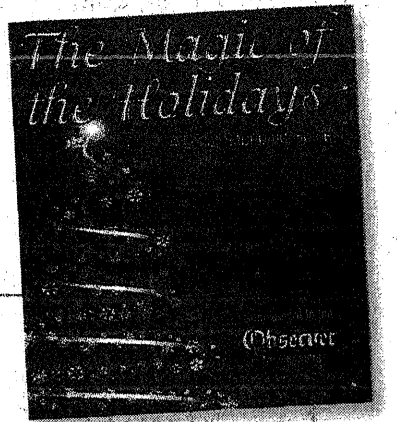


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PLYMOUTH Observer

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Union grieves new plan for electeds' benefits

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With retiring Clerk Marilyn Messengill apparently leaving office without carrying any health insurance into retirement, the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees last week approved an ordinance tying retirement benefits for elected officials to contracts negotiated by the township's clerical union.

But apparently, someone forgot to check with the clerical union.

Carol Pyykkonen, president of Local 2958 of the American Federal of State, County and Municipal Employees,

has filed a grievance with the township over the decision because neither Messengill nor any of the other elected officials are part of AFSCME.

"We don't represent Marilyn or any of the other electeds," Pyykkonen said. "We don't negotiate for them."

The brouhaha started when Supervisor Richard Reaume called for a special Saturday meeting less than a week before Messengill was to vacate the clerk's office. One of two items on the agenda was establishing an ordinance that defined the manner in which the health insurance retirement benefit for full-time elected officials (in Plymouth Township it's the super-

visor, treasurer and clerk) would be handled.

The hastily called meeting was necessary, according to Reaume, because the ordinance needed two readings prior to adoption. The first reading took place at the Saturday meeting; the second reading/adoption happened three days later, at the board's regular Tuesday meeting.

Without passing an ordinance, Reaume said, Messengill would have left office without health insurance.

"There used to be an ordinance, but it was negated by state law," Reaume said. "We had to pass this one to make sure Marilyn had benefits."

Critics claim township officials have known Messengill, who has worked for the township for nearly 40 years, was retiring for quite some time, and many of them showed up at the Saturday meeting to complain both about the hurriedness of the meeting and tying elected officials' benefits to a union contract.

The board could have, Pyykkonen pointed out, given elected officials the same benefits as township employees who aren't represented by unions.

"The board can change it any way they want to," she said.

But Reaume claimed such a move would have left benefits to the whim

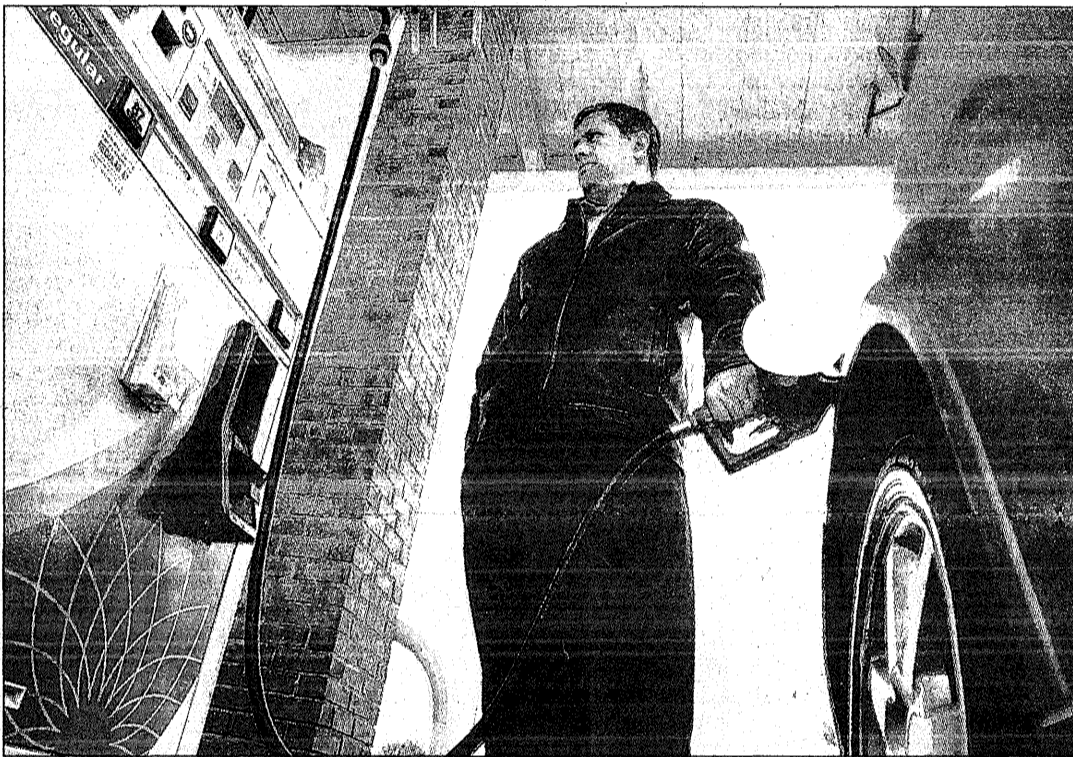
of the seven members of a future township board.

"The non-represented package can be changed by a majority of the board," Reaume said. "If it's tied to the AFSCME contract, it has to be negotiated."

Critics also claim tying the electeds' benefits to a union contract creates a conflict of interest, but Reaume discounts that claim.

"It'll be a realistic benefits package based on the marketplace," Reaume said. "I don't think it'll be a conflict at all."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2153



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ed Swad fills his car's tank at the BP station at Five Mile and Northville Road.

Fill 'er up

Drivers find it easier to go to the pump

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

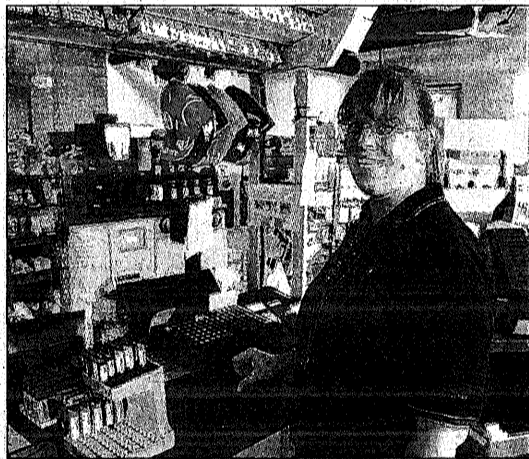
Back in the day — before gas prices began rocketing skyward — Ron Sayre would spend some \$600 a month fueling his car for the trip from his Ypsilanti home to his job downtown with Chrysler.

Once the prices began rising, so did Sayre's gas bill — tripling to some \$1,800 per month. The continuing economic climate cost Sayre his home, and his job with Chrysler is tenuous as the Big Three struggle to figure out their next moves.

So it's easy to see why Sayre, who now lives in Plymouth, was all smiles this week when, with the national average for a gallon of gas dropped under the \$2 mark, was smiling as he filled up for \$1.73 a gallon at the Speedway in Old Village Monday.

"It killed me when gas got up to \$3 or \$4 a gallon," Sayre said. "I was paying \$4.35 not five months ago, so you've got to be happy. I'm able to put food on the table. Now I'm hoping auto sales pick back up. That'll make me really happy."

Mike Zahr works a couple days a week behind the counter at the Citgo station at Lilley and



Tracy Daylak works at the BP station at Five Mile and Northville Road where a gallon of gas sells for \$1.69. She says customers say two things: 'I'm not used to getting change back' and 'How long is it gonna last?'

Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township. When gas prices were at their zenith, customers could be a little cranky.

With prices where they are now (\$1.69 per gallon at the Citgo Monday), buyers are a little easier to deal with.

"It's the cheaper gas, obviously," Zahr said. "They're much happier about it."

Sue Gable was buying gas there Monday, and she said it costs "about half" what it used to be to fill her gas tank. With the state — and the country — locked in an economic morass, Gable said the falling gas prices provided perhaps the only reason for optimism.

"It's the only bright spot on the horizon," the Plymouth resident said.

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Girls beat the 'Flurry' to finish fun-filled program

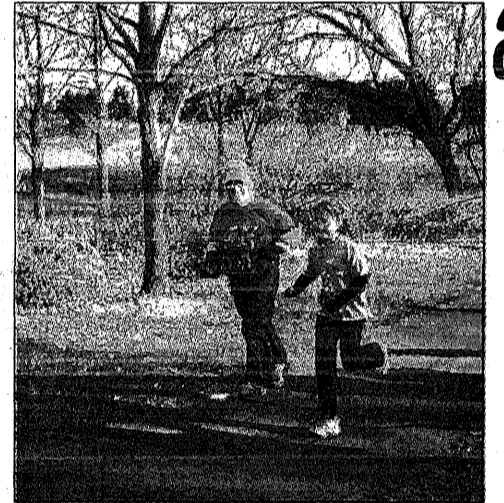
BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Farrand Elementary School teacher MaryLu Fryberger was searching for something for kids to do as a physical activity, either during recess or after school, someone asked if she'd ever heard of the international Girls on the Run program.

The question sent Fryberger to cyberspace to research the program which, as it turns out, is an intervention program that encourages pre-teen girls to develop self-respect and healthy lifestyles.

It seemed like a good fit to Fryberger, who organized a Farrand team to take part in the 10-week program, being run locally by the Plymouth YMCA. That's why the Farrand team, with Fryberger and assistant coaches Krystle Garipey and Lindsay DeRose, braved the chilly temperatures Sunday to take part in the first "Flurry Scurry" 5K run to celebrate completion of the program.

"It seemed so uplifting for the girls at our school," Fryberger said. "It promotes healthy habits, and gives the girls more respect for themselves." Nearly 150 girls took part in the 10-week program at eight elementary schools (Allen, Bentley, Bird, Farrand, Isbister, Eriksson, Smith and Workman), plus one "Girls on Track" team from West Middle School. According to Alli Phillips, the Girls on the Run coordinator for the Plymouth YMCA, the girls met twice a week for the 10 weeks, with 19 volunteer coaches spear-heading the curriculum. Phillips said the volunteers helped the girls



Alexandra DeMember and her dad, Robert, blaze their way along the 5K trail set up for Sunday's 'Flurry Scurry.'

focus on a variety of areas such as learning self-esteem, positive emotional, social and physical development and conflict resolution. The program culminated in Sunday's 5K run.

"All of these are things girls need going into the 'rough' years in middle and high school, and they combine it with the physical nature," Phillips said. "The girls get a huge self-esteem boost. They also learn a lot of life skills, how to deal with friends, how to voice their emotions, how to express how they're feeling."

Emily Caragay, 8, a student at Bird

Please see **GIRLS, A7**

Observer rolls out Strictly Business

Small business is the economic engine of our local area. It's important to support local business — and in a down economy, it's even more crucial to be informed about the local business scene.

That's why the *Plymouth Observer* is starting a new page, called Strictly Business, which will run each Thursday, starting Dec. 11.

Strictly Business will include a roundup of local business events, promotions, anniversaries, openings, closings and other changes at our local businesses.

We will also feature a business profile in a "question and answer" format, with a nice photo. Also look for a roundup of local business newsmakers and items from

the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce.

"It's a local business blitz every Thursday in your *Plymouth Observer*," said Editor Brad Kadrich. "We encourage our business owners to e-mail information to us, so we can include them on this page."

E-mail information about events, grand openings, staff changes with photos, and requests to receive a Q&A form to fill out for the business profile piece. All information should be e-mailed to Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

This page will also be posted on our Web site (www.hometownlife.com) where you can read daily news updates and information.

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Number 29

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"Around Plymouth" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Gabrial's fund-raiser

The Plymouth Community Arts Council and Gabrial's join together for a fund-raising event 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4.

Gabrial's will donate 15 percent of all purchases to the PCAC. All donations go to support PCAC programs, including arts education classes, a theater program, concerts, lectures and seminars, workshops, and community-based enrichment activities.

Gabrial's is a specialty gift store offering home accents perfect for holiday gifts. Gabrial's is located at 322 S. Main in downtown Plymouth, across from Kellogg Park.

For more information contact the PCAC at (734) 416-4278 or Gabrial's at (734) 455-8884.

Medicare workshops

The Plymouth District Library will again join CVS in a series of Medicare D Prescription Workshops Dec. 2 and Dec. 9, from 10-11:30 a.m.

Attendees should bring all present medical prescriptions to determine which prescription drug program would be best. The workshops are free of charge; although registration is requested. Please call the library at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

Saturdays at the Penn

The Plymouth Community Arts Council and the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society present "Saturdays at the Penn," with noon concerts at the Penn Theatre in downtown Plymouth.

The next concert is set for noon Saturday, Dec. 6, with special musical host Beverly Meyer, The Music Lady, with announcer Timothy Thompson. Special guest performer will be Josh and Roy, "A Comedy, Juggling Show."

Tickets are \$3 and may be purchased the day of the show. Doors open at 11:15 a.m. at the Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman in downtown Plymouth. To purchase tickets before the concert, sponsored in part by a grant from the Wilcox Foundation and other generous supporters, or for more information on group purchases, contact Deb Madonna at (734) 377-0914.

Museum exhibits

The Plymouth Historical Museum has reopened with its new special exhibit, "Twas the Night Before Christmas," featuring several popular Christmas stories from the past two centuries, including the poem of the same name purportedly by Clement C. Moore, A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, and The Polar Express, by Chris Van Allsburg. The special exhibit will be open through Jan. 4.

Santa is now visiting the Museum to meet good little girls and boys. Santa Claus will be at the Museum every Saturday until Christmas, and will be at the Museum 9-5 p.m. Dec. 6 during the Annual Craft Bazaar and Open House. This year's Craft Bazaar will have free admission, with more crafters and a craft raffle.

The Museum's permanent Lincoln Collection exhibit will remain closed until early December while the exhibit undergoes a facelift in anticipation of the upcoming special exhibit "In the Presence of Lincoln," honoring Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday in February 2009. That exhibit will run Jan. 21-Nov. 4.

The Plymouth Historical

Museum is located at 155 S. Main. Hours are 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$10 for families, and \$2 for students 6-17. Tours and groups can be accommodated by calling (734) 455-8940. For more information, visit www.plymouthhistory.org

Christmas craft show

St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley Road, Canton (southeast corner of Cherry Hill and Lilley), will host its Christmas craft show from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday Dec. 6. The event will feature more than 85 crafters, a bake sale, and lunch will be available. Admission is \$2. Children under 12 will be admitted free. For more information, contact the church at (734) 981-1333.

Prison Family Support Group

Do you have a family member currently serving time in prison, a subject that you can't easily discuss with just anyone? Now, there's a place for help - for conversation - for understanding of what you are going through.

Hope-4-Healing is a free ongoing support group for those who have loved ones in prison, providing a safe place to talk about it, share with and learn from others.

The group meets the second Monday of every month beginning in January 2009 at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, in Westland.

For additional information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237 or e-mail hope4healing@rocketmail.com

Senior party fund-raisers

The PCEP Senior Party Committee is inviting diners to dine out for "a wonderful cause," supporting the senior party by dining out at one (or

more) of the area restaurants which have agreed to donate 20 percent of the purchases made during a specific time and date.

Fund-raisers take place at the following restaurants on the following dates:

Wednesday, Dec. 17, at Buffalo Wild Wings; Monday, Jan. 12 at Palermo's; Thursday, Feb. 12 at Caravel; Monday, April 6 at Palermo's; and Thursday, May 7, also at Palermo's. All restaurants are on Ford Road in Canton.

Detail information and a flyer is available at <http://web.pccs.k12.mi.us/pcep/pages/classof/2009/senior-party09.htm> (this flyer must be presented at time of purchase for us to receive 20% credit of your purchase).

Visit the committee's blog at <http://pcep09seniorparty.blogspot.com/> or its Web page at <http://web.pccs.k12.mi.us/pcep/pages/classof/2009/senior-party09.htm>

To volunteer or for questions, contact pcep-senior-party@comcast.net

DAR meets

The Daughters of the American Revolution-Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter meet 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 15, at Greenmead, Alexander Blue House in Livonia.

The program will feature Christmas music and a sing-along with "MI Darlings."

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

Luminaria sale

The Plymouth Symphony League is selling Luminaria kits for the holiday season.

Each \$5 kit consists of 10 white paper bags and 10 candles and can be purchased at Gabrial's, Sideways, Saxton's and the Plymouth Symphony office at 470 Forest Place Suite 18, through Dec. 24.

For more information visit the symphony Web site at www.plymouthsymphony.org.

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For taxes, important to know your 'basis' on investment

In a recent column I wrote about a tax strategy that recognizes some losses for tax purposes. It entails taking some losses and then purchasing similar investments immediately thereafter so as not to be out of the market when the rebound comes.

