Sports, B1



Pynoun Bisirici **Dancing** Dolls

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THURSDAY December 4, 2008

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Giving their regards

Millions watch Briefcase Drill Team's Broadway stroll

BY TONY BRUSCATO **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

As Fred Hill waited anxiously on Broadway in New York City for his 17-member Briefcase Drill Team's turn to step off in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, he was approached by someone walking by.

"We were waiting for the parade to begin and enthralled with all the activity and up walks (actor) Alec Baldwin," Hill said. "He said, 'Old guys in dark blue suits with briefcases ... you better

By Hill's account, the Briefcase Drill Team — a parody on men who wear business suits - never missed a beat.

"The crowd reaction was better, or more so, than we've ever had before," said Hill of the 3 million people who crowded the 2½-mile parade route. "That's something we didn't anticipate because we were new to them ... but they got it in a hurry.

"The crowd was 40-50 people deep and lined up on the side streets about halfa-block," he said. "And there were people 30 stories up

watching us." NBC-TV, which telecasts the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, gave each entry less than 30 seconds on camera at 34th and Broadway.

"During rehearsal Tuesday night, they had decided what moves they wanted us to do in about 25 seconds," Hill said. "We added a few and they

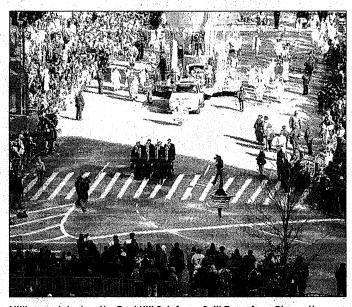


The Fred Hill Briefcase Drill Team of Plymouth took its act to Broadway Thanksgiving Day, marching in the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade.

loved them, so we ended up doubling the amount of time we had originally." Lee Harrison of Canton Township, who has been a member of the Drill Team for five years, said it was an exciting experience.

"I always thought the Detroit Thanksgiving parade and the others we march in were pretty special, but there's a different level at the Macy's parade," Harrison said. "It's really well done, with an enormity and excitement you don't see at the other parades. Everything in New York is bigger and more grandiose."

tbruscato@hometownlife.com | (734)



Millions watched as the Fred Hill Briefcase Drill Team from Plymouth stepped off in New York in the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Parade.

City grants extension for Bathey property

BY TONY BRUSCATO **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Despite a number of concerns, Plymouth city commissioners voted 5-1 Monday night to give Connektiv Communities of Royal Oak an extension through March 2009 to demolish the remaining buildings on the old Bathey property on Mill Street.

The 16-acre parcel is where developer Dennis Griffin wants to build a mixeduse development, including a YMCA.

While some don't like the eyesore presented by the remaining Bathey building, the shell is being saved to accommodate the recreation center if the YMCA commits to Griffin's Trail Head project.

City commissioners expressed concerns about the long process in developing the site since it was sold by the city in October 2007 for \$2.3 million, which remains in escrow. Griffin is seeking a half-dozen tax incentives and grants from the city, Wayne County and the state of Michigan. Commissioners are concerned about how much the incentives will cost the city, as well as potential costs to repave Mill Street.

In the end, considering the current economic condition in Michigan, commissioners overwhelmingly voted to stay the course. "There aren't that many opportunities

for substantial commercial development in our boundaries, so I think there's an appropriate public role to be played to stimulate such a project," Commissioner Mike Wright said. "The project offers an opportunity as a stimulus for attracting other strong tenants to the 16-acre parcel."

"Even if we (keep the \$2.3 million in escrow) for a short time for a long-term gain, I think it's a smart government choice," Commissioner Dave Workman added. "It's a balancing act in trying to jump-start part of our community that is without any sort of activity for a long

Mayor Phil Pursell voted against the demolition extension because of the aforementioned concerns. More important to Pursell is the fact Griffin oves \$201,000 in back taxes for condon inium projects on Amelia and Hamilton streets.

"That's on the backs of everybody paying taxes in the city of Plymouth. ... I just think we're being taken advantage of," Pursell said. "I just don't see the future of this project. The right thing is to get the

money back to the people."

Griffin has sold about half the 27 condos at Hamilton Gardens and has yet to break ground on Amelia Row.

"I'm making an investment decision to incur penalties, which is an investment risk I have to make to perpetuate my business," Griffin said to commissioners. 'The Bathey tax bill is paid 100 percent."

The Trail Head proj goes for final approval by the Plan Commission ssion will Dec. 10, while the cit, be asked to agree to a funderthe latstan "ng" Dec. 15. Griffi. lp in getting inc 's from y and state, both ich

ing to Griffin —

the YMCA plar

nears finish line ing station that will keep the BY TONY BRUSCATO low-lying underpass from **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** fall or snow melt. It may be hard to believe, but the Sheldon Road underpass project — which has closed the

Underpass project

- may finally be seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. And, no, it's not an oncoming train.

junction at the CSX railroad

crossing for nearly two years

'We've got one last (concrete) pour," Assistant Wayne County **Executive Alan Helmkamp** said. "We have to pour the driveway and apron to 909 Sheldon (the Office Depot building).

"The pours we did over the weekend have to be sealed," he added. "That's anywhere from five to seven days of cure time involved."

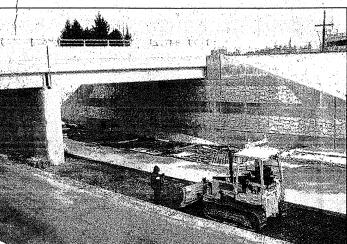
Helmkamp said the only other remaining issue involves electrical work for the pumpflooding during a heavy rain-

"The electrical subcontractor and DTE Energy have remaining issues to finish up," Helmkamp said. "We're finalizing that.

"It's been a team effort to get this project done," he added. "The contractors really stepped up to accelerate the completion."

Helmkamp would not give a specific date on the reopening of Sheldon Road, but hinted that it will be sooner rather than later. Helmkamp previously said he hoped to have Sheldon Road open before Christmas to boost holiday shopping in Plymouth Plymouth Township and Northville.

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Officials are hoping to open Sheldon Road at the new overpass soon, as the final concrete pour was scheduled for this week.

Late donations help corps feed the hungry

BY BRAD KADRICH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Mai. Jim Irvine, the corps officer for the Plymouth Salvation Army, sees and hears a lot of stories of generosity and need, particularly around the holidays.

The stories are all special to an organization that counts on the generosity of others to fulfill their mission. But this year, one story in particular struck Irvine's heart when an elderly woman, stricken and barely able to move, still found the time to bring a turkey to donate to the Salvation Army.

The woman had difficult moving and couldn't maneuver out of her car, so Irvine had to pull the frozen turkey she was donating through her open car window.

'Barely able to move, she went through the effort of picking out a turkey and bringing it to us so someone



Mike Sprechter (right) and Rich Trame help put together Thanksgiving meals, including turkey and all the trimmings, for the Plymouth Salvation Army:

she'll never know could have a Thanksgiving meal," Irvine said. "That's compassion in action, and that's who helps us do the most good."

For awhile, it looked like the corps would have trouble meet-

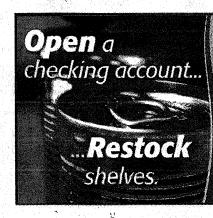
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Coming Sunday: Superstar Beyonce Knowles



Volunteer Dorothy Aren sorts through coats given out in the Salvation Army's Operation Warm program.

ing its Thanksgiving mission. The annual Turkey Trot event at Fox Hills, which normally produces some 70-75 turkevs each year, yielded only five this vear due to inclement weather. A civic organization that generally donates some 40 turkeys a year only contributed two.

With the lagging economy sending the need soaring - the Salvation Army ended up serving 267 families this Thanksgiving, more than double the 127 served last year concern mounted.

Turns out it needn't have. When word got out the Salvation Army was lagging behind in turkey donations, people in the community responded and donations started pouring in. The Salvation Army eventually ended up with 389 turkeys and was able to feed more than 1,100 people.

"I've done this work with The Salvation Army now for 15 years as a commissioned officer and a lot longer as a volunteer before my wife and I gave up our jobs to do full-time ministry," Irvine said. "I was still overwhelmed by emotions more than once or twice as people came to our building, wave after wave, to help us help others."

According to Irvine, the extra 122 turkeys will be used to feed hungry families in the communities served by the Salvation Army - Plymouth, Northville, Canton and Belleville — between now and the Christmas holiday.

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

Thrift shop gets down to business at new OV location

BY JULIE BROWN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Presbyterian Thrift Shop of Plymouth underwent a new beginnings of sorts Monday.

The shop, operated by the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, moved to its current site at 746 N. Mill in Plymouth's Old Village, just a short jump from its previous home on Mill. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

"(It's been open) since 1950, so 58 years," said Ted Porter of Northville, who manages the shop with wife Lynne, both members of First Presbyterian of Plymouth. "We think this is our fourth location.'

The Porters, who've volunteered close to 20 years, are retirees, he as a purchasing manager for Ford Motor Co., she with TRW as a program manager. They enjoy their work at the Presbyterian Thrift Shop.

"It's an outreach program for us to assist the community," Ted Porter said Monday as the doors opened. They support a lot of other ministries with donated items, including Southwest Presbyterian Church and Fort Street Presbyterian Church, both in Detroit.

The Salvation Army comes



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Porters appreciate the

60 or so volunteers, some for-

mer customers.

Lou Ann Smith of Livonia applauds the deals at the Presbyterian Thrift Shop.

nitely."

each Thursday to take primarily clothes, and other items go to Purple Heart. Donations come from church members and others in the community.

You'll find plenty of items at reasonable prices, including clothes, knickknacks, toys, small appliances and furniture, linens, books and jewelry.

We have a few collectibles that are occasionally donated to us," Ted Porter said.

"People, of course, are cautious with their expenditures these days. We've seen an

larger and accessible to the handicapped. There's on-site parking behind the new store building (the house that used to hold the thrift shop is up

for lease). The phone number

remains the same, (734) 459-

CORRECTION

uptick in our business, defi-

"We have quite a large work staff here," Ted said of vol-The new site is 50 percent unteers who run the register, assist customers, "basically anything that goes on in a store they are flexible enough

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The headline on Rick Bloom's Money Matters column on Sunday, Nov. 30, misstated the content of the column.

The column does not say required IRA distributions can be invested in Roth IRA.

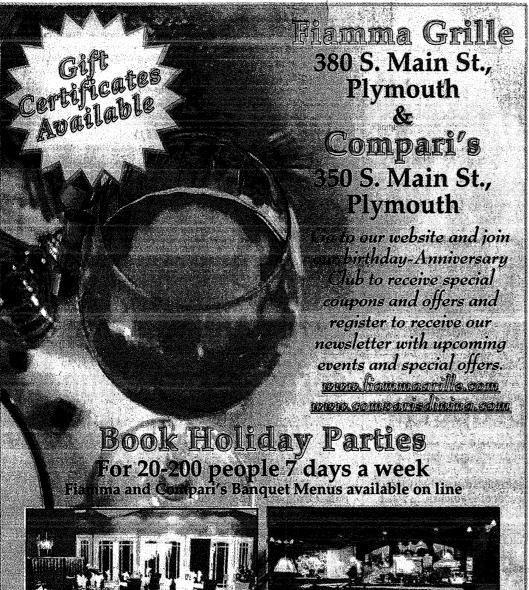
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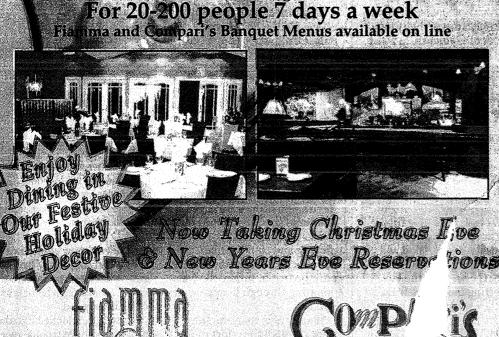
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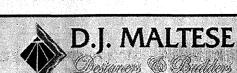
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end at a competition, often as

several test sessions each week.

chief referee. She also judges

When illness sidelined her

this summer and fall, it took

several people combined to fill

her shoes. Laura has also been

responsible for the formation

and evolution of High School

- which has more participation

teams represent the Plymouth

Figure Skating Club and prac-

tice at Compuware Sports

Arena. Their three teams

include Novice (skaters aged

12-16), Adult (skaters aged 21-

40) and Masters (skaters aged

30-60+). The other teams par-

ticipating in Skate for the Cure

are Ann Arbor Figure Skating

Club's Hockettes, Farmington

Fantasia, and Ice House Skating

Hills Figure Skating Club's

Academy's Ice Fusion.

Allegro! synchronized skating

figure skating in Michigan

than any other state.

'Barefoot' auditioning for next production

Barefoot Productions, the Plymouth-based production company, is taking auditions for its next production, "Same Time, Next Year," a romantic comedy by Bernard Slade to be directed by Barefoot founder Craig Hane.

Auditions take place 6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 15-16, at the Plymouth District Library. There are roles available for one male and one female; the characters age from their early 30s to their late 50s over the course of the play.

The play revolves around New Jersey accountant George and Oakland, Calif., housewife Doris, who meet at a Northern California inn in February 1951. They have an affair, then agree to meet once a year, despite the fact both are married to others and have six children between them.

Over the course of the next 24 years, they develop an emotional intimacy deeper than what one would expect to find between two people meeting for a clandestine relationship just once a year. During the time they spend with each other, they discuss the births, deaths and marital problems each is experiencing at home, while they adapt themselves to the social changes affecting their lives.

Actors should bring head shots and resumes, if available. Auditions will feature prepared monologue and a cold read. Performance dates are Feb. 19 to March 1 at the former Walker-Buzenberg building on Main Street near the railroad tracks.

For more information, visit the company's Web site at www.justgobarefoot.com or call Hane at (734) 582-9688.

Skate for the Cure

Skate for the Cure, a skating event that has raised thousands of dollars for cancer research since 2000, returns in a new format, with four area skating clubs joining together in a one-of-a-kind synchronized skating exhibition at Compuware Arena.

The skate, which takes place 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, is designed to raise funds for



Barefoot Productions of Plymouth, which last month put on 'Playing With Fire (After Frankenstein),' is taking auditions for 'Same Time, Next Year,' Dec. 15-16 at the Plymouth District Library.

Laura Maki of Ann Arbor, a figure skating judge who is battling peritoneal cancer.

Lisa Jesswein, of the Blaine & Lisa with Allyson Morning Show on 96.3 WDVD, will emcee the event that will showcase 14 teams competing in various skill levels of synchronized skating. There is no fee to enter but donations, and funds raised from a silent auction, will go toward Maki's medical expenses.

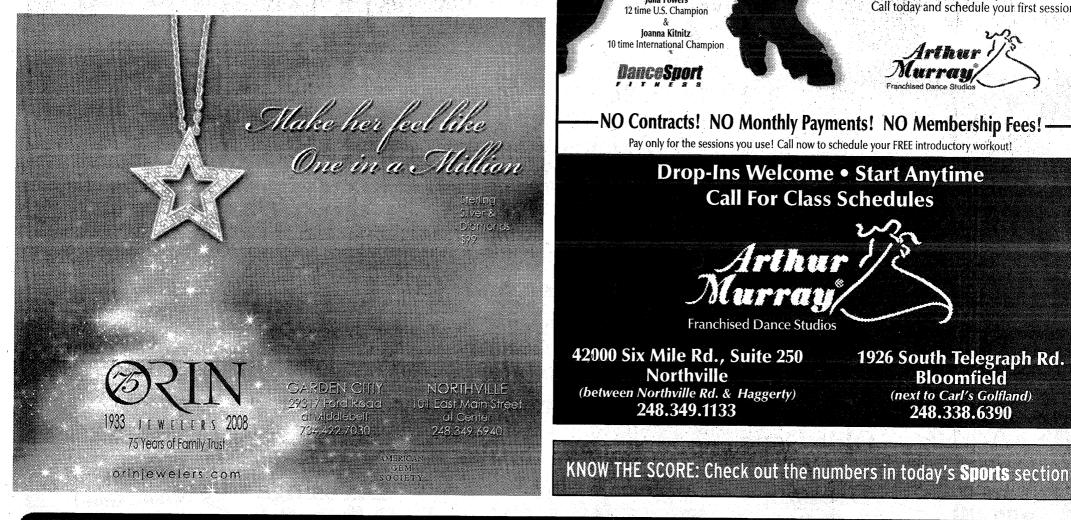
"There are so many skaters who wouldn't be where they are now without the support and knowledge of great judges like Laura," said Carrie Brown, head coach of Allegro! synchronized skating, the host club of Skate for

the Cure. "Skaters, especially synchro skaters, really feel a bond and do whatever we can when someone needs our help. We're used to working as a team and that comes in handy in situations like this." Laura Maki has been a fig-

ure skating judge for over 30 vears and is beloved within the Midwest skating community. She began her skating career as a Hockette in the 1960s then skated for years with the Debonaires. Because of her love and passion for the sport, and her awareness of how difficult it can be for clubs to find judges, Laura rarely says "no" when she is needed and therefore is away almost every week-



Proceeds from Skate for the Cure, which takes place Dec. 14 at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township, will assist Ann Arbor skating judge Laura Maki, who is battling peritoneal cancer.



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.

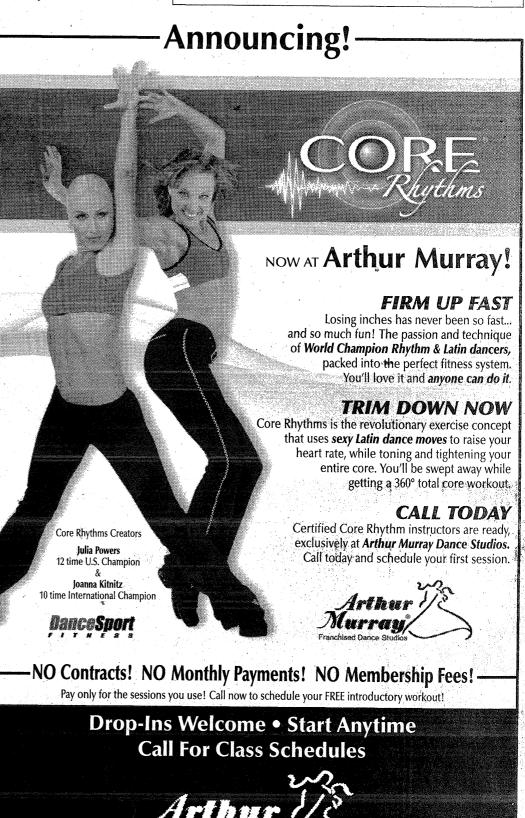
We will also feature a business profile in a "question and answer" format, with a nice photo. Also look for a roundup of local business newsmakers and

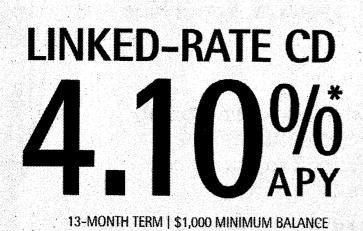
items from the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce.

"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 emailed to Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.

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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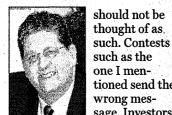
Stock market is not a game; it's serious business

received a letter to participate in a stock-picking contest. The organization sponsoring the contest was soliciting a variety of people in the financial world to participate. The premise was each participant would be given a \$1 million of play money. The player who had the most money at the end of a 90-day period would be the winner. According to the rules, a player could invest the money in anything and would have unlimited trades during the 90-day

I politely and respectfully. turned down the invitation (not because it wouldn't have been fun) because it was billed as an investment contest when, in fact, it had nothing to do with investing.

I am not a fan of these socalled investment contests. As far as I am concerned, a contest like this is no different than entering a blackjack or a poker tournament. When it comes to investments, 90 days is nothing.

Many organizations have sponsored these types of investment contests and although they are fun, just as with gambling, I believe they can be dangerous. The stock market is not a game and it



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

such as the one I mentioned send the wrong message. Investors should not be looking quarter to quarter,

but rather long

term. When investors think short term, it almost always leads to longterm problems.

Too many investors honestly don't know the difference between gambling and investing. Gambling is for the short run, while investing is for the long run. Investing is not an all or none proposition. Investing requires patience, something that most gamblers do not have.

There's no doubt that this has been a very difficult year for investors and certainly the conventional wisdom about investing has not panned out. However, I always remind people they are running a marathon, not a 50-yard dash. Unfortunately, stock contests promote the thought that investing is nothing more than a short race to the finish. In

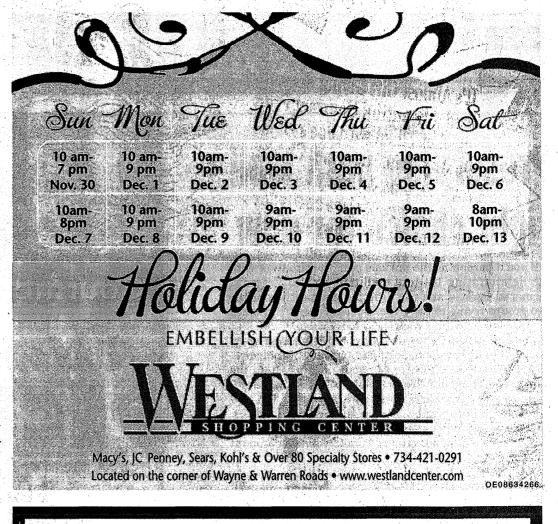
difficult and challenging. Decisions made today have an impact on us many years into the future.

Of course, most people recognize that a stock market game is just that, a game. Many feel that particularly during these difficult times, we deserve to have some fun. However, there's a reason why we have warning signs on everything in our society. It seems obvious to me that people shouldn't stick their hand inside of a snow blower, however, there are warning signs to remind them of just that.

The issue regarding stock market games is that too many people may assume if the strategy wins an investment game. perhaps it will work in an individual portfolio.

Playing games should be for fun. Handling money is much more serious. Remember that experiences with a game have nothing to do with reality.

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.



Winter Wonderland

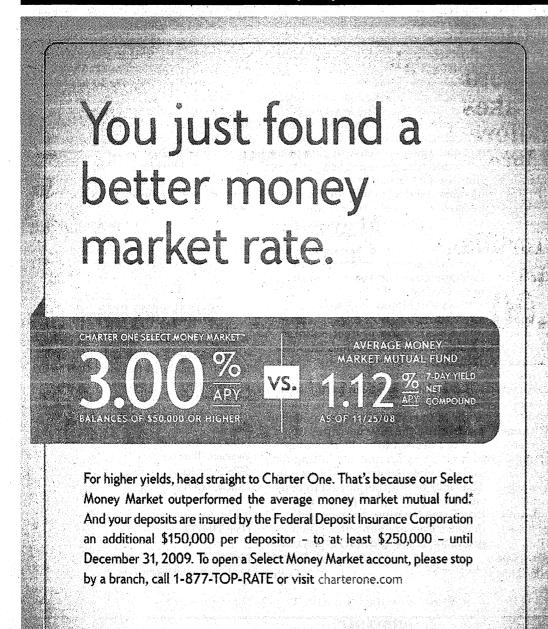
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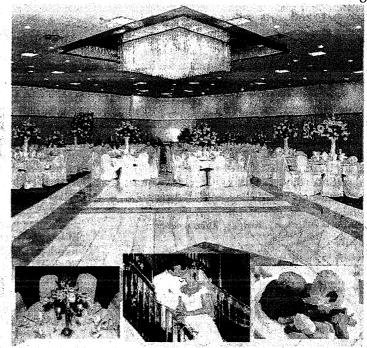
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KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's Sports section



Preserving park wall right choice for now

If you'll pardon us the obvious pun, the situation with the deteriorating 161-foot wall adjacent to Veterans Memorial Park — and the differing perspectives of the two groups trying to solve the problem — left Plymouth city officials between a rock and a hard place.

The wall definitely needs fixing, it's crumbling spots leaving the city with both aesthetic and safety problems.

