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Union grieves new plan for electeds' benefits

BY BRAD KADRICH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

With retiring Clerk Marilyn Massengill 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 Massengill 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 Massengill 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 supervisor, 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, Massengill 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 Massengill, 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.

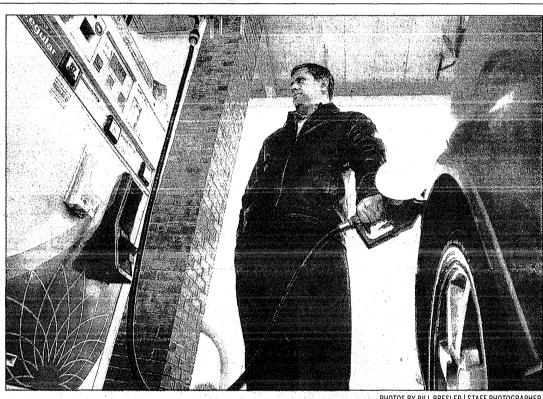
But Reaume claimed such a move would have left benefits to the whim of the seven members of a future township board.

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

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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

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

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 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.

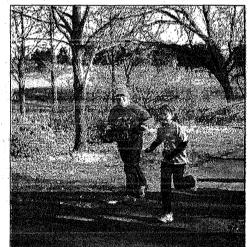
The question sent Fryberger to cyberspace to research the program which, as it turns out, is an intervention program that encourages pre-teen girls to develop self respect and healthy lifestyles.

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 Gariepy 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

"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.

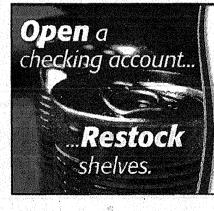
This page will also be posted on our Web site (www.hometownlife.com) where you can read daily news updates and informa-

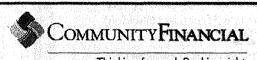
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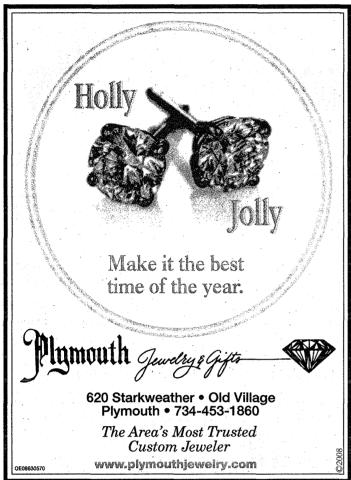
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"Around Plymouth" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to bkadrich@hometownlife.

Gabriala's fund-raiser

The Plymouth Community Arts Council and Gabriala's join together for a fund-raising event 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 4. Gabriala'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.

Gabriala's is a specialty gift store offering home accents perfect for holiday gifts. Gabriala'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 Gabriala'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 peep-seniorparty@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 singalong with "MI Darlings."

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

Luminaria sale

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

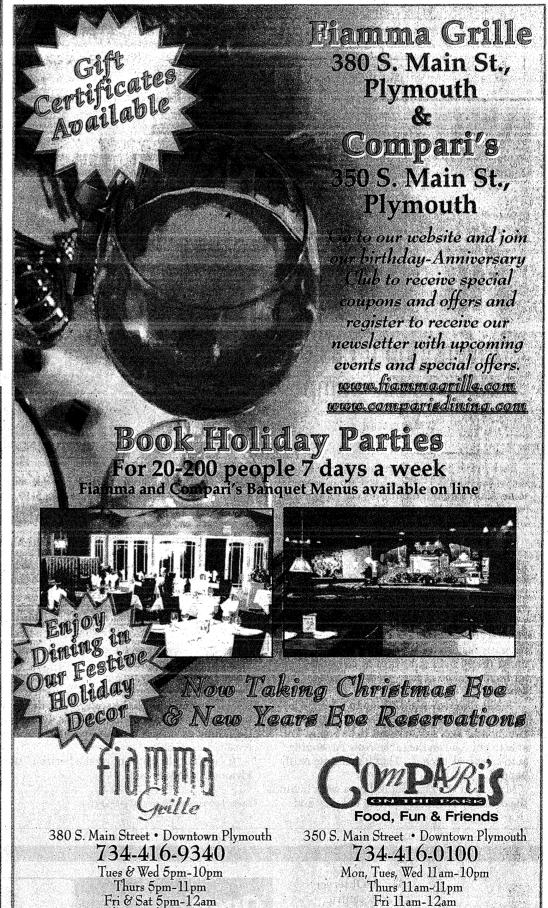
Each \$5 kit consists of 10 white paper bags and 10 candles and can be purchased at Gabriala's, Sideways, Saxton's and the Plymouth Symphony office at 470 Forest Place Suite 18. through Dec. 24.

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





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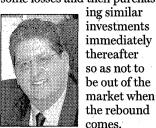
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(P)

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

n a recent column I wrote about a tax strategy that recognizes some losses for tax purposes. It entails taking some losses and then purchas-



Whenever

tax losses I am

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Money Matters 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

It is important in doing yearend 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.

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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).

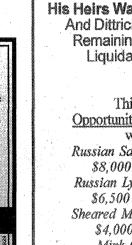
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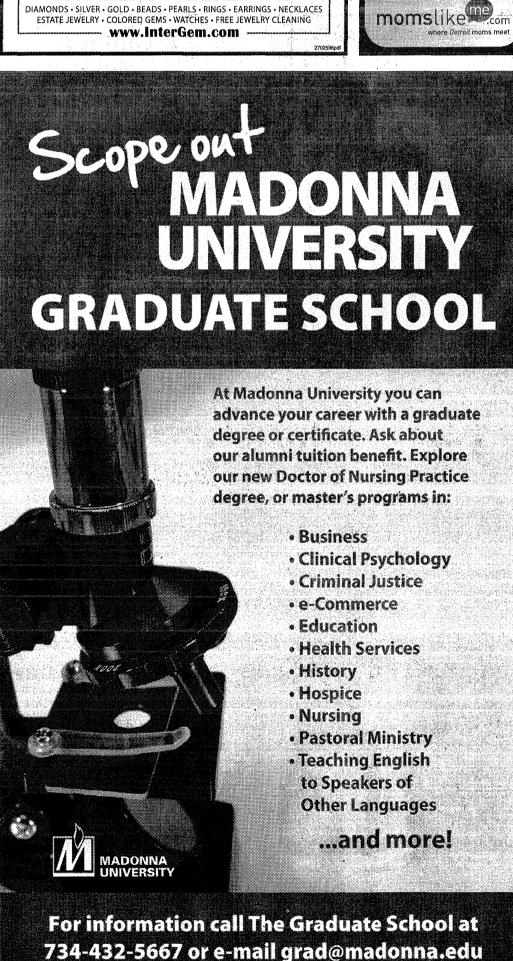
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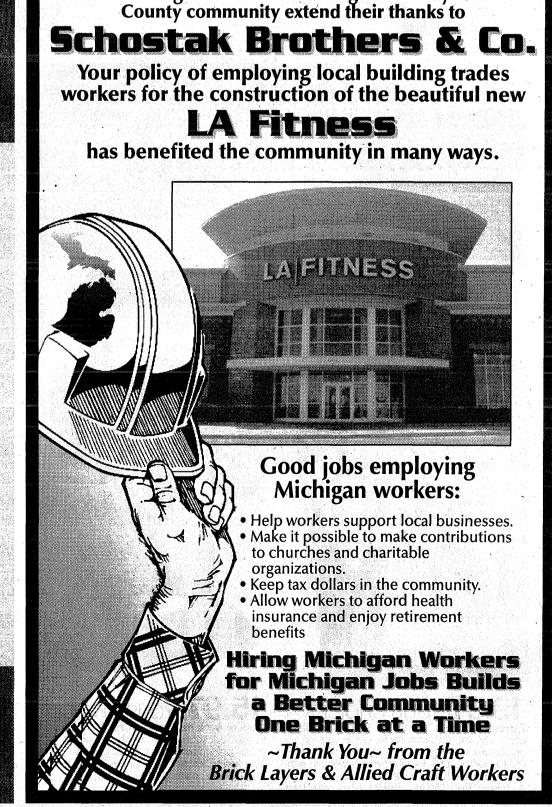
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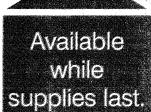
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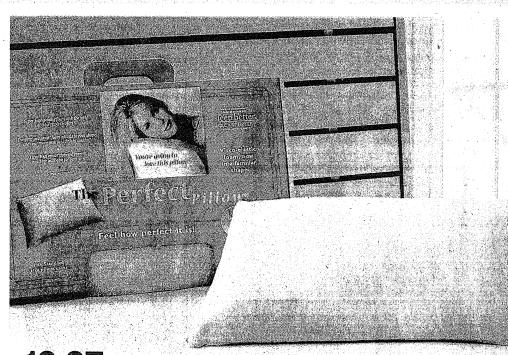
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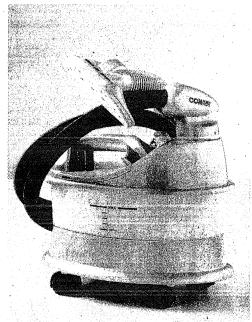
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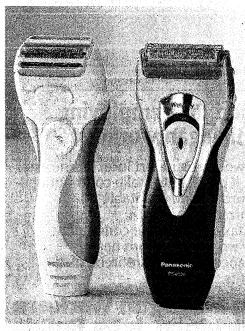


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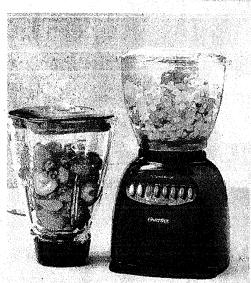


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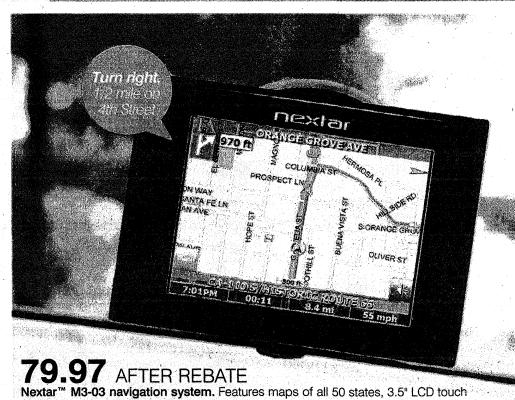


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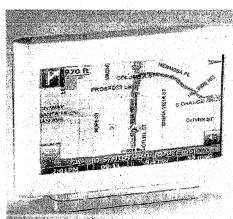


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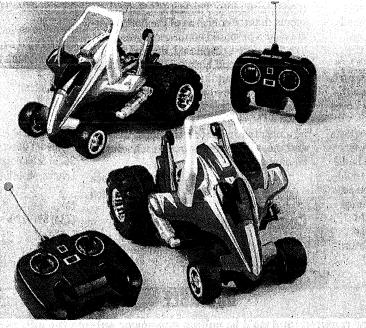


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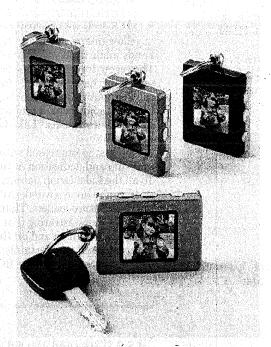
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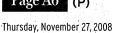
Door Busters effective 4 a.m. - 1 p.m. Friday, November 28, 2008. Sale prices effective Friday, November 28 through Saturday, November 29, 2008. No price adjustments for previously purchased clearance merchandise. Entire Stock offers exclude Clearance and Incredible Value merchandise. Regular and original prices reflect offering prices in effect during the 90 days before or after this sale, but not necessarily during the past 30 days. Savings may not be based on actual sales. Intermediate markdowns may have been taken. Merchandise, style and color availability may vary by store and online. [19695A]



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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 lameduck 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

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

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 pov-

Local agencies, however,

significant increases in

requests for help. At Troy

staff reports that the size

of the requests for help

have grown, much as the

skyrocketed. Fulfilling

those requests for help

offers hope that there is

one month more a wage

or feed his family while

looking for work.

utility bills we all pay have

erty. Economists are projecting that the need will grow in 2009 as the unemployment are already reporting rate is expected to jump to 10.5 percent by the end of the

Local agencies, however, are People Concerned, the 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 skyrock-

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 earner can keep her house

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 loca-

tion 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



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LETTERS

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,

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

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

Great sportsmanship

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

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

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 march-

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!

commended for their perseverance, dedication, and work ethic preparing these 170 students to believe in themselves and execute their best performances of the vear.

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

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

criticized the automakers for their private

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 banksters, 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 taxsucking programs benefits citizens. Yet our own American companies go want-

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.

Letters to the editor Plymouth Observer 36251 Schoolcraft Livonia, MI 48150

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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

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 vear.

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?

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.samaritanspurse.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 RV RILL RRESLED STAFF PHOTOGRAPH

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



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

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 interesting," 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

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

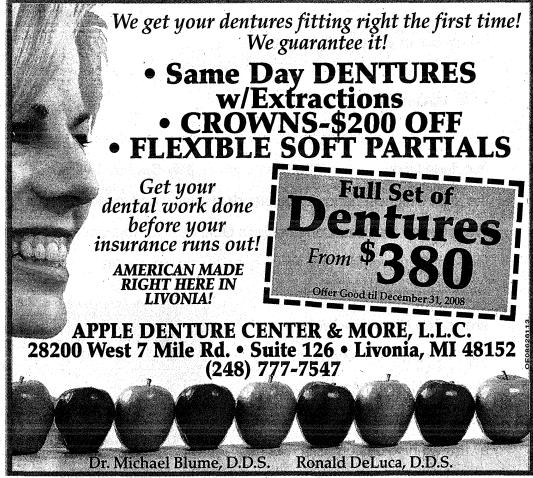


The Farrand Elementary team braved cold temperatures to take part in Sunday's 'Flurry Scurry' to wrap up the 10-week Girls on the Run program.

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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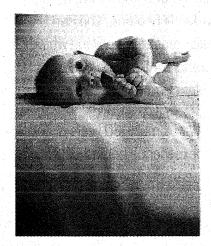
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RON KRUEGER: 1942-2008

Legendary coach remembered as tough, caring man

BY ED WRIGHTOBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Teaching wrestling moves was secondary to teaching life lessons for Ron Krueger during his incredibly successful 29-year tenure as wrestling coach at Salem High School.

That was the overwhelming sentiment of many of Krueger's former studentathletes and colleagues in the wake of the legendary coach's death on Saturday

at the age of 66.

"He taught us to accept nothing less than the best from ourselves — both in wrestling and in life," said Ronnie Thompson, who wrestled for Krueger from 1996 to 2000. "If you didn't give him your best, he'd be disappointed.

"He was a big part of a lot of people's lives — he was like a second father to a lot of his wrestlers — and he'll be missed more than words can say."

Krueger passed away in his Brighton

home after battling a series of recent health ailments.

Armed with the resilience and determination he drilled into his wrestlers from 1971 to 2000, Krueger pinned colon cancer into remission earlier this year after being diagnosed in 2007.

However, the tough but highly respected mentor eventually succumbed to the effects of an inoperable blood clot.

The funeral was held Wednesday morning at Our Lady of Good Counsel

Catholic Church in Plymouth Township.

"That is going to be one big funeral because every kid that wrestled for Ron Krueger stayed in touch with Ron Krueger," said Carl Schultz, a Salem wrestler from 1972-76. "Once you were one of his wrestlers, you were *always* one of his wrestlers.

"I'm a better man for having known Ron Krueger. He pushed you beyond

Please see KRUEGER, B2

Salem frosh shines at state swim meet

BY ED WRIGHT OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

One word describes Salem freshman swimmer Lauren Seroka's performance at this past weekend's Division 1 state meet: Wow!

The ninth-grader eclipsed a pair of school records that were originally set in the 1970s on her way to finishing second in the 500-yard freestyle and third in

the 200 freestyle. Seroka's incredible performance lifted the Rocks to a 14th-place finish with 59.5 points.

Plymouth placed 29th with 11 points and Canton tied for 35th with 2 points.

Ann Arbor Pioneer pulled away with the D1 state title after amassing 349.5 points.

Seroka's 5:03.57 clocking in the 500 free fell just short of Milford's Rachel Johnson, who touched in 5:02.06.

Pioneer's Hanna Cowley won the 200 in 1:50.32, just over four

seconds faster than Seroka's 1:54.67.

"I thought I'd probably drop a little time (off her previous personal bests), but I didn't think I'd drop as much time as I did," said Seroka. "I've competed in a lot of big club meets before, so I'm used to the largeness of meets like this, but I was still nervous. I always get nervous before I race."

Lauren Seroka, pictured

during a club meet last

Division 1 state meet.

year, earned a pair of top-

three finishes at Saturday's

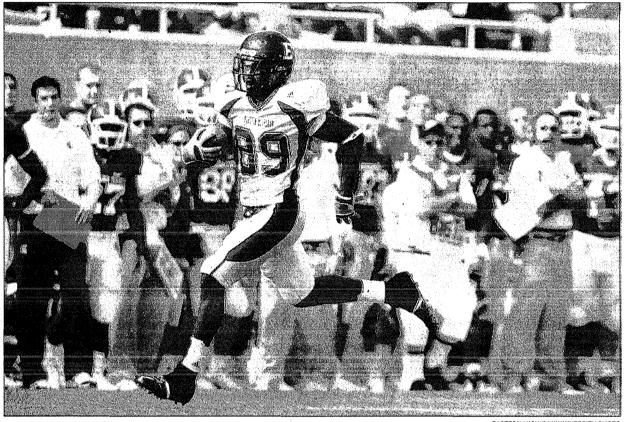
It didn't show.

Seroka shattered the Rocks' previous low times in the events that were set by Marion Stanwood three decades earlier.

"Lauren is an amazing young lady," Salem coach Chuck Olson said of Seroka. "For a ninth-grader to do what Lauren did is really something.

ing. "She listens well and makes corrections

Please see **SEROKA**, **B2**



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY PHOTO

Josh LeDuc sprints down the sidelines during his 63-yard reception against Michigan State University on Sept. 6. The former Plymouth gridiron star established himself as one of the Eagles' top receivers this fall.

Soaring Eagle

LeDuc making most of his opportunities at EMU

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Eastern Michigan University tight end Josh LeDuc saw a glorious sight before him on the afternoon of Sept. 6 after he grabbed a short hitch pass from Eagle quarterback Andy Schmitt.

Unfolding before LeDuc's eyes was a wide-open lane of green, Spartan Stadium turf.

"After I caught the ball, I turned upfield and there was *nobody* in front of me, so I ran," the former Plymouth High School gridiron

standout recalled.

With 70,000-plus fans looking on, LeDuc ran, and ran, and ran — 63 yards, to be exact, until he was eventually dragged down by a Spartan defensive back inside the MSU 5yard line.

Although LeDuc didn't score in what turned out to be a 42-10 EMU setback, the fourth-quarter play opened the eyes of the Eagles' coaching staff.