Money Matters Whenever I write about tax losses I am



Rick Bloom

inevitably asked about what someone does when they cannot determine what they paid for an investment. The original purchase price of an investment is key to any calculation as to gain or losses.

To determine whether you have a gain or loss on an investment, it is important to understand the term basis. It is the basis that is deducted from the sales price which determines gain or loss. If the basis is less than the sales price, you have a gain. If the basis is greater than the sales price you have a loss.

Basis is the original investment plus any new contributions. New contributions can take the form of additional cash purchases or dividends reinvested. For example, in a mutual fund most of the funds pay interest, dividends and capital gains. Most investors choose to have them reinvested. Therefore, since they are reinvested they are considered new purchases and they do increase your basis. The same would be true if you participated in a dividend reinvestment program for an individual

stock. It is important in doing year-end tax planning, to determine what the basis is before you do any selling. The problem develops if you don't know the basis in an investment. This is very common — particularly on individual stocks that may have been purchased years ago. If you are in that situation, the first thing to do is to contact the brokerage house where the investments were purchased. Many brokerage houses save records for many years, including those of past clients.

Another avenue could be old tax returns. If the stock paid a dividend, you may be able to determine when you first received the dividend and that may assist in determining when you purchased the stock.

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

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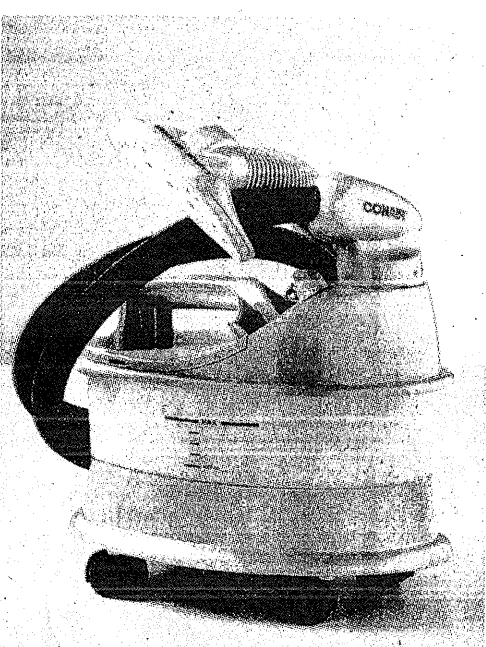
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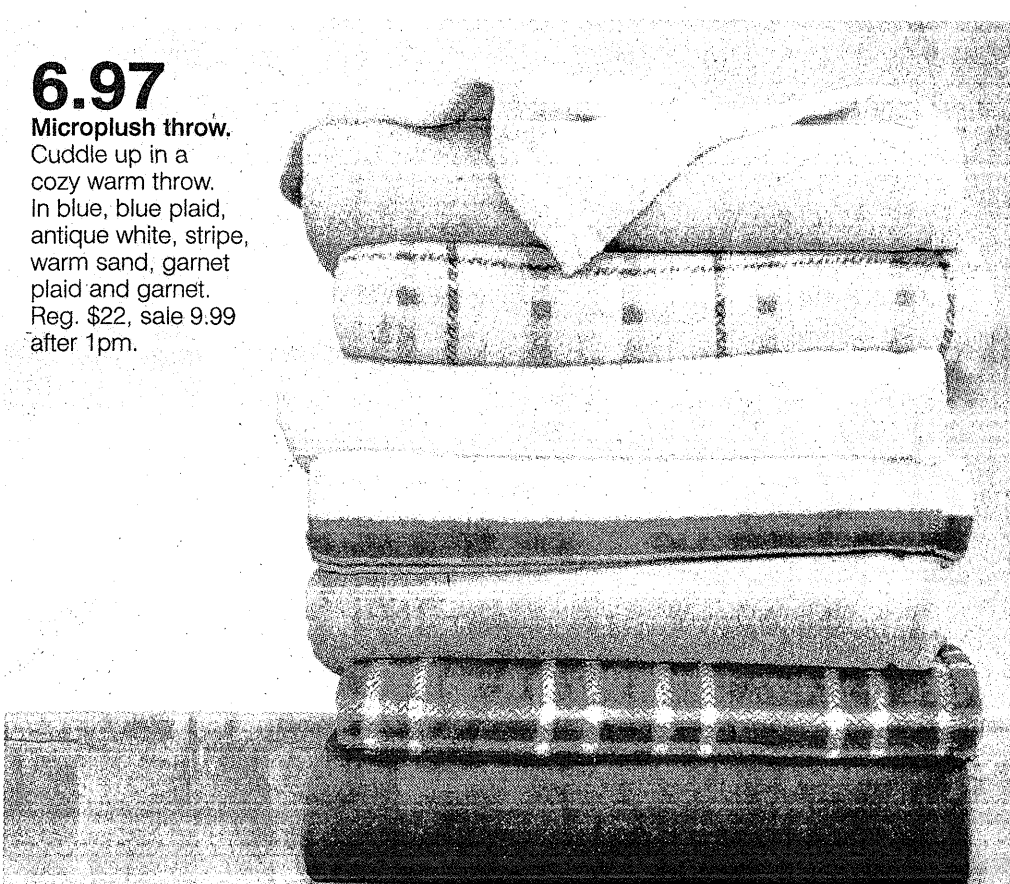
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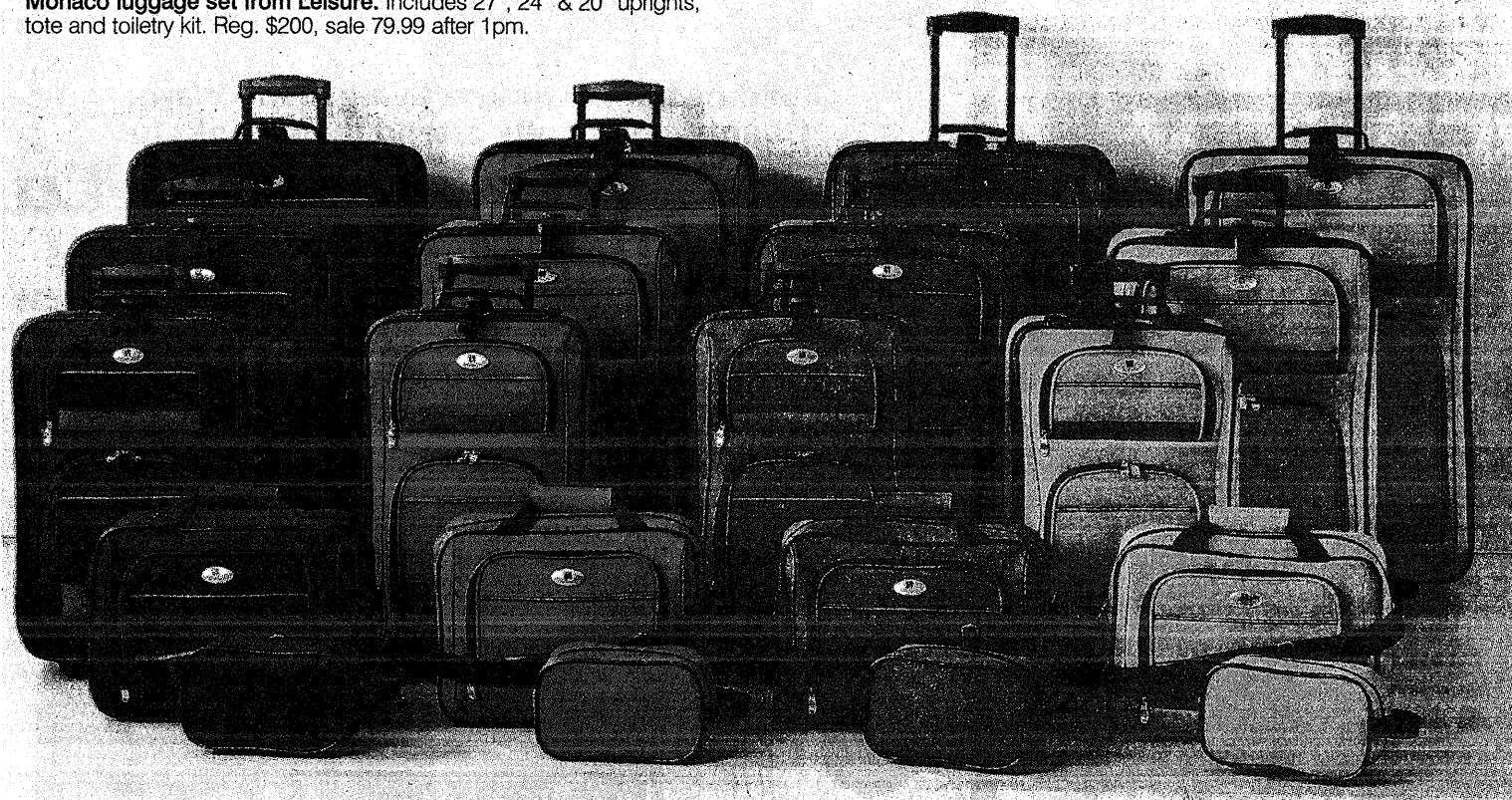


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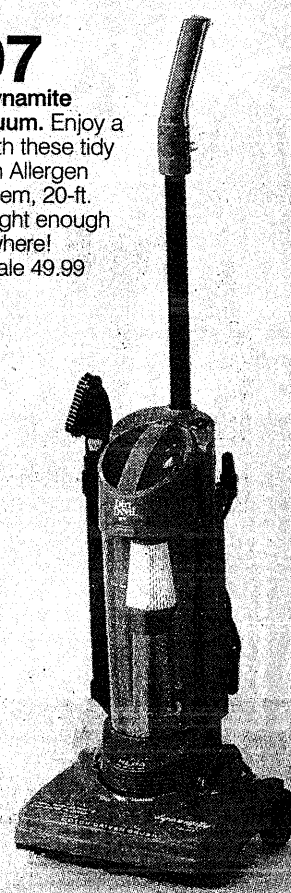


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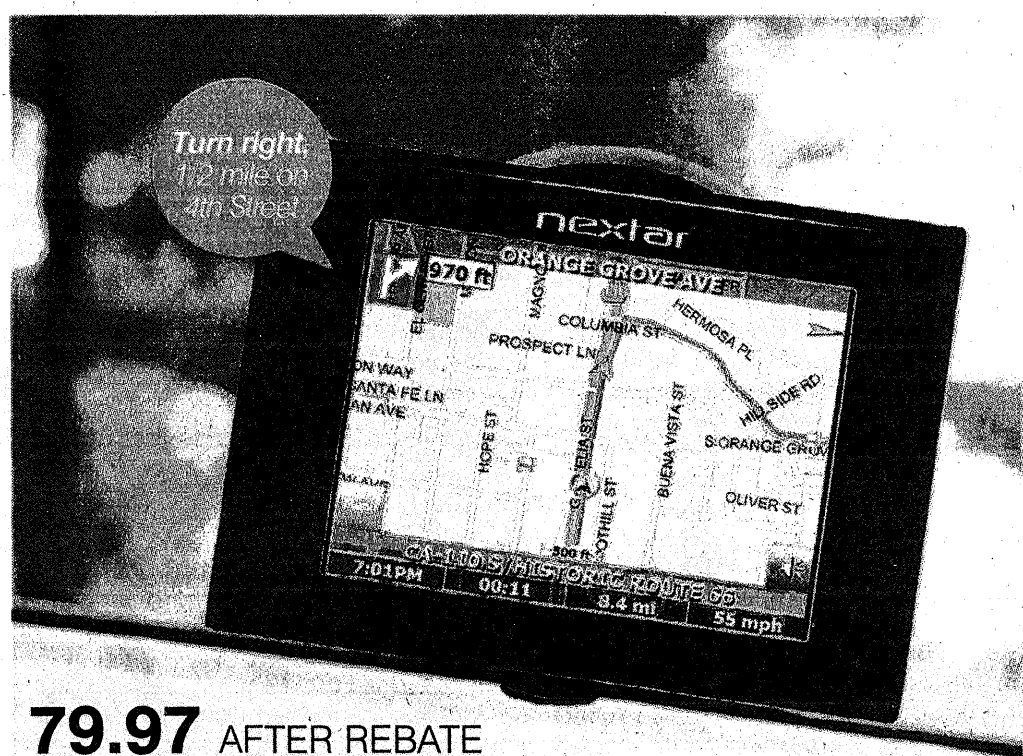
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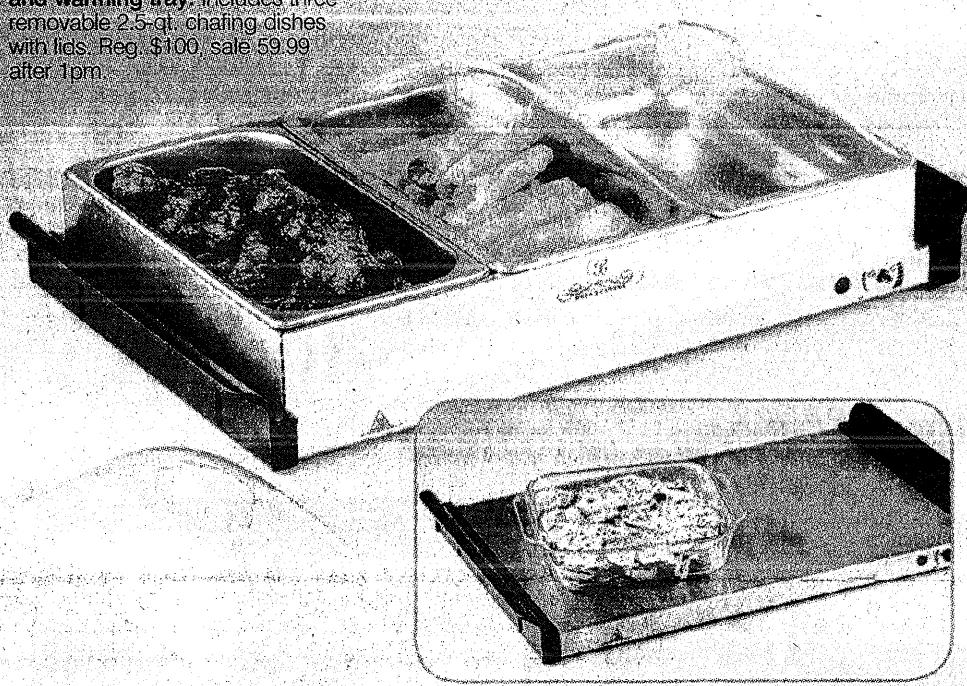
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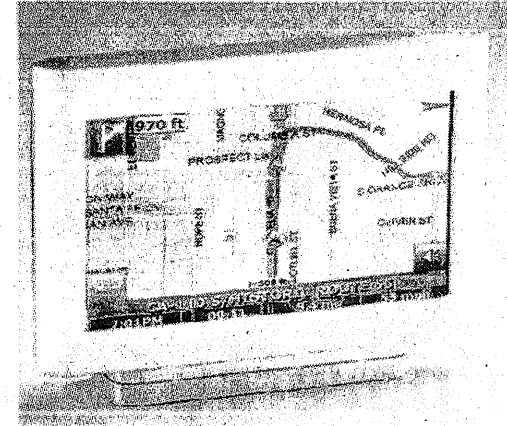


79.97 AFTER REBATE
Nextar™ M3-03 navigation system. Features maps of all 50 states, 3.5" LCD touch screen and rechargeable battery. Includes street specific voice prompts, mounting bracket and chargers. Reg. \$300, sale 129.99 after 1pm, door buster 99.97, 79.97 after \$20 mfr. mail-in rebate. Tech Trek Department.

49.97
Bella Cucina 3-pc. buffet server and warming tray. Includes three removable 2.5-qt. chafing dishes with lids. Reg. \$100, sale 59.99 after 1pm.



49.97
The Sharper Image® 4GB MP3 player. Take your music anywhere! Holds approximately 960 songs and features a video player and photo viewer. Includes built-in rechargeable battery. Reg. \$150, sale 69.99 after 1pm. Picture simulated. Tech Trek Department.



199.97 AFTER \$30 MFR. MAIL-IN REBATE
Nextar™ I4-BC Navigation system. Features maps of all 50 states and Canada, an oversized 4.3" LCD touch screen and rechargeable battery. Includes text-to-speech feature that clearly pronounces street names. **Plus, bonus back-up camera included!** Camera mounts to your rear license plate and wirelessly activates the view screen when you put your car in reverse. Reg. \$600, sale 299.99 after 1pm, door buster 229.97, 199.97 after \$30 mfr. mail-in rebate. Tech Trek Department.

29.97
The Sharper Image® remote control robot car. Transforms from car to robot and back again – at the push of a button! Includes rechargeable battery. Reg. \$80, sale 39.99 after 1pm. Tech Trek Department.

