

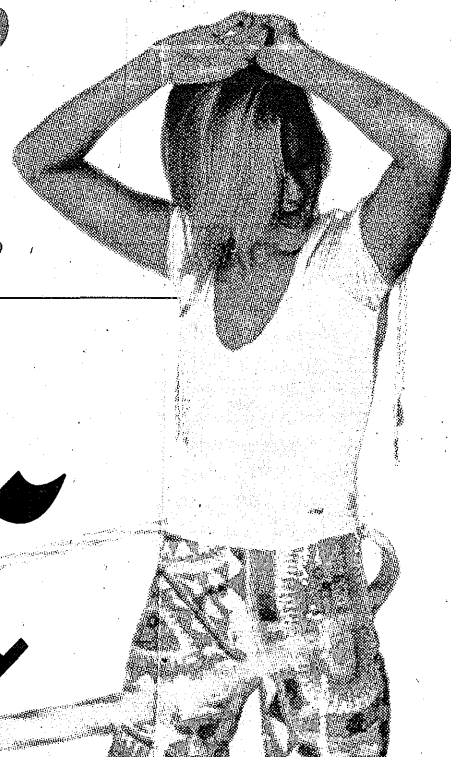


A CHOCOLATE PRIMER

Pastry chefs offer insight into the divine dessert - **Hometownlife, D1**

HULA HOOPIN'

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PLYMOUTH Observer

THURSDAY
February 7, 2008

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S&P downgrades school district's outlook

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services downgraded the financial outlook of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools from stable to negative "due to the district's deteriorating financial position."

However, despite the outlook downgrade by the ratings service, the financial market reacted differently as the district maintained its credit ratings, enabling school officials to refinance \$91 million in debt which will save taxpayers more than \$6.3 million and lower the tax rate.

The S&P report indicates that despite a steady tax base growth, above-average income and high wealth levels and moderate debt levels, "the district's weakening financial position limits these credit strengths."

Corey Friedman, credit analyst for Standard & Poor's, said the outlook downgrade is mainly the result of the district spending more money than its revenues the past four years.

"Debt isn't the big concern, it's really the financial position," said Friedman, who is well aware Plymouth-Canton receives a smaller state foundation grant than many

districts. "Sometimes you have to deal with the cards you're given. You have to find a way to balance the budget."

Patricia Brand, the district's assistant superintendent of business services, doesn't believe S&P has a clear understanding of Michigan school district funding.

"S&P does not feel any entity should use any fund balance, but the reality is there are many reasons why districts choose to utilize fund balance," Brand said. "In this case, it's not an expenditure problem, but a revenue problem. We have cut \$12 million the past five years."

Friedman said not all Michigan school districts are experiencing their outlooks being downgraded.

"In terms of schools in general, we have seen some that have moved in a negative direction, but that's not the direction for all," Friedman said.

Despite the outlook downgrade, the credit rating by S&P remained steady at A-plus. Moody's Investors Service maintained its credit rating for Plymouth-Canton Schools at A1. The credit ratings helped the district receive favorable interest rates in refinancing \$91 million in 1998 and 1999 bonds, as well as selling \$35 million in 2004 bonds in St. Louis

this week.

According to Brand, the interest savings will be more than \$6.3 million over the next 16 years. And, as a result, the millage rate — which was scheduled to go up to 3.5 mills — will be reduced from 3.15 mills to 2.98 mills.

"The millage rate was scheduled to go up just with the sale of the new bonds, but we did well with sale of those bonds and the refinancing of the 1998 and 1999 bonds," Brand said. "We are deemed a quality organization and the market rewarded us for that."

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

Interest income makes up for faltering funds

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

With revenues in key funds, including the building department, free-falling the last few years, Plymouth Township Treasurer Ron Edwards has been warning about potentially darker financial days ahead.

However, at the last township board meeting, Edwards revealed a report he said is helping stave off financial trouble.

According to the 2007 income interest report, township money earned more than \$1 million in interest income for the year. While that's down slightly from 2006, it's still higher than any of the four years prior to that.

Edwards said the income is up because investments earned an average of some 5.25 percent for most of 2007 and because, without major capital expenditures and the new township hall completed, officials knew where the cash was coming from.

"With interest rates being up, we were able to invest the money and get a good return," Edwards said. "We were able to estimate our cash flow better because we didn't have the (township hall) or major improvements."

It's the second straight year investment income has crossed the million-dollar mark, after a four-year run where they were below that point, including a low point in 2004 when interest income was down to some \$419,000.

But, according to Edwards, that was a period when interest rates plummeted. For instance, the Comerica Pool rate, an investment mechanism Edwards uses for some of the township's investment, dropped as low as 1.02 percent in 2003.

That, combined with declining revenue in some township funds — chiefly building revenue, which has dropped from the high-water mark of \$1.7 million in 1999 to some \$450,000 last year — led Edwards to continue his warning.

According to Edwards, even the \$20 million in actual cash the township has in the bank is the lowest amount since he was elected in 1996.

"We've been able to supplement the losses without having to make major reductions in staffing," he said. "We can be doing very well, but a lot of the revenues are declining. Eventually, they could decline to the point where you can't make up for it."

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



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

After 15 years of owning Native West in downtown Plymouth, Annette Horn is ready for a change of direction.

Native West-less Retailer decides it's time to hit the trail

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

The well-known painting titled "End of the Trail" depicts a Native American on horseback, with both stopping to rest and rejuvenate after a long ride.

Native West store owner Annette Horn is using that theme to hold a celebration as she prepares to close the Ann Arbor Trail store she's owned for 15 years for good April 12.

"It will be an end-of-the-trail celebration with fun, food, entertainment and pictures of all the memories of Native West," said Horn of the April 5 party planned at the store. "It's my way of saying this is not a bad thing, but a terrific thing."

Horn, who has owned Native West for most of the store's 19 years, almost seemed destined to own the establishment that sells pottery, artwork and Indian reproductions.

'It will be an end-of-the-trail celebration with fun, food, entertainment and pictures of all the memories of Native West. It's my way of saying this is not a bad thing, but a terrific thing.'

ANNETTE HORN, owner, Native West

"I had been going out west for business meetings in my prior (retail) career, and that was my introduction to it," said Horn, 47, of Plymouth Township. "Little did I realize I would live it 24/7."

Horn said she tried to sell the business, but for various reasons a deal was never struck.

"It wouldn't matter if we were making a million dollars, it's time to move on," Horn said. "In order for me to look for my next challenge, I need to sever the ties. I've been trying to look while owning the business, but I can't run the

store and be out there looking.

"I've been in retail for 30 years, and I've loved every minute of it," she said. "But, I know there's something else out there for me, and I'm ready for great challenges."

Horn, who organizes the Great Lakes Regional Chili Cookoff every fall, said she'll continue to hold the event in downtown Plymouth.

"That's not going anywhere," said Horn. "We had our biggest year in 2007, and every year it keeps getting bigger."

The store won't remain empty for long. The Brass and Iron Bed Shop in Westchester Square on Forest Avenue will move in May 1, giving owner Pat Shockley almost double the floor space.

"We're also going to start selling jewelry, ladies apparel and gift items," said Shockley, who lives in Plymouth. "Visibility will be tremendous for me there."

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Residents miffed by short-notice decision

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

When Sharon Abbott moved into the McCool apartment complex on the northwest corner of Sheldon and North Territorial roads Oct. 1, the management company that owns the 40-unit complex was offering a \$1 move-in special.

After living in a flat where she had to be concerned about cutting grass and shoveling snow, the deal was just too good to pass up.

However, just four months later Abbott — and the other tenants — received a letter telling them they had 30 days to move because the complex will be torn down to make way for an assisted living complex.

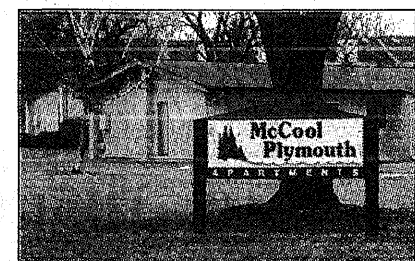
"I'm just really ticked because I love my place, it's everything I want in an apartment ... and it's cheaper," said Abbott, 65, who pays \$670 a month. "I just got settled, and I was going to have my daughter come over and help hang things on the wall."

"We need at least another couple of months," she said. "I work part time, and I can't be out looking for a place to live all the time."

Steve Carson, a representative of Finsilver/Friedman, the McCool management company which is selling the property, declined to comment on the short notice to tenants.

"We don't comment on situations between residents and the management company," said Carson.

Please see **RESIDENTS, A4**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Residents at the McCool apartment complex were given just 30 days' notice to find another home because the complex will be torn down to make room for an assisted living center.

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Number 49

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Coming Sunday
in Health



Book touts heart health benefits of dark chocolate

Music series

Join the congregation of St. John's Episcopal Church as they continue their artistic series "Music at St. John's: Resounding Art in a Sacred Space," 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15. University of Michigan graduate vocal students and award winners Rhea Olivaccé and Steven Tompkins will present a dual recital of art songs, spirituals, and scene's from Puccini's La Bohème.

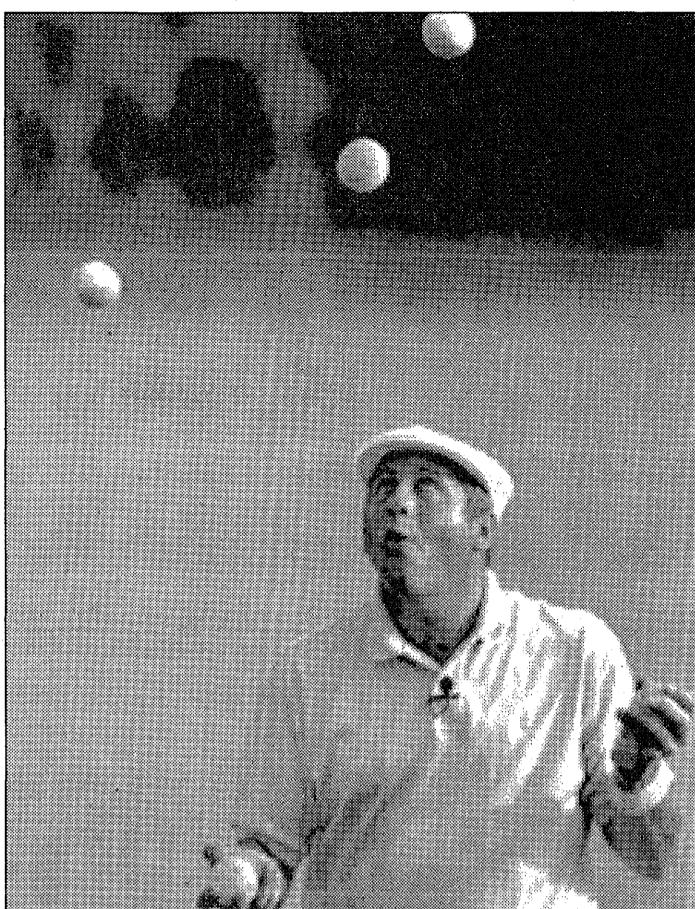
town Plymouth, It's part of a promotion called "Go Red for Women," an American Heart Association event promoting good heart health and supporting the fight against heart disease in women.

Wearing red

The Plymouth Downtown Development Authority hosts a Heart Health Open House 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8, with guest speaker Lisa McDowell, Chief Clinical Nutritionist with St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, at 12:30 p.m., at the DDA office in down-

Easter cheer

As a community service project, a handful of Plymouth Newcomers & Neighbors teens have volunteered to assemble Easter baskets in hopes of bringing lots of cheer to those children in need.



Yo-yo, man

The Friends of the Plymouth District Library will bring popular children's entertainer Zeemo the Yo-Yo Man to the library 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12. Designed for students ages 9-12 and their families, Zeemo's program will include his many yo-yo tricks, the science of spinning and the 'Travelling Yo-Yo Museum.' Registration is requested for this free program; call (734) 453-0750.

are in need of the following items: Cellophane for wrapping, Easter grass, basket fillers for both boys and girls ages 3-17 and bubbles, CDs, candy, chalk, cars, lotions, nail polish, Pokemon cards, etc.

attending a free introductory session of Motor City Speak Easy club, a chartered club of Toastmaster's International. Meetings are held the second and fourth Monday of the month, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at St. Johns Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon Road, just north of Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth.

Speaking easy

Are you afraid to speak in public? Ease the fear by

2007 A Year of Good Works. Charities and community organizations in Oakland County and beyond benefited by the support of Weir Manuel Realtors and its agents in 2007. Among the recipients: American Heart Association, American Red Cross, Art & Apples, Birmingham Community House, Birmingham Concert Band, Birmingham "In the Park" Concert Series, Birmingham Lions Club, Birmingham Seaholm Boosters, Birmingham Seaholm High School, Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce, Camp Casey Horse Camp for Kids with Cancer, Children's Charities Coalition, Cornerstone Schools, Cranbrook Schools, Crittenden Hospital, Detroit Country Day School, Det. Symphony Orchestra, Hospice Of Southern MI, Kensington Academy, Lighthouse of Oakland County, March Of Dimes, Muscular Dystrophy Assoc., National Multiple Sclerosis, Roper Parent Council, Royal Oak Youth Football, Schroeder Elementary Dinner Auction, Special Olympics, United Way, USA Hockey Club, Variety - Children's Charity, West Bloomfield Chamber Of Commerce, W. Bloomfield Rotary Club, Woodward Dream Cruise.

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bers. For more information, please call Karen at (734) 425-4181 or Creflo at (248) 374-0501. Book signing. Award-winning poet Cheryl A. Martin of Canton recent was honored in the 76th Writer's Digest Writing Competition for her non-rhyming poem, "More Than 58,000 Names Etched," a unique haiku which won 12th place out of 100 national winners.

"Today, there are 6.7 billion people living on the planet Earth. Over 300 million live in the United States alone. In such a crowded world, do the actions of one individual matter? Can the one have an impact on the many - for good or for bad? Is there any point in policing our own actions when there are so many other people counteracting our gains? If it's possible to make a significant change, how could one person go about doing it?"

Civitan essays

The Plymouth-Canton Civitan Club sponsors its annual essay contest with first-, second- and third-place winners winning \$500, \$300 and \$200, respectively. Any student under 21 who is enrolled as a full-time student in any high school - public, private or parochial - in the Plymouth-Canton School District can compete.

DAR meets

The Daughters of the American Revolution Northville/Plymouth/Livonia meet 10:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 18, at the Plymouth District Library in downtown Plymouth. The meeting is the chapter's Good Citizen Reception. Guest speaker will be 20th District Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON INVITATION TO BID. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, February 21, 2008 for the following: LOWER ROUGE RIVER RECREATION TRAIL HEAD PROJECT. Bid documents are available for pick up as of Jan. 31, 2008 at Canton Township 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48187.

CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT 1150 S. CANTON CENTER RD. CANTON, MI 48188. The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction February 12, 2008 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.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON INVITATION TO BID. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, February 21, 2008 for the following: LIQUID CALCIUM CHLORIDE DUST CONTROL APPLICATION. Bids may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department, on our website at www.canton-mi.org.

Charter Township of Canton Board Proceedings- January 29, 2008. A regular study meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton held Tuesday, January 29, 2008 at 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the pledge of allegiance.

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Designer crafted big role in history

Spring training begins this month when the pitchers and catchers report to Lakeland, Fla., for the 72nd season at Tiger Town. Baseball came to Plymouth in 1866. Contrary to popular myth, Abner Doubleday did not invent baseball. Some historians point to the British game of "rounders" as being the precursor of the game that started to take hold with children in the 1830s and 1840s in the U.S.

At that time, leisure activities such as sports were not popular with adult males, who were expected to make more productive use of their time. By the 1850s, however, men were forming "base ball" clubs and adapting the boys' game to a game with regulations and competitions.

The Franklin Club in Detroit, formed in 1857, was perhaps the first club west of New York that played by the rules established by eastern clubs. Teams came and went over the next decade. In 1865, there were 16 baseball clubs in Michigan; by the end of 1866 the state had 102, including the newly formed Plymouth Lone Stars.

The first known reference to organized baseball in Plymouth was a game played against the Fowler's Corner Eagles Oct. 25, 1866. Eight days later, the team challenged the Union Club of Wayne. A year later, the Lone Stars faced off against the month-old Northville Eclipse, the first baseball club in that village.

While no Plymouth clubs made it to the majors, many teams have been formed and flourished through the years, from high school teams to those sponsored by local busi-



Postcards from the Past
Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens

nesses. In April 1894, a group of men met at Vandecar's barber shop to form a baseball association, with George W. Hunter (village president) as chairman and E. C. Hough as secretary.

At the same time, the group formed a committee to establish a baseball club.

As early as 1909, Daisy Manufacturing Company was sponsoring a baseball team that, at least in 1911, took the place of the defunct Plymouth village team. By 1946, the Daisy-sponsored team competed in the Western Wayne County Class D league composed of other business-sponsored teams, including Weidman Ford of Plymouth.

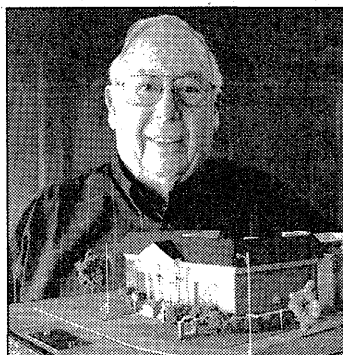
On Aug. 17, 1949, the Daisy Boys Team took its place in history when pitcher Dave Reitzel threw a no-hit, no-run game against Highland Park. Reitzel was between his junior and senior years at Plymouth High School, and was a pitcher for the school's Plymouth Rocks baseball team during the school year. The no-hitter was Reitzel's 11th win of the year (between the Plymouth Rocks and the Daisy team) and helped propel the Daisy team into the finals of the Michigan Recreation Association tournament.

Reitzel was born in 1932 in Hammond, Ind. After his father died in 1942, his

mother was hired by McLaren Plymouth Elevator Company and the family moved to Plymouth. Reitzel started pitching in the summer league after seventh grade, pitched through high school, and pitched in the summer league for Daisy from 1946-51. At the same time, he spent his winters playing basketball. In fact, he attended Lawrence Institute of Technology on a basketball scholarship.

But Reitzel's talents for sports were overshadowed by his artistic ability. He designed all of the school posters for dances and sports. He took art classes all four years of high school, and by the time he reached Lawrence Tech, his reputation for sign-making was well established. That talent, combined with his basketball skills, led to the four-year, full scholarship.

Reitzel graduated with a degree in architectural engineering, and after a two-year tour in the Navy, he went to work at Wheeler and Becker Architects. He received his registration as an architect in 1963. He did many of the drawings for the current Plymouth City Hall, as well as additions to what is now Central Middle School. His most notable design in Plymouth, however,



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dave Reitzel's miniature of the Plymouth Historical Museum took over 300 hours to complete.

can be viewed at the corner of Main and Church Streets — the Plymouth Historical Museum. Reitzel designed both the original building in 1972 and the 2001 addition.

Reitzel was working for another architectural firm in Wayne when Margaret Dunning, the museum's benefactor, contacted him. Reitzel and Dunning had a history that dated back to his high school

days. At that time, Dunning had hired him to keep the sports scores up to date in the window of Dunning's Department Store on Main Street. She knew that Reitzel was a qualified architect and she has hired him to design the Museum, the addition, and various exhibit elements over the past three decades.

Reitzel eventually retired in 1997 as the head of the architectural department at Wayne State University. Now he offers his many talents as a volunteer at the Plymouth Historical Museum two mornings a week in the maintenance department.

Shortly after the Museum addition was completed, Reitzel started a project that combined many of his skills — architectural design, model making, computer-aided design, and art. In December, after about 340 hours over five years, he presented the Plymouth Historical Society with an N-scale (1/160) exact-replica exterior model of the Museum. Visitors to the

Museum can view the model on display near the front offices.

Reitzel's contributions to Plymouth history and architecture, and to the Plymouth Historical Museum, remain long after the memory of his no-hitter has faded. Beginning tomorrow, Museum visitors can see Reitzel's Daisy baseball uniform, along with Detroit Tigers memorabilia on loan from Ilitch Holdings, Inc., and other classic baseball items in the Museum's new exhibit, "Batter Up! Generations of Baseball." The Museum, located at 155 S. Main Street in Plymouth, is open Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1-4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for students 5-17, and \$10 for families. Groups can be accommodated, but please call first (734-455-8940).

Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens is executive director of the Plymouth Historical Museum. She can be reached via e-mail at director@plymouthhistory.org or by calling (734) 455-8940.

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RESIDENTS

FROM PAGE A1

Another McCool resident, who declined to give his name, said the company is creating a hardship.

"We're in the middle of

winter and they gave us only 30-days notice," he said. "You know how involved it is to move ... trying to find a place, getting movers and time off work, all in a few weeks."

"They were doing soil samples, and when I called they told me nothing was going on," he added. "In fact, they were still moving in people."

Sunrise Senior Living senior vice president Laura Hester said the assisted living community to be constructed on

the 2.7-acre corner will have 78 units and house about 90 residents.

"We'll be submitting construction documents to the city in the spring, and we hope to get a late summer start," said Hester. "We'll have residents in about 14 months after we begin construction."

Sunrise has 16 properties in southeastern Michigan, with the closest in Northville Township on Haggerty, north of Five Mile.



Gospel Concert

Many Voices...One Song Sunday, February 10, 7pm

Come join the Many Voices...One Song Festival Choir and Ward Church's Children's Choir, accompanied by a percussion ensemble from Oakland University, as together we celebrate music from the African-American tradition, including beloved spirituals and gospel music. This family-friendly concert opens with a lively procession of singers and drumming. Admission is free; donations will be accepted. Child care is provided through age 4.

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Legal Notice
Charter Township of Plymouth
2007 Winter Taxes

Winter Taxes are due December 1, 2007 and payable through February 14, 2008 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. **MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH.** Payments can be made at the Township Hall, 9955 Haggerty Road during regular working hours, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. After hours payments can be placed in the 24 hr **WHITE DROP BOX** located along the circular drive.

LaSalle Bank Offices will also accept payment for your convenience through February 14, 2008.

RON EDWARDS
Treasurer
Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: February 7, 2008
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AROUND TOWN

Financial Peace University
Kirk of Our Savior in Westland hosts a free preview 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, (baby-sitting will be available) to allow families to review the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University Program. Dave Ramsey is a personal money management expert and a popular radio personality, author of the New York Times best-seller The Total Money Makeover, Financial Peace and More Than Enough. Ramsey knows first-hand what financial peace means in his own life after having had a multi-million dollar business and then losing it all. Those interested in following the dynamic program will have an opportunity to sign up and purchase a 13-week seminar the night of Feb. 10. For those who purchase the program, it will begin 7-9 p.m. Monday, Feb. 25, and run for 13 weeks. For more information, contact Bonnie at (734) 994-0569 or see the Dave Ramsey Web site at www.daveramsey.com

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The Ann Arbor Civic Ballet is searching

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

for choreographers from throughout Michigan to showcase their original pieces in the second annual Dance Michigan performance. AACB seeks all types of dance styles from classical ballet to modern dance set to music from Classical composers to Top Forty and everything in between. The performance will take place on Saturday, April 19, at the Saline High School Ellen Ewing Center for the Performing Arts, featuring an 1,100-seat auditorium with full-fly tower, green room, scene shop and dressing rooms. For more information on participating in the show or sponsoring Dance Michigan visit www.annarbortviballet.com or contact Mary Combi at (734) 668-8066 or mcombi@comcast.net

Great Decisions
The Northville/Novi AAUW Great Decisions group meets 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21. E-mail Karen Bunting buntingk@comcast.net to attend. New members welcome. Great Decisions is a Interest Group of the Northville/Novi Branch of the American Association of University Women. We will discuss the concept of foreign aid and its transformation with new forms of assistance, new donors, and new ways of measuring success.

Hospice volunteers
The Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan is looking for kind, compassionate individuals to help support hospice patients and their families in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. Volunteers are needed Monday through Friday during day time hours. There is a particular need for male volunteers to support male hospice patients. The next training session is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 9, 16, and 23. Attendance at all three sessions is required. All training takes place at the Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan headquarters at 25900 Greenfield, Suite 600. An interview is required. Call (800) 882-5720, Ext 8361, or direct at (248) 967-8361. Also visit the VNA Web site at www.vna.org.

Gardeners meet
The Gardeners of Northville and Novi meet the second Tuesday of the month September through May at 6:30 p.m. Locations rotate between Novi Civic Center and the Northville Library. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call (248) 231-2334 or visit our Web site www.gardeners-northville-novi.org

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Ticket Kiosk & Tickets Online
www.GQTI.com
734-844-FILM

DETROIT'S BEST MOVIE DEAL
ALL LOUNGER SEATS
ALL DIGITAL SOUND
ALL STADIUM SEATING
BIG SCREENS
\$4.00 ALL SEATS
EXCEPT ADULT EVE. **\$6.50**

Free drink refills & 25¢ corn refills
No passes
SHOWTIMES 2/8 - 2/13

WELCOME HOME ROSCOE JENKINS (PG-13)
11:30, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:55
THE EYE (PG-13)
12:05, 2:25, 4:50, 7:05, 9:20
FR/SAT LS 11:35
RAMBO (R)
12:30, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:35
FR/SAT LS 11:45
27 DRESSES (PG-13)
11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25
FR/SAT LS 11:50
CLOVERFIELD (PG-13)
7:45, 9:50
FR/SAT LS 11:55
THE BUCKET LIST (PG-13)
12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
FR/SAT LS 11:55
JUNO (PG-13)
12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:30
FR/SAT LS 11:45
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG)
11:00, 1:05, 3:10, 5:20

COUPON
FREE 20oz DRINK
with \$2.75 purchase
of 46oz bag of Nature's popcorn
www.alltheater.com Exp. 2/28/08

MAYFLOWER TOWING
1179 STARKWEATHER
PLYMOUTH, MI 48170
734-459-0053
NOTICE OF SALE

The following vehicles will be sold at Public Auction for cash to satisfy lien pursuant to F.S. 713.78 On February 14, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

1979	Century	Boat	CEB9A073M79A
1995	Volkswagen	Golf III Sport	3VWBA81H8SM010877
1995	Mazda	Protege DX/LX	JM1BA1418S0180801
1999	Dodge	Intrepid	2B3HD46R5XH636358
1994	Ford	Taurus GL	1FALP5244RG172192
1993	Volkswagen	Fox GL	9BWGA2305PP010730
2002	Chevrolet	Blazer	1GNCS18W42K146051
1998	Ford	Escort SE/Sport	1FAPP13P9WW298578

OE8585012 - 242.5

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

OE8584471 - 242.5

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, February 21, 2008 for the following:

CANTON RELIEF SEWER PROJECT - PHASE II DENTON ROAD RELIEF SEWER

Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud for the following approximate quantities of work:

Construction of approximately 3,783 linear feet (LF) of 18-inch and 3,000 LF of 15-inch of sanitary sewer by open cut method, 340 LF of bore and jack of 36-inch steel casing pipe, removal and replacement of approximately 1,110 LF of storm sewer varying in size from 12-inch to 21-inch, associated structures, restoration and related work.

Contract Documents are on file with Ms. Terry Bennett, the Township Clerk.

Contract Documents may be examined at the following locations: Charter Township of Canton, 1150 South Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48188-1699; McGraw Hill Construction - Dodge, Plan Room, 20475 Woodingham Drive, Detroit, Michigan 48221-1260; Construction Association of Michigan, 43636 Woodward, P.O. Box 3204, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302; Construction News Service, 1773 RW Berends Drive S.W., Wyoming, MI 49519; and Michael L. Priest & Associates, Inc., 40655 Koppnick Road, Canton, Michigan 48187.

Copies thereof for bidding purposes may be obtained at the office(s) of Michael L. Priest & Associates, Inc., 40655 Koppnick Road, Canton, Michigan 48187, starting on Thursday, January 31st 2008, upon making a payment of fifty (\$50.00) Dollars if picked up or sixty-five (\$65.00) Dollars if mailed (checks or money orders only - payable to Michael L. Priest & Associates, no cash), none of which will be refunded.

Each Proposal shall be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, money order, or bid bond, in the amount of at least five (5) percent of the amount bid, drawn payable to the Charter Township of Canton as security for the proper execution of the Agreement. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the Project Name, Bidder's name, address and telephone number, and the date and time of bid opening.

A mandatory prebid meeting will be held at 1000 a.m., Monday, February 11th, 2008 at Canton DPW Building, 4847 Sheldon Road, Canton, Michigan. Representatives of OWNER and ENGINEER will be present to discuss the Project. Bidders are required to attend the prebid meeting.

The deadline for questions regarding the Project is Wednesday, February 13th, 2008 at Close of Business, 5:00PM.

The Charter Township of Canton reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to waive any informality in any bids should it consider same to be in its best interest. 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.

Bids may not be withdrawn for the period of 60 days after date of receiving bids.

All inquiries shall be directed to Mr. Michael L. Priest or Mr. Tim Zimmer at 734-459-8560.

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

OE8583428-2410

Now is the time for fewer bills and more savings.

Northville Banking Office

GRAND OPENING

Open Mon - Thur: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. • Fri: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. • Sat: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
44190 Five Mile Road • 734-414-5306

For a limited time at our new Huntington location in Northville, you can get **0.50% off a Huntington Home Equity Loan or Personal Credit Line*** It's the perfect way to lower your rate or monthly payment. To learn more, stop by our Northville Banking Office located at 44190 Five Mile Road.

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*Important information about this offer: Subject to application and approval and acceptable appraisal and title search. To receive the 0.50% discount, borrower must establish optional automatic payment from a Huntington deposit account (0.25% discount) and qualify for a Huntington Checking Package discount (0.25%).
*Loan rates are determined by specific underwriting criteria, such as credit history, loan amount, loan term, loan to value ratio and owner occupancy status. Programs and conditions are subject to change. Insurance must be carried on the property securing the loan, and if it is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area, flood insurance may be required.
*Rates are determined by adding an index and a margin. The margin is determined by specific underwriting criteria, such as credit history, loan amount, loan to value ratio and owner occupancy status. Rate is variable, and can change monthly, but will never be higher than 18.0%. Programs and conditions are subject to change. Insurance must be carried on the property securing the loan, and if it is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area, flood insurance may be required. There may be an early cancellation fee of \$250 if you close your account within 3 years. Minimum payment requirement is interest only for the first 10 years of the account, followed by a 20-year repayment period. Making only the minimum payment during the first 10 years will not reduce the principal balance on the account. Minimum payments will be higher during the repayment period to allow for the repayment of principal.
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* Valentine

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English

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Pink, Sparkling from Australia
Fresh, Floral & Fruity Reg. \$12.99

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5" Heartshaped
Cheesecake **\$3.99**

LOBSTER TAILS

4 OZ **\$8.99**
6 OZ **\$12.99**
8 OZ **\$16.99**

8 OZ
COLD WATER
LOBSTER TAIL
ALSO AVAILABLE

BLAZO'S PIE SHOPPE

Fresh 6" Strawberry Pie **\$6.49**

Fruit Pies-All Flavors* **\$10.99**
*Available Feb. 7th - 17th

DELI

Boar's Head
Low Sodium
"POLISH STYLE"
HAM **\$5.39** lb.

Boar's Head
CAJUN STYLE ROAST BEEF **\$5.79** lb.

Boar's Head
LACEY SWISS **\$5.79** lb.

Black Eyed Pea
SALAD **\$4.99** lb.
Reg. \$5.99

Seafood
SALAD **\$6.99** lb.
Reg. \$7.49

Apricot Pecan
WILD RICE **\$6.99** lb.
Reg. \$7.99

All Dietz & Watson
DELICATESSEN
MEATS **\$1.00** off

WINE/BEVERAGES

Bell's
TWO HEARTED ALE **\$7.99**
6 pk. + dep.

PRODUCE

Tall-N-Tender
ASPARAGUS **\$1.69** lb.

Dole of California
Leafy Bagged
ROMAINE **2/\$4.00**

Crisp, Aunt Mid
CELERY HEARTS **2/\$3.00**

Fresh, Aunt Mid
CLASSIC SPINACH **99¢** bag

Vine-Ripened
TOMATOES **99¢** lb.

GROCERY/DAIRY

Post
BREAKFAST CEREAL **2/\$5.00** 13 oz
your choice *Fruity Pebbles *Cocoa Pebbles

Hidden Valley
RANCH DRESSING **2/\$6.00** 24 oz
your choice *Light Original *Original *Buttermilk

Welch
GRAPE JUICE **2/\$5.00** 64 oz
your choice *100% Grape *White Grape

Tropicana
Pure Premium
ORANGE JUICE **2/\$6.00** 64 oz
your choice *Original * Grovestand * with Calcium * Grovestand with Calcium

Land O Lakes
Grade AA
BUTTER **2/\$5.00** 1 lb. 4's
Regular Only

All Bareman
MILK **\$2.89** gal.
Excluding Chocolate

Ben & Jerry's
ICE CREAM **2/\$6.00** Pint
All Varieties

BUTCHER

GROUND SIRLOIN **\$2.99** lb.

Boneless
ENGLISH ROAST **\$2.99** lb.

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T-BONE STEAK **\$8.99** lb.

Usda Choice
PORTERHOUSE STEAK **\$9.99** lb.

SEAFOOD

CATFISH **\$4.99** lb.

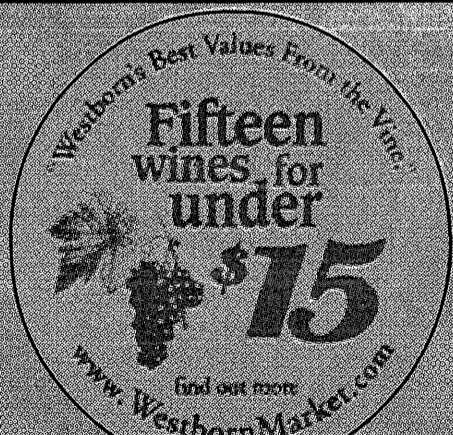
ORGANIC SHRIMP **\$6.99** 20 oz bag
4 Varieties BLUE HORIZON

ATLANTIC COD **\$6.99** lb.

Pineapple Teriyaki
SALMON FILETS **\$8.99** lb.

Watch For Our Lenten Specials

Congratulations to
Alec J, 6-Year-Old
of Redford.
Winner of our
Goldfish Contest.
Call 734-524-1000
Ask for Bob in Seafood



Specials Valid in Livonia Only!

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14925 Middlebelt
734-524-1000

BERKLEY
Woodward & 11 Mile
248-547-1000

DEARBORN
Michigan Ave. & Oakwood
313-274-6100

Store Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30-8; Sat. 8-8; Sun. 8-7

Prices Valid February 7th through February 17th
excluding holidays specials

RELIGION
FROM PAGE A6

Heart Byzantine Catholic Church Banquet Hall, 29125 W. Six Mile, east of Middlebelt, Livonia. \$10 donation at the door covers hall and refreshments. RSVP by Feb. 20. Call (734) 422-0278. Presented by Pascha Books & Gifts now located at the Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church. Learn how the words are based on scriptural texts.

Clothing bank
Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank is open 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 23, and the fourth Saturday of every month, at the church, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy, between Haggerty and Lilley. Free clothing for men, women and children. For more information, call (734) 404-2480 or visit www.CantonCF.org.

Lenten symposium
Saturday, Feb. 23, at St. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church, 41233 Ryan, Sterling Heights. Featured

speaker is the Rev. Monsignor Charles Mangan of the Vatican's Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. Cost is \$40 advance (\$45 at door), \$20 students, free for seminarians. All speakers also attend the youth symposium (cost \$15 for ages 12-17). Registration begins at 7 a.m., followed by Mass at 8 a.m. For more information, visit www.holytrinityapostolate.com, send e-mail to barbaram@sbcglobal.net or call Shirley at (313) 277-8905, Jerene (248) 625-2461 or Bonnie (586) 781-8523. Registration form must be received by Feb. 20.

Widowed Friends
Widowed men and women of all ages are invited to a 2:30 p.m. Mass Sunday, Feb. 24, followed by fellowship and refreshments at St. Columban Parish, 1775 Melton, north of 14 mile between Woodward and Coolidge. Enter the building door in back closest to rear parking lot. For information, call Marilyn at (586) 739-9406.

