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Commission eyes goals for 2008

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

The fire department contract with Plymouth Township, getting rid of downtown eyesores and a new community pool are top priorities for the Plymouth City Commission in 2008.

A goal-setting session last week resulted in six areas on which the commission will be focusing its attention the next 12 months:

- Formulate an action plan for fire and dispatch contracts with Plymouth Township.
- Determine an action plan
- for parking management. Review the city's master
- Define a policy on the use of the nearly \$2.3 million received in the sale of the Bathey property.
- Review options for revitalizing the former Amoco and Dairy Mart properties.
- Identify and meet with stakeholders on a community

The previous city commission put a high priority on a new fire contract with Plymouth Township, as well as formulating plans for a possible switch to a public safety department.

"The fire contract is definitely my number one priority,' Commissioner Jerry Sabatini said. "The longer we delay it, the longer it will remain our focus. I think we can come to a resolution. I don't think there's any reason to delay it."

Sabatini also said he'd like to see the city install parking meters downtown to help alle-

viate parking problems. Mayor Phil Pursell wants to see the former Amoco gas station (Main and Ann Arbor

Please see GOALS, A2



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The hills of Hines Park were the place to be if you like sledding, snowboarding and toboggans. Plymouth Township resident Ellen Hoyer and her 7-year-old son, Luke, enjoy his snow day from school.

Mother Nature howls

Drivers annoyed, kids enjoyed first storm of season

The first major winter storm of the season certainly brought the usual mixed reaction when it hit last weekend.

While drivers struggled to get anywhere during and immediately after the storm, which dropped nearly a foot of snow Saturday and Sunday on the Detroit area, students surely relished the day off from school it brought Monday.

Plymouth-Canton school officials made the decision Sunday not to conduct school the following day as the area dug out from under the effects of the storm.

Monday was a play day in Plymouth, with parents and kids alike taking to the hills of Hines Park, Plymouth Township Park and the various parks in the city of Plymouth.

There was little else to report following the storm. "Other than the slippery streets, there weren't really any ill effects from the storm," Plymouth Community Fire Department Chief Randy Maycock said. "People were driving a little too fast for the conditions, but that was about it."

Maycock did issue one important reminder, asking residents to make sure they clear the areas around any fire hydrants near their homes.

"It's important firefighters are able to find those hydrants if it becomes necessary," Maycock said.



Earle Bassett and Cindy Hartford clear snow from the sidewalk in Old Village.

Trial date set in beheading case

BY BRAD KADRICH STAFF WRITER

Two teenagers accused of killing a 26-year-old River Rouge man have a date with a jury.

Jean Pierre Orlewicz, 17, of Plymouth Township, and 18-year-old Alexander Letkemann of Westland are scheduled to stand trial April 7 in the Third Circuit courtroom of Judge Annette Berry on charges of first-degree murder and mutilation of a corpse.

The pair stood mute at their circuit court arraignment Friday, and Berry entered not-guilty pleas on their behalf. A final conference date has been set for



DETROIT NEWS POOL PHOTO

Plymouth Township teenager Jean Pierre Orlewicz, 17, with attorney James Thomas in 35th District Court, faces an April 7 trial date in the death of Daniel Sorensen.

Feb. 15, according to court officials.

The teens are charged in the death of Daniel Sorensen, whom police say the suspects lured to the Canton Township home of Orlewicz's grandfather, then killed, last

Sorensen died Nov. 7 of multiple stab wounds. His head was cut off and thrown in the Rouge River in Hines Park, where it was found a few days later. Police say the teens burned Sorensen's hands and feet in a failed attempt to obliterate identifying marks such as fingerprints, then dumped his body in a vacant lot in Northville

Township. Orlewicz, a Canton High School senior, and Letkemann, who dropped

out of Churchill High School only to get his diploma through the adult education program, were arrested two days later.

They were bound over for trial after a day-long preliminary hearing Nov. 30 in 35th District Court in Plymouth. Judge Michael Gerou threw out one count of felony murder, saying prosecutors failed to prove the felony — the theft of a gun owned by Sorensen — occurred prior to the murder.

Neither prosecutors nor defense lawyers are commenting on the case, citing a gag order issued by Gerou.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com (734) 459-2700

Shooting suspect shoots himself

Scott guard found wounded on Belle Isle

BY BRAD KADRICH STAFF WRITER

A man described by police as a "person of interest" in the killing of Scott Correctional Facility Lt. Joseph Candie in a shooting at a Plymouth Township gas station Wednesday morning was at press time undergoing surgery for self-inflicted gunshot wounds.

The man, whose identity hasn't been released but who Plymouth Township officials said was also an employee at Scott, apparently shot himself in the stomach in a rest room



Lt. Joseph Candie

according to township officials. The man was found by **Detroit Police** and taken to the hospital around 4 p.m. At press time, officials

on Belle Isle,

said the suspect was in critical condition at Detroit Receiving Hospital.

The suspect reportedly worked on the same shift with Candie at Scott; according to police, Candie was the suspect's supervisor.

Plymouth Township Police Chief Tom Tiderington stopped short of calling the man a suspect in Candie's death, although he admitted the man had been "a person of interest" as police began their investigation Wednesday.

"We are looking into the relationship and possible involvement of this individual, in Candie's death, Tiderington said Wednesday evening. "We haven't connected those dots vet."

Candie died from multiple gunshot wounds he suffered in the shooting, which followed a heated argument at the Shell gas station at Five Mile

GOT INFORMATION?

Plymouth Township police are asking anyone with information about the shooting at the Shell station at Five Mile and Beck to call (734) 354-3232.

and Beck shortly after 5 a.m. Wednesday.

Candie, 39, a 14-year vet-eran of the Department of Corrections, spent the last three years at Scott, where he was a shift commander on the midnight shift, according to Department of Corrections spokesman Russ Marlan. Candie had previously worked at the Western Wayne Correctional Facility down the street, which was closed a few years ago. He leaves behind an 8-year-old daughter.

"Lt. Candie was a member of our family," Marlan said. "We obviously want to see whomever did this apprehended."

Candie was the victim of "multiple gunshot wounds," according to police. At a press conference earlier Wednesday, Tiderington said police aren't sure how many shots were fired, and weren't prepared to say how many times Candie had been hit. The chief wouldn't say what caliber gun was used in the shooting.

While Tiderington said police didn't believe robbery was a motive, the later events also didn't do much to clarify the motive, because police aren't sure what the argument was about.

Jodi DeAngelo, assistant deputy warden at Scott Correctional Facility, wouldn't comment on the incident. other than to say it is under investigation and to admit the prison has "enhanced our

Please see **SHOOTING**, A2



Plymouth Township police seal off the entrance to the Shell gas station at Five Mile and Beck, where an argument Wednesday morning left a Scott Correctional Facility officer dead and a shooter at large.

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Volume 122 Number 35

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Coming Sunday in Health



Psychiatrist's new book focuses on grown-ups with ADHD

Book signing Friday

John O'Shaughnessy, a Plymouth Township resident and author of The Greatest Gift: A Return to Hope, a story of courage and hope in the face of his wife's battle with terminal lung cancer, will hold a book signing 7 p.m. Friday at Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Ann Arbor.

O'Shaughnessy details his wife's courageous battle with cancer and the impact on his family. The book is a powerful story about accepting and living through grief.

The bookstore is at 3235 Washtenaw Ave. (northwest corner of Washtenaw and Huron Parkway in the Huron Village Shopping Center 734-973-0846).

The book is available on Amazon.com, at Barnes & Noble and the Plymouth Book Cellar on Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth.

Luminaria sale

The Plymouth Symphony League is selling Luminaria Kits for the Christmas Holiday. Each kit consists of 10 white envelopes and 10 candles. Kits are \$5 apiece and may be purchased through Dec. 24 in Plymouth at the Book Cellar, Gabriala's, Saxton's, sideways or at the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society Office (470 Forest Place, Suite #18.

For more information, call (734) 451-2112.

Library blood drive

The recent snow storm greatly reduced the amount of blood collected by the American Red Cross.

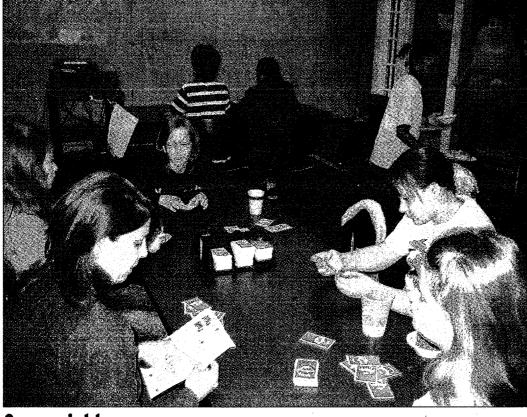
Hoping to help increase the blood inventory for southeast Michigan, the Plymouth District Library will host a blood drive 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 28. Reserve a time slot by calling the Library at (734) 453-0,50, Ext. 217. Walk-ins are ***also welcome.

Fife & Drum alumni

The Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps is in the process of compiling alumni information to

PLYMOUTH PIPELINE



Game night

The Teen Zone of the Plymouth District Library will hold a Teen/Family Game Night with board games, DDR, Wii Sports and pizza 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27. This night is free; however, registration is required and may be made by calling (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

reach out to our alumni members regarding future events and performances.

If you are a Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps alumni, please forward your contact information (name, phone number, e-mail address) to our Alumni Director, Robin Leclerc (rleclerc@wideopenwest.com)

Council on Aging

■ Plymouth Community Council on Aging presents The Heinzman School of Irish Dance and also a presentation by Jane Saylor, "Writing Skills," Jan. 14, 1:30-3 p.m., at the Plymouth Cultural Center. Refreshments will be served. Call (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236 for information.

Stroke Screenings by Life Line, hosted by the Council on Aging, will be held Friday, Jan. 18, at the Plymouth Township Friendship Station. Pre-registration is required. Call to schedule appointments for screenings at (800) 324-1851. Screenings available are Stroke Screen/Carotid Artery \$45, **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm** Screening \$45, Peripheral **Arterial Disease Screening** \$45, Osteoporosis Screening \$35 or all four (4) screenings for \$129.

Me & My Shadow class

Young children and their grown-ups are invited to frolic indoors this winter at New Morning School's Me & My Shadow Parent & Young Child Classes, a fun, nurturing and educational introduction to preschool for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds and their grownups.

Activities include music and finger-play, art and discovery projects, snack and story time, all centered around a learning theme. New Morning School's Me & My Shadow classes provide special oneon-one time for parents and children, and encourage chil-

dren to take their first steps toward socializing with their

Parents can choose from two eight-week sessions beginning Jan. 11. Classes run on Friday morning from 9-10 a.m. or 10:30-11:30 a.m. Cost is \$72 for the entire session.

To enroll, please call (734) 420-3331, or download the registration form at www.newmorningschool.com

Garden Club

Beneath frosty autumn carpets, the gardens are awaiting their future displays for 2008. Trailwood Garden Club of Plymouth is looking for gardens in the Plymouth area for its annual Garden Walk taking place next June. Over the years, all manner of gardens have delighted visitors, ranging from compact city gardens to watery, wildflower, herb, cutting, and expansive country gardens.

Anyone interested in opening their special garden can contact Georgia Randinitis at (734) 459-7146 or Marilyn Detmer at (734) 454-4625.

Cruise for the arts

Patrons can help the arts thrive in the community and cruise the Caribbean at the same time.

The first Plymouth Community Cruise, sponsored by the Plymouth Rotary A.M., is scheduled March 22-29, a seven-day cruise of the western Caribbean. Ports of Call (round trip from Ft. Lauderdale) include Ocho Rios, Jamaica; Georgetown, Grand Cayman; Cozumel, Mexico; Princess Cays, Bahamas; and two days at

Prices start at \$969 per person, and a \$200 percabin contribution will be made in the cruiser's name to the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society upon return.

For reservations and more information, contact Kathy or Kate at Carlson Wagonlit Travel, (734) 455-5810.

Legion meets

■ The American Legion, Beasley-Zalesny Post 112 and Ladies Auxiliary Unit 112 meet the third Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. All war-time veterans are welcome. Ladies must be a mother, wife, sister, daughter, granddaughter or greatgranddaughter of a war-time veteran and are also welcome.

Meetings are held at IOOF Hall, 344 Elizabeth (at Ann Arbor Trail) in downtown Plymouth. For information, call (734) 459-7324.

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

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

Trail) and Dairy Mart (Harvey and Penniman) sites developed.

"The city needs to do whatever it can to get these off the dime," Pursell said. "They're an eyesore, and everything else is getting built up around them. It's not just those two places. but those are the two I'd like to start with because they're right downtown."

While the fire contract is a No. 1 priority for Commissioner Dave Workman, the construction of a pool and fitness center with the help of public and private funding isn't far behind.

"The community voiced an interest a couple of years ago, and we need to rev up that conversation and get creative with recreation," Workman said. "We do a lot with community education classes, and we should do whatever we can to help along a community pool and fitness center."

Among the other issues the commission will be keeping its eye on are the 2009 road improvement plan, the political sign ordinance as the 2008 elections heat up and the liquor license policy.

"A lot of the goals, as a whole, represent an opportunity for the city to become more dynamic, attract business and grow," Commissioner Chris Lynn said. "With that, hopefully we can increase the tax base and can reduce the tax burden on residents."

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FROM PAGE A1

"Unfortunately I'm unable to describe how we've enhanced it, but we have enhanced security," DeAngelo said.

Tiderington said police were reviewing security videotape not only from the gas station. but also from surrounding businesses. Likewise, they are reviewing the tape of the 9-1-1 call, which was made by the gas station attendant.

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O I AM LEGEND (PG-13) 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

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

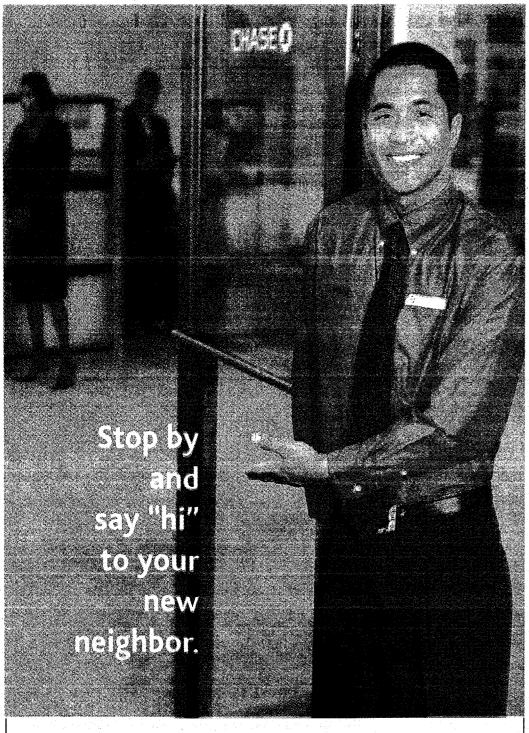
FRI/SAT LS 12:00 THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13)

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POSTAL PERIODICAL REQUIREMENTS The Plymouth Observer - Publication NO. USPS 436-360 Published every Thursday and

Sunday. Periodical postage is paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150.

36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150



"A HAPPY DOG DAY... IS A DAY OF DOG PLAY!



MADD message – make yuletide safe

BY JULIE BROWN STÅFF WRITER

Brenda Pendleton remembers vividly the day she was in a drunken driving crash. Pendleton's sister died in the crash, and she spent eight months in the hospital.

"I had to learn to think, talk, use the bathroom, everything we take for granted," she told those at Wayne County MADD's "Tie One on for Safety" program Friday, Dec. 7. Her sister, 24, left behind a 3-year-old son for the family to raise.

Pendleton needed 26 operations, and spent three years in a wheelchair. "I'm here today and able to walk and talk, basically do everything," said the mother of two daughters who became active with Mothers Against Drunk Driving after the crash.

"Think about other people's lives before you get behind the wheel and drive," Pendleton urged. "Drinking and driving is 100 percent preventable. Just think about your loved ones and kiss them every day."

She was among speakers at the MADD program at Westland Shopping Center, held to boost awareness of safe driving during the holidays. The day's "a pledge to everyone to drive safe and sober during the holiday season," said Ne'chole McClendon, executive director for MADD of Wayne County.

"I think it's getting better," she said of public awareness. "We still have a long way to go." MADD is involved in state legislation to put ignition locks on the cars of first-time drunken driving offenders. "We're pushing legislation to make that happen," she said.

The Dec. 7 session at the mall included a lively musical performance by Detroit School of the Arts vocalists, the Achievers
Ladies Ensemble under the
direction of Sheila Sipes.
"Youth is the prevention of
underage drinking," said
McClendon, who involves
young people every year.
"We want to start with
the young people because
they're our most precious
resource."

The day also included voting on favorite "mocktail" recipes, to show that tasty drinks can be served that don't include alcohol. The top three winners were recognized. Red ribbons and ribbon decals were given out for display on vehicles.

Representing Wayne
County Executive Robert
Ficano, Tad Sturdivant
talked about his days with
the Michigan State Police
and losing a trooper colleague who was hit and
killed by a hit and run driver. That driver was convicted of drunken driving, said
Sturdivant, deputy director
of children and family services for the county.

"What punishment is appropriate and necessary to eradicate this plague?" he asked. Australia publishes convicted drunken drivers' names in the newspaper, Sturdivant said, while El Salvador has the ultimate punishment — execution by firing squad for a first offense.

Undersheriff Dan
Pfannes said, "MADD has
done a great job over the
years in getting the message out not to drink and
drive." He described extra
patrols planned for the holidays and progress made:
"However, we can't let up."

Two deaths were of drunken pedestrians who stepped in the path of a sober motorist, Pfannes noted.

"We must also be equally mindful of taking responsibility," added Westland Mayor William Wild, noting a ride home for a drunken friend can be a life saver.

Local trumpeter blows horn in parade

Michael J. Clemente of Plymouth, a high school senior at Novi Detroit Catholic Central and four-year member of the bands there as a trumpet player and also Senior Drum Major, recently represented the Plymouth area in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York.

He marched and played trumpet as a member of Macy's Great American Marching Band. The band, sponsored by Macy's, is comprised of high school musicians from all over the country and leads the parade in New York City on Thanksgiving morning. Clemente was chosen as a member of the trumpet section of the Macy's Great American Marching Band for this year's parade.

The opportunity came to Clemente as a result of his participation in and achievements attained while completing a Drum Major camp program each of the past two summers at Eastern Illinois University. His nomination by camp directors to membership in this band led to his audition and acceptance for membership in this year's parade band.

The camp is one of the national selection sites for the Macy's parade.

Once a student is accepted for membership in the parade band they then commit to a week-long program in New York.

Their directors for the week come from Auburn University, Ohio State and many other colleges and universities as well as from a number of drum corps organizations. This gives these students the chance to work under some of the nation's top band professors and instructors as they prepare for their performances the day of the parade.

In addition to playing as they marched the entire band route, the band was a featured performer in front of the Macy's flagship store in Herald Square as part of the NBC televised coverage of this event.

Clemente is a 2004 graduate of Our Lady of Good Counsel Elementary in Plymouth and



Michael J. Clemente of Plymouth (center, in glasses with silver trumpet), a high school senior at Novi Detroit Catholic Central, recently represented the Plymouth area in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York.

of its music program, led by Susan Lindquist, where he got his start with the trumpet as a member of the OLGC bands from fifth through eighth grades.

His band director at Catholic Central is Greg Normandin. After his

2008 graduation from Catholic Central, Clemente plans to major in Music Education at Michigan State University.

Michael is the son of Mike and Mary Jo Clemente of Plymouth Township and has one sister, Annie, a freshman at Western Michigan University.

Video finalist

The shopping confessions are in. Over the last four weeks, secret shoppers from across the country have come forward to confess their



Craig Kerfoot

unique, devious, outrageous, funny, or heartwarming purchases they have been hiding from their friends, family, and significant others.

Five lucky contestants
- including Craig Kerfoot of
Plymouth - have been selected
as finalists in the eBillme
Shopping Confessions Contest.
One will be chosen as the
grand prize winner and will
receive \$20,000 from eBillme
and the title of the best secret

shopping confession.

Kerfoot confessed the past 25 years of inadequate Christmas presents for his parents, and revealed his surprise gift this year, and the secret method of payment he used to purchase it.

"Our contest has proven that there are a lot of secret shoppers out there operating incognito from all those around them," says Marwan Frozley, President and CEO of MODASolutions. "We searched for the biggest secret shoppers, and received creative, humorous, heartwarming, and entertaining video confessions. It was a really hard decision, but we managed to narrow it down to the Top five. We are looking forward to announcing our big winner in the upcoming weeks, and granting \$20,000, right in time for the holidays.







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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 20, 2007

Pro a must to follow Medicaid recovery law

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Michigan's

new estate

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people out

up. There are

recently heard an ad that raised my eyebrows. It dealt with Medicaid and how to deal with Michigan's new estate recovery rules. The ad said that by buying a certain product, it would allow one to qualify for Medicaid. In addition, the ad claimed to be able to shelter assets from Michigan's new Estate



Money Matters

For as long as I can remember, Medicaid planning has been a hot issue. For many, the issue was how to get the recovery rules, government to pay for nursing home expenses. In the old days, it was relatively easy to qualify for Medicaid. Unfortunately or fortunately, depending on which way you and it no longer is easy to

For example, in the past when the government looked at assets to determine eligibility for Medicaid, it would go back three years and look at an individual's economic data. Under today's rules, the lookback period is five years.

Medicaid also is more complex today because of new estate recovery rules which allow the state to come after some assets after death of individuals who have received

Medicaid. In 1993, federal legislation mandated that states have an estate recovery rule, however, Michigan did not enact the law until this year. The law was signed Sept. 30.

Despite what you may have read about the new law, it is not punitive. In fact, it is actually pretty liberal. There are ways to properly plan to either eliminate or reduce the effect of the new estate recovery rules. The key is proper planning and for that you will need to deal with a professional, not a salesperson. For example, I have seen ads selling so-called "Medicaid annuities" claiming that they avoid the new rules. Be careful about buying these so-called Medicaid qualifying annuities, because they don't necessarily accomplish your goal. You may find the "cure" is worse than the disease.

Proper Medicaid planning requires someone who knows what they are doing and who stays current on the law. Medicaid laws are constantly changing and the rules a year ago certainly are not the rules today. Does everyone need an attorney to deal with Medicaid? No. Many times people can do it themselves without difficulty. In fact, there is a free hotline for seniors who need some advice: (800) 347-LAWS. A variety of state and federal agencies also can be of assistance. On the other hand, if you do decide to retain an attorney, I recommend one who specializes in elder law. There is a section of the State Bar of Michigan, the Elder Law section, which has attorneys that specialize in issues such as Medicaid plan-

Seniors who are contemplating applying for Medicaid should be very leery about buying any products and dealing with people who are not qualified to give advice. Proper Medicaid planning can protect your loved ones. On the other hand, a misstep can have serious financial consequences to you and your loved ones.

If you're in a situation where Medicaid may be an option, take your time and don't rush into a course of action. Get the facts, deal with people who have your interests at heart and then make a decision.

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

Finnish-American Singers concert rescheduled for Sunday, Dec. 23

Due to the heavy snowfall last Sunday, the Finnish-American Singers concert had to be rescheduled for Dec. 23.

Singers president Ilene Yanke says not to worry, the Bake Sale will go on as scheduled as part of the event. Finnish Christmas tarts and ginger cookies and a variety of open-faced sandwiches will be served after the concert as well along with coffee, tea and pop. The festivities take place 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 23, at the Finnish Cultural Center, 35200 W. Eight Mile, between Newburgh and Gill, Farmington Hills.

Tickets are \$10. For more information, call (248) 478-

The Finnish-American Singers perform a concert featuring Finnish carols as well as classical music.

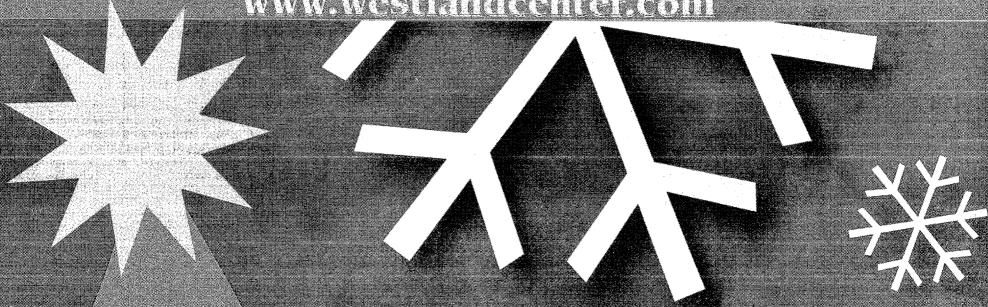




SHOPPING CENTER

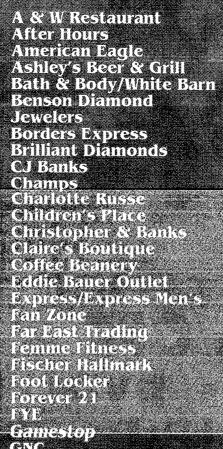
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A 'home' for the holiday

St. Dunstan serves dinner for those alone on Christmas Day

BY LEANNE ROGERS STAFF WRITER

Judy Larry is working hard to get out the word that St. **Dunstan Catholic Church is** hosting their usual Christmas Day dinner for people who would otherwise be alone on the holiday.

A volunteer at the dinner for more than a decade, this is the first year Larry and her husband, Bruce, Westland residents, are coordinators for the Christmas dinner.

"We get elderly folks who call and say they are so happy that we're doing this even with all the troubles we've had they are just so gratified," said Judy Larry, a member of the parish since the church was built in 1958.

"I don't get too emotional with the elderly people but this lady called and went on and on about how she appreciated it so much," added Bruce Larry.

The troubles are the June removal of longtime St. Dunstan pastor the Rev. Donald Demmer amid what the Archdiocese of Detroit called financial irregularities at the parish. That has triggered protests by parishioners seeking Demmer's return. Garden City Police have sought a warrant against a former employee over more than \$100,000 missing from the parish. Additionally, \$1.4 million is owed due to employee federal withholding being unpaid for five years.

Despite all the turmoil at the parish this year, there really wasn't any question about continuing the holiday tradition



the guests are predominantly

churches, Judy Larry said she

"Some of them will come

Eve and others will be casual.

"People come and stay for the

Each year, parish members

donated turkeys needed for the

Christmas dinner. Individuals

the dinner, which is served by

members of the parish, as well

as provide cash contributions.

tion," said Judy Larry, adding

We never say no to a dona-

and businesses donate items for

Al and Donna Spiteri spend

weeks thawing, cooking, slic-

ing and refreezing the many

senior citizens. Along with

notices in bulletins at area

has also faxed fliers to area

senior housing complexes.

decked out like New Year's

People come from all over

the place," said Judy Larry.

duration to socialize."

Getting prepared for the annual Christmas Day dinner hosted by St. Dunstan Catholic Church are Susan Massey (left), director of Christian Service, Judy and Bruce Larry, coordinators of the dinner. For many years, the church has hosted a Christmas Day dinner for people who would otherwise be alone on the holiday. The dinner is free but advance registration is required.

that draws 150 or more people for food and holiday companionship.

"With all the trials and tribulations since June, we tried for some normalcy. We love doing it (the dinner)," said Judy Larry, adding parishioners are fielding a full slate of volunteers to cook and serve the meal.

"We have to continue our ministry. It's our faith and our beliefs that keep us going," added Susan Massey, St. Dunstan Christian Service director, whose program helps provide food and students to help at the dinner. "There was no hesitation about continuing the dinner with all the turmoil. It's such a wonderful project to have here. It is such a welcoming day."

Since the dinner is for people who would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day,

HOLIDAY TRADITION

What: Dinner for anyone who would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day.

Where: St. Dunstan Catholic Church on Belton in Garden City. Belton is the second street west of Inkster Road. Take Belton south from Ford and it will dead end at the church.

When: The doors open at 1 p.m. and dinner is served at 1:30 p.m.

How: The dinner is free, but advance reservations are required by calling (734) 595-3049.

some donors wish to remain anonymous while others ask where their names will be listed.

The Larrys took over the dinner coordination duties from Mary and John Shurge, who had been in charge for a number of years.

"They retired after many vears. We really thank them for their dedication," said Judy Larry. "A lot of people volunteer year after year.'

Over the years, Judy Larry recalled making a lot of mashed potatoes for the Christmas dinner working with kitchen supervisor Monica Dubiel.

"She's our kitchen angel," Judy Larry said.

There is no cost for the Christmas Dinner, but advance reservations are required by calling (734) 595-3049. St. Dunstan is located on Belton, the second street west of Inkster Road. Take Belton south from Ford and it will dead end at the church.

Meals on Wheels in need of volunteers

BY DARRELL CLEM STAFF WRITER

A Wayne County program that delivers hot meals to homebound seniors urgently needs volunteers, particularly in Westland and Redford.

'In Westland, we actually have six people waiting for service because we don't have anybody to deliver to them," said Carol Scott, Wayne County Senior Services manager.

To volunteer for the Meals on Wheels program, call (734) 727-7357.

The county provides 2,800 hot meals a day to homebound seniors 60 and older who can't fix their own meals due to physical or mental disabilities, Scott

Seniors may make donations to the program to offset costs. Volunteers, including one 90-year-old Redford man, use their own transportation to deliver hot meals between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. In some cases, cold lunches are brought along for weekends.

The county has a kitchen staff that works overnight to prepare the meals, which are distributed through 41 nutrition sites throughout Wayne County.

"Westland and Redford are the areas where we really need volunteers right now," Scott said, "but we could use them every-

Volunteers in Westland

deliver meals from the senior Friendship Center on Newburgh near Ford, the Kay Beard Building on Michigan Avenue near Merriman and St. Bernardine of Siena Church on Ann Arbor Trail near Merriman.

In particular, the county needs volunteers to deliver meals from St. Bernardine, Scott said.

Redford meals are delivered from the Redford Community Center on Hemingway.

In all, Meals on Wheels volunteers deliver 260 meals a day in Westland and 130 in Redford, Scott

Aside from providing hot meals, the program also provides a safety net by having volunteers check up on homebound seniors.

"It means that somebody checks on them every day, Scott said.

Volunteers have to pass a background check, have a good driving record and "just have a good heart," she said. "It is a lot of work, especially in the winter when it's snowing."

Volunteers also have to agree to help out one day a week, delivering meals to 15 to 20 seniors. They get paid 36 cents a mile.

Some volunteers have complained that their mileage expenses haven't increased along with rising fuel costs.

"If we paid more for mileage," Scott said, "we'd have to serve less meals."

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Personal property described below in the matter of: 2006 – Jerrell Steele – Microwave, 8 Boxes, Misc Items

2017 – William Armstead Jr – Dresser, TV, Mattress 3033 - William Denning

4018 -Joan Wright -5 Bags, 4 Boxes, Misc Items 6006 - Bernice Holman - 4 8032 - Kimberly Barnet - Misc Items, Clothes, 8 Boxes

Publish: December 13 & 20, 2007



Canton Center Ro

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OUR VIEWS

For the holidays, give a gift of life

By this time next week, the gift giving will have come to an end. People will have headed back to the stores to make returns and cash in on post-Christmas sales.

But there's one gift that still needs to be given, especially at this time of year. It's the gift of life, and you have to visit an American Red Cross donor center or participate in a local Red Cross blood drive to make it happen.

The holidays are a time when blood donations drop. Factories and schools are closed and people are too busy with holiday activities. But the demand for blood never takes a day off. In fact, the American Red Cross of Southeastern Michigan needs some 900 donors each day to keep its shelves stocked with blood.

Your single blood donation can help up to three people. Do you have O-positive or O-negative blood? O-positive is in demand because it can be given to 84 percent of the population. O-negative has the universal red blood cells which can be given to any patient regardless of blood type.

If you have the rare AB blood type — only 4 percent of people have it — your donations also are need. AB plasma is the universal plasma. Like O-negative, it can be given to all blood types.

It takes an hour of your time to give blood and the donor centers have hours six days a week to accommodate all schedules. Don't know where a center is? You'll find the Livonia donor center in the University Park Building at 36650 Five Mile across from St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

There are also plenty of blood drives being held through the end of the month. Consider making a donation:

- 1-7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 26, at Resurrection Catholic Church, 48755 Warren Road, Canton.
- noon to 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 28, at Busch's Market, 15185
- Sheldon, Plymouth Township. ■ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 28, at the Plymouth

District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth. If you're at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds and

are in general good health, you're eligible to donate. And don't worry about being too old. No one is. The Red Cross doesn't have an upper age limit when it comes to blood donations.

Donating can be as easy as calling (800) GIVE LIFE or visiting the Web site at www.givelife.org.

Blue Cross bills need more scrutiny

Attorney General Mike Cox and the United Auto Workers are not often allies. But Cox, the UAW, the Consumers Union, Health Alliance Plan, AARP and several commercial insurance companies have joined to oppose legislation tailored to benefit Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

A package of four bills to amend Blue Cross operations was hastily pushed through the Michigan House of Representatives in October with only one two-hour hearing before coming to a House vote, where it received bipartisan support. It is now before the Senate, where state Sen. Iom George, R-Kalamazoo, promises a more deliberative process.

Obviously, the degree of opposition alone warrants a more responsible legislative process. In addition, Blue Cross insures 4.2 million Michigan residents, representing 70 percent of those with health insurance, excluding Medicare and Medicaid. What happens to Blue Cross will have an impact

The legislation would give Blue Cross more flexibility and reduce its liability on individual insurance policies — the objective being to provide better rates and coverage for those with individual policies and those currently uninsured. Blue Cross estimates that individual insurance will grow from 7 percent to 15-25 percent of the market over the next five years as employers drop coverage. According to press reports, Blue

Cross claims it has lost \$52 million on these policies over the last 10 years. Blue Cross was organized in 1939 under state statute as a tax-exempt "charitable and benevolent institution." Blue Cross is required to provide health insurance to Michigan citizens who cannot get it elsewhere and ensure that coverage is accessible and affordable for everyone in Michigan. Blue

Cross currently maintains \$2.8 billion in reserves. In a meeting with Observer & Eccentric editors. Cox outlined some of his major concerns with the legislation:

- Elimination of "community rating." The legislation would allow Blue Cross to institute a 10-tier system using age, health history, county of residence, etc., to determine rates. This would allow Blue Cross to set different rates based on these factors for its individual accounts. This would include "redlining," setting rates based on where a customer lives.
- Rate changes would no longer need prior approval from the state insurance commissioner and would no longer face a challenge from the attorney general's office.
- The legislation would allow Blue Cross to expand its forprofit operations.

Cox is also concerned about rising Blue Cross rates despite its record reserves. A suit by a Livonia couple is challenging a recent 24-percent average rate increase.

These are legitimate concerns and need to be argued in a public forum. We also need to hear from the governor, who has yet to weigh in on this legislation.



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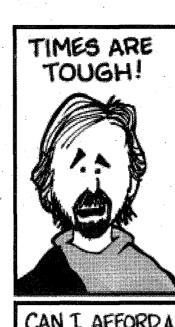
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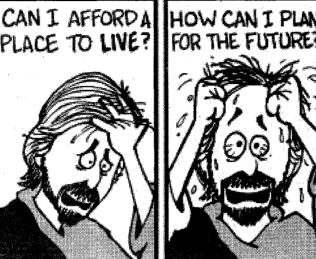
Richard Aginian - Publisher Emeritus

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



PLACE TO LIVE?







LETTERS

Don't limit licenses

I find it amazing and discouraging that the City of Plymouth wants to limit the liquor licenses in our town.