"After that play, it was like the coaches said, 'Hey, maybe we should get this guy the ball more."

et this guy the ball more. Expanding LeDuc's opportunities proved to be a smart move for the Eagles as the 6-foot-3, 242-pound target evolved into one of the team's most dependable receivers.

After getting red-shirted his freshman season (2006), and playing sparingly last fall, LeDuc has snared 24 passes — including two touchdowns — for 365 yards heading into Friday's season finale against Central Michigan University.

The two dozen receptions rank him third on the team in that category.

Please see **LEDUC**, **B3**

Arctic skaters advance to Nationals

BY ED WRIGHT OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Club is turning out to be for young figure

What Motown Records was for aspiring singers, the Arctic Figure Skating

skaters: a hit machine.

The Canton-based skating club's latest "four tops" feature a quartet of up-and-coming athletes who recently qualified for the U.S. Junior National Figure Skating Championships: Canton resident Delaney Hoberecht, Livonia's Madison DeLuca, Ann Arbor's Katia Shpilband and Matthew Ko, of Bowling

Green, Ohio.

The foursome defied incredible odds

by finishing in the top five of their respective age divisions at last month's qualifying competition in Midland.

"There are a lot of dedicated, talented skaters who work hard, but it's the ones who have the mental toughness it takes to perform under extreme pressure who qualify for Nationals," said Lisa Kirby, who coaches DeLuca on the Arctic Edge Ice Arena rinks. "It's the kids like Madison, who come in extra to work on one move here and one move there, and who can keep their composure under pressure that do well."

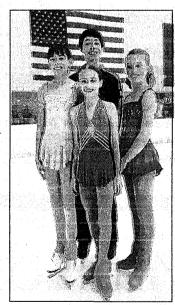
Many of the club's most-decorated skaters laced up their first pair of skates during the most-basic classes.

"A lot of people don't realize that a lot of these kids started out like this," said AFSC coach Theresa McKendry, as she gestured toward a learn-to-skate class being held on an Arctic Edge rink a few feet away. "In fact, Delaney was one of my very first students in Basic 1 five years ago."

What separates the national-qualifiers from the others in McKendry's opinion?
"For one thing, they skate a lot

— probably two to three hours a day, six days a week," she said. "Plus, they do a lot of off-ice conditioning. They also have a lot of drive.

Please see **SKATERS, B9**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Arctic Edgebased figure skaters Madison DeLuca, Katia Shpilband, Matthew Ko and Delaney Hoberecht all qualified for the United States Junior Nationals scheduled for next month in Lake Placid, N.Y.

3

Charity hockey

The 4th Annual Canton Fire Fighters vs. Canton Coaches charity hockey game will be held Saturday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m. at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton Township.

Proceeds from the game will benefit the Canton Firefighters Association's "No Child Without A Christmas" program.

The admission charge will be \$2 or an unwrapped gift.

The Canton Fire
Department will have
fire engines on display before the game
and the Canton Youth
Hockey mini-mites
will scrimmage during the first intermission.

There will also be raffle gift baskets, a 50/50 raffle and chuck-a-puck available.

Ignition signs trio

The Detroit Ignition has agreed to terms with forward Leo Gibson and defenders Josh Rife and Zach Wilkes, the club announced Monday.

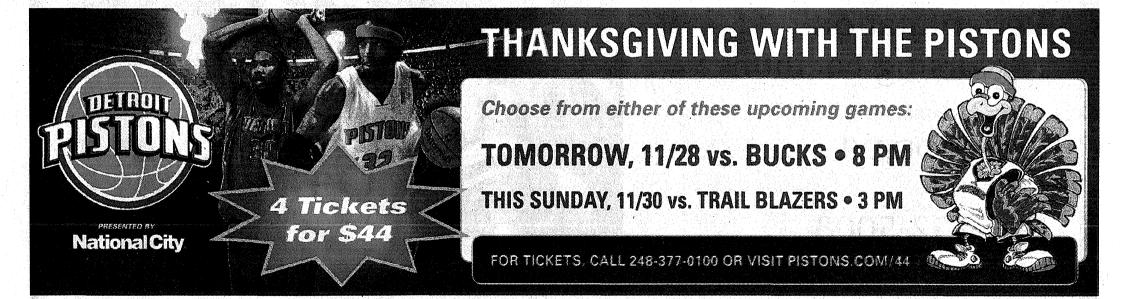
Rife, a native of Honolulu, ranked second on the team last year with 28 in 29 games.

Wilkes enters his second professional season after graduating from Madonna University. He registered his first Major Indoor Soccer League goal on April 5 against Baltimore.

Gibson tallied four goals in four regularseason games last season.

Bridges shines

Canton alum Andre Bridges, a junior swingman for the Albion College men's basketball team, record 11 points in the Briton's 82-65 season-opening victory over Defiance College of Ohio on Nov. 21. He also grabbed three rebounds and dished out two assists in 21 minutes of action.



accordingly — not that there are many corrections to be made.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 27, 2008

the 200 freestyle (1:58.29).

Canton's Maggie Carlson,

a junior, was also a two-time

medley (2:18.72) and the 100

Plymouth's points were

placer, touching 16th in the

both the 200 individual

breaststroke (1:10.72).

earned by senior Ellen

Palczynski, who placed

eighth in the 100 breast-

A pair of Salem relay

teams placed. The Rocks'

stroke with a time of 1:09.16.

200 medley quartet notched

12th in 1:54.00 while their

400 freestyle foursome

with a time of 3:43.03.

earned 15th-place points

Seroka's effort overshadowed a stellar effort by Whitney Aumiller, her senior teammate who placed ninth in the 100 backstroke (1:00.18) and tied for 12th in

> We regret to inform our customers that a printing error has occurred in our After Thanksgiving Sale circular, valid Friday, November 28 & Saturday, November 29, 2008. On page 18, the Accent, area & kitchen rugs and doormats should have a sale price range of \$4.49-\$159.99, not \$4.49-\$59.99 as printed. We are sorry for any

> inconvenience that may have been caused.

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FROM PAGE B1

what you knew you could do. He taught us to fear no one.

Former Salem athletic administrator and coach Gary Balconi knew Krueger as well as anybody. The two grew up together in Sandusky, Ohio. After going different ways after high school, the longtime buddies reunited in 1971 when Krueger was hired as a physical education teacher and wrestling coach at Salem.

"Ron was a 100-percenter," said Balconi. "If you were his ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2108 friend, it was 100 percent. If

he was your coach, it was 100 percent and nothing shy of

"There used to be a sign in the Salem wrestling room that Ron put up. It said, 'Those who stay will be cham-

pions.' That's how he lived his life. He was a great coach, a great husband, a great parent. Ron was a great man."

Schultz, who was a member of Krueger's second team at Salem, said his former coach worked wonders during the early days of Salem's wrestling program.

"He took a bunch of people who knew nothing - I mean zero — about the sport and made us something," Schultz

said. "He was a very tough man coaching a very tough sport. We used to say if you could survive that sport with that coach, you could survive anything.

Krueger was known for his "Krueger-isms" — phrases that would often be recounted by his former grapplers at golf outings and other Salem get-togethers.

"His big saying was, 'If you always do what you've always done, you're always going to get what you've always got," remembered Thompson. "It was his way of saying you're only going to get out of life what you put into it."

Krueger's sometimes intimidating persona could be deceiving for those who never met him, said Greg Woochuk, who wrestled for Krueger and served as his assistant coach before succeeding him as head coach at Salem in 2001.

"Ron had a rough exterior, but if you really knew him, you loved him," said Woochuk. "As a friend, he was always there when you needed him.

"I can't tell you how many

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times he helped out his former wrestlers. One time, he had me drive to a college and drop off \$400 to a kid who was struggling financially."

Balconi chuckled while recalling one humorous Krueger anecdote that unfolded during a Salemrelated golf outing.

"It was a beautiful day, the sun was shining, the sky was blue, not a cloud in the sky," Balconi said. "When Ron walked up to the tee for his first drive, one guy joked to another, 'How much do you want to bet Ron finds something wrong with this day.

"The next thing you know, Ron turned back toward us and said, 'Can you believe how loud those birds are chirping?' There were 23 guys doubled over, laughing."

Krueger is survived by his wife, Dolores; his children, Lee (Dawn), Kristen (Jim), Jason (Chrissy) and six grandchildren.

Another son, Danny, was killed in an automobile accident in 1995.

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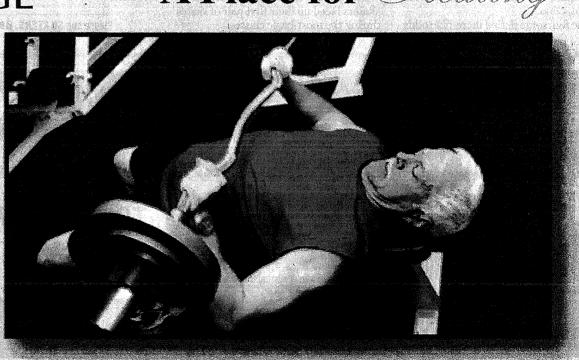
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"My red-shirt year was no fun at all," LeDuc said. "In all my years of playing football, I had never sat before. I didn't know how to deal with it because I thought I could make a difference.

"But once the season was over, I was fine with it. A few of my teammates who weren't red-shirted wish they had been now. They wish they had two more years of eligibility like I

LeDuc's big catch against MSU proved to be a springboard to a stellar season.

On Sept. 20, he hauled in a 13-yard TD pass from Kyle McMahon in a 51-24 loss to Maryland.

On Oct. 18, LeDuc was a force in the Eagles' heartbreaking 42-35 loss to Akron. With 3:49 left, he snatched a 6-yard TD pass from Schmitt to give EMU a 35-34 lead.

Akron then moved swiftly down the field before lining up for a potential game-winning 44-yard field, which was blocked by LeDuc, in what he initially figured was a gamesaving effort.

The play turned out to be a microcosm of the Eagles' disappointing season.

"After I jumped up and blocked the kick, I knew the ball went backwards, but I wasn't sure where," LeDuc

recalled. "I'm thinking, 'Yeah, we won!"

Unfortunately for the Eagles, the ball bounced directly into the hands of the Akron holder, who carried it for a first down inside the EMU 10-yard line.

The Zips scored on the next play, adding misery to what had already been a rough season for EMU, which has won just two of eight games.

"Coming from a winning program at Plymouth, it hasn't been easy losing as much as we have," said LeDuc. "It's almost like when something negative happens in a game, it's like, 'Oh, no, here we go again.'

LeDuc has relished the opportunity to play in several big-time venues. This year, he's played before large crowds at Maryland, MSU and at Lincoln Financial Field, the home of Temple University and the home turf of the Philadelphia Eagles.

Last year, he played at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh and at the "Big House" — Michigan Stadium.

"That was fun playing at Michigan," he said. "Before the game, when we were warming up, the place was so quiet. But then, before you know it, the place is packed and there are 111,000 people watching you. That was a great experience."

LeDuc's escalating skills have not gone unnoticed by National Football League scouts. Several NFL-related Web sites list him on their tight end watch list for the



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY PHOTO

Josh LeDuc stiff-arms a University of Michigan defensive back during a 2007 game at Michigan Stadium.

2011 draft.

"My coach has told me that a couple of teams have called (Eastern) and asked if they thought I could maintain my speed if I added 10 more

pounds," LeDuc said. "He said they didn't realize that I still have two years left in college."

LeDuc said of all the current NFL tight ends, he emulates San Diego's Antonio Gates and San Francisco's Vernon Davis. "I was watching a game last week and Vernon Davis caught a ball and ran about 60 yards vertically down-field," he said. "There aren't many tight ends

who can do that." LeDuc, who is majoring in business, would like to run his

own company some day.

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The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction, December 2, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. The auction will be held at Westland Car Care Towing, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI 48185. The vehicles will be sold as is, starting bid is for towing and storage.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan will accept sealed proposals at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, January 8, 2009 for the following:

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

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

Publish: November 27, 2080

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for the purchase of One Grand Piano for the Salem High School Auditorium. Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting Dan Phillips in the PCCS Purchasing Department at (734) 416-2746 or for additional information contact Visual & Performing Arts Coordinator, Tim Schoenherr at (734) 416-3005. Sealed bids are due to the E.J McClendon Éducational Center, RE: "Piano Bid", 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 on or before 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 3, 2008. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

> Board of Education Plymouth-Canton Community Schools THOMAS WYSOCKI, Secretary

Bid Opening: Wednesday, December 3, 2008 @ 1:30 p.m. Resolution Due to Board: Wednesday, December 3, 2008 Board Review: Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Publish: Thursday, November 20, 2008

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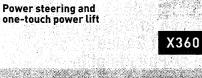
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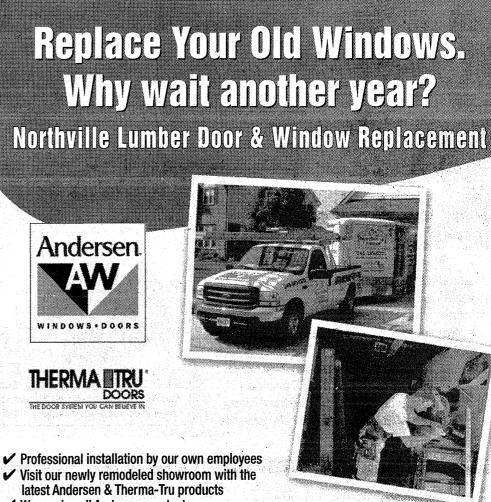




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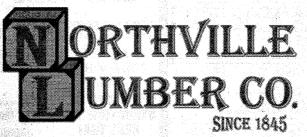


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Breakfast blues: Warriors' title bid snapped at Kellogg

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 27, 2008

Lutheran Westland proved it belonged in the Class D state volleyball finals, but found out firsthand why Battle Creek St. Philip is a perennial

powerhouse. The Tigers swept the Warriors 3-0 Saturday morning at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek to claim their 14th championship in school history and

But St. Philip's 25-17, 25-21, 25-20 triumph didn't stop Lutheran Westland players from doing their own celebration, for being the school's first

volleyball team to reach the finals. "It was a really fun season and I'm kind of down

about losing, but I just have to realize that we made it this far," said Warriors senior outside hitter and co-captain Katev Ramthun (7 kills, 6 digs). "We're the first team in school history to make it this far, to even come out of regionals. So, state finals is pretty good."

Ramthun then smiled and acknowledged that Lutheran Westland's Class D runner-up trophy "is just as big as theirs.

After the Warriors lined up and received their individual medals, head coach Kevin Wade accepted the team trophy and handed it off to the other co-captain, senior middle hitter Becca Refenes

She proudly held the prize over her head as her teammates crowded around her.

As for not winning the other trophy, the Warriors, who finished 46-6-5, had trouble with the Tigers' balanced lineup. Up front to bother Refenes were junior middle hitter Carly Dickerson (14 kills, 12 digs) and junior right-side hitter Megan Toth (9 kills, 16 digs).

Another pillar of strength for St. Philip (61-7-5) was sophomore setter Ryian Hubbard. Her 46 assists were the sixth most by a player for a finals match since 2005.

Dickerson sparked the Tigers' turnaround in Game 1. The Warriors started well, with a 4-2 lead. But St. Philip stormed ahead 9-4 after Dickerson strung together six service points and never trailed the rest of that game.

Game 2 went back-and-forth early on, with

the Warriors taking a 10-7 advantage thanks to an Allyson Yankee spike, set up perfectly by senior setter Lauren Gieschen. St. Philip grabbed momentum during a three-point run by junior defensive specialist Riley Buschke, frustrating Lutheran Westland by not letting balls drop during extended rallies.

Lutheran Westland battled to try and extend the match to a fourth set, but the Warriors couldn't sustain much after going up 10-6 in Game 3. St. Philip fought back to tie the score at 11-11 with spikes by junior middle hitter Amanda Bolles and senior outside hitter Katie Zull (9 kills) highlighting a four-point service run by junior libero Lena Oliver (16 digs). From that moment on, there was little doubt as to the final outcome.

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WEEK #13 GAMES

Thursday, November 27, 2008

Tennessee at Detroit Seattle at Dallas Arizona at Philadelphia Sunday, November 30, 2008 Indianapolis at Cleveland Carolina at Green Bay **Denver at New York Jets** Miami at St. Louis New Orleans at Tampa Bay **New York Giants at Washington** San Francisco at Buffalo **Baltimore at Cincinnati**

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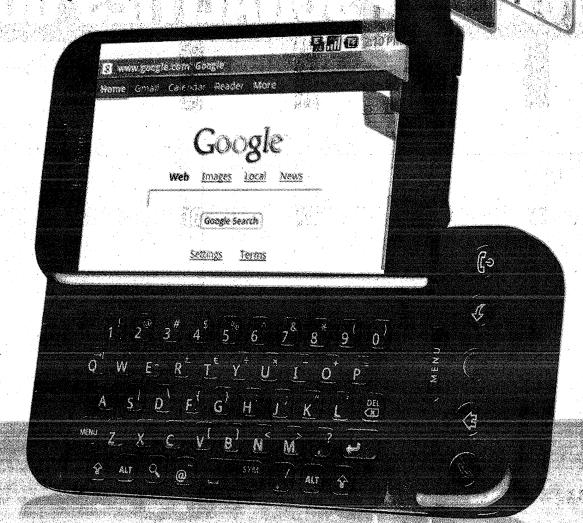
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To submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft. Livonia, MI 48150. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

NOVEMBER

Bethany together dance 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Nov. 29, at Don Hubert V.F.W. Hall, 27345 Schoolcraft (this is the I-96 service drive), east of Inkster Rd., Redford, Limited to the first 450 paid admissions only. Wear proper attire. Cost \$12. For

more information, call Loretta at (586)

264-0284 Special needs class

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia is looking for special needs teens and young adults (up to age 25) interested in participating in a course designed to help them learn about the basics of the Christian faith. The day and time of the course will depend on those interested. To get the most out of the course, students should possess basic communications skills (listening and speaking). Call Judy Cook at (248) 442-8822 or e-mail at elc-ed@arounddetroit.biz.

Volunteers needed

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 27, 2008

The Salvation Army invites the community to partner with it this holiday season. Opportunities range from adopting a family or child to bell ringing, Christmas in-take assistance, and many others. Sign up by calling volunteer coordinator Sandy Kollinger at (734) 722-3660 or online at www.ringbell.org and choosing Wayne/Westland. The Salvation Army is at 2300 S. Venoy, between Michigan Avenue and Palmer.

Global gifts

10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday-Saturday, through Dec. 17, at First Baptist Church of Birmingham, 300 Willits, at Bates, north of Maple and a block west of Old Woodward. The Fair Trade resource offers foods such as rice, chocolates, coffee, and soup mixes that promote economic justice around the globe. Also offering textiles, jewelry and handmade artisan crafts from around the world. (248) 644-0550.