Men's retreat
Feb. 29 to March 2, at St. Paul of the

Cross Retreat Center, Outer Drive and I-96. Single rooms, own bath, all meals. Cost is approximately \$125. Call Ruben at (734) 261-5321 for appointment.

UPCOMING

Bethany Suburban West
Monthly dance 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, March 1, at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago at Inkster Rd., Redford. Cost is \$10, refreshments included. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. DJ is Dick Gerathy. Call Diane for information (734) 261-5716.

VBS summer ministries
The International Christian Education Association presents its 42nd preview 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 1, at Ward Church, Six Mile and Haggerty, Northville. Get a head start on your church's summer program by viewing exhibits and demonstrations from national publishers, attend 4 of 20 workshops on organizing, planning and administering summer programs, also make and take puppetry and teaching techniques, morning refreshments and lunch included in

registration fee. The event is non-denominational and open to the public. Call (248) 557-5526 or visit www.iceaonline.org.

Garage sale
Includes household items, tools, books, games, toys, electronic toys/games/equipment, clean, gently used children's clothing & baby items 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, March 7, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 8, Grab bag noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, at St. Aidan Activity Center, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia. Admission \$1 per person. Garage sale donations accepted before and after masses March 1-2 in parish garage. No furniture, adult clothing accepted. No strollers permitted during sale. For information, call Ruth McCarthy at (734) 464-5973.

Bethany Suburban West
Lenten Mass 9 a.m. Sunday, March 9, at Madonna Chapel, Schoolcraft and Levan, Livonia. Please use the Newburg entrance, breakfast to follow. Call Kathy for details (734) 513 9479.
Game Night 7:30-10 p.m. Friday, March

14, at the St. Linus Activity Center at the school. Cost is \$5 or bring a snack or dessert for at least 10 people or a couple of large bottles of pop (regular and diet), and we will supply the paper products and coffee. Play cards or board games for the evening. There will be prizes. Call Kathy for details and directions (734) 513-9479 or Michele (313) 996-8644.

Easter season worship
9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Palm Sunday, March 16; 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday, March 20, and 9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Easter Sunday, March 23, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia; noon Good Friday, March 21, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, Livonia and 7 p.m. Good Friday, at Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt, Livonia (contemporary service), and 7 a.m. Easter Sunday at Greenmead Historical Park on Newburgh, north of Eight Mile, Livonia. For information, call (734) 422-0149.

Bethany Suburban West
Monthly breakfast 9:30 a.m. Saturday

March 22, at Leon's Family Dining 30149 Ford Road, south side (next to Tim Horton's), Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For details, call Kathy (734) 513-9479.
Monthly dance 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, April 5, at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago at Inkster Rd., Redford. Cost is \$10, refreshments included. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. DJ is Dick Gerathy. Call Diane for information (734) 261-5716.
Game Night 7:30-10 p.m. Friday, March 14, at the St. Linus Activity Center at the school. Cost is \$5 or bring a snack or dessert for at least 10 people or a couple of large bottles of pop (regular and diet), and we will supply the paper products and coffee. Play cards or board games for the evening. There will be prizes. Call Kathy for details and directions (734) 513-9479 or Michele (313) 996-8644.
Monthly breakfast 9:30 a.m. Saturday April 19, at Leon's Family Dining 30149 Ford Road, south side (next to Tim Horton's), Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For details, call Kathy (734) 513-9479.

Your Invitation To Worship

BAPTIST

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

33640 Michigan Ave. • Wayne, MI (Between Wayne Rd. & Merriman Rd.) (734) 728-2180
Virgil Humes, Pastor



Saturday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Sunday Worship 7:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. • Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Praise Service 6:00 p.m. • Wednesday Children, Youth and Adult Bible Study 7:00-8:30 p.m.

UNITED METHODIST

Clarenceville United Methodist
20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia
248-474-3444
Pastor Beth Librande
Worship Service 9:30 AM
Sunday School 11:00 AM
Nursery Provided

Redford Aldersgate United Methodist
10000 Beech Daly
313-937-3170
9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sun. Sch.
11:00 - Contemp. Family Worship
www.redfordaldersgate.org

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

14175 Farmington Road, Livonia just north of I-96
734-522-6830

Sunday Worship
8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional
Staffed Nursery Available



Sunday/Bible Class
9:45 am
Early Childhood Center
Phone 734-513-8413

Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ
Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creeden

CATHOLIC

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Immemorial Latin Mass
Approved by Pope St. Pius V in 1570
St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8
23310 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan
5 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121
Mass Schedule:
First Fri. 7:00 p.m.
First Sat. 11:00 a.m.
Sun. Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m.
Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass
Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions
Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.

EVANGELICAL COVENANT

FAITH COVENANT CHURCH
14 Mile Road and Drake, Farmington Hills
(248) 661-9191
Sunday Worship
and Children's Church
9:15 a.m. Contemporary
11:00 a.m. Traditional
Child Care provided for all services
Youth Groups • Adult Small Groups

"More than Sunday Services"

Worship Services 9:00 & 11:15 a.m.
• Dynamic Youth and Children's Programs
• Excellent Music Ministries
• Small Groups For Every Age
• Outreach Opportunities
Pastor:
Dr. John Grenfell III
Associate Pastor: Rev. David Wichert
First United Methodist Church of Plymouth
45201 North Territorial Road (West of Sheldon Road)
(734) 453-5280
www.pfumc.org

NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Minds & Doors"
36500 Ann Arbor Trail between Wayne & Newburgh Rds.
734-422-0149
Worship Service and Sunday School
9:15 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Rev. Marsha M. Woolley
Visit our website: www.newburgumc.org

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY
313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP.
Worship Service
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Sunday School
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Nursery Provided
The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor

HOSANNA-TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

9600 Levee • So. Redford • 313-937-2424
"Vacancy Pastor - Rev. Carl Rockrohr"
Sunday Morning Worship
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Education Hour 9:45 a.m.
Christian School
Pre-Kindergarten-8th Grade
For more information call
313-937-2233

St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church
St. Genevieve School - PreK-8
29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220
(East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries)
MASS: Tues. 7 p. Wed., Thurs. 9 a.
Sat. 4 p., Sun 11a

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church
33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City, MI 48135
(1 block west of Veno) Phone: 734-524-0880
Pastor: **Eddie Petreaca**
Meetings on Saturdays for:
Early Morning Bible & Health Class-8 a.m.
Worship Service-English-9:30 a.m.
Sabbath School (all ages)-11:00 a.m.
Worship Service-Hispanic-12:30 p.m.
Wednesdays:
Prayer Meeting-7 p.m.

NON DENOMINATIONAL

BELL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH
Casual, Contemporary, Excellent Children's Program
Meets at Franklin H.S. in Livonia on Joy Road (Between Merriman and Middlebelt Roads) at 10:00 a.m.
734-425-1174
Join us for coffee, bagels and donuts after the service!

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ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.)
(734) 422-0494
www.rosedalegardens.org
Chapel Worship Service
9:00 am
Traditional Service
10:30 am
WE WELCOME YOU TO A FULL SERVICE CHURCH

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church
40000 Six Mile Road
"just west of I-275"
Northville, MI
248-374-7400
Traditional Worship
9:00 & 10:20 A.M.
Contemporary Worship
9:00 A.M.
Nursery & Sunday School During All Morning Worship Services
Evening Service • 7:00 p.m.
Service Broadcast
11:00 A.M. Sunday
WRDT-AM 560
The WMUZ Word Station
For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org

Risen Christ Lutheran

David W. Martin, Pastor
46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (1 Mile W. of Sheldon)
(734) 453-5252
Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am
Sunday School 9:30 am
Adult Bible Study 9:30 am
Nursery Care Available
Wednesday Lenten Worship
Feb. 6 - March 12, 7:00 p.m.
www.risenchrist.info

CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525
Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.
Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.
NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER
(734) 455-3196

PRESBYTERIAN

Fellowship Presbyterian Church
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire
Services held at: **Madonna University's Kresge Hall**
36600 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia
Parking lot is on N.W. corner of Levan & Schoolcraft • Nursery provided

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth
1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI
734-453-0970
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Reading Room located at church
Saturday 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.
734-453-0970

St. James Presbyterian Church, USA

25350 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7730
Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm
Nursery Care Provided • Handicapped Accessible
Rev. Paul S. Bousquette

LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
17810 FARMINGTON ROAD
LIVONIA (734) 261-1360
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.
website: www.stpaulsilivonia.org

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Timothy Lutheran Church
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation
8820 Wayne Rd. (Between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road)
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Jill Hegdal, Pastor
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OUR VIEWS

Comcast, don't touch that dial

A Comcast executive apologized last week for failing to communicate adequately and work cooperatively with local communities over the company's plans to move public-access cable channels to the 900 level on the program grid.

Now, we hope Comcast takes the next step and drops its plans.

That would be good news for everyone who cares about what the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees, the Plymouth City Commission and the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education are up to. It would be welcome news for local officials, too, who encourage citizen participation.

Although neither the city commission nor the township board have done so, a number of communities have passed resolutions opposing the plan to shift public, education and government, or PEG, channels because they want residents to be able to find broadcasts of public meetings. The resolution has been discussed among city commission and township board members, but no action has yet been taken.

Communities who have passed such resolutions say moving the channels from the lower tier, where they have been for years, would make them less accessible for subscribers, who may eventually stop viewing them.

How many people will have the patience to scroll past the pay-per-view and adult channel menu to find their local city council or school board meeting? How many people will even know they will still be able to find them?

Not only will a move to the 900 level inconvenience residents, it will result in added costs.

Viewers would need special converter boxes for each TV to access the channels because they will be carried in digital instead of analog format. Comcast has offered to supply one converter box per household for free after the change — but just for the first year.

On Jan. 14, U.S. District Judge Victoria Roberts placed a temporary restraining order on the cable provider, halting its plan to shift PEG channels after Dearborn and Meridian Township, near Lansing, filed suit.

Comcast argues the move is needed because of competitive pressures and technological changes.

But we hope the company sees the greater need to continue its longtime commitment to public access.

Cooperation critical to moving state forward

Gov. Jennifer Granholm's State of the State address fell on largely deaf ears last week. But that fact should not discount the significance of her speech before the Michigan Legislature, or the importance of several new initiatives offered in the address.

The governor had the misfortune of giving her sixth State of the State address one day after President George W. Bush delivered his State of the Union address, and just prior to Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's televised "I'm sorry" speech regarding his apparent affair with his now-former chief of staff and subsequent perjury allegations.

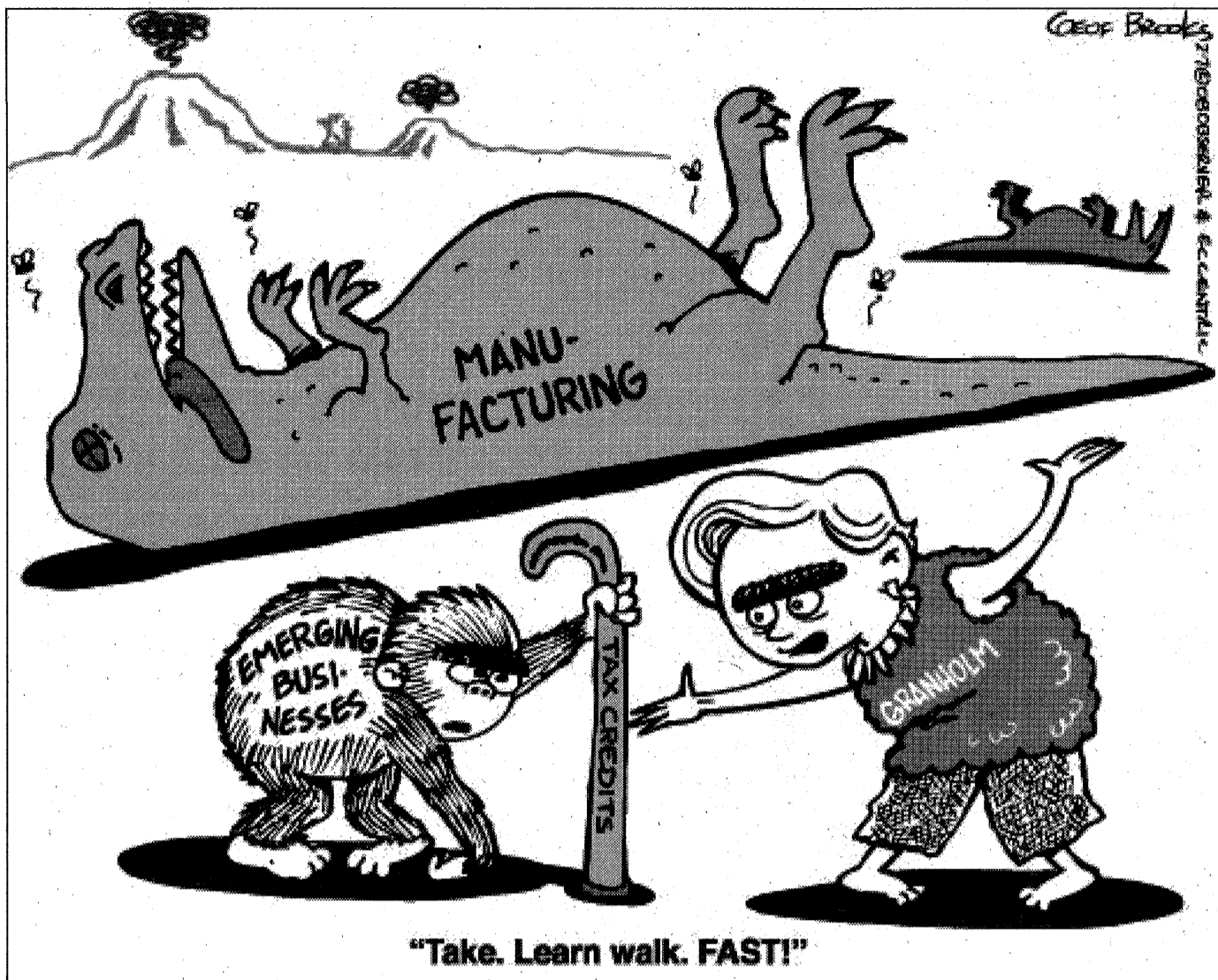
Hopefully, state legislators will pay more attention to the governor's budget when it is delivered to them in the next couple of weeks than to the growing Kilpatrick scandal. The governor's proposals will be fleshed out in the budget document, and will need the support of both the Democrat-controlled state House and Republican-controlled Senate to be realized.

Both Granholm and Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop have pledged to set aside the partisan bickering that nearly bankrupted the state last fall and work together to draft a budget that both sides can live with. That's a far cry from last year, when every Granholm initiative was shot down by the Senate without being given serious consideration. New and bold initiatives should not be Republican plans or Democrat plans, but instead proposals that are best for all Michigan residents.

The governor called for several such proposals in her State of the State address, including opening dozens of new, smaller high schools, starting a massive retraining program for thousands of displaced workers, undertaking a huge advertising blitz to lure new jobs and tourists to the state and pumping millions of new dollars into our colleges and universities.

It would be hard for anyone — Democrat or Republican — to argue the merits of these proposals. But it will take both sides working together to determine how these proposals will be created and, more importantly, how they will be funded.

If the budget process again is reduced to personal attacks and partisan bickering, there may be a whole lot of state politicians looking for work after the November elections.



Recall effort is waste

I read with concern an article about a recall effort against state Rep. Marc Corriveau. I am concerned because he is one of about 10 representatives that a vigilante group by the name of "Michigan Taxpayers' Alliance" has targeted to attack and attempt to remove from office without reason.

Their intent seems to be to harass Democratic legislators in order to set the stage for more of their tainted friends to get into office.

Make no mistake, this is a perverted use of our laws intended to tear from us our natural rights as Michigan citizens.

Secretary of State Terry Lynn Land, a Republican herself, seems to be greasing the skids for the "MTA" and Leon Drolet (an ex-state representative) and his motley crew.

I am a Republican. It is my opinion that Leon Drolet, John Hett, Rose Bogaert and others involved in these actions are acting in bad faith. Their actions seem very much like those I would expect from the remnants of the John Birch Society or Ku Klux Klan that Michigan once harbored in large numbers.

It appears that Land's office is providing, apparently, aid and succor to a Republican crony like Leon Drolet. If it didn't cost so much money and waste so much time Drolet's frenetic activity would be droll.

Recently in Canton Clerk Terry Bennett stated that to add just one item to the ballot could cost as much as \$50,000.

Leon Drolet is orchestrating, I understand, about 10 recall actions simultaneously. The cost for these actions ultimately is much more than \$50,000. What is happening here is not something small and insignificant.

Marc Corriveau has been acting in good faith in his position as my state representative. I have looked at the records of the others that Drolet is attempting to undermine and the picture I get, after looking at campaign contribution records for Drolet, is that he may be taking orders from out of state and serving the private interests of his contributors rather than working for the people of Michigan.

Alfred Brock
Wayne

It's simple: Help our fellow man

Thank you for your follow-up article on Deborah with three children who lives in the Wayne County Homeless Shelter.

I work in the Human Resources of a major Livonia employer (American Community Mutual Insurance Co.) and when the article first appeared, our employment coordinator called the shelter and was told Deborah had already secured a position.

In reading the follow-up article, I was so happy to learn that she not only got a great job but a family offered her their vacant home with an option of rent to own and she only has to pay utilities for

LETTERS

the first six months to help her get back on her feet.

Both her new employer and the generous family who offered their vacant home wish to remain anonymous. I can only say that this is a perfect example of what Jesus would want us to do with the resources we are given while living on this earth ... it's so simple, helping our fellow man. Why is it so hard for some people to "get it?"

Dorothy Petro
Livonia

Test new and old drivers

I found your cartoon in the paper showing kids driving while eating and talking on the cell phone kind of ironic.

It seems like everyone wants to show teenagers driving crazy while talking on cell phones. That is NOT the entire picture. I have seen ALL ages talking on cell phones. I have seen ALL ages eating while driving. How about the businessman who has his laptop open on the passenger seat so he can read his e-mails? How about the senior citizen who turns right from the left lane?

Every day we read about accidents caused by people not too young to drive but too old to drive. Remember the 85-year-old in Dearborn who backed up all the way across the street into his neighbor's garage just one week after he backed over his wife in the same driveway. Or we see pictures where senior citizens drive into a store because they mistake the gas pedal for the brake pedal.

We should not only test NEW drivers but also OLD drivers too. My parents made me wait until I was old enough to get a license, I hope my children take it away when I am too old.

By the way, I turn 60 in December.

Skip Wehrle
Garden City

Get them out now

No wonder Colin Powell had to exit the Cheney/Bush White House so quickly. No one of integrity could tolerate the greedy, unscrupulous actions of those two jokers. I don't care that it is nearly over. I want them out of office today!

Catherine VanHollebeke
Garden City

Is process open?

It is how much money they have raised; it's the momentum factor; and it's the star quality that news commentators talk about when referring to the candidates running for the nomination of their party for president of the United States.

There was the time when the presidential candidates for the Democratic and Republican parties were picked at their national conventions. Then it changed. We were told the electorate would decide. It would be more open, more democratic. Is it?

I envision a different presidential primary. The primaries and caucuses, are all on the same day, taking place four weeks before the November election. At

the national party conventions the candidates are given equal opportunities to explain why we should vote for them. There are individual presentations and there are debates. At the debates all the candidates are given the time to answer all the questions. The questions deal with the issues: foreign policy, the economy, jobs, health care, the environment, immigration, etc. There are no personal attacks.

The national conventions are broadcast on the network channels as a public service. By law, there is a cap on how much money the candidates can raise for campaigning which can only begin six months before the November election.

I could continue this scenario, but basically I would like to see an end to we have the best government money can buy.

Ann Abdo
Livonia

Resign, now

The Detroit mayoral text saga has revealed one significant discovery this past week: Not one strong independent voice has emerged seeking the mayor's resignation. Nothing from the city's religious circles, business leaders or elected officials. Not one significant public figure voice has emerged confronting the mayor demanding his resignation.

The lack of any viable leadership with the courage and integrity to confront up close and personal the mayor is as lethal and destructive as any of the verbiage from the infamous text messages.

Making a difference requires more than whispers, e-mails, false bravado at barbershops, hair salons, Web sites and business lunches. The lack of visible leaders willing to step up and lead the citizens of Detroit out of this insanity is revealing and for me unacceptable.

Fortunately for the citizens of Detroit there are many people who remain true to the city of Detroit and who will not be silenced. I am one of those who is demanding the mayor's resignation.

Right here, right now.

Greg Thrasher
Birmingham

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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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.

QUOTABLE

"I'm very happy with the way the board reacted at the board meeting ... They gave the chief authorization to hire three firefighters, and that's a good milestone. To be fully staffed we'd have to be at 27, but I'm excited. I don't want to get too excited until the day (new firefighters) start. When they start, we'll know they have the manpower." - Pete Bukis, firefighters union secretary, on the prospect of Plymouth Township hiring three more firefighters

Watching the bobbing dance is lesson in party politics

Last week was time for the "State of..." addresses. The lamest of lame duck presidents in recent history, George W. Bush, went first on Monday, continuing to justify seven years of bungled leadership. Gov. Jennifer Granholm, who has also failed to establish a



Hugh Gallagher

strong record or a real legacy, offered up her address on Tuesday. The ongoing war in Iraq, the new aggravations in Afghanistan and a crumbling economy didn't stop the usual State of the Union bobbing dance. You know, whenever the president mentions "the Troops," "taking care of our veterans" and "the American Way of Life"

all members of the Congress rise en masse and applaud wildly. When he mentions keeping tax cuts for the wealthy and staying the course in Iraq, Republicans cheer and Democrats sit on their hands. When he mentions immigration reform, Democrats show polite approval while his fellow Republicans sit on their hands and grumble. (Sometimes it seemed that Speaker Nancy Pelosi wasn't quite sure when to bob up or stay seated.)

For Granholm, the bobbing dance was a little less well defined. After all the major theme this year is bipartisan cooperation. Republicans didn't want to appear uncooperative and surly. The biggest applause of course came when the governor promised to pay for her new initiatives without new fees or taxes. That brought thunderous approval from the Republicans and somewhat tentative approval from Democrats, who might not agree with her assessment but realize they can't fight that battle.

Republicans generally sat when Granholm opined that people do have a right to sue drug companies that cause injury and death, that residents do have a right to expect the state to argue against increasing insurance rates and that the state should investigate price fixing by oil companies (think Exxon and its record earnings for 2007). They also seemed unhappy with some of her school proposals. Some members of both parties, for different reasons, seemed less than enthused about having the state government invest in private business.

What do these annual orations mean, especially at a time when neither executive is popular? The bobbing dance gives us a little insight into the differences between the two major parties.

Those who say that there is no difference aren't really listening. True, both parties do not stray too far from an imaginary center that supports a general respect for the Constitution, a market economy and an internationalist

For Granholm, the bobbing dance was a little less well defined. After all the major theme this year is bipartisan cooperation. Republicans didn't want to appear uncooperative and surly. The biggest applause of course came when the governor promised to pay for her new initiatives without new fees or taxes. That brought thunderous approval from the Republicans and somewhat tentative approval from Democrats, who might not agree with her assessment but realize they can't fight that battle.

approach to foreign and military affairs (over the objections of members on each party's fringe) and both parties rely on rich people for support. Both parties are heavily lobbied and sometimes local interests supersede party philosophy.

But, generally, Democrats believe that government can be a force for progress, a protection against greed, an economic stabilizer and a support system for the vast majority of people who are not fully supported by the private economy no matter how hard they work or how much they save.

Republicans believe in the words of Ronald Reagan that government is the enemy. They harken back to Thomas Jefferson's saying that "The government that governs the best is the government that governs the least." Of course, the party's core belief is that private enterprise is better equipped to help us all prosper than government.

These are real differences. The CNN resident demagogue Lou Dobbs has been urging his viewers to abandon the parties and declare themselves independents. That's a sure way to disassociate from the political process without making any impact on changing our political system.

Some politicians are rogues. Most politicians who have reached any degree of power are beholden to someone. But that doesn't make them or the political process totally tainted, especially if we keep an eye on them and demand that they follow through on their promises.

All that bobbing up and down is a good thing. In America we're free to bob or sit whenever we want.

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

Investing, saving best use of government check

At a recent investment speech I gave, several people wanted to know my opinion about the economic stimulus package proposed by the president and Congress. Will it work and what should they do with their money?



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

I believe the American people are wiser than the government about their money. Whenever people get more money it generally is a good thing. That being said, there are some issues.

First, no agreement has been reached on the stimulus package. The Senate version is different than the one offered by the president. I am concerned about the "pork" that eventually will be added on to the bill. No matter who's in power, Democrats or Republicans, we all know how they love to spend our money.

I do believe that some economic stimulus package will be passed and a great majority of Americans will be getting money back from the government. It would like us to spend the money in order to stimulate the economy. However, even though that may be good for the economy as a whole that may not be what's good for you or me.

Those who have charge card balances should use the money to pay off debts. The majority of people who have charge card debt are paying 18 1/2 percent interest that is not tax-deductible.

For others, before rushing out and spending the money, consider investing the check. It is not too late to make a Roth IRA contribution for 2007.

Another option for the money you may receive is to your child's or grandchild's college education fund. Fees and tuition are going up as is the number of years it takes to complete a degree. When I went to college, the average student completed an undergraduate education in four years. In today's world, the average is closer to five years. The Michigan Education Savings Plan (MESP) is a great way to save. It takes \$25 to open an account and in addition, you can deduct

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your contribution off your Michigan Income Tax Return. The MESP is a non-commission investment and it has low management fees. To find out more about the MESP, go to www.misaves.com.

Paying off debt, saving for your retirement or investing in your child's or grandchild's college education are better than spending the money. Although spending the money is good for the economy it may not be good for your individual situation. We live in a society where we are forced to take more responsibility when it comes to personal financial affairs so we need to take advantage of opportunities when they come along.

One side note, the low-lives in our society already are starting to prey on individuals with regard to these tax rebates. The IRS recently issued a warning that individuals are being contacted either by phone or e-mail requesting information so that they can send you your tax rebates. This is just another identity theft scam.

Never give sensitive information to anyone who claims by phone or e-mail they are with the IRS. The IRS does not correspond with taxpayers through e-mail. If you receive an e-mail claiming they are the IRS, it is bogus. On the other hand, the IRS does sometimes communicate through telephone; however, they do not initiate the contact. If you receive an unsolicited call from the IRS, hang up.

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

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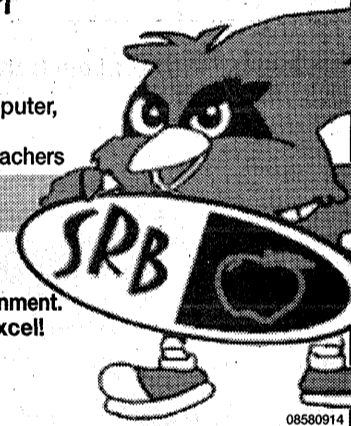
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Thursday, February 7, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

Super Tuesday: Rocks win in landslide, 58-30

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Heaven help the remaining teams in the WLAA girls basketball tournament if Salem continues to perform at the level it played at Tuesday night against Plymouth.

Bolstered by a tenacious defensive effort and a lights-out shooting night, the Rocks rolled to a 58-30 win over the Wildcats in a first-round tournament game.

The win avenged a 57-56 setback to Plymouth on Dec. 14.

Salem will take a 16-2 mark into Friday night's semifinal contest against Livonia Franklin. The game is set to tip off at 7 p.m. in the Rocks' gym.

"The girls really stepped it up defen-

GIRLS PREP HOOP

sively tonight," said Salem coach Fred Thomann. "We scored about the same number of points we did against them the first time we played, but we played a lot better on the defensive end. We didn't let Shaakira (Haywood) get 26 or 28 like she did the first time.

"Franklin is a very good basketball team. I saw them play Northville on Saturday and they looked very strong. We're going to have to buckle down against their twins (Briauna and Brittany Taylor)."

Salem received a potent dose of offensive firepower from some unexpected sources Tuesday night.

Junior forward Victoria Brotz led all

scorers with 13 points on 6-of-9 shooting while sophomore guard Brett deBear poured in a career-best 10 points.

"It's a credit to our team that we moved the ball to the open player and we hit the open shots," said Thomann. "This is a very good shooting team. We have a lot of different players who can knock down shots."

Sara Stone, a 5-foot-10 sophomore, notched a double-double for the Rocks, netting 10 points and 14 boards. Junior forward Chelsea Davis added nine points, eight rebounds and seven assists while senior point guard Alaya Mitchell chipped in with eight points and seven caroms. Haywood led the Wildcats with 10 points and 11 rebounds. Stacey Klonowski failed to score for Plymouth, but she did hustle after 11 boards.

The Rocks' defense was in tip-top form from the opening tip as the hosts held Plymouth to 1-of-12 shooting on the way to a 13-3 first-quarter lead.

Things didn't get much better in the second quarter for the cold-shooting 'Cats, who made just 3-of-12 field goals in that stanza and trailed 29-9 at the half-way point.

Salem led 44-18 with eight minutes to play. The winners shot 44 percent from the field (27-of-61) and 3-of-6 from the free throw line.

The Wildcats made 18.6 percent of their field goals (10-of-53) and 38.8 percent of their free throws (7-of-18).

Plymouth turned the ball over 16 times. Salem registered just four miscues.

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

Sidelines

Super Saturday

P-CEP athletic teams will be involved in three big events on Saturday:

■ The Western Lakes Activities Association conference wrestling tournament will be held at Canton's Phase III gymnasium beginning at 9 a.m.

■ The annual Canton Invitational gymnastics meet will be held in the Plymouth High School gymnasium beginning at 10 a.m.

■ The Plymouth and Salem hockey teams will square off in a cross-campus showdown set for 7 p.m. at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

District girls hoop

Following are the pairings for the Class A District 25 girls basketball tournament set for Feb. 18-22 at Livonia Ladywood High School.

Canton will take on the host Blazers on Monday, Feb. 18, at 6 p.m. The winner of that contest will take on Northville in a semifinal clash on Wednesday, Feb. 20, at 6 p.m.

On the other side of the brackets, Salem will tangle with Plymouth on Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m. The winner will advance to play Novi in a semifinal showdown on Feb. 20 at 7:30 p.m.

The final game is set for Friday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m.

Midwinter skates

The Plymouth Whalers will be hosting a pair of midwinter skates:

■ On Feb. 11-12, the team will host a pair of on-ice clinics for youngsters. The Feb. 11 clinic will run from 10-11:20 a.m.

On Feb. 12, the clinic is set for 10-11 a.m. with a sticks-and-pucks session set with the entire team from 11-11:50 a.m. A noon pizza party will follow.

■ On Feb. 18-19, the skates will follow the same time frame as the Feb. 11-12 event.

The cost of the event is \$50, which includes a ticket to a future Whalers' game.

Full equipment is required. To reserve a spot, call (734) 453-8400.

Lions signups

Registration for the 2008 Canton Lions football and cheerleading veterans started on Feb. 2 and will conclude Feb. 29. New player and cheerleading registrations will be accepted beginning March 1.

Registration forms and additional information can be found at www.eteamz.com/cantonions.

For more information, contact Brian Lee at (734) 495-1865.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Trevor (11) and Brent Zinn (15) have been an inspiration to their father, David (pictured seated courtside in wheelchair just to the right of Brent), as he courageously battles the effects of an inoperable brain tumor.

Eagles hang with Oakland until 4th

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth Christian Academy boys basketball team isn't in Oakland Christian's neighborhood talent-wise quite yet, but the Eagles at least moved into the same ZIP code Tuesday night.

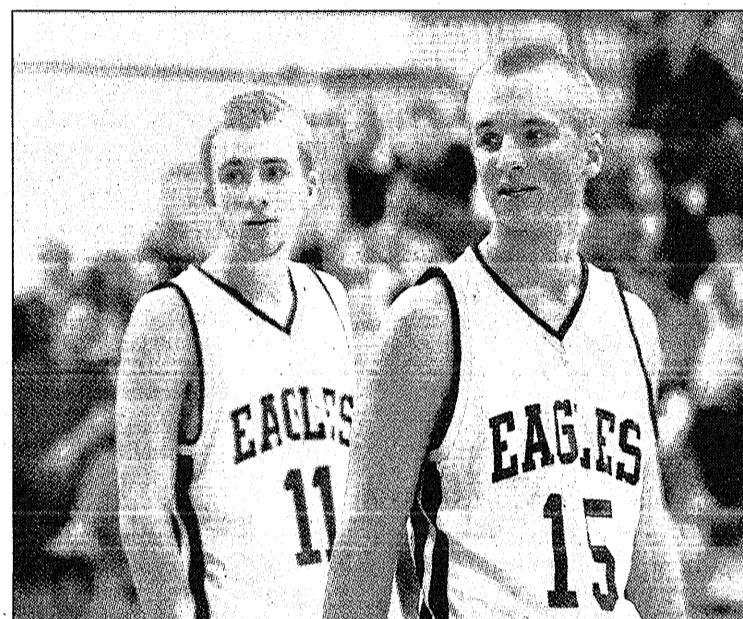
A few weeks after falling 82-60 to Oakland, PCA hung tough for three quarters before dropping a 58-42 decision to the visiting state-ranked Lancers.

The setback dropped coach Mike Doyle's squad to 3-12 while Oakland improved to 14-1.

"They're more athletic than us and a little quicker, but we hung with them for three quarters," said Doyle, whose team trailed just 45-37 with eight minutes to play. "Our help-side defense was very good tonight."

Senior guard Trevor Zinn paced PCA with 11 points. Reid Barber chipped in with 10 points and seven rebounds and freshman Richie Truhn contributed eight points.

Derrick Zwier led the winners with 14 points.



Brothers Trevor (left) and Brent Zinn excel in three sports – soccer, basketball and baseball – at Plymouth Christian Academy.

AMA'ZINN' BROTHERS

Plymouth Christian Academy's Trevor and Brent Zinn are athletes for all seasons

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

From the time they were old enough to dribble a basketball, grip a baseball and kick a soccer ball, Trevor and Brent Zinn have been much more than best-of-buddies siblings.

They've also been one-on-one driveway hoop foes, backyard pitcher-and-catcher battery mates and allies on more teams than they can probably remember.

"We've played each other in one-on-one so much," said 18-year-old Trevor, "that we know each other's moves and what the other one's going to do with the ball."

Blessed with parents who realized the character-building benefits of sports, a close proximity in age (14 months) and a shared passion for athletics, the Zinn brothers have formed a successful three-sport kinship that few siblings in the metropolitan Detroit area can match.

2 brothers, 3 sports

In an era when single-sport specialization is a spreading trend, the Zinns not only compete in soccer, basketball and baseball — they do so at an extraordinarily high level.

This past fall, they formed a sweeper-goalie duo that nearly lifted Plymouth Christian Academy's soccer team to a monumental Division 4 District final victory over powerhouse Southfield Christian.

Currently, they're giving opposing teams fits as the starting back-court for the PCA basketball team. In a December overtime triumph over SC, the brothers shared scoring honors with 21 points each.

In the spring, they man vital positions for the Eagles' baseball team — Trevor, a senior, pitches and plays shortstop; Brent, a junior, catches and pitches.

"They're definitely the catalysts of our team and everybody we play knows that," said first-year PCA basketball coach Mike Doyle. "Trevor is a captain and our leading scorer (17 points per game) and Brent has come along very well, too, averaging 11 points, very rebounds and four assists."

"At the beginning of the season, I put them on opposite sides of the court on offense so that we'd have a weapon on each side. But now I have them on the same side and both of their scoring averages have gone up because they play off each other so well."

Please see **BROTHERS, B2**

Warriors' air-tight defense stifles Chiefs

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Breathing room is scarce when you're playing Walled Lake Western's girls basketball team.

Defensively, the Warriors lock onto their opponents like Velcro and stay there for 32 minutes.

On Monday in a make-up game at Canton, Western clinched its first WLAA Western Division title since 1983 with a defensive 34-25 victory over the Chiefs.

Canton, which slipped to 4-13 and 2-8, finished with more turnovers (26) than field-goal attempts (24).

"Western's the kind of team that gets after you and pushes you and

pressures you the entire game," said Canton coach Brian Samulski "You have to be tight with the ball or you're going to end up with 26 turnovers like we did tonight.

"When you turn the ball over 26 times, that's 52 points you would have had an opportunity to score if you would have taken care of the ball. If we could have just cut that number in half, we would have had a chance because it was a nine-point game."