When I first moved here in 1995 I could not even find a place to buy a hot dog or any type of meal for my then-4year-old after 6 p.m. The town closed down at 6 p.m. The shops were very basic and most of them were struggling.

Now we have a multitude of restaurants and bars to choose from. Downtown is thriving with activity. I walk in the evenings and when I walk through downtown I see people out on the streets, coming in and out of restaurants and I have never seen any activity that I would say was disruptive.

It is the job of the police to monitor the streets. If they are busy with drunk drivers it may not be due to just our bars here and restaurants. Times have changed and that type of activity is unfortunately on the rise. One of the coolest features of Plymouth is that residents can walk uptown and have dinner, there is no need to drive.

If there is an issue with a particular establishment then that facility should be held accountable, but to limit the licenses for new restaurants is a shame. If the restaurants can make it economically they should be allowed to open. Let the market dictate the number that can

We have to move forward in this town, not backward. The City of Plymouth property taxes are outrageous and the only reason to date that people have paid them is that the homes in this area appreciate.

Recently that has not been happening, due to the economy. Somehow taxes still go up. The city needs to make sure its decisions are always in the best interest of the residents, not what is convenient for the police department.

Karen O'Keefe Plymouth

Day of reckoning

It is with amazement that I find the full-time elected officials of Plymouth Township have again voted themselves raises of 9 percent over the next two years. This is incredible in today's economic conditions, where people do not know whether they will be employed the next day, let alone guaranteed raises totaling 9 percent over two years.

I know people in this township who work in the private sector who have accepted a cut in their salary in order to save their jobs. With so many people out of work and with so many homes sitting on the market declining in value and not selling, I find it outrageous that these elected servants of the people who lost their jobs are accepting such lavish increases in their salaries.

I agree with trustee Mann and trustee Curmi that this is not the time nor is it the prudent things to do to accept such increases while their constituents are going on the unemployment line, or are accepting cuts in their salary so they

can survive.

These three full-time PUBLIC servants should explain their attitude to the people come next election. The day of reckoning is around the corner and November 2008 is not that far away. The outcry of our people should throw the bums out.

Abe A. Munfakh

Taking all the gold

Boy, everybody else is taking pay cuts and forgoing raises during these tough times, but not our board.

Lets see, the unionized employees of the township are either in arbitration (firemen) — cannot get a contract. And the township cannot even fill the positions for firemen (seven) that are needed because of retirements, but a few can just have a meeting and

(poof) raises for the board. Let's do that for the firemen, police, DPW and everybody else that's organized). And let's use the same criteria as they did for their raises (surrounding communities).

My taxes seem to keep increasing while I see more and more houses going up for sale and setting empty or going into foreclosure. Sort of looks like the King and his Court can take all of the gold while the peasants (taxpayers) go without (services).

Parnell Johnson

Plymouth

Absolutely no raises

Not only are the majority of people in Michigan not getting raises, but we are paving for the raises of the government employees who are. This includes anyone who is paid by a state agency, local governmental body, school district, etc.

They say they work hard, and deserve raises. Apparently we're all slackers who don't work hard. Not only don't we deserve a raise, but we should be penalized further by being forced to fund their

Maybe they won't be able to give themselves raises once there is nobody left in Michigan to soak but government employees.

> **Larry Phipps** Plymouth

Beware of this scam

It seems there are scams all over the place these days. You've won the lottery of some obscure country or a needy millionaire in Europe is seeking your help transferring funds to the United States.

These kinds of scams can be upsetting, particularly when you realize the reason they exist — because so many people fall for them.

Especially upsetting are the scams that target people who depend on Social Security benefits — and use Social Security's name in their shady dealings.

Recently, we have heard of a number of scams where individuals posing as Social Security employees call and ask for personal information like your name, Social Security number and bank account information. The caller alleges that we need this information so we can issue you additional funds or rebates or they allege that because of a computer glitch former Plymouth Township trustee your personal information has been lost.

Another scam used an e-mail that was designed to look like it came from Social Security. It provided information about the annual cost-of-living-adjustment and directed readers to a Web site designed to look like Social Security's site so people could "update their information" - valuable information to identity thieves and criminals.

In an effort to combat such scams, we want to make one thing clear: Social Security will not send you an e-mail asking you to give us your personal information, such as your Social Security number, date of birth, or other private information. If someone saying they are from Social Security does e-mail you requesting information, don't respond. Instead, contact your local Social Security office or call us at (800) 772-1213 to see whether we really need any information from

Whatever you do, don't fall victim to a scam. Don't give out your personal infor-

Social Security and the Office of Inspector General (OIG) take these scams very seriously. We do everything we can to stop the perpetrators and educate the public. To report suspicious activity, please call the OIG Hotline at (800) 269-0271. A Public Fraud Reporting form is also available online at OIG's Web site: www.socialsecurity.

Of course, there are times when Social Security may contact you to update your information. At such times, you will always receive prior notification from us by mail or telephone before a personal visit is made. When in doubt, contact us at (800) 772-1213 (TTY (800) 325-0778) and we can verify the identity of the Social Security employee who has contacted you.

Frances Heimes-Savickis

Social Security public affairs specialist, Metro Detroit

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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

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QUOTABLE

"They're personally interested in helping you find your needs ... 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.'

Sherrie Pryor, Plymouth DDA operations director, on the advantages of shopping in downtown Plymouth

Moving beyond grief and returning to hope

🐚 rief and I locked horns in June 1995. My wife of 12 years, Ann, was diagnosed with advanced lung cancer. The doctors said she would live 18 months. Her battle would last another 41 months.



Our sons were 7 and 9. They needed their mother. I needed my wife. But in the end, all of that was stripped away.

After this life-altering experience ended in 1998, I learned that you can learn to live with grief and with proper attention and determination, accept it.

Many people believe they can O'Shaughnessy outrun grief. If they just keep moving, maybe the pace will knock it out. Eventually, maybe

it will just whimper away and leave them alone. I learned the hard way about the circle of grief and the choices it offers. You can travel in this circle, trying to find your way back to some place that no longer exists, dismissing your feelings along the way but marching forward nonetheless thinking you are making progress. Or, you can pass through the circle, feeling the pain, letting it burn inside of you. One day, when the fire goes out, you find yourself in a new place, a better place because you allowed yourself to

In my book, The Greatest Gift - A Return to Hope, I try to teach the lessons I learned about

Grief doesn't always start with the death of a loved one. It's an emotional effect caused by a thought. My grieving began when I heard those words "it's cancer."

I learned as I went, marking my steps with the hope that one day I would find my way back to that place we had. But after she died, that place died too, and it was time for me to find a

If you are grieving, the following steps may help you find you're to living a productive life

Feel the pain. Grief is not something you can avoid, you have to feel it, let it sink in and actually live with you for a while.

Tears are a gift. They are a reminder how we are all vulnerable. I learned that crying felt good. The slow release of tears meant I was feeling the pain and not running from it. Tears are part of the natural progression of grief.

One day you might feel sad, another day angry, another day overwhelmed. Whatever the day and whatever the feeling, let it happen. Remember, the deeper the love, the deeper the grief. Feeling pain means you are one step closer to being well again.

Seek help. Find the right people who can help you. If you're a spiritual person, ask God for His help through prayers. Don't be afraid to lean on people who support you. They were sent to you for a reason. Kindly distance yourself from the people who are not as capable or as willing to help you. They may one day return to you, but

for now, they are not the people you need in your

You may also need professional help. Don't consider this a sign of weakness but rather a realization that you can't do it along.

Grief support centers like New Hope in Northville, (248) 348-0115, offer a great way to express your feelings and meet people who have had similar experiences.

When you reach out for help, you will find out that you are not alone. Deal with the pain. The old adage "time heals all wounds" doesn't apply to grief. Only time plus hard work and help can properly heal the wound. Take action after you've cried a million tears and told people about your pain. Chip away at your grief each day. Attend grief workshops and make new friends. Begin writing a journal, take long walks, and take care of yourself and your loved ones. Give yourself permission to grieve. Don't rush your grief and don't let anyone rush it for you. Over time and with hard work you'll push forward and back into life.

Make choices. Choose to live again. It's the greatest gift you can give yourself.

After Ann died I spent almost four years grieving. I wanted to live again. I wanted to have fun and resume my life minus my wife and best friend. I couldn't change what happened but I had come to accept it. I chose to move on but never let her go. A part of Ann will always be with me. I'll always be thankful for the time I had with her, not for the time that was swept away. It took me years to come to this restful place and it came with pain and suffering, but I found it nonetheless.

Move on. When you're ready take down the shrines in your house. Emotionally relocate your loved one to a place in your heart.

Studies have shown that about one-third of all people who grieve are successful at taking their life to a new and meaningful level. These triumphant survivors transform themselves. They accept what happened and allow the experience to build their character. They replace their anger and pity with meaningful purposedriven feelings. They commit to giving back and marching forward, to serving others who experience grief. They conduct fund-raisers to bring awareness and money to a cause. They write books about their experience so others will benefit. They wrap their arms around old friends and just listen.

Adversity, big or small, affects all of us sooner or later. Some let it consume them. Others work at grief, marching through it, making good choices along the way.

When you arrive at this place, you will know it not by a smile on your face, but by a sense of happiness in your heart and the joy in knowing you are a survivor.

John O'Shaughnessy lives in Plymouth. His two sons are now grown, off to college and doing well. His book, "The

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What sacrifices are we being asked to make?

hristmas is coming. Where is the present we should give to our country?

Where is the shared sacrifice for the common good in America today?

We send young men and women off to war. What does it cost us? No, I do not mean the young men and women who are coming home in body bags, without a limb, a closed head injury or post traumatic stress. They are paying a huge price, as are their families.

Tom Watkins

What is the cost you and I, average citizens, are being asked to pay? Where is the shared sacrifice? I am not

referring to the costs of freedom here at home or "prestige around the world," as important as those items are to all of us as Americans. Where are the shared values, shared duties and responsibilities that all Americans are asked to commit?

Yeah, I know, it is costing us plenty in taxes and deficit spending that will be a burden on our children, our great-grandchildren. What is the daily sacrifice that we as Americans are making to support this war on terror? Have we been asked to buy "war bonds"? Conserve energy? Pay increased taxes to actually pay for our war rather than borrowing it from the Chinese and Japanese? Do without a Big Mac or a latte in order to support the troops?

Have we been asked to volunteer to serve in the military or otherwise commit to adding value to ending terrorism? To delay our son's or daughter's college education for a year or two so they can serve our country in some fashion? Have our lives even been a little disrupted? Have we forgotten the feeling we had on 9/11 when we wanted a call to

I believe as Americans we want to be called to do more to contribute to our collective future. We want to be part of something bigger

Clearly, veterans groups, family members and some patriotic citizens are helping in large and small ways. But why haven't our national leaders engaged us for the common good of all? Where is the rallying cry to come together as Americans as we did in World War II to be part of something bigger than ourselves? Why haven't we been asked to plant a shade tree even if we will never enjoy its shade?

WHAT SACRIFICE?

What really made me think of this was being at Meijer recently and reading a bumper sticker on a car that read, "Proud to know an American Soldier.'

What are we doing to support the soldiers? Will we know him or her and support them when they come home with lifelong physical and emotional scars? Will we have a job for them? Will we raise hell with the president and Congress to make sure they have the support, medical and mental health attention to readjust to civilian life? Does "bumper sticker" action inspire you?

It seems as long as we can put a flag decal or yellow magnetic ribbon on our car or wave an American flag on the Fourth of July, we are OK. Just don't inconvenience anyone. Someone's son or daughter is in harm's way but let's not miss college football on Saturday, pro ball on Sunday and the sale down at the local Wal-Mart.

A CALL TO ACTION

What if this president or the next were to address the nation and say:

I am instituting a national service program for all young people after high school graduation to serve their country in the military or some other form of country/community service for one year. We cannot expect young people to put their lives on the line while some are waiting in the latte or concert line.

■ I am calling for an increase in your taxes to pay for our war/freedom efforts,

■ I am requiring civilians to car pool to work at least one day per week to conserve oil. It is polluting our air and feeding terror.

■ We will set a "man on the moon" goal to reduce our oil consumption drastically over the next decade; our lives just may depend on our success. Perhaps if more of us had "more skin in the.

game," our energies would be focused on what all of us could be doing to preserve our freedom and make the world a safer place. A call to action would certainly get our attention and perhaps inspire a nation. It is never too late to act. And what a

Christmas present it would be to those serving our country.

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant. He served as Michigan's state superintendent of schools from 2001-05 and mental health director from 1986-90. He can be reached at tdwatkins@aol.com.

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Ex-Wing set to help Whalers fly

Former goalie Stefan joins brother behind bench

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Nobody knows better than Greg Stefan how life can change at a whirlwind pace when you make a living in the frenetic environment of world-class hockey.

One minute last week Stefan was enjoying life as a successful assistant coach for the National Hockey League's Carolina Hurricanes.

A few phone calls, a couple of days and one major midlife decision later, he was the head coach of the Ontario Hockey League's Plymouth

"It all kind of came out of the blue," recalled Stefan, who was chosen by Whalers president and general manager Mike Vellucci to succeed Vellucci as the team's new strategist. "I was in

Carolina and everything was going good. But I've known Mike for a long time and I always told him that if something came up (coachingwise) to let me know.

'Well, he called me and said, 'Hey, I'm stepping down. What do you think about taking over?' I told him I couldn't make that decision, that it was up to (Carolina general manager) Jimmy Rutherford and (Hurricanes and Whalers owner) Mr. (Peter) Karmanos. That's how it started."

DECISION TIME

Before Stefan knew it, the job-change scenario was unfolding faster than a Sidney Crosby slap shot.

Please see WHALERS, B3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brothers Greg (left) and Joe Stefan form the new coaching tandem behind the Plymouth Whalers'; bench. Greg Stefan, a longtime Detroit Red Wings goalie throughout the '80s and early '90s, was named head coach last week. He replaces Mike Vellucci, who was promoted to governor of the franchise.

SALEM-CANTON HOOP TIMES 2

SPIII DECISION

Salem girls finish strong, win 38-24

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Canton's girls basketball team made a strong first impression on Salem Tuesday

But in the end, the Rocks left a lasting impression on the Chiefs over the final three quarters in Salein's 38-24 victory in the Phase III gymnasium.

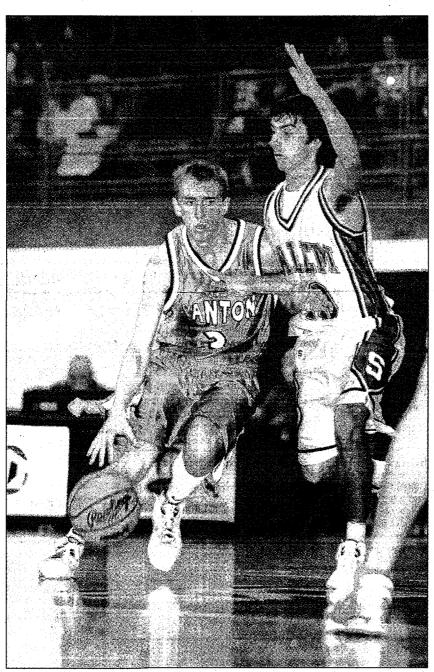
Canton rolled to an early 9-4 lead in the opening eight minutes before the Rocks took charge beginning in the second stanza and rolled to a 26-14 advantage with one quarter to play.

The victory improved Salem's record to 5-1 while Canton slipped to 1-5. Both teams open Western Lakes Activities Association divisional play Thursday when the Rocks host Westland John Glenn while the Chiefs host Northville.

"Early in the game we didn't show a lot of patience; we shot too quickly," said Salem coach Fred Thomann. "We were getting good shots, but we didn't make many and Canton was able to come down and score at the other end. We got it together the final three quarters and played very well."

The Rocks were led by their triumvirate of standouts: junior Chelsea Davis, who netted 13; and senior Alaya Mitchell and sophomore Sara Stone, who both twined 10.

Please see GIRLS, B2



Canton's Ryan Seely looks for a seam in the salem defense as Rock senior guard Tyler Jeleniewski applies pressure during Tuesday's cross-campus clash. The Chiefs won, 71-64.

Chief boys climb over **Rocks**, 71-64

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Canton's boys basketball team shifted into attack mode Tuesday night against

The Chiefs attacked the basket. They attacked the backboards.

And they attacked the Rocks' ball-han dlers — particularly All-WLAA forward Grant Stone, who was hounded by doubleand triple-teams the entire night.

In the end, Canton's aggressive style of play paid off with a 71-64 victory.

'Canton came out with guns a blazin' like they always do and they took us out of our offense," said Salem coach Bob Brodie, whose team slipped to 1-2 heading into tonight's WLAA Lakes Division opener at Westland John Glenn. "Then when they smelled blood, their pressure became even

"We just didn't play very well. We were a little too selfish with the ball and we stood around and watched too much."

The impressive road victory improved Canton's record to 3-2 heading into Thursday night's WLAA Western Division opener at Northville.

"The thing I was most impressed with was how hard we played tonight," said Canton coach Dan Colligan. "We got a lot of deflections on defense and we came up

Please see BOYS, B2



Canton alums D. J. Bridges of Madonna (left) and Andre Bridges of Albion get together for a lighthearted moment following Saturday's game, the only time the siblings will face each other in the collegiate setting.

Bridges brothers shine at the next level

BY TIM SMITH STAFF WRITER

With about 14 minutes to play in the first half of Saturday's game between Madonna University and Albion College, the chant started to fill Madonna's activities center.

In unison from MU's home cheering section it came — "D. J.'s bet-ter, ... D. J's bet-ter."

The look-a-like Bridges brothers of Canton, playing in a collegiate game for the first and only time, could not

avoid hearing those words. But just a couple minutes later it was Albion sophomore Andre Bridges who buried a triple while his older brother, Crusaders senior forward D. J. Bridges, watched from the sideline.

"Yeah, I heard it," said D. J. Bridges with a smile following MU's 86-80 win, which gave the Crusaders the Michigan Educational Credit Union Tournament championship. "I mean, he actually played better than me today.

"But we got the 'dub" so I'll take that anyday."

According to Andre, a shooting

guard who graduated from Canton High School two years after D. J., the fans' ribbing didn't bother him.

"I tried not to think about it that much," he noted. "It's in the back of your head, but I've got to keep my focus on my team the best I can."

TAKE THAT

Before halftime, Andre silenced the home crowd by draining all three of his attempts from behind the arc. Andre wound up with 11 points, in only 16 minutes on the floor.

D. J. could smile wider afterward, since his eight points and seven rebounds contributed to the Madonna victory.

Crusaders head coach Chuck Henry said it was a "fun" experience to have the siblings battling it out, with the stands including their parents Denis Sr. and Linda and younger sister Kayla (a standout freshman for Canton's varsity girls basketball team).

"I know the Bridges family," Henry said. "Andre's been in our gym working out with our kids. I just thought it was neat. I was hoping we'd end up playing them for the championship.

"... plus D. J.'s a senior, so if it

was going to happen this was the last chance and the only chance. Fortunately for D. J., he'll have bragging rights for the rest of his life."

Despite the Britons falling short of taking the tournament, the experience indeed was a once-in-a-lifetime thing for Andre - as well as for D. J. and the rest of their family (watching from their seats, but definitely not chanting).

"Oh yeah, for sure," said Andre about the family reunion of sorts. "We never got to do it on a scale like this before, it was real fun looking over and seeing him there. ... It was weird."

SOAK IT IN

Both said they got together for a while on Friday, the first day of the tournament, and talked about the possibility of going up against each other in the title game.

When they knew it was definitely going to happen, their parents also made sure to chime in with some advice on being able to enjoy such a

Please see BRIDGES, B3

Underwood traded

Canton native Joe Underwood was traded last week by the Ontario Hockey League's Guelph Storm to the Saginaw Spirit for a 15th round pick in the 2009 OHL priority draft as well as a conditional sixth-round pick in the 2009 draft.

"This is the 1990born right-handed defenseman that the Spirit were looking for," said Spirit general manager Don Edwards. "He is a steady, stay-athome defenseman that will greatly complement our defensive corps."

Underwood played with the Detroit Compuware program during the 2005-06 season and during the 2006 OHL Cup he tallied two points in three games.

The Storm selected Underwood in the seventh round of the 2006 draft. He notched a goal and three assists and 18 penalty minutes his rookie season. Underwood has played 19 games with the Storm this season. posting two assists and six penalty minutes.

Underwood will be returning home on Dec. 27 when the Spirit take on the Plymouth Whalers at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township. The opening face-off is set for 2 p.m.

MHSAA survey

A monthlong survey conducted by the Michigan High School Athletic Association about high school sports yielded a variety of results, but none more important than the facts that both students and adults feel the primary roles of education athletics are to let kids have fun and teach them about becoming tomorrow's leaders.

"Have Your Say: The **High School Sports** Opinion Poll" was an online survey in which 8,036 questionnaires were submitted from Oct. 8 to Nov. 5. The purpose was to determine attitudes toward educational athletics to assist the MHSAA in its future planning.

Students and adults agreed on the primary roles of school sports, but had their order flip-flopped. Students, consistent with other surveys by other parties, listed having fun as the primary role of these extracurricular activities. Adults responding were of the opinion that school sports should teach young people about leadership skills.

It was also felt that the level of sportsmanship was better in high school sports than collegiate sports, high school aged AAU and club sports, nonschool youth sports and professional sports, in that Drees, Ben Baumgarten), 2:18.07; 5. W.L. Western (Ben Ferrari, Josh Gronlund, Zack Rashid, Jason Sherbel), 2:23.85; 6. John

RdSINId, Jason Sherbell, 2:23,265, 6. John Glenn (Justin Groves, Sergio Pavan, Pat Kemp, John Burgess), 2:26,81; T. Canton (Ryan Boes, Joe Beard, Chris Krebs, Eric Tian), 2:28,32; B. W.L. Northern (Travis

Albright, Brendan Starrs, Brian Daniels,

200 backstroke relay: 1. Stevenson

(Luke, Brendan Schoff, James Vayis, Brian Bielicki), 1:46.84; 2. Northville (Nate Lunn,

John Lubisco, Ben Schonek, Malloure), 1:50.46; 3, Plymouth (Mike Conger, Adam Wing, Jack Distel, Weiner), 1:54.59; 4. W.L. Northern (Regan Parmentier, Alex Musto, Jake Barnard, Alex Gaucher), 1:58.36; 5.

W.L. Western (Andrew Garcia, Myles Davis, Josh Wood, Rizart Stafa), 1:59.64; 6. Salem

Josh Wood, Rizart Stata), 1:59.64; b. Salem (Ryan Hartwig, Paul Cherewick, Shane Reich, Alex Suriano), 2:16.32; 7. W.L. Central (Alex Nesti, Austin Tederington, Mac Drees, Artur Stepanov), 2:19.76; 8. Canton (Evan Champine, Madison Derian-Toth, Nick Jenner, Akhilesh Menawat), 2:28.35.

200 butterfly relay: 1. Stevenson (Scott Geverlink, Adam Dabkowski, Kellen Schoff, Michael Cruce), 1:43.46; 2. Northvile (Joe

Kargula, Connor Kohlinski, Jake Lane, John

Blickle), 1:48.70; 3. Franklin (Scott Ansteth,

Nicholas Anthony, Shane Shelton, Brandon Larkins), 1:51.43; 4. Canton (Marinica, Mike Booker, Brandon Tolinski, Richard Zhang),

:52.98; 5. W.L. Northern (Steve Smith, Joe

Taylor, Morgan Hummel, Brian Carter), 1:57.20; 6. Salem (Joe DeTassanyi, Olson, Tom Patterson, Cameron Dunn), 1:57.60; 7.

Plymouth (Justin Scaparo, Nick Cobane, Ethan Christenson, Jack Gruszczynski),

2:02.66; 8. W.L. Central (George Smolkin, Cory Casagrande, Tyler James, Miceli), 2:14.96.

1-meter diving: 1. Northville, 292.35; 2. Stevenson, 277.85; 3. Churchill, 240.65; 4. W.L. Northern, 224.95; 5. W.L. Central, 219.70; 6. Plymouth, 211.80; 7. Salem, 181.45.

400 medley relay: 1. Northville (Blickl, Sheppard, Schonek, Lunn), 3:57.76; 2. Stevenson (Schoff, Bielicki, Marecki, Geverink), 4:12.74; 3. Plymouth (Wilson,

Ambrose, Distel, Conger), 4:17.57; 4. Salem (Nathan Spala, DeTassanyi, Collingwood,

Chen), 4:18.18; 5. Canton (Robert Goodwin, Boes, Chris McGinnis, Karlinski), 4:26.28; 6

Churchill (Matthew Castelli, Greg Van Gorp, Joey Liberati, Steven Jones), 4:42.24; 7. W.L

Northern (Gerber, Matthew Vailliencourt, Steve Smith, Joe Taylor), 4:43.07; 8. Franklin

500 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Jereme Pesta, Christopher Behler, Turlo, Kyle Hermann), 4:29.54; 2. Northville (Nathan Menovick, Kyle Adams, Anthony

(Nathan Menovick, Nyle Adams, Anthony Adamowicz, Jon Bardsley), 4:32.26; 3. Canton (Jenner, Koelzer, Jordan Gorzalski, Zhang), 4:51.95; 4. Salem (Daniel Kuang, Hoffmeyer, Max Mills, Seroka), 4:51.99; 5.

Plymouth (Cobane, Gruszczynski, Wing, Oldani), 5:04.15; 6. W.L. Central (Tyler

Esmacher, Garrett Leidich, Tederington, Cory Casagrande), 5:12.87; 7. Franklin (Brett Woods, Tyler Lee, Michniewicz, James), 5:12.92; 8. W.L. Northern (Tyrus, Carsten

Walker, Mark Coldren, Gerber), 5:50.25. **200 mediey relay:** 1. Stevenson (Schoff, Loria, Adam Dabkowski, Scott), 1:48.70;
2. Northville (John Lubisco, Peterson, Constitution)

Z. NOTHVIIIE (John Lubisco, Peterson, Konnor Koblinski, Dan Darga), 1:52.16; 3. W.L. Northern (Alex Musto, Morgen Hummel, Evan Cole, Barnard), 1:55.44; 4. W.L. Western (Josh Wood, Jason Sherbel, Stafa, Garcia), 1:56.50; 5. Plymouth (Alex Ruedger, Nate Atkinson, Scaparo, McLaughlin), 2:04.06; 6.

Salem (Alex Suriano, Kory Dondzilla, Dunn, Aaron Micek), 2:06.50; 7. Canton (Krebs, Tian, Booker, Steven Watts), 2:13.53; 8. W.L.

ntral (Nesti, Molnar, James, Tederington),

2:14.83.

200 freestyle relay: 1. W.L. Northern
(Gerber, Cole, Tannous, Zavislak), 1:31.17;
2. Stevenson (Pesta, Diebel, Vayis, Scott),
1:37.12; 3. Northville (Jake Lane, A.J. Aquinto,

Alex Miller, Nathan Menovick), 1:38.08; 4. Wayne (Jacob Barnes, Jordan Holland,

Steven Ogg, Kevin Erdmann), 1:40.30; 5. Plymouth (Joe Eudy, Dull, Snyder, Nolan), 1:40.83; 6. W.L. Central (Dan Montgomery, George Smolkin, Matt Jannette, Riley), 1:45.27; 7. Canton (Andrew Hanagan, Dennis

(Sean Wilson, Dawson Barnes, Thomas Morrison, Eric Madaj), 5:33.85.

Carsten Walker) 2:28.36

Middle of the pack

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 20, 2007

PCEP boys swim teams place 4-5-6 at WLAA Relays

The Plymouth, Salem and Canton boys swimming and diving teams all placed in the top half of the standings at the always-competitive Western Lakes Activities Association Relays held Saturday at Salem.

Livonia Stevenson captured the crown with 283 points, 31 more than runnerup Northville. Walled Lake Northern was third with 199.

The Wildcats paced the local contingents as they stroked their way to 185 points and. a fourth-place showing. The Rocks were fifth with 157, just ahead of sixth-place Canton (154). Rounding out the field were Walled Lake Central (122), Walled Lake Western (102), Livonia Franklin (92), Livonia Churchill (74), Westland John Glenn (50) and Wayne Memorial (44).

Plymouth's best events proved to be the 200-yard breaststroke relay as the foursome of Kyle Dull, Ben Ambrose, Tony McLaughlin and Dan Stoscup placed third with a time of 2:11.04: the 200 backstroke relay, in which Mike Conger, Adam Wing, Jack Distel and Ethan Weiner touched third in 1:54.59; and the third-place 400 medley relay team of Chris Wilson, Ambrose, Distel and Conger, who turned in a 4:17.57.

The Rocks earned fourthplace points from their 500 freestyle unit of Daniel Kuang, Nick Hoffmeyer, Max Mills and Adam Seroka (5:04.15) and the 400 medley relay quartet of Nathan Spala, Joe

DeTassanyi, Matt Collingwood and Sida Chen, who touched in 4:18.18.

The Chiefs were bolstered by the fourth-place performance of their 200 butterfly relay team of Chris Marinica, Mike Booker, Brandon Tolinski and Richard Zhang (1:52.98).

WESTERN LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION BOYS SWIM RELAYS

SATURDAY AT SALEM FINAL STANDINGS: 1. Livonia

Stevenson, 283 points; 2. Northville 252; 3. Walled Lake Northern, 199; 4. Plymouth, 185; 5. Salem, 157; 6. Canton, 154; 7. Walled Lake Central, 122; 8. Walled Lake Western, 102; 9. Livonia Franklin, 92; 10. Livonia Churchill, 74; 11. Westland John Glenn, 50; 12. Wayne

Memorial, 44.

400-yard medley relay: 1. Stevenson (Robert Luke, Joe Wingett, Michael Cruce, Aaron Marecki), 3:45.91; 2. Northville (Jon Aarloi Marecki), 3.43.91, 2. Not tirthe (John Bardsley, Brody Blickle, Joe Kargula, Clay Malloure), 3.49.70; 3. W.L. Northern (Alex Gaucher, Brian Carter, Riley Cole, Regan Parmentier), 4:06.36; 4. Franklin (Scott Snsteth, Brandon Larkins, Nicholas Anthony, Shane Shelton), 4:06.97; 5. Salem (Adam Seroka, Nathan Spala, Sida Chen, Matt Collingwood), 4:07.59; 6. Canton (Robert Goodwin, Kevin Karlinski, Chris Marinica, Chris McGinnis), 4:14.22; 7. W.L. Central (Matt Jannette, Ben Baumgarten, Ryan Miceli Sean Riley), 4:17.15; 8. Plymouth (Ethan Weiner, Dan Stoscup, Paul Snyder, Alex Ruedger), 4:19.30

400 freestyle relay: 1. W.L. Northern (Evan Cole, Taylor Tannous, Ryan Gerber, Matt Zavislak), 3:21.61; 2. Stevenson (Kyle Hermann, Christopher Behler, Jared Diebel, Charles Turlo), 3:28.57; 3. Northville (Kyle Adams, John Blickle, Anthony Adamowicz, A.J. Aquinto), 3:34.63; 4. Wayne (Jacob Barnes, Jordan Holland, Steven Ogg, Kevin Erdmann), 3:43.43; 5. Plymouth (Jason Oldani, Joe Eudy, Peter Nolan, Chris Wilson), 3:45.46; 6. Canton (Jordan Gorzalski, Eddie Koelzer, Patrick Jenner, Brandon Tolinski), 3:50.75; 7. Salem (Casey Olson, Chad Newton, Max Mills, Nick Hoffmeyer), 3:53.57; 8. Franklin (Tyler Lee, Joseph Michniewicz, Scott James, Sean Wilson), 3:54.57.

200 breaststroke relay: 1. Stevenson (John Loria, David Bladecki, Eric Schumann, Joe Wingert), 2:00.45; 2. Northville (Greg Sheppard, Erik Peterson, Jeremy Schaumann, Alec Wagner), 2:05.48; 3. Plymouth (Kyle Dull, Ben Ambrose, Tony Med Aughlin, Day Stevens), 2:11.04; 4, W. I. McLaughlin, Dan Stoscup), 2:11.04; 4. W.L. Central (Artur Stepanov, John Molnar, Cac

with some big steals. Ryan Seely had a couple steals late in the first quarter when we were down 9-2 that kind of energized us. Without those, it could have got bad for us quick.

"It was a good win for us because Salem is such a good team, they're so well-coached and Grant Stone is one of the top players in the league."

Stone received nearly as much attention from the Chiefs as the Twelve Oaks Mall Santa Claus gets on Dec. 23. There was a seemingly endless line of red-uniformed players waiting to greet the Rocks' offensive dynamo.

"We wanted to face-guard him, get a hand in his face and not let him shoot the three," said Canton senior captain Brody Coplai, explaining the Chiefs' defensive game plan against Stone. "And we wanted to close down on him when he drove the middle."

The mission was accomplished as Stone was held to a season-low nine points.

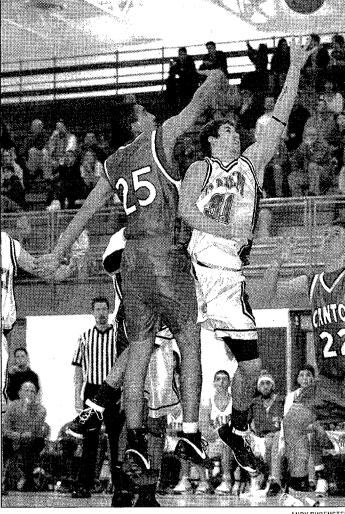
Senior Ross Davis more than picked up the slack as he netted 28 points and 14 rebounds six of the boards coming on the offensive end of the court.

The Chiefs were bolstered by career-high scoring nights from a trio of seniors: Chris Bailey (26), Seely (15) and Coplai, who registered 10.

They're more athletic than us, which you saw on a lot of the rebounds," said Canton senior forward Neil Sharma, who poured in 13. "Ross was flying over us on a lot of those. But we didn't let it bother us.

"We like to get out and run, which we were able to do tonight. When we lost against South Lyon Friday night it was because they got us to play more of a half-court game, which isn't our style."

The Rocks, who had been idle since a Dec. 7 triumph at



Salem's Jesse Pointer drives to the hoop against Canton's Neil Sharma during Tuesday night's game.

Garden City, surged to a 9-2 lead. However, the Seely-led Chiefs countered with an 11-2 run to end the quarter.

The turning point in the contest came toward the latter stages of the second quarter. After a long Davis triple knotted the game at 23-all, the Chiefs went on a 13-2 run that extended into the early moments of the third quarter. Bailey accounted for all but one of the points as he scored just about every way imaginable netting two treys, an offensive rebound, a pair of free throws and a fast-break layup.

An offensive putback by Dan Stoney padded the Chiefs'

advantage to 59-46 with 4:30 to play, but the Rocks dug deep and assembled a valiant comeback, thanks mostly to Davis, who tallied 10 points over the final 3:46.

A Davis finger-roll brought Salem to within 68-64 with 50.3 seconds left, however, the Chiefs closed the deal with a Coplai free throw and a Bailey layup with 22 ticks remaining.

"The only bright spot was we never quit," said Brodie. "Even when we were down 12, the boys kept scrapping and playing hard and it got us back in the game."

