

Don't let the depressing economic news diminish your holiday spirit
Our views, A6

First-year coach earns first win

Sports, B1



Plymouth District Dancing Library Dolls

filter - Section D



THURSDAY
December 4, 2008

PLYMOUTH Observer

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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 be good.'"

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 half-a-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



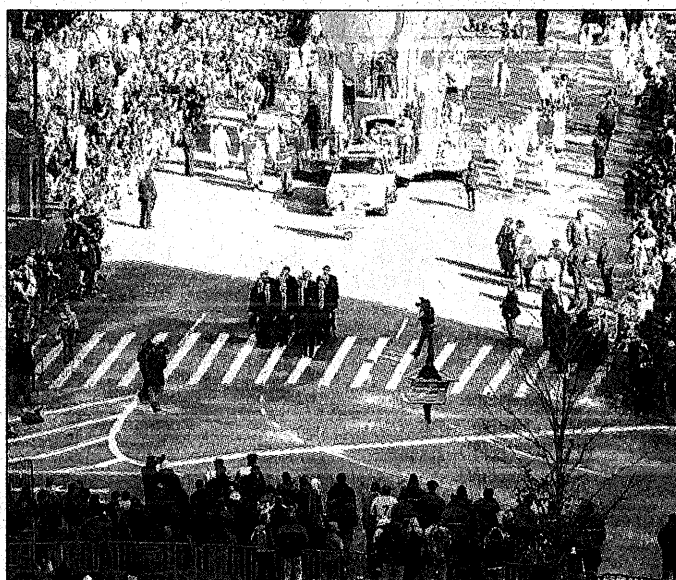
PHOTO BY GROUPPHOTOS.COM

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."

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

Underpass project nears finish line

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It may be hard to believe, but the Sheldon Road underpass project — which has closed the junction at the CSX railroad crossing for nearly two years — may finally be seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

And, no, it's not an oncoming train.

"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 pump-

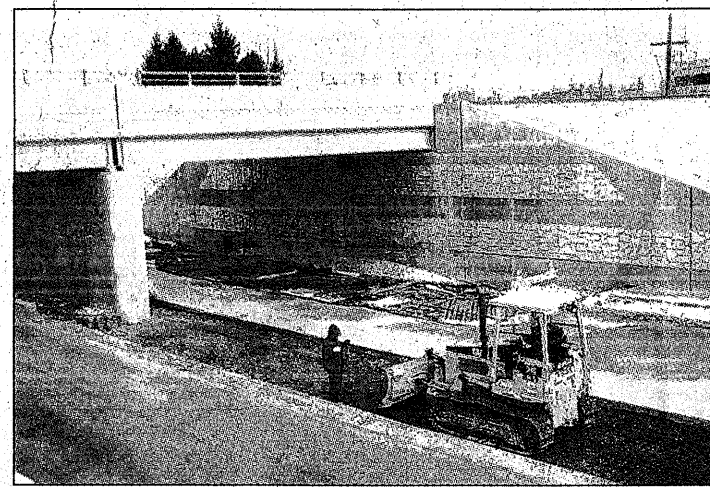
ing station that will keep the low-lying underpass from flooding during a heavy rain-fall or snow melt.

"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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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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

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 mixed-use 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 incen-

tives 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 time."

Mayor Phil Pursell voted against the demolition extension because of the aforementioned concerns. More important to Pursell is the fact Griffin owes \$201,000 in back taxes for condon-

ium 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 project goes for final approval by the Planning Commission Dec. 10, while the city commission will be asked to agree to a standstill Dec. 15. Griffin, the latter, is helping in getting income tax incentives from the state, both of which are being to Griffin — in connection with the YMCA plan.

Late donations help corps feed the hungry

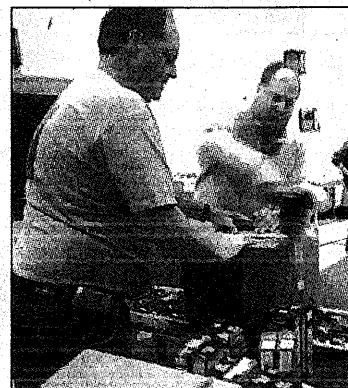
BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Maj. 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 difficulty 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-

Please see **CORPS, A2**

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Number 31



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USA WEEKEND
Coming Sunday:
Superstar Beyonce Knowles



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

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 beginning 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



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

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CORPS

FROM PAGE A1

ing its Thanksgiving mission. The annual Turkey Trot event at Fox Hills, which normally produces some 70-75 turkeys each year, yielded only five this year 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

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 uptick in our business, definitely."

The new site is 50 percent 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-

1250.

The Porters appreciate the 60 or so volunteers, some former customers.

"We have quite a large work staff here," Ted said of volunteers who run the register, assist customers, "basically anything that goes on in a store they are flexible enough to handle."

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CORRECTION

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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'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 headshots 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.

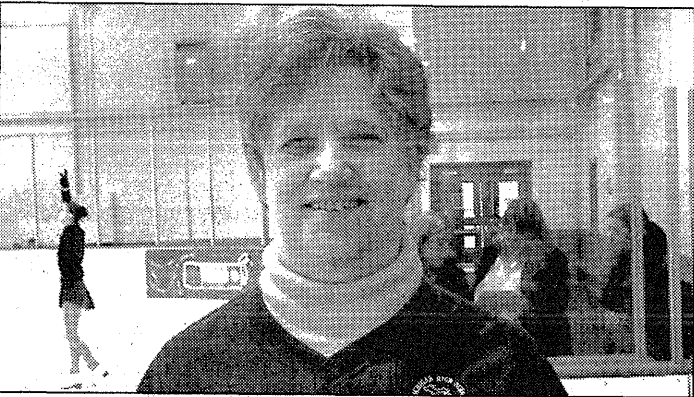


Barefoot Productions of Plymouth, which last month put on 'Playing With Fire (After Frankenstein),' is taking auditions for 'Same Time, Next Year,' Dec. 15-16 at the Plymouth District Library.

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.



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.

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 figure skating judge for over 30 years 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.

Observer rolls out Strictly Business

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

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

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

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

items from the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce.

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

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

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

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

I 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 period.

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 so-called 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

investors think short term, it almost always leads to long-term 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 fact, investing is much more

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. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).

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10 am-7 pm Nov. 30	10 am-9 pm Dec. 1	10 am-9 pm Dec. 2	10 am-9 pm Dec. 3	10 am-9 pm Dec. 4	10 am-9 pm Dec. 5	10 am-9 pm Dec. 6
10 am-8 pm Dec. 7	10 am-9 pm Dec. 8	10 am-9 pm Dec. 9	9 am-9 pm Dec. 10	9 am-9 pm Dec. 11	9 am-9 pm Dec. 12	8 am-10 pm Dec. 13

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OUR VIEWS

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 history 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.

Really, it is.

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 Old-fashioned Christmas. The event kicks off at 2 p.m. with a parade along Five Mile and will feature horse-and-carriage 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.



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!

Heartly 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
Plymouth

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 family 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 efficiently.

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

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.

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bkadrich@hometownlife.com

QUOTABLE

"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

PLYMOUTH
Observer

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

"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. 7.

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.