The surging Warriors improved to 15-2 overall and 9-1 in the division.

"One of our biggest goals at the beginning of the season was to win the division, so the girls couldn't wait to play this game," said Western coach Dave Walther. "I think they

were a little nervous, a little anxious, at the beginning because they were so excited to clinch the division.

"The girls have been focused since Day 1 and they worked very hard during the summer to get to where they are now."

The Warriors had a typical balanced attack led by junior guard Paige Partenio's 10 points. Carly Zeitlin chipped in with seven and Melanie Wilkerson added five.

Nine of the 12 players on the winners' roster scored.

"We go nine or 10 deep, which allows us to keep the pressure up on defense," said Walther. "Two of our

Please see **WARRIORS, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Melanie Pickert brings the ball up the court against the pressurized defense of Walled Lake Western's Chelsea Hunter during Monday night's WLAA Western Division game.

Canton stings Hornets in gymnastics events

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Canton's gymnastics team soared Tuesday night thanks to a rockin' Robyn. Freshman Robyn Piuowar registered a personal best 35.675 in the all-around to lead the Chiefs to a convincing 138,725-125.975 triumph over Saline. The victory improved coach John Cunningham's squad to 5-4 overall.

"It was a well-deserved score," Cunningham said of Piuowar's first-place showing. "And she did that with two falls. Cathy Huang also had a personal best in the vault tonight (9.05)."

Canton dominated the leadership as just one Hornet managed to garner a third-place finish.

Huang won two events — the vault (9.05) and the balance beam (8.875) — while senior captain Jessie Murray took top honors on

the uneven bars with a 9.0. Piuowar took top honors in the floor exercise with a personal-best 9.5.

The Chiefs are set to host the Canton Invitational Saturday beginning at 10 a.m. at Plymouth High School. The event was pushed back from last Saturday due to Friday's snow accumulation.

CANTON 138.725
SALINE 125.975

TUESDAY AT PLYMOUTH H.S.
VAULT: 1. Cathy Huang (C), 9.05; 2. Robyn Piuowar (C), 9.0; 3. Jessie Murray (C), 8.75; 4. (tie) Olivia Stephens (C) and Mallory Hudak (C), 8.35; 6. Kristy (S), 8.15.
UNEVEN BARS: 1. Jessie Murray (C), 9.0; 2. Robyn Piuowar (C), 8.5; 3. Cathy Huang (C), 8.4; 4. Kristy (S), 8.2; 5. Mallory Hudak (C), 8.175; 6. Kate Carroll (C), 7.45.
BALANCE BEAM: 1. Cathy Huang (C), 8.875; 2. Jessie Murray (C), 8.75; 3. Paige (S), 8.7; 4. Robyn Piuowar (C), 8.675; 5. Kristy (S), 8.475; 6. Jessie (S), 8.25.
FLOOR EXERCISE: 1. Robyn Piuowar (C), 9.5; 2. Mallory Hudak (C), 9.25; 3. Jessie Murray (C), 8.55; 4. Kara (S), 8.35; 5. Kristy (S), 8.2; 6. Cathy Huang (C), 8.1.
ALL-AROUND: 1. Robyn Piuowar (C), 35.675; 2. Jessie Murray (C), 35.05; 3. Cathy Huang (C), 34.25; 4. Mallory Hudak (C), 33.425; 5. Kristy (S), 33.025.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton gymnast Robyn Piuowar, pictured competing in a meet earlier this season, registered a personal-best all-around score of 35.675 Tuesday night against Saline.

THE WEEK AHEAD

- BOYS BASKETBALL**
THURSDAY, FEB. 7
Salem at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
W.L. Northern at Canton, 7 p.m.
Agape at Huron Valley, 7 p.m.
- FRIDAY, FEB. 8**
Parkway at PCA, 8:30 p.m.
Agape at Baptist Park, 7:30 p.m.
- GIRLS BASKETBALL**
THURSDAY, FEB. 7
Macomb at PCA, 7 p.m.
- FRIDAY, FEB. 8**
Franklin at Salem, 7 p.m.
Plymouth vs. W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
Canton at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Agape at Lutheran South, 7:30 p.m.
- PREP HOCKEY**
FRIDAY, FEB. 8
Franklin at Plymouth at Compuware, 7 p.m.
- SATURDAY, FEB. 9**
Salem at Plymouth at Plymouth Cultural Center, 7 p.m.
- PREP WRESTLING**
SATURDAY, FEB. 9
WLAAs Tournament, 9 a.m. at Canton High School
- BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING**
THURSDAY, FEB. 7
Salem at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Canton at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Northville at Plymouth at Canton pool, 7 p.m.
- GYMNASTICS**
THURSDAY, FEB. 7
Brighton at Canton at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
- MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**
SATURDAY, FEB. 9
Cornerstone at Madonna, 3 p.m.
Flint Mott CC at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.
- WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**
SATURDAY, FEB. 9
Madonna at Cornerstone, 1 p.m.
Flint Mott CC at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.
- ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE**
FRIDAY, FEB. 8
Whalers at Ottawa Generals, 7:05 p.m.
- SATURDAY, FEB. 9**
Whalers at Belleville Bulls, 7:15 p.m.
- SUNDAY, FEB. 10**
Whalers at Kingston Frontenacs, 2 p.m.
- MAJOR INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE**
THURSDAY, FEB. 7
Ignition at La Raza de Monterrey, 9:35 p.m.
- TBA - time to be announced.

Canton cagers take the three-way to win

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

If the Web site www.resiliency.com existed, a clip of Monday night's Canton boys basketball team's remarkable victory over Walled Lake Western would be an appropriate link.

Playing without leading scorer Neil Sharma for the second consecutive game, the Chiefs overcame an 11-point third-quarter deficit to triumph 57-55 in an overtime thriller.

Canton trailed by six in the closing stages of the fourth quarter before Kyle Biega and Brody Coplai drained clutch triples to force the extra period. Coplai's three came from the deep corner as the buzzer sounded.

After the Warriors scored the first basket of the OT, Coplai nailed another three-pointer before Kiere Daniels iced the win with a huge offensive rebound and a single free throw.

The win improved Canton's record to 5-10 overall and 2-8 in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Western Division. The Warriors dropped to 8-7 overall.

"We're tremendously excited

by the win," said Canton coach Dan Colligan. "The boys have been working extremely hard and they kept battling tonight. We had four guys with eight points or more, so it was a total team win."

Coplai led the way with a career-high 14 points. Marlan Glenn, who also swished a long triple late in the fourth quarter, added 12. Chris Bailey just missed a double-double with 10 points and nine boards, and Biega netted eight.

Mitchell Barcellona paced the Warriors with 17 points.

The game was knotted at 24-all at the half before Western rolled to a 43-37 advantage heading into the fourth.

Canton nailed 9-of-16 free throws. Western was 10-for-17 from the stripe.

SALEM 62, STEVENSON 49: On Monday at Stevenson, the Rocks rolled to a 27-8 first-quarter lead and never looked back on the way to improving their record to 8-7 overall and 6-4 in the WLAAs Lakes Division.

Salem drained all 10 of its first-quarter free throws and shot "close to 90 percent" from the floor, according to head

coach Bob Brodie.

"We came out of the gates with guns a blazin'," said Brodie. "We not only shot well, but we played very good defense, holding them to eight points. They came out firing threes and trying to run their fast-break, but we defended very well."

Brodie said he likes the way his team is playing as the WLAAs post-season tournament approaches.

"We've been playing well, we just need to sustain our consistency," he said.

The Rocks' dynamic duo of Grant Stone and Ross Davis both sparked on Monday. Stone netted 22 points and six rebounds while Davis soared for 19 points, 17 boards and one crowd-pleasing second-quarter dunk.

"Ross did a nice job on the glass," said Brodie. "With Jesse Pointer and Courtney Frazier in there, too, the other teams have a tough time keeping them all of the boards."

Steve Naubert led Stevenson with 13.

Salem led 38-20 at the half and 52-33 with eight minutes left.

The Rocks connected on 20-

of-24 free throws overall (83.3 percent).

Stevenson hit 6-of-8 from the stripe.

WAYNE 83, PLYMOUTH 62: On Monday at Wayne, the Zebras put together a 49-point second half and rolled to the WLAAs Western Division win.

"We actually played decent defense; we challenged everything, but they still hit their shots," said Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner. "They got to the line and made their free throws, which was a big difference, too."

Navraj Sandhu led Plymouth with 16 points. Chris Daniels added 10 points and a team-high six rebounds; Brandon Roberts and Garrett Reba both scored nine; and Thurston Green, a transfer from Wayne, netted a season-high eight points.

Mike Lee twined a game-high 22 for the winners. Robert Woodson was next with 16.

The Zebras led 23-11 after one quarter and 34-29 at the half.

Wayne connected on 12-of-15 freebies while Plymouth buried just 6-of-13 shots from the charity stripe.

BROTHERS

FROM PAGE A1

"Trevor and I have a chemistry on the basketball court that most people don't have," Brent said. "It's like we know where each other is going to be."

Bonding experience

Not surprisingly, the Zinnns' younger sister, Amy, an eighth-grader at PCA, is on the same road to athletic accomplishment as her older brothers.

"Sports have always been a big part of our family," said Brenda Zinn, Trevor, Brent and Amy's mom. "From the time they were very young, my husband (David) would get home from work and rebound for them in the driveway or play catch with them in the back yard."

"Sports are something we've all had fun with and they're something we've been able to enjoy together, as a family."

The power of faith

The Zinn family received an earth-shaking jolt in December of 2006 when David Zinn was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor.

"It was especially devastating because David was such a healthy, active person," said Brenda Zinn. "In the 20 years he worked at Ford, he didn't use one sick day."

"It's been very hard, but our faith has helped us get through it."

Despite the debilitating

effects of the tumor — the right side of David Zinn's body is virtually paralyzed and his eyes no longer work together — he remains his kids' No. 1 fan. He attends most of their home games, even if it means watching from the car on chilly fall and spring afternoons.

"When my dad is at our games, I think I'm more focused because I want to play well for him," said Trevor.

"One of his main joys in life now is seeing us do well in sports, so it feels good when we have a good game when he's there," added Brent.

"Both Brent and Trevor always play hard," added Doyle, "but when their dad is at a game, you can tell they're giving it 110 percent."

The boys said both their parents have been models of courage throughout the entire ordeal.

"My dad has been very strong through this and my mom, well, it's crazy everything she has to do now, taking care of us and everything," said Brent, as his older brother nodded in agreement.

Amazingly, the boys have not only maintained their athletic prowess throughout their dad's illness, they've also crafted MVP-caliber grade point averages.

"Seeing what their dad is going through, I think it has strengthened their character and their appreciation for life," said Brenda Zinn.

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Notice is hereby given that on Monday, February 18, 2008 at 12:00 PM (Noon) Tate & Co. Auctioneers, Executive Administrator for Extra Space Storage, will be offering for sale under the judicial lien process by public auction, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale will be cash only. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: EXTRA SPACE STORAGE, 6729 N CANTON CENTER RD., CANTON, MI 48187 AT 12:00 PM.

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April Wilkins	I313 10x15	Wicker Furniture Setting, Baby Changing Table, Bed Frame, Misc. Wooden Furniture, Night Stand, Small Coffee Table, Misc. Furniture.

Publish: February 14 & 17, 2008

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Rock icers battle the No. 1 Spartans down to the wire

PREP HOCKEY

Mike Voran had two goals and two assists to lead No. 1-ranked Livonia Stevenson (18-0-1, 5-0-1) to a 4-2 WLAAs-Lakes Division victory Saturday over visiting Salem (6-12, 1-5) at Edgar Arena.

The Spartans improved to 18-0-1 overall and 5-0-1 in the division while the Rocks slipped to 6-12 and 1-5, respectively.

Senior Ian Barnaby provided the offensive firepower for the Rocks as he registered both goals — one in the second period and another in the third to bring the Rocks to within 3-2.

"Overall, considering they're the No. 1 team in the state, I thought it was one of our better games," said Salem coach Ryan Ossenmacher. "We gave up two power-play goals, which you can't do against a top team like Stevenson."

Sean Lerg added a goal and assist for the Spartans, who led 1-0 after one period and 3-1 after two periods.

Jake Harbowy had the other Stevenson goal, while R.J.

Kierdorf chipped in with two assists.

Richie Dunphy went all the way in goal for the Spartans, stopping 15 of 17 shots, to earn his second victory.

Stevenson outshot the Rocks, 36-17.

G.P. SOUTH 9, PCS PENGUINS 1: On Tuesday at the Arctic Edge, unbeaten South won a mercy rule-shortened game against the host Penguins, who slipped to 3-10-1.

The game ended with 11:50 left in the third period when South scored its ninth goal.

Brooke Caccavelli scored the Penguins' lone goal in the first period.

PCS net-minder Michelle Schaffer played well, stopped 38 shots.

South's Maggie Miller stopped 10 of the 11 shots she faced.

"We played a lot better against South than we did the first time we played them," said PCS coach Lori Callahan.

WARRIORS

FROM PAGE A1

strengths this year are depth and balance."

Senior center Baylee Hollowell was limited to eight points by the Warriors. Hollowell led all rebounders with 11, but she managed to launch just four field goals.

Sophomore guard Kaylie Martin added seven for the Chiefs, including their lone three-pointer.

Canton freshman guard Melanie Pickert played well, netting five points, four steals and four rebounds.

Western led just 6-5 after one quarter and did score its first points until Partenio converted a layup with 2:20 left in the opening stanza.

The Warriors stretched their advantage to 16-9 at the half and 30-19 with eight minutes to play.

Western hit 15-of-39 field goals (38.4 percent) and 4-of-11 free throws (36.3).

Canton was 8-for-24 from the field (33 percent) and 8-of-12 from the line (66.7 percent).

SALEM 57, STEVENSON 38: On Monday at Salem, the Rocks capped a perfect run through the WLAAs Lakes Division with a one-sided win over the Spartans. The victory improved

coach Fred Thomann's squad to 15-2 overall and 10-0 in the division.

Stevenson slipped to 3-14 and 0-10, respectively.

"We played a very good first quarter than closed it out from there," said Salem coach Fred Thomann.

Senior guard Alaya Mitchell led the Rocks with 19 points. Junior forward Chelsea Davis added 10 points and four assists; sophomore forward Sarah Stone contributed seven points and eight boards and junior forward Victoria Brotz added eight points and four assists.

Salem led 21-5 after one quarter and 36-15 at the intermission.

Salem hosts Plymouth tonight at 7 p.m. in the first round of the WLAAs post-season tournament.

JOHN GLENN 36, CANTON 28: On Tuesday at Canton, the Chiefs cut a 24-12 halftime deficit to 26-23, but couldn't close the deal.

Senior center Baylee Hollowell led the Chiefs with 10 points and sophomore guard Lindsay Winters added five.

Brittany Holbrook and Chanel Payne both tallied 11 points for the Rockets.

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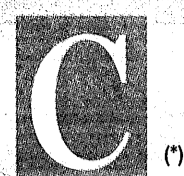


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Real Estate



Thursday, February 7, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

Single homebuyers likely to be women

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

If you're a woman looking for a place to live, chances are you'd consider buying as opposed to renting.

"Obviously, the tax benefits are going to be first," said Realtor Nancy Austin of Coldwell Banker Preferred Realtors, with offices in Plymouth and Canton. "When you're buying a home or condo, it's really a lifestyle choice."

With more and more single women buying and selling real estate, Coldwell Banker Real Estate Corporation unveiled a marketing program targeting women. The initiative features a handbook titled, "A Wise Woman's Guide To Buying Your Own Home," which can be used by the more than 3,200 Coldwell Banker affiliated offices around the nation.

According to the 2006 National Association of Realtors Profile of Homebuyers and Sellers study, 22 percent of homes sold in the U.S. during 2006 were to single females compared to only 9 percent to males. In the same study, NAR reported that the average age of this female first-time buyer is 34 and her annual household income is \$43,300.

Jennifer Caminidi of Westland bought her first condo in October 2007, with Austin's help. "It kept going up," Caminidi said of her rent. "I decided to start looking."

Austin, who lives in a condo, noted that there's no outside work to do in a condo. You can give up some privacy living in a condo, although she's found she doesn't know her neighbors as well as she did when in a home.

Some women feel safer in a condo, with other people around. Austin, with 24 years in local real estate, finds the nesting instinct motivates women to buy.

"It's whatever they're going to want to do," she said of painting and decorating. "I really think they want to nest. They recognize it as a great investment and the tax benefits."

Caminidi, 32 and single, is glad she chose a condo over a home, noting the convenience of having it maintained outside. "I do too much after work with school and dancing," said Caminidi, who works in the commer-

cial loan department at LaSalle Bank in downtown Detroit in addition to teaching dance. She got a 30-year mortgage.

"Your money's being invested in something you'll get back," added Caminidi, who found her work background and colleagues helpful when she decided to take the real estate plunge. "It's a lot bigger than the apartment. It's peaceful, it's quiet. The neighbors are nice. It's like you're in your own little community."

Caminidi noted in particular the benefit of someone else shoveling snow: "When you don't have to get up and do it, it's wonderful."

Women who are single but would like a family down the road like having a place to start. "Basically, they feel they're ready to start that kind of a life," said Austin, who finds women are often proud to own their own home.

Women are often more savvy with finances than in the past; Austin doesn't find women hesitating to buy in this market to the extent married couples do.

"Oh, they're out there, you bet," she said of bargain homes and condos. Banks are eager to negotiate on foreclosures, and prices are competitive.

"I think we're back to the levels we were at in 1998 and 1999," Austin said of prices. "Inventory and the prices, there's just never been a better time" to buy.

Coldwell Banker also has campaigns aimed at other market segments, in addition to the one for women. Getting money for a down payment isn't an issue for working women, and credit discrimination laws cover women now. "They're going to be preapproved by a lender," Austin said. "They're very excited they're going to be able to have their own place."

Coldwell Banker has a discount book with Sears to help with appliances and smaller household items, along with a discount for a large hardware store. Women who come from an apartment generally have some things, Austin noted, although window treatments are often needed, along with a snowblower and lawn mower for homebuyers.

Some women love to garden, so a home with a yard's a better choice



than a condo, she added. Often, a single woman buys at a young age and later meets someone to marry, also a homeowner. They may move into one home or the other, or start anew by buying a place together.

"Clearly, single women help drive real estate sales in this country," said Charlie Young, senior vice president for marketing of Coldwell Banker Real Estate Corporation. "This group has demonstrated their clout

in the real estate market and has the economic capability to gain the American dream of homeownership."

The free guidebook, "A Wise Women's Guide To Buying Your Own Home," addresses topics such as financing, finding a home and negotiation. Guidebooks are available by contacting: Nancy Austin, Coldwell Banker Preferred Realtors in Plymouth, (734) 416-1252.

Heat is on: Time to speak up

Q. An elderly friend of mine lives in an older condo complex which has always been a condo since it was built in the late '60s. There are only a small number of condos on two floors, but one unit has remained an open unit that all tenants can use to rent for their families. My friend cannot control the heat in her unit and it is so hot during the winter that she has to keep the windows and doors open, plus her heat is included in her monthly fee. Last year she discovered that at least five of the other units have thermostats in their unit, but she does not. She contacted one of the board members to have one installed in her unit but they advised her just to keep her windows open and that they are not responsible for the control of the heat in her unit or required to install a thermostat. We would appreciate any comments you may have.



Robert Meisner

A. It all depends upon the documents of the condominium. If the association is responsible for maintaining and paying for the heat, it should take some measure to assume that heat is not

being wasted. That may involve installing a thermostat in your friend's unit, but it also depends on, of course, how the other thermostats were installed, when and by whom. Your friend should notify the association that they are wasting money and should take some preventative maintenance action to preserve energy.

Q. I just found out that our attorney represented a management company that we have at our condo and at another complex. One of the board members is an attorney and thinks that is a conflict. What do you think?

A. I think that any time an attorney for a condo association represents a managing agent, either individually or through the corporation, he should disclose that fact to every association that he represents where that management company is present. Obviously, if the attorney represents both the management company and the association in a matter, assuming that there is no conflict in that matter, it still may indicate that the attorney has a financial interest in the management company, in the sense of having been representing it and perhaps being compensated by it. The question then becomes whether that attorney is in a position to objectively evaluate management contracts or any other issues between condo associations and the management company in which the attorney is involved. Get a new attorney.

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 the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 15-19, 2007, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office, plus some from Oakland County. Listed below are cities, addresses and sales prices.

City	Address	Price	City	Address	Price	
Canton	50632 Amberley Blvd	\$168,000	Novi	16832 Yellowstone Dr	\$159,000	
	2250 Arcadia Dr	\$145,000		41317 Belmont Dr	\$155,000	
	2249 Ashbourne Dr	\$410,000		51147 Brompton	\$350,000	
	2260 Ashbourne Dr	\$350,000		45235 Courtview Trl	\$348,000	
	7095 Becky Dr	\$135,000		50697 Drakes Bay Dr	\$640,000	
	1620 Bennington Ct	\$147,000		25487 Hilldale Dr	\$500,000	
	41480 Cumberland Dr	\$183,000		41118 McMahon Cir	\$140,000	
	45741 Drexel Rd	\$265,000		41072 Todd Ln	\$215,000	
	45412 Embassy Ct	\$205,000		27255 Victoria Rd	\$85,000	
	43729 Fleetwood Dr	\$188,000		Plymouth	9177 Baywood Dr	\$265,000
41699 Glade Rd	\$225,000	42372 Brentwood Dr	\$161,000			
7348 Green Meadow Ln	\$185,000	11719 Currin Ct	\$350,000			
46337 Guntery Dr	\$235,000	44946 Governor Bradford Rd	\$300,000			
45365 Horseshoe Cir	\$138,000	40157 Newport Dr	\$133,000			
47194 Labana Dr	\$379,000	8944 Pepperidge Ct	\$310,000			
2190 Premier Ln	\$177,000	42479 Plymouth Hollow Dr	\$70,000			
42182 Saratoga Cir	\$162,000	15020 Plymouth Xing	\$255,000			
1973 Vanderbilt Rd	\$233,000	49580 Powell Ridge Ct	\$565,000			
44256 Vassar St	\$223,000	48967 Tucson Hills Dr, No. 2	\$525,000			
8090 Warfield St	\$227,000	Redford	8858 Appleton	\$100,000		
Farmington	35431 Heritage Ln		\$165,000	16752 Beech Daly Rd	\$112,000	
	Farmington Hills		28054 Alyceakay St	\$235,000	17302 Denby	\$139,000
			27529 Bridle Hills Dr	\$227,000	24325 Elmira	\$124,000
			21424 Flinders St	\$153,000	20440 Glenmore	\$83,000
			30316 Kingsway Dr	\$206,000	11700 Kinloch	\$96,000
			28563 Lake Park Dr	\$257,000	17395 Lennane	\$136,000
			29554 Medbury St	\$315,000	19942 Poinciana	\$98,000
			29675 Pine Ridge Cir	\$134,000	15373 Pomona Dr	\$40,000
			29311 Regents Pointe	\$175,000	10002 Virgil	\$35,000
				24415 Westgate Dr	\$136,000	
			Westland	34528 Barton St	\$145,000	
		7418 Lathers St		\$131,000		
		452 Marigold Cir		\$132,000		
		1714 N Walton St		\$155,000		
		39209 Nottingham St		\$120,000		
		39353 Nottingham St		\$137,000		
		392 Summerfield Dr		\$225,000		
		1549 Winifred Dr		\$105,000		

BRIEFS

Appraising and Sales

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

Homebuyer Seminar

Whether you are a first-time buyer, "Back in the Market" buyer or investor, join the REALTOR RESOURCE TEAM of Max Brook Bloomfield for a Homebuyer Seminar. Learn about new mortgage guidelines, title information, home inspections, nonconventional financing, market value trends and more. The seminar will be 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, at Andover High School, 4200 Andover Road, Bloomfield Hills. Call (248) 644-4700 and ask for the REALTOR RESOURCE TEAM.

Single women buyers

Free homebuying Seminar for Single Women Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 6:30 p.m. on the third floor of the Livonia Civic Center Library, near Farmington and Five Mile roads. Sponsored by Marcia Hermann of Keller Williams and Steve Scheel of Success Mortgage Partners. The home buying process and mortgage approval process will be discussed. Call (734) 452-1084 to reserve a space.

Investors

Timothy Low, C.P.A., will discuss the benefits of renting properties and understanding the tax consequences of "find, fix and flip" activity, including forming an entity, bookkeeping systems and maximizing your deductions.

Please see BRIEFS, C4



Thinking Real Estate?

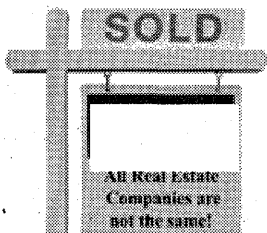
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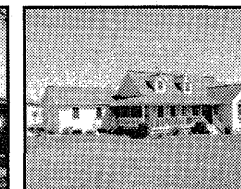
CHARMING STONE HOME
4.65 Acres embraces this charming 4 bd home w/frpl, hwd & ceramic floors, 48X30 pole barn, pool, great craftsmanship, & built in 1930 w/numerous updates.
\$295,000 (C-291NO)



PREMIUM LOCATION
Executive colonial located on the 6th green in Tanglewood. 4 bd, 3.5 baths, 1st fl Mast w/bath, island Kit, Great Rm w/frpl & towering windows, walkout bsmt, & Deck w/ spectacular views.
\$499,900 (C-646SF)



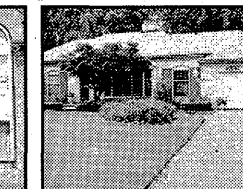
IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY
2 bd condo on beautiful Colonial Estates. Full bsmt, large Living Room, Dining Area, 2 car at Garage w/opener, C/A, & ceiling fans. Appliances stay!
\$118,500 (C-613CO)



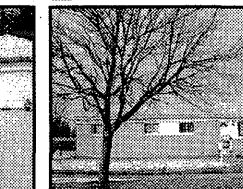
CUSTOM RANCH ON ACREAGE
Newer custom built ranch featuring 4 bd, 3 baths, on 7 acres. Plenty of storage in the 3 car Garage & 54X30 Pole Barn. Big open rooms w/ vaulted ceilings, finished walkout w/ft ceilings.
\$439,900 (C-448RA)



PERFECT CONDO
Great for 1st timers! Crown moldings, decorator paint, Pergo, neutral carpet, all appliances stay, balcony, spacious bedrooms, & great location.
\$99,900 (C-419SA)



QUALITY RANCH
Birmingham Farms sub in Bloomfield Twp offers this fabulous home featuring 3 bd, Fam Rm w/2 way fireplace, 1st fl laun, & priced right!
\$275,000 (C-532TI)



PRICED RIGHT
This 4 bd home features good sized rooms, newer furnace & hwh, almost 1200 sq ft, & is priced to sell. Would make a great starter or investment property.
\$48,900 (C-248BA)



PARK LIKE SETTING
A premium tree lot tucked away in a great Bloomfield sub. Well built home w/hwd floors, wet plaster, built-ins, 2 Patios, & situated on almost an acre.
\$449,000 (C-674CO)



HOME SWEET HOME
Fantastic 3 bd home offers a nice floor plan, hwd floors, huge Master bed, part finished bsmt, great location, & close to everything.
\$199,900 (P-431CO)



CLEAN & WELL MAINTAINED
Updates thru-out Euro style kitchen, recessed lighting, covered ceilings, oversized Garage, 2 tiered Deck, & nicely finished bsmt. Home Warranty Inc.
\$119,750 (C-874GL)



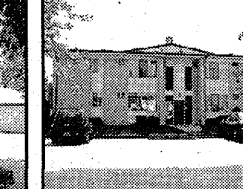
TRANQUIL LOCATION
Enjoy the peaceful setting on this large lot in Royal Pointe Sub. 2 story Foyer, formal LR/DR, 2 story Fam Rm w/dual frpl, island Kit w/frpl, Master w/frpl & bath, new carpet, & Deck w/retract awning.
\$369,900 (P-409TR)



CHARMING COLONIAL
Charming 3 bd brick colonial w/1.5 baths, 3 bds, 2 natural fireplaces, finished bsmt w/glass block, nice layout, newer windows, 2 car Garage & more.
\$175,000 (P-711HU)



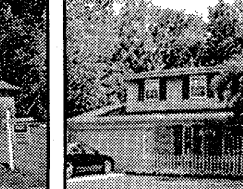
AMAZING VALUE
Perfect starter home offering an open floor plan, Kitch w/pergo flrs, Fam Rm w/hwd floors, part finished bsmt w/glass block, Ply-Car Schools, & just steps from downtown Plymouth.
\$135,000 (C-942IF)



GREAT CONDO!
Nice 2 bd, 1 bath, 1st floor condo features some new carpet, remodeled bath, new stove & fridge, fresh paint, newer windows, LRM, & open floor plan.
\$49,895 (C-720JO)



MOVE RIGHT IN!
Lovely 4 bd colonial w/full finished bsmt plumbed for a bath. Maple Kitchen w/granite, Liv Rm w/frpl, car Garage w/frpl, 5 car Garage, prof landscaping, & convenient location
\$350,000 (P-276KI)



LOVELY COLONIAL
4 bd, 2.5 bath in the heart of Livonia's nicest sub. Updated Kit, private backyard, Fam Rm w/frpl, covered deck, & close to everything.
\$199,900 (C-407LA)



PERFECT PLACE TO CALL HOME
Upper end unit condo in popular Lilley Pointe in Canton. Cathedral ceilings, open floor plan, 2 baths, Great Rm w/balcony, neutral Kit w/appl's, & priced just right!
\$99,900 (P-672LI)



THIS IS THE ONE!
You'll stop looking when you see this 3 bd, 1.5 bath ranch in Livonia. Large Kit, huge Florida Rm, part finished bsmt, private fenced yard, Garage, Cent Air, & close to everything.
\$140,000 (P-904-LI)



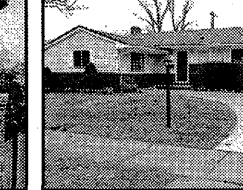
LARGE LOT IN PLYMOUTH
Great price on this home that offers 3 bd, 2 baths, Fam Rm w/frpl, Florida Rm, extra storage space, ceramic baths, tear off roof, & attached Garage. Great lot on a dead end street.
\$169,900 (P-151MI)



ADORABLE CONDO
Charming & spacious 2 bd condo has been freshly painted. Large bedrooms, in-unit laundry, carport, gas & water inc in low association fee. Great Canton location.
\$89,900 (P-467SA)



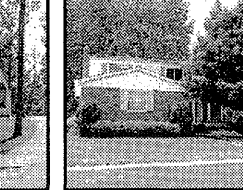
OUTSTANDING CONDO
Great location in complex near pool & clubhouse. Private courtyard entrance, newer windows, updated Kit, new molding, blinds, roof, hwh, & sump pump.
\$127,500 (C-362SO)



SUPER CLEAN RANCH
Fantastic 3 bd, 1.5 bath ranch featuring an open floor plan, Fam Rm w/ vaulted ceiling, updated windows & roof, oak Kit w/ ceramic, finished bsmt, & Patio w/ hot tub.
\$124,900 (C-429TR)



3.5 ACRE WOODED LOCATION
Immaculate estate nestled in gated community. Kit w/porcelain tile & granite, Great Rm w/frpl, 1st fl Master w/jetted tub, 5 car Garage, & too much more to list.
\$299,000 (P-908TU)



GREAT LOCATION
Situated on an oversized corner lot, just a short walk to neighborhood clubhouse, pool, park, & schools. 4 bd, 2.5 baths, 2 car Garage, huge backyard, & over 2000 sq ft.
\$229,900 (P-636ED)



NOTHING TO DO BUT MOVE IN!
This beautifully updated ranch is sure to delight w/all rooms freshly painted, remod Kit w/ssl appl's & granite, newer windows, roof, & perfect fenced lot w/Deck & Patio.
\$219,000 (C-200FA)



LOVELY HOME
Lovely 4 bd, 4 bath home that backs to farm setting. Generous room sizes, finished walkout bsmt w/theater room & cedar room, Trex Deck w/lifetime guar, 3 car Garage, & great location.
\$495,000 (C-864FA)



FANTASTIC LIVONIA RANCH
3 bd, 2.5 bath home in great sub. Remodeled Kit w/hwd floors, Florida Rm, professionally finished bsmt, & oversized huge lot.
\$179,900 (P-676FL)



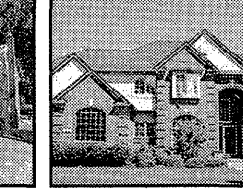
GREAT LOCATION
3 bd, 1 bath brick ranch in convenient Garden City location. Kitchen w/hwd floors & eating area, down to Patio, newer furnace, roof, A/C, 2.5 car Garage, & an above ground pool.
\$130,000 (C-542FL)



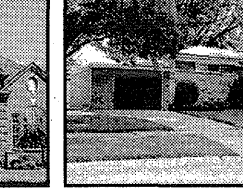
BETTER THAN NEW
Recently renovated colonial w/Ply Car schools. Shows like a model w/tear off roof, granite counters, newer furnace, C/A, Humidifier, carpet, & much more. Close to pool & clubhouse w/tennis.
\$229,750 (P-965GA)



MOVE IN CONDITION!
Charming 3br brick ranch with a basement, hardwood floors, 2 car garage, & all appliances stay. Very well kept.
\$114,900 (C-740GL)



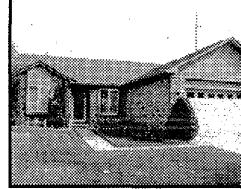
STATELY PRESENCE
Beautifully situated on a corner lot backing to golf course. Open floor plan, dream Kit, Master w/spa bath, intercom system, main free Deck, 3 car Garage, & much more.
\$425,000 (P-333IV)



WELL MAINTAINED
3 bd brick ranch in lovely area featuring spacious rooms, hwd under carpet, extra insulation, finished bsmt w/glass block & bath, lots of closets, & appl's stay.
\$120,000 (C-130JA)



EXCELLENCE AWAITS YOU!
Awesome Northville colonial offers you a gourmet Kit w/granite & double oven, Butler's Pantry, 1st fl Master w/trey cell, Master Bath w/jetted tub & 2 WIC's, & so much more.
\$600,000 (C-997ME)



FANTASTIC LIVONIA RANCH
3 bd, 2.5 bath home feat: Great Rm w/cath ceiling & frpl, Master w/cath ceiling, large Kit w/nook, 1st fl laun, newer roof, 2 car at Garage, large Deck, & fenced yard.
\$209,000 (P-806NO)



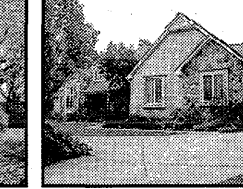
WELCOME HOME!
Spacious open floor plan offering 3 bds, 1.5 bas, & many updates inc: C/A, windows, Kit w/appl's, updated interior panel, gutters, big Fam Rm, & great Plymouth location.
\$169,000 (C-645OR)



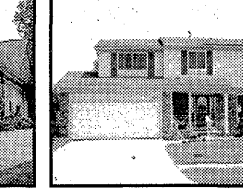
POLISHED TO PERFECTION
Original owner of this Sunflower beauty has it all ready for you! Updates inc: driveway, roof, windows, cherry Kitch, premium carpet, new furnace, C/A, & much more.
\$249,000 (C-225PE)



DOWNTOWN NORTHVILLE
This 3 bd, 2 bath, Cape Cod features a remod Kit w/Pergo, remod baths, new carpet, updated elec, plumbing, furnace, C/A, & siding. Beautiful home, a must see!
\$179,900 (C-326PE)



PRIVATE 5+ ACRE ESTATE
Custom everywhere in this special home w/4 fireplaces, 2 story Great Rm, 1st fl Mast w/whirlpool tub, Florida Rm, Kit w/frpl, walkout bsmt, pond, 2 furnaces, Anderson Doorwalls, & more.
\$750,000 (C-998PL)



PERFECTLY MAINTAINED
Open foyer w/hwd, gourmet Kit w/frpl, formal DR w/bay window, Fam Rm w/frpl, fin bsmt w/wetbar & bath, great Deck w/hot tub in fenced yard, & convenient location.
\$235,000 (C-325QU)