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STATE OF MICHIGAN COUNTY OF WAYNE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

AMENDMENT TO COST REIMBURSEMENT FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES ORDINANCE

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO: C-07-05

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. C-07-03 OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH WHICH ORDINANCE SHALL BE AN AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 9, PART 1, ADMINISTRATION, PROVIDING FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE COST REIMBURSEMENT FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES ORDINANCE ASSOCIATED WITH EMERGENCY INCIDENTS INVOLVING HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS; UTILITY LINE FAILURES, ILLEGAL FIRES, FALSE ALARMS, BOMB THREATS, THREATS OF HARM TO ONESELF OR OTHERS, STRUCTURE DEMOLITION, EXTRICATIONS, STANDBY SUPPRESSION, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND SIMILAR EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATIONS THEREOF; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY OF INVALID SECTIONS; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ORDAINS: SECTION 1. AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE.

Definitions. This section provides for definitions of the following terms: Release of Dangerous or Hazardous Substance or Material, Utility Line Failure, Illegal Fire, False Alarm, Bomb Threat, Threat of Harm to Oneself or Others, Structure Demolition, Emergency Response, Extrication, Standby Suppression, and

Reimbursement: Municipal Civil Infraction; Penalty. This section provides that failure to pay the Expenses of an Emergency Response of an Emergency Response within thirty (30) days of written demand shall be a Municipal Civil Infraction.

9.020. Duty to Remove and Clean Up. This section provides that it shall be the duty of any person or any entity which causes or controls leakage, spillage or any other dissemination of dangerous or hazardous substance or materials to immediately remove and clean up the area and fully restore it.

9.030. Failure to Remove and Clean Up. This section provides that any such person or entity which fails to comply with Section 9.020 shall be liable to and pay the Charter Township of Plymouth for its costs and expenses, including the costs incurred by the Township or any party which it engages, for the complete abatement, clean up, and restoration of the affected areas.

9.040. Enforcement. This section provides that the Charter Township of Plymouth shall have the right to bring an action in the appropriate court to collect such costs.

SECTION 2. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

This section provides that all rights and duties which have matured, penalties which have been incurred, proceedings which have begun and prosecution for violations of law occurring before the effective date of this Ordinance are not affected or abated by this Ordinance.

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.

This section provides that if any portion of Ordinance is found unconstitutional or void, all other portions of the Ordinance are not affected by such actions.

SECTION 4. REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES.

This section provides that all Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

SECTION 5. PUBLICATION.

This section provides that the Clerk for the Charter Township of Plymouth shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by law.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This section provides that this Ordinance, as amended, shall take full force and effect upon publication as required by law.

The above is a summary of proposed Ordinance No. C-07-05 considered for first reading at the December 11, 2007, regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth. It will be submitted for second reading at the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 22, 2008. The Ordinance, in full, is available in the Clerk's Office for public perusal at 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170, during regular business hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Marilyn Massengill, CMC Charter Township of Plymouth

Senior post player Baylee Hollowell paced the Chiefs with 13 points and six rebounds. Kaylie Martin was tne next most productive Chief, contributing five points.

"We came out great in the first quarter, but after that Salem just made more plays than we did," said Canton

Rose, Rick Peters, Matt Figlewicz), 1:50.44; 8. Salem (Chad Newton, Steven Clagg, Greg Rupp, Troy Kerchen), 1:57.24. Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property. Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 41889 Joy Rd Canton MI 48187 (734)254-0243 on

hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due. Personal property described below in the matter of: 1006 - Ray Miller - Air Conditioner, 5 Boxes, Misc Items

2030 - Mary Owens - Couch, Washer, Dryer 3069 – Archie Mcgill – Bedframe, Endtable, Dresser

4001 – Robert Kozak – Vacuum, 10 tool boxes, Misc Items 4044 - Christopher Barnett - Couch, 12 Totes, Misc Items

9154 - Daphani Dent - 10 Boxes, Couch, Love Seat Publish: December 13 and 20, 2007

12/28/07 at 11:00 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

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Personal property described below in the matter of: 2026 - Carin Malley - Washer, Dryer, Dresser

3030 - Herman Glass - TV, VCR, 10 Bags 3042 - Dianne Croskey - Couch, 10 Boxes, 5 Bags

3047 – Cann Malley – Entertainment Center, 2 Kids Bikes, Microwave 4212 - Brooke Forquer - Table, 4 Boxes, Misc Items

4267 – Alina Lafleche – China Cabinet, 4 Chairs, 2 Totes

4294 - Diane Jacobs - 5 Boxes, 10 Totes, Misc Items 5029 – Cleopatra Peck – 4 Bikes, Lawn Mower, Refrigerator

5202 - Donald Reardon - 5 Totes, TV, Trunk 5240 - Debra Charnoske - Keyboard, Tool Chest, Air Compressor

6011 - Mark Allen Mayo - Microwave, Keyboard, 10 Totes 9054 - Karen Luna - Headboard, Sofa, Mattress

Publish: December 13 & 20, 2007

OE08575144 - 2 x 3

CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

FOLLOWING VEHICLES HAVE BEEN DEEMED ABANDONED AND WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION DECEMBER 28, 2007 AT 10:00 AM. THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT WESTLAND CAR CARE TOWING, 6375 HIX RD., WESTLAND, MI 48185. THE VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD AS IS, STARTING BID IS FOR TOWING AND STORAGE.

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	BODY	VIN#
1986	GMC	Jimmy	S/W	1G5CT18E8G0512939
1987	Ford	Mustang	2-Dr	1FABP40A7HF177745
1995	Ford	Taurus	S/W	1FALP57U0SG146025
1997	Chevy	Lumina	4-Dr	2G1WL52MXV1184138
1991	. Chevy	Corsica	4-Dr	1G1LT53T0ME142180
1987	Chevy	Caprice	4-Dr	1G1BN51H4HX13311
1987	Ford	Escort	S/W	3FALP15P3VR143140
1999	Chevy	Cavalier	4-Dr	1G1JC5246X7227230
1992	Ford		4-Dr	1FALP53U1NG201804
1995	Pontiac		2-Dr	1G2JB124XS7546291
2001	Mercury	Sable	4-Dr	1MEHM55S91G648474
1988	Dodge		Van	2B7FK13K2JR767394
1995	Pontiac		4-Dr	1G2NE55M6SC702264
1993	Ford		Van	1FDEE14N4PHB55662
1978	Suzuki	Motorcycle	RM250	RM25035425
Publish: Ja	nuary 20 and 23	3, 2007		

coach Brian Samulski. "They got a lot of second shots off offensive rebounds and they got to the rim and scored. "We only scored two points

in the second quarter and three in the third, so obviously I didn't do a good job of preparing the girls to attack Salem's zone.

"Salem has a nice team, with Davis, Stone and Mitch, all of whom play well together. They're very patient and they know how to move the basket-

Both teams shot well from the free throw line: Salem was 7-of-9 (77 percent) while the

Chiefs were 6-of-8 (75 percent). Thomann said his team's defensive gameplan revolved around containing Hollowell, who was averaging close to 20 points per contest heading into

the game. "We tried to make sure we had two players guarding her all the time, said I nomann.

The game was played before a smaller-than-normal crowd due in part to the fact that the two schools' boys teams were facing off against each other in Salem's gym about 100 yards to the northwest.

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Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 45229 Michigan Ave Canton MI 48188 (734)397-0082 on 12/28/07 at 12:30 pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are

Personal property described below in the matter of: 2037 - Shawn Booth - Mattress, Bike, 5 Totes

3006 - B & B Builders - Lawn Mower, Fan, Snow Blower

4024 - Amy Lynn Feister - 2 Bikes, 10 Totes, Chest

4127 - Ron Miller - 6 Totes, 3 Toolboxes, Endtables 4155 - Toni Venturella - 7 Totes, 10 Boxes, Misc Items

4168 - Janneth Williams - TV, 3 Totes, 2 Mattresses

4222 - Terry Brown - Microwave, Endtable, Chair 4226 – Toni Venturella – Washer, Mattress, 12 Boxes

Publish: December 13 and 20, 2007

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

David Medley, ADA Coordinator Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road Canton, MI 48188 (734) 394-5260

Publish: December 20, 2007

OE08576425 ~ 2x2.5

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON REOUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan will accept sealed proposals at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, January 10, 2008 for the following:

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY AND BENCHMARK FOR CITIZEN SURVEY DATA

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

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

Publish: December 20, 2007

OE08576528 -- 2x3

Late 3's won't fall for Wildcat boys

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

If Hollywood ever decides to make Tuesday night's boys basketball game between Plymouth and Walled Lake Central into a feature-length movie, they could call it, "The Case of the Elusive Three.'

Trailing by three points with less than a minute to play, the Wildcats misfired on a trio of potential game-tying treys before falling to the host Vikings, 50-46, in a Western

Lakes Activities Association contest.

The loss dropped the Wildcats to 1-4 while Central improved to 2-3.

'We couldn't get a three to drop when we really needed one," said Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner.

Plymouth's Brandon Roberts led all scorers with 18 points to go along with his five rebounds. Senior guard Navraj Sandhu also had a productive night, netting 17 points.

"Brandon and Navraj both

stepped up with big games," said Van Wagoner. "We're looking for a third player to step up and help them with the scoring. If that happens, we can be very good."

Central was led by senior guard Cory Rzeznick, who tallied 16 points, 12 of which came via the three-ball.

Plymouth led 7-6 after one quarter before falling into a 25-23 halftime hole. Central extended its lead to 38-31 with eight minutes to play.

To say the opening stage

of the game was played at a deliberate pace would be a vast understatement.

"There was probably one shot attempted in the first four minutes by both teams," Van Wagoner revealed.

The Vikings won the game at the free throw line, where they canned 11-of-18 attempts.

The visiting Wildcats visited the line just four times, sinking three.

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"Mike made a few phone calls and then the ball really got rolling," said Stefan, a Detroit Red Wings goalie from 1981 to 1990. "Within a few days the decision was up to me whether to come back or stay there. The more I thought about it, the more I realized what a great opportunity it would be for

"Is it something I'll do forever? I have no idea. Am I going to enjoy it? I hope so. Am I going to be good at it? I hope so. Am I glad I made this decision? Definitely, because this is something I've always wanted to do."

EASY CHOICE

Once Vellucci decided to relinquish his coaching duties, the decision about who he wanted to replace him was as clear as a freshly Zambonied sheet of ice.

"Once I made the decision to step down, I knew Greg was the guy I was looking for," said Vellucci, who was promoted to governor of the franchise. "He's very familiar with a lot of our players already, his brother (Joe) is our assistant coach and he was a member of this organization for several years. Plus, he and I think a lot alike, so I knew it would make for a smoother transition.

NOT-SO-EASY CHOICE

The decision to hang up his whistle did not come easily for Vellucci, who guided the Whalers to an OHL championship this past spring.

"Some people think I stepped down because I'm sick - well, I'm not sick," said Vellucci, who was the only executive in the OHL to carry the president, GM and head coach titles. "It's something I've been considering for a while now. With all the jobs I had, it became too much. There were so many time constraints.

"Until now, I've always told myself, 'I can do it, I can do it.' But it got to be too much. I think this is the best decision for me, my family and the Whalers."

Vellucci said he considered resigning as coach prior to this season.

'But then people would have said, 'He's quitting because they're not going to be very good this year," Vellucci said. "Well, we're having a good year (the Whalers are 19-9-2-2), so I felt the time was right to make the change.

"The things I'm going to miss the most are the day-today interactions with the players at practice, helping teach them to become better players and better people. I'll miss it, but at the same time I'm confident that Greg will do a great job."

FAMILIAR FACE

Stefan is no stranger around Compuware Arena. Before joining the Hurricanes coaching staff full time two years ago, he served as an assistant coach and director of player development for the Whalers. He also served a five-year stint as a coach with the franchise from 1993-98.

"I was a player personnel guy here along with Mike before I left for Carolina, so I know half this team quite well," he said. "One of my priorities now is to get to know the players I don't know real well yet — their strengths and weaknesses. I've already learned a lot in the three games I've coached here, but I still have a lot to learn."

Stefan will be assisted by his younger brother, Joe, who joined the Whalers' this past off-season as Vellucci's top

"I'll be leaning on Joe a lot to help me learn about the team since he's coached them for half the season already," said Stefan. "It will be fun coaching with him.

"I can't say enough about Mike and the job he's done here. He's a great coach and a great general manager. And if he ever wants to get back into coaching, I think he'd do an excellent job at the next level.'

Greg Stefan and his wife, Diana, reside in Farmington Hills. They are the proud parents of two sons: Joseph, 19, and William, 9.

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Plymouth girls fall to Walled Lake Central, 41-30

Plymouth's girls basketball team came up empty in its bid to jump over the .500 mark as the Wildcats dropped a 41-30 decision to visiting Walled Lake Central Tuesday night.

The Wildcats dropped to 3-4 on the

Plymouth led 11-8 after one quarter and 19-16 at the half before the Vikings stormed back to outscore their hosts 25-11 over the final 16 minutes.

Freshman Katie Moss (10 points) was the lone Wildcat to score in double figures. Central's Brooke Gustafson led all

Plymouth managed to drain just one three (from Troi Davis) while connecting on 3-of-6 free throws.

The Vikings, on the other hand, buried four triples and were nearly perfect from the charity stripe, swishing 9-of-10.

"We told them to leave it on the floor, to have a good time," Denis Sr. said. "But at the end of the day, you're still brothers and you're still best friends. So that's what we wanted, and that's what we got.

"We're just blessed to be able to watch them have fun and

In fact, during the hammerand-tong non-conference men's basketball game, there were few opportunities for on-thecourt bantering.

'We made a few comments, but nothing too bad," said D. J. "I told him I was going to talk a lot, but I didn't talk too much.

"I was proud of him, he played pretty well even though they didn't win.'

D. J. added that he'll always look back on the game, but not just for going up against Andre. "Oh yeah, I'll definitely look

back on this," D. J. continued. "One of my dad's dreams was always for us to play on the same team. But he got to see us play against each other, so that was pretty good.

"My mom actually said she wasn't going to come to the game, but she decided to show at the last second. That was pretty cool, too."

Canton gymnasts vault to 2-0 start

Canton's girls gymnastics team improved its record to 2-0 Tuesday night with a resounding 133.35-68.15 triumph over Hartland.

The Chiefs swept at least the top five places in all four events.

The winners were paced by freshman Robyn Piwowar, who compiled an all-around point total of 34.95. The talented ninth-grader placed first in the floor exercise competition (8.8) and on the balance beam (8.75), while turning in runner-up efforts on the vault (8.55) and the uneven bars (8.85).

BOYS BASKETBALL

Thursday, Dec. 20Canton at Northville, 7 p.m.
Salem at Westland John Glenn, 7 p.m.

Salem at Westland John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Livonia Franklin at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
PCA at Light & Life Christian, 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 21
Canton Agape at Inter-City Baptist, 8 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 27
Salem at Allen Park Tourney, 7 p.m.
Canton Agape at Immaculate Conception
Christmas Tournament, TBA

Friday, Dec. 28 Salem at Allen Park Tourney, TBA

Saturday, Dec. 29 Canton Agape at Immaculate Conception Christmas Tournament, TBA

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Thursday, Dec. 20 Northville at Canton, 7 p.m. Westland John Glenn at Salem, 7 p.m. Plymouth at Livonia Franklin, 7 p.m. PCA at Lenawee Christian, 7 p.m.

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All entries MUST be received no later than January 21, 2008. Two lucky entries will be picked from a random drawing

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other valued at \$50. The winners will be announced on

of your cute adorable baby. Be sure to include a

stamped, self-addressed envelope, if you'd like your

See Sunday's Observer for previewsof three PCEP gymnastics teams.

Senior Jessie Murray also excelled, placing second in the all-around (33.15) thanks in large part to a gold-medal performance on the vault (8.65).

Canton's Cathy Huang ruled the bars, winning with an 8.95.

Other all-around scores for the Chiefs were compiled by Huang, who finished third with a 32.85; and Mallory Hudak, who was fourth with a 31.30. Hudak's best showing came on the floor when she tied for second with Murray

with a stellar 8.75 score. On Saturday, the Chiefs opened the 2007-08 campaign with a 132.9-121.65 victory over Vassar.

"I was very happy with the way the team performed," said Canton coach John Cunningham. "To get an easy win this early in the season with a very young team is nice.'

Piwowar was outstanding in her first high school meet, chalking up three nine-plus scores on the way to an allaround total of 35.45. Canton's Mallory Hudak earned a first in the vault with an 8.65.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Canton Agape at Inter-City Baptist, 6:30 p.m. / Friday, Dec. 28
Detroit Community at Salem, 7 p.m. **BOYS HOCKEY** Thursday, Dec. 20

orthville at Novi A Friday, Dec. 21 W.L. Western at Salem nouth Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22 Canton at Gabriel Richard at Yost Arena, 7:30 p.m. at Orchard Lake Ice Arena, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 29 Plymouth at Ottawa

at Bell Knapp Ice Arena, 5 p.m. WRESTLING Saturday, Dec. 22 Canton at EMU Varsity Tourney, 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 29
Salem Individual Tournament, 9 a.m.
BOYS SWIMMING

Sarah Lynne

Patrick

March 20, 2007

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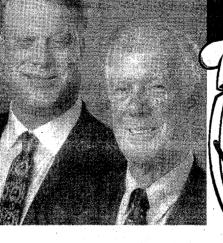
(Sample)

Thursday, Dec. 20 ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Thursday, Dec. 27
Whalers vs. Saginaw Spirit
at Compuwere Arena, 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 29

Whalers at Saginaw Spirit, 7:11 p.m. WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Friday, Dec. 21
Rochester College at Madonna, 7 p.m.
MAJOR INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE Saturday, Dec. 22 Detroit Ignition at Chicago Storm, 8 p.m.



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Fastest-growing sport hits area high schools

here is competition at several levels for the youth bowlers as the Michigan High School Athletic Association's boys and girls bowling season got underway on Dec. 1.

Bowling is now the fastest growing high school sport in the USA.

If you get the chance to go over to the lanes during the competition, you would be amazed at the enthusiasm and true school spirit on display.

The late Dan Ottman organized the Michigan Junior Masters Association (MJMA) over 20 years ago to provide top-level youth scratch bowling competition on a monthly basis at different sites around the state.

It's a training ground for the best youth bowlers to gain knowledge through expert training and have the opportunity to earn substantial scholarship money as well.

Alro Steel Corp. of Jackson has been the main sponsor for several years of this event, which attracts many outstanding boys and girls from all over Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania, as well as

Many of the standout bowlers in local adult leagues have developed their skills in this yenue

The newest champion is Livonia's Michael Kiel, who captured the 18th annual Alro Steel Classic last month at Airport Lanes in Jackson.

Airport Lanes in Jackson.

Kiel had the high game of
the tournament with a 279 as
he defeated Brian McMahon of
Saginaw, 214-196 in the championship match, earning \$400

in scholarship money.

Kiel became one of the two
Gold qualifiers, meaning he
will represent The MJMA



Ten Pin Alley

Al Harrison

Detroit during the National U.S. Bowling Congress Youth tournament. On the girls

side, Megan Warner of Grandville defeated Sarah Lokker of New

Baltimore, 199-187, to win the title and \$250 in scholarship money.

All bowling fans are invited to come out and watch the MJMA bowlers because it's quite a show.

For more information on Alro/MJMA, e-mail Jerry Tarabek at jtar2830@ yahoo,com; or call (616) 780-

■ The eyes of the nation wlll be focused on 2008 in Detroit when it stages the national championships for both the USBC youth and the USBC women.

The two events combined could bring an estimated 80,000 bowlers and visitors to the Detroit area.

■ In the Metro Detroit
USBC Queens tournament
held recently at Beech Lanes in
Redford with Novella (White)
Daniels of Harper Woods
crowned the 2007 champion
after beating Stacey Sykes of
Southfield.

Sykes was top qualifier with a 933 on games of 255-258-247-233. Daniels qualified 11th, but had enough left in the tank to prevail as the overall champion.

■ The last few weeks were a busy time for tournament play in our area as the 77th Annual Old Timers Tournament got underway Nov. 24 at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park.

There were over 600 paid entries, an amazing feat for a one-day event.

Thanks to the organizational skills of John Chmelko Sr., along with John Jr., the event was a huge success.

The following age-group winners earned a commemorative wristwatch including:

Under-50: Tom Roberts, 44, of Melvindale (729 series); 50-59: Doug Roberts, 59, of Melvindale (740); 60-64: Douglas Balint, 60, of Flat Rock (740); 65-69: Anthony McCauley, 67, of Detroit (710); 70-74: Tony Loiacano, 73, of Warren (707); 75-79: defending champion, Scotty Laughland, 77, of Windsor, Ontario (694); 80-and-over: Milton Patten, 80, of River Rouge (725).

The overall champion for 2007 was 54-year-old Gary Hanba of Hartland, who finished with a series of 741 on games of 257-205-279.

Meanwhile, Westland's Garrett Nagle took third in the under-50 group with a 714.

Ted Kress of Redford videotaped the highlights and it might be run on some local access TV stations soon.

American Bowling Congress Hall-of-Famers on hand to bowl included Tony Lindemann and Jimmy Schroeder. Three bowlers came from San Diego, Calif., with one each from Idaho, Buffalo, N.Y. and Minneapolis, Minn., along with five from Canada.

Over 200 competitors stayed afterwards for a nice buffet dinner

Al Harrison is a resident of Livonia and a member of the Bowling Writers Association of America. He can be contacted by email at: tenpinalley@sbcglobal.net.

Ignition falls to expansion team

The Detroit Ignition (6-3) was defeated 14-10 Saturday night by the expansion La Raza de Monterrey (4-7) in front of a n announced sellout crowd at Compuware Arena.

The setback dropped the Ignition to 6-3 while the first-year Mexico-based team improved to 4-7.

La Raza jumped out to an early 6-0 lead in the first half. Ricardinho scored

Ricardinho scored Detroit's first points of the night at 2:31 in the third quarter with a two-point rocket off an assist from Kyt Selaidopoulos.

At 4:49, Monterrey forward Dino Delevski responded with another two points for the visitors. Ignition midfielder Ryan Mack cut La Raza's lead in half at 9:40 in the third period with a two-point goal to bring the score to 8-4.

Selaidopoulos, Jamar Beasley and Ricardinho all scored goals for Detroit in the fourth quarter, but the come-back wasn't enough to overtake La Raza.

The Ignition is a member club of the Major Indoor

Soccer League.
Information regarding
Ignition season, group, and
individual tickets can be
obtained by calling the club
at (888) 436-GOAL (4625),
by visiting the team's official
Internet property, www.
detroitignition.com, by calling TicketMaster at (248)
645-6666, or by using www.
ticketmaster.com.

Charter Township of Canton Board Proceedings-December 11, 2007 6:30 P.M. - RECEPTION FOR FIRE PREVENTION POSTER CONTEST WINNERS. A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held Tuesday, December 11, 2007, at 1150 Canton Center S. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Roll Call Members Present: Bennett, Caccamo, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo Staff Present: Director Eva, Executive Director Santomauro, Director Conklin, Director Faas, Fire Chief Ronabacher, Mike Ager, Dave Harris, Rick Gau, Allyson Wainstock, Matt Streicher, Alicia Mazure Adoption of Agenda Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Approval of Minutes Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the Board Study Minutes of November 20, 2007. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to approve the Board Minutes of November 27, 2007. Motion carried unanimously. Payment of Bills Motion by Kirchgatter, supported by McLaughlin to approve payment of the bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously. **RECOGNITION: 1.** RECOGNITION OF CANTON COMMUNITY TELEVISION'S AWARD WINNER STAFF. (FBD) Motion by Bennett supported by Zarbo to adopt the resolution in recognition of the Canton Community Television staff. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION: 1. POLICE LIEUTENANT'S BADGE: Lieutenant Jerry Hardesty 2. POLICE SERGEANT'S BADGE: Sergeant Patrick Sullivan 3. FIRE BATTALION CHIEF'S BADGE: Battalion Chief Timothy Dunn 4. FIRE CAPTAIN'S BADGE: Captain John Bartle, Captain Ronald Battani, and Captain Stephen Gaggi. CONSENT CALENDAR: Item 1. AUTHORIZE TO PAY BILLS THROUGH THE END OF 2007. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to authorize the payment of the Township's bills on December 28, 2007, as normally scheduled, subject to prior review by the Clerk and Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously. Item 2. APPROVE APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMISSION FOR CULTURE, ARTS & HERITAGE. (CLS) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the re-appointments of Jim Blough, Sandy Gillig, Lincoln Lao and Linda Obrec to the Commission for Culture, Arts & Heritage for three (3) year terms. (Terms expiring 12/31/10). Motion carried unanimously. Item 3. AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT CHERRY HILL VILLAGE FOUNTAIN PARK. (CLS) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to accept the parcels in Cherry Hill Village as identified in the original Cherry Hill Village PDD and to record the deed as required. Motion carried unanimously. Item 4. RE-APPOINTMENT TO THE BUILDING BOARD OF APPEALS. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to reappoint Mr. Ron Pennington to the Building Board of Appeals. (Term expiring 12/31/2009). Motion carried unanimously. Item 5. BUDGET AMENDMENT - SPECIAL INVESTIGATION FUND 266, 267, AND 289. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the following budget amendment for the Special Investigative Funds 266, 267 and 289 to correct line item budget: Fund 267 -Special Investigative Fund Increase Revenues: Forfeitures - Auto Theft 267-000-656-0000 \$26,925, Increase Appropriations Transfer to State Projects Fund 267-333-965-2890 \$26,925. This budget amendment increases the 2007 Special Investigative Fund budget from \$105,975 to \$132,900. Fund 289 - State Projects Fund Increase Revenues: State Grant - Public Safety 289-000-543-0000 \$37.885. Contribution from Forfeiture Fund 289-000-676-2670 26,925, Fund Balance Appropriation 289-000-699-0000 16,231, Total \$81,041, Increase Appropriations Wage reimbursement – Sworn 289-333-714-0000 \$51,434, Overtime reimbursement – Sworn 289-333-718-0000 3,821, Fringe benefit reimbursement – Sworn 289-333-725-0000 25,786 Total \$81,041. This budget amendment increases the 2007 State Projects Fund budget from \$339,575 to \$420,616. Fund 266 – WWN Forfeiture Fund Increase Revenues: Fund balance appropriation 266-000-699-0000 \$245,050 Increase Appropriations Forfeiture Expenses 266-333-800-0000 \$245,050. This budget amendment increases the 2006 WWN Forfeiture Fund budget from \$362,038 to \$607,088. Motion carried unanimously. GENERAL CALENDAR: Item 1. CONSIDER BUZZI REZONING. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution for rezoning request of Mohammad Bazzi. Motion carried unanimously. Item 2. CONSIDER SITE PLAN FOR CANTON CORNERS WEST OUTLET. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to adopt the resolution site plan for Canton Corners West Outlot. Motion carried unanimously, Item 3. CÓNSIDER SITE PLÂN FOR CANTON CROSSINGS SHOPPING CENTER. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution for the site plan for Canton Crossings Shopping Center. Motion carried unanimously. Item 4. CONSIDER SPECIAL LAND USE AND SITE PLAN FOR CANTON FRIENDSHIP CHURCH. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution for special land use and site plan for Canton Friendship Church. Motion carried unanimously. Item 5. CONSIDER SITE PLAN FOR CROSSROAD VILLAGE OUTLET A. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to adopt resolution for site plan for Crossroads Village Outlot A. Motion carried unanimously. Item 6. CONSIDER SITE PLAN FOR DEL TACO RESTAURANT. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy to adopt the resolution for site plan approval for Del Taco Drive-Through Restaurant. Motion carried unanimously. CONSIDER RE-APPROVAL OF THE SITE PLAN FOR L. GEORGE'S CONEY ISLÂND. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution for re-approval of the Site plan for L. George's Coney Island. Motion carried unanimously. Item 8. CONSIDER SITE PLAN FOR BUSCH'S SUPERMARKET AND RETAIL BUILDING. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Zarbo to adopt the resolution for site plan for Busch's Supermarket and Retail Center. Motion carried unanimously Item. 9. CONSIDER ADOPTION OF THE CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PLAN. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to accept that in accordance with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Water Bureau (MDEQWB), the Canton Community proclaims this program as a continuing effort to maintain clean, safe potable water, and by reference to the State of Michigan Public Act 399, 1976 Rule #325.11401 through Rule #325.11407 of the Administrative Code does hereby adopt the Cross Connection Control Plan as prepared by HydroDesigns, Inc. Motion carried unanimously. Item 10. CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP CLERK TO SIGN THE INTER-AGENCY AGREEMENT WITH WAYNE COUNTY FOR THE DETENTION BASIN ENHANCEMENTS GRANT. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to authorize the Township Clerk to sign the Inter-Agency Agreement with Wayne County for the Canton Detention Basin Enhancements Grant. Motion carried unanimously. Item 11. CONSIDER WAIVING RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS AND AWARDING DESIGN SERVICES TO NORTHWEST CONSULTANTS, INC. FOR THE LILLEY/HANFORD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to waive receipt of proposals and to award design services to Northwest Consultants, Inc. in the amount of \$7,545.54 (account number 403-506-803-0000) for the design of the Hanford/Lilley Intersection right turn lanes. Motion carried unanimously. Item 12. CONSIDER ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution for zoning ordinance text amendments (007-TXT-005). Motion carried unanimously. Item 13. BUDGET AMENDMENT - POLICE OVERTIME. (PSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the following budget amendment in the Police Fund for Police overtime: Decrease Appropriations: Police Sworn Salaries 207 301 704 0000 (\$180,000) Increase Appropriations: Overtime-Sworn Officers 207 301 708 0000 \$ 180,000 This budget amendment neither increases nor decreases the Police FY2007 budget. Motion carried unanimously, Item 14. INCREASE PURCHASE ORDER FOR FUEL. (CLS) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the transfer of \$5,500 from account # 101-270-930-0000 Maintenance & Repair Grounds and \$3,000 from account #101-270-861-0000 Maintenance and Repair-Vehicles into account # 101-270-860-0000 Parks Transportation - Gas & Oil. I move to approve the increase of P.O. #64732 for Oakland Fuel, 3943 Airport Rd., Waterford, MI 48239, by \$8,500 into account #101-270-860-0000 Parks Transportation - Gas & Oil for a total of \$82,000. Motion carried unanimously, Item 15. ADOPT 2007 BUDGET FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS CONSTRUCTION FUND FOR SANITARY RELIEF SEWER PROJECTS. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by * to adopt the following 2007 budget for the Capital Projects Construction Fund to account for the sale of bonds and sanitary sewer relief projects: Revenues: Interest income #402-000-664-0000 \$ 860,000 Proceeds from bond sales 402-000-695-0000 \$44,300,000 Total \$45,160,000 Appropriations: Contracted Services-Engineering #402-302-803-0000 \$ 1,903,497 Bond issuance costs 402-302-969-0000 \$187,377 Construction 402-302-969-0000 \$3,574,683 Contribution to fund balance 402-302-999-0000 \$39,494,443 Total \$45,160,000 Motion carried unanimously. Item 16. BUDGET AMENDMENTS. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the following budget amendments to adjust the budgets for line items that require additional funding for the balance of the year: 1.) General Fund: Revenues: Reimbursement from Fire Fund #101-000-676-2060 \$5,504 Appropriations: Salaries-Finance & Budget Dept #101-223-705-0000 (4,487) Fringe benefits-Finance & Budget #101-223-720-0000 (1,017) Total \$ (5,504) Fire Fund: Appropriations Salaries-Civilian # 2 0 6 336-706-0000 \$4,487 Fringe Benefits #206-336-720-0000 \$1,017 Reimbursement to General Fund #206-336-959-1010 (5,504) To adjust line item budgets for the transfer of accounts payable position from the General Fund, Finance & Budget to the Fire Fund effective November, 2007. This budget amendment decreases the Finance & Budget Department budget from \$1,038,606 to \$1,033,102, General Fund budget from \$27,463,383 to \$27,457,879 and does not change to Fire Fund budget total. 2.) General Fund: Revenues: Appropriation from Fund Balance #101-000-699-0000 \$ (80,000.00) Appropriations: Contribution to Post Empl Benefits #101-959-965-7360 \$80,000.00 To increase the budget line item for transfers to post employment benefits fund for the difference between MERS pension contributions and 15%. This budget amendment increases the Transfers Out Division budget from \$2,967,477 to \$3,047,477, and the General Fund budget from \$27,457,879 to \$27,537,879. Motion carried unanimously. OTHER: Supervisor Yack stated the next study session will be held on January 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room, First Floor, Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan. ADJOURN: Motion by Zarbo, supported by Bennett to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. -Thomas J. Yack, Supervisor - Terry G. Bennett, Clerk -Copies of the complete text of the Board Minutes are available at the office of the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd, Canton, MI 48188, during regular business hours and can also be accessed through our web site www.canton-mi.org after Board Approval. Publish: December 20, 2007

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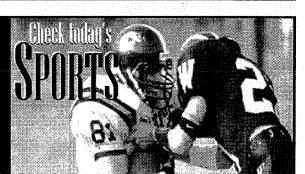
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Speak up to

Q. I am constantly being told that I can't vote at the meetings of the

board. I am also a member of the

board. Do you have any comment?

A. Although it is probably

president, i.e., the president of

do anything at a board meeting

that any other

director can do

and seconding

motions. Note

Robert's Rules

of Order that

that a section of

deals with "small

including making

not the best practice, a board

the association and arguably the chairman of the board, can

be heard;

consult

lawyer

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

WWOCAR taps leaders, supports charity

The Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors held its second annual Holiday Magic Reception II to honor its incoming president, Gordon McCann, and to raise funds for the HOMES Coalition.

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

The HOMES Coalition is an all-volunteer committee formed to raise public awareness of the desperate need for accessible housing for persons with disabilities. The coalition works to support tax exempt housing providers whose companies are devoted to the development of housing built to meet the special needs of persons with physical or mental disabilities.

Michigan state Rep. Phil LaJoy from Canton was on hand to swear in WWOCAR's 2008 President Gordon McCann. McCann was elected to serve as the association's president in 2007 and reelected to the same position for 2008. McCann is affiliated with Coldwell Banker Schweitzer Real Estate of Plymouth.

Other 2008 officers of WWOCAR are Gary Reggish serving as president-elect,

Tony Schippa as treasurer, and Paul Tozzi and Dianne Osgood who also serve on the **Executive Committee.**

Realtor Donald Catlett was honored posthumously to WWOCAR'S Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was established in 2007 to honor the association's members that had given substantial contributions back to the communities and to the association. Mary Ann Catlett, Don's wife, and members of the Catlett family were on hand to accept the award that was presented by Realtor Chris Courtney.

The reception took place at Northville Hills Estates and was hosted by Toll Brothers Homes. This is the second consecutive year that Toll Brothers has assisted WWOCAR Charities to raise funds for various community charities and not-for-profit organizations.

The Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors represents more than 3,700 Realtors and affiliates who conduct business in the metropolitan Detroit



Celebrating at the Holiday Magic Reception II are (left to right) Jamie Chobot, Jessica Hill, Jennifer Hubenschmidt and Lynn Phillips, all from Toll Brothers MI-Div., with Gordon McCann, 2007-08 president, Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors.

Real estate women's group brightens holidays

Commercial Real Estate Women Detroit's holiday party offered networking, holiday cheer and collection of donated holiday gift bags for children and young adults of Alternatives For Girls, a Detroit nonprofit organi-

The gala was held Wednesday, Dec. 5, at The Inn at 97 Winder, 97 Winder St., Detroit. Members and guests enjoyed each other's company and the chance to spread holiday cheer through gifts for Alternatives For

Commercial Real Estate Women Detroit (http://www.crewdetroit. org), founded in 1986, is dedicated to advancing the success of women in

commercial real estate by promoting networking and professional opportunities among its more than 140 members.