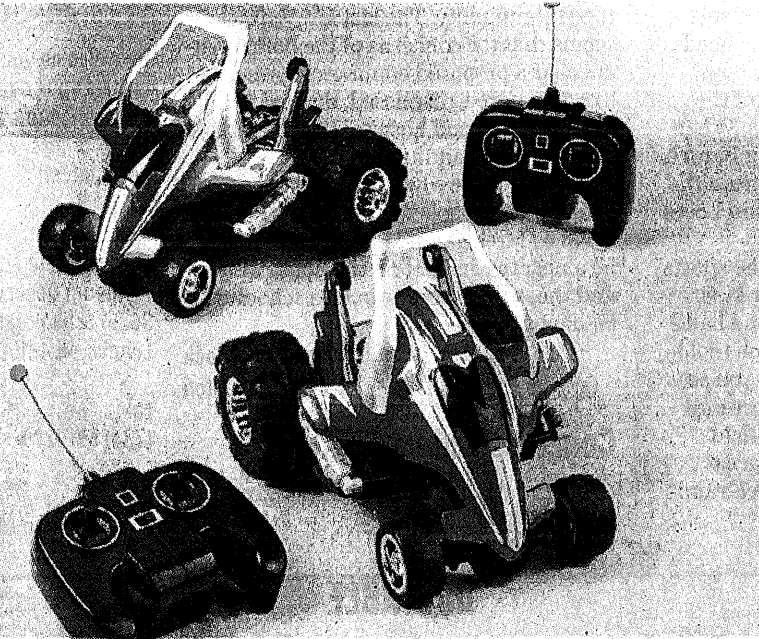


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OUR VIEWS

Legislature should act on smoking ban

In political circles, the time between the November general election and the day the new state Legislature is seated in January is unflatteringly known as the lame-duck session.

This span of time is fraught with danger for residents and taxpayers because, for many legislators, there are no more restraints on what they can do. Those on the way out after losing the election have nothing more to lose in whatever action they take, and often much to gain for their post-elected office careers.

Some legislators say that valuable work is accomplished in lame-duck sessions and, indeed, some serious issues, such as budgets, are hammered out under the pressure of the dwindling days of a legislative session.

There is one significant issue the Legislature should address before it calls it a year: Approve a ban on smoking in public places.

Once again, partisan politics has overshadowed good governance when it comes to this issue. Democrats and Republicans seem to both favor dragging Michigan into the 21st century regarding this public health issue — and make no mistake, it is a public health issue — but they can't agree on what businesses, if any, should be exempt from the smoking ban.

For once, our political leaders need to turn their backs on the special interests who line campaign coffers and address the issue head on. If it can work in California and Canada and Great Britain without bankrupting the restaurant/bar/casino industry, then it can work here as well.

It's time to end the debate and approve the smoking ban.

Face up to reality of poverty in area

Poverty has a face, but there's no need to look at pictures of the homeless and the hungry in countries around the world to recognize it.

In Oakland and Wayne counties today, that is as likely to be the face of your neighbor's child as it is the faces of families in less affluent areas.

Layoffs, spiraling utility costs and higher grocery bills are all drawing new pictures of the face of poverty. Economists are projecting that the need will grow in 2009 as the unemployment rate is expected to jump to 10.5 percent by the end of the year.

Local agencies, however, are already reporting significant increases in requests for help. At Troy People Concerned, the staff reports that the size of the requests for help have grown, much as the utility bills we all pay have skyrocketed.

Fulfilling those requests for help offers hope that there is one month more a wage earner can keep her house or feed his family while looking for work.

Now more than ever, it's time to look those needs in the face. Here are a few ways.

The Salvation Army has gone high tech with a secure online donation site (www.onlineredkettle.org), but it still needs bell ringers for its annual Red Kettle campaign.

In Rochester Hills, the all-volunteer Holiday Helpers will again have a giving tree at city hall. Rochester Area Neighborhood House, like Troy People Concerned, is seeking donations of gas and grocery cards.

Just as someone in need is right around the corner, there is no need to drive far to help.

Century 21 Hartford, 35615 Grand River in Farmington, is a drop-off site for The Salvation Army's Toy Shop. The Toy Shop is an alternate Christmas program for every family that is not "adopted" for the holiday. New, unwrapped toys, stuffed animals, games and clothing for kids up to age 14, will be collected.

All items will be delivered to The Salvation Army location at 27500 Shiawassee Road in Farmington Hills. (Call (248) 478-6000.)

Keep your eyes peeled for other opportunities to help in your hometown. It might not be polite to stare, but we all must face up to the fact that poverty is looking right back at us.

Local agencies, however, are already reporting significant increases in requests for help. At Troy People Concerned, the staff reports that the size of the requests for help have grown, much as the utility bills we all pay have skyrocketed. Fulfilling those requests for help offers hope that there is one month more a wage earner can keep her house or feed his family while looking for work.



No-brainer

Does the Board of Education committee chairperson (Dianne Gonzales want to know what the will of the people is "District eyes election shift," *Observer*, Nov. 20)?

Should they spend \$100,000 on a school board election when it would cost nothing if moved to the November election cycle? Well that's a no-brainer. Since when does the Plymouth-Canton school district have so much money that this is even an issue?

If the Board of Education can't figure this one out on their own we need to clean house.

Fred Portelli
Plymouth

Great sportsmanship

I'm the parent of a high school marching band student from Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

Our kids competed along side the fine marching band students at Lake Orion High School and 90 other bands at the Bands of America 2008 Grand National Championship recently in Indianapolis. I had to write to share what an outstanding group of kids we witnessed from Lake Orion.

This was the first time the Lake Orion Marching Band participated in the nationwide event. Only six Michigan bands competed and what an impressive show Lake Orion performed. Despite their efforts, they did not advance forward to the semifinals.

But their greatest performance came off the field just after the 12 top finalists were named. Despite coming in third place (behind West Bloomfield and Lake Orion, respectively) at the MCBA State Band Championship Nov. 1, Plymouth-Canton worked hard the last two weeks to pull off the unbelievable — being named the only Michigan band to be included in the Final Top 12.

Just before the 8 p.m. performance of the final 12 bands, I had heard rumors that several Lake Orion kids were discovered shopping the mall prior to the final competition searching for Plymouth-Canton colors of bright yellow.

Well when my friends and family sat down in our seats at the final performance, we were seated behind four rows of Lake Orion band students. To our surprise the rumors were true and all the L.O.H.S. kids were wearing some sort of yellow (many wore hand made headbands made from yellow plastic bags). They even drew PCEP on a few of the newly purchased yellow T-shirts. When the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band hit the field, a huge chant erupted from the Lake Orion students, "Lake Orion Loves Plymouth!"

I am just so impressed with the sportsmanship and dedication of your kids. To all the Lake Orion parents and band staff, you've done a wonderful job molding these future leaders. Thank you so much for demonstrating that winning takes place both on and off the field. Saturday night was certainly a great demonstration of what the BOA Grand

LETTERS

National Championships is all about. Michigan was well represented this weekend, and the Lake Orion Marching Dragons were a big reason why.

Peggy Fenwick
proud mom and Booster
Plymouth-Canton Marching Band

Proud of band

Plymouth-Canton, you have much to be proud of. Your marching band competed this past week at the Bands of America Grand Nationals held at the new Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, against over 90 of the nation's top high school marching bands.

From these bands, 34 advanced to the semifinals, and your band was there. From these bands, 12 advanced to vie for the National Championship, and your band was there. And when the competition was over, your Plymouth-Canton Marching Band placed 11th in the nation!

Martin Montoya and his staff are to be commended for their perseverance, dedication, and work ethic preparing these 170 students to believe in themselves and execute their best performances of the year.

Graduating band members, recall your past years with fond memories of band camp, regionals, GLI, states and nationals. Your years with the band now become part of the continuing legacy of PCMB.

Returning members relish your accomplishments! Upon you, the band now rests! Welcome the challenge to succeed and surpass in 2009.

Incoming freshmen and prospective students thinking about joining the band? Talk to a band member and they will tell you that the years fly by, the satisfaction is intense and the friendships are forever.

Thomas Edison once wrote: "The object of all work is production or accomplishment and to either of these ends there must be forethought, system, planning, intelligence, and honest purpose as well as perspiration."

Congratulations to all on a job well done.

Carl Katafiasz
Canton

Seek compromise for school

Perhaps the question should be "Does Canton need a new charter school on this proposed site?" Canton was and is a bedroom community. The last few years it seems that the concerns of the homeowners near a proposed commercial area are totally ignored, dismissed, denigrated. I list: the Oakwood hospital debacle, the Indian temple addition.

This is too narrow a strip of land to construct a school. Why not build on Ford Road or Michigan Avenue? There won't be a negative impact on the home values and those interested in such a school will be happy.

Barbara Alcock
Canton

Congress and mirrors

I found it incredulous that Congress

criticized the automakers for their private jets. Perhaps it was not good judgment to use the jets. But Congress needs to look into a mirror.

Our country is trillions of dollars in debt, yet members of Congress receive large paychecks, work short hours, and have some of the best health care and retirement plans in the world as well as untold benefits from lobbyists. In addition, when they wrote the \$700 billion check to the bankers, they didn't even put it in writing that the money should not be given out in unconscionable bonuses. It seems American manufacturing is the favored whipping boy.

This country spends billions of dollars a year for the care of illegal aliens. We shell out billions in foreign aid to other countries, even though we are hardly in a position to do so. Neither of these tax-sucking programs benefits citizens. Yet our own American companies go wanting.

I also worry about the defense of our nation. In the 1940s, it was our manufacturing base, specifically the automotive companies, who stepped up to the plate to manufacture the weapons of war that defeated both Germany and Japan. If one of the superpowers that we now grovel to for goods and money decides to invade our shores, I doubt we can count on Toyota or Honda to come to our aid, especially if we were again attacked by Japan.

Without a strong manufacturing base, we are sitting ducks. It was FDR who said "Detroit is the Arsenal of Democracy." Outsourcing our military manufacturing is, in my opinion, quite insane. Destroying our manufacturing base is a close second.

The rescue of the American automotive industry is essential for our country's security. This includes not only the loans necessary, it includes leveling the playing field with foreign competition. We need Americans to support our citizens and our defense by buying American products, including cars, whenever possible. We must also work to bring back other industries that have been shipped out of our country in the name of Globalization.

We must protect and defend our fragile republic by supporting American manufacturing. We are counting on Congress to do the right thing.

Peg Robichaud
Canton

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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QUOTABLE

"It's a state road and we're not required, and we'd be pulling manpower outside the city and putting them on roads that aren't ours ... We will respond when the police request it. We have a priority list for plowing within the city. We keep the main thoroughfares open for police, fire and medical emergency access and we expand from there. If it's a school day, our school routes become a secondary priority for us."

— Paul Sincock, Plymouth city manager, on Ann Arbor Road's priority for snow removal

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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.

Lunch with Purtan's People

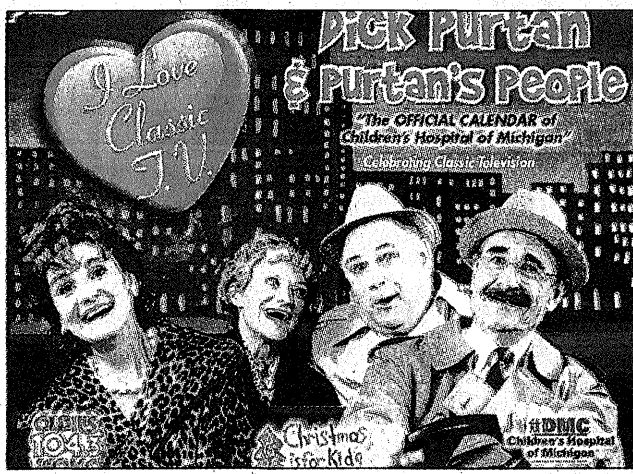
The lucky winner of this month's Dining With the Stars will be treated to lunch with Dick Purtan and Purtan's People (Big Al Muskavito, Jackie Purtan, Dana Mills, Rebekah Rhodes, John "Ankles" Stewart and Larry Lawson) of WOMC's Oldies 104.3.

Tell us in 100 words or less why you want to have lunch with Purtan and his zany morning show crew at Buddy's Pizza in Farmington Hills. E-mail your entry to BuddysDiningStars@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17.

In addition to lunch, the winner will be treated to a limo ride courtesy of Class Plus Limo, mini-makeover by Sebastian and Heba of I Design Salon and Spa in Dearborn, \$100 gift certificate from Reaver Diamond Co. in Southfield and dance exhibition by the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Bloomfield Hills.

Dining With the Stars is co-sponsored by Buddy's Pizza and the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*.

Purtan is one of Michigan's most recognized on-air personalities. As host



The winner of the Dining With the Stars contest will be treated to lunch with Dick Purtan (right) and Purtan's People of WOMC-FM (104.3).

of WOMC's Morning Show with Purtan's People, he entertains his loyal listeners with comedic commentary and topical wit.

Purtan's work also has been recognized on a national level. He has twice been named *Billboard* magazine's "Major Market Air Personality of the Year" and is the winner of radio's top prize, The National Association of Broadcasters MARCONI Award as "Major Market Air Personality of the

Year." In 2006, Purtan was inducted into the National Association of Broadcasting Hall of Fame in Las Vegas. Only one person in the radio industry is inducted each year.

For 21 years, his annual Salvation Army Radiothon has raised almost \$19 million for the Salvation Army's Bed & Bread program.

Dick Purtan and Purtan's People can be heard 5-10 a.m. Monday through Friday and 6-10 a.m. Saturdays on WOMC.

Good 'Samaritans'

Donations designed to help the world's needy

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Candy? Check. Crayons? Check. A teddy bear? Check. How about toothpaste? Check.

After glancing over the shoe box stuffed with goodies, Annie Grimes sealed it and smiled.

"Look at how happy they are," she said, whipping out a promotional flyer for Samaritan's Purse, a nonprofit Christian relief and evangelism organization. "Some children don't even know what a Christmas gift is and that's why we do this."

For six years, Grimes, a resident of Waltonwood at Cherry Hill, has solicited the help of friends to assemble care packages to donate to the North Carolina-based organization.

The gifts, which are tailored to boys and girls in three age groups, are tucked inside of shoe boxes decorated with wrapping paper. Grimes, along with a handful of her neighbors, worked on their annual packages Thursday.

"It's not easy to get everyone to save their boxes but it's worth it," Grimes said, adding that while the group was able to donate eight boxes during their first year of participation, that number jumped to 40 boxes last holiday season. "Just the fun of seeing a child smile means everything."

Since 1970, according to its Web site, www.samaritanaspurse.org, the organization has tried to meet the needs of those who are "victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ."



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ann Theut, Peggy McGee, and Iris Endres wrap shoe boxes that will be filled with gifts.



Organizer Annie Grimes displays a finished gift box.

Through Operation Christmas Child, the organization has sent gifts to China, Liberia, Russia, Malawi and the Philippines.

"I get a feeling of personal satisfaction doing this," said Mildred Domke, who has helped Grimes with the project each year. "I feel like we are fulfilling a need and helping out."

As some of the volunteers sorted through toys and sweets, others focused on wrapping the shoe boxes.

"The fact that we're all 80-90 years old makes this inter-

esting," Grimes jokingly whispered. "But we have fun."

Chris Markowski, Grimes' daughter, said her mother loves giving to the less fortunate and believes it has blessed her life.

"Sometimes, she is so tired and achy but somehow God has given her the strength to do this," she said. "There are so many people around the world in need."

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GIRLS

FROM PAGE A1

Elementary, said the sessions were helpful and she learned one big lesson about herself.

"I met new friends, and I learned I could run a 5K," Emily said. "I thought it would be fun, and it was a lot of fun."

In addition to some 144 girls from the program who ran, Plymouth Township Park was full of family members, friends and siblings who ran in support of the girls.

"I like to run, and my sister was in it," said 10-year-old Mitchell Zelenak, who ran in support of his sister, Abby, and wound up finishing first



The Farrand Elementary team braved cold temperatures to take part in Sunday's 'Flurry Scurry' to wrap up the 10-week Girls on the Run program.

overall. "It was a lot of fun." Phillips said the program will run again in the spring (around March), and "we're always looking for more volunteers, more coaches."

Anyone wishing to get involved can call Phillips at the Plymouth YMCA, (734) 453-2904.