And there is no shortage of people willing to do the fixing. The Plymouth Preservation Network figures it's going to take somewhere between \$5,600 and \$25,000 to repair the stone wall, which dates back to the 1930s. That's a pretty wide range, but PPN president Wendy Harless is confident her group can raise whatever amount it takes.

Bob Zaetta, who heads the Plymouth Community Veterans Memorial Park Committee, believes the wall should be replaced, because any repairs would mean "we'd be back two years from now to replace it anyway." Zaetta pegs the cost of a new wall at some \$100,000.

The difference, Zaetta believes, is that he already has a donor willing to front the money, while the PPN would need to spend valuable time raising money. By that time, Zaetta argues, his donor may have gone away. A couple of weeks ago, city officials opted for his-

tory over expediency, giving the Plymouth Preservation Network a window to raise enough money to make necessary repairs and preserve the wall's historic nature.

And, while we share Zaetta's concerns that any repairs could turn out to be nothing more than stopgap, we think it's worth the effort to save a structure that's been around some 80 years.

The Veterans Memorial Park Committee — under the watchful eye of the dedicated Zaetta — has been nothing short of outstanding in creating the Veterans' Memorial Park. It's a beautiful addition to the downtown landscape, and Zaetta's nurturing, almost motherly, care of and concern for the park is honorable. There's no question in our minds that, if it becomes necessary later, Zaetta will have no problem putting together whatever financial aid is needed to replace the wall.

And in opening this window to repair the wall, city officials must hold the PPN accountable for its plans and be ready to step in if the PPN appears set to falter.

For now, though, we believe commissioners made the right choice in opting for preservation of even this small part of its history.

Christmas season glows with hometown activities

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

The often depressing economic news cannot diminish the holiday spirit. A rich combination of good times, generous giving and long-followed traditions make this an extra special time of year.

Wayne County Parks Lightfest was officially opened Nov. 20. The annual event turns a four-mile section of Hines Park into a fantasy land of animated lights. This always popular event includes Santa's Workshop at the Warrendale area, where children can meet the jolly fellow and post their letters in a giant mailbox. Dec. 9 and 16 will be Toy Nights. Wayne County will be lending a hand to provide toys to disadvantaged children in the county. On these nights, the community is invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy in lieu of the suggested \$5 donation fee for visiting the Lightfest. Enter Hines Park at Merriman.

This Saturday, Redford is presenting an Olde-Fashioned Christmas. The event kicks off at 2 p.m. with a parade along Five Mile and will feature horse-andcarriage rides, a petting zoo, holiday music and refreshments. Santa Claus arrives at Township Hall at 2:45 p.m.

Canton will hold its third annual Family Holiday Fest from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday at Willow Creek Plaza, north side of Ford Road between Lilley and Haggerty. Santa will be the guest of honor and a photographer will take pictures. There will also be reindeer, carolers, contests and refreshments.

In Plymouth, Santa is holding court at his house on Main Street in Kellogg Park, 5-8 p.m. Fridays, noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays and 5-8 p.m. Dec. 23.

Compassionate Friends' Candlelight Vigil, where friends and family gather to remember loved ones who died too soon, is set for 7 p.m. Dec. 14 in downtown Plymouth.

The Livonia Symphony Orchestra presents a Christmas Festival at 4 p.m. Saturday at the Louis Schmidt Auditorium at Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt, in Livonia. The concert features music from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker. For information, call (734) 421-1111.

In addition, several area dance schools are holding productions of the Nutcracker ballet.

Go out and enjoy a hometown Christmas.



c) GANNETT

Community Editor Hugh Gallagher

Managing Editor

Brad Kadrich

Susan Rosiek **Executive Editor**

Jeannie Parent Senior Director of Sales & Marketing

Richard Aginian - Publisher Emeritus

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



LETTERS

Macy's marvels

The front page story in the Thursday, Nov. 20, edition of the Plymouth Observer, "Drilling the Big Apple," informing of the addition of Fred Hill's Briefcase Drill team to this year's Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade in New York City brought many happy memories of last year's parade immediately to our minds.

Last year, our son Michael was chosen to be a member of Macy's Great American Marching Band, ("Local trumpeter blows horn in parade," Plymouth Observer, Dec. 20, 2007), and the Observer story on his experience brought news of his musical contributions as a Plymouth resident to many readers.

And now this year Plymouth makes another contribution to this great event!

Hearty congratulations to Fred Hill and to all members of his troupe! Enjoy every moment of your experience and share with all you meet what a great hometown you come from, a hometown once again contributing to the success of one of NYC's biggest events!

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Clemente

Thanksgiving thank-you

It's official. The federal government now recognizes what we in Michigan have known for quite some time: We're in a recession.

Whether we call it a recession, economic down-turn, budget right-sizing or some other euphemism, the effect on the citizens of Michigan is the same. People are out of work and in a world of hurt, unable to pay utility bills, keep up with the rent, put food on the table and make car payments.

We may have grown used to the idea of people in Detroit needing a helping hand. After all, that city has its share of challenges. But what we're seeing at The Salvation Army in Plymouth may shock you. We're serving more of your neighbors from Plymouth, Canton, Northville and Belleville than ever before. For example, the number of people seeking assistance this Thanksgiving doubled from 127 families last year to 267 families this year.

And we, like you, are feeling the crunch of the economy. But because of the generosity of this community, we were able to meet the need of every familv who turned to The Salvation Army for Thanksgiving assistance. Words cannot begin to convey the heartwarming experiences we shared, both receiving and giving turkeys and trimmings.

Nor can words begin to express our thankfulness for you who came alongside us to help your neighbors and friends in need. Perhaps the well-worn, cliched line from Scrooge states it best: "God bless us, everyone!

Maj. Jim Irvine Plymouth Salvation Army

Here's your sign

After having watched the Senate "hearings" on the request by our automakers for a bridge loan, I can easily understand why the "approval ratings for Congress have remained consistently in the low double-digit (teens) range.

I have never seen such a group of arrogant, pompous, self-aggrandizing clowns in my life. The insulting, condescending remark about cutting the executive pay to \$1 a year struck a hollow note, coming from a bunch of incompetent ying-yangs charged with running our government effi-

The last time I checked, these wonderful folks have boosted the national debt to over \$10 trillion (our citizens have to pay over \$400 billion a year to service this squandering). If anyone should have their salaries cut to a buck a year ...

To borrow a phrase from the Blue Collar Comedy Tour, I hope the auto types parted with a "Here's Your Sign, guys!" on their way out the door.

Frederick J. Libbing Plymouth

Plymouth Bankruptcy an option

I have been purchasing and leasing Ford/Mercury products on an exclusive basis starting with my first car in the 1960s.

I started with Ford because most of my family worked for Ford in some capacity or another and I stayed with Ford because I liked the product they offered. Unlike Jim Drozdowski in his letter "Save the Big Three," I would never shame anyone into buying autos only from the Big 3 based on some specious sense of patriotism.

I would also go so far as to suggest that the Big Three, in their present business model, should not be saved because ultimately, they cannot be saved. It just makes bad economic sense to prop up companies that are no longer viable. To do so would be to reward gross mismanagement. incompetence and greed by both management and labor.

What would make sense is to allow the companies to reorganize under bankruptcy protection into viable, sustainable business models. Taxpayer money could be used to speed the process along.

Some critics are even saying that the management currently in place at the auto companies is incapable of performing the restructuring steps that are needed to make the companies viable again and are calling for an independent authority to step in. That may be another option to consider, but pouring taxpayer money into firms burning through cash because they are not selling their products, is just plain irresponsible.

> Janusz M. Szyszko Canton

Support Big Three

We desperately need the U.S. government to support our automakers.

Your job is to protect the people and strength of this nation and its economy and you need to do that now. If you fail, there will be a domino effect that will ripple through this economy that will be without precedent.

You also need to ridicule those who try to attach "pork barrel spending" to any solution that is sent for a vote. If they do not want to keep thousands of Americans working and purchasing in this country, you just advertise that fact and let those who depend on these industries for their lives speak up! This is the only country in the world that the government treats the industry that employs 10 percent of its population with contempt!

This problem has more to do with the poor state of the economy than the way the Big Three run their business activities. They are caught up in the financial crisis caused by the government's lack of regulation in the mortgage industry that allowed too many bad loans with executives making obscene amounts of money.

You need to point out all the supporting industries that depend on the auto companies for their survival and income for the people they employ. Auto company employees buy products and goods from every state in the union. If 10 percent are not working, they are not buying. The companies that lose 10 percent of their income lay off people. Now those people are not buying goods made in states with no auto-related industries! It does not take a rocket scientist to recognize the warning signs here. Moreover, if they have to wait until next February, we may have passed the point of no return by then.

Lawrence Theisen Farmington Hills

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.

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

(734) 591-7279

E-mail:

bkadrich@hometownlife.com

OUOTABLE

"Even though I've done this work with The Salvation Army now for 15 years as a commissioned officer and a lot longer as a volunteer before my wife and I gave up our jobs to do full-time ministry, I was still overwhelmed by emotions more than once or twice as people came to our building, wave after wave, to help us help others." – Maj. Jim Irvine, corps officer for the Plymouth Salvation Army, responding to the generosity people showed in helping the corps feed hungry families for the Thanksgiving holiday

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

Olde Town auction

Hermann's Olde Town Grille holds its 11th annual auction to benefit children noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec.

The event starts at noon, but the auction itself runs 2:30 to 5 p.m.
Last year's auction raised more than \$5,000, which organizers say will be used to purchase gifts for "older kids, since people usually give toys for youngsters."

Among the items up for bid is a three-night stay at the Westin Hotel in Hawaii.

Hermann's Olde Town is located at 195 W. Liberty in Plymouth's Old Village. For more information, call (734) 451-1213.

Pearl Harbor remembrance

A Pearl Harbor Day remembrance will be held at the Plymouth Community Veteran's Memorial Park 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7.

The start time of the ceremony corresponds with the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, which was 7 a.m. in Hawaii. Cub Scout Pack 781 from Our Lady of Good Counsel Church will lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The event is a collaboration among American Legion Post 112, American Legion Post 391, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6695 and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528.

World War II veterans will be recognized during the ceremony. Contact Frank Pawelak at Veteran's Memorial Park prior to 1 p.m.

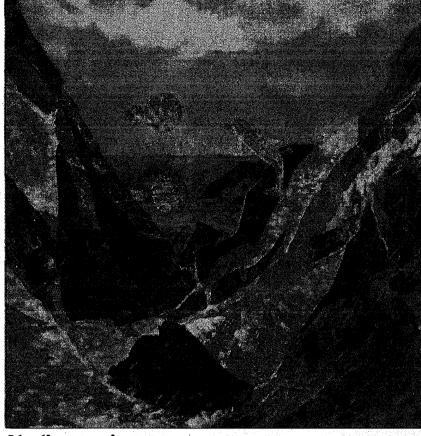
Museum bazaar

The Plymouth Historical Museum holds its annual Craft Bazaar and Open House 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. Admission is free to the museum's exhibits and to the Craft Bazaar.

Visitors will be able to give Santa Claus their wish lists, as well as view the museum's new special exhibit, "'Twas the Night Before Christmas."

This year's Craft Bazaar, in addition to having free admission, features crafters on both levels of the museum. Other opportunities include a bake sale and refreshments for sale in the Sanford Burr Meeting Room, and a craft raffle of items donated by participating crafters.

Parking is available in the free lot behind the Plymouth District Library, as well as along Union Street east of the museum, which is located at 155 S. Main. For more information, call (734) 455-8940.



Studio opening

A new kind of art gallery will be having its grand opening Saturday, Dec. 6, in Plymouth. The gallery, Fire Paintings by Carol Lynn, will feature original works of art by Carol Lynn, as well as samples of her mural work. The fire paintings are done in a mixed media style, and then are taken through a process where they are then lit on fire. Carol Lynn attended Monmouth (III.) College, where she graduated with degrees in art and biology. She began painting murals professionally in 1997. Her works have been commissioned in Michigan, Ohio, Illinois and California. She discovered the process for fire painting in 2004, as part of a self-healing process, which also led to a deeper awareness of the other gifts she brings to her gallery. Other services offered are: Psychic/Medium Readings, Crystal Energy Practitioner, and 'Working with Crystals' classes. Hours are from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday. The gallery is located at 885 Wing. Contact Lynn via e-mail at spiritartbycl@yahoo.com or call (734) 259-8374.

Silent Night service

Our Lady of Good Counsel hosts an advent service for those who are grieving or unemployed 7-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, at the church, located at 47650 N. Territorial in Plymouth.

"Silent Night" is a quiet, thoughtful worship service to help us prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ child. Through stories of endurance from members of the community, inspirational music, and scripture readings participants will seek together the peace, hope and love that are the true gifts of Christmas.

For more information, call (734) 453-0326.

Ornament sale

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church is offering beautiful Christmas Ornaments for sale.

The ornaments are hand crafted in Poland with a portrait of the OLGC

Mother and Child mosaic. The ornaments symbolize the true spirit of Christmas and make wonderful holiday gifts

For further information contact either Mark Coulter, (734) 453-5423, or Mary Vangieson, (734) 737-9942.

Free tap class

Metro Dance Company in Plymouth offers a free beginners adult tap class 3:30-4:45 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13.

The class will teach basic tap skills and students will learn a short piece of choreography.

Contact the studio at (734) 207-8970 or info@MetroDanceCompany. com for more information.

Holiday Pottery Gallery

In response to customer requests, the Village Potters Guild is opening its studio gallery for special holiday hours for the first time ever.

The gallery, which features Guild

members' original artwork, will be open 5-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through Dec. 20. It is located at 340 N. Main, Suite G-1 in Plymouth.

For more information or to learn about classes, call (734) 207-8807 or see www.villagepottersguild.org.

Book signing

Award winning poet and photographer Cheryl A. Vatcher-Martin will be autographing copies of her books at Waldenbooks & More on Plymouth Road in Livonia 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11.

She'll be bringing copies of her books, Woman Reclining, a collection of epic, narrative and haiku poems; and her newly released non-fiction book, Cheryl's Musings: A Day In The Life Of An Award-Winning Poet & Photographer.

Presently Martin's artwork is in a solo Exhibit in Flat Rock Michigan at the Flat Rock Library. Eleven of her pieces are on display including two of her favorite pictures from Canton, one titled, "Canton's Cows," the other "Crimboli's Pond."

Martin is the owner of Pero Inc., a full service writing, consulting, publishing, editing and photographic business. She can be reached via email at peroinc5@comcast.net. For further information, call her at (734) 397-1626.

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-senior-party@comcast.net

College workshop series

The Plymouth District Library will host a series of workshops designed to assist high school and college students and their parents.

dents and their parents.

"Test strategies for the ACT,"
Thursday, Jan. 15, 7-8:30 p.m.

"Essay writing workshop for the ACT essay," Thursday, Jan. 22, 7-8:30 p.m.

Registration is requested for these free programs. Contact 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.

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 on-going 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

DAR meets

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

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

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

















An Exciting Outdoor Event?

SANTA will be on hand accepting donations of canned goods, new children's books, and new, warm children's clothing to help support the Goodfellows. Santa photos by CL!X Studio.

anton Holiday Fest



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Refreshments provided by:

Jimmy John's **Shark Club**

Tony's Coney & Grill

Event Candids by: Stephanie Weatherly Photography

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

Canton Downtown Development Authority 1150 Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188 (734) 394-5186

Saturday, December 6, 2008

12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Where: Willow Creek Shopping Plaza

Located on Ford Rd. between Haggerty and Lilley (Marshall's Parking Lot)

Entertainment & Activities

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Canton Residents—Your coupon book arrived in your mailbox! And, if you don't live in Canton...No problem!

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Thursday, December 4, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

GIRLS HOOP SEASON TIPS OF



First-year Plymouth coach Ted Sturdivant discusses strategy with his team during a thirdquarter timeout Tuesday night.

Robinson's clutch shots cement Wildcats' win

BY ED WRIGHT **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

There was something more valuable than a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow shot Plymouth senior guard Kelsi Robinson launched from the deep corner late in Tuesday's season opener against visiting Walled Lake Northern.

Instead of a fortune of coins, there was a clutch, back-breaking, twine-finding triple that proved to be a pivotal spark in the Wildcats' 33-32 victory over the Knights.

Robinson's three, combined with a soft baseline jumper she netted 30 seconds later, extended her team's lead to 28-23 and helped cement first-year Plymouth coach Ted Sturdivant's "W" in his high school coaching debut.

"That was exhilarating," said Sturdivant, moments after the memorable victory, which also happened to fall on his birthday. "It's always more fun to play in tight games like tonight's than blow-outs. Plus, it gave me a great opportunity to evaluate my team.

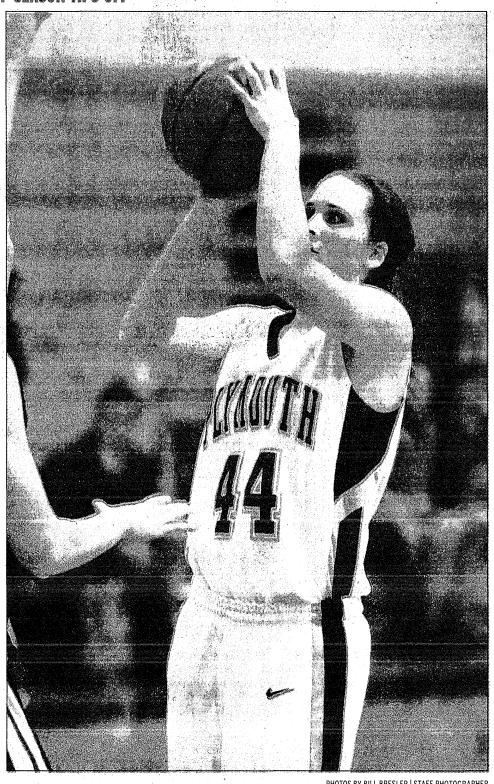
"I learned a lot about this team tonight. The No. 1 thing I learned was these girls don't quit, regardless of the circumstances."

On a night when points were hard to come by - especially from the free throw line, where both teams combined to sink just 23-of-45 attempts - the Wildcats appeared to seize an insurmountable 22-14 lead with 5:30 left in the third quarter.

However, Northern reeled off a 9-1 run over the next seven minutes to deadlock the game at 23-all on Carissa McKenna's free throw with 6:15 to play. Plymouth's Stacey Klonowski con-

verted a driving layup through the heart

Please see WILDCATS, B2



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Stacey Klonowski takes aim at a shot during Tuesday night's 33-32 victory over Walled Lake Northern. Klonowski netted six points and five rebounds.

in win: Schmitt sisters lead Canton over Saline, 46-3

BY ED WRIGHT OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two weeks after taking their final strokes for their school's swim team, Canton's Schmitt twins — Sara and Kari - proved Tuesday night that they have pretty good strokes on the basketball court as well.

The sophomore sisters combined for 30 points in the Chiefs' 46-31 season-opening victory over visiting Saline. Sara led all scorers with 19 points (to go along with

National City

four rebounds) while Kari contributed 11 points, seven boards and four steals.

"They're both great competitors, terrific workers," raved Canton coach Brian Samulski. "They work well together and they do a nice job around the rim. Sara made 11 of 13 free throws, too, which was

Also playing major roles in the Chiefs' successful opening night were Lindsey Winters, who netted eight points; Melanie Pickert, who added four points, five assists and five steals; and Alyssa Cottrell, who

"had a nice game defensively," in Samulski's Saline time-out late in the third quarter opinion.

Kayla Brothy paced the Hornets with 16 points, 12 coming on four threes.

Canton led 23-19 at the half before padding its lead to 33-25 with eight minutes to play.

"It's always nice to start out 1-0," Samulski said. "It's good for our confidence, especially with us having such a young team. Hopefully, we can build on

this win.' The Chiefs actually benefitted from a

when the Hornets had cut their deficit to two points.

"We came out of that timeout and got a couple of easy baskets and got our lead back up to eight," Samulski said.

Canton hit 19-of-30 free throws. Saline was just 4-of-12 from the charity stripe.

The Chiefs host state power Birmingham Marian on Thursday. The opening tip is scheduled for approximately 7 p.m.

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



Hits just keep on coming

Ex-Chief star McClendon carries skills over to college game

BY ED WRIGHT **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

One day, in the not-toodistant future, Deshon McClendon will pursue a career in the field of physical therapy.

But in the meantime, the former Canton gridiron standout is enjoying college life at Saint Joseph's (Ind.) College, where he is majoring in biology, playing Division II college football and delivering boneneed for physical therapy.

Pound-for-pound, the 5foot-7, 190-pound McClendon was one of the hardest-hitting players to ever pull on a Canton football helmet. Things haven't changed at St. Joe's, where the ex-Chief was the Pumas' second-leading tackler this past season.

McClendon earned All-GLFC first-team honors for his defensive efforts and All-GLFC honorable mention hon-

crunching tackles that create a ors for averaging 25.0 yards on

kickoff returns. During a Sept. 20 Great Lakes Football Conference game against Lake Erie College — which was played in of all places Painesville, Ohio - McClendon piled up a teamhigh seven tackles from his inside linebacker position. He also forced a fumble, recovered a fumble and returned a kick-

Please see MCCLENDON, B4

off 50 yards - most of which

Thomas scores

Former Canton High School football standout Devin Thomas scored his first NFL touchdown Sunday for the Washington Redskins.

With 8:31 left in the second quarter of Washington's 23-7 loss to the New York Giants, Thomas took a handoff on a reverse from Redskins quarterback Jason Campbell and sprinted 29 yards to paydirt. The ex-Chief and Michigan State University star eluded two Giants inside the 5-yard line and dove head-first into the end

Horse business

TCM Equine Ventures, based in Canton, claimed the senior cutting reserve world championship title with Catty Starlight, a 2001 Sorrel American quarter horse stallion, during the FedEx Open competition at the American Quarter Horse Association World Championship, held Nov. 15-22 in Oklahoma City, Okla.

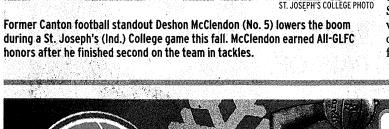
"Winning a reserve world championship title is one of the most prestigious awards in AQHA show competition," said Bill Brewer, AQHA executive vice president.

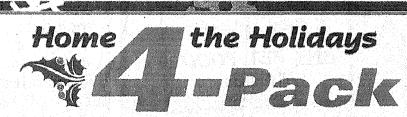
The AQHA World Championship Show is the largest, richest single-breed world championship horse show in existence, with more than \$2.7 million awarded to 3,494 entries from 48 states, eight Canadian provinces, Brazil, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom.

Xtreme-ly good news for Ignition

The four-team Xtreme Soccer League, which includes the Detroit Ignition, received provisional membership in the United States Soccer Federation for its inaugural season, the league announced Tuesday.

The USSF is the governing body for soccer in the United States.





FRI, 12/12 vs. PACERS • 8 PM WED, 12/17 vs. WIZARDS • 7:30 PM FRI, 12/19 vs. JAZZ • 8 PM TUE, 12/23 vs. BULLS • 8 PM

FRI, 12/26 vs. THUNDER • 8 PM MON, 12/29 vs. MAGIC * 7:30 PM WED, 12/31 vs. NETS • 3 PM FRI, 1/2 vs. KINGS • 8 PM

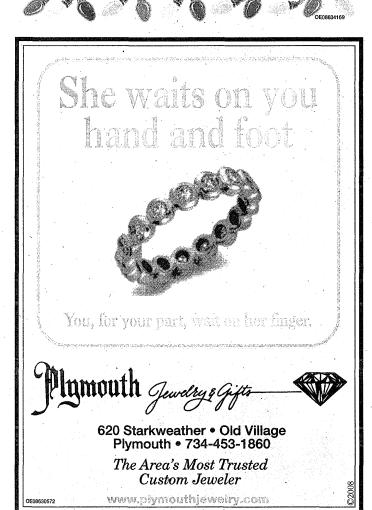


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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 4, 2008



Buckle up!

