Al White is hosting a hitting camp 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, Dec. 22.

He also wants prospective participants to sign up for Madonna's softball fundamentals camp, of which there will be two sessions. The first is 9-11:30 a.m. on Saturdays beginning Jan. 5 through Jan. 26; the second is set for 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sundays beginning Jan. 13 through Feb. 3.

The fundamentals camp sessions will focus on all aspects of fast-pitch softball, White said.

For more information, call White (734-432-5783).

### Observer grid team coming Dec. 27

The 2007 All-Observer football team will be unveiled in the Thursday, Dec. 27 edition of the Observer. Keep an eye out for it.

### Baseball camp

Precision Baseball in Canton will be holding a "Holiday Baseball Camp" Dec. 26-28 from 9 a.m. to noon each day.

The camp, which will be run by Wayne State University head baseball coach Jay Alexander, will focus on fundamental instruction in hitting, pitching, fielding, catching, base-running, injury prevention and strength-and-conditioning.

Campers will receive a Precision Baseball skills camp T-shirt.

For more information, call (734) 459-5921

### HVS offerings

High Velocity Sports in Canton will be offering a multitude of events this winter, including the usual soccer, flag football and dodge ball Winter 2 session that is slated for Jan. 2-Feb. 29. For more information on these offerings, visit [www.hvsports.com](http://www.hvsports.com) or call (734) HV-SPORT. The deadline for registering is Dec. 16.

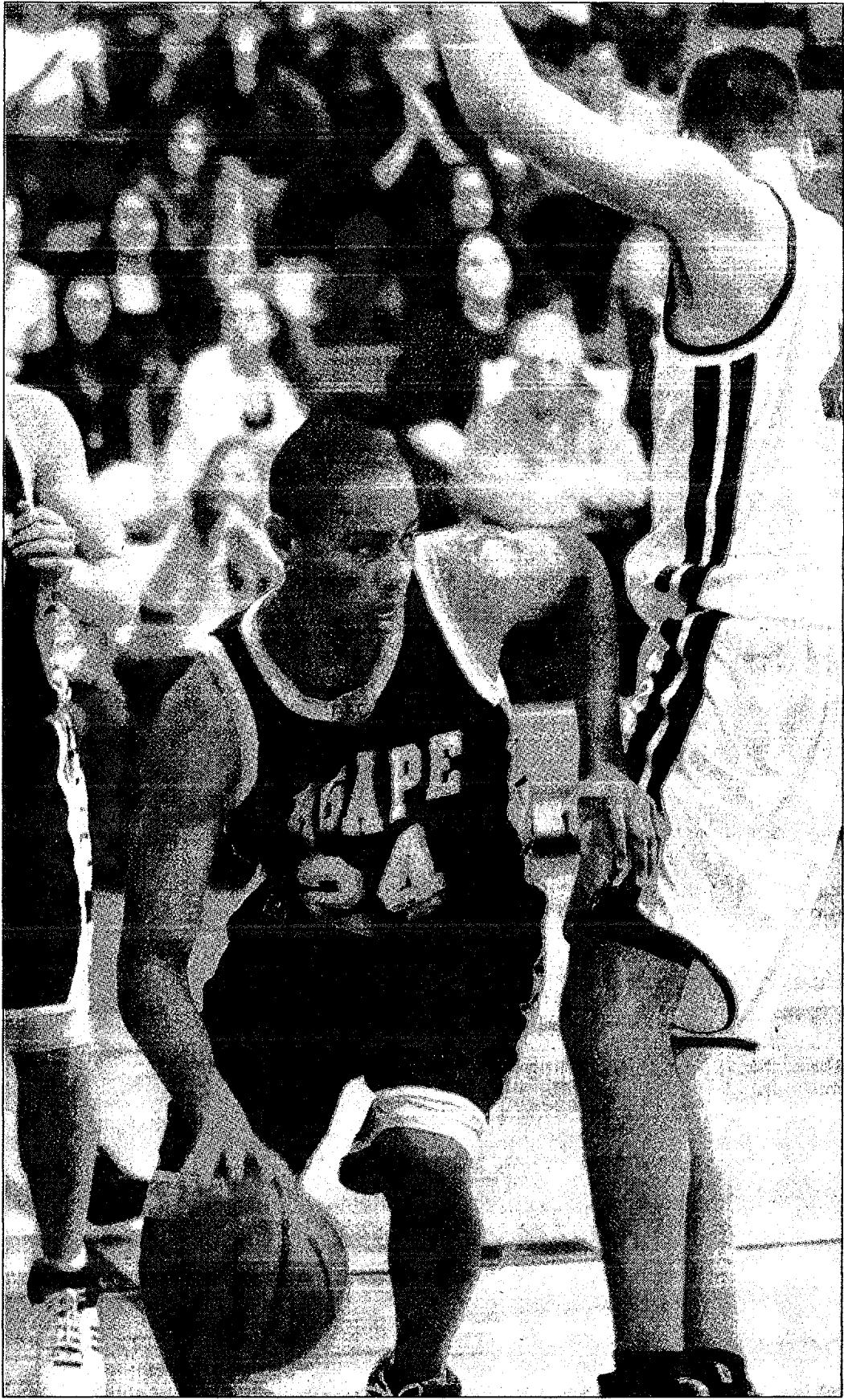
HVS will also host a winter break sports all-sport camp from Dec. 20 to Jan. 4. The half-day price (8 a.m. to noon; or 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.) is \$25 per day while the full-day cost (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.) is \$45 per day. A soccer camp run by Detroit Ignition players will also be available from 1-4 p.m. for \$25. Participants must pre-register for the camps; no walk-ups will be allowed.

Among the new programs offered at HVS is a soccer clinic called "Lil' Kickers," which is part of a nationwide contingent with classes for children 18 months through 9 years of age.

The classes start in January and are \$12.50 for each class. Those who sign up for a full season of eight classes will receive a free uniform (soccer shirts and jersey).

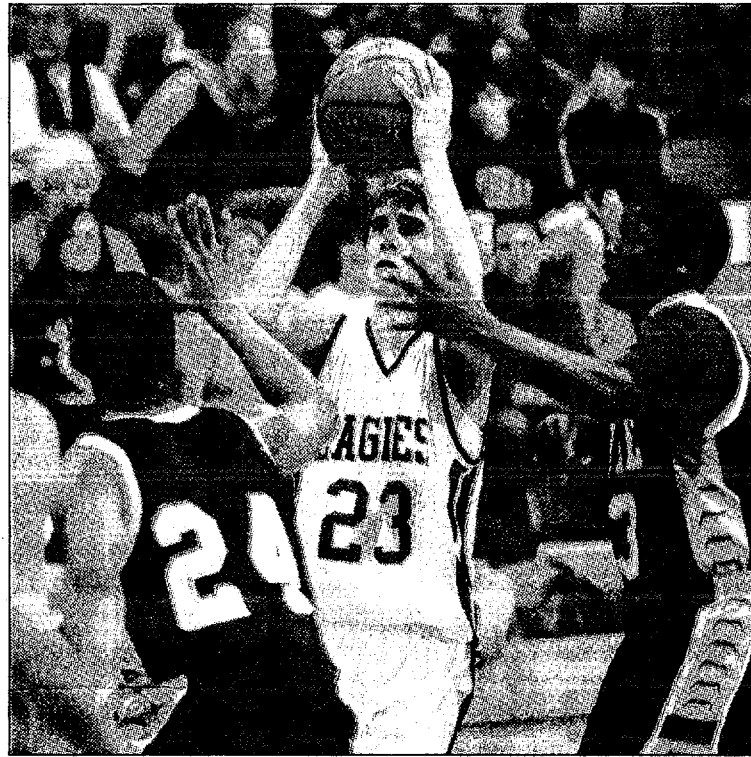
The program will be run by certified instructors Christie Rife and Amy Callahan. For more information, call (734) HV-SPORT.

## CROSSTOWN SHOWDOWN: Agape vs. PCA



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton Agape senior forward Joel Ruffin drives to the basket past Plymouth Christian Academy's Reid Barber during Friday night's game at PCA. Ruffin tallied nine points and 19 rebounds in the Wolverines' 63-42 victory.



Plymouth Christian Academy's Spencer Wiard pulls up for a jumper over Agape's Joel Ruffin during Friday night's MIAC cross-over game at PCA.

## ALL SENIORS, ALL THE TIME

Experienced Wolverines clip Eagles

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

Every night is "Senior Night" for Canton Agape Christian's boys basketball team.

Amazingly, all nine players on the Wolverines' varsity roster are seniors — and all nine played like it Friday night in their resounding 63-42 road victory against Plymouth Christian Academy.

Led by an incredibly balanced attack, the experience-abundant Wolverines evened their record at 2-2 in front of a near-sellout crowd that displayed a rousing level of enthusiasm from the opening tip to the final buzzer.

Agape's quarter scores mirrored its consistent play on Friday night: 15, 17, 16, 15.

Ty Majeski paced the winners with 15 points, one more than teammate Kevin Reith. Joel Ruffin (nine points, 19 rebounds), Mark Mullett (eight points) and Jared Miller (seven points, 10 boards) also made major contributions to the Wolverines' second straight triumph.

The brothers Zinn — senior Trevor and junior Brent — both tallied 12 points for the Eagles, who also got an eight-point, five-rebound night from senior Reid Barber.

"I thought we were very good defensively tonight," said Agape coach Keith Anleitner. "Most of the shots PCA took were contested."

Please see **SHOWDOWN, B3**

## PCA lady cagers soar over Agape

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

### GIRLS HOOPS

In the third year of head coach Carol Gerulis's tenure, the Plymouth Christian Academy girls basketball team is starting to play on the same page.

The way the Eagles have performed in their first six games, the 2007-08 season may be a best-seller.

PCA improved to 5-1 on Friday with a 56-30 victory over visiting Canton Agape Christian. The setback dropped the Wolverines to 2-1.

"We rebounded the ball well and did a good job of getting the

ball up the court quickly," said Gerulis. "We still missed too many layups early in the game, but overall I thought we played well."

"This is my third year here, so the kids are starting to figure it out what we're trying to do. Everybody's on the same page and reading from the same book."

Senior guard Meghan Polera sparked the winners' fast-breaking offensive attack with 14 points.

Junior Autumn McKenzie

added 11 points and Megan Greve chipped in with 10.

Two of the Wolverines' six players — sophomore Brooke Purcell and eighth-grader Ayanna Martin — shared the scoring lead with 13 points each.

PCA led 10-7 after one quarter before extending its advantage to 25-12 at the intermission. Agape cut its deficit slightly to 34-22 after three quarters before the Eagles exploded for 22 fourth-quarter points.

The Eagles drained 10-of-17 free throws while Agape hit 6-of-10 shots from the stripe.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Christian Academy's Brooke Williams drives to the basket past Agape's Folake Oloju during Friday night's 56-30 PCA victory.

**HOOPS**

FROM PAGE B1

—Robinson's cousin — matched Haywood's production by compiling 20 points and 13 rebounds before fouling out with 12.7 seconds left. Davis was a force in the second half despite playing with three or four fouls throughout the final 16 minutes. "I thought Chelsea played very well tonight," said Salem coach Fred Thomann. "She is really coming along. Mitch (senior guard Alaya Mitchell) had a good game, too. "Overall, it was a hard-fought game. We had moments when we really played well, but then we had some breakdowns, too. They made one more play than we did — that's the bottom line." The Rocks carried a 26-24 advantage into the half thanks to Rachel Norman's three-pointer from just beyond the top of the key with 0:01 showing on the clock. The contest was deadlocked at 38-all after three quarters. Plymouth appeared to gain some breathing room with 1:40 to play when a nice inside move

by Haywood gave the 'Cats a 53-50 advantage. However, Mitchell calmly stroked a triple from the top of the key with 1:25 left to knot the game at 53-all. Following a missed Plymouth shot, Salem grabbed a 55-53 lead with 42 seconds left when a cutting Victoria Brotz snared a slick pass from Davis and converted a layup. Robinson swished two free throws 10 seconds later to make it 55-all. Salem's final lead — 56-55 — came with 21 seconds to go when Davis made 1-of-2 free throws. Reilly called a timeout with 18 ticks left to set up the final play. "I was supposed to cut toward the free-throw line, but I went the opposite way toward the baseline," Robinson explained. "Everything just fell together after that." Mitchell finished with 19 points for the Rocks, who also received six points and 10 boards from Stone. Plymouth shot well from the field, connecting on 25-of-48 attempts (52 percent). The Wildcats converted 6-of-10 free

throws. Salem drained 25-of-64 field goals (39 percent), but struggled from the charity stripe, making just 4-of-13. The Rocks return to action Tuesday when they travel across the parking lot to face Canton. The opening tip is set for 7 p.m. Plymouth is set to host Walled Lake Central on Tuesday at 7 p.m. **W.L. NORTHERN 24, CANTON 23:** On Friday at Northern, the Knights' Whitney-Tower Woods made two free throws with four seconds left to hand the Chiefs a heart-breaking setback. The loss dropped Canton to 1-4 while Northern improved to 4-0. "The kids played hard and competed," said Canton coach Brian Samulski. "We just couldn't make any shots, especially in the fourth quarter. You're not going to win many games when you score three points in the fourth." The Knights secured their final possession with 50 seconds left, but couldn't penetrate the Chiefs' defense. "We played great defense in the last minute," said Samulski. "They had to call two time outs — the first with 24 seconds left and the other with seven seconds left. Those two points were Tower-Woods' only two of the night. She's usually their leading scorer, so Leslie Weisz did a great job of defending her." Northern led 7-6 after one quarter before the Chiefs rebounded to grab a 14-11 half-time lead. Canton led 20-15 with eight minutes left before the Knights outscored it 9-3 down the stretch. Senior forward Baylee Hollowell paced the Chiefs with 11 points and 17 rebounds. Freshman Kayla Bridges also played well, netting seven points. Katie Hockstad led the winners with 11 points. Canton canned 7-of-11 free throws while Northern hit all six of theirs.

**Strong start lifts 'Cats to first win**

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

Following two good practices, Plymouth's boys basketball team proved to be too good for Milford Friday night. The Wildcats entered the win column for the first time this season when they stampered the Mavericks, 67-54, to improve to 1-3. Milford slipped to 2-1. "The bottom line is we had two of our best practices of the season on Wednesday and Thursday after getting whooped on Tuesday night," said Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner. "The boys worked hard and really bore down."

A pair of seniors led the winners: Brandon Roberts, who netted 22 points and six rebounds; and Garrett Rebain, who had a career-high 20 points to go along with his six boards. In his first career start, Rebain hit one triple and nailed 5-of-6 free throws. "Garrett's not real tall or real quick, but he works hard every second he's out there," said Van Wagoner. "I keep telling the kids that there's all kinds of playing time out there for the players who are willing to work hard. Garrett's proof of that."

Senior guards Navraj Sandhu (12 points and six rebounds) and Dan Jeong (eight points) also had a solid night for Plymouth. Jordan Kidd was the most-productive Maverick as he registered 12 points.

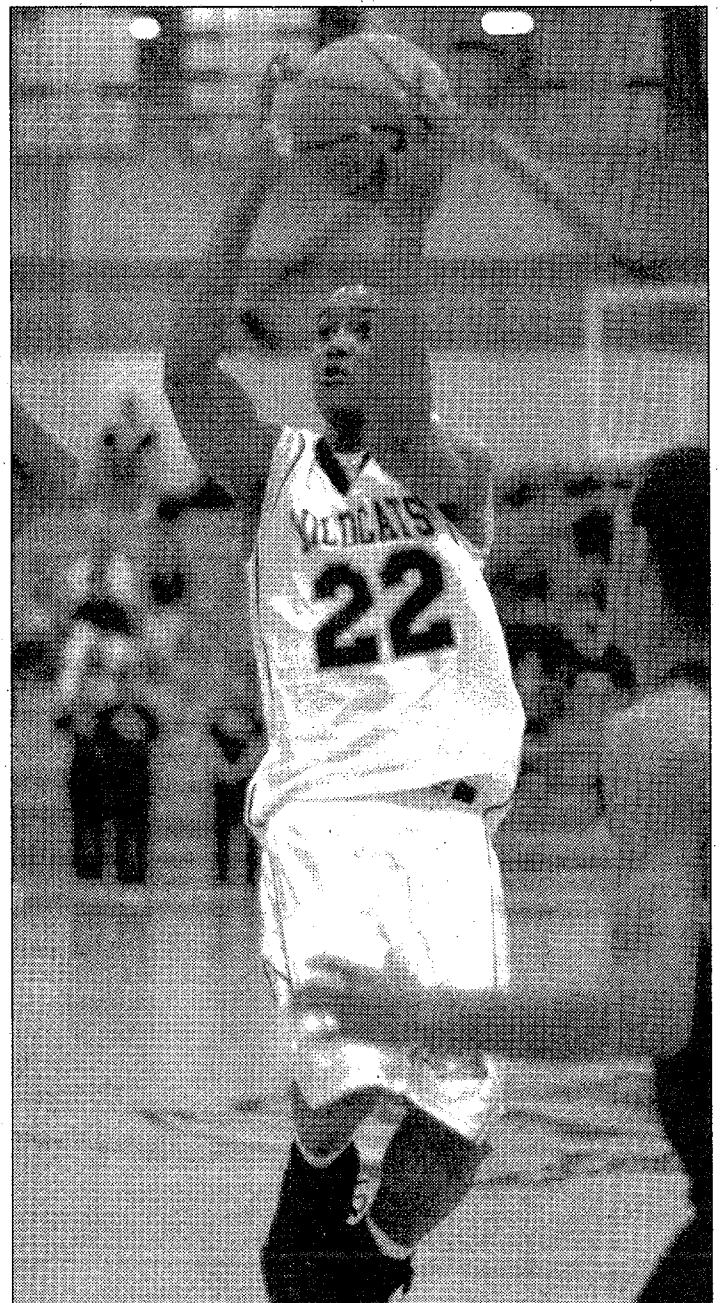
The Wildcats surged to a 14-5 first-quarter lead and 38-15 half-time advantage. Milford whittled its deficit to 50-30 with eight minutes to play before cutting the final margin to 13 with a barrage of on-target three-point missiles during garbage time.

"They hit some bombs at the end to make it close," said Van Wagoner.

The Wildcats nailed 16-of-23 free throws while Milford connected on just 6-of-19 from the stripe.

**SOUTH LYON 52, CANTON 41:** On Friday at Canton, the Lions overcame a 16-13 deficit after one quarter to post an impressive non-conference road win.

South Lyon improved to 4-0 with the triumph while the Chiefs slipped to 2-2. The Lions led 23-21 at the half and 53-29 with eight minutes to play. Neil Sharma paced Canton



Plymouth senior guard Brandon Roberts scored 22 points in the Wildcats' 67-54 victory over Milford Friday night.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**BOYS PREP HOOP**

with 11 points and seven rebounds. Chris Bailey added nine points and eight boards. Zach Short led the Lions with 13 points. Eric Wedesky chipped in with 12.