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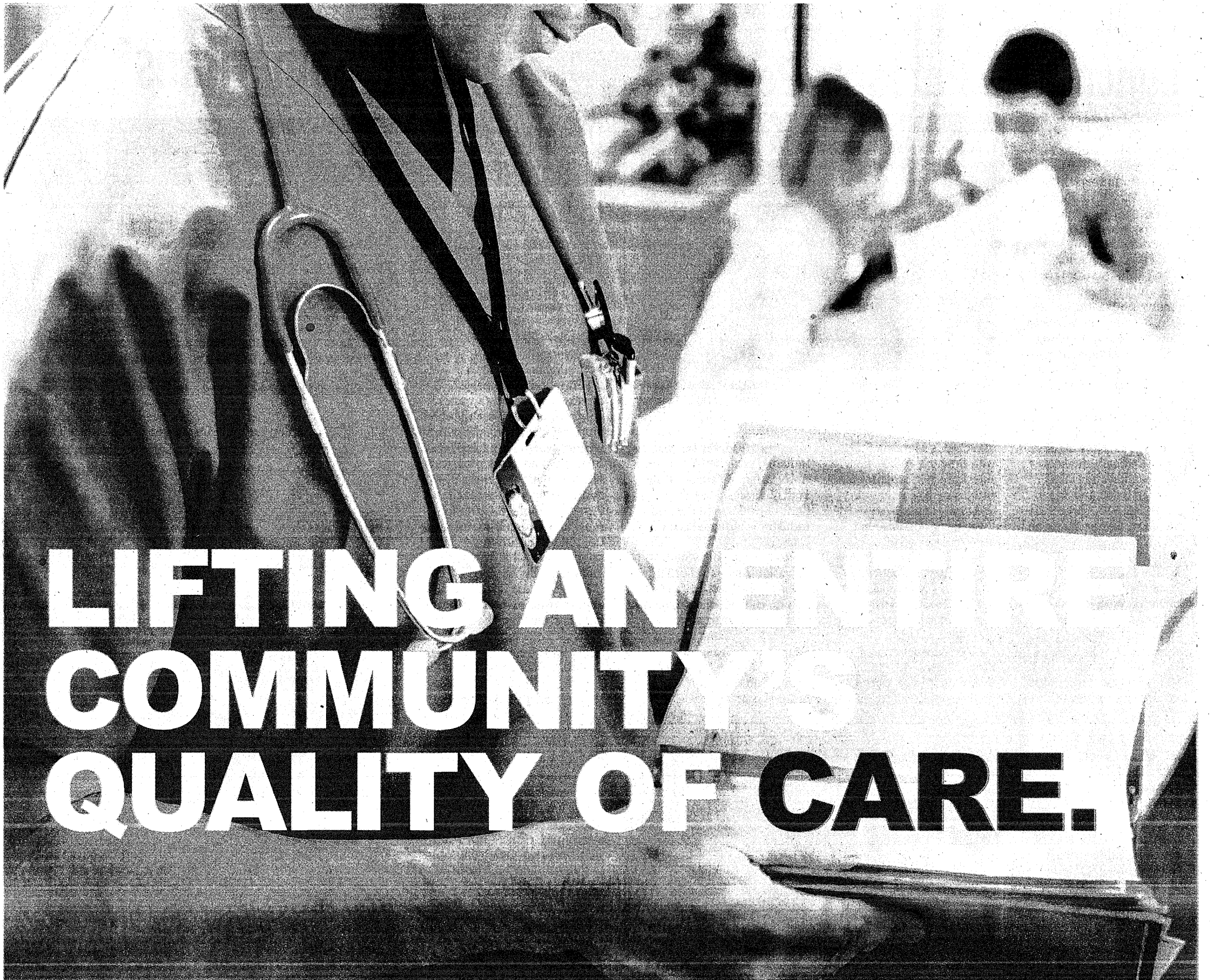
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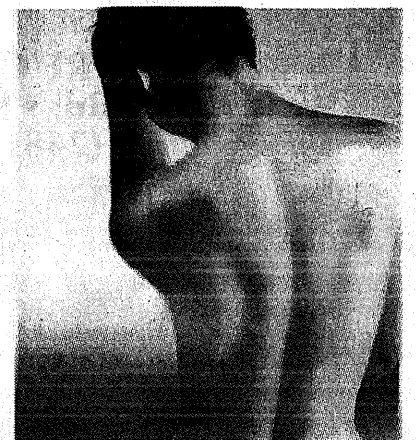
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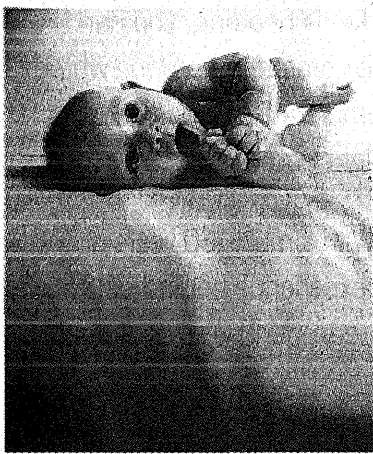
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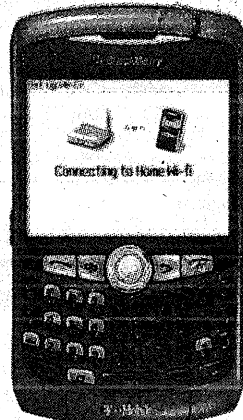
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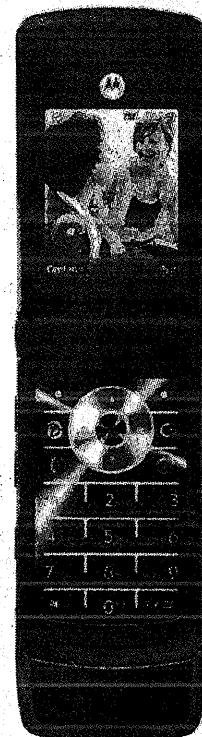
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CALENDAR FROM PAGE B6

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Worship Service
10:30 a.m. Sunday, Adult Bible Class at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship at 10:30 a.m., at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship Service with nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for tots through high school and Adult Faith Forum at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA).

or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org. Visitors welcome.
Worship service
10:45 a.m. Sundays, Adult Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship.

tize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire (Luke 3:16), is organizing in Livonia at Living Water Church, 11663 Arcola in the Inkster and Plymouth roads area at 7 p.m. Fridays under the leadership of Luke Willis. F.I.R.E. Ministries. For more information, call (734) 425-6360.
New worship schedule
Regular church service 10 a.m. Sundays with Communion and Nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for all

ages and Faith Forum, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414. All visitors welcome. Visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.
Sunday worship
11 a.m. Sunday worship service, 9:30 a.m. Sunday school, 7 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland. For information, call (734) 721-0800.

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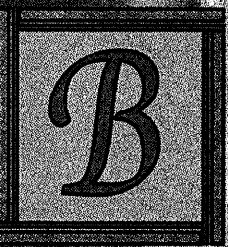
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For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 734-582-8342 or e-mail: dhart@dnp.com



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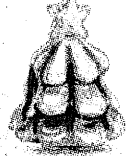
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Mustang GT Offers Rumbling Respite In Tough Times

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dale Buss

The tide of political correctness coming in against a car like the 2009 Mustang GT Coupe could hardly be higher. There was the gas-price spike to more than \$4 a gallon. There's all that stuff about nasty greenhouse gases and "global warming."

And, of course, there's the continued drama of the financial and market crises faced by Detroit's Big Three, which renders it difficult to even think about having fun in an automobile these days.

But somehow, the Mustang manages to rise above all that and deliver a driving and riding experience that can make you forget - at least for a long while - all that may ail you and the country.

After some false starts over the years in trying to revive the wonder and awe that surrounded the Mustang over a generation ago, Ford finally seems to have gotten things write with recent resuscitations of the brand - culminating in the 2009 version.

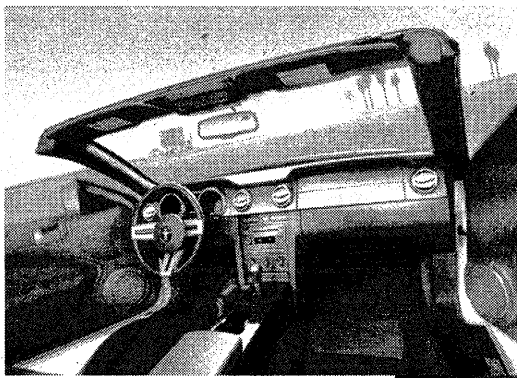
Its combination of well-executed retro styling and head-snapping punch means that the Mustang, finally, is back. Or, as Edmunds.com recently put it, "Having weathered oil crises, ugly styling crises, increasing emissions standards, corporate turmoil and unending penny-pinching over the years, the Mustang is a true survivor."

Of course, Ford already is having you look forward to the 2010 Mustang. The company has been unveiling the 2010 version at the Los Angeles Auto Show lately, touting the fact that it will offer a host of new available features including Ford's proprietary Sync system as well as next-generation navigation featuring the Sirius TravelLink.

The 2010 Mustang will feature a variety of other refinements, including a brand new pony logo on the grille that Ford says will be "more muscular and faster-looking."

But wait just a darn minute before departing for the 2010 Mustang: The 2009 version offers basically the same package, in the here and now.

The GT Coupe Premium version that I drove retails for



The convertible version opens the Mustang's retro interior styling to view.



The GT Premium Coupe version of the 2009 Mustang provides a powerful look -- and feel.

a suggested price of nearly \$32,000, so in essence it qualifies as a moderately expensive toy. But what a package it offers, including 17-inch aluminum wheels and front fog lamps on the outside, and a Shaker 500 audio system and leather-wrapped steering wheel on the inside.

A number of other nice touches make the 2009 Mustang GT Coupe Premium a fine ride as well, including seating surfaces that lushly combined perforated and cowhide-grain leathers.

But let's be honest: Everything about the Mustang is looks and speed. And on those two crucial counts, the 2009 version comes through with flying colors.

One thing that Ford finally got right again about the Mustang, after several years of flailing around, is its exterior styling. In an execution that is very evocative of the model's classic Sixties muscle-car design, the 2009 version is a substantial and even intimidating presence even though its overall footprint isn't that large.

When it comes to the GT version, this impression is helped by an appearance package that includes chrome exhaust tips, a hood scoop and an engine cover with the Mustang emblem.

All Ford Mustangs are rear-wheel-drive and come standard with a five-speed manual transmission. There are V6 versions that are powered by a 4.0-liter engine that produces 210 horsepower and 240 pound-feet of torque, and yielding fuel economy of 16 mpg in the city and 24

mpg on the highway.

But fortunately, I was able to drive the GT version powered by a 4.6-liter, overhead-cam V8 engine that offers a blistering 300 horsepower and 320 pound-feet of torque, a copious storehouse that is worthy of the Mustang's muscle-car looks and heritage.

And boy, did it respond, going from zero to 60 mph for me in about six seconds (5.7 seconds is the official time) and clearing the quarter mile, officially, in 14.3 seconds. Its fuel economy is only 15 mpg in the city and 23 mpg on the highway, thought those levels nearly approach the V6's mileage outputs.

Plus, driving the V8 GT provides some vintage moments, especially when you're idling to the phlegmatic rumble in the tailpipes - right before you slam the pedal to the floor and thrill to the tremendous burst of the Mustang in action. What a guilty pleasure!

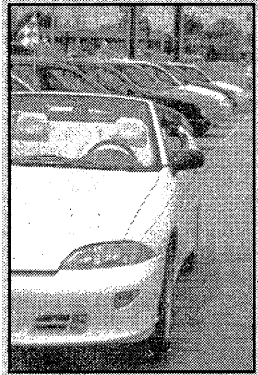
Inside, too, Ford has well-executed its bow to the Mustang's heritage, with a brushed-nickel dashboard with slick horizontal lines - although it projects uncomfortably into the passenger cabin as dashboards often did before passenger safety became a paramount concern. Even the elongated, sans serif numerals on the car's dials are pleasantly nostalgic.

One more thing that's nostalgic: The Mustang still doesn't have a functional back seat. It looks nice back there, but only for little people and children.

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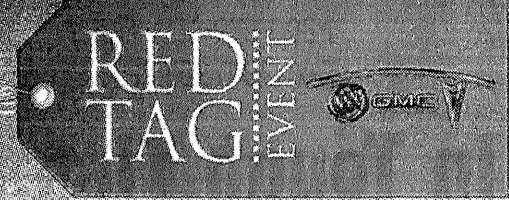
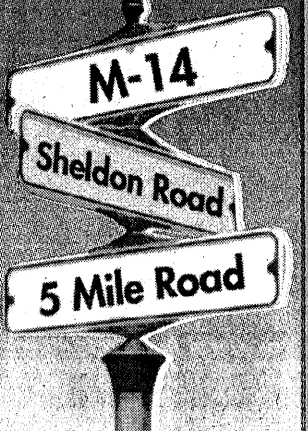
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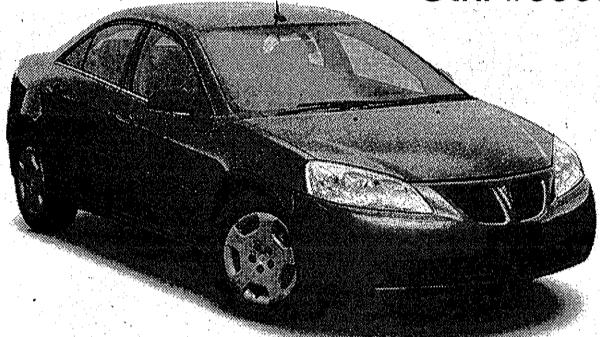


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D

Thursday, November 27, 2008
The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers



DARREN COX

Beginning Nov. 25, Chazz Palminteri stars in a play he wrote, "A Bronx Tale," at Detroit's Fisher Theatre.

Chazz Palminteri brings his one-man show to Detroit

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

Academy Award nominee Chazz Palminteri has performed in more than 50 films throughout his career, including smashes like *Bullets Over Broadway* and *The Usual Suspects*. But the project dearest to him, most personal for him, is easily *A Bronx Tale*.

A BRONX TALE
What: A coming-of-age tale penned by Chazz Palminteri, who plays multiple characters. It became a popular 1993 film that marked Robert DeNiro's directorial debut.
When: Showtimes run through Dec. 14, without performances on Nov. 27.
Where: Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit.
Tickets: \$28.50-\$71, visit www.BroadwayInDetroit.com or call (248) 645-6666.
More information: Visit www.ABronxTaleFour.com.

Palminteri penned the semi-autobiographical story of a young boy caught between a life of crime and an honest future first as a one-man show. It developed into a film, the first ever helmed by Robert DeNiro, then headed to Broadway. Now, Palminteri brings the moving story to Detroit's Fisher Theatre stage as part of its first national tour. In it, he portrays 18 different characters — a feat

Please see **CHAZZ, D8**

A band of strangers

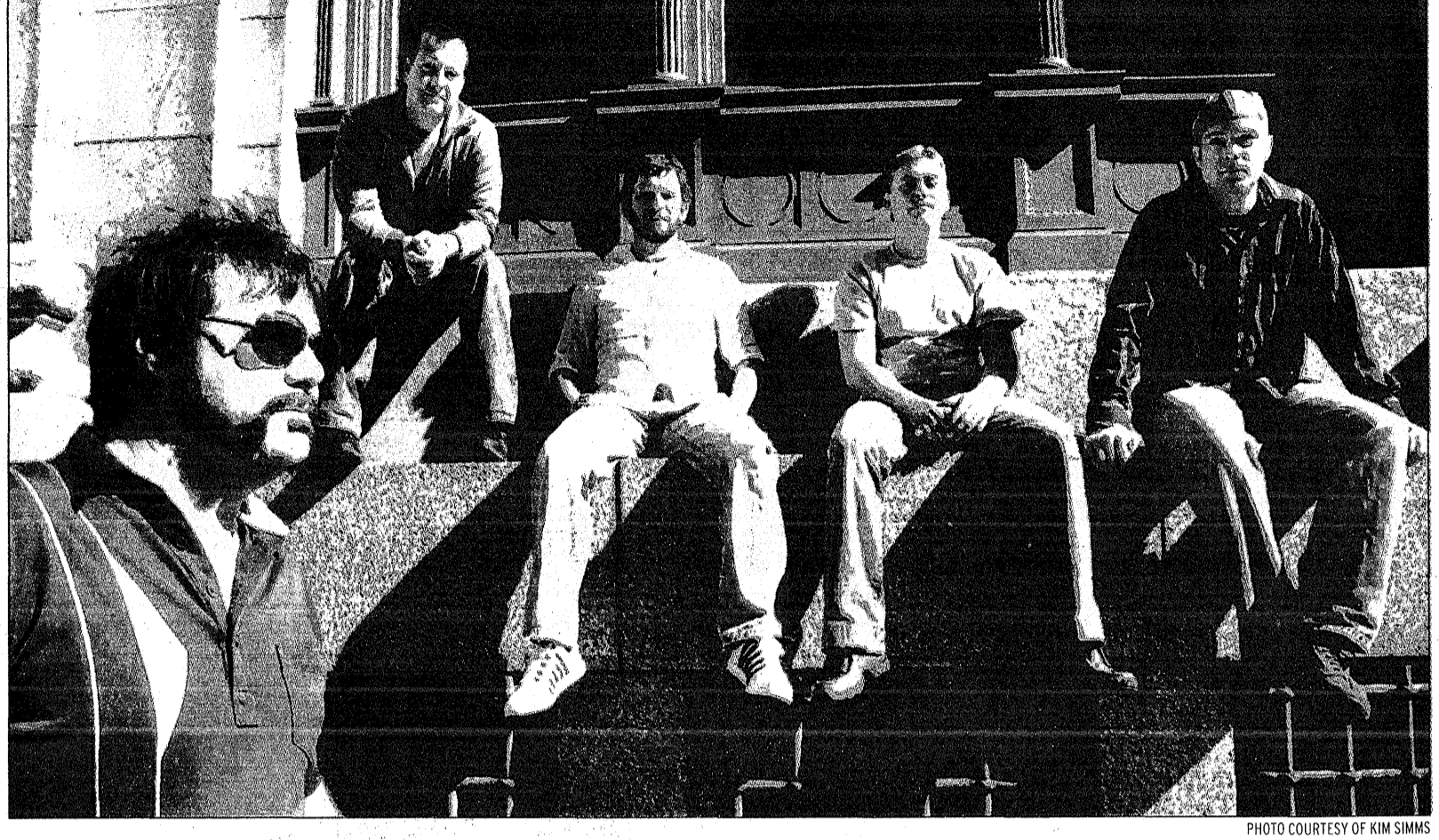


PHOTO COURTESY OF KIM SIMMS

From left Graham Strachan, John Mabilia, Randy Nelson, Stewart Preston, and Jamie Church.

becomes band of friends

BY LANA MINI
O&E STAFF WRITER

The members of rock band National Ghost met each other two years ago when they were introduced by local Emmy-winning filmmaker Jim Bonner.