Prayer hour

Cherry Hill United Methodist Church holds an hour of prayer and inspiration at 7:30 p.m., every Thursday with Rev. Merlin Pratt, at the church, 321 S. Ridge Road, Canton. Call Pat Beggs at (734) 453-3287 for more information.

UPCOMING

Caregiver's support group St. John's Support Group for the Caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients or patients with other forms of dementia meets at 10 a.m., the first and third Friday of each month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care for your loved one will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for more information. This group is authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

The Nativity movie

7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Rd. Livonia Desserts will be served. All are welcome to attend this free event. For more information or to sign-up call

(734) 422-1470.

Kids Christmas craft days

Deadline is Dec. 4 to register for Kids Christmas Craft Day 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 6, for ages 5 years through 5th grade, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Rd., Livonia. Kids will enjoy creating Christmas crafts to be used as gifts or decorations. All are welcome to attend. Suggested donation of \$3 per child. For more information or to sign-up, call (734)

Advent presentation

422-1470.

Through Scripture, food and drink, reflect on and delight in preparing for Christ's arrival 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, in Bixman Hall at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Rd., Livonia. No charge, but RSVP by calling (734) 425-5950. Presenter is David Conrad, M.A. Theology.

Glory of Christmas

The theatrical production opens Thursday, Dec. 4, and runs weekends through Sunday, Dec. 14, at NorthRidge Church, 49555 N. Territorial at Ridge, Plymouth. Tickets \$16 and \$18. Call (734) 414-7777 or visit www.northridgechurch.com. Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 1 p.m. Saturday, and 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday.

Silent Night

An Advent Service for those who are grieving or unemployed 7-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 47650 N. Territorial at Beck, Plymouth, Call (734) 453-0326. While Advent is a time to acknowledge the beauty of the Christmas season, it can also be a time of sadness. For those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, struggling with an illness, caring for a terminally ill family member or facing unemployment, divorce or financial hardship, the joyfulness of the season may be overwhelming. Through stories of endurance from members of our community, inspirational music, and scripture readings we will seek together the peace, hope and love that are the true gifts of Christmas.

Holiday concert

Madrigal Chorale of Southfield performs 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at the historic Old St. Mary's Church in Detroit's Greektown, 646 Monroe at St. Antoine. Tickets \$18 and available by calling (248) 229-7147 or \$20 at the door. Information is also available at www.mcs-notes.org.

Grief workshop

Getting Through the Holidays, a workshop for those grieving the loss of a loved one at what can be an extremely time of year, sponsored by St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, in the Convent Meeting Room, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Rd., Livonia. Guest speaker is Certified Hospice Trainer and Pastoral Associate, Dianne Fessler. To R.S.V.P., call (734) 261-1455, ext. 207. All are welcome.

Music at St. John's

A Festival of Lessons and Carols, 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 7, with the parish's music groups; Collegium Musicum performs cantatas and instrumental works, 6 p.m. Sunday, March 29, 2009, and The Saline Fiddlers, 6 p.m., Sunday, May 17, 2009, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. All concerts are free except The Saline Fiddlers (\$7 and available in advance or at door). Call (734)

453-0190. **Detroit Lutheran Singers**

Celebrate CHRISTmas concerts 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 Sheldon Rd., Canton, and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13. at Antioch Lutheran Church, 33360 W. 13 Mile, Farmington Hills. Tickets \$10 (\$7 for seniors and students age 12 and older) and will be available at the door. For advance tickets, call (248) 988-6715. For more information, visit www.detroitlutheransingers.com. **Evenings of Evangelization** With Rev. Alex Kratz, 7 p.m., Friday,

Dec. 12, at St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia. The evening begins with a Holy Hour followed by small-group discussions, teaching and fellowship. All interested Catholics welcome. Call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200.

Christmas Cookie Walk

Too busy to bake? Buy cookies by the pound from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13 at St. Michael's Orthodox Church, 26355 West Chicago Rd., between Beech-Daly and Inkster Road, in Redford. (313) 937-2120.

Bethany monthly dance

8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Dec. 13, at Don Hubert V.F.W. Hall, 27345 Schoolcraft (this is the I-96 service drive), east of Inkster Rd., Redford. Dance lesson this month, dancers choice, cost \$10, refreshments included. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. DJ is Dick

Gerathy. Call (734) 261-5716 for details. Adult choir concert

The St. Aidan Adult Choir, directed by Ray Schmidt, presents its 27th Annual Christmas Concert 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at St. Aidan Parish, 17500 Farmington Rd. (north of Six Mile), Livonia. The cost is \$5 and two non perishable food items. This event is held annually to assist the St Aidan Christian Service Commission to aid those in need during the holiday season. Call (734)425-5950. Tickets will

be available at the door on the day of event.

All-you-can-eat pancakes

The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continues its more than 30-year tradition of all-you-can-eat pancake breakfasts 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month in the school cafeteria at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, with an expanded menu that features pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, and assorted breakfast beverages. Meals are served buffet-style at family friendly prices: \$5, adults, \$3 children ages 4-11, free for children under age 3, \$15 a family (2 adults and all children). Everyone is welcome.

Clothing bank

Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need 10 a.m.noon on the fourth Saturday of each month (Dec. 27), at Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy between Haggerty and Lilley. For information, call (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org.

ONGOING

Parkinson Support

Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile. Enter at rear of church. For more information. call (248) 433-1011.

Overeaters Anonymous

Meet 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Courtyard Room at Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelts and Inkster roads, Livonia. And 7 p.m. Sundays at the Marion Professional Building at St. Mary's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia, in Classroom 1. Call Wendy first at (313) 387-9797. Anyone who wants to stop eating compulsively is welcome. For more Greater **Detroit Overeaters Anonymous** Information visit www.oa.org or call (248) 559-7722.

Mid-week Service

Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church offers a Wednesday evening service at 7 p.m. in the church at 9600 Leverne, Redford. Communion is offered on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Sunday services are at 9:30 a.m.

ENDOW

St. Michael the Archangel Parish is hosting two different courses of the Archdiocese of Detroit's ENDOW program, a continuing women's study group focused on the dignity of women of all ages and faiths. Based on Pope John Paul II's "Letter to Women", the Course I groups meet 9:30-11 a.m. Mondays, and 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, Course V. called "Aguinas for Beginners", is a new addition to the ENDOW curriculum and available locally only at St. Michael's 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays, All meet in the convent basement meeting room. Women of all ages and faiths welcome. \$60 charge for materials, but no woman will be turned away because of inability to pay. Register by calling (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207, or online at www. endowonline.com. St. Michael's is at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth

Road, Livonia. Choral rehearsals

Oakland Choral Society has begun Tuesday evening rehearsals for its Christmas concerts with professional soloists and orchestra. On Dec. 6 the group performs Benjamin Britten's "St. Nicolas," and J.S. Bach's "Cantata Wachet auf," and on Dec. 14 Handel's "Messiah." Registration begins at 7:00 p.m., with rehearsal 7:30-9 p.m., at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. All singers who can read music are welcome. Membership dues \$55 for fall season (\$30 for students age 30 and under). Music cost additional. For information, call (248) 391-0184.

New worship schedule

Worship 8 a.m. Sunday, Faith Forum & Other Options at 9 a.m., and Worship and Sunday school at 10 a.m. Wednesday Worship at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Visitors welcome. For information, call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Bible study

St. Michael the Archangel Church, located at the southwest corner of Plymouth and Hubbard Roads, continues its regular evening Bible Study program with an in-depth study of The Gospel of Luke 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month in the rectory. The informal classes are open to all interested persons regardless of religious affiliation. To register, call (734) 261-1445, Ext. 200.

Time change

Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia, returned to its fall-spring worship schedule. Services are at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. for all ages. For information, visit www.livonfaith.org.

Wednesday activities

Have resumed at 7 p.m. at Grace Christian Fellowship, on the west side of Middlebelt, one block south of Six

Mile. The special four week study focuses on the Hebraic Roots of Our Christian Faith, taught by Yvonne Moore. For information, visit www. acfellowship.org or call (734) 525-

Thursday fellowship dinner

All are welcome, 6 p.m. dinners catered by The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Cost is \$8. Call (313) 534-7730.

Eucharistic adoration

St. Michael the Archangel Church in Livonia continues its monthly program of Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration on the third Wednesday of each month. The church is open for prayer and private worship from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Benediction service in the evening. Call (734) 261-1455.

Worship schedule

11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday (9:45 a.m. Sunday School), at Community Free Will Baptist Church, 33031 Cherry Hill, west of Venoy, Westland. Wednesday prayer and Bible study is 7 p.m. Youth fellowship every other Friday at 7 p.m.

Sunday worship

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

Reformed Protestant services

The doctrines and teachings of solid, Reformed Protestantism are preached by the Rev. Sean Humby 3:30 p.m. Sundays at the Detroit Preaching Station of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), at Cherry Hill School, 50440 Cherry Hill, corner of Ridge, Canton. For information, call (734) 402-7186, send e-mail to sean. humby@att.net, or visit www.members.aol.com/rsiworship/detroit.html.

Sanskrit chanting

An ongoing, weekly class taught by Ania Kopczynski, 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, at Renaissance Unity, 11200 E. 11 Mile, Warren. No pre-registration required. A free-will collection taken at the session. For information, call (586) 353-2300 or visit www.

renaissanceunity.org. Church schedule

Garden City Presbyterian Church continues its 10 a.m. Sunday worship service with traditional hymns, scripture readings and choral music (fellowship follows). Youth Sunday School and nursery care also available at 10 a.m. Adult Sunday School at 8:30 a.m. Informal gathering 6 p.m. every Sunday with scriptures and discussion at the church on Middlebelt, one block south of Ford Rd.

Call (734) 421-7620.

Single Place Ministry Single Place Ministry continues to meet Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main St., Northville. Call (248) 349-0911 or visit www.

singleplace.org. Cost is \$5. **Prince of Peace Church**

Recovery, Inc., meets at 10 a.m., every Wednesday at the church, Walnut Lake Road and Green, West Bloomfield. Recovery, Inc., is an international, non-profit, self-help community based service organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve their quality of life. Call Martha Paul at (248) 682-9362 or email her at marthapaul@sbcglobal.

net. Tai Chi and strength classes

Orchard United Methodist Church is hosting a Tai Chi class 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the Mac at the church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. The cost per class is \$10 or \$40 prepaid for five classes. The strength class takes place 9:30-10:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Cost is \$5 per class. Drop-ins wel-

For information, call (248) 626-3620

or visit www.orchardumc.org. Tai Chi class

Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, is hosting a Tai Chi Class by Sam Purdy, Wu Style Tai Chi. This meditative form of Martial Arts is great for reducing stress and is great for over-all health memory and balance. Everyone is welcome from beginning to experienced participants at any time. Classes continue every Monday. Cost per class depends on number of participants. For information or to reserve your space, call (248) 701-1587 or (248) 626-3620. Visit www.orchar-

dumc.org for updates. Thrift store

Open Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

New schedule

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

Please see CALENDAR, B7

dassages Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

e-mail: oeobits@hometownlife.com View Obits On-line@www.hometownlife.com

HARRY E. WALKLEY

Passed away Nov. 22, 2008. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK

KATHLEEN FLORENCE ROSSIER

Beloved mother, grandmother and

friend entered into eternal life on Monday, November 10, 2008, at age

80. Born July 7, 1928 in Royal Oak,

MI, she moved to Sacramento, CA in

May 2000. Throughout her life she

was dedicated to helping people

through music and community serv-

ice. She will be missed greatly. She

is survived by her children Michele R

(Cecilia), grandchildren Mark, Megan and Sarah Chouinard, great-grand-

children Michael, Holley and Henry

Chouinard, life friend Larry Rossier,

cousins nieces and nephews. Family

and friends are invited to a celebra-

tion of her life on Saturday,

November 29, 2008 - 11:00 a.m at

First United Methodist Church at 320

(Gregory), Patrick M

W. 7th St, Royal Oak, MI.

Robin Rossier-Krist

Rossier

Chouinard,

Funeral Home, Farmington.

GEORGE E. BLOOM

November 12, 2008. Age 84. Husband of the late Mary Therese. Dear father of Barbara Jeanne Stoecker (Gregory), Douglas Stephen (Diane), Ther-Lynn Anderson (Michael), Lawrence Jon (Jennifer) and the late Mary Christine Bourgeois (Ted). Also survived by 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Brother of both the late Robert and Howard. Services have been held. Memorial tributes to Gilda's Club of Detroit or the McCarty Cancer Foundation. A.J. Desmond & Sons 248-549-0500

View obituary and share memories at





GRETCHEN BORNOR COLE

Born November 12, 1927 to loving

parents Dora and Frank Bornor, passed on in peace on November 24, 2008 at age 81, with her daughters Cynthia and Sally by her side. She is also survived by Sally's husband Ron, grandchildren Erich, Nicole (Josh), Misha, Libby (Terry), and Emerson, and great-grandson Jayce. Gretchen's life is a testament to her loving, intelligent and independent spirit. She was born in Detroit and lived in several states during her childhood, as her father designed the nation's new highways. Her family later settled in Royal Oak, where she graduated from Royal Oak High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in 1949 in sociology and music from DePauw University in Indiana, where she created many lifelong friendships as a member of the Alpha Chi Omega sorority. Gretchen devoted countless volunteer hours as a Braille typist and with numerous other organizations while she was a wife and mother, and raised her two daughters with devotion, love and great fun. When she was in her 50s, she earned a master's degree in social work from Wayne State University, and then worked as a medical social worker at St. Joseph's Hospital in Pontiac, Michigan. In 1983 she became CEO of Detroit Air Compressor Company, which her parents had founded and run together for more than 40 years, and in he 1990s Gretchen received the Woman of the Year award from the National Association of Women Business Owners. Gretchen continually gave her love, thoughtfulness, keen ntellect, grand humor and radiant smile to her family and many friends. She enjoyed traveling, and made everyone around her feel special. Gretchen marveled others with the power of her beautiful singing voice despite her 4'10" frame, reveled in the quiet of a glass of wine and a good book, and the beauty of Lake Michigan from her vacation home in northern Michigan. She leaves a lasting legacy of deep love for family, and a special style that will remain in the hearts of all who knew her forever. While the family will celebrate Gretchen's life privately, friends are welcome to share nemories and extend condolences at DesmondFuneralHome.com. Memorial tributes in her name to Alzheimer's Disease Research, 22512 Gateway Center Drive, Clarksburg,

Maryland 20871.

PAMELA MULLINS Age 55, November 22, 2008. Loving mother of William Bradley and Mary J. Mullins. Dear daughter of Mary Harvey and sister of James (Wendy) Harvey. Also survived by seven grandchildren. Please sign her online guestbook at www.cremationmichigan.com

RAYMOND D. JONES Age 57, November 23, 2008, Dear father of Valerie (Steve) Mimnaugh, Kevin (Patricia) Baker, Judith, Matt, Raymond, Stephanie and Dominique. Grandfather of 11. Brother of Archie (Carol), Curt (Marie), Paul and Skeeter. Special friend Tina and Norm Dugener, Joe Pecorilli and Marie Jones. Memorial Visitation Sunday 6pm until a 7:30pm Memorial Service at the John N. Santeiu and Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster (between Ford and Cherry Hill).





RONALD NORMAN KRUEGER

Passed away November 22, 2008, at the age of 66. Ron was very passionate about life. He was a teacher for 36 years. He was also the coach of wrestling and football for Plymouth Salem. He coached football for the Plymouth Steelers. He was a source of strength, a rock, and a foundation for everyone whom he encountered. His caring and concern for the well being of others seemed to be his main purpose in life. Ron taught us that when he tunnel is dark, there is always a light at the end. It is a glimmer of hope that will arise and allow us to see the world through the eyes of an angel Ron taught us to see how beautiful life can be if we love and comfort one another. He will be missed by many. He is survived by his wife, Dolores Krueger; his children, Lee (Dawn), Kristen (Jim), Jason (Chrissy), and Danny; six grandchildren; and his mother, Mildred Krueger. Funeral services were held Wednesday, November 26, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Plymouth. Arrangements entrusted to Schrader-Howell Funeral Home

RUTH M. SOLAR

Age 89. Formerly of Farmington, MI. Age 89, of Howell. Passed away Sunday, November 23, 2008. She was born February 2, 1919 in Detroit, the daughter of Frances and Mary (Chapman) Price. Beloved wife of the late Charles Solar (1998). Dear mother of Michael (Darlene) Solar of Howell, Patrick Solar of Livonia, Dennis Solar of Walled Lake, Terry (Dan) Tobin of Arizona, Sheila (Craig) Summers of Florida and Maureen (Allan) Pechter of Arizona. Also survived by ten grandchildren, six greatgrandchildren and brother, Frank Price of South Lyon. She was preceded in death by her grandson, Steven Solar (7/31/1999). Ruth had an associates degree from Detroit Business College and formerly been employed as an executive secretary for Michigan Bell Telephone Co. Mass of the Resurrection will be Friday, November 28th at 11 a.m. (in state 10 a.m.) at St Joseph Catholic Church. Burial will be in Clements Cemetery, Dexter. Visitation will be Wednesday from 1 to 8 p.m. with a rosary recited at 4 p.m. at MacDonald's Funeral Home contributions may be made to Odyssey Hospice. Please visit the family's online

www.macdonaldsfuneralhome.com.



STEFANIE FRANK (NEE KRYSHAK)

November 22, 2008. Age 89 Peacefully at home in Bloomfield Hills. Proud honorary member of the Delta Sigma Pi Fraternity. Charter member of the Nomads Travel Club logging over 600,000 miles. Beloved wife of Clarence N. Frank "Red" for 55 years. Dear sister of Irene Krithers and the late Helen Kruchko. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Services have been held. Memorial tributes to St. Patrick Episcopal Church, 1434 E. Thirteen Mile, Madison Heights, MI 48071 or the Delta Sigma Pi Leadership Foundation, 330 South Campus Avenue, Oxford, OH 45056. A.J Desmond & Sons 248-549-0500.

View obituary and share memories at www.desmondfuneralhome.com

OBITUARY POLICY

All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may Flags, American symbols, etc.)

Deadlines: Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Jennifer Musztuk

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

For more information call: Jennifer Musztuk 586-826-7115 or Charolette Wilson 586-826-7082

800-579-7355. ask for Jennifer or Charolette

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: religious

e-mail your obit to 586-826-7318

or tall free

Day of service

A Day of Service and Spirituality is available by the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the Solanus Casey Center. The purpose of the day is to serve, meet and have one's faith grow. The day allows groups to help at the Capuchin Services Center and dine with guests at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

A tour of the Earth Works urban garden, which provides six tons of produce each season, will also be made available. The day concludes with a self-guided tour of the Solanus Casey Center, a spirituality center dedicated to the Capuchin friar who is credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. The minimum age is 7th grade and the maximum size of the group is 30. The day starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. There is no cost. Lunch included. For information, send e-mail to ccrane@ thecapuchins.org.

To learn more about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, visit www.cskdetroit.

Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Sunday, Adult Bible Class at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship at 10:30 a.m., at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights. For more information, call (313) 278-5755.

Worship

Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship Service with nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for tots through high school and Adult Faith Forum at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414

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, Youth Group 5-7 p.m. and Catechism for Grown-ups 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Trinity Church of Livonia, 34500 Six Mile. For information, call (734) 425-2800.

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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

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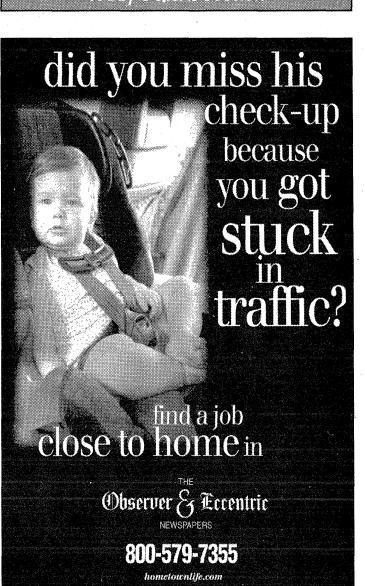
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29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries) MASS: Tues. 7 p, Wed., Thurs. 9 a, Sat. 4 p, Sun 11a

St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church 32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616 (between Merriman & Farmington Roads) MASS: Mon. 8:30 a, Fri. 8:30 a, Sat. 6 p, Sun 9a

CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

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Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church

33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City, MI 48135 Pastor: Eddie Petreaca Meetings on Saturdays for: Early Morning Bible & Health Class-8 a.m Worship Service-English-9:30 a.m.

Bible Studies English & Spanish (All Ages) 11:00 a.m. Wednesdays:

Prayer Meeting-7 p.m

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Aldersgate www.redfordaldersgate.org

Canton, MI 734-495-0035 Rev. Merlin Pratt

Prayer Hour Thursday 7:30 www.cherryhillumc.org

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CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

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

734-453-0970

Clarenceville United Methodist

Redford 2 blocks South of United Methodist 10000 Beech Daly 1313-937-3170

Cherry Hill United Methodist 321 S. Ridge Road Worship 10:30

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Stevenson gridders can't capitalize on breaks, fall to Rockford

BY BRAD EMONS OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Stevenson received a couple of bridge loans, but in the end it couldn't bail out the Spartans from going bankrupt in Saturday's 27-13 Division 1 state football semifinal setback against Rockford.

The Spartans mustered only 100 yards total offense and scored their only points off a pair of first-half Rockford turnovers in their quest to return the state finals for the second straight year at Detroit's Ford Field. Stevenson was left literally out in the cold at Michigan State University's Spartan Stadium and finish the season with a 10-3 record.

Rockford, 12-1 overall, will be seeking its third state title in school history against Saturday night's other semifinal winner between Dearborn Fordson and Lake Orion.

The Rams were missing lead running back Aaron Kwekel, who was out with an injury suffered in the previous week, but it didn't matter.

"We had trouble controlling them up front - they're so quick and athletic," Stevenson coach Tim Gabel said. "They blocked the heck out of us and it's a tribute to them the way

they executed without their good

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, November 27, 2008

"We did not execute well offensively - we did not get off blocks and they did."

Rockford took the opening drive 68 yards in 12 plays with Ryan Cochran scoring off an inside trap from 9 yards out. Paul Mudgett's extra point with 7:09 left in the first quarter made it 7-0.

The first drive was beautiful, it had me excited," Rockford coach Ralph Munger said. "We had a good mix of the run and pass - right down to the script. I only altered a couple of plays.

Drew Maroe's 59-yard punt return set up another Rockford first-quarter score – another inside 8-yard trap by Cochran for a touchdown with 5:31 left.

Stevenson's Kyle Hobbins and Wyatt Stahl then teamed up to block a Rockford punt, putting the ball on the Rams' 14 with 46 seconds left in the first period.

Three plays later and helped by a pass interference call, the Spartans got on the board with 11:50 in the first half when Wade Stahl scored on a 6-yard TD run.

But Jonny Myshock's extra point

attempt was blocked by Rockford's Josh Osbun, leaving the count at

Stevenson then pulled to within one, 14-13, when senior Mark Grisa made the first of his two fumble recoveries after Rockford return man Cam Lawson fumbled the ensuing kickoff at his own 28.

Aided by another pass interference call against the Rams, Stevenson quarterback Jacob Gudeman scored from 1-yard out and Myshock converted the PAT to make it a one-point game.

Stevenson then forced another Rams turnover when Grisa pried the ball loose from Rockford receiver Pat Doss after a 19-yard gain and recovered it at his own 37.

But the Spartans went three-andout and had to punt.

It was all Rams from that point on as Mudgett booted a 39-yard field goal and Alex Rojas scored on a 6-yard TD run (following a Gabe Speirs interception) to increase the lead to 24-13 at intermission.

Mudgett then connected on a 33yard field goal with 6:30 remaining in the third quarter and the Spartans couldn't respond after venturing twice inside Rockford territory.

Rockford had a total of 14 first downs to Stevenson's eight.

'We had a lot of unfavorable downs and distance," Gabel said. "Our goal was to avoid that. We knew we couldn't have second-andlong, third-and-longs because then they would bring a man under and their safeties over the top. It made it hard on us.

"Our game plan was to be spreadoriented and try and run out of the I. Most of our success was on fourthand-short when we ran out of the I (formation).'

The Rams held Stevenson's standout junior running back Austin White to 44 yards on 18 carries. Meanwhile, Gudeman's string of pinpoint passing games came to a halt as he was sacked three times in the final quarter and completed only 4-of-17 attempts overall for 20 yards.

Rockford had a total of 286 total yards, including 147 on 38 attempts on the ground. Quarterback Tim McGee was highly efficient, completing 9-of-14 for 121 yards.

"It comes down to schemes and the execution of the schemes," Munger said. "But it won't work

unless you play your tails off. Today we played from the soles of our feet to the top of the helmet. It was just awesome.

Last year, Stevenson won 13

straight before falling to Macomb Dakota in the Division 1 final, 41-21. Grisa was one of only four starters returning from that squad.

'We knew we had to go out and play with heart and we had to be tough - but it did not work out for us," said the 6-foot, 162-pound senior. "This year was a lot more challenging. Last year had a lot more seniors. We had some hard times, but we played through it and played our hearts out. We had a great run."

Despite the season-ending loss, Gabel could take solace in his team's development from the opening day of practice.

'In my mind it was not a good beginning of the year, but they came a long way and we found our identity in the playoffs," the 13th year coach said. "We feel like we improved a whole-lot in all phases. And the credit goes to the kids who continued to work hard."

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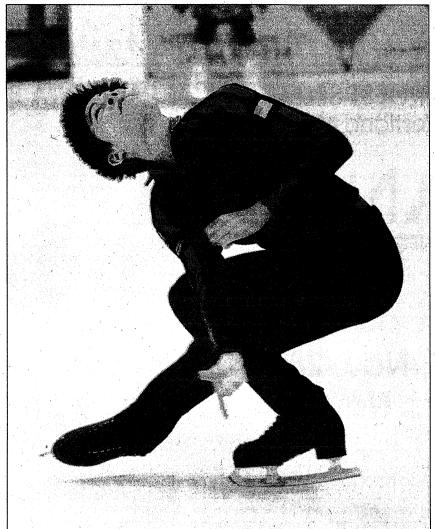
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Matthew Ko practices a flying sit-spin Monday night at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Madison DeLuca warms up Monday night at the Arctic



Katia Shpilband executes a haircutter maneuver.

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"But the bottom line is you have to skate really well during the qualifying competitions. There were 70 talented girls competing in Midland and only five qualified for the nationals. Katia (who placed first) and Delaney (who placed third) were able to perform well at that moment.

Hoberercht, a sixth-grader at Discovery Middle School in Canton, has been skating competitively for "four or five years," she said.

"I love competing," she said. She trains six days a week, including many two-

hour shifts that begin at 5:30 a.m. What advice would she give to young skaters

who would like to follow her path to national prominence some day? 'Work hard and always do your very best."

DeLuca, a seventh-grader at Holmes Middle School in Livonia, has been skating since she was She said she never gets tired of the rigorous, six-

days-a-week training regimen. 'It's fun every day," said DeLuca, who calls the

"double flip, double toe" maneuver her favorite. Shpilband has skated since she was 3, but she's been around the sport since before she could walk. Her dad is highly renowned coach Igor Shpilband, who guided Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto to an Olympic silver medal in 2006.

"Skating gives me a good feeling," she said. "I love coming here every day."

As does Ko, despite the fact he has a two-anda-half-hour round-trip drive from his home in north-central Ohio.

"I've been coming up here for five years because I really like my coach (Gary Clark)," said the 15year-old Ko. "There's always something different to work on. No two days are the same.'

The national championships are set for Dec. 8-13 in Lake Placid, N.Y. More than 300 skaters from across the country are expected to compete in the four-day event.

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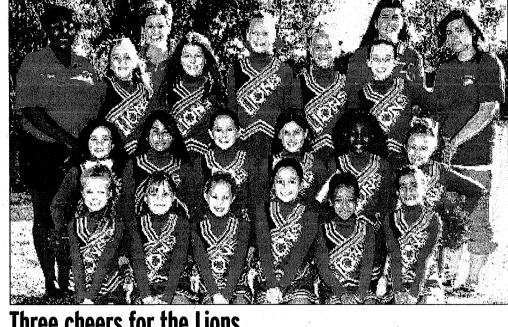
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The Canton Lions freshmen cheerleaders captured a pair of medals — a gold in cheer and a silver in dance — at the 2008 WSJFL Cheery Rally, which was held Nov. 8 at Walled Lake Northern High School. Pictured are (front row from left) Kara Timko, Sophia Smock, Rosemarie Bowen, Maigan Byars, Shelby Parker, Taylor Burgos, (middle row from left) Kara Constantino, Alexia Barbosa, Lindsey Redmond, Rachel Auer, Ryan Fisher, (third row from left) Sarah Philyaw, Laura Miazga, Megan McKenzie, Taylor Tyszkiewicz, Jessica Krone, (back row from left) coaches Andrea, Jennifer, Michelle and Megan.

Plymouth icers take opener, 5-2

Plymouth's hockey team ignited its 2008-09 season Saturday with a 5-2 triumph over host Romeo. The Wildcats converted 3-of-5 power-play opportunities and outshot Romeo, 21-11.

Mike Justus earned the victory between the pipes for the winners.

Five different players scored goals for Plymouth: Ryan Renault, John Deal, Tyler Sanders, Zach Gambrell and Pat

PREP HOCKEY Smiatacz, Renault, Sanders and

Smiatacz (two) also contributed assists. **SALEM 3, BLOOMFIELD HILLS UNIFIED 3:** On Saturday, the Rocks battled

Bloomfield Hills to a draw in

the season-opener for both

Senior Adam Powers played well in net for Salem, stopping

The Rocks fired 42 pucks at the Bloomfield Hills goalie.

David Russell (from Josh Jarvela and Steve Haburne), Kurt Driscoll (from Ryan Quigley and Haburne) and Shawn Lyons (from Driscoll and Eddie Mazorowicz) scored for the Rocks.

Bloomfield Hills Unified consists of players from Bloomfield Hills Lahser and Andover high schools.

- Advertisement -

Michigan Eye Doctor Helps Legally Blind

Dr. Sheldon Smith fits special glasses to help those with macular degeneration and other eye conditions keep reading and driving.

By Elena Lombardi

Most of us take things like reading, watching TV or playing cards for granted. But poor vision from conditions like macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetes or cataracts makes these tasks difficult or even impossible. When people have insufficient vision to do the things they want to do, they have low vision.

Today Michigan Optometrist Dr. Sheldon Smith has the answers many of these people have been seeking. Dr. Smith, a Low Vision Specialist, helps people with these types of eye diseases see better. A Fellow of the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists, Dr. Smith is one of a select group of doctors serving the visually impaired.

"People don't know there are experienced doctors who can help them with specialized low vision care," says Dr. Smith. "Many people hear from their own doctors that nothing can be done for their eye disease, but there are ways to improve vision" says Dr. Smith. "I devise special glasses to help patients meet their various visual goals.

Patients often end up using weak, clumsy hand-held magnifiers trying to see. Conversely, Dr. Smith prescribes hands-free devices that are easier to use. "We use the same telescopic devices surgeons use during operations," says Dr. Smith. "That's how powerful and convenient they are."

Special prismatic reading glasses and microscopes help make reading a little easier. Telescopic glasses primarily focus on distance objects like TV, passing neighbors or scenery. Telescopes can also be adapted to closer tasks like playing cards or computers. "Telescopes can even help people meet the driver vision requirement," Dr. Smith explained.
Michigan is one of 46 states that allow bioptic telescopic glasses for driving.

Mr. Don Liptak, age 74 of Livonia, Michigan saw Dr. Smith last January. Don had macular degeneration and was on strong chemotherapy for leukemia. Don had 20/ 60 vision and sought help with reading,



driving and the computer. The doctor prescribed a system of three low vision aids that addressed all of Don's objectives.

"These are better for the computer than anything else I've tried," Don said. "Last week I went out in my '66 Mustang convertible and the glasses helped me see things far away. It's hard losing your independence but these glasses make my life easier."

Many activities require their own unique device, such as reading and driving. The extent of each system varies as people have differing visual ability and range of interests. Special reading glasses start at \$600 and most custom telescopes cost from \$1800 to \$2500. Interest free financing is available.

"Each patient has a unique amount of vision and their own goals," says Smith, "so I help patients do what matters most to them. We train patients to use their remaining vision and their devices to meet the challenges of daily living. Also safeguarding present vision levels is crucial. Sun filters and nutritional supplements can improve vision and prevent further sight

If you or someone you know is struggling with their vision, call Dr. Smith to find out how low vision care can help improve quality of life. There is help available. You just need to know where to find it.

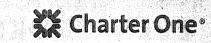
You can reach Dr. Smith and Suburban Low Vision of Michigan at

1-877-677-2020.

Dr. Smith has offices in Livonia, Warren and Greater Lansing. Visit Suburban Low Vision of Michigan at suburbaneyecare.com or find out more about the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists at ialvs.com.

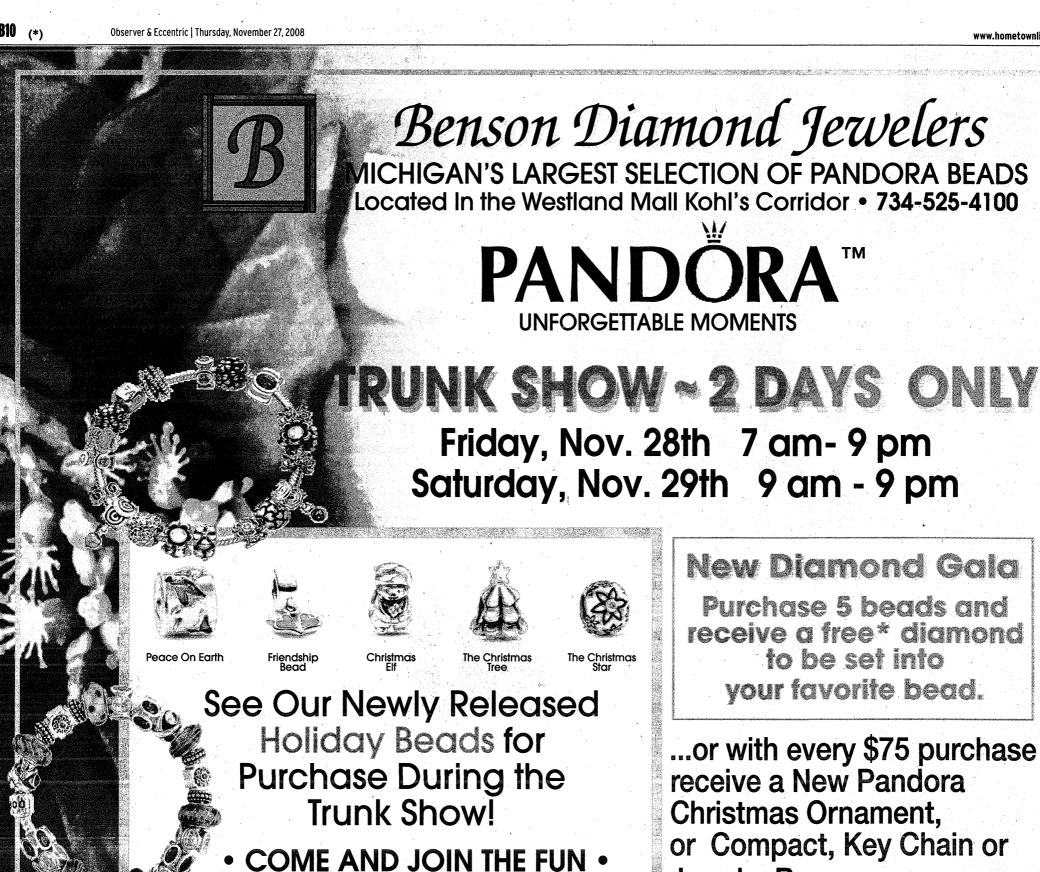
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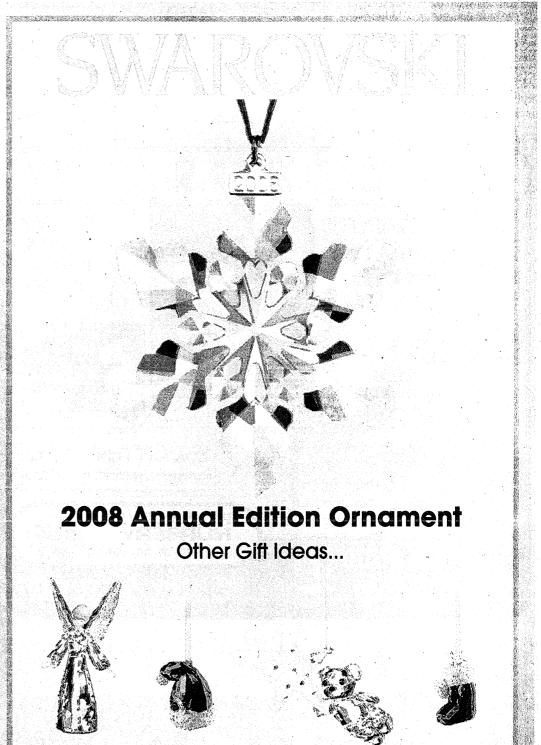
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Busy real estate pros embrace new technology

BY JULIE BROWN **O&E STAFF WRITER**

Expanding technologies are helping Realtors grow their businesses and create stronger relationships with consumers and colleagues. Realtors attending the recent **Business Technology and Information** Systems Forum at the 2008 Realtors Conference & Expo in Orlando, Fla., gained insights into how real estate technologies are transforming the industry.