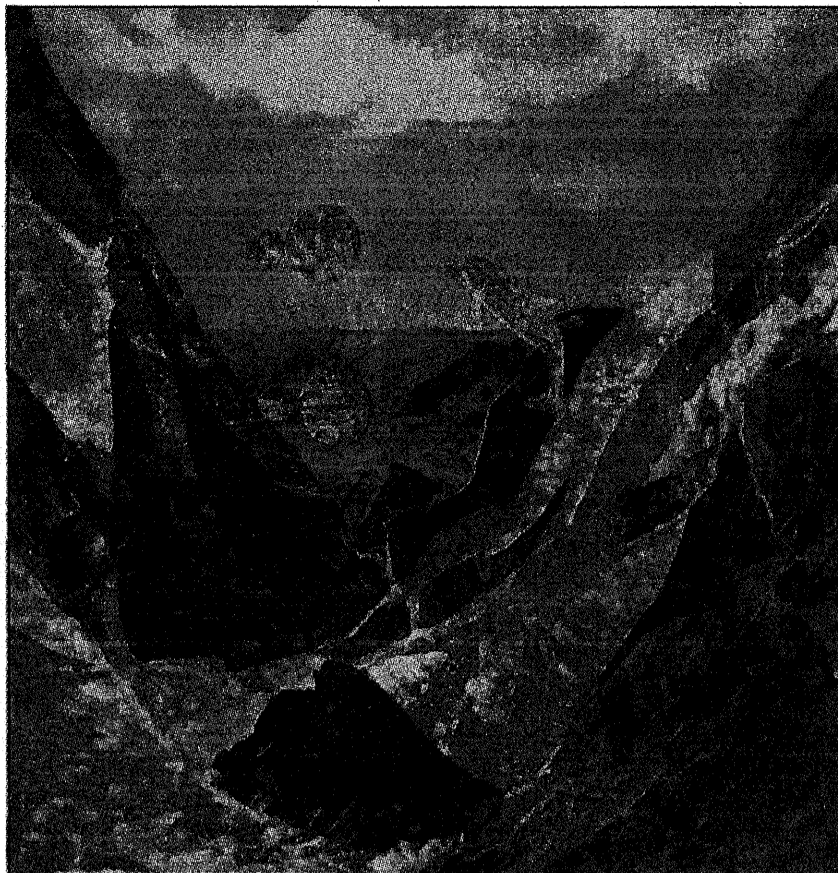
Museum bazaar

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 (Ill.) 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 OLGCC

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 e-mail 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 pcep-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.

■ "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.

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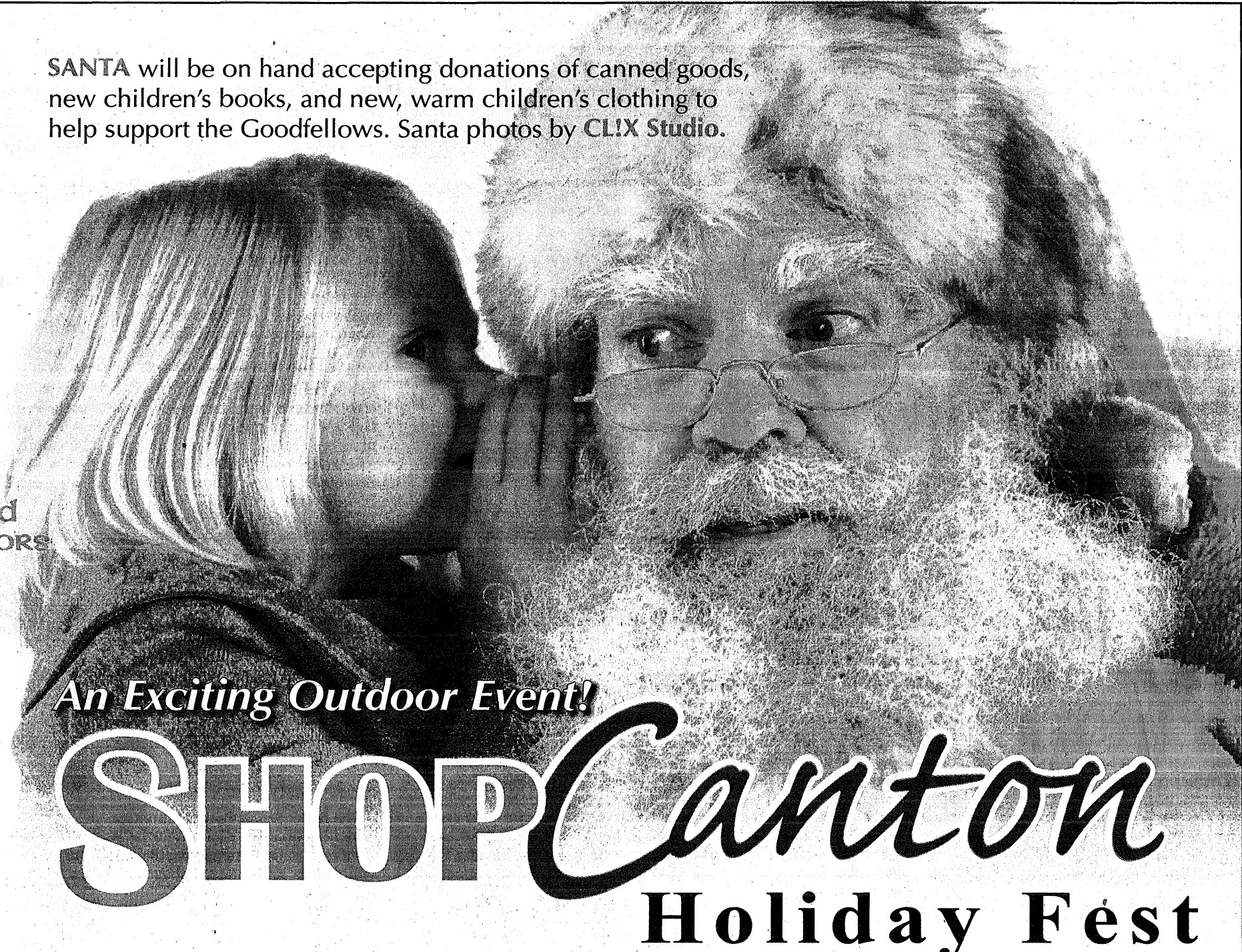
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Where: Willow Creek Shopping Plaza

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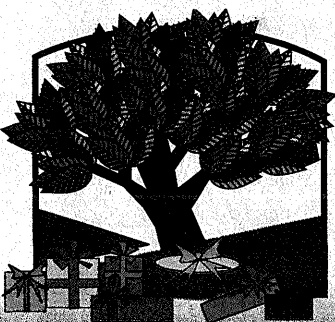
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November 15, 2008-January 15, 2009



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MCCLENDON

FROM PAGE B1

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 shoe on."

From Day 1 last fall, McClendon earned a starting berth in the Pumas' defensive secondary, despite his fresh-

man status. However, he had to sit out the team's first two games due to a paperwork snafu that was beyond his control.

"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 dormitory.

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 therapist.

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

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Grid of 16 local personalities including Mason WGPR Radio, Jon Bond WVMV Radio, Gator Anderson 97.1 Radio, Jeff Lesson CBS Radio, Keith Lang Tennyson Chevrolet, Bob Faust Jack Demmer Ford, Ronnie Williams Perfect Floors, Tom Flory Shelton Pontiac Buick GMC, and Ron Fruciano Friendly Chrysler Jeep. Each entry includes name, station/brand, phone numbers, and a list of local cities.

Tennison Chevrolet advertisement: You'll Always Be Miles Ahead At... SALES • PARTS • SERVICE • LEASING. AN AMERICAN R-EVOLUTION. 734-425-6500. 32570 Plymouth Rd. • Livonia. www.tennisonchevy.com

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SHELTON PONTIAC BUICK GMC 2009 PONTIAC G6 \$185*. OVER 30 MPG! 24 MOS. 12K YR. \$1000 Due \$0 Sec. Dep. See Dealer for Details. 855 S. Rochester Road • Rochester Hills (248) 651-5500

Jim Riehl's FRIENDLY CHRYSLER JEEP 2008 JEEP COMMANDER SPORT 4X4 7 PASSENGER SEATING. MSRP \$32,250. 36 Mo. Lease \$219* Sale Price \$17,249**. 866-414-2734. www.jimriehl.com