"He thought it would be an interesting experiment to put five diverse songwriters together who had in most cases never even met before that night," lead vocalist Graham Strachan said.

The men began to write music within the first hour of meeting and have been together ever since.

National Ghost, from Plymouth, Livonia and Royal Oak, make music they call "Eclectic Sonic Melodic Rock." It can also be considered album rock with strong four-part melodies and a funk edge.

The members are James Church, 20, guitar, keys and vocals, of Livonia; John Mabilia, 25, guitar and vocals, of Royal Oak; Stewart Preston, 25, bass and vocals, of Plymouth; Randy Nelson, 24, drums

and percussion, of Plymouth; and Graham Strachan, 30, lead vocals, of Livonia.

BEATLES TO ZEPPELIN
 The members are influenced by The Band, Bob Dylan, Beatles, Wilco, Led Zeppelin, Tom Waits, Stevie Wonder, Zappa, Doors, Spearhead, The Roots, War, David Bowie and Pink Floyd.

Go to their Myspace to hear it and see them play live at two shows next month.

If the music appeals to you, check out the band's CD release parties on Saturday, Dec. 6, at The Berkley Front in Berkley and Friday, Dec. 12, at Corktown Tavern in Detroit.

Asked about the meaning of the band's name, Strachan said, "Musically it represents the beauty of song craft which has, in some cases, given way to some of today's slick pop trappings. The name also hints at the feeling of a loss of country, deterioration of great intention and loss of

Please see **BAND, D8**

NATIONAL GHOST
Genre: Album Rock with a funk edge
Band members: From Plymouth, Livonia and Royal Oak
What: CD release party of its self-titled CD
Where: On Saturday, Dec. 6, at The Berkley Front, 3087 12 Mile, Berkley, and Friday, Dec. 12, at Corktown Tavern, 1716 Michigan Ave., Detroit.
Hear them: www.nationalghost.com or www.myspace.com/nationalghost
Interesting note: The band's vocalist Graham Strachan sings in radio TV commercials for Metro Detroit Ford Dealers "Think Ford First" spots, St. John's Hospital (with singer Liz Larin), TCF Bank and DTE Green Currents



National Ghost's new self-titled CD.

Ferndale native set to play show, celebrate her television debut

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

Fresh from a tear-jerking appearance on the Bravo makeover show *Tim Gunn's Guide to Style*, Southfield-bred rocker Eliza Neals will return home this weekend for what she described as a night of "fashion, fun and music" at Detroit's Cliff Bells.

Neals, who moved from Ferndale to Jersey City, N. J. when she married architect Huerta Neals, has focused on her Southern-inspired soulful rock stylings and made her way into such notable New York City venues as Joe's Pub.

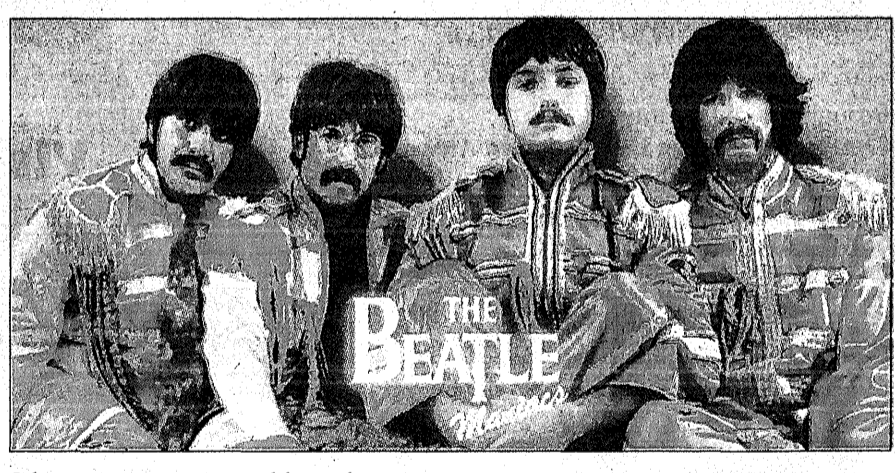
All the while she was outfitted for the

Please see **NEALS, D5**

ELIZA NEALS
What: The classically-trained singer turned soulful Southern rock performer returns home this holiday weekend for a live performance featuring songs from her album "No Frogs for Snakes" and her new EP "My Style Live"
When: 8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 30
Where: Cliff Bells, 2030 Park Ave., Detroit
More information: Call (313) 961-2543
 See and Hear: Look for Episode 6 of "Tim Gunn's Guide to Style," Season 2 to re-air on Bravo, or visit www.bravotv.com/Tim_Gunn. Find music by Eliza Neals at elizaneals.com, www.myspace.com/elizaneals or purchase her music at www.iTunes.com or www.cdbaby.com



Neals



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THE MIRACLES #1 HITS "Tears of a Clown" "Shop Around"	THE REFLECTIONS #1 HITS "I Wanna Take You Home" "Mashed Potato"	MITCH RYDER AND THE DETROIT WHEELS #1 HITS "Suzie Q" "The Best of Me"	THE CONTOURS featuring SYLVESTER POTTS #1 HITS "The Tears of a Clown" "Just One Look at the Mirror"	THE DIAMONDS #1 HITS "The Diamond Ring" "The Diamond Ring"	THE DRIFTERS #1 HITS "The Drifter" "The Drifter"
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Ticket Prices: \$37, \$47, \$57 & \$67 (Photo opportunities for all ticket holders.)
TICKET INFORMATION: [ticketmaster](http://ticketmaster.com) 248.645.6666 or ticketmaster.com



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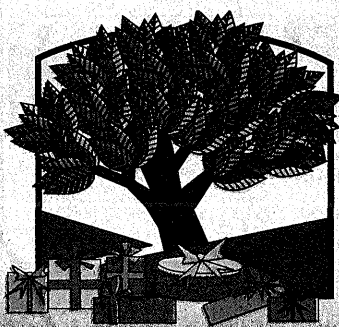
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November 15, 2008-January 15, 2009



Brought to you by the Canton Downtown Development Authority, the Canton Chamber of Commerce and Canton Leisure Services.

Holiday Happenings

Events

Turkey Trot: Canton's 6th annual 5K run is open to all ages and will begin at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 27 at Pheasant Run Golf Club, 46500 Summit Parkway. Kids will start their own race at 9:15 a.m. and adults will begin after. All proceeds benefit the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan. Entry fees, \$10-\$20, (734) 483-5600.

Shopping Extravaganza: Downtown Plymouth hosts *Eat, Shop and Be Merry*, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 28 including regular hours at shops, eateries and free live music by Michael King and Karen Newman at Kellogg Park. Carolers will sing, more than 50 Gingerbread houses will be on display in shop windows and Santa is due to arrive at 6 p.m. for a tree lighting ceremony. The first 250 families receive a welcome package from downtown merchants. Visit www.downtownplymouth.org.

Christmas in the Village: Tour decorated homes and enjoy carriage rides, hot cocoa, Santa Claus, and carolers, all while raising money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan, from 4-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at Cherry Hill Village of Canton, 500 N. Ridge Road, Canton. Tickets \$15, visit www.canton-mi.org/village theatre or call (734) 394-5460.

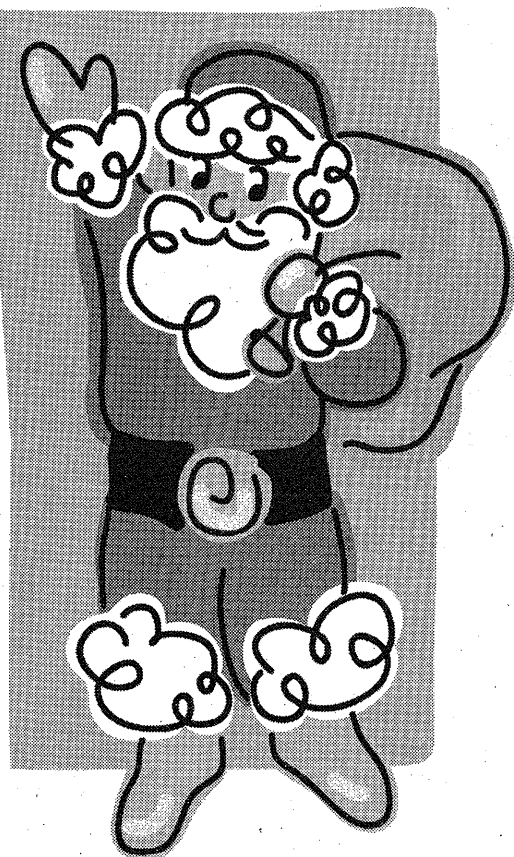
The Big, Bright Light Show: Downtown Rochester will light the night with its dazzling display of more than 500,000 lights coating all the buildings along Main. The free event, Dec. 1 to Jan. 4, 2009 attracts more than 1 million visitors. Expect a traffic jam but it's still a sight to behold.

Wayne County LightFest: Drive through more than four miles of light displays along Hines Drive, beginning at Merriman. Cost is \$5 per car, call (734) 261-1990 for details. The display runs to Jan. 1, 2009.

Winter Wonderland: A cast of more than 100 performers celebrate the holidays, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 12-13 and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the Detroit Film Theatre at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, Detroit. Tickets \$10. Call (313) 833-4005 or visit www.mosaicdetroit.org.

Holiday Nights: Greenfield Village will transform into a living Christmas card with its candle-lit paths, Model T and carriage rides, ice skating and decorated home tours for this seasonal favorite, 6:30-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 5-6, Friday-Sunday, Dec. 12-14, Friday-Tuesday, Dec. 19-23, and Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 27-28. Tickets \$12.50-\$17, children under 4 enter free. Add dinner at the Eagle Tavern for \$64.50 to \$68.50. Parking costs \$5. The Henry Ford is at 20900 Oakwood Blvd. in Dearborn. Visit www.thehenryford.com.

Christmas Walk: The Friends of Greenmead presents its 20th annual event beginning at Hill House with hot chocolate and cookies. Tickets \$9-\$10; wear slip-on shoes. Profits go to restoration and preservation at Livonia's Historic Greenmead, 20501 Newburgh, Livonia. Call (734) 466-3540.



With Music

A Christmas Festival: The Livonia Symphony Concert will be joined by dancers from Bunny Sanford's School of Dance, the Karen Danke Singers and members of the Livonia Youth Philharmonic, 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt in Livonia. Tickets \$17, call (734) 421-1111 or www.livoniasymphony.com.

Holiday Brass: The Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings presents this rousing show 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at Christ Church Cranbrook, 470 Church, Bloomfield Hills. Call (248) 644-5210 or visit www.detroitchamberwinds.org.

Annual Carol Sing: St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook invites the public to hear singers from the St. Dunstan's Choir, its soloists, Motor City Lyric Opera Children's Choir and organist Dr. Norah Duncan perform an hour-long program complete with sing-a-longs. The show is free, 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, Christ Church Cranbrook, 470 Church Road in Bloomfield Hills. Santa party follows the concert. Visit www.stdunstantheatre.com.

Messiah: The Oakland Choral Society presents this classic, 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 14, at Nativity Episcopal Church, 21220 W. 14 Mile, Beverly Hills. Tickets \$15-\$50, call (248) 391-0184.

Trans-Siberian Orchestra: Talk about uplifting and re-inventing holiday songs. Catch one of these two shows on Dec. 21, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Call

(248) 645-6666.

Christmas in Concert: See Tony O'Brien with Casali Holiday Dancers, 8 p.m. Dec. 13, at Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser, Detroit. Tickets \$10. Visit www.redfordtheatre.com.

Holiday with heart and soul: Hear The Christmas Music of Mannheim Steamroller by Chip Davis, Dec. 18-19, The Masonic Temple Theatre, Cass and Temple streets, Detroit. Tickets \$25-\$68. (248) 645-6666.

Holiday classics: Kirk in the Hills Chancel Choir and the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings presents this program including part one of Handel's *Messiah* and a sing-a-long with the audience, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at 1340 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. Tickets \$5-\$12, call (248) 626-2515 ext. 109.

On Film

Penn Theatre: In celebration of the theater's 67th anniversary catch *It's a Wonderful Life* and a live performance by the Belleville Brass, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4 or the film only 6:45 and 9:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5; *White Christmas* is showing 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11 and *Polar Express* is showing at 7 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Dec. 19-21, 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19 and 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 20-21.

Redford Theatre: It's a double dose of holiday cheer at this Old Redford historic theater, beginning with *Miracle on 34th Street*, 8 p.m. Dec. 5-6 and 2 p.m. Dec. 6; tickets \$4. And then sing your heart out to *White Christmas*, 8 p.m. Dec. 19-20 and 2 p.m. Dec. 20, at 17360 Lahser, Detroit; tickets \$4. Visit www.redfordtheatre.com.

The Crofoot: For Flaming Lips fans, the long wait is over. See singer Wayne Coyne's anticipated directorial debut, *Christmas on Mars: A Fantastical Film Freakout Featuring the Flaming Lips*, 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29. It marks a Detroit debut for this sci-fi film, which stars Coyne's bandmates Steven Drozd, Michael Ivins, comedian Fred Armisen and former Blues Clues star Steve Burns. Admission \$5, at 1 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. Visit www.thecrofoot.com for details.

The Henry Ford: See *Polar Express* in IMAX, Dec. 1 through the holidays, at 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. (313) 271-1570.

On Canvas

Paint Creek Center for the Arts: Get ready for handmade holiday-themed works in glass, ceramic, fiber and more with *Holiday Objects Up and Down*, through Jan. 3, 2009, at 407 Pine Street, Rochester. Call (248) 651-4110.

On Stage

The Nutcracker: The Joffrey Ballet performs this Tchaikovsky classic 7:30 p.m. Dec. 4-6, 2:30 p.m. Dec. 6 and noon and 5 p.m. Dec. 7, at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Call (313) 237-3426 or visit www.michiganopera.org. Or see the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra and the Taylor Americana Ballet perform the show, 7 p.m. Dec. 6 and 2 p.m. Dec. 7, at Arts Auditorium, 123 Selden Ave., Detroit. Tickets \$33.50. Call (313) 576-5111 or visit www.w



shopthemax.com.

Home for the Holidays: Join the DSO's holiday sing-along and stirring annual show, 10:45 a.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 18; 8:30 p.m. Dec. 19-20 and 3 p.m. Dec. 21, at the Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward, Detroit. Call (313) 576-5111.

Who Wants Cake: Don't miss the hilarious stage adaptation of writer David Sedaris's *The Santaland Diaries*, performed by Ferndale's Joe Plambeck and Joe Bailey, showtimes Friday-Monday, Dec. 5-22, The Ringwald, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Tickets \$10-\$20, (248) 545-5545 or WhoWantsCake.com.

Avon Players: See *A Christmas Story*, with shows Nov. 28-30, Dec 5-7, 12-14, at 1185 Washington Road, Rochester Hills. Call (248) 608-9077.