According to the 2008 Realtor Technology Survey – an annual survey conducted by the National Association of Realtors' Center for REALTOR Technology - Realtors invest heavily in technology, with almost half of respondents spending between \$500 and \$2,000 on technology last year. The most popular devices Realtors use include digital cameras, desktop and laptop computers and cell phones.

"I think Realtors have been very good at adopting," said Walt Baczkowski, CEO of the Troy/Clinton-Township-based Metropolitan Consolidated Association of Realtors, including Oakland and Wayne counties. He agreed with the national survey findings.

"Definitely, with the Internet taking off as much as it has," Baczkowski said. Realtor Gordon McCann, president of the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors, based in Farmington, agreed.

"We use BlackBerry," he said. "You're using digital cameras." He and colleagues at Coldwell Banker Schweitzer-Bake in Plymouth can take up to 25 photos of one property.

We can put it into our multiple listing service," McCann said. He's found as software catches up with hardware there's a "seamless integration."

"You have a visual component right there," McCann said of the digital photos, which can be incorporated into listing fliers and sent to other agents.

"Realtors are industry innovators and there is no doubt that technology has had an impact on the way we conduct the real estate business," said 2008 NAR President-elect Charles McMillan, who participated in the Orlando forum. "In a rapidly changing environment, keeping up with the latest business technology trends is no longer a nice-to-have, it's become an essential tool for success.

McMillan asked Joel Burslem, vice president of content at Inman News, a leading real estate news publication, to share his insights into emerging trends in real estate, changes in the way real estate news is covered, and the impor-



tance of technology in facilitating international real estate as markets expand globally.

Gary Kenline, 2008 chair of NAR's **Business Technology and Information** Systems Forum, headed a panel composed of Alex Chaparro of Century 21 S.G.R. Inc.; Katherine Kaghaz of Shorewood Realtors; and Shannon Williams King of TriBella Realty.

Chaparro employs technology tools in his real estate business for education, office retention and recruiting as well as social networking sites that foster strong relationships with consumers and help him recruit other agents.

According to the Realtor Technology Survey, 33 percent of Realtors participate in social networking sites or blogs for real estate. The most popular sites among Realtors include Facebook (10 percent), ActiveRain (8 percent) and their personal blog (7 percent).

"It's also the ability to utilize the programs," said MCAR's Baczkowski, noting buyers can now take virtual tours of homes. A Web site can be created for an individual home, and he stresses "knowing how to interpret the data that's coming back to me."

"It is a huge growth area." Baczkowski said of social networking sites and blogs. Customers, especially younger ones, are asking "How can I get a hold of you?" If there are difficulties answering, those customers may

hesitate, Baczkowski's found.

McCann and wife Sharon have their own site and use a site through Coldwell Banker. They use FaceBook, and he noted WWOCAR offers training on podcasts and other technology.

"Any time new technology comes out you have to learn to use it," McCann said. There's also a lot of text messaging in the industry now.

"Embrace the technology, find out what works best with your clients and then integrate into your way of doing business," McCann advised.

"Realtors have to be way up to speed on what's happening and what's available," Baczkowski said. He's found there are early adapters, good at getting online and communicating with customers.

"The No. 1 issue we hear out there is lack of communication," he said. That's true in other fields like banking.

"If you look at some industries, response time is sometimes two days Baczkowski said.

"You have to build up trust and develop a relationship," McCann said. New technology can help with initial contact, with both sides "willing to invest the time. That makes for a better transaction.'

King said technology has enabled her to run a full-service real estate office entirely over the Web. King's virtual real estate office allows her and her

tech-savvy agents to productively run their real estate businesses from their homes or on the road.

Kaghazi said her real estate office successfully selected, tested and implemented transaction management software to improve efficiency, manage transaction activities and better connect to homebuyers and sellers.

Baczkowski noted MCAR and other associations for Realtors offer training on technology. He recently wrote an article on the ongoing need for eye-to-

Let's say you're a Realtor and are showing a home. "Don't walk in in front of them," he said. "Body language is very important." Hunched shoulders will tell a Realtor that customer's not reacting well to the

Things are happening fast and furious out there," Baczkowski added." Real estate pros need to consider longterm viability of technologies, and what will make a difference.

"Learn the basic items that you need for your business," Baczkowski said. According to the Realtor

Technology Survey, use of automated forms and transaction management software continues to rise. Twenty-six percent use a transaction management system, which electronically tracks each step of the real estate process, up from 13 percent in 2005. Another 68 percent of those surveyed use an automated forms management program to help streamline the paperwork involved in a transaction.

"While technology has certainly helped improve the business of real estate, strong personal relationships will always be critical to a Realtor's success," said McMillan.

In fact, Realtor Technology Survey respondents have consistently cited referrals and repeat business as the top sources for generating the greatest number of leads. Forty-six percent of respondents said that more than half of their business comes from referral clients. The most popular ways to maintain relationships with current clients is through phone calls (50 percent), e-mail (43 percent) and in-person meetings (51 percent).

The 2008 Realtor Technology Survey was based on data from field research conducted in July 2008. CRT e-mailed the survey to 40,000 NAR members, including Realtor brokers and agents, and generated 942 usable responses. Full survey results are available at www.realtor.org/technol-

The NAR Web site contributed to this report.

41864 Yeats Dr

478 Arthur St

44854 Lynn Dr 523 McKinley St

Tree damage may prompt liability

Q: The root system of a large sweet gum tree located several feet from our border line damaged our retaining wall running along the boundary line and also damaged our patio, sewer, water pipes and the foundation of our townhouse. Do we have any basis to seek damages or other relief?



Robert Meisner

believe you do and you should seek an injunction against neighbor. In effect,

you would

A: I

have a basis to pursue your neighbor under a nuisance liability whenever trees and plants can cause actual harm or pose an imminent danger of actual harm to adjoining property.

Q: We just got notice from our management company that we have to make our management payments to a governmental agency and I am concerned although the other board members don't think it is any big deal. What is your view on

A: I think it raises a red flag which you should review with your association's attorney, assuming the attorney is not beholden to the management company, and was not recommended by the management company, in which case there may be an unholy alliance. Simply stated, you should insure that the management company and its principals are properly bonded to the extent that they handle your funds, and you should keep a close look out for any discrepancies in the financial statements. Moreover, you may not wish the risk of having this management company represent your association given their apparent financial difficulties. You may want to consider another management company that has a sounder financial footing.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates. com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

BRIEFS

Real Estate Agents, Appraising & Staging

Thinking about a career in real estate? Is working in real estate your dream? Keller Williams Realty is seeking experienced or non-experienced people in the real estate field. The candidates must be hard working and have a passion for learning.

There's a free seminar every week: Tuesday or Saturday, 11 a.m. to noon at 27555 Executive Drive (off West 12 Mile and Halsted), Farmington Hills 48331.

For more details, contact Steve Leibhan, (248) 553-0400, Ext. 2500.

Tips for buyers

Realtor Paul Schwartz of Prudential Cranbrook Realtors in Birmingham will review the things a buyer needs to know and accepting new buyer clients on a space available basis at a presentation Thursday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. at his office, 34122 Woodward Ave. in Birmingham. Reservations are needed. For reservations, e-mail: paul4realtor@yahoo. com (www.paul4realtor.com).

His phone numbers are — direct: (248) 539-7283, office: (248) 647-6400, fax: (248) 258-1024.

Investors

Learn about "The Art of House Foreclosure Short Sales" from Steve Dillon. Sponsored by the Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland on Thursday, Dec. 11, at 5:30-9:30 p.m. at MSU Management Education Center, 811 W. Square Lake Road, Troy. Seminar free to members. \$20 nonmembers. Call (800) 747-6742.

These are the Observer & Eccentric-area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 4-8, 2008, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office, plus some from Oakland County. Listed below are cit

| nd sales prices. | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Canton | |
| 50573 Black Horse Ln | \$165,000 |
| 118 Country Club Ln | \$330,000 |
| 241 Country Club Ln | \$352,000 |
| 50119 Monroe St | \$110.000 |
| 47795 Ormskirk Dr | \$135,000 |
| Farmingtor | 1 |
| 35492 Heritage Ln | \$175.000 |
| 23294 Longacre Ct | \$240,000 |
| 33205 Meadowlark St | \$160,000 |
| Farmington H | |
| 27096 Arden Park Cir | \$159,000 |
| 35151 Concord Ln | \$171,000 |
| 31208 Country Ridge Cir | \$240,000 |
| 34051 Edmonton St | \$169,000 |
| 32401 W 13 Mile Rd | \$140,000 |
| Garden City | |
| 28741 Bridge St | \$130,000 |
| 28247 Maplewood St | \$132,000 |
| Livonia | |
| 20030 Antago St | \$100,000 |
| 14210 Auburndala Ct | . \$222,000 |

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| City | | |
| | \$130,000 | |
| | \$132,000 | |
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| | \$100,000 | |
| | \$223,000 | |
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| 16111 Golfview St | \$280,0 |
|------------------------|---------|
| 16111 Golfview St | \$280,0 |
| 31123 Grennada St | \$153,0 |
| 36003 Grennada St | \$223,0 |
| 14926 Hix St | \$159,0 |
| 33605 Michele St | \$131,0 |
| 32240 Oakley St | \$153,0 |
| 16971 Pollyanna St | \$155,0 |
| 16831 Riverside St | \$225,0 |
| 15336 Shadyside St | \$196,0 |
| Milford | |
| 3121 Bradford Ct | \$65,0 |
| 3450 W Buno Rd | \$255,0 |
| Northville | |
| 47778 Arbor Trl | \$345,0 |
| 44694 Broadmoor Cir N | \$374,0 |
| 37676 W Meadowhill Dr | \$285,0 |
| 49096 Rainbow Ln N | \$326,0 |
| 48964 Rainbow Ln S | \$310,0 |
| 48992 Running Trout Ln | \$137,0 |
| 39588 Village Run Dr | \$215,0 |
| 1080 Washington Cir | \$155,0 |
| Novi | |
| 42031 Aspen Dr | \$327,0 |
| 28389 Carlton Way Dr | \$166,0 |
| 43128 Emerson Way | \$270,0 |
| 31211 Kingswood Blvd | \$325,0 |
| 27110 Maxwell Ct | \$275.0 |

HOMES SOLD

19343 Bethany St

9109 Deering St 27539 Dover Ave

| | \$200,000 | JES MUNITICY SE |
|----|-----------|---------------------|
| | \$280,000 | 48496 Meadow Ct |
| | \$153,000 | 9232 Northern Ave |
| | \$223,000 | 193 Riveroaks Dr |
| | \$159,000 | 12232 Woodlands C |
| | \$131,000 | Re |
| | \$153,000 | 15870 Beech Daly R |
| | \$155,000 | 18266 Dalby |
| | \$225,000 | 15566 Fox |
| | \$196,000 | 13221 Hemingway |
| 1 | | 17697 Norborne |
| | \$65,000 | 13571 Royal Grand |
| | \$255,000 | 26779 Southwester |
| le | | 27253 W Seven Mile |
| | \$345,000 | 19168 Woodworth |
| | \$374,000 | Sou |
| | \$285,000 | 1049 Birchway Ct |
| | \$326,000 | 61232 Greenwood D |
| | \$310,000 | 59564 Twin Pines D |
| | \$137,000 | We |
| | \$215,000 | 36106 Abbey Dr |
| | \$155,000 | 6913 Chirrewa St |
| | | 2031 E Butler Cir |
| | \$327,000 | 31701 Grandview Av |
| | \$166,000 | 384 Marigold Cir |
| | \$270,000 | 5641 N Karle St |
| | \$325,000 | 38221 S Miller Cir |
| | \$275,000 | 1310 S Wayne Rd |
| | \$222,000 | 35230 University St |
| | \$145,000 | 2-2-3 |
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\$235,000

\$190,000

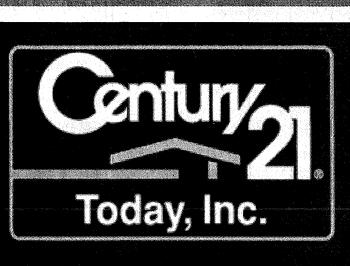
| 193 Riveroaks Dr | \$120,000 |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 12232 Woodlands Ct | \$375,000 |
| Redford | Large Dr |
| 15870 Beech Daly Rd | \$68,000 |
| 18266 Dalby | \$40,000 |
| 15566 Fox | \$85,000 |
| 13221 Hemingway | \$93,000 |
| 17697 Norborne | \$70,000 |
| 13571 Royal Grand | \$109,000 |
| 26779 Southwestern Hwy | \$108,000 |
| 27253 W Seven Mile Rd | \$130,000 |
| 19168 Woodworth | \$90,000 |
| South Lyon | |
| 1049 Birchway Ct | \$295,000 |
| 61232 Greenwood Dr | \$68,000 |
| 59564 Twin Pines Dr | \$152,000 |
| Westland | |
| 36106 Abbey Dr | \$193,000 |
| 6913 Chirrewa St | \$134,000 |
| 2031 E Butler Cir | \$158,000 |
| 31701 Grandview Ave | \$45,000 |
| 384 Marigeld Cir | \$100,000 |
| 5641 N Karle St | \$85,000 |
| 38221 S Miller Cir | \$131,000 |
| 1310 S Wayne Rd | \$158,000 |
| 35230 University St | \$160,000 |
| | |
| | |

\$217,000

\$240,000

\$162,000 \$670,000

\$53,000



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ACROSS

- 5 Honey wine 9 Lanka 12 Ph.D. exam 13 Dog-chow
- 14 Like jalapenos 15 French Legion
- headgear 16 Cracker brand
- 17 Pub pint 18 UK network
- from indifferent
- 22 White mineral
- 25 Ceilings

- 27 Floating flower
- 33 Vintage
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- 28 Place a wager 29 Strategy
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- DOWN
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- 6 Cotton gin

Answer to Previous Puzzle



- 11-29 © 2007 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.
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21 Deadly snake

22 Drain problem

24 Swit co-star

25 Pet shop buy 26 Gossip tidbit

28 — -a-brac 30 "Star Wars'

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- 49 Nabokov novel 50 Garden-pond
- 52 Clod buster

Fun By The

Like puzzles?

sudoku. This mind-bending

Then you'll love

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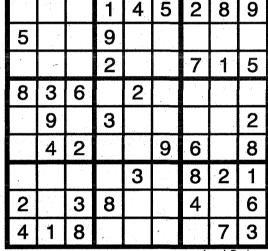
sharpen your

pencil and put

Numbers

53 Kennel sound 54 Cave dweller

SUDOKU



your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

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

KAND -

THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW

BREAD BUTTER **CORN** CRANBERRY DRESSING GRAVY **GREEN BEANS** ICE CREAM

POTATOES PUMPKIN PIE TURKEY **YAMS**

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

| E | T | T | G | R | A | \mathbf{V} | Y | U | P |
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SEEKANDFIND

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Clawson

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FARMINGTON HILLS 3

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Observer office36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia Hours8:30 - 5:00 Monday - Friday POLICY

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Plymouth

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| | | ll | | | | |
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| Ameriplus Mortgage Corp. | (248) 740-2323 | 5.875 | ٥ | 5.625 | 0.25 | J/A |
| BRINKS Financial | (800) 785-4755 | 5.375 | 1.125 | 5.125 | 1.375 | J/A/V/F |
| Central States Mortgage | (866) 580-3738 | 5.625 | 0 | 5.5 | 0 | J/A/V/F |
| Client Services by Golden Rule | (800) 991-9922 | 5.875 | 0 | 5.5 | 0.25 | J/A/V/F |
| Co-op Services Credit Union | (734) 466-6113 | 6.25 | o | 6 | 0 | J |
| Comerstone Community Financial | (800) 777-6728 | 6.125 | 1 | 5.375 | 1 | J/A/F |
| Countrywide Home Loans | (800) 641-2384 | 6.375 | 1.875 | 5.875 | 1.875 | J/A/V/F |
| Dearborn Federal Savings Bank | (313) 565-3100 | 6.25 | 0 | 6 | 0 | A |
| DFCU Financial | (800) 739-2770 | 5.75 | 2.25 | 5.625 | 2.25 | J/A |
| Fifth Third Bank | (800) 792-8830 | 6 | 0.375 | 5.875 | 0 | J/V/F |
| Gold Star Mortgage | (800) 203-1546 | 5.875 | o | 5.5 | 0.25 | J/A/V/F |
| Golden Rule Mortgage | (800) 991-9922 | 5.75 | 0.25 | 5.5 | 0.125 | J/A/V/F |
| Group One Mortgage | (248) 282-1602 | 6.25 | 0 | 6.5 | 0 | J/A/V/F |
| Mortgages by Golden Rule | (800) 991-9922 | 5.75 | 0.25 | 5.5 | 0.25 | J/A/V/F |
| Michigan United Mortgage | (810) 844-2222 | 5.625 | 0.625 | 5.375 | 0.5 | J/A |
| National City Bank | (586) 825-0825 | 5.75 | 1.25 | 5.25 | 1.625 | A/L |
| Northlawn Financial | (248) 988-8488 | 5.625 | 0 | 5.5 | . 0 | J/A/V/F |
| Shore Mortgage | (800) 678-6663 | 5.375 | 2 | 5.125 | 2 | J/A/V/F |

Above Information available as of 11/21/08 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000

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4020

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\$1399. 888-546-6521 ext. 115 LIVONIA - Updated 3 bdrm, bath ranch, A/C, new carpet 2 car garage, auto opener. Sec 8 ok, \$785/mo. (248) 342-2326 WESTLAND - 3 bdrm ranch, 2 PLYMOUTH 3 bdrm, 2 bath

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furniture, framed art, TVs, & much more! Don't miss this one! Sale 2.) Fri.-Sat., Nov 28-29, 10-4pm. at 900 Van Rd., Holly, 48442-Take 1-75 N. from Square Lake Rd. to Grange Hall Rd., # 101, go E. on Grange Hall Rd. 1 ½ miles to dirt road.

straight to first driveway to 900 Van Rd. "Magnificent Shalet

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28-29, 10-4pm. at 1817 Dell Rose, Bloomfield Hills- Take Middlebelt N. to Square Lake Rd., go on Square Lake Rd. to Maplewood, go N. & turn right at Dell Rose.
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28, 29, 30, 10-4pm. 7130 **Moving Sales**

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Free Ads: Free ads placed in this section are not guaranteed- to run every week. Be sure to renew your ad frequently to keep it fresh. Guidelines: Personals are for adults 18 or over seeking monogamous relationships. To ensure your safety, carefully screen all responses and have first meetings occur in a public place. This publication reserves the right to edit, revise, or reject any advertisement at any time at its sole discretion and assumes no responsibility for the content of or replies to any ad. Not all ads have corresponding voice messages. To review our complete quidelines, call (617) 425-2636

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HONEY BLONDE SBF seeks down-to-earth SM, 25-65, with morals and values, who knows how to have fun in life, is family-oriented. 2:294929

COULD IT BE YOU?