CREW Detroit is one of the largest local chapters of CREW Network, a professional organization of 7,000 commercial real estate women and men in the U.S. and Canada. Local

activities include monthly programs, a golf outing in June, the annual Impact Awards honoring southeastern Michigan commercial real estate projects that improve their communities, and community outreach work benefiting Alternatives For Girls in Detroit and First Step in Plymouth.

Commercial Real Estate Women name leaders

The Detroit chapter of Commercial Real Estate Women recently elected its 2008 board of directors and officers, including:

president/national delegate: Gail von Staden of Gensler in Detroit for a one-year term;

president-elect/national delegate and sponsorship liaison: Leanne Bowen of Jones Lang LaSalle in Detroit for a oneyear term;

secretary and communications liaison: Rachele Downs of CB Richard Ellis in Southfield for a one-year

treasurer: Kim McMahon of Grubb & Ellis Company in Southfield for a one-year term;

director and Impact Awards liaison: Donna Hanson of Plante & Moran LLP in Auburn Hills for a two-year

director and Programs liaison: Toni Gasperoni of Landscape Forms in Shelby Township for a one-year term;

director and Membership & Member Services liaison: Sandra Sorini-Elser of

Farmington Hills

Bodman LLP in Ann Arbor for a one-year term; director and Community Outreach liaison: Debbie

Godfrey of Ramco-Gershenson Inc. in Farmington Hills for a twoyear term; director and Golf Outing

liaison: Veronica Shepherd of Jones Lang LaSalle in Detroit for a two-year term; and past president/nominat-

ing chair: Carol Ann Arvan of FX Architecture, Inc. LLC in Royal Oak for a one-year term.

The board will oversee **CREW Detroit's ongoing** professional development, networking and community involvement activities, along with the chapter's April 2008 CREW Careers event, which will introduce girls and young women in southeast Michigan to career opportunities in

real estate. Commercial Real Estate Women Detroit, founded in 1986, is dedicated to advancing the success of women in commercial real estate by promoting networking and

professional opportunities among its more than 140 members. CREW Detroit is one of the largest local chapters of CREW Network, a professional organization of 7,000 commercial real estate women and men in the U.S. and Canada. Local activities include monthly programs, a golf outing in June, the annual Impact Awards honoring southeastern Michigan commercial real estate projects that improve their communities, and community outreach

boards" or "small Robert Meisner committees" confirms this. The prohibition against the president making motions, etc., is part of the rules for large meetings and conventions where the president merely presides over the meeting. There is also frequent confusion between who the officers and directors are because they are frequently one and the same. The board members have the power and the officers merely operate through

the directives of the board and typically can be removed by the Board in accordance of the bylaws. It is best to consult with your attorney if you have any questions concerning these matters. Q. I have encountered a fraudulent situation wherein a swindler employee of mine induced a person to defraud a mortgage lender client of mine by acting as a buyer and falsely overstating the purchase price of the

home. The swindler told the seller that he would use the excess loan proceeds to repair the property and then rent it to tenants. Instead the swindler pocketed the loan proceeds. leaving the buyer personally liable on the mortgage loans. The documentation used to deceive the lender included a false appraisal, which was prepared by my apprentice employee. Unfortunately I paid little attention to checking the accuracy of the apprentice's appraisal. I am now being sued by the buyer for damages.

Do you think I have any liability?

A. Based upon a recent case out of the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals, the court dismissed the case on similar facts holding that the appraiser owed no duty of care to buyer/borrower. The reasoning was that the lender contracts with the appraiser, and the appraiser's duty runs to the client, i.e., the lender. Although the appraiser may be liable to a third party for fraud, there was, at least in that case, no evidence that the supervising appraiser realized that the apprentice had produced a false appraisal.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates.com.

HOMES SOLD

These are residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 20-24, 2007, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office, plus some from Oakland County. Listed are cities, addresses and sales prices.

Canton	
2467 Amber Dr	\$193,000
2286 Arcadia Dr	\$139,000
49957 Black Horse Ln	\$386,000
7021 Camelot Dr	\$227,000
43805 Candlewood Dr	\$185,000
2016 Cobra Ct	\$188,000
7643 Embassy Dr	\$240,000
44885 Forest Trail Dr	\$203,000
41410 Hanford Rd	\$175,000
841 Hillcrest Blvd	\$320,000
2688 Hogan Way	\$241,000
42513 Lilley Pointe Dr	\$98,000
45729 N Stonewood Rd	\$180,000
3655 Parklawn Dr	\$214,000
48624 Rockefeller Dr	\$330,000
51028 Sleepy Hollow Ln	\$262,000
51070 Sleepy Hollow Ln	\$245,000
382 Springfield Dr	\$305,000
1793 Wentworth Dr	\$225,000
43517 Westminister Way	\$185,000
Farmington	
36545 Saxony Rd	\$230,000

28856 Aranel St	\$194,000
22950 Canfield Ave	\$140,000
22126 Cape Cod Way	\$80,000
25429 Carollton Dr	\$318,000
21811 Hancock St	\$225,000
21302 Juniper Ct	\$163,000
28932 Kendallwood Dr	\$293,000
30015 Kimberly Ct	\$95,000
30816 Misty Pines Dr	\$145,000
24967 Toddy Ln	\$260,000
29383 Weathervane Ave	\$301,000
Garden City	1.37
31429 Barton St	\$85,000
6151 Helen St	\$93,000
28449 John Hauk St	\$126,000
29141 John Hauk St	\$156,000
Livonia	
33847 Eight Mile Rd	\$105,000
9925 Arden St	\$140,000
19257 Auburndale St	\$173,000
15056 Blue Skies St	\$154,000
18272 Brentwood St	\$155,000
18491 Brentwood St	\$181,000
18925 Brentwood St	\$135,000
15496 Edington St	\$210,000
18543 Filmore St	\$60,000
19020 Floral St	\$94,000
31615 Fonville St	\$170,000
31270 Grandon St	\$162,000
29905 Greenland St	\$160,000

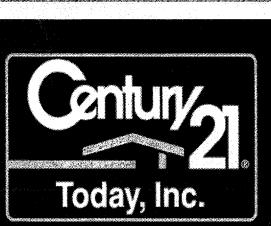
830 Harrison St	\$125,000
1939 Hix St	\$187,000
2911 Indiana St	\$166,000
749 Knolson St	\$159,000
3880 Lathers St	\$129,000
3594 Levan Rd	\$255,000
7625 Long St	\$116,000
3647 Michele St	\$165,000
339 Montana St	\$144,000
7912 N Laurel Park Dr	\$199,000
7741 Oakley St	\$206,000
5852 Renwick St	\$189,000
3834 Southampton St	\$280,000
8995 Sunnydale St	\$120,000
952 Sunset St	\$116,000
5383 Susanna Cir	\$270,000
5017 Susanna St	\$163,000
5190 Vargo St	\$410,000
9965 Westfield St	\$162,000
1100 Westfield St	\$151,000
6039 Whitcomb St	\$221,000
Milford	
09 W Commerce St	\$275,000
arthville	
7450 Bellagio Dr	\$250,000
Northville	
5222 Brook Trout Ln	\$224,000
24 Covington Ct	\$260,000
6100 Crystal Downs E	\$475,000
7343 Oak Hill Ct	\$515,000
5530 Pebble Beach Ct	\$550,000
6655 Pinehurst Cir	\$638,000

46264 Pinehurst Dr	\$480.000
705 Randolph St	\$130,000
48788 Stoneridge Dr	\$220,000
41950 Sutters Ln	\$330,000
16835 Yellowstone Dr	\$129,000
Novi	
27501 Albert St	\$305,000
42878 Ashbury Dr	\$405,000
44758 Larkspur	\$315,000
40717 Lenox Park Dr	\$248,000
24025 Lynwood Dr	\$220,000
41576 Thoreau Rdg	\$365,000
47572 Wellesley Ct	\$450,000
Plymouth	
11300 Aspen Dr	\$160,000
952 Carol Ave	\$305,000
11367 Hillcrest Dr	\$400,000
12264 Howland Park Dr	\$458,000
11832 N Canton Center Rd	\$285,000
40685 Newport Dr	\$127,000
432 Pacific St	\$170,000
51112 Plymouth Valley Dr	\$620,000
1351 Ross St	\$265,000
101 S Union St Unit 106	\$188,000
9275 Saddlebrook Crk	\$466,000
905 Sutherland St	\$208,000
45798 Turtlehead Dr	\$305,000
45305 Woodleigh Way	\$314,000
Redford	No. of Control
26364 Barbara	\$130,000
17190 Garfield	\$84,000
12801 Sioux	\$135,000
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25937 Student	\$119,00
8989 Virgil	\$128,00
26004 W Chicago	\$115,00
South Lyon	
1092 Chestnut Ln	\$230.00
1134 Chestnut Ln	\$220,00
26673 Daria Cir W	\$100.00
24750 Milford Rd	\$360,00
23756 Prescott Ln E	\$468,00
23498 Prescott Ln W Westland	\$418,00
	677.00
33645 Beechwood St	\$77,00
32430 Bertram Dr	\$128,00
34108 Caspian Ct	\$80,00 \$125,00
33738 Chief Ln 7040 Deerhurst Dr	\$149,00
6037 Herbert St	\$79,00
31011 Hiveley St	\$105,00
7538 Manor Cir	\$75,00
32869 Mecosta St	\$67,00
7410 N Farmington Rd	\$169,00
5647 N Harvey St	\$137,00
7780 N Henry Ruff Rd	\$146,00
1731 Regene St	\$140,00
623 S Merriman Rd	\$120,00
8035 Sanford Dr	\$140.00
33458 Somerset St	\$122,00
28170 Warren Rd	\$210,00
38790 Warren Rd	\$177,00
JOI / O HUITEII NU	J117500

26797 Southwestern Hwy

\$105,000



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Bloomfield

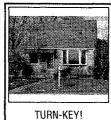
OAKLAND HILLS GOLF COURSE ON 8TH FAIRWAY Gorgeous renovated walkout w/ granite & tumbled stone Truly must see inside to appreciate. A steal at \$695,000. Call: (248) 421-2226



GREAT LOCALE NEAR charming downtown, easy access to x-ways. Open flowing floor plan & neutral. Gorgeous turn-key. Large cherry & gourmet kitchen \$499,900 (EC95KE-27219173)

Weir Manuel Realto (248) 851-5500

Dearborn



mmaculate, nicely updated bdrm bungalow. Newe citchen, wood floors. Dining room w/bay window. Large master w/library. Deck & pavers. \$140,000 (EC23MA-27217416)

Weir Manuel Realtors Weir Manuel Realtors (248) 851-5500

Redford

CHECK OUT THIS GEM.

In golf & country club sub. Features 3 bdrm, 2 bath

bungalow w/loads of extras. There's a 12' deep pool &

spa, pond, bar area \$155,000

(EC15SE-27217446)

Weir Manuel Realtors (248) 851-5500

ROCHESTER HILLS

Wonderful home in popula Chichester. Extra large lot

Ceramic floors in foyer kitchen, lav, back hall &

laundry. Library w/built-ins

(EC13HA-27219677) Weir Manuel Realtors

(248) 651-3500

Royal Oak

3360

Rochester

All Brick Ranch MINT CONDITION!, 3 bdrm., 2 full bath home completely remodeled throughout Brand new kitchen, new roof/ windows & doors, carpet & paint, full bsmt, 21/2 car garage, Price dropped 25K to \$114,900. Land contract or low down

Garden City

FHA terms. Call Dan Mullan Cell: 313-300-0462 Re/Max 100 800-799-9770



TO PLACE YOUR AD: 1-800-579-7355

Landa de l'estides de

the hest local

OVER 2,000 SQ. FT. Family Rm., Fireplace, finished Bsmt, 2 Car Garage, \$159,500. Century 21 Castelli 734-525-7900

3310

Orion Township



ORION Paradise! Lake front w/gor geous panoramic views Great room w/fireplace cathedral ceiling, 2 door walls to maintenance free deck. Year around fun. (EC43IN-27221903)

bdrm, brick ranch, 1.5 bath, C/A, natural fireplace, wood firs, near the Shrine. \$174,900 248-953-8843

Great Street

2707 Woodland

Waterford



GREAT CURB appeal on updated ranch Large great room w/vaulted eiling, newer laminate floor window seat.Kitchen 8 dining area w/window seat \$129,900

(EC56AY-27198401) Weir Manuel Realtors (248) 851-5500

Macomb County

3530



SHELBY Relax & enjoy life in a won derful ranch, newer win vinyl siding, 3 fenced lot. Family dows. w/wood room burning stove. Newer furnace more. \$155,000 (EC46HU-27045296)

Weir Manuel Realtors (248) 651-3500



CASH FOR HOMES Any condition. Quick closing. If the house needs work or cleaning, that's okay Call Chris: 734-927-1087 or

www.justcashmeout.com Condos 3720

LIVONIA MERRIWOOD PARK Ranch condo, 2 Bdrm., 2 bath. first floor laundry, full bsmt. 2 car attached. By appt. only. No realtors please! 734-266-1308



PLYMOUTH Gorgeous ranch condo w/many custom updates: granite kitchen w/snack ba pens to great room. Wood floor in foyer & gathering room. \$209,900

(EC82DÉ-27218761) Weir Manuel Realtors (248) 851-5500

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PLYMOUTH!!!

More than 15 new and

used homes available for

immediate occupancy!

SAVE UP TO 75% off

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Call Dorris@ (734) 454-4660

or Hal@ (734) 658-5148

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Paving Cash **UP TO \$20,000 CASH**

For Mobile Homes

888-872-8147 WESTLAND 3 Bdrm, 2 bath

Westland Meadows, NEEDS WORK. \$2500/possible trade.

Busy Michigan Ave. corridor in Canton. New 5100 sq. ft.

with one tenant. 4.5 acre site

has room for another 15,000

#2013633 BELA SIPO\$ 734-669-5813,734-747-7888

Reinhart Commercial

building. \$1,400,000

Commercial/Retail For

(3750)

3755

Mobile Homes

(989) 329-2810

Manufactured Homes 3740

TIMESHARE!!! Paying too much for maintenance fees and taxes? Sell/rent your timeshare for cash. No commissions/broker fees. 866-708-3690 www.vpresales.com

3880

Cemetery Lots

Time Share

WHITE CHAPEL CEMETERY (Troy) Selling 1 or 6 grave sites for less than half the price. Moving out of state. Call: (734) 717-8593



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results! To Place An

Ad Call: 800-579-SELL Fax: 734-953-2232 www.hometownlife.com

DEARBORN HEIGHTS (N) 2

bdrm lower, \$695/mg. Beech

Daly/Ford area, bsmt, garage. All appliances. 313-686-1168

ABOVE AVERAGE RENTAL?

2-4 bdrm homes avail. Also

Homes For Rent



Observer & Eccentric

sq. ft. bui #2615853

Flats



BIRMINGHAM 1 MONTH FREE To Qualified Studio; 2 Bedroom Applicants. Furnished apartments avail. Gorgeous new kitchens and baths. Available in town

Birmingham MAPLE ROAD **TOWNES**

Leasing **Open House** 10AM-3PM Saturday, Dec. 22 1844 East Maple Rd.

Apartments

Free Heat & Water!

Award Winning Unique Upgrades Avail

CANTON

4000

EH₀ Franklin Palmer \$300 OFF

1st Month's Rent!

From \$565

(866) 267-8640

Palmer Rd. Between Lilley & Sheldon www.cmiproperties.net

Lg. brand new 1 bdrm. On 5 secluded acres. All util. incl. \$600/mo. 734-658-8823

Country Court & Village. Westland Woods Apts. Spacious 1 & 2 bdrms starting at \$550, Lots of Amenities incl. a/c. pool courtyds, walk-in closets & free storage, cathedral ceilings. FREE HEAT & WATER. Walk to parks schools, shopping. Near freeways, bus lines.

PET FRIENDLY **FLEXIBLE LEASES Great Specials!** (734) 721-0500

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Luxury Updated Apartments from \$699 Private Entrance Farmington Hills schools.

Sell it all with **Observer & Eccentric**

4000 Apartinents Unfurnished

MAPLE RIDGE \$200 Sec. deposit w/50% off 1st 3 mos. rent w/ approved credit. 23078 Middlebelt Spacious 1 bdrm. C/A. Carnort avail

FARMINGTON HILLS & 2 bdrm mobile homes for rent or sale, (Financing

FARMINGTON HILLS 1 & 2 Bedrooms avail. as low as \$500/mo. and \$99/sec.

ANNGIE APTS. FREE HEAT! 1 bedroom \$505. 9 Mile/ Middlebelt 248-478-7489

FARMINGTON HILLS ANNGIE APTS. FREE HEAT! 1 bedroom \$505. 9 Mile/ Middlebelt

> FARMINGTON HILLS FREEDOM VILLAGE APTS. CALL FOR SPECIALS! Luxury 1 & 2 bdrm. Laundry in unit Water & carport incl. Low sec. dep w/good credit. \$545-\$700. (586) 254-9511

FARMINGTON MANOR APTS

Deluxe studio & 1 bedroom, carport, starting at \$475. 248-888-0868 FIVE, Five, Five. ONE MONTH FREE To Qualified Studio; 2 Bdrm Applicants, Furnished apart

Available in town Birmingham 555 S. Old Woodward. Call Michelle (248) 645-1191

bedroom avail, \$500-\$600mo. 1 mo. Free! 31075 Krauter. (313) 805-1480

Newly decorated. Heat, water incl. \$560 & \$600 734-464-3847/ 734-513-4965

> A word to the wise, when looking for a great deal check the Observer & Eccentric

KEEGO HARBOR/ WEST BLOOMFIELD arge studio, 1 & 2 bedroom apts. in small, quiet complex next to park. West Bloomfield schools. Rents from \$550 includes water. Furnished apts. also available. 248-681-8309

LINCOLN PARK Deluxe 1 & 2 bedrooms. Starting at \$399 a month. Quiet, private balcony's storage, laundry, ceiling fans w/ lights & blinds 313-386-6720

LIVONIA - Mid 5/Middlebelt 2 bdrm. w/laundry in unit 50% off the first 2 mos rent., w/approved credit. 248-521-1978

NORTHVILLE

Country like Settina

One Bedroom from \$665 One Bedroom/Den from \$799 Move in

as low as \$199 The Tree Tops Novi Road & 8 Mile (248) 347-1690

NORTHVILLE-DOWNTOWN 1 bdrm apt incl heat & water \$625/mo. Call after 5pm. (810) 220-2898

WESTGATE VI Apartments 1 MONTH

FREE*

From \$590 REDUCED Sec. Dep.

Carports Included Motorcycles Allowed With Restrictions **CALL NOW!**

(866) 238-1153 On West Park Dr. Just S. of Pontiac Tr www.cmiproperties.net Restrictions Apply*

& 2 Bdrm Apts. Washer, Dryer, Private Entrance & Balcony. 248-348-0626 EHO PLYMOUTH - 1 & 2 bdrm. available, \$580 & \$680. Near downtown. Incl. heat + sec

NOVI-MAIN STREET AREA.

1/2 Off Rent For 2 Months

No dogs. 734-455-2635

Infurnished

Walk-in closets. (734) 455-1215

Plymouth AWESOME DEAL Princeton Court Apts *\$250 Moves You in!

Washer/dryer

Incl. Limited time only! 734-455-2143

Spacious 1 & 2 bdrms. Carport. Pool. From \$565-\$665 50% off 1st 3 Months /w/ \$100 sec. dep.W/good credit!

ROCHESTER - 850 sq.ft. Lg. bdrm, \$575/mo. includes heat/water. Near downtown. 1

painted, new carpet. \$440/mo 517-548-0757 + security. ROYAL OAK \$550-\$750 winter move-in special. Beautiful loft & 1 bdrm, available now.

Heat incl. Great location near

k-ways. 917-299-9446 THE MEADOWS OF LIVONIA **Retirement Community** Seniors 55 and older

•Key pad entry Laundry rooms on site Fully equipped kitchens Some Restrictions apply* Call Today to schedule your

Apartments

By 12/31/07!

From \$555 FREE HEAT & WATER

Ann Arbor Tr. & Warren Rd.

O&E Classifieds!

4000

ON THE HILL \$250 OFF

From \$620

(866) 413-1672 On Ann Arbor Trail Between Middlebelt & Inkster Rds. www.cmiproperties.net Restrictions Apply*

Apts from \$520* MOVE IN SPECIAL **DELUXE UNITS FOR**

CLUBHOUSE PET WELCOME MODEL UNIT

bdrm apartments with Balcony. Cherry Hill near Merriman Call for Details*

734-729-2242

Westland Estates

"WOW 1 Bdrm

from \$475! No fine print in this ad-

Heat/Water included -\$20.00 Application Fee New Resident's Only

Mon. -Fri. 9-7, Sat. Sun. 10-4 Westland & Redford

734-722-4700

WESTLAND - 1/2 Off Rent For 3 Months! 1 & 2 bdrm, 2 baths, Washer/Dryer, Private Entrance & Balcony (734) 459-1711 EHO

WESTLAND Hickory Woods Apts. \$224 **

MOVES YOU IN! (for qualified applicants) 1 Bdrm. - \$595 2 Bdrm. - \$650 FREE GAS AND WATER

rent-to-own. 248-819-2425 BIRMINGHAM - 2 bdrm Com-WESTLAND Livonia Schools 1 bdrm. Immed. occup. start-ing from \$525. Heat & water pletely remodeled, 1975 Cole St, Adams/Lincoln, \$775/mo. included. 1 mo free rent w/ qualified credit. 734-779-9800 Bob: (248) 360-2095

ShareNet: (248) 642-1620 CANTON - Beautiful 4 bdrm, huge kitchen, appliances, 2 car attached, deck, lg. fenced yard, \$1565/mo. 734-516-1107 **HOLY COW!** CANTON 3 bdrm. colonial

hardwood, finished basement 2 car garage, totally updated \$1475 + sec. 734-717-5091 CANTON 4 bdrm, 2 bath ranch on 5 acres, New kitchen, baths hardwood floors. \$1300-lease

(734) 658-8823

out, garage. Lease to own option. \$800-\$1,100/Mo. 248-867-2001 **DEARBORN HEIGHTS - Sharp** 3 bdrm, garage, privacy fence, immediate occupancy, option to buy, \$650. 248-788-1823

COMMERCE 2-3 bdrm., walk-

DEARBORN HEIGHTS. Nicely updated 3 bedroom ranch with oversized 2 car garage flooring, fixtures, updated bath. \$875/mo. John McArdle (Agent): 734-420-3400x221

bdrm ranch, 1100 sq. ft. 1.5

DEARBORN HGTS 3

bath, finished bsmt, 2 car detached, updated. Sect. 8 ok Lease/option avail, \$1300/mo FARMINGTON HILLS - Cute 2

bdrm brick ranch, fin bsmt, stove, fridge, immed occup, option. \$800, (248) 788-1823 FARMINGTON HILLS - Very clean 2 bdrm, 1 bath, 2 car

attached gar, \$850/mo. + 1.5 mo sec dep. (248) 489-1400 FARMINGTON HILLS 3 bdrm. 2 full bath, 1000 sq. ft., appl ances, garage. Lg. backyard. \$980/ Mo. 248-342-0314

(Agent) 248-977-9218

(734) 634-0058

GARDEN CITY- 3 bdrm ranch, very clean, \$995 + 1 mo. sec Incl all appliances. James St.

NORWAYNE- 3 bdrm. 2 car garage, updated kitchen & bath. Carpeted, \$795 move-in special! 313-475-8309 WESTLAND - 3 bdrm duplex

Duplexes

734-578-0669 (Rosey) WESTLAND 2 bdrm starting at \$535. Sect. 8 ok. MOVE IN SPECIALS!734-287-6619 www.garnerproperties.com

WESTLAND - NORWAYNE 3 bdrm., 2026 Dryden, Palmer & Wildwood area, Ig. yard. \$650. Sec 8 ok.734-522-9007 WESTLAND 1100 sq. ft. side of duplex. 3 bdrm, 2 car detached

garage, New paint, carpet, All

new appliances. Fenced back-

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available). Located in Flamingo M. H. Court. 248-474-2131

deposit w/approved credit. 248-848-4941 **FARMINGTON HILLS**

248-478-7489

ments avail. Gorgeous new kitchens and baths.

GARDEN CITY - Updated 1 bdrm apt., a/c, laundry. Electric, gas & water included. 248-346-6108 GARDEN CITY Very nice 1 & 2

GARDEN CITY- 1 bdrm apt. @ Ford & Merriman. C/A, com-mon laundry. \$525/mo. Call: 734-658-4733 GARDEN CITY- One/Two bdrm

Classifieds!

1 & 2 Bedrooms from \$499! Deposits from \$0!* •24 Hour Emergency Maintenance Convenient to I-96 OPEN 7 DAYS! Cond apply

PLYMOUTH Ask About our Specials!

734-459-6640 EHO *some restrictions apply PLYMOUTH HERITAGE APTS.

PLYMOUTH, Lg 1 bdrm, newly remodeled, \$575. Incl. heat & water. Mo to mo lease. 734-641-7751, LYNX C.I.R. Inc.

Call: (734) 453-8811

ROMULUS - 1 Bdrm. ranchstyle, appliances incl.

1 & 2 Bedrooms Rent starting \$775 1 mo. FREE rent spec." Emergency Response system

(734) 522-1151 Westland EH0 **Hawthorne Club**

SAVE MORE With Same Day Application!

(866) 262-3697 Merriman Rd. Btwn

1st Full Month's Rent On 1 Bdrms!*

FITNESS CENTER

WESTLAND

2-Bdrm. \$565 **BASIC UNIT PRICE** PLUS 2 MONTHS FREE DEPOSIT \$200

dishwasher. No Pets

(734) 729-6636 4010

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4020 Condos/Townhouses CANTON 2289 sq. ft, 2 bdrm, bonus rm., loft area, 2.5 bath, 2 car, all appliances, \$1600/mo. Call: 734-673-1455 REDFORD - Plymouth/ inkster. Lg. 2 bdrm townhouse, kit-chen, dining & living room, all

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> > College Park **Estates** 888-304-0078





Birmingham at the Call Michelle (248) 645-1191

(btwn Adams & Eton) (248) 736-1635

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Westland

Parkcrest Designed with

Apts. ROOMATES in MIND!

Livonia Livonia Schools

SPACIOUS!!

Across from

CARPORTS/ POOL WASHER & DRYER inside unit

Luna

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Garden City

Move-in

Specials!

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(734) 425-0930

Free Carports
Creekside Apts.
248-474-4400. E.H.O.

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Plymouth

Move-In Specials!

4000

FARMINGTON HILLS

1-800-579-SELL



Livonia Meijers Schools. 1734) 522-3013 Wilderness 2 Bdrms, 1000 sq. ft.

Take advantage of

Corner of Haggerty & Joy (734) 425-0930

Livonia Schools

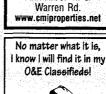
Bdrm, \$575, 2 Bdrm, \$650 W/ 1 yr. lease, Heat & water incl.

Private Entry Stay Warm-Control your own heat!

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Mo. Free Rent. 248-330-2981

SAVE UP TO \$50/Month When You Move In



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Free Heat & Water

Blue Garden **Apartments**

HEAT/ WATER INCL Spacious 1 and 2

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2 bdrm.

2 Great Locations 1 & 2 Bedrooms avail. Call About Our Specials! 734-721-6699 ni 313-937-3319 EHO

(734) 729-6520

Westland Park Apts

New Reduced Rate 1-Bdrm \$495

Spec. \$200 Sec.Dep New resident only with credit Inclues heat, air &

Mon.-Fri. 9-6, Sat. 12-4

appliances, \$775/mo. incl heat & water. 248-388-2905 TROY - On Big Beaver by Rochester Rd. 3 bdrm, 2 full FARMINGTON HILLS Super deal! Sharp 2 bdrm, bsmt, garage, \$600 + sec.

\$675 & 1 bdrm apt \$450. Sec. 8 OK. 248-939-1491 (Alex) or ONE MONTH FREE Call Linda today at SUN HOMES

> Offer expires 12/31/07 www.4collegepark.com



Observer & Eccentric

lomes For Rent

HOMES 14013313410 **Located In Canton** Starting at \$649/mo 1st Month's Rent FREE

Sharp 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath homes from 924 sa.ft Appliances included Pets welcome

Call Sandy at Sun Homes 888-304-8941 www.academywestpoint.com

*Offer expires 12/31/07

Exclusive Skyline/Clayton Retailer INKSTER - Remodeled 3 hdrm

occupancy, option. Bad credit \$650, (248) 788-1823

Homes For Rent

INKSTER Brick ranch, bdrms, 1 bath. Immediate occupancy. \$650. 28500 Hazelwood. 734-658-4780

LIVONIA (N.E.) - 2 bdrm remodeled, appliances, gar age, option to buy. No pets. \$775/mo.+sec. 248-685-8138 LIVONIA - 4 bdrm bungalow

all appliances, a/c, fenced yard, shed, Middlebelt & Joy. 734-644-0999 LIVONIA - Beautiful 3 bdrm, 1 bath ranch, finished bsmt, deck, fenced yard, \$1095/mo. Call: (231) 392-6373

LIVONIA -3 bdrm, 1 bath, A/C garage, pets OK, fenced yard \$875/mo. Lease with option. (734) 751-2099

LIVONIA 2 Bdrm, 1 bath, 1 + car garage. Open house Sat Dec. 22 & Sun. Dec. 23, 12-4pm. all appliances included. Immed. Occupancy. \$775 + 1 mo. sec. 12245 Inkster Rd.

Homes For Rent

4050

LIVONIA 3 bdrm homes, 1 bath, bsmt & 2 car garage. \$1100/mo. each. 734-751-2098, 734-591-2365

LIVONIA 3 bdrm, 1 bath, bsmt., use of pool. \$995/mo. + security. 248-761-9161

LIVONIA 3 bedrooms, 1 bath a/c, 2.5 car garage. Incl. water, appliances & lawn/snow service. \$1100/mo. 248-474-0228.

OAK PARK Remodeled 3 bdrm ranch, dining rm, garage, A/C, immediate occupancy, option to buy, \$650. 248-788-1823 PLYMOUTH New 2004, 4

bdrm, custom brick colonial, 2.5 bath, oak floors, stainless steel appliances, inground pool, 3 car . \$2300/mo. D & H Properties 248-888-9133.

REDEORD - 3 bdrm brick 2 bath, dining rm, all appliances finished bsmt, garage, C/A, option, \$850. 248-788-1823

Homes For Rent

REDFORD -Sharp 3 bedroom bungalow, new kitchen, bsmt decorated great, \$850/mo. 18441 Poinciana, 7 Mile & Inkster Rd.248-476-6498

ROCHESTER - 3 bdrm. partially finished bsmt, 2 car garage, fenced yard, quiet neighbor-hood. Call: (248) 375-2455 **ROYAL OAK**

Special from \$570; Heat & Water Included, 248-435-5100 SHORT TERM RENTALS & MORE. Livonia, Canton Northville, Plymouth & Novi.

13 Mile & Crooks 1 Bdrm;

SOUTHFIELD 3 bedroom, remodeled garage, all appliances incl, pets OK, \$890/mo + utilities. Call: (248) 737-1795

WAYNE - 3 bdrm, 1 bath, newly remodeled, c/a, full bsmt, large yard, \$925/mo. \$925 security. 734-626-0971

Homes For Rent

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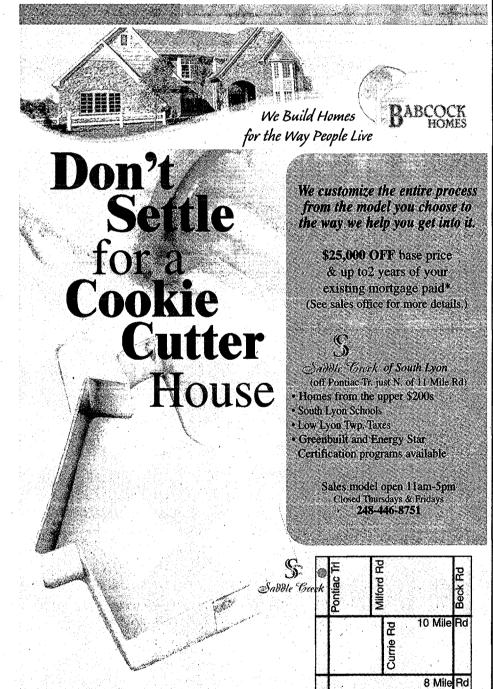
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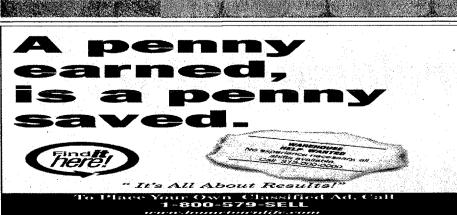


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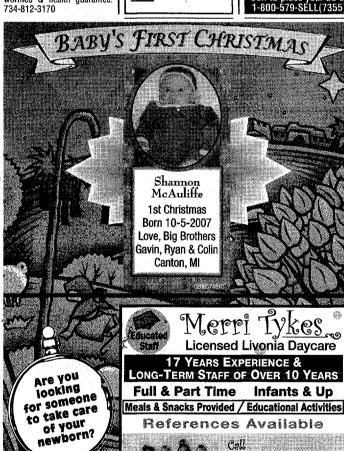
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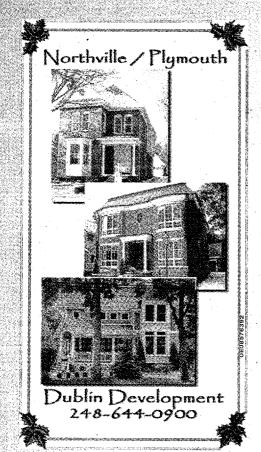
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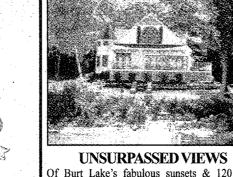
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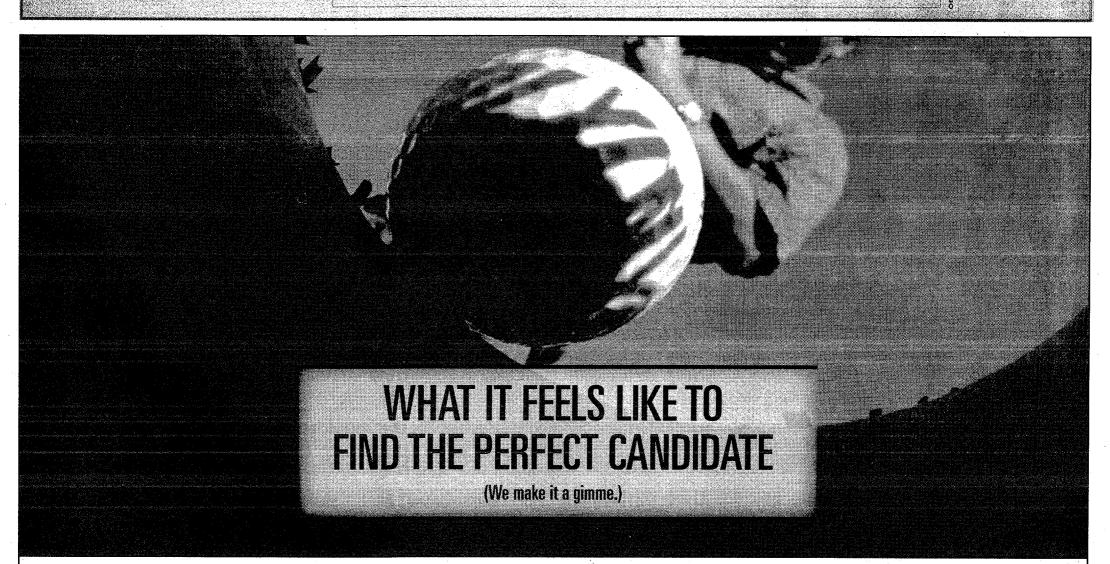




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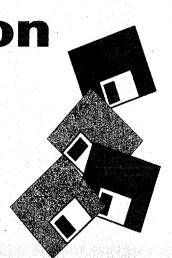
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IT'S TIME TO THINK SPRING - AND ROADSTERS

Advertising Feature

CAReport







Now that the winter solstice is upon us, it's the right time already to start thinking spring. And nothing conjures quite the anticipation of that season like thoughts of hopping into a two-seat convertible.