The Farmington Players: *It's a Wonderful Life*, with shows Nov. 28 to Dec. 20, 32332 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. Call (248) 553-2955 or visit www.farmingtonplayers.org.

Spend Xmas with Ced n Teri: Mikey Brown and Sarah Switanowski celebrate the holidays by bringing their Webisode characters Cedrick and Teri to life, along with musical guests, in *A Very Ced n Teri Xmas*, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 5-27 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, Planet Ant, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Tickets, \$10-\$15, call (313) 365-4948.

Fox Theatre: Like a Christmas Card set to music, see Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, running to Dec. 28, tickets \$20-\$100, 2211 Woodward, Detroit. Visit OlympiaEntertainment.com or call (248) 433-1515.

Meadow Brook Theatre: *A Christmas Carol* is a long-running tradition in Rochester. Don't miss out Nov. 28-Dec. 21, on the campus of Oakland University, in Rochester Hills. Tickets \$25-\$40. Call (248) 377-0300 or visit www.mbtheatre.com.

Compiled by Stephanie Angelyn Casola

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Is your holiday cookie recipe easy?

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

Over the past month, readers sent hordes of recipes for Thanksgiving side dishes. They were a joy to share with you.

Now, we're looking for your favorite holiday cook recipe — but not just any cookie concoction. We want cookie recipes that are easy. Holidays are busy, money is tight. Let's make cookies that don't cost a fortune or take three days to make.

Share them with me and I'll share them with readers in issues of Filter between now and the holiday season.

E-mail: Lmini@hometownlife.com Subject line: Easy Cookies Happy baking!

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup crushed pecans (you can also use walnuts)
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup canola oil
1 teaspoon baking powder
8 ounces chocolate chips, optional
About a $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of water, you may need more if using chocolate chips

8 medium-sized dates, pitted
1 banana
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups coconut flakes

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup raspberry preserves (or chocolate fudge sauce)

Preparation:

Place ingredients in a food processor, and process until smooth. Depending on the size of the dates and the ripeness of the bananas, you may need to add more or less coconut to get the right consistency. Mixture should be moist, but not gooeey.

Bake at 325 degrees 10-15 minutes, until done. Drop on a cookie sheet with a teaspoon. Cookies will be soft, but should cook enough to have a golden brown bottom and hold together well.

* My friend made this cookie last year and found it on About.Vegetarian.com

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

In a bowl, cream the butter and sugar together until light and fluffy. It will take about five minutes.

In another bowl, whisk flour and ground walnuts. Then add to the creamed butter mixture. Mix until it forms a soft dough. Do not knead too much or it will get sticky. Dust it with flour. Refrigerate dough for 30 minutes for easier handling.

Roll small balls, about a teaspoon, and press lightly in the center with your finger to make a shallow hole for the jam. Arrange on the baking trays, at least two fingers apart.

Bake for 15-18 minutes, until edges are slightly colored. Cookies should be firm, not over firm. Let cool completely on a wire rack, then fill with jam.

About 20 cookies.

PECAN COOKIES

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup white flour
1 cup sugar, refined or raw

SERIOUSLY SIMPLE MACAROON DATE COOKIES

They take about 15 minutes, if you have a food processor it's even faster.

THUMBPRINT COOKIE

1 cup all-purpose flour
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup ground walnuts or pecans
4 ounces soy margarine or butter (I like Earth Balance vegan butter from any natural food store)

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Bouchaine makes brilliant chardonnay and pinot noir

Chardonnay is the favorite wine among U.S. wine consumers. Due to its food versatility, pinot noir is the current darling among red wines. Bouchaine, located in the Carneros District of southern Napa Valley makes both.

Traditionally, chardonnay and pinot noir pair up in the Burgundy region of France. In California, cooler regions such as Carneros, produce exquisite examples. Bouchaine is among them.



Focus on Wine
Ray & Eleanor Heald

HERE'S WHY.

Bouchaine's winemaker and general manager Mike Richmond considers himself a student of chardonnay. "With a little attention to detail and the Carneros terroir," he says, "I strive to address our modern palate's need for a graceful wine with brightness and lasting fresh texture. I want the oak used for barrel fermentation and aging to impact the wine as a wisp of spice."

Richmond believes that regardless of who makes a Carneros chardonnay, it seems to display an initial impression that has more in common with citrus notes of lime or grapefruit than the tropical, peach, mango and apricot characteristics of warmer growing areas.

As a winemaker working with Bouchaine's chardonnay, though, Richmond believes it's his job to layer the mid-palate with significant taste impressions that put a distinctive identity stamp on Carneros fruit.

Walking one's talk is an important element in a business sphere.

It's the same with wine. Try the Bouchaine 2006 Carneros Estate Chardonnay, a real value at \$20, and notice its attractive citrus aromas and flavors. With stylish bright acidity, it makes perfect food harmonies with French Onion Soup (like the one on the menu at Forest Grill in Birmingham), grilled fish with a splash of lemon or pan-seared scallops with caramelized shallots.

"In many regards, Carneros may be considered the pioneering region that began lifting the veil on California's pinot noir," Richmond says as he transitions our conversation to this variety. "There's a new age of understanding of how to grow pinot noir in Carneros. And additionally, how to handle it in the winery to showcase a darker-hued and sturdier pinot with black cherry-like overtones."

Aiding this style of pinot noir are new clones offering subtle, diverse attributes, although different clones perform differently in different vineyards. This is reflected in variations of flavor

intensity and structure.

MAKING IT DELICIOUS

Richmond views his pinot noir challenge in Carneros as a maximizing of aromas that draw us to be instantly attracted to the wine and then enjoy a mouth-filling sense of richness — "to make a wine that's just delicious," he says.

To experience Richmond's words in action, try Bouchaine 2006 Carneros Pinot Noir, \$25, with wild mushroom risotto, accented with truffle oil. It will give a lift to Thanksgiving turkey leftovers!

A step up in exuberance is Bouchaine 2006 Carneros Estate Pinot Noir, \$45, with dark cherry characters, smoky notes and a long finish. Braised lamb shanks or any duck preparation will harmonize brilliantly with this wine.

Eleanor & Ray Heald are Contributing Editors for the internationally-respected Quarterly Review of Wines and Troy residents who write about wine for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact them by e-mail at focuseonwine@aol.com.

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NEALS

FROM PAGE D1

scene, sporting ripped jeans and leather jackets. An avid *Project Runway* fan, Neals has long trusted the advice of style guru Tim Gunn, so she jumped at the chance to appear on his Bravo makeover show. She figured the exposure couldn't hurt her career in music, either.

Neals grew up in Southfield, along with two sisters and one brother. Her father, a Navy captain, had started the tradition of playing music in their home — strumming a guitar or playing harmonica while they all sang along. Neals learned to play the piano and — along with her sister — she would compose new ballads to melodies by Crosby Stills & Nash or Cat Stevens. It led her to begin writing music at an early age, and she eventually pursued the study of opera while attending Wayne State University.

"I would sing five nights a week, Tuesday through Sunday," she said. "I can't believe I could do that."

But Neals' voice took on a raspier tone, so she eventually chose the rock music route. Her family, many of whom now reside in Farmington Hills, and fellow Detroit musicians continue to collaborate on her music. Legendary Motown songwriter Barrett Strong (*I Heard It Through The Grapevine*) co-wrote music for her latest album, *No Frogs for Snakes*, and Zug Izland singer Greg "Syn" MacDonald lends his vocals to a song co-written by her sister, *Save Me from the Fire*.

In August, the Bravo show began filming in Neals' New Jersey home. Though she admitted to secretly hiding a few of her favorite can't-part-with-them pieces, she was ready to face the music and hear Gunn's opinion of her rock-inspired style. "I had nothing left," she said. "They took everything out of my closet. They took all of my hats. I'm a hat fanatic."

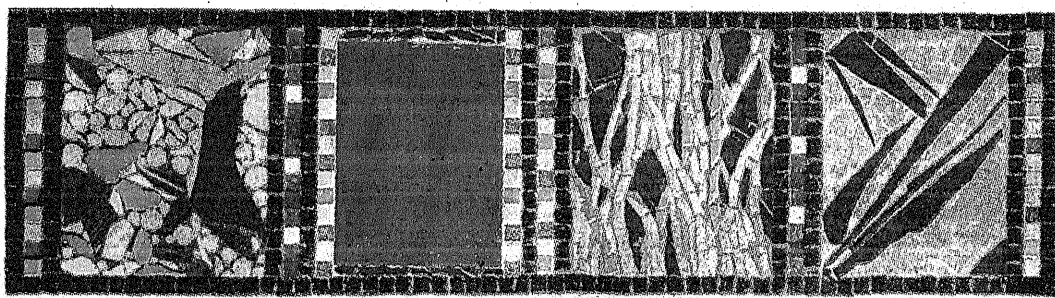
But the experience involved more than shopping at high end stores and finding a way to meld her musical career with a more polished look suitable for events involving

her husband's career in the architecture field. She met hairdresser Sally Hershberger, who allowed her to keep her long locks, and Kay Unger designed clothing for her. Neals said: "They don't tell you what you're going to do that day. Ninety-five percent of it was real reaction. I was so worried about how it was going to look."

But ultimately she's happy with the way the show turned out. She gets constant e-mails from people wondering what Tim Gunn is like in person and commenting on how much they liked the episode. "I was ready for his comments," she said of Gunn's fashion critique. "It cracked me up. Only he could be so poetic."

The experience left its mark on more than her wardrobe. Viewers are seeking out her music, too. Neals hopes to parlay the TV exposure into a late night or talk show appearance. She'd even be excited to hear one of her songs in a commercial. "We have to keep spinning the moment," she said.

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



A mosaic by Ellen Stern.

On display in Farmington...

There are quaint miniature chairs, unusual corner tables, a collection of textiles, ceramic mosaics and collages from Michigan artist Ellen Stern on display at the Farmington Hills City Gallery through Dec. 29. Stern has displayed her unique works in galleries

across the United States and Canada. Her works have also been exhibited at the Festival ArteMusica in Piandisco, Italy. Her style incorporates the useful and whimsical.

The exhibit "Between the Cracks Mosaics" features selections of her wall hangings,

large and small mosaic tables, paper cut-outs, animals, and works on canvas.

The City Gallery is located in the Costick Center at 28600 West 11 Mile. Hours are 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

- By Lana Mini

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2008-09 Dance Series

Send items for consideration in Get Out! at least two weeks in advance to Lana Mini, Observer & Eccentric and Mirror Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009, or e-mail lmini@hometownlife.com.

ART

Arnold Klein Gallery: 32782 Woodward, Royal Oak, (248) 647-7709. Art Leaders Gallery: Holiday trunk show with 20 to 50 percent off featured artists. 33030 Northwestern Hwy., West Bloomfield, (248) 539-0262. www.artleaders.com. Art-Rageous Gallery: 35 N. Main, Mt. Clemens, (586) 307-3604. Biddle Gallery: 2840 Biddle, Wyandotte, (734) 281-4779. www.biddlegallery.com. Cafe 84: "The Green Show" featuring Detroit Hip & Coming Artists Guild, 14084 Lakeside Blvd., Shelby Township, (586) 913-3773. Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center: 1516 Cranbrook (between 14 and 15 Mile roads), Birmingham, www.BBArtCenter.org, (248) 644-0866. Birmingham Conference Center: 31301 Evergreen, Birmingham. Birmingham Unitarian Church: 38651 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 647-2380. Bohemian National Home Gallery: 2009 Tillman, Detroit, (313) 525-5253, www.jeromium.com/bohouse.htm. Cary Gallery: Photographs by Nancy Stocking and by Ron Teachworth, through Dec. 13, 226 Walnut, Rochester, (248) 651-3656. CPOP: 4160 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 833-9901, www.cpop.com. Detroit Artist Market: Art for the Holidays, through Dec. 21, 4719 Woodward, Detroit. D&M Art Studio: Bob Ross-style painting classes, 1-5 p.m. one Sunday per month; free fine art portfolio assessments for college-bound students, 28691 N. Lilley, Canton, (734) 453-3710, www.dmartstudio.com. Farmington City Gallery: Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, (248) 473-1856. Farmington Community Library: 23500 Liberty, (248) 553-6261, www.suzannebaumann.com. First United Methodist Church: 1589 W. Maple, Birmingham. Gallery@VT: Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, (734) 394-5300, www.canton-mi.org/villageheater, www.wsg-art.com. Galeria at Orchard Lake: "Insights" by sculptor Evelyn Bachorski-Bowman, through Nov. 30, Building 8, Orchard Lake Schools, 3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake, (248) 683-0345. Habatat Galleries: 4400 Fernie, Royal Oak, (248) 554-0590, www.habatatal.com. Janice Charach Gallery: Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield, (238) 432-5448. Lawrence Street Gallery: Alice Frank: Frame of Mind, through Nov. 29; Little Things Mean A Lot! Competition, Dec. 3-24; reception, 6-9 p.m. Dec. 5, 22620 Woodward, Ferndale (248) 544-0394.



www.lawrencestreetgallery.com. Lemberg Gallery: Jane Hammond "People, Places and Things," through November, 23241 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 591-6623, www.lemberggallery.com. Livonia Arts Commission: Fine Arts Gallery, second floor; Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, (734) 466-2490; Livonia Arts Commissioners, Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, (734) 466-2540. Lotus Arts Gallery: Artists Charles H. Pabst, Thomas Arvid and Sergio Furnari (a life-sized version of the Lunchtime on a Skyscraper sculpture), now showing, 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth (888) 889-4ART, www.lotusarts-gallery.com. Next Step Studios & Gallery: Featuring glass works by Kaiser Suidan, Craig Paul Nowak, John Gargano, Susan Beiner and many others, 530 Hilton, Ferndale, (248) 342-5074, www.nextstepstudio.com. Northville Art House: 215 W. Cady, (248) 344-0497, www.northvillearts.org. Oakland University Art Gallery: at 208 Wilson Hall, Oakland University, Rochester, (248) 370-3005. Orchard Lake Framing & Gallery: Works in Oil & Pastel by Sharon Will, October, 4301 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, (248) 538-9021, www.orchardlakeframing.com. Paint Creek Center for the Arts: Holiday Objects Up and Down, through Jan. 3, 2009, 407 Pine,

Rochester, (248) 651-4110, www.pccart.org. Paul Kotula Projects: 23255 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-3020, www.paulkotula.com. Pewabic Pottery: 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit, (313) 822-0954, www.pewabic.org. Plymouth Community Arts Council: 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth, (734) 416-4278, www.plymoutharts.com. The Print Gallery: 29173 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield, (248) 356-5454, www.everythingart.com. Progressive Art & Frame Design: 1511 North Main, Clawson, (248) 435-0944, www.progressiveart.net. Susanne Hilberry Gallery: 700 Livernois, Ferndale (248) 541-4700, www.susannehilberrygallery.com. Tangent Gallery: 715 E. Milwaukee St., Detroit, (313) 877-4377, www.tangentgallery.com. The Community House: 380 S. Bates, Birmingham, (248) 644-5832, www.communityhouse.com. Visual Arts Association of Livonia: Livonia City Hall, 30000 Civic Center Dr., (248) 348-4550. BOOKS/LITERATURE Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council and Center: 2121 Midvale, Birmingham, (248) 203-5270. Borders Ann Arbor: 612 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, (734) 668-7652. Borders Dearborn: 5601 Mercury Dr., Dearborn, (313) 271-4441. Borders Farmington Hills: 30995 Orchard Lake Road, (248) 737-0110. Borders Novi: 43075 Crescent Blvd., (248) 347-0780. Barnes & Noble Royal Oak: 500 S. Main, Royal Oak. Campus Martius: Saturday Book Club, Campus Martius, next to the Computare Building, Detroit, http://www.wsupress.wayne.edu/news.php/ Westland Public Library: 6123 Central City Parkway, (734) 326-6123. CHAMBER Birmingham Temple: Pianist Christopher Atzinger, April 4, 2009; Charlie Gabriel Quartet with Vocalist Joan Bow, May 2, 2009; 28611 West 12 Mile, Farmington Hills, (248) 788-9338, www.vivaceseries.org.

Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings: "Holiday Brass," 4 p.m. Dec. 7, Christ Church Cranbrook and 7:30 p.m. Christ Church Grosse Pointe; "Fun and Games," 3 p.m. Feb. 22, 2009, Birmingham Unitarian Church and 4 p.m. March 1, 2009, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit; "String Sundae," 3 p.m. March 29, 2009, Birmingham Unitarian Church and 3 p.m. April 5, 2009, Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church; "Schubert and Spice," 3 p.m. April 26, 2009, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham; Final Concert, 8 p.m. June 20, 2009, Seligman Center, (248) 559-2095, www.detroitchamberwinds.org. Haggopian World of Rugs: Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings presents "Nightnotes," 8:30 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 9, 2009, Jan. 30, 2009, March 13, 2009 and May 8, 2009, (248) 559-2095, www.detroitchamberwinds.org. Seligman Performing Arts Center: Christian Tetzlaff, violin, Dec. 6; Denyce Graves, mezzo-soprano, Jan. 24, 2009; ATOS Trio, Feb. 7, 2009; Garrick Ohlsson, piano, March 21, 2009; Guarneri String Quartet, April 11, 2009; Pacifica Quartet with Erik Ronmark, saxophone, April 18, 2009; Kalichstem-Laredo-Robinson Trio with the Miami String Quartet, May 16, 2009; Yefim Bronfman, piano, May 30, 2009. All concerts 8 p.m. Saturdays, Tickets, \$25-\$75, 22305 West 13 Mile, Beverly Hills, (248) 855-6070 or visit www.ComeHearCMSO.org. University Musical Society: Handel's Messiah, Jerry Blackstone, conductor; Saturday, December 6, 8 p.m. Sunday, December 7 at 2 p.m., Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University, Ann Arbor, Call (734) 764-2538 or www.ums.org.

CLASSICAL Orchestra Cantor: "Mozart's Birthday Bash," 8 p.m. Jan. 24, 2009, Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, (734) 394-5460. Chamber Music at the Scarab Club: Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee Ave., Detroit, (248) 474-8930, www.scarabclub.org/chambermusic. Chamber Music Society of Detroit: Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile, Beverly Hills, (248) 855-6070, www.ComeHearCMSO.org. Detroit Symphony Orchestra: Max M. Fisher Music Center, box office at 3711 Woodward, www.detroitssymphony.com, (313) 576-5400. Fox Theatre: Andrew Rieu and his Johann Strauss Orchestra, 7:30 p.m. May 19, 2009; tickets \$82-\$162. Max M. Fisher Music Center: Home for the Holidays, Dec. 18-20; Marvin Hamllisch, Jan. 22-24, 2009; All You Need is Love, Feb. 12-15, 2009; Pops Goes Las Vegas, March 19-22, 2009; The Music of Billy Joel, April 16-19, 2009; A John Williams Adventure, March 14-17, 2009, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111 and online at www.detroitssymphony.com. Plymouth Symphony Orchestra: "Mendelssohn, Marimba & More," 8 p.m. Feb. 7, 2009, "Fanfare for Freedom," 8 p.m. March 14, 2009, all at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville; "Pops at the Penn, Home for the Holidays," 7 p.m. Dec. 18; Benefit Concert of the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society, 8 p.m. April 24, 2009, Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman, Plymouth, (734) 451-2112, www.plymouthsymphony.org. Schoolcraft College: Pianist Anton Nel, Feb. 13, 2009; Avalon String Quartet, March 20, 2009; Cellist Robert de Maine, May 15, 2009; \$10, students, \$20 adults, Presentation Room in the VistaTech Center, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia, (734) 462-4403. CLUBS The Aric: 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor, www.thearc.org. Bachelor's One: 1967 Cass Lake Rd., Keego Harbor (248) 682-2295. The Belmont: 10215 Jos. Campau, Hamtramck, (313) 871-1966. Berkley Front: 3087 12 Mile, (248) 547-3331. Bossa: NoMax nights at 7 p.m. every Wednesday, no cover, 21 and over only, 22930 Woodward in Ferndale, www.thebosco.com, (248) 541-8818. Bullfrog Bar: 15414 Telegraph, Redford, (313) 533-4477, www.bullfrogrocks.com. Callahan's: 2105 South Blvd., Auburn Hills, (248) 858-9508, www.atcallahans.com. Crofoot Ballroom: 1 South Saginaw, Pontiac, (248) 858-9333, www.thecrofoot.com. 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, Ferndale (248) 541-7674. Edison's: 220 E. Merrill, Birmingham (248) 645-2150. Ginopolis on the Grill: Don Swindell and Shuffle Play, with Swindell, Sheila Brown, Mike Lorenz and Jake Reichart, 7:30-11:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 27851 Middlebelt at 12 Mile in Farmington Hills, no cover, (248) 851-8222. Four Green Fields: Northwood Shopping Plaza, 13 Mile and Woodward, Royal Oak, (248) 506-0531. Magic Bag: Pop Evil, Nov. 29; Amanda Palmer, Dec. 2; Grace Potter and the Nocturnals, Dec. 11; Kathleen Edwards, Feb. 4, 2009, 22920 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-3030, www.themagicbag.com. The Magic Stick: Mercury Rev, Dec. 12, 4140 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 833-9700.

Mama's Coffeehouse: Small Potatoes, Dec. 15; all shows 8 p.m. with open mic at 7:30 p.m., \$12, \$10 seniors and students 16 and under, 38651 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 569-0965. Memphis Smoke: 100 S. Main, Royal Oak, (248) 543-4300. 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 Park Bar/Underpark Theater: Radio Skool features DJs Stacey Pullen, Mike Brown, Diz and Monty, benefitting NextAid and World AIDS Day, 10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. Tickets \$15-\$20, call (313) 962-2933. The Pike Room: 1 S. Saginaw, Pontiac, (248) 858-9333. Plymouth Coffee Bean: Open mic 7:30-10:30 p.m. Mondays, 884 Penniman, Plymouth, myspace.com/plymouthcoffeebean. The Shelter: 431 E. Congress, Detroit, (313) 961-MELT. Sky Club: Tango, salsa, and Latin dancing beginning at 8 p.m., every Wednesday, located above Sangria's Restaurant, 401 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, (248) 543-1964. Traveling Fork: located inside Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, 17123 N. Laurel Park Drive, Livonia, (734) 464-1300, www.radisson.com/livonia.

COMEDY Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase: 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, (734) 996-9080. The Fillmore: Joel McHale, Jan. 17, 215 Woodward, Detroit, (248) 645-6666. Fox Theatre: Jeff Dunham, Nov. 29, \$37.50-\$65, 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. Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia: 36071 Plymouth Road, Ferndale, www.kickerscomplex.com, (734) 261-5500, www.kickerscomplex.com. Joe Louis Arena: Jeff Dunham Spark of Insanity tour, Nov. 29; Steve Harvey and Katt Williams, Dec. 31, 600 Civic Center Drive, Detroit, (248) 645-6666. Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak, (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com. The Second City: 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi, (248) 348-4448, www.secondcity.com. CONCERTS Clutch Cargo: Hinder, Dec. 9, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac, (248) 645-6666. The Fillmore: Detroit: OneRepublic, Dec. 2; Mudvayne, Dec. 5; The Black Crowes, Dec. 6; Staind, Dec. 10; Fall Out Boy, Dec. 14, 2115 Woodward, Detroit, Call (248) 645-6666. The Fox Theatre: Barenaked Ladies, Dec. 31; BB King and Buddy Guy, Feb. 16, 2009; Bill Gaither and his Homecoming Friends, March 12, 2009, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com (248) 433-1515. Joe Louis Arena: Lil Wayne, Dec. 26; Metallica with Machinehead, The Sword, Jan. 13, 2009, (248) 645-6666, www.ticketmaster.com, OlympiaEntertainment.com. Masonic Temple Theatre: 500 Temple, Detroit, (248) Please see GET OUT, D7

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Canton. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing or calling the following: David Medley, ADA Coordinator Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road Canton, MI 48188 (734) 394-5260 Publish: November 27, 2008

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GET OUT

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645-6666.
Majestic Theatre: 4140 Woodward, Detroit (313) 833-9700.
Michigan Theatre: 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, (248) 645-6666.
The Palace of Auburn Hills: Brian McKnight, Nov. 29; The Cheetah Girls, Dec. 2; Sarah Brightman, Dec. 3; Neil Young with Wilco, Dec. 7; Oasis with Ryan Adams and the Cardinals, Dec. 13; Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Dec. 21, 1 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills, (248) 645-6666 or Palacenet.com.
Royal Oak Music Theatre: 318 W. Fourth, Royal Oak (800) 919-6272, www.royaloakmusictheatre.com.
St. Andrew's Hall: The Verve Pipe, Nov. 28; Electric Six, Nov. 29; Trans-Siberian Orchestra, two shows on Dec. 21, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, (248) 645-6666.

DANCE
Detroit Dance Collective: Adray Theatre, Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn, \$15, \$12/ seniors, (810) 444-4553, www.detroitdancecollective.org.
Detroit Opera House: "The Nutcracker," Joffrey Ballet, Dec. 4-7; Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Feb. 12-15, 2009; "Aladdin," Grand Rapids Ballet Company, Feb. 28, 2009; "Romeo & Juliet," American Ballet, March 13-15, 2009, 1526 Broadway, Detroit, (313) 237-3426, www.michiganopera.org.
Eisenhower Dance Ensemble: "December Dances," 8 p.m. Dec. 13, Lake Orion Performing Arts Center, (248) 559-2095; "NewDANCEfest VII," 7:30 p.m., Jan. 17, 2009, Troy High School Auditorium, (248) 559-2095; "Motown in Motion," 8 p.m. April 4, 2009, Macomb Center for Performing Arts, (586) 286-2222, 2171 Cole, Birmingham, www.ede-dance.org.
MoreDances Contemporary Dance Company: 20500 W. 13 Mile, Beverly Hills, \$15/Adults, \$12/Students & Seniors, (586) 899-2629.
Tatry Dancers: 26123 McDonald, Dearborn Heights, (313) 274-0183, www.Dance.PRCUA.org/Tatry.
University Musical Society: Batsheva Dance Company "Three," 8 p.m. Feb. 14, 2009, and "Deca Dance" 2 p.m. Feb. 15, 2009; Compagnie Heddy Maalem "Rite," 8 p.m. Oct. 15, 2009; Compagnie Marie Chouinard, "Orpheus and Eurydice," 8 p.m. April 25, 2009 and "Rite of Spring," 2 p.m. April 26, 2009; Rubberdance Group, "Elastic Perspective," 8 p.m. Jan. 9 and "Redux Phase II" 1 and 8 p.m. Jan. 10, 2009, www.ums.org.

FAMILY
Canton Cinema: Free matinees 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Saturdays, 43555 Ford Road, (734) 844-3456.
Detroit Puppet Theatre: "Crane Maiden," November; Celebrate Holiday Month, December; "Banana for Turtle," January 2009; "Oh, Ananse," February 2009; "Purim Shpiel," March 2009; Guest Artist Performances, April 2009; "Turtle Island," May 2009; "Sleeping Beauty," June 2009, all performances at 2 p.m. Saturdays, \$10/adults, \$5/children, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit, (313) 961-7777, www.puppetart.org.
Detroit Zoo: (248) 541-5717, www.detroitzoo.org.
Fox Theatre: Sesame Street Live "When Elmo Grows Up" Jan. 30-Feb. 15, 2009, \$12-\$32; family nights, Jan. 30, Feb. 4 and 12, 2009, \$10; Detroit Public Television benefit performance, Feb. 6, 2009, (248) 433-1515, www.OlympiaEntertainment.com.
Palace of Auburn Hills: Harlem Globetrotters World Tour, Dec. 28, \$15-\$39.50, (248) 645-6666.

www.disneyonice.com.
Max M. Fisher Music Theatre: The Nutcracker, Dec. 6-7, 3700 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111.
Meadow Brook Theatre: Children's Series, "Freedom Train," 10 a.m. Feb. 23, 2009; "Nate the Great," 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Feb. 28, 2009; "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere," 10 a.m. March 20, 2009; "Charlotte's Web," 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. May 9, 2009; on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester Hills (248) 377-0300, www.ticketmaster.com, for more information, visit www.mbttheatre.com.
Palace of Auburn Hills: 1 Championship Drive, (248) 645-6666.
Starlight Youth Theater: 315 N. Telegraph, north concourse of Summit Place Mall, (248) 335-1788.
University Musical Society: Family Series, Rubberdance Group, Jan. 10, 2009; Kodo, Feb. 13, 2009; The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma, March 13, 2009; Dan Zanes & Friends, March 29, 2009; (734) 764-2538, www.ums.org.

FILM
Birmingham 8: 211 S. Woodward, Birmingham.
Detroit Film Theatre: "Kameradschaft," Nov. 30, Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, Detroit. See www.dia.org/dft or (313) 833-7900.
Henry Ford IMAX: "The Polar Express," showing Dec. 1 through the holidays, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn, (313) 271-1570.
Magic Bag: Brew & View doors 8 p.m., film, 9:30 p.m., 21 and over, 22920 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-3030, www.themagicbag.com.
Pena Theatre: 760 Penniman, Plymouth, (734) 453-0870.
Redford Theatre: "Miracle on 34th Street," Dec. 5-6; Tony O'Brien in concert with Casali Holiday Dancers, Dec. 13; "White Christmas," Dec. 19-20, all at 17360 Lahser, Detroit, www.redfordtheatre.com.

JAZZ
Arturo's Jazz Theatre and Restaurant: 25333 West 12 Mile, Southfield, (248) 357-6009, arturosjazz.com.
Baker's Keyboard Lounge: Gospel Show 2 p.m. Sundays; The International Detroiters Tuesdays, Jam Session Wednesdays, 20510 Livernois, Detroit, (313) 345-6300.
B'Jazz Vespers: First Baptist Church, 300 Willits at Bates, Birmingham (248) 644-0550.
Cliff Bell's: Scott Gwinnett 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 Golf Club: www.palmerwoods.org, (313) 892-3848.
Detroit Symphony Orchestra: Max M. Fisher Music Center, box office at 3711 Woodward, (313) 576-5111, www.detroitssymphony.com.
Detroit Windsor Jazz Club: Saturdays at Shield's, (1-4 p.m.), Chuck Moss, Dec. 6; Paul Klinger, Dec. 20; Mike Karoub, Jan. 3, 2009; Paul Keller Ensemble, Jan. 17, 2009; Ray Heitger, Feb. 7, 2008; TBD, Feb. 21, 2009; Ragtime Rick, March 7, 2009; Bill Meyer, March 21, 2009, \$10, 25101 Telegraph, Southfield (248) 356-2720.
Jazz Cafe at Music Hall: Victor Goines; Lavon Jackson and Les McCann, Dec. 12-13, 350 Madison, Detroit (313) 887-8501, www.music-hall.org/jazz_cafe.htm.
Late Nite Thursdays in Downtown Rochester: (248) 656-0060, www.DowntownRochesterMI.com.
Southfield Public Library: 26300 Evergreen, (248) 796-4224, www.southfieldlibrary.org.
Village Theatre at Cherry Hill: All About Jazz Cafe with the Tony Ruda Quartet, soloists welcome onstage, Dec. 6, Jan. 17, 2009, Feb. 14, 2009, March 21, 2009, April 25, 2009; \$17/\$20 for series, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton,

www.canton-mi.org/village-theater, (734) 394-5460.

MORE MUSIC
Arab American National Museum: Gaida, Dec. 4; Black Bottom Collective, Dec. 11; Malika Zarra, Dec. 18, \$8-\$12, 13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, (313) 582-2266 or www.arabamericanmuseum.org
Detroit Opera House: A Valentine's Rock n' Roll Spectacular featuring The Miracles, The Reflections, Mitch Ryder and the Detroit Wheels, The Contours, The Diamonds and The Drifters, 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009; tickets \$37-\$67, at 1526 Broadway, Detroit, call (248) 645-6666.
First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham: 1669 W. Maple, (248) 540-9124, hsbay@sbcglobal.net.
Jewish Community Center: 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield, (248) 661-1000.
Kirk in the Hills: 1340 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 626-2515 ext. 108.
Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts: 350 Madison, Detroit, (313) 887-8500.
Nardin Park United Methodist Church: seating at 7:15 p.m., 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills, (248) 476-8860, www.nardinpark.org.
Oakland Community College: 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield, (248) 246-2586.
St. Aidan Catholic Church: 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia, (734) 425-5950.
Trinity House Theatre: 38840 Six Mile, Livonia, (734) 464-6302, www.trinityhouse.org.
Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington: 25301 Halsted, Farmington Hills, (734) 981-9378, www.uufarmington.org.