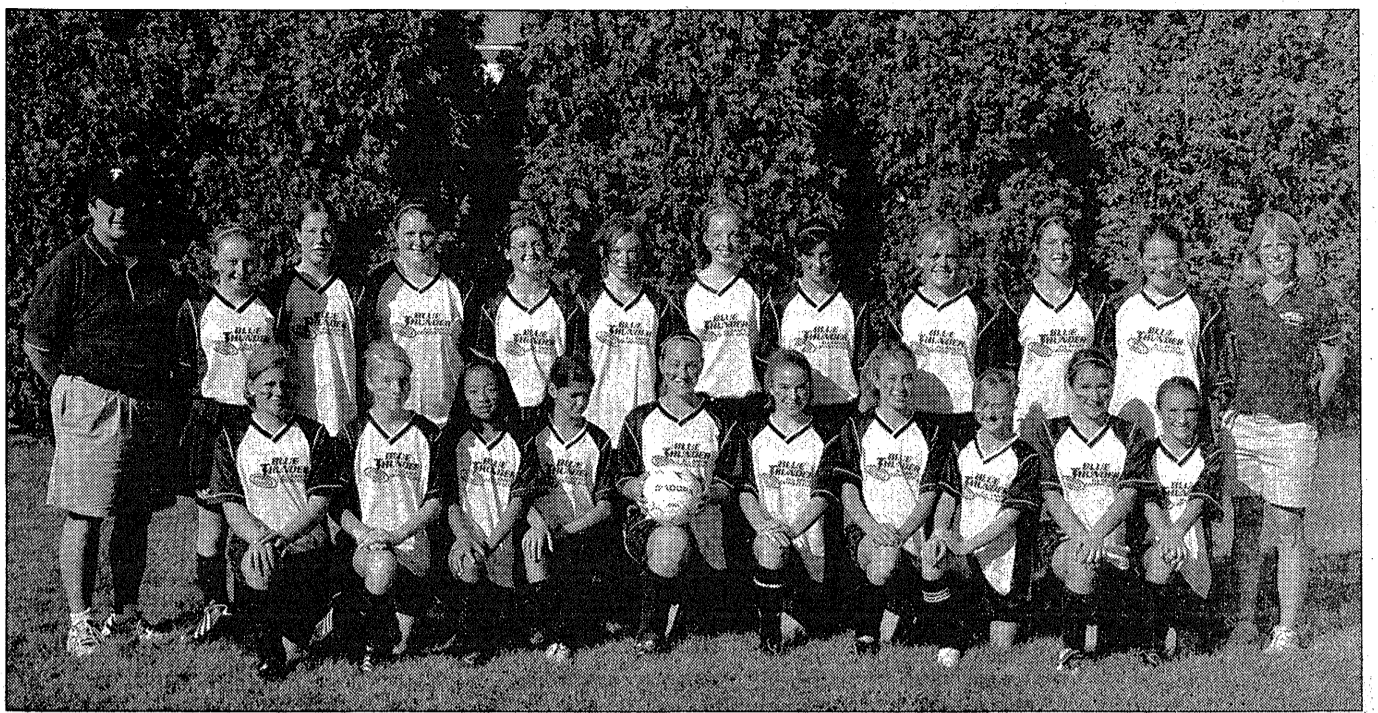
WEEK #14 GAMES Thursday, December 4, 2008. Oakland at San Diego. Sunday, December 7, 2008. Minnesota at Detroit, Houston at Green Bay, Jacksonville at Chicago, Cincinnati at Indianapolis, Cleveland at Tennessee, Philadelphia at New York Giants, Atlanta at New York Jets, Miami at Buffalo, Kansas City at Denver, New York Jets at San Francisco, New England at Seattle, St. Louis at Arizona, Dallas at Pittsburgh, Washington at Baltimore. Monday, December 8, 2008. Tampa Bay at Carolina.

SPORTS BRIEFS

High Velocity break camps

High Velocity Sports in Canton will offer "fun days" and camps during the upcoming holiday breaks. On "fun days", parents can drop off their kids at HVS any time between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. and pay \$5 per hour for supervised care that includes sports and non-sports stations that rotate every 30 minutes. Fun days will be offered Dec. 1, Dec. 22-23; Dec. 29-31; Jan. 19; 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 Canton. The cost of the 90-minute PowerPoint seminar and 90-minute training session is \$75. For more information, contact Precision Baseball at (734) 459-5921 or visit <http://precisionbaseball.com>. 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 Binguet, 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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 "A HAPPY DOG DAY... IS A DAY OF DOG PLAY!"

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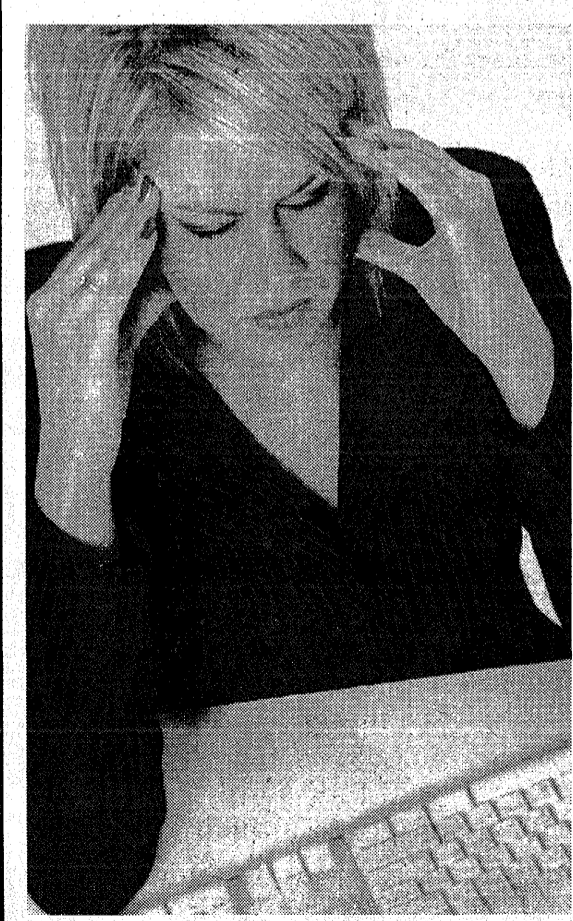


Join us for the **ShopCanton Holiday Fest** on Saturday, December 6th, from 12:00-4:00 in the Willow Creek shopping plaza, located on Ford Rd. between Haggerty and Lilley. Color and decorate the **ShopCanton** mascot any way you like. Be **CREATIVE!**

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.

Name _____ **Age Group:** 4-6 7-9 10-12
 Phone _____
 Parent E-mail _____
 School _____

Coloring Contest Sponsored by:
World of Floors **Observer & Eccentric**
 HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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 or call: (313) 933-4000 or (888) 908-2277

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE B8

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.net.

Tai Chi and strength classes

Orchard United Methodist Church is hosting a Tai Chi class 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the Mac at the church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. The cost per class is \$10 or \$40 prepaid for five classes. The strength class takes place 9:30-10:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Cost is \$5 per class. Drop-ins 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 Kitchen. A tour of the Earth Works urban garden, which provides six tons of produce each season, will also be made available. The day concludes with a self-guided tour of the Solanus Casey Center, a spirituality center dedicated to the Capuchin friar who is credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. The minimum age is 7th grade and the maximum size of the group is 30. The day starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. There is no cost. Lunch included. For information, send e-mail to ccrae@thecapuchins.org. To learn more about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, visit www.cskdetroit.org.

Grief workshops help during the holidays

Dealing with the loss of a loved one 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

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. 15.

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 Saturdays.

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

Your Invitation to Worship

CATHOLIC

EVANGELICAL COVENANT

UNITED METHODIST

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Immemorial Latin Mass
Approved by Pope St. Pius V in 1570
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Mass Schedule:
First Fri. 7:00 p.m.
First Sat. 11:00 a.m.
Sun. Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m.
Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass
Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.