Here are four of the best roadsters for your purchase consideration between now and when the daffodils bloom. They can be had for as little as \$34,000 or be enhanced to set you back as much as \$65,000. But when you settle in to move out in one of these machines, you won't really care what you paid for it.

Audi TT Roadster already was one of the best cars ever driven, and then Audi went and improved it for 2008. It gets the gold medal for its combination of head-snapping performance, deft handling, superb design, interior roominess and a nifty roof that automatically opens and closes with your finger on one button.

Styled in an aggressive Bauhausian oval, the TT

Roadster long has excited design aficionados, from its lowhanging front grille to the curvaceously clipped rear end. TT's interior is a visual statement as well: a symphony of cylindrical shapes enhanced by touches such as a flat-bottomed steering wheel. Audi has created segmenttopping spaciousness inside by expanding the cabin just a bit for 2008. Its seating position already was optimally high

for a car so low to the ground.

Best of all is this roadster's whip-quick acceleration and ample juice for any occasion – even from a base engine that displaces only two liters, has just four cylinders and discharges just 200 horsepower. Turbocharging does the trick. Braking and cornering are superb as well. And at prices beginning around \$37,000, TT actually provides

BMW Z4 fantastically demonstrates why the company deserves its reputation for pushing continual improvement in its cars, even as good as they already are. The Z4 succeeded the already-fantastic Z3 about four years ago and, at prices starting in the mid-\$30,000s, is a very cheap thrill, relatively speaking.

The car looks - well, menacing, with a long and sloped front end, and sides and rear that boast an appealing medley of jewel-sharp rills and lines. (For that reason, it's more impressive in a color like silver instead of, say, black.) Inside, a number of high bolsters make you snug in your low-slung seat while you admire the French-stitched faux carbon-fiber leather on the dash and center console.



The Lexus SC 430 is one of the most luxurious roadsters in production.

Form and substance define the Nissan 350Z roadster.



However, the Z4 could use a bit more space inside. Z4 comes only with a six-cylinder engine that rockets the vehicle from 0 to 60 in less than five seconds and keeps up the impressive power display no matter how far you want to run. All the while, you'll feel sealed to the roadway: The M version of the roadster can handle more than IG

both cornering and braking.

Lexus SC 430 doesn't compete with these other roadsters in terms of off-the-line acceleration or taut cornering. But if the two of you want to ride in luxury and style – there's a \$65,000 price tag – start with the SC 430. SC 430 certainly cuts a head-turning figure. From its

protracted front end to its curvy tail, from the side flares that protrude toward the rear of the chassis to the understated hint of a spoiler, the car is strikingly designed, even more impressive from the rear than from the front. Eighteen-inch alloy wheels with center ornaments, and dual chrome exhaust pipes, provide the finishing touches.

But despite its 88-horsepower V-8 engine and sporty suspension, SC 430 is a touring vehicle, starting with the hardtop roof which, remarkably, retracts entirely in less than 30 seconds. The car emphasizes a plush interior and appointments, including 10-way power-heated seats and automatic climate control. Front seating is deep, providing exceptional protection from the elements, and a vestigial rear seat - while affording room enough only for small children - allows some cargo as well.

Nissan 350Z is the latest in a venerable line of "Z" models. And as such, it continues Nissan's tradition of offering considerable performance at a really obtainable price - mostly in the \$30,000s. The soft-top roadster as well as a two-seat coupe version come with a 3.5-liter V6 engine driving the rear wheels, a powertrain that is true to its Z predecessors: The 350Z revs easily, quickly develops plenty of power and is even reasonably fuel efficient, cover from 15mpg in the city to 25mpg on the highway depending

But you're definitely climbing into a 350Z for the driving experience, not the pampering. The ride is stiff and the grip is serious, with considerable road and tire noise. And while the seats are snug and the instrumentation well presented, interior appointments are a bit Spartan.

It's a good thing that 350Z's exterior styling is so distinctive. There's the defining long hood, short deck and sweeping rear lines that flow down to form the large hatchback opening. In a great way, the road-hugging 350X looks like a well-muscled suction cup scooting along the highway.



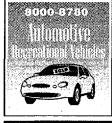




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- 30 More snappy 32 Novelist Seton
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- 39 Hove (Lat.) 40 Chili bean 41 Butter container
- 57 Brávo, in Barcelona 58 Thin, as a voice
- 59 Kipling novel **DOWN**

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54 Gangster's gun-

50 Caveman

- Blue-gray bird 3 Tallow source Woolgathering
- 5 Rule by a few 6 Aardvark's diet – kwon do 8 Retirement income 9 Gun the engine
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Answer to Previous Puzzle

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- Bean 29 Polar explorer — whim 33 Emmy-winning
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- to Pierre 50 Enemy
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Fun By The

Like puzzles?

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puzzle will have

you hooked from

the moment you

square off, so

sharpen your

your sudoku

pencil and put

savvy to the test!

Numbers



Level: Beginner

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!

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

CHIMNEY COOKIES ELVES **GIFTS**

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SLEIGH SNOW STOCKING TOYS

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

W	S	C	A	S	R	E	H	D	F	
S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	J	G	
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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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Cadillac

CTS 2007, 06, 05, several to choose, sharp, moonroofs, from \$18,950. JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

DEVILLE 2002, one owner leather, crimson red, \$12,995. **Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

DTS 2005, leather, moonroof, fully loaded, only \$20,950. JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

SRX 2005, leather, only 20,000 miles, loaded, sharp!! \$22,950 JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

Chevrolet

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Red Holman (734) 721-1144

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CAVALIER 2004 2 dr. coupe alloy wheels, air, only 55K, \$7.995. **Bob Jeannotte Pontiac**

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COBALT 2007, only 1,400 miles, auto, air, sharp!! \$13,950 JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

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(734) 524-1264

IMPALA 2007, GM Certified, as low as 4.9% APR. Several to choose from, \$14,995 Lou LaRiche Chevrolet 888-372-9836

IMPALA LS 2007, 28K, V-6, auto, air, pw/pl, tilt, cruise, OnStar, \$13,990. SATURN of PLYMOUTH

(734) 453-7890 IMPALA LT 2007, 28K, V-6. auto, air, pw/pl, tilt, cruise OnStar, alloy wheels, \$15,450. SATURN of PLYMOUTH

(734) 453-7890 IMPALA SS 2006, V-8, auto, silver stone metallic, low miles, two to choose from. Lou LaRiche Chevrolet 888-372-9836

MALIBU LT 2007, 18K, V-6, auto, air, pw/pl, tilt, cruise, ABS, alloy wheels, \$13,550. SATURN of PLYMOUTH

(734) 453-7890 MALIBU LT 2007. V-6, auto. several to choose from, as Lou LaRiche Chevrolet

MONTE CARLO 2002, low miles. \$7,995 with warranty. Financing for everyone COLLINS MOTOR SALES WAYNE (734) 721-1616

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MONTE CARLO LT 2006, red, 6,756 miles, full power, sharp! \$14,998 Red.Holman_

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Chrysler-Plymouth

8420 CHRYSLER 300M LTD 2005,

NAV., loaded, silver, like new, SATURN of PLYMOUTH

(734) 453-7890 PT CRUISER 2001 Limited

loaded, moon, leather, \$7,995 with warranty. Financing for everyone.
COLLINS MOTOR SALES

WAYNE (734) 721-1616 8440 Dodge

NEON ES 2000 4 dr., one owner, auto, air, \$4,295 **Bob Jeannotte Pontiac**

(734) 453-2500 NEON SE 2005, low miles,

AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

CROWN VIC LX 2007 Leather, loaded, great miles 4 to choose from starting

as low as \$14,999. Ford 734-721-2600 CROWN VICTORIA 2007

to sell at \$16.888. JACK DEMMER Ford 734-721-2600 ESCORT LX 1997

4 door, auto, air, power locks, exc cond. \$2,400/best. 248-667-1088 ESCORT LX 1997 4 dr., auto, air, \$3,840. P20333A NORTH BROTHERS FORD

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ESCORT ZX2 1998, full With power, nice nice car! warranty. 1st time buyer program available.
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EXPLORER 1998 4 X 4, looks and run super. \$2900. TYME (734) 455-5566

FIVE HUNDRED 2006 Limited, AWD, navigation only 18K, \$19,995.

Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030

FOCUS SE 2001, auto, air, pw/pl, budget priced, \$5,140. Stk# 8T0031B NORTH BROTHERS FORD (734) 524-1264 FOCUS SE 2007,

side airbags, 8K, \$11,998. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515 FOCUS ZTS ST 2006, low miles, full power, \$11,995.

Bill Brown Ford

(734) 522-0030 FOCUS ZX3+2007, only 7K ke new! Must see! \$13,695 Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030

FOCUS ZX4 2006, auto. moon, low miles AVIS FORD

(248) 355-7515 FUSION 2006, certified, very clean. Low payments. Ask for Bryan O'Neil

North Bros. L/M TROY (248) 283-6377 FUSIONS 2007, 14 to choose,

all colors, low miles, name Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030

MUSTANG 2005, 5 speed, AVIS FORD

(248) 355-7515 MUSTANG 2006 Convertible, 10K, auto, \$19,998. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515 MUSTANG 2007 Convertible,

auto, loaded, leather, satellite radio, priced to sell, \$18,999.

JACK DEMMER Ford 734-721-2600 MUSTANG GT 1999 Convertible, 35th Anniversary, 1999

15K \$14.998 AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

North **Brothers**



VEHICLES FOCUS SE 2007, great value, certified, \$11,980. 500 LIMITED 2005, leather, moonroof, \$15,500. Stk#

MUSTANG 2005, V-6. certified, \$13,803. Stk# CD, dual air bags, mint cond. \$12,500/best, 734-637-0011 7C9276A FORD FREESTAR 2007, 6 yr. 100K warranty, \$15.960. Stk# P20367

FOCUS ZX3 2005, auto air, \$10,860. Stk# 809017A **FOCUS 2006**, great gas, \$11,500. 7C1332A FORD ESCAPE 2008, V-6, 4x4, 100K warranty, \$19,940, P20321 FORD FREESTAR 2007, 100K warranty, like new, 100K v \$16,300, P20322

North Brothers



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CHEVY TRACKER 2002 4 4x4, 49,340 Stk#8T6025A NAVIGATOR DVD 2003 Has it all! \$23,460. P FORD RANGER Supercab 4x4, \$7,850. FORD RANGER 2005,

2003, \$6,600. NEON FORD ESCAPE 2003, clean, 1 owner, \$8,750. JEEP CHEROKEE 1994 4WD, great 1st truck

North Brothers



TAURUS 1999 Auto, air, extra clean. \$2800. TYME (734) 455-5566 TAURUS 2001, brown metallic

only 69K, air & more, \$6,995. **Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500 TAURUS 2006, certified, low

Ask for Bryan O'Neil North Bros. L/M TR0Y (248) 283-6377

les \$11.984.

TAURUS 2007, 10 to choose, from \$11,995. All colors. **Bill Brown Ford** (734) 522-0030 TAURUS SE 2000 Wagon, gold, very clean, must see, \$5,995.

Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030

Ford

TAURUS SE 2003, aluminum wheels, spoiler, \$6,995. Lou LaRiche Chevrolet 888-372-9836

> TAURUS SE 2004. 9,000 miles, \$9,998 AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

TAURUS SE 2004, low miles all power, burgundy, \$9,995 Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030

TAURUS SE 2007, aluminum wheels, spoiler, \$11,950. Lou LaRiche Chevrolet 888-372-9836 TAURUS SE 2007, low miles

CD, fully loaded, sharp! \$10,950 JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900 TAURUS SEL 2007, five to

choose from, \$12,450.
NORTH BROTHERS FORD (734) 524-1264

TAURUS SEL 2008, leather, \$19,998. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515 TAURUS'S 2006 SE, SEL'S,

JACK DEMMER Ford 734-721-2600 **THUNDERBIRD 2005**

20 to choose from, as low as

Hardtop, 11K, \$27,998. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515 Honda 8520

CIVIC LX 2005, 29K, auto, air, pw/pl; tilt, cruise, AM/FM steren \$13.840 SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890

ELEMENT 2002 4 wheel drive EX. \$10,998 AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

HONDA ACCORD 1991 4 Dr., air, auto, pl. cruise, antilock brakes, pw, full service history, 1 owner, ps, am-fm leather \$2,500.: 313-590-8963

PRELUDE 2000 - Exc cond. like new, loaded, 50,000 miles original owner, non-smoking \$12,000. 248-505-8774

SPECTRA 2003, loaded \$7,150. Stk# 8C1070A NORTH BROTHERS FORD (734) 524-1264 loaded

Jeep **GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO** 2003 4x4, red, \$10,995 with

Financing for everyone! COLLINS MOTOR SALES WAYNE (734) 721-1616 JEEP WRANGLER 2002 4X4 sport, pb, ps, all season tires, front bucket seats, A/C

Lincoln

ZEPHYR 2006, very low miles, certified, call for price. Ask for Bryan O'Neil North Bros. L/M **TROY** (248) 283-6377

Mazda

MAZDA 6i 2005. 48K. auto. air, pw/pl, tilt, cruise, moon

SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890 PROTEGE 2000. \$5,998. AVIS FORD

(248) 355-7515

Mercury GRAND MARQUIS 2003,

20,000 miles, very clean, \$12,733. Ask for Bryan O'Neil North Bros. L/M

TROY (248) 283-6377 GRAND MARQUIS 2004 certified, 3.9 Apr O.A.C. Ask for Bryan O'Neil North Bros. L/M

(248) 283-6377 GRAND MARQUIS GL 2004. what a ride, \$12,160. NORTH BROTHERS FORD (734) 524-1264

TROY

MILAN 2007, leather, certified, low payment. Ask for Bryan O'Neil North Bros. L/M TROY

(248) 283-6377 MONTEGO 2005, AWD, leather, moonroof, 11K, certified.

Ask for Bryan O'Neil North Bros. L/M TROY

MONTEGO 2005, certified, only 19,000 miles Ask for Bryan O'Neil North Bros. L/M TROY

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SABLE LS 2002 Silver, leather, 60,000 miles, well main tained, exc. cond. Garage kept. \$6750. 248-932-8479 SABLE LS 2004 premium,

(248) 283-6377

leather, low miles, extra clean, \$11,495. Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030

Mitsubishi

Nissan

LANCER GTS 2008, bright blue, power moon, auto, 13K, **Bob Jeannotte Pontiac**

(734) 453-2500 MIRAGE 2000, air, cruise, CD,

tile, 42K, \$5,295 with warranty. 1 owner. Financing for everyone! COLLINS MOTOR SALES WAYNE (734) 721-1616

8610

8620

MAXIMA SE 2006, gold, 26K, like new, \$16,900. SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890

SENTRA 2005 4 dr., radium, 4 cylinder, auto, priced to save

Lou LaRiche Chevrolet 888-372-9836 Oldsmobile

ALERO 2002, dark green, sunroof \$5,495 **Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

Pontiac

AZTEK 2004, AWD, white, sunroof, sharp! \$11,995.

Bob Jeannotte Pontiac (734) 453-2500 AZTEK RALLY 2005, orange.

loaded, extra sharp, only 44K SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890

BONNEVILLE SLE 1998,

sharp, silver, only \$4,995 **Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500 BONNEVILLE SSEI 2003, Black, power moon, leather

(734) 453-2500 G-6 2007 sedan, only 9,000 miles, auto, air, loaded, sharp!! \$14,950 JOHN ROGIN BUICK

734-525-0900

chrome wheels. \$10,795.

Bob Jeannotte Pontiac

G6 2006, auto, air, gray, certified, 20K, \$13,995. **Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

power options, alloys, sharp! \$14,998 RedHolman

G6 2007 4 dr., silver, V-6,

(734) 721-1144 G6 GT 2005, panoramic roof black, black leather, heated remote start, loaded seats

SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890 GTP 2006, slate panoramic roof, leather, H.O.

V-6, top shelf! \$17,998 RedHolman GRAND AM GT 2003 8560 Black, w/grey leather, ram air hood, moonroof, monsoon,

> cond. \$7500/best. 248-505-3357 GRAND AM SE 2004, red sunroof, chromes, 39K, was \$10,895, now \$9,988.

> > Red Holman_

(734) 721-1144

GRAND AM SE 2004, V-6,

remote start & alarm. Exc.

auto, air, moonroof, chrome wheels, spoiler, \$10,950. JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900 GRAND PRIX GT2 2004, leather, moon, green, \$11,995.

(734) 453-2500 GRAND PRIX GT2 2005. bright blue leather \$14 995 **Bob Jeannotte Pontiac**

9 to choose, 4.9% finance JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900 GRAND PRIXS 2007, 2 to

(734) 453-2500

choose, black or red, GM Certified, choice, \$16,288. Red Holman.

(734) 721-1144 PONTIAC AZTEK 2003 4 Dr., air, alarm, Auto, pl, cruise, CD, anti-lock brakes, pw, 1 owner, ps, am-fm stereo, sunroof, leather. New tires

\$10,000. 248-877-4742

SUNFIRE 1997, sports spoiler, nice sharp car. \$3,995 with warranty.
COLLINS MOTOR SALES WAYNE (734) 721-1616

VIBE 2006, certified, auto.

Bob Jeannotte Pontiac

orav. \$13.995

(734) 453-2500 Saturn

AURA XE 2007, 20K, V-6, auto, air, pw/pl, tilt, cruise, OnStar, ABS, \$15,900.

SATURN of PLYMOUTH

(734) 453-7890 ION 2004, 16K, 5 speed, air, pw/pl, tilt, cruise, AM/FM stereo, sun roof, Sale, \$9,400. SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890

ION 2005, 33K, auto, air, pw/pl, tilt, cruise, AM/FM stereo, \$11,940. SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890

ION 3 2004, 60K, auto, air,

pw/pl, tilt, cruise, rear spoiler, alloy wheels, \$9,490. SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890

Saturn

L300 2003, V-6, auto, 52K, loaded, extra clean, \$10.890. SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890

SATURN 1999 - 3 door, red, CD, 87,000 miles, well maintained, new tires, \$3900. Call: (248) 349-4439

SC2 2002 Coupe 3 dr., red. sharp, \$8,750. SATURN of PLYMOUTH

(734) 453-7890 SKY ROADSTER 2007, 8K, 5 speed, air, pw/pl, tilt, cruise, Wow, save huge, \$22,500. SATURN of PLYMOUTH

8720) Toyota COROLLA LE 2006, auto, air 28K, white, \$12,995 **Bob Jeannotte Pontiac**

(734) 453-2500

COROLLA LE 2006, blue, air.

(734) 453-7890

auto, CD, low miles, alarm warranty! RedHolman

(734) 721-1144 Volkswagen

BEFTLE 2003 Convertible, \$13,998. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

8740

auto, air, pw/pl, tilt, cruise, leather, alloy wheels, \$13,500, SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890 JETTA GLX 2001 V-6 2.8 liter

leather, moon, loaded, \$7,995

\$70 2000,

55K, 1 owner, \$10,998. AVIS FORD

(248) 355-7515

JETTA 2006, 37K, Tiptronic

with warranty.

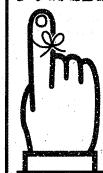
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lelp Wanted-Office

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5020

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5040 Help Wanted-Medical 5060 Help Wanted-Dental

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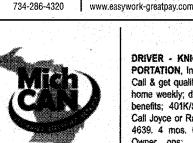
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HOMETOWN

Thursday, December 20, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

www.hometownlife.com

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

Kelli Lewton, owner and chef at 2 Unique Caterers and Event Planners in Royal Oak, has created her own list of "The 12 Days of Christmas," a set of guidelines on how to plan your holiday gathering or New Year's party. These tips apply at any time of year whether the event is a bridal shower, summer cookout or dinner party.

DAY 12

■ MASTER CHECKLIST

Every great event has great beginnings. A master plan and checklist are keys to success. Your list may include rentals, inventory of china, linen, serving pieces, and a timeline for when tasks should be completed to ensure there's no last minute running.

The most crucial part of a holiday feast is, of course, the food. Family favorites are always in demand, but this is the time to gather recipes you've wanted to try, and if necessary, experiment. When menu planning, have a good mix of items to fit everyone's varied tastes, including a few selections which are on the lighter side. Try to make some dishes in advance. Many items, including baked goods and chutneys, can be made well in advance. Don't forget to order special meat or bakery items so you're not disappointed on your last-minute shopping trip to your

DAY 10 **BUY BEVERAGES**

favorite market.

Purchase all your beverages. Remember to buy beer and wine at room temperature and then just ice down an hour prior to guest arrival in coolers or party tubs. It is hard enough to store all the extra food items in the refrigerator without having to work around cases of

pop, beer and wine.

Your event is close enough now to the date that you can call family and friends to remind them about times and such. It's also a great time to assign tasks for family members to help with the preparation.

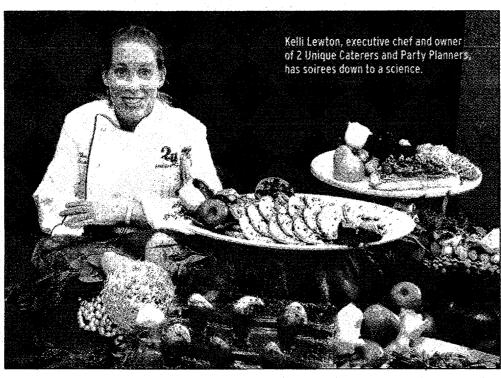
DAY8 B BAKE AND FREEZE

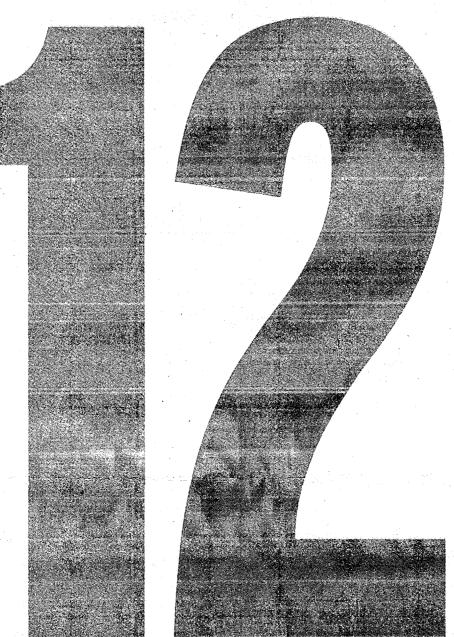
It's a great day for holiday baking. Cookies and breads freeze great. Bring out your special holiday tins. Sweet-filled tins make great gifts.

DAY 7 ■ PICK UP DRY GOODS

Beat the last-minute grocery store

frenzy and pick up all your dry goods such as paper products, coffee, tea, and canned and frozen items. Make any last minute purchases you may need for your





days of party planning

DAY 6

■ Plan your holiday tabletop. You can use phone books or boxes turned upside down placed on top of a base line tablecloth. Arrange risers on the table and cover with additional pieces of festive holiday linen, thus creating different levels as a stage for your platters, bowls, etc. Think about your centerpiece (how about some fresh pine branches placed between risers or holiday ribbon cascaded about?) Candles are always a nice touch. Colors and textures will lend to your festive holiday table. Think of your table as the stage and the food as the actors.

Gather china, serving pieces and linen. Double check for cleanliness and don't forget to polish the silver. This is also a good day for starting some cleaning, and to find your favor-

The last place you want to be stuck on Christmas Eve (or the night before the party) is the grocery store. Go today and buy your fresh produce and dairy products. Don't forget the eggnog and cinnamon.

DAY 3 ■ PICK UP ORDERS

Pick up your fresh meats and any special orders for cakes that you may have placed. Start processing vegetables, pick your green beans, cut your carrots, parsnips, etc. If you peel apples or potatoes in advance, make sure you store them in water with a little lemon

Go ahead and blanch your vegetables and place them in re-heating pans with a little salt, pepper and butter so that on the day of the party all you need to do is reheat in oven or microwave and serve. You could also put a little water in the bottom of the pan and steam on the stovetop for a few seconds. Boil, mash, stir and bake. Get all your side dishes ready to go. If you can make sauces ahead of time — go for it! Clean lettuce and greens and store with a wet towel covering them. Clean and season any raw meats so they will be oven ready. Set the

DAY 1 HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Because you were a planner, you can leisurely roll out of bed to enjoy the spirit of Christmas or your special event. Your table is set; your side dishes are ready to go, your silver clean, plates out, beverages to be iced one hour before. The only thing left is to meet with family, and coordinate your meat preparation with mealtime so that all runs smoothly. If you are a guest and a non-kitchen participant, show courtesy and gratitude and help clean dishes and put the food away, or volunteer your children to help out. It will be a nice holiday

Shipping treats? Tips to prevent crushed cookies

BY JENNIFER FORKER FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Planning to bake and ship a little love this

holiday season?

If you want to make sure your cookies don't end up as crumbs by the time they get to your friends and family, the type of cookies you make can be as important as how you wrap and pack them.

So here's what you need to know:

THE COOKIES

Experts were reluctant to herald one variety of cookie over another, but all agree - sturdiness is key. This isn't the time for brittle, delicate or thin cut cookies with intricate woven sugar decorations.

Whether shipped by the U.S. Postal Service or a private carrier, your package will travel along sundry conveyer belts, be exposed to hot and cold, get handled by several people and possibly rattle for many miles in the back of a truck.

The UPS Store has compiled a list of baked goods its shippers say can take the tumbling and temperatures. They recommend molasses cookies, peanut butter cookies, shortbread, sugar cookies, brownies, biscotti, puffed rice treats and drop cookies, which tend to be thick and dense.

Also, think small. Small, thick cookies are less likely to break than large, thinner cook-

And don't mix soft and hard cook-

ies, according to the Web site TroopCarePackage.com. The moisture in the soft cookies can make hard cookies, such as biscotti, go soft.

Frosted cookies ship fine, if you use royal icing, a decorating icing made from powdered sugar, egg whites and lemon juice.

For food safety reasons, try meringue powder (available at most craft and baking stores) instead of the raw egg whites called for in most recipes. This icing also can serve as an excellent glue for adhering decorations to cookies.

THE PACKING

The key to shipping cookies it to wrap each one separately. This helps cushion the cookies, prevents them from sticking together and allows you to ship a variety of cookies without the flavors mixing.

For the wrapping, there are plenty of options. Try parchment paper to create sleeves or envelopes for each, which also could be attractively tied with ribbon.

If your cookies need to travel some distance, freshness may be a concern. In that case, consider cling wrap or press-andseal-style wraps, which lock out the air and lengthen the life of baked goods.

Once wrapped, the cookies should be arranged (don't crowd) in a small box or canister. If there is extra space in the box, use crumpled waxed paper, which cushions and

Please see SHIPPING, D4



If you plan to give gifts of homemade goodies this year, check out Martha Stewart's line of gift packaging.

The Martha Stewart Crafts line, which is sold at Michaels craft stores and online, has a box, bag or wrapper for seemingly any edible gift possibility, from goodie bags to cookie boxes.

The products are simple, attractive and assemble quickly. Most also include the sorts of flourishes that add wow-factor to any gift - coordinated labels, ribbons, stickers, cellophane windows, etc. And on Nov. 2, the line was expanded with various holidaythemed packaging, including red and white baker's twine, cookie boxes with multiple compartments and cookie envelopes (big enough

for one or two treats). The Martha Stewart Crafts packaging ranges from \$3.99 to \$29.99. Visit http://marthastewartcrafts.

- J.M. Hirsch, AP food writer

Sweet Holidays

BY J.M. HIRSCH AP FOOD EDITOR

Homemade cookies make for ideal holiday gifts, and they're just as much fun to make as to give. Warm up the oven, enlist help from the kids, and let these recipes inspire a delicious sea-

GINGERBREAD FAMILY KIT

Give the gift of hassle-free fun with these gingerbread family kits. You do the least exciting part (baking the cookies), and let your recipients do the decorating. Package the cookies (one for each member of the family, and don't forget pets) with small candies and decorating gels.

Start to finish: 3 hours (1 hour active) 3 cups all-purpose flour

¼ teaspoon salt

3/4 teaspoon baking soda 2 teaspoons ground ginger

1 teaspoon cinnamon ¼ teaspoon nutmeg

¼ teaspoon ground cloves ½ cup unsalted butter, room tempera-

½ cup sugar

1 large egg

²/₃ cup molasses Candies and tubes of frosting to deco-

In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, salt, baking soda, ginger, cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves. Set

In another large bowl, use an electric mixer to cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add the egg and molasses and beat until well combined. Gradually add the flour mixture, beating until incorporated.

Divide dough into four pieces and wrap each in plastic wrap. Refrigerate at least 2 hours or overnight.

When ready to bake, preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

One at a time, on a lightly floured surface, roll out each piece of dough to ¼ inch thick. Using cookie cutters of people and pets, cut out gingerbread cookies. Combine scraps and cut additional cookies.

Use a spatula to transfer the cookies to the prepared baking sheet, placing them about an inch apart. Bake 8 to 12 minutes, or until just lightly brown at the edges.

Cool cookies on baking sheet for I minute, then remove to wire racks to cook completely. Repeat with remaining dough.

To assemble the kit, line a 9-inch square plastic container with tissue paper. Add enough undeco-

Please see RECIPES, D5

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

Dinner, caroling and Afterglow begin-

ning with dinner 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20, in the St. Mary Mercy Hospital the cafeteria to practice at 6:45 p.m. To sign up, call (248) 349-0911. Old Fashioned Hootenanny concert First Presbyterian Church, 200 East 0911 or visit www.singleplace.org. . Single Place meets Thursdays at the church, 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time,

7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program. Cost is \$5 per person.

6:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21, at Kenwood Church of Christ, 20200 Merriman, Livonia. For more informaiton, call (248) 476-8222. There will be actors, animals, refreshments, and activities for children. Come celebrate the reason for Christmas.

Hope 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 30, at Friendship Church which meets at Michigan Theological Seminary, 41550 Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth. For information, call (734) 710-9370 or visit www.Canton Friendship.org. Sundays in January focus is on how life would be different if you only had 30 days to live. **Advent services**

Sunday, Dec. 23, and God's Gift of

6 p.m. Sunday evenings in December at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile Road, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Sunday, Adult Bible Class at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship at 10:30 a.m., at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights. For more information, call (313) 278-5755. Christmas cantata

Riverside Park Church of God proudly presents His Precious Gift 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 23, at the church, 11771 Newburgh, corner of Plymouth Rd., Livonia, Michigan, Call (734) 464-0990 for more information. Come celebrate the season and experience this unique service of music and drama, free of charge.

Concerts 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 23, the Motor City Brass Band collaborates with The Ward Chancel Choir to bring you Sounds of the Season, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile. Northville. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. At 7 p.m. the sounds of beloved Christmas carols from the Birmingham-First Chamber Choir fill the Sanctuary for Sing We Now Of Christmas, Doors open at 6:30. There is for charge for the concerts. Donations will be taken during performances. For information, call (248) 374-7400.

Candlelight services

4:30 p.m. Family Service Candlelight, and 7:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. Candlelight Service Monday, Dec. 24, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile Road, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia. ora.

Christmas services

5 p.m. Family Christmas service and Sunday School Christmas program with Voices of Praise, Trinity Brass and Trinity Strings; 7 p.m. Christmas **Carol Communion and Contemporary** Worship Ensemble; 10:30 p.m. Christmas Prelude of special music, and 11 p.m. Christmas Candlelight Communion with Chancel Choir and Trinity Bells Monday, Dec. 24, and 10 a.m. Christmas Carol Communion Service Tuesday, Dec. 25, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0211.

Christmas Eve worship 5 p.m. Children/Family service, 7 p.m. Lessons & Carols and Candlelight,

and 11 p.m. Festival Worship and Candlelight Monday, Dec. 24, at Newburg United Methodist Church. 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Call (734) 422-0149.

Candlelight service

A special service of singing and worship 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24, at Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman, north of 1-96, Livonia. For information, call (734) 522-3570.

Organ meditation

6:45 p.m. by Gini Robison followed by Christmas Eve Communion Service at 7:30 p.m., at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

Christmas Eve service

The Anglican Church of Livonia will hold a Christmas Eve service 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24, at the Livonia YMCA, 14255 Stark Road, between Lyndon and the 1-96 service drive. **Christmas Eve service**

7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24, at Memorial

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

Candlelight Christmas service

7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24, at First United Methodist Church of Wayne, 3 Town

Square. For more information, call (734) 721-4801.

Christmas eve service 7:30 p.m. Dec. 24, at Immanuel

Lutheran Church 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights. Service includes traditional Christmas Carols. For more information, call (313) 278-

5755. **Grief support**

Living with the loss of a spouse, a sixweek program dealing with grief, loneliness and related issue, conducted by Widowed Friends, a peer support group, begins 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6. at Our Lady of Loretto Parish, Six Mile near Beech Daly. \$20 fee covers all materials. Call Joan at (248) 478-1084 by Dec. 30 to register.

New schedule

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

Day of service

Beginning in January, a Day of Service and Spirituality will be made available by the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the Solanus Casey Center. The purpose of the day is to serve, to meet, and to have one's faith grow. The day allows groups to help at the Capuchin Services Center and dine with guests

at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. A tour of the Earth Works urban garden, which provides six tons of produce each season, will also be made available. The day concludes with a self-guided tour of the Solanus Casey Center, a spirituality center dedicated to the Capuchin friar who is credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. The minimum age is 7th grade and the maximum size of the group is 30. The day starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. There is no cost. Lunch included. For more information, send e-mail to ccrane@thecapuchins.org. To learn more about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, visit www.cskdetroit.

UPCOMING

Thursday fellowship diner Resume Jan. 3, all are welcome, 6 p.m. dinners are catered by The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, at St. James. Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Cost is \$6. Call (313) 534-7730.

Couple prayer series

org.

St. Colette Church, 17600 Newburgh, Livonia, is offering a life-changing Couple Prayer Series (www.coupleprayer.org) for married or engaged couple, beginning 7-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4, in the Activity Center Hall. Couples who pray together daily have a divorce rate of less than 1 divorce in every 1000 marriages. For registration information, call Mary Ellen at (734) 464-4435.

Reformed Protestant services

Weekly Sunday services begin Jan. 6. The doctrines and teachings of Reformed Protestantism will be preached every Sunday at 3:30 p.m. worship services of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing). A new preaching station has been established and the services will be held at Cherry Hills School, 50440 Cherry Hill, corner of Ridge Rd., Canton.s Rev. Sean Humby will preach each Sunday. For more information, call Margaret Waldecker at (313) 530-6170, visit www.westminsterconfession.org, or e-mail Humby at sean.humby@fuse.net.