SBF, 44, professional, hard-working, independent,enjoys church, shopping, more. Looking for a SPM, 44, employed, open-minded, warm-hearted and considerate, to share all life has to offer. 2235988

DOWN-TO-EARTH DOWN-TO-EARTH
Asian woman, 52", 10lbs, slim, attractive, independent, loving, caring, enjoys movies, fine dining, travel, quiet times at home. Seeking very handsome WAM, 47-56, NS, clean-shaven, HW proportionate, for friendship first.

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Attractive, sexy BF, 34, seeks true gentleman.
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WARM SMILE SBF, 21, N/S, looking for SM, 21-40, for friend-ship first, possibly more. Call me, let's talk and get to know each other! \$\mathbf{T287187}\$

ONLY SERIOUS NEED REPLY Voluptuous SBF, 42, would like to meet a nice, seerious SBM, 35-50, who would like to become acquainted with a woman and who is ready, willing, and able to commit. \$\frac{\pi}{273603}\$

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me for me. 2294943 THAT SPECIAL ONE SBF, 39, enjoys movies, walks in the park, picnics, just chilling. Looking for SBM, 39-45, for possible relationship. \$\pi 295026\$

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Can you handle me? SBF, mid 40s, healthy and beautiful, seeks strong, bald BM, 40-62, who knows how to handle his own business. I'm laidback, gentle, soft. 2295568

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Bright, spunky, pretty SF, 47, educator, outgoing, pretty eyes, wishing to meet a kind Jewish man, 45-60, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter, \$23,064 and laughter. 2230694

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I am in my early 60s, 5'2", brown/brown, I enjoy dancing, outdoors, and travel. Seeking a companion, 60-70, and maybe a relationship. Please call. 7982305 SEEKING LOVING KINDNESS?

SBPF, 55, 54", interested in developing new friendships, maybe more. Seeks energetic, N/S SM, 40-65, that loves reading, midnight picnics, walking, and exciting conversations. Must have walking, and exciting conversations. A good SOH and self-worth. 2282618 HELLO THERE Asian woman, 5'2", 180lbs, slim, attractive, health-conscious, vegetarian, N/D, N/S. Enjoys dining, movies, quiet times. Seeking clean-cut, fit, attractive, respectful, professional Asian or White male for dating and possibly more. \$\frac{113901}{2}\$

A WOMAN OF CLASS
SWF, 68, looks younger, in search of a SWM, 62-69, who likes movies, dining, theater. Is it you? \$\frac{\pi}{271085}\$

BEAUTIFUL SBF. 37, seeks SWM, 30-50, who is spontaneous and knows how to have fun. Casual relationship first, maybe leading to more. \$\frac{\pi}{27271683}\$

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Cute, outgoing woman, 40, loves animals, the outdoors. Seeking honest, clean, honorable, compassionate gentleman, 40s-early 50s, for friendship, dating, possible LTR. \$\mathbf{T}\$295421

WHY NOT CALL?
SBF, full-figured, seeks a SM, 37-80, for friend-ship, possible LTR. Call me, let's get together and get to know each other. 2217234

READY FOR A FRESH START? READY FOR A FRESH START?
DWF, 47, 5'5", 120lbs, long blonde/blue, well-proportioned, very terminine, attractive, self-employed. Seeking SWM, 45-57, 6'1"+, 225lbs+, good sense of humor, energetic, traveler, outdoorsman, adventurer, manly gentleman. \$\pi\cite{692549}\$

GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR? WF, 48, 5'3", brown/brown WF, 48, 5'3", brown/brown, has pets, N/S, great sense of humor, looking for WM, 45-55, who likes dining out, museums, movies, reading and more, to do things with. \$\frac{1}{280581}\$

ARE YOU THE ONE? SF, 41, 5'4", dark complexion, brown eyes, short hair, looking to meet an honest, loyal, funny man, 37-55, to spend a lot of time together. DOWN-TO-EARTH

Easygoing DWF, early 50s, would like to meet a really nice WM, 50-65, with the same qualities, minimal baggage, to share the ups and downs of life. Seeking possible LTR. 2279171

MUSICAL GIRL
Christian WF, 19, enjoys playing guitar, singing, going to church and more. Looking for SM, 19-25, who enjoys the same things. \$\overline{x}\$292258 ARE YOU LONELY?

Attractive female, 5'5", 120lbs, fun-loving blonde, retired, would love a little of your time to enjoy each other's company. Seeking pleasant gentleman, 65-75. \$\oldsymbol{\pi}891247

Good looking SBF, hwp. intelligent, mature, spiritual, seeking a SM, 5'7" +, 40-50, physically fit, good looking inside and out, loving, who likes traveling, for friendship first leading to LTR. 17147056 SINGLE DAD WELCOME

SINGLE DAD WELCOME
PBF, 40, looks younger, attractive, independent, loving, caring, enjoys working, dining out, quiet times at home. Seeking handsome, well-built, warm-hearted, considerate WM, 36-43, to share what life has to offer. 12 298002

HOMEBODY SEEKS SAME
SBF, 44, 5'2", 165lbs, black hair, brown eyes, light complexion, N/D, N/S, enjoys movies, bowling, dining, plays, concerts, reading. Seeking SBM, 39-51. **12284368** SEARCHING FOR A MAN...

40-60, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter. I'm a 47-year-old who's bright, spunky and pretty. Only Jewish men please. 27962317

CURVACEOUS
SWF, 47, 57" 155lbs, hazel eyes, dimples, enjoys r&b music, jazz, dancing, dining out, blues, sports. Seeking SBM, 21-42, with similar interests, for friendship first, possibly more. \$\frac{\pi}{2283605}\$ CALLING ALL GOLFERS!

WIWF, 62, seeking golfer, best friend, 62-70, must be honest, N/S, and active. Looking for LTR, don't delay call now. 2976914

Sincere, kind SWF, 53, proportionate, 5'6", 124lbs, professional, attractive, intelligent and educated, loves music, dancing, motorcycles, outdoors, movies and creative pursuits. Seeking attractive gentleman, 42-53, with like interests/qualities, for friendship/LTR. 2245846 PRETTY COMIC BOOK NERD

BEAUTIFUL MAKEUP ARTIST

PRETTY COMIC BOOK NERD SWF. 21, red hair, blue eyes, 510°, 165lbs, mature body/mind, locking for a lonely handsome man, 20-30, race open, clean-out, open-minded, who can make me laugh and who is witty. \$\mathbf{T}_292913\$

GET TO KNOW ME
Loving, open-minded SBF, 60, 145lbs, attractive, enjoys music, dining, concerts, travel, ISO honest, compassionate SM, 57-65, N/S. Possibla LTB x0693760. sible LTR. 22963760

STILL SEEKING
Very cute SBF, 57, 5'3", 122lbs, interested in fit, good-looking, confident male, 46-59, N/S, intelligent, sincere, down-to-earth, who wants to commit to someone special. 2113198 ARE YOU SEEKING?

DWF, 69, 5¹², Italian, brunette, attractive, well-dressed, sincere, loving, optimistic, likes theater, travel, dining, fitness. Wishing to meet N/S WM, 60-72, financially secure, easygoing, good morals, loves family, for dating. **25630808**

I NEED A LOVE... to keep me happy. Attractive, classy, delightful, charming WF, 49, no kids, seeks SWM, 45+, no kids, N/S, fun, loving, caring. 2568059

CLASSY LADY
SBF, middle-aged, attractive, enjoys dining, movies, plays and bowling, seeks a SM, 48-69, N/S, good sense of humor and good values/morals. 2207254

LET'S GET TOGETHER SBF, 54, 5°8", N/S, enjoys life's simple pleasures. Seeking SB/WM, 48-62, N/S, for friendship or more. 27282444

OUTGOING
BF, 24, student, looking for BM, 35-45, to go out and have fun with. Friendship first, hopefully leading to LTR. \$\oldsymbol{\pi}\$292940 HAVE A GOOD HEART?

WF, 33, 5'5", blonde/green, looking for WM, 22-45, who loves Nascar, classic rock and more.
☎293230 ATTRACTIVE BLONDE
SWF, 55, 5'6", N/S, H/W proportionate, active, fun-loving, likes bike rides, working out, taking walks, autumn. Seeking SW/BM, 45-63, for dating possible LTB 89-96774

ing, possible LTR. 2296774 COUNTRY GIRL
Good-natured, classy, attractive, fun-loving
SWPF, 54, platinum/blue, 5'5", H/W-proportion-

ate, enjoys travel, horseback riding, exercise, dancing, Seeking SWM, 55-65, N/S, N/Drugs, for serious relationship. If you love motorcycles call me. 22759845

LADY IN THE WOODS
SWF, 50, looks younger, blonde/hazel, 5'5", average build, educated, dog lover, classy, sassy and fun, seeking compatible, outdoorsy, rugged, good-hearted male to share the good things in life. Livingston county. 27210247 CHOCOLATE TREAT

Refined, romantic, creative divorcee, enjoys an eclectic lifestyle. Professionally employed, very youthful and fun loving, 60s, enjoys dining, travel, music, the arts, family and friends. Seeking fit non-smoking gentleman, 50+. \$\mathbb{\pi}\$281197

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

SWM 40s, attractive, good shape, great listener, enjoys good conversation, friendship, spontaneous fun, and laughter, seeks personable SWF for dating and more. 27128302

SEEKING A GIRLFRIEND SBM, 35, 6'3", 186lbs, brown eyes, likes singing, travel, basketball. Seeking similar woman, 20-35. **3299411** SEEKING THE RIGHT WOMAN

Male, 5'9", 165lbs, brown/blue, likes horseback riding, camping, long walks, more. Would like to meet a woman for friendship first, possibly leading to 1.17 40.55 ing to LTR. 40-55. 2297398

FIT & FUN-LOVING
Easygoing DWPM, 48, 6', 185lbs, romantic, looking for a woman, 25-50, who can find humor in what life gives us. Open to anything as long as we're laughing. \$\pi 288335\$

LET'S GET TOGETHER BM, 6'1", 220lbs, would like to meet a woman, 25-48, who knows what she wants in life, for fun, dating, companionship and possible LTR. **3299087**

CALL ME!
Educated SBM, 28, N/S, no children, good head on his shoulders, seeks SBF, 21-25, for friend-ship first. \$\frac{\pi}{2299310}\$

HARD-WORKER
SWM, 45, 55", short brown hair, grown kids, enjoys music, playing guitar, travel. Looking for similar SF, 35-45. 17296097 **BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS WANTED**

SBM, early 40s, seeks attractive, younger lady, 28-45, for romance, companionship, must be independent and shapely. Serious replies only. **T684501** LOOKING FOR MZ RIGHT

WiWM, 45, 511", 220lbs, is easygoing, fun-loving, enjoys a variety of activities, indoor/ outdoor. Looking for LTR, with the right person.

LET'S TALK

SWM, 39, 6'3", N/S, dark/blue, enjoys sports, movies, dining. Seeking attractive SB/HF, 18-50, for possible relationship. \$299949 NO DRAMA

NO DRAMA
SBM, 36, 5'11", 166lbs, slim build, medium complexion, well-groomed, D/D-free, N/D, spiritual, drama-free, no children, independent, romantic, college-educated, family-oriented, seeks cute, slim, down-to-earth female, 30-49. \$\mathbf{m}\$299975

A SPECIAL GUY
DWM, 56, 510", handsome and secure, seeks honest S/DWF, w/sense of humor, who enjoys travel, candlelight dinners, plays, dancing, concerts, boating, and movies. Friendship, possible LTR. 7269646

RETIRED GENTLEMAN Fun-loving DWM, 5'9", 160lbs, goatee, light smoker, retired, enjoys camping, movies, travel, more. Seeking W/HF, 55-63, slim to medium build, hopefully LTR. Dark hair a plus. 7984471

EASYGOING
Sharp, sociable SWM, 45, with good character and pleasant personality, likes the outdoors, fishing, motor sports etc. WLTM SWF, for dating and fun times. 22187614

IT COULD BE ME! SWM, 35, 6', brown/blue, muscular build, looking for special SF, 18-31, to hang out with and get to know. 2294679

Ready to meet great new people?

LET'S TALK
SWM, 40, 5'5", loves to party! Looking for a female companion, 18-35, for friendship first, possibly more if it develops! \$\frac{\pi}{2294946}\$

TALK TO MEI
SM, 36, 6'2", 210lbs, medium build, loves working out. Seeking sweet, loving, caring, kind SW/BF, 35-45. 17294942 MATURE WOMAN WANTED

SBM, 38, 61", 2071bs, dark complexion, no kids, N/S, N/Drugs, looking for SBF, 29-40, with same qualities. No dramal 27:295452

WM, 52, 5'6", brown/hazel, likes sports, fishing, camping and spending time with a special lady, 32-45. If you are interested, please call me. \$\pi 298669\$

SWM, 53, semi-retired. I'm friendly, down-to-earth, seeking a WF, who's non-materialistic, and especially someone who enjoys a warm and witty personality. Smoker ok. 2298842

ARE YOU THE ONE? Handsome BM, 39, easygoing, enjoys dining, movies, talks, walks, having fun, quiet times. Looking for compatible SBF, 27-37, who enjoys life. \$\alpha\$290798

NIGHT OUT ON THE TOWN? SWM, nice-looking and friendly seeks interesting female, 35-51, for dating and friendship. 22292944

A GREAT GUY Good-natured, good-looking SWM, 41, energetic, versatile, fun, passionate, into boating, casinos, flea markets. Seeking conversation SWF, for conversation and connection. \$\mathbf{T}176478\$

A WALK AND A TALK
Try this easygoing, lovable SWM, 50, good listener, who enjoys book stores, coffee shops, nature and concerts. I seek a like-minded counterpart for where ever it goes. \$\pi^2\$200890

DOWN-TO-EARTH
Cool, humble BM, looking for a classy lady who is down-to-earth and likes having fun. 20-29. DECENT, GOOD MAN

Faithful, humble, understanding SBM, 56, N/S, with good values and morals, financially independent, looking for love with SF, 50-62, N/S.

HARDWORKING
WM, 50, two children not at home, likes animals,
Nascar, the outdoors, working in the yard and
more. Seeking WF, 34-55, to spend time with
and get to know. \$\mathbf{2296503}\$

NEW TO DETROIT SM in search of that one special woman to bond with. Should be fun, family-oriented, and want a real man in her life! \$296694

WHAT'S UP? SBM, 27, N/S, looking for cool, down-to-earth woman, 20-34, for friendship first, maybe more.

MAXIMUM RETURN ON... your investment. SBM, 5'8", seeks mature, level-headed, down-to-earth female, 30-45, for fun, dating and possible LTR. 2293155

YOU NEED ME SBM, 43, slim, well-groomed, attractive, seek attractive, slim lady to get to know, for dating, maybe more. You won't be disappointed! **17291112**

TAKE A CHANCE
WM, 38, likes cars, all kinds of music, having fun, movies and more Looking for a woman, 30-59, to have fun with. **12296181**

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS
WM, 6'2", 200lbs, light brown/blue, N/S, clean-shaven, down-to-earth, looking for a female, 25-45, H/W proportionate, N/S, for dating.

LET'S TALK
BM looking for BF, 26-54, with good sense of humor, who loves bowling, long walks and more.

1296604

LET'S MEET FOR COFFEE
SWM, 70s, 5'4", N/S, would like to meet a lady,
65-72.1 enjoy taking walks, riding bikes, taking
trips. Seeking SWF, 62-75, for friendship, maybe more. \$275970

READY FOR A RELATIONSHIP
Male, 60, tall, slim, attractive, brown/brown, no
bad habits, would like to meet a nice, sweet,
kind female, 40-70. 2287161 SERIOUS WOMAN WANTED

SERIOUS WOMAN WANTED
SBM, 46, looking for that special persona for
LTR, someone who enjoys walks, movies,
sporting events, cuddling at home. Please be
shapely, independent and know what you want
in life. 27692418 SWM, 49, 5'9", 195lbs, is nuts about nature, enjoys the outdoors, fishing, etc. Seeks compatible

joys the outdoors, tisning, etc. Seen SWF, to have and hold. 2992943 KIND AND COMPASSIONATE
Attractive SWPM, 48, 5'10", 190lbs, N/S, never married, loves outdoors, going to church, traveling, family time, candle light dinners, movies, seeking kind and caring hard-working lady, 30-50, for possible LTR. 2291990

SEEK COMPATIBLE WOMAN WM, youthful 60s, N/S, looking for WF, 50-70, to enjoy quiet evenings and great times together. 2297594

HANDSOME & FUN-LOVING
Sincere, fun-loving, down-to-earth SBM, 44.
ISO romantic, honest, intelligent BF, 25-55, with
great SOH, for companionship, possible LTR.
17968147

JUST ME AND MY DOG WM, 5'11", 180lbs, short dark/green, likes roller-blading, biking, running, the outdoors, animals, more. Looking for SF, 21-37, with a cool personality and can appreciate an awesome guy. \$\frac{\pi}{272374}\$

HONEST AND SINCERE HONEST AND SINCERE
DWM, 52, 5'10", 150lbs, likes roller skating, computers, biking, boating and some old moves.
Seeking SW/HF, slim to medium build, for dating and LTR. 2256288

BOATER SEEKS 1ST MATE
SWM, N/S, good-looking, trustworthy, enjoys
boating; good music, working out. Seeking very
attractive SF, 28-40, race unimportant, for friendship leading to possible LTR. \$\frac{\pi}{2}205048

WANTED: ONE NICE GIRL
SHF, 46, 510°, average build, likes going out and having fun, movies, parties, just chilling and relaxing. Seeking SH/AF, late 30s, for possible relationship. \$\mathbf{T289039}\$

QUALITY TIME TOGETHER
SBM, 42, 6'3", 200lbs+, no children, light smoker, looking for SBF, 35-45, who enjoys bowling, movies, shooting pool. 22:291168

SEMI-RETIRED
SBM, 41, 6'1", 220lbs, N/S, light drinker, likes movies, music, dancing, dining out, travel, bowling and relaxing at home. Seeking SWF, 21-50, with similar interests, to settle down with. 17293532

ARE YOU OUT THERE? SWM, 32, N/S, interested in meeting a lady, 35-42, for friendship first, maybe more. **2290956**

LOOK NO FURTHER SBM, 22, 6', 175lbs, light smoker, no children, looking for SF, 18-30, for friendship first, possi-bly more. \$\mathbb{T}\$291487

SWM, 34, 170lbs, 5'9", into Church of Satan, the macabre, theater, movie critique, music and living. Former musicians eseking woman, 25-40, into the occult and ritual. 22292920

GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR
BM, 6'4", 250lbs, very outgoing, likes having
fun. Would like to meet an attractive, outgoing,
intelligent female, 46-64, who wants to enjoy life.
\$\mathbf{T}\$293433

SEEK LOYAL WOMAN
BM, 6'1", 275lbs, enjoys reading, movies, sports, comedy clubs and more. Would like to meet an intelligent, down-to-earth, sincere, trustworthy, patient BF, 34-50, petite/medium build, to enjoy life with. \$\pi\$293546

EDUCATED, HAPPY MAN SWM, early 30s, 6'2", athletically built. Likes movies, coffee houses, pubs, sports. ISO female with similar interests and a desire for anionship. Open to all ages and race

ARE YOU OUT THERE? SBM, 55, looking for non-smoking, independent female, 25-45, for friendship first, maybe more. \$\pi\cdot294747\$

SBM, 33, 5'7", seeks petite, small SBF, 29-44, who is smart, intelligent and laid-back, has a

DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH
SBM, 5'11", 156lbs, slim build, likes to relax
and chill. Would like to meet a woman, 20-56,
who judges beauty from the inside, like I do.
\$\pi\cup 295446\$

STAND BY YOUR MAN
Smart SWM, 50,5'11", 180lbs, employed, ISO
BF, 25-55, for a real relationship. I like cooking, cuddling and more. \$295474

MUSCULAR AND ATHLETIC
Tall, athletic SWM, 48, 6'2", 200lbs, brown/blue, no dependents, college-educated, clean-cut, good sense of humor, outgoing, seeks friendly SF, for fun. Age/location open. \$2587540

VANILLA SEEKING CHOCOLATE Call me if you desire a nice shape, SWM, blue-eyed blonde, 50-year-old, 180lbs, desires SBF for friendship and definitely romance.