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

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

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

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96
734-522-6830
Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional
Sunday/Bible Class 9:45 am
Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413
Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ
Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creeden

St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church
St. Genevieve School - Pre-K-8
29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-8220
(East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries)
MASS: Tues. 7 p., Wed., Thurs. 9 a., Sat. 4 p., Sun 11a

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Cherry Hill United Methodist
321 S. Ridge Road
Canton, MI
734-495-0035
Rev. Merlin Pratt
Worship 10:30
Prayer Hour Thursday 7:30
www.cherryhillume.org

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

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

HOSANNA-TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
9600 Laverne • So. Redford • 313-937-2424
Pastor - Reverend Paul Undlin
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Service 7 p.m.
Education Hour 10:45 a.m.
Christian School
Pre-Kindergarten-8th Grade
For more information call 313-937-2233

CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church
40000 Six Mile Road "just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400
Traditional Worship 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M.
Contemporary Worship 9:30 A.M.
Nursery & Sunday School During the 9:30 & 11:00 Hours
Evening Service • 7:00 p.m.
Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday - WRDT-AM 560
The WMUZ Word Station
For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Pastor Milton Schenn
27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights (just East of Inkster Road) (313) 278-5755
Worship Service & Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
http://ourchurch.com/member/immanueldnhts
The Friendly Church on the Trail

PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
48801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1925
Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.
Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.
NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196

Timothy Lutheran Church
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation
8820 Wayne Rd. (Between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road) Livonia • 427-2290
Jill Heather, Pastor
10:00 a.m. Family Worship (Nursery Available)

NON DENOMINATIONAL

PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)

Risen Christ Lutheran
David W. Martin, Pastor
46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (1 Mile W. of Sheldon) (734) 453-5252
Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am
Sunday School 9:30
Adult Bible Study 9:30
Nursery Care Available
All are welcome. Come as you are. www.risenchrist.info

PRESBYTERIAN

BELL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

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

LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

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

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

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1380
WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M.
website: www.stpaulslivonia.org

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth
1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 734-453-0970
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:50 a.m.
Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Reading Room located at church Saturday 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. 734-453-0970

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



**Santa
Has
Arrived!**
and is in the east court

Entertainment this Month...

December 5 Fri.	MADD Holiday Mocktail Mixer 11am - 1pm - East Court
December 6 Sat.	Safety While You Shop 12pm - 4pm - East Court
December 8 Mon.	Ladywood High School Choir Group 12.45pm - 1.30pm - JC Penney Court
December 9 Tues.	Phil Gram All Stars 6pm - 8pm - East Court
December 10 Wed.	3D's & W Barbershop Quartet 6pm-8pm - Throughout the center
December 12 Fri.	Our Lady of Good Counsel 10.45am - 11.30am - JC Penney Court
December 16 Tues.	Phil Gram All Stars 6pm - 8pm - East Court
December 17 Wed.	3D's & W Barbershop Quartet 6pm-8pm - Throughout the center
December 19 Fri.	3D's & W Barbershop Quartet 6pm-8pm - Throughout the center
December 23 Tues.	Phil Gram All Stars 6pm - 8pm - East Court
December 25	Christmas Day

For all of your holiday shopping fun visit the

WESTLAND

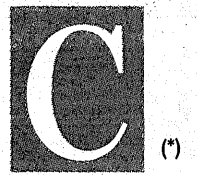
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www.westlandcenter.com



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.

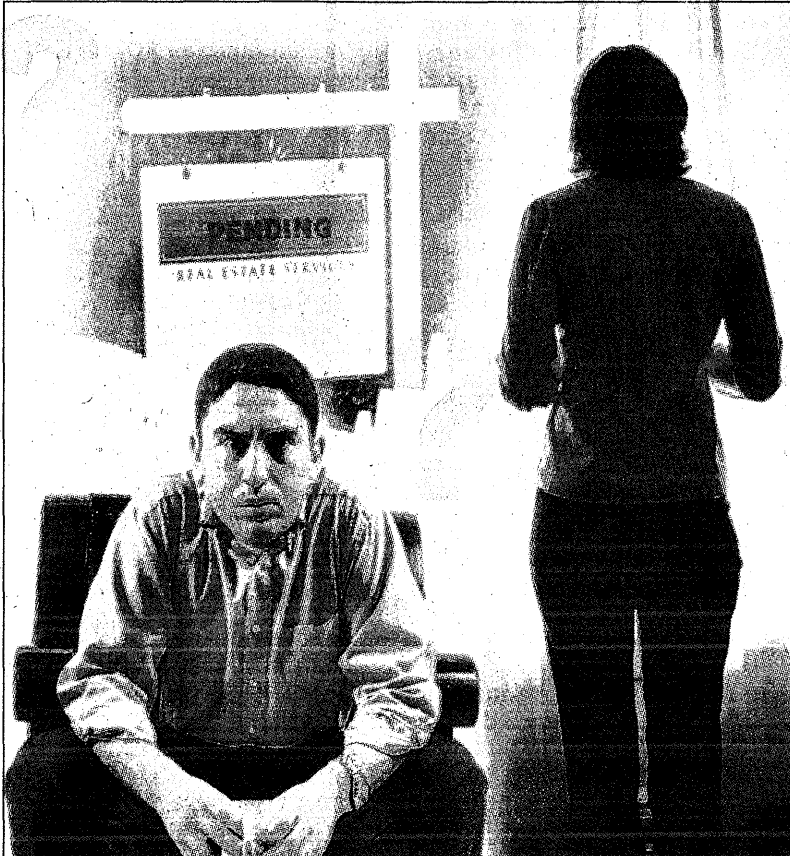
"As director of FHFA, I am using the authorities established in the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 to ensure that the housing GSEs (government-sponsored enterprises) provide stability and liquidity to the mortgage market, support affordable housing and operate safely and soundly," said Lockhart.

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. Gaylor, 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 refinance.

"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," Gaylor 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 four-point 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, NAR 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-driven

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 supply.

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 homeowners.

"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," Gaylor 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 meaningful 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.

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

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 tortious 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

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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

HOMES SOLD

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.

City	Address	Price	
Canton	42683 Addison Ave	\$175,000	
	2159 Arcadia Dr	\$120,000	
	2249 Arcadia Dr	\$117,000	
	2674 Brookfield St	\$156,000	
	327 Cherry Hill Pointe Dr	\$178,000	
	50650 Colchester Ct	\$450,000	
	1955 E Franklin Dr	\$114,000	
	46499 E Oak Manor Ct	\$239,000	
	7463 Embassy Dr	\$205,000	
	48229 Inveraray Rd	\$420,000	
	2458 Lancelot Ct	\$197,000	
	8356 Orhan St	\$153,000	
Farmington	44443 Penny Ct	\$210,000	
	201 Scarlet Dr	\$255,000	
	3509 Shepherd Ln	\$130,000	
	1567 Valentine Ct	\$195,000	
	44245 Vassar St	\$230,000	
	1440 Walnut Ridge Cir	\$175,000	
	7066 Willow Creek Dr	\$160,000	
	Farmington Hills	34821 Arundel Dr	\$305,000
		35610 Tall Pine Rd	\$240,000
	Livonia	35964 Ann Arbor Trl	\$85,000
		9913 Berwick St	\$225,000
		15956 Brentwood St	\$147,000
31548 Bridge St		\$85,000	
28528 Cleveland St		\$125,000	
9918 Fairfield St		\$146,000	
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	
Northville	20034 Parkville St	\$75,000	
	19915 Pollyanna Dr	\$270,000	
	29654 Ravine Dr	\$149,000	
	38618 Richland St	\$135,000	
	9818 Roseland St	\$142,000	
	18810 Shadyside St	\$157,000	
	37138 Turnbury Dr	\$270,000	
	32212 Wisconsin St	\$140,000	
	Milford	753 Byron Dr	\$123,000
		1643 Hidden Pond	\$340,000
	Westland	18100 Devonshire Ct	\$1,338,000
		39598 Dun Rovin Dr	\$240,000
927 Millpond Ct		\$425,000	
16502 Mulberry Way		\$345,000	
15726 Penderbrook Ln		\$366,000	
18085 Ridgeview Dr		\$555,000	
488 Welch Rd		\$235,000	
39884 Woodside Dr N		\$407,000	
Novi		45144 Bartlett Dr	\$119,000
		22098 Edgewater	\$74,000
		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	
	45760 Remington Ln	\$373,000	
	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	
Redford	44576 Marc Trl	\$190,000	
	175 N Mill St	\$150,000	
Westland	16866 Centralia	\$89,000	
	11675 Farley	\$69,000	
	19547 Garfield	\$48,000	
	8919 Robindale	\$88,000	
	9034 Sioux	\$105,000	
	8869 Woodbine	\$82,000	
	9551 Wormer	\$115,000	
	Westland	36112 Abbey Dr	\$208,000
		1331 Berkshire St	\$56,000
		1904 Eagle Ct # 06	\$70,000
		7760 Gary Ave	\$125,000
		29785 Lacy Dr	\$120,000
8453 Liberty Blvd		\$148,000	
30246 Matthew St		\$43,000	
914 Mitchell Dr		\$166,000	
31640 Parkwood St		\$115,000	
35856 Roif St		\$95,000	
33800 Tawas Trl		\$144,000	
38976 Willow Creek Pkwy		\$195,000	