COUNTRY LIVING AT ITS FINEST
This 2813 sq ft home sits on 6.38 acres w/5 out buildings! Remod Kit, 1st fl laun, new windows, in-law quart's, Fam Rm w/frpl, large Master, & much more.
\$289,000 (C-630RA)



HISTORIC COLONIAL
Offering solid 1940 construction w/ up to date improvements. Spacious open floor plan, newer island Kit, Liv Rm w/frpl, Den, newer baths, Sunroom, & private yard w/larged Deck.
\$299,900 (P-839SA)



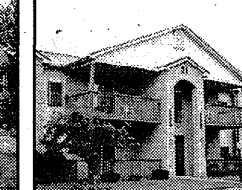
NICELY UPDATED RANCH
3 bd ranch w/2 car attached garage, updated roof, siding, furnace, sump pump, glass block windows, blinds, & updated baths.
\$139,000 (C-155TH)



LOCATION LOCATION!
Fabulous 4 bd, 3 ba Plymouth colonial feat Fam Rm w/frpl, updated roof, siding, elec, & windows. Formal DR & LR, ceramic Foyer, bsmt, 2 car Garage, & fenced yard w/Deck.
\$250,000 (C-969TH)



CHARMING & IMMACULATE
Completely updated ranch w/ crown molding, hwd floors, new brick paver porch & walkway, finished bsmt w/bath & fireplace, & great Sunroom for relaxing.
\$190,000 (C-922TW)



GREAT CONDO
Tranquil setting for this 2 bd condo in Van Buren. Fresh paint, vaulted ceilings, oak Kit, Master w/WIC, private laun room, appl's stay, & great Sunroom for relaxing.
\$79,900 (C-839WI)



WHY RENT WHEN YOU CAN BUY?
Charming, clean 2 bd home. Freshly painted, large fenced yard, wonderful neighborhood, neutral decor t/o, immed occup & more. Great starter home!
\$87,500 (C-830WI)



GREAT PLYMOUTH LOCATION
Pretty tree lined street, just a short stroll to downtown. 3-4 bds, 2 baths, coved ceilings, updated Kit, baths, large Fam Rm, screened rear porch, Library/Den, brick paver patio, & much more.
\$263,000 (C-478AR)



GORGEOUS RANCH
Beautiful Livonia ranch - ready to move into! Open spacious rooms, neutral decor & carpet, oak cabs, newer roof, updated Kit, Bath, neighborhood & also avail for lease.
\$189,900 (C-668BA)



CHARMING RANCH
Completely updated home w/ updates galore. Perfectly refn hwd frs t/o, updated Kit w/new cab's, updated baths, new Deck, & so much more.
\$150,000 (C-418BR)



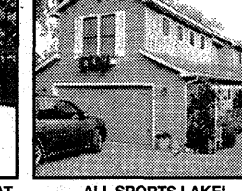
LOCATION! LOCATION!
Large 3 bd, 3 bath ranch w/pergo floors, vaulted ceilings, Master w/bath, prof finished bsmt w/wetbar & bath, new roof, huge Deck, & 2 car Garage.
\$178,000 (C-309CO)



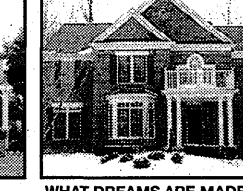
SPACIOUS CANTON COLONIAL
3 bd, 1.5 bath home w/open floor plan, large Kit, Fam Rm w/frpl, LR w/bay window, 1st fl laun, 2 car Garage, part fin bsmt w/4th bed or study, & great neighborhood.
\$193,900 (C-766MA)



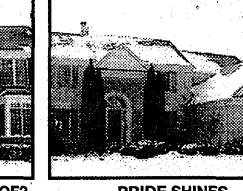
PRIVATE NORTHVILLE RETREAT
Beautiful Cape Cod situated on a park like setting. Loaded w/tons of top of the line updates such as roof, furnace, C/A, windows, & more. 3 baths, 2 garages, finished bsmt, Deck, & Patio.
\$334,900 (C-275ME)



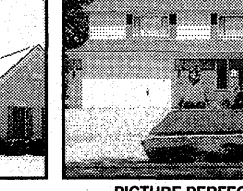
ALL SPORTS LAKE!
Gorgeous home on private School Lake. Offering 3 bd, 2 baths, Kit w/ ceramic, LR w/cath cell & drvl to Deck w/hot tub. Prof landscaped, oversized Garage, seawall, firepit, dock, & Pontoon Boat included!
\$339,900 (C-629PA)



WHAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF?
Open floor plan features gourmet Kit w/granite & cherry cab's, formal LR & DR, Fam Rm w/ views of wooded lot, private Den w/frpl, Master w/bath, & sitting area.
\$479,900 (P-069AN)



PRIDE SHINES
Exceptionally well kept Canton colonial features 2 story Foyer, island Kit w/hwd frs & granite, formal LR & DR, Fam Rm w/frpl, Master w/sitting rm, & fin bsmt.
\$369,900 (P-675AS)



PICTURE PERFECT
On this fabulous 2116 sq ft, 4 bd, 2.5 bath colonial w/frpl, new roof, maple Kit, gutted ceramic baths, jetted tub, Fam Rm w/frpl, extra wide driveway, & tons more.
\$279,900 (P-468BL)



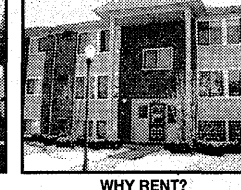
TURN KEY CONDO
Over 2400 sq ft in this 4 bd detached condo. 2.5 baths, prof decorated, huge Master w/jetted tub, Great Rm w/frpl, cherry Kit, & 2 car Garage. Also avail for lease.
\$225,000 (P-810BR)



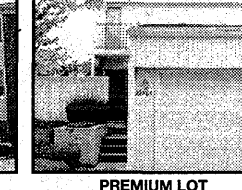
GREAT PRICE
Motivated seller's offer a great deal on this inviting home in Livonia. 1.5 baths, LR w/bay window & frpl, 2 car Garage, close to everything, & add it to next door also for sale.
\$124,900 (P-415CA)



MOVE IN READY
3 bd brick ranch on . acre offering a formal Dining Rm, Library, nice sized backyard, & great Livonia location.
\$1300/month (P-207CA)



WHY RENT?
Excellent condo in Westland. Clean & neutral t/o, basement storage, updated panel, carpet, & appliances, gated complex w/pool & clubhouse. Heat inc in assoc dues.
\$90,000 (P-370CE)



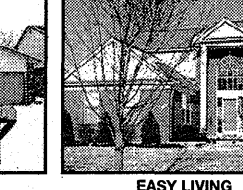
PREMIUM LOT
Super end unit 2 bd condo w/2.5 baths, finished bsmt, Fam Rm w/frpl & drvl to private treed yard. Master w/veranda, freshly painted, court-like lot, & so much more.
\$169,000 (P-505CO)



PARK LIKE SETTING
Beautiful 3 bd, 2 bath brick ranch in walking distance to grade school. Hwd frs, brick frpl, 1.5 car Garage, part fin bsmt w/bath, ceramic roof, windows, oak Kit, furnace, & C/A.
\$124,900 (P-136DE)



PERFECT LOCATION
Fabulous Canton colonial boasting a gourmet Kit w/granite & stain steel appl's, updated bath w/pedestal sink, Master bath w/ceramic & ceramic, fenced yard, & Garage.
\$220,000 (P-486EM)



EASY LIVING
Welcoming Central Park South colonial w/2 story Foyer, Fam Rm w/frpl, maple Kit w/ceramic flr, Flex Rm/Den, Master w/volume ceiling & bath, & convenient location.
\$299,900 (P-860FI)



ABSOLUTELY STUNNING
Over 4200 sq ft inc: finished walkout bsmt w/frpl-law suite, Theater Rm, paver Patio, Great Rm w/marble flr. Gourmet granite Kit, 4 wood sized bdrms, 4.5 baths, & unbeatable Northville location.
\$650,000 (P-550HI)



READY FOR YOU!!!
Take the time to see this home! 3 bds, new windows, updated Kit, baths, elec, refn hwd frs, 27X10 glass enclosed room, Livonia Schools, & gorgeous tree lined sub.
\$139,900 (P-318HI)



OUTSTANDING VALUE
Newly renovated Canton ranch w/ 1400 sq ft, hwd frs, modern black & white Kit, freshly painted, tastefully decorated. Fam Rm w/frpl, 2 car Garage, & more
\$183,500 (P-672HO)



AMAZINGLY PRICED
4 bd bi-level w/rmmed occup. Kit w/appl's, newer roof, windows, C/A, hwh, humidifier on furnace, large backyard w/privacy fence & patio.
\$116,500 (P-419MA)



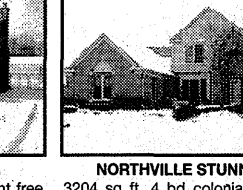
ACREAGE!!!
2.33 acres w/tons of potential. Great Farmington location, wooded lot, shed for storage, home offers a new roof, all appliances, Dining area, & formal Liv Rm.
\$219,000 (P-925ME)



Lakefront Land
Beautiful 2.5 acres w/pine trees, sandy soils, & perfect for walkout basement. 320 ft of lake frontage. Don't wait on this one!
\$64,500 (P-000RO)



PRICED TO SELL
Sparkling clean ranch w/maint free backyard & vinyl exterior. 3 bd, 1.5 baths, oak Kit, updated windows, furnace, elec, hwh, & C/A. Finished bsmt, 2.5 car Garage, & more.
\$127,900 (P-300RU)



NORTHVILLE STUNNER
3204 sq ft, 4 bd colonial on low traffic cul de sac. Boasting a magnificent prof fin bsmt w/drybar, maple Kit, Billard Rm, Media Area, custom paver Patio, & minutes to downtown.
\$525,000 (P-179SP)



PERFECT STARTER HOME
Updated galore on this Livonia ranch w/gourmet Kit, finished bsmt w/wetbar & glass block, hwd frs under carpet, fenced yard, & convenient location.
\$160,000 (P-320TE)



CUSTOM BUILT RANCH
2700 sq ft home on 1.5 acres. 3 bds, 3.5 baths, hwd frs in Kit, Foyer, & bath. Master w/huge WIC, Butler's Pantry, open floor plan, & park-like setting.
\$399,900 (P-200TI)



SPACIOUS CAPE COD
2003 built, 4 bd, 2.5 bath home w/ bright & open floor plan, fantastic updates t/o, 1st fl laun, 1st fl Master w/bath & WIC, dream Garage, great location near schools & Metropark.
\$234,900 (P-865TO)



NORTHVILLE BEAUTY
5 bd, 3.5 bath home feat: granite Kit, formal LR, huge Fam Rm w/2nd brick frpl, Master w/glamour bath, breathtaking acre lot, & 900 sq ft cedar Deck.
\$395,000 (P-297WO)

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All Real Estate Companies Are Not The Same
If you are serious about entering the business and profession of Real Estate sales, you owe it to yourself to investigate why we are best suited to insure your success.
Take the real estate compatibility test at www.cbpreferred.com
ALISSA NEAD

Thursday

PUZZLE CORNER

Challenging fun for ALL ages

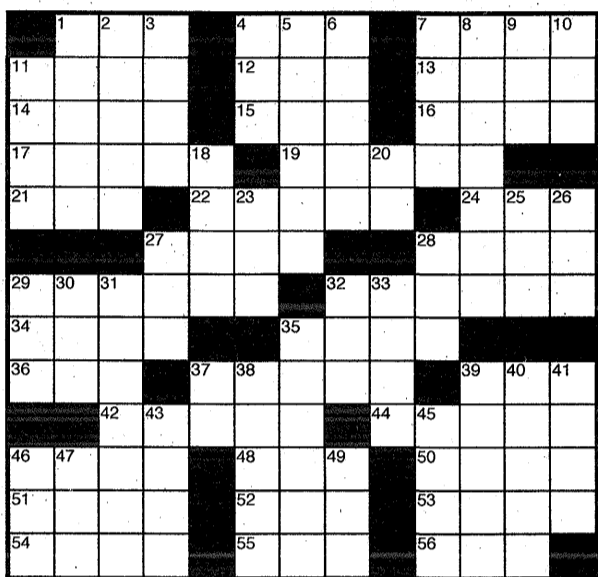
CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- Tarzan companion
 - Feminine principle
 - Razorback
 - Backpacker's load
 - Past
 - Zhivago's beloved
 - Dog in "Beetle Bailey"
 - Place for a pint
 - Imprint firmly
 - Cordial flavoring
 - Stamp holder
 - Philosopher — tzu
 - Hitachi competitor
 - Time period
 - Comics' Miss Kett
 - Herr's abode
 - Ice cream treat

Answer to Previous Puzzle

TEA ACES CHEF
ISM COME RODE
PSYCHOUT ELIA
AYE ODDER
QUAY RAMBO
URNS OUI AMP
IST SARGE SAO
TAI KIT GIVE
PEDAL LAST
PISHAW YOU
EKED CHIPMUNK
GIRD AUNT GEE
SPRY BEGS HEN

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- DOWN**
- Insurance giant
 - Terrace
 - Piccadilly
 - Circus statue
 - Puppy noise
 - Edible lizard
 - Selflessly
 - Roquefort hue
 - Hot breakfast
 - Circle part
 - Fan noise
 - Target
 - Is, to Pedro
 - Derek or Jackson
 - Downed a sub
 - Same old grind
 - Blonde shade
 - Actress — Williams
 - Crone
 - Payoff
 - Luau music
 - Au pairs
 - Food steamer
 - Novelist — Bagnold
 - Comet discoverer
 - Elec. unit
 - Listened in
 - Speed gun
 - Ham it up
 - 41 Companions
 - Right, on a map
 - Kitchen staple
 - Jungfrau
 - Home tel.
 - Curie daughter

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

- | | | |
|------------|----------|--------|
| BRAKES | HORN | TIRES |
| CARBURETOR | IGNITION | TRUNK |
| GASOLINE | JACK | WHEEL |
| GEARS | OIL | WIPERS |

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

SUDOKU

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

SEEK AND FIND

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

3000-3890
Real Estate For Sale

Open Houses 3030

LIVE FREE!!
Sun. 1-4 Redford Township
11489 Rockland
6 months no mortgage
payments and closing
assistance! Newly renovated
bungalow, 3 bedrooms,
1 Bath, Large Basement,
Updated Kitchen, Updated
Bathroom, New Paint and
Carpet. Hurry this great
offer expires 02/18/08.
(Realtors Protected 4.5%
to buyers agent)
Call 313-350-9870

LIVONIA
OPEN SAT. & SUN. 12-5
34483 Bretton, N. of 7, W. of
Gill, 4 bdrm., 2.5 bath colonial
in Deer Creek. Built in 1988,
many upgrades. \$265,000.
Offers must be submitted by
Sunday, 7:34-414-3204.
Remerica Hometown One

Bloomfield 3055
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

DON'T FORGET

COMPANY RELO
27501 Morningside Plz,
Lathrup Village
Price drastically reduced to
\$299,900! Must sell by April
1st. This gorgeous never
constructed home is located
in the heart of Lathrup
Village features over 2800
sq ft and covers 2 lots.
Hardwood floors, Spacious
Kitchen with ceramic floors,
granite counters, and island.
The Master Bedroom Bath
with jacuzzi tub and separate
shower, and walk-in closets.
Elegant fixtures throughout
home. Large Wood Deck.
MLS 27209879
ROYAL PARK Realtors®
248-414-3201 Ext. 2.

Westland 3445
RENT TO OWN
Immaculate 3 bdrm, 2 bath
raised ranch features cathedral
ceilings, gas fireplace, C/A, 2
car garage. No bank qualify-
ing. Bruised credit OK. Up to
\$400 rent credit. \$1399/mo.
888-546-6521 ext. 282
(24 hr recorded message)

Real Estate

Garden City 3170
RENT TO OWN
Charming 3 bdrm bungalow,
all appliances, 2.5 car heated
garage & lg. fenced yard. Quiet
neighborhood. No bank qualify-
ing. Bruised credit OK. Up to
\$350 rent credit. \$949/mo.
888-546-6521 ext. 281
(24 hr recorded message)

SUPER SHARP
3 spacious bdrms, finished
Bsmt, 2 Car Garage, \$109,900.
Century 21 Castelli
734-525-7900

Livonia 3250
COUNTRY - LIKE AREA
Move in! Remodeled 4 bed
Colonial, 2 car garage
\$169,900 (181R)

OVER 1/2 ACRE
3 bed Colonial. Custom up-
grades. 3 car garage
\$324,900 (38E1)

Century 21 Hartford South
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construction purposes. 1067
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Southfield/Lathrup 3390

Southfield/Lathrup 3390

Westland 3445
RENT TO OWN
Immaculate 3 bdrm, 2 bath
raised ranch features cathedral
ceilings, gas fireplace, C/A, 2
car garage. No bank qualify-
ing. Bruised credit OK. Up to
\$400 rent credit. \$1399/mo.
888-546-6521 ext. 282
(24 hr recorded message)

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Offices and Hours:
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Observer office 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia
Hours 8:30 - 5:00 Monday - Friday

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Call Me! @ (734) 454-4660
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Certain conditions will apply.

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1994 Victorian 14x56 1 bdrm,
1 bath, c/a, vinyl siding, shingle
roof. 8x8 deck & awning.
Exc. cond. \$14,000. In 55 &
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PLYMOUTH
Quick Oil change building for
sale, Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth
Twp., 3-bay, 1500 Sq. Ft. oil
change plus 1200 sq. ft. of
retail office. Business available
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#2700584

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1-800-579-SELL (7355)

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WASHTENAW COUNTY
WOODED 2.5 ACRE LOT
In existing community.
Easy terms. J.A. Bloch & Co.
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734-669-5813, 734-747-7888
Reinhart Commercial

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Fantastic Savings for All! Pre-
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New homes priced below cost
from \$49,900 Finance for as
little as 10% down Discounted
site rent for first year Call
(248)446-6600 for more info.

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VALLEYWOOD CONDOS
2 bdrm, 2 bath, 2 carports,
pool. \$875/mo. Incl gas &
water. \$89,900. 734-260-4386

LIVONIA
Gorgeous 3600 sq.ft.
stand alone office bldg.
Buy/lease, ample park-
ing. Must see! Ask for
Marilyn: 734-522-2510

NORTHVILLE CROSSING
Will pay \$8000 towards the
move of your existing home to
our beautiful community-with
Country Club amenities. Call,
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GLEN EDEN CEMETERY
8 cemetery plots together (4
min) in Garden of Geth-
semane, section 523 & 524,
\$800 per plot. 734-421-7384

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Additional Homes
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\$ CASH \$
Paying Cash
UP TO \$20,000 CASH
For Mobile Homes
888-872-8147

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CEMETERY LOTS 3880

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Find your ad on the internet at: www.hometownlife.com

THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.	Other
1st Best Financial	(800) 839-8918	5	2.125	4.625	2.375	J/A
1st Choice Mortgage Lending	(734) 459-0782	5.375	0	5	0	J/A
AFI Financial	(877) 234-0600	5.375	0	5	0	J/A/V/F
Ameripus Mortgage Corp.	(248) 740-2323	5.375	0	4.875	0	J/A
Benchmark Lending	(586) 463-2255	5.5	0	4.875	0	J/A
Blatt Financial	(800) 318-8000	5.625	0.813	5	0.849	Reverse
BRINKS Financial	(800) 785-4755	5.25	0.625	5	0.125	J/A/V/F
Client Services by Golden Rule	(800) 991-9922	5.25	1.375	4.75	1.5	J/A/V/F
Co-op Services Credit Union	(734) 466-6113	5.75	0	5.125	0	J
Countrywide Home Loans	(800) 641-2384	5.125	3	4.5	3	J/A/V/F
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	(313) 585-3100	5.5	0	5	0	A
DFCU Financial	(800) 739-2770	5.25	2	4.625	2	J/A
eREFI.com	(248) 935-8720	5.625	0	4.875	0.5	J/A/V/F
Fifth Third Bank	(800) 792-8830	5.5	1.125	4.875	1	J/V/F
First International Mortgage	(866) 606-0911	5.375	0	5	0	J/A
First State Bank	(248) 543-5622	5.75	0	5.25	0	J/A/V/F
Gold Star Mortgage	(800) 203-1546	5.625	0	5.125	0	J/A/V/F
Golden Rule Mortgage	(800) 991-9922	5.125	2	4.625	1.75	J/A/V/F
Group One Mortgage	(248) 282-1602	5.75	0	5.25	0	J/A/V/F
LaSalle Bank Midwest	(800) 466-3800	5.25	2	5	2	J/A/V/F
Mainstreet Mortgage	(800) 900-1319	5.625	0	5	0	J/A/V/F
Michigan Schools & Gov. C/U	(586) 263-8800	5.75	0	5	0	J/A
Mortgages by Golden Rule	(800) 991-9922	5.5	0	4.875	0	J/A/V/F
Michigan United Mortgage	(810) 844-2222	5.375	0.875	4.875	0.75	J/A
National City Bank	(586) 825-0625	5.25	1.25	4.5	1.875	J/A
Net Capital Plymouth	(734) 446-7002	5.375	0	5.125	0	J/A/V/F
Northlawn Financial	(248) 988-8488	5.375	0	4.875	0	J/A/V/F
Shore Mortgage	(800) 678-6663	5.5	2	5.375	2	J/A/V/F
York Financial Inc.	(888) 839-9675	5.375	0	4.875	0	J/A

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Observer & Eccentric

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BRIEFS
FROM PAGE C1

The program is sponsored by the Real Estate Investors of Oakland Thursday, Feb. 14; 5:30-9:30 p.m. at MSU

Management Education Center, 811 W. Square Lake Road, Troy. Seminar free to members. \$20 nonmembers. Call (800) 747-6742. (www.REIAofOakland.com)

BIA
■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will sponsor a lien law seminar on Tuesday, Feb. 19, from 8 a.m.

to 12:30 p.m. at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills. Marty Burnstein, of the Law Offices of Marty Burnstein, will discuss

“What’s New in Michigan Construction Lien Law and Lien Procedures.” Registration fees are \$75 for BIA members and \$125 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1003.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) presents Green Built Training

on Wednesday, Feb. 20, from 9-10:30 a.m. at association headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills. In this second of five trainings, Chris Pratt of Wake-Pratt Construction discusses “Starting Correctly” using materials and methods that result in Green Built cer-

tification. Building Green offers a change from selling cost per square foot to making an environmental statement. The training is free for BIA members. Advance registration is required. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008.

Michigan (BIA) will present another in its series of Certified Graduate courses — “Estimating” — on Thursday, Feb. 21, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills. Chuck Breidenstein, CAPS, of Builder Professional Services Group,

Inc. will instruct remodelers and small-to-mid volume builders on estimating insurance and profit, quantity takeoff for various materials, labor and equipment productivity issues, and subcontractor bid considerations. The course counts toward Certified Graduate Builder, Certified Graduate Associate, and Certified Graduate Remodeler certificates.

Registration fees are \$155 for Remodelers Council members, \$175 for BIA members, and \$200 for guests. For more information, call (248) 862-1033.

■ Apartment Association of Michigan’s (AAM) Property Management Council (PMC) will sponsor a professional maintenance course on Friday, Feb. 22, from 8 a.m. to noon at Wilmar Offices, 23975 Research Drive, Farmington Hills.

Tom Sadley of Wilmar will instruct attendees in several aspects of repairing major appliances such as ranges and refrigerators, including understanding components and functions, basic troubleshooting skills, as well as preventative maintenance.

Registration fees are \$45 per person. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

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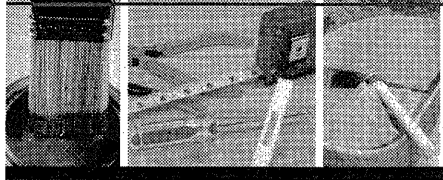
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■ Merchandise	7000-7540
■ Autos/RVs	8000-8780
■ Boats, Motors	8020
■ Motorcycles, Mini Bikes	8070
■ Trucks	8220

WHY IT'S GOOD TO BE - AND DRIVE - TOYOTA

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dale Buss

Sometimes - most times - it's good to be Toyota, and this week is a good illustration of why.

Take Toyota's two advertisements during the Super Bowl last Sunday, for example. General Motors was trying to prove its fuel-economy chops with multiple advertisements about "green" vehicles; Chrysler was attempting to convince viewers that "it's a new day" for the product-starved automaker; and Hyundai was beginning its big initiative to move upscale with the Genesis premium sedan.

But meanwhile, Toyota could afford to advertise selectively, reminding viewers of single attributes of three vehicles. With a lineup as broad and as widely accepted as Toyota's these days, it could use a laser-like focus.

So, Toyota ran an old ad for its Tundra pickup during the pre-game show, depicting it performing segment-topping feats of extraordinary mechanical athleticism. It ran a couple different feel-good ads for the new Sequoia showing how the SUV could cart around, even off-road, the equipment required for unique forms of family fun.

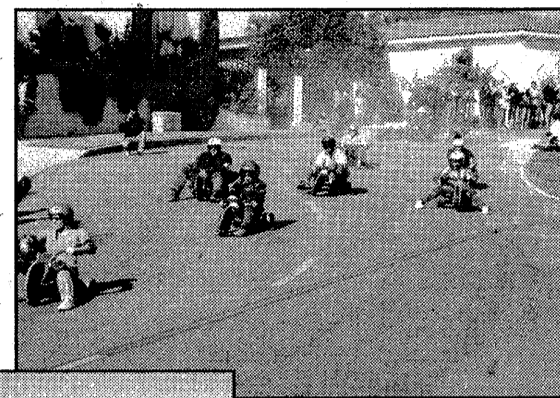
And Toyota aired a commercial for the Corolla that borrowed comedically from other companies' past Super Bowl spots in underscoring the interior quiet of the subcompact - so hushed that a cannonade outside couldn't wake a sleeping badger inside.

Much was made over the last several weeks - in Detroit at least - about whether Toyota would finally supplant GM as the global sales leader for 2007. As it turned out, GM held onto its crown, for now, by a few thousand vehicles. But with Toyota scheduled to produce more vehicles than GM worldwide this year, 2008 might be the year that it actually nips GM for the sales crown.

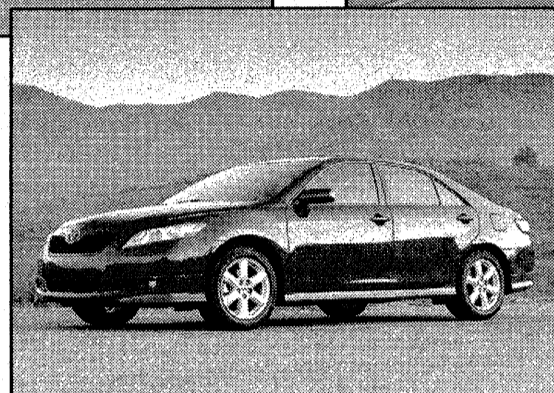
Certainly, Toyota and its Lexus luxury brand, as well as its Scion youth brand, are sitting pretty in the U.S. market these days. The Toyota Camry sedan has remained the best-selling car in America for several years running now, and it epitomizes



The new Sequoia was Toyota's big advertising push on Super Bowl Sunday.



One Sequoia ad promoted enough interior room to fit an entire kids' race team.



Camry still holds down the top U.S. sales spot for Toyota.

why Toyota is succeeding so handsomely: The car boasts a sleek but mainstream design, demonstrates impeccable manufacturing quality, provides a smooth and dependable ride, and just gets the job done mile after mile.

And when it comes to SUVs, Sunday's Super Bowl ads for the new Sequoia underscored why Toyota has become a major player in the utility part of the market as well. Americans still need large vehicles to live their lives the way they want to, and Sequoia gives them an option they can count on.

Similarly, Corolla anchors the smaller part of Toyota's sedan lineup. And its RAV4 is a perfect answer for consumers who are looking for a car-based crossover to give them both some cargo space and good gas mileage in a fun package.

When it comes to the nation's growing concerns about fuel-economic automobiles, of course, Toyota is already the king, with its Prius hybrid setting sales records month after month. Toyota took a chance on hybrid technology and appeal long before just about everybody else in the industry, and now it

is reaping its just rewards.

Perhaps more impressive than all of those vehicles, however, is what Toyota has accomplished with its Lexus marque. Over the last several years, it has simply become the benchmark in the segment, against which not only American luxury vehicles but also other Japanese luxury makes - and, increasingly, the German makers - must measure themselves.

Lexus vehicles, for example, have perfected a couple of areas where no one else really touches them, as far as I'm concerned: the comfort of their seats, especially over long distances, and the smoothness of their ride, especially in Lexus SUVs.

And Lexus has even turned out to be a trailblazer in an unexpected area: design. Most of the new crossover vehicles debuting these days owe at least their faint outlines to the streamlined Lexus RX.

Yet another reason that it's good these days to be - or drive - Toyota.

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Sunday

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Thursday

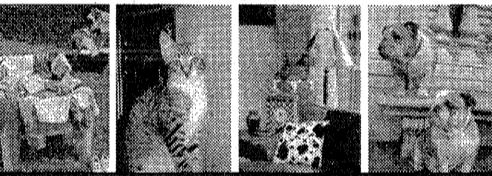
6 p.m. Tuesday

Thursday Real Estate Display

3 p.m. Monday

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7100 Estate Sales 7100

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Ideal for anyone who can't get out to work. Work from home PT, schedule pick-ups for Purple Heart. Call 9-5, M-F. 734-728-4572

ASSISTANT MANAGER
Part-time. Looking for self-motivated dependable person interested in a position at a self-storage facility in Livonia. Sales, computer skills & general office knowledge required. Must be able to maintain appearance of store. Must live in the Livonia area. \$10/hr. Fax resume to: 586-979-8518.

AUTO DEALER PARTS DRIVER
Westside GM dealer seeks parts delivery person. Must have Class C license and want to work. Apply at:
Gordon Chevrolet
31850 Ford Rd
Garden City MI 48135
CABINET MAKER & LAMINATOR
Experienced
Call 734-722-1800

CAREGIVER
Persons to work with developmentally disabled children and adults. Flex. hrs. applications accepted Mon-Fri 9am-3pm at Paragon 2087 Middlebelt, Garden City

CASHIER, FT
Able to be bonded. Prior experience in large volume store req. Serious inquiries only. Fax resume: 313-567-8218

CATI INTERVIEWERS
(Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewers)
20-30 hrs/week
PM & Weekends
Must have Computer & Phone Interviewing exp. \$8 to \$10 hr.
Depending on exp.
Resumes by email only: sensithia.brown@wayne.edu
Wayne State University
CENTERLESS GRINDER OPERATOR
With 3-5 years exp. Ex. pay. 734-464-6856 Leave message.

HOUSE CLEANER NEEDED
Farmington Hills. Sat mornings. \$16/hr. Request references. 248 471 3029

ACCOUNT MANAGER

As an Account Manager, your responsibilities include driving and achieving specific sales goals by attaining yearly objectives and building business relationships with key dealer personnel. These goals are obtained by using account management solutions selling skills to "deep dive" into a dealer's business and understanding their short and long term goals.

- We Require:**
- Bachelor's degree
 - 3+ years related experience
 - Strong customer relationship skills
 - Excellent communication skills
 - Extensive automotive experience preferred
- We Offer:**
- Extensive training on our products and industry
 - Paid associate benefits including medical, dental, vision and 401k matching
 - Company car, BlackBerry and home office equipment

Call 1-800-745-3903 or submit resume with salary requirements to apply@reyrey.com.

Reynolds & Reynolds.

www.reyrey.com EOE.

Help Wanted-General 5000
CENTRAL STATION OPERATORS
Experienced, full or part time, Call Mon.-Fri., 9am-4pm, (248) 358-2555

Help Wanted-General 5000
COLLECTION SPECIALIST
Full time, for auto dealer in Taylor. Phone & computer skills required. Call 734-946-0011 or fax 734-946-0084 Attn: Eugene

Help Wanted-General 5000
COPIER TECHNICIAN
Mita & Kyocera
313-562-5552

Help Wanted-General 5000
Customer Service
Livonia firm seeks patient, detailed person to take service calls, process repair orders, dispatch techs, etc. Excellent phone & computer skills. Send resume to: hr@sounding.com

Help Wanted-General 5000
DENTAL ASSISTANT
Dependable, out-going, experienced person needed part time. (248) 649-2868

Help Wanted-General 5000
DIRECT CARE STAFF
PT, for our 8 quality Group Homes. Drivers License req'd. Call 248-814-6714

Help Wanted-General 5000
DIRECT CARE WORKER
Wayne/Westland area.
Call Mon-Fri, 734-525-7731

Help Wanted-General 5000
DOWN? DEPRESSED?
We are looking for volunteers to participate in a research study of an investigational medication for depression. Qualified participants receive all research related care, study medication, and office visits at no cost. Please call the Institute for Health Studies at 1-877-908-CARE. Ask about compensation available for participation.

Help Wanted-General 5000
DRIVER TRAINEES
Needed At Werner Enterprises Earn \$700+ per week 401k & Benefits No Experience Needed! CDL & Job Ready in 3 weeks at Nu-Way! 2 Training Centers! No Money Down! Carrier may cover costs! 1-888-822-8743

Help Wanted-General 5000
DRIVER, PT with CDL
Must have good driving record. Some heavy lifting may be required. Send resume to: TSI, 37107 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

Help Wanted-General 5000
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DIRECTOR
A private school in SE Oakland County is looking for an individual to direct in the development of a new elementary school program. This position is currently part time (approx. 10 hrs. per week) but will expand to a full time position in Sept. 2008. For further information, fax a letter of interest and a resume to: 248-541-5750

Help Wanted-General 5000
GAS REGISTRATION AGENTS
A VERY SUCCESSFUL ENERGY CO. has limited openings for Gas Registration Agents (Average \$25.00/hr.) No prior experience necessary. Ms. Diamond, 248-594-2341

Help Wanted-General 5000
GENERAL LABORER
Specialty welding shop. Full-time, Mon-Fri. Days only. Paid vacations & holidays, company paid BCBS, prescription, dental & life insurance, retirement plan and uniforms. Apply at Nu-Core, 2424 Beech Daly, Inkster.

Help Wanted-General 5000
GRAPHIC DESIGNER/SIGN MAKER
- Waterford & Rochester area. Fax resume w/salary req. (248) 355-3420

Help Wanted-General 5000
HAIR STYLISTS
Livonia salon. Now hiring. Call (734) 422-4497

Help Wanted-General 5000
HAIRSTYLIST COSMETOLOGIST
Licensed, w/ exp. Samira, 248-346-3364

Help Wanted-General 5000
HOMEBASED Structured Organic Day Care in need of peppy, self-motivated, reliable Assistant. Full & part time contract help. Novi, 9 Mile/Meadowbrook Kim, 248-515-4392

Help Wanted-General 5000
SHUTTLE DRIVERS-P/T
Midnights
Must be 25 yrs or older, have Chauffeur's license. Apply within, Hampton Inn 30847 Flynn Drive, Romulus No phone calls please

Help Wanted-General 5000
HOUSE CLEANER NEEDED
Farmington Hills. Sat mornings. \$16/hr. Request references. 248 471 3029

Help Wanted-General 5000
HVAC Commercial Estimator
Large service contractor is looking for a confident team player with proven ability in HVAC estimating for project & service work. Sheet metal & piping background preferred. Excellent benefit package includes health, 401(k), & profit sharing. Please fax inquiries to: (248) 478-2005 or apply on-line @ www.danboisemechanical.com

Help Wanted-General 5000
HVAC DISPATCHER
Growing, well established mechanical contracting company located in Detroit metropolitan area seeking to fill immediately available position for dispatcher with experience in the HVAC industry, well organized, must be reliable, familiar with shipping/receiving and inventory control. Good computer skills in Excel, Access, and Quick Books a plus. Salary negotiable, paid vacation and Holidays, full medical benefits, 401k and retirement plan. Good customer relations, professionalism, and dependability highly recommended. E-Mail resumes to mitchx312@yahoo.com

Help Wanted-General 5000
JOE'S PRODUCE/GOURMET MARKET
is now hiring for exp. Produce Asst. Manager & Manager, Receiver & Driver w/good driving record & ability to lift 50#. Apply in person at: 33152 W. 7 Mile Rd., Livonia

Help Wanted-General 5000
JOURNEYMAN WINDOW CLEANER
To become operation mgr. Clean cut, aggressive. Good pay/benefits. 1-866-570-7755

Help Wanted-General 5000
LEASING CONSULTANT
Part time Leasing Consultant wanted for our Novi / Westland property. Please fax resume to: (734)459-1719

Help Wanted-General 5000
LIFEGUARDS
Now hiring dependable, team players for summer positions. Flexible hours, great pay. Call: 248-349-5570 or fax/email resume Dawn: 248-349-0394 kingsmill@sbjglobal.net

Help Wanted-General 5000
Maintenance

Help Wanted-General 5000
Plant Maintenance Lead/Supervisor
Atlas Tube, Inc. is seeking an experienced & motivated applicant for a supervisory Maintenance Technician position. Journeyman Electrician or equivalent, specific knowledge of electrical systems (Allen Bradley PLC's and drive controls) extensive knowledge of heavy manufacturing equipment is required. This position requires a high school diploma or GED, and at least three years of Supervisory experience. The position offers Anthem Blue Cross group health coverage, top wages, and incentive program.