ARE YOU THE ONE?

SBM, 5'7", looking for SB/WF, 18-28, who is good-looking, independent, to get to knowl Friendship possibly leading to something special #5296644

SEEKING SOUL MATE
Nice-looking SWM, 68, H/W-proportionate, 5'9", 165lbs, N/S, social drinker, enjoys shooting pool, movies, dining out. Seeking attractive SWF, 48-60, N/S, H/W-proportionate, petite, loving, adventurous, for friendship, possible LTR. ITALIAN MALE

SM, 56, likes movies, dining out, gardening, just enjoying life. Seeking similar female for companionship. \$\pi 298164\$ ARE WE COMPATIBLE?
Very affectionate, loving SM, enjoys spending time at home, dining out and more. Would like to meet a beautiful woman, 18-49, for dating, hopefully more. \$\pi 258620\$

RETIRED
SWM, 65, smoker, wants to meet a SWF, 48-67, prefer heavyset, for friendship first. I love cooking, devoting time to a loving companion.

WELL-ROUNDED DWM, retired gentleman of independent means, emotionally/financially secure, honest, eclectic, N/S, seeks slender, physically fit woman who loves the outdoors. 2284895

LONELY AND READY
SWM, 65, average build, Italian, Virgo, N/S, looking for a SWF with similar qualities and who's ready for a serious relationship. Call me if interested. Redford. **27860305** TRUE GENTLEMAN WM, 75, would like to meet a female, 65-75, N/S, for friendship, companionship and more.

SOMEONE SPECIAL
SBM, 61, 6'1", H/W proportionate, brown eyes, beautiful smile, affectionate, getting ready to retire, homeowner, loves fishing, vegetable and flower gardens, antiques, walks in the park. Seeking SF, 45-63.

Handsome, mature gent SWM, 50, traditional values, romantic, and thoughtful, enjoys cultural events, antiquing, short trips, etc. Seeking SWF for friendship and companionship. 22176497

TALL AND ATHLE IIU
SWM, 49, 6'2", 200lbs, part-lime personal trainer, brown/blue, degreed, outgoing personality, enjoys outdoors, working out, new activities, seeking friendly SF, age/location open. LOOKING FOR SOULMATE
Attractive SWM, 6'3", 165lbs, N/S, N/D, shy, fit, enjoys carpentry, riding my bicycle, gardening and more. Seeking a SWF, 50-60, with similar interests, for possible LTR. 27248074

TALL AND ATHLETIC

HOW ABOUT THIS ONE Sociable SM, 57, 577, graying brown/blue, mustache, loves music, cooking, Italian food, reading, writing action and romance films, quality conversation nd romance. ISO good-hearted, creative, WF to share these. \$\mathbf{T223744}\$

SEEKS SOULMATE SEERS SOULMATE
SWM seeks brunette, 23-55, who is a little on the shy side, knows how to have fun. \$\frac{\pi}{2268660}\$

LET'S ENJOY LIFE SWM, 5'10", 190lbs, active retiree looking for Black or Asian female, 50+ for long-term re-lationship and possibly more. I enjoy travel, sports, casinos, health clubs and I'm social-drinker. **TP287100**

AM I YOUR MISTER RIGHT?

LEAVE ME A MESSAGE
Spontaneous BM likes working out, riding motorcycles, being outdoors and more. Would like to meet a woman with a similar personality. 35-50. \$\pi\cite{287900}\$ HANDSOME MALE
SBM, 6', HWP, professionally employed, kind, considerate, confident, likes concerts, travel, dining. Seeking WF, 30-58, attractive, passionate, loving, affectionate. 27984967

LET'S MEET UP
SWM, 53, brown/blue, 115lbs, smoker, looking
for a nice, young lady, 18-25, to light up my life.
\$\mathbf{T}290675'\$



My ad was exciting enough for you to call - now excite me with your message! Too many of you just leave a name and number. Would you call back if you were me? Try telling me what you look like, what you enjoy and what kind of date you'd like us to have!

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Help Wanted-Office Clerical

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5040 Help Wanted-Dental

DENTAL ASSISTANT Exp'd. Westland office. Part-Time or Full-Time. Help Wanted-Dental

DENTAL RECEPTIONIST: Must have insurance billing exp.
Fax resume: 248-355-4225
or email: wattzz@msn.com

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

MEDICAL ASSISTANT FULL-TIME. Send resume to: 43422 West Oaks Drive, PMB #167, Novi, MI 48377-3300

Medical Assistant Medical office seeks experienced Receptionist. Must have strong computer & medical insurance knowledge. Full Time with exc. pay & benefits. lymouth/Ann Arbor area. Fax resume to: 734-996-8767 or Email: a2derm@aol.com

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5080

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5340

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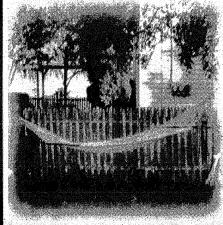
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8360.....Buick-

8380.....Cadillac

8400.....Chevrolet

8440.....Dodge

8460.....Eagle

8480.....Ford

8500 Geo

8510.....GMC

8520.....Honda

8527 Kia

8530 Jaquar

8535....Jeep

8540....Lexus

8560 Lincoln

8580 Mazda

8600.....Mercury

8610.....Mitsubishi

8640.....Oldsmobile

8620.....Nissan

8680 Pontiac

8700.....Saturn

8710.....Suzuki

8720 Toyota

8750.....Volvo

8740.....Volkswagen

8760.....Autos Over \$2000

8780 Autos Under \$2000

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8220

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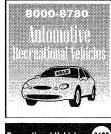
8150.....Auto Misc. 8160.....Auto/Truck-Parts & Service 8170.....Auto Rentals/Leasing

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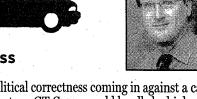
Mustang GT Offers Rumbling Respite In Tough Times

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 ʻglobal 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 nextgeneration 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 fasterlooking."

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 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!

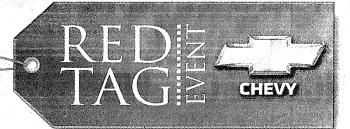
Inside, too, Ford has well-executed its bow to the Mustang's heritage, with a brushed-nickel dashboard with slick horizontal lines - although it projects uncomfortably into the passenger cabin as dashboards often did before passenger safety became a paramount concern. Even the elongated, sans serif numerals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

OE08633677

No Money, No Problem!

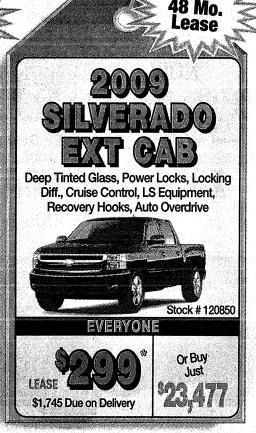
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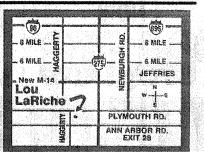
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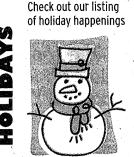
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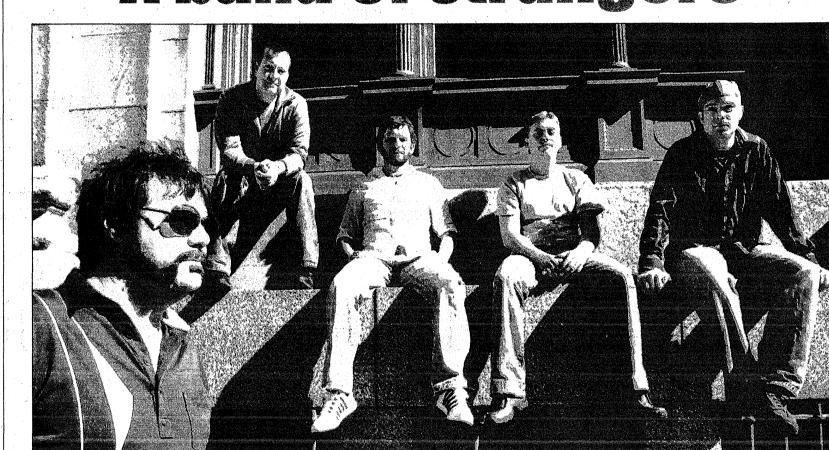
recipe easy?











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

becomes hand of friends

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 appears 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

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

National Ghost's new self-titled CD.

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

self-titled CD

Where: On Saturday,

Dec. 6, at The Berkley

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

Ferndale native set to play show, celebrate her television debut

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA **O&E STAFF WRITER**

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

Chazz Palminteri

show to Detroit

brings his one-man

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA **O&E STAFF WRITER**

Academy Award nominee Chazz

A BRONX TALE

What: A coming-of-age

tale penned by Chazz

Palminteri, who plays mul-

tiple characters. It became

a popular 1993 film that

marked Robert DeNiro's

When: Showtimes run

through Dec. 14, without

performances on Nov. 27.

W. Grand Blvd., Detroit.

Tickets: \$28.50-\$71, visit

www.BroadwayInDetroit.

More information: Visit

www.ABronxTaleTour.com.

ing 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

com or call (248) 645-6666.

Where: Fisher Theatre, 3011

directorial debut.

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

Palminteri

semi-autobio-

graphical story

of a young boy

a life of crime

est future first

as a one-man

show. It devel-

ped into a

film, the first

then headed

to Broadway.

Palminteri

brings the mov-

Now,

ever helmed by

Robert DeNiro,

and an hon-

caught between

Bronx Tale.

penned the

Fisher Theatre.

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. bravoty.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



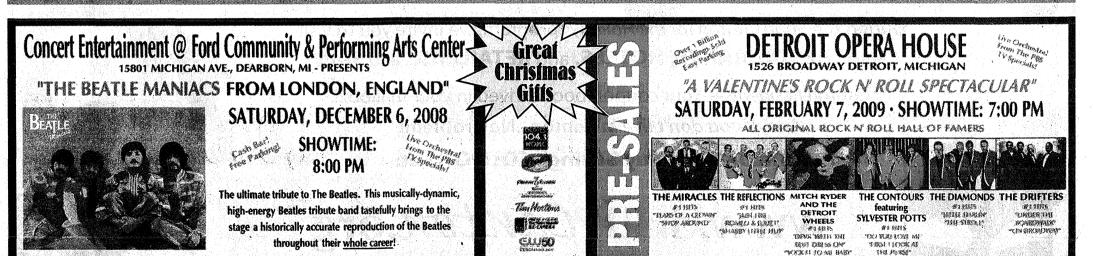
Neals

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you with free tickets to see the ultimate Beatles live tribute when The Beatle Maniacs cross the pond from London to perform at 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6 at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center, 15801 Dearborn. Tickets are going for \$27-\$47, but you can enjoy the experience on us. We're giving away 10 tickets. Just visit http://www.hometownlife.com/news/Beatles/Beatles. html to enter online and you may be on your way to your very own Magical Mystery Tour.

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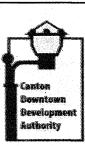
TICKET INFORMATION: ticketmaster 248.645.6666 or ticketmaster.com



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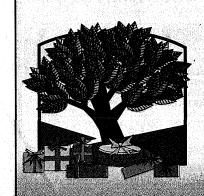
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Holiday Ha

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/villagetheatre 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

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



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.stdunstanstheatre.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-

Trans-Siberian Orchestra: Talk about uplifting and re-inventing holiday songs. Catch one of these two shows on Dec. 21, at St. (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.

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.

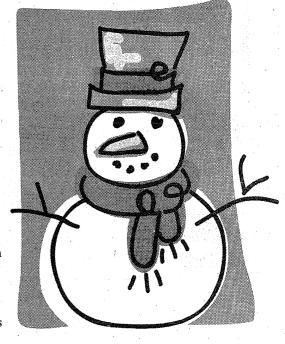
Redford Theatre: It's a double dose of holiday cheer at this Old Redford historic theater, beginning with Miracle on 34th Street, 8 p.m. Dec. 5-6 and 2 p.m. Dec. 6; tickets \$4. And then sing your heart out to White Christmas, 8 p.m. Dec. 19-20 and 2 p.m. Dec. 20, at 17360 Lahser, Detroit; tickets \$4.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

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.

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.

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.



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-

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.

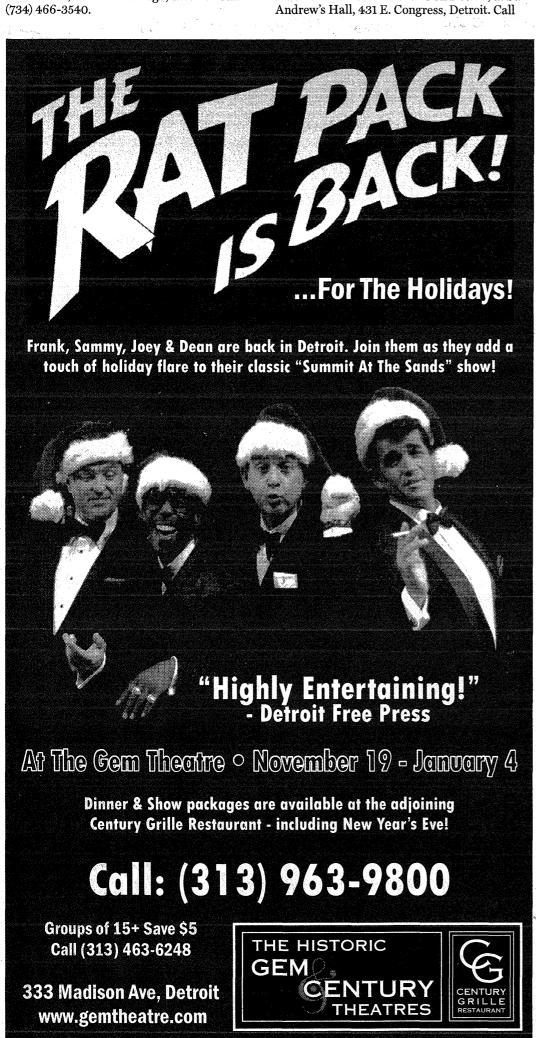
Avon Players: See A Christmas Story, with shows Nov. 28-30, Dec 5-7, 12-14, at 1185 Washington Road, Rochester Hills. Call (248) 608-9077.

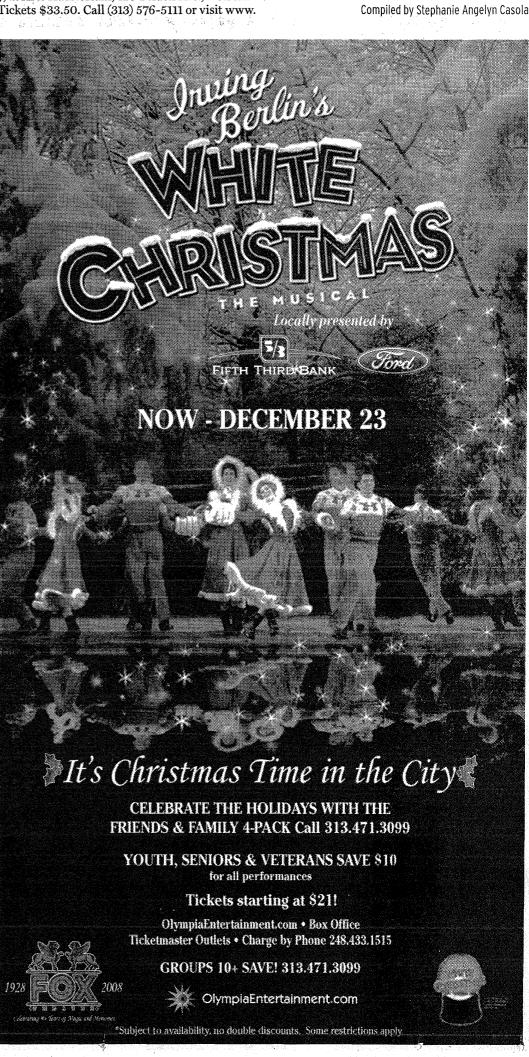
The Farmington Players: It's a Wonderful Life, with shows Nov. 28 to Dec. 20, 32332 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. Call (248) 553-2955 or visit www.farmingtonplayers.org.

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-

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.





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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

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

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!

PECAN COOKIES

1½ cup white flour 1 cup sugar, refined or raw 3/4 cup crushed pecans (you can also use

walnuts) ¼ cup canola oil

1 teaspoon baking powder

8 ounces chocolate chips, optional About a ½ cup of water, you may need more if using chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Grease a cookie sheet Mix the dry ingredients.

Add canola oil and mix. Add water, a little at a time, until a workable but not sticky consistency is reached. Roll out on a floured counter top, about ¼ inch thick. Cut with your favorite cookie cutters and transfer to cookie sheet. Bake for 13 minutes or until edges are

* I found this recipe on Boutell.

SERIOUSLY SIMPLE

MACAROON DATE COOKIES

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

8 medium-sized dates, pitted 1 banana

1½ cups coconut flakes

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

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

THUMBPRINT COOKIE

1 cup all-purpose flour

½ cup ground walnuts or pecans

4 ounces soy margarine or butter (I like Earth Balance vegan butter from any natural ½ cup raspberry preserves (or chocolate

fudge sauce)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. In a bowl, cream the butter

fluffy. It will take about five min-In another bowl, whisk flour and ground walnuts. Then add to the creamed butter mixture. Mix until

and sugar together until light and

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 tea-

spoon, 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.

Bouchaine makes brilliant chardonnay and pinot noir

hardonnay is the favorite wine among U.S. wine consumers. Due to its food versa-



Focus on Wine

Ray & Eleanor Heald

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

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

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-

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

like overtones.

intensity and structure.