New Plymouth hoop coach likes high-speed offense

BY ED WRIGHT **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

After overseeing close to 2,000 blue-uniformed men and women who, among other things, enforce speed limits, Ted Sturdivant is ready to inspire a group of 15 black-and-silver-uniformed girls to move as fast as they can.

Although the new Plymouth High School girls basketball coach has no previous high school coaching experience, he knows plenty about leadership and game plans. Sturdivant worked 28 years for the Michigan State Police — the last three (2003-06) as the director of the state's largest law enforcement agency.

"I coached a lot of AAU basketball on the weekends when I worked for the State Police — it was a great stress reliever," he

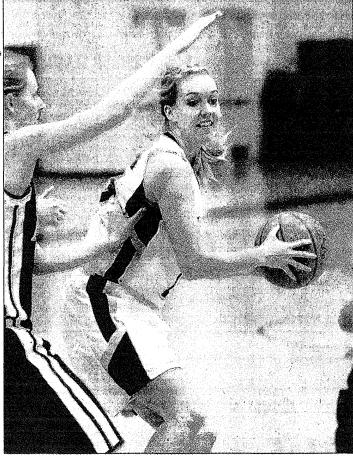
said, chuckling. Sturdivant is well known in AAU circles in this area after having served as a coach for the Western Wayne Wolfpack the past several years. He was hired June 26 to succeed former Plymouth coach Richelle Reilly.

"I was ecstatic when I found out I got the job," said Sturdivant, a resident of Plymouth Township. "I am looking forward to this opportunity to lead the Plymouth Wildcats. This is a dream come true for me."

There will be no slowdown-or-else warnings for the Wildcats this season, their new coach emphasized.

"We're going to have an up-tempo style," Sturdivant stressed. "We're going to utilize the great athleticism we have on this team.

"Like any team with a new coach, this team has had to learn new terminology and a different way of doing things. But the girls have done a great



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Megan Quinlan provides Plymouth with strong senior leadership and lockdown defensive capabilities.

job of picking things up and

moving forward." Sturdivant inherits a seasoned roster that didn't graduate one starter from last year's squad.

Leading the returners is senior center Shaakira Haywood, a 6-footer who can dominate the paint on both ends of the court.

Haywood, who recently signed a letter of intent to play college basketball at Northern Illinois University, nearly averaged a double-double last season and alters as many shots as she blocks, which is many.

"Shaakira brings a great lowpost presence," said Sturdivant. "She can also run the floor very well for a big girl."

Joining Haywood on the Wildcats' starting front-court are Stacey Klonowski, a 5-9 junior, and Megan Quinlan, a 5-9 senior.

"Stacey plays an all-around steady game," said Sturdivant. "Megan gives us all-out effort and lock-down defense."

Starting in the back-court will be seniors Jalesa Moise, a 5-3 point guard who started her freshman season before missing the last two campaigns due to injuries, and Kelsi Robinson, a 5-10 shooting guard.

"Jalesa is an excellent floor general," said Sturdivant. "She has good decision-making skills.

"Kelsi is probably the quickest and fastest player on the team. She gives a us a good

outside presence as well." The first three players off the ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2108 ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2108



Senior Jalesa Moise, who started her freshman year at Plymouth before missing the next two years due to injury, returns to run the Wildcats' offense from the point-guard position.

bench will be Alex Roberts, a 5-7 sophomore, who can play guard and forward; Alysse Calcaterra, a 5-7 junior guard; and Katelyn Moss, a 5-9 sophomore, who can play guard and four thefts.

"Alex is probably our most athletic player on the team," said Sturdivant. "Katelyn is one of those even-tempered players who never gets rattled.

Providing solid depth to the Wildcats' reserve corps are 5-11 junior Tyler Buchanan, 5-3 junior Troi Davis, 5-8 senior Nicole Rottell, 5-9 senior Paige Visser, 5-8 senior Bri'anah Hightower and 5-8 junior Danielle Desilets.

of the lane on the Wildcats' next possession before Robinson fired her two daggers into the Knights' victory hopes a couple minutes

"Kelsi was money tonight," said Sturdivant. "She was our goto player. Shaakira (Haywood) excelled in the post, it was Kelsi

Robinson who brought us home." Robinson finished with a game-high 18 points. She also netted four rebounds and three steals.

Klonowski chipped in with six points and five boards. Haywood, who drew a pair of Knight defenders throughout the night, scored just four points, but she hauled down a game-high 11 rebounds to go with three blocked shots.

Even though Shaakira only scored four points, she was a big part of this win because she drew a lot of fouls on Northern and with them double-teaming her, it opened up the outside for Kelsi.

"I think we sent a message tonight that if teams are going to double-team Shaakira, we have some other players who will make them pay the price."

McKenna was the lone Knight to hit double-figures, registering 10. Kelli Golota added nine and Whitney Tower-Woods contributed eight.

Plymouth led 18-12 at the half. Northern surged back to knot the game at 22-all with eight minutes to play before Robinson's late flurry.

A pair of Megan Quinlan free throws padded the Wildcats' lead to 32-28 with 46.8 seconds to go. Woods-Tower drained two

free throws with 13.5 ticks left to bring the Knights to within 32-30, however, Robinson countered with a free throw with 12.4 showing on the clock.

Woods-Tower canned a driving layup with 4 seconds left to cut the deficit to 33-32, but Northern couldn't foul as the final seconds on the scoreboard evaporated into zeroes. Neither team shot particularly

nailed 10-of-28 shots (35.7 percent) while the Knights connected on 10-of-43 attempts (23.2 Plymouth was 0-for-7 from the

well from the field: Plymouth

floor in the third quarter.

The Wildcats turned the ball over 18 times, thanks in large part to the ball-hawking defense of Woods-Tower, who recorded

When asked what his team needed to improve on, Sturdivant flashed a large grin, then countered the question with a ques-

"How about free throw shooting," he said, referring to the 'Cats' 12-of-25 effort from the stripe. "That and moving our feet better on defense so that we can eliminate a lot of unnecessary reaching fouls.

"We have a lot to work on as a team, but that said, it's always good to get that first victory."

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Many happy returns

Salem welcomes back four starters from 20-3 title team

BY ED WRIGHT **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

One of the perks of having a talented, young basketball team one year is that you're usually stocked with a talented, experienced basketball

team the following season. Case in point: the 2008-09 Salem Rocks, who return four of their five starters (and five of their top six players) from last year's 20-3 Western Lakes Activities Association championship contingent.

"We only graduated one starter from last year's team, so this is a veteran squad we have coming back," said Salem coach Fred Thomann. "Obviously, the one starter we did lose — Alaya Mitchell - was a dynamite player and will be difficult to replace.

"One of the first things we're going to have to figure out is how we're going to replace her explosiveness and quickness."

The Rocks' top returner is 5-foot-11 senior post player Chelsea Davis, who recently signed a letter of intent to play basketball at Wayne State University. Davis is a doubledouble threat every time she steps on the court.

"Chelsea can play center and power forward equally well," said Thomann. "She can hit the mid-range jump shot and she's a good offensive rebounder. She has a nice back-to-thebasket game as well."

A pair of juniors — 5-11 Sara Stone and 5-9 Brett deBear give the Rocks a tall and reliable back-court combination.

Both started last season as sophomores and both can handle the point-guard duties, Thomann said.

They're both solid at handling ball-pressure situations," the veteran mentor said. "Sara's more of a power player

while Brett's more of a finesse player, but they can both shoot and defend."

Salem's fourth returning starter is 5-10 senior forward Victoria Brotz, who may be the best perimeter shooter on the

"Victoria is an outstanding perimeter shooter," Thomann confirmed. "We have to do a better job of getting her more involved in the offense this

The Rocks' fifth starter will be senior Tracy Whalen, a 5-11 transfer from Farmington Hills Mercy.

"She started last year for Mercy as a junior," Thomann said. "I knew right away she was a player because she scored the first eight points for Mercy when we played them last year. She's a terrific rebounder and defensive player."

The first player off the bench should be Rachel Norman, a smooth 5-9 junior forward.

"She played extremely well for us down the stretch last year and she had a nice summer for us," said Thomann.

Other key reserves include Tara Durocher, a 5-8 senior forward and Alyssa Garbarino, a 5-9 junior forward.

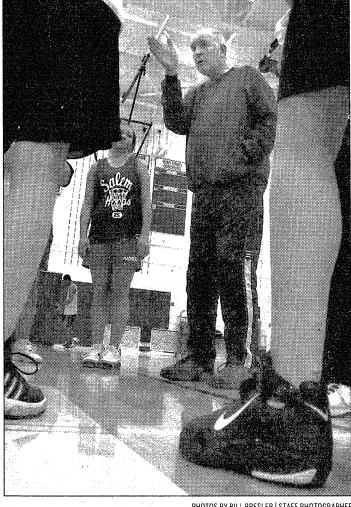
Salem will be competing in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's Central Division, which includes Novi, Northville, Livonia Stevenson, South Lyon and South Lyon

"It will be a very, very competitive division," Thomann assured.

Salem opened its season Wednesday night at Ann Arbor

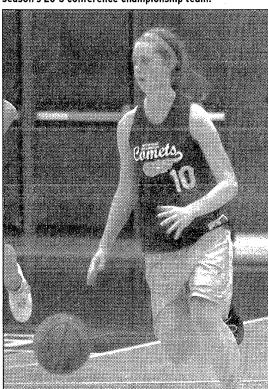
The Rocks' home opener is Friday, Dec. 19, against Canton.

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem coach Fred Thomann discusses strategy with his team during a Monday afternoon practice. The Rocks return four starters from last season's 20-3 conference championship team.



Junior Brett deBear will handle a lot of the point-guard responsibilities for the Rocks this season.

For Petes' sake: Petersborough harpoons Plymouth Whalers

Tony Romano registered two goals and an assist, and Jason Missiaen stopped 38-of-39 shots as the Peterborough Petes raced to a 4-0 first period lead and defeated the Plymouth Whalers, 6-1, in an Ontario Hockey League game played Saturday night at Compuware Arena in Plymouth.

Peterborough is now 13-15-0-1. Plymouth had a two-game winning streak snapped and fell to 9-13-3-0.

Besides Romano's pair, Peterborough received singles from David Quesnele, Yves Bastien, Ryan Spooner and Sergey Korostin, and two assists each from Zack Kassian and Jamie Doornsbosch.

Patrick Lee scored Plymouth's lone goal, assisted by Tyler J. Brown and Tyler G. Brown.

Peterborough took con-

trol of the game early, getting first-period goals from Quesnele at 2:47 (deflection of Doornsbosch's point shot), Bastien at 7:00 (shorthanded goal, hard shot left wing), Spooner at 13:37 (deflection of Pat Daley's low point shot) and Korostin at 15:25 (one-timer from the slot after accepting Romano's right wing pass).

Trailing 4-0 in the second period, Plymouth battled back, but Missiaen stopped 23-of-24 shots and Romano scored at 4:07 and 9:18 respectively to give Peterborough a 6-0 lead midway through the game.

Lee got one back for Plymouth at 16:28, scoring on a scramble in front of the Peterborough goal and roofing the puck past Missiaen. The third period was scoreless.

Plymouth outshot Peterborough, 39-30.

Plymouth is off until tonight when it plays in Peterborough.

On Friday the Whalers travel to Oshawa before returning home Saturday to host Sault Ste. Marie at 7:05pm at Compuware

The Whalers are orchestrating a food drive on Saturday. For every nonperishable food item a fan brings to the game, they will receive a coupon good for \$2 off a ticket to a pre-selected Whalers home game.

The food collected will help stock the Salvation Army food pantry.

Tickets for all Plymouth Whalers game are available by calling the Compuware Arena box office at (734) 453-8400.

Chiefs capture puck title

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

While most people were finishing off Thanksgiving left-overs Saturday afternoon, Canton's hockey team was cleaning up at the Salem Thanksgiving Tournament.

The Chiefs successfully defended their title at the fourteam tournament by doubling-up the Michigan Stars, 4-2, at the Plymouth Cultural Center. The Stars are a Midget-A travel team made up of high school-aged players. Canton improved to 3-0-1 with the victory.

Details of the game were not available at presstime.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL Thursday, Dec. 4 Ricmingham Marian at Canton 7 n m

Friday, Dec. 5
PCA at Baptist Park, 7:30 p.m.
F.H. Mercy at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
BOYS PREP HOCKEY Friday, Dec. 5 at Arctic Edge, 8 p.m. Livonia Stevenson at Salem

at Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m. West Bloomfield at Plymouth at Compuware Arena, 7:40 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6
Salem at Waterford Mott, 2:20 p.m.
Plymouth at Chelsea
at Arctic Coliseum, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6
Canton at Warren Woods
Tower-Duals, 9 a.m.
Salem at Orion Invitational, 9 a.m.

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he covered with only half his foot gear. "I caught the ball at the 25-yard line

and right away one of my shoes fell off," McClendon said, describing his lengthy kickoff return. "When I got to about midfield, I jumped over the kicker, but I got tackled at the other team's 25. If I wouldn't have lost my shoe, I think I would have scored, but it felt weird running with only one

From Day 1 last fall, McClendon earned a starting berth in the Pumas' defensive secondary, despite his freshman status.

However, he had to sit out the team's first two games due to a paperwork snafu that was beyond his con-

"The first game I missed last year was against Grand Valley State, so, yeah, I was bumming," McClendon reflected. "It would have been fun playing against one of the best teams in the country in front of thousands of people."

After watching from the sidelines for the first two games in 2007, McClendon made his presence felt in his debut — an 11-8 loss to Butler.

Playing strong safety, he registered six tackles and an interception while also forcing a fumble.

"I was pretty fired up for that game after sitting out the first two," said McClendon, who was awarded the league's "Defensive Player of the Week" award.

McClendon said the collegiate game is a whole different brand of football than what he experienced in high school.

"Everybody is a lot faster, a lot stronger and there's a lot more strategy," he said.

McClendon said he is excelling in the classroom at the rural campus, which is located not far from Chicago.

"There's not a lot out here, but I like it." he said.

When he's not studying toward his biology degree, working out for the football team or hanging out with friends, McClendon takes care of the responsibilities that go along with being a resident assistant for his dor-

Once he earns his bachelor's degree. McClendon is prepared to transfer to another school that offers a three-year doctorate degree in biology so that he can become a practicing physical

But until then, he's satisfied making tackles that keep opposing teams' physical therapists on their toes.

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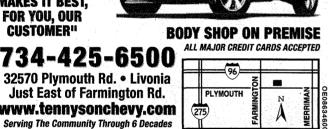
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Feb. 23-27; and April 13-17. HVS camps will be offered from Feb. 23-27 and April 13-17.

The camps included basketball (10 a.m. to noon), soccer (1 p.m. to 3 p.m.) and crafts (9 a.m. to noon). For more information, call (734) 487-7668 or visit www. hvsports.com.

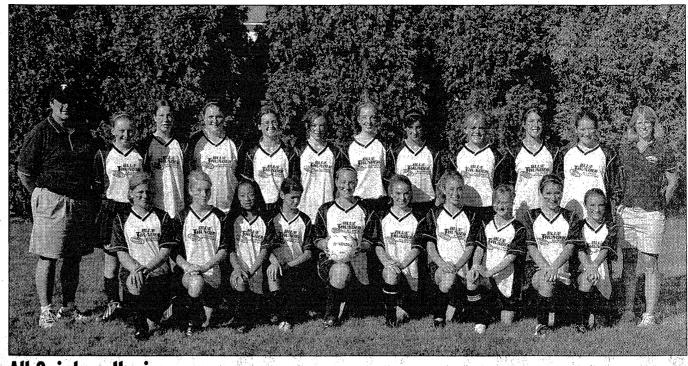
Nokes seminar

Former Detroit Tigers catcher Matt Nokes will present the seminar "The Art of Hitting Your Way" Dec. 7 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Precision Baseball in

The cost of the 90-minute PowerPoint seminar and 90minute training session is

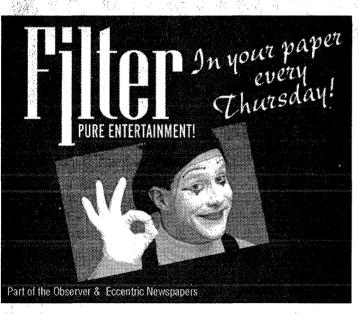
For more information, contact Precision Baseball at (734) 459-5921 or visit http://precisionbaseballone.

The indoor baseball facility is located at 7835 Market St. in Canton.



All Saints, all wins

The All Saints Catholic School varsity girls soccer team captured their division this past fall. Pictured are (front row from left) Katie Miller, Maria Wegienka, Nicole Binguit, Ashley LaFramboise, Alex Zelek, Clare Cox, Kelly Bindon, Alanna Tarnacki, (back row from left) assistant coach John Gunnis, Ella Mucci, Elena Bongiovanni, Kim Gunnis, Jordan Sutton, Brittany Layden, Alaina Stevenson, Lauren Lukens, Molly Nolan, Jessica Kuznicki, Michelle Jaskolski and coach Suzanne Bindon.





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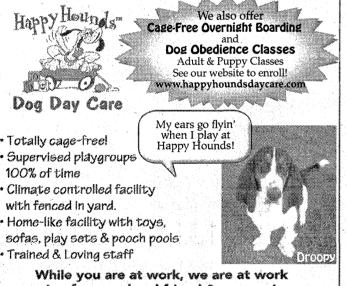
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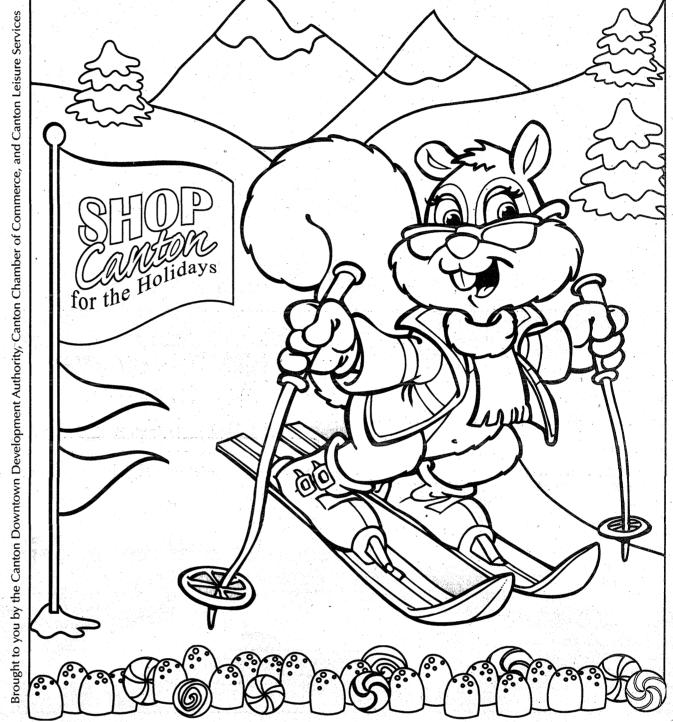
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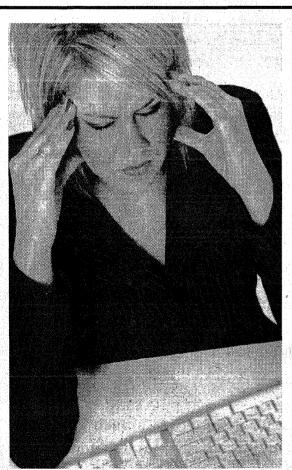
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Turn your entry in at World of Floors (during business hours) located at 43711 Ford Road, by noon on Friday, December 5th. You can also bring your picture to the ShopCanton Holiday Fest between 12-3:00 p.m. (Entries received after 3:00 are not eligible to win.) Pictures will be displayed and judged at the World of Floors Coloring Corral in Candyland. (It will be located in the old Bombay store at the east end of the mall.) 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place winners will be selected from each age group. Winners will be notified by e-mail on Wednesday, Dec. 10. For more details on the ShopCanton Holiday Fest event or extra coloring forms, please visit www.shopcanton.org.

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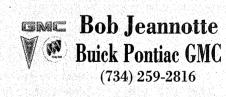
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mo. rent free. Cherryhil Village, 2 bdrm 2 bath, fire place, bsmt. 734-354-6886 HOWELL- DOWNTOWN, 2500 underground parking spaces \$1150/mo. 810-533-0749

Big 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, 1st floor \$750/mo. 248-330-2981

Duplexes NORWAYNE - 3 bdrm. mint

condition. 3 car garage w storage. Backs up to school. \$700/mo. 248-982-3281 WAYNE - SEC. 8 OK. 2 bdrm brick duplex w/ bsmt, appli-ances, private entry, \$650/mo. 1.5 month dep. 734-753-4448 **Homes For Rent**

FERNDALE Near Downtown Huge 1100 sq ft, 2 bdrm, 1 bath, all appliances, hardwood floors, 2 car. \$950/mo. Pets negotiable, 248-877-1606.

Homes For Rent

BERKLEY Charming 3 bdrm in great area. All appliances, full bsmt, clean with new decor. No pets/smoke free. \$850/mo. 248-644-1411

DEARBORN HEIGHTS, 24414 Powers. 3-4 bdrm, shed, \$795 showing Wed & Sun at 6pm. 734-444-5212, 313-920-5966 DEARBORN HTS 1300 sq. ft.

3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, finished bsmt, 2 car detached garage. Section 8 ok. 248-808-8150 FARMINGTON HILLS, 21187 Renssalaer. Completely remodeled 2 bdrm, garage, appli incl. \$785/mo, 248-514-3075

FARMINGTON HILLS 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, bsmt, 2 car, new furnace, a/c. Pets and Sec 8 OK. \$1000. 248-476-5325

FERNDALE 4 bdrm. fireplace, appliances, bsmt, new paint,

windows. \$1050/mo. + deposit. 734-968-9253

Garden City- 3 bdrm, 2 bath, finished bsmt, garage, all appliances. \$1025/mo. + security Deposit. 313 201 0366

HOWELL 3 bdrm. 2 bath. washer/dryer, garage, Ig fenced yard, pets considered 517-546-5685

INKSTER - 26728 Oakland. 3 bdrm, bsmt, new kitchen & windows. \$725/mo. + \$1000 sec dep. (734) 981-0838

LIVONIA - 2 bdrm, large yard, carpet, appliances, pets considered, great starter home. \$700/mo., 734-464-6966

NOVI - Clean, spacious 3 bdrm, bsmt, washer/dryer, 1 car garage. \$950/mo 248-231-7433

cod on double lot, 1 bath, cen-tral air, appliances, washer, dryer, bsmt, immediate occu-

pancy, no pets. \$900/mo. + 2 mo. security. 734-604-0930 REDFORD - Newly renovated 3 bdrm, 2 bath ranch, finished smt, family room, 2 car. \$1100/mo. (734) 425-3333

REDFORD - Sharp 3 bdrm enclosed porch, 2 car garage, double lot. Sec. 8 OK. \$850/mo. 734-425-3333 **Homes For Rent**

WESTLAND 3 bdrm, garage,

no bsmt, new kitchen, bath,

C/A, Livonia schools. Sec. 8 Ok. \$850/mo. 734-956-5485

WESTLAND 37172 Gilchrist, 3

bdrm, 1.5 bath, 2 car, no pets. \$950/mo. + 1 ½ security deposit. 734-819-3557

updated 3 bdrm, 1 bath, appliances, garage, fenced.
Avail. now. \$825. Sec 8. (586) 273-7565

The lest local classifier of

1-800-579-7355

WESTLAND - Newly

SOUTHFIELD 3 bdrm, finished

BONITA BEACH, FL CONDO bsmt. 2 car, deck, appliances incl. Southfield & 12 Mile. \$1150 + util. 248-556-6520 Gulf front, 2 bdrm, 2 bath See www.VRBO.com #47376 \$3500/mo, 248-224-1580. TROY House newly updated 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath, 2 car garage, bsmt, A/C, appliances, family rm. w/fireplace. \$1450/mo. incl. yard work & snow removal. 248-640-1611



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248-865-8550 WESTLAND - Dental clinic fo lease-operating rooms, priarea, employee's dining area & large waiting area. All oper ating rooms fully plumbed 1si 2 months free rent. Call Mon-

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Fri, 9-5pm. (313) 561-1212

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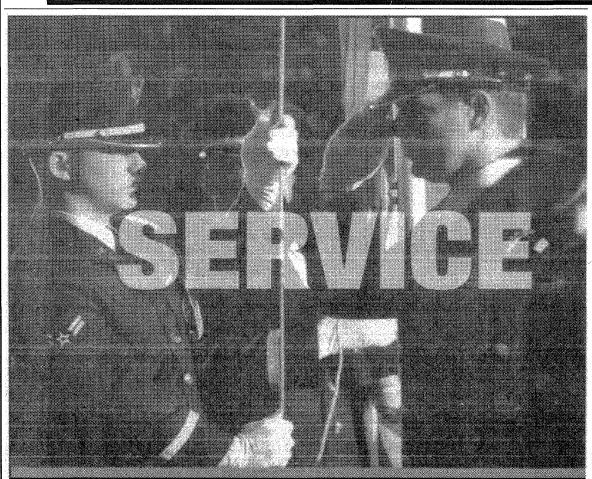
*Must be 62 or Older; Income Limits Apply.