MUSEUMS
Birmingham Historical Museum: Maple and Southfield roads, Birmingham, (248) 642-2817.
Charles H. Wright Museum: at 915 E. Warren, Detroit, (313) 494-5800.
Cranbrook Art Museum: Grand Slam: Andy Warhol, through Jan. 11, 2009, 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, (877) 60-CRANBROOK, www.cranbrook.edu.
Cranbrook Institute of Science: "Bats: Myths and Mysteries" through January 2009, free with museum admission, 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 645-2000, http://science.cranbrook.edu.
Detroit Institute of Arts: NBTV Presents, a live comedy with puppets, showing 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Nov. 28-30; "Jane Hammond: Paper Work," through Jan. 11, 2009; "Monet to Dali, Modern Masters from the Cleveland Museum of Art" through Jan. 18, 2009; Museum will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1 for the holidays; "In the Company of Artists: Photographs from the DIA's Collection" through Feb. 15, 2009; "Master Pieces: Chess Sets from the Dr. George and Vivian Dean Collection" Dec. 26 to March 22, 2009; "American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell," March 8, 2009 to May 31, 2009; "On Life and Loss: The Polish Photographs of Roman Vishniac and Jeffrey Gusk," April 15, 2009 to July 12, 2009, 5200 Woodward, Detroit, Call (313) 833-7900.
Detroit Historical Museum: New exhibits are "Hero or Villain? Metro Detroit's Legacy of Leadership," "Fabulous 5: Detroit's Entertainment Venues," Automotive Showplace features the Model T Centennial and "100 Years Ago" uses photographs, news-paper and other memorabilia to showcase live in 1908, 5401 Woodward, Detroit, www.detroithistorical.org, (313) 833-1805.
Detroit Science Center: "Leonardo Da Vinci: Man, Inventor, Genius," tickets \$13.95 to \$16.95; Ford Free Fundays complimentary admission on through Dec. 6; Senior Mondays offer free general admission to those 60 and older now through Dec. 29, 5020 John R, (313) 577-8400, www.detroitsciencecenter.org.

Kick off the season with Sophisticated Soul

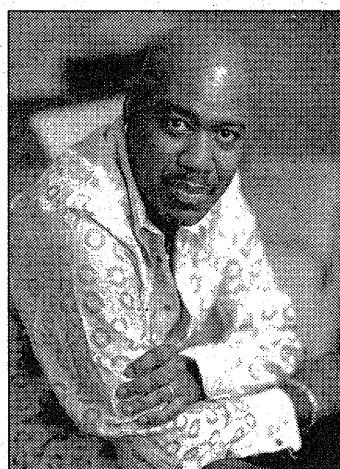
Soul singer Will Downing is celebrating both the holidays and a rebound from a debilitating muscle disorder, with a triumphant concert "Soulful Christmas 2008" Friday, November 28 at the Detroit Opera House.

Also performing are big names in the R&B genre, including singer Lalah Hathaway and saxophonist Gerald Albright.

Both are longtime friends of Downing.

Downing's holiday shows began four years ago when he created a theme *Christmas, Love and You*.

For three consecutive years between Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, the jazzy prince of sophisticated soul hosted like-minded friends such as Kirk Whalum, Vesta, Norman Brown, Regina Belle, Mike Phillips, Phil Perry and the ever-present Gerald Albright for concerts in Detroit, Chicago,



Will Downing is ready to sing about love this holiday season.

Philadelphia and Atlanta, plus others.

But in 2006, Downing was diagnosed with Polymyositis, a muscle disease with a long rehabilitation process.

Today he recovered and he's back.

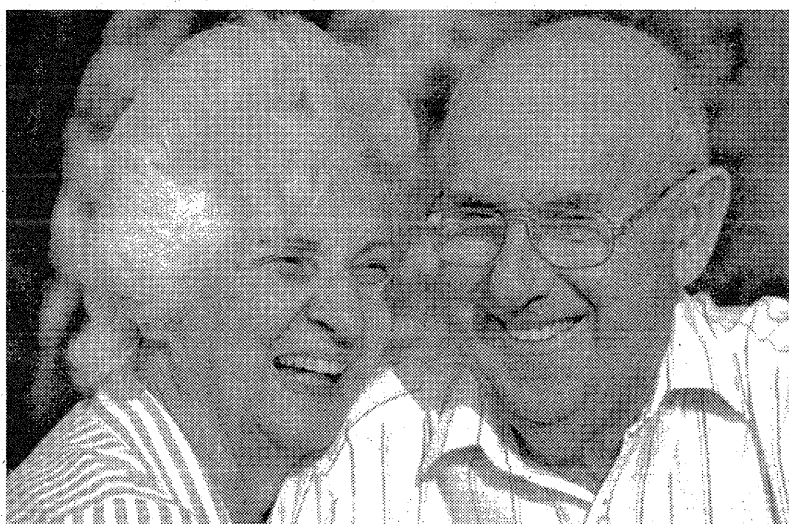
"The holiday season brings out the best in people. And for creative artists like Gerald, Lalah and me, it makes us pick our game up even higher," Downing said, in a press release. "So I think you're going to see a bit of friendly competition which makes for an even better show. None of us want to be on the low end of the totem pole. It just so happens I'll be on the stage with one of my best friends and one of the most talented ladies in the business. So we look forward to sharing our all and entertaining you in the spirit of the season. It's great to be alive."

Downing released the studio album *After Tonight* last year, which debuted at number one on Billboard's R&B chart.

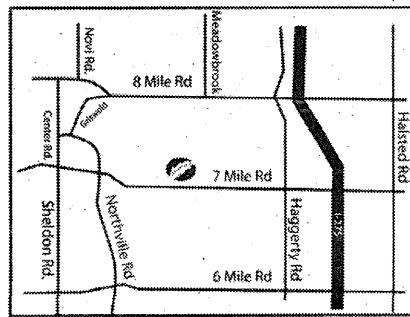
Showtime is 8 p.m. Tickets are \$14-\$25. The Detroit Opera House is located at 1426 Broadway Street, Detroit, (313) 965-4052.

- by Lana Mini

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CHAZZ

FROM PAGE D1

he feels comfortable with after more than 240 Broadway performances. After all, he traces the story back to his youth.

"It happened when I was young," said Palminteri, calling Nov. 24 while on a brief hiatus in New York City. "I saw a man kill another man when I was 9 or 10 years old. The guy would see me afterward. He knew I never said anything. He knew that I knew. I

started a relationship with him. My father was always scared that I would go that way."

In an effort to keep his son on the right track, away from a life of violence, he shared a sentiment that would forever alter Palminteri's life and serve to inspire the show: "The saddest thing in life is wasted talent."

Those words encouraged him to follow his dream of acting. "Since I was 10 or 11 it was always something I wanted to do," said Palminteri. "My mother would take me to the movies a lot. I would see these films and I just

never forgot them. I thought I'd really like to do that."

His early years in New York City proved a perfect training ground. Palminteri considered himself a sidewalk storyteller. He'd stand on a street corner and act out characters to entertain his friends. "I still do that," he said.

He moved out to Los Angeles and eventually found himself in between acting jobs, so he took work as a doorman. When Palminteri mistakenly prevented a high-powered agent from entering his own party, he was fired. Afterward, he returned to his apartment in the Hollywood Hills and determined if he hadn't been given a good part, he would write one for himself. Palminteri had written song lyrics, short stories, even comedy sketches. But *A Bronx Tale* was his first play. Over the course of 10 months he pieced it together, drawing on that impressionable childhood experience.

Los Angeles audiences responded and when the movie

offers flooded in, Palminteri held out. He inked a deal that allowed him to write the screenplay and star in the film, thanks to words of encouragement from his co-star and director, DeNiro. "I've been in 55 movies and everyone still talks about *A Bronx Tale*," Palminteri said.

Twenty-five years since the film was released, he feels it stands as relevant today. "There is a whole new group of people who never saw the original play, so I decided to bring it back."

The show, premiering just before Thanksgiving, is suitable for families. Palminteri said it speaks to audiences ages 12 to 90. He even stays after the show to pass out cards to young audience members that read the words his father shared: "The saddest thing in life is wasted talent." Those words so influenced his own life.

"You have to see it," Palminteri said. "It's not your typical one-person show."

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

BAND

FROM PAGE D1

innocence. You can see the national ghost all around you. Look at the American automobile manufacturers for instance."

Even though Ghost began as merely a songwriter's collective, it has evolved into something much bigger.

"We work way too hard on this for it to be just a hobby," Strachan said. "Next to our families it is the most important thing in our lives."

LONGTIME PERFORMERS

The men each have been musicians for years. Church scored the music for the independent film *Trap*; Strachan (www.grahamvox.com) toured and recorded four albums with the band Robb Roy. He also sings on television and radio commercials.

Mabilia found and fronted a band called Fat Astro and Nelson is a session artist who has worked with other local musicians such as Penumbrae. Stew performed with the band Stash.

In concert, National Ghost sings in pretty three- and four-part harmonies.

The CD took nearly a year to complete.

"Some of the songs were born of guitar riffs or grooves; others were written pieces that we fleshed out together," he said.

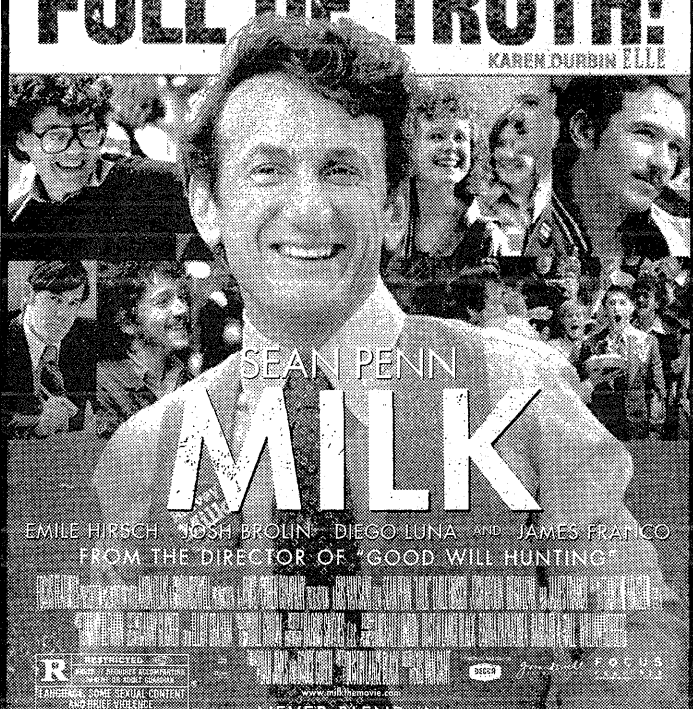
The song topics include conspiratorial reptiles (Green Salamander); drunken English thespians (*Oliver Reed*); evil aunties (*King of the Thrill*); and the debate over what makes a planet a planet or not (*Dwarf Planet Pluto*).

"The sound harkens back to a time where albums ruled the stereos of the nation," Strachan said. "This is album rock."

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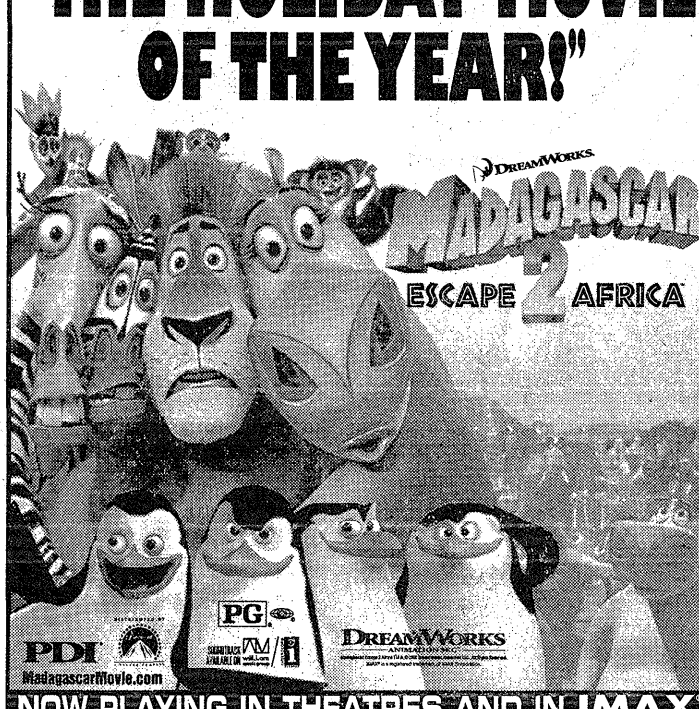
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Call your local theatre for showings for this week. Please check listings below for phone numbers and websites.

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Holiday season arrives with delicious holiday makeup and fragrance gift goodies

know the holiday season has officially started, not by the sound of excessive carols piping through area malls and shopping districts, but by the heralded arrival of those coveted holiday makeup palettes, bow-tied sparkling gift sets and spicy scented indulgences galore. Take one step into a Sephora or saunter over to your favorite makeup counter from Livonia's Parisian to Troy's Saks Fifth Avenue and you'll find a bevy of shimmering shades for lips, cheeks and eyes that only come out at this time of year.

Dollface
Stephanie Casola

By Dec. 25 I hope my stocking is stuffed with lip glosses, not candy canes. And under the tree, I'd be happy to unwrap a new collection of frothy soaps, shimmery powders and scents sure to keep me in good spirits throughout the new year. If you feel the same way, or are shopping for a dear product-addicted gal pal, here are some items for the naughty and the

nicey coiffed on your list:
 ■ **Smashbox** highlights on-the-go essentials in its **Gift of Glow**. Priced at \$127, it's a collection stocked with Hollywood brown eyeliner, gilded gold lip gloss and luminous powder, as well as brushes and a quilted travel pouch for the PINK girl who's heading home for the holidays.

■ For the girl who can't get enough perfume, try the **Sephora Deluxe Fragrance Sampler**. For \$150, you'll receive a gift set of mini scents including Prada Classic, Bvlgari Rose Essentielle, Vera Wang Princess, Yves St. Laurent Elle, Givenchy Very Irresistible, Donna Karan Cashmere, Marc Jacobs Daisy and DKNY Be Delicious.

■ **Stila** released a barrage of great gift ideas this season, beginning with the **Step Out And Shine Color Collection And Clutch**. For \$115, makeup mavens can indulge in a stylish clutch stuffed with Convertible Color in orchid, a Montmartre Eye Shadow quad, All Over Shimmer for that holiday twinkle, Multi-Effect Mascara and Pomegranate Crush lip and cheek stain for a jolly flushed face. But if you're looking for a stocking stuffer, Stila's trio of



Smashbox's Gift of Glow

Smudge Pots make eyes stand out and the **Gift of Glaze** set has six shades of gloss, including newcomers Gumdrop and Raisin.

■ **Lush Handmade Cosmetics** promise sweets for the sweet and they're calorie-free. Try a **Chocolate Santa** bath bomb for \$6.95. Shaped like the jolly old elf, your bath will be scented in chocolate and vanilla, while aloe vera soothes the skin. For a complete package, try the new **Rockin' Robin**. For \$21.95 this box includes a spicy Pud bath bomb, scented with clove, lemon peel and rose; a slice of Christmas Cake, an almond oil rich soap; and Let Them Eat Cake icing-flavored nourishing lip balm.

■ Don't let your skin thirst for moisture this holiday season. Try Sephora's trio of cheer in the **Holiday Body Butter Gift Set**, with dessert-like scents including Apple Dumpling, Chocolate

Espresso and Cinnamon Nutmeg. It's a great treat for you or a friend and costs \$22.

■ You don't have to head to New York City to experience the sweets at **Dylan's Candy Bar**.

This season those sugary flavors come completely compact in a **Candy Lip Saver Stackable** quartet for \$30. Flavors include Coconut Bon Bon, Birthday Cake Batter, Chocolate Cupcake and Strawberry Licorice.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola is absolutely adoring the dark nail polish trend but isn't sure she can get away with licorice black Essie until maybe New Year's Eve. For now, she's ruby-lipped in MAC's Rapturous lip color and busy writing about beauty, fashion and pop culture for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Have an idea suitable for Dollface? Contact her at (248) 901-2567 or scasola@hometownlife.com.

pink picks

By Alison

This week's PINK Picks come courtesy of reader **Allison Nielsen**, 29, of Farmington Hills. She entered our PINK Picks contest and earned an honorable mention for her stylish ideas:



Allison Nielsen

Wear It!
Fitted jacket

DON'T Wear It!
Low rise jeans

Kick It!
Uggs

Tote It!
Re-usable shopping bags

Face It!
Neutrogena Oil-Free Acne Wash
Pink Grapefruit

Mane It!
L'Oreal Professional Absolut Repair Shampoo

Smell It!
The Godmother Soap — Lush

Accessorize It!
Stylish belt

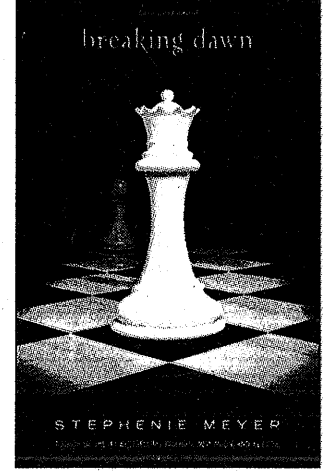
Hear It!
Viva la Vida, Coldplay

See It!
True Blood — HBO

DVD It!
Iron Man

TIVO It!
Heroes

Drink It!
Honey Ginseng green tea



Eat It!
Panera Orchard Harvest Salad

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