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Thursday

PUZZLE CORNER

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Vain fellow
- Do pull-ups
- About 2.2 lbs.
- Night
- Mystique
- Classical face
- "Orinoco Flow" singer
- Kindhearted
- Copenhagen native
- Robins' bills
- John, Paul, George and -
- Not wholly
- Potpie veggie
- Curved molding
- Old car
- Payable
- Sloping trough
- Wiedersehen
- Not sinking
- A Guthrie
- Jacket feature
- Flue plate

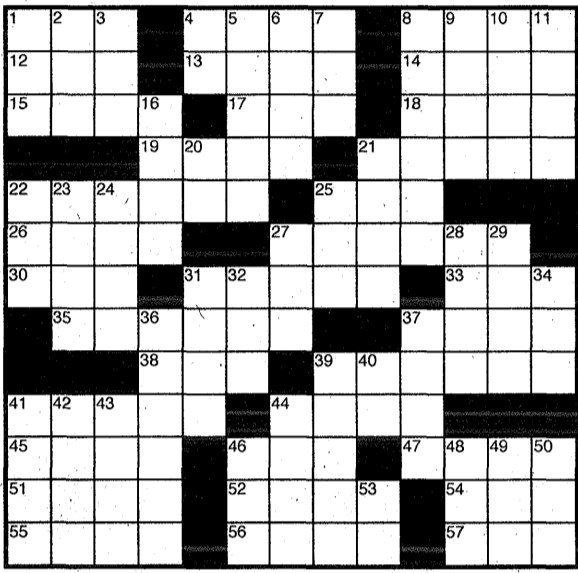
DOWN

- Enemy
- Purchase
- Wield, as oars
- West Coast st.
- Wife's mate
- Orchid-like flower
- Find fault
- Ferocious bear
- Pavlov's name
- Ger. or Fr.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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SUDOKU

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

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

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

SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

- | | | |
|------------|----------|----------|
| AMIALE | GENEROUS | KIND |
| CHARMING | GENIAL | LIKABLE |
| CORDIAL | GOOD | NICE |
| DELIGHTFUL | GRACIOUS | PLEASANT |

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

X	L	E	N	D	I	N	G			
G	L	O	S							
A	T	L	A	N	T					
R	A	T	A	V						
I	L	I	I							
A	V									
A	V									
I	L	I	I							
O	I	L	I							
U	L	I	K	A	B	L	E	E	Q	
S	E	C	H	A	R	M	I	G	N	
D	E	L	I	G	H	A	R	M	I	N
E	C	O	R	D	I	A	L	E		

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Central States Mortgage (866) 580-3738	5.25	0	5.125	0	J/A/V/F
Client Services by Golden Rule (800) 991-9922	5.25	0	5.125	0	J/A/V/F
Co-op Services Credit Union (734) 466-6113	5.625	0	5.375	0	J
Cornerstone Community Financial (800) 777-6728	5.375	1	5.25	1	J/A/F
Countrywide Home Loans (800) 641-2384	5.125	2	4.875	1.625	J/A/V/F
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DFCU Financial (800) 739-2770	5.375	2.25	4.75	2.25	J/A
Fifth Third Bank (800) 792-8830	5.5	0.375	5.375	0.125	J/V/F
Gold Star Mortgage (800) 203-1546	5.25	0	5.125	0	J/A/V/F
Golden Rule Mortgage (800) 991-9922	5.25	0.125	5.125	0	J/A/V/F
Group One Mortgage (248) 282-1602	5.875	0	6	0	J/A/V/F
Mortgages by Golden Rule (800) 991-9922	5.375	0	5.125	0.25	J/A/V/F
Michigan United Mortgage (810) 844-2222	5.125	0.5	5	0.375	J/A
National City Bank (586) 825-0825	5.25	1	4.75	1.5	J/A
Northlawn Financial (248) 988-8488	5.25	0	5.125	0	J/A/V/F
Shore Mortgage (800) 678-6663	5.125	2	4.875	2	J/A/V/F

Above information available as of 11/26/08 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculations & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmreport.com. Key to "Other" Column: J = Jumbo, V = VA, F = FHA & NR = Not Reported. All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders. Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032 / © 2008 Residential Mortgage Consultants, Inc., All Rights Reserved

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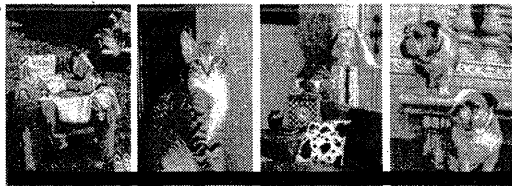
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FRI. 9-4 SAT. 10-4 (ST.#'S OK)
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Bloomfield- Take Terrybrook
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Bertoia bar stools • Directional
Evans table • Modern designer
couch, leather chair, ottoman,
bookshelf, mirrors, lamps,
bedroom set, & Kool wall unit
• Outdoor furniture • 6 leather
& wood dining chairs • 4
leather wing back chairs • 2
floral loveseats • Antique side-
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& stove • Dishwasher
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TV's • Stair stepper • Loaded
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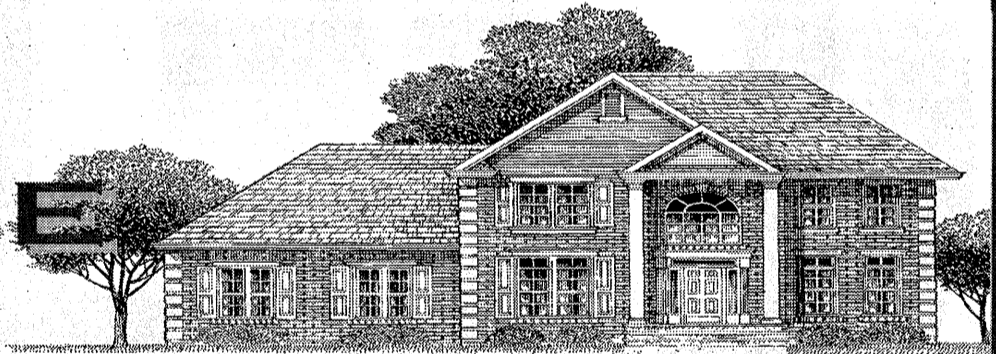
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2009 Toyota RAV4 Sport: Great power, great price

Advertising Feature

CA Report



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 RAV4).

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 double-wishbone 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 trips.

There plenty of cargo room, as small SUVs go -- 73 cubic feet of cargo space with all 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, tilt-steering wheel, power windows and locks, foldable power mirrors, cruise control and two front 12-volt power outlets, handy for powering your iPod and your GPS.

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

to it. 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 anti-lock 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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PURE PICKS Check out our selections for this week in entertainment.

PAGE D3

RECIPES

Our readers have submitted easy cookie recipes

PAGE D5

The Whitney's Ghost Bar is the new trendy spot

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

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

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*

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

Detroit's favorite spirits.