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Local gridder selected for elite national bowl game NAIA pool play starts:

BY ED WRIGHT **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Canton resident Cameron Dillard will be banging shoulder pads with many of the best eighth-grade football players in the country early next month.

Dillard, who excelled for the Plymouth-Canton Steelers junior football program the past two years, was invited to participate in the 2009 FBU Youth All-American Bowl, which will be played Jan. 4 in San Antonio, Texas.

The game will be proceeded by a week-long camp that will feature instruction provided by several NFL coaches.

Dillard and the other middleschool-aged players will train alongside high school gridders who will be competing in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl,

an annual showcase of the nation's top prep football players that will be broadcast on

"As part of the nomination process, we put together 14 or 15 highlights from the Steelers game film this past season and sent the film to Football University, which puts together the program," explained George Dillard, Cameron's dad. "They also take into consideration the players' off-the-field contributions, like when Cameron volunteered for the Michigan Special Olympics last summer."

The Dillards received an email on Nov. 20 notifying them of Cameron's selection.

"Cameron getting picked is reflection of how great the Plymouth-Canton Steelers football program is," said George Dillard. "Cameron has learned

so much since he joined that association after we moved to Canton from North Carolina two years ago."

The 5-foot-9, 170-pound Dillard played offensive tackle for the Steelers' varsity contingent this season. He was instrumental in the team's 7-2 season, which included a division title.

The future Canton High School student has also worked hard to master the art of longsnapping, a skill he also performed for the Steelers this fall.

Among the eighth-graders invited to participate in the elite camp is Ray Lewis III, the son of Baltimore Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis.

The game will be broadcast via the Web on Sunday, Jan. 4.

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



ANDY RUBENSTEIN

Canton resident Cameron Dillard was invited to play in the prestigious FBU Youth All-American Bowl Jan. 4 in San Antonio.

Crusaders denied in 5

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Madonna University women's volleyball team now finds itself behind the eight-ball following Tuesday's setback in five games to Lewis-Clark State College (Id.) in the opening round of the NAIA National Championships held at the Tyson Events Center in

Sioux City, Ia. Julie Maciboba racked up 21 kills, while Anile Clemente and Dana Christianson added 15 and 12, respectively, to lead the unseeded Warriors to a comefrom-behind 23-25, 22-25, 25-21, 25-20, 15-13 triumph over No. 11-seeded MU.

Clemente also had 20 digs, while Lindsay Scott and Katie Hinrichs added 18 and 11 for Lewis-Clark, which improved to 30-2 overall. Setters Abby Bruva and Lisa Davis combined for 48 assists.

MU, which fell to 35-5 overall, got a game-high 23 kills from senior Lubovj Tihomirova. Mary McGinnis added 18, while Karie Altman and Whitney Fuelling added 13 each.

Setter Inta Grinvalds finished with 54 assist-to-kills. while Brynn Kerr (Livonia

Cheer for the

hometeam,

read today's

the Flag.

Roll Call

Williams, Yack

Staff Present:

unanimously

Churchill/Schoolcraft College) had 33 digs. Abby Long added

The Crusaders return to action Wednesday night in Pool B against 33-5 Lubbock (Tex.) Christian, which fell in

four games to No. 2-seed Biola

(Calif.).

"It was a great match, we had a big lead in the fifth game (8-3), but they came back and they were on fire," MU coach Jerry Abraham said. "They (Lewis-Clark) are very good. The first two games were battles. It went back and forth, both evenly matched teams. But when you're winning 2-0 (games) you should close out match and win ... and we didn't.

Madonna needs a win Wednesday to stay alive for the elimination round, which begins Friday.

"We're in a really powerful pool," Abraham said. "The competition gets harder every match. They (Lubbock) are very fast, very talented. Then we play the second-best team in the country (Biola). We'll

For more on Wednesday's and Thursday's Madonna $matches, visit\ www.hometown$ life.com

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON BOARD

Proceedings-November 25, 2008

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held Tuesday, November 25, 2008, at 1150

Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to

Members Present: Anthony, Bennett, Caccamo, McLaughlin, Taj,

Director Conklin, Director Faas Adoption of Agenda Motion by

Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the agenda as

Approval of Minutes Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the Board Minutes of November 11, 2008.

Payment of Bills Motion by McLaughlin, supported by Bennett to

approve payment of the bills as presented. Motion carried

RECOGNITION: Item 1. RECOGNITION OF DEPUTY CHIEF LAURA GOLLES' RETIREMENT. Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution in recognition of Deputy Chief Laura Gollis' retirement. Motion carried unanimously. Item 2. RECOGNITION FOR CANTON INFORMATION

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DIVISION STAFF MEMBER. Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin, to adopt the

resolution for Canton Information Technology Services Division

Staff Member. Motion carried unanimously

Item 3. RECOGNITION OF CANTON COMMUNITY

TELEVISION AWARD WINNING STAFF. Motion by Bennett,

supported by Taj to adopt the resolution in recognition of the

Canton Community Television Staff. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Item 1. CONSIDER REAPPOINTMENT OF GREG TROMBLEY TO BUILDING

BOARD OF APPEALS. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by

McLaughlin to re-appoint Greg Trombley to the Building Board of

Appeals. (Term expiring 12/31/2010). Motion carried unanimously.

Item 2. RE-APPOINTMENT TO THE CDBG ADVISORY

COUNCIL. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin

to reappoint Susan Wooley and Katherine Martin to the CDBG

Advisory Council for two-year terms, effective January 1, 2009, and

expiring December 31, 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL CALENDAR: Item 1. CONSIDER HCR MANOR CARE REZONING HEARTLAND HEALTHCARE ADDITION & WILLOW CREEK PUD AMENDMENT #4. (MSD) Motion by

Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to adopt the resolution

Rezoning request of HCR Manorcare. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Bennett, supported by Williams to adopt the resolution

for Willow Creek PUD Amendment #4. Motion carried

unanimously. Motion by Bennett, supported by Williams to adopt

the resolution for the site plan for Heartland Health Care

Expansion. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 2. CONSIDER DEDICATION OF ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY

AT CANTON CENTER AND GEDDES ROAD TO WAYNE

COUNTY. (MSD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to

approve the dedication of a 60-foot road right-of-way for the

property at 45450 Geddes Road at the intersection of Canton

Center Road and Geddes Road for (parts of) parcel Tax Numbers,

71-112-99-0002-000 and 71-112-99-0003-000 and authorize the

Township Supervisor and Clerk to sign the quit claim deeds...

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 3. APPROVE BID FOR PRINTING THE 2009 SERVICE

DIRECTORY AND CALENDAR. (FBD) Motion by Bennett,

supported by Taj to approve the bid submitted by National

Wholesale Printing Corporation in the amount of \$10,990

Communications Account #101-240.900_0040 Printing and

Publishing) for printing of the 2009 Service Directory and

Item 4. CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF A TIME. ATTENDANCE, LEAVE AND SCHEDULING SYSTEM. (FBD) Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to approve the

purchase of a Time, Attendance, Leave and Scheduling System

from Stromberg Systems for an amount not to exceed \$101,000. I

further move to approve the following budget amendment to the

2008 General Fund Budget. Increase Revenues: General Fund

Balance - Fund Balance Appropriation #101-000.695 \$101,000

Increase Appropriations: Capital Outlay Computers, and

Equipment #101-258.970_0010 \$101,000, This budget adjustment

increases the Information Technology Division from \$973,017 to \$1,074,017 and the General Fund from \$28,396,791 to \$28,497,791.

OTHER: Supervisor Yack stated there will be not be a study

session on December 2, 2008. The next regular Board Meeting will

be December 9, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Building,

First Floor, Board Room, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan.

ADJOURN: Motion by Bennett, supported by McLaughlin to

adjourn at 7:53 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director Santomauro, Director Eva,

Lady Ocelots rebound from 1st loss of season

The Schoolcraft College women's basketball team went 2-1 at the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Turkey Shootout, which was held this past weekend at the Cougar Gym in Kalamazoo.

The Ocelots (5-1) entered the tournament as the No. 3ranked team in the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division II.

Schoolcraft opened the event on Friday with a 73-72 setback to Owens CC (Ohio). It was the Ocelots' first loss to Owens since Nov. 28, 2004.

Angela Burress led the Ocelots balanced scoring ledger with 14 points and seven rebounds. Sheray Brown (12 points, nine rebounds) and Amber Avery (11 points) also turned in double-digit scoring nights for SC, which outrebounded Owens, 44-35, but was hampered by shaky shooting (37 percent from the field; 60 percent from the charity stripe).

Schoolcraft led 33-32 at the half.

On Saturday, the Ocelots handed Kennedy-King (Ill.) its fifth loss in six games this season, 103-73.

Schoolcraft, which led 46-38 at the half, was led by Salem grad Tayler Langham, who poured in 18 points. Six other players also scored in double-figures: Antania Shepherd (13); Avery and April Goins (12 each); Shannon Collins and Jasmine Brown (11 each) and Brittany Collins, who twined 10.

Avery and Sheray Brown both yanked down a teamhigh 10 boards while Brittany Collins dished out a gamehigh 12 assists.

The Ocelots routed

Columbus State (Ohio), 93-59, on Sunday. Led by Jasmine Brown's 17, six Ocelots cracked the doublefigures scoring barrier. Goins notched a double-double with 16 points and 11 rebounds.

Shanika Morman scored just one point, but she recorded a game-high 11

Schoolcraft was red-hot from the floor, hitting 52 percent of its field-goal attempts and 57 percent of its triple tries. Jasmine Brown was 3-for-3 from beyond the

Madonna kickers booted, 2-1

Second-seeded University of Rio Grande (Ohio) applied heavy pressure throughout the match en route to a 2-1 win Monday over Madonna University in the round of 16 of the 50th annual NAIA Men's Soccer National Championships hosted by Fresno (Calif.) Pacific University.

Rio Grande, now 17-3-1 overall, advances to Wednesday quarterfinal against the winner of No. 7 Notre Dame (Ohio) and No. 10 Maine-Fort Kent.

Rio's Paul Nicholson got the scoring started in the 41st minute taking a pass from Ederson Lopes. That marker was Nicholson's eighth goal of the year. The game-winner came off the foot of Sam Fairhurst in the 60th minute, which was

again assisted by Lopes. Eric Kiebert set up MU's lone goal finding Doron Drai, which resulted in Drai's third goal of the season. That brought the count to 2-1 in the 75th minute.

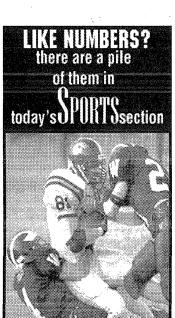
In the net, Madonna's

Charter Township of Plymouth

Anthony DeMarco made 13 saves. That total was the first time a goaltender posted 10 or more saves in the NAIA Tournament since Brian Cochrum of Oklahoma Christian had 10 in 2006.

Goalkeeper Nate Walzer improved to 10-2 this year in the net for the RedStorm.

The 15th-seeded Crusaders, Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference champions, end their season at 16-4-1 record in its second NAIA Championships appearance.



VISIT HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Legal Notice **Charter Township of Plymouth** 2008 Winter Taxes

Winter Taxes are due December 1, 2008 and payable through February 17, 2009 without penalty. Additional information appears on the reverse side of your tax statement. MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH. Payments can be made at the Township Hall during regular working hours, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Treasurer's Office. After hours payments can be placed in the 24 hr WHITE DROP BOX located along the circular drive. The Treasurer's Office will be open December 31, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. RON EDWARDS, Treasurer

Publish: December 4, 2008

ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON

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

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

Publish: December 4, 2008

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON **INVITATION TO BID**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, December 18, 2008 for the following:

SWEEPER UNIT / BROOM UTILITY VEHICLE

Bids 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 bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

Publish: December 4, 2008

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, 12/15/08 TATE & CO. Auctioneers, Executive Administrator for Extra Space Storage, will be offering for sale under the judicial lien process, by public auction, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of sale will be cash only. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: Extra Space Storage, 6729 N. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48187 @ NOON.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Ray Schultz

D157 10x10 Vacuum Cleaner, 27" CRT TV, boxspring size: full, instrument case, misc. bedroom furniture, coffee table, copier and scanner, picture frame, large tote.

Jeff Krappitz D155 10x10

Fridge, twin mattress & spring, armoire, patio furniture, toolbox, compressor, grill, misc. tools and household goods.

OE8634858_2x3

CHANGE OF CONTROL NOTICE

Donald M. Soenen, as Trustee of the Donald M. Soenen Trust dated 9/14/84, Plymouth, Michigan, and Michael J. Soenen, Chicago, Illinois, have notified the Federal Reserve Board that as a group acting together they intend to retain control of a bank holding company. They intend to retain control of Plymouth Financial Corporation, 1333 West Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, Michigan. The Federal Reserve considers a number of factors in deciding whether to approve such applications.

New Liberty Bank, Plymouth, Michigan is a subsidiary of Plymouth Financial Corporation.

You are invited to submit comments in writing on this notice to the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, 230 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604. The comment period will not end before January 3, 2009 and may be somewhat longer. The Board's procedures for processing notices may be found at 12 C.F.R. 225.43. To obtain a copy of the Board's procedures or if you need more information about how to submit your comments on the notice, contact the Community Affairs Officer at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Ms. Alicia Williams, (312) 322-5910. The Federal Reserve will consider your comments on the notice if they are received by the Reserve Bank on or before the last date of the comment period.

Publish: December 4, 2008

CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT 1150 S. CANTON CENTER RD. **CANTON, MI 48188**

sold at public auction December 9, 2008 at 10:00 A.M.

Rd., Westland, MI 48185. The vehicles will be sold as is, starting bid

Year	Make	Model	Body	VIN#
1998	Olds		4 Dr	1G3WS52K1WF323995
1995	GMC	Jimmy	S/W	1GKDT13W2S2503863
2006	Dodge	Charger	4 Dr	2B3KA43R56H394348
2004	Mazda	RX 8	2 Dr	JM1FE173240102875
1996	Nissan	Altima	4 Dr	1N4BU31D7TC171188
1998	Ford	Windstar	S/W	2FMZA5143WBC20206
2004	Pontiac	Grand Prix	4 Dr	2G2WP522941305271
1999	Ford	Windstar	S/W	2FMZA6143XBB23850
1996	Mercury	Marquis	4 Dr	2MELM7462TX605906
1992	Ford	Mustang	2 Dr	1FACP41M9NF156095
1995	Plymouth		4 Dr	1P3AA4639SF508686
1998	Pontiac	Grand Am	2 Dr	1G2NE52T9WC770611
1993	Honda	Civic	2 Dr	1HGEJ1261PL053844
				나는 그는 사람들이 많아 보다는 그들은 사람들은 그들은 것이다.

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be

The auction will be held at Westland Car Care Towing, 6375 Hix

Year	Make	Model	Body	VIN#
1998	Olds		4 Dr	1G3WS52K1WF323995
1995	GMC	Jimmy .	S/W	1GKDT13W2S2503863
2006	Dodge	Charger	4 Dr	2B3KA43R56H394348
2004	Mazda	RX 8	2 Dr	JM1FE173240102875
1996	Nissan	Altima	4 Dr	1N4BU31D7TC171188
1998	Ford	Windstar	S/W	2FMZA5143WBC20206
2004	Pontiac	Grand Prix	4 Dr	2G2WP522941305271
1999	Ford	Windstar	S/W	2FMZA6143XBB23850
1996	Mercury	Marquis	4 Dr	2MELM7462TX605906
1992	Ford	Mustang	2 Dr	1FACP41M9NF156095
1995	Plymouth		4 Dr	1P3AA4639SF508686
1998	Pontiac	Grand Am	2 Dr	1G2NE52T9WC770611
1993	Honda	Civic	2 Dr	1HGEJ1261PL053844
Publish:	December 4 and	l 7, 2008		

can also be accessed through our web sitewww.canton-mi.org after Board Approval.

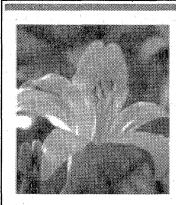
Motion carried unanimously

Copies of the complete text of the Board Minutes are available at the office of the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd, Canton, MI 48188, during regular business hours and

THOMAS J. YACK, Supervisor

TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk

Publish: December 4, 2008



assages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

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CHARLES E. LOWE

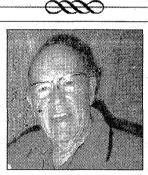
A Southern gentleman, a real Kentucky Colonel, died Dec. 1st amongst his family. He succumbed to a combination of his 93 years and a great desire to oin his wife of 64 years, Bettye, who predeceased him on January 2, 2007. He is survived by generations of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and decades of friends, associates, companions and admirers. He was born dirt poor in Inez, Kentucky, in 1915, son of a lumberman, raised with his siblings by a widowed mother. He served his country in WWII and for 22 years after in the Army Reserves, retiring as a Lt. Colonel. Amongst his numerous accomplishments, he was Mayor of Garden City from 1960-62, City Attorney of Plymouth for 18 years, Past Master of Metropolitan odge #519, and co-founder of the Kentuckians of Michigan. His children, Rebecca Ponte (Glen), Ronald W. Lowe (Jeanine), and Charles E. Lowe Jr. (Tonya) were at his bedside. He will be missed by all who had the pleasure to have known him. A memorial visitation will be held at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main, Plymouth, Saturday, December 27 2008, 1-5pm. A Masonic Service will take place at 4pm. Memorials may be made to Angela Hospice.



DOROTHY "DOTTIE" SHARER (NEE WIKEL)

Age 93 of November 29, 2008. Birmingham. Beloved wife of the late Edward. Dear mother of Richard (Serena) and Diana. Loving grandmother of Daniel Chichester and Sarah Chichester. Sister of Howard Wikel (Betty). Family will receive friends at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward Ave. (btwn 13-14 Mile) Friday 4-8 p.m. Funeral service Sunday 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 1669 W. Maple Rd., Birmingham. Visitation begins at church 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, family suggests memorial tributes to Many Voices. . . One Song, 1669 W. Maple Rd., Birmingham, MI 48009 or Little Stone Church, Mackinac Island, MI 49757.

View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



DR. ALDEN EARLE VAN ORNUM, DDS

Of Batavia, NY, went to be with his Lord and Savior on November 29, 2008. Age 95. Dr. Van Ornum had a dental practice in Plymouth, MI for fourty years and was active in Kiwanis, Chamber of Commerce, Christian Businessmen and the Wayne Baptist Church. Surviving are his wife Elizabeth Helen (Sellman) Van Ornum of Batavia; two children, Ann (Mark) Van Ornum Fackler of Grand Rapids and David (Trudie) Van Ornum of Batavia; two brothers, Rev. Carlton (Jean) Van Ornum and Paul Van Ornum; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Calling 5-6 p.m. Thursday at H.E. Turner & Co. Funeral Home of Batavia, NY where services will follow at 6 p.m. Condolences to www.bataviafuneralhomes.com.



IN MEMORY OF MELISSA (Williams) LAMBAREN

7-7-74 to 12-3-07

Like a song that remains in the heart when the music is playing no more, like a fragrance that stays in the air where a flower has blossomed before. like a star that continues to glow long after the breaking of dawn, the ones we have loved remain with us still, and the beautiful memories go on. Love you and miss you so much!

Dad, Mom, Chris, Jenny, Sue, Jess and Marty



Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 4, 2008

LEO E. HARRAWOOD

Of Novi. Passed away November 29, 2008 at the age of 88. Beloved husband of Beatrice, loving father of Diana (Brent) Canup and Debra (Zack) Fishman. Predeceased by who died in 1991 after 51 years of marriage. Loving grandfather of Brent Jr. (Ginger) Canup & Brenda (Michael) Daray. Great-grandfather of Morgan & Margaux Canup and Skylar & Taner Daray. Leo is survived by one sister Laura Wofford and predeceased by three brothers and two sisters Francis, Paul, Everett, Gladys Petri & Nellie. Beloved uncle to Pam and Art. Leo was a founder and active member of numerous organizations and businesses in Novi and the State of Michigan. He was a WWII veteran and recipient of two Purple Hearts with Oak Leaf Clusters, Good Conduct Medal, Bronze Star w/ Arrowhead, and the WWII Victory Medal. He was a life time member of the Disabled American Veterans, Amvets and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Leo served the village of Novi in several capacities including city planning board member. Councilman and Past President Pro-Tem. He was instrumental in making Novi into a city. Mr. Harrawood was a charter member, director and Past President of the Novi Rotary Club District Governor for Rotary District Number 638. A charter member of the Farmington Elks Lodge, a charter member of St John's Lutheran Church Farmington, Past President of the Novi Chamber of Commerce. Leo served as the illustrious Potentate of the Moslem Temple and was a member of the Walled Lake Masonic Lodge. He was the owner/operator of

the Standard Oil/Amoco gas station on Grand River & Novi Road for 44 years. He was also the owner of the BP station at Novi Road and 12 mile. He was the co-owner of Shirley Cash Realty of Novi, Owner Founder of Sales Training Institute of Detroit. Leo was an avid outdoor sportsman, a licensed pilot and successful motivator and sales trainer. Visitation at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 55 Grand River, Novi, (248) 348-

John Lutheran Church. Online sympathy messages at: www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

1800, Wednesday 5-9pm. Masonic Service Wednesday 7:00pm and

Thursday 1-9pm. In state at St. John

Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill Rd.,

the funeral service at 10:00. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St.



WANDA M. **BRACISZEWSKI**

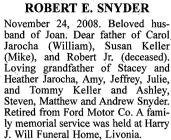
Age 80, of Westland, formerly of Plymouth passed away November 28, 2008. Born in Salem Twp, on November 1, 1928. Worked for Whitman & Barnes in Plymouth for 25 years and than for the City of Plymouth for 12 years. Loving wife of the late Frank. Devoted mother of Michele D. (Warren) Grisamer and Darryl Bingner, Proud grandmother of Brett (Kara) Grisamer, Susan and Katelin Bingner. Dear sister of Russell (Carol) Merritt and Rodger (Carol) Merritt. Services were held from the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home 280 South Main, on December 2, 2008. Interment Thayer Cemetery, Northville. Share memories at

schrader-howell.com.



WILLIAM JOHN CORTEZ

Age 71, passed away December 1, 2008. Bill was born on August 10, 1937 in Detroit to the late John and Angeline (Urso) Cortez. He worked in quality control for Ford Motor Company for 33 years. Bill is survived by his wife Jackie; children Bill Jr. and daughter-in-law Tracy, John, Kathy, and Angela; grandchildren Andrew, Nicolas, Samantha, Zachary, Rachel Cheryl, and Joey; great-granddaughter Autumn: and sister Rosemary Smith. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Frank Cortez. A Memorial Service will be held at Brighton Church of the Nazarene on Saturday, December 6, 2008 at 11:00 am with memorial gathering beginning at 10:00 am. Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1942. Memphis, TN 38105-1942. Arrangements by Phillips Funeral Home. Online guestbook www.phillipsfuneral.com



SALLY LEE BUSHA

(nee Gyde) Of Plymouth passed away from her ong battle with cancer. She is survived by her best friend and husband of 52 years, Frank Busha. She has a beloved daughter and son, Susan Hoy and James Busha. Very loved are Richard Hoy, son-in-law and Lori Busha, daughter-in-law. Proud and grandmother of Amanda Kenny Busha, Sally Jo Hoy loving and Emma Hoy. She was born August 7, 1937, a sixth generation of the Plymouth-Canton area, predeceased by her father Kenneth Gyde and is survived by her mother Onalee Gyde. Her favorite activities included bik ing, working on her flowers and golfing (hole in one 2006). She had many friends and special neighbors of Wedgewood Village and Florida. A celebration to her life will be held, with a Gathering of Family and Friends Friday 10:30 AM until the time of the Memorial Service at 11 AM at First United Methodist Church of Plymouth, 45201 N. Territorial Plymouth. Visitation Thursday 2-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth. (btwn Sheldon and Beck). Memorial contributions suggested to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Cancer Care Office of Development, PO Box 995, Ann Arbor MI, 48103. To share a memory with the family, please visit:



WANDA L. NORTHEN (NEE YATES)

Age 83. November 29, 2008. Beloved wife of the late Philip. Loving mother of Carol (Frederick) Smith, Diane (Michael) Burkhart, and Northen. Dear grandmother of James (Lana) Acitelli, Sharyl (Allan) Rubin, Barrie Burkhart, step-grandmother of Chris (Crystal) and Matt Smith, and great-grandmother of Jacob, Joshua and Zachary Rubin. Wanda was an accomplished artist and a past member of the Detroit Society of Women Painters, Palette and Brush Club, and the Farmington Artists. Visitation was held Wednesday, December 3, 2008 4-9pm and today Thursday, December 4, 2008 10:00am until time of Service at 11:00am at McCabe Funeral Home, 31950 W. 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills, Interment Glen Eden Memorial Park. www.mccabefuneralhome.com



All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: Flags, religious American symbols, etc.)

Deadlines: Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday Obituaries received after these deadline will be placed in the next available issue e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Jennifer Musztuk 586-826-7318

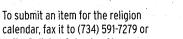
For more information call:

Jennifer Musztuk

586-826-7115

OE08579123

Charolette Wilson 586-826-7082 or toll free 800-579-7355 ask for Jennifer or Charolette



write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

UPCOMING

Christmas concert

The Silver Strings perform 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City. No charge. Call (734) 427-3660.

Kids Christmas craft days

Deadline is today, Thursday, 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 Road, 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) 422-1470

Advent presentation

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 Road, Livonia. No charge, but RSVP by calling (734) 425-5950. Presenter is David Conrad, M.A. Theology.

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.

Christmas craft show

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at St. Thomas d'Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley at Cherry Hill, Canton. Bake sale and lunch available at the show featuring more than 85 crafters. Admission \$2, children under age 12 free. Call (734) 981-1333.

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.

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, www.mcs-notes. ora. 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.

Christmas season events

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville, is hosting events for the Christmas Season at no charge in the sanctuary. Events include Early Childhood Christmas Concert, 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. "Angel Alert," the children's Christmas pageant, takes place 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, reception to follow. "A Gift of Hope" Christmas concert featuring the Ward Chancel Choir, Teen Choir, Orchestra, Ensembles and Handbells is 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, includes audience singalong of favorite Christmas carols. The Combined Choirs and Orchestra with guest conductors and soloists perform 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21.

Christmas music

"A Christmas Pageant" features The Praisemakers Choir (ages 4-5) 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, and "Repeat the Resounding Joy" Christmas Dinner Theater Dec. 12-14, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. The Friday-Saturday, Dec. 12-13, performances begin at 7 p.m. and a full dinner will be served. Sunday night's program, Dec. 14, begins at 6 p.m. with a dessert table only. For tickets, visit www.5milechurch.org or call (734) 464-6722.

Grief workshop

Getting Through the Holidays, a workshop for those grieving the loss of a

RELIGION CALENDAR

loved one at what can be an extremely difficult 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 Road, Livonia. Guest speaker is Certified Hospice Trainer and Pastoral Associate, Dianne Fessier. 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)

Detroit Lutheran Singers

Celebrate CHRISTmas concerts 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 Sheldon Road, 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.

Holiday cookie walk 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 13,

at First United Methodist Church of Wayne (across from Wayne Post Office). Holiday cookies, breads, pies and candies, specialty gift baskets. Cost is \$5 for small container, \$9 medium, \$13 large. For information, call (734) 721-4801.

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 Road, between Beech-Daly and Inkster Road, in Redford. (313) 937-2120.

Choirs concert

The Choirs of St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia invites the public to a special Christmas concert, "Ring In The Holidays", 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at the church, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road. The concert features the Felician Sisters Choir as well as St. Michael's Handbell Choirs and the Mikapellas, a women's acappella choir. No charge. For more information, call (734) 261-1455, ext. 200, or visit www.livoniastmichael.

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 Road, 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.

Christmas worship

Special Christmas service 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, with the choir at First United Methodist Church of Wayne singing "Music from around the World." All welcome. Church is located at 3 Towne Square, across from Wayne Post Office. Regular services 9 a.m. traditional, 10:30 a.m. contemporary. Call (734) 721-4801.

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. **Christmas Eve services**

7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, at Good Hope Lutheran Church. 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster Road and Middlebelt, Garden City, All are welcome. Call (734) 427-3660.

Christmas worship

5:30 p.m. family worship, children's pageant; 7:30 p.m. candlelight communion service (Contemporary Worship Ensemble); 10:30 p.m. Christmas music prelude, and 11 p.m. candlelight community service with Chancel Choir and Trinity Bells

Wednesday Dec 24 and 10 a m Christmas worship Thursday, Dec. 25, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. All are invited.

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.

Sunday school

Takes place at 9:30 a.m. with worship service and communion at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday, at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City. Bible study 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday, Call (734) 427-3660.

Hall rental

Volkmar Hall located in Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads. Garden City, is available for rent. For information, call (734) 427-3660.

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

Please see CALENDAR, B9

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.gcfellowship. org or call (734) 525-6019.

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 e-mail her at marthapaul@sbcglobal.

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 welcome.

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.orchardumc.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.

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

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.org.

Grief workshops help during the holidays

is difficult at any time of the year, but especially during the holidays.

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 the community, inspirational music, and scripture readings all can seek the peace, hope and love that are the true gifts of

Dealing with the loss of a loved one Christmas during 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 for more information.

St. Michael the Archangel Parish holds a grief workshop as well, Getting Through the Holidays, 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, in the Convent Meeting Room, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia. The 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.

Blankets needed for homeless shelters

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church is collecting blankets for the homeless through Monday, Dec.

Once collected, the blankets will be distributed to homeless shelters in the Metro Detroit area with the assistance of the American Red Cross.

New or slightly used twin size

blankets may be placed in the plastic bins outside of the church. Blankets may also be dropped off inside the church from 9 a.m. to noon on

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church is located at 16360 Hubbard, between Farmington and Merriman roads, Livonia.

Your Invitation to Worship

CATHOLIC

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Immemorial Latin Mass Approved by Pope St. Pius V in 1570

St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8

23310 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121

Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass

Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.

Mass Schedule: Fri. 7:00 p.m. Sat. 11:00 a.m. s 7:30 & 10:00 a.m.

EVANGELICAL COVENANT

FAITH COVENANT CHURCH

(248) 661-9191 **Sunday Worship** and Children's Church 9:15 a.m. Contemporary 11:00 a.m. Traditional

Child Care provided for all services Youth Groups • Adult Small Groups UNITED METHODIST

Cherry Hill United Methodist

Worship 10:30

Prayer Hour Thursday 7:30

734-495-0035

Rev. Merlin Pratt

Clarenceville United Methodist 20300 Middlebelt Rd. · Livonia 248-474-3444

Pastor Beth Librande Worship Service 9:30 AM Nursery Provided

<u>'More than Sunday Services'</u>

Worship Services

9:00 a.m. & 11:30 AM

Sunday School & Nursery

9:00, 10:30 & 11:30 AM

Pastor: Dr. John Grenfell III

Associate Pastor: Rev. David Wichert

First United Methodist Church

of Plymouth

45201 North Territorial Road

(734) 453-5280

www.pfumc.org

Aldersgate Methodist United Methodist 10000 Beech Daly 1313-937-3170
9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sun. Schi.

Sunday Worship www.redfordaldersgate.org 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional

Staffed Nursery Available

Sunday/Bible Class 9:45 am

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

St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church St. Genevieve School - PreK-8

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

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

PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Cherry Hill Seventh-day **Adventist Church**

33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City, MI 48135 block west of Venoy) Phone: 734-524-088 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.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Wednesdays:

Prayer Meeting-7 p.m

Timothy Lutheran Church A Reconciling in Christ Congregation 8820 Wayne Rd. veen Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road Livonia • 427-2290 Jill Heather, Pastor

10:00 a.m. Family Worship (Nursery Available)

PRESBYTERIAN

Fellowship Presbyterian Church

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire

Services held at: Madonna University's Kresge Hall 36600 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia Parking lot is on N.W. corner of Levan & Schoolcraft • Nursery provided

www.fellowship-presbyterian.org

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and

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Rev. Marsha M. Woolley

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Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

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Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413

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LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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Wednesday Evening Service 7 p.m.

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Christian School Pre-Kindergarten-8th Grade

For more information call

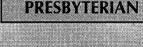
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY 313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP **Worship Service** 9:15 & 11:00 A.M.

Nursery Provided The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth, Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pasto

Sunday School 9:15 & 11:00 A.M.

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Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560 The WMUZ Word Station For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org

313-937-2233

Immanuel Lutheran Church Pastor Milton Schem 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights (just East of Inkster Road)

(313) 278-5755 Worship Service & Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Risen Christ Lutheran David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth

(734) 453-5252 Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Nursery Care Available All are welcome. Come as you are.

www.risenchrist.info

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First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth 734-453-0970 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. vening Testimony Meeting 7:30

p.m. Reading Room located at church Saturday 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. 734-453-0970

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



and is in the east court

Entertainment this Month...

December 5 Fri.
December 6 Sat.
December 8 Mon.
December 9 Tues.
December 10 Wed.
December 12 Fri.

December 16 Tues. December 17 Wed. December 19 Fri December 23 Tues December 25 MADD Holiday Mocktail Mixer 11am 1pm – East Court
Safety While You Shop 12pm – 4pm – East Court
Ladywood High School Choir Group 12.45pm – 1.30pm – JC Penney Court
Phil Gram All Stars 6pm – 8pm – East Court
3D's &W Barbershop Quartet 6pm-8pm – Throughout the center
Our Lady of Good Counsel 10.45am – 11.30am – JC Penney Court
3D's &W Barbershop Quartet 6pm-8pm – Throughout the center
Phil Gram All Stars 6pm – 8pm – East Court
3D's &W Barbershop Quartet 6pm-8pm – Throughout the center
3D's &W Barbershop Quartet 6pm-8pm – Throughout the center
Phil Gram All Stars 6pm – 8pm – East Court

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Realtors favor plans to boost housing market

At the 2008 Realtors Conference & Expo Nov. 7, Federal Housing Finance Agency Director James B. Lockhart III assured Realtors that government-sponsored enterprises Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and the Federal Home Loan Banks will continue to play a critical role in the country's economic recovery.

"As director of FHFA, I am using the authorities established in the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 to ensure that the housing GSEs (government-sponsored enterprises) provide stability and liquidity to the mortgage market, support affordable housing and operate safely and soundly," said Lockhart.

FHFA is a newly created independent federal agency that was granted expanded legal and regulatory authority to take actions that would strengthen Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and the Federal Home Loan Banks. Lockhart told Realtors that placing Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac into conservatorship was unavoidable and was necessary primarily because of "an inherent conflict and flawed business model embedded in the GSE structure."

"Our members see firsthand the impact that an unstable housing market is having on communities all across the country," said National Association of Realtors President Richard F. Gaylord, a broker with RE/MAX Real Estate Specialists, Long Beach, Calif. "Ensuring that the nation has a strong secondary mortgage market and continued affordable financing will certainly help stabilize housing prices."

NAR sent a letter on Oct. 16 to U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson calling on the Treasury Department and the FHFA to refocus their efforts on restoring strength to the mortgage-backed securities market, which would help lower mortgage rates for all home buyers and for those needing to

"The administration and Congress need to work together to ensure that the American people not Wall Street and large banks benefit from the economic recovery plan, and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac play an important role in this recovery," Gaylord said.



Gordon McCann, president of the Farmington-based Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors, was at the November conference of Realtors in Orlando, Fla. McCann agreed with the fourpoint stimulus plan presented: "We want to make it available to all homeowners," the Coldwell Banker Schweitzer-Bake of Plymouth Realtor said.

In 2008, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac loan limits were raised, a move McCann and many colleagues would like to see continue. "We're trying to make those programs permanent," McCann said.

"It didn't really have as much of an effect on us," said Walt Baczkowski, CEO of the Metropolitan Consolidated Association of Realtors, serving Oakland and Macomb Realtors from offices in Troy and Clinton Township. MCAR has some higher end properties less impacted by that particular provision.

Baczkowski and colleagues are pushing for 4.5 percent financing for any first-time buyer to be made permanent.

"We feel that would be a good

stimulus," he said, noting it doesn't apply to those refinancing. "The whole thing is to get new people into the marketplace. That seemed to be a good stimulus. They still have to qualify" for a mortgage.

Also being advocated by MCAR is the \$7,500 tax credit proposed for one time. "If we could couple that with the ability to get financing," that would help the housing market significantly. "It's getting new people to come forward," said Baczkowski, also in Orlando for the conference along with many other real estate pros.

"Anything they can do to stimulate the economy right now is a good thing," he said.

In the interests of stimulating the housing market and the economy, NAR supports making the 2008 GSE loan limits for high-cost areas passed in February as part of the Economic Stimulus Act permanent. In addition, NAK submitted a stimulus plan to Congress and the administration in October calling on Congress to enact a new housing stimulus package that would help boost the economy.

The plan includes consumer-driv-

en provisions that would eliminate repayment of the first-time homebuyer tax credit and expand the credit to all homebuyers, make the 2008 increased mortgage loan limits permanent, focus the economic stabilization efforts on supporting the housing and mortgage markets instead of providing capital to banks with no strings attached, and permanently ban banks from entering into real estate brokerage or development.

According to an NAR economic analysis presented in October, a reduction, or a buydown, of interest rates by just 1 percentage point could result in up to 840,000 additional home sales and reduce the inventory of homes by as much as 20 percent. Inventories currently at a 9.9-month supply would decrease to approximately a 7.5-month sup-

NAR reported that reducing the interest rate, combined with removing the home buyer tax credit repayment, would reduce inventory by an additional 10 percent, down to a 6.5-month supply, and would produce modest home price gains of 2 to 4 percent. Such price gains would provide up to \$760 billion in housing equity for the nation's 75 million homeown-

"Stabilizing home prices would not only improve the housing market but also would bring clarity to the valuations of mortgage-backed securities, removing uncertainty in the financial markets and positively affecting the overall U.S. economy," Gaylord said.

Reacting to the Nov. 25 announcement by the Federal Reserve on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, said purchasing debt obligations of Fannie and Freddie is an important move. "We commend the Fed decision because it will directly bring down long-term interest rates," he said. "The level of investment should be aggressive enough to bring interest rates down in a meaning ful manner. As we've seen in past recessions, home sales rise when mortgage interest rates fall."

O&E staff writer Julie Brown contributed to this report.

45144 Bartlett Dr

22098 Edgewater

\$119,000

\$74,000

Interpreter usually not required

Q: We have a member of our condominium association who wishes to attend our board meetings but is hearing impaired. He wants us to have an interpreter at those meetings so that he can follow the events. What is your view on that?

A: That of course depends upon what state you are talking about but in Michigan, by way of example, members are not entitled to attend board meetings. If, however, the association has a policy of allowing members to attend board meetings, then I do not believe that it



Robert Meisner

is absolutely necessary for them to provide an interpreter, and the cost of same should be borne by the co-owner. That is, if a co-owner is allowed to attend a board meeting, and needs an interpreter, he should pay for same. On the other hand, it could be argued that since the

policy of the association is to allow "open board meetings," the board may have some responsibility to accommodate that co-owner. This is a difficult question, and you are best advised to consult with the association's attorney and/or a Fair Housing expert in connection with this issue. Generally speaking, reasonable accommodations need only be at the expense of the disabled owner. The board, of course, has the discretion to decide whether to cover the cost, or it may be able to get a sign language interpreter to volunteer at no cost. Of course, special and annual meetings of the association might result in a different decision because the co-owner would have a right to attend those meetings.

Q: I am a landlord and I am concerned about my liability because a black tenant is claiming that another (white) tenant has been verbally clashing with him in the hallway. The lease signed by the white tenant gave the landlord authority to evict a tenant who disturbs another tenant's peaceful enjoyment of their accommodations.

A: While each state may have their own views, in a case similar to your facts, the Supreme Court of Ohio said that a landlord is not liable under state law for creating a hostile housing environment by failing to prevent one tenant's racial harassment of another tenant. In that case, the state's statute prohibited discriminating against any person in terms of their housing because of race, but did not specifically provide for a cause of action against a landlord who fails to take corrective action regarding a hostile housing environment created by another tenant. The court indicated that while the conduct of the tenant was reprehensible, it declined to extend liability to behavior so far beyond the reach of the statutory language, especially in light of the absence of an agency relationship between the landlord and his tenants and the landlord's comparative lack of control over his tenants. Moreover the court suggested that the power of eviction alone is insufficient to hold a landlord liable for the tenant's tortuous actions against another tenant. I would advise to consult with your own attorney.

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

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.

Topics to be covered: What to look for? What to avoid? Financing red flags. What is the property worth? What to do with it after you own it? How to add value to it? What will it be worth in the future? Condo or house? What is the best area?

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"

Please see BRIEFS, C2

These are the Observer & Eccentric-area residential real estate closings recorded the week of August 11-15, 2008, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office, plus some from Oakland County. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Canton

\$175,000

42683 Addison Ave

2139 Al Caula DI	\$120,00
2249 Arcadia Dr	\$117,00
2674 Brookfield St	\$156,00
327 Cherry Hill Pointe Dr	\$178,00
50650 Colchester Ct	\$450,00
1955 E Franklin Dr	\$114,00
46499 E Oak Manor Ct	\$239,00
7463 Embassy Dr	\$205,00
48229 Inveraray Rd	\$420,00
2458 Lancelot Ct	\$197,00
8356 Orhan St	\$153,00
44443 Penny Ct	\$210.00
201 Scarlett Dr	\$255,00
3509 Shepherd Ln	\$130,00
1567 Valentine Ct	\$195,00
44245 Vassar St	\$230,00
1440 Walnut Ridge Cir	\$175,00
7066 Willow Creek Dr	\$160,00
Farmington	
34821 Arundel Dr	\$305,00
35610 Tall Pine Rd	\$240,00
Farmington Hi	lls
29567 Eastfield St	\$80,00
28262 Farmington Rd	\$150,00
20891 Gill Rd	\$105,00
24955 Lakeland St	\$135,00
39115 Lancaster Dr	\$200.00

21623 Lundy Dr 32442 Sprucewood St 1815 Henry Ruff Rd 28515 John Hauk St 31545 John Hauk St

35964 Ann Arbor Trl \$85,000 \$225,000 9913 Berwick St 15956 Brentwood St \$147,000 31548 Bridge St \$85,000 28528 Cleveland St \$125,000 \$146,000 9918 Fairfield St 11690 Farmington Rd \$110,000 18225 Glastonbury Dr \$315,000 16872 Golfview St \$150,000 9043 Hanlon St \$150,000 14939 Marsha St \$165,000 11060 Milburn St \$134,000 20034 Parkville St \$75,000 19915 Pollvanna Dr \$270,000 29654 Ravine Dr \$149,000 38618 Richland St 18810 Shadyside St 37138 Turnburry Dr 32212 Wisconsin St

HOMES SOLD

Livonia

\$122,000

\$109,000

\$95,000

Milford 753 Byron Dr 1643 Hidden Pond Northville 18100 Devonshire Ct 39598 Dun Rovin Dr 927 Millpond Ct

\$135,000 \$142,000 \$157,000 \$270,000 \$140,000 \$123,000 \$340,000 \$1,338,000 \$240,000 \$425,000 \$345,000 16502 Mulberry Way 15726 Penderbrook Ln \$366,000 18085 Ridgeview Dr \$555,000 488 Welch Rd \$235,000 39884 Woodside Dr N \$407,000

45760 Galway Dr \$230,000 28019 Hopkins Dr \$135,000 44895 Lindbergh \$300,000 24160 N Le Bost \$140,000 24762 Olde Orchard St. \$103,000 \$373,000 45760 Reminaton Ln 1301 S Lake Dr \$250,000 23560 Valley Starr \$160,000 21156 Wheaton Ln \$465,000 **Plymouth** 48131 Brewster Ct \$268,000 42732 Gateway \$240,000 44576 Marc Trl \$190,000 175 N Mill St \$150,000 Redford 16866 Centralia \$89,000 \$69,000 11675 Farley 19547 Garfield \$48,000 8919 Robindale \$88,000 9034 Sioux \$105,000 8869 Woodbine \$82,000 9551 Wormer \$115,000 Westland \$208,000 36112 Abbey Dr 1331 Berkshire St \$56,000 1904 Eagle Ct # 06 \$70,000 7760 Gary Ave \$125,000 \$120,000 29785 Lacy Dr 8453 Liberty Blvd \$148,000 30246 Matthew St \$43,000 914 Mitchell Dr \$166,000 31640 Parkwood St \$115,000 35856 Rolf St \$95,000 33800 Tawas Trl \$144,000

38976 Willow Creek Pkwy \$195,000



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4 Bed/5 baths, kitchen w/nook, HWD, cherry cabs, granite & SS appl's. Family rm w/fp, study w/fp & granite surround, fin w/o LL w/wet bar, rec rm & GR, 2.5 car garage w/carriage house, sunroom w/marble floor, in-ground heated pool w/new filter, waterfall, landscape w/ sond & 475,000 (igseven)

A RESORT STYLE HOME IN HEART OF NOV!

5 Bed/3.1 bath, over 6,700 sq. ft. incl. II, 2 Bed/1 bath, cherry cab's in kitchen w/ self closing drawers, new elec. serv, updated bath w/granite look tub/ shower liner, new windows & doorwalls, new hardwood floor in living rm, tennis valve filter, waterfall, landscape w/ 3.5 car garage on 3 acres. \$625,000 complex. Gas & water included in association dues \$120,000 (igoldeorth)







BUILDER'S OWN HOME DEEP IN SUB!

3 Bed/2.1 bath, large corner lot, great room concept w/18' ceiling w/natural fireplace & gas log, 2 story foyer, floor, 2 story great rm w/bridge above, finished w/o with rec. rm. & fam rm., study w/built-in bookshelves, gourmet huge first floor laundry, 3.5 car garage w/8' doors, c/a, master suite w/adj. counters & tie floor, jack & jill bath, room for nursery or large wi.c. common pool & clubhouse in golf community. \$410,000 (jgriveira)



DECORATOR PREFECT STONEWATER HOME! 5 Bed/4.2 bath, 2 story foyer, family rm w/2 story cherry f/p, gourmet kitchen w/maple cab's, ss appliances, stunning finished w/o with brick arches, 2nd kitchen, 5th bdrm, 3 laundry rooms, 3.5 car garage, state of the art landscaping, inground gunite pool w/stamped concrete patio. \$665,000 (jgstoner)

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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.

BIA

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will sponsor a Certified Graduate "Business Management for Building Professionals" course on Monday, Dec. 8, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at BIA Headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, in Farmington Hills. The course is part of the National Association of Home Builders' Certified Graduate series and counts toward Certified Graduate Associate (CGA), Certified Graduate Builder (CGB), Certified Graduate Remodeler (CGR). Certified Aging-In-Place (CAPS), Master Certified Sales Professional (MCSP) and Certified Green Professional (CGP) designa-

Chuck Breidenstein, CAPS of **Builders Professional Services** Group, will teach management skills that give industry leaders a solid foundation in the best business practices for planning, organizing, staffing, directing and controlling smaller businesses. Case studies and sample forms will be used to provide practical and applicable tools for management success.

Registration fees are \$155 for NAHBR Professional Remodeler members, \$175 for BIA members and \$200 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008 or register online at www.builders.org.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) and its National Association of Home Builder's Professional Remodelers Council (NAHBR) will sponsor Certified Agingin-Place (CAPS) seminars: "CAPS I: Marketing and Communication Strategies for Aging and Accessibility" on Wednesday, Dec. 10; "CAPS II: Design/Build Solutions for Aging and Accessibility" on Thursday, Dec. 11. The seminars will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills.

Don Pratt, CAPS, CGB, CGR of Wake-Pratt Construction will teach strategies and techniques for marketing, designing and building aesthetically enriching, barrier-free living environments.

Registration fees are \$155 per course for NAHBR members, \$200 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$250 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008 or register online at www. builders.org.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) is sponsoring a Certified Graduate seminar "Risk Management

& Insurance for Building Professionals" on Tuesday, Dec. 16, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100 in Farmington Hills.

Chuck Breidenstein of Madison Heights-based **Builders Professional Services** Group, Inc. will provide comprehensive risk management strategies to reduce construction risks and other exposures for residential and commercial builders, developers and remodelers. From overarching principles to practical solutions on obtaining the most competitive insurance quotes, this course provides the tools to manage risk. This course is not intended to take the place of legal counsel.

Registration fees are \$155 for National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Professional Remodeler Council members, \$175 for BIA and Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$200 guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008 or register online at www.builders.org.

Tours, classes

Free Foreclosure Tours are 1 p.m. Sunday. Call (248) 787-7325 or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

Real estate investors can learn from experts in a twoday class, \$99 includes classroom and field experience. Contact AddedValueRealty. com, (248) 787-7325.

Tours are Sunday at 1 p.m. Meeting place is the Home Depot parking lot at I-96/ Telegraph.





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734-453-6800



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Charming home on double corner lot. 3 BR, 2 BTHS, 18 fl master, oak cab kit, doorwall in lg liv rm, new roof & furnace. MLS #28184796 734-453-6800

4 Bed/5 Bath, totally remodeled, 2 f/p's, kitchen w/ granite & cherry cab's, sun rm w/marble floor, multi-tier deck to backyard w/inground pool. MLS #28189826

Golf course community - Newer construction, bedroom, 2 Bath, Open floor plan, Daylight basement.

Karen Foy 586-268-6174 MLS #28066871



4-5 BR. 3.1 BA cape backing to priv woods. Endless upgrades! Lots of hdwd firs. 1st fir mstr. Grmt kit w/ corian & granite. Prem cbts t/o. Full w/out.





cabs, upgraded carpet & pad, mstr ste w/vaulted ceil fam rm off kitchen w/ fireplace, 2 car gar. MLS #28189622







4 Bed/3.1 bath, mste ste w/cath ceiling, ext wood trim detail, spacious kitchen w/granite, built-in speakers t/o, central vac, intercom, 3 car garage. MLS #28193032 248-347-3050



Custom cape cod has 4 Bdrms, 4 Baths. Open floor plan boasts grmt kit w/granite cntrs, 1st flr master ste, GR w/ FP, bridge overlooks FR. Overlooks nature preserve.



Super clean 1-owner brick ranch in great neighborhood Fireplace, updated kitchen/bath, newer furnace/HWH some hardwood floors, all appliances stay. MLS #28182986 734-453-6800



5 Bed/3.1 bath, large tree lined lot w/creek, part fin II w/ 5th bdrm, remod. gourmet kit w/granite, updated landscaping, 3 car garage, walk to h.s. MLS #28182439 248-347-3050



countertops, some hardwood flooring, Premium MLS #28116207 Karen Foy 586-268-6174







Many updates to this 4 bedroom colonial. New kit cab

& counters, carpet in fin basement, roof, doorwalls,

siding & gutters. Inground pool w/wet bar. A must see.

734-453-6800

MLS #28184826







4 Bed/3.2 bath, 2 story or rm w/2 way f/p. 8acres. 4 car garage w/stairs to unfin daylight bsmt, kitchen w/hearth rm, mstr bath w/radiant heat.



down storage attic, 2 car gar. Nearly 1/3 acre lot.

10

Best price and super condition! 2 bedroom condo.

Private entry, 1-car garage. Updated oak kitchen. View





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C3

3570

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2 car garage,

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3 bedrooms, large

kitchen, 2 car

garage, \$41,900.

3 bedrooms,

1 1/2 baths,

attached 2 car

garage, Huge

Family Room,

1400 sq. ft.,

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Large Living Room,

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\$4000 down, 7% interest 3 years

payment \$530 plus

insurance, \$69,900.

3 bedroom brick

Ranch, Large

Fenced Lot, Full

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Thursday **PUZZLE CORNER**

Challenging fun for ALL ages

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Vain fellow
- 4 Do pull-ups 8 About 2.2 lbs.
- 12 Night -
- 13 Mystique 14 Classical face
- 15 "Orinoco Flow"
- singer 17 Kindhearted
- 18 Copenhagen
- native
- 19 Robins' bills 21 John, Paul,
- George and 22 Not wholly
- 25 Potpie veggie 26 Curved mold-

- ing 27 Old car 30 Payable 31 Sloping trough 33 Wieder-
- sehen
- 35 Not sinking
- 37 A Guthrie

- 38 Jacket feature 39 Flue plate
- DOWN 1 Enemy 2 Purchase
- 3 Wield, as oars 4 West Coast st Wifey's mate

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55 To boot

56 Just

57 Sports

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47 Kind of portrait 51 Pirate captain

52 Bard's river 54 Gehrig of base-

enthusiast

- 6 Orchid-like flower 7 Find fault
- 8 Ferocious bear 10 Ger. or Fr.
- OGRE BRED 12-1 © 2007 United Feature Syndicate, Inc. 11 Diet spread 16 Before, in
- combos 20 Prairie st

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ANEMONE HEDGE

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 - News agcy. 41 "Diana" singer 42 Spring

22 Seed container 23 Water, in Baja

24 Yachting

hazard

25 Stock option

27 Overhang 28 Dodge City

marshal 29 Criterion

- 43 Vegas numbers 44 Stalactite site 46 Woolly animal
- 48 Gnome 49 Hawaii's Mauna -
- 50 Recreation 53 Compass pt.

SUDOKU

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Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

I (AND I

THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

AMIABLE CHARMING CORDIAL DELIGHTFUL **GENEROUS** GENIAL GOOD **GRACIOUS**

KIND LIKABLE NICE **PLEASANT**

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

WDCORDIAL HARM XLGEN E

SEEKANDFIN

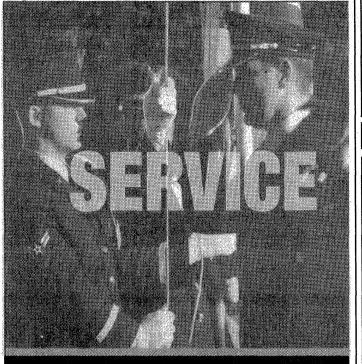
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Plymouth Lg. dining rm, living rm, bsmt, 2 bdrm, 2 porch, lg. lot, near park, no pets. \$825/mo. 734-453-7962

REDFORD - Cute 3 bdrm cape

cod on double lot, 1 bath, cen-tral air, appliances, washer

dryer, bsmt, immediate occu-

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3 bdrm, 2 bath ranch, finished bsmt, family room, 2 car.

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downtown. Incl. heat . No

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deposit. (734) 455-1215.

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LIVONIA - Remodeled large 3 bdrm, 2 bath ranch. Gorgeous 1 acre lot. 6 and Farmington Rd, \$1250/mo. Call: (248) 508-1975 FARMINGTON HILLS, 21187 PLYMOUTH 3 bdrm, 2 bath, Renssalaer. Completely remodeled 2 bdrm, garage, appli incl. \$785/mo, 248-514-3075 finished bsmt, 2 car garage fenced yard, C/A, hardwood. \$1150/mo. 734-717-5091 Farmington Hills - 2700 sq. ft PLYMOUTH - Cozy 1 bdrm 4 bdrm, cul-de-sac, backs to hardwood, appliances, washer/ dryer, A/C, covered deck, on park, near lake. 517-655-2753 commons incl lawn & snow \$1850/mo, 248-941-4222

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Unit #723 Tenisha R. Porter Household Items

Misc. Goods Unit #769 **Derrick Leroy Wilbourn** Household Items



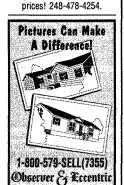
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Antiques/Collectibles 7020

HOLIDAY SALE 15%-30% OFF Nov. 13 th-Dec. 31st. \$100 Gift Cerficate Drawing Town & Country Antique. 31630 Plymouth, Livonia. (behind East Side Mario's)

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of Walnut Lake Rd
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Bertoia bar stools * Directional
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7110

CANTON

GARAGE

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Garage Sales



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Moving Sales

FARMINGTON HILLS - 33449 Colfax, 81/2 & Farmington, Sun 10-5. Appliances (3yrs) patio furniture, lawn tools, etc

7130

NOVI MOVING/ESTATE SALE Entertainment center • leather patio furniture • home gym Dec.5-6, 10-4pm Squire•Westminster Village•10 & Haggerty

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female, AKC reg, vet checked Right in Time for Christmas kingslyw@yahoo.com \$350 248-474- 6066

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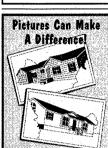


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2009 Toyota RAV4 Sport: Great power, great price

Advertising Feature

CAReport





By Dave Menard **Avanti News Features**

Downsizing because of the down economy is in, particularly when it comes to SUVs. If you're one of those buyers looking to downsize from a big SUV into something that will cost you less to drive, without giving up the benefits of an SUV, the 2009 Toyota RAV4 Sport might be something that works for you.

The RAV4 has been around since the 1996 model and was one of the first of the small crossover SUVs. It's built on a car platform, instead of a truck platform, like most SUVs. For 2009, Toyota has done some restyling of the RAV4, and the Sport (one of three versions of the RAV4) looks pretty sharp.

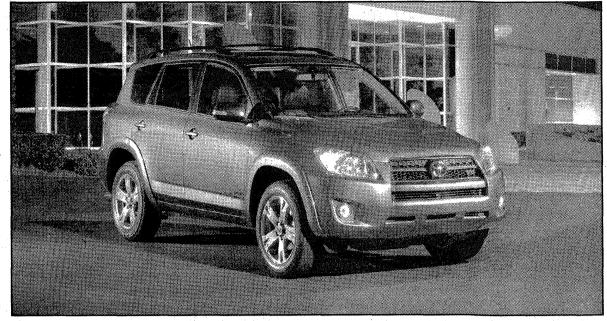
The grille has been redone, as have the front bumper, fog light trims and the tail lamps. The fog lights are standard, as are 18-inch alloy wheels, a full-size spare and rear spoiler. A roof rack is optional (\$220). It's a good-looking package.

The RAV4 Sport is a 4x2, but AWD is available. It's powered by a 3.5-liter 6-cylinder DOHC 24-valve engine, and it's a good one. Rated at 269 horsepower at 6200 rpm, and 246 lb.-ft. of torque, you can go 0-60 in under 7 seconds. You won't give up fuel economy for performance, either, as the V6 RAV4 is rated at 19 mpg in city driving and 27 along the highway and it takes regular fuel.

This V6 is mated to a gated-shift five-speed automatic transmission with automatic transmission (a four-speed goes with the smaller 4-cylinder engine of the base

Being built on a car platform has its advantages when compared to some of the bigger SUVs, particularly in the way it handles. The RAV4 is easier to maneuver, with power-assisted rack-and-pinion steering. Equipped with Vehicle Stability Control, it corners well and is easier to get into tight spaces. The Sport provides plenty of road feel, but the ride is still comfortable. The front suspension system features independent MacPherson struts with stabilizer bar, and in the rear it's a doublewishbone system, with coil springs and stabilizer bar.

Inside, the RAV4 Sport is nicely done. Controls are



Good choice if you're downsizing from a full-size SUV

nicely laid out and the cabin is attractive. The standard seats are cloth; leather-trimmed seats are available as part of a package that includes heated front seats, and an eight-way power adjustable driver's seat, with power lumbar support (\$1,930).

The seats are comfortable and provide good support. There's plenty of leg and shoulder room, as well, and there are storage areas throughout the cabin. The only issue I had with the interior was a lack of a place to rest my left arm on longer trips. I'm sure it's just me, but the actual armrest was situated too low and the driver's window ledge was a bit too high to put my arm on. A minor annoyance that only really comes up on longer

There plenty of cargo room, as small SUVs go -- 73 cubic feet of cargo space with al the rear seats down. The second row seats split 60/40; on the Base and Limited models there is an option to add a third-row seat, but so such option exists for the Sport.

The RAV4 Sport comes with climate control, tiltsteering wheel, power windows and locks, foldable power mirrors, cruise control and two front 12-volt power outlets, handy for powering your iPod and your

Unless, of course, you get the optional navigation system (\$1,550). This is a touch screen navigations system, with integrated audio (AM/FM/CD/aux, with satellite radio capability and six speakers). The system sounds very good and the navigation system is very easy to use. If you want it to, it can display icons for restaurants, ATMs, gas stations and hotel (in any combination). Touch the icon and you can get directions

I like what Toyota did with the optional rear back-up camera (\$474). Instead of using the navigation/audio screen like most versions I've seen, the Toyota version uses a portion of the rear view mirror to display the image. That makes sense; that's what you should be looking at when you back up, anyway. Plus, that allows buyers who don't want the navigation system to still opt for the back-up camera.

Other safety features of the RAV4 Sport include antilock brakes, driver and front-passenger advanced airbags, driver and front-seat passenger seat-mounted side airbags, second-row side curtain airbags, and a tire pressure monitoring system.

The 2009 Toyota RAV4 Sport starts at a little over \$25,000. Add the upgraded seats, the navigation system, roof rack and the back-up camera and you're at a still-reasonable \$30,000 or so.

If you're following the downsizing trend and need to trade that large SUV for something a little more practical, the RAV4 is a good choice. Good mileage, plenty of cargo space and excellent power make this one a winner.

Write Avanti NewsFeatures and allopinionsallthetime.com auto critic Dave Menard at Avanti1054@aol.com. 2009 Toyota RAV4 Sport

Vehicle class: Small SUV. Power: 3.5-liter DOHC 6-cylinder engine. Mileage: 19 city / 27 highway. Where built: Japan. Base price: \$25,130. Price as tested: \$30,369.







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The Whitney's **Ghost Bar is the** new trendy spot

My favorite new cocktail lounge is The Ghost Bar located inside Detroit's oldest restaurant — the magnificent, luxurious Whitney.

The recently opened Ghost Bar contains every element to mark itself as the new destination place and attract the hip, successful bar crowd of Oakland and Wayne counties. It's located in a mansion, it has an

GHOST BAR

Where: Third floor of The Whitney restaurant, 4421 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 832-5700 www.thewhitney.com or www.whitneyghostbar.com

Dress code: Business casual/stylish/eclectic Special: Place to impress out-of-town guests, romantic atmosphere, gathering place with friends Music: Jazz earlier in the night, danceable, low-key electronic music later in the evening by several notable Detroit DJs such as DJ Roc Boy Friday nights and DJ Jenny LaFemme on Saturdays

unpretentious, highly stylized, chichi flair that is already attracting successful, creative crowds. And, it's located inside one of the most prestigious Michigan restaurants.

"The third floor has always been an elegant space with 20-foot ceilings, hand-painted panels and rich woods throughout. It was the original art gallery for the Whitney family," said Patrick Liebler, The Whitney's executive director. "What we wanted to accomplish was to add to its elegance, not overshadow or mask the original beauty of the space.

Four very important words about Ghost Bar: welcoming, secure, impressive, haunted.

HAUNTED

The Whitney is consistently discussed in Detroit's rich history as one of the most haunted locations in the city. Owners, father and son team, Bud and Patrick Liebler, of West Bloomfield, have fun with the name and slogan: Ghost Bar. Chill out with

Detroit's favorite spirits.

There are four rooms in Ghost Bar, one is known as the most naunted room in the mansion. Ask the Lieblers or a waitstaff member for an eerie tale and they have plenty to share.

WELCOMING

"We want to remove the "stuffy factor" from The Whitney," Patrick Liebler said. "People rightfully know it as a high-end restaurant, but the clientele is all ages, all types of people and we have an incredibly friendly staff who work to make you feel instantly comfortable.

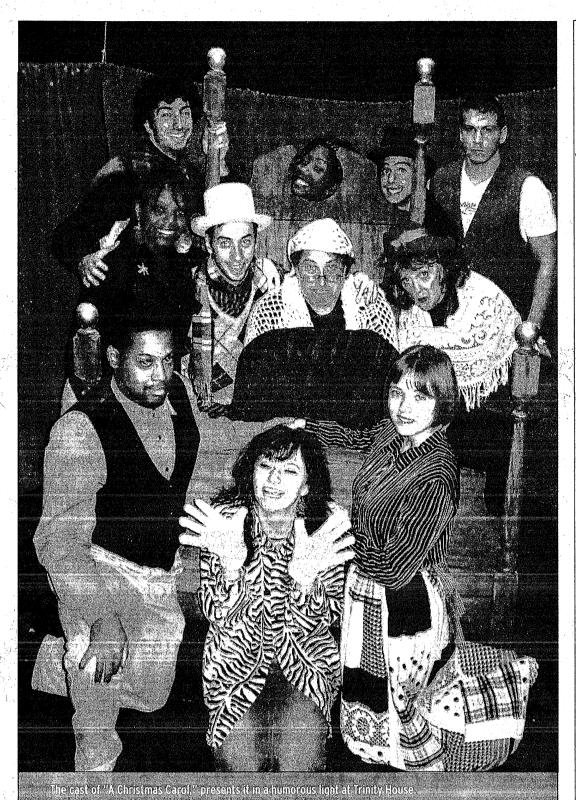
"The Whitney doesn't just belong to my family," Liebler said. "It's a landmark in the city. We want everyone to feel that this is their restaurant and their bar." You don't need couture attire at the Whitney Ghost Bar; it's stylish, yet business casual.

"More than ever before, the city of Detroit needs reasons to smile," said Bud Liebler. "We want the Ghost Bar to be a place where people can sit back and relax with their co-workers after a long day."

Please see GHOST BAR, D2



The Ghost Bar on the third floor of The Whitney restaurant is a new hip place — and it's said to be haunted.



It's a humorous version of 'A Christmas Carol at Trinity House

BY LANA MINI

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

What: A humorous look at the classic tale, adapted by Doris Baizley

When: Through Friday, Dec. 21 Showtimes: 8 p.m.,

Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays Admission: \$15 general, \$12 for members, Sunday tickets are \$12 for seniors and students

Where: Trinity House Theatre, 38840 West Six Mile, Livonia (734) 464-6302, www.trinityhouse.org

umorously chaotic! It's a mad dash through the story, with hasty costume-changes (maybe just a hat!) and zany characters. Everyone plays numerous parts, sings, makes sound effects, and dances badly."

Those are the words of Rob Papineau, director of the new Christmas Carol performance every weekend between now and Dec. 21 at the Trinity House in Livonia. And he's kidding about the bad dancing. "Is that a correct or incorrect description? Does it

have any of the serious tone of the original?" he asked. The serious tone of the Charles Dickens classic remains. Papineau said the audience knows the story

but "not what's coming next." Why did they choose this version of the classic tale? "This show is comically downsized. Not an operasized production, it's about a small travelling theatertroupe, with too-few actors and very little 'stuff,' who

still have a jolly time and a great show. It's big fun in a

small package, and that's why we chose it."

PUPPETS, GAMES

It's a family performance for kids over three years old.

Please see CAROL, D8



Holiday Happenings

Events

Christmas Walk: The Friends of Greenmead presents its 20th annual event beginning at Hill House with hot chocolate and cookies, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 5 Saturday, Dec. 6. Tickets \$9 in advance - available at Livonia libraries, Greenmead and city hall — and \$10 on tour day; wear slip-on shoes. Profits go to restoration and preservation at Livonia's Historic Greenmead, 20501 Newburgh, Livonia. Call (734) 466-3540.

Noel Night: From 5-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, Detroit's University Cultural Center welcomes all for its annual holiday open house, museums will be open free of admission, horse and carriage rides, and music and theater performances, centered at Woodward and Warren avenues in Detroit. Visit www.detroitmidtown.com/05/noelnight.

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/villagetheatrer or call (734) 394-5460.

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

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

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

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

Please see HAPPENINGS, D4

Concert Entertainment @ Ford Community & Performing Arts Center 15801 MICHIGAN AVE., DEARBORN, MI - PRESENTS

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SHOWTIME: 8:00 PM

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GHOST BAR

SECURE

Whether we want to admit it, some people are hesitant to drive into Detroit. The Whitney's driveway is located right on Woodward. Guests can park right near the front door, or valet. The restaurant and parking lot is surrounded by a pretty iron gate.

"We chose to purchase The Whitney and open Ghost Bar for two reasons: one because it's The Whitney," Liebler said. "The other is because we want to invest in Detroit."

"People feel cool hanging out here," he said. "It's historic and sophisticated."

IMPRESSIVE

If you want to impress outof-town guests during the holidays. If you only have one night to do so, the Ghost Bar should be your destination. It's that impressive.

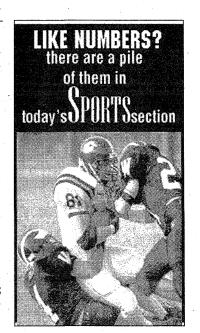
It's romantic, completely unique from any other establishment in the country, and feels so special, your guests will be impressed.

Earlier in the evening, sultry up-and-coming, respected jazz singers add to the sophisticated vibe.

Later at night, as the capacity fills to about 150, the energy is raised with electronic lounge music, yet it's still a romantic place to impress a

AMBIANCE

The main floor of the 115year-old, 52-room mansion is still The Whitney restaurant. The second floor is where banquets and weddings are often held. Continue up the winding staircase to Ghost Bar and you will notice the new carpet, ornate wood carving, Tiffany stained glass; sofas in each room, and vaulted ceilings.







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Schoolcraft College's Livonia campus, located at 18600 Haggerty Road, between Six and Seven Mile Roads. Maps and directions are available at www.schoolcraft.edu/maps/.

Friday, December 5 **WRC Luncheon Series**

"The Parade Company"

Renee Gonyeau offers a behindthe-scenes look at The Parade Company, the non-profit organization dedicated to creating the best family events in metro Detroit, including the annual America's Thanksgiving Day parade, held in Detroit since 1924. 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Diponio Room inside VisTaTech Center

Admission: \$16 (prepaid, includes lunch) Register by December 1, 2008 Information: 734-462-4443

Friday, December 5 **Schoolcraft College Wind Ensemble and Artist Ensemble** Winter Concert

Admission: Free; donations accepted at the door Community Room (RC 115), Schoolcraft College Radcliff Center, 1751 Radcliff St., Garden City Information: 734-462-4403

Friday, December 12 **Bach Piano Honors Recital**

Presentation Room inside the VisTaTech Center Admission: Free

Information: 734-462-4403

Friday, December 12 Schoolcraft College Jazz Ensemble and Synthesizer Ensemble **Winter Concert**

7:30 p.m.

DiPonio Room inside VisTaTech Center Admission: Free Information: 734-462-4400 ext. 5217

Sunday, December 14 "A Winter's Tale"

Schoolcraft College Choral Union Concert

This performance is a benefit for the Gleaner's Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan. 4 p.m.

Auditorium (F530) Inside Forum Building

Admission: One canned or boxed food donation per person Information: 734-463-4403



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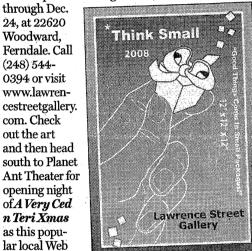
Pure Pieks

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

Filtering your entertainment best bets for the weekend beginning Dec. 5, 2009:

Lawrence Street Gallery hosts an opening reception 6-9 tonight for Think Small 2008, an art competition featuring 12-inch by 12-inch by

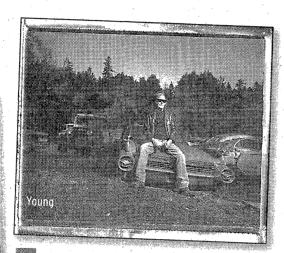
12-inch pieces running through Dec. 24, at 22620 Woodward, Ferndale. Call (248)544-0394 or visit www.lawrencestreetgallery. com. Check out the art and then head south to Planet Ant Theater for opening night of A Very Ced n Teri Xmas as this popu-



sitcom series comes alive on stage, complete with musical guests, beginning at 8 p.m., at 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Tickets \$10-\$15, call (313) 365-4948.

Beatles fans will want to hold your hand and head over for this one-night-only live performance by The Beatle Maniacs, the ultimate tribute to The Beatles. The show starts at 8 p.m. at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center,

15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. Tickets \$27-\$47, call (313) 943-2354 or visit www.dearbornfordcen-



Back in the states after his mega-successful European Tour, Neil Young hits the stage tonight, with openers Wilco and Everest, 7 p.m. at the Palace of Auburn Hills, 1 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills. Tickets \$78-\$178, call (248) 645-

It's a wild ride of a holiday movie as Director Robert Zemeckis' 2004 animated spectacular The Polar Express returns in 3D IMA \hat{X} format to the Henry Ford IMAX Theater. See it tonight, or throughout the month, at 20900 Oakwood Boulevard, Dearborn. Tickets \$8.25 to \$11.25, at (313) 271-1570 or visit www.thehenryford.com.

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HAPPENINGS

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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 Singing: St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of

Cranbrook invites the public to hear singers from the Motor City Lyric Opera Children's Choir and organist Dr. Norah Duncan perform an hour-long program complete with singarlongs. Children will read The Night Before Christmas, and Santa will be onhand for photos. The show is free, 3 p.m. Dec. 6, Christ Church Cranbrook, 470 Church Road in Bloomfield Hills. 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 are \$15, available by calling (248) 852-9395.

A Celtic Christmas: Natalie McMaster brings Celtic traditions to life, 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, Orchestra Hall, Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111 and online at www. detroitsymphony.com.

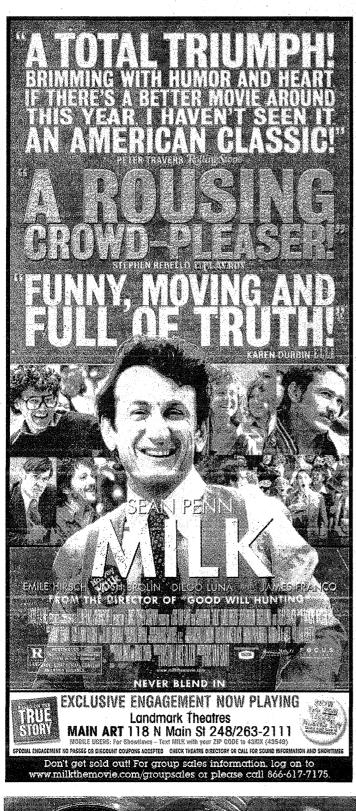
Trans-Siberian Orchestra:

Talk about uplifting and reinventing holiday songs. Catch one of these two shows Dec. 21, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Call (248) 645-6666.

Christmas in Concert: See Tony O'Brien with Casali Holiday Dancers, 8 p.m. Dec. 13, at Redford Theatre, 1736ò Lahser, Detroit. Tickets \$10. Visit www.redfordtheatre.

A Prairie Home Christmas: Go A-Wassailling with Garrison Keillor and the DSO for this "Under the Mistletoe" presentation, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111 and online at www. detroitsymphony.com.

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.





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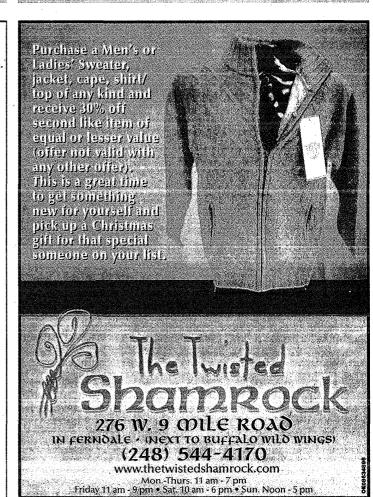


COME PARTY WITH US THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!



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Readers submit their favorite easy cookie recipes

151 RUM BALLS

By Dean Henry of Livonia

2 cups graham cracker crumbs

2 tablespoons cocoa powder

1 cup powdered sugar

1 cup ground nuts (I use ground pecans that I grind myself, you may want to use pecan meal)

¼ cup of 151 proof rum (or more if you prefer a stronger taste)

Powder sugar 2 tablespoons honey

Stir together. Consistency is right when all holds together. Pinch off small pieces, about one teaspoon, shape/roll in your hand, toss in powdered sugar. Set aside to ripen in covered container at least 12 hours.

AUNT DEE DEE'S SUGAR COOKIES

By Dean Henry of Livonia who said: I have literally made thousands if not a million of these, once you make and try it you will see why. Makes about 120.

- 1 cup powdered sugar 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup oil
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar

Preheat oven to 350. Cream sugars and butter together

until fluffy; slowly pour in oil while mixing. Add eggs, vanilla, salt, soda, tartar, mix to incorporate.

Scrape down bowl, add flour while mixing on low in stages. Scoop out small amount of dough about two tablespoons, (I use a Number 70 ice cream scoop. It's a medium-size scooper and it makes this part of the process really easy). Place dough on cookie sheet. Once you have the dough scooped onto your trays,

you will need a cookie press or flat

surface such as the bottom of a jelly jar or glass, dip the press into sanding sugar, red, green, or white, and press/flatten the dough to one-quarter thickness. Bake 8-10 minutes.

CRISPY OATMEAL COOKIES

Submitted by The Baker's Loaf, a Commerce Township specialty bakery that specializes in cakes, pies and other sweet treats.

- 3/4 pound (3 sticks) unsalted butter 1 cup light brown sugar
- 1 % cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 ½ teaspoons vanilla extract
- 3 cups old-fashioned oats (not instant) 1½ cups all purpose flour
- ¾ teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 ½ teaspoons baking soda

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a mixer, cream the butter until fluffy. Add the sugars and cream together until light and fluffy. Add the egg and vanilla and

In a bowl, stir together the oats, flour, salt and baking soda. Mixing slowly, add the oat mixture to the butter mixture and mix until just combined.

Drop by teaspoonfuls onto parchment-lined baking sheet. Leave at least two inches between cookies (they will spread a lot). Bake until browned and crispy around the edges, about 8 to 10 minutes. Let cook on wire racks and store in an airtight container.

SHAKARISHEE -

ARMENIAN SUGAR COOKIES

Submitted by Eliza Neals (featured on Tim Gunns Guide to Style and will perform at The Crofoot in Pontiac on Dec. 18)

- 2 ¼ cups flour
- 1 1 cups sugar
- 1 cup softened butter, unsalted
- 1 egg, yolk only

½ cup finely chopped walnuts, optional

Preheat oven to 350 degrees In a large bowl, beat together the butter, egg yolk and the sugar until smooth and almost white in color. Add flour and blend well. If you are using the nuts, this is the time to add

them in. Shape into small rectangles

about 3/4-inches by 11/2-inches. Bake in a 250-degree oven on an ungreased cookie sheet. Cookies are done when the bottoms turn pink in color 35-45 NOTE: A blanched almond or wal-

nut half can be placed on top of the cookie before baking.

Celebrate **Sweet Afton's** 20 years

Did you miss the party a few days ago celebrating the 20-year anniversary of Sweet Afton Tea Room in downtown Plymouth?

Not to worry, you can still visit the elegant restaurant to honor its success — at your leisure.

The 'china and linen' tea experience at Sweet Afton's is a gathering place for bridal showers, baby showers and everyday high

Try the tart plate; variety of four dainty tarts. Also try the Victorian Sponge Cake - airy cake with raspberry filling draped in lemon curd dusted with confectioners sugar.

Kids menú includes Ayrshire Cream, royalty high tea; or "The Wee Folk" four triangle-shaped tea sandwiches; and choice of strawberry cream cheese, peanut butter and/or jelly. It's served with applesauce, goldfish crackers, and animal crackers. Beverage includes choice of white or chocolate milk, apple juice, or soft drink served in a china teapot.

Adults may like Shepherd's Pie; tea and sandwich combos or the restaurant's home-

Voted in the Top 100 Tea Rooms in the U.S. by teamap.com, Afton Tea presents imported tea in British tradition; a lovely place for your tea party.

The original tea room opened on Dec. 1, 1988 by Sylvia Thacker, on Mill Street in Plymouth's Old Village.

Thacker later sold it to Christine Banion and Norma Reynolds. They moved it to the current gaslight street location at 450 Forest Avenue. Today it's owned by Phyllis and Al

Wilkerson, a retired teacher and a retired principal from the Plymouth Canton School District. The Sweet Afton Tea Room and

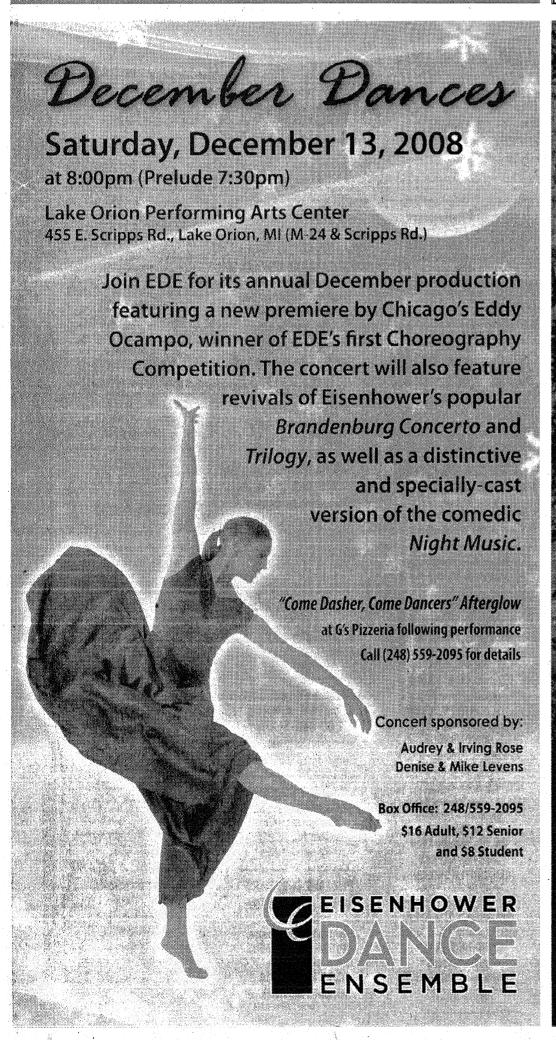
Restaurant was named after the Afton River in Ayrshire, Scotland; known through the writings of Scottish poet Robert Burns.

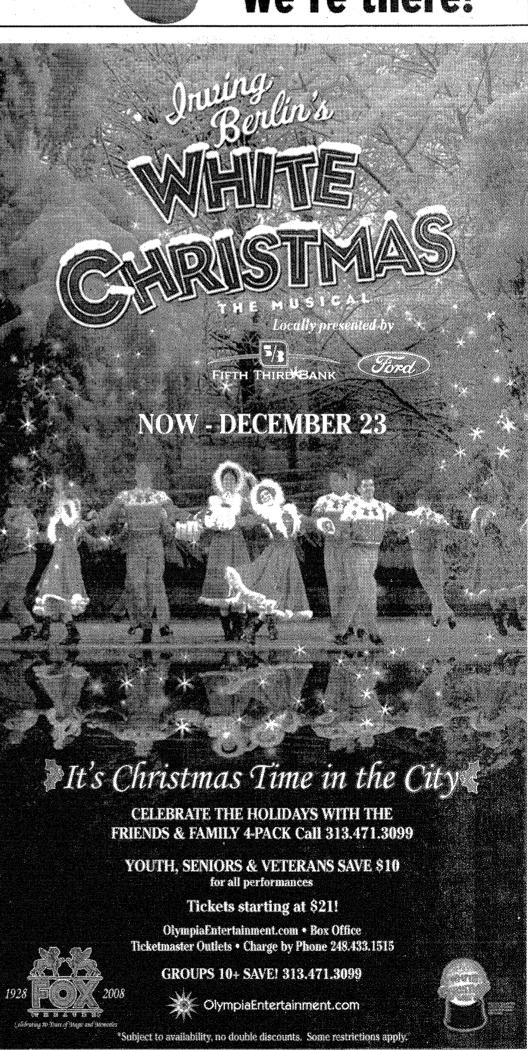
Sweet Afton's is located at 450 Forest Ave., Plymouth, (734) 454-0777. Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Saturday. www. sweetaftontearoom.com

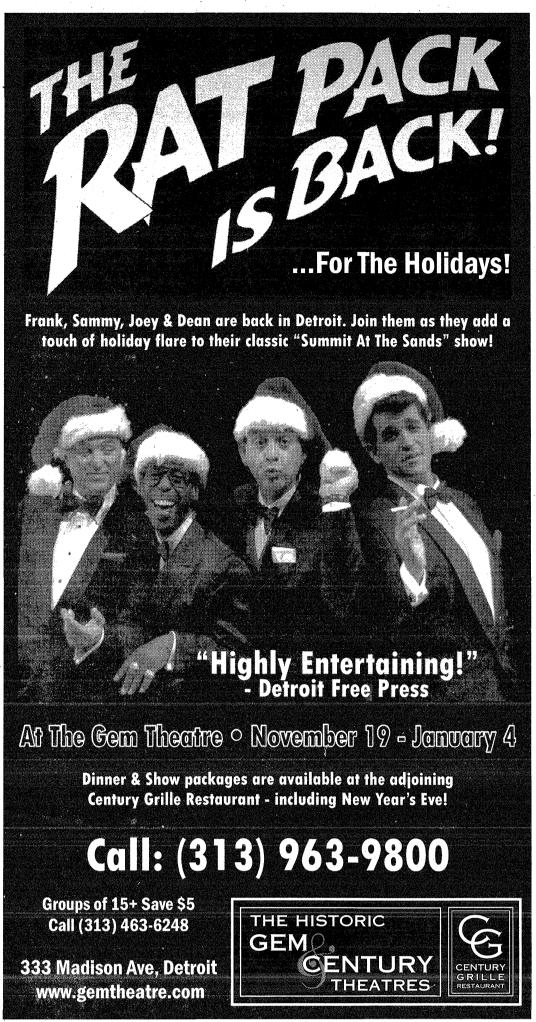
– By Lana Mini

Visit us online at hometownlife.com









Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, December 4, 2008

Recipes, food drive, new restaurants and more

BY LANA MINI STAFF WRITER

RESTAURANTS EARN HONORS

The Lark restaurant received major honors in the Zagat Survey (2009) of American restaurants, cuisine, service and ambience.

Owned by Michigan natives Jim & Mary Lark, it remains Michigan's finest restaurant in

the Zagat Survey poll. The poll is a big deal because of its consistent opinion of thou-

sands of people. The Lark has also been voted

as one of the best restaurants nationwide. It equaled the score total of the world renowned French Laundry restaurant near San

Francisco, Calif., and surpassed Charlie Trotter's in Chicago, Ill., and Guy Savoy's in Las Vegas, And, Wine Enthusiast, praised The Lark with the award of Ultimate Distinction — less

receive the annual award. Two other Michigan restaurants also received high honors: Bacco Ristorante of Farmington Hills and Birmingham's Big

than 36 restaurants nationwide

MORE MEZZAS

Rock Chop House.

Mezza Mediterranean Grille owner Samir Saleh, of Rochester Hills, said he plans to open three more restaurants.

We always applaud new business especially in this struggling economy.

New Mezza restaurants are opening in Southfield, Rochester Hills and Hamburg Township by mid 2009 and, of course, there's the new Mezza in Livonia.

Projected growth is anticipated to produce over \$12 million in revenue next year.

Mezza serves traditional Mediterranean dishes like hummus, fattoush, and shawarma and more. A large wine and cocktail list is also available.

Current locations are 42050 Grand River Avenue, Novi; 4189 Orchard Lake Road, Orchard

Lake; and 37367 Six Mile, Livonia. Visit http://www. mezzagrille.com/

PLAN YOUR HOLIDAY MENU

We received this recipe from Felicia Palazzolo Shaw, owner of Felicia; a salon in Birmingham.

She wanted to share one of her favorite holiday recipes with you.

SICILIAN EGGPLANT PARMESAN For Eggplants:

2 medium eggplants (large eggplant

can be tough, too many seeds can be

1 large bowl of cold, heavily salted water 1 cup seasoned Italian bread crumbs

Sauce:

2 teaspoons salt

2 teaspoons pepper ¼ cup olive oil

3 or 4 garlic cloves, finely chopped 1 large sweet onion, coarsely chopped

1 large can diced tomatoes or tomato

1 small can tomato paste 1 tablespoon basil 1 tablespoon oregano

2 tablespoons brown sugar 2 tablespoons fennel seeds

1 cup red täble wine (optional) Sprinkle of red pepper flakes (optional)

For assembly:

1 cup grated Romano cheese 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese 1 cup shredded Mozzarella cheese

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Eggplant Prep:

Peel and slice eggplant to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick, soak slices in salted water for 20 minutes, rinse thoroughly and blot excess water. Dip slices in beaten egg and dredge in bread crumbs, coating both sides. Using 1/8 cup of olive oil, coat bottom of cookie sheet, lay slices of eggplant on cookie sheet and bake for 30 minutes. Turn slices as they brown, approximately 15 minutes on each side. Remove from oven and let cool.

Sauce: Sauté garlic and onion in

remaining olive

oil until translucent. Add canned tomato and tomato paste (diluted with one cup of warm water) and remaining ingredients. Simmer at

Assembly:

least for 30 minutes.

Pour a thin layer of sauce in a 9- by 13-inch baking dish, line dish with layer of eggplant. Add more sauce on top of eggplant and sprinkle with cheese; continue this process until dish is full. Top off with extra mozzarella, bake 30-45 minutes at 350 degrees until bubbly. Let stand for a few minutes and enjoy!

TREATS FOR RUDOLPH

There's a new cookbook by Mrs. Claus herself titled The Elf on the Shelf Cookbook — see it at www.elfontheshelf.com

We couldn't resist sharing this recipe so the kids can feed Rudolph & the gang this Christmas Eve.

REINDEER NUGGETS

½ cup margarine or butter 1 (12 ounce) jar peanut butter (crunch or creamy)

1 (12 ounce) package semi-sweet chocolate morsels 1 teaspoon, vanilla

1 (18 ounce) box Golden Grahams Cereal

1 pound box raisins 1 pound box powdered sugar

2 cups roasted peanuts 1 cup granola

Directions:

In large saucepan, melt margarine or butter, peanut butter and chocolate morsels over low heat stirring frequently. Stir in vanilla. In large bowl combine cereal, raisins, peanuts and granola. Pour chocolate mixture over cereal mixture. Combine well. Toss in powdered sugar until all ingredi-

ents are thoroughly coated. Store

in airtight container. Enjoy!



Where available by deadline. features are listed.

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for showings for this week. Please check listings below for phone numbers and websites.

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MADAGASCAR ESCAPE 2 AFRICA [PG] ROLE MODELS [R] HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3 [G] SECRET LIFE OF BEES [PG13] SOUL MEN [R]

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THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS [PG13] **QUANTUM OF SOLACE [PG13] MADAGASCAR ESCAPE 2 AFRICA [PG]** ROLE MODELS [R]

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MORE CHAMPAGNE PICKS

Champagne Delamotte is the fifth-oldest champagne producer in the region and one of the leaders in the Cote des Blancs. Try: Delamotte NV Brut, \$50, and Delamotte NV Brut Rose, \$99. This latter is a standout with 80 percent pinot noir and 20 percent chardonnay in the blend. This year, Champagne Henriot celebrates its 200th anniversary. To celebrate, Henriot released Brut Millesime 1998 at \$95. It's a blend of approximately half pinot noir and chardonnay. A singular appley aroma greets the taster and is followed by citrus flavors, creamy texture and a rich, full finish.

For its delicacy and refinement, Champagne Taittinger has long been one of our favorite champagne houses.

Champagne Taittinger NV Cuvee Prestige Brut Rose, \$93, catches the eye with its light cherry hue and persistent fine bubbles. Subtle strawberry and cherry flavors last long into an extended finish.

Pommery stars as house of firsts

eing ahead of the curve and setting the curve are two different business strategies. Champagne Pommery, in addition to being the first to introduce

Focus on Wine

Ray & Eleanor

a pension and social security fund for its employees in the 19th century, was the first to create the Brut style of champagne, to open their domaine to the public and to introduce cham-

pagne in a single-

Heald serve bottle. Now Pommery has made an official commitment to go "green."

It's on this latter point, that we've chosen to select Champagne Pommery as our Champagne of the Year.

POMMERY GOES GREEN

Deciding to "go green" does not happen overnight. Pommery made its early moves in 1996 with a special team to establish environmental accountability. Near the end of

1998, Pommery obtained the internationally respected double certification of ISO 9001 for quality and ISO 14001 for its environmental approaches.

You may have noticed that champagne bottles are generally quite heavy because they need to withstand the carbon dioxide pressure within the bottle that escapes as bubbles when the cork is removed. In 2003, Pommery decreased its bottle weights to new eco-friendly packaging, lowering the carbon footprint created in transporting its product.

Additionally, "green" energy is supplied by the French producer EDF, which is contractually obliged to produce an equal amount of "green" electricity, created by wind turbines, for every kilowatt consumed by Pommery.

BUYING FROM POMMERY Pommery Brut Royal Non-Vintage (NV), \$42, sets the house style, having been aged three years in the bottle. As a blend of 35 percent chardonnay with the remainder divided equally between pinot noir and pinot meunier, it's pleasantly dry and classically rich

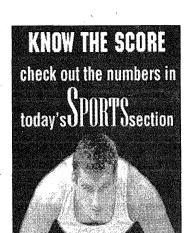
Pommery Brut Apanage NV, \$50, has a slightly higher percentage of grand cru chardonnay and four years of aging. Gentle citrus and white fruit aromas are apparent, followed by a layered and rich expression in the flavors.

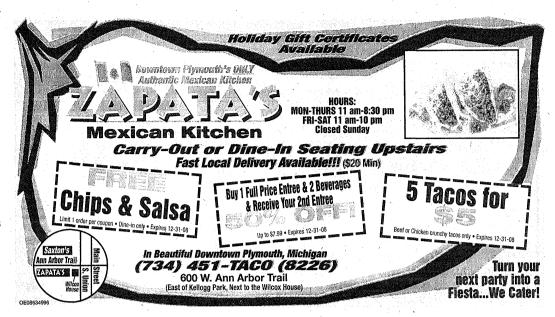
Pommery Brut Rose NV, \$70, is one-third each of chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot meunier. A

subtle hint of strawberry dominates the aroma, followed by distinct pinot noir characteristics of richness yet elegance.

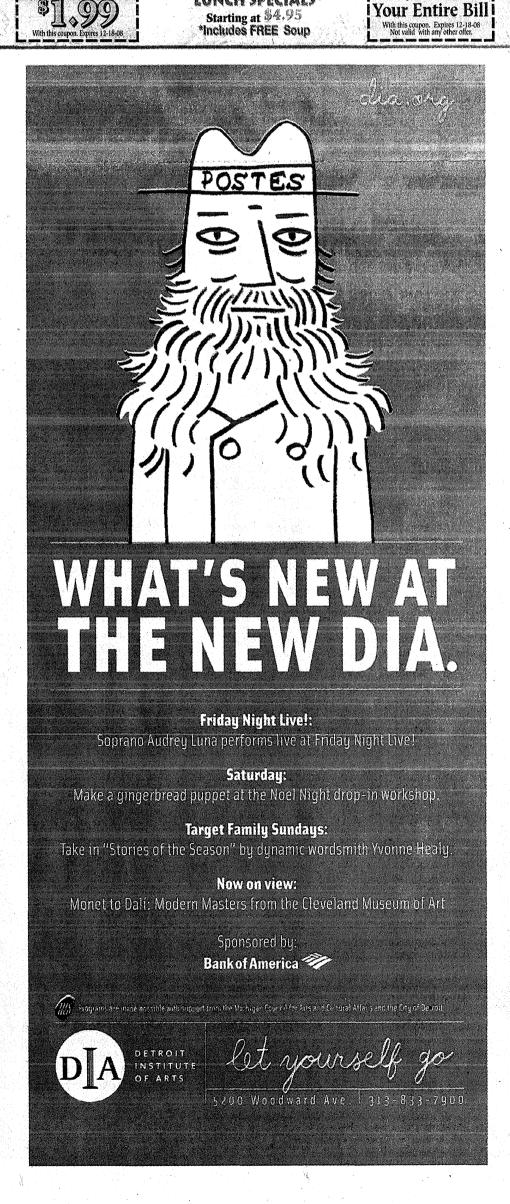
Eleanor & Ray Heald are Contributing Editors for the internationally-respected Quarterly Review of Wines and Troy residents who write about wine for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact

them by e-mail at focusonwine@aol.com.

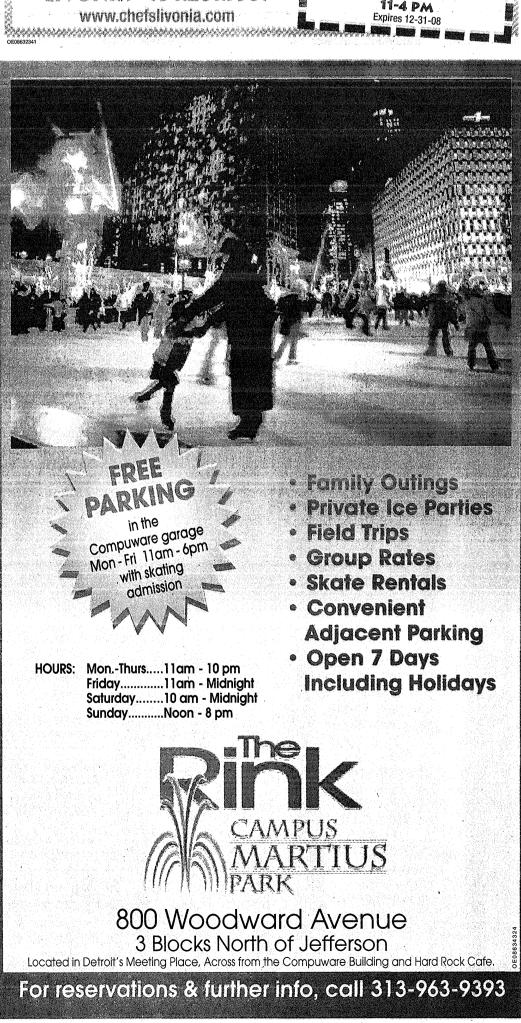












And you can play games with the show such as Count the Red Scarves and Name That Tune.

The adaptation by Doris Baizley has actors rush, sing and tumble.

They use puppets and play numerous characters. A Clown Trio acts out everything from the fireplace to birds to Scrooge himself.

"And all I change is my hat and my voice," said Jonathon

Stanley, of Canton, a hiphop dancer who plays Jake the Fence and other characters. "Jake is unbelievably lowdown. He buys up the dead Scrooge's effects, then his sheets and pillows, then his gold teeth, fingernails — it goes on right up until his heart which is declared worthless," he said.

Laura Gumina, of Southfield, plays several characters including Mrs. Fezziwig. "I love the comedic bent of

this show. - the raucous physical humor," she said. "Yet, it is still true to the original."

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

Arnold Klein Gallery: 32782 Woodward, Royal Oak, (248) 647-7709.

Art Leaders Gallery: Holiday trunk show with 20 to 50 percent off featured artists, 33030 Northwestern Hwy., West Bloomfield, (248) 539-0262, www.artleaders.com.

Art-Rageous Gallery: 35 N. Main, Mt. Clemens, (586) 307-3604 Biddle Gallery: 2840 Biddle, Wyandotte, (734) 281-4779, www.biddlegallery.com.

Cafe 84: "The Green Show" featuring Detroit 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.

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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

GET OUT

Mile, (248) 473-1856. Farmington Community Library: 23500 Liberty, (248) 553.6261, www.suzannebauman.com. First United Methodist Church: 1589 W. Maple, Birmingham

Gallery@VT: Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, (734) 394-5300, www. canton-mi.org/villagetheater, www.wsg-art.

Galeria at Orchard Lake: Building 8, Orchard Lake Schools, 3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake, (248) 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: Little Things Mean A Lot!

Competition, through Dec. 24; reception, 6-9 p.m. Dec. 5, 22620 Woodward, Ferndale (248) 44-0394, 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.lotusartsgallery.com

Next Step Studios & Gallery: Featuring glass works by Kaiser Suidan, Craig Paul Nowak, John Gargano, Susan Beiner and many others, 530 Hilton, Ferndale, (248) 342-5074, www.nextstepstudio.

Northville Art House: 215 W. Cady, (248) 344-0497,

www.northvillearts.org Oakland University Art Gallery: at 208 Wilson Hall, Oakland University, Rochester, (248) 370-3005. Orchard Lake Framing & Gallery: Works in Oil & Pastel by Sharon Will, October, 4301 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, (248) 538-9021, www. orchardlakeframing.com.

Paint Creek Center for the Arts: Holiday Objects Up and Down, through Jan. 3, 2009, 407 Pine, Rochester, (248) 651-4110, www.pccart.org. Paul Kotula Projects: 23255 Woodward, Ferndale (248) 544-3020, www.paulkotula.com. Pewabic Pottery: 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit, (313) 822-0954, www.pewabic.org. Plymouth Community Arts Council: 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth, (734) 416-4278, www.plymoutharts.

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.



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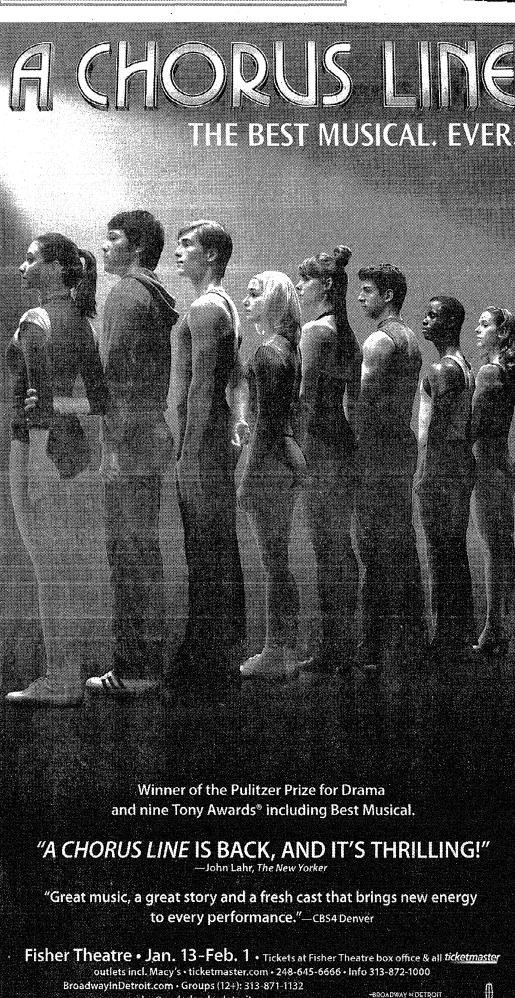
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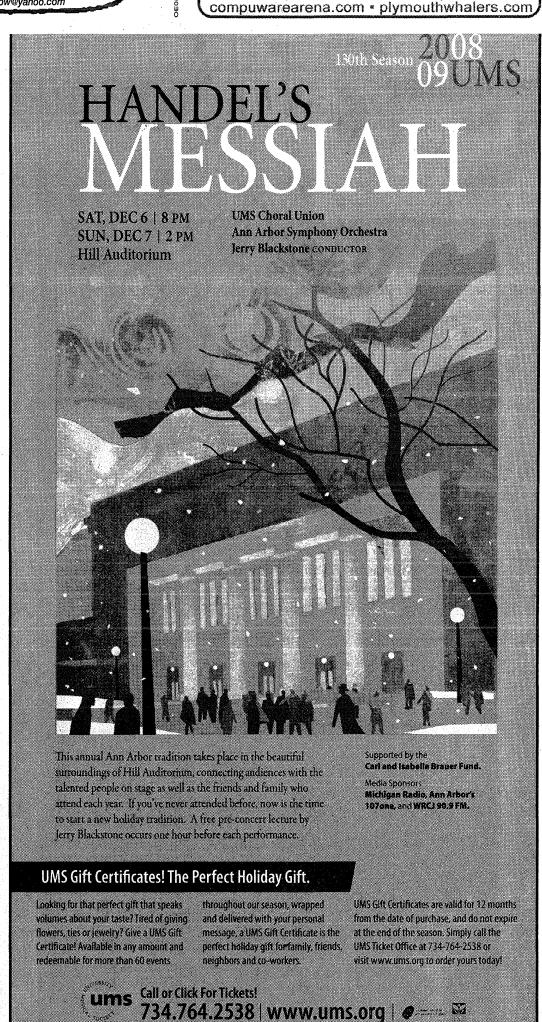
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Dancing dolls

Two local families cheer on twin daughters in 'The Nutcracker'

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA OSE STAFF WRITER

Patrons attending The Joffrey Ballet's production of The Nutcracker, which opens today, might think they're seeing double. This year the holiday classic includes more than 80 young dancers from the metro area — and among them are twin sisters Jade and Jai Hatcher, age 10 of Southfield and Lizzie and Erika Ranck,

age 9 of West Bloomfield. The Ranck girls have been in dance shoes since the tender age of 2½. Their mother, Dori Ranck, teaches dance at The Pointe Academy Dance Center in Rochester Hills. "The girls definitely have a talent for it,' she said. But that talent isn't limited to dance. They have auditioned for films, done commercials, even starred in The White Stripes' video for My Doorbell, at the age of 6. But this will be a first for Lizzie and Erika - performing with a giant cast on stage at the Detroit Opera House.

Fourth-graders at Keith Elementary in West Bloomfield, they will appear, dressed as little dolls, in two scenes: The Battle in Act One and Clara's Dream in Act Two. "I thought it was going to be hard," said Lizzie, "but it wasn't that hard."

Southfield residents Javay and Glen Hatcher, parents to Jade and Jai, agreed that while this is their daughters' professional stage debut, they have worked long hours in rehearsal to prepare and to maintain a positive attitude.

"We're happy we're not the only set of twins," said Jai, who along with sister Jade began studying dance 4 years ago.

Javay Hatcher said she noticed their interest in dance when the family attended a wedding and Jai danced the entire time. The girls are now

THE NUTCRACKER

What: The Joffrey Ballet presents this holiday dance classic, including 50 of the world's finest dancers and 80 local children When: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4. Friday, Dec. 5, and Saturday, Dec. 6; 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 5; 2:30

p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6; noon and 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7. Where: The Detroit Opera House,

1526 Broadway, Detroit. Tickets: \$10-\$75, which includes student and group discounts. call (313) 237-SING or visit www. MichiganOpera.org.

What Else: See Erika and Lizzie Ranck during performances at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4; 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 5; 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 and noon on Sunday, Dec. 7. Cheer on Jade and Jai Hatcher during performances 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5; 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 and 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7.

members of a company called **Draft at Motor City Dance** Factory, housed at Youthville in Detroit. In 2007 they competed in The Pulse in New York City and they performed during Noel Night at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Last week, they performed in the Detroit Lions' halftime show on Ford Field on Thanksgiving

"We saw our friend audition last year," said Jai, which inspired both of them to try out for The Nutcracker this time around.

Auditions for this production were held Sept. 27 -and ever since the young dancers have spent Saturdays and Sundays downtown, learning the routines and practicing for their star turns on stage. "A lot of how this was cast had

to do with size," said Ranck. "Certain sizes required certain costumes.'

The Hatchers, students at Ealy Elementary in West Bloomfield, are portraying Snow Tree Angels in the show. "We told our teachers," said Jai. "Our teachers were very happy."

In each case the twin sisters' total time on stage will amount to about 6 minutes. As a doll, Erika will have a grand exit. At the end of the second act, she'll be lifted into the air by a Joffrey Ballet member.

Glen Hatcher was happy to see his daughters so invested in dance. "It's good to have them involved in something that keeps them occupied and it makes us really proud," he said.

For both families, this production is sure to bring out plenty of family and friends. The Hatchers plan to attend the Friday evening show as a family — and Jade and Jai were anticipating a dinner afterward at Hockeytown Cafe, like they did last year.

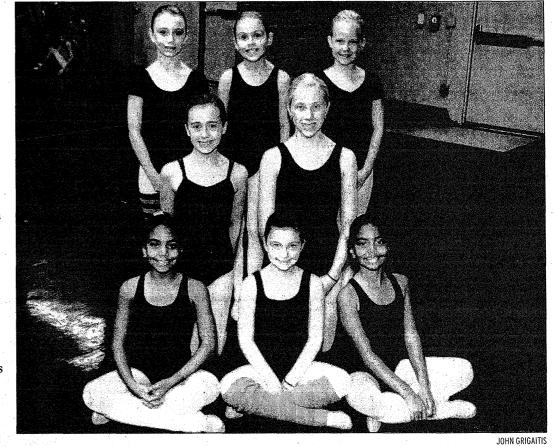
"It is such a tradition for Detroit," said Dori Ranck. "So many people go every year to see it."

The young dancers shared their advice for others interested in getting involved. Erika said: "Just have fun and know what you're doing." Due to the size of the cast, her sister Lizzie suggested "don't look at anybody else."

Jade Hatcher said it's important to remember to smile. Her mother considered the experience a good one overall. "The girls have made new friends," she said.

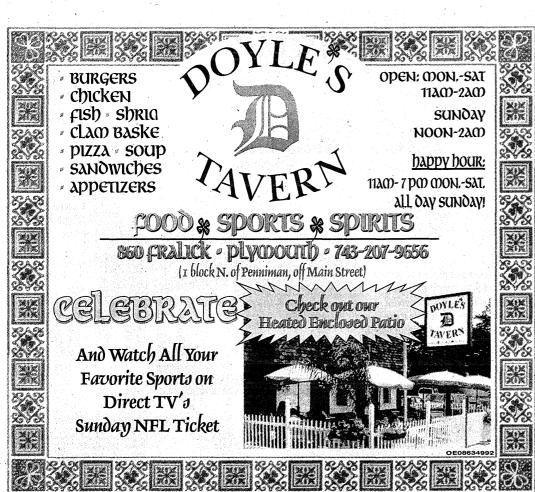
And Dori Ranck believes her daughters are likely to keep their toes tapping. "Dance is something no one can take away from you," she said.

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



Snow Tree Angels practice for "The Nutcracker." They include (from top left): Abigail Givens of Redford, Claire Olivia Golden of Plymouth, Jennifer Rousseau of Westland; (from center left) Maggie Favier of Bloomfield Township, Megan Lewan of Livonia; and (from bottom left) Jade Hatcher of Southfield, Megan Gargaro of Bloomfield Hills, Jai Hatcher of Southfield.









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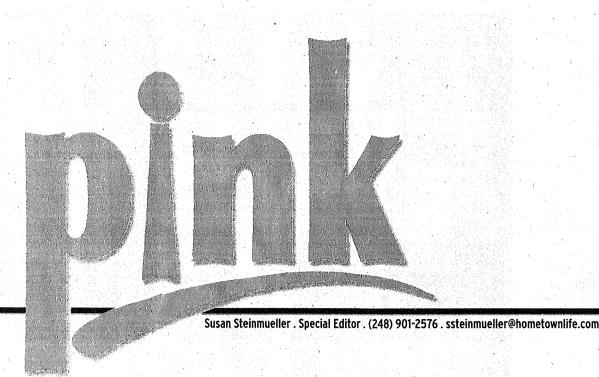
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DEX NER



Quest for the perfect post-partum PJs

n preparation for my second baby, I spent the last month before my maternity leave obsessed with finding the perfect pair of PJs to pack in my

hospital bag. I wanted to look halfway decent receiving visitors with cameras in hand. Plus, I was sick of looking

slouchy as I

Wensdy Von Buskirk

lounged around the house at night. I'd like to share my shopping finds with other moms-to-be. At Von

Maur Laurel Park Place, I waddled past trendy but ohso-tiny Ed Hardy

brands to spot the cutest little sleepwear sets tailor made for maternity. By Olian, they include a robe and nightgown or pajamas for mom, along with a matching kimono for baby. You can pick up sets in pink, blue or turquoise, in solids (\$80) or prints (\$82) for yourself, or as a perfect baby shower gift.

Target has a wide selection of lingerie and lounge wear at great prices, and I'm partial to the Nick & Nora line with its funky, bold novelty prints. Cozy flannel winter pajama sets feature fun themes like Flamingos on Ice or Snow

Bunnies and retail for \$24.99.

Sunny J's in Plymouth carries tons of cotton sleep sets, including Scanty drawstring pants, sleepshirts and capris in fun designs. High-quality

American-made Verena

PJs and 3/4sleeve robes are durable through countless washings (so important postpartum). And the new, value-priced Katherine line is coming soon Inspired by my addiction to

the show
The Breanna Bed Jacket from RxPJs (\$50). Mad Men,
I dream

of getting dolled up in lacy negligees with filmy robes like the show's glamorous '60s housewife Betty. The upscale Mary Green line at Harp's Lingerie in Birmingham is perfect for upping the bedtime glam factor, but I'm afraid I'll have to wait until my nursing days are over before investing in chic sets like these, which can run



West Bloomfield-based RxPJs makes robes and bed jackets for use by "hospital patients.

about \$100.

In the meantime, I must stick with something practical, like RxPJs. Designed by Paula Milgrom of West Bloomfield, the robes and bed jackets are made to be worn over hospital gowns. Pieces like the Breanna Bed Jacket (\$50) have zippers and ties strategically placed to preserve dignity and modesty, not easy to do in the maternity ward.

They're available at Zoe's Lace in West Bloomfield and Lori Karbal in Birmingham.

Wensdy Von Buskirk will be off work through the holidays, likely wearing her pajamas all day as she cares for her new daughter along with her 3-year-old toddler. In the meantime, contact interim editor Susan Steinmueller at ssteinmueller@hometownlife.com.



For guys and gals

Guys N Gals, a retail store in West Bloomfield, carries these fleece lounge pants by Love and Kisses to keep you warm and comfortable this winter. They currently carry designs that include sports, animals, and the Universities of Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin. They come in sizes 2-3 to adult and start at \$46.

pink picks

Our PINK Picks contest included some amazing entries from local teens. To celebrate we chose some of the best entries from two teen readers.

Veronica Allen, 16, of Livonia contributed the following:

Kick It!

race It!

Solid colored flats (so cute with boot cut jeans)

New Neutrogena Pink Grapefruit line. Yum.

Mane It! Herbal Essences Hello

Hydration. It makes

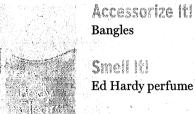
your hair smell fantas-

TiVo Iti.

The new season of Greek on ABC Family

Use It!
Foundation as eyeshadow primer

And **Lia Andreassi**, 13, of Livonia shared her fashionable picks:

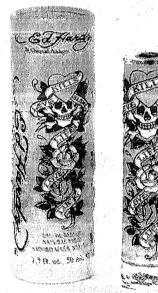


Nights In Rodanthe
Drink It!

Starbucks Pumpkin Spice Coffee

See It!

Ask hairstylist if they use eco-friendly products



Malls & Mainstreets

BBAC Holiday Shop

BIRMINGHAM — Master the art of giving at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center's Holiday Shop, Dec. 5-20, featuring fiber, jewelry, ceramics, wood, home décor, children's wear, ornaments, glass and paintings.

■ The BBAC's Sunday Drop-In

Workshops on Dec. 7, 14 and 21 focus on gift making. The fee is \$5 per person and includes all materials; free for children under 4. Those 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Most projects take 45 minutes to make and take. Block print design holiday cards will be made at the Dec. 7 workshop, The BBAC, 1516 S. Cranbrook Road, Birmingham, is between 14 Mile and 15 Mile roads. More information is available at BBArtCenter. org or by calling (248) 644-0866.

Winter Festival FRANKLIN - Cel

FRANKLIN - Celebrate the season during Franklin Village's annual Winter Festival/Holly Day, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. All stores celebrate with special values and savings along with all-day family-friendly events including choirs, mimes, kids activities, bracelet making, face painting, tea pot bingo, Santa's arrival, holiday cookie decorating, ice carving, old fashioned carriage rides, Candlelight Home Tour of fabulous Franklin homes, and a special holiday tree and menorah lighting at 5:30 p.m. at the Franklin Library.

Goodfellows

FARMINGTON – The Civic Theater in downtown Farmington, (Grand River Ave just east of Farmington Road), will show free holiday movies on Dec. 6 with a donation of new toys, canned goods, new books or cash/check to the Farmington Area Goodfellows. Also half of the concession proceeds will be donated by the Civic to the Goodfellows. The event supports the Goodfellows Holiday Assistance Program. The movie schedule is: noon and 2:45 p.m. "It's a Wonderful Life;" 1:30 and 3 p.m. Mickey's Christmas Carol; 12:45 and 2:15 p.m. "How the

Grinch Stole Christmas."

Grinch Stole Chris

Photos for pets

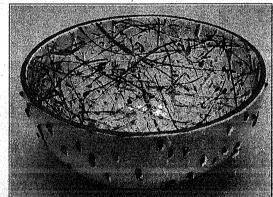
NOVI – Bring your

NOVI – Bring your dog or cat to Twelve Oaks Mall from 9-10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, so their photo can be taken with Santa. A portion of the proceeds will go to a local animal rescue organization. Reservations are a must: call (248) 348-9438. Twelve Oaks is at I-96 and Novi Road. Visit www.shoptwelveoaks.com for more information.

Helping kids with leukemia

SOUTHFIELD – Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan has partnered with Morley Candy to collect holiday toys at several of their area retail stores for distribution to Michigan children and teens affected by leukemia. The foundation (www.leukemiamichigan.org) will ship personalized toy packages during the holidays to child patients and their siblings and to the children of adult patients affected by leukemia, lymphoma and related blood cancers.

Anyone bringing a toy to one of the Morley retail locations for CLF's holiday toy program will receive a 10 percent discount on a purchase, excluding gift card or gift certificate purchases. Area locations serving as drop off points are in Rochester, Livonia and Birmingham.



Ceramics by Greg Laatson will be among the gifts available for purchase at the BBAC holiday gift shop.

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