Help Wanted-General 5000
Interested applicants should fax resumes to Atlas Tube - Plymouth, MI (734) 738-5634

Help Wanted-General 5000
MANHOLE REHABILITATION GENERAL LABORER
100% out of town work, concrete experience a plus but not necessary, will train. Need hard working and dependable person. Must have valid driver's license with CDL-A or able to obtain one. Apply at AUI, 38657 Webb Dr., Westland.

Help Wanted-General 5000
OIL CHANGE TECH
F/T. Fast luide experience needed. Apply in person 5794 N. Canton Center Canton, 48187 (734) 455-5546

Help Wanted-General 5000
PAINTER BATCH, FT
Automotive parts. Experts with minimum 10 yrs. exp. Exc. wages. Call: 248-680-1720 Fax resume: 248-680-1725

Help Wanted-General 5000
PAYROLL DEPARTMENT MANAGER NEEDED
Must be certified. Excellent benefits. Fax resume to 313-388-0303 attn: Carol.

Help Wanted-General 5000
PLUMBER: Must be licensed Journeyman and have good driving record. Full/Part-Time. SUN INTERVIEWS CALL NOW (866) 832-7580

Help Wanted-General 5000
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
Apt./Mobile Home Park. Experience preferred. Mail resume to: Owner, PO Box 85530, Westland, MI 48185

Help Wanted-General 5000
RECEIVER/STOCK
Receiving, electrical jack & Hi-lo exp. Some heavy lifting. Good communication skills. Ref Box 1660 Attn: Lucy The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers 36251 Schoolcraft Rd, Livonia MI 48152

Help Wanted-General 5000
RECEPTIONIST/ FRONT DESK ASSISTANT
Needed for busy Plymouth salon. Friendly, outgoing personality w/ good people skills. Must be able to multi-task. P/T, some days & evenings. Pay negotiable. Call (734) 455-6833, Mon. or Wed., 9am-1pm.

Help Wanted-General 5000
RESIDENTIAL MANAGER
Experienced Apartment Manager. A minimum 5 years experience good communication, organizational, and marketing skills are required for this position. Knowledge in government programs helpful. Fax your resume to: 248-356-3509

Help Wanted-General 5000
RETAIL SALES PERSON
Exp. in jewelry sales. Serious inquiries. Fax resume: 313-567-8218

Help Wanted-General 5000
RETAIL: ALL POSITIONS
Including Restaurant. Premium Pay for Overnight & Exp. Apply in store: 37175 Grand River, Farmington or online at: www.kmart.com/careers

Help Wanted-General 5000
ROBOTICS APPLICATIONS ENGINEER
Wanted to teach pendant task programming; use knowledge of Fanuc Robotics, RH to R3 and Karel. Programming language, etc. Please send resume to: Glen A. Carlson, III, President, Acme Manufacturing Company, 4240 N. Atlantic Blvd., Auburn Hills, MI 48326.

Help Wanted-General 5000
SHIPPING & RECEIVING CLERK/SHOP MAINTENANCE
Part-Time. Tool Manufacturer in Plymouth. 734-455-1144

Help Wanted-General 5000
SHOVELERS
On-call sidewalk shovelers needed. Reliable, hard working. (734) 667-2476

Help Wanted-General 5000
SITE COORDINATOR
Wanted for local janitorial company. Janitorial exp. a must. Competitive wages and benefits. Send resume to: (734) 421-8994 OR hr@dmigroup.com

Help Wanted-General 5000
SNOWBLOW & SHOVELERS NEEDED
Landscape and Lawn Cutting, Plymouth area. (734) 564-1273

Help Wanted-General 5000
Tool & Die Tender
Western Wayne County Metal Stamping Company seeks energetic and mechanically inclined candidate to separate, disassemble, clean, and reassemble small to large tooling and fixtures for repair and maintenance. Experience with fork lift, crane operation, and High School Diploma or equivalent a must. Please submit resumes to: humanresources@eemfg.com

Help Wanted-General 5000
TRUCK MECHANIC
Growing organization in the Rubber Industry looking for a Heavy Truck Mechanic, Afternoon Shift. Accepting Applications Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm

Help Wanted-General 5000
TLC Waste
10100 Harrison Romulus, MI 48174

Help Wanted-General 5000
Over 10,000 listings online
hometownlife.com

Help Wanted-General 5000
REAL ESTATE

Help Wanted-General 5000
WELDER
Full time, for heavy structural steel fabricator. Minimum 5 yrs. exp. 734-261-0130.

Help Wanted-Computer/Info Systems 5010
COMPUTER REPAIR TECH
For information and to apply on line visit pearltechs.com/employment

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
For engineering construction firm in Farmington Hills. Mail or Fax resume to: 3444 W. 8 Mile Rd Ste 109, Livonia, MI 48152; 248-888-9393.

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020
BILLING/SHIPPING CLERK
Rapidly growing company seeking highly motivated individual to fill a full-time position. Requires 55 wpm, use of Word & Excel software, prior exp. in shipping/billing & working knowledge of Peachtree software a plus. Benefits include company supported healthcare, prescription, dental, life & 401K. Please apply at: Nu-Core Inc., 2424 Beech Daly Rd., Inkster.

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020
FILE CLERK
For Farmington Hills law firm. PT.Fax resume: 248-406-8001

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020
FRONT DESK
Insurance service firm providing medical assessments, seeking Administrative Assistant, with exp in phone, clerical, medical terminology. Multi tasking, professionalism, & organizational skills required. mimgri@mls-ime.com or fax 248-356-6757

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020
OFFICE ASSISTANT/CLERICAL WORK
P/T, for medical office in Livonia. Fax resume: 734-522-7686

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020
Office Manager Assistant
Full-time. Small construction company. Wixom area. Email resume: dcamin@comcast.net or Fax: 248-684-5331

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020
SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST
For small Farmington Hills accounting firm. Strong Word & Excel skills, bookkeeping background helpful. Full-time position with good compensation package. Fax resume to: (248) 477-5692

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020
TYPIST PT
For reports. Plus some office duties. Must be proficient in WORD and be fast & accurate. Dictaphone exp. + Send resume to: 36135 Schoolcraft Livonia, MI 48150

Help Wanted-Dental 5040
DENTAL ASSISTANT and RECEPTIONIST
Must have exp., positive & professional attitude. Fax resume to 313-861-5794

Help Wanted-Dental 5040
DENTAL ASSISTANT
Busy Livonia Practice seeking full time Dental Assistant, exp. preferred but willing to train the right individual. Benefits. Call 734-261-9443 or Fax Resume to 734-261-8484

Help Wanted-Dental 5040
Dental Assistant Exp. needed; Canton. Front desk and exc. customer service skills a plus. 26-30 hrs/wk, no benefits. Fax resume: 734-455-7848

Help Wanted-Dental 5040
DENTAL ASSISTANT
Livonia office, FT, for energetic, outgoing people-person. No exp necessary. Send resume to: Fax: 734-542-9906 or Call: 734-542-9904

Help Wanted-Dental 5040
DENTAL ASSISTANT
PT position available for busy Livonia office. Exp. required. Please send resumes to: Box 1658 Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

Help Wanted-Dental 5040
DENTAL ASSISTANT
Westland office needs part or full time, exp. assistant. Fax: 734-425-7675

Help Wanted-Dental 5040
DENTAL FRONT DESK
FT, team member needed for busy multi-doctor practice in Canton. Dental exp. nice. Resume to: fax: Attn Janice, 734-981-2683 or email lilley45@hotmail.com

Help Wanted-Dental 5040
DENTAL RECEPTIONIST, PT
Dental exp. is needed. Plymouth area. 313-443-1782 dent4kids@sbjglobal.net

Help Wanted-Dental 5040
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF NURSING
Golden Oaks in Pontiac is seeking an Assistant Director of Nursing and nurses for days and afternoons. Golden Oaks is a 90 bed skilled nursing facility focused on short term rehab. Come join the new team at Golden Oaks. Health and dental benefits, as well as 401k available.

Help Wanted-Dental 5040
Please fax resume to Golden Oaks at (248) 858-4026
Attn: Scott Avery or Karen Jones

Help Wanted-Dental 5040
BIKINI WAITSTAFF
FT/PT, days & nights. Apply in person before 6pm. Plymouth Road House, 34101 Plymouth Rd., (734) 421-7744

Help Wanted-Dental 5040
CHEF
Our full service hotel in Dearborn is looking for working Chef. Candidate must have a verifiable track record of at least 3 yrs. exp. as a Chef. Skills needed are a thorough understanding of all aspects of food costs, cleanliness and high quality food. To learn more please send resumes to: Box 1661, Observer & Eccentric, 36251 Schoolcraft Rd, Livonia, MI 48150

Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080
BIKINI WAITSTAFF
FT/PT, days & nights. Apply in person before 6pm. Plymouth Road House, 34101 Plymouth Rd., (734) 421-7744

Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080
DRIVE THE BIG RIGS! Truck driver training. Pre-hire program. Tuition reimbursement. No employment contracts. Big Bucks driving Big Trucks! Call HRCD today. 1-888-750-6200. www.DriveTheBigRigs.com

Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080
DRIVER: DON'T JUST START
your career, start it right! Company sponsored CDL training in 3 weeks. Must be 21. Have CDL? Tuition reimbursement! CRST. 866-917-2778.

Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080
DELIVERY DRIVER
Need a driver for our growing business. Must have good driving record & ability to lift 50#. Apply in person at: 33152 W. 7 Mile Rd., Livonia

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Help Wanted-Medical 5060

Help Wanted-Medical 5060
DIRECT CARE
F/T, P/T, afternoon, includes weekends. Farmington area. Contact Nikki, Mon-Fri., 9am-3pm. 248-477-6044

Help Wanted-Medical 5060
LPN/MA
Needed for busy holistic medical practice. Part &/or Full-time. Please send resume Attn: Andrea 5821 W. Maple Rd. #192 West Bloomfield MI 48322

Help Wanted-Medical 5060
MA OR LPN , EXPERIENCED
Excellent Phlebotomy a must. Novi area. Fax resume: 248-626-9533

Help Wanted-Medical 5060
MEDICAL - ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
P/T- F/T, flexible. \$13-\$15/ hr. to start. Medical billing & computer experience preferred. Fax 248-698-4109, or email resume: kjmrayrand@comcast.net

Help Wanted-Medical 5060
MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Growing specialty practice with offices throughout Oakland County seeks qualified Medical Assistant. Daytime hrs. Mon-Fri. Full-time with benefits. Send resume or letter stating qualifications & exp to: Mr. Muir Michigan Kidney Consultants 1701 South Blvd. E. Suite 320 Rochester Hills, MI 48307

Help Wanted-Medical 5060
MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST
FT for Canton dermatology office. Experience preferred. Fax resume: 734-455-7371

Help Wanted-Medical 5060
OPTICIAN WANTED
Do you have a passion for helping people? Customer service and sales ability must be excellent. This is a unique opportunity within the growing healthcare industry where you can combine sale skills with craftsmanship. Optical knowledge and experience helpful but willing to train the right person with the correct attitude and desire to learn. Please email your resume to suburbaneyecare@yahoo.com or fax your resume to (734)525-0726 Attn: Kristin.

Help Wanted-Medical 5060
PHYSICIAN NEEDED
New medical office in



Find a house with a mouse.

Use the most comprehensive web sites in the state to find your next home.

realestateone.com • maxbroock.com • jjrealtors.com

REAL ESTATE • MORTGAGE • TITLE • INSURANCE GET YOUR REAL ESTATE LICENSE IN ONE WEEK! 248-356-7111 LEADING REAL ESTATE COMPANIES OF THE WORLD



Canton 248-348-6430
Picture perfect in every way! Home deep within golf course community! Over 3400 sq ft. gourmet kit, butler's pantry, dual staircase, stunning landscaping w/unique perennials, brick walk & patio.
(28014915) \$419,900



Farmington Hills 248-348-6430
Beautiful Golf Course Community First fl mstr suite, fin'd walkout bsmt, 2,300 sq. ft. New Corian counter/sink in kitchen.
(27138690) \$359,000



Highland 248-684-1065
Breathtaking view! Florida rm & deck. Waterfront ranch w/ major updates done. All appls stay. 100x150 lot w/ gar across street for parking & storage.
(27056829) \$225,000



Northville 248-684-1065
Beautiful historic home in downtown w/ HDWD flrs thru-out. Tin 9' ceilings, granite kitchen/ctr. Island, cherry cabs, SS appl, french doors, paver patio, & more!
(28011442) \$460,000



Redford 248-851-1900
NICE BRICK RANCH READY FOR A NEW OWNER Freshly painted, large front window for lots of light. Full bsmt. All appliances stay. HWF in BR & under carpet in LR. Close to x-ways, parks & shopping.
(27224232) \$99,900



South Lyon 248-348-6430
SUPER PRICE & FIRST TIMER/DOWNSIZER RANCH Nice 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath ranch w/a sunroom w/skylight & hot tub. Basement. 2 car att gar. Subdivision has sidewalks, municipal water and sewer. Fenced yard w/shed.
(27038055) \$153,000



Canton 734-455-7000
MAINTAINED TO PERFECTION! Updates: windows, roof, siding, HWH. Open flr plan, cstm wndw treatments & paint. Lg mstr w/priv BA. Gorgeous landscape/yard. FP in FR, 1st flr Indry. Fin bsmt.
(28005073) \$224,000



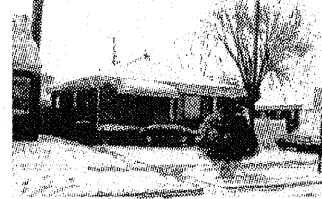
Farmington Hills 734-591-9200
Beautiful Hunters Pointe Colonial Over 3,000 sqft of updated elegance. Granite kitchen, Hardwood floors, Family Room with a bar, Professionally finished lower level & more!
(28019293) \$309,900



Highland 248-684-1065
Pristine Dunham Lake privileges. Immaculate ranch boasts andersen windows, california closets, oak kitchen, wired for surround sound. Inground pool w/ solar heat
(27160580) \$200,000



Northville 248-348-6430
BRIGHT AND AIRY RANCH IN FAMILY SUB Updtd 3 br, 2 ba. Kit w/hickory cab, Corian cnt, LR w/cathedral cell, built-ins. 1st flr laund. Tread deck, paver patio. Garage w/heat & AC. McLean Burke Osgood Team.
(27117914) \$265,000



Redford 734-455-7000
READY TO MOVE IN! This bank owned property is extremely clean and ready to move in. 3BR/1.1BA, newer windows, fin basement. Pride of ownership shows in this lovely neighborhood.
(28016349) \$89,900



South Lyon 248-437-3800
This is a great starter home Home is in a quiet neighborhood. Newly painted, spacious ranch. All appliances included. Also: deck, fenced yard, 2 car garage and central air.
(28014207) \$129,900



Canton 734-455-7000
UPTOWN CANTON VILLAGE! 46 upscale brownstone condo w/5 flr plans, 2-3 bedrooms, 2-car garage, fireplace, balcony, and GeoThermal heating & cooling. Call for a reservation!
(27054660) \$193,900



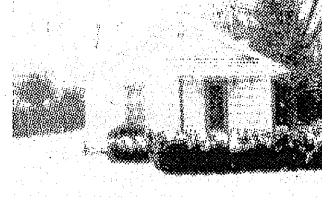
Farmington Hills 248-851-1900
BEAUTIFUL HOME AT AN ATTRACTIVE PRICE Two story entry, circular staircase, beautiful kitchen w/granite counters & floors open to oversized family rm. 4 bedrooms, 2.1 baths. Close to freeways & shopping.
(27155384) \$305,000



Howell 734-591-9200
Immaculate, Stylish, Very Clean Condo Soaring 2-story GR w/ loft** Loads of cupboard, cabinet space** 2 full Pottery Barn bathrooms w/ upgraded fixtures** Low \$178 mo. association** www.DoorToDreams.com.
(27175295) \$144,900



Novi 248-437-3800
Ranch w/3 Acres In Novi This duplex has 3 bedrooms in each unit. This is an unbelievable investment opportunity. Lease out both sides of duplex and still have room to build.
(28015959) \$450,000



Romulus 734-326-2000
THIS HOME IS TURN KEY READY! This property is located on an oversized lot & has a dream garage w/ opener & electricity. Better than New! Move right in. Newer furnace, C/A, windows, & doors.
(28015427) \$94,900



Waterford 248-684-1065
Open & airy ranch w/ carport. Huge fenced yard. Pergo flr in LR & hallway. Full ba w/ ceramic flr & tub. Eat-in kit w/ recessed light & brkt bar. 1st flr laun.
(28007921) \$79,900



Canton Twp 734-455-7000
OUTSTANDING CUSTOM CAPE! Elegant 5BR on almost 1/2 acre, backs to woods. 2-way FP from Great Room-rook. Dual staircase. 1st flr master w/Jacuzzi. Beautifully appointed!
(28007580) \$395,000



Farmington Hills 248-851-1900
BEAUTIFUL RANCH HOME ON 1 ACRE Backs up to wooded area. Newer furnace and AC. Beautiful fireplace, HWF in family room, Corian countertops. Lots of room to expand. Ready to move in!
(27179060) \$169,900



Livonia 248-348-6430
COMPLETELY UPDATED COLONIAL The inside story: New kit incl cabs, granite cnts, tile bkspsh & floor plus all new appl. All new paint, new carpet, new main bath. Updtd FR, Power rm & LR.
(27121077) \$239,900



Novi 248-851-1900
POPULAR NEIGHBORHOOD, WONDERFUL AMENITIES. Neighborhood elem sch, parks, playgrounds, convenience! Updates include window treatments, paint, double oven, landscaping, furn, dishwasher! 4 BR, 2 BA.
(27208461) \$239,000



Royal Oak 248-348-6430
Spotless and Updated Colonial Spotless. 3 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, Fin'd lower level w/full bath, 2 car insulated/heated garage. Updated kitchen and bath, leaded glass windows, art deco FP.
(27166673) \$269,000



West Bloomfield 248-348-6430
Spacious Upper End Ranch What a beauty! 3 bed, 2 bath, LR & master w/vaulted ceilings, hwdw floors in most rooms, private entrance from garage, clubhouse & pool, immediate occupancy.
(27182947) \$1,250



Canton Twp 734-455-7000
THIS BEAUTIFUL CONDO HAS IT ALL! Everything is done! Each of the 3 bedrooms has its own bath + 1/2 bath on main, 1st flr mstr, upgrades t/o, lg loft area, prof fin LL w/bar & daylight wndws.
(28011648) \$239,900



Farmington Hills 248-684-1065
Sharp 2 BR/2 BA condo located in back of complex w/ scenic view of woods/nature. Open flr plan. Cathedral ceiling & gas FP. Ceramic bath w/ whirlpool tub.
(28011052) \$159,900



Livonia 248-348-6430
Remodeled From Top To Bottom! New everything! Kitchen, bath, roof, paint, door, window treatments, sprinkler system. Partial finished bsmt w/ half bath, work room & storage. Large corner lot
(27186562) \$173,900



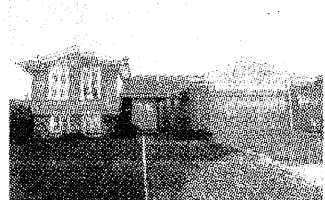
Pleasant Ridge 248-348-6430
TOTALLY CHARMING TOTALLY UPDATED 2952 sq ft colonial. 4 Bedroom, 3.5 baths. Large private yard. Too many amenities to list. Must see www.pleasantridgehome.com.
(27000026) \$535,000



South Lyon 248-437-3800
All Sports Lakefront Home! Home is situated on huge lot with excellent views. Two fireplaces for cozy winter nights. Large decks for outdoor entertaining. Recent updates.
(27208861) \$399,900



Westland 248-348-6430
Largest 2 BR Floor Plan in Complex Decorated with designer colors. Upgrades include hwdw in entry, kit and breakfast area. Plumbing fixtures in baths, carpet, cabinets in kitchen.
(27197155) \$144,900



Canton Twp 734-455-7000
NORTH CANTON QUAD W/ GREAT CURB APPEAL! Newer trim/siding. Lg mud rm off gar. Lg kit w/newer wood flrs. Oak cabs, undermount lighting. Spacious living/dining rm w/crown molding, bay wndw. LL w/lg FR.
(28003320) \$205,000



Farmington Hills 248-348-6430
Classic brick bungalow loads of updates: roof, windows, siding, baths, plumbing, new kitchen w/hwdw floors and maple cabinets, fenced backyard.
(27192827) \$157,500



Livonia 248-684-1065
Move right in this lovely 4 BR colonial. Freshly painted. Updates include furnace, AC, windows, roof, doors, sprinkler. Nat'l FP. Large backyard.
(27143710) \$169,900



Livonia 248-348-6430
Short Sale Subject to 3rd Party Review. 4 bedroom brick ranch. Finished basement, all appliances stay. 1 car detached garage, Livonia schools. Bring all offers!
(27203574) \$119,000



South Lyon 248-437-3800
Reduced!! Wide open floor plan with 3 car garage and daylight basement. Home is drywalled and you choose the rest. Make an offer!
(27212000) \$295,000



Westland 248-851-1900
WONDERFUL UPDATED 3 BR 2 BATH RANCH Move in condition located on quiet dead-end street. Pella windows thru-out. Updated master bath w/oversized shower. MBR has WIC. Large fenced yard w/play structure.
(28016115) \$139,000



Canton Twp 734-455-7000
WHY RENT WHEN YOU CAN OWN? Establish equity & get a write-off! Currently getting freshly painted and recarpeted. Brick exterior. Plymouth/Canton Schools. Quiet community!
(28002019) \$84,900



Fenton 248-684-1065
Custom home on 10 acres! Gourmet kit, granite T/O. 1st flr mstr, dbl-sided stone FP. Fin. LL w/ bar, Den/exercise RM, Tile/stone flrs, Deck/ gazebo, 2nd garage.
(28010834) \$530,000



Melvindale 248-437-3800
Updated Upper Unit Condo! Condo has 2 bedrooms, 1 bath and 1 car garage. Cathedral ceilings, hardwood floors throughout, granite counter tops, stainless steel appliance - a must see!
(28015848) \$135,000



Plymouth 734-591-9200
Fantastic House with a Fantastic Price Priced for a fast sale. 3 BR Brch ranch in lovely Plymouth area. Eat in kit, FR w/FP & DW & 12x10 sunroom. Separate LR in bsmt w/ 1.5 BA, 2.5 gr. Updates galore.
(28009773) \$150,000



South Lyon 248-437-3800
Quality Built Newer Contemporary Home features great room w/gas fireplace, formal dining room has bay window, kit w/center island, breakfast nook has doorwall leading to brick paver patio.
(28014985) \$279,900



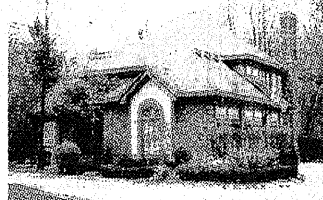
Westland 734-326-2000
BONUS BUY CITY LIVING COUNTRY ATMOSPHERE is this 3 or 4 bedroom bungalow w/ remodeled kitchen, & 1.5 baths, both remodeled, FR, new roof, huge master ste w/WIC and 1/2 bath. All on a 107 ft lot.
(27170774) \$114,900



Detroit 248-348-6430
Loads of Potential LR w/ bay, DR and eat-in kit. Large mstr upstairs w/ bath, convert as a walk-in closet. Fin'd bsmt, separate laundry & bath. One car garage. Immediate occupancy.
(27133297) \$59,900



Garden City 734-326-2000
LOTS OF UPDATES FOR THE FIRST TIMER 3 bd home, partially finished basement w/ washer & dryer, 2 car det garage. Newer furnace, C/A, HWH. Windows & roof shingles. Up to 3% towards closing costs.
(27028961) \$99,900



Milford 734-591-9200
Your own private island. This custom built villa has over 4,000 sq ft of living space. Quality feat incl 9 ft cell, 2 stry GR rm, 4 frpics, custom mantel, 3 balconies. The list goes on!
(27127829) \$519,900



Plymouth 734-591-9200
Fantastic House with a Fantastic Price Priced for a fast sale. 3 BR Brch ranch in lovely Plymouth area. Eat in kit, FR w/FP & DW & 12x10 sunroom. Separate LR in bsmt w/ 1.5 BA, 2.5 gr. Updates galore.
(28009773) \$150,000



South Lyon 248-437-3800
Completely Remodeled Duplex Each unit has separate entrance, separate water, elect, and gas meters. Front unit has 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. Back unit has 1 bedroom and 1 bath.
(27208964) \$249,900



Westland 734-326-2000
CLEAN & NICELY CARED FOR RANCH w/ many amenities incl. newer windows & furnace. Neutral carpeting thru-out, hwdw flrs except kit & BA. Good storage, 2.5 car grg. Also for lease \$950.
(27210590) \$112,900



Farmington 248-348-6430
Furnished Condo In Farmington Walk to downtown Farmington from this furnished condo including all kitchen appl. & washer & dryer. New paint, new carpet - Move right into this upper unit.
(27222285) \$62,900



Highland 248-684-1065
Custom built lkfrt home; 1.7 acres. Maple cabs & granite t/o 2 kits & baths. 2 story GR w/ gas fp. 1st flr mstr w/ ba & 2 WICs. Fin W/O; prof insp.
(28004735) \$649,900



Milford 248-684-1065
Custom built home on 3+ acres. 4 car gar + add'l 4-6 car gar w/ H2O & elec. Huge 1st flr mstr ste w/ 2 WIC, jet tub & dr to yard. GR w/ flr to cell fp. Fin LL.
(28011519) \$499,900



Redford 248-437-3800
Custom Cape Cod!! Remodeled in '02. Home has 2 beautiful fireplaces, large spacious rooms, oversized 2 car garage and more!!
(27148702) \$149,500



South Lyon 248-437-3800
Love the outdoors? This is a rare find. Bring your boat canal leads to 4 lakes. Loads of high end amenities in the home, granite counters, maple and oak floors, walk-out basement.
(27217033) \$229,000



Wixom 248-684-1065
Meticulously maintained. Pergo floors throughout entry level & new carpet. Spacious kitchen & dining area. Open floor plan. Master suite/2 showers.
(28009382) \$210,000



Farmington Hills 248-851-4100
GORGEOUS SETTING! Beautiful 4 bedroom 2.15 bath colonial. White kitchen with eating area opening to family room.
(28020718) \$368,000



Highland 248-684-1065
Lots of space for work and play. Remod in 2001. Huge 54x37 barn. Anderson windows, River rock FP, 1930's oak mantle FP, update kit, new cabs, wood flrs.
(28012840) \$229,000



Milford 248-684-1065
Updated home on 3 wooded acres. Open GR w/ cath cell, fp & DW to deck w/ 4-person hot rock FP. Kit & DR w/ hwdw flrs, corian counters, dbl sinks. 1st flr mstr ste.
(27081484) \$329,900



Redford 734-591-9200
Look no Further! Gorgeous 3BRDM Brick home with remodeled Open Kitchen w/ maple cabs and stone bkspsh, shiny HRWD floors, 2 car gar, hug finished-look basement, A/CI
(27208673) \$139,900



South Lyon 248-437-3800
Luxury Condos New Construction! 2 BR, 2 BA ranches starting at \$174,900! 2 BR, 2 1/2 BA cape cabs starting at \$184,000. Std features include hickory cabs w/42" uppers, granite cnts, much more.
(26015094) \$174,900



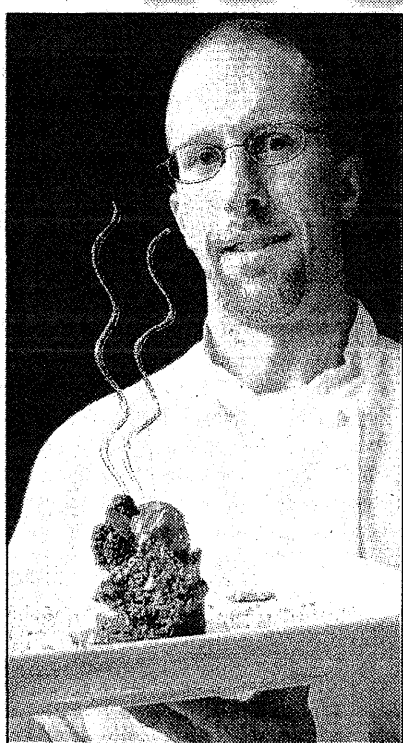
Wixom 248-348-6430
GREAT OPPORTUNITY - Popular Hidden Creek Beautiful colonial in top notch condition! Neutral decor, ceramic in lg entry & baths. Huge deck overlooks private yard. Part fin bsmt, LR, DR, FR and 3 lg bdrms.
(28001979) \$208,000

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A chocolate primer

Pastry chefs offer insight into the divine dessert

primer



Tribute's pastry chef, Greg Stroker, presents 'Chocolate Blackberry.' The dessert is made with chocolate mousse, hazelnut cake, apricot puree, and blackberry sorbet.

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Smooth, sweet, silky chocolate. What is its strange allure, its seductive power, and why do we go so crazy over it?

In 2005, the U.S. consumed \$1.4 billion of cocoa and cocoa products, according to the Chocolate Manufacturers Association.

Long considered an aphrodisiac, chocolate was a status symbol in Europe due to its richness, rarity and exotic origins, according to the *Encyclopedia of Food and Culture*.

"The very history of chocolate is lent to its mystique," said Joe Decker, certified master pastry chef and instructor at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. "Cortez and Columbus discovered it from the Mayans. The upper aristocracy in Europe kept it for the upper class and it wasn't until the mid-1800s that it was available to the middle class."

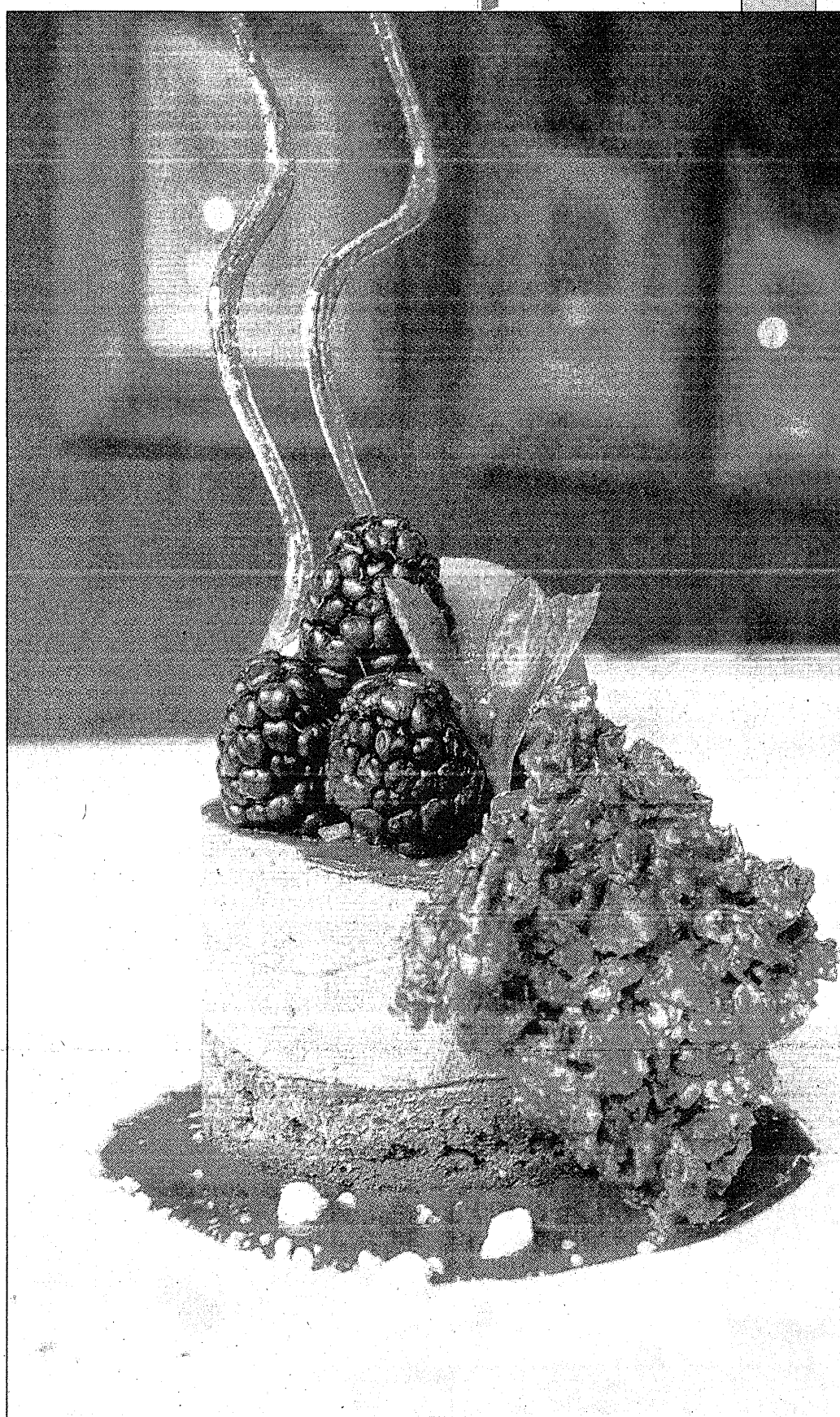
The history of chocolate starts about 2,000 years ago when the delicious secret of the cacao (kah KOW) tree was discovered in the tropical rainforests of the Americas by ancient Mayans. The tree's pods contain seeds that can be processed into chocolate.

Most texts base its origin in Amazon or Orinoco river basins of northern South America, but it also took on a role as an important economic exchange for peoples of that continent.

Today, chocolate is enjoyed everywhere with a variety of tastes and flavors — bitter chocolate, milk chocolate, dark chocolate, couverture, and white chocolate. Baby boomers particularly enjoy the finer aspects of chocolate, says Decker.

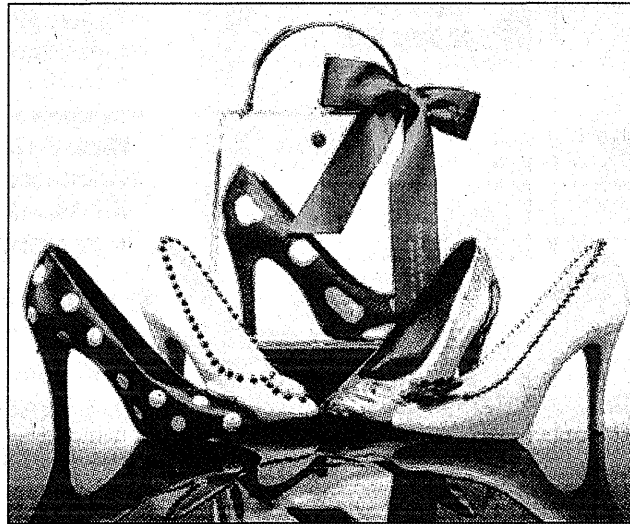
"Today you see events like chocolate tastings, where people come in and taste chocolates, and they'll get an explanation about each chocolate. It's like going to wine tastings," Decker said.

Please see **CHOCOLATE, D2**



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tribute's 'Chocolate Blackberry' is chocolate mousse, hazelnut cake, apricot puree, and blackberry sorbet.



Chocolate shoes from Gayle's Chocolates, \$40.