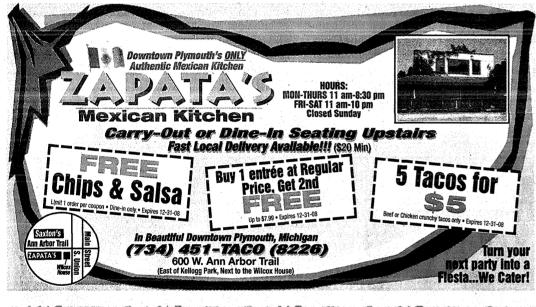
MAKING IT DELICIOUS

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 focusonwine@ aol.com.









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DIAMOND BINGO





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

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.

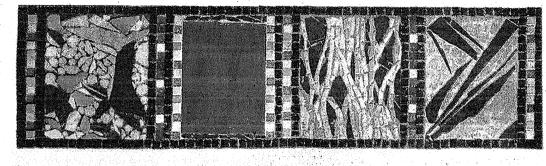
In August, the Bravo show began filming in Neals' New Jersey home. Though she admitted to secretly hiding a few of her favorite can'tpart-with-them pieces, she was ready to face the music and hear Gunn's opinion of her rock-inspired style. "I had nothing left," she said. "They took everything out of 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

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



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

tions of her wall hangings,

Cracks Mosaics" features selec-

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.

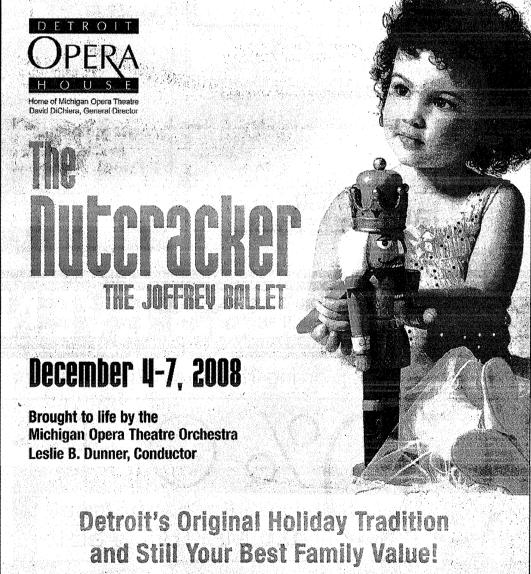
- By Lana Mini

Visit us online at hometownlife.com









Performances:

Thursday, December 4, at 7:30 pm Friday, December 5, at 7:30 pm Saturday, December 6, at 2:30 pm Saturday, December 6, at 7:30 pm Sunday, December 7, at 12:00 pm Sunday, December 7, at 5:00 pm

FREE Dance Talk one hour prior

Family Matinee performances feature the following:

- * Face painting
- * Santa available for photos
- Nutcracker available for photos
- Live Reindeer
- Sugar Plum Parade on stage. following the performance
- Buffet lunch- only \$10 per person For lunch reservations and info call 313.237.SING

For Tickets and Pre-paid Parking Call 313.237.SING or visit michiganopera.org





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 email Imini@hometownlife.com.

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) Biddle Gallery: 2840 Biddle, Wyandotte, (734) 281-

4779, www.biddlegallery.com. Cafe 84: "The Green Show" featuring Detroit Up & 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.

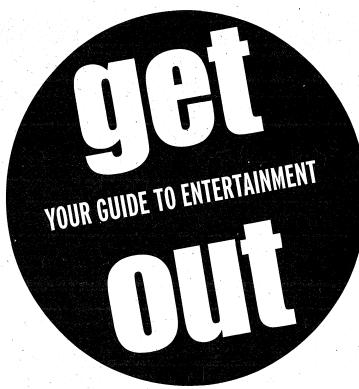
Farmington City Gallery: Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile. (248) 473-1856. Farmington Community Library: 23500 Liberty, (248)

553.6261, www.suzannebauman.com. First United Methodist Church: 1589 W. Maple, Gallery@VT: Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400

Cherry Hill Road, Canton, (734) 394-5300, www. canton-mi.org/villagetheater, www.wsg-art. Galeria at Orchard Lake: "Insights" by sculptor

Evelvn Bachorski-Bowman, through Nov. 30, Building 8, Orchard Lake Schools, 3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake, (248) 683-0345. Habatat Galleries: 4400 Fernlee, Royal Oak, (248) 554-0590, www.habatat.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-

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.

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,

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:

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON

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

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Rochester, (248) 651-4110, www.pccart.org. Paul Kotula Projects: 23255 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-3020, www.paulkotula.com. Pewahic Potterv: 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.

The Print Gallery: 29173 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield, (248) 356-5454, www.everythingart.

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

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, 33000 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, Borders Novi: 43075 Crescent Blvd., (248) 347-

Barnes & Noble Royal Oak: 500 S. Main, Royal Oak. Campus Martius: Saturday Book Club, Campus

Detroit, http://www2.wsupress.wayne.edu/ news.php/ Westland Public Library: 6123 Central City Parkway, (734) 326-6123.

Martius, next to the Compuware Building,

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.

Hagopian 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; Kalichstein-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. ComeHearCMSD.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.

BeckRidge Chorale: 45700 Six Mile, Northville, www. beckridgechorale.org or call (734) 416-9885. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts: 350 Madison. Detroit. (313) 887-8500, www.musichall.org. Farmington Community Chorus: Seligman Performing Arts Center of Detroit Country Day High School, 22305 W. 13 Mile, at Lahser, in Beverly Hills, (248)

Farmington Hills Youth Choir: Wexford Hall, Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills, (248) 473-1859

First Presbyterian Church: Welcome All Wonders. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 19; Psenturies of Psalms, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 9. 2009: How Can You Keep From Singing?, 4 p.m. Feb. 8, 2009; Pipedusters w/ organist Tom Trenney, 7:30 p.m. April 17, 2009; Music for a Cathedral, 7:30 p.m. May 22, 2009, 1669 W. Maple, Birmingham, (248) 644-2040 x 136, ttrenney@comcast.net

Oakland Choral Society: "St. Nicholas" and "Wachet auf," Dec. 6.; 620 Romeo Street, Rochester, \$15-\$50, and "Messiah," Dec. 14, Nativity Episcopal Church, 21220 W. 14 Mile, between Lahser and Cranbrook, in Bloomfield Township, \$15. (248) 391-0184.

Plymouth Oratorio Society: First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth, (734) 455-8353.

Rackham Choir: "Too Hot To Handel," Nov. 29-30, Detroit Opera House, "An Affair To Remember," Feb. 14, 2009, Club Venetian, Madison Heights: "Dear Mrs. Parks" with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, March 6-8, 2009, Orchestra Hall, Detroit; "The Armed Man: A Concert for Peace" with original film, April 5, 2009, Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Dearborn, www.rack-

CLASSICAL

Orchestra Canton: "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.

ComeHearCMSD.org. Detroit Symphony Orchestra: Max M. Fisher Music Center, box office at 3711 Woodward, www. detroitsymphony.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 Hamlisch, 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. detroitsymphony.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 Ark: 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor, www.theark.org. Bachelor's One: 1967 Cass Lake Rd., Keego Harbor (248) 682-2295.

The Belmont: 10215 Jos. Campau, Hamtramck, Berkley Front: 3087 12 Mile, (248) 547-3331.

Bosco: NoWax nights at 7 p.m. every Wednesday, no cover, 21 and over only, 22930 Woodward in Ferndale www.thehosco.com (248) 541-8818 Bullfron 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-

Ginopolis on the Grill: Don Swindell and Shuffle Play, with Swindell, Sheila Brown, Mike Lorenz and Jake Reichhart, 7:30-11:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 27851 Middlebelt at 12 Mile in Farmington Hills, no cover, (248) 851-8222. 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.

0-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/Unterpark 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: 1S. Saginaw, Pontiac. (248) 858-

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-

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/livoniami.

COMEDY

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase: 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. (734) 996-9080.

The Fillmore: Joel McHale, Jan. 17, 2115 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,

(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)

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak. (248) 542-9900. www.comedvcastle.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: One Republic, 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)

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GET OUT

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; TransSiberian 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.

St. Andrew's Halt: 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 pm. 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.

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.

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.mbtheatre.com.

Palace of Auburn Hills: 1 Championship Drive, (248) 645-6666. Starlight Youth Theater: 315 N. Telegraph, north

concours 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

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-

Ma, March 13, 2009; Dan Zanes & Friends,

March 29, 2009; (734) 764-2538, www.ums.org.

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. Penn 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.

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 Gwinnell 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.detroitsymphony.com.

Detroit Windsor Jazz Club: Saturdays at Shield's, (1-4 p.m.), Chuck Moss, Dec. 6; Paul Klinger, (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.musi-

cnail.org/jazz_care.ntm.

Late Nite Thursdays in Downtown Rochester: (248)
656-0060, www.DowntownRochesterMl.com.

Southfield Public Library: 26300 Evergreen. (248)
796-4224, www.southfieldlibrary.org.

Village Theatre at Cherry Hill: All About Jazz 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/\$120 for series, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater, (734) 394

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 pm. Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009; tickets \$37-\$67, at 1526 Broadway, Detroit, call (248) 645-6666

643-6669 W. 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, (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.

p.m., 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills, (248) 476-8860, www.nardinpark.org. Oakland Community College: 739 S. Washington, Royal Oak; (248) 246-2586. St. Aidan Catholic Church: 17500 Farmington Road,

Nardin Park United Methodist Church: seating at 7:15

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.

Mickin

NUSCHMS

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) GO-CRANBROOK, www. cranbrook.edu.

Cranbrook Institute of Science: "Bats: Myths and Mysteries" through January 2009, free with museum admission, 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 645-3200, http://science.graphrook.edu

ence.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 Gusky," April 15, 2009 to July 12, 2009, 5200 Woodward, Detroit. Call (313) 833-7900. Detroit Historical Museum: New exhibits are "Hero or Villian? 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

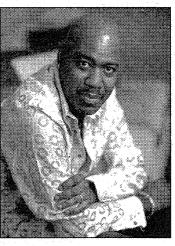
Soul singer Will Downing is celebrating both the holidays and a rebound from a debilitating muscle disorder, with a triumphant concert "Soulful Christmas 2008" Friday, November 28 at the Detroit Opera House.

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.

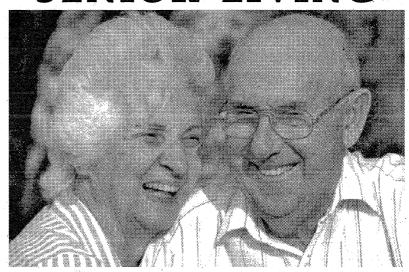
"The holiday season brings out the best in people. And for creative artists like Gerald, Lalah and me, it makes us pick our game up even higher," Downing said, in a press release. "So I think you're going to see a bit of friendly competition which makes for an even better show. None of us want to be 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.

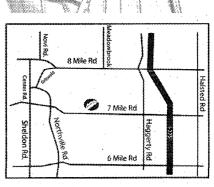
– by Lana Mini

SENIOR LIVING

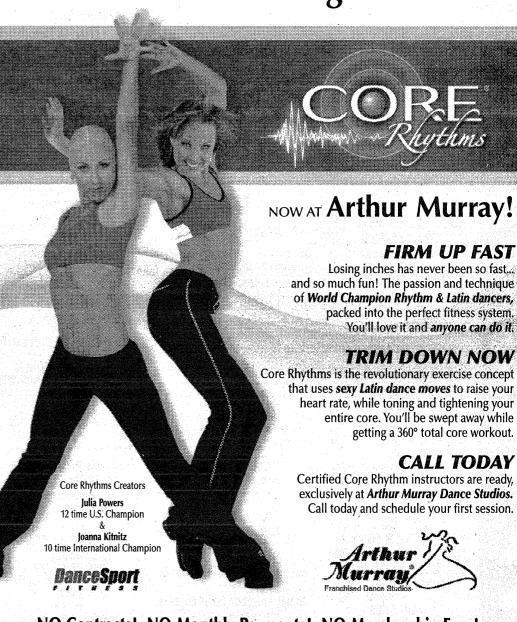




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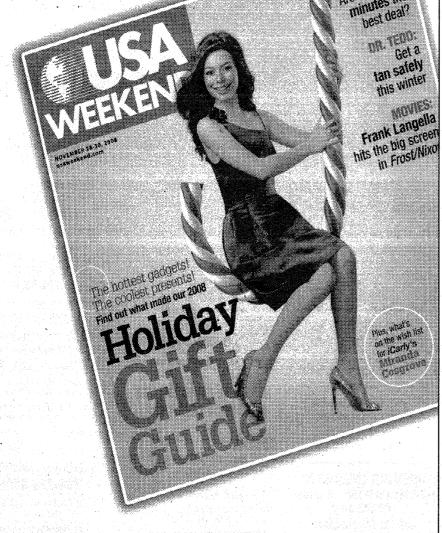
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This Sunday in...

Observer & Eccentric and



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

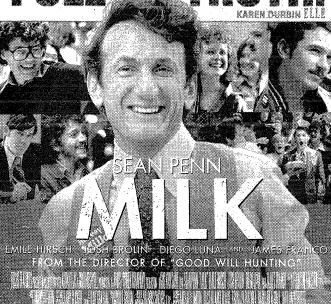
"It happened when I was young," said Palminteri, calling Nov. 24 while on a brief hiatus in ' New York City. "I saw a man kill another man when I was 9 or 10 years old. The guy would see me afterward. He knew I never said anything. He knew that I knew. I

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





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

FILTER

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 costar 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 oneperson show."

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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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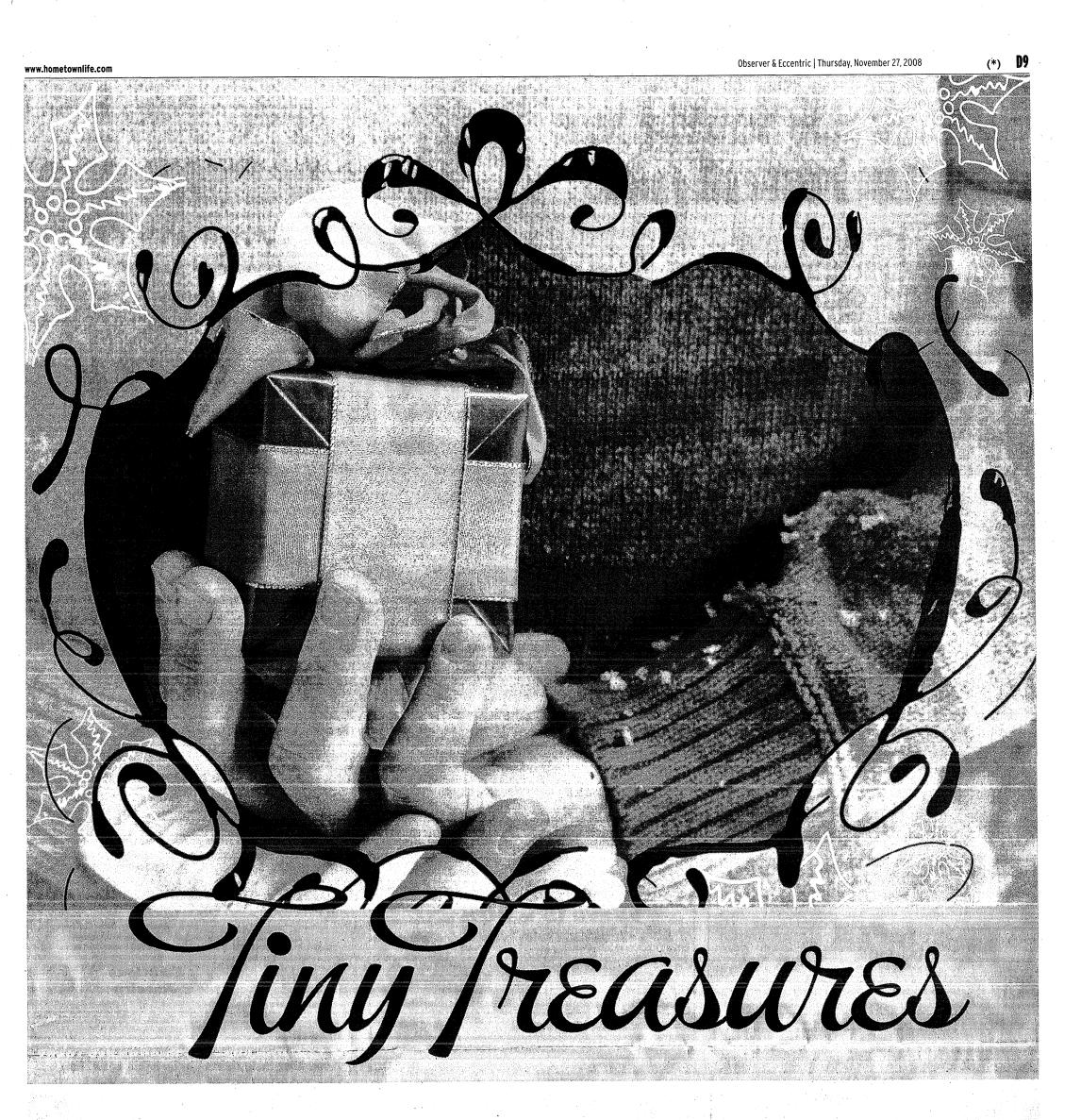
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Stephanie Casola

Livonia's Dollface Parisian to Troy's Saks Fifth Avenue and you'll find a bevy of shimmery shades for lips, cheeks and eyes that only come out at

this time of year. 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

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TOP DOCS 4

nicely 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, Bylgari 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

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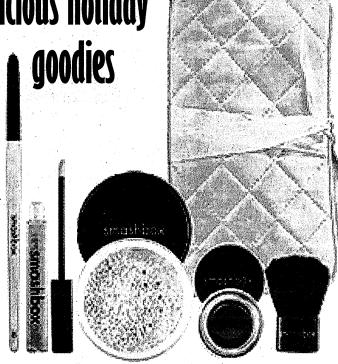
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Smashbox's Gift of Glow

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 caloriefree. 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 sola@hometownlife.com.

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' Candy

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 rubylipped 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 sca-

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

Wear It! Fitted jacket

DON'T Wear It Low rise jeans



See It!

- HBO

DVD It!

Iron Man

TiVo It:

Drink Iti

green tea

Honey Ginseng

Heroes

True Blood

Alison Nielsen

breaking dawn

STEPHENIE MEYER

Kick Iti Uggs Tote Hi Re-usable shop-

Face Iti Neutrogena Oil-Free Acne

ping bags

Wash Pink Grapefruit Mane Iti

Small Itl

L'Oreal **Professional** Absolut Repair Shampoo

The Godmother Soap — Lush

Accessorize It! Stylish belt

Hear it! Viva la Vida, Coldplay Lat It:

Panera Orchard Harvest Salad

Experience It! **Detroit Red Wings Game**

Read It! Breaking Dawn by Stephanie

Meyer (from the Twilight series now in theaters)

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