Thrift store

Open Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730. **ENDOW**

Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women sessions 7-9 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 17 to March 6, (explores Pope John Paul II's Mulieris Dignitatem-On the Dignity and Vocation of Women),

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

Women's retreat

Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 19-20, at St. John's Retreat Center of Plymouth. Cost is \$85, includes Saturday lunch, dinner, snacks and Sunday breakfast. Rooms are single occupancy. For more information, call Kathy Weinberg at (734) 464-0211, ext. 202.

ONGOING

Worship

Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship Service with nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for tots through high school and Adult Faith Forum at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile Road, Livonia, Call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org. Visitors welcome.s

Sunday worship

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

Worship service

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

Upper Room Ministries

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

F.I.R.E. ministries

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

New worship schedule

30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414. All visitors welcome. Visit www. holycrosslivonia.org.

Sunday worship

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

Worship services

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

Singers wanted

Riverside Park Church of God is looking for voices to join their choir. For more information, call (734) 464-0990.

Pancake breakfasts

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

Men's breakfast

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

MOPS meetings

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

Bible studies

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

MOPS groups

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

com. **LOGOS Youth Club** Calling all youth grades 4-12 to join the LOGOS Youth Club at Northville First United Methodist Church, Recreation, dinner, Bible study and music Wednesdays, 5:15-8:15 p.m. began

Wednesday, Sept. 26. For information or registration, visit www.fumcnorthville.org or call (248) 349-1144. HeartCry The support group provides hope and help for mothers of prodigals at 7 p.m. on the second, fourth and fifth Wednesdays of each month, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy

Road, Canton. The group is using the book, The Hope of a Homecoming, by O'Rourke and Sauer (\$12). For information or to register, call (734) 455-0022, Ext. 4. Women of the word

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

Bible study

Get a new life, study Scripture 9-10:30 a.m. Saturdays at Blessed Sacrament Monastery on the northwest corner of 13 Mile and Middlebelt'in Farmington Hills. Focus of study is Romans. Come once or more often. Call (248) 626-8253 for more information. Fellowship Dinners

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

Thrift Shop

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

Registration

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

Please see RELIGION, D3

RELIGION CALENDAR

DECEMBER **Single Place Ministry**

cafeteria in Livonia. Meet in a room off with Bob Allwine Thursday, Dec. 27, at Main Street, Northville. Call (248) 349-

A Living Nativity

Special services

Family Christmas service 10:30 a.m.

Hassages Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 fax: 734-953-2232

e-mail: oeobits@hometownlife.com

LTC (Ret) CARL F. DUPKE

Birmingham, MI

1931-2007

during which he served in Germany,

Korea and Vietnam. During his service

he earned many Medals including the

Bronze Star. After retiring from the

Military he joined Chrysler Defense

and was on the design team of the M1 Abrams Battle Tank. He continued

with General Dynamics Corp. in their

production of the Tank until he retired.

A memorial service will be held at The

First United Methodist Church in

Birmingham on Dec. 23rd at 3:30. He

will be laid to rest at Arlington

National Cemetery with full Military

Honors in the spring. He is survived

by his wife Tina, his two daughters, Marlea Moriarty and Carol Lee and two grandchildren, Ryan and

Jacqueline. In lieu of flowers, any

remembrance can be sent to the Bob

Woodruff Family Fund at 1608 Spring

Hill Rd., Suite 110, Vienna, VA 22182.

www.bobwoodrufffamilyfund.org

Carl was a graduate and

Professor at West Point

Military academy. He served

in the U.s. Army for 20 years,

ANNA FRIEND Formerly of Royal Oak and Birmingham, Michigan, passed away December 9, 2007, in Agawam Massachusetts. She was born in Bad Aibling, Germany in 1925 and moved to the United States as a war bride, in 1949. She worked as a secretary and bookkeeper for Paramount Engineering and Science and Engineering Corporation, in Detroit. In 1970, she returned to Germany, where she worked at Hamberger Werke, in Bavaria, until her retire-In her youth she was an accomplished figure skater. She also became an avid tennis player and skier and enjoyed bowling, playing cards and doing crossword puzzles. Her talents also included sewing, crocheting, knitting and needlepoint. She was predeceased by her parents, Ludwig and Perpetua Hoelzle, her brother Friedrich, her first husband, Ivan Paquet and her second husband, Joseph J. Friend. She leaves behind her loving daughter, Mary Lou Campbell (Marc), of West Springfield, Massachusetts and her granddaughter, Kristin Campbell, of New York City. Other surviving relatives are her sister-in-law, Hildegard Hoelzle and nephew, Gerhard, both of Germany. A memorial service will be held at White Chapel Memorial Cemetery, in Troy, Michigan early next year. Donations in her memory may be made to the Parkinson's Research Foundation, or to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

BETTY MAE WESLEY

Westland, MI. Passed away Dec. 15, 2007, born Nov. 24, 1922. L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, Westland, MI



J. SPENCER COTTINGHAM December 16, 2007, age 70. Beloved husband of Denise. Stepfather of Stacy Whitfield and Jon Whitfield (Lori). Loving grandpa to Katelyn, Kirstie, Jon and Katherine. Brother-inlaw of Angela Fox, Barbara Granger (Jeff) and Jess Chalker (Patti). He will be missed by his loving family and friends. Family will receive friends at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu. Rodgers) & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward Ave. (btwn 13-14 Mile) Wednesday 1-8pm. Trisagion 7pm. Funeral services Thursday 10am at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 760 W. Wattles Rd., Troy. Visitation begins at church 9:30am. Interment Franklin Cemetery. In lieu of flowers family would appreciate memorial tributes to ALS of Michigan, 21311 Civic Center Drive. Ste 200, Southfield, MI 48076. View

www.DesmondFuneralHome.com LEON A. MARTIN

obituary and share memories at:

Age 82. December 17, 2007. Beloved husband of Dorothea for 60 years. Dear father of Sally Captain, Jim Martin Dearest grandfather of Sheila, Michelle, Brian, Jim and Melissa, and great-grandfather of Gabrielle, Mya and Brian Jr. Loving brother of Frank, Jr., George Clifford and Betty. Funeral Mass was held Thursday at St. Colette Catholic Church in Livonia. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Livonia. Family appreciates memorials to Angela Hospice or the American Heart Association Interment Parkview

Memorial Cemetery. www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com



SHARYN "Cole" HOPKINS Sharyn, a former resident of Rochester, was born July 5th, 1941 and passed away on December 13th, 2007 at the age of 66. Sharyn is survived by her husband Arthur "Gene" Hopkins, her sister Karyn Cole Lockwood of Phoenix AZ and her sister Judi Cole Foxx of Romeo MI. Sharyn is also survived by her three children Gene Hopkins of Oakland CA. SteVee Coric of Walnut Creek CA and Shaune Auzenne of Burke VA. Sharyn's pride and joy were her eight grandchildren and her great-granddaughter. Sharyn attended local schools in Rochester and while growing up she enjoyed the company and pleasure of her many cousins. She moved to California as a young woman. Sharyn was predeceased in life by George Cole, Ila Cole, Donald Todd and Sharyl Hopkins. Sharyn was a vibrant woman who always chose

her own path and her bright light will

be missed by all who knew her.

MADIE MARIE TAKACS Age 86, passed away peacefully on December 14, 2007. Born in Little Rock, Arkansas on September 14, 1921. Moved to Michigan at the age of five. Resided in Dearborn for over 50 years before moving to Plymouth. Loving wife of 52 years to the late Joseph, Dearest mother of Patricia and Joseph. Kind and gentle grandmother of Scott, Lynette, Sean-Paul, Shannon, Robert and Jean-Marie. Sweet great-grama of Joey, Nathan, Andrew, Jamie, Megan, Zachary, Daniel, Justine, Trenton, Cassie, Colin and Vance. Beloved sister of Neoma Kulick. She will be reunited with her mother Queen Victoria Bennett and brothers William, Garner, and Simpson. We can no longer hold your hand but our hearts will always hold your loving memories. Funeral service was held from the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Monday, December 17, 2007. Private interment

MARY PAULINE "POLLY"

American Diabetes Association.

Hedwig Cemetery. Memorial

donations may be made to the

COTHRAN Age 82. December 14, 2007. Formerly of Garden City. She was a resident of Bortz Care Facility of Petosky. Born in Paducah, Kentucky to Pete and Amelia (Green) Duncan. Preceded in death by her husband, William and granddaughter Lori Cothran. Survived by son, Donald (Jeanne) Cothran, daughter Gloria (Charles) Anderson and stepdaughter Dorothy (Frank) Mytych. Dear grandmother of Charles Anderson, Tracy (Paul) Anderson-Cassady, Kimberly (Joseph) Idalski, David (Julie) Mytych and Sharon (Tim) Ison. Great-grandmother of Blake Anderson, Ashley and Aaron Kaleb Cothran, Declan Cassady, Brayden and Brenyel Ison. Funeral Services were held at the R.G. & G. R. Harris Funeral Home, Garden City, 734-425-9200. Donations to charity of donor's choice or local food

pantry appreciated.

WWII in the Pacific. He enjoyed hunting and fishing. Thomas is the beloved husband of Mary Robinson. The dear father of Charles (Judy). The devoted grandfather of Michael. He is also survived by sisters Dora McDonald and Mildred (Walter) Czeck. Memorial Services will be held at a later date. Arrangements were entrusted to D.S. Temrowski & Sons Funeral Home (585) 751-0444. Share memories at:

www.Temrowski.com

Age 86, of Rosebush and formerly of Livonia passed away on Saturday, December 15, 2007 at Masonic Pathways in Alma. Funeral services for Rose will be held on Saturday. December 22nd at 11 a.m. from Clark Family Funeral Chapel with Pastor Mary Anne Evans-Justin officiating. Interment will follow in the Memorial Gardens Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Saturday at 10 a.m. until time of service at the funeral chapel. Memorial contributions may be made to Masonic Pathways or the Alzheimer's Association. Envelopes will be available at the funeral chapel. Rose was born on June 28, 1921 in Bienfait, Canada, the daughter of Alex and Anna (Struk) Symtuk. She mar-ried Harold Clifford Blencowe. Rose worked as a home maker all of her life. Rose is survived by her daughter, Patricia (James) Graham of Rosebush grandchildren, Jennifer (Barrie) Blood of Jenison and Matt (Sarah) Graham of Rosebush; five great-granddaughters and sisters, Mary Carruthers of Westland and Katie (Stuart) Giem of Bienfait, Canada. Rose was preceded in death by her husband, Harold Blencowe and sister, Stella Tucker. You may view Rose's obituary online and send a private condolence to the

ROSE BLENCOWE

June 28, 1921-Dec. 15, 2007



SHIRLEY ANN

HOLLYWOOD Age 95, of Southfield, died peacefully at her home Saturday morning, December 15th. Shirley is the beloved wife of the late John "Jack" Hollywood whom was active in the development of Southfield and founding member of the Southfield Rotary Club. Jack died December 16, 1987 Shirley was a realtor and was the first women in the Detroit area to have over a million dollars in sales. She is survived by many good friends and including Louis and Maureen D'Agostino and their daughter Carly of Lathrup Village. Private viewing was held in the chapel of HALEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS in Southfield with immediate cremation taking place. Graveside services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, December 22nd at the Southfield City Cemetery (north off Civic Center Drive between ahser and Berg Roads). On-line condolences and service schedule at:

www.haleyfuneraldirectors.com MayYou Find Comfort in Family Friends

OBITUARY &

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

Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday Obituaries received after these deadlines

THOMAS ROBINSON Age 91, of Royal Oak, died Friday, December 14, 2007 at William Beaumont Hospital Royal Oak. Thomas served in

POLICY

will be placed in the next available issue e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to:

Attn: Obits c/o Charolette Wilson

734-953-2232

Deadlines:

For more information call: **Charolette Wilson** 734-953-2070 or Liz Keiser 734-953-2067 or toll free 866-818-7653 ask for Char or Liz

OE08518962

Regular church service 10 a.m. Sundays with Communion and Nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages and Faith Forum, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA),

Morning prayers

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

J.O.Y. meeting

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

Higher Rock Cafe

Second and fourth Friday of the month, doors open at 7:30 p.m., live bands begin at 8 p.m. presented by Salvation Army of Wayne/Westland,

2300 S. Venov, between Michigan Avenue and Palmer. For information, call (734) 722-3660 or visit www.tsa. higherrockcafe.4t.com.

Uplifting church services

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

Worship service

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

Youth wanted

Tweens and teens age 12 and up are invited to join in various youth activities held at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh Road (corner of Plymouth), Livonia. Come to one of the regular classes on

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. or Wednesdays at 7 p.m. For details, call (734) 464-0990.

Sunday worship

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

Sunday services

Pastor Dan Strength leads services at Living Water Church (Pentecostal Church of God), 11663 Arcola, one block west of Inkster Road on Plymouth Road. Sunday School is 10 a.m. followed by worship at 11 a.m. Bible study 7 p.m. Wednesdays, Call (734) 425-6360.

Farmington Women Aglow

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

Worship services

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

Worship services

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

coffee served. **Celebrate Recovery**

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

celebraterecovery.com and www. wardchurch.org/celebrate. Sunday service

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

Worship service

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

Adult literacy classes

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

Personal ministry

Due Season Christian Church is a

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

Scripture studies

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

TOPS

Stands for Take Off Pounds Sensibly, meets at 7 p.m. every Thursday evening at St. Thomas a' Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton. Weigh-in is from 6:15-6:55 p.m. It is a weight support group that encourages members to lose weight and keep it off. Call Margaret at (734) 838-0322.

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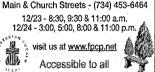
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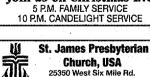
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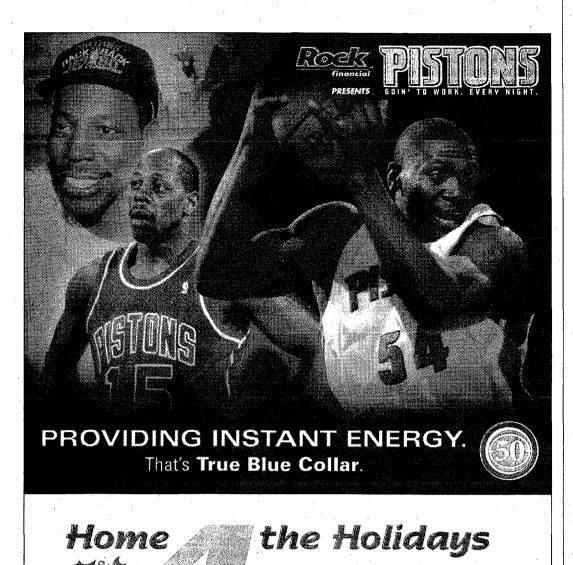
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Getting ready for home remodeling and renovations

t is never too early to begin planning for home remodeling and renovation projects. Large to mid-sized projects such

as kitchen remodeling (kitchens are often

Harry Jachym

thought of as mid-sized in the remodeling industry) should take as long as twelve to eighteen

months to

fully plan. In this column we will look at a rough timeline for a planned renovation. Of course all projects are different. You should tailor this planner to suit your needs.

■ Twelve to eighteen months before starting the project begin to evaluate your needs and wants. Look through magazines, home improvement and home design stores. Use the internet. You can even visit new housing developments and walk through the models. You may want to develop a file of your ideas.

■ Ten to twelve months is when you should begin to work out the budget for the project. Keep in mind that cost over runs are far more common than being

under budget. Start looking for potential contractors. I find the best source is to ask friends, family and workmates for recommendations. Look for well established contractors but don't rule out new comers. Everyone has to start some place. Many new contractors can offer quality work at reasonable prices.

■ At four to six months refine your plan. Have drawings prepared by a designer or architect. When the drawings are complete, begin interviewing contractors. Be sure to check their references, licenses, insurance and other legal documents. If possible visit a job they have done that is similar in size to your project. This is also a good time to contact your local building department to see if there are any special variances needed for this project. Check with lending institutions about any necessary financing.

From one month to three months before your plan-to-start date get bids from the potential contractors. Once you have selected the contractor decide on start and finish dates. Review the contract and if necessary, consult an attorney before signing. I can't stress enough, if you are at all uncomfortable with any contractor, walk away from them. Hiring someone you are not comfort-

able with can make an already stressful situation, which a remodeling project is, unbearable. You probably will not be satisfied with their work in this case anyway. Select and order (or have the contractor order) any cabinets, appliances, doors and windows needed for the project. Obtain financing if necessary.

■ At least one month before be certain the contractor is on line and has begun the permit process. Arrange for storage of personal belongings and other items not necessary for everyday life, especially those items that may get in the way of construction or get damaged. Take a few moments to relax. For the next few weeks to months, there will be strangers in your house most days. These strangers will be making a mess in your house. Your life is about to change. There will be times during the project that you might say to yourself "what was I thinking" but in the end your new project will

be a joy. Have a great holiday sea-

Harry Jachym writes Ask Dad, a column on home issues ranging from repairs and maintenance to building and remodeling projects. He is a Plymouth resident. Send any questions or comments to Jachym at askdad@comcast.net.

FROM PAGE D1

helps absorb excess moisture.

Small hat boxes, and a number of other options, can be found online at places such as The Container Store, where lidded white gift boxes start at \$2.49 and round, metal tins start at \$3.29.

THE RULES

The most important rule is to take your time, says Marc Haymon, a baking instructor at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y. Baking and shipping on the same day is bad; the cookies will stick or be too moist.

Haymon advises baking the cookies the evening before mailing them, which gives them about 12 hours to set up.

Next-day or second-day service is best to mail cookies, according to the shipping companies.

UPS recommends shipping by air, not ground, because fewer people will handle the package and it'll get to its destination faster. It, too, can air ship a package of cookies in one to three days.

For more information, visit the UPS Web site at http:// pressroom.ups.com/holiday/fags; the United States Postal Service at www.usps.com; or FedEx Corp. at www.fedex.

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rated cookies for each family member receiving the gift. Add candies and string licorice for decorating the cookies and a tube or two of frosting. Makes about 20 5-inch cookies.

(Adapted from the editors of FamilyFun magazine)

DOUBLE-CHOCOLATE RUM FRUITCAKE

COOKIES These cookies employ a kitchen sink-approach, with delicious results. Fruitcake mixes (a variety of chopped dried fruit intended for baking fruitcakes) are widely available. Or make your own mix of chopped dried fruit. Start to finish: 1 hour

- 1 cup fruitcake mix
- ½ cup light rum 3 cups all-purpose flour
- ¾ cup cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 stick (1/2 cup) butter, softened
- ½ cup sour cream
- 1 cup brown sugar
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 11½-ounce bag (2 cups) chocolate chips

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In a small bowl, combine the fruitcake mix and rum. Cover and let sit 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, cocoa powder, baking soda and salt. Set

In a large bowl, use an electric mixer to beat together the butter, sour cream and both sugars until smooth. Add the eggs and vanilla and beat until well mixed.

When the fruitcake mix is ready, drain it and discard any liquid not absorbed by the fruit. Add the fruit to the sour cream and sugar mixture and mix in.

A cup at a time, add the dry ingredients, using the electric mixer to lightly beat the dough between additions. As needed, scrape down the sides of the bowl. Once all the flour is incorporated, mix in the chocolate chips.

Baking in batches, place 2tablespoon mounds of dough several inches apart on the prepared baking sheets. Bake for 12 minutes, or until puffy and set at the center. The cookies will still be tender.

Cool the cookies for 5 minutes on the baking sheets, then transfer to a rack to cool completely. Makes 30 cookies.

Hurry in! Before time runs out

Sale of the season.

CHOCOLATE MARZIPAN SUGAR

COOKIES Start to finish; 45 minutes

- % cup sugar ½ cup brown sugar 7-ounce package marzi-
- pan, cut into chunks 1 1/2 sticks (3/4 cup) unsalted butter, softened
- 2 teaspoons vanilla 1 1/2 teaspoons baking pow-
- der 1/2 teaspoon baking soda ½ teaspoon salt
- i large egg 2 cups all-purpose flour ½ cup unsweetened cocoa
- powder Powdered sugar, for dust-

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet

with parchment paper. In a food processor, combine both sugars and the marzipan. Process until they resemble a fine sand, about 1 minute. Transfer the mixture to a large bowl. Add the butter, vanilla, baking powder,

baking soda, salt and egg. Use an electric mixer to beat until smooth, scraping down the bowl once during mixing, about 2 minutes.

Add the flour and cocoa powder and mix until incorporated, scraping down the bowl once during mixing, about 1 minute. The dough

should be very stiff. Baking in batches, drop 1-tablespoon balls of dough

on the prepared baking sheet, leaving about 2 inches around all sides. Bake on the oven's lower rack until the cookies are flat and have a crackled surface, about 10 minutes.

The cookies will be very soft. Let them cool for 5 minutes on the baking sheet, then transfer to a rack to cool completely. If desired, once the cookies are cool, dust them with powdered sugar. Makes 3 dozen cook-

CHEWY OATMEAL DECORATING

COOKIES Start to finish: 11/2 hours

- 2 sticks (1 cup) unsalted butter 34 cup packed light or dark
- brown sugar 1 large egg

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Loliday Special

- 2 teaspoon vanilla extract 3/4 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon ½ teaspoon ginger
- 1 cup old-fashioned rolled oats ½ cup whole-wheat flour
- 2 cups all-purpose flour In a medium bowl, use an electric mixer to beat

the butter and sugar until smooth. Add the egg, vanilla, salt, baking powder, cinnamon and ginger. Beat until smooth.

Scrape the bottom and sides, then beat in the oats and both flours. The mixture may look dry at first, but will come together. Divide the dough into two pieces, wrap each in plastic and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

Working with one piece of dough at a time, roll it

into a circle about 14 inches around. Use cookie cutters to , cut out cookies, rerolling and cutting the scraps. Arrange the cookies on the prepared baking sheets. They can be close; they don't spread.

Bake the cookies, reversing the pans midway through (top to bottom, bottom to top), 12 to 15 minutes (less time for softer cookies, longer for crispier). Transfer cookies to a wire rack to cool. Repeat with remaining dough.

Decorate as desired. Makes 61/2 dozen cookies.

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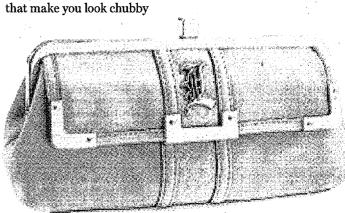
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A Christmas Story



MALLS AND MAIN STREETS

Last-minute gift ideas

hristmas is just five days away, and if you're like me, you still have some shopping (not to mention wrapping) to do. If you still need some ideas for last-minute shopping, here's a "Malls & Main Streets" rundown of holiday retail news:

MALLS

Macy's at Twelve Oaks Mall is hosting a unique Flea Market through the end of December, where shoppers can browse an eclectic array of carefully selected goods, from antique to modern, vintage to vinyl, and global to provincial, ranging from \$20 to \$500. Find kitchenware and garden items from the South of France; artwork from Europe; furniture from Morocco; hand beaded tribal works from Africa; bone-inlaid furniture from the East Indies, and more. The one-of-a-kind merchandise departs from the usual Macy's fare, and is worth a look.

While you're at Twelve Oaks, stop by some of the mall's newest stores, including Donna Sacs, Go! Toys & Games, Dale & Thomas Popcorn and See's Candies. Martin + Osa's first Michigan location offers a sophisticated selection of clothing and accessories for men and women. And if you have a 15 to 25-year-old girl to buy for, check out Michigan's first aerie by American Eagle at Twelve Oaks. The aerie collection includes bras, undies, camis, hoodies, robes, boxers, sweats and leggings for the young AE girl. The new aerie f.it. line of workout and fitness wear is available now too.

If you're venturing to Eastland, Fairlane or Oakland malls for your shopping, be sure to hit Steve & Barry's, where everything in the entire store is on sale for \$8.98 and under throughout the holiday season. That includes Sarah Jessica Parker's BITTEN line, and the new EleVen line by Venus Williams, along with winter wear, sweaters, jeans and more for men, women and children.

MAIN STREETS

It's always important to support local businesses, so make a date to finish your shopping in one of the area's charming downtown shopping districts. Plymouth, Northville, Royal Oak, Farmington Hills and Rochester are among the burghs decked out in holiday finery, with festive window displays and lighted trees. Downtown Birmingham's Santa House is open for business, while carolers and free horse drawn carriage rides add to the fun. If that weren't enough incentive to visit, the city is continuing its first-ever "Magic of Birmingham" event. From 6-8

p.m. tonight, shoppers will be stopped at random on the street and showered with gifts.

Merchants have donated

gifts with a combined value of over \$20,000, including leather wallets, soaps, restaurant gift certificates and more. Top prizes include a piece of jewelry from Astrein's Creative Jewelers valued over \$1,000; and a weekend at the Townsend Hotel. While you're there, stop by The

Claymore Shop for Psycho Bunny ties sure to be hit with hip businessmen. For the HGTV addict on your list, visit Hagopian's showroom on Old Woodward and check out their wide variety of plush pillows. The selection ranges from floor pillows to beautiful antique Kilim pillows, made from fragments of antique rugs, each with a story of their own. Prices start at \$39.

And make the extra effort to get to Birmingham's rail district, where EllieBeans offers the beautiful and colorful Penzo Pottery line. Made by artisans in South Africa, the pottery helps support free trade while sprucing up your table.

AND MORE ...

For the outdoorsy type, make a stop at the new TWC Sport and Surf shop, which recently moved from Keego Harbor into a new Get the latest gear for the stopes at the new location of TWC Sport and Surf in Sylvan Lake.

building owner Tim Shepard purchased and renovated in Sylvan Lake (the old Salvation Army building on Orchard Lake Road).

is available exclusively

Birmingham's rail district

This 1928 Le Mans die

cast model is among

finds at the Walter P

Chrysler museum.

The original TWC was an acronym for "The Windsurf Shop," but the store has evolved to carry gear for paddle boarding (surf boards you stand on and paddle with a long paddle), snowboarding and skateboarding, along with many unique-to-Michigan clothing and accessory lines that have made their Michigan debut at TWC.

For the animal lover, consider a gift from

the Detroit Zoo.

The zoo is offering a variety of gifts that support the Detroit Zoological Society and preserves wildlife, including Breakfast with the Butterflies (\$75 per person), animal "adoptions" (\$40 includes a plush animal, fact

sheet, and personalized photo certificate), gift memberships to the zoo (\$40-\$85), or personalized brick pavers, benches, and brass butterfly medallions to commemorate loved ones. For the car buff, shop the Walter P. Chrysler

Hagopian World of Rugs

carries more than floor coverings, including a line of beautiful

decorative pillows.

Museum Store in Auburn Hills.

The shop offers exclusive sculptures, prints, die-cast models, home accessories, jewelry,

apparel, books and more, all celebrating car culture. The museum's current "Cars, Trees & Traditions" exhibit makes it worth a special

If you have fodder for the Observer & Eccentric's "Malls & Main Streets" column, send it to Wensdy Von Buskirk at 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, Mich., 48150, or wvonb@hometownlife.com.

L.A.M.B. 'Glazed Love -Ancona' Frame Clutch

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Moda Repeat in Farmington Hills

Your fireplace on Christmas Eve

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Panera's Holiday Bread

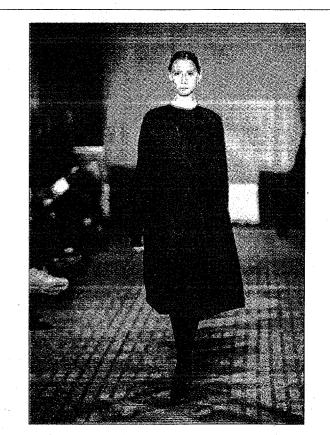
Eat It

The
Daring
Book for
Girls by
Miriam
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Yeohlee Fall 2007

The designer Yeohlee is known for creating luxurious, wearable, and travel-friendly clothing, like this black rice embroidered metallic taffeta catenary coatdress. Her Fall 2007 collection was inspired by the architecture of Barcelona, and is available at Lynn Portnoy, 29260 Franklin Rd., Southfield. Call Lynn Portnoy at (248) 353-2900 or learn more at http://yeohlee.com.



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PURE FALLER LANGE NELL STATE OF THE PROPERTY O

Skating through the season

Chestnut roasts

Tea Before Barbie

Juno' tackles sensitive topis

Pursuing The Chase

Observer à Eccentric | Thursday, December 20, 2007 • (OF*) E1

Janessa Touchet is Marie in the "The Nutcracker" at The Fox.

Try a new holiday tradition this year

Il of my own excitement and anticipation was mirrored in my nieces' eyes as we hurried out of the cold and into Detroit's opulent Fox Theatre Thursday night. My sister, two of her three children and I went to see a holiday classic, *The Nutcracker*, performed by The Cincinnati Ballet and the Michigan Opera Theatre.

I grew up under the assumption that this tried-and-true fairy tale set to Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky's elegant and familiar score

was an annual event for most families. Not so in the Rochester Hills home where I grew up. Sure, we were exposed to plenty of arts and culture.

My father was an avid fan of opera - and could be found singing along to Pavarotti while stirring his famous spaghetti sauce on any given Sunday morning. Still, somehow *The Nutcracker* eluded us year after year.

Having a close relationship with my sister Paula - whose daughters have been known to balance a bevy of dance classes with school and other activities - it was time to change that.

And so there we stood, before the grand Christmas tree in the gilded entrance. My 6- and 7-year-old nieces Amelia and Angela wiggled

about in excitement as Paula and I navigated the crowds to our seats. The sets were striking from the very start. In the opening sequence, the magical toymaker wasted no time before transforming life-sized dolls - a ballerina, a nutcracker and a mouse king - into smaller versions and boxing them up as gifts.

Stephanie

Harold Jurkiewicz

November 27-December 31, 2007

Casola

Suddenly we were peering into the window of a grand estate, and introduced to our heroine, Marie.

We looked on at the family's annual Christmas party - or as my niece Amelia described it "the ball" - the same party where Marie receives her beloved nutcracker as a gift. The children fawn over her in envy and her mischievous brother breaks the

doll. But the toymaker fixes it just in time. And Marie drifts to sleep with her regal nutcracker by her side.

What ensues next, of course, is Marie's fantastical dream filled with candy cane colors, brave toy soldiers and stunning sugar plum fairies. In her dream, she shrinks to a tiny size. We watch the Christmas tree grows ever-bigger, making room below it for the battle between the Mouse King and the Nutcracker.

The Nutcracker transforms before our eyes into a prince, and somewhere between their journey to the Land of Snow and The Land of Sweets the music truly begins to take hold. The Nutcracker March, The Sugar Plum Dance, and The Waltz of Flowers are demonstrated with such lively, pointed perfection. Marie turns into a lovely ballerina princess as the show moves forward.

While the lavish two hour production proved a tad long for a school night, it surely captured our attention. The delicately dancing snowflakes, one enormous gown, and a high-flying sleigh bed made this version of *The Nutcracker* a pure joy to experience. Certainly worth the wait, its a holiday tradition I plan to repeat.

This is the time of year Stephanie Angelyn Casola finds herself eating candy canes for breakfast and watching and laughing at "Elf" repeatedly. She writes about pop culture for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and can be reached at (248) 901-2567 or scasola@hometownlife.com.

THE HOLIDAYS SWEETEST TREATS

We look forward to them every year - that song, movie or TV special that just gets you in the holiday spirit. From The Nutcracker to The Grinch, The Little Drummer Boy to Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, the list could be endless. This year the Filter staff and contributors shared a few of their favorites, some can't-miss holiday fare:

Ken Abramczyk, Filter editor: For a fave song he chose "Happy Xmas (War is Over)." "You're driving home by yourself in the darkness on a December night, this song pops on the radio, and it still stirs and moves 30-plus years later. Incredibly reflective and still poignant in its message of world peace and unity, and we still miss you, John." As for movies, he named "It's a Wonderful Life." "I'm not a big fan of Christmas movies, but this film depicts such a strong sense of faith, family and community, and promotes goodwill that I still watch it. In these jaded and busy times, it's easy to forget about your community and neighbors. Frank Capra reminds us of how one life (and our own) touches others in many ways, directly and indirectly."

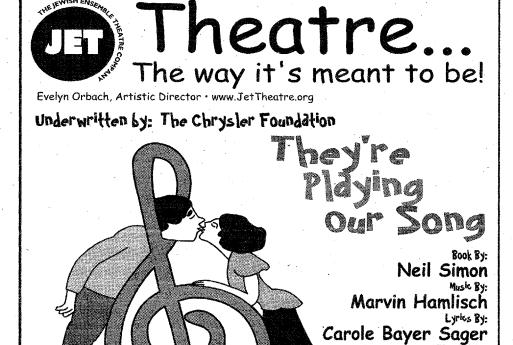
Stephanie Angelyn Casola, Filter Staffer:

"I'm a sucker for silly holiday fare. Give me the leg lamp in 'A Christmas Story' (OK, not literally), the familiar sound of Who's down in Whoville and a black and white version of 'It's a Wonderful Life' for the zillionth time and I'm a happy girl. But growing up on those fantastic claymation Christmas specials - well it just isn't the holiday season until I see the Heat Miser and Snow Miser battle it out in song via 'A Year Without a Santa Claus.'"

Hugh Gallagher, Managing Editor: "The best Christmas movie, despite being played a gazillion times on television, cruelly colorized by Ted Turner and viciously lampooned by every comic in need of a punchline, is 'It's Wonderful Life.' The movie is always misunderstood as an uplifting holiday fable. It's really a despairing film about someone at the end of his tether until he realizes the value of every life. The scenes where Jimmy Stewart has his breakdown and the scene on the phone with Donna Reed are among the best ever filmed.

"The worst Christmas song is 'Grandma Got Runover by a Reindeer' but everyone agrees on that or should. The best, I have a strong feeling for the traditional hymns but on the secular side 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas' as sung by Judy Garland to little Margaret O'Brien in 'Meet Me in St. Louis' is

Please see TREATS, E9



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Inside this week's

PURE ENTERTAINMENT

HOMETOWN life.com © GANNETT

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Trans-Siberian Orchestra blasts into town for two holiday shows Dec. 26.

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Check out Filter's picks for your pre-holiday weekend.

ART - 5

Glass blowing is a fascinating art, and you can see it demonstrated in Ferndale.

FAMILY - 8

Cyrus Chestnut roasts on his piano (not an open fire) as he performs Vince Guaraldi's classics from "A Charlie Brown Christmas," while "Barbie at the Symphony" introduces children to classical music.

TABLE HOPPING - 10

Cut to The Chase in Northville.

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See what's going throughout the holiday season in our Entertainment calendar.

FII M - 15

Juno takes a warm look at a sensitive topic – teen pregnancy.



Rhythm Corps, known best for its song "Common Ground," only performs once every few years. The band plays Dec. 22 at the Royal Oak Music Theatre.

Rhythm Corps reunites for rare show with Sponge

BY LANA MINI

Michael Persh doesn't want to sound like a hippie when he reminisces about the posi-

tive energy created on stage between his band Rhythm Corps and its audience.

But when band members performed back in the 1980s, they were trying to accomplish something; capture a moment and spark that

feeling of "one-ness" that happens only rarely during magical concert moments.

Rhythm Corps, a modern rock band that packed Detroit nightclubs in the '80s and received moderate national recognition for its peace song *Common Ground*, is reuniting for one show Saturday, Dec. 22 at the Royal Oak Music Theatre. The band will share the stage with Platinum hit-makers Sponge.

The show is Rhythm Corps' first in six years.