Readers quash spam their way

My recent column on junk e-mail (a.k.a. spam) generated lots of reader response. Seems like everyone has a different approach for keeping spam at bay. Susan Rugenstein of Beverly Hills echoed my appreciation of Gmail as a spam filter but didn't like the Web-based inbox. Thus, she went back to Cloudmark (cloudmark.com), an anti-spam service that integrates with Outlook and Outlook Express.

"I have used Cloudmark with Outlook for several years," Rugenstein wrote, "and it's the best \$39.95 I spend." (The service requires an annual subscription.)



Tech Savvy

Rick Broida

David Emerling of West Bloomfield swears by SpamBayes (spambayes.sourceforge.net), an open-source (read: free) spam filter that can integrate with Microsoft Outlook or intercept and filter mail via a Web-based interface.

Just one problem: It's rather complicated to set up, so only advanced users

need apply.

Mike Roberts of Rochester Hills, an AT&T DSL customer, relies on Yahoo for spam filtering. "My e-mail goes directly to Yahoo Mail, and then my Yahoo inbox is forwarded to Outlook," he said. "All of the spam stays in Yahoo's Spam folder."

That's just the way I do it, but with Gmail instead of Yahoo. In fact, I think I've figured out a near-perfect spam-filtering solution that doesn't cost a cent.

(Gmail, in case you're unfamiliar with it, is Google's free Web-based e-mail service. It offers some of the best spam filtering I've seen anywhere.)

Instead of trying to integrate my personal domain (Broida.com) with my existing Gmail account, which mixed all the mail together in one jumbled, incomprehensible mess, I created a new Gmail account that I now use expressly for spam filtering.

Here's how it works in a nutshell: After setting up the Gmail account, I configured it to fetch mail from my domain. (This would also work with ISPs like Comcast; you just need to get the POP3 settings and supply your account username and password.)

The immediate result is that when Gmail retrieves my mail, it automatically routes all spam into an eponymous folder. The rest lands in my online inbox.

Next, I set up Outlook to download mail from that Gmail account. Because it pulls only the contents of the inbox, I rarely see any spam on my PC. All the junk stays at the Gmail end, which is just how I like it.

In fact, this helps with virus protection as well, because Gmail virus-checks all e-mail attachments. Infected files never get the chance to attack my PC.

Meanwhile, outbound mail still looks to the receiver like it came from my domain, not from Gmail. That's really important to me.

And let's not forget the added benefit of Gmail's anywhere access: I can now read and compose e-mail in any Web browser on any PC (or Mac). My account is also easily accessible on my cell phone.

Did I mention this arrangement doesn't cost a cent? The only way you can do likewise with Yahoo, as described earlier, is by signing up for Yahoo Mail Plus, which costs \$20 per year.

That's a reasonable price, and Yahoo Mail on the whole is quite impressive, but I'd rather keep my \$20.

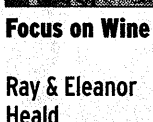
Finally, several readers proposed an

Please see **TECH SAVVY, D2**

Valentine's Day presents myriad wine options

Aphrodisiacs have been known to spark romance. Romans used oysters to rouse passion, and it's said that the Greeks believed figs inspired desire. We suggest, however, that you evaluate all your wine options for Valentine's Day this year!

There's Champagne, especially if it's a rosé. Pommery Brut Rosé NV \$70 is a good one, especially for the delicacy of its lightly robust personality. Elegance is exemplified by its pale pink color and fragrant fresh



Focus on Wine

Ray & Eleanor Heald

of its lightly robust personality. Elegance is exemplified by its pale pink color and fragrant fresh

fruity character. From J winery in Sonoma County's Russian River Valley comes Brut Rosé \$35. Dazzle your sweetheart with the aromas and flavors of strawberries, juicy red apples and nectarines in this bubbly. Both are lovely alone, with shellfish or paired with a red fruit dessert.

PINK IS THE NEW RED

Rosé still wines are not just summer sippers. In winter months, they match well to Mediterranean specialties, so take your sweetheart's taste buds to Provence with the following:

Clos du Bois 2006 Sonoma County Rosé \$14 (76 percent Syrah) brims with the aromas of fresh strawberries kissed with bright cherries. Raspberry flavors are highlighted in the mouth and

through a long finish. Vinavera 2006 Napa Valley Dry Rosé \$15 is also Syrah based. Strawberry and cranberry aromas lead to bright red berry flavors and an enjoyable fruit-laden finish. Grilled salmon makes a good match.

PERFECTLY NAMED WINE

Your next option is one of three perfectly named cabernet sauvignons from Terra Valentine winery in the Spring Mountain District of Napa Valley.

Terra Valentine 2004 Spring Mountain District Cabernet Sauvignon \$38 was picked from 14 different vineyard blocks. A dark fruit profile is highlighted by brown spices and notes of dark chocolate in a well-structured wine.

Wild berries and anise aromas complement black cherry flavors ending with hints of chocolate in 2004 Terra Valentine Wurtele Vineyard Spring Mountain District Cabernet Sauvignon \$58. Terra Valentine 2004 Yverdon Vineyard Spring Mountain District Cabernet Sauvignon \$70 showcases dark fruits and toasty aromas highlighted by a melange of fruit and spices with hints of dark coffee beans. This is the big brother of the three. (For merlots, see related box.)

LOVE POTION

We say lovers. You say Italians. Consider these love potions: 2006 Ajello Majus Bianco (native varieties catarratto and grillo from Sicily) \$10, 2005 Ajello Majus Rosso (nero d'Avola

from Sicily) \$10, 2004 Fattoria La Valentina Montepulciano d'Abruzzo \$13, 2005 Aia Vecchia Lagone (Bordeaux-style blend from Bolgheri) \$15 and 2006 Li Veli Salento Rosso "Passamante" (negroamaro from Puglia) \$16.

And then there's Primo Amore (first love) Romeo (red) and Juliet (white), at \$7.

Both are aromatic, slightly sweet, low in alcohol and lightly effervescent - about as serious as first love and as much fun! Serve both well chilled.

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

LUSH AND LOVELY

Merlot's lush character, lively aromas and flavors put it in contention for your attention. Seek these out:

Picks of the pack: 2004 Stags' Leap Winery Napa Valley Merlot \$31; 2005 Shafer Merlot \$46; and 2005 Duckhorn Napa Valley Merlot \$52.

Moderately priced: 2004 Clos du Bois Reserve Merlot Alexander Valley \$22; 2005 Kenwood Vineyards Jack London Vineyard Merlot \$25; and 2005 Sebastiani Alexander Valley Merlot \$24.

Wallet friendly: 2006 McManis Family Merlot \$10 and 2005 Gallo Family Reserve Merlot \$15.

TECH SAVVY

FROM PAGE D1

ingenious solution to the spam problem: disposable e-mail addresses.

It works like this: Sign up for a free e-mail account from Gmail, Yahoo, or another service, then use that address for things like newsletter subscriptions, Web-site registrations, and so on.

Meanwhile, you keep your personal e-mail address largely private, sharing it only with friends and family. That should keep spam to a minimum.

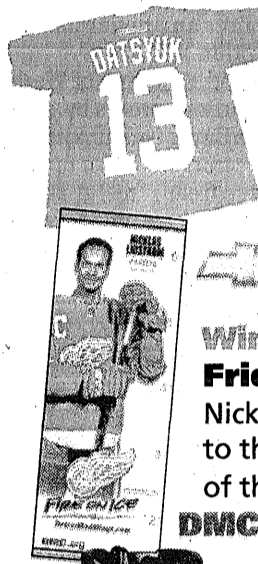
Your disposable address may collect some junk, but who cares? You can always ditch that account and sign up for a new one.

Way to go, readers! You've proven once again that you're smarter than the average bear — or columnist.

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

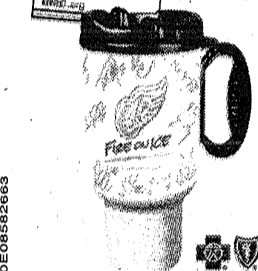
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Pavel Datsyuk Player T-shirt to the first 5,000 kids courtesy of Chevrolet.

Wings vs Blue Jackets
Friday, Feb. 15, 7:30pm
Nick Lidstrom Growth Poster to the first 5,000 kids courtesy of the DMC.
DMC.org



Wings vs Sharks
Friday, Feb. 29, 7:30pm
Travel Coffee Mug to all fans courtesy of Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Dates and times subject to change.

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CHOCOLATE

FROM PAGE D1

Greg Stroker, pastry chef at Tribute in Farmington Hills, said it's all personal preference when it comes to creating your own desserts. "It's not always necessary to use (more expensive chocolate)," Stroker said. "There's so much out there, you could sit there for days, tasting the stuff."

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

There's more than one grape in fine wines. There's also more than one bean used in making chocolate, Decker said.

Today, chocolate is enjoyed everywhere with a variety of tastes and flavors — bitter chocolate, milk chocolate, dark chocolate, couverture, and white chocolate. Chocolate is made from cacao beans, roasted and ground, which results in chocolate liquor, approximately 1/2 nonfat solids (cocoa) and 1/2 cocoa butter.

What chocolate should you use? That depends, Decker said.

Dark chocolate contains chocolate liquor, sugar, cocoa butter, vanilla and lecithin. Sugar, added in varying degrees, affects the flavor intensity or flavor profile of the chocolates.

"The higher the cocoa mass, the more intense the flavor," Decker said.

Couverture chocolate, a good quality dark chocolate used by bakers and confectioners, contains at least 30 percent cocoa butter.

Milk chocolate contains dry milk solids, and must contain 10 percent chocolate liquor, 3.39 percent butterfat and 12 percent milk solids. It has less chocolate taste (but is sweeter) than dark chocolate. White chocolate contains cocoa butter, and generally milk and sugar, but not chocolate liquor. It is flavored by vanilla and other ingredients, and does not have a chocolate flavor.

OK ... so which do you use? "For mousses and creams, you want chocolate with a higher (cocoa) mass content," Decker said, at least 60 percent. "If you're dipping strawberries, milk chocolate or sweeter dark chocolate is fine. Today's technology has launched chocolate into a

whole new flavor realm.

"It has a luxurious sense about it," Decker said. "Modern technology and artistic craftsmanship have elevated it to an ingredient of elite status, similar to unique fine wines, giving it its own personality."

"You say 'chocolate,' and it's like saying 'wine,' it's like saying 'gold,' it has its own personality."

GAYLE'S GOODS

Michael A. Smith, marketing director for Gayle's Chocolates in Royal Oak, has a simple explanation for chocolate's appeal.

It's delicious. "And those who don't like chocolate know someone who does," Smith said. "It's the universal gift."

While it isn't known as a health food, chocolate does have flavinoids and antioxidants, Smith said. "But really it's that they just love the way it tastes. That's the reality."

Chocolate can be creative, too.

The most popular item sold at Gayle's is the \$36 high-heeled chocolate shoe, consisting of 14 ounces of dark chocolate, milk chocolate, pink chocolate (white chocolate with strawberry flavoring) or the Mule version with dusting on the shoes. That item was linked to a Web site (aboutshoes.com) and Gayle's now gets orders from all over the country, Smith said.

PERSONAL PREFERENCE

Stroker prefers Cacao Barry, which isn't readily available to the public, but he has used more common chocolates (Nestle's) in his previous pastry gigs before he arrived at Tribute.

"I'm a firm believer that you should stick with what you know. Go with the middle of the road," Stroker said.

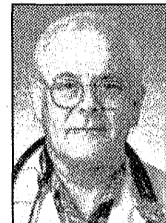
"I'm not going to use the most expensive," Stroker said. "With mousse, you're adding the liquor, eggs and cream, and it's hard to tell the difference."

What's Stroker's favorite? "I really enjoy chocolate and raspberries," Stroker said as a dessert pairing. "You can also use chocolate and strawberries of course, and you can do mango, blueberries, apples and pears."

Don't be afraid of appliance repair

There are many consumers who have never attempted to do their own repair of a major home appliance and just as many who wouldn't think about calling a technician.

For this reason we can always be assured that repair companies will continue to prosper, and so will the concept of do-it-yourself repair outlets.



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

The challenge of repairs comes to you in different ways, sometimes you're simply not going to wait several days for a technician to arrive, or you just can't afford to spend the money. Many times it's just a puzzle you feel like conquering to develop your own sense of pride.

With the accessibility of everything at the touch of computer keys today you can learn so much about the world of major home appliances.

There are websites where you can get breakdowns on products, wiring schematics, order tools and even call to talk in person with a technician.

The challenge of repairs comes to you in different ways, sometimes you're simply not going to wait several days for a technician to arrive, or you just can't afford to spend the money. Many times it's just a puzzle you feel like conquering to develop your own sense of pride.

There are some basic principles that I would like to point out for some of you potential do-it-yourselfers. Let's start with electricity. You would be surprised at how many homeowners have to fork over the cost of a service call to have someone either plug in the appliance or reset the circuit breaker.

You can call that an expensive oversight and I guarantee you will find it an embarrassing moment. Many people will replace the timer on the product because it doesn't advance to the next cycle not knowing that in many cases other components must be working properly before the timer will move. Keep in mind that when you purchase an electrical replacement part there are few places, if any, that will give you a refund on anything that is electric.

The reason for this policy is simple. Let's say you hooked up a new timer incorrectly and you burnt out one of the electrical contacts inside the timer, which cannot be seen. That timer would then be defective. How could a parts company sell that timer to another cus-

tommer with any confidence of it being a good operational component? Besides it is against the Michigan Consumers Protection Act to sell a part professed to be new when it is not.

Thinking of timers, my friend Tom Ross (of MSU Hockey Hall of Fame) called me to say that his daughter is living in his condo in Florida and she has to pull the plug on the kitchen range every time she uses it.

It makes a buzzing sound, which never stops, and Tom is going to fly down to Florida for a visit and repairs. He was going to purchase a timer before he left this area and I told him not to. I suggested that because the range was 20 years old and the timer would no doubt be expensive it might not be worth the expense of repairing it. I told him to take the back off the stove, which covers the mechanism off the timer.

He will see a little cloth-covered coil the size of half a finger and about the same thickness. Cut one of the two electrical wires going into that coil and the buzzing sound is all finished.

So is the timer, but at least you can use the stove and purchase a \$5 household timer at the local hardware store. Oh Tommy, don't forget to pull the plug before you cut the wire on the timer. The Red Wing Alumni team still needs you to play several more games this year.

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

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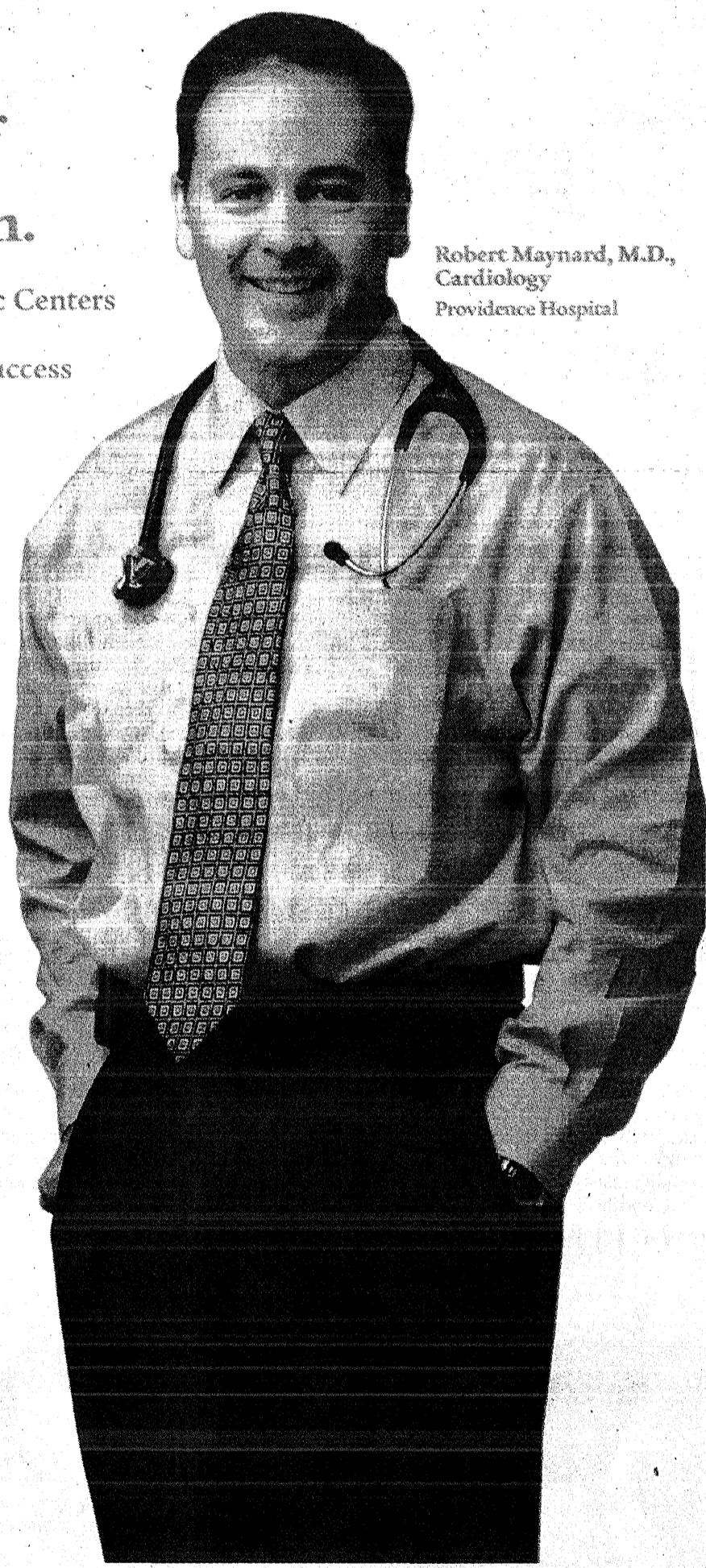
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pink

Detroit Derby Girls lace up for latest bout

By day, Donna Malchie works at a day care center in West Bloomfield. By night, the Farmington Hills native is Vicious Vixen, a rough, tough roller derby skate punk.



Wendy Von Buskirk

Malchie, 26, is among the Detroit Derby Girls who will take to the rink this Saturday at the Masonic Temple, when the Devil's Night Dames face the D-Funk Allstars. The Detroit Derby Girls

rolled onto the scene in 2005, but I didn't make it to a bout until the last one on Jan. 12, when the Detroit Pistoffs took on the Pistolwhippers.

I not only want to see Detroit Derby Girls again, I want to be one of them. These women are cool.

Ranging in age from 20- to 40-something, many of them moms and most covered in tattoos, these are not your typical athletes. They're the alterna-girls you'd expect to find at art openings and rock shows instead of on competitive sports teams.

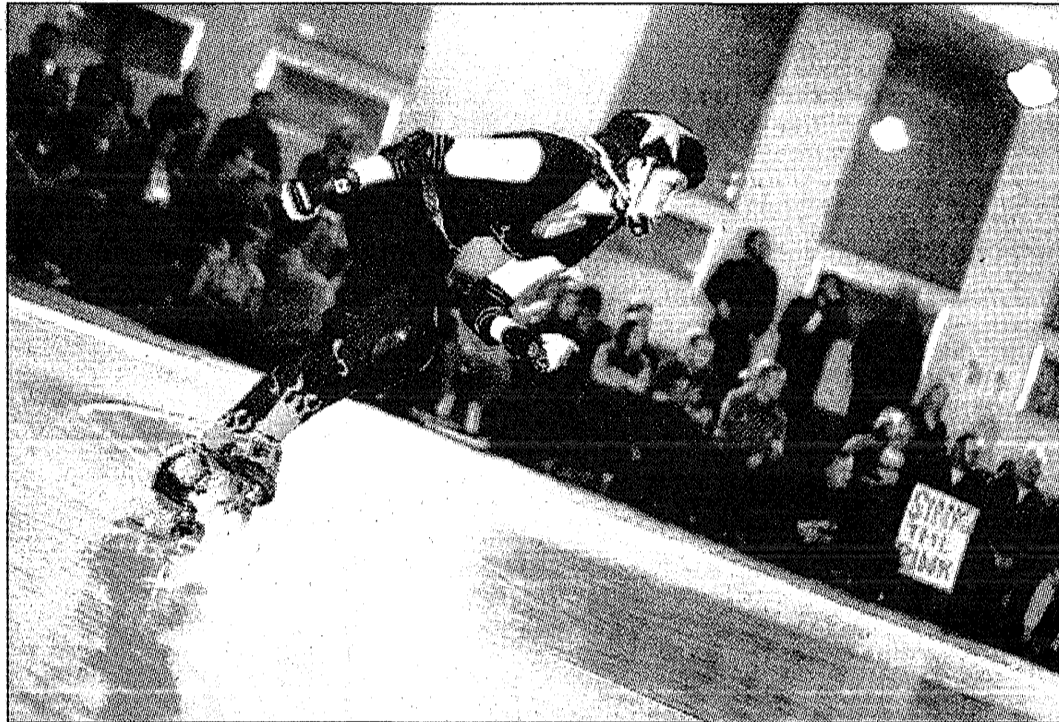
But in the kitschy world of Roller Derby, complete with sexy uniforms, risqué nicknames and old-school skates, these women have found their inner athletes.

And God help anyone who gets in their way.

As they skate around the track, striking the perfect balance between mocking the sport and taking it dead seriously, an ever-growing legion of fans is following along.

The evening we arrived at the Masonic Temple, where all the local bouts take place, we were surprised to discover the game was sold out and patrons crowded the lobby hoping to score admission. We were among the lucky few who managed to get tickets at the last minute.

Inside, the arena buzzed with excitement. A merch table was stocked with posters, T-shirts, patches and buttons for sale (I couldn't resist buying a cap sleeve tee with the Detroit



ANDY TANGUAY

'Vicious Vixen' Donna Malchie of Farmington Hills skates with the Devil's Night Dames, as well as on the Detroit Derby Girls traveling team.

D-FUNK ALLSTARS VS. DEVIL'S NIGHT DAMES
When: Saturday, Feb. 9, doors at 6 p.m., game at 7 p.m.
Where: Masonic Temple Drill Hall, Detroit
Tickets: \$12 in advance; \$15 at the door; under 12 free with adult; available from Derby Girls, Danny's Irish Pub in Ferndale or online at www.ticketmaster.com.
Future bouts: March 8, Pistolwhippers vs. D-Funk Allstars; April 12, Detroit Pistoffs vs. Devil's Night Dames; May 10: Championship Double Header.
Information: Visit www.detroitderbygirls.com.



Malchie

When referees blow the first whistle, eight blockers skate off in a pack. At the second whistle, two jammers take off from behind. The jammers must catch the pack, then lap it twice, racking up points along the way.

Meanwhile the tangle of blockers use elbows, knees and all manner of hell on wheels to keep the opposing jammer at bay, while helping their own jammer get ahead.

Don't let those little school-girl outfits fool you... these girls are tough. They're feisty, aggressive and they play to win.

They use sneers, trash talk and theatrics to intimidate their opponents. And when it comes down to it, they aren't afraid of a little rink rash.

On her web site profile, Vicious Vixen — who joined Detroit Derby Girls in 2005 and also skates on the travel team — boasts of suffering a fractured ulna, hematomas and swollen knees for the sport. Photos of stitches in her busted chin are posted with pride.

Yet despite names like Devil Kitty, Elle McFearsome and Wanda Throwdown, these girls are in it to have a good time, and their antics are infectious.

At the bout we saw, the audience erupted in the last period when Cookie Rumble, team captain and that night's MVP, tore through the blockers to bring the Pistoffs to victory.

But it's not just the skaters themselves who energize the crowd.

A whole cast of characters, from referees in drag to punk rock pom-pom girls, all with campy pseudonyms, gather for each game. During intermissions, local bands play and kids from the audience are invited to dance and hula hoop on the rink.

The very fact that roller derby makes light of itself is what makes it so much fun, especially for people like me who aren't able to take most spectator sports too seriously.

Now I know what it means to sit on the sidelines and dream of getting in the game.

The Detroit Derby Girls practice twice a week at Riverside Arena in Livonia. For more information on the teams, tryouts and upcoming bouts, visit www.detroitderbygirls.com.

pink picks

Wear It!

The Florine Ministrelli heart cap

Don't Wear It!

Lingerie as daywear

Kick It!

Red patent leather pumps



Florine Ministrelli of West Bloomfield wears the heart cap she designed to benefit The Ministrelli Women's Heart Center in Beaumont Hospital-Royal Oak.

DVD It!

Dexter

See It!

Caramel



Tote It!

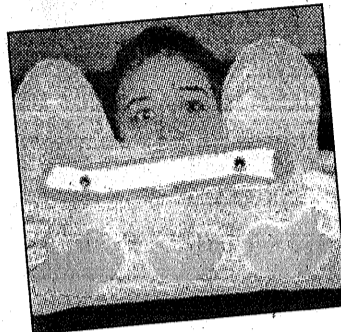
Hello Kitty Loungefly Canvas Duffel Bag in Pearly Puff

Hear It!

The Pipettes We Are The Pipettes

Gift It!

Livonia artist Joey Merchant's plush monsters at etsy.com



Read It!

The Road by Cormac McCarthy

Shop It!

Michigan's first Love Culture store at The Mall at Partridge Creek

Face It!

LipTox lip plumper at Touch in Birmingham

TiVo It!

The Grammys on Feb. 10

Indulge It!

Hot Chocolate Cake at Morton's The Steakhouse

Drink It!

Red Bull with Raspberry Vodka

Malls and Mainstreets

If you have an item for the Malls & Main Streets calendar, please submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Wendy Von Buskirk at wvnb@hometownlife.com.

Plymouth Goes Red for Women

Plymouth's Downtown District supports the American Heart Association's "Go Red for Women" campaign on Friday, Feb. 8. Wear red and visit participating businesses for discounts, or drop in the Heart Health Open House, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the DDA Office, 831 Penniman Ave., for heart healthy seminars, snacks and donation opportunities. Guest speaker Lisa McDowell, St. Joseph Hospital's Chief Clinical Nutritionist, will discuss nutrition and meal ideas at 12:30 p.m. Call (734) 455-1453.

Macy's Bridal Event

Macy's Somerset will host its annual Ever After Bridal Event 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9. Participate in registry seminars, meet bridal experts, hear product presentations from vendors such as Wedgwood, and meet with reps from local companies offering everything from flowers and invitations to DJs and videographers. Jennifer Wilkins, Macy's Trend Expert, will lead fashion presentations at 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. outside the Bridal Salon. Bill Hoopes, Director of Macy's Wedding & Gift Registry/Macy's by Appointment, will offer bridal registry tips and trends at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Valentine's at Ren Cen Shops

The Ren Cen Shops at the GM Renaissance Center, Detroit, will host a sweet deal to celebrate Valentine's Day 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 11-14. During



Find Valentine's Day gifts with heart at Pure Detroit at The Ren Cen Shops, like a Detroit Love T-Shirt (\$20), an 'I Heart Detroit' mug (\$7.99), and a Cadillac seatbelt (\$22).

"Wrap It All Up with Love," purchases will be wrapped free in the GM Wintergarden. Present a single Ren Cen Shop receipt of at least \$25 to get Godiva Chocolates, and enter to win his and her watches. Ren Cen Shops include: Cherylynn's Gold Crown Hallmark, Pangborn Design Collection, Bon Bons Candy and Godiva Chocolatier, Pure Detroit, Ashley's Flowers, Jos A. Bank, The Fashion Council, Scentsations Fragrance & Crystal Boutique and more.

Parisian Community Day

Local nonprofits can register now to participate in Parisian's next Community Day on Saturday, March 1. The event is a turn-key opportunity for organizations to raise funds by selling Parisian discount savings booklets, and keeping 100 percent of the \$5 booklet price. In 2007, The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc. was able to raise over \$10 million for nonprofits through Community Day. Log onto www.communitydayevent.com, and submit a registration form.

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COLIN JOHNSON

'Vicious Vixen' says it takes willpower and drive to be a Detroit Derby Girl.

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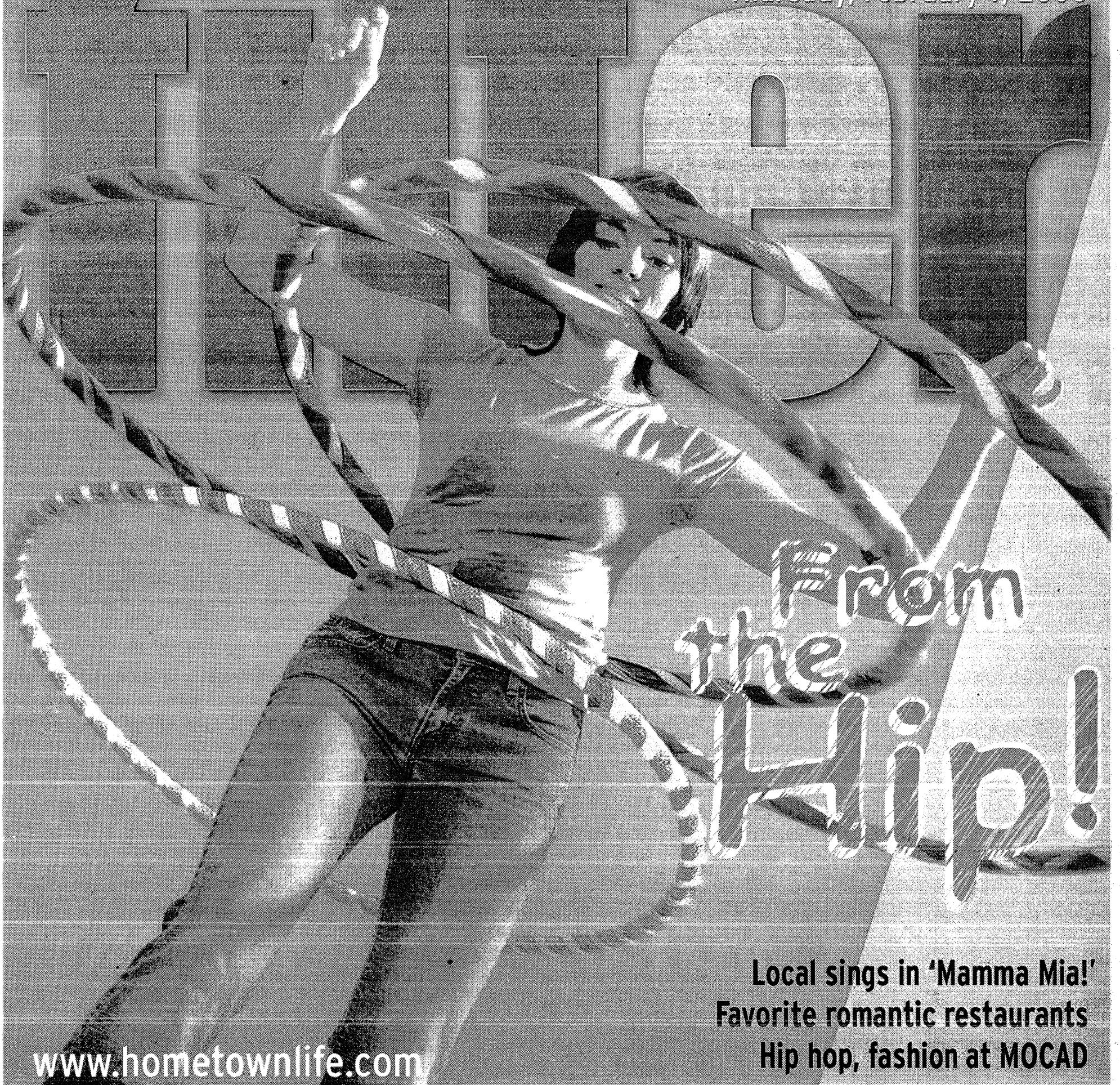
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PURE ENTERTAINMENT
filter

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Observer & Eccentric
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Micha Adams helps others through hooping.

Hip hop, high fashion collide at MOCAD

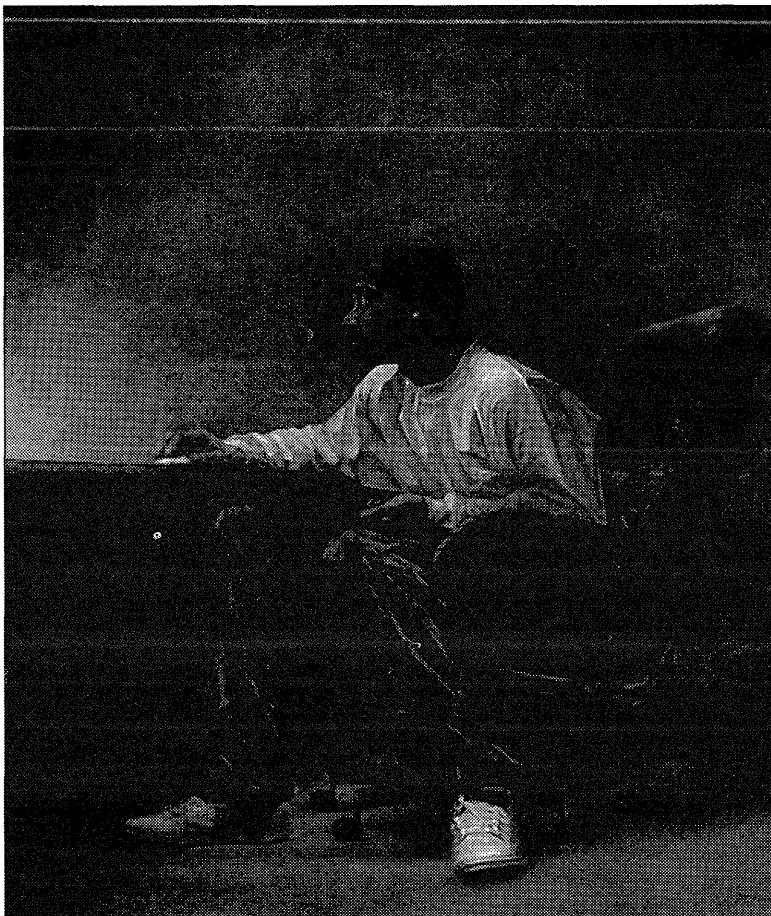
BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Hip hop and high fashion are set to collide this month at the Museum of Contemporary Art - Detroit. It all starts with *Holy Hip Hop! New Paintings by Alex Melamid*. The Russian-born American painter will celebrate his first-ever solo exhibition in Detroit - showing a dozen life-size portraits of bona fide hip hop icons. Imagine Kanye West or Snoop Dogg captured in a truly traditional style, the sort typically reserved for religious figures, and you'll get the picture.

"We are honored to be the first venue for a solo show by Melamid," said MOCAD acting director Marsha Miro, of Bloomfield Hills. "He was interested in showing these paintings in a real urban museum and when he found out about us believed we were the right first venue."

Miro considers the show an important one for the metro Detroit area. "We have had a number of significant hip hop artists emerge from the Detroit music scene," she said. "Plus, music is very important here. The idea of bringing people together to not only look at these paintings but also discuss the ideas and issues of this music type... is what MOCAD was established to do - be a forum for the exchange of ideas about the newest art forms."

Melamid crafted the 12 paint-



Snoop Dogg is among the hip hop stars featured in Alex Melamid's portraits for 'Holy Hip Hop!' at MOCAD.



Rei Kawakubo's 1997 'Dress Meets Body, Body Meets Dress' season featured this piece, part of the ReFusing Fashion exhibition featuring Comme des Garçons pieces coming to MOCAD.

ings using photographs he took of the musicians. In juxtaposing a very traditional painting style with these hip hop masters, Miro said, he portrays them "as contemporary royalty."

Around the same time MOCAD was offered the *Holy Hip Hop!* works, the museum staff was contemplating a show featuring Comme des Garçons' designer Rei Kawakubo.

"ReFusing Fashion came about because a few of us involved in the museum believed that Rei Kawakubo was one of the most

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART DETROIT

What: Two new exhibits open side-by-side. "Holy Hip Hop! New Paintings by Alex Melamid" and "ReFusing Fashion: Rei Kawakubo."

When: Opening reception 7 p.m. Feb. 8. Shows run through April 20.

Details: Mike-E Ellison with Underground Resistance will perform. Admission is free for members, \$5 nonmembers. There will be a cash bar.

Artist Lecture: Alex Melamid, 3 p.m. Feb. 9.