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

WELCOMING

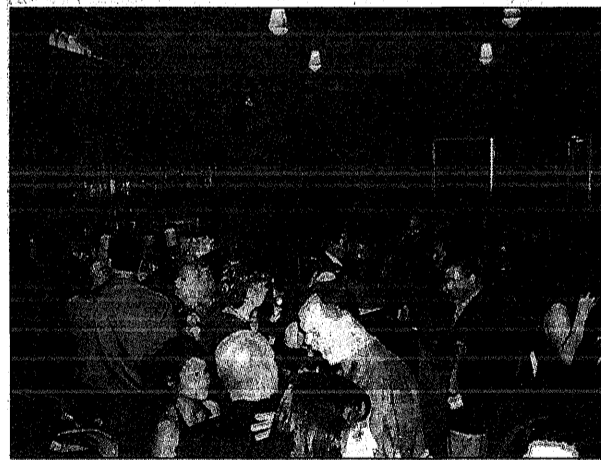
"We want to remove the 'stuffy factor' from The Whitney," Patrick Liebler said. "People rightfully know it as a high-end restaurant, but the clientele is all ages, all types of people and we have an incredibly friendly staff who work to make you feel instantly comfortable."

"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.



The cast of 'A Christmas Carol' presents it in a humorous light at Trinity House

Holiday laughs

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

BY LANA MINI
STAFF WRITER

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.trinity-house.org

"H 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 oversized production, it's about a small travelling theater-troupe, 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. 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.cantonmi.org/villagetheater 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

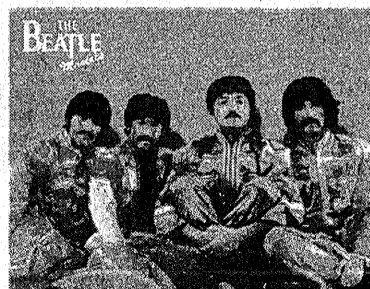
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ALL ORIGINAL ROCK 'N ROLL HALL OF FAMERS



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Ticket Prices: \$37, \$47, \$57 & \$67 (Photo opportunities for all ticket holders.)

TICKET INFORMATION: ticketmaster 248.645.6666 or ticketmaster.com



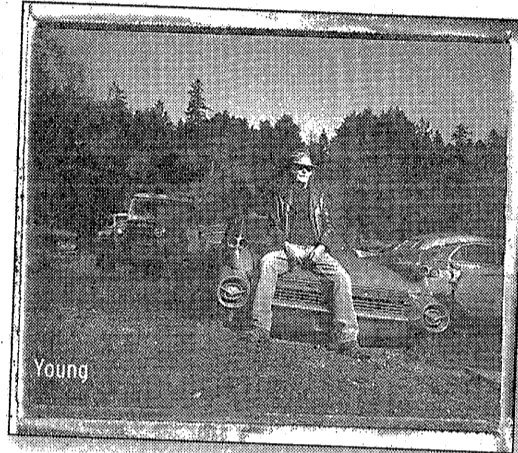
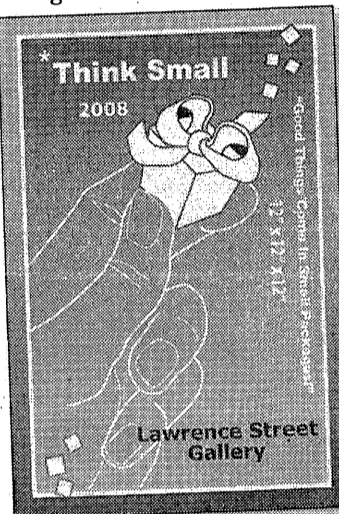
Pure Picks

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

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

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

5 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 popular local Web 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.



7 Back in the states after his mega-successful European Tour, **Neil Young** hits the stage tonight, with openers Wilco and Everet, 7 p.m. at the Palace of Auburn Hills, 1 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills. Tickets \$78-\$178, call (248) 645-6666.

6 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,

8 It's a wild ride of a holiday movie as Director Robert Zemeckis' 2004 animated spectacular **The Polar Express** returns in 3D IMAX 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

FROM PAGE D1

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With Music

A Christmas Festival: The Livonia Symphony Concert will be joined by dancers from Bunny Sanford's School of Dance, the Karen Danke Singers and members of the Livonia Youth Philharmonic,

4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt in Livonia. Tickets \$17, call (734) 421-1111 or www.livoniasymphony.com.

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

Annual Carol 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 sing-a-longs. Children will read *The Night Before Christmas*, and Santa will be on hand 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.detroitssymphony.com.
Trans-Siberian Orchestra:

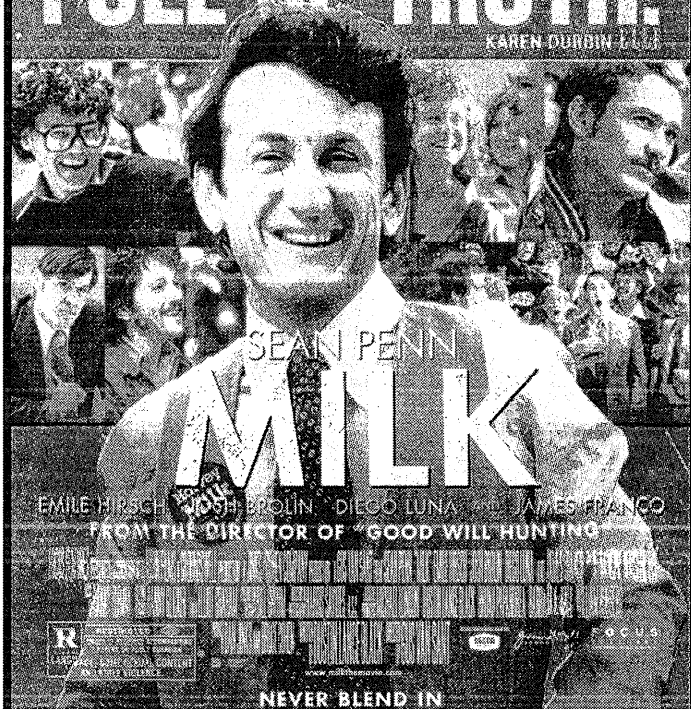
Talk about uplifting and re-inventing holiday songs. Catch one of these two shows Dec. 21, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Call (248) 645-6666.
Christmas in Concert: See Tony O'Brien with Casali Holiday Dancers, 8 p.m. Dec. 13, at Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser, Detroit. Tickets \$10. Visit www.redfordtheatre.com.
A Prairie Home Christmas: Go A-Wassailing

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.detroitssymphony.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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KNOW THE SCORE

check out the numbers in

SPORTS section

today's

Readers submit their favorite easy cookie recipes

151 RUM BALLS

By Dean Henry of Livonia

2 cups graham cracker crumbs
4 cups flour
2 tablespoons cocoa powder
1 cup powdered sugar

$\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt
1 cup ground nuts (I use ground pecans that I grind myself, you may want to use pecan meal)

$\frac{1}{4}$ 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.

$\frac{3}{4}$ pound (3 sticks) unsalted butter
1 cup light brown sugar
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup granulated sugar
1 large egg
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons vanilla extract
3 cups old-fashioned oats (not instant)
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups all purpose flour
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon kosher salt
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 mix well.

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 Gunn's Guide to Style and will perform at The Crofoot in Pontiac on Dec. 18).