RHYTHM CORPS & SPONGE

Presented by WRIF

When: Doors 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 22, showtime 8:30 p.m.

Where: Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. 4th Street, Royal Oak

Tickets: \$22, general admission, all ages welcome, www.royaloakmusictheatre.com

Choose the set list: Rhythm Corps has asked fans to pick the songs performed that night. Visit www.motorcityrock. com to cast your vote.

Both bands share philosophies about trying to create something unique on stage.

"Our shows were always community," Persh said humbly. "I was putting out something to draw you in. We always felt on stage the desire to break a barrier. To give our energy to the audience, and feel theirs thrown toward us. . and give it right back. We would get this emotional loop happening. I always felt that we were



1990s hit-makers Sponge

all in it together, in the same room, and we maybe could all get something out of it."

"It was an idea, a concept," Persh

It was something he felt only by a handful of other musicians.

"Anyone who loves music can remember particular moments at concerts that were magical. I felt it seeing U2 at Harpo's and Bob Geldof at the Royal Oak Music Theatre. Both frontman were so out there. . .they took a risk, they had a fearlessness to be vulnerable and to completely try to get into that emotion."

That unique charisma that only

Please see BANDS, E9

Observer & Eccentric

Ken Abramczyk Editor Lana Mini Staff Writer Stephanie Angelyn Casola Staff Writer



General Manager



Skaters enjoy Campus Martius Ice Rink during the holiday season. Read Get Out inside Filter for rink hours and admission

Trans-Siberian Orchestra rings in the holidays

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Holiday spirit isn't hard to come by for Robert Kinkel of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. He finds plenty of that in the reaction of fans, the joy and energy that comes from each of the band's performances this time of year. Though he admits its hard to be far from family around Christmas, he enjoys meeting fans after the evening shows and hearing how TSO's music has become such a tradition.

The band will tour this year from Nov. 1 to Jan. 6. About half-way through the schedule already, Kinkel called in Dec. 12, from a stop in Greenville, S.C. to reflect on the 11 years since TSO got its start.

"I'd been working with Paul O'Neill and Jon Oliva as a session keyboard player when we started working on *Christmas Sarajevo* 12/24," he said.

TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA

When: 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 26 Where: The Palace of Auburn Hills, 4 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills. Tickets: \$39.50 to \$49.50, call (248) 645-6666 or visit Palacenet.com.

Kinkel co-wrote what's now become a TSO anthem while the musicians

were in the rock band Savatage.
The holiday song made such
a strong impact on Top 40
radio that they were asked
by to record a Christmas
rock opera album.

Trans-Siberian Orchestra was born from that idea. The group defied boundaries, melding genres from heavy metal to blues, hard rock to jazz,

even making room for a children's choir.
"It felt great to have that kind of freedom," said Kinkel. "We put it together,



Spend the holidays with The Trans-Siberian Orchestra this year.

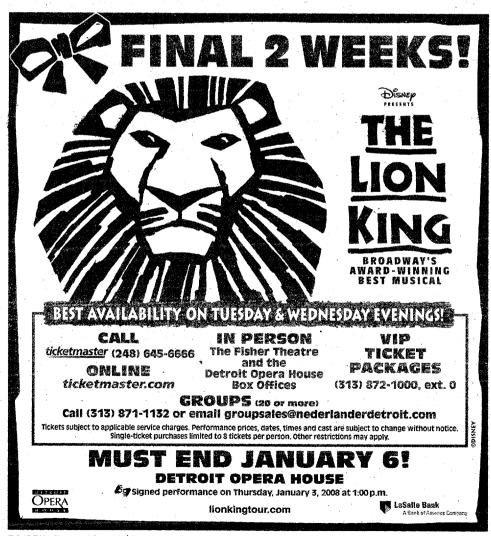
put our heart and soul into it and worked around the clock for eight months. It was a labor of love and so exciting to be able to do it."

The Trans-Siberian Orchestra formed in 1996 and has been touring since 1999. The band is currently working on its fifth album. Time has given rise to more devoted fans and the live show continues to evolve.

For the first half of TSO's non-stop $2\frac{1}{2}$

hour production the band performs its debut *Christmas Eve and Other Stories* (1996) in its entirety. The second half of the show is more fluid. The band incorporates music from *The Christmas Attic* (1998), *Beethoven's Last Night* (2000), new songs from the forthcoming *Night Castle* CD and often a surprise cover song. Kinkel said they continue to work to keep

Please see MÚSIC, E6





PURE PICKS DEC. 20-26

There's only a few days left for Greenfield Village: Holiday Nights - it ends Sunday, Dec. 23. Visit the spectacular event at The Henry Ford, Dearborn. Admission prices are \$8.50-\$12.75. Call (313) 982-6001 or visit www.thehenryford.org.

Local rockers Greenstreet with Lime Regal and Jeff Tessler bring in good cheer to the Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave. in Ferndale. Doors 8 p.m., Tickets are \$8. Visit http://www. greenstreetband.com/.

The Plymouth Historical Museum presents family fun with the exhibit A Red Ryder Christmas Story, inspired from the popular 1980s film A Christmas Story, where little Ralphie longs for a Red Ryder BB gun, also Santa Claus appears Saturdays through Dec. 22, 1-4 p.m. at 155 S. Main in Plymouth, (734) 455-8940.

Spend Christmas Eve at Campus Martius Ice Rink, and it's even open on Christmas Day. Cost is \$6-\$7 for rink access and \$3 for skates. It's located on Woodward Avenue between Fort Street and Michigan Avenue in Detroit. Call (313) 962-0101 or visit www. campusmartiuspark.org.

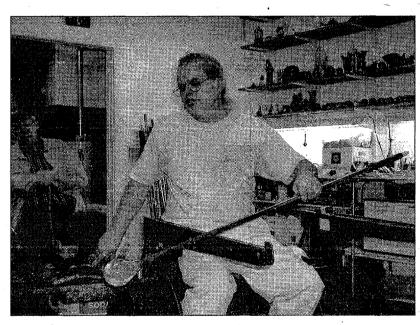
The film The Diving Bell And The Butterfly opens today and is the remarkable true story of Jean-Dominique Bauby (Mathieu Amalric), a successful and charismatic editor-in-chief of French Elle, who believes he is living his life to its absolute fullest - when a sudden stroke leaves him in a life-altered state. As time passes, he begins to discover how his life's passions, his rich memories and his newfound imagination can help him achieve a life without boundaries.

Popular local band The Hard Lessons play at 7 p.m. at St. Andrews Hall, 431 East Congress Street, Detroit, (313) 961-8137.



ETIENNE GEORGE/COURTESY OF MIRAMAX FILMS

Mathieu Amalric plays French editor Jean-Dominique Bauby in Julian Schnabel's "The Diving Bell and



Fitzpatrick, owner of Touch of Light in Ferndale, shapes molten glass at his studio.

Glassblowing demonstrated Saturday

As part of its Holiday Glass Show, which runs through Dec. 29, Touch of Light in Ferndale will hold glassblowing demonstrations 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22.

Visitors can observe glass blown as molten glass at 2,100 degrees will be carefully gathered onto blowpipes, then formed and blown into colorful shapes using old-world techniques. During the public demonstrations, an assistant will explain the process and answer questions.

Included on display in the gallery are paperweights, sun catchers, perfume

bottles, oil lamps, beautifully colored vases and bowls, and a rainbow of more than

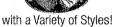
100 hand-blown ornaments. Prices start at \$15. Everything on display is made by hand on site.

Touch of Light is located at 23426 Woodward, a half-mile south of I-696 in Ferndale. December hours are 6-9 p.m. Mondays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturdays. For last-minute shoppers, the gallery will also be open 12-5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 23 and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24. For more information, call Touch of Light at (248) 543-1868, visit www.touchoflight.com or

send an e-mail to tolstudio@yahoo.com.



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MUSIC FROM PAGE E4

the show fresh.

The band's live shows have earned comparisons to everything from Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera* to The Who's *Tommy* with more lights and pyrotechnics than a Pink Floyd concert. "I think it's the kind of thing that takes care of all of your senses," said Kinkel. "At the end of the night, you're completely satisfied."

Trans-Siberian Orchestra has gone from a simple tour consisting of seven

performances and one semi truck to 140 shows and 13 trucks. "It's become bigger than I could've dreamed at the time," Kinkel said.

What's more, the music appeals to people of all ages. It's become a family tradition. Kinkel attributes its widespread and growing success to the vast array of musical styles, storytelling, the visual spectacle of the ever-changing live show and the level of performance. "There's something there for everybody," he said.

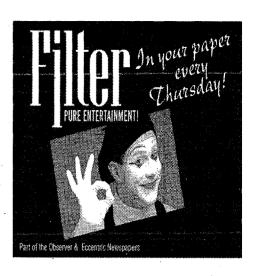
The stage is so large it's impossible to take it all in if you're sitting in the first 20 rows. "We also work to make sure there's no second class seat in the house," O'Neill stated in a press release. "The impact is

as powerful in the back of the house at a TSO show as it is in the orchestra section, due to the tremendous efforts we put into staying ahead of the pack with our staging and pyrotechnics, and, of course, the passion of our players"

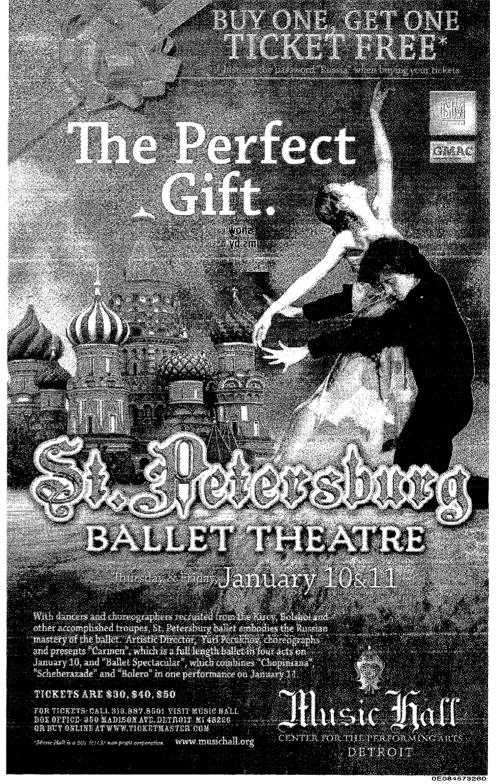
passion of our players."

Kinkel said: "We're really looking forward to coming back to Detroit." It's one of the cities TSO has visited since the tours began. The production has grown out of the Detroit Opera House and into the Palace of Auburn Hills, where the band is set to perform two shows on Dec. 26 this year.

scasola@hometownlife.com (248) 901-2567









Meeting John Waters

Amy Yokin from Bloomfield Hills attended a Meet & Greet with John Waters last week at the Crofoot in Pontiac. The filmmaker presented his one-man show on Dec. 13 garnering plenty of holiday cheer to a packed audience that seemed to know his films by heart.





Jazz pianist plays for 'Peanuts' this weekend

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

The holidays tend to bring about plenty of nostalgia. It's a time of tradition - and for many - holiday specials like *A Charlie Brown Christmas* help make the season shine. Jazz pianist Cyrus Chestnut is no exception.

The music featured in that classic Charles Schulz cartoon was crafted by a master, Vince Guaraldi. And it certainly resonated with Chestnut from the first time he heard it.

"He was my introduction to jazz at the age of 6," he said, calling from his Baltimore home on Dec. 11. "I always loved the characters and the cartoon. I loved the saga of Charlie Brown. He was very relatable. I always hoped he would get the Little Red Head Girl."

Chestnut will share his own take on Guaraldi's memorable score at the Max M. Fisher Music Center on Dec. 21, as he performs music from A Charlie Brown Christmas. He'll be accompanied by bassist Dezron Douglas and drummer Neal Smith. The Detroit Symphony Orchestra will not be part of this production.

This is Chestnut's second visit to Orchestra Hall, but first as a featured performer. "I always

CYRUS CHESTNUT: A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS

When: 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21.
Where: Orchestra Hall, Max M.
Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward
Ave., Detroit.

Tickets: \$19 to \$60, call (313) 576-5111

What else: Stay in the holiday mood with Detroit Symphony Orchestra's *The Night Before Christmas* featuring conductor Thomas Wilkins. Showtimes are 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Sáturday, Dec.

22 at Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets \$10-\$27, call (313) 576-5111.

have a good time in Detroit," he said. Chestnut began playing piano at the early age of 3. By high school he knew he'd stumbled

school he knew he'd stumbled upon a career. "I wanted to go out for football and the band director got to me first," Chestnut said. "So I was a part of the football game but I wasn't crushing through the offensive line or the defensive line, I was part of the marching band line."

Since then he continued pursuing music, beginning with classi-



Thomas Wilkins

cal and later studying jazz at the Berklee School of Music in Boston. He graduated with a degree in jazz composition and arrangement and earned a number of prestigious awards. Following college, Chestnut worked and performed with some of the biggest names in the business - Dizzy Gillespie, Branford Marsalis, Isaac Hayes, James Moody and vocalist Betty Carter. While all of the musicians inspired Chestnut, he said Carter made the strongest impact on his career. She urged him never to become complacent and always to try something new, he said.

Chestnut signed with Atlantic Records in 1993 and released the albums including Revelation



Cyrus Chestnut will make you feel like a kid again with the music of Vince Guaraldi's "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

(1994), The Dark Before the Dawn (1995), Earth Stories (1996) and in 1998 his self-titled album.

But he traces his introduction to freeform style, to jazz, all the way back to Guaraldi. In 2000, on the 50th anniversary of Charles Schulz's creation of the Peanuts cartoon, Chestnut was approached to perform songs from A Charlie Brown Christmas. He gladly

accepted.

"It brought me to a very special time in my life," he recalled, adding that those songs and characters carry meaning for so many people.

As for the upcoming performance, Chestnut said: "It's become somewhat of a seasonal thing."

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

'Tea Before Barbie' served at Orchestra Hall

Princess Barbie won't be in attendance, but she'll help promote classical music Sunday at a special

event.

Princess Barbie was expected to hold court at a "Barbie Tea" at Orchestra Hall at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 23, but she will be unable to attend the tea, part of a special one-day-only event, Barbie at the Symphony, designed to introduce children to classical music.

During Barbie at the Symphony, families can hear the Detroit Symphony Orchestra perform music from The Nutcracker,

Swan Lake and other classics while watching corresponding scenes from

Barbie "Princess" movies on a big screen. Girls are invited to dress up like

Barbie for a tea and costume contest before the show.

"Tea Before Barbie" will be staged 1-2:30 p.m. in the Robert A. and Maggie Allesee Rehearsal Hall at The Max. Just \$5 per person includes tea, coffee, hot chocolate and kid-friendly finger foods. All participants in the Best-Dressed Barbie costume contest will get two tickets to their choice of a National City Young People's Concert later

in the season. One grand prize winner will receive a full subscription for

four to the rest of the YPC concerts this season, and an upgrade to box seats for the Barbie show that afternoon. Barbie "Princess" films feature an animated Barbie singing and dancing to well-known musical scores with ballet sequences choreographed by Peter Martins of the New York City Ballet. "Barbie at the Symphony" is arranged, composed and conducted by maestro Arnie Roth, musical director and principal conductor of the Chicagoland Pops Orchestra of Rosemont, Ill.

Tickets for *Barbie at the Symphony* are \$19 to \$50 and may be purchased at the Max M. Fisher Music Center box office, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit; by phone at (313) 576-5111; or online at www.detroitsymphony.com.

Wensdy Von Buskirk

special frontman have - like Bono and Geldof - are rare. But Sponge's Vinnie Dombroski has it, and Persh does

THE HISTORY

In its heyday, Rhythm Corps signed with Pasha/CBS Records and the band's biggest hit song Common Ground was heard worldwide during the 1988

But time went on and the bandmates, while remaining friends, succeeded in other areas. Today Persh enjoys a successful career with E! Entertainment in Hollywood. Greg Apro, guitarist, and Richie Lovsin, drummer, also live in California and have families. Bass player Davey Holmbo enjoyed a stint in Hollywood before settling in the natural surrounds of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

They've expanded their lives beyond the Rhythm Corps moment.

Sponge gained international notoriety with its album Rotting Piñata. Hits like Plowed and Molly (16 Candles) fueled massive airplay on radio stations and were in heavy rotation on MTV. The album went Gold and the follow up CD Wax Ecstatic include the hit songs Wax Ecstatic and Have You Seen Mary?

Sponge is currently finishing a double CD featuring both live and studio recordings.

'We were honored that Sponge wanted to share the stage with us," Persh said. "We didn't know if we would want to with them or them with us ... but after talking

with (Dombroski), we realized we share some similar thoughts on music.'

Based out of pure curiosity, Persh spearheaded the idea to let fans create the setlist for the show. It's expected that everyone will want Common Ground, but who knows, perhaps lesser known songs like Broken Halos or Entertainment will be highly requested. Go the www.motorcityrock.com, listen to the songs and

The band mates have been practicing their songs on their own for the past few months, with everyone living in separate cities. Now for the last week, they've prepared for marathon rehearsal sessions.

Eight, 10 hours a day was the way we did it back then," Persh said. "We're ready to get back into that. I was never one to just stand there and stare at my sneakers. We were always deadly serious about our shows.'

Perhaps that's why the Rhythm Corps' fans were so

"We believed the romantic ideology of everything we sung and everything we did. When we had our fists in the air along with everyone else . . . we believed in it.'

And now, as Rhythm Corps grew up and made successes out of themselves, they don't want to lose touch with that romanticism

With families and new focuses, we realize we aren't always allowed the freedom to be so wrapped up in ourselves our other passions," Persh said.

But we thought now is a good time to check the rearview mirror and see if that guy with his fist in the air is still there. I'm not out of touch with who I am, it's more of a reconnecting.

And the fans will be there re-connecting too.

Try these live-ly holiday gifts

Looking for a great last-minute gift that would suit your sweetie or the whole family? Dial up or drive to the nearest theater and purchase tickets to a drama, a musical or a rousing holiday show.

Instead of tearing open boxes filled with gifts your loved ones won't remember next year, make it a memorable holiday by sharing the experience of a live performance.

Here are some of the best staged productions to see this season, and into the new year:

A Christmas Carol: Experience Meadow Brook Theater's annual holiday tradition, through Dec. 24. The theater is located on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester Hills. Call (248) 377-0300 or visit www.ticketmaster.com, for more information, visit www.mbtheatre.com.

Disney's The Lion King: Feel the love as The Lion King roars through the Detroit Opera House, through Jan. 6. The Detroit Opera House is located at 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Tickets \$15 to \$72, call (313) 237-SING.

Doubt: John Patrick Shanley's haunting struggle of doubt and certainty runs through Dec. 30 at the Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Tickets \$17-\$20, call (313) 868-3686.

Forbidden Christmas: This brand new show from the creators of Forbidden Broadway spoofs holiday classics, Broadway hits and easily-recognizable celebrities, and it runs through Dec. 31, at the Gem Theatre, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit. Tickets \$39.50, call (313) 963-9800 or visit www.gemtheatre.com.

Stephanie A. Casola

he the best. Isn't it weird that the saddest stuff makes the best Christmas material?"

Lana Mini, Filter Staffer: "Anyone who thinks Christmas music is too sugary hasn't heard U2 singing 'Christmas, (Baby Please Come Home).' Bono's upbeat passion in that song is both sexy and festive.

Anyone who paid attention to music in the '80s remembers Band-Aid's 'Do They Know It's Christmas.' Hearing the smooth vocal transition from Simon LeBon to Sting to (again) Bono. is both heart-warming and -breaking, and can cause any crabby driver or shopper to realize how fortunate they really are. All because of the great Bob Geldof.

"But, there's a lot of bad songs out there. And, I'm going to make a lot of people angry by admitting: Bruce Springsteen's 'Santa Claus Is Coming to Town' is no longer charming. It was cute and creative the first 50 times I heard it. But now hearing Bruce cracking up in laughter while trying to get through the chorus, because he's just so jovial; well, it's just annoying. The only time it's fun is hearing WRIF's Mike Clark imitate it."

Dave Varga, Filter contributor: "Ok. I'm sure I'm not alone in saying that 'A Christmas Story' is the best holiday film ever. I plop down and watch parts of the 24-hour marathon of its showing every single year. Hanging so many

ப் 🗠 🕰 sclassic childhood memories/traumas together ans (The one film just makes it a special trip down memory lane. Who hasn't suffered through

moistant in the stupid clothes our parents made us wear (thankfully, not a pink bunny outfit!); the stupid double-dog-dares on the playground; the agony of forgetting our list when we finally got to talk to Santa; and mom warning you that 'You're gonna shoot your eye out' and then having it happen? The humor is afternatingly dry, slapstick and bawdy. Plus, it's narrated in such a smart-aleck, yet affectionate tone. It's a gift that keeps on giving. My runner-up? the original cartoon of 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas' with Boris Karloff's voice and the irrepressible Max the dog.

"When it comes to music, I have plenty of favorites: 'Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)' by Darlene Love; 'Little Saint Nick' by the Beach Boys: 'Blue Christmas' by Elvis; and 'Merry Christmas Baby' by (now here's a surprise) Bruce!

"Among those songs that curdle my egg nog? 'Step into Christmas' by Elton John, 'Wonderful Christmastime' by Paul McCartney, and 'Christmas is a Time to Say I Love You' by Billy Squire. Yech, yech and triple yech."

Wensdy Von Buskirk, Features Editor: For a favorite holiday song she chose 'The Little Drummer Boy' as sung by David Bowie and Bing Crosby, "The harmonies between Crosby and Bowie in this classic Christmas carol are wonderful. The video was a favorite when I was little, and the lyrics mean even more now that I have a child of my own."





\$65 per person

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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 20, 2007 • (OF*) E9

For a good time, race for The Chase

Table

Hopping

BY WENSDY VON BUSKIRK STAFF WRITER

If you're looking for a hotspot where you can relax and be yourself, hit The Chase

The new Northville tavern encourages guests to leave their pretensions at the door. Whether you're wearing a suit and tie, or T-shirt and jeans, you'll feel welcome to stop by and stay awhile.

We were going for a very comfortable, cool atmosphere," said co-owner David Bastianelli.

Mood at The Chase is set with soft blue lights that ring the ceiling and island bar, adding depth to otherwise basic decor, Bistro tables along the windows are perfect for two, but The Chase is large enough to accommodate parties as well. A semi-private room in the back is great for large groups.

Throughout the bar, 18 plasma HDTVs

broadcast virtually every sports network

known to fans - NFL Sunday Ticket, NBA League Pass, ESPN Full Court, NHL Center Ice and Nascar Hot Pass among them. Request a Sun Dog transistor box for your table to tune into the audio of your choice. Entertainment also includes an extensive Touch Tunes Juke Box and

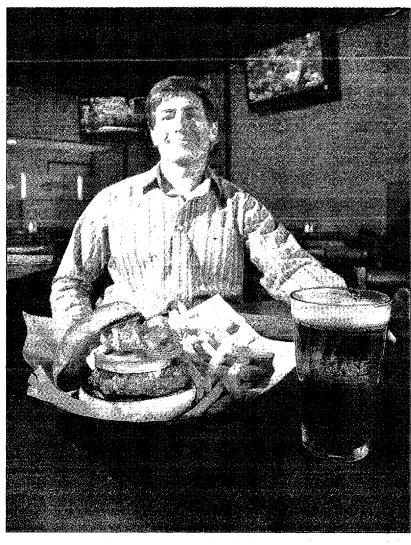
MegaTouch games at the bar.

BANDS AT THE BAR

On weekends, The Chase is testing live bands to find one that strikes the right chord. On Friday and Saturday nights, tables are moved to make way for a dance floor, but until 9 p.m. each evening, The Chase is family friendly.

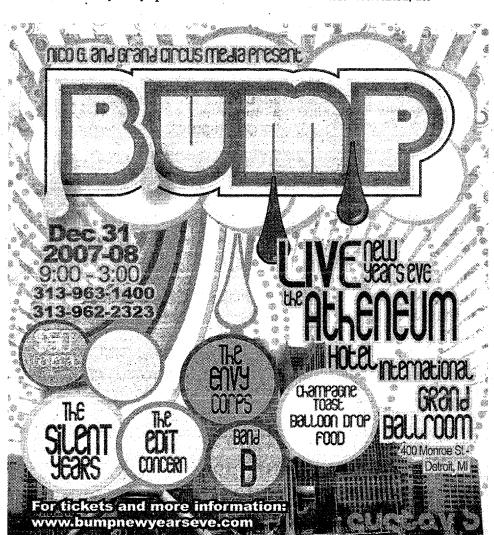
An extensive menu overseen by chef James Williams means people can visit for the food as well as the fun. Bar appetizers include chicken wings, chicken strips, potato skins, quesadillas, calamari, cheese sticks and steak bites. Beer-Battered

Please see CHASE, E11



BILL BRESLER STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dave Bastianelli (shown) and his partner Bret Konol recently opened The Chase Bar and Grill in Northville. Pictured is their Blue Cheese Burger, served with Chase fries.





CHASE FROM PAGE FIO

Vidalia Onion Rings are a worthy splurge.

Burgers are big and juicy, served with Chase fries and a pickle. Build your own with a Boca, turkey or beef patty, adding your choice of toppings and sauce. For the lunch crowd, sandwiches range from Classic BLTs and Chicken Caesar Rollups to Meatloaf Sandwiches and Corned Beef. Ask for your favorite served on a freshly-baked pretzel roll.

For a heartier meal, entrees include Grilled Flat Iron Steak with Caramelized Onions and Chase Fries, Cajun Chicken Alfredo, and Italian Sausage with Peppers

and Creamy Polenta.

And don't forget pizza and calzones. The Chase makes batches of dough daily, and customers are welcome to create their own pizzas or choose from the specialties — Meatza Pie, Chase Pie and Penny's Veggie Pie.

The menu is rounded out with salads, kid's meals, Chase chili, and desserts like Fried Cheesecake.

CARRYOUT, TOO

According to Bastianelli, everything is available for carry-out, and The Chase has a special SDM liquor license which means you can order a six pack to go, or cap an unfinished bottle of wine and take it with you.

For Bastianelli, The Chase is a dream

THE CHASE BAR & GRILLE

133 Main Street, Suite 102, Northville (248) 347-5993

Hours: Monday-Wednesday 11 a.m.-midnight (or later); Thursday-Saturday 11 a.m.-2 a.m.; Sunday noon-midnight.

Menu: Burgers, sandwiches, pizza, calzones, salads, appetizers and entrees, \$6.95-\$16.95. Children's menu, \$5.95, includes fries and drink

Specials: Monday Night Football Parties with drink specials; Tuesday night karaoke; Live bands Friday and Saturday nights. Carry-out available, including beer and wine.

come true. He's wanted to open his own restaurant ever since he worked at a bar in Santa Barbara, Calif. named — you guessed it — The Chase. Bastianelli spent 20 years in the building industry until he was able to convince his long-time best friend, Brett Konol (also a builder), to partner with him on The Chase.

"The building business slowed down, and I talked him into it," he said. "This was what I always wanted to do."

Now that the restaurant is up and running, Bastianelli and Konol are already planning for warmer weather, when they'll offer patio seating along with motorcycle and classic car nights.

Until then, their cozy, friendly bar is the perfect place to chase away the winter blues.

Ring in the new year

Enjoy a special dinner or stay to ring in the New Year at one of the Epoch Restaurant Groups dining establishments:

Tribute in Farmington Hills: Dinner reservations for New Years Eve will be accepted for 5:30 until 9:30 p.m. A full A la Carte menu, as well as, the Chefs' Tasting menum will be specially prepared by new executive chef Rich Travis. Tribute is located at 31425 Twelve Mile Road, west of Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills. Call (248) 848-9393. Reservations are recom-

mended.

Forte in Birmingham: You can choose to have an early dinner, prime time seating or join in on the New Year's Eve party. A limited menu with three seatings at 4:30, 6:30 and 9:00 p.m. with reservations confirmed with a \$20 deposit, (refundable through Dec. 27.) Early seating from 4:30 until 6:30 p.m. is \$40 per person and includes soup or salad, choice of selected entrees and chef's dessert sampler. Alcoholic beverages, taxes and gratuity are additional. Prime time seating is \$65 per person and includes all of the above plus an appetizer platter for the table. Party time seating from 9 p.m. until midnight is \$100 per person which

includes dinner, live music and dancing to the band Hidden Agenda, party favors, champagne toast at midnight and a "slider buffet" at 1 a.m. Entrée choices include filet, (6 ounce for early seating, 10 ounce for others,) whitefish, salmon, shrimp and lobster pasta, short ribs, chicken picatta, and surf & turf,

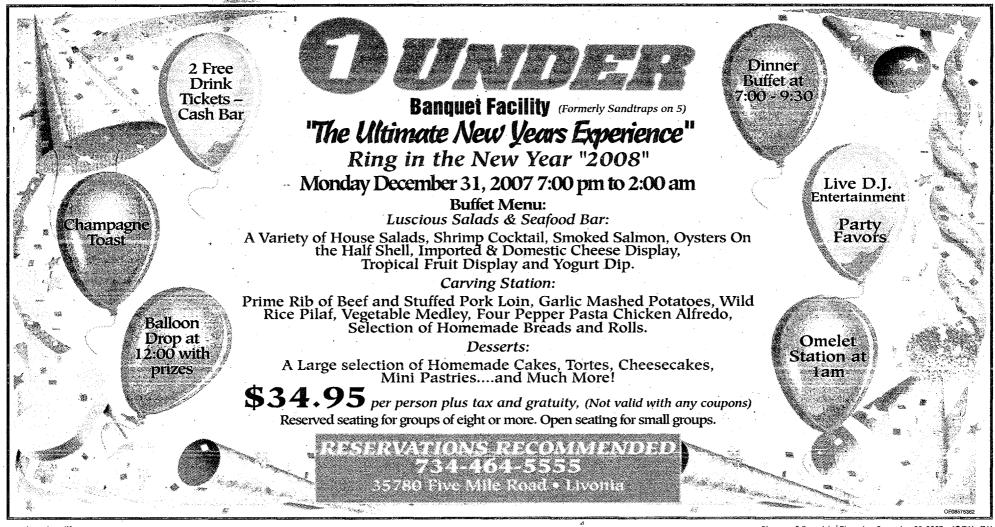
(available for the 9 p.m. seating only.) Forte is located at 201 S. Old Woodward in downtown Birmingham. Call (248) 594-7300

Epoch Events Catering at the Diamond Center inside the

Rock Financial Showplace in Novi: Bring in New Years 2008 in the Diamond Ballroom at the Rock

Financial Showplace. Featuring a premium open bar, ball drop on large video screen, complimentary hors d'oeuvres and various buffets served all night from 8pm until 3 a.m. Live entertainment features Steve King & the Dittlies playing music from the 80's & 90's, DJ's Captn20, Prevu and Blake George. Valet and coat check are available. Cocktail chic attire is suggested. VIP guests will receive gift bags from contributing sponsors. Cost for the event is \$100 per person.

For reservations, please call 1-866-396-3115 or the Diamond Center at (248) 348-5600, Ext.: 200.



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

ART EXHIBITS

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

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

Henry Ford Centennial Library: "Eclectic Endeavors," 43 pieces of watercolors and life drawings of Barbara Eko Murphy, through Jan. 26; 16301 Michigan Ave., Dearhorn (313) 943-2330

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

www.mocadetroit.org. **Oakland University:** New Paintings by Dennis
Michael Jones, exhibit through Dec. 23,
208 Wilson Hall, Rochester, www.oakland.
edu/ouag, (248) 370-3005.

Oakland University: "Image & Text," OU Biennial Faculty Exhibition, opening reception, 6-8 p.m. Jan. 12, through Feb. 24, artists' panel 6 p.m. Jan. 29, 208 Wilson Hall, Rochester, www/oakland.edu/ouag, (248)

Southfield Public Library: Early American Toys, Tower Lobby; Witness for the Nameless, photography and poetry by Edna Garte and Norman Dubin, Bookends Cafe; Holiday Magic, collection of holiday-themed dolls from the collection of Alan Toubeaux, WOW Wall, First Level; South Africa, photography by David Doolittle, Second Level, Gallery Wall; Glass Display, Third Level; writers' display, Third Level, Southfield Municipal Complex, 26300 Evergreen, www.sfldlib. org, (248) 796-4224.

ART GALLERIES

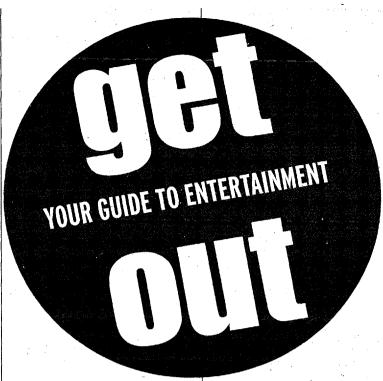
Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center: "Art & Artifact," "Black and White Drawings." artwork by Emily Pelton and BBAC students, opening night reception 6-8 p.m. Jan. 11, exhibitions run Jan. 11-Feb. 1, 1516 Cranbrook (between 14 and 15 Mile roads), Birmingham www.BBArtCenter.org, (248) 644-0866

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

cpopgallery. **D & M Art Studios:** "Surviving Deployment," portraits by Erin Dillenbeck, many of her fiance Ryan Keesey, is on active duty in Iraq, through Dec. 31, 8691 N. Lilley, Canton (734) 453-3710.

Farmington Hills City Gallery: "Remembrance, a mixed media collection by Carolynne Miller, through Ján. 31, Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, (248) 473-1856

Hilberry Gallery: "50/50 Paintings" by Ivin Ballen, exhibit through Jan. 5, 700 Livernois, Ferndale (248) 541-4700. Hill Gallery: Dennis Oppenheim, through Jan. 12, 407 W. Brown, Birmingham, (248)



540-9288

Lawrence Street Gallery: "Little Things Mean a Lot," through Dec. 28; 22620 Woodward, Ferndale (248) 544-0394, www.lawrencestreetgallery.com.

Lemberg Gallery: "Thinking in Color," through Jan. 5, 23241'Woodward, Ferndale (248) 591-6623, www.lemberggallery.com.
PaufkotulaProjects: Iris Eichenberg's
"Elizabeth," through Jan. 5, 23255
Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-3020.
Paint Creek Center for the Arts: "Object, Inc.,"
group show with nine Michigan artists,
407 Pine, Rochester, (248) 651-4110, www.

pccart.org.

The Print Gallery: Joyce Lieberman, oil paintings, through Jan. 18, 29173 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield www.EverythingArt.com, (248) 366-5454

River's Edge Gallery: Christmas Art Bash, David Austin demonstrates pottery, painter Nancy Byrum features endangered species series, Inner Journey fine art photography show, 6-10 p.m. Dec. 21; 3024 Biddle, Wyandotte, www.artattheedge.com, (734) 246-9880

Sherry Washington Gallery: David Fludd, "New Paintings and Drawings," through Dec. 31, www.sherrywashingtongallery.com, (313) 961-4500.

ART, ETC.

Detroit Institute of Arts: Guided tours in January, 1 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays; 1, 6 and 7:30 p.m. Fridays, 1 and 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, (313) 833-7971 for membership information.

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

BALLET

Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts: St. Petersburg Ballet of Russia (Jacobson's Ballet), 8 p.m. Jan. 10-11, \$30-\$50 (buy one get one free), Ticketmaster.com, 350 Madison, Detroit, (313) 887-8500, www.musichall.org.

BOOKS

Barnes & Noble: Lee Thomas, author of "Turning White: A Memoir of Change," 7 p.m. Dec. 21, 500 S. Main, Royal Oak (248) 336-9490.