Workshop: 1-3 p.m. Feb. 10 participate in any of the following: Graffiti Art; Portraiture; Self-Fashioning Fabric Collage; and Recycling Fashion.

innovative and significant fashion designers of the last 30 years and we believed there should be an exhibition devoted to her work, which there hadn't been," said Miro. "We also knew of people in the area who owned her clothes."

Starting there, MOCAD was able to assemble more than 80 garments and eight costumes that had been designed for the Merce Cunningham ballet *Scenario*. Comme des Garçons and collectors from New York City

Please see **MOCAD, E8**

Detroit musicians and the famous slide highlight Winter Blast Festival



Jesse Palter will heat up Winter Blast with her sizzling jazz.

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

Yes, there's the food from Detroit's finest restaurants and music from a sliver of the area's best musicians - like jazz singer Jesse Palter. But we know now the secret ingredient for Detroit's Winter Blast Festival - the giant ice slide.

Afraid of the cold? Don't be a wimp. Or actually, you can still be a wimp (when it comes to cold temperatures) because DTE promises warming stations every 150 feet for the festival that's Friday through Sunday, Feb. 8-10. Detroit's Winter Blast is the city's biggest winter event at Campus Martius Park.

Who better to help begin the weekend than local Caribbean band Nite Flight to sing songs that help us dream of warm islands? Then, jazz vocalist Jesse Palter will heat the stage - she literally started singing before she could talk.

"There are videos of me when I was a baby, I was barely getting the words out, but the melody was there," Palter said. "I can't tell you the time when I

got into music because I was always into it. It was natural."

Palter has won several Detroit Music Awards.

"We've gone above and beyond this year to make sure that Winter Blast offers the best in outdoor entertaining," said Jon Witz, event producer. "Winter Blast is a celebration of the season, the city of Detroit and the people of the metropolitan area."

New this year is a large wine tasting area at Enoteca Campo Marzio and a condensed layout of the festival itself for easy navigation.

There's also contests to win trips to Chicago for a Red Wings vs. Blackhawks game; voyages to the Caribbean and tickets and limo rides to other sporting events.

For kids there's High School Musical Karaoke, fun with Radio Disney, Rosco the Clown, a ventriloquist, magic and juggling. There's also a pottery showcase, an independent film festival and a preview of the 2008 Detroit Electronic Music Festival (Movement '08) featuring some of the Detroit's best electronic musicians.

Other events are marshmallow roasting, professional and amateur ice skating, snowboarding exhibitions, ice sculptures, snowshoeing and more.

There's music from 60 artists. The 200 foot long Michigan.Org Snow Slide is the biggest hit with kids. Originally created as the backdrop for Super Bowl XL, Winter Blast attracted more than 450,000 people last year.

The three-day festival will be open from 11 a.m. to midnight on Friday; 10 a.m. to midnight on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday. For parking

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, FEB. 8

(Bank Stage-jazz/r&b/neo-soul/techno/international stage)
Loba Aku (African jazz) 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Phredley (jazz), 1:30-2:30 p.m.
Phredley (jazz), 3-4 p.m.
Jesse Palter (jazz), 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Nite Flight (Caribbean), 6-7 p.m.
Midtown Underground (dance/r&b), 7:30 - 8:45 p.m.
Persuasion (dance/r&b/soul/pop/crossover), 9:15 -10:30 p.m.
HotSauce (r&b/funk), 11 p.m. to midnight

SATURDAY, FEB. 9

(Bank Stage-jazz/r&b/neo-soul stage)
Chunky Funk Band (r&b), 10-11 a.m.
Chunky Funk Band (r&b), 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Darnell Kendricks (jazz), 1:30-2:30 p.m.
The Johnnites (Middle Eastern), 3-4 p.m.
The Basiks (reggae), 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Preview of The Billie Holiday Review featuring Sky Covington (jazz), 6-7 p.m.
Sky Covington (neo soul), 7:30-8:45 p.m.
Impact 7 (Motown), 9:15-10:30 p.m.
Impact 7 (Motown), 11 p.m.-midnight

SUNDAY, FEB. 10

(Bank Stage-jazz/r&b/neo-soul/techno stage)
Alberto Bryan Alfonso Trio (jazz), 10-11 a.m.
Moments Notice (r&b), 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Doc Holiday (soul), 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Larry Lee & The Back In The Day Band (r&b), 3-4 p.m.
MacPodz (progressive/jazz), 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Meri Slaven (jazz), 6-7 p.m.
Tumbao Bravo! (Latin jazz), 7:30-8:45 p.m.

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BBAC opens 'fresh art' exhibit

The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center last year celebrated their 50th anniversary as a regional resource and as a place to learn how to create art.

Nowhere is that more evident than in exhibits like "Inside the BBAC" opening Feb. 8.

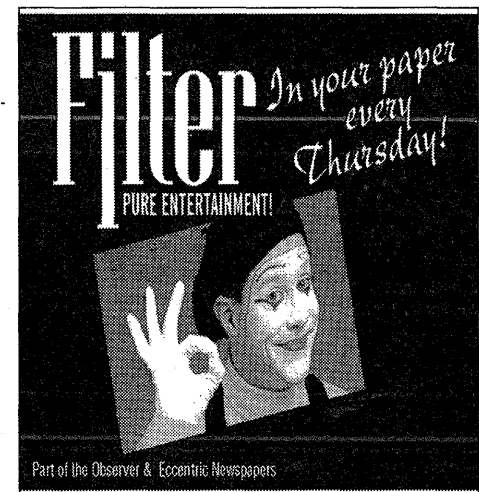
"Inside the BBAC" showcases fresh art from the BBAC studios. It is free and runs Feb 8-29. The artwork, in a range of mediums, is created by adult students,

some of whom have become accomplished artists. The exhibit is juried by Larry Cressman, associate professor at the School of Art & Design at the University of Michigan. Artwork from the exhibit is often available for purchase, allowing people to start an art collection at reasonable prices.

Opening night receptions, Fridays 6-8 p.m., with sponsorship from Platinum Magazine and Whole Foods, feature

refreshments and an opportunity to meet the artists. On Feb. 8 concurrent with "Inside the BBAC" are exhibit openings for "Unshelved" and the paintings of Gary Van Gorp.

The BBAC is located at 1516 S. Cranbrook in Birmingham, between 14 and 15 Mile Roads. More information including a complete schedule of events is available at www.BBArtCenter.org and by calling (248) 644-0866.



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R&B Icon
Isaac HAYES
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Salsa Legend
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Happy in Hula Hoops

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

Three months ago, Micha Adams stepped into a Hula Hoop and realized it was impossible not to smile.

Curiously, the yoga instructor began to play and within just months, her hips and the hoop became one. Today, she can spin and twirl multiple hoops - dancing as if it were her partner.

"Everyone is happy in a Hula Hoop," Adams said. As she hooped with friends in outdoor parks, she noticed the joy in children's eyes as they watched. Adams, of Detroit, who enjoys giving to the community, quickly decided she wanted to give Hula Hoops to kids whose lives aren't so easy.

Adams and her partner, Steve Ramasko, started making hoops out of irrigation tubing and brightly colored glittery decorating tape. Their hoops are heavy enough for adults and sparkle enough for kids.

Adams hopes to raise enough money to make 1,000 hoops this year for kids at a homeless and domestic violence shelters - and to other children who aren't so fortunate.

"It really is a spiritual tool," Adams said. "There's a kinetic awareness that happens in the hoop - you're truly just in the moment."

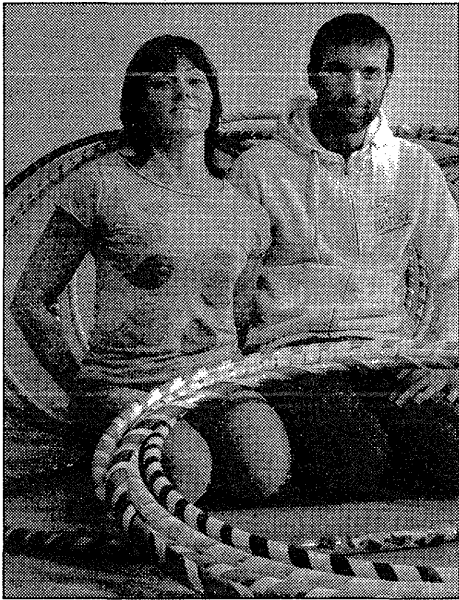
Adams is hosting a fund-raiser on Saturday, Feb. 16, at the Sattva Yoga Studio in Dearborn where anyone can come in and try yoga, and then learn to "hoop." Men, women and kids are invited.

"We love when kids come to hoop because they aren't afraid to drop it or experiment," Adams said. Sugar Kisses Bakery in Ferndale is donating

Please see **HOOPS**, E7

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Micha Adams of Detroit has only been Hula Hooping for a few months, and she hopes to raise enough money to make 1,000 hoops this year for kids at a homeless and domestic violence shelters - and to other children who aren't so fortunate.



Micha Adams and her partner, Steve Ramasocky, make fancy hoops.

HOOPS

FROM PAGE E6

decadent, vegan, wheat-free desserts and The Detroit Evolution Lab, Michigan's only raw/vegan carry-out company, is donating gourmet foods.

Each hoop costs \$15-\$17 to make, so Adams needs a minimum of \$15,000. She's confident she will accomplish her goal. Giving is what she does. Last year, she made silkscreen T-shirts to raise money to build a barn for rescued horses at Sashafarm - Michigan's only animal sanctuary that permanently houses rescued farm animals.

Prior to that, and prior to becoming a yoga instructor, she lived the winter months in South America, volunteering her energy to the people there. Today, she gives to the metro Detroit community through yoga and various other projects to help people and animals - financially and spiritually. And she often has a team of people helping her.

Hula Hooping is gaining popularity in metro Detroit, but Adams said it's still not as organized as it could be. At her studio, the public is welcome to come, at no charge, every Friday from 4-5:30 p.m. to play with hoops.

HOOPIN' FOR THE HOOD

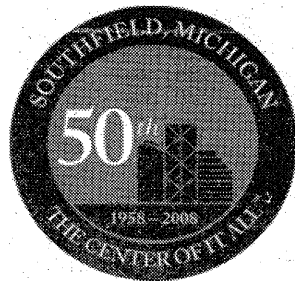
What: 9 a.m. yoga class followed by hooping fun at 11:30 a.m. A fund-raiser to buy hoops for abused and less fortunate children

When: 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 16

Where: Sattva Yoga Studio, 22213 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, (313) 274-3995, e-mail: devicakes@comcast.net

Admission: \$12 suggested donation

Buy them: You can buy one of Micha Adams' hoops for adults or kids. It's a good way to get fit, relax and have fun. Currently, she's selling several for Valentine's Day.



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(viewed from Southfield Plaza) - 6:00 p.m.

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The event features music performances by:

Paul Miles - 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Ursula Walker/Buddy Budson Trio - 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Stan Barnes & Friends - 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Motor City Brass Band - 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Admission is FREE. Call the Southfield Community Relations Department at (248) 796-5130 for more information.

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NEWSPAPERS

Chicago Classical Oriental Ensemble

Al-fursan at-talatha (The Three Musketeers) The music of Umm Kalthum



FRI, FEB 8 | 8 PM
Rackham Auditorium

The Chicago Classical Oriental Ensemble performs traditional instrumental and vocal music from North Africa, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, and Armenia. Their program features music by Zakaria Ahmed, Muhammad al-Qasabji, and Riyad al-Sunbati, three Egyptian composers who wrote music for the legendary Umm Kalthum.

Media Partner **The Arab American News.**

Guarneri String Quartet | Johannes String Quartet



SAT, FEB 9 | 8 PM
Rackham Auditorium

The Guarneri and Johannes String Quartets collaborate for the first time, performing a UMS co-commission by U-M composer William Bolcom and Mendelssohn's magnificent Octet. Also on the program are short new works by Esa-Pekka Salonen (Los Angeles Philharmonic) and U-M alumnus Derek Bermel.

PROGRAM

Bolcom Octet: Double Quartet (UMS Co-commission) (2007)
Esa-Pekka Salonen Homunculus (2007)
Derek Bermel String Quartet (2007)
Mendelssohn Octet in E-flat Major for Strings, Op. 20 (1825)

Sponsored by  Supported by **Linda and Maurice Binkow Philanthropic Fund.**

Media Partner **WGTE 91.3 FM** and **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.**

Wu Man pipa and the Bay Area Shawm Band



SUN, FEB 10 | 4 PM
Rackham Auditorium

Wu Man is an internationally renowned virtuoso of the pipa, a lute-like Chinese instrument whose history dates back more than 2,000 years. Making her UMS debut she is joined by the Bay Area Shawm Band comprised of conservatory-trained masters of traditional Chinese instruments.

The 07/08 Family Series is sponsored by **Toyota.**
Funded in part by the **National Endowment for the Arts.**

Christian Tetzlaff violin



THU, FEB 14 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

Returning to Ann Arbor for a special Valentine's Day program of solo violin masterpieces, Christian Tetzlaff reflects brilliance in musical insight and interpretation.

PROGRAM

Ysaÿe Sonata for Solo Violin, Op. 27, No. 1
J.S. Bach Sonata No. 3 in C, BWV 1005 (1720)
Bartók Sonata for Unaccompanied Violin (1945)
Paganini Four excerpts (Nos. 16, 6, 15, 1) from the 24 Caprices, Op. 1 (c. 1820)

Media Partners **WGTE 91.3 FM** and **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.**



See Kanye West portrayed like never before in MOCAD's latest show, 'Holy Hip Hop!'

MOCAD

FROM PAGE E3

contributed items for the show.

Footage from the ballet will also be displayed, giving visitors a sense of how the costumes fit and extend from the body - a key element to Kawakubo's designs.

Comme de Garçons clothes are like no other. Miro described recent pieces that flirted with gender ideas. Imagine a pair of pants with a single pant leg and a half-skirt, or dresses worn over suit jackets.

"While some were difficult to wear others were very beautiful and dramatic," Miro said. And though wearability varies, the clothing makes a strong statement about changing gender roles in modern society.

By encompassing the world of fashion, MOCAD furthers its mission to present all forms of media.

"Kawakubo has completely changed how clothes are made, examining the many traditional styles of clothing design, including fine art ideas in her designs, taking inspiration from high culture, pop culture and street culture," said Miro. "She is constantly exploring new ways of making clothes, and clothes that are functional too. She has redefined how beauty is expressed in fashion."

While both exhibitions represent a distinct point of view, Miro noted, both fall under the realm of street culture.

scasola@hometownlife.com
(248) 901-2567

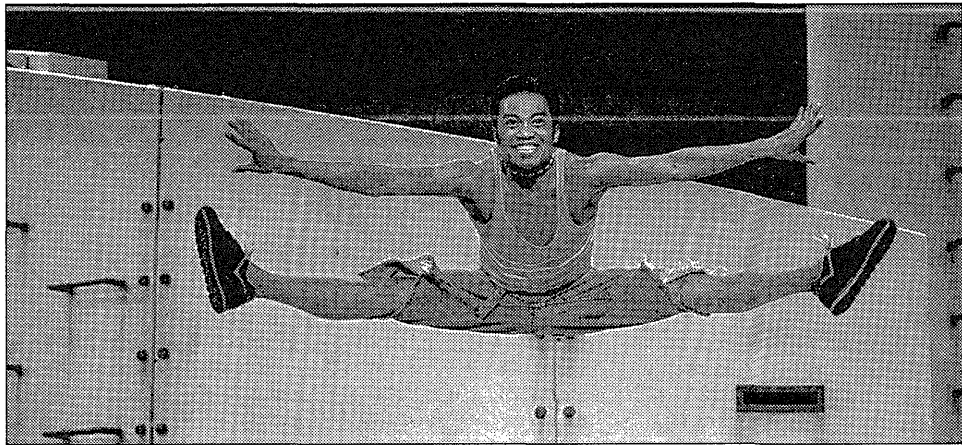


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Enrico Rodriguez, a Michigan native, performs at his high-flying best in 'Mamma Mia!' coming to the Fisher Theatre.

ABBA-inspired musical returns to Detroit

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

After two and a half years touring with the cast of *Mamma Mia!* one might think Michigan native Enrico Rodriguez would tire from performing hit ABBA songs night after night. That's just not the case.

"Every time I tried to leave I just couldn't do it," he said, calling in from Richmond, Va.

Raised in Sterling Heights and now residing in New York City, Rodriguez portrays Pepper - an energetic sidekick in Catherine Johnson's wildly creative story about finding love and finding yourself. Set to the hit ABBA songs *Dancing Queen*, *The Winner Takes It All* and *Take A Chance on Me* the show has more productions playing simultaneously around the world than any new musical. It's heading to Detroit this month - and following his two-week stint in the metro area, and then in Kalamazoo, Rodriguez has decided to move on with his career.

"I've never been able to perform any show in Detroit," he said. So this marks an anticipated homecoming, and time to spend with his friends and family. "I could not have done any of this without their support," he said. "They're kinda my heroes."

Rodriguez started performing at the early age of five. He was inspired by his sister, who appeared in school plays. Though he never took any formal acting classes, Rodriguez did study dance at Deborah's Stage Door in Rochester Hills. "It's an amazing studio and I would not be where I am now without them."

By age 15 he nabbed a role in *Big*, a Broadway production based on the popular Tom Hanks movie. Rodriguez spent a year away from Sterling Heights High School and studied with a tutor in order to perform. He was able to return in time to grad-

'MAMMA MIA!'

What: Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus' MAMMA MIA!, the hit musical based on the songs of ABBA.

When: Shows run Feb. 12-24.

Where: Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit.

Tickets: \$29.50-\$73.50, call (248) 645-6666 or visit www.BroadwayInDetroit.com

More Information: Call (313) 872-1000.



uate with his class, and later spent a year studying musical theater at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. But a fateful trip to New York on spring break led him to audition for *Rent*. He served as an understudy for the character Angel and portrayed multiple smaller roles as a member of the ensemble. *Mamma Mia!* followed, and, at the time, he didn't know much about the show. Now he's an official ABBA fan, and spends most nights perfecting high-energy moves - one of which requires him to jump in the air ten times while performing the splits. "I'm very athletic," he said. "It's my forte."

In addition to the music, Rodriguez said the audiences connect to the show because it has a lot of heart. "Everyone can relate to family and relationships," he said.

While in the area, there are a few places he plans to visit. Somerset Collection tops the list. Rodriguez called "the best mall in North America," and he's been all over the country. He's also craving food from local favorites National Coney Island and Olga's Kitchen.

As for young actors aspiring to follow in his footsteps, Rodriguez shared a word of advice. "It's all about staying focused. Train. Train. Train. If you work hard, you will persevere."

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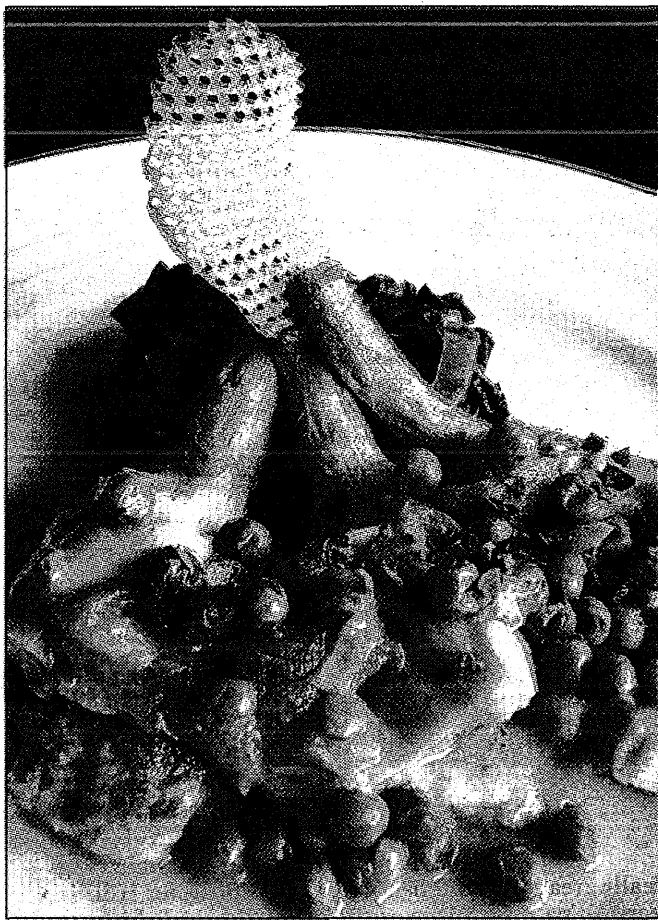
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TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Vitello Con Carciofini is veal tenderloin sauteed with wine, peas, long-stem Roman artichokes, fresh herbs and tomato sauce, served at Andiamo's Livonia.

Romantic destinations

Take your other half to dine

Next Thursday is Valentine's Day. While it's always nice to plan dinner for your loved one at home that evening, why not shake up your routine with a spontaneous night out at a cozy table for two?

Here are some romantic restaurant recommendations from Filter staff:

INDULGE AT VIA NOVE

While dining options abound in cozy downtown Ferndale, Via Nove's wide-open spaces, multi-level seating and sumptuous Italian menu provide the perfect start for any romantic evening. Entrees like Roasted Lobster Tail with Fresh Spinach and Potato Flan or Veal Scallopine with Wild Mushrooms and Herbed Lemon Sauce look and taste like a work of art. Pair your meal with a bottle of wine from an extensive menu or finish it with a signature drink like the Chocolate Decadence.

Located at 344 W. Nine Mile at Planavon. Call (248) 336-9936.

WOW HER AT THE WHITNEY

When it comes to grand, sweeping declarations of love, you can't get much more romantic than a bona fide mansion.

The Whitney is wrapped in mystery from its elegant gated gardens to its multiple floors transformed to suit drinking and dining. With Michigan-inspired dishes like Great Lakes Whitefish in a Chardonnay Cream Sauce or Filet of Beef with Wild Mushroom Gratin,

you're sure to impress any date. Save room for the Chocolate Peanut Butter Bombe, made with banana cream, caramel and chocolate.

Located at 4421 Woodward Ave., between Canfield and Warren in the museum district.

Call (313) 832-5700 for reservations.

GO RUSTIC AT JOSEPHINE'S

If it's simple and delicious you crave, seek out an intimate table for two at Josephine Creperie & Bistro in Ferndale. Sit by the picture window and let your eyes wander out toward Nine Mile while you're waiting for an amuse bouche, glass of wine and a menu. Then choose from a selection of savory or sweet crepes, or dive into the hearty French-inspired entrees with glee. It's art house elegance and neighborhood charm wrapped into one perfect place.

Located at 241 W. Nine Mile, Ferndale. Call (248) 399-1366 for reservations.

Compiled by Stephanie A. Casola

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Table Hopping

Please see **DINNER, E11**

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DINNER

FROM PAGE E10

atmosphere and an attentive and pleasant staff. Located at 30715 W. 10 Mile Road in Farmington Hills. Call (248) 474-9064 for reservations.

HONG HUA

Great vibe and wonderful, authentic Cantonese. The food is outstanding, and with an atmosphere that's subdued and pleasant, yet informal and fun, this restaurant is a relaxing way to spend dinner. Try the Shrimp Cakes or the delicately garlic-flavored King of the Sea. This seafood here is fresh. Located at 27925 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills. Call (248) 489-2280.

ANDIAMO'S LIVONIA

While the I-275 corridor houses a slew of restaurants and is saturated with eateries, western Wayne County finally has its first Andiamo's with a location at 38703 Seven Mile Road. The sleek contemporary look inside creates a nice evening out where diners can enjoy some great Italian food. A good variety of veal, lamb pork and beef dishes. Call (734) 953-3200.

Compiled by Ken Abramczyk

SIT ON THE FLOOR AT KATMANDU

Wow your mate with something different. Take off your shoes before stepping into the intimate dining area at Katmandu

restaurant, 411 S. Washington Ave. in Royal Oak, and enjoy Eastern ambience where you sit on the floor, on Persian rugs, and dine on exotic Nepalese cuisine. The food is similar to Indian, although not as spicy. Call (248) 546-7286.

MARIA'S FRONT ROOM

What is it about Italy that makes us feel so romantic? Is it the music? The deep red colors, the twirling of the pasta? At Maria's Front Room, a tiny little restaurant with checkered table cloths, dim lighting and white holiday lights, you will feel like you've discovered a secret at 215 W. Nine Mile Road in Ferndale. It's seemingly impossible to have a bad meal here. It gets crowded, so make reservations. Call (248) 542-7379.

MARIO'S IN TROY OR DOWNTOWN DETROIT

If you want to slow dance, go to Mario's in Detroit. If you want a booth where you can hide behind your own white curtain (as is the trend in Los Angeles), go to Mario's in Troy but make reservations in advance.

It's one of the few old school type Italian restaurants where you get a relish tray before dinner. The Detroit location has been open since 1948.

Try the eggplant or the gnocchi. Located at 1477 John R In Troy, call (248) 588-6000, and 4222 Second in Detroit (near Wayne State University), call (313) 832-1616.

Compiled by Lana Mini

Chinese New Year celebrated

Oceania Inn in Rochester Hills will celebrate Chinese New Year Feb. 7-17 with a special nine-course dinner, including chicken dumpling soup, seafood roll, chicken tender, Hong Kong steak, chicken and shrimp, spicy chicken, vegetable lo mein and other items. The dinner costs \$14.95 per adult, \$6.95 per child (12 and under).

The restaurant will feature a traditional lion dance at 7 p.m. Feb. 7-10 and 15-17. The restaurant is also offering one free appetizer for carry-out orders over \$10.

The restaurant is located at 3176 Walton Blvd. (at Adams, in the University Corner Shopping Square). Call (248) 375-9200 for information.

TEA INTO DINNER

The Sweet Afton Tea Room & Restaurant in Plymouth now offers its British and Irish cooking into the dinner hour on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

"Sweet Afton is already a really great place, but it's kind of like a secret. It's a really cool secret, but we want to let it out," says restaurant manager Elizabeth King.

The theme of the new dinner menu will be "A Taste of the British Isles,"

inspired by authentic British and Irish cooking - all for a reasonable price. Those menu items will include Shepherd's Pie, Beef Wellington and Chicken Pot Pie. Desserts, such as traditional British trifles and tarts, will also be available during their expanded dinner hours, but, as King says, "with an evening twist."

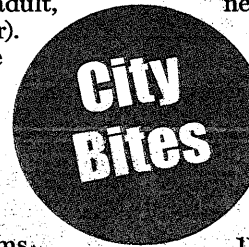
Sweet Afton, 450 Forest Ave., will expand its hours on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. They will remain open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at their regular times, from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sundays are reserved for showers and private parties, and the tearoom is closed on Mondays. Sweet Afton strongly recommends calling ahead for reservations at (734) 454-0777, though they are not required.

SCALAWAGS' SPECIAL

Friday nights and fish and chips are synonymous during Lent, but Scalawags Whitefish & Chips of Rochester Hills is featuring a special on fish and chips all season long.

Through March 21, fish and chips fanatics can enjoy the Great Lakes

Please see **BITES, E12**





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Valentine's Day specials, menus highlighted

Looking for Valentine's Day dinner ideas? Here's what's around town:

CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILLE

"Give the person who makes your heart burn like tomatillo-red chili salsa a Chipotle gift card, and we'll give you a free burrito for yourself," according to a press release from this restaurant chain.

Customers who purchase a Chipotle Mexican Grill gift card between Feb. 1-12 and save the receipt will be eligible to receive a free burrito. Just bring the receipt to any Chipotle location on Feb. 13 or 14 and redeem it for a free entrée.

Visit www.chipotle.com for restaurant locations.

FLEMING'S PRIME STEAKHOUSE & WINE BAR

Fleming's is offering a Valentine's weekend sharing menu (Feb. 14-17) of two choices as well as a dessert option.

The menu consists of Saucy Glazed 40 ounce Porterhouse, served with choice of Fleming's, Caesar, or Wedge Salad, or Puff Pastry Filled with Naked Lobster, with the same choice of salads. Cost is \$98 for two.

Visit www.flemingssteakhouse.com for locations.

IL POSTO

A special Valentine's Day Dinner Event starts with champagne "Mimosa", followed by two courses of appetizers. Executive chef Matteo Giuffrida will then prepare a gourmet meal with four choices of entrée. Chocolate soufflé, completes the meal.

Call (248) 827-8070 or visit www.ilposto.net today to make reservations.

MEADOW BROOK HALL AND GARDENS

A romantic Valentine's Day package includes valet, a champagne reception and tour followed by a four-course dinner with wine, live musical entertainment and dancing in the ballroom.

The menu will feature a Tuile; beef

EnCroute paired with seared salmon file; an asparagus bundle with mashed potato swirl; and baked chocolate tart with raspberry mousse.

The evening begins at 7 p.m. \$100 per person.

Call (248) 364-6220 or visit www.meadowbrookhall.org.

MGM GRAND DETROIT

This ultra chic hotel offers four packages, including The Spa Package, The Signature Package, The Valentine's Day Package and The Executive Package or enjoy a splash of romance at Michael Mina's Saltwater. Visit www.mgmgrand-detroit.com.

RITZ-CARLTON DEARBORN

The elegant hotel and restaurant is offering two packages Feb. 14-16. Valentine's Day Dinner in the Grill features a five-course dinner by executive chef Erle Webber including spinach and mascarpone ravioli; tableside Caesar salad; Champagne sorbet intermezzo; filet mignon and Maine lobster strudel; and chocolate and Grand Marnier souffles, at \$200 per couple.

Valentine's Bed and Breakfast includes an overnight stay for two, breakfast room service and use of the fitness center with indoor pool, sauna and Jacuzzi for \$179 per night.

Call (313) 441-2100.

SMALL PLATES DETROIT

The Valentine's menu will be served in four courses, including a Champagne toast, and costs \$75 per person. The menu features Mandarin Shrimp Rolls with Red Cabbage and Daikon Salad. Oysters Rockefeller with Seasoned Bread Crumbs, Spinace, Shallots, Parmesan and Pernod Surf & Turf, Half a Lobster Tail with Slow-Roasted Prime Rib & Sauce Bearnaise.

Guests also may order off the regular menu.

Reservations can be made by calling (313) 963-0497.

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BITES

FROM PAGE E11

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VICTORIAN VALENTINE

A romantic Victorian Valentine's dinner tea will be served 12:30-7 p.m. Feb. 14 at Victorian Tea Parlor, 2737 12 Mile Rd. in Berkley. Reservations are required for this special event. Dinner costs \$28.95 plus tax and gratuity.

Call (248) 542-5253.



Associate Special Agent in Charge John Arvantis (from left), series creator Al Roker and Mary Irene Cooper, DEA chief of congressional and public affairs, gathered in Detroit recently to introduce 'DEA,' a new Spike TV show premiering in April.

Al Roker spotlights Detroit's DEA agents in new Spike TV show

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

For the first time cable TV viewers will get a sneak peek into the lives of Drug Enforcement Administration special agents as they battle illegal drug trafficking. What's more, this unprecedented show, simply titled *DEA*, was completely shot in and around Detroit.

Today Show host and television personality Al Roker is the show's creator. He visited the DEA Detroit field office recently to talk about his pet project. "A couple of years ago I was working on a documentary on the methamphetamines trade," said Roker. "We worked openly with the DEA." The experience opened his eyes to the dangers facing these agents in this field. "I was amazed," he said. *DEA* developed out of a collaboration between Spike TV, Al Roker Entertainment, and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Roker chose to spotlight Detroit in particular because, he said, the agents here share a particularly close, trusting relationship. It's the first time a show of this nature has been attempted, according to Mary Irene Cooper, chief of congressional

and public affairs for the DEA. "It's a big step for us to do this," she said.

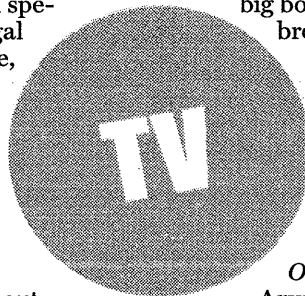
In this line of work, one she considers a calling, agents trust one another with their lives, said Cooper. "There is a very big bond. I think this show has brought that to the screen."

Filming for *DEA* began in August. Camera crews worked right alongside the DEA agents. Six episodes will air on Spike TV beginning in April. Roker said the reality show follows along the lines of *Law & Order* rather than *Cops*. John Arvantis, associate special agent

in charge of the DEA's Detroit Field Division, said the idea of having cameras follow agents around on the job took some getting-used to. "We're very, very private people," he said.

As a result, viewers will see what for the first time what it's like to go undercover and pose as drug dealers. Cameras capture drug raids, follow agents in the line of fire and as they work with informants - all to make the city streets safer. "I don't think anybody has ever seen anything like this," said Roker.

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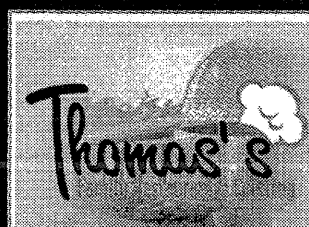
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Send, fax or e-mail items for consideration in **Get Out!** at least two weeks in advance to Ken Abramczyk, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009, fax (248) 644-1314 or e-mail kabramcz@hometownlife.com. Be sure to include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

ART EXHIBITS

The Dirty Show: Runs Feb. 8-16, Bert's Warehouse Theater, 2739 Russell Street, Eastern Market, Detroit. Tickets \$15 at www.dirtydetroit.com.

Flint Institute of Arts: "Something to Look Forward To," abstract art by 22 distinguished Americans of African descent, special museum hours on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, free admission courtesy of Target, members preview, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint, (810) 234-1695, www.flintarts.org.
Majestic Cafe: "Is There Room For Me... On Your Couch" through Feb. 29, artwork by Wendy Case and Dan Mulholland, reception 8-10 p.m. tonight, 4021 Woodward, Detroit, www.majesticdetroit.com, (313) 833-9700 Ext. 207.

Oakland University: "Image & Text," OU Biennial Faculty Exhibition, through Feb. 24, 208 Wilson Hall, Rochester, www.oakland.edu/ouag, (248) 370-3005.

ART GALLERIES

Biddle Gallery: "What's It Got to Do with Love" through Feb. 29, pictures, prints and plushes. Free, 2840 Biddle Ave., Wyandotte, www.biddlegallery.com, (734) 281-4779.

Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center: "Take a Look Inside the BBAC" Feb. 8-29, works by adult students, opening reception, 6-8 p.m. Feb. 8. Free, 1516 Cranbrook (between 14 and 15 Mile roads), Birmingham www.BBArtCenter.org, (248) 644-0866.

City Gallery: Aspirations: A Series of New Paintings by Stephen Deeb, through Feb. 26, meet the artist 6-8 p.m. Feb. 29, City Gallery, lobby of Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile Rd. in Farmington Hills (248) 473-1856.

Clay, Etc. Studio and Gallery: Tea Time at Clay, Etc., through March 31, 701 Livernois, Ferndale (248) 399-3294.

Lawrence Street Gallery: The Body Electric, through Feb. 29, opening reception 6-9 p.m. Feb. 8, 22620 Woodward, Ferndale (248) 544-0394, www.lawrencestreetgallery.com.

Lemberg Gallery: Small Treasures, through Feb. 23, 23241 Woodward, Ferndale (248) 591-6623, www.lemberggallery.com.