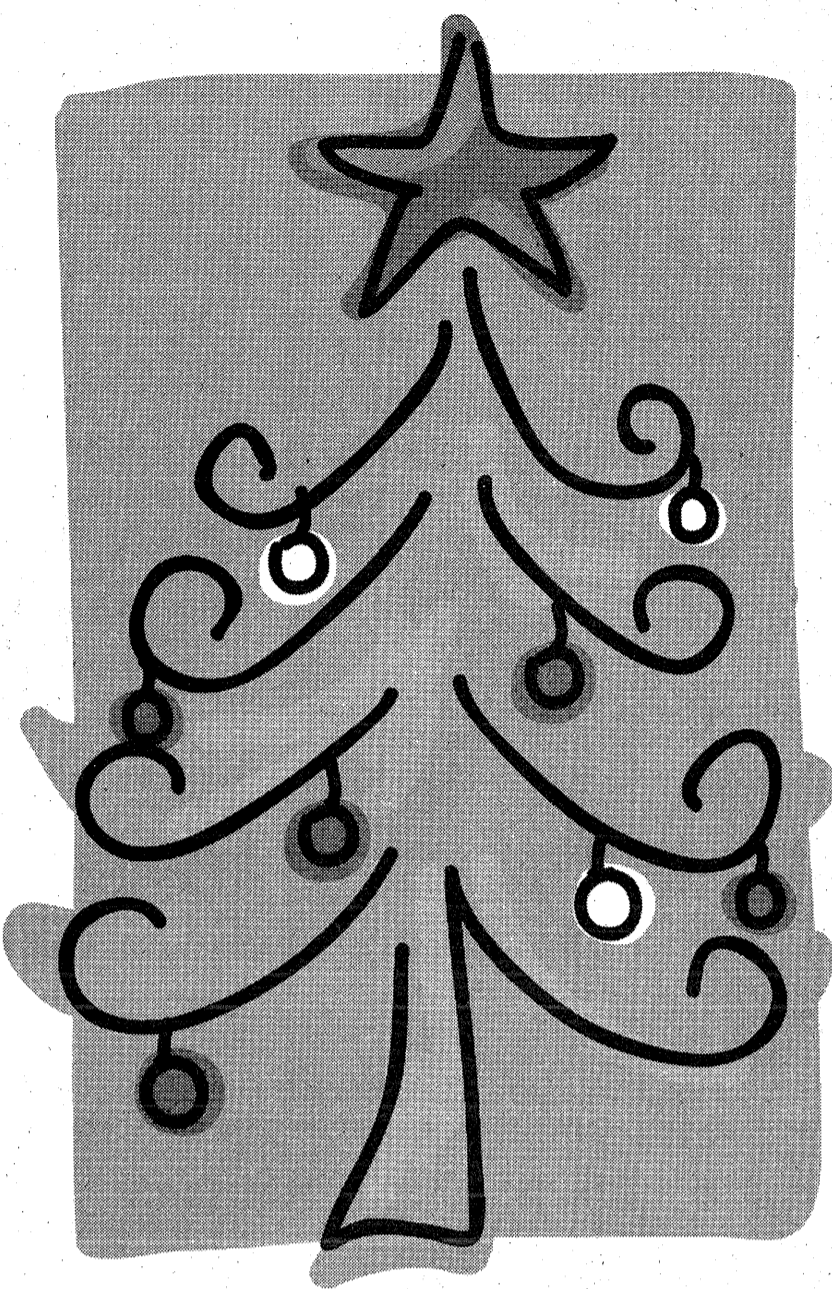
2 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups flour
1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups sugar
1 cup softened butter, unsalted
1 egg, yolk only
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup finely chopped walnuts, optional

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 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inches by $\frac{1}{2}$ -inches. Bake in a 250-degree oven on an ungreased cookie sheet. Cookies are done when the bottoms turn pink in color 35-45 minutes.

NOTE: A blanched almond or walnut 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 tea.

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 menu 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-made soups.

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

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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 thousands 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, Nev.

And, Wine Enthusiast, praised The Lark with the award of Ultimate Distinction — less than 36 restaurants nationwide receive the annual award.

Two other Michigan restaurants also received high honors: Bacco Ristorante of Farmington Hills and Birmingham's Big Rock Chop House.

MORE MEZZAS

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 bitter)
1 large bowl of cold, heavily salted water
2 or 3 eggs
1 cup seasoned Italian bread crumbs

Sauce:
2 teaspoons salt
2 teaspoons pepper
1/4 cup olive oil
3 or 4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
1 large sweet onion, coarsely chopped
1 large can diced tomatoes or tomato sauce
1 small can tomato paste
1 tablespoon basil
1 tablespoon oregano
2 tablespoons brown sugar
2 tablespoons fennel seeds (optional)
1 cup red table 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 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 least for 30 minutes.

Assembly:
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

1/2 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 ingredients are thoroughly coated. Store in airtight container. Enjoy!

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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 apple 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

Being 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 Heald

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

textured.

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.

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CAROL

FROM PAGE D1

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 hip-hop dancer who plays Jake the Fence and other characters. "Jake is unbelievably low-down. 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-mail lanini@hometownlife.com.

ART

Arnold Klein Gallery: 32782 Woodward, Royal Oak, (248) 647-7709.
Art Leaders Gallery: Holiday trunk show with 20 to 50 percent off featured artists, 33030 Northwestern Hwy., West Bloomfield, (248) 539-0262, www.artleaders.com.
Art-Rageous Gallery: 35 N. Main, Mt. Clemens, (586) 307-3604.
Biddle Gallery: 2840 Biddle, Wyandotte, (734) 281-4779, www.biddlegallery.com.
Cafe 84: "The Green Show" featuring Detroit Up & Coming Artists Guild, 14084 Lakeside Blvd., Shelby Township, (586) 913-3773.

Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center: 1516 Cranbrook (between 14 and 15 Mile roads), Birmingham, www.BBArtCenter.org, (248) 644-0866.
Birmingham Conference Center: 31301 Evergreen, Birmingham.
Birmingham Unitarian Church: 38651 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 647-2380.
Bohemian National Home Gallery: 2009 Tillman, Detroit, (313) 525-5253, www.jeromium.com/bohouse.htm.
Cary Gallery: Photographs by Nancy Stocking and by Ron Teachworth, through Dec. 13, 226 Walnut, Rochester, (248) 651-3656.
CPDP: 4160 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 833-9901, www.cpop.com.
Detroit Artist Market: Art for the Holidays, through Dec. 21, 4719 Woodward, Detroit.
DGM Art Studio: Bob Ross-style painting classes, 1-5 p.m. one Sunday per month; free fine art portfolio assessments for college-bound stu-

GET OUT

dents, 28691 N. Lilley, Canton, (734) 453-3710, www.dmartstudio.com.
Farmington City Gallery: Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, (248) 473-1856.
Farmington Community Library: 23500 Liberty, (248) 553.6261, www.suzannebaum.com.
First United Methodist Church: 1589 W. Maple, Birmingham.
Gallery@VTE: Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, (734) 394-5300, www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater, www.wsg-art.com.
Galeria at Orchard Lake: Building 8, Orchard Lake Schools, 3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake, (248) 683-0345.
Habatat Galleries: 4400 Fernlee, Royal Oak, (248) 544-0590, www.habatat.com.
Janice Charach Gallery: Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield, (248) 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) 544-0394, www.lawrencestreetgallery.com.
Lemberg Gallery: Jane Hammond "People, Places and Things," through November, 23241 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 591-6623, www.lemberggallery.com.
Livonia Arts Commission: Fine Arts Gallery, second floor; Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, (734) 466-2490; Livonia Arts Commissioners, Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, (734) 466-2540.
Lotus Arts Gallery: Artists Charles H. Pabst, Thomas Arvid and Sergio Furnari (a life-sized version of the Lunchtime on a Skyscraper sculpture), now showing, 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth (888) 889-4ART, www.lotusarts.com.

gallery.com.
Next Step Studios & Gallery: Featuring glass works by Kaiser Suidan, Craig Paul Nowak, John Gargano, Susan Beiner and many others, 530 Hilton, Ferndale, (248) 342-5074, www.nextstepsstudio.com.
Northville Art House: 215 W. Cady, (248) 344-0497, www.northvillearts.org.
Oakland University Art Gallery: at 208 Wilson Hall, Oakland University, Rochester, (248) 370-3005.
Orchard Lake Framing & Gallery: Works in Oil & Pastel by Sharon Will, October, 4301 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, (248) 538-9021, www.orchardlakeframing.com.
Paint Creek Center for the Arts: Holiday Objects Up and Down, through Jan. 3, 2009, 407 Pine, Rochester, (248) 651-4110, www.pccart.org.
Paul Kotula Projects: 23255 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-3020, www.paulkotula.com.
Pewabic Pottery: 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit, (313) 822-0954, www.pewabic.org.
Plymouth Community Arts Council: 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth, (734) 416-4278, www.plymoutharts.com.
The Print Gallery: 29173 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield, (248) 356-5454, www.everythingart.com.
Progressive Art & Frame Design: 1511 North Main, Clawson, (248) 435-0944, www.progressiveart.net.
Susanne Hillberry Gallery: 700 Livernois, Ferndale (248) 541-4700, www.susannehillberrygallery.com.
Tangent Gallery: 715 E. Milwaukee St., Detroit, (313) 877-4377, www.tangentgallery.com.
The Community House: 380 S. Bates, Birmingham, (248) 644-5832, www.communityhouse.com.
Visual Arts Association of Livonia: Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Dr., (248) 348-4550.