"We got off to a great start with 16 first-quarter points," said Canton coach Dan Colligan. "We had a seven-point lead at one point. But we couldn't really get a good run out offensively after the first quarter."

"South Lyon is a very good basketball team. They play extremely

hard and they're well-coached. They took away what we do best — drive the ball."

South Lyon extended its lead to 10 early in the fourth quarter with back-to-back triples. Undaunted, the Chiefs responded with a pair of threes of their own from Kyle Biega and Sharma to get to within four. However, that was as close as they would get.

Canton shined at the free throw line, canning 7-of-8. South Lyon connected on 8-of-13 from the stripe.

The Chiefs travel to Salem to take on the Rocks Tuesday at 7 p.m.

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ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG)  
12:15, 2:45, 4:55, 7:05, 9:15  
FRI/SAT LS 11:25

I AM LEGEND (PG-13)  
11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30  
FRI/SAT LS 12:00

HITMAN (R) 5:30, 7:40, 9:50  
FRI/SAT LS 11:55

DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG-13)  
5:15, 7:25, 9:35 FRI/SAT LS 11:45

THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13)  
11:40, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

ENCHANTED (PG)  
11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:40, 9:40  
FRI/SAT LS 11:20

THE MIST (R) 9:40 PM

MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM  
(G) 11:00, 1:10, 3:20

FRED CLAU (PG) 11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50

BEE MOVIE (PG) 11:00, 1:05, 3:10

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# Ignition bites Sharks, 22-6

## SHOWDOWN

FROM PAGE B1

"Offensively, the key to our success was getting the ball inside to our big people. We worked the ball inside-out, which springboarded our offense into other types of plays."

Anleitner was especially impressed by the play of Ruffin, who missed a double-double by just one point and a 20-rebound night by just one carom. The senior forward probably would have had both had he not missed a large chunk of the second half after losing a contact lens.

"Joel's only about 6-1, but

he plays much bigger than that," said Anleitner. "He has long arms and he can get up. I thought he had an exceptional game tonight."

Anleitner said the key to beating the Eagles is slowing down Trevor and Brent Zinn, who entered Friday's game with scoring averages of 20 and 18 points, respectively.

"You have to stop the Zinns if you want to beat Plymouth Christian," said Anleitner. "They're both very good ball players who can take it to the hole. We did a good job of stopping their penetration tonight."

Agape led 15-12 after one quarter and 32-21 at the half.

The Zinn-led Eagles put together a mini-rally early in the third quarter when they cut their deficit to 35-27 thanks to a Brent Zinn free throw and jumper along with a deep triple from Trevor Zinn.

However, the Wolverines countered with an 8-1 spurt to pad their lead to 43-28. Terrell Pierce ignited the game-deciding run with a top-of-the-key three and

Majeski capped it with fast-break layup.

"There's only about 35 to 40 boys at the high school and nine of them are on the basketball team," said Anleitner. "What are the odds that they're all seniors? I've never had a team of all seniors in all the years I've coached."

"They're fun to coach not just because they're good, hard-working basketball players, but because they're all

good kids."

Agape hit 22-of-55 field goals (40 percent) and 15-of-27 free throws (55 percent).

The Eagles connected on just 12-of-52 field goals (23 percent) while swishing 17-of-29 freebies (58 percent).

The Wolverines committed 22 turnovers while the Eagles registered 20 miscues.

ewright@hometownlife.com  
(734) 953-2108

The victory improved the Ignition to 6-2 while the snake-bit Sharks slipped to 0-10.

The Ignition's assault started early as Worteh Sampson and Hewerton Moreira both scored two-point goals within the first minute of play. Midfielders Ryan Mack and Vahid Assadpour added two-point scores of their own to put the Ignition up 8-2 at the end of the period.

Defenders Dreo Callahan and Josh Rife scored four more points for Detroit in the second period to put the Ignition up 12-4 at halftime.

Moreira scored his 100th and 101st career points at 4:28 of the third quarter with a two-point score off an assist from defender Jonathan Greenfield. Two minutes later, Sampson scored the 25th goal of his Major Indoor Soccer League career to bring the score to 16-6.

Ignition midfielder Doug Rice closed out the quarter with a two-point goal off an assist from reigning MISL Most Valuable Player Jamar Beasley.

Moreira and Sampson would both finish the night with a hat trick, as each scored a two-point goal in the game's final stanza.

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## Experts offer tips on sailing through the season stress-free

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
 STAFF WRITER

It's no wonder Dr. Jackie Odom is seeing more patients under stress. All of the shopping, parties and family gatherings leave little time to sleep, eat properly and exercise. According to the Beaumont Hospital psychologist, healthy living is essential to balance the demands of the holidays.

"You have to look at the sources of stress, the increased commitments and responsibilities. The other big source of stress is financial. As much as you might want to give, there might be restrictions. People can't afford to give as they used to given the economy in Michigan. They're getting themselves into debt by buying more than they can afford," said Odom, a licensed marriage and family psychologist. "If there's family conflict they're having to confront that. Dealing with loss at a time when you're supposed to be happy creates stress. If you already have depression when you're supposed to be happy that creates a stress."

As director of psychology for Beaumont Weight Center, Odom helps patients reduce their intake of food and alcohol. That's especially difficult when holiday parties offer calorie-laden beverages and trays of goodies.

"Stress eating is the worst thing you can do," said Odom of Bloomfield Hills. "They need to identify the sources

of stress, the issue of loneliness for people who don't have families. The second step is to develop strategies to try to minimize stress. It's important to develop a support system, if not your family, make a family of choice. Surround yourself with friends who are caring, a church group, volunteer to serve at a soup kitchen, deliver gifts to a children's unit of a hospital, just wrap packages at a store to get yourself out."

### STRESS FACTOR

According to Odom, stress is related to 80 to 90 percent of illnesses.

"Stress decreases immune system functioning making us susceptible to colds, etc. There's a whole list of symptoms like headaches, pain syndromes, digestive problems that may be exasperated with stress," said Odom. "It also increases cholesterol, hypertension. Studies have shown that fat building up in the abdomen can be related to stress. The body is designed to deal with chronic stress as if there's a food shortage so a lot of this make sense."

Odom says it helps to raise spirits by focusing on what you have to be grateful for and writing it down.

"I suggest to patients during the holidays to look at the year that's just passed, look at the goals you've accomplished and what goals you still need to work on for 2008, all the different areas of your life. Look at trying to balance yourself as

## Holiday hassles



best as you can," said Odom, who is challenged by gift buying for her 9-year-old daughter's teachers and preparing to visit relatives in Florida with her daughter and husband.

"I exercise, walk a lot on an indoor track every day and eat healthfully," said Odom. "I enjoy spending time with my daughter. We have two puppies who I love walking and I enjoy helping the Michigan Humane Society to support

cancer research and trying to raise funds."

Sandra Finkel meditates early in her day and then again later in the evening. Throughout the year, she shares stress relieving techniques in prevention and rehabilitation classes for the cardiovascular medicine division at University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor.

"There are a lot of links between stress and heart

disease. The stress alone can increase risk factors," said Finkel, a stress management specialist and manager of stress management services at the University of Michigan Hospital. "The first thing is to recognize how much we increase our stress through our thoughts. We need to have more of an awareness that we're creating more stress by worrying, holding onto the past."

### WAYS TO COPE

Finkel suggests practicing techniques such as relaxation, deep breathing, meditation, journaling and imagery, and to eat more fruits, vegetables and whole grains, lean protein sources like legumes, and drink plenty of water. Finkel exercises during her lunch hour in the fitness center at work.

"Plan activities according to your values. That may mean saying no to going to the party you hate if you want more family time, more time to yourself," said Finkel, who celebrated Hanukkah with her husband's family in Chicago. Finkel works full time and is the mother of two children, ages 10 and 14. "And let whatever actually happens be fine. You make your plans but you have to let go and recognize what the reality is. Find aspects in every situation to savor and enjoy. Young children have this wonderment that we can adopt. There are a lot of strategies I teach people that don't actually take a whole lot of their time like breathing for five minutes with your eyes closed."

Finkel teaches a six-week stress management class beginning 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16. The cost is \$118.

Martha Kimball teaches beginning meditation 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays starting Jan. 23 for four weeks (\$82). For information about either class, call (734) 998-5679.

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### MEDICAL DATEBOOK

#### December

**Flu shot clinics**  
 University of Michigan Health System's Michigan Visiting Nurses offers flu clinics throughout the area in December. Flu shots \$33, pneumonia shots \$84. Clinics open to public, most limited to age 12 and older. Call 888-547-7295 or visit www.umvn.org.

**Flu shot clinics**  
 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at Livonia Urgent Care, 37595 Seven Mile, (734) 542-6100, and Western Wayne Urgent Care, 2050 Haggerty, Suite 140, Canton, (734) 259-0500. The cost is \$25, but covered for those with Medicare.

**Flu shots**  
 Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan is providing flu shots (\$25) and pneumonia shots (\$40) at Oakland and Wayne County locations. For weekly listings, call (800) 296-8660 or visit www.vna.org. Homebound service also available. \$40 service fee applies that is not covered by insurance. Must have a physician's prescription. Call (800) 882-5720, Ext. 8752.

**Holiday cards**  
 The American Lung Association of Michigan is selling holiday cards to support lung health research, education and advocacy. To see samples, visit www.buyholidaycards.com. For details, call (248) 784-2030 or (800) 543-5864.

#### UPCOMING

**CHADD meeting**  
 Children & Adults with Attention-Deficit Disorder meet Monday, Jan. 7, at Way Elementary on W. Long Lake Rd. east of Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills. Registration begins at 7 p.m. for the meeting from 7:30-9 p.m. The Parent Group will have Fran Parker PhD, Mary Jo Schuster and Kevin Roberts moderating a panel of college students who have been successful in college managing their AD/HD. This session is open for parents to bring teens or pre-teens. There will be a simultaneous Adult informal support group in a different room. Free to CHADD members, \$5 donation per non-member families. If school is closed due to inclement weather, the phone line at (248) 988-6716 will indicate if meeting is cancelled. The Web site is www.chadd.net/527.

**Fibromyalgia support**  
 The Metro Fibromyalgia and CFS

Support Group features speaker Dr. Michael Hsu 1-3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, at Merriman Road Baptist Church on 2055 Merriman, south of Ford road. Hsu, a clinical lecturer and research fellow in the department of physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Michigan, is part of Healing Through Affective Self-Awareness in Fibromyalgia, a randomized control trial with Providence internist Dr. Howard Schubiner. Donations are accepted. The group meets monthly on the second Thursday. For more information, call Lucy Rowley at (734) 462-1768.

**Joint replacement seminars**  
 To educate community about joint replacement options Thursday, Jan. 24, at the Center for Joint Replacement at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile at Levan, Livonia. No charge. To register or for information, call (734) 655-2400.

**CARE House of Oakland County**  
 Circle of Friends holds its annual fund-raising luncheon Tuesday, Jan. 29, begins at noon, preceded by a jewelry show from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. by designer Sharon Meyer, at The Townsend Hotel, Birmingham. A portion of proceeds will be donated to CARE House. Speaker is Naomi Griffith, a consultant on child welfare issues, a storyteller and author of Red Clay and Vinegar: Looking at Family Through the Eyes of a Southern Child. She uses humor and her own experiences to challenge and inspire audiences in business, education, juvenile justice, mental health, child abuse prevention and family violence systems. Circle of Friends patron level tickets are \$150, luncheon tickets \$75. Call (248) 332-7173.

#### ONGOING

**New parents support group**  
 Meets at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. For details, call (248) 858-7766.

**H.U.G.S. support group**  
 Help, Understanding and Grief Support Group and counseling for parents who have suffered a pregnancy or newborn loss, meet 7-9 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month, at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. For information, call (248) 937-4847. There is no pre-registration required.

**Hospice volunteers needed**  
 Looking for caring volunteers to pro-

vide in-home companionship visits to patients with life-limiting illnesses and/or respite support for their caregivers and families. Weekday availability preferred. St. John Hospice provides services in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair counties. Mileage reimbursement available. For information, call (800) 248-2298 or visit www.stjohn.org/Hospice.

**AA support group**  
 Alcoholics Anonymous and the Al-Anon (for family and friends) groups meet 10 a.m. every Sunday, at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. For information, call (248) 706-1020. No pre-registration required.

**Volunteer training**  
 Heartland Hospice Services is looking for caring and compassionate individuals for hospice volunteer training to provide companionship, support and friendly visits for patients and their caregivers. Evening and daytime classes available. Office support is also needed. Call (800) 770-9859.

**Cancer support group**  
 The Charach Cancer Treatment Center at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital hosts a support group for anyone dealing with cancer 7-8:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of the month, at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. For information, call (248) 937-5163.

**Thyroid cancer support group**  
 Free support group meets monthly and is open to all thyroid cancer patients and survivors as well as their family members and friends. For summer meeting dates or information, call Gwynne at (248) 740-9759.

#### ONGOING

**Our Body exhibit**  
 Our Body exhibit tickets \$24.95, \$22.95 seniors, \$19.95 children. Children ages 12 and under must be accompanied by adult. Advance tickets on sale at www.detroitsciencecenter.org. Exhibit has been extended to Jan. 6, at Detroit Science Center. As part of the extension, five new full human body specimens will be on display. For information, call (313) 577-8400 or visit www.detroitsciencecenter.org.

**Volunteers needed**  
 Sandcastles grief support program for children and teens needs volunteers for Rochester, Southfield, Livonia and other sites. Sponsored by Hospices of Henry Ford Health System, the programs meetings are held biweekly. Sandcastles also offers a weekend bereavement camp in August which is in need of volunteers. Call (313) 874-6881.

## Blood pressure hard to control in winter, new research shows

Neil from Plymouth e-mails asking if the cooler weather could be affecting his blood pressure.

Neil, new studies have shown that blood pressure can be harder to control in the winter. Researchers studied more than 440,000 Americans with hypertension in 15 cities. They found fewer people saw their blood pressure levels return to normal when treated in the winter months compared to the summer. In fact, about 60 percent of the patients saw a change in blood pressure control in the winter. Experts believe the cause could be weight gain, different eating habits and less



Peter's Principles

Peter Nielsen

exercise during the winter months. Peggy from Romulus e-mails asking what can she do to relieve the pain from osteoarthritis. Peggy, you can not cure osteoarthritis, but there are some things you can do to slow its progression, reduce pain and improve your function. The first thing you need to do is exercise. I know you are saying: Peter you are crazy! I

can't even move. But exercise will help ease pain and stiffness and maintain mobility. Exercise will also strengthen your muscles and improve flexibility, balance and overall health. I would recommend an exercise routine which includes cardiovascular exercise, some light weight training and stretching.

If you have a health or fitness question you would like answered in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, e-mail Peter through his Web site www.peternielsen.com. Contact him Peter Nielsen's Personal Training Club in West Bloomfield or Nielsen's Town Center Health Club in Southfield.

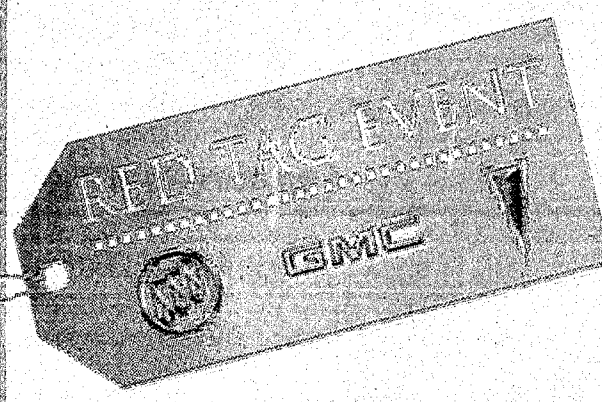
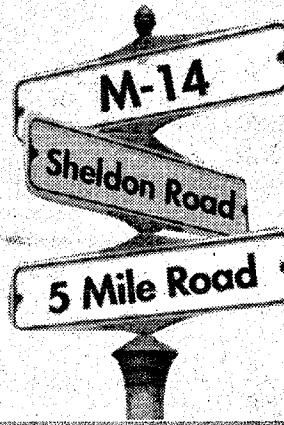
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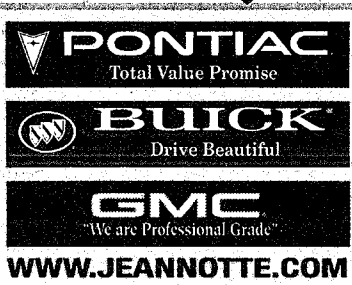


<p><b>30 MPG</b></p> <p><b>2008 PONTIAC G6</b> SALE PRICE <b>\$14,770*</b></p> <p>Stock #6316</p> <p><b>39 MONTH LEASE</b></p> <p><b>\$145**</b> PER MO. DOWN PAYMENT \$1499</p> <p><b>\$184**</b> PER MO. \$0 DOWN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>28 MPG</b></p> <p><b>2008 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX</b> SALE PRICE <b>\$17,876*</b></p> <p>Stock #6001</p> <p><b>39 MONTH LEASE</b></p> <p><b>\$186**</b> PER MO. DOWN PAYMENT \$1499</p> <p><b>\$226**</b> PER MO. \$0 DOWN PAYMENT</p>	<p>Stock #6311</p> <p><b>2008 PONTIAC G6 Hard Top Convertible</b></p> <p><b>39 MONTH LEASE</b></p> <p><b>\$277**</b> PER MO. DOWN PAYMENT \$1499</p> <p><b>\$317**</b> PER MO. \$0 DOWN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>30 MPG</b></p> <p>Auto, Air, Power Windows, Locks and more!</p> <p>Stock #6123</p> <p><b>2008 PONTIAC VIBE</b></p> <p>SALE PRICE <b>\$15,561*</b></p>
<p>Stock #5273</p> <p>Was \$29,800</p> <p><b>2007 BUICK LACROSSE CXS</b></p> <p>NOW <b>\$23,995*</b></p>	<p><b>2008 BUICK LUCERNE</b> SALE PRICE <b>\$22,934*</b></p> <p>Was \$26,995 Stock #2029</p> <p><b>39 MONTH LEASE</b></p> <p><b>\$247**</b> PER MO. DOWN PAYMENT \$1995</p> <p><b>\$301**</b> PER MO. \$0 DOWN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2008 BUICK LACROSSE CX</b> SALE PRICE <b>\$21,155*</b></p> <p>Stock #2088</p> <p><b>39 MONTH LEASE</b></p> <p><b>\$234**</b> PER MO. DOWN PAYMENT \$1995</p> <p><b>\$278**</b> PER MO. \$0 DOWN PAYMENT</p>	<p>Vin #4474</p> <p><b>2008 BUICK ENCLAVE CXL</b></p> <p><b>39 MONTH LEASE</b></p> <p><b>\$399**</b> PER MO. DOWN PAYMENT \$1995</p> <p><b>\$460**</b> PER MO. \$0 DOWN PAYMENT</p>
<p>Stock #4072</p> <p><b>2008 GMC ENVOY</b> SALE PRICE <b>\$23,642*</b></p>	<p>Stock #4140</p> <p><b>2008 GMC YUKON</b> SALE PRICE <b>\$30,621*</b></p>	<p>Stock #4087</p> <p><b>2008 ACADIA</b> SALE PRICE <b>\$27,245*</b></p>	<p>Stock #4165</p> <p><b>2008 SIERRA EXT. CAB</b> SALE PRICE <b>\$20,938*</b></p>
<p><b>39 MONTH LEASE</b></p> <p><b>\$219**</b> PER MO. DOWN PAYMENT \$1999</p> <p><b>\$276**</b> PER MO. \$0 DOWN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>39 MONTH LEASE</b></p> <p><b>\$334**</b> PER MO. DOWN PAYMENT \$1999</p> <p><b>\$391**</b> PER MO. \$0 DOWN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>39 MONTH LEASE</b></p> <p><b>\$319**</b> PER MO. DOWN PAYMENT \$1999</p> <p><b>\$377**</b> PER MO. \$0 DOWN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>39 MONTH LEASE</b></p> <p><b>\$195**</b> PER MO. DOWN PAYMENT \$1999</p> <p><b>\$250**</b> PER MO. \$0 DOWN PAYMENT</p>

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<b>2006 TOYOTA COROLLA LE</b> \$12,995	<b>2006 PONTIAC G6 CERTIFIED</b> \$12,995	<b>2006 PONTIAC VIBE GRAY</b> \$13,995	<b>2005 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GT 2</b> \$14,995	<b>2003 SUBURBAN Z71 4x4, Loaded</b> \$15,995	<b>2005 CHEVROLET EXP 15 Passenger Van</b> \$16,495

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<p><b>2008 EDGE FWD SE</b></p> <p>Automatic O/D trans, 3.5L V6 eng, 17" painted alum wheels, P235/65R17 BSW tires &amp; more. Stock #8T3035 Was \$26,094 NOW \$22,589*</p> <p><b>24 MONTH LEASE</b></p> <p><b>SIGN &amp; DRIVE \$336**</b> PER MO. <b>\$2000 DOWN \$210**</b> PER MO.</p> <p>GET \$500 CASH BACK! \$2566.34 Due at Signing!</p>	<p><b>2008 ESCAPE XLT Powermoon • Sat. Radio</b></p> <p>Auto, air, fog lamps, power driver's seat, privacy glass, safety canopy, conv pkg and more. Stock #8T9170 Was \$23,020 NOW \$19,259*</p> <p><b>24 MONTH LEASE</b></p> <p><b>SIGN &amp; DRIVE \$337**</b> PER MO. <b>\$2000 DOWN \$209**</b> PER MO.</p> <p>GET \$500 CASH BACK! \$2524.43 Due at Signing!</p>	<p><b>2008 EXPLORER XLT 4 DOOR 4X2</b></p> <p>Air, illum, visors, 4.0L SOHC V6 eng, 5 spd auto trans w/ O/D, P245/65R17 A/S tires, 17" cast alum whls. Stock #8T5005 Was \$27,710 NOW \$21,004*</p> <p><b>24 MONTH LEASE</b></p> <p><b>SIGN &amp; DRIVE \$338**</b> PER MO. <b>\$2000 DOWN \$210**</b> PER MO.</p> <p>GET \$500 CASH BACK! \$2700.47 Due at Signing!</p>	<p><b>2008 TAURUS X FWD LTD</b></p> <p>3.5L V-6 Duratec engine, 6 speed auto transmission, 80/40 2nd row 3-passenger bench seat. Stock #8T0300 Was \$30,700 NOW \$25,603*</p> <p><b>24 MONTH LEASE</b></p> <p><b>SIGN &amp; DRIVE \$366**</b> PER MO. <b>\$2000 DOWN \$236**</b> PER MO.</p> <p>GET \$500 CASH BACK! \$2666.34 Due at Signing!</p>

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## Friend's stealing costs everyone

My friend did something, like stealing. What should I say to him? Should I still be his friend?

**Good Friend**  
Garden City

It sounds like you don't like what your friend did. Good for you! It's important not to do things that break the law. Breaking the law has consequences

— some of them are immediate (like getting caught by the police), but some of them are far removed from us. Take shoplifting, for example ... when someone steals clothes from a store, that person causes the price of the pair of jeans you want to buy to increase.

Why? Because businesses are in the business of making money. If a department store loses inventory due to shoplifting, then they have to increase the price on the other items in their inventory in order to make up the money they lost (because they can't sell the item that was stolen). Plus, they have to hire more security to help reduce their loss in inventory. But, more security costs more money. Where will the company get this extra money to pay for added security? From the extra money you and I pay for the items the store increased prices on! So tell your friend that by stealing or shoplifting, he's costing you more money! Then you can tell him that you won't be friends with someone who continues to break the law!

I know it's hard to fall in and out of love. What do you do when the person you loved doesn't love you anymore and they tell you they've moved on?

**Lost in Love**  
Garden City

I'm sorry to hear that this relationship didn't work out. It's very painful, isn't it? Unfortunately, I can't say anything that will make the pain disappear overnight. It will take time ... but, I can tell you that it's important to focus on yourself during this tough time. Your self-esteem can take a big hit when you're rejected by someone you care deeply about. Remind yourself every day that you're a good person. Look in the mirror and tell yourself that the perfect match for you is just around the corner. Try not to focus on how perfect you thought the relationship was. Besides, it couldn't have been all that perfect if it didn't work out! If you spend too much time thinking about it, you might miss the perfect match. In short, if he's moved on, you need to move on too!

My parents always say I run my mouth too much. How can I control my mouth and still get

Please see **FULTON, C3**

## Special childhood memories sought

Do you still think about the toy train you received one year as a kid or a doll house your dad made? *The Observer Newspapers* wants to hear about the special gift you received as a child for Christmas.

On Dec. 23, the Hometownlife section will feature our readers' memories. Send your story to hgallagher@hometownlife.com or *The Observer Newspapers*, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, Attn: Hugh Gallagher. The deadline for receipt is Monday, Dec. 17.



# Magical evening

Performance troupe fills evening with wonder

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

Stand-up comedy, sleight of hand and razor blade swallowing magically blend into one act when members of The Wonder Merchants speak about their performance troupe. Each of the men bring their special form of entertainment to The Village Theater in Canton as part of a New Year's Eve celebration that includes a late night buffet and champagne toast at midnight.

Although they've never appeared together before, the troupe of four friends have been rehearsing a program that takes their different talents and turns them into a night of wonder to match their name. Andrew Dakota has been a full-time magician for 25 years. Ron Aldrich was awarded the Order of Merlin by the Brotherhood of Magicians for a career spanning more than four decades.

Craig Alan uses walk around magic to entertain the crowds at Albert's on the Alley every Friday night in Garden City. His first memory of wanting to do tricks goes back to a Cub Scout meeting at age 9 or 10 when a magician performed. Alan combines his improvisation training at Second City with psychology and theater classes at Schoolcraft College to develop his brand of performance.

In addition to corporate functions, awards banquets, employee appreciation days, holiday and house parties, graduations and weddings, Alan entertains at Malarkey's

Please see **MAGIC, C2**



Pooch (left back), Craig Alan, Ron Aldrich, and Andrew Dakota perform as The Wonder Merchants on New Year's Eve in The Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE MAGIC

**What:** The Wonder Merchants performance troupe rings in the New Year  
**When:** 9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31 (doors open at 8:30 p.m., Afterglow until 12:30 a.m.)  
**Where:** The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill at Ridge, Canton  
**Tickets:** \$45 includes performance, late night buffet and champagne toast at midnight. Call (734) 394-5300 or visit [www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater](http://www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater).



KONICA MINOLTA DIGITAL CAMERA

Craig Alan does card tricks for the crowd every Friday night at Albert's on the Alley in Garden City.

## Retreat makes great gift for Christian women



Women of all ages enjoy the peaceful and spiritually uplifting atmosphere at St. Mary's Retreat House.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

Marilyn Olszewski has the perfect solution to gift giving dilemmas for women this Christmas — a weekend at St. Mary's Retreat House in Oxford. The peaceful setting is actually the Motherhouse grounds of the Dominican Sisters, but the two-night and two-day stays are open to all faiths not just Catholics.

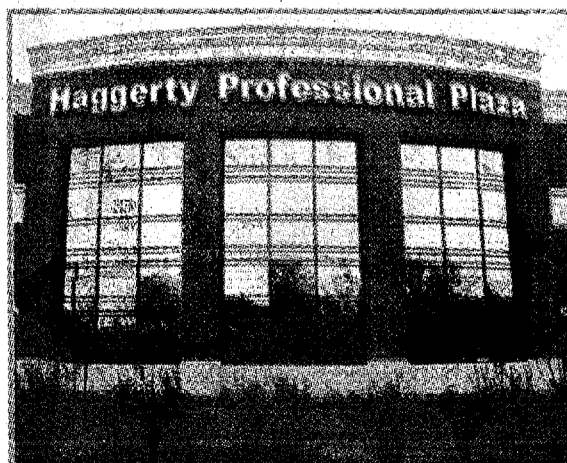
"It's well worth the time and money. It's a good way to start off the new year, what an excellent Christmas gift if you don't know what to give somebody, your wife or friend," said Olszewski of Plymouth Township.

Olszewski is coordinating the Jan. 11-13 retreat with the Rev. John Martin Shimkus on Learning Forgiveness, Learning Christ. Throughout the weekend, women will have the opportunity to attend conferences with the priest between times for reflection and prayer. For more

Please see **RETREAT, C3**

### ST. MARY'S RETREAT HOUSE

**What:** Weekend retreats  
**Where:** St. Mary's Retreat House, 775 W. Drahrer Road, Oxford  
**Cost:** \$150, includes lodging on Friday-Saturday nights, and five meals during the weekend. Call (248) 628-3894.



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**Saratoga Urgent Care**  
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313-527-4000

**Southgate Urgent Care**  
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734-324-7800

**Warren Urgent Care**  
31700 Van Dyke Ave., Warren  
586-276-8200

**Woodland Urgent Care**  
22341 W. Eight Mile, Detroit  
313-387-8700

# Need a Santa? Troy man will 'ho, ho, ho' at no cost for nonprofits

BY SHARON DARGAY  
STAFF WRITER

When Pat Grady performs a hearty "ho, ho, ho," the 52-year-old Troy man sounds just like a North Pole native.

And when he dons his new red coat, with jingle bell-studded boots and a fluffy white beard, he looks the part, too.

"Betsy Reich, one of our members is heavily involved in Childhelp and she sent out an e-mail looking for a Santa for an event they have coming up," said Grady, a member of the Birmingham Rotary Club.

He answered his fellow Rotarian's call for help and bought a Santa suit online, figuring he'd extend his services to other nonprofit groups for free and to private events for a donation to Childhelp, a national organization with offices in Southfield that works to prevent and treat child abuse.

"I put some ads online at craigslist and on a couple of radio station Web sites. I had one animal rescue call me. Hopefully people will spread the word," Grady said.

Although he's had no formal training in portraying Santa Claus, he's been doing his homework, downloading tips from the Internet.

"One tip was to get a quality suit," he said, pointing out that he had done just that. "Probably



Psst .... that's really Pat Grady of Troy in the Santa Claus suit, but don't tell the kids.

one of the biggest 'don'ts' is don't promise anything, especially pets."

He'll tell youngsters that animals "don't travel well in the sleigh," and will suggest they talk to their parents about their request.

"There are probably a lot of things I haven't thought of yet," he said, adding that he might "fly by the seat of my pants" during his first Santa performance.

Those pants will be a few sizes smaller than what Grady wore the last time he portrayed Santa several years ago at the elementary school his children attended. Now 21 and 19, the Michigan State University students have seen a photo of their dad in his new Santa suit, but haven't watched him perform the character.

Grady said his wife, Nancy, supports his Christmas time endeavor and plans to accompany him to his Childhelp gig.

"Oh, she's all for it. I tried to talk her into being Mrs. Claus, she didn't want to invest another \$500 to get a quality suit. By the time you get most of the stuff, it's about \$500," said Grady, who's proud to say he needed padding to create Santa's ample waist.

"I needed the whole nine yards. I just got the suit after Thanksgiving. I thought this year might be slow and by next year it will start to snowball. This is all about the kids."

Arrange for Grady to play Santa Claus by calling him at (248) 229-7612 or by e-mailing him at gradypat@juno.com.

## MAGIC

FROM PAGE C1

in Southgate. He began mesmerizing the crowds at the Westland location of Malarkey's about six years ago. After the holidays he plans to resume the talent shows at Albert's on the Alley to give other entertainers the opportunity to perform. Between acts, he and John Thiede, a member of their improv troupe 94 East, perform.

At Albert's on the Alley Alan goes around to customers' tables, entertaining and making the time pass until food orders arrive.

"Magic has always been kind of a hobby that tapered off in my early teens and came back in my late high school years," said Alan, a graduate of John Glenn High School in Westland. "My job is to keep people entertained, bring something different to the atmosphere with card tricks to coin effects to mind reading. I use psychology, misdirection and magic, take advantage of basic human behavior, the usual way people would think. I ask a person to think of a favorite number up to 10, but not 7. Kids usually say 5 or 8, adults 3 or 4. You have to learn to think on your feet, take a situation and roll with it and get people to interact with you."

While much of the show is interactive with the troupe members calling people up on stage, Pooch works alone. The stand-up entertainer has spent years practicing to swallow fire and razor

blades.

"It's a unique variety show from razor blade eating to poetry, mentalism such as mind reading, telepathy, and the audience will be allowed to participate," said Pooch, a local funeral director who prefers not to reveal his name. "Other than razor blade or fire eating, it's mostly geared to comedy and enjoying the start of the new year. Every element of the show is meant to amaze or amuse."

Pooch is more of a humorist than a magician. He bought his first trick at a magic shop in Las Vegas.

"I found out it wasn't about the trick," said Pooch of Farmington Hills. "It's about entertaining people, that's why many magicians later turn to acting or stand-up comedy. Ultimately the audience doesn't remember the trick. They remember the performer. I do a lot of gags in my show instead of magic tricks. We all enjoy having a laugh, seeing a smile on someone's face."

"We're incorporating four different acts into one show. There's no blue material. I think it's going to be a fun night. We're merchants of wonder, men of wonder for hire."

For details about the talent shows at Albert's on the Alley, call Craig Alan at (734) 546-5207. For information about The Wonder Merchants, visit www.wondermerchants.com.

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145

## Items needed for soldiers and their pets

The Canton Petco is sponsoring a drive to collect items for the K-9 Off Base Housing Program for Military Pets, and the men and women who serve in the American military. The fund-raiser continues to Monday, Dec. 31, at Petco on the south side of Ford Rd., west of Lily.

Donna Law of Mutts & Mutts Rescue of Redford is asking for donations of travel size deodorant, hand sanitizer, baby wipes, shampoo, tooth paste and brushes, tampons and sanitary napkins, Roloids, cough drops, hard candy (no chocolate) shaving cream, razors, package vitamins, powder drink mixes, playing cards, pens and notebooks, AT & T calling cards, white men's socks, and monetary donations to help ship packages.

The K-9 Off Base Housing Program currently has 5-dogs that are being cared for by Mutts & Mutts. Because many military families have no one to care for their pets while overseas, Law started the program which is in need of Pro Plan Lamb and Rice/Chix and Rice Dry Dog Food, wet canned food (Pedigree chopped beef), blankets and sheets, rugs, bleach, paper towels, 13-gallon garbage bags, brewer's yeast and garlic tablets, squeaky toys, and adult dog vitamins. In August Law returned two dogs to a sergeant returning after an 18-month deployment in Iraq.

All donations are tax deductible. For more information, call (313) 232-0382. To adopt a dog or cat, go to www.muttsand-mutts.petfinder.org or visit the Canton Petco noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22.

**KNOW THE SCORE**  
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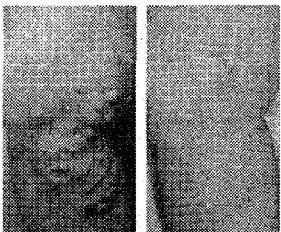
Dr. Miller has over 12 years experience in treating venous diseases and has received many honors and awards including being named one of "Detroit's Top Docs" by Hour Magazine.

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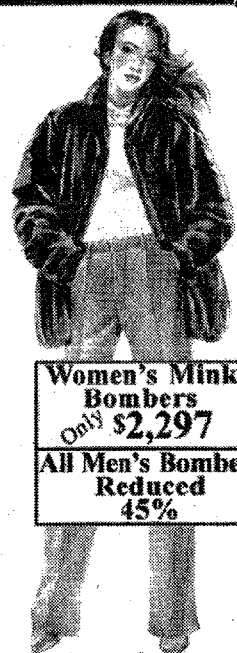
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## ENTER TODAY!

# Oh, Baby! 2007

Do you have an adorable baby that was born in 2007?

Would you like to show him/her off to the world? Then this is an opportunity to do just that! The Observer & Eccentric and Mirror Newspapers will publish a page of the babies born in 2007 on January 31, 2008. You could win a gift certificate to a local restaurant!

Fill out the coupon below and send it along with a photo of your cute adorable baby. Be sure to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, if you'd like your photo returned.

All entries MUST be received no later than January 21, 2008.

Two lucky entries will be picked from a random drawing for the dinner gift certificates, one valued at \$100 and the other valued at \$50. The winners will be announced on the "Oh, Baby 2008" page, January 31, 2008.

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(Sample)

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Check for \$20 enclosed. Buy: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please bill my: Visa Master Card American Express or Discover Card. (Circle one)  
Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Holder's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Required) \_\_\_\_\_

**Prince of Peace ELCA - Westland**

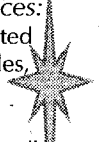
Come celebrate the birth of our LORD with us!  
 Christmas Eve: Family Service @ 7:30 p.m.  
 Service of Adoration @ 10:00 p.m.  
 Sunday of Christmas: 12/30 @ 9:30 a.m.  
 "Mary, Joseph and the Baby"  
 Presented by our Bell choir



734-722-1735  
 37775 Palmer Rd. • Westland, MI 48185  
 (1/4 mi west of Newburgh)  
 princeofpeacewestland.com

**CHRISTMAS AT ST PAUL**

Christmas Eve Services:  
 7 pm - Family-oriented  
 Story-telling, Candles,  
 Holy Communion  
 11 pm - Traditional  
 Lessons, Carols, Candles,  
 Communion  
 (beautiful music at each)



St Paul United Methodist Church  
 of Bloomfield Hills  
 • 165 E Square Lk Rd east of Woodward  
 248.338.8233 www.gbgn-umc/paul  
 OE08578038

**A Christmas Tradition**

Christmas Eve Services  
 4:30 PM Family Service  
 8 PM Candlelight Service  
 10 PM Candlelight Service  
 Every Sunday  
 9:00 AM Service  
 10:15 AM Sunday School  
 11:15 AM Service  
 Plymouth First United Methodist Church  
 45201 N. Territorial Rd. - Plymouth  
 734-483-5280 • www.pfumc.org

**FIND CHRISTMAS JOY AT OUR SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Carols by Candlelight • Sunday, Dec. 16 at 7:00 PM  
 Christmas Eve • Monday, Dec. 24  
 Children's Service 4:00 PM  
 Candlelight Services 7:00 & 11:00 PM  
 Christmas Day • Tuesday, Dec. 25 at 10:00 AM  
 Our Shepherd Lutheran Church  
 2225 E. 14 Mile Rd. • Birmingham, MI 48009  
 248-646-6100 • www.ourshepherd.net  
 Located 5 Blocks East of Woodward Ave.  
 OE08576044

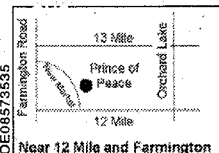
**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**  
*Knowing Jesus Christ And Making Him Known*

*Home for Christmas*

An unwanted toy sits unclaimed on the shelf of a bustling toy store...  
 An orphan faces another Christmas alone in a world too busy to notice...  
 Together they find what they want more than anything - to belong.



Join Us Christmas Eve  
 at 5 pm for a dramatic presentation of this story at our family service, or at 7:30 pm for our traditional candlelight service.



28000 New Market Road • 248|553|3380

**ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

-Christmas Eve Services-  
 Monday, December 24, 2007  
 5:00 p.m. - Family Service  
 Featuring Children's Choir and Bell Choirs  
 10:00 p.m. - Candlelight Communion Service  
 Featuring Chancel Choir and Handbells  
 Rev. Richard Peters, Pastor • Rev. Kellie Whitlock, Assoc. Pastor  
 Rosedale Gardens  
 Presbyterian Church, USA  
 9601 Hubbard at West Chicago • Livonia, MI 48150  
 734.422.0494  
 www.rosedalegardens.org  
 Wheelchair Accessible

First Presbyterian Church ~ Plymouth Church & Main Streets ~ 734-453-6464  
 Regular Sunday Worship Services:  
 8:30, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Services:  
 3:00 p.m. Puppet's Service  
 5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant  
 8:00 & 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols  
 December 30 ~ One service only ~ 10:00 a.m.

**Orchard United Methodist Church**

30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, MI, 48334  
 248-626-3620  
 www.orchardumc.org  
**Christmas Eve Services**  
 5:00 PM Family Worship  
 9:00 PM Candlelight Services  
 11:00 PM Traditional with Communion

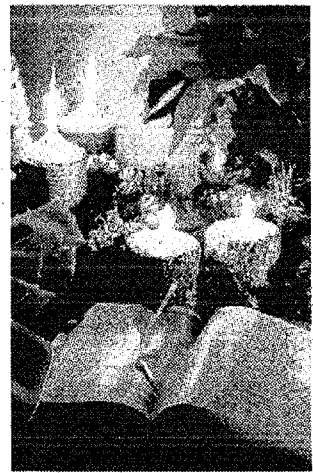
**ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy...  
 Luke 2:10  
 620 Romeo Street  
 Rochester  
 stpaulsrochester.org  
 248.651.9361  
 Christmas Eve Services  
 Monday, Dec. 24, 2007  
 New time: 4 p.m.  
 Children/Family Celebration  
 7:30 & 11 p.m.  
 Candlelight Celebration  
 Childcare for birth through 4 years is available at 4 & 7:30 p.m. services.  
 Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.  
 The people of The United Methodist Church®  
 OE08573919



**FELLOWSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Christmas Eve Service  
 Monday, December 24th  
 PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATION AND WORSHIP OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR!  
 Classic Worship: 6:00 p.m.  
 REV. DR. JIMMY MCGUIRE  
 Nursery Provided  
 We meet at  
 Madonna University's Kresge Hall  
 36600 Schoolcraft Road  
 Livonia, MI 48150  
 Parking lot is North-West corner of Levan and Schoolcraft



*Candlelight Christmas Eve Service*  
 in Downtown Birmingham at the  
*First Baptist Church*

All are welcome to worship in the beautiful English Gothic Sanctuary in downtown Birmingham.  
 Monday, December 24, 2007  
 4:30 p.m. Family Service  
 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service  
 Listen to an inspiring Hand Bell Choir  
 Presentation of the Traditional Lessons and Carols of the Season on Sunday, December 23  
 First Baptist Church 300 Willits at Bates Streets  
 Tel: 248.644.0550 Website: firstbaptistbirmingham.org



**Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church & School**  
 9600 Laverne, Redford, MI 48239  
 www.HosannaTabor.org  
 313-937-2233

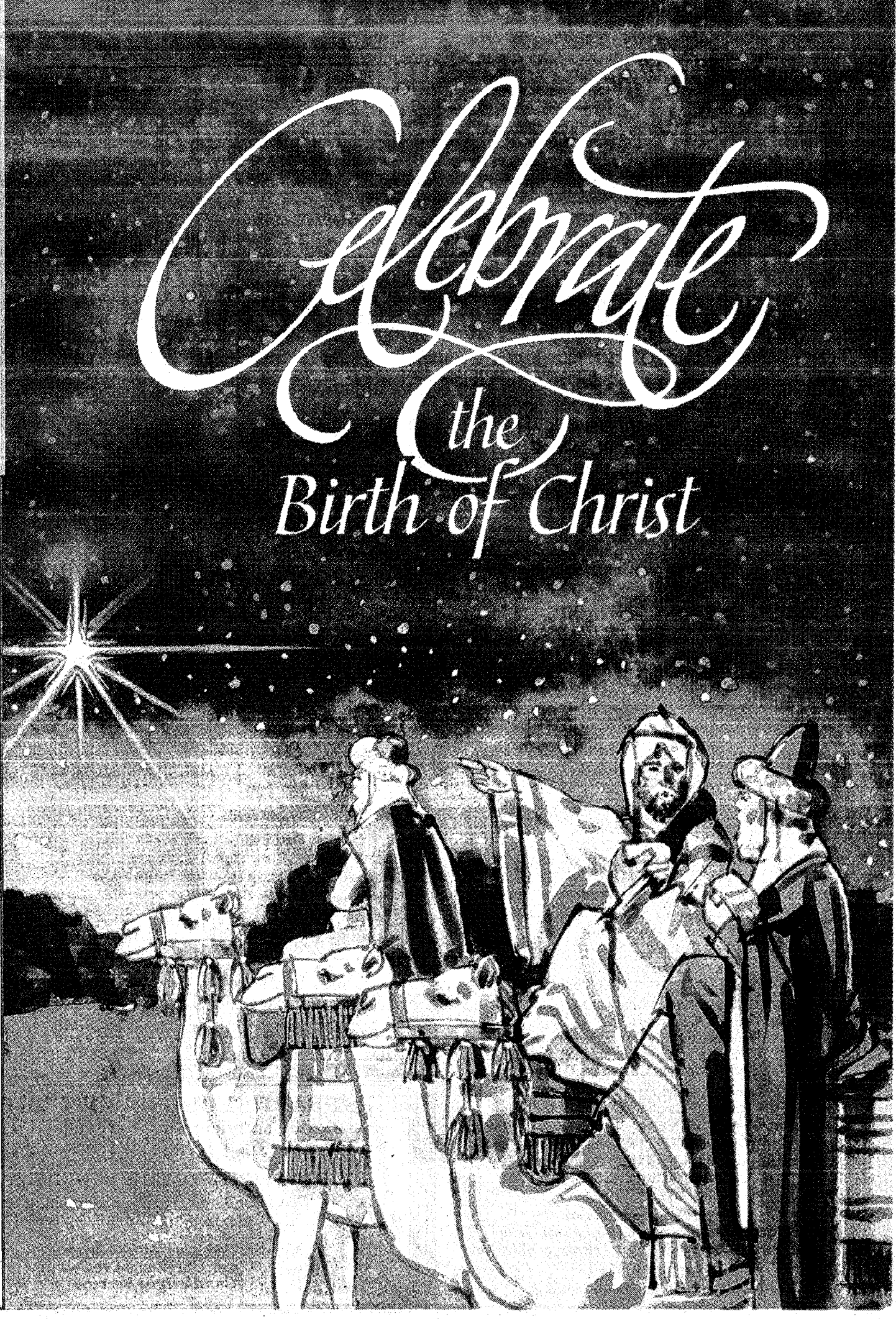
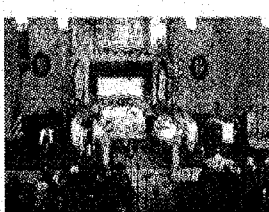
A Tuition Based, Christian School of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod  
 Sunday Worship Services  
 8:30 am and 11 am  
 Sunday School  
 9:45 am  
 Hosanna-Tabor  
 Invites You to Join our Holiday Celebrations  
 A Night in Bethlehem  
 Wed, Dec 19 7 pm  
 Christmas Eve Worship 6 & 10 pm  
 Christmas Day Worship 10 am  
 New Years Eve Worship 5 pm  
 Potluck & Family Game Night following the service

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
 Woodward Avenue and I-75 (exit 50)  
 NEXT TO COMERICA PARK  
 www.StJohnsDetroit.org  
 (313) 962-7358

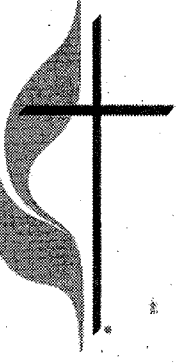
Avoid the Christmas Rush...  
 Come to Church this Sunday!  
**Sundays in Advent**  
 7:30 AM - Morning Prayer  
 8:00 AM - Holy Communion  
 9:05 AM - Christian Education for all ages  
 10:00 AM - Holy Communion followed by an Advent Soup Luncheon

**Christmas Eve - December 24**

4:00 PM  
 Children's Pageant Service  
 8:30 PM  
 Carol Prelude Service  
 9:00 PM - Candlelight Festive Communion  
 Christmas Day - 11:00 AM in the Chapel  
 Come find out why your neighbors are coming to Detroit for Biblical Preaching and Teaching, and Traditional Anglican Music and Liturgy



*Celebrate the Birth of Christ*




**Berkley First United Methodist Church**  
2820 W. Twelve Mile Road • Berkley, Michigan 48072  
248-399-3698  
www.berkley1stumc.org

CHRISTMAS CANTATA — Today at 10:30am  
LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE — December 21 at 7:00pm  
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT — December 24 at 5:00pm  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE — December 24 at 7:30pm  
CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION — December 24 at 11:00pm

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
749 West Fourteen Mile Road • Clawson

Advent Wednesday Evening Worship  
December 19 at 7:00 PM  
Light Supper at 6:00 PM (bring salad or dessert to share)

Christmas Eve Worship  
Monday, December 24  
5:30 PM Children and Families  
Great for families with small children  
7:30 Christmas Candlelight & Holy Communion  
11:00 PM Christmas Candlelight & Holy Communion



**Christmas Services**

Monday, December 24  
Services  
4:00, 8:00 & 11:00 p.m.  
Music Prelude 10:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, December 25  
10:30 a.m.

St. John's Episcopal Church  
574 S. Sheldon Road  
Plymouth, Michigan  
www.stjohnsplymouth.org  
734.453.0190

**COMM**

Historic First United Methodist in  
DECEMBER 23,  
CHRISTMAS E  
7:00 P.M. Family  
11:00 P.M. Traditio  
26425 Wellington  
(between 13 & 14 Mil

**Christmas Eve**

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
25630 Grand River Ave. (E. of Beech Daly)  
Redford Township, MI

Christmas Eve 7:00 PM Family Worship  
Christmas Eve 11:00 PM Candlelight Worship

The Rev. Timothy Halboth, Senior Pastor will preach on the theme "Crossing the Christmas Border" based on Luke 2:1-20. The Rev. Dr. Victor Halboth will serve as celebrant. Special music by the entire music ministry of Grace Church will beautify each worship hour. All are welcome!

Resurrection Catholic Church  
48755 Warren Rd.  
Canton, Michigan 48187  
734-451-0444  
Rev. Richard A. Peretto, Pastor

CHRISTMAS EVE - Dec. 24th - 4:30 p.m.  
Children's Mass (All Saints Gym)  
4:30 p.m. Mass (Church) & 10:00 p.m.  
CHRISTMAS DAY - Dec. 25th - 10:30 a.m. Mass  
SUNDAY, Jan. 1st - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

**UNITY OF LIVONIA CHURCH**

28860 Five Mile Road  
Livonia, MI 48154  
(734) 421-1760  
www.unityoflivonia.org

First Baptist of Roche  
6377 Orion Rd. • Roche  
248.652.6151  
fbrochester.org

Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service  
Sunday,  
December 2  
6 PM



**Faith Covenant Church**

Join us for candlelight Christmas Eve service  
Monday, December 24  
5 p.m. & 10 p.m.

35415 W. 14 Mile Road, Farmington Hills  
(248) 661-9191 • faithcovenantchurch.org  
Childcare provided at 5 p.m. service



NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, MI  
Rev. Marsha M. Woolley, Senior Pastor

"Celebrate the good news with us - that with God all things still are possible... and that even now, unto us, a Child is born!"

CHRISTMAS EVE - Three Services  
5:00 p.m. Children/Family Service  
7:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols and Candlelight  
11:00p.m. Festival Worship & Candlelight

**Lutheran Church of the Shepherd King**

5300 W. Maple • West Bloomfield, MI 48322  
248.626.2121

Join us for worship  
Sunday, December 23 at 10:00 a.m. (Lessons & Carols)  
Christmas Eve, December 24  
6:00 p.m. Family Worship  
10:30 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

**Christ the King Lutheran Church**

9300 Farmington Road  
Livonia, MI 48150  
(734) 421-0749  
www.christthekinglivonia.com

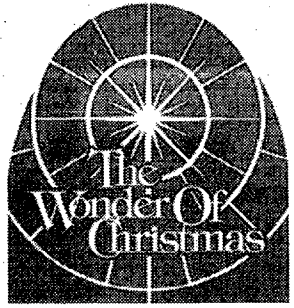
The Rev. James L. Fogle  
Interim Pastor

Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Worship with Communion  
7:30 & 11:00 pm

**ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
WORSHIP SCHEDULE

website: stjamesbirmingham.org  
The Reverend Fred Elwood, Rector 248.644.0820

**CHRISTMAS EVE, MONDAY, DECEMBER 24**



5 P.M. CRECHE PROCESSION & HOLY COMMUNION  
Carols & Candles; Service oriented for children; Nursery provided

10 P.M. CHORAL SERVICE  
Carols, Communion, Christmas Message & Candles (Music begins at 9:30!)

**CHRISTMAS DAY, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25**  
10 a.m. Holy Communion with Carols  
(Downtown Birmingham between Woodward & Southfield, corner of W. Maple and Chester)

**Peace Lutheran Church Welcomes You**

This Christmas Eve  
Monday, December 24th

6:00 pm Family Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service with Children's  
Nativity Play

8:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve  
Carol & Candlelight Service

Peace is located at 17029 W. 13 Mile Rd  
Between Greenfield and Southfield Rd  
Southfield, MI • 248.642.7047

**Come Catch the Christmas Spirit**  
Redford Aldersgate United Methodist

Diana & Bob Goudie Pastors

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services  
Dec. 24

5:30 p.m.  
☆ Family Musical:  
"Christmas Chronicles"  
A multi-generational choir presents a delightful story with an important message with lights, drama and lively music.  
☆ Closing service with individual candles  
☆ Nursery provided for preschool children

10:00 p.m.  
☆ Adult Choirs  
☆ Hand Bell Choir  
☆ Communion  
☆ Candle lighting

10000 Beech Daly  
2 blocks south of Plymouth Road  
313-937-3170  
www.redfordaldersgate.org


The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit

9083 Newburgh Rd.  
Between Joy & Ann Arbor Tr.  
(734) 591-0211

Christmas Eve - 6pm  
Christmas Day - 10am  
www.holyspirit-livonia.org

**A Family Tradition...**

Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Services  
Monday, Dec. 24th  
4pm\*, 5:30pm\*, 7pm, 11pm  
\*childcare provided through age 4



**WARD**  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

40000 Six Mile  
Just West of Haggerty  
248.374.7400

**Historic Mariners' Church**

A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLE  
Traditional Anglican Worship  
Since 1842

Sunday, December 23  
Advent IV  
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.-The Holy Communion

Monday, December 24  
Christmas Eve  
7:30 and 11:00 p.m. Duplicate Services  
Festival Choral Communion  
No services on Christmas Day

Sunday, December 30-The First Sunday after Christmas  
8:30 a.m.-The Holy Communion  
11:00 a.m.-The Festival Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas with the Holy Communion

Regular Services of Holy Communion  
Sundays at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.  
Thursdays at 12:10 p.m.

On Hart Plaza at the Tunnel  
Free Secured Parking in Ford Underground Garage  
with entrance in the median strip of Jefferson at Woodward  
(313) 259-2206  
www.marinerschurchofdetroit.org

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH-DETROIT**  
21200 Southfield Rd., Southfield  
248-569-2972 • www.fbc-detroit.org

ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE  
December 23rd - Fourth Sunday of Advent  
11:00 a.m. Worship: Christmas Pageant

Monday, December 24th - Christmas Eve  
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service  
"Candlelight Service"




**FRANKLIN CITY CHURCH**  
 On **Lin Village Green**  
*Tradition, Ecumenical in Spirit*  
 7 • Lessons and Carols  
**DECEMBER 24, 2007**  
 Service with Candle Lighting  
 Service with Candle Lighting  
 Pastor: James E. Greer  
 (1 block west of Franklin Road)  
 OE08576042

**SALEM CHURCH**  
 Downtown Farmington  
 33424 Oakland Ave.  
 (N. of Grand River, W. of Farmington Rd.)  
 Farmington, MI 48335  
 (248) 474-6880  
**Christmas Eve 8:00 pm**  
 Candlelight with Holy Communion  
 Everyone Welcome  
 OE08572383

**North Congregational Church**  
 35620 W. Twelve Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 248-848-1750  
**Sunday, December 23, 2007**  
 10:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent:  
 "Receive Him"  
**Monday, December 24, 2007**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**  
 7:30 p.m. "Finding Christmas Joy"  
 Ministers: Rev. Dr. Mark P. Jensen, Rev. Mary E. Biedron  
 OE08576032

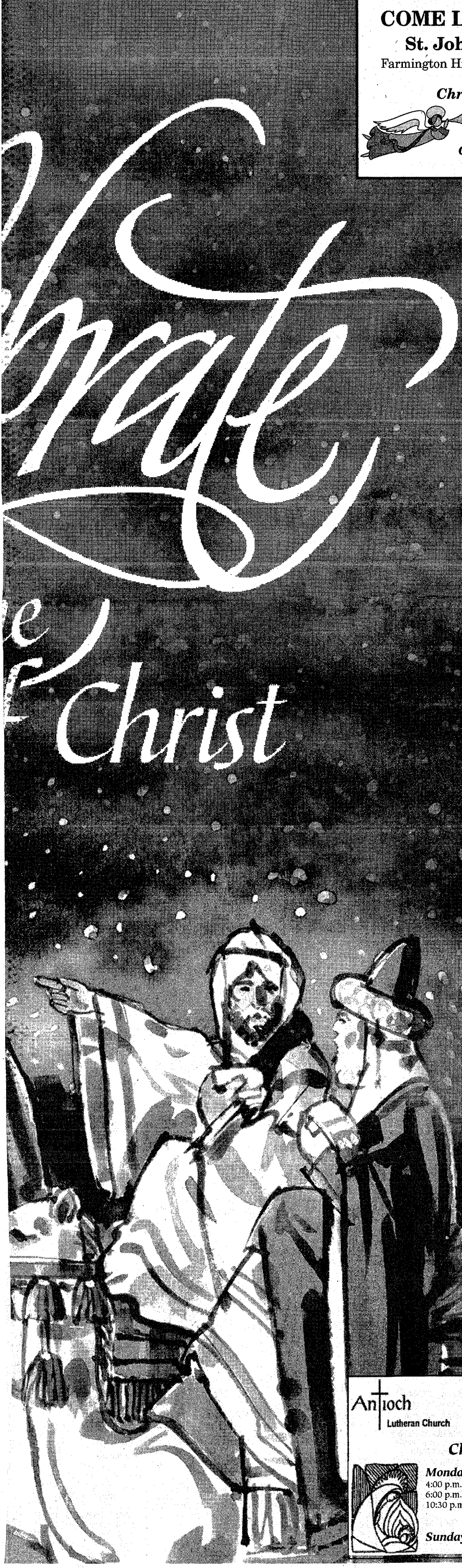
**ST. GENEVIEVE 29015 Jamison...ST. MAURICE 32765 Lyndon**  
**- ROMAN CATHOLIC CLUSTERED PARISHES IN LIVONIA -**  
**December 24...Christmas Eve Masses**  
 4:00p at St. Genevieve Church; 4:30p at St. Maurice Church  
 Children's Masses  
 10:00p at St. Genevieve Church  
**December 25...Christmas Day Masses**  
 9:00a at St. Maurice Church; 11:00a at St. Genevieve  
**December 31...New Year's Eve Masses**  
 4:00p at St. Genevieve Church; 6:00p at St. Maurice Church  
**December 31-January 1...Holy Hour at St. Maurice**  
 11:30p Exposition...12:30a Reposition & Benediction  
**January 1...New Year's Day Masses**  
 9:00a at St. Maurice Church; 11:00a at St. Genevieve Church

**Grace Chapel**  
 An Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
 27996 Halstead Road  
 Farmington Hills  
 9:30 am Sunday School  
 10:45 am Worship Service  
**Christmas Eve Services:**  
 5:00 pm & 11:00 pm  
 OE08573334

**HOLY CROSS**  
 Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 Traditional  
**Christmas Eve Worship**  
 Carols, Candlelight and Holy Communion  
 4:30\* 7:30 and 11 pm  
 \*For families with young children  
 All are Welcome  
 http://holycrosslivonia.org  
 30650 6 Mile Rd., Livonia  
 1 1/2 Mile West of Middlebelt  
 734-427-1414 • WELCOME VISITORS

**CELEBRATE WITH US THIS CHRISTMAS**  
*Christ came to be the Light of the World*  
**Calvary Baptist Church**  
 43065 Joy Road, Canton, MI 48187  
 734.456.0022 www.cbcbj.org  
 Christmas Eve Services 4:30 & 6:00 p.m.

**Carols and Candlelight**  
 Christmas Eve • 9:00pm - 10:00pm  
 Holy Communion  
 "The Story"  
 "The Story" is a tender, touching celebration that indelibly writes the story of Jesus' birth on every heart.  
**The Crossing**  
 31590 Grand River • Farmington, MI 48226  
 248.306.0661  
 OE08571127



**COME LET US ADORE HIM**  
**St. John Lutheran Church**  
 Farmington Hills • 23225 Gill Rd. • 248-474-0584  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
**Christmas & New Years Sundays**  
 9:00 am - Noon  
 (Come and leave as you decide)  
**Christmas Eve**  
**Candlelight Worship Services**  
 5:30 pm • 9:00 pm • 10:30 pm  
 OE08576038

**St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (WELS)**  
 17810 Farmington Road-Livonia, Michigan  
 734-261-1360 - website: stpaulslivonia.org  
  
 Christmas Worship at St. Paul's  
 Christmas Eve Worship.....7:00 p.m.  
 Christmas Day Worship.....10:00 a.m.  
 New Year's Eve.....7:00 p.m.  
 Come and worship with us!  
 Pastor James Hoff Pastor Eric Steinbrenner

**Holy Trinity**  
 Lutheran Church (ELCA)  
 39020 Five Mile Rd., Livonia  
 734-464-0211  
 www.holytrinitylivonia.org  
**Christmas Eve Services**  
 5:30 pm Family Worship & Children's Christmas Program  
 7:00 pm Contemporary Candlelight  
 11:00 pm Traditional Candlelight  
**Christmas Day at 10:00 am**  
**New Year's Eve at 6:00 pm**

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**  
 Your Community Church  
 Can we help you in some way?  
 Wedding, Baptism, Confirmation?  
 248-644-4010  
 RedeemerBirmingham.org  
 1800 W. Maple Rd.  
 Birmingham MI 48009  
**Christmas Eve • Join Us**  
 Traditional Family Service 5:30 P.M.  
 Carols by Candlelight 8:00 & 10:00 P.M.  
**New Years Eve Worship 7:00 P.M.**  
 Pre-Service Meal 6 P.M. Call for Reservations Today!  
 Weekly Sunday Worship 8, 9 & 10:30 A.M., Mondays 7:30 P.M.  
 Children's Sunday School 9:00 & 10:30 A.M.  
 OE08576039

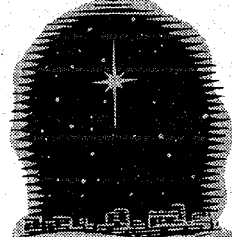
**ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
 Immemorial Tridentine Latin Rite Mass  
 22310 Joy Road, Redford, MI 48239  
 (313) 534-2121  
**CHRISTMAS AND NEWYEARS DAY MASS SCHEDULE**  
 Christmas Day and New Years Day are Holy Days of Obligation  

Christmas Eve	Confessions	10:00-11:50 pm
	Midnight Mass	12:00 am
Christmas Day	No Confessions	
	Mass	10:00 am
New Years Eve	Rosary and Benediction	11:30 pm
New Years Day	Confessions	9:45-10:25 am
	Mass	10:30 am

 Begin the new year with Benediction and praying the Holy Rosary. See schedule above.  
 OE08576040

**Celebrate Christmas!**  
 Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church  
 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia  
 Just north of I-96 (734) 522-6830  
**Christmas Eve:**  
 7:00pm Family Service  
 11:00pm Candlelight Service  
**Christmas Day:**  
 10:00am Worship  
 http://www.christoursavior.org

**NORTH HILLS CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**  
 3150 N. Adams Road • Troy  
 December 23 • 9:30 a.m.  
 Christmas Worship with harp music  
 December 23 • 6:00 p.m.  
 Christmas Vespers with Communion  
 www.northhillscrc.org  
 OE08572188

**You're Invited!**  
 Come experience the Joy of Christmas at  
 St. Andrew Lutheran Church  
  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
 December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm  
**Sunday Worship**  
 10:00am  
 Staffed nursery available each week  
 St. Andrew is located at 6255 Telegraph East Side - North of Maple  
 248-646-5207  
 The Rev. Lauren Kirsh-Carr, Pastor  
 OE08576053

**First United Methodist Church**  
 1589 W. Maple Road, Birmingham  
 248-646-1200 • www.fumcbirmingham.org  
**CHRISTMAS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23**  
 8:15, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. - Dr. John E. Harnish Preaching  
 12:30 p.m. - Rev. Lynn Hasley Preaching  
 5:00 p.m. - Rev. Jeff Nelson Preaching  
**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**  
 4:00 p.m. for Families with Young Children  
 5:30 p.m. for Families with Elementary Children  
 2:00, 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 p.m.  
 Christmas Lessons and Carols  
 Dr. John E. Harnish Preaching  
 Holy Communion at 2:00, 7:00 and 11:00  
 Pastors  
 John E. Harnish, Senior Pastor  
 Rodney F. Quainton Lynn Hasley  
 Carl Gladstone Jeff Nelson Carl Price  
 OE08576052

**West Bloomfield UMC**  
 4100 Walnut Lake Rd.  
 W. of Orchard Lake Rd.  
 248.851.2330  
**Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Christmas Eve Service**  
 6:00 P.M.  
*A Service of Candlelight Music and Fellowship*  
 OE08576054

**Antioch Lutheran Church**  
 33360 W. 13 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
 Antioch, a congregation of ELCA, is located at the NE corner of 13 Mile and Farmington Roads in Farmington Hills. (248) 626-7906; website: antiochELCA.org. Join our celebration of Jesus' birth - God's gift to us all.  
**Christmas Worship Services**  
**Monday, December 24** (communion at all services)  
 4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas  
 6:00 p.m. Family Worship (pre-service music at 5:45)  
 10:30 p.m. Candlelight Festival Worship (pre-service music at 10:00)  
**Sunday, December 30** 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.  
 Lessons and Carols  
 OE08576057





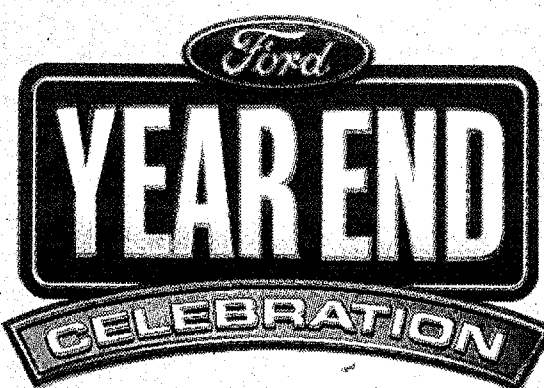


# JACK DEMMER FORD

GET THE BEST OFFERS DURING THE BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR

Rates as low as **0.9%** on select 2008's

Rebates up to **\$4500** on select 2008's



**2008 ESCAPE XLT**  
 Privacy glass, power windows & locks, power seat, fog lamps, auto headlamps, tilt, speed control, AM/FM CD and more. Stock #81419. Was \$22,030

24 Month Lease  
**NOW \$18,812\* \$213\*\*** Per Mo.  
 \$2500 due at signing

**2008 TAURUS LIMITED**  
 Leather, 18" aluminum wheels, heated dual power seats, 6-disc CD, auto temp control, air, anti theft, auto headlamps, power windows and locks, power mirrors and more. Stock #80634. Was \$27,595

24 Month Lease  
**NOW \$22,810\* \$195\*\*** Per Mo.  
 \$2500 due at signing

**2008 FUSION SE**  
 2.3L 14 eng. 5-speed auto trans. P205/60R16 all season tires, air, speed/tilt wheel, pwr W/L, perimeter anti-theft system, 1st & 2nd row air, curtains, fog lamps, 6-way power seat. Stock #80758. Was \$20,295

24 Month Lease  
**NOW \$16,818\* \$131\*\*** Per Mo.  
 \$2500 due at signing



**2008 FOCUS SE COUPE**  
 Auto, air, aluminum wheels, power windows & locks, 15" alum wheels, remote keyless, message center. Stock #81227. Was \$16,510

**NOW \$14,035\***  
 24 Month Lease  
**\$118\*\*** Per Mo.  
 \$2500 due at signing

**2008 EDGE SE**  
 Auto head lamps, keyless entry, power windows & locks, privacy glass, speed control, tilt, front & side impact air bags. Stock #81277. Was \$26,930

24 Month Lease  
**NOW \$22,835\* \$210\*\*** Per Mo.  
 \$2500 due at signing

**2008 F150 S. CAB XLT**  
 5.4 V8, ilm, slp axle, 7700 GVW, t-tow & go, 17" alum wheels & much more. Stock #80914. Was \$33,775

24 Month Lease  
**NOW \$25,385\* \$213\*\*** Per Mo.  
 \$2500 due at signing

**2008 EXPLORER XLT**  
 4.0L SOHC, 5-speed auto OD trans, conven. group, cast alum whls, auto lamp headlights, and much, much more. Stock #81168. Was \$26,740

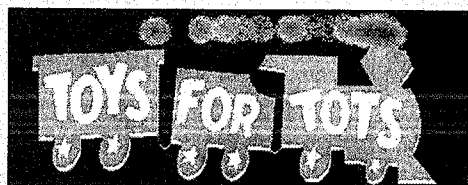
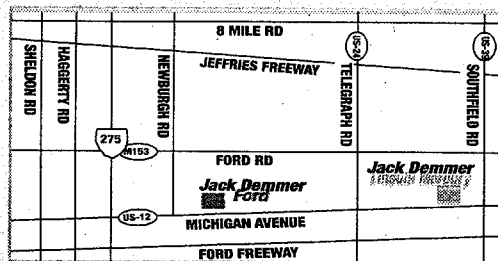
24 Month Lease  
**NOW \$20,207\* \$199\*\*** Per Mo.  
 \$2500 due at signing

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24 MONTH LEASE PAYMENTS  
**DRIVE NEW EVERY TWO**

\*Plus tax, title, license & doc fee. All applicable rebates included in price. \*\*24 Month Lease. 10,500 miles per year. Tax and plates extra. With approved credit. A-Plan purchases and leases. Security deposit waived for qualified buyers. Subject to availability. Not all buyers will qualify for lowest payments or APR. Offers end 12-31-07. Payments & prices are subject to change. +See dealer for details. Includes any owner loyalty available.

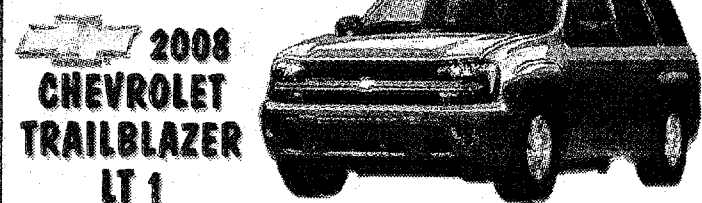
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	NEAR WHEEL DRIVE 8T3887				4 WHEEL DRIVE 8T3866			
	Down	10,000 Miles	12,000 Miles	15,000 Miles	Down	10,000 Miles	12,000 Miles	15,000 Miles
GM Employee 39 Month Lease	\$3000	\$179	\$191	\$211	\$3000	\$204	\$218	\$239
	\$2000	\$206	\$220	\$240	\$2000	\$232	\$246	\$268
	\$1000	\$235	\$248	\$268	\$1000	\$261	\$275	\$296
	\$0	\$263	\$277	\$314	\$0	\$289	\$303	\$325
Non Employee 39 Month Lease	\$3000	\$211	\$225	\$245	\$3000	\$239	\$254	\$275
	\$2000	\$240	\$253	\$274	\$2000	\$268	\$282	\$304
	\$1000	\$268	\$281	\$301	\$1000	\$296	\$311	\$332
	\$0	\$296	\$310	\$330	\$0	\$325	\$339	\$382

36 PAYMENTS UNDER \$300

**2008 CHEVROLET AVEO**



**LOADED! Look at this Car**

★★★★★ CRASH RATING

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 Rebate - \$1500  
**NOW \$12,171\***  
 GM employees save additional \$600



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 STARTING AT **\$18,684\***

**2008 CHEVROLET COBALT**

**ZERO DOWN \$0 SEC. DEP.**  
 Protection Package, Rear Spoiler, Air, stereo & much more.

**GM EMPLOYEE** 39 mo/39,000 mile lease. Total due \$223.  
**\$223\*\*** PER MO

**NOW EVERYBODY PURCHASE**  
 \$14,311 - \$2000 REBATE  
**\$12,311\***

**2008 IMPALA**

OnStar, side head curtain airbags, power windows & locks, tilt, cruise, power seat, stereo CD, rear def. #8C9186

**20 MPG**

**\$229 DOWN \$229 PER MO.**

39 Mo/32,500 miles lease, no security deposit required. Total due \$458.

**OUT THE DOOR PRICING! Includes tax!**



**2008 SILVERADO**  
 EXT. CAB

Power package, trailer tow, locking diff., power windows & locks, tilt, cruise, air, LT 1 package, auto overdrive. Example #8T4019

39 Mo/32,500 miles lease \$3000 down \$184 1st payment. \$200 sec. \$251 sales tax, \$103 title trans & doc fee. Total due \$3761.

**\$195 PER MO.**

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# Lou LaRiche

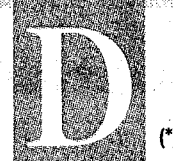
CHEVROLET

	***Total Due Rear Wheel				***Total Due 4 Wheel			
	Down	10,000 Miles	12,000 Miles	15,000 Miles	Down	10,000 Miles	12,000 Miles	15,000 Miles
GM Employee 39 Month Lease	\$3000	\$3404	\$3416	\$3461	\$3000	\$3429	\$3468	\$3539
	\$2000	\$2456	\$2470	\$2540	\$2000	\$2507	\$2546	\$2593
	\$1000	\$1510	\$1548	\$1593	\$1000	\$1561	\$1600	\$1646
	\$0	\$563	\$602	\$689	\$0	\$639	\$653	\$700
Non Employee 39 Month Lease	\$3000	\$3461	\$3500	\$3545	\$3000	\$3514	\$3554	\$3600
	\$2000	\$2540	\$2553	\$2598	\$2000	\$2593	\$2607	\$2654
	\$1000	\$1593	\$1606	\$1651	\$1000	\$1646	\$1661	\$1707
	\$0	\$646	\$660	\$705	\$0	\$700	\$739	\$832

\*Prices include applicable rebates plus destination. GM employee purchase. \*\*Lease with option to purchase at term for pre-determined amount. Net incentives plus tax & lic. Excess miles @ 25¢ per mile. Lessee responsible for damage, wear & tear.

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# New Homes



Sunday, December 16, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

## You won't have to think twice about move into Muse 2

The innovative hexagonal design of the Muse 2 (401-64) creates a floor plan that will appeal to many. For those that like to entertain frequently or families with children, this plan is for you. Enter into the heart of this home and the

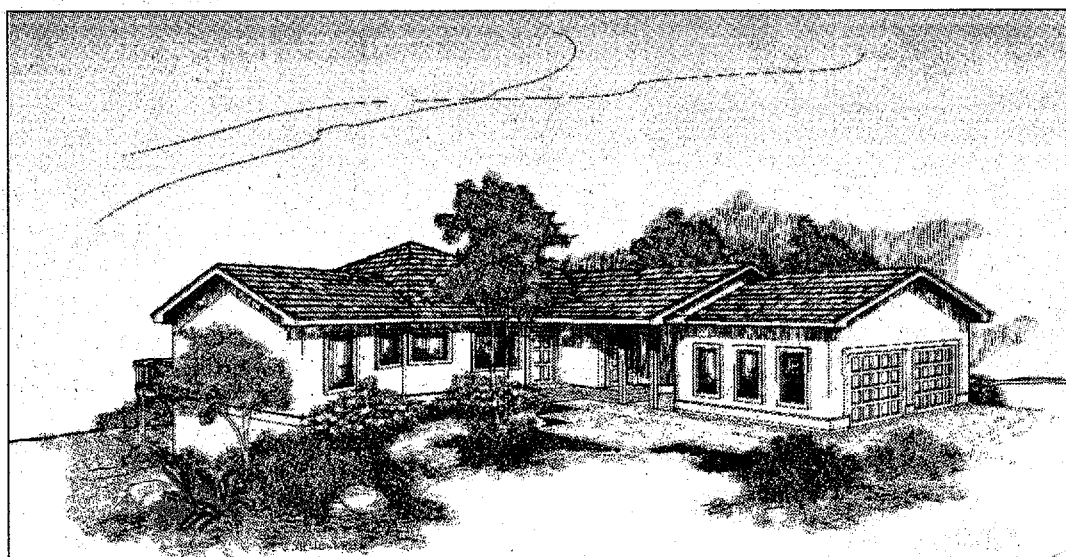
open space invites. The living room/dining room/kitchen complex dominates this unique configuration.

Easy traffic flow is stressed here. Centrally located in this great room is a fireplace with a flue that extends into the

finished basement. Sit in the vaulted living room and savor the warmth with family and friends while enjoying the adjacent entertainment center. This arrangement favors an informal lifestyle. The location of the kitchen allows the cook in the house to serve meals either at the eating bar, in the vaulted dining room or carry hot food to the basement recreation area. A built-in pantry is behind the fireplace.

One wing of the home isolates the master suite. This spacious room features a bathroom with shower and spa, huge walk-in closet, vanity, and private access to the side deck. The other wing has two bedrooms, each with ample closet space. A full bath and linen closet are tucked between the bedrooms and a large utility room with deep sink. A door here allows groceries to be brought in from the detached garage with minimum of difficulty.

One possible inconvenience for parents is the great separation between their bedroom



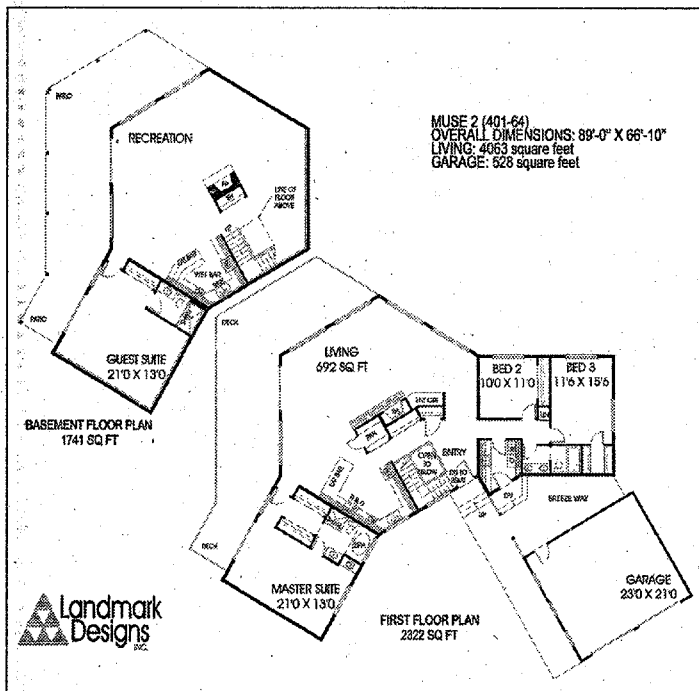
and the children's rooms. On the other hand, kids old enough to demand privacy can have one wing largely to themselves, while the parents enjoy maximum peace and quiet in the master suite.

For more fun, take the stairs down to the finished basement. Plenty of room here for a pool table, pingpong, or whatever the family enjoys. A wet

bar tucked next to the stairway helps provide a festive atmosphere. For the overnight visitors, a large guest suite with a full bath makes a home away from home.

For a study plan of the MUSE 2 (401-64), send \$15 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (800) 562-1151. Be sure to specify

plan name and number. Compact disks, with search functions are free of charge, to help you search our portfolio for your dream home (\$5 shipping and handling will apply). Or you may order or search online at www.ldiplans.com. Save 15 percent on construction plans using the code (LOE48) online, mailing, or calling (800) 562-1151.



### BRIEFS

#### Appraising and Sales

Century 21 Today offers career seminars Tuesday or Saturday noon to 1 p.m. at 28544 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Contact Steve Leibhan at (248) 855-2000, Ext. 238.

#### BIA

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) presents Green Built Training from 9-10:20 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, at 879 Benjamin in Troy, in a Green Built certified home built by Wake-Pratt Construction Co. In this first of five trainings, Chris Pratt of

Wake-Pratt Construction discusses the technical and sales aspects of Building Green using materials and methods that result in Green Built certification. Building Green offers a change from selling cost per square foot to making an environmental statement. The training is free for BIA members. Advance registration is required. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) kicks off the Sales and Marketing Council (SMC) programs for 2008 with a Roundtable Discussion, "You're At A Networking Event ... Now What?" on Wednesday, Jan. 30, from 8:30-10:30

a.m. at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100 in Farmington Hills. Kirk Armstrong of Gerry Weinberg & Associates will lead the discussion focused on how to get a conversation transitioned into your business using proven, systematic techniques.

Registration fees are \$10 for SMC members, \$20 for BIA members and \$45 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) and its Remodelers Council (RC) will present a Negotiating Skills seminar, at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in

Farmington Hills on Thursday, Jan. 31, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The seminar is part of the Certified Graduate Remodeler (CGR) series and counts toward CGR, Certified Graduate Associate (CGA) and Graduate Master Builder (GMB) designations.

Chuck Breidenstein, CAPS, of Builder Professional Services Group Inc. will present methods and strategies to negotiate with customers, employees, subcontractors, suppliers and government officials. Registration fees are \$155 for Remodelers Council members, \$175 for BIA members and \$200 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

#### Real Estate Investors

Real Estate Investors of Oakland will meet Thursday, Jan. 10, at the Michigan State University-Management Education Center, 811 W. Square Lake Road, Troy. There will be a buffet dinner (reservations needed) 5:30-6:30 p.m., early bird session 6:15-7 p.m. and general membership meeting 7:15-9:30 p.m. RSVP for dinner by Jan. 4 to www.reiaofaokland.com/dinner.html.

Speaker will be attorney David Nykanen discussing strategies for appealing tax assessments. Admission free for members, \$20 for guests.

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# Real Estate

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**Open Houses 3030**

**BIRMINGHAM OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**  
268 Abbey  
E. off Woodward onto Wimbeldon, left on Abbey Great Cape Cod in Birmingham's Poppleton Park area. Formal living room & dining room, screened porch, 1st floor bdrm, 2 large bdrms upper level. Carpeting removed & floors refinished (Nov 2007), both levels. 3 bdrm, 2 bath. \$399,900 27216918  
SKBK Sotheby's Int'l 248-644-7000

**BLOOMFIELD HILLS OPEN SUNDAY 1:30 - 5:00**  
532 Barrington Court S. of Hickory, W. off Woodward on Barrington, right to Barrington  
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A word to the wise, when looking for a great deal check the **Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!**

**Open Houses 3030**

**Livonia Open 1-5**  
17251 Mayfield St  
A new year, a new home! 2,271 sq ft ranch, 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, 3 car garage & 1/2 acre lot. \$299,900  
**HELP-U-SELL (734) 454-9535**

**Bloomfield 3055**

**Just Reduced!**

**BLOOMFIELD HILLS SHORT SALE OPPORTUNITY!**  
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BRING ALL OFFERS!  
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Pete Kirsh: 248-321-7330  
Keller Williams Realty 30500 Northwestern Hwy

**Just Reduced!**

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Gorgeous renovated walkout w/ granite & tumbled stone. Truly must see inside to appreciate. A steal at \$695,000. Call: (248) 421-2226

**Canton 3080**

**BETTER THAN NEW!**  
Brick colonial in mint condition! Spacious, open floor plan, 2 1/2 bath including master bedroom bath. Fireplace & bay window in living room. First floor den. Large bright island kitchen. Immediate occupancy. Located in newer low-traffic sub. Price reduced to \$212,500.  
CALL DAN MULLAN 313-300-0462  
RE/MAX 100 800-799-9770

**Livonia 3250**

**OLD ROSEDALE**  
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Karen: 734-502-8289  
C21 Row: 734-464-7111

**Plymouth 3347**

**OWNER FINANCE** - Stated income, self employed okay. 5% down, \$340,000. 3 bdrm, 4th & finished lower level walkout. Call: (734) 786-6840

**Royal Oak 3370**

**Great Street**  
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**Westland 3445**

**LIVONIA SCHOOLS**  
3 Bdrms, finished Bsmt., 2 Car Garage, \$118,900.  
**LARGE BEDROOMS**  
Huge Updated Kitchen, 2 Car Garage, \$129,900.  
Century 21-Castelli 734-525-7900

**Livingston County 3520**

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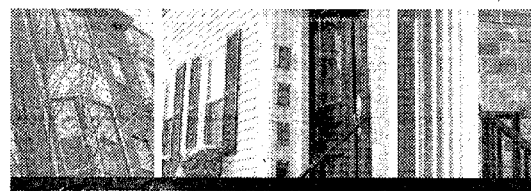
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Spacious 1 & 2 bdrms  
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Locked foyer entry Near  
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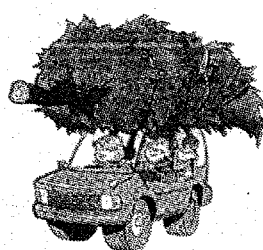
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**Douglas, Fraser & Concolor Fir, Scotch & White Pine, Blue & White Spruce**  
Wreaths, roping & tree stands  
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N. of Warren In Westland  
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**X-mas Trees**  
Choose & Cut  
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Follow Signs  
Open Daily  
9:00am -Dusk  
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Own your own home!  
**3 Bdrm/1 Bath**  
**\$826**  
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With 150 ft of frontage, attractively detailed custom log home, spectacular views of Burt Lake, sunsets, and occasional sun rises. This 3 BR, 3 bath home has a great additional guest apt. w/full kitchen, gas flpl, & privacy, located above the 3-car garage. Surrounded by University of Michigan conservancy property. Nature abounds and the lakeshore is so close you can't help but be relaxed by the waves. Offered at \$1,200,000  
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**Drywall**

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Plaster repair. All jobs welcomed!  
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**0840**  
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\$3-49 ft. Installed plus Trim  
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**Gutters**

**1045**  
**In Home Care/Assistance**

**1080**  
**Housecleaning**

**1090**  
**Insulation**

**1960**  
**Tree Service**

**1045**  
**Tile Work-Ceramic/Marble/Quarry**

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**ABSOLUTE BEST PRICES**  
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any place. Plumbing, electric,  
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**HAULING/Clean Up**

**1810**  
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Move scrap metal, clean base-  
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est. We'll beat written est.  
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# Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

Challenging fun for ALL ages

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

**ACROSS**  
1 Cluster  
6 Stranger's query  
11 Household appliance  
12 Facilitating  
14 007's school  
15 Grimm heavies  
17 Roast beef — jus  
18 Prez after Jimmy  
19 Fabric meas.  
20 Two-base hit: abbr.  
21 Ms. Paquin  
23 JAMA readers  
24 Kind of pepper  
25 El —, Texas  
27 Free-for-all  
28 Tenn. neighbor  
30 Alt.  
31 Campground initials  
32 Blvd.  
33 Courtyards  
35 Many years

**DOWN**  
36 Clue  
37 Consumer protection org.  
38 Gibe at  
42 Harvest Moon mo.  
43 — you kidding?  
44 Compass pt.  
45 Prom honoree  
46 They turn litmus red  
48 Has a cough  
49 Dogs  
51 Archery need  
53 Swat  
54 Cruise in style

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

LAW	APSE	VINO
ILE	NEIN	EDIT
PAD	GATE	RAPT
SISTERS	KS	
ALL	LOATHE	
LANDS	BON	HAG
AXIS	BOP	HULA
MEN	DUD	SIDED
BLOWER	EHS	
IN	GEISHAS	
VIOL	PURR	ARC
ACRE	ERIK	FLO
NIBS	RUES	TOT

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## SUDOKU

			5	6	2			7
1				9		3	5	
4	7							
	9	4	7		6	1		5
				4	5	2	8	
2		6	1		8		4	
	8					5	2	4
			3			6		
					9	8		

Level: Beginner

**Fun By The Numbers**

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

**Here's How It Works:**  
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

## SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

ACE	DIAMOND	KING
CARDS	HEART	QUEEN
CLUB	JACK	SHUFFLE
DECK	JOKER	SPADE

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

S	X	A	E	S	R	T	V	Y	I
A	B	I	S	P	A	N	L	P	O
D	F	G	C	A	R	D	S	H	J
E	V	B	H	D	E	N	M	L	K
C	Z	A	E	E	K	C	L	U	B
E	D	I	A	M	O	N	D	R	W
I	E	U	R	Y	J	A	C	K	T
O	C	P	T	H	D	C	O	I	L
M	K	O	M	Q	U	E	E	N	F
S	H	U	F	F	L	E	W	G	E

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE		CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE	
S	X	A	E
A	B	I	S
D	F	G	C
E	V	B	H
C	Z	A	E
E	D	I	A
I	E	U	R
O	C	P	T
M	K	O	M
S	H	U	F

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### NEW 2008 TAURUS SEL

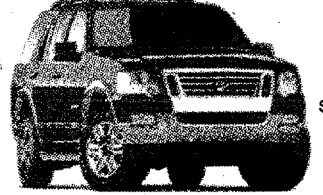


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04 MUSTANG GT CONV'T.....15,950	05 IMPALA LS Moon, LOADED.....13,450
08 GRAND PRIX LOADED.....16,950	07 FUSION SE V6, LOADED.....14,950
07 EXPLORER E.B. LOADED.....22,950	07 GRAND PRIX.....14,950
07 CADILLAC CTS.....23,450	05 VOLVO XC 70 LOADED.....23,950

**'07 TAURUS SEL**  
 Leather, moon, LOADED!  
 10 to choose  
 From Only... **\$11,950**

**'05 F150 CREW CAB LARIAT 4X4**  
 Leather, moonroof, LOADED  
**ONLY \$22,950**

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**ONLY \$21,950**

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# pink

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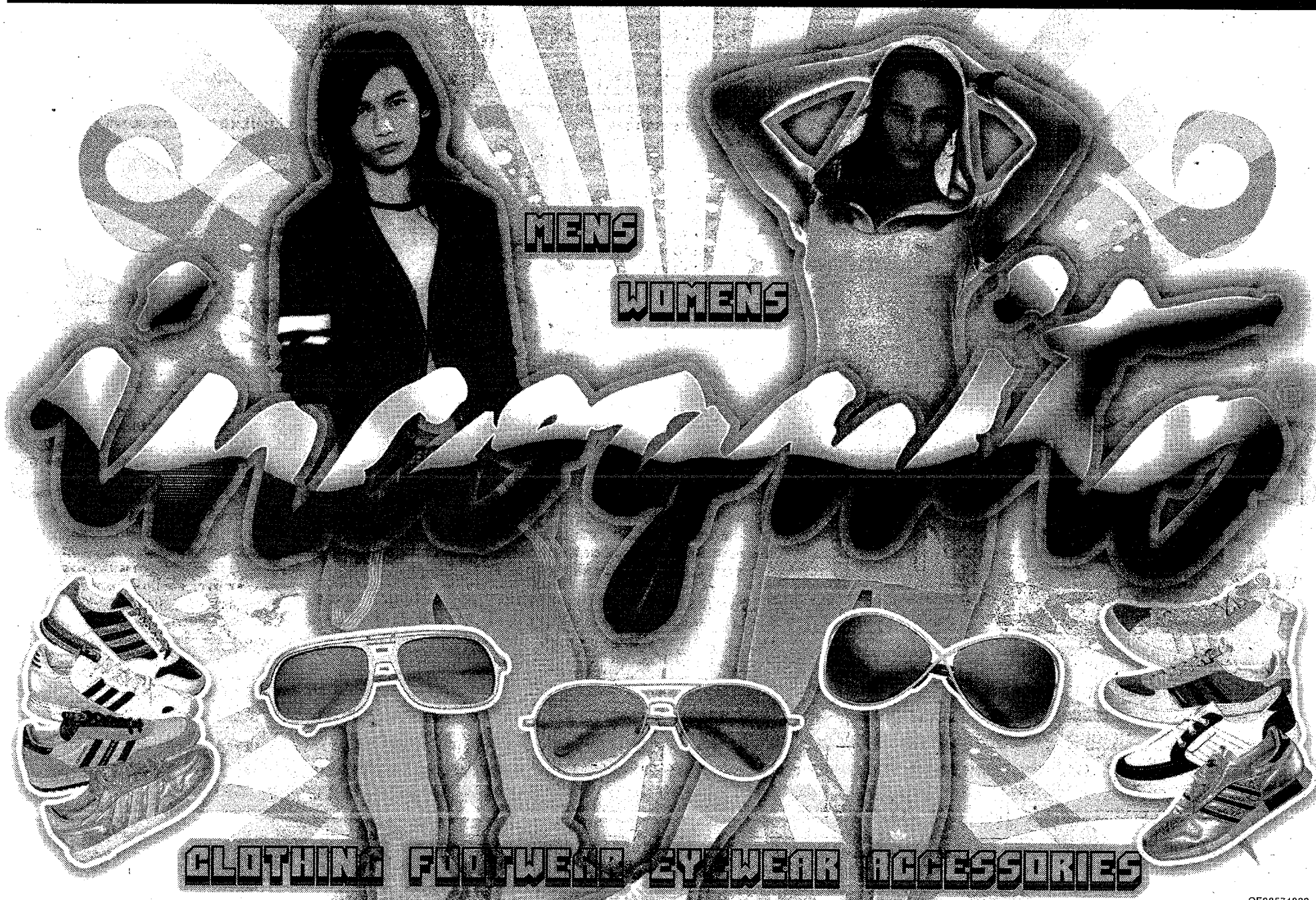
**Dreaming  
of a PINK  
Christmas!**

How to beat  
the holiday bulge

Last-minute  
fragrance finds  
and stocking  
stuffers!

Observer & Trenton  
NEWSPAPERS

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# Stocking stuffers take a striking turn

## doll face

Stephanie

Angelyn Casola



### LIPS

Follow your winter warm-up with a dose of lip balm to shield against the chilly winds. Mistletoe-worthy lips are a must for the holidays and there are plenty of products out there ready to help. Here are a few stocking-stuffer-sized surprises:

**Sugar lips:** Om Spa is selling a must-try line called The Lip Scrub by Sara Happ. Just a dab of this exfoliating treatment eliminates dry skin to reveal soft, supple lips. And who can resist flavors like Peppermint, Cocoa, Vanilla Bean or Brown Sugar, to name few. Located at 22070 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn. Call (313) 565-9686 or visit [omdayspa.com](http://omdayspa.com).

**Holiday snog:** Lush's holiday line includes a tin of Eggnog for \$7.25. The nutty, spicy balm is made of shea and cocoa butters to soothe and protect lips. Visit a Lush store at Twelve Oaks, Somerset Collection or Lakeside malls, or try [lush.com](http://lush.com).

**For dessert:** Bath and Body Works' Temptations line includes treats like Sweet & Swirly Lip Gloss in Sugar & Spice or Glittery Gumdrop. They're \$7 each at [bathandbodyworks.com](http://bathandbodyworks.com).

**Skip lipstick:** Burt's Bees combined its legendary lip balm with a touch of color to create lip shimmers. The season clearly calls for Fig, Nutmeg or Cocoa. They cost \$4 each at [burtsbees.com](http://burtsbees.com). With a little effort, it's a breeze to stock up on stocking stuffers suitable for any girly-girl on your list.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola sneaks her cozy navy blue leg warmers under a favorite pair of bootcut jeans on a cold day, and no one is the wiser. She writes *Dollface* each month covering fashion and beauty for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and can be reached at (248) 901-2567 or [scasola@hometownlife.com](mailto:scasola@hometownlife.com).

Sure, socks and underwear didn't make the most memorable holiday gifts in my youth. Perhaps it's time to re-think the idea of this "stocking stuffer."

This year when you're contemplating the little goodies on your gift list, don't bypass kitschy legwear or a soothing pot of lip balm. They're necessities in the battle against plummeting Michigan temperatures.

### LEGS

Show your true spots in polka-dotted tights by Tracy Reese. Layer on a pair of pale pink Betsey Johnson fishnets over opaque tights or under plush leg warmers. That's right. Leg warmers are here to stay. The toasty ankle-to-knee apparel comes in a variety of fabrics and colors. Dash those '80s *Flashdance* images of the scrunched lower-leg accessory from your mind and try on a pair.

Here are a few styles sure to kick-start your search:

**Building blocks:** Old Navy's got great basics for your legwear collection. Opaque tights come in black, grey or brown for \$6.50 a pair at [oldnavy.com](http://oldnavy.com).

**Cable-knits:** Cozy up to Urban Outfitter's cableknit legwarmers by Sparkle & Fade. At \$16 they come in red.

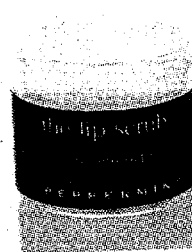
**Luau cashmere:** Betsey Johnson's cashmere legwarmers come complete with bows. Go ivory or fuschia for \$25 a pair at [thesockboutique.com](http://thesockboutique.com).

**Go thigh-high:** Over-the-knee socks pair perfectly with winter's tall boots. Your legs will look as sweet as candy canes in red and white stripes by Leg Avenue, \$10 at [thesockboutique.com](http://thesockboutique.com). Or go collegiate with red argyle for \$9 at [foottraffic.com](http://foottraffic.com).

**Layer away:** American Apparel has added some length to their supersoft legwarmers. Pop them over a pair of leggings. For \$16 they come in colors from raspberry to peacock at [americanapparel.net](http://americanapparel.net).



Eggnog at Lush



Get mistletoe-ready with The Lip Scrub at Om Spa.



Betsey Johnson revamped fishnets by adding bold colors.

Legwear, like these cranberry colored tights from T.J. Maxx, keep your tootsies toasty in style.

### ON THE COVER

Wrap up some holiday cheer in pretty packages tied up with ribbon, like these from Lisa's Gift Wrappers in Royal Oak.

PHOTO BY STEVE CANTRELL  
COVER DESIGNED BY DAN DEAN



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girltalk

Christmas Wisdom

"What I don't like about office Christmas parties is looking for a job the next day." — Phyllis Diller

"I stopped believing in Santa Claus when my mother took me to see him in a department store, and he asked for my autograph." — Shirley Temple

Source: "Women Know Everything! 3,241 Quips, Quotes & Brilliant Remarks" by Karen Weeks (Quirk Books, 2007)

# Stop winter weight gain before it starts

If you're already worrying about packing on pounds during the holidays, now's the time to stop winter weight gain before it starts. I frequently receive e-mails from people who are looking for advice. Melissa of Canton wrote to me to say she's already having anxiety about how she'll maintain her exercise and eating routine when she has to go to office parties and family parties during the holidays. Here's her letter:



Dear Jenn: I'm on a 1,200-calorie strict eating plan and exercise three to five times a week. I'm really concerned I'm not going to be able to maintain the same standards with the upcoming holidays. Any advice? - Melissa R., Canton.

Probably the best way to get started is to educate yourself and to develop a routine. Get in the habit now and commit to it so you don't waver no matter what month it is. To make sure you are working out smart, I suggest to my Boot Camp clients that they get a heart monitor. This will let you know you are working within the proper training range. You can pick one up at a sporting goods store or online for \$50 or less.

You also need to keep it simple. Write down what

**body  
by jenn**

you're eating and how much you're exercising. Logging eating habits has been proven to make people aware of their eating behaviors so they can learn how to correct them.

Record as well how you felt when you wanted to eat. Were you stressed or bored? Also, include success stories

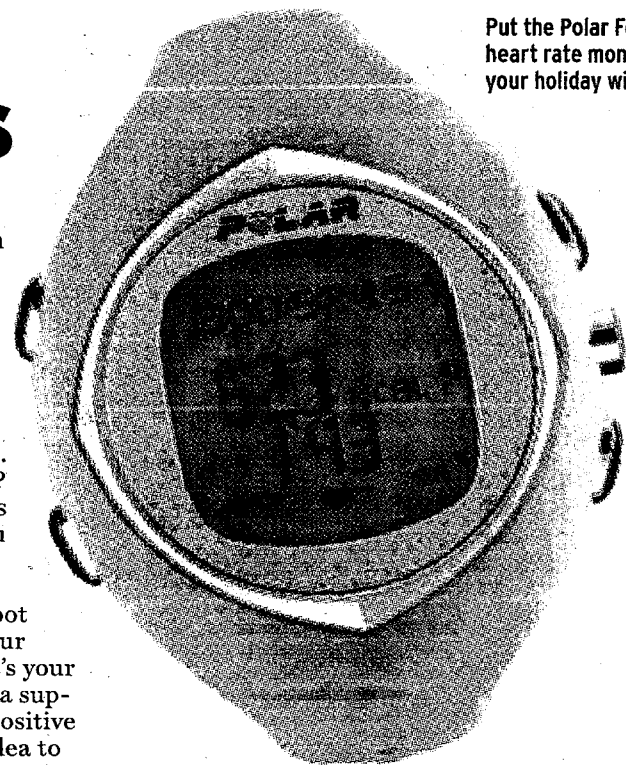
in your log. Note on the log how and when you chose to relieve stress in non-food ways, such as exercising or taking a hot bath.

Part of the success of our Body Beautiful Boot Camps is having a support group. It can be your spouse, a friend or a family member. Maybe it's your kids. The most important thing about having a support group is that they should help you with positive reinforcement, not negative. It's also a good idea to have someone that you respect give you constructive criticism on your eating and exercise habits.

Finally, the best advice to keep you on track during the holidays is motivation.

What is it that motivates you to stay on your exercise and eating routine? Is it how you've improved your appearance or lost weight to look better at a special event? No matter what the motivation — and it may change over time — keep that fresh in your mind and you're guaranteed to stay on track.

Put the Polar F6 Pink Coral heart rate monitor (\$115) on your holiday wish list.



Jennifer Gray's Body Beautiful Boot Camp Classes are held in Royal Oak, West Bloomfield, Rochester and Southfield. Get more fitness tips and register for classes by visiting [www.bodybyjenn.com](http://www.bodybyjenn.com) or calling (248) 761-2321.

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# Fragrance finds make great last-minute gifts

BY SAMANTHA CRITCHELL  
AP FASHION WRITER

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Hubert de Givenchy expanded into the fragrance business 50 years ago using a famous face as inspiration: his muse, the late Audrey Hepburn.

L'Interdit was the first "celebrity" fragrance, created to honor the friendship between the designer and actress.

The company celebrates its history this season by reintroducing L'Interdit, which is dominated by the scents of jasmine and May rose, along with the house's other classic fragrances, Le De, Givenchy III and Eau de Givenchy for women, and Monsieur, Eau de Vetyver and Xeryus for men.

Now it's commonplace for celebrities to be linked to perfume. Top-tier actresses Hilary Swank, Keira Knightley and Kate Winslet all appear in advertisements, while Gwen Stefani, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jennifer Lopez and Victoria and David Beckham have their own branded fragrances.

Givenchy also launched a new ad campaign for Very Irresistible Givenchy featuring Liv Tyler, who has been the perfume's public face since its creation in 2003.

Tyler says it's a compliment to be asked to follow in the footsteps of a legend like Hepburn. Among the things she admires most about Hepburn were her talent, naturalness and passion for life.

Hepburn's confidence — or at least her acceptance of who she was — is something Tyler, who calls herself "a real woman," strives for. "She was comfortable in her own skin."

Looking for your smell this season? Here are some new options:

## WOMEN:

● **Very Michael Kors.** This adds citrus, black plum and golden sugar cane to the white floral scent that is Kors' signature. Kors says it captures his essence: "I'm either the most outgoing or the shiest. I'm very casual but at the same time I kind of revere the classic and the traditional. I'm kind of jumpy and curious and, again, it's 'Show me what's new' and 'Show me what's a classic.'"

● **Bond No. 9 Andy Warhol Silver Factory.** This is the first in what will be a series of Warhol collectables by Bond No. 9, a brand devoted to bottling the smells inspired by New York City. The Warhol lineup will feature his favorite city haunts, beginning with the Silver Factory, more well known as the Factory, where Warhol did his thing.

The bottle's surface is a graphic image inspired by the famous Warhol Campbell's Soup Can. The smell inside aims to be a unisex mix of smoky and spicy blend of incense and seductive amber with floral notes of jasmine, iris and violet.

● **DKNY Delicious Night.** This seems made for a party girl: The opening note is a "cocktail" of the exotic citrus fruit pomelo, crushed ginger and blackberry martini, followed by florals and amber.

● **Midnight Poison by Dior.** An update to the 20-year-old Poison features earthy notes of patchouli, rose and amber.

● **Fendi Palazzo.** The base of this fragrance is the orange blossom mixed with other Mediterranean scents such as lemon and jasmine. The bottle features the facade of the real Fendi Palazzo in Rome.

● **Elle by Yves Saint Laurent.** A feminine fragrance for a cosmopolitan girl with notes of patchouli, litchi and freesia.

● **Black Orchid Voile de Fleur by Tom Ford Beauty.** As always with Ford, there's a hint of dark glamour with truffle, black currant and the orchid developed specifically for this fragrance. But the scent itself is lighter than the original Black Orchid thanks to a slew of white florals in the top note.

● **My Insolence by Guerlain.** Out from a delicate pink bottle comes a fresh raspberry note mixed with soft florals and a signature Guerlain base of patchouli, vanilla and tonka bean.

● **Kelly Caleche by Hermes.** The house's perfumer, after visiting the storage space for Hermes leathers, noted that some of the finest leathers actually had a floral scent. He aimed to put that smell in a bottle that also paid homage to the company's signature Kelly handbag with a turn-lock clasp.

● **Daisy Marc Jacobs.** It's a floral fragrance, of course, but the heart of the scent isn't the daisy, it's violet, with hints of strawberry, jasmine and white woods.

● **Amalfi Flowers by Creed.** Perfumers developed this fragrance at Villa Rufolo on Italy's Amalfi coast. In the garden they smelled citrus and floral notes, including lemon, orange and rose.

● **Ann Taylor Possibilities.** This is the first fine fragrance from the retailer. The feminine, floral notes include Bulgarian rose, waterlily and blue rose.

● **Roxy.** A fragrance intended for a daring young women, it uses the scents of grapefruit, lily and salty amber to mimic a sunny beach day. There is an eco-friendly accord worth noting, too — the extract from ylang flowers in Madagascar that were grown and harvested without pesticides or chemicals.

● **Belle en Rykiel by Sonia Rykiel.**

This was actually developed by Sonia's daughter, Nathalie, who says she shuns trends and likes to go her own way. The fragrance opens with frankincense and lavender, and also features coffee blossom and mahogany.

● **Vivara by Emilio Pucci.** The first version of this "beach fragrance" was introduced in 1966; it comes back in 2007 with as a fresh green floral with bergamot, narcissus and iris.

● **White Jasmine & Mint by Jo Malone.** You guessed it, jasmine and mint straight from a British garden.

## MEN:

● **Calvin Klein Man.** The modern Man is minimalist and sexy, according to the company. In fragrance, that means crisp, spicy and woody notes like rosemary, spearmint and musk.

● **Tom Ford for Men.** Ford says he looked to create something unusual and complex with notes of lemon leaf oil, tobacco leaf and Cyprilol, a root from India.

● **Polo Explorer by Ralph Lauren.** This uses notes from around the globe — South African mandarin, Cuban mahogany and Argentinian mate, among them — in the quest to balance ruggedness and refinement. Another note comes from sandalwood from the Australian Outback. For each sandalwood tree used in the fragrance, a new tree is being planted.

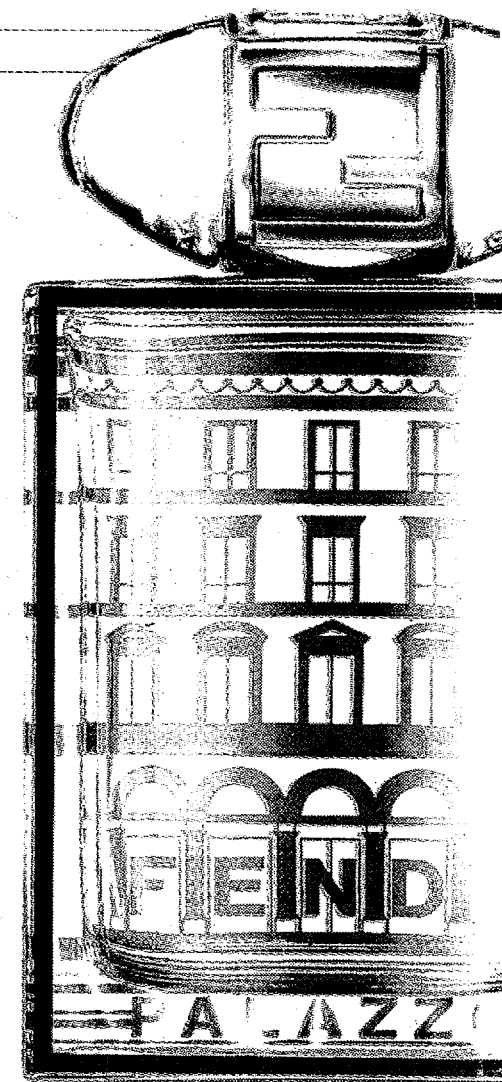
● **F by Ferragamo Pour Homme by Salvatore Ferragamo.** There's an Italian accent to this woody scent thanks to a lavender top note and base of labdanum, the resin of a shrub that grows in Mediterranean regions.

● **Mustang.** This scent is the result of a partnership between Estee Lauder's Aramis and Designer Fragrances division and Ford Motor Co. It's all about masculinity, with aromas of pipe tobacco, cedarwood and fir balsam.

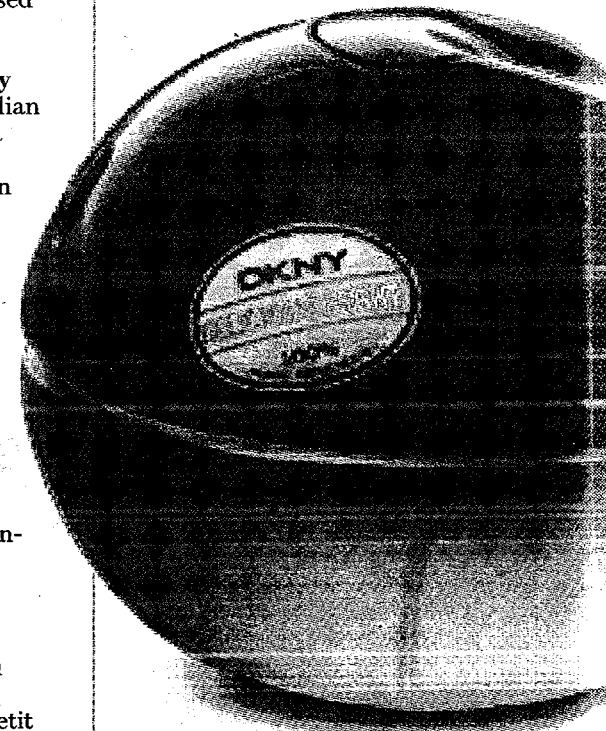
● **Colonia Intensa from Acqua di Parma.** The target customer is a man who likes to surround himself with beautiful things — and appreciates the smells of bergamot, lemon, ginger and neroli.

## CHILDREN:

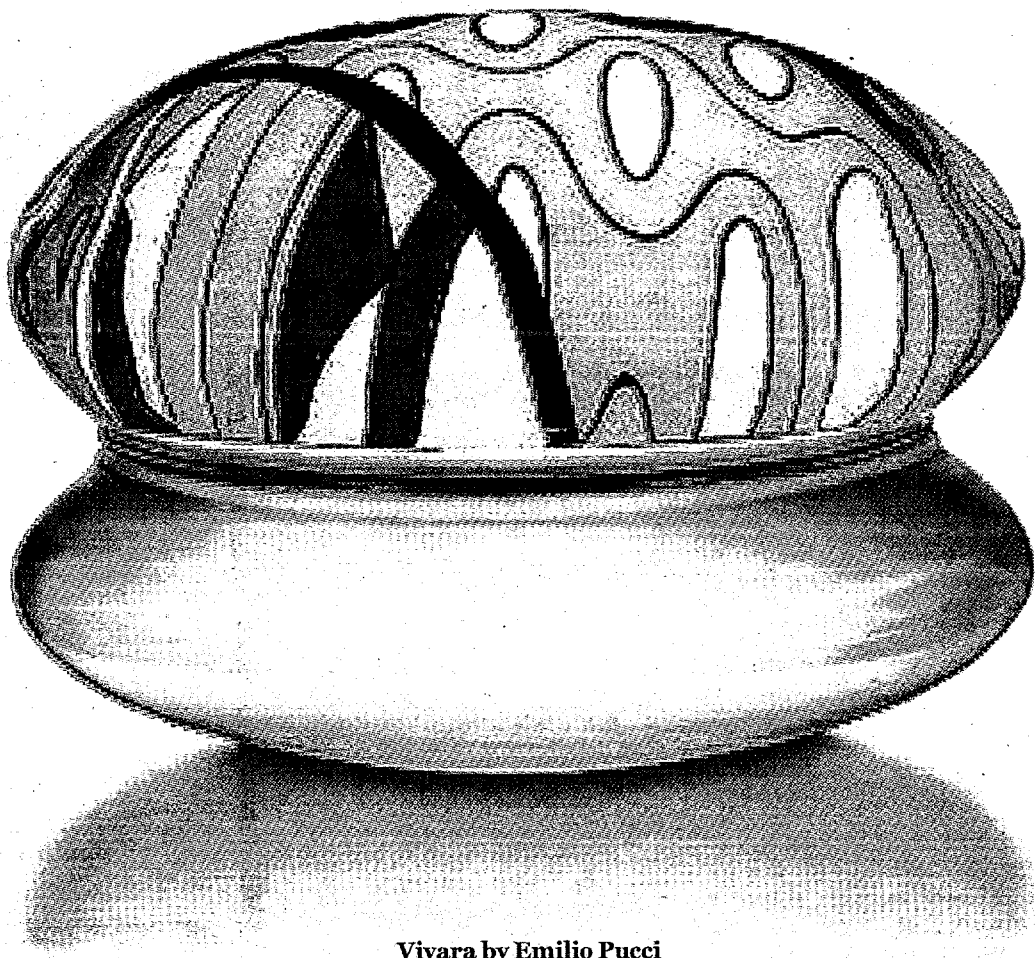
● **Le Petit Prince and La Rose Du Petit Prince.** These alcohol-free fragrances aim to be "fresh" scents. Le Petit Prince, intended for boys and girls up to 10 years old, includes notes of orange and Lily of the Valley, while La Rose is for girls ages 6-10 with notes of clementine, orange and grapefruit.



Fendi Palazzo.



DKNY Delicious Night.



Vivara by Emilio Pucci



Black Orchid Voile de Fleur by Tom Ford Beauty.

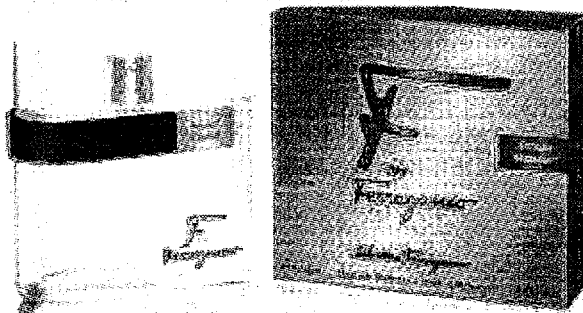
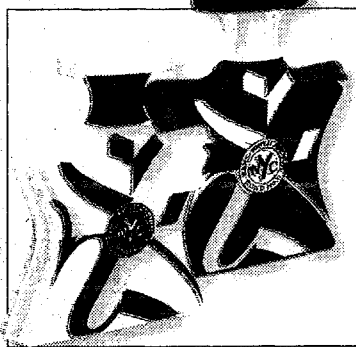
**BOND NO. 9 WILL RECYCLE OLD PERFUME BOTTLES**

**TROY** — Sometimes it seems as if an equal amount of effort went into crafting a perfume flacon as into crafting the perfume. But as beautiful as the bottles might be, eventually you'll run out of room to display them.

Recycling the glass is a better end for the bottles than trashing them, and perfumer Bond No. 9 is willing to take in any and all empty perfume bottles.

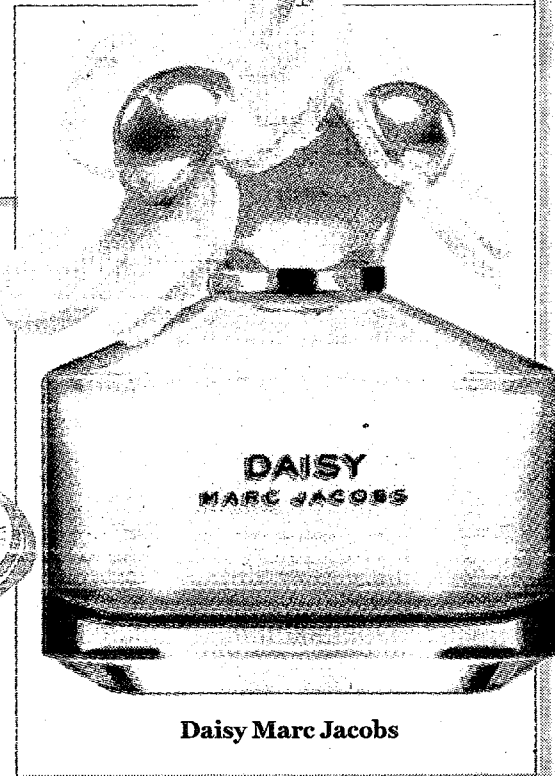
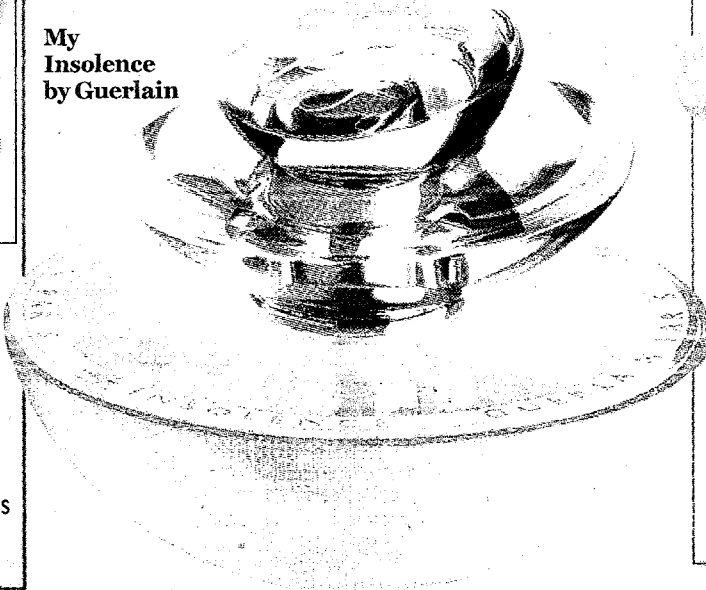
Company founder Laurice Rahme says that recycling is one small way she can make a difference. "As I become more aware of the issues facing our environment, I feel compelled on a personal and business level to participate in the green movement — and assume a leadership role," she said in a statement. Bottles can be returned to the Bond counter at Saks Fifth Avenue stores. Bond also will give customers a free refillable pocket spray with any purchase.

— Associated Press



F by Ferragamo Pour Homme by Salvatore Ferragamo.

My Insolence by Guerlain



Daisy Marc Jacobs

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### Why Get Rid of Your Old Possessions

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beyond the window

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# Plymouth Rocks!

Let's peek beyond a few alluring windows in Downtown Plymouth for a jump on holiday shopping.

## GET YOUR "GIRL" ON

At **Gigi's Mode**, PINK-minded gals can find cute Thinqe Pinque designs, Prada perfume, Betsey Johnson luggage and Red Engine jeans.

**That's Awesome** really is. Located adjacent to the popular **Salon Awesome**, this aptly named boutique brims with trinkets, hip handbags, tabletop accents, wall art and more. Italian for "my beautiful one," **Bella Mia** is one beauty when it comes to flirty contemporary apparel. Fend off Mr. Frost's bite with one of many fashion forward coats from **Kensie** or **Tulle**.

Opened in July, 2007, **Vanity Salon** offers fresh surroundings and services, and an aesthetician is waiting in the wings for facials and waxing. **Maggie & Me** carries an array of clothing styles, and R.S.V.P. stocks upbeat invitations, personalized cards and ornaments, gifts and wraps to ring in the holiday season.

**Spa Julianna** beckons you to "relax, reflect, revitalize, and rejoice" with its elegant environs and extensive treatment menu, including pre-natal massage. Can't go wrong with genuine holiday glitter at such fine jewelry shops as **Dearborn Jewelers**, **Francis Jewelry Gallery**, or **Delta Diamond Setters & Jewelers**. Onward to **Sideways** for a miscellany of modern delights and gourmet items for both the pantry and the palate. Find a sultry number at **Sunny J's Lingerie & Leisure Wear**, or drop into **Hands On Leather & Jewelry** for a supple something.

## OH, BABY!

Pick up adorable duds and gifts for little ones at **Sweet Peas & Little Sprouts**.

Don't miss the old-world aura of **Muriel's Doll House**, with toys for girls and boys alike,

including cuddly Steiff stuffed animals.

**Mia Bella Mommy-to-be & Baby Boutique** caters to baby, and doesn't neglect mom. **Tummy Honey** soothes the skin and prevents stretch marks. And announce what month baby will arrive with a "Due in..." tee or tank in a punchy print or with rhinestone embellishments.

Plan a play date at **Kids Play Cafe**, where kids can frolic, while moms catch up over a cup of java. And bring home a treat for puppy at **Three Dog Bakery**.

## CAPTIVATE YOUR SENSES

**Penniman Gallery** offers artist inspired jewelry and home accessories, **Parkside Gallery** boasts a large selection of **Thomas Kinkadee** pieces, while **Native West** brings jewelry, pottery and sculptures from the southwest. **Frameworks Gallery** turns photos into canvas art, and **Lotus Arts Gallery** features eye-popping contemporary works.

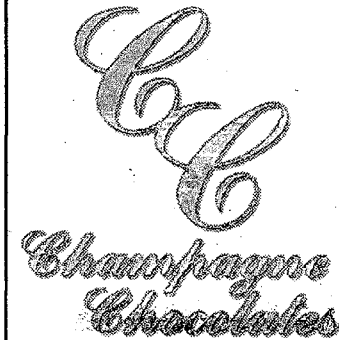
Design your own pottery at **Creatopia**, revive those hippie days at **Earth Lore**, or hit **Scents of Delight** for an elegantly designed **Lampe Berger** from Paris, an oil lamp that permeates the air with fragrance. **Gabrial's** oozes with special gift ideas, and **Basket Kreations** assembles treasures of treats.

Cozy up with a flavorful tea from **TranquilTea**, and enhance your table with a whimsical bouquet from **Magnolia Fresh Flower Market**. Or, set up an afternoon tea outing at the **Sweet Afton Tea Room**.

If all you need is a loaf of bread, a glass of wine (and him!), stop off at **Boule Artisan Bakery**, then hit **Grape Expectations Wine Bar & Merchant** for a bottle to go (or enjoy an in-house repast!)

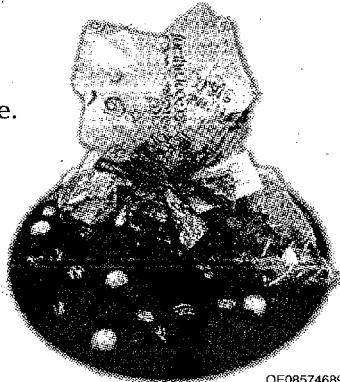
From happening restaurants and taverns to aromatic coffeehouses and chocolate shops, downtown Plymouth satisfies all yens and yearnings - and the new bistro menu at the charming **Cafe Bon Homme** is no exception.

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# pink picks

## Wear It!

**Project Runway** dress for **Bitten** at **Steve & Barry's**

## DON'T Wear It!

Salt stained boots and shoes

## Kick It!

Winter Crocs

## Face It!

**Laura Mercier** **Chocolate and Vanilla** Eye Collection at **Saks Fifth Avenue**

## Nail It!

Festive silver polish

## Jewel It!

**Thomas Sabo** **Charm Club** at **Mazzoni Jewelers** in **Farmington**

## Use It!

A **Hooter Hider** for breast feeding in public

## Toast It!

**Perrier-Jouët's** 1999 **Fleur de Champagne**

## See It!

**Juno**

## Tote It!

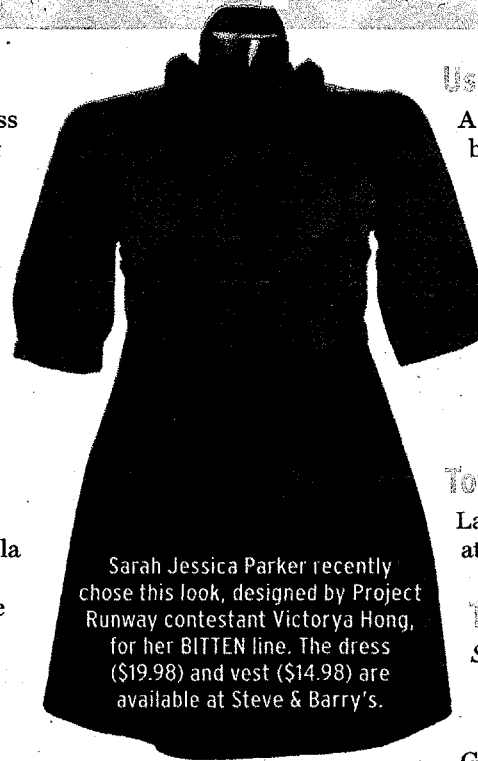
**Lacoste** Clutch at **Macy's**

## TIVO It!

**Samantha Who?**

## Experience It!

**Guitar Hero III**



Sarah Jessica Parker recently chose this look, designed by **Project Runway** contestant **Victoria Hong**, for her **BITTEN** line. The dress (\$19.98) and vest (\$14.98) are available at **Steve & Barry's**.



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Don't Forget the Bird Seed!



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# An affordable trip to the sunny island of women

Recently I told you about my trip to Cancun at the freshly renovated ClubMed resort.

Still, I was in Mexico and needed to leave the resort to explore the ancient Yucatan Peninsula.

And, oh, what I found for you!

Less than \$150 offered a guided tour of the Island of Women, called Isla Mujeres, which is a 20-minute ferry ride from Cancun. I almost accepted it until a local merchant in downtown Cancun gave another idea.

For \$18, I bought a round-trip Ferry Ride to the island, rented a golf cart for \$15 and journeyed on my own. My girlfriends and I were free to roam this charming island without tour schedules. Mujeres is about five miles long, one mile wide and gives a perfect taste of authentic Mexico. The casual town bustles with lively energy: colorful buildings, hectic narrow streets and pretty beaches where music emanates from the nearby restaurants.



travels

with lana

I found many modest hotels with air conditioning and beach view rooms for as low as \$45 per night.

Yes. \$45.

The hotel I fell in love with is called Bucaneros where 16 rooms are decorated with soft Mayan flair. Bucaneros isn't on the beach, even better. It's on a skinny street filled with windowless restaurants and shops and is a fun eight minute walk to the clear blue North Beach. Some of the rooms were \$77 per night; still a steal as each has a private bathroom, safe and cable television.

It also has a relaxing restaurant where tourists can eat anything without worry — Bucaneros owners' pride themselves on quality, clean ingredients. I had the best guacamole I've ever encountered. Visit [www.bucaneros.com](http://www.bucaneros.com)

for a virtual visit.

Mujeres earned its name in 1517 after a Spanish explorer wandered there and saw stone statues of women throughout the island; shrines to Ixchel, the Mayan goddess of fertility.

Mujeres was also visited by infamous pirate Jean Lafitte (whose surname is also the name of the oldest bar in America — Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop in New Orleans). That pirate sure got around.

The island is also known for its sea turtles. Local children help raise and release them each year. Visit the Turtle Farm for \$30.

Or there's a reef located just feet from shore at Garrafón Natural Reef Park which makes snorkeling a breeze. What I didn't do there was swim with dolphins — because dolphins belong free in the ocean not captive in enclosed waterspace for us to ride all day long.

Wander the ruins at Hacienda Mundaca and see the chilling empty tomb of a slave-trading pirate where the words are inscribed "As you are, I was. As I am, you will be."

At about 6 p.m., partake in tradition by enjoying a cerveza at an open-air taqueria (taco shop) while watching the sunset at Playa Norte.

And then there's the shopping.

If you don't want to haggle, go to Cancun's malls where prices are set and low. If you like negotiating, try the stores on the island. Offer 60 percent less of asking price. How much should you increase your offer? This best rule: ask yourself what the item is worth to you personally; not to the dollar. Silver, turquoise, hand-woven purses, hand-carved instruments and embroidered clothing are best bets.

And if that still isn't fun enough there's a seashell house at the southern point of the island. Don't believe me? Visit <http://www.isla-mujeres.net/postcards.htm> and see.

*Lana Mini is a citizen of the world, professional belly dancer and staff writer for the Observer & Eccentric and Mirror Newspapers. See more of her stories in Filter: Pure Entertainment every Thursday and Sunday.*

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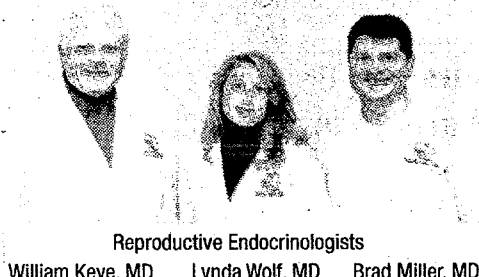
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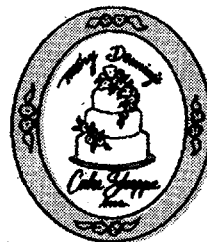
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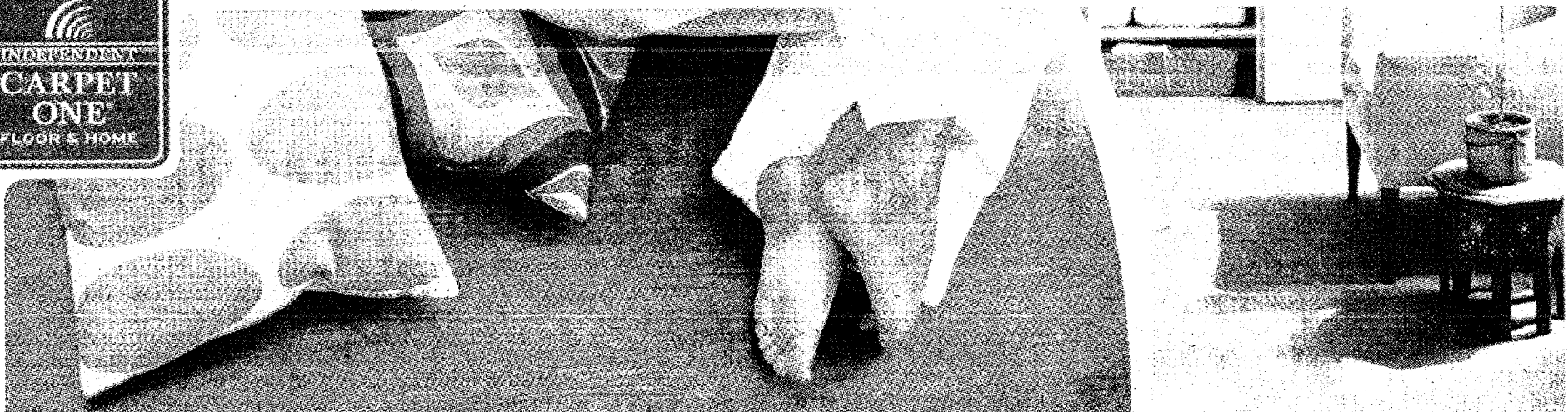


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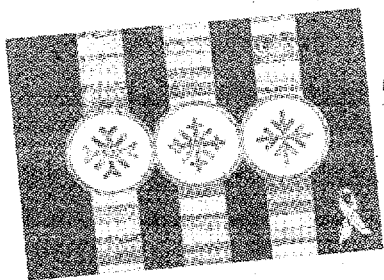
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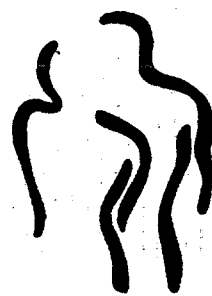


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