CHORAL

University Musical Society: Bach's St. Matthew Passion with Detroit Symphony Orchestra, UMS Choral Union, Michigan State University Children's Choir, March 21; call for brochure at (734) 764-2538 or visit www.ums.org.

Farmington Hills Youth Choir: Auditions for choir, 5 p.m. Jan. 16, Longacre House, Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile roads, call (248) 473-1859 for information.

CLASSICAL

Detroit Symphony Orchestra: A Summer's Dream, Jan. 4-6; Ehnes Plays Barber, Jan. 10, 12-13; Fantastique Dutoit, Jan. 24-26, Max Fisher Music Center, Detroit. Visit www.detroitsymphony.com.

Plymouth Canton Symphony: Symphony Society's Youth Artist Competition, application deadline Jan. 21 for Feb. 3 competition at Evola Music, 7170 Haggerty, Canton three divisions of senior instrumental and senior piano (grades 10-12) and junior combined (grades 7-9), must reside in Clarenceville, Livonia, Northville, Novi, Plymouth-Canton or Wayne-Westland, winners get scholarships, for information, visit www.plymouthsymphony.org or call (734) 451-2112

Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra: Young Artists String Competition, auditions 4-9 p.m. Jan. 8-10, Wilson Violins, 725 S. Adams, Birmingham, application deadline is Dec. 31, download applications

at www.bbso.org.

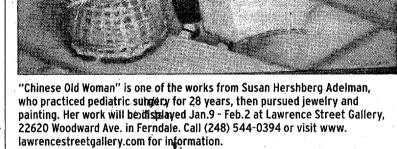
Plymouth Symphony Orchestra: "Blissful
Baroque," Jan. 19, Village Theater at
Cherry Hill, Canton. With this mid-winter
program, favorite tunes from George
Fredrick Handel will be in abundance.

CLUBS

The Blind Pig: The Von Bondies with Freer, Jan. 9, 208 S. First St. Ann Arbor: (734) 996-8555.

Boso: Enjoy noWax nights at 7 p.m. every Wednesday, no cover, 21 and over only, 22930 Woodward in Ferndale, www.thebosco.com, (248) 541-8818.

Eden Nightclub & Ultralounge: Friday night party with DJ Ryan Richards, 10 p.m. guest celebrity hosts and DJs; DJ Urban Chris in the Garden Room, DJ Pannos in the Ultralounge accompanied by percussion-



ist Jared Sykes, 10 p.m. Saturday 2006 Woodward Ave, Ferndale (248) 541-7674. Edison's: Aaron Vaughn, Dec. 20; Code Blue, Dec. 21-22; Rick Stel Project, Dec. 27; The Randy Brock Group, Dec. 28-29; The Snakes, Dec. 31; Larry Lee, Jan. 3; Robert Penn, Jan. 4-5; The Blue Kings, Jan. 10; bugs Beddow Band, Jan. 11-12; Mystery Train featuring Jim McCarty, Jan. 17; Aaron Vaughn Band, Jan. 18-19; The Randy Brock Group, Jan. 24; Bazooka Charlie, Jan. 25-26; John D. Lamb Band, Jan. 31; 220 Merrill, Birmingham (248) 645-2150

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

The Magic Bag: Anti-Freeze Blues
Festival featuring The Hodge Brothers
Reunion, The Erich Goebel Band, The
Grandmasters and Mike Espy/Yakety
Yak, Jan. 4 and Bettye Lavette, Johnnie
Bassett, The Laith Al Saadi Band, Count
Bracey & The Pleasuretones and The
Front Street Blues Band, Jan. 5, \$25 each
night, 22920 Woodward Ave., Detroit.
(248) 544-3030.
The Magic Stick: Detroit Sounds and Spirits,

Dec. 21; Few and Far Between, Dec. 22; Xxxmess Spagtacular, Dec. 23; Troy Gregory and the Stepsisters, Dec. 26, 4120 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 833-9700. D-ten Lounge: Formerly the Buddha Lounge; Hot 'N Ready with DJ U.N.I. hip hop soul, Thursday; Insomnia Music, hip hop, soul, old school, Friday; Super Sonic Smooth Music with DJ Shug; Saturday; karaoke with Chez, Sunday; '80s and Rock N Roll; bring your CDs, Tuesday; and Energetic House with DJ Tony Bell,

Wednesday, www.ozenlounge.com, 21633 W. Eight Mile, Detroit (313) 535-4664. Sky Club: Tango, salsa, and Latin dancing every Wednesday beginning at 8 p.m., located above Sangria's Restaurant, 401 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, (248) 543-1964.

COMEDY

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase: L.A. Hardy, Dec. 20-22; Jim Wiggins, Dec. 27-29; Cash Levy, Dec. 31; 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor (734) 996-9080, www.aacomedy.com.
City Theatre: Earthquake, Dec. 28-30, \$32.50, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (248) 645-6666

(246) 643-6666 Fox Theatre; Cedric the Entertainer, Dec. 31; Chris Rock, Feb. 29, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, \$65.50-\$99.50, Ticketmaster. com (248) 433-1515.

Historic Holly Hotel Comedy Club: Warren B. Hall, Dec. 21-22; Chrissy Burns, Dec. 28-31; Dean Mink, Jan. 4-5; Kevin Naughton, Jan. 11-12; Keith McGill, Jan. 18-19; Gary George, Jan. 25-26; 110 Battle Alley, Holly (248) 634-5208.

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

Maxie's Sunday Night Comedy Shoppe: Warren B. Hall, Dec. 23; Chrissy Burns, Dec. 30; Steve Bills, Jan. 6; Kevin Naughton, Jan. 13; Keith McGill, Jan. 20; Gary George, Jan. 27; 2500 W. Hill Rd. (just west of U.S. 23), Flint (810) 232-2500.

Michigan Theatre: Bob Saget, 8 p.m. April 19, mature audiences, \$29.50-\$39.50, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. (248) 645-6666. City Theatre: Earthquake (Dec. 27-30), Ticketmaster.com, (248) 433-1515.

The Second City: The Best of Second City-Detroit, on Sundays, (Mondays and Tuesdays for group booking); The Second City's Dysfunctional Holiday Revue, shows throughout November and December, 42705 Grand River Avenue in Novi. (248) 348-4448, www.secondcity.com.

CONCERTS

The Fillmore-Detroit: Omarion with Ja Rule and Trey Songz, Dec. 30; G Love and Special Sauce, Jan. 18; Lenny Kravitz, Jan. 27; The Green 17 Tour with Flogging Molly, Feb. 9; Angels and Airwaves with Meg and Dia, The Color Fred. Ace Enders. Feb. 23: Jann Arden. Feb. 26, 2115 Woodward, Detroit. Call (248) 645-6666. The Fox Theatre: B.B. King, Feb, 16; Jill

Scott, March 21, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com (248) 433-1515. Joe Louis Arena: R. Kelly with Nevo Keyshia Cole and J. Holiday, Dec. 22; Kid Rock, Feb. 8-9; Linkin Park with Coheed and Cambria, Feb. 16: Foo Fighters, Feb. 24. (248) 645-6666, www.ticketmaster.com, OlympiaEntertainment.com.

The Palace: Trans-Siberian Orchestra. Dec. 26; The Doodlebops Live, Jan. 20; Matchbox Twenty with Alanis Morissette and MUTEMATH, 6:30 p.m. Feb. 2; The Spice Girls, Feb. 16; Bon Jovi with Daughtry, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20; Avril Lavigne with Boys Like Girls, March 22, (248) 645-6666 or Palacenet.com.

Masonic Temple Theatre: 500 Temple Ave., Detroit. (248) 645-6666. Michigan Theatre: James Blunt, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 23, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. (248)

Ford Community & Performing Arts Center: A Valentine's Rock 'N' Roll Spectacular with Sonny Turner (former lead singer of the Platters), The Vogues, The Diamonds. The Reflections, Jack Scott, Lou Christie, Bill Haley's Original Comets, Little Peggy March, The Marcels, 5 and 8 p.m. Feb. 16 \$27-\$67, 15801 Michigan, Dearborn (313) 943-2354 Ext. 1.

St. Andrews Hall: The Verve Pipe, Dec. 21; The Hard Lessons with The Muggs, Great Lakes Myth Society, Dec. 26; Rusted Root, 8 p.m. Dec. 29; Necro with Psycho Realm and Danny Diablo, Jan. 11; The Mars Volta, Jan. 23; The Editors, Jan. 26; Matt Nathanson, Feb. 5; 431 E. Congress, Detroit, (248) 645-

DANCE

645-6666.

Detroit Dance Collective: Collage Concert, Jan. 12-13, Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn, \$12-\$45, (734)259-9659.

Eisenhower Dance Ensemble: EDE Center for Dance opens at new location in January at 103 South Street in Rochester, open house, noon-4 p.m. Jan. 12; parent recognition night at 6 p.m. that evening, dancers perform at 2 p.m., \$15 registration will be waived to those who register for dance classes that day, classes offered are Mom & Tot, Creative Movement, Pre-Ballet, Ballet, Pointe, Pre-Pointe, Modern, Jazz, Hip-Hop, Tap, Social Dance, Boys classes and Tone & Stretch, (248) 852-8850, www ede-dance.org.

Eisenhower Dance Ensemble: NewDanceFest VI, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 26; Bright Side of the Road, 8 p.m. April 5, various locations, call (248) 852-5850 or see www.ede-dance.org. Farmington Hills Ballroom Dance: 8-11 p.m. Dec. 21, Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, \$10.

Joe Louis Arena: Dancing With the Stars Tour, Jan. 5, Detroit, \$52.50-\$168, (248) 645-6666

Detroit Opera House: African Footprint, Jan. 19-20, 1526 Broadway, Detroit \$15-\$75, (313) 237-SING, www.MichiganOpera.org.



The St. Petersburg Ballet of Russia (aka Jacobson's Ballet) will entertain metro Detroit dance aficionados Jan. 10 and 11 at the Music Hall Center for Performing Arts, 350 Madison in Detroit. Tickets are \$30-50 (buy one, get one free) and are on sale now at: Ticketmaster and the Music Hall box office. Call (313) 887-8500 for information. Ferndald

FAMILY 101 r

Fox)Tigatre: Sesame Street Live presents "Elmo Makes Music," Jan. 25-Feb. 10, Tickets \$12-\$32, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com (248) 433-1515. The Palace of Auburn Hills: Disney On Ice Presents: High School Musical The Ice Tour, Feb. 29-March 2, Palacenet.com, The Palace Box Office and all Ticketmaster centers (248) 377-0100.

Outdoorama: Feb. 28-March 2, Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River, Novi, \$9 adults, \$4 children 6-14, www.Outdoorama com, (800) 328-6550.

Ultimate Fishing Show: Jan. 10-13, Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River, Novi \$9 adults, \$4 children 6-14, www. UltimateFishingShow.com, (800) 328-6550.

FUND-RAISERS

Teddy's Time Square: Rock for a Cause, auction benefits the Sabrina Black Foundation, with tickets for Trans-Siberian Orchestra, autographed Metallica guitar, autographed book by Nikki Sixx, sports memorabilia from Sports Authentics in Troy and painting by John Rios, framed and signed by TSO, also rock music by the Allies, 7 p.m. Dec. 21, 45841 Hayes Rd., Shelby Township, (586) 247-0900, www.teddystime.com.

HOLIDAY SHOWS

Greenfield Village: Holiday Nights, Dec. 20-23, The Henry Ford, Dearborn, \$8.50-\$12.75, (313) 982-6001 or www.thehenryford.org. Holiday Blues Showcase: Pete "Big Dog" Fetters, Motor City Josh with Stacia Petrie, the Matt Besev Band and bugs beddow with the Skye Island Band, 8 p.m. Dec. 26, Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main, Royal Oak, (248) 543-4300, \$5 donation suggested. proceeds benefit the Motor City Music

Home for the Holidays: This 5th annual showcase supports local animal shelters Almost Home and Cinder Fund. Pat O'Brien, Scott Kinson, J. Graves, Flise McCov, Arementa Hesselrode, Jeff Cox and Matt Hughes will perform 9 p.m. Dec. 21, 313.jac/Jacoby's, 624 Brush Street, Detroit, 18 and older. (313) 962-7067.

The Fox Theatre: Cedric the Entertainer 9 p.m. Dec. 31. OlympiaEntertainment com, the Fox Theatre and Joe Louis Arena box offices, Hockeytown Authentics in Troy (without service charge) and at all Ticketmaster locations, including Macy's and Ticketmaster.com. To charge tickets by phone, call (248) 433-1515.

Rochester: Big, Bright Light Show every night through Dec. 31, Main Street north of Avon Road, www.DowntownRochesterMI

Plymouth Symphony Orchestra: Home for the Holidays concert, 7 p.m. Dec. 20, Penn Theatre, \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, and \$10 for children, (734) 451-2112, www plymouthsymphony.org, or in person at 470 Forest Avenue, Suite 18, Plymouth. Fox Theatre: Too Hot to Handel, featuring Rackham Symphony Choir, 2 and 8 p.m. Dec. 22, \$21-\$78, OlympiaEntertainment. com, the Fox Theatre and Joe Louis Arena box offices. Hockeytown Authentics in Troy (without service charge) and at all Ticketmaster locations, including Macy's and Ticketmaster.com. To charge tickets by phone, call (248) 433-1515.

JAZZ

Arturo's Jazz Theatre: Jesse Palter Quartet, 7 and 9 p.m. Dec. 20, 25333 W. 12 Mile, Southfield, (248) 357-6009. Baker's Keyboard Lounge: Spencer Barfield & Friends with Don Mayberry (bass) and Djallo Djakate (drums), Wednesdays, 20510 Livernois (at Eight Mile), Detroit (313) 345-

Cliff Bells: Scott Gwinnell and his 16piece jazz orchestra, 9:30 p.m. every Wednesday, 2030 Park (near Comerica Park), Detroit (313) 961-2543.

Kwanzaa Jazz Concert: Barry Harris Trio, 7 p.m. Dec. 29, First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4605 Cass (at Forest), Detroit, \$25 donation, \$5 child under 12, includes afterglow, (313) 833-9107.

Pi Restaurant: D-Lee and Deb Alane, Dec. 21-22; Sheila Landis, Dec. 28-29; 28875 Franklin (southwest corner of 12 Mile and Northwestern Hwy.), Southfield (248) 208-7500, www.piofsouthfield.com.

Detroit Windsor Jazz Club: Saturdays at

Shield's (1-4 p.m.), Chuck Moss and the Paint Creek Jazz Band, Jan. 5; Ray Heitger and the Cakewalkin' Jazz Rand, Jan 19; Kerry Price and Friends, Feb. 2; Rick Bryant, Feb. 16; \$10 cover, 25101 Telegraph, Southfield (248) 356-2720.

MORE MUSIC

Palmer Woods: Six-concert series of jazz, classical and world music in five Palmer Woods homes and Detroit Golf Club, jazz vocalist Shahida Nurullah and Friends, 8 p.m. Dec. 22, series is \$100, \$25 per concert, palmerwoods.org, (313) 920-4864 **AJ's Cafe:** Alex Winston, Dec. 28, 240 W. Nine Mile, Ferndale, (248) 399-3946. Detroit Institute of Arts: SSM 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Jan. 4, admission \$8, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit (313) 833-7900. Hill Auditorium: Mos Def and the Mos Def Big Band (hip hop), 7:30 p.m. Jan. 21, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor \$25-\$45, (734) 764-2538, ums.org.
Oakland Community College's Performing Arts
Program: Illrd Tyme Out, Jan. 25, Williams

and Clark Expedition, April 11; Rhonda Vincent and the Rage, May 2, performances at 7:30 p.m. Student Center Arena, Highland Lakes Campus in Waterford except for Vincent, which will be at the Orchard Ridge campus, \$20; (248) 341-

Music Hall Center for Performing Arts: Amel Larrieux and Dwele, Jan. 31, 350 Madison, Detroit, \$35-\$55, Ticketmaster, (313) 887-8500. www.musichall.org

First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak: Caberet with Sunny Wilkinson, Feb. 1; Detroit Dance Collective, 529 Hendrie Blvd., Royal Oak

Nardin Park Music Series: Brandon and Rich Ridenour, trumpet and piano, 2 p.m. Jan. 27, Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 W, 11 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills (248) 476-8860 for information.

MUSEUMS

Detroit Institute of Arts: Julie Mehretu: City Sitings through March 30: the online store is open at www.diashop.org, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Call (313) 833-

The Henry Ford: "Best of Friends: Buckminster Fuller and Isamu Noguchi," through Jan. 15, at 20900 Oakwood Blvd., west of the Southfield Freeway and south of Michigan Avenue, Dearborn, Additional charges and varying hours for entry to Greenfield Village, Ford Rouge Factory Tour and IMAX Theatre, Call (313) 982-6001 or visit www.hfmgv.org.

Plymouth Historical Museum: A Red Ryder

Christmas Story, also Santa Claus appears Saturdays through Dec. 22, 1-4 p.m. Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm: Adams Road Mastodon in special exhibit, one year after discovery by road crew at Adams and M-59, through January 2008, 1-4 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays, 1005 Van Hoosen Road (off of Tienken Road, one mile east of Rochester Road and one mile north of Downtown Rochester), (248) 565-4663, www.roches-

University of Michigan Museum of Art: Persian Visions: Photography from Iran, through Dec. 30, 1301 S. University Ave., Ann Arbor. Cranbrook Science Museum: Featured exhibit is It's a Nano World. Permanent exhibits include planetarium, nature center and Bat Zone Conservatory, 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, general admission \$5-\$7. planetarium, \$1-\$3, (248) 645-3200 or www.cranbrook.edu.

Detroit Science Center: Extended Our Body: The Universe Within exhibit; new IMAX is Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure; Mummies: Secrets of the Pharoahs begins in IMAX Jan. 12, call (313) 577-8400 or visit http://www.detroitsciencecenter.org.

OPERA

Detroit Opera House: "La Sonnambula," March 28, April 2, 4-6; "La Rondine," April 19-20, 23, 25-26; La Traviata, May 10-11, 14, 16-18; all at 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Visit www. michiganopera.org.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Ann Arbor Book Festival: The Author Lunch series kicks off with Deborah Rodriguez. author of Kabul Beauty School, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 8, Dahlmann Campus Inn, \$50, 615 E. Huron, Ann Arbor, www. aabookfestival.org.

Campus Martius Ice Rink: Skate away from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m. to midnight on Saturday and noon to 8 p.m. Sunday through Jan. 1. The rink remains open through March with altered hours. Cost is \$6-\$7 for rink access and \$3 for skates. The rink is located on Woodward Ave, between Fort Street and Michigan Avenue in Detroit. Call (313) 962-0101 or visit www.campusmartiuspark.org.

Please see GET OUT, E19



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'Juno's' writer, director don't shy from topic of teen pregnancy

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA

STAFF WRITER

Juno, which hits theaters Dec. 21, offers a heart-felt and unflinching look at the life of one outspoken teen in the midst of an unplanned pregnancy.

The movie marks a promising debut for screenwriter Diablo Cody. Prior to this she gained attention as a blogger and author of the memoir *Candy Girl: A Year in the Life of an Unlikely*

Stripper. She and director Jason Reitman (Thank You For Smoking) stopped at Birmingham's Townsend Hotel Dec. 12, to discuss the film - which just earned Golden Globe nods for **Best Picture-**Comedy, Best Actress in a Comedy for Ellen Page and Best Screenplay, as well as six Critics Choice Award nominations.

Stretched out on a couch Cody explained how the script developed from a single image - the idea of a young offbeat pregnant teen

sitting across from an "uppity yuppie couple" who find themselves in the awkward position of auditioning to become adoptive parents. Cody said while she often doesn't have a specific direction in mind when it comes to her work, she knew just how Juno would end from the start.

heart, "Juno,"

In it, she chose to explore "that crystalline moment when your friends are everything." The spot-on high school dialogue was inspired by the secret language she shared with her own friends as a teenager.

Reitman said he was a bit intimidated to meet Cody at first. "She seemed so cool and the script was so well-written," he said, sporting a faded Ghostbusters tee shirt. But the two clearly made a great filmmaking team. Reitman mentioned he'll be producing Cody's next movie - a horror flick titled Jennifer's Body.

From Juno's opening sequence, animated images

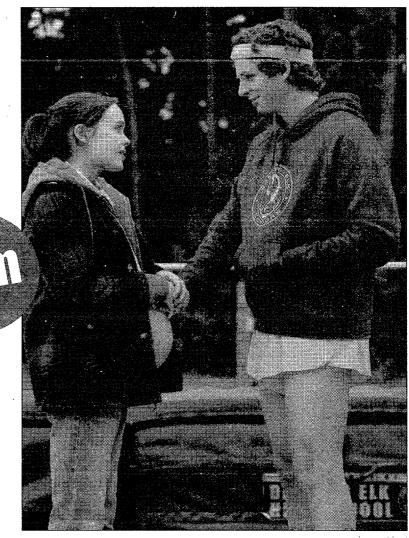
following actress Ellen Page in her red hoodie, the movie pulls you right in. As the charismatic title character, she's got that younger-thanher-years look, and so does Michael Cera (Superbad) as Bleeker, the father of her unexpected child. It all lends a bit of tension and reality to the film as the two wrestle with their grownup decision. Reitman said he thought of Page first for the role, having seen her performance in the

film Hard Candy. "There was no second place," he said. "It was just Ellen."
The story is amplified by a pitch-

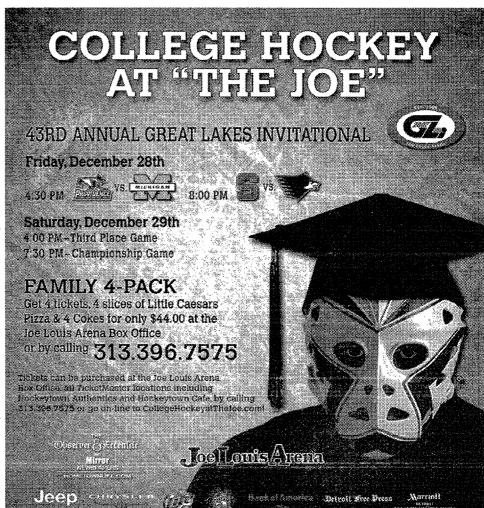
Jason Reitman directed this whip-smart comedy with a

The story is amplified by a pitchperfect cast. Allison Janney plays Bren, Juno's stepmom who springs into action when she decides to have the baby. J.K. Simmons, whom Reitman calls a "teddy bear in real life," plays the most understanding father in the world, Mac. And the seemingly-perfect couple looking to adopt, Vanessa and Mark Loring,

Please see FILM, E18



Ellen Page and Michael Cera play unlikely potential parents in "Juno," the story of a pregnant 16-yearold.





Where available by deadline, features and times are listed. Observer & Eccentric

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OE08568954

Theater offers puppet show for kids, bad opera for adults

BY LANA MINI

Want to hear some horrible opera? Think of it as Ed Wood in the music

The same group offering that entertainment (the opera, not Ed Wood) will host a puppet show for kids.

Performance Network Theatre first presents puppeteer Maureen Schiffman's A Multi-Cultural Holiday at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 22. It's an

all-ages show that's part of PNT's Saturday Series for Young Audiences, and is preceded by a puppet-making workshop at 10 a.m.

In the show, Schiffman plays the mandolin, sings and interacts with a variety of puppets. including Coco, her well loved, kazoo playing, fuzzy monkey. Her positive and playful program engages children through music, movement and sto-

rytelling. Schiffman has performed her original thematic shows throughout North America since 1980. An writer of more than 24 original shows, Schiffman is a member of the Detroit Puppeteers Guild, Children's Music Network and National Association of the Education

of Young Children. Tickets are \$7 for children and \$10 for adults.

THE OPERA

Then from Jan. 10 through Feb.10, is the premiere of Stephen Temperley's Souvenir: A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins.

Performances are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and matinees at 3 p.m. on Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays.

Florence Foster Jenkins may be the worst soprano the world has ever heard. A self-proclaimed coloratura soprano,

> her voice wasn't even mediocre. She couldn't carry a tune and her sense of rhythm was questionable.

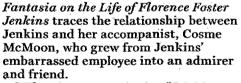
Yet, in 1944. she sold out. Carnegie Hall.

Critics trashed her. Yet one critic admitted that everyone there had a "pleasant evening."

Jenkins died one month after her Carnegie Hall debut. Her famous quote was:

"Some may say that I couldn't sing, but no one can say that I didn't sing.'

Souvenir: A



"When it came to singing," McMoon once explained, "she forgot everything. Nothing could stop her. She thought that she was a great artist."

The show stars Naz Edwards and Fred Love.

"People will be amazed at how famous this woman was even though she couldn't sing," director Jim Posante

"The big payoff at the end will astonish the audience."

Tickets are \$25 to \$37 can be ordered at the Performance Network Box Office

at (734) 663-0681, online at www. performancenetwork.org or by coming to Performance Network Theatre (120 East Huron St., Ann Arbor) Monday-Saturday 10-6 or one hour before a performance.







takes the form of Jennifer Garner and Jason Bateman. "They were beautiful even in black and white," Juno announced, spotting their ad in the local penny saver.

Reitman said while the actors "all come from different worlds," they all had an innate ability to underplay the characters, to demonstrate subtlety that's key to the film.

The movie is wrought with imag-

es that stick - scenes where Juno attempts a fake-hanging with a rope of licorice, only to bite tenaciously through the candy; moments where she calls to "procure a hasty abortion" while dialing on her hamburgershaped phone.

Just when you think you know where the movie is going, Reitman said, "it switches on you. It completely takes a right turn."

Cody and Reitman manage to brilliantly balance what might've been a heavy story with humor and heart. As schoolmates begin to notice Juno's

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physical changes one asks Bleeker: "Did you hear Juno McGuff is pregnant? Did you hear it's yours?" and without skipping a beat says "You should grow a moustache.

And the relationship between Bleeker and Juno holds tight to that awkward, sweet sort of love that might only be associated with high school hallways.

"When this is all over, we should get the band back together," he tells her, adding.

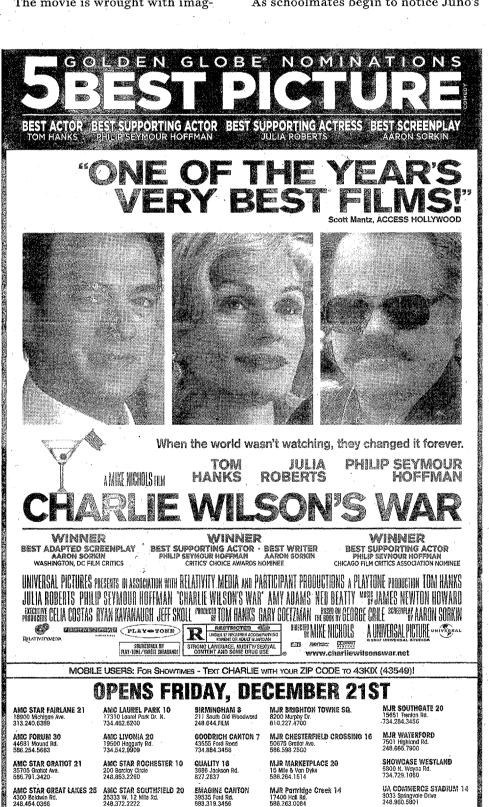
"We could always get back together, too. That's an option."

The audience is constantly reminded that no matter how serious the situation gets, Juno's just a teenager trying to get by. Trying to do what's right.

"It's a movie about maintaining your innocence," said Reitman, son of famed director Ivan Reitman.

"People seem to think it's about growing up too soon, but it's about holding onto innocence as long as you can."

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'Alvin and the Chipmunks' one of few family-friendly flicks

Movie

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Capsule reviews of current films:

"ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS"

Are singing chipmunks really so different from Britney Spears? In Alvin and the Chipmunks our furry, little singing friends have been turned into something like tiny Justin Timberlakes. They say ```sup playa," perform with Madonna-style headset microphones and even suffer from that chronic tour-canceler: "exhaustion." By placing somewhat realistic-looking, CGI-animated chipmunks

in a live-action film, director Tim Hill (who helmed the 2006 flop Garfield: A Tail of Two Kitties) hopes to enliven the old chipmunks, created nearly 50 years ago by Ross Bagdasarian Sr. After their tree is chopped down and brought to Los Angeles, they are soon taken in by out-of-work musician Dave Seville (Jason Lee). He's offset by comedian David Cross, who plays a music executive with skewering sliminess. The biggest failure of the film is the animation of the caroling critters, who are essentially without expression. But in this bloody holiday season of murderous barbers, ruthless oilmen and harrowing Texan killers, where is a family to go? Families looking for distraction could do worse than Alvin and the Chipmunks - particularly because of Cross' performance. Better yet, they could all sit down for six seconds and watch the real chipmunk star of 2007: the famed CGI-free Dramatic Chipmunk on YouTube. PG for some mild rude humor. 92 minutes. One and a half stars out of four.

Jake Coyle, AP Entertainment Writer

"I AM LEGEND"

So if we must watch the last man on Earth wandering about aimlessly, it may as well be someone who can hold our attention like the charismatic Will Smith. (Vincent Price and Charlton Heston took on the role with less success in previously cheesy adaptations of the Richard Matheson sci-fi novel, 1964's The Last Man on Earth and 1971's The Omega Man, respectively.) While Smith certainly conjures both pathos and absurd laughs as Robert Neville, a military scientist whose immunity to a deadly virus leaves him stranded in Manhattan with only his trusted German shepherd for companionship, it's the visual effects in director Francis Lawrence's film that truly dazzle.

CGI-enhanced images of Times Square, Washington Square Park and Tribeca, eerily silent and still and covered in weeds, provide a haunting set-up. Then come the Infected — the ones who didn't die from the virus but rather were transformed into shrieking, flailing crazies who only

come out at night (Dash Mihok is their hairless leader). And here's where IAm Legend turns from a quiet meditation on the nature of humanity into a Breviews movie schlockfest. It's also a bit too convenient that when Neville eventually runs into other people, it's a beautiful woman (Alice Braga) and her son, who are about the same age as the wife and daughter he lost

during the city's frantic evacuation. PG-13 for intense sequences of sci-fi action and violence. 100 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

Christy Lemire, AP Movie Critic

"THE KITE RUNNER"

Director Marc Forster's exceedingly respectful adaptation of Khaled Hosseini's international best seller has both a subtle, captivating naturalism and some convenient plot turns that are difficult to overcome. Screenwriter David Benioff (The 25th Hour) remained largely faithful to Hosseini's story about the friendship between two boys in Afghanistan just before the 1979 Soviet invasion, and the way one's betraval of the other haunts him for decades to come. When Forster focuses on the kids, wealthy Amir (Zekiria Ebrahimi) and the family servant's feisty son Hassan (the irresistible Ahmad Khan Mahmoodzada), The Kite Runner is light, sweet, charming, yet it darkens plausibly with danger lurking around every corner. Once it follows Amir as an adult (Khalid Abdalla), living as an aspiring writer in San Francisco with his ailing father (the formidable Homayoun Ershadi), the tone turns draggier — which is understandable, given that Amir remains wracked with shame for his childhood transgression. But that means it also loses its earlier energy. The Kite Runner does succeed, though, in providing a vibrant window into a world we might not have known and might have felt daunted to seek out. PG-13 for strong thematic material including the rape of a child, violence and brief strong language. 122 minutes. Two and a half stars out four.

Christy Lemire, AP Movie Critic

Detroit Historical Society: Scholar Series with Loren Estleman, author of "Amos Walker's Detroit, and photographer Monte Nagler, 6-8 p.m. Jan. 8, free for DHS mer bers, \$10 others, 5401 Woodward, Detroit (313) 833-1801. or visit www.detroithistorical.org/thingstodo.

Detroit Historical Society: Behind the Scenes Saturday tour series, Buhl Building, Jan. 12; and studios of Gonservation and Museum Services where conserva tor Kenneth Katz restores artifacts, documents and paintings, Jan. 19; Wayne County Courthouse, Jan. 26; \$20 DHS members, \$25 guests, reservations suggested with required payments, (313) 833-1801, or visit www detroithistorical.org/thingstodo.

Joe Louis Arena: "Saltimbanco Cirque Du Soleil," Jan. 23-27, Detroit, \$37.50-\$67.50, (248) 645-6666.

Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular: dozens of statues carved from a single block of ice, Jan. 25-27, downtown Plymouth.

Dearborn Inn Marriott: 50th Anniversary of the White

Rose Ball, presented by Hungarian Arts Club, music by Harmonia, club will acknowledge all former debutants and escorts at special reunion ball. Feb. 2, if you know of former debutants or escorts, have them call (248) 352-0927, call for tickets and information or visit Hungarianartsclub@hotmail.com

The Palace of Auburn Hills: The Harlem Globetrotters, Dec. 30; The Bridal Celebration, Jan. 6; Suburban Michigan Spring Home Show, Jan. 12-13; Motocross, Feb. 9; Longhorn World Championship Rodeo, Feb. 14-15, visit palacenet. com or call (248) 645-6666

THEATER - COLLEGE

University of Detroit Mercy Theatre Company: "And Neither Have I Wings to Fly," Feb. 1-17; "The Play About the Baby," March 28-April 6; 8425 W. McNichols, Detroit (313) 993-3270, theatre.udmercy.edu.

THEATER - COMMUNITY

The Farmington Players: "Chapter Two," Feb. 15-29, March 1-8; "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," April 25-27, May 1-17, ticket hotline, (248) 553-

2955, www.farmingtonplayers.org. Marquis Theatre: "Jungle Book," through Jan. 27, \$8, 135 Main, Northville (248) 349-8110, www.northvillemarquistheatre.com.

St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild: "A Streetcar Named Desire," Jan. 18-26; "The Cemetery Club," March 7-15; "Greater Tuna," April 11-19; "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," May 30-June 14; (248) 737-3587 or www. StDunstansTheatre.com, 400 Lone Pine Rd., Bloomfield Hills (248) 737-3587, www.stdunstansthe-

Stagecrafters: "Cabaret," Jan. 18-Feb. 10, 415 S.-Lafayette, Royal Oak (248) 541-6430.

Village Players of Birmingham: Three Tall Women, Edward Albee's Pulitzer Prize winning drama, 8 p.m. Jan. 11-12, 18-19; 2 p.m. Jan. 13 and 20; \$15; Village Players Playhouse, 34660 Woodward, Birmingham (2 blocks south of Maple), (248) 644-2075, www.birminghamvillageplayers.com. Wild Swan Theater: "Strega Nona and the Magic Pasta Pot," Jan. 24-26; 410 S. Maple, Ann Arbor (734) 995-0530, www.wildswantheater.org.

THEATER-PROFESSIONAL

Detroit Opera House: Richard Loring's "African Footprint," Jan. 19-20, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. \$15-\$75 at (313) 237-SING (7464) or online at www.MichiganOpera.org. Gem Theatre: "Forbidden Christmas," through Dec. 31 333 Madison Ave, Detroit, call (313) 963-9800. Visit online at www.gemtheatre.com.

Broadway Onstage Live Theatre: "Corpse," Jan. 11-Feb. 9; "Weekend Comedy," Feb. 22-March 29; "Escanaba in Da Moonlight," April 11-May 17; \$16, 21517 Kelly Rd. (at Toepfer) in Eastpointe. ticket reservations recommended. (586) 771-6333

Fisher Theatre: "Whistle Down the Wind," Jan. 8-27; Mamma Mia! Feb. 12-24, at 301 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit (313) 872-1000, www.BroadwayinDetroit.com.



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