Northville Art House: Print making, murals, sculptures in a Rogue's Gallery, Mark Arminski, through Feb. 24, 215 Cady, Northville (248) 344-0497 or visit www.northvillearts.org

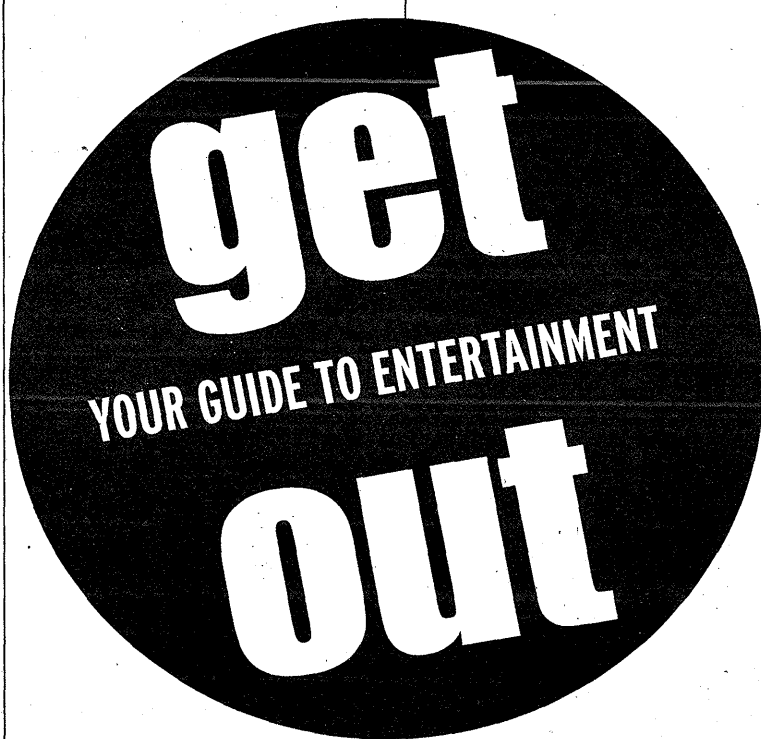
PaulKotulaProjects: Jim Shrosbree: Zero Suspension, through Feb. 23, 23255 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-3020, www.paulkotula.com.

Paint Creek Center for the Arts: "Otherworldly" runs through Feb. 23, First Floor Gallery presents multimedia work of Nicole Pangas, through Feb. 23, all at 407 Pine, Rochester, (248) 651-4110, www.pccart.org.

Paint Creek Center for the Arts: Nicole Pangas, artist who experiments in painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture and clay, exhibit through Feb. 23, First Floor Gallery, 407 Pine, Rochester www.pccart.org (248) 651-4110.

River's Edge Gallery: Underexposed, artists showing work for the first time, through March 14, (734) 246-9880, www.artattheedge.com.

Susanne Hilberry Gallery: Winterfresh, Brian Mahoney, through March 1, 700 Livernois, Ferndale (248) 541-4700, www.susannehilberrygallery.com. The Print Gallery: 29173 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield www.EverythingArt.com, (248) 356-5454.



UFO Factory: The Art of Wolf Eyes & Family, selected new works by Mike Connelly Tara Connelly, Heath Moerland, John Olson, Nate Young and Alivia Zivich, through Feb. 9, 1345 Division, Ste 101, Detroit, visit ufofactory.com, (248) 632-3670.

ART, ETC.

2008 JCC Maccabi ArtsFest: Young Jewish artists entering grades 8-12 invited to learn about ArtsFest, at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 13, Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield (248) 432-5467.

Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center: Gifts from the Heart Sale, through Feb. 14, 1516 S. Cranbrook, Birmingham, www.BBArtCenter.org, (248) 644-0866.

Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center: Spring break art camps, grades 1-8, March 24-28, 1516 Cranbrook Rd., Birmingham, (248) 644-0866, www.BBArtCenter.org.

D & M Art Studio: Surviving Deployment, through end of January; mid-winter workshops Feb. 15 on Egyptian Treasures, 8491 N. Lilley Rd., Canton, (734) 453-3710, www.dmartstudio.com.

The Brighton Library: The Heart of a Woman, drawings of Barbara Eko Murphy, also, Dee Ann Segula, jewelry artist, through Feb. 28, 100 Library Drive, Brighton (810) 229-6571.

Snowflake Ball: Gala with masquerade theme, masks and black ties optional, art demonstrations, dinner, auctions, open bar, music for dancing, 6:30 p.m. Feb. 9, \$95, proceeds benefit Orion Art Center, Addison Oaks Ballroom, Leonard (248) 693-4986, www.orionartcenter.org.

BALLET

Detroit Opera House: "Peter Pan," 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. March 1, \$15-\$35, 1526 Broadway, Detroit, (313) 237-SING.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Creative Arts Center: Vintage Black Film Series with "The Emperor Jones," 4-6 p.m. Feb. 9, "Dirty Gertie from Harlem," Feb. 16, "Green Pastures," Feb. 23, \$3 suggested donation, 47 Williams, Pontiac (248) 333-7849.

Detroit Film Theatre schedule is as follows: "War/Dance," Feb. 7-9; "Honeydripper," Feb. 8-10; "Xala," Feb. 21; "Black Girl" and "Borom Sarret," Feb. 22; "Ceddo," Feb. 23, and "Moolade," Feb. 24. Visit the DIA Web site for times and ticket information.

Detroit Institute of Arts: Rodney Whitaker, jazz

bassist, 7 and 8:30 p.m. Feb. 8; Abuakwa African Music and Dance Ensemble, noon, Feb. 9 and 10; Randy Weston, Feb. 15; Pyeng Threadgill, Feb. 22; while Brunch With Bach presents Harlem Quartet, the first place laureates of the Sphinx Competition, 11:30 a.m. Feb. 24, 5200 Woodward, (313) 833-7900.

Detroit Institute of Arts: tour DIA's five new African American art galleries with Valerie J. Mercer, curator and department head of the General Motors Center for African American Art, at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, Tonya "Touchdown" Dallas, stories about the foolish, clever and wise, 2 p.m. Feb. 10; Madelyn Porter weaves tales of joy, wisdom, and spirit, 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17 and 24; also workshops throughout the month, for information, visit www.dia.org.

Henry Ford Museum: Quilting Genius 2: The Improvisational Quilts of Susana Hunter, starts Feb. 15; Minds on Freedom, call for times and dates; Montgomery Bus Boycott Tribute Walk, Made in America, Your Place in Time, Rosa Parks Bus, special food offerings at the Michigan Cafe, visit www.thehenryford.org for information.

Rackham Symphony Choir: Michigan premiere of Donald McCullough's "Let My People Go! A Spiritual Journey Along the Underground Railroad," Feb. 29-March 1, choir performs with the Marygrove College Choir and Memorial Bach Choir, Marygrove College Liberal Arts Theatre, 8425 W. McNichols, (313) 404-0222, www.rackhamchoir.org.

BOOKS

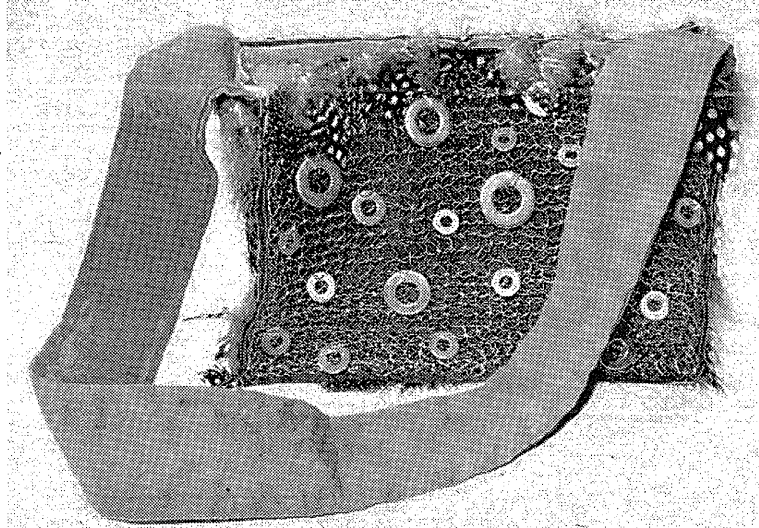
Ann Arbor Book Festival Luncheon Series: Author Charles Baxter discusses his "The Soul Thief," 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 13, at The Campus Inn, 615 E. Huron, Ann Arbor, Tickets at Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State Street, Ann Arbor, \$40 per person includes lunch, or call (734) 662-7407.

CHORAL

Beckridge Chorale: Auditions for current season, "A Salute to Stage, Screen and Television," appointment only, through Feb. 8, (734) 416-9885, e-mail Beckridgechorale@aol.com.

Madonna University: Voice master class for high school students, chance to win prizes and perform at March 30 public recital, class is March 1, \$20, to register, call (734) 432-5715, www.madonna.edu/pages/music.cfm.

University Musical Society: Bach's St. Matthew Passion with Detroit Symphony Orchestra,



Westland-based Artist Kelly Darke is among those featured in a current exhibit at River's Edge Gallery, 3024 Biddle, Wyandotte. This is one of four handbags she is showing, in addition to oil paintings, in "Underexposed." Meet the artists from 6-10 p.m. Feb. 15 at the gallery. Learn more at www.artattheedge.com or call (734) 246-9880.

UMS Choral Union, Michigan State University Children's Choir, March 21; call for brochure at (734) 764-2538 or visit www.ums.org.

Plymouth Oratorio Society: No audition necessary, season began Monday at the First United Methodist Church on North Territorial Road, just west of Sheldon, works by Haydn, Vaughan Williams and Lauridsen will be performed with the MI Sinfonietta Orchestra May 4, call (734) 455-8353 for more information.

CLASSICAL

Chamber Music at the Scarab Club: Bandoneon and accordion virtuoso Peter Soave, Soave and Strings, 3 p.m. Feb. 17, \$20, Marygrove College, 8425 McNichols, Detroit <http://www.thescarabclub.org>, (248) 474-8930.

The Chamber Music Society of Detroit: Augustin Hadelich, violinist, Robert Kulek, pianist, Feb. 9, Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile Rd. (at the corner of Lahser and 13 Mile roads), Beverly Hills, \$43 to \$75, students \$25, (248) 855-6070 for Opus 9 single tickets and Opus 3 subscription and single tickets.

Detroit Symphony Orchestra: "Knussen on Knussen," Oliver Knussen conducts orchestra performing his own works, Feb. 8-10, \$20-\$71, Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward (313) 576-5111.

Detroit Symphony Orchestra: Pops maestro Erich Kunzel leads the DSO and Ann Hampton Calloway for some amorous tunes at "A Funny Valentine," Feb. 14-17, Orchestra Hall, Max M. Fisher Music Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (313) 576-5111, www.detroitssymphony.com.

Macomb Symphony Orchestra: "The World's Greatest Melodies," 3 p.m. March 2, \$18, (586) 286-2222, www.macombsymphony.org.

The Metropolitan Youth Symphony: Winter concert, 4:30 p.m. Feb. 10, The Metropolitan Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit, \$20-\$28, www.metropolitanyouthsymphony.org

Plymouth Canton Symphony Society: Sensational Strings, 8 p.m. Feb. 9, Ward Presbyterian Church, Six Mile Road just west of Newburgh, Livonia, \$25; Special Benefit Concert, A Beatles Blast, 8 p.m. Feb. 21, Penn Theatre, downtown Plymouth, pre-concert cocktail party, 6:30 p.m. Lotus Arts Gallery, \$100 a ticket, tax deductible; (734) 451-2112, www.plymouthsymphony.org
Rackham Symphony Choir: An Affair to Remember with pianist Alvin Waddles, an evening of dining, serenade and silent auction, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 9, Club Venetian, 29310 John R, Madison Heights, \$60, (586)

242-0022.

University Musical Society: Chicago Classical Oriental Ensemble in Al-fursan at-talatha (The Three Musketeers), 8 p.m. Feb. 8, Guarneri String Quartet and Johannes Quartet, 8 p.m. Feb. 9, Wu Man with Bay Area Shawm Band, 4 p.m. Feb. 10, Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington, Ann Arbor; violinist Christian Tetzlaff, 8 p.m. Feb. 14, Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University, Ann Arbor (734) 764-2538, www.ums.org.

CLUBS

Bosco: Enjoy noWax nights at 7 p.m. every Wednesday, no cover, 21 and over only, 22930 Woodward in Ferndale, www.thebosco.com, (248) 541-8818.

Eden Nightclub & Ultralounge: Friday night party with DJ Ryan Richards, 10 p.m. guest celebrity hosts and DJs; DJ Urban Chris in the Garden Room, DJ Pannos in the Ultralounge accompanied by percussionist Jared Sykes, 10 p.m. Saturday, 22061 Woodward Ave, Ferndale (248) 541-7674.

Edison's: Robert Penn, Feb. 7; The Push, Feb. 8-9; Aaron Vaughn, Feb. 14; Code Blue, Feb. 15-16; The Blue Kings, Feb. 21; Larry Lee, Feb. 22-23; The Push, Feb. 28; Bazooka Charlie, Feb. 29-March 1; 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 Stick: The Bravery, Feb. 13; Super Furry Animals with Times New Viking, Feb. 17; SIA, March 1, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (313) 833-9700.

The Majestic Theatre: All That Remains, Feb. 8; The Black Dahlia Murder, Feb. 15; The English Beat, Feb. 20; New York Dolls, Feb. 22; Yellowcard, March 13; 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (313) 833-9700.

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

The Pike Room: Back Seat Cadillac, Feb. 8; Nina Natasia, Feb. 13; Oscillating Fan Club Feb. 14, at 1 S. Saginaw, Pontiac, (248) 858-9333.

The Shelter: The Pacific Sunwear Music Tour feat. The Audition, Feb. 9, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, (248) 645-6666.

PURE PICKS FEB. 8-13

8 The Dirty Show has become Detroit's hottest event for erotic art aficionados and for those who are just curious. In nine years it's grown from an underground show to one of the larger exhibits of its kind in the country. The Detroit Ninth International Erotic Art Exhibition runs through Feb. 16 and is not for the close-minded. Located at Bert's Warehouse Theater, 2739 Russell St., Detroit in Eastern Market. For details visit www.dirtyshow.org.



A sweet pre-Valentine's event is the gourmet dinner at Seva Restaurant to benefit injured animals.

9 Bellydance Superstar Ansuva, one of the world's leading Middle Eastern style dancers, performs at 7:45 p.m. at RKS Recording,

17 West Lawrence St., Pontiac. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$18 in advance or at the door. At 10 a.m. on the 9th and 10th, Ansuva will teach dance workshops suitable for beginners. Visit www.ansuya.com for details.

10 AMEN! Is the name of the concert to celebrate Black History month at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10 at Ward Church, 40000 Six Mile Road in Northville. The concert is presented by Many Voices...One Song with singers from Birmingham and Troy singing inspirational music such as "Ride On, King Jesus" and "Wade in the Water." The concert is free. Call (248) 540-9124.

11 If your sweetie has a soft-spot for animals, enjoy a vegan gourmet dinner at Seva Restaurant in Ann Arbor where proceeds benefit the Emergency Medical Fund for sick or injured animals at Michigan's Sasha Farm animal sanctuary. It's a cash bar at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$75. Dinner entrees must be chosen at time of ticket purchase, so visit the menu at www.sashafarm.org, or call (734) 417-8450.

13 Join down-home rockers The Orbitsuns for "Love Stinks" at Four Green Fields. This alternative Valentine's Day party features live music by The Orbitsuns, along with "love potion" drink specials and saucy party favors. Singles are also encouraged to attend — as there will be a celebrity match-making icebreaker event. Admission is free. Doors 9 p.m., 21 and over welcome. Four Green Fields is located at 30919 Woodward Ave. in Royal Oak. Call (248) 288-2088. (The band is influenced by Johnny Cash, Hank Williams and Elvis.)



Ansuva the belly dancer performs on Saturday, Feb. 9, in Pontiac.

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: Dave Dyer, Feb. 7-9; Kira Soltanovich, Feb. 14-16; Jef Brannan, Feb. 21-23; Mark Sweeney, Feb. 28-March 1; 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor (734) 996-9080, www.aacomedy.com.

The Fillmore-Detroit: Dave Attell, Feb. 8, 2115 Woodward, Detroit. \$29.50, call (248) 645-6666.

Fox Theatre: Chris Rock, Feb. 29 and March 1, \$65.50-\$99.50; Frank Caliendo, March 8, \$42.75, at 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com (248) 433-1515.

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.

Michigan Theatre: Bob Saget, 8 p.m. April 19, mature audiences, \$29.50-\$39.50, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. (248) 645-6666.

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

Cobo Arena: Rockstar Taste of Chaos Tour with Avenged Sevenfold, Atréyu, Bullet For My Valentine, Blessthefall, Mucc, D'espairsray, The Underneath, March 8, 301 Civic Center Drive, Detroit, (248) 645-6666.

The Fillmore-Detroit: 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; Chevelle and Finger Eleven, March 5; Panic at the Disco, May 20, 2115 Woodward, Detroit. Call (248) 645-6666.

Ford Community & Performing Arts Center: A Valentine's Rock 'N' Roll Spectacular with Sonny Turner (former lead singer of the Platters), The Vogues, The Diamonds, The Reflections, Jack Scott, Lou Christie, Bill Haley's Original Comets, Little Peggy

March, The Marcells, 5 and 8 p.m. Feb. 16, \$27-\$67; Rick Springfield, Feb. 23. \$45-\$55, 15801 Michigan, Dearborn (313) 943-2354 Ext. 1.

The Fox Theatre: B.B. King, Feb. 16; The Jonas Brothers, two shows Feb. 23; Jill Scott, March 21; O'Jays with The Whispers, March 22; Marvin Winans with Tye Tribbett, March 23, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com (248) 433-1515.

Joe Louis Arena: Kid Rock, Feb. 8-9; Linkin Park with Coheed and Cambria, Feb. 16; Foo Fighters with Against Me! and Serj Tankian, Feb. 24; Def Leppard with REO Speedwagon and Styx, April 19; Rush, June 10, (248) 645-6666, www.ticketmaster.com, OlympiaEntertainment.com.

Majestic Theatre: All That Remains, Feb. 8; The Black Dahlia Murder, Feb. 15; Galactic, April 13; Anti-Flag, April 18; Reverend Horton Heat, April 26, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit (313) 833-9700.

Michigan Theatre: James Blunt, Feb. 23; Steve Earle with Allison Moorer, March 5, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. (248) 645-6666.

The Palace: The Spice Girls, Feb. 16; Bon Jovi with Daughtry, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20; Luke Bryan, Feb. 21; Blue Man Group, Feb. 23; Three Days Grace, March 21; Avril Lavigne with Boys Like Girls, March 22; Lynyrd Skynyrd and Hank Williams Jr., April 19; Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, May 31, (248) 645-6666 or Palacenet.com.

Royal Oak Music Theatre: Louis CK, Feb. 16; Citizen Cope, Feb. 22; NoFX, March 6, 318 W. Fourth Street, Royal Oak, (248) 645-6666.

St. Andrew's Hall: Blind Melon, March 16; Bamboo Road Show with Saves the Day, And Armor for Sleep, Set Your Goals, Metro and Lydia, April 26, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, (248) 645-6666.

DANCE

Chinese New Year Celebration: Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company, 3 p.m. Feb. 16, Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward, also Chinese New Year buffet, \$20 per person 1-2:30 p.m. Music Box, \$19-\$50, reservations for buffet, (313) 576-5130.

Eisenhower Dance Ensemble: Bright Side of the Road, 8 p.m. April 5, various locations, call (248) 852-5850 or see www.ede-dance.org.

FAMILY

Fox Theatre: Sesame Street Live presents "Elmo Makes Music," through Feb. 10, Tickets \$12-\$32, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com (248) 433-1515.

Campus Martius Park: Skate at the rink through March 16, (313) 963-9393 or visit www.campusmartiuspark.org for hours and admission prices, Woodward Avenue between Forst Street and Michigan Avenue.

Outdoorama: Feb. 28-March 2, Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River, Novi, \$9 adults, \$4 children 6-14, www.Outdoorama.com, (800) 328-6550.

The Palace of Auburn Hills: Disney On Ice Presents: "High School Musical The Ice Tour," Feb. 29-March 2, Palacenet.com, The Palace Box Office and all Ticketmaster centers, (248) 377-0100.

FILM

Penn Theatre: "Monty Python and the Holy Grail," Feb. 7; "A Brief Encounter," Feb. 14; "A Hard Day's Night," Feb. 28; tickets \$3; free tickets at Michigan Made & More, Plymouth Coffee Bean, Hands On Leather (734) 453-0870, www.penntheatre.com.

FOOD & WINE

Olympia Club at Joe Louis Arena: Eighth annual Toast of Hockeytown, 6-9 p.m. Feb. 13; benefits the Detroit Red Wings Foundation, \$200, (313) 396-7524.

JAZZ

Arturo's Jazz Theatre & Restaurant: Byron Miller, bass player, Feb. 8-9; vocalist Jean Carne, two shows per night, Feb. 14-17, call (248) 357-6009 for ticket prices and show times, or visit www.arturosjazz.com, 25333 W. 12 Mile, just west of Telegraph in Star Theatre Complex, Southfield.

Baker's Keyboard Lounge: Gospel Show 2 p.m. Sundays; The International Detroiters Tuesdays, Jam Session Wednesdays, 20510 Livernois, Detroit, (313) 345-6300.

Century Grille: "Smokin' Jazz," a concert benefiting the Fifth Annual WWJ Newsradio 950 Winter Survival Radiothon for The Heat And Warmth Fund (THAW), D'Nise Jonson & Midnight Rising, Shay Ashford and Rob Gill of SO-NU Jazz Ensemble. "Dramatics" legend Winzell Kelly performs a special number with Da-Clergy, \$60 at www.thawfund.org, or for \$65 at the door,

located inside Gem Theatre, near Ford Field.

Cliff Bells: Scott Gwinell Jazz Orchestra, 9:30 p.m. Wednesdays; Jesse Palter Quartet 9:30 p.m. Thursdays; Social Sundays featuring blues, roots, americana at 8 p.m., 2030 Park, Detroit (313) 961-2543.

Detroit Windsor Jazz Club: Saturdays at Shield's (1-4 p.m.), Kerry Price and Friends, Feb. 2; Rick Bryant, Feb. 16; \$10 cover, 25101 Telegraph, Southfield (248) 356-2720.

Firefly Club: Saxophonist Danny Lerman releases CD, "Meow Baby," Feb. 26.

The Innate Healing Arts Center and Golden Gate Cafes: Ralph Koziarski's Expedition, 9 p.m. to midnight, Feb. 8, 18700 Woodward, Detroit (313) 366-2247.

Oakland Community College: Saxophonist Marion Meadows, 8 p.m. Feb. 8, \$20, Smith Theatre, Orchard Ridge campus, 27055 Orchard Ridge Rd., Farmington Hills (248) 341-2270.

MORE MUSIC

Christ Church Cranbrook: J Xavier, hip-hop artist, 7-9 p.m. Feb. 8, free, part of ACCESS concert night as part of youth ministry, 470 Church, Bloomfield Hills, www.accessyouth.org.

Como's Restaurant: Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin Tribute from Las Vegas, 7 p.m. Feb. 10, \$30, 22812 Woodward (at 9 Mile), Ferndale (248) 473-7777.

Farmington Civic Theater: Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin Tribute from Las Vegas, 4 and 7 p.m. Feb. 9, \$30, 33332 Grand River Farmington (248) 473-7777.

Giulio's Cucina Italiana: Night of Opera and Show Tunes, soprano Annie Radcliffe and pianist tenor David Carle, from the Michigan Opera Theater, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Feb. 13, 31735 Plymouth, Livonia, (734) 427-9500.

Mama's Coffeehouse: Floyd King and the Bushwackers, 8 p.m. Feb. 16, \$12, Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 569-0965, www.mamascoffeehouse.org.

Music Hall Center for Performing Arts: 350 Madison, Detroit, \$35-\$55, Ticketmaster, (313) 887-8500, www.musicall.org.

Nardin Park Music Series: U.S. Military Academy Glee Club, 7:30 p.m. April 5, 2 p.m. April 6, \$15; Nardin Park United Methodist Church,

29887 W. 11 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills (248) 476-8860 for information.

Oakland Community College: Marion Meadows, saxophonist, 8 p.m. Feb. 8, \$20, Orchard Ridge campus, 27055 Orchard Lake Rd., Farmington Hills (248) 341-2271.

Oakland Community College's Performing Arts Program: 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 show, which will be at the Orchard Ridge campus, \$20; (248) 341-2270.

Palmer Woods Concert Series: Peter Psarianos & Odyssey, Feb. 23; Violinist Jannina Barefield, March 15; Straight Ahead Trio, April 26; A. Spencer Barefield & Donald Mayberry, May 24, tickets \$25 per concert or \$100 for the series, (313) 920-4864.

Trinity House Theatre: Josh White Jr., Feb. 8; The Tracy Kash Thomas Quartet, Feb. 9, 38840 W. 6 Mile, Livonia, (734) 464-6302.

MUSEUMS

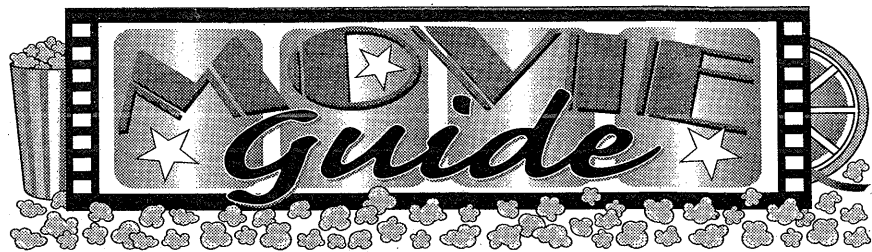
Arab American National Museum:

"Fragmentation & Unity: The Art of Sari Koury," through April 27, 13624 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn, (313) 582-2266.

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Cranbrook Institute of Science: The PGA Championship History Exhibit, golf artifacts and memorabilia, May 23-July 30, museum's west entrance building, free with museum admission, 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills (248) 645-3200, <http://science.cranbrook.edu>.

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.



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Lebanese film 'Caramel' premieres in Birmingham

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS

Nadine Labaki understands the balance that today's Lebanese women face: trying to hold onto their Middle Eastern roots while still embracing a modern world influenced by the west.

Labaki, of Lebanon, is a writer, director and actress whose Beirut-based film *Caramel* premiered in Birmingham recently - its first screening in the United States. The film showcases that balance for Lebanese women.

"I wanted the U.S. opening showing of *Caramel* to be in Michigan because there are so many Lebanese people here," Labaki said during an inter-

view at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. "I know the people here will understand it - whether they are Lebanese or their neighbors."

Caramel opens Friday in Bloomfield Hills and Dearborn. The film is the heart-warming, intelligent, fresh story of five women in Beirut who meet regularly at a beauty salon. There, each women, from several generations, confide in each other over hair coloring, and waxing.

The title, *Caramel*, is based on the hair removal method popular in the Middle East where sugar, lemon and water are mixed into a caramel form and used as a hair removal tool. In the film, which Labaki stars in, there is no judgment of others, no right or wrong and no preaching. One character, Layale, loves a married man - whose face we never see. Another woman,

view at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. "I know the people here will understand it - whether they are Lebanese or their neighbors."

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Please see **FILM, E18**

'Over Her Dead Body' is lifeless

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Capsule reviews of films currently at the theaters:

'Over Her Dead Body'

This life-after-death comedy, Eva Longoria Parker's first big-screen movie with top billing, features her as a woman killed on her wedding day then returning as a meddling spirit to make sure her betrothed (Paul Rudd) stops messing around with the psychic (Lake Bell) who's the only one able to see and hear the visitor from beyond. Writer-director Jeff Lowell and his uninspired cast, including the usually sharp and waggish Rudd, deliver a movie that barely has a pulse and manages only a couple of mild laughs. PG-13 for sexual content and language. 95 minutes. One and a half stars out of four.

David Germain, AP movie writer

'Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert'



Of course, the tween girls for whom director Bruce Hendricks' movie was intended will be giddy to feel so close to their idol, Miley Cyrus,

the singing, dancing, songwriting, trendsetting dynamo, especially since many of them probably never had a chance to see her live on tour. They'll be happy to hear the "Hannah Montana" star perform their favorite songs and thrill to catch a peek of the real Miley backstage — though naturally, the moments are carefully chosen to maintain her well-crafted wholesome image. It's just more product, and not exactly a warts-and-all depiction. G. 74 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

Christy Lemire, AP movie critic

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Local filmmakers span the globe in 'Offshore'

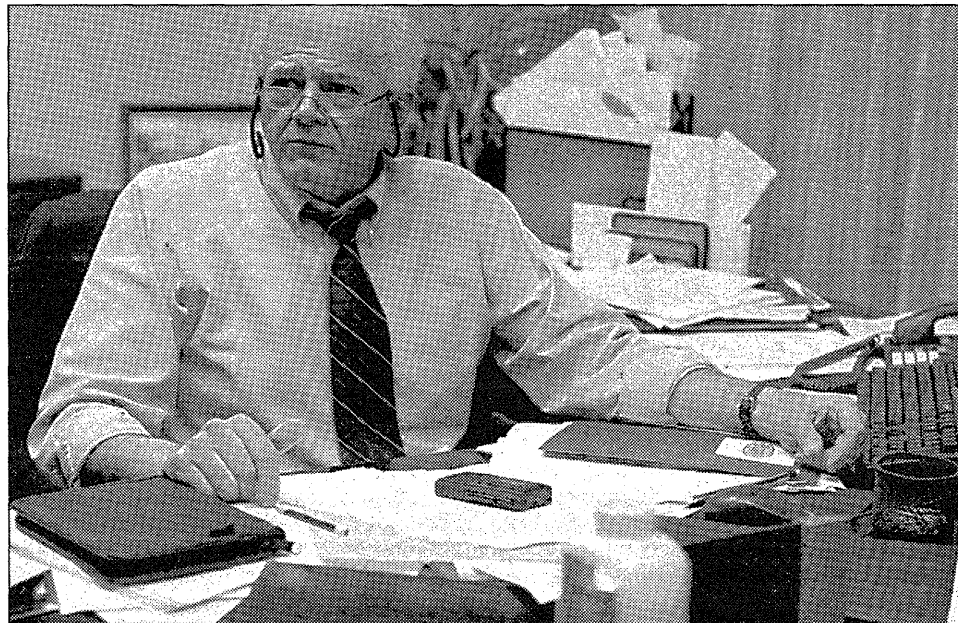
BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

It only makes sense that a feature film focused on the globalization of the American economy should itself be a project that spans the globe. That was a given for Royal Oak filmmaker Diane Checklich and Farmington Hills-based producer T.S. Dayananda when the two joined forces on the movie *Offshore*.

Filmed in Mumbai, India and around metro Detroit, Dayananda came up with the concept in 2000 as he watched the loss of local jobs to employees overseas. Whether that meant that Michigan workers were replaced by their counterparts in China, India or Mexico didn't matter. Having already released three well-received films in India, Dayananda followed with *Offshore* - a dramatic dark comedy that sheds some light on the fear of outsourcing. In the fictional account, longtime employees at a furniture call center discover they're about to be replaced with English-speaking workers in India. To add to that harsh reality, they're expected to train the men and women who will take their jobs. But they won't give up without a fight.

Offshore marks Checklich's feature film directorial debut. With a script written by Checklich, Peg Bogema and Chetana Kowshik, it required 35 days of shooting and three years to complete. Local locations included an office building in Troy, near the Somerset Collection, which doubles as Fairfax call center headquarters. The characters swirl drinks at Cinq in Royal Oak, and the city's Rallo's Pizza provides an opening shot.

When it came to scouting locations and filming in Mumbai, Dayananda, Checklich



Marty Bufalini is CEO Derek Abernathy whose faced with the decision to outsource his employees in "Offshore," premiering Feb. 8 in Canton.

and their crew encountered a bit more trouble - in the form of record-breaking monsoon rains. Cars were stalling out, cast members were walking home in 5 feet of water.

Still, they strived to fill the Indian roles with actors in India, and their American roles here in Michigan. It resulted in what Checklich called her "dream cast" including everyone from well-known Indian actor Satish Shah to Detroit radio personality Marty Bufalini. Checklich even hired one actor, the impressive Neil Bhoopalam, over e-mail, judging by a quick videotaped audition.

"We had to get pretty creative," she said.

Casting was crucial. Checklich sought a group that was capable of "bringing the story to life." "We worked hard on casting to find people who could get into these characters," she said, whether that meant more cartoonish interpretations of corporate types like Mrs. Fairfax or Derek Abernathy - or the achingly human representations of employees in a tough spot, like Nikhil and Bridget.

Though the story is fictional, it's quite believable. "Everyone is trying to do their job," said Checklich. "The problem is they conflict with each other. So who wins?" *Offshore* hits close to home and evokes mixed emotions. Some characters adapt

'OFFSHORE'

What: Local filmmaker's split time between India and metro Detroit to make this feature film.

When: U.S. premiere is Feb. 8. Find showtimes at www.emagine-entertainment.com or call (888) 319-3456.

Where: Emagine Canton, 39535 Ford Road, Canton

Tickets: \$7 matinee, \$9 evening

More information: Visit www.offshorethemovie.com.

to the life-changing events better than others. Carol (Deb Tunis) was a model employee slighted by the turn of events. Through the film she attempts to fight back, with the aid of an opportunistic TV journalist. "At some point she thinks being on TV is more important than saving her job," said Checklich.

The filmmakers nailed that authenticity with careful attention to detail in both countries. Even the somewhat exaggerated mob of applicants characterized in the film seems possible. "In India there are people everywhere," said Dayananda, a native of India. "People are getting multiple jobs. Call center jobs pay handsomely now for them. It's an incentive."

Offshore was released in India Dec. 7 to critical acclaim. Now the film will premiere at the Emagine theater in Canton, as filmmakers continue to promote the movie and seek wider U.S. distribution.

"We're trying to build a 'grass roots' buzz around it," said Checklich.

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FILM

FROM PAGE E17

Nisrine, is Muslim and engaged but she has a problem because she is no longer a virgin.

"That is big problem," Labaki said. "It's something both men and women in my country worry about but don't always discuss. My goal with this film is to open the dialogue of these types of issues."

Rima is tormented by her attraction to women and especially to a lovely client with long hair, highlighting another topic (homosexuality) that both western and eastern cultures need to understand.

The character Rose has sacrificed her life to take care of her elderly sister.

"In this typically feminine world (of the film), these women - who suffer from the hypocrisy of a rational oriental system in the face of western modernism - help each other with the problems that they

encounter in relation to men, love, marriage and sex..." Labaki said.

"Today, in that part of the world, Lebanon appears as an example of an open, free and emancipated society. But that isn't always true."

Behind the façade, Labaki said, women are still subjected to constraints such as "the permanent fear of other people's looks and their judgment of us. In this context, Lebanese women are eaten up by remorse and guilt."

In the hair salon, they feel safe.

Labaki said what has thrilled her is the positive comments she's received from both men and women.

"I made this film so men and women can begin to talk, to understand, to empathize and not to judge each other," Labaki said. "It's a starting point."

The film is in Arabic and French with English subtitles. It was produced by popular French filmmaker Anne-Dominique Toussaint, who supported *Caramel* even

'CAMEL'

Opening: Friday, Feb. 8, at the Maple Theatre, 4135 W. Maple Rd., Bloomfield Hills, www.landmarktheatres.com and AMC Star Fairlane 21, 18900 Michigan Ave., Dearborn and www.amctheatres.com

Synopsis: In Beirut, five women from different generations meet regularly in a beauty salon. Their liberated conversations revolve around men, sex and motherhood - between haircuts and sugar-waxing with caramel.

Language: In Arabic and French with English subtitles

Directed by: Nadine Labaki

Cast: Nadine Labaki, Yasmie Al Masri, Joanna Moukarzel, Gisele Aouad, Siham Haddad, Aziza Semaan, Fatme Safa, Adel Karam

Rating: Rated PG for thematic elements involving sexuality, language and some smoking.

Running time: 96 minutes

Web site: www.roadsideattractions.com

before reading its screenplay.

The story mixes humor with serious topics, but it isn't a "chick flick." The screenplay was written with two men,

Jihad Hojeily and Rodney Al Haddad.

"It was vital, since I didn't want to make a purely feminist film, I really needed the opinion of men."

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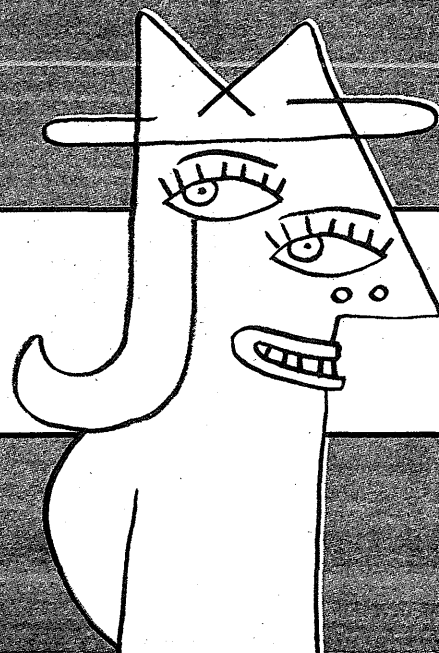
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