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Dancing dolls

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

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E 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 Jay 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.

Jay 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 Day.

"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.

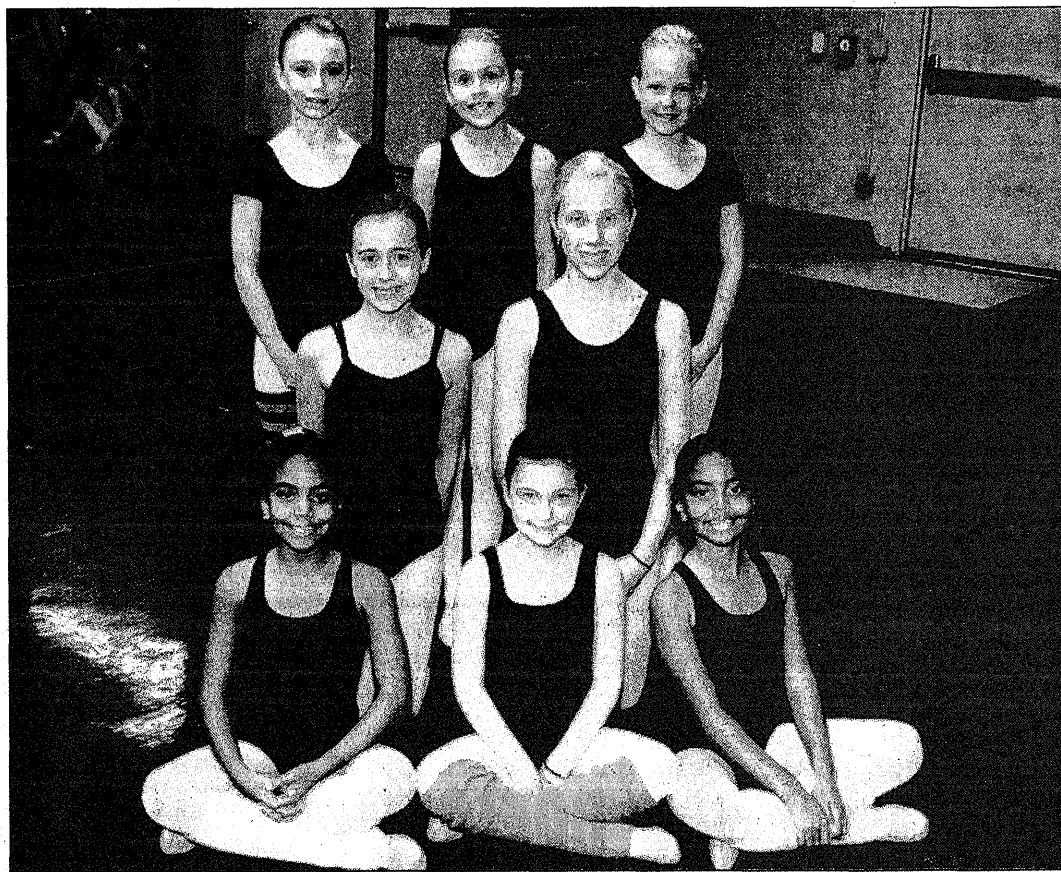
"It is such a tradition for Detroit," said Dori Ranck. "So many people go every year to see it."

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.

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JOHN GRIGAITIS

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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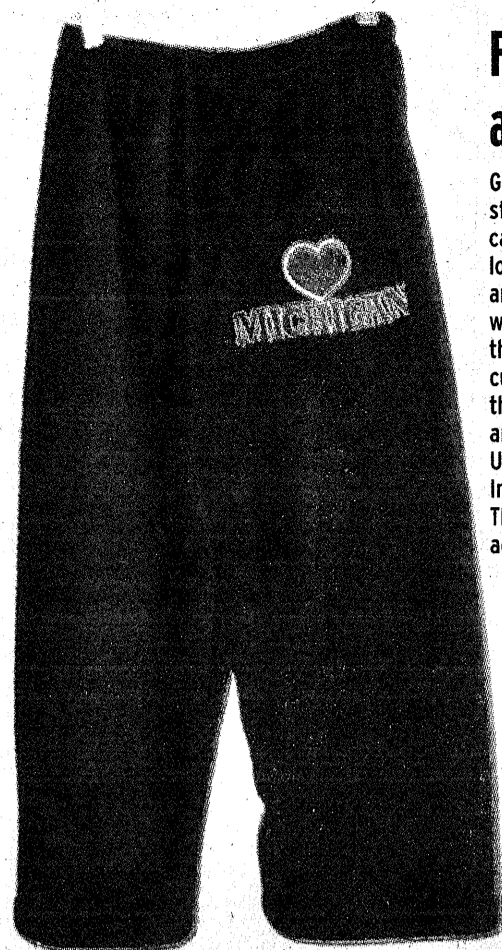
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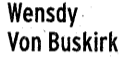


For guys and gals

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.

Quest for the perfect post-partum PJs

In 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



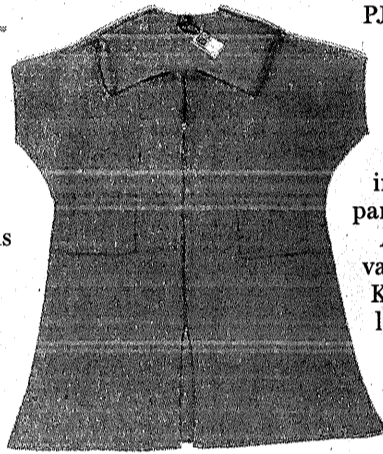
Wendy Von Buskirk

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

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 oh-so-tiny Ed Hardy and Juicy 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.



The Breanna Bed Jacket from RxPJs (\$50).

PJs and 3/4-sleeve robes are durable through countless washings (so important post-partum). And the new, value-priced Katherine line is coming soon.

Inspired by my addiction to the show *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.

Wendy 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.

pink picks

By Veronica and Lisa

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!

Solid colored flats (so cute with boot cut jeans)

Face It!

New Neutrogena Pink Grapefruit line. Yum.

Mane It!

Herbal Essences Hello Hydration. It makes your hair smell fantastic.

TVO It!

The new season of *Greek* on ABC Family

Use It!

Foundation as eyeshadow primer

And Lia Andreassi, 13, of Livonia shared her fashionable picks:

Accessorize It!
Bangles

Smell It!
Ed Hardy perfume

See It!
Nights In Rodanthe

Drink It!
Starbucks Pumpkin Spice Coffee



Do 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 BBACenter.org or by calling (248) 644-0866.

Winter Festival

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."

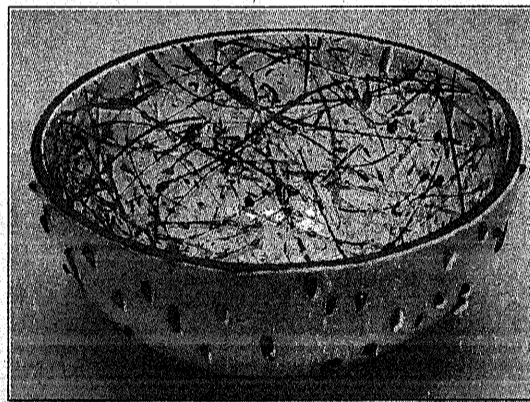
Photos